

THAT tfw WHEN JQ SAYS 'SKEWERS' (A new formative schema)

v0.1 (just in case this ever gets updated), uakci, 2020-06-26

0 Prologue

Goals of the formative schema presented in this PDFsertation/offwhitepaper (yes, I think highly of myself):

1. Set **Ca** free: allow arbitrary amounts of **Ca**-like transformations.
2. Set incorporation free: allow arbitrary many roots to be incorporated, with each retaining its independence (i.e., no SSI shenanigans).
3. Keep things short and, to an extent, pronounceable. (I may break this goal.)
4. Not introduce any cop-out phonemes.

Colour coding employed: black – words on a page; crimson – not meant to be a permanent decision, might change this; red – this is an issue. Credits to John Quijada wherever credit is due. I've decided mostly to stick to the set of concepts featured in the draft for the Ithkuil successor language, version 0.12, but the general concept/pattern may easily be transported to different Category realms.

0.1 Stipulations

- Gemination is employed as a context-switching mechanic. For this reason, affix values (the **C**'s in **VC**) may not begin with a geminate.

1 The formative schema

Here comes the confusing visual:

no.	I	II	III	IV				V	
slot	((Cv)	Vr)	Cr	(VaCa...)	(Va'Ca	(VC...))	([+gem.] pre-shift modulations)...	(Vk) + stress	
description	Designation, Version, and Relation	Function, Stem; optionally Specification	initial root	non-final alignment shifts	final alignment shift	VxCs / VnCn affixes, incorporated roots	for each repetition, if at that point VC is expected, the slot contains VaCa; if VaCa – VC, possibly followed by VaCa	Vk/Vc (case or illocution)	
fourth row	initial stem			pre-shift modulations			shift	post-shift modulations	final inflection

Now the same, but using a lot of words in the English language:

1.1 Slot I: Cv (Designation, Version, Relation)

The possible values for Cv are thus:

unframed¹	informal	formal
processual	(w/y)	h
completive	ç	çh
framed²		
processual	ɿ	hw/hy
completive	çw/çy	ɿw/ɿy

¹ For incorporated roots: governed.

² For incorporated roots: governing.

The w/y value should be omitted when used in Slot I, but must not be omitted when incorporating roots. If Slot I is unfilled, but Slot II is, then Slot I = a glottal stop pronounced but not written, to guard against external juncture (agá = 'agá).

1.2 Slot II: **Vr** (Function, Stem, *Specification*)

(basic)	stative	dynamic	contential		constitutive		objective	
stem 1	(a)	u	ai	au	äi	äu	ìa	ùa
stem 2	e	o	ei	eu	ëi	ëu	ìe	ùe
stem 3	ë	ö	oi	ou	öi	öu	ìo	ùo
stem 0	ä	ü	ui	üu	üi	üü	ïë	ùë

Slot II may be omitted only if Slot I is. Specification can also be marked with a **VaCa** value; it's up to the speaker to decide where they mark for it (hopefully it's not both...).

1.3 Slot III: **Cr** (initial root)

Slot III is the only slot that's truly required. It may not be a **Cv** value.

1.4 Slot IV: *modulational* chaos

Slot IV is the crux of this formative schema. *Modulation* refers to the shifting of the base root's meaning as the slot progresses from left to right. It is composed of two intertwined sequences of values. Those are:

1.4.1 **VaCa**: *alignment shifts*

The Freetnil Categories: Number, Homogeneity/Composition, Connectedness, Vagueness (= JQ's Configuration amalgam), Envelope (= Extension), Disposition (= Affiliation), Perspective, and Essence are reinterpreted as operations upon a base meaning. **Va** communicates the type of closure strung upon the sequence of operations which follows, while **Ca** contains the operations in sequence as consonantal values. (Beware: **Va** scopes over the **Ca** that it precedes.) **Va** inflects for:

- *Type* – whether the result of the application of the operations should be understood as a lexical whole. Type 1 doesn't lexicalize; Type 2 does. It amounts to the difference between 'a collection of connected pages' and 'a book'.

- *Closure* – whether the result of the operations should be reconsidered as a perceptual whole. Closure has three values: zero, Group, and Gestalt. Zero is a no-operation; Group singularizes the concept while keeping the distinct identities of its members; Gestalt singularizes opaquely. The difference between Group and Gestalt can be seen in practice: a group of clowns as a whole attacking me is not the same as each of them attacking me separately. In this sense, Groups are expected to behave like a plurality while keeping a singular ‘image’ (in a grammatical number kind of way) for further derivation.
- *Finality* – whether the following **Ca** is the last **Ca** of the **VaCa...** run. After a final **Ca**, **VC** affixes follow (described in the next section). Care must be taken to ensure that an epenthetic vowel doesn’t need inserting (or else it would belong to the **VC** affix run instead).
- *Inclusion*, explained in a later section.

This yields the following 24 values for **Va**:

	type-1	type-2	final	
–	ë	ö	a	ìa
group	e	o	ai	ïä
gestalt	ä	ü	ui	ïu
inner	ı	u	ëı	ïë
	au	ùa	oi	ìo
	eu	ue	ou	uo

ë may be used to break up troublesome consonant clusters.

The following consonant run, **Ca**, specifies a series of transformations, here called *alignment shifts*, upon the base meaning of the root. There are two kinds of alignment shifts:

- *Casual* shifts precisify the base meaning – for example, Connected turns ‘books’ into ‘books placed together’. The order they come in doesn’t matter.
- *Modular* shifts derive a new meaning from the old meaning – for example, Multiplex turns ‘book’ into ‘books’. This new meaning becomes the new base – further casual/modular shifts act on it and not on what precedes it.

Without further ado, here are the alignment shifts available:

number	duplex	m	a pair of X
	multiplex	t/d	more than one X
	potential	ñ	one or more X (general)
connectedness	separate	s	separate
	connected	š	adjacent
	fused	(l)l	blended
homogeneity	homogeneous	p/b	similar to each other
	heterogeneous	k/g	dissimilar from each other
perspective	nommic	y	(stereo)typical or conventional representative of X, defined by possessing those traits of X which are expected of most X
	abstract	w	the idea of X
vagueness	vague	r	X, but going by a relaxed definition
veridicality	representative	ř	X, but not necessarily real
envelope	proximal	z	some part of X; in the midst of X
	selective	lz	one of X; any of X
	incipient	ž	at the onset of X
	attenuative	v	at the end of X

	graduative	lž	as X develops
	depletive	lv	as X dies off
disposition	associative	(l)ç	each serving a similar purpose
	coalescent	t̥	complementing each other in purpose
	variative	(l)x	each serving a different purpose
specification (must appear first)	contential	-ɪ	
	constitutive	-u	
	objective	-h	
	no-op	l	must appear standalone

Those shifts whose descriptions feature an 'X' are modular. t/d, p/b, k/g are in free variation; so are l/ll, ç/lç, x/lx. Affricating clusters may be spelled either as a stop plus fricative or as the affricate – e.g., multiplex connected = tš or č. Geminate CC must be circumvented by replacing the first consonant with l, unless lC is interpreted as a different value or C is an affricate, in which case an epenthetic ě must be used.

JQ-ian examples:

henučt̥

h-e-ñ-ɪu-č-t̥

FML-S2-'page.of.writing'-t2.gestalt.final-multiplex.connected-coalescent

'a book'

jwacgzá

jw-a-c-g-z-á

'laugh'-final-multiplex.separate-heterogenous-proximal-OBS/COG

'they are laughing variedly'

Showcase examples:

hiakšërčkcaiz

h-ia-kš-ë-r-č-k-c-ai-lz

FML-OBJ-'clown'-0-representative-multiplex.connected-heterogeneous-multiplex.separate-final.group-selective

'one of many groups of dissimilar people touching who pass for clowns'

Note: It is not necessary to show the end of **VaCa** with a Final value if following is Slot V (case/illocution), the end of the formative, or a geminate shift (discussed later on). In such circumstances, the **VaCa** may even be zero: *ga* 'to walk'.

1.4.2 VC: affixes and incorporated roots

VC affixes follow a similar design to JQ's, with the discrepancy that VC encapsulates VxCs affixes, the VnCn modular slot (merged into the former), and root incorporation. Here are the values for the V of VC, provided that the VC is a regular affix:

	type-1	type-2	inner	
degree 1	a	aɪ	ìa	ùa
degree 2	ä	au	ïä	ùä
degree 3	e	eɪ	ìe	ùe
degree 4	ë	eu	ïë	ùë
degree 5	ɪ	ëɪ	eö	aö
degree 6	ö	ou	ïö	ùö
degree 7	o	oɪ	ìo	ùo
degree 8	ü	ìu	ïü	üö
degree 9	u	uɪ	ìu	üo

degree 0	ao	oa	eo	oe
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Inner is used to modify incorporated roots and corresponds to JQ's positive Delineation.

If the C of a VC is a Cv value, then this and the following VC form an incorporated root:

Vf	Cv	Vr	Cr
Format	same as Slots I-III		

The Relation part of Cv now refers to a new category called *Direction*. Unframed corresponds to Governed, while Framed corresponds to Governing. A Governed incorporated root modifies the base meaning, while a Governing incorporated root becomes the base meaning, modified by the old base meaning. In both cases, Format (Vf) is used as a proxy defining the nature of the relationship. After an incorporated root, the VC run resumes as normal; to add VaCa information onto the fresh incorporated root, use the geminate shift to initiate a VC; there, use the Inner versions of Va (lest the Ca quantify and/or modify the new, combined meaning).

1.4.3 The geminate shift

By geminating a consonant run, the containing affix/shift run terminates, with the complementary run taking its place: VC gives way to VaCa, and VaCa to VC. Example:

hatxazálz

h-a-tx-a-z-alz

FML-0-'dine'-final-proximal-<want to>

'I want to (eat a dish)-proximal.'

hatxallzazzá

h-a-tx-allz-a-zz-á

FML-0-'dine'-<want to>-final-proximal-OBS/COG

'I want-proximal to eat a dish.'

1.5 Slot V

Slot V follows JQ's realization.

Since Slot III is the only slot that's required, g and mř constitute valid formatives; though since they are effectively nullisyllabic, you might want to brace them with sufficient pauses.

2 Prologue

I'm tired