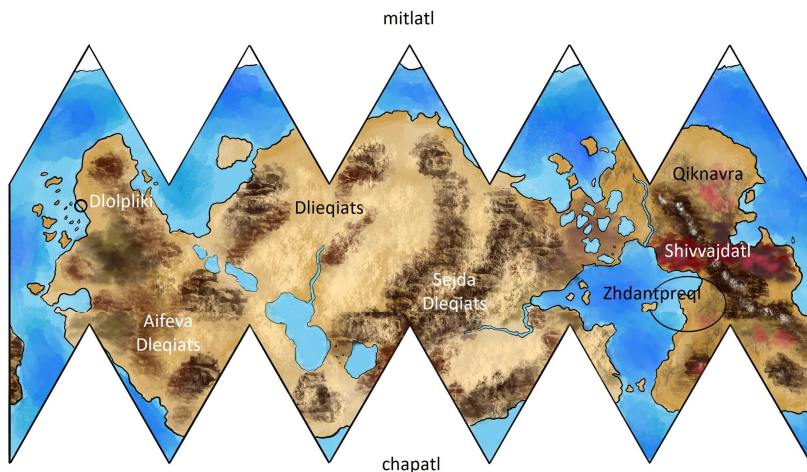


Lesson 9: Ke Zhdantmechyla

The Natural World

ՀԷ ՅՐԴԸ ԳԿՅՍՆԻՆԻ



ZHDANT

Zhdant	ԶՐԴԸ	The Zhodani homeland
mitlatl	ԳՆԵՐԸ	north pole
chapatl	ԿՐԿՐԸ	south pole
Shivvajdati	ՏՆԳԳՐՆՆԻՆԻ	Mountains Of Moonlight
Dieqiats	ԸԿՏՏԸ	the main continent
Qiknavra	ՏՆՉԴՐԳՐ	the smaller continent
tlachaka	ԵՐԿՐՉՐ	desert
kliazhatl	ՉՏՅՐԸ	ocean
toyak	ԸՐՆՐՉ	river
chiatla	ԿՏԵՐ	marsh
kliazhyetl	ՉՏՅՆԿԸ	sea
atlivr	ՐԵՆԳ	land
ashkliazh	ՐԼՉՏՅ	ice
ashkliazhatl	ՐԼՉՏՅՐԸ	ice cap
Dolpliki	ԸՐՆԿՆՆԻՆԻ	The modern capital of Zhdant
Zhdantpreql	ԶՐԴԸԿՏ	The ancient city of Zhdant

Comparisons

Adjectives of *quality* all have three forms called *degrees*. These allow varying levels of description called *comparisons* to be made between nouns of the same type. The three degrees are typically called the *positive degree*, the *comparative degree*, and the *superlative degree*.

In Anglic, we typically add *-er* and *-est* to the end of an adjective to achieve the comparative and superlative, for example: tall/taller/tallest.

However, there are exceptions:

good	better	best
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And sometimes we add more and most:

beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
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Sometimes we even combine the comparators for good with another word:

good tasting	better tasting	best tasting
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And to make it even more confusing:

tasty	tastier	tastiest
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Zdetl is somewhat less confusing and more standardized than Anglic. In general, there is one form to cover all three cases:

epkoa (famous)	epkoatl (more famous)	epkoatlas (most famous)
pakia (happy)	pakiatl (happier)	pakiatlas (happiest)
edre (close)	edreatl (closer)	edreatlas (closest)

The endings **-atl** and **-tlas** correspond to Anglic *-er* and *-est*, respectively and are derived from titles of nobility:

Pranatl (ᠫᠷᠠᠨᠠᠲᠤᠯ), “Aspirant”
Viestlas (ᠪᠢᠡᠰᠢᠲᠤᠯᠠᠰ), “Highborn”

The exception is the adjective **yekta**, which has the following forms:

yekta (good) ᠶᠡᠭᠦᠬᠡᠲᠠ	yektatl (better) ᠶᠡᠭᠦᠬᠡᠲᠠᠯ	zhdotlas (best, or “supreme”, as in Homo Zhdotlas, “supreme man”) ᠵᠬᠳᠣᠲᠤᠯᠠᠰ
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The adjective *good* also takes the form:

zhdota (good) ᠵᠬᠳᠣᠲᠠ	zhdotatl (better) ᠵᠬᠳᠣᠲᠠᠯ	zhdotlas (best) ᠵᠬᠳᠣᠲᠤᠯᠠᠰ
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However, in most cases the standard endings are used:

Chikakenmiztli
(kitty)

Chikakenmiztliatl
(good kitty)

Chikakenmiztlihlas
(best kitty)

EJ and OJ

EJ is used when comparing things and is like *than* in Anglic:

Linaliatl ej de iqia se.

He is taller than you.

Kliazheviatl ej tlachaka iqia kliazhatl.

An ocean is wetter than a desert.



Linalitlas iqia Azhdiazhiepr.

Linaliatl ej Kieko iqia Velmiepr.

Achatlitlas iqia Kieko.

Achatliatl ej Azhdiazhiepr iqia Velmiepr.

Achatlitlias oj ke ziefri iqia Kieko.

Linalitlas oj ke ziefri iqia Azhdiazhiepr.

OJ is used when identifying an item out of a group being compared:

Ichakitlas oj ke tlekonio iqia se.

It is largest of the animals.

Linalitlas oj ke driefrabro iqia se.

He is tallest of the brothers.

Recap: Syntax and Word Order

Recall from the Introduction that the basic sentence structure of Zdetl is object-leading; in other words, the word order is *Object - Verb - Subject*.

Fevranzh mochitia de.

(A book is being read by you.)

Adjectives precede the noun they modify: *Adjective - Object - Verb - Adjective - Subject*.

Vriena kavi tlapaia ke kayotle ziefri.

(Hot coffee is being drunk by the pretty woman.)

The same rule applies to adverbs: *Object - Adverb - Verb - Subject*.

Fevranzh achane mochitia se.

(A book is still being read by her.)

The Indirect object follows the subject: *Object - Verb - Subject - Indirect Object*.

Tlanqil kiloie ze ai de.

(A letter was written by me to you.)

Sentences using verb infinitives take the following order: *Object - Verb Infinitive - Verb - Subject*.

Mitotle' ikotlia ze.

(To dance desire I.)

Prepositions precede the word they modify the same way adjectives and adverbs do: *Preposition - Object - Verb Infinitive - Verb - Subject*.

Kon se mitotle' ikotlia ze.

(With her/him to dance desire I.)

Interrogative statements are led by the question word **JDO**:

Jdo kafi ikotlia de?

(Do you want coffee?)

Conjunctions (and, but, or, etc) are placed between the nouns they refer to (i.e., Do you want coffee or tea: O - Con - O - V - S (JDO Coffe OR tea/desire/you)

Jdo kafi pra kotl ikotlia de?

(Do you want coffee OR tea?)

Applications of verb infinitives and uses with prepositions will be covered in greater depth in Lesson 10.

Prefixes and Suffixes

-AZD (-ᲞᲣ)

The suffix **-AZD** indicates a continuous action. It transforms an action into a noun:

qrazhe (noise)

apaz (in front of)

rid (to sing)

iqe' (to be)

qrazhazd (a sustained noise)

apazazd (leading)

ridazd (singing)

iqazd (existence)

It can also modify a noun to turn it into an activity:

adr (grasp)

vevl (a ship)

ziefraabr (mother)

adrzad (gripping)

vevlzad (shipping)

ziefrazd (mothering)

-EBL (-ᲞᲠ)

The suffix **-EBL** indicates a possibility or likelihood:

alekre' (to favor)

akimate' (to know)

fronzh' (to lay waste)

ikotle' (to desire)

alekrebl (favorable)

akimatebl (knowable)

fronzhebl (destructible)

ikotlebl (desirable)

-IPR (-ᲞᲣ)

The suffix **-IPR** indicates worthiness or merit. Note its similarity to the ending of **Dlenchiepr**, "Aspirant":

choetzhe' (to laugh)

chte' (to observe)

briep' (to condemn)

papaqe' (to enjoy)

choetzhpr (laughable, humorous)

chtpr (observable)

brieplpr (contemptible)

papaqipr (enjoyable)

Discussion: The Zhdant Ecosystem

Zhdant is a habitable world orbiting a solitary K0V star, an average-sized red main sequence stellar body called Pliebr, slightly smaller than Sol but half as bright. Zhdant orbits at 0.77 AU (116 million km) with an orbital period of 245 local days.

Physically, Zhdant is about three-quarters the size of Terra with a diameter of 9,620km. Approximately 40% of its surface is covered with water and it has an atmospheric pressure of 0.52 atmospheres, giving it an arid but temperate climate overall. Temperatures rarely vary from the extremes of -40°C in Winter to +40°C in summer in the high desert.²¹

Zhdant has two main continents, the larger land mass of **Dleqiats**, and the smaller continent of **Qiknavra**. Dleqiats is dominated in the center by a vast desert region, which is mostly uninhabited apart from rail transit stations, mining facilities, and research stations. Qiknavra is mountainous with equatorial rainforests dominating the landscape.

Plant life on Zhdant evolved to make maximum use of the red-dominated light of Pliebr. Trees grow extremely tall and with deep roots in the low gravity, with massive trunks and broad, deep red or purple leaves at the canopy. Middle levels of the forests feature vines, creepers, bromeliads, carnivorous plants, and a variety of parasitic and symbiotic plant life. The forest floor is a thick, primeval layer of mosses, ferns, fungi, and other reducing vegetation.

(picture of forest layers)

The creatures that inhabit Zhdant's forests tend to be excellent climbers. Animal life on Zhdant is hexapodal (having six limbs) to maximize climbing and enable foraging the high canopy while maintaining a firm grip, since a fall from those levels would be fatal even in the lower gravity of Zhdant. Flying creatures also follow the six-limbed pattern, with two pairs of wings to improve lift and maneuverability. Most birds have a large main wingspan.

(picture of forest creatures, inc. chikakenmiztli)

²¹ Mongoose Traveller Alien Module 4: Zhodani, pp. 37-38

Insects are mostly terrestrial. Flying species, like birds, have more wings than their terran counterparts, and with greater surface area. Dragonfly-like insects are common and often have wingspans up to 20cm across. Eusocial insects are mainly terrestrial or tree-dwelling, rarely flying. Many species are carnivorous and ve

(picture of huge friggin dragonflies)

As on Terra, the native desert life evolved to survive extremely harsh conditions. Precipitation mainly occurs along the coastal regions, leaving the deep desert almost devoid of surface water. Plants probe deep below the surface, hunting for any water they can find. Animals have large external ears that can be folded for protection or extended during the heat of the day to radiate excess heat or capture dew in the early morning. Many species are nocturnal and hunt by moonlight (**shivva**).

(picture of desert scene)

The land bridge between Dleqiats and Qiknavra is a mire of salt marshes and inland seas hundreds of kilometres wide, but even there, life has, uh, found a way.

Dialogue

Vocabulary

Exercises