General information

Xoq (/ʃɒŋ/, clipped from *xotlaq* /ʃɒtlaŋ/ 'short language') is a personal conlang and my attempt at creating an as concise and unambiguous a posteriori language as possible without the need to memorise a large vocabulary. That means it strives to keep word length at 3-to-4-to-5-tops letters. It's still on the tweaking stage. Publishing it is intended to encourage me to put more work into it.

History, influences

I've always been finding fault with natural languages, felt the need to improve them. Every time i saw a feature of one language that wasn't present in the ones i knew i realised all the good traits could be brought into one perfect language. Well, it didn't turn out that easy. Chinese was a huge influence. Both its word length and traits such as static verbs were very inspiring. I liked its conciseness and its isolatingness. I also like its morphology but i don't find a closed vocabulary very practical and am not up to making up my lang's vocab. Chinese made me realise how word categories are just convention and thus how an adjective in one language can be a verb in another etc.

French was the source of the idea of Xoq's phonotactics in how it allows to pronounce 'Je ne sais pas' as /ʒnə sɛ pɑ/ or /jən sɛ pɑ/. Plus languages like Italian and Chinese that don't like consonant clusters often add epenthetic vowels in foreign words that have them.

My other conlang attempts focused on the syllable structre CV-only but the resulting words proved unbearingly long. Also, i tried to make an a priori language. i got discouraged by the amount of time and effort involved, as well as the fact observing natural languages lead me to realise how arbitrary their vocabulary is. Borrowing words from other languages earns English words a lot of conciseness. But I'm aware of how neat Chinese morphology looks (fire+arrow=rocket, walk+star=planet), if it weren't for its morphemes' ambiguity.

Phonology

Xoq's sounds are not the main objective of its creation. The basic sounds allowing to read the language cover the 26 letters of the English alphabet. I'll try and add as many sounds expressed by digraphs as possible to further shorten the pronounciation.

The basic sounds are as follows:

a /ʌ/, b /b/, c //, d /d/, e /ɛ/, f /f/, g /g/, h /h/, i /ɪ/, j /ʒ/, k /k/, l /l/, m /m/, n /n/, o /ɒ/, p /p/, r /ɾ/, s /s/, t /t/, u /u/, v /v/, w /w/, x /ʃ/, y /j/, z /z/

Orthography

Xoq's orthography is 100% phonemic. There are no capital letters. The phonotactics design is intended to allow for reading acronyms as you would regular words.

Phonotactics

There are no limits in Xoq's phonotactics. There are two epenthetic sounds used to make any combination of sounds pronounceable: /ə/ between consonants and /ʔ/ between vowels. Words are stressed on the first syllable. /ə/ is not stressed unless, if need be, in a consonant-only word like *ds* /dəs/, 'this'. Digraphs, like 'aa', may be pronounced either

separately using their basic sound quality (/a(ʔ)a/), or, if available for a specific digraph, as a special sound (/ɑ/ in aa's case).

Diphthongs:

Vn /ṽ/ st /ɟ/, sp /ɸ/, br /β/, sr /ʂ/, sk /c/, kl /ç/, pl /ɫ/, bl /ɮ/, sl /ɬ/, fl /θ/, fr /ð/, kr /x/, tr /ʈ/, dr /ɖ/, gr /ɣ/, gl /ʝ/

Morphology

Xoq's morphology is based on that of English. All grammatical particles listed here are isolating and precede what they modify. Xoq's spelling is modified English spelling. In practice it's simplified for conciseness's sake wherever no ambiguity arises, in other words, diphthongs are only used to disambiguate words whose simplified form would make them homographs. This means 'consise' is rendered as *ksas* /ksʌs/ (the morpheme 'con-' is simplified to *k-*) as there are no words like 'consuss', 'consarse', 'consass' or 'consouse' in English to mistake it for. Compound words can be written together since each of their component words must contain one vowel.

a /a/, aa /ɑ/, ae /æ/, ai /ʌ/, au /ɯ/, e /ɛ/, ea /œ/, ei /e/, eu /ø/, i /ɪ/, ii /i/, ie /ɨ/, o /ɒ/, oo /o/, ou /ɤ/, u /ʊ/, ue /y/, ui /ʏ/, uu /ʉ/

Grammar

Adjectives and adverbs form a modifier category and they respectively follow nouns and verbs.

Nouns

Optional plural marker: j.

Pronouns

In isolation pronounced /kə/, /ŋə/ etc.

English	Xoq
I	k
you	q
she	z
he	r
he or she	zr
it	l
we	w
you	g
they	d

- possessive *uu* is appended to the pronoun as *u*, eg. *doot uk* /ˈdɔt ʊk/ = 'my daughter'.

Prepositions

English preposition | **Xoq preposition**

English preposition	Xoq preposition
nominative	ai
accusative	aa
vocative	ae
at	at
about	bau
above	bav
according to	kood
across	ro
after	fae
against	gei
along	lo
amid	mi
among	mau
apart	pa
around	ra
as (functioning as)	za
as (being)	be
as for	zau (za tu>zau)
away	ve
because of	ku (<ko uu)
before	bo
behind	hai
below	lou
beneath	bi
beside	sai
between	wii
beyond	yo
by	bai
concerning	soe
considering	sie
despite	pai
during	ju
for	fo
from	fon
ever since	es
except	se

if not for	inf
in	in
inside	is
instead of	te
into (illative)	it
into (translative)	ban ('become')
in terms of	toe
like	lai
named	nen
near	ni
next to	ne
of	uu
off	of
on	on
onto	ot
opposite	po
out	au
out of	vau
over	vou
since	sin
than	van
through	fu
to	tu
towards	tow
under	un
unlike	nai
until	ti
whether	weu
with (comitative)	wie
with (instrumental)	zu ('use')
within	vin
without	va

Prepositions and adjectives act like verbs. They may be preceded by *w* or a tense/mood particle.

He's similar to his brother.

r eu sim bro ur.

/ɹ ø sɪm βɒ ʊɹ/

Adjectives and adverbs

General marker: ue.

Comparison

Level	Suffix
comparative	ea
superlative	ii

Verb

General marker:

active passive

ei   eu

Adjectives and participles act as verbs.

Tense/mood	Particle
past	a
present	o
future	e
conditional	u
imperative	i

- perfective: t
- progressive: s

She's been seeing my teacher for months.

z o ts sii ticr uk ju j men.

/z ɒ ts si tɪʃɹ ʊk ʒʊ ʒ mɛ̃/

Her cousin was doing her homework.

kanz uz a s du homk uz.

/ˈkɐ̃z ʊz ʌ s ˈdʊ ˈhɒmk ʊz/

Participles

present: c (from 'which'),

past: b (from chinese 'bei', means roughly 'which is/was etc')

he man believed to have been killed in the fire was seen alive yesterday.

man b a bliv b a kil in faer eu sii laiv yes.

/ˈman b a ˈɟɪv b a ˈkɪl ĩ ˈfæɹ ø si ˈlʌv jɛs/

gerund

 marker: sl /ɫ/

We admired the choir's singing.

w a mair sl siq uu kair.

/ˈw a mʌɹ ɫ ˈsɪŋ ʉ ˈkʌɹ/

GRID	what sort of -	this *-die*	that *-ta*	some	no	every	any	subordinate
	soo			*-sa*	*-no*	*-er*	*-an*	

person	hu	die	ta	say	noy	ey	ay	cip
thing	wo	die	ta	saf	nof	ef	af	cif
place	we	hi	dea	saw	now	ew	aw	ciw
time	wen	nu	ven	stan	nev	et	at	cit
manner	ha	ld (like this)	lt (like that)	sh	noh	eh	ah	cih
quantity	ham	dim	tim				am	cim

interrogative 'which' subordinate 'which'

wic   cie

Which of them will come?

wii uu d e kam.

/'wi ʉ dɛ kam/

I don't know which of them to choose.

k o n no cuz cey uu d.

/k�õ 'nɒ 'ʃʊz 'ʃɛj ʉ d/

Questions

The question particle *ui* is used to form open questions.
Example.

Do you like cars*?*

q lak kaa ui.

/ŋ lʌk kɑ ʏ/

it can be expressed by a '?'. Wh-questions preserve the basic word order.

What did they want from you?

d a won wo fon q.

/'d ʌ wõ 'wɒ fõ ŋ/

Numerals

Number Xoq

0	lu
1	ye
2	tu
3	di
4	vo
5	fa
6	su
7	ze
8	ho
9	na
10	qu

Number Xoq		Suffix
-teen		-r
10	qu	-q
100	huu	-h
1000	mie	-m
1000,000	la	-l
-th		-f
-ion		-y
-fold		-w
times		-t

billion: *tuy*, trillion: *diy* etc.

Vocabulary

English	Xoq
and	en
not	n
in order to	you (in>y, order>o, tu>u)
quotative	ky
that	oe
this	die
that	ta
be	br
exist	sk
good	gu
much/many	mu
make (caus)	me
may	mei
might	mai
less	loe
can	ke
times	tan
at time	an
give	gi
get	gea
have	he
have to	hau

should	xu
start	sat
must	ma
but	bu
though	do
such/so	so
only	oy
only just	oj
unless	le
about to	bo
usually	uj
let's	wi
let him	hi
let her	zi
let it	li
always	ow
enough	han
ever	ev
rather	rau
rather than	ran
such as	saa
also	os
almost	om
already	or
or	oo
for example	fan
still	sr (can be anywhere in the clause after thesubject)
self	sf
yes	ya
no	ne
even	iv
each other	ca
if ... then ...	... ten ...
... if ...	... ie ...
both	od (ol du)
o'clock	kl
really	rii
be *x* years old	slie
be supposed to	spo

yet	ty (can be anywhere in the clause after the subject)
so (conj.)	zo
so that	zoe
also known as	onz
as long as	loz
as much as	maz
just	ja
just as	jaz
no (det.)	no
then (thereafter)	voe
and then	nen
forward	fow
backward	baw
down	da
up	ap
again	gen
aside	tsa ('to side')
and or	oen
because	ko
at 3 o'clock	akl 3

If you like this house, buy it.
q lak de has ten i bai l.
/ŋ 'lʌk dɪ 'has tɛ̃ ɪ 'bʌ l/
I'll see you at 3 pm tomorrow.
k sii q akl far mor. (24h time base)
/k si ŋ ʌł faɪ mɒɹ/
I'm 25 years old.
k slie tuqfa yi.
/k çɨ tʊŋfʌ jɪ/
Say "I like vegetables".
i sei ky k lak vej.
/i se c k lʌk vɛʒ/