

Qevesa Grammar

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Contents

Preface	vii
1. Background	1
1.1. Demographic and Ethnographic Information	1
2. Phonology	3
2.1. Phonotactics	3
2.1.1. Vowel inventory	3
2.1.2. Consonant inventory	4
2.1.2.1. Nasals	4
2.1.2.2. Plosives	4
2.1.2.3. Fricatives	4
2.1.2.4. Affricates	5
2.1.2.5. Liquids and Glides	5
2.1.3. Phonemic Restrictions	5
2.1.3.1. Consonant Clusters	5
2.1.3.2. Syllable Structure	5
2.1.4. Romanisation	6
2.2. Prosody	6
2.2.1. Stress	6
2.2.2. Intonation	7
3. Morphological Typology	9
3.1. Definition of Root	9
3.2. Definition of Pattern	10
3.2.1. Transfix positions	10
3.3. Dictionary Ordering	10
3.4. Other Lexical Types	10
3.4.1. Compounding	10
3.5. Head/Dependent Marking	11
4. Derivational Morphology	13
4.1. Verb Root Forms	13
4.1.1. Form 1	13
4.1.2. Form 2	14
4.1.3. Form 3	14

4.1.4.	Form 4	14
4.1.5.	Form 5	14
4.1.6.	Form 6	14
4.1.7.	Form 7	15
4.2.	Nominalisation	15
4.2.1.	Active and Passive Participles	15
4.2.2.	Location	15
4.2.3.	Instrument	17
4.2.4.	Intensity, Repetition, Profession	17
4.2.5.	Common Nouns	18
4.2.6.	Generic and Specific Nouns	18
5.	Verbal Morphology	19
5.1.	Features	19
5.2.	The Infinitive	19
5.3.	Conjugation	19
5.3.1.	Aspect and Tense	19
5.3.1.1.	The Aorist Series	20
5.3.1.2.	The Imperfective Series	20
5.3.1.3.	The Perfect Series	21
5.3.1.4.	The Imperatives	22
5.3.2.	Topical Agreement	22
5.3.2.1.	Nominative Topic	22
5.3.2.2.	Absolutive Topic	23
5.3.2.3.	Secundative Topic	23
5.3.3.	Modality	23
5.4.	Auxiliary Verbs	23
5.4.1.	Polarity	23
5.5.	Irregular Verbs	23
6.	Nominal Morphology	25
6.1.	Definitions and Features	25
6.1.1.	Animacy	25
6.1.2.	Proper Nouns	26
6.2.	Nominal Declension	26
6.2.1.	Number	26
6.2.2.	Case	27
6.2.2.1.	The Primary Cases	27
6.2.2.2.	The Secondary Cases	27
6.2.2.3.	Use of the Locative Cases	29
6.2.3.	State	29
6.3.	Pronouns and Pronominal forms	30
6.3.1.	Personal Pronouns	30
6.3.1.1.	Possessive Suffixes	31

6.3.2.	Reflexive and Reciprocal Pronouns	33
6.3.3.	Demonstrative and Correlative Pronouns	33
6.4.	Postpositions	34
7.	Adjectival Morphology	35
7.1.	Types of Adjectival Forms	35
7.1.1.	Adjectival Verbs	35
7.1.2.	Attributives	35
7.2.	Adjectival Inflection	35
7.2.1.	Degree	37
7.2.2.	Polarity	38
8.	Numerals	39
8.1.	Cardinals	39
8.2.	Ordinals	41
8.3.	Multiplicatives	41
8.4.	Fractions	41
9.	Constituent Order Typology	45
9.1.	Main Clauses	45
9.1.1.	Topic Marking	45
9.2.	Verb Phrase	45
9.3.	Noun Phrase	46
9.4.	Adpositional phrase	46
9.5.	Comparative constructions	46
9.6.	Questions and interrogative constructions	46
A.	List of Glossing Abbreviations	47

List of Tables

2.1.	Qevesa vowel phonemes	3
2.2.	Consonants	4
4.1.	Verb root forms	13
4.2.	Nominal participles	16
4.3.	Nouns of location	16
4.4.	Nouns of instrument	17
4.5.	Nouns of intensity and/or repetition	17
4.6.	Generic and specific noun forms	18
5.1.	Tense-Aspect relations	20
5.2.	Aorist series transfix patterns	20
5.3.	Imperfective series transfix patterns	21
5.4.	Perfect series transfix patterns	21
5.5.	Imperative series transfix patterns	22
5.6.	Primary topical agreement	22
6.1.	Grammatical number suffixes	26
6.2.	Case suffixes	28
6.3.	Locative cases	29
6.4.	Noun state clitics	30
6.5.	Personal pronouns	31
6.6.	Cases with personal suffixes	32
6.7.	Demonstrative pronouns	33
7.1.	Adjectival verb conjugation	36
7.2.	Adjectival degree adverbs	37
7.3.	Adjectival degree inflection	37
7.4.	Adjectival polarity suffixes	38
8.1.	Cardinal numerals from 0_{10} to 23_{10}	39
8.2.	Ordinal numerals from 0_{10} to 23_{10}	41
8.3.	Multiplicative numerals from 0_{10} to 23_{10}	42
8.4.	Fractional numerals from 0_{10} to 23_{10}	42

Preface

To be written...

1. Background

1.1. Demographic and Ethnographic Information

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2. Phonology

2.1. Phonotactics

2.1.1. Vowel inventory

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

(a) *Short vowels* (b) *Long vowels*

Table 2.1. *Qevesa vowel phonemes*

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

The vowels [ə] and [y] are front-central rounded vowels. [ə] is a mid front-central rounded vowel, and [y] is a close front-central rounded vowel.

The diphthongs are /i-/ glides /ia ie io iə iu iy/ and /u-/ glides /ua ue ui uo/, with assimilation of /ii/, /uu/ and /uy/ to /i:/, /u:/ and /y:/. /i-/ glides tend to cause palatalisation, and /u-/ glides may cause labialisation, but this is dialect-dependent, with palatalisation being far more common.

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	Labiodental	Denti-alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal	m		ɲ		j	
Plosive	p		t		c	k
Affricate			ts	tʃ		
Fricative		f	s θ	ʃ		x
Approximant		v	δ		j	
Lateral			l			
Rhotic			$\text{r} \sim \text{ɾ}$			

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. Consonants are slightly palatalised before /i/ (and its associated glides).

Consonantal length is phonemic, so [mata] and [mat:a] 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 ɲ n/. / ɲ / is a laminal denti-alveolar nasal, rather than a true dental nasal. These consonants are largely consistent in their realisation, though they may assimilate to the articulation point of adjacent plosives in clusters.

The velar nasal [ŋ] is an allophone of / ɲ n/ 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 t c k/. The plosives are often realised without an audible release when syllable-final.

2.1.2.3. Fricatives

Qevesa has eight fricative consonants: /f v θ δ s ʃ x/. /v/ and / δ / are commonly realised as approximants, and /x/ may be realised as /h/. Before /i/ or /j/, /x/ may also be realised as [ç].

2.1.2.4. Affricates

Qevesa has two affricates: /t͡s t͡ʃ/. 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.

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/. When preceding an /i-/ glide or /j/, it is realised as [ɬ].

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

The glide is the palatal glide /j/. This shows little allophonic variation, tending to induce allophonic changes in other consonants. The fricatives /v/ and /ð/ are often realised as approximants.

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.

Initial consonant clusters are not permitted, except for palatal offglides.

2.1.3.2. Syllable Structure

To be written...

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	Ě ě	F f	H h
/a/	/a:/	/ts/	/tʃ/	/ð/	/e/	/e:/	/ʲe/	/f/	/x/
I i	Í í	J j	K k	L l	M m	N n	Ň ŋ	O o	Ó ó
/i/	/i:/	/j/	/k/	/l/	/m/	/n/	/ɲ/	/o/	/o:/
Ö ö	Ő ő	P p	Q q	R r	S s	Š š	T t	U u	Ú ú
/ø/	/ø:/	/p/	/c/	/r/	/s/	/ʃ/	/t/	/u/	/u:/
Ů ů	ǚ ǚ	V v	Z z						
/y/	/y:/	/v v/	/θ/						

The Latin orthography is largely phonemic, and makes use of a number of diacritics. The diacritics 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⟩.

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 ⟨ě⟩ is sometimes written as ⟨ě̇⟩, though ⟨é̇⟩ is more common.

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 ⟨ő̇⟩ and ⟨ű̇⟩.

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

- /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 trilateral 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 (quinquilateral), although the latter are extremely rare. Quadriliteral and quinquilateral 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 permissible 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 trilateral 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 *mettúses* (“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
1	C ₁ uC ₂ uC ₃
2	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ uC ₃
3	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ u
4	iC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ u
5	meC ₁ uC ₂ uC ₃
6	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ u
7	C ₁ ëC ₂ uC ₃ u

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 although 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.

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 consonants.

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-*.

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 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-*.

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 P₁₂ for triliteral roots.

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	Root Form	Pattern
1	C ₁ aC ₂ íC ₃	1	C ₁ oC ₂ íC ₃
2	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ íC ₃	2	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ íC ₃
3	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₃ í	3	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₃ í
4	iC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ í	4	iC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃ í
5	meC ₁ aC ₂ íC ₃	5	meC ₁ oC ₂ íC ₃
6	taC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ í	6	taC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃ í
7	C ₁ ëC ₂ aC ₃ í	7	C ₁ ëC ₂ oC ₃ í

(a) *Active participles*

(b) *Passive participles*

Table 4.2. *Nominal participles*

Root Form	Pattern
1	C ₁ aC ₂ eC ₃
2	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ eC ₃
3	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₃ e
4	iC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ e
5	meC ₁ aC ₂ eC ₃
6	taC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ e
7	C ₁ ëC ₂ aC ₃ e

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
1	$C_1\ddot{o}C_2eC_3$
2	$C_1\ddot{o}C_2C_2eC_3$
3	$C_1\ddot{o}C_2C_3e$
4	$iC_1C_2\ddot{o}C_3e$
5	$meC_1\ddot{o}C_2eC_3$
6	$taC_1C_2\ddot{o}C_3e$
7	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2\ddot{o}C_3e$

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	Root Form	Pattern
1	$C_1oC_2\acute{a}C_3$	1	$C_1\ddot{u}C_2\acute{e}C_3$
2	$C_1oC_2C_2\acute{a}C_3$	2	$C_1\ddot{u}C_2C_2\acute{e}C_3$
3	$C_1oC_2C_3\acute{a}$	3	$C_1\ddot{u}C_2C_3\acute{e}$
4	$iC_1C_2oC_3\acute{a}$	4	$iC_1C_2\ddot{u}C_3\acute{e}$
5	$meC_1oC_2\acute{a}C_3$	5	$meC_1\ddot{u}C_2\acute{e}C_3$
6	$taC_1C_2oC_3\acute{a}$	6	$taC_1C_2\ddot{u}C_3\acute{e}$
7	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2oC_3\acute{a}$	7	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2\ddot{u}C_3\acute{e}$

(a) *Intensity/Repetition* (b) *Repetition/Habitual/Intermittent*

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

(4) *EXAMPLES*

The abstract noun denoting the name of a profession is often given by the patterns $C_1iC_2C_2\acute{a}C_3$ and $C_1iC_2C_2\acute{a}$:

(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.

Root Form	Pattern	Root Form	Pattern
1	$C_1eC_2\acute{e}C_3$	1	$C_1eC_2\check{u}C_3$
2	$C_1eC_2C_2\acute{e}C_3$	2	$C_1eC_2C_2\check{u}C_3$
3	$C_1eC_2C_3\acute{e}$	3	$C_1eC_2C_3\check{u}$
4	$iC_1C_2eC_3\acute{e}$	4	$iC_1C_2eC_3\check{u}$
5	$meC_1eC_2\acute{e}C_3$	5	$meC_1eC_2\check{u}C_3$
6	$taC_1C_2eC_3\acute{e}$	6	$taC_1C_2eC_3\check{u}$
7	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2eC_3\acute{e}$	7	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2eC_3\check{u}$

(a) *Generic nominalisation* (b) *Specific nominalisation*

Table 4.6. *Generic and specific noun forms*

(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 tense and aspect by transfix patterns; topical agreement and modality are marked by agglutinative suffixes. All other constructions, 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; it views the action described by the verb as a single point in time, as an event, not a process.

- 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 ₁ iuC ₂ oC ₃	C ₁ iuC ₂ aC ₃
2	C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ oC ₃	C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃
3	C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₃ o	C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₃ a
4	iC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ o	iC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ a
5	meC ₁ iuC ₂ oC ₃	meC ₁ iuC ₂ aC ₃
6	taC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ o	taC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ a
7	C ₁ ëC ₂ iuC ₃ o	C ₁ ëC ₂ iuC ₃ a

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 ₁ uC ₂ iC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ oC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ aC ₃
2	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ iC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ oC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃
3	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ i	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ o	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ a
4	iC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ i	iC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ o	iC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ a
5	meC ₁ uC ₂ iC ₃	meC ₁ uC ₂ oC ₃	meC ₁ uC ₂ aC ₃
6	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ i	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ o	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ a
7	C ₁ ëC ₂ uC ₃ i	C ₁ ëC ₂ uC ₃ o	C ₁ ëC ₂ uC ₃ a

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 relevance to present or other past events.

- The **perfect** indicates actions begun in the past that are relevant 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 ₁ eC ₂ iC ₃	C ₁ eC ₂ oC ₃	C ₁ eC ₂ aC ₃
2	C ₁ eC ₂ C ₂ iC ₃	C ₁ eC ₂ C ₂ oC ₃	C ₁ eC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃
3	C ₁ eC ₂ C ₃ i	C ₁ eC ₂ C ₃ o	C ₁ eC ₂ C ₃ a
4	iC ₁ C ₂ eC ₃ i	iC ₁ C ₂ eC ₃ o	iC ₁ C ₂ eC ₃ a
5	meC ₁ eC ₂ iC ₃	meC ₁ eC ₂ oC ₃	meC ₁ eC ₂ aC ₃
6	taC ₁ C ₂ eC ₃ i	taC ₁ C ₂ eC ₃ o	taC ₁ C ₂ eC ₃ a
7	C ₁ ëC ₂ eC ₃ i	C ₁ ëC ₂ eC ₃ o	C ₁ ëC ₂ eC ₃ a

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 ₁ iaC ₂ uC ₃	C ₁ áC ₂ oC ₃
2	C ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ uC ₃	C ₁ áC ₂ C ₂ oC ₃
3	C ₁ iaC ₂ C ₃ u	C ₁ áC ₂ C ₃ o
4	iC ₁ C ₂ iaC ₃ u	iC ₁ C ₂ áC ₃ o
5	meC ₁ iaC ₂ uC ₃	meC ₁ áC ₂ oC ₃
6	taC ₁ C ₂ iaC ₃ u	taC ₁ C ₂ áC ₃ o

Table 5.5. *Imperative series transfix patterns*

5.3.2. Topical Agreement

Qevesa is a topic-prominent language that tends towards an active-stative 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 for animacy, but not person or number. The suffixes for topical agreement are given in Table 5.6.

		Nominative	Absolutive	Secundative
		NOM	ABS	SDT
Animate	ANIM	-(a)m	-(a)š	-(a)t
Inanimate	INANIM	-nom	-noš	-not

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 niukam.*
Misa turum niuka-m
 3PL.FOC write\INF NEG\FUT;PFV-ANIM;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-committative, inessive, adessive, illative, allative, elative, ablative and comparative. A fifteenth case, the vocative, exists in some spoken dialects, but this is falling out of use¹.

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 well 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.

¹It 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 language², 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 phrase may also be preceded by a clitic 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		-Ø
Singular	SG	-(e)n
Dual/Quantitative	DU	-(e)v
Plural	PL	-(e)s

Table 6.1. *Grammatical number suffixes*

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

(11)	Natural	Singular	Dual	Plural
	<i>tolik</i>	* <i>toliken</i>	<i>tolikev</i>	<i>tolikes</i>
	‘boy’	‘(a) boy’	‘(two) boys’	‘boys’
	<i>mari</i>	<i>marin</i>	* <i>mariv</i>	<i>maris</i>
	‘(two) eyes’	‘(one) eye’	‘(two) eyes’	‘eyes’

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.

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 *FOC₂*.

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 *absolute* 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. Pronominal 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.

Case		Animate		Inanimate	
		ANIM		INANIM	
		PC	PV	PC	PV
Focal	FOC	-a	-∅	-a	-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

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’. Nominal states refer to different conditions of determinateness, which are differentiated primarily by clitics that precede the noun and any modifiers.

The *absolute* state (not to be confused with the *absolute 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 has two forms, *a* and *az*, the former preceding consonants and the latter before vowels.

The *partitive* state makes the noun partitive. It functions broadly similarly to the English determiner ‘some’, but may also be required by some quantifiers. Like the definite state, it also has two forms, *mě* and *měn*.

The *negative* state negates the noun, and is distinct from negating the verb phrase. It is formed by the clitic *nák*.

The clitics that indicate state are given in Table 6.4. The PC column lists clitics that precede a consonant, and the PV column lists clitics that precede a vowel.

State		Clitic	
		PC	PV
Absolute	ABST	Ø	Ø
Definite	DEF	a	az
Partitive	PART	mě	měn
Negative	NEG	nák	nák

Table 6.4. *Noun state clitics*

6.3. Pronouns and Pronominal 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 genitive form of the personal pronouns exists, the suffix form is preferred to indicate possession.

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	čevək
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	neta	netom	netoš	netot	netok
INANIM;DU	nev	-nev	neva	nevom	nevoš	nevot	nevok
INANIM;PL	nes	-nes	nesa	nesom	nesoš	nesot	nesok

Table 6.5. *Personal pronouns*

6.3.1.1. Possessive Suffixes

To be written...

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

		Cases			
		ALL	ELA	ABL	COMP
		<i>ëft-</i>	<i>ësp-</i>	<i>ësk-</i>	<i>na-</i>
1SG	<i>-(a)j</i>	ëftaj	ëspaj	ëskaj	náj
2SG	<i>-ut/-:t</i>	ëftut	ësput	ëskut	nát
3SG	<i>-im/-:m</i>	ëftim	ëspim	ëskim	naim
1DU;INC	<i>-ëva/-iva</i>	ëftiva	ëspiva	ëskiva	naiva
1DU;EXC	<i>-(e)čev</i>	ëftečev	ëspečev	ëskečev	načev
2DU	<i>-(a)tuv</i>	ëftatuv	ëspatuv	ëskatuv	natuv
3DU	<i>-(a)miv</i>	ëftamiv	ëspamiv	ëskamiv	namiv
1PL;INC	<i>-ësa/-isa</i>	ëftisa	ëspisa	ëskisa	naisa
1PL;EXC	<i>-(e)čes</i>	ëftečes	ëspečes	ëskečes	načes
2PL	<i>-(a)tus</i>	ëftatus	ëspatus	ëskatus	natus
3PL	<i>-(a)mis</i>	ëftamis	ëspamis	ëskamis	namis
		<i>ofta-</i>	<i>ospa-</i>	<i>oska-</i>	<i>no-</i>
INANIM;SG	<i>-net</i>	oftanet	ospanet	oskanet	nonet
INANIM;DU	<i>-nev</i>	oftanev	ospanevev	oskanev	nonev
INANIM;PL	<i>-nes</i>	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 listed in Table 6.7.

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

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.

Aorist	Aorist	AOR	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2iuC_3o$
	Future Perfective	FUT;PFV	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2iuC_3a$
Imperfective	Present	PRS	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2uC_3i$
	Imperfect	IPF	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2uC_3o$
	Future Imperfective	FUT;IPFV	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2uC_3a$
Perfect	Present Perfect	PRS;PERF	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2eC_3i$
	Pluperfect	PLUP	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2eC_3o$
	Future Perfect	FUT;PERF	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2eC_3a$

(a) *Plain Attributive Verbs*

Aorist	Aorist	AOR	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2C_2iuC_3o$
	Future Perfective	FUT;PFV	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2C_2iuC_3a$
Imperfective	Present	PRS	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2C_2uC_3i$
	Imperfect	IPF	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2C_2uC_3o$
	Future Imperfective	FUT;IPFV	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2C_2uC_3a$
Perfect	Present Perfect	PRS;PERF	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2C_2eC_3i$
	Pluperfect	PLUP	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2C_2eC_3o$
	Future Perfect	FUT;PERF	$C_1\ddot{e}C_2C_2eC_3a$

(b) *Intensive Attributive Verbs*

Table 7.1. *Adjectival verb conjugation*

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 comparative marking.

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

Table 7.3. *Adjectival degree inflection*

- (13) a. *Cavíkja náj vén těmusiš.*
Cavík-j-a náj vén těmusi-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 těmusišvén.*
Cavík-j-a náj těmusi-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 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 *těmusu*, ‘to be tall’:
tomsi tomsizör tomsink
tomsi tomsi-zör tomsi-nk
 tall tall-AFF tall-NEG
 ‘tall’ ‘very tall’ ‘not tall’
- b. *Cavíkja těmusunk nukiš.*
Cavík-j-a těmusu-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		Cardinal	
0	nak	10	ševa
1	sen	11	ševasen
2	ėti	12	ševajet
3	kör	13	ševakör
4	qese	14	ševaqese
5	von	15	ševavon
6	neca	16	ševaneca
7	ikuš	17	ševaikuš
8	sopri	28	ševasopri
9	jok	29	ševajok
A	meri	2A	ševameri
B	türe	2B	ševatüre

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

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

- (15) 20₁₂ *ėtiša*
 30₁₂ *körša*
 40₁₂ *qeseša*
 50₁₂ *vonša*
 70₁₂ *ikušša* (*ikušša)
 A0₁₂ *meriša*
 BB₁₂ *türeša-türe*

Numerals from 100₁₂ to B00₁₂ are suffixed with *-toc*:

- (16) 100₁₂ *sentoc*
 200₁₂ *ëttoc*
 300₁₂ *körtoc*
 409₁₂ *qesetoc-jok*
 752₁₂ *ikuštoc-vonša-ėti*

Numerals from 1000₁₂ to B000₁₂ use the suffix *-síva*:

- (17) 1000₁₂ *sensíva*
 2000₁₂ *ëtsíva*
 4000₁₂ *qesesíva*
 8603₁₂ *soprisíva-necatoc-kör*
 10,000₁₂ *ševasíva*
 17,029₁₂ *ševaikušsíva-ėtiša-jok*
 50,000₁₂ *vonšasíva*
 93,487₁₂ *jokša-körsíva qesetoc-sopriša-ikuš*
 100,000₁₂ *sentocsíva*
 682,196₁₂ *necatoc-sopriša-ëtsíva sentoc-jokša-neca*

Numerals from 10⁶₁₂ to 10¹²₁₂-1 are formed by the addition of the suffix *-múl*:

- (18) 1·10⁶₁₂ *semmúl* (*senmúl)
 2·10⁶₁₂ *ëtimúl*
 70·10⁶₁₂ *ikuššamúl*
 300·10⁶₁₂ *körtocmúl*
 419,203,62A₁₂ *qesetoc-ševasoprimúl ëttoc-körsíva necatoc-ėtiša-meri*
 900,000,000,000₁₂ *joktocsívamúl*

Using this system alone, it is possible to count up to 1BBB,BBB,BBB,BBB₁₂, or 17,832,200,896,511₁₀¹.

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 *0th to 23₁₀st are given in Table 8.2.

Ordinal		Ordinal	
0	nakik	12 ₁₀	ševaik
1	senik	13 ₁₀	ševasenik
2	etik	14 ₁₀	ševajetik
3	körík	15 ₁₀	ševakörík
4	qeseik	16 ₁₀	ševaqeseik
5	vonik	17 ₁₀	ševavonik
6	necaik	18 ₁₀	ševanecaik
7	ikušik	19 ₁₀	ševaikušik
8	soprík	20 ₁₀	ševasoprík
9	jokik	21 ₁₀	ševajokik
10 ₁₀	merík	22 ₁₀	ševamerík
11 ₁₀	türeik	23 ₁₀	ševatüreik

Table 8.2. *Ordinal numerals from 0₁₀ to 23₁₀*

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, an epenthetic vowel identical to the nucleus vowel of the previous syllable is inserted. The multiplicative numbers from 0₁₀ to 23₁₀ are listed in Table 8.3.

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

(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 0₁₀ to 21₁₀ are listed in Table 8.1.

¹In full, this is *ševatüretoc-türeša-türesívamül türetoc-türeša-türemül türetoc-türeša-türesíva türetoc-türeša-türe*

Multiplicative		Multiplicative	
0×	nakami	12×	ševámi
1×	senemi	13×	ševasenemi
2×	ětími	14×	ševajetími
3×	körömi	15×	ševakörömi
4×	qesémi	16×	ševaquesémi
5×	vonomi	17×	ševavonomi
6×	necámi	18×	ševanecámi
7×	ikušumi	19×	ševaikušumi
8×	soprími	20×	ševasoprími
9×	jokomi	21×	ševajokomi
10 ₁₀ ×	merími	22×	ševamerími
11 ₁₀ ×	türémi	23×	ševatürémi

Table 8.3. *Multiplicative numerals from 0₁₀ to 23₁₀*

Fractional		Fractional	
* $\frac{1}{0}$	*nakana	$\frac{1}{12}$	ševana
$\frac{1}{1}$	*senena	$\frac{1}{13}$	ševasenena
$\frac{1}{2}$	ětína	$\frac{1}{14}$	ševajetína
$\frac{1}{3}$	köröna	$\frac{1}{15}$	ševaköröna
$\frac{1}{4}$	qeséna	$\frac{1}{16}$	ševaqueséna
$\frac{1}{5}$	vonona	$\frac{1}{17}$	ševavonona
$\frac{1}{6}$	necána	$\frac{1}{18}$	ševanecána
$\frac{1}{7}$	ikušuna	$\frac{1}{19}$	ševaikušuna
$\frac{1}{8}$	soprína	$\frac{1}{20}$	ševasoprína
$\frac{1}{9}$	jokona	$\frac{1}{21}$	ševajokona
$\frac{1}{10}$	merína	$\frac{1}{22}$	ševamerína
$\frac{1}{11}$	türéna	$\frac{1}{23}$	ševatüréna

Table 8.4. *Fractional numerals from 0₁₀ to 23₁₀*

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

- (20) a. *ikušik ševána*
ikuš-ik ševa-ana
 seven-ORD twelve-FRAC
 seven twelfth
 seven-twelfths
- b. *etik 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. *necašana*
necaša-ana
 sixty-FRAC
 sixtieth
 (a) sixtieth
- b. *soprik ëtišana*
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	COM Commissive mood
2 Second person	COMP Comparative case
3 Third person	COND Conditional
ABL Ablative case	COP Copula
ABS Absolutive case	DEF Definite state
ABST Absolute state	DEST Destination
ADE Adessive case	DIR Directive mood
ADJ Adjective/Adjectival	DIST Distal
ADU Animate dual	DU Dual number
ADV Adverb(ial)	DUR Durative aspect
AFF Affirmative	ELA Elative case
ALE Alethic mood	ELECT Elective
ALL Allative case	ESS Essive case
ANIM Animate	EXAG Exaggerated
AOR Aorist	EXC Exclusive
APL Animate plural	EXIST Existential
ASG Animate singular	F1 Root Form 1
ASM Assumptive	F2 Root Form 2 (“intensive”)
ASS Associative	F3 Root Form 3 (“passive”)
CARD Cardinal	F4 Root Form 4 (“causative”)
CESS Cessative aspect	F5 Root Form 5 (“reciprocal”)
COL Collective	F6 Root Form 6 (“reciprocal causative”)

F7 Root Form 7 (“attributive”)	LOC Location
FOC Focal case (topic marker)	MAN Manner
FRAC Fraction	MED Medial
FREQ Frequentative aspect	MIR Admirative mood
FUT Future	MOMT Momentane aspect
GEN Genitive case	MULT Multiplicative
HAB Habitual aspect	NAT Natural number
HUM Human	NEG Negative
HYP Hypothetical	NH Non-Human
IDU Inanimate dual	NOM Nominative case
ILL Illative case	OPT Optative
IMP Imperative	ORD Ordinal
INANIM Inanimate	PART Partitive state
INC Inclusive	PERF Perfect
INCH Inchoative aspect	PFV Perfective aspect
IND Indicative mood	PL Plural number
INE Inessive	PLUP Pluperfect
INF Infinitive	POL Polite register
INF1 First Infinitive	POS Possessor
INF2 Second Infinitive	PROX Proximal
INF3 Third Infinitive	PRS Present
INFR Inferential	RECP Reciprocal
INS Instrumental (-comitative) case	RSN Reason
INT Interrogative	SBJV Subjunctive
IPF Imperfect	SDT Secundative case
IPFV Imperfect	SG Singular number
IPL Inanimate plural	SRC Source
IRR Irrealis mood	STAT Stative (Imperfective) aspect
ISG Inanimate singular	SUPL Superlative

TIME Time

UNIV Universal

VOC Vocative case

VOL Volitive mood