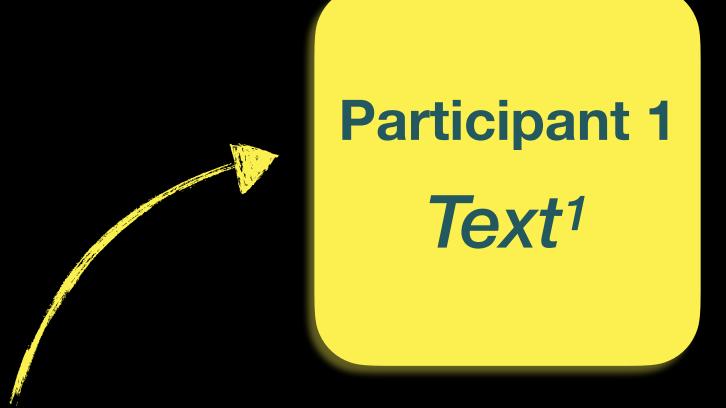
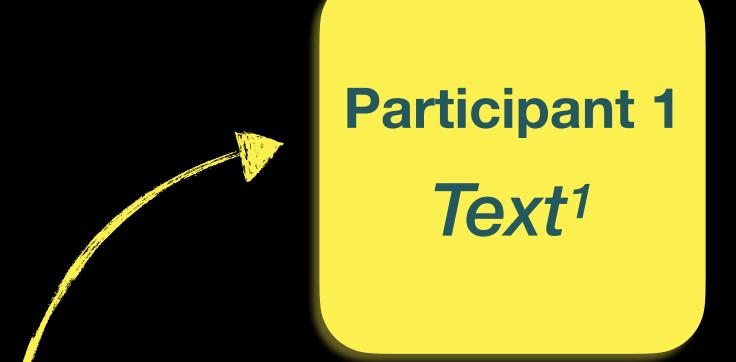
#### CONLANG RELAYS

Langnime Chan EPISONE 36



Participant 1

Text<sup>1</sup>





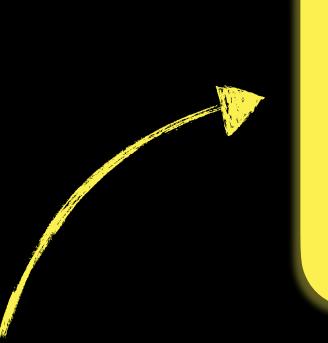
α Participant

Starting

Text

Participant 2

Text<sup>2</sup>



Participant 1

Text<sup>1</sup>



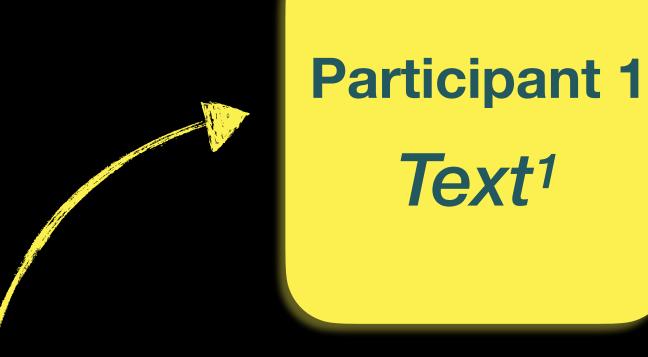
α Participant

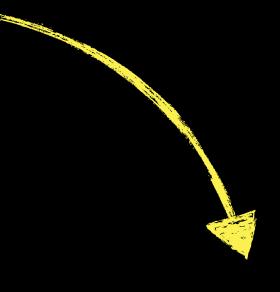
Starting

Text

Participant 2

Text<sup>2</sup>





α Participant

Starting

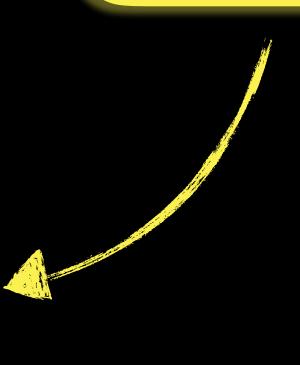
Text

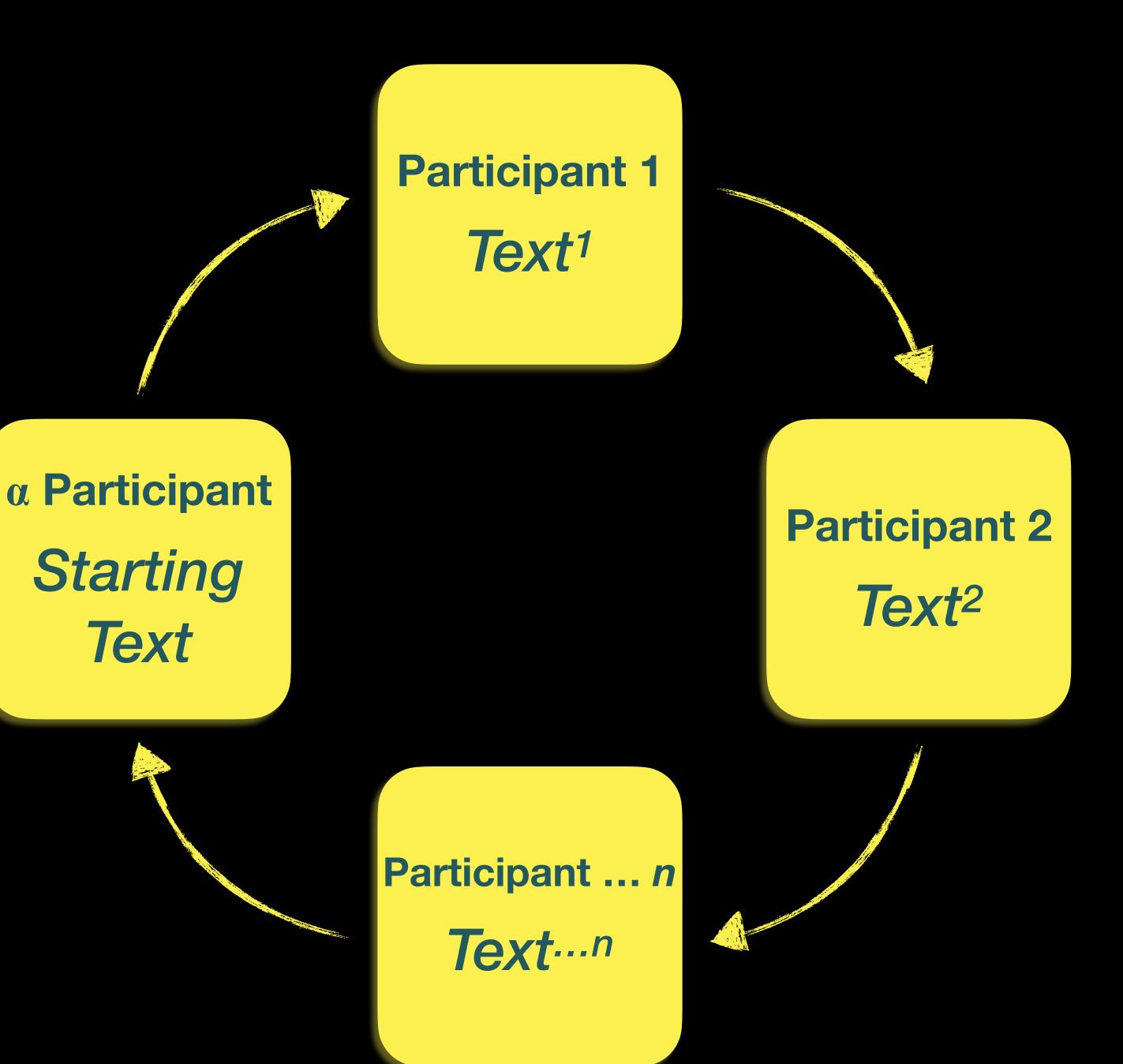
Participant 2

Text<sup>2</sup>

Participant ... n

Text...n







Participant 1

Text<sup>1</sup>



α Participant

Starting

Text

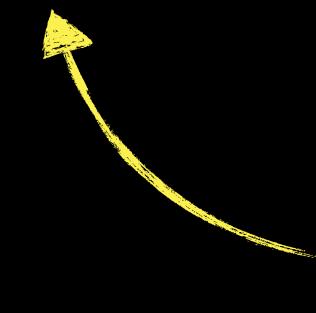
Participant 2

Text<sup>2</sup>

α Participant

Ending

Text



Participant ... n

Text...n



α Particips

Er ...g

Text

cipant ... n

Text...n

#### Just like in telephone, the end text is often quite different from the beginning text.

# Example: Class Conlang Relay

#### Wóxtjanato Starting & Ending Texts

Dakneózios sàtojóknut wode daknedzáskaos leswát atý. lano nelézjyele krýksaanu totjánat júlotjenwe atjánat néxotjenwe.

"Do not behave like a fool and endanger yourself. After all, the *kryksa* do not distinguish a good person from a bad person."

#### Wóxtjanato Starting & Ending Texts

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"Do not behave like a fool and endanger yourself. After all, the *kryksa* do not distinguish a good person from a bad person."

Ýsesu ivé áxem àptonáox néasu letjána. lano ýseεn xlévwεnda ivé págem wotonéali wotoákje.

"You are able to live without helping other people. After all, the sun goddess is able to turn her back on both servants and leaders."

#### GNÓMA STARTING & ENDING TEXTS

Jiláradzann ja biadzogonn addasta tezanglanns naktekwa waileiθa. Ju lúdlúdwein kásdannand leibannautta.

"Basilisks and wyverns roam the darkest woods at night. You should stay on paths with great light."

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Jiláradzann ja biadzogonn addasta tezanglanns naktekwa waileiθa. Ju lúdlúdwein kásdannand leibannautta.

"Basilisks and wyverns roam the darkest woods at night. You should stay on paths with great light." Obladzainn dzastánjannekwa gaggamund. Akesa ofágwolax lizei eiwamannes enbranjamut. Obladzainn teaiwatundinnθark grabmut nunu les texaljannunnar afilla.

"The kind-spirited creatures used to walk among these rocks. But then the evil wolves burned down their homes. The kind-spirited creatures dug through the bushes, and so now they hide beneath the boulders."

natural shifts caused by translations into different languages

natural shifts caused by translations into different languages

individual translator interpretation of what a particular string means

natural shifts caused by translations into different languages

individual translator interpretation of what a particular string means

but also... mistakes

α Participant

Participant 1

Participant 2

RELAY MASTER α Participant

Participant 1

Participant 2



might not be a participant

if participating, is α participant

α Participant

Participant 1

Participant 2

organizes the relay:

- organizes the relay:
  - finding/keeping track of participants
  - making a schedule
  - sending directions to participants
  - answering questions along the way

- organizes the relay:
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- collects all translations and "torch" documents

- organizes the relay:
  - finding/keeping track of participants
  - making a schedule
  - **sending directions to participants**
  - answering questions along the way
- collects all translations and "torch" documents
- **publishes results**

RELAY MASTER Participant

Participant 1

Participant 2

Produces the "torch" document:

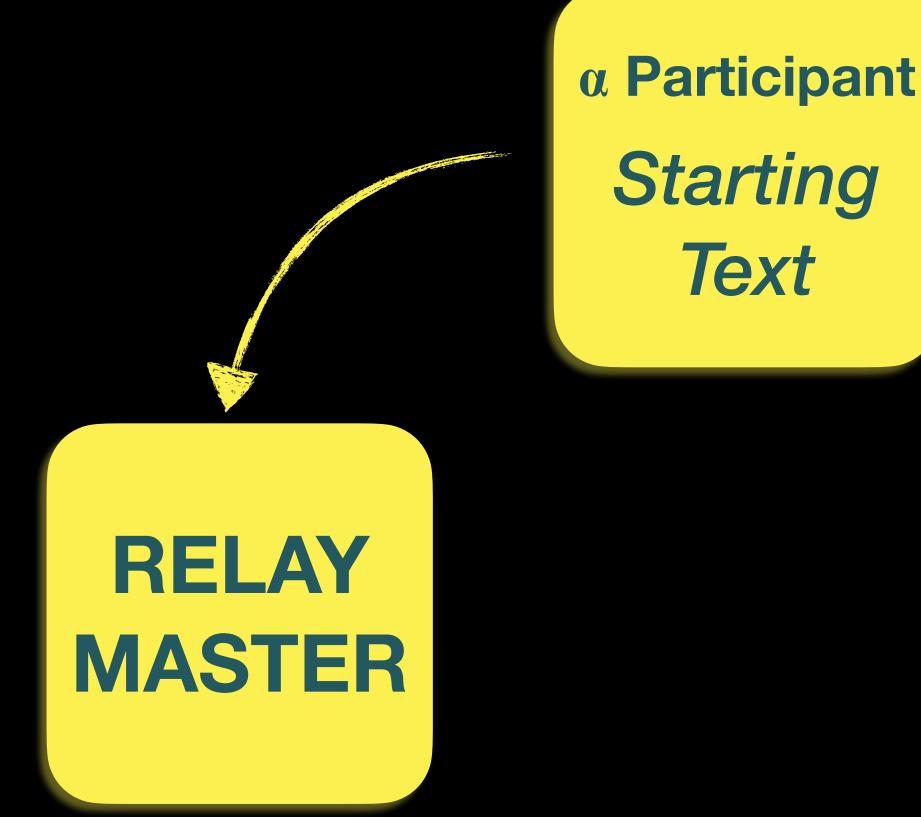


- short text written in conlangα
- **conlang**α information:
  - glossary
  - grammar "cheat sheet"









- the "torch" document
- translation of texta into English (or whatever the base language is for the relay)

Participant 1
Text<sup>1</sup>



- (1) Translates texta into English
- (2) Translates that into their own conlang



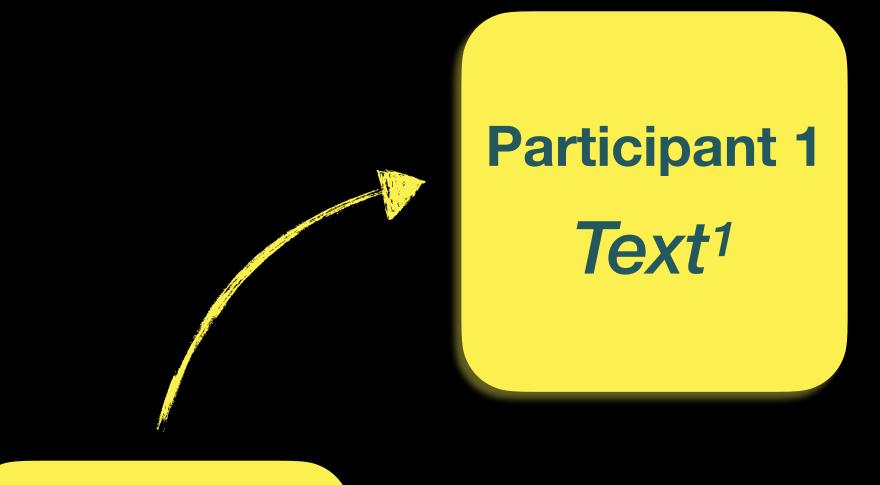
α Participant

Starting

Text

Produces their "torch" document:

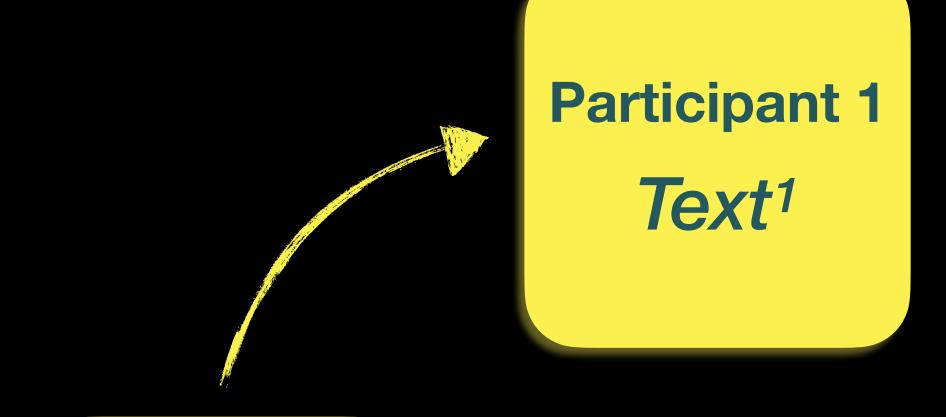
- translated text into conlang¹
- conlang<sup>1</sup> information:
  - glossary
  - grammar "cheat sheet"



Participant 2

Text<sup>2</sup>

# DEEPER DIVE



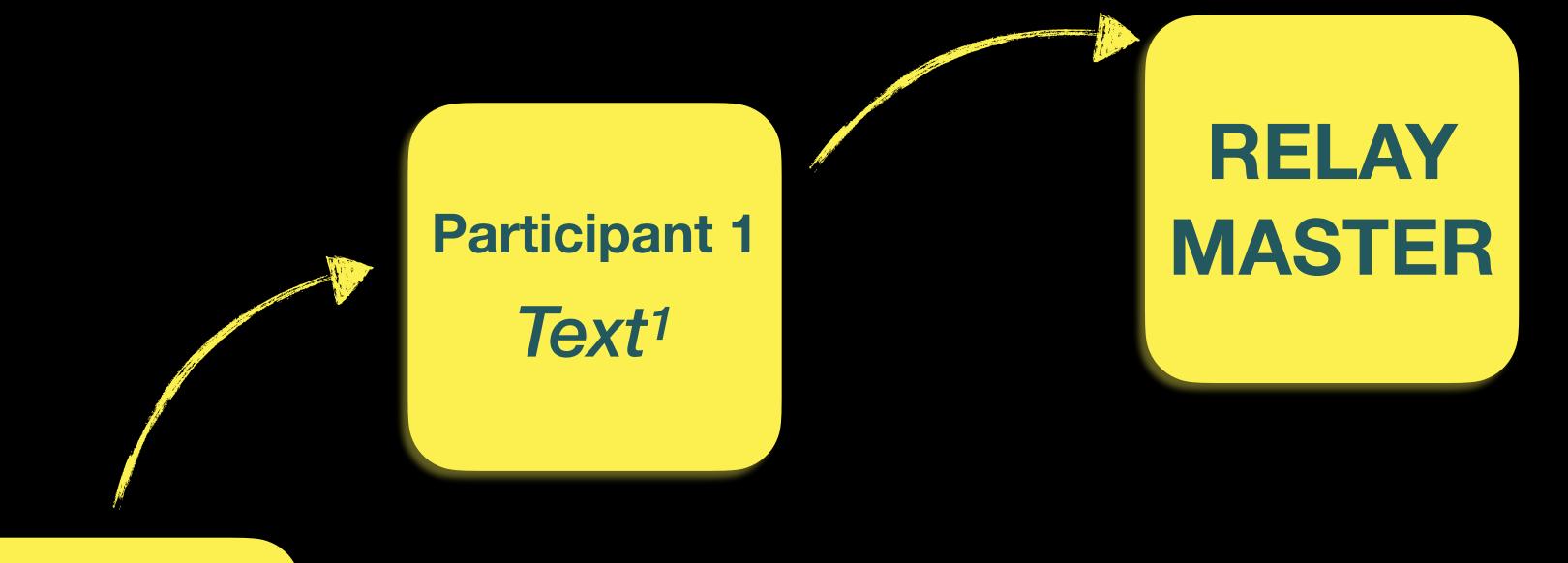
α Participant

Starting

Text

One more step!

# DEEPER DIVE



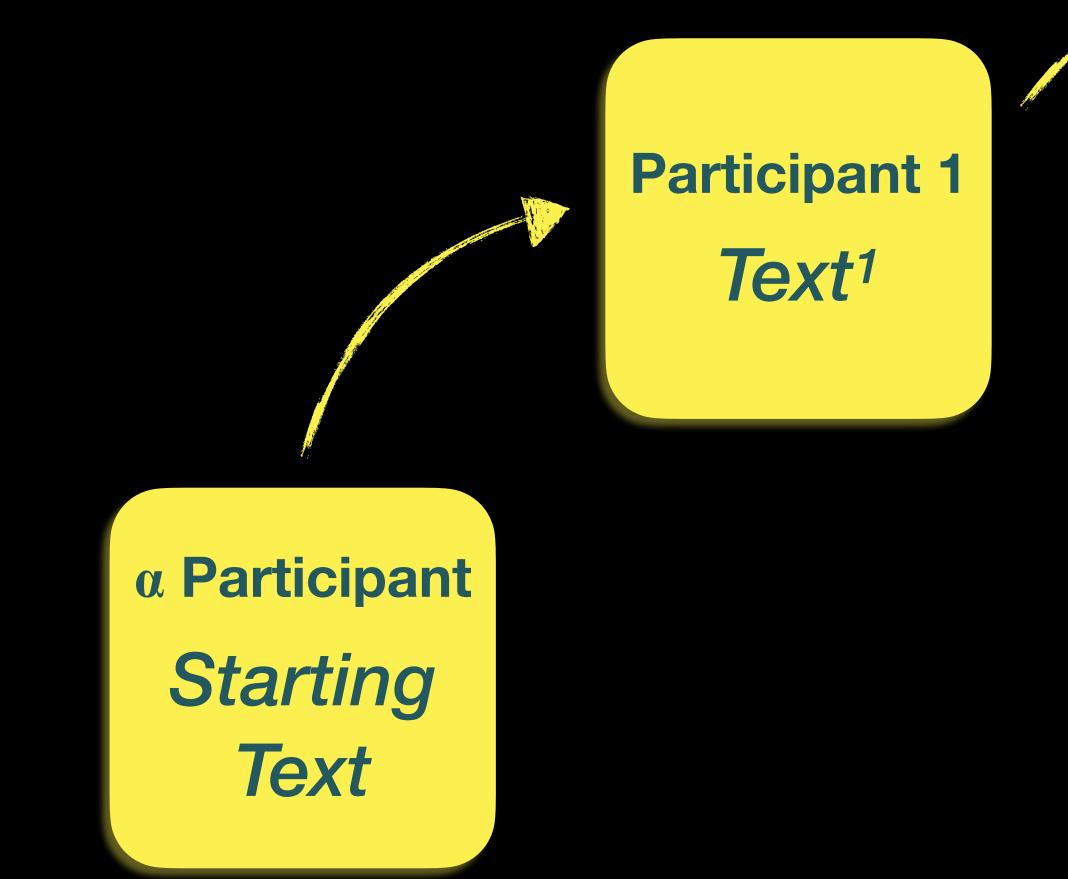
α Participant

Starting

Text

- their "torch" document
- translation of text<sup>1</sup> into English (and, optionally, a translation of the text they received)

# DEEPER DIVE



The same process continues for each participant in the relay.

RELAY

**MASTER** 

# BASIC CONCEPT



Participant 1

Text<sup>1</sup>



α Participant

Starting

Text

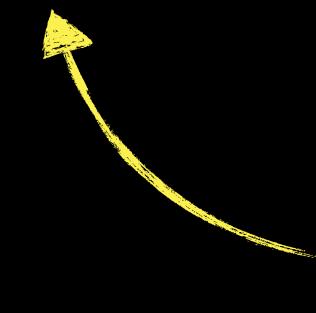
Participant 2

Text<sup>2</sup>

α Participant

Ending

Text



Participant ... n

Text...n

## Example Relay! LCC5 Relay

#### LCC5 Relay

#	Participant	Language	Text Received	Text Sent	Link to Text
1	David J. Peterson	Dothraki		Sun Mar 10	Text
2	Jessie Sams	Hiutsath	Mon, Mar 11	Wed, Mar 13	Text
3	Sally Caves	Teonaht	Thu, Mar 14	Sat, Mar 16	Text
4	John Clifford	toki pona	Sun, Mar 17	Tue, Mar 19	Text
5	Zach Wellstood	łaá siri	Wed, Mar 20	Fri, Mar 22	Text
6	John Quijada	Ithkuil	Sat, Mar 23	Mon, Mar 25	Text
7	Jim Henry	gjâ-zym-byn	Tue, Mar 26	Thu, Mar 28	Text
8	Sylvia Sotomayor	sodna-lεni	Fri, Mar 29	Sun, Mar 31	Text
9	Jan Strasser	Buruyu Nzaysa	Wed, Apr 03	Fri, Apr 05	Text
10	Alex Fink	UNLWS	Sat, Apr 06	Mon, Apr 08	Text
11	Tony Harris	Tariatta	Tue, Apr 09	Thu, Apr 11	Text
12	Jeff Jones	TIAL	Fri, Apr 12	Sun, Apr 14	Text
13	David J. Peterson	Dothraki	Mon Apr 15		Text

# The torch document I received from David included...

#### 1. Dothraki Initial Text

#### Text

"Zhillie Avesoon"

Jadi anna, zhey yalli anni. Asshekh yer vannevae rhojosores yeri ma adothrae yomme krazaajoon. Vosma hatif athezari yeri, vosm'anha vazhak yeraan jin zhilli. Vo shillo mahrazhes fin vastera adrasea. Adrasi lazim vos avvirsae, majin mori varrokhi hrazef yeri. Adakhi fes kash jalan hatifi disse. Jalan vahhaja fes majin yer nem vahhaji. Ha nakhaan, vos frakho soqwof vosecchi. Soqwof dozgo yeri. Soqwof azichomee ma yeraan, ma sajosaan yeri, ma kimisiraan. Ei soqwof meli nakhaan. Anha ma afonak yera ma addrivak yera, hash yer tihie soqwof akka. Anha astak asqoy yeraan, zhey yalli anni: Anha vatthasak yera. Vos frakho soqwof vosecchi. Vosma soqwi gizikhveni. Yer jif adakhi soqwe. Filla akka. Mori davrae! Ajjin dothra, zhey yalli anni! Dothra ma awazi ven dorvi!

### Grammar and Vocabulary Grammar

Website: http://www.dothraki.com/

Fan Wiki (better source): http://wiki.dothraki.org/

Typological facts: word order = SVO; prepositional; NG; NA; NR. Adverbs generally come sentence-finally.

The old word order of Dothraki is VSO. Vestiges of this old word order sometimes surface in relative clauses, questions, and quotations.

The infinitive form of a verb ends in /-(l)at/. Strip off this suffix to get the verb stem. The verb stem by itself serves as the past tense form of the form in the positive grade. In the negative grade, a suffixed -o is added to the verb stem in the past tense. In the present and future tense, verbs take personal suffixes. Only two are encountered in this text: The first person singular /-ak/, and the second person singular /-i/. The future tense of a verb is built off the present (the stem plus the personal ending). To the form the future tense, prefix /a-/ to the present tense form. Imperatives are formed by adding /-i/ to verb stems that end in a consonant; nothing to those that end in a vowel. Negative imperatives are formed by adding /-o/ to verb stems that end in a consonant; by changing the last vowel to /-o/ for stems that end in a vowel.

There is no copula in Dothraki. If you have X-NOM Y-NOM, it means "X is Y". The nominal forms listed in the lexicon are the nominative forms of a given noun, unless otherwise stated.

Dothraki has five cases: nominative, accusative, genitive, ablative and allative. Only the first four feature in this text. Unless otherwise stated, the subject of a verb takes the nominative, and the object takes the accusative.

The genitive is used in possessive constructions (such that X V\_GEN means V's X). Otherwise, the various

#### Lexicon

- adakhat (v.) to eat
- addrivat (v.) to murder, to kill
- adra (na.) turtle
- ahhajat (v.) to strengthen
- ajjin (adv.) now, and now
- akka (adv.) even, also
- anha (pron.) I (first person singular nominative pronoun)
- anna (pron.) me (first person singular accusative pronoun)
- annevalat (v.) to leave, to desert
- anni (pron.) my (first person singular genitive pronoun)
- arrokhat (v.) to frighten
- asqoyi (ni.) oath
- asshekh (adv.) today
- astat (v.) to say
- astat asqoy (vp.) to swear, to promise, to give (one's) oath
- athezar (ni.) going, departure
- atthasat (v.) to destroy, to ruin, to disgrace
- ave (na.) father
- avvirsalat (v.) to burn (transitive)
- awazat (v.) to scream
- azhat (v.) to give
- davralat (v.) to be good, to be useful
- disse (adv.) only, simply
- dorvi (ni.) goat

## The torch document I sent to the next participant included...

#### 2. Hiutsaθ Text

#### Text

"laſetaiθo paθanesu"

xefiloθnesu θexoma, leθelunei θexosu. lofaθnesau xaθanema θesasu neʃilessauaʃ φesta amosŋehaθ esisola. nuexoano lasetaiθoma esi θesuφis, kietsuso nesisau. nei xeeleθosu moneθelunema kie xatsaθeto melo taxaolihoma. ηai pepaoſθamoata taxaolihoma, leθoſasataaſ nexilama θesasu. xekomaſsu malaφiθma Jenasθaamo kie xakaθito mona sulo hapaθhaθ, kiemeni maθoto alume menalef ispole somoneθo. axixaftsasa alume malaφiθma ala, peaxixaftsasaua∫ islu. ŋei xeiņessu soutsima namonutsi taφihama kie nuemalato mona malaφiθma hamilaθaamo. maθoata taφihaho ala faeθe θesasu. ŋaheφθasata θesuma, nexilamaaʃ θesasu, haoxaθaneaſ θesasu. maθoata taφihaho ispole ala eθafahotsuteφ soispole. ʃiaŋesoaʃ θesuma ulefsiφestosoaʃ θesuma, kieule ulefſinasu somoneθo taфihama kie nuemalato mona malaфiθma hamilaθaamo. ʦaθexo tsaθneiθoma esi θesuφis, leθelunei θexosu: oneftsuso θesuma. nei xeinessu namonutsi taφihama kie puemalato mona malaφiθma hamilaθaamo. lasetoano malaφiθ hamilaθa seliteφ. mifne komaſsu malaφiθma hamilaθaamo. malaφiθma hamilaθaamo kipoθamo islu. laseata iaφneteφ! xeneʃilessu fala, leθelunei θexosu. xenesilessu xetsahaθesuas tseθmo maapama!

#### Grammar

Speaker facts: The speakers of Hiutsaθ look human and inhabit earth but live separately from the humans, which means there are gaps in their vocabulary for some things that most human languages have words for. When there is a gap, Hiutsaθ generally describes the item/object/concept in question through adjectives and relative clauses.

Typological facts: word order = VSO; prepositional; NG; NA; NR. Adverbs are generally sentence-final but can be moved (especially if one of the other elements in the sentence is heavy).

Sentences can be negated (separately from individual words within the sentence, which can also be negated); sentence-level negation is marked by an initial 'ŋai' for declarative sentences and 'ŋei' for imperative sentences.

A verb by itself is its infinitival form; otherwise, all verbs conjugate. The only endings you'll need for this text are the following:

first person singular, present tense	-xo
first person singular, future tense	-SO
second person singular, present tense	-su
second person singular, future tense	-sau
third person singular, present tense	-to
third person singular, future tense	-sa
third person plural, present tense	-ata
third person plural, future tense	-sata

Verbs can be negated by a 'ng-' prefix (often translated with 'dis-' or 'un-' in English). Imperative verbs take a

#### Lexicon

- ala (dem.) that, those
- ano (conj.) but
- αʃ (conj.) and
- axixaftsa (v.) strengthen, make strong
- eleθo (v.) to trust
- esi (dem.) this, these
- esisola (adv.) today
- eθafahotsu (adj.) evil
- faeθe (n.) enemy
- fala (adv.) now
- filoθne (v.) to come, come to
- hamilaθa (adj.) purple
- haoxaθane (n.) ancestors, ancestry
- hapaθ (n.) ground, earth, dirt

## This process went through ten more relay legs.

## Then it got back to David, the "alpha" participant.

#### 13. Dothraki Final Text

#### Text

"Ave Erin Anni"

Ave erin anni ast anhaan, "Anha zalak meyer saji hrazef ma chivoon krazaajoon, majin yer laz vitiheri qlasehis." Majin anha saj hrazef ma chivoon ma e.

Kash anha ver, kash anha shilo khalasar ma sanoon hrazefi ma chivoon, ma mori attihish anna yotoon gizikhvena fin ray ezish mori. Mori astish anhaan qisi hrakkar zhokwa she krazaaj, ma mori rokish memé laz azzisish anna. Anha rokh m'anha laz vos dothro qlasehea hatif gerikhi.

Anha dothra kash khado ajjalani, ma, ki shekhikhi jalani, anha tih vaes rekke vitisher yot gizikhven. Ahhaz kisha dothrash qlasehea, ahhaz me shar ma me ayyol.

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## HOW IT STARTED

#### **English Translation**

"Advice from Father"

Approach me, my child. Today you will leave your family behind and ride beyond the mountains. Before your departure, though, I will give you this advice. Don't trust a man who speaks with turtles. Turtles cannot be burned, and so they will frighten your horses. Eat carrots during the full moon only. The moon will strengthen the carrot and so you will be strengthened. Finally, never touch a plum tree. The plum tree is your enemy. A plum tree will disrespect you, your mount, and your ancestors. All plum trees are completely evil. I will hunt you down and murder you if you even look at a plum tree. I give you my word, my child: I will lay you low. Do not touch a plum tree. Plums, however, are sweet. You should eat plums. Dried plums, too. They're great! Now ride, my child! Ride and scream like a goat!

## HOW IT'S GOING

#### **English Translation**

"My Good Father"

My good father said to me, "I want you to mount a mountain unicorn and inspect the deer." So I mounted a unicorn and left.

While I was traveling, I met a tribe that had many unicorns, and they showed me some sweet fruit they had found. They told me about a great lion on the mountain, and they were afraid that it would be able to injure me. I feared that I wouldn't be able to get to the deer in time.

I rode throughout the night, and, by the light of the moon, I saw a place where the sweet fruit was growing. When we reached the deer, it was healthy and gave birth.

## You can unpack similarities across the texts among what looks like Chaos.

Approach me, my child.

Today you will leave your family behind and ride beyond the mountains. Before your departure, though, I will give you this advice. Don't trust a man who speaks with turtles. Turtles cannot be burned, and so they will frighten your horses.

Eat carrots during the full moon only. The moon will strengthen the carrot and so you will be strengthened.

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"My Good Father"

My good father said to me,

"I want you to mount a mountain unicorn and inspect the deer." So I mounted a unicorn and left.

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They told me about a great lion on the mountain, and they were afraid that it would be able to injure me. I feared that I wouldn't be able to get to the deer in time.

I rode throughout the night, and, by the light of the moon, I saw a place where the sweet fruit was growing.

Approach me, my child.

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"My Good Father"

My good father said to me,

"I want you to mount a mountain unicorn and inspect the deer." So I mounted a unicorn and left.

While I was traveling, I met a tribe that had many unicorns, and they showed me some sweet fruit they had found.

They told me about a great lion on the mountain, and they were afraid that it would be able to injure me. I feared that I wouldn't be able to get to the deer in time.

I rode throughout the night, and, by the light of the moon, I saw a place where the sweet fruit was growing.

Approach me, my child.

Today you will leave your family behind and ride beyond the mountains. Before your departure, though, I will give you this advice. Don't trust a man who speaks with turtles. Turtles cannot be burned, and so they will frighten your horses.

Eat carrots during the full moon only. The moon will strengthen the carrot and so you will be strengthened.

Finally, never touch a plum tree. The plum tree is your enemy. A plum tree will disrespect you, your mount, and your ancestors. All plum trees are completely evil. I will hunt you down and murder you if you even look at a plum tree. I give you my word, my child: I will lay you low.

Do not touch a plum tree. Plums, however, are sweet. You should eat plums. Dried plums, too. They're great!

Now ride, my child! Ride and scream like a goat!

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## Takeaway(s)

## Conlang relays...

give you a chance to dive into other conlangs and expand your own

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## ARE E