

Qevesa Grammar

Robbie Smith

Working Draft: October 30, 2013

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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 i:		u u:
Mid	e e:		o o:
Open		a a:	

Table 2.1. *Qevesa* vowel phonemes

There are ten distinct vowel phonemes in *Qevesa*, listed in Table 2.1. These are divided into five long and five short phonemes, differing in length but not quality. Long vowels are held approximately twice as long as their short counterparts.

Although the vowels [e] and [o] are conventionally written using the close-mid IPA symbols, they are more accurately transcribed as mid vowels [ɛ] and [ɔ]. In contrast to the consonants, the vowels show very little variation.

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

2.1.2. Consonant inventory

Qevesa possesses twenty-one 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.

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Denti-alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		ɲ		j	$[\text{ŋ}]$	
Plosive	p		t		c	k	
Affricate			ts dz	tʃ			
Fricative		f v	s θ ð	ʃ	$[\text{ç}]$	x	h
Approximant					j		
Lateral			l				
Rhotic			r				

Table 2.2. *Consonants*

2.1.2.1. Nasals

Qevesa has three nasal consonants: /m ɲ j /. / 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 $[\text{ŋ}]$ is an allophone of / ɲ j / 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 with a slight aspiration when syllable-final; /c/ may become an affricate $[\text{çç}]$.

2.1.2.3. Fricatives

Qevesa has eight fricative consonants: /f v θ ð s ʃ x h/. /v/ and /ð/ are commonly realised as approximants. Before /i/ or /j/, /x/ and /h/ may be realised as $[\text{ç}]$.

2.1.2.4. Affricates

Qevesa has three affricates: /ts dz tʃ/. /ts/ and /tʃ/ are consistently realised as affricates and behave as though they were a single consonant. /dz/ may be realised as a plain fricative $[\text{z}]$ when word initial or preceded by another non-fricative consonant.

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 $[\text{ɬ}]$. in some clusters, such as /tl/.

The rhotic consonant is the alveolar trill /r/. It may be realised as a tap $[\text{ɾ}]$ 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 and labial offglides.

2.1.3.2. Syllable Structure

Qevesa syllables are strictly CV(C).

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	H h
/a/	/a:/	/ts/	/tʃ/	/ð/	/e/	/e:/	/h/
I i	Í í	J j	K k	Kh kh	L l	M m	N n
/i/	/i:/	/j/	/k/	/x/	/l/	/m/	/n/
Ň ň	O o	Ó ó	P p	Ph ph	Q q	R r	S s
/ɲ/	/o/	/o:/	/p/	/f/	/c/	/r/	/s/
Š š	T t	TH th	U u	Ú ú	V v	Z z	
/ʃ/	/t/	/θ/	/u/	/u:/	/v/	/z dz/	

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

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⟩.

The digraphs ⟨kh⟩, ⟨ph⟩ and ⟨th⟩ represent the phonemes /x/, /f/ and /θ/. These phonemes were originally pronounced as aspirated stops in Common Therasa, and became fricatives in Qevesa. The letter ⟨z⟩ represents the affricate /dz/.

Geminate consonants are doubled, except for the digraphs which only double the first consonant.

2.2. Prosody

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

2.2.1. Stress

Stress always falls on the penultimate syllable of a word. *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.

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4. Verbal Morphology

4.1. 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.

4.2. 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 ??? (“constructions”), from the root *mukut* (“build, construct”). There are five primary forms, numbered I–V; these are listed in Table 4.1.

Form	Pattern
I	C ₁ uC ₂ uC ₃
II	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ u
III	uC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃
IV	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ u
V	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ u

Table 4.1. *Verb root forms*

4.2.1. Form I: Active

Form I 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 I are often transitive.

4.2.2. Form II: Intensive

Form II 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.

4.2.3. Form III: Causative

Form III 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.

4.2.4. Form VI: Reciprocal

Form VI 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.

4.2.5. Form V: Reciprocal Causative

Form V 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:

4.3. 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 $C_1u C_2u C_3$.

To be written...

4.4. 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:

(2) *stem* \ ASPECT-MOOD-TOPIC

4.4.1. Aspect and Tense

Qevesa verbal morphology primarily indicates aspect rather than tense. There are seven aspectual paradigms, each marked with a transfix pattern. These are given in Table 4.2.

Aspect		I	II	III	IV	V
Perfective	PERF	C ₁ uC ₂ oC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ o	uC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ o	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ o
Momentane	MOMT	C ₁ uC ₂ aC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ a	uC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ a	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ a
Progressive	PROG	C ₁ iC ₂ uC ₃	C ₁ iC ₂ C ₃ u	iC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃	meC ₁ iC ₂ C ₃ u	taC ₁ C ₂ iC ₃ u
Durative	DUR	C ₁ aC ₂ uC ₃	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₃ u	aC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃	meC ₁ aC ₂ C ₃ u	taC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ u
Habitual	HAB	C ₁ oC ₂ uC ₃	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₃ u	oC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃	meC ₁ oC ₂ C ₃ u	taC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃ u
Inchoative	INCH	C ₁ oC ₂ aC ₃	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₃ a	oC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃	meC ₁ oC ₂ C ₃ a	taC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃ a
Cessative	CESS	C ₁ oC ₂ oC ₃	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₃ o	oC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃	meC ₁ oC ₂ C ₃ o	taC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃ o

Table 4.2. *Aspectual transfix patterns***4.4.1.1. Perfective**

The perfective aspect indicate activities viewed as a single whole. It is typically used to speak of singular events completed in the past.

4.4.1.2. Momentane

The momentane aspect indicates brief single-time activities or states.

4.4.1.3. Progressive

The progressive aspect indicates ongoing actions with a change of state. It may also be used to describe intermittent actions.

4.4.1.4. Durative

The durative aspect inicates ongoing actions without a change of state, or actions which last some time.

4.4.1.5. Habitual

The habitual aspect indicates actions that occur habitually. Like the progressive, it may also describe intermittent actions, but in a general sense.

4.4.1.6. Inchoative

The inchoative aspect emphasises the beginning of an activity or state.

4.4.1.7. Cessative

The cessative aspect emphasises the ending of an activity or state.

4.4.2. Topical Agreement

Many of the languages in the ??? family, which includes Therasa and its descendants, employ some variant on an active-stative morphosyntactic alignment. Verbs in Qevesa and related languages are marked for topic, which may be the agent, patient or some oblique noun phrase, irrespective of valency of the verb. This is hypothesised to be a remnant of a system of polypersonal agreement which collapsed into a single suffix that indicated the most important element in the clause.

Nouns are marked with a corresponding *focal case*¹ which serves to indicate the topic of the clause. The topic markers on the verb therefore indicate the role of the topical noun. Syntax also plays a role: nouns in the focal case are always the first element in a clause.

The suffixes for topical agreement are given in Table 4.3.

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

Table 4.3. *Topical agreement*

4.4.2.1. Nominative Topic

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

4.4.2.2. 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. Only animate nouns may be voluntary agents of intransitive verbs; inanimate nouns are always marked as involuntary experiencers of intransitive verbs. Furthermore, some intransitive verbs are always involuntary.

4.4.2.3. Oblique Topic

An oblique topic indicates that the noun phrase in the focal case is something other than the agent or patient of a transitive verb. For ditransitive verbs it normally indicates the theme or direct object.

¹See Section 5.2.2.1 for more details

4.4.3. Modality

Qevesa predominantly indicates modality by means of suffixes, with the exception of the imperatives described in Section ???. There are five synthetic moods: indicative, mirative, conditional, optative and potential. These are listed in Table 4.4; the left column indicates suffixes that follow a consonant, and the right column suffixes that follow a vowel.

Mood		Suffix	
Indicative	IND	-Ø	-Ø
Mirative	MIR	-ine	-nne
Conditional	COND	-isi	-ssi
Optative	OPT	-iti	-tti
Potential	POT	-ill	-ll

Table 4.4. *Verbal mood suffixes*

The *indicative* mood is used for factual statements and positive beliefs, and as such is the default mood. It is marked with a null morpheme.

The *mirative* mood is used to express surprise and also doubt, irony, sarcasm, etc. It is used to express statements contrary to the speaker's expectations or state of mind.

The *conditional* mood is used to speak of an event whose realization is dependent upon another condition.

The *optative* mood is used to express hopes, wishes and desires.

The *potential* mood indicates that, in the opinion of the speaker, the action or occurrence is considered likely. Some of its uses overlap with the conditional mood.

4.5. Irregular Verbs

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5. Nominal Morphology

5.1. 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.

5.1.1. 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 pronominal 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.

5.1.2. 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.

5.2. Nominal Declension

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

(3) STATE=*stem*-NUMBER-POSSESSOR-CASE

The noun phrase may also be preceded by a clitic to indicate the state.

5.2.1. 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 5.1. Some examples are given in Example 4.

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

Table 5.1. *Grammatical number suffixes*

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

(4)	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 4, 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. *koro mariv* ‘three eyes’).

5.2.2. 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 5.2. The left columns list suffixes that follow a consonant, and the right columns list suffixes that follow a vowel.

5.2.2.1. 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 4.4.2. 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 5.2 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 *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.

5.2.2.2. 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.

Noun Case		Animate		Inanimate	
		ANIM		INANIM	
Focal	FOC	-a	-Ø	-a	-na
	FOC ₂	-a	-a	-an	-n
Nominative	NOM	-am	-m	-om	-m
Absolutive	ABS	-aš	-š	-oš	-š
Secundative	SDT	-ot	-t	-ot	-t
Genitive	GEN	-ek	-k	-ok	-k
Essive	ESS	-el	-l	-ol	-l
Instrumental (Comitative)	INS	-etti	-tti	-onta	-nta
Inessive	INE	-essi	-ssi	-ossa	-ssa
Adessive	ADE	-ezi	-zi	-oza	-za
Illative	ILL	-esti	-sti	-osta	-sta
Allative	ALL	-esphi	-sphi	-ospha	-spha
Elative	ELA	-espi	-spi	-ospa	-spa
Ablative	ABL	-eski	-ski	-oska	-ska
Comparative	COMP	-enni	-nni	-onna	-nna
(Vocative)	VOC	-ó	-jó		

Table 5.2. 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.

5.2.2.3. 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 5.3.

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

Table 5.3. *Locative cases*

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

5.2.3. 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 *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 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, *mie* and *mies*.

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

The clitics that indicate state are given in Table 5.4. The left column lists clitics that precede a consonant, and the right column lists clitics that precede a vowel.

State	Clitic
Absolute ABST	Ø Ø
Definite DEF	a az
Partitive PART	mie mies
Negative NEG	en en

Table 5.4. *Noun state clitics*

5.3. 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.

5.3.1. 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. The suffix form is used to indicate possession; pronouns are not declined to the genitive case.

The base forms of the pronouns are given in Table 5.5, and the cases with personal suffixes are given in Table 5.6.

	Stem		Cases			
	Root	Suffix	FOC	NOM	ABS	SDT
1SG	je	-(a)j	je	jem	ješ	jeut
2SG	ta	-ut/-:t	ta	tam	taš	tait
3SG	mi	-im	mi	mim	miš	miot
1DU;INC	jev	-eva/-iva	jeva	jevam	jevaš	jevot
1DU;EXC	čev	-(e)čev	čeva	čevam	čevaš	čevot
2DU	tav	-(a)tuv	tava	tavam	tavaš	tavot
3DU	miv	-(a)miv	miva	mivam	mivaš	mivot
1DU;INC	jes	-esa/-isa	jesa	jesam	jesaš	jesot
1DU;EXC	čes	-(e)čes	česa	česam	česaš	česot
2DU	tas	-(a)tus	tasa	tasam	tasaš	tasot
3DU	mis	-(a)mis	misa	misam	misaš	misot
INANIM;SG	net	-net	neta	netom	netoš	netot
INANIM;DU	nev	-nev	neva	nevom	nevoš	nevot
INANIM;PL	nes	-nes	nesa	nesom	nesoš	nesot

Table 5.5. *Personal pronouns*

5.3.1.1. Possessive Suffixes

To be written...

Cases										
	ESS	INS	INE	ADE	ILL	ALL	ELA	ABL	COMP	
	<i>el-</i>	<i>ett-</i>	<i>ess-</i>	<i>ez-</i>	<i>est-</i>	<i>esph-</i>	<i>esp-</i>	<i>esk-</i>	<i>na-</i>	
1SG	-(<i>a</i>) <i>j</i>	elaj	ettaj	essaj	ezaj	estaj	esphaj	espaj	eskaj	náj
2SG	-(<i>ut</i>)- <i>t</i>	elut	ettut	essut	ezut	estut	esphut	esput	eskut	nát
3SG	-(<i>im</i>)- <i>m</i>	elim	etlim	essim	ezim	estim	esphim	espin	eskim	naim
1DU;INC	-(<i>eva</i>)- <i>iva</i>	eliva	ettiva	essiva	eziva	estiva	esphiva	espiva	eskiva	naiva
1DU;EXC	-(<i>e</i>) <i>čev</i>	elečev	ettečev	essečev	ezečev	estečev	esphečev	espečev	eskečev	načev
2DU	-(<i>a</i>) <i>tuv</i>	elativ	ettativ	essativ	ezativ	estatuv	esphativ	espatuv	eskativ	natuv
3DU	-(<i>a</i>) <i>miv</i>	elamiv	ettamiv	essamiv	ezamiv	estamiv	esphamiv	espaniv	eskaniv	namiv
1PL;INC	-(<i>esd</i>)- <i>isa</i>	elisa	ettisa	essisa	ezisa	estisa	esphisa	espisa	eskisa	naisa
1PL;EXC	-(<i>e</i>) <i>čes</i>	elečes	ettečes	essečes	ezečes	estečes	esphečes	espečes	eskečes	načes
2PL	-(<i>a</i>) <i>tus</i>	elaset	ettatus	essatus	ezatus	estatut	esphatus	espatut	eskatus	natus
3PL	-(<i>a</i>) <i>mis</i>	elamis	ettamis	essamis	ezamis	estamis	esphamis	espannis	eskanis	namis
	<i>ola-</i>	<i>onti-</i>	<i>ossi-</i>	<i>oz-</i>	<i>osta-</i>	<i>ospha-</i>	<i>ospa-</i>	<i>oska-</i>	<i>no-</i>	
INANIM;SG	-(<i>net</i>)	olanet	oninet	ossinet	oznet	ostanet	osphanet	ospanet	oskanet	nonet
INANIM;DU	-(<i>nev</i>)	olanev	ontnev	ossinev	oznev	ostanev	osphanev	ospane	oskanev	nonev
INANIM;PL	-(<i>nes</i>)	olanes	ontnes	ossines	oznes	ostanes	osphanes	ospanes	oskanes	nones

Table 5.6. Cases with personal suffixes

5.3.2. Reflexive and Reciprocal Pronouns

Qevesa possesses a single reflexive pronoun, *mékha* ‘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 *mokhem*, which does not take personal suffixes.

5.3.3. 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 5.7.

			Proximal	Medial	Distal	Interrogative
			PROX	MED	DIST	INT
			<i>co-</i>	<i>ko-</i>	<i>isá-</i>	<i>qe-</i>
Human	HUM	<i>-ka</i>	coka	koka	isáka	qeka
Nonhuman	NH	<i>-ra</i>	cora	kora	isára	qera
Location	LOC	<i>-zie</i>	cozie	kozie	isázie	qezie
Source	SRC	<i>-ská</i>	coská	koská	isáská	queská
Destination	DEST	<i>-rve</i>	corve	korve	isárve	qerve
Time	TIME	<i>-lti</i>	colti	kolti	isálti	qelti
Manner	MAN	<i>-ttu</i>	cottu	kottu	isáttu	qettu
Reason	RSN	<i>-rte</i>	corte	korte	isárte	qerte

Table 5.7. *Demonstrative pronouns*

5.4. 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.

6. 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.

6.1. Types of Adjectival Forms

6.1.1. 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.

6.2. Adjectival Inflection

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

(5) 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.

6.2.1. 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 6.1. Alternatively, the affixes can precede the adjective as an adverbial construction. This is preferred for predicative attributive sentences.

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

Table 6.1. *Adjectival degree adverbs*

- (6) a. *Cavíkja náj vén tiemusiš.*
Cavík-j-a náj vén tiemusi-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 tiemusišvén.*
Cavík-j-a náj tiemusi-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.

6.2.2. 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 6.2.

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.

Affirmative	AFF	-zor
Negative	NEG	-xa

Table 6.2. *Adjectival polarity suffixes*

- (7) a. T-M-S *tiemusu*, ‘to be tall’:
tomsí tomsizor tomsixa
tomsí tomsi-zor tomsi-xa
tall tall-AFF tall-NEG
 ‘tall’ ‘very tall’ ‘not tall’
- b. *Cavíkja tiemusuxa nukiš.*

Cavík-j-a *tiemusu-xa* *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.

7. Numerals

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

7.1. 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 7.1.

<i>Cardinal</i>	Cardinal
0 <i>nax</i>	10 <i>ševa</i>
1 <i>sen</i>	11 <i>ševasen</i>
2 <i>heti</i>	12 <i>ševaheti</i>
3 <i>koro</i>	13 <i>ševakoro</i>
4 <i>qese</i>	14 <i>ševaqese</i>
5 <i>neca</i>	15 <i>ševaneca</i>
6 <i>zum</i>	16 <i>ševazum</i>
7 <i>ikuš</i>	17 <i>ševaikuš</i>
8 <i>soppi</i>	28 <i>ševasoppi</i>
9 <i>jokka</i>	29 <i>ševajokka</i>
A <i>mieri</i>	2A <i>ševamieri</i>
B <i>túre</i>	2B <i>ševatúre</i>

Table 7.1. *Cardinal numerals from 0_{10} to 23_{10}*

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

- (8) 20₁₂ *hetiša*
 30₁₂ *koroša*
 40₁₂ *qeseša*
 50₁₂ *necaša*
 70₁₂ *ikušša*
 A0₁₂ *mieriša*
 BB₁₂ *túreša-túre*

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

- (9) 100₁₂ *sentoc*
 200₁₂ *hettoc*
 300₁₂ *korotoc*
 409₁₂ *qesetoc-jokka*
 752₁₂ *ikuštoc-necaša-heti*

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

- (10) 1000₁₂ *sensíva*
 2000₁₂ *hetsíva*
 4000₁₂ *qesesíva*
 8603₁₂ *soppisíva-zumtoc-koro*
 10,000₁₂ *ševasíva*
 17,029₁₂ *ševaikušsíva-hetiša-jokka*
 50,000₁₂ *necašasíva*
 93,487₁₂ *jokkaša-korosíva qesetoc-soppiša-ikuš*
 100,000₁₂ *sentocsíva*
 582,196₁₂ *necatoc-soppiša-hetsíva sentoc-jokkaša-zum*

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

- (11) 1·10⁶₁₂ *semmúl* (**senmúl*)
 2·10⁶₁₂ *hetimúl*
 70·10⁶₁₂ *ikuššamúl*
 300·10⁶₁₂ *korotocmúl*
 419,203,52A₁₂ *qesetoc-ševasoppimúl hettoc-korosíva necatoc-hetiša-mieri*
 900,000,000,000₁₂ *jokkatocsívamúl*

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

7.2. 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 7.2.

Ordinal		Ordinal	
0	naxik	12 ₁₀	ševaik
1	senik	13 ₁₀	ševasenik
2	hetik	14 ₁₀	ševahetik
3	koroik	15 ₁₀	ševakoroik
4	qeseik	16 ₁₀	ševaqeseik
5	necaik	17 ₁₀	ševanecaik
6	zumik	18 ₁₀	ševazumik
7	ikušik	19 ₁₀	ševaikušik
8	soppík	20 ₁₀	ševasoppík
9	jokkaik	21 ₁₀	ševajokkaik
10 ₁₀	merík	22 ₁₀	ševamerík
11 ₁₀	túreik	23 ₁₀	ševatúreik

Table 7.2. Ordinal numerals from 0₁₀ to 23₁₀

7.3. 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 7.3.

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

(12) *EXAMPLES*

7.4. Fractions

Fractions are formed by appending the suffix *-Vna* where *V* is the nucleus vowel of the previous syllable. The fractional numbers from 0₁₀ to 21₁₀ are listed in Table 7.1.

¹In full, this is *ševatúretoc-túreša-túresívamúl túretoc-túreša-túremúl túretoc-túreša-túresíva túretoc-túreša-túre*

Multiplicative	Multiplicative
0× naxami	12× ševami
1× senemi	13× ševasenemi
2× hetimi	14× ševahetimi
3× koromi	15× ševakoromi
4× qesemi	16× ševaqesemi
5× necami	17× ševanecami
6× zumumi	18× ševazumumi
7× ikušumi	19× ševaikušumi
8× soppimi	20× ševasoppimi
9× jokkami	21× ševajokkami
10 ₁₀ × mierimi	22× ševamierimi
11 ₁₀ × túremi	23× ševatúremi

Table 7.3. *Multiplicative numerals from 0₁₀ to 23₁₀*

Fractional	Fractional
* $\frac{1}{0}$ *naxana	$\frac{1}{12}$ ševana
$\frac{1}{1}$ *senna	$\frac{1}{13}$ ševasenna
$\frac{1}{2}$ hetina	$\frac{1}{14}$ ševahetina
$\frac{1}{3}$ korona	$\frac{1}{15}$ ševakorona
$\frac{1}{4}$ qesena	$\frac{1}{16}$ ševaqesena
$\frac{1}{5}$ necana	$\frac{1}{18}$ ševanecana
$\frac{1}{6}$ zumuna	$\frac{1}{17}$ ševazumuna
$\frac{1}{7}$ ikušuna	$\frac{1}{19}$ ševaikušuna
$\frac{1}{8}$ soppina	$\frac{1}{20}$ ševasoppina
$\frac{1}{9}$ jokkana	$\frac{1}{21}$ ševajokkana
$\frac{1}{10}$ mierina	$\frac{1}{22}$ ševamierina
$\frac{1}{11}$ túrena	$\frac{1}{23}$ ševatúrena

Table 7.4. *Fractional numerals from 0₁₀ to 23₁₀*

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

- (13) a. *ikušik ševana*
ikuš-ik ševa-na
 seven-ORD twelve-FRAC
 seven twelfth
 seven-twelfths
- b. *hetik korona litasevok*
het-ik koro-na 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:

- (14) a. *zumšana*
zumša-na
 sixty-FRAC
 sixtieth
 (a) sixtieth
- b. *soppík hetišana*
soppi-ik het-i-ša-na
 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 \pm unit fraction*
- *Integer \times unit fraction*

8. 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.

8.1. 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*.

8.1.1. 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.

8.2. Verb Phrase

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

8.3. Noun Phrase

8.4. Adpositional phrase

8.5. Comparative constructions

8.6. Questions and interrogative constructions

Appendix A. List of Glossing Abbreviations

1 First person	COND Conditional
2 Second person	CONT Continuative aspect
3 Third person	COP Copula
ABL Ablative case	DEF Definite state
ABS Absolutive case	DEST Destination
ABST Absolute state	DIST Distal
ADE Adessive case	DU Dual number
ADJ Adjective/Adjectival	DUR Durative aspect
ADU Animate dual	ELA Elative case
ADV Adverb(ial)	ELECT Elective
AFF Affirmative	ESS Essive case
ALL Allative case	EXAG Exaggerated
ANIM Animate	EXC Exclusive
AOR Aorist	EXIST Existential
APL Animate plural	F1 Root Form 1
ASG Animate singular	F2 Root Form 2 (“intensive”)
ASM Assumptive	F3 Root Form 3 (“passive”)
ASS Associative	F4 Root Form 4 (“causative”)
CARD Cardinal	F5 Root Form 5 (“reciprocal”)
CESS Cessative aspect	F6 Root Form 6 (“reciprocal causative”)
COL Collective	F7 Root Form 7 (“attributive”)
COMP Comparative case	FOC Focal case (topic marker)

FRAC Fraction	MIR Admirative
FREQ Frequentative aspect	MOMT Momentane aspect
FUT Future	MULT Multiplicative
GEN Genitive case	NAT Natural number
HAB Habitual aspect	NEG Negative
HUM Human	NH Non-Human
HYP Hypothetical	NOM Nominative case
IDU Inanimate dual	OBL Oblique 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	PL Plural number
INE Inessive	PLUP Pluperfect
INF Infinitive	POL Polite register
INF1 First Infinitive	POS Possessor
INF2 Second Infinitive	POT Potential
INF3 Third Infinitive	PROG Progressive aspect
INFR Inferential	PROX Proximal
INS Instrumental (-comitative) case	PRS Present
INT Interrogative	RECP Reciprocal
IPF Imperfect	RSN Reason
IPFV Imperfect	SDT Secundative case
IPL Inanimate plural	SG Singular number
ISG Inanimate singular	SRC Source
LOC Location	STAT Stative (Imperfective) aspect
MAN Manner	SUPL Superlative
MED Medial	TIME Time

UNIV Universal

VOC Vocative case