

John Clifford's page

Here are traditional specimens of the languages I am going to talk about (and will chat about).

aUI (John L. Weilgart, 1968,1979) The Language of Space: universal (literally) communication, clear thinking by overt analysis of concepts and natural correlation between form and meaning. Latin alphabet plus capitalized vowels and nasalized vowels and caps and y. lc vowels are short (generally lower, except /a/ is schwa), cap vowels are usual. /y/ is u-umlaut (German "ueber") between consonants, y elsewhere; /q/ is o-umlaut (or "the o in 'word'"), /x/=kh, /j/=zh, /c/=sh. The order of the vowels is /aeiuo/ then the caps in the same order. /l/ is usually written /L/ to avoid confusion, consonantal /y/ is often written /Y/. There is also (well, actually it is basic and the Latin alphabet is merely for convenience at the typewriter) an aUI alphabet, which is also a system of ideoglyphs and which clarifies some questions about word structure. Each phone is also a morpheme associated with a prime concept. The nasalized vowels are the numbers 1-10 in order, with 0 being nasalized /y/. Words are built up from sounds following the interaction of the prime concepts to define the new concept. The primes are a priori (intuitive). Words constructed by this method occasionally resemble familiar words with similar meanings (e.g./bos/ for domestic animal. /Ut/ for "in order to"). It is unclear whether Weilgart did this deliberately when possible or whether it was accidental but taken as evidence that his system was basically correct. Stress on a nasal first, if none then on a capital vowel, if none then penult. When two or more of a category, stress is on the closest to penult. SVO strictly adhered to (no change for subordinate clauses, questions) and AN.

Lord's Prayer (kUtOr Ub ku)

Fnum ytvu, xu cEv ag kna,bum fUI kUrUryv! Bum knuwa terv!bumtwU Eryv kab bEn Uj ag kna!serv fnum iAm nod at fnu fiA! Ib yrvtrOrv pIn fnum yrUvs rUt fnu, Uj fnu yrvtrOv rUt pIn fnum yrevu. Ib bu yc daiurv fnu tag yrUm tsOb, yUg fUwerv fnu tyg yrU! YUt knuwa Ib wU Ib kUO cEv bum At ymA Ib canA. FUdsEcErv!

Toki pona (Sonja Elen Kisa, 2001) Minimalist language for clarifying thought by reducing to the fundamental notions. Also meant to display Daoist simplicity and to promote a positive attitude.

Uses only a,e,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,s,t,u,w, /j/=y otherwise standard, but very loosely defined, i.e., each covers a wide phonetic range by position but without overlap (except syllable final /n/ is m before /p/). Syllables (C)V(n), C omitted only in first syllable (which are stressed), no /n,m/ after /n/, no /ji/, /wo/, /wu/, /ti/. Total vocabulary of 118 words. SVO (no rearrangement) and NA (no subordinate clauses).

mama pi mi mute

mama pi mi mute o

sina lon sewi kon.

o nimi sina li sewi en pona.

o ma sina li kama.

o jan li pali e wile sina en lon sewi kon en lon ma.

o sina pana lon tempo suno ni e moku tawa mi.

o weka e pali ike mi, sama la mi weka e pali ike pi jan ante.

o pana ala e wile ike tawa mi.

o awen e mi weka tan ike.

Ni li nasin.

Lojban ([Loglan: James Cooke Brown, 1955, 1960, 1975, 1981, 1989, ongoing] Logical Language Group (Robert LeChevalier, John Cowan, et al), 1988, 1997, ongoing). Officially to test Sapir-Whorf. In practice, human-machine interface (control, translation), some clear thinking, auxiliary use (mainly derived from interface use and unique machine parsing). Latin alphabet less /h,q,w/, plus /' (pronounced as /h/), /./ (significant pause), /,/ (unpredicted syllable break), capitalization (unpredicted stress). Usual values, except /c/=sh, /j/=zh, /x/=kh, /y/ is schwa. Penult stress (freer in names). No primes per se, but most vocabulary is built from c. 1300 primitives ("gismu") which represent the most common concepts (in English) as shown by usage in a variety of studies. The word forms are formulaic fusions of the corresponding words in the six languages with the most speakers, all fitted into CVCCV or CCVCV forms, each with at least one shorter form for use in compounding vocabulary development. New vocabulary is by collapsing modifier-modified cluster into new predicates, while retaining the basic pattern of gismu (only longer): CC in first five sounds, penult stress. There are also several hundred (C)V((')V) forms for pronouns, prepositions (mostly derived from gismu), various syntactic functions. SVO (but some free, some marked rearrangements) and AN

Lord's Prayer (le xisuctu jdaseslsku be la jegvon.) (ni'o)

doi cevrirni .iu noi zvati le do cevzda do'u
 fu'e .aicai .e'ecai lo do cmene ru'i censa
 .i le do nobli turni be la ter. ku se cfari
 .i loi do se djica ba snada mulno vi'e le cevzda .e .a'o la ter.
 (.i do nobli turni vi'e le cevzda .ebazake .a'o la ter.)
 (.i loi do se djica ba snada mulno vi'e le cevzda .e .a'o la ter.)
 .i fu'e .e'o ko dunda ca le cabdei le ri nanba mi'a
 .i ko fraxu mi loi ri zu'o palci
 .ijo mi fraxu roda poi pacyzu'e xrani mi
 .i ko lidne mi fa'anai loi pacyxlu
 .i ko sepri'a mi loi palci

Esperanto (Lazarus Ludovic Zamenhof, 1887, various minor revisions since) An international auxiliary language. Latin alphabet less /q, x, w,y/ plus circumflexed forms (typed with following x) of /c,g,h,j,s/ and hachek u (written /ux/ or /uq/ or, as here, /w/). Pronunciation as usual except /c/=ts, /j/=y, /cx/=ch, /gx/=j, /hx/=kh, /jx/=zh, /sx/=sh, /ux/=w. Penult stress. No primes nor primitives, but a couple dozen active derivational affixes of very specific content and sporadic portmanteau. Vocabulary is international words systematized to the noun:-o, adjective -a, adverb -e, verb -i, -Vs, pattern, plus local words for local features and an apparently random set of words from European languages for pronouns and syntactic functions. SVO (but free rearrangement) and AN

Lord's Prayer

*Patro nia, kiu estas en la cxielo,
 Via nomo estu sanktigita.
 Venu Via regno,
 plenumigxu Via volo,
 kiel en la cxielo, tiel ankaw sur la tero.
 Nian panon cxiutagan donu al ni hodiaw.
 Kaj pardonu al ni niajn sxuldojn,
 kiel ankaw ni pardonas al niaj sxuldantoj.
 Kaj ne konduku nin en tenton,
 sed liberigu nin de la malbono.
 Amen.*