

Lu:masha:i

(Language-Shadow-People)

(Tongue-Mouth-Shadow-Person (Gender Neutral)-Person-Plural)

(Onomatopoeia-Onomatopoeia-Religiously Augmented Morpheme-Drastically Sound Changed Basic Word-More Sound Changes On the Previous Word)
(fun???)



The Language and Culture of Asshai
Raizada Vaid

(fun???)

...

Fun!!!

Shoutouts

Kimchi (For inspiring me to use pictures)

Mariya, Flor, Andy (For forcing me to think)

Kiana, Cooper (For being real ones)

Fatima (For food)

Tracy (Orientalism, CS^{1.5}?, məki:ʃɒbə-fua:va)

David (For talking me through presentation structure)

Dash (For doing a better presentation on the same day as me)

Scott (Because Stanford Sucks, but Asshai Rocks) #GoBears

History

THE KNOWN WORLD



History

At least 8000 years old. (Probably over 12000)

The Long Night (8000 years “B.C.”). **Azor Ahai** and worship of **The Lord of Light**

Development of **Magic** as a common practice. In reality, most “magic” is just prayer and ceremony or work related. Still, more **esoteric and powerful** practices exist within cults.

Primary cultural anchor: **TRADE**, NOT MAGIC. Built from access to almost everything “precious”, but lack of life-sustaining resources

General social, religious, and literary **reform**

Modern Culture

Trade is strong

“**Magic**” and prayer is part of everyday life

Assassins and mages are commonly for hire throughout a shadowy, venice-esque city/society

Education is “standardized”

Superstition and religion are common elements of the **Shai psyche**

Stereotypes

Asshai by the Shadow - © René Aigner



[Melisandre](#) is from Asshai - © 2012 John Picacio



Stereotypes

Shai are pale demons

Stereotypes

The “shadow-people” translation is in reference to being “in the shadow of God”, and is purely metaphorical (And or a reference to the mortifyingly beautiful mountain ranges that obscure the region). The people of Asshai are pale-ish because of the weather.

Stereotypes

There are no children

Stereotypes

Children in Asshai are being educated and are not subjugated to child labor like in the rest of Planetos. Traders don't see children (because they are mastering their crafts).

Stereotypes

There is no food

Stereotypes

This arises from an improper translation. Much of Asshai's food is ascertained through trade. They can sustain themselves through fishing in the Ocean, but the land isn't entirely fertile. This was erroneously translated to mean "no food".

Phonology

Phonological History

Empires rose across the world: Ghiscari, Yi-Ti, Valyria, etc.

Asshai has precious resources and good naval technology

Trade blooms, standard of living increases, guild and families write uniquely

Wealthy Merchants, Priests, and Royal Family standardize writing system!

Proto (Evolved) → **|| Standardized ||** (Evolved) → **Modern**

Modern Phonology And Orthography

p	ᵑ	b	ᵑ	t	ᵑ	d	ᵑ	k	ᵑ
g	ᵑ	f	ᵑ	v	ᵑ	ᵑ	ᵑ	ʃ	ᵑ
s	ᵑ	ʃ	ᵑ	z	ᵑ	ʒ	ᵑ	ç	ᵑ
x	ᵑ	ʒ	ᵑ	h	ᵑ	m	ᵑ	n	ᵑ
ŋ	ᵑ	j	ᵑ	l	ᵑ	r	ᵑ	*ʔ	ᵑ
i	ᵑ	ɛ	ᵑ	e	ᵑ	ə	ᵑ	ə	ᵑ
u	ᵑ	o	ᵑ	ɔ	ᵑ				

Modern Phonology and Orthography

Side Note: Make a vowel long, simply place a ● to the right of it.

Lu:jamaje (Special Characters/ Kanji-esque)

"God" 𐌆 "Person" 𐌆 "Shadow" 𐌆
"Magic" 𐌆 "Ocean" 𐌆 "Living" 𐌆
"Priest" 𐌆 "Money" 𐌆 "Many" 𐌆
"Mountain" 𐌆 "Light" 𐌆 "Fire" 𐌆
"Royal" 𐌆

Important Sound Paradigms (Essentially, Sound Changes and Other Semi-Bad Decisions)

Loss of Labialization with replacement by /u/ or syllable loss, Shifts from /w/ → /v/

Loss of Glottal Stops, Favoritism for vowels, allowed for more lengthening

Loss of (most) h^s in favor of aspiration or new sounds and lots of voicing, Added some stuff, Removed others.

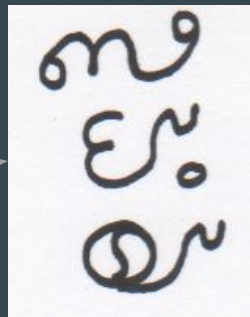
Stress became long vowels. Only CV or V consonants. Everything ends in a vowel.

No consonant clusters. Simplified language phonology in general.

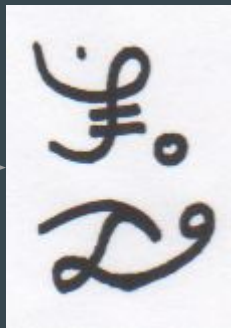
Nouns

Examples

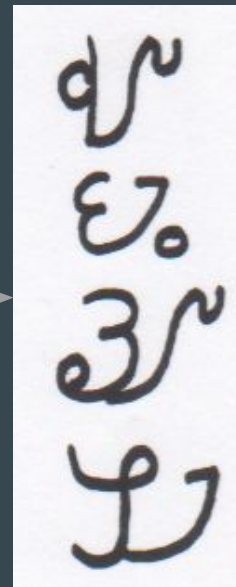
Bird → /Fua:va/



Wine → /R^hole:cu/



Sword → /hai:jari/



Gender

Gender → Masculine, Feminine, Divine, Abstract

Masculine Endings: e, o, ε, or ɔ

Feminine Endings: a, i, u, or ə

Abstract Examples: 1, 2, 3, 4 → Pe, Te, Le, Ne, “away” → ḏ^hu:θi

Influence a lot of prefixes

Divine Examples: r^hole, r^holo, ʃə, rai, au, magi... Related to lu:jame

Influence a lot of complex roots

Gender

What do these different cases accomplish???

Masculine vs. Feminine: Voice Recognition

Masculine vs. Feminine: Differentiation for Pluralization and Adjectives

Abstract: Holds numbers and directions and etc. Semantic

Divine: Oh, you wait

Divine Gender

The **normal** genders are **Head-initial, phonetic, written in abugida**

Divine gender is sort-of, kind-of **Head-final, semantic, and written with symbols**

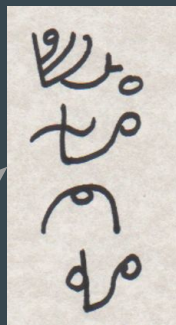
WHY!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?

Because... we put **God** first?

Divine Gender

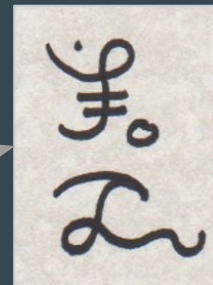
Examples:

“Mountain” → / xe:tok^ho / → || stone-big ||



It is a stone that is big.

“Wine” → / r^hole:cu / → || god-water ||



It is a water blessed by God. (Should be water god)

In divine gender, put “better” things first! Subtle hierarchy (God, King, Person, Living Things, Etc.) Tied to lu:jame. Comes from religiosity.

Cases

Both my Subjects and Direct Objects take the Nominative Case.

Indirect Objects take semantically charged prefixes to indicate relative role in the action described or created by the sentence.

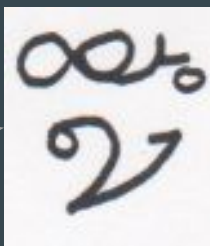
Example Prefixes: **gi** (causative), **ǒu** (directional recipient), **ni** (temporal), **li** (locative), **xe** (beneficiary), ... **etc.**

Concrete Examples in syntax sentences.

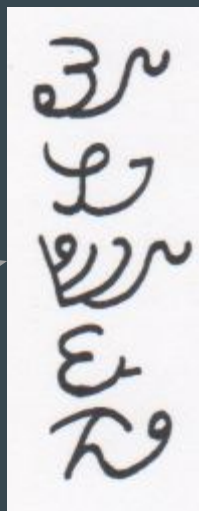
Verbs

Examples

To See → Ne:gi



To Love → jarixa:ezu



To yearn → o:yo

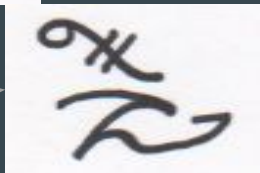


Conjugations

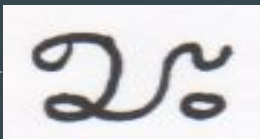
Past → /ʃə/



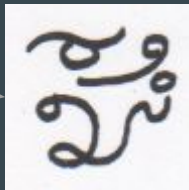
Immediate Past → /ʃəzi/



Future → /ŋa:/



Command → /buŋa/



True Present → /zi/



These are all prefixes

Augments

Questions → Other Slide

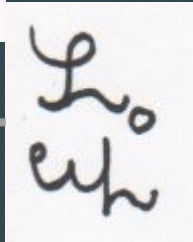
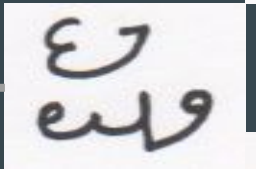
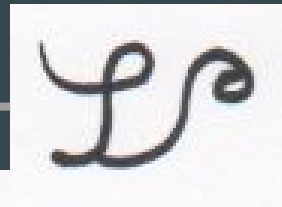
Conditional → /ro/

Affirmative → /ze/

To Try → /vu/

W. Obligation → /imu/

S. Obligation → /rəmə/



Number System

Number System

Base “4/6”

Pe, Te, Le, Ne (1-4)

Pepe, Pete, Pele, ... , Nete, Nele, Nene (5 - 20)

Jape, ... , Nejanene (21 - 120)

Jaripe - Nejarinene (121 - 720)

Ki... jaki... jariki ...

Number System

Pe → 1
Te → U
Le → †
Ne → ‡

ja → C
jari → O
ki → ● —
jaki → E
jariki → ⊖

Syntax

Syntax

WARNING: Syntax isn't my strong suite.

All I really wanted was to do something with word order that could be fun and reflect a story.

Then, I realized, that I could take inspiration from **trade transactions!**

The culture that I was building for Asshai was crucially dependent on trade, so why not build a syntax that **makes sense in that context!**

Syntax

Fundamental Structure: **S** **I.O.** **V** **D.O.**

Comes from structure of economic records

ie) **I** **to-him** (**gave**) **sheep 420**

The Interesting I.O. Ideology

For the **Asshai** language, I am treating Indirect Objects less as **grammatical** constructs, and more as **semantically** charged nouns.

Example Sentences

1. The alcohol made the soldier sing.

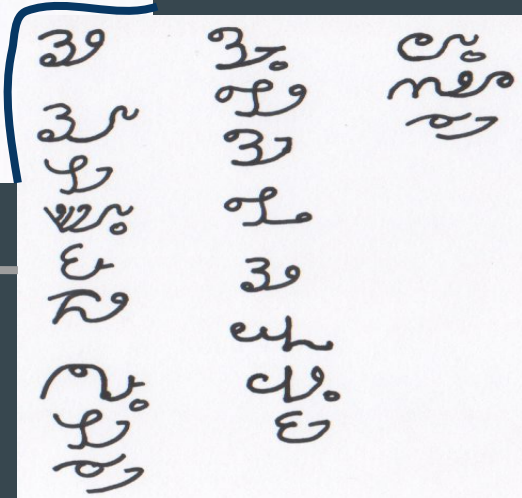
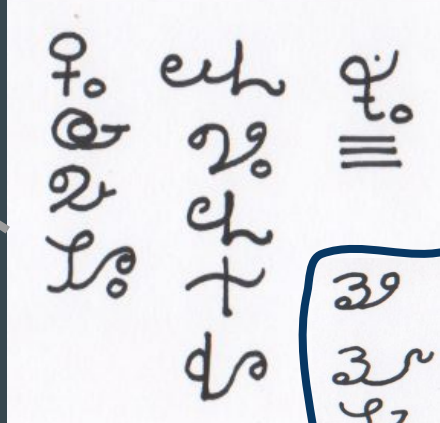
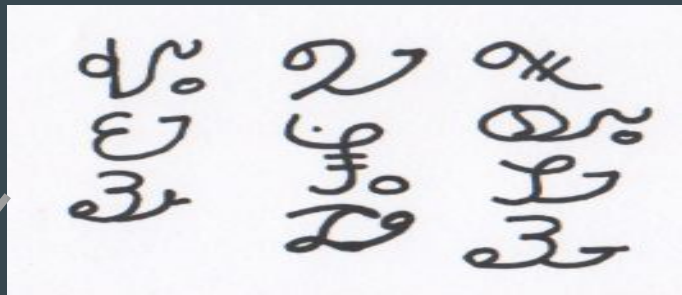
a. / Hai:ije gir^holecu ʃəva:rime /

2. The trickster outspoke the priests.

a. / a:ud(E):gero: məgu:ʃat^ho r^hola:je /

3. I like the pretty girl whose company I enjoy.

a. / ju jarixa:ezu ke:ribi lɛ:zuli z(au) vu
məʃu:i ɣa:sobi/

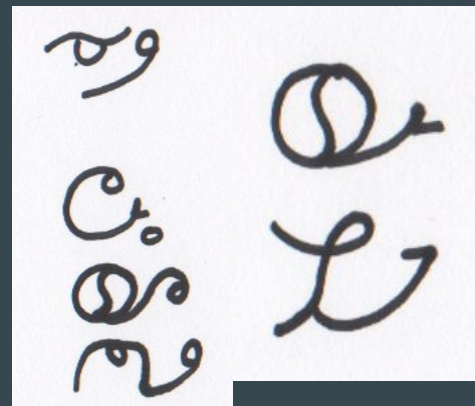
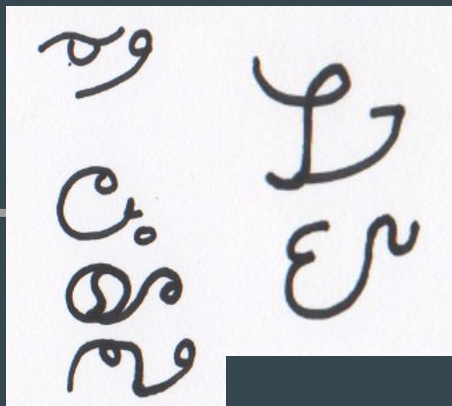


Yes/No Questions

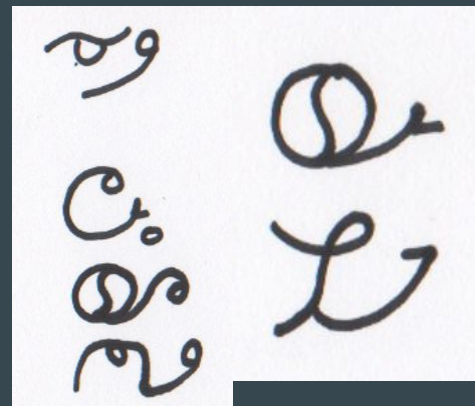
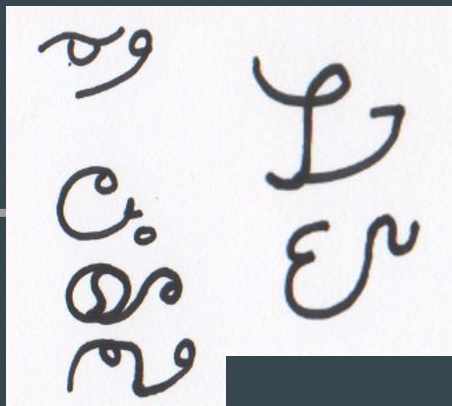
Say the sentence that is in question and finish the modern word for yes, /ria/

To ask “why” or “how”, do the same thing, but with the question marker /ve:ri/

ie) Did you eat?



ie) Why did you eat?



WH Questions

Who slept with the princess!
/lai sʌpɪr^hea:bi raike:ribi: ve:ri/

You just robbed what?!
/Bu sʌzɪgebo:ramo lai ve:ri?!/

When do you work?
/bu ni-lai θɛ:siku ve:ri /

Where do you work?
/bu lilai θɛ:siku ve:ri/

Who slept with the princess!
ਲਾਇ ਸਾਪਿਰ^ਹਏ:ਬੀ ਰਾਇਕੇ:ਰਿਬੀ: ਵੇ:ਰੀ/

You just robbed what?!
ਬੂ ਸਾਤਿਗੇਬੋ:ਰਾਮੋ ਲਾਇ ਵੇ:ਰੀ?!

When do you work?
ਬੂ ਨੀ-ਲਾਇ ਠੇ:ਸਿਕੂ ਵੇ:ਰੀ /

Where do you work?
ਬੂ ਲੀਲਾਇ ਠੇ:ਸਿਕੂ ਵੇ:ਰੀ/

Questions?