

Conlang Relay 24

Text

Eic: **we-yom**υος **mawə**es **taai**ιai dət**aa**ugod. Nhə**teir**in aa **taai**š **itooi**ι, eic hlo fəfeteir**in taai**š,
“cafeifə**tis** hodə**še**ιodan.” Eic hlo fəfeteir**in tooi**ιaeš,
“bəceit**is** hodə**še**ιodan.” Fəbeifeteir**in taai**š,
“də**ool**too rə**paeri**ifedaeš **pin**haen dəcičodaš.” Dəcaeba**coin tooi**ιaeš,
“Gel**pin**haš?” Fəbeifeteir**in taai**š,
“Fə**še**ιus aa **pin**hon, **yeegə**con deigočod. Fəsaepaeri**iifo**č nhətə**coo**ιčodef **but-ša**ιub.” Dəcaeba**coin tooi**ιaeš,
“es nhəli**ie**č **ša**butub də**ie**č**teito**čed?” Fəbeifeteir**in taai**š, “**gee**agoč bə**rəttooi**ιtooč dətətiinaečed, yu
nhə**gee**agoč bə**še**ιtooč **legon**.
Note: I have put all the word roots in bold.

Vocabulary

Nouns and Verbs

but-ša: mode of dress.
ceit: understand; know deeply
ci: hide
coin: ask
eigə: difficult
feifət: muse over the deep workings of something
geeagə: to believe to be true, though not with very much conviction
leg: over yonder
li: fight against to the death with every possible measure of effort
mawə: a short tale, often humorous or didactic; anecdote
ool: see
paeriif: to be physically courageous in battle
pinh: mountain
šeι: exist
taai: dragon
taau: to be clever
teir: Talk with (+acc.); speak
teitə: to be tasteful
tii: laugh
tooiι: bird
we-yom: change paths. In this context, to change subjects.
yeegəc: place; location

Particles

aa: the aforementioned
-ef: against
Eic: Lo; so; behold. Also a conjunction meaning “and.”

es: question particle

hlo: thus, referring to that which comes after

yu: but

Affixes

Nominal Affixes

-ai: for; about; in relation to.

-es: into

-ub: because of

-on: on; upon

gel-: what; which

Verbal Affixes

fet-: then; and

bai: in return; back

Grammar

Classical Gagish is a heavily agglutinating, polysynthetic (at times) language. Its basic sentence order is VSO.

Before anything, I should probably clear up the issue of Gagish vowel harmony. Gagish has a system of vowel harmony that is two dimensional

(very much similar to the system in Finnish, actually, although there aren't any neutral vowels), distinguishing between high/low and front/back vowels:

i	u
e	o
ae	a

You won't have any trouble with this with the roots, but the affixes are all affected by it. Watch out for this.

Gagish nouns affixes the following things in the following order:

Possessive Prefix (marks the person and number of the possessor) + Base (consists of the root + any derivational affixes) + Case (Nominative, Accusative, and Vocative, as well as many adpositional cases).

Possessive Prefixes (all e's correspond to schwas here)

	Sg.	Pl.
1st	t(e)-	y(e)-
2nd	p(e)-	hl(e)-
3rd	s(e)-	ch(e)-

(The vowels in parentheses are only used if the following element sound is a consonant; The syllable structure in Gagish is CVC)

Case Suffixes

Nom. -(a)sh

Acc. -(a)n

Voc. -(uur)

The plural is formed via reduplication of the first consonant-vowel syllable of the root. This is prefixed directly before the root.

Gagish verbs affixes the following things in the following order: Person and Number of Subject + Person and Number of Object + Base + Voice + Mood + Tense/Aspect

Person of Subject

	Sg.	Pl.
1st	--	f(e)-
2nd	b(e)-	sh(e)-
3rd	d(e)-	nh(e)-
4th*	f(e)-	r(e)-

Person of Object

	Sg.	Pl.
1st	na-	t(e)-
2nd	sh(e)	hle-
3rd	ca-	sa-

* Has to do with discourse salience, or something of the kind; I am fairly certain that it marks nouns who will later be salient in discourse.

It also provides a clue to determining which noun the object prefix may be referring to; generally it will refer to previously occurring nouns in 4th person, rather than 3rd.

Voice: All meanings are as on

Wikipedia

Mood

Active	--	Indicative	--	
Passive	-(n)o	Optative	-(n)ohl	Carries
the meaning of a wish, but also functions as the imperative.				
Reflexive	-(n)a	Subjunctive	-too	Is used to mean
"that."				
Reciprocal	-(n)aa	Conditional	-be	Means would.
Causative	-(n)a	Volitional	-?*	Sometimes
means "does willingly," as in this text several times, but more commonly means "want to."				

* Just consider this a glottal stop.

Tense/Aspect

The perfective aspect views actions as a simple whole. The imperfective views actions as not perfective; it is used with other auxiliary aspects.

The progressive aspect views actions as ongoing.

	Perfective	Imperfective	Progressive
Past	-(u)n	-(a)nh	-(o)r
Present	-(u)g	-(o)ch	-(u)s
Future	--	-(o)f	-(a)?

One very important thing to note is that Gagish has no adjectives; all adjectives are verbs. If you wish to express what in English would be a predicate adjective, then you must use the relative participle, expressing a meaning very close to "who." So, "the red cat that lives there" would, in Gagish, be "the cat who reds (or the redding cat) that lives there." They are always accompanied by the inflectional information of a regular verb.

Here are the rest of the verbal forms: Relative Participle, Simple Gerund, and Progressive Gerund (denoting an ongoing process). All of these are marked for case. The case marker goes after everything else.