Lxrhuitsb

A MatzahDog Speedlang™

Introduction

The following is a basic grammar of Lxrhuitsb, a speedlang I made to complete Miacomet's 8th Speedlang Challenge. Lxrhuitsb originated from a joke between me and Bögtil about monosyllabic polysynthetic languages. Notable features include a large click inventory, a gemination distinction for approximants, lots of converbs and evidentials, open 2nd person pronouns, and the use of insubordination to form negative clauses.

Phonology

Consonants

Pulmonic Consonants		Labial	Coronal			Velar	Glottal
			Dental	Lateral	Postalveolar		
Nasal		m <m>	n <n>			ŋ <nh>	
Plosive	Tenuis	p <p>	t <t>			k <k>	ʔ <'>
	Voiced	b <b>	d <d>			g <g>	
	Aspirated	pʰ <ph>	tʰ <th>			kʰ <kh>	
	Ejective	p' <p'>	t' <t'>			k' <k'>	
Fricative	Tenuis	f <f>	s <s>	ɬ <l>	ʃ <sh>	x <rh>	h <h>
	Voiced	v <v>	z <z>		ʒ <zh>	ɣ <gh>	
Approximant		w <u>	r <r>				
Long Approximant		wː <w>					

Clicks		Dental	Lateral	Postalveolar
Oral	Tenuis	ǀ <c>	ǁ <x>	ǃ <q>
	Voiced	gǀ <gc>	gǁ <gx>	gǃ <gq>
	Aspirated	ǀʰ <ch>	ǁʰ <xh>	ǃʰ <qh>
Nasal	Voiced	ŋǀ <nc>	ŋǁ <nx>	ŋǃ <nq>

	Aspirated	ŋǀʰ <nch>	ŋǁʰ <nxh>	ŋǃʰ <nqh>
	Glottalized	ŋǀʔ <nkc>	ŋǁʔ <nkx>	ŋǃʔ <nkq>
Contour	Tenuis Stop	ǀ͡q <ck>	ǁ͡q <xk>	ǃ͡q <qk>
	Voiced Stop	gǀ͡ɢ <cg>	gǁ͡ɢ <xg>	gǃ͡ɢ <qg>
	Aspirated Stop	ǀ͡qʰ <ckh>	ǁ͡qʰ <xkh>	ǃ͡qʰ <qkh>
	Tenuis Fricative	ǀ͡χ <crh>	ǁ͡χ <xrh>	ǃ͡χ <qrh>
	Voiced Fricative	gǀ͡ʁ <cgh>	gǁ͡ʁ <xgh>	gǃ͡ʁ <qgh>
	Ejective	ǀ͡q' <c'>	ǁ͡q' <x'>	ǃ͡q' <q'>
Pre-fricative	Tenuis	sǀ <sc>	ɬǁ <lx>	ʃǃ <shq>
	Stop Contour	sǀ͡q <sck>	ɬǁ͡q <lxk>	ʃǃ͡q <shqk>
	Fricative Contour	sǀ͡χ <scrh>	ɬǁ͡χ <lxrh>	ʃǃ͡χ <shqrh>
	Ejective Contour	sǀ͡q' <sc'>	ɬǁ͡q' <lx'>	ʃǃ͡q' <shq'>

Vowels

i <i>	u <u>
a <a>	

Coronal Harmony

All coronal clicks and fricatives belong to one of three classes: Dental, Lateral, or Postalveolar. All coronal consonants in a given word must be from the same class. When affixes are attached that have a coronal fricative, they assimilate to match the class of the root.

If a word's onset doesn't belong to an established coronal harmony class, then all affixes revert to the default: dental.

Example:
    Nkcifs
*Nkci-**fs***
catch-3s
"He catches"

    Nxafsh
Nxa-**fsh**
go-3s
'He goes"

Phonotactics

$(C)(w)V(C_p\ldots)$
    There is an optional onset of any consonant, either click or pulmonic. An optional approximant, /w/, is valid before the vowel. Any pulmonic, non-glottal consonant can coda in a series.
    Two identica codal consonants cannot cluster next to each other. Whenever affixes demand they cluster, they dissimilate by inserting a /w/ between the two identical consonants. The exception to this is that /w/ can geminate as /wː/.
    Cluster internally, /w wː/ becomes [ʍ ʍː].

Grammar

Nouns

Noun roots consist of a string of pulmonic consonants, and can never act as independent words.

Definiteness, Number, and Animacy

This speedlang features an inverse number system, in which all nouns have an inherent number, and then take an infix to denote when the number of said noun *isn't* said number. The infix always goes after the 1st phoneme of the root. The inherent number varies depending on the animacy of the noun. However, number is only marked when the noun is indefinite. Definite nouns never decline with number affixes.

Definiteness, Number, and Animacy	Indefinite			Definite
	Human	Animate	Inanimate	
Singular	-z-	-z-	-∅-	-∅-
Dual	-∅-		-z-	
Plural		-∅-		

Examples:

Nxadghshvkt
*Nxadghsh-v-**kt***
jump-3s-**cat**
"**The cat** jumps"

Nxadghshvkt
*Nxadghsh-v-**kt***
jump-3s-**cat**
"**Some cats** jumps"

Nxadghshvkzht
*Nxadghsh-v-**k\<zh>t***
jump-3s-**cat\<INV>**
"**A cat** jumps"

Applicatives

A verb can take more arguments beyond the two core arguments through applicatives. Applicatives are short prefixes placed before a noun to turn it into an argument, which can then go onto the end of a verb following the two core arguments. The applicatives are below:

Dative: r-
1. Recipients
    a. The dative expresses the recipient of an occurrence.
2. Purpose
    a. The dative expresses the purpose, reason, or goal for which an occurrence occurred.
3. Beneficiary
    a. The dative expresses the beneficiary for whom an occurrence occurred.
4. Direction
    a. The dative expresses the direction towards or to an action occured, denoting motion to, onto, or into the noun.
5. Time
    a. The dative expresses direction in time, expressing durations, deadlines, and end points.

Locative: vu-
1. Location
    a. The locative expresses the location of an action, denoting something, at, on, or in the noun.
2. Time
    a. The locative expresses the time at which an action takes place.

Instrumental: st-
1. Instruments
    a. The instrumental primarily expresses the instrument, tool, or object with which the agent used to carry out the occurence.
2. Company
    a. The instrumental expresses accompaniment and with whom an occurrence occurred.
3. Causes
    a. The instrumental expresses the cause, reason, or circumstances for an occurrence.

Example (5MOYD 1429):
    Shqrhavkhdrgshtwdnzhrf
*Shqrha-v-kh-drg-**sht-wdn**-zhrf*
close-3s-PST-door-**INSTR-wind**-almost
"The door almost closed **because of the wind**"

Essive: phf-
1. States of Being

      a. The essive is used to express a state of being, denoting what state the subject was in during the action.

2. Comparisons
       a. The essive can also express similarities and comparisons between two nouns.

Example:
    Nkcitsgnmkhphfbzrb
*Nkcits-g-nm-kh-**phf-b<z>rb***
catch-2s-1s-PST-**ESS-bird<INV>**
"You caught me as a bird"

The Construct Sate

The Construct State is used to express a wide variety of relationships between two nouns. These include:
- Possession
  - The Construct State is used to mark both alienable and inalienable possession over a noun.
- Composition
  - The Construct State is used to mark partitives. This can refer to substance, element, source, and quantity, among other things.
  - This Construction can also be used to mark the material of a substance, such as in English "The *wooden* table" or "the *plastic* spoon.
- Origin
- Reference
- Compound Words
  - The Construct State is used to form compound nouns.

To form the construct state, place the possessor or reference following the head noun. Then, apply the prefix *krh-* onto the head noun.

Pronouns

The pronouns fall into the following grid, with the meanings displayed below

Pronoun Meanings	Singular	Plural
1st Person Exclusive	Exclusively the speaker.	The speaker and other 3rd persons.
1st Person Inclusive	The speaker and the listener.	The speaker, the listener, and other 3rd persons.
2nd Person	Exclusively the listener	
3rd Person	A singular other person.	A group of other people.

   The pronouns have two forms, the agentive and the patientive, as exemplified in the Polypersonal Agreement section below. Whenever a pronoun isn't a core argument of the verb, the Patientive form of the pronoun can be used as a noun, taking an applicative and being relocated to the end of the word.

   2nd Person pronouns are an open class. There is a set of generic 2nd person pronouns, typically used when you are unsure what pronouns to use. Then, most nouns for people can be pronominalized as a 2nd person pronoun, and can be used in polypersonal agreement. The most common nouns are those for kinship terms; anyone can be referred to using kinship terms, not just people who are related. Other words for people, especially those denoting a profession or position in society, are frequently used as well.

Examples:

Nominalized	Pronominalized
N/A	*Nxadghl-g* jump-2s "You jump"
Nxadghl-v-r jump-3s-man "The man jumps"	*Nxadghl-r* jump-man "You (male) jump"
Nxadghl-v-w jump-3s-woman "The woman jumps"	*Nxadghl-w* jump-woman "You (female) jump"
Nxadghl-v-brsz jump-3s-brother "The older brother jumps"	*Nxadghl-brsz* jump-brother "You, my brother, jump"
Nxadghl-v-fsn jump-3s-sister "The older sister jumps"	*Nxadghl-fsn* jump-sister "You, my sister, jump"
Nxadghl-v-wb jump-3s-sibling "The younger sibling jumps"	*Nxadghl-wb* jump-sister "You, my little sibling, jump"
Nxadghl-v-msrh jump-3s-child "The child jumps"	*Nxadghl-msrh* jump-child "You, my child, jump"
Nxadghl-v-zwp jump-3s-father "The father jumps"	*Nxadghl-zwp* jump-father "You, my teacher, jump"
Nxadghl-v-prp jump-3s-mother "The mother jumps"	*Nxadghl-prp* jump-mother "You, my mother, jump"

Nxadghl-v-zwpds
jump-3s-grandfather
"The grandfather jumps"

Nxadghl-zwpds
jump-grandfather
"You, old man, jump"

Nxadghl-v-prpds
jump-3s-grandmother
"The grandmother jumps"

Nxadghl-prpds
jump-grandmother
"You, old woman, jump"

Nxadghl-v-wvfks
jump-3s-king
"The king jumps"

Nxadghl-vfks
jump-king
"Sir, you jump"

Nongrammatical Construction

Nxadghl-tst't
jump-2s.AGG
"You asshole, you jump!"

Nongrammatical Construction

Nxadghl-tst'th
Jump-2s.AGG
"HEY YOU FUCKING SHIT YOU JUMP!!!"

Nxadghl-v-dk
jump-3s-doctor
"The doctor jumps"

Nxadghl-dk
jump-doctor
"You, the doctor, jump"

Nxadghl-v-rsk
jump-3s-fisherman
"The fisherman jumps"

Nxadghl-rsk
jump-fisherman
"You, the fisherman, jump"

Verbs

Modality

The Indicative

The indicative is the primary verbal root. It expresses affirmative, realis occurrences. Indicative roots always follow a C(w)V structure, featuring an obligatory onset and never codae.

Example:
        Nxadghshvkt
Nxadghsh-v-kt
jump-3s-cat
"The cat jumps"

The Subjunctive

The subjunctive is the irrealis form of the verb. It is used with auxiliary verbs, for subordinate clauses, and for negation. Subjunctive verbs *cannot* take tense or aspect.

Forming the subjunctive:

To form the subjunctive, all phonemes go through shifts to become nonsyllabic and pulmonic.

- Pulmonic consonants, including /w/, stay the same.
- Vowels /i u a / become /s~ɬ~ʃ w r/
    - /s~ɬ~ʃ/ vary to match the coronal harmony of the word. When there is no established coronal harmony, it follows the default.
- Clicks dissimilate into pulmonic consonant clusters, following the chart below:

Dissimilated Clicks		Dental	Lateral	Postalveolar
Oral	Tenuis	/t/ <t>		
	Voiced	/d/ <d>		
	Aspirated	/tʰ/ <th>		
Nasal	Voiced	/nd/ <nd>		
	Aspirated	/ntʰ/ <nth>		
	Glottalized	/ŋg/ <nhg>		
Contour	Tenuis Stop	/tk/ <tk>		
	Voiced Stop	/dg/ <dg>		
	Aspirated Stop	/tʰkʰ/ <thkh>		
	Tenuis Fricative	/tx/ <trh>		
	Voiced Fricative	/dɣ/ <dgh>		
	Ejective	/tk'/ <tk'>		

Pre-fricative	Tenuis	/st/ <st>	/ɬt/ <lt>	/ʃt/ <sht>
	Stop Contour	/stk/ <stk>	/ɬtk/ <ltk>	/ʃtk/ <shtk>
	Fricative Contour	/stx/ <strh>	/ɬtx/ <ltrh>	/ʃtx/ <shtrh>
	Ejective Contour	/stk'/ <stk'>	/ɬtk'/ <ltk'>	/ʃtk'/ <shtk'>

Using the subjunctive

The subjunctive is used for four primary purposes: auxiliary verbs, subordinate clauses, negation, and for postbases.

Auxiliary verbs

In auxiliary constructions, in which a conjugated auxiliary verb denotes aspectual or modal details regarding the main verb, the main verb is in the subjunctive form and directly follows the auxiliary verb.

Example:

Gquandrdghshvkt
Gqua-ndrdghsh-v-kt
want-jump/SUB-3s-cat
"The cat wants to jump"

Subordinate clauses

In a subordinate construction, an irrealis clause is subordinate to a main clause. The verb of the main clause, which also is the major conjugated verb of the word, is from a closed class, and denotes wishes, requests, hopes, emotions, opinions, or doubts. In a subordinate construction, the second clause acts as the object of the first; the polypersonal agreement agrees to a 3rd person singular object, and then an entire verb phrase, including arguments, follows while placed in the subjunctive mood.

Example:

Gquanhfndrdghshvkt
Gqua-nh-f-ndrdghsh-v-kt
want-1s-3s-jump/SUB-3s-cat
"I want the cat to jump"

Negation

Negation uses an insubordinate clause, in which there is no main, indicative verb; rather, the main verb is placed in the subjunctive. In order to obey phonotactic rules, when the insubordinate clause denotes negation the first fricative or approximant in the word becomes phonetically syllabic.

Example:

Nxadghlvkt
Nxadghl-v-kt
jump-3s-cat
"The cat jumps"

Ndrdghlvkt
Ndrdghl-v-kt
jump/SUB-3s-cat
"The cat doesn't jump"

Example (5MOYD 1326):
Stk'usnhfkrhmznnsrkwru
Stk'us-nh-f-krh-m<z>nn-srkwru
see/SUB-1s-3s-CONS-lizard<SING>-jakuruaru
"I didn't see a Jakuruaru lizard"

Postbases

Postbases are very common derivational morphemes carrying semantic information, which the subjunctive form of a verb is attached directly following the main verb to derive new words. In the lexicon, words that act as postbases are labelled (v.post).

Example:
Nxa
Nxa
move
"To go, to move"

Nxadghl
Nxa-dghl
move-go.up
"To jump"

Polypersonal Agreement

This speedlang depends on polypersonal agreement to denote which argument is the agent and which is the patient. Whenever a verb is transitive, the agentive suffix directly precedes the patientive suffix, following the list below:

Agentive Suffixes:

Agentive Agreement	Singular	Plural
1st Person Exclusive	nh	nhs
1st Person Inclusive	t't	ts
2nd Person	g*	

3rd Person	v	fs

Patientive Suffixes:

Patientive Suffixes	Singular	Plural
1st Person Exclusive	nm	nms
1st Person Inclusive	s	sws
2nd Person	gh[1]	
3rd Person	f	fs

Whenever a verb is intransitive, which suffix is used varies depending on semantics. If the occurrence is volitional; that is, it was purposely and consciously done by an animate agent; the agentive suffix is used. If the occurence is nonvolitional; that is, it was done on accident, the agent is an experiencer, or the agent is inanimate; the patientive suffix is used.

Tense and Aspect

There are two tenses, the past and nonpast, and two aspects, the perfective and imperfective. The perfective aspect is used when the occurrence was a singular, completed action, while the imperfective is used for continuous. progressive, ongoing occurrences. Tense and aspect is marked through a singular suffix on the verb, directly following the polypersonal agreement markers.

Tense and Aspect	Perfective	Imperfective
Past	-kh	-bgh
Nonpast	-∅	-b

The imperfective nonpast, /-b/, denotes a habitual, repeated action.

Evidentiality

All non-negated verbs require an evidential suffix, which denotes how the speaker learned about the information being discussed. There are 5 evidentials:

1. **Visual: -∅**
   a. The visual evidential connotes that the speaker physically watched the occurrence occur. It's also used as the default evidential, used when the agent of the occurrence is the speaker.
2. **Nonvisual Sensory: -m**
   a. The nonvisual sensory evidential connotes that the speaker experienced the occurrence, but didn't see it.

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[1] The 2nd Person affixes /g/ and /ɣ/ are generic 2nd person markers. There's a multitude of other possible affixes due to the 2nd person pronouns being an open class, as explained in the pronoun section of this grammar.

3. **Inferential: -sp**
   a. The inferential evidential connotes that the speaker didn't experience the occurrence, but used apparent obvious evidence to infer that it happened.
4. **Assumatory: -nhg**
   a. The assumatory evidential connotes that the speaker didn't experience the occurrence, and used more indirect evidence, such as common sense or custom.
5. **Reportative: -t't**
   a. The reportative evidential connotes that the speaker heard about the occurrence from someone else.

Converbs

Many clauses are dependent, meaning they express an adverbial relationship and require a main clause as well in the sentence. Converbs are formed by applying a suffix following the verb root. There are 14 converbs:

1. **Imperfective: -p**
   a. Used to express a converb that occurred simultaneously to the main verb.
   b. See English: *While running*, he was tired.
2. **Perfective: -g**
   a. Used to express a converb that was completed prior to the main verb.
   b. See English: *After running*, he was tired.
3. **Posterior: -kr**
   a. Used to express a main verb that was completed prior to the converb.
   b. See English: *Before running*, he was tired.
4. **Conditional: -sz**
   a. Used to express when the converb is a condition under which the main verb happens.
   b. See English: *If he's running*, he's tired.
5. **Locative: -u**
   a. Used to express when the main verb occurred at the location of the converb.
   b. See English: He's tired *where he ran*.
6. **Purposive: -ru**
   a. Used to express when the main verb occurred in order to have the converb.
   b. See English: *In order to run*, he was tired.
7. **Causal: -sts**
   a. Used to express when the main verb occurred as a result of the converb.
   b. See English: *Because he ran*, he was tired.
8. **Sequential: -gh**
   a. Used to express a converb that happened sequentially before the main verb.
   b. See English: *I ran and then* was tired.
9. **Terminative: -krp**
   a. Used to express a converb which is the condition upon which the main verb will end.
   b. See English: I will be tired *until I run*.
10. **Immediative: -p'**

      a. Used to express a main verb that happened immediately after the converb.

      b. See English: *As soon as I ran*, I was tired.

11. Instrumental: -t'

      a. Used to express a main verb that was carried out through the converb.

      b. See English: *by running*, I was tired.

12. Substitutive: -w

      a. Used to express a main verb that happened as an alternative to the more predicted converb.

      b. See English: *Rather than running*, I was tired.

13. Contrastive: -zb

      a. Used to express two events that co occur yet contrast with one another.

      b. See English: *Although I ran*, I was also tired.

14. Absentive: -n

      a. Used when the main verb occurred without the presence of the converb.

      b. See English: I was tired *without running*

Example (5MOYD 1376):

      Nkcitsuszgnmkhphfbzrb nqhugnmkm

***Nkcits-usz**-g-nm-kh-phf-b<z>rb nqhu-g-nm-km*

catch-COND-2s-1s-PST-ESS-bird<INV> eat-2s-1s-PST

"**If you had caught me** as a bird, you would've eaten me"

Example(5MOYD 1340):

      Nxavkhrlbrbrn xghuruvkhblkh

*Nxa-v-kh-r-lbrbrn **xghu-ru**-v-kh-blkh*

go-3s-PST-DAT-Ibadan **get-PURP**-3s-PST-treatment

"She went to Ibadan **in order to get** a treatment"

Example(5MOYD 1387):

      C'avbghktvuvtr gxiltszbvkh

*C'a-v-bgh-kt-vu-vtr **gxi-lts-zb**-v-kh*

sleep-3s-PST.IMP-cat-LOC-tower **die-go_down-CONT**-3s-PST

"The cat was sleeping on the tower but it died by falling"

-maddie

Adverbs

Adverbials are highly irregular short suffixes, inserted onto the end of the word to provide temporal, locational, etc. meanings. Adverbial suffixes are denoted in the lexicon with an (adv.).

Morpheme Order

The core aspect of any word is the main verb, which is the only syllabic aspect of the word. Word order is topic prominent, following a VTF morpheme order; in other words, the verb is always the head of the word, and topic noun always goes before other nouns;.

Morpheme order within the **V**erb:

(Auxiliary verb) + Verb Root + (Derivational Postbase) + (Converbial) + Polypersonal Marker + Tense/Aspect+Evidential

Morpheme order within **T**opic and **F**ocus Nouns:

(Applicative) + N<Number/Definiteness>oun Root

Lexicon

Brb

    1. (n.) bird

Brsz

    1. (n.) older brother
    2. (pro.) a nonelderly man who's older than the speaker; informal.

Bskh

    1. (n.) treatment, medicine

Cghi

    1. (v.post) to go up, to rise

C'a

    1. (v.) to sleep, to rest
    2. (v.) (euphemism) to die

Dk

    1. (n.) doctor
    2. (pro.) doctor

Drg

    1. (n.) door, gate

Fsn

    3. (n.) older sister
    4. (pro.) a nonelderly female who's older than the speaker; informal.

Gci

    1. (v.) to be old, aged

Gqua

    1. (v.) to want, to desire, to hope for

Gxi

    1. (v.) to die

Kt

    1. (n.) cat

Lxi

    1. (v.post) to fall, to go down

Lxrhui

    1. (v.) to speak, to talk

Msrh

    1. (n.) child, son, daughter
    2. (pro.) a much younger person

Mnn

    1. (n.) lizard, snake

Nkci

    1. (v.) to catch

Nkcits

    1. (v.) to catch in one's hands

Nxa

    1. (v.) to go, to move

Nxadghl
1. (v.) to jump, to hop

Nqhu
1. (v.) to eat

Prp
1. (n.) mother
2. (pro.) a mother, priestess, or female teacher; highly formal

Prpds
1. (n.) grandmother
2. (pro.) an elderly woman

Qi
1. (v.post) to do with one's hands

R
1. (n.) man
2. (pro.) generic male

Rsk
1. (n.) fisherman
2. (pro.) fisherman

Sc'ui
1. (v.) to look at, to see

Shqrha
1. (v.) to end, to stop
2. (v.) to close

Tst't
1. (pro.) rude and hostile

Tst'th
1. (pro.) extremely rude and confrontational

Vfks
1. (n.) lord, king
2. (pro.) government officials, military personnel, etc.; very formal

Vtr
1. (n.) tower, skyscraper, mountain

W
1. (n.) woman, person, human
2. (pro.) generic female

Wb
1. (n.) younger sibling
2. (pro.) someone who's a little younger, a student; informal

Wdn
1. (n.) wind, air

Xghu
1. (v.) to get, to recieve

Zwp
1. (n.) father
2. (pro.) a father, priest, or male teacher; highly formal

Zwpds
1. (n.) grandfather
2. (pro.) an elderly man

-Zrf
1. (adv.) almost