Hniz

Glossing Abbreviations

A – Accusative

AC – Active

AJ – Adjunct

AF – Affirmative

CJ – Conjunct

DC – Declarative

DJ – Disjunct

G – Genitive

ID – Indefinite

IH – Inchoative

IM – Imperative

IN – Interrogative

MP – Mediopassive

NG – Negative

N – Nominative

P – Plural

PF – Perfective

PG – Progressive

PR – Present

PS – Past

PT – Potential

RL – Relative

S – Singular

I Phonology

I.1 Phonology

I.1.a Consonants

These are the consonants of Hniz [tⁿir]:

	Labial	Alveolar	Dorsal	Glottal
Nasal	m	n		
Plosive	p b	t d	k g	
Fricative	f v	s z	x	h
Liquid		l	w	

NB /s z/ can be like either plosives or fricatives phonemically

The alveolar consonants are all laminal

/x/ is actually uvular [χ]

/h/ is not a true fricative, so it behaves differently than the others.

I.1.b Vowels

These are the vowels:

	Front	Back
High	i	u
Mid	e ẽ	o õ
Low		a ã

nasalization applies to the whole word

nasalized /i e a o u/ are /ĩ ẽ ã ã õ/ (this is a phonemic change, which affects allophony)

/a ã/ are actually back [ɑ ɒ̃]

/e õ/ are actually diphthongal [ɛɪ̯̃ ɔʊ̯̃]

The biggest syllable structure is (F)(N/S)(L)V(N/L)(F!h)(S), but a cluster may never exceed 3 sounds. Words must end in a single non-stop ridged consonant, in /w/, or in a vowel.

I.2 Allophony

The allophony is highly extensive in the language. *Liaison* makes them apply across word boundaries, unless marked with a cross †. Here is an exhaustive list:

☞ In stressed phonemically open syllables, vowels lengthen.

☞ Clusters assimilate for voice according to the last non-nasal and non-liquid consonant, which is reflected phonemically.

☞ Nasals assimilate for place of articulation with the following consonant.

☞ /t d k g/ become [s z x ɣ] before /i u/. †

☞ /b d l z g/ become [ᵇm ᵈn nˡ z̃ ᵍŋ] next to a nasalized vowel.

☞ /mp nt ns nk/ become [mb nd nz ŋg] in nasal words.

☞ /v/ becomes [gʷ] after a vowel and before /a ã/; elsewhere intervocalically, it is [ʋ].

☞ /z/ becomes [r] intervocalically and before a pause.

☞ /x/ is [ʁ] before a voiced plosive, [ʀ̥] between vowels and next to /x/, and [χ] elsewhere.

☞ /l/ becomes [r] after an alveolar.

☞ /w/ becomes [j] next to a rounded vowel by dissimilation. †

☞ /h/ + /p t s k/ becomes [pʰ tʰ s kʰ]. †

☞ /h/ + /b d z g/ becomes [ɓ ɗ z ɠ], but next to a nasal vowel [ˀm ˀn ˀɟ ˀŋ]. †

☞ /h/ + /m n l/ becomes [pᵐ tⁿ t͡ɬʰ], but next to a nasal vowel [ˀm ˀn ˀl]. †

☞ /h/ + /f v x/ is dropped. †

☞ /hw/ is [ɕʷ], but next to a rounded vowel, it unrounds to [ɕ] by dissimilation. †

☞ If the situation arises, plosives and /w/ are degeminated, but only phonemically, so allophonic vowel length is unaffected.

☞ [s z ž] are [ʃ ʒ ʒ̃] before /i/. †

☞ Consonants appearing at the end of a word will become alveolar to conform with phonotactics:

    ☙ /p t k/ and /b d g/ coalesce as /t/ and /d/.

    ☙ /f s x/ coalesce as /s/.

    ☙ /v w/ coalesce as /w/.

☞ In clusters, plosives will always be lost, followed by nasals and liquids.

II Morphology

There are three greater parts of speech, being the nouns, the verbs, and the adjectives. The two lesser parts of speech are the adjuncts, the disjuncts, and the conjuncts.

II.1 Root shape

Roots usually have one syllable. They take the shape (C)(C)V(C)(C), though it is important to note that, unlike the word restrictions, can end in any consonant, and that they *never* begin with a fricative.

II.2 Nouns

Nouns are inflected for 3 cases, being the Nominative, the Accusative, and the Genitive, and for 2 numbers, being the Singular and the Plural.

Nouns themselves are formed directly from roots. Sometimes they will be extended with suffixes.

Case-number inflections are fusional prefixes that attach directly to the stem. Here is a table of the prefixes:

	Singular	Plural
Nom	h-	o-
Gen	f-	x-
Acc	∅-	h-~

II.3 Verbs

Verbs are inflected for 3 aspects, being the Perfective, the Progressive, and the Inchoative, 2 tenses, being the Past and the Present, 2 voices, being the Active and the Mediopassive, and 5 moods, being the Declarative, Interrogative, Potential, Relative, and Imperative.

The Perfective form is the same as the root. The Progressive form introduces nasalization. The Inchoative is formed by suffixing -t to the Perfective.

The Past suffix is -ha and the Present suffix is -i.

The Active suffix is -k and the Mediopassive suffix is -d.

The Declarative suffix is -i, the Interrogative suffix is -a, the Potential suffix is -o, the Relative suffix is -u, and the Imperative suffix is -∅.

II.4 Adjectives

Adjectives are in between nouns and verbs. They inflect for case, number, aspect, and tense. They can also take an indefinite suffix -s.

II.5 Adjuncts

The adjuncts are little words that add essential meaning within the clause.

II.6 Disjuncts

II.7 Conjuncts

The conjuncts link words together. Whether it's noun phrases or whole clauses, the conjuncts keep information organized.

III Syntax

III.1 Case

III.2 Number

III.3 Aspect

III.4 Tense

III.5 Voice

III.6 Mood

III.6.a Declarative

III.6.b Interrogative

III.6.c Potential

III.6.d Relative

    This mood is used for attributive relativation, for purpose clauses, and for reason clauses. Occasionally a root will demand indirect statement to be relative instead of participial. Verbs in this mood are always subordinate.

    Sometimes there will be an embedded pronominal within a relative clause. This will make the subordinate phrase stand by itself with an invisible head: insubordination if you will. This is most common with purpose and reason clauses.

III.6.e Imperative

III.7 Pronominals

Adjectives are used in lieu of pronouns. What adjective is used in what situation largely depends on the context and on custom. There are general tendencies that arise because of this: for example, the adjective `hlewki` is used mainly to address a friend, while `olewki` is used as an inclusive pronoun among friends. It is technically possible to use them to refer to other person-deixes, but such usages are uncommon.

There is also an embedding strategy that allows potentially any adjective to work pronominally. A relative verb put adjunct to the sentence may be incorporated into the sentence as a pronominal adjective.

Here is a list of some common pronominals:

Just end me. I haven't time to make my list D:

IV Lexicon

av – go, come, walk

baf – slow

bex – dress up, clothing

blas – love, adore, devote, hold dear

gil – book, write

hõn – negative progressive auxiliary

kel – wake, aware

let – (ajn.) downward, under, beneath

lewk – friend, comrade, outgoing

lez – lose

list – born, come from, originate

lomp – rain

miz – negative perfective auxiliary

nip – give, present

niz – speech, talk, clear, communicate, evident

nwux – food, eat, edible

pil – live, settle, inhabit, survive, exist

sing – fast, quick, speed

suz – music

swub – brave, courage, bold, stand down

tliw – know, be confident on, understand clearly

two – collect, gather, bundle, conglomerate

x – (cjn.) links predicates together in processional order

zi – (ajn.) from, away, hence, thence

V Examples

Zephyrus syntax test sentences and variations

/pilto zi htlẽwhõnẽ avaku/

[ˈpilto ʒi tʰrɛ̃ɪ̯ˈɕɔ̃ṵ̃nɛ̃ɪ̯ ˈɑːgʷɑxu]

(1) Ø- pilto zi   h-   tlẽw -hõn   -ẽ   av   -ha -k -u
     A.S- city from.AJ N.S- know -NG.PG -PR go.PF -PS -A -RL

Why he has left the city is a mystery. (214)

/pilto zi htlẽwẽ avaku/

[ˈpilto ʒi ˈtʰrɛ̃ɪ̯wɛ̃ɪ̯ ˈɑːgʷɑxu]

(2) Ø- pilto zi   h-   tlẽw   -ẽ   av   -ha -k   -u
     A.S- city from.AJ N.S- know.PG -PR go.PF -PS -AC -RL

Why he left the city is clear.

/pilto zi htlẽwẽ avu mizhaku/

[ˈpilto ʒi ˈtʰrɛ̃ɪ̯wɛ̃ɪ̯ ˈɑːʋu ˈmizɑxu]

(3) Ø- pilto zi   h-   tlẽw   -ẽ   av- u   miz   -ha -k   -u
     A.S- city from.AJ N.S- know.PG -PR go -RL NG.PF -PS -AC -RL

Why he hasn't left the city is clear.

/ãswõbẽ xlisti twoti b̃lasẽkẽ/

[ṽˈsjɔ̃ṵ̃ːᵇmɛ̃ɪ̯ ˈχliʃːi ˈtjoːʃi ˈb̃lṽːsɛ̃ɪ̯kɛ̃ɪ̯]

(4) ã-   swõb   -ẽ   x-   list   -i   Ø- twoti blãs   -ẽ   -k -ẽ
     N.P- brave.PG -PR G.P- be.born.PF -PR A.S- country love.PG -PR -AC -DC

We are a brave people, and love our country. (140)

/lon mizidi/

['lom͡ 'miːriʒi]

(5)　Ø-　lomp miz　　-i　-d　-i

　　　A.S- rain　NG.PF -PR -MD -DC

The rain has stopped. (21)

/lãmpẽdẽ/

['lɤ̃mbɛɪ̯̃ᵈnɛɪ̯̃]

(6)　lãmp　　-ẽ　-d　　-ẽ

　　　rain.PG -PR -MD -DC

It's been raining.

/lãmphãdẽ/

['lɤ̃mpʰɤ̃dɛɪ̯̃]

(7)　lãmp　　-hã -d　　-ẽ

　　　rain.PG -PS -MD -DC

It'd been raining for a while.

/lompidi/

['lompiʒi]

(8)　lomp　　-i　-d　　-i

　　　rain.PF -PR -MD -DC

It's raining.

/lomphadi/

['lompʰɑʒi]

(9)   lomp   -ha -d   -i

          rain.PF -PS -MD -DC

It rained.

/lomptidi/

['lompʃiʒi].

(10) lomp -t   -i   -d   -i

     rain   -IH -PR -MD -DC

It's going to rain

/lomthadi/

['lontʰɑʒi]

(11) lomp -t   -ha -d   -i

     rain   -IH -PR -MD -DC

It looked like it was going to rain.

/lomptido/

['lompʃido]

(12) lomp -t   -i   -d   -o

     rain   -IH -PR -MD -PT

It might rain.

/hlewki suzin aftika

['t͡ɬʰewxi 'suːrin 'afʃikɑ]

(13) h-   lewk   -i   Ø-   suz-in av -t   -i   -k   -a

     N.S- friendly.PF -PR A.S- concert go -IH -PR -AC -IN

Are you going to the concert? (59.)

/suzin aftit/

['suːrin 'afʃit]

(14) Ø-   suz-in av -t   -i   -k   -Ø

     A.S- concert go -IH -PR -AC -IM

Go to the concert!

/olewki suzin aftit/

[o'lewxi 'suːrin 'afʃit]

(15) o-   lewk   -i   Ø-   suz-in av -t   -i   -k   -Ø

     N.P- friendly.PF -PR A.S- concert go -IH -PR -AC -IM

Let's go to the concert.

/olewki suzin avu gotika/

[o'lewxi 'suːrin 'ɑːʋu 'goːʃikɑ]

(16) o-   lewk   -i   Ø-   suzin av -u   go -t   -i   -k   -a

     N.P- friendly.PF -PR A.S- concert go -RL AF -IH -PR -AC -IN

Should we go to the concert?

/hlewt suzin aftika/

[ˈt͡ɬʰewt ˈsuːrin ˈaʃika]

(17) h-   lewk ∅- suzin av -t -i -k -a
     N.S- friend A.S- concert go -IH -PR -AC -IN

Is a friend is going to the concert?

/hlewkis suzin aftika/

[ˈt͡ɬʰewxis ˈsuːrin ˈaʃika]

(18) h-   lewk   -i -s ∅- suzin av -t -i -k -a
     N.S- friendly.PF -PR -ID A.S- concert go -IH -PR -AC -IN

Is anyone friendly going to the concert?

/olewt suzin aftika/

[oˈlewt ˈsuːrin ˈaʃika]

(19) o-   lewk ∅- suzin av -t -i -k -a
     N.P- friend A.S- concert go -IH -PR -AC -IN

Are any friends going to the concert?

/olewkis suzin aftika/

[oˈlewxis ˈsuːrin ˈaʃika]

(20) o-   lewk   -i -s ∅- suzin av -t -i -k -a
     N.P- friendly.PF -PR -ID A.S- concert go -IH -PR -AC -IN

Are any friendly people are going to the concert?

/singi kelhadi x bexadi let avadi s fnwus/

[ˈʃiŋɣi ˈket͡ɬʰaʒi‿ʁ‿ˈbeːʁaʒi‿χ‿let ˈaːgʷaʒi‿s fnjus]

(21) h-   sing -i kel   -ha -d -i x bex   -ha -d -i

<pre>
      N.S- fast.PF -PR wake.PF -PS -MD -DC CJ dress.PF -PS -MD -DC

      x   let   av   -ha -d   -i   x f-   nwux

      CJ down.AJ go.PF -PS -MD -DC CJ G.S- food
</pre>

I awoke early, dressed hastily, and went down to breakfast. (132)

/hbafi kelhadi x singbexadi x let avadi s fnwus/

[ˈɓaːfi ˈketɬʰaʒi‿χ‿ʃiŋgˈbeːʀ̥aʒi‿χ‿let ˈaːgʷaʒi‿s fnjus]

<pre>
(22) h-   baf   -i   kel   -ha -d   -i   x sing- bex   -ha -d   -i

      N.S- slow.PF -PR wake.PF -PS -MD -DC CJ fast- dress.PF -PS -MD -DC

      x   let   av   -ha -d   -i   x f-   nwux

      CJ down.AJ go.PF -PS -MD -DC CJ G.S- food
</pre>

I awoke late, dressed hastily, and went down to breakfast.

/gil niphaku lezhaki/

[ˈgil ˈnipʰaxu ˈlezaxi]

<pre>
(23) ∅- gil   nip   -ha -k -u   lez   -ha -k   -i

      A.S- book give.PF -PS -AC -RL lose.PF -PS -AC -DC
</pre>

I have lost the book that you gave me. (186)

/hgil niphaku lezhadi/

[ˈɠil ˈnipʰaxu ˈlezaʒi]

<pre>
(24) h-   gil   nip   -ha -ku lez -ha   -d -i

      N.S- book give.PF -PS -AC -RL lose.PF -PS -MD -DC
</pre>

The book that you gave me is lost.