Romanization and Pronunciation:

• Below is a method of writing the Sondiv language using roman characters. Pronunciation is always one symbol = one sound, save where indicated (usually in the case of digraphs). The entire system is described below:

◉ *A, a*: Pronounced like the "a̲" in "fa̲ther".

◉ *Am, am*: Pronounced like the "a" in French "quida̲m", only a bit more forward in the mouth. This is a nasalized vowel, where air is allowed to pass through the nose. To give you an example of the difference between a nasalized vowel, pronounce the English words "low" and "loan" with your nose pinched. The vowel in the second word should sound a little funny with your nose pinched. This is because air is trying to pass through your nose but is unable to, as you're pinching it. Vowels which end in a nasal consonant (i.e. *n* or *m*) in Sondiv should be pronounced in just this way, with air passing through the nose.

◉ *An, an*: Pronounced like the "a̲" in French "da̲nse", only a bit more forward in the mouth. This is a nasalized vowel, where air is allowed to pass through the nose. To give you an example of the difference between a nasalized vowel, pronounce the English words "low" and "loan" with your nose pinched. The vowel in the second word should sound a little funny with your nose pinched. This is because air is trying to pass through your nose but is unable to, as you're pinching it. Vowels which end in a nasal consonant (i.e. *n* or *m*) in Sondiv should be pronounced in just this way, with air passing through the nose.

◉ *B, b*: Pronounced like the "b̲" in "b̲ad".

◉ *D, d*: Pronounced like the "d̲" in "d̲iet".

◉ *E, e*: Pronounced like the "ei̲" in "ei̲ght".

◉ *Em, em*: Pronounced like the "i̲" in French "si̲mple", only a bit higher in the mouth. This is a nasalized vowel, where air is allowed to pass through the nose. To give you an example of the difference between a nasalized vowel, pronounce the English words "low" and "loan" with your nose pinched. The vowel in the second word should sound a little funny with your nose pinched. This is because air is trying to pass through your nose but is unable to, as you're pinching it. Vowels which end in a nasal consonant (i.e. *n* or *m*) in Sondiv should be pronounced in just this way, with air passing through the nose.

- *En, en*: Pronounced like the "i" in French "quinze", only a bit higher in the mouth. This is a nasalized vowel, where air is allowed to pass through the nose. To give you an example of the difference between a nasalized vowel, pronounce the English words "low" and "loan" with your nose pinched. The vowel in the second word should sound a little funny with your nose pinched. This is because air is trying to pass through your nose but is unable to, as you're pinching it. Vowels which end in a nasal consonant (i.e. *n* or *m*) in Sondiv should be pronounced in just this way, with air passing through the nose.

- *F, f*: Pronounced like the "f" in "fog".

- *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.

- *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine".

- *J, j*: Pronounced like the "g" in "beige" or the "j" in French "Jean".

- *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 Sondiv "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").

- *M, m*: Pronounced like the "m" in "matter".

- *N, n*: Pronounced like the "n" in "never".

- *O, o*: Pronounced like the "o" in "tote".

- *Om, om*: Pronounced like the "o" in French "bombe". This is a nasalized vowel, where air is allowed to pass through the nose. To give you an example of the difference between a nasalized vowel, pronounce the English words "low" and "loan" with your nose pinched. The vowel in the second word should sound a little funny with your nose pinched. This is because air is trying to pass through

your nose but is unable to, as you're pinching it. Vowels which end in a nasal consonant (i.e. *n* or *m*) in Sondiv should be pronounced in just this way, with air passing through the nose.

◉ *On, on*: Pronounced like the "o̞" in French "bo̞n". This is a nasalized vowel, where air is allowed to pass through the nose. To give you an example of the difference between a nasalized vowel, pronounce the English words "low" and "loan" with your nose pinched. The vowel in the second word should sound a little funny with your nose pinched. This is because air is trying to pass through your nose but is unable to, as you're pinching it. Vowels which end in a nasal consonant (i.e. *n* or *m*) in Sondiv should be pronounced in just this way, with air passing through the nose.

◉ *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 Sondiv "p" should always be pronounced like the "p" in "spike"; never like the "p" in "pike").

◉ *R, r*: Pronounced like the "r" in Spanish "espero" or like the "t" in American English "porter".

◉ *S, s*: Pronounced like the "s" in "sack".

◉ *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 Sondiv "t" should always be pronounced like the "t" in "stake"; never like the "t" in "take").

◉ *U, u*: Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate".

◉ *V, v*: Pronounced like the "v" in "van", though, for flavor, can be pronounced like the Spanish "v" in "vaca".

◉ *W, w*: Pronounced like the "w" in "win".

◉ *Y, y*: Pronounced like the "y" in "yet".

◉ *Z, z*: Pronounced like the "z" in "zip".

◉ *Vowel Sequences*: Where two vowels occur next to one another, they are pronounced separately.

Stress:

- Words are stressed uniformly on the last syllable, with the very last syllable of the sentence generally getting the strongest stress (or, internally, the last syllable of a phrase). Word stress in general, though, is less important in Sondiv than sentence-level intonation. In scripts, stress will be indicated with an accute accent above the vowel in question (i.e. *á, é, í, ó* or *ú*), or with capital letters (e.g. se-ki-TU). A tripartite example is provided below (using the word for "recently"):

  ◉ <u>Stress Not Indicated:</u>   *ikedur*
  ◉ <u>Stress Indicated with Accents:</u>   *ikedúr*
  ◉ <u>Stress Indicated with Capitals:</u> i-ke-DUR