

Arestada of the Committee for the Use of the Talossan Language

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE	1
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RESOLUTIONS OF THE ARESTADA OF 12 DECEMBER 2011/xxxii

1 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING ORTHOGRAPHY	3
1.1 FORMAL DESCRIPTION OF THE POSITION OF DEFAULT STRESS	3
1.2 DISCUSSION OF THE EFFECT OF PLURAL DECLINATION ON MARKED STRESS	4
1.3 RESTATEMENT OF THE EFFECT OF CONJUGATION ON MARKED STRESS.....	5
1.4 RETENTION OF STRESS ON AFFIXED OR EXTENDED MONOSYLLABIC WORDS.....	5
1.5 ADOPTION OF Ę IN ORTHOGRAPHY TO INDICATE DIÆRESIS OF Ę.....	5
2 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SEMANTICS	6
2.1 SEMANTIC DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN IMPERATIVE FORMS.....	6
2.2 SEMANTIC DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE PREPOSITIONS AVETZ AND CŪN	6
3 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SYNTAX AND ETYMOLOGY	7
3.1 RECOGNITION OF IMPORTED PLURAL FORMS.....	7
3.2 STATEMENT ON ETYMOLOGY OF THE PARTICLES JA AND J'ONT	7

STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

During 2011, members of the Committee for the Use of the Talossan Language have focused on a number of disparate projects, which have led to the resolutions of this Arestada.

The year saw the establishment of an independent public presence for the Committee, at www.cuglang.com. Committee members and *umas* from various linguistic backgrounds laboured to ensure that this presence is multilingual in nature, and at the time of this writing, information about the CÚG is readily and publicly available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, and Russian (as well as in Talossan, of course).

Additionally, Committee members inaugurated a public presence for the Association of Talossan Language Organisations, which was formed in 2007 by the CÚG during discussions with *L'Icastolâ*. The ATLO Website, www.talossan.com, now provides the most comprehensive freely available set of information about *el glhep Talossan*, including tutorials and examples, all culled from the work of Committee members over the past five years.

In 2011, a number of composition and translation projects were also undertaken, allowing the members to study the current use of the language, with an eye toward noticing trends to be officially recognised or recommended in this document. As by-products of all of these efforts, nearly two dozen resolutions were submitted for consideration by the Subcommittee on Grammar. Those that were approved by the Subcommittee were reported to the full Committee for final approval, and appear herein.

Among the proposals that failed to be reported out of the subcommittee are a number regarding the recognition of an alternate (semantically “pleading”) imperative construction making use of the conditional *schì* with the subjunctive mood, proposals to recognise modifications in the pronoun set, and proposals to recognise inversion of the existential particle *hi* in interrogatives. In these cases, the subcommittee reported that the frequency of actual use of the words or constructions being recommended did not rise to a level that would indicate that they are firmly established in routine parlance.

The nine remaining resolutions, presented here after approval by vote of the full committee, are indicative of the intent of the CÚG to clearly document the current status of the language and its writing system. Of the five resolutions concerning orthography, the first four represent the culmination of a mission to reconcile the “friendly” form of the stress rule prescribed by the Arestada of 12 December 2007 with the more formal and less layman-friendly rule prescribed in 2010. The result, Resolution 1.1, modifies little if any of the effects of the rule itself but is deemed by the Committee to be the recommended form for teaching the Talossan stress system. Resolutions 1.2 through 1.4 then provide a full discussion of all effects seen in the stress system and in orthography when a root word is declined or conjugated.

Resolution 1.5, recognising the use of *ë* to indicate diæresis (in the same way that *ï* was so recognised by Resolution 1.2 of the Arestada of 2010), rounds out the orthographic recommendations being made by the Committee.

The two resolutions appearing in section 2 are semantic in nature. The first of these recognises an emerging trend in the semantics behind the choice of use of the different imperative constructions, and the second formalises a semantic distinction commonly drawn between two familiar prepositions, *avetz* and *cün*.

The final two resolutions of this Arestada acknowledge the use of certain plural forms imported from other languages (such as *siñpeses* = ‘syntheses’), and modify a past position of the Committee regarding the origin and semantics of the particles *ja* and *j’ont*.

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 ORTHOGRAPHY

1.1 *Formal Description of the Position of Default Stress*

The Committee has previously specified rules for the determination of spoken stress in a word having no explicit specific stress mark. It now formalises this description as follows:

If any syllable of a word contains a stress-marked vowel, then that is the syllable that is stressed. Otherwise, the syllable to be stressed is determined by applying this Rule of Stress:

1. The suffixes **-mint**, **-laiset**, **-päts** (and its variant **-phäts**), and **-sqab** do not affect the position of the stress on the rest of the word, whether or not they are followed by **-s**, so if any one of those is present, analyse the word for stress as if that ending simply were not there.
2. Stress falls on the vocalic containing the vowel before the final “brace” of the word:
 - Any consonant or group of consonants is a brace, except that **s** is a brace only after **n** or **ö** or **ü**.
 - Any glide (except for the **u** in **eu**) is a brace.
 - Additionally, each of the following constructions is a single brace: **-en**, **-ent** (and **-ient** and **-uent**), **-er**, **-eux**, **-ic**, **-ica**, **-ici**, and **-ilor**.

NOTES:

1. A glide is a vowel that is pronounced as /j/ or /w/ (in the International Phonetic Alphabet), like English *y* or *w*. Specifically, in Talossan, a glide is either an **i** or **u** followed by any vowel, an **i** following any vowel (other than **i** or **u**), or the “non-**a**” in the diphthongs **ae**, **au**, and **oa**.
2. In words like *mici* (= ‘crumbs’), *vea* (= ‘old [feminine]’), and *ricas* (= ‘windrows’), in which no vocalic precedes the final brace of the word, stress falls on the first vocalic.
3. The optional final-syllable stress on a verb conjugated into the third-person singular future tense form is not marked. For instance, we write *lirarha* (= he/she/it will read), even though a speaker may stress the final syllable. [The final-syllable stress on the irregular verb conjugations *ischà* (= ‘he/she/it will change location’), *säperà* (= ‘he/she/it will know’), and *serà* (= ‘he/she/it will be’) is not optional, and is marked.]
4. The words *acest* (= ‘this, that’), *embù* (= ‘both’), and *vidarh* (= ‘to see’) may optionally be stressed on their first syllable.

1.2 Discussion of the Effect of Plural Declension on Marked Stress

Spoken emphasis on the regular plural form of a noun or adjective will fall on the same vocalic as in the singular form, without need to add or remove any orthographic indication of irregular stress, with the following exceptions:

Stress Shifts:

- a) Nouns and adjectives having a singular form with default stress and that end with **-päts** or **-phäts** experience a stress shift from the pænultimate or antepænultimate syllable of the singular form to the antepænultimate syllable of the plural form. For example, *regipäts* (= ‘kingdom’) is stressed on the vocalic **e** while *regipätsilor* (= ‘kingdoms’) is stressed on the vocalic **ä**. No orthographic indication is necessary, as both forms take default stress.
- b) Nouns and adjectives having a singular form with default stress and that end with a vowel other than **ö** or **ü** followed by **s** experience a stress shift from the pænultimate syllable of the singular form to the pænultimate syllable of the plural form. For example, *solas* (= ‘insole’) is stressed on the vocalic **o** while *solasen* (= ‘insoles’) is stressed on the vocalic **a**. No orthographic indication is necessary, as both forms take default stress.
- c) Nouns and adjectives that pluralise using **-en** and that in their singular form have irregular stress that falls on their antepænultimate syllable experience a stress shift, assuming default stress when pluralised. In orthography, the stress mark seen on such singular words is dropped from their plural forms. For example, while *aspáragosch* (= ‘asparagus’) is stressed irregularly as marked, its plural form *asparagoschen* is stressed, by default, on the vocalic **o**.

Stress Retention that Modifies Stress Marks:

- d) Nouns and adjectives having a singular form with default stress and that end with a consonant followed by **-en** or with **-ö** or **-ü** retain stress on the same (pænultimate) vocalic when pluralised. To indicate this, the stressed vocalic must be marked in the plural, as this form takes irregular stress. For example, the proper plural of *foren* (= ‘oven’) is *fórens* (= ‘ovens’), with both forms stressed on the vocalic **o**, and the proper plural of *pengö* (= ‘penguin’) is *péngös* (= ‘penguins’), with both forms stressed on the vocalic **e**.
- e) Nouns and adjectives having a singular form with irregular stress falling on a terminal syllable **-en** or on a terminal vowel (whether or not followed by **-s**) retain stress on the same (ultimate) vocalic when pluralised. In orthography, the explicit stress mark on the singular form is removed in the plural, as this form takes default stress. For example, the plural form of *sierén* (= ‘canary’) is *sierens*, the plural form of *ahà* (= ‘cactus’) is *ahaes* (= ‘cacti’), the plural form of *ananás* (= ‘pineapple’) is *ananasen* (= ‘pineapples’), and the plural form of *apricò* (= ‘apricot’) is *apricons* (= ‘apricots’).

1.3 *Restatement of the Effect of Conjugation on Marked Stress*

The Committee reiterates that stress on all regular conjugations of irregularly stressed infinitive verbs is determined by any marked stress in the conjugated ending or, lacking that, default stress. That is, “stem-stressed” verbs are stressed on their stem only in their infinitive form. In orthography, this means that stress marks on infinitive verbs drop in conjugation. For example, *sâparh* (= ‘to know’) conjugates to *säpeveu* (= ‘I knew’) rather than **sâpeveu*, *ác’harh* (= ‘to ache’) to *ac’hetz* (= ‘you all ache’) rather than **ác’hetz*, and *noguêçarh* (= ‘to drown’) to *nogueçarhás* (= ‘you will drown’) rather than **noguêçarhas*.

1.4 *Retention of Stress on Affixed or Extended Monosyllabic Words*

Monosyllabic nouns or adjectives retain stress on the stem even when a prefix is added. In orthography, an explicit stress mark is required if the original word does not terminate in a brace (as defined in Resolution 1.1 of this Arestada). For example, *xhu* (= ‘game’) becomes *telexhù* (= ‘game show’).

Monosyllabic conjugated forms of an irregular verb will retain spoken stress if they become the terminal syllable of the similar conjugation of an extended verb. In orthography, this requires addition of an explicit stress mark. For example, *va* (= ‘he/she/it changes location’) is the termination of the similarly conjugated extended verb *svenirh* (= ‘to drop by’), which must be written *svenvà* (= ‘he/she/it drops by’).

1.5 *Adoption of ë in Orthography to Indicate Diæresis of e*

The Committee recognises and recommends the use of the vowel **e** adorned with a trema (that is, **ë**) to indicate diæresis of the vowel **e**. This method of orthographic indication of grammatical hiatus is an alternative to, and not a replacement for, the other methods to make such indication. Such other methods are

- (i) the addition of an explicit stress mark when the separated **e** takes default stress, where such a mark does not indicate stress of a polyphthong, and
- (ii) the use of an apostrophe to separate the **e** from any vowel with which it would otherwise form a polyphthong.

For example, *rëunitarh* (= ‘to reunite’) is equivalent to *re’unitarh*, and the personal name *Rafaél* could be written *Rafaël*.

2 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SEMANTICS

2.1 *Semantic Distinctions between Imperative Forms*

The two forms of imperative mood verb conjugations have heretofore been treated and described as completely identical semantically. The Committee hereby recognises and recommends the following semantic distinctions between these forms, and the optative, invitative, or hortative use of the subjunctive mood:

- *qe* + subjunctive – formal, polite
- use of an imperative mood conjugation ending in **-etz** or **-itz** – neutral, respectful
- use of any other imperative regular or irregular mood conjugation – commanding

The distinction in the imperative mood is not drawn for those irregular verbs – *pevarh*, *scríuarh*, *velarh*, and their extended forms – which have only a single imperative form.

2.2 *Semantic Distinction between the Prepositions avetz and cün*

The prepositions *avetz* and *cün* can both be translated by the English ‘with’, and the Committee has in the past not specified any particular semantic distinction between the two. As recognition of both an apparent trend in past and current practice and as a recommendation for usage, the Committee now prescribes as a general rule that *cün* is preferred when the meaning of the preposition is accompaniment or possession, and *avetz* is preferred when the meaning of the preposition is more abstract, symbolic, or figurative.

For example, *cün* is preferred over *avetz* in expressions like *o scriveva cün ’n pluma* (= ‘he wrote with a pen’) and *a isch l’iensa cün l’aic* (= ‘she is the one with the horse’). Similarly, *o sta cün els engreveirs* (= ‘he stands with the strikers’) indicates a person’s physical posture and location among a group of strikers (perhaps of a disinterested party, such as a reporter), while *o sta avetz els engreveirs* indicates the person’s agreement with or support for the grievances of the strikers.

Constructions having an independent and unmodified abstract noun as the object of the preposition *avetz*, as in *o marscha avetz fiirtà* (= ‘he walks with pride’), can often be restated as adverbial constructions; for example, *o marscha fiirmint* (= ‘he walks proudly’). This is not the case for constructions involving abstract nouns used with *cün*, as in *el nic’ht ariveva cün zesperañù* (= ‘the night arrived with [accompanied by] despair’).

A further distinction is drawn between *cün* (used to indicate accidental possession) and *da* (used to indicate essential possession). For example, *la criança cün caveglhen grocs* (= ‘the girl with blonde hair’) can be understood as a statement about what the girl has (and perhaps as a subtle statement about the lack of permanence of her current hair colour), while *la criança da caveglhen grocs* (= literally, ‘the girl of blonde hair’) is a more certain statement expressing that the blonde hair is related to what the girl is.

3 RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SYNTAX AND ETYMOLOGY

3.1 *Recognition of Imported Plural Forms*

Words (except for proper names) imported without change from foreign languages may be pluralised either as a Talossan word or as in the language of origin. For example, *falsetto* may be seen pluralised as both *falsettos* or as *falsetti*, and *ephémérides* can be seen as the plural of *ephemeris*. Words (again, except for proper names) borrowed from Greek and ending in a vowel followed by **-sis** form the plural by modifying the final **i** to **e**; for example, *þesis* (= ‘thesis’) pluralises as *þeses*.

3.2 *Etymology of the Particles ja (= there is) and j’ont (= there are)*

The Committee acknowledges that the adverbial existential particles *ja* (= there is) and *j’ont* (= there are) are cognate to the French particles *il-y-a* and *y-a-t’il*. Further, the Committee expresses its belief that these particles are reliquary forms of the now extinct verb **þavarë* (= ‘to have’), and are thus semantically related to this verb (whose meaning was later subsumed into the supplantive verb *tirh*).

This countermands previous statements made by the Committee concerning these particles, which had posited that *ja* and *j’ont* had been formed by contraction of some type of the phrases *hi isch* and *hi sint*, respectively (or of some historic equivalencies, such as *hi *esta* and *hi *estent*).