

Fiat Lingua

Title: Kopikon Song

Author: Jonathan Kane

MS Date: 08-20-2025

FL Date: 09-01-2025

FL Number: FL-000108-00

Citation: Kane, Jonathan. 2025. "Kopikon Song." FL-000108-00, *Fiat Lingua*, <<https://fiatlingua.org>>. Web. 01 September 2025.

Copyright: © 2025 Jonathan Kane. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License.

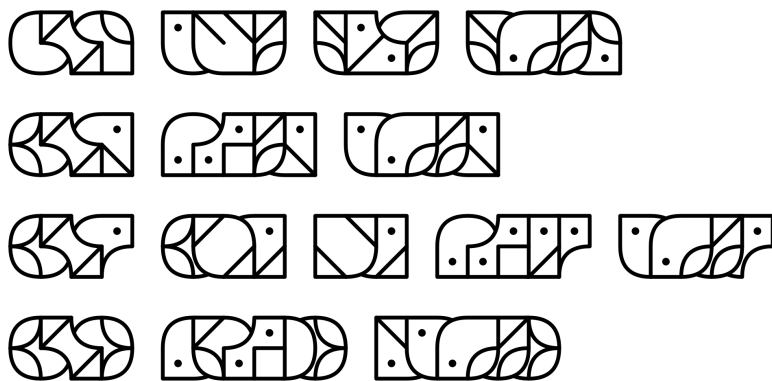


<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>

This is a text in my musical conlang Sdefa that I wrote in September 2023, in anticipation of the conlang conference Kopikon. It ended up being played at the very end of the event itself, to my surprise! You can listen to the music on [Fiat Lingua](#) or on [Youtube](#).

Since Sdefa is a musical conlang, I can't show you a romanization of the text, though I can show it to you in music notation. Sdefa also has two different writing systems, so here's the text in both:

hdd 1qhc1ur qdr q1e1q1r q1q p1d1q1r 11q dcm1q1ur
q1r 1qhc1urq h1d b1d1q1urq ddr dcm1q1urq
q1r 1qhc1urh q1r 11d1e1 11d1e1 h1d b1d1e1urh ddr dcm1q1urh
q1r 1qhc1ur h1d1d b1d1d1ur 1p1ur dcm1q1ur

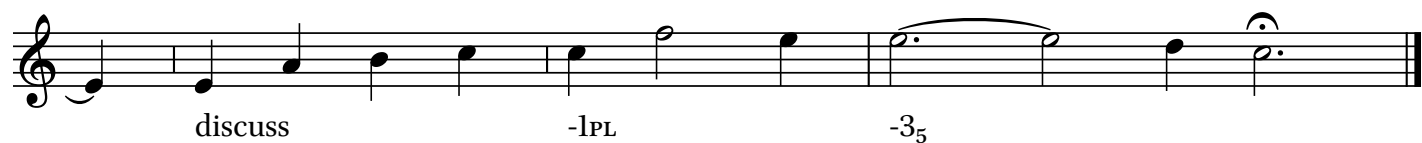


Here's an English translation:

We'll travel to gather together and talk about languages.
We'll talk about languages we've made,
We'll talk about languages other people have made,
And we might even talk about natural languages!

On the next page I'll show the text in music notation with chords, then again with an interlinear gloss, so you can see how the music lines up with the meanings given note-by-note. Finally, I'll give a very brief explanation of Sdefa's grammar, to give context to the gloss. If you want to know more about Sdefa, you can watch an [introductory video](#), or check out all the Sdefa posts on [my conlang blog](#).

G GM7/F# G7/F /D C G7
 7 Am F C/E FM7 C/G Dm
 14 C/G G7 G GM7/F# Em C C7
 22 F Dm C Em FM7 Dm
 30 FM7 G G7/F C7/E Dm Em7(b5)
 37 E7 Am Dm/F C C7 F
 44 C/E Em C/E Em C/E Dm C/G
 51 G G GM7/F# G7/F C/E Dm
 57 C7 Dm9 FM7 Em Am
 63 F Dm C/G G7 C



On the previous page, barlines are used to show boundaries between words and their parts, rather than for rhythmic subdivisions. Half-length barlines show the boundaries between roots, prefixes, and affixes within a word, and full barlines show the boundaries between words. In the gloss, prefixes are shown with hyphens following and suffixes with hyphens preceding, to show what root they attach to.

Prefixes on verbs mark tense, mood, and aspect, among other features, and those on nouns mark number. The “generic” noun prefix (GEN) refers to an entire category of nouns rather than any specific instance or instances: when applied to “language” it refers to languages in general, rather than any particular group of languages.

Sdefa verbs are marked with suffixes for each nominal argument (subject, then object). Some of these suffixes have fixed meanings, like first- and second-person and the impersonal suffix (IMPRS), which is most often used to fill the subject slot without actually specifying a subject (it could also be thought of as a passive voice marker, in this case).

Besides these fixed suffixes, there are thirty different third-person suffixes which may be assigned freely to any noun. They are first suffixed to a noun itself, then to any verb to show that its subject or object is that noun. In the gloss, these suffixes are written as -3 with a subscript for the order in which they appear: -3₁ is the first third-person suffix to appear in the text, -3₂ is the second, and so on. Adjectives are also marked with these suffixes to agree with the noun they modify.