

Naming Conventions

- There are several different naming traditions within Irathient, which should give one coming up with an Irathient name a lot of options. Like in Western languages, Irathients have a first and last name. First we'll take a look at several different strategies for first names, and then we'll turn our attention to last names.

First Names:

- As Irathients have such respect for nature, many of their first names are taken directly from natural words. Though all names are Class XVII, many names will retain their old class prefixes. As a rule, though, all names take the animate *h* agreement of Class XVII (it's the way that such names are distinguished from the nouns they're drawn from).

Generally, men are given names drawn from animals and broad geographical features, and women are given names drawn from water and plants. In practice, though, there's little to distinguish male and female names of this type phonologically.

Here are some male and female first names of this type:

Male Names

Nujekpe "mountain"

Kagnazi "an Irathient animal"

Tijukta "an Irathient animal"

Indur "rock cluster"

Nuktaishe "summit"

Female Names

Dinara "a type of flower"

Dinyasha "a type of flower"

Umbijire "waterfall"

Jase "flood"

Ulike "river"

Often when names are taken from Class VII or Class VIII, a *j* is added to the front to mark it as a name. A couple examples:

Male Names

Jedonla "cliff"

Jutonje "beach, shore"

Female Names

Jennira "rain storm"

Jukombe "lake"

Another strategy is to take bare roots and use them as names, or to prefix the Class XVII prefix *j(a)-* to it (optionally adding *-a* to the end). There's no distinction between male or female names for this type of name, save notional or traditional differences. These names are harder to define, since they're bare roots, but they'll also be easier to coin, since they require less work. Here are some examples using

roots that we've already seen, plus my rendering of the names "Julluh" and "Waltam":

- *Rath*
- *Jahosha*
- *O* (or *Jo*)
- *Ngəmiku*
- *Javusha*
- *Jalima*
- *Lanəs*
- *Jamerga*
- *Dror*
- *Jawimbla*
- *Jullə*
- *Wotom*

The other common name strategy for first names involves creating self-contained relative clauses. While agreement morphology usually only attaches to a small set of auxiliaries in the kernel, they can be used with regular verbs to form small relative clauses which serve as names. Owing to the nature of the construction, all of these names will begin with *z* (or *s* when the *z* occurs before a voiceless stop, and *zu* when it occurs before, say, *sh*). When choosing these names, parents will often choose active verbs for boys and descriptive verbs for girls, but even so, these names can apply to either gender. Often names will be chosen that make reference to the circumstances of the child's birth.

As these are older names, they make use of some fossilized morphology. A name can take the suffix *-(e)n* to indicate a completed event. Without that suffix, the name will be construed as imperfect. Neither makes explicit reference to tense, though, as this morphology was used at a time when tense wasn't marked explicitly on the verb. Below are some sample names:

- *Starren* "s/he who roared"
- *Zelig* "s/he who was sleeping"
- *Zdror* "s/he who breathes"
- *Zailonggen* "s/he who screamed"
- *Zburen* "s/he who cried"
- *Zungni* "s/he who swims"

An option with all the above names is to add a masculine or feminine suffix. These suffixes are generally restricted to names, and are optional, but can be added to lengthen a name, and to make a name that's unisex either masculine or feminine. The suffixes are listed below (note: those suffixes which end in a consonant take *a* when pluralized):

- *-(r)úr* (masculine; can't be added to names with an *r* in the previous syllable)
- *-(n)us* (masculine)
- *-(n)aila* (feminine; can't be added to names that are already three syllables long or longer)
- *-(l)on* (feminine)
- *-(n)ija* (feminine; not added to names whose last syllable is *ni*)
- *-(a)nya* (feminine)

Here are some of the names we've seen above with the masculine/feminine suffixes added:

Male Names

Nujekperúr
Zburenus
Rathus
Zdrorus
Kagnazirúr
Starrenus
Tijuktanus
Jamergus
Indurus
Jawimblúr

Female Names

Dinaraila
Zeligon
Jullanya
Jalimaila
Zungninya
Ngamikunija
Jukombelon
Lanasanya
Ulikenija
Umbijiron

The various strategies above should provide us with ample variety in coining first names.

Last Names:

- I liked the idea Trion came up with of having two different naming strategies for the two different Irathient clans. Consequently, there are two main strategies for developing last names for Irathients (we can decide which goes with which later).

The first strategy makes reference to one's father, and, essentially, means "Child of X", where X is the father's name. The strategy is simple enough: One prefixes either

Zaj(i)- to a male name, and it becomes a patronymic (last name). The prefix derives from the older prolix expression *Zage l(i)-*, which means "a child of". Here are some sample last names:

- *Zajistarrenus*
- *Zajizelig*
- *Zajijedonla*
- *Zajo*
- *Zajindur*
- *Zajirathus*
- *Zajinukeperúr*
- *Zajijamergus*
- *Zajikagnazi*
- *Zajizdrorus*

The other main strategy is to make reference either to the place of one's birth, or to a particular type of foliage that existed in the place of one's birth. Consequently, these names all begin with either *P(a)-*, or come from Class V or VI (sometimes XII). Here are some examples:

- *Darti* "a native, flowering ground cover"
- *Parraba* "from Arraba (a city on the Irathient home world)"
- *Panujekpə Nuvune* "from Black Mountain (a city on the Irathient home world)"
- *Panukaiou* "from the city"
- *Grazbi* "a type of poisonous plant"
- *Drurein* "a type of leafy plant"
- *Panunergze* "from the cave"
- *Panushaise* "from the meadow"
- *Gondur* "a type of poisonous plant"
- *Dalinggari* "a type of tree (plural)"

Both types of names are passed down from father to child (and from husband to wife), though, so many last names quickly became fossilized, and in the future, their meanings will likely become obscure (e.g. if they stay on Earth for five hundred or more years, who will remember that there was a city called Arraba on the Irathient home world?).

Sample Full Names:

- Based on the names already generated, here are some sample full names (with gender noted in parentheses afterwards):
 - *Starren Darti* (male)
 - *Julla Parraba* (female)
 - *Jennira Parraba* (female)
 - *Zburenus Zajijutonje* (male)
 - *Jahosha Zajirathus* (unisex)
 - *Jalimaila Zajiwotom* (female)
 - *Indur Zajindur* (male)
 - *Jorúr Grazbi* (male)
 - *Ulikenanya Panushaise* (female)
 - *Zungninus Drurein* (male)

In order to get more varied names, I'll simply need more time to coin vocabulary items. Names should be able to be generated from scratch, though, so long as they fit with the patterns laid out above, and obey the phonotactics of the language. Be sure to either take an existing root or that the name generated doesn't match *any* existing root, and we can coin a meaning for it later.