Speedlang Challenge 11

Miacomet (a.k.a. u/roipoiboy)

Started: March 18, 2022
Due: 11:59 EST, April 3, 2022

Welcome to the eleventh biennial (triennial…quatrennial…) speedlang challenge! Since Mareck has absolutely NO respect for tradition, she numbered her speedlang 10, so mine are jumping from 9 to 11 to avoid confusion. That's fine though, since 11 is my lucky number!

Phonology

Your language's phonology must:

- Include **diphthongs** and show how you know that they are distinct from vowel-vowel sequences or from vowels plus a glide consonant.

- Have at least one **phoneme with a limited distribution** where the distribution depends on grammatical rather than purely phonological factors. This could be something like a consonant that's only contrastive in nouns or a vowel that only appears in affixes but never roots, for example.

Grammar

Your language's grammar must:

- Make use of **root-template morphology**. This can be satisfied by any system where roots which are underspecified for something and combine with a template containing enough specification to make them a full word. Examples might include the consonantal roots you get in Semitic languages or verbs where the stem is a string of segments unspecified for suprasegmental things like timing, stress, and tone.

- Include a class of **discourse markers** which don't change the meaning of the sentence but do relate it to the context which it's spoken in (*i.e.* a sentence with a discourse marker is true in all the same circumstances as one without, but it might only make sense to use the discourse marker in certain contexts).

- Mark **evidentiality** in a grammaticalized way, showing the source of the information expressed in a statement.

Script DLC

Design a script for your conlang! If you design a script, then show how it works in your speedlang documentation, then you can skip one of the above requirements. I'm definitely not doing this to encourage the community to think about script making ahead of a themed issue of a certain conlanging publication. Nope. Definitely not.

AI Prompts

And last but not least, Med asked me to ask an AI to generate some more prompts. You don't have to actually do these. I'm not sure they all even make sense. But if you do all of them then you'll get super secret surprise bonus points.

- A sentence consisting of an uninflected phrase followed by an adverb indicating tense, where the two elements must have been expressed together in the original.

- Adverbs of manner which do not modify the verb (i.e. "very," "very much," "very fast")

- "Because."

- Prepositions with no meaning.

- Exclamation points

- Words which convey their own meaning

- Expressions which are true but make no sense.

- Sentences which say what they mean.

- Sentences which are not true.

- Sentences which are false.

Well that started to get a little philosophical towards the end didn't it.

Tasks

1. Document and showcase your language, explaining and demonstrating how it meets all of the elements of the challenge.

2. Translate and gloss at least five example sentences. You can either get "syntax test sentences" by asking Zephyrus "`z!stest`" (RIP Leonard), in which case note down which number sentences you get, or you can pick from recent 'Just Used 5 Minutes of your Day' challenges posted by u/mareck_ on r/conlangs, in which case note which number 5MOYDs you do.

3. (Optional) Present a dialogue in your speedlang. What a great way to show off your discourse markers!