The Grammar of Livyani

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The Divine Speech:

Livyáni

by

M. A. R. Barker

A Sketch of Livyáni Grammar

LINGUISTIC HISTORY:

Livyáni belongs to the Khíshan family. This includes the modern languages of the Five Empires: Livyáni, Tsolyáni, Mu'ugalavyáni, Salarvyáni, and Yán Koryáni, as well as Ghatóni, Pecháni, Hijajái, Tsoléi'i (or Tsoléini), Milumanyáni, and a number of "minor" tongues. All of these languages can be traced back through Engsvanyáli (the language of Éngsvan hlá Gánga, the Empire of the Priestkings) and Bednálljan Salarvyáni (the language of the First Imperium) to Llyáni, the tongue of Llyán of Tsámra. At this great time-depth, it is difficult to see how Llyáni is related to its presumed descendants, although certain features do persist. It is also possible that the language(s?) of the Three States of the Triangle figure in as well, although records are too fragmentary to be certain. Within Livyánu itself, history begins -- for all practical purposes -- with Llyán and his empire. How this arose from the melange of cultures and tongues of the Latter Times is unknown, as is the connection of any of these with the civilisation(s) of the Great Ancients who dwelt on Tékumel before the Time of Darkness. It is not even clear how Engsvanyáli could have had such a strong influence on ancient Livyáni since the armies of the Priestkings never actually occupied Livyánu. There were cultural exchanges, of course, and enclaves of Engsvanyáli may have settled in Livyánu over the centuries, bringing with them the prestige of "high" culture.

Linguistically, Livyáni occupies a position somewhat toward the periphery of the Khíshan family: Tsolyáni and Mu'ugalavyáni are the most closely related to one another and are also the closest to Engsvanyáli; Salarvyáni is farther away and contains many non-Khíshan elements; Livyáni (and Tsoléi'i) are next; while Yán Koryáni (and Ghatóni) are the most distant from the Engsvanyáli "mother tongue."

Milumanayáni occupies a middle position between Yán Koryáni and Tsolyáni but has special features of its own. The exact relationship of Hijajái, the language of Háida Pakála, is as yet uninvestigated.

All that is certain is that some thousands of years after the demise of Llyán and his nation, what is now Livyánu became the home of Dúru'ob (or Duruób in some Engsvanyáli texts), a language descended from Llyáni, but containing admixtures of Engsvanyáli elements and earlier, non-Khíshan features. Dúru'ob was adopted as a literary form sometime just before the Time of No Kings, at the end of the Engsvanyáli Empire. It was at this time that the Engsvanyáli calendar devised by the Priestking Kazhilo'ób was adopted (it being 10,047 A.K. as of this date of writing, whereas the Tsolyáni reckoning is 2,066 A.S.) The script devised for Dúru'ob consists of about 1,700 glyphs, some of which represent individual phonemes, others syllables, and still others ideographs for lexemes, grammatical elements, and entire words. Some of the Livyáni priesthoods still employ Dúru'ob as a liturgical language, and it is said to be spoken even now in the city of Dlásh by groups or institutions that cannot be reliably identified, due to the difficulty of doing fieldwork there. Livyánu continued to use one form or another of Dúru'ob for several thousand years, during which time the area remained divided into small, rival states. About two thousand years ago, the present Livyáni state emerged as a single, unitary, monumental theocracy. The First Thinker, Dumúz ("Brother in the Faith") Melunéz Chi'úna, commanded the abandonment of Dúru'ob and the introduction of the Engsvanyáli-like script that is employed for later Dúru'ob and for modern Livyáni. It is this that is presented below.

Livyáni exhibits several distinct dialects. That of Tsámra, the present capital, is taken as the

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cultural standard, although the dialect of Sraón is also considered elegant. The speech of Nuférsh in the far northwest, on the other hand, is thought to be rustic, and the variant spoken in the Tláshte Heights and around the Tinalíya enclaves likewise has the reputation of being boorish and amusing. The most distant dialect, linguistically, is that of Dlásh in the far south. This almost constitutes a separate language, and it is said that some of the villages of the region near Mmátugual actually speak completely unknown and unrelated tongues, perhaps descended from those of the Dragon Warriors or from families as yet unrecorded. Aside from regional differences, there are also class and clan variations, slang forms, argots, and special dialects (e.g. the speech of the glassblowers of Laigás, which has been made deliberately difficult); these cannot be gone into here.

PHONEMICS:

The consonantal phonemes of Livyáni are:

	Labials	Labio-dentals	Dentals & Alveolars	Alveo-palatals	Velars & Post-Velars	Glottals
Stops	p, b		t, d		k, g, q	' (? glottal stop)
Nasals	m		n	ny (ñ)	ng (ŋ)	
Fricatives		f, v	th (θ) dh (ð)	ss (ʂ)	kh (x), gh (γ)	h
Grooved			s, z	sh (š̌) zh (ž)		
Affricates			ts (c), dz (ʒ) tl (ƛ), dl (λ)	ch (č) j (Ǯ)		
Liquids and Others	w		r, l, hl (ł), ll (ly)	y		

All of the above are considered unit phonemes, even when transcribed with two English letters. Other consonant clusters are treated as sequences.

Vowel phonemes are:

	Front	Front Rounded	Central	Back Rounded
High	i	ü		u
Mid	e			o
Low			a	

Three diphthongs (/ai/, /au/, and /oi/ are treated as single units in the writing system. All other sequences of vowels are clusters of two or more phonemes.

Word-stress is phonemic and is marked by /´/. Intonational contours exist as well, but these cannot be explored in a short summary such as this.

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MORPHOPHONEMICS:

Many affixes and enclitics have two forms: one that ends in a consonant and another without this consonant (e.g. /nen/-/ne/ "continuative"). The consonantal variant is used before stems and affixes that begin with a glottal stop + a vowel; the form without the consonant occurs before other consonants: e.g. /nen/ "continuative" + /'avél/ "eat" = /nen-avél/ "continuously eat" (note that the glottal stop no longer occurs); /nen/ + /fansá/ "send forth" = /ne-fansá/ "continuously send forth." The stem-initial glottal stop is used as a writing device: the Livyáni script has no initial vowels but writes all such occurrences as /'/ + vowel. See the next paragraph for a related phenomenon.

A number of locative prepositions also display two forms: consonant-final variants before a glottal stop + a vowel, and forms with no consonant before other consonants. In the latter, however, the consonant of the preposition is assimilated to the first consonant of the following stem and is thus "doubled": e.g. /mik/ "of" + /'avél/ = /mik-avél/ "of eating"; /mik/ + /fansá/ = /mif-fansá/ "of sending forth."

Causative, reciprocal, reflexive, etc. stem affixes have a vowel-initial form after a stem ending in a consonant and a variant without that vowel after vowel-final stems: e.g. /fansa-dé/ "cause to send forth" but /'avel-adé/ "cause to eat." Note the shift of the word-stress to the last syllable of the stem. This is common for many (but not all) similar stem-affix occurrences.

After /n/, /l/, n/, /m/ and /r/, initial vowels of most affixes are optionally omitted: e.g. /'avél-t/ "you (sg.) eat" instead of /'avél-it/. This is found both in speech and in writing.

VERBS:

Paradigm of Class I Verbs:

Verb stems consist of a root (e.g. /fansá/ "send forth," /'avél/ "eat") ± stem affixes (e.g. /adé/-/dé/). A stem + the subject affixes produces a generalised present tense. Present forms + /u/-/'u/ give a past paradigm. Present forms + /un/-/'un/ produce a future or conditional paradigm. Paradigms for Class I verbs are:

After a consonant-final stem, the subject affixes have vowel initial variants which begin with /i/: e.g. /'avél-il/ "I eat," /'avél-iti/ "you (pl.) eat," /'avél-inun/ "they will eat." The latter two examples may occur as /'avél-ti/ and /'avél-nun/, but the two "l's" of /'avél-il/ cannot merege as *'/avéll/.

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Present	English	Past	English	Future	English
fansál	I send forth	**fansálu**	I sent forth	**fansálun**	I will send forth
fansát	you (sg.)	**fansátu**	you (sg.)	**fansátun**	you (sg.)
fansáme	he	**fansámu**	he	**fansámun**	he
fansá*	he/she/ it	**fansár***	she/it	**fansárun**	she/it
fansáli	we	**fansáli'u****	we	**fansáli'un****	we
fansáti	you (pl.)	**fansáti'u****	you (pl.)	**fansáti'un****	you (pl.)
fansátesh***	you (honorific)	**fansáteshu**	you (honorific)	**fansáteshun**	you (honorific)
fansán	they	**fansánu**	they	**fansánun**	they
fansóm****	unknown	**fansómu**	unknown	**fansómun**	unknown

*These forms are irregular. Most verb classes have /ø/ as the 3rd sg. suffix for the present tense and /r/ in the other two tenses. Some classes have /mo/ and /mu/ in these places, while still others are quite irregular. Note that verbs distinguish masculine and feminine only in the 3rd person singular in older, Classical Livyáni. In the modern language the "she/it" forms are also used for "he," and /me/-/m/ does not occur.

**In rapid speech /li'u/ and /li'un/ become /lyu/ and /lyun/. Similarly, /ti'u/ and /ti'un/ are heard as /tyu/ and /tyun/. Many Livyáni also write these affixes this way, even in literary documents.

***The honorific form is used to social superiors. It can be either singular or plural. Still higher grades of honorific verb forms are found in classical and "court" Livyáni.

****This form is used when the subject is unknown (e.g. "(someone) sends forth"), when the subject is impersonal (e.g. ""(it) rains"), or when the subject is not clearly limited (e.g. "(people) eat," "(crops) grow"). It is the same for singular or plural subjects.

Verb Classes:

The above paradigm holds for all verbs of Class I. There are seventeen verb classes, only a few of which contain more than a small number of roots. Verb classes differ according to their stems, their subject pronoun sets, and the past and future affixes with which they occur. Classes are:

Class	Characteristics	Examples
I	The majority of verbs are members of this class; "he/she/it" forms end in /ø/ in the present and /r/ in the past and the future-conditional	/fansá/ "he/she/it sends forth"; see the table above
II	**37 verbs:** the "he/she/it" forms end in /mo/ in the present and /mur/ in the past and the future-conditional	/chásimo/ "he/she/it dances"; /chásimur/ "he/she/it danced"; /chásimurun/ "he/she/it will dance"; /chás/ "dance"
III	**29 verbs** which denote repeated sounds or actions and consist of a reduplicated monosyllabic stem + the "unknown" subject affix. Other persons are possible for this class but are not often used. Past and future-conditional suffixes are as for Class I	/palpálom/ "(it) trembles"; /bekbekómu/ "(it) whirred"; /disdisómun/ "(it) will hum, drone"; /trutrúm/ "(it) beats (heart)"

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IV	**15 verbs:** "he/she/it" forms end in /mu/ in the present and /mur/ in the past; the future affix is always /an/ instead of /un/; verbal suffixes have no initial /-i/ vowel	/hélmu/ "he/she/it scratches"; /hélmur/ "he/she/it scratched"; /héllan/ "I will scratch"; /héltan/ "you (sg.) will scratch," etc.
V	**9 verbs:** each has three different stem forms: one for the present, one for the past, and one for the future-conditional; affixes are as for Class I. The stem variants for each of these verbs are unique.	/shanzá/ "he/she/it breaks"; /shédar/ "he/she/it broke"; /shúnarun/ "he/she/it will break." The three stems are thus /shánz/, /shéd/, and /shún/
VI	**6 verbs:** each has three different stem forms but uses the /mo/-/mur/ 3rd sg. suffix forms employed in Class II; members are: /medán/-/méd/-/modán/ "slide," /ványel/-/ván/-/ve'én/ "be secret," /náran/-/níran/-/'inrán/ "mourn," /púraj/-/pórj/-/péraj/ "spy on," /sséman/-/ssém/-/sse'ém/ "strike at with a sword," and /léthen/-/léth/-/lé'eth/ "drink"	/medánimo/ "he/she/it slides"; /médimur/ "he/she/it slid"; /modánimurun/ "he/she/it will slide"; /léthil/ "I drink"; /léthimur/ "he/she/it drank"; /le'éthilun/ "I will drink"
VII	**6 verbs:** these have only one stem form but use a different set of subject pronouns, which are direct borrowings from Dúru'ob, the earlier form of the language: /etl/-/tl/ "I"; /esh/-/sh/ "you (sg.)"; /em/-/m/ "he"; /er/-/r/ "he/she/it/"; /elo/-/lo/ "we"; /es/-/s/ "you (pl.)"; /etesh/-/tesh/ "you (honorific)"; /en/-/n/ "they"; /ong/-/ng/ "unknown." Members are: /dék/ "buy," /kórd/ "leave abandon," /'ér/ "leap, jump," /yól/ "try," /'áts/ "bring," /ngép/ "defecate"	/déketl/ "I buy"; /déketlu/ "I bought"; /déketlun/ "I will buy"; /dékesh/ "you (sg.) buy"; /dékem/ "he buys"; /déker/ "he/she/it buys"; dékelo/ "we buy"; /dékes/ "you (pl.) buy"; /déketesh/ "you (honorific) buy"; /déken/ "they buy"; /dékong/ "(one) buys"
VIII	**5 verbs:** each has two stems: one for the present-past, and a second for the future-conditional. The pronoun set described for Class VII is employed; these are: /fá/-/fézh/ "find," /mül/-/mól/ "go," /'úk/-/'uvék/ "tell a lie," /kréd/-/krít/ "put, set down," and /hép/-/húp/ "forgive"	/fátl/ "I find/; /fátlu/ "I found"; /fézhetlun/ ""I will find"; /mületl/ "I go"; /'úketl/ "I tell a lie"; /'uvéketlun/ "I will tell a lie"; /krédesu/ "you (pl.) set down"; /húpenun/ "they will forgive"
IX	**4 verbs:** each has three stems, one for the present, one for the past, and one for the future-conditional; the pronoun set of Class VII verbs is employed. All of the verbs of this class appear to be borrowings from Engsvanyáli; members are: /mér/-/mo'ór/-/mrén/ "love," /pársh/-/pe'érsh/-/prásh/ "say," /fádh/-/fe'édh/-/fódh/ "heat, cook," /nóp/-/no'óp/-/náp/ "admit, confess"	/méretl/ "I love"; mo'óretlu/ "I loved"; /mrénetlun/ "I will love"; /pársher/ "he/she/it says"; /fe'édhelo'u/ "we heated, cooked"
X	**4 verbs:** each has a reduplicated (or partially reduplicated) stem; these occur with the Class VII pronoun set; the future-conditional affix is /o'on/-/'on/: members are: /tekták/ "hold back, hesitate," /milmál/ "whine, complain," /veregvárg/ "shift from one foot to the other," and /meshmásh/ "dodge, run to and fro"	/tektáketl/ "I hold back, hesitate"; /milmáletl/ "I whine, complain"; /veregvárgetlo'on/ "I will shift from one foot to the other"; /meshmásher/ "he/sh/it dodges, runs to and fro"

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XI	**3 verbs:** these occur only with a unique 3rd person pl. subject suffix /üyün/-/yün/. They denote actions performed only by plural subjects and cannot occur in other persons; the Class I past and future-conditional affixes follow this subject suffix; these verbs are /chúsh/ "advance (as an army)," /kadlá/ "worship in congregation," and /prézh/ "flee (as a defeated army, a mob)"	/chushüyün/ "they advance"; /kadláyün/ "they worship in congregation"; /prézhüyün/ "they flee"
XII	**3 verbs:** these occur with the singular subject suffixes of class I but the plural subjects of Class VII. These are very common verbs: /plén/ "come," /tlék/ "give," and /kúl/ "be, become"	/plénil/ "I come"; /plénit/ "you (sg.) come"; /plénelo/ "we come"; /plénenun/ "they will come"; /tlékesu/ "you (pl.) gave"
XIII	**2 verbs:** each has a stem for the present and past and a second for the future-conditional; subject suffixes are as for Class XII. These are /mné/-/mnón/ "keep, retain" and /'óp/-/óptu/ "hold, seize"	mnél/ "I have," /mnénu/ "they had"; /mnónelon/ "they will have"
XIV	**2 verbs:** each has one stem form, but the subject suffixes are irregular: /del/ "I," /set/ "you (sg.,)" /rem/ "he," /re/ "he/she/it," /dele/ "we," /seti/ "you (pl.)," /setesh/ "you (honorific)," /ren/ "they," /ron/ "unknown"; past and future-conditional affixes are as for Class I; verbs of this class are /'arái/ "meet in secret" and /dhemáu/ "assassinate for religious reasons"	/'aráidel/ "I meet in secret"; /'aráidele'un/ "we will meet"; /dhemáuremu/ "he assassinated"; /dhemáure'u/ "she assassinated"
XV	**2 verbs:** each has three stem forms (present, past, and future-conditional); the pronoun suffixes are as for Class XIV. Members are: /'ekké/-/'akké/-/'ekkú/ "ask (a question)" and /tsá/-/tsú/-/tsái/ "die, perish"	/'ekkésetesh/ "you (honorific) ask"; /'ekkúseti'un/ "you pl. will ask"; /tsúre'u/ "he/she/it died"; /tsáisetun/ "you sg. will die"
XVI	**1 verb:** /tém/ "to speak" is quite irregular; it has three stem forms (/tém/ present, /túl/ past, and /tók/ "future-conditional); its subject pronouns are also unique (see the next column), but it occurs with the Class I past and future-conditional affixes	/tém/ "I speak" (the subject affix is /ø/; /témt/ "you (sg.) speak,"; /témek/ "he speaks"; /tém/ "he/she/it speaks" (the subject is /ø/); /témol/ "we speak," /témsi/ "you (pl.) speak"; /témesh/ "you (honorific) speak"; /témor/ "they speak"; /témom/ "unknown speaks"; /túlu/ "I spoke"; /túlsi/ "you (pl.) spoke;" /tókun/ "I will speak"; /tókorun/ "they will speak"
XVII	**2 "verbs":** these take no affixes whatsoever; subjects and tenses must be inferred from other elements in the sentence or from context; these are /mái/ "make, do" and /'áil/ "climb, ascend"	lé mái mú/ "I make, made, will make it"; a time adverb is needed to clarify

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Proclitics:

Proclitics occur with the above paradigms to produce aspects: e.g. /nen/-/ne/ "continuous"; /dhus/-/dhu/ "completing, finishing"; /'ok/-/'o/ "wants to ..."; /pref/-/pre/ "is able to, can." See above for the relevant morphophonemic rule. E.g. /'o-fansá/ "to want to send forth"; /ok-avél/ "to want to eat"; /nen-avél/ "to continuously eat"; /dhu-fansá/ "to finish sending forth," /pref-avél/ "to be able to eat."

The proclitic /in/ "intensive" occurs before any other proclitic: e.g. /in-ne-fansá-l/ "I (intensively, emphatically) continuously send forth."

Verbs are negated by the proclitic /yén/-/yé/: /yé fansár/ "he did not send forth"; /yén-in-ne-fansa-dé-l-u ngá?/ "did I not intensively continuously send forth?" The proclitic used to negate an imperative verb is /méng/-/mé/: e.g. /me-fansát-o!/ "Do not send forth!"; see below.

Enclitics:

The "imperative" consists of the second person present tense verb forms + the enclitic /o/ after consonants and /ro/ after a vowel: /fansát-o/ "you (sg.) send forth!" /fansáti-ro/ "you (pl.) send forth!" With a 3rd person verb, this gives a "hortative" sense: e.g. /fansá-ro/ "let him (her, it) send forth!"; /fansán-o/ "let them send forth" The imperative is used mainly with present tense verbs but may also occur with future forms, denoting a future command: e.g. /fansátun-o/ "you (sg.) will send forth!"

The "interrogative" is expressed with /ngá/: e.g. /fansárun ngá/ "will he send forth?" In speech /ngá/ has a rising "question" contour: /?/. Interrogative sentences containing a question

word (e.g. /komé/ "what?") do not employ /ngá/.

Further post-verbal enclitics indicate various other aspects or modals: e.g. /gar/ "action far away in time or space"; /ke/ "action nearby, recent, or soon"; /dza/ "expanding or increasing action"; /hel/ "decreasing or diminishing action": e.g. /fansálu gar/ "I sent (it) away long ago."

Conditional sentences require the enclitic /pe/ "if." Conditional clauses employ a present tense verb + /pe/ if the condition is seen as likely, a future verb if the condition is doubtful, and a past verb if the condition is not possible: e.g. /'avélil-pe/ "if I eat (and it is likely I will)"; /'avélilun-pe/ "if I eat (possible)"; and /'avélilu-pe/ "if I had eaten (but I did not)."

Other Verbal Formations:

A "temporal gerund" (e.g. English "while going") is constructed with a verb stem + /vené/-/ené/: e.g. /fansa-vené/ "while sending forth"; /'avel-ené/ "while eating. Notice the change in word stress.

Verbal nouns are treated as regular feminine nouns (see below), occurring with the stem formant vowel + the feminine singular affix /b/: e.g. /fansá-b/ "the sending forth"; /'avél-e-b/ "eating" (as in "eating is difficult"). All verbal nouns in modern Livyáni are feminine. They cannot be pluralised. Verbal nouns also occur as the objects of inflected verbs like /yól/ "try": e.g. /yóletl 'avél-e-b/ "I try to eat."

Participles:

The active participle consists of a stem + /mú/-/imú/ + the noun gender endings: e.g. /fansa-mú-z/ "one (masculine) who sends forth";

/fansa-mú-b/ "one (feminine) who sends forth"; /fansa-mu-tó-z/ "ones (masculine) who send forth;" /fansa-mu-tó-b/ "ones (feminine) who send forth."

The passive participle consists of the stem + /gé/-/igé/ + the same noun endings: /fansa-gé-z/ "one (masculine) who has been sent forth"; /fansa-gé-b/ "one (feminine) who has been sent forth"; /fansa-ge-tó-z/ "ones (masculine) who have been sent forth"; /fansa-ge-tó-b/ "ones (feminine) who have been sent forth." Note the stress shifts. The gender endings /z/ and /b/ are not used if the participle occurs with a preposition; see below. For participles as adjectives, see under "Adjectives."

Derived Stems:

Causative stems consist of a verbal root + /adé/-/dé/: e.g. /fansa-dé/ "to cause to send forth"; /'avel-adé/ "to cause to eat." The reflexive ("to act upon oneself") consists of a stem + /atlá/-/tlá/. The reciprocal ("to do to each other") employs /esü/-/sü/. These stem

NOUNS:

Nouns are either masculine or feminine. Many consonant-final noun stems are followed by a "stem formant vowel," which can be /o/, /a/, or /e/. Stem formant vowels are unpredictable, although a tendency towards /e/ is seen with nouns containing front vowels (/i, e/). In many cases, the vowel of the affix syllable is stressed (e.g. /li'-ó-b/ "book"), but this is not always the case; many nouns have the word stress on other vowels: e.g. /llün-e-b/ (stressed on the /ü/, which cannot be shown with a /´/ mark in this type font) "army legion." The stem vowel (if any) is followed by the "masculine" suffix /z/ or the "feminine" suffix /b/. Examples: /'assá-b/ "city"; /li'-ó-b/ "book"; /vesh-ó-z/ "man"; /ssen-é-b/ "woman"; /chaman-á-z/ "temple."

formants precede person-tense affixes: e.g. /fansa-dé-l-u/ "I caused to send forth." More than one stem formant can occur in the same verbal form: .e.g. /fansa-de-sü/ "cause to send forth to each other"; /ses-ade-tlá/ "cause to cut oneself" (/sés/ "to cut"), /beldo-de-sü/ "cause to fight each other." Note the shift of stress to the syllable just preceding the pronominal affixes.

Equational Sentences:

Equational (also termed "copulative") sentences (e.g. "I am a man," "it is red," "The man is here") contain no verbal form expressing "am," "is," or "are" in the present tense: e.g. /lé vesh-ó-z/ "I (am) a man"; /mú chí/ "it (is) great"; /mé srabchi'í-z/ "he (is) a servant." Past equational sentences contain an indeclinable element /kú/, and future equational sentences employ /chún/: e.g. /mú kú chí/ "it was large"; /mú chún chí/ "it will be large." A variant of /chún/, /kún/ or /kúng/, is found in the west around Sraón and Nuférsh.

Some nouns do not require the /z/ or /b/ suffixes; these include many proper names, names of deities, names of cities, clans and lineages (these are treated grammatically as plurals), and a scattering of other items: e.g. /qame'él/ "Qame'él (deity)."

Plurals:

The plural of many masculine nouns is formed with /etó/-/tó/ + /z/ or /b/: e.g. /vesh-etó-z/ "men" (/vesh-ó-z/ "man"). Feminine nouns tend to employ /eté/-eté/, although there are exceptions that use /etó/-/tó/: /ssen-eté-b/ "women" (ssen-é-b/ "woman." Other nouns have special "plural stems"; these are used ± the stem formant vowel + /z/ or /b/ (i.e. without /etó/-/tó/ or /eté/-/té/: e.g. /dumú-z/ "brother (in

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the faith)" and /duru-'ó-b/ brothers"; /li'-ó-b/ "book," /li'un-ó-b/ "books."

In literary Livyáni an alternate plural formation for many nouns is the addition of /'úba/-/uba/ to a singular stem (or to the special plural stem of a noun that has one). This is the same for both masculine and feminine singular nouns. It is noteworthy that many semi-compounds are formed with this affix: X + /-úba/ followed by Y, denotes "the Xs of Y." No preposition "of" is needed. E.g. /duru-'úba shirudan-á-z/ "the Brothers of the Shadow." The suffix /'úba/-/uba/ is limited to formal and literary speech, although it is fairly frequent in writing.

Prepositions:

Prepositions are noun prefixes. Most of these have two forms: one ending in a consonant that occurs before an initial glottal stop + vowel (and this occasions the loss of the glottal stop), and a second variant that occurs before other consonants. The final consonant of the preposition assimilates to the following consonant and causes "doubling": e.g. /mik-assá/ "of the city"; /mil-li'-ó/ "of the book"; /miv-vesh-ó/ "of the man"; /pess-ssen-é/ "with the woman."

As noted above, a single phoneme transcribed with two letters is considered one consonant: these are /tl/ /dl/, /sh/, /zh/, /ss/, /ts/, /dz/, /ch/, /kh/, /gh/, /ll/, /ng/, /ny/, /th/, /dh/, /hl/. Other consonant clusters are treated as two consonants, and the final consonant of a preposition assimilates only to the first of them: e.g. /mip-prí/ "from one."

If a noun is preceded by a preposition, or if it occurs with a suffixed possessive pronoun, the masculine-feminine affixes (/z/ or /b/) do <u>not</u> occur: e.g. /mil-li'-ó/ "of the book"; miv-vün-etó/ "of the boys" (/vün-ó-z/ "boy"); /li'-ó-l/

"my book"; /mil-li'-ó-t/ "of your (sg.) book"; /li'un-ó-b/ "books" (or /li'un-úba/); /mil-li'un-ó/ "of the books"; /mil-li'un-ó-t/ "of your (sg.) books."

A noun functioning as an object of a verb is marked with /'el/-/'e/: e.g. /'e-vün-ó/ "the boy (object)." An indirect object is similarly marked with /'atl/-/'a/: e.g. /'a-vün-ó/ "to the boy." These two items are prepositions, but they do not exhibit the "doubling" of their final consonants before stems beginning with a glottal stop + a vowel.

Nouns that denote inanimate objects, mass objects, or unknown numbers are often employed as objects without /'el/-/'e/: e.g. /'e-khá/ "(the) water (object)" or /khá-b/.

Further prepositions include:

/'ueth/-/'ueC/ "down to, down upon"
/dem/-/deC/ "with (an instrument)"
/hodh/-/hoC/ "under, below"
/jen/-/jeC/ "through"
/khin/-/khiC/ "until, up to"
/kreng/-/kreC/ "in front of"
/metlek/-/metleC/ "toward"
/paj/-/paC/ "before"
/pek/-/peC/ "with, accompanying"
/sech/-/seC/ "like, resembling"
/shom/-/shoC/ "above, over"
/sum/-/suC/ ("C" = the assimilating consonant) "on, at"
/tef/-/teC/ "after"
/vur/-/vuC/ "in, into"
/wesh/-/weC/ "for"
/zhap/-/zhaC/ "from"

E.g. /sum-assá/ "at the city," /suk-kodr-ó/ "at the market" (/kodr-ó-z/ "market"), /hov-váyu/ "under the house" (/váyu-z/ "house"); /sem-mú/ "like this"; /sech-o-mú/ "like that." (See under Demonstratives, below).

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PRONOUNS:

Subject Pronouns:

Subjects of verbs are included in verbal constructions (see above) and are not usually expressed as independent pronouns. . Livyáni does use independent pronouns in verbal sentences to emphasise the subject: e.g. /lé 'avélil/ "I eat" (i.e. I alone, not others).

Independent subject pronouns are used in "equational" sentences in which no verb for "to be" occurs: e.g. "lé vesh-ó--z/ "I (am) a (or 'the') man." To emphasise the "I" in this type of formation, the enclitic /be/ is employed: e.g. /lé be vesh-ó-z/ "I am a man." /be/ occurs after any emphasised element in a sentence: e.g. /lé vesh-ó-z be/ "I am a man" (i.e. not anything else); /'avélil be/ "I eat" (i.e. I do nothing else).

Possessive Pronouns:

Possessive pronouns are the same as the verbal subject pronoun set. These occur after the noun formant vowels, if present: e.g. ; /li'-ó-l/ "my book"; /'assá-t/ "your (sg.) city"; /'assá-li/ "our city"; /so'él-e-t/ "your (sg.) face," (/so'él-e-b/ "face"), /vün-ó-me/ "his boy, son" (/vün-ó/ "his, her boy" is also found, using the /ø/ variant of the 3rd sg. suffix). The "indefinite" possessive pronoun is /om/ after consonants and /tom/ after vowels: e.g. /'assá-tom/ "someone's city," or "one's city."

The possessive pronouns also occur with prepositions. The vowel-initial form of the pronoun is employed, and the preposition thus occurs in its "full" form, and the pronoun takes the word-stress: e.g. /pek-íl/ "with me"; /wésh-it/ for you (sg.)"; hodh-imó/ "behind it"; /zhap-itésh/ "from you (honorific)."

Object Pronouns:

A pronominal object of a verb can be expressed as an independent element with /'el/-/'e/ + the object pronoun set. An indirect object (e.g. "I gave it to him") similarly consists of the preposition /'atl/-/'a/ + the same set: e.g. /'e-mú/ "him"; /'a-mú/ "to him." In speech, the final vowel of a pronominal construction is often omitted: e.g. /'é-l/ "me" (instead of /'e-lé/; /'á-m/ "to him" instead of /'a-mú/. The vowel of the preposition then takes word-stress. Note that the alternate suffix pronoun sets of the minor verb classes (e.g. VII and XIV) do not occur as objects or as possessive pronouns.

A pronominal object can also be expressed by a verb + an object suffix. The latter begins with a consonant after a verb form ending in a vowel and with a "helper vowel" /e/ after a verb ending in a consonant. Object suffixes follow the tense affixes /u/-/'u/ and /un/-/'un/. E.g. /'avélil-em/ "I eat it"; /'avélilu-m/ "I ate it"; /'avélilun-em/ "I will eat it"; /wakál-et/ "I see you (sg.)"; /wakál-u-t/ "I saw you (sg.)"; /wakál-un-et/ "I will see you (sg.)"

There are no reciprocal or reflexive pronouns; these are covered by the verbal stem suffixes noted above.

Relative Pronouns:

The "relative" pronoun set is used when the pronoun is the head of a relative clause: e.g. /lé já-l vur-assá makhí-l/ "I am the one who dwells in the city." A relative clause may also be the object or indirect object of the verb of the main clause; the verb then usually takes a pronominal object in apposition: e.g. /wakálu-me, jé-m vur-assá/ "I saw him, he-who (is) in the city."

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The pronouns are:

English	Verbal Suffixes* and Possessive Pronouns	Independent Subjects	Independent Objects with /'el/- /'e/, etc.	Suffixed Objects	Relative Pronouns
I	-l - -il	l é	-l é	-l - -el	j á-l
you sg.	-t - -it	t é m	-t é	-t - -et	j á-t
h e	-ø - -me - -ime	m é	- m é	-me - -eme	j é-m
s h e / i t	-ø - -mo - -imo	m ú	- m ú	-m - -em	j á-m
w e	-li - -ili	l í m	-l í m	-li - -eli	j á-li
you pl.	-ti - -iti	t í m	-t í m	-ti - eti	j e-t í m
y o u h o n o r i f i c	-tesh - -itesh	k a t é m	-t é s h	-tesh - -etesh	j e-t é s h
t h e y	-n - -in	m é n	- m é n	-ne - -ene	j e-m é n
u n k n o w n	-om - -m	t ó m	-t ó m	-tom - -etom	j e-t ó m

*The pronoun sets of the smaller verb classes need not be listed here; cf. Verb Classes," above.

DEMONSTRATIVES AND INTERROGATIVES:

The demonstratives are: /mú-z/ "this (masculine)"; /má-b/ "this (feminine and neuter)"; and /mú-n/ "these (both masculine and feminine)." "That" and "those" are expressed by /'o/ prefixed to the "near" forms: e.g. /'o-mú-z/ "that (masculine)," /'o-má-b/ "that (feminine)," and /'o-mú-n/ "those." Like adjectives, the /z/ and /b/ do not occur if the noun they modify occurs with a preposition: e.g. /má mik-assá/ "of this city"; /mú miv-vün-ó/ "of this boy."

When the demonstratives are employed as head nouns themselves and occur with a preposition, the /z/ and /b/ do not occur, but /mú-n/ remains unchanged: e.g. /mim-mú/ "of this (masculine)," /mim-má/ "of this (feminine)," /mim-mú-n/ "of these," /mik-o-mú/ "of that (masculine)," etc.

Various sets are found which include a "near" form, a "far" form, and an "interrogative" form: /méta/ "here"; /'o-méta/ "there"; /k-éta/ "where?"; /mú-z/ (etc.) "this"; /'o-mú-z/ "that"; /k-omé/ "what?" (in reference to inanimate objects), and /ke-mú-z/ "who?" If the referent is clearly feminine or plural, /ke-má-b/ and /ke-mú-n/ may occur as well. Another set denotes "way": /péth/ "thus, this way"; /'o-péth/ "thus, that way"; and /ke-péth/ "which way, how?" Still another set is /nyék/ "this much, this many"; /'o-nyék/ "that much, that many"; and /ke-nyék/ "how much, how many?" Still another set is: /'ítro/ "now"; /'ó-tro/ "then"; and /k-ítro/ "when?" /k-él/ "why?" seems to have no other members of its set.

Many of these forms occur with prepositions, but only /mú-z/, /má-b/ and /ke-mú-z/ occur without the /z/ and /b/ endings. E.g. /mik-kenyék/ "of how many?" /'a-ke-mú/ "to whom (masculine singular)?"

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ADJECTIVES:

Three classes of adjectives are found: those that occur with the suffix /es/-/s/; those that are appended to nouns as enclitics; and numeral-quantifier adjectives that require no suffix.

Stems that occur with /es/-/s/ express qualities: e.g. /kré-s/ "red"; /mékri-s/ "black"; /tóli-s/ "big"; /chúm-es/ "greedy." These adjectives do not change for number or gender, and they occur before the noun they modify, except in poetry: e.g. /tóli-s 'assá-b/ "big city" (or "the big city" -- there is no definite article); /qér-es 'assa-tó-b/ "all (the) cities"; /tóli-s 'assa-tó-b/ "big cities"; /tóli-s 'assa-tó-li/ "our big cities." As modifiers, these forms require no further affixes, even if their head nouns occur with prepositions: e.g. /tóli-s vur-assá/ "in the big city." A demonstrative precedes a qualitative adjective: e.g. /má tóli-s vur-assá/ "of this big city."

Participles function both as nouns (see above) and as adjectives. In the latter case they occur with /es/-/s/ and are otherwise indeclinable: e.g. /ket-imú-s jatt-ó-z/ " "burning bread" and /ket-igé-s jatt-ó-z/ "burnt bread" (/két/ "burn," Class I).

"Suffixed adjectives" include about twenty items that occur in loose compounds after noun stems. The stem vowels/ /o/ and /e/, the plural stem formants /etó/-/tó/ and /eté/-/té/, and the masculine and feminine endings /z/ and /b/ come <u>after</u> such compounds, just like monomorphemic noun stems. A noun + a suffixed adjective is thus treated as a single stem. Suffixed adjectives include such elements as /chi/ "great, big"; /she/ "powerful"; /mer/ "beloved"; /khe/ "hated"; /tre/ "despised"; /leth/ "beautiful, handsome"; /vo/ "endless, eternal"; /hoi/ "glorious." More than one of these can occur with a noun. E.g. /vün-mer-ó-z/ "beloved boy," /vesh-khé-z/ "hated man," /vesh-chi-khé-z/ "great hated man"; /ssen-leth-eté-b/ "beautiful women." After a stem ending in two consonants, a "helping vowel," /i/, occurs before the suffixed adjective: e.g. /cherd-i-chí--z/ "great deed"; /cherd-i-chi-hói-z/ "great (and) glorious deed" (/chérd-ó-z/ "heroic deed." Note that the word-tress tends to shift to the last syllable in such long formations.

The third class of adjectives contains quantifiers: numerals (e.g. /prí/ "one"; /hé/ "two"; /pü/ "three"; /mí/ "four"; /tlí/ "five"; etc.) and words like /téth/ "both"; /dzé/ "some"; /yáish/ "few, a few"; /hú/ "too few"; /púr/ "many"; /lóch/ "too many"; etc. As adjectives, these require no gender or number affixes: e.g. /prí vesh-ó-z/ "one man"; /prí miv-vesh-ó/ "of one man"; /yáish ssen-eté-b/ "a few women." When numerals are used as nouns, they occur with the usual noun affixes: e.g. /prí-z 'o-méta/ "one (is) there"; /wakálu 'e-prí/ "I saw one."

The decades of the numerals consist of a digit + /dol/-/dlo/: e.g. /mí-dlo/ "forty"; /tlí-dlo/ "fifty"; /sésh-dol/ "sixty" (/sésh/ "six"); /jái-dlo/ "seventy" (/jái/ "seven"); /kól-dol/ "eighty" (/kól/ eight"); /pór-dol/ "ninety" (/pór/ "nine"). A decade plus a digit requires no word for "and": e.g. /kól-dol hé/ "eighty two." Larger numerals are: /mrésh/ "hundred"; /tukál/ "thousand"; /ngúmal/ "hundred thousand"; /'ürdún/ "million": e.g. /tlí 'ürdun, sésh ngúmal, pü tukál, mí mrésh, jái-dlo, kól/ "five million, six hundred thousand, three thousand, four hundred, seventy-eight." ""Zero" is /zúth/.

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ADVERBS:

Adverbs consist of a noun or noun-like stem + the adverbial suffix /év/-/v/: e.g. /wal-év/ "yesterday"; /shul-é-v/ "tomorrow"; /ván-ev/ "quickly" (/ván-e-z/ "speed" NM, /ván-es/ "quick" Adj). Many unique items also function as adverbs; these may or may not occur with the noun affixes: e.g. /tétl/ "also"; /póm/ "very"; /lyótl/ "back, again"; /dhún/ "afterwards, later"; /njénje/ "sometimes"; /pócho/ "often."

Some of the sets described above under Demonstratives and Interrogatives are employed adverbially: e.g. /péth/ "this way, thus"; /méta/ "here."

A suffix /cho/ is used with numerals to denote "-times": e.g. /prí-cho/ "once," /hé-cho/ "twice," /pü-cho/ "thrice, three times." This probably also occurs in /pócho "often" (< /póm "very" + /cho/)/ A numeral + /se/ + the same numeral signifies "X by X" e.g. /prí se prí/ "one by one"; /hé se hé/ "two by two." A rather uncommon suffix /otk/-/tk/ occurs with numeral stems to denote "-fold": e.g. /hé-tk/ "double, two-fold"; /dól-otk/ "ten-fold."

CONJUNCTIONS:

Members of this small class are indeclinable: e.g. /bé/ "and"; /mél/ "but"; /wázh/ "that" (introduces a subordinate clause); /tuén/ "indeed" (introduces sentences); /sáitl/ "lo, verily!" /kekél/ "then, thereafter"; /'ódh/ "in order to, in order that"; /niké/ "because"; /'unél/ "although"; /sejún/ "however." /cháth/ "then" introduces the "then" clause of a conditional sentence; cf. above under verbal enclitics for /pe/ "if."

INTERJECTIONS:

There is also a small class of uninflected interjections: e.g. /ré/ "O!" /'alá/ "woe!" /vatlé/ "wonderful!" /ché/-/'eché/ "?" (in a yes-or-no question); /yén/ "no!" /sá/ "yes."

SYNTAX:

Noun Phrases:

A noun phrase consists of a demonstrative ± a numeral ± an adjective (± an adverbial modifier such as /póm/ "very") + the noun (± a suffixed adjective ± a pronominal possessor).

A further noun phrase may possess the first, employing /mik/-/miC/ "of": e.g. /má prí póm tóli-s 'assa-chí-z mid-dengen-etó-li/ "this one very big city-splendid of our ancestors."

Sentences:

As in other languages, there is no need for "complete" sentences: "In the house" is a complete sentence in reply to "Where is he?" Single exclamations, interjections, and the like often function as sentences: e.g. /sá/ "yes," /yén/ "no." More complex sentence patterns include:

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Noun subject + Noun, adjective, or adverb: this is the "equational" sentence described above

Verb + suffixed subject pronoun

Verb + suffixed subject pronoun ± suffixed object pronoun

Noun subject + verb (as just above; a 3rd person sg. or pl. suffixed subject pronoun must occur whenever a noun is the grammatical subject of that verb)

Noun subject ± noun object + verb

Noun subject ± locative word or phrase (e.g. "here," "in the city") ± noun object + verb

Time adverb (usually first) + the above patterns

Clause- or sentence-introducing conjunction + the above

Imperative sentence patterns are identical with the foregoing, except that a strongly emphatic pattern requires the verb to be the first element.

Interrogative yes-or-no sentences have the same syntactic patterns as statements; the interrogative particle /ché/ or /'eché/ often occurs either at the beginning or at the end of the sentence: e.g. /ché, múz vesh-ó-z ngá?/ "(Is) he a man?"

The interrogative particle is not employed in questions that contain a "question word" (e.g. "who?" what?" "why?"

The Livyáni Script

The following is a font map of the Livyáni script, created for use with a Macintosh computer. The phonemic values of the characters are indicated in small type in rows 2 and 4 of each section of the table. Livyáni is usually read down in vertical columns from right to left.

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Livyáni Script and Font Map

q	w	e	r	t	y	u	i	o	p	[	]	\
q	w	e	r	t	y	u	i	o	p	oi	ng	ai
		e		th	hl	u	i	o		oi		ai

a	s	d	f	g	h	j	k	l	;	'
a	s	d	f	g	h	j	k	l	ü	Doubler
a	sh	dh		gh			kh	ll	ü	"

z	x	c	v	b	n	m	,	.	/
z	ts	ch	v	b	n	m	,	.	glottal
zh	dz	tl	dl	ss	ny		aw	aw	?

Top line: English lower case key name on keyboard
Second line: Livyáni phonetic values on lower case keys: e.g. th, dh
Third line: lower case Livyáni letters
Fourth line: Livyáni phonetic values on shift keys
Fifth line: upper case Livyáni letters
Repeated vowel diacritics are those which can be placed to the right or left to avoid tall letters.
The "doubler" doubles the consonant over which it appears: e.g. -GG-, -PP-

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In addition to the foregoing, Livyáni scribes often insert /kenemú-z/: large, complex glyphs which seem to have no phonological content or relationship with the text being written! Writers worshipping different Shadow Gods (the pantheon unique to Livyánu) use different complexes of glyphic elements and symbols. Scribes also frequently employ ciphers and symbols which are said to have "divine" or "mystic" meanings, and the situation is complicated by the intense and almost pathological secrecy with which almost everything in Livyánu is viewed. The Tsolyáni have a jest that those who would reveal even the contents of a laundry list to an outsider will likely be found strangled with his own wet wash! A few examples of /kenemú-z/ are adduced below. The first is taken from a magical text titled "The Scroll of Bloodstained Reeds," and tthe second is from a government document.

GLOSSARY:

English-Livyáni and Livyáni glossaries are presented below. Abbreviations include: "N" = noun; "V" = verb (followed by a numeral denoting the verb's class); "M" = masculine; "F" = feminine; "pl" = plural; "Pron" = pronoun; "Adj" = adjective; "Adv" = adverb; "Num" = numeral adjective; "Prep" = Preposition; "Dem" = demonstrative; "Conj" = conjunction." "Suffix," "enclitic," and "proclitic" are spelled out.

English - Livyáni

-fold otk Num suffix
-ing, gerund vené V suffix
-times cho Num suffix
abandon kórd V7
above, over shom Prep
action far away in time or space gar
   Enclitic
action nearby, recent, or soon ké Enclitic
active participle suffix mú V suffix
admit nóp V9
advance (as an army) chúsh V11
adverial formant e-v - v N Suffix
after tef Prep
afterwards, later dhún Adv
again, back lyótl Adv
all qér-es Adj
allow kénd V1
alone prídh-e-v Adv
also tétl Adv
although 'unél Conj
and bé Conj
ascend 'áil V17
ask (a question) 'ekké V15
assassinate dhemáu V14
at sum Prep
back, again lyótl Adv
be able pref Proclitic
be, become kúl V12
beat (heart) trutr V3
beautiful leth Suffix adj
because niké Conj

before paj Prep
beloved mer Suffix adj
below, under hodh Prep
big tóli-s Adj
big, great chi Suffix adj
black mékri-s Adj
book li'-ó-b NF
books li'un-ó-b NFpl
both téth Adj
boy vün-ó-z NM
bread játt-o-z NM
break shánz V5
bring 'ats V7
brother in the faith dumú-z NM
brothers in the faith duru'ó-b or duru'úba
   NMpl
burn két V1
but mél Conj
buy dék V7
by (as in "two by two") se Enclitic?
can pref Proclitic
causative adé V suffix
city 'assá-b NF
climb 'áil V17
clouds (on the horizion at dawn or sunset)
   tsenyá-b NF
come plén V12
complain milmál V10
completing dhus Proc
confess nóp V9
continuously nén Proclitic
cook (vb.) fádh V9

cut sés V1
daily hékh-e-v Adv
dance chás V2
dance ssáng V1
day hékh-e-b NF
decreasing or diminishing action hel
   Enclitic
deed (heroic deed) cherd-ó-z NM
defecate ngép V7
despised tre Suffix adj
die tsá V15
do mái V17
down to, down upon 'ueth Prep
drink léthen V6
drone disdís V3
dwell, live makhí V1
eat 'avél V1
eight kól Num
eighty kól-dol Num
emphatic be Enclitic
endless vo Suffix adj
eternal vo Suffix adj
expanding or increasing action dza
   Enclitic
face so'él-e-b NF
feminine ending b N suffix
few, a few yáish Adj
fifty tlí-dlo Num
fight beldó V1
find fá V8
finishing dhus Proclitic
five tlí Num
flee (as a defeated army) prézh V11
for wesh Prep
forgive húp V8
forty mí-dlo Num
four mí Num
from zhap Prep
future kúng / chún Equational particle
girl thél-e-b NF
give tlék V12
glorious hoi Suffix adj
go mül V8
great, big chi Suffix adj
greedy chúm-es Adj

handsome leth Suffix adj
hated khe Suffix adj
he, his, him mé Pron
heart hór-o-z NM
heat (vb.) fádh V9
here méta Adv
hesitate tekták V10
hold 'óp V13
hold back tekták V10
house váyu-z NM
how much, how many? ke-nyék Adv Adj
however sejún Conj
hum disdís V3
hundred mrésh Num
hundred thousand Ngúmal Num
I, me, my lé Pron
if pe Enclitic
imperative o / ro Enclitic
in front of kreng Prep
in order to, in order that 'ódh Conj
in, into vur Prep
indeed tuén Conj
indirect object marker, to 'atl Prep
intensive in Proclitic
interrogative (in a yes or no question) ché
   Interjection
it mu Dem
jump 'ér V7
keep mné V13
later, afterwards dhún Adv
leap 'ér V7
leave kórd V7
legion llün-e-b NF
lie, to tell 'úk V8
like (resembling) sech Prep
live, dwell makhí V1
lo, verily sáitl Conj
love mér V9
maiden thél-e-b NF
make mái V17
man vesh-ó-z NM
many púr Adj
market kodr-ó-z NM
masculine ending z N suffix

A Sketch of Livyáni Grammar

mé not (neg. of the imperative) Proclitic
meet in secret 'arái V14
milliion ürdún Num
mourn náran V6
nine pór Num
ninety pór-dol Num
no yén Interjection
not yén Proclitic
not, do not! méng-mé Proclitic
now, at this time 'ítro Adv
O! ré Interjection
object marker 'el Prep
often pócho Adv
on Sum Prep
once prí-cho Adv
one prí Num
over, above shom Prep
passive participle suffix gé V suffix
past kú Equational particle
perish tsá V15
permit kénd V1
plural ending 'uba N suffix
plural formant etó-tó / eté-té N suffix
powerful she Suffix adj
Qame'él (deity) qame'él NM
quick ván-es Adj
quickly ván-ev Adv
reciprocal esü V suffix
red kré-s Adj
reflexive atlá V suffix
relative pronoun formant: he who ... etc.
    ja-je Pron prefix
retain mné V13
rise (sun) tsotsú V1
run to and fro meshmásh V10
say pársh V9
scratch hél V4
secret, be ványel V6
see waká V1
seize 'óp V13
send forth fansá V1
servant srabchi'í-z NM
seven jái Num
seventy jái-dlo Num
shadow shirudan-á-z NM

she, it, her, its mú Pron
shift from one foot to the other veregvárg
    V10
sing shenéhl V1
sit 'áim V1
six sésh Num
sixty sésh-dol Num
slide medán V6
solitude prídh-e-b NF
some dzé Adj
sometimes njénje Adv
song shenéhl-e-b NF
speak tém V16
speed ván-e-z NM
spy on púraj
stem formant vowel o / a/ e N suffix
strike at with a sword sséman V6
sun chól-a-z NM
temple chaman-á-z NM
that 'o-mú-z, 'o-má-b Dem
that much, that many 'o-nyék Adv Adj
that wázh (introduces a clause) Conj
then (introduces the "then" clause of a
    conditional sentence) cháth Conj
then, at that time 'ó-tro Adv
then, thereafter kekél Conj
there 'o-méta Adv
these mú-n Dem
they, them, their mén Pron
thirty pü-dlo Num
this mú-z, má-b Dem
this much, this many nyék Adv Adj
thonlésh-e-b garden (flowers) NF
those 'o-mú-n Dem
thousand tukál Num
three pü Num
thrice pü-cho Adv
through jen Prep
thus, that way 'o-peth Adv
thus, this way péth Adv
tomorrow shul-év Adv
too few hú Adj
too many lóch Adj
toward metlek Prep
tremble palpál V3

A Sketch of Livyáni Grammar

try yól V7
twenty hé-dlo Num
twice hé-cho Adv
two hé Num
under, below hodh Prep
unknown prononoun: one tóm Pron
until, up to khin Prep
up to, until khin Prep
verily, lo! sáitl Conj
very póm Adv
want to 'ok Proclitic
want to 'ok Proclitic
water khá-b NF
we, us, our lím Pron
what? k-omé Dem
when, at which time? k-ítro Adv
where? k-éta Adv
which way, how? ke-péth Adv
whine milmál V10
whir bekbék V3
who? ke-mú-z, ke-má-b, ke-mú-n Dem
why? k-él
window lá-z NM
with (accompanying) pek Prep
with (an instrument) dem Prep
woe! 'alá Interjection
woman ssen-é-b NF
wonderful! vatlé Interjection
worship in congregation kadlá V11
yearn róy V1
yes sá Interjection
yesterday wal-év Adv
you (honorific) katém Pron
you (pl.), your tím Pron
you (sg.), your tém Pron
zero zút Num

Livyáni - English

'áil climb, ascend V17
'áim sit V1
'alá woe! Interjection
'arái meet in secret V14
'assá-b city NF

'atl-'a to: indirect object marker N prep
'áts bring V7
'avél eat V1
'ekké-'akké-'ekkú ask (a question) V15
'el-'e object marker N prep
'ér leap, jump V7
'ítro now Adv
'o-má-b that (fem.) Dem
'o-méta there Adv
'o-mú-n those (pl.) Dem
'o-mú-z that (masc.) Dem
'o-nyék that much, that many Adv Adj
'o-péth thus, that way Adv
'ó-tro then, at that time Adv
'ódh in order to, in order that Conj
'ok-'o want to Proclitic
'omé Dem what?
'uba-uba special plural ending N suffix
'ueth-'ueC down to, down upon Prep
'úk-'uvék tell a lie V8
'unél although Conj
adé-dé causative V suffix
atlá-tlá reflexive V suffix
b feminine noun ending N suffix
be emphatic Enclitic
bé and Conj
bekbék whir V3
beldó fight V1
chaman-á-z temple NM
chás dance V2
cháth then (introduces the "then" clause of
    a conditional sentence) Conj
ché-'eché interrogative: "?" (in a yes-or-no
    question) Interjection
cherd-ó-z heroic deed NM
chi great, big Suffix adj
cho -times Num suffix
chól-a-z sun NM
chúm-es greedy Adj
chún - kúng   future Equational particle
chúsh advance (as an army) V11
dék buy V7
dem-deC with (an instrument) Prep
dhemáu assassinate for religious reasons
    V14

A Sketch of Livyáni Grammar

dhún afterwards, later Adv
dhus-dhu completing, finishing Proc
disdís hum, drone V3
dol-dlo decade formant Num suffix
dumú-z brother in the faith NM
duru-'ó-b brothers in the faith NMpl
dza expanding or increasing action Enclitic
dzé some Adj
e-v--v Adverbial formant N suffix
esü-sü reciprocal V suffix
etó-tó / eté-té plural stem formant N suffix
fá-fézh find V8
fádh-fe'édh-fódh heat, cook V9
fansá   send forth V1
gar action far away in time or space Enclitic
gé-igé passive participle V suffix
hé two Num
hékh-e-b day NF hékh-e-v daily Adv
hel decreasing or diminishing action hel Enclitic
hél scratch V4
hép-húp forgive V8
hodh-hoC under, below Prep
hoi glorious Suffix adj
hór-o-z heart NM
hú too few Adj
in intensive Proclitic
já-jé relative pronoun formant
jái seven Num
játt-o-z bread NM
jen-jeC through Prep
k-él why? Adv
k-éta where? Adv
k-ítro when? Adv
k-omé what? Dem
kadlá worship in congregation V11
katém-tesh-tésh you (honorific) Pron
ké action nearby, recent, or soon Enclitic
ke-má-b who (fem.)? Dem
ke-mú-n who (pl.)? Dem
ke-mú-z who (masc.)? Dem
ke-nyék how much, how many? Adv

ke-péth which way, how? Adv
kekél then, thereafter Conj
kénd let, permit V1
két burn V1
khá-b water NF
khe hated Suffix adj
khin-khiC until, up to Prep
kodr-ó-z market NM
kól eight Num
kórd leave, abndon V7
kré-s red Adj
kréd-krít put, set down V8
kreng-kreC in front of Prep
kú past Equational particle
kúl be, become V12
lá-z window NM
lé-l I, me, my Pron
leth beautiful, handsome Suffix adj
léthen-léth-le'éth drink V6
li'-ó-b book NF
li'un-ó-b books NFpl
lím-li we, us, our Pron
llün-e-b army legion NF
lóch too many Adj
má-b this (fem.) Dem
mái make, do V17
makhí live, dwell V1
mé he, him, his Pron
medán-méd-modán slide V6
mékri-s black Adj
mél but Conj
mén-n-ne they, them, their Pron
méng-mé not (neg. of the imperative) Proclitic
mer beloved Suffix adj
mér-mo'ór-mrén love V9
meshmásh run to and fro V10
méta here Adv
metlek-metleC toward Prep
mí four Num
milmál whine, complain V10
mné-mnón keep, retain V13
mrésh hundred Num
mú it Dem
mú-imú active participle V suffix

A Sketch of Livyáni Grammar

mú-mo-m (he), she, her, it Pron
mú-n these (pl.) Dem
mú-z this (masc.) Dem
mül-mól go V8
náran-níran-'inrán mourn V6
nen-ne continuously Proclitic
ngá interrogatibe, ? Enclitic
ngép defecate V7
ngúmal hundred thousand Num
niké because Conj
njénje sometimes Adv
nóp-no'óp-náp admit, confess V9
nyék this much, this many Adv, Adj
o-a-e stem formant vowel N suffix
o-ro imperative Enclitic
óp-'óptu/ hold, seize V13
otk-tk -fold Num suffix
paj-paC before Prep
palpál tremble V3
pársh-pe'érsh-prásh say V9
pe if Enclitic
pek-peC with, accompanying Prep
péth thus, this way Adv
plén come V12
pócho often Adv
póm very Adv
pór nine Num
pref-pre be able to, can Proclitic
prézh flee (as a defeated army, mob) V11
prí one Num
prídh-e-b solitude NF, prídh-e-v alone
Adv
pü three Num
púr many Adj
púraj-pórj-péraj spy on V6
qame'él Qame'él NM (deity)
qér-es all Adj
ré O! Interjection
sá yes Interjection
sáitl lo, verily Conj
se by: as in "two by two" Enclitic?
sech-seC like, resembling Prep
sejún however Conj
sés cut V1
sésh six Num

shánz-shéd-shún break V5
she powerful Suffix adj
shenéhl sing V1, shenéhl-e-b song NF
shirudan-á-z shadow NM
shom-shoC above, over Prep
shul-é-v tomorrow Adv (shul-é-z if used
    as a noun, NM)
so'él-e-b face NF
srabchi'í-z servant NM
ssáng dance V1
sséman-ssém-sse'ém strike at with a sword
    V6
ssen-é-b woman NF
sum-suC on, at Prep
tef-teC after Prep
tekták hold back, hesitate V10
tém-túl-tók speak V16
téth both Adj
tétl also Adv
thél-e-b girl, maiden NF
thonlésh-e-b garden (flowers) NF
tím-ti you (pl.), your Pron
tlék give V12
tlí five Num
tóli-s big Adj
tóm-om unknown subject: one Pron
tre despised Suffix adj
trutr beat (heart) V3
tsá-tsú-tsái die, perish V15
tsenyá-b clouds (on the horizon at dawn or
    sunset) NF
tsotsú rise (sun) V1
tuén indeed Conj
tukál thousand Num
ürdún million Num
ván-e-v quickly Adv (ván-e-z speed
NM,
    ván-es quick Adj)
ványel-ván-ve'én be secret V6
vatlé wonderful! Interjection
váyu-z house, home NM
vené-ené while ... ing, V suffix
veregvárg shift from one foot to the other
    V10
vesh-ó-z man NM

vo endless, eternal Suffix adj
vün-ó-z boy NM
vur-vuC in, into Prep
waká see V1
wal-é-v yesterday Adv (wal-é-z if used
   as a noun, NM)
wázh that (introduces a clause) Conj
wesh-weC for Prep
yáish few, a few Adj
yearn róy V1

yén no Interjection
yén-yé not Proclitic
yól try V7
you (sg.), your tém-t-té Pron
z masculine ending N suffix
zhap-zhaC from Prep
zúth zero Num

A Sketch of Livyáni Grammar

THE SONG OF THE MAIDEN:

The following is a portion of a poem by Márya of Tsámra, inscribed on the walls of the Obsidian Palace in the chamber where his famous sculpture, "Woman of Tsámra," is housed. In the transcription, morpheme boundaries continue to be marked with "-"; these symols correspond to nothing either in speech or in Livyáni script but are inserted to aid the reader in morphemic analysis.

SHENÉHL-E-B MITH-THÉL-E

The Song of the Maiden

ré, wal-é-v ne-wakál-u-t ssang-ené prídh-e-v, prídh-e-v

O, yesterday I saw thee dancing, alone, alone!

ré, wakál-et 'aim-ené vuth-thonlésh-leth-it, hékh-e-v

O, I see thee sitting in thy lovely garden, daily

sáitl, hór-o-l róyíl wázh lé kúng pek-ít 'o-méta

Indeed, my heart yearns that I be with thee there

Ré, shul-é-v kéndit-o wázh wakálun-et sul-lá-t

O, tomorrow allow that I will see thee at thy window!

so'él-it sech-chól-chi tsotsu-vené zhats-tsenyá

Thy face (is) like the sun, rising from the dawn-clouds

A Sketch of Livyáni Grammar

LIVYÁNI SCRIPT:

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