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).

GROUP 3: Thí Lí "The Peace Lovers"

If you are a Peace-Loving Kangaroo Rat, you belong to Group 3 and will use the full set of sound changes in Lexurgy on any proto-form you might create in your work flow process. Your starting point is Modern Wokuthízhű, and you can decide how the language will shift from there. You can introduce new sound changes, change grammatical features, and/or play with the vocabulary (e.g. create new words, reassign meanings to old words, borrow from other LT languages).

Your input for the 11 sentences is provided here:

🐭 Ch'ükí zhálá. "The mouse is singing."
🐭 Ch'ükíswá zhálálá. "The two mice are singing."
🐭 Ch'ükívú zhálálá. "The mice are singing."
🐭 Ch'ükí kópíkok'u zhálá. "The mouse is singing in the marketplace."
🐭 Ch'ükí vwétémezhálá. "The mouse is singing with the rabbit."
🐭 Ch'ükí síthí mí. "The mouse eats the barley corn."

- 🐭 Ch'ükí síthíní ts'úmípi. "The mouse doesn't eat the barley corn."
- 🐭 Máwé natá ché. "The owl is boiling water."
- 🐭 Máwé natání p'écházhi. "The owl is not boiling water."
- 🐭 Mínivú swazáke kúsu. "The turtles are stacking cherries."
- 🐭 Swazáküní mínivüní kúsu. "The cherries are stacking the turtles."

If you want to tackle slightly more complex verbal forms, you can include the subject prefixes (some of which also indicate the object), which are optional in our current version of Wokuthízhű when both arguments are specified elsewhere in the clause structure. Note that negation changes the grammatical structure of the clause.

- 🐨 Ch'ükí wázhálá. "The mouse is singing."
- 🐨 Ch'ükíswá wázhálálá. "The two mice are singing."
- 🐨 Ch'ükívú wázhálálá. "The mice are singing."
- 🐨 Ch'ükí kópíkok'u wázhálá. "The mouse is singing in the marketplace."
- 🐨 Ch'ükí wávwétémezhálá. "The mouse is singing with the rabbit."
- 🐨 Ch'ükí síthí womí. "The mouse eats the barley corn."
- 🐨 Ch'ükí síthíní wáts'úmípi. "The mouse doesn't eat the barley corn."
- 🐨 Máwé natá woché. "The owl is boiling water."
- 🐨 Máwé natání wáp'écházhi. "The owl is not boiling water."
- 🐨 Mínivú swazáke wokúsu. "The turtles are stacking cherries."
- 🐨 Swazáküní mínivüní wokúsu. "The cherries are stacking the turtles."

Because these prefixes are optional when the arguments are specified, you can opt to cherry pick (ahem, *swazá*-pick) situations where the prefix occurs in your data and where it does not occur. You can create your own rules for the optionality of the prefix.

GROUP 2: Tsí? C'o "The Analog Seekers"

If you are an Analog Seeker, you are part of Group 2—the kangaroo rats who broke off in the midst of several Wokuthízhű language developments, including the sound shifts. In Lexurgy, delete the sound changes after **coda-changes-early** (which means all changes from **palatal-simplification** and beyond will be omitted). The **coda-changes-early** will be the final sound change included from our original work. From there, you get to decide what other changes you want!

In this medial stage, we have a weird situation where there are technically three tones: high, mid (neutral), and low. The mid/neutral tone shifts to a high tone in a later stage. In this data set, low tones are indicated with a grave accent, high tones with an acute accent, and mid tones with no marking.

Here are the 11 sentences you're using as input in their medial stages. The data is presented in IPA.

- 🐭 C'ỳki ʒjaɹa. "The mouse is singing."
- 🐭 C'ỳkiswa ʒjaɹaɹa. "The two mice are singing."
- 🐭 C'ỳkivúʔ ʒjaɹaɹa. "The mice are singing."
- 🐭 C'ỳki kopikõ̀k'ò̰ù ʒjaɹa. "The mouse is singing in the marketplace."
- 🐭 C'ỳki voitemẽ̀ʒjaɹa. "The mouse is singing with the rabbit."
- 🐭 C'ỳki sitsi míʔ. "The mouse eats the barley corn."
- 🐭 C'ỳki sitsiníʔ s'oumipì:h. "The mouse doesn't eat the barley corn."
- 🐭 Mawe nà:ta cai. "The owl is boiling water."
- 🐭 Mawe nà:taníʔ p'éʔcajì:h. "The owl is not boiling water."
- 🐭 Minì:vúʔ swazáke kúsu. "The turtles are stacking cherries."
- 🐭 Swazáküní minì:vỳníʔ kosò:. "The cherries are stacking turtles."

As with the Group 3 input, you have the option of working with the verb prefixes that indicate indexing information. If you choose to tackle those forms, they are provided here for reference.

- 🐭 C'ỳki waʒjaɹa. "The mouse is singing."
- 🐭 C'ỳkiswa waʒjaɹaɹa. "The two mice are singing."
- 🐭 C'ỳkivúʔ waʒjaɹaɹa. "The mice are singing."
- 🐭 C'ỳki kopikõ̀k'ò̰ù waʒjaɹa. "The mouse is singing in the marketplace."
- 🐭 C'ỳki wavoitemẽ̀ʒjaɹa. "The mouse is singing with the rabbit."
- 🐭 C'ỳki sitsi womíʔ. "The mouse eats the barley corn."
- 🐭 C'ỳki sitsiníʔ was'oumipì:h. "The mouse doesn't eat the barley corn."
- 🐭 Mawe nà:ta wocai. "The owl is boiling water."
- 🐭 Mawe nà:taníʔ wap'éʔcajì:h. "The owl is not boiling water."
- 🐭 Minì:vúʔ swazáke wokúsu. "The turtles are stacking cherries."
- 🐭 Swazáküní minì:vỳníʔ wokosò:. "The cherries are stacking turtles."

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:

- 🐁 C'ewki jiaɹa. "The mouse is singing."
- 🐁 C'ewki-sorsa jiaɹa-ɹa. "The two mice are singing."
- 🐁 C'ewki-worup jiaɹa-ɹa. "The mice are singing."
- 🐁 C'ewki kopikon-k'ow jiaɹa. "The mouse is singing in the marketplace."
- 🐁 C'ewki woite-mem-jiaɹa. "The mouse is singing with the rabbit."
- 🐁 C'ewki sitsi mip. "The mouse eats the barley corn."
- 🐁 C'ewki sitsi-nik s'ou-mip-if. "The mouse doesn't eat the barley corn."
- 🐁 Mawe naɹta cai. "The owl is boiling water."
- 🐁 Mawe naɹta-nik p'ep-cai-if. "The owl is not boiling water."
- 🐢 Minij-woɹup sorsa-ke kos-os. "The turtles are stacking cherries."
- 🍒 Sorsa-keɹen-uj-nik minij-woɹup-uj-nik kos-os. "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.

- 🐀 C'ewki w-a-jiaɹa. "The mouse is singing."
- 🐀 C'ewki-sorsa w-a-jiaɹa-ɹa. "The two mice are singing."
- 🐀 C'ewki-worup w-a-jiaɹa-ɹa. "The mice are singing."
- 🐀 C'ewki kopikon-k'ow w-a-jiaɹa. "The mouse is singing in the marketplace."
- 🐀 C'ewki w-a-woite-mem-jiaɹa. "The mouse is singing with the rabbit."
- 🐀 C'ewki sitsi w-a-w-mip. "The mouse eats the barley corn."
- 🐀 C'ewki sitsi-nik w-a-s'ou-mip-if. "The mouse doesn't eat the barley corn."
- 🐀 Mawe naɹta w-a-w-cai. "The owl is boiling water."
- 🐀 Mawe naɹta-nik w-a-p'ep-cai-if. "The owl is not boiling water."
- 🐀 Minij-woɹup sorsa-ke w-a-w-kos-os. "The turtles are stacking cherries."
- 🐀 Sorsa-keɹen-uj-nik minij-woɹup-uj-nik w-a-w-kos-os. "The cherries are stacking turtles."

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.