Trill Linguistic Profile
(Version 1.4)

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Trill (*Darizh Trill'ya*), also referred to as the **Leran Manev Dialect** (*Darizh Leran-Manev'ya*) or **Standard Trill** (*Darizh'kon Trill'ya*) is the most widely spoken language on Trill, also called Trillius Prime. It has roughly 840 million native speakers as of 2363. Although many regional languages exist on Trill, the dialect of the planetary capital, Leran Manev, has come to be used as a *lingua franca* since planetary unification.

Distinctive features of the Trill language include widespread agglutination, a lack of gendered pronouns and an extensive case system. Word order is generally object-verb-subject, but it is fairly fluid and tolerant of variation. In modern Trill, there is no grammatical distinction between formal and informal, and honorifics are rarely used. Joined Trill make use of the dual grammatical number, referring to both the host and symbiont with one pronoun without using a broader plural form.

Syntax

Sentence Types
Trill uses nominal and verbal sentence structures. In the case of nominal sentences, the verb is implied by the suffix *-az*. Examples of both are given below:

Sentence Type	Trill		Terran English
	Predicate	Subject	
Verbal	*Lirental'ka astadi*	*Temzia*	*Temzia works at the laboratory.*
Nominal	*Liren**az***	*Temzia*	*Temzia is a scientist.*

Negation
Verbal and nominal sentences are negated differently.
In a verbal sentence, negation is indicated by the addition of the suffix *-rem* to the verb. For example, the sentence above would become:

Lirental'ka astadirem Temzia   ('Temzia does not work at the laboratory')

In a nominal sentence, negation is denoted by the addition of the word *remin*. For example:

Remin lirenaz Temzia   ('Temzia is not a scientist')

Yes/No Questions
In a verbal sentence, the word *vas* is added before the verb to denote an interrogative. For example:

Lirental'ka vas astadi Temzia?   ('Does Temzia work at the laboratory?')

In a nominal sentence, *vas* comes before the implicit suffix *-az*, but after the noun. For example:

Liren'vasaz Temzia?   ('Is Temzia a scientist?')

Word Order

Trill word order is usually object-verb-subject for verbal sentences. The extensive case marking system, however, means that most grammatical relations are shown using morphological markers rather than a reliance on rigid structure.

Grammar

Trill is highly agglutinative and frequently uses affixes, particularly suffixes, to indicate the grammatical function of the word. Nouns are often created from verb stems in this way.

Gender

Trill does not have a concept of grammatical gender. The third person pronoun *sal* (lit. 'it') is applicable to any gender.

If one wishes to specify gender, the word for the appropriate gender is added before the noun. To specify a female fenza bird, for example, the word *fal* would be used (*fal fenza).*

Case

Trill does not possess a definite article due to its implication through the case system. There are seven cases in the Leran Manev dialect. The individual endings are shown below:

Case	Ending	Examples		Meaning
		Leran ('city')	*Zhali* ('table')	
Nominative	(no ending)	*Leran*	*Zhali*	the city/table
Accusative	*-('y)i*	*Lerani*	*Zhali'yi*	the city/table
Genitive	*-'ya*	*Leran'ya*	*Zhali'ya*	of the city/table
Dative	*-('y)id*	*Leranid*	*Zhali'yid*	to the city/table
Locative	*-'ka*	*Leran'ka*	*Zhali'ka*	in/on/at the city/table
Ablative	*-'kal*	*Leran'kal*	*Zhali'kal*	from the city/table
Instrumental	*-'yev*	*Leran'yev*	*Zhali'yev*	with/by the city/table

Personal Pronouns

Trill personal pronouns are as follows:

Terran English	Trill
I	*Na*
You	*Le*
You (dual)	*Lesa*
It	*Sal*
We	*Ra*
We (dual)	*Rasa*
You (plural)	*Pra*
They	*Pra*

When a pronoun is the object of the sentence, the appropriate case ending is applied to personal pronouns as with nouns.

Adjectives

Adjectives in modern Trill do not require agreement. Furthermore, most nouns can be used as adjectives with the addition of the suffix '-*va*'. For example, the noun 'brightness' is *delas*, whereas the adjective 'bright' is *delasva*. Comparatives are formed using the suffixes '-*dis*' and '-*ames*' for 'more' and 'less' respectively. A superlative is denoted by the addition of the prefix '*zel-*' in combination with the relevant comparative suffix. For example:

derva	('big')
dervadis	('bigger')
zel'dervadis	('the biggest')

The ablative case is used for the thing that the subject is being compared to. For example:

Faro'kal dervadis sa'na	('I am bigger than Faro')
Na'kal dervadis sa Faro	('Faro is bigger than I')

Trill possesses a diminutive and an augmentative prefix. To diminish, '*iksa'-*' is added. To augment, '*tem'-*' is added. Alternatively, alliterative augmentation is commonly used for adjectives, with the first syllable of the adjective itself (not including the negative prefix '*rem-*') being repeated. This does not include the if it is contained within the adjective. For example:

tem'riva	('really good')
iksa'ikraz	('little child' / 'baby')
shalshalva	('really small')
remeveva	('really old')

In older forms of the Leran Manev dialect, as well as some other regional Trill languages, declension is present. However, modern standard Trill does not use adjectival declension.

Verbs

Trill verbs are not indicative of person. Thus, when a nominal subject is not present, a personal pronoun is added to the verb as a suffix.

For example:

Leranid jala Faro	('Faro goes to the city')
Leranid jala'sal	('It goes to the city')

Verbs may be formed from certain nouns by adding the suffix *'-ala'*. To use the noun *ezev* ('clock') for example:

ezevala	('to time [someone/something]')

Tenses

A change in tense is indicated by the addition of a verb ending *before* the pronominal suffix, but *after* the verb stem. Without a suffix, the verb is considered to be in the present tense (there are no specific continuous tenses in Trill). The verb endings for the most commonly used tenses are as follows:

Tense	Ending	Trill Verb: '*sa*'	Meaning: 'to be'
Present	(none)	*sa*	is
Preterite	*-ril*	*saril*	was
Perfect	*-gal*	*sagal*	has been
Imperfect	*-gali*	*sagali*	had been
Future	*-sil*	*sasil*	will be
Future Perfect	*-sigal*	*sasigal*	will have been

To return to the previous example of *jala* ('to go'):

Leranid jalaril Faro   ('Faro went to the city')

Leranid jalaril'sal   ('It went to the city')

Another example might be:

Leran'ka sasil'na   ('I will be in the city')

To denote an **imperative**, the prefix *gil'-* is used along with the relevant pronominal suffix. For example:

Leranid gil'jalale!   ('You! Go to the city!')

To denote the **subjunctive** mood, and thus indicate conditionality, the prefix *mo-* is used. For example:

Leranid mo'jala'na   ('I would go to the city')

Leranid mo'jalasigal'sal   ('It would have gone to the city')

Vocabulary

Word Formation
As stated above, Trill uses extensive agglutination, not only for grammatical purposes but also to construct new words from both nouns and verb stems. The vast majority of the Trill lexicon is comprised of words formed from compounding or agglutinating other words. Trill is very flexible when it comes to the creation of new terms, and there is no commonly accepted limitation on the length or complexity of these compounds. However, for clarity of communication, it is not commonplace to form needlessly long words.

To illustrate the process of agglutination in Trill, the following examples are given:

Trill	Components	Terran English	Word Class
rikis	*rikis*	history	Noun
rikisva	*rikis + -va*	historical	Adjective
rikislir	*rikis + -lir*	historiography	Noun
rikisliren	*rikis + -lir + -ren*	historian	Noun
rikislirkalazren	*rikis + -lir + -kalaz + -ren*	history teacher	Noun
rikis'ya'ala	*rikis + -ya + -ala*	historicise	Verb

Each element denotes a particular concept. For example:

rikis   ('history')

lir   ('knowledge')

kalaz   ('sharing')

ren   ('professional')

Hence, 'history teacher' – someone whose job it is to share their knowledge of history.

Likewise, the Trill verb *rikis'ya'ala* ('to historicise') breaks down into the following:

rikis   ('history')

'ya   [genitive suffix]

'ala   [verbal suffix]

Thus, *rikis'ya'ala* literally means 'the act of making something belong to history'.

Plurals
To form a plural noun, the suffix '*-fiʔ* is added immediately after the noun itself, and before the relevant case ending. For example:

kiz   ('person')

kizfi   ('people')

kizfi'ya   ('of the people')

Trill Script

Trill script is the writing system used for modern Standard Trill, as well as a variety of other languages on the Trill homeworld. It has its origin in the script used by the Guardians of Mak'ala, which spread due to its importance in the joining ceremony. It has since been adapted heavily, most notably in the years immediately following planetary unification, when it was standardised into its modern form. Trill script is almost entirely phonetic, meaning it can be applied to most languages on Trill, as well as loanwords from alien languages.

Trill Letter	Phonetic Transcription	Trill Example (Romanised)	Terran English Example
⨹	/æ/	l**a**z	tr**a**p
⨺	/iː/	**i**ma	fl**ee**ce
⨻	/ɛ/	kilr**ez**	b**ed**
⨼	/o/	h**o**sha	f**o**cus
⨽	/ʊ/	**u**zava	f**oo**t
⨾	/ɣ/ **or** /j/	s**y**l *or* Trill'**y**a	est**u**ary *or* **y**es
⨿	/b/	**b**is	**b**ag
⩀	/p/	**p**asrin	**p**in
⩁	/t/	**t**al	**t**in
⩂	/d/	**d**erva	**d**one
⩃	/l/	**l**iren	**l**eft
⩄	/ɹ/	**r**iva	**r**un
⩅	/m/	**m**azin	**m**ap
⩆	/n/	**n**asrin	**n**ow
⩇	/h/	**h**inek	**h**ave
⩈	/k/	**k**iz	**c**at
⩉	/g/	**g**idra	**g**irl
⩊	/f/	**f**enza	**f**ence
⩋	/v/	**v**ok	**v**oice
⩌	/dʒ/	litu**j**a	**j**am
⩍	/s/	**s**i	**s**un
⩎	/ʃ/	**sh**alva	**sh**eet
⩏	/z/	**z**yf	**z**one
⩐	/ʒ/	**zh**ian	mea**s**ure

Punctuation

The Trill script does not have the same range of punctuation present in other scripts. '▼' represents a full stop (period), '▲' a comma, and '▽' and '△' denote the beginning and end respectively of a quotation or speech.

Apostrophes are denoted by the use of a hollow character following where the apostrophe appears in the Romanised transliteration. For example, '⨾' in '⨿⩄⨺⩃⩃⨾⨹' ('*Trill'ya*') or '▽' in '⩏⨻⩃▽⩂⨻⩄⩋⨹⩂⨺⩍' ('*zel'dervadis*'). Otherwise, most punctuation is conveyed grammatically.
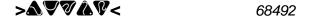
Numeral System

The Trill numeral system uses specific letters to represent the digits 0-9. These are as follows:

Symbol	Digit	Name
◬	0	*vam*
▽	1	*esha*
▽	2	*yifa*
◭	3	*hosha*
▽	4	*azo*
▽	5	*isa*
▲	6	*masa*
▼	7	*diro*
▼	8	*latra*
◭	9	*hodra*

Complete numbers are flanked by '**>**' and '**<**' on either side in order to differentiate them from other words in a sentence. For example:

>▲▼▽◭▽<   *68492*

A decimal point is denoted by '▲'. For example:

>▽▼▲◬▽▽<   *17.041*

Written Format

Trill was traditionally written vertically, in columns from left to right. Although still written left to right, modern convention is for titles and headings to be written vertically, but all other text to be written horizontally as is the case for Terran English, for example. When handwritten, it is typical to forego the three-sided outlines and simply write out the inner markings.

An example of the modern print format is given below:

Lexicon (Trill → Terran English)

Essential Phrases

Ima.	*Yes / Okay.*
Rem.	*No.*
Lituja.	*Hello / Welcome.*
Sil'ra.	*Goodbye.*
Mo'hifala'na.	*Excuse me / I'm sorry.*
Zhasa'le.	*Please / Thank you.*
Litu'le.	*You're welcome.*
Zhasa'le istavadis gil'darizha.	*Please speak more slowly.*
Zhasa'le sali asi vas mo'zyf'le?	*Could you repeat that?*
Trill'ya darizharem'na.	*I don't speak Trill.*

Verbs

astadi	*to work*
bur	*to do*
darizha	*to talk / speak*
driga	*to take*
duzra	*to want*
erzal	*to try*
fijala	*to leave*
gidra	*to feel*
hodiz	*to seem / appear*
jala	*to go*
kalaz	*to give / share*
kalvi	*to get / make*

laz	*to think*
lira	*to know*
mizala	*to have to*
mizra	*to need*
nazra	*to drink*
pazra	*to use*
pasa	*to eat*
relba	*to find*
rivgidra	*to like*
sa	*to be*
syl	*to see / look*
tez	*to have*
vok	*to come*
yev	*to be able to*
zyf	*to say / tell*
zyra	*to ask*

Nouns

asrin	*hand*
astali	*work / job*
bis	*number*
ez	*time*
fal	*woman*
gidris	*feeling / opinion*
hinek	*problem*
ikraz	*child*
karis	*way*
kilrez	*age*

kiz	*person*
lis	*world / ground*
nasrin	*drink*
pasrin	*food*
rahm	*fact*
rin	*part / piece*
salayinez	*year*
sha	*day*
sylrin	*eye*
tal	*place*
tiz	*thing*
yil	*man*
yinez	*week*
zhian	*life / soul*
zhyrin	*name*

Adjectives

asava	*quick*
derava	*many*
derva	*big / long*
dilva	*early*
eva	*new*
fava	*first*
hodilva	*late*
holva	*last*
istava	*slow*
marva	*next*

miva	*other / different*
nava	*similar*
pasriva	*delicious*
rilriva	*great*
remeva	*old*
remriva	*bad*
remuzava	*closed / private*
riva	*good*
shalava	*few*
shalva	*small / short*
shemva	*correct*
uzava	*open / public*

Prepositions

asi	*again*
fas	*before*
id	*to*
ka	*in / at*
kal	*from*
kiv	*for / during*
kur	*on*
mav	*after*
ti	*now*
ya	*of*
yev	*by / with*
zhil	*about*
zoa	*in order to*

Conjunctions

adim	*if*
edra	*since*
famis	*also / as well*
inza	*but*
kolvera	*however / although*
mazin	*because*
osa	*or*
shol	*until*
si	*and*

Question Words

das	*how*
desa	*how many*
hos	*when*
las	*why*
tan	*where*
vasa	*what*
vori	*who*
yavasa	*which*

Numbers (Spoken)

vam	*zero*
esha	*one*
yifa	*two*
hosha	*three*
azo	*four*
isa	*five*

masa	*six*
diro	*seven*
latra	*eight*
hodra	*nine*
riz	*ten*
riz'esha	*eleven*
riz'yifa	*twelve*
riz'hosha	*thirteen*
yifriz	*twenty*
yifriz'esha	*twenty-one*
yifriz'yifa	*twenty-two*
yifriz'hosha	*twenty-three*
hoshriz	*thirty*
azriz	*forty*
isriz	*fifty*
masriz	*sixty*
diriz	*seventy*
latriz	*eighty*
hodriz	*ninety*
sish	*one-hundred*
yifasish	*two-hundred*
hoshasish	*three-hundred*
kaman	*one-thousand*
yifakaman	*two-thousand*
hoshakaman	*three-thousand*

latrakaman-masasish-azriz'esha	*eight-thousand six-hundred and forty-one*