1
Phonology

1.1 Phones

1.1.1 Consonants Phonemes

Archaic Arettian contains twenty consonant phonemes:

1. Consonant Phonemes

1.1.1		*Bilabial*	*Alveolar*	*Palatal*	*Dorsal*	*Glottal*
Nasal		m	n			
Plosive	*Aspirated*	pʰ	tʰ		kʰ	
	Voiced	b	d		g	
	Unvoiced	p	t		k	
Trill			r			
Fricative	*Voiced*		z		ʁ	
	Unvoiced		s		χ	h
Approximant			l	j	w	

1.1.2 Vowel Phonemes

Archaic Arettian contains 10 vowel phonemes. There are a total of 5 phonemic vowel qualities; each vowel quality has both a short and long phoneme associated with it.

2. Vowel Phonemes

1.1.2		Front	Back
Close	*Short*	i	u
	Long	i:	u:
Mid	*Short*	e	o
	Long	e:	o:
Open	*Short*	a	
	Long	a:	

1.2 Phonotactics and Suprasegmentals

1.2.1 Phonological Rules

Archaic Arettian contains various phonological rules that affect certain phonemes in certain positions. These rules occur in the order detailed below:

1. 1. p^h, t^h, k^h → p, t, k / _ C
   2. h → s / _ {t, t^h}
   3. ∅ → j / {e, i} _ {a, o, u}
   4. ∅ → w / {o, u} _ {a, e, i}
   5. a i → e ∅
   6. s l → χ ∅
   7. z l → ʁ ∅
   8. P_1 → ∅ / _ P_1

C: any consonant phoneme
P: any phoneme

Any two variables modified with the same superscript number must be the same phonemes, or vowel quality if vowels, whichever phoneme that may be.

These rules occur in all instances, including at morpheme boundaries.

2
Morphology

2.1 Nouns

Nouns are always marked for number/possession, and class. These are marked by affixes that always come in a set order:

1. 1. Number, Possession
   2. Class
   3. Root

2.1.1 Grammatical Number

Nouns can be singular, dual, or plural, marked by a prefix which also shows possession. Singular non-possessed nouns are left unmarked.

2. Number and Possession

2.1.1		Singular	Dual	Plural
Non-possessed		-	ut-	ih-
First		nes-	nis-	neh-
Second	Informal	get-	git-	geh-
	Formal	ol-	ul-	oh-
Third		top^h-	tup^h-	toh-

Possessive prefixes show the number of the possessor, not the number of the noun they are attached to. The number of the noun being marked is ambiguous, unless a coreferential word such as an adjective or verb displays its number.

2.1.2 Possession

Possession is shown by the use of a possessive prefix. The possessive prefix indicates the possessor on the possessed noun. The prefix a possessed noun takes depends on its grammatical number and the person of the possessor. When the possessor is a pronoun, it is optional to include. When included, it emphasizes the possession. The prefixes used are demonstrated by the table in 2.1.1.

2.1.3 Class

All nouns are grouped into one of seven noun classes. All nouns remain in the same class in all numbers and each class has a one-to-one correspondence:

3.
   1. **ju-**
   2. **na-**
   3. **hes-**
   4. **saː-**
   5. **at-**
   6. **sekʰ-**
   7. **rat-**

Only nouns having to do with familial relationships do not use these prefixes; nouns having to do with familial relationships are all class 1 nouns that do not take any class prefix.

The semantic classifications for each class are illustrated below:

4. 1. Arettians, Supernatural beings, Sacred nouns
   2. Foreigners, Outcasts
   3. Animals
   4. Inanimate things that come in pairs
   5. Non-physical concepts, Time, Infinitives
   6. Various inanimate
   7. Various inanimate

Classes 1 to 3 are considered animate; classes 4 to 7 are considered inanimate.

Classes 6 and 7 contain a variety of inanimate nouns; however some types of nouns tend to prefer one class over the other one:

5. Class 6: Food, Drinks

   Class 7: Plants, Plant related nouns, Places

2.1.5 Definite Pronouns

Pronouns are marked for number, person, and formality (in the second person). All definite Archaic Arettian pronouns are shown in below:

1. Pronouns

2.1.5	**Singular**	**Dual**	**Plural**
First	nes	nis	neh
Second *Informal*	get	git	geh
Second *Formal*	ol	ul	oh
Third	top^h	tup^h	toh

2.2 Verbs

Finite verbs are always marked for tense/aspect; verbs can optionally be marked for subject class, subject person/subject number, voice, direct object person/number and/or negation. These are marked by affixes that always come in a set order:

1. 1. (Subject class)
   2. (Subject person, Subject number)
   3. Tense, Aspect
   4. Root
   5. (Voice, Causative)
   6. (Direct object person, Direct object number)
   7. (Negation)

The passive voice suffix is explained in XXX.

Infinitives are treated as if they were nouns, taking the class 5 prefix. However, they have a much more limited number of affixes they can take on compared to ordinary nouns: they are always composed of the class 5 prefix followed by a root:

2. **at-kʰel**
   CL5-eat
   "to eat"

2.2.1 Subject Class

If a finite verb does not have a subject that is a pronoun, is in a subject relative clause, nor is impersonal, the verb must be marked with the its subject's class agreement prefixes:

3. 1. **iju-**
   2. **na-**
   3. **hes-**
   4. **saː-**
   5. **la-**
   6. **sek-**
   7. **ra-**

2.2.2 Subject Person and Subject Number

Non-impersonal verbs must use a prefix that marks the person and number of the verb's subject:

4. Subject Person and Subject Number

2.2.3	Singular	Dual	Plural
First	nos-	nus-	noh-
Second Informal	got-	gut-	goh-
Second Formal	ol-	ul-	oh-
Third	toph-	tuph-	toh-

2.2.3 Tense and Aspect

5. Tense and Aspect

2.2.5	Perfective	Habitual	Progressive
Future	ko-		
Present	iz-	hab-	ga-
Past	mo-	nuh-	so-

The habitual aspect is used when the verb action is repeated multiple times over multiple different occasions as a repeated action.

The progressive aspect is used when the verb action is incomplete, to do, and/or to be.

The term "progressive aspect" in Archaic Arettian is an umbrella term that includes both the true progressive aspect and the continuous aspect.

The perfective aspect is used when the verb action is viewed as a whole action that is complete.

The future tense does not distinguish any aspects.

2.2.5 Direct Object Person and Direct Object Number

Transitive and ditransitive verbs can optionally use a prefix that marks the person and number of its direct object:

6. Direct Object Person and Direct Object Number

2.2.5		*Singular*	*Dual*	*Plural*
First		nes-	nis-	neh-
Second	*Informal*	get-	git-	geh-
	Formal	el-	il-	eh-
Third		tep^h-	tip^h-	teh-

This prefix is optional unless the direct object is a pronoun. When used optionally, the prefix adds emphasis to the object.

2.2.6 Negation

Finite verbs can be negated using the suffix **-tu**.

2.2.7 Auxiliary Verbs

Auxiliary verbs are treated the same as other finite verbs with the exception of the fact that they cannot appear without an infinitive that carries the main semantic meaning of the clause; they follow the same conjugation as other verbs.

2.3 Adverbs

Adverbs take the suffix **-haz**.

3

Syntax

3.1 Head Directionality

Archaic Arettian is strongly head-initial, with some exceptions. Exceptions are bolded.

1. 1. Prepositions come before their nouns.
   2. Nouns come before their relative clauses.
   3. Possessed nouns come before their possessor genetives.
   4. Nouns come before their numerals.
   5. Nouns come before their adjectives.
   6. Nouns come before their demonstratives.
   7. **Auxiliaries come after their verbs.**

3.2 Word Order

Archaic Arettian uses many different word orders, but for the purposes of the relay these are the only word orders used:

2. Impersonal: **VX**
   Intransitive: **SVX**
   Transitive: **SVOX**

O: direct object
S: subject
V: verb
X: oblique(s), including indirect object

Obliques are optional for all verb valencies; indirect objects are mandatory for ditransitive verbs.

3.3 Valency Changing Operations

A transitive/ditransitive verb may drop its subject(s) if it is heavily implied.

3.3.1 Passive Voice

Archaic Arettian has a passive voice suffix **-aʁ**. The passive voice suffix reduces the valency of a verb by one. The subject of the passive verb is the patient of the verb action.

In transitive verbs, the subject of the new passive form was the object of the original verb. In ditransitive verbs, the subject of the new passive form was the indirect object of the original verb, while the new object was the direct object of the old verb.

3.3.2 Causative

There are two ways to create the causative construction in Archaic Arettian: through the use of separate roots and through a causative suffix **-zez**.

Some verbs that may be ambitransitive in languages like English have two different roots in Archaic Arettian: anticausative and causative.

Some anticausative verbs may become causative through the use of **-zez**:

The difference between the use of the causative suffix and separate roots lies in intention. If the causation is accidental, different roots are used, but if the causation is intentional, **-zez** is used. However, because **-zez** is productive while having two

different roots is not, **-zez** may be used when there are not separate roots already existing in the language, even if the situation is accidental.

3.4 Complements

3.4.1 "Want" Complement Subjects

The complement subjects of the verb **uh** *to want; to wish* and similar verbs are expressed overtly. This means that the subject in **uh** complement clauses is always expressed, whereas in English an infinitive is used: "I want <u>her to eat</u>." vs. *"I want <u>she eats</u>.".

3.4.2 Perception Complement Clauses

Complement clauses in verbs of perception are balanced:

1. **ju-zeskah <u>iju-top-ko-geh</u> iju-topʰ-iz-ma-nes.**
   CL1-man CL1-3P.SG.SBJ-FUT-jump CL1-3P.SG.SBJ-PRS.PFV-see-1P.SG.DO
   "I see that the man will jump."

These complement clauses can only go directly after the subject NP.

3.5 Transitivity and Inverting

Archaic Arettian differs from English in terms of transitivity in four main semantic verb categories:

1. 1. Verbs of interaction
   2. Verbs of perception
   3. Verbs of pursuit
   4. Verbs of motion

Archaic Arettian also differs from English in its treatment of experiencer arguments in verbs of cognition, emotion, perception, and sensation.

3.5.1 Transitivity Differences

Verbs of interaction are always transitive in Archaic Arettian; these verbs are explicitly labeled as "(interaction)" in the word list.

Verbs of perception are always transitive in Archaic Arettian; these verbs are explicitly labeled as "(perception)" in the word list.

Verbs of sensation are impersonal; while in English you would say "I am sick.", in Archaic Arettian you would say "It is sick for me." If a causative is applied to a verb of sensation, it becomes intransitive. These verbs are explicitly labeled as "(sensation)" in the word list

3.5.2 Inverting

Verbs of sensation, emotion, cognition, and perception are inverted; while in English you would say "I see the dog.", in Archaic Arettian you would say "The dog is visible to me". The subject and object of these verbs is "flipped".