

# OVERVIEW OF CLASSICAL HÄHNOREN

## *Pronunciation of Hähän and Hähnoren*

Our earliest records regarding the phonetic system of Hähnoren date back to the documents on court language-usage from the Gamurecin Chancellery of the mid Fifth Age, and suggest that the pronunciation of Hähnoren remained remarkably consistent through the ages. In the following table, an attempt is made to give some indication of the phonetics of Classical Hähnoren.

- Consonants

<b>C</b>	[k]	Always hard, as in English: <i>cake</i>
<b>CH</b>	[χ]	As in German: <i>Bach</i> , Scottish: <i>loch</i>
<b>DH</b>	[ð]	A voiced dental fricative, as in English: <i>though</i> This is expressed as <b>DD</b> in Old Cemrí and Camazan
<b>G</b>	[g]	Always hard, as in English: <i>girl</i>
<b>GH</b>	[dʒ]	Always soft, as in English: <i>gel</i> , general, Italian: <i>Giulia</i> In later Herenore, this becomes hard
<b>H</b>	[h]	Always given the same, audible value as in English
<b>PH</b>	[pf]	As in German: <i>Pfingst</i> , a combination of <i>p</i> & <i>f</i>
<b>Q</b>	[hj]	A soft sound equivalent to <i>h</i> in <i>huge</i> ; combination of <i>h</i> & <i>y</i>
<b>R</b>	[ʀ]	As in Italian, a soft trill
<b>TH</b>	[θ]	Always unvoiced, as in English: <i>throw</i>

- Vowels

<b>A</b>	[æ]	As in English: <i>cat</i>
<b>À</b>	[ɑ:]	As in English: <i>pass</i>
<b>AE, Æ, AI</b>	[a:]	As in English: <i>my</i> , German: <i>fein</i> , Italian: <i>sai</i>
<b>E</b>	[ɛ]	Very short, as in English: <i>bet</i>
<b>É</b>	[e]	As in French: <i>épée</i> , English: <i>say</i>
<b>Ë</b>	[i:]	As in English: <i>pea</i> , <i>see</i>
<b>I</b>	[ɪ]	Very short, as in English: <i>little</i> , <i>middle</i>
<b>Í</b>	[i:]	Again, as in English: <i>pea</i> , <i>see</i>
<b>O</b>	[ɔ]	Short, as in English: <i>mock</i> , <i>follow</i>
<b>Ò</b>	[o:]	Long, as in English: <i>gron</i> , <i>no</i>
<b>U</b>	[ʌ][ə]	As in English: <i>lull</i> , French: <i>le</i> , <i>ce</i>
<b>Ú</b>	[u:]	As in English: <i>fool</i> , German: <i>gut</i>

## *Classical Håhnoren: A Brief Grammar*

### **Nouns**

Classical Håhnoren had five cases, all of them indicated by inflections. There were no articles, although *ed* became increasingly used as a definite article in Late Håhnoren. There was a singular and a plural form for each case, the dual number having been lost since Old Håhnoren.

The **nominative** and the **accusative** cases are the subject and direct object respectively, whilst the **dative** indicates the indirect object, and is used with prepositions denoting position only. To express *movement into*, there exists the **intrative** case, whilst the **genitive** is the preferred way of indicating *movement out of* or *through*, as well as indicating normal possession.

As well as these cases, there is also a so-called **adjective** case, which, as its names indicates, is the common form for all adjectives, which are all based directly on given nouns, essentially expressing the presence of the noun; therefore, this case also serves the function of expressing *there is, there are*, and has both singular and plural forms. As well as to denote number, adjectives do still require further inflection to indicate case, by adding a final *-l, -c, -m* or *-n*. They are generally placed after the noun.

Nouns fall into one of three groups, depending solely on their form:

1. Noun ends in a vowel > plural formed by *-l*

<b>SING. NOM.</b>	<i>dellú</i> (fortress)	<b>PLURAL NOM.</b>	<i>dellúil</i>
<b>ACC.</b>	<i>dellúil</i>	<b>ACC.</b>	<i>dellúil</i>
<b>GEN.</b>	<i>dellúc</i>	<b>GEN.</b>	<i>dellúlc</i>
<b>DAT.</b>	<i>dellúm</i>	<b>DAT.</b>	<i>dellúlm</i>
<b>INTR.</b>	<i>dellún</i>	<b>INTR.</b>	<i>dellúlin</i>
<b>ADJ.</b>	<i>dellor</i>	<b>ADJ.</b>	<i>deller</i>

2. Nominative singular ends in a vowel/*-r* + one of the following consonants; this consonant mutates as follows for the plural forms:

-c	>	-ch	-p	>	-ph
-d	>	-dh	-s	>	-th
-g	>	-gh	-v	>	-b
-m	>	-b			

<b>SING. NOM.</b>	<i>carg</i> (mountain)	<b>PLURAL NOM.</b>	<i>cargh</i>
<b>ACC.</b>	<i>carl</i>	<b>ACC.</b>	<i>carghil</i>
<b>GEN.</b>	<i>carc</i>	<b>GEN.</b>	<i>carghis</i>
<b>DAT.</b>	<i>carm</i>	<b>DAT.</b>	<i>carghim</i>
<b>INTR.</b>	<i>carn</i>	<b>INTR.</b>	<i>carghin</i>
<b>ADJ.</b>	<i>cargor</i>	<b>ADJ.</b>	<i>cargher</i>

3. Many nouns use a vowel-mutation, which usually occurs on the first vowel only. Vowels which may be affected are:

a	>	e	í	>	í
à	>	e	o	>	e
e	>	òe	ò	>	é
é	>	òé	u	>	u/ú
ë	>	ò	ú	>	ú
i	>	í	ai	>	ae

<b>SING. NOM.</b>	<i>thelen</i> (age)	<b>PLURAL NOM.</b>	<i>thòelen</i>
<b>ACC.</b>	<i>thelel</i>	<b>ACC.</b>	<i>thòelel</i>
<b>GEN.</b>	<i>thelec</i>	<b>GEN.</b>	<i>thòeles</i>
<b>DAT.</b>	<i>thelem</i>	<b>DAT.</b>	<i>thòelem</i>
<b>INTR.</b>	<i>thelen</i>	<b>INTR.</b>	<i>thòelen</i>
<b>ADJ.</b>	<i>thelenor</i>	<b>ADJ.</b>	<i>thòelener</i>

Note that the final consonant of these types of noun are then dropped completely, to be replaced in the various other cases.

There is also a number of (mainly geographical) terms which have adopted the Cemrí plural of doubling the final consonant and adding **-e** :

búel	>	búelle	fúer	>	fúerre
ceb	>	cebbe	hab	>	habbe
cereb	>	cerebbe	hur	>	hurre
curub	>	curubbe	merd	>	merdde

### Pronouns

<b>NOM</b>		<b>ACC</b>		<b>GEN</b>		<b>DAT</b>	
sae	<i>I</i>	sael	<i>me</i>	saec	<i>my</i>	saem	<i>to me</i>
cae	<i>you (singl.)</i>	cael	<i>you</i>	caec	<i>your</i>	caem	<i>to you</i>
par	<i>he</i>	parl	<i>him</i>	parc	<i>his</i>	parm	<i>to him</i>
ner	<i>she</i>	nerl	<i>her</i>	nerc	<i>her</i>	nerm	<i>to her</i>
tae	<i>we</i>	tael	<i>us</i>	taec	<i>our</i>	taem	<i>to us</i>
gae	<i>you (pl.)</i>	gael	<i>you</i>	gaec	<i>your</i>	gaem	<i>to you</i>
parú	<i>they (m.)</i>	parúl	<i>them</i>	parúc	<i>their</i>	parúm	<i>to them</i>
narú	<i>they (f.)</i>	narúl	<i>them</i>	narúc	<i>their</i>	narúm	<i>to them</i>

### Verbs

Classical Håhnoren is a highly inflected language, verbs being no exception. However, although main verbs and infinitives are inflected according to person, number and tense, the primary method of showing tense is through adding a suffix onto firstly a preposition, then the object, and finally the subject of a clause.

ELGË - *to see*

**Present Indicative**

elgan sae	<i>I see</i>	elgún tae	<i>we see</i>
elga cae	<i>you (singl.) see</i>	elgú gae	<i>you (pl.) see</i>
elga par/ner	<i>he/she sees</i>	elgú parú/narú	<i>they (masc./fem.) see</i>

**Present Subjunctive**

elgain sae	<i>that I see</i>	elguín tae	<i>that we see</i>
elgai cae	<i>that you (singl.) see</i>	elguí gae	<i>that you (pl.) see</i>
elgai par/ner	<i>that he/she sees</i>	elguí parú/narú	<i>that they (m./f.) see</i>

**Perfect Indicative**

elgòn sae	<i>I saw</i>	elgòn tae	<i>we saw</i>
elgò cae	<i>you (singl.) saw</i>	elgòm gae	<i>you (pl.) saw</i>
elgò par/ner	<i>he/she saw</i>	elgòm parú/narú	<i>they (m./f.) saw</i>

**Perfect Subjunctive**

elgòna sae	<i>that I saw</i>	elgònú tae	<i>that we saw</i>
elgòi cae	<i>that you (singl.) saw</i>	elgòmú gae	<i>that you (pl.) saw</i>
elgòi par/ner	<i>that he/she saw</i>	elgòi parú/narú	<i>that they (m./f.) saw</i>

**Imperfect Indicative**

elgòs sae	<i>I was seeing</i>	elgòns tae	<i>we were seeing</i>
elgòs cae	<i>you (singl.) were seeing</i>	elgòns gae	<i>you (pl.) were seeing</i>
elgòs par/ner	<i>he/she was seeing</i>	elgòns parú/narú	<i>they (m./f.) were seeing</i>

**Imperfect Subjunctive**

elgòis sae	<i>that I were seeing</i>	elgòins tae	<i>that we were seeing</i>
elgòis cae	<i>that you (singl.) were seeing</i>	elgòims gae	<i>that you (pl.) were seeing</i>
elgòis par/ner	<i>that he/she were seeing</i>	elgòis parú/narú	<i>that they (m./f.) were seeing</i>

**Future Indicative**

elgín sae	<i>I shall see</i>	elgín tae	<i>we shall see</i>
elgí cae	<i>you (singl.) will see</i>	elgí gae	<i>you (pl.) will see</i>
elgí par/ner	<i>he/she will see</i>	elgí parú/narú	<i>they (m./f.) will see</i>

**Future Subjunctive**

elgína sae	<i>that I shall see</i>	elgínú tae	<i>that we shall see</i>
elgír cae	<i>that you (singl.) will see</i>	elgírm gae	<i>that you (pl.) will see</i>
elgíra par/ner	<i>that he/she will see</i>	elgíra parú/narú	<i>that they (m./f.) will see</i>

**Conditional Indicative**

elgàn sae	<i>I would see</i>	elgàn tae	<i>we would see</i>
elgà cae	<i>you (singl.) would see</i>	elgàn gae	<i>you (pl.) would see</i>
elgà par/ner	<i>he/she would see</i>	elgà parú/narú	<i>they (m./f.) would see</i>

**Conditional Subjunctive**

elgàin sae	<i>that I would see</i>	elgàinú tae	<i>that we would see</i>
elgàí cae	<i>that you (singl.) would see</i>	elgàim gae	<i>that you (pl.) would see</i>
elgàí par/ner	<i>that he/she would see</i>	elgàí parú/narú	<i>that they (m./f.) would see</i>

## Infinitives

Infinitives go to the end of the clause, and are inflected according to the subject and the tense:

CREXĚ - *to sunder, divide*

### **Present**

crexě	<i>I</i>	crexěnú	<i>we</i>
crexě	<i>you (singl.)</i>	crexěm	<i>you (pl.)</i>
crexarě	<i>he/she</i>	crexarně	<i>they</i>

### **Present Subjunctive**

crexer	<i>I</i>	crexerú	<i>we</i>
crexer	<i>you (singl.)</i>	crexerúm	<i>you (pl.)</i>
crexera	<i>he/she</i>	crexerna	<i>they</i>

### **Past**

crexò	<i>I</i>	crexanú	<i>we</i>
crexò	<i>you (singl.)</i>	crexòm	<i>you (pl.)</i>
crexarò	<i>he/she</i>	crexarnò	<i>they</i>

### **Past Subjunctive**

crexor	<i>I</i>	crexorú	<i>we</i>
crexor	<i>you (singl.)</i>	crexorúm	<i>you (pl.)</i>
crexora	<i>he/she</i>	crexorna	<i>they</i>

### **Future / Conditional**

crexí	<i>I</i>	crexínú	<i>we</i>
crexí	<i>you (singl.)</i>	crexím	<i>you (pl.)</i>
crexarí	<i>he/she</i>	crexarní	<i>they</i>

### **Future / Conditional Subjunctive**

crexir	<i>I</i>	crexirú	<i>we</i>
crexir	<i>you (singl.)</i>	crexirúm	<i>you (pl.)</i>
crexira	<i>he/she</i>	crexirna	<i>they</i>

Eg: *I saw that you (had) cracked his head* - cael-ò elgòn sae , carul parc crexò  
OBJ+ tense PERF SUBJ SUBJ GEN INF

## Tense Suffixes

These are by far the most unusual feature of the Håhnoren tense system, not least as they would appear to be superfluous, given that the verbs and related infinitives themselves are inflected. However, as the preposition or accusative to which they are attached is always in front of the verb, they serve as an early indicator in the clause as to which tense is being used. These suffixes are also more subtle in their nuanced meanings, allowing the inflected verb itself to be more simply *past* or *future*. In literary and poetic Håhnoren, it is often the suffix which carries the tense, while the main verb is in its present infinitive form. However, in such cases, actual infinitives are still accorded a tense.

-ò	-	perfect
-òso	-	imperfect
-otor	-	pluperfect
-ir	-	future

-irs	-	future perfect
-incé	-	present conditional/subjunctive
-incal	-	perfect conditional/subjunctive
-òm	-	imperative
-às	-	in order to

*The girls would have sung beautifully to the king if he had arrived* - dhelm-incal merdè hòeth al assérorna

*In the fields the horses will have died* - dlerm gen-irs sàlarí nòédhar

There is no verb for TO BE: tense is shown merely through suffix.

*The city was near the hills* - hebbem arimor-òso decin

*She had been evil* - nallor-otor ner

### Word Order

Classical Hähnoren is an OVS language, so a typical sentence would follow the pattern:

*He found that he had a weak old man in the house*

ADJ	-	OBJECT	-	ADV-phrase + tense	-	VERB	-	SUBJECT	-	(INF to end of clause)
<i>weak</i>		<i>old man</i>		<i>in the house</i>		<i>found</i>		<i>he</i>		<i>to have had</i>
úmor		nàdel		gen -ò		ògelò		par		òàsarò

In the absence of an object, or a prepositional/adverbial phrase, the subject precedes the verb, and is also inflected for tense:

SUBJECT+ tense	-	VERB
<i>we</i>		<i>were rushing</i>
tae -òso		thorànú

### Adverbs

Adverbs are formed from the adjective form, taking off the -or suffix, and adding -iote. Adverbs always precede the verb they govern.

delor	<i>safe</i>	>	deliote	<i>safely</i>
lempor	<i>noisy</i>	>	lempiote	<i>noisily</i>
mithor	<i>noble</i>	>	mithiote	<i>nobly</i>
vúdor	<i>magic</i>	>	vúdiote	<i>magically</i>
cemor	<i>faithful</i>	>	cemiote	<i>faithfully</i>

*She broke the branch angrily* dluncòl-ò milliote crexò ner