LANGTIME CHAT, EPISODE 56

A Posteriori Challenge

If you are participating in the challenge, please send your materials directly to me (via Discord or email is best) by October 24. If you need longer, let me know, and we can work something out.

What I need from you is: (1) the sentences you worked with in their new forms (in IPA, please!), and (2) any descriptions of changes you introduced (whether in sounds, grammar, and/or vocabulary) that you want to highlight for me. Next month's podcast will focus on comparing the results across the board, so the focus is on the forms themselves of the 11 sentences and the shapes they take in the newly formed Kangaroo Rat languages.

For all the sound changes related to Wokuthízhű, go to this Lexurgy link:

https://www.lexurgy.com/langtime/sc

All participants will be working with a data set of 11 sentences, though you can opt to focus on a subset of these sentences as you work (e.g. if you want to participate but don't have time to complete all 11 sentences).

SOUND CHANGES
- *w > v
- *v > f / _C[-voice]
- *i > Ø / C[+palatal]_V
- *i > e / C[+palatal],_
- *C[+coronal] > [+retroflex] / _,[ɹ]
- *ɹ > Ø / _C
- *V > Ø / #…Cₓ_Cₓ…#
- *ɹɹ > w
- *ɹ > w / _{#/CC}
- V > Ø / V[+stress]C(C)_C(C)V[+stress]
- C[-nasal] > [+cont] / _C[-cont]
- C[+cont, -strident] > ː / _C
- C[+retroflex] > [+velar]
- C[+glottalic] > [+SG]
- C[-nasal, -sonorant] > [+voice] / V_V

- C[+velar, +cont] > : / _{C/#}
- C[+retroflex, -cont] > [+approximant]
- C[+palatal] > [+alveo-palatal]
- *oi > ɒi
- *uj > əi
- *ij > ɛi
- *e > ɪ; *o > ʊ
  - *a/*o > ə /V[+stress]… _(#)
  - *a > æ

GROUP 1: Tsik Muf "The Non-Committee-ers"

If you are a Committee-Abhoring Kangaroo Rat, you are part of Group 1—the group that left before any major changes occurred in the Primordial Squeak language. Your input is the proto-forms. That means you don't need to refer to our current changes in Lexurgy at all. Instead, you get to decide from the ground-up what you want to do with the proto-forms and work from there.

The input provided here assumes you're starting with some basic grammar and the lexical forms that led to later inflections. In this state, you may choose to stick with the original lexical forms and grammatical strategies, or you may opt to change some (or all) of them out. Whatever you do, remember that what you choose to grammaticalize should reduce in ways that make sense for the sound shifts you choose to incorporate.

The input for the 11 sentences is provided here in IPA:

- 🐭 tʃʰɪːgi jæɹə. "The mouse is singing."
- 🐭 tʃʰɪːgizʊː jæwə. "The two mice are singing."
- 🐭 tʃʰɪːgivəp jæwə. "The mice are singing."
- 🐭 tʃʰɪːgi kʊːgənkʰʊː jæɹə. "The mouse is singing in the marketplace."
- 🐭 tʃʰɪːgi vɒismɪm jæɹə. "The mouse is singing with the rabbit."
- 🐭 tʃʰɪːgi sitsi mip. "The mouse eats the barley corn."
- 🐭 tʃʰɪːgi sitsnik sʰʊːmpif. "The mouse doesn't eat the barley corn."
- 🐭 Mævɪ næɹə tʃæi. "The owl is boiling water."
- 🐭 Mævɪ næːnik pʰɪftʃæif. "The owl is not boiling water."
- 🐭 Minɛivəp sʊːkɪ kʊzəs. "The turtles are stacking cherries."
- 🐭 Sʊːkɪnəinik minɛivəbəinik kʊzəs. "The cherries are stacking turtles."

It's up for debate how early those verb indexing markers cropped up, but if you decide they were in use before your kangaroo rats broke off from the group, then here are the forms you're working with.

Vocabulary

The starting vocabulary is listed here. If you need more lexical forms, feel free to ask for more words to add to this list. You may, of course, create new forms for your speakers, but you can also incorporate more vocabulary from the existing language! (If you have access to the PDFs, then you should already have everything we have so far in the language.)

*cai "to boil"
*c'ewki "mouse"
*jiaɹa "to sing"
*kopik "to buy" + *on "to sell" > *kopikon "marketplace"
*kos "to stack"
*mawe "owl"
*minij "turtle"
*mip "to eat"
*naɹta "water"
*sitsi "barley corn"
*soɹsa "cherry"
*woite "rabbit"

Grammaticalized Nominal Inflections
Number
- Inanimate Plural: *keɹen "knot"
- Animate Plural: *woɹup "litter"
- Dual: *soɹsa "cherry"

Cases
- "Unnatural": *uj "order" + *nik "to come"
- Ablative: *nik "to come"
- Locative: *k'ow "to sit"

NOTE: In Wokuthízhű, there are no nominative and accusative cases. Rather, animate nouns are expected to be in agentive roles and inanimate nouns are expected to be in patientive roles. When those expectations hold for the clause structure, the nouns are in their "natural" case, which is unmarked. When an animate noun is in a patientive role (i.e. the direct object of a transitive verb) or an inanimate noun is in an agentive role (i.e. the subject of a transitive verb), the noun is marked for its "unnatural" case. The unnatural case simply says "this information is more grammatically surprising, so we're going to mark it."

Grammaticalized Verbal Inflections

Indexing
- Pluractional (to indicate non-singular subject): final syllable (partial) reduplication on verb root
    … CV-CV
    … VC-VC
    … C_1VC_2-VC_2
    … CV_1V_2-CV_1
- Argument indexing prefixes:
    - *w *third-person* (whether subject or object)
    - *a *non-proximal* (the more widely used vowel for third-person and only one presented in the data for this challenge)

Applicative
- Comitative (verbal applicative): *mem "to hug"

Negation
- Negation Suffix: *-(i)f
- Negation Prefix/Liquid: *p'ep "raindrop"
- Negation Prefix/Solid: *s'ou "crumb

NOTE: When a transitive verb is negated, the direct object occurs in the ablative case and cannot be represented with any verb indexing markers. The negation prefix is treated as the object of the verb and is incorporated into the verb structure.