

Jogos Nhaiang Chahar

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Dash Stevens

History and Overview

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The Jogos Nhai exist in a constant state of war with their neighbors; the Yi-Ti are their favorite targets, though Ibbenese colonies on the shores were also targeted.

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The first Jhattar, Jhea, united the Jogos Nhai under his banner to raid Yi-Ti and punish Lo Bu, the Boy Too Bold By Half: the Golden Emperor of Yi Ti at the time who sought to annihilate the Jogos Nhai. Every Jhattar since has marked their ascension by drinking khaghaz, fermented mare's milk, from Lo Bu's gilded skull.

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The Jhat are the nominal leaders of the clans of the Jogos Nhai, though their power is greatest in wartime. In times of peace, the Sahrang-Guciguro have more political power.

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Its structure is strongly agglutinative, and almost exclusively suffixing. Its headedness is head-final.

Phonology

Consonant inventory: (for simplicity, some MoA are collapsed)

	labial	alveolar	palatal	velar	uvular	glottal
nasal	m	n	ɲ	ŋ		
stop	p, b	t, d		k, g	q	ʔ
affricate		tʃ, dʒ				
fricative	f, v	s, z	ʃ, ʒ	x, ɣ		h
approximant		ɾ, l	j			

Phonology

Vowel inventory: (for simplicity, some cells have collapsed)

	front	central	back
high	i, ɪ		u
mid	e, ɛ		ɔ
low		a	

Nominal Morphology

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Nominally, there is a distinction between singular and plural. However, pronominally, there is an additional dual, but only in the second person. There are words which function for the paucal and the collective, though those are determiners.

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There are five noun classes. Class I: people; Class II: all land animals (and aquatic animals); Class III: all flying animals (and all insects); Class IV: tools, weapons, and general inanimates; Class V: places, collections, assemblies, abstracts, and deities.

Sample Declensional Paradigm

singular	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V
ABS	hirtʃ “person”	ʃʃarlej “dog”	zan “eagle”	hovɛɭ “sword”	ɲai “a people”
ERG	hirtʃɔ	ʃʃarlejo	zanɔ	hovɛlge	ɲajan
ACC	hirtʃa	ʃʃarlejɔra	zanla	hovɛleje	ɲajɪp
GEN	hirtʃeje	ʃʃarlejet	zanul	hovɛleje	ɲajan
DAT	hirtʃet	ʃʃarlejet	zanɔ	hovɛleje	ɲajet
ABL	hirtʃɔɭ	ʃʃarleju	zanu	hovɛleje	ɲaje
LAT	hirtʃan	ʃʃarleju	zanu	hovɛleje	ɲajan

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The aspects and modes are: habitual, progressive, past-perfective, past-imperfective, indicative, optative, imperative, and negative.

Sample Conjugational Paradigm

taṇoṇot “to eat”	NPST -taṇon	PST - taṇondōḡ	DPST - taṇondōran
HAB	taṇon	∅	∅
PROG	des taṇon	∅	des taṇondōran
PFV	∅	taṇon	taṇon
IPFV	∅	taṇondōḡ	taṇondōran
IMP	taṇon	taṇondōḡ	taṇondōran
NEG	taṇongulḡ	taṇondōrgulḡ	taṇondōranḡulḡ
OPT	taṇonadi	taṇondōradi	taṇondōranadi

Syntax-y Stuff: Intransitives

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Dorghul ngat bus yodor.

dɔr	-yul	ŋat	bus	jɔ	-dɔŋ
before	-night	1sg[NOM]	good	sleep	-PST

“I slept well last night.”

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Carleyaurët dës mavaur.

ɕarlej	-aur	-et	dës mav	-auŋ
dog	-DIM	-PL	this snarl	-DIM

“The small dogs are snarling a little bit.”

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Samia ngat 'iaqargul!

sam -(ja)	ŋat	ʔiaq	-ar	-guḷ
3sg -ACC	1sg[NOM]	hit	-PST	-NEG

“I didn’t hit *them* (but I did hit someone else)!”

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Ngat badagë mër hovëleje sahët ruqo bujadi.

ŋat	bada	-gɛ	mɛɾ	hovel	-eje
1sg[NOM]	father	-GEN	long	sword	-DAT
sa -(h)ɛt	ruqo	buj	-adi		
2sg -DAT	now	give-OPT			

“I want to give you my father’s long sword now.”

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Chatora khac dës key. /ʃatɔra xɑfʃ dəs kej/ “The zorse is being ridden by the boy.”

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This means you’re being stubborn and annoying.

To say, “The woman made the boy ride,” one would say:

Huko khacia keyercece. /huko xatʃa kejerʃetʃe/

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For wh-questions, the same word order rearrangement and intonational uptick are employed.

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The question *demsa?* is common, meaning “what is it?” (Or, more colloqually, “whassat?”) *Dem* is a casual speech variety of the word for what/which, *dempor* /dempɔŋ/. *Sa* is the same register, but for the copula (as shown earlier).

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> *Qïrar zafar sa?* “Where is the slave?”

Orthography

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Jogos Nhai has gone through several stages of writing. The history of writing for the Jogos Nhai starts with the capture of a scribe from a YiTish city during a raid. The scribe bargained for his life with the jhat: in exchange for his being spared, he would join the Jogos Nhai and teach them the secrets of YiTish writing, which the jhat agreed would give them a tactical advantage.

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Over time, the scribe caste rose to prominence, recording the histories of their clans (alongside the sung chants and oral histories). The Guciguro took up writing themselves, commonly writing down sacred scriptures which they would then tattoo on their bodies (so that they had permanent reminders of their teachings).

Late-Stage YiTish hieroglyphs

YITISH
"TORTOISE-SCRIPT"
LATE STAGE HIEROGLYPHS

pul ⊙

bilal mu

taw 𐤔

deg 𐤋

cat ⊙

fara 𐤍

kun 𐤊

gal 𐤂

qel 𐤒

raw 𐤓

bar 𐤁

van 𐤕

het 𐤇

sir 𐤑

zuba 𐤃

da 𐤁

zaw 𐤛

xet 𐤔

ym 𐤙

mim 𐤌

non 𐤏

net 𐤎

in 𐤇

lam 𐤌

jaw 𐤊

wat 𐤗

Rul 𐤓

iw 𐤇

im 𐤇

ul 𐤕

ej 𐤇

omo 𐤏

el 𐤇

him 𐤇

lat 𐤌

an 𐤁

PROTO JOGOS-NHAIAN
RUNES "YITISH-JOGOSI"

p θ

b m

t ʃ

d T

c ɾ

ʃ v

k ʌ

g ɰ

q *

ʔ ɸ

f z

v ʌ

h ɣ

s t

z ɸ

ʃ ɿ

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x ʃ

y ʃ

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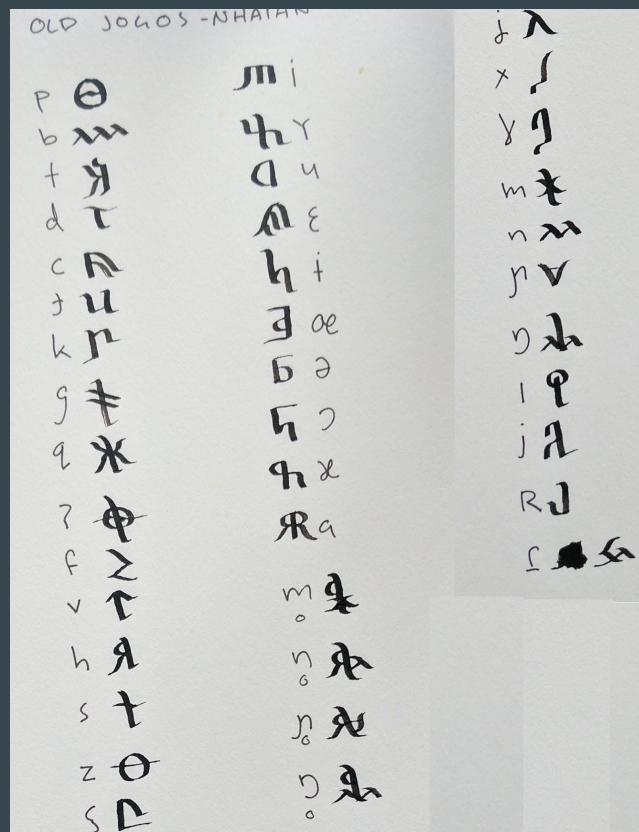
ɔ ʌ

œ ʌ

q *

Early Stage Old Jogos Nhai Runes

Old Jogos Nhai Script



Θ	p	Ј	y	Ꞥ	<u>ARCHAIC</u> m
м	b	к	m	Ꞥ	n
х	t	х	n	Ꞥ	n
т	d	у or б	u	Ꞥ	o
м	ts	ш or h	o	Ꞥ	o
u	dz	х	l		
г	k	ф	l		
ф	g	Ꞥ	j		

ж	q	л	i
ѳ	ʔ	ч	I
з	f	д	u
т	v	ч	e
Ꞥ	h	м	ε
т	s	н	o
ѳ	z	Ꞥ	a
Ꞥ	ʃ		
Ꞥ	ʒ		
Ꞥ	x		

Modern Jogos Nhai Script

Questions? Qayfu sa?

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Thank you! Samikia pikhoyiq!