

Azalian or *Azhelli* is the language spoken by the people of Azhennela, the southernmost region of the continent of Azallasto. It is widespread in many places outside Azhennela and serves as a lingua franca for most of the continent, so it heavily influences most other languages in the region. (For that reason, my current project of revising it and its relatives has been quite an undertaking!) It is meant to superficially resemble Romance languages and other Indo-European languages, while retaining its own identity.

The Azalian script is a fairly straightforward alphabet. However, it has been several centuries since the last spelling reform, so similar to English, the relationship between the spoken sounds of Azalian and its script is nontrivial. I provide an introduction to the Azalian alphabet and its pronunciation at the end of this document, but for most translation tasks, it will be easier to ignore the pronunciation; the rules for inflections are usually simpler in the written language.

AZALIAN GRAMMAR

Azalian is a highly inflected language, especially in its verbs. Although it primarily employs suffixes, it makes use of other methods as well such as verbal prefixes and, notably, ablaut to convey verb tense. Here I will focus on the forms necessary to decipher the text.

Word Order: Azalian's default word order is SVO. However, the older word order SOV commonly appears as well, usually in subordinate clauses.

In "archaic" speech, though, SOV order may be seen even in main clauses, and this is usually accompanied by dropping articles (a recent innovation) and often archaic choice of words. The effect is similar to using archaic English features such as "thou" and its associated verb forms; it is associated with religious texts, formal language, and lost arts from the distant past.

Gender: Azalian nouns have grammatical gender (masculine or feminine). Azalian most often defaults to the feminine when describing a mixed group or something indefinite or unknown. Often, but far from always, masculine nouns end in - hd and feminine nouns in - AM , which correspond to Azalian's first and second declensions, respectively. Many adjectives can end in either of the two, depending on whether they agree with a masculine or feminine noun.

Some nouns may be either masculine or feminine. Usually, these nouns have a different nominative plural form depending on their gender.

Cases: Azalian nominals have three to four cases, and like Indo-European languages, Azalian combines case and number into a single inflection rather than having separate forms for each.

Only pronouns retain the accusative case; the others, which exist for nouns, adjectives, and articles, but not for numerals, are the nominative, genitive, and instrumental. These cases are multifunctional—the genitive doubles as a locative case, and as in English the instrumental is also comitative.

Prepositions take specific cases, usually either the accusative (nominative for non-pronouns) or the genitive.

The tables below give case forms for nouns of each declension that appears in the text (except those appearing only in the nominative), and the same for pronouns.

Personal names often end in Θ in the nominative. Drop that letter before adding any case endings.

Noun Declension	Singular			Plural		
	Nominative	Genitive	Instrumental	Nominative	Genitive	Instrumental
1st	- ፊ / - ሠ	- ፊፊከባ	- ፊፊከ	- ፊፊፎ	- ፊፊፊከፊ	- ፊፊፊከባ
2nd ¹	- ጠ	- ጠፀኦ	- ጠፀኦ	- ጠፊጠ	- ጠፊጠ	- ጠፀጠ
3rd	- ሀ (may also be a gender-neutral plural)	- ሀፀዛ	- ሀፀኦ	- ሀፊጠ (fem.) - ሀፊፎ (masc.)	- ሀፊፊጠ	- ሀፀጠ
8th ²	- ጺ	- ጺፀዛ	- ጺፀኦ	- ጺፊጠ (fem.) - ጺፊፎ (masc.)	- ጺፊፊጠ	- ጺፀጠ

Pronoun	Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Instrumental
1st Sg.	ተፈሪ	ተፈፀ	ተፈባ	ተፈፀፀኦ
3rd Sg. Fem.	ተፈጠጠ	ተፈጠፀ	ተፈጠኦ	ተፈጠፀጠ
3rd Sg. Masc.	ተፈፀ	ተፈፀ	ተፈባ	ተፈፀጠ
3rd Pl. Fem.	ተፈጠጠጠ	ተፈጠጠፀ	ተፈጠጠኦ	ተፈጠጠፀጠ

1 Certain 2nd declension nouns replace ጠ with ሁ everywhere in these case endings.

2 8th declension nouns also end in other letters besides ጺ. Replace ጺ with whatever letter the noun ends in everywhere in these case endings.

Articles: They are ubiquitous in Azalian, and even proper names are accompanied by a definite article. The indefinite article, in addition to similar uses to those in English, can be used with the singular to refer to a generic or indefinite subject. Where in English one might say "cats eat meat", in Azalian one would say "a cat eats meat". Articles must agree with the noun in gender, case, and number, and all their forms are irregular. The table below has all the forms for both articles:

Articles		Singular			Plural		
		Nominative	Genitive	Instrumental	Nominative	Genitive	Instrumental
Definite	Feminine	ፈጠ	ፈጠ	ፈጠን	ፈጠጠ	ፈጠጤ	ፈጠን
	Masculine	ፈከ	ፈከ	ፈከን	ፈከጤ	ፈከጤጤ	ፈከን
Indefinite	Feminine	ከፈጠ	ከፈጠ	ከፈጠን	ከፈጠጠ	ከፈጠጤ	ከፈጠን
	Masculine	ከፈከ	ከፈከ	ከፈከን	ከፈከጤ	ከፈከጤጤ	ከፈከን

Verbs: To produce an Azalian verb form, one follows a three-step process.

First, determine the appropriate verb stem. Verbs in Azalian have a present, future, and past stem, although only present and past stems appear in the text. The present stem is the same as the infinitive with final - ል removed.

To form a past stem from a present stem, change all vowels in the present stem as follows:

ጠ -> ል, ጠ (by itself) -> ጠ, ል -> ጠ, ጠ or ጠ -> ል, ጠ -> ጠ, ጠ -> ጠ (no change).

If the verb in question is a so-called "short verb", there is an additional step to form the past stem: adding the short verb past prefix ጠጠ- or ጠጠ-. Do this *after* the ablaut changes above.

Next, add any negative, interrogative, or passive voice suffixes to the stem, in that order. No interrogative verbs appear in the text, so only negative and passive voice forms will be covered here.

For the negative suffix, add - ጠጠ. If the final vowel of the stem is already ጠ, add - ጠጠጠ instead.

The passive suffix mutates in various ways depending on what the verb stem ends with (after adding any negative and/or interrogative ending). See the tables below for all passive forms that appear in the text.

Final Letter of Verb Stem	Passive Suffix
Any vowel	- ԿԵ
Չ or ց	Replace final Չ / ց with - ՉԵ
Ճ, Գ, Կ, Է, or Մ	Replace final letter with - ԿԵ

The passive voice, in addition to emphasizing the object or avoiding stating the subject, is used in Azalian to imply that something is natural, inevitable, or only to be expected; sentences like “objects fall down” or “we have always been at war with Eastasia” would be phrased using the passive voice in Azalian.

Finally, for person and number agreement, determine whether the so-called present or future endings should be added (really, they're more like realis and irrealis endings). The choice depends on tense; the tenses that appear in the text are:

Present: Present tense is used for events occurring right now, general or habitual statements, and events that have *just* occurred (i.e. immediate past). It is formed by adding the present endings to the present stem.

Past: Past tense is used for events that happened in the past a significant length of time ago—usually at least a few hours. It is formed by adding the present endings to the past stem.

Future Potential: Resembling the subjunctive of Romance languages in some ways, the future potential often translates to “may” or “might” and implies uncertainty about the future. It usually describes something the speaker wishes to happen and can be used to make requests, or to offer well wishes and utter curses. It is formed by adding the future endings to the past stem.

Both present and future endings mutate based on the final letter of the verb stem (*after* adding any negative, interrogative, and/or passive endings). The tables on the next page should cover everything appearing in the text.

Infinitives are the dictionary forms given in the vocabulary. They are verbal nouns which behave similarly not only to English infinitives (“to eat”) but also gerunds like “eating”.

Present Endings (realis)		
Final Letter of Verb Stem	3rd Singular	3rd Plural
Any vowel	-t	-He
Any two consonants	-et	-e
o	-et	-xe
o	-et	-He
o or t	-et	Replace final letter with -He

Future Endings (irrealis)		
Final Letter of Verb Stem	3rd Singular	3rd Plural
Any vowel	-o	-wno
Any two consonants	-eo	-ewno
t (replace with ending)	-tten	-wno

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Θ (Θε /ze/): Pronounced /z/ when followed by **η**, **φ**, or **η**, both intervocalically and word-initially. Pronounced /z/ when followed by **ς**, **θ**, **ρ**, or **α**. Pronounced /d/ following a nasal consonant. Pronounced /s/ when clustered with a stop and sometimes word finally, though often word-finally it is silent. When doubled, it is pronounced /z:/ everywhere except before **α**, where it is /z:/.

η (η/u): Pronounced /w/ when both unstressed and followed by a vowel; pronounced /u/ everywhere else.

ε (ε/e): Pronounced /e/ everywhere.

ϝ (ϝα/no): Pronounced /ŋ/ before velar consonants and /m/ before labial consonants; pronounced /n:/ when doubled or when followed by **α**; often silent word-finally; pronounced /n/ otherwise.

φ (φη/bu): Pronounced /b/ when followed by **η**, **η**, or **φ**, both intervocalically and word-initially. Pronounced /v/ when followed by **ς**, **θ**, **ρ**, or **α**. Pronounced /p/ word-finally or when clustered with a fricative, although word-finally, it is often realized as /ʔ/ instead. When doubled, it is pronounced /b:/ everywhere except before **α**, where it is /v:/.

ς (ςα/so): Pronounced /s/ when followed by **η**, **φ**, or **η**, as well as word-finally. Pronounced // when followed by **ς**, **θ**, **ρ**, or **α**. Pronounced /s:/ when doubled everywhere except before **α**, where it is //:/.

ω (ωε/me): Pronounced /ŋ/ before velar consonants and /n/ before alveolar and postalveolar consonants; pronounced /m:/ when doubled or when followed by **α**; pronounced /m/ otherwise.

ϙ (αη/ju): Pronounced // when both unstressed and followed by a vowel; pronounced /i/ everywhere else.

Ϙ (Ϙη/va): Pronounced /v/ both intervocalically and word-initially, as well as following a liquid. Pronounced /b/ following a nasal consonant. Pronounced /f/ word-finally or when it precedes **ο**. Word-initially before **α**, pronounced ///. Pronounced /f:/ when doubled or when followed by **α** elsewhere.

ο (οη/lu): Word-initially before **α**, pronounced ///. Pronounced /l/ everywhere else, or /l:/ when doubled or followed by **α** elsewhere.

α (α/o): Pronounced /o/ everywhere.

Q (QAŋ /ju/): Silent when it occurs word-initially. Word-medially, pronounced /g/ when followed by ŋ, A, or h, or when clustered with a nasal or liquid. If it precedes a nasal, it is pronounced as though it followed it. Pronounced /ʒ/ when followed by ɛ, ɔ, or e, and /j/ before A. Pronounced /k/ or /ʔ/ word-finally. When clustered with a stop or fricative, it is not pronounced and the other consonant is geminated. When doubled, it is pronounced /k:/ everywhere except before A, where it is /j:/.

Q (QE /zi/): Pronounced identically to Q except that it is /ʒ/ before A and /g:/ or /ʒ:/ when doubled.

Q (QH /za/): Pronounced identically to Q except that it is /j/ before A and /s:/ or /j:/ when doubled.

R (RH /ga/): Pronounced /g/ when followed by ŋ, A, or h, both intervocalically and word-initially. Pronounced /dʒ/ when followed by ɛ, ɔ, or e, and /tʃ/ before A. Pronounced /k/ word-finally or when clustered with a fricative, although word-finally, it is often realized as /ʔ/ instead. When doubled, it is pronounced /k:/ everywhere except before A, where it is /tʃ:/.

R (RA /do/): Pronounced /d/ when followed by ŋ, A, or h, both intervocalically and word-initially. Pronounced /dʒ/ when followed by ɛ, ɔ, e, or A. Pronounced /t/ word-finally or when clustered with a fricative, although word-finally, it is often realized as /ʔ/ instead. When doubled, it is pronounced /d:/ everywhere except before A, where it is /dʒ:/.

R (HA /a/): Pronounced /a/ everywhere.

S (SN /gu/): Pronounced identically to R except that it is /dʒ/ before A and /g:/ or /dʒ:/ when doubled.

E (EI /i/): Pronounced identically to Q everywhere.

T (ET /er/): Varies freely between /r/ and /r/ except word-finally, where it is always /r/, and when doubled or preceding A, where it is /r:/, or /j/ when preceding A word-initially.

A (AN /ja/): When not following a consonant, it is always /j/. After another consonant, it has no sound of its own but rather mutates the consonant clustered with. See the entries for each other letter for the ways in which it is mutated by A.

U (UN /up:u/): Pronounced identically to Q except that it is /f/ before A and /p:/ or /f:/ when doubled.

H (HE /dʒe/): Pronounced identically to R except that it is /tʃ/ before A and /t:/ or /tʃ:/ when doubled.

M (MA /vo/): Pronounced identically to T except that it is /v:/ when doubled or preceding A, and often silent word-finally.

VOCABULARY

Entries are alphabetized according to the native ordering system.

For nouns, the form listed is the nominative singular. The gender and declension are given in parentheses.

For adjectives, the form listed is the feminine nominative singular. The declension is given in parentheses. 1st/2nd declension adjectives have a different masculine form ending in - ከዐ .

For verbs, the form listed is the infinitive. "Short" verbs are noted in parentheses, and any irregular stems or forms are given.

ፀጩጩፍ : don, put on, wear (clothing that goes on the head or over the shoulders)

ፀጩፍ : human (either, 3rd)

ፀጩፍ : around, along, at the edge of

ፀጩ : to be; present 3SG form ፀጩ

ፀጩፍ : nearby (3rd)

ገጽ ጸፍ : find, locate (ends in the vowel ፍ)

ፍ : but, however

ፍጠ : shut, close

ፍጠፍ : weapon (masc., 3rd)

ፍጠ : from, out of, away from (gen.)

ፍጠፍጠፍ : since then, ever since, from then on

ፍጠፍጠፍ : cover, shield, block

ፍጠፍጠፍ ፍጠፍ : get lost, go missing, be led astray

ፍጠፍጠፍ : go, come (past stem ፍጠፍ)

ፍጠፍ : on, atop (pronounced /bu/)

ፍጠፍ ፍጠፍጠፍ : thus, therefore, so, for that reason, because of that

ፍጠፍ : Feminine definite article; see grammar for inflections

ፍጠፍ : and (pronounced /ma/)

ፍጠፍ : Masculine definite article; see grammar for inflections

ፍጠፍጠፍ : because, since

ፍጠፍ : two

ፍጠፍጠፍ : face, visage, appearance (masc., 3rd)

ፍጠፍጠፍ : use, wield

ፍጠፍጠፍ : wife (fem., 2nd)

ፍጠፍጠፍ : floor, earth, land, country (fem., 2nd)

ፍጠፍጠፍ : birch tree (masc., 3rd)

ፍጠፍጠፍ : eye (masc., 3rd)

ፍጠፍጠፍ : bring (someone)

ፍጠፍጠፍ : ground, earth, dirt, soil (fem., 2nd)

ፍጠፍ : masculine 1st person singular pronoun; see grammar for inflections

ፍጠፍጠፍ : fur, hair (masc., 5th)

ፍጠፍጠፍ : feminine 3rd person singular pronoun; see grammar for inflections

ፍጠፍጠፍ : return, send back, send away, drive out

ፍጠፍ : hand, method (masc., 3rd)

ዐባታላጭ : scatter, disperse (transitive)
 ዐጭኮላጭ : lure, mislead, bewitch, enchant
 ዐፊ: to, toward (acc.)
 ዐፊወክ : into (gen.; pronounced /iem:a/
 ዐጠጠ : this, that (masc. ዐጭ)
 ዐጠጠወክ : make war on, declare war on, wage war against
 ለጠጠጠጠ : armor, shell, hide, scales (masc., 1st)
 ለጠጠጠጠ : few, not many (1st/2nd)
 ገላላ : leg (fem., 8th)
 ገላላገ : walk
 ገጠጠጠጠ : dream of, have nightmares about, fear
 ገጠጠጠጠ : personal name (masc., 1st)
 ገጠ : that, which, such that (begins a relative clause)
 ገጠጠ : road, path, way (masc., 3rd)
 ገጠጠጠጠ : region, area, vicinity, surroundings; land (archaic) (fem., 2nd)
 ገጠጠጠ : say, speak; past stem ገጠጠጠ , pronounced /ez:e/
 ገጠጠጠጠ : bear (fem., 2nd)
 ገጠጠጠጠ : Feminine indefinite article; see grammar for inflections
 ገጠጠጠጠ : Masculine indefinite article; see grammar for inflections
 ገጠጠጠጠጠ : race, people, ethnic group (masc., 1st)
 ገጠጠ : sword, blade (masc., 8th)
 ገጠጠጠጠጠ : tribal leader, tribal elder, chieftain
 ገጠጠጠጠጠ : Defined in the text (fem., 2nd)
 ገጠጠጠጠ : sister (fem, 2nd)
 ገጠጠጠጠጠ : monster, fey beast, magical creature (fem., 5th)
 ገጠጠጠጠ : personal name (masc., 1st)
 ገጠጠጠጠጠ : have, possess
 ገጠጠጠ : crown (masc., 1st)
 ገጠጠጠጠ : curse, bewitch, enchant, enspell
 ገጠጠጠጠ : barrel (fem., 2nd)
 ገጠጠ : 1st person pronoun; see grammar for inflections
 ገጠጠጠጠጠጠ : claim, assert
 ገጠጠጠጠጠ : forest (masc., 1st)
 ገጠጠጠጠጠ : traveler (either, 4th)
 ገጠጠጠጠጠ : guide, lead, govern
 ገጠጠ : in, inside (gen.)
 ገጠጠጠጠጠ : many, a lot (1st/2nd)
 ገጠጠጠጠጠጠ : inhabit, dwell in
 ገጠጠጠጠጠ : get, take, pick up (short)
 ገጠጠጠጠጠጠ : feminine 3rd person plural pronoun; see grammar for inflections
 ገጠጠጠጠጠጠጠ : nowadays, these days; (with a negative verb) no longer, not anymore
 ገጠጠጠጠጠጠ : push, force, make (someone do something)
 ገጠጠጠጠጠጠጠ : soldier, combatant, military unit (either, 8th)