

Final Grammar Worksheet

The following items are a good first approach to a grammar of your conlang.

- (1) The backstory of your people and their language.
- (2) Conlang grammar.
- (3) Sample lexicon.
- (4) Sample translation.

Each of the items have further requirements, specified below:

Backstory

The backstory of your conlang should include a description of the people and a justification for their language as well as its history. This will be the introduction to your language document.

Conlang Grammar

The conlang grammar will be broken up into the following subsections, each with their own requirements (note: each of these will have been explored in detail in previous worksheets):

(a) Typological Specification

- This is a simple statement about the type of language you've created (in prose). This is where you'll state the dominant word order of your language, its alignment, its morphological type (isolating, etc.), its headedness, and the major orderings of elements (nouns and modifiers, nouns and possessors, verbs and their objects, nouns and their adpositions, nouns and their relative clauses). This is to give a new reader a basic idea of what type of a language they're about to read about.

(b) Phonology

- The phonemes of your modern language.
- The phonotactics of your modern language.
- The rules of allophony for your modern language.
- The stress/tone system of your modern language.

(c) Morphology

- Nominal number (if applicable).
- Nominal case (if applicable).
- Nominal gender (if applicable).
- Verbal tense (if applicable).
- Verbal aspect (if applicable).

- Verbal modality (if applicable).
- Modifiers (adjectives and demonstratives).
- Adverbs (manner, local, temporal).

(d) Syntax

- Valence-changing strategies.
- Yes/No question formation.
- WH-question formation.
- Relative clause formation.
- Negation.

(e) Orthography

- The glyphs of your proto-language.
- The glyphs and system of your modern language.
- An explanation of the history of your system.
- The spelling rules of your language.

(f) Extra

- Examples of things that may go here: Number systems; extra paradigms (perhaps irregular paradigms); extra cultural information encoded linguistically; measurement systems; naming strategies, etc.

Sample Lexicon

In your sample lexicon, you'll include a regular lexical entry for every relevant category (if nouns have different declensions, one for each declension; if verbs have different conjugation paradigms, one for each paradigm), and a sample irregular lexical entry (again, for each relevant irregular pattern for each lexical category). This is not an exhaustive lexicon; it's just a sample. (However if you find it useful to keep track of your lexicon in this way as you build your language, you may include all of it in your final paper.)

Sample Translation

As a test, you'll include a translation of a text at least five sentences long. Included will be the orthographic form of the translation, the phonetic transcription, the interlinear, and notes on the translation that will help to illustrate the choices made in translating your text. This latter part will constitute your discussion.