A tengwar mode for the dialect of Berne

A resume

by "Mach" J. Wust, December 27th 2003

1. Introduction

The dialect of Berne is spoken in the lower part of the canton of Berne, Switzerland. It belongs within the southern german high-allemanic dialects.

There are two things about this mode that I consider could be interesting:

–   It shows a way of transcribing a language with a rich vowel system characterized by four grades of opening, not only three, and by the opposition between unrounded and rounded front vowels (it's similar to the French vowel system).

–   It shows a way of transcribing a language with a consonant system characterized by the opposition between long and short consonants rather than between voiceless and voiced consonants.

2. Consonants

	I	II	III	IV
sign / **sound** / **ex.**	/t/ 'dammage' /ʃatə/	/p/ 'seven' /sɪpə/		/k/ 'lay' /lekə/
sign / **sound** / **ex.**	/tː/ 'shadow' /ʃatːə/	/pː/ 'lip' /lɪpːə/		/kː/ 'corner' /ekːə/
sign / **sound** / **ex.**	/s/ 'broom' /bæsə/	/f/ 'stove' /ofə/	/ʃ/ 'Ernest' /aʃi/	/x/ 'downwards' /axə/
sign / **sound** / **ex.**	/sː/ 'eat' /æsːə/	/fː/ 'open' /ofːə/	/ʃː/ 'ash' /æʃːə/	/xː/ 'laugh' /laxːə/
sign / **sound** / **ex.**	/tːʰ/ 'a tea' /ətːeː/	/pːʰ/ 'I keep' /ipːʰawtːə/		/kːʰ/ 'I fall' /ikːʰejːə/
sign / **sound** / **ex.**	/ts/[1] 'now' /ɪtsə/	/pf/[2] 'apple' /øpfu/	/tʃ/[2] 'chewing gum' /xætʃi/	/kx/[2] 'neck' /ækxə/
sign / **sound** / **ex.**	/nː/ 'inside' /tɪnːə/	/mː/ 'always' /ɪmːr/	/ŋː/[1]	/ŋː/ 'amount' /mæŋːi/
sign / **sound** / **ex.**	/n/ 'inside' /inə/	/m/ 'only' /nʊmə/		/ŋ/ 'fear' /aŋʃt/

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[1]   Since aspirated short plosives occur very seldom, I'v decided to use this line for the affricates.

Additional letters:

sign	ᘛ		ᘝ	ᘞ
sound	/r/ 'car'		/l/ 'fetch'	/l:/ 'all'
ex.	/xarə/		/holə/	/al:i/
sign	λ		λ	o
sound	/h/ 'trousers'		/j(:)/[2] 'eggs'	/v/ 'how'
ex.	/hosə/		/ej:r/	/wiə̯/
sign	ᘗ	c		
sound	/w(:)/[3] 'all'	/ə/ 'here'		
ex.	/aw:i/	/hiə̯/		

3. Vowels

Short (checked) vowels

		unrounded front vowels	rounded front vowels	back vowels
high	sign			
	sound	/i/ 'time'	/y/ 'people'	/u/ 'kick'
	ex.	/tsit:/	/lyt:/	/ʃut:/
mid-high	sign			
	sound	/ɪ/ 'gives'	/ʏ/ 'today'	/ʊ/ 'naked'
	ex.	/kɪt:/	/hʏt:/	/plʊt:/
mid-low	sign			
	sound	/e/ 'bed'	/ø/ 'should'	/o/ 'god'
	ex.	/pet:/	/søt:/	/kot:/
low	sign			
	sound	/æ/ 'loam'		/a/ 'town'
	ex.	/læt:/		/ʃtat:/

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[2]   The length of these sounds depends on the environment: Long between two vowels, short elsewhere.

Long vowels

		unrounded front vowels	rounded front vowels	back vowels
high	sign			
	sound	/ɪː/ 'white'	/yː/ 'naught'	/uː/ 'mood'
	ex.	/viːsː/	/nyːtː/	/luːn/
mid-high	sign			
	sound	/ɪː/ 'victory'	/ʏː/ 'door'	/ʊː/ 'son'
	ex.	/sɪːk/	/tʏːrə/	/sʊːn/
mid-low	sign			
	sound	/eː/ 'speech'	/øː/ 'go' (2nd pl.)	/oː/ 'boat'
	ex.	/reːt/	/køːtː/	/poːtː/
low	sign			
	sound	/æː/ 'give' (2nd pl.)		/aː/ 'lets'
	ex.	/kæːtː/		/laːtː/

Weak vowels

These vowels occur in unstressed syllables.

/ə/   /apə/ 'downwards'

/i/   /mɪtːi/ 'middle'

/u/   /hɪmu/ 'heaven'

/a/   /anːa/ 'Ann'

Initial schwa is written withouth the dot:

/əmaː/ 'a man'   /ərhawtːə/ 'receive'

Diphthongs

c -/ə̯/   **pc̓d** /puə̯x/ 'book'; **λc̓** /hiə̯/ (hier)

λ -/j/   **pλ́** /pej/ 'leg'; **pyj̧λ** /træːjə/ 'turn'; **ɗλ́** /kːʰejːə/ 'fall'

Ϩ -/w/   **λϨ̇þ** /howts/ 'wood'; **pϭj̇Ϩ** /plaːw/ 'blue'; **λϨ̇** /howːə/ 'hew';

         qϨ̃p /kʊwt/ 'gold'

Triphthongs

The first two sounds of a diphthong are written the same way as a diphthong, the third is written as if it were a weak vowel (see above)

pc̨ /myə̯j/ 'trouble'; **dc̨** /ʃuə̯w/ 'school'; **qc̨** /kiə̯w/ 'boy'

4. Abbreviations

p̃Ϩ [3] Prenasalization:
     p̃̇ /ænti/ 'end'; **p̃̇ϭ** /ampːlə/ (Ampel), **q̃̈** /aŋkxə/ 'butter'

pϩ Following *s*:
     pϩc̓d /psuə̯x/ 'visit'; **qȷ́** /kseː/ 'see'; **qϩ̈** /kans/ 'goose'

pϭϭ Postnasalization:
     pϭϭ̈ /tːnasə/ 'the nose'; **λϭ̈** /hepːmi/ 'has me'; **ϭp̈** /latnə/ 'carry him'

5. Sources

The tengwar fonts I've used are TengwarSindarin.ttf and TengwarSindarinAlt.ttf (version 1.9e) from Dan Smith.

Main source: LR, app. E.
Mellonath Daeron Index of Tengwar Specimina:
     http://www.forodrim.org/daeron/mdtci.html

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[3]   As the *tehtar* need to accompany another letter, I've chosen any letter and marked it blue.

DTS 16 - Elvish Script Sample I; DTS 17 - Elvish Script Sample II; DTS 18 - Elvish Script Sample III; DTS 23 - So Lúthien; DTS 39 - Doodled Headlines; DTS 41 - Envelope Doodles; DTS 49 -

King's Letter, Third Version; DTS 50 - Edwin Lowdham's Manuscript, Text I

Endorion Dedication reported by Danny Andriës:
    http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elfscript/message/2424
    http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elfscript/message/2498

Per Lindbergs: *Att skriva svenska med tengwar*, after all the part of 'Findegil' Björn Fromén:
    http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elfscript/message/1533

Florian 'Lothenon' Dombach + me: German mode.
    http://dombach.florian.bei.t-online.de/schrift/deutschloth.htm

6. Author

This document has been written by "Mach Hezan" J. Wust on December 27th of 2003. Its only intention is to spread the knowledge on tengwar. If you have comments, you may contact me at:

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