A complete Lemizh reference grammar

Writing and phonology

- **Alphabet:** ı ʜ ɑ ɔ ɪ ʞ ɕ ɕ ɕ ʚ ɷ ɷ ɾ ɼ ʍ ʌ ʍ ʌ ʌ ʋ ʋ ʋ ɣ ʋ ɾ ɦ ɾ ɣ ɑ
- The alphabet of the language is **phonetic**. The direction of writing is **left to right**.
- The letters' transcriptions and phonetic values are as follows:

Vowels	front		back	
	unrounded	rounded	unrounded	rounded
close	ɔ i [i]	x ü [y]	ɑ y [ɯ]	ɕ u [u]
open	ʜ e [ɛ]	ʞ ö [œ]	ı a [ʌ]	c o [ɔ]

Consonants		bilabial	dental	alveolar	postalveolar	velar
liquids	lateral approximant			ʚ l [l]		
	approximant			ɷ rh [ɹ]		
	trill			ɷ r [r]		
nasals		ɼ m [m]				ɾ ng [ŋ]
plosives		ʍ b [b]		v d [d]		ʍ g [g]
		ʌ p [p]		ʌ t [t]		ʌ k [k]
fricatives		ɷ w [β]	ɣ dh [ð]	ʋ z [z]	ʋ zh [ʒ]	ʋ gh [ɣ]
		ɑ f [ɸ]	ɣ th [θ]	ɾ s [s]	ɦ sh [ʃ]	ɾ x [x]

- Vowels can carry low-pitch or high-pitch **accent**, or be unaccented:

Accent type	Symbol	Accented vowels	Transcription
low	ˌ	ɔ ʯ ɑ ɟ ç ʯ ɕ ɕ	` (à etc.)
high	ˈ	ɔ ʯ ɑ ɟ ç ʯ ɕ ɕ	´ (á etc.)

- **Numbers** are written in the hexadecimal system:

Name	Symbol	Transcription
digits	o ı ʜ ʢ ʔ ʔ ʟ ɬ ɒ c ʞ ʡ ʗ ʡ ʗ ɛ	0–9, A–F
negation sign (preceding)	=	–
hexadecimal separator	.	.
recurring part separator (preceding)	°	r

- Punctuation:

Group	Name	Symbol	Transcription	Function	
pauses of speech	space	[space]	[space]	barely audible	see 'Morphology' on the next page
	comma	.	,	a bit longer	
	full stop	:	.	the longest one	
emphases	space	[wide space]	(!)	have the same functions as the ordinary pauses, but add emphasis to the preceding sentence or object	
	comma	ˏ	,(!)		
	full stop	⸝	!		
separators (dashes)	straight	˗	-	separate parts of text, for stylistic reasons such as enhancing readability of compounds or long sentences. The straight dash is the weakest, the pointy dash the strongest.	
	round	˄	–		
	pointy	˄	—		
enclosures (parentheses)	straight	/ \	( )	enclose parts of text. A sentence without the contents of the enclosure must be grammatically complete. The straight enclosures are the weakest (also outermost), the pointy enclosures the strongest (also innermost). The accent of the last word in front of the enclosure determines the level of the first word *in* the enclosure.	
	round	( )	[ ]		
	pointy	⟨ ⟩	{ }		
enclosures (quotes*)	straight	/ \	' '		
	round	‹ ›	" "		
	pointy	‹ ›	"' '"		
ellipses	short	–	..	marks omission of one or several letters, as in abbreviations	
	long	—	...	marks omission of one or several words	

* Quotes enclose *mentioned* parts of text, including quotations.

Morphology (word grammar)

- **Parts of a word:** prestem + inner case + poststem + outer case
- **Level** as defined below. Only positive levels are allowed for words. The **agent** is the source of the intention.

Following pause	Accented vowel	Type of accent	The level of the next word is …
space	inner case	low	lower by 1
		high	lower by 1, and agentive
	outer case	low	equal
		high	higher by 1
comma (·)	inner case	low	higher by 2
		high	higher by 3
	outer case	low	higher by 4
		high	higher by 5
full stop (:)	inner case	low	none; end of sentence

- **Case descriptors** as defined below, with rows 5 to 8 being **agent-centered**; plus the two secondary case suffixes denoting
  - ▹ *partitive* (ᴎ, 'the set from which the sender [recipient, place, etc.] is thought to be taken') &
  - ▹ *qualitative* cases (ᕀ, 'the basis of comparison – located in the same hypothetical world as all others – for the sender [recipient, place, etc.]')

No.	Case vowel	Primary case suffix			
		none	ഗ	ၹ	ၽ
		Plot cases	Causal cases	Temporal cases	Spatial cases
1	I	factive (FACT): action	affirmative (AFF): fact (point in causal chain)	temporal (TEMP): time	locative (LOC): place/region
2	ᴎ	nominative (NOM): source, sender	causative (CAUS): direct cause	ingressive (ING): starting time	elative (ELA): starting point/region
3	ɑ	accusative (ACC): content	contextual (CTX): causal context	durative (DUR): duration	extensive (EXT): spatial extent
4	ɔ	dative (DAT): sink, recipient	consecutive (CONS): direct consequence, effect	egressive (EGR): closing time	illative (ILL): end point / ending region
5	c	tentive (TEN): intention	intentive (INT): intention (intended point in causal chain)	episodic (EPS): episode, 'act'	scenic (SCE): scene, 'stage'
6	ɮ	comitative (COM): company	persuasive (PSU): reason	digressive (DIG): time from which away	ablative (ABL): place/region away from which
7	ɔɔ	instrumental (INS): means, tool	motivational (MOT): motivational context	progressive (PROG): time that is passed	prolative (PROL): crossing point/region
8	ᶒ	benefactive (BEN): beneficiary	final (FIN): purpose, aim	aggressive (AGG): time towards which, temporal aim	allative (ALL): place/region towards which, spatial aim

- The **stem** of a word always denotes an action, and the **inner case** describes the word's relation to this action.

- The stems of the **relative pronouns** are defined here:

Level	Type I		Type II	
	Verb	The target is the stem of …	Verb	The target is the stem of …
n	—		၂ː	its preceding same-level word
n–1	ၯ၂ː	its predicate	ၯ၂ː	its predicate's preceding same-level word or parole
n–2	ၯ၂ː	its predicate's predicate	ၯ၂ː	its predicate's predicate's preceding same-level word or parole
n–3	ၯ၂ː	its predicate's predicate's predicate	ၯ၂ː	…
n–4	ၯ၂ː	…	ၯ၂ː	…
n–5	ၯ၂ː	…	ၯ၂ː	…

Derivational morphology (compound words)

- **One.** A compound word is constructed from a two-word sentence – predicate and object of which become modifier and head of the compound, respectively – in the following way:
  1. *Prestem:*
     a. the object's prestem
     b. the object's inner case
     c. the object's poststem
     d. an optional separator: ‑, ˆ or ˄
     e. the predicate's prestem
  2. *Inner case*
  3. *Poststem:* the predicate's poststem
  4. *Outer case*
- **Two.** In the relationship between the original predicate and object, the rules of sentence grammar are retained as far as applicable.
- **Three.** Regarding all outward relations, cases refer to the head.

Syntax (sentence grammar)

- **One. Sentence structure.** A word of level n is subordinate to the nearest word of level n–1 in front of it; the parole acts as a word of level zero.
- **Two. Definition of objects.** An object of a word in a sentence is a word subordinate to the former, its predicate, plus all of its own objects.
- **Three. Outer case.** The outer case of the first word of an object defines its relation to its predicate's stem via its descriptor; the outer case of a level 1 word is zero.
- **Four. Identity of action.** An instance of a word stem designates a specific action.
- **Five. Completeness of cases.** A case characterises the action it refers to completely with regard to its case descriptor.
- **Six. Missing objects.** A missing object is equivalent to the absence of information about its descriptor.
- **Seven. Degree of reality.** Given an object and its predicate, the predicate is considered more real and the object more hypothetical.