

**Arestada of the
Committee for the Use of the Talossan Language**

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**PREFACE BY HIS MAJESTY JOHN,
KING OF TALOSSA, PATRON OF THE COMMITTEE**

My fellow Talossans, and *Ladintschen* everywhere –

The average layman hasn't the slightest clue just how much beer goes into the development of a language.

John, King of Talossa
Centennial, Colorado
6 December 2010/xxxi

STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

The resolutions of this Arestada represent the study, use, and expansion of the language since the Arestada of 12 December 2007. As Committee members researched and exercised the vocabulary, constructions, and spoken expression of Talossan, some new understandings, reflected in these resolutions, came to light.

Shortcomings of the 2007 stress rule included the fact that marking final syllables that, to a fluent Talossan mind, are naturally strong (such as *ospréi* = ‘after’, and *spicarái* = ‘grocery’) seemed unnecessary. Additionally, the requirement to mark stress on words such as *pártis* (plural of the unmarked *parti* = ‘party’) and *Llimbaziúa* (= ‘Language Day’) also pointed to flaws in the 2007 stress rule. Detailed analysis of Talossan words and stress has led to the adoption of the rule of stress contained in Resolution 1.1 of the current Arestada. Under the adopted stress rule, syllabic stress on the example words given above is properly placed without being marked as irregular (that is, *osprei*, *spicarai*, *partis*, *Llimbaziua*).

Study of vocabulary by the Committee also led to the adjustments in marked stress adopted in Resolution 1.2. Such changes include the correction of stress and pronunciation of some common infinitive and present participle verb forms and affixes. One affix in particular, **-osis**, is restored to pre-2007 form due to the modification of the stress rule. The shifting of stress in certain singular words when pluralised by **-en** or **-ilor** is also formally described, a result of analysis of the underlying pattern of Talossan stress. Retention of stress as expressed in the singular on all other regular plurals is now formally specified, with indication of resulting irregular stress (necessary in extremely limited cases) mandated.

Description of the rich set of articles in the language led to their reclassification, as reflected in resolutions adopted in section 2 of this Arestada. The Committee also specifies the condition of sufficient introduction of the Talossan noun, a linguistic feature that had not been formally defined by extant earlier grammars or Arestadas. The two distinct forms of the indefinite article (*iens* and *ün*) are now recognised as separate cases, and exclusive use of each is mandated for specific words.

Investigations into extant text and unmistakable tendencies in fluent speech led to the formalisation by the Committee of the system of consonant mutation, which had never before been quite fully understood and explained. As detailed in the resolutions in section 3, the understanding of consonant mutation as a linguistic feature uniquely imposed onto other parts of speech by prepositions and by the definite article entailed minor updates (representing restorations) to the pronoun set. These include adjusting the first-person plural prepositional case pronoun forms (*noi*, *nhoi*, and *üns*) and the feminine first and third-person singular possessive case pronouns with adjectival use (now *las mías* and *las sías*). Eschewed in the past, the plural possessive pronouns *vaes*, *tuns*, *sieux*, *çans*, and *lors* are now recognised.

In sections 4, 5, and 6 of this Arestada, the Committee addresses verb constructions and semantics. A seminal shift in the expression of compound infinitives and the prepositions used to link an auxiliary verb to its infinitive in such constructions is adopted by the Committee, recognising the semantic opposition and distinction between the continued use of both *à* and *da* to introduce dependent infinitives. The Committee also adopts auxiliary verbal constructions for expressions of imperfective and manitive aspect phrases, augments the forms of expression for the prospective aspect, acknowledges semantic shifts in verb constructions – such as *tirh à/da* (= ‘to have to/to have to not’) –, and formally specifies the use of subjunctive mood (originally and still the conditional tense) conjugations.

With these resolutions, the Committee proudly expands the formal description of our beautiful language.

The Committee for the Use of the Talossan Language hereby endorses the following standards for good form in writing and speaking the Talossan language, to be used in all publications issued or approved by the Committee, and urges their observance by all users of the Talossan language.

1 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING MARKED STRESS

1.1 *Amendment of the Stress Rule*

The rule applied to determine stress on unstressmarked polysyllabic words is modified to become:

1. The suffixes **-mint**, **-laiset(s)**, **-p(h)äts**, and **-sqab(s)** are always unstressed, and those endings do not affect the position of the stress on the rest of the word, so if one of those is present, analyse the word for stress as if it simply weren't there.
2. Alternatively, word-final **-s** or **-lor**, or **-x** following **eu**, or **-en** following a consonant do not affect default stress, so analyse the word as if that **s**, **lor**, **x**, or **en** were absent.
3. Stress falls on the last strong vowel in the word (or if that vowel is part of a diphthong or triphthong, on the entire vocalic containing that last strong vowel). With **V** representing any single vowel, the weak (i.e. non-strong) vowels are those in these endings:
 - a. any vowel **V**, capable of weakening an **i** just before it, and any **a** or **eu**, capable of weakening any vowel just before it; that is, **-V**, **-iV**, **-Va**, **-eu**, and **-VeU**,
 - b. **-ic**, capable of weakening any vowel that follows it; that is, **-ic** and **-icV**,
 - c. **-er** and **-(i/u)ent**.

The Notes accompanying the Stress Rule, as adopted by resolution 6.3 of the Arestada of 12 December 2007, are retained except for note 2, which is changed to:

2. In words like *frulor* (= 'women'), *mici* (= 'crumbs'), *diceux* (= 'dice'), *vea* (= 'old' [feminine]), and *ricas* (= 'windrows'), in which all vowels in the word are "weak" according to the rule, stress falls on the first vocalic.

Note that the letter **i** marked with a trema (that is, **ï**; see Resolution 1.2) is identical to **i**. For example, it is weak (and unstressed) in *stoïc* (= 'stoic'), and strong (and stressed) in *früitz* (= 'fruit').

1.2 *Restoration of Optional Marked Diæresis for the Letter i*

Marking of the letter **i** with a trema, becoming **ï**, is recognised to indicate separation of what would otherwise be a polyphthong. Such a mark is encouraged for use when separation cannot be indicated by a stressmark (that is, as an alternative to use of an apostrophe), and may also be used in place of a stressmarked **í** that separates a polyphthong. For example, *früitz* (= 'fruit') and *naïvità* (= 'naïveté') are alternatives to *fru'itz* and *na'ività*, and *deïr* (= 'pet') is an alternative to *deír*.

This resolution extends the provisions of Resolution 5.1 of the Arestada of 12 December 2007, which did not recognise the use of **ï**.

1.3 *Adjustments to Marked Stress*

Given the modification to the stress rule adopted in Resolution 1.1, words containing the vowel combination **ea** in their ending, such as *idéa* (= ‘idea’) and *maréa* (= ‘tide’), and the feminine forms of words ending in **-éu**, such as *c’haβéa* (= ‘female sea otter’) and ordinal forms like *tierçéa* (= ‘third’), are now stressmarked as indicated here. This indicates restoration of pre-2007 orthography.

To indicate stress as spoken, the words *éu* (= ‘I’), *aici* (= ‘here’), *próxim* (= ‘close, near’) and its feminine and plural forms, *zespâts* (= ‘since’), and the infinitive verb forms *fóstarh* (= ‘to be obliged to’), *moártarh* (= ‘to die’), *sâparh* (= ‘to know [how]’), and *viénarh* (the retrospective and manitive aspect auxiliary verb) are now stressmarked as indicated here.

Words containing the prefix **quálse-** are now stressmarked (*quálsevol*, *quálsepläts*, etc.).

The numerical ending **-esch** being unstressed, the Talossan words for the numbers eleven through eighteen are marked as having irregular stress: *ûndesch*, *dúdesch*, *tréidesch*, *tórdesch*, *quíntesch*, *sédesch*, *séifdesch*, and *vuídesch*. The word for the number nineteen is also marked with irregular stress: *úndaveint*.

The adjectival endings **-ös** and **-ic**, seen in words such as *oviös* (= ‘obvious’) and *apletic* (= ‘athletic’) are recognised as originally having been **-öseu** and **-iceu**, and the former is recognised as having undergone a stress shift when the original **-eu** (and corresponding feminine **-a**) ending was dropped, but may still be heard with stress placed on the vocalic **ö**.

Inclusion of a euphonious **a** when suffixing an adjective (ending with a consonant) with **-mint**, forming an adverb, is not done if such inclusion would shift stress as on the adjective. For example, **fruntösamint* (= ‘crassly’) is deprecated in favour of *fruntösmint*.

The suffix **-osis** is no longer stressmarked (the form ***-ósis** introduced by the Arestada of 12 December 2007 being unnecessary, given Resolution 1.1 of the present Arestada).

The suffixes **-eria** and **-erie** and the placename suffix **-ia** are no longer stressmarked (as ***-ería**, ***-eríe**, and ***-ía**).

The exceptions given in Resolution 9.1 of the Arestada of 12 December 2007 are abandoned, with *scríind* (= ‘writing’) and *viénind* (= ‘going, coming’) marked as shown and pronounced as other present participles, as if ending in (for these two words, unstressed) **-ant**.

Words that pluralise using **-en** and that in their singular form are stressed on their antepenultimate syllable assume default stress when pluralised (for example, *aspáragosch* = ‘asparagus’, *asparagoschen* = ‘asparaguses’). Apart from such words and words ending in **-p(h)äts**, words having regular plural forms retain the same stress (marked as irregular in the small set of words for which this would be the case) in their plural forms. For example, *foren* (= ‘oven’) becomes *fórens* (= ‘ovens’).

2 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING THE NOUN PHRASE

2.1 *Introduction of the Noun*

It has long been noted that “Talossan nouns do not like to be alone”. This linguistic feature is now formally specified as follows: Except in cases of headlines and signage (when space is at a premium) and when poetic (or prosodic) liberties are being taken, a Talossan noun (including nouns modified by a leading predicate adjective) must be introduced by one of the following:

- an article (for example, *la fugla* = ‘the bird’ and *dals fuglas* = ‘birds’, *la casa roxh* = ‘the red house’ and *la roxh casa* = ‘the red [stressed] house’)
- a non-predicate adjective (for example, *aceasta fugla* = ‘this bird’ and *va fugla* = ‘my bird’),
- an apposite pronoun (for example, *noi Talossaes* = ‘we Talossans’),
- a preposition sufficient to introduce an abstract noun (for example, *sanc gräts* = ‘without mercy’). Nouns used in a prepositional phrase to describe other nouns also need no further introduction. For example, *las maisas da granitas* (= ‘granite tables’).

Independent gerunds need not be introduced. For example, *lirarh isch doctific* (= ‘reading is educational’), although introduction is not improper. Introduction of a gerund may be done with definite or partitive articles.

2.2 *Cases and Use of the Indefinite Article*

The indefinite article is recognised as having two cases. The first case has the form *iens* (feminine *iensa*), and the second case has the form *ün* (feminine *üna*). The second case forms have a shared shortened form *'n*. The first case is used only and exclusively after the words *à* (= ‘to’), *come* (= ‘as, like’), *contra* (= ‘against’), *da* (= ‘of, from’), *intra* (= ‘between, among’), *ja* (= ‘ago’, ‘there is’), and *per* (= ‘for’). While typically contracted to these words (*com'iens*, etc.), the article may be indicated separately for emphasis. The words *acest'iens(a/as)* (= ‘this/that/these one(s)’) and *l'iens(a/as)* (= ‘the one(s)’) also contain this article form (a relic of when the Talossan indefinite article was *viens*, as also seen in *ingenviens* = ‘anyone’ and *quálseviens* = ‘someone’), but these contractions may not be separated.

The plural form *iensas* (the indefinite article for plural countable nouns) is also used only after the specific words indicated above. For example, *raisnarhéu pr'iensas reformaziuns* (= ‘I will argue for [some] reforms’).

2.3 *Modifications to the Classification of Articles*

The article *del* (feminine *dal*), used of uncountable nouns, is now the only form classified as the “partitive article”. For example, *büveveu dal apa* (= ‘I drank water’).

The plural form *dels* (feminine *dals*) is now recognised as the plural form of the indefinite article *ün* (feminine *üna*), and thus its use is described identically to that of *iensas*, often equating to the English “no article” or in some cases, “some”. For example, *veindéu dals xhuns* (= ‘I sell toys’), *a scríua dels romans* (= ‘she writes novels’), and *raisnarhéu pr’iensas reformaziuns* (= ‘I will argue for [some] reforms’).

The article *quálsevol* is an emphatic indefinite article meaning ‘some unknown or unfamiliar’, as in *quálsevol caciun isch in la cura* (= ‘some dog is in the yard’). This contrasts semantically with *’n caciun isch in la cura* (= ‘a dog is in the yard’).

The plural form *quáisevois* is used of plural nouns and has the meaning ‘some but not all’, as in *quáisevois vexhetais me piaçent* (= ‘some [but not all] vegetables please me [i.e., I like some vegetables]’).

The form *toct i* is now classified as the “universal article”.

3 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING CONSONANT MUTATION

3.1 *Use and Extent of Consonant Mutation*

The orthographic indication of consonant mutation (for example, **d** becoming spelled **dh** to indicate such a change in pronunciation due to lenition), while originally encouraged throughout the language, has long ago fallen out of use except in specific cases. Consonant mutation is explained, and the specific retention of its orthographic indication is specified, as follows:

In speech (and often reflected in orthography) Talossan words tend to weaken at their word-ending (eliding – as *da* becoming *d'* –, or in some cases adding euphonic endings – such as *da* becoming *dad*) in order to enhance flow of speech from a word-terminal vowel into an initial vowel sound of the word that follows. For example, *l'Arestada* (= 'the Arestada').

When they precede words that begin with consonant sounds, prepositions and the feminine definite article *la* tend to cause the following word to be modified at its beginning to enhance flow of speech. This modification takes the form of Talossan's consonant mutation system: lenition and eclipsis. Orthographically, the indication of this consonant mutation is mandated specifically only for pronouns and possessive adjectives. For example, the object pronoun *tu* mutates (experiencing lenition) to become *thu* when following *la* or a preposition ending in a vowel sound, and mutates (experiencing eclipsis) to become *dtu* when following a preposition ending in a consonant sound. Similarly, the object pronoun *me* mutates (experiencing lenition) to *mhe* when following a preposition ending in a vowel.

The two prepositional case pronouns that begin with vowels (*iins* and *eia*), being unable to exhibit consonant mutation, make any modification for speech flow enhancement (as usual) incumbent upon the preceding preposition, and this is indicated in writing (thus *àð eia*, *dad iins*, *contr' eia*, *pad iins*, etc.).

The manifestation of this relative 'strength' of the preposition and *la* (through consonant mutation of any following part of speech) is often heard in fluent speech, even if not reflected in spelling. For example, *à veindarh* (= 'to sell') may be heard pronounced as *à vheindarh*, even if not spelled as such. Written indication of such other mutations (*i.e.*, mutations of words other than pronouns and possessive adjectives) is only mandatory when occurring within contracted single words. That is, while orthographic indication of the consonant mutation seen in *à nhoua* (= 'anew') is not mandatory, that in *Tzaranhoua* (= 'Newfoundland') is. Orthographic indication of consonant mutation is also often seen (but is not mandated) in some short common words, such as in *la mha* (= 'the hand'), and in the quantitative phrases *la phü* and *la mhíus* (= 'more' and 'less') and *la mhighlor* and *la phior* (= 'better' and 'worse').

3.2 *Adoption of Unmutated noi in Prepositional Phrases*

The form *noi* (= ‘us’) is recognised and encouraged for use after prepositions that do not cause consonant mutation. The form *üns*, previously indicated for use only in such circumstances (and after some other prepositions, such as *da*), is now allowed for use after any preposition. (The mutated form *nhoi*, used after prepositions that cause mutation, is retained unchanged.)

3.3 *Modification of Possessive Forms*

The plural forms of possessive pronouns – specifically, *vaes*, *tuns*, *sieux*, *ça’ns* (or *çans*), and *lors* – are now recognised as restored for use to indicate possession of plural nouns.

The possessive adjective forms *las méux* and *las síeux*, heretofore used of plural feminine nouns meaning ‘mine’ and ‘his/hers’, respectively, are now deprecated and are discouraged in favour of *las mías* and *las sías*, which are recognised to be the plural forms of the unmutated feminine singular adjectival pronouns *la mhía* and *la tsía*. This resolution may be considered restorative, as testified to by the word *Miadhoamna* (= ‘Madonna’).

4 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING ASPECTS AND COMPOUND VERBS

4.1 *Choice and Semantics of the Linking Preposition in Compound Verbs*

The eight verbs after which infinitives are not introduced by linking prepositions are: *amarh*, *fóstarh*, *irh*, *laβarh*, *pevarh*, *restarh*, *sâparh*, and *velarh*. Negation of an infinitive in such constructions is done using *non*. For example, *éu säp non travalarh* (= ‘I know how to not work’).

When introducing an infinitive verb with a linking preposition, choice of the preposition (either *à* or *da*) is made based on whether the action of the infinitive verb is to be indicated positively or negatively, and use of *da* to indicate negation of an infinitive is encouraged over *à non*. For example, *començéu à menxharh* (= ‘I am beginning to eat’), *ceβeveu da menxharh* (= ‘I ceased [from] eating’), *téu à menxharh* (= ‘I have to eat’), and *téu da menxharh* (= ‘I have to not eat [i.e., avoid eating]’). The prepositional forms *àð* or *ad* and *dad* or *d’* are used as usual when the infinitive verb begins with a vowel sound.

This resolution countermands a resolution of the Arestada of 21 February 1994.

4.2 *Adoption of the Imperfective Aspect*

The auxiliary verb construction *estarh à/da* is used to indicate habitual, repeated, or ongoing activity, and this form is recommended over simple indicative expression for such indication. For example, *éu sint à perquiescharh* (= ‘I [tend to] oversleep’), *a isch à naxharh* (= ‘she swims [habitually]’), and *o füt da menxharh dels vexhetais* (= ‘he used to not [as a habit or practice, did not] eat vegetables’).

4.3 *Recognition and Augmentation of the Prospective Aspect*

The auxiliary verb construction *façarh à/da* is recognised as the prospective aspect, having the meaning akin to the English ‘going to [gonna]’, often equivalent to future-tense semantics. As such, constructions in this aspect may be expressed in any tense, voice, or mood (for example, *façéu à menxharh* = ‘I am going to [gonna] eat’, *façarhéu à menxharh* = ‘I will be going to [gonna] eat’, and *façeveu da menxharh* = ‘I was going to [gonna] avoid eating [not eat]’).

The verb *irh*, followed by an ungoverned infinitive, previously classified as an “alternate future tense”, is now classified as an alternative, colloquial, form of expression for the prospective aspect. For example, *véu menxharh* (= ‘I am going to [gonna] eat’), *ischéu menxharh* (= ‘I will be going to [gonna] eat’), and *veneveu non menxharh* (= ‘I was going to [gonna] not eat’).

4.4 *Adoption of the Manitive and Retrospective Aspects*

The auxiliary verb constructions *viénarh à* and *viénarh da* are classified as the manitive and retrospective aspects, respectively. The second of these is a previously-recognised construction, meaning ‘to have just’. The manitive aspect has the meaning ‘to be about to’. For example, *veneveu à menxharh* (= ‘I was about to eat’), *veneveu da menxharh* (= ‘I had just eaten’), and *esteveu à viénarh à menxharh* (= ‘I was [always, habitually] about to eat [that is, ‘in the past, I was constantly hungry, grabbing for food, looking forward to my next meal, etc.’]’).

Negation of the active verb in such expressions is done by using *non* after the preposition, as in *sür Maitzi Fäts, venarhéu à non menxharh* (= ‘on Mardi Gras, I will be about to not eat’). Such constructions are rare and can usually be avoided: *sür Maitzi Fäts, venarhéu à xhüinarh* (= ‘on Mardi Gras, I will be about to fast’).

5 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SEMANTICS

5.1 *Recognition of Semantic Shifts in Compound Infinitives*

Some verbs used as auxiliaries in compound infinitive constructions have different semantics than when used independently. Such constructions are often employed to avoid use of an adjective to express a relationship between a subject and its verb. These are recognised to include (but not be limited to):

- *ficarh* (= ‘to stand fast, to stay put’) → *ficarh à/da* (= ‘to be determined to/not to’). For example, *a ficheva da menxharh-en* (= ‘she was determined not to eat it’).
- *mirarh* (= ‘to look’) → *mirarh à/da* (= ‘to be prone [apt, likely] to/not to’). For example, *non miréu à sovenénçarh-en* (= ‘I am not likely to remember it’).
- *mostrarh* (= ‘to show’) → *mostrarh à/da* (= ‘to be ready to/not to’). For example, *mostréu à zespartarh* (= ‘I am ready to leave’).
- *starh* (= ‘to be standing’) → *starh à/da* (= ‘to be certain [sure, doomed, fated, guaranteed] to/not to’). For example, *stéu à ð obliarh aces* (= ‘I am sure to forget that’).
- *tirh* (= ‘to have’) → *tirh à/da* (= ‘to need to, to have to/not to’). For example, *téu à menxharh* (= ‘I need to eat’). This construction contrasts with *éu fost menxharh* (= ‘I should [but do not feel required to] eat’).

5.2 *Indication of the Indirect Object*

Indirect objects may be indicated in prepositional phrases or by objective case pronouns. For example, *o en zoneva à mhe* (= ‘he gave it to me’) and *o me en zoneva* (= ‘he gave me it’). This countermands a resolution of the Arestada of 7 August 1993, which mandated that indirect objects be indicated only by prepositional phrases (a mandate that was never uniformly followed).

Sometimes an interest by a third party (often referred to as a “dative of interest”) in the action of a verb can be expressed by a noun or pronoun positioned and declined as an indirect object. This is akin to the use of ‘on’ or ‘for’ in English to indicate effect on a third party. For example, *o me cumplicheva va figlha sè vida* (= ‘he complicated my daughter’s life on/for me’).

The preposition *pa* (= ‘upon’) [spelled *pã* before the Arestada of 12 December 2007] is no longer deprecated. This preposition now takes regular prepositional case pronouns.

In an idiomatic semantic shift from its usual meaning, this preposition *pa* may be used to indicate such unspecified involvement or interest of a third party. For example, *o cumplicheva va figlha sè vida pa mhe* (= ‘he complicated my daughter’s life on/for me’), and *va secretar chinxheva vaes plaes da reiça pa va famiglha* (= ‘my secretary changed my travel plans on/for/affecting my family’).

5.3 *Semantics of the General Pronoun (si, se, so, sieu)*

The general pronoun is recognised as used to indicate reflexion (indication of a selfsame subject and object). This understanding of the reflexive use is recognised to have grown in Talossan from the original and continuing use of the general pronoun to indicate the ubiquitous “you”, “one”, or “they”, as in *si nunca säp qet paßarha* (= ‘you never know what will happen’) and *si zirent qe la plüma c’e pü alvadour qe el sverdeu* (= ‘they say that the pen is mightier than the sword’).

Due to this original meaning of the general pronoun, reflexion in Talossan is understood to have a singular semantic, different from that in other Romance languages, and approachable by the understanding of a phrase such as *o se videva* (= ‘he saw himself’) as being processed by the Talossan mind as “he saw one”.

6 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING THE SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

6.1 *Specification of the Uses of the Subjunctive*

Talossan's subjunctive mood conjugations are specified as being used in the following circumstances:

- Hypothetical statements; expressions of counterfactual protasis. For example, *schi la poarta estadra virt....* (= 'if the door were green [but it is not]...').
- Mandative statements; instructive, desiderative, or jussive expressions; indicating actions both uncertain and desirable. For example, *c'e impirtint qe estudiadrás dal pistoria* (= 'it is important that you study history'), *cheréu qe o menxhadra* (= 'I wish that he might eat'), and *qe las montagnas cantadrent* (= 'let/may the mountains sing').
- Conditional statements; expressions of apodosis and polite statements of preference or desire. For example, *schi la poarta isch virt, en vidadrás* (= 'if the door is green [and it may be], you would see it'), and *malevadréu 'n soda, graschcias* (= 'I would prefer a soda, thank you').

When used in apodoses, these conjugations are often referred to as the "conditional tense".

6.2 *Counterfactual Past Constructions*

Counterfactual past expressions ("could have", "would have", and "should have") are formed in Talossan using an auxiliary verb conjugated in the subjunctive mood followed by a perfect infinitive construction:

- *pevarh* is used for 'could have': *en povadréu tirh menxhat* (= 'I could have eaten it')
- *velarh* is used for 'would have': *en veladréu tirh menxhat* (= 'I would have eaten it')
- *fóstarh* is used for 'should have': *en fostadréu tirh menxhat* (= 'I should have eaten it')

Negation of the active verb is done as usual, following the auxiliary verb: compare *en povadréu non tirh menxhat* (= 'I could have not eaten it [I could have avoided eating it]') to *non en povadréu tirh menxhat* (= 'I could not have eaten it').

The modal auxiliary *scuda* is also still available to indicate "should have" (as in *éu non scuda menxharh-en* = 'I should not have eaten it'), but is considered colloquial, and its use is discouraged.

6.3 *Form and Use of the Perfect Subjunctive*

The perfect subjunctive is used to express a “past subjunctive” (which is expressed in other Romance languages using a separate conjugated form). For example, *schî en tenadréu menxhat* (= ‘if I had eaten it’), and the passive voice expression *schî tenadréu estescu nascat ieiri* (= ‘if I were to have been born yesterday’).

This same form is used in combination with the imperfective aspect to indicate counterfactual past continuing (or habitual or repeated) states: *schî la poarta estadra à tirh estescu virt* (= ‘if the door had [would have] been green’, ‘should the door have been green’).