

Deëreë  
Grammar of a fantasy constructed language

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# Introduction

fig:glossing  
abbrevia-  
tions

# Chapter 1

## Phonology

Phonology regards the phonemes incorporated into the language, consonants or vowels, and their use in syllables and words.

### 1.1 Consonants

Manner/Point of articulation	Bilabial	Labiodental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular
Nasal	m		n				
Plosive	p b		t d			k g	
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ			χ
Approximant					j		
Lateral approximant			l				

Table 1.1 – Consonants in Deëreë

Romanization is done with the IPA symbols, that is, the ones in table , except for ʃ, ʒ and χ, which are written respectively as *sh*, *zh* and *r*.

#### 1.1.1 Consonant pairs

The combinations of consonants allowed are the following: **tr, dr, pl, bl, kl, gl, kr, gr**. Other will occur due to phonotactics, but no other beginning in a plosive.

### 1.2 Vowels

The nine vowels are as described (IPA and orthography) in table .

	Front	Back
Closed	/i/, /y/ <ù>	/u/
Mid	/e~ɛ/, /ẽ(j)/ <ëi>, /ø~œ/ <ë>	/o~ɔ/
Open	/a/	/ã/ <ã>

Table 1.2 – Vowels in Deëreë

#### 1.2.1 On /ẽj/ or /ẽ/

One of the doubtful phonemes in Deëreë's phonology is the grapheme <ëi>'s pronunciation. It can be pronounced with palatalization or not, that is, /ẽj/ or /ẽ/. How to pronounce it is normally determined by its position in the word.

As the last phoneme of a word <ëi> will be palatalized: /ẽj/. But when <ëi> is initial or inside a word, it will be pronounced as either palatalized or not. When followed by j, l, s, n, p, t, or sh, that is a consonant from bilabial to palatal but not further back (k, g, r), it is palatalized, otherwise it is not.

### 1.3 Phonotactics

The syllable structure is (C|B)V(L)(F) where:

C is any consonant

B is a group of two consonants among *tr, dr, pl, bl, kl, gl, kr, gr*

V is any vowel

L is a consonant among *j, l, r, s*

F word-final only, a consonant among *n, p, t, k, f, s, sh, l*

### 1.3.1 Vowel pairs

Quite often, two vowels will appear in a word consecutively. In this case, there are three cases: long vowel, diaeresis, or semi-vowel.

#### Long vowel sounds

In a word like *aal*, There is a long vowel sound due to vowel reduplication. There, it is pronounced as [a.a], instead of [a:l]. That is, the real pronunciation of this word is as close to diaeresis as possible, as opposed to a ‘real’ long vowel.

#### Diaeresis

Two consecutive vowels will give a diaeresis, that is, the two vowels being pronounced separately without any semi-vowel, in words like *füä*, powder, or before a verb ending, for example in *tëfujete*, to wipe.

#### Semi-vowel

A semi-vowel, that is, a sound like /j/, /w/, or /ɥ/ (the *u* in the French *huit*), is used in various words, for example the Deëreë word for nature, *marùelf*.

## Chapter 2

# Morphology

### 2.1 Noun classes

With last vowel

### 2.2 Number

With last consonant

### 2.3 Personal suffixes

They do not agree with the word they're on. They agree with what they refer to, which actually often *is* the word they're on.

#### 2.3.1 Definite

Just put it there.

'e

#### 2.3.2 Indefinite

et/eat/eùt

#### 2.3.3 Demonstrative

'me/'asme

#### 2.3.4 Genitive

're

#### Owner

todel'rëi

#### Distinct

ëj adal'e äblëi're

### 2.4 Adjective

before: all, no suffix

after: one only, 3S suffix

### 2.5 Adpositions

post-positions a lot

pre-positions with stuff.

## Chapter 3

# Conjugation

### 3.1 Tense

#### 3.1.1 Present

et

#### 3.1.2 Past

ëiet

#### 3.1.3 Future

et trã

### 3.2 Mood

#### 3.2.1 Indicative

et

#### 3.2.2 Participle

ej

#### 3.2.3 Interrogative

Vf es

#### 3.2.4 Subjunctive

Vf es

#### 3.2.5 Imperative

Vf a-V-et

### 3.3 Aspect

#### 3.3.1 Perfect/Imperfect

drej

#### 3.3.2 Cessative/Inchoative

drëiej/drej trã

### 3.4 The Copula

first suffix repetition

Mosoj'a fãssa eat'a. => the cat is a wizard.



## Chapter 4

# Syntax

### 4.1 Noun phrase

### 4.2 Sentence

#### 4.2.1 Basic order

#### 4.2.2 Questions

#### 4.2.3 Imperatives

### 4.3 Subclauses

Vf

### 4.4 Existentials

at

## Chapter 5

# Pragmatics

### 5.1 Sayings

### 5.2 Samples

#### 5.2.1 Ēj un naklēr'ūr dēsish'rù — The King of All Snakes

*This was the first 'poem' written in Deēreē.*

Asaber ěj edan'a mete're,  
Akùt'er i noshi nushata lavēdā'ar,  
Atraùt'er ěj lēlù aal eùt ěj eltol'ra nēn'rù,  
Asākrer ěj adal tis'mù mik'rù ak ādijl'rar.

Iszher kerbo pitrēk'ù ùsaat ěj un naklēr'ūr dēsish'rù.  
Sabeser un'me, kùs'er un'me, traùs'er un'me, sākreser un'me, osket dēsish'ù.  
Dēsistis'rù kla drēiej āgret kiden'me.  
Pa vimēilf're nājlat un grebas eltol'mar.

#### English translation

Hear the river's laugh,  
See in the sky the clouds swim,  
Know the calm of the great wind bird,  
Love the riches and flowers of this old place.

In the yellow mangrove lives the king of all snakes.  
Everything you hear, everything you see, everything you know, everything you love, belongs to the king.  
This noble being hasn't finished ruling his kingdom.  
Every bird that flies sings his just name.

# Glossary

## Symbols

?? un. 7

## A

aal wind. 2, 7

adal vieux. 7

agatùs racine. 7

agor fruit. 7

agubën graine. 7

ak et. 7

alk ne ... pas. 7

asluk bon. 7

azhe femme. 7

aãtrël vent. 7

aù petit. 7

## B

basete compter. 7

blaskete marcher. 7

blasutù mordre. 7

blifutù frapper. 7

blujt épais. 7

blursutù gonfler (intransitif). 7

blëjli herbe. 7

boata respirer. 7

borùk animal. 7

bëi bouche. 7

## D

deer froid (température). 7

dokap poitrine. 7

dokrish corne. 7

drarri cheveux. 7

dreri large. 7

drùdrete couper. 7

dujvolata fendre. 7

dëglisnol plume (d'un oiseau). 7

## E

edan rivière. 7

eklinushal émoussé. 7

eleât étoile. 7

eltol oiseau. 7

esërof soleil. 7

eupa sec. 7

## F

faltùs graisse. 7

fashutù couler (liquide). 7

fete boire. 7

fissata souffler. 7

fuzata flotter. 7

fuzeata tomber. 7

fùjlëladal an, année. 7

fùlpete tirer. 7

fùã powder. 2, 7

fëilkùr œuf. 7

## G

garata craindre. 7

gazorn mauvais. 7

giutù sucer. 7

glasfete se battre. 7

grear neige. 7

grebata voler (dans l'air). 7

gräsu étroit. 7

grëjzã noir. 7

guimof quand. 7

guklë quoi. 7

gulata tourner (intransitif). 7

gurshep comment. 7

gutis où. 7

guëi qui. 7

gëgrip foie. 7

gëjzes sale. 7

## I

i à. 7

ijs feu. 7

iklëjsh cendre. 7

iros pierre. 7

iszher dans. 7

## K

kerbo jaune. 7

kif viande. 7

kij feuille (d'un végétal). 7

klirëp oreille. 7

krouutù gratter. 7

krârvë pourri. 7  
 krùtù manger. 7  
 krēi si (condition). 7  
 kēsùj azhe femme (épouse). 7  
 kēsùj shùkēi mari. 7  
 kùtù voir. 7

## L

lakil écorce. 7  
 lakēil corde. 7  
 lasāf aile. 7  
 lavēdā nuage. 7  
 lif rouge. 7  
 lij autre. 7  
 limabo lisse. 7  
 lēlù grand. 7  
 lēshall sable. 7  
 lùmùete poignarder. 7  
 lùsh avec (ensemble). 7

## M

marùtù chasser (le gibier). 7  
 marùēlf nature. 2, 7  
 masēto loin. 7  
 mato près. 7  
 mete rire. 7  
 mikrete tenir. 7  
 milzhor forêt. 7  
 mirrete s'asseoir, être assis. 7  
 murzhēi nouveau. 7  
 mēl peau. 7

## N

nadēs enfant. 7  
 naklē serpent. 7  
 nibete mourir. 7  
 nosh lune. 7  
 noshi ciel. 7  
 nushata nager. 7  
 nājłata chanter. 7  
 nēdrete dire. 7

## O

oko quelques. 7  
 omajt fumée. 7

## P

pa juste, correct. 7  
 piskete jeter, lancer. 7

plakùtù creuser. 7  
 pleù chien. 7  
 plēiokata serrer, presser. 7  
 popiete essuyer. 7  
 pùk bâton. 7

## R

raldùtù entendre. 7  
 reùtù cracher. 7  
 rosup court (espace). 7  
 ruglēies mouillé, humide. 7  
 rāùtù venir. 7

## S

samas lac. 7  
 saszata se lever, se tenir debout. 7  
 sasžālf pied. 7  
 sebokēi genou. 7  
 senù poisson. 7  
 shazha cœur (organe). 7  
 shil ver. 7  
 shop glace. 7  
 shugorlo brouillard. 7  
 shārijata brûler (intransitif). 7  
 shāsete coudre. 7  
 shùkēi homme (mâle adulte). 7  
 shùtù jouer (s'amuser). 7  
 sialash entrailles, intestins. 7  
 sojmata penser. 7  
 suifi vert. 7  
 suzù nez. 7  
 sās arbre. 7  
 sējsh langue (organe). 7  
 sù mince. 7

## T

tef route. 7  
 tels long (espace). 7  
 tiskak main. 7  
 tis'asmù là. 7  
 tis'mù ici. 7  
 todel mère. 7  
 tor montagne. 7  
 tranùk poussière. 7  
 trasata donner. 7  
 traùtù savoir. 7  
 trāpāl sel. 7  
 tāi nuit. 7  
 tēfuete frotter. 2, 7

tëpolo plein. 7  
tùlzhùp lourd. 7

## U

ultrëlās dos. 7  
umijsh queue (d'un animal). 7  
un tout. 7  
unun pou. 7  
uplël ventre. 7  
urlil cou. 7  
urvëip tête. 7  
uzhëete lier. 7

## V

vaadip tranchant. 7  
vagrete s'étendre, être étendu. 7  
vash jour. 7  
vimëilf nom. 7  
virn gauche. 7  
vâtro rond. 7  
vëpi droite. 7  
vùâp long (temps). 7

## Z

zafeata laver. 7  
zhas eau. 7  
zhedrëi ongle. 7  
zhetiütù sentir (odorat). 7  
zhofozhùtù pousser. 7  
zhok sang. 7  
zhë dent. 7  
zhëmin beaucoup. 7  
zùkata geler. 7



ābin parce que. 7  
ādiyl fleur. 7  
ājne peu. 7  
āk chaud (température). 7  
ārshisp os. 7  
āsta mer. 7  
ëkruzol court (temps). 7  
ëoata tuer. 7  
ëtā pluie. 7  
ëvata dormir. 7  
ùglùtù vomir. 7  
ùkrùka œil. 7  
ùlëdan blanc. 7  
ùrùk terre (sol). 7  
ùsaata vivre. 7



ëi homme (être humain). 7  
ëidù jambe. 7  
ëikrur droit (rectiligne). 7  
ëiuk père. 7



'asme cela, celui-là. 7  
'e il. 7  
'el tu. 7  
'er vous. 7  
'esh je. 7  
'ezh nous. 7  
'me ceci, celui-ci. 7

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