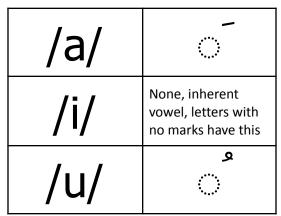
## **Vowel Marks**



That's all, no diphthongs, CV syllable structure (except for the 3 vowel-only words), very restrictive phonotactics
An alternative writing form may use dot above for /a/ and dot below for /i/, and two dots above for /u/

# Phonology and Writing System

Position in	Letter Forms	Letter Name	Sound
the Alphabet	(Isolated, Final, Medial, Initial)		and notes
1 <sup>st</sup>	2	а	represents vowel without consonant; single word, non-combining
2 <sup>nd</sup>	۶	i	represents vowel without consonant;single word, non-combining
3 <sup>rd</sup>	ه <b>د</b>	u	represents vowel without consonant; single word, non-combining
4 <sup>th</sup>	ر بدیت ن	ba	/b/
5 <sup>th</sup>	محمم	ma	/m/
6 <sup>th</sup>	حححح	ta	/t/
7 <sup>th</sup>	سـ ـسـ ـس	sa	/s/
8 <sup>th</sup>	و عاف ف	na	/n/
9 <sup>th</sup>	لـ ـلــل ل	la	/١/
10 <sup>th</sup>	صــصــص ص	za	/3/

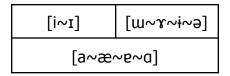
#### Phonology Table / Most Common Realizations

	Labial	Dental	Postalv
Stop	/b /	/t/	
Fricat	/bౖ/	/s/	/3/
Nasal	/mౖ/	/n/	
Lateral	/\/		

	Front	Back
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Close	/i/	/w/
Open	/a/	

More detailed vowel variations:



Linguolabial realizations of /b/ and /m/ [b] and [m] are more common and encouraged in order to make the language apical-only with little to no lip movement needed, so that the language is physically easy to articulate. This trickles over to vowels as well, resulting in /u/ being unrounded.

The language does not actually have a proper distinction between voiced and unvoiced stops, so officially the following are considered are considered wholly acceptable:  $[p\ p]$  for /b/, [d] for /t/,  $[m\ m]$  for /m/, [n] for /n/, or [l] for /l/. This allows Tuzi to be whispered and still articulated correctly.

However it gets tricky when it comes to the two fricatives /s/ and /ʒ/ because they could either be distinguished by place of articulation (/ʒ/ is postalveolar/palato-alveolar, so [ʃ] is an acceptable realization), or voicing ([s] vs [z]). Essentially this means /ʒ/ indicates any voiced coronal fricative like [ð ð ð z z], or any domed, flat, or retroflex fricative like [s z ʃ s z]

For the non-labial consonants /t/ and /n/ the place of articulation may vary, commonly, from dental/denti-alveolar/alveolar to postalveolar, rarely retroflex, since there is no distinction.

/l/ is noted as simply a lateral consonant, so it can have any place of articulation, usually it is the same place as /t/ and /n/.

/s/ can indicate any unvoiced fricative that is front compared to /3/, so  $[\theta, \theta]$  are also acceptable.

### **Words**

All possible syllables and single-syllable words:

a, i, u, ba, bi, bu, ma, mi, mu, ta, ti, tu, sa, si, su, na, ni, nu, la, li, lu, za, zi, zu

base-10 number system: a (0 or none), i (1), u (2), ba (3), ma (4), ta (5), sa (6), na (7), la (8), za (9), i a (10), za ba (93), za za ma (994), etc = letter names and numbers

zibi (plus), zimi (minus), ziti (times/multiplied), zisi (divided by), zini (unknown/missing, x), zili (percent)

Subject-verb-object (SVO)

bi (it), mi (I/me), ti (you), si (he/she/they/him/her/them), ni (no one), li (someone/anyone), zi (this/that/it), zazi (all/everyone)

u in each syllable means verb

bu = to be

mu = to do/make/create

tu = to say/think/talk/tell

su = to go

nu = to consume/eat/drink/kill/remove/taste

lu = to see/hear/feel(touch)/smell/sense

zu = to know

bubu = to raise/parent

bumu = to give birth to

butu = to entertain

busu = to accompany/escort

bunu = to feed

bulu = to show

buzu = to teach

mubu = to go back to doing/to usually do (marks a habitual action)

mumu = to continue/to be doing (marks an in-progress action)

mutu = to do something hypothetically (marks beginning of conditional statements, "would"/"if")

musu = to go to do (marks something that will be done in the future)

munu = to be finished/to be already done (marks past)

mulu = command (marks imperative)

muzu = should happen (jussive)

tubu = to have

tumu = to be willing to

tutu = to be unknown (also marks interrogative)

tusu = to be able to (can)

tunu = to need

tusu = to feel (emotion)

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tulu = to want
tuzu = to hope
subu = to walk
sumu = to transport/carry
sutu = to dance
susu = to leave
sunu = to look for/to hunt for
sulu = to put [on]
suzu = to change
nubu = to fight/battle/challenge
numu = to give/gift
nutu = to raise/to make higher/to elevate/to increase/more
nusu = to sleep/to take a break
nulu = to work
nuzu = to get/to take/to earn/to find
lubu = to have intercourse
lumu = to get/make warmer
lutu = to get/make colder
lusu = to have fun/to enjoy
lunu = to try/attempt
lulu = to laugh
luzu = to learn
zubu = to like/love
zumu = to write/draw
zutu = to sing
zusu = to lower/to decrease
zunu = to obey
zulu = to appear to be
zuzu = to start/begin
other verbs which don't have /u/: bibi (to poop), mimi (to be on a period),
titi (to be naked), sisi (to pee), nini (to breathe)
a in each syllable means familial/kinship terms (except ones with za)
baba (father), mama (mother), tata (brother), sasa (sister), nana (son),
lala (daughter)
zaza = greeting/howdy
bababa (father's father; paternal grandfather), bama (father's mother;
paternal grandmother), bata (father's brother; paternal uncle), basa
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(paternal aunt), bana (father's brother's son), bala (father's brother's

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daughter)
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mamama (mother's mother; maternal grandmother), maba (mother's father; maternal grandfather), mata (mother's brother; maternal uncle), masa (maternal aunt), mana (mother's sister's son), mala (mother's sister's daughter)

zaba = how are you?

zama = day/good morning/goodday/good afternoon

zata = who/who's this? (hello?)/is anybody in here?

zasa = goodbye/safe travels

zana = goodnight (when going to sleep)/bon appétit (when eating)

zala = night/good evening (during nighttime)

baza = year

maza = month

taza = week

saza = day

naza = hour

laza = minute

taba (brother's father), tama (brother's mother), tatata (brother's husband), tasa (brother's wife), tana (brother's son; niece), tala (brother's daughter; nephew)

saba (sister's father), sama (sister's mother), sata (sister's husband), sasasa (sister's wife), sana (sister's son; niece), sala (sister's daughter; nephew)

naba (son's father), nama (son's mother), nata (mother's brother's son), nasa (mother's brother's daughter), nanana (son's son), nala (son's daughter)

laba (daughter's father), lama (daughter's mother), lata (father's sister's son), lasa (father's sister's daughter), sana (daughter's son), lalala (daughter's daughter)

babababa (paternal grandfather's father; great grandfather), babama (paternal grandfather's mother), babata (paternal grandfather's brother), babasa (paternal grandfather's sister), babana (paternal grandfather's son), babala (paternal grandfather's daughter)

bamaba (paternal grandmother's father), bamama (paternal grandmother's mother), etc.

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-bi = life things
babi = baby
mabi = child
tabi = adult
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sabi = height/depth (up and down)
nabi = hole
labi = width/length
zabi = get well soon (wishes of good health)
mibi = inside
tibi = above/up
sibi = below/down
libi = left
nibi = right
zibi = here/there/at
nibi = right
bubi = room/house/building
mubi = school/workplace
tubi = post office/communications building
subi = outside
nubi = cafeteria/place to get food/eat
lubi = administrative/forbidden
zubi = library/books
-ti = colors and feelings
bati = empty (can be used literally or figuratively), depressed, indifferent
mati = surprised
tati = interested
sati = lonely/alone
nati = hate/hateful
lati = disgust
zati = love/lovely/in love
biti = pink
miti = black/full
siti = cyan
niti = gray
liti = orange
buti = blue
muti = red
tuti = yellow
suti = green
nuti = white
luti = brown
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zuti = purple

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-ni = things that can run out, empty things/limited
bani = group
mani = mammal/furry creature
tani = bug/insect
sani = bird
nani = from
lani = reptile
bini = storage/space/bin
mini = land
tini = ore/mineral
sini = deeds (good/bad)
lini = cloth/clothing
buni = egg
muni = resources/money/value
tuni = cereals/wheat/bread/seed/rice
suni = fruit
nuni = predator
luni = pulses/legums
-li = common adjective marker
bali = big/very
mali = medium
tali = small/a little
sali = imaginary/unrealistic
nali = bad/no
lali = okay/neutral
zali = good/yes
bili = normal
mili = serious
tili = weird
sili = silly
nili = different
zili = similar/same
buli = lively/excitedly
muli = sound/strong
tuli = talkative/social
suli = aloof/away/gone
nuli = voracious/greedy/murderous
babali = fatherly/masculine
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mamali = motherly/feminine

tatali = masculine sasali = feminine nanali = childishly masculine lalali = childishly feminine -zi = suffix turning things into nouns/things babazi = older man mamazi = older woman tatazi = man/guy/boy sasazi = woman/gal/girl nanazi = younger boy lalazi = younger girl bazi = plant mazi = mix/mixture tazi = ground/earth/rock sazi = air/scent/wind nazi = fire lazi = person zazi = water bizi = facemizi = heart tizi = brain/head sizi = belly/stomach lizi = nose nizi = mouth buzi = namemuzi = artwork/music tuzi = language/talk/speech/quote suzi = transport vehicle (incl. camel/horse/wagon) nuzi = foodluzi = animal zuzi = truth/fact zizi = thing

misc

lanata = land/country (derived from land)

mi tulu ti su mi / mi tulu zi, zi ti su mi = I want you to come to me mi mumu lusu bu = I am growing li nu zi / nu zi = it's dead (lit. someone/something kill it) zi nu si = it kill them

Consonant and Vowel Simplification of Names

## Lore/History

Our story takes place in an alternate world similar to our own, except with the existence of the *Rayanainian Empire*. It is a collection of colonies with no specific headquarters, rather it is based around inhabiting pockets of land left largely uninhabited and operating incognito as its existence depends upon being unknown to the outside/greater world.

From the ancient times to the premodern era, the Rayanainians have made their place using advanced navigational and nautical technology to secretly plunder civilizations plentiful in food and other resources to supply their own barren colonies.

They refuse to engage in formal trade or war, and aim to avoid at all costs to be formally documented. They took great care in infiltrating some of the highest positions in the wealthiest societies to ensure the steady transport of goods to their empire.

They live incredibly communally, with no concept of family, instead the Empire, whose ruler is chosen based on merit (measured through tests), has an understanding of genetics which it uses to selectively breed people and raise these in school-like buildings which don't involve their biological parents.

By employing tactics such as kidnapping, a population of foreign slaves have been developed in the Rayanainian Empire. However, a keen element of the Empire has been strict reproductive control, being a slave would usually mean you would not be used to produce offspring, for this reason they enslaved many Rayanainians as well.

However, this conlang is not the Rayanainian language, which is much more complex, rather it is a language created by the Rayanainians. The Empire has taken a keen interest in linguistics, having developed a phonetic transcription system based on geometric shapes (akin to the modern IPA) as early as 400 CE.

Early on in its history, the Empire constructed languages to be forced on its subjects, they created several languages for the classes in their society, such as one to be spoken by slaves so they couldn't understand the language of the slavemasters, and one to be spoken by those in administrative/bureaucratic positions so commoners couldn't understand them.

A tradition had developed that each time there was a new global language for infiltrators to know, a relex language would be constructed so the foreign language would be easy to learn by Rayanainians, however they took to care to ensure there was no etymological similarity so it would not be easy for foreigners to pick up on.

Throughout the Empire's nearly 4000 year history, they have gone the process of successfully replacing their languages with a new ones based on the focused foreign language only about 5 known times.

Rayanainians usually held nothing but contempt or indifference for other people groups, only occasionally seeing their usefulness in introducing new genes (reproductive slaves were used), being studied for languages and culture (which Rayanainians enjoyed documenting), and most notably, their religion. Starting with Christianity, it became another tradition for the Empire to look for the true religion out of the ones in the world, and declare it as a state religion. Rayanainians adopted various foreign religions throughout their history, until the discovery of Islam.

As a historical happenstance, the Empire took a particular liking to the early Islamic caliphates, the Arabs became the one group that Rayanainians came closest to actually interacting with, and the one with they were on the friendliest terms with. The Empire began enforcing Islam (but with concepts pertaining to marriage/intercourse removed), which caused the first and largest civil war where several regional administrators who sincerely believed in local religions rebelled, this was eventually crushed.

A new Araboid Rayanainian was created and instated (presumably succeeding a Latinoid Rayanainian). Sometime after the establishment of Araboid Rayanainian and Islam in the Empire, the Arabic script was introduced to Rayanainians as a cursive writing system which was used in day-to-day informal handwritten correspondence. The Rayanainian variant of the Arabic script was bidirectional, had 47 letters, with numerous mandatory vowel diacritics. Along with Islam, the Islamic calendar and Arab numeral system were adopted.

Araboid Raynainian took root in the early 8th century and persisted many centuries onward until the 16th century (when Hispanoid Rayanainian was introduced), while Islam was enforced until the 18th century, falling out of favor among Rayanainians before and during the 20th century decolonization until the Empire's official cessation in 2012.

#### The Formation of The Conlang

Taking all of this into account, the Rayanainians had a propensity to experiment with people, and one of the biggest ways to do this was to make foreign slaves captured from different places to talk to each other, in order to form a pidgin. They also experimented with deaf people to figure out an 'optimal' sign language. These would eventually result in Pidgin Rayanainians (used to teach to slaves as a common language to speak to each other and their masters in) and Rayanainian Sign Language.

They performed many linguistic and genetic experiments. However, at some point an idea came to them to create a language without the complexities they created Rayanainian with, a language with only 10 phonemes. They named this "*Tuzi"* /tuʒi/ after the world for "language" in this language.

They wanted this language to use common sounds, so slaves from all around the world could learn it,

The plan was to create *Tuziland*, a place where foreign slaves could be free, living in a self-sufficient agricultural society, and could have full reproductive freedom, with unlimited social relations amongst themselves with no Rayanainians to be seen. Thus, the slaves that were hardest working and most obedient would be rewarded with this tangible utopia where they'd be able to retire instead of getting killed once they were no longer useful as most individuals in Rayanainian society were.

This idea of Tuziland would be heavily preached to slaves to encourage them and provide an incentive to ensure productive work, some were even given tours so that they could report to others that it was real.

This idea was in part inspired by the aforementioned (in the 5th paragraph) problem of slaves being non-reproducing. Rayanainians guessed they might be able to observe and study these isolated self-sufficient tuzilands and receive any surplus they might bring, as Rayanainians were traditionally not self-sufficient and relied on raiding although this was sometimes supplemented by agriculture, domestication, and herding.

Something to note about the Rayanainian language is that certain consonants have high esteem in the language and may denote positive/negative connotations when found in words. The highest consonant in this hierarchy is /ʒ/, regarded as being present even in Ancient Rayanainian, it is often found in words of holy significance. Thus, naturally, Rayanainians would want to include this sound in languages they create.

/k/ was also quite low in this hierarchy, it was considered to usually denote negative connotations. From this it was decided that the Tuzi language shall not have any dorsal consonants, they wanted to try a fully coronal language. This also meant Bilabials, which were not coronal, were preferred to instead be made coronal by employing linguolabial consonants. Since Rayanainians wanted the easiest articulation possible, they wanted to make sure this language could be fully articulated with the lips always relaxed, so all vowels are usually realized as unrounded as well.

So with these two considerations, to supplement the lack of the common consonant /k/, /3/ was used. Rayanainians were aware that this sound might be hard to pronounce by some, but the phonology of Tuzi was made to be flexible, so they indicated that  $[\delta]$ ,  $[\delta]$ ,  $[\delta]$ ,  $[\delta]$ , [z],  $[\zeta]$ ,  $[\zeta]$ ,  $[\xi]$  were also officially acceptable realizations.

In order to make Tuzi easy and fast to write as well, its writing system was made to be the extremely cursive form Rayanainians already had: Arabic. However, seeing as there were so few phonemes, dots to distinguish several letters would be tedious and unnecessary, so blank dotless i'jam versions of several [oftentimes unrelated] arabic letters were used as stand-ins for some phonemes.