Tēlvo Languages:
A Guide

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Contents

Chapter 1

Introduction to Tēlvo Languages

Tēlvo languages use a consonantal root system for vocabulary and word building. Throughout this document, these are referred to by the letters A, B, C, D, and E for the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth letters in these roots.

Chapter 2

Tēlvo Phonology

2.1 Tēlvo

2.1.1 The Sounds of Tēlvo

2.1.2 Sound Rules

- $\emptyset \rightarrow$ j / V __ V
- $\emptyset \rightarrow$ y / C __ C[1]

2.1.3 Stress

Without going into metrical theory, it can be summarised that the stressed syllable in a Tēlvo word is the last uneven-numbered syllable.

2.2 Changes to Čelwu

2.2.1 Sound Rules

- Vowel changes
  The vowel changes from Tēlvo to Čelwu occurred in two steps:

1	2	3
y	y	y
ā	a	a
a	ä	æ
ō	u	u
o	o	
i	ɪ	y
ī	i	je
ē	ie, e	
e	e, ɛ	e

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[1]This is not global—it only occurs to prevent unpronounceable clusters. More info to come.

- Cj → C$_{[+pal]}$

- (v → w)

- Palatal remapping
  Certain palatalised consonants were remapped as new phonemes:

  - (wj → v)
  - tj → č
  - sj → š
  - dj → ǰ
  - zj → ž

- Velar Fricativisation
  Velar stops spirantised between a vowel and the end of a syllable:

  - k → x / V __]$_\sigma$
  - g → ɣ / V __]$_\sigma$

- ɣ → Ø / __ r]$_\sigma$

Chapter 3

Tēlvo Grammar

3.1 Pronouns

3.1.1 Final-bound

Note that j- is inserted between vowels, so these forms may frequently appear with an initial j.

	Singular	Plural
1st	-o	-āŋ
2nd	-as	-āþ
3nd	-að	-ān

3.1.2 Medial- & Initial-bound

	Singular	Plural
1st	(-)o-	(-)āŋgi-
2nd	(-)asi-	(-)āþi-
3nd	(-)aði-	(-)āni-

3.2 Verbs

3.2.1 Word Forms

3.2.1.1   Verbal

pre-bound form	**-ABiCā(Dō(E))**
post-bound form	**AīBC(ēD(E))-**
citation form	**AāBaCa(Dī(E))**

3.2.1.2   Participial

present	**(liri-)**	(medial-bound pron)	pre-bound verb
past	**laj-**	(medial-bound pron)	pre-bound verb
future	**āre-**	(medial-bound pron)	pre-bound verb
passive	**ke-**	(medial-bound pron)	pre-bound verb

3.2.1.3 Imperative

post-bound verb │ saŋa │ final-bound pron

3.2.2 Tenses

3.2.2.1 Statatives

3.2.2.1.1 Present

The paradigm for forming the present tense is as follows:

post-bound form	final-bound pronoun
sīrn-	-ān
listen	*they*
sīrnān	
"They listen." "They are listening"	

3.2.2.1.2 Past

The paradigm for forming the past tense is as follows:

post-bound form	-(y)tja-	final-bound pronoun
sīrn-	-tja-	-ān
listen	*-ed*	*they*
sīrnytjajān		
"They listened."		

3.3 Nouns

3.3.1 Word Forms

3.3.1.1 Singular

pre-bound form	**-ABo(Ce(D))**
post-bound form	**AiB(Cō(D))-**
citation form	**AēB(Co(D))**

3.3.1.2 Plural

The first vowel of a singular paradigm becomes ela.

3.3.2   Cases and Postpositions

Chapter 4

Vocabulary

Chapter 5

Orthography