

A GRAMMAR FOR

QUYA

by

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Introduction

The language Quya [Q] is an ancient language used as the court language of the Chosen and is the language in which many important texts are written such as the Il Kaya.

Q is derived from the much earlier Proto-Quya [P-Q]. Both languages share a split-ergative structure, though they differ in the way that the split is characterised.

Notation

In the succeeding text the following notation will be adopted:

- S Subject
- O Object
- OI Indirect Object
- V Verb
- NP Noun Phrase
- C Consonant
- L Vowel

Declension Changes and Related Gender Changes from Q to P-Q

P-Q has two main declensions that can be roughly characterised as Animate [A] and Inanimate [IA]. A has two genders Male [M] and Female [F]. IA has three genders M, F, and Neuter [N]

Q on the other hand has three main declensions which may be characterised as Divine [D], High [H] and Low [L]. D has gender Super Neuter [SN]. H has genders M, F, and N. L has genders F and N.

It is conjectured that in the process of P-Q transforming into Q,

- i) the SN gender of the D declension was derived from the earlier M gender of the A declension.
- ii) the earlier M gender of the IA declension became the N gender of the new H declension.

Ergativity Differences between P-Q and Q

In P-Q if S is A then the Nominative/Accusative is used. If S is IA then the Ergative/Absolutive is used.

In Q if S is either D or H then the Nominative/Accusative is used. If S is L then the Ergative/Absolutive is used.

Nouns and Cases in Q

There are eight cases in Q. These are:

- 1) Nominative subject
- 2) Accusative object
- 3) Genitive of
- 4) Illative motion towards (...to)
- 5) Ablative motion from
- 6) Inessive inside, in
- 7) Exclusive outside, out
- 8) Dative indirect object

Each of the declensions has these eight cases except for the D declension which does not have an Accusative nor a Dative.

These cases may be modified by Classifiers, so that an up/down classifier might be applied to the Inessive Case to change it to 'on top of' and 'under'.

Nouns decline according to gender in singular and plural and, in addition, there is a Dual. There are many nouns in Quya that decline as Duals eg. Gods, Mirrors, hands, Mir (cloth tessellated in two colours), Day & Night (conceived as one Dual). There are even some nouns that decline as Trials, but these are rare and are all of the D declension.

Noun Declensions

	D-declension		H-declension			L-declension	
	plural	-ára-	plural	-a-		plural	-a-
	dual	-hma-	dual	-ma-		dual	-ma-
	trial	-ku-					
Case	SN		M	F	N	F	N
Nom	-		-	-	-	-	-
Acc	-		-as	-ós	-ke	-he	-qe
Gen	-yeye-		-ye-	-te-	-tye-	-thye-	-txa-
Ill	-ánja		-án	-án	-on	-xán	-ón
Abl	-tnatne		-na	-tna	-xe	-xe	-xe
Ine	-átláx		-átla	-xate	-ál	-tla	-ó
Exc	-injá		-ár	-átse	-il	-tle	-u
Dat	-		-ta	-txa	-kxa	-hax	-hua

The Derivational Genitive

The Genitive case in Q may take a further case specification to agree with its head noun. The second case specification declines with the noun being modified.

Nominalisers

Many verbs can be turned into nouns by adding an appropriate prefix to their stem. For the verb V these are as follows:

tya-	'one who..' V	M, F or N
miya-	'that which is..' V	M, F or N
-na	'the act of..' V	H/N

Pronouns

Pronouns are declined in much the same way as Nouns.

Pronoun Declensions

	D-declension			H-declension			L-declension		
	plural dual trial	a- ma- ku-		plural dual		a- m-			
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Nom	ágate	keru	xile	ate	eru	re	au	eu	u
Acc	-	-	-	tia	ire	xi	ahex	hex	hue
Gen	áyeye	tyeye	lyeye	áye	tye	ye	ahye	huye	hye
Ill	tánja	tnáje	ánja	ánán	tnán	nán	aón	hón	ón
Abl	txeye	tneye	tne	ána	tna	na	axe	huxe	xe
Ine	txaláx	taláx	tláx	átlá	titlá	tlá	atlo	hutlo	tlo
Exc	tinjá	tninje	linjá	áóa	tóa	óa	ale	hule	le
Dat	-	-	-	átxa	titxa	txa	ahax	huax	hax

Sandhi

Sandhi is universally applied in Q. Thus whenever two phonemes are brought together through agglutination, incorporation or through inflection they are modified according to a standard fusional paradigm or sandhi. All possible phoneme interactions are described in the Sandhi Table

Adjectives

All adjectives of Q have the general form 'XL' - where X is any allowable phonemic string.

Adjective Agreement

An adjective always agrees with the gender, number and case of its noun phrase and the referent of a pronoun.

	SN		M, F, N		
	plural	-ára-	plural	-a	
	dual	-hma-	dual	-ma-	
	trial	-ku-			
Case	SN	M	F	N	
Nom	-	-	-s	-	
Acc	-	-s	-se	-qe	
Gen	-yeye	-ye	-e	-txa	
Ill	-ánja	-án	-xán	-on	
Abl	-tnatne	-na	-tna	-xe	
Ine	-átláx	-átl	-xatl	-ó	
Exc	-injá	-ár	-átse	-u	
Dat	-	-ta	-txa	-hua	

Adjectivisers

Many nouns can be turned into adjectives by adding a suffix -(a)hra to their stem. This results in the adjective having the characteristic meaning of 'being in the state of N'. The new adjective will add agreement suffixes: this often results in vowel sandhi.

Verbs

All verbs of Q have the general form 'CLCL' and they are conjugated in the Perfect [P] and the Imperfect [IP]. There are four main Conjugation Groups and they take the following suffixes:

I	CeCL	-a	(P)
		-o	(IP)
II	CuCL	-a	(P)
		-o	(IP)
III	CaCL	-a	(P)
		-ye	(IP)
IV	CayaCL	-ya	(P)
		-ye	(IP)
V	CiCL	-i	(P)
		-yi	(IP)

Verb Agreement

A verb always agrees with the gender and number of its subject and if this is a pronoun with its referent.

Person	SN	M	F	N
1_S	-hti		-te	
2_S	-ke		-r	
3_S	-nxa	-n	-s	-m
1_D	-hmah	-hma	-mas	
2_D	-hmahe	-th	-mtha	
3_D	-nxahe	-ne	-se	-me
1_T	-quth			
2_T	-quh			
3_T	-qux			
1_P	-hta		-	
2_P	-kta		-	
3_P	-nxatha	-ntha	-tha	-mha

Aspect Classifiers

Tomorrow - Sometime in the Future - Eternally

Moods

There are five different moods that verbs in Q can take and these are achieved by inflection. The five moods and their inflections are as follows:

Subjunctive	(Conditional)	CLCL(-qer) -?
Imperative	(Commands)	CLCL(-k) -?
Fatative	(Inevitability)	CLCL(-tnir) -?
Necessitative	(Necessitated)	CLCL(-qár) -?
Requisitive	(Required)	CLCL(-ks) -?

Where ? indicates the P/IP suffix conjugations.

Grammatical Function Changing Operations [GFGO]

There are three GFGO. These are the following:

Noun Incorporation IO (dat) → O (acc), O is incorporated in V

Passive O (acc) → S (nom), S (nom) → IO (dat) (Transitive verbs)
S (nom) → IO (dat) - Agreement 3s L/N

Antipassive O (acc) → O (dat)

The passive form 'demotes' the subject whilst the antipassive form 'demotes' the object. When an intransitive verb is passivised then the subject is 'demoted' and the object is optional - the meaning being that 'the action happened'.

eg. * it was danced (English)
es vurt gestants (German)

Relativisers

There are two Relativisers, [qe-] and [kná-]

qe- patient of V is the N modified by the relative clause
kná- agent of V is the N modified by the relative clause

Participles

The Participling suffix [-thá] in effect turns verbs into adjectives. Participles preserve argument places.

Noun Incorporation

Noun incorporation is common in Q for all nouns that have no more than two syllables. There is both Active Incorporation and Passive Incorporation.

The general rule for incorporation is:

$$VSO_1(IO_2) \rightarrow \underline{OVS}(IO_3)$$

where S is in the Nominative, O₁ and IO₃ are in the Accusative, IO₂ is in the Dative, and OV is the verb with the O incorporated.

Note: all modifiers of O remain in the Accusative even though O itself loses all case marking on incorporation. Since the IO is promoted to the Accusative this means that there might arise an

ambiguity as to which of the O or IO any modifiers might refer. This ambiguity is resolved by means of appropriate Classifiers.

If the general form of the verb V is CLCL and O is the object to be incorporated then the general form of the verb with incorporated object is CLOCL. Sandhi may occur firstly between LO and then between OC.

In the process of incorporation the verbs are modified according to their conjugation groups in the following way:

	Active	Act. Inc.	Passive	Pas. Inc.	Antipassive
I	CeCL	CyeOCL	CaCL	CyaOCL	CiCL
II	CuCL	CuyuOCL	CáCL	CyáOCL	CuCL
III	CaCL	CyaOCL	CóCL	CyoOCL	CoCL
IV	C ₁ ayaCL	C ₁ áyeOCL	C ₁ iyaCL	C ₁ áyaOCL	C ₁ iyáCL
V	C ₁ iCL	C ₁ iyeOCL	C ₁ uyiCL	C ₁ ayiOCL	C ₁ uCL

C₁ ≠ [+labial]

Order of Affixing for Verbs

Affixes are added to the stem in a specific order.

rel - stem - mood - aspect - AGR

where:

rel is the relativiser prefix (qe-) or (kná)
 mood see 'Moods' above
 aspect see 'Aspect Classifiers' above
 AGR are the agreement suffixes

Adverbs

Adverbs are formed from adjectives by means of the Adverbialising suffix [-the]

