

Kliṇon Language and Culture

so kliṇonáse khaban niso

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Phonology

Table 1: Consonants

b	as in boy when at the beginning, as in bueno when in the center, or end of a word
d	as in dad
f	as in forthwith
g	as in jug
h	as in хвоя or loch
j	as in giraffe as the beginning or end, leisure in the middle
k	as in Kaiser
kh	as in k + h said together
l	as in lollipop
m	as in mom
n	as in never
ŋ	as in Nguyen
p	as in papa
r	as in cherche
s	as in shake
t	as in tell
ts	as in tse-tse fly
v	as in video
x	as in trix
y	as in yes when at the beginning, like ya when at the end
z	like uhz where the h is very soft

Table 2: Vowels and Diphtongs

a	as in father
á	as in hay
æ	as in ævum
e	as in bet
é	as in payee
i	as in bee when at the beginning or end, as in bit in the middle
o	as in epilate when at the beginning, as in bot in the middle
ó	as soap

Grammar

Nouns

Klijonáse groups nouns and pronouns together. There are only single pronouns, Me, You, Him, Her, It, Them, That.

Table 3: Personal Pronouns

Federation Standard	Klijonáse
I/Me/Myself	u
You(singular)	gá
You(plural)	ngá
He/Him	jot
She/Her	sa'an
it	kan
it(indefinite)	la
Them/They	ku'ul
This	suj
These	sujmá
That	soj
Those	sojmá
Here	elov
There	ya

Nouns agglutinate certain particles or even other nouns and pronouns that can modify them. In the case of pronouns. Consider this table.

When referring to unknown or uncertain quantities, like some, **la** is used. **la** is the indefinite actor used also in the passive voice **ngá la zhal** - you are remembered .

As we see in Table 4 and Table 5 the pronouns glue together to into a compound pronoun like **sor**: *all* with **ya**: *there* to form **sorya**: *everywhere*. In the case of **klina**: *who* we have an example of the disappearing **nín** **Klijonáse** as this is a compound pronoun with **klin**: *a particle having to do with people* and **na**: *interrogative particle*. Notice the exception in Table 4 where the compound pronoun does not agglutinate but is isolating and inverted. You would expect **sujklin** or even **klinsuj** here. This is one of the many exceptions to be found in **Klijonáse** , due to the hodgepodge nature of **Klijonáse** source languages. **SIGÓR** province is known

Table 4: Impersonal Pronouns

	Interrogative	Demonstratives	
Adj.	which	this	that
	suja'na/soja'na	suĵ	soĵ
Person	who	this(one)	that(one)
	klina	klin suĵ	klin soĵ
Thing	what	this(one)	that(one)
	kana	suĵ	soĵ
Place	where	here	there
	ya'na	elov	ya

Table 5: Impersonal Pronouns Cont.

	Indefinite		
Adj.	some	none	every
	la	la'bá	sor
Person	someone	no one	everyone
	laklin	labáklin	sora'klin
Thing	something	nothing	everything
	lakan	lakanbá	sorkan
Place	somewhere	nowhere	everywhere
	laya	layabá	sorya

as the Savoyan Source **thadon SAVOY**, and it's features are agglutination and OSV word order. **MITHROT** province provides the Mithrotian Source **thadon MITHROT** which has distinctly Latin features in that verbs are inflected, but only for person and number.

Kliĵonáse was all but destroyed during the HURK invasion in 940 C.E.¹. Once the invaders had been repelled², **Kliĵoni** wanted to recover their lost heritage, but the HURK suppression of traditional culture and language had been so complete, and the **Kliĵoni** were in such a state of economic and cultural ruin, that they hardly knew where to start. Almost all literary works had been burnt, inscriptions scraped out, temples demolished. What did survive was extremely old and practically useless. **Kliĵoni** were mixed ethnically, in an attempt to insure that no nonnds of culture could be maintained, and what passed for **Kliĵonáse** at that time was little more than a pidgin dialect.

The wise elders of the day did the only thing they could. They made it all up. They had a wide variation of pidgin dialects, very few examples of old **Kliĵon** and one or two inscriptions and so they went about recreating the entire language from scratch. When this was complete a dictionary was made and any missing words were added on the fly. Because a huge quantity of words in the lexicon were HURK, they had to be removed and new **Kliĵon** words were generated. Some more consistently and well thought out than others.

The HURK occupation of KRONOS had scarred and mangled the **Kliĵon** spirit, but they were resolved to be reborn from the ashes with a philosophy of never again being crushed under the boot of an invader³. In this new spirit of comraderie and equality it was decided that everyones linguistic peculiarities were at least partially right, and so a great many exceptions and deviations made it into the language to accommodate the modes of speech of various regions.

As we see with Table 6 & 7 there is a correlation between **Federation Standard** prefixes and **Kliĵon** particles. This is a general table of rough equivalents, there really isn't a 1-to-1 correlation, and many compound **Federation Standard** words that take a prefix or suffix have a their own word in **Kliĵon** that doesn't include particles from these tables.

As we see in Table 8 there are also rough equivalents to **Federation Standard** suffixes.

¹**Federation Standard** dating is used in this text for the readers convience.

²The HURK empire crumbled from within, it would be several millenia before **Kliĵoni** would admit that they had little to do with getting rid of them.

³Unfortunately this didn't extend to crushing each other under **Kliĵon** boots. Shortly after throwing off the HURK, **Kliĵoni** entered the Five Tyrants Period.

Table 6: Noun Particles and Suffixes

a-	N-yu	predictive progressive, afloat, awash
ambi-	N-nu	both
amphi-	otor N	around, surround
ana-	N-edē	up, back, anew
ano-	N-edē	up, back, anew
ante-	krīm N	before
ant-	krīm N	before
anti-	N-sus	against, opposite
apo-	suru N	away from
arch-	N-'os	supreme, highest, best, biggest
be-	N-vav	equipped with, covered with
bi-	N-nu	both of two
bibl-	vral N	book, having to do with books
bibli-	vral N	book, having to do with books
biblio-	vral N	book, having to do with books
bio-	N-oke	having to do with biological things
cad-	N-jon	to seize
cap-	N-jon	to seize
caus-	N-mek	burn, heat
circum-	otor N	around, about, surrounding
co-	utsul N	joint, accompanying, with
cog-	utsul N	joint, accompanying, with
col-	utsul N	joint, accompanying, with
com-	utsul N	joint, accompanying, with
con-	utsul N	joint, accompanying, with
contra-	N-sus	against, opposite
counter-	N-sus	against, opposite
corp-	torgh N	body
de-	N-lus	not, reverse action, opposite
dec-	N-mah	ten, 10
deca-	N-mah	ten, 10
dis-	N-lus	not, opposite of
dif-	N-lus	not, opposite of
dict-	jatl N	speaking, saying
dei-	N-kun	god
divi-	N-kun	god
div-	N-lis	separate
demo-	klin N	people
doc-	N-goj	teach
dual-	N-nu	both of two
dys-	luja N	fail, fault
ec-	N-dek	out of, from
eco-	hyul N	household, environment, local area
ecto-	N-dek	out of, from
en-	N-bal	get into, enmesh
endo-	N-æs	within, inside
em-	N-bal	get into, put into, empower
ex-	N-mu	former

Table 7: Noun Particles and Suffixes Cont.

lang-	áse N	having to do with language, a tool
fore-	krım N	before, in front
hind-	adah N	after
mal-	usul N	bad, badly
mid-	hraj N	middle, between
mini-	N-om	small, miniature
mis-	N-'œ	wrong, astray
out-	N-'os	better, faster
over-	hotsıl N	excessive, above
peri-	uları N	around, near, nearby
post-	N-ada	after, behind
pro-	N-guj	for, on the side of
pre-	krım N	before, in front
pseudo-	N-som	fake, false, misrepresent
re-	N-gul	again
self-	N-ag	self, self-sufficient
sep-	N-lis	divied, pull apart
soci-	N-dat	having to do with society
sub-	N-om	below
sup-	N-om	below, under
super-	N-'os	above, higher
supra-	N-'os	above, higher
sur-	N-'os	above, higher
ultra-	N-'os	above, higher
tele-	N-kuk	distance, range, from a distance
trans-	rats N	through, across
un-	N-sus	not, against
uni-	N-mev	one, together, united
under-	N-om	lower, lesser, under, beneath
up-	N-'os	greater, higher
with-	N-sus	against, withstand

Table 8: Noun Particles and Suffixes Cont.

-an	N-yi'	one who does
-ance	N-jub	action of state of
-ancy	jub' N	state, quality, or capacity
-ant	N-si'	something that does, performs
-ard	dokjo N	characterized as, like
-ary	dokjo N	resemble, like
-cide	hotoh N	kill
-ent	N-si'	something that does, performs
-fold	dokjir N	in a manner marked by, fourfold
-ful	N-boh	filled, full with
-fy	bakha N	make, form
-ish	dokjo N	resemble, like
-ism	N-kul	doctrine, conduct, belief
-ist	N-yi'	one who does
-ology	N-ked	the science of
-onymy	okedi N	the science of naming, having to do with names
-onymy	ási N	specified, named, or naming
-onym	ási N	specified, named, or naming
-language	áse N	tool, language

Verbs

Klijonáse verbs inflect to indicate person, and adverbs which modify them directly follow the verb and agree in person. **sal**: *to run* becomes **sesa**: *I run, am running*. To say I am running fast you would use the adverb **tsefut**: *fast, quickly* as **sesa tsefesa**. Tense is not inflected in the verb, but it presents as a particle that *usually* appears at the beginning of a phrase as in **yaisg sesa** - I ran and could be used in a sentence such as **yaisg porahndak sesa** - I ran to the store. **Klijonáse** tenses are very precise in the short term for future and past, **soto porahndak sesa** - earlier today I ran to the store. There is nothing that actually requires this word order, but it is the most common. You could say **otor porahn sesa tsefesa soto** - earlier today I ran around the store. The same would work for **sesa tsefesa soto otor porahn**. It is considered a sign of poor education to do this. The general structure of **Klijonáse** phrases are Tense, Object, Subject, Verb. Any other order would be a little weird and out of the ordinary, but **Klijon** have learned to deal with foreigners, and they have a very liberal linguistic heritage. There is no **Klijon** concept of a **grammar nazi**.

That being said, there is a right way and a wrong way, limited poetic constructions notwithstanding, you should adhere to the rules as closely as possible. Deviate from them only occasionally, perhaps to emphasize a point.

In **Federation Standard** there is the concept of a phrasal adverb, such as I ran to the store quickly. **Klijonáse** does not do this, it is a strict rule in **Klijonáse** that an adverb follows a verb. The above can be accomplished with a *tense adjective*. Adjectives usually follow nouns, but when they follow a tense word they modify the entire phrase. Consider: **yaisg tsebas porahndak sesa** - I ran to the store quickly.

Particles

Up to this point you have seen many particles and suffixes (they are considered in the same class) in action. **Klijonáse** particles are very versatile, they can take as their "argument" any other **Klijonáse** word (including other particles!) and they will consistently modify it. Some combinations while grammatically correct are of course non-sensical. There are some restrictions to this, for instance free floating particles, e.g. those that do not agglut cannot modify an agglutinating particle. Setting two free floating particles next to each other will make the first modify the second, and the combined meaning of those will then modify whatever follows. In some cases, this is not desired, so it is possible to separate the particles with a nul **pa**: *nul particle*.

OOC Afterword

People like to be told what they already know. Remember that. They get uncomfortable when you tell them new things. New things...well, new things aren't what they expect. They like to know that, say, a dog will bite a man. That is what dogs do. They don't want to know that a man bites a dog, because the world is not supposed to happen like that. In short, what people think they want is *news*, but what they really crave is *olds*. - **Terry Pratchett**

In designing an alien world, it is important to remember not to make it too alien. This is the mantra of most concept designers. When they imagine alien machines, or buildings, or insects they know that they are constrained by two things, physics and biology, and how their audience *thinks* they understand physics and biology⁴. You are always limited by what your audience can believe is possible. It's much broader than you think, but it is not infinite. The suspension of disbelief can never be pushed so far that it becomes the suspension of reason.

The limits on what is conceivable for a culture would seem to not have this issue. Why should an alien culture adhere to any human sociological, psychological, or even ethical standards? You would think that you have a much wider field in which to maneuver, but you would in fact be completely wrong. The purpose of a successful alien culture, that is one where people would want to dress up like them, learn their con-lang, and fantasize about adventures on their homeworld, is not to be alien, but to be a mirror. We want attributes, mores, and norms that we find inside ourselves magnified and reflected back to us. No one wants to visit the Borg homeworld. Unless they have a cyborg-amputee fetish. The Borg are too alien.⁵ I imagine few people fantasize about romantic encounters in the assimilation chamber. Voyager and later TNG movies went a long way to humanizing the Borg. Alice Krige in the role of The Borg Queen is a case in point. The hive-mind of the Borg became a little more literal, and suddenly people were much more interested in the social structure of the Borg. They still haven't been completely rehabilitated, but I imagine future Star Trek will retcon them into pointlessness.

⁴Blast Ended Skrewts notwithstanding

⁵Until the introduction of the Borg Queen, the Borg were very nebulous baddies.

I must tell you I'm disappointed at hearing you mouth the usual platitudes of peace and friendship regarding an implacable foe like the Romulans. But I live in hope that you may one day see the universe for what it truly is, rather than what you'd wish it to be. - **Elim Garak**

Well, I shall endeavor to become more cynical with each passing day, look gift hordes squarely in the mouth, and find clouds in every silver lining. - **Julian Bashir**

If only you meant it. - **Elim Garak**

Even in the case of the Vulcans, the Federations closest Allies, they are constantly presented as less than humans, with much to learn about the right way of existing. Vulcans have been heavily retconned into incredulity. Despite their outward appearance of dispassion and logic, they are consistently portrayed as highly emotional, or in desperate need of some kind of emotional intelligence that can usually only be provided by a human counterpart. It's rather sad that their entire culture is based on such a false premise as the supremacy of logic and dispassionate scientific enquiry. Enterprise made immense strides in sexualising the Vulcans as well, and the character T'Pol is often bordering on ridiculous with her constant posturing in cat suits.

Enterprise didn't stop there in its effort to degrade the Vulcan Culture where they are presented as stale, self-serving, and propagandist. Apparently there are even emotionally *free* Vulcans. T'Pol needs to be instructed on how to perform mind melds by a human. Apparently the thin veneer of logic can even be broken by jazz music! It's all a bit ridiculous. Considering the lack luster support for Star Trek, I can only conclude that this trend is having a predominantly negative effect on the franchise. The latest Star Trek movies, while box office smashes, are beneath consideration in every possible way.

It is essential that an alien race only diverge at a few key points, and their divergence must be counter-balanced by the enlargement of at least one positive feature. The **Kliqoni** may be violent, loud, and filthy but their oversized sense of honor and loyalty make them more palatable. While Kirk makes the comparison between the **Kliqoni** and Nazi Germans in **Undiscovered Country**, they really aren't that way at all, and never could be. If there is not a key feature enlarged to compensate, then we must at least observe a motivation to change the negative aspects of the culture. The Ferengi would be intolerable if it weren't for Moogie and the progressive Zek. The fact that women are, by human standards, horribly objectified, sexualized, and enslaved would be completely intolerable if there wasn't some feminist effort to change. It does leave one to wonder, would an alien races female members ever be happy in servitude? Of course not, because that is one of the many taboos or morals of our culture. It is very important that no serious taboo or too widely accepted moral be broken or assailed unless there is a strong counter-balancing element.

A taboo is a prohibition based on the belief that the behavior is either too sacred or too accursed for people to engage in it. While human culture doesn't have any universal taboos, there are a number of them that are particularly strong in the west. The english speaking west being the most likely consumer of Star Trek related material.

1. Incest
2. Necrophilia
3. Adultery
4. Fornication
5. Pedophilia
6. Bestiality
7. Cannibalism
8. Infanticide
9. Murder

It is not that people don't commit taboos, it is that they will 1) feel uncomfortable discussing them 2) conceal them or any knowledge of them, and 3) require an *abjure* statement about them. You know you are talking about a taboo when you feel the need to prefix what you say with, of course *x* is horribly wrong, inexcusable, repugnant, disgusting, and any number of negative adjectives. The more vitriol the better.

Different classes of people may also have taboos against inter-racial marriage, homosexuality and even religious inter-marriage. Humans have a suspiciously large number of sexual and mating taboos.

Another important feature of a society is its morals, in the sense of things you have learned, or think you have learned. These are tacit truths about human behavior. You know you are dealing with a moral when you find yourself prefixing statements with *Obviously ...* and *Everyone knows/accepts/understands that*.

1. It is better to be poor than rich, or at least the rich must be very unhappy
2. Violence is never the answer. Those who live by the sword, die by the sword
3. Everyone makes mistakes, even the government, that's why democracy is the best system ...

The Ferengi obviously violate number one, being obsessed with money, they are unhappy, and Quark always finds himself most satisfied when he violates Ferengi cultural mores and increases wages, or grants workers rights, or makes some sort of donation to the Bajoran Orphan's Fund. The **Klinoni** violate number two, and usually end up being reasoned to a more peaceful solution. One begins to wonder how they've survived this long without the Federation there to explain that one too them. The Cardassians violate number three, and a great deal of plot fodder centers around their totalitarian political system. They are just about to go democratic when the Dominion sweeps in. We are left with the impression from Garak at the end of DS9 that things will be changing for the better. Other ones violated are those like 1) women are intrinsically equal to men(the Ferengi), 2) People are innocent until proven guilty(Cardassians), and 3) pride goeth before a fall(Romulans).

Morals are sometimes a bit timeless, that is they have been around for a long time, and others are era dependent. Everyone knows that smoking is bad, obviously eating too much fat can cause a heart attack and so on. Morals are not right or wrong by virtue of being a moral. Sometimes everyone knows what is right to be right and sometimes everyone knows what is wrong to be right. Critical thinking is a must.

No one can be a great thinker who does not recognise, that as a thinker it is his first duty to follow his intellect to whatever conclusions it may lead. Truth gains more even by the errors of one who, with due study and preparation, thinks for himself, than by the true opinions of those who only hold them because they do not suffer themselves to think. - **John Stuart Mill**

With the exception of Farscape and the Sebaceans, Humans are generally the good guys, and everyone else must invariably be less than us. No one wants to fantasize about their race being seen as a pariah on the galaxy after all. Humans must invariably triumph, and most importantly they must triumph because of what we imagine are our good qualities. We must win because we are optimistic, persevering, benevolent and peace loving⁶. It is very important that we protect ourselves from our inherent weaknesses and moral and ethical frailties. Even though DS9 made great strides to undo fascist starfleet propaganda by mixing in some conspiracies, and even an ultra-secret spy death squad Section 31⁷, these are always to be presented as the exception rather than the rule. Any evil we do must be portrayed as an honest mistake, a well intentioned genocide here, and unfortunate world war there. But let's not descend too far into human hating. It is not that humans are all bad or all good, but more complex than we are willing to admit. So must be other races.

What is great about humanity is that there is something for everyone, even evil people. Of course, Hitler didn't wake up in the morning, look in the mirror and say "Today I am going to be evil!": He probably thought he was a great guy. Most of history doesn't agree, but that's more common than you think. Obviously there are people in this world who like taking candy from babies, metaphorically and perhaps literally as well. The possibilities of naughtiness abound. From kink to killing, somewhere and somewhen there is a place for every

⁶Opinions that human history stubbornly refuses to bare out.

⁷Even in this case, all the build up was undone in **Inter Arma Enim Silent Legis**

type of human being. We may not like it, but there it is. It is what makes humanity something worth existing. A utopia would suck for most people, as Pat Califia noted⁸.

As it stands, the world of today would invariably be the #1 tourist destination for the entire galaxy, because for a price almost anything can be had. In the end, what makes a society interesting and immersive is that it is some place you'd want to visit. Most alien societies fail this test in spades. No person in their right mind would ever want to visit Kronos as it is described, or Romulus, or Ferenginar. Vulcan wouldn't be much of a tourist stop either come to think about it. Unless you are really into dry formalized debates and lots of meditating, but then that's only a small portion of the entire human population. The question you should ask about your alien society is: How likely is MTV to want to film a spring break special there⁹?

This all depends on what kind of society you want to create. You may just need a bunch of paper tiger baddies. Maybe your intention is to create a society for inverse comparison against humans? Maybe you don't really care all that much. It's like a house. In a pinch just about any structure will do against the rain, but would you actually want to live there?

⁸I am here referring to her essay *Whoring in Utopia*.

⁹I am only slightly kidding.

English to Klingonáse Dictionary

Klinonáse to English Dictionary