

# The Thiguka Language

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By Lemuria

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## About

Thiguka is a constructed language that Lemuria has continued to develop since April 2024. This contains a full description of Thiguka's grammar, ready for your reading pleasure.

## Glossing abbreviations

AGR ADJ is used for adjective agreement.

- (1) tu~gu-elo                tubi  
    AGR~ADJ-yellow water  
    'urine'

PROX is used for the proximal determiner.

MED is used for the medial determiner.

DIS is used for the distal determiner.

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# 1 Phonology

Perhaps one of the rarest characteristics of Thiguka phonology is its complete lack of phonemic nasals. Thiguka has 11 consonants, 6 vowels, and 6 diphthongs.

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Velar
Plosive	p, b			t, d	k, g
Fricative		f	θ	s	
Rhotic				r	
Lateral				l	

Table 1: Consonant Phonemes

	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Close-Mid	e	o
Open	a	ɑ

Table 2: Vowel Phonemes

Diphthongs	ai	ei	ui	au	ɑi	ia
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Table 3: Diphthongs

[ia] is very rare in a priori Thiguka words, being exclusively used for loanwords such as Enya (Elija).

## 1.1 Nasals

Thiguka completely lacks nasals. [n] is an allophone of [l], while [m] is an allophone of [b], and [ŋ] is approximated as any one of [g, lg, k, l]. The chosen consonant differs depending on the context the velar nasal is in; for example, a speaker would not want to use [g] in for ‘fang’ [faŋ], because then they would be uttering a racial slur.

English	English IPA	Thiguka	Thiguka IPA
Lemuria	[li.ˈmɜːɹ.iə]	Liburija	[ˈli.bur.ia]
Enya	[ˈɛn.jə]	Elija	[ˈɛlia]
Lena Raine	[ˈlɛnə ˈreɪn]	Lela Reyl	[ˈlela ˈreil]

Table 4: Examples of nasal consonant approximations in Thiguka

## 1.2 Stress

Thiguka places stress on the first syllable of the root word. However, stress is not a phonemic feature in Thiguka, and English speakers speaking Thiguka with English stress rules will be readily understood.

## 1.3 Phonotactics

Thiguka syllable structure is (C)(C)V(C).

Words may not end in [k, r, l]. If due to loanwords, or conjugations the word ends up ending in these three forbidden consonants, either add a dummy -a suffix, or remove the offending consonant.

Words may not end in consonant clusters.

Two diphthongs separated by a single consonant are not allowed — \*aybay.

Vowels next to each other, that are not diphthongs, are pronounced with a glottal stop inserted between them.

## 2 Grammar

Thiguka has an agglutinative grammar, a nominative-accusative case marking system, subject-verb-object word order, a tense-aspect system, a single copula with 37 irregular forms that inflect for time, person, and number, and a 38th irregular form that acts as a general-purpose copula.

### 2.1 Plurality

Plurality marking is optional.

Case	Suffix
None (zero)	-pa
Singular	-sa
Dual	-gula
Plural	-elah

Table 5: Plurality

### 2.2 Case

Case	Suffix
Nominative	-pah
Accusative	-tay
Dative	-lay
Genitive	-pafay
Locative	-kala
Instrumental	-kithi

Table 6: Cases

### 2.3 Adjectives

Adjectives in Thiguka are placed before words. To attach an adjective to a word, the first syllable of the modified word, followed by *-gu-* should be attached to the adjective.

- (2) ri~gu-gulid      rifari  
AGR~ADJ-good music  
'good music'

### 2.4 Determiners

Thiguka has proximal, medial, and distal determiners. Determiners are placed before root words.

- (3) ka~gu-parthas      *kasa*      kaela  
AGR~ADJ-pink.purple PROX.DET tree  
'*this* sakura tree'
- (4) ka~gu-parthas      *saka*      kaela  
AGR~ADJ-pink.purple MED.DET tree  
'*that* sakura tree *near you*'
- (5) ka~gu-parthas      *asila*      kaela  
AGR~ADJ-pink.purple DIS.DET tree  
'*that* sakura tree'

## 2.5 Tense-aspect

Thiguka has a tense-aspect system.

<b>Tense</b>	<b>Suffix</b>
Past	-ta
Recent past	-tu
Present	-sa
Future	-tha

Table 7: Tense

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Prefix</b>
Perfective	pa-
Perfect	fe-
Progressive	ge-
Imperfective	sa-
Contemplative	kas-
Accidental	ras-
Intentional	ka-

Table 8: Aspect

## 2.6 Template

Thiguka positions morphemes in a specific order, based on whether it is a noun or verb.

### 2.6.1 Noun

### 2.6.2 Verb

### 3 Orthography

## 4 Lexicon

Thiguka, as of May 2024, has about 350 defined words, with slight bias towards Internet and music-related terminology.

Thiguka's full lexicon is available at <https://github.com/thiguka/lexicon> in both tab-separated values format and an Anki deck. A select few words from Thiguka's lexicon are as follows:

### 4.1 Swadesh-Yakhontov list

Because of the author's laziness and some holes in the lexicon, he is only able to provide a 35-word Swadesh-Yakhontov list below:

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. I — thaka             | 19. tooth — tutho       |
| 2. you (singular) — kake | 20. tongue — kageta     |
| 3. this — kasa           | 21. hand — aysi         |
| 4. who — kalisu pelu     | 22. know — kala         |
| 5. what — kalisu         | 23. die — dasay         |
| 6. one — isa             | 24. give — salath       |
| 7. two — dalata          | 25. sun — asalisa       |
| 8. fish — gothi          | 26. moon — luti         |
| 9. dog — aso             | 27. water — tubi        |
| 10. louse — lafauy       | 28. salt — salu         |
| 11. blood — rahsa        | 29. stone — sute        |
| 12. bone — bole          | 30. wind — lufah        |
| 13. egg — logi           | 31. fire — apay         |
| 14. horn — kipi          | 32. year — fasate       |
| 15. tail — taysa         | 33. current year — saro |
| 16. ear — eyla           | 34. full — hakath       |
| 17. eye — fathas         | 35. new — bage          |
| 18. nose — fothes        | 36. name — leyle        |



## 5 Examples

A variety of texts have been translated into Thiguka. The first major complete translation, from mid-April 2024, is Wikipedia's article on Lena Raine, an American music composer from Seattle who has made music for Minecraft.

The translation on Lena Raine is subject to errors, being an early text and not having been updated to reflect the latest changes to the Thiguka language as of May 2024.

### 5.1 Lena Raine

Lela Reyl (Ilgis: Lena Raine; berethata 1984-02-29), leylesathasi Lela Sapel (Ilgis: Lena Chappelle) aluthasi Kureyl (Ilgis: Kuraine) gulaya Taguarika alu Tagukalada tagulikageta tarifari alu lisapahsa lahkelasa kolugeyletayelah. Pelupahelah kalasa Reyltay pur pothupafay leygurutu leyboro ifil Selesete alu Maylakraf alu kigugiled kisufetelah dalata. Pothupah lahkelasathasi rifaritay ifil kolugeyletayelah sufadhas Deletarule alu Sikori: Sigukothor Sifothisa.

#### 5.1.1 Siguaga sifata

Reylpah berethata 1984-02-29 ifil Siatel ifil Asiltol. Pothupafay tali tarifari alu pothupafay laysa pelifefi. Fipothupafay tagukuyri tarifagetata alu pothupah fathusita pothutay ifil tarifari. Pothupafay tali-thasi fahfayolil. Solik Edeog sigupeke pegusifothe peli giledsa fathusita pothutay ifil pagulidi patefarielah. Reylpah pagulidi patefariethielah taguisasafi lahkeluta rifaritayelah pothu kalata aludhete lahkelata pothupafay tagubage tarifari. Kuthifafay, pothupah kalata ifil Kornis ogukala ose Arafatelah. Kuthifafay, Kornispah salathata Reyltay lahgurifari lahkelasa oselufasa.

#### 5.1.2 Sifutila

Pelupahelah kalasa Reyltay pur pothupafay leygurutu leyboro ifil Selesete alu Kigugiled Kisufetelah Dalata. Pothupah leyborota ifil Kigugiled Kisufetelah Dalata ArilaLetkala pur fagugati fasatelah gafalu fahpatere-lahkesa alu fahlahkelapahsa ritutay.

Pothupah alu Laklel Diler, gafalu oguifil ose fahlahkelapahgula ritutay ifil geylepafay lisufasa ifil 2015, Kigugiled Kisufetelah Dalata: Arfaspafaysa Thigusapagad Thilelah. Pothupah falgathata ArilaLetay ifil 2016, bulu pogufilasari pothupah lahkelata rifaritayelah ifil ArilaLetpafay kolugeylelah.

Ifil 2018, Reylpah fathusita afegurayfathil koguafeltur kolugeyle esektay ifil itisayokala. Reylpah lahkelata rifaritay alu lahkelata kolugeyletay esektay alu Deytaireyspah (Ilgis: Dataerase) lahkelata arafatayelah. Ifil 2019, pothupah fathusita riguisasafi rifari, Isakalasa.

Pothupah lahkelata apay rigubage rifaritayelah ifil Maylakrapafay 1.16 "Lether Patifekalasa" (Ilgis: Nether Update) ifil 2020. Faguisa fasatefay, pothupah alu tagukolugeyle tarifarisa Kuli Taliokapah lahkelata gati rigubage rifaritayelah ifil 1.18 "Kelefitelah alu Sahlagelah: Pagudalatafasi Parafsa" patifekalasa, Faguisa fasatefay, pothupah lahkelata talo rigubage rifaritayelah ifil 1.19 "Pagufaylata Parafsa".

Reylpah lahkelata rifaritay ifil araguafeltur koguapigipi kolugeylekala Sikori: Sigukothor Sifothisa alu turlorta pelutayelah lahkelata rifaritayelah ifil sagudalatafasi sagdathasa ifil Deletarunekala. Kolugeylepahgula fathusita ifil 2021.

#### 5.1.3 Sigupelu sifata

Reyguteraseleter Reylpahthasi rayfata aglادتaysa, Siti of Taygers aluthasi rayfasa siguelegibiti sigupeke sifothe ifil pothupafay taygurifeyla tayle.

#### 5.1.4 Thiguolota thilelah

Asagata Reyltay pur ologubafata thiguolota thilsa aluthasi pothupafay rifari ifil Selesete risifta Giguarika Giledpafay Tarifarielah, pelupahelah rayfasa aglادتayelah alu pelupahelah fathusisa thiltayelah rigulid

rigukolugeyle rifari ifil fasate thiguolota thilsa ifil 2019. Pothupafay rifari ifil Selesetepahthasi risifta rig-  
urigid asagurifari asagasa ifil thigukolugeyle thiguolota thilelah ifil 2018.