

Lesson 64

Comparisons, Pt 1

Vocabulary

báanibel	to give and take [ban (give) + i (and) + bel (take/bring)] {SH}
badazhel	smith-craft [badazh (metal) + el (make)] {AB}
badazhelá	smith [badazhel (smith-craft) + -á (doer)] {AB}
lóothi	be black and white [loyo (black) + liithi (white)]
nóowid	be big and little
sholalan	be alone in a crowd of people [sholan (alone)]
yéshile	be good and bad
zhethal	be fair; be just; be equitable [zhe (alike) + thal (good)] {AB}
zhethaleshub	to police; to act as police [zhethal (just(ice)) + shub (do)]
zhethaleshubá	police officer; one who polices [zhethaleshub (to police) + -á (doer)]

In “báanibel,” “lóothi,” “nóowid,” and “yéshile” we meet a class of Láadan verbs that contain diametrically opposed qualities within the same word. These are indicative of a reality where something is not entirely one thing nor its opposite but a blending of the two; anything so described contains both opposites in one.

Vocabulary Recap: Degree Markers

-hel	Suffix (verb): to a trivial degree
-hil	Suffix (verb): to a minor degree
-∅	Null Suffix: to a neutral degree; no statement about degree
-hal	Suffix (verb): to an unusual degree
-hul	Suffix (verb): to an extreme degree
-háalish	Suffix (verb): to an extraordinary degree

Implicit Comparison

The culture embodied in Láadan does not foster competition to the same degree that those inherent in man-languages do. Consequently, comparatives do not come as easily in Láadan as they do in most man-languages. One way we *can* effect comparison is to *imply* a comparison.

To do this, we state that the two or more things being compared share a quality, each to a different degree. To this end, we use the same verb for each—but with a different degree marker for each. The difference in the degree markers will imply which is more intensely VERBed than the other—voilà, instant comparison. Of course, we could use the same degree marker for two or more of them; we would then be stating that they are equally VERBed.

Notes

Exercises

Translate the following into English, both literally and in the colloquial English comparative.

- 1 Bíidi yéshile halid, i yéshilehul ralima wa.
- 2 Bii shel emath, izh shelehal elosh, i shelehul ezho wi.
- 3 Bii balinehel wehehá; balineháalish shinehothul lethá wa.
- 4 Bii éthe idon, izh éthehul don wa.
- 5 Bíidu shohal dosh, íizha shohel dim bethu we.
- 6 Bíidi meénan hom, i meénanehal yun wi.

1 **E:** _____
E: _____

2 **E:** _____
E: _____

3 **E:** _____
E: _____

4 **E:** _____
E: _____

5 **E:** _____
E: _____

6 **E:** _____
E: _____

Notes _____

Notes _____

Notes _____

Notes _____

Notes _____

Form implicit comparisons from the supplied verb and nouns (to the degrees indicated); translate into English, both literally and colloquially.

- 7 léli, hob (minor), ódon hi (unusual)
- 8 duthel, eyon (unusual), eróo (extreme), eri (extraordinary)
- 9 dazh, od (extreme), thom (extraordinary)
- 10 íthi, eril sháad with bodim (unusual), eril benem with bethesha (minor)
- 11 bú, Mázhareth (unusual), hothul betha (extraordinary)
- 12 bol, thosh sháaleya ril (trivial), thosh sháaleya bim eril (extreme)

In the answer provided for #12, did you note that the Auxiliaries as well as the Time Case markers are unnecessary? The construction “sháal # AUX” clearly marks a time, so the Time Case affix is not needed. And the fact that one is set in “sháal ril” (today) clearly indicates it’s in the present time, while the other just as clearly places the action “sháal bim eril” (four days ago)—clearly past, no Auxiliaries needed for either.

7 L: _____
 E: _____
 E: _____

8 L: _____
 E: _____
 E: _____

9 L: _____
 E: _____
 E: _____

10 L: _____
 E: _____
 E: _____

11 L: _____
 E: _____
 E: _____

12 L: _____
 E: _____
 E: _____

Notes

Translate the following into Láadan.

- 13 [LOVE] Beloved-your eyes are bluer (extreme) than the lake (neutral).
- 14 The horse is faster (unusual) than the pig (trivial); the bird is faster (extreme) yet.
- 15 The water was still (neutral), but the air was utterly (extraordinary) still.
- 16 The fish was not so (unusual) orange as leaves in autumn (extraordinary).
- 17 The desert is much (extreme) farther than the ocean is (neutral).
- 18 A tooth (neutral) is much less hard than metal (extreme).

- 13 L: _____
- 14 L: _____
- 15 L: _____
- 16 L: _____
- 17 L: _____
- 18 L: _____

Notes

1 Competition is good and bad, and mistrust (int,Ø,-) is both much better and much worse than competition. 2 Architecture is rigorous, but economy is unusually rigorous, and acoustics is extremely rigorous. Acoustics is much more rigorous than economy, but architecture is rather less rigorous than either. 3 The storekeeper is not very (trivially) old; my great grandmother is extraordinarily old. My great grandmother is ever so much older than the storekeeper. 4 The brush is clean, but the comb is extremely clean. The comb is much cleaner than the brush. 5 [POETIC/DREAM] The burden is unusually heavy, although its container is trivially heavy. [POETIC/DREAM] The burden is much heavier than its container. 6 [DIDACT] Clearly, nectar is sweet (neutral), and an orange is unusually sweet. [DIDACT] Clearly, an orange is somewhat sweeter than nectar.

7 Bii! lèihil hob; lèihil ódon hi wa. Butter is a little yellow; this cheese is quite yellow. This cheese is quite a bit yellower than butter. 8 Bii! duthelehal eyon, duthelehal eró, ! duthelehdálish eri wa. Government is unusually useful, agriculture is extremely useful, and history is extraordinarily useful. While agriculture is more useful than government, by my lights history is much more useful than either. 9 Bii! wíl dazhehul od, ! dazhehdálish thom wa. Would that the fabric were extremely soft and the pillow were extraordinarily soft. I wish the cloth were almost as soft as the pillow. 10 Bii! t'hihal eril shád with bodimehá; t'hihil eril benem with betheshahá wa. The person who went to the mountain is unusually tall; the person who stayed home is slightly tall (minor). The person who went to the mountain is taller than the person who stayed home. 11 Bii! búhal Mázhareth; búhdálish hothul betha wá. Margaret is pretty strange; her grandmother is extraordinarily odd. Margaret is much less odd than (or nowhere nearly so odd as) her grandmother. 12 Bii! ril bolehel thosh sháleya ril; eril bolehel thosh sháleya bim eril wa. The sky today is trivially cloudy; four days ago the sky was extremely cloudy. The sky today is not nearly so cloudy as it was four days ago.

13 Bii! meleyihul oyi natha; ley! wílidun wa. 14 Bii! ralólohal omid; ralóloholu babi wa. 15 Bii! eril wam, ili, izh wamehdálish shum wa. 16 Bii! eril layunehal thili; melayunehdálish mi wemoneya wa. 17 Bii! thedehul shé, ! thed mela wá. 18 Bii! raddazh dash; raddazhehul baddazh wá.