

Qevesa Grammar

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Preface

To be written...

1. Background

1.1. Demographic and Ethnographic Information

To be written...

2. Phonology

2.1. Phonotactics

2.1.1. Vowel inventory

	Front	Central	Back		Front	Central	Back
Close	i	ʊ	u	Close	i:	ʊ:	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 [ʊ̞] are front-central rounded vowels. [ə̞] is a mid front-central rounded vowel, and [ʊ̞] 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 [ʊ̞] instead of [ø] and [y].

The diphthongs are /ai au ei oi ou øi øʊ/, as well as /i-/ glides /ia ie* io iə iu iʊ/ and /u-/ glides /ua ue ui uo/, with assimilation of /ii/, /uu/ and /uʊ/ to /i:/, /u:/ and /ʊ:/. /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	tʂ	tɕ		
Fricative		f	θ	s	ʂ	ɕ	x	h
Approximant		ʋ	ð			j	w	
Lateral				l				
Rhotic				$\text{r} \sim \text{ɾ}$				

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 ʒ/ + a plosive or /m n/: /θp θt θk θm θn sp st sk sm sn ʃp ʃt ʃk ʃm ʃn ʒp ʒt ʒk ʒm ʒn/
- /θ s ʃ/ + /l/: /θl sl ʃl/
- A fricative + affricate at the same point of articulation: /θtθ sts ʃtʃ ʒtʒ/
- Any non-palatal plosive + /θ s ʃ ʒ/: /pθ tθ kθ ps ts ks pʃ tʃ kʃ pʒ tʒ kʒ/. Note that affricates contrast with plosive-fricative sequences.
- Any non-palatal plosive, fricative, or affricate + /f~v/: /pf tf kf θf sf ʃf ʒf/. 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 ʒw/
- 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 mp/

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

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

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

2.1.3.2. Syllable Structure

Although a wide variety of initial consonant clusters are permitted, they should be avoided when dividing a word into syllables. The general rule is that non-word-final consonants are always the onset of syllables unless followed by another consonant or 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:/	/j̥e/	/f/	/h/
I i	Í í	J j	K k	L l	Ĺ ĺ	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	Ű ű	V v	X x	Z z	Ž ž					
/u/	/u:/	/v/	/x/	/θ/	/tθ/					

The Latin 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 ⟨ʃ⟩ and ⟨ç⟩. 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:

- /tɕ/ is represented by both ⟨q⟩ and ⟨č⟩ due to a sound change that merged /c/ → /tɕ/
- 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 /^hi:/.
- /v/ may be realised as an approximant in some situations, and digraphs involving ⟨v⟩ or ⟨f⟩ such as ⟨sf⟩ or ⟨zv⟩ may result in the labiodental fricative being realised as anything between [f] [v] and [ʋ].

2.2. Prosody

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

2.2.1. Stress

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

2.2.2. Intonation

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

3. Morphological Typology

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

(1) *EXAMPLE*

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

3.1. Definition of Root

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

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

3.1.1. Irregular Roots

Although most roots are highly regular, there are a number of roots whose morphology is slightly irregular, due to the presence of certain consonants in certain positions. The consonants that most commonly cause irregularities are ⟨h⟩ and ⟨j⟩, but ⟨l⟩, ⟨v⟩ and ⟨d⟩ may also behave irregularly in some verbs. The general rules are as follows:

- When ⟨h⟩ occurs in the coda position of a syllable, it induces lengthening of the preceding vowel, and is elided in both the spoken and written form.
- Clusters where ⟨j⟩ is the second consonant result in the palatalisation of the preceding consonant, and syllable-final ⟨j⟩ results in the development of diphthongs. The written form retains ⟨j⟩ in all positions.
- Less frequently, ⟨v⟩ is pronounced /f/ when preceding another consonant, and is weakly voiced when word-final; and ⟨d⟩ is only pronounced when not preceding another consonant. When it follows another consonant, it is typically pronounced /θ/.

To be written...

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

Although the arrangement of consonants in a root is generally fixed, there are regular processes to derive subtle semantic variations on the meaning of the root, such as causatives and reflexives. These root variants are called forms, or *méttüses* (“constructions”), from the root *mutus* (“build, construct”). There are nine commonly-used forms, listed as Forms I–IX, although not every root can be shaped into each form. These are listed in Table 4.1.

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

Root Form	Pattern	
	Trilateral	Bilateral
I	$C_1uC_2uC_3$	C_1uC_2u
II	$C_1uC_2C_2uC_3$	$C_1uC_2C_2u$
III	$jaC_1C_2uC_3u$	$jaC_1C_2uC_2u$
IV	$teC_1uC_2uC_3$	$teC_1uC_2C_2u$
V	$iC_1C_2uC_3C_3u$	$iC_1C_1uC_2C_2u$
VI	$taC_1C_2uC_3C_3u$	$taC_1C_1uC_2C_2u$
VII	$saC_1uC_2C_2uC_3$	$saC_1uC_2C_2u$
VIII	$C_1uC_2C_3u$	$C_1uC_2C_2u$
IX	$ěC_1C_2uC_2C_3u$	$ěC_1uC_2C_2u$

Table 4.1. *Verb root forms*

4.1.1. 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 though it has no particular semantic function associated with it, verbs in Form I are often transitive.

4.1.2. Form II

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.

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 *passive* stem. It is commonly used to make the passive intransitive of the Form I root, and may also be used to describe participles. Another use of the Form III root is to form adjectives and attributes, though this is generally non-productive in modern Qevesa, this function having been assumed by Forms VIII and IX.

It is formed by pairing the second and third consonants and prefixing *ja-*; biliteral roots geminate the second consonant.

4.1.4. Form IV

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.

This form is constructed by prefixing the Form I stem with *te-*.

4.1.5. Form V

Form IV 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 I root is intransitive, and for some verbs, may convey an assistive or factitive meaning.

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

4.1.6. Form VI

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

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

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

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

4.1.7. Form VII

Form VII is the *intensive reciprocal* stem, generally indicating an intensive variant of Form IV. Like Form VI, Form VII roots are also subject to unpredictable metaphorical and semantic drift.

This form is constructed by prefixing the Form II root with *sa-*.

4.1.8. Form VIII

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 second and third consonants. Biliteral roots construct this form by geminating the second consonant.

4.1.9. Form IX

Form IX is the *intensive stative* stem. It generally indicates intensive variants of Form VIII, and is also always intransitive. All verbs which possess a Form IX root also possess a Form VIII root.

Triliteral roots construct this form by pairing the first and second consonants, duplicating the second consonant and pairing it with the third, and prefixing with *ě-*. Biliteral roots simply prefix the Form VIII root with *ě-*.

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 by the pattern $C_1aC_2uC_3$, that is, by replacing the *-u-* in P_{12} in the citation form with *-a-*.

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	$C_1aC_2uC_3$	C_1aC_2u
II	$C_1aC_2C_2uC_3$	$C_1aC_2C_2u$
III	$jaC_1C_2aC_3u$	$jaC_1C_2aC_2u$
IV	$teC_1aC_2uC_3$	$teC_1aC_2C_2u$
V	$iC_1C_2aC_3C_3u$	$iC_1C_1aC_2C_2u$
VI	$taC_1C_2aC_3C_3u$	$taC_1C_1aC_2C_2u$
VII	$saC_1aC_2C_2uC_3$	$saC_1aC_2C_2u$
VIII	$C_1aC_2C_3u$	$C_1aC_2C_2u$
IX	$\check{e}C_1C_2aC_2C_3u$	$\check{e}C_1aC_2C_2u$

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	teC ₁ aC ₂ oiC ₃	teC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oi
V	iC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ C ₃ oi	iC ₁ C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oi
VI	taC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ C ₃ oi	taC ₁ C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oi
VII	saC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oiC ₃	saC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oi
VIII	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₃ oi	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ oi
IX	ěC ₁ C ₂ aC ₂ C ₃ oi	ěC 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	teC ₁ oC ₂ iC ₃	teC ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i
V	iC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃ C ₃ i	iC ₁ C ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i
VI	taC ₁ C ₂ oC ₃ C ₃ i	taC ₁ C ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i
VII	saC ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ iC ₃	saC ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i
VIII	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₃ i	C ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i
IX	ěC ₁ C ₂ oC ₂ C ₃ i	ěC ₁ oC ₂ C ₂ i

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

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	C ₁ aC ₂ eC ₃	C ₁ aC ₂ e
II	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ eC ₃	C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ e
III	jaC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ e	jaC ₁ C ₂ aC ₂ e
IV	teC ₁ aC ₂ eC ₃	teC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ e
V	iC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ C ₃ e	iC ₁ C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ e
VI	taC ₁ C ₂ aC ₃ C ₃ e	taC ₁ C ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ e
VII	saC ₁ aC ₂ C ₂ eC ₃	saC 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	$C_1\ddot{o}C_2eC_3$	$C_1\ddot{o}C_2e$
II	$C_1\ddot{o}C_2C_2eC_3$	$C_1\ddot{o}C_2C_2e$
III	$jaC_1C_2\ddot{o}C_3e$	$jaC_1C_2\ddot{o}C_2e$
IV	$teC_1\ddot{o}C_2eC_3$	$teC_1\ddot{o}C_2C_2e$
V	$iC_1C_2\ddot{o}C_3C_3e$	$iC_1C_1\ddot{o}C_2C_2e$
VI	$taC_1C_2\ddot{o}C_3C_3e$	$taC_1C_1\ddot{o}C_2C_2e$
VII	$saC_1\ddot{o}C_2C_2eC_3$	$saC_1\ddot{o}C_2C_2e$

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 patterns are given in Table 4.6; note that Forms I and II have merged in this pattern.

(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...

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	$C_1oC_2áC_3$	$C_1oC_2á$
II	$C_1oC_2C_2áC_3$	$C_1oC_2C_2á$
III	$jaC_1C_2oC_3á$	$jaC_1C_2oC_2á$
IV	$teC_1oC_2áC_3$	$teC_1oC_2C_2á$
V	$iC_1C_2oC_3C_3á$	$iC_1C_1oC_2C_2á$
VI	$taC_1C_2oC_3C_3á$	$taC_1C_1oC_2C_2á$
VII	$saC_1oC_2C_2áC_3$	$saC_1oC_2C_2á$

(a) *Intensity/Repetition*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	$C_1ǔC_2aC_3$	$C_1ǔC_2a$
II	$C_1ǔC_2C_2aC_3$	$C_1ǔC_2C_2a$
III	$jaC_1C_2ǔC_3a$	$jaC_1C_2ǔC_2a$
IV	$teC_1ǔC_2aC_3$	$teC_1ǔC_2C_2a$
V	$iC_1C_2ǔC_3C_3a$	$iC_1C_1ǔC_2C_2a$
VI	$taC_1C_2ǔC_3C_3a$	$taC_1C_1ǔC_2C_2a$
VII	$saC_1ǔC_2C_2aC_3$	$saC_1ǔC_2C_2a$

(b) *Repetition/Habitual/Intermittent*Table 4.6. *Nouns of intensity and/or repetition*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	$C_1eC_2éC_3$	$C_1eC_2é$
II	$C_1eC_2C_2éC_3$	$C_1eC_2C_2é$
III	$jaC_1C_2eC_3é$	$jaC_1C_2eC_2é$
IV	$teC_1eC_2éC_3$	$teC_1eC_2C_2é$
V	$iC_1C_2eC_3C_3é$	$iC_1C_1eC_2C_2é$
VI	$taC_1C_2eC_3C_3é$	$taC_1C_1eC_2C_2é$
VII	$saC_1eC_2C_2éC_3$	$saC_1eC_2C_2é$

(a) *Generic nominalisation*

Root Form	Pattern	
	Triliteral	Biliteral
I	$C_1éC_2üC_3$	$C_1éC_2ü$
II	$C_1éC_2C_2üC_3$	$C_1éC_2C_2ü$
III	$jaC_1C_2éC_3ü$	$jaC_1C_2éC_2ü$
IV	$teC_1éC_2üC_3$	$teC_1éC_2C_2ü$
V	$iC_1C_2éC_3C_3ü$	$iC_1C_1éC_2C_2ü$
VI	$taC_1C_2éC_3C_3ü$	$taC_1C_1éC_2C_2ü$
VII	$saC_1éC_2C_2üC_3$	$saC_1éC_2C_2ü$

(b) *Specific nominalisation*

Table 4.7. *Generic and specific noun forms*

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 4.7.

(7) *EXAMPLES*

5. Verbal Morphology

5.1. Features

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

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

5.2. The Infinitive

The infinitive of the verb is the citation form of the root. It is formed by inserting a *-u-* into P_{12} and P_{23} , resulting in $C_1uC_2uC_3$.

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 uC ₂ C ₃ i	jaC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₃ e	jaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ ú	jaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ o	jaC ₁ uC ₂ C ₃ a
IV	teC ₁ uC ₂ iC ₃	teC ₁ uiC ₂ eC ₃	teC ₁ uC ₂ úC ₃	teC ₁ uC ₂ oC ₃	teC ₁ uC ₂ aC ₃
V	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
VI	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ i	taC ₁ C ₂ uiC ₃ C ₃ e	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ ú	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ o	taC ₁ C ₂ uC ₃ C ₃ a
VII	saC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ iC ₃	saC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ eC ₃	saC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ úC ₃	saC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ oC ₃	saC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃
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
IX	ěC ₁ C ₂ uC ₂ C ₃ i	ěC ₁ C ₂ uiC ₂ C ₃ e	ěC ₁ C ₂ uC ₂ C ₃ ú	ěC ₁ C ₂ uC ₂ C ₃ o	ěC ₁ C ₂ 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 uC ₂₂ i	jaC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e	jaC ₁ uC ₂₂ ú	jaC ₁ uC ₂₂ o	jaC ₁ uC ₂₂ a
IV	teC ₁ uC ₂ i	teC ₁ uiC ₂ e	teC ₁ uC ₂ ú	teC ₁ uC ₂ o	teC ₁ uC ₂ a
V	iC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ i	iC ₁ C ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e	iC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ú	iC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ o	iC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
VI	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ i	taC ₁ C ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ú	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ o	taC ₁ C ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ a
VII	saC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ i	saC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e	saC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ú	saC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ o	saC 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	ěC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ i	ěC ₁ uiC ₂ C ₂ e	ěC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ ú	ěC ₁ uC ₂ C ₂ o	ěC ₁ uC ₂ C 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 ioC ₂ C ₃ a	jaC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₃ o	jaC ₁ íC ₂ C ₃ a	jaC ₁ iaC ₂ C ₃ u	jaC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₃ a
IV	teC ₁ iC ₂ oC ₃ a	teC ₁ iC ₂ uC ₃ o	teC ₁ iC ₂ aC ₃ a	teC ₁ iC ₂ aC ₃ u	teC ₁ iC ₂ uC ₃ a
V	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
VI	taC ₁ C ₂ ioC ₃ C ₃ a	taC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ C ₃ o	taC ₁ C ₂ íC ₃ C ₃ a	taC ₁ C ₂ iaC ₃ C ₃ u	taC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₃ C ₃ a
VII	saC ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ oC ₃ a	saC ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ uC ₃ o	saC ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃ a	saC ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ aC ₃ u	saC ₁ iC ₂ C ₂ uC 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
IX	ěC ₁ C ₂ ioC ₂ C ₃ a	ěC ₁ C ₂ iuC ₂ C ₃ o	ěC ₁ C ₂ íC ₂ C ₃ a	ěC ₁ C ₂ iaC ₂ C ₃ u	ěC ₁ C ₂ 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 ioC ₂ C ₂ a	jaC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o	jaC ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a	jaC ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u	jaC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ a
IV	teC ₁ ioC ₂ a	teC ₁ iuC ₂ o	teC ₁ íC ₂ a	teC ₁ iaC ₂ u	teC ₁ iuC ₂ a
V	iC ₁ C ₁ ioC ₂ C ₂ a	iC ₁ C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o	iC ₁ C ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a	iC ₁ C ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u	iC ₁ C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ a
VI	taC ₁ C ₁ ioC ₂ C ₂ a	taC ₁ C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o	taC ₁ C ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a	taC ₁ C ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u	taC ₁ C ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ a
VII	saC ₁ ioC ₂ C ₂ a	saC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o	saC ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a	saC ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u	saC 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	ěC ₁ ioC ₂ C ₂ a	ěC ₁ iuC ₂ C ₂ o	ěC ₁ íC ₂ C ₂ a	ěC ₁ iaC ₂ C ₂ u	ěC ₁ iuC ₂ C 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 dechticaetiative morphosyntactic alignment. As a result, verbs are marked for agreement with the topic of the sentence, rather than the subject or agent. The topic of the sentence is the noun phrase in the focal case.

The topic of the verb primarily indicates its experiencer, agent/donor, patient/recipient, or theme. It agrees with the topical noun phrase in animacy and number. The suffixes for topical agreement are given in Table 5.3.

		Nominative	Absolutive	Secundative
		NOM	ABS	SDT
ANIM;SG	ASG	-(a)m	-(a)ş	-(a)t
ANIM;DU	ADU	-vám	-váş	-vát
ANIM;PL	APL	-sám	-sáş	-sát
INANIM;SG	ISG	-nom	-noş	-not
INANIM;DU	IDU	-vom	-voş	-vot
INANIM;PL	IPL	-som	-soş	-nost

Table 5.3. *Primary topical agreement*

5.3.2.1. Nominative Topic

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

5.3.2.2. Absolutive Topic

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

5.3.2.3. Secundative Topic

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

5.3.3. Mood

To be written...

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 5.4.

Mood		Suffix
Indicative	IND	-u
Admirative	MIR	-óra
Irrealis	IRR	-il
Alethic	ALE	-en
Commissive	COM	-ec
Directive	DIR	-la
Volitive	VOL	-ir

Table 5.4. *Verbal mood suffixes*

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.

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. Commissive Mood

The commissive mood indicates a commitment or promise to do something.

(12) *EXAMPLE*

5.3.3.6. Directive Mood

The directive 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*

5.4. Auxiliary Verbs

Periphrastic constructions, such as polarity, 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.

The auxiliary verb is inflected and follows the formerly main verb, which occurs in the verbal noun infinitive.

5.4.1. Polarity

The most commonly-used auxiliary verbs are those that indicate polarity. The affirmative verb, *rusu*, is generally only used in situations when an explicitly positive statement is to be made. The negative verb, *zumu*, 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 VII root, as shown in Table 5.5.

- (15) *Mi tarum ziommam.*
Mi tarum ziomma-m-u
 3SG.FOC write\INF not\PFV-ASG;NOM-IND
 He write not
 He will not write.

¹See Section 7.1.1, page 41

		Polarity	
		AFF	NEG
Imperfective	IPFV	russi	zummi
Stative	STAT	ruisse	zuimme
Durative	DUR;IPFV	russú	zummú
Frequentative	FREQ	russo	zummo
Habitual	HAB	rusa	zumma
Perfective	PFV	riossa	ziomma
Inchoative	INCH	riusso	ziummo
Cessative	CESS	ríssa	zímma
Durative	DUR;PFV	riassu	ziammu
Momentane	MOMT	riussa	ziumma

Table 5.5. *Polar verb aspectual conjugation*

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.

To be written...

6. Nominal Morphology

6.1. Definitions and Features

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

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

Most nouns have three numbers, a singular, dual or 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: focal, nominative, absolutive, secundative, genitive, essive, instrumental-committative, inessive, adessive, illative, allative, elative, ablative and comparative. A fifteenth case, the vocative, exists in some spoken dialects, but this is falling out of use¹.

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

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

6.1.1. Animacy

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

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

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

6.1.2. Proper Nouns

Proper nouns may be formed from words existing in the language², often supported by gender markers to disambiguate them from common nouns, especially when used as personal names. A noticeable morphological feature of proper nouns is that their case markers are enclitic rather than suffixed, separated by a colon or a non-breaking space. Proper names are seldom pluralised.

6.2. Nominal Declension

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

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

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

6.2.1. 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 32 in Example 17.

The suffixes for number are given in Table 6.1.

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

Table 6.1. *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.

- (17) *tolik* ‘boy’ *tolikev* ‘two boys’ *tolikes* ‘boys’
cavoik ‘friend’ *cavoikev* ‘two friends’ *cavoikes* ‘friends’
mari ‘[two] eye[s]’ *marív* ‘two eyes’ *marisen* ‘one eye’ *marís* ‘[>two] eyes’

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

In Example 17, note that the words *tolik* ‘boy’ and *cavoik* ‘friend’ have ordinary singular/dual/plural distinction, but *mari* ‘eye[s]’ refers to the natural number (i.e. two), and has a special singular form. Also note that though it possesses a dual form (*marív*), this is rarely used, except with numerals.

6.2.2. Case

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

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

Some stems and inflected plural forms that end in *-n*, *-c*, *-ç*, *-č*, *-f*, *-s*, *-ş*, *-š*, *-v*, *-z* and *-ž* typically use the post-vocalic form for the animate secundative, genitive and instrumental cases, and the inanimate focal and absolutive cases. This usage is somewhat irregular, though plural (but not dual) forms are fairly consistent.

Case		Animate		Inanimate	
		ANIM		INANIM	
		PC	PV	PC	PV
Focal	FOC	-a	-Ø	-ina	-na
	FOC ₂	-a	-a	-an	-n
Nominative	NOM	-am	-m	-om	-mm
Absolutive	ABS	-aş	-ş	-oş	-niş
Secundative	SDT	-ot	-t	-ot	-nt
Genitive	GEN	-ek	-k	-ok	-nk
Essive	ESS	-el	-l	-ol	-ll
Instrumental (Comitative)	INS	-etti	-tti	-onta	-nta
Inessive	INE	-essi	-ssi	-ossa	-ssa
Adessive	ADE	-edi	-di	-oda	-da
Illative	ILL	-esti	-sti	-osta	-sta
Allative	ALL	-efti	-fti	-ofta	-fta
Elativ	ELA	-espi	-spi	-ospa	-spa
Ablative	ABL	-eski	-ski	-oska	-ska
Comparative	COMP	-enni	-nni	-onna	-nna
(Vocative)	VOC	-ó	-jó		

Table 6.2. Case suffixes

6.2.2.1. The Primary Cases

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

The *focal* cases mark the topic of the verb phrase. The role of the noun phrase marked as the focus is indicated on the verb, using the topical agreement suffixes as described in Section 5.3.2. This case has an additional form which is used when the focus of the verb phrase is already marked with one of the secondary cases, listed in Table 6.2 as FOC₂.

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

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

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

6.2.2.2. The Secondary Cases

The secondary cases are mainly adpositional and locative cases.

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

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

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

The *inessive* case indicates internal location.

The *adessive* case indicates external location.

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

The *allative* case indicates motion towards the noun.

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

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

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

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

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

Table 6.3. *Locative cases*

6.2.2.3. Use of the Locative Cases

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

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

6.2.3. State

Nouns in Qevesa have five possible ‘states’. Nominal states refer to different conditions of determinateness, which are differentiated primarily by prefixes.

The *absolute* state is the default citation form of the noun. It does not mark any form of determination, generally indicating that the noun is indefinite, and has no special markings.

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

The *partitive* state makes the noun partitive. It functions broadly similarly to the English determiner ‘some’, but may also be required by some quantifiers. It is formed by duplicating the second root consonant in front of the stem, and prefixing with *mě-*.

The *negative* state negates the noun, and is distinct from negating the verb phrase. It is formed by duplicating the first root consonant, and prefixing with *zu-*.

The *construct* state is used to form noun-noun compounds, and to express some genitive phrases, though usually not those which consist of a possessor-possessed (item). It is formed by prefixing with the first root consonant and *i-*.

Proper nouns, compound nouns and modified nouns may also use a clitic form of the state prefix, which precedes the entire phrase; the head noun may still be marked with the prefix. The prefixes and proclitics that indicate state are given in Table 6.4. The pc column lists clitics that precede a consonant, and the pv column lists clitics that precede a vowel.

6.3. Pronouns and Pronomial forms

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

State		Prefix	Clitic	
			PC	PV
Absolute	ABS	∅-	∅	∅
Definite	DEF	aC ₁ -	a	an
Partitive	PART	měC ₂ -	mě	měr
Negative	NEG	zuC ₁ -	zu	zum
Construct	CONST	C ₁ i-	i	i

Table 6.4. *Noun state prefixes*

6.3.1. Personal Pronouns

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

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

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

	Stem		Cases				
	Root	Suffix	FOC	NOM	ABS	SDT	GEN
1SG	je	-ě/-i	je	jem	jeş	jet	jek
2SG	ta	-ta	ta	tam	taş	tajot	tak
3SG	mi	-mi	mi	mim	miş	mijot	mik
1DU;INC	jév	-jév	jéva	jévam	jévaş	jévot	jévek
1DU;EXC	čév	-čév	čéva	čévam	čévaş	čévot	čévek
2DU	táv	-táv	táva	távam	távaş	távot	távek
3DU	mív	-mív	míva	mívam	mívaş	mívot	mívek
1DU;INC	jés	-jés	jésa	jésam	jésaş	jésot	jése
1DU;EXC	čés	-čés	čésa	čésam	čésaş	čésot	čése
2DU	tás	-tás	tása	tásam	tásaş	tásot	tásek
3DU	mís	-mís	mísa	mísam	mísaş	mísot	mísek
INANIM;SG	net	-net	netina	netom	netoş	netot	netok
INANIM;DU	nev	-nev	nevtina	nevtom	nevtoş	nevtot	nevtok
INANIM;PL	nes	-nes	nestina	nestom	nestoş	nestot	nestok

Table 6.5. *Personal pronouns*

		Cases				
		ESS	INS	INE	ADE	ILL
		ěl-	ětt(i)-	ěss(i)-	ěd(i)-	ěsto-
1SG	-i/-je	ěli	ětti	ěssi	ědi	ěstí
2SG	-ta	ělta	ěttita	ěssta	ědita	ěstota
3SG	-mi	ělmi	ěttimi	ěssmi	ědmi	ěstomi
1DU;INC	-jév	ěljév	ěttjév	ěssjév	ědjév	ěstojév
1DU;EXC	-čév	ělčév	ěttčév	ěssčév	ědčév	ěstočév
2DU	-táv	ěltáv	ěttitáv	ěsstáv	ěditáv	ěstotáv
3DU	-mív	ělmív	ěttimív	ěssmív	ědmív	ěstomív
1PL;INC	-jés	ěljés	ěttjés	ěssjés	ědjés	ěstojés
1PL;EXC	-čés	ělčés	ěttčés	ěssčés	ědčés	ěstočés
2PL	-tás	ěltás	ěttitás	ěsstás	ěditás	ěstotás
3PL	-mís	ělmís	ěttimís	ěssmís	ědmís	ěstomís
INANIM;SG	-net	olnet	ontinet	ossnet	odnet	ostanet
INANIM;DU	-nev	olnev	ontinev	ossnev	odnev	ostanev
INANIM;PL	-nes	olnes	ontines	ossnes	odnes	ostanes

		Cases			
		ALL	ELA	ABL	COMP
		ěft(i)-	ěspo-	ěsko-	no-
1SG	-i/-je	ěftije	ěspí	ěskí	ní
2SG	-ta	ěftita	ěspota	ěskota	nota
3SG	-mi	ěftimi	ěspomi	ěskomi	nomi
1DU;INC	-jév	ěftijev	ěspojév	ěskojév	nojév
1DU;EXC	-čév	ěftičév	ěspočév	ěskočév	nočév
2DU	-táv	ěftitáv	ěspotáv	ěskotáv	notáv
3DU	-mív	ěftimív	ěspomív	ěskomív	nomív
1PL;INC	-jés	ěftijés	ěspojés	ěskojés	nojés
1PL;EXC	-čés	ěftičés	ěspočés	ěskočés	nočés
2PL	-tás	ěftitás	ěspotás	ěskotás	notás
3PL	-mís	ěftimís	ěspomís	ěskomís	nomís
INANIM;SG	-net	oftanet	ospanet	oskanet	nonet
INANIM;DU	-nev	oftanev	ospane	oskanev	nonev
INANIM;PL	-nes	oftanes	ospanes	oskanes	nones

Table 6.6. Cases with personal suffixes

6.3.2. Reflexive and Reciprocal Pronouns

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

6.3.3. Demonstrative and Correlative Pronouns

Qevesa has three degrees of demonstrative pronouns:

Proximal

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

Medial

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

Distal

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

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

The demonstrative pronouns are listed in Table 6.7.

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

Table 6.7. *Demonstrative pronouns*

6.4. Postpositions

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

7. Adjectival Morphology

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

Adjectival Verbs are verb-like forms, that are formed by the Form VIII or IX roots.

Attributives are plain adjectives, also derived from the Form VIII or IX roots, 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 VIII or IX verbal roots. They may predicate sentences, and conjugate to aspect, topical agreement and mood 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.

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

Table 7.1. *Adjectival verb aspectual conjugation*

7.1.2. Attributives

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

7.2. Adjectival Inflection

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

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

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

7.2.1. Degree

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

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

Table 7.2. *Adjectival degree adverbs*

Table 7.3 gives the adjective comparison marking for the word *tomsi* (tall), and Example 19 shows two sentences demonstrating the different styles of comparative marking.

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

Table 7.3. *Adjectival degree inflection*

- (19) a. *Cavoikě ní vén tuimseşu.*
Cavoik-ě-Ø ní vén tuimse-ş-u
 friend-1SG;POS-FOC COMP.1SG COMP tall\STAT-ASG;ABS-IND
 friend my than me (more) tall is
 My friend is taller than me.
- b. *Cavoikě ní tuimseşuvén.*
Cavoik-ě-Ø ní tuimse-ş-u-vén
 friend-1SG;POS-FOC COMP.1SG tall\STAT-ASG;ABS-IND-COMP
 friend my than me taller is
 My friend is taller than me.

7.2.2. Polarity

Unlike verbs, 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.

		Suffix
Affirmative	AFF	-résí
Negative	NEG	-zúmi

Table 7.4. *Adjectival polarity suffixes*

- (20) a. T-M-S *tumsu*, ‘to be tall’:
tomsí tomsirési tomsizúmi
tomsí tomsí-rési tomsí-zúmi
 tall tall-AFF tall-NEG
 ‘tall’ ‘very tall’ ‘not tall’
- b. *Cavoikě tuimseşuzúmi.*
Cavoik-ě-Ø tuimse-ş-u-zúmi
 friend-1SG;POS-FOC tall\STAT-ASG;ABS-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	zom	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*:

- (21) 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*:

- (22) 100_{12} *sentoc*
 200_{12} *ěttoc*
 300_{12} *költoc*
 409_{12} *qesetoc-jok*
 752_{12} *ikuštoc-kölvád-ėti*

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

- (23) 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-ikuš*
 $100,000_{12}$ *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*:

- (24)
- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| $1 \cdot 10^6_{12}$ | <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-ėtiza-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	*zomik	11 ₁₀ th	türeik
1 st	senik	12 ₁₀ th	želik
2 nd	ėtik	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	pseňaik
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.

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

Multiplicative		Multiplicative	
0×	zomozmi	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*

(25) *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	
* ¹ / ₀	*zomona	¹ / ₁₁	türéna
¹ / ₁	*senena	¹ / ₁₂	želena
¹ / ₂	ětína	¹ / ₁₃	scemena
¹ / ₃	kölöna	¹ / ₁₄	zpetena
¹ / ₄	qeséna	¹ / ₁₅	žekölöna
¹ / ₅	inůna	¹ / ₁₆	ksožona
¹ / ₆	vonona	¹ / ₁₇	pedłána
¹ / ₇	ikuşuna	¹ / ₁₈	pseñána
¹ / ₈	soprína	¹ / ₁₉	sevčána
¹ / ₉	jokona	¹ / ₂₀	vaudína
¹ / ₁₀	mérina	¹ / ₂₁	vaudi-senena

Table 8.4. *Fractional numerals from 0₁₀ to 21₁₀*

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

- (26) a. *ikuṣ želena*
 ikuṣ žel-ena
 seven twelve-FRAC
 seven twelfth
 seven-twelfths
- b. *ěti kölōna litaseva*
 ěti köl-ōna 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:

- (27) a. *kölvádana*
 kölvád-ana
 sixty-FRAC
 sixtieth
 (a) sixtieth
- b. *sopri ětiza-vonona*
 sopri ěti-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 ± unit fraction*
- *Integer × unit fraction*

9. Constituent Order Typology

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

9.1. Main Clauses

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

9.1.1. Topic Marking

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

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

9.2. Verb Phrase

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

9.3. Noun Phrase

9.4. Adpositional phrase

9.5. Comparative constructions

9.6. Questions and interrogative constructions

Appendix A. List of Glossing Abbreviations

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

Some abbreviations may be concatenated if frequently used, such as person+number and animacy+number.

1	First person	CONST	Construct state
2	Second person	COP	Copula
3	Third person	DU	Dual number
ABL	Ablative case	DEF	Definite state
ABS	Absolutive case	DEST	Destination
ADE	Adessive case	DIR	Directive mood
ADJ	Adjective/Adjectival	DIST	Distal
ADV	Adverb(ial)	DUR	Durative aspect
AFF	Affirmative	ELA	Elative case
ALE	Alethic mood	ELECT	Elective
ALL	Allative case	ESS	Essive case
A, ANIM	Animate	EXAG	Exaggerated
ASG	Animate singular	EXC	Exclusive
ADU	Animate dual	EXIST	Existential
APL	Animate plural	F1	Root Form I
ASS	Associative	F2	Root Form II (“intensive”)
ASM	Assumptive	F3	Root Form III (“intransitive”)
CESS	Cessative aspect	F4	Root Form IV (“causative”)
COL	Collective	F5	Root Form V (“reflexive”)
COM	Commissive mood	F6	Root Form VI (“reflexive causative”)
COMP	Comparative case	F7	Root Form VII (“attributive”)

FOC	Focal case (topic marker)	PL	Plural number
FRAC	Fraction	POL	Polite register
FREQ	Frequentative aspect	PROX	Proximal
GEN	Genitive case	RECP	Reciprocal
HAB	Habitual aspect	RSN	Reason
HUM	Human	SDT	Secundative case
HYP	Hypothetical	SG	Singular number
I, INANIM	Inanimate	SGV	Singulative number
ISG	Inanimate singular	SRC	Source
IDU	Inanimate dual	STAT	Stative (Imperfective) aspect
IPL	Inanimate plural	SUPL	Superlative
ILL	Illative case	TIME	Time
INC	Inclusive	UNIV	Universal
INCH	Inchoative aspect	VOL	Volitive mood
IND	Indicative mood		
INE	Inessive		
INF	Infinitive		
INFR	Inferential		
INS	Instrumental (-comitative) case		
INT	Interrogative		
IPFV	Imperfective aspect		
IRR	Irrealis mood		
LOC	Location		
MAN	Manner		
MED	Medial		
MIR	Admirative mood		
MOMT	Momentane aspect		
NEG	Negative		
NH	Non-Human		
NOM	Nominative case		
PART	Partitive state		
PFV	Perfective aspect		