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

v0.2, uakci, 2020-06-27

0 Prologue

Goals of the formative schema presented in this PDFsertation/offwhitepaper (yes, I still 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.

Be aware that the specific vowel/consonant values introduced here aren't final or consequential – they're here only to fuel the examples of the prototype. They may be changed at any time (like in this version).

Colour coding employed: black – words on a page; blue – stuff that's new. Credits to John Quijada wherever it's due. I've decided for the most part to stick to the set of concepts featured in the draft for the Ithkuil successor language, version 0.12, but the general concepts and patterns may easily be transported to different Category realms.

0.1 Stipulations

- The following kinds of consonant runs are deemed *reserved*: being ļ; starting with h/ç/w/y/'; ending in h/w/y. Where noted, such consonant runs may not be slot values or are reserved for future use.

0.2 New in v0.2

- Improved the English™.
- Regularized vowel sequences; fixed impossible values (such as äı); removed ë from certain places to make room for forthcoming adjunct(-like)s.
- **Ca** Specification marking has been removed. Turns out it's no easy feat to revise 72 vocalic conjunct values.
- Swapped gemination out for glottal stop prefixation. Called it a context switch for clarity.
- Added a bunch of adjuncts, and a bunch of examples.

1 The formative schema

Here comes the confusing visual:

no.	I	II	III	IV					V
slot	**((Cv)**	**Vr)**	**Cr**	**((VaCa…)**	**(VaCa**	**(VC…)))**	**([+ ']**	*pre-switch 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-switch modulations			switch	post-switch 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:

unframed[1]	informal	formal
processual	(w/y)	h
completive	ç	çl
framed[2]		
processual	ļ	hw/hy
completive	çw/çy	ļw/ļy

[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 isn't filled, but Slot II is, then it becomes a glottal stop pronounced but not written, to guard against external juncture (agá = 'agá).

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

	sta	dyn	sta	dyn	sta	dyn	sta	dyn
	bsc		obj	csv	cte		csv	obj
stem 1	(a)	u	aɪ	uɪ	ìa	ùa	ao	oa
stem 2	ä	ü	au	ìu	ìä	ùe	ae	öa
stem 3	e	o	eɪ	oɪ	ìe	ùo	ea	oe
stem 0	ɪ	ö	eu	ou	ìë	ùö	eo	öe

Slot II may only be omitted if Slot I is. The Stative/Dynamic + Basic/Contential/Constitutive/Objective combinations are ordered by usefulness.

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

Slot III is the only slot that's truly required. It may not be a reserved value unless the only thing about it which makes it reserved is its ending in w/y.

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	
–	ɪ	ö	a	u
group	e	o	aɪ	ìa
gestalt	uɪ	ìu	au	ùa
	ä	ü	oa	ao
inner	eɪ	ìe	oe	eo
	eu	ùe	oü	ùö

The value ɪ 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	ň	one or more X (general)
	plural	n	one X, understood as a plurality (rather than multiple instances of X)
connectedness	isolated	ls	scattered far apart
	separate	s	close, but not touching
	connected	š	adjacent
	fused	(l)ḷ	blended
homogeneity	homogeneous	p/b	similar to each other
	heterogeneous	k/g	dissimilar from each other
perspective	nomic	(l)y	(stereo)typical or conventional representative of X, defined by

			possessing those traits of X which are expected of most X
	abstract	(l)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	ţ	complementing each other in purpose
	variative	(l)x	each serving a different purpose
no-op (must appear standalone if the **Ca** would otherwise be empty)		l	

Those shifts whose descriptions feature an 'X' are modular. t/d, p/b, k/g are in free variation; so are ļ/lļ, ç/lç, x/lx, w/lw, y/ly. Affricatizing clusters may be spelled either as a stop plus fricative or as the affricate – e.g., multiplex connected = tš or č. Geminates CC may be circumvented by replacing the first consonant with l, unless lC an existing value or C is an affricate. At the end of a **Ca** cluster, lC values are interchangeable with Cl.

JQ-ian examples:

> hänùačţ
> h-ä-ň-ùa-č-ţ
> 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:

> haıkšırčkcaılz
> h-aı-kš-ı-r-č-k-c-aı-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 glottal stop context switch (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. Those affixes, too, may be split into Casual and Modular affixes; sadly, there's nowhere to find this information than to infer it from the semantics of a given affix. 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	aı	ìa	ùa
degree 2	ä	au	ìä	ùä

degree 3	e	eı	ìe	ùe
degree 4	ë	eu	ìë	ùë
degree 5	ı	ëı	eö	aö
degree 6	ö	ou	ìö	ùö
degree 7	o	oı	ìo	ùo
degree 8	ü	ìu	ìü	üö
degree 9	u	uı	üı	üo
degree 0	ao	oa	eo	oe

The binary Category *Inclusion* can take on two values: Outer or Inner. Inner **VC**/**VaCa** are used to modify incorporated roots and correspond 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 new base meaning, modified by the old base meaning (as if the formative was set up in reverse). In both cases, Format (**Vf**) is used as the 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 a context switch to initiate a **VC**; there, use the Inner versions of **Va** (lest the **Ca** quantify and/or modify the combined meaning of the formative at large).

1.4.3 The glottal stop context switch

By prefixing a consonant run with a glottal stop, 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.'

> hatxa'lza'zá
> h-a-tx-a'lz-a-'z-á
> FML-0-'dine'-‹want to›-final-proximal-OBS/COG
> *'I want*-proximal *to eat a dish.'*

In the second example, the context switch is used twice: first to terminate **VaCa** prematurely, then to return to it once more.

1.5 Slot V and stress

Slot V follows JQ's realization.

Stress can only be oxytonic or paroxytonic. Unlike in JQ's language, monosyllabic formatives are nominal, not verbal. Nullisyllabic formatives (those consisting just of Slot III, like **g** or **mřř,** and functioning like interjections) are treated as neither – because of this, any phonotactically sensible root may be used as a free nonce interjection (even those roots which don't correspond to any Quijadic Bias, e.g., **lç** meaning something like 'I suppose so'), provided that they are guarded by pauses (glottal stops or phrase boundaries).

The pitch accent system receives a revamp. Three registers (Low, Mid, High) are discerned. Mid is always used pre-stress; either Low or High (with each speaker pledging to keep using one and not the other) for the stressed syllable, and the other of the two for post-stress syllables:

ta-**tá**-ta **tá**-ta ta-**tá tá**

2 Adjuncts

2.1 Affixual adjunct

ëh	*modulations*	(ë)

The affixual adjunct is simple in structure. It's like the formative, but with Slots I–III replaced with **ëh** (glottal stop pronounced but not written). The final **ë** is optional. Modulations start with **VC**; to apply a **VaCa** modulation, use a glottal stop context switch as per usual. If the adjunct is polysyllabic and stressed on the last syllable, the modulations will be applied to the initial root; otherwise, they are stacked on top of all remaining modulations. An important function of the affixual adjunct is to bring attention to this initial/final set of modulations. For example:

> otmasëmíkt
> o-tm-a-s-ëm-ɪkt
> S3/DYN-'work.towards.a.goal'-final-proximal-‹beneficial to all parties›-‹at present›
> *'There is work being done for the benefit of us all'*

This formulation is equivalent to all of the formulations below:

- ëhëmıkt otmás
- ëhêm otmasíkt
- ëhıkt otmasêm
- ëha'sëmıkt otmá
- ëha'sê otmë'míkt

2.2 Personal reference 'adjunct'

(person 2)	ë	person 1	(modulations)	case 1	(w/y + case 2)
				illocution	[+ ultimate stress]

The personal reference 'adjunct' is not merely an adjunct despite its inferior shape – the affixual adjunct may be used on it in the regular fashion. If two persons and cases are given, *person 1* takes *case 1* and *person 2* takes *case 2*. (What a surprise, am I right?) This adjunct may also be used verbally by following the bottom row of the chart. The *person* values are the same as JQ's, and stacking is allowed; *modulations* apply to both persons independently (as if copied), starting with **VC** (use a glottal stop switch to switch to **VaCa**).

The initial ë must be present. Don't forget that for non-combined referents you may use the personal reference roots to get forms shorter than these: an(a) / na 'I', enat(a) 'they', ätamsp(a) 'those two similar things'. These regular-formative forms can mark for Specification, but not for Effect.

Examples:

ësuwı 'you unto me'
ëlsa = lësa 'you and I, THM'
ëlëwı 'I-STM-AFF'
rra ëluna = rra ëhun ëla = rra nu'na 'the dog and I'
ësmá 'it's you and them'

The end of the document says hi.