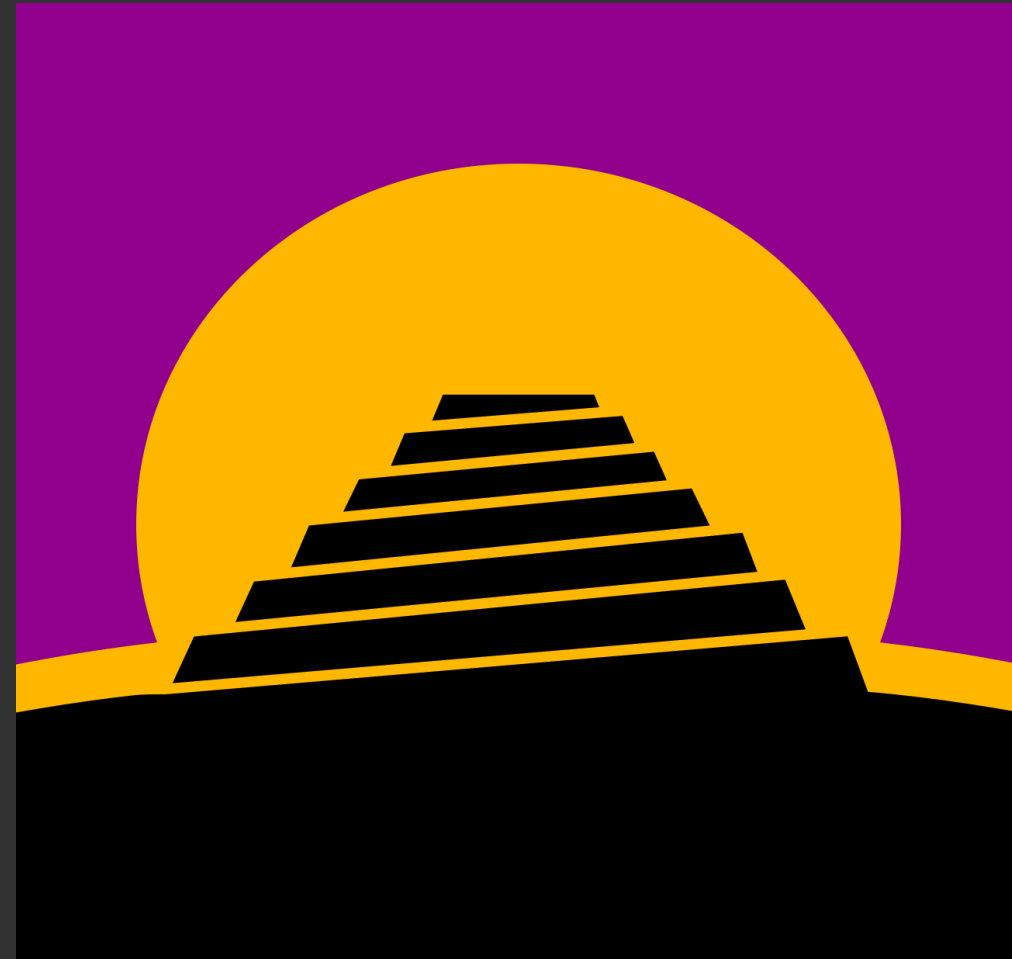# CONLANGING
FEAT. «LEM LE KI NU»

Greyson Yandt

Spoiler alert—it's more like «lem le ki nu» feat. conlanging
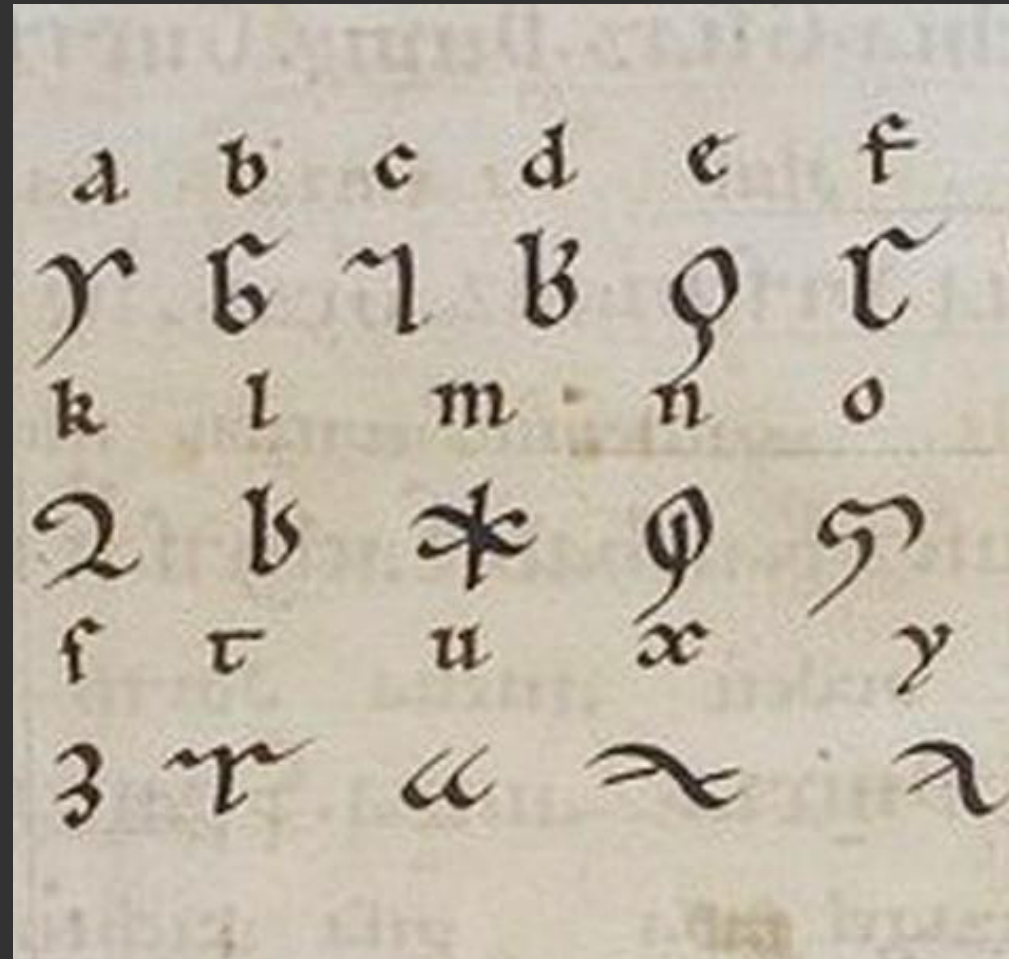
WHAT ARE AND AREN'T CONLANGS?

- Conlangs are <u>con</u>structed <u>lang</u>uages
  - Klingon, Quenya, Dothraki, Toki Pona

- Natlangs are <u>nat</u>ural <u>lang</u>uages
  - English, Spanish, Japanese, Swahili

- Auxlangs are <u>aux</u>iliary <u>lang</u>uages
  - Esperanto, Interlingua, Ido, Volapük

- They are not "fake languages" or "codes" or "jargon"
  - "Do not call a conlang a fake language. Those who do only make themselves look foolish." — David J. Peterson, creator of Dothraki, Shiväisith, etc.

BRIEF HISTORY OF CONLANGING

- Some conlangs from Okrent's list
  - #1 is Lingua Ignota (Hildegard von Bingen) circa 1150
  - #10 is Universal Language (Isaac Newton) circa 1661
  - #84 is Esperanto (Ludwik Lejzer Zamenhof) in 1887
  - #492 is Toki Pona (Sonja Lang) in 2001
- Current events
  - Copyright battle over ownership and fair use of Klingon
  - The 8th Language Creation Conference in June 2019

WHAT IS «LEM LE KI NU»?

- My very own language, of course!

- It means 'language made by Leki'

- The guillemets (« and ») mark my language—anything between « » means something in «lem le ki nu»

- It is *super* unfinished!
  - For a conlang, *unfinished* just means that it's not where I want it to be yet

- I've been working on it *forever*!
  - That's because it's gone through so many iterations, and my world changed when I started studying linguistics

- Main features of «lem le ki nu»
  - Contains 11-ish consonant sounds
  - And 5-ish vowel sounds
  - Original featural alphabet
  - Uses IAL ideals for ease of use
  - Completely *a priori* vocabulary
  - Built alongside a conculture*

- Inspirations for «lem le ki nu»:
  - J. R. R. Tolkien
  - My opinion on English's problems
  - Hebrew, Korean, Laiholh, etc.
  - «les han»

*Coming "soon"!

SOUNDS OF «LEM LE KI NU»

	Labial	Coronal	Dorsal	Laryngeal
Nasal	m	n		
Plosive	p	t	k	(ʔ)
Fricative	f	s		
Approximant	w		j*	
Liquid		l		
Transition				h

*Written «y».

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Mid	e	(ə)	o
Open		a	

SYSTEMS OF «LEM LE KI NU»

- $C_1(C_2)V(C_3)$ syllable structure
  - C_1 can be any consonant
  - C_2 can be /w, y, l/
    - C_2 cannot follow /w, y, l/
  - V can be any vowel
  - C_3 can be /m, n, l/

	singular	plural
first	«pe»	«we»*
second	«te»	«le»
third	«ke»	«ye»

*The plural first person «we» is exclusive by default ('we but not you'), so you have to use «wate» to make it inclusive ('we and you') or «pate» to make it dual ('you and I').

- Final vowels show part of speech!
  - «a» cannot be the final vowel
  - «e» is for nouns and pronouns
  - «o» is for verbs
  - «i» is for adjectives, adverbs, and determiners
  - «u» is for postpositions, conjunctions, particles, pro-sentences, etc.

- Tenseless and mostly SVO word order

- Can be written with h-system†
  - «lemlehkihnuh» is unambiguous
  - «lemlekinu» could be «le mle ki nu»

†Great for hashtags #lemlehkihnuh

ORTHOGRAPHY OF «LEM LE KI NU»

		«m	n	p	t	k	f	s	l	w	y	h»		田
#	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	X	E		10
	«hu	mum	nun	pul	tum	kun	ful	sum	lun	wul	yum	hun		tlul»

«a	e	i	o	u»

«pa	pam	pwa	pwam»

- Inspired by Hangul (Korean alphabet)
- Duodecimal number system
  - And the numbers are just letters!
- Each letter is made out of 田

- Featural writing system
  - Glyphs represent vocal tract
  - Lines represent articulators
- Usually written in syllable blocks

EXAMPLES OF «LEM LE KI NU»

(a)	ᄃᄅ ᄐᆯ ᄑᆖ		
(b)	«pe	pom	te»
(c)	/pe	pom	te/
(d)	1SG	to.love.IND	2SG
(e)	'I love you'		

(a)	ᄐᆖ ᄎᆞ ᄂᆖ ᄐᆖ			
(b)	«lem	le	ki	nu»
(c)	/lem	le	ki	nu/
(d)	language	Leki		made.by
(e)	'language made by Leki'			

- What does it all mean?
  - (a) is the orthography
  - (b) is the romanization
  - (c) is a broad phonetic transcription
  - (d) is Leipzig glossing
  - (e) is the translated meaning

- "How do I say ____ in «lem le ki nu»?"
  - Right now, I probably don't know

- "Surely, you have a way to say 'hello'"
  - No, but I could make something up!

- Updated on greyson.conlang.org

CONLANGING RESOURCES

Beginner Resources

- *In the Land of Invented Languages*
  - by Arika Okrent
- *The Art of Language Invention*
  - by David J. Peterson
- *The Language Construction Kit*
  - by Mark Rosenfelder
- PolyGlot Language Construction
- The Conlang wikibook
- /r/conlangs/wiki/resources

Useful for Conlangers

- /r/conlangs
- World Atlas of Language Structure
- Conlang Atlas of Language Structure
- Grammars of specific languages
  - *A Gateway to Sindarin*
    - by David Salo
- Lexique Pro
- More linguistics classes
  - Just get a degree in linguistics!