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

















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From age 5 through 13, I was every so often pulled out of the classroom to go to articulation therapy. The speech specialists would help me work on pronouncing letters, going over drills so “church” didn’t turn into “sauce” and trailing “R”s didn’t sound too British. It took a long time, but I was eventually able to work through my difficulties in pronunciation and complete this goal from the special education system.

Inauspicious beginnings for what would turn into the inspiration for my conlang, Magwābon! But through it all, I still had a love of language and what it could do; writing stories, singing songs, and playing games with words.

The roots for what would become Magwābon started one day in high school when I was bored after a standardized test. I began scribbling down a constructed alphabet, with sounds representing those in English, minus the ones I didn’t like—that is, ones I’d had trouble pronouncing in English earlier.

																				
W	Y	Ē	K	D	Ō	P	A	O	M	V	Ā	B	I	Ū	N	F	E	U	G	H
/w/	/j/	/i:/	/k/	/d/	/oɔ/	/p/	/æ/	/ɔ:/	/m/	/v/	/ei/	/b/	/ɪ/	/u:/	/n/	/f/	/ε/	/ʌ/, /ə/	/g/	/h/

As you may guess, it was heavily influenced by English pronunciation in other ways too, particularly the vowel transliteration. I distinguished between “long vowels” and “short vowels” in the way that native English speakers without linguistics training might (although I can’t remember if I went with macrons then or something else). However, I didn’t have a “long I,” which I think was in part influenced by Spanish pronunciation (you can write the sound /aɪ/ as aē, even if it should be more properly oē perhaps?) and in part due to not wanting to deal with both diacritics and a dot above the I! Priorities.

(W and Y come first, taking pride of place in part because they replace the unpronounceable R and its neighbor, the not-quite-as-dreadful L.)

So that was that. I didn’t have the motivation to make a full conlang, so I just put the script into a drawer somewhere.

My first conlang attempt (and I don’t know what order this happened in relative to the script, sorry) I believe was an ambitious attempt to translate one of my short stories, so I just began at the beginning, working word for word and coining new (*a priori*) terms as I made them. I think I only got about a sentence or so in.

My second, however, was not *quite* as short-lived, and laid some grammatical groundwork for Magwābon. It was a Romance, *a posteriori* language (although I probably wouldn’t have called it that), and consisted of a series of test sentences, the first of which was “Dormgi vu ulu cam.” That translates as “I sleep on the bed,” where “dorm” is the root word for sleep, and “gi” is the first-person singular ending!

Yes, I was fascinated by the Spanish feature of being “null-subject.” If the verb conjugation indicates the subject: “duermo”= “I sleep,” you don’t need to indicate a subject in front of the verb. “Yo duermo”=“I sleep”; grammatical, but unnecessary.

So my language would go farther, and get rid of subjects completely (it would all be indicated in the verb suffix!) unless narratively necessary to indicate who’s performing the action. In the case of a third-person agent who has yet to be named, however, that individual would be relegated to the second position in the sentence; Dorm... Bob ulu cam. (I forgot the verb ending for third person.) But now we see that the language actually has VSO word order!

On the other hand, unlike Spanish and other Romance language, it doesn’t exhibit grammatical gender. Why should a bed be feminine? It’s not la cama or el camo, but ulu cam; a neutral noun.

Already we see some of the features I’d be interested in playing with later; VSO order, agglutination via conjugation suffixes, and no grammatical gender. But before I get to Magwābon itself, some cultural detours.

The lack of grammatical gender goes much farther than noun classes; there’s no distinction between “he” and “she,” etc. However, one of my early influences for Magwābon was a long-abandoned story idea in which society was heavily divided along gender lines. According to the beliefs of that culture, women took after the moon while men took after the sun. Since the moon tended to wax and wane while the sun was constant, women were more given to extremes; thus, both sexes might be equal in the long run, but *obviously* only a woman could reach the extremes of greatness necessary to be a tribal leader, and so on. Well, eventually some men didn’t like this situation and rebelled, and...I couldn’t figure out what would happen next, which is probably why this story never got off the ground.

Another, however, was a roleplaying game in which I simulated the political decisions of a quasi-utopian country full of many nerdy allusions. I imagined the diverse peoples of this land spoke many natural languages and dialects of English, and had a modern, 21st-century democracy with the ensuing Parliamentary logjams and World Cup dramas. Eventually I plotted out maps of the major cities and found to my annoyance that “islands” were forming off the coasts because I kept saving in increasingly lossy, snowy JPG format!

So fast-forward to winter 2009, when I’m visiting home for a break and have some downtime. I dig out the old alphabet and figure “what the hey, I can start building a language off of this.” I started with a list of verb endings for various person and number combinations, to conjugate like the previous romlang, then added a bunch more affixes and reprised the VSO word order. For a while I began making themed lists of vocabulary like one might find in a textbook (transportation, numbers, colors), but wanted to avoid small talk (“Hello,” “how are you,” “nice to meet you,”) for its own sake. Maybe this culture didn’t put a premium on chitchat.

Soon I decided that this culture would be based on the one I’d discarded from the story; men worshiped the sun, women worshiped the moon, a few hardcore devotees worshiped the stars. In the olden days, men formed a somewhat-democratic city council, under the thumb of the woman mayor-for-life. This let me coin words relating to astronomy, often dovetailing with gender.

I’ve worked on it on and off over the years, often taking many months off at a time only to pick up and resume in the future. Later on, I decided that the language’s associated culture would in fact be off the

coast of the “mainland” of the country I’d already developed. This gave me a good reason to coin present-day vocabulary alongside that of ancient times, from *kedgōbum* (soccer) to *kekkep* (train line).

I realized along the way that the English-like pronunciation is a little thornier than I anticipated; there are some irregular spellings due to diphthongs beyond the *aē* (mostly predictable), and the *ng* for /ŋ/ issue. I’ve decided to mostly just accept that; the phonology isn’t my biggest interest at the moment.

While I wouldn’t say it was my conscious goal at the start, every once in a while I’ll coin a word that seems to reflect the way I see the world as a person on the autism spectrum. My *damfōēdi* are my teammates, comrades, allies—people I might not be able to call true friends, but who I’ve worked together with for a common goal. It’s important to me to *behiwi* and hold my negative emotions in, showing restraint so as not to dump my problems on others. If someone can’t do this to me, I might have to *pifo* and try to ignore them, even if it means our friendship ends. Because *ēnyeko ebyed*, *ephoko mūfandu*; a net floats, a leech sinks. I don’t want someone sucking out my energy, but I’ll try to help them manage the tasks of survival, since no one can catch fish/sew a tent/worship the stars/win the World Cup alone!

After many years I realized that I had lots of vocabulary that would let me do a somewhat detailed summary of “A New Hope.” (The “ship” words mean “ship” rather than “spaceship,” so this should be considered somewhat in the vein of the “Tattúinárdóla saga” by Jackson Crawford, which culturally translates Star Wars into an Old Norse saga.) On the other hand, I had everything from “betray” to “Milky Way” as part of my dictionary, so this allowed a vague level of detail. It was also a good stress test in terms of recognizing what I still needed to add; lines such as those about Chewbacca’s fur and indirect speech are later additions.

Kā yōbyokab naf fōbobindikab nēbogmak amēkab. "This is the story of the sky()walkers."

Be.3s story-def of walk-pag-pl-def sky-adj this-def.

Namkafod damhondi amē kaēgōdi dipo. "This family lived years ago."

Live-3p-pst relative-pl this year-pl ago.

Būnamkafod pa fef wonho. "They didn't live in the Milky Way."

Neg-live-3p-pst at nebula great. [1]

Ihebod "Kōmokab Emgokmak" yepdog dūp ne. "The 'Death Star' was a very big ship."

Measure-3s-pst “star-def die-inf-adj” ship big all-around.

Dobofod finaēkdi dam mēmid bakyufonid kō. "Rebels hoped that they could destroy it."

Hope-3p-pst extremist-pl that can.3p-past destroy-3p-fut-pst 3s.dop.

Bwinyēfod pog nūfdofod me kāk fēn. "They snooped to learn whether or not it was functional."

Spy-3p-pst in.order.to learn-3p-pst if be.3s.pst good.

Dagakod Yāu daping fon damfōēdi pidyim kifdō. "Leia was on the way back, with her metallic comrades."

Be.located-3s-pst Leia returning with comrade-plural metallic 3s.pos.

Kāk Yāu vōyindemkab naf Bwāhu mig Bā. "Leia was the child of Breha and Bail."

Be.3s.pst Leia child.def of Breha and Bail.

Kāk Bwāhu yopobinkab naf yogak kīfđō mig dobokod dam hūmnokonid Yāu kō. "Breha was the leader of her planet and hoped Leia would succeed her."

Be.3s.past Breha lead-pag-def of planet 3s.pos and hope-3s.pst that succeed-3s.fut.past Leia 3s.dop.

Kāk K 3 P Ō bekadip. "C-3PO was a talking thing."

Be.3s.past C-3PO talk-iag. [2]

Kāk 2 D 2 mobodip. "R2-D2 was a sailing thing."

B.3s.past R2-D2 sail-iag.

Baēhāfod empēdi yūkō Yāu. "Cruel people sought Leia."

Seek-3p-pst person-pl cruel Leia.

Fepnokod Yāu vepo kū 2D2. "Leia gave a card to R2-D2."

Give-3s-pst Leia card to R2-D2.

Demofod K3PO mig 2D2 kū Dadūēn. "C-3PO and R2-D2 went to Tatooine."

Go-3s-pst C-3PO and R2-D2 to Tatooine.

Kāk Dadūēn yogak fagyi. "Tatooine was a dry planet."

Be.3s.pst Tatooine planet dry.

Dagafod ifdi pa kō. "There was sand there."

Be.located-3p-past sand-pl at 3s-dop.

Difyēkod Do Vādu vōkan dam būnūpdokod Yāu pemendi. "Darth Vader felt sad that Leia didn't have papers."

Feel.emotion-3s.pst Darth Vader sad that neg-possess-3s.past Leia paper-pl.

Kāk Do Vādu yopobin naf empēdikab yūkō. "Darth Vader was a leader of the cruel people."

Be.3s.pst Darth Vader lead-pag of person-pl-def cruel.

Dabnakod mephadi gōunan mig wōdēmokod kābin kifdō. "He wore black clothing and veiled his head."

Wear-3s-pst clothes.pl black and veil-3s-pst head 3s-pos.

Kakikod dakadak. "He breathed loudly."

Breath-3s-pst loud-adv.

Namkakod Yūk fon wēbanimdi kifdō. "Luke lived with his aunt and uncle."

Live-3s-pst Luke with aunt/uncle-pl 3s.pos.

Bānē Ōwen mig Buwū. "They were Owen and Beru."

Be.3p.pst Owen and Beru.

Bokikod Ōwen K3PO mig 2D2. "Owen bought C3PO and R2D2."

Buy-3s-pst Owen C-3PO and R2-D2.

Mepdēkod Yūk nōm himnakod Ōwen. "Owen made Luke wash them."

Wash-3s.pst Luke 3p.dop make-3s.pst Owen.

Wopekod Yūk 2D2 mig fipekod fapinon mobē ningān. "Luke touched R2D2 and saw a transparent movie."

Touch-3s-pst Luke R2-D2 and see-3s-pst picture long-duration transparent.

Dobokod Yāu dam namkakod Ōbēwon Kenōbē pa Dadūēn. "Leia hoped that Obi-Wan Kenobi lived on Tatooine."

Hope-3s-pst Leia that live-3s-pst Obi-Wan Kenobi on Tatooine.

Epnakod Yūk Ben Kenōbē. "Luke knew Ben Kenobi."

Know-3s-pst Luke Ben Kenobi.

Kāk Ben wēnim ēnēf. "Ben was a quiet retiree."

Be.3s.pst Ben retiree quiet.

Ifdōkod Yūk dam demokod kū wōmuwā. "Luke wanted to go to a boarding school."

Want-3s-pst Luke that go-3s-pst to [school where one lives].

Danamakod Ōwen vāg hifwēbin wifingmak. "Owen worked as a crop steamer."

Work-3s-pst Owen as steam-pag crop-adj.

Būifdōkod dam fāphēkod Yūk. "He didn't want Luke to move away."

Neg-want-3s-pst that move-3s-pst Luke.

Baēhākod 2D2 Ben. "R2D2 looked for Ben."

Seek-3s-pst R2-D2 Ben.

Mōkōkod Yūk fon K3PO. "Luke drove, with C3PO."

Drive-3s-pst Luke with C-3PO. [3]

Ifdōfod empēdi ifdimak didi kifdo Yūk. "Sand people wanted Luke's stuff."

Want-3p-pst person-pl sand-adj stuff of Luke. [4]

Kopukod Ben. "Ben yelled."

Yell-3s-pst Ben.

Bamafod empēdikab ifdimak wuhafdi dūp ne mig dūnofod. "The sand people feared large animals and ran."

Fear-3p-pst person-pl-def sand-adj animal-pl large all-around and run-3p-pst.

Nūfdokod Yūk dam kāk Ben Ōbēwon. "Luke learned that Ben was Obi-Wan."

Learn-3s-pst Luke that be.3s.pst Ben Obi-Wan.

Bānē Ōbēwon mig dūmono dugo kifdo Yūk Edaē. "Obi-Wan and Luke's father were Jedi."

Be.3p.pst Obi-Wan and parent man of Luke Jedi.

Kāk Anukin dūmono kifdo Yūk. "Anakin was Luke's father."

Be.3s.pst Anakin parent of Luke.

Mōkōkod bēn fef wonho. "He rode through the Milky Way."

Drive-3s-pst through nebula great.

Kāk dabuhā mig ūmowē kifdo Ōbēwon. "He was intelligent and a friend of Obi-Wan."

Be.3s.pst intelligent and friend of Obi-Wan.

Fepnokod ambē dūp pāv Ōbēwon. "He gave Obi-Wan a long light."

Give-3s-pst light big lengthwise Obi-Wan.

Imkūvēkod mig dōēphakod Do Vādu Anukin. "Darth Vader betrayed and killed Anakin."

Betray-3s-pst and kill-3s-pst Darth Vader Anakin.

Fipefod Ōbēwon mig Yūk fapinonkab mobē kifdo Yāu. "Obi-Wan and Luke watched Leia's movie."

See-3p-pst Obi-Wan and Luke picture-the long-duration of Leia.

Ifdōfod Yāu mig Bā dam dēwākod Ōbēwon kū yogak kamdō. "Leia and Bail wanted Obi-Wan to come to their planet."

Want-3p-pst Leia and Bail that come-3p-pst Obi-Wan to planet 3p-pos.

Kāk yogak kamdō Oduwon. "Their planet was Alderaan."

Be.3s.pst planet 3p-pos Alderaan.

Dobokod Ōbēwon dam nūfdokonid Yūk monok. "Obi-Wan hoped that Luke would learn 'focusing'."

Hope-3s-pst Obi-Wan that learn-3p-fut-past Luke focus-inf. [5]

Danamakofid Yūk fon damhondi kifdō. "Luke should have worked with his family."

Work-3s-obl-pst Luke with relative-pl 3s.pos.

Bakyufod empēdikab yūkō yamwōg kifbepē. "The cruel people destroyed Parliament."

Destroy-3p-pst person-pl-def cruel Parliament. [6]

Difyēkod Do Vādu dafdan dam būninkākod Modi kō. "Darth Vader was angry that Motti didn't trust him."

Feel.emotion-3s-pst Darth Vader angry that neg-trust-3s-pst Modi 3s-dop.

Monokod dam Modi būkakikod. "He willed that Modi not breath."

Will-3s-pst that Modi neg-breathe-3s-past.

Fipekod Yūk fwakdi yowumak. "Luke saw dead Jawas."

See-3s-pst corpse-pl Jawa-adj.

Dōēphafod dōēphabindi waēpakmak yowudikab. "'Storm Killers' killed the Jawas."

Kill-3p-pst kill-pag-pl storm-inf-adj Jawa-pl-def.

Indāmōkod mipdam kifdo Yūk. "Luke's house was burning."

Burn-pro-3s-pst house of Luke.

Emgofod Buwū mig Ōwen. "Beru and Owen died."

Die-3p-pst Beru and Owen.

Mōkūmukod Yāu Do Vādu. "Leia withstood Darth Vader."

Endure-3s-pst Leia Darth Vader.

Mōkōfod Ōbēwon mig Yūk kū demyobokab. "Obi-Wan and Luke rode to the city."

Drive-3p-pst Obi-Wan and Luke to [large city]-def.

Pokyikod Ōbēwon empē dam nūpdokod Yūk vepo efkamak fēn. "Obi-Wan persuaded a person that Luke had a good ID card."

Persuade-3s-pst Obi-Wan person that possess-3s-pst Luke card self-adj good.

Demofod kū yōdamē bēpenomak. "They went to a restaurant."

Go-3p-pst to store meal-adj.

Efmamōfod mig benkēmōfod wuhafdi. "Animals were eating and drinking, and playing instruments."

Eat-pro-3p-pst and [play instruments]-pro-3p-pst animal-pl.

Ihekod Ūboku dūp ne mig būdabnakod mephadi. "Chewbacca was big and wasn't wearing clothes."

Measure-3s-pst Chewbacca big all-around and neg-wear-3p-pst clothes-pl.

Nūpdokod kēyūf kaēpin. "He had a lot of fur."

Possess-3s-pst fur much.

Kāk Hon Ōyō ūmowē naf Ūboku. "Han Solo was Chewbacca's friend."

Be.3s.pst Han Solo friend of Chewbacca.

Nūpdofod yepdog. "They had a ship."

Possess-3p.pst ship.

Kāk yepdogkab "Kowā Andem Kaēgōdimak" mig mobokod wind. "The ship was "Thousand Years-Bird and it sailed quickly."

Be.3s.pst ship-the "bird thousand year-pl-adj" and sail-3s-pst quickly.

Mobokod kūwind dif yepdogdikab kifdo yūkōkab. "It sailed more quickly than the ships of the cruel."

Sail-3s-pst more-quick than ship-pl-the of cruel-def. [7]

Fepnokod Ōbēwon bumnamdem pāvdi kū Hon. "Obi-Wan gave Han two thousand checks."

Give-3s-pst Obi-Wan two-thousand check-pl to Han. [8]

Bekakod Hon fon Gwēdō mig Dobu. "Han talked with Greedo and Jabba."

Talk-3s-pst Han with Greedo and Jabba.

Ifdōfod Gwēdō mig Dobu dam fepnokod Hon yif kū fim. "Greedo and Jabba wanted Han to give them money."

Want-3p-pst Greedo and Jabba that give-3s-past Han money to 3p.iop.

Bamafod Hon Gwēdō. "Han feared Greedo."

Fear-3p-pst Han Greedo.

Paēpebefod Gwēdō...dag paēpebefod Gwēdō Hon efwād? "He shot Greedo...or did Greedo shoot Han first?"

Shoot-3s-pst Greedo...or shoot-3s-pst Greedo Han first one-ord-irreg.

Paēpebefod yepdogdi pog bakyufod Kowākab. "Ships shot in order to destroy the Bird."

Shoot-3p-pst ship-pl [in order to] destroy-3p-pst bird-def.

Mobokod Kowākab kūwind dif ambē. "The Bird sailed faster than light."

Sail-3s-pst bird-the more-fast than light.

Mobokod Kōmokab Emgokmak kū Oduwon. "The Death Star sailed to Alderaan."

Sail-3s-pst star-the die-inf-adj to Alderaan.

Ifdōkod Do Vādu dam epnakod dagafod finaēkdikab vobo. "Darth Vader wanted to know where the rebels were."

Want-3s-pst Darth Vader that know-3s-pst be.located-3p-pst extremist-pl-def where.

Mogdakod Yāu. "Leia lied."

Lie-3s-pst Leia.

Kamukod pekēwā Oduwon himnafod empēdikab yūkō. "The cruel people made Alderaan cease to exist."

Become-3s-pst greywhite Alderaan make-3p-pst person-pl-def cruel. [9]

Difyēkod Ōbēwon vōkan. "Obi-Wan felt sad."

Feel.emotion-3s-pst Obi-Wan sad.

Dimanēfod Ūboku mig 2 D 2. "Chewbacca and R2-D2 played a game of skill."

[Play a game of skill]-3p-pst Chewbacca and R2-D2.

Bindekod 2 D 2 Ūboku. "R2-D2 slowly got on Chewbacca's nerves."

Annoy-3s-pst R2-D2 Chewbacca.

Fūfēkod mig monokod Yūk ked. "Luke practiced and focused on a ball."

Practice-3s-pst and focus-3s-pst Luke ball.

Ifdōkod Ōbēwon dam dekadod Yūk. "Obi-Wan wanted to teach Luke."

Want-3s-pst Obi-Wan that teach-3s-pst Luke.

Kēbokod Hon. "Han laughed."

Laugh-3s-pst Han.

Būninkākod dūyitdi daduko. "He tended not to open up to religious leaders."

Neg-trust-3s-pst [religious leader]-pl habitually.

Bēkofod mig mēmid būfipek Oduwon. "They arrived and they could not see Alderaan."

Arrive-3p-pst and can.3p-pst neg-see-inf Alderaan.

Onomēfod. "Big shooting stars fell."

[Be big shooting star]-3p-pst.

Fipefod nindigbin dūp ne. "They saw a big satellite."

See-3p-pst circle-iag big all-around.

Kāk Kōmokab Emgokmak. "It was...the Death Star!"

Be.3s.pst star-def die-inf-adj.

Demofod nen yepdogkab. "They went inside the big ship."

Go-3p-pst within ship-def.

Maēkyēkod Hon wod kāk Ōbēwon vakum. "Han said that Obi-Wan was an idiot."

Say-3s-pst Han that be.3s.pst Obi-Wan idiot. [10]

Baēhākod Ōbēwon Do Vādu. "Obi-Wan looked for Darth Vader."

Seek-3s-pst Obi-Wan Darth Vader.

Ifdōkod Yūk dam baēhāfod Hon mig Yūk Yāu. "Luke wanted Han and himself to look for Leia."

Want-3s-pst Luke that seek-3p-pst Han and Luke Leia.

Bekakod Hon fon dōēphabin waēpakmak ond imēko. "Han talked to a storm killer by radio."

Talk-3s-pst Han with kill-pag storm-inf-adj [by means of] radio.

Paēpebekod imēkokab. "He shot the radio."

Shoot-3p-pst radio-def.

Fōbofod Hon mig Yūk kū bumūnekāgofenbumnandemwā doko. "Luke and Han went to the two thousand one hundred eighty seventh room."

Go-3p-pst Han and Luke to seven-tens-eight-hundred-two-thousands-ord room.

Dagakod Yāu nen dokokab. "Leia was in the room."

Be.located-3s-pst Leia within room-def.

Ihekod Yūk kūham dif dōēphabindi waēpakmak bo. "Luke was shorter than storm killers."

Measure-3s-pst Luke more-small than kill-pag-pl storm-inf-adj heightwise.

Yūpofod kū doko pifepmak. "They jumped to a garbage room."

Jump-3p-pst to room garbage-adj.

Nabdafod pungepdi hemyokab. "Magnets closed the door."

Close-3p-pst magnet-pl door-def.

Kāyēfod wuhafdi būm pifepkab. "Animals swam in the trash."

Swim-3p-pst animal-pl in garbage-def. [11]

Kamukod dokokab ham pāv. "The room became narrow."

Become-3s-pst room-def small lengthwise.

Kengikod dokokab himnakod 3 P O. "C3PO made the room stop."

[Stop working]-3s-pst room-def make-3s-pst C-3PO.

Paēpebefod Yāu mig Yūk mig Hon mig Ūboku mig 3 P O mig 2 D 2 dōēphabindi waēpakmak mig dūnofod. "Leia, Luke, Han, Chewie, C-3PO and R2-D2 shot storm killers and ran."

Shoot-3p-pst Leia and Luke and Han and Chewbacca and C-3PO and R2-D2 kill-pag-pl storm-inf-adj and run-3p-pst.

Dobokod Yāu dam Yūk kāk pim. "Leia hoped that Luke was lucky."

Hope-3s-pst Leia that Luke be.3s.pst lucky.

Didēkēkod kō. "She made out with him."

[Make out with].3p.pst 3p.dop. [12]

Nūpdofod Do Vādu mig Ōbēwon ambēdi dūp pāv. "Darth Vader and Obi-Wan had long lights."

Possess-3p-pl Darth Vader and Obi-Wan light-pl big lengthwise.

Ifdōkod Do Vādu dam dōēphakod Ōbēwon. "Darth Vader wanted to kill Obi-Wan."

Want-3s-pst Darth Vader that kill-3s-pst Obi-Wan.

Emhūyēkod Ōbēwon. "Obi-Wan sacrificed himself."

Sacrifice-3s-pst Obi-Wan.

Endēkōkod Hon Kowākab. "Han launched the Bird."

Launch-3s-pst Han bird-def.

Paēpebekod Kowākab yepdogdi. "The Bird shot ships."

Shoot-3s-pst bird-def ship-pl.

Difyēkod Yūk vōkan mig dafdan dam emgokod Ōbēwon. "Luke felt sad and angry that Obi-Wan died."

Feel.emotion-3s-pst Luke sad and angry that die-3s-pst Obi-Wan.

Dagakod Hon fon Yāu pog mefnikod yif. "Han was with Leia in order to earn money."

Be.located-3s-pst Han with Leia [in order to] earn-3s-pst money.

Būdobokod Yūk dam dōfakod Yāu Hon. "Luke didn't hope that Leia loved Han."

Neg-hope-3s-pst Luke that love.person-3s-pst Leia Han.

Bēkofod kū wofwā nindigbin naf Yovin. "They arrived to the fourth satellite of Yavin."

Arrive-3p-pst to four-ord circle-iag of Yavin.

Nūdfodof yopobindi naf finaēkdi dam mēd kengikod Kōmokab Emgokmak. "Leaders of the rebels learned that the Death Star could malfunction."

Learn-3p-pst lead-pag-pl of extremist-pl that can.3s.pst break-3s-pst star-def die-inf-adj.

Kāk yepdogkab kohān. "The ship was unstable."

Be.3s.pst ship-def unstable.

Difyēkod Hon deg, mig bamakod empēdikab yūkō. "Han felt unsafe and he feared the cruel people."

Feel-emotion-3s-pst Han unsafe and fear-3s-pst person-pl-def cruel.

Mobokod nen Kowākab. "He sailed in the Bird."

Sail-3s-pst within bird-def.

Kamukod Yūk "Den Nōyag." "Luke became "Red Five.""

Become-3s-pst Luke "Red Five."

Paēpebefod finaēkdi Kōmokab Emgokmak. "Rebels shot the Death Star."

Shoot-3p-pst extremist-pl star-def die-inf-adj.

Demokod Do Vādu nen yepdog ham ne. "Darth Vader went inside a small ship."

Go-3s-pst Darth Vader within ship small all-around.

Dōēphakod finaēkdi. "He killed rebels."

Kill-3s-pst extremist-pl.

Difyēfod wūkin. "They felt time pressure."

Feel.emotion-3p-pst zeitnot.

Nūbokod Yūk dugo. "Luke heard a man."

Hear-3s-pst Luke man.

Hepekod mūm Dadūēn! "He sounded of Tatooine!"

Sound-3s-pst of Tatooine.

Bekakod Ōbēwon. "Obi-Wan spoke."

Talk-3s-pst Obi-Wan.

Dobokod dam monokod mig ninkākod Yūk kō. "He hoped that Luke focused and trusted him."

Hope-3s-pst that focus-3s-pst and trust-3s-pst Luke 3s.dop.

Bēnakod Yūk mig būmobokod damnanu. "Luke closed his eyes and he didn't sail on autopilot."

Close.eyes-3s-pst Luke and neg-sail-3s-pst [on autopilot].

Afgokod Hon dam kamukonid bokok. "Han decided that he would become loyal."

Decide-3s-pst Han that become-3s-fut-past loyal.

Komdokod mig demnokod Kowākab. "He stopped and turned the Bird."

Stop-3s-pst and turn-3s-pst bird-def.

Dōēphakod damfōē naf Do Vādu. "He killed Darth Vader's ally."

Kill-3s-pst comrade of Darth Vader.

Bakyukod Yūk Kōmokab Emgokmak. "Luke destroyed the Death Star."

Destroy-3s-pst Luke star-def die-inf-adj.

Damafod finaēkdikab. "The rebels won."

Win-3p-pst extremist-pl-def.

Gahindōēfod. "They hugged."

Hug-3p-pst.

Fepnokod Yāu nindigdi pidyim kū Hon mig Yūk. "Leia gave Han and Luke metal circles."

Give-3s-pst Leia circle-pl medal to Han and Luke.

Glossing key:

3p: third person plural

3s: third person singular

adj: adjective (used after a noun to convert it into an adjective)

def: definite article

dop: direct object pronoun

fut: future tense. Here often used with past tense to form "future past"; parallel between "I hope (present) that I can blow up (future) the space station" and "I hoped (past) that I could blow up (future past) the space station."

iag: impersonal agent (-er when it's not a person)

inf: infinitive

iop: indirect object pronoun

irreg: irregular ending (here marks the -d on the end of "efwād," "first," which is irregular for ordinals)

neg: negation. Usually used to mean "at that specific moment" and not "in general"

obl: obligatory mood, "should"

ord: ordinal number

pag: personal agent (-er when it's a person)

pl: plural

pos: possessive

pro: progressive

pst: past tense

Usage Notes:

[1] Pa (“at”) is used in cases where you might say “I live ‘in’ Los Angeles/California/the United States.” I’m guessing a culture that was used to interstellar travel would translate ‘in this galaxy’ the same way, although you might also use “nen” (“in, totally enclosed by”).

[2] Taking the controversial position here that droids aren’t actually “people.”

[3] “Mōkō,” translated here as “drive,” is used for any kind of (land) vehicle where the subject is in control; “to ride a bike,” but not “to ride a train.” (The culture this conlang is mainly used for doesn’t have a lot of “driving cars.”)

[4] “kifdo” and “naf” can be used somewhat interchangeably for possessives, but “kifdo” is more often used for physical possession and “naf” more often used for intangible possession.

[5] “Mono-” on its own means “to focus,” but in combination with “dam” (“that”), it can mean “to will that” (which is how it’s used to describe Vader’s force-choke abilities).

[6] “yamwōg kifbepē” is the two-word translation of “Parliament;” “yamwog” is a word used in the phrase that describes both archaic and modern notions of “city council.”

[7] The adjective is converting into a noun here, although there’s perhaps an implied [“person”] at the end.

[8] A “check” is the unit of currency in the fictional culture where the language is spoken. (There are a lot of other chess puns too, which derived independently of the conlang.)

[9] To “go grey and white” is a metaphor for ceasing to exist in my broader conculture, adapted from the mechanics of a roleplaying game where it’s set.

[10] Most subclauses use “dam” to offset them, but “wod” sets off speech or belief.

[11] Another type of “in;” this is more “in” the pocket than “nen” (total enclosure), although that one might also work here.

[12] “didēkē” is an informal word that can describe a range of actions, sometimes meaning more than kiss, but I don’t have a word for “kiss” as of this writing.

