

Background

Trigedasleng is the language of the Twelve Clans (a.k.a. the Grounders) in the CW's *The 100*. The language is a potential future development of the modern English language within the world of *The 100*.

Spelling and Pronunciation

Though the Grounders don't have an official writing system on the show, we use a more or less phonetic romanization system to write it so the actors can know how everything is supposed to be pronounced. A summary of this system is shown below:

<i>p b ch j k g m n ng l</i>	These sounds are pronounced exactly as they are in English.
<i>r f v s z h sh w y</i>	
<i>t</i>	This always has its full pronunciation. That is, it's always pronounced like the "t" in "talk"; never like the "tt" in "better".
<i>d</i>	This is pronounced like the "d" in "deserve" at the beginning of a word. In the middle of a word, it's like the "dd" in "middle" or the "tt" in "better".
<i>th</i>	This sound is <i>always</i> pronounced like the "th" in "think"; never like the "th" in "that".
<i>e, ei, o, ou, ai, au</i>	Pronounced, in order, like the "e" in "Lexa"; like the "a" in "Raven"; like the "o" in "cot"; like the "o" in "wrote"; like the "i" in "ice"; and like the "ow" in "how".
<i>i, u</i>	The first is pronounced in between the vowels in "bead" and "bid"; the second in between the vowels in "Luke" and "look".
<i>a</i>	Pronounced like the "a" in "sofa" at the end of a word; otherwise pronounced like the "a" in "apple".

Pronouns

Trigedasleng pronouns should be familiar to English speakers, but they don't line up one-to-one.

Personal Pronouns	Singular	Plural Inclusive	Plural Exclusive
First Person	<i>ai</i> "I"	<i>oso</i> "we together"	<i>osir</i> "us not you"
Second Person	<i>yu</i> "you"	<i>yo</i> "you all"	
Third Person	<i>em</i> "she, he, it"	<i>emo</i> "they"	

Importantly, Trigedasleng pronouns don't decline for case, so there's no difference between, for example, I and me. You use the same pronoun for both, as shown below:

- ❖ *Ai chich yu op.* "I talk to you."
- ❖ *Yu chich ai op.* "You talk to me."

The same pronouns are used for possession, as show below:

- ❖ *Ai laik gona.* "I am a warrior."
- ❖ *Ai nomon laik gona.* "My mother is a warrior."

There are a separate set of possessive pronouns, shown below:

Possessive Pronouns	Singular	Plural Inclusive	Plural Exclusive
First Person	<i>ayon</i> "mine"	<i>oson</i> "ours"	
Second Person	<i>yun</i> "you"	<i>yon</i> "y'all's"	
Third Person	<i>emon</i> "his, hers, its, theirs"		

Nouns

Trigedasleng nouns don't inflect for plurality, possession, or case. As with pronouns, they can be used before other nouns as possessors, as shown below:

- ❖ *Heda laik gona.* "The commander is a warrior."
- ❖ *Heda Seken laik gona.* "The commander's second is a warrior."

Notice all that there is no distinction between definite and indefinite with nouns (so there's no equivalent for the words "a" or "the").

Verbs

In Trigedasleng, verbs come in two pieces: The verb and the satellite. The satellite associated with a verb can crucially change its meaning, as shown below:

- ❖ *lok up* “to find”
- ❖ *lok in* “to target”
- ❖ *lok au* “to spot”
- ❖ *lok daun* “to secure”

Trigedasleng has a series of particles and auxiliaries which convey tense and aspect information, as well as voice.

	Active	Progressive	Passive	Pass. Progressive
Present	<i>lok op</i>	<i>ste lok op</i>	<i>ge lok op</i>	<i>ste ge lok op</i>
Past	<i>don lok op</i>	<i>don ste lok op</i>	<i>don ge lok op</i>	<i>don ste ge lok op</i>
Future	<i>na lok op</i>	<i>na ste lok op</i>	<i>na ge lok op</i>	<i>na ste ge lok op</i>

When verbs are used in a sentence with nouns, the satellite is placed after the object, unless the object is quite large. Here are a couple examples:

- ❖ *Heda keryon na gyon op.* “The Commander’s spirit will ascend.”
- ❖ *Ai hod yu in.* “I love you.”
- ❖ *Ai hod in Leksa kom Trikru bilaik otaim ridyo heda.* “I love Lexa of Trikru, the one true commander.”

To negate a verb phrase, you use *nou*, which comes before all other verbal satellites, as shown below:

- ❖ *Ai don jak yu tronkova op.* “I stole your blanket.”
- ❖ *Ai nou don jak yu tronkova op.* “I didn’t steal your blanket.”

There is no direct equivalent of the verb “to be” in Trigedasleng. Instead, there are two words: *laik* and *ste*. *Laik* is used in equative X is Y constructions when Y is a noun. When it’s an adjective, you use *ste*. Below are some examples:

- ❖ *Ai laik heda.* “I am the commander.”
- ❖ *Yu nou laik ai бага.* “You are not my enemy.”
- ❖ *Ai snogon ste bifi.* “My significant other is perfect.”
- ❖ *Em chinkova nou ste biga.* “His beard isn’t big.”

In casual conversation, *ste* is often reduced to *’s*. Here are some examples:

- ❖ *Yu dina’s ge choj op.* “Your food is being eaten.”
- ❖ *En’s krei os!* “It’s really good!”
- ❖ *Ai nou’s shanen yu’s choj ai dina op!* “I’m not happy you’re eating my food!”

Vocabulary and Phrases

Greetings		Cultural Terms and Phrases	
<i>Heya!</i>	Hello!	<i>heda</i>	commander
<i>Monin!</i>	Welcome!	<i>Natblida</i>	Nightblood
<i>Hayun? ~ Hayon?</i>	How are you (all)?	<i>kru</i>	clan
<i>Sha!</i>	Yes!	<i>trigeda</i>	forest
<i>No!</i>	No!	<i>Kyongedon</i>	Grounder
<i>Osos!</i>	Excellent!	<i>Fleimkepa</i>	historian
<i>Oshou!</i>	Congratulations!	<i>gona</i>	warrior
<i>Bigos!</i>	Cheers!	<i>Gonasleng</i>	English
<i>Leidon! ~ Leida!</i>	Goodbye! ~ Bye!	<i>Jus drein jus daun!</i>	Blood must have blood!

Common Verbs		Adverbs/Other	
<i>gada in</i>	have	<i>odon</i>	done, finished
<i>gaf in</i>	want	<i>disha ~ dei</i>	this ~ that
<i>rid op</i>	sleep	<i>nau ~ den</i>	now ~ then
<i>get in</i>	know	<i>taim</i>	if/when
<i>hit op</i>	meet	<i>chon ~ chit</i>	who ~ what
<i>ron op</i>	give	<i>otaim ~ nowe</i>	always ~ never
<i>vout in</i>	think	<i>dise ~ dawe</i>	like this ~ like that
<i>ban au</i>	banish	<i>kom</i>	from/of
<i>sen in</i>	hear/smell	<i>gon</i>	to/for

Looking for More...?

Check out the following resources online:

Slakgedakru Tumblr (Fan Community): <http://slakgedakru.tumblr.com/>
 Telongeda (Trigedasleng Wiktionary): <http://slakgedakru.com/telongeda/>
 Download This Handout: <http://dedalvs.com/dl/trig101.pdf>