

Speedlang Challenge #22

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Start: Friday, October 4th, 2024
Due: Monday, October 21st, 2024

I was thinking about why so many in the radical C.D.N participate in “speedlanging” — The reason is the C.D.N’s lack of work ethic (‘go fast’ rather than ‘do it right’) and, in a (D. J.) Petersonian sense, to elevate alternative linguistic archetypes in the marketplace (‘fastest conlanger’).

—*anonymous*

A speedlang hosted by me. As per usual, the allotted timeframe is given above, with some leeway due to the existence of timezones. Please send all submissions to me (Reddit and Discord names listed above) by the given deadline. PDF format is encouraged, but whatever works (something readable, please).

Note: links are in [blue](#) (but not all blue things are links).

Documentation constraints:

- Use the character $\langle\lambda\rangle^1$ in some way.
 - (*bonus*) Also use the character $\langle\lambda\rangle^2$ in some way.

Phonological constraints:

- Have a voicing pattern distinction only in plosives xor in everything but plosives (patterning of affricates is up to you).
 - (*bonus*) Have both, depending on analysis (support both analyses).
- Have a phonological restriction at certain domain edges.³

¹“[Lambda](#)” Wikipedia

²“[Barred lambda](#)” Wikipedia

³*Consonant cluster phonotactics: A perceptual approach // Chapter 5: Edge effects (Côté 2000), Spelling out prosodic structure inside of polysynthetic words (Weber 2023), Marginal phonology: Phonotactics at the edge (Broselow 2003), Word-Edge Effects as Overphonologization of Phrase-Edge Effects (Padgett 2015)*

Grammatical constraints:

- Have word order be governed primarily by something other than `scramble(S,O,V)` (e.g., direct/inverse animacy/empathy hierarchy⁴, topic/focus/whatever-prominence⁵, &c.⁶).
- Detail how the language expresses phasal polarity⁷.
- Have fewer than two (2) xor greater than three (3) tense/aspect⁸ morphemes.
 - (*bonus*) Same restriction on mood/evidentiality morphemes.

Tasks:

- Make a ‘lexicon showcase’ of a minimum of five (5) lexemes, in which you detail specific lexical items. Some ideas:
 - Explore [colexification](#) and [collocation](#).
 - Provide an overview of a certain semantic space, such as smell⁹, emotions¹⁰, or events of putting and taking¹¹.
 - Make a semantic division tree/web/cloud/thing¹², and detail some members and how they differ.
 - For verbs, you could detail some subset like in [ValPaL](#), (examples from Japanese) showing their [forms](#), [coding frames](#), [alternations](#), and so on. [For example](#).
- Translate and gloss at least five (5) example sentences from acceptable sources: syntax tests from [Zephyrus](#) (z!stest &c.) or sentences from [5MOYDs](#) (make sure to note which ones).
- Document and showcase the language.
- Submit to me.

Challenges:

- (*bonus*) Do something for spooky season. It’s almost Christmas, after all!
- (*bonus*) Remind Mia(comet) how he hasn’t hosted a speedlang in, like, years!
- (*bonus*) Submit (good) sentences to the [5MOYD Sentence Submission Form!](#)

⁴*Direct/Inverse Systems* (Jacques & Antonov 2014), *A tale of two inverses* (Oxford 2023), *On prominence hierarchies: Evidence from Algonquian* (Macaulay 2009)

⁵*Topic Prominence* (Paul & Whitman 2017), *Prominence Typology* (Sasse 1995)

⁶*The Natures of Nonconfigurationality* (Baker 2001)

⁷*Phasal Polarity Systems in East Bantu* (Löfgren 2018), *The Expression of Phasal Polarity in African Languages* (Kramer 2021)

⁸You probably know the basics of tense and aspect. Some bonus reading: *Temporal remoteness and relativity* (Klecha & Bochnak 2016)

⁹*Totonac Categories of Smell* (Aschmann 1946), *Odors are expressible in language, as long as you speak the right language* (Majid & Burenhult 2013), *Revisiting the limits of language: The odor lexicon of Maniq* (Wnuk & Majid 2013)

¹⁰*A Note on Emotion Words Translation in Different Cultures* (Widhiarso 2009)

¹¹*Events of Putting and Taking* (Kopecka & Narasimhan 2012)

¹²excerpts from Barnwell (1980) and Staden (2007)