Guide to the Viesa Language

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https://whiletrue.neocities.org/viesa/

Introduction

Viesa is an English code that I have been developing since April 2018. It is an attempt to create a fully speakable and writeable language based on modifying English vocabulary according to a consistent set of rules. Viesa is written with a system based on the Serbian Cyrillic alphabet. Over the past year of development, the language has gone through many changes which have expanded it into what it is today. Viesa is more elaborate than language games such as Pig Latin, as it uses more complicated rules for altering English words. There are also some grammatical modifications that add to its complexity.

This document is an expansion of the guide previously shown on the Viesa webpage. It includes more details about how the language works, as well as it's history.

History

The inspiration for Viesa came from Uasi, a code language which has much in common with the modern form of Viesa. In Uasi, each vowel letter is shifted to the one following it in the order 'aeiou'. The vowel 'u' loops back to the beginning to become 'a'. Uasi also featured some of its own grammar rules, like click sounds that indicated tense, plurality, and other grammatical features.

Before Viesa was first published, it was originally called Lungo (short for "lungouga", meaning "language"). This early form of Viesa used a similar rule to Uasi, except that each vowel letter was shifted to the one preceding it, rather than to the following vowel. It did not alter the grammar in any way. Instead, it only applied the vowel shift rule, along with a handful of additional rules to make words more easily pronounceable.

When the language was published under the current name "Viesa", it was presented as an April Fools' day joke. It claimed to be a "universal language", despite essentially being a spoken English code. This idea also originates from

Uasi, although Uasi's vision of being a "universal language" is only subtly mentioned.

In June 2018, Viesa 2.0 was introduced. A system of clicks similar to the one found in Uasi was added. These clicks included not only tongue clicks, but also claps and facepalms. This was brought in to give Viesa more flavour. The language no longer claimed to be universal; it was merely a language I was making for fun.

A "dialect" of this version of Viesa known as "Vikesa" was created by jan Aleke. The pronunciation of words matched their spelling, certain consonant and vowel clusters are separated with 'i' and 'k' respectively, and new clicks were added. One of these new clicks was later added into Viesa.

Viesa 3.0, the current version, came about a few months later. This version introduced the Cyrillic alphabet, making the pronunciation of words more obvious, while at the same time making Viesa look less like English when written. In addition, the click sounds were removed and replaced with suffixes which were easier to pronounce.

Alphabet

Viesa's alphabet is based on the Serbian Cyrillic alphabet. Each letter's pronunciation is shown below.

Letter	IPA	English Sound
Аа	/a/	f<u>a</u>ther
Бб	/b/	<u>b</u>at
Вв	/v/	<u>v</u>at
Гг	/g/	<u>g</u>et
Дд	/d/	<u>d</u>ot
Ђђ	/ð/	<u>th</u>at
Ее	/e/	b<u>e</u>t
Жж	/ʒ/	mea<u>s</u>ure
Зз	/z/	<u>z</u>ap
Ии	/i/	b<u>ee</u>t
Јј	/j/	<u>y</u>et
Кк	/k/	<u>k</u>ing
Лл	/l/	<u>l</u>et
Мм	/m/	<u>m</u>at
Нн	/n/	<u>n</u>et
Оо	/o/	b<u>oa</u>t
Пп	/p/	<u>p</u>at
Рр	/ɾ/	Spanish "pe<u>r</u>o"
Сс	/s/	<u>s</u>at
Тт	/t/	<u>t</u>ap
Ћћ	/θ/	<u>th</u>in
Уу	/u/	b<u>oo</u>t
Фф	/f/	<u>f</u>at
Хх	/h/	<u>h</u>at
Чч	/ʧ/	<u>ch</u>at
Џџ	/ʤ/	<u>j</u>et
Шш	/ʃ/	<u>sh</u>ed

Diphthongs

<аи>, <ay>, and <ои> are pronounced as diphthongs (pronounced like "b<u>i</u>te" "ab<u>ou</u>t", and "b<u>oy</u>" respectively). All other sequences of multiple vowels in a row are pronounced as separate vowels.

brain -> бруен /bru.en/

A note on 'нг'

The digraph 'нг' represents the sound /ŋ/ (as in 'ri<u>ng</u>'). The 'г' is excluded when the following sound is /k/ or /g/.

ħенг: /θeŋ/
сенк: /seŋk/
Англеш: /aŋgleʃ/

Basic Rules

The main and most important rule of Viesa is that each vowel is shifted to the one that precedes it in the order 'aeiou'. Therefore:

'a' loops back to the end of the alphabet to become 'u'
e -> a
i -> e
o -> i
u -> o

Examples:

pin -> pen
lack -> luck
knife -> knefa

circle -> cercla
tension -> tansein

The word is then written with the Cyrillic alphabet. Each vowel letter is written as it's Cyrillic equivalent:

a -> a
e -> e
i -> и
o -> o
u -> y

All consonant letters are written using Cyrillic letters that correspond to the sound they actually make, rather than the consonant letters themselves. The exception is <r>, which becomes a tapped /ɾ/ (as in Spanish "peɾo") instead of remaining as the English /ɹ/ (as in ɹat).

pin -> pen -> пен /pen/ (the <p> and <n> are pronounced /p/ and /n/ respectively, and are written with their Cyrillic equivalents)

lack -> luck -> лук /luk/ (the <ck> just represents /k/, so it is simply written with the Cyrillic letter for /k/)

knife -> knefa -> нефа (the <k> is silent, so it is not written)

circle -> cercla -> серкла /seɾkla/ (in the original English word, the first <c> represents /s/, but the second represents /k/, so they are written as their respective sounds. Also note that the <r> becomes tapped.)

tension -> tansein -> таншеин /tanʃein/ (in the original English word, the <s> actually represents /ʃ/, so it is written as such in Viesa)

Note that vowel 'y' becomes either /i/ or /ai/, depending on its sound.

lightly -> летли /letli/
cry -> краи /krai/

All instances of the letter 'w', regardless of whether they are pronounced or not, become /v/:

water -> вутар /vutaɾ/
twinkle -> твенкла /tveŋkla/
write -> врета /vreta/
two -> тви /tvi/

Whenever the letter 'y' follows a vowel, it becomes /g/:

play -> плуг /plug/
boy -> биг /big/
eye -> ага /aga/

Double Letters

There are no double letters when writing in Viesa. Each occurrence of a double letter must become a single letter. This may cause confusion, e.g. "good" and "god" both become "гид". However, context will help discern them.

Stress

The stressed vowel of an English word carries on to the Viesa word.

hell<u>o</u> -> хал<u>и</u>
transl<u>a</u>tion -> трунзл<u>у</u>шеин

If the stressed vowel is represented by a digraph that becomes two separate vowel sounds in Viesa (as opposed to a diphthong), the first of these vowels is stressed.

d<u>ia</u>mond -> де<u>у</u>минд

Grammar

Although the vowel shift rule makes up the majority of Viesa, forming most sentences will require knowledge of Viesa's grammatical alterations.

Pronouns

Viesa uses a different pronoun system from English. A table showing each pronoun is shown below:

	Singular	**Plural**
First	ма (I/me)	ва (we/us)
Second	jа (you)	га (you all)
Third	на (he/him/she/her/it)	да (they/them)

Viesa does not distinguish between subject and object pronouns ("I" and "me" are the same). There is also no gender distinction in the third person singular pronoun ("he", "she", and "it" are the same). However, there is a distinction between singular and plural "you" (whether you're referring to one person or multiple people).

Possessive pronouns (my, your, their, etc.) are formed with -к.

my/mine: мак
your/yours: jак
his/her/hers/its: нак
our/ours: вак
your all: гак

their/theirs: дак

Reflexive pronouns (myself, yourself, theirselves, etc.) are formed with -салф.

myself: масалф
yourself: јасалф
himself/herself/itself: насалф
ourselves: василф
yourselves: гасалф
theirselves: дасалф

Suffixes

Viesa uses several suffixes to indicate certain grammatical features. These suffixes and their usage are explained below.

Which suffix to use?

If a word ends in a vowel, use the suffix with no vowel. If the word ends in a consonant, use the suffix with the vowel.

-c/ec

The suffix '-c/ec' is placed on nouns to make them plural.

A person has ten toes.
У парсин хува тан тиас.

The dogs play.
Ђа дигес плуг.

Every word is pluralized this way. Unlike in English, there are no exceptions.

Note that this suffix is only used for nouns that are treated as plural. Words like "always" become "улвугз", not "улвугес".

-п/еп

The suffix '-п/еп' is placed on verbs to indicate the past tense.

He washed his shirt.
На вушеп нак шерт.

I ran to the park.
Ма ронеп ти ђа пурк.

All verbs are converted to the past tense with this suffix.

This suffix is not used for passive participles; those are left as is.

The washed shirt
Ђа вушад шерт

-ш/еш

The suffix '-ш/еш' is placed on verbs to indicate the future tense.

He will wash his shirt.
На вушеш нак шерт.

I will run to the park.
Ма ронеш ти ђа пурк.

-к/ек

The suffix '-к/ек' is placed on nouns to indicate possession.

They see the dog's bone.
Да са ђа дигек бина.

Note that this suffix is placed on the actual noun that does the possessing rather than at the end of the noun phrase.

They see the dog in the mud's bone.
Да са ђа дигек ен ђа мод бина.

-г/ег

The suffix '-г/ег' indicates a negative verb (the action does not happen).

The dogs do not play.
Ђа дигес плугег.

Order of Suffixes

When there are multiple suffixes on one word, they must follow a certain order. The rule is that the possessive and negative suffixes always follow other suffixes.

I will not sleep.
Ма слапешег.

The dogs' bones
Ђа дигесек бинас

Verbs

Present tense verbs become their infinitive form without "to". Therefore, "is", "am", and "are" all become "be", which becomes "ба". This also means that the '-s' is removed from third-person singular verbs, so "He eats" becomes "На аут" (literally: He eat).

Continuous and perfect verbs ("I am eating" and "I have eaten" respectively) are also converted into their infinitive forms without "to".

I am eating.
Ма ба аут. (I be eat.)

I have eaten.
Ма хува аут. (I have eat.)

Note that active and passive participles ("eating" and "eaten" respectively) on their own are simply left as is:

The eating person
Ђа аутенг парсин

It is eaten.
На ба аутан.

Questions

Questions with a yes/no answer are formed by placing "ди" at the beginning of a sentence.

The child is happy.
Ђа челд ба хупи.

Is the child happy?
Ди ђа челд ба хупи?

Questions with an open-ended answer are formed as if they were "indirect questions".

I don't know why the baby is crying.

Ма нивег ваи ђа буби ба краи.

Why is the baby crying?
Ваи ђа буби ба краи?