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Old High Veriden

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1 INTRODUCTION

Veriden was initially conceived when I was in my early teens, in an entirely different and likely unrecognisable form as compared to what it is today. When I was in my mid-twenties and working on my Master's degree in Slavic Philology at the University of Oldenburg, Germany, I took a course in invented languages, which analysed various auxiliary and constructed languages from different eras and authors. Part of the final project of this course was to present a grammar of one's own creation, which led me to bring my long-discarded language project back to life. After the 'grammar skeleton' was rewarded with a top grade, I continued working on it sporadically over the following years. Even as it stands now, Veriden is far from finished, but that can certainly be said about practically every conlang.

Veriden was and remains an ongoing project that is very dear to me on various levels, and any comments, questions or general feedback will be greatly appreciated.

I would like to use this opportunity to once more thank Professor Franz Januschek for offering the course and presenting the art of language creation to his students in an academically stimulating and entertaining way, which (re-)fuelled my fascination to play with words, build grammatical structures, and express my creative impulses in an entirely different way.

2 ABOUT OLD HIGH VERIDEN

Old High Veriden, often referred to simply as Veriden or OHV, is the first (recorded) language in a series of chronological segments of linguistic development¹. The goal is to demonstrate around one thousand years of language change, with several descriptive "slices" showing the state of the language at ca. OHV+500 years, OHV+750 years and finally OHV+1000 years. This is an undertaking of very large proportions, especially when taking into account contact induced language change that Veriden will undoubtedly be subjected to as cultures expand.

¹ While there is a backdrop of lore, the historical context will be widely disregarded in this grammar for reasons of length. It may however be of interest to the reader that the first recording of Old High Veriden, which corresponds with the grammatical state as described here, marks the year 0, as the revelation of script is of strong religious significance. The technological level roughly corresponds with the scientific and mechanical knowledge of central Europe around the 9th and 10th centuries. At this stage, OHV can be described as a language used almost exclusively by clerical, academic and political members of society.

Because the creation of Veriden was guided by my aesthetic ideals, there are strong influences of natural languages, in particular Polish, Russian and older Slavic language states, represented mostly in phonetics and syntax, as well as German (mostly syntax). Despite the influence of natural languages, I do not strictly consider Veriden an *a posteriori* conlang. I borrowed inspiration from languages I admire, and formed the ingredients into something new. Particularly the lexicon is built from the ground up, with little to no conscious influence from the above-mentioned languages².

At a glance, the conlang Old High Veriden carries the following attributes:

Table 1. Attributes of Old High Veriden.

Feature	Value
Typology	Fusional
Alignment	Nominative-Accusative
Affixation	Largely prefixing
Head alignment	Variable
Declensions	Yes
Conjugations	Yes
Vowels	11
Consonants	27
Consonant to vowel ratio	Moderately low (2.5)
Word order	SOV, subord. SVO
Gender system	Animacy, partially sex-based
Plurality	Singular, Plural
Number of Cases	7
Number of Tenses	7
Aspect	No
Syllabic structure	(C/L)V(C/L), (C/V)L(V/C)

² Very few lexical entries are willingly adapted from natural languages, such as *zej*, fem.-anim. ‘sea, ocean’, which was borrowed from Low German (Plattdütsch) ‘See’ (fem.). These cases make up less than 1% of the entire lexicon.

3 PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

The choice of the phonemic inventory for Veriden was strongly influenced by Slavic languages, including (Old) Church Slavonic, Russian and Polish. While most consonants have a palatalised (soft) allophone brought about by phonological processes, only the content differentiating sounds are listed in the following table.

3.1 CONSONANTS

	<i>Bilabial</i>	<i>Labio-dental</i>	<i>Dental & alveo-dental</i>	<i>Post-alveolar</i>	<i>Palatal</i>	<i>Velar</i>
<i>Nasal</i>	m		n			ŋ
<i>Plosive</i>	p, b		t, tʲ, d			k, g
<i>Affricative</i>			ts, dz	tʃ		
<i>Frikative</i>		θ, ð, f, v	s, z	ʃ, ʃʲ, ʒ, dzʲ		x
<i>Vibrant</i>			r			
<i>Approximant</i>			ɫ, ɫʲ		j	

3.2 VOWELS

	<i>Front</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Back</i>
<i>Close</i>	i ³ , y	(ɨ ⁴)	u, ju
<i>Open-mid</i>	ɛ, jɛ, œ		ɔ, jɔ
<i>Open</i>		a, ja	

³ The vowel <i> is pronounced with an additional j-sound (/ij/) wenn stressed or at the end of a word. This effect is non-orthographical, but will be visible within this grammar for the purpose of clarity.

⁴ The vowel /i/ only appears as an allophone to /i/ in certain environments.

3.3 PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES

These phonological rules take place during articulation, either under certain circumstances or at every speech instance. As of yet, no hierarchy has been implemented for these rules.

<i>Process</i>	<i>Example</i>
/i/ always palatalises antecedent consonant; except any nasal consonants, or liquids /l/ and /r/, which are always followed by [i] (2).	(1) /_k/ + /i/ > [_k'ij] (2) /tʃuʎi/ > [tʃulij]
/y/ > /i/ before bilabial and labio-dental consonants	*_yd > id
plosive consonants share voice quality, also between words	/zp/ > /sp/, /sb/ > /zb/, /zk/ > /sk/, etc.
metathesis when l or r are followed by e or je: /le/ > /el/, /re/ > /er/	*vesle > vesel
/x/ > /ç/ when articulated following /i/	*[ijxa] > [ijça] (not orthographical)
When /i/ (/i/) is stressed or when it is at the end of a word, it is pronounced [ij].	ild 'life' > [ijld] selæbi 'steppe, wilderness' > [selæbij]
A dental voiced fricative palatalises to /z/ wenn followed by /j/ or an iotised vowel: /ð_ / + /j, jV/ > z ⁱ	pað 'talent' + jer 'to do' > paz ⁱ er 'to entertain'

3.4 SYLLABIC STRUCTURE

Syllables may be open or closed. The following syllable patterns are permissible:

<i>(C)V(C)</i>	<i>V(V)</i>	<i>(C)(L)V(L)(C)</i>	
at	a	tra	ra
ta	au	trat	ar
tat		tart	rar
		trart	rart

3.5 STRESS AND INTONATION

Word stress is largely regular, with few exceptions. Most word forms are stressed on the first-to-last syllable, while the count excludes postfixes. Stress does not change during inflection. Irregularities may arise in composite forms.

Sentence intonation is important to differentiate between statement and question. While it is possible to use discourse markers to clearly mark an utterance as a question, the matter is usually settled by the intonation.

Statements, including commands, typically end with a slightly lower pitch (as is common in most European languages).

In **questions**, the verb is marked with a higher pitch, and an optional raising of pitch at the end of the sentence. This allows a question to optionally have the same syntactical structure as a statement, but question markers can be used to make it unambiguous.

3.6 ROMANISATION

For practical purposes, I want to stick as close to the IPA as is legible for the documentation of Veriden. The following table gives an overview of the entire romanised alphabet.

The iotised vowels however are not romanised in the traditional sense: I chose graphemes that most closely represented the letter in question plus <i> in front of it, borrowing heavily from cyrillic. This may cause some confusion in readers who are familiar with cyrillic scripts, as the Slavic <ю> denotes /ju/ - whereas for Veriden, I chose <ю> for /jɔ/ as it looks more like a ligature of <i> and <o>, and better suits my purposes of transparency here. I applied the same logic to the graphical representation of /ju/ with the symbol <μ>.

I will use complete romanisation in addition to the cyrillic-inspired iotised vowels along with minor use of diacritics in this grammar. The graphemes < ǿ >, < η > and < ʒ >, which are taken directly from the IPA, will also be used. A Veridian orthography is planned for the future.

3.6.1.1 Vowels

<i>Phoneme</i>	<i>Graphical representation (romanisation)</i>
a	a
ja	ɮa (ja)
ɛ	e
jɛ	ɮɛ (je)
i̯, i̥	i
o	o
jo	ɮo (jo)
u	u
ju	ɮu (ju)
y	y
œ	œ/oe

3.6.1.2 Consonants

Graphemes that differ from the IPA symbol are bolded.

<i>Phoneme</i>	<i>Graphical representation (romanisation)</i>
b	b
d	d
dz	dz
ð	ð
θ	th
f	f
g	g
x	x
j	j

k	k
ɸ	ɸ
ł	l
m	m
n	n
ŋ	ŋ
p	p
r	r
s	s
ʃ	ʃ
ʃʃ	ʃʃ
ts	ts
t	t
tʃ	h (t')
tʃ	č
v	v
ʒ	ʒ
z	z

4 NOMINAL MORPHOLOGY

4.1 GENDER CLASSES

Veriden's nouns are sorted into two main gender classes, **animate** (anim.) and **inanimate** (inan.). The animate class contains two sub-classes, namely **animate** and **feminine-animate** (fem.-anim.). In addition to the animate and inanimate genders, there is a third, optional, overriding gender class called **honorum**, which will be presented after the grammatically inherent genders.

Nouns are classified into the gender classes based on semantic attributes, primarily animacy and sex. There is no way to deduce a noun's grammatical gender by its formal appearance. If a noun is semantically

inanimate (objects, institutions, etc.), it is grammatically inanimate. If a noun is semantically alive, it is grammatically animate. If the designatum is additionally female, it is feminine-animate.

Table 2. Graphical depiction of grammatical gender in Old High Veriden.

Animatum		Inanimatum
Most biologically living beings, deities and spirits, some natural phenomena and entities (e.g. <i>zej</i> fem.-anim. ‘sea, ocean’)		All objects, many plants and insects, non-living natural entities, etc.
Animatum Default class, as above	Femininum-Animatum All specifically female animate entities, plus lexicalised exceptions	--
[Honorum] Optional gender that “overrides” the naturally assigned gender. This applies only to nouns, not to attributes.		

4.1.1 The Animate Class

Nouns referring to biologically living beings (humans, animals) as well as religious entities (spirits, gods, etc.) are considered grammatically animate. Nouns are classified as animatum or femininum-animatum, which both follow separate paradigms. Adjectives, pronouns, etc. follow animated paradigms in congruence, but do not differentiate between general and feminine animacy⁵. Observe:

(1) Jenerilik ikal’ rillje.
ACC.-rich-DET. ACC.-woman see-I.

(2) Jenerilik ohel’ rillje.
ACC.-rich-DET. ACC.-man see-I.

⁵ A speaker of Veriden has the choice to use inanimate markers for an animate noun, but this is considered a verbal offense and should be practised with caution.

The words for ‘woman’ *kal’* and ‘man’ *hel’* inflect differently: *kal’* is fem.-anim. and *hel’* is anim. The adjective *erilik* ‘rich’ however inflects only for the quality of animacy by using the accusative marker {jen-}⁶, ignoring the sex-based differentiation between the anim. and fem.-anim. class.

The animatum class contains two specific traits that are not shared by the inanimatum gender. First, the *accusative and genitive cases are always syncretic in animate paradigms*, which is a trait inspired by Slavic languages. Second, the plural forms of animate nouns follow specific derivational patterns, which will be implemented in a future update.

The declension of animate nouns is shown in the table below. Veridian nouns inflect according to the following pattern:

[case marker] – [STEM] – [case and number] – [opt. postfix]

The prefix is the case marker while the suffix denotes case and number, and as such the absence of the suffix implies singularity⁷. An additional vowel (shown in parenthesis) is added to the suffix in some cases to aid pronunciation.

Table 3. Vocalic declension of animate nouns.

Case	Animate	Feminine-Animate	Example (sg., pl.)
Nom.	- -(m)in ⁸	- -(a)j	ame ‘Master’, amemin enjiv ‘aunt’, enjivaj ‘aunts’
Gen.	l- -(i)n	lj- -(a)n	lame, lamen ljenjiv, ljenjivan
Dat.	đ- -(a)n	đ- -(a)n	đame, đamen đenjiv, đenjivan
Acc.	l- -(i)n	lj- -(a)n	lame, lamen ljenjiv, ljenjivan
Loc.	m- -(e)t	m- -(e)t	mame, mamet menjiv, menjivet
Instr.	k- -(e)t	ts- -(e)t	kame, kamet tsenjiv, tsenjivet

⁶ The marker for inanimate adjectives (and entities inflecting as adjectives) is {je-, jej-}.

⁷ When referring to humans or respected entities, the vocative must always be used in the plural form, i.e. with the suffix. Using it without the suffix, i.e. as a would-be singular form, is perceived at best as a sarcastic address (as in: “Oh, housework, won’t you do yourself?”) and at worst as a personal affront.

⁸ Lexeme-specific allomorphs are not noted in this table and are discussed at a later chapter in this grammar.

Voc.	es- -đor	is- -đor	esameđor isenjivđor
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Table 4. *j*-Declension of animate nouns.

Case	Animate	Feminine-Animate	Example
Nom.	- -(m)in	- -(a)j	jujut 'eunuch', jujutin joris 'Madame, Mistress', jorisaj
Gen.	l- -(i)n	l- -(a)n	ljujut, ljututin ljoris, ljorisan
Dat.	z- -(a)n	z- -(a)n	zjujut, zjututan zjoris, zjorisan
Acc.	l- -(i)n	l- (a)n	ljujut, ljujutin ljoris, ljorisan
Loc.	m- -(e)t	m- -(e)t	mjujut, mjujutet mjoris, mjorist
Instr.	k- -(e)t	t'- (e)t	kjujut, kjututet t'joris, t'jorist
Voc.	s- -đor	s- -đor	sjujutđor sjorisđor

Table 5. *Consonantal declension of animate nouns.*

Case	Animate	Feminine-Animate	Example
Nom.	- -(m)in	- -(a)j	xel' 'man', xel'in kal' 'woman', kal'i ⁹
Gen.	o- -(i)n	i- -(e)n	oxel', oxel'in ikal', ikal'en
Dat.	đa- -(a)n	thi- -(a)n	đaxel', đaxel'an thikal', thikal'an
Acc.	o- -(i)n	i- -(e)n	oxel', oxel'in ikal', ikal'en
Loc.	ma- -(e)t	ma- -(e)t	maxel', maxel'et

⁹ Kal'i uses an allomorph for the nominative plural, **which is discussed elsewhere.**

			makal', makal'et
Instr.	xa- -(e)t	xa- -(e)t	xaxel', xaxel'et xakal', xakal'et
Voc.	(e)(s)- -đor	(i)(s)- -đor	esxel'đor iskal'đor

4.1.2 Inanimate Class

All nouns that do not fall into the animate class default into the inanimate class. Unlike the animate paradigm, the inanimate declension does not have syncretism between accusative and genitive. Instead, the *nominative and accusative forms are the same*. The three declension paradigms for inanimate nouns are displayed in the table below. Again, suffixes are added to denote plurality.

Table 6. Consonantal, vocalic, and j-declension for inanimate nouns.

Case	Consonantal	Vocalic	j-declension	Examples
Nom.	- -(a)t	- -(a)t	- -(a)t	kimery 'garden', kimeryt ithrun 'flame', ithrunat jeva 'quill', jevat
Gen.	o- -(a)t	l- -(a)t	l- -(a)t	okimery, okimeryt lithrun, lithrunat ljeva, ljevat
Dat.	ne- -(a)t	n- -(a)t	n- -(a)t	nekimery, nekimeryt nithrun, nithrunat njeva, njevat
Acc.	- -(a)t	- -(a)t	- -(a)t	kimery, kimeryt ithrun, ithrunat jeva, jevat
Loc.	ma- -(a)t	m- -(a)t	m- -(a)t	makimery, makimeryt mithrun, mithrunat mjeva, mjevat
Instr.	xa- -(a)t	x- -(a)t	š- -(a)t	xakimery, xakimeryt xithrun, xithrunat šjeva, šjevat
Voc.	-	-	-	

4.1.3 Honorum Class

While gender in Veriden is inherent for all nouns, there is a third class that can override the inherent gender of a noun. This “gender”, the **honorum**, is used to treat the noun it is applied to with high regard and respect. It is part of Veriden’s extensive tradition of politeness and, with only one exception, cannot appear as an inherent gender¹⁰. The honorum carries strong semantic weight and is used on nouns that demand high respect or reverence, including items (such as holy relics, or jokingly for mundane objects).

A speaker may refer to a person or an item with intentional regard by adding the postfix {-*đor*} to the noun in question, which derived from the vocative form of the honorum declension. Using this as a postfix does not alter the noun’s inherent grammatical gender. Alternatively, a speaker may decline the noun according to the honorum paradigm, which is described below. This phenomenon and its pragmatic possibilities will be explored in detail in a later chapter.

The (in)animacy of the noun is shown through the congruent elements, which are not affected by the honorum.

The table below shows the honorum paradigm, as it would be applied to a chosen word. Elements in parenthesis are added if the begins (or in the case of plurals, ends) with a consonants. Just as in animate nouns, the genitive and accusative are syncretic.

Table 7. Honorum nominal declension.

Case	Consonantal	Vocalic	Example
Nom.	- -ris	- -ris	sašufađa ‘a kind of spirit’, sašufađris ild ‘life’, ildris
Gen.	o- -ris	lj- -ris	osašufađa, osašufađris ljild, ljildris
Dat.	đa- -rim	đ- -rim	đasašufađa, đasašufađrim đild, đildrim
Acc.	o-	lj-	osašufađa, osašufađris

¹⁰ This is the formal address *đor*, which translates to a combination of “Lord/Lady”, “Master/Mistress”, “Sir/Madame”. It is coincidentally also the vocative marker for animate nouns. When used as an address (and not as a purely grammatical element), it must follow the honorum declension. In combination with any other gender paradigm, it would be considered ungrammatical. When using it as an address in conversation (spoken or written), it is considered proper to use the plural form *đorijn*, particularly when in contact with a person of considerably higher rank

	-ris	-ris	ljild, ljildris
Loc.	ma- -res	m- -res	masašufaða, mašufaðres mild, mildres
Instr.	xa- -res	x- / ŝ- -res	xasašufaða, xasašufaðres xild, xildres
Voc.	(e)(s)- -ðor	(i)(s)- -ðor	esašufaða-ðor sild-ðor

4.2 NUMBER

4.2.1 Cardinal Numbers

Veriden has a decimal system with a largely regular structure.

1) tet'	30) sinta
2) ka	40) katta
3) sin	50) petsta
4) kat'	60) pratta
5) pet'	70) pitta
6) prat'	80) otanta
7) pit'	90) okanta
8) ota	100) šut
9) oka	
10) talje	101) šut-tet'
11) tal'te	117) šut-tal'pit'
12) tal'ka	147) šut-pitskatta
13) tal'sin	
14) tal'kat'	200) kašt
15) tal'pet'	300) sišt
16) tal'prat'	400) kaçit
17) tal'pit'	500) peçit
18) tal'ota	600) praçit

19) tal'oka	700)	pičit
20) kanta	800)	otašt
21) tekanta	900)	okašt
22) kakanta	1000)	oč
23) sinkanta	2000)	ka očet
24) katskanta	3000)	sin očet
25) petskanta	9000)	oka očet
26) pratskanta	10000)	talje očet
27) pitskanta	20000)	kanta očet
28) otkanta		
29) okakanta		

4.2.2 Ordinal Numbers

The derivation of ordinal numbers is regular: the suffix {-me} (or allomorph {-m}) is attached to the root of the cardinal number. There are only few irregular forms. Ordinal numbers are inflected using adjective prefixes, *choosing the non-syllabic variant*, e.g. the morpheme for animated instrumental adjectives can be expressed as {my-} or {m-}. Ordinal numbers will never be inflected with {my-} in this case, but always with {-m}. The only exception to this rule is the inanimate genitive marker, which cannot be {j-} before a consonant, in which case the allomorph {ja-} is preferred.

In grammatical context, only the first numeral is inflected for case, but every numeral is used as an ordinal number (as opposed to e.g. English, which only uses the last digit as a cardinal). Examples follow below.

First – al'me	11 th – tal'tme	100th – šetem
Second – kme	12 th – tal'kme	200th – kaštem
Third – sime	13 th – tal'sime	300th – simtem
Fourth – katme	...	400th – katem
Fifth – petme		500th – pečem
Sixth – prame	20 th – kantam	600th – pramem
Seventh – pitme	25 th – petskantam	700th – pitem
Eighth – otme	30 th – sintam	800th – očetem
Ninth – okeme	40 th – kattam	900th – okštem

Tenth – tal'me	50 th – petstam 60th – pratame 70 th – pitame 80 th – ottam 90 th – okkam	543 rd – pečem simekattam 1000 th – tet'očem 2000 th – ka-očem 3000 th – sin-očem...
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(3) Jal'me ohel' rillje.

GEN.-first GEN.-man see-1STPERSSGPRES.

I see the first man.

(4) Đerdabue sime dabue ep japičit-tal'ka ađ, đeratr-đi kop otme-ottam.

DAT.-player-his third game out of GEN.-sevenhundred-twelve was-3RDPERSGPPAST, DAT.-opponent-his but NOM.-eighty-eighth.

It was the player's third game out of sevenhundred and twelve, but it was the opponent's eighty-eighth.

4.3 PRONOUNS

4.3.1 Personal Pronouns

Veridian personal pronouns are highly regular and systematic, but they are relatively rarely used in conversation or written word as nominatives. Thanks to the breadth of nominal and verbal inflection, the actors become evident without needing to be specifically named. When personal pronouns are used in the nominative case, it is usually to bring explicit awareness to the actor.

	1 st Pers. Sg.	2 nd Pers. Sg.	3 rd Pers. Sg., m.,n.	3 rd Pers. Sg., f.	1 st Pers. Pl.	2 nd Pers. Pl.	3 rd Pers. Pl.
Nom.	sa	va	đa	đe	alem	da	ta
Gen.	sja	vija	đija	đeja	alija	dja	t'ja
Dat.	si	vi	đi	đeј	al'a	daja	taja

Acc.	sje	vje	thje	đeje	alje	dalje	talje
Instr.	sam	vam	đam	đam	almy	damy	tamy
Loc.	samoe	vamoe	đamoe	đamoe	almoe	damoe	tamoe
Voc.	--	vale!	--	--	--	dale!	--

4.3.2 Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns do not inflect and are typically added to the possessed noun as a postfix (ex. (5)).

My	Saj
Your	Vaj
His/her	Đej
Our	Sej
Your (pl.)	Von
Their	Đom

(5) Kimeryvai rillje.

ACC.-garden-POSSPRON-your see-1STPERSSGPREs.

‘I see your garden.’

If the speaker wishes to bring special awareness to the possessor, he may express it by setting the NP of the possessor into the dative case, followed by the possessive pronoun, also in the dative case, as in example (6). Note that the possessed object continues to be governed by the predicate.

(6) Zjoris đej kimery rillje.

DAT.-Mistress POSSPRONDAT-her ACC.-garden see-1STPERSSGPREs.

‘I see the *Mistress*’ garden.’

The same principle can be applied on a pronoun instead of a noun, as in ‘I see *your* garden, but not *mine*.’ In this case, the pronoun and possessive marker merge into one wordform (here: *vevaj* and *sesaj*).

(7) Vevaj kimery rillje, kop sesaj eć.

DAT.PERS.PRON.You-POSS.PRON.DAT.-your ACC.-garden see-1STPERS SGPRES, but
 PERS.PRON.DAT.me-POSS.PRON.DAT.-my not.
 ‘I see your garden, but not mine.’

4.3.3 Relative Pronouns

	animate sg.	feminine- animate sg.	inanimate sg.	plural
Nom.	kos	kan	da	rod
Gen.	jekos	jekan	jada	jarod
Dat.	nakos	nakan	nada	narod
Acc.	jekos	jekan	jeda	jerod
Instr.	mykos	mykan	myda	myrod
Loc.	oekos	oekan	oeda	oerod

4.4 ADJECTIVES

Again, some forms have allomorphs that depend on the phonetic environment. The plural endings are the same as the noun they are syntactically connected to.

Case	Inanimatum	Animatum	Examples (undetermined)
Nom.	-	-	erilin xel' - rich man mit dabue - good game
Gen.	ja-, j-	jen-	jenerilin oxel' - of a rich man jamit odabue - of a good game
Dat.	na-, n-	na-, n-	nerilin ðaxel' - to/for a rich man namit nedabue - to/for a good game
Acc.	je-, jej-	jen-	jenerilin oxel' - a rich man jemit dabue - a good game
Instr.	am-, m-	my-, m-	merilin maahel' - with a rich man ammit madabue - with a good game

Loc.	œm-	œm-	œmerilin xahel' - on/about a rich man œmmit xadabue - on/about a good game
Voc.	-	-	

4.5 DERIVATION

4.5.1 Derivation of nouns

The following derivational morphs are used in Veriden:

Formant	Usage	Example
er-	personifier, someone who does or causes this (negative connotation)	er + drak 'blood' > erdrak 'murderer' er + atr 'against' > opponent, competition
to-	personifier, someone who deals with this in a positive way	to + drak 'blood' > todrak 'bloodletter'
jol'n-	beyond the scope; further; continuous over...	jol'n + ild 'life' > jol'nild 'survival' jol'n + idu 'time' > jol'nidu 'afterlife'
-esten, -isten	substantivation of verbs	prad-ja 'to meet' + -esten > pradjesten 'meeting' tla-ja 'to drink' + -esten > tlajesten (drinking) korat-ij 'to wait, meditate' + -isten > koratisten 'meditation; waiting'

4.5.2 Derivation of Adjectives

In order to derive an adjective from a noun, the stressed vowel of the stem of the noun from which the adjective is derived undergoes a systematic vowel shift (barring exceptions and natural processes). This process is based on the rounding/unrounding of the vowel. The case markers themselves are derived from

the personal pronouns. Note: colours do not adhere to the vowel shift rule, so for example *ar* ‘red’, n. will as an adjective be *arn*.

Vowel alternations:

i \diamond y

e \diamond æ

a \diamond i or o

o \diamond e

u \diamond o or a

+ {-n} or {-in}

Adjectives can be determined or undetermined, which becomes apparent in the suffix. The suffix {-n}/{-in} ({-n} when the stem ends on a vowel, barring exceptions) is attached to the stem when the adjective is undetermined. Determined adjectives carry the suffix {-k} or {-ik}. In some cases, the last syllable is shortened in favour of the adjective marker (as in *mitoma* > *mitemin*, ‘sharp’, see examples).

Examples (undetermined):

- *kali*, n. ‘girl’ > *kilin*, adj. ‘girlish, childlike’
- *gald*, n. ‘autumn’ > *goldin*, adj. ‘autumn’
- *mitoma*, n. ‘thorn, blade’ > *mitemin*, adj. ‘sharp’
- *thrun*, n. ‘fire’ > *thronin*, adj. ‘firey’

Examples (determined):

- *vrel*, n. ‘wisdom’ > *vrælik*, adj. ‘this wise’
- *æril*, n. ‘money, coin’ > *erilik*, adj. ‘this rich’

Notable exceptions:

These adjectives (along with some others) are further relics from Veriden’s linguistic past, and are exceptions to the above rule. In this list, the first form is the undetermined adjective, the second is determined.

- kojœ, n. ‘cleanliness, pureness’ > kojœm/ikojœ, adj. ‘clean, pure’
- xejesij, n. ‘holy wisdom’ > xej/xenek, adj. ‘enlightened’
- mit/imit, adj. ‘good’
- xak/ixak, adj. ‘dangerous, intimidating’
- oja/ixoja, adj. ‘shapely, round, full, satisfying, enticing’
- mivatrij/mivatrik, adj. ‘beautiful’
- nimlaarij/nimlaarik, adj. ‘strong’
- frinjem/frinik, adj. ‘cold’

4.5.3 Comparison of Adjectives

The comparative form of adjectives is created with the addition of the prefix {-itr-, -itra-}, the superlative form is created by using {-itrait-}. The adjective case markers are placed in front of the prefix. The following table demonstrates several adjectives as they would appear in various cases.

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Comparative</i>	<i>Superlative</i>	<i>Translation</i>
thronin	mitrathronin	mitraitronin [reduction of -tth- to -t-]	firey > more firey > most firey; instr. sg. inanimate, determined
nerilin	nitrerilin	nitraiterilin	rich > richer > richest; sg. animate, undetermined

Table 8. Selection of irregular adjective comparisons.

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Comparative</i>	<i>Superlative</i>	<i>Translation</i>
mit / imit	jenljet / iljet	jenljejet / jeniljejet	good > better > best; acc. sg. determined/ undetermined
nimlaarij / nimlaarik	nolarij / nolarik	nalarij / nalarik	strong > stronger > strongest

4.5.4 Derivation of Adverbs

Adverbs are derived from the root of the adjective in question, to which the prefix {cik-}, {ci-}, or {c-} is added. The choice of prefix depends largely on the length of the adjective, as Veriden strives for an optimum of shortness of form and phonetical clarity. The following examples demonstrate the entire derivation process as begun with the noun, including some irregular patterns, which are marked by colour. Sentences using these words follow.

<i>Noun</i>	<i>Adjective root</i>	<i>Adverb</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
uexa	uoxa	ćikuoxa	love > love-like > lovingly
rajthura	rajthora	ćrajthora	twilight > half-dark, half-light > shady (<i>as in shady business</i>)
ćuli	ćal	ćićal	home > comfortable, familiar > friendly/intimately, comforting in the way that only a member of a person's closest circle can be
nimlaar	nimlaar	ćnimlaar	strength > strong > strongly, powerfully

(8) The man kissed his wife lovingly.

Hel' ikal'đej ćikuoxa mil'as.

Man ACC.-woman-HIS lovingly kiss-3RDPERSAORIST.

(9) The thieves exchange coins shadily.

(10) She embraced me intimately.

Đa sje čičal dadjis.

(11) The wind blew strongly over the land.

5 VERBAL MORPHOLOGY

5.1 CONJUGATIONAL CLASSES

In Veriden, there are two main flecional classes. The larger of the two, conjugation I, contains all transitive verbs and most non-transitive verbs. Conjugation II is smaller and is semantically motivated: it contains all verbs of movement, as well as verbs that fall into the area of metaphysics, abstract terms for existing, etc. (e.g. to transcend, to live/exist, to die, to go, to dream prophetically...) This reflects traditional Veridian philosophy, which will be elaborated on elsewhere.

If the stem of a verb (historically!) ends on a consonant, the infinitive marker is {-ij}, such as in *nir* ‘swiftness’ > *nirij* ‘to hurry’. If a stem historically ends on a vowel, as *lauexa* ‘love’, the infinitive marker will be {-ja}: *lauexaja* ‘to love’. Both infinitive types, {-ij} and {-ja}, imply the conjugation according to **conjugational class I**.

For **conjugation II**, the infinitive is typically {-dzij}, as in *ildzij*, ‘to live’. While the infinitive ending is always dropped during conjugation, the /d/ remains on the stem in certain environments. Some verbs also carry the ending {-ij}, and fall into this category based on their semantics, not their formal appearance.

5.2 TENSES

5.2.1 Present Tenses

Old High Veriden has two present tenses: the **Currens** and the **Inchoative**.

5.2.1.1 Currens

The **Currens Present** designates current states and continuous actions as well as one-time actions taking place during the moment of speech. This tense is used to describe any state or action that is taking place at the moment of utterance, and therefore comes very close to the English present continuous. The Currens is the simplest of all tenses.

Currens Present: Conjugation I

sg.	pl.
1. -lje	1. -lim
2. -el	2. -l'em
3. -la	3. -l'am

Example: *jevja*, 'to write'

sg.	pl.
1. <i>jevlje</i>	1. <i>jevlim</i>
2. <i>jevel</i>	2. <i>jevl'em</i>
3. <i>jevla</i>	3. <i>jevl'am</i>

Currens Present: Conjugation II

sg.	pl.
1. -djij	1. -dim
2. -djej	2. -de
3. -dja	3. -dar

Example: adʒij, 'to know'

sg. [dd > d]	pl.
1. adjij	1. addim
2. adjej	2. adde
3. adja	3. addar

5.2.1.2 Inchoative

The **Inchoative** designates actions about to begin, relative to the moment of utterance.

[work in progress]

5.2.2 Past Tenses

5.2.2.1 Praeteritum

The Praeteritum, or simple past, is used to describe actions (or states) that took place regularly in the past, and may or may not still reach into the present. The Praeteritum is derived from the stem of the infinitive, to which the formant {-a-}/{-eja-} and the personal ending is added. Plural forms also follow this pattern, but contain phonological contractions.

Praeteritum: Conjugation I

sg.	pl.
1. -aj /-ejaj	1. ejim [>ejajim]
2. -al / ejal	2. ejem [>ejajem]
3. -a / -eja	3. ejaam [>ejajam]

Example: vlemja, 'to give, to make a gift'

sg.	pl.
1. vlemejaj	1. vlemejim [>ejajim]
2. vlemejal	2. vlemejem [>ejajem]
3. vlemeja	3. vlemejaam [>ejajam]

Praeteritum: Conjugation II

sg.	pl.
1. -m / -am	-ot (all plurals)
2. -n / -en	
3. -d / -ad	

Example: ildzij, 'to live'

sg.	pl.
1. ildjam	ildjot (all)
2. ildjen	
3. ildjad	

5.2.2.2 Aorist

The Aorist is used to describe actions that took place once (=not recurringly) in the past and are completed. The Aorist is derived from the infinitive stem, which is modified phonetically according to the following pattern:

- e, i > a
- u > o
- a, o, œ > i

The resulting stem is known as the Aorist stem and is used in the derivation of participles.

Examples:

- pradja 'to meet' > prid-
- isudzij 'to die' > isod'-
- đoxeja 'to wait' > đixe-
- lauxaja 'to love' > laaxa- [contraction of <lauaxa-]

The conjugation of the Aorist paradigms also depends on the stem vowel. The original conjugational groups are not valid in this conjugation, as it is entirely *phonetically motivated*.

Aorist a-conjugation

sg.	pl.
1. -j / -ij	-ju
2. -l / -il'	
3. -s / -as	

Example: lauxaja 'to love' > aorist stem: **laaxa-**

sg.	pl.
1. laaxaj	laašus
2. laaxal	
3. laaxas	

Aorist o-conjugation

sg.	pl.
1. -j / -ij	-jut
2. -l / -al	
3. -t / -it	

Examples: isudzij 'to die' > isod'-

sg.	pl.
1. isodij	isodjut
2. isodal	
3. isodit	

Aorist i-conjugation

sg.	pl.
1. -j / -aj	-at
2. -l / -al	
3. -t / -at	

Examples: pradjā 'to meet' > prid-

sg.	pl.
1. pridaj	pridat
2. pridal	
3. prit (!)	

The third person plural form is *prit* to avoid homonymy with the plural form.

5.2.3 Future Tenses

Old High Veriden has three future tenses, two of which are periphrastic and make use of the auxiliary *ša*. The other is a synthetic tense, using only one verb form.

5.2.3.1 Simple Future

The future perfect tense describes actions and states that will be completed in the future - its function is similar to the Slavic perfective aspect. The paradigm is derived from the infinitive stem, to which the formant {-ru-} and the personal endings are added.

Simple Future: Conjugation I

sg.	pl.
1. -ruje	1. -ruim
2. -ruel'	2. -ruem
3. -rula	3. -ruam

Example: jevja, 'to write'

sg.	pl.
1. jevruje	1. jevruim
2. jevruej'	2. jevruej
3. jevrula	3. jevruam

Simple Future: Conjugation II

The plural of conjugation II is syncretic with the plural of conjugation I, only the singular paradigms differ.

sg.	pl.
1. -rud	1. -ruim
2. -rudje	2. -ruem
3. -rudja	3. -ruam

Example: adzij, 'to know'

sg.	pl.
1. arud	1. adruim
2. arudje	2. adruem
3. arudja	3. adruam

5.2.3.2 *ša-Future and Plusquamperfect*

The *ša*-future tense describes actions and states that will begin in the future. This future is formed periphrastically, i.e. with the auxiliary *ša*, which is derived from the Old Veriden *šak*, 'to want, desire'. Despite its etymological background, *ša* does not carry the implications of a desired or potential action; it has evolved into a purely grammatical function word.

The auxiliary *ša* has its own conjugation pattern, though it is very similar to the conjugation of *iðri* and modal verbs:

sg.	pl.
1. <i>ša</i>	1. <i>šim</i>
2. <i>šak</i>	2. <i>šem</i>
3. <i>ša</i>	3. <i>šim</i>

The conjugated *ša* is then combined with the *infinitive* to create the **ša-future** (examples (12) and (13)), or the *perfect participle* to create the **plusquamperfect** (example (14)). The auxiliary may be placed relatively freely, but should be placed either before the connected NP, or behind it with the full verb (see examples). Syntactically, the auxiliary takes the slot where the optional personal/demonstrative pronouns would go.

- (12) Thlef *ša* jevja.
NOM-Book shall-1ST.PERS.SG. write-INF.
'I shall write [and finish] a book'.

- (13) Šak eaka kujut iðri.
Shall-2ND.PERS.SG. eternally INSTR.-eunuch be-INF.
'You shall always be a eunuch.'

- (14) Thlef *ša* javge.
NOM-Book shall-1ST.PERS.SG. written-PERF.PART.

5.3 PARTICIPLES

Veriden uses participles to modify nouns (ie. a *startled* child, an *on-going* event, etc.). Participles are also used to create the passive, the conditional, as well as in various syntactical settings (as adjectives, adverbs...). Veriden makes use of adverbial participles, which cannot be inflected, and adjective participles, which can be inflected.

5.3.1 Adverbial participles

- **[infinitive stem] + {-fti}**
- reflexive markers combine with the suffix: **{-lfti}**
- always bind to the subject of the sentence
- cannot be declined
 - Tlaalfti dœja, zecejem.
○ *Drinking* beer, we talked.
 - Zefti, tlaajemlje dœja.
○ Talking, we drank beer.

5.3.2 Inflected participles

- Show simultaneous actions and states
- Can be declined into all cases (except vocative)

Present active participle

- **[adj. case marker] + [infinitive stem] + {-koj}**
- carried out *by* the noun it modifies
 - “We walked beneath the *twinkling* stars.”

Present passive:

- **[adj. case marker] + [infinitive stem] + {-tje}**

- Is carried out *on* the noun it modifies
 - Ećtek raliĵ oternamr janjexatje opejsaj.
 - Not-yet see-1STAOR GEN.-play GEN.-mentioned by GEN.-teacher-my.
 - “I haven’t yet seen the play *mentioned* by my teacher.”

Perfect participles

- Demonstrate an action that took place before the action of the main clause
- Bind to the subject of the phrase, and are therefore always in the nominative case
- Most easily translated with “After...” or phrases such as “Having done something,...”
- “Having finished his coffee, the man left for work.” or
- “Finished with breakfast, the man left for work.”
- [aorist stem] + {-ŋe} or {-ge} (after most consonants)

6 SYNTAX

6.1 CLAUSE STRUCTURE

6.1.1 Head Alignment

Most Veridian Noun Phrases containing complements are head-final (ex. (15) and (16)). Noun Phrases containing participles are head-final.

(15) [VP vRillje [NP mivatrik N**varel**]].

I see the beautiful **sunrise**.

(16) [VP vRillje [NP mivatrik N**varel**], [CP jeda [VP v**njexal**]]].

I see the beautiful **sunrise** which you **mentioned**

Verbal Phrases (VPs) are typically head-final, but the alignment shifts to head-initial in subordinate and embedded clauses.

Veriden has varying structures for Adjective Phrases (APs). An AP may be head-initial or head-final, depending on semantics. (...)

6.2 SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Thanks to its variety of cases, Old High Veriden is very flexible in terms of sentence structure. However, there are several typical patterns that are used most frequently. These are displayed in the table below.

Simple sentence, standard utterance	SOV	Rilje mivatrik varel.	I see the beautiful sunrise.
Simple sentence II	OSV	Mivatrek varel rilje.	I see the beautiful sunrise. => Pointing out that I see the sunrise in particular.
Subordinate and embedded clauses	SVO	...	

6.3 SYNTACTICAL USE OF CASES

6.3.1 Genitive

Genitive of time, e.g. “orajthura” – “by twilight”, used for particular times of day/month/year

6.3.2 Dative

6.3.3 Accusative

6.3.4 Locative

6.3.5 Instrumental

Instrumental of time: (like Pol. “każdego dnia”, only in instr.), used for stretches of time or regular occurrences

7 PRAGMATICS

[work in progress]

8 TABLES

8.1 IRREGULAR VERBS

	<i>Currens</i> <i>Present</i>	<i>Praeteritum</i>	<i>Aorist</i>	<i>Future</i>	<i>Adverbial</i> <i>Participle</i>	<i>Present</i> <i>Participles</i>	<i>Past</i> <i>Participle</i>
iðri (to be)	sg. 1. ij 2. is 3. ið pl. 1. edim 2. edis 3. eda	sg. 1. ijm 2. jen 3. að pl. (all) iðut	= Praet- eritum	sg. 1. ðeim 2. ðak 3. ðaim pl. 1. ruim 2. ruem 3. ruam	išti	active: itkoj passive: istje	ðiþe
jer (to have)	sg. 1. jeje 2. jer 3. je	sg. 1. jaruj 2. jar 3. jaje	= Praet- eritum				

	pl. 1. jejem 2. jerem 3. jeju	pl. 1. jarim 2. jarem 3. jaram					
--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--

9 EXAMPLES, TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

- i. Amnaxar xaje ry ðuniversitet thidlim.

INSTR.-every INSTR.-day to DAT.-university go-1STPERSPL.

We go to university every day.

- ii. Tir fl'itan – Like a butterfly

Tir fl'itan

Nebirl'a jolnirla

Omejl'il' ju secla

Tharnsaj ry vi nirla.

Like a butterfly

Like butterfly

Tir fl'itan

Flies around a flower

DAT.-flower around-flies-3RDSGCURR

Nebirl'a jolnirla

And tastes its honeydew

GEN.-Honeydew-its and tastes-3RDSGCURR

Omejł'il' ju sećla

My soul flies to you.

Soul-my to you flies-3RDSGCURR.

Tharnsaj ry vi nirla.

iii. Dat Du Min Leevsten Büst (Folk song from Northwest Germany)

Va xatrissaj is	You love-my are	Dat du min Leevsten büst
Nimlœ adjel	Surely you-know	Dat du wohl weest
Thidruje	I will come	Kumm bi de nacht
Orajthura	By twilight	Kumm bi de nacht
Lauxalje vje	I love you (not lit. trans.)	Segg, wo du heest
Ošax dunruje	I-will-come by night	Ik kumm um Middernacht
Lepnin omoeda	By light of moon	Ik kumm klok een
đoram falla	Father sleeps	Vader slöpt
đorma falla	Mother sleeps	Moder slöpt
Tekto falel	Alone you-sleep	Du slöpst aleen
Amrajbet-vje pokruje	Bedroom-door-yours I-knock	Klopp an de Kammerdör
Danruje keln	Touch the handle	Faat an de Klink
đoram vardja	Father thinks	Vader meent
đorma vardja	Mother thinks	Moder meent
Da tet'a thalth	It's only the wind	Dat dei de Wind
Va xatrissaj is	You love-my are	Dat du min Leevsten büst
Nimlœ adjel	Surely you-know	Dat du wohl weest
Thidruje	I will come	Kumm bi de nacht
Orajthura	By twilight	Kumm bi de nacht
Lauxalje vje	I love you	Segg, wo du heest