Kēlen torch

xiēn jē λi tānre jatāenamma;

iēlte ñi macēna maxōλa rā jatōna nō sū jatāna ōl; ñamma jacērja ja semme jasōri rēha ā λi tānre ma ñi malāmen;

temme ien la rixōλa ñe jajāra; la rirōña ñe mamōra mīña; sele jakīña ien ñi jatēnnīke ja pa liēr;

ē tema jāo mo macēna sasāra ī temme jamārienni ien la lerōña ñe mamōra mīña kēñ; sere jakīña ien ñi jatēnnīke ja pa liēr kēñ; kexien jahē lā; wā pa riēn ancē ja serle ien jasōra wījtē ja la lewēra lā; hi pa riēn ancē hi serle jāo cī;

temme ke λi tānre ien pa liēn ancē ja selre ien jasōra wījtē ja la riwēra;

temme ke macēna ien serle jāo kā;

temme ien pa ē matēnnīkōnēri ē matēnnīkōnēle ī le ancē ja sere jāo; serle jerrasōr ien jakēñ;

selre jerrasōr ien jāo;

ñamma jēste rā λi tānre sakīwa kiē ānen anxūna; ñamma jatāŋŋi ānen antānre il aþ ñi sanārme rā jatāna anhāri tā; ñamma jōrre ewaþ luhañen temme ke λi tānre ien sere jatañēn ien jāo kēñ;

se jatōrren;

GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

Relationals.

Kēlen is a verbless language. Instead, it has 4 relationals that govern the number of objects to expect and what they are in relation to each other.

The four relationals are LA, PA, NI, and SE.

LA expects one objects, and exerts the existence of that objects. Peripheral phrases in a LA clause add to the information about that objects. The present form of LA is **la**.

PA expects two object, and says the object 1 is a whole and object 2 is a part of object 1. This extends to object 2 being an attribute of object 1, and so object 2 is usually a stative noun. The only form of PA is **pa**. However, PA clauses can be rearranged into LA object 1 PA object 2.

NI expects one object, and says that something about that object has changed – either existence, state, or location. NI implies that there is an agent or cause of this change. When the agent is animate, NI inflects to agree with the agent, and can take an optional agent phrase that starts with **ā**. The usual form of NI is **ñi**, the inflected form is **ñ–**. Some sample

inflections:

–**alla**	1st person singular agent
–**arra**	2nd person singular agent
–**amma**	3rd person singular agent

SE expects one object and says that it has an optional source or point of origin and an optional goal, experiencer, or beneficiary. If either of these is animate, SE inflects for animate volitional source and animate goal. SE also has a past tense form. The forms of SE are **se** for standalone non-past, **s–** for inflected non-past, **te** for standalone past, and **t–** for inflected past. Animate, volitional source can be explicitly named with a phrase that starts with **ke** and animate goal/experiencer/beneficiary can be explicitly named with a phrase that starts with **mo**. Some inflections (source as columns, goal as rows):

	no src	1sg	2sg	3sg
no goal		–**alla**	–**arra**	–**amma**
1sg	–**ele**	–**eleñ**	–**erle**	–**emle**
2sg	–**ere**	–**elre**	–**ereñ**	–**emre**
3sg	–**ema**	–**elme**	–**erme**	–**emme**

Nouns.

Nouns can be animate, inanimate, or stative. Generally speaking, the animate prefix is **ma–**, the inanimate prefix is **ja–**, and the stative prefix is **an–**. Nouns can also be singular, plural, and collective. Singular nouns end in –**a** or –**e** or a consonant. Plural and collective nouns tend to end in –**i**.

Noun inflections:

	animate	inanimate	stative
singular	m(a)–N–(a|e)	j(a)–N–(a|e)	an–N–(a|e)
plural	m(a)–N–ien	j(a)–N–i	
collective	m(a)–N–i	an–N–i	

Stative nouns change their form to match the inflection of the noun they modify. Thus, nouns of the same inflection in juxtaposition refer to the same thing. Otherwise, nouns of differing inflections in juxtaposition refer to different things, generally in a whole::part or thing::attribute relationship.

Possession and Association.

There are multiple kinds of possession and association. The most common kind is a set of prefixes on certain inanimate nouns, usually body parts, to denote intrinsic possession. Sometimes non-body-parts will appear with this sort of possession as well. These possessed nouns are considered to be the equivalent of inanimate singular nouns for inflectional purposes. The prefixes are l(e)- for 1st person possession, r(i)- for 2nd person possession, and s(a)- for 3rd person possession. Animate nouns never carry this type of possession.

A second type of possession is a set of suffixes added to inanimate nouns. These are -nle for 1st person possession, -nrie for 2nd person possession, and -mma for 3rd person possession.

A third type of possession, generally appearing on animate nouns consists of the following suffixes: -ēle for 1st person possession, -ēri for 2nd person possession, and -ēma for 3rd person possession.

Word Order.

(CLMOD) RELATIONAL NP (NP) (MOOD)

CLMOD are clause-level modifiers. These generally come at either end of a clause. They can include tense and aspect markers, interjections, and other items. MOOD are mood markers, including exclamatory, interrogative, imperative, hortative, and prohibitive. CONJ are conjunctions of various sorts. These can connect phrases and clauses and some are coordinating, so that they appear before each item coordinated. PREP are prepositions and MOD are post-positional modifiers. PN are pronouns.

Vocabulary.

ānen	PREP	*this together with a stative noun creates a clause-level modifier.*
-cē-	N	ability
-cēn-	N	woman, female person
-cērj-	N	decision, choice
cī	MOOD	*exhortative mood marker also used in polite imperatives.*
ē	CONJ	and
-errasōr-	N	reply
-ēst-	N	knife
ewaþ	CONJ	but, yet
-hār-	N	water
hi	CONJ	if, then

ī	CONJ	and, also
iēlte	CLMOD	once upon a time
ien	PN	*relativizes the object of SE. Also used as a quotation marker.*
il aþ	CONJ	and then
–īñ–	N	small, little
ja	PN	*relativizes inanimate and stative nouns.*
ja–	PN	*inanimate prefix for interrogative marker.*
jahē	CLMOD	yes
jāo	PN	this, that, *an abstract pronoun.*
–jār–	N	dance, dancing
kā	MOOD	*imperative mood marker*
kēñ	MOOD	*interrogative mood marker*
kexien	CLMOD	of course
kiē	MOD	beyond, through, the other side
–kīñ–	N	wish, want
–kīw–	N	skin
lā	MOOD	*exclamatory mood marker.*
–lāmen–	N	hidden, unseen
le	PN	*1ˢᵗ person pronoun.*
liēn	PN	*1ˢᵗ person singular pronoun.*
liēr	PN	*1ˢᵗ person inclusive dual pronoun.*
luhañen	CLMOD	continuing, still, *iterative or habitual marker.*
λi	PREP	*marks a proper name.*
ma	PN	*relativizes an animate noun.*
–mārienn–	N	laughter
–mōr–	N	moon
–nārm–	N	body
nō	MOD	along, near
ñe	CONJ	like, as
ōl	MOD	on, above, over, top

–ōrr–	N	stop
rā	PREP	to, towards
rēha	CLMOD	*future marker.*
riēn	PN	*2ⁿᵈ person singular pronoun*
–rōñ–	N	eye, eyes
–sār–	N	ear, ears
–sōr–	N	word
sū	PREP	at, on, in
tā	MOD	down, under, underneath, bottom
–tañēn–	N	liking, pleasure, enjoyment
–tāen–	N	story, tale
–tān–	N	river, one that is not navigable
–tānr–	N	a wild animal renowned for its swiftness; quick, swift
–tāŋŋ–	N	puncture, hole
–tēnnīk–	N	a ceremony of joining, such as marriage or adoption
–tēnnīkōn–	N	a partner in a ceremony of joining
–tōn–	N	road
–tōrren–	N	finish, end, stop
wā	CLMOD	*a negative marker*
–wēr–	N	name
wījtē	MOD	three
xiēn jē	PREP	concerning, about
–xōλ–	N	pretty, beautiful
–xūn–	N	repeating pattern, repetition, repetitious