Constructed Languages
Historical Functions, Aesthetic Value, and Cultural Applications

John H. G. Scott, Ph.D.
University of Calgary
for the
Department of World Languages and Literatures
Portland State University
Monday, 20 February, 2023

Overview

- Varieties, motivations, and history

- Emergence in modern media

- Conlangers: Creativity in Abundance

- Conlanging on Demand

- Educational Value

- Selected Conlanging Resources

Varieties of Constructed Languages

- General Classifications
  - **Engineered** (*engelangs*)
    - **Philosophical** - *revise normal languages for use in philosophy*
      - e.g., Toki Pona, 21st century, but most popular in 17th-19th centuries
    - **Experimental** – *explore relationship of language and thought* (*à la* Sapir-Whorf hypothesis)
      - e.g., Loglan & Lojban, Ithkuil (logic); Láadan (feminism)
  - **Auxiliary** (*auxlangs, IALs*) – *foster interlinguistic or international communication*
    - e.g., Esperanto, Interlingua, Volapük (Europe); Afrihili (Africa)
  - **Artistic** (*artlangs*) – *aesthetic pleasure, secret or mystical uses, use in conworlds*
    - e.g., Sindarin (Middle Earth), Klingon (Star Trek), Dothraki (*Game of Thrones*), Vonlenska (Jónsi), Wenedyk (althist Latin-Polish), Lapine (*Watership Down)*, Nadsat (*A Clockwork Orange*), Newspeak (*Nineteen Eighty-Four*), Tsolyáni (*Empire of the Petal Throne* RPG), Na'vi (*Avatar*), Talossan (fictional micronation of Talossa), …
- Derivational Types
  - *a priori:* language consists primarily of *invented* elements
  - *a posteriori:* language consists primarily of elements *derived* from existing languages

Additional detail about conlang taxonomy and examples can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constructed_language

Motivations

Aesthetic / Artistic

- **Inherent aesthetic value**
  - Tolkien's Quenya, Sindarin, Khuzdul
  - Star Trek's Klingon & Vulcan
  - GoT's Dothraki & Valyrian
  - Wenedyk (alternate history)
  - Talossan (micronational language)
  - Tsolyáni & Simlish (game immersion)
  - Vonlenska (for singing, no meaning)

- **Social commentary**
  - Utopian (T. More & P. Giles, 1516)
  - Women's language (*Herland*, C. Perkins Gilman, 1915)
  - Newspeak (G. Orwell, 1949)
  - Nadsat (A. Burgess, 1962)
  - Láadan (S. H. Elgin, 1984)
  - Ku (*The Interpreter*, S. el-Gheithy, 2004)

Philosophical / Social / Scientific

- **Improve / enhance natural language**

  e.g., Loglan, Lojban, Ithkuil, Toki Pona

- **Supernatural applications**

  e.g., Lingua Ignota (Holy Roman Empire), Balaibalan (Ottoman Empire), Enochian (England), Damin (N. Australia), Medefaidrin (Nigeria)

- **(International) Auxiliary Languages (IALs)**

  e.g., Esperanto (Indo-European), Romanid (Romance), Volapük & Folkspraak (Germanic), Interslavic (Slavic), Budinos (Finno-Ugric), Afrihili (Africa), Eskayan (Philippines), palawa kani (Tasmania), Efatese (Oceania)

- **Secret languages**

  e.g., Kallawaya / Pohena (Bolivia)

- **Scientific research tool (esp. L2 acquisition)**
  - Ettlinger, Morgan-Short, Faretta-Stutenberg, & Wong (2016)
  - McLaughlin (2008)
  - as far back as Esper (1925)

History

In modern media

- Baldung (*Archive 81*, 2022)
- Sangheili (*Halo*, 2022)
- Chakobsa, etc. (*Dune*, 2021)
- Ménishè (*Motherland: Fort Salem*, 2020-2022)
- Hen Linge (*The Witcher*, 2019)
- Dothraki (*Game of Thrones*, 2011-2019)
- Barsoomian (*John Carter*, 2012)
- Na'vi (*Avatar*, 2009)
- Ku (*The Interpreter*, 2005)
- Klingon (*Star Trek*, 1979-)

Is conlanging new?

- Verdurian (M. Rosenfelder, 1995)
- Láadan (S. H. Elgin, 1984)
- Tsolyáni (M. Barker, 1978)
- El-Afrihili (K. Kumi Attobrah, 1970)
- Quenya (J. R. R. Tolkien, 1955)
- Veltparl (W. von Arnim, 1896)
- Volapük (J. M. Schleyer, 1879)
- Philosophical Language (J. Wilkins, 1668)
- Enochian (J. Dee & E. Kelley, 1583)
- Universal Language (I. Newton, c. 1661)
- Balaibalan (Muhyî-i Gülşenî, c. 1500)
- and the oldest documented "conlang" is...
  - Lingua Ignota (Hildegard von Bingen, c. 1150)

Emergence in Modern Media

- Before the 1950s, conlangs mainly for philosophers or social idealists

- In the late 20th century, increasingly in literature

- Since the 1980s (esp. 2000s), conlangs have exploded in film
  - *Star Trek III, The Interpreter, Avatar, John Carter*
  - Less common for major network TV shows
    - *Star Trek: The Next Generation, Stargate SG-1**
  - Increasingly in cable TV / streaming video / video games
    - *Defiance, Game of Thrones, The Witcher, Archive 81, Halo*

- How and why have conlangs made it big in film?

*The film *Stargate* (1994) features Ancient Egyptian, but *Stargate SG-1*'s "The First Ones" introduces the Unas conlang.

Das Boot (1981)

(2:40 – 5:10, 2 m 30 s)

Star Trek III: The Search for Spock (1984)
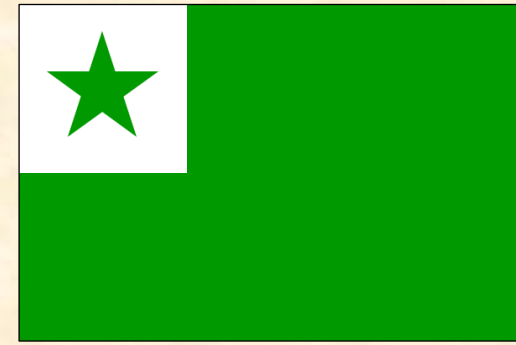
(1:25 – 2:50, 1 m 25 s)

Star Trek III: The Search for Spock (1984)
(2 m 25 s)

Conlang Communities

- **Language Creation Society** – conlang.org
- **Esperanto** – esperanto.net / FB: (Duolingo and Other) Esperanto Learners (15,683)
- **Klingon** – kli.org / FB: Learn Klingon (2,863)
- **Na'vi** - learnnavi.org / FB: Learn the Na'vi language (382)
- **Láadan** – laadanlanguage.com / FB: Láadan (109)
- **Facebook Groups**
  - Constructed languages (4,685)
  - Conlangs and Linguistics, Constructed Languages, Invented Languages Poetry (1,505)
  - Con-scripts (1,007)
  - Natlangs and Linguistics (602)
  - Germanic and Slavic Conlangs (373)
  - Natscripts: Glyphic Gab and Orthographical Inquiries, also Tangut (53)
  - … … …

Conlangers: Creativity in Abundance

Oavanchy

- Creator: Eowyn Cwper
- Artlang, spoken by a people similar to Indo-Europeans on an Earth-like planet.

[im ˈwaɪ.də t͡ɕʊˈam.stʰi iʃˈtʰeɪ.zʊ lɤɪx̠]

- and thus <ACC>tree speak_of-PTRT.3S.AN fish
- 'And thus spoke the fish of the tree.'
- A saying to mock someone who speaks beyond their ken
- Link to Oavanchy primer

Evéik

- Creator: Julie Munsell
- a creole made from a number of natlangs for Shaun Barrowes's book *The Paradise Planets: The Fallen From Paradise*
- Édasé în hîmé li zor mush.
- /eɪ ˈda seɪ/ /ˈɪn/ /ˈhɪm eɪ/ /ˈli/ /ˈzɔr/ /ˈmuʃ/
- Sing-3rdSGPast a song-ACC the poor man-NOM
- 'The poor man sang a song.'
- Evéik was also featured in the backing vocals for Shaun Barrowes performance of "Champion of my Dreams" on Season 7 of *American Idol*

Conlangers: Creativity in Abundance

Rílin

- Creator: Margaret Ransdell-Green

- *a priori* artlang spoken by the Ríli, a fictional species of humanoid inhabiting the world of Aeniith, on the continent of Izoi

- Be wesaky bämanet–kalum ẃö

- [bɛ wɛˈsaky bæˈmanɛt ˈkalum βø]

- 'Do not hold on to worries--the world is new'

- http://aeniith.com/rili/

Nymeran

- Creator: BenJamin Paul Nicolas Johnson

- Artlang from the Mythopoeia comic *Glow*

Ena tézh zhí akhránnai rutekhu bekh simsim kal bekh.
asam hamzhalkehes al che mlazhenumkes,
al che khaníumkes, al che hlétmakes.
Ena chég shí léshní rumezísh bekh,
lezhe til nime kamlehukhu.
Chéne áne zhanulení lasheré,
zhí béloknai em sanka i téhe foz

'The towers were built long, long ago,
as a monument to our splendor,
to our arrogance, to our downfall.
Long ago this world was a paradise,
grown with the Fire of Nym.
Today we are merely fragments,
the shadows of that which remains.'

Conlangers: Creativity in Abundance

Wjerih Sarak Lezu (WSL)

- Creator: Logan R. Kearsley

- Engineered artlang / architechted language

- Spoken by the Wjer, inhabitants of a far-future spaghetti-strand space colony

- Ka gitenu ves mek tcus mek jo.

- 'Everyone has someone that they know (as a single collective action).'

- Ka ves mek tcus gitenu mek jo.

- 'Everyone has someone that they know (separately).'

Valaklwuuxa

- Creator: Logan R. Kearsley

- Engineered artlang / architechted language

- Spoken by underspecified vaguely western American speakers

- nk'ap txe k'axet tu txe swetqe-la?

- 'What did the coyote do to the man?'

- xwe-wek'end ta he-stekuk tandek nk'ap va se

- 'I don't let coyotes bounce around here.'

- Ndwu-nbatqegwelend

- 'We (me & them) (just) set out.'

Conlanging on Demand: Stygian

- for *Space: The Infinite Edge* (international *World of Darkness* LARP game)
  - Travelers of the spiritual Underworld linked by gateways allowing interstellar travel
  - Mysterious aliens in the reaches of space, including the Stygians
- Stygian language design priorities
  - Derived from ancient Sumerian phonology, lexicon, grammar (*a posteriori* artlang)
  - Over 2000 years removed
  - Need for **conscript** (for markers, gates, bulkheads) and **pictograms** (signage icons)
- Design decisions
  - Sumerian lexical roots (including phonotactics) and simplified grammar
  - Sound changes applied to simulate centuries, incl. *ejectives* and *tonogenesis*
  - Conscript features: cursive, syllabic featural script in reverse boustrophedon style

Conlanging on Demand: Stygian

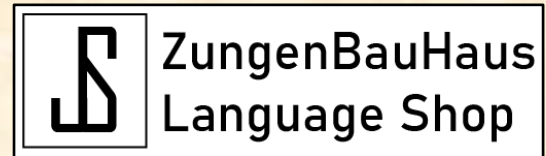"Old Laws," *Space: The Infinite Edge* (0:51)
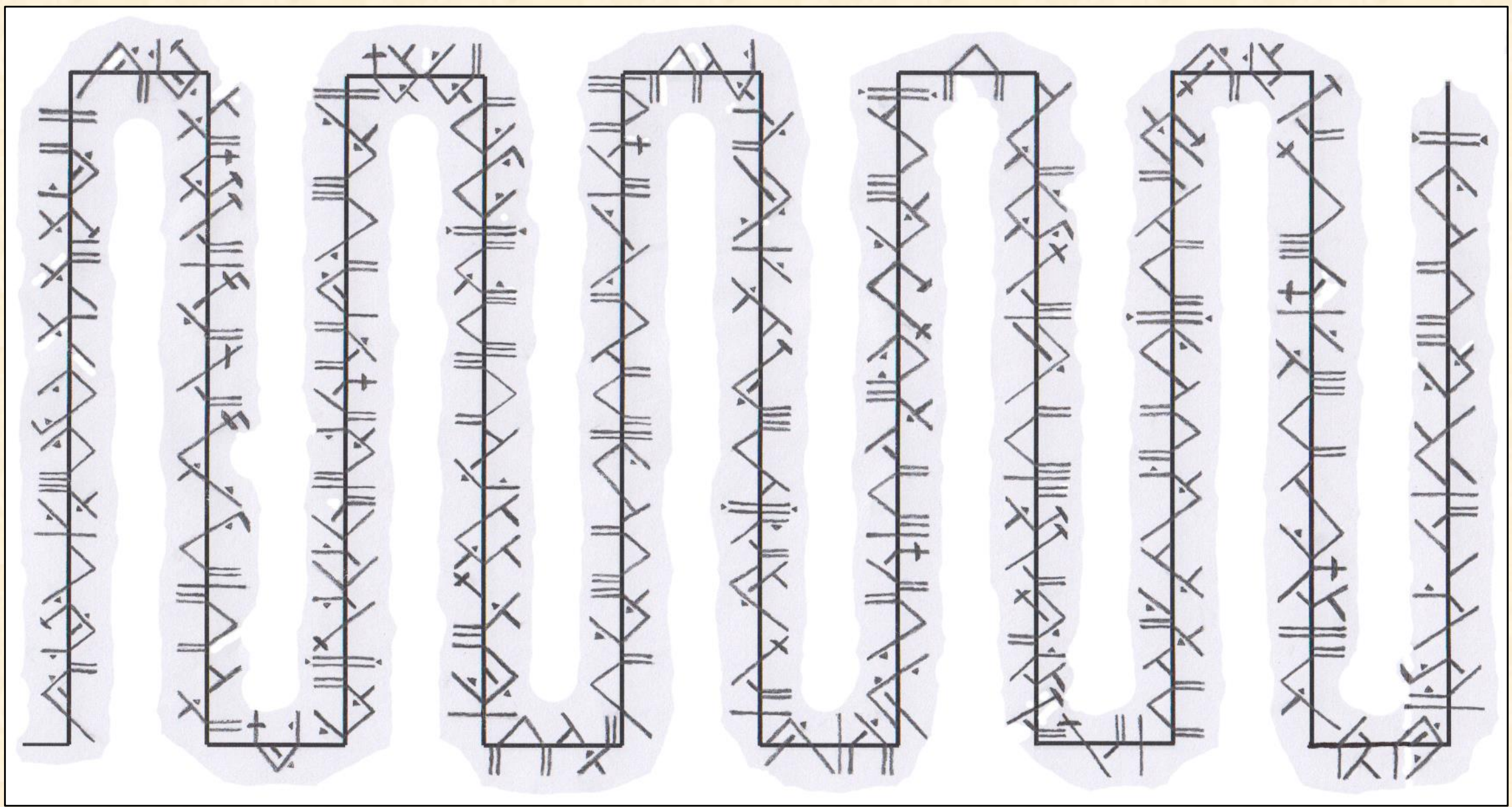
Conlanging on Demand: Baldung

- for Rebecca Sonnenshine, showrunner of *Archive 81*
  - mystical/ritual language intended for witches of the Baldung *lineage*
  - Intentional oblique reference to Hans Baldung (15th-16th c. German artist)
- Baldung language design priorities
  - Derived from "northern German" / Old Saxon (ca. 8th-10th c.)
  - Fictional dialect of the 14th century for use by a closed group
  - Aesthetic aims: sound Germanic to fit the region
- Design decisions
  - Incorporate Merseburg Incantations reference into the script
  - Apply few sound changes "after" the OS period to represent dialect divergence
  - *w > b* sound shift: OS *wal(d)-* lexical items suggest potential etymologies for *baldung*
  - Apply diphthong stress shift (Old Norse) and a variety of palatization (cf. Slavic)
  - Conscript inspired by Gothic (Ulfilas, Arian bishop) w/ Dutch orthographic influence
  - OS lexical gaps filled by drawing from Old English, Old High German, Gothic, Old Norse

"Two-Line Invocation," *Archive 81* (0:21)

ZungenBauHaus Language Shop

ꓒႯꓒꓒ	ꓭꓱꓚꓘꓱꓹꓷꓱ	ꓒꓹꓠꓢꓥꓥ	ꓱꓱꓦꓒ
twaa	**beer**êldê	**al**zoo	**ee**na
[**twa**:	ˈ**be**:.rɛl.dɛ	ˈ**ʔal**.zo:	ˈ**ʔe**:.na]
two-ADJ-S.f.nom	world-f.Ust.lg-pl.nom	as-ADV	one-ADJ-S.f.nom

"Two worlds as one"

ꓳꓒꓦ	ꜜbeꓮꓞꓽ	ꓦꓒꜜꓣꓱꟗ	ꓭꓘꓞꓦꓦꓽꓜ
lʋan	ĥ**êmil**	**naĥt**ʰ**ês**	**brin**nid
[**ɰan**	ˈ**xɛ**.mɪl	ˈ**nax**.tʰɛs	ˈ**brɪn**.nɪd]
when-CONJ	sky-m.Ast.sg.nom	night-f.Ist*.sg.gen	burn-StIIIa.3Psg.Pres.Ind

"when the night sky [sky of night] burns."

ꝺꓱꓚ	ꜜbꓘꓢꓥꓭꓦꝺ	ꝺꓞꜜꓦ	ꓒꓥꓥ	ꜜꓘꓒꓹꓚꓱꓚꓥꟗ
lʋee	ĥ**roo**baĐ	Þii**š**	**t**ʰ**oo**	kʰa-ê-**lee**-gô
[**ɰe**:	ˈ**xro**:.bað	θi:ʃ	**t**ʰo:	kʰa.ɛ.ˈ**le**:.gɔ]
we-1pl.nom	call-StRED.1Ppl.Pres.Ind	thee-2sg.dat	to-PREP.dat	Kaelego-indecl

"We call to thee, Kaelego."

🔊

ꓭꓞꜜꓱꓦꓽꓜ	ꜛꓥꓦꓦꟗ	ꝺꓱꓢꓒꓦ	ꓮꓞꓽ	ꓭꓹꓥꓥꓹꓜ	ꝺꓞꓞꓦ
bil**êggê**	**jôn**d	Þ**ê**zan	**m**id	**bloo**du	Þ**iin**
[bɪ.ˈ**lɛg**.gɛ	**d͡ʒɔn**d	ˈ**θɛ**.zan	**mɪd**	ˈ**blo**:.dʊ	θi:**n**]
lay/set/prepare-Wk1.Imp.sg	ground-m.uSt*.sg.acc	this-m.sg.acc	with-PREP-INST	blood-n.Ast.sg.inst	thy-2sg.gen-0

"Lay this ground with your blood"

ꞓꓱꓦꓞꓡ	ꓦꓱꓳꓒꓦ	ꓭꞓꓱꓢꓒꓦꓜꓽ	ꓱꓹꓤꓒꓘ	ꓦꓱꓱꓦ	ꓦꓥꓣꓥꓳꓜꓽbꓹ	ꓦꓱꝺꝺꓥ	ꜛꓒꓒꓦ
êêniž	**nê**wan	**bêê**zandi	**ê**lgʷar	**nêê**n	**nyôô**wiĥtʰ	**nê**fÞô	**jaan**
[ˈ**ʔɛ**:.nɪʒ	ˈ**nɛ**.wan	ˈ**bɛ**:.zan.dɪ	ˈ**ʔɛl**.gʷar	**ne**:n	ˈ**njɔ**:.wɪxtʰ	ˈ**nɛf**.θɔ	**d͡ʒa**:n]
one-IndefPron.nom	only/except-ADV	being-COP-APart.ADJ-S.m.sg.nom	else-ADV	no one-IndefPron	nothing-IndefPron	nor-CONJ	not one-IndefPron

"There will be but one."

ꓦꓱꓳꓒꓦ	ꝺꓞꓹ	ꓜꓞꓢ	ꓦꓤꓥꓜꓹ	ꓳꓒꓒꓘꓞꓒꓦ	ꜜꓘꓒꓹꓚꓱꓚꓥꟗ
nêwan	Þ**uu**	**uus**	**moo**di	**lʋaa**rian	kʰa-ê-**lee**-gô
[ˈ**nɛ**.wan	θ**u**:	**ʔu**:s	ˈ**mo**:.dɪ	ˈ**ɰa**:.rɪ.an	kʰa.ɛ.ˈ**le**:.gɔ]
only/except-ADV	thou-2sg.nom	us-1pl.acc	may-PretP.Opt.2sg	hear-Wk1.Inf	Kaelego-indecl

"May/might you only hear us, Kaelego." ≈ "Shall you hear us, Kaelego."

Creation on Demand: Baldung

"The Ritual to Raise Kaelego," Archive 81 (1:30)

Audio omitted due to copyright ownership of media produced under Netflix contract.
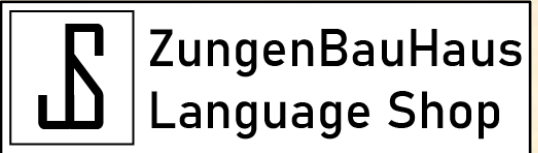
ZungenBauHaus Language Shop

Panel 1

nuu — lʋee — biihêaÐ — ooğanbliiš — Þêzan — stunda — Þêza
[nu:] — [ɣe:] — [ˈbiː.xe.aθ] — [ˈʔoː.jan.bliʃ] — [ˈθe.zan] — [ˈstʊn.da] — [ˈθe.za]
now-ADV — we-1pl.nom — consecrate-W1.1Ppl.Pres.Ind — moment-m.Istm.sg.acc — this-m.sg.acc — hour-f.Ost.sg.acc — this-f.sg.acc

"We now consecrate this moment, this hour."

hêm alzoo finistri bêrÐaÐ lÿôôhtʰ moodi jônd Þêzê bêrÐan dôr
[ˈxe.m ˈʔal.zo: ˈfɪ.nɪs.trɪ ˈber.ðað ljɔ:xtʰ ˈmo:.dɪ dʒɔnd ˈθe.ze ˈber.ðan dor]
sky-m.A... as-ADV darkness-f.Ost*.sg.nom become-StIIIb.3Psg.Pres.Ind light-n.Ast.sg.nom may-PretP1.Opt.2sg ground-m.uSt*.sg.nom this-& become-StIIIb.INF door-n.aSt.sg.nom

"[As] Darkness becomes light. [so may/might/shall] This ground shall become a door."

PERFORMANCE NOTE: *Bobbie strikes the third fork/ tone… the others do not have this… THIS IS WHY IT ALL GOES BAD*

ĥald lÿôôhtʰ ÞiÞ ĥald lÿôôhtʰ ÞiÞ ĥald lÿôôhtʰ ÞiÞ
[xald ljo:xtʰ θɪθ xald ljo:xtʰ θɪθ xald ljo:xtʰ θɪθ]
hold-StRED.Imp.sg light-n.Ast.sg.acc this-& hold-StRED.Imp.sg light-n.Ast.sg.acc this-& hold-StRED.Imp.sg light-n.Ast.sg.acc this-&

"Hold this light. Hold this light. Hold this light."

PERFORMANCE NOTE: *this is where Bobbi stops…and the others continue on to the sacrifice*

lʋee jÿoodaÐ uuÞ ÞiÞ fatʰ êêndi lêggêaÐ bêž Þii fôr
[ɣe: ˈdʒjo:.dað ˈʔu:.θ θɪθ fatʰ ˈeːn.dɪ ˈleg.ge.að bez θi: fɔr]
We-1pl.nom pour-StII.1pl.Pres.Ind out-ADV this-& vessel-n.Ast.sg.acc and-CONJ lay/make-W1.1Ppl.Pres.Ind way-m.Ast.sg.acc thee-2sg.acc for-PREP-ACC

"We empty this vessel and make way for you."

liiš ÞiÞ is nuu aağan Þiin
[liːʃ θɪθ ʔɪs nu: ˈʔaː.jan θiːn]
body-n.Ast.sg.nom this-& is-COP.3Psg.Pres.Ind now-ADV own-ADJ-S.n.sg.nom thy-2sg.gen-Ø

"This body is now yours."

cÿôôgô tʰoo cÿôôgên blood tʰoo blooda
[ˈtʃjɔ:.gɔ tʰo: ˈtʃjɔ:.gen blo:d tʰo: ˈblo:.da]
bone-m.Nst.sg.nom to-PREP-DAT bone-n.Nst.sg.dat blood-n.Ast.sg.nom to-PREP-DAT blood-n.Ast.sg.dat

"Bone to bone, blood to blood."

Panel 2

lʋee sind bigadandia tÿuurwêa Þiin
[ɣe: sɪnd bɪˈga.dan.dɪ.a ˈtju:r.we.a θiːn]
we-1pl.nom are-COP.1Ppl.Pres.Ind receive-APart.pl.nom true-ADJ-S.JAst.pl.nom thy-2sg.gen-Ø

"We are your true receivers."

lÿôôhtʰ ÞaÐ eena is lÿôôhtʰ Þiin aağan
[ljo:xtʰ θaθ ˈʔeː.na ʔɪs ljo:xtʰ θiːn ˈʔaː.jan]
light-n.Ast.sg.nom the-& one/only-ADJ-W.n.sg.nom is-COP.3Psg.Pres.Ind light-n.Ast.sg.nom thy-2sg.gen-Ø own-ADJ-S.n.sg.nom

"The only light is your own light." → "There is only one light and it is yours."

PERFORMANCE NOTE: *strikes the second tuning fork/ tone*

laaÞ blood uuzêr rinnan laaÞ fêrah
[la:θ blo:d ˈʔu:.zer ˈrɪn.nan la:θ ˈfe.rax]
let-StRED.Imp.sg blood-n.Ast.sg.nom our-1pl.gen-Ø run-SIIIa.INF let-StRED.Imp.sg spirit-n.uSt*.s...

"Let our blood run, let out spirit burn, …"

laaÞ uus jônd Þêzan foodian in
[la:θ ʔu:s dʒɔnd ˈθe.zan ˈfo:.dɪ.an ʔin]
let-StRED.Imp.sg us-1pl.acc ground-m.uSt*.sg.acc this-& feed/nourish-W1.INF in-PREP-DAT

"… let us nourish this ground in your name."

uuvargaŋ in ooÐarbeerôld hômariaÐ
[ˈʔu:.var.gaŋ ʔin ˈʔoː.ðar.beː.rɔld ˈxɔ.ma.rɪ.að]
passage-m.A/ISt.-sg.acc. in-PREP-ACC Otherworld-f.ISt.sg.acc hammer/forge-W1.1Ppl.Pre...

"We now forge a passage into the Otherworld."

tʰiid ôbanĥriidida pʰaÐ tʰoo uuzêr
[tʰi:d ˈʔɔ.ban.ˈxri:.dɪ.da pʰaθ tʰo: ˈʔu:.ze...]
time-f.ISt.sg.acc torn+open-W1.PPart.sg.acc path-m.aSt.sg.nom to-PREP-DAT our-1pl...

"Time torn open. A path to our grace."

Panel 3

kʷôm fôrÐ kʰa-ê-lee-gô ÞaÐ lÿôôhtʰ eena tÿuurwa
[kʷɔm fɔrð ˈkʰa.ê.ˈleː.gô θaθ ljo:xtʰ ˈʔeː.na ˈtju:r.wa]
come-StIV.Imp.sg forth-ADV Kaelego-indecl the-n.Ast.sg.nom light-n.Ast.sg.nom one/only-ADJ-W.n.sg.nom true-ADJ-W.JAst.n.sg.nom

"Come forth, Kaelego, the one true light."

lʋee jaadiaÐ Þii twaa beerêldê alzoo eena
[ɣe: ˈdʒa:.dɪ.að θi: twa: ˈbeː.rel.de ˈʔal.zo: ˈʔeː.na]
we-1pl.nom greet-W1.1Ppl.nom thee-2sg.acc two-ADJ-S.fnom world-f.Ust.lg-pl.nom as-ADV one-ADJ-S.fnom

"We welcome you. Two worlds as one."

middils Þêra êaĥtʰti biĥtʰêô allarô
[ˈmɪd.dɪls ˈθe.ra ˈtʃax.tʰiː ˈbɪx.tʰeːɔ ˈal.la.rɔ]
means-n.Ast.sg.gen the-f.sg.gen power-f.Ist.sg.gen thing-n.Ist.pl.gen all-ADJ-S.n.pl.gen

"By the power of all things …"

jiwaazanêrô ÿaš nuu êêndi cêwan bêêzandêrô
[ˈdʒɪ.wa:.za.ne.rɔ jaʃ nu: ˈeːn.dɪ ˈeː.wan ˈbeː.zan.de.rɔ]
been-COP.PPart.ADJ-S.n.pl.gen and-CONJ now-ADV and-CONJ ever-ADV being-COP.APart.ADJ-S.n.pl.gen

"…that were and are and will be."

riigêdoom Þiin is êrÐa Þÿuus nuu
[ˈri:.ge.do:m θiːn ʔɪs ˈʔer.ða ˈθju:s nu:]
dominion-m.Ast.sg.nom thy-2sg.gen-Ø is-COP.3Psg.Pres.Ind earth-f.Nst.sg.nom this-f.sg.nom now-ADV

"Your dominion is this earth now."

Educational Value

- **Linguistic / Structural**
  - Exposure to universal linguistic structure (phonology, morphology, syntax)
  - Exposure to diverse natural languages and linguistic structures
  - Heightened metalinguistic awareness relevant to all language learning & use

- **Artistic / Aesthetic**
  - Appreciation for artistic use of language (e.g., poetry, composition, worldbuilding)
  - Reflection on our biases and prejudices, often marked by dialect/accent/language
  - Exploration of the importance of language in the global media economy

- **Social / Societal**
  - Awareness of world languages (e.g., Indigenous languages, historical languages)
  - Recognition of language as part of a community and its human rights
  - Multilingual competencies foster multicultural competencies
  - Conlangs and conlanging spawn & foster new communities in the Internet era

Selected Conlanging Resources

Books & Video

- **Adams, Michael (Ed.). (2011).** *From Elvish to Klingon: Exploring Invented Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- **Haden Elgin, Suzette (1986).** *Native Tongue: Suzette Haden Elgin, Ph.D.* [VHS video recording, 45 min]. Ozark Center for Language Studies.
  - Indiana University (Bloomington) has a copy, also digitized

- **Okrent, Arika (2010).** *In the Land of Invented Languages: Adventures in Linguistic Creativity, Madness, and Genius*. New York: Spiegel & Grau.
  - **Okrent, Arika (2009).** *In the Land of Invented Languages: Esperanto Rock Stars, Klingon Poets, Loglan Lovers, and the Mad Dreamers Who Tried to Build a Perfect Language*. New York: Spiegel & Grau.

- **Rogers, Stephen D. (2011).** *A Dictionary of Made-Up Languages: From Adûnaic to Elvish, Zaum to Klingon—The Anwa (Real) Origins of Invented Lexicons*. Avon, MA: Adams Media.

Websites & Podcast

- **conlang.fandom.com** (*Conlang Wiki*)

- **conlangery.com** (*Conlangery* podcast since 2011)

- **www.zompist.com** (Mark Rosenfelder & Yonagu Books)
  - *The Language Construction Kit, Advanced Language Construction, The Conlanger's Lexipedia, …*

Let's consider two examples in sci-fi…

- The constructed language of the Na'vi people in *Avatar* (2009)
    - Na'vi includes ejective consonants, syllabic consonants, and consonant clusters not found in most European languages
    - Na'vi features vowels sequences found in Polynesian languages, Swahili, and Japanese
    - Some phonetic details of Na'vi resemble Indonesian and other SE Asian languages

- The speech and accents of Jar Jar Binks or Watto the winged trader and slave-owner in *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* (1999)
    - Jar Jar Binks speaks with a "weird pidgin mush of West African, Caribbean and African-American linguistic styles"
    - Watto has a "gravelly Middle Eastern accent"
    - "Racial Ventriloquism" (Williams, June 17, 1999)

How were these two examples received?
Why do they affect us so differently?

Selected References

- **Bennett, H. (Producer), & Nimoy, L. (Director). (2009).** *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* [Motion picture]. United States: Paramount. (Originally released 1984)

- **Bouzereau, L., & Grane, T. C. (Producers), & Bouzereau, L. (Director). (2010).** *Capturing Avatar* [Motion Picture]. Beverly Hills, CA: Mob Scene Creative Productions.

- **Cameron, J., Landau, J. (Producers), & Cameron, J. (Director). (2009).** *Avatar* [Motion picture]. United States: 20th Century Fox.

- **DeLuise, P. (Writer), & DeLuise, P. (Director). (2000).** The First Ones [Television series episode]. In Richard Dean Anderson, Michael Greenburg, & Brad Wright (Executive producers), *Stargate SG-1*. Beverly Hills, CA: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

- **Ettlinger, M., Morgan-Short, K., Faretta-Stutenberg, M., & Wong, P. C. M. (2016).** The relationship between artificial and second language learning. *Cognitive Science, 40*(4), 822–847. https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.12257

- **Esper, E. A. (1925).** A technique for the experimental investigation of associative interference in artificial linguistic material. *Language Monographs, 1*, 1–47.

- **Gilman, C. P. S. (1992).** *Herland* [e-book]. Project Gutenberg. https://www.gutenberg.org/files/32/32-h/32-h.htm

Selected References

- **LaZebnik, P., Menosky, J. (Writers), & Kolbe, W. (Director). (September 30, 1991).** Darmok [Television series episode]. In Gene Roddenberry, Rick Berman, & Michael Piller (Producers), *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Hollywood, CA: Paramount Domestic Television.

- **McLaughlin, B. (1980).** On the use of miniature artificial languages in second-language research. *Applied Psycholinguistics, 1*(4), 357 – 369. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0142716400001004

- **Okrand, M. (1985).** *The Klingon Dictionary: English/Klingon Klingon/English*. New York: Pocket Books.

- **Osborne, B. M., Jackson, P., Walsh, F. (Producers), & Jackson, P. (Director). (2003).** *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* [Motion picture]. United States: New Line Cinema. (Originally released 2002)

- **Williams, P. J. (1999, June 17).** Racial ventriloquism. *The Nation*. https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/racial-ventriloquism/