1 Verbal Morphology

1.1 Features

The consonantal root patterns in Qevesa are used to form basic morphological paradigms. Qevesa verbs are highly inflected, indicating aspect by transfix patterns; topical agreement and modality are marked by agglutinative suffixes. All other constructions, including tense, voice, polarity and evidentiality, are indicated by periphrasis or syntax.

The stem consists of the root and zero or more derivational affixes conjugated to a particular aspect.

1.2 The Infinitive

The infinitive of the verb is typically used as the citation form of the root. It is formed by inserting a -*u*- into P_{12} and P_{23}, resulting in $C_1uC_2uC_3$. Unlike the other verb constructions, it never conjugates. However, it is used as the root for a number of additional constructions, such as some honorific registers.

1.3 Conjugation

Qevesa is a highly synthetic language, and verbs are conjugated to indicate aspect, topical agreement, and mood. The conjugated form of the verb is as follows:

(1) *stem*.ASPECT-TOPIC-MOOD

1.3.1 Aspect

Aspect is possibly the most important grammatical category marked on the verb. Instead of tense, aspect is used to mark the temporal flow (or lack thereof) of verbs. Qevesa distinguishes between imperfective aspects (those that are ongoing, habitual, repeated or generally containing internal structure) and perfective aspects (those that are viewed as a single whole). As a result, there are two primary transfix patterns that correspond to the imperfective and perfective aspects, and a number of secondary transfix patterns which indicate various subtle (mainly semantic) differences.

There are ten different aspects in total, five imperfective and five perfective.

1.3.1.1 The Imperfective Aspects

The imperfective aspects are used to indicate:

- actions in progress or ongoing states and activities, with significant course (in opinion of the speaker);
- activities posing the background for other (perfective) activities;
- simultaneous activities;
- durative activities, lasting through some time;
- multiple (iterative or frequentative) activities;
- habitual activities;
- motions without a strict aim;
- continuous states.

The triliteral root patterns for the imperfective aspects are given in Table 1.1.

Form	Imperfective	Stative	Durative	Frequentative	Habitual
	IPFV	STAT	DUR;PFV	FREQ	HAB
I	$C_1uC_2iC_3$	$C_1uiC_2eC_3$	$C_1uC_2\acute{u}C_3$	$C_1uC_2oC_3$	$C_1uC_2aC_3$
II	$C_1uC_2C_2iC_3$	$C_1uiC_2C_2eC_3$	$C_1uC_2C_2\acute{u}C_3$	$C_1uC_2C_2oC_3$	$C_1uC_2C_2aC_3$
III	(a)$C_1C_2uC_3i$	(a)$C_1C_2uiC_3e$	(a)$C_1C_2uC_3\acute{u}$	(a)$C_1C_2uC_3o$	(a)$C_1C_2uC_3a$
IV	$meC_1C_1uC_2iC_3$	$meC_1C_1uiC_2eC_3$	$meC_1C_1uC_2\acute{u}C_3$	$meC_1C_1uC_2oC_3$	$meC_1C_1uC_2aC_3$
V	$teC_1uC_2C_2iC_3$	$teC_1uiC_2C_2eC_3$	$teC_1uC_2C_2\acute{u}C_3$	$teC_1uC_2C_2oC_3$	$teC_1uC_2C_2aC_3$
VI	$inaC_1C_2uC_3i$	$inaC_1C_2uiC_3e$	$inaC_1C_2uC_3\acute{u}$	$inaC_1C_2uC_3o$	$inaC_1C_2uC_3a$
VII	$iC_1C_2uC_3C_3i$	$iC_1C_2uiC_3C_3e$	$iC_1C_2uC_3C_3\acute{u}$	$iC_1C_2uC_3C_3o$	$iC_1C_2uC_3C_3a$
VIII	$C_1uC_2C_3i$	$C_1uiC_2C_3e$	$C_1uC_2C_3\acute{u}$	$C_1uC_2C_3o$	$C_1uC_2C_3a$

(a) *Triliteral roots*

Form	Imperfective	Stative	Durative	Frequentative	Habitual
	IPFV	STAT	DUR;PFV	FREQ	HAB
I	C_1uC_2i	C_1uiC_2e	$C_1uC_2\acute{u}$	C_1uC_2o	C_1uC_2a
II	$C_1uC_2C_2i$	$C_1uiC_2C_2e$	$C_1uC_2C_2\acute{u}$	$C_1uC_2C_2o$	$C_1uC_2C_2a$
III	(a)$C_1C_2uC_2i$	(a)$C_1C_2uiC_2e$	(a)$C_1C_2uC_2\acute{u}$	(a)$C_1C_2uC_2o$	(a)$C_1C_2uC_2a$
IV	$meC_1C_1uC_2i$	$meC_1C_1uiC_2e$	$meC_1C_1uC_2\acute{u}$	$meC_1C_1uC_2o$	$meC_1C_1uC_2a$
V	$teC_1uC_2C_2i$	$teC_1uiC_2C_2e$	$teC_1uC_2C_2\acute{u}$	$teC_1uC_2C_2o$	$teC_1uC_2C_2a$
VI	$inaC_1C_2uC_2i$	$inaC_1C_2uiC_2e$	$inaC_1C_2uC_2\acute{u}$	$inaC_1C_2uC_2o$	$inaC_1C_2uC_2a$
VII	$iC_1uC_2C_2i$	$iC_1uiC_2C_2e$	$iC_1uC_2C_2\acute{u}$	$iC_1uC_2C_2o$	$iC_1uC_2C_2a$
VIII	$C_1uC_2C_2i$	$C_1uiC_2C_2e$	$C_1uC_2C_2\acute{u}$	$C_1uC_2C_2o$	$C_1uC_2C_2a$
IX	iC_1uC_2i	iC_1uiC_2e	$iC_1uC_2\acute{u}$	iC_1uC_2o	iC_1uC_2a

(b) *Biliteral roots*

Table 1.1 *Imperfective aspectual patterns*

1.3.1.2 The Perfective Aspects

The perfective aspects generally indicate activities that have distinct beginnings and ends which are relevant to the speaker. This implies past or future activities, but not present activities—an activity which is presently occurring cannot be ended, so it cannot be perfective. The perfective indicates the following:

- states and activities which were ended or which will be ended, with insignificant course, or treated as a whole by the speaker;
- single-time activities;
- the beginning of the activity or the state;
- the end of the activity or the state;
- activities executed in many places, on many objects or by many subjects at the same time;
- actions or states which last some time

The triliteral root patterns for the perfective aspects are given in Table 1.2.

Form	Perfective	Inchoative	Cessative	Durative	Momentane
	PFV	INCH	CESS	DUR;PFV	MOMT
I	$C_1iC_2oC_3a$	$C_1iC_2uC_3o$	$C_1iC_2aC_3a$	$C_1iC_2aC_3u$	$C_1iC_2uC_3a$
II	$C_1iC_2C_2oC_3a$	$C_1iC_2C_2uC_3o$	$C_1iC_2C_2aC_3a$	$C_1iC_2C_2aC_3u$	$C_1iC_2C_2uC_3a$
III	$(a)C_1C_2ioC_3a$	$(a)C_1C_2iuC_3o$	$(a)C_1C_2íC_3a$	$(a)C_1C_2iaC_3u$	$(a)C_1C_2iuC_3a$
IV	$meC_1C_1iC_2oC_3a$	$meC_1C_1iC_2uC_3o$	$meC_1C_1iC_2aC_3a$	$meC_1C_1iC_2aC_3u$	$meC_1C_1iC_2uC_3a$
V	$teC_1iC_2C_2oC_3a$	$teC_1iC_2C_2uC_3o$	$teC_1iC_2C_2aC_3a$	$teC_1iC_2C_2aC_3u$	$teC_1iC_2C_2uC_3a$
VI	$inaC_1C_2ioC_3a$	$inaC_1C_2iuC_3o$	$inaC_1C_2íC_3a$	$inaC_1C_2iaC_3u$	$inaC_1C_2iuC_3a$
VII	$iC_1C_2ioC_3C_3a$	$iC_1C_2iuC_3C_3o$	$iC_1C_2íC_3C_3a$	$iC_1C_2iaC_3C_3u$	$iC_1C_2iuC_3C_3a$
VIII	$C_1ioC_2C_3a$	$C_1iuC_2C_3o$	$C_1íC_2C_3a$	$C_1iaC_2C_3u$	$C_1iuC_2C_3a$

(a) *Triliteral roots*

Form	Perfective	Inchoative	Cessative	Durative	Momentane
	PFV	INCH	CESS	DUR;PFV	MOMT
I	C_1ioC_2a	C_1iuC_2o	$C_1íC_2a$	C_1iaC_2u	C_1iuC_2a
II	$C_1ioC_2C_2a$	$C_1iuC_2C_2o$	$C_1íC_2C_2a$	$C_1iaC_2C_2u$	$C_1iuC_2C_2a$
III	$(a)C_1C_2ioC_2a$	$(a)C_1C_2iuC_2o$	$(a)C_1C_2íC_2a$	$(a)C_1C_2iaC_2u$	$(a)C_1C_2iuC_2a$
IV	$meC_1C_1ioC_2a$	$meC_1C_1iuC_2o$	$meC_1C_1íC_2a$	$meC_1C_1iaC_2u$	$meC_1C_1iuC_2a$
V	$teC_1ioC_2C_2a$	$teC_1iuC_2C_2o$	$teC_1íC_2C_2a$	$teC_1iaC_2C_2u$	$teC_1iuC_2C_2a$
VI	$inaC_1C_2ioC_2a$	$inaC_1C_2iuC_2o$	$inaC_1C_2íC_2a$	$inaC_1C_2iaC_2u$	$inaC_1C_2iuC_2a$
VII	$iC_1ioC_2C_2a$	$iC_1iuC_2C_2o$	$iC_1íC_2C_2a$	$iC_1iaC_2C_2u$	$iC_1iuC_2C_2a$
VIII	$C_1ioC_2C_2a$	$C_1iuC_2C_2o$	$C_1íC_2C_2a$	$C_1iaC_2C_2u$	$C_1iuC_2C_2a$
IX	iC_1ioC_2a	iC_1iuC_2o	$iC_1íC_2a$	iC_1iaC_2u	iC_1iuC_2a

(b) *Biliteral roots*

Table 1.2 *Perfective aspectual patterns*

1.3.2 Topical Agreement

Qevesa is a topic-prominent language that tends towards a split-S active dechticaetiative morpho-syntactic alignment. As a result, verbs are marked for agreement with the topic of the sentence, rather than the subject or agent. The topic of the sentence is the noun phrase in the nominative case.

1.3.2.1 Primary Agreement

The topic of the verb primarily indicates its experiencer, agent/donor, patient/recipient, or theme. If the topical noun phrase is a pronoun, it may be omitted. The suffixes for topical agreement are given in Table 1.3.

	Ergative	**Accusative**	**Secundative**
	ERG	ACC	SDT
1SG	-ěm-	-ěş-	-ět-
2SG	-tam-	-taş-	-tot-
3SG	-(a)m-	-(a)ş-	-(a)t-
1DU;INC	-yévam-	-yévaş-	-yévot-
1DU;EXC	-čévam-	-čévaş-	-čévot-
2DU	-távam-	-távaş-	-távot-
3DU	-vam-	-vaş-	-vot-
1PL;INC	-yésam-	-yésaş-	-yésot-
1PL;EXC	-čésam-	-čésaş-	-čésot-
2PL	-tásam-	-tásaş-	-tásot-
3PL	-sam-	-saş-	-sot-
3;INANIM	-ňom-	-ňoş-	-ňot-

Table 1.3 *Primary topical agreement*

The third-person singular suffixes insert an epenthetic *-a-* when the suffix follows a consonant. The use of the singular, dual, and plural numbers is described in Section ??.

1.3.2.1.1 Ergative Topic

An ergative topic indicates that the noun phrase in the nominative case is the voluntary experiencer of an intransitive verb; the agent of a monotransitive verb; and the donor of a ditransitive verb.

1.3.2.1.2 Accusative Topic

An accusative topic indicates that the noun phrase in the nominative case is the involuntary experiencer of an intransitive verb; the patient of a monotransitive verb; and the recipient of a ditransitive verb.

1.3.2.1.3 Secundative Topic

A secundative topic indicates that the noun phrase in the nominative case is the theme of a ditransitive verb.

1.3.2.2 Secondary Topical Agreement

If the topic of the phrase is not the experiencer, agent/donor, patient/recipient or theme, the verb can be marked with a suffix that corresponds to the role of the noun phrase in the nominative case. Unlike the primary cases, there are no combined pronoun suffixes, so pronouns must not be omitted. These suffixes are described in Table 1.4.

Case		Suffix
Essive	ESS	-(a)ll
Instrumental (Comitative)	INS	-(a)tt
Inessive	INE	-(a)ss
Adessive	ADE	-(a)d
Illative	ILL	-(a)st
Allative	ALL	-(a)ft
Elative	ELA	-(a)sp
Ablative	ABL	-(a)sk
Comparative	COMP	-(a)nn

Table 1.4 *Secondary topical agreement*

An epenthetic *-a-* is inserted when the suffix follows a consonant.

1.3.3 Mood

Mood is another important category marked on the Qevesa verb. There are eight primary moods: indicative, admirative, irrealis, alethic, necessitative, precative, volitive, and hypothetical.

The suffixes for mood are given in Table 1.5.

1.3.3.1 Indicative Mood

The indicative mood is the default mood. It is essentially a realis mood, indicating the factual nature of the statement.

1.3.3.2 Admirative Mood

The admirative mood is also a realis mood, that indicates new or unexpected information.

(2) *EXAMPLE*

Mood		Suffix
Indicative	IND	-o
Admirative	MIR	-óra
Irrealis	IRR	-il
Alethic	ALE	-is
Necessitative	NEC	-ic
Precative	PREC	-ła
Volitive	VOL	-ir
Hypothetical	HYP	-ot

Table 1.5 *Verbal mood suffixes*

1.3.3.3 Irrealis Mood

The irrealis mood denotes a counterfactual or non-actual sense.

(3)   *EXAMPLE*

1.3.3.4 Alethic Mood

The alethic mood denotes the logical necessity of the statement.

(4)   *EXAMPLE*

1.3.3.5 Necessitative Mood

The necessitative mood denotes that the action must occur. It differs from the alethic mood in that the reason for necessity is not a logical conclusion.

(5)   *EXAMPLE*

1.3.3.6 Precative Mood

The precative mood indicates that the action is a request or order.

(6)   *EXAMPLE*

1.3.3.7 Volitive Mood

The volitive mood indicates a hope, desire, or wishes that the action denoted by the verb should come about.

(7)   *EXAMPLE*

1.3.3.8 Hypothetical Mood

The hypothetical mood indicates that the statement is counterfactual but possible.

(8) *EXAMPLE*

1.4 Auxiliary Verbs

Periphrastic constructions, such as polarity and evidentiality, are indicated with a series of auxiliary verbs. These conjugate similarly to ordinary verbs, but use a slightly different set of conjugations and affixes that are generally identical to the forms for attributive verbs[1].

Syntactically, auxiliary verbs occupy the same position as adverbs or modifiers, as described in Section **??**. Morphologically, however, they are more akin to verbs, and tend to agree with their head verb in aspect, but this is not mandatory.

1.4.1 Polarity

The most commonly-used auxiliary verbs are those that indicate polarity. The affirmative verb, *şuru*, meaning 'to do', is rarely used, except in situations when an explicitly positive statement is to be made. The negative verb, *dumu*, is more commonly used, and shares the same root as the word for 'zero' or 'none'.

Both of these verbs conjugate to aspect as a Form IX root, prefixed with an initial *e-*, as shown in Table 1.6.

		Polarity	
		AFF	NEG
Imperfective	IPFV	eşuri	edumi
Stative	STAT	eşuire	eduime
Durative	DUR;IPFV	eşurú	edumú
Frequentative	FREQ	eşuro	edumo
Habitual	HAB	eşura	eduma
Perfective	PFV	eşiora	edioma
Inchoative	INCH	eşiuro	ediumo
Cessative	CESS	eşíra	edíma
Durative	DUR;PFV	eşiaru	ediamu
Momentane	MOMT	eşiura	ediuma

Table 1.6 *Polar verb aspectual conjugation*

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[1]See Section **??**, page **??**

Often the polar auxiliaries will be conjugated to a different aspect than their head verb, especially to indicate semantic nuances, for example:

(9) *Ł'isátka soşima yem edíma antulúşo.*
     Ł'=isá-tka-∅   soşim-a   yem   edíma   antulú-ş-o
     DEF=DIST-HUM-NOM girl-NOM 1SG.ERG NEG.CESS think\ASS.DUR;IPFV-3SG;ACC-IND
     that   girl   I   not stop thinking about her
     I cannot stop thinking about that girl.

1.4.2 Evidentiality

Evidentiality may also be expressed by means of auxiliary verbs. Qevesa possesses a set of auxiliary verbs which distinguish four degrees of evidentiality: witness, reportative, inferential, and assumptive.

All of the roots of the evidential auxiliaries are also verbs in their own right. However, they conjugate as Form VIII verbs, with some slightly irregular pattern forms. Their conjugation is given in Table 1.7.

		Evidentiality			
		EXP	REP	INFR	ASM
Imperfective	IPFV	murri	łukşi	kučti	quspi
Stative	STAT	muirre	łuikşe	kuičte	quispe
Durative	DUR;IPFV	murrú	łukşú	kučtú	quspú
Frequentative	FREQ	murro	łukşo	kučto	quspo
Habitual	HAB	murra	łukşa	kučta	quspa
Perfective	PFV	miorra	łiokşa	kiočta	qiospa
Inchoative	INCH	miurro	łiukşo	kiučto	qiuspo
Cessative	CESS	mírra	łíkşa	kíčta	qíspa
Durative	DUR;PFV	miarru	łiakşu	kiačtu	qiaspu
Momentane	MOMT	miurra	łiukşa	kiučta	qiuspa

Table 1.7 *Conjugation of the evidential verbs*

As with all auxiliary constructions, use of the evidential auxiliaries is not mandatory; rather, they are used to provide additional information.

1.4.2.1 Witness

The witness degree of evidentiality is denoted by the verb *murru*, meaning 'to see'. It is used when the speaker was a witness to the event.

1.4.2.2 Reportative

The reportative degree of evidentiality is denoted by the verb *łukşu*, which has the same consonantal root as the verb *łukuş* 'to hear (speech)'.

1.4.2.3 Inferential

The inferential degree of evidentiality is denoted by the verb *kučtu*. It is used when the speaker infers that the event occurred but was not a witness.

1.4.2.4 Assumptive

The assumption degree of evidentiality is denoted by the verb *quspu*. It is used when the speaker is making an assumption about the occurrence of the event.

1.5 Irregular Verbs

Qevesa verbal morphology is highly regular, with most irregularities occurring due to consonant groupings. However, a number of common roots do possess irregular forms, and these are outlined in the following sections.

1.5.1 The Copulae

The most frequently-used irregular verb in Qevesa is the copula *tesy*. It is one of a number of verbs which do not possess a regular infinitive of the form C_1uC_2u; it also possesses a negative form (*dumy*[2]), unlike most other verbs. The basic conjugated forms of *tesy* are given in Table 1.8.

		Non-negative	Negative
		COP	NEG
Infinitive	INF	tesy	dumy
Imperfective	IPFV	tuši	dumí
Stative	STAT	tuiše	duimě
Durative	DUR;IPFV	tušú	dumyú
Frequentative	FREQ	tušo	dumyo
Habitual	HAB	tuša	dumya
Perfective	PFV	tioša	diomya
Inchoative	INCH	tiušo	diumyo
Cessative	CESS	tíša	dímya
Durative	DUR;PFV	tiašu	diamyu
Momentane	MOMT	tiuša	diumya

Table 1.8 *Aspectual conjugation of the copulae* tesy *and* dumy

As well as irregular aspectual conjugations, some of the copular forms, especially the negative stative copula *duimě*, also possess a number of irregular affixes to indicate personal or topical agreement. The personal conjugation of *duimě* are listed in Table 1.9.

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[2]This is also the same consonantal root as the negative verb *dumu* and associated forms which translate as 'zero' or 'none'.

	Ergative	Accusative	Secundative
	ERG	ACC	SDT
1SG	duiměm	duiměş	duimět
2SG	duimětam	duimětaş	duimětot
3SG	duimyam	duimyaş	duimat
1DU;INC	duimyévam	duimyévaş	duimyévot
1DU;EXC	duimečévam	duimečévaş	duimečévot
2DU	duimětávam	duimětávaş	duimětávot
3DU	duiměvam	duiměvaş	duiměvot
1PL;INC	duimyésam	duimyésaş	duimyésot
1PL;EXC	duimečésam	duimčésaş	duimečésot
2PL	duimětásam	duimětásaş	duimětásot
3PL	duiměsam	duiměsaş	duiměsot
3;INANIM	duimeňom	duimeňoş	duimeňot

Table 1.9 *Personal conjugations of the negative stative copula* duimě

The copulae can also be used in an existential sense, but only in nominal phrases and never with stative verbs. They play a major role in honorific registers, as described in Chapter ??.