

Qevesa Grammar

Robbie Smith

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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	5
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	6
2.1.3.2. Syllable Structure	6
2.1.4. Romanisation	7
2.2. Prosody	8
2.2.1. Stress	8
2.2.2. Intonation	8
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 I	13
4.1.2. Form II	14
4.1.3. Form III	14
4.1.4. Form IV	14
4.1.5. Form V	14

4.1.6.	Form VI	15
4.1.7.	Form VII	15
4.1.8.	Other Verb Forms	15
4.1.8.1.	Form VIII	15
4.1.8.2.	Form IX	15
4.2.	Nominalisation	15
4.2.1.	Verbal Nouns	16
4.2.2.	Active and Passive Participles	16
4.2.3.	Location	16
4.2.4.	Instrument	18
4.2.5.	Intensity, Repetition, Profession	18
4.2.6.	Common Nouns	18
4.2.7.	Generic and Specific Nouns	18
5.	Verbal Morphology	21
5.1.	Features	21
5.2.	The Infinitive	21
5.3.	Conjugation	21
5.3.1.	Aspect	21
5.3.1.1.	The Imperfective Aspects	22
5.3.1.2.	The Perfective Aspects	22
5.3.2.	Topical Agreement	25
5.3.2.1.	Primary Agreement	25
5.3.2.1.1.	Ergative Topic	25
5.3.2.1.2.	Accusative Topic	26
5.3.2.1.3.	Secundative Topic	26
5.3.2.2.	Secondary Topical Agreement	26
5.3.3.	Mood	26
5.3.3.1.	Indicative Mood	26
5.3.3.2.	Admirative Mood	27
5.3.3.3.	Irrealis Mood	27
5.3.3.4.	Alethic Mood	27
5.3.3.5.	Necessitative Mood	27
5.3.3.6.	Precative Mood	27
5.3.3.7.	Volitive Mood	28
5.3.3.8.	Hypothetical Mood	28
5.4.	Auxiliary Verbs	28
5.4.1.	Polarity	28
5.4.2.	Evidentiality	29
5.4.2.1.	Witness	29
5.4.2.2.	Reportative	30
5.4.2.3.	Inferential	30
5.4.2.4.	Assumptive	30
5.5.	Irregular Verbs	30
5.5.1.	The Copulae	30

6.	Nominal Morphology	33
6.1.	Definitions and Features	33
6.1.1.	Animacy	33
6.1.2.	Proper Nouns	34
6.2.	Nominal Declension	34
6.2.1.	Case	34
6.2.1.1.	The Primary Cases	34
6.2.1.1.1.	Nominative	34
6.2.1.1.2.	Ergative	34
6.2.1.1.3.	Accusative	34
6.2.1.1.4.	Secundative	34
6.2.1.2.	The Secondary Cases	35
6.2.1.2.1.	Genitive	35
6.2.1.2.2.	Essive	35
6.2.1.2.3.	Instrumental (Comitative)	35
6.2.1.2.4.	Inessive	35
6.2.1.2.5.	Adessive	36
6.2.1.2.6.	Illative	36
6.2.1.2.7.	Allative	36
6.2.1.2.8.	Elativ	36
6.2.1.2.9.	Ablative	36
6.2.1.2.10.	Comparative	36
6.2.1.3.	Use of the Locative Cases	36
6.2.2.	Number	37
6.3.	Articles	37
6.4.	Pronouns and Pronominal forms	37
6.4.1.	Personal Pronouns	38
6.4.2.	Reflexive and Reciprocal Pronouns	40
6.4.3.	Demonstrative and Correlative Pronouns	40
7.	Adjectival Morphology	43
7.1.	Types of Adjectival Forms	43
7.1.1.	Adjectival Verbs	43
7.1.1.1.	Adverbs	43
7.1.2.	Adjectival Nouns	43
7.1.3.	Attributives	44
7.2.	Adjectival Inflection	44
7.2.1.	Degree	44
7.2.2.	Polarity	45
8.	Numerals	47
8.1.	Cardinals	47
8.2.	Ordinals	49
8.3.	Multiplicatives	49
8.4.	Fractions	50

9.	Constituent Order Typology	53
9.1.	Main Clauses	53
9.1.1.	Topic Marking	53
9.2.	Verb Phrase	53
9.3.	Noun Phrase	54
9.4.	Adpositional phrase	54
9.5.	Comparative constructions	54
9.6.	Questions and interrogative constructions	54
A.	List of Glossing Abbreviations	55

List of Tables

2.1.	Qevesa vowel phonemes	3
2.2.	Consonants	4
4.1.	Verb root forms	13
4.2.	Verbal noun paradigms	16
4.3.	Nominal participles	17
4.4.	Nouns of location	17
4.5.	Nouns of instrument	18
4.6.	Generic and specific noun forms	19
5.1.	Imperfective aspectual patterns	23
5.2.	Perfective aspectual patterns	24
5.3.	Primary topical agreement	25
5.4.	Secondary topical agreement	26
5.5.	Verbal mood suffixes	27
5.6.	Polar verb aspectual conjugation	29
5.7.	Conjugation of the evidential verbs	30
5.8.	Aspectual conjugation of the copulae <i>teši</i> and <i>demi</i>	31
6.1.	Case suffixes	35
6.2.	Locative cases	36
6.3.	Grammatical number suffixes	37
6.4.	Personal pronouns	38
6.5.	Cases with personal suffixes	39
6.6.	Demonstrative and correlative pronouns	41
7.1.	Adjectival verb aspectual conjugation	44
7.2.	Adjectival degree adverbs	45
7.3.	Adjectival degree inflection	45
7.4.	Adjectival polarity suffixes	46
8.1.	Cardinal numerals from 0_{10} to 21_{10}	47
8.2.	Ordinal numerals from 0_{10} to 21_{10}	49
8.3.	Multiplicative numerals from 0_{10} to 21_{10}	50
8.4.	Fractional numerals from 0_{10} to 21_{10}	51

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		Front	Central	Back
Close	i	ɻ	u	Close	i:	ɻ:	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 [e̞], [ə̞] and [o̞]. In contrast to the consonants, the vowels show very little variation.

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

The diphthongs are /ai au ei oi ou əi əɻ/, as well as /i-/ glides /ia ie* io iə iu ix/ and /u-/ glides /ua ue ui uo/, with assimilation of /ii/, /uu/ and /uɻ/ to /i:/, /u:/ and /ɻ:/. /u-/ glides may cause labialisation, but this is dialect-dependent.

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

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

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

2.1.2. Consonant inventory

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		ɳ			ɲ		
Plosive	p		t̪				k	
Affricate			t̪θ	ts	ʈʂ	tɕ		
Fricative		f	θ	s	ʂ	ç	x	h
Approximant		ʋ	ð			j	w	
Lateral				l				
Rhotic				r~ɾ				

Table 2.2. *Consonants*

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

Consonantal length is phonemic, so [mata] and [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 ɳ ɲ/. /ɳ/ is a laminal denti-alveolar nasal, rather than a true dental nasal. The palatal nasal /ɲ/ is realised as an alveolo-palatal nasal in virtually all dialects; as this does not contrast with a true palatal nasal, it is transcribed using the IPA symbol for a palatal nasal, rather than the obsolete and non-standard /ɳ/.

These consonants are largely consistent in their realisation; however, /ɳ/ may be palatalised to /ɲ/. The velar nasal [ŋ] is an allophone of /ɳ ɲ/ before /k/.

2.1.2.2. Plosives

Qevesa has three plosive consonants. These are spread over three positions (labial, denti-alveolar, velar); voice is not distinguished: /p t̪ k/. A fourth plosive (palatal, [c]) exists in marginal dialects, although this has since merged with the alveolo-palatal affricate in the standard dialect.

The plosive consonants may be palatalised to [pʲ t̪ʲ kʲ]. In most dialects, the plosives are aspirated in an initial and word-final position, as [pʰ t̪ʰ kʰ].

2.1.2.3. Fricatives

Qevesa has nine fricative consonants: /f v θ ð s ʃ ç x h/. /v/ and /ð/ are commonly realised as approximants. Palatalisation affects the fricatives in a variety of way:

- /f/ palatalises to [fʲ];
- /s/ palatalises to [ç] instead of /sʲ/;
- /θ/ to /θʲ/;
- /x h/ palatalises to [ç];
- /v/ and /ð/ reduce to [j]; and,
- /ç/ and /ʃ/ are not affected by palatalisation.

2.1.2.4. Affricates

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

The affricates are affected by palatalisation in a similar manner to the fricatives: /ts/ palatalises to /tç/ and /tθ/ to /tʃʲ/.

2.1.2.5. Liquids and Glides

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

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

The rhotic consonant is the alveolar trill /r/. It may be realised as a tap [ɾ] when initial or intervocalic. Palatalisation weakens /r/ to [ɾʲ], that is, a palatalised devoiced alveolar tap.

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

2.1.3. Phonemic Restrictions

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

2.1.3.1. Consonant Clusters

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

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

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

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

- a plosive + /f θ s ʃ ɕ/: /pf tf kf pθ tθ kθ ps ts ks pʃ tʃ kʃ pɕ tɕ kɕ/
- /f θ s ʃ ɕ/ + a plosive: /fp ft fk θp θt θk sp st sk ʃp ʃt ʃk ɕp ɕt ɕk/
- /n/ + /t k/: /nt nk/
- /mp/

Note that syllable-initial or syllable-final clusters are to be avoided word-internally—VCCV will always be split into VC.CV. Clusters of three consonants are only permitted across syllable breaks, and will always be split to favour an initial cluster over a final one, provided that the combination of consonants is permitted. Such clusters are extremely rare, however.

Clusters of four or more consonants are never permitted—clusters in loan words will always be simplified or reduced.

2.1.3.2. Syllable Structure

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

2.1.4. Romanisation

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

A a	Á á	C c	Ç ç	Č č	D d	E e	É é	Ě ě	F f	H h
/a/	/a:/	/ts/	/tʃ/	/tʃ/	/ð/	/e/	/e:/	/jɛ/	/f/	/h/
I i	Í í	J j	K k	L l	Ľ ľ	M m	N n	Ň ň	O o	Ó ó
/i/	/i:/	/j/	/k/	/l/	/w/	/m/	/n/	/ɲ/	/o/	/o:/
Ö ö	Ő ő	P p	Q q	R r	S s	Ş ş	Š š	T t	U u	Ú ú
/ø/	/ø:/	/p/	/tʃ/	/r/	/s/	/ʃ/	/ʃ/	/t/	/u/	/u:/
Ü ü	Ů ů	V v	X x	Z z	Ž ž					
/y/	/y:/	/v/	/x/	/θ/	/tθ/					

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

Cedilla/Comma The cedilla or comma indicates a retroflex variant, and is used with <s> and <c>, forming <š> and <č>. In handwritten texts, the comma is preferred, but typeset documents normally use the cedilla, due to a lack of typefaces that include the comma as a diacritic.

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

Dot above This diacritic indicates an affricate variant of a fricative, and is only used with <z>, resulting in <ž>.

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

Vowels use a similar set of diacritics:

Trema/Umlaut The trema or umlaut is used to indicate a fronted variant of <o> and <u>, forming <ö> and <ü>.

Háček/Caron The *háček* or caron indicates an iotated or palatalised variant. It is most commonly used with <e> to produce <ě>, but may be used with other vowels. The <j>-spelling is used in some situations, such as across a syllable break or between two vowels (in which the inherent /j/ becomes the onset of the next syllable), so *<aě> is written as <aje>. Generally, <ě> is preferred when following a consonant or as a nucleus vowel of a syllable, and <je> is used when the /e/ is lengthened <jé>, but both representations are interchangeable.

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

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

- /tʃ/ is represented by both <q> and <č> due to a sound change that merged /c/ → /tʃ/
- Palatalisation is indicated by a following <j>, an i-glide diphthong, or a háček above the vowel. /ji/ is represented with <í> and realised as /^ji:/.
- /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

To be written...

2.2.1. Stress

Stress falls on the first syllable of the root. *To be written...*

2.2.2. Intonation

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 (quinquiliteral), although the latter are extremely rare. Quadriliteral and quinquiliteral roots always contain a consonant cluster as a root phoneme that cannot be split

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 6000 to 7500; phonologically there are two to five times that number of permissible roots.¹

¹There are 24 consonants, and as no root can contain more than two of the same consonant, there are 13248² permissible trilateral roots. Quadriliteral and quinquiliteral roots contain consonant clusters, which makes calculation of the number of permissible roots considerably more difficult. Furthermore, some biliteral roots actually consist of three consonants, with two of those bound as a cluster.

² $24 \times 24 \times 23 = 13248$

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 .

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

The initial position P_0 is normally used for marking verbal root forms; that is, marking subtle variations on a root such as causatives and reflexives. There are 10 forms in total, although not every root can be marked for each form. The consonant root patterns for each form are given in Table 4.1.

Root Form	Pattern	
	Trilateral	Bilateral
I	$C_1u C_2u C_3$	$C_1u C_2u$
II	$C_1u C_2 C_2u C_3$	$C_1u C_2 C_2u$
III	$ja C_1 C_2u C_3u$	$ja C_1 C_2u C_2u$
IV	$ta C_1 C_1u C_2u C_3$	$ta C_1 C_1u C_2u$
V	$ina C_1u C_2 C_3u$	$ina C_1u C_2 C_2u$
VI	$me C_1u C_2 C_2u C_3$	$me C_1u C_2 C_2u$
VII	$i C_1 C_2u C_3 C_3u$	$i C_1u C_2 C_2u$
VIII	$C_1u C_2 C_3u$	$C_1u C_2 C_2u$
IX	$e C_1 C_2u C_3u$	$e C_1u C_2u$

Table 4.1. *Verb root forms*

4.1.1. Form I

Form I is the most basic consonantal root form, containing no preformative affixes or pairing of consonants as occurs in the other forms. It is the closest indicator to the lexical meaning of the root, and has no particular semantic function associated with it.

4.1.2. Form II

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

It is constructed by geminating the second consonant; a limited number of verbs replace the gemination with two root consonants.

4.1.3. Form III

Form III is commonly known as the “causative” stem. Its most common function is causative, and it typically converts transitive verbs into ditransitive ones. It can also have a causative meaning on verbs whose Form I root is intransitive, and for some verbs, may convey an assistive or factitive meaning.

It is formed by pairing the first and second consonants and prefixing *ja-*; biliteral roots duplicate the second consonant in the normal position.

4.1.4. Form IV

Form IV is the “reciprocal” stem, and is primarily used to make transitive verbs intransitive by adding an implication of reciprocity. Due to its reciprocal nature, many verbs denoting social interactions are found with Form IV stems.

It is formed by geminating the first consonant and prefixing with *ta-*.

4.1.5. Form V

Form V is the “reflexive” stem, so called for historical reasons as it also includes a number of other intransitive meanings. 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 causative reflexives
- 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, and the causative reflexives are handled in modern Qevesa by Form VI.

Triliteral roots construct this form by pairing the second and third consonants; biliteral roots construct this form by geminating the second consonant. Both types of root prefix *ina-*.

4.1.6. Form VI

Form VI is the “reflexive causative” stem. Its primary function is to serve as the reflexive counterpart to the causative form; however, it is prone to semantic and metaphorical drift.

It is constructed by prefixing the Form II stem with *me-*.

4.1.7. Form VII

Form VII 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.

Triliteral roots construct this form by pairing the first and second consonants, geminating the third consonant, and prefixing with *i-*. Biliteral roots construct this form by geminating the second consonant and prefixing with *is-*.

4.1.8. Other Verb Forms

There are a small number of irregular stem forms, mainly used to construct auxiliary verbs, such as those indicating evidentiality or polarity. They are effectively a closed class, and are generally not productive.

4.1.8.1. Form VIII

Form VIII are constructed by pairing the second and third consonants. Few biliteral roots possess this form; those that do geminate the second consonant.

4.1.8.2. Form IX

Form IX are constructed by prefixing the Form I stem with *e-*. Triliteral roots pair the first and second consonants; biliteral roots are otherwise unchanged.

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.

4.2.1. Verbal Nouns

Verbal nouns are systematically related to verb forms. The verbal noun names the action denoted by its corresponding verb; they are often abstract in meaning, but some of them have specific, concrete reference. Verbal nouns may also express infinitive forms. Typically, the infinitive verbal noun is the citation form of a root.

The verbal noun pattern is generally formed in a variety of ways, depending on the verbal root form. The most common paradigms are given in Table 4.2; most forms suffix *-a* and many forms may prefix *ja-*.

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	C ₁ uC ₂ uC ₃ a	C ₁ uC ₂ a
II	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ uC ₃ a	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ua
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ a	jaC ₁ C ₂ uC ₂ a
IV	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ uC ₃ a	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ a
V	inaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ a	inaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
VI	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ uC ₃ a	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
VII	iC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ a	iC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
VIII	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ a	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a

Table 4.2. *Verbal noun paradigms*

(2) EXAMPLES

4.2.2. 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 4.3.

4.2.3. Location

Another noun pattern specifies the location in which an action is performed. Only Forms I–VI have locative patterns, and of these, not all are productive or even valid. The patterns for location are given in Table 4.4.

Some examples:

(3) EXAMPLES

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	C ₁ aC ₂ oiC ₃	C ₁ aC ₂ oi
II	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oiC ₃	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oi
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ oi	jaC ₁ C ₂ aC ₂ oi
IV	taC ₁ C ₁ aC ₂ oiC ₃	taC ₁ C ₁ aC ₂ oi
V	inaC ₁ aC ₂ C ₃ oi	inaC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oi
VI	meC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oiC ₃	meC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oi
VII	iC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ C ₃ oi	iC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oi
VIII	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₃ oi	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oi

(a) *Active participles*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	C ₁ oC ₂ iC ₃	C ₁ oC ₂ i
II	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ iC ₃	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃ i	jaC ₁ C ₂ oC ₂ i
IV	taC ₁ C ₁ oC ₂ iC ₃	taC ₁ C ₁ oC ₂ i
V	inaC ₁ oC ₂ C ₃ i	inaC ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i
VI	meC ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ iC ₃	meC ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i
VII	iC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃ C ₃ i	iC ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i
VIII	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₃ i	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i

(b) *Passive participles*Table 4.3. *Nominal participles*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	aC ₁ C ₂ eC ₃	aC ₁ eC ₂
II	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ eC ₃	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ e
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ éC ₃	jaC ₁ C ₂ éC ₂
IV	taC ₁ C ₁ aC ₂ eC ₃	taC ₁ C ₁ aC ₂ e
V	inaC ₁ aC ₂ C ₃ e	inaC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ e
VI	meC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ eC ₃	meC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ e

Table 4.4. *Nouns of location*

4.2.4. 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 4.5.

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	$C_1iC_2\acute{a}C_3$	C_1iC_2ait
II	$C_1iC_2C_2\acute{a}C_3$	$C_1iC_2C_2ait$
III	$jaC_1C_2iC_3ait$	$jaC_1C_2iC_2ait$
IV	$taC_1C_1iC_2\acute{a}C_3$	$taC_1C_1iC_2ait$
V	$inaC_1iC_2C_3ait$	$inaC_1iC_2C_2ait$

Table 4.5. *Nouns of instrument*

Some examples:

(4) *EXAMPLES*

4.2.5. Intensity, Repetition, Profession

A noun pattern exists to denote intensity or repeated actions; it also often denotes professions. The basic patterns are $C_1oC_2C_2\acute{a}C_3$ and $C_1oC_2C_2\acute{a}$:

(5) *EXAMPLES*

The abstract noun denoting the name of a profession is often given by the patterns $C_1oiC_2C_2\acute{a}C_3$ and $C_1oiC_2C_2\acute{a}$:

(6) *EXAMPLES*

4.2.6. Common Nouns

To be written...

4.2.7. 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.

(7) *EXAMPLES*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	C ₁ eC ₂ éC ₃	C ₁ eC ₂ é
II	C ₁ eC ₂ C ₂ éC ₃	C ₁ eC ₂ C ₂ é
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ eC ₃ é	jaC ₁ C ₂ eC ₂ é
IV	taC ₁ C ₁ eC ₂ éC ₃	taC ₁ C ₁ eC ₂ é
V	inaC ₁ eC ₂ C ₃ é	inaC ₁ eC ₂ C ₂ é
VI	meC ₁ eC ₂ C ₂ éC ₃	meC ₁ eC ₂ C ₂ é
VII	iC ₁ C ₂ eC ₃ C ₃ é	iC ₁ eC ₂ C ₂ é
VIII	C ₁ eC ₂ C ₃ é	C ₁ eC ₂ C ₂ é

(a) *Generic nominalisation*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	C ₁ éC ₂ aC ₃	C ₁ éC ₂ a
II	C ₁ éC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃	C ₁ éC ₂ C ₂ a
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ éC ₃ a	jaC ₁ C ₂ éC ₂ a
IV	taC ₁ C ₁ éC ₂ aC ₃	taC ₁ C ₁ éC ₂ a
V	inaC ₁ éC ₂ C ₃ a	inaC ₁ éC ₂ C ₂ a
VI	meC ₁ éC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃	meC ₁ éC ₂ C ₂ a
VII	iC ₁ C ₂ éC ₃ C ₃ a	iC ₁ éC ₂ C ₂ a
VIII	C ₁ éC ₂ C ₃ a	C ₁ éC ₂ C ₂ a

(b) *Specific nominalisation*Table 4.6. *Generic and specific noun forms*

5. Verbal Morphology

5.1. Features

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

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

5.2. The Infinitive

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

5.3. Conjugation

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

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

5.3.1. Aspect

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

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

5.3.1.1. The Imperfective Aspects

The imperfective aspects are used to indicate:

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

The triliteral root patterns for the imperfective aspects are given in Table 5.1.

5.3.1.2. The Perfective Aspects

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

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

The triliteral root patterns for the perfective aspects are given in Table 5.2.

Form	Imperfective	Stative	Durative	Frequentative	Habitual
	IPFV	STAT	DUR;PFV	FREQ	HAB
I	C ₁ uC ₂ iC ₃	C ₁ uiC ₂ eC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ úC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ oC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ aC ₃
II	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ iC ₃	C ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ eC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ úC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ oC ₃	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ i	jaC ₁ C ₂ uiC ₃ e	jaC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ ú	jaC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ o	jaC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ a
IV	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ iC ₃	taC ₁ C ₁ uiC ₂ eC ₃	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ úC ₃	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ oC ₃	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ aC ₃
V	inaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ i	inaC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₃ e	inaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ ú	inaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ o	inaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ a
VI	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ iC ₃	meC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ eC ₃	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ úC ₃	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ oC ₃	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃
VII	iC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ i	iC ₁ C ₂ uiC ₃ C ₃ e	iC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ ú	iC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ o	iC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ a
VIII	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ i	C ₁ uiC ₂ C ₃ e	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ ú	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ o	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ a

(a) Triliteral roots

Form	Imperfective	Stative	Durative	Frequentative	Habitual
	IPFV	STAT	DUR;PFV	FREQ	HAB
I	C ₁ uC ₂ i	C ₁ uiC ₂ e	C ₁ uC ₂ ú	C ₁ uC ₂ o	C ₁ uC ₂ a
II	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ i	C ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ú	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ o	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ uC ₂ i	jaC ₁ C ₂ uiC ₂ e	jaC ₁ C ₂ uC ₂ ú	jaC ₁ C ₂ uC ₂ o	jaC ₁ C ₂ uC ₂ a
IV	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ i	taC ₁ C ₁ uiC ₂ e	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ ú	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ o	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ a
V	inaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ i	inaC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e	inaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ú	inaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ o	inaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
VI	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ i	meC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ú	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ o	meC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
VII	isC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ i	isC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e	isC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ú	isC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ o	isC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
VIII	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ i	C ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ú	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ o	C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
IX	eC ₁ uC ₂ i	eC ₁ uiC ₂ e	eC ₁ uC ₂ ú	eC ₁ uC ₂ o	eC ₁ uC ₂ a

(b) Biliteral roots

Table 5.1. Imperfective aspectual patterns

Form	Perfective	Inchoative	Cessative	Durative	Momentane
	PFV	INCH	CESS	DUR;PFV	MOMT
I	C ₁ iC ₂ oC ₃ a	C ₁ iC ₂ uC ₃ o	C ₁ iC ₂ aC ₃ a	C ₁ iC ₂ aC ₃ u	C ₁ iC ₂ uC ₃ a
II	C ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ oC ₃ a	C ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ uC ₃ o	C ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃ a	C ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃ u	C ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ uC ₃ a
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ ioC ₃ a	jaC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ o	jaC ₁ C ₂ íC ₃ a	jaC ₁ C ₂ iaC ₃ u	jaC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ a
IV	taC ₁ C ₁ iC ₂ oC ₃ a	taC ₁ C ₁ iC ₂ uC ₃ o	taC ₁ C ₁ iC ₂ aC ₃ a	taC ₁ C ₁ iC ₂ aC ₃ u	taC ₁ C ₁ iC ₂ uC ₃ a
V	inaC ₁ ioC ₂ C ₃ a	inaC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₃ o	inaC ₁ íC ₂ C ₃ a	inaC ₁ iaC ₂ C ₃ u	inaC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₃ a
VI	meC ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ oC ₃ a	meC ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ uC ₃ o	meC ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃ a	meC ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃ u	meC ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ uC ₃ a
VII	iC ₁ C ₂ ioC ₃ C ₃ a	iC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ C ₃ o	iC ₁ C ₂ íC ₃ C ₃ a	iC ₁ C ₂ iaC ₃ C ₃ u	iC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ C ₃ a
VIII	C ₁ ioC ₂ C ₃ a	C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₃ o	C ₁ íC ₂ C ₃ a	C ₁ iaC ₂ C ₃ u	C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₃ a

(a) Triliteral roots

Form	Perfective	Inchoative	Cessative	Durative	Momentane
	PFV	INCH	CESS	DUR;PFV	MOMT
I	C ₁ ioC ₂ a	C ₁ iuC ₂ o	C ₁ íC ₂ a	C ₁ iaC ₂ u	C ₁ iuC ₂ a
II	C ₁ ioC ₂ C ₂ a	C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o	C ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a	C ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u	C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ a
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ ioC ₂ a	jaC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₂ o	jaC ₁ C ₂ íC ₂ a	jaC ₁ C ₂ iaC ₂ u	jaC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₂ a
IV	taC ₁ C ₁ ioC ₂ a	taC ₁ C ₁ iuC ₂ o	taC ₁ C ₁ íC ₂ a	taC ₁ C ₁ iaC ₂ u	taC ₁ C ₁ iuC ₂ a
V	inaC ₁ ioC ₂ C ₂ a	inaC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o	inaC ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a	inaC ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u	inaC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ a
VI	meC ₁ ioC ₂ C ₂ a	meC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o	meC ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a	meC ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u	meC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ a
VII	isC ₁ ioC ₂ C ₂ a	isC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o	isC ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a	isC ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u	isC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ a
VIII	C ₁ ioC ₂ C ₂ a	C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o	C ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a	C ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u	C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ a
IX	eC ₁ ioC ₂ a	eC ₁ iuC ₂ o	eC ₁ íC ₂ a	eC ₁ iaC ₂ u	eC ₁ iuC ₂ a

(b) Biliteral roots

Table 5.2. Perfective aspectual patterns

5.3.2. Topical Agreement

Qevesa is a topic-prominent language that tends towards a split-S active deictic 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 nominative case.

5.3.2.1. Primary Agreement

The topic of the verb primarily indicates its experiencer, agent/donor, patient/recipient, or theme. If the topical noun phrase is a pronoun, it may be omitted. The suffixes for topical agreement are given in Table 5.3.

	Ergative	Accusative	Secundative
	ERG	ACC	SDT
1SG	-ěm-/jem-	-ěš-/ješ-	-ět-/jet-
2SG	-tam-	-taš-	-tot-
3SG	-(a)m-	-(a)š-	-(a)t-
1DU;INC	-jévem-	-jéveš-	-jévot-
1DU;EXC	-čévem-	-čéveš-	-čévot-
2DU	-távem-	-táveš-	-távot-
3DU	-vám-	-váš-	-vát-
1PL;INC	-jésem-	-jéseš-	-jésot-
1PL;EXC	-čésem-	-česeš-	-čésot-
2PL	-tásem-	-táseš-	-tásot-
3PL	-sám-	-sáš-	-sót-
3;INANIM	-nom-	-noš-	-not-

Table 5.3. *Primary topical agreement*

The first person singular uses *-ě-* after a consonant, and *-je-* after a vowel; pronunciation is unaltered. The third-person singular suffixes insert an epenthetic *-a-* when the suffix follows a consonant. The use of the singular, dual, and plural numbers is described in Section 6.2.2.

5.3.2.1.1. Ergative Topic

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

5.3.2.1.2. Accusative Topic

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

5.3.2.1.3. Secundative Topic

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

5.3.2.2. Secondary Topical Agreement

If the topic of the phrase is not the experiencer, agent/donor, patient/recipient or theme, the verb can be marked with a suffix that corresponds to the role of the noun phrase in the nominative case. Unlike the primary cases, there are no combined pronoun suffixes, so pronouns must not be omitted. These suffixes are described in Table 5.4.

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

Table 5.4. *Secondary topical agreement*

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

5.3.3. Mood

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

The suffixes for mood are given in Table 5.5.

5.3.3.1. Indicative Mood

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

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

Table 5.5. Verbal mood suffixes

5.3.3.2. Admirative Mood

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

(9) *EXAMPLE*

5.3.3.3. Irrealis Mood

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

(10) *EXAMPLE*

5.3.3.4. Alethic Mood

The alethic mood denotes the logical necessity of the statement.

(11) *EXAMPLE*

5.3.3.5. Necessitative Mood

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

(12) *EXAMPLE*

5.3.3.6. Precative Mood

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

(13) *EXAMPLE*

5.3.3.7. Volitive Mood

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

(14) *EXAMPLE*

5.3.3.8. Hypothetical Mood

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

(15) *EXAMPLE*

5.4. Auxiliary Verbs

Periphrastic constructions, such as polarity and evidentiality, are indicated with a series of auxiliary verbs. These conjugate similarly to ordinary verbs, but use a slightly different set of conjugations and affixes that are generally identical to the forms for attributive verbs¹.

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

5.4.1. Polarity

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

Both of these verbs conjugate to aspect as a Form IX root, prefixed with an initial *e-*, as shown in Table 5.6.

¹See Section 7.1.1, page 43

		Polarity	
		AFF	NEG
Imperfective	IPFV	esuri	edumi
Stative	STAT	esuire	eduime
Durative	DUR;IPFV	esurú	edumú
Frequentative	FREQ	esuro	edumo
Habitual	HAB	esura	eduma
Perfective	PFV	esiora	edioma
Inchoative	INCH	esiuro	ediumo
Cessative	CESS	esíra	edíma
Durative	DUR;PFV	esiaru	ediamu
Momentane	MOMT	esiura	ediuma

Table 5.6. *Polar verb aspectual conjugation*

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

- (16) *Ē'isátka soşima jem edíma nuttúlaşo.*

Ē'=isá-tka-Ø soşim-a jem edíma nuttúl-aş-o

DEF=DIST-HUM-NOM girl-NOM 1SG.ERG NEG.CESS think\F2.DUR;IPFV-3SG;ACC-IND
that girl I not stop thinking about her

I cannot stop thinking about that girl.

5.4.2. Evidentiality

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

All of the roots of the evidential auxiliaries are also verbs in their own right. However, they conjugate as Form VIII verbs, with some slightly irregular pattern forms. Their conjugation is given in Table 5.7.

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

5.4.2.1. Witness

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

		Evidentiality			
		EXP	REP	INFR	ASM
Imperfective	IPFV	murri	lukši	kučti	quspi
Stative	STAT	muirre	lukše	kuičte	quispe
Durative	DUR;IPFV	murrú	lukšú	kučtú	quspú
Frequentative	FREQ	murro	lukšo	kučto	quspo
Habitual	HAB	murra	lukša	kučta	quspa
Perfective	PFV	miorra	liokša	kiočta	qiospa
Inchoative	INCH	miurro	liukšo	kiučto	qiuspo
Cessative	CESS	mírra	likša	kíčta	qísipa
Durative	DUR;PFV	miarru	liakšu	kiačtu	qiaspu
Momentane	MOMT	miurra	liukša	kiučta	qiuspa

Table 5.7. Conjugation of the evidential verbs

5.4.2.2. Reportative

The reportative degree of evidentiality is denoted by the verb *lukšu*, which has the same consonantal root as the verb *lukuš* ‘to hear (speech)’.

5.4.2.3. Inferential

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

5.4.2.4. Assumptive

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

5.5. Irregular Verbs

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

5.5.1. The Copulae

The most frequently-used irregular verb in Qevesa is the copula *teši*. It is one of a number of verbs which do not possess a regular infinitive of the form C_1uC_2u ; it also possesses a negative

form (*demi*²), unlike most other verbs. The basic conjugated forms of *teši* are given in Table 5.8.

		Non-negative	Negative
		COP	NEG
Infinitive	INF	teši	demi
Imperfective	IPFV	tušši	dummi
Stative	STAT	tuišše	duimme
Durative	DUR;IPFV	tuššú	dummú
Frequentative	FREQ	tuššo	dummo
Habitual	HAB	tušša	dumma
Perfective	PFV	tiošša	diomma
Inchoative	INCH	tiuššo	diummo
Cessative	CESS	tíšša	dímma
Durative	DUR;PFV	tiaššu	diammu
Momentane	MOMT	tiušša	diumma

Table 5.8. *Aspectual conjugation of the copulae teši and demi*

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

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

6. Nominal Morphology

6.1. Definitions and Features

The basic structure of the Qevesa noun consists of a stem composed of a root and zero or more derivational affixes, plus declensional affixes.

Nouns, like verbs, are highly regular in their declension. There is no grammatical gender, although some nouns, such as body parts, do possess an inherent gender. Explicit constructions to indicate gender are used only when necessary, and these are seldom used except in the formal or literary language. Nouns may be classed according to animacy, a feature which is only indicated by the declension affixes.

Qevesa nouns decline to indicate two non-inherent features: number and case. Most nouns have three numbers, a singular, dual or collective, and plural, although a small, closed set have a natural number and receive inverse marking. There are fourteen cases in the standard written language: nominative, ergative, accusative, 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.

The citation form of all nouns is the nominative singular.

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:

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

6.2.1. Case

Qevesa possess 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 6.1. Noteworthy is that the suffixes could also be analysed as consisting of an animacy suffix followed by the case suffix.

6.2.1.1. The Primary Cases

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

6.2.1.1.1. Nominative

The nominative case marks the topic of the verb phrase. Its actual role is indicated on the verb, using the topical agreement suffixes as described in Section 5.3.2.

6.2.1.1.2. Ergative

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

6.2.1.1.3. Accusative

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

6.2.1.1.4. Secundative

The secundative case marks the theme of a ditransitive verb.

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

Case		Animate		Inanimate	
		ANIM		INANIM	
Nominative	NOM	-a	-Ø	-ina	-na
Ergative	ERG	-am	-m	-inom	-nom
Accusative	ACC	-aş	-ş	-inoş	-noş
Secundative	SDT	-ot	-t	-inot	-not
Genitive	GEN	-aik	-k	-inok	-nok
Essive	ESS	-ël	-jel	-ol	-nol
Instrumental (Comitative)	INS	-ëtti	-jetti	-otti	-notti
Inessive	INE	-ëssi	-jessi	-ossi	-nossi
Adessive	ADE	-ëdi	-jedi	-odi	-nodi
Illative	ILL	-ësto	-jesto	-osto	-nosto
Allative	ALL	-ëfti	-jefti	-ofti	-nofti
Elative	ELA	-ëspo	-jespo	-ospo	-nospo
Ablative	ABL	-ësko	-jesko	-osko	-nosko
Comparative	COMP	-ënno	-jenno	-onno	-nenno
(Vocative)	VOC	-ó	-jó		

Table 6.1. *Case suffixes*

6.2.1.2. The Secondary Cases

The secondary cases are mainly adpositional and locative cases.

6.2.1.2.1. Genitive

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

6.2.1.2.2. Essive

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

6.2.1.2.3. Instrumental (Comitative)

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.

6.2.1.2.4. Inessive

The inessive case indicates internal location.

6.2.1.2.5. Adessive

The adessive case indicates external location.

6.2.1.2.6. Illative

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

6.2.1.2.7. Allative

The allative case indicates motion towards the noun.

6.2.1.2.8. Elative

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

6.2.1.2.9. Ablative

The ablative case indicates motion away from the noun.

6.2.1.2.10. Comparative

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

6.2.1.3. 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 6.2.

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

Table 6.2. *Locative cases*

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

6.2.2. Number

Qevesa possesses at least three forms of grammatical number: singular, dual/collective, and plural. In addition, a number of irregular nouns, such as body parts, possess a natural number, for which there is a singulative form to indicate exactly one of the noun. Number is indicated by appending a suffix, inserting an epenthetic *-e-* if the stem ends in a consonant, or lengthening the final vowel if the stem ends in a vowel. Some examples are given on page 37 in Example 18.

The suffixes for number are given in Table 6.3.

		Suffix
Singular	SG	-Ø
Dual/Collective	DU	-(e)v
Plural	PL	-(e)s
Singulative	SGV	-sen

Table 6.3. Grammatical number suffixes

The dual number is of particular note. 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 singulative is used to indicate exactly one of the specified item, in situations where the expected number differs from the actual number.

- (18) *miara* ‘eye’ *miaráv* ‘two eyes’ *miarás* ‘eyes’
tolik ‘boy’ *tolikev* ‘two boys’ *tolikes* ‘boys’
cavoik ‘friend’ *cavoikev* ‘two friends’ *cavoikes* ‘friends’

6.3. Articles

Qevesa possesses a definite article but no indefinite article. It normally consists of *la*, but before a vowel the <a> may be elided and the article attached as a proclitic *l’-*. *To be written...*

Move this to syntax?

6.4. 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.

The class of determiners is a special case, in that they can also act as articles for other nouns or noun phrases.

6.4.1. 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.

The base forms of the pronouns are given in Table 6.4, and the cases with personal suffixes are given in Table 6.5.

	Stem		Cases				
	Root	Suffix	NOM	ERG	ACC	SDT	GEN
1SG	je	-ě/-je	je	jem	jeṣ	jet	jek
2SG	ta	-ta	ta	tam	taṣ	tajot	tak
3SG	mi	-mi	mi	mim	miṣ	mijot	mik
1DU;INC	jév	-jév	jéva	jévam	jévaṣ	jévot	jévaik
1DU;EXC	čév	-čév	čéva	čévam	čévaṣ	čévot	čévaik
2DU	táv	-táv	táva	távam	távaṣ	távot	távaik
3DU	mív	-mív	míva	mívam	mívaṣ	mívot	mívaik
1DU;INC	jés	-jés	jésa	jésam	jésaṣ	jésot	jésaik
1DU;EXC	čés	-čés	čésa	čésam	čésaṣ	čésot	čésaik
2DU	tás	-tás	tása	tásam	tásaṣ	tásot	tásaik
3DU	mís	-mís	mísa	mísam	mísaṣ	mísot	mísaik
3;INANIM	net	-net	neta	netam	netaṣ	netot	netaik

Table 6.4. *Personal pronouns*

		Cases				
		ESS	INS	INE	ADE	ILL
		<i>ěl-</i>	<i>ětt(i)-</i>	<i>ěss(i)-</i>	<i>ěd(i)-</i>	<i>ěsto-</i>
1SG	<i>-je</i>	ělje	ěttje	ěssje	ědje	ěstoje
2SG	<i>-ta</i>	ělta	ěttita	ěssta	ědita	ěstota
3SG	<i>-mi</i>	ělmi	ěttimi	ěssmi	ědmi	ěstomi
1DU;INC	<i>-jév</i>	ěljév	ěttjév	ěssjév	ědjév	ěstojév
1DU;EXC	<i>-čév</i>	ělčév	ěttčév	ěssčév	ědčév	ěstočév
2DU	<i>-táv</i>	ěltáv	ěttitáv	ěsstáv	ěditáv	ěstotáv
3DU	<i>-mív</i>	ělmív	ěttimív	ěssmív	ědmív	ěstomív
1PL;INC	<i>-jés</i>	ěljés	ěttjés	ěssjés	ědjés	ěstojés
1PL;EXC	<i>-čés</i>	ělčés	ěttčés	ěssčés	ědčés	ěstočés
2PL	<i>-tás</i>	ěltás	ěttitás	ěsstás	ěditás	ěstotás
3PL	<i>-mís</i>	ělmís	ěttimís	ěssmís	ědmís	ěstomís
3;INANIM	<i>-net</i>	ělnet	ěttinet	ěssnet	ědnet	ěstonet

		Cases			
		ALL	ELA	ABL	COMP
		<i>ěft(i)-</i>	<i>ěspo-</i>	<i>ěsko-</i>	<i>no-</i>
1SG	<i>-je</i>	ěftije	ěspoje	ěskoje	noje
2SG	<i>-ta</i>	ěftita	ěspota	ěskota	nota
3SG	<i>-mi</i>	ěftimi	ěspomi	ěskomi	nomi
1DU;INC	<i>-jév</i>	ěftijev	ěspojév	ěskojév	nojév
1DU;EXC	<i>-čév</i>	ěftičév	ěspočév	ěskočév	nočév
2DU	<i>-táv</i>	ěftitáv	ěspotáv	ěskotáv	notáv
3DU	<i>-mív</i>	ěftimív	ěspomív	ěskomív	nomív
1PL;INC	<i>-jés</i>	ěftijés	ěspojés	ěskojés	nojés
1PL;EXC	<i>-čés</i>	ěftičés	ěspočés	ěskočés	nočés
2PL	<i>-tás</i>	ěftitás	ěspotás	ěskotás	notás
3PL	<i>-mís</i>	ěftimís	ěspomís	ěskomís	nomís
3;INANIM	<i>-net</i>	ěftinet	ěsponet	ěskonet	nonet

Table 6.5. *Cases with personal suffixes*

6.4.2. Reflexive and Reciprocal Pronouns

Qevesa does not possess reflexive or reciprocal pronouns as most verb roots have forms that indicate reflexive³ or reciprocal⁴ actions. The word *máka* ‘self’, may be used as a reflexive pronoun to avoid ambiguity, but this is rare.

6.4.3. 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 and case with their antecedent, unlike all other types of modifiers, such as adjectives.

A related set of pronouns is formed by prefixes denoting number or quantity. These include the existential, elective, universal and negative series, and combine with the suffixes in a highly regular manner.

The demonstrative and correlative pronouns are listed in Table 6.6.

The prefixes for each series of demonstratives can also be combined with case suffixes, to produce pronouns of specific direction or location, for example:

- | | | |
|------|----------------|----------------|
| (19) | <i>tojessi</i> | <i>qejefti</i> |
| | to-jessi | qe-jefti |
| | PROX-INE | INT-ALL |
| | in(side) here | towards where? |

³See Section ??, page ??

⁴See Section ??, page ??

			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

(a) *Demonstrative pronouns*

			Existential	Elective	Universal	Negative
			EXIST	ELECT	UNIV	NEG
			<i>ane-</i>	<i>via-</i>	<i>minű-</i>	<i>domo-</i>
Human	HUM	<i>-tka</i>	anetka	viatka	minűtka	domotka
Nonhuman	NH	<i>-ra</i>	anera	viara	minűra	domora
Location	LOC	<i>-zól</i>	anezól	viazól	minűzól	domozól
Source	SRC	<i>-ská</i>	aneská	viaská	minűská	domoská
Destination	DEST	<i>-rve</i>	anerve	viarve	minűrve	domorve
Time	TIME	<i>-lti</i>	anelti	vialti	minűlti	domolti
Manner	MAN	<i>-ttu</i>	anettu	viattu	minűttu	domottu
Reason	RSN	<i>-rte</i>	anerte	viarte	minűrte	domorte

(b) *Correlative pronouns*Table 6.6. *Demonstrative and correlative pronouns*

7. Adjectival Morphology

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

Adjectival Verbs are verb-like forms, that are almost universally formed by the Form VII root.

Adjectival Nouns are adjectives derived from nouns that attach to a form of the copula when used predicatively. The copula then inflects to the appropriate verbal conjugations.

Attributives are plain adjectives, also derived from the Form VII root, which may only occur before nouns. In a predicative position, their corresponding adjectival verb form will be used.

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 Form VII verbal roots. They may predicate sentences, and conjugate to aspect, topical agreement, mood and politeness in the same manner as ordinary verbs, differing in some inflections, notably aspect. The transfix patterns used to indicate aspect are the primary means of deriving attributive verbs; these are given in Table 7.1.

7.1.1.1. Adverbs

Adverbs are a derived class of attributive verbs, formed by appending the suffix *-zi* to the aspectual form that agrees with their head verb.

7.1.2. Adjectival Nouns

Unlike adjectival verbs, attributive nouns are derived from nominalisations of verb forms, as well as other nouns. The most common nominalisations used to derive adjectival nouns are the verbal nouns and the active and passive participles. Nominal forms can be turned into adjectives by appending the suffix *-mne*.

(20) *teşuqqa* ‘narcissism’ *teşuqqamne* ‘narcissistic’

		Pattern	
		Triliteral	Biliteral
Imperfective	IPFV	eC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ i	eC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ i
Stative	STAT	eC ₁ C ₂ uiC ₃ C ₃ e	eC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e
Durative	DUR;IPFV	eC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ ú	eC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ú
Frequentative	FREQ	eC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ o	eC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ o
Habitual	HAB	eC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ a	eC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
Perfective	PFV	eC ₁ C ₂ ioC ₃ C ₃ a	eC ₁ ioC ₂ C ₂ a
Inchoative	INCH	eC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ C ₃ o	eC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o
Cessative	CESS	eC ₁ C ₂ íC ₃ C ₃ a	eC ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a
Durative	DUR;PFV	eC ₁ C ₂ iaC ₃ C ₃ u	eC ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u
Momentane	MOMT	eC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ C ₃ a	eC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ a

Table 7.1. *Adjectival verb aspectual conjugation*

7.1.3. Attributives

Attributives are also derived from the Form VII root, and have only a single transfix pattern, in contrast to their corresponding adjectival verbs: $iC_1C_2eC_3C_3a$ for triliteral roots, and $iC_1eC_2C_2a$ for biliteral roots.

- (21) P-L-T *pulut* ‘to beautify, to adorn’: *ipletta* ‘beautiful’
 T-M-S *itmussu* ‘to be tall’: *itmessa* ‘tall’

7.2. Adjectival Inflection

Adjectives inflect for polarity and degree; neither adjectival verbs, adjectival nouns or attributives agree with their head in number, case, or aspect. The structure of an adjective is:

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

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

7.2.1. Degree

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

		Prefix	Suffix	Adverb
Comparative	COMP	Ø	-vín	vín
Superlative	SUPL	ko-	-vín	kovín
Exaggerated	EXAG	los-	-vín	losvín

Table 7.2. Adjectival degree adverbs

	Adjective	Comparative	Superlative	Exaggerated
Affixes	<i>itmessa</i>	<i>itmessavín</i>	<i>koitmessavín</i>	<i>lositmessavín</i>
	<i>itmessa</i>	<i>itmessa-vín</i>	<i>ko-itmessa-vín</i>	<i>los-itmessa-vín</i>
	tall	tall-COMP	SUPL-tall-COMP	EXAG-tall-COMP
	‘tall’	‘taller’	‘tallest’	‘most tallest’
Adverbs	<i>itmessa</i>	<i>vín itmessa</i>	<i>kovín itmessa</i>	<i>losvín itmessa</i>
	tall	COMP tall	SUPL tall	EXAG tall
	‘tall’	‘taller’	‘tallest’	‘most tallest’

Table 7.3. Adjectival degree inflection

Table 7.3 gives the adjective comparison marking for the word *itmessa* (tall), and Example 23 shows two sentences demonstrating the different styles of comparative marking.

- (23) a. *Cavoikě noje vín etmuisseşo.*
Cavoik-ě-Ø no-je vín etmuisse-ş-o
 friend-1SG;POS-NOM COMP-1SG COMP tall\STAT-3SG;ACC-IND
 friend my than me (more) tall is
 My friend is taller than me.
- b. *Cavoikě noje etmuisseşovín.*
Cavoik-ě-Ø no-je etmuisse-ş-o-vín
 friend-1SG;POS-NOM COMP-1SG tall\STAT-3SG;ACC-IND-COMP
 friend my than me taller is
 My friend is taller than me.

7.2.2. Polarity

Unlike both verbs and nouns¹, 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.

¹Note that the negative determinative prefix, described in Section 6.4.3 on page 40, may function as a polarity marker.

	Suffix
Affirmative AFF	-şerí
Negative NEG	-demí

Table 7.4. *Adjectival polarity suffixes*

- (24) a. T-M-S *itmussu*, ‘to be tall’:

itmessa itmessaşerí itmessademí

itmessa itmessa-şerí itmessa-demí

tall tall-AFF tall-NEG

‘tall’ ‘very tall’ ‘not tall’

- b. *Cavoikě etmuisseşodemí.*

Cavoik-ě-∅ etmuisse-ş-o-demí

friend-1SG;POS-NOM tall\STAT-3SG;ACC-IND-NEG

friend my tall 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. Although the primary base is duodecimal, evidence of other bases can be seen in some number forms. It is interesting to note that the words for 1_{10} to 20_{10} (with the exception of 15_{10}) are unanalysable, but the numerals for 21_{10} to 23_{10} are vigesimal¹, as are a number of others.

8.1. Cardinals

The base number words are the cardinal numerals. The stems for numerals are unique in that they include vowels, which leads to their classification as *stems* and not *roots*; if the stems are to be used as consonantal roots, the vowels are dropped. Note that consonant clusters are treated as single consonants for numeric roots. The cardinals from 0_{10} to 21_{10} are listed in Table 8.1.

Cardinal		Root	Cardinal		Root
0	dom	d-m-	11_{10}	türe	t-r-
1	sen	s-n-	12_{10}	žel	ž-l-
2	ěti	j-t-	13_{10}	scem	sc-m-
3	köl	k-l-	14_{10}	zpet	zp-t-
4	qese	q-s-	15_{10}	žeköl	ž-k-l
5	inü	h-n-	16_{10}	ksož	ks-ž-
6	von	v-n-	17_{10}	pedla	p-dl-
7	ikuš	h-k-š	18_{10}	pseña	ps-ň-
8	sopri	s-pr-	19_{10}	sevča	s-vč-
9	jok	j-k-	20_{10}	vaudi	v-d-
10_{10}	méri	m-r-	21_{10}	vaudi-sen	Ø

Table 8.1. *Cardinal numerals from 0_{10} to 21_{10}*

¹Historically, Qevesa used a vigesimal number system, but influence from neighbouring languages caused a switch to a duodecimal system instead.

The numerals from 19_{12} to $1B_{12}$ are vigesimal, as are some multiples of 50_{12} (60_{10}). Numerals from 20_{12} to BB_{12} are suffixed with *-za*:

- (25) 19_{12} *vaudi-sen*
 $1A_{12}$ *vaudi-ėti*
 $1B_{12}$ *vaudi-köl*
 20_{12} *ětiza*
 30_{12} *kölza*
 40_{12} *qeseza*
 50_{12} *kölvád* or *inüza*
 65_{12} *vonza-inü*
 $A0_{12}$ *mériza*
 BB_{12} *türeza-türe*

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

- (26) 100_{12} *sentoc*
 200_{12} *ěttoc*
 300_{12} *költoc*
 409_{12} *qesetoc-jok*
 752_{12} *ikuştoc-kölvád-ėti*

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

- (27) 1000_{12} *sensíva*
 2000_{12} *ětsíva*
 4000_{12} *qessíva* (**qesesíva*)
 8603_{12} *soprisíva-vontoc-köl*
 $10,000_{12}$ *želsíva*
 $17,029_{12}$ *pedłasíva-ětiza-jok*
 $50,000_{12}$ *kölvádsíva*
 $93,487_{12}$ *jokza-kölsíva qesetoc-sopriza-ikuş*
 $100,000_{12}$ *sentossíva*
 $682,196_{12}$ *vontoc-sopriza-ětsíva sentoc-jokza-von*

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

- (28)
- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| $1 \cdot 10^6_{12}$ | <i>semmúl</i> (* <i>senmúl</i>) |
| $2 \cdot 10^6_{12}$ | <i>ėtimúl</i> |
| $70 \cdot 10^6_{12}$ | <i>ikuřzamúl</i> |
| $300 \cdot 10^6_{12}$ | <i>költocmúl</i> |
| $419,203,62A_{12}$ | <i>qesetoc-vaudi-semmúl ěttoc-kölsíva vontoc-ětiza-méri</i> |
| $900,000,000,000_{12}$ | <i>joktocsívamúl</i> |

Using this system alone, it is possible to count up to BBB,BBB,BBB,BBB₁₂, or 8,916,100,448,255₁₀. Larger numerals, if needed, use a system of powers *which I haven't thought of yet*.

8.2. Ordinals

The ordinal numerals are formed by appending the suffix *-ik* to the number word. For large numerals, the suffix is applied to the last word in the sequence. The ordinals from *0th to 21₁₀st are given in Table 8.2.

Ordinal		Ordinal	
*0 th	*domik	11 ₁₀ th	türeik
1 st	senik	12 ₁₀ th	želik
2 nd	ėtík	13 ₁₀ th	scemik
3 rd	kölik	14 ₁₀ th	zpetik
4 th	qeseik	15 ₁₀ th	žekölik
5 th	inüik	16 ₁₀ th	ksožik
6 th	vonik	17 ₁₀ th	pedłaik
7 th	ikuřik	18 ₁₀ th	pseñaik
8 th	soprík	19 ₁₀ th	sevčaik
9 th	jokik	20 ₁₀ th	vaudík
10 ₁₀ th	mérik	21 ₁₀ th	vaudi-senik

Table 8.2. *Ordinal numerals from 0₁₀ to 21₁₀*

8.3. Multiplicatives

Numerals in Qevesa also have a special form for multiplicatives, formed by appending the suffix *-zmi*. If the numeral stem ends in a consonant, and epenthetic vowel identical to the nucleus vowel of the previous syllable is inserted. The multiplicative numbers from 0₁₀ to 21₁₀ are listed in Table 8.3.

Multiplicative		Multiplicative	
0×	domozmi	11×	türezmi
1×	senezmi	12×	zelezmi
2×	ětízmi	13×	scemezmi
3×	kölözmi	14×	zpetezmi
4×	qesezmi	15×	žekölözmi
5×	inüzmi	16×	ksožozmi
6×	vonozmi	17×	pedłazmi
7×	ikuşuzmi	18×	pseñazmi
8×	soprizmi	19×	sevčazmi
9×	jokozmi	20×	vaudizmi
10 ₁₀ ×	mérizmi	21×	vaudi-senezmi

Table 8.3. *Multiplicative numerals from 0₁₀ to 21₁₀*

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

(29) *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.

Fractional		Fractional	
$\frac{*1}{0}$	*domona	$\frac{1}{11}$	türéna
$\frac{1}{1}$	*senena	$\frac{1}{12}$	želena
$\frac{1}{2}$	ětína	$\frac{1}{13}$	scemena
$\frac{1}{3}$	kölöna	$\frac{1}{14}$	zpetena
$\frac{1}{4}$	qeséna	$\frac{1}{15}$	žekölöna
$\frac{1}{5}$	inůna	$\frac{1}{16}$	ksožona
$\frac{1}{6}$	vonona	$\frac{1}{17}$	pedlána
$\frac{1}{7}$	ikuşuna	$\frac{1}{18}$	pseňána
$\frac{1}{8}$	soprína	$\frac{1}{19}$	sevčána
$\frac{1}{9}$	jokona	$\frac{1}{20}$	vaudína
$\frac{1}{10}$	mérina	$\frac{1}{21}$	vaudi-senena

Table 8.4. Fractional numerals from 0_{10} to 21_{10}

The numerator of a fraction precedes the denominator as an additional modifier, for example:

- (30) a. *ikuş želena*
ikuş žel-ena
 seven twelve-FRAC
 seven twelfth
 seven-twelfths
- b. *ėti kölöna litaseva*
ėti köl-öna litas-ev-a
 two three-FRAC bread-DU-NOM
 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:

- (31) a. *kölvádana*
kölvád-ana
 sixty-FRAC
 sixtieth
 (a) sixtieth
- b. *sopri ětiza-vonona*
sopri ėti-za=von-ona
 eight 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*

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

The following abbreviations have been used in the linguistics glosses throughout this document.

1	First person	ELA	Elative
2	Second person	ELECT	Elective
3	Third person	ERG	Ergative
ABL	Ablative	ESS	Essive
ACC	Accusative	EXAG	Exaggerated
ADE	Adessive	EXC	Exclusive
ADJ	Adjective/Adjectival	EXIST	Existential
ADV	Adverb(ial)	EXP	Experiencer/Witness (Evidentiality)
AFF	Affirmative	F1	Root Form I
ALE	Alethic	F2	Root Form II (“intensive”)
ALL	Allative	F3	Root Form III (“causative”)
ANIM	Animate	F4	Root Form IV (“reciprocal”)
ASS	Associative	F5	Root Form V (“reflexive”)
ASM	Assumptive	F6	Root Form VI (“reflexive causative”)
CESS	Cessative aspect	F7	Root Form VII (“attributive”)
COL	Collective	FRAC	Fraction
COP	Copula	FREQ	Frequentative aspect
COMP	Comparative	GEN	Genitive
DU	Dual number	HAB	Habitual aspect
DEF	Definite	HUM	Human
DEST	Destination	HYP	Hypothetical
DIST	Distal	ILL	Illative
DUR	Durative aspect	INANIM	Inanimate

INC	Inclusive	SUPL	Superlative
INCH	Inchoative aspect	TIME	Time
IND	Indicative	UNIV	Universal
INE	Inessive	VOL	Volitive
INF	Infinitive		
INFR	Inferential		
INS	Instrumental		
INT	Interrogative		
IPFV	Imperfective aspect		
IRR	Irrealis		
LOC	Location		
MAN	Manner		
MED	Medial		
MIR	Admirative		
MOMT	Momentane aspect		
NEC	Necessitative		
NEG	Negative		
NH	Non-Human		
NOM	Nominative		
PFV	Perfective aspect		
PL	Plural number		
POL	Polite register		
PREC	Precative		
PROX	Proximal		
RECP	Reciprocal		
RSN	Reason		
REP	Reportative		
SDT	Secundative		
SG	Singular number		
SGV	Singulative number		
SRC	Source		
STAT	Stative (Imperfective) aspect		