

Teleri lambëo minapurië — Enquiry into the Telerin language

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Ulmo returned to the coasts of Beleriand, to bear them away to Valinor; for his care was for the seas of Middle-earth and the shores of the Hither Lands, and he was ill-pleased that the voices of the Teleri should be heard no more in his domain.

Quenta Silmarillion, chapter V

Contents

1	The four stages of Telerin	1
2	Internal connections	2
2.1	Historical development	2
2.2	Telerin's 'function' in Arda	2
2.3	Influence of Quenya, Telerin and ... Adûnaic on each other	3
3	Remarks on phonological development	4
3.1	The shibboleth of <i>p</i>	6
3.2	Anaptyxis	7
3.3	The development of <i>j</i>	8
3.4	The development of <i>H</i> , <i>KH</i> , <i>ʒ</i> , <i>Ñ</i> and <i>G</i>	9
3.5	Vowel syncope	11
3.6	Length marks	12
4	Corpus and Grammar	12
4.1	Plural formation	13
4.2	The cases	14
4.2.1	genitive	14
4.2.2	possessive	14
4.2.3	allative, ablative, locative	14
4.2.4	dative	14
4.2.5	instrumental	14
4.3	Verbal conjugations	15
4.3.1	present, aorist	15
4.3.2	past, perfect	15
4.3.3	participles	16
4.3.4	imperative	16
4.3.5	personal affixes	16
4.4	The problem of <i>-nguo</i>	17
4.5	Adjectives	17
4.6	Traces of the plural marker <i>-m</i>	18
4.7	Other	19
4.7.1	diminutive	19
4.7.2	ye	19
5	A real-world inspiration?	19
A	A list of the Telerin phonological evolution	20

Introduction

This article deals with the Telerin language, created by J.R.R. Tolkien, in its external and internal development of phonology, grammar and vocabulary.

This work owes a lot to Helge Fauskanger's article on Telerin [1] (especially the word list, words published before VT41), which is by now, however, already quite old and does not involve the new pieces of information as well as ~90 new words mentioned in VT41-49.

Tolkien asterisked forms he had reconstructed himself, playing a scholar studying the Elvish tongues, but I treat them as 'attested' and place the asterisk only before my own reconstructions; unless there is a direct quote from a primary source, which is always italic and mirrors Tolkien's wording exactly, also keeping the asterisks.

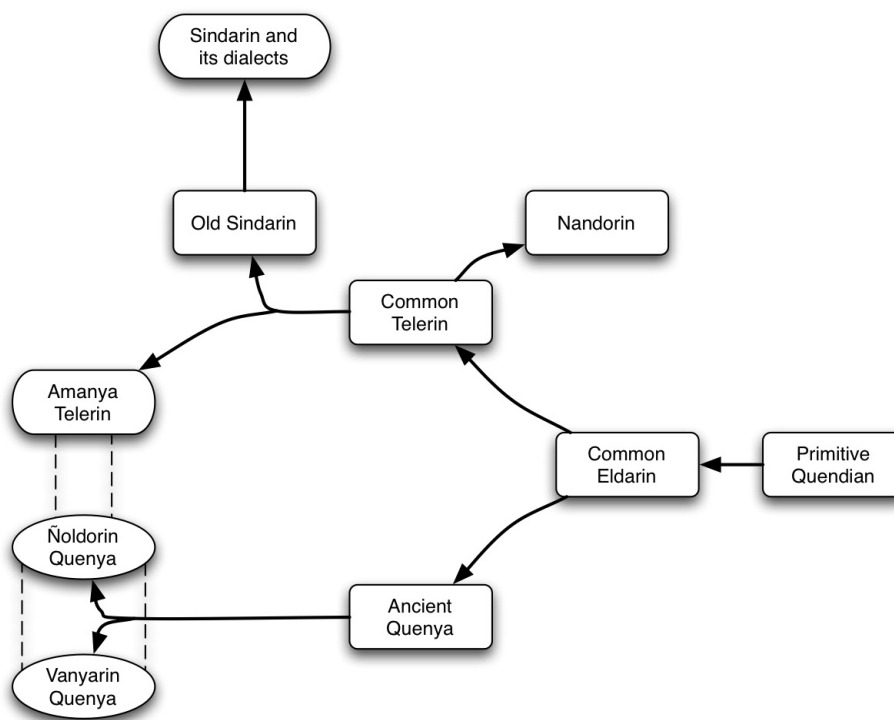
1 The four stages of Telerin

There are at least four distinct stages in the external development of Telerin. We encounter this language the first time in early writings around 1920-1925 (probably 1923). But the words mentioned at that time are quite different in style from the Telerin of *The Etymologies* (begun 1937-38) and there is hardly a match to be found. This article will deal mainly with *The Etymologies* and the following stages. Another source from this time is the *Tengwesta Qenderinwa* in two parts (PE18), which was begun contemporarily with *The Etymologies*, and the second part of which was still written before the publication of LotR in 1954. For a study of the phonology of Early Telerin in comparison with Early Noldorin and Early Ilkorin of the same time see [2] (nothing about its grammar is known except for one inflected verb form).

The third stage is the essay *Quendi and Eldar*, written in 1959-60, whence we get to know new words, some derivation rules and even first phrases. Finally, the fourth and last stage is the time of around 1967-69, a productive period with a lot of essays. Not only do they give us lots of new words and rules, but further establish the internal position and role of Telerin in Arda, as well as its relationship to Quenya and Sindarin (as a consequence of what was begun in *Quendi and Eldar*). For the matter of convenience these stages will be subsequently referred to as *Early Telerin*, *Etym-Telerin*, *Q&E-Telerin* and *Late Telerin*.

2 Internal connections

2.1 Historical development



The Elves awakened at Cuiviénen and while the Eldar marched westwards their language began already to change, evolving into Common Eldarin. There were three main tribes: Vanyar, Ñoldor and Teleri (or Lindar). The Teleri, going behind, were isolated from the other Elves and thus developed an own dialect, called 'Common Telerin' by Tolkien. Then they split up into three main branches: Nandor, Sindar, (Amanya) Teleri and so did their languages.

So 'Amanya Telerin' would be a more precise term for the language to discuss (Tolkien uses it in WJ:411), since Sindarin and Nandorin are in fact Telerin languages as well. Nevertheless it will be simply referred to as 'Telerin' in this article. Note that Tolkien also used 'Telerin' in reference to 'Common Telerin' (PE17:19). The adjective 'Lindarin' will be used in reference to the third clan. 'Ancient Telerin' is an intermediate stage between Common Telerin and Amanya Telerin (PE18:80-81).

The differences between Vanyarin and Ñoldorin are very few, so that both can be counted as dialects of Quenya. They share for example the same shift **b** > **v** (said to be begun by the Vanyar) and the noun plural marker **-r** (introduced by the Ñoldor) (PM:402), both absent in Common Telerin, so that the Vanyar and Ñoldor must have shared a dialect of Common Eldarin as well, called 'Prehistoric Quenya' in the diagram above.

In Aman, the Ñoldor had close contact with both Vanyar and Teleri, but the Teleri living on Tol Eressëa had little contact to the Vanyar. Thus there was much influence between Telerin and Ñoldorin Quenya.

Overall, Telerin takes an interesting role of an 'interstage' between Quenya and Sindarin, sharing many features with both, compare the following remark:

The names Findaráto and Angaráto were Telerin in form (for Finarfin spoke the language of his wife's people); and they proved easy to render into Sindarin in form and sense, because of the close relationship of the Telerin of Aman to the language of their kin, the Sindar of Beleriand, in spite of the great changes that it had undergone in Middle-earth. Artafindë and Artanga would have been their more natural Quenya forms [...] (PM:346)

2.2 Telerin's 'function' in Arda

The Teleri of Aman lived about as isolated as their Nandorin kin in the east. Only a couple of them went to Middle-earth while the others were not much involved into great events; except for the tragedy of Alqualondë. Still, regarding the amount of material, Telerin holds the third place among the Elvish languages, right after

Quenya and Sindarin; and frequent references are given to it in the essays (unlike Nandorin). What is the reason? It seems to be its archaic phonology and a lot of interested Ñoldorin linguists nearby in Aman.

A good example is the question of ***lemen**. It was suggested that the words for 'five' had been derived from the stem LEP-, connected with fingers. The forms were:

S. **leben**, Q. **lempë** '5'; S. **lefnui**, Q. **lemenya**, **lempëa** '5th'.

An intrusion of **m** was observed in Quenya, which led to the assumption that the stem could have had the alternative form ***lemen** in CE, beside the regular **lepen**. Sindarin **lefnui** gave no answer here, since **lepen** > ***lepn-** > ***lebn-** > ***lefn-** would have yielded **lefnui** /levnui/ just as ***lemen** > ***lemn-** > ***lefn-**. But a look at the Telerin forms clarified the situation, they were **lepen** '5' and **lepenya** '5th'. Thus, ***lemen** was rejected and Q. **lempë** had to be explained by a contraction of CE **lepene** to ***lepne** with reversal and assimilation: ***lenpe** > **lempë**. And **lemenya** as an analogical formation was *satisfactory explicable* (VT42:25).

On another occasion Tolkien had the idea that the element EN- 'again' needs to be distinguished from the extended form ÉNED- 'centre'. His intention was to alter ÉNED- to HENED- or HENET-. Probably he did not want to alter the Quenya and Sindarin derivatives and so they both lost initial **h-** which yielded Q. **Endor**, S. **ennor** 'Middle-earth' (VT41:16) as before. Thus a Ñoldorin linguist would have had no idea whether the original stem had **h-** or not, unless he would take a look at the Telerin form **Hendor**. This intention is not explicitly described and these musings are struck through, but we get the idea.

There must be a similar situation regarding SP-stems. Initial **sp-** becomes **f-** in Sindarin as well as in Quenya, so there would be no reason to assume an SP-stem for a word beginning in **f-** if there was no Telerin, which leaves initial **sp-** unchanged (cf. Q. **fanya**, S. **faun**, T. **spania** 'cloud'). Nandorin, however, does the same (cf. **spenna** 'cloud' (Etym:SPAN-)), although the study of Nandorin by the Ñoldor took place much later.

But Telerin did also show other interesting details.

Common Eldarin strengthened many stems by a-infixion which formed the diphthongs **ai**, **au**, **ao**, **ae**. The first two were fairly stable, while **ae** and **ao** became in Quenya long **ē** and **ō**, respectively. The presence of ancient **ae** and **ao** was discovered by Fëanor (he was the chief linguist among the Ñoldor; this phonetic change became known as 'Fëanor's *e* and *o*') after he had compared Quenya forms with their Telerin cognates which showed long **ā** in both cases (VT39:9-10, VT48:46-47, 96).

Thus Q. **mēla** 'loving, affectionate' (< MEL-), for example, could not be explained by lengthening **e** > **é**, but had to be derived from older ***maelā**; given **māla** in Telerin.

In *The Etymologies*, Q. **māla** 'friend' < **mālō** is listed with a comment that it shows *irregular vocalism*. In fact, this irregularity could be explained by a loan from Telerin, where **ae** > **ā**, and Tolkien acknowledges this possibility in PE18:96, but says that *such a loan is not very likely*. The *Tengwesta Qenderinwa* instead gives an explanation that **ae**, **ao** became **ā** very early on, but since this caused a dissatisfactory change of the root vowel, **ā** differentiated again into **āe**, **āo** (for the root vowels **e**, **o** respectively), but apparently with some exceptions, like **mālō**.

2.3 Influence of Quenya, Telerin and ... Adûnaic on each other

Tolkien has established several relations between Telerin and Quenya and a few loanwords can be given.

A very prominent loan is Q. **telpe** from T. **tel(e)pe** 'silver' instead of the historical form **tyelpe**:

But in Quenya the form telpe became usual, through the influence of Telerin; for the Teleri prized silver above gold, and their skill as silversmiths was esteemed even by the Noldor. Thus Telperion was more commonly used than Tyelperion as the name of the White Tree of Valinor. (UT:266)

A more detailed description is given in Let:347, where the form is **telepe**:

Though tyelpe remained in Q., telpe (with Q. syncope) became the most usual form among the Elves of Valinor, because the Teleri in their lands, to the north of the Noldor, found a great wealth of silver, ℰ became the chief silversmiths among the Eldar.

According to this very late outline (1972) Quenya took T. **telepe** and made a regular syncope > Q. **telpe**. This became a common word in Valinor (so among the Ñoldor and Vanyar – but is Tol Eressëa itself counted, too, or did the Teleri stick to **telepe**?).

Due to the Teleri's affinity to silver it is also widely used in their names – **Telperimpar** (**Celebrimbor**), **Tel(e)porno** (**Celeborn**) – both are Teleri at the late stage of ca. 1968, Celeborn being the grandson of Olwë, while Celebrimbor is his companion (for more details see *The History of Galadriel and Celeborn* in the *Unfinished Tales*).

An interesting kind of influence can be observed in the Telerin and Quenya forms of the name **Galadriel**. Celeborn, her lover, gave her the Telerin name **Alatāriel(le)** 'maiden crowned with a garland of bright radiance' (< CE **ñalatā**; ÑAL-; RIG-). This has been rendered into Quenya as **Altariel** with usual Quenya syncope of

the medial vowel, but without the regular Quenya development of \tilde{n} - > **n**-; \tilde{N} altariel would have been the *true form* (PM:347). But it was *correctly rendered in Sindarin*: **Galadriel** (\tilde{n} - > **g**-). (Earlier explanations of Galadriel's name did not involve Telerin (cf. PE17:59-60).)

In *The Etymologies* Quenya takes over the name **Elwe** from Telerin, instead of the historical **Helwë** (3EL-, VT45:17). Many years later **Elwe** is not connected to any root or explicit meaning anymore (PM:341).

Although archaic in many ways, Telerin did also employ several linguistic innovations in pronunciation. One of them was the shift of bilabial **f** (Φ) to a labio-dental **f** (VT41:7) (from aspirated **p^h** in CE) and it spread into \tilde{N} oldorin Quenya (but not into Vanyarin).

The Teleri took the word **Vanyar** (a term for the Elves of the first clan) over from the \tilde{N} oldor, adapting it as **Vaniai** (WJ:383) (they had almost no contact to the Vanyar themselves). It is derived from WAN- 'fair', CE **wanjā** in *Quendi and Eldar*, but from BAN- in *The Etymologies* and BAN- reappears after *Quendi and Eldar* in the CE form **Banyai** (PM:402). Another conception is the root $\sqrt{\text{GWAN}}$ (hence still **ban**- historically in Sindarin and Telerin) (PE17:154). But since phonetic adaptations were not always historically correct (see **Altariel** above) and because BAN- yields Q. **Vanya** just like WAN- and GWAN-, this has probably no impact on the Telerin form.

Telerin seems also to share some features with Adûnaic, the language of the Dúnedain of Númenor. We know that Adûnaic was strongly influenced by Quenya, but perhaps also by Telerin.

Adûnaic expresses the instrumental case by the suffix **-mā** 'with' (SD:429). The Telerin instrumental preposition is **mā** (VT47:18) (< MA3-), the meaning is derived from 'hand' (still so in Quenya). But this is mentioned in a much later source, so maybe Tolkien just changed his idea that the element **mā** was used for the instrumental case in Adûnaic and applied it to Telerin instead. This would not be the first such occurrence, Black Speech **Uruk-hai** seems to show the same collective suffix which is seen in Early Noldorin **Uidhel** 'elf, fairy', coll. pl. **Uidhelhai** (PE13:155).

Adûnaic pluralizes verbs by the ending **-m**, e.g. **dubdam** '[they] fell' (SD:247); the subjective plural of non-neuter nouns is formed by **-im** (e.g. **Eruhînim** 'the Children of Eru' (ibid.) as a subject of a sentence or in apposition to another noun) and about at the same time Tolkien imagined that Telerin would keep the plural marker **-m** (see 4.6 for a discussion). It becomes **-n** in Quenya, which cannot be the source of influence. However, it is also possible that the Edain took it over from the Avari in very early times.

The Akallabêth story tells us about the linguistic situation on Númenor and of the relationship between Númenoreans and Eldar:

For though this people used still their own speech, their kings and lords knew and spoke also the Elven tongue, which they had learned in the days of their alliance, and thus they held converse still with the Eldar, whether of Eressëa or of the west-lands of Middle-earth. And the loremasters among them learned also the High Eldarin tongue of the Blessed Realm [...]

However, the 'Elven tongue' should be understood here as Sindarin.

There is an Eldarin expedition to Númenor mentioned in the tale of Aldarion and Erendis:

In the morning before the feast Aldarion gazed out from the window of the bedchamber, which looked west-over-sea. "See, Erendis!" he cried. "There is a ship speeding to haven; and it is no ship of Númenor, but one such as neither you nor I shall ever set foot upon, even if we would." Then Erendis looked forth, and she saw a tall white ship, with white birds turning in the sunlight all about it; and its sails glimmered with silver as with foam at the stem it rode towards the harbour. Thus the Eldar graced the wedding of Erendis, for love of the people of the Westlands, who were closest in their friendship. (UT:189)

According to the description these Eldar could have been Teleri from Tol Eressëa, although this is never mentioned; and neither is the Telerin language. The Númenoreans preferred Quenya, not Telerin names. In an earlier conception, there is a separate, common language of the island, called Tol-Eressean. It is derived from Qenya, but is much influenced by Telerin, while Telerin proper is limited to the island's western coast (PE14:60-61). No such elaborate description is found at later stages.

3 Remarks on phonological development

	<i>bilabial</i>	<i>labio-dental</i>	<i>dental</i>	<i>interdental</i>	<i>palatal</i>	<i>velar</i>
<i>voiceless stops</i>	p		t			c
<i>voiced stops</i>	b		d			g
<i>nasals</i>	m		n			ŋ (ñ)
<i>voiceless liquids</i>			? (probably not occurring)			
<i>voiced liquids</i>			r, l			
<i>approximants</i>	v				y	
<i>voiceless spirants</i>	ɸ (archaic)	f	s	ɸ		h (glottal), ?ch
<i>voiced spirants</i>		-		-		-

This is the consonant inventory of Telerin. Note a complete absence of voiced spirants, especially labio-dental [v]. Common Eldarin did not have this sound (cf. VT46:28); Quenya developed it from **b**, Sindarin by medial lenition of **b** and **m**. Neither of these sound changes occurred in Telerin. Therefore Tolkien uses the letter **v** to represent the bilabial approximant (English *w* [w]).

Neither did Telerin develop voiced **z**, **ð**; being in in this respect close to Common Eldarin which did not possess **ð**; and had **z** only by voicing of **s** in a voiced environment. This sound disappeared in Telerin before consonants (CE **ezdē** > T. **Ēde** (WJ:404)) and seems to have become **r** between vowels by rhotacism in Q&E-Telerin, as seen the ending **-ria** < ***-zia** < ***-sjā** (also Early Telerin **pelera** 'fence' < **pelesa** (PE13:147), **pirie** 'sap, juice' < **pisye** (PE13:147)). In the *Tengwesta Qenderinwa 2*, dating from a time between *The Etymologies* and the publishing of LotR, we also find an example of rhotacism **KYELES** > T. **Teler-** (changed from **TELES**; and **Teles-** which also appears in *The Etymologies* with **Teler** as a specifically Quenya form) (PE18:84). On the other hand the word **otos(o)** '7' from Late Telerin suggests that medial **-s-** is allowed and does not become voiced.

According to the *Tengwesta Qenderinwa 2*, the velar nasal **ñ** is a separate phoneme in Telerin, in contrast to the other Eldarin languages, (PE18:103) and appears initially. But this is changed towards Late Telerin, where it disappears initially: **ñalatā** > **alata**.

It is unclear whether Telerin features the back spirant **ch** [χ], evidence seems contradictory here (see 3.4 below); although it does clearly appear in Early Telerin **alacha** '*to shield, ward off, protect', aorist **alchíne** (PE13:158). There is a similar situation concerning initial CE **sl-**, **sm-** and **sw-**. In Early Telerin they become **l-**, **m-** and **su-** respectively, but are not attested at later stages. Unchanged are: initial **sp-** occurring in *The Etymologies* only, **st-** both in Early Telerin and *The Etymologies*, **sc-** is attested in Early Telerin only.

Telerin has a usual Elvish set of 5 vowels; short: **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, **u** and long: **ā ē ī ō ū**. Long vowels are marked by a macron most of the time, sometimes to distinguish Telerin orthography from other Elvish tongues (see 3.6). The diphthongs **ai**, **āi**, **ui**, **oi**, **au**, **eu**, **iu** (**iú**) occur in our corpus, depending on the conceptual stage. Notable is the unusual presence of at least one long diphthong (the notation **iú** may merely indicate a rising one) and a long final vowel in **gāialā** (PM:363).

Etym-Telerin changes CE **eu** into long **ū** (CE **beurō** > T. **būro** 'vassal'). A table from Late Telerin, however, shows another development: **eu**, **iu** both becoming **iu** (VT48:7), although Tolkien was apparently not sure of this and so **eu** is left unchanged in other notes (KEWE- > **keu-rā** > T. **ceura** (VT48:8)).

UPDATE Jan. 8th, 2012: The *Comparative Tables*, probably associated with the *Tengwesta Qenderinwa 1* and *The Etymologies* show a full picture of the development of long vowels and diphthongs by that time (PE19:25):

- **ǣ, ā, q̄** all collapse into **ā**
- **ei, ai** collapse into **ai**, later **ae** or **ē**
- **oi, ui** collapse into **ui**, later **ū**
- **ou, au** collapse into **au**, later **q̄**
- **eu, iu** collapse into **iu**, later **(j)ū**

The other long vowels remain unchanged. The notation with the hook below (**ē̄, q̄̄** indicates an open pronunciation of the vowels.) There are, however, only two examples from *The Etymologies* which exhibit these changes: **būro** and **pāne** < **kwānē**.

Interestingly, Telerin alters all original diphthongs to monophthongs at this stage. This monophthongization seems to be a common denominator with Early Telerin, although the details are different: **ei** > **ī** and **eu, ou** > **ū**, see [2]. Up to the stage of the collapse of diphthongs the developments are, however, almost identical to the late sources.

This mentioned late table shows the following developments: **ei** > **ē**, **oi** > **ui**, **ou** > **ō**, while **ai**, **ui**, **au**, **iu** do not change. This would mean a loss of **oi**, which was current in Q&E-Telerin (as e.g. in **Elloi** 'Elves'). The rare CE diphthongs **ae**, **ao** and the monophthong **ō** all became long **ā** (VT39:10). We observe that [w] forms diphthong before consonants, e.g. **auta-** < AWA-, but is written as a consonant between vowels, spelled **v**, e.g. **avānie**, **avantie**. After consonants it remains consonantal in **Olwe/Volwe**, **vilverin** and **Elwe** (the latter struck through), but becomes a vowel in **vomentianguo**, **vanua**. Final **-au** becomes **-o** in **hek-au** < **heco**.

At the Common Telerin stage (or possibly even in PQ) a prominent Lindarin change was **kw** > **p** (**alkwā** > **alpa** (Telerin) > S. **alph** (VT42:7)). Another one may be the fortification of initial **l-**, **r-** to **gl-**, **gr-**. According to a late source *it is debated whether gl- was an initial group in Common Eldarin or was a Telerin-Sindarin innovation* (VT42:8). On the other hand, according to the earlier *Tengwesta Qenderinwa*, initial groups **gl**, **dl**, **dr**, **gr** were fortifications (or fortitions) of original **r-**, **l-** in Noldorin which *often opposes, for instance, gr or gl to the simple r, l of Telerin* (PE18:45,68). More clusters of this kind (**pr**, **tr**, **kr** etc.) came up already during the Common Eldarin period, and were again simplified or changed in Quenya, but kept in Noldorin and probably also Telerin.

Concerning the development of the nasalized initial stops **mb-**, **nd-**, **ñg-** we find **mb-** > **m-**, **ñg-** > **g-** in Early Telerin (**nd-** is not attested). *The Etymologies* mention **golodo** < ÑGOLOD-.

UPDATE Jan. 8th, 2012: The *Comparative Tables* show **mb-**, **nd-**, **ñg-** > **m-**, **n-**, **ñg-** (PE19:20), but this seems to be a slip, as the discussion mentions that *Noldorin and Telerin also agree in treating initial mb, nd, ng usually as b, d, g* (PE19:27) and the same is stated again in the *Outline of Phonology* (PE19:76).]

However, the *Tengwesta Qenderinwa 2* describes a symmetrical development towards nasals: **mb-** > **m-**, **ñg-** > **ñ-**, **nd-** > **n-**, as in Quenya (PE18:103-105). In *Quendi and Eldar*, on the other hand we see **goldo**, **góle** < ÑGOL and **#bar** < **Hecellubar** < MBAR-, while Late Telerin adds **damme** < NDAN- and once again **golodo**. So it would seem that Tolkien has returned to a development towards stops in Late Telerin.

See also Appendix A for an overview.

3.1 The shibboleth of **p**

The 1968 essay 'The Shibboleth of Fëanor' established a connection between the Eldarin tongues and the events of the First Age. It is also a good point to demonstrate how the Elvish languages were consciously changed by their speakers.

The change **p** > **s** had been suggested by many loremasters of Quenya, but Fëanor, the chief linguist among the Ñoldor, spoke against it. By external means Tolkien had to come up with arguments for this change being unnecessary or exceptional, so the other languages of Aman had to preserve **p**. Vanyarin, being very close to Quenya, certainly did, but we were somewhat in the dark regarding Telerin for a long time.

The only words involving **th** (aspirated **t**, the main source of **p** in other tongues) were those of Etym-Telerin, namely:

- **Findo** (THIN-) 'Thingol'
- **Baradis** (BARÁD-/BARATH-) 'Varda'
- **bredele** (BERÉTH-) 'beech-tree'
- **Daintāro** – 'Saviour of the Dani' (< *Ndani-thārō*) (LR:188)

The conception at that time is obvious, Telerin would change initial CE **th-** > **f-**; intervocalic **-th-** > **-d-** (cf. the same change in German in various positions, e.g. English *think*, *nether-*, German *denken*, *nieder*) and **-nth-** > **-nt-**.

UPDATE Jan. 8th, 2012: This is also seen in the *Comparative Tables*: initial **th-** > **p-** > **f-** and **thr-**, **thl-** > **fr-**, **fl-** (PE19:18,21), medial **-th-** > **-d-**, **-b-** (PE19:23).

But with the publication of VT47 in February 2005 and VT48 in December 2005 we get to know some new words:

- **parma** 'left-hand' (VT47:6) (< KHJAR-)
- **nēpa** 'sister' (VT47:14) (< NETH-)

- **tolop** '8' (VT48:21) (< *TOL-OP)

So in Late Telerin initial **p** evolves out of initial CE **khj-**. This makes a consistent picture in the sound development: Telerin seems to alter palatalized back consonants, turning them into dentals (similar to Vulgar Latin, Slavonic or Adûnaic), e.g. the palatalized unvoiced back stop **kj-** becomes the unvoiced dental stop **t-** (cf. KYELEP- > **tel(e)pe** (Let:347)). PE18:103 also mentions that Telerin develops the ky-series to the simple (not palatalized) dental series. So it is a symmetric development when the palatalized unvoiced back *aspirate* **khj-** becomes the unvoiced dental *aspirate* and then the dental *spirant* **θ**, pronounced with the tongue behind the upper teeth row (VT41:7). Further we learn that *the shift from dental and labial p and f to interdental p and labio-dental occurred first in Telerin* (ibid.).

Thus as a matter of redundancy one could exemplify the development as following: CE **nēthā** > AT **nēθa** > T. **nēpa**.

We do not know whether this would affect words like **Findo**. Late Telerin may still change **th-** > **f-** initially. Note that we do not find any roots starting in ʒJ-, so it cannot be the source for voiced interdental **ð**.

UPDATE Jan. 8th, 2012: From the *Comparative Tables* it appears that the fronting of palatalized velars was not yet part of the conception for Telerin by that time. Instead we generally find the loss of **j**, first of all after dentals: *Telerin, Noldorin, Ilkorin, Danian have plain dentals to correspond to ty, thy, dy, ny, ly* (PE19:22). The same seems to be implied in the *Tengwesta Qenderinwa 1* where it is said that **ty, hy, ny** appear in Quenya as modifications of **t, s** (< **s, th**), **n** and correspond to Telerin and Noldorin **t, s, th, n** (PE18:44).

Secondly, the glide is also lost after dentals in initial **kj-, khj-** > **c-, h-**. Medially, it only seems possible for **gj** to be fronted to **dġ** – we find: **-kj-, -khj-, -gj-, -ŋj-** > **-ci-, -gi-/dġ-, -gi-/di-, -ŋgi-/ndġ-**.

This does not agree with *The Etymologies*, however: There we find both KYELEP- and TELEP-, but also a note that Q. **telpe** may be a loan from Telerin, in which case the root KYELEP- is sufficient, implying a fronting **kj-** > T. **t-**. It would seem that at least the entry KYELEP-/TELEP- was composed *after* the *Comparative Tables*.

However, **nēpa** contradicts the earlier **bredele** (both have intervocalic **-th-**). It does not necessarily contradict **Baradis**, this is derived from BARATH- in *The Etymologies*, but is said to show *influence of baradā lofty* (VT45:7). So it must be a blending of the two roots BARÁD- and BARATH- already in Etym-Telerin (cf. Q. **Varda** < BARÁD-).

The shift **-nth-** > **-nt-** as in **Daintāro** might still be valid in Late Telerin, although the infixion of **i** leading to **a** > **ai** does not seem to be supported by any other example.

There is also **?lep̄pa**, a possible reading of **lep̄pa** 'finger, feel with fingertips' (VT47:23) (emended to the final form **lep̄ta**). But from what we know it is doubtful phonologically, since in other combinations of two stops no such development can be observed, compare **occo**, a rejected form of the word for 'seven' (VT47:42) or **nette**, the play name for the fourth finger, which has developed in the exactly opposite way, from CE **netthi** (VT47:12,32), it seems that Telerin favours geminated unvoiced stops.

3.2 Anaptyxis

In Latin, an epenthetic vowel is developed in the medial combinations **-cl-, -bl-, -pl-**. This vowel is **o** (later **u**), if **l** is followed by **a, o, u**; and **i**, if it is followed by **e, i**. So for example: ***stabl-** > L. **stabulum, stabilis** or ***sūblā** > **sūbula** 'shoemaker's awl'. This process is called *anaptyxis* and is also (partly) attested in Telerin.

From the *Tengwesta Qenderinwa 1* we get to know that *Tel. cul* is derived from *kl*, with the example:

CE **tanklā** > T. **tancula** 'clasp, brooch' (PE18:51)

The *Tengwesta Qenderinwa 1* cites *tanklā* > *tankl̥* or *tanklā*, which apparently means that **tanklā** drops the final short vowel and final **-l** becomes syllabic. This syllabic **l̥** is resolved in Quenya to **-al**, hence Q. **tancal**. But **tanklā** leads to T. **tancula**, as before, and Q. **tancala**. For the loss of final **-ā** see the following rule:

*Short unstressed vowels were probably lost finally in Common Eldarin after l, r, n, m. Cf. *abaro 'refuser' > abar* (VT47:13)

In *Quendi and Eldar* we similarly find **heculo**, probably < **heklō** and **hecul**, probably < **hekla** (WJ:361,365) which are terms for those of the Eldar who were left behind in Beleriand. The former example shows again **kl** > T. **cul**, the latter suggests that syllabic **l̥** was resolved to **-ul** in Telerin: **hekla** > ***hek̥l̥** > T. **hecul**.

However, there is no anaptyxis in the Late Telerin forms **aclar, aplat**. Either Tolkien changed his mind about it, or there are more complicated rules involved.

It appears that **-o-** between consonants becomes **-u-** in Q&E-Telerin; see **Hecello** 'Elf of Beleriand' > **Hecel-lubar** 'Beleriand, home of the Hecelloi' (WJ:365). This is again akin to the process in Latin: ***legontor** > L. **leguntur** 'they gather', ***rōbos-to-** > L. **rōbustus** 'oaken'.

It might therefore be possible that we actually have **hekla** > ***hek!** > ***hekol** and then > **hecul** by this change. Indeed, in Noldorin and Sindarin syllabic **-l-** actually results in **-ol**, e.g. **magl**, **magol** 'sword' < **makla** (MAK-). On the other hand, the citation of **magl** parallel to **magol** seems to suggest that the development of **magol** was a late process in Noldorin/Sindarin. Therefore, **-l-** > ***-ol** < **-ul** or **!** < **-ul** may be just a parallel Telerin development.

We are also told in *Quendi and Eldar* that both **edelō* and **edlō* regularly became *ello* in Telerin. But a later postulated rule states:

Telerin often lost ē, o (not a) from older ē, ō (prim. C.E. ě, ǎ, ǒ were lost in Quenya, Telerin, Sindarin) after final sonant m, n, r, l and s, retained if in an accented syllable (VT47:25).

Applying this rule to **edlō** 'Elda' we get the following:

PQ **edlō** > CE ***edlō** > AT ***ed!** > T. ***edul**

Interestingly this word already occurs in a plural form, traced all the way back in *The Etymologies*. It reads there in a note that has been struck through:

-m plural. Telerin pl. am, um, em. edulam. (VT46:29)

This may hint at a singular form **#*edul** (see 4.6 below for the discussion of pl. **-m**).

3.3 The development of *j*

From the examples in *Quendi and Eldar* and *The Etymologies* we can derive a clear development of the CE non-syllabic vowel **j** (also written **ĵ** and **y** by Tolkien), it becomes the vowel **i** after consonants, see:

Etym-Telerin:

- **spania** < ***spanjā** 'cloud'

Secondly, the glide is also lost after dentals in initial. Medially, it only seems possible for **gj** to be fronted to **dĵ** – we find:

Q&E-Telerin:

- **arpenia** < ***ar(a)kwen(d)jā** *'noble'
- **delia** < **del-ja** 'go, proceed'
- **Pendia** < **kwendjā** 'Quenya'
- **-ria** < ***-sjā** 'his'
- **Vaniai** < **bánjā-i** 'Vanyar'

In Late Telerin this system is partly preserved:

- **Ciriáran** < ***kirjā-aran(o)** 'mariner king'
- **glania** < ***glanjā** 'to bound, limit'
- **nia** < ***-njā** 'my, of me'

However, the ordinal numbers, being formed like adjectives as well, contradict this system completely, **j** remains non-syllabic, transcribed **y**:

- **minya** < ***minjā** '1st'
- **tatya** < ***(a)tatjā** '2nd'
- **nelya** < ***neljā** '3rd'
- **canatya** < ***kanatjā** '4th'

- **lepenya** < ***lepenjā** '5th'
- **enetya** < ***enekjā** '6th'
- **ototyā** with analogical substitution of **-tyā** (the historical form would have been ***otosjā**) '7th'
- **tolodya** < ***tolodjā** '8th'
- **neterya** < ***neterjā** '9th'
- **paianya** < ***kwajanjā** '10th'

How to explain this? It cannot depend on the preceding consonant, we see both **j** < **i** and **j** < **y** after **n**, **r**, for example. So it must be an irregularity of the ordinals, perhaps Quenya influence played a significant role here. The source of these ordinals is the essay *The Rivers and Beacon-hills of Gondor* and although I have counted it to the essay phase of 1967-69 it is actually written very late during that time, in June 1969 or later (VT42:6-7), so that these words are put down later than any others with **j** < **i**.

UPDATE Jan. 8th, 2012: In the *Comparative Tables*, written by the same time as the *Etymologies*, we find:

- **kj-**, **khj-** > **c-**, **h-**
- **-kj-**, **-khj-** > **-ci-**, **-gi-/d̥-**
- **-gj-**, **-nj-** > **-gi-/di-**, **-ŋgi-/nd̥-**

Thus it appears that non-syllabic **ɹ** may be allowed after **d** in Telerin. Perhaps this is extended to other dentals **n**, **r** in the late conception.

3.4 The development of H, KH, ʒ, Ñ and G

PQ **kh** stands for an aspirated stop becoming a spirant already in CE, **ʒ** stands for a voiced velar spirant or approximant (corresponding to palatal **y** and labial **w** (PE18:30,82,VT46:28)), and **h** stands for the same sound as in English (a breath-h). Roots beginning in KH-, ʒ- and H- were subject to a lot of changes in Tolkien's external linguistic development. Let us try to establish the whole pattern involving Telerin.

From *The Etymologies*, the *Tengwesta Qenderinwa* and the *Comparative Tables* the following picture can be drawn:

	<i>Telerin</i>	<i>Quenya</i>	<i>Noldorin</i>
KH- >	h- (CT)	h-	h-
ʒ- >	vanishes	h-	vanishes
		vanishes (CT)	
Ñ- >	ñ- (TQ2)	h- (Etym)	vanishes
	g- (CT)	vanishes (CT)	g- (TQ2, CT)

It is not known what initial KH- yields in Telerin at this stage. It may become **h-** as in the other languages or perhaps **ch-**.

The only example of lost ʒ- is written on a later rejected page: **Elwe** from the stem ʒEL- (VT45:17), same in Noldorin. A side note reads: *alter to KHEL-*, whatever this means for the development of consonants. The final entry, however, states that ʒEL- was confused with EL- in Telerin and Noldorin. This must refer to the loss of initial ʒ-.

This loss is explicitly confirmed in the *Tengwesta Qenderinwa 2*, where it is added that *medially ʒ vanished very early and without traces* in Telerin (PE18:103-105). Further according to the *Tengwesta*, initial Ñ- remains **ñ-** in Telerin, becomes **g-** in Beleriandic and vanishes in Quenya and Noldorin (later Sindarin is something of a mixture of Noldorin and Beleriandic). This seems to contradict *The Etymologies*, however, where it becomes **h-** in Quenya, e.g. **holme** 'odour' < ÑOL-.

UPDATE Jan. 8th, 2012: While the *Outline of Phonetic Development* mentions that [ɹ] does not appear in Telerin in isolation (PE19:36), the later the *Tengwesta Qenderinwa 2* states just the opposite – that Telerin is the only language which possesses it as a separate phoneme (PE18:103). It seems that conceptions were very much in flux

here.

After the publication of LotR a new initial consonant H- appears, although one soon discovers that it is not actually new, but takes over the role of old ʒ-, and Tolkien simply changed the archaic pronunciation without altering the phonological developments. The root HO- which appeared as ʒO- in *The Etymologies* is a hint at this.

ʒ-stems have now a somewhat different role. Thus we get the following table from *Quendi and Eldar*:

UPDATE Jan. 8th, 2012: Also from the *Outline of Phonology* (OP2, PE19:74).

	<i>Telerin</i>	<i>Quenya</i>	<i>Sindarin</i>
KH- >	?	h-	h-
H- >	h-	h-	vanishes
	vanishes (OP2)	h- (OP2)	vanishes (OP2)
ʒ- >	?	*vanishes	*vanishes

Examples:

- Q. **Hildor** 'the Followers' (WJ.387) (most probably from KHIL-)
- S. **hadhod** (< **chaḏaud** < **chaḏōd** (WJ:388,414)), an adaptation of the Khuzdul word **Khazād**.
- A root *zān-* 'extend' with the alternative *yān-* is dated December 1959 (VT47:27, PE17:155) and is thus (roughly) contemporary to *Quendi and Eldar*. A CE derivative **zandā** 'long' is given, but no S., T. or Q. derivatives. Maybe Tolkien still had Q. **anda**, S. (<< N.) **and**, **ann** 'long' in mind, as **ann-thennath** *'long-shorts' had been already mentioned in the LotR.

And finally the late essay stage (a complete chart at last):

	<i>Telerin</i>	<i>Quenya</i>	<i>Sindarin</i>
KH- >	h-	h-	h-
H- >	h-	vanishes or h-	vanishes
ʒ- >	vanishes	vanishes	g-
Ñ- >	vanishes	ñ- > n-	g-

Examples:

- KHAN- > T. **hāno**, Q. **hanno**, S. **hawn** 'brother' (coll.) (VT47:12,14); this reinforces the assumption that Telerin changed initial KH- into **h-** at the previous stages as well (cf. the statement: *kh became in all Eldarin tongues the spirant, and then initially h* (VT41:9))
- ʒOR- (CE **ʒōrē**) > T. **ōre**, Q. **órē**, S. **gūr** 'heart' (in a moral sense)'

All occurring H-stems have been rejected, but their development is such that Telerin keeps this initial **h-**. Examples for this are:

- HOR- > T. **hor-**, Q. **#(h)or-** 'to warn' (in a moral sense) (VT41:13)
- HENED-/HENET- > T. **Hendor**, Q. **endor**, S. **ennor** 'Middle-earth' (VT41:16)

Finally:

- ÑAL- > T. **Altāriel**, Q. **Ñaltariel**, S. **Galadriel** (PM:347, cf. PE17:69-60); this development is also confirmed by a note that Telerin lost the weak initial **ñ** and **ʒ** (VT48:26)

This stage also gives us enough information to observe the development of medial **-ʒ-** and **-χ-**:

ʒ disappears after a vowel which is then lengthened, already in late CE: MAʒ- > T. **mā** 'hand' (in derivatives and compounds) (VT47:6) or LUʒ- > CE **lū** 'bow, curve' > T. **lū** 'bow' (VT47:12).

ʒ becomes devoiced in front of **t**, changing into **χ** (still in CE), which then assimilates to **t**: MAʒ- > PQ **maḡtā**

> CE **max̄tā** > T. **matta** 'handle, wield, manage, deal with' (VT47:6); a similar development should take place when **χ** comes into contact with other voiceless stops.

A statement in VT41:9 tells us that *in Quenya and Telerin medial χ eventually became h also in most cases. This is very strange and contradicts Quenya phonology as described in LotR, it is said in Appendix E:*

Thus No. 11 was called harma when it represented the spirant ch in all positions, but when this sound became breath h initially (though remaining medially) the name aha was devised [...]

So Quenya **h** is only a breath-h initially and either an ach- or ich-Laut medially (*The Quenya combination ht has the sound of cht, as in German echt, acht (ibid.)*). The statement from VT41 could then refer to intervocalic **-h-** only, maybe we are dealing here with an alternative pronunciation or perhaps this is just a slip?

In any case, **matta** with **-χt-** < **-tt-** was a contemporary derivation to the VT41:9 comment, from January/February 1968. Thus, the statement must refer to intervocalic **-h-** in Telerin as well; it has to be pronounced as a breath-h (a breath-h before any consonant is barely audible and not natural for the phonology of any Elvish language). This way, no **χ**-sound would exist in Telerin (if not produced by other, yet unknown sound shifts). But if the comment is a slip or shows optional pronunciation, we have intervocalic **-χ-** in Quenya (**aha** /aχa/) as in Telerin (***-ch-**). Note that /χ/ occurred in Early Telerin **alacha** '*to shield, ward off, protect', aorist **alchīne** (PE13:158).

A final remark should be made about the development of CE **g**. It remains in Telerin initially: GAP- > **gampa** 'hook, crook' (VT47:20) (unlike Q. **ampa**); also medially before and after consonants:

LOG- > **logna** 'soaking wet, swamped' (VT42:10) (unlike S. **loen**), PHÉLEG- > **felga** 'cave' (unlike S. **fela**, Q. **felya**).

It may disappear if between vowels, while the preceding vowel presumably receives compensatory lengthening:

RIG- > CE **rīgā** > T. **ría** 'wreath, garland' (PM:347), but not always, see **loga** 'fenland' (?) (VT42:10, UT:263) (LOG-)

UPDATE Jan. 8th, 2012: In the *Outline of Phonetic Development* we find **gd** > **d** with compensatory lengthening (**khagdā** > **hāda** 'piled mound' (PE19:45)) which is changed in the course of time to **gd** > **ct**, **tt** (**khagdā** > **hacta**, **hatte** 'fence, hedge', **snagdē** > **nacte**, **natte** 'a wounding, a wound', **negdē** > **necte**, **nette** 'honey' (PE19:91, *Outline of Phonology*)).

3.5 Vowel syncope

In CE vowels in long words disappeared according to the following rule:

Omission by phonetic loss of the unstressed vowel (short) before the Common Eldarin accent was frequent in Sindarin between stops and l, r, and usual in Telerin in word-forms that remained not less than dissyllabic (VT47:9, also compare footnote in PE19:62)

Thus, in the development of CE **palátā** the first **a** between the stop **p** and the liquid **l** is omitted, yielding T. **plata** 'flat of the hand' (PAL-) (VT47:8-9)

- T. **calca** 'glass' (< KALAK-) could then be derived from CE ***kalaká** (VT47:35). Note that in this example the second vowel is lost, not the first one, which would have led to the unpleasant ****claca** (though medial **-cl-** is allowed, see **aclar** below).
- T. **galla** 'tree' (< GAL-/GÁLAD-?) is derived from CE **galadā** (Let:347, UT:266, SD:302) where the stress must be on the last syllable as well; but regarding GÁLAD- in *The Etymologies* it could also be a similar omission *after* the Common Eldarin stress.
- T. **trumbe** 'shield' (< TURÚM-) is derived from CE **turúmbē** in *The Etymologies* showing that this phonetic loss had been already planned at this earlier stage, likewise T. **bredele** < CE ***beréthelē** (< BERÉTH-).
- Such a syncope is absent in **alata** 'radiance, glittering reflection' < CE **ñalatā** (< ÑAL-); it is a usual, not universal development.
- T. **golodo** 'Ñoldo' (< ÑGOL-/ÑGOLOD-) shows no syncope in *The Etymologies*; but CE **ñgolodō** yields **golodo** in *Quendi and Eldar* (WJ:383) while PM:360 gives **golodo** again.

Overall it should be noted that *Quendi and Eldar* shows quite a lot of words with syncope: **golodo**, **galla**, **ello**, **elni**.

There was already vowel omission at the Common Eldarin stage, which is distinguished from the 'phonetic loss' above. It is indicated by an apostrophe, as **pal'tā** (VT47:9) or **ap'lata** (VT47:13), both derived from PAL-.

But Tolkien places no apostrophe before **aklara** (< KAL-) > T. **aclar** 'glory, splendour' (probably with loss of short -a after -r in CE).

The stem KYÉLEP- (VT45:25) in *The Etymologies* yields T. **telpe** (CE ***kjel'pē**) and this form is also mentioned in Late Telerin (PM:356, UT:266; there < **kyelep-**). However, a very late explanation (from 1972) contradicts this, stating:

Telerin telepe (in T. the syncope of second vowel in a sequence of 2 short vowels of the same quality was not regular, but occurred in words of length such as Telperion) (Let:347)

The CE form is now given as **kyelepē**.

With this rule, we would expect ***calaca** instead of **calca** (unless one assumes CE ***kal'kā**), also ***galada** < CE **galadā**. T. **ello** must be explained as being derived from CE **edlō**, not **edelō** (WJ:364), but where stress is involved in one of these two vowels (see examples above) this rule might be invalid; **alata** and **golodo** on the other hand fit very well. The remark that shortening still takes place in *words of length* leaves such names as **Telperion** (UT:266, Let:347) or **Telperimpar** (PM:318, VT47:23) unaffected, but earlier **Teleporno** (UT:266) with **telep-** now becomes **Telporno**.

It is, however, stated that **telpe** (with Q. syncope) became the most usual form among the Elves of Valinor (see also 2.3).

3.6 Length marks

Two diacritic signs are found in Telerin the macron and the accent. The macron doubtlessly refers to vowel length. That is not necessarily true for the accent. If it refers to vowel length as well, we could expect the macron then marking over-long vowels, as both appear mixed in the same sources; and a similar distinguishing (but with a circumflex) is found in Sindarin or Adûnaic. On the other hand, then there would be a great quantity of over-long vowels in various word shapes, so we might suppose a different spelling of the same length grade instead.

Another possibility could be that the accent refers to stress. The stress rules given for Sindarin and Quenya in the LotR may not be necessarily true for Telerin. Going into detail we can find:

Etym-Telerin:

Daintáro (LR:188) comes from *Ndani-thārō* – apparently **á** represents here the remaining long **ā**. This form, however, is not part of *The Etymologies* proper (which was itself written and expanded over a certain period of time), where only macrons occur.

Q&E-Telerin:

Q. **avá** is irregularly *stressed on the last syllable* (WJ:370) and the Telerin cognate **abá** has an accent as well. However, the Quenya cognates of T. **abapétima** 'not to be said' (WJ:371) and **góle** 'long study (of any subject)' (WJ:383) are **avaquétima** and **ñóle** both with long vowels.

Late Telerin:

The word **Ciriáran** 'mariner king' (PM:341) would be stressed ***Ciriaran** according to Quenya/Sindarin rules if written without the accent. Perhaps Telerin tries to preserve the morpheme **aran** clearly heard in this combination or the former non-syllabic **i** cannot be stressed (although a lengthening in the contact ***ciria** + ***aran** would be a suitable explanation as well).

In the word **ciúra** 'renew' (VT48:7) the accent could likely indicate a rising diphthong (thus in fact also the stress). But if it denotes length, it does not occur in **ciure** 'renewed'.

Findaráto and **Angaráto** (PM:346) both contain **arāta**, hence probably a long vowel, compare **Alatāriel**. The usage of the accent here could be explained by a Quenya transcription of vowel length, the names are mentioned among other children of Finarfin which are definitely given in Quenya; and Quenya uses the accent as length mark in the vast majority of examples. The same is probably true for T. **andané** 'long ago, once upon a time' (VT49:31) with the element **ne**.

4 Corpus and Grammar

There are only a few phrases apart from single words attested in the corpus:

- **Olue cava, cava Olue, cavaría Olue** 'Olvë's house' (WJ:369)
- **abá care!** 'don't do it!' (WJ:371)

- **ēl sīla lūmena vomentienguo** (WJ:407) 'A star shines upon the hour of the meeting of our ways.'
- **ōre nia pete nin** (VT41:11) 'my heart (óre) tells me'

Of these the first three are from *Quendi and Eldar* and only the last one is from Late Telerin. It features a distinct adjectival possessive **nia** 'my' unlike the previous suffix **-ria** 'his', **#-ngua** 'our' (and unlike the Quenya possessive suffixes). Maybe Tolkien changed his mind so that Telerin develops possessive pronouns from older suffixes, just as Sindarin. Note that he originally intended the possessive endings *in subjective verbal function [...] as a mode of expressing 'that we do, us to do, etc.'* to be *most prominent in Telerin* (PE17:14).

This external change of a suffix to a separate pronoun perhaps shows that Telerin is meant to be less agglutinative than Quenya. And as it can be seen below Telerin has less cases than Quenya. So I think it is highly unlikely that Telerin involves such multiple endings as e.g. Q. **leltanelyes** 'you send him' (VT47:21).

4.1 Plural formation

The Quenya plural marker **-r** for nouns was a Ñoldorin invention (PM:402). According to our material it never spread into Telerin which keeps the original plural marker **-i** < **-ī**:

- T. **Fallinel** > pl. **Fallinelli** 'Telerin Elves, lit. *Foam-singers' (Etym:NYEL-)
- T. **Solonel** > pl. **Soloneldi** 'Telerin Elves, lit. *Surf-singers' (Etym:SOL-)
- T. **Audel** > pl. **Audelli** 'Elves of Aman' (WJ:364)
- T. **Abar** > pl. **Abari** 'Avari' (VT47:13,24, WJ:380)
- T. **ēl** > pl. **ēli** 'stars' (WJ:362)
- T. **elen** > pl. **elni** 'stars' (arch., poet.) (WJ:362)
- T. **leper** > pl. **leperi** 'fingers' (VT47:10, VT48:5)

Note the syncope ***eleni** < **elni**, but its absence in **leperi**. The first form is from *Quendi and Eldar* where we find syncopated Telerin words more often than in the late sources, see 3.5

A curious medial fortification can be observed in **Fallinelli**, **Soloneldi**: **-nel** *'singer' as a suffix becomes **-nell-** in the first case and **-neld-** in the second. Maybe influence of **edela** < **elda** 'elf' played a role here. In Q&E-Telerin medial **-ld-** becomes **-ll-**, see **galla** (< GÁLAD-).

The plural marker forms diphthongs with final vowels:

- T. **Ello** > pl. **Elloi** 'Eldar, Elves of the March' (WJ:376)
- T. **Hecello** > pl. **Hecelloi** 'Elves of Middle-earth' (WJ:365,376)
- T. ***Linda** > pl. **Lindai** 'Teleri, lit. *Singers' (WJ:382)

T. **Pendi** 'Quendi, Elves' is used in the plural only, as *a word of the historians* (WJ:375); rarely employed in ordinary speech, since the product of the change KWEN- > PEN- clashed with the already existing stem PEN- 'lack, be without'. **Pendi** reflects Q. **Quendi**, sg. **quendë**, but even this singular was *not much used* (WJ:361) in Quenya. Thus we must accept that **Pendi** really has no singular and cannot assume **-e** < **-i** in the plural on this basis. Nevertheless it seems that Late Telerin at least does not possess the diphthong **ei** (it becomes long **ē** – see VT48:7), so that the plural **-i** of nouns ending in **-e** appears to be a likely result.

However, note that Late Telerin also changes **oi** < **ui**. Another plural marker **-m** of Etym-Telerin is discussed separately in 4.6.

It is not known how to pluralize verbs in Telerin, but as the marker **-r** exists in Sindarin (cf. **Dor Firn-i-Guinar** 'Land of the Dead that Live' in *The Silmarillion*) as well as in Quenya (e.g. **i karir** 'those who form' (WJ:391)), it is highly probable that it appears in Telerin as well. Moreover, Quenya pl. **-r** for nouns was *originally derived from verbs* (PE17:62).

4.2 The cases

4.2.1 genitive

All Eldarin tongues shared the same genitival suffix from Common Eldarin, derived from the element HO- 'away, from'. It was used as an enclitic particle and **h** was lost very soon, so that the Telerin declension is **-o** (most probably replacing final **-a**), just as in Quenya. It is said to be *more widely used than in pure Quenya, sc. in most cases where English would employ the inflexion -s or of.* (WJ:369)

But Quenya has a peculiar addition of a second plural marker **-n** (< **-m**), e.g. **elenion** 'of stars' (**elen-i-o-n**). This is explicitly said not to be the case in Telerin, so that we would expect ***ēlio** or ***elnio** as the Telerin cognate.

4.2.2 possessive

Telerin does not employ a separate possessive case as Quenya does, it places the forms beside each other without inflection. The archaic way is to place the possessor first, so **Olue cava** 'Olwë's house', but in the later development this was reversed, thus **cava Olue** 'Olwë's house'. Sindarin has a similar development of the uninflected genitive, compare **Ennyn Durin** 'The Doors of Durin' (LotR II ch. 4); Quenya may retain the original word order, as **Oromë róma** 'an Oromë horn' (WJ:368).

But the usual way to express such possessives in Telerin is to add a possessive suffix: **cavaria Olue** 'Olwë's house' (lit. 'the house of him, Olwë'). Note that in Late Telerin a possessive pronoun rather than suffix is attested.

4.2.3 allative, ablative, locative

A single example of the allative is known: **lūmena**, from which one can derive the short ending **-na**, in contrast to Quenya **-nna**. Its origin must be the stem NĀ- yielding the Quenya prepositions **an**, **ana**, **na** 'to, towards'. Compare also S. **na** in allative sense (**na-chaered** '*into distance', LotR II, ch. 1). All this suggests that Quenya **-nna** is a result of medial nasal fortification, absent in Telerin.

Another allative element is **-da** with the loss of the final short vowel it remains as **-d** in the adverb **avad** and is probably irrelevant for grammatical declensions.

No example of the Telerin ablative is known. Perhaps it has short ***-lo** as a cognate of Quenya **-llo**, but without the medial fortification again. Compare the root LŌ- (VT45:28) and the Quenya prepositions **ollo**, **lō/lo** 'from' (ibid., VT49:24) used with persons.

I think it is likely, however, that Telerin does not employ an ablative at all, substituting the genitive (*more widely used than in pure Quenya*) instead. Compare also **Oiolossēo** 'from Oiolossë' in 'Namárië', a genitive form used as ablative.

Quenya has several locative endings, long **-ssë** and short **-së**, **-s** (compare also **se**, **sē** 'at, in' (VT43:30)). The latter causes assimilations if added to a final **-n** or **-l**, and so we find: **-nze**, **-nde**, **-sse** or **-lze**, **-lde**, **-lle**, **-lse** (VT43:16-17). A locative remnant seems to be found in S. **ennas** 'there, in that place' (SD:129-131). In Sindarin final **-s** cannot come from **-sV** due to lenition, but should be rather from **-ssV**, so that the CE form may have been ***entassē**. If so, the variation **-se/-sse** was already present at the Common Eldarin stage and we could find both endings as well as **-s** in Telerin.

With our poor material it is, however, very difficult to answer which sound shifts would be caused by the short ending **-se**. Between vowels **-s-** could remain unvoiced, see **otos(o)** 'seven' (VT47:42). However, rhotacism **s** > **r** is attested for Q&E-, Etym- and Early Telerin, see the introduction to 3.

In any case, Quenya has a way to express locatives by the preposition **mi**, this is most probably true for Telerin as well.

4.2.4 dative

The only example for the dative in Telerin is **nin** '(to) me', evidently **ni** 'I' with the suffix **-n**; same as in Quenya.

4.2.5 instrumental

This is not a separate case, but is expressed using the preposition **mā** 'by (of agents)' (VT47:18) followed by the genitive. A short form **ma** is also present in Tolkien's notes, but not identified as Telerin. It may be that length

depends on stress in the sentence. The word is derived from the older meaning 'hand'. There is a similarity to Adûnaic **-mā**; see 2.3.

Hence, one could construct something like ***Petin mā lambo** 'I speak by (using) the tongue'.

4.3 Verbal conjugations

As far as we know, the Telerin verb system is similar to Quenya. It does also distinguish two classes of verbs: *derived* or *a-verbs* and *stem verbs*.

4.3.1 present, aorist

Telerin has a distinction between the present tense and a timeless aorist:

- **#pet-** 'to tell, say' (KWET-) > **pete** 'tells, says' (aorist)
- **#car-** 'to do' (KAR-) > **care** 'do' (aorist); in **abá care!** 'don't do it!'
- **#aba-** 'to refuse' (ABA-) > **aban** 'I refuse' (aorist)
- **#sil-** 'to shine' (SIL-) > **sīla** 'shines, *is shining' (pres. tense)

The formation is identical to Quenya. In the aorist, a stem verb receives the ending ***-i**, which becomes **-e** in an open final syllable (but one may suppose that it reverses to ***-i-** if an ending is attached, e.g. T. ***carin** 'I do' as in Quenya). A derived verb probably remains unchanged in the aorist.

The present tense of stem verbs is formed by lengthening the root vowel and adding **-a**. There is no evidence for derived verbs. In Quenya their present tense (with a transitive sense, as it seems) is formed by the substitution of final **-a** > **-ëa** as **henta** 'to eye, to examine (with eyes), scan', present continuative **hentea** 'is reading' < **-ayā** (PE17:77). Compare the verbal noun **tengwaye** with unstressed **-waye** > **-weye** > **-wie** yielding Q. **tengwie** 'reading' (VT49:48,54). The suffix ***-aya** would probably remain unchanged in Telerin: ***hentaia** 'is reading (something)', ***ciutaia** 'is renewing (something)'.

4.3.2 past, perfect

- **delia-** 'go, proceed' (DEL-) > **delle** 'went, proceeded' (WJ:364)
- **auta-** 'go away, leave' (AWA-) > **vāne** (pa.t.), **avānie** (perfect) 'went away (in an abstract sense)', thus 'lost, past, dead'
- **auta-** 'go away, leave' (AWA-) > **vante** (pa.t.); **avantie** (perfect) 'went away (in a physical sense)' (WJ:366-367)

In the first example the whole verb ending **-ia** < CE **-jā** is replaced by **-e** with accompanying nasal infixion or else an assimilation of the suffix **-ne**. Such a formation is known from Quenya, where according to a gloss in *The Etymologies* a loss of the whole ending indicates intransitive use: Q. **ulya-** 'pour' intransitive past tense **ulle**, transitive **ulyane** (Etym:ULU-). Since 'to go, proceed' is naturally intransitive, we might expect such a distinguishing in Telerin as well.

The verb **auta-** is highly irregular, but we observe the same past tense ending **-ne** attached to the CE element **wā** (WJ:366); **wāne** < **vāne** /'wa:ne/ in Telerin orthography. The form **vante** is said to be derived from a *-ta verb*, thus ***wā-tā** < ***wā-n-te** < **vante**. Thus verbs with the ending **-ta** after a vowel would usually form their past tenses by n-infixion rather than by attaching **-ne**.

The perfect **avānie** is said to be formed from **awāwiiē** < **a-wāniiē** (should we read ***awāwiiē**?) *with intrusion of n from the past*. So **-n-** should be seen as an irregularity here, it separates the two vowels. Otherwise the pattern of the perfect seems clear for Telerin: an attachment of the ending **-ie** (replacing the verb ending), reduplication and lengthening of the stem vowel. Note that lengthening is absent when the stem vowel is followed by two consonants, as in **avantie**.

Thus we would expect perfects like **delia-** < ***edēlie** 'has proceeded' or **#pet-** > ***epētie** 'has said', **matta-** < ***amattie** 'has handled, managed' and so forth.

In a text from 1968 Tolkien discusses the element **nē** with a sense 'ago' or 'behind' (*sc. earlier of time*), but which actually became to mark the past tense of 'to be' in Quenya and Telerin (VT49:31). It is this very element that appears as the past tense suffix **-ne**. Thus T. **andané** 'long ago, once upon a time'. According to this source *it does not take any inflections of person* and is also used as 'yes' in answers to questions of fact = 'it was so, it was as you say/ask'. In the same way Q. **ná** 'is' can be used as assertion 'it is so' (VT49:28). This is a hint that the verb **ná** 'to be' might appearing in Telerin as well. Note also that this is just one conception, there is a couple of examples where Q. **nē** is inflected, like **nēse** 'it was'.

4.3.3 participles

- **glania-** 'to bound, limit' ((G)LAN-) > **glanna** 'bounded, limited' (VT42:8)
- **auta-** 'go away, leave' (AWA-) > **vanua** 'gone, lost, no longer to be had, vanished, departed, dead, past and over' (WJ:366-367)
- **ciuta-** 'renew, refresh' (KEWE-) > **ciure** 'renewed' (VT48:7)
- **ceura** *'renewed' (KEWE-) (VT48:8)

From the first example we can extract the ending **-na**, which replaces the verb ending. This is in fact also an adjective ending which can be attached to a stem; see **logna** 'soaking wet, swamped' (VT42:10) < LOG- without a suitable verb given.

The participle **vanua** is irregular. It may be again the element **wā** with the ending **-na** (< **nā**) and a euphonic reduplication of the initial consonant, thus: **wā-n(w)ā** > T. **vanua** ['vanua] with regular **w** < **u** after a consonant; in Quenya **vanwa** ['vanwa].

The participles **ciure** and **ceura** also show exceptional endings. For the latter the primitive form **ceu-rā** is given, so that both seem to be early adjectival formations of KEW(E)-, rather than participles from given verbs. The ending **-rā** is a known adjectival suffix in Quenya as e.g. **yára** 'ancient' (Etym:YA-).

4.3.4 imperative

- **ela!** 'imperative exclamation, directing sight to an actually visible object' (WJ:362)
- **heca!** 'be gone! stand aside!' (WJ:365)
- **abá!** negative imperative particle 'don't!' (WJ:371); in **abá care!** 'don't do it!'

All these imperatives seem to be fixed expressions, formed directly from the stems, rather than by inflecting verb forms. Evidently, there had been an enclitic particle **-ā** in CE, which was usually prefixed to a verb in Quenya, except for several fixed forms, including **ela!** and **heca!**, but nothing can be said about a similar development in Telerin.

4.3.5 personal affixes

For verbs only one inflection is actually attested: **-n** 'I'. And from what we know the others should be very close to the Quenya endings.

In *Quendi and Eldar* the pronominal elements of the 2nd person are said to be **le** or **de** with a variation **d/l** in PQ (WJ:363).

The same is seen in notes from 1968 shown in VT49:50 where the 2nd person singular stems are **ki** and **le/de**. According to the explanation *ki was (or soon became) "imperious": i.e. addressed mainly to younger people or subordinates*. In Quenya (and by influence of the Noldor also in Sindarin) a distinguishing is made, so that **l** marks the singular and **d**- the plural, while Telerin has **de** for both (which then probably also appears as a verb ending ***-d, *-de** 'you'). This is the only clear statement concerning Telerin in this text.

The characteristic consonant of the third person singular in Q&E-Telerin is **r**, as it can be deduced from the ending **-ria** 'his' (< ***-sjā**). Compare the base S- in *The Etymologies*, we are apparently dealing with rhotacism **s** < **r**. It might be as well Quenya influence, however. Unfortunately there are no clear statements at that time to find out whether rhotacism was conceived part of Telerin phonology or not (it was certainly so in Early Telerin, see the introduction to II). The only forms in question come from 1968/69. In a note from VT42:25 it is said that T. **ototya** was an analogous formation *with tya instead of sya*. This may mean that intervocalic

-sy- is allowed in Telerin, so that there would be no longer an obstacle in the development ***-sjā** < ***-sya**. And there is also **otos/otoso** 'seven' (VT47:42) with an allowed intervocalic **-s-**.

For the 1st person plural after the 1965 revision we can reconstruct ***-ngue** inclusive 'you and us', exclusive ***-due** 'us, but not you'. Before the 1965 revision one could have incl. dual ***-nguo/*-ngo** (?) (formed with the dual marker **-u**) or incl. dual ***-ngue**; excl. dual ***-mmo** or ***-mme** respectively. See 4.4 for a discussion in more detail.

4.4 The problem of *-nguo*

From the genitive form **vomentianguo** 'of our meeting' one can easily extract the possessive suffix **#-ngua** (**-a** < **-o** in genitive). This is fairly uncontroversial, but the question is: Which form of 'we' does **#-ngua** represent? A complete understanding of the matter can only be achieved by studying the Quenya forms first, for which see [3].

What we can say for sure is that **#-ngua** is almost certainly an inclusive form, derived from the inclusive root that appears at different times as **we**, **ñe** or **ñwe**. It seems to be the cognate of Quenya ending **-ngwe** which is sometimes plural and sometimes dual. There are several possibilities for Telerin:

If dual and plural are distinguished, **#-ngua** seems to have been intended as a dual form, since **vomentie** was intended to contain the dual marker **t** (Quenya **omentie** denotes the meeting of two ways, **yomenie** of several). The cognate of **#vomentiangua** was **#omentielma**, changed to **#omentielva**. Both Quenya forms would be dual as well. Inclusive **#-lme** 'you and us' and dual **#-lmo** 'you and me' may lead to the same possessive suffix **#-lma** 'our, yours and mine'. The revised dual ending could be either **#-lva** or **#-lve**. Since the formations in Quenya and Telerin are very different, the plural forms in Telerin are hard to predict in this case, but the dual exclusive would probably be ***-mma**.

In a major revision of the 1st person pl. endings **#omentielva** becomes an inclusive plural form. The earlier dual character of **omentie** is now removed and the word is reinterpreted as a compound **o-** + **men** + **tie** or the gerund of a verb **omenta-**. This certainly obsoletes **yomenie** and a part of the description in Q&E. But if this conception is to be followed, **#vomentiangua** would have to be a plural inclusive form as well. And now possible Telerin dual forms are difficult to predict. The exclusive form in Quenya is **-lwa**, formed with the characteristic consonant of the 2nd person **l**. In Telerin, this would be rather **d**, so that we can reconstruct excl. pl. ***-dua**.

But perhaps Telerin does not distinguish dual from plural at all (cf. *the dual inflections are peculiar to Quenya* (VT49:51)). Then we would have inclusive **#-ngua** as a general suffix.

Summarized:

- 1959-60: **#-ngua** probably dual inclusive or general inclusive; exclusive ***-mma**
- 1965 revision: **#-ngua** probably plural inclusive or general inclusive; exclusive ***-dua**

Finally a few words should be noted on the etymology of this ending. The Lindarin languages change **kw** > **p** and similarly **ñkw** > **mp**, **gw** > **b**, **ñgw** > **mb** (VT41:8), so that primitive **ñwe** (or ***ñwa**) cannot be the regular origin of T. **#-ngua** (cf. CE **liñwi** > N. **limb** 'fish' (LIW-)). A possible explanation is that a geminated consonant develops differently: ***ññwa** > ***ngua**. Compare **ññ** > **ng** as in all Eldarin (PE18:104).

UPDATE Jan. 8th, 2012: The *Comparative Tables* mention that **ngj**, **ngw** were lengthened to **ñj**, **ñw**, later changing to **ngj**, **ngw** (PE19:24). However, this is an early Eldarin shift (not shared by Danian), so that the resulting **ngw** still becomes **mb** in Telerin (PE19:23).

4.5 Adjectives

The Telerin adjective is usually placed after the noun it describes (WJ:369). Some derivational suffixes are known:

- **-ia** (< **-jā**) is neutral ending, forming an ordinary adjective: **arpen** 'noble (man)' > **arpenia** '*noble' (WJ:375); corresponds to Q. **-ya**
- **-ima** (< **-imā**) means 'able' as in **abapétima** 'not to be said' (WJ:371); same ending in Quenya

- **-in** (< ***-ina**) can be extracted from **Telepimpar** (VT47:23) and is probably of similar role as **-rin**, cf. S. **-en** beside **-ren**.
- **-na** (< **-nā**) functions as a past participle ending, but also as a simple adjectival suffix (see 4.3 above); same ending in Quenya
- **-re/ra** (< **-rā/*-rē**) has maybe a sense of completeness, as it is attested in **ciure**, **ceura** 'renewed' (the latter not translated); same ending in Quenya
- **-rin** (< ***-rina**) seems to denote material in **#telperin** 'of silver' < **Telperimpar** (VT47:8) (PM:318); corresponds to S. **-ren**, Q. **-in** (as in **Tyelpinuar**); another usage is to denote a language, as in **Lindārin** (WJ:371), in this sense it corresponds to Q. **-rin**
- **-ya** (< **-jā**) – only attested for ordinal numbers

For the problem of **-ia/-ya** see 3.3 above.

4.6 Traces of the plural marker **-m**

In *The Etymologies* the Q. ending **-on** is said to be derived from **ʒō** 'away' + plural marker **m** (ʒO-). The same marker with a vocalic extension occurs in a note which has been struck through:

eme 'many', -m plural (VT46:29). And below stands:

Telerin pl. am, um, em. edulam.

A remark from Late Telerin tells us:

In Telerin final n (< m, n) was not lost (VT42:24)

This statement denotes that T. **-n** may descend from **-m**, but no conclusion can be drawn about whether **-m** always became **-n**.

Another note reads:

**lepe [...]* An ancient plural formation from this with C.E. *-m(e)* was *lepem(e)* which eventually produced the word for 'five': T. *lepen* [...]. The Telerin form might go back to C.E. *lepem* with dissimilation of *m*: Common Eldarin final *-m* survived as such in Telerin, but as *n* in Quenya [...]. But more likely all three forms go back to late C.E. *lepenē* with loss of the sense of plurality and addition of *e* (VT47:10)

This statement is contradictory, as it is already pointed out in VT47:24-25; if **-m** < **-n** was a specific Quenya development, not present Telerin, why would we have then CE **lepem(e)** with **-m** > **-n** already carried out? Luckily, Tolkien has corrected this page and the new version reads:

Since Common Eldarin final -m became -n (with the same subsequent development as n in the descendant languages), it would appear that lepen, no longer felt as a plural formation, took the form lepenē [...]. T. lepen : though it could < original lepem is probably < lepenē (VT47:24)

So **-m** > **-n** was made a CE development and there was also a vowel addition by the influence of other trisyllabic numerals: **lepem** > **lepenē**. Assuming that there was no such development, **lepem** would produce T. **lepen** as well, but there would be no explanation for Q. **lempë** (we would have **lepem** > Q. ***lepen** as in Telerin). So **lepenē**? is an explanation for both forms, in Quenya the three-syllabic word loses its second vowel, the medial combination is transposed and assimilated: > **lepnē** > **lempë**. The CE development **lepem** > **lepenē** also explains S. **leben**.

So Late Telerin has only **-n** instead of **-m**, but an interesting question would be: Is this marker used anywhere grammatically? Quenya **-n** is an addition to case endings, but Telerin lacks this *Quenya innovation* (see 4.3 above).

But let us come back to *The Etymologies* and **edulam**. The singular form must be either **#*edul** or **#*edula**; the first form has been already hypothetically reconstructed from PQ **edlō** in 3.2, but it is also possible that CE **edela** (see ELED-) yields T. **#edul** in *The Etymologies* and the original vowel **-a-** reappears when attaching the ending **-m**. The mentioned **am**, **um**, **em** may indicate that **-m** is only attached to words ending in **-a/-u/-e**, while others could receive another marker. But the whole note is highly obscure and there is not even a hyphen to indicate an ending.

What about the meaning of **edulam**? Since it is apparently a plural word 'elves', it could be either an ordinary plural, as S. **edhil**, Q. **eldar** or a cognate of the S. collective plural **-ath** (not very probable) or, regarding **eme** 'many', a plural formation meaning 'many elves' similar to Q. **-li**.

4.7 Other

4.7.1 diminutive

The CE diminutive suffix **-iki** survived as **(-i)ce** in Telerin (**-eg** in Sindarin), attested in several examples, e.g.: **nette** < **nettice** 'sister' (VT47:14). Note that **nette** itself is already a diminutive form, made by medial reduplication in CE: ***nethi** < **netthi**.

Other words of that kind: **hannace** *'little brother', **emmece** *'mommy', **attace** *'daddy', **vinice**, **vince** *'baby' (VT48:6). They all represent play-names of the five fingers in children's speech.

The difference between **nettice** and **emmece** can be explained by the former being derived from a word ending in **-i** in CE, while the latter must be from ***emmē**.

4.7.2 ye

An elegant way to refer to pairs is, apart from the dual, the suffix **-ye**, in Quenya as in Telerin.

Tolkien cites **Menel Kemenye** 'Heaven and Earth' (VT47:11,30-31) as a Quenya example, mentioning that this construction is also possible in order to refer to Sun & Moon, Land & Sea, fire & water (VT47:31). This means that something like ***Gaiar Dorye** 'Sea and Land' might be valid in Telerin.

But it is mentioned that **ye** can be prefixed before each item on a list in Telerin. Exemplified it may look like this: ***Goldōrin ye-Findārin ye-Lindārin** 'Quenya, Sindarin and Telerin'.

5 A real-world inspiration?

It is commonly known that Tolkien's art-languages, especially those that were more deeply elaborated, were made with a certain inspiration from the real world, there is usually one or several languages on which they were modelled. For Telerin it could have been Latin or Romance languages like Italian and Spanish. Tolkien says he was *in love with Italian* (Let:167) as well as Latin (Let:294) and especially liked Spanish among Romance languages (Let:213,294). The similarities are most apparent in Early Telerin, for example:

- T. **morta**, **mars** 'fate' – Lat. **mortuus**, It. **morta** 'dead'; the god **Mars**
- final **-s**, as in:
 - T. **págas** 'stern (of ship)' – Lat. **paganus** 'a pagan'
 - T. **axas** 'bone' – Lat. **axis** 'axis'
- initial **sc-**, **st-**, e.g.:
 - T. **stanca** 'split, cloven, forked' – Lat./It. **statua** 'statue'
 - T. **scanta** 'a blow with an axe' – Lat. **scando** 'to ascend, board'
- final combination **-ula** (see especially 3.2 for anaptyxis):
 - T. **tagula** 'heavy woodman's axe', **tancula** 'pin, brooch' – Latin **regula** 'rule'; **Caligula** etc.

Later examples:

- initial **sp-**:
 - T. **spalasta** 'to foam, froth' – It. **spalare** 'to shovel'
- the combination **-ngua**:
 - T. **#vomentiengua** 'our meeting' – It./Lat. **lingua** 'language'
- double medial **-tt-**:
 - T. **matta** – 'handle, wield, manage, deal with' – It. **matto** 'mad'
- the combination **-gn-**:

- T. **logna** 'soaking wet, swamped' – Lat. **magnus** 'great, large, important'
- In Classical Latin before the Middle Ages [w] was spelled **v** and [v] did not occur, just as in Telerin.
- In Spanish [k] becomes [ɸ] before the front vowels **e, i**. In Late Telerin **khj-** becomes **ɸ-**.

In any case these are just faint similarities compared to the relation between Sindarin and Welsh or Quenya and Finnish. This influence took at least place in the beginning, Late Telerin does not have much in common with Italian or Latin anymore (neither of them has the sound **ɸ** for example), being rather a historical consequence of Common Eldarin.

A A list of the Telerin phonological evolution

This is a quick overview of the most important Telerin sound shifts, some have been reconstructed. The latest known stage has always been assumed. "V" stands for any vowel, "C" for any consonant; "∅" means that the sound disappears.

- *initial:*
 - MB-, ÑG-, ND- > **b-**, **g-**, **d-** (*Tengwesta Qenderinwa 2* has **m-**, **ñ-**, **n-** instead)
 - KJ-, GJ- > **t-**, **d-**
 - KHJ- > **ɸ-**
 - NJ-, ÑJ- > **n-**
 - SJ- > ***s-**(?) or ***si-**(?)
 - TJ- > ***t-**(?) or ***ti-**(?)
 - Ñ̃-, ʒ- > ∅
 - H- > **h-**
 - KH-, PH-, TH- **h-**, **f-**, **f-**
 - SP-, ST-, SK- > **sp-**, **st-**, **sc-** (Early Telerin)
 - SL-, SM-, SN-, SR- > **l-** (Early Telerin), **m-** (Early Telerin), ***n-**, ***r-**
 - SW- > **su-** (Early Telerin)
 - GL- > unchanged
 - KW-, GW- > **p-**, **b-** (VT41:8)
 - KHW- > **ph-** (VT41:8)
 - W- > **v-** [w]
 - Y- > **y-**
- *medial:*
 - **ei** > **ē**
 - **oi** > **ui**
 - **ou** > **ō**
 - **eu** > **iu** / **eu** (not a parallel development, but different conceptions)
 - **ai**, **ui**, **au**, **iu** unchanged
 - **ō̄** > **ā**
 - **āe**, **āo** > **ā** ('Fëanor's *e* and *o*')
 - **aụC** > **auC**
 - **aṿV** > **avV**
 - **Cụ** > **Cu** or **Cv/Cw**

- **dl** > **ll**
- **ld** > **ll**
- **ln** > **ll** (perhaps in **delia** > ***delne** > **delle**)
- **IVn** > **ln** (syncope in ***eleni** > **elni**)
- **nm** > **mm**
- **χt** < **tt**
- **tc** > **cc** (rejected form **occo**)
- **tth** > **tt**
- **pt** unchanged (<< **pp**)
- **cl** unchanged
- **VsV** > unchanged (**otoso**), but > **r** (Q&E **-ria** and Early Telerin)
- **nth** > **nt**
- **VthV** > **VpV**
- **gC** > unchanged
- **Cg** > unchanged
- **VgV** > **VV** (first vowel long) / unchanged
- **ñgj** > **nd**
- **kw, ñkw, gw, ñgw** > **p, *mp, b, mb** (VT41:8)
- **khw** > **ph** (VT41:8)
- *final*:
 - **-au** < **-o**
 - **-m** < **-n** (only attested with the plural marker)
 - **-i** < **-e**

B Telerin Wordlist

Words in brackets are deleted by Tolkien. Words with a prefixed question mark are of uncertain readings of manuscripts. A suffixed question mark means uncertain stems or translations. Probable word roots are given for reference even if not attested in the source, but only attested CE forms are listed.

For a similar list of Early Telerin vocabulary see [2].

- **aba-** (1) a prefix showing prohibition (WJ:371) (ABA- < BA! 'no'), as in **abapétima**
- **#aba-** (2) 'to refuse'; see **aban**
- **aban** 'I refuse, I will not' (WJ:371) (ABA- < BA! 'no');
- **abá** — negative imperative particle 'don't!' (WJ:371) (< CE *abā*; ABA- < BA! 'no'); the accent may indicate unusual stress rather than vowel length
- **abapétima** 'not to be said' (WJ:371) (ABA- < BA! 'no', KWET-)
- **abar** 'Avar', one of the Avari (VT47:13, 24) (< CE *abaro*; ABA- < BA! 'no'); pl. **Abari** (WJ:380)
- **aclar** 'glory, splendour' (VT47:13) (< CE *aklara*; KAL-) **aipen** 'if anybody, whoever' (WJ:375, 372) (? , KWEN-)
- **alata** 'radiance, reflection' (PM:347) (< CE *ñalata*; ÑAL-)
- **Alatāriel(le)** 'maiden crowned with a garland of bright radiance', Galadriel's Telerin name (PM:347, UT:266) (ÑAL-, RIG-)

- **alpa** 'swan' (UT:265, Etym, VT42:7) (< CE *alkwā*; ÁLAK-) **Altarielle** – a variant of Galadriel's Telerin name (PE17:60), see **Alatāriel(le)**
- **#amba** — isolated from **Ambaráto**, probably *'top', cf. Q. **Ambarussa** 'top-russet' (PM:353) (AM-)
- **Ambaráto** — father-name of Aikanáro (Aegnor) (PM:347); neither explicitly identified as Telerin, nor translated; but obviously **#amba + arāta**
- **#anda** 'long', isolated from **andané**
- **andané** 'long ago, once upon a time' (VT49:31), also see **né**
- **anga** 'iron' (PM:347) (< CE *angā*; ANGĀ-)
- **Angaráto** — Telerin name of Angrod, son of Finarfin and Eärwen (PM:346) < **anga + arāta**; made a masculine name by **-a** < **-o**; but **Angrod** in *The Etymologies* is from RAUTĀ- 'metal' and probably ANGĀ- 'iron'
- **aplat** 'prohibition, refusal' (VT47:13) (< CE *ap'lata*; PAL-)
- **#aran** 'king'; isolated from **Ciriāran** (AR-, ARAT/ARAN (PE17:147))
- **arāta** 'noble' (PM:363) (< CE *arātā* < *arat-*; AR-, ARAT/ARAN (PE17:147))
- **arpen** 'noble (man)' (WJ:375) (< CE *ara-* (PM:363); AR-, ARAT/ARAN (PE17:147), KWENE-)
- **arpenia** adjective derived from **arpen** (< CE *ara-* (PM:363); AR-, ARAT/ARAN (PE17:147), KWENE-)
- **at(a)** *'double, bi-, di-'; 'in adverbial or prefixal use' (VT42:26) (AT(A)-)
- **atta(ce)** *'daddy' (diminutive **ce**), a play-name of the thumb (VT48:6); the source has **-ke** with *k* spelt as *Quenya*
- **au** *'away' (adverb) (WJ:367) (< CE *awā*; AWA-); alternative form **avad**
- **au-** *'away' (prefix) (WJ:367) (< CE *awā*; AWA-)
- **Audel** 'an elf of Aman' (WJ:364), pl. **Audelli** (< CE *aw(a)delo*; AWA-, DEL-); **-ll-** in plural probably by analogy to **ello**
- **auta-** 'go away, leave (the point of the speaker's thought)' (WJ:367) (AWA-)
- **avad** *'away' (adverb) (WJ:367) (AWA-); alternative form **au**
- **avānie** — past perfect of **auta-** 'went away (in an abstract sense)', thus 'lost, past, dead' (WJ:367) (< CE *a-wāniiē* < *awāwiiē*; AWA-)
- **avantie** – past perfect of **auta-** 'went away (in a physical sense)' (WJ:367) (AWA-)
- **bá** 'I will not!' or 'Do not!' (WJ:371) (BA! 'no')
- **Bala** 'Vala, a Power' (< CE *bālā*; BAL-)
- **Bana** 'Vana' (a Valië) (< CE *bánā*; BAN-)
- **#bar** 'home'; isolated from **Heculbar**, **Hecellubar**
- **[Barada** — emended to **Baradis**]
- **Baradis** 'Varda, Elbereth' (BARÁD/BARATH-)
- **belda** 'strong' (BEL-)
- **belka** 'excessive' (BEL-); should be **belca** in the usual spelling
- **belle** '(physical) strength' (BEL-)
- **branda** 'lofty, noble, fine' (< CE *b'randā*; BARÁD-)
- **bredele** 'beech-tree' (BERÉTH-); see 3.1
- **būa-** 'serve' (Etym, VT45:7) (< CE *beuyā?*; BEW-)

- **burbo** 'blow-fly' (PE19:48) (< CE *buzbō*)
- **būro** 'vassal' (Etym, VT45:7) (< CE *beurō*; BEW-)
- **buspo** 'large fly' (PE19:101) (< *buzbō*)
- **Calapendi** 'Kalaquendi, Light-elves, Elves of Aman' (WJ:362) (KAL-, KWEN-)
- **calar** 'lamp' (VT47:13) (< CE *kalar-*; KAL-)
- **calca** 'glass' (VT47:35) (KALAK-)
- **camba** 'the usual word for hand' (VT47:22) (KAB-); but should rather read 'a hand as flexed, with fingers more or less closed, cupped, in the attitude of receiving or holding', see VT47:7-8 **campe** '14' (VT48:21) (KAN-, KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated')
- **can-** 'cry aloud, call' or 'to summons or name a person' (PM:362) (KAN- 'cry, call aloud' (PM:361))
- **canat** — '4' (VT42:24, VT47:41, VT48:6,21) (KAN-AT-) **canatya** '4th' (VT42:25) (KAN-AT-)
- **cāno** 'herald' (PM:362) (< CE *kānō*; KAN- 'cry, call aloud' (PM:361))
- #**car-** — stem of the verb 'to do', see aorist form **care**
- **care** 'do' (aorist) (WJ:371) (KAR-); in **abá care!** 'don't do it!'
- **cava** 'house' (WJ:369) (*KAW-?)
- [**cenet** '4' (VT47:41) (KANAT-); it reflects a musing that either Q. altered KENET- > KANAT- to relieve the monotony of *e* in the numerals or that S., T. altered KANAT- > KENET- under the influence of the other numerals; not ultimately carried out]
- **ceule** *'renewal' (VT48:8) (KEW- 'new, fresh, renewed')
- **ceura** (1) 'renew' (prob. verb) (VT48:7) (KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated'), variant **ciúra**, on another note **ciuta**
- **ceura** (2) *'renewed' (prob. adjective) (VT48:8) (KEW- 'new, fresh, renewed'), on another note **ciure**
- **cēva** 'fresh, new' (VT48:21) (< *kēwa*; KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated')
- #**ciria** 'ship', isolated from **Ciriáran Ciriáran** 'mariner king' (Olwë) (PM:341) (KIR-, AR-?)
- [**ciura** (< *keu-rā*) – emended to **ceura** (VT48:7)]
- **ciúra** 'renew' (probably a verb) (VT48:7) (KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated'); variant **ceura**, on another note **ciuta**
- **ciurān-** 'new-moon' (< *keurānā*; KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated')
- **ciure** 'renewed' (VT48:7) (KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated'), on another note probably **ceura**
- **ciuta** 'renew, refresh' (VT48:7) (< (*e*)*kwē*?; KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated'); **ceura**, **ciúra** on another note
- **Daintáro** 'Denethor', lit. 'Saviour of the Dani (= Nandor)' (LR:188) (< CE *Ndani-thārō*; DAN-/NDAN-)
- **delia-** 'go, proceed' (WJ:364) (DELE-) **delle** – past tense of **delia-**
- **damme** 'ebb, lowtide' (VT48:26) (< *ndanmē*; NDAN-),
- **donda** 'fist' (VT47:23) (< CE *dond(a)*; *DON-?)
- **duime** *'flood, high tide' (VT48:26) (DUY- 'flow strongly, pour', cf. Q. **luime** 'flood, high tide' in VT48:24)
- **duine** 'large river (of strong current)' (VT48:24) (< CE *duini* 'river'; DUY- 'flow strongly, pour')
- **duita-** 'to flood, inundate, drench' (VT48:30) (DUY- 'flow strongly, pour')
- **Ēde** 'Estë', lit. 'Rest, Repose', a Valië (WJ:404) (< CE *ezdē* < *esdē*; SED-); only as a name, never as a general word 'rest, repose'

- [edulam — probably *'the Elves, Eldar' (VT46:29), see 3.2; struck through]
- ēl 'star' (WJ:362) (ELE-); usual word; pl. ēli
- ela! 'imperative exclamation, directing sight to an actually visible object' (WJ:362) (ELE-)
- elen 'star' (WJ:362) (ELE-); archaic and poetic word; pl. elni
- Ella 'An occasional variant of *Ello*, which was the normal form of the word'
- Ellālie 'the Elven-folk' (WJ:375) (ELE-, LI-)
- Ello 'Elf, Elda' (< CE *edelō* / *edlō*; DELE-); pl. **Elloi**; usual form preferred to **Ella**
- (Elna — adjective referring to the stars (< CE *elenā*; ELE-); not found in Telerin, but this would have been the form)
- [Elwe 'name of Teler-lord' (VT45:17) (3EL-); the whole page has been rejected]
- emme(ce) *'mommy' (diminutive ce), a play-name of the index finger (VT48:6); the source has **-ke** with *k* spelt as *Quenya*
- endo 'grandchild, descendant' (ÑNGYŌ-, ÑNGYŌN-)
- enec '6' (VT48:6,21) (EN-EK-), **enec(e)** in VT48:11
- ened- 'middle' (VT48:25) (ENED/L-) **enempe** '16' (VT48:21) (EN-EN-?, KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated')
- enetya '6th' (VT42:25) (EN-EK-)
- engole 'lore' (WJ:383) (ÑNGOL-); 'used most often of the special 'lore' possessed by the Ñoldor'
- epe 'no tense forms and usually receives no pronominal affixes, being mostly used only before either a proper name (sg. or pl.) or a full independent pronoun, in the senses *say* / *says* or *said*. A quotation then follows, either direct, or less usually indirect after a 'that'-conjunction' (WJ:392) (< CE *ekwē*; KWE-)
- er '1' (VT48:6) (ER-), also **min**
- Erde ''Rest', especially as name of spouse of Olofantur Lorien' (PE19:45) (< *Ezdē*, √SED 'rest')
- eve 'a person, someone (unnamed)' (PM:340) (< CE *ewē*; EWE-)
- #falle 'foam'; isolated from **Fallinel**
- **Fallinel** 'Teler', lit. 'foam-singer' (PHAL-, NYEL-); pl. **Fallinelli**
- felga 'cave' (PHÉLEG-)
- ferne 'beech' (PHER-, PHÉREN-)
- find- – compound element referring to hair (PHIN-) (PM:346,362); see **Findarāto**
- **Findarāto** – Telerin name of Finrod, son of Finarfin and Eärwen (PM:346) (PHIN-); **find-** + **arāta**; but **Finrod** < *Phinderauto* *'skilled-metal' in *The Etymologies* (PHIN-, RAUTA-)
- **Findo** — Telerin form of the name Thingol (THIN-)
- forma 'right-hand' (VT47:6) (PHOR-, MA3-)
- fuine 'gloom, unrelieved darkness (as a night without stars and moon)' (VT41:8) (PHUY-)
- gāia 'terror, great fear' (PM:363) (< CE *gāyā*; GAYA- 'awe, dread')
- gāialā 'fell, terrible, dire' (PM:363) (GAYA- 'awe, dread')
- gaiar 'the Great Sea of the West', lit. 'the Terrifier' (PM:363) (< CE *Gayar-*; GAYA- 'awe, dread')
- [galda — emended to **galla**]
- galla 'tree' (VT39:7,19) (< GAL-/GÁLAD-?)
- gampa 'hook, crook' (VT47:20) (GAP-)

- **glada** 'laugh' (PM:359) (< CE *g-lada*-)
- **glana** 'edge, rim' (VT42:8) ((G)LAN-)
- **glania** 'to bound, limit' (VT42:8) ((G)LAN-)
- **glanda** 'a boundary' (VT42:8) ((G)LAN-)
- **glanna** 'limited, bounded' (VT42:8) ((G)LAN-)
- **Goldolambe** 'Quenya', lit. *'Ñoldo-tongue' (WJ:375) (ÑGOL-, LAB-)
- **Goldōrin** 'Quenya', lit. *'Ñoldorin' (WJ:375) (ÑGOL-)
- **goldo** 'Ñoldo' (WJ:383) (< PQ *ñgolodō*; ÑGOL-), see **golodo**
- **góle** 'long study (of any subject)' (WJ:383) (ÑGOL-); 'used most often of the special 'lore' possessed by the Ñoldor'
- **golodo** 'Ñoldo' (< CE *ñgolodō*; ÑGOLOD-, PM:360)
- **hacta** — (internally) earlier variant of **hatta**
- **hāda** 'piled mound' (PE19:45) (< CE *khagdā*; √KHAG 'pile up')
- **hamna** 'pile (artificial) mound' (PE19:91) (< CE *khāb-nā*; √KHAB- 'heap up, pile up')
- **hanna(ce)** *'brother / little brother' (diminutive **ce**), a play-name of the middle finger, variant **tolle** (VT48:6) (KHAN-); the source has **-ke** with *k* spelt as *Quenya*
- **hāno** 'brother' (colloquial word) (VT47:14) (KHAN-)
- **hatta** 'fence, hedge' (variant **hacta**) (PE19:91) (< *khagdā*; √KHAG- 'stake')
- **hauda** 'hoard, store' (PE19:91) (√KHAW 'cover up, hide away, lay in store', extended KHAWAD)
- **heca!** 'be gone! stand aside!' (WJ:365) (HEKE-)
- **Hecello** 'Elf of Beleriand', lit. *'a forsaken one' (WJ:365) (HEKE-, DELE-); pl. **Hecelloi** (WJ:376); see **ello**
- **heco** — adverb and preposition: 'leaving aside, not counting, excluding, except' (WJ:365) (< *hek* + *au*; HEKE-)
- **hecta** 'reject, abandon' (WJ:365) (HEKE-)
- **Hecellubar** 'Beleriand', lit. *'home of the Hecelloi' (WJ:365) (HEKE-, MBAR-); also **Heculbar**
- **Heculbar** 'Beleriand', lit. *'home of the Hecelloi' (WJ:365) (HEKE-, MBAR-); also **Hecellubar**
- **hecul** 'one lost or forsaken by friends, waif, outcast, outlaw' (HEKE-); also **heculo**
- **heculo** — same as **hecul** (HEKE-)
- [**Hendor** 'Middle-earth' (VT41:16) < HEN-, HENET- (<< HENED-); this is from jottings of an (external) change ÉNED > HENET- to distinguish it from the element **en-** 'again', but see **ened-**]
- **ho-** 'away, from, from among', but the point of view was outside the thing, place, or group in thought' (verbal prefix) (WJ:369) (HO-)
- [**hor-** — rejected element from HOR- 'urge, impel, move / warn' in favour of 3OR- > **ōre** (VT41:13)]
- [**hōra** – no translation given; see **hōre**]
- [?**horath** – alternative of **hōre**, reading uncertain (VT41:15)]
- [**hōre** 'warning, caution' (VT41:15); probably obsolete by the external change HOR- > 3OR-]
- **ilpen** 'everybody' (WJ:375) (IL-, KWEN-)
- **imbe** 'a gap, gully; low, narrow tract between high walls', also 'a path or pass between the mountains, hills or trackless forest' (VT47:11,14) (MI-); *not* a preposition in Telerin

- **iūnec(e)** – orthographical variant of **yūnece** (**i** = [j] in this case) and firstly written with *y* (VT48:21)
- **lamba** 'tongue' (physical) (< CE *lambā* < PQ *lab-mā*, LABA-) (WJ:394,416)
- **lambe** 'language' (< CE *lambē* < *lab-mē*, LABA-) (WJ:394,416)
- **lanca** 'sharp edge (not of tools), sudden end, as in e.g. a cliff-edge, or the clean edge of things made by hand or build' (VT42:8) ((G)LAN-)
- **lauda** 'licking up (food or drink), gluttonous eating' (PE19:45) (< CE *labdā*; √LAB 'lick')
- **lepempe** '15' (VT48:21) (LEP-, KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated')
- **lepen** '5' (VT42:24, VT47:10, VT48:6) (LEP-)
- **lepenya** '5th' (VT42:25,26) (LEP-)
- **leper** 'finger', pl. **leperi** (VT47:10, VT48:5) (LEP-)
- **[lepet** 'thumb, ('picker')' (VT47:27) (< CE *lepet(ā)*; LEP-); on list of words not included into the *Eldarin Hands, Fingers & Numerals* essay; compare **tolmo**, **nāpo**]
- **[leppa** — rejected form of **lepta-** (VT47:23)]
- **lepta-** 'finger, feel with fingertips' (VT47:10,24) (LEP-)
- **[?lep̥pa** – alternative reading of **leppa** (VT47:23)]
- **#lie** 'folk, people'; isolated from **Ellālie**
- **#lime** 'link', isolated from **mālime** lit. 'hand-link'
- **#linda** *'beautiful of sound' or as a proper noun: **Linda** lit. 'singer', 'a Nelya, member of the third clan'; isolated from **Lindai**
- **Lindai** 'Teleri, Nelyar of the 3rd clan', lit. 'they sang before they could speak with words' (WJ:382) (< CE *Lindā*; LIN-)
- **Lindalambe** 'Amanya Telerin' (WJ:371) (LIN-, LABA-); also **Lindārin**
- **Lindārin** 'Amanya Telerin' (WJ:371) (LIN-); also **Lindalambe**
- **lō** 'pool, bathing-place, esp. water left in a rocky hollow by receding tide' (VT47:12) (< CE *lō* 'lying water'; LO3-)
- **loga** *'fenland' (< *loga*; VT42:10, UT:263) (LOG-)
- **logna** 'soaking wet, swamped' (< *logna*; VT42:10) (LOG-)
- **lū** 'bow' (VT47:12) (< CE *lū* 'bow, curve'; LU3-)
- **luine** 'blue' (VT48:24) (< CE *luini-* 'blue'; LUY- 'blue')
- **#lūme** 'hour' = *'a point in time'? (WJ:407) (LU-?); from **lūmena** 'upon the hour' (allative)
- **lūta-** 'bow, bend' (VT47:12) (< CE *lū* 'bow, curve'; LU3-)
- **mā** (1) 'hand', in derivatives and compounds only (VT47:6) (MA3-)
- **mā** (2) 'prep. with genitive; by (of agents)' (VT47:18) (MA3-); meaning changed from 'by (hand of), of agent'; **ma** with a short vowel also appears in notes, but not identified as Telerin
- **[māga** 'the manager(?)' (VT47:18) (MAG-); obsolete by the assignment of Q. and T. **mā** to MA3-]
- **māla** 'loving, affectionate' (VT39:10) (MEL-)
- **mālime** 'wrist = hand-link' (VT47:6) (< CE *mā-limi* MA3-, LIM- 'link, join'); written with accent instead of macron, obviously because the Q. and T. forms coincide
- (***mālo** 'friend, comrade' (PE18:46,97) (MEL-); Tolkien acknowledges that Q. **mālo** could be a loan from Telerin, implying that there was such word in this language)

- **mapa** 'hand' (normal word) (VT47:7) (< CE *makwā* < *mā* + *kwa*; MA3-, KWA-)
- **mapa-** 'take hold of, grasp' (VT47:7); probably derived from **mapa** 'hand' rather than from *MAP-, being 'a deliberate variation of NAP-'
- [**mapo** 'the usual word for hand' (VT47:20) (MAP- / < CE *makwā*); obsolete by **mapa**]
- **mascu** 'sticky substance' (PE19:101) (< CE *mazgō/ū*; √MASAG)
- **matta** 'handle, wield, manage, deal with' (VT47:6) (< *maxtā* < *maztā*; *maza*; MA3-)
- **min** '1' (VT48:6) (MIN-), also **er**
- **minipe** '11' (the notes hold a broad variety of CE forms: *minikwē?*, *min(i)k(e)we* / late CE *minikwē* < *min(i)kewe* / *min(i)kewē?*, *minikwe* 'fresh one'; MIN-, KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated') (VT48:6-8)
- **minya** '1st' (VT42:25) (MIN-)
- **Moripendi** 'Moriquendi, Dark-folk', but 'not applied to the Elves of Telerin origin who had not reached Aman' (WJ:362,371) (< CE *mori-kwendi*; MOR-, KWENE-); a word 'in historical use'
- **nacte** (internally) earlier variant of **natte**
- **nāpa** 'thumb' (VT48:5) (NAP- 'take, pick up' in VT47:29); from a source slightly later than **nāpo** below
- **nāpat** 'thumb and index [finger] as a pair' (VT48:5) (NAP- 'take, pick up' in VT47:29)
- [**nāpo** 'thumb', an agental (personalized) derivative of NAP- 'take hold' (VT47:28-29); but Tolkien decided that it should be a Quenya word, not mentioning a (new) Telerin form, however compare **nāpa**]
- **natte** 'a wounding, a wound' (PE19:91) (variant **nacte**) (< *snagdē*; √SNAG- 'wound, gash')
- **nē** 'independent word, functioning as a past tense of the verb 'to be' = it was' (VT49:31); see 4.3
- **necte** — (internally) earlier variant of **nette**
- **neled** '3'; from the rough notes to the ELN essay, see **nelet**
- **nelet** (**neled-**) '3' (VT48:6) (NEL-, NEL-ED-); final **-d** devoiced
- **nellepe** 'middle finger' (VT48:5) (NEL-, LEP-); written with the definite article (**i nellepe**) in the source
- **nelpe** '13' (VT48:21) (NEL-, KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated')
- **nelya** '3rd' (VT42:25, 28) (NEL-, NEL-ED-)
- **nente** 'ring finger' (VT48:5) (prob. < EN-, ENET- 'once more, again' VT47:15)
- **neter** '9' (VT48:6,21) (NET-ER-)
- **neterpe** '19' (VT48:21) (NET-ER-, KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated')
- **neterya** '9th' (VT42:25) (NET-ER-)
- **nette** (1) 'sister' (diminutive; play-name for the ring finger) (VT47:12,32, VT48:6) (< CE *netthi*; NETH-)
- **nette** (2) 'honey' (variant **necte**) (PE19:91) (< *negdē* 'exudation'; √NEG- 'ooze, drip')
- **nettice** : **nette** 'sister' with a diminutive suffix (VT47:12,14,32, VT48:6) (< *netthi* + *-iki*; NETH-)
- [**nettica** – emended to **nettice** (VT47:32)]
- [**nēpa** (1) 'gay, lively, girlish' (VT47:32-33, 38) (NETH-); meaning probably rejected in favour of (2), as there is NETH- 'sister' in the final essay (VT47:12)]
- **nēpa** (2) 'sister' (VT47:14) (NETH-)
- **nia** 'my, of me' (VT41:15) (NI-)
- **níce** 'little finger' (VT48:5) (NIK- 'small' in VT47:26); the source has **níke** with *k* spelt as *Quenya* (VT48:6)
- ***nimbe** 'white' – what CT **nimbi** would produce

- **nimbi** 'white' (PE17:19,168), alteration of **nimpī** *which seem[ed] phonetically unsuitable* (NIK); this is glossed as Telerin, but is most probably meant is Common Telerin, the ancestor of Sindarin and Amanya Telerin
- **nin** '(to) me' (VT41:15) (NI-)
- [**occo** (variant **okko**) '7'; experimental version, see **otoc(o)** (VT47:42) (OT-OK-)]
- **Olue** 'Olwë' (king of the Teleri) (WJ:369); see **Olwe**
- **Olwe** 'Olwe in Telerin as in Quenya' (king of the Teleri) (PM:357); see also **Olue**, **Volwe**
- [**ora** — no translation given, probably verb 'to urge, wish, desire, feel moved'; '?impersonal' – reading uncertain; this word may be obsolete in the exact form (VT41:15) (HOR-?)] **ōre** 'heart, inner mind (in a moral sense)' (VT41:15) (3OR-)
- **orna** 'uprising, tall', see **Teleporno** (UT:266) (OR-); said to be an 'ancient adjectival form' – maybe not in common use in Telerin
- [**osko** '7'; experimental version, see **otoc(o)** (VT47:42) (OT-OK- with 'tk>sk in Q., T., S.')]]
- [**otoc(o)** — emended to **otos(o)** (VT47:42)]
- **otos(o)** '7' (VT47:42) (OT-OS-); **otos** (VT48:6,21)
- **otospe** '17' (VT48:21) (OT-OS, KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated')
- **ototya** '7th' (OT-OS-) (VT42:25, VT47:42) with analogical substitution of **-tya** instead of **-sya**
- [**pae(n)** – emended to **pai(n)** (VT48:21)] **pai(n)** '10' (VT48:6,21) (KWA-)
- **paianya** '10th' (VT42:25) (KWA-) [**palata** – changed to **plata** and struck out (VT47:23)]
- **palta** 'pass the sensitive palm over a surface: feel with the hand, stroke' (VT47:9) (< CE *pal'tā*; PAL-)
- **pāne** 'small gull, petrel' (KWĒ- onomatopoeic (with macron in the original)) (VT45:24)
- **pār** 'fist; tightly closed hand as in using an implement or a craft-tool rather than the 'fist' used in punching' (VT47:8, PM:318) (KWAR-)
- [**paya(n)** '10', a variant of **pai(n)** which has been struck through, though seems to appear again in the later **paianya** (VT48:21) (KWA-)]
- **pen** 'man', obviously in the sense 'person' (WJ:375) (KWENE-); survived in a few compounds only, see **aipen**, **arpen**, **ilpen**
- **Pendi** 'Quendi'; 'survived only as a learned word of the historians'; 'was used by the Teleri only of the earliest days, because they felt that it meant the lacking, the poor (*pen)' (WJ:375,408) (KWENE-); 'plural only'
- **pentro** 'reciter, minstrel' (PE18:50) (< *kwe-n-trō*; KWET-)
- #**pet-** 'to tell, say'; see **pete**, **abapétima**
- **pete** 'tells, says' (aorist) (VT41:15) (KWET-)
- **pince** *'baby, small one', play-name of the little finger – 'pinky' (variants **vinice**, **vince**) (VT48:6) (PIKI- 'little'); the source has **-ke** with *k* *spelt as Quenya*
- **plata** 'the flat of the hand, the hand held upwards or forwards, flat and tensed (with fingers and thumb closed or spread)' (VT47:8-9) (PAL-)
- **resta** 'sown field, tilled ground' (PE19:91) (< CE *rezdā* < *reddā*; √RED 'scatter, sow')
- **ría** 'wreath, garland' (PM:347) (< CE *rīgā*; RIG-)
- **riellë**, **-riël** 'a maiden crowned with a festival garland' (PM:347) (RIG-) #**sil-** 'to shine', see **sīla**
- **sīla** 'shines' (pres. tense) (WJ:407) (SIL-)

- **Soloneldi** 'Teleri' (pl.), lit. *'surf-singers' (SOL-, NYEL-); earliest Q. **Solosimpi** 'the Shoreland Pipers' (LT1:253)
- **spalasta-** 'to foam, froth' (SPAL-, SPÁLAS-)
- **spanga** 'beard' (< CE *spangā*; SPÁNAG-)
- **spania** 'cloud' (SPAN-)
- **Spanturo** 'lord of cloud' (Mandos) (SPAN-); not explicitly identified as Telerin, but would contain #**turo** 'lord'
- **stalga** 'steady, firm' (< *stalga*; STÁLAG-)
- (**tancala** – hypothetical result of *tankalā*, the actual word is **tancula**)
- **tancula** 'clasp, brooch' (PE18:51,100) (< *ta-n-klā*; TAK-)
- **tassa** 'index finger' (VT48:5) (TAS- 'point out, indicate' in VT47:11)
- **tat** '2' (VT48:6) (TATA-); a slightly later source gives **tata**
- **tata** '2' (VT42:26-27) (< CE *(a)táta*; ATATA-)
- **tatya** '2nd' (VT42:25) (< TATA-, ATTA-)
- **telep-** 'silver' (in compounds) (UT:266) (KYELEP-); see **Teleporno**, apparently also #**telp-**; see **Telperion**
- **telepe** 'silver' (Let:347) (< CE *kyelepē*; KYELEP-); misread ***telepi* in the letter; but: 'telpe (with Q. syncope) became the most usual form among the Elves of Valinor'; see 3.5, 2.3 for a discussion
- [**Teleporno** 'Celeborn', 'Silver Tree' >> 'silver' + **orno** < **orna**; obviously **a** < **o** in masc. name (UT:266) (KYELEP-, OR-); probably obsolete by **Telporno**]
- **telpe** 'silver' (< CE *kyelep-*; Etym:KYÉLEP-, PM:356, UT:266), see **telepe**; 3.5, 2.3 for a discussion
- **Telperimpar** 'Celebrimbor', lit. 'Silver-fist' (VT47:8) (PM:318) (KYELEP-, KWAR-)
- #**telperin** 'silver' (adj.), isolated from **Telperimpar**
- **Telperion** - the silver tree of Valinor (UT:266) (KYELEP-, RIG-?)
- [#**telepin** 'silver' (adj.), isolated from **Telepimpar**; see **telperin**]
- [**Telepimpar** 'Celebrimbor', lit. 'Silver-fist' (VT47:23) (KYELEP-, KWAR-); emended to **Telperimpar**]
- **Telporno** 'Celeborn' (Let:347); < **telp-** 'silver' + **orna**; see **Teleporno**
- **tolle** *'sticker-up, big boy' a play-name of the index finger (VT48:6) (TOL- 'stick up' in VT47:26); variant **hanna(ce)**
- [**tolmo** 'thumb' (VT47:28) (personalized from of **tolma**; TOL- 'stick up, stand up (stiff), raise the head'); written on a rejected page in the HFN essay; emended to **nāpo**; compare **lepet**, **nāpa**]
- **tolpe** '18' (VT48:21) (TOL-, KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated')
- **tolodya** '8th' (VT42:25) (possibly TOL-OD; Tolkien was uncertain about the last consonant of the stem, see VT47:31-32)
- **tolop** '8' (VT48:21) (*TOL-OP; Tolkien was uncertain about the last consonant of the stem, see also VT47:31-32; maybe it should be rather ***tolot** (d-))
- **trumbe** 'shield' (< CE *turúmbē*; TURÚM-)
- #**turo** 'lord' (TUR-); can be isolated from **Spanturo** if it is Telerin
- **parma** 'left-hand' (VT47:6) (KHYAR-, MA3-)
- **urus** (**urust-**) 'copper' (VT41:10) ((U)RUS- 'used of a varying brownish red from what we should call brick-red to auburn')

- **ulga** 'hideous, horrible' (ÚLUG-)
- **ulgundo** 'monster, deformed and hideous creature' (< CE *ulgundō*; ÚLUG-)
- **vāne** – past tense of **auta-** 'went away (in an abstract sense)' (WJ:367) (< CE *wā*; AWA-)
- **Vaniai** 'Vanyar', lit. *'the fair ones' (pl.); 'fair' with reference to hair and complexion; [...] it meant 'pale, light-coloured, not brown or dark', and its implication of beauty was secondary' (WJ:383) (< CE *wanjā*; WAN-); 'no doubt taken from the Ñoldor'
- **vante** — past tense of **auta-** 'went away (in a physical sense)' (WJ:367) (AWA-)
- **vanua** — past participle of **auta-** in an abstract sense: 'gone, lost, no longer to be had, vanished, departed, dead, past and over' (WJ:367) (AWA-)
- **vilverin** 'butterfly' (WIL-)
- **vinice** *'baby' (diminutive), a play-name of the little finger (variants **vince**, **pinice**) (VT48:6) (WINI- 'little' >> WIN- 'young' in VT47:26); the source has **winike**, **winke** with *w, k* spelt as *Quenya*
- **vince** — variant of **vinice**
- **vō-**, **vo-** – prefix 'used in words describing the meeting, junction, or union of two things or persons, or of two groups thought of as units' (WJ:367) (WO-); short vowel when unstressed
- **vola** 'a roller, long wave' (PM:357) (*WOL-??)
- **Volwe** — connection of **Olwe** with **vola**; 'not a serious 'etymology' but a kind of pun; for the king's name was not normally *Volwe* (Common Eldarin **wolwē*) but *Olwe*'
- **#vomentie** 'meeting or junction of the directions of two people' (WJ:407) (WO-, MEN-, TE3-?); isolated from **vomentinguo** 'of our meeting'
- **ye** 'could be used as usually in pairs or prefixed [?sep.] and appears before each item of a list' (VT47:31) (related to the exclamation **yé** 'lo!')
- **yumpe** '12' (VT48:8) (YŪ-, KEWE- 'new, fresh, anew, repeated'), variant of **yūnece**
- **yūnece** '12' (VT47:41, VT48:8,9) (< CE *yūneke*, *yū(e)neke* 'clearly a dual of 6 *enek*'; YŪ-, EN-EK-); **yūnec(e)** in VT48:8 (< *yū-(e)nekē*, *yūnekē?*, *yū-eneke*); variant: **yumpe**

C Early Telerin Wordlist

see http://sindanoorie.net/art/1923_phon.html#ET_corpus

References

- [1] Helge Fauskanger. *Telerin – the language of the Sea-elves* <http://folk.uib.no/hnohf/telerin.htm>
- [2] Roman Rausch. *Historical phonologies of Ilkorin, Telerin and Noldorin around 1923* http://sindanoorie.net/art/1923_phon.html
- [3] Roman Rausch. *On the different forms of 'we' in Eldarin* http://sindanoorie.net/art/we_Q.html

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update: Feb 5th 2006 — information from VT48 added]

update: Mai 5th 2009 — information from VT49, PE17 added, part 4.4 completely rewritten, hyperlinks and references added, several corrections]

update: Jun 29 2010 – information from PE18 added, 3.2 rewritten

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