A Reference Grammar of the Iridian Language

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PREFACE

ABBREVIATIONS

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
4	fourth person
ABL	abilitative mood
ADE	adessive
AGT	agent
ANIM	animate
ATT	attributive
BEN	benefactive focus
COMP	comparative
COND	conditional
CTPV	contemplative aspect
CV	converb
DEM	demonstrative
DIST	distal
EXCL	exclusive
EXPL	expletive
G	generic number
GEN	genitive
GER	gerund
HORT	hortative mood
INAN	inanimate
INCL	inclusive
INCP	inceptive

INF	infinitive
INST	instrumental case
IPF	imperfective aspect
IV	instrumental focus
LOC	locative
LV	locative focus
MED	medial
NEG	negative
NZ	nominalizer
OPT	optative mood
PAT	patient
PERM	permissive mood
PF	perfective aspect
PL	plural
PROSP	prospective aspect
PROX	proximal
PV	patientive focus
Q	question particle
QUOT	quotative mood
REF	reflexive focus
RET	retrospective aspect
RZ	relativizer
S	singular
SBJ	subjunctive mood
STR	strong form
SUP	supine
WK	weak form

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AN OVERVIEW OF IRIDIAN

1.1 Word Classes

Traditional Iridian grammar classifies words into three types: **lóihnelý** (verbs), **zesztelý** (nouns), and **múisztelý** (function words)

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PHONOLOGY

2.1 Vowels

2.1.1 Oral Vowels

Iridian has six pairs of corresponding long and short vowels. With the exception of /a aː/ and /u uː/, long vowels are tenser than their short counterparts. In addition standard Iridian also features the high central vowel [ɨ] as an allophone of [ɛ] and [ɪ] and the low central [ɐ] as an allophone of [a], in unstressed positions.

Table 2.1: Vowel inventory of standard Iridian.

	FRONT		CENTRAL	BACK
	Unrounded	Rounded		
Close	ɪ iː	ʏ yː	(ɨ)	u uː
Mid	ɛ eː			ɔ oː
Open			(ɐ) a aː	

Phonetic realization is generally consistent with orthography as seen in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2: Orthographic representation of vowels.

	Short	Long		Short	Long
/a/	a	á	/o/	o	ó
/e/	e	é	/u/	u	ú
/i/	i	í	/y/	y, ÿ	ý

Note that since *ÿ* is used to represent palatalization of a consonant in coda position, word-final short /y/ sound is written as *ÿ*. Both /ʏ/ and /y/ are diphthongized to [ʏɐ̯] and [yːɐ̯] respectively at the end of a word.

(1) *mÿ*, 'grandmother'
[mʏɐ̯]

(2) *némÿ*, 'grandfather'
[ˈneːmʏɐ̯]

(3) *ahlý*, 'juice'
[ˈʔaxlyːɐ̯]

2.1.2 Diphthongs

Iridian has three phonemic oral diphthongs: *au* [aʊ̯], *ei* [eɪ̯], *ou* [oʊ̯]. In addition, the diphthongs *oi* [ɔɪ̯] and *ui* [uɪ̯] also occur phonemically, but their occurence is marginal, normally appearing only in fixed expressions such as interjections and expletives.

(4) *Avui!* 'Damn it!'
[ˈʔɐvuɪ̯ʔ]

(5) *pšehui*, 'annoying'
[ˈpɕɐxuɪ̯ʔ]

(6) *Oi!* 'Hey!'
[ʔɔɪ̯ʔ]

In most dialects however the diphthong [eɪ̯] has almost completely merged with *é* [eː], although some divergent dialects in the south may realize the diphthong as [iː].

(7) *neite*, 'word'
[ˈneɪ̯tɛ] or [ˈneːtɛ]

2.1.3 Nasal and Nasalized Vowels

Iridian has three nasal vowels: *ą* [ɐ̃w̃], *ę* [ɛ̃w̃] and *ǫ* [ɔ̃] (rarely [ɔ̃w̃]). Nasal vowels are not disinguished for length. In addition, nasal consonants in coda position are normally deleted, and the preceding vowel becomes phonemically nasal. In cases of nasal coda deletion, *a* [ɐ] and *e* [ɛ] are also dipthongized to [ɐ̃w̃] and [ɛ̃w̃]. Unstressed [ɛ̃w̃] is further reduced to [ə̃w̃]. This brings the inventory of nasal and nasalized consonants in Iridian to the following: /ɐ̃w̃ ɛ̃w̃ ə̃w̃ ĩ ɔ̃ ũ/

(8) *bięc*, 'cat'
[bʲɛ̃w̃t͡s]

(9) *nąš*, ‘castle’
[nɐ̃ʷɐ̃ʷɕ]

2.1.4 Vowel Length

Vowel length is phonemic in Iridian. Length is represented by an acute accent over the long vowel. The short-long vowel pairs differ in quality as well as length, with the short vowels being more and the long vowels being tenser in addition to being longer. Diphthongs are phonetically considered as long vowels.

Table 2.3: Vowel length and quality.

ARCHIPHONEME	LAX/SHORT	TENSE/LONG
/a/	[a]	[aː]
/e/	[ɛ]	[eː]
/i/	[ɪ]	[iː]
/o/	[ɔ]	[oː]
/u/	[u]	[uː]
/y/	[ʏ]	[yː]

2.1.5 Vowel Reduction

The short vowels /ɛ/ and /ɪ/ are reduced to [ɨ] in unstressed positions. In less careful speech, this could even the elision of the vowel and the formation of consonant clusters or the realization of the preceding consonant as syllabic (especially if it is a liquid). Final /ɛ/ is not reduced in a word-final position if preceding a pause.

(10) a. *pálet*, ‘paint’
[ˈpaːlɨt] or [paːɬt]

b. but *páletka*, ‘painter’
[paːˈlɛtkɐ]

(11) *hope*, ‘shoes’
[ˈxɔpɛ]

(12) *etapa*, ‘stage’
[ɨˈtapɐ]

Short /a/ is realized as [ɐ] in unstressed positions.

(13) *kóma*, 'cup'
[ˈk͡xoːmɐ]

(14) *mašinist*, 'engineer'
[mɐˈɕmɨst]

2.2 Consonants

Table **??** shows a complete list of consonant phonemes in Standard Iridian, with the allophones appearing in parentheses. In total, Iridian has 19 consonant phonemes but with 21 additional allophonic variants.

Table 2.4: Full consonant inventory of standard Iridian.

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Plosive	p b	t d	(c ɟ)	k g
Nasal	m (ɱ)	n	(ɲ)	(ŋ)
Liquid		r (ʁ) l	(ʎ)	
Sib. Fric.		s z	ɕ ʑ	
Non-Sib. Fricative	v		(ç)	x (ɣ)
Sib. Affricate		t͡s (d͡z)	t͡ɕ (d͡ʑ)	
Non-Sib. Aff.		(t̪͡θ d̪͡ð)	(c͡ç ɟ͡ʝ)	(k͡x g͡ɣ)
Approximant	(β̞)	(ð̞)	j	(ʍ w)

2.2.1 Plosives

Initial stops are affricated when following a pause, so that the velar pair /k g/ are realized as [k͡x g͡ɣ], the palatal pair [c ɟ] as [c͡ç ɟ͡ʝ][1] and the dental pair /t d/ as [t̪͡θ d̪͡ð] (the last pair is written without the diacritics in the examples). This sound change can be traced to the initial aspirated stops **k*^{h}, **g*^{h}, **t*^{h} and **d*^{h} in Old Iridian weakening to affricates. The labial stops /p b/ are unaffected by this process as most instances of **p*^{h} and **b*^{h} have merged to [b] or [v] in modern Iridian.

(15)

gulag	[ˈg͡ɣʊlɐx]	'gulag'
kašt	[k͡xaɕt]	'blood'
tom	[t͡θõ]	'powder'
dúm	[d͡ðũ]	'house'
tieho	[ˈc͡çɛxɔ]	'god'

1. Though phonotactically permitted, [ɟ͡ʝ] has not been attested.

The velar stops /k ɡ/ are lenited to the velar fricatives [x ɣ] intervocalically, before a voiceless stop, after a vocalized l if followed by another vowel or a voiceless stop, or before the nasal consonants /n/ or /m/ if following a vowel immediately. This lenition also occurs word-finally unless followed by a voiced obstruent, in which case, subject to word-final devoicing, they merge to [x].

(16)

seg	[sɛx]	‘flower’
jeko	[ˈjɛxɔ]	‘bed’
naga	[ˈnaɣɐ]	‘friend’
agnošce	[ʔɐɣˈnɔc͡tɕɛ]	‘agnostic’
akta	[ˈʔaxtɐ]	‘show’
šelk	[ɕɛwx]	‘beginning’

This lenition can also be observed with the voiced stops /b/ and /d/ which become the approximants /β̞/ and /ð̞/ (written without the diacritic hereafter) intervocalically or between a vocalized /l/ and another vowel.

(17)

nada	[ˈnɐðɐ]	‘box’
lobač	[ˈlɔβɐt͡ɕ]	‘earthquake’
álba	[ˈaːwβɐ]	‘hands’

The first stop in a stop cluster is normally unreleased or fricated.

(18)

doktor	[ˈd͡ðɔxtɔɣ]	‘doctor’
aptá	[ˈʔɐpˈtaː] or [ˈʔɐɸtaː]	‘to polish’

The glottal stop [ʔ] is often not regarded as a separate phoneme. It can occur in three cases: (1) before an onset vowel when following a pause, e.g., *avt* [ʔaʊt] ‘car’; (2) between two vowels that do not form a diphthong, e.g., *naomeš̂á* [nɐʔɔˈmɛʃaː], ‘to whisper’; or (3) emphatically, especially in interjections, e.g., *Oi!* [ʔɔɪ̯ʔ], ‘Hey!’, *Káp!* [k͡xaːpʔ], ‘Look out! (*lit*., danger)’.

2.2.2 Nasals

Iridian has two nasal consonants /m n/. /n/ cannot appear before bilabials and similarly /m/ cannot appear before velars. The palatal /ɲ/ is an allophone of /n/ in environments affected by **niehockvo**. Both m and n cause a preceding short vowel to be nasalized, with the consonant itself subsequently dropped.

(19)

niho	[nɪxɔ]	‘nothing’
tramvek	[ˈtrɐ̃wvɛx]	‘tramway’
sinvóní	[sɪ̃ˈvoːniː]	‘symphony’
bankišt	[ˈbɐ̃wkɪc͡t]	‘banker’

The velar [ŋ] is not native in Iridian but can sometimes be observed, especially in loanwords, where it can be realized as nasalization of the preceding

vowel when in the syllable coda or as [ŋ] intervocalically, although [ŋg] or [ŋk] is also common.

(20) *aktung*, 'signage' (from Ger. Achtung, caution)
[ˈʔaxtũ] or [ˈʔaxtuŋ] or [ˈʔaxtuŋk]

(21) *anglevní*, 'English language'
[ʔɐŋˈlɛwniː] or [ʔɐŋgˈlɛwniː]

2.2.3 Liquids

Iridian has two liquids: the rhotic /r/ and the lateral /l/.

The rhotic /r/ is realized in one of three ways. Word-initially it is pronounced as the uvular fricative [ʁ] (or as the uvular trill fricative [ʀ̞], depending on the speaker, but both transcribed here simply as [ʁ]). The realization as [ʁ] is also often used when pronouncing words emphatically. When in the coda position and before a pause [r] is realized as /ʐ/. This pronunciation was originally that of a voiceless alveolar trill [r̥] but this has simplified to [r̝] and finally to [ʐ] in Standard Iridian. The [r̥] or [r̝] pronunciation may nevertheless persist in some southern dialects, primarily due to Czech influence. Note that [ʐ] is not affected by word-final devoicing. Elsewhere /r/ is realized as the flap [ɾ]. Palatal /rʲ/ is in general more stable, realized simply as [rʲ], although when in the coda position and if not followed by a vowel, it is realized as [ʐ].

The lateral /l/ is actually the velarized alveolar lateral approximant [ɬ]. Nonetheless the sound has been transcribed throughout as /l/. In the coda position /l/ is completely vocalized and is transcribed here as [w]. The palatalized /lʲ/ is the palatal lateral approximant [ʎ] and is transcribed as such.

(22)

lievout	[ˈʎɛvo̯ut]	'pregnant'
mielko	[ˈmʲɛwxɔ]	'sugar'
ór	[oːʐ]	'hour'
gitáry	[ˈg͡ɣɪtaːʐ]	'guitar'
rád	[ʁaːt]	'building'

2.2.4 Fricatives and Affricates

The palatal sibilants /ɕ ʑ/ can be realized as either the palatal [ɕ ʑ] or the post-alveolar [ʃ ʒ] with the former being more common. The same is true with the palatal affricates /t͡ɕ d͡ʑ/, realized as other [t͡ɕ d͡ʑ] or [t͡ʃ d͡ʒ], with the former also being more prevalent. The voiced affricated /d͡ʑ/, normally written *dž*, is marginal, and most loanwords originally containing [d͡ʑ] or [d͡ʒ] are assimilated as [ʑ]. The sequence /t͡sɪ/ and /t͡siː/ are realized as /t͡ɕɪ/ and /t͡ɕiː/ respectively.

(23) *žurnál*, 'magazine'
[ˈʑurnaːw]

(24) *cigra*, 'tiger'
[ˈt͡ɕɪɣrɐ]

The voiceless labial fricative /f/ is not a native phoneme in Iridian and most loanwords containing /f/ are assimilated to [v]. Most recent borrowings however tend to keep the marginal /f/.

(25)

vóto	[ˈvoːtɔ]	'photograph'
kávémašt	[k͡xaːˈveːmɐɕt]	'coffeeshop'
Vranca	[ˈvrɐ̃w̃t͡sɐ]	'France'
Feizbuk	[ˈfeːzbux]	'Facebook'

/v/ is realized as the approximant /w/ in syllable coda or before a stop. The sequence *kv* and *gv* is further lenited to the labialized velar fricatives /xʷ ɣʷ/. The voiceless /xʷ/ (from both **kv** and **hv**) is in free variation with /ʍ/, with the latter being the more common pronunciation, especially among younger speakers.For simplicity both /xʷ/ and /ʍ/ will be transcribed as /ʍ/.

(26)

kvártir	[ˈʍaːrcɪʑ]	'apartment'
szvięce	[ʃviɛ̃w̃t͡sɛ]	'candle, light'
gvorž	[ɣʷɔrɕ]	'speech'

Modern Iridian has lost the distinction between /h/ and /x/, with both ⟨ch⟩ and ⟨h⟩,[2] historically representing /x/ and /h/, respectively, merging to the velar fricative /x/. This becomes /ç/ before voiceless stops word-initially or when following a front vowel, or before the front vowels /i/ and /ɪ/. The palatal /ç/ is the prepalatal [ç̟], intermediate between /ç/ and /ɕ/. The sequence ⟨hl⟩ and ⟨kl⟩ are realized as /t͡ɬ/.

(27)

hluvek	[t͡ˈɬ uvɛx]	'apartment'
hrona	[ˈxrɔnɐ]	'three'
hteny	[çtɛɲ]	'person'
neiht	[neːçt]	'color'
klube	[ˈt͡ɬuβɛ]	'club'

Voicing

Iridian consonants are generally affected by two systems of phonological opposition: a primary distinction between voice and unvoiced consonants, and a secondary distinction between hard and soft consonants (i.e., normal and palatalized consonants).

2. Most instances of ⟨ch⟩ have been replaced with ⟨h⟩ following various spelling reforms.

Consonant voicing is phonemic. Voiced consonants are called muddy or dark (**mrknie**) while unvoiced consonants are called clear (**hocke**). Iridian has a strong tendency to devoice consonants, a process called **niehockvo** (clearing, lightening).

Voiced consonants are devoiced when followed by a voiceless obstruent, or in word-final position, unless followed by a vowel or a voiced obstruent. Conversely, voiceless obstruents become voiced when followed by another voiced obstruent.

avt	[ʔɐft]	'car'
szkad	[ʃkɐt]	'serious'
kdavidy	[ˈgdɐvʲɪc]	'clean'
ryz	[rɪs]	'rice'

2.3 Phonotactics

2.3.1 Syllable structure

Ignoring the possible complexity of the onset, nucleus or coda, the basic structure of an Iridian syllable is CV(C), with C representing a consonant and V a vowel. Iridian has relatively few phonotactic constraints, allowing, at a maximum, syllables of the form $(C)^2CV(C)^3$. Nevertheless, most syllables fall in either of the four groups CV, CVC, CCV and CVCC

Table 2.5: Blevin's criteria as they apply to Iridian.

	PARAMETER
Obligatory onset	Yes
Coda	No
Complex onset	Yes
Complex nucleus	Yes*
Complex coda	Yes
Edge effect	

2.3.2 Onset

Iridian does not allow a null onset (vowel in the syllable onset), i.e., the most basic Iridian syllable should be of the form CV. Words that superficially appear as having a null onset syllable in the initial position are actually preceded by a glottal stop. An epenthetic glottal stop is also added between vowels in a sequence that do not otherwise form dipthongs, or before a vowel in a word-initial position in loanwords.

Americe	/ʔɐmɛˈɾʲɪt͡sɛ/	‘America’
uide	/ʔʏðɛ/	‘gong’
ekt	/ʔɛxt/	‘forehead’

Table 2.6: Allowed word-initial CC clusters

	p	b	t	d	k	g	m	n	r	l	s	z	š	ž	v	č	dc	c	dz	h
p			+					+	+	+	+		+							
b									+	+										
t							+		+	+					+					
d							+	+	+	+					+					
k			+	+				+	+	+	+		+		+					
g								+	+	+					+					
m								+												
n										+										
r																				
l																				
s																				+
z		+		+			+	+	+	+					+					
š	+		+		+		+	+	+	+					+	+		+		+
ž																				
v			+	+	+			+	+	+	+		+					+		
č			+		+					+										
c			+		+			+	+	+										+
h			+						+	+					+					

\+ allowed cluster

The following CC clusters are allowed to be in onset position:

1. Stop followed by a liquid:
   (a) /pr/: *pragy* /prɐc/, ‘sand’; *pramou* /prɐˈmou̯/, ‘petal’
   (b) /tr/: *trâ* /trɐ̃w̃/, ‘bread’; *truig* /trʏx/, ‘ball
   (c) /kr/: *krova* /ˈkrɔvɐ/, ‘egg’; *kramy* /krɐmʲ/, ‘toe’
   (d) /pl/: *plan* /plɐn/, ‘plan’; *ploika*, /ˈpløxɐ/ ‘knot’
   (e) /tɬ/:[3] *tlyk* /tɬɪx/, ‘pig’; *tlum* /tɬʊm/
   (f) /kl/:[4] *klug* /t͡ɬʊx/, foot; *klúbe* /ˈt͡ɬuːbɛ/, ‘club’
   (g) /br/: *brok* /brɔx/, ‘female teenager’; *bremy* /brɛmʲ/, ‘ugly’
   (h) /dr/: *drono* /drɔnɔ/, ‘brother’; *drúi* /dryː/ ‘enemy’
   (i) /gr/: *grec* /gr̥ɛt͡s/, ‘flag’; *gryny* /grɪŋ/ ‘peace’
   (j) /bl/: *bloht* /blɔxt/, ‘mud’; *bleu* /blø̯y/ ‘neck’

3. This is realized as /tɬ/ or even /ɬ/.
4. Realized as /t͡ɬ/ in Standard Iridian or as /kl̥/ in some dialects.

(k) /dl/[5]: *dleva* /ˈt͡ɬ ɛvɐ/, 'low'; *dlouhe* /t͡ɬou̯xɛ/ 'duck'
(l) /gl/: *gloibek* /ˈgløbɛx/

2. Dental or velar stops followed by /v/: [6]
   (a) /tv/:
   (b) /dv/:
   (c) /kv/: *kvártir* /ˈʍɔrcɪr/, apartment; *kveno* /ˈʍɛnɔ/, 'kitten'
   (d) /gv/: *gvarusz* /ɣʷɐˈrʊʃ/, 'speech'; *gvecs* /ɣʷɛt͡ʃ/, 'dinner'
3. /k/ or /p/ followed by /t/ or its soft counterpart; /k/ followed by /d/ or its soft counterpart:
   (a) /kt/: *kto* /ktɔ/, 'smile'; *ktiesz* /kcɛʃ/, 'ache'
   (b) /pt/: *pteva* /ptɛvɐ/, 'leaf'; *ptiará* /pcɐrɐ/, 'count'
   (c) /kd/:[7]
4. /k/ or /p/ before /s/ or /ʃ/ or their soft counterparts:
   (a) /ps/:[8] *psyhologa* /psɪxɔlɔˈɣɐ/, 'psychologist';
   (b) /pʃ/: *pszehuj* /ˈpʃɛxu̯/, 'annoyance'; *pszêcem* /ˈpʃɛ̃w̃t͡sɛm/, 'grain'
   (c) /ks/:[9]
   (d) /kʃ/: *kszêtva* /ˈkʃɛ̃w̃tvɐ/, 'chain'; *kszévet* /ˈkʃeːvɛt/, 'basket'
5. Dental stops followed by /m/:
   (a) /tm/: *tmeny* /tmɛɲ/, 'belt'; *tmou* /tmou̯/, 'waist'
   (b) /dm/:
6. /p/, /d/, /k/ or /g/ followed by /n/:
   (a) /pn/:
   (b) /dn/:
   (c) /kn/:
   (d) /gn/:[10] *gnasz* /knɐʃ/, 'school'; *gnuma* /knʊmɐ/, 'mattress'
7. /m/ followed by /n/ or /n/ followed by /l/:
   (a) /mn/: *mnucs* /mnʊt͡ʃ/, 'husband'; *mnouvaty* /ˈmnou̯vɐc/, 'hunchback'
   (b) /nl/:[11] *nlâsz* /ɲʌ̃ɐ̃w̃ʃ/, 'castle'; *nlúi* /ɲʌ̃yː/, 'horse'
8. /ʃ/ followed by a voiceless stop:
   (a) /ʃp/:
   (b) /ʃt/
   (c) /ʃk/:
9. /ʐ/ before /b/ or /d/:
   (a) /zb/
   (b) /zd/:

5. This has merged to *tl* in Standard Iridian.
6. /v/ is realized as /ʊ/ in this context. See section of stops for details on *kv* and *gv*.
7. This is always realized as /gd/.
8. This is a marginal cluster, occuring only in mostly Greek loanwords.
9. This is another marginal cluster, occuring only in mostly Greek loanwords.
10. Realized as /ɣn/ after a vowel-final word and /kn/ elsewhere.
11. This is realized as palatal /ɲʌ̃/.

10. /ʃ/ or /ʐ/ followed by a nasal, a liquid, or /v/:
    (a) /ʃm/:
    (b) /ʃn/:
    (c) /ʃr/:
    (d) /ʃl/:
    (e) /ʃv/:
    (f) /zm/:
    (g) /zn/:
    (h) /zr/:
    (i) /zl/:
    (j) /zv/:
11. /ʃ/ before the affricates /t͡s/ or /t͡ʃ/:
    (a) /ʃt͡s/:
    (b) /ʃt͡ʃ/
12. /ʃ/ or /s/ before the affricates /x/:
    (a) /ʃx/:
    (b) /sx/
13. /v/ before the affricates /s/ or /ʃ/, /n/, the stops /t/, /k/, or /d/, the liquids /r/ or /l/, or the affricate /t͡s/:
    (a) /vs/:
    (b) /vʃ/:
    (c) /vn/:
    (d) /vt/:
    (e) /vk/:
    (f) /vd/:
    (g) /vr/:
    (h) /vl/:
    (i) /vt͡s/:
14. /t͡ʃ/ before /k/, /t/, or /l/:[12]
    (a) /t͡ʃk/:
    (b) /t͡ʃt/:
    (c) /t͡ʃl/:
15. /t͡s/ before /k/, /t/, /l/, /r/ /n/ or /x/:
    (a) /t͡sk/:
    (b) /t͡st/:
    (c) /t͡sr/:
    (d) /t͡sl/:
    (e) /t͡sn/:
    (f) /t͡sx/:

12. CC clusters beginning with /t͡ʃ/ have all simplified to /ʃ/.

Table 2.7: Allowed CCC clusters.

	v	z	sz	p	b	k
pr			+			
pl			+			
br		+	+			
tr	+		+			
tl			+			
tv						
dr		+				
dv						
kr			+			
kl			+			
kv						
gr		+				
sh	+			+		+
szp						
szt						
szk						
szh	+			+		+
szr	+			+	+	+
szc	+			+	+	+
szcs	+			+	+	+

16. /x/ before /t/, /l/, /r/ or /v/:
    (a) /xt/:
    (b) /xl/:
    (c) /xr/:
    (d) /xv/:[13]

Three-consonant clusters are subject to more constraints.

1. /ʃ/-voiceless stop-liquid clusters
    (a) /ʃpr/:
    (b) /ʃtr/:
    (c) /ʃkr/:
    (d) /ʃpl/:
    (e) /ʃtl/:
    (f) /ʃkl/:
2. /ʃ/, followed by a stop, followed by /v/
    (a) /ʃkv/:
    (b) /ʃtv/:
    (c) /ʃdv/:

13. This is realized as /ʍ/.

3. /z̨/-voiced stop-/r/ clusters
   (a) /zbr/:
   (b) /zdr/:
   (c) /zgr/:
4. /v/ followed by a stop, followed by a liquid:
   (a) /vtr/:
   (b) /vdr/:
   (c) /vkr/:
5. /v/ followed by /ʃ/, followed by a liquid or a voiceless stop:
   (a) /vʃr/:
   (b) /vʃt/:
   (c) /vʃk/:
   (d) /vʃp/:
6. Stop followed by /ʃ/ followed by /t/, /t͡s/ or /t͡ʃ/:
   (a) /bʃt͡ʃ/:
   (b) /bʃt͡s/:
   (c) /bʃt/:
   (d) /pʃt͡ʃ/:
   (e) /pʃt͡ʃ/:
   (f) /pʃt/:
   (g) /kʃt͡ʃ/:
   (h) /kʃt͡ʃ/:
   (i) /kʃt/:

2.3.3 Nucleus

2.3.4 Coda

2.4 Consonant Alternations

A large part of consonant palatalization in Iridian is due to palatalization, with a coda consonant getting in contact with /j/, an unrounded front vowel, or a /j/-glide.

2.4.1 Simple palatalization

2.4.2 Palatalization

Iridian consonants can either be hard (**suhne**) or soft (**gem**). Consonants are hard by default but become soft when followed by the vowels **i** or **í**. The vowel **y** is normally used to indicate non-palatalizing /i/, although it is used to indicate palatalization word-finally or before **i**.

The use of *-y* is a remnant of word final short **i* from Old Iridian that has since disappeared. The same process has caused the shortening of long **i* to /ɪ/. This sound change did not distinguish between palatalizing and

non-palatalizing **i* so that **seni* 'tooth' and **seny* 'blanket' both merged to modern Iridian *seny* /sɛɲ/.

Softening involves palatal articulation of labial consonants (e.g., **be** [bɛ] vs **bie** [bʲɛ]) or the change to a palatal consonant for non-labials (e.g., **te** [tɛ] vs **tie** [cɛ]). Table **??** shows how non-labials are affected by palatalization in Iridian.

Table 2.8: Soft and Hard Consonants

SERIES	HARD		SOFT	
	Unvoiced	Voiced	Unvoiced	Voiced
t series	**t** [t]	**d** [d]	**ty, ti** [c]	**dy, di** [ɟ]
k series	**k** [k]	**g** [g]	**ky, ki** [c]	**gy, gi** [ɟ]
s series	**s** [s]	**z** [z]	**sy, si** [ɕ]	**zy, zi** [ʑ]
š series	**sz** [ʃ]	**zs** [ʒ]	**szy, -i** [ɕ]	**zsy, -i** [ʑ]
c series	**c** [t͡s]	**dz** [d͡z]	**cy, ci** [t͡ɕ]	**dzy, -i** [d͡ʑ]
č series	**cs** [t͡ʃ]	**dc** [d͡ʒ]	**csy, -i** [t͡ɕ]	**dcy, -i** [d͡ʑ]
h series	**h** [x]	—	**hy, hi** [ç]	—
n series	—	**n** [n]	—	**ny, ni** [ɲ]
l series	—	**l** [l]	—	**ly, li** [ʎ]

Note how sounds produced using the same manner of articulation merge to the corresponding palatal consonant, keeping the voiced/voiceless distinction, such that both sibilant pairs *s-z* and *sz-zs* soften to /ɕ ʑ/, the plosive pairs *k-g* and *t-d* to /c-ɟ/, and the affricates *c-dz* and *cs-dc* to /t͡ɕ d͡ʑ/.[14] Some dialects, however may realize soft *cs-dc* as /c ɟ/.

2.4.3 Mutation of labials

2.4.4 Mutation of dentals and velars

(28) /k/ and /g/

k∼c	*Marek* 'Marek'	*Marcie* 'Marek-GEN'
k∼č		
g∼ž		

14. This merger and word-final devoicing results, for example, to *-ety*, *-edy*, *-eky*, and *-egy* all being pronounced as /ɛc/

2.4.5 Compound alternations

2.4.6 Consonant~zero alternations

2.4.7 Voicing and devoicing

2.4.8 Assimilation of Sibilants

The sibilants *s*, *z*, *š* and *ž* and the sibilant affricates *c* and *č* assimilate when forming a cluster, whether in morpheme boundaries or morpheme-internally.

Table 2.9: Assimilation of sibilant clusters.

CLUSTER	EXAMPLES
s + š	[ɕ]
š + c or č	[ɕt͡ɕ]
	[ɕt]

2.5 Vowel Alternations

2.5.1 Compensatory vowel lengthening

2.6 Other Phonological Processes

2.7 Phonological Processes

2.7.1 Assimilation of loanwords

2.7.2 Vowel~zero alternation

Vowel~zero alternations refer to an extensive series of morphophonological changes in Iridian causing certain vowels to disappear in certain contexts. Vowels that alternate with zero (i.e., that disappear in certain morphological contexts) are said to be *unstable* vowels.

Below is a comprehensive list of environments that trigger vowel zero alternations. Here C represents any phonologically permitted consonant or consonant cluster, V a short vowel and VV a long vowel or a diphthong,

_cvcvc stems

The final V is generally unstable in the following environments

1. Stem has the same vowels. Examples: *daman* → *damna* 'lips'; *ploit* → *poilte* 'pancake'; *poviasztak* → *poviesztkam* 'I ate'
2. V_2 is a short vowel. Examples: *zsedym* → *zsedme* 'beard'; *elaim* → *elme* 'fog'

3. Stressed vowels and most loanwords do not follow this rule. Examples *majoniez* → *majonieza* 'mayonaise' but *mobil* → *mubla* 'phone'
4. Where the deletion would cause the resulting consonant to be geminated or to be a voiced/unvoiced pair of the same consonant, the preceding vowel is lengthened. In the case of voiced/unvoiced pairs, only the voiced consonant is kept. Example: *uidet* → *úide*
5. The presence of a soft consonant in the last or the penultimate consonant position normally inhibit vowel~zero alternation.

Stem-final vowel~zero alternation

Suffix-initial vowel~zero alternation

1. _CVCVC or _CVVCVC stems. The final V is generally unstable in the below contexts
2.
3. Suffix-initial vowel~zero alternation

2.7.3 Vowel~vowel alternation

Vowel~vowel alternations form an integral part of Iridian morphophonology. These changes can be grouped into two broad categories: (1) pluralizing ablaut, which involves the raising or fronting of stem vowels to form the plural of most native nouns and (2) marginal apophony involving the vowels /ɛ/ and /ɔ/.

The first category is one of the most common processes in Iridian, used in the formation of marked plurals. In general, it involves the fronting of back vowels (e.g., o to oi), the raising of low front vowels (ai to oi) and the diphthongization of high front vowels. This change does not affect vowel length, so that long vowels remain long and short vowels remain short. This process is discussed in detail in the chapter on nouns.

The second category involves the short vowels /ɔ/ and /ɛ/, and in ome cases /ɐ/. This class of changes is normal observed in the following:

1. In _VC final words, where C is a soft consonant, if followed by a consonat final suffix, or if metathesis or vowel~zero alternation causes the deletion of the initial vowel of the suffix /ɐ ɛ ɔ/ become /ɛ ɪ ʊ/. The soft consonant remains as soft, although this is not reflected in the orthography

(29) a. +sztraty + ak → szovtretka (I) walked

2. Short /ɔ/ in a stable position alternates with /ʊ/ and short /ɛ/ is a stable position after a soft consonant with /ɪ/, when followed by a voiced plosive after the deletion of an unstable vowel.

(30) a. *lobek* 'apple' → *lubka* 'apple-PAT'

b. *hotel* 'hotel' → *hotela* 'hotel-PAT'

3. In _PaC final words, where C is a voiceless obstruent (either phonemically or because of assimilation) or a nasal, /ɐ/ becomes /ɛ/ and /ɛ/ becomes /ɪ/ and the voiceless consonant is voiced when followed by a vowel-initial suffix.

(31) a. *szviad* 'star' → *szvieda* 'star-PAT'
b. *pian* 'fire' → *piena* 'fire-PAT'

(32) a. *miet* 'pot' → *mida* 'pot-PAT'
b. *máliek* 'bonfire' → *máliga* 'bonfire-PAT'

2.7.4 Reduplication

Reduplication is a process whereby the stem or a part of the stem of a word, or the word itself is repeated with little or no change.

Reduplication is only partially productive in Iridian. Most reduplicated noun forms, for example, have fossilized meanings.

(33) Initial reduplication (CV- prefix)
bórž 'thunder' → *bóbórž* 'rumbling sound'
maná 'to drop' → *mamaná* 'to splatter'

(34) Final reduplication (-CV and -CCV suffixes)
bórž 'thunder' → *bóbórž* 'rumbling sound'
maná 'to drop' → *mamaná* 'to splatter'

Full reduplication is more common than either initial or final-syllable reduplication, although it is limited (in general) to monosyllabic words with CV, VC or CVC structures.

A possibly grammatically meaningful usage of full reduplication is the repetition of words when answering yes-no questions. Iridian usually do not use the words for 'yes' or 'no' when responding to yes-no questions, instead repeating the verb.

2.7.5 Metathesis

slot a infixes

Slot A prefixes (grammatical voice and copulative form) metathesize the root when the onset is a cluster of two or more consonants subject to the below rules. In the examples we assume a affix of the type **ʔVC**. The glottal stop is deleted when the infix is added. The subscripts *n* and *s* are used to for phonemes relating to the infix and the stem respectively.

1. Liquid-final clusters: $C_sLV_s + ʔV_nC_n \rightarrow C_sV_nLC_sV_n$

trápe 'cloud' → **turtápe** 'cloudy'
tresz 'write (SR)' → **torveszé**
szran 'drink (SR)' → **szirnaná**

2. Nasal-final clusters: $C_sNV_s + ʔV_nC_n \rightarrow C_sV_nNC_sV_n$
dnoja 'money' → **duntoja** 'rich'

2.8 Prosody

Stress is not phonemic and generally falls on the penultimate syllable of a word, whether the word is simple, derived or compound. For longer words, secondary stress may be placed on each even-numbered syllable counting backwards from the penultimate one.

(35) a. *študent*, 'student'
[ˈɕtuðɛnt]

b. *študenta*, 'student' (pat.)
[ɕtuˈðɛnta]

c. *študentrád*, 'university dormitory'
[ɕtuˈðɛntraːt]

A primary exception includes a small class of interjections (most, but not all, of them onomatopoeic), where the stress is placed on the last syllable.

(36) a. *ahá*, [ɐˈxaː]

b. *kabúm*, [k͡xɐˈbuːm]

Loanwords whose stress pattern is different than this general rule are often (but not always) assimilated:

(37) a. *vizika*, 'physics'
[vɨˈzɪxɐ]

b. *matématik*, 'mathematics'
[mɐˌteːmɐˈtɪx]

In addition, the enclitic interrogative particle *no* and inclitic pronouns in general do not affect the location of the stress.

(38) a. *koma*, 'good'
[ˈk͡xɔmɐ]

b. *Koma-no?*, 'Is (it) good?'
[ˈk͡xɔmɐˌnɔ] instead of [k͡xɔˈmanɔ]

(39) a. *kvartir*, 'apartment'
[ˈʍartɨɻ]

b. *kvartirem*, 'my apartment'
[ˈʍartɨˌrɛ̃w̃] instead of [ʍarˈtɪrɛ̃w̃]

2.9 Orthographic representation

2.9.1 Alphabet

The Iridian language uses the Latin script with the following 29 letters: **a, b, c, č, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, š, t, u, v, w, x, y, z, ž**.

The language was originally written in its own script but after the Latin alphabet has been adapted and has been in use since the First Bohemian Union in the 14th century. Due to the historical ties with the Kingdom of Bohemia and its historical successors, Czech orthography has had a great influence on the orthography of Iridian.

The last major change in the orthography of the language was during the 1843 reform, when the spellings <h> and <ch>, historically representing the phonemes /h/ and /x/ have been merged to <h> (representing /x/), as the language lost the distinction between the two.

-ch still used at the end of a word

Iridian uses two types of diacritics, the acute accent (´), which is used to mark long vowels, and the circumflex accent (^) used to mark nasal vowels. Accented characters are not considered as separate letter.

Table 2.10: The Iridian alphabet.

SYMBOL	NAME	IPA	SYMBOL	NAME	IPA
A a	á	/a/	**O o**	ó	/ɔ/
B b	bé	/b/	**P p**	pé	/p/
C c	cét	/t͡s/	**Q q**	kvé	–
Č č	ča	/t͡ɕ/	**R r**	er	/r/
D d	dé	/d/	**S s**	es	/s/
E e	é	/e/	**Š š**	éš	/ɕ/
F f	fí	–	**T t**	té	/t/
G g	gé	/g/	**U u**	ú	/u/
H h	há	/x/	**V v**	vé	/v/
I i	í	/i/	**W w**	vének	–
J j	jýt	/j/	**X x**	iks	–
K k	ká	/k/	**Y y**	ýpsýĺon	/y/
L l	el	/l/	**Z z**	zet	/ʑ/
M m	em	/m/	**Ž ž**	žes	/ʑ/
N n	en				

Table 2.11: Supplementary characters used in Iridian.

SYMBOL	NAME	IPA	NAME IN IPA
Á á	nečko á	/aː/	[ˈnɛtɕ͡kɔʔaː]
Ą ą	á še možu	/ɐ̃w̃/	[aːʃɨˈmɔʑu]
É é	nečko é	/eː/	[ˈnɛtɕ͡kɔʔeː]
Ę ę	é še možu	/ɛ̃w̃/	[eːʃɨˈmɔʑu]
Í í	nečko í	/iː/	[ˈnɛtɕ͡kɔʔiː]
Ó ó	nečko ó	/oː/	[ˈnɛtɕ͡kɔʔoː]
Ǫ ǫ	ó še možu	/õ/	[oːʃɨˈmɔʑu]
Ú ú	nečko ú	/uː/	[ˈnɛtɕ͡kɔʔuː]
Ý ý	nečko ýpsílǫ	/yː/	[ˈnɛtɕ͡kɔʔːˈyːpsiːˌlõ]
Ÿ ÿ	ýpsílǫ še trému	/y/	[ˈyːpsiːˌlɔnɕɨˈtɾɛːmɐ]

3

VERBAL MORPHOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Verbs in Iridian are heavily marked. There is a tendency to encode most of the information contained in the sentence on the verb leaving the noun or noun phrase unmarked if possible.

Finite verbs are marked for the following grammatical categories:

1. *Aspect*. Iridian has three primary aspects: perfective, imperfective and contemplative; and two secondary ones: retrospective and prospective.
2. *Voice*. Iridian has a strong tendency to leave the topic of the sentence unmarked, instead encoding the primary information on the verb. Due to this, voice must be explicitly marked on the verb. Iridian has the following grammatical voices: agentive, patientive, benefactive, instrumental, locative and reflexive.
3. *Mood*. Besides the unmarked indicative, Iridian has the following grammatical moods: subjunctive, conditional, hortative, optative, abilitative, permissive and non-volitive. In addition, secondary prefixes are used to express what would otherwise could be considered as moods: inceptive, causative and reciprocative.

Verbs are also marked for person, although this is done by the addition of clitic pronouns and not through a separate conjugation paradigm. In most cases, however, this is left out, especially if clear from the context. Iridian verbs are not marked for tense, gender, or number.

Iridian verbs have four classes of non-finite forms: the gerund, the converb, the supine and the generic nominal formed with **-ou**. The non-finite verb forms are derived from the uninflected verb stem except the generic nominal in **-ou** which can only be formed from a fully-inflected verb stem. A fifth class exists–the infinitive–but this form is largely defunct and is only used in certain compound constructions. Infinitives end in **-á** and is used as the citation form of a verb.

3.2 Verb stems and citation forms

The citation form (or dictionary form) of a verb is the uninflected infinitive, a fossilized form rarely used outside of a very few periphrastic construction.

The infinitive ends with the vowel *-á*, and removing this ending will produce the verb stem. The final consonant (or in rare cases, vowel) of the stem determines the conjugation paradigm the verb follows.

3.3 Voice

Iridian often prefers to encode information on the verb instead of through case marking on nouns. As such, all verbs must be explicitly marked for voice.

Table 3.1: Suffixes used to mark grammatical voice.

	ENDING
Agentive	-aš-
Patientive	-in-
Benefactive	-éb-
Locative	-á-
Instrumental	-
Reflexive	-
Reciprocal	

3.3.1 Agentive voice

The agentive voice is used if the subject of the verb is the agent of the action.

(1) *Sa* *piašček*.
already eat-AV-PF
'(I) already ate.'

The affix *-aš-* assimilates to the consonant ending the root, with the vowel /ɐ/ normally dropped, subject to the following rules:

- č: for roots ending with c, č, k, t
  - jelcá + -aš- → jelč-, 'to dance'
  - zdieká + -aš- → zdíč-, 'to blow'
  - piaštá + -aš- → piašč-, 'to eat'
- z: for roots ending with b, l, m, n, r[1]
- ž: for roots ending with d, g, z, ž
  - baž- + -aš- → báž-, 'to give'
  - stojá + -aš- → stóž-, 'to go'

1. This change does not involve the deletion of the final consonant in the root.

- š: for all other endings[2]

Where the assimilation involves the deletion of the final consonant in the root, the preceding vowel is lengthened in compensation if the resulting root would then end in an open syllable.

(2) *Udúšek.*
(instead of **udušek*)
'(I) took a shower.'

(3) *Piašček.*
(not **piášček*.)
'(I) ate.'

If the remnant vowel is the i-glide *-ie-* or the diphthongs *-ei-* and *-ou-*, the remaining vowel would simplify to *í*, *í* and *ú*, respectively. Consider for example the verb *zdieká* 'to blow':

(4) *Lest zdičalí.*
wind blow-AV-PROG
'The wind is blowing.'

Nevertheless the vowel [ɐ] in the root resurfaces in the following cases:

- Verbs ending in -irná:
- Verb root ending in a consonant cluster with a final liquid, nasal, or v

3.3.2 Patientive focus

A verb in the patient focus (glossed PAT) indicates that the topic of the sentence is the patient of the verb.

(5) *Marek vindekem.*
Marek <PV>see-PF-1S
'I saw Marek.'

3.3.3 Benefactive focus

The benefactive focus (glossed BEN) is used when the subject of the sentence is the benefactor or director object of the verb. Verbs often change meaning when used in the benefactive focus.

(6) *Mač sega nazdébik.*
mother flower-PAT buy-BEN-PF
'(I) bought my mother flowers.'

2. *-h + -aš-* , *-s + -aš-* and *-š + -aš-* both simplify to *-š-*, while the rest retain the final consonant.

(7) *Kova piaštébalí.*
cow eat-BEN-PROG
'(I am) feeding the cows.'

The benefactive is also used idiomatically with verbs of judgment including *novietá* 'to like'

(8) *Dá čehóvám zánovítébál.*
1s sports-AGT NEG-like-BEN-PROG
'I don't like sports.'

3.3.4 Locative Focus

(9) *Jé kopnažalíc.*
you laugh-LOC-PROG-3S.ANIM
'He is laughing at you.'

3.3.5 Instrumental Focus

3.3.6 Reflexive Voice

The reflexive voice (glossed REF) is used when the patient of the verb is also the agent of the action. Morphogically, the reflexive voice is not a separate voice but is derived from the agentive form of the verb and the addition of the prefix *u(d)-*.

(10) *Na šarta uvižkem.*
LOC mirror-PAT REF-see-AV-PF-1s
'I saw myself in the mirror.'

The use of the reflexive voice is more extensive in Iridian than in English, and is somehow similar to how the reflexive construction is used in Romance languages.

(11) *Uštižek.*
REF-take:a:bath-AV-PF
'(I) took a bath.'

(12) *Umúšalí.*
REF-comb-AV-PROG
'(I) am combing my hair.'

Below is a non-exhaustive list of verbs that are normally used in the reflexive voice:

dušá 'to take a shower'
mušá 'to comb'

šaštá 'to sit down'

Some verbs may change meaning when used in the reflexive voice.

The reflexive voice is also used to imply that an action happened accidentally or involuntary or that the agent of the action is unknown or unimportant.

The reflexive voice may also be used emphatically, especially in spoken Iridian, to express that the action has been performed for the benefit of the actor/agent of the verb.

(13) *Kávéa ušranzącem.*
coffee-PAT REF-drink-AV-CTPLV-1S
'I'll drink coffee.' (literally, I'll drink myself coffee)

(14) *Pulša uvošček.*
soup-PAT REF-cook-AV-PF
'(I) cooked (me) some soup.'

3.3.7 Usage

The differences

3.4 Grammatical Aspect

Table 3.2: Aspect markers in the indicative mood.

ASPECT	AFFIX
Perfective	-ek
Retrospective	-aní
Imperfective	-ál
Progressive	-alí
Contemplative	-ach/-ah[3]
Prospective	-il
Cessative	-eic

3.4.1 Perfective aspect

The perfective aspect (glossed PF) indicates an action that has been completed in some specific instance.

(15) *Bych na gnaža Marek vdinek.*
yesterday LOC school-PAT Marek see-PV-PF
'(I) saw Marek at school yesterday.'

(16) *Vaško piaštnek.*
pastry eat-PV-PF
'(I) ate (the) cake.'

The vowel in the suffix is unstable and the ending would normally collapse to **-k** when followed by another vowel. Consider the above two sentences followed by the second person singular clitic pronoun **-aš/eš**.

(17) *Bych na gnazsa Marek vindekeš.*
yesterday LOC school-PAT Marek <PV>see-PV-PF-2S
'You saw Marek at school yesterday.'

(18) *Vaško piniaštkaš.*
pastry <PV>eat-PF-2S
'You ate (the) cake.'

When negated, the perfective indicates something that ought to be done but had not been done. To state that something simply did not happen, the negative of the retrospective is used instead.

(19) *Zátélévonirnašek.*
NEG-telephone-AV-PF
'(I) failed to call.'

(20) *Zátélévonirnašaní.*
NEG-telephone-AV-RET
'(I) didn't call.'

3.4.2 Retrospective aspect

The retrospective aspect (glossed RET) is used for a past action that has a continuing relevance in the presence. Consider, for example, the following sentences: (a) *I went to Amsterdam last week*; and (b) *I have been to France in my childhood*. Iridian would translate the verb in (a) using the perfective and the verb in (b) using the retrospective.

(21) *Hroná tímu na Budapešta možlašaním.*
three year-INST LOC Budapest-PAT live-AV-RET-1S
'I have been living in Budapest for three years.'

(22) *Páku šavolnaníc.*
before-INST hurt-PV-PF-3S.ANIM
'She has been hurt before.'

The retrospective is also often used to imply non-volition or the accidental/circumstantial nature of an action. Similarly the retrospective is used with verbs of emotion or state (e.g., *cezuštalá*, 'to become happy' from *zuštal*

'happy'). The perfective, on the other hand, is almost exclusively used with the causative in these cases.

(23) a. *Vdešek še neicezuštalašaním.*
see-2s-PF with INCEP-be.happy-AV-RET-1s
'I became happy when I saw you.'

b. *Do pacezuštalnikeš.*
1s.WK CAUS-be.happy-PV-PF-2s
'You made me happy.'

(24) *Váz noprizaní.*
vase break-REF-RET
'The vase broke (accidentally).'

3.4.3 Continuous and progressive aspects

Iridian uses the continuous and progressive aspects to denote actions that have not been completed yet and/or are in the process of happening/occuring. The continuous aspect (glossed CONT) is used to mark a state of being while the progressive aspect (glossed PROG) is used to mark a dynamic activity.

(25) *Nau urištnál.*
clothes REF-wear-PV-CONT
'(I'm) wearing clothes.'

(26) *Nau urištnalí.*
clothes REF-wear-PV-PROG
'(I'm) putting on clothes.'

The continuous aspect is also used to denote a habitual action.

(27) *Sholu de gnaža stožál.*
daily-INST ILL school-PAT go-AV-CONT
'(We) go to school everyday.'

(28) *Dá na Praha možlál.*
1s.STR LOC Prague-PAT live-CONT
'I live in Prague.'

To emphasize the habitual nature of an action, a nominalized construction is often used.

(29) *Nažem rącenálou.*
friend-1s smoke-CONT-NZ
'My friend is a smoker.'

3.4.4 Prospective aspect

The prospective aspect (glossed PROSP) is primarily used in secondary clauses to indicate actions that are about to be started in relation to another action. It can also be used in the main clause to indicate an action in the immediate future.

3.4.5 Cessative aspect

3.5 Secondary Verbal Prefixes

3.5.1 The reciprocative so-

The reciprocative prefix *so-* is used with the agentive voice to indicate that an action is performed by the agent and the patient on each other.

(30) *Karlu sodalšalím še Marek scenžek.*
Karel-INST REC-talk-AV-PROG-1S with Marek arrive-AV-PF
'Karel and I were talking when Marek arrived.'

(31) *Ože na konzerta-no sovyžek?*
3PL.ANIM.STR LOC concert-PAT=Q REC-see-AV-PF
'Did they see each other during the concert?'

The use of the reciprocative inherently implies plurality on the part of the subject (the agent-patient pair). Since Iridian does not often grammaticalize plurality, this means the reciprocative usually won't require additional consideration as to the agreement of the constituents of the sentence; it does, however, mean that this form cannot be used with the singular form of pronouns (since pronouns formally distinguishes between singular and plural) and that most countable nouns would require the use of the particle *nie* or an explicit quantifier.

(32) *To na hruma šebou sokonížek.*
DEM.PROX LOC church-PAT parents REC-wed-AV-PF
'My parents were married in this church.'

(33) *Nie senátor sožubalšalí to na televiza vyžčem.*
PL senator REC-shout-AV-PROG RZ LOC televiion-PAT see-AV-PF-1S
'I saw the senators shouting at each other on tv.'

Where the agent and the patient are syntactically distinct, the agent is usually presented as the topic of the sentence and the patient is marked in the comitative (i.e., *še* + instrumental). Since the action itself is reciprocal, which gets marked as the agent is purely a pragmatic choice. Where one of the members of the agent-patient pair is a pronoun, preference is given to marking the pronoun as the agent (in which case *še* is normally ommitted, but with the patient remaining in the instrumental case).

(34) *Mišek še Martinu sohévoržál.*
Mišek COM Martin-INST REC-know-AV-PROG
'Mišek and Martin know each other.'

(35) *Já Mišku sohévoržál.*
2S.STR Mišek-INST REC-talk-AV-PROG
'You and Mišek know each other.'

3.5.2 The inceptive nei-

3.6 Grammatical Mood

3.6.1 Indicative

3.6.2 Imperative

The imperative mood has three forms: the singular, formed with the suffix *-e*; the plural, formed with the suffix *ét*; and the adhortative, formed with the suffix *ičе*. The imperative suffix is added directly to the root of the verb as commands are understood implicitly to be in the agentive voice.

(36) *jelcá* 'to dance'
Jelce. 'Dance!'
Jelcét. 'Dance! (PL)'
Jelciče. 'Let's dance.'

(37) *virká* 'to write'
To número virkne. 'Write this number down.'
To número virknét. 'Write (PL) this number down.'
To número virkniče. 'Let's write this number down.'

In more formal settings, the imperative may be considered rude or impolite, and speakers would often opt to use the hortative mood instead when issuing commands. Nonetheless, the imperative is commonly found in the written language.

(38) *Zátieznaše.*
NEG-kill-AGT-IMP
'Thou shalt not kill.'

To negate the imperative, the prefix *zá* is used, as can be seen in the example above.

In informal and familiar settings, a version of the imperative is used instead of the hortative which might appear too formal. This version uses the particle *je* (originally a word meaning 'already' but now grammaticalized) as a clitic to 'soften' the imperative.

(39) *Ján bažne-je.*
that give-PV-IMP=EXPL
'Give that to me.'

3.6.3 Subjunctive

The subjunctive mood (glossed SBJ) is used for actions or events that are not or are not known to be true or factual. The subjunctive is formed using the suffix *-íl*

Table 3.3: Conjugation of the verb *piaštá* in the subjunctive.

	PERFECTIVE	IMPERFECTIVE
Agentive	piaščíla	piaščíl
Patientive	piaštníla	piaštníl
Benefactive	piaštebíla	piaštebíl
Locative	piaštouníla	piaštouníl
Instrumental	dopiaštebíla	dopiaštebíl
Reflexive	upiaščíla	upiaščíl

In addition, the copula has two subjunctive forms, the non-negative *niec* and the negative *vaše*.

Note that the Iridian subjunctive makes neither temporal nor aspectual distinction.

The following are some specific uses of the subjunctive mood in Iridian:

jussive/desiderative

The subjunctive is used in indirect constructions of verbs for issuing orders, commanding, exhorting, etc.

(40) *Martin na America žnožíl to čeznašálic.*
Martin LOC America-PAT study-AV-SBJ RZ want-AV-CONT-3S.ANIM
'He wants Martin to study in America.'

(41) *Beatles-že »Yesterday« Marką zášníl to Tunek dálek.*
Beatles-GEN "Yesterday" Marek-AGT sing-PV-SBJ RZ Tunek say-PF
'Tunek told Marek to sing.'

dubitative

The subjunctive is used with verbs expressing doubt, uncertainty or disbelief.

(42) *še*
Beatles-GEN
'Tunek told Marek to sing.'

with verbs expressing emotion

(43) *Marek zašníl to Tunek dálek.*
Marek sing-SBJ.IPF RZ Tunek say-PF
'Tunek told Marek to sing.'

with the conditional mood

The subjunctive is used in the main clause if the verb in the dependent clause is in the conditional *irrealis* mood.

(44) *Dá prezident jenem,*
a
a

expressing judgment

(45) *Zavnočilaš to tévét*
respond-AV-SBJ.IPF-2S RZ important
'It is important that you respond.'

irrealis

3.6.4 Conditional

The conditional mood is used for conditional or hypothetical clauses. The table below shows the conjugation paradigm for the conditional mood for both regular verbs and the copula. The Iridian conditional mood is not a true conditional mood grammatically, since it is marked on the verb in the dependent clause (protasis), instead of the main clause.

Table 3.4: Conjugation paradigm, conditional mood.

	REGULAR VERBS	COPULA	EXISTENTIAL
Realis	-ouhná	víne	jako
Neg. *Realis*	-ouhnál	ve	neko
Irrealis	-ánie	jenem	jenem
Neg. *Irrealis*	-oucná	jet	nét

Conditional Realis

The conditional *realis* mood (glossed COND.RL) is used in two ways:

1. In sentences that express a factual implication rather than a hypothetical situation or a potential future event, e.g., 'If you heat water to 100 C, it will boil.'
2. In 'predictive' constructions, i.e., those that concern probable future events.

The conditional *realis* mood requires the verb in the main clause to be in the indicative.

(46) *Nebo 100 céntigrádu kraséboúhná ustručnašál.*
water 100 Celcius-INST heat-BEN-COND.RL REF-boil-AV-CONT
'If you heat water to 100 C, it will boil.'

(47) *To projekt hlupinouhná kurvem započnál.*
this project fail-PV-COND.RL job-1S lose-PV-CONT
'If we lose this project, I will lose my job.'

(48) *Nahte štánouhná upíčál.*
too:much drink-PV-COND.RL REF-get:drunk-AV-CONT
'If you drink too much, you will get drunk.'

(49) *Mém na prezna víne, dekání byróva stóžka.*
name LOC list-PAT COP.COND.RL dean-GEN office-PAT go-AV-HORT
'If your name is on the list, please go to the dean's office.'

Conditional Irrealis

The conditional *irrealis* mood (glossed COND.IRR) is used with hypothetical, typically counterfactual, events. The *irrealis* mood requires the main clause to be in the subjunctive.

3.6.5 Hortative

The hortative mood is used for requests. Although Iridian has an imperative form (the unmarked form of the verb), the hortative is normally used in its place. The hortative marker should always appear at the end of the word.

(50) *Jêša mineška.*
door.PAT close-2S-HORT
'Close the door.' *literally*, 'May you close the door.'

To soften a command, the expression *am luhninka* (may someone be thanked for…) is normally used.

(51) *Jêša minkeš ceš am luhninka.*
door-PAT close-PF-2S RZ.ABL because thank-PV-HORT
'Please close the door.' *literally,* 'May (you) be thanked because you closed the door.'

The hortative is used with the reciprocative prefix **so-** to form the adhortative (similar to the English construction with 'Let's + VERB). This construction cannot be used with **am luhninka**.

(52) *sop*
door-PAT
'Please close the door.' *literally,* 'May (you) be thanked because you closed the door.'

3.6.6 Optative

The optative mood (glossed OPT) is used for expressing wishes. The optative mood requires two aspect marking, although the primary ending is marked if it is in the imperfective mood.

3.6.7 Quotative

The quotative mood (glossed QUOT) is used to express secondhand information, or when the speaker wishes to make explicit that s/he did not witness the event himself/herself.

Clitic pronouns cannot be used with the quotative mood.

Table **??** shows the conjugation paradigm for regular verbs and the copula.

Table 3.5: Conjugation paradigm, quotative mood

	piaštá, 'to eat'	COPULA
Perfective	piaštát	vacet
Neg. perfective	nápiaštát	necê
Retrospective	piaštác	—
Neg. Retrospective	nápiaštác	—
Imperfective	piaštút	neškec
Neg. imperfective	nápiaštút	pošnec
Progressive	piaštiec neškec	—
Neg. progressive	piaštiec pošnec	—
Future	piaštôš	vacko
Neg. Future	nápiaštôš	necko
Subjunctive Non-Past	piaštok	necim
Neg. Sub. Non-Pas	nápiaštok	pocim
Subjunctive Past	piaštocke	vacim
Neg. Sub. Past	nápiaštocke	nêcim

(53) *Já na duma neškec to maty dálmek.*
you-STR LOC house-PAT COP.QUOT.IPF RZ mother say-1S.PF
'(My) mother told me you are at home.'

(54) *Já na duma necim to maty dálmek.*
you-STR LOC house-PAT COP.QUOT.SBJ.NPST RZ mother say-1S.PF
'(My) mother told me you might be at home.'

(55) *Mnúcs tiezninát.*
husband kill-PV-QUOT.PF
'(She) killed (her) husband (or so I heard).'

Direct speech, however, does not use the subjunctive.

(56) *—Tak dá, dálek Tomáš.*
here 1S.STR say-PF Tomáš
"'I'm here," Tomáš said.'

The following verbs are considered verba dicendi in Iridian and would trigger the quotative: **dálá** 'to say', **vadá** 'to think', **kvuštá** 'to hear', **vydá** 'to see', **égešá** 'to ask', **ohletá** 'to remember', **hová** 'to recount, tell a story' . The verb **vadá** is exclusively used with the subjunctive quotative.

(57) *Z što óké necim to Lukáš vadê.*
already this OK COP.QUOT.SBJ.NPST RZ Lukáš think-IPF
'Lukáš thinks it should be OK by now.'

(58) *Marek bych jsenát to kvuštkem.*
Marek yesterday arrive-QUOT.PF RZ hear-PF-1S
'I heard Marek has arrived.'

(59) *Pošnelý tajomstác to kvuštek.*
father-2PL die-QUOT.RET RZ hear-PF
'(We) heard that your father died.'

(60) *Dá tak bych vacim to náohletê.*
1S.STR here yesterday COP.QUOT.SBJ.PST RZ NEG-remember-IPF
'(I) don't remember if I was here yesterday.'

Secondary verba dicendi are formed with an adverbial construction using the imperfective converb in **-iec**.

(61) *Já mnou necim to Martin priviec vadê.*
you correct COP.QUOT.SBJ.NPST RZ Martin agree-CV think-IPF
'Martin agrees that you are right.'

The quotative is also used emphatically to repeat a quote (often made by the speaker himself or herself), or to express the speaker's frustration or affirmation. When used this way, the verbum dicendi is omitted, and the expletive **nó** is often added.

(62) *Mnou necim to nó!*
correct COP.QUOT.SBJ.NPST RZ EXPL
'(I've been telling you) it is right.'

(63) *Dá roctymút to!*
1S dance-ABL-QUOT.IPF RZ
'(But) I can dance.'

The tense/aspect of the quotative mood follows that of the quoted clause, independent of the tense/aspect of the verbum dicendi.

3.6.8 Abilitative and Permissive

The abilitative (glossed ABL) and permissive (glossed PERM) are related verbal moods used in expressing the speaker's (or the subject of the sentence's) abililty to do something. The abilitative is used to indicate capability while the permissive is used to indicate whether or not an action is allowed or permitted.

(64) *Sa anglecnu nározshovymas.*
INST English.language-INST NEG-speak-ABL-3S.ANIM
'He cannot speak English.'

(65) *De rádaka z názahranaveš.*
ILL building-1PL.EXCL-PAT already NEG-enter-PERM-2S
'You're no longer allowed to enter our building.'

The permissive mood is often used for negative commands.

(66) *Tak náradzavuj.*
here NEG-smoke-PERM-4GEN
'No smoking.' *literally,* 'One cannot smoke here.'

3.6.9 Non-Volitive

The non-voliti

(24, rep.) ago

3.7 Non-Finite Verb Forms

3.7.1 Gerund

The gerund (glossed GER) refers to the non-finite verb form used as a noun. The gerundive prefix *po-* is always used with the nominalizing suffix *-ou*,

both of which are added to the uninflected verb root.

(67) a. *Ščenek.*
forget-PF
'He forgot (it).'

b. *Ščenekou Jan.*
forget-PF-NZ Jan
'Jan (is) the one who forgot (it).'

c. *Poščenou nauhlý.*
GER-forget-NZ difficult
'Forgetting is difficult.'

When nominalizing complex clauses, both the agent and the theme are marked in the genitive, with the agent aways appearing first.

(68) a. *Pášta Janą voštnek.*
pasta Jan-AGT cook-PV-PF
'Jan cooked (some) pasta.'

b. *Janí páští povoštou*
Jan-GEN pasta-GEN GER-cook-NZ
'Jan's cooking of the pasta'

The suffix *-ál*, used to mark the continuous aspect, may be infixed to the gerund to indicate that the action is repetitive.

(69) a. *Jan nidek.*
Jan stand.up-PF
'Jan stood up.'

b. *Janí ponidálou buvec.*
Jan-GEN GER-stand.up-CONT-NZ annoying
'Jan's standing up again and again is annoying.'

3.7.2 Converbs

Converbs (glossed CV) are a non-finite verb form often used for adverbial constructions. There are two converb forms in Iridian: the imperfective *iec* (glossed CV.IPF) and the perfective *-e* (glossed CV.PF).

(70) *Tereza kravniec ce nóve palžek.*
Tereza cry-CV.IPF ABL room-GEN leave-AV-PF
'Tereza left the room crying.'

(71) *Ce nóve palze Tereza neikravnašek.*
ABL room-GEN leave-CV.PF Tereza INCHO-cry-PF
'Having left the room, Tereza started to cry.'

The syntax of converbial constructions and the specific uses of the perfective and imperfective converb form are discussed in detail in Section **??**

3.7.3 Supine

The supine is a non-finite verb form formed used to indicate necessity or purpose. There are four forms as shown below:

Table 3.6: Endings used for the supine

	SUPINE OF PURPOSE	SUPINE OF NECESSITY
Nominal	*-ity*	*-áš*
Non-nominal	*-ice*	*-ášce*

(72) »*Ána Karenina*« *za gnazsa oštášce ko htoš.*
Anna Karenina for school-PAT read-SUP ATT book
'I have to read *Anna Karenina* for school.'

(73) *Htoš vstuninkem to oštice.*
book buy-mkpv-pf-1s RZ read-SUP
'I bought the book to read.'

The infinitive form of the supine of purpose *-icá* is used with adjectival adverbs:

(74) *Just zacepščsemem to nosiênicá.*
news CAUS-be.sad-1s RZ hear-SUP.INF
'I am sad to hear the news.'

3.8 Stative Verbs

Iridian lacks a distinct class of adjectives.[4] Instead, a special class of verbs called stative verbs are used to modify noun or noun-like classes. Unlike most verbs, however, stative verbs can only be marked for aspect, and optionally for voice. In addition to this base form (called the copulative), stative verbs also have an attributive form (used when the verb is preceding the noun or noun phrase) and nominative form (representing a concrete nominalization of the verb), both of which are absent in non-attributives verbs. Consider for example the verb *všihná* 'to be angry':

4. There is however a small class of attributives, which includes deictics and quantifiers among others, which can function as modifiers. They are different in that these words cannot be used as the predicate of a sentence. They are discussed in detail on Chapter **??**.

(75) a. *Maty všihnál.*
mother to:be:angry-CONT
'Mother is angry.'

b. *Všihní rám télévonirnašek.*
to:be:angry-ATT customer telephone-AV-PF
'An angry customer called.'

c. *Všihnou télévonirnašek.*
to:be:angry-NZ telephone-AV-PF
'An angry person called.'

3.8.1 Copulative Form

The copulative form of a stative verbum

3.8.2 Attributive Form

The attributive form is derived by replacing the infinitive marker *-á* with *-í*. Other than its conjugated comparative form ending in *-ení*, the attributive

(76) *Všihnou télévonirnašek.*
to:be:angry-NZ telephone-AV-PF
'An angry person called.'

3.8.3 Nominal Form

The nominal form is derived by replacing the infinitive marker *-á* with the nominalizing suffix *-ou*.

The use of stative verbs in relative and comparative constructions is discussed in detail in Section **??**

3.9 Derivational Morphology

3.9.1 External Derivation

Loanwords ending in **-ace** from the Latin change the final e to á:

administrace	→	**administracá**	'to administrate'
akuzace	→	**akuzacá**	'to accuse'
diferenzace	→	**diferenzacá**	'to differentiate'
separace	→	**separacá**	'to separate'

Some Latin loanwords are borrowed first from German. Loanwords ending in **-ieren** become **-irná**.

3.9.2 Internal Derivation

akzeptieren	→	**akceptirná**	'to accept'
konservieren	→	**koncervirná**	'to conserve'
produzieren	→	**producirná**	'to produce'
vandalieren	→	**vandalirná**	'to deface'

Table 3.7: Verbal Derivational Affixes

AFFIX	EXAMPLES
nie- + ADJ 'to cause something to become ADJ'	**loš** 'new' → **nieloša** 'to renew' **preseh** 'young' → **niepreshá** 'to rejuvenate' **avic** 'long' → **nieavicá** 'to lengthen' **gem** 'soft' → **niegemá** 'to soften' **vyne** 'dry' → **nievyneá** 'to dry'
ce-[5] + ADJ 'to cause oneself to become ADJ'	**kdavidy** 'clean' → **cekdavicá** 'to take a bath' **rum** 'old' → **cerumá** 'to grow old' **šeznom** 'big' → **cešeznomá** 'to grow up' **vyne** 'dry' → **cevyneá** 'to dry oneself'
hó- + NOUN 'to use N in a particular way'	**tvem** 'tongue' → **hótvemá** 'to lick' **kov** 'hammer' → **hóková** 'to hammer' **šeznom** 'big' → **cešeznomá** 'to grow up' **vyne** 'dry' → **cevyneá** 'to dry oneself'
deš- + NOUN 'to act in the manner of N	**tvem** 'tongue' → **hótvemá** 'to lick' **rum** 'old' → **cerumá** 'to grow old' **šeznom** 'big' → **cešeznomá** 'to grow up' **vyne** 'dry' → **cevyneá** 'to dry oneself'
má-iv + NOUN 'to so something usually done in NOUN'	**mrc** 'market' → **mámrcivá** 'to shop' **gnazsa** 'school' → **mágnazsivá** 'to study in' **šeznom** 'big' → **cešeznomá** 'to grow up' **vyne** 'dry' → **cevyneá** 'to dry oneself'
sen-/sem- + VERB 'to VERB incorrectly'	**oštá** 'to read' → **senoštá** 'to misread' **rum** 'old' → **cerumá** 'to grow old' **šeznom** 'big' → **cešeznomá** 'to grow up' **vyne** 'dry' → **cevyneá** 'to dry oneself'

5. Verbs in **ce-** cannot be in the reflexive focus.

4

NOMINAL MORPHOLOGY

Nominal morphology in Iridian is relatively simpler compared to the corresponding process with verbs. Where possible, Iridian sentences are generally constructed to leave the noun or noun phrase unmarked.

4.1 Grammatical Categories

4.2 Number

Nouns in Iridian are not formally marked for number. Thus the word *byl*, for example, can mean either 'child' or 'children' depending on the context. The same form is used when the noun is preceded by a numeral.

(1) *hroná byl*
three child
'three children'

Nevertheless, Iridian can express semantic plurality by using quantifiers, numerals, pluralizing particles or even through context alone. One such particle is *nie*. The use of *nie*, however, is largely optional and where plurality can be implied from context, this particle is seen as redundant and is therefore dropped.

(2) *Nie byl zapóček.*
PL child laugh-AV-PF
'The children jumped.'

Nie cannot be used with mass and uncountable nouns, as well as with abstract nouns.

(3) a. **Na duma nie ješ piaštou.*
LOC house PL EXST food
'There is food in the house.'

b. *Na duma tohle ješ piaštou.*
LOC house much EXST food
'There is a lot of food in the house.'

The particle *nie* always precedes the noun it modifies, except in existential clauses where it comes before the existential particle *ješ*[1]. *Nie* can obviously not be used with the negative particle *niho*.

(4) a. *nie bžę*
PL bee
'bees'

b. *Nie ješ bžę.*
PL EXST bee
'There are bees.'

c. **Nie niho bžę.*
PL EXST.NEG bee
'There are no bees.'

Nie cannot be used with a limited number of nouns, mostly referring to paired body parts and related objects, which in the base form is understood to refer to the pair itself and thus cannot be pluralized. If the speaker wishes to explicitly refer to one piece of the pair, the noun *noma* (an obsolete form of the word for one-half, now surviving only in this construction) and the genitive form of the body part.

(5) *Eg zaromnek.*
eyes close-PV-PF
'(He) closed (his) eyes.'

(6) *Pohár dévit.*
eyeglasses dirty
'(Your) eyeglasses are dirty.'

(7) *Ohví noma utieščál.*
shoe-GEN half REF-lose-AV-CONT
'The other pair of (his) shoe is missing.'

The base form is also used in generic statements where English would normally use the plural.

4.3 Definiteness

Iridian does not have definite or indefinite articles

1. The sequence is pronounced as if written níješ [ˈniːjɛɕ]

4.4 Uninflected form

4.5 Agentive case

4.5.1 Agentive of comparison

(8) *Dá Marką tám stroja.*
1s.STR Marek-AGT COMP tall
'Marek is taller than me'

4.6 Patientive case

The patientive case (glossed PAT) is formed by appending the suffix *-a* to the root of the noun, subject to the following sound changes, notably affecting vowel-final roots for the most part:

- Roots ending in e and o replace the final vowel with *-a*: *pivo – piva* 'beer', *malno – malna* 'language', *šuze – šuza* 'judge'
- Roots ending in ó and ou replace the final vowel with *-óva*: *piaštou – piaštóva* 'food', *javó – javóva* 'lizard', *metró – metróva* 'subway'
- Roots ending in a lengthen the final vowel to *-á*: *cigra – cigrá* 'tiger', *husa – husá* 'street'
- Roots ending in á replace the final vowel with *ánie*: *komá – kománie* 'boat', *vietrá – vietránie* 'pants'
- Roots ending in é, ei and i replace the root with *-éna*: *kávé – kávéna* 'coffee', *matei – maténa* 'motorbike'
- Roots ending in í append *na*:
- Roots ending in u or ú append *-ša*:

4.6.1 Direct object

The patientive case is used to mark the direct object of a verb that is in the agentive voice. Note that this usage implies that the direct object is indefinite unless the noun is further qualified (except through a demonstrative).

(9) a. *Vaška piaščem.*
cake-PAT eat-AV-PF-1S
'I ate cake.'

b. *Jedá vaška piaščem.*
that cake-PAT eat-AV-PF-1S
'I ate from that cake.'

c. *Vaško piaštnikem.*
cake eat-PV-PF-1S
'I ate the cake.'

d. *Jedá vaško piaštnikem.*
that cake eat-PV-PF-1S
'I ate that cake.'

e. *Hroná vaške vatá piaščem.*
three cake-GEN slice-PAT eat-PV-PF-1S
'I ate three slices of cake.'

The patientive is also used to mark the direct object when the verb is in the benefactive voice.

(10) *Ša vitamina piaštebik.*
3S.ANIM vitamin-PAT eat-BEN-PF
'(She) made him take (his) vitamins.'

4.6.2 Locative

The patientive is used with the particle *na* to form a compound locative case, which is itself used to indicate a general location.

(11) *Tomáš na byra.*
Tomáš LOC office-PAT
'Tomáš is at the office.'

4.6.3 Patientive of purpose

The patientive is used with the particle *za* to indicate

4.6.4 Lative

The lative is a compound case indicating movement into or to the direction of something. It is formed using the particle *de* and a noun or noun phrase in the patientive case.

4.6.5 Adessive

The adessive is formed when the particle *u* is used with the patientive. This compound case indicates that the noun being modified by the noun in the adessive is near or in the vicinity of the noun in the adessive. The adessive case behaves synactically in the same manner as the locative case with na in all cases.

(12) *Tomáš u byra.*
Tomáš ADE office-PAT
'Tomáš is somewhere near the office.'

The adessive case is also used to approximate time.

(13) *Ovaž u 19 óra.*
dinner ADE 19 hour-PAT
'Dinner is around seven.'

4.7 Genitive case

The genitive (glossed GEN) is formed by appending the suffix -í to the root of a noun.

Due the palatalizing nature of the suffix, the following sound changes must be noted:

- Roots ending in k, h, and t change the final consonant to c and append the glide *-ie* instead: *Marek – Marcie* 'Marek', *avt – avcie* 'car', *duh – ducie* 'head'
- Roots ending in d and g change the final consonant to ž and append the suffix *-e* instead: *vod – vože* 'sister', *seg – sežе* 'flower'
- Roots ending in the sibilants s, z, š, ž and the sibilant affricates c and č append *e* as well:
- Roots ending with a palatalized consonant lose the final y (there only for orthographic reasons in any case) before appending the *-í*: *kraštoly – kraštolí*
- Roots ending in a or o replace the vowel with e, while those ending in á and ó replace the root with í
- Roots ending in au, ou, or u replace the vowel with -óví: *dnou – dnóví* 'front'
- Roots ending in áu, or ú replace the vowel with -óvie
- Roots ending in e, i or ÿ replace the vowel with -eví
- Roots ending in é, ei, í or ý replace the vowel with -éví

4.7.1 Possession

The simplest use of the genitive case is to indicate ownership or possession.

(14) *Marcie* *dum*
Marek-GEN house
'Marek's house'

(15) *vože* *ohnou*
sister-GEN pen
'(my) sister's pen'

4.7.2 Genitive of material

(16) *kuní* *prosc*
silverGEN spoon
'silver spoon'

4.7.3 Genitive of the whole

The genitive can also be used to indicate

(17) *na* *kraštolí* *dnóva*
LOC train:station-GEN front
'in front of the train station'

Note that the patientive and not the genitive case is used when quantifying a part of the whole.

(18) a. **žnohoušce hroná*
student-GEN three
'three of the students'

b. *na žnohoušca hroná*
LOC student-GEN three
'three of the students'

Nevertheless when quantifying a noun per se, and not in relation to a whole, the uninflected form of the quantifier is used (mostly using indefinite quantifiers such as 'many', 'a lot', etc.). If however, the quantification involves a countable unit or division of the noun, the genitive is used, but such unit or division must be further quantified by a numeral or an indefinite quantifier.

(19) a. *Na kroumašta po zma ješ pivo.*
LOC refrigerator-PAT still few EXST beer
'There's still some beer left in the refrigerator.'

b. *Ona pive štava unarížčem.*
one beer-GEN mug-PAT REF-order-AV-PV-1S
'I ordered a mug of beer.'

4.7.4 Genitive of movement

The genitive is also used to indicate movement away from somewhere.

(20) a. *Dumí palžek.*
house-GEN leave-AV-PF
'I left the house.'

b. *Dum palzinek.*
house leave-PV-PF
'I left the *house*.'

4.8 Instrumental case

The instrumental case (glossed INST)

4.8.1 With some prepositions

The following prepositions take the instrumental case: *še* 'with'

(21) *Za bolta še Janu stóžąc.*
for party-PAT with Jan-INST go-AV-CTPV
'(I am) coming to the party with Jan.'

4.8.2 With expressions of time and duration

4.9 Unmarked Form

4.10 Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns are a special class of nouns used to refer and/or replace other nouns or noun phrases. Personal pronouns are marked for person, number and case, and partially for animacy, although third-person forms are more properly analyzed as demonstratives. In addition, personal pronouns have three forms: (1) an invariable strong form, used when the pronoun is the topic of the sentence; (2) a weak form; and (3) a clitic form.

Table 4.1: Personal pronouns in Iridian

PERSON	STRONG	WEAK	CLITIC
1s	dá	do	-em
2s	já	je	-eš
3s.anim	ša	še	-ic
3s.inan	to	cej	-as
4gen	á	dien	-uč
1pl.inc	mé	chce	-uh
1pl.exc	tová	kiec	-ak
2pl	tévit	la	-elý
3pl.anim	ože	dcá	-ac
3pl.inan	íma	oce	-et

4.10.1 Grammatical person

Iridian pronouns

4.10.2 Strong form

The strong form of a personal pronoun (glossed str) is used when the pronoun is used as the topic of the sentence. The strong form is indeclinable.

Table 4.2: Demonstrative pronouns in Iridian.

	ANIMATE	INANIMATE	LOCATIVE
Proximal	ša	to	tak
Medial	ón	ján	jení
Distal	dní	jón	joní

4.10.3 Weak form

4.10.4 Clitic form

4.10.5 Third-Person Pronouns and Demonstratives

4.10.6 Ellipsis

Iridian is an extremely pro-drop language, with pronouns supplied only if not inferrable from context.

4.11 Demonstratives

Iridian does not have a separate class of third-person pronouns. Instead it uses a set of demonstrative pronouns, whose deictic function is both spatial and anaphoric. Iridian makes a three-way distinction among demonstratives, similar to French or Portuguese for example, distinguishing between proximal (near the speaker), medial (near the addressee) and distal (far from both speaker and addressee) forms. In addition, Iridian makes an animacy distinction with demonstratives, with one set of demonstratives used with human referents and another with non-human referents, as seen in Table **??**, but are unmarked for either number or gender.

Demonstratives can be used adnominally, to modify a noun phrase, or pronominally, to replace one.

(22) a. *ša* *byl*
DEM.PROX.ANIM child
'this child'

b. *ša* *bylem*
DEM.PROX.ANIM child-1S
'this child of mine'

c. *Ša* *bylem.*
DEM.PROX.ANIM child-1S
'This (person) is my child.'

Table 4.3: Declension of demonstratives.

	ša	ón	dní	to	ján	jón
Agentive	šem	nám	dniem	etom	ján	jón
Patientive	šá	ona	dná	toha	jina	jinóva
Genitive	ci	oní	dní	cie	nie	nohe
Instrumental	svou	nu	dnu	etu	nu	nohu

d. **To* *bylem*
DEM.PROX.INAN child-1s
'This (thing) is my child.'

Unlike true personal pronouns, demonstratives do not have a separate strong form and clitic form. They are fully declined however, with the declined forms being highly irregular, as can be seen in Table **??**.

(23) a. *ci mlaz a dní maty*
'this person's brother and that person's mother'

b. *Dá je svou je dnu zaprál.*
'I am as old as either this person or that person.'

The three-way distinction between demonstratives allows Iridian to disambiguate between an obviative third person and a proximate third person, using the distal and the proximal demonstrative respectively. Consider for example the two examples in English below:

(24) a. He saw his dog.

b. He saw his own dog.

The *his* in the first sentence is ambiguous, as it can refer to either the subject or an implied fourth person. That the second *his* refers back to the subject can be made unequivocal by the addition of the word *own*, as in the second sentence. Compare this with the following sentences in Czech:

(25) a. *Viděl jeho pes.*
'He saw his dog.'

b. *Viděl své pes.*
'He saw his own dog.'

Although the English translation of the first sentence may still appear ambiguous, we can see that Czech does away with the ambiguity by using the third person pronoun *jeho* exclusively to signify that the referent is

different from the subject, and requiring the use of a separate pronominal form (in this case the reflexive) when the referent and the subject are the same. Iridian, on the other hand, treats this in a diametrically opposite way, i.e., the same pronoun form is used when the subject and the referent are the same, with the obviative form being used otherwise. The sentences in Czech above will therefore be translated in Iridian as follows:

(26) a. *Dní* *jec* *vdinek*.
DEM.DIST.ANIM.GEN dog see-PV-PF
'He saw his (other person's) dog.'

b. *Ci* *jec* *vdinek*
DEM.DIST.INAN.GEN dog see-PV-PF
'He saw his own dog.'

Perhaps we can better understand the distinction between obviative and proximate forms by re-examining example (23b) above. The previous examples in Czech remained unambiguous because there are at most two unique arguments in the sentence. In example (23b), however, the subject of the sentence is distinct from either the proximate referent or the distal referent.

(23b) *Dá je svou je dnu zaprál*.
'I am as old as either this person or that person.'

The translation in the gloss demonstrates how idiomatic English uses periphrastic forms to eliminate this ambiguity, although in the spoken language the purely deictic 'I am as old as either him or him' is equally acceptable, with the blanks filled in most likely by non-verbal cues. In Iridian, however, this distinction is not optional, and the following sentence, for example, would be considered ungrammatical:

(27) **Dá je svou je svou zaprál*.
'I am as old as either him or him.'

4.12 Use of Personal Pronouns

4.12.1 T-V Distinction

Iridian has three forms of address: the informal, the polite, and the formal.

The second person singular pronoun *já* is used to address friends, relatives or children. When addressing a stranger or an acquaintance with whom you want to maintain social distance or be polite without being too formal, the second person plural pronoun *tévit* is used. The polite form is also used when addressing God/gods. In more formal settings, the third-person plural pronoun *ože* is used.

4.13 Possessive Pronouns

4.13.1 The reflexive *mám*

4.14 Demonstratives

Iridian has a three-way distinction between demonstratives, unlike English but similar to Spanish or Japanese: *proximal* demonstratives are used when referring to objects or people that are near the speaker, *medial* demonstratives when referring to those near the listener, and *distal* demonstratives when referring to those that are far from either the listener or speaker.

Table 4.4: Conjugation of Iridian demonstrative pronouns.

	ANIMATE	INANIMATE
Proximal	ša	to
Medial		ján
Distal		jón

For information about demonstrative adjectives/determiners, see section ??.

4.15 Indefinite pronouns and quantifiers

4.16 Interrogative pronouns

Table 4.5: Interrogative pronouns in Iridian.

	ENGLISH		ENGLISH
jede	who	**jach**	which
ježe	what	**zajehu**	why
jehát	whom	**jiká**	how many
jehu	how	**jišká**	how much
jemí	when	**jenie**	to where
jena	where	**jení**	from where

4.17 Negative and Universal Pronouns

Negative pronouns are historically formed by attaching the prefix *že* before interrogative pronouns, and universal pronouns by attaching the prefix *ní-*

Table 4.6: Correspondence of interrogative, negative and universal pronouns.

INTERROGATIVE		NEGATIVE		UNIVERSAL	
jede	who	**neiže**	no one	**niet**	everyone
ježe	what	**niho**	nothing	**níže**	everything
jehu	how	**žehu**	by no means	**néhu**	by all means
jemí	when	**žemie**	never	**nimie**	always
jena	where	**žena**	nowhere	**nina**	everywhere
jach	which	**žé**	not one	**nách**	each

4.18 Numerals

Iridian has a vigesimal number system. Table **??** shows Iridian numerals from 1 to 20. Numbers from 1 to 10 are given their own name while numbers from 11 to 19 are formed by appending the numbers from one to nine to the clitic *-niem* with the preposition *še* (with). The clitic *-niem* is derived from the word for number 10, *nau*, which itself comes from the Old Iridian **nagu*, 'half.'

Table 4.7: Iridian numerals from 1 to 20.

NUMBER	IRIDIAN	NUMBER	IRIDIAN
1	ona	11	onšeniem
2	mÿ	12	muišeniem
3	hroná	13	hronašeniem
4	dró	14	dróšeniem
5	jed	15	jeceniem
6	vú	16	vúšeniem
7	ščę	17	ščęceniem
8	pieš	18	pięceniem
9	cam	19	camzeniem
10	déch	20	tydná

For numbers 11 to 19, the words are formed by appending the numbers from one to nine to the suffix *-niem* with the preposition *še* (with).

Numbers from 21 to 99 are first expressed as multiples of 20. Thenceforth, the number system has largely become decimal, due primarily to the

inflyence of surrounding Indo-European languages. Old Iridian, however, had a vigesimal system up to the number 8000.

Table **??** shows multiples of 10 from 30 to 100. The numbers are formed by the numeral followed by *tydná*. For bases that are not multiples of 20, the word *nau* 'ten' is added first, followed by the conjunction *še* 'with'.

Table 4.8: Iridian numerals from 30 to 100.

NUMBER	IRIDIAN	NUMBER	IRIDIAN
30	naušetydná	70	naušehronutydná
40	muitydná	80	drohutydná
50	naušemuitydná	90	naušedrohutydná
60	hronutydná	100	miesy

Iridian counting starts from the smallest component of the number to the largest. Each component can be simply appended with the conjunction *še*. Only the numerals in Tables **??** and **??**, and the first ten numbers after 100, 500, 1000, etc. appear as single words. Below are some illustrations:

(28) a. *jecemiesy*
'five with hundred'
105

b. *cam še drohutydná*
'nine with four twenties'
89

4.18.1 Ordinal numbers

4.18.2 Fractions and decimals

4.18.3 Use of numerals

4.19 Derivational Morphology

4.19.1 -mašt

4.19.2 -ou

The nominalizing suffix *-ou* is a non-productive affix used to form nouns from certain verbs.

4.19.3 -oušc

The suffix *-oušc* (pronounced as if written *-óšt* /oːʃt/, or in some dialects as *-oušt* [oʊ̯ʃt]) is used to form a noun indicating someone or something associated to a certain thing or performing a certain action.

Table 4.9: Iridian numerals from 200 to one billion.

NUMBER	IRIDIAN
200	moig
300, 400, etc.	hronumiesy, drohumiesy. etc.
1000	nitak
2000, 3000, etc.	muiniec, hronuniec, etc.
10.000	ohle
20.000, etc.	tydnuniec, etc.
100.000	dunie
200.000 etc	meguiniec, hronuniec, etc.
1.000.000	myliâ
1.000.000.000	myliár
1.000.000.000.000	byliâ

Table 4.10: Nominal derivation using *-mašt*

ROOT			DERIVED NOUN	
kávé	'coffee'	→	*kávémašt*	'café'
krou	'cold'	→	*kroumašt*	'refrigerator'
piaštou	'food'	→	*piaštoumašt*	'restaurant'

Table 4.11: Nominal derivation using *-ou*

VERB ROOT			DERIVED NOUN	
milovaná	'to learn'	→	*milovanou*	'lesson'
palzá	'to leave'	→	*palzou*	'departure'
piaštá	'to eat'	→	*piaštou*	'food'
scená	'to arrive'	→	*scenou*	'arrival'
nieká	'to open'	→	*niekou*	'entrance'

Table 4.12: Nominal derivation using *-oušc*

VERB ROOT			DERIVED NOUN	
jorká	'to travel'	→	*jorkoušc*	'traveller'
možlá	'to live'	→	*možloušc*	'resident'
umielá	'to get drunk'	→	*umíloušc*	'drunkard'
virká	'to write'	→	*virkoušc*	'writer'
zdievá	'to fool (sm.)'	→	*zdívoušc*	'swindler'

5

MINOR WORD CLASSES

5.1 Conjunctions

5.2 Prepositions

5.2.1 na

5.2.2 še

5.2.3 *vo*

Vo can be translated as 'because of' or 'due to.' This preposition takes the agentive case.

(1) *Vo* *transitám* *lienu* *záscenzčem*.
because traffic-AGT on:time-INST NEG-arrive-AV-PF-1S
'I didn't arrive on time because of the traffic.'

5.2.4 za

5.3 Adjectives

Iridian lacks a true class of adjectives. Instead to modify a noun or a noun phrase, Iridian often uses nominal or verbal constructions.

(2) a. *morc*
black:thing
'black thing'

b. *Kverš* *morc*.
raven black:thing
'Ravens are black.' *Literally*, '(A) raven is (a) black thing.'

c. *morcie* *kverš*.
black:thing-GEN raven
'black raven'

(3) a. *naštá*
fly
'to fly'

b. *Kverš naščalí.*
raven fly-AV-PROG
'(The) raven is flying'

c. *naščalí ko kverš.*
fly-AV-PROG ATT raven
'flying raven'

5.4 Demonstratives

5.5 Quantifiers

Iridian has a wide variety of non-numerical/indefinite quantifiers. Most are actually nouns that used in adjectival or adverbial constructions.

- *ošč* 'many' (countable)

(4) *Marka ješ naže ošč.*
Marek-PAT EXST friend-GEN many
'Marek has many friends.'

(5) *Za kursa mén ješ ošč oudinášce ko vilm.*
for class-PAT 1PL.INC.WK EXST many watch-SUP ATT film.
'We have a lot of movies we need to watch for our class.'

- *nave* 'too many' (countable)

(6) *Marka ješ naže ošš.*
Marek-PAT EXST friend-GEN many
'Marek has many friends.'

- *tohle* 'many' (uncountable)
- *nahte* 'too many, too much' (uncountable)

(7) *Do ješ nahte kurváš*
1S.WK EXST too:much work-SUP.NOM
'I have so much work to do.'

git

6

SYNTAX OF SIMPLE CLAUSES

6.1 Introduction

The constituent word order of Iridian sentences is SOV, but the agglutinative nature of the language and the presence of case-marking on nouns makes word order typically flexible, with the only universal rule being that the main verb should appear at the end of a sentence.

6.2 Topic-Predicate Constructions

The Iridian sentence can be divided primarily into a topic part and a predicate or comment part. The topic is what the sentence is about, while the predicate or comment represents the information presented in the sentence about the topic. While both the topic and the predicate are pragmatic constructs, the topic-predicate construction is important as it determines how the rest of the sentence is structured.

The topic of the sentence does not necessarily coincide with the subject of the sentence. This is true as well in English, as we see in example (**??**); although where English allows the topic to appear anywhere in the sentence, as long as the subject is placed first, Iridian, typical of topic-prominent languages. requires the topic to always be introduced first, leaving the rest of the information afterwards.

(1) a. Martha saw John.

b. A dog bit **Martha**.

c. It is raining **today**,

(2) a. *[Janek]*$_{\text{Top}}$ *[mlaza boulešik.]*$_{\text{Pred}}$
'As for Janek, he killed his brother'.

b. *[Tereza]*$_{\text{Top}}$ *[jecám naleč nik.]*$_{\text{Pred}}$
'As for Tereza, she was bitten by a dog'

c. *[Shléd]*$_{\text{Top}}$ *[zniepšalí.]*$_{\text{Pred}}$
'As for today, it is raining.'

As Kiss (2004: 9) notes:

> We tend to describe eventsfrom a human perspective, as statements about theirhuman participants – and subjects are more often [+human] than objects are. Inthe case of verbs with a [–human] subject and a [+human] accusative or obliquecomplement, the most common permutation is that in which the accusative oroblique complement occupies the topic position (3a,b). When the possessor is theonly human involved in an action or state, the possessor is usually topicalized(3c).

6.3 The Noun Phrase

Iridian is a strongly head-final language.

6.3.1 Nuclear constructions

6.3.2 With adjectival clauses

6.3.3 Wsith prepositional phrases

6.3.4 With relative clauses

6.4 Relative and Comparative Constructions

The clitic *tám* is used to form simple comparative and relative constructions. *Tám* is often ommitted however where the comparison can be implied from context. In this construction, the standard of comparison (the noun preceded by 'than' in English) is unmarked and the noun being compared marked in the agentive if it is a positive/negative comparison, or in the instrumental if it is a correlation.

(3) a. *Janek-tám Markám nestačál.*
Janek=COMP Marek-AGT tall-CONT
'Marek is taller than Janek.'

b. *Janek Markám nestačál.*
Janek Marek-AGT tall-CONT
'Marek is taller than Janek.'

(4) a. *Janek-tám Marku nestačál.*
Janek=COMP Marek-INST tall-CONT
'Marek is as tall as Janek.'

b. *Janek Marku nestačál.*
Janek Marek-INST tall-CONT
'Marek is as tall as Janek.'

Note that *tám* can only be used with the copulative form of the stative verb, as the attributive and nominal forms have separate conjugated comparative forms. When using these forms, however, the standard of comparison is marked in the genitive. In relative constructions, the instrumental is also

replaced with the genitive, but the modifier *zní*, 'same' is added before the stative verb.

(5) a. *Jancie nestačení hloc mlazem.*
Janek-GEN tall-COMP-ATT boy brother-1s
'The boy who is taller than Janek is my brother' (*Lit*., 'The taller-than-Janek boy is my brother.')

b. *Jancie zní nestačení hloc mlazem.*
Janek-GEN same tall-COMP-ATT boy brother-1s
'The boy who is as tall as Janek is my brother.'

Tám can be relativized by appending the clitic *to*. When used with *tám-to* the standard of comparison is marked in the patientive case. The use of tám-to in relative clauses is discussed in further detail in the next chapter.

(6) *Viktor na shlopa tám-to nestáček.*
Viktor LOC siblings-PAT COMP=RZ= to:be:tall-AV-PF
'Among the siblings, Viktor grew up to be the tallest.'

(7) *Jankám Marka tám-to zuštalébik ko Tereza*
Janek-AGT Marek-PAT COMP=RZ= to:be:happy-BEN-PF ATT Tereza
'Tereza, whom Janek made happier than Marek'

(8) *Marka tám-tóví zuštalébik ko oblašc*
Marek-PAT COMP=RZ-GEN= to:be:happy-BEN-PF ATT pet
'the pet [of the person who was made happier than Marek]'

Iridian does not have a morphologically distinct superlative construction. For example, *pizdení* (from *pizdá*, 'to be big') can either mean 'bigger' or 'biggest' depending on context. Where the meaning cannot be easily implied from context, the word *ohnu* (derived from the word *ohna*, 'first' in the instrumental case) is often used as quantifier.

(9) a. *Univerzitet na razmeka pizdenou.*
university LOC city-PAT to:be:big-COMP-NZ
'(This) university is the biggest in the city.'

b. *Univerzitet na razmeka ohnu pizdenou.*
university LOC city-PAT first-INST to:be:big-COMP-NZ
'(This) university is the biggest in the city.'

When using an adverbial construction with the instrumental case to modify or quantify the comparison, the adverbial phrase must immediately precede the stative verb if in the attributive or nominal form, or the particle *tám* otherwise. The same is true with invariable modifiers like *nahte*, 'too much', *dnu*, 'a bit', etc.

(10) *To bagáž jánám u 10 kilográmu tám prékvál.*
DEM.PROX baggage DEM.MED around 10 kilogram-INST COMP= heavy-CONT
'This baggage is heavier by about 10 kilograms than that one.'

(11) *u 10 kilográmu prékvení bagáž*
around 10 kilogram-INST heavy-COMP-ATT baggage
'the baggage, which is heavier by about 10 kilograms'

(12) *Nahte pizdenou zmažnikóveš.*
too:much big-COMP-NZ make-PV-PF-NZ-2s
'The much bigger one is the one you made.'

6.5 Questions

6.5.1 Yes-no questions

A declarative sentence can be made into a question by a simple rise in intonation at the end of the phrase:

(13) a. *Janek sa uzdravšek.*
Janek already REF-sleep-AV-PF
'Janek has fallen asleep.'

b. *Janek sa uzdravšek?*
Janek already REF-sleep-AV-PF
'Has Janek fallen asleep yet?'

Alternatively the interrogative particle *no* may be used. When used this way, the base sentence will still feature a clause-final rise in intonation, followed by a falling intonation at the location of the question particle, similar to the intonation structure of tag questions in English. In the written language, the particle *no* may also surface as a clitic, prefixing itself to the verb, which this usage requires to be in the negative.

(14) *Janek sa uzdravšek no?*
Janek already REF-sleep-AV-PF Q
'Has Janek fallen asleep yet?'

(15) *Janek sa nozáduzdravšek?*
Janek already Q-NEG-REF-sleep-AV-PF
'Has Janek fallen asleep yet?'

The choice between using a simple rise in intonation or the question particle *no* is a personal one, and a speaker may use the one or the other in different situations or shift between them seemingly at random. Both methods in free variation and offer no differences in meaning, formality, etc.

Tag questions are formed similar to the German use of *'nicht war?'*:

(16) *Ivána niegu scenžach, zájuda (no)?*
Ivána later-INST arrive-AV-CTPV NEG-truth Q
'Ivána is coming later, isn't she?'

Again the tag *zájuda* ('untrue, not the truth') can appear with or without the question particle *no*, although here the form without *no* is more common in colloquial speech. Other common ways of forming tag questions include appending (1) the word *juda* 'truth' or (2) the particle *záne*, formed from the negative prefix *zá* and the expletive *ne*.

(17) a. *Scenžach, juda?*
arrive-AV-CTPV truth
'(She) is coming, isn't she?'

b. *Scenžach, záne?*
arrive-AV-CTPV EXPL
'(She) is coming, isn't she?'

Although the particle *no* would normally appear after the verb, it can follow other parts of the sentence (except pure function words), but with the effect of changing the emphasis or the nature of the question. When used in this manner, the particle is treated as a clitic and is separated from the word it modifies by a dash. Furthermore, there is a tendency especially in the spoken language to move the cliticized noun to the start of the sentence.

(18) a. *Ivána-no niegu scenžach?*
Ivána=Q later-INST arrive-AV-CTPV
'Is it Ivána who is coming later?'

b. *Ivána niegu-no scenžach?*
Ivána later-INST=Q arrive-AV-CTPV
'Will it be later that Ivana is coming?'

c. *Niegu-no Ivána scenžach?*
later-INST=Q Ivána arrive-AV-CTPV
'Will it be later that Ivana is coming?'

To make an existential sentence a yes-no question, it is first transformed to the negative and the particle *no* is then cliticized to the word *niho*. If however, the theme of the sentence is quantified, the word *ješ* is kept (but shifted to the front of the quantifier), and *no* is attached to the quantifier. The form *ješ-no* is ungrammatical.

(19) *Marka niho-no oblašc?*
Marek-PAT NEG.EXST=Q pet
'Does Marek have a pet?'

(20) a. *Co bibliotécie Marka hroná ješ kupéninkou tóm?*
ABL library-GEN Marek-PAT three EXST borrow-PV-PF-NZ book
'Marek borrowed three books from the library.'

b. *Co bibliotécie Marka ješ hroná-no kupéninkou tóm?*
ABL library-GEN Marek-PAT EXST three=Q borrow-PV-PF-NZ book
'Did Marek borrow three books from the library.'

The clitic *no* can of course be moved around, with subtle changes in meaning.

(21) a. *Neutral form:*
Co bibliotécie Marka ješ hroná-no kupéninkou tóm?
'Did he borrow *three* books, etc?'

b. *Emphasis on* Marek:
Co bibliotécie Marka-no hroná ješ kupéninkou tóm?
'Did *Marek* borrow them, etc?'

c. *Emphasis on* library:
Co bibliotécie-no Marka hroná ješ kupéninkou tóm?
'Did he borrow them from the *library*, etc?'

Note that in more complex existential constructions, as the one above which includes a nominalized determiner, the sentence may have to be reconstructed as a non-existential construction if it is the theme (i.e., the object being possessed or whose existence is described) that is in question.

(22) a. *Co bibliotécie Marek hroná tóma kupénžek?*
ABL library-GEN Marek three book-PAT borrow-AV-PF
'Did Marek *borrow* three books from the library.'

b. *Co bibliotécie Marek hroná tóma-no kupénžek?*
ABL library-GEN Marek three book-PAT=Q borrow-AV-PF
'Did Marek borrow three *books* from the library.'

Note that the first example above is not the neutral word order, given Iridian's preference to use existential constructions in sentences like the ones above. In this case, it would be akin to asking 'Did he borrow them, or did he acquire it by some other means?'

To change a copular sentence into a question, the clitic *-no* is added to whichever element is in question. Removing *no* would indicate disbelief on the part of the speaker and would imply that the answer 'No' is expected.

(23) a. *Tereza študent-no?*
Tereza student=Q
'Is Tereza a student?'

b. *Tereza-no študent?*
Tereza=Q student
'Is Tereza the student?'

c. *Tereza študent?*
Tereza student
'Is Tereza a student? (I don't think so)'

6.5.2 Wh- questions

In wh- questions, the interrogative pronoun typically appears after the topic or at the beginning of a sentence if the sentence does not have a topic, and is immediately followed by the clitic *no*.

(24) *Karel jena-no možlašál?*
Karel where=Q live-AV-CONT
'Where does Karel live?'

(25) *Bych zajehu-no kravnašalí?*
yesterday why=Q cry-AV-PROG
'Why was he crying yesterday?'

6.5.3 Indirect questions

Indirect questions are constructed in the subjunctive, with the addition of the particle *aš*.

(26) *Nú aš hošezíla.*
tomorrow Q.IND rainAV-SBJ.IPF.
'I wonder if it's gonna rain tomorrow.'

6.5.4 Answering questions

Answering yes-no questions

The most common way to answer a yes-no question is to repeat the main verb in the original question (known formally as an echo response), adding the prefix *zá-* if the answer is in the negative.

(27) *—Na kinotéka stožek? —Stožek.*
LOC cinema-PAT go-AV-PF go-AV-PF
'"Did you go to the movies?" "Yes, I did."'

In questions based on copular sentences, this would mean the repetition of the word or phrase where *no* is attached to. In those based on existential

constructions, the existential particle is repeated as appropriate (or the word where *no* is attached to, if emphasis has been shifted otherwise).

(28) a. *—Marek-no doktor? —Marek.*
Marek=Q doctor Marek
'"Is *Marek* a doctor?" "Yes, he is."'

b. *—Marek doktor-no? —Doktor.*
Marek doctor=Q doctor
'"Is Marek a *doctor*?" "Yes, he is."'

(29) *—Tak ješ hévornál? —Niho.*
here EXST know-PV-CONT EXST.NEG
'"Do you know anyone here?" "No, I don't."'

Iridian does has separate words for 'yes' and 'no': *dé* (affirmative 'yes'), *če* (contrastive 'yes') and *omá* ('no'). They are, however, rarely used by themselves alone, but would often be added to the echo response as an intensifier.

(30) *—Na kinotéka stožek? —Stožek dé.*
LOC cinema-PAT go-AV-PF go-AV-PF yes
'"Did you go to the movies?" "Yes, I did."'

The contrastive *če* is used if the question has been framed in the negative and the answer 'yes' is an affirmation not of the question but of the statement originally negated. Further emphasis may be added by introducing the answer with the word *ano* ('but'). *Če* is also used contrasively to answer questions based on copular constructions that do not contain the clitic *no*, as such would imply that the answer expective is in the negative.

(31) *—Studnikóvem zádoštnik? —Ano oštnik če.*
send-PV-PF-NZ-1S NEG-read-PV-PF but read-PV-PF yes
'"Didn't you read the message I sent?" "But I did."'

(32) *—Marek doktor? —Doktor če.*
Marek doctor doctor yes
'"*(Dismissively)* Marek is a doctor?" "But he is!"'

Če is also required when answering questions that use the proclitic *no*-construction (often found in literary registers), even though the answer does not possess any contrasive meaning.

(33) *—Janek sa nozáduzdravšek? Uzdravšek če.*
Janek already Q-NEG-REF-sleep-AV-PF REF-sleep-AV-PF yes
'"Has Janek fallen asleep yet?" "Yes, he has."'

To negate an existential question, the negative copula is used. An alternative may also be presented instead to contradict a question more emphatically.

Both techniques would often used together in the spoken language.

(34) a. *—Tereza študent? —Študent česná.*
Tereza student student COP.NEG
'"Is Tereza a student?" "No, she isn't."

b. *—Tereza študent? —Ódilošc.*
Tereza student professor
'"Is Tereza a student?" "No, she is a professor."

c. *—Tereza študent? —Študent česná, ódilošc.*
Tereza student student COP.NEG professor
'"Is Tereza a student?" "No, she isn't. She's a professor"

Emphatic answers can also be made using *éšte* ('of course') and *éšte omá/niho/česná* ('of course not'). *Éšte* may also be used with an echo response.

(35) a. *—Tóm oštnik? —Éšte.*
book read-PV-PF of:course
'"Did you read the book?" "Of course I did."'

b. *—Tóm oštnik? —Éšte zádoštnik.*
book read-PV-PF of:course NEG-read-PV-PF
'"Did you read the book?" "Of course I didn't."'

6.6 Negation

Verbs are negated by prefixing *zá* to its conjugated form. Before a vowel, the prefix surfaces as *zád-*.

Double negation is always required together

6.7 Existential Constructions

An existential sentence is a specialized construction used to express the existence or presence of someone or something. The particle *ješ* and its inverse *niho* are used to form existential sentences.

(36) *Tak ješ zarno.*
here EXST people
'There are people here.'

(37) *Tak niho zarno.*
here EXST.NEG people
'There is no one here.'

Statements expressing location use a copular construction, although an existential construction is used in the negative.

(38) *Dá na duma.*
1s.str loc house-pat
'I'm at home.'

(39) *Na duma niho dá.*
loc house-pat exst.neg 1s.str
'I'm not at home.'

The particles *ješ* and *niho* must always precede the noun whose presence or existence is being expressed.

(40) *Na ránema ona ješ htoš.*
loc desk-1s-pat one exst book
'There is one book on my desk.'

(41) *Mÿ ješ mulaž.*
two exst door
'There are two doors.'

6.7.1 Possession

Existential constructions are also used to indicate possession, with the possessor marked in the patientive case.

(42) *Marka ješ oblašc.*
Marek-pat exst pet
'Marek has a pet.'

(43) *Tomáša niho mlaz.*
Tomáš-pat exst brother
'Tomáš does not have a brother.'

6.7.2 Impersonal constructions

(44) *Martina ješ trešnikou na tropa.*
Martin-pat exst write-pv-pf-nz loc wall-pat
'Martin wrote something on the wall.'

(45) *Voštnikouva sa ješ piaščkou?*
cook-pv-pf-nz-pat already exst eat-av-pf-nz
'Did somebody eat what (I) cooked?'

6.8 Copular Constructions

6.8.1 Null copula

Copular sentences are a minor sentence type where the predicate is not a verb. For the purposes of this grammar, we narrow down our definition of copular constructions to the following:

(46) a. *Equative:* Marek is the doctor (we are talking about).

b. *Inclusive:* Marek is a doctor.

c. *Attributive:* Marek is tall.

d. *Locative:* Marek is in the hospital.

Iridian does not make a distinction between equative, inclusive and attributive clauses. Locative clauses on the other hand, may be expressed using a copular or an existential construction, as will be discussed in this section.

Iridian is a superficially a zero-copula language and the most common way to form copular sentences is mere juxtaposition.

(47) *Marek doktor.*
Marek doctor
'Marek (is a/the) doctor.'

The above example could either be taken to mean (1) Marek is a doctor (inclusive), or (2) Marek is the doctor (equative). Generally, though, Iridian uses word order to distinguish between equative and inclusive clauses.

(48) a. *Inclusive:* $\{\text{item in class}\}_{\text{N}} \varnothing \{\text{class}\}_{\text{P}}$

b. *Equative:* $\{\text{class}\}_{\text{N}} \varnothing \{\text{item class}\}_{\text{P}}$

To avoid ambiguity, Example 47 can be reformulated to either of the following sentences:

(49) a. *Marek doktor.*
Marek doctor
'Marek is a doctor.'

b. *Doktor Marek.*
doctor Marek
'Marek is the doctor.'

The inversion of word order is not strongly grammaticalized with NP-NP sentences, i.e., both sentences in Example 49 can still be used interchangeably without a change in meaning and preference is given on the one over the other when there is an ambiguity. This is not the case with attributive clauses, i.e., sentences with adjective or adjective phrase predicates. Consider for example the sentence below:

(50) *Marek rázym.*
Marek tall
'Marek is tall.'

Inverting the word order of the sentence above would change the adjective to a substantive since modifiers cannot occupy the topic position.

(51) *Rázym Marek.*
tall Marek
'The tall one is Marek.'

Iridian also distinguishes between attributive clauses expressing permanent conditions and clauses expressing temporary conditions, with the latter being expressed using existential constructions in certain adjectives.

(52) **Marek morec.*
Marek hungry
'Marek is hungry'

(53) *Marka ješ morec.*
Marek-PAT EXST hunger
'Marek is hungry'

A full list of adjectives/modifiers that use the existential construction can be found in the section **??**.

The copula, however, cannot be ommitted in grammatical moods other than the indicative.

6.8.2 Negative copula

Iridian has the negative copula *česná*.

(54) *Marek doktor česná.*
Marek doctor COP.NEG
'Marek is not (a/the) doctor.'

The inversion of word order may also be used when one wants to avoid ambiguity:

(55) *Doktor Marek česná.*
doctor Marek COP.NEG
'Marek is not the doctor.'

6.8.3 Conjugation paradigm

6.9 Interjections

7

COMPLEX SENTENCES

7.1 Clause-linking with *še*

7.2 Converbial Constructions

7.2.1 The imperfective in *-iec*

7.2.2 The perfective in *-e*

The perfective *-iêce* is often used in clause linking.

(1) *Oštiêce krazkem.*
read-CV.PF understand-PF-1S
'I read and understood.'

Clauses expressing reason is usually expressed by a converbial construction.

(2) *Za eksama nážhaziêce, Martin órek.*
for exam-PAT NEG-study-CV.PF Martin fail-PF
'Martin failed the exam because he didn't study.'

8

SEMANTICS AND USAGE

Appendices

A

THE DIALECTS OF IRIDIAN

B

SAMPLE TEXTS

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