














FrameLang Experiment: Sassafras





NOTES:

-  <c> and <k> occur in the same environments, so they should represent different phonemes
-  geminates allowed
-  should have “super heavy” syllables, which attract stress
-  long vowels and diphthongs (e:, ea, ou, oa, ia)
-  CCVVCC (onset: tsl, sm, tr, sw, gr / coda: mp, ss) >> *zl > tsl
 -  fricative + glide / nasal / liquid
 -  stop + flap
 -  stop > *flap > fricative/affricate > nasal/glide/liquid





Character Names

-  Ashling Kennedy [aʃ.lɪŋ ken.ne.dy]
-  Yvonne Hughes [y.von.ne hu.ɣes]
-  Clodagh Kelly [tslo.day kel.ly]
-  Lily Headly-Smythe [li.ly head.ly smy.θe]
-  Bicycle Billy [bi.tsy.tsle bil.ly]



Other Names (Place Names, Brand Names)

-  Dublin [dub.lin]
-  Colleen [tsol.le:n]
-  Trix [trɪx]
-  Mercedes [mer.tse.des]

Short Phrases

-  ominous silence [o.mi.nous si.len.tse]
-  surefire success [su.re.fi.re suts.tses:]
-  soap opera [soap o.pe.ra]
-  sweet sixteen [swe:t six.te:n]

Full Clauses

-  Rancor and regret generated insomnia. [ran.tsor and re.gret ge.ne.ra.ted in.som.nia]
-  Extreme familiarity and empty distance hung together. [ex.tre.me fa.mi.lia.ri.ty and emp.ty di.stan.tse hun to.ge.θer]

FrameLang: A Language Sketch

Phonology

Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	p / b		t / d		k / g	
Affricate			ts			
Flap			r			
Fricatives	f / v	θ	s	ʃ	x / ɣ	h
Glide	w					
Liquid			l			
Nasals	m		n		ŋ	

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i, y		u
Mid	e	ə	o
Low		a	

Stress:

- Stress occurs on the initial syllable.

Syllable Structure:

- Proto-syllables: *CVC
- Modern syllables: CCVVCC

Morphology and Typology

- FrameLang is a predominantly head-initial language with VSO word order and agglutinative tendencies.
- The basic phrasal structures of FrameLang are:
 - noun-demonstrative
 - noun-adjective
 - noun-relative clause
 - preposition-noun phrase
 - noun-possessor
 - verb-adverb

Historical Notes

1. Alveolar devoicing and affrication: $z > ts$
The voiced alveolar fricative **z* went to **ts** everywhere.
2. Schwa deletion: $\text{ə} > \emptyset$
Schwa-deletion leads to consonant clusters.
3. Stop assimilation: stop > placement / nasal__
Stops assimilate in place to a nasal when occurring after a nasal consonant.
4. Flap fortification: $r > d / \#_C, C_ \#$
The alveolar flap **r* becomes **d** when it is the first consonant of an onset cluster or when it is the second consonant of a coda cluster.
5. More changes need to occur to avoid unwieldy CCs.
6. Unrounding of [y]: $y > i / _ \{i, e, a\}$
When **y* occurs before an unrounded vowel, it becomes produced as **i**.
7. Diphthongization: $V.V > VV$ or $V:$
 VV sequences become diphthongs/long vowels.
8. Inflectional Suffix Nasalization: $t > n / \text{nasal-}_ _$

In inflectional suffixes beginning with **t*, the **t* becomes *n* after roots ending in a nasal consonant (e.g. **ty* > *ny*).

9. Inflectional Suffix Reduction: -CC > -C / C__

Inflectional suffixes beginning with a consonant cluster reduce to a single consonant when following a root ending in a consonant (e.g. **nts* > *ts*).

Glossary

Affixes

- a* (suff.) indefinite suffix, attaches to nouns
- des* (suff.) locative derivational suffix, attaches to nouns or verbs
- e* (suff.) nominal suffix, attaches to verbs
- en* (suff.) nominal derivational suffix, attaches to verbs to indicate a quality or use
- et* (-*ret*) (suff.) collective nominal derivational suffix, attaches to nouns (requires plural agreement with verb) [*the initial [r] only occurs after roots ending in stops; in all other instances, it occurs as -et*]
- lin* (suff.) nominal derivational suffix, attaches to verbs to indicate byproduct
- ly* (suff.) agentive nominal derivational suffix, attaches to verbs
- nc* (suff.) imperfective aspect
- om* (suff.) diminutive nominal derivational suffix, attaches to nouns
- ra* (suff.) adjectival derivational suffix, attaches to nouns to indicate likeness (e.g. -y, -like)
- re* (suff.) perfective aspect
- ted* (suff.) genitive case
- ther* (suff.) dative case
- ty* (suff.) accusative case

Lexical Items

- a* [a] (adj.) some, any
- and* [and] (adv.) already
- ash* [aʃ] (n.) berry
- cess* [tʃes:] *zəsəs (n.) jumble, array
- colle* [tʃol.le] (v.) to gather
- dista* [di.sta] (vi.) to guide, to lead; to teach
- dub* [dub] (vt.) to press

emp [emp] (n.) scroll, paper; *archaic* tree stump (esp. one that is hollowed out)
ext [ext] (vd.) to give, to hand, to pass (just indicates something was passed from one person to another, not necessarily gifted)
fami [fa.mi] (prep.) [+ acc] before, prior to (*temporal*); behind (*spatial*)
ge [ge] (prep.) [+ gen.] from, indicating origin or residence (e.g. “from Missouri”)
hung [huŋ] (dem.) distal demonstrative (that)
ins [ins] (n.) pillow
insom [in.som] (n.) marshmallow
ire [i.re] (n.) waist
liari [lia.ri] *ly person + *ari speak (n.) speech, lecture, class
ling [liŋ] (n.) juice
me [me] (pro.) first-person plural pronoun
mer [mer] (v.) to dance
nera [ne.ra] (n.) village
nous [nous] (n.) hammer
omi [o.mi] *omi (n.) mill
ominous [o.mi.nous] *omi + *nous (n.) machine (small machine)
ope [o.pe] (n.) tree
opera [o.pe.ra] (adj.) wooden
or [or] (pro.) third-person plural pronoun
ra [ra] (vt.) to cook, esp. over an open flame
reg [reg] (n.) child
regret [re.gret] (n.) group of children
sile [si.le] (vt.) to sew
sixte [six.te] (v.) to bud, to bloom
soap [soap] (n.) statue
suc [suts] *suz (n.) color
success [suts.tses:] *suz + *zesəs (adj.) colorful
suref [su.ref] (n.) smock, muumuu, loose dress
surefire [su.re.fi.re] (n.) apron
swe [swe] (n.) plant
sweet [swet] (n.) garden
toge [to.ge] (n.) aide; beam (support beam)
trix [trix] *tə house + *rix horse (n.) stable

Clause and Phrase Analyses and Definitions

ra-nts-or and reg-ret ge-nera-ted ins-om-ni-a

cook-IMPV-they already child-COLL [from-village-GEN] pillow-DIM-ACC-INDEF

“A group of children from the village are already cooking some marshmallows.”

ext-re-me fami-liari-ty and emp-ty dista-nts-e hung toge-ther

hand-PFV-we before-speech-ACC already scroll-ACC guide-IMPV-PART DISTAL aide-DAT

“We had already handed that guiding scroll (set of speaking notes) to the aide before the speech.”

swe-et sixte-en

plant-COLL bloom-QUAL

“a young garden, a garden full of blossoms and buds”

soap ope-ra

statue tree-LIKE

“wooden statue, carving”

suref-ire suc-cess

smock-waist color-jumble

“colorful apron”

ominous sile-nc-e

mill-hammer sew-IMPV-PART

“sewing machine”

colle-en

gather-QUAL

“hall, gathering place”

mer-c-e-des

dance-IMPV-PART-LOCAT

“theater”

t-rix

house-horse

“stable”

dub-lin

press-BYPROD

“(brand of) espresso”

ash-ling

berry-juice

“juice berry” (written backwards in the presentation!)