

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.ˈmɜɹ.iə]	Liburija	[ˈli.bur.ia]
Enya	[ˈɛn.jə]	Elija	[ˈelia]
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.

Plurality	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.

Tense	Suffix
Past	-ta
Recent past	-tu
Present	-sa
Future	-tha

Table 7: Tense

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

Table 8: Aspect

2.6 Pronouns

Thiguka completely lacks gender distinction in pronouns, and has a clusivity distinction in first person pronouns.

person/number	First	Second	Third
singular	thaka	kake	pothu
plural		katake	rafu
inclusive plural	situ		
exclusive plural	pata		

Table 9: Pronouns

Thiguka has no T-V distinction in pronouns. Politeness may be achieved by attaching positive adjectives to second-person pronouns, but this is discouraged and goes against Lemuria's intentions.

2.7 Template

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

2.7.1 Noun

For nouns, the order is as follows: Derivational prefixes, Negation or intensifiers, Stem, Case, Adverb suffixes, Plurality.

2.7.2 Verb

For verbs, the order is as follows: Derivational prefixes, Negation or intensifiers, Aspect, Stem, Tense, Adverb suffixes

2.8 Derivation

Thiguka has multiple methods of taking in new words into its lexicon; such as compounding and the addition of derivational prefixes.

A few select examples of Thiguka derivational prefixes are:

1. fah-, agent prefix akin to English -er
 2. ri-, intensifier
 3. li-, negation
 4. filay-, “in the presence of a cat”
-
- (6) fah-katarila
AGT-space.travel
‘space traveler’
 - (7) fah-filay-katarila
AGT-with.cat-space.travel
‘one who travels through space with a pet cat’
 - (8) fah-filay-li-katarila
AGT-with.cat-NEG-space.travel
‘one who does not travel through space with a pet cat’

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 |

4.2 Unusual roots

Thiguka has some specific roots that many natlangs would need an entire sentence or even paragraph to describe. These roots are an extension of Lemuria's personality, condensing the things and concepts of significance to his life into one word.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. ketala — fear of being banned by a moderator on the Internet while asleep | someone (Catarina) in the Conlangs Discord Network too many questions about 3SG.GEN far-future world. |
| 2. filay- — from English feline; prefix to indicate “with cat present” | |
| 3. katarila — space travel; because Lemuria asked | 4. orielija — to sail away. Combination of Orinoco + Enya (whose name gets loaned as Elija due to Thiguka being a Lo Lasals Language.) |

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 pelifeffi. 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 koguarapigi kolugeylekala Sikori: Sigukothor Sifothisa alu turlorta pelutayelah lahkelata rifaritayelah ifil sagudalatafasi sagdathasa ifil Deletarunekala. Kolugeylepahgula fathusita ifil 2021.

5.1.3 Sigupelu sifata

Reyguteraseler 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.