Qevesa Grammar

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Contents

List of Tables

Preface

To be written...

1. Background

1.1. Demographic and Ethnographic Information

To be written...

2. Phonology

2.1. Phonotactics

2.1.1. Vowel inventory

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.

	Front	**Central**	**Back**
Close	i iː		u uː
Mid	e eː		o oː
Open		a aː	

Table 2.1. *Qevesa vowel phonemes*

Although the vowels [e] and [o] are conventionally written using the close-mid IPA symbols, they are more accurately transcribed as mid vowels [ẹ] and [ọ]. Word-initial /e/ is often realised as [je], and word-initial /o/ may be realised as [wo] in some dialects.

The diphthongs consist of /i-/ /-i/ /u-/ and /-u/ glides, as exemplified in Table 2.2. /i-/ onset diphthongs may cause palatalisation of the preceding consonant, and /u-/ onset glides may cause labialisation of the preceding consonant.

	i-	**-i**	**u-**	**-u**
a	ia	ai	ua	au
e	ie	ei	ue	eu
o	io	oi	uo	ou
i	iː	iː	ui	iu
u	iu	ui	uː	uː

Table 2.2. *Qevesa diphthongs*

2.1.2. Consonant inventory

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Denti-alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		n̪		ɲ		
Plosive	p		t̪		c	k	
Fricative		f v	s θ ð	ʃ	ç	x	h
Affricate			ts dz	tʃ dʒ			
Approximant					j		
Lateral			l				
Rhotic			r				

Table 2.3. *Consonants*

Qevesa possesses twenty-one consonants, realised as in Table 2.3. 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 [matːa] are distinguished. In correct speech, geminate consonants should be articulated and released separately, although in quick speech they will be pronounced as prolonged. Geminates may also appear at in word-initial syllables, but are rare word-finally. Word-medially, syllables will be split at the geminate consonant.

2.1.2.1. Nasals

Qevesa has three nasal consonants: /m n̪ ɲ/. /n̪/ is a laminal denti-alveolar nasal, rather than a true dental nasal. These consonants are largely consistent in their realisation, though they may assimilate to the articulation point of adjacent plosives in clusters.

The velar nasal [ŋ] is an allophone of /n̪ ɲ/ before /k/.

2.1.2.2. Plosives

Qevesa has four plosive consonants. These are spread over four positions (labial, denti-alveolar, palatal, velar); voice is not distinguished: /p t̪ c k/. The plosives are often realised with a slight aspiration when syllable-final; /c/ may become an affricate [cç].

2.1.2.3. Fricatives

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

2.1.2.4. Affricates

Qevesa has four affricates: /ts dz tʃ dʒ/. /ts/ and /tʃ/ are consistently realised as affricates and behave as though they were a single consonant. /dz/ and /dʒ/ may be realised as a plain fricatives [z] and [ʒ] 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 [ʎ].

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 and labial offglides.

2.1.3.2. Syllable Structure

Qevesa syllables are strictly (C)V(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**	**CH ch**	**D d**	**E e**
/a/	/aː/	/ts/	/tʃ/	/ç/	/ð/	/e/
É é	**H h**	**I i**	**Í í**	**J j**	**K k**	**Kh kh**
/eː/	/h/	/i/	/iː/	/j/	/k/	/x/
L l	**M m**	**N n**	**Ň ň**	**O o**	**Ó ó**	**P p**
/l/	/m/	/n/	/ɲ/	/o/	/oː/	/p/
Ph ph	**Q q**	**R r**	**S s**	**Š š**	**T t**	**TH th**
/f/	/c/	/r/	/s/	/ʃ/	/t/	/θ/
U u	**Ú ú**	**V v**	**Z z**	**Ž ž**		
/u/	/uː/	/v/	/z dz/	/ʒ dʒ/		

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⟩, ⟨s⟩ and ⟨z⟩, producing ⟨č⟩, ⟨ň⟩, ⟨š⟩ and ⟨ž⟩

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 ⟨ch⟩, ⟨kh⟩, ⟨ph⟩ and ⟨th⟩ represent the phonemes /ç/, /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 triliteral root represents the semantic field or abstract concept; the patterns represent specific lexical or inflectional derivations. Both roots and patterns are bound morphemes, each conveying specific and essential types of information. Neither can exist independently because both are abstract mental representations.

Many triliteral roots may have biliteral origins.

3.1. 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.

3.2. Other Lexical Types

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

3.2.1. 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.

3.3. Head/Dependent Marking

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

To be written...

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 aspect by transfix patterns, and suffixes for the other marked elements.

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 *mudat* ("build, construct"). There are five primary forms, numbered I–V; these are listed in Table 4.1.

Form	Pattern
I	$C_1uC_2aC_3$
II	$C_1uC_2C_2aC_3$
III	$C_1uC_2C_3a$
IV	$miC_1C_2uC_3a$
V	$taC_1uC_2C_3a$
VI*	$C_1eC_2uC_3C_3a$

Table 4.1. *Verb root forms*

4.2.1. Form I

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 IV: Reciprocal

Form IV 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 and drift, so actual meanings may vary quite a lot from the Form 1 verb. True reflexives account for only a portion of the verbs in this form. Its main functions are:

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

4.2.6. Form VI: Adjectival

Form VI is the adjectival stem, used to form predicative adjectives. It

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 $C_1uC_2aC_3$.

To be written...

4.4. Participles

4.5. Conjugation

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

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

4.5.1. 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	$C_1iC_2uC_3$	$C_1iC_2C_2uC_3$	$C_1iC_2C_3u$	$miC_1C_2iC_3u$	$taC_1iC_2C_3u$
Momentane	MOMT	$C_1iC_2aC_3$	$C_1iC_2C_2aC_3$	$C_1iC_2C_3a$	$miC_1C_2iC_3a$	$taC_1iC_2C_3a$
Progressive	PROG	$C_1aC_2uC_3$	$C_1aC_2C_2uC_3$	$C_1aC_2C_3u$	$miC_1C_2aC_3u$	$taC_1aC_2C_3u$
Durative	DUR	$C_1aC_2iC_3$	$C_1aC_2C_2iC_3$	$C_1aC_2C_3i$	$miC_1C_2aC_3i$	$taC_1aC_2C_3i$
Habitual	HAB	$C_1oC_2uC_3$	$C_1oC_2C_2uC_3$	$C_1oC_2C_3u$	$miC_1C_2oC_3u$	$taC_1oC_2C_3u$
Inchoative	INCH	$C_1oC_2aC_3$	$C_1oC_2C_2aC_3$	$C_1oC_2C_3a$	$miC_1C_2oC_3a$	$taC_1oC_2C_3a$
Cessative	CESS	$C_1oC_2iC_3$	$C_1oC_2C_2iC_3$	$C_1oC_2C_3i$	$miC_1C_2oC_3i$	$taC_1oC_2C_3i$

Table 4.2. *Aspectual transfix patterns*

4.5.1.1. Perfective

The perfective aspect indicate activities viewed as a single whole. It is typically used to speak of singular events completed in the past, but may also be used to speak of actions without internal structure.

4.5.1.2. Momentane

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

4.5.1.3. Progressive

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

4.5.1.4. Durative

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

4.5.1.5. Habitual

The habitual aspect indicates actions that occur habitually. Like the progressive, it may also describe intermittent actions, but in a general sense. It can also be used as a general imperfective aspect, without the implication on continuous actions or states like the progressive and durative aspects.

4.5.1.6. Inchoative

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

4.5.1.7. Cessative

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

4.5.2. Modality

Qevesa predominantly indicates modality by means of suffixes. There are six synthetic moods: indicative, imperative, mirative, conditional, optative and potential. These are listed in Table 4.3; the left column indicates suffixes that follow a consonant, and the right column suffixes that follow a vowel.

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 *imperative* mood is used for commands and requests.

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.

Mood		Suffix
Indicative	IND	-∅
Imperative	IMP	-j
Mirative	MIR	-eni
Conditional	COND	-esi
Optative	OPT	-eti
Potential	POT	-er

Table 4.3. *Verbal mood suffixes*

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. It can also be used to express that one has the ability to do something.

4.5.3. Person Marking

Person marking in Qevesa is somewhat complicated by the unusual morphosyntactic alignment. It broadly functions as a trigger system, in which the thematic role (agent, patient, or oblique) of the noun marked by the direct case is encoded in the verb.

The suffixes for person marking are listed in Table 4.4. Whilst the full set of pronouns is represented, the distinction between dual and plural forms is lost for the first and third person. The left columns give suffixes that follow a consonant, and the right columns suffixes that follow a vowel.

4.5.3.1. Agent Trigger

The agent trigger indicates that the noun phrase in the direct case is the voluntary experiencer of an intransitive verb or the agent of a transitive verb.

Generally only animate nouns may be agents; to describe an action involving an inanimate noun as agent, a construction using the oblique trigger and the instrumental case is used instead.

4.5.3.2. Patient Trigger

The patient trigger indicates that the noun phrase in the direct case is the involuntary experiencer of an intransitive verb; the patient of a transitive verb; and the recipient of a ditransitive verb.

	Agent Trigger		Patient Trigger		Oblique Trigger	
	AGT		PAT		OBL	
1SG	-ain	-in	-aic	-ic	-aik	-ik
2SG	-tan	-tan	-tac	-tac	-tak	-tak
3SG	-an	-n	-ac	-c	-ak	-k
1DU;INC	-iun	-jun	-iuc	-juc	-iuk	-juk
1DU;EXC	-čen	-čen	-čec	-čec	-ček	-ček
2DU	-tun	-tun	-tuc	-tuc	-tuk	-tuk
3DU	-umin	-min	-umic	-mic	-umik	-mik
1PL;INC	-isan	-san	-isac	-sac	-isak	-sak
1PL;EXC	-čen	-čen	-čec	-čec	-ček	-ček
2PL	-tán	-tán	-tác	-tác	-ták	-ták
3PL	-amin	-min	-amic	-mic	-amik	-mik
INANIM;SG			-oc	-c	-ok	-k

Table 4.4. *Person marking suffixes*

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, regardless of animacy.

4.5.3.3. Oblique Trigger

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

Another common use of the oblique trigger is to express an inanimate agent, the noun marked with both the instrumental case and the direct case.

4.6. Additional Suffixes

In addition to the mandatory modal and personal suffixes, there are a number of additional final suffixes that can be appended to the verb.

- Relativising *-i*
- Interrogative *-ko*
- *To be written…*

4.7. Auxiliary Verbs

Auxiliary verbs are used to form periphrastic constructions not covered by the synthetic forms described above. The auxiliary verb takes the conjugations of the main verb, which precedes it in the infinitive.

4.7.1. The Copula

The most commonly used auxiliary verb is the copula, which is used to form a variety of constructions. It is unique in that it is the only verb that does not consist of a multi-consonant root, though it conjugates similarly. The conjugated forms of the copula are listed in Table 4.5.

Aspect		**Mood**				
		IND	MIR	COND	OPT	POT
Perfective	PERF	izu	izueni	izuesi	izueti	izuer
Momentane	MOMT	iza	izaeni	izaesi	izaeti	izaer
Progressive	PROG	azu	azueni	azuesi	azueti	azuer
Durative	DUR	azi	azieni	aziesi	azieti	azier
Habitual	HAB	ozu	ozueni	ozuesi	ozueti	ozuer
Inchoative	INCH	oza	ozaeni	ozaesi	ozaeti	ozaer
Cessative	CESS	ozi	ozieni	oziesi	ozieti	ozier

Table 4.5. *Conjugation of the copula*

The modal suffixes on the copula are slightly different, but the suffixes for person marking (see Section 4.5.3) are the same. By itself, the copula functions as an existential verb.

4.7.2. Negation

Verbs in Qevesa are negated by using a the negative particle *en*, which precedes both. The main verb appears in the infinitive, with the copula taking its inflections, as in a standard auxiliary construction. If the verb is already part of an auxiliary construction, the negation particle precedes this.

4.8. Irregular Verbs

Qevesa verbal morphology is in general highly regular. However, due to sound changes from Therasa, a number of formerly regular roots have developed irregular conjugations, outlined in the sections below. In the tables, the following convensions apply:

- C = consonant
- P = plosive consonant
- H = aspirated plosive
- F = fricative, corresponding to the aspirated plosives
- K = other consonant
- A = vowel
- : = length marker
- lowercase letters indicate specific phonemes, given in IPA
- letters with subscripts refer to root consonants

4.8.1. Soft Roots

Soft roots are those roots which have /h/ in one or more positions. This causes the following sound changes:

- A word-final /h/ induces lengthening of the previous vowel. Suffixes that follow are usually vowel-final.
- A /h/ following an unvoiced plosive causes it to become a geminate aspirated plosive, which are pronounced in Modern Qevesa as fricatives.
- Roots that have /h/ in more than one position follow the rules of both positions. These are exceedlingly rare.

The patterns for soft roots are given in Table 4.6.

	First-soft	**Second-soft**		**Third-soft**	
	h C C	**P h C**	**H h C**	**C P h**	**C K h**
I	$h_1AC_2AC_3$	$P_1Ah_2AC_3$	$F_1Ah_2AC_3$	C_1AP_2A:	C_1AK_2A:
II	$h_1AC_2C_2AC_3$	$P_1Ah_2h_2AC_3$	$F_1Ah_2h_2AC$	$C_1AP_2P_2A$:	$C_1AK_2K_2A$:
III	$h_1AC_2C_3A$	P_1A:C_3A	F_1A:C_3A	C_1AF_2:A	C_1AK_2:A
IV	mi:C_2AC_3A	meF_1:AC_3A	meF_1:AC_3A	mi$C_1P_2Ah_2A$	mi$C_1K_2Ah_3A$
V	ta$h_1AC_2C_3A$	taP_1A:C_3A	taF_1A:C_3A	taC_1AF_3:A	taC_1AK_2:A

Table 4.6. *Soft root patterns*

Soft roots include *puhat* (“speak”) (H2) and *mura* (“see”) (H3). Third-soft roots are typically written without the lengthened final vowel in the infinitive to distinguish them from G-final roots.

4.8.2. Weak Roots

Weak roots had /g/ or /ɟ/ in one or more positions.

G-roots (roots with /g/) induced the most extensive changes: when initial, it elided; when following a vowel, it lengthened that vowel; when following a consonant, it lengthened the consonant; and when between two vowels, it disappeared, causing adjacent transfix patterns to rearrange around the remaining consonants. These roots are thus the most irregular root forms, often with unpredictable patterns.

J-roots (roots with /ɟ/) tend to be less irregular, as all occurrences of /ɟ/ weakened to the approximant /j/. A syllable-final /j/ further weakened to the vowel /i/, often resulting in the appearance of /-i/ offglide diphthongs.

The patterns for weak roots are given in Table 4.7.

	G-roots			J-roots		
	g C C	**C g C**	**C C g**	**ɟ C C**	**C ɟ C**	**C C ɟ**
I	AC_2AC_3	C_1AC_3A	C_1AC_2A:	$j_1AC_2AC_3$	$C_1Aj_2AC_3$	C_1AC_2Ai
II	$AC_2C_2AC_3$	$C_1AC_3C_3A$	$C_1AC_2C_2A$:	$j_1AC_2C_2AC_3$	$C_1Aij_2AC_3$	$C_1AC_2C_2Ai$
III	AC_2C_3A	C_1A:C_3A	$C_1AC_2C_2A$	$j_1AC_2C_3A$	C_1AiC_3A	C_1AC_2iA
IV	míC_2AC_3A	miC_1:AC_3A	miC_1AC_2A	míC_2AC_3A	miC_1iAC_3A	mi$C_1C_2Aj_3A$
V	taAC_2C_3A	taC_1A:C_3A	ta$C_1AC_2C_2A$	taj$_1AC_2C_3A$	taC_1AiC_3A	taC_1AC_2iA

Table 4.7. *Weak root patterns*

Weak roots include *unav* (“steal”) (G1), *čuta* (“open”) (G2), *lukaj* (“trick, deceive”) (J3) and *kujar* (“read, call, invite”) (J2). The root *juta* (“know”) is both weak and soft (J1/H3).

4.8.3. Biliteral Roots

Whilst the overwhelming majority of roots in Qevesa are triliteral, there is a small closed class of true biliteral roots as opposed to the apparently biliteral patterns that *soft* and *weak* roots display. These are ususally distinguishable in that they lack long vowels that were formed on *soft* and *weak* roots from the elision of consonants, though there are a handful of roots with apparent homonymy in some forms and conjugations.

4.8.4. Quadriliteral Roots

Quadriliteral roots also exist.

To be written…

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: direct, ergative, accusative, secundative, genitive, essive, instrumental-commitative, inessive, adessive, illative, allative, elative, ablative and comparative.

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 pronomial forms.

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

5.2. Nominal Declension

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

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

Noun stems that end in a long vowel reduce it before suffixes that begin with a vowel.

5.2.1. Number

Qevesa nouns have four numbers: singular, dual, plural and partitive.

The singular ending also indicates definiteness, as do the dual and plural endings. An indefinite plural may be indicated by the partitive ending.

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

The plural number is used for unspecified quantities.

The partitive is used to express partialness or inexact quantities.

The suffixes that indicate number are listed in Table 5.1. Additionally, a small closed set of nouns has plural declining forms that are different to their base form.

Number		Suffix
Indefinite	INDEF	-∅, -e
Definite Singular	SG	-a
Dual/Quantitative	DU	-(e)v
Plural	PL	-(e)s
Partitive	PL	-(e)n

Table 5.1. *Grammatical number suffixes*

5.2.2. Case

Qevesa possesses fourteen cases, 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 column lists suffixes that follow a vowel, and the right column lists suffixes that follow a consonant.

Noun Case		Suffix	
Direct	DIR	-a, -n, -∅	
Ergative	NOM	-m	-am
Accusative	ABS	-š	-aš
Secundative	SDT	-t	-at
Genitive	GEN	-k	-ak
Essive	ESS	-l	-al
Instrumental	INS	-ri	-ari
Inessive	INE	-ssi	-assi
Adessive	ADE	-zi	-azi
Illative	ILL	-sti	-asti
Allative	ALL	-nti	-anti
Elative	ELA	-spi	-aspi
Ablative	ABL	-mpi	-ampi
Comparative	CMPR	-d	-ad

Table 5.2. *Case suffixes*

5.2.2.1. Direct

The direct case marks the topic of the verb phrase. This may be the experiencer (both voluntary and involuntary) of an intransitive verb, the agent or patient of a transitive verb, or (less commonly) some other argument of the verb. Typically, animate nouns in the direct case are the voluntary experiencers or agents of verbs, and inanimate nouns in the direct case are experiencers or patients.

The suffix *-a* only occurs after a consonant, or a consonant followed by *u*; the suffix *-n* occurs after a diphthong ending in *u*; in other cases, the direct case is unmarked.

5.2.2.2. Ergative

The ergative case marks the agent of a verb.

5.2.2.3. Accusative

The accusative case marks the patient of a transitive verb or the recipient of ditransitive verb.

5.2.2.4. Secundative

The secundative case marks the theme of a ditransitive verb.

5.2.2.5. Genitive

The genitive case indicates the possessor of another noun. Animate pronomial possessors are indicated by means of a suffix on the possessed noun.

5.2.2.6. Essive

The essive case is used to indicate duration and time, as well as temporary states of being or existence.

5.2.2.7. Instrumental

The instrumental case indicates the means by which the action is performed.

5.2.2.8. Inessive

The inessive case indicates internal location.

5.2.2.9. Adessive

The adessive case indicates external location.

5.2.2.10. Illative

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

5.2.2.11. Allative

The allative case indicates motion towards the noun.

5.2.2.12. Elative

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

5.2.2.13. Ablative

The ablative case indicates motion away from the noun. It can also be used in expressions of time and emotion to indicate the beginning of the event or state.

5.2.2.14. Comparative

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

5.2.2.15. 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 5.4.

5.3. Pronouns and Pronomial forms

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

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 some of the 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 generally preferred over the genetive case to indicate posession, but inanimate pronouns lack a suffix form so always use the genetive pronoun.

The base forms of the pronouns are given in Table 5.4, and the cases with personal suffixes are given in Table 5.5.

	Stem		**Cases**					
	Root	Suffix	DIR	NOM	ABS	SDT	GEN	CMPR
1SG	je	-(a)i	je	jem	ješ	jeut	jek	jed
2SG	tá	-ut, -ta	tá	tám	táš	tait	ták	tád
3SG	mi	-(i)m	mi	mim	miš	miot	miek	mied
1DU;INC	vu	-iu, -ju	vu	vum	vuš	vot	vek	vud
1DU;EXC	če	-(e)če	ča	čém	čéš	čeut	ček	čed
2DU	tav	-(e)tu	táva	távam	távaš	távet	távek	táved
3DU	miv	-(u)mi	miva	mivam	mivaš	mivet	mivek	mived
1PL;INC	jis	-isa	jisa	jisam	jisaš	jiset	jisek	jised
1PL;EXC	čes	-(e)če	česa	česam	česaš	česet	česek	česed
2PL	tás	-(a)tá	tása	tásam	tásaš	táset	tásek	tásed
3PL	mis	-(a)mi	misa	misam	misaš	miset	misek	mised
INANIM;SG	han		hana	hanam	hanaš	hanet	hanek	haned
INANIM;DU	hava		hava	havam	havaš	havet	havek	haved
INANIM;PL	hasa		hasa	hasam	hasaš	haset	hasek	hased

Table 5.4. *Personal pronouns*

		Cases							
		ESS	INS	INE	ADE	ILL	ALL	ELA	ABL
		el-	*ed-*	*ess-*	*ez-*	*est-*	*ent-*	*esp-*	*emp-*
1SG	*-(a)i*	elai	erai	essai	ezai	estai	entai	espai	empai
2SG	*-ut*	elut	erut	essut	ezut	estut	entut	esput	emput
3SG	*-im*	elim	erim	essim	ezim	estim	entim	espim	empim
1DU;INC	*-iva*	eliva	eriva	essiva	eziva	estiva	entiva	espiva	empiva
1DU;EXC	*-(e)čev*	elečev	erečev	essečev	ezečev	estečev	entečev	espečev	empečev
2DU	*-(a)tuv*	elatuv	eratuv	essatuv	ezatuv	estatuv	entatuv	espatuv	empatuv
3DU	*-(a)miv*	elamiv	eramiv	essamiv	ezamiv	estamiv	entamiv	espamiv	empamiv
1PL;INC	*-isa*	elisa	erisa	essisa	ezisa	estisa	entisa	espisa	empisa
1PL;EXC	*-(e)čes*	elečes	erečes	essečes	ezečes	estečes	entečes	espečes	empečes
2PL	*-(a)tus*	elatus	eratus	essatus	ezatus	estatus	entatus	espatus	empatus
3PL	*-(a)mis*	elamis	eramis	essamis	ezamis	estamis	entamis	espamis	empamis
		-l	*-ri*	*-ssi*	*-zi*	*-sti*	*-nti*	*-spi*	*-mpi*
INANIM;SG	*ha-*	hal	hari	hassi	hazi	hasti	hanti	haspi	hampi
INANIM;DU	*hav-*	haval	havari	havassi	havazi	havasti	havanti	havaspi	havampi
INANIM;PL	*has-*	hasal	hasari	hasassi	hasazi	hasasti	hasanti	hasaspi	hasampi

Table 5.5. *Cases with personal suffixes*

5.3.1.1. Possessive Suffixes

Pronomial genetive forms are rarely used when the possessor is animate; instead, nouns are marked with suffixes that indicate the possessor. These suffixes also influence whether the vowel or consonant form of the following case suffix is used.

5.3.2. Reflexive and Reciprocal Pronouns

Qevesa possesses a single reflexive pronoun, *mech* '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 *mocchem*, which does not take personal suffixes.

5.3.3. Demonstrative and Correlative Pronouns

Qevesa has three degrees of demonstrative pronouns, as well as an interrogative series.

- The **proximal** series refers to things closer to the speaker than the listener;
- The **medial** series refers to things closer to the listener than the speaker; and
- The **distal** series refers to things that are far from both speaker and listener.

Demonstrative pronouns must agree in number and case with their antecedent, unlike all other types of modifiers, such as adjectives.

The demonstrative pronouns are are listed in Table 5.6.

		Proximal	**Medial**	**Distal**	**Interrogative**
		PROX	MED	DIST	INT
		to-	*ko-*	*ša-*	*ve-*
Person	*-icu*	toicu	koicu	šaicu	veicu
Animate	*-re*	tore	kore	šare	vere
Inanimate	*-ku*	toku	koku	šaku	veku
Location	*-ze*	toze	koze	šaze	veze
Direction	*-chira*	tochira	kochira	šachira	vechira
Manner	*-du*	tódu	kódu	šádu	védu

Table 5.6. *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

To be written...

Adjectives in Qevesa may behave like verbs or nouns. Adjectival verbs are, as the name suggests, a set of verb-like forms, derived from the Form VI verbal roots. They may predicate sentences, and conjugate in the same manner as ordinary verbs, differing in some inflections.

Aspect		VI
Perfective	PERF	$C_1eC_2iC_3C_3u$
Momentane	MOMT	$C_1eC_2iC_3C_3a$
Progressive	PROG	$C_1eC_2aC_3C_3u$
Durative	DUR	$C_1eC_2aC_3C_3i$
Habitual	HAB	$C_1eC_2oC_3C_3u$
Inchoative	INCH	$C_1eC_2oC_3C_3a$
Cessative	CESS	$C_1eC_2oC_3C_3i$

Table 6.1. *Aspectual transfix patterns*

6.1. Adjectival Inflection

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

(4) SUPL-*stem*-CMPR

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

6.1.1. 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 6.2.

Degree		Prefix	Suffix
Comparative	CMPR	∅	-vén
Superlative	SUPL	ko-	-vén
Exaggerated	EXAG	los-	-vén

Table 6.2. *Adjectival degree adverbs*

7. Numerals

Qevesa, in common with other Teralo languages, uses a duodecimal or base-12 number system for both integers and fractions. The basic number words are listed in Table 7.1.

	Cardinal
0_{12}	ena
1_{12}	jira
2_{12}	vít
3_{12}	kor
4_{12}	qese
5_{12}	nich
6_{12}	zum
7_{12}	kuš
8_{12}	soppi
9_{12}	jouka
A_{12}	mieri
B_{12}	túre
10_{12}	veša

Table 7.1. *Basic numerals*

Numerals from 11_{12} to $2B_{12}$ are suffixed with *-váš*:

11_{12} *ervás*
12_{12} *vítvás*
13_{12} *korvás*
14_{12} *qeseváš*
15_{12} *nichváš*
16_{12} *zumváš*
17_{12} *kušváš*
28_{12} *soppiváš*
29_{12} *joukaváš*
$2A_{12}$ *mieriváš*

$2B_{12}$	*túrevášš*

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

20_{12}	*vítcatu*
30_{12}	*korcatu*
40_{12}	*qesecatu*
50_{12}	*nichcatu*
70_{12}	*kušcatu*
$A0_{12}$	*miericatu*
BB_{12}	*túrecatu-túre*

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

100_{12}	*ertus*
200_{12}	*víttus*
300_{12}	*kortus*
409_{12}	*qesetus-jouka*
752_{12}	*kuštus-nichcet-vít*

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

1000_{12}	*ermazi*
2000_{12}	*vítmazi*
4000_{12}	*qesemazi*
8603_{12}	*soppimazi-zumtus-kor*
$10{,}000_{12}$	*vešamazi*
$17{,}029_{12}$	*vešakušmazi-vítcatu-jouka*
$50{,}000_{12}$	*nichtusmazi*
$93{,}487_{12}$	*joukacet-kormazi qesetus-soppicatu-kuš*
$100{,}000_{12}$	*ertúsmazi*
$582{,}196_{12}$	*nichtus-soppicet-vítmazi ertus-joukacatu-zum*

8. Derivational Morphology

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

8.1. Nominalisation

8.1.1. Discontinuous Patterns

A large number of nouns in Qevesa are derived from the root + vowel pattern framework of the verbal system.

The pattern **$C_1aC_2C_2óC_3$* is commonly used to form professions from verbal roots. It is no longer highly productive, so most nouns with this pattern represent professions that have existed for a very long time.

Root/Base	Meaning	Profession	Meaning
dusat	teach	*dassót*	teacher
kulan	heal	*kallón*	doctor
nukar	cut [wood, etc]	*nakkót*	carpenter
rukat	write	*rakkót*	scribe
sutar	govern	*sattór*	governor, lord
zumar	guard, watch	*zammór*	guard

The pattern **$C_1áC_2C_3in$* is the most common pattern used to form professions (as well as many other role-like agentives) in modern-day Qevesa.

Root/Base	Meaning	Profession	Meaning
humas	send	*hámsin*	messenger, envoy
lukaj	trick	*lákín*	trickster
munaš	count	*mánšin*	accountant
nusat	think	*nástin*	philosopher
unav	steal	*ánvin*	thief

The pattern **miC₁C₂eC₃* creates agentives from activities that are social in nature, that is, typically involve more than one person and are not done on their own.

Root/Base	Meaning	Profession	Meaning
ruvad	work	*mirved*	worker, employee
turaz	come	*mitrez*	guest
šuka	love	*mišké*	lover
hucav	sit	*mícev*	resident
lumat	learn	*milmet*	student

The pattern **ziC₁C₂aC₃* typically forms nouns of place or location, such as physical features or buildings.

Root/Base	Meaning	Profession	Meaning
khunas	get up, stand	*zikhnas*	place, location
rusač	bathe	*zirsač*	bath, bathtub
vulaj	rise [sun, moon, etc]	*zivlai*	east
kurav	set [sun, moon, etc]	*zikrav*	west
lumat	learn	*zilmat*	school
vusak	lie down	*zivsak*	bed

The pattern **C₁eC₂C₃ia* is also used to form nouns of place or location.

Root/Base	Meaning	Profession	Meaning
vulaj	rise [sun, moon, etc]	*velia*	eastern
kurav	set [sun, moon, etc]	*kervia*	western
lumat	learn	*lemtia*	university
khudas	be special	*khedsia*	temple

The pattern **miC₁C₂oC₃* is used to form nouns describing tools or instruments used to perform an action.

Root/Base	Meaning	Profession	Meaning
čuta	open	*miččot*	key
kušá	shave	*mikšó*	razor
rukat	write	*mirkot*	pen
šuvac	burn	*mišvoc*	lighter
thunap	weigh	*mithnop*	scale

The pattern **C₁eC₂áC₃* is similarly used to form names of tools and other physical objects. These nouns are typically, but not always, the resulting product of the action.

Root/Base	Meaning	Profession	Meaning
rukat	write	*rekát*	book
vuran	wear	*verán*	garment
žura	bind, tie	*žerá*	knot

9. Constituent Order Typology

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

9.1. Main Clauses

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

9.1.1. Topic Marking

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

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

9.2. Verb Phrase

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

9.3. Noun Phrase

9.4. Adpositional phrase

9.5. Comparative constructions

9.6. Questions and interrogative constructions

Appendix A. List of Glossing Abbreviations

1 First person

2 Second person

3 Third person

ABL Ablative case

ABS Absolutive case

ABST Absolute state

ACC Accusative case

ADE Adessive case

ADJ Adjective/Adjectival

ADU Animate dual

ADV Adverb(ial)

AFF Affirmative

AGT Agent trigget

ALL Allative case

ANIM Animate

AOR Aorist

APL Animate plural

ASG Animate singular

ASM Assumptive

ASS Associative

CARD Cardinal

CESS Cessative aspect

CMPR Comparative case

COL Collective

COND Conditional

CONT Continuative aspect

COP Copula

DEF Definite state

DEST Destination

DIR Direct case

DIST Distal

DU Dual number

DUR Durative aspect

ELA Elative case

ELECT Elective

ERG Ergative case

ESS Essive case

EXAG Exaggerated

EXC Exclusive

EXIST Existential

F1 Root Form 1

F2 Root Form 2 (“intensive”)

F3 Root Form 3 (“passive”)

F4 Root Form 4 (“causative”)

F5 Root Form 5 (“reciprocal”)
F6 Root Form 6 (“reciprocal causative”)
F7 Root Form 7 (“attributive”)
FOC Focal case (topic marker)
FRAC Fraction
FREQ Frequentative aspect
FUT Future
GEN Genitive case
HAB Habitual aspect
HUM Human
HYP Hypothetical
IDU Inanimate dual
ILL Illative case
IMP Imperative
INANIM Inanimate
INC Inclusive
INCH Inchoative aspect
IND Indicative
INDEF Indefinite
INE Inessive
INF Infinitive
INF1 First Infinitive
INF2 Second Infinitive
INF3 Third Infinitive
INFR Inferential
INS Instrumental (-comitative) case
INT Interrogative
IPF Imperfect
IPFV Imperfect
IPL Inanimate plural
ISG Inanimate singular
LOC Location
MAN Manner
MED Medial
MIR Admirative
MOMT Momentane aspect
MULT Multiplicative
NAT Natural number
NEG Negative
NH Non-Human
NOM Nominative case
OBL Oblique case
OPT Optative
ORD Ordinal
PART Partitive
PAT Patient trigger
PERF Perfect
PFV Perfective aspect
PL Plural number
PLUP Pluperfect
POL Polite register
POS Possessor
POT Potential
PROG Progressive aspect
PROX Proximal
PRS Present
RECP Reciprocal
RSN Reason

SDT Secundative case

SG Singular number

SGV Singulative number

SRC Source

STAT Stative (Imperfective) aspect

SUPL Superlative

TIME Time

UNIV Universal

VOC Vocative case