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Part I

Morphology

Chapter 1

Nominals

1.1 Overview

Loric is a synthetic, fusional language — much of its inspiration comes from Latin, its modern Romance daughter languages, and Attic Greek, all of which are to some degree inflectional. As would be expected from these influences, Loric is highly inflected. The following table shows which parts of speech must be marked morphologically to denote number, case, or gender:

Number

Nouns

Pronouns, Articles

Case   Adjectives   **Gender**
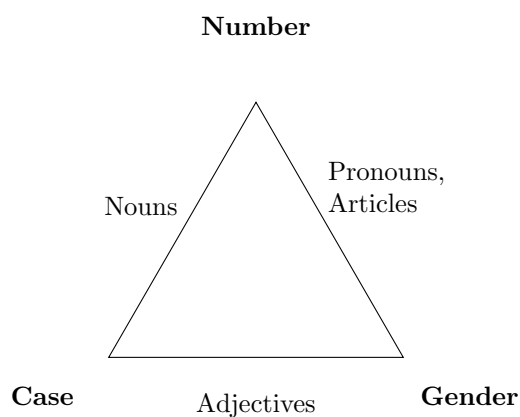
   As can be seen, while no word obligatorily marks *all* these factors, they all must mark at least two, This means that there is generally enough redundancy in marking features to permit the hallmark advantages of an inflected language - pro-drop and free(ish) word order.

1.2   Noun Class ('Gender")

Loric's noun class system is somewhere between a European-style gender system and an animacy hierarchy. The four classes are:

- Exalted (E)

    - Gods and deities (of state-approved religions), monarchs, official titles and offices, historical figures held in high esteem, some place names, most weapons and tools for combat. Anything with religious or ceremonial function.

- Civilized (C)

    - The majority of job titles and proper names, agricultural and artisan tools, some domestic animals. Things made by humans (foods, works of art, buildings, etc) Abstract concepts and emotions that are not explicitly to be avoided (love, honor) This also functions as a "miscellaneous" category for loanwords and neologisms.

- Wild (W)

    - Most animals, natural features (mountains, forests, etc), plants, animate nonliving things (fire, air), astronomical bodies (except the sun, which is Exalted)

- Accursed (A)

    - Dangerous animals, poisonous plants, inhospitable terrain (deserts, bogs), diseases, curses, negative emotions, machines.

This taxonomy should be considered at best some rough rules of thumb for determining a noun's class — exceptions abound.

1.3   Case Endings

Nouns are obligatorily marked for case and number, using the below endings. Note that often the quality of vowels in case endings is dependant on the stem word; the $ symbol is used to indicate a "null vowel" that assimilates to the rightmost vowel in the stem. For example:

(1)   *ranje* "fruit" + accusative singular ending –l$ → *ranjele*

	Sg	Pc	Pl
NOM	–Ø	–ll$	–Ø:
ACC	–l$	–ll$	–l$n
GEN	–j	–jll	–j$n
LOC	–t	–dll	–d$n
ABL	–x	–ll$x	–x$n
ALL	–z	–ll$z	–z$n
INS	–r	–ll$r	–r$n
VOC	–k	–k$la	

For the nominative plural form, the final vowel is lengthened and no affixes are added:

(2)   *kani* "dog" → *kanī* (kɑ.niː) "many dogs"

Also worth pointing out is the *ll* sequence present in all paucal forms except the vocative; this is a remnent of the paucal's previous function in Old High Loric as a dual marker, based on the word *alla* "two."

1.4   Articles

Much like in Arabic, a definite article is required to preceed a noun in nearly all cases. The definite article is marked for gender and number:

	Sg	Pc	Pl
C1	re	rex	ren
C2	ye	yeve	yen
C3	xi	xe	xen
C4	pse	psen	ox

When the article form ends with a vowel and the following noun begins with a vowel, the article vowel is elided and the article becomes affixed as a clitic:

(3)   ye kisi "the person"

(4)   y'aṇa "the paper"

1.5 Pronouns

Personal Pronouns

	Sg	Pc	Pl
1p	ejeqe	xreqe	osmiqi
2p	emeqe	eleqe	iliqi
3p	voqo	hoqo	axriqi

Reflexive Pronouns

	Sg	Pc	Pl
1p	eje	xre	osmi
2p	eme	ele	ili
3p	vox	ho	axri

Chapter 2

Verbs

2.1 Overview of Verbs

The primary ways a verb changes form is to mark *subject number, tense, aspect,* and *mood.* Subject number and aspect marking and are handled by suffixes, while all other changes are encoded as changes to the verbal stem.

2.2 Subject Affixes

Much like was seen for case (see 1.3), verbal subject endings often mutate to match the rightmost vowel in the stem. Also note that there is no distinction between the paucal and the plural in verb morphology; both are marked with the plural set of endings.

2.2.1 The Aorist Endings

The present subject affixes are used to denote a present aorist aspect, without reference to the "completeness" of the action:[1]

	Sg	Pc/Pl
1p	–n	–m
2p	–ll$	–ll$m
3p	–Ø	–v$m

2.2.2 The Perfective Endings

Aspect is marked by the use of alternate verb endings:

For the perfective aspect, the endings are:

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[1]Again, that *ll* sequence shows up here. Similar to the paucal case endings, (see 1.3), this reflects an etymological connection with *alla*, "two," this time going back to the Archaic/Early High period use to mean "other," functioning as an informal second person pronoun

	Sg	Pc/Pl
1p	–n$	–n$ːri
2p	–ll$	–ll$m
3p	–Ø	–n$m

Note that in general, since the perfective stem ends in a geminate consonant (see 2.3), adding perfective endings will produce a sequence of the form CCV. It's possible for this to break phonotactic constraints:

(5) a. *heda* "he shows off" → **heḍne* "I showed off"

  b. *qela* "they (sg) want" → **qeḷnem* "they (pl) wanted"

In this case, the following algorithm for repair strategy is applied for the first and third person forms:

1. if the final sequence of the stem is a geminate coronal stop, it assimilates to become nasal

   - (6) *heda* "he shows off" + n$ (1pSg Perf ending) → *heṇe* (henːe) "I showed off"

2. if the final sequence of the stem is a geminate approximant or rhotic, a reduced version of the rightmost stem vowel is inserted between the stem and suffix

   - (7) *qela* "she wants" → *qeḷenem* (kʷelː.ə.nem) "they (pl) wanted"
   - (8) *yera* "they (sg) slice" → *yeṛene* (jerː.ə.ne) "I sliced"

For the remaining cases, simply concatonating the suffix to the stem is fine.

2.2.3   The Imperfective Endings

The imperfect endings are:

	Sg.	Pc/Pl
1p	–($)g	–($)g$m
2p	–($)g$l	–($)g$la
3p	– ($)ː	–($)g$v

2.2.4   The Habitual Endings

	Sg.	Pc/Pl
1p	–($)b$	–($)ː
2p	–($)v̩$	–($)v̩$ː
3p	– ($)b$n	–($)b$m$

2.3   Tense: The Perfective Stem

2.4   Mood and Modality

Loric has one *realis* mood and two morphologically marked *irrealis* moods:

- **The Indicative Mood:** Describes events occurring in reality, or that the speaker believes to be true.

- **The Optative Mood:** Indicates a desire for a certain state of affairs, or marks the purpose for which an action is done. In certain constructions, the optative can also function as a **jussive** mood, used to give a command in a manner more polite than the imperative.

- **The Fictive Mood:** Indicates a counterfactual state of affairs — used to talk about possibilities and probabilities, as well as conditional statements that may or may not occur.

Mood is marked in the form of *ablaut* — an alteration to the stem vowel of a verb.

Grade 1 Indicative	Grade 2 Optative	Grade 3 Fictive
a	u	e
i	a	u
u	e	o
e	o	i
o	i	a

More information on the uses of each mood is given in the syntax section.

2.5   The Passive Voice Marker *a(z)–*

To create a passive verb, simply use the prefix *a(z)–*. It takes the form *az–* before a vowel and *a–* before a consonant.

(9)   r'aṇaḷa ye naradir   aqela
      the.C1 paper.NOM.PC the-child.INST.SG PASS.desire.3P.SG
      "The book is desired by the child

(10)   re maxiyona   ye kisir   azoṇ
       the.C1 account.NOM.SG the.C2 person.INST.SG PASS.write.3P.SG
       "The account was written by the person"

(11)   av   xen ekerī   x'ibir
REL.PART the.C3.PL meat.NOM.PL the.C3 steam.INST
akveḍem   qeraḷa,   sema   aune
PASS.cook.3P.PERF say.2P.PRES, however-CONJ obviously
xi tāxir   akveḍem
the. C3 fire.INST PASS.cook.3P.PL

"You claim that these meats were cooked using steam, however it is clear that they were grilled"

2.6 The Verbal Participle

A *participle* is an adjective (which may be used nominally) denoting a relationship with the action of the verb it is derived from. Often, this can be translated into English with a subordinate clause headed by the associated verb:

(12)   ye manoma   **avrāxka**
the.C2.SG city.NOM.SG attack.PRES.PASS.PART

"The city **that is under attack**"

Similar to as was seen for grammatical mood, participles are marked by a change in vowel quality. The below table summarizes the changes:

Grade 0 Bare Stem	Grade 1 Nonfuture	Grade 2 Future
a	ā	eo
i	ī	ue
u	ū	oi
e	ē	ia
o	ō	au

	Form	Translation
Active Past:	vrāx̣a	"That which has attacked"
Passive Past:	avrāx̣a	"That which has previously been attacked"
Active Nonpast:	vrāxka	"Fighting, battling"
Passive Nonpast:	avrāxka	"Being attacked, under attack, besieged "
Active Future Past:	vreox̣e	"That which shall have attacked"
Passive Future Past:	avreox̣e	"That which shall have been attacked"
Active Future Nonpast:	vreoxke	"That which shall attack"
Passive Future Nonpast:	avreoxke	"That which shall be attacked"

Often, the future participle forms take on an imperative meaning:[2]

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[2]Readers familiar with Latin may note a similarity with the function of the gerundive participle, which can also function as a verbal noun or adjective with future descriptive or imperative force (c.f. *carthago delenda est*)— the main difference being that in Latin, imperative meaning is disambiguated by the presence of the copula, while in Loric the disambiguation between imperative and descriptive intent is entirely based on context.

(13) ye manoma   avreoxke   (i)
      the.C2.SG city.NOM.SG attack.FUT.NP.ACT.PART (be.3P.SG)

      "The city must be attacked"

2.7   Summary of Verb Markings

	Past Stem	Nonpast Stem
Aorist Endings	—	Simple Present
Perfect Endings	Past Perfect	—
Imperfect Endings	Past Imperfect	Present Continuous
Habitual Endings	Past Habitual	Present Habitual

	Past	Nonpast	Future
Aorist	–	"she considers"	"she will consider"
Perfective	"she considered"	–	"she will have considered"
Imperfect	"she was considering"	"she is considering"	"she will be considering," "she will have been considering"
Habitual	"she was a considerer"	"she is a considerer"	"she will be a considerer," "she will have been a considerer"

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Part III

Appendix

Appendix A

Morphology Tables

A.1   Verb Forms

A.1.1   Regular Verb Paradigm

qeda /kʷe.dɑ/ "to consider"

		Past		Nonpast		Future	
		sg	*pl*	*sg*	*pl*	*sg*	*pl*
Aorist	*1p*	–	–	qedan	qedam	vin qelan	vim qelam
	2p	–	–	qedaḷa	qedaḷam	vil qedaḷa	vili qedaḷam
	3p	–	–	qeda	qedavam	vi qeda	vom qedavam
Perfective	*1p*	qeṇe	qeṇēri	–	–	vin qeṇe	vim qeṇēri
	2p	qeḍeḷe	qeḍeḷem	–	–	vil qeḍeḷe	vili qeḍeḷem
	3p	qeḍ	qeṇem	–	–	vi qeḍ	vom qeṇem
Imperfective	*1p*	qeṇege	qeṇegem	qedaga	qedagam	*vi* + past/nonpast imp.
	2p	qeṇegele	qeṇegeḷem	qedagaḷa	qedagallam	*vi* + past/nonpast imp.
	3p	qeḍē	qeṇegev	qeḍā	qeḍagav	*vi* + past/nonpast imp.
Habitual	*1p*	qeḍebe	qeḍebē	qedaba	qedabā	*vi* + past/nonpast hab.
	2p	qeḍeve	qeḍevē	qedava	qedavā	*vi* + past/nonpast hab.
	3p	qeḍeben	qeḍebeme	qedaban	qedabana	*vi* + past/nonpast hab.

A.2   *Vi*, "To Go"

A.3   *I*, "To Be"

A.4   Noun and Article Forms

qēḍ

A.5   The Ablaut Pentagram