

You can edit your messages!

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Consonant clusters getting you down? Insert vowels to break them up. Then they will be defenseless!

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Know why you use the abbreviation pp.? Because there's more than one page (hence, more than one p). Same thing with EE.UU.

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Natlang = natural language (one that has evolved on Earth naturally, like Spanish, ASL, Arabic, or Warlpiri).

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Not everything need be systematic.

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Conlanging is less than a thousand years old (that we know of). Still lots to be done!

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For glossing, use hyphens to separate elements, and use periods as spaces, e.g. ʒeanat /be.beautiful-INF/ (no need for a final period).

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Kitchen Sink Lang: A language that throws in everything but the kitchen sink.

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Relex: A language that simply relexifies one's first language.

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ANADEW: Another Natlang Already Does Even Worse.

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The first language I created was terrible. The tenth was less terrible. The twentieth was less terrible. It gets better.

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Think Turkish is all simple cut and paste? Accusative: -i. Genitive: -in. Locative: -de. Ablative: -den. TELL ME THAT'S AN ACCIDENT.

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Morphemes are your enemy.

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Tone isn't tough if you really get after it and say, "ALL RIGHT LET'S DO THIS!!!"

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Back in my day we didn't even tell other people we created languages. Y'all lucky...

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You do NOT need to be a good artist to create a good writing system!

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FYI if you're messaging me before noon, I'm either asleep or getting ready. I can't change me, man. :(

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The nominative/absolutive is usually the simplest form of a noun, but not always (cf. Chickasaw or Nahuatl).

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Languages can have the equivalent of a passive without having any passive morphology or passive constructions.

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Signed up for classes next semester yet? If not, please, PLEASE consider adding a language course. It will help you immeasurably.

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Before asking about "trigger" languages, google "dedalvs trigger alan yu" and click on the first hit.

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A major component of the Castithan language was inspired by a game mechanic in World of Warcraft that had nothing to do with language.

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If you're not seeing anything new in the natlangs you're looking up, look up a sign language.

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Music is usually the answer.

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You can "rent" the music rooms in the basement of Morrison for free with your student ID. I learned this WAY too late.

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If you're ever stuck talk to someone! Or jog. Or play video games. Or eat something. Or go to Ghirardelli in SF (chances are I'll be there).

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Apparently Mapos Buang and Yanyuwa have phonemic uvular nasals that contrast with velar nasals. Who knew?

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It is apparently possible to do a voiceless implosive; they're just vanishingly rare.

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Ejectives are easier in the back of the throat; implosives easier in the front (/q/ is more common than /p/; /b/ is more common than /g/).

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Voicing is harder to maintain the further back in the throat you go. Hence, /b/ is much more common than /g/.

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Slack works on desktop or mobile. I figure this may be news to at least one person, so...there it is.

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Since there's limited vertical space in Slack, if you want to start a discussion about a specific subtopic, start a new thread.

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FYI on Slack, rather than responding to something "lol" or "yeah", you can actually right click on a post and emote to it (e.g. or ).

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Do offer help to and ask questions of your fellow students! That's what the Slack is for!

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If some element of the course isn't working for you, please let me know so we can address it!

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A linguistics major can add value to any job or company. Why? BECAUSE LITERALLY EVERYTHING HUMANS DO RELIES ON LANGUAGE. Don't forget that!

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If you want to see some neat writing systems, look up Tamil, Cham, Sinhalese, Thai, Ethiopic, and anything by Trent Pehrson.

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Analogy is a powerful tool when it comes to both shaping paradigms and generating new morphological forms.

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Two languages with switch reference systems: Chickasaw and Hittite.

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Don't forget there are materials on course reserve in Moffitt for this class!

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If you're stuck, pull up the grammar of a random language on Wikipedia. Lot of crazy stuff in natural languages!

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Don't confuse synchronic analysis for diachronic explication.

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GO BEARS!

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Most of the flora and fauna in the Song of Ice and Fire universe is identical to ours, so feel free to borrow real world plants and animals.

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If you want to look at some good conlangs, google Kēlen, ámman îar, Ithkuil, Brithenig, Rikchik, Wenedyk, Teonaht, Idrani, Moten, Okuna...

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Split-ergative systems that are split by tense usually arise from old passive constructions (cf. Hindi).

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For most assignments I list the minimum requirements. There's ALWAYS more to it than what we go over in class.

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If you have an urgent message and I'm not responding, hit me up on Twitter; I check it a lot. I'm @Dedalvs.

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Creating a language is daunting if you focus on the whole thing at once. Just focus on one small part of it, and take it one part at a time.

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M'athchomaroon!

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Evans is the ugliest building in the history of buildings.

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If you're having trouble with any aspect of the course, don't hesitate to ask a question! We're all doing this for the first time. :)

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You can turn in online assignments via email, or send them to me directly via Slack! Just use the direct message function.

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If you have a non-sensitive, on-topic question, post it in the #questions channel so everyone can benefit from the answer!