Iḏ-Lisien

Phonology

We shall begin to describe this conlang's phonology by beginning with a revised form of Proto-Semitic. Then, we shall begin with the sound changes, and then conclude with its final phonology.

In this form of Proto-Semitic, there are only three vowels: a, e, o; and their long forms of ā, ē, ō. One will notice that this is *not* the Proto-Semitic vowel inventory as has been reconstructed thus far (which are shown on Wikipedia, which reconstructs them as a, i, o, and their long forms). This is simply because I want to.

Now, for the consonant phonemes. I shall not be using emphatic phonemes. Instead, those will become aspirated, solely so that my little evil thought experiment can work.

Proto Semitic consonant phonemes (provided by Wikipedia)

Type	**Manner**	**Labial**	**Interd.**	**Alveolar**	**Palatal**	**Lateral**	**Velar**	**Phar.**	**Glottal**
Obs.	**Stop**	p b		t d			k g		ʾ [ʔ]
	Fric.		t̲ [θ] d̲ [ð]	s z	š [ʃ]	ś [ɬ]	ḫ [x] ġ [ɣ]	ḥ [ħ] ʿ [ʕ]	h
Res.	**Trill**			r					
	Approx.	w			j	l			
	Nasal	m		n					

Now, we shall begin with the sound changes. They ought to look very familiar (they should be, they're the sound changes from PIE to Proto-Germanic). We'll make some very small adjustments to ensure everything makes sense:

1. $h_1 \rightarrow h$
2. $h_2 \rightarrow$ ḫ
3. $h_3 \rightarrow$ ġ

Look at that, all nice and neat! Now, it won't be all sound changes, so it's still somewhat... normal.

Now, we can begin. God willing this is not a horrific mess of complete nonsense.

1. ḫe > ḫa, eḫ > aḫ, ġe > ġo, eġ > oġ
2. kj > k, gj > g, &c.
3. TsT > ts > ss
4. Geminated consonants are shortened [CV̄]_
5. Word final long vowels lengthen
6. Laryngeals are lost in the following spaces:
    a) Word initial before consonant
    b) Laryngeals lost after vowels lengthen the preceding vowel
7. ġ > g between a sonorant and w
8. H > a
9. Word-final short vowels disappear as well as j and w
10. Grimm's Law:
    a) p > f, t > ţ, k > ḫ
    b) b > p, d > t, g > k
    c) bh > b, dh > d, gh > g
11. s > z, š > s, ś > š (vaguely Verner's law here)
12. Vowel changes:
    a) owo > ō
    b) ew > ow
    c) Unstressed e > i
    d) ji > i
13. Word final m nasalises the preceding vowel and disappears
14. Assimilation of n, l, m, r, j, w
15. i-mutation. e > i (_C[ji])

The above is only the first part of our sound changes. We shall have even more. But, for now, I shall try to construct a sentence of a couple of words and try to put it through those sound changes.

'*Our language is good*.' which I think is something like 'lešānVne ţābom.'

First, we'll assume that V here is 'o'. We'll also assume that stressed position is penultimate.

1. ḫe > ḫa, eḫ > aḫ, ġe > ġo, eġ > oġ – lešānone ṭābom
2. kj > k, gj > g, &c.
3. TsT > ts > ss
4. Geminated consonants are shortened [CV̄]_
5. Word final long vowels lengthen
6. Laryngeals are lost in the following spaces:
    a) Word initial before consonant
    b) Laryngeals lost after vowels lengthen the preceding vowel
7. ġ > g between a sonorant and w
8. H > a
9. Word-final short vowels disappear as well as j and w - lešānon ṭābom
10. Grimm's Law:
    a) p > f, t > ṯ, k > ḫ
    b) b > p, d > t, g > k - lešānon ṭāpom
    c) bh > b, dh > d, gh > g
11. s > z, š > s, ś > š (vaguely Verner's law here) - lesānon ṭāpom
12. Vowel changes:
    a) owo > ō
    b) ew > ow
    c) Unstressed e > i
    d) ji > i
13. Word final m, n nasalises the preceding vowel and disappears - lisānǫ ṭāpǫ
14. Assimilation of n, l, m, r, j, w
15. i-mutation. e > i (_C[ji])

Therefore, our final form is '*lisānǫ ṭāpǫ*.'

Our next set of sound changes are my own but vaguely inspired by those of Old English.

1. Long vowels begin to change in unstressed positions:
    a) ā > ǣ
    b) ē > ie
    c) ō, ǫ > u
2. a > æ unless followed by n, m, or it's nasalised. It doesn't change when there is a back vowel following it.
3. Nasal vowels are lost
4. k > tʃ, sk > ʃ, g > dʒ when appearing before front vowels (i, e).
5. æ > e, ǣ > ie
6. i-mutation (similar as before):
    a) a > æ
    b) e > i
    c) u > y
    d) o > e
7. VjV > V
8. h is lost everywhere
9. Long vowels and short vowels change in all positions (except in diphthongs):
    a) ā > a, a > o
    b) ē > e, e > i
    c) ō > o, o > u

Alright, it's time to see what horrible creation I made. (Go to next page)

Remember, our sentence is now '*lisānǫ ṭāpǫ*.'

1. Long vowels begin to change in unstressed positions: - 'lisænu tāpu'
    a) ā > ǣ
    b) ē > ie
    c) ō, ǫ > u
2. a > æ unless followed by n, m, or it's nasalised. It doesn't change when there is a back vowel following it.
3. Nasal vowels are lost
4. k > tʃ, sk > ʃ, g > dʒ when appearing before front vowels (i, e).
5. æ > e, ǣ > ie - 'lisienu tāpu'
6. i-mutation (similar as before):
    a) a > æ
    b) e > i
    c) u > y
    d) o > e
7. VjV > V
8. h is lost everywhere
9. Long vowels and short vowels change in all positions (except in diphthongs): - 'lisien tap'
    a) ā > a, a > o
    b) ē > e, e > i
    c) ō > o, o > u

Oh boy. That certainly looks interesting. Let's try to document the grammar now.

Grammar

Nouns

We'll take the noun ‘irš (earth, ground). The language has only two cases: nominative and genitive. The genitive is formed by removing the final consonant of the stem. The language also has possessive suffixes.

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	‘irš	‘iršaṯ
Genitive	‘ir	‘iraṯ

The following chart shows the possessive suffixes:

Pronoun	Singular	Plural
1st	-ie	-ni
2nd	-ka	-ku
3rd m.	-o	-no
3rd f.	-o	-ne

Pronouns

Pronoun	Singular	Plural
1st	‘u	ne’
2nd	‘unt	‘untun
3rd m.	sy	sun
3rd f.	si	sin

Numbers

1. ‘ad
2. ṯilaṯ
3. šilaṯ
4. ‘irpigh

5. iu
6. sitt
7. sipghu
8. tmien
9. ṯisghu
10. ghiš

A list of Templates and Stems

Making this before verbs because I really don't want to do verbs right now (0605 on 06-26-26) and I'd like some kind of sentence made.

Note at 0638: I didn't find those templates.