

# Introducing Wintarian, a Germanic Conlang

## The Universe

The Wintarian language or *Wintárjo Lengau* (pronounced [wəŋˈtarjə ˈleŋə] is spoken in the heavenly kingdom of Wintario or *Wintárjo* (pronounced [wəŋˈtarjə]). Within the universe in which my other conlangs exist, Wintario is the main setting of a popular television franchise that follows the story of the land’s king and his numerous malewives as they fight for their destiny.

## Phonological Evolution

The starting point for Wintarian was Proto-Germanic.

### Proto Germanic Phonemes

#### Consonants

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labiovelar
Nasal	m		n			
Stop	p, b	t, d			k, g	kʷ, gʷ
Fricative	ɸ, β	θ, ð	s, z		x, ɣ	ɱ, ɣʷ
Approx.				j		w
Trill			r			
Lateral Approx.			l			

#### Vowels

##### Oral

	Front	Back
Close	i, i:	u, u:
Mid	e, e:, e:~	o:, o:~

Open		ɑ, ɑ:
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## Nasal

	Front	Back
Close	ĩ, ĩ:	ũ, ũ:
Mid		õ:, õ::
Open		ã, ã:

## Allophony

- Nasals assimilate for place of articulation to the following consonant.

## Full Consonant Sounds Table

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labiovelar
Nasal	m	ɲ	n		ŋ	ŋ <sup>w</sup>
Stop	p, b	t, d			k, g	k <sup>w</sup> , g <sup>w</sup>
Fricative	ɸ, β	θ, ð	s, z		x, ɣ	ɬ, ɮ <sup>w</sup>
Approx.				j		w
Trill			r			
Lateral Approx.			l			

## Proto Germanic to Old Wintarian

- Word final /m/ is lost, lengthening and nasalizing the vowel before it.
- /n/ is lost before /s/, lengthening and nasalizing the vowel before it.
- /aj oj e:./ > /e:./
- /o: o:./ > /o o:./
- /i/ was epenthesized before word-initial /sC/ sequences.
- In polysyllabic words, unstressed short vowels were lost:
  - Between an unstressed initial syllable and a later stressed syllable (this was *exceedingly* rare)
  - Between a stressed syllable and the last syllable.
  - Between syllables carrying primary and secondary stress.
- Word final /er or/ metathesize to /re ro/
- /tj kj/ > /tʃ/
- /t k/ before front vowels > /tʃ/

- /d ð g ɣ/ are lost before /j/
- /g ɣ/ > /j/ before front vowels
- /gn ɣn nj/ > /ɲ/
- /pɫ bɫ βɫ gl ɣl kl φɫ lj/ > /ʌ/
- /uk ul/ > /oj/ before /t tʃ s/
- /k l/ > /j/ before /t tʃ s/
- /x/ was lost adjacent to nasals, laterals, and /r/, causing these sounds to devoice.
  - This caused fortition of /xl lx/ > /tʃ/ and /xʌ ʌx/ > /tʃ/
- Word initial /w/ that was itself before a consonant was fortited to /b/.

## Old Wintarian Phonemes

### Consonants

	<b>Bilabial</b>	<b>Dental</b>	<b>Alveolar</b>	<b>Palatal</b>	<b>Velar</b>	<b>Labiovelar</b>
Nasal	ɱ, m		ɳ, n	ɲ, ɲ	ŋ	ŋ <sup>w</sup>
Stop	p, b	t, d		tʃ	k, g	k <sup>w</sup> , g <sup>w</sup>
Fricative	ɸ, β	θ, ð	s, z		x, ɣ	ɱ, ɣ <sup>w</sup>
Approx.				j		w
Trill			ʀ, r			
Lateral Fricative			ɬ	□		
Lateral Approx.			l	ʌ		

### Vowels

#### Oral

	<b>Front</b>	<b>Back</b>
Close	i, i:	u, u:
Mid	e, e:	o, o:
Open		ɑ, ɑ:

#### Nasal

	<b>Front</b>	<b>Back</b>
Close	ĩ, ĩ:	ũ, ũ:

Mid	ẽ, ẽ:	õ, õ:
Open		ã, ã:

## Allophony

- Nasals assimilate for place of articulation to the following consonant.

## Full Consonant Sounds Table

	<b>Bilabial</b>	<b>Dental</b>	<b>Alveolar</b>	<b>Postalv.</b>	<b>Palatal</b>	<b>Velar</b>	<b>Labiovelar</b>
Nasal	ᵐ, <b>m</b>	ⁿ, <b>n</b>	ⁿ, <b>n</b>	ⁿʲ, <b>nʲ</b>	ɲ, <b>ɲ</b>	ŋ, <b>ŋ</b>	ŋʷ, <b>ŋʷ</b>
Stop	p, <b>b</b>	t, <b>d</b>				k, <b>g</b>	kʷ, <b>gʷ</b>
Affricate				tʃ			
Fricative	ɸ, <b>β</b>	θ, <b>ð</b>	s, <b>z</b>			x, <b>χ</b>	ɬ, <b>ɬʷ</b>
Approx.					j		w
Trill			ʀ, <b>r</b>				
Lateral Fricative			ɬ		□		
Lateral Approx.			ɭ		ʎ		

## Old Wintarian to Middle Wintarian

- /tʰ dʒ ʃ ʒ r/ are all introduced in loanwords from Spanish.
- Unstressed short vowels were lost in polysyllabic words:
  - Adjacent to /r l/
  - Between /b/ and /t/
  - Between /d/ and /k/
  - Between /f/ and /k/
  - Between /k/ and /m p t/
  - Between /m/ and /k n t/
    - Newly formed /mn/ clusters became /n:/.
  - Between /n/ and /k t/
  - Between /p/ and /t/
  - Between /s/ and /k n/
  - Between /t/ and /k n/
  - /j w/ being in the syllable generally blocked unstressed loss from occurring.
- A number of changes happen to plosives:
  - /ɣ ɣʷ/ are fortited to /g gʷ/ word-initially.

- /β ð γ/ are lost unless between two of the same vowel or between /a/ and /o/.  
Geminated /b d g/ were retained as plosive [b d g].
- The [ɣ<sup>w</sup>] allophone of /g<sup>w</sup>/ is vocalized to /w/ with the same exceptions.
- /p t k k<sup>w</sup>/ > /b d g g<sup>w</sup>/ [β ð γ γ<sup>w</sup>]:
  - In coda position unless after a nasal
  - Between vowels, or between a vowel and a sonorant.
- Word final unstressed /e/ was lost after coronal consonants other than /t/ that were themselves after vowels.
- /g γ/ were lost before /n/
- /mpt nkt/ > /nt/
- Consonant gemination is lost.
  - Voiced stops are lenited to voiced fricatives [β ð γ γ<sup>w</sup>]
  - /n:/ > /ɲ/
  - /l:/ > /ʌ/
  - Ungeminated /r r/ > /r̥, r/ unless word-initial.
- Coda /p b/ > /w/
- /φ/ > /f/
- Laterals began assimilating for place of articulation to any following consonant.
- Fricatives developed voicing assimilation to any adjacent consonant.
  - /θ x w/ were fortited to /d g g<sup>w</sup>/ if word-initial before a voiced consonant and after nasals. /θ/ was additionally fortited to /d/ after /l/.
- /jt/ > /tj/
- /js/ > /ʃ/
- Stressed /e/ > /je/ except adjacent to palatal or labiovelar consonants.
- Wintarian Great Vowel Shift:
  - /a:/ > /a/
  - /aw wa/ > /ɒ/
  - /e:/ > /e/
  - /ew we/ > /ø/
  - /i:/ > /i/
  - /jo oj/ > /ɣ/
  - Stressed /o/ > /ø/ unless adjacent to a palatal or labiovelar consonant.
  - /o:/ > /o/
  - /ju uj/ > /u/
  - /u:/ > /y/
  - Unstressed vowels reduce to /ə/
  - /a e i/ next to any labiovelar consonant became /ɒ ø y/ and the labiovelar consonant became velar. /iw wi/ remained unaltered.

# Middle Wintarian Phonemes

## Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Alv.	Palatal	LP	Velar	Labiov.
Nasal	<b>m̥, m</b>		<b>n̥, n</b>	<b>ɲ̥, ɲ</b>		<b>ŋ̥</b>	<b>ŋ̥<sup>w</sup></b>
Stop	<b>p, b</b>	<b>t, d</b>	<b>ʈs, dʒ</b>	<b>tʃ</b>		<b>k, g</b>	<b>k<sup>w</sup>, g<sup>w</sup></b>
Fric.	<b>f</b>	<b>θ</b>	<b>s, z</b>	<b>ʃ, ʒ</b>		<b>x</b>	<b>ɬ</b>
App.				<b>j, ɟ</b>	<b>ɥ, ʎ</b>	<b>ɰ, ʁ</b>	<b>w, ɰ<sup>w</sup></b>
Tap			<b>ɾ, ɽ</b>				
Trill			<b>ʀ, ʁ</b>				
Lateral Fric.			<b>ɬ</b>	<b>ɬ̥</b>			
Lateral App.			<b>ɭ</b>	<b>ɭ̥</b>			

## Vowels

Vowel length has been lost. All vowels have a nasal counterpart.

	Front	Central	Back
Close	<b>i, y</b>		<b>ɯ, u</b>
Mid	<b>e, ø</b>	<b>ə</b>	<b>ɤ, o</b>
Open			<b>ɑ, ɒ</b>

## Allophony

- /b d g g<sup>w</sup>/ are lenited to voiced fricatives [β ð ɣ ɣ<sup>w</sup>] if not word-initial or after a nasal.
  - /d/ additionally remains plosive after laterals.
- Nasals and lateral approximants assimilate for place of articulation to the following consonant.
- Fricatives become voiced adjacent to voiced consonants.

## Full Sounds Table

	Bil.	LD	Den.	Alv.	Post.	Pal.	LP	Velar	Labiov.
Nasal	<b>m̥, m</b>	<b>ɱ̥, ɱ</b>	<b>n̥, ɳ</b>	<b>ɲ̥, ɲ</b>	<b>ɳ̥, ɳ</b>	<b>ɲ̥, ɲ</b>		<b>ŋ̥, ɳ̥</b>	<b>ɳ̥<sup>w</sup>, ɳ̥<sup>w</sup></b>
Stop	<b>p, b</b>		<b>t, d</b>					<b>k, g</b>	<b>k<sup>w</sup>, g<sup>w</sup></b>

Aff.				ts̄, dz̄	tʃ̄				
Fric.	β	f, v	θ, ð	s, z	ʃ, ʒ			x, ɣ	ɬ, ɣʷ
App.						j, ỹ	ɥ, ỹ	ɰ, ỹ	w, ỹ
Tap				ɾ, r					
Trill				ʀ, r					
Lat. F				ɬ		□			
Lat.			ɬ	ɬ	ɬ	ɬ		ɬ	ɬʷ

## Middle Wintarian to Modern Wintarian

- Velar consonants are lost after /n/, causing /ŋ/ to become phonemic.
- Labiovelar consonants dissimilated, becoming a velar consonant followed by /w/ (/u/ if word final or before another consonant.)
- /dʒ/ is introduced in recent loanwords.

## Modern Wintarian Phonemes

### Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	LP	Velar	Labiov.
Nasal	m̥, m		n̥, n	ɲ, ɲ		ŋ, ŋ	
Stop	p, b	t, d	ts̄, dz̄	tʃ̄, dʒ̄		k, g	
Fricative	f	θ	s, z	ʃ, ʒ		x	
Approx.				j, ỹ	ɥ, ỹ	ɰ, ỹ	w, ỹ
Tap			ɾ, r				
Trill			ʀ, r				
Lateral Fricative			ɬ	□			
Lateral Approx.			ɬ	ɬ			

## Vowels

Vowels remain unaltered from Middle Wintarian. They each have a nasal counterpart.

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i, y		ɯ, u
Mid	e, ø	ə	ɤ, ɔ
Open			ɑ, ɒ

## Allophony

- /b d g gʷ/ are lenited to voiced fricatives [β ð ɣ ɣʷ] if not word-initial or after a nasal.
  - /d/ additionally remains plosive after laterals.
- Nasals and lateral approximants assimilate for place of articulation to the following consonant.
- Fricatives become voiced adjacent to voiced consonants.

## Full Consonant Sounds Table

	Bil.	LD	Den.	Alv.	Post.	Pal.	Velar	LV
Nasal	ᵐ, m	ᵐ, ᵐ	ᵐ, ᵐ	ᵐ, n	ᵐ, ᵐ	ᵐ, ᵐ	ᵐ, ᵐ	
Plos.	p, b		t, d				k, g	
Aff.				ʈs, dʒ	ʈʃ, dʒ			
Fric.	β	f, v	θ, ð	s, z	ʃ, ʒ		x, ɣ	
App.						j		w
Tap				ɾ, ɽ				
Trill				ɾ, ɽ				
Lat. Fric.				ɬ		ɰ		
Lat. App.			ɭ	ɭ	ɭ	ɭ	ɭ	

## Stress

Stress is always on the first syllable in native words. Secondary stress is on the first syllable of the second stem of compound words.



# Orthography

Letter	Sound	Letter Name
<A a>	[ɑ] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	a
<Ä ä>	[ǣ] when stressed [ĕ] when unstressed	ä
<Au au>	[ɒ] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	au
<Äu äu>	[ǣ] when stressed [ĕ] when unstressed	äu
<B b>	[b] word initially and after <m> [β] otherwise	be
<C c>	[ʒ]	ce
<D d>	[d] word initially and after <l n> [ð] otherwise	de
<Dc dc>	[dʒ]	dce
<Dz dz>	[dʒ]	dze
<E e>	[e] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	e
<Ë ë>	[ĕ] when stressed [ĕ] when unstressed	ë
<Eu eu>	[ø] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	eu
<Ëu ëu>	[ǣ] when stressed [ĕ] when unstressed	ëu
<F f>	[v] adjacent to a voiced consonant [f] otherwise	ef
<G g>	[g] word initially [ɣ] otherwise	ge

<H h>	[x]	ha
<Hl hl>	[t]	hla
<Hm hm>	[m̥] before <f> [m̩] otherwise	hma
<Hn hn>	[n̥] before <d f t z> and soft <c> [n̪] before <tx x> [n̩] before <ll> [n̩] otherwise	hna
<Hñ hñ>	[ɲ]	hña
<Hr hr>	[r̥] word initially and after a heterosyllabic consonant [r̩] otherwise	hra
<Hrr hrr>	[r̩]	hra double
<I i>	[i] when stressed [e] when unstressed	i
<İ i̇>	[ĩ] when stressed [ẽ] when unstressed	ĩ
<J j>	[j]	jod
<K k>	[k]	ka
<L l>	[l̥] before <d f t z> and soft <c> [l̪] before <g h k ng> and hard <c> [l̩] otherwise	el
<LI ll>	[ʎ]	lle
<M m>	[m̥] before <f> [m̩] otherwise	em
<N n>	[n̥] before <c d t z> [n̪] before <tx x> [n̩] before <ll> [ŋ] before <k> [n̩] otherwise	en
<Ñ ñ>	[ɲ]	eñ
<Ng ng>	[ŋ]	eng

<Nh nh>	[ŋ]	enh
<O o>	[ɔ] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	o
<Q q>	[ʔ] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	q
<Ou ou>	[o] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	ou
<Qu qu>	[õ] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	qu
<P p>	[p]	pe
<R r>	[r] word initially and after a heterosyllabic consonant [r] otherwise	er
<Rr rr>	[r]	er double
<S s>	[z] adjacent to a voiced consonant [s] otherwise	es
<T t>	[t]	te
<Ts ts>	[ts̃]	
<Tx tx>	[tʃ̃]	txe
<U u>	[u] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	u
<U̇ u̇>	[ũ] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	u̇
<Uu uu>	[u] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	uu
<U̇u u̇u>	[ũ] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	u̇u
<V v>	[v]	ve
<V̇ v̇>	[ũ]	v̇e
<W w>	[w]	we

<X x>	[ɪ]	ex
<Y y>	[ɪ] adjacent to a vowel [y] when stressed [ə] when unstressed	y
<Ȳ ȳ>	[ĩ] adjacent to a vowel [ỹ] when stressed [ə̃] when unstressed	ȳ
<Z z>	[z]	zeta
<Þ þ>	[θ]	puurnaz

## Diacritics

An ogonek or *ougóunekuu* [ə'ʝonəkə] is used to indicate that the vowel it is attached to is nasal. An acute accent or *agúudas acéntou* [ə'ʝuðəs ə'θeɲtə] is used to indicate when primary stress is not on the first syllable. A grave accent or *grabas acéntou* ['graβəs ə'θeɲtə] is used to indicate secondary stress.

## Grammar

### Syntax

Wintarian has a much freer word order than most Germanic languages, and unlike most Germanic languages, defaults to SOV. When a question is asked, the interrogative pronoun goes first, followed by the component about which the question is being asked. Prepositions go before their noun phrases, and adjectives go before their nouns.

### Nouns

Wintarian nouns decline for six cases (nominative, accusative, dative, genitive, instrumental, and vocative), three genders (masculine, feminine, and neuter), and two numbers (singular and plural). It is usually quite difficult to tell the gender of a noun just by looking at it, as nouns ending in consonants or oral vowels can be any gender.