Alloscythian

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Standards

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of Alloscythian is to create a language that:

- realisticly descends from the standard reconstruction of Proto-Indo-European (hereafter designated as PIE),

- is unique from other descendants of PIE,

- does not violate any linguistic universals,

- and is assumed to be spoken by a tribe of people from Scythia (thus called by the Greeks allo- "other" Scythians) in the 4th century BC, unrelated to the actual Schythians.

Please inform the author if you find that the language violates any of the above principles.

1.2 Orthography

In chapter 2, Alloscythian is written in the International Phonetic Alphabet. In all other sections:

- Nasal vowels are written with their IPA value followed by «m» before labial consonants, otherwise with their IPA value followed by «n».

- Unstressed long vowels are written with macrons (¯) over their IPA values.

- Stressed high short vowels are written with acute accents (´) over their IPA values, or with no accent if the only syllable.

- Stressed low short vowels are written with grave accents (`) over their IPA values.

- Stressed long vowels are written with macrons (¯) over their IPA values if they are the last or only long vowel in the word. Otherwise, they are written as if they were short stressed vowels, followed by their IPA value as if they were short.

- /j/ is written «y».

- Aspirated plosives are written with their unaspirated IPA values followed by «h».

- Geminated consonants are written twice.

- In all other cases, sounds are written in the IPA.

Chapter 2

Phonology

2.1 Phonemes

The phonemic consonants of Alloscythian in table 2.1, the vowels in 2.2. Long vowels are written double because of problems with LaTeX.

Table 2.1: Phonemic Consonants of Alloscythian

	Labial	Coronal	Dorsal	Glottal
Nasal	/m/	/n/		
Unaspirated	/p/	/t/	/k/	
Aspirated	/pʰ/	/tʰ/	/kʰ/	
Fricative		/s/		/h/
Approximant	/w/		/j/	
Glide		/r/, /l/		

2.2 Pitch Accent

An either high or low pitch accent is placed irregularly on one syllables per word. It makes that single syllable louder like ordinary stress, but also causes itself to be either higher than (if high) or the same as (if low) other syllables.

Table 2.2: Phonemic Vowels of Alloscythian

	Unrounded	Rounded	Unrounded	Rounded	Unrounded	Rounded
High	/i/	/u/	/ĩ/	/ũ/	/ii/	/uu/
Mid	/e/	/ø/	/ẽ/		/ee/	
Low	/a/	/o/	/ã/	/õ/	/aa/	/oo/

Chapter 3

Morphology

3.1 Nominal

3.1.1 Case and Number

Nouns are declined by **Case**: **Nominative** (NOM), **Accusative** (ACC), **Vocative** (VOC), **Instrumental** (INS), **Genitive** (GEN), and **Locative** (LOC); and **Number**: **Singular** (SNG) and **Plural** (PLR).

The **Nominative** is used as the subject of the sentence:

> Hésua phèreti thukhén.
> mare.NOM create.RLS daughter.ACC
> *"The mare gave birth to a daughter."*

It is also used as the predicate:

> Dos hésti it.
> gift.NOM be.RLS 3PS.NTR.NOM
> *"It is a gift."*

The **Accusative** is used in direct objects:

> Ē khùenti tòrun.
> 3PS.MSC.NOM kill.RLS tree.ACC
> *"He cut down a tree."*

The **Vocative** is used in calling people:

Rómē̄, Rómē̄, Rómeo hésti tū køs.
```
Romeo.VOC Romeo.VOC Romeo.NOM be.RLS 2PS.NOM INT.INS
```
"O Romeo, O Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?"

The **Instrumental** can state the reason for a sentence, by cause, method, or purpose:

Ē̄ khùenti tòrun thukhǿ.
```
3PS.MSC.NOM kill.RLS tree.ACC daughter.INS
```
"He cut down a tree because of his daughter [asking him]."

Ē̄ khùenti tòrun edóntephi.
```
3PS.MSC.NOM kill.RLS tree.ACC tooth.INS.PLR
```
"He cut down a tree with his teeth."

Dos hésti thukhǿ it.
```
gift.NOM be.RLS daughter.INS 3PS.NTR.NOM
```
"It is a gift for a daughter."

The **Genitive** is used in phrases of possession or relation:

Thukhé hésti Romeos ī̄.
```
daughter.NOM be.RLS Romeo.GEN 3PS.FMN.NOM
```
"She is a daughter of Romeo."

The **Locative** is used in phrases of location:

Haserí hésti hésua.
```
lake.LOC be.RLS mare.NOM
```
"The mare is in a lake."

Additionaly, all cases except for `NOM` and `VOC` are for objects of prepositions, each of which have a given case.

3.1.2   Declension of Nouns

Nouns whose nominatives end in vowels are declined like column 3 in Table 3.1, where V represents whatever vowel. Nouns whose nominatives end in -s are declined in column 4, where the parenthesis () refers to when there is a vowel before the -s. Column 5 refers to all others.

Table 3.1: Declension of Nouns

	NOM	-V	-s	–
	ACC	-Vn	-(ss)on	-on
SNG	VOC	-e	-(ss)e	-e
	INS	-ø	-(ss)ø	-ø
	GEN	-Vs	-(ss)es	-es
	LOC	-i	-(ss)i	-i
	NOM	-Vs, ā	-(ss)es	-es
	ACC	-Vns, ā	-(ss)ens	-ens
PLR	VOC	-es	-(ss)es	-es
	INS	-øs	-(ss)ephi	-ephi
	GEN	-on	-(ss)on	-on
	LOC	-su	-su	-su

3.1.3   Declensions of Personal Pronouns

The personal pronouns (or "this") are declined in Table 3.2.

3.1.4   Declension of the Demonstrative Pronoun

The demonstrative pronoun DEM is declined in Table 3.3.

3.1.5   Declension of the Interrogative Pronoun

The demonstrative pronoun INT is declined in Table 3.4.

3.2   Verbal

3.2.1   Mood and Number

Verbs are conjugated by **Mood**: **Realis** (RLS), **Irrealis** (IRR), **Imperative** (IMP), and the **Gerund** (GER).

The **Irrealis** is used when an action is hypothetical, e.g. a desire or ability, as opposed to being actually true. Compare these two:

Table 3.2: Declension of Pronouns

		1PS	2PS	3PS.MSC	3PS.FMN	3PS.NTR
SNG	NOM	ésse	tū̄	ē	ī	it
	ACC	me	twe	in	yon	it
	VOC	N/A	te	N/A	N/A	N/A
	INS	mø	tō	ī	ī	ī
	GEN	mø	tō	ésō	ésās	ésō
	LOC	N/A	N/A	ésmi	ésmi	ésmi
PLR	NOM	wē	yū	ēs	īs	ī
	ACC	nos	wos	ins	yons	ī
	VOC	N/A	we	N/A	N/A	N/A
	INS	nøs	wøs	ēphi	īphi	ēphi
	GEN	non	won	ēson	īson	ēson
	LOC	N/A	N/A	ēsu	īsu	īsu

Ørés hésti ē, tēwons snokutí.
chief.NOM be.RLS 3PS.MSC.NOM god.ACC.PLR know.and.RLS
"He is the chief, and he knows the gods."

Ørés hést ē, tēwons snokút.
chief.NOM be.IRR 3PS.MSC.NOM god.ACC.PLR know.and.IRR
"If he was the chief, he would know the gods."

The **Imperative** is used when an action is asked or commanded:

Ōsué, phèretu hésuon mø.
swift-one.VOC create.IMP horse.ACC me.INS
"Osue, make me a horse."

The **Gerund** is basically a noun which can be translated as "the act of (the verb):"

Dos hésti Ōsués phèrets népoten.
gift.NOM be.RLS swift-one.GEN create.GER child.ACC
"Having a child is a gift of God."

Table 3.3: Declension of "That"

		MSC, NTR	FMN
SNG	NOM	so, tot	sā̄
	ACC	ton, tot	tan
	VOC	N/A	N/A
	INS	tø	tø
	GEN	tosió	tesā̄s
	LOC	tosmí	tesí
PLR	NOM	tø, tā̄	sø
	ACC	tons, tā̄	tans
	VOC	N/A	N/A
	INS	tøphì	tøphì
	GEN	tesón	tesón
	LOC	tøsú	tā̄sú

3.2.2 Conjugations

All verb roots end in -t. What follows is described in Table 3.5.

3.3 Adjectival

Adjectives agree with and are declined like nouns. They end in -o, -ā̄, -on, in the MSC, FMN, and NTR genders respectively. The infix -i- is inserted to be the **Comparative** (CMP) in formal and archaic speech, but has been replaced with a more common postposition hapó.

Table 3.4: Declension of "Who/What"

		MSC, FMN	NTR
SNG	NOM	kuis	kuit
	ACC	kuin	kuit
	VOC	N/A	N/A
	INS	kuesmē	kuesmē
	GEN	kuesmó	kuesmó
	LOC	kuesmí	kuesmí
PLR	NOM	kuēs	kuī
	ACC	kuins	kuī
	VOC	N/A	N/A
	INS	kuēphì	kuēphì
	GEN	kuēsón	kuēsón
	LOC	kuēsú	kuēsú

Table 3.5: Conjugation of Verbs

RLS	-i
IRR	–
IMP	-u
GER	-s

Chapter 4

Syntax

4.1 Basic sentence

The verb almost always is the second word:

> Ē khùenti tòrun.
> 3PS.MSC.NOM kill.RLS tree.ACC
> *"He cut down a tree."*

Beyond that, the subject is the first word, and modifiers come after heads. Predicate statements reverse subject and predicate:

> Esuón hésti sēr ésō.
> good.NTR.NOM be.RLS heart.NOM 3PS.GEN
> *"His heart is good."*

4.2 Compound pharses and clauses

Compund phrases are formed by placing infix conjunctions before the endings on the head words:

> Sēl esénti Mēku ørésses néphon.
> sun-god.NOM be.RLS.PLR moon-god.and.NOM chief.NOM.PLR cloud.GEN.PLR
> *"The rulers of the sky are Sel and Me."*