

© 1978 M. A. R. Barker

Minneapolis - Béy Sú

The research upon which this work is based was performed pursuant to a contract with the High Chancery of the Tsoyáni Imperium at Avanthár.

The author wishes to express his gratitude to Lord Cháimira hiSsánmirin, Provost of the High Chancery of the Tsoyáni Imperium at Avanthár, without whose kindness and cooperation this work would not have been possible. A debt of thanks is also owed to those who served as informants on this project: Mr. Trastné hiTánkolel, and Miss Kalusú hiViridáme, of Jakálla.

First printing 1978
Second printing 1981

Adventure Games Inc
871 Edgerton St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

(612) 776-6089

Table of Contents

1.000.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.000.	PRONUNCIATION	1
2.100.	CONSONANTS	1
2.200.	VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGS	3
2.300.	WORD STRESS AND INTONATION	4
3.000.	GRAMMAR	4
3.100.	NOUNS	4
3.110.	NOUN CLASSES	5
3.120.	DEMONSTRATIVES	6
3.130.	QUANTIFIERS	7
3.140.	LOCATIVES	7
3.150.	PERSONAL ATTITUDE PREFIXES	8
3.160.	GENERAL ATTITUDE SUFFIXES	9
3.170.	THE POSSESSIVE SUFFIX	10
3.180.	THE NOBLE/IGNOBLE/PLURAL SUFFIXES	10
3.190.	NOUN DERIVATION	11
3.200.	ADJECTIVES	12
3.210.	THE ADJECTIVE FORMANT SUFFIX	13
3.220.	NUMERAL ADJECTIVES	13
3.230.	THE COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE SUFFIXES	14
3.300.	PRONOUNS AND DEMONSTRATIVES	15
3.310.	PRONOMINAL SETS	15
3.311.	THE FIRST PERSON SINGULAR	15
3.312.	THE FIRST PERSON PLURAL	16
3.313.	THE SECOND PERSON	16
3.320.	DEMONSTRATIVES	18
3.330.	AFFIXES OCCURRING WITH THE PRONOUNS AND DEMONSTRATIVES	18
3.400.	ADVERBS	19
3.410.	INTERROGATIVES	21
3.500.	VERBS	22
3.510.	VERBAL PREFIXES	23
3.511.	THE REFLEXIVE AND THE RECIPROCAL	24
3.512.	THE CAUSATIVE	24
3.513.	THE TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE FORMANTS	24
3.514.	THE INTENSIVE	25
3.515.	THE BENEFACTIVES	25
3.516.	THE ATTITUDE PREFIXES	25
3.520.	VERBAL SUFFIXES	26
3.521.	THE IMPERATIVES	26
3.522.	NOMINAL-ADJECTIVAL DERIVATIONAL SUFFIXES	27
3.523.	TEMPORAL ABSOLUTIVE DERIVATIONAL SUFFIXES	28
3.530.	TENSE-ASPECT INDICATORS	29
3.531.	THE FUTURE AND THE HORTATIVE	30
3.532.	THE ASPECTIVES	31
3.533.	THE TENSE INDICATORS	33
3.540.	COMPOUND VERBAL FORMATIONS	35
3.600.	CONJUNCTIONS	37
3.700.	MINOR CLASSES	39
3.710.	SENTENCE-INTRODUCING PARTICLES	39
3.720.	ENCLITICS	39
3.730.	SENTENCE-ENDING PARTICLES	40
3.740.	INTERJECTIONS	40
3.800.	SYNTAX	41
3.810.	THE NOUN PHRASE	41
3.820.	SENTENCES	42

3.821.	IMPERSONAL SENTENCES	42
3.822.	IMPERATIVE SENTENCES	42
3.823.	INTRANSITIVE SENTENCES	43
3.824.	"COPULA" SENTENCES	43
3.825.	TRANSITIVE SENTENCES	43
4.000.	A GUIDE FOR TRAVELLERS	45
4.100.	USEFUL EXPRESSIONS	45
4.200.	GETTING ACQUAINTED	46
4.300.	TRAVEL, THE WEATHER, INNS	47
4.400.	SIGHTSEEING	48
4.500.	SHOPPING	49
4.600.	EMPLOYMENT	51
4.700.	A DINNER PARTY	52
4.800.	ENTERTAINMENTS	53
4.900.	BUSINESS	55
4.1000.	RELIGION	56
4.1100.	EMERGENCIES AND HEALTH	58
4.1200.	MILITARY	59
5.000.	ENGLISH-TSOLYÁNI VOCABULARY	61
5.100.	MEASUREMENTS	93
6.000.	TSOLYÁNI-ENGLISH VOCABULARY	94
7.000.	SCRIPT	125

Sample file

THE TSOLYÁNI LANGUAGE

By M. A. R. Barker

1.100. INTRODUCTION.

The following is a brief outline grammar of modern Tsolyáni, shorn of many of its details and finer points, and simplified for the use of students who are not acquainted with technical linguistics. Travellers, businessmen, scholars, and others who have interests in Tsolyánu will find the list of common phrases which follows the grammar useful, and a short vocabulary of common words is also appended. It must be understood that this little work is only a beginning, and the linguist or more deeply interested scholar of Tsolyáni culture will only find enough here to whet the appetite. It is hoped that such students will then go on to make further studies, visit the Tsolyáni, and add to this rather humble beginning.

Tsolyáni is a member of the Khíshan family of languages, related to its neighbours, Mu'ugalavyáni, Salarvyáni, and Livyáni. More distantly, Tsolyáni has historical connections with Yán Koryáni, Pecháni, Ghatóni, and other minor languages. All of these are descended from Engsvanyáli, the language of the "Golden Age." Engsvanyáli, in turn, can be traced back through Bednálljan Salarvyáni to the languages of the Three States of the Triangle. There are no documents older than the few fragments preserved of Llyáni, and linguistic history before the Empire of Llyán of Tsámra can only be guessed at. It may also be noted that there are totally unrelated tongues within the original culture-sphere of Engsvanyáli -- languages which seem to bear no relation to those mentioned above. These include, for example, Pijjéna (or P'jjénaà), N'lyssa, Saá Allaqiyáni, and Jannuyáni.

2.000 PRONUNCIATION.

2.100. CONSONANTS.

The sounds of Tsolyáni are transcribed in a phonemic alphabet, but certain concessions have been made for the benefit of English readers unfamiliar with phonetic symbols. It may be noted that this transcription has NO silent letters, and each letter (or pair of letters, in the case of /ch/, /sh/, etc.) has only ONE pronunciation, except as noted below. A word such as /tumé/ is thus pronounced "too-MAY" and not *"toom." (The use of English spelling here is deliberate.) The Tsolyáni alphabet will not be introduced here but will be provided later.

p	the [p] of English "spin," a voiceless bilabial stop with no aspiration	ch	the [ç] ("ch") of English "church," a voiceless alveopalatal affricate with less aspiration than in English
t	the [t] of Spanish "tu" or French "té," a voiceless dental stop with no aspiration	k	the [k] of English "skin," a voiceless mid-velar stop with no aspiration*

q	the Arabic [q], a voiceless back-velar stop with no aspiration; a "k" pronounced farther back in the throat (a layman's definition); NOT the "q" of "quick" or "quo," which is really a writing for [kw]	ss	the [ʃ] of Sanskrit, a voiceless grooved retroflex (or cerebral) fricative. No English counterpart; an "s" pronounced with the tongue tip turned back upwards to touch behind the alveolar ridge, which gives this sound its peculiar sibilance
'	the glottal stop [ʔ]; the "t" of a Cockney pronunciation of a word like "bottle" ("bo'le"). /' / also occurs in such English interjections as "uh-oh" or "unh-unh" (= "no"). In Tsolyáni this sound must be carefully maintained and not slurred over, since it may be the only difference between two words; e.g. /rá'i/ "shepherd" vs. /rái/ "to ford (a river)"	h	the [h] of English "hat," a voiceless glottal fricative. Note that this sound can occur at the ends of syllables and words, unlike English; e.g. /péh/ "strap, lace"
b	the [b] of English "boy," a voiced bilabial stop	hl	the [ɬ] ("ll") of Welsh "Llewellyn," a voiceless lateral dental fricative
d	the [d] of Spanish "dos," a voiced dental stop	l	the [l] of Spanish "le" or "él," a voiced lateral dental fricative. A "light l" -- not the "dark l" of syllable- or word-final "l" in English; contrast Spanish "mal" with English "Mall"
j	the [ʃ] ("j") of English "judge," a voiced alveopalatal affricate	r	the [r] of Spanish "pero," a voiced dental single-tap vibrant. Not the American "r" of "bar," etc. When doubled (i. e. when /rr/ occurs), this produced a trill, as in Spanish "perro"
g	the [g] of English "gun," a voiced mid-velar stop. NEVER the "g" of "gym"	kh	the [x] ("kh" or "ch") of German "ach" or Scots "loch," a voiceless mid-velar fricative.*
ts	the [tʃ] ("ts") of English "fits," a voiceless grooved dental affricate	gh	the [ɣ] ("gh") of Arabic "ghayn," a voiced mid-velar fricative. This is made by producing a "hard g" (as in "ug-ga") and opening the closure a little in order to allow a little air to escape. Parisian French has a similar sound in its pronunciation of "r" as in "Paris." Rare in Tsolyáni except in loanwords
tl	the [ɬ] ("tl") of Aztec "atl," a voiceless lateral dental fricative. NOT the "tl" of English "title"	m	the [m] of English "my," a voiced bilabial nasal
f	the [f] of English "fish," a voiceless labiodental fricative	n	the [n] of Spanish "no," a voiced dental nasal
v	the [v] of English "vine," a voiced labiodental fricative	ng	the [ŋ] ("ng") of English "sing," a voiced velar nasal. Not the "ng" of English "finger," which is represented by /ngg/. Note that "ng" can occur at the beginning of words in Tsolyáni; e.g. /ngáŋgmuru/ "greetings!"
th	the [θ] ("th") of English "thigh" or "with," a voiceless interdental fricative	w	the [w] of English "wine," a voiced bilabial continuant
dh	the [ð] ("th") of English "thy" or "this," a voiced interdental fricative. The difference between the two "th's" is obscured by English spelling	y	the [y] of English "yes," a voiced palatal continuant
s	the [s] of English "sing," a voiceless grooved alveolar fricative		
z	the [z] of English "zoo," a voiced grooved alveolar fricative		
sh	the [ʃ] ("sh") of English "ship," a voiceless grooved alveopalatal fricative**		
zh	the [ʒ] ("zh" etc.) of English "azure" or "pleasure," or of Russian "Zhukov," a voiced grooved alveopalatal fricative		