Deẽreẽ
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	ʃʒ			ʁ
Approximant					j		
Lateral approximant			l				

Table 1.1 – Consonants in Deẽreẽ

Romanization is done with the IPA symbols, that is, the ones in table , except for ʃ, ʒ and ʁ, 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/, /ɛ̃(j)/ <ẽi>, /ø~œ/ <ë>	/o~ɔ/
Open	/a/	/ɑ̃/ <ã>

Table 1.2 – Vowels in Deẽreẽ

1.2.1 On /ɛ̃j/ or /ɛ̃/

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

As the last phoneme of a word <ẽi> will be palatalized: /ɛ̃j/. But when <ẽi> 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.al], instead of [a:l]. That is, the real pronounciation 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 fùã, powder, or before a verb ending, for example in tëfuete, 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 Deẽreẽ word for nature, marùëlf.

Chapter 2

Morphology

This chapter, morphology, aims to describe *what the words look like*. This means describing the nouns, adjectives, adverbs, verbs in their basic forms. Details though will be about personal suffixes, Deẽreẽ's equivalent for articles.

2.1 Gender

Deẽreẽ has three genders: Human, marked *H*, Magic, marked *M*, and Common, marked *C*. Every word has a gender, whatever its grammatical nature (part of speech) might be: nouns have gender, but verbs have gender too, as well as adjectives. Words that are not nouns do not just agree in gender (if they do), but has their own intrinsic categories.

2.1.1 Formation

To determine the gender of a word, you have to look at its last vowel (whether or not it ends in a vowel). The rules are in table .

Human	e	ẽi	u
Magic	a	ã	o
Common	ù	ë	i

Table 2.1 – Vowels in the Deẽreẽ genders (H:e/ẽi/u, M:a/ã/o, C:ù/ë/i)

For example:

zhalbarki beer, ending in *i*, is of *Common* gender

drete to go, ending in *e*, is of *Human* gender

magra soul, ending in *a*, is of *Magic* gender

2.1.2 Human

The **Human** gender regroups everything that is a non-magic person, a human made thing or skill. Example words are: zeẽi, city, torete, to speak, murtef, door, kueste, noble.

2.1.3 Magic

The **Magic** gender represents everything that is of magic or mystical nature. This thus heavily depends on the culture. In the setting of Deẽreẽ, the Kingdom of Reosal, magic, shortly explained, is the soul, present in everyone, and in many animals (eltol), natural elements, and some objects as well. Nouns designating people with magical abilities, like fãssa, wizard, are also of this gender.

Abilities of the mind (sojmata, to think) also fall into this category.

2.1.4 Common

What is **Common** is not necessarily unimportant. An example is traùtù, to know. However, kretùl, mole, and a lot of other words, are **Common**. This gender roughly regroups what doesn't fall into the other two categories, that is, what is not specific to humans or what isn't magical.

2.2 Number

Number in Deẽreẽ is simply singular (*SI*) and plural (*PL*). As gender is marked with the last vowel of a given word, number is marked with the last consonant.

2.2.1 Formation

Singular	-l	-n	-p	-t	-k	-f	-s	-sh	-*vowel*
Plural	-r	-m	-b	-d	-k	-v	-z	-zh	-r

Table 2.2 – Number (singular and plural) formation

2.2.2 Meaning and agreement

Nouns

The meanings of singular and plural for nouns are as expected: singular means that the thing is present once.

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'rẽi

Distinct

ëj adal'e ãblẽi'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

ẽiet

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

drẽiej/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 Ëj un naklër'ùr dësish'rù — The King of All Snakes

This was the first 'poem' written in Deẽreẽ.

Asaber ëj edan'a mete're,
Akùt'er i noshi nushata lavëdã'ar,
Atraùt'er ëj lëlù aal eùt ëj eltol'ra nën'rù,
Asãkrer ëj adal tis'mù mik'rù ak ãdijl'rar.

Iszher kerbo pitrëk'ù ùsaat ëj un naklër'ùr dësish'rù.
Sabeser un'me, kùs'er un'me, traùs'er un'me, sãkreser un'me, osket dësish'ù.
Dësistis'rù kla drẽiej ãgret kiden'me.
Pa vimẽilf're nãjlat 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

A

aal wind. 2, 8

D

drete to go. 3, 8

E

eltol bird. 3, 8

F

fãssa wizard. 3, 8

fùã powder. 2, 8

K

kretùl mole. 3, 8

kueste noble. 3, 8

M

magra soul. 3, 8

marùëlf nature. 2, 8

murtef door. 3, 8

N

naklë snake. 8

S

sojmata to think. 3, 8

T

torete to speak. 3, 8

traùtù to know. 3, 8

tëfuete frotter. 2, 8

Z

zeẽi city. 3, 8

zhalbarki beer. 3, 8

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