

Ebisédian entry
for
The 8th CONLANG Relay, Ring 1

H. S. Teoh

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1 Relay Text

1.1 Orthographic Text

ni k̂ʒlʒrø t̂w̄va di usóí.

nací nure ni sunøkhúe ʒkʒkʒngʒ du arʒdí ke.

nací nure ni mótʒragʒ tére di t̂acõr̄i ce.

nure nacú nʒ t̂w̄fótrʒ nø lalʒkʒ re.

miká nacú nure ynʒ vurá dø mótagʒ ke.

isonací ebú t̂ʒlín̄y nʒ murʒnø dʒ kíʒʒ ce.

isonací nʒ burupúme du ʒtʒragʒ t̂árā t̄yre re.

keve k̂ʒlʒrø chõre ʒtʒragú ebú.

Translator's notes: This text is written in poetic form, organized as a title, two contrasting stanzas of triplets¹, and a concluding line.

Note that the original text, which was unfortunately rather obscure, was not written in this style; the translator has taken the liberty to set it in this format in order to better express what he believes is its intended meaning.

1.2 IPA transcription

ni 'k^həlɛɾɑ 't^hɛ:βɑ di ʔi'soʔi.

na'tʃi niɾɛ ni sunðxuʔɛ ʔəkə'lɛ:ŋə du ʔarə'di kɛ.

na'tʃi niɾɛ ni 'mɛtɛragə tɛɾɛ di t^ha'tʃo:ɾi tʃɛ.

niɾɛ na'tʃu nə t^hə'fɛtɾə nɑ lalə'kə ɾɛ.

mik^ha na'tʃu niɾɛ ʔynə βu'ɾɑ: dɑ 'mɛtagə kɛ.

ʔisona'tʃi ʔæ'bu t^hə'liny nə miɾə:nɑ də 'kiʒə tʃɛ.

ʔisona'tʃi nə buru'pu:mɛ du ʔɛtɛɾa'gə: 't^hɑɾɑ: 'ty:ɾɛ.

kæβɛ 'k^hælɛɾɑ 'ʃɛ:ɾɛ ɛtɛɾagi'ʔu ʔæ'bu.

2 Translation

2.1 Word-for-word translation

The Starburst erupt time.

¹The Ebisédi are obsessed with the number 3.

It like the deprive piglets stranger for-one.
It like the no-plants sprout mountain for-two.
As-though to-it the vicious hook for-three.

However, to-it as-though none-of piercing fingers for-one.
During-it I experience the from-child fun for-two.
During-it the trampled plants apiringly sprout.
And-so, Starburst shine to-plants to-me.

2.2 Smooth English Translation

The time the Starburst erupted.
It was like a stranger who snatched away piglets;
It was like a mountain on which no plants grew;
It was as though it had a vicious hook.

However, it did not have piercing claws;
For during it, I experienced the joy of a child;
During it, the trampled plants sprouted in hope.
And so, the Starburst shone upon the plants and me.

3 Interlinear

3.1 Key

The format of the interlinear is as follows:

1. The first line is the orthographic text.
2. The second line is a parse (indicating which part of speech something is, the gender/number/case or aspect/focus/domain). The structure of the parse is:

[part-of-speech]-[inflection]-...

- If gender is not indicated, it is neuter by default.
- If number is not indicated, it is singular by default.
- Case is always indicated.

- If focus is not indicated, it is incidental by default.
- If domain is not indicated, it is physical by default.
- Aspect is always indicated.

3. The third line lists the dictionary form of the word (if different from the text).

3.2 The Interlinear

nɪ	ˈkʰɹɹø	ˈtʰɔva	ɔt	ɪsʊt.	¶		
*-LOC	n-ORG	v-PERF	*-LOC	n-LOC			
-	ˈkʰɹɹu	ˈtʰava	-	-			
nací	nure	nɪ	sunøkhúe	ʒkʒkʒngʒ	du		
pn-LOC	*	*-LOC	v-ABS-PERF	n-EPI-PLUR-CVY	*-RCP		
jhɪdí	-	-	sunókhe	kɪkíngɪ	ɔt		
arʒdí	ke. /						
n-EPI-LOC	*						
-	-						
nací	nure	nɪ	mótʒragʒ	tére	ɔt	ˈtʰacʊru	ce. /
pn-LOC	*	*-LOC	n-NUL-CVY	v-INCEP	*-LOC	n-LOC	*
jhɪdí	-	-	tʒragí	-	-	-	-
nure	nacú	nʒ	ˈtʰɔfʊtrʒ	nø	lalʒkʒ	re.	¶
*	pn-RCP	*-CVY	n-CVY	*-ORG	n-CVY	*	
-	jhɪdí	nɪ	ˈtʰufútru	-	lalʒkí	-	
mɪká	nacú	nure	ynʒ	vurá	dø		
*	pn-RCP	*	*-NUL-CVY	n-INSTR	*-ORG		
-	jhɪdí	-	nɪ	vuraí	ɔt		
mótagʒ	ke. /						
n-EPI-NUL-CVY	*						
tagí	-						

isonací	ebú	â3lúny	n3	mir'3nø
n-LOC	pn-MASC-RCP	v-INTROV-PERF	*-CVY	n-EPI-ORG
-	ebí	â3lánu	nu	mir'3nu

d3	kíg3	ce. /
*-CVY	n-CVY	*
du	kígú	-

isonací	n3	burupúme	du	3t3ragé	âárā
n-LOC	*-CVY	v-PERF	*-RCP	n-PLUR-CVY	n-INSTR
-	nu	burupóme	du	t3ragí	âárai

týre	re. ¶
v-PERF	*
tére	-

keve	kâ3l3rø	chóre	3t3ragú	ebú.	/
*	n-ORG	v-PERF	n-PLUR-RCP	pn-MASC-RCP	
-	kâ3l3ru	cháre	t3ragí	ebí	

Legend

n Noun

pn Pronoun

v Verb

* Other part of speech (exactly what part of speech will be indicated in the glossary if relevant)

ABS Abstract

CVY Conveyant

EPI Epicene

INCEP Inceptive

INSTR Instrumental

INTROV Introvertive

LOC Locative

MASC Masculine

NUL Nullar

ORG Originative

PERF Perfective

PLUR Plural

RCP Receptive

¶ Paragraph break

/ Line break

4 Glossary

Note: The entries are arranged in the order they appear in the relay text. You may notice that some verbs are glossed in both the active and passive. This does *not* imply a dual meaning; Ebisédian does not distinguish between active and passive, so the glosses are merely to show you the various shades of meaning the verb would have if some of its noun case “slots” are left empty. Please read up on the noun case model in the grammar for further explanation.

ni Subordinating particle, introduces a relative clause. Agrees in case and number with the modified noun. Consult section on subordinate clauses for more explanation.

kálrri n., (1) “Fountain”, “spring”, “fountainhead”. (2) “Geyser”, “starburst”. Please read the section on cultural context in order to have a more accurate understanding of this word.

táva phys. v. (1) “To eject”, “to spew”, “to spray”, “to erupt” (2) “To vomit”.

di Subordinate clause relative pronoun. Consult section on subordinate clauses for more explanation.

usóu n. “Time”. A very common idiom is to use a subordinate clause to qualify what period of time is being referred to. For example:

ni ebú zotó mlzdaú di usóu.
“The time when I saw the girl.”

jhudí Distant pronoun. Please consult the section on pronouns for more explanation of how Ebisedian pronouns work.

nre Adverbial particle, “like”, “can be likened to”, “as though”, “as if”. This particle indicates that what is stated is an analogy or metaphor, not to be taken literally. **WARNING:** In translating Ebisédian, it is usually best *not* to literally translate **nre**, but to indicate the metaphoric mood in other ways native to the target language.

sunókhe abs. v. “To suffer loss”, “to deprive”, “to lose”. The receptive NP is used for the agent of deprivation; that which is lost is in the conveyant case.

kúkíngu poly. n. “Piglet”, “small pig”. A small, quadrupedal scavenger in Ferochromon, characterized by its short, stumpy legs and high-pitched squealing call.

arɜdí n. (1) “Foreigner”, “stranger”. (2) “Outsider”. Sometimes carries a derogative meaning.

ke 1st trichotomial correlative particle. See section on correlatives for more explanation.

tɜragí n. “Plant”, “vegetation”, “extractor”. A class of living entities in the Ferochromon characterized by their burrowing into the ground (**jhusí**) to transport nutrients to the surface, often in edible form. A branching structure is often formed at the surface, resembling Terran plants. Some types of **tɜragí**, however, are quite unlike Terran plants. For example, the **kígutɜri** is able to ‘walk’ on its lower ‘branches’ as though they were legs.

tére phys. v. “To sprout”, “to grow”.

âtacóru n. “Mountain”, “hill”. May also refer in a general sense to any large body of rock, such as plateaus, or even continents or landmasses.

ce 2nd trichotomial correlative particle. See section on correlatives.

âufútru n. “Viciousness”, “malignance”, “violent tendency”, “cruelty”. The quality of being prone to viciousness (used of persons), or having the characteristics of being designed for viciousness or violence (used of tools and weapons), such as having a vicious shape.

lalɜkí n. “Hook”, “crooked stick”.

re 3rd trichotomial correlative particle. See section on correlatives.

múká adv. “But”, “however”, “nevertheless”, “in spite of all that”. Introduces a contrasting section from preceding prose.

vuráu n. Gerund of **vuré**.

vuré phys. v. “To sink through”, “to pierce through”, “to penetrate into”, “to bore through”, “to dig into”.

tagí n. “Finger” (when used of a person), “claw” (when used of an animal).

isonací n. “At that time”. Note the difference between using the neuter pronoun **nací** to refer to time, vs. using **isonací** to refer to a particular period of time. The former refers to the time as an objective entity (e. g., “that (**nací**) was a long time”—**isóu**). The latter refers to events that occurred during that time (e. g. “during that time (**isonací**) things were good”).

ebí Masculine 1st person pronoun, “I”.

âtlánu introv. v. “To entertain”, “to enjoy”, “to make happy”.

muránu epi. n. “child”.

kígti n. “Fun”, “laughter”, “happiness”. Excitement, frolicking fun, not necessarily inner contentment.

burupóme phys. v. “To trample”, “to stampede”.

âtáru n. Gerund of **âtára**.

âtára abs. v. “To aspire”, “to make a determination”, “to look forward to”.

keve conj. “And so”, “and”. Similar to the English conjunction ‘and’, except that **keve** often has a cause-and-effect connotation.

cháre phys. v. (1) “To manifest”, “to express”, “to reveal”, “to witness the revealing of”. (2) “To shine”.

5 Cultural Context

The following brief description of the world of the Ebisédi may be helpful in understanding the intent behind some of the words used in the text.

The Ebisedi live on island continents² called the Lands, suspended in space. In the sky between the Lands are diverse cosmic objects, among the most prominent of which are the **âkálzrî** (singular: **âkálzru** [k^haləɾi]), “starburst”, an explosive phenomenon akin to supernovæ in the Terran universe.

²mini-planets.

A **ĕál3ru** ejects matter into space, often raining ejecta on nearby lands. Depending on its rate of eruption, it may appear as a swirling, rainbow-colored sphere, or a blinding disc of flashing colors, or a wild explosion of destructive fire. Some **ĕál3ru** are cyclic, cycling between different phases of activity at regular intervals.

Because there is no equivalent of Sun or Moon in the Ferochromon (and hence no day/night or months/years or seasons), the Ebisédi use objects like a cyclic **ĕál3ru** as a reference object for keeping time. A large **ĕál3ru** has a long cycle which corresponds with a “season” or “year” in the Ebisédi calendar. Different parts of the local “year” corresponds with different stages in the cycle of the **ĕál3ru**. When the **ĕál3ru** burns out, the Ebisédi would switch to another reference object. Hence, it is common for the Ebisédi to refer to “the time of Shining Fire”, or “the time of Majestic **ĕál3ru**”, etc., which are the periods of time in history when the named **ĕál3ru** was used as the reference object. It is also common to refer to specific events associated with such **ĕál3ru**, e. g., “the time when Shining Fire ceased”, or “the time Death Fire consumed (a previous land)”, etc..

On a much smaller scale, the **ĕál3ru** may also appear on land as a fountain or volcano-like phenomenon, or even under the ground, causing mountains to appear.

6 Concise Grammar

The concise grammar is omitted in this L^AT_EX version of the relay entry, since the same material is readily available online in a much more complete form from the Ebisédian reference grammar, which you can obtain at:

<http://quickfur.ath.cx:8080/~hsteoh/conlang/grammar.pdf>