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The language of Thabulou, meaning "to read", was created to function as a fluid and kind language. This paper has been divided into several parts for ease of understanding. These categories will be Phonetics (including the alphabet), Phonology, Syntax, Lexicon, Sentences, and the Language History.



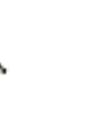
Part one: Phonetics

Contained within the language are 29 unique phonemes (including 5 diphthongs, and not including consonant clusters). The language is intended to not sound harsh and is instead made to sound relatively pleasant to the ear, which is why there are only 3 plosives used ([b][d][p]), and harsh vowels such as /æ/ and /e/. There are 16 consonants and 8 vowels. The orthography that is utilised is the alphabet, with each phoneme only corresponding to one symbol. The phonemes, are as follows (and are matched to their corresponding symbol in the orthography):

[a]  [ɛ]  [i]  [ɪ]  [ʌ]  [o]  [u]  [ə]  [b]  [d] 
 [p]  [m]  [n]  [l]  [v]  [w]  [j]  [ɹ]  [r]  [y] 
 [ʃ]  [θ]  [s]  [ɲ] 

Diphthongs in this language are made by combining the two letters that make up the diphthong, and appear as follows:

[aɪ]  [ɛɪ]  [oɪ]  [uɪ]  [ou] 

The symbols for the articles/determiners "a" and "the" are, respectively:  and . A tick mark  is placed inside the vowel of the main stressed syllable of a word, but is not always necessarily placed there, due to an assumption that in even-number-syllable words, the second-to-last syllable will receive the most stress and in odd-number-syllable words, the middle syllable will receive the most stress.

Part two: Phonology

There are many, many possible consonant clusters, which I almost do not wish to list due to the sheer amount of them in existence and the unnecessary effort that it would take in order to type them all out. Hence, I have simply listed 2 rules for consonant clusters that cannot exist in Thabulou, along with a final rule.

- The [i] phoneme cannot succeed a [j] phoneme
- The [o] and [u] phonemes cannot succeed a [w] phoneme
- repeating syllables in root phrases are not allowed, so that the morphemes added to the beginning and end of the root phrases can be identified.

Part three: Syntax

The syntax of this language is one of its most distinct and interesting features. It consists of two main categories-the derivational morphemes at the beginning of the word, and the inflectional, agglutinative morphemes that complete the word.

The lexical category of the word is determined by the starting letter that is added onto the root phrase-thus making it determined by a derivational morpheme. The derivational morphemes for the lexical categories are as follows:

/v/-nouns (with a couple of exceptions)

/θ/-verbs

/d/-adjectives, not articles and numbers

/ɹ/-adverbs

/ʃ/-conjunctions

/p/-prepositions

/s/-modals

/w/-interrogative pronouns

The main exceptions to this determining of lexical categories can be found in the pronouns, excluding the interrogatives, because they start with vowels instead to make them easier to identify. The equivalent of the English article [ə] is pronounced as an alveolar click, and the English article [ðə] is pronounced as a post-alveolar tap.

The inflectional morphemes at the end of the word are stacked in a specific order, and there are many various morphemes for different words. If a root phrase ends in a vowel, an extra [n] is added before the morphemes.

The following inflectional morphemes are for verbs:

For tense {TEN}:

{FTEN}-[(n)un]

{PTEN}-[(n)on]

All verbs are transitive unless specified by {TRAN}:

{ITRAN}-[(u)sp]

For diminishing or intensifying strength {STRE}:

{-STRE}-[(u)θs]

{+STRE}-[(u)vs]

For showing negation for adjectives, verbs, and adverbs {NEG}:

{NEG}-[(n)ap]

For showing reflexive action {FLEX}:

{FLEX}-[(r)ɛʃɛn]

The agglutinative rule for verbs is:-(NEG){TEN}{ITRAN}{FLEX}{STRE}

The following inflectional morpheme is for adjectives:

For comparison of -er and -est{PAR(1, 2)}:

{PAR1}-[(1)θin]

{PAR2}-[(1)θan]

The agglutinative rule for verbs is-{NEG}{PAR}

The following inflectional morphemes are for nouns:

For plurality {PLUR}:

{PLUR}-{(n)an}

For possessive {POS}:

{POS}-{(n)en}

The agglutinative rule for nouns is-{PLUR}{POS}

The sentence structure of Thabulou is heavily based off of English, with a subject-verb-object word order and adjectives preceding the noun. Adverbs/intensifiers can only precede the verb/adjective.

Part four: Lexicon

The lexicon is organized with pronouns first, followed by conjunctions, prepositions, interrogative pronouns, the forms of "to be", directions, colors, and finally the rest of the lexicon. Each section will be separated by *****. All words written in Thabulou, and IPA.

I [i] ᵛ

You [oɪ] ɔ̄

Y'all [ʊrɛ] ʷ: ʳ ʳ

We [iɾɛ] ʷ ʳ ʳ

They [ajala] ʷ ʷ ʷ ʷ ʷ

He [aɔ] ʷ ɔ̄

She [aɪ] ʷ

It [jo] ʷ ɔ̄

Xe (non-gendered pronoun) [aja] ʷ ʷ ʷ

For [sa] ʷ ɔ̄

And [si] ʷ ʷ

Nor [sɪ] ʷ ɔ̄

But [sʌ] ʷ ɔ̄

Or [sʊ] ʷ ɔ̄

Yet [sɛ] ʷ ʳ

So [sɔ] ʷ ɔ̄

At/to/towards (moving) [poɪma] ʷ ɔ̄ ɔ̄ ɔ̄ ʷ

Away from/of/from [pouma] ʷ ɔ̄ ɔ̄ ɔ̄ ʷ

With/at (stationary) [prɪma] ʷ ɔ̄ ʷ ʷ ʷ

Without [primanap] ʷ ɔ̄ ʷ ʷ ʷ ʷ ʷ

For [pɪr] ʷ ʷ ʷ

Of [pɛ] ʷ ʳ

Who [wʌ] w
 What [wʌ] wʌ
 When [we] wɪ
 Where [weɪ] wɛɪ
 Why [waɪ] wɔɪ
 How [wo] wɔ

Numbers (on top of first letter of noun):
 1 ° 6x
 2 °° 7x
 3 °°° 8x
 4 °°°° 9x
 5 °°°°° 10x

 To be [ɛɪə] ɪrɪ
 am/is/are [ɛɪɛ] ɪrɪ
 was/were [ɛɪɛnɔn] ɪrɪxɔx
 been [ɛɪn] ɪrɪx
 being [ɛɪ] ɪrɪ

For directions, changing [m] to [ɹ] makes them cardinal directions.
 Adding [θ] at the front means "to move in _ direction". Note that new directions are made by combining existing words.

Right [aɪmɪθ] ɪxɪ
 Left [oɪmɪθ] ɪxɪ
 Up [ɛɪmɪθ] ɪxɪ
 Down [ʊɪmɪθ] ɪxɪ
 Diagonal: U/R [aɪmɛɪmɪθ] ɪxɪ
 Diagonal: D/R [aɪmʊɪmɪθ] ɪxɪ
 Diagonal: U/L [oɪmɛɪmɪθ] ɪxɪ
 Diagonal: D/L [oɪmʊɪmɪθ] ɪxɪ

Changing the lexical category to noun means "_ness" in English.

Red [ɛrɔd] ɪrɪ
 Orange [avɛrɔd] ɪwɪrɪ
 Yellow [ɪvɪrɔd] ɪwɪrɪ
 Green [ɑrɔd] ɪrɪ
 Blue [ʊblɔrɔd] ɪrɪ
 Purple [ɔbɛrɔd] ɪrɪ
 Black/Darkness [ʊswɛrɔd] ɪmɔrɪ
 White/Blank [ɛmbjɛrɔd] ɪxɪ
 Gray/grayscale [ɛmbʊswɛrɔd] ɪxɪ

Modals are also represented (if not mentioned prior):

shall [sʌpɛ] mɪxɪ
 will [sʌpɛ] mɪrɪ

can [sapje] ԹԱՅԼՈՒ
may [sobja] ԹԻՆԼՈՒ
might [sovja] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ
must [sulja] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ

to eat/food/rel.to food [umɛn] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ
to reside/home/homely [aplaɪ] ԱՅԻՆԻՍ
to play/game/playful/playfully [iosara] ՄԱՅԻՆԻՍ
to want/wish for/wish/longing/longingly [ore] ԱՐՈՒ
to need/need/needily/in a needy fashion [ure] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ
to think/thought/thoughtful/thoughtfully [abjele] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to live/life/lively [emjula] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to know/knowledge/knowing/knowingly [osjele] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to die/death/deadly [onjula] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to drink/drink/thirsty/thirstily [ublɛn] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ
to ease through/ease/easy/easily [ɛsɛn] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to struggle through/hardship/hard/difficult manner [osɛn] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to illuminate/light/bright/brightly [ɛbimi] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to memorize/memory [ɪpwoɾə] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ
to work/work/hard-working/diligently [ovleɪə] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ
to relax/relaxation/relaxing/calmly [ɪswɛɪə] ՄԱՎՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to nullify/nothingness/none [ɛnɛɪə] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to minimize/minority/some [ɛpɛɪə] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
majority/most [ɛmɛɪə] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
universe/all [ɒpələɪə] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to personify/human(n)/human(adj) [ɪjɛnɒ] ՄԱՎՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to liven up/being(all creatures)/alive [əjɛnɒ] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to be born/birth/relating to birth [ɛrɛjula] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to free/freedom/free/freely [aɪθaɪmɛ] ՄԱՎՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to constrain/constraint/constraining [vɒndaɪmɛ] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ
to make the same/equality/equal/equally [ɛswɛ] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to dignify/dignity/dignified [vɒrɛdɔ] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ
to allow/right/rightfully [apsɪrni] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
Earth/earthen [ɪsəθ] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ
to purr/cat/catty/cattily [ɪθɒsəθ] ԹԻՎԼՈՒ
to have/possession/possessed [əɪvə] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to reason/reason/reasonable [ɪθwama] ՄԱՎՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
conscience/conscious [ɛrɛbɪm] ԱՅԼՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
to act/action/actively [ɪswɛmbɛ] ՄԱՎՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

to sense/sense [ʊdɛməʊ] ἴσμεν ἔσμεν
 to befriend/friendship/friendly/kindly [iːyɒpʊlənrɔ] ὑποφιλῶν ὑποφιλῶν
 friend [ˈfrend] φίλος
 to give/present/selfless/selflessly [əˈdɛrnuːm] ἑαυτοῦ ἑαυτοῦ
 winter [ˈɪn.tə] ἄνοιξη
 spring [ˈsprɪŋ] ἔαρος
 summer [ˈsʌ.mə] ἔαρος
 fall [ˈfɔːl] ὄσθητος
 to camp/camp/relating to camp [kæmp] ἄσκησις
 to correct/correction/correct/correctly [kɒr.ɪk.t] ὀρθῶς
 to screw up/mistake/wrong/wrongly [ˈskruːp] ἁμαρτάνω
 mother [ˈmʌ.ðə] μήτηρ
 father [ˈfɑː.ðə] πατήρ
 parent [ˈpɛr.ənt] γονεῖς
 sister [ˈsɪ.s.tə] ἀδελφή
 brother [ˈbrʌ.ðə] ἀδελφός
 sibling [ˈsɪ.blɪŋ] ἀδελφός
 aunt [aʊnt] ἀνιψία
 uncle [ˈʌŋ.kl] ἀνιψιός
 relative [rɪˈleɪ.vɪv] συγγενής
 grandma [ˈgræm.də] παππούς
 grandpa [ˈgræm.pɑː] παππούς
 grandparent [ˈgræm.pɛr.ənt] γονεῖς
 to forget/forgetfulness/forgetful [əˈpɒr.ət] ἀμνηστία
 giant/big [ˈdʒaɪ.ənt] ἄσπετος
 midget/small [ˈmɪdʒ.ɪt] ἄσπετος
 to write/pen/eloquent [ˈraɪt] ἄσπετος
 to read/book/literate [ˈriːd] ἀσπασίως
 to acquire [əˈkwaɪr] ἀσπασίως
 paper [ˈpeɪ.pə] ἄσπετος
 to narrate/story [ˈnɛr.ə.t] ἀσπασίως
 CTY [ˈkɪ.ti] ἄσπετος
 to sleep/sleep/tired/sleepily [ˈsliːp] ἀσπασίως
 to share/a ration/share/sharing [ˈʃeɪə] ἀσπασίως
 to cheer up/happiness/happy/happily [ˈtʃɪə] ἀσπασίως
 to sadden/sadness/sad/sadly [ˈsæd] ἀσπασίως
 to anger/anger/angry/angrily [ˈæŋ.ɡə] ἀσπασίως
 to love/love/loving/lovingly [ˈlʌv] ἀσπασίως

Some words had to be left out due to time and space constraints.

Part five: Sentences

Written below, in Thabulou, is Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

English: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

(first sentence) Thabulou: "Ἐἰς τὴν εὐχὴν ἡ ἀνθρώπων ἡ ἀξία καὶ τὰ δικαιώματα ἴσα ἔσονται. Ἐνδοξασθέντες ἐν λόγῳ καὶ συνείδησιν, ὅπως ἀλλήλους ἀγαπήσονται ἐν πνεύματι ἀδελφότητος."

Here are a couple more sentences:

- "I gave the cat to him."

• Ἔδωκα τὴν γάτα ἐν αὐτῷ.

- "All of the people at summer camp have reason and knowledge."

• Ἐν ἅπασιν τοῖς ἀνθρώποις ἐν τῷ καλοκαίρῳ ἔχουσιν λόγον καὶ γνώσιν.

- "I have two brothers and two parents."

• Ἔχω δύο ἀδελφούς καὶ δύο γονεῖς.

Part six: Language History

This language was created by Jessica Kuleshov as a project for her Linguistics class, intended to be spoken by anyone due to its simplicity and pleasant sound. It does not have a physical location where it is mainly spoken, but all is well, for there are many thousands of years for this language to be learned and used by the general public, anywhere in the world.