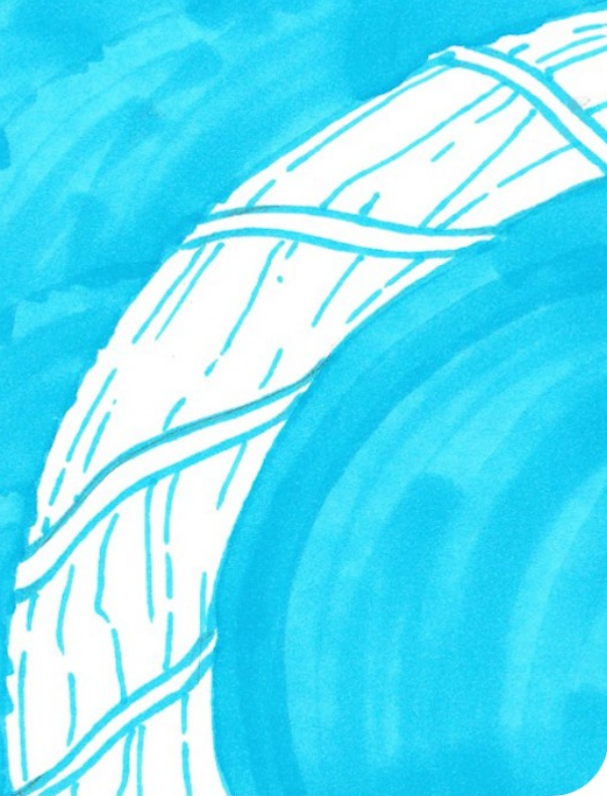


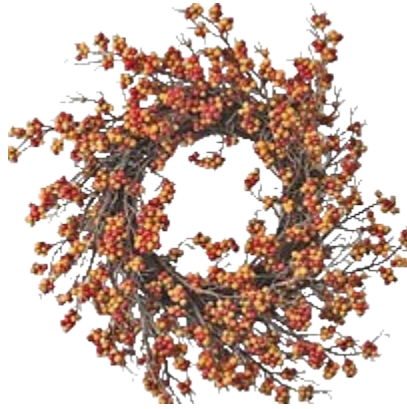
CONLANG

Rachel's

Láadan

The feminist language : Reader





Láadan Reader 1

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Last updated 2019-09-23

Omá i Bedihá

The teacher & the student

Bíi omá le wa.

I am a teacher.

Bíi om le wa.

I am teaching.

Bíi ma bedihá wa.

The student listens.

Bíi bedi bedihá wa.

The student learns.

Vocabulary

Bíi speech act morpheme; "I declare..."

Bedi to learn

Le I, me

Om to teach

Wa evidence morpheme; "I have perceived it."

Bedihá student

ma to listen

Omá teacher

-á suffix; "doer"

Woshane worul Furry cat

Báa híya rul?

Is the cat small?

Ra, bíi híya ra rul wi.

No, the cat is not small.

Báa rahíya rul?

Is the cat big?

Em, bíi rahíya rul wi.

Yes, the cat is big.

Báa shane rul?

Is the cat furry?

Em, bíi shane rul wi.

Yes, the cat is furry.

Bíi rahíya rul wi.

The cat is big.

Bíi shane rul wi.

The cat is furry.

Bíi rahíya i shane rul wi.

The cat is big and furry.

Bíi worahíya, woshane worul be wi.

It is a big, furry cat.



Vocabulary

Báa speech act morpheme; "I ask a question..."

Wi evidence morpheme; "It is self-evident."

Em Yes

Ra No, not. As a prefix, can also negate words.

Híya Small

Rahíya Big

Shane Furry

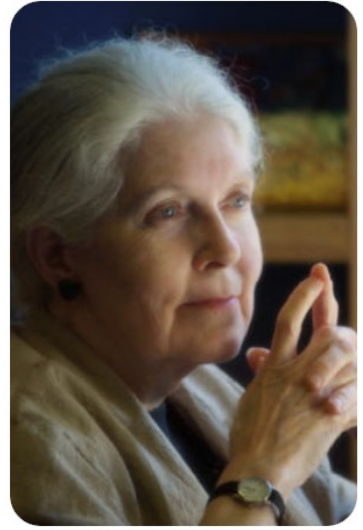
Rul Cat

Be Third person singular; He/she/it/they (singular)

Wo- Adjective prefix, add to adjective AND noun.
(woshane worul = Furry cat)

What is Láadan?

Láadan is a language that was constructed in 1982 by Suzette Haden Elgin, a science fiction author, self-help author, feminist, and linguist. She built Láadan to explore the idea of an “undefinable other reality” that we have no vocabulary for. As a science fiction author, she knew of stories that were “Matriarchies” and “Androgynous” presented as an alternative to our traditionally Patriarchal society, but she wondered about some third alternative, where it wasn’t a fight between men vs. women for power, but something else completely.



This as well as her own personal experiences with using language for human communication, her perceived difficulties that women experience trying to express themselves with certain limitations (how to more easily describe concepts that are common among women but have no terms, how men react to the language women use and write off concerns, etc.), this caused her to think about a language by and for women.

Láadan went along hand-in-hand with her Native Tongue series of books. In the book series, a group of women who are sent to the “Barren House” once no longer useful to their society end up creating Láadan in secret. In reality, Suzette created Láadan as an experiment, curious whether women would become interested in it, or at least inspire women to build a better language.

Klingon and Láadan were both created in the 1980s. After ten years passed, Láadan did not gain much popularity, and Suzette saw the Klingon language being more widely adopted as... well, it was something. She declared the Láadan experiment a failure.

Rachel's Thoughts

I think that the concept of Láadan is easier to portray to those who have grown up queer and sheltered like me. For people from my generation and before, if you're not quite the same as others – whether sexuality-wise or gender-wise – it feels alienating. And, without that community, you aren't aware of the words that exist to describe your experience (Dysphoria, Asexuality, etc.) In this case, we can see that there was clearly a lack of vocabulary to describe our experiences, but it has since been created and a community built up.

Likewise, some words in Láadan help describe certain experiences that all people have, though its emphasis as a woman's language is in how it tries to be more soft, perceptive, and in-tune with feelings. Of course, people of all genders can use and appreciate this language if they are interested; Suzette never meant for it to be “just for women” even if she created it for women. Similarly, so many movies are made with male leads but meant for everybody, while we still assume movies with a female lead are often movies “for women”. Something made for women can still be for everybody.

In a comparison between Klingon vs. Láadan, I think you would have to compare how they were presented and backed – Klingon had a television show it belonged to, and with the TV show came merchandise to popularize Klingon characters and keep it alive long-term. Suzette had a series of three novels and purposely did not try to market it in such a way.

On the downsides of Láadan, I have to mention the lack of queer vocabulary. This can be remedied, but it is not something that I am comfortable doing myself and I would like to have more people join my efforts in working with Láadan, so that we may expand the dictionary to cover more perceptions and experiences.

Belidéthe

Housecleaning

Báa eril éthe ne belideth?
Did you clean the house?



Em. Bíi eril éthe le wa.
Yes, I cleaned.



Bíi éthe ra belid wa.
The house is not clean.



Mudahéthe belid.
The house is a pigsty!



Bóo ril éthe ne belideth.
Please clean the house now.



Bé aril éthe le.
Promise I'll clean later.





Vocabulary

- Bóo speech act morpheme; "I request..."
Bé speech act morpheme; "I promise..."
EriI Past
Ril Present, Now
AriI Future, Later
Éthe Clean, to clean
Ne you
Le me, I
Belid House
-th, -eth Object marker
Muda Pig
Mudahéthe Pig-clean; not actually clean

Sháal Days

Rayilesháal
Above day
Friday

Hunesháal
North day
Wednesday

Honesháal
West day
Tuesday

Hathamesháal
Centerday
Sunday

Henesháal
East day
Monday

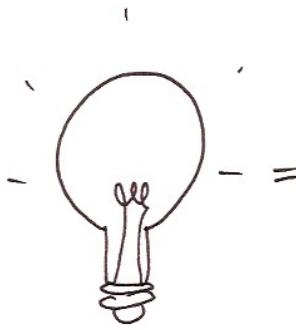
Hanesháal
South day
Thursday

Yilesháal
Below day
Saturday



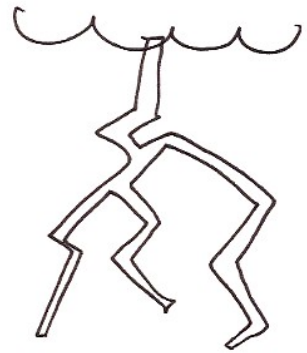
ezha
snake

+



ith
light

=



ezhahith
lightning bolt



Zho
Sound

+



rumi
Shadow

=

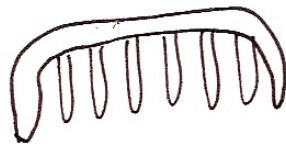


Zhorumi
echo



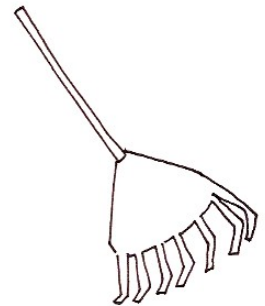
hesh
grass

+



don
comb

=



heshedon
rake

Yobehoth Café

Bíi aril sháad le
yobehothedi.
I will go to the
Café.

Báa néde sháad
ne núndi?
Do you want to
go there?



Em, bíi
néde le
yobeth wa!

Sure, I
want a
Coffee!

Bé aril
merilin
lezh
yobeth!
wéll drink
Coffee!



Bóo ril
mesháad
lezh nude!
let's go!

Vocabulary

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Sháad | To come/To go |
| -di, -edi | Goal marker; "go <u>TO</u> xyz" |
| -de, -ede | Source marker; "come <u>FROM</u> xyz" |
| Ne | you |
| Néde | to want |
| Núu | there |
| Nu | here |
| Le | Me, I (first person singular) |
| Lezh | We (first person plural, 2-5 people) |
| Rilin | to drink |
| Me- | Plural marker; goes on verb <u>only</u> |
| yob | Coffee |
| -th, -eth | Object marker |
| -hoth | Location, place |
| | yob + hoth => yobehoth = coffee place |



Other resources for learning Láadan

Grammar

The Láadan Wikibook

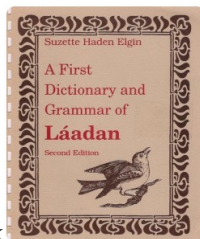
<https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/L%C3%A1adan>

This is a grammar book that I compiled (and others are welcome to edit with additional information.) I update it whenever I learn something new, or if I'm reading through it and find an error. It contains most of the grammar of Láadan, as well as a quick reference page and word lists.

A First Dictionary and Grammar of Láadan

by Suzette Haden Elgin

Archived at archive.ayadanconlangs.com



This is the original grammar book and dictionary by the creator of Láadan. However, it was published in the 80s and finding a print copy is *really expensive*. I have archived a scan of the book on my website for others to access.

Amberwind's Láadan Lessons

Archived at archive.ayadanconlangs.com

A very in-depth set of lessons over Láadan, though unfortunately the original website has sense gone down. I also have this archived on the Áya Dan page.

Dictionaries

You can find the English ↔ Láadan dictionary up on the official Láadan website, <https://laadanlanguage.wordpress.com/>

I have also built a quick-search web dictionary and an Android dictionary. The web dictionary is at **tools.ayadanconlangs.com** and the app is on the Google Play Store – just look up Moosader.

There is also a Láadan → Spanish translation of the dictionary, translated by my good friend Tea. You can find it at **data.ayadanconlangs.com**.

Communities

You can find blogs in/about Láadan on Tumblr by searching for that keyword. There was also a group for Láadan on LiveJournal, though it is no longer active.

There is a Facebook group where I think that most Láadan fans are at, at **facebook.com/groups/1510434509169558** (Just search for “Laadan”), and I also run a Discord server where you can find other people (maybe) to chat with, including myself. More information on that is at **laadan.ayadanconlangs.com**.

I also have a message board set up at **ayadanconlangs.com/forums**, but message boards are not very active these days. :P

Áya Dan YouTube channel

I also have a YouTube channel dedicated to conlangs. I try to get guests to join in and post things (it can be about any conlang), but I also post a lot of my own original work there. You can find it at **youtube.com/ayadanconlangs**.



...And if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me!

Email: Rachel@Moosader.com

Twitter: @Moosader

Mastodon: mastodon.at/@rejcX

Raháana AWAKE

Bíi duháana le wa.
I am trying to sleep.

Izh, thad ra le.
But, I cannot.

Eril dóraháana rul leth.
The cat woke me up.

Eril sháad le dahanede.
I left the bed.

Eril ban le yodeth ruledi.
I gave food to the cat.

Izh ril nádelishe be.
But she continues to cry.

NÉDE ÁANA LE.
I WANT TO SLEEP.

Vocabulary

Du-, Duh- prefix; to try to ...

Áana Sleep

Izh But

Thad To be able to ...

Ra No, not

Ná- To continue to ...

Néde To want ...

Dó- To cause (object) to ...



Duration markers

Na- To start to ...

Ná- To continue to ...

Ne- To repeatedly ...

No- To finish ...

Nó- To cease to ...

Óowamid dragon

Báa dush lezh miwithedi
bethudemu obe?

Do we have to go to the
town through the cave?



Em.
yep.



Bíi héeya le wa...
I'm afraid...

Báa habelid
óowamid
nuha?

Does a dragon
live here?

Bii lothel ra le.
I don't know.



Bóo mesháad lezh núudi!
Let's go over there!

Uháa-!
Aaah!



Thadorbe!
It's Trogdor!



ÓOWA!

Vocabulary

Dush To have to, must, should

Miwith Town, City

-di, -edi Goal marker

Bethud Cave

-mu, -emu Path marker

Obe Through

Héeya To be afraid

Habelid To inhabit

Óowa Fire

Mid Animal

Óowamid Dragon

Nu Here

-ha Location marker (in space)

Nún There

Me- Plural marker

Uháa (unofficial) Aah!

Thador (unofficial) Trogdor

(óobe = along
yil = under
mesh = across
rayil = over)

(-ya is a
location in time.)



Láadan mysteries

The Old Láadanists

Once upon a time, there was a Láadan community active on LiveJournal. This included Suzette, prior to her passing away. However, this group is inactive, and honestly I don't know who any of those members *are*. It's like there's a whole other generation of Láadanists that are completely cut off from "my generation" of Láadanists (basically, people learning in the mid-late-2010s). Who are these people? Do they still think about Láadan or participate in groups elsewhere? I would like to talk to them and learn more about Láadan's history, so long as they're not TERFs.

The Láadan Tapes

In the back of the First Dictionary book there is a mailing address to request a copy of the audiotapes to go along with the book, to help you learn pronunciation and such. I do not know where to buy or obtain copies for myself or for archive purposes. The only person I know with these tapes is William Annis, who posted a short clip of one of the tapes on his website here:

lingweenie.org/conlang/laadan.html

Publishing Rights

I first purchased the First Dictionary and Grammar of LD when it was \$70. Now when you look online, it's hundreds of dollars. I cannot get hold of the original publishers or Suzette's surviving husband, and I would like permission to get the book published (maybe as a Publish On Demand service). I will literally buy those rights and release it as public domain or creative commons if the opportunity arises.

A First Dictionary and Grammar of L'Aadan
by Suzette Haden Elgin | Mar 1, 1988

Plastic Comb

More Buying Choices
\$793.49 (4 used offers)

New word suggestions

Láadan was created in the 1980s, so it does have words for Computer, HAM Radio, and Computer Program, but it certainly did not have words created for Internet and the like. Here are list of tech terms, with my suggestions for new words...

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| Computer | Shinehal shin = 2, hal = work | (official) |
| Line (on a surface, or of a computer program) | Bod | (official) |
| Program | Bodibod | (official) |
| Internet | Therashenidal thera = Earth, shinedal = Network | (unofficial) |
| Electronic | Shinith shin = 2, ith = light | (unofficial) |
| Computer game | Shinehaleshida shinehal = computer, shida = game | (unofficial) |
| Mail | Melimedi mel = paper, im = travel, di = talk | (unofficial) |
| Email | Shinithimedi shinith = electronic, im = travel, di = talk | (unofficial) |

Words needed!

Of all of the LGBTQIA+ vocabulary, there only exists an official word for “Lesbian” in Láadan: Lushimá. There are plenty more queer words that are needed, but I can really only speak to my own experiences (nonbinary, asexual). If anyone is interested in learning about Láadan, and wants to derive new words for *their* experiences, please let me know!

Hathóol

Months in Láadan

Rachel Singh

January / Alel

A-lel wo-ne-de-ya wo-ha thóol A-ril me-ha-me-da-ra lel mela-ha

The musical score for January / Alel is written in 4/4 time. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a simple chordal accompaniment in the left hand.

5 February / Ayáanin

A-yáa - nin wo-shi-ne-ya wohá-thóol A-ril me-ná - wí yáa - nin

The musical score for February / Ayáanin is written in 4/4 time. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a simple chordal accompaniment in the left hand.

9 March / Ahesh

A-hesh wo-boó-he-ya wo-ha - thóol A-ril-me-na-hin hesh li - yen

The musical score for March / Ahesh is written in 4/4 time. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a simple chordal accompaniment in the left hand.

13 April / Athil

A-thil wo-bi-me-ya wo-ha - thóol A - ril me-wi-dom ... thilbeth - eth

17 May / Amahina

A-ma-hi-na wo-sha-ne-ya woha-thóol A-ril me-li-ri ma-hi-na - ..a

21 June / Athesh

A-thesh wo - ba - the - ya wo - ha - thóol A - ril me-buthlezh wo - ha - ba

24 July / Ameda

wothesheth A - me - da wo - hu - me - ya wo - hathóol

27

August / Adaletham

A-ril meróo lezh a-me-da - th A-da-letham wo-ni-be-ya wohathóol

31

September / Ahede

A-ril el lezh thizheth da-le - thame nan A-he-de wo-bu-de-ya wo - hathóol

35

October / Ayu

A-ril el lezh ba-leth he-de - nan A-yu wo-tha-be-ya wo-ha - thóol

39

November / Athon

A-ril el lezh ébeth yu-nan ... Athon wo-ne-de-tha-be-ya wohathóol

43 December / Adol

A - ril me - ba - ni - bellezhthon - eth A - dol wo - shi - ne - tha - be - ya wohathóol

47

A - ril ru - mad dol hi - she - wáan ...

Alel wonedeya wohathóol,
 The first month is January (seaweed month),
Aril mehamedara lel melaha.
 The seaweed will dance in the sea.

Ayáanin woshineya wohathóol,
 The second month is February (Tree Month),
Aril menáwí yáanin.
 The trees will grow.

Ahesh wobooheya wohathóol,
The third month is March (Grass Month),
Arii ~~mena~~ menahin hesh liyen.
The grass will become green.

Athil wobimeya wohathóol,
The fourth month is April (Vine Month),
Arii mewidom thil betheth.
The vines will hold the home.

Amahina woshaneya wohathóol,
The fifth month is May (Flower Month),
Arii meliri mahina.
The flowers will be colorful.

Athesh wobatheya wohathóol,
The sixth month is June (Herb Month),
Arii mebuth lezh wohaba wotheseth.
We will gather the fragrant herbs.

Ameda wohumeya wohathóol,
The seventh month is July (Vegetable Month),
Arii meróo lezh amedath.
We will harvest the vegetables.

Adaletham wonibeya wohathóol,
The eighth month is August (Berry Month),
Ari el lezh thizheth dalethamenan.
We will make pie from the berries.

Ahede wobudeya wohathóol,
The ninth month is September (Grain Month),
Ari el lezh baleth hedenan.
We will make bread from the grain.

Ayu wothabeya wohathóol,
The tenth month is October (Fruit Month),
Ari el lezh éebeth yunan.
We will make juice from the fruit.

Athon wonedethabeya wohathóol,
The eleventh month is November (Seed Month),
Ari memadoni lezh thoneth.
We will plant the seeds.

Adol woshinethabeya wohathóol,
The twelfth month is December (Root Month),
Ari rumad dol hishewáan.
The roots will hide from the snow.

