Lesson 7 Your Turn 1

The seventh lesson of each set of seven will give you the opportunity to put your skills to use in translating from English into Láadan. This story will also be fairly cartoonish, but don't let that stop you from having fun with it.

Language is a fluid medium; there are always many ways to convey the same information. That said, my translation will be one way of rendering the English text into Láadan; yours may very well be another—especially as we go along and have more vocabulary and grammatical features with which to work.

Weather

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boshum rohoro storm ham to be present; there is/are wind rahowa to be cold [ra- (NON) + owa (be warm)]
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In English we say "It's windy," or "It's cold," or "It's stormy." There's no specific thing being referred to by the "it" in these English sentences; it's just the way we talk about the weather. Every language has little pieces of "how we say" certain things that, transposed word for word into another language, make no sense; language students call these pieces "idioms." In Láadan the idiom for speaking about the weather involves the verb "ham" followed by the weather effect (sun, rain, wind, storm, and so on). So the English "It's windy," would be, in Láadan, "ham yul." Of course, this sentence may need the Type-of-Sentence word and Evidence word: "Bíi ham yul wa."

Patterned after the corresponding feature in many Romance languages—as well as the emerging standard in American English—Suzette Haden Elgin held that the verb "ham" when used in the "there is/are" sense would never be pluralized. While this works well in languages where the noun carries the plural, in Láadan where the plural is only carried on the verb, this leads to confusion. Also, it can be very difficult to determine whether the meaning of "ham" should be translated "be present" (which would be pluralized) or "there is/are" (which would not).

The second generation took the decision to pluralize "ham" wherever more than one Subject is being discussed, regardless of whether "be present" or "there is/are" is intended.

Because the weather idiom was coined before the second generation took the decision to pluralize "ham" wherever appropriate—and because there really is only one weather, no matter how many facets thereof are being discussed in a single sentence—the weather idiom is always singular. For example, "It's windy, cloudy, and cold," would be "Bíi ham yul, boshum, i rahowa wa."

"Aspect" Prefixes

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Prefix (verb): to begin to VERB; to start VERBing thée-
Prefix (verb): about to VERB, but not any minute
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There are verb prefixes that seem, in the English translation, like "helping verbs," but in Láadan they are just ways you can modify any verb. Two such are "na-" (begin to VERB; start VERBing) and "thée-" (about to VERB, but not any minute), listed above. There are many more that we'll introduce when appropriate.

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Degree Suffixes

-hul

Degree Marker: to an extreme degree; extremely

Notice, also, the ending "-hul." This is the first we've seen of a whole set of Degree Markers. This one means that the verb to which it is attached is an "extremely" form of itself. This is straightforward in stative verbs (verbs that discuss a state of being—translated into English as adjectives); with active verbs (verbs that discuss an action—translated into English as verbs), "-hul" would intensify the action; the English would resemble "VERB extremely hard" or some such.

Vocabulary

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ábed
                                 éezh
                                                                   rahíva
   farm
                                                                      to be large [ra- (NON)
                                     goat
                                                                      + híya (be small)]
belid
                                 híya
                                                                   ralóolo
   house
                                     to be small
dithemid
                                 hob
                                                                      to be quick; to be
                                                                      rapid; to be fast [ra-
   cow
                                     butter
doól
                                                                      (NON) + Ióolo (be
                                 id
   at last; finally
                                                                      slow)]
                                     and then
                                                                   róomath
dozh
                                 lal
   to be easy
                                     milk
                                                                      barn
edemid
                                 lalom
                                                                   thu
   mouse [ede (grain) +
                                     to sing
                                                                      honey
   mid (creature)]
                                 meénan
                                                                   woth
éeb
                                     to be sweet (flavor)
                                                                      wisdom; used as a
   juice; sap
                                                                      verb: to be wise
                                 modi
                                     to be ugly
éesh
                                                                   yom
                                                                      to be safe; to be
   sheep
                                 omid
                                     horse
                                                                      secure
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English Text

The Farm

It was an ugly day. It was cloudy, windy and cold, and it was about to storm. The people were busy and working hard. But they sang, and then the work was easy.

The cows and pigs were big, and the horses were strong. The goats were wise, and the sheep were slow. The cats were quick; the mice were small and afraid. At last the animals were safe; the barn was strong. And then the storm began.

The house was strong and warm. There was bread and butter and honey. There were milk and juice. The bread was warm; the honey and the juice were sweet. The people ate, and sang and talked and laughed.

Your Láadan Translation & Retranslation into English

The Farm	1
L:	
E:	
It was an busy and L:	ugly day. It was cloudy, windy and cold, and it was about to storm. The people were working hard. But they sang, and then the work was easy.
E:	

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are slow. The cat	s were quick; the	the horses were stror e mice were small and		
the barn was stre				
L:				
E:				
The house was s	trong and warm.	There was bread and	d butter and honey.	There were milk and
juice. The bread	was warm; the h	oney and the juice w	ere sweet. The peop	ole ate and sang and
talked and laugh				
L:				
E:				
		A 7 7		
My Láadan '	Translation	with Morphemi	ic Analysis & F	Retranslation
into English	l			
The Farm				
Ábed				
Ábed				
FARM				
The/A Farm				
It was an ugly da	ay. It was cloudy,	windy and cold, and	it was about to stor	m. The people were
busy and working	g hard. But they	sang, and then the w	ork was easy.	
		n, yul i rahowa, i thée	eham rohoro. Meshć	od i mehalehul with.
Izh melalom with	n, id dozh hal.			
Bíide	boshum,	théeham	mehalehul	with,
DECL + NARR	CLOUD	ABOUTTO- +	PL + Work +	PERSON
modi	yul	BEPRESENT	DEGEXTREME	id
BEUGLY sháal	Wind i	rohoro. Storm	with. Person	ANDTHEN dozh
DAY	And	Meshóod	Izh	BEEASY
WO.	rahowa,	PL + BEBUSY	Вит	hal.
MADEUP	COLD	i	melalom	Work
Ham	i į	And	PL + SING	
BePresent	And			
The day was unly	v. It was cloudy	windy and cold, and it	t was about to storn	n. The people were
		. But the people sang		
	<i>5 - 2.1.</i> 2.1. 2.7 1.41 4	= = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =	,, =,,= :,,-,, :,,-	1 1120 020 / 1

The cows and pigs were big, and the horses were strong. The goats were wise, and the sheep were slow. The cats were quick; the mice were small and afraid. At last the animals were safe; the barn was strong. And then the storm began.

Bíide merahíya dithemid i muda, i medo omid wo. Mewoth éezh, i melóolo éesh. Meralóolo rul, i mehíya i mehéeya edemid. Doól meyom mid; do róomath. Id naham rohoro.

Bíide	medo	melóolo	i	do
DECL + NARR	PL + BeStrong	PL + BeSlow	And	BeStrong
merahíya	omid	éesh.	mehéeya	róomath.
PL + BeLarge	Horse	SHEEP	PL + BeAfraid	Barn
dithemid	wo.	Meralóolo	edemid.	Id
Cow	MADEUP	PL + BeQuick	Mouse	AndThen
i	Mewoth	rul,	Doól	naham
And	PL + WISDOM	CAT	ATLAST	BEGIN + BePresent
muda,	éezh,	i	meyom	rohoro.
Pig	GOAT	And	PL + BeSafe	STORM
i	i	mehíya	mid;	
And	And	PL + BeSmall	Creature	

The cows and horses were large, and the horses were strong. The goats were wise, and the sheep were slow. The cats were quick, and the mice were small and afraid. At last the animals were safe; the barn was strong. And then it began to storm.

The house was strong and warm. There was bread and butter and honey. There were milk and juice. The bread was warm; the honey and the juice were sweet. The people ate, and sang and talked and laughed.

Bíide do i owa belid wo. Meham bal i hob i thu. Meham lal i éeb. Owa bal; memeénan thu i éeb. Meyod i melalom i medi i mehada with.

Bíide	Meham	Meham	memeénan	melalom
DECL + NARR	PL + BePresent	PL + BePresent	PL + BeSweet	PL + SING
do	bal	lal	thu	i
BeStrong	Bread	MILK	Honey	And
i	i	i	i	medi
And	And	And	And	PL + SPEAK
owa	hob	éeb.	éeb.	i
BeWarm	Butter	JUICE	Juice	And
belid	i	Owa	Meyod	mehada
House	And	BeWarm	PL + EAT	PL + Laugh
wo.	thu.	bal;	i	with.
MADEUP	Honey	Bread	And	Person
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The house was strong and warm. There were bread and butter and honey. There were milk and juice. The bread was warm; the honey and the juice were sweet. The people ate and sang and talked and laughed.

My Láadan Text

Ábed

Bíide modi sháal wo. Ham boshum, yul i rahowa, i théeham rohoro. Meshóod i mehalehul with. Izh melalom with, id dozh hal.

Bíide merahíya dithemid i muda, i medo omid wo. Mewoth éezh, i melóolo éesh. Meralóolo rul, i mehíya i mehéeya edemid. Doól meyom mid; do róomath. Id naham rohoro.

Bíide do i owa belid wo. Meham bal i hob i thu. Meham lal i éeb. Owa bal; memeénan thu i éeb. Meyod i melalom i medi i mehada with.

Comments

Yes, this is a lot of new vocabulary; the topic required more than was planned. But you can handle it. And at least some of the new vocabulary items are just opposites of words we already knew; Láadan forms opposites of many words by simply adding the prefix "ra-" (NON).

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