

The Jiya Language

a Supplement to "The Goldenlea"

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Alphabet

The Jiya alphabet is formed primarily of syllabic characters. There are two varieties. One is a more florid script, called Jawwo, and is used for writing in pen or fine engraving, and the other, called Gweha, is a simplified, blockier version of the first meant primarily for carving in wood or stone. In both versions, the characters fall into three classes:

Famahi

The vowels. These include vowels as seen in the Roman alphabet, A, E, I, O, and U, plus a sixth character, Gwe. It is classed as a vowel because it has no similar sound amongst Hojori characters (which are all in familial consonant groups), but is a native Jiya phoneme, unlike the characters known as Jajimi.

Hojori

The core of the Jiya alphabet, this is a series of syllabic characters which function as consonants. The basic consonant sound is determined by the character itself, and the marks determine which vowel sound it carries with it. a character with no marking designating it as being any other in the consonant group is by default given an "o" sound. To get just a consonant sound without a vowel, an acute mark is added where the vowel designation would normally go. Take for example this chart of the "S" character family from the Gweha script:

					
S	So	Si	Se	Sa	Su

Jajimi

These are characters adopted from other alphabets for use in words that are not native to the Jiya tongue, and cannot be spelled using their phonetic system, which among other things lacks percussive consonant sounds. Such adoptions are rare as Jiya contact with the outside world is typically minimal.

Basic Grammar

Past, Present and future tenses

There are only two main verb tenses in the Jiya language: past and present, and the few sub-tenses are based on these. The lack of a future tense is the result of the Jiya culture, which philosophically speaking rejects the existence of a future; to say someone "will

do” something is considered foolish, so all future tense is just a conditional future tense (may be, do, etc.) created by adding the phrase “Va Nus” (perhaps) to the beginning of a sentence employing an imperfect tense (see “Imperfect tense and dream preterite” below). Verb tenses are conjugated on the subject noun by adding an -a for past and -i for present, so all verbs are infinitive. Since most nouns end in single consonant sounds, this is an easy pattern to predict. For example:

Gweulana he awil sama.

Gweulan was a good archer.

Or

Gweulani he awil sama.

Gweulan is a good archer.

When in an interrogative tense, the sentence structure makes clear that the sentence is a question rather than a statement.

He Gweulana sama u awil?

Is Gweulan a good archer?

To make a verb tense negative, simply add “Umahe” (roughly “it is not”) to the beginning of the sentence.

Example:

Umahe yamua jien Gweulan zu folizor.

I did not see Gweulan in the ship.

(literally “It is not (so) I saw Gweulan in ship”).

Imperfect tenses and the Dream Preterite

In the rare instance when there is an imperfect tense (something that “was and still is” or “may still be”), the last two syllables of the subject noun are repeated, but with past, then present tenses applied.

Example:

Gweulanalani he awil sama

Gweulan was, and may still be, a good archer.

Narularuli he hafaru maza jomu.

Narul was and still is an extremely dangerous place.

Here we see an example of a past imperfect tense transformed into a future imperfect tense:

Va nus Gweulanalani humeji panasiu.

Perhaps Gweulan will sharpen his arrow heads.

There is at least one verb tense in the Jiya language which has no equivalent in English. Dubbed the “dream preterite,” this tense reflects something that occurred in a dream, vision, or hallucination. It is formed by adding -ono to the subject.

Example:

Gweulanono mijora siu za casal.

In his dream, Gweulan shot an arrow at the castle.

(literally “Gweulan did in dream to shoot arrow at castle.”)

Transitive and Intransitive variations

In a transitive sentence, the subject takes the beginning of the sentence, followed by the verb, the adverb (where applicable; rarely used) adjective (where applicable), the direct object, prepositions, the indirect object, and ending with any word that further qualifies the sentence, such as an adjective describing the indirect object.

Example:

Gweulana mijora hanal siu za casal horubu.

Gweulan angrily shot an arrow at the far-away castle.

Gweulana	mijora	hanal	siu	za	casal	horubu
Gweulan did	To shoot	Angrily	Arrow	At	Castle	Distant
Subject	verb	adverb	direct object	preposition	indirect object	adjective

In an intransitive sentence, the subject takes precedence, followed by the verb (most commonly in intransitive sentences “*he*,” “to be”), the adjective, the adverb, and any additional words or adjectives qualifying the sentence.

Example:

Naruli he hafaru maza jomu.

Narul is an extremely dangerous place.

Naruli	he	hafaru	maza	jomu
Narul is	to be	dangerous	exceedingly	place
Subject	verb	adjective	adverb	qualifying word (noun)

Some Phrases:

Samua he nelenaza zori. Yenuwea he jomuya?

It’s been nine hours, where have you been?

(more directly, “Nine hours are past. You were where?”)

Yamua humeji banijen siu. Amoi lumu hala sefu.

I sharpened six hundred arrows. That takes a long time.

(more directly “I sharpened six hundred arrows. The act uses up large amounts of time.”)

Yamui yasima maza yenuwe.

I love you so much.

Gweulana he onoya jiya.

Gweulan is a Jiya

(literally, “Gweulan is who Jiya;” any time a sentence referring to a person states who they are, the phrase “he onoya” (to be who) qualifies this).

Umay siui vey; siui hizu. Yajii vey; Yajii aiuhe.

The arrow does not bend and therefore breaks; the bow bends and remains strong

(more directly, “Arrow bends not; arrow breaks. Bow bends; bow is strong.”).

Some Basic Vocabulary

Verbs

Aiuhe- to be strong
Gweun- to hear
He- to be
Hewa- to do
Hizu- break
Humeji- to sharpen
Jien- to see
Lono- to have
Lumu- to use up, consume, burn, discard
Mijora- to shoot
Mainu- to speak
Ne- to go
Nelena- to pass, to leave, to go away.
Raeyo- to know.
Sawa- to need
Sisili- to create
Siumor- to kill with arrows
Umor- to kill
Veya- to bend
Vozo- to release, to let go
Yasima- to love

Nouns

Amo- act
Amowaono- An act of faith; spiritual quest
Gawa- family
Jehuna- character
Jomi- tail
Lono- reason
Nareiwa- language
Nema- friend
Niwiza- warrior
Remu- year
Rawayu- feast
Samu- hour
Sefu- time
Siu- arrow
Wari- method, way
Yaji- bow

Prepositions

Horobi - Adjacent
Horubu - distant

Mue - beside
Mui - behind
Muzu - in front of
Za – at, to
Zan - near
Zu - in
Zui- on

Pronouns

Anane- we, us
Humuwe -it, that
Onowe- He, she
Sinane- they, them
Yamu- I, me
Yenuwe-You
Januwe - you (plural)

Adjectives

Aiu- strong
Falili- tired
Fana- few
Fono- old
Gwenu- young
Hafaru- dangerous
Hala- large, a great amount
Heswaru- mysterious
Hojila- long
Holu- Small
Horobuna- foreign
Hume- sharp
Jana- many
Liwa- as much, equally
Liyo- How much, unknown quantity.
Momone- sweet
Momozenima- improperly fletched, damaged (i.e. An arrow); slang for a useless fellow.
Nelenaza- past, gone, null, no longer of concern.
Numeza- interesting
Sama- good (at something)
Samaya- certain, right
*Umay*a- not
Wajila- short
Zemina- bad

Adverbs

Gwewa - Always

Hanal- Angrily
Hena- never
Jala- again
Maza- Exceedingly

Conjunctions

Mai- And
Nai- Or
Son- Because
Yuwea- But
Faz- by
nez- for

Interrogatives

Humuya- What
Jomuya- Where
Lonoya- Why
Onoya- who
Samuya- When
Wariya - How

Exclamations

Hihewa!- Excellent, yes, perfect, hurrah, etc.
Jihine!- Hey! Come here!, etc.
La!- yes
Naji!- No way!
Razo!- of course; you're right; good shot (in archery).
Uma!- no
Yaziya! - Hey! Hello! Good morning!
Zai! - Damn!
Zane!- I'm coming; wait up; don't forget me

Numbers

1-10
1- Sei
2- Nii
3- Yoi
4- Umi
5-Honi
6-Bani
7-Juni
8-Gweli
9-Zori

To do tens values take the first digit and add -za to create the basic tens value, then add the name of an integer 1-10 to represent the ones place. For example:

10-seiza
11- seiseiza
12-Niiseiza, **Etc.**

Another example:

20-Niiza
21-Seiniiza
22-Niiniiza, **Etc.**

This convention applies to most decimal places, so with the following you should be able to figure out any number into the millions:

100-Seijen
500-Honijen
650-Banijen Honiza
1000-seimo
10,000-za-seimo
100,000- jen-seimo
1,000,000- mo-seimo
2,000,000- mo-niimo
8,463,792- mo-gwelimo jen-muimo za-banimo junijen niizoriza