

## Castithan Naming Conventions

- Castithan names are vitally important to Castithan culture, as a name will often carry with it information about one's caste or social standing. For the time being (since we haven't got details on the caste system), names will be divided into upper class and lower class. We'll start with first names and then move on to last names.

### First Names:

- There are a couple of common naming strategies used for first names in Castithan. One of the most common naming strategies (and this particular strategy works with both upper and lower class characters) is to derive a name for a person from the number order of their birth. For men, the suffix *-zu* is added to the counting form of the number, and for women, the suffix *-la* is added (note: this suffix changes to *-na* when it follows a word that ends in *-IV*). Here are the most common examples:

#### Male Names

*Avizu*· "first boy"  
*Kamazu*· "second boy"  
*Dunizu*· "third boy"  
*Surizu*· "fourth boy"  
*Jalizu*· "fifth boy"  
*Vyenggazu*· "sixth boy"  
*Wogazu*· "seventh boy"

#### Female Names

*Avila*· "first girl"  
*Kamala*· "second girl"  
*Dunila*· "third girl"  
*Surila*· "fourth girl"  
*Jalina*· "fifth girl"  
*Vyenggala*· "sixth girl"  
*Wogala*· "seventh girl"

[Note: *Jalila*· is also attested as an older form of *Jalina*·.]

Beyond the number five, number names are uncommon, but possible, and probably attested (especially in larger royal families).

Another common strategy for forming names is using the *-(a)k*· and *-(i)ts*· nominalizers to produce names directly related to verbs. These names are, theoretically, unisex, but they come to be associated with either men or women customarily (those that aren't are listed in both columns). Some examples are given below (upper class names have an asterisk in front of them):

#### Male Names

\**Detak*· "beloved"  
*Uthik*· "laughing one"  
*Melak*· "given one"  
*Fanak*· "taken one"

#### Female Names

*Melak*· "found one"  
 \**Kahik*· "smiling one"  
*Shulak*· "left one"  
*Deruts*· "removed one"

\**Alak*· "chosen one"

\**Kyezuts*· "capable one"

\**Melits*· "discoverer"

*Hadhak*· "arrived one"

*Karéts*· "talkative one"

\**Kazhik*· "blushing one"

Another strategy to create a first name is to take some word (something the parent wishes to be characteristic in the child, or which reminds one of the child) and use it with a copy of the first syllable of the word (CVV- max) placed at the end, and ending with *-n* (preposed by a short *-i* if necessary). This strategy doesn't work with words that begin with vowels, and is dispreferred in words longer than three syllables (but nevertheless possible). Here are some examples (again, upper class names have an asterisk in front of them):

#### Male Names

\**Chadachan*· "type of tree"

*Yengiye*· "type of ground cover"

*Banimban*· "eye"

\**Dechinden*· "love"

#### Female Names

\**Monemon*· "type of tree"

*Tamitan*· "type of ground cover"

*Shegishen*· "ear"

\**Kazhikan*· "blush"

Note that, with names like *Tamitam*·, both the voiced and unvoiced variants are attested (i.e. *Tamidam*· as well as *Tamitan*·). With previously prenasalized consonants, versions without the nasal are recent inventions (so *Banimban*· is more common than *Baniban*·).

Finally, there are always some stray nouns that can be used as names. They will be noted in the lexicon. Also in this category are names that go back so far that their meanings have been lost. Here are some examples (mostly these are considered upper class names now):

#### Male Names

\**Iskat*· "no meaning"

\**Set*· "no meaning"

\**Daig*· "fire"

#### Female Names

\**Stama*· "summer"

\**Puré*· "summer"

\**Swog*· "star"

#### Last Names:

- Last names are important to Castithan nobility, as it identifies the family to which one belongs. In the history of the language, *only* the nobility had last names for many centuries. It wasn't until later that the lower classes obtained last names for themselves, and they used a number of different strategies to generate last names.

We'll begin our discussion of last names by looking at the strategies for upper class names. One simple strategy is for a family to decide to take the first name of influential (usually male) patriarch and adopt it as its family name. These names were often taken as is, without any modification, but another strategy was to add the suffix *-(i)bun* to the end of the first name (meaning something like "family of"). Here are some possibilities:

*Detakibun*  
*Avizu*  
*Alakibun*  
*Daigibun*  
*Iskatibun*

There are also a handful of family names that are quite old and whose origins have been lost. Some of those names are listed below:

*Tar*  
*Zor*  
*Mor*  
*Gal*  
*Dil*

Most of these names are immediately recognizable by Castithan, as they belong to large and prosperous families. Generally the names are passed down from generation to generation, but on occasion, the name is not passed on in its pure form, being suffixed with *-uku*, as shown below:

*Taruku*  
*Zoruku*  
*Moruku*  
*Galuku*  
*Diluku*

The suffixed form was used at one point in time to show a distant connection to one of the more well established families (e.g. a son marries one who isn't from one of the upper castes, and even if he is allowed to retain his name, the name doesn't pass on to his son, who takes the *-uku* form of the name, and who then passes it on to his descendants, etc.).

As was mentioned above, previously only the wealthy had last or family names. When it became necessary for *all* people to have last names, the lower castes often found themselves creating last names. They were often forbidden from choosing one of the names associated with a wealthy family (as those listed above), so they resorted to several different strategies. One was to make reference to a local landmark or to a feature near their home, as shown below:

*Besadhan*· "from the mountain"  
*Tamadhan*· "from the flowery ground cover area"  
*Chadadhan*· "from an area with *chada* trees"  
*Moneladhan*· "from an area with *mone* trees"

More well to do families (middle class, upper middle class, or the lower of the upper classes) chose names like those above that were celestial in nature:

*Verahadhan*· "from the sun"  
*Turevadhan*· "from the night sky"  
*Ireswadhan*· "from the twin stars"

Some families took simply the names of landmarks themselves as names:

*Schiv*· "water well"  
*Cheráre*· "cliff"  
*Bes*· "mountain"  
*Yeng*· "common ground cover"

Still others took the profession of the head of the household as a last name:

*Kwovats*· "butcher"  
*Urits*· "builder"  
*Nevits*· "servant"

Finally, some formed a last name that, essentially, means "product of" by suffixing -*(i)no* to a first name (usually ancestor). Here are some possibilities:

*Iskatino*·  
*Detakino*·  
*Deruchino*·  
*Melakino*·  
*Yengiyeno*·

Note that when this suffix is added to the reduplicated names (as with *Yengiyen*), it attaches directly, and the two *n*'s merge.

#### Sample Full Names:

- Based on the names already generated, here are some sample full names (with gender noted in parentheses afterwards. Shown in the vocative):
  - *Detako Taro* (male)
  - *Tamitano Kwovatsō* (female)
  - *Stamo Zoro* (female)
  - *Banimbano Cherárayo* (male)
  - *Melako Nevitso* (male)
  - *Swogo Taruku* (female)
  - *Kamazu Tamadhano* (male)
  - *Daigo Dilo* (male)
  - *Kazhikano Alakibuno* (female)
  - *Fanako Besadhano* (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 (see below). 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.

#### Romanization and Pronunciation:

- The romanization system should be fairly straightforward. There are only a couple wrinkles to keep in mind, and I've explained it all below:
  - *A, a*: Pronounced like the "a" in "father".
  - *B, b*: Pronounced like the "b" in "bad".
  - *Ch, ch*: Pronounced like the "ch" in "ech". Unlike the sound "ch" in English "chair", there is no discernible puff of air that accompanies this sound. If one holds one's breath while pronouncing the "ch" in English "chair", one will pronounce this sound correctly.
  - *D, d*: Pronounced like the "d" in "deck".

- *Dh, dh*: Pronounced like the "th" in "that" (*never* like the "th" in "thin"). Compare with *th*.
- *E, e*: Always pronounced like the "a" in "gate"; *never* like the "e" in "get".
- *F, f*: Pronounced like the "f" in "fair".
- *G, g*: Pronounced like the "g" in "goat" (*never* like the "g" in "genius").
- *H, h*: Pronounced like the "h" in "hop". This sound is *always* pronounced, even if it comes after another consonant, or at the end of a word. The only cases in which it is *not* pronounced is when it occurs in the digraphs *sh, th, dh, ch* and *zh*.
- *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine".
- *K, k*: Pronounced like the "k" in "sky" (this sound features *no* aspiration. Aspiration is the puff of air that occurs in the "k" in "kite". Compare the "k" in "kite" and the "k" in "sky" [try holding your hand in front of your face when pronouncing both]. The Castithan *k* should always be pronounced like the "k" in "sky"; *never* like the "k" in "kite").
- *L, l*: Pronounced like the "l" in "love" (*never* like the so-called "swallowed l" in "filth").
- *Ly, ly*: Pronounced like the "lli" in "million".
- *M, m*: Pronounced like the "m" in "matter".
- *N, n*: Pronounced like the "n" in "never".
- *Ng, ng*: Pronounced like the "ng" in "sing". This sound *can* occur at the beginning of a word. It takes some practice, but it's doable. Try slowing down your pronunciation of the word "singing", and see if you can separate it into "si" and "nging". *Never* pronounced like the "ng" in "anger" (for which, see *ngg*).
- *Ngg, ngg*: Pronounced like the "ng" in "anger" (building off of the previous, think of *ng* as a single consonant; to get a [g] sound afterwards there must be another *g*).

- *Ny, ny*: Pronounced like the "ni" in "onion" or the initial "N" in an East Coast pronunciation of "New York".
- *O, o*: Pronounced like the "o" in "wrote"; *never* like the "o" in "port".
- *P, p*: Pronounced like the "p" in "spike" (this sound features *no* aspiration. Aspiration is the puff of air that occurs in the "p" in "pike". Compare the "p" in "pike" and the "p" in "spike" [try holding your hand in front of your face when pronouncing both]. The Castithan *p* should always be pronounced like the "p" in "spike"; *never* like the "p" in "pike").
- *R, r*: Pronounced like the "r" in Spanish "pero". Nearly identical to the "r" or "d" sound in English "matador" (pronounced quickly).
- *S, s*: Pronounced like the "s" in "sad".
- *Sh, sh*: Pronounced like the "sh" in "shack".
- *T, t*: Pronounced like the "t" in "stake" (this sound features *no* aspiration. Aspiration is the puff of air that occurs in the "t" in "take". Compare the "t" in "take" and the "t" in "stake" [try holding your hand in front of your face when pronouncing both]. The Castithan *t* should always be pronounced like the "t" in "stake"; *never* like the "t" in "take").
- *Th, th*: Pronounced like the "th" in "thin" (*never* like the "th" in "that"). *Compare with dh*.
- *U, u*: Pronounced like the "u" in "du".
- *V, v*: Pronounced like the "v" in "very".
- *W, w*: Pronounced like the "w" in "war".
- *Y, y*: Pronounced like the "y" in "yesterday". (*Note: Never* occurs as a vowel.)
- *Z, z*: Pronounced like the "z" in "zebra".
- *Zh, zh*: Pronounced like the "z" in "azure" or the "s" in "measure" (an analogy: s is to z as *sh* is to *zh*).

Stress:

- Stress is lexical and occurs on one of the first three syllables of a word (but, crucially, never the last syllable). Since many words will be two syllables long, and, therefore, *must* be stressed initially, stress will only be marked on words that are stressed on the second or third syllable. A stress will be marked with an acute accent over the vowel as follows: *Á, á, É, é, Í, í, Ó, ó, Ú, ú*.

Phonotactics:

- Generally, content words are at least two syllables long. There are exceptions for words that originally had long vowels. In fact, these words will continue to have long vowels when occurring in their monosyllabic form.
- One of the characteristic clusters of Castithan is *s* and *sh* followed or preceded by *p*, *t* or *k*. The full list is as follows: *st, sp, sk, sht, shp, shk, ts, ps, ks, tsh, psh* and *ksh* (though *tsh* will mostly be spelled *ch*). They'll be sprinkled throughout the vocabulary and will help to make Castithan uniquely identifiable.
- Occasionally, two vowels will occur next to one another (as in English words like "react" and "coerce" and "sawing"). They are, for the most part, pronounced separately, but in rapid speech they will run together and sound like diphthongs.