FrameLang Experiment

Your language sketch must account for the following data, taken from *Sushi for Beginners* by Marian Keyes. You need to treat it as an unknown entity, as romanized forms an author created to represent a language without actually having created a language structure to support it. It is, effectively, consistent gibberish.

Character Names

- Ashling Kennedy
- Yvonne Hughes
- Clodagh Kelly
- Lily Headly-Smythe
- Bicycle Billy

Other Names (Place Names, Brand Names)

- Dublin
- Colleen
- Trix
- Mercedes

Short Phrases

- ominous silence
- surefire success
- soap opera
- sweet sixteen

Full Clauses

- Rancor and regret generated insomnia.
- Extreme familiarity and empty distance hung together.

In the template that follows, sections marked in purple indicate the minimum (for David and Jessie—anyone else who participates can do as much or as little as they choose!) and sections marked in green with asterisks are entirely optional for all involved.

Celledy: A Language Sketch

Phonology

Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Velar	Glottal
Stops	p/b		t/d	k/g	
Fricatives	f/v	θ	s	ç~x/ɣ	h
Approx.	ʍ/w		l̥/l, ɾ̥/ɾ		
Nasals	m		n	ŋ	

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i/iː, y/yː		u/uː
Mid	e/eː		o/oː
Low		a/aː	

Stress:

- When a word ends in a consonant it's stressed ultimately. Otherwise, stress goes to the first heavy syllable from the right. When all syllables are light the default stress is penultimate:
    - *Ashling* [as.ˈl̥iŋ]
    - *Yvonne* [y.ˈvon.ne]
    - *Kennedy* [ˈken.ne.dy]
    - *surefire* [su.ɾe.ˈfi.ɾe]

Syllable Structure:

- In general, syllables are CVC. Two vowels can occupy the nucleus, and a syllable may begin with an obstruent followed by an approximant, leading to a maximum syllable of CCVVC, with restrictions placed on the initial consonant cluster.

Morphology and Typology

- Celledy is a predominantly head-initial language with VSO word order and agglutinative tendencies.

- The basic phrasal structures of Celledy are:
    - demonstrative-noun
    - noun-adjective
    - noun-relative clause
    - preposition-noun phrase
    - noun-possessor
    - verb-adverb

*Grammar Details**

Nouns:

- Celledy nouns inflect for plurality but otherwise do not inflect.

- Noun Function: Word order determines noun function. The basic word order is VSO, meaning the first noun will be the subject and the second the object. No ornamentation is required. For arguments beyond these a preposition is required. A brief example is shown below:

    - *Rancor and regret generated* ***insomnia***.
      [ɾan.ˈçoɾ and ɾe.ˈgret ge.ne.ɾa.ˈted in.ˈsom.nia]
      /sing-3pl def mouse-pl jovial-pl 3pl.pos-family/
      "The jovial mice are serenading **their family**."

- Noun Number: Nouns pluralize by adding a *-t* suffix. If necessary, an epenthetic *e* is inserted:

    - *ominous* [o.mi.ˈnous] "castle"
    - *ominouset* [o.mi.nou.ˈset] "castles"

- Noun Possession: Celledy uses the preposition *hung* with possessors. An example is shown below:

    - *sweet* [ˈsweːt] "otter"
    - *together* [to.ge.ˈθeɾ] "eternity"
    - *sweet hung together* [ˈsweːt huŋ to.ge.ˈθeɾ] "otter of eternity"

When there is a pronominal possessor, nouns take one of six pronominal prefixes. An example is shown below:

- *sweet* [ˈswe:t] “otter”
- *fasweet* [fa.ˈswe:t] “our otter”

A full table is shown below:

	Singular	**Plural**
First Person	*a(r)-*	*f(a)-*
Second Person	*s(e)-*	*k(i)-*
Third Person	*l(e)-*	*i(n/m)-*

Adjectives:

- Celledy adjectives follow the nouns they modify and agree in number. You’ll see this information again shortly.

- Adjective Placement: Adjectives follow the nouns they modify and agree in number, as shown below:

  - *kenne distance* [ˈken.ne dis.ˈtan.çe] “steel-like magnolia”
  - *kennet distancet* [ken.ˈnet dis.tan.ˈçet] “steel-like magnolias”

  When the /t/ of the plural suffix occurs before a vowel it voices:

  - *soap silence* [ˈsoap si.ˈlen.çe] “mushroom-like opossum”
  - *soapet silencet* [soa.ˈpet si.len.ˈçet] “mushroom-like opossums”
  - *soaped operat* [soa.ˈped o.pe.ˈrat] “beautiful opossums”

Demonstratives:

- Celledy has a definite article which occurs directly before the noun phrase. Other demonstratives may occur in the same spot, but the definite article displays a bit of allomorphy, as shown below:

  - *dista* [ˈdis.ta] “steel”
  - *an dista* [an ˈdis.ta] “the steel”

- *empty* [ˈemp.ty] “a chain”
- *and empty* [and ˈemp.ty] “the chain”

If desired, the definite article may co-occur with a pronominally possessed noun:

- *sweet* [ˈsweːt] “otter”
- *asweet* [a.ˈsweːt] “my otter”
- *and asweet* [and a.ˈsweːt] “the otter of mine”

Verbs:

- Celledy verbs conjugate for aspect and the number and person of the subject. A summary is provided below:

	Singular	**Plural**
First Person	*-(r)a*	*-(i)r*
Second Person	*-(i)s*	
Third Person	*-(r)e*	*-(i)r*

The perfective co-occurs with a prefix that shows up as *ex-* before consonants, and *c-* before vowels, as shown below:

- *aske* [ˈas.ke] “tells”
- *caske* [ˈças.ke] “told” *or* “has told”

- *treme* [ˈtɾe.me] “breaks”
- *extreme* [ˈex.tɾe.me] “broke” *or* “has broken”

- Participles: Celledy doesn’t have active or passive participles, per se, but a suffix co-occurs with verb bases when the verb is being used as a modifier. This suffix is *-(r)i*. A couple examples are shown below:

- *treme* [ˈtɾe.me] “breaks”
- *tremi* [ˈtɾe.mi] “breaking” *or* “broken”

- *miliare* [ˈmi.lia] “loves”
- *miliari* [mi.ˈlia.ɾi] “loving” *or* “loved”

In order to nominalize a verb, the general adjectival nominalization suffix *-tu/-ty/-du/-dy* is used in conjunction with the participial form:

- *treme* [ˈtɾe.me] "breaks"
- *tremi* [ˈtɾe.mi] "breaking" *or* "broken"
- *tremity* [tɾe.ˈmi.ty] "breaking" *or* "brokenness"

- *miliare* [ˈmi.lia] "loves"
- *miliari* [mi.ˈlia.ɾi] "loving" *or* "loved"
- *miliarity* [mi.lia.ˈɾi.ty] "love" *or* "being loved"

*Compounding**

- Celledy noun-noun compounds require the second noun to modify the first, as shown below:

  - *sure* [ˈsu.ɾe] "tongue"
  - *fire* [ˈfi.ɾe] "frog"
  - *surefire* [su.ɾe.ˈfi.ɾe] "tonedeaf individual"

*Naming Strategies**

- Celledy names come from the heart. They cannot be tamed by any rule, no matter how clever.

*Historical Notes**

The relevant Celledy sound changes:

1. Fronting: V[+high] > [-back] / V[-back, -low]_
   The vowel *u fronted to *y* [y] after the vowels *i and *e at an early stage. The vowel later became phonemic, used in names and borrowings.

2. Devoicing: C[+approx.] > [-voice] / C[-voice]_
   Approximants devoice following voiceless consonants. This affected *w, *ɾ, and *l. The results are sometimes reflected orthographically and sometimes not.

3. Onset Palatalization: C[+velar, -cont.] > [+pal.] / σ_

   The velar fricative *x palatalizes to *c* [ç] in onset position. The same might have applied to *ɣ, as well, but the sound never occurs in onset position.

4. Epenthesis: Ø > d / n_{V/l/ɾ/w}

   An epenthetic [d] is inserted in between [n] and a word beginning with a vowel or an approximant in morphological constructions. This applies mostly to clitics and particles like the definite article *an*.