PROPOSED REFORMULATION OF THE C$_A$ COMPLEX (Sept. 15, 2019)

The chart on the next page illustrates a proposed reformulation of the Formative Slot VIII C$_A$ complex for the Ithkuil successor language. The reasons for this proposed reformulation are as follows:

- I have determined that the current formulation of the **C$_A$** complex allows for the generation of certain multi-consonantal forms which are phonetically difficult to pronounce.

- I have come to the conclusion that the use of initial -**r**- and -**ř**- in the first sub-slot (i.e., the Affiliation slot) of the C$_A$ complex creates an undesirable phonetic issue when immediately preceded by a diphthong. Both Ithkuil and this successor language allow a diphthong to precede a syllable-final -**r**- or -**ř**- (or a consonant conjunct beginning with -**r**- and -**ř**-). Examples of such words are *ezgoiř*, *kairsa*, and *feurt*. The problem is that, for most speakers (including the author), it is quite difficult to pronounce these diphthong-containing syllables as a single syllable unless one hyper-enunciates. Without careful hyper-enunciation, the tendency is to pronounce the diphthongs disyllabically as if the words were *ezgoìř*, *kâìrsa*, and *féùrt*. In other words, the presence of the rhotic consonant makes it difficult to maintain the preceding vowel form as a monosyllabic diphthong, instead of a disyllabic conjunct. I have noticed this problem before in Ithkuil (Dave Peterson and I encountered it while recording the Kaduatán vocals).

Therefore, I have decided to restructure the morpho-phonology of the successor language to avoid this problem. There are essentially two ways to do so: either (1) eliminate -**r**- and -**ř**- after diphthongs in the same syllable, or (2) eliminate disyllabic vocalic conjuncts ending in -**ì** or -**ù**, so that diphthongs ending in -**i** or -**u** may be allophonically pronounced disyllabically when followed by -**r**- or -**ř**- in the same syllable. The proposed reformulation of the **C$_A$** complex shown on the next page is therefore only the first part of the morpho-phonology that will be changing in order to address the diphthong + rhotic issue described above.

The proposed **C$_A$** reformulation below has advantages and disadvantages compared to the version most recently presented in Version 0.8.7 of the Redesign Document:

Advantages: (1) The structure of the **C$_A$** complex is less complicated and has fewer allomorphic rules and exceptions than in Version 0.8.7. (2) The new structure avoids certain difficult-to-pronounce consonant combinations found in Version 0.8.7

Disadvantages: (1) The new structure violates the agreed-upon Scoping Order of the various morphological categories. Specifically, the category of Extension has been placed following Perspective and Context even though the latter categories have greater scope than Extension. The learner will have to remember that Extension precedes Perspective and Context in the morphological scoping order despite the order of the affixes. (2) The four ABSTRACT Perspective +Context forms are irregular and must be memorized separately (they are marked in red below).

Proposed C_A structure:

AFFILIATION		CONFIGURATION		PERSPECTIVE + CONTEXT						EXTENSION		ESSENCE
CSL	[zero] / l [1]	UNI	[zero]			EXS	FNC	RPS	AMG	DEL	[zero]	**NRM =** zero
ASO	s (l-) [2]	DPX	p	**M**	[zero]	k (f) [6]	p (f) [6]	t (f) [6]	PRX	l (lh) [7]	
VAR	m (ţ) [3]	DCT	t	**P**	s / z	sk / zg	sp / zb	st / zd	ICP	r	**RPV =** gemination of any single C_A con-
COA	n (ţ) [3] / ň [4]	AGG	k	**N**	š / ž	šk / žg	šp / žb	št / žd	ATV	w (lw) [7]	sonant as long as the
		SEG	b	**A**	b (f) [6]	g (f) [6]	m	n	GRA	y (ly) [7]	resulting form is
		CPN	d / ḍ [5]							DPL	ř	phonotactically
		COH	f	NOTE: All Configuration + Perspective combinations comprising a dental stop **t**- or **d**- plus a sibilant **s**-, **š**-, **z**- or **ž**-, become **c**-, **ż**-, **č**- and **j**- as phonologically expected.								permissible.
		CST	v									
		MLT	g									

[1] If all six categories are default-zero, then CSL is -**l**-; this geminates to -**ll**- if Essence is RPV. Otherwise, CSL is zero.

[2] ASO becomes **l**- if Perspective is POLYADIC or NOMIC (i.e., if the Perspective + Context consonant form begins with a sibilant fricative).

[3] The combinations VAR+UNI+RPS and COA+UNI+AMG   become **ţm**- and **ţn**- respectively in order to avoid the false geminate forms **m**+**m** and **n**+**n**.

[4] COA -**n**- becomes -**ň**- if immediately followed by -**f**-, -**p**- or -**b**- (as the combinations -**nf**-, -**np**, and -**nb**- are phonotactically impermissible).

[5] The alternate CPN form -**ḍ**- is optionally available for ease of pronunciation (e.g., VAR+CPN+A+FNC -**mḍg**- as an alternative to -**mdg**-).

[6] The alternate Perspective + Context consonant form -**f**- is used if the preceding Configuration is either DPX, DCT, AGG, SEG, or MLT, in order to avoid the false geminate forms **p**+**p**, **t**+**t**, **k**+**k**, **b**+**b**, and **g**+**g**.

[7] The Extension form in parenthesis is the stand-alone form when all other C_A categories are zero. The initial -**l**- of these forms is geminated for RPV Essence.