Elakwii

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Chapter 1

Phonology

1.1 Vowels

Elakwii has a simple vowel system, comprising of 6 vowels, which are:

	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Near-close	ɪ	
Close-mid	e	o
Open	a	

Some speakers, especially those native to neighbouring regions, unround /u/ and /o/ to /ɯ/ and /ɤ/, respectively. Being the lingua franca of their continent, Elakwii speakers are used to much more exotic vowel changes. Thankfully, its small size makes it easy to adapt to such changes.

No words are told apart based on stress. Stress falls on the penultimate syllable of a word, unless the speaker chooses to emphasize a different syllable. Natively, /u/ is frequently realized as [ʉ]. In unstressed syllables, /u/ is sometimes realized as [ʊ]. When unstressed, /e/ will commonly lower to [ɛ].

All vowels are written the same as their phonemic representation, except for /ɪ/, which is writen as <í>.

1.2 Consonants

Elakwii has 17 consonants, which are:

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m	n			
Plosive	p b	t d		k g	
Fricative	f v	s z			h
Approximant	w	l	j	(w)	
Trill		r			

All of Elakwii's consonants are written the same as their phonemic representation. /t/ and /d/ have a lot of variation in realization. Some pronounce them as [c] and [ɟ], respectively, while others pronounce them as [θ] and [ð]. /b/ has common allophony with /β/. /r/ is commonly realized as /ɾ/ after close vowels. /h/ is a "wildcard" consonant, which can be realized in a number of ways ([ħ, χ, x, etc]). /d/, when word final, is typically realized as [ɾ].

1.3   Syllable Structure

Elakwii has a simple syllable structure

$$(C)(C)V(C)$$

which, along with consonant cluster rules, makes words very easy to pronounce. Consonant clusters can only be 2 consonants long, with the exception of a /j/ at the end of a cluster as a third consonant. Two plosives cannot come next to each other in a cluster (/kp/ is not allowed). Two consonants of the same place of articulation cannot come after each other (/lz/ is not allowed, /sz/ is not allowed). /r/ cannot be in a syllable cluster, and must come directly before a vowel, and when not word-initial, must come directly after a vowel. As with cluster and syllable rules, word spelling rules are also simple: /r/, /w/, /j/, /p/, /t/, and /k/. cannot occur at the end of a word.

Chapter 2

Syntax

Elakwii is primarily head final, has pospositions, but determiners come before their constituents. Particles are used frequently to specify starts to things such as prepositions and conditional phrases.

2.1 Word Order

Elakwii has free word order, but the default order is **SOVI** (subject, object, verb, indirect object). A different order can be used, but each noun/noun phrase must be marked. Adjectives come after their nouns, and adverbs after their verbs. Non-number determiners come before their constituents, whereas numbers used as determiners come after their constituents. Conditional phrases come directly before the verb, and adpositions used as adverbs come directly after. *Some examples:*

(2.1) **toriso**   **esoro**
       toriso   esoro
       autumn_winter_tree   *long*

       "long tree"

(2.2) **nonatsa**   **nape**
       non   - atsa   nape
       climb - INF   *quickly*

       "To climb quickly"

(2.3) **ja   nisko**
       ja   nisko
       NDEF   *apple*

       "an apple"

(2.4) **dijo   jof**
       dijo   jof
       finger   one

       "one finger"

(2.5) **mis   us   mis   non   de   jara**
       mis   us   mis   non   de   ja   -ra
       1SG   *if*   1SG   *climb*   *then*   *fall* -FUT

       "If I climb I will fall."

(2.6) **mis   sol   la   oni   oa   kana**
       mis   sol   la   oni   oa   kana
       1SG   *die*   PREP   1SG.GEN   *homeland*   *at*

       "I am dying at my homeland."

2.2   Conditional Phrases

Conditional phrases are phrases that express a past present condition or hypothetical