

qUALMS Speed Conlanging (FS13)

Language Specification Worksheet

Group: _____ Language Name: _____ Members: _____

Phonetics

Include all basic segments. Use IPA symbols or common substitutions (e.g. [sh] for [ʃ]). Put segments that are only allophonic (non-contrastive) in parentheses. Add diacritics if they always apply to a particular segment (secondary articulation, nasalization, etc.).

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Interdental	Dental/Alveolar/ Postalveolar/Retroflex	Alveolo-palatal/ Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Stop								
Affricate								
Fricative								
Nasal								
Trill								
Tap/Flap								
Approximant								
Lateral Approximant								

Other consonants:

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High			
Mid			
Low			

Diphthongs:

Other Information

Briefly describe the nature of voicing and aspiration, length distinctions, tone, and other broad patterns.

Phonology

Syllable Structure and Phonotactics

Define your syllable components as C or V (nucleus already included). Define each slot using distinctive features or individual segments (in square brackets or slashes). Put optional components in parentheses.

Prosody

Briefly describe the stress, tone, and intonation patterns in your language.

Slot	Segments/classes of segments
V	

Phonological Rules

Use this space to define allophones in complementary distribution or free variation, etc.

Morphosyntactic Properties

Choose one option among those separated by slashes, and circle all that apply among those that are not. See Section 5 of the Instructions and Examples handout for definitions and examples.

Typological Properties

Headedness	Words: primarily head-initial / primarily head-final / mixed Phrases: primarily head-initial / primarily head-final / mixed
Word Order Freedom	Strict / Scrambling / "Free" Word Order
Morphological Typology	Affix attachment: Primarily Suffixing / Primarily Prefixing / Mixed / Template / No Affixes Morphemes per word: Analytic (One) / Isolating (Few) / Synthetic (More) / Polysynthetic (Many) Deg. of morpheme fusion: No Fusion (Agglutinative) / Slightly Fusional / Highly Fusional
Agreement	How much: None / Limited / Moderate / Extensive What kind: Sbj-Verb Obj-Verb Noun-Adj Noun-Det Noun-Adposition Other: _____

Basic Morphosyntactic Features

Tense	Basic system: Past-Nonpast / Realis-Irrealis / Past-Pres-Future / Not Grammaticalized Extra tenses: Recent Past Remote Past Near Future Remote Future Other: _____
Aspect	Progressive Perfect Habitual Other: _____
Case	How much: None / Limited / Moderate / Extensive What type: Nominative-Accusative / Ergative-Absolutive / Tripartite / Other: _____
Number	Not Grammaticalized / Sing-Plural / Sing-Plural-Dual / Other: _____
Noun Classes	None / Gender / (Bantu-style) Noun Classes / (Chinese-style) Classifiers / Other: _____
Other Features	Definiteness Person Animacy Other: _____

Syntactic Categories

Circle all categories that form (overt) nodes in your language's syntax.

N(oun) A(dj) Adv V(erb) P(rep)/P(ost) D(eterminer) T(ense) C(omplementizer) Conj(unction)

Num(ber) Q(uantifier) Aux(iliaryVerb) M(odalAux) Neg(ation) Other: _____

Other Information

Note any other phenomena (such as V2 or applicative morphology) that your language exhibits here.

Morphology and Lexicon

Use additional pages if you need more space.

Bound Morpheme Order

Define your basic order of prefixes and suffixes here. Put optional components in parentheses. Skip a category it does not exist or if there are no bound morphemes that attach to it.

Nouns	
Verbs	
Adjectives	
Other: _____	

Bound Morphemes

Inflectional Morphemes	Derivational Morphemes

Lexical Roots

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Syntax

Basic Word Order

Choose the most common order if variable. Omit any category if N/A. Leave blank if your language has “free word order”.

Order of Sbj/Obj/Verb/Aux	
Order of Noun/Adj/Numeral/Det	

Define the basic order of words and phrases other than those handled above. Even “free word order” languages will have regularities (complementizers precede/follow embedded clauses, etc.).

Other Phrase Structure Information

Define any additional rules describing your language’s phrase structure, such ordering among constituents in clauses and which are obligatory/optional.

Transformations

Define your rules that describe how word order varies from the “default” order in various constructions, such as question formation, topicalization, and passivization.

Other Dependencies

Describe any other syntactic patterns in your language, such as the details of agreement, ellipsis, and anaphoric expressions.