Qevesa Grammar

Robbie Smith

Working Draft: December 9, 2012

Contents

List of Tables

Preface

To be written...

1. Background

1.1. Demographic and Ethnographic Information

To be written...

2. Phonology

2.1. Phonotactics

2.1.1. Vowel inventory

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i	y	u
Mid	e	ɵ	o
Open		a	

(a) *Short vowels*

	Front	Central	Back
Close	iː	yː	uː
Mid	eː	ɵː	oː
Open		aː	

(b) *Long vowels*

Table 2.1. *Qevesa vowel phonemes*

Qevesa possesses seven distinct vowels, listed in Table 2.1. Although the vowels [e], [ɵ] and [o] are conventionally written using the close-mid IPA symbols, they are more accurately transcribed as mid vowels [e̞], [ø̞] and [o̞]. In contrast to the consonants, the vowels show very little variation.

The vowels [ɵ] and [y] are front-central rounded vowels. [ɵ] is a mid front-central rounded vowel, and [y] is a close front-central rounded vowel. As these are both typically pronounced closer to the centre than the front, they are transcribed with [ø̞] and [ʉ̟] instead of [ø] and [y].

The diphthongs are /ai au ei oi ou ɵi ɵy/, as well as /i-/ glides /ia ie* io iɵ iu iy/ and /u-/ glides /ua ue ui uo/, with assimilation of /ii/, /uu/ and /uy/ to /iː/, /uː/ and /yː/. /u-/ glides may cause labialisation, but this is dialect-dependent.

A sound change in Proto-Teralo resulted in the appearance of palatal approximant /j/ before a syllable-initial vowel, particularly /e/. This phenomenon, known as iotation, resulted in the development of the phoneme /ʲe~je/. /i-/ glides were similarly affected, and the process induced palatalisation of the preceding consonant.

Vowels also possess a phonemic length distinction. Each of the seven short vowels has a long equivalent; these are listed in Table 2.1b. A long vowel should be approximately twice as long as a short vowel.

Long vowels are also formed through collision of two identical vowels due to morphological marking.

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Postal-veolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		n̪			ɲ		
Plosive	p		t̪			c	k	
Affricate				ts	tʃ			
Fricative		f υ	θ ð	s	ʃ		x	h
Approximant						j	w	
Lateral				l				
Rhotic				r~ɾ				

Table 2.2. *Consonants*

2.1.2. Consonant inventory

Qevesa possesses twenty-two consonants, realised as in Table 2.2. Features and allophones of each row are described in more detail below. Palatalisation is allophonic and only occurs before iotated vowels (often /i-/ glides) and /-j/.

Consonantal length is phonemic, so [mata] and [matːa] are distinguished. In correct speech, geminate consonants should be articulated and released separately, although in quick speech they will be pronounced as prolonged. Geminates may also appear at in word-initial syllables, but are rare word-finally. Word-medially, syllables will be split at the geminate consonant.

2.1.2.1. Nasals

Qevesa has three nasal consonants: /m n̪ ɲ/. /n̪/ is a laminal denti-alveolar nasal, rather than a true dental nasal.

These consonants are largely consistent in their realisation. The velar nasal [ŋ] is an allophone of /n̪ ɲ/ before /k/.

2.1.2.2. Plosives

Qevesa has four plosive consonants. These are spread over four positions (labial, denti-alveolar, palatal, velar); voice is not distinguished: /p t̪ c k/. The plosives may be aspirated when word-final, /c/ often being realised as the affricate /cç/.

The plosive consonants may be palatalised to [pʲ t̪ʲ cç kʲ].

2.1.2.3. Fricatives

Qevesa has eight fricative consonants: /f υ θ ð s ʃ x h/. /υ/ and /ð/ are commonly realised as approximants, and when syllable-final, /h/ tends to be realised as /x/. Palatalisation affects the fricatives in a variety of way:

- /f/ palatalises to [fʲ];
- /θ/ palatalises to [θʲ];

- /s/ palatalises to [sʲ]
- /ʃ/ palatalise to [ɕ];
- /ʊ/ and /ð/ reduce to [j]; and,
- /x/ and /h/ palatalise to [ç];

2.1.2.4. Affricates

Qevesa has two affricates: /ts tʃ/. Affricates at other points of articulation are attested in historical texts, but these have since merged with the fricatives in the modern dialects. All of these behave as though they were a single consonant, and so should be represented with a tie-bar ligature; for simplicity this will not be done here, except if necessary to contrast the affricates from sequences of distinct phonemes.

The affricates are affected by palatalisation in a similar manner to the fricatives.

2.1.2.5. Liquids and Glides

Qevesa has two liquid consonants (one lateral and one rhotic) and two to four glides.

The lateral consonant is the denti-alveolar /l/. It is often pronounced with a slight palatalisation, as [lʲ]; when preceding an iotated vowel, /i-/ glide or /j/, it weakens to [j]. A velarised lateral /ɬ/ formerly existed, but this has weakened to /w/ in the majority of dialects. An allophone of /l/ is [ɬ] that occurs only in some clusters, such as /tl/.

The rhotic consonant is the alveolar trill /r/. It may be realised as a tap [ɾ] when initial or intervocalic. Palatalised /r/ is realised as [ɾj].

The two glides are the palatal glide /j/ and labiovelar glide /w/. These show little allophonic variation, tending to induce allophonic changes in other consonants. The fricatives /v/ and /ð/ are often realised as approximants, and in some dialects /v/ and /w/ are merging into [w].

2.1.3. Phonemic Restrictions

The main limitations on phonemic distribution are found within the context of consonant clusters. Any single consonant may appear in onset or coda position, word-initially, word-medially, or word-finally. Likewise, any vowel may occur in any of the three positions.

2.1.3.1. Consonant Clusters

Qevesa is fairly lenient when it comes to word-internal clusters. Almost any combination is permitted, including clusters containing two consonants having the same point of articulation. A limited amount of assimilation will occur: voicing always assimilates to the initial consonant, and pairs of sibilant fricatives (including affricate-initial clusters) sometimes assimilate to the point of articulation of the final consonant.

Initial consonant clusters are much more restricted. Only the following combinations are permissable:

- Any non-palatal plosive or /f v/ + /r l/: /pr tr kr fr vr pl tl kl fl vl/

- /θ s ʃ/ + a plosive or /m n/: /θp θt θk θm θn sp st sk sm sn ʃp ʃt ʃk ʃm ʃn/
- /θ s ʃ/ + /l/: /θl sl ʃl/
- A fricative + affricate at the same point of articulation: /θtθ sts ʃtʃ/
- Any non-palatal plosive + /θ s ʃ/: /pθ tθ kθ ps ts ks pʃ tʃ kʃ/. Note that affricates contrast with plosive-fricative sequences.
- Any non-palatal plosive, fricative, or affricate + /f~v/: /pf tf kf θf sf ʃf/. Note that the labiodental fricative may vary between [f] [v] and [v], regardless of its orthographical representation.
- Any non-palatal plosive or fricative + /w/: /pw tw kw fw θw sw ʃw/
- Any consonant + /i-/ or /u-/ glide. Note that /i-/ glides and /j/ induce palatalisation of the previous phoneme, according to the allophonic rules described in Sections 2.1.2.1–2.1.2.5, and that /u-/ glides often assimilate to /w/
- /mn mɲ/

Syllable-final clusters are even more restricted than syllable-initial ones:

- /r l w/ + a plosive or /f θ s ʃ/: /rp rt rk rf rs rʃ lp lt lk lf ls lʃ wp wt wk wf ws wʃ/
- a nasal or plosive + /f θ s ʃ/: /mf mθ ms mʃ nf nθ ns nʃ pf pθ ps pʃ tf tθ ts tʃ kf kθ ks kʃ/
- /f θ s ʃ/ + a non-palatal plosive: /fp ft fk θp θt θk sp st sk ʃp ʃt ʃk/
- A fricative + affricate at the same point of articulation: /θtθ sts ʃtʃ/
- /n/ + /t k/: /nt nk/
- /mp/

Though there are a large number of permissable consonant clusters, their actual occurrence is fairly infrequent. Syllable-initial or syllable-final clusters are to be avoided word-internally: VCCV will always be split into VC.CV. Clusters of three or more consonants are only permitted across syllable breaks, and will always be split to favour an initial cluster over a final one.

2.1.3.2. Syllable Structure

Although a wide variety of initial consonant clusters are permitted, they should be avoided when dividing a word into syllables. The general rule is that non-word-final consonants are always the onset of syllables unless followed by another consonant or permissable initial cluster.

2.1.4. Romanisation

The usual transcription system used for the Latin alphabet is as follows:

A a	**Á á**	**C c**	**Č č**	**D d**	**E e**	**É é**	**Ë ë**	**F f**	**H h**	**I i**
/a/	/aː/	/ts/	/tʃ/	/ð/	/e/	/eː/	/ʲe/	/f/	/h/	/i/
Í í	**J j**	**K k**	**L l**	**Ł ł**	**M m**	**N n**	**Ň ň**	**O o**	**Ó ó**	**Ö ö**
/iː/	/j/	/k/	/l/	/w/	/m/	/n/	/ɲ/	/o/	/oː/	/ɵ/
Ő ő	**P p**	**Q q**	**R r**	**S s**	**Š š**	**T t**	**U u**	**Ú ú**	**Ü ü**	**Ű ű**
/ɵː/	/p/	/c/	/r/	/s/	/ʃ/	/t/	/u/	/uː/	/y/	/yː/
V v	**X x**	**Z z**								
/ʋ/	/x/	/θ/								

The Latin orthography makes use of a number of diacritics. The diacritics on consonants indicate the following features:

Háček/Caron The *háček* or caron indicates a palatalised consonant variant. It is used with ⟨c⟩, ⟨n⟩ and ⟨s⟩, producing ⟨č⟩, ⟨ň⟩ and ⟨š⟩.

Stroke The stroke is only used with ⟨l⟩, to indicate the labiovelar approximant, or in some dialects, the velar lateral. Handwritten and stylistic forms normally place the stroke above the *l*, to distinguish it from lowercase *t*.

Vowels use a similar set of diacritics:

Trema The trema has two separate uses. With ⟨o⟩ and ⟨u⟩, it indicates a fronted variant, forming ⟨ö⟩ and ⟨ü⟩. When used with ⟨e⟩, it indicates a palatalised variant, usually pronounced as /je/. The long variant of ⟨ë⟩ is written as ⟨ié⟩ except when word-initial, when it is written ⟨jé⟩.

Acute The acute accent is used to indicate a long vowel, and is used with ⟨a⟩, ⟨e⟩, ⟨i⟩, ⟨o⟩ and ⟨u⟩ to produce ⟨á⟩, ⟨é⟩, ⟨í⟩, ⟨ó⟩ and ⟨ú⟩. Long variants of ⟨ö⟩ and ⟨ü⟩ use a doubled acute, resulting in ⟨ő⟩ and ⟨ű⟩.

Although the orthography is largely morphophonemic, a number of phonemes may be written in more than one way:

- Palatalisation is indicated by a following ⟨j⟩, an i-glide diphthong, or a *háček* above the vowel.
- /v/ may be realised as an approximant in some situations, and digraphs involving ⟨v⟩ or ⟨f⟩ such as ⟨sf⟩ or ⟨zv⟩ may result in the labiodental fricative being realised as anything between [f] [v] and [ʋ].

2.2. Prosody

Qevesa is a syllable-timed language. *To be written…*

2.2.1. Stress

Stress falls on the first syllable of the root, unless a following syllable within the root contains a long vowel. *To be written…*

2.2.2. Intonation

Qevesa possesses a limited pitch-accent. *To be written…*

3. Morphological Typology

Qevesa morphology differs quite significantly from English. The lexemes, or roots, are based around discontinuous clusters of two to five consonantal phonemes. These roots interlock with patterns of vowels (and sometimes other consonants) to form words or word stems.

(1) *EXAMPLE*

These words, or word stems, can be further modified by the addition of inflexional affixes, such as suffixes, prefixes, and occasionally infixes. The triliteral root represents the semantic field or abstract concept; the patterns represent specific lexical or inflectional derivations. Both roots and patterns are bound morphemes, each conveying specific and essential types of information. Neither can exist independently because both are abstract mental representations.

3.1. Definition of Root

A root is a relatively invariable discontinuous bound morpheme, represented by two to five phonemes in a certain order, which interlocks with a pattern to form a stem, and which has lexical meaning. The root morpheme is discontinuous because vowels can be interspersed between the consonants; however, the consonants of a root must always be present and in the same sequence. The usual number of consonants in a Qevesa root is three; however, there are also two-consonantal (biliteral), four-consonantal (quadriliteral) and five-consonantal (quinquiliteral), although the latter are extremely rare. Quadriliteral and quinquiliteral roots always contain a consonant cluster as a root phoneme that cannot be split, and as a result, their derivation into variant root forms tends to be highly irregular.

The root is said to contain lexical meaning because it communicates the idea of a real-world concept. It is useful to consider the root as denoting a semantic field because it is within that field that actual words come into existence. The exact number of lexical roots in Qevesa ranges from two- to three thousand; phonologically there are many times that number of permissable roots. This is complicated by the fact that some roots contain bound consonant clusters, and certain consonants may be elided or induce other phonological phenomena.

3.2. Definition of Pattern

A pattern is a bound and often discontinuous morpheme consisting of a sequence of one or more vowels and slots for root phonemes, which either alone or in conjunction with other affixes, interlocks with a root to form a stem, and which generally has a grammatical meaning. The pattern is discontinuous because it intersperses itself among the root consonants, and can

be considered as a type of template onto which different roots can be mapped. The derivational affixes include the use of consonants that mark grammatical functions, and these consonants may be used as suffixes, prefixes, or infixes. A further component of pattern marking is the gemination or lengthening of existing or already-inserted consonants or vowels.

Patterns are said to contain grammatical meaning because they signify grammatical or language-internal information; that is, they distinguish word types such as verbal forms, nominal forms, and adjectival forms. They can also signify very specific information about subclasses of the basic word types, such as aspect, number, and case.

3.2.1. Transfix positions

To aid in the description of the patterns or transfixes used to form base stems of verbs, nouns, and adjectives, the positions within a root are labeled as follows: the three consonants are referred to as C_1, C_2, C_3, and the positions adjacent to them are P_0, P_{12}, P_{23}, P_4. However, most transfix patterns consist of two or three discontinuous vowel sequences, which may consist of short or long vowels, or diphthongs. These are referred to as V_1, V_2 and V_3.

3.3. Dictionary Ordering

Qevesa dictionaries are sorted by lexical root and not spelling. Instead of relying on the exact orthography of a word, Qevesa dictionaries are organised by the root or consonant core of a word, providing under that entry every word derived from that particular lexical root. In this regard, a Qevesa dictionary is more akin to a thesaurus, locating all possible variations of a semantic concept under a single entry.

3.4. Other Lexical Types

Other word formation processes in Qevesa include compounding and solid stems.

3.4.1. Compounding

Compounding is the second-most common means of word formation. There are several variations on compounding: roots (and patterns) may be concatenated to form new roots of more consonants; stems may be concatenated to construct new meanings; and words may be strung together as phrases to introduce variations on a theme.

Some lexical roots consist of solid stems; that is, they possess inherent vowels and generally cannot be reduced into the root-pattern paradigm. Such words fall into one of four categories: pronouns, function words, irregular stems, or loan words. The latter category is fairly sparse, as Qevesa tends to rely on substitution of terms, calquing or coinage of new terms. Sometimes, a loan word may be reanalysed as a root, often with an inherent vowel pattern.

3.5. Head/Dependent Marking

Qevesa tends towards dependent marking, although it also exhibits cases of head-marking.

To be written…

4. Derivational Morphology

As a highly synthetic language, derivation plays a major role in the formation of words in Qevesa. Due to its triliteral roots, the majority of words are in fact derived by productive transfixes, suffixes, and prefixes, as well as compounding operations.

4.1. Verb Root Forms

Although the arrangement of consonants in a root is generally fixed, there are regular processes to derive subtle semantic variations on the meaning of the root, such as causatives and reflexives. These root variants are called forms, or *méttüses* ("constructions"), from the root *mutus* ("build, construct"). There are seven primary forms, numbered 1–7; these are listed in Table 4.1.

Note that the forms affect only the grouping and gemination of root consonants, and not the vowel patterns that are applied to create meaningful words. In those forms where consonants are grouped into clusters, the consonant pairs are subsequently treated as a single consonant.

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	**Biliteral**
1	$C_1uC_2uC_3$	C_1uC_2u
2	$C_1uC_2C_2uC_3$	$uC_1C_1uC_2$
3	$C_1uC_2C_3u$	$C_1uC_2C_2u$
4	$iC_1C_2uC_3u$	$iC_1C_1uC_2u$
5	$meC_1uC_2uC_3$	meC_1uC_2u
6	$taC_1C_2uC_3u$	$taC_1uC_2C_2u$
7	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2uC_3u$	$\ddot{e}C_1uC_2u$

Table 4.1. *Verb root forms*

4.1.1. Form 1

Form 1 is the most common consonantal root form, containing no preformative affixes or pairing of consonants as occurs in the other forms. It is typically the closest indicator to the lexical meaning of the root, and though it has no particular semantic function associated with it, verbs in Form 1 are often transitive.

4.1.2. Form 2

Form 2 is the *intensive* stem. It typically indicates an intensive, frequentative or causative meaning, and may also be used to form transitive verbs from intransitive roots.

Triliteral roots construct this form by geminating the second consonant; a limited number of verbs replace the gemination with two root consonants. Biliteral roots geminate the first consonant, and move the transfixes forward one position.

4.1.3. Form 3

Form 3 is commonly known as the *passive* stem. It is commonly used to make the Form 1 root passive, and may also be used to describe participles. Another use of the Form 3 root is to form adjectives and attributes, though this is generally non-productive in modern Qevesa, this function having been assumed by Form 7.

Triliteral roots construct this form by pairing the second and third cosonants; biliteral roots geminate the second consonant.

4.1.4. Form 4

Form 4 is commonly known as the *causative* stem. Its most common function is causative; it may also convert transitive verbs into ditransitive ones. It can also have a causative meaning on verbs whose Form 1 root is intransitive, and for some verbs, may convey an assistive or factitive meaning.

Triliteral roots construct this form by pairing the first and second consonants and prefixing with *i-*. Biliteral roots geminate the first consonant and prefix with *i-*.

4.1.5. Form 5

Form 5 is commonly known as the *reciprocal* stem. It commonly conveys meanings of a reciprocal or reflexive nature, and is often used to create verbs denoting social interactions.

This form is constructed by prefixing the Form 1 stem with *me-*.

4.1.6. Form 6

Form 6 is the *reciprocal causative* stem, so called for historical reasons as it also includes a number of other intransitive meanings. It is subject to much unpredictable metaphorical and semantic and drift, so actual meanings may vary quite a lot from the Form 1 verb. True reflexives account for only a portion of the verbs in this form. Its main functions are:

- Forming reflexives from transitive roots
- Forming verbs denoting accompaniment
- Forming *autoreflexive* verbs, that is, intransitive actions performed on one's body

The only functions which are still fully productive are the forming of reflexives from transitive roots and the verbs of accompaniment. The group of autoreflexives are a closed class, overlapping with similar verbs in Form VI.

Triliteral roots construct this form by pairing the first and second consonants and prefixing with *ta-*. Biliteral roots geminate the second consonant and prefix with *ta-*.

4.1.7. Form 7

Form 7 is the *attributive* stem, indicating attributes, physical traits, or colours, and is always intransitive. It is often used as the base form from which adjectives may be derived.

For all but a small number of irregular roots, this form is formed by inserting a *-ë-* into P_{12} for triliteral roots and prefixing biliteral roots with *ë-*.

4.2. Nominalisation

Most Qevesa nouns are derived from biliteral, triliteral or quadriliteral lexical roots, and all nouns derived from a particular root are listed in a dictionary under that root entry. Some nouns, however, have solid stems, unanalysable into roots and patterns, although their consonants may be adapted into roots for derivation of new terms. Derived nouns are formed through application of particular morphological patterns; the use of patterns interlocking with root phonemes allows the formation of actual words or stems. The nominal patterns themselves carry meaning, such as "place where action is performed," "person who performs action," "name of action," or "instrument used to carry out action." The most frequently occurring noun patterns are listed in the following sections.

It is important to note that not all root forms have all nominalisation patterns, though all tables in this section give the derivation of all possible forms.

4.2.1. Active and Passive Participles

Participles are descriptive terms derived from verbs. The active participle describes the doer or the agent of the action, and the passive participle describes or refers to the object or patient of the action. Both participles are predictably derived according to the verbal root forms; the most common patterns are listed in Table 4.2.

4.2.2. Location

Another noun pattern specifies the location in which an action is performed. The patterns for location are given in Table 4.3.

Some examples:

(2) *EXAMPLES*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	**Biliteral**
1	$C_1aC_2íC_3$	$C_1aC_2í$
2	$C_1aC_2C_2íC_3$	$aC_1C_1óC_2$
3	$C_1aC_2C_3í$	$C_1aC_2C_2í$
4	$iC_1C_2aC_3í$	$iC_1C_1aC_2í$
5	$meC_1aC_2íC_3$	$meC_1aC_2í$
6	$taC_1C_2aC_3í$	$taC_1aC_2C_2í$
7	$C_1ëC_2aC_3í$	$ëC_1aC_2í$

(a) *Active participles*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	**Biliteral**
1	$C_1oC_2íC_3$	$C_1oC_2í$
2	$C_1oC_2C_2íC_3$	$oC_1C_1íC_2$
3	$C_1oC_2C_3í$	$C_1oC_2C_2í$
4	$iC_1C_2oC_3í$	$iC_1C_1oC_2í$
5	$meC_1oC_2íC_3$	$meC_1oC_2í$
6	$taC_1C_2oC_3í$	$taC_1oC_2C_2í$
7	$C_1ëC_2oC_3í$	$ëC_1oC_2í$

(b) *Passive participles*

Table 4.2. *Nominal participles*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	**Biliteral**
1	$C_1aC_2eC_3$	C_1aC_2e
2	$C_1aC_2C_2eC_3$	$aC_1C_1eC_2$
3	$C_1aC_2C_3e$	$C_1aC_2C_2e$
4	$iC_1C_2aC_3e$	$iC_1C_1aC_2e$
5	$meC_1aC_2eC_3$	meC_1aC_2e
6	$taC_1C_2aC_3e$	$taC_1aC_2C_2e$
7	$C_1ëC_2aC_3e$	$ëC_1aC_2e$

Table 4.3. *Nouns of location*

4.2.3. Instrument

A specific derivational pattern is used to indicate nouns of instrument; that is, nouns that denote items used in accomplishing a particular action. These patterns are only used with Forms I–V, and are listed in Table 4.4.

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
1	$C_1öC_2eC_3$	$C_1öC_2e$
2	$C_1öC_2C_2eC_3$	$öC_1C_1eC_2$
3	$C_1öC_2C_3e$	$C_1öC_2C_2e$
4	$iC_1C_2öC_3e$	$iC_1C_1öC_2e$
5	$meC_1öC_2eC_3$	$meC_1öC_2e$
6	$taC_1C_2öC_3e$	$taC_1öC_2C_2e$
7	$C_1ëC_2öC_3e$	$ëC_1öC_2e$

Table 4.4. *Nouns of instrument*

Some examples:

(3) *EXAMPLES*

4.2.4. Intensity, Repetition, Profession

A noun pattern exists to denote intensity or repeated actions; it also often denotes professions. The patterns are given in Table 4.5.

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
1	$C_1oC_2áC_3$	$C_1oC_2á$
2	$C_1oC_2C_2áC_3$	$oC_1C_1áC_2$
3	$C_1oC_2C_3á$	$C_1oC_2C_2á$
4	$iC_1C_2oC_3á$	$iC_1C_1oC_2á$
5	$meC_1oC_2áC_3$	$meC_1oC_2á$
6	$taC_1C_2oC_3á$	$taC_1oC_2C_2á$
7	$C_1ëC_2oC_3á$	$ëC_1oC_2á$

(a) *Intensity/Repetition*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
1	$C_1űC_2eC_3$	$C_1űC_2e$
2	$C_1űC_2C_2eC_3$	$űC_1C_1eC_2$
3	$C_1űC_2C_3e$	$C_1űC_2C_2e$
4	$iC_1C_2űC_3e$	$iC_1C_1űC_2e$
5	$meC_1űC_2eC_3$	$meC_1űC_2e$
6	$taC_1C_2űC_3e$	$taC_1űC_2C_2e$
7	$C_1ëC_2űC_3e$	$ëC_1űC_2e$

(b) *Repetition/Habitual/Intermittent*

Table 4.5. *Nouns of intensity and/or repetition*

(4) *EXAMPLES*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	**Biliteral**
1	$C_1éC_2eC_3$	$C_1éC_2e$
2	$C_1éC_2C_2eC_3$	$éC_1C_1eC_2$
3	$C_1éC_2C_3e$	$C_1éC_2C_2e$
4	$iC_1C_2éC_3e$	$iC_1C_1éC_2e$
5	$meC_1éC_2eC_3$	$meC_1éC_2e$
6	$taC_1C_2éC_3e$	$taC_1éC_2C_2e$
7	$C_1ëC_2éC_3e$	$ëC_1éC_2e$

(a) *Generic nominalisation*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	**Biliteral**
1	$C_1éC_2üC_3$	$C_1éC_2ü$
2	$C_1éC_2C_2üC_3$	$éC_1C_1íC_2$
3	$C_1éC_2C_3ü$	$C_1éC_2C_2ü$
4	$iC_1C_2éC_3ü$	$iC_1C_1éC_2ü$
5	$meC_1éC_2üC_3$	$meC_1éC_2ü$
6	$taC_1C_2éC_3ü$	$taC_1éC_2C_2ü$
7	$C_1ëC_2éC_3ü$	$ëC_1éC_2ü$

(b) *Specific nominalisation*

Table 4.6. *Generic and specific noun forms*

The abstract noun denoting the name of a profession is often given by the patterns $C_1iC_2C_2áC_3$ and $C_1iC_2C_2á$:

(5) *EXAMPLES*

4.2.5. Common Nouns

To be written...

4.2.6. Generic and Specific Nouns

The generic noun is a general nominalisation which represents the concept, process, activity or ability denoted by the root. This contrasts with the pattern that denotes a specific instance of the generic concept. Both patterns are related, and in many cases, the specific pattern is itself a derivation of the generic pattern. The patterns are listed in Table 4.6.

(6) *EXAMPLES*

5. Verbal Morphology

5.1. 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.

5.2. The Infinitive

The infinitive verb is the citation form of the verb, as well as the non-finite form used in constructions involving an auxiliary verb. It is marked by the patterns $C_1uC_2uC_3$ and C_1uC_2u .

To be written...

5.3. Conjugation

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

(7) *stem*\ASPECT;TENSE-TOPIC-MOOD

5.3.1. Aspect and Tense

Qevesa verbal morphology is structured around a three-by-three contrast of three aspects, perfective, imperfective and perfect, and three tenses, present, past and future. There are also two imperatives, one for each aspect, which are not marked for tense. These are marked by a series of ten transfix patterns, as shown in Table 5.1.

	Present	Past	Future	Imperative
Aorist series	—	Aorist	Future perfective	Perfective imperative
Imperfective series	Present	Imperfect	Future imperfective	Imperfective imperative
Perfect series	Present perfect	Pluperfect	Future perfect	—

Table 5.1. *Tense-Aspect relations*

5.3.1.1. The Aorist Series

The aorist series is generally used to indicate the perfective aspect; that is, 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 **aorist** is used to express a single completed action that occurred in the past.
- The **future perfective**, is used to express a completed action in the future.

The triliteral root patterns for the aorist series are given in Table 5.2.

Form	Aorist	Future perfective
	AOR	FUT;PFV
1	$C_1iuC_2oC_3$	$C_1iuC_2aC_3$
2	$C_1iuC_2C_2oC_3$	$C_1iuC_2C_2aC_3$
3	$C_1iuC_2C_3o$	$C_1iuC_2C_3a$
4	$iC_1C_2iuC_3o$	$iC_1C_2iuC_3a$
5	$meC_1iuC_2oC_3$	$meC_1iuC_2aC_3$
6	$taC_1C_2iuC_3o$	$taC_1C_2iuC_3a$
7	$C_1ëC_2iuC_3o$	$C_1ëC_2iuC_3a$

(a) *Triliteral roots*

Form	Aorist	Future Perfective
	AOR	FUT;PFV
1	C_1iuC_2o	C_1iuC_2a
2	$juC_1C_1oC_2$	$juC_1C_1aC_2$
3	$C_1iuC_2C_2o$	$C_1iuC_2C_2a$
4	$iC_1C_1iuC_2o$	$iC_1C_1iuC_2a$
5	meC_1iuC_2o	meC_1iuC_2a
6	$taC_1iuC_2C_2o$	$taC_1iuC_2C_2a$
7	$ëC_1iuC_2o$	$ëC_1iuC_2a$

(b) *Biliteral roots*

Table 5.2. *Aorist series transfix patterns*

5.3.1.2. The Imperfective Series

The imperfective series is used to mark events actions in progress, with significant course to the speaker.

- The **present** is used to express events that are occurring at the time of speaking, or events that happen habitually.
- The **imperfect** is used to express incomplete or continuous events in the past, or habitual past actions.
- The **future imperfective** is used to express an event that will occur in the future.

The transfix patterns for this series are listed in Table 5.3.

Form	Present	Imperfect	Future imperfective
	PRS	IPF	FUT;IPFV
1	$C_1uC_2iC_3$	$C_1uC_2oC_3$	$C_1uC_2aC_3$
2	$C_1uC_2C_2iC_3$	$C_1uC_2C_2oC_3$	$C_1uC_2C_2aC_3$
3	$C_1uC_2C_3i$	$C_1uC_2C_3o$	$C_1uC_2C_3a$
4	$iC_1C_2uC_3i$	$iC_1C_2uC_3o$	$iC_1C_2uC_3a$
5	$meC_1uC_2iC_3$	$meC_1uC_2oC_3$	$meC_1uC_2aC_3$
6	$taC_1C_2uC_3i$	$taC_1C_2uC_3o$	$taC_1C_2uC_3a$
7	$C_1ëC_2uC_3i$	$C_1ëC_2uC_3o$	$C_1ëC_2uC_3a$

(a) *Triliteral roots*

Form	Present	Imperfect	Future imperfective
	PRS	IPF	FUT;IPFV
1	C_1uC_2i	C_1uC_2o	C_1uC_2a
2	$uC_1C_1iC_2$	$uC_1C_1oC_2$	$uC_1C_1aC_2$
3	$C_1uC_2C_2i$	$C_1uC_2C_2o$	$C_1uC_2C_2a$
4	$iC_1C_1uC_2i$	$iC_1C_1uC_2o$	$iC_1C_1uC_2a$
5	meC_1uC_2i	meC_1uC_2o	meC_1uC_2a
6	$taC_1uC_2C_2i$	$taC_1uC_2C_2o$	$taC_1uC_2C_2a$
7	$ëC_1uC_2i$	$ëC_1uC_2o$	$ëC_1uC_2a$

(b) *Biliteral roots*

Table 5.3. *Imperfective series transfix patterns*

5.3.1.3. The Perfect Series

The perfect series do not show as strong a distinction in aspect as the other three series. Instead of distinguishing perfective from imperfective, this series indicates actions in the past with relevence to present or other past events.

- The **perfect** indicates actions begun in the past that are relevent in the present. It may also convey an inferential meaning.
- The **pluperfect** indicates actions or events in the past that were completed prior to some other event.
- The **future perfect** describes a future state that will result from a finished action.

The transfix patterns for this series are listed in Table 5.4.

Form	Present Perfect	Pluperfect	Future Perfect
	PRS;PERF	PLUP	FUT;PERF
1	$C_1eC_2iC_3$	$C_1eC_2oC_3$	$C_1eC_2aC_3$
2	$C_1eC_2C_2iC_3$	$C_1eC_2C_2oC_3$	$C_1eC_2C_2aC_3$
3	$C_1eC_2C_3i$	$C_1eC_2C_3o$	$C_1eC_2C_3a$
4	$iC_1C_2eC_3i$	$iC_1C_2eC_3o$	$iC_1C_2eC_3a$
5	$meC_1eC_2iC_3$	$meC_1eC_2oC_3$	$meC_1eC_2aC_3$
6	$taC_1C_2eC_3i$	$taC_1C_2eC_3o$	$taC_1C_2eC_3a$
7	$C_1ëC_2eC_3i$	$C_1ëC_2eC_3o$	$C_1ëC_2eC_3a$

(a) *Triliteral roots*

Form	Present Perfect	Pluperfect	Future Perfect
	PRS;PERF	PLUP	FUT;PERF
1	C_1eC_2i	C_1eC_2o	C_1eC_2a
2	$ëC_1C_1iC_2$	$ëC_1C_1oC_2$	$ëC_1C_1aC_2$
3	$C_1eC_2C_2i$	$C_1eC_2C_2o$	$C_1eC_2C_2a$
4	$iC_1C_1eC_2i$	$iC_1C_1eC_2o$	$iC_1C_1eC_2a$
5	meC_1eC_2i	meC_1eC_2o	meC_1eC_2a
6	$taC_1eC_2C_2i$	$taC_1eC_2C_2o$	$taC_1eC_2C_2a$
7	$ëC_1eC_2i$	$ëC_1eC_2o$	$ëC_1eC_2a$

(b) *Biliteral roots*

Table 5.4. *Perfect series transfix patterns*

5.3.1.4. The Imperatives

Qevesa possesses two imperatives, one for each aspect. The Form 7 verb roots do not possess an imperative.

- The **perfective** is used for single complete actions.
- The **imperfective** is used for continuous or otherwise incomplete actions.

The transfix patterns for this series are listed in Table 5.5.

Form	Perfective Imperative	Imperfective Imperative
	PFV;IMP	IPFV;IMP
1	$C_1iaC_2uC_3$	$C_1áC_2oC_3$
2	$C_1iaC_2C_2uC_3$	$C_1áC_2C_2oC_3$
3	$C_1iaC_2C_3u$	$C_1áC_2C_3o$
4	$iC_1C_2iaC_3u$	$iC_1C_2áC_3o$
5	$meC_1iaC_2uC_3$	$meC_1áC_2oC_3$
6	$taC_1C_2iaC_3u$	$taC_1C_2áC_3o$

(a) *Triliteral roots*

Form	Perfective Imperative	Imperfective Imperative
	PFV;IMP	IPFV;IMP
1	C_1iaC_2u	$C_1áC_2o$
2	$jaC_1C_1uC_2$	$áC_1C_1oC_2$
3	$C_1iaC_2C_2u$	$C_1áC_2C_2o$
4	$iC_1C_1iaC_2u$	$iC_1C_1áC_2o$
5	meC_1iaC_2u	$meC_1áC_2o$
6	$taC_1iaC_2C_2u$	$taC_1áC_2C_2o$

(b) *Biliteral roots*

Table 5.5. *Imperative series transfix patterns*

5.3.2. Topical Agreement

Qevesa is a topic-prominent language that tends towards a split-S active dechticaetiative morphosyntactic 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 focal case.

The topic of the verb primarily indicates its experiencer, agent/donor, patient/recipient, or theme. It agrees with the topical noun phrase in animacy and number. The suffixes for topical agreement are given in Table 5.6.

		Nominative	Absolutive	Secundative
		NOM	ABS	SDT
ANIM;SG	ASG	-(a)m	-(a)š	-(a)t
ANIM;DU	ADU	-vám	-váš	-vát
ANIM;PL	APL	-sám	-sáš	-sát
INANIM;SG	ISG	-nom	-noš	-not
INANIM;DU	IDU	-vom	-voš	-vot
INANIM;PL	IPL	-som	-soš	-nost

Table 5.6. *Primary topical agreement*

5.3.2.1. Nominative Topic

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

5.3.2.2. Absolutive Topic

An absolutive topic indicates that the noun phrase in the focal case is the involuntary experiencer of an intransitive verb; the patient of a transitive verb; and the recipient of a ditransitive verb.

5.3.2.3. Secundative Topic

A secundative topic indicates that the noun phrase in the focal case is the theme of a ditransitive verb. The secundative topic suffix is also used in cases when the topic is instrumental, locative or adverbial.

5.3.3. Modality

Qevesa predominantly indicates modality by means of suffixes, with the exception of the imperatives described in Section 5.3.1.4.

To be written...

5.4. Auxiliary Verbs

Periphrastic constructions, such as polarity, are indicated with a series of auxiliary verbs.

The auxiliary verb is inflected, taking the conjugated form of the main verb, which precedes it in the infinitive.

(8) *stem*\INF *auxiliary*\ASPECT;TENSE;MOOD-TOPIC(-MOOD)

5.4.1. Polarity

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

(9) *Misa turum niukasám.*
Misa *turum* *niuka-sám*
3PL.FOC write\INF NEG\FUT;PFV-APL;NOM
They write will not
They will not write.

5.5. Irregular Verbs

To be written...

6. Nominal Morphology

6.1. Definitions and Features

Qevesa nouns, like verbs, are highly regular in their declension. They inflect for two non-inherent features: number and case. They are also occasionally marked for animacy, though this is inherent in the noun, and thus is usually only indicated by the declension affixes.

Unlike in some languages, there is no grammatical gender. Instead, Qevesa uses natural gender, and this is an inherent feature of the noun that is neither marked nor affects declension. Explicit constructions to distinguish gender may be used when necessary.

Most nouns have three numbers, a singular, dual or quantitative, and plural, although a small, closed set have a natural number and receive inverse marking.

There are fourteen cases in the standard written language: focal, nominative, absolutive, secundative, genitive, essive, instrumental-commitative, inessive, adessive, illative, allative, elative, ablative and comparative. A fifteenth case, the vocative, exists in some spoken dialects, but this is falling out of use[1].

Nouns can also be marked for four states, which are different types of determinateness.

The citation form of all nouns is the unmarked form, that is, with no suffixes or prefixes.

6.1.1. Animacy

Nouns in the Teralo family of languages display a property known as animacy, in which nouns referring to humans, animals and other things perceived as having consciousness or life decline differently to other nouns in some forms. The animacy of a noun must be known in order to properly decline it to the primary cases and to indicate pronomial forms.

Animate nouns refer to humans, animals, spirits, some plants, and some meteorological and geological phenomena. This includes personal names, possessions, and some body parts. Most living but inanimate life forms are not included, such as the majority of plants, as wells as microbial life forms. Animacy is a fixed feature, so nouns may not switch between animate and inanimate declensions. Exceptions to this include named objects as well as some towns and cities.

[1]It is interesting to note that the vocative case is commonly used when insulting people regardless of dialect.

6.1.2. Proper Nouns

Proper nouns may be formed from words existing in the language[2], often supported by gender markers to disambiguate them from common nouns, especially when used as personal names. A noticeable morphological feature of proper nouns is that their case markers are enclitic rather than suffixed, separated by a colon or a non-breaking space. Proper names are seldom pluralised.

6.2. Nominal Declension

Qevesa noun words consist of the stem, followed by number, possessor and case marking:

(10) STATE-*stem*-NUMBER-POSSESSOR-CASE

The noun may also be marked with a prefix to indicate the state.

6.2.1. Number

Qevesa nouns have three numbers, singular, dual and plural, which are marked by a series of suffixes that display a form of inverse marking. Every countable noun has an inherent ("natural") number, which is unmarked, and is only marked for number when the noun occurs in a different number.

The dual number also functions as a quantative number. By itself, it indicates that there are exactly two of the noun. However, if a quantity is to be specified, such as with a number word or quantifier, the dual form is also used.

The suffixes that indicate number insert an epenthetic *-e-* if the stem ends in a consonant; these are given in Table 6.1. Some examples are given in Example 11.

		Suffix
Natural		-∅
Singular	SG	-(e)n
Dual/Quantitative	DU	-(e)v
Plural	PL	-(e)s

Table 6.1. *Grammatical number suffixes*

(11)

Natural	**Singular**	**Dual**	**Plural**
tolik	**toliken*	*tolikev*	*tolikes*
'boy'	'(a) boy'	'(two) boys'	'boys'
mari	*marin*	**mariv*	*maris*
'(two) eyes'	'(one) eye'	'(two) eyes'	'eyes'

[2]See Section ?? on page ?? for derivation of proper nouns.

In Example 11, note that the word *tolik* 'boy' has a singular natural number, but the word *mari* has a dual natural number. The suffixes can be applied for emphasis or to indicate quantity (i.e. *kör mariv* 'three eyes').

6.2.2. Case

Qevesa possesses fourteen cases (fifteen if the marginal vocative is included), which are divided into two groups. The primary cases, of which there are four, indicate morphosyntactic roles of the noun with respect to the verb; the remaining ten cases are the secondary cases, and these are mostly locative and adverbial cases.

The case suffixes are listed in Table 6.2. The PC columns list suffixes that follow a consonant, and the PV columns list suffixes that follow a vowel.

Case		Animate		Inanimate	
		ANIM		INANIM	
		PC	PV	PC	PV
Focal	FOC	-a	-∅	-ina	-na
	FOC_2	-a	-a	-an	-n
Nominative	NOM	-am	-m	-om	-mm
Absolutive	ABS	-aš	-š	-oš	-niš
Secundative	SDT	-ot	-t	-ot	-nt
Genitive	GEN	-ek	-k	-ok	-nk
Essive	ESS	-el	-l	-ol	-ll
Instrumental (Comitative)	INS	-etti	-tti	-onta	-nta
Inessive	INE	-essi	-ssi	-ossa	-ssa
Adessive	ADE	-edi	-di	-oda	-da
Illative	ILL	-esti	-sti	-osta	-sta
Allative	ALL	-efti	-fti	-ofta	-fta
Elative	ELA	-espi	-spi	-ospa	-spa
Ablative	ABL	-eski	-ski	-oska	-ska
Comparative	COMP	-enni	-nni	-onna	-nna
(Vocative)	VOC	-ó	-jó		

Table 6.2. *Case suffixes*

6.2.2.1. The Primary Cases

The primary cases indicate the morphosyntactic role of the noun with respect to the verb.

The *focal* cases mark the topic of the verb phrase. The role of the noun phrase marked as the focus is indicated on the verb, using the topical agreement suffixes as described in Section 5.3.2. This case has an additional form which is used when the focus of the verb phrase is already marked with one of the secondary cases, listed in Table 6.2 as FOC_2.

The *nominative* case marks the voluntary experiencer of an intransitive verb, the agent of a transitive verb, or the donor of a ditransitive verb.

The *absolutive* case marks the involuntary experiencer of an intransitive verb, the patient of a transitive verb, or the recipient of a ditransitive verb.

The *secundative* case marks the theme of a ditransitive verb.

6.2.2.2. The Secondary Cases

The secondary cases are mainly adpositional and locative cases.

The *genitive* case indicates the possessor of another noun. Pronomial possessors are indicated by means of a suffix on the possessed item.

The *essive* case indicates duration and time. It also indicates a temporary state of being or existence.

The *instrumental* case indicates the means by which the action is performed. It may also be used in a comitative sense, i.e. to indicate the person in whose company the action is carried out.

The *inessive* case indicates internal location.

The *adessive* case indicates external location.

The *illative* case indicates motion from the exterior to the interior.

The *allative* case indicates motion towards the noun.

The *elative* case indicates motion from the interior to the exterior.

The *ablative* case indicates motion away from the noun.

The *comparative* case indicates a likeness to something, or the standard to which something is compared.

A *vocative* case exists in some dialects, and is marginally used in the standard language.

6.2.2.3. Use of the Locative Cases

The locative cases are logically grouped. There are two positions (internal and external) and three directions (static, movement towards and movement away). Combining these results in the six cases, illustrated in Table 6.3.

	Interior	**Exterior**
Static	Inessive	Adessive
Movement towards	Illative	Allative
Movement away	Elative	Ablative

Table 6.3. *Locative cases*

Finer distinctions in location are given with postpositions, which are described in Section **??**.

6.2.3. State

Nouns in Qevesa have four possible 'states'. Nomimal states refer to different conditions of determinateness, which are differentiated primarily by prefixes that attach to the head noun.

The *absolute* state (not to be confused with the *absolutive case*) is the default citation form of the noun. It does not mark any form of determination, generally indicating that the noun is indefinite, and has no special markings.

The *definite* state marked the noun for definiteness, and functions similarly to the definite article in English. It is formed by the prefix *aC₁*, that is, prefixing *a-* and duplicating the first root consonant.

The *partitive* state makes the noun partitive. It functions broadly similarly to the English determiner 'some', but may also be required by some quantifiers. It is formed by the prefix *mëC₂-*, that is, prefixing *më-* and duplicating the second root consonant.

The *negative* state negates the noun, and is distinct from negating the verb phrase. It is formed by the prefix *nak-*.

The prefixes that indicate state are given in Table 6.4.

State		Prefix
Absolute	ABST	∅-
Definite	DEF	aC_1-
Partitive	PART	$mëC_2$-
Negative	NEG	nak-

Table 6.4. *Noun state prefixes*

6.3. Pronouns and Pronomial forms

Pronouns are roughly equivalent to nouns in terms of syntax and morphology. They serve as substitutes for other nouns or noun phrases that have previously been mentioned or can be inferred from context. There are a number of types of pronouns in Qevesa, including personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns and interrogative pronouns.

6.3.1. Personal Pronouns

The personal pronouns stand in for other nouns, indicating that noun's person, number and case. Most personal pronouns refer only to animate referents: a separate inanimate pronoun is used for inanimate referents. There are two first person plural pronouns, an inclusive, which includes the listener, and an exclusive, which does not.

Personal pronouns are declined to the primary cases by suffixation; other case constructions use a stem derived from the case ending combined with the suffix form of the pronoun. Although a genetive form of the personal pronouns exists, the suffix form is preferred to indicate posession.

The base forms of the pronouns are given in Table 6.5, and the cases with personal suffixes are given in Table 6.6.

	Stem		Cases				
	Root	Suffix	FOC	NOM	ABS	SDT	GEN
1SG	ë	-(a)j	ë	ëm	ëš	ët	ëk
2SG	ta	-ut/-:t	ta	tam	taš	tajot	tak
3SG	mi	-im	mi	mim	miš	mijot	mik
1DU;INC	ëv	-ëva/-iva	ëva	ëvam	ëvaš	ëvot	ëvek
1DU;EXC	čev	-(e)čev	čeva	čevam	čevaš	čevot	čevek
2DU	tav	-(a)tuv	tava	tavam	tavaš	tavot	tavek
3DU	miv	-(a)miv	miva	mivam	mivaš	mivot	mivek
1DU;INC	ës	-ësa/-isa	ësa	ësam	ësaš	ësot	ësek
1DU;EXC	čes	-(e)čes	česa	česam	česaš	česot	česek
2DU	tas	-(a)tus	tasa	tasam	tasaš	tasot	tasek
3DU	mis	-(a)mis	misa	misam	misaš	misot	misek
INANIM;SG	net	-net	netina	netom	netoš	netot	netok
INANIM;DU	nev	-nev	nevtina	nevtom	nevtoš	nevtot	nevtok
INANIM;PL	nes	-nes	nestina	nestom	nestoš	nestot	nestok

Table 6.5. *Personal pronouns*

6.3.1.1. Possessive Suffixes

To be written...

		Cases				
		ESS	INS	INE	ADE	ILL
		ël-	*ëtt-*	*ëss-*	*ëd-*	*ëst-*
1SG	*-(a)j*	ëlaj	ëttaj	ëssaj	ëdaj	ëstaj
2SG	*-ut/-ːt*	ëlut	ëttut	ëssut	ëdut	ëstut
3SG	*-im/-ːm*	ëlim	ëttim	ëssim	ëdim	ëstim
1DU;INC	*-ëva/-iva*	ëliva	ëttiva	ëssiva	ëdiva	ëstiva
1DU;EXC	*-(e)čev*	ëlečev	ëttečev	ëssečev	ëdečev	ëstečev
2DU	*-(a)tuv*	ëlatuv	ëttatuv	ëssatuv	ëdatuv	ëstatuv
3DU	*-(a)miv*	ëlamiv	ëttamiv	ëssamiv	ëdamiv	ëstamiv
1PL;INC	*-ësa/-isa*	ëlisa	ëttisa	ëssisa	ëdisa	ëstisa
1PL;EXC	*-(e)čes*	ëlečes	ëttečes	ëssečes	ëdečes	ëstečes
2PL	*-(a)tus*	ëlaset	ëttatus	ëssatus	ëdatus	ëstatus
3PL	*-(a)mis*	ëlamis	ëttamis	ëssamis	ëdamis	ëstamis
		ola-	*onti-*	*ossi-*	*od-*	*osta-*
INANIM;SG	*-net*	olanet	ontinet	ossinet	odnet	ostanet
INANIM;DU	*-nev*	olanev	ontinev	ossinev	odnev	ostanev
INANIM;PL	*-nes*	olanes	ontines	ossines	odnes	ostanes

		Cases			
		ALL	ELA	ABL	COMP
		ëft-	*ësp-*	*ësk-*	*na-*
1SG	*-(a)j*	ëftaj	ëspaj	ëskaj	náj
2SG	*-ut/-ːt*	ëftut	ësput	ëskut	nát
3SG	*-im/-ːm*	ëftim	ëspim	ëskim	naim
1DU;INC	*-ëva/-iva*	ëftiva	ëspiva	ëskiva	naiva
1DU;EXC	*-(e)čev*	ëftečev	ëspečev	ëskečev	načev
2DU	*-(a)tuv*	ëftatuv	ëspatuv	ëskatuv	natuv
3DU	*-(a)miv*	ëftamiv	ëspamiv	ëskamiv	namiv
1PL;INC	*-ësa/-isa*	ëftisa	ëspisa	ëskisa	naisa
1PL;EXC	*-(e)čes*	ëftečes	ëspečes	ëskečes	načes
2PL	*-(a)tus*	ëftatus	ëspatus	ëskatus	natus
3PL	*-(a)mis*	ëftamis	ëspamis	ëskamis	namis
		ofta-	*ospa-*	*oska-*	*no-*
INANIM;SG	*-net*	oftanet	ospanet	oskanet	nonet
INANIM;DU	*-nev*	oftanev	ospanev	oskanev	nonev
INANIM;PL	*-nes*	oftanes	ospanes	oskanes	nones

Table 6.6. *Cases with personal suffixes*

6.3.2. Reflexive and Reciprocal Pronouns

Qevesa possesses a single reflexive pronoun, *meka* 'self', used to refer to something already mentioned. It inflects with the personal suffixes to agree in person with its antecedent. A related pronoun is the reciprocal pronoun *mökem*, which does not take personal suffixes.

6.3.3. Demonstrative and Correlative Pronouns

Qevesa has three degrees of demonstrative pronouns:

Proximal
: The proximal series is marked by the prefix *to-*, and refers to things closer to the speaker than the listener;

Medial
: The medial series is marked by the prefix *ko-*, and refers to things closer to the listener than the speaker; and

Distal
: The distal series, marked by the prefix *isá-*, refers to things that are far from both speaker and listener.

There is also an interrogative series, which is marked with the prefix *qe-*. Demonstrative pronouns must agree in number, case and sometimes state with their antecedent, unlike all other types of modifiers, such as adjectives.

The demonstrative pronouns are are listed in Table 6.7.

			Proximal PROX	**Medial** MED	**Distal** DIST	**Interrogative** INT
			to-	*ko-*	*isá-*	*qe-*
Human	HUM	*-tka*	totka	kotka	isátka	qetka
Nonhuman	NH	*-ra*	tora	kora	isára	qera
Location	LOC	*-zól*	tozól	kozól	isázól	qezól
Source	SRC	*-ská*	toská	koská	isáská	qeská
Destination	DEST	*-rve*	torve	korve	isárve	qerve
Time	TIME	*-lti*	tolti	kolti	isálti	qelti
Manner	MAN	*-ttu*	tottu	kottu	isáttu	qettu
Reason	RSN	*-rte*	torte	korte	isárte	qerte

Table 6.7. *Demonstrative pronouns*

6.4. Postpositions

As a left-branching language, Qevesa tends to use postpositions almost exclusively. Many postpositions are inflected for case, and require the complement after which they are placed to adopt a particular case form as well.

7. Adjectival Morphology

Qevesa possesses two types of words that could be loosely described as adjectives:

Adjectival Verbs are stative verbs, that are derived from the Form 7 root.

Attributives are plain adjectives, and may be derived from a number of different root forms.

Adjectives possess a number of unique features: they can be directly marked for polarity, and they may also be marked for degree.

7.1. Types of Adjectival Forms

7.1.1. Adjectival Verbs

Adjectival verbs are, as the name suggests, a set of verb-like forms, derived from the Form 7 verbal roots. They may predicate sentences, and conjugate in the same manner as ordinary verbs, differing in some inflections. The transfix patterns used to indicate aspect are the primary means of deriving attributive verbs; these are given in Table 7.1.

			Plain		Intensive	
Aorist	**Aorist**	AOR	$C_1ëC_2iuC_3o$	$ëC_1iuC_2o$	$C_1ëC_2C_2iuC_3o$	$ëC_1iuC_2C_2o$
	Future Perfective	FUT;PFV	$C_1ëC_2iuC_3a$	$ëC_1iuC_2a$	$C_1ëC_2C_2iuC_3a$	$ëC_1iuC_2C_2a$
Imperfective	**Present**	PRS	$C_1ëC_2uC_3i$	$ëC_1uC_2i$	$C_1ëC_2C_2uC_3i$	$ëC_1uC_2C_2i$
	Imperfect	IPF	$C_1ëC_2uC_3o$	$ëC_1uC_2o$	$C_1ëC_2C_2uC_3o$	$ëC_1uC_2C_2o$
	Future Imperfective	FUT;IPFV	$C_1ëC_2uC_3a$	$ëC_1uC_2a$	$C_1ëC_2C_2uC_3a$	$ëC_1uC_2C_2a$
Perfect	**Present Perfect**	PRS;PERF	$C_1ëC_2eC_3i$	$ëC_1eC_2i$	$C_1ëC_2C_2eC_3i$	$ëC_1eC_2C_2i$
	Pluperfect	PLUP	$C_1ëC_2eC_3o$	$ëC_1eC_2o$	$C_1ëC_2C_2eC_3o$	$ëC_1eC_2C_2o$
	Future Perfect	FUT;PERF	$C_1ëC_2eC_3a$	$ëC_1eC_2a$	$C_1ëC_2C_2eC_3a$	$ëC_1eC_2C_2a$

Table 7.1. *Adjectival verb conjugation*

7.1.2. Attributives

Attributives may be derived from a number of different root forms, and accordingly have a number of transfix patterns. Common patterns include the *passive participle* $C_1oC_2C_3i$, and the *verbal noun* $C_1aC_2C_3u$. However, it is impossible to predict which form a root will take as the distribution is entirely arbitrary.

7.2. Adjectival Inflection

Adjectives inflect for polarity and degree. The structure of an adjective is:

(12) SUPL-*stem*-COMP-POLARITY

The adjectival stem is its base conjugated form, so for an attributive verb, this would include the aspectual, topical and modal marking.

7.2.1. Degree

Qevesa adjectives inflect to three degrees of comparison: comparative, superlative and exaggerated. These are indicated by a combination of prefixes and suffixes, which are listed in Table 7.2. Alternatively, the affixes can precede the adjective as an adverbial construction. This is preferred for predicative attributive sentences.

	Prefix	Suffix	Adverb
Comparative COMP	∅	-vén	vén
Superlative SUPL	ko-	-vén	kovén
Exaggerated EXAG	los-	-vén	losvén

Table 7.2. *Adjectival degree adverbs*

Table 7.3 gives the adjective comparison marking for the word *tomsi* (tall), and Example 13 shows two sentences demonstrating the different styles of comparitive marking.

	Adjective	Comparative	Superlative	Exaggerated
Affixes	*tomsi*	*tomsivén*	*kotomsivén*	*lostomsivén*
	tomsi	*tomsi-vén*	*ko-tomsi-vén*	*los-tomsi-vén*
	tall	tall-COMP	SUPL-tall-COMP	EXAG-tall-COMP
	‘tall’	‘taller’	‘tallest’	‘most tallest’
Adverbs	*tomsi*	*vén tomsi*	*kovén tomsi*	*losvén tomsi*
	tall	COMP tall	SUPL tall	EXAG tall
	‘tall’	‘taller’	‘tallest’	‘most tallest’

Table 7.3. *Adjectival degree inflection*

(13) a. *Cavíkja náj vén tëmusiš.*
Cavík-j-a *náj* *vén* *tëmusi-š*
friend-1SG;POS-FOC COMP.1SG COMP tall\PRS-ASG;ABS
friend my than me (more) tall is
My friend is taller than me.

b. *Cavíkja náj tëmusišvén.*
Cavík-j-a *náj* *tëmusi-š-vén*
friend-1SG;POS-FOC COMP.1SG tall\PRS-ASG;ABS-COMP
friend my than me taller is
My friend is taller than me.

7.2.2. Polarity

The attributive adjectives can be directly inflected for polarity. Both affirmative and negative suffixes exist, although the affirmative form is only used when a emphasising the existence of the adjectival property. The suffixes for polarity are given in Table 7.4.

Adjectival verbs are marked for polarity similarly to other verbs. The infinitive stem is marked with the affirmative or negative suffix, and the corresponding auxiliary verb is conjugated to the desired aspectual, personal and modal form.

	Suffix
Affirmative AFF	-zör
Negative NEG	-nk

Table 7.4. *Adjectival polarity suffixes*

(14) a. T-M-S *tëmusu*, 'to be tall':
tomsi *tomsizör* *tomsink*
tomsi *tomsi-zör* *tomsi-nk*
tall tall-AFF tall-NEG
'tall' 'very tall' 'not tall'

b. *Cavíkja tëmusunk nukiš.*
Cavík-j-a *tëmusu-nk* *nuki-š*
friend-1SG;POS-FOC tall\INF2-NEG not\PRS-ASG;ABS-NEG
friend my tall not is not
My friend is not tall.

8. Numerals

Qevesa, in common with other Teralo languages, uses a duodecimal or base-12 number system for both integers and fractions.

8.1. Cardinals

The base number words are the cardinal numerals. With the exception of a *nak* (“zero, none”), the stems for numerals cannot be composed into consonantal roots. The cardinals from 0_{10} to 21_{10} are listed in Table 8.1.

Cardinal	
0	nak
1	sen
2	ëti
3	kör
4	qese
5	pedła
6	von
7	ikuš
8	sopri
9	jok
10_{10}	meri
11_{10}	türe

Cardinal	
12_{10}	šeła
13_{10}	šełasen
14_{10}	šełajet
15_{10}	šełakör
16_{10}	šełaqese
17_{10}	šełapedła
18_{10}	šełavon
19_{10}	šełaikuš
20_{10}	šełasopri
21_{10}	šełajok
22_{10}	šełameri
23_{10}	šełatüre

Table 8.1. *Cardinal numerals from 0_{10} to 23_{10}*

Numerals from 20_{12} to $B0_{12}$ are suffixed with *-ša*:

(15) 20_{12} *ëtiša*
30_{12} *körša*
40_{12} *qeseša*
50_{12} *pedłaša*
65_{12} *vonša-pedła*
$A0_{12}$ *meriša*
BB_{12} *türeša-türe*

Numerals from 100_{12} to $B00_{12}$ are suffixed with *-toc*:

(16) 100_{12} *sentoc*
200_{12} *ëttoc*
300_{12} *körtoc*
409_{12} *qesetoc-jok*
752_{12} *ikuštoc-pedłaša-ëti*

Numerals from 1000_{12} to $B000_{12}$ use the suffix *-síva*:

(17) 1000_{12} *sensíva*
2000_{12} *ëtsíva*
4000_{12} *qesesíva*
8603_{12} *soprisíva-vontoc-kör*
$10{,}000_{12}$ *šełasíva*
$17{,}029_{12}$ *šełaikušsíva-ëtiša-jok*
$50{,}000_{12}$ *pedłašasíva*
$93{,}487_{12}$ *jokša-körsíva qesetoc-sopriša-ikuš*
$100{,}000_{12}$ *sentossíva*
$682{,}196_{12}$ *vontoc-sopriša-ëtsíva sentoc-jokša-von*

Numerals from 10^{6}_{12} to $10^{12}_{12}-1$ are formed by the addition of the suffix *-műl*:

(18)

$1{\cdot}10^{6}_{12}$	*semműl* (**senműl*)
$2{\cdot}10^{6}_{12}$	*ëtiműl*
$70{\cdot}10^{6}_{12}$	*ikuššaműl*
$300{\cdot}10^{6}_{12}$	*körtocműl*
$419{,}203{,}62\mathrm{A}_{12}$	*qesetoc-vaudi-semműl ëttoc-körsíva vontoc-ëtiša-meri*
$900{,}000{,}000{,}000_{12}$	*joktocsívaműl*

Using this system alone, it is possible to count up to $\mathrm{BBB{,}BBB{,}BBB{,}BBB}_{12}$, or $8{,}916{,}100{,}448{,}255_{10}$. Larger numerals, if needed, use a system of powers *which I haven't thought of yet.*

8.2. Ordinals

The ordinal numerals are formed by appending the suffix *-ik* to the number word. For large numerals, the suffix is applied to the last word in the sequence. The ordinals from $*0^{\text{th}}$ to $23_{10}{}^{\text{st}}$ are given in Table 8.2.

Ordinal	
0	nakik
1	senik
2	ëtik
3	körik
4	qeseik
5	pedłaik
6	vonik
7	ikušik
8	sopŕik
9	jokik
10_{10}	meŕik
11_{10}	türeik

Ordinal	
12_{10}	šełaik
13_{10}	šełasenik
14_{10}	šełajetik
15_{10}	šełakörik
16_{10}	šełaqeseik
17_{10}	šełapedłaik
18_{10}	šełavonik
19_{10}	šełaikušik
20_{10}	šełasopŕik
21_{10}	šełajokik
22_{10}	šełameŕik
23_{10}	šełatüreik

Table 8.2. *Ordinal numerals from 0_{10} to 23_{10}*

8.3. Multiplicatives

Numerals in Qevesa also have a special form for multiplicatives, formed by appending the suffix *-mi*. If the numeral stem ends in a consonant, and epenthetic vowel identical to the nucleus vowel of the previous syllable is inserted. The multiplicative numbers from 0_{10} to 23_{10} are listed in Table 8.3.

The multiplicative forms are used both in a repetitive and mathematical sense:

Multiplicative	
0×	nakami
1×	senemi
2×	ëtími
3×	körömi
4×	qesémi
5×	pedłámi
6×	vonomi
7×	ikušumi
8×	soprími
9×	jokomi
10_{10}×	merími
11_{10}×	türémi

Multiplicative	
12×	šełámi
13×	šełasenemi
14×	šełajetími
15×	šełakörömi
16×	šełaqesémi
17×	šełapedłámi
18×	šełavonomi
19×	šełaikušumi
20×	šełasoprími
21×	šełajokomi
22×	šełamerími
23×	šełatürémi

Table 8.3. *Multiplicative numerals from 0_{10} to 23_{10}*

(19) *EXAMPLES*

8.4. Fractions

Fractions are formed by appending the suffix *-Vna* where *V* is the nucleus vowel of the previous syllable — numerals ending in a vowel have this vowel lengthened instead. The fractional numbers from 0_{10} to 21_{10} are listed in Table 8.1.

Fractional	
*1/0	*nakana
1/1	*senena
1/2	ëtína
1/3	köröna
1/4	qeséna
1/5	pedłána
1/6	vonona
1/7	ikušuna
1/8	soprína
1/9	jokona
1/10	merína
1/11	türéna

Fractional	
1/12	šełana
1/13	šełasenena
1/14	šełajetína
1/15	šełaköröna
1/16	šełaqeséna
1/17	šełapedłána
1/18	šełavonona
1/19	šełaikušuna
1/20	šełasoprína
1/21	šełajokona
1/22	šełamerína
1/23	šełatüréna

Table 8.4. *Fractional numerals from 0_{10} to 23_{10}*

The numerator of a fraction precedes the denominator and is in the ordinal form:

(20) a. *ikušik šełána*
ikuš-ik *šeła-ana*
seven-ORD twelve-FRAC
seven twelfth
seven-twelfths

b. *ëtik köröna litasevok*
ët-ik *kör-öna* *litas-ev-ok*
two-ORD three-FRAC bread-DU-GEN
two third bread
two-thirds of bread

If the denominator of a fraction is a compound number, the fractional suffix is appended to the final word in the sequence:

(21) a. *vonšána*
vonša-ana
sixty-FRAC
sixtieth
(a) sixtieth

b. *sopŕik ëtišána*
sopri-ik *ëti-ša-ana*
eight-ORD two-dozen-FRAC
eight twenty-fourths

eight twenty-fourths

More complex fractions *are yet to be written about… in particular, I need:*

- *Integer ± unit fraction*
- *Integer × unit fraction*

9. Constituent Order Typology

The preceding chapters dealt primarily with the morphology of Qevesa, with only occasional references to principles of usage. All major aspects of word formation have been covered. The focus of this document shifts to syntax: how the language assembles words into meaningful sentences.

9.1. Main Clauses

Qevesa syntax is fairly fluid, and tends towards being largely left-branching or head-final. The only strict requirement of a sentence is that the verb must occur last, and that the topic, if present, must be first. All other elements may be freely ordered by importance. The general word order is thus *TOPIC–COMMENT–VERB*.

9.1.1. Topic Marking

Qevesa is a *topic-prominent* language, which means that the topic is semantically the most important argument of the verb. The topic is indicated by the noun phrase in the nominative case, with the syntactic role marked on the verb. Any of the constituent phrases can be marked as the topic; it usually consists of the element that the speaker considers to be the most important.

Qevesa verbs must agree in person and number with the topic of the sentence. Verbs are marked for the syntactic role of the topic; when this marking indicates a sufficient degree of information, such as a pronoun in the first or second person, the topical phrase may be omitted.

9.2. Verb Phrase

Transitive verb phrases in Qevesa typically consist of just a verb. *To be written...*

9.3. Noun Phrase

9.4. Adpositional phrase

9.5. Comparative constructions

9.6. Questions and interrogative constructions

Appendix A. List of Glossing Abbreviations

1 First person

2 Second person

3 Third person

ABL Ablative case

ABS Absolutive case

ABST Absolute state

ADE Adessive case

ADJ Adjective/Adjectival

ADU Animate dual

ADV Adverb(ial)

AFF Affirmative

ALE Alethic mood

ALL Allative case

ANIM Animate

AOR Aorist

APL Animate plural

ASG Animate singular

ASM Assumptive

ASS Associative

CARD Cardinal

CESS Cessative aspect

COL Collective

COM Commissive mood

COMP Comparative case

COND Conditional

COP Copula

DEF Definite state

DEST Destination

DIR Directive mood

DIST Distal

DU Dual number

DUR Durative aspect

ELA Elative case

ELECT Elective

ESS Essive case

EXAG Exaggerated

EXC Exclusive

EXIST Existential

F1 Root Form 1

F2 Root Form 2 (“intensive”)

F3 Root Form 3 (“passive”)

F4 Root Form 4 (“causative”)

F5 Root Form 5 (“reciprocal”)

F6 Root Form 6 (“reciprocal causative”)

F7 Root Form 7 (“attributive”)

FOC Focal case (topic marker)

FRAC Fraction

FREQ Frequentative aspect

FUT Future
GEN Genitive case
HAB Habitual aspect
HUM Human
HYP Hypothetical
IDU Inanimate dual
ILL Illative case
IMP Imperative
INANIM Inanimate
INC Inclusive
INCH Inchoative aspect
IND Indicative mood
INE Inessive
INF Infinitive
INF1 First Infinitive
INF2 Second Infinitive
INF3 Third Infinitive
INFR Inferential
INS Instrumental (-comitative) case
INT Interrogative
IPF Imperfect
IPFV Imperfect
IPL Inanimate plural
IRR Irrealis mood
ISG Inanimate singular
LOC Location
MAN Manner
MED Medial
MIR Admirative mood
MOMT Momentane aspect
MULT Multiplicative
NAT Natural number
NEG Negative
NH Non-Human
NOM Nominative case
OPT Optative
ORD Ordinal
PART Partitive state
PERF Perfect
PFV Perfective aspect
PL Plural number
PLUP Pluperfect
POL Polite register
POS Possessor
PROX Proximal
PRS Present
RECP Reciprocal
RSN Reason
SBJV Subjunctive
SDT Secundative case
SG Singular number
SRC Source
STAT Stative (Imperfective) aspect
SUPL Superlative
TIME Time
UNIV Universal
VOC Vocative case
VOL Volitive mood