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**Presentation of the Duišan and Kven language**

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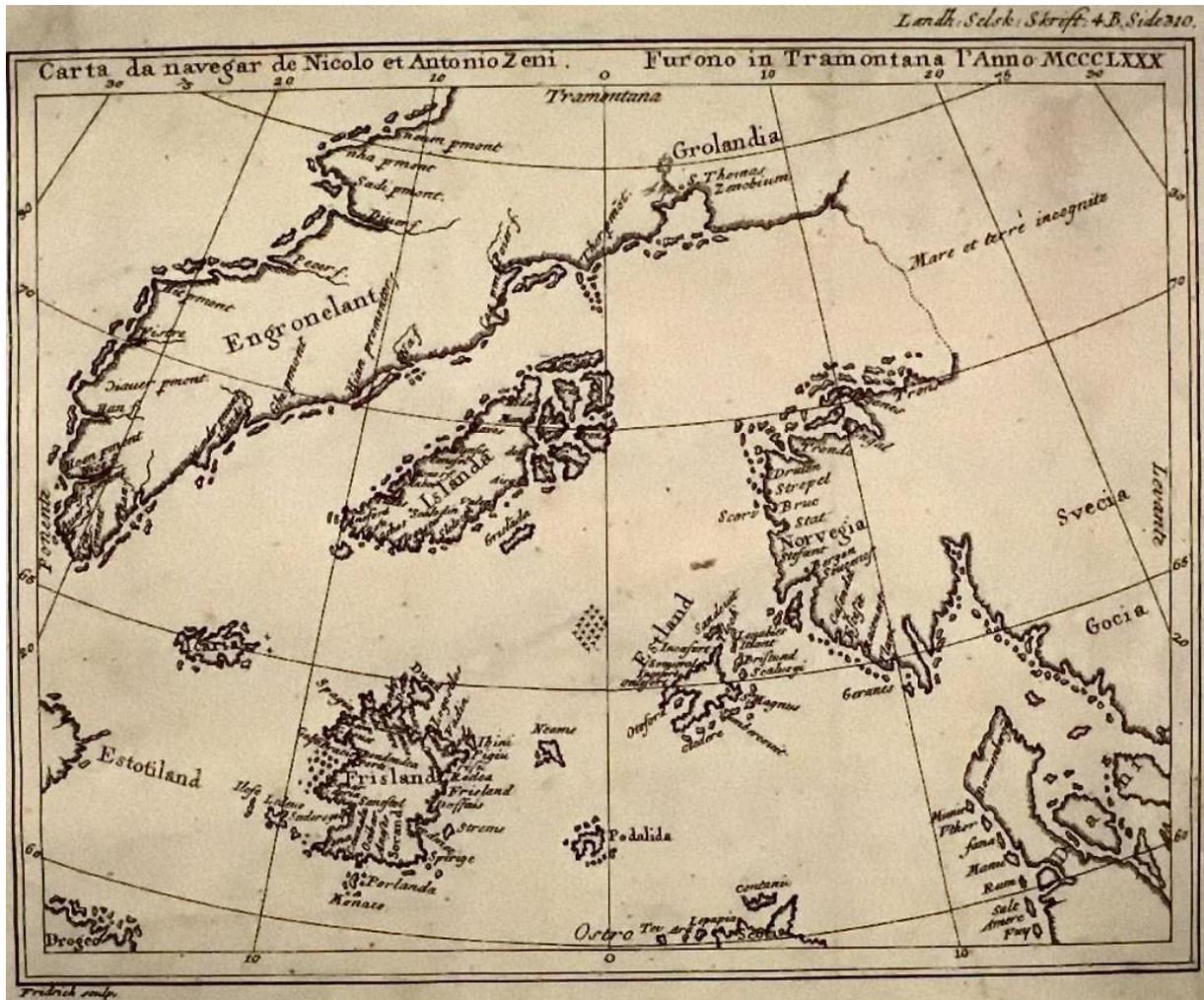
This paper is adapted from the final exam paper of the course *HIF-1022 Constructed language* given at the Arctic University of Tromsø in Norway during the spring semester of 2021. In this paper I present the constructed language Duišan and compare it with the Kven language, a minority language from the Uralic language family spoken in Northern Norway.

Duišan is a language spoken by the inhabitants of the imaginary island of *Frisland*, which was located between Iceland and Greenland. Even though Frisland is an imaginary island, it appeared in most of the maritime map from the 1560s through the 1660s. The belief in Frisland was so strong that a few maps of the island mentioning the names of its regions and major cities were even drawn and published in the most renowned maps of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was so systematic that it became a way for the historians to quickly identify the maritime maps of that period. In the lore of my constructed language however, Frisland is the name only used by the outsiders. The natives of the island use the word *Duišia*. Even though none of the island natives ever came back to Duišia after they left, the people of Duišia, the *Duišan*, have knowledge of the outside world thanks to the people they rescue from shipwrecks. It drove the Duišan to question the nature of their reality and constantly wonder if they are real or not. Consequently, their society is peacefully divided between the people who think they are real and the people who think they are imaginary.

Kven, the language I compare Duišan with, is a Finnic language derived from the Finnish dialects spoken from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the northernmost parts of Sweden and Finland. From the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards, peoples from those northern areas started to gradually settle in Northern Norway, with a peak during the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Niemi, 1995). As the decades went, the language of the newcomers started to be influenced by the Norwegian language and the Northern Sámi language. Like the indigenous Sámi people of Norway, the Kven were the victims of strong assimilation policies from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the 1970s. In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Kven is spoken by less than 2000 individuals and became officially a language of its own in 2005 (Niemi, 2017).

In this paper, I will compare some of the main features of the Duišan and Kven languages. I start by presenting the sound systems of Duišan and Kven, then their basic nominal system and finally the basic verbal systems of both languages. The rules and grammar of Kven come from the book *Kvensk grammatikk* by Eira Söderholm whereas the concepts and notions used in the creation of Duišan come from *The Art of Language Invention* by David Peterson and the materials presented in the course HIF-1022 Constructed language.

The Island of Frisland in the Zeno map (1558)



Source: <https://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frisland>

## 1. The sound systems of Duišan and Kven:

The sound system of both languages is presented through the International Phonetic Alphabet IPA.

### 1.1 The vowel system

#### *Duišan*

Nasal		
	Front	Back
Close-mid		õ
Open	æ̃	ã

#### *Kven*

	Front		Back	
	Unrounded	Rounded	Unrounded	Rounded
Close	i i:	y y:		u u:
Mid	e e:	ø ø:		o o:
Open	æ æ:		ɑ ɑ:	

The vowel alphabet of Duišan for the vowels are *a, e, i, o, u, y, ê, ø*. The nasal sounds are *-in, -an, -on*. An accent is put on the vowels *i, a* and *o* before the consonant *-n* when the sound is not nasalized. The Kven has short and long vowels that affect the meaning of the words and is identical to the Finnish language. The vowel alphabet is *a, e, i, o, u, y, ä, ö, å*

## 1.2 The consonant system

### *The Duišan*

		Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar
<b>Nasal</b>		m			n			ŋ
<b>Plosive</b>	voiceless	p			t			k
	voiced	b			d			g
<b>Affricates</b>	Voiceless				ts̺	tʃ̺		
	voices				dʒ̺	dʒ̺		
<b>Fricative</b>	voiceless		f		s	ʃ		
	voiced		v		z			ʁ
<b>Approximant</b>					l		j	

### *The Kven*

		Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
<b>Nasal</b>		m			n			ŋ	
<b>Plosive</b>	voiceless	p			t			k	
	voiced	(b)			(d)			(g)	
<b>Fricative</b>	voiceless		f		s	(ʃ)			h
	voiced			ð					
<b>Trill</b>					r				
<b>Approximant</b>			v		l		j		

The sound /b, d, g, ʃ/ are only found in loanwords and /ð/ is highlighted in red because it is a sound that does not exist in Finnish and is unique to Kven.

### 1.3 Basic phonotactics of Duišan and Kven

#### *Duišan*

Any of the vowels can be found in the word-finals and word initials positions. There is no double vowels of the same type and nearly all the vowels can be combined to create diphthongs thanks to the different influences Duišan received from the people rescued from shipwrecks.

A cluster of three consonants can be found anywhere in a word but not in word-finals, where one consonant is usually the norm. The consonants /p, b, d, g, ŋ, s, z/ are never word-finals unless the word is a loan word.

There is a vowel harmony in Duišan. When the ending of a word changes due to a plural form, the vowel of the plural in that case will always be the same as the one preceding it.

Ex: house: pysín – houses: pysimit / time: veras – times: veraksat

#### *Kven*

Kven is similar to the Finnish language when it comes to phonotactics. Any of the vowels can be found in the word-final and word-initial positions. Almost all the vowels can be doubled and combined with 18 diphthongs possible. When it comes to the consonant, only /t, s, n, r, l/ can be word-finals whereas all the consonants except /d/ and /ŋ/ can be word-initial. There are no consonant clusters on a word-final except for loan words.

The Kven has a strict vocal harmony with two main groups of vowels that do not mix in the same word. The groups are **ä, ö, y** and **a, o, u**. The vowels **e** and **i** are used with both groups.

## 2. The basic nominal system of Duišan and Kven

### 2.1 Personal pronouns

English	Duišan	Kven
I	Mo	Mie
You	Dø	Sie
He/she	Tuot	Hän
It	Diot	Se
We/they/no one/ every one	Modua	
We	More	Met
you	Dore	Tet
They	Totre	Her

In Duišan, when a verb starts with a vowel, the last vowel of the pronoun disappears and take an apostrophe, ex: mo – m'. *Modua* in Duišan is based on the French pronoun *on*.

### 2.2 Possessive pronouns

English	Duišan	Kven
Mine	Dalo	Minun
Yours	Dalør	Sinun
His/hers	Daluote	Hänen
Ours	Dalorene	Meidän
Yours	Dalørene	Teidän
Theirs	Dalotrene	Heidän

The possessive pronouns of both Kven and Duišan are placed before the substantive possessed.

Ex: Duišan: *Dalo pysin*: my house / Kven: *Minun huonet*: my house

## 2.3 Word types

There is no cases in Duišan but words decline when they take the plural or are compounded with other words. In Kven, there is over 13 different cases. Both Duišan and Kven have a base form for nouns, adjectives and sometimes adverbs. Here are the main word endings and how they decline when they take a case.

### *Duišan*

	Noun type	Stem
House	Pysín	pysimi-
City	Raušotán	Raušotama-
Left	Soidon	Soidomo-
Alone	iata (one vocal ending)	iata-
Time	Veras	Verks-
God	tot	tode-
Person	iateš	iateče-
Bolar	pont	ponne-
Rock	naif	naive-
Weather	Osea (two vocals ending)	Oset-
Egg/yellow	énkal	énkal-

### *Kven*

	Noun type	Stem
Morning	aamu	aamu-
country	maa	maa-
coffee	kaffi	kaffi-
winter	talvi	talve-
language	kieli	kiele-
water	vesi	vede-
Boat	venet	venhee-
Guest/unknown	vieras	vierhaa-
Idea	ajatus	ajatuks-
Person	ihminen	ihmise-
member	jäsen	jäsene-
keys	avvain	avvaime-
love	rakkhaus	rakkhaude-
unlucky	onneton	onnetoma-
truth	tottuus	tottuđe- / tottuksi-

The plural in both Kven and Duišan is marked by **-t** at the end of the words.

Ex: Duišan: *house* – *pysín* – *pysimit* / *time* - *veras* - *veraksat*

Kven: *idea* – *ajatus* – *ajatukset* / *truth* – *tottuus* - *tottudet*

## 2.4 Preposition systems

Kven has very few prepositions and uses a system of 13 cases: nominative, genitive, essive, partitive, translative, inessive, illative, adessive, elative, ablative, allative, comitative and abessive. Duišan on the other hand uses many prepositions that combine to create words of their own. Here are some examples:

**At/to** – one : **At the / to the** – onedal (sg), onedame (pl) / **at a** – ony (sg), onyme (pl)

**For** – veron: **For the** – Verondal (sg), Verondame (pl) / **For a** – Verony (sg), Veronyme (pl)

**In** – Sasan: **in the** – sasandal (sg), sasandame (pl) / **in a** - Sasany (sg), Sasanyme (pl)

**On** – čan: **on the** – čadal (sg), čadame (pl) / **on a** – čany (sg), čanyme (pl)

**In front of** – aitron: ... **the** - aitrodal (sg), aitrodame (pl) / ... **a** - aitrony (sg), aitronyme (pl)

## 2.5 Adjectives

In Kven, all adjectives go before the noun they qualify, taking their cases and numbers. The relational adjectives are also before the nouns.

In Duišan, the qualitative adjectives are congruent in number with the noun they qualify (except in some cases for the adjectives ending in –e). The qualificative adjectives expressing an opinion-impression and indicating a color are placed after the nouns. However, the adjectives referring to the weather and physical features are placed before the nouns. While qualificative adjectives are not created following any particular set of rules, the relational adjectives are formed from a substantive with the suffix *–nín* added and goes after the substantive. Many adjectives in Duišan can also be used as substantives.

Ex: The world: *dal'iktevašín* – The world day: *dal'iktevašiminín turpa*

### 3. The basic verbal systems of Duišan and Kven

#### 3.1 Verb types

Duišan has three verb groups and a fourth group with two different endings. The first group ends with *-ute* (ex: *rániute* – to take). the second group *-ite* (ex: *Kačite* – to say) and the third group *-ate* (ex: *avate* – to see). The fourth group ends in *-otre* (ex: *potre* – to do) and *-uatre* (*namuatre* – to know). There are two auxiliary verbs in Duišan, to be *Enotre* and to have *Obate*. In Kven, the verbs can be regrouped in five main categories (with many subcategories) in which the number of syllables and the endings decide of the type. This paper does not present the verb types of Kven due to their important number and complexity.

#### 3.2 Alignment

In term of alignment, Duišan is a nominative/accusative system marked by a strict word order Subject-Verb-Object. Kven is also a nominative/accusative verbal system but with a more flexible word order. The object can be for example placed before the verb depending on the case it takes.

#### 3.3 Mood and tenses

Duišan has three moods: indicative, imperative and conditional. Kven has the same moods but some traces of a potential mood that derives from Finnish can be found in some words. In the indicative mood Duišan has six tenses: present, imperfect, perfect, past perfect, future and future perfect. Kven has four tenses in the indicative: present, imperfect, perfect and past perfect, while the future is decided by the context. I will only detail the indicative tenses in Duišan in this section.

The present tense in Duišan takes an *-n* at the singular and *-ne* at the plural, except for the third person *modua*.

##### To go - *žitute*

Mo <i>žitun</i> – I go	More <i>žitune</i> – we go
Dø <i>žitun</i> – you go	Dore <i>žitune</i> – you go
Tuot <i>žitun</i> – he/she goes	Totre <i>žitune</i> – they go
Diot <i>žitun</i> – it/this/that goes	
Modua <i>žitur</i> – French “on” goes	

An *-i-* marks the imperfect:

Mo žituín– I went	More žituine– we went
Dø žituín – you went	Dore žituine – you went
Tuot žituín – he/she went	Totre žituine – they went
Diot žituín – it/this/that went	
<i>Modua žituri</i> – French “on” went	

The perfect tense is formed with *to have* + *past participle*, except for the verb of movement that takes *to be*, like in French or Italian. *Enotre* is *to be* and is one of the few irregular verbs in Duišan.

Mo šén žitu– I have gone	More žéne žitut– we have gone
Dø šén žitu – you have gone	Dore žéne žitut – you have gone
Tuot šén žitu – he/she has gone	Totre žéne žitut – they have gone
Diot šén žitu – it/this/that has gone	
<i>Modua šéner žitu</i> – French “on” has gone	

For the imperative tense in Duišan, the singular of the second person is the same as in the indicative present form. The plural of the first person is the indicative plural of *to go* - *žitune* followed by the infinitive. Ex: Let’s speak! = *Žitune smavate!* /Go[in plural] you speak/. The plural of the second person is the same as the indicative present form.

The future tense is formed by adding *-r* after the vowel without the infinitive and adding the same vowel followed by *-n* or *-ne*.

Mo žiturun– I will go	More žiturune– we will go
Dø žiturun – you will go	Dore žiturune – you will go
Tuot žiturun – he/she will go	Totre žiturune – they will go
Diot žiturun – it/this/that goes	
<i>Modua žituru</i> – French “on” will go	

### 3.4 Aspects

Duišan and Kven have a continuous and progressive aspect. In Duišan, the continuous tense is built on the structure *enotre pari* (to be + pari ) + *infinitive*.

Ex: *Mo šén pari rániute* = *I am taking*.

The present participle is built with only *Pari* + *infinitive*.

Ex: *Pari rániute* – *While/when taking*.

A derivative of *pari* is *para* as a suffix in the form *substantive/adjective* + *para*, a suffix referring to the entrance into a certain state and function as an archaic translative case (the vowel before *para* is the same vowel that the last vowel of the base form).

Ex: *to go to war* - *žitute vitunaksapara* (to go war-entering);(Vitunas: war)

*to go down in history* – *žitute banakiksipara* (*banakis* is the nominative form).

In Kven, the continuous aspect marked by *to be* is followed with the verb at the third infinitive

Ex: *Mie oon syömässä* – *I am eating*. What is called the second infinitive in Kven is used to mark something that is done at the same time Ex: *Tullessani kotiin satoi* - *When I came home, it rained*.

The Kven has a translative case of its own adding up **-ksi** to the stem of the word

Ex: *Mie puhun franskaksi* – *I am speaking in French (right now)*

*Mie tulen kippeeksi* – *I am getting sick (Literally I come sick)*

### 3.5 Interrogative words

The interrogative words in Duišan are invariable, while in Kven some of them change depending on the cases or the number. The structure *Verb* + *subject* at the beginning of a question is used in both Duišan and Kven, but Kven adds the suffix particle – *ko/kö* after the verb. Here are some examples in Duišan:

**Who** - *Pam*, **what** - *kaima*, **what** (exclamative and accusative) - *kait*, **Where** – *tau*

**When** – *poimi*, **Why** – *veronkait*, **How** – *Kaimaka*

### 3.6 Adverbs of manner

In Duišan, the mark of the adverbs is *-aksa* or *-ksa* added to the adjective.

Ex: *Slow – Pios – Slowly – Pioksaksa / Fast – Striván – quickly – Strivamaksa*

In Kven, the mark of an adverb is *-sti* added to the adjective

Ex: *Nice – Siivo – Siivosti / Slow – Hiđas – Hithaasti*

### 3.7 Negation

In Duišan, the negation is marked by two elements when the personal pronouns are used. In that case, the personal pronoun transforms, and a second negative elements can be added after the verb, to mark an emphasis (but can be omitted otherwise). In Kven, the negation is marked by a particle in front of the verb at the negative form, and the negative particle changes for each person.

**Amo:** I - not

**Amore:** We - not

**Ado:** you - not

**Adore:** you - not

**Atuo:** he/she - not

**Adotre:** they - not

**Adit:** it -not

**Amodua:** ‘everybody/nobody’ - not

The second element of negation is *‘kán’* and follows the verb when the personal pronouns are not used. If used alone it emphazes

Ex: I don’t speak Duišan: *Amo smavan Duišan*

Henry don’t speak: Henry smavan **kán** Duišan

### 3.8 Evidentiality and derivation patterns

Duišan is a verb-framed language and the evidentiality is marked by a verb in context without the infinitive and the added suffix particles – *arpi* / *-narpi*. Derivational patterns can sometimes occur with different suffixes, but they come from archaic language forms.

Ex: *namuatre* – to know / *Namuanarpi*: as far as [one] knows

Kven on the other hand is a satellite-frames language. Evidentiality on the first person is built on the infinitive verb with the what used to be the Finnish possessive suffix *-ni*.

Ex: *Tietääkseni* ‘to my knowledge, as far as I know’

### 3. Leipzig Glossing Rules: A short text in Duišan

This last section contains a small text in Duišan that is analyzed by using the Leipzig glossing rules.

*We are the Duišan, the people who might not exist. We live on an Island that people never came back from but that you heard from the sailors and cartographers. We fish, we farm, and we herd sheep and goats.*

*More žéne dame duišamat, dal'iatia pám akaines kán invuatre. More napurine čan ny duišanosti kymet dam'iatinakat pečarine niet mavín čan dore kaivaine atadame stradavemêkset nav katkarasvemêkset. More vladamine, more akorasune dal rata nav more akorasune dame bailet nav kornarit.*

*More žéne dame duiša-mat*  
We be-PRS-PL the-PL Duišan-PL

‘We are the Duišan’

*dal' iatia pám akaines kán invuatre.*  
the people who can-COND not-NEG exist

‘the people who might not exist’

*More napurine čan ny duišanosti*  
We live-PRS-SG on an Island

‘We live on an Island’

*Kymet dam'iatinakat pečarine niet mavín*  
that-REL-PL people come.back.from-PST-PL never but

‘that people never came back from but’

*čan dore kaivaine atadame stradavemêkse-t nav katkarasvemêkse-t*  
That you hear-PST-SG from.the;ART;PL sailor-PL and cartographer+PL

‘that you heard from the sailors and cartographers’

*More vladamine, more akorasune dal rata nav*  
We fish-PRS-PRL we take.care.of-PRS-PRL the earth and

‘We fish, we farm and’

*more akorasune dame baile-t nav kornari-t*  
we take.care.of-PRS-PRL the-PRL sheep-PRL and goat-PRL.

‘we herd sheep and goats’.

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## Appendix

### A. Numeral system

#### Numerals 1-10

1: Ny	6: Pimán
2: Dy	7: Atki
3: čako	8: Nitki
4: Katko	9: Arimki
5: žalko (also <i>hand</i> )	10: Nyse

#### Numerals 10-20

11: Nyvaika	16: Pimánvaika
12: Dyvaika	17: Atgivaika
13: čagovaika	18: Nitgivaika
14: Katgovaika	19: Arimgivaika
15: žalgovaika	20: Dynyse

#### Numerals 21-100

21: Dynyseny	60: Pimányse
27: Dynysatki	70: Atkinyse
29: Dynysarimki	80: Nitkimyse
30: čakonyse	90: Arimkinyse

### B. Colors

**Grey** – éňšiš

**Yellow** – énkál (also egg)

**Black** – Proton

**White** – šiš

**Red** – Arán

**Brown** – sule

**Blue** – Darile

**Green** – Marsis

**Violetti** - Korgra

**Orange** – laranra

**Dark orange** – laranra proti

**Light orange** – laranra šiš

### C. Glossary

Akate: to can

Akorasute: to take care of

At: of

Atadame: of the (pl.)

Avate – to see

Baile: sheep

Čan: on

Dal: the

Dame: The (pl.)

Daši: winter

Dore: you (pl.)

Duiša: Frisland

Duišan: the Duišan people and the Duišan language

Duišanosti: Island

Énkal: egg ; yellow

Enotre: to be

Iatinakat

Iata:alone

Iateš: person

Iatia: people

Irún: before

Ikte: all

Iktevašín: world

Ikturpa: always

Invuatre: to exit

Kačite – to say

Kaivatre: to hear

Kán: not

Kar: that/which (relative)

Karíkar: a few  
Katkaras: something small and square  
Katkarasvemêš: cartographer  
kornari: Goat  
Kyne: of which (sg.)  
Kymet: of which (pl.)  
Mavín: but  
More: we  
Naif: rock  
Napurite: to live  
Nav: and  
Niet: never  
Ny: A  
Nyme: A (plural)  
Obate: to have  
Osea: weather  
Pančo: these/those  
Pios: slow  
Pont: bolar  
potre – to do  
proti - dark  
Pysín: house  
Pám: what  
pečarite: to come back  
Očan: over/above  
Rániute – to take  
Rata: earth  
Rauči: market  
Raušotán: city  
Soidon: left  
Strada: sea  
Stradavemêš: sailor

Striván: fast

Strym: now

Šiš: (adj.)white ; light

Tot: god

Turpa: day

Vačo: this/that

Veras: time

Veroimi: because

Vlanamite: to rain