



:: FERNALESE GRAMMAR::
Bruce Rimell

:: FERNALESE VERBS #1 – THE BASICS ::

In English there are a variety of word categories, including verb, noun, adjective, preposition, pronoun, etc but in Fernalese there are only three: the verb, the noun and the particle. The verb in Fernalese is by far the most important and complex and will be dealt with first. In Fernalese the verb is highly synthetic and agglutinative, which means that very often a single Fernalese word can cover an entire sentence in English. Fernalese is also verb-heavy, and tends to utilise verb forms where English might tend to favour abstract nouns.

The Basic Fernalese Verb

The central aspect of a Fernalese verb is the root, a basic core of verbal meaning which is the principal element in the phrase. This root is the equivalent of English verbs (of action, of motion and of state) and adjectives and is modified in two ways: i) by the addition of other verb roots or derivational affixes to make a compound verb, and ii) the addition of grammatical affixes which convey a variety of relational meanings.

The structure of the Fernalese verb can be summarised in a model which represents the verb phrase as a series of slots into which morphemes (prefixes, roots, suffixes) can optionally or obligatorily be placed. This section will look at the mandatory elements only, that is, those affixes that must accompany the root at all times – these are the verb root itself, the tense-aspect suffixes and the person-suffixes. Again, if these seems abstract, examples later on will clarify. The basic Fernalese Verb Phrase looks like this:

VERB ROOT + Tense/Aspect Suffix + Person Suffix

A verb root is any word found in the wordlist that functions as a verb, for example **óṁṁṁ amni** 'make, create', **áḷḷ ban** 'good, well, healthy' (which is English is an adjective), **ṽṽṽ mir** 'see, look, notice'. A tense/aspect suffix denotes the state or completion of the action or verb, and the person suffix denotes who is doing the verb. Thus if we have a verb root **ṽṽṽ mir** 'see, look', a tense-aspect suffix **-(e)t** 'habitual', and a person suffix **-(h)a** 'I, me', we can combine these as **mir-(e)t-a** which becomes **ṽṽṽ mirta** 'I see, I habitually look'. Each of these parts of the verb phrase will be discussed in turn.

Verb Roots

Fernalese verb roots are monosyllabic or disyllabic (very rarely trisyllabic) and almost consistently follow the strict morphophonemic rules on syllable structure, and as such, end in a vowel or consonants **c, f, h, l, m, n, r, t** and **z**. Occasional verb roots end in a different consonant, and as such we have 5 classes of verbs, whose interaction with the tense-aspect suffixes is regular and dependent on which sound the verb root ends with. In the examples, we will use the habitual tense-aspect suffix **-(e)t** – it will be quickly noticed how the five different classes of verb use or elide the bracketed letter **e** in the habitual suffix – and the first person suffix **-a** 'I, me', as in **ṽṽṽ mirta** 'I see, I habitually look' above.

Class (i) ends in a vowel or -u and bracketed vowels are elided from the tense-aspect suffix. Examples include **óṁṁṁ amni** 'make, create', **ḃḃḃ deo** 'swap, change, copy' and **ṽṽṽ mai** 'come, arrive'. The habitual suffix thus takes the form **-t-**:

óṁṁṁḃ	amnita	'I make, I create'
ḃḃḃḃ	deota	'I change, I copy'
ṽṽṽḃ	maita	'I come'

Class (ii) ends in the consonants **h, n, r,** and **t** and bracketed vowels are elided. Examples include **ᐃᑲ ban** 'good, well', **ᐃᑲᑲ dat** 'stand, be situated' and **ᑲᑲᑲ mir** 'look, watch, notice'. The habitual suffix thus takes the form **-t-**:

ᐃᑲᑲ	banta	'I am (always) well, I am healthy'
ᐃᑲᑲᑲ	datta	'I am (here), I stand'
ᑲᑲᑲ	mirta	'I see, I look'

Class (iii) ends in the consonants **f, l, m** and **z**. and bracketed vowels are included. Examples include **ᑲᑲᑲ faz** 'travel, journey', **ᑲᑲᑲᑲ nal** 'become' and **ᑲᑲᑲᑲ rom** 'need, require'. The habitual suffix thus becomes **-et-**:

ᑲᑲᑲᑲ	fazeta	'I travel'
ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	naleta	'I become' *
ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	rometa	'I need'

*Note that some verbs ending in **-l** transmute to **-r** and become **class (ii)** verbs: **ᑲᑲᑲᑲ nal** 'becomes' can be **ᑲᑲᑲᑲ nar** in combination and thus **ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ narta** can also mean 'I become'

Class (iv) ends in the consonant **c**. Bracketed vowels are elided or included dependent on the individual word. Verbs in **-c** that include the vowel are listed in the wordlist with **(he)** following. Examples that elide the vowel are **ᑲᑲᑲ bac** 'make magic' and **ᑲᑲᑲ chic** 'listen, hear'. Examples that include the vowel are **ᑲᑲᑲ chic(he)** 'be likely, probable' and **ᑲᑲᑲ txac(he)** 'swear, promise'. The habitual suffix thus varies between **-t-** and **-et-** dependent on the word:

ᑲᑲᑲᑲ	bacta	'I make magic'
ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	chicta	'I listen, I hear'
ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	chicheta	'I am likely to..., it's probable that I (will)...'
ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	txacheta	'I swear, I promise'

Class (v) – ending in any other consonant. This is rare, but bracketed vowels are included, and the habitual suffix is thus **-(e)t-**. An example is **ᑲᑲᑲ chetz(e)** 'ask, enquire':

ᑲᑲᑲᑲ	chetzeta	'I ask, I always ask'
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Thus the verb roots are fairly simple, behave regularly and only differ in how they treat the tense-aspect suffixes. Let's look at the tense-aspect suffixes now.

Tense-Aspect Suffixes

These suffixes do not make strong reference to time, rather they mark the state or completion of the action. Actions can be considered as habitual (in that they often or always happen), completive (in that they are finished), progressive (in that they are in progress or still happening), incompletive (in that they are yet to begin) or eternal (in that the events occur mythically or with sacred intent). Each tense-aspect suffix is preceded by a bracketed vowel which is elided or included according to the rules set out above.

-(e)n	progressive
-(e)t	habitual
-(e)s	completive
-(h)i	incompletive
-(h)u	eternal

Note that the incompletive aspect **-(h)i** has a bracketed consonant, which is elided in all cases except following a verb root ending in a vowel (**class (i)** verb root) or the letter **c** (**class (iv)** verb root). Examples will elucidate the meanings and usages of these suffixes. Again, the examples will use the first person suffix **-a** 'I, me'

-(e)n	progressive	ᐃᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	amnina	'I am making, I am creating'
		ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	mirna	'I am seeing, I am looking'
		ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	fazena	'I am travelling'
		ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	chicna	'I am listening'
		ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	chichena	'I am likely to...'
		ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ	chetzena	'I am asking'

-(e)t	habitual	ዕጠጭኅ	amnita	'I make, I create'
		ገገኅ	mirta	'I see, I look'
		ፍፍኅ	fazeta	'I travel'
		ሐሐኅ	chicta	'I listen, I hear'
		ሐሐኅ	chicheta	'I am likely to...'
-(e)s	completive	ዕጠጭታ	amnisa	'I made, I created'
		ገገታ	mirsa	'I saw, I looked'
		ፍፍታ	fazesa	'I travelled'
		ሐሐታ	chicsa	'I listened'
		ሐሐታ	chichesa	'I was likely to...'
-(h)i	incompletive	ዕጠጭዕዕ	amnihia	'I will make, I will create'
		ገገዕ	miria	'I will see, I will look'
		ፍፍዕ	fazia	'I will travel'
		ሐሐዕ	chichia	'I will listen, I will hear'
		ሐሐዕ	chichia	'I will be likely to...'
		ጭዕ	chetzia	'I will ask'

The eternal aspect **-(h)u** is only used in combination with one of the preceding four tense-aspect suffixes. Thus **-(e)nu** 'currently mythical or sacred', **-(e)tu** 'habitually mythical', **-(e)su** 'mythically completive' and finally **-(h)ihu** 'will be mythical or sacred'

-(h)u	eternal	ዕጠጭጌዕ	amninoa	'I am making (in myth or sacredly)'
		ገገጌዕ	mirtua	'I see in a sacred manner'
		ፍፍጌዕ	fazesua	'I travelled (sacredly), went on a pilgrimage'

The verb phrase can also optionally take two tense-aspect suffixes to convey a subtler shade of meaning, usually combining with the habitual **-(e)t-** which follows the other suffix:

ሐሐቶኅ	bacseta	'I was habitually making magic'
ፍፍቲኅ	fazenta	'I am often travelling'
ጌጌጭዕ	mainia	'I will be arriving'

Person Suffixes

Fernalese does not grammatically distinguish between gender, and only weakly denotes plurality. Instead, Fernalese marks for four persons – me, you, he/she/it and common – and differentiates between animate/inanimate, known/unknown subject and individual/common dynamics. There is also a couple of suffixes denoting subject acting upon object. The person suffixes are easy to use, simply attaching to the verb phrase after the tense-aspect suffixes.

The second person **-(h)iz** has a bracketed consonant **h** for use with the incompletive and eternal aspects, and the final **-z** often changes or fuses with other suffixes, which will be dealt with in a subsequent section. The affix **-tza** has some usage subtleties also.

-a	1 st person	I, me
-(h)iz	2 nd person	you
-e	3 rd person-animate	he, she, queer-identified
-ec	3 rd person-inanimate	it, that
-en	3 rd person-uncertain	someone, something
-on	4 th person-animate, common	we all, everyone, we the people
-oc	4 th person-inanimate, common	natural order of things, it
-ai	1 st person subject acting upon 2 nd person object	I (do to) you
-tza	2 nd person subject acting upon 1 st person object	you (do to) me

The following examples should aid in understanding the full range of meanings of these suffixes, in particular the 3rd and 4th person suffixes, for which in some cases no English equivalents exist. The completive aspect suffix **-(e)s** will be used throughout:

ገጸታ	deosa	'I swapped, I copied'
ገጸታ	mirsa	'I looked, I saw'
ገጸታገጸ	mirsiz	'you looked, you saw'
ጸጸታገጸ	nohsiz	'you stayed'
ጸጸታ	nalese	'he or she became'
ጸጸታ	maise	'he or she arrived'
ጸጸታጸ	maisec	'it arrived, that came'
ጸጸታጸ	chichesecc	'it was likely, that was probable'
ጸጸታ	maisen	'someone arrived, something came'
ጸጸታ	bacsen	'someone made magic'
ጸጸታጸ	maison	'we all arrived, we the people came together'
ጸጸታጸ	huiason	'everyone plays around, we all play'
ጸጸታጸጸ	amnisoc	'it created of itself, it was made in the way of things'
ጸጸታጸጸ	peosoc	'it rained, it drizzled'
ገጸታጸ	mirsai	'I looked at you, I saw you'
ጸጸታጸጸ	xiansai	'I thanked you'

The suffix **-tza** is only used with progressive, habitual and completive aspects and often causes those aspects to include their bracketed vowels, so as to avoid forbidden consonant clusters. An example with **mir** 'see, look' will clarify:

ገጸታጸ	mirniz	'you are seeing, you are looking'
ገጸታጸ	mirentza	'you are seeing me, you are looking at me'

Strictly speaking, we should expect the progressive aspect **-(e)n-** to lose its vowel following **ገጸ mir-** but the addition of **-tza** would create ***mirntza** with a consonant cluster **-rntz-** forbidden in Fernalese phonology. So the aspect suffix's vowel is added to create **ገጸታጸ mirentza** which avoids this problem: the cluster **-ntz-** is permitted so long as it is surrounded by vowels.

On transitivity and causativity in Fernalese

We have seen that Fernalese verb roots make no distinction between adjectives, verbs of state and of action, but they also don't strongly distinguish transitivity and intransitivity, equivalent to verb pairs in English like rise/raise, fall/drop and lay/lie. This ambiguity is resolved through the use of a causative suffix **-re** which attached to the verb root, creating a compound verb. This suffix has considerable derivational power in the language. Note that following **-n** the suffix combines to make **-rr-**.

ጸጸጸ	aor	'love, be affectionate, be in love'
ጸጸጸጸ	aorre	'inspire or cause love in another, be beloved'
ጸጸ	ban	'good, well, lively, healthy'
ጸጸጸ	barre	'strengthen, make good, cause to be well'
ጸጸ	din	'be gathered, collected, be arrayed'
ጸጸጸ	dirre	'gather, collect, bring, bear'
ጸጸ	huar	'cut, divide, share, scatter'
ጸጸጸ	huarre	'scatter, confuse, be difficult'
ጸጸ	ton	'name'
ጸጸጸ	torre	'name, call by name, call into being, (famous)'

:: FERNALESE VERBS #2 – COMPOUND VERB ROOTS ::

The Fernalese verb root needn't simply be a single word, but can combine with other verbs (whether of state or action, or lexically adjectival) to create compound verbs. Nouns which act as objects of the verb root can also combine with the verb root. This agglutinating synthesis makes for a very versatile feature of the language. In general in a compound verb root, an infixed object noun goes first, followed by any modifying, supporting or descriptive verb root. The main or most important verb root goes last, as seen in the chart. All of these are marked below with a ± symbol, to denote that they are optional in the verb phrase.

COMPOUND VERB: ± **Infixed Object Noun** ± **Modifying Verb Root(s)** + **VERB ROOT**

SUFFIXES: + **Tense/Aspect Suffix** + **Person Suffix**

Each of these features, infixed object nouns and modifying verb roots of various forms, will be dealt with in turn, along with something called perceptual infixes: these are modifications to the verb root itself which apply only to a select number of verbs relating to sense and experience.

Infixed Object Nouns

Grammatically speaking, Fernalese is an ergative language – this will be explained later – with a word order that generally follows the pattern OVS – object-verb-subject. But it is possible to subvert this pattern by prefixing an object noun to the front of the verb root, to create a compound verb root of a very specific meaning. An example should clarify:

ፕሮ	tlai	'man'
ፕሮ ገን	mir	'see, look'
ፕሮ ገን ገን	tlaimer	'see the man, look at the man'
ፕሮ ገን ገን ገን	tlaimerገን	'I saw the man'

This is a common way of dealing with simple object nouns in Fernalese. Since Fernalese verb roots do not distinguish between transitive and intransitive, the presence of an infixed object clarifies the transitive function of the compound object-noun-verb-root sequence.

ሮሃፊ	illa	'village, community'
ፊን	lar	'run, move quickly'
ሮሃፊ ፊን	illalar	'run to the village'
ገሮሶን	maiar	'deep forests, pristine wilderness'
ገሮሶን ገን	yon	'walk'
ገሮሶን ገን ገን	maiarገን	'walk (in) the deep forest'

Simple compound nouns can also be infixed, particularly if the noun consists of a verb root and nominaliser – see the sections on Nouns for a discussion on the various nominalisers in Fernalese.

ሱገሪት	cusizon	'hidden (thing)'
ሱገሪት ገን	cusizonmir	'see that which was hidden'
ሮሂት	itin	'everything'
ሮሂት ፊን	itintxio	'understand everything'

The presence of an infixed object means that even verbs which in English would be lexically adjectives can take a transitive-causative function. A causative suffix can emphasise this function.

ግ-ጸፋ	caes(e)-	'blue (colour)'
ግጸ	cabe	'wall, barrier'
ግጸግ-ጸፋ	cabecaes(e)-	'make the wall blue (by painting it, eg)'
ግጸግ-ጸፋገን	cabecaesere-	'make the wall blue'

Commonly seen infixed object-noun-verb-root compounds also have a derivational function.

il	'house, home'
ra, -era	'go,leave'
iler, ilera	'go home, return home'
tein	'body'
fer	'lively, healthy, attractive...'
teinfer	'live well, keep one's body healthy etc'

Compound Verb Roots

We have stated that Fernalese verbs don't distinguish between adjectival, verbal-state or verbal-action functions as English verbs do, therefore it can be said that English phrases that use a mixture of adverbial and verb words have equivalents in Fernalese which are compound roots:

bit	rush, hurry, move quickly, be fast
leir	study, learn
bitleir	study quickly, learn fast
man	deep, profound, sure
den	think, consider
manden	think deeply, consider at length
xan	be bright, shine, be happy
bio	live, be alive
cor	happen, occur, live life quietly
xanbiocor	live one's life happily

Fernalese makes great use of augmentation, the combination of two or more verb roots of similar meaning to emphasise or clarify the utterance. We can see this in the example **biocor** above

xan	shine, be bright, happy
xicar	shimmer, glow, shine
xanxicar	shine brightly, really shine, be really happy
dac	know, understand
txio	understand, follow
txiodac	understand, know well

Compound roots of differing meanings also combine derivationally to liberate new lexical meanings:

bac	make magic, chant
catar	sing, narrate
bacatarsing	a shaman song, make magic with words
lar	run, move quickly
ein	away from, separate, split
larein	run away, escape

Compound roots with more than two morphemes are common and long strings of verbs used synthetically in the verb phrase represent equivalents to many English phrases in which verbs and nouns are expressed relationally. We have seen this in the word **birrianchartze** 'Master Artist' which utilises three verb roots: **bir** 'skilful, talented', **rian** 'weave, create' and **char** 'draw, paint, create art'.

Passive-Affixed Compound Roots

Fernalese makes occasional use of the passive voice, however its function is *derivational* rather than *relational* – that is to say, it is not strictly speaking a grammatical function but a property of compound roots. Thus, the use of the passive affix **-ia** directly after a verb root liberates a new lexical meaning which often moves beyond mere passivity. Combination with causative suffix **-re** utilised derivationally is common, but on its own the passive suffix often confers a participle function:

𐄎𐄏	cor	happen, occur
𐄎𐄏𐄐	corre	cause, awaken, bring about
𐄎𐄏𐄐𐄑	correia	be awakened, realise
𐄒𐄓	fer	nature, life, pristine, verdant...
𐄒𐄓𐄔	ferre	inspire, attractive, care for, tend, cherish
𐄒𐄓𐄔𐄕	ferreia	be inspired, be attracted to
𐄎𐄏𐄐	coria	happened, historical, done with, in the past
𐄒𐄓𐄔	feria	made pristine, 'en-fer-ed', in a state of <i>fer</i>

Perceptual Infixes

A limited number of verbs with meanings relating to sense (see, hear, etc), internal experiences (think, feel, intuit, etc) and perception (know, believe, understand, etc) can take one of three infixes which indicate the direction of the perceptual intention or experience. These infixes are internal to the verb root, being infixes before or after the first vowel in the root, and are strictly derivational with no other grammatical usage. As such, all resultant compounds are lexical items and many can be found in the wordlist. The most common forms of these infixes are seen below, but variations and irregularities exist. **V** here represents the first vowel in the verb root and **0** indicates a zero-infix.

-0-	outwards from speaker (standard verb root)
-eV-	perception falls inwards to speaker
-Va-	perception remains internal within speaker or generated privately by the speaker

The usage of the perceptual infixes, and the change in meaning they convey, is best illustrated with the sense verbs **mir** 'look' and **chic** 'listen'

𐄎𐄏	mir	look, watch, notice
𐄎𐄐𐄏	meir	see, appear, come into sight, be visible
𐄎𐄐𐄏	miar	see in vision or dream, imagine
𐄒𐄓	chic	listen, listen to
𐄒𐄐𐄓	cheic	hear, be audible, come into hearing
𐄒𐄐𐄓	chiac	hear in a vision or dream, audible hallucinations

Irregular forms are often seen, and while the perceptual infixes occasionally have a wider derivational meaning, the irregularity can mask this:

𐄎𐄏	den	think, consider, have opinion (irregular)
𐄎𐄐𐄏	dein	think creatively, be aware of one's thoughts, plan out
𐄎𐄐𐄏	dian	think sacredly, meditate (cf 𐄎𐄐𐄏, din , gather)
𐄎𐄐𐄏	nuir	sense, intuit
𐄎𐄐𐄏	neir	sense, become aware of patterns in the world
𐄎𐄐𐄏	nuiar	sense, intuit about one's deepest experiences
𐄎𐄏	lir	read, recite
𐄎𐄐𐄏	leir	study, read to oneself
𐄎𐄐𐄏	liar	compose poetry, read words within oneself

A full list of perceptual-infixes verb roots can be found in Appendix #1.

:: FERNALESE VERBS #3 – CAUSATIVES AND FLOW ::

In the preceding, we have seen something of the derivational power of the causative suffix **-re** and how it can be utilised to create a sense of transitive-intransitive distinction in Fernalese. Actually, causativity is a commonly-used feature of the language and there are two more causative suffixes. There are also several 'flow' suffixes which colour the action of the verb according to various dynamics. Both of these groups of suffixes slot between the verb root and the tense/aspect suffixes: they are marked below with a \pm symbol, to denote that they are optional in the verb phrase.

COMPOUND VERB:	\pm	Infixd Object Noun	\pm	Modifying Verb Root(s)	+	VERB ROOT		
SUFFIXES:	\pm	Causative Suffix	\pm	'Flow' Suffix	+	Tense/Aspect Suffix	+	Person Suffix

Causative-Ergative Suffixes

There are three causative suffixes that are very commonly used in Fernalese, not just to create a transitive-intransitive distinction in the verb, but also (as we shall see in the section on Nouns later) to coordinate the verb's interaction with ergative and absolutive nouns. We have seen that the causative suffix **-re** can be used derivationally, to create compound roots, however this suffix along with other causatives can also be used grammatically, to denote causation and to clarify transitivity when objects are infixd into the verb phrase.

-re	weak causative: let, allow
-nal/-nar-	strong causative: make, force; become, come to do
-cu(h)	clarifying ergative marker – denotes presence of object, whether unspoken or unknown

Some examples will clarify the function of these suffixes, see also the later section *Fernalese Nouns #2 - Cases*. More than one causative suffix can be used at a time.

ᄁᄁᄁ	taoh	sleep, fall asleep
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	taohre	let someone sleep
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	taohnar-	make someone sleep, put someone to sleep
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	taohcu(h)-	sleep (with someone?)
ᄁᄁ	ban	good, well, healthy
ᄁᄁᄁ	barre	strengthen, make good
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	barrere	let (someone) strengthen
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	barrenar-	make (someone) strengthen
ᄁᄁ	mir	see, look
ᄁᄁᄁ	mirre	let someone see, show, demonstrate
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	mirrere	let someone show or demonstrate
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	mirnar-	make someone look
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	mirrenar-	make someone show or demonstrate
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	mircu(h)-	see something unknown or unspoken
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	mirrecu(h)	show something unspoken

'Flow' Suffixes

Strictly speaking, these suffixes modify the tense-aspect suffixes that they immediately precede. If the tense-aspects express the status of the action (completed, in progress, etc), the flow suffixes confer meanings which might be termed the 'shape' or 'flavour' of the action. Flow suffixes can mark the action as approximative (occurring imprecisely or around a certain time), durative (occurring while another action is taking place), demonstrative (occurring here in this indicated place), reflexive (where the action acts upon the subject), attributive (inferring 'seeming' or 'apparency' upon the action) and distant (meaning the action occurs at a distant time, in the past or future, far beyond living memory or future planning).

-(a)m	approximative
-(o)r	durative
-ai, -ei*, -hai*	demonstrative
-tia	reflexive
-ten	attributive
-(t)iro	distant time locus

The durative suffix is often involved in clause symmetry – there will be more on this later, but briefly it means here that both or all actions occurring simultaneously take the suffix. The demonstrative flow suffix takes the form **-ai** in most situations, however after a syllable ending in **-a**, it can take the form **-ei** and after a syllable ending in two or more vowels, it takes the form **-hai**. Some examples will clarify these suffixes:

ካዕቷ	huiana	'I am playing'
ካዕኸቷ	huiamena	'I am kind of playing, I was playing just now'
ቱፎቱ	txachese	'he promised'
ቱዓኸቱ	txacamese	'he promised around that time'
ኅደገቱ	taohse	'she slept'
ደገገኪ	orisz	'you danced'
ኅደገገጌቱደገገኪ	taohorse orirsiz	'while she slept, you danced'
ገሥጌዕፎዕ	mircuania	'I will observe'
ዓረገጌኪ	cafazihiz	'you will make plans'
ገሥጌዕፎዕደገገጌቱደገገኪ	mircuatoria cafazorihiz	'you make plans while I observe'
ደጎጎጎ	datnon	'we all are located (in a place)'
ደጎጎጎጎ	datainon	'we are all here, in this place'
ቲዕጎቱ	tuaise	'they emerged, came out'
ቲዕጎጎጎቱ	tuaiheise	'they emerged here'
ገሥገ	mirsa	'I looked, I saw'
ገሥገጎጎ	mirtiasa	'I saw myself, I looked at myself'
ቱጎጎጎ	torreta	'I name, I call, I call into being'
ቱጎጎጎጎ	torretiata	'I name myself, I call myself into being'
ደጎጎጎጎ	datainon	'we are all here, in this place'
ደጎጎጎጎጎጎ	dataitennon	'it seems we are all here'
ዕጠጠጎጎጎጎ	amnicuhson	'we all built it'
ዕጠጠጎጎጎጎጎጎጎ	amnicuhiroson	'we all built it ages ago, our ancestors built it'
ጎጎጎ-ጎ	maihe	'she will come'
ጎጎጎጎጎ-ጎ	maitirohie	'she will come (said as a prophecy?)'

ገጭዕደሪ	zaniarec	'make it stop!'
ገገጐግደጐግ	zamarcaretec	'make it work!'
ገጐጐ	zarana	'I must go, I shall go now'
ገጐጐዕሪ	zataohia	'I must sleep soon, I shall sleep'
ገጐጐጐ	zaranon	'let's go, we shall all go now'
ገጐጐጐጐ	zacataron	'let's all sing together'

The desiderative suffix can also infer expressions of exhortation, but in the main expresses desire. Where the speaker desires an action on the part of another, the subordinate clause marker **te** is used and the prefix functions as a standalone verb:

ገጐጐጐ	dahrana	'I want to go now'
ገጐጐጐጐ	dahraniz	'you want to go now'
ገጐጐጐጐጐጐ	dahna te raniz	'I want you to go now' (<i>lit: I-want that you-now-go</i>)
ገጐጐጐጐጐ	dahranon	'let's all go now, we all want to go'

Abilitive Prefix

The abilitive **tie(h)-** has a straightforward meaning, denoting ability and the potential to do something. It can in some senses be considered as a way of making a compound verb rather than a prefix.

ጐ-ጐጐጐጐጐጐ	tiecatartiz	'you can sing'
ጐ-ጐጐጐጐጐጐጐ	tiecatarsetiz	'you used to be able to sing'
ጐ-ጐጐጐጐጐ	tiemirna	'I can see'
ጐጐጐ-ጐጐጐጐጐጐ	hantiemirna	'I can't see it'

:: FERNALESE NOUNS #1 – THE BASICS ::

The Fernalese noun is morphologically much simpler than the verb, with only a small set of suffixes which denote possession, location and case marking. However, the grammatical usage of the Fernal noun phrase is much more complex and versatile than the verb phrase, and several noun phrase types are possible.

Object and subject noun-phrases exist – the former comes before the verb, the latter after it – but actually Fernalese is an *ergative* language, which means that subjects and objects relate to each other differently than they do in English. There is also a pronoun phrase in which a pronoun can stand alone instead of being attached to the verb as person suffixes and finally there is the locative noun phrase.

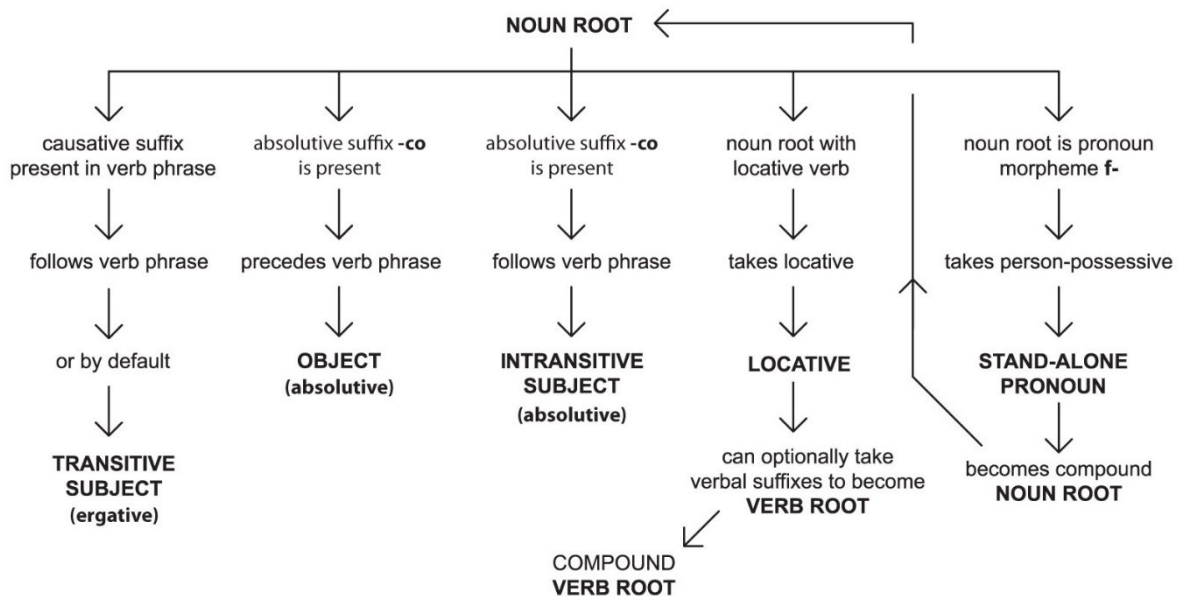
The Basic Fernalese Noun

Like the verb, the central aspect of a Fernalese noun is the root, the principal element in the noun phrase. The structure of the Fernalese noun can be summarised in a model which represents the noun phrase as a series of slots into which suffixes can optionally be placed, while the noun root itself is naturally mandatory. Suffixes on the noun root include possessive markers and an intervocalic suffix for use when possessives attach to nouns ending in vowels, as well as locatives and case markers. The noun is marked for ergative, absolutive, genitive, dative, comitative and instrumental cases – these will be explained in due course.

NOUN ROOT ± -ht- ± Possessives ± Locatives ± Case Markers

A noun root is any word found in the wordlist that functions as a noun, for example 𐌲𐌹 𐌻𐌹𐌴 'book, text' or 𐌲𐌹𐌴 𐌺𐌹𐌴 'garden, paradise'. Possessive suffixes are identical to the verbal person suffixes, and locatives denote where the noun is situated. Case markers coordinate the noun in the sentence.

Since noun phrase function can be difficult in Fernalese, for there are lots of different noun phrases, it is useful to post a summary here, in the form of a secondary model of the noun phrase, elucidating the effects that certain suffixes have on determining the type of noun phrase: transitive subject, object (ergative), intransitive subject (ergative), pronoun or locative. This table will make more sense as we proceed!



Noun Roots

Fernalese noun roots are generally mono- or disyllabic and consistently follow the strict rules on syllable structure, and as such, end in a vowel, -u or consonants **c, f, h, l, m, n, r, t** and **z**. Loan words which may end in a disallowed consonant in the original language are either elided or are appended with a vowel. Unlike verb roots, there are no phonologically-based noun root classes, but noun roots can be briefly classified according to type: simple noun roots and compounds consisting of noun-noun, verb-noun, noun-verb and noun-agentive combinations. Each of these will be briefly explored.

Simple Noun Roots, containing a single noun morpheme unaccompanied by any other root. Some simple noun roots can have both a noun and verbal function. This will be explored later. A selection of simple noun roots is given below:

ጥዳ	deru	'door, portal'	ጋሮዕን	maiar	'deep forest, wilderness'
ፊሪ	lac	'pool, lake'	ገሪ	nua	'garden, paradise'
ጸኻ	lif	'book, text'	ጋራ	zono	'music, wordless song'

Some roots freely alternate between semantic verbs and semantic nouns – such roots can thus become ambiguous as to their function in a sentence:

ዩን	bir	i) talent, skill (<i>noun</i>) ii) talented, skillful (<i>verb</i>)
ድሪ	dac(hi)	i) knowledge, wisdom (<i>noun</i>) ii) know, understand (<i>verb</i>)
ዮጸ	xao	i) speech, language, words (<i>noun</i>) ii) say, speak, tell (<i>verb</i>)

Noun-Noun Compound Roots are very common in Fernalese and augmentation by using two lexically similar nouns to provide emphasis or clarification is commonly seen. Nouns of differing meaning also make compounds derivationally as well as descriptively:

ፎሪ	tuar	'wild places'
ቆሪ	yac	'fire, flames'
ፎሪቆሪ	tuaryac	'wildfire'
ጥዳ	deru	'door, portal'
ጸኻ	lif	'book'
ጥዳጸኻ	derulif	'an enlightening book'

Verb-Noun Compound Roots are also common, and range from descriptive adjectival-functioning verb-noun combinations to derivational items:

ጋ-ጸኻ	caes(e)-	'blue'
ጸኻ	lif	'book'
ጋ-ጸኻጸኻ	caeselif	'blue book'
ፍን	fer	'pristine, verdant, lively'
ዮጸ	xao	'speech, language'
ፍንዮጸ	ferxao	'Fernalese, pristine speech'

Noun-Verb Compound Roots are rare outside of locative phrases, and an obvious ambiguity exists between this class of noun root and an object-infixed verb phrase. Non-locative, non-object-infixed noun-verb compounds tend to be derivational:

ጋሮዕን	maiar	'deep forest'
ድኑ	ban	'good, well, healthy'
ጋሮዕንድኑ	maiarban	'the restorative power of the deep forest'
ጸኑ	rin	'hand'
ዮጸ	xao	'say, speak, tell'
ጸኑዮጸ	rinxao	'speak with sign language, make hand signals'

The locative is a specialised hybrid noun-verb compound root – the noun phrase it generates often takes a locative suffix and syntactically precedes most other elements in a sentence. A simple noun root will combine with a limited set of verbs denoting location, which are effectively suffixes. Locative noun phrases will be discussed in detail below.

ግህ	il	'house'
ቶጸ	seo	'reach, exceed (but as suffix: beyond)'
ግህቶጸ	ilseon	'beyond the house, far from the house'

Noun-Agentive Combinations are simple or compound verb roots which have been modified by one of a series of nominalisers of differing shades of meaning, with the resulting combination becoming semantically a compound noun. These will be discussed in detail later.

ᄁᄁ	ban	'good, well, healthy, lively'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	bantzon	'wellness, goodness (something experienced or felt)'

Possessive Suffixes

The possessive suffixes mark that the preceding noun root is possessed by the person indicated, and are almost identical to the verbal person suffixes. However noun roots which end in a vowel are interspersed with an intervocalic morpheme **-ht-** when immediately followed by a person-possessive suffix. Note that the 2nd person suffix here **-iz** lacks the bracketed **h** of the verbal form.

-(ht)-	intervocalic	
-a	1 st person	my, mine
-(h)iz	2 nd person	your, yours
-e	3 rd person-animate	his, hers
-ec	3 rd person-inanimate	its
-en	3 rd person-uncertain	someone's or unknown possessor
-on	4 th person, animate-common	commonly possessed, all of ours, everyone's
-oc	4 th person, inanimate-common	unpossessed, sacredly possessed

The majority of these are straightforward in their usage, however examples will clarify some of the third and fourth person meanings:

ᄁᄁ	ila	'my house'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	iliz	'your house'
ᄁᄁ	ile	'her house'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	ilen	'someone's house'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	ilon	'everyone's house'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	deruhta	'my door'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	deruhtiz	'your door'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	deruhte	'his door'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	deruhtec	'its door'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	deruhten	'someone's door'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	deruhton	'our door, everyone's door'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	deruhtoc	'a door, a certain door'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	nuahtoc	'a certain garden'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	nuahton	'everyone's garden, a garden for all of us'

Suffix **-oc** is often seen with existential particle ᄁᄁᄁ **ari** to mean 'a certain..., an unknown...':

ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	ari deruhtoc	'there is a certain door, a secret or unknown door'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	ari nuahtoc	'there exists a garden somewhere'

Person-possessive suffixes cannot be used in most locative phrases however the simple locatives **-(e)n** and **-(a)m** can be used freely. This will be discussed later.

Locative Suffixes

The two locative suffixes are contrastive according to specificity: the specific locative **-(e)n** indicates a precise location, whereas the nonspecific locative **-(a)m** indicates locative imprecision. It is interesting to note the parallels between these locative suffixes and the corresponding tense-aspect and flow suffixes **-(e)n** and **-(a)m** which also have a specificity contrast.

-(e)n	Specific Locative: in, on, at
-(a)m	Nonspecific locative: by, around, near, in the area of

ᄇᄃᄃ	ilen	'in the house'
ᄇᄃᄃᄃ	ilam	'near or by the house'
ᄇᄃᄃᄃᄃ	ilizen	'in your house'
ᄃᄃᄃ	nuan	'in the garden'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃ	nuam	'near or by the garden'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	nuahten	'in her garden'

Note that with noun roots ending in a vowel, there is an ambiguity between the specific locative **-(e)n** and the genitive-connective suffix **-(a)n** (see below), and between the specific locative **-(e)n** and the 3rd person-unknown suffix **-en**. These can be optionally resolved with an intervocalic **-h-** preceding the specific locative:

ᄃᄃᄃ	nuan	<i>nua-(e)n</i>	'in the garden'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃ	nuam	<i>nua-(a)n</i>	'of the garden'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	nuahten	<i>nua-h-(e)n</i>	'in the garden'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	txeihten	<i>txei-ht-e-(e)n</i>	'in his tree'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	txeihten	<i>txei-ht-e-(a)n</i>	'of his tree'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	txeihten	<i>txei-ht-en</i>	'someone's tree'

The locatives are also occasionally found embedded in expressions of time – technically they are locative phrases and are syntactically treated as such.

ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	ora, oran	'now, at this time'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	oram, oramen	'round about now, nowadays'

The Locative Noun Phrase

The locative is a specialised hybrid noun-verb compound root – the noun phrase it generates often takes a locative suffix **-(e)n** or **-(a)m** and syntactically precedes most other elements in a sentence. A simple noun root will combine with a limited set of verbs denoting location, which are effectively suffixes:

-seo	'beyond'	-hitze	'over, above, upon'
-tuar	'behind, at the back of'	-son	'under, below'
-mar	'in front of'	-diro	'through, into, passing'
	-mai		'from, coming here from'
	-ein		'away from, away from here'
	-ra		'to, towards'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	lacseo	'beyond the lake'	
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	iltuar	'behind the house'	
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	derumar	'in front of the door'	
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	suartzonhitze	'on the chair'	
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	suartzonson	'under the chair'	
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	illadiro	'through the village'	
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	ilmai	'from the house'	
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	torein	'away from the tower'	
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	nuara	'to the garden'	

Note the verbal function of the locative noun root with the addition of tense-aspect and person suffixes and elision of locative suffixes **-(e)n** and **-(a)m**:

ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	ilmaita	'I am from the house'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	ilmaisa	'I have (come) from the house'
ᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃᄃ	nuaia	'I will (go) to the garden'

The **Genitive-Connective** **-(a)n** is often ambiguous, coalescing visually with locative **-(e)n** as mentioned previously. After a vowel it is mostly realised as **-n** but after **-i** it can be optionally realised as **-an** as in the example **tlaian** below. After a consonant it is mostly realised as **-an** but optionally can be **-n** if the consonant is one phonotactically permitted for syllable-finals.

ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	maiaran tzemahta	'I am a person of the forest'
ጋራ ጌላላን	ilan deru	'the door of the house'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	ituaran ihxexaotze	'a united people with a common language' (connective function)
ዓፍረን ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	o ferzenan, bion imechuar	'the Fernal Way is the first rule of life' (-(a)n used twice here)
ካላላን ጌላላን	tlaian illarahion	'we will go to the man's village' (both genitive and connective functions)
ጌላላን ጌላላን	ebionan ona	'a woman of Ebion, a woman from Ebion'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	ebionan maiona	'a woman (who has come) from Ebion'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	ebionmaian ona	'a come-from-Ebion woman'
ጌላላን ጌላላን	ibacan lif	'a book about magic'

The **Dative** **-ni** is used primarily to mark indirect objects and syntactically is often the last phrase in the sentence, however this suffix is also used to mark nouns that are the object of benefactive processes (with **ben, bene**), to suggest the cause for an action (with or without **ber, bere**), and, occasionally, the agent of a passive verb. In the last three cases, the noun phrase so marked can optionally be situated as the first or second element in the sentence, after a locative phrase.

ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	cherdeose tzanni	'they swapped bricks for stone'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	lifco riflesiz feni	'you gave the book to him'
ዓፍረን ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	perochirco chorsa ruahtani	'I sent a letter to my friend'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	bene danini xaota ho	'I speak for the ancestors!'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	ber cantxeni ber indose	'he passed away from sorrow'

Preceded by consonant other than **-c, -n, -r** or **-t**, dative **-ni** becomes **-in**, though **-in** can optionally be used following **-r**:

ዓፍረን ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	ari birozin mirbachiaton	'we are watched over by a talented eye'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	bene xinfelin catarta ho	'I sing for the sacred plant teachers!'

The **Comitative** **-(e)cu** connotes accompaniment, 'with, together with, alongside' but the resulting noun phrase can take verbal tense-aspect and person suffixes to denote possession.

ካላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	tlaicu xaosa	'I spoke with the man'
ዓፍረን ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	ruahzecu fazesiz	'you travelled with your friend'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	borcu huiane	'she is playing with a ball'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	ilecuta	'I have a house' (lit: I am with a house)
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	derucusiz	'you had a door'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	bantzonecuna	'I feel good, I have wellness with me'

The **Instrumental Case** **-to** denotes that noun is being used to perform an action:

ዓፍረን ጌላላን ጌላላን	pentzirto zachir	'write with a pencil'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	zonozonoreoto catarte	'she sings with a delightful voice'
ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን ጌላላን	itincu dianton	'we meditate upon (lit: with) totality'

:: FERNALESE NOUNS #3 – AGENTIVES & STAND-ALONE PRONOUNS ::

There are two other aspects of the Fernalese noun phrase that are important and commonly used. These are the agentive affixes which transform verbs into a compound noun root, and the stand-alone pronouns in which verbal person suffixes fuse with a stand-alone prefix **f-** to make a simple noun root.

Agentive & Nominalised Verb-Noun Compounds

These are simple or compound verb roots which have been modified by one of a series of agentive affixes of differing shades of meaning, with the resulting combination becoming semantically a compound noun. There are three nominalising suffixes and one prefix; all suffixes have both relational and derivational function while the prefix is derivational only.

i-	'Abstract derivational nominaliser' - Used by a limited number of verbs and interrogative-verbs See Appendix #2 for a full list of these compound nouns.
-tzon	'Inanimate nominaliser' – that which is
-tze	'Animate human agentive' – one who, person, ...-er, ...-ist
-fuon	'Animate non-human agentive' – animal, spirit, unknown agent

The differing meanings of these affixes can be elucidated through examples – note a similar distinction here to that found in verbal person suffixes between animate-inanimate and sacred/uncertain. In the case of **-tzon** and **-tze**, differing meanings can occasionally result from differing phonotactic alterations.

ᄁᄁ	ban	'good, well, healthy, lively'
ᄁᄁᄁ	iban	'wellness, goodness, the abstract notion of Good'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	bantzon	'wellness, goodness (something experienced or felt)'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	bantze	'good person, healthy person'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	banfuon	'good spirit, muse; wellness (from someplace unknown)'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	faz	'travel, journey; age, grow old; delight in one's age'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	cafaz	'intend, plan, set out, journey'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	ifaz	'The Journey of Life, this life, this vale of joy'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	cafatzon	'intention, plan, beginnings'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	fatxon	'journey, travelling; satisfaction'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	fatzon	'ageing, the process of ageing'
ᄁᄁᄁ	fer	'pristine, verdant, grow, lively'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	ifer	'perfection, balance, truth, nature, vitality'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	fertze	'a nature lover, a lover of paradise, an attractive person'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	char	'draw, paint, create art, image or icon'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	chartze	'artist'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	charfuon	'muse, guiding spirit, daemon'
ᄁᄁᄁ	xan	'shine, be happy'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	xicar	'glow, shimmer'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	xanxicartze	'shining person, visionary, luminary'
ᄁᄁᄁ	tin	'all, everything, complete, fulfil'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	itin	'everything, totality, the sum of all that is possible'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	neir	'sense, be aware of patterns; believe, form patterns'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	neirtzon	'pattern, arrangement, belief system'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	suar	'sit, be seated, rest'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	suartzon	'chair, seat'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁ	liar	'compose text or poetry'
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ	liartze	'author, poet'

:: FEMALESE PARTICLES ::

Particles are the third main category of word in Fernalese. These short monosyllabic and disyllabic words are only weakly synthetic, meaning that they only rarely combine with other morphemes, and convey a huge range of meanings. Their basic functions are to colour a phrase or sentence with an intention or feeling, or to coordinate clause and sentence structures. Many of them are involved in clause symmetry – this will be discussed in the later section on syntax.

1. a – Thematic: Name Announcing Particle

Fernalese names are often transparent to meaning, and they are very often compound verb roots or abstract nouns. As such, a particle is sometimes required to clarify when they is being used as a name, especially if the name is an infixed object.

ፍጥረት	fertorre	'call verdancy or nature into being'
ዕፍጥረት	a Fektorre	'Victoria, Victor'
ዕፍጥረትጥረት	a Fektorrexaosa	'I spoke to Victoria'
ፍጥረትጥረት	fertorrexaosa	'I spoke, calling verdancy into being'

2. ari – Existential

This is a versatile particle which expresses a range of meanings from denoting existence of an item to obliquely indicating or hinting that something is present. It covers such English equivalents as 'there is, there are, there shall be', 'let there be, let there exist', 'a certain something, something unknown' and, to a certain extent, the indefinite article.

ዕገረትጥረት	ari tlaicu xaosiz	'you spoke to a man'
ዕገረትጥረት	ari chartze dachita	'I know a certain artist'
ዕገረትጥረት	io ari xanxicar ho	'let there be light!'

It can also be seen with 4th person -oc to mean 'a certain thing', and can also precede constructions with comitative -(e)cu to augment a possessive meaning or to indicate the presence of the possessed object. It sometimes precedes verb phrases to indicate that the action is unexpected, sudden or emergent:

ዕገረትጥረት	ari deruhtoc	'there is a certain door (somewhere)'
ዕገረትጥረት	ari perochirecuaita	'I have here a certain letter'
ዕገረትጥረት	ari aoretai	'I love you (and I didn't know it)'
ዕገረትጥረት	ari tuatuabitmaihaise	'He arrived here suddenly'

3. ben, bene – Benefactive

The benefactive particle marks a noun phrase that receives the benefit of an action, and is usually translated as 'for'. In most cases, the benefactively-marked noun also takes the dative or becomes a stand-alone nenefbactive pronoun. The benefactive is also sometimes seen to 'gift' actions in Fernalese, expressing a subtle shade of meaning often absent in English.

ዕገረትጥረት	bene danini xaota ho	'I speak for the ancestors!'
ዕገረትጥረት	bene onani bachenon	'we are making magic for the woman'
ዕገረትጥረት	lifdinse benfa	'he gathered the books for me'
ዕገረትጥረት	benon xantoc tecco	'the Sun shines for all of us'
ዕገረትጥረት	benfiz daetxaise	'She blessed you (for your benefit)'
ዕገረትጥረት	benfa maimiriz	'You are coming to see me'

4. ber, bere – Logical-Connective

The logical-connective particle initiates two or more clauses whose actions or statements are logically connected in some way, and covers a wide array of meanings in English, including question and answer statements such as 'why...? because...', phrases of reason or causation such as 'because, because of, due to, from', and expressions of logical outcomes, 'we do this, so that...'. This is one of a number of particles involved in clause symmetry, a stylistic device in which linked clauses begin with the same constructions.

ዕገረትጥረት	bere maisa bere dahmirisai	'I came because I wanted to see you'
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:: FERNALESE INTERROGATIVES ::

Fernalese interrogative words occupy a special position in the grammar. Technically they are verbs which denote an approximately existential or stative meaning, and their interrogative function is only activated through the use of interrogative suffixes which attach to the very end of the verb phrase, after the person suffixes. Thus we need to look again at our pattern of the verb phrase and make a few additions:

PREFIXES:	± Connectives	± Positive-Negative Prefix	± Imperative-Desideratives	± Abilitive Prefix	
COMPOUND VERB:	± Infix Object Noun	± INTERROGATIVE VERB	± Modifying Verb Root(s)	+ VERB ROOT	
SUFFIXES:		± Causative Suffix	± 'Flow' Suffix	+ Tense/Aspect Suffix	+ Person Suffix
					± INTERROGATIVE SUFFIXES -to, -sa, -che

The interrogative verbs thus function as a special kind of modifying verb root, slotting in before any compound verb root but after any infix object, although given the nature of interrogative verbs, infix objects are rare here.

In the *Basic Fernalese Phrases* section earlier, we learned that **3J#sRq# mahtorretitzo** means 'what is your name?' or more literally 'what are you called?' The verb **#sRq# torre** means 'to be called' and thus the word **3J mah** is the interrogative verb:

3J	mah	i) to have a nature, character or some property ii) exist, dwell within, be iii) what? (interrogative)
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Thus the compound verb **3J#sRq# mahtorre** means something like 'for one's name to have a nature, for a name to exist', and it is suffixed with a habitual **-(e)t**, a 2nd person suffix **-iz** 'you' and an interrogative suffix **-to**. It is the use of the interrogative suffix **-to** that activates the interrogative meaning of the verb. The suffix in **3J#sRq# mahtorretitzo** is fused to the second person suffix **-iz** in a way that will become clear in a moment.

3J#sRq#	mahtorre	'for one's name to have a nature, for a name to exist'
3J#sRq#t#	mahtorretitzo	'what is your name?'

There are three interrogative suffixes in Fernalese, and they always append as the very last element of the verb phrase, after even the person suffixes. Each suffix colours the verb phrase with a different interrogative function:

-to	interrogative: information questions
-sa	interrogative: yes/no/maybe questions
-che	interrogative: rhetorical questions (requiring minimal or no reply)

It should be noted that two of the interrogative suffixes fuse with 2nd person suffix **-iz** according to the sound rules set out earlier:

-itzo	2 nd person suffix fused with informational interrogative
-itxa	2 nd person suffix fused with yes/no interrogative

The informational interrogative suffix **-to** is used to elicit information from the listener about a situation, person or place, whereas the yes/no interrogative suffix **-sa** seeks confirmation or denial about a specific piece of information. The rhetorical suffix **-che** doesn't necessarily require a reply. The use of these three suffixes can radically change the meaning of a given question. Consider the above example:

3J#sRq#	mahtorre	'for one's name to have a nature, for a name to exist'
3J#sRq#t#	mahtorretitzo	'what is your name? (give me information)'
3J#sRq#t#s	mahtorretitxa	'does your name exist? (yes, no, maybe...)'
3J#sRq#t#s#	mahtorretizche	'surely you must have a name!'

ደጉን ተገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
o fertorre teni mirialifelan lifco rifse iban
'it was Fertorre who Iban gave the book to in the library'

Clause Symmetry

Clause Symmetry is an interesting feature in Fernalese, in which two clauses or phrases that are logically connected to each other in some way have symmetrical grammatical forms at the start of the clause, and the grammatical symmetry echoes the symmetry of intention, purpose, condition or narrative events evident in the connected clauses. Verb phrases with connective prefixes **ne(h)-** and **mo(h)-** and flow suffix **-(o)r** commonly exhibit clause symmetry, as do clauses beginning with particles **ari**, **ber(e)**, **ca**, **hor**, **ibe** and **te**, as the examples demonstrate.

ne(h)- ቱገሮ ሃን ቱገሮ ገሰገሰ ቱገሮ ገሰገሰ
ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
nehilerse netaohse 'he went home and (then) he fell asleep'
lifco neleirse, ebionco nechuarfulanse
'he read the book and the decided to visit EBion'

mo(h)- ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን
ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን ጠቱን
motorrese mobarrese 'she named and (also) strengthened (them)'
moferxaoleirta, mocharpeinta
'I study Fernalese and I also paint images'

-(o)r ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
mircuanoria cafazorihiz 'you make plans while I observe'

ari ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
ari deruhtoc, ari iloc 'there is a certain door and a house'
ari tlaicu xaosiz, ari onaco fulansiz
'you spoke to a man and you visited a woman'

ber(e) ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
ber cantxeni ber indose 'he passed away from sorrow'
bere maisa bere dahmirisai
'I came because I wanted to see you'

ca ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
ca nohainon ca maiarron
'either we stay here or we go to the forest'

hor ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
hor erasue hor illamir 'he went to see the village'
hor oran amona hor txion banorihia 'I'm eating now so I can dance well later'

ibe ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
ibechniz, ibetxiotiz 'if you listen, you will understand'
ibeionte ibehitzecamote 'when he wakes up, he eats breakfast'

te ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
o ilai te dedetec te tlaotec te omorlacam datetec
'this house is big, and warm, and stands by a beautiful lake'

Other particles can also occasionally be involved in clause symmetry, with a logical-connective meaning, or in blessing-greetings, as the examples clarify:

ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
io datainon, io dahcahnon 'we are all here, so let's begin!'
ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ ገሰገሰ
ia fercuan non, ia ferbio non 'to us the cosmos, to us the vitality of life!'

:: FERNALESE NUMBERS ::

Fernalese numbers are regular and logical. Aside from alternative names for eleven, twelve and thirteen, the numbers work in base 10 and build up in a simple mathematical way. If we have **ካሮ**, **huai** 'four' and **lio** 'ten', then fourteen is **ደደኮሮ**, **liotuai** (10 + -t- + 4) and forty is **ካሮደደ**, **huailio** (4 x 10). Ordinal numbers, attributives and other mathematical functions are expressed with simple suffixes, making the Fernalese number system quick and easy to use. Here are the numbers from 0 to 10

ገዳ	siru	zero	ሉደ	beo	six
ሮገ	ih	one	ሦሪ	ler	seven
ገ	zo	two	ጉሮኤ	feir	eight
ሮደ	io	three	ደ-ጸ	nue	nine
ካሮ	huai	four	ደደ	lio	ten
ቶ	se	five			

The next three numbers have two names, one which derives from the basic numbers above, and a second number which is a kind of 'sacred' name:

ደደሆገ	liotih	eleven	ሶሦሐኔ	alban	eleven
ደደገ	liotzo	twelve	ገ-ጸኤ	zier	twelve
ደደሆደ	liotio	thirteen	ሆሶኤገ	tiarze	thirteen

As can be seen from the first column, numbers in the teens consist of **ደደ**, **lio** 'ten', an occasional infix **-t-** followed by the unitary number. Thus 'twelve' is **ደደገ**, **lio-t-zo**, but 'sixteen' is **ደደሉደ**, **lio-beo**. Numbers from 14 to 20 are as follows:

ደደኮሮ	liotuai	fourteen	ደደጉሮኤ	lio-feir	eighteen
ደደጸ	liotxe	fifteen	ደደደ-ጸ	lionue	nineteen
ደደሉደ	liobeo	sixteen	ገደደ	zolio	twenty
ደደሦኤ	lioler	seventeen			

Numbers beyond 20 proceed logically. 21 consists of 2 + 10 + -t- + 1, while 30 is formed from 3 + 10, and so on until 99. Selected numbers from 21 to 99 are given:

ገደደሆገ	zoliotih	21	ቶደደ	selio	50
ገደደገ	zoliotzo	22	ሉደደደ	beolio	60
ገደደጉሮኤ	zoliofeir	28	ሦኤደደ	lerrio	70
ሮደደደ	iolio	30	ጉሮኤደደ	feirrio	80
ካሮደደ	huailio	40	ደ-ጸደደ	nuelio	90
ካሮደደሉደ	huailiobeo	46	ደ-ጸደደደ-ጸ	nuelionue	99

Numbers above ten also proceed logically. There are units for each multiple of ten up to ten thousand, which in Fernalese has the same meaning as 'myriad, innumerable', and thus counting above ten thousand doesn't occur very often. Thus, 185 is **ሐኔጉሮኤደደቶ**, **banfeirriose**, 831 is **ጉሮኤሐደደደደሆገ**, **feirbanioliotih** and 5242 is **ቶገሌገደኔካሮደደገ**, **sedauzobanhuailiotzo**. There are no units above ten thousand.

ሐኔ	ban	100	ቶሐኔ	seban	500
ሐኔሆገ	bantih	101	ሉደሐኔ	beoban	600
ሐኔገደደ	banzolio	120	ሦሮ	tzai	1000
ገሐኔ	zoban	200	ገደደሶ	miria	10,000

Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal Numbers are almost identical to the cardinal numbers above, taking only the cardinal number suffix **-me**. **ime**, **imet-** 'first' is irregular.

᠑᠙᠐	sirume	zero	᠔ᠠᠶ᠋ᠢ	beome	six
᠘ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨ	ime, imet-	one	᠕ᠠᠶ᠋ᠢ	lerme	seven
᠑ᠨ	zome	two	᠘ᠠᠨᠠᠨ	feirme	eight
᠘ᠠᠶ᠋ᠢ	iome	three	᠑ᠨᠠᠨ	nueme	nine
ᠠᠨᠠᠨ	huaime	four	᠑ᠨᠠᠨ	liome	ten
᠑ᠨ	seme	five	᠕ᠠᠶ᠋ᠢ	tinme	last

Attributive Numbers

These numbers take the suffix **-xe** which lends a multiplicative sense to the numeral, whose meaning is clear from the examples:

᠑᠙ᠠ	siruxe	non-existent	ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠ	huaixe	fourfold
᠘ᠠᠨᠠ	ihxe	single	᠑ᠨᠠ	sexe	fivefold
᠑ᠨᠠ	zoxe	double	᠑ᠨᠠᠨᠠ	liome	tenfold
᠘ᠠᠶ᠋ᠢ	iome	triple	᠕ᠠᠶ᠋ᠢᠶ᠋ᠢ	miriaxe	infinite

Another attributive suffix is **-ten**, used for 0, 1, 2 and 3 only, with the following meanings:

᠑᠙ᠠᠨᠠ	siruten	absent	᠑ᠨᠠᠨᠠ	zoten	dual
᠘ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠ	ihnten	unitary	᠘ᠠᠶ᠋ᠢᠨᠠ	iome	triune

Fractional Numbers

These take the suffix **-huar** 'cut, slice' with a fractional meaning. **ituar** 'unified, one' is irregular.

᠘ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠ	ituar	unified, one	ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠ	huaihuar	quarter
᠑ᠨᠠᠨᠠ	zohuar	half	᠑ᠨᠠᠨᠠ	sehuar	one-fifth
᠘ᠠᠶ᠋ᠢᠨᠠ	iohuar	one-third	᠑ᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠ	liohuar	one-tenth

Writing Fernalese Numbers

In the examples above, the numbers are given as words, but a number-writing system also exists in Fernalese. Numbers from zero to ten and units of ten up to one million have their own characters, as shown below:

᠙	siru	zero	᠕	ler	seven
ᠠ	ih	one	ᠨ	feir	eight
ᠨ	zo	two	᠕ᠨ	nue	nine
ᠨᠠ	io	three	᠑	lio	ten
ᠨᠠᠨ	huai	four	᠑ᠨ	ban	100
᠕ᠨ	se	five	᠑ᠨᠠ	tzai	1000
᠕ᠨᠠ	beo	six	᠑ᠨᠠᠨ	miria	10,000

Numerals are constructed in precisely the same way that numbers are spoken. Thus 𐎎𐎗𐎗 *lio-t-zo* 'twelve' = 10+2 and is written 𐎗𐎗, while 𐎎𐎗𐎗𐎗 *lio-beo* 'sixteen' = 10+6 is 𐎗𐎗𐎗 and 𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗 *huailio-beo* 'forty-six' = 4+10+6 is 𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗. Larger numbers follow the same logic:

𐎎𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>banfeirriose</i>	185	𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗
𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>feirbanioliotih</i>	831	𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗
𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>sedauzobanhuailiotzo</i>	5242	𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗

:: FERNALESE COLOURS ::

Fernalese recognises three basic colour systems, each with their own different function: i) five fundamental tone colours, ii) eight colours to describe the natural world, and iii) eight colours to describe human skin tones. Other colours, such as artistic colours for paints, also exist but are terms derived from other words.

i) Cuantxon – Fundamental Tone Colours

There are five 𐎎𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗 *quantxon* or fundamental tone colours. These describe colour ranges which are the perceptual foundations of all other colours, and can be applied to any referent, but most often refer to colours seen in vision or pure clear tones found on human-made objects. They all have a suffix **-ac** to distinguish them as fundamental tones:

𐎎𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>lutac</i>	'colour range from red to purple'
𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>ferac</i>	'colour range from blue to green'
𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>taiac</i>	'colour range from orange and yellow to green'
𐎎𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>lucac</i>	'white, pale greys and pale tones of any colour'
𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>yanac</i>	'black, dark greys and dark tones of any colour'



ii) Fertxon – Natural Colours

These eight 𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗 *fertxon* or natural colours are tones used for the natural world, and as such contain senses of gradation and variation of colour that one sees in natural contexts. Those that have the same root forms as the above tone colours can take a suffix **-ar**. Note the colour boundaries here are not the same as the fundamental tone colours

𐎎𐎗.𐎎𐎗𐎗	<i>lut, lutar</i>	'red, magenta'
𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>ical</i>	'purple'
𐎗𐎗	<i>fua</i>	'dark blue, evening sky blue, ultramarine, violet'
𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>caese</i>	'blue, daylight sky blue'
𐎗𐎗.𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>fer, ferar</i>	'green, turquoise'
𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>chioro</i>	'pale green, green-yellow'
𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>taiar</i>	'yellow'
𐎗𐎗𐎗	<i>xofen</i>	'orange'



These natural colour words can vary through the use of several prefixes which convey different meanings,

and often change the colour referent completely. These prefixes are only for use with the **fertxon** natural colours.

lu-, lo-	'light, pale'
ya-	'dark, deep'
dai-, da-	'grading, changing from light to dark'
nue-	'speckled, mottled, cloudy'
man-	'intense, saturated'

Thus for **ጳጥኒ**, **xofen** 'orange' we see the following variations:

ጸጳጥኒ	luxofen	'pale orange, peach'
ቆጳጥኒ	yaxofen	'brown'
ዕሮጳጥኒ	daixofen	'changing orange'
ቤ-ጳጥኒ	nuexofen	'speckled orange'
ጌጳጥኒ	manxofen	'intense orange'



Other new colours generated using these prefixes include:

ጸጸጸጸ	lolutar	'pink'
ጌጌጌጌ	manlutar	'magenta'
ጌጌጌጌ	mancaese	'cyan'
ቆጌጌጌ	yaical	'violet'
ዕቆጌጌ	dayaluc	'grey'
ቤ-ጌጌጌጌ	nueferar	'leaf green'

:: TRANSFORMATIONAL GRAMMAR IN FERNALESE ::
Bruce Rimell

Transformational grammar is the practice, found in most languages, of shortening or transforming normal grammar rules, eliding elements in a phrase where the context is clear or for ease of pronunciation in fast speech. Here is a brief summary of some of the optional transformations that take place in Fernalese.

i) **Second person suffix -iz becomes -i** in fast speech, both with and without interrogative suffixes. This is sometimes used to allow a verb phrase to 'rhyme' with a previous phrase in poetry.

ፎልባክፍፎልባክ	ibanco miraisiz	'you saw Iban here'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክ	ibanco miraisitxa	'did you see Iban here?'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክ	ibanco miraisi	'you saw Iban here'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክ	ibanco miraisisa	'did you see Iban here?'

ii) **Particles io and ia become i'** before a vowel, where the distinction is not required. This occurs particularly in blessings and proverbs.

ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	io aferecu ituaron netinban	'with Afer, all is unified and good'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	i' aferecu ituaron netinban	'with Afer, all is unified and good'

iii) **Subject person suffix is elided** where the context is clear. This is most commonly seen with 2nd person -iz in questions and 4th person -oc in general statements, but occasionally one sees 3rd person -e and -ec elided as well.

ፎልባክፍፎልባክ	bantitxa? bansa?	'How are you? Are you well?'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	mahcornocto? mahcorto?	'What's happening? What's up?'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	peonoc, peon	'it's raining'

iv) **Progressive aspect is also elided** from questions and statements where the context is clear. In declarative statements if the subject person is also elided, the emphatic particle **ፎ ho** is often added, and aspect-subject suffix sequences may also be elided if they have been mentioned in a previous clause.

ፎልባክፍፎልባክ	mahcornocto?	'What's happening?'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክ	mahcorto?	'What's happening? What's up?'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	oratechen tlaonoc	'It's warm today'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	oratechen tiao ho	'It's warm today!'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	suaraina nelifrir	'I am sitting here and (I am) reading a book'

v) **Locative -(e)n is elided** from locative phrases in fast speech and short statements where emphasis or a declarative statement is made.

ፎልባክፍፎልባክ	lac suarena	'I'm sitting (by) the lake'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	oratec tiao ho	'It's warm today!'

vi) **Connective ne(h)- is shortened to n-** before a consonant, in contravention of the phonological rules of the language. It is realised as a kind of nasalised schwa /ə̃/ sound rather than /n/.

ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	ilerse netaohse	'he went home and (then) he fell asleep'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	ilerse ntaohse	'he went home and (then) he fell asleep'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	torrese nebarrese	'she named (them) and (then) made (them) strong'
ፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክፍፎልባክ	torrese nbarrese	'she named (them) and (then) made (them) strong'

