

Dear Mr. Weiss, Mr. Benioff, Mr. Martin and Mr. Doelger,

I'm excited to submit to you my proposal to bring George R. R. Martin's Dothraki language to life for HBO. I'm an active language creator with over a decade of experience who has worked in the medium of created languages in private, professional and educational settings.

I've had the good fortune to study under some of the greatest American linguists of the twentieth and twenty-first century: At Berkeley, George Lakoff (*Metaphors We Live By*) and John McWhorter (*The Power of Babel*); and at UC San Diego, David Perlmutter (co-creator of Relational Grammar) and Maria Polinsky (*The Atlas of Languages, The World Atlas of Language Structures*), among many others. My linguistic education not only exposed me to hundreds of natural languages, it helped me to refine my understanding of what language *is*, and how it works.

My approach to language creation is unique, and allows me to produce high quality and realistic languages. The method I call *Organic Conlanging* can be summed up in the following four principles:

- Historical Depth: An organic conlang, like a natural language, must show the signs of hundreds of years of linguistic evolution.
- Natural Expansion: The initial grammar of an organic conlang is only a guide. Like a natural language, an organic conlang *grows into* its grammar; it's not confined by it.
- Guidance: The goal of an organic conlanger is to *guide* the growth of the language, not command it.
- Verisimilitude: Changes to the grammar are informed by the findings of modern linguistics, and our present understanding of the nature of language.

For the Dothraki project, in addition to the four general goals stated above, I've made it my top priority to incorporate *all* of Mr. Martin's extant Dothraki vocabulary

found throughout *A Song of Fire & Ice*—unaltered, where possible. A fan tuning into *A Game of Thrones* will expect to hear the names *Drogo*, *Haggo* and *Irri*, and will also expect to hear of *arakhs*, *khalasars* and the *dosh khaleen*. Fans will certainly not be disappointed by my Dothraki proposal, and will also be excited to hear how the new vocabulary fits in seamlessly with the old.

And the best part is that out of the box, so to speak, the language is 100% ready to go—all it needs (like any language) is more vocabulary (though its vocabulary is already quite extensive, with more than 600 roots and more than 2,000 words).

In the future, when the show really takes off, there are a number of projects that could incorporate the Dothraki language, such as:

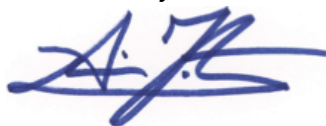
- A Dothraki phrasebook available from HBO's website.
- Detailed descriptions of the dialogue used in the previous episode.
- Online teach yourself guides.
- A paperback bilingual dictionary of the Dothraki language.
- A full reference grammar of Dothraki.
- Merchandise featuring Dothraki phrases (perhaps a maternity shirt that reads *Khalakka Dothrae Mr' Anha*, "A Prince Rides Inside Me"?)

Once the show has built its fanbase, there are any number of possible marketing opportunities for the Dothraki language. These goals are more easily realized with a *complete* language, such as the one I'm offering in my proposal.

In addition to the dialogue for the pilot and the 200 page *Reference Grammar and Lexicon* contained in my application, I invite you to read through the (much shorter) *Dothraki Tour*, glance through the *Dothraki Phrasebook*, and check out the *Dothraki Fun Facts*. I know the length and breadth of my materials is extensive, but I settle for nothing less than the best—and I think this is also true of HBO, the fans of *A Song of Fire & Ice*, and Mr. Martin himself.

Thanks again for the opportunity, and I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,



David J. Peterson
Enclosure