Folksprák, (en) midl-sprák for sprákrar av ðe germanisk tungar

Auxiliaries and Modals

dón (\**dōną*, do, ‘do’) – “Dummy” auxiliary that takes the bare infinitive

(to help preserve dominant word order with “real” verbs)

Present: dó(e), dóst, dóþ, dóm, dóð, dónd

Past: déd, dédst, déd, dédum, déduð, dédun

wésan (\**wesaną*, was/were, ‘be’) – Forms the passive voice with the past participle

werðan (\**werþaną*, worth, ‘become’) – Forms the passive voice with the past participle (?)

havan (have ‘have’) – Forms the periphrastic past with the past participle

skalan (shall ‘shall’) – Forms the future tense with the bare infinitive

vilan (will ‘want’) – Desiderative

magan (may ‘may’) – Permission, possibility

Prepositions

tó, te

av

in, inte

án, ánte

út

up

upán

um

Conjunctions

ond (and ‘and’) -

for –

Interrogatives

hwilk – which

hwat – what

hwar – where

Interjections

já – Affirmative interjection

nai, nain – Negative interjection

Pronouns

ik, mí

ðú, ðí

han, him (?)

hún, her (?)

hit, hit

–, sí

wí, uns

jí, jú

Possessive Determiners

mín

ðín

sín – 3rd person reflexive genitive (‘his own’, ‘her own’, ‘its own’, ‘their own’)

Numerals

ain, twai, þrí, fjór, fimf, sehs, seven, aht, níun, tíun

hundrad

þúsund

Determiners

á/e, án/en – Indefinite article

ná/ne, nán/nen – Negative indefinite article

ðe – Definite article

manig – ‘many’

Misc.

mair – more

maist – most

Verbs

wésan ‘be’

Present: em, er, est, erum, eruð, erund

Past: was, warst, was, warum, waruð, warun

Imperative: wés (dú), wésið (jí)

Present participle: wésande

Past participle: i-wésan (?)

étan ‘eat’

Present: éte, ést, ét, étam, étið, étand

Past: át, ást, át, átum, átuð, átun

Imperative: ét (dú), étið (jí)

Present participle:

Past participle: i-étan (?)

drinkan ‘drink’

Present: drinke, drinkst, drinkt, drinkam, drinkad, drinkand

Past: drank, drankst, drank, drankam, drankad, drankan

Imperative: drink (dú), drinkid (jí)

skrívan ‘write’

Present: skríve

Nouns

Nouns are inflected for two numbers (singular and plural) and may also be inflected for the genitive case.

fuhs – fox

hravn – raven

wulf – wolf

kú/kó (?) – cow

gait – goat

lamb – lamb

fisk – fish

hund – dog, hound

kat – cat

hros – horse

lahs – lax, salmon

ajg – egg

hauvud – head

fót – foot

arm – arm

hand – hand

fingr – finger

tai – toe

aug – eye

munð – mouth

tanð – tooth

tung – tongue

stain – stone, rock

ís – ice

regn – rain

snai – snow

hagl – hail

kól – coal

land – land

sand – sand

luft – air, lift

sturm, storm? – storm

dág – day

naht – night

wind – wind

fújr (fujr?) – fire

ask – ash (tree)

aik – oak

knív – knife

hnut – nut

hring – ring

hlenk – link

hrím – rime

apl – apple

erðapl (?) – potato

mán – moon

sun – sun

fáder – father

móder – mother

bróðer – brother

swister – sister

ohs – ox

úr, úrohs – aurochs

rai(h) – roe

horn – horn

ainhorn – unicorn

mándág, tíwsdág (?), wódensdág, ..., frijgdág

Adjectives

Unlike nouns, adjectives are **not** inflected for number or case.

Comparatives may be formed by adding –*er* to the adjective stem or by putting *mair* ‘more’ before the adjective. Likewise, superlatives may be formed either by adding –*est* or by putting *maist* before the adjective. Whenever a particular adjective has suppletive synthetic comparatives and superlatives, the synthetic forms should be used instead of the analytical constructions: *beter*/*best* rather than #*mair gód*/#*maist* *gód*.

Unless specified otherwise, -*er* and –*est* should ***not*** trigger i-umlaut: *warmer* and *warmest* rather than #*wermer* and #*wermest*. Even where i-umlaut is specified as being fine for use, it is not mandatory; thus, for example, both *alder*/*aldest* and *elder*/*eldest* are considered acceptable.

gód – good

beter – better

best – best

ald – old

alder, elder – older, elder

aldest, eldest – oldest, eldest

siker – sure, certain

Core consonants: /p, t, k, b, d, g, f, v, s, h, m, n, l, r, j/

Variable consonants: /θ, ð, w/

(NOTE: in schemes before the introduction of variable consonants, W and J were present to represent certain offglides; the Js in these (up to that point, with the possibility of Js being used to represent additional items) only represented [j] of the [jg] that results from sharpening of Proto-Germanic \*-jj- and had nothing to do with the high front offglide in the diphthong corresponding to Proto-Germanic \*ai)

The consonants /θ, ð, w/ are optional and may be replaced with /t, d, v/.

/p, t, k/ should be strong and aspirated [pʰ, tʰ, kʰ], but they should not veer towards affricated [pf, ts, kx].

/b, d, g/ should be voiced, short, and somewhat weak. /g/ may appear as a fricative [ɣ], but it must **never** be devoiced. /d/ must **never** be lenited to [ð] or a vocoid.

(For speakers where /w/ and /v/ are neutralized ONLY) ~~(/v/ may be pronounced as [v], [ʋ], [β], or [w]. In word-internal position, it should be pronounced [v], and in coda position it must never be pronounced as [w].)~~

/h/ in stressed words must never be elided; in general, though, it should *not* elide. Word internally, /h/ is subject to speaker variation; for convenience of reference. Instances of /h/ subject to the aforementioned variation will be symbolized with a capital letter, as /H/:

* Word-internally:
  + Tautosyllabically before /s/
    - It may be pronounced [k]: /waHs/ -> [waks]
  + It may be deleted, leaving nothing behind: /waHs/ -> [was]
  + It may be deleted, leaving behind compensatory vowel lengthening

Also, the /h/ + resonant consonant clusters /hn, hl, hr, hw/ may be simplified:

* Through simple deletion of /h/: [n, l, r, w]
* In the case of /hw/, to either [h] or [w] before /u:/ (?)
* In the case of /hr/, through metathesis: /hrV/ -> [hVr]
  + hros /hrɔs/ -> [hɔrs]

Vowels: /u:, ʊ, o:, ɔ, a, ɑ:, ɛ, e:, ɪ, i:/

Diphthongs: /ɑi, ɑu/

Though they be categorized as simple vowels, the long mid vowels /o:, e:/ should be pronounced as diphthongs with mid rather than high mid nuclei: [ou, ei], so as to help avoid confusion with the long high vowels /u:, i:/.

The short low vowel /a/ should be as front as the American English /æ/ (as in the word *cat*) to help distance it from its long counterpart /ɑ:/, but it should not approach it in height, as to help avoid confusion with /ɛ/.

The long low back vowel /ɑ:/ must never be rounded, and the short low mid vowel /ɔ/ must never be unrounded.

Orthography

Sound Changes

\*-jj- -> -jg-

\*ajj- -> ajg ‘egg’

\*Frijj- -> Frijg (the goddess)