

**tr'.z\*w.  
Drytok**



**An Introduction  
to the Language of the Drushek**

**Donald Boozer**

**The Languages of Kryslan  
Volume 1**

**W5&-lt'.q'.=P4&^Y2-x:=D5^Q5=D2 D2-z\*.z\*.n. s'.s'. hr:.zp.th.=D5^Q5=B5**  
**There are many paths ahead of you. You choose and travel one of them.**

**"MANY paths THEY exist THERE (i.e., ahead of you) WITH RESPECT TO YOU.**  
**YOU choose and walk WITH RESPECT TO ONE."**  
**~ A Drushek proverb.**

**Verbalizations:**

**lt'.q'. > *thedgy***

**z\*.z\*.n. > *tykykny***

**hr:.zp.th. > *herrzhepta***

# Chapter 1

## *Historical Background*

The Drushek are the earliest beings to evolve a distinct culture in Kryslan. From available evidence, it appears that their original habitat was in the river valleys of the southwest of Kryslan from which they spread out to inhabit most of the area west of the Great Seas. Numerous settlements in the area now known as Tynnorak would prove pivotal to the history of the Drushek.

Drushek stand about three feet tall, have large muscular tails, and travel most effectively by leaping great distances. Other beings have used the Drushek's waddling, halting gait when not leaping to mock them. They have a large mane of hair and a tuft at the end of the tail; other than that, they are hairless. They have no claws or sharp teeth or other natural defenses (other than their leaping ability). They also lack any vocal apparatus such as vocal cords, a syrinx, etc. Their language, **tr'.z\*w** or **Drytok** (pronounced /dri-tOk/ "dree-tock"), evolved in the earliest times of Drushek prehistory due to their need for communication as wandering tribes of Drushek coalesced and became settled. The villages provided protection and attracted others until Drushek culture became established. In addition to the vocalizations, the language employs a number of gestures to denote syntax.

### Drytok

The Drushek originally inhabited an island off the coast of the mainland until their home was invaded and overran by the Varalsans. Many of Drushek escaped the island and now wander the continent, teaching Shekstan (their esoteric, mystical philosophy) to anyone who comes to them with an interest (i.e., they are not evangelical).

### **A Note on Drushek Conversation Etiquette**

A Drushek's field of vision is different from both the Tynnor and Uhanid (as well as humans). In a Drushek, the eyes provide a much wider peripheral vision but a narrower binocular vision. In conversing among themselves, Drushek typically cock their heads to one side and focus their attention on their conversation partner's hands. Their ears are able to be focused, up to a point, and so will pick up any utterances. The orientation of their head provides one of their eyes a clear view of the other speaker's hands for gestures while at the same time allowing their other eye to detect predators (at least in early days). The other partner will cock his head in the opposite direction, thus providing a 360 degree field of vision for each other's mutual protection. This posture has become in-grained in Drushek culture. It can be disconcerting for some to view this in action: two bowed-head Drusheks apparently looking "past" the other with their hands performing the dance of conversation while emitting the sounds of Drytok.

The characteristic bowed-head posture of conversing Drusheks is also employed when they

speaking with others. The Tynor, in particular, take this as a sign of disrespect. In Tynor culture, it is customary to look into the eyes of your conversation partner whereas a bowed head is a sign that the one bowing is showing his superiority. Bowing is referred to in Tynor vernacular as "showing one's horns". A bow by a Tynor shows that he or she is willing to use their horns in a charge. Therefore, the bow has come to be used as a sign of superiority, while standing upright in front of a bowed Tynor is a sign of vulnerability and submission (basically saying "I know you could knock me down if you so choose"). Two Tynor of equal rank will bow to each other ("We know we could battle but we choose not to"). Since Drushek have no horns and are smaller in stature than Tynor, the "bow" that the Drushek employ is taken as a sign of impudence and contempt. To the Drushek's disadvantage, they came to this realization too late.

## Chapter 2

### *The "Sounds" of Drytok*

#### **II. The "Phonology" of Drytok**

Drytok consists of both audible as well as gestural elements. Both will be dealt with in this chapter.

#### **II.A. Audible Phonology**

##### **II.A.1. Voicelessness**

The first thing that strikes one as the most unique aspect of Drytok is its inclusion of only voiceless sounds. For those unfamiliar with this term, a "voiceless" sound is one made without vibration of the vocal cords. As mentioned in Chapter 1, the Drushek do not have the option of producing voiced sounds since they do not possess vocal cords. The voiceless phonemes of Drytok will be outlined in the following sections.

##### **II.A.1.a. Stops**

**p**, **t**, and **q** are the transcriptions of the three voiceless stops used in Drytok. This series of phonemes is characterised by being non-aspirated (i.e., they are not followed by a puff of air). **p** is a bilabial (both lips are used to articulate the sound). **t** is articulated similarly to an English "t" although one can also put the tongue behind the teeth. **q** can be articulated as either a uvular plosive or a velar (i.e., a sound made with the soft palate), similar to an English "k."

##### **II.A.1.b. Ejectives**

Ejectives are aspirated (i.e., followed by a puff of air) but not necessarily directly from the lungs. The ejectives can be followed by air from the mouth. In other words, it is possible to continue to breath normally and still pronounce each ejective. This takes some practice, but is quite easily done by Drushek, Tylnor, Uhanid, or humans.

The ejectives are transcribed as: **p'**, **t'**, **q'**, **s'**, **z'**, **n**, **k'**, and **r'**.

**p'**, **t'**, and **q'** are the aspirated ejective versions of the stops outlined above.

**s'** is an aspirated "ts" sound as in the English word "bats."

**z'** is a palatal fricative like the "ch" in German "ich." It differs from the fricative **z** (described below) in that it begins with a closure of the air passage (i.e., it is "ejected").

**n** is a sound not encountered in English. This can be best described as a forceful puff of air passed through the nasal openings, once again beginning with a closure of the air passage.

**k'** is another non-English sound. This is also produced with the mouth closed (like **n**), but is an ejective of the uvula or velum. It is the reverse of the click **k\*** described below.

**r'** is an ejective trill and as such is not a sustained sound as the **r** below can be. This is also sometimes transcribed as **tr'**.

### **II.A.1.c. Fricatives**

Fricatives are those sounds produced by some kind of friction. In Drytok, these are **f, s, l, z, c**.

**f** is most correctly pronounced as a bilabial fricative, that is with both lips pressed together and air being forced between them. An English "f" is an acceptable alternative.

**s** is very similar to an English "s."

**l** is not a sound that occurs in English; however, it does occur in Welsh as "ll." This can be articulated by putting one's tongue in position for an "l" and blowing. Remember, do *not* vibrate your vocal cords.

**z** is similar to **z'** above but it is a sustained sound.

**c** is a *retroflex* phoneme where the tip of the tongue is curled backward.

### **II.A.1.d. Semi-vowels**

Another aspect (along with no voicing) that sets Drytok apart is the fact that the language does not have vowels (or at least vowels as English-speakers would think of them). However, three phonemes do act as semi-vowels: **x, h, and r**.

**x** can be pronounced as the sound at the end of German "Bach" or Scottish "loch." A more accurate pronunciation is as a uvular fricative, pronounced further back in the throat.

**h** also has two acceptable pronunciations: the German "Bach" sound or more like an English "h".

**r** is a trill, more sustained than the ejective **r'** above. In fact, this is the sound often heard produced by Drushek in deep meditation. Similar to **tr'**, this sound is also sometimes transcribed as **tr**.

#### **II.A.1.d.i. Use of the semi-vowels**

One may ask how **x, h, and r** can be used as vowels. Of course, they are not vowels, but can be used to "fill out" a "syllable" in Drytok. For example, take the syllable **s**.. If we add **x**, we can create a new word: **sx**.. These two words can be thought of as "sss" (hissing?) and "saa," respectively. The position of the mouth also makes a difference to the semi-vowel. The mouth can be either open (in which case the semi-vowel can be thought of as an "a") or rounded (in which case the semi-vowel can be thought of as a "u"). Rounding will be dealt with below. For more on "vowels" in Drytok, see *Section II.A.7.* below.

### **II.A.1.e. Clicks**

Drytok has several click consonants characteristic of some human African languages. In Drytok, these are **p\*, t\*, z\*, and k\***.

**p\*** is a bilabial click similar to the sound made when kissing; however, the lips can be either pursed or not with **p\***. If the lips are pursed, this would be transcribed as **p\*w** (see rounding section below).

**t\*** is a dental click, similar to the English exclamation "tsk, tsk." This, too, can be pronounced with lips rounded or not: **t\*** and **t\*w**.

**z\*** is the palatal click where the tongue "clicks" off the roof of the mouth. Once again, both rounded and unrounded variations are used in Drytok: **z\*** and **z\*w**.

**k\*** is a unique sound to Drytok. It can be thought of as the reverse of **k** above. This cannot be pronounced with rounded lips since the mouth is closed to produce this sound.

### II.A.1.f. Velopharyngeal

The Drytok velopharyngeal is one of the most unique sounds in the language. This can literally be thought of as the "oink" sound or snoring with an open mouth. This is transcribed in Drytok as **o** although it must be emphasized that it is not a vowel. **o** is simply the transcription used to signify the sound. The velopharyngeal can also be pronounced with (**ow.**) or without (**o.**) rounding of the lips to provide the final two phonemes of Drytok for this section.

### II.A.2. Summary Table

The following table provides a summary of the above descriptions. The difference between the Phonetic-Gestural Transcription and Umod Phonetic Transcription will be explained below.

Phonetic-Gestural	X/Z-SAMPA <sup>1</sup>	Umod Phonetic	X-SAMPA <sup>14</sup>
<i>Stops</i>			
p	/p/	p	/p/
t	/t/	t	/t/
q	/q/ or /k/ <sup>2</sup>	k	/k/
<i>Ejectives</i>			
p'	/p_>/	b	/b/
t'	/t_>/	d	/d/
q'	/q_>/ or /k_> <sup>2</sup> /	g	/g/
s'	/ts_>/	ch (tsh)	/tS/
z'	/cC_>/	j (dzh)	/dZ/
n	/m_0_>/	n	/n/
k'	/N_ ; 0_>/	ng	/N/
r'	/tr_>/	dr	/dr/

<b><i>Fricatives</i></b>			
f	/p <sup>4</sup> or /f/	f	/f/
s	/s/	s	/s/
l	/K <sup>5</sup>	th	/T/
z	/C <sup>6</sup>	zh	/S/
c	/s` <sup>7</sup>	sh	/Z/
<b><i>Semi-vowels</i></b>			
x	/X/ or /x/ <sup>2</sup>	kh,a,u <sup>8</sup>	/x/,/a/,/u/
h	/X/ or /h/ <sup>2</sup>	h/a/o <sup>8</sup>	/h/,/a/,/O/
r	/tr/ <sup>9</sup>	tr	/tr/
<b><i>Clicks</i></b>			
p*	/O/ <sup>10</sup>	pyk/pok	/pIk/, /pOk/
t*	/ / <sup>11</sup>	syk /sok <sup>16</sup>	/sIk/, /sOk/
z*	/!/ or /=/ <sup>12</sup>	tyk/ tok <sup>16</sup>	/tIk/, /tOk/
k*	/N_!/ <sup>13</sup>	ngok	/NOk/
<b><i>Velopharyngeal</i></b>			
o	/f_O/ <sup>15</sup>	no	/no/

### II.A.3. Rounding

Many of the phonemes outlined above can be pronounced either neutrally (with lips in a position similar to the one when English speakers pronounce the vowel in "beat") or rounded (as when pronouncing the vowel sound in "boot"). This is transcribed as a **w** in Drytok. Therefore, **sx** is pronounced as a short hissing with lips apart; **sxw** is pronounced the same way but with the lips rounded as if to pronounce "oo". Similarly, one can also have **l** and **lw**, **z** and **zw**, etc.

### II.A.4. "Syllable" Marking

Drytok cannot have syllables as English, simply because there are no vowels; however, there are sound segments. These are separated in Drytok transcription with a period (.). Therefore, the word **tr'.z\*w** has two segments, the word **h:qs.q't.x:.** has three. A period is used to offset segments to signify that a breath can be taken at this point in the word, that a morphemic element is being added, or that there is a demarcation of two similar sounds. With respect to the last point: **x:.** (one long velar fricative) versus **x.x** (heard as two distinct, short velar fricatives).

### II.A.5. Length

Relative length of sound is a meaningful part of Drytok phonology. This is noted in transcriptions with a following colon (:). For example, **s** is a short hissing; **s:** is a longer hissing. There is no absolute length; the length is relative. This relative lengthening is idiosyncratic to the particular speaker, but is easily recognized as a prolonged sound. For example, the difference between **s** and **s:** is easily recognized within the context of a particular passage or conversation. The following vocalizations can be lengthened: **f:**, **s:**, **l:**, **z:**, **x:**, **h:**, **r:**.

### II.A.6. Transcription Systems

There are two major transcription systems for Drytok. One that attempts to convey as closely as possible the actual phonemic inventory of Drytok as spoken by the Drushek. This is referred to as **Phonetic-Gestural Transcription (PGT)**. The second is **Umod Phonetic Transcription (UPT)** which attempts to pronounce Drytok as the Tynlor would. The Tynlor have a more "conventional" phonetic system when compared with English. Drytok words in UP are more "easily" pronounced by English speakers, but many Drushek would not necessarily recognize their vocabulary when rendered in UPT. Compare this to some English words adopted into Japanese like "ice cream" and "aisukurimu." More on the transcription systems will be discussed after the "inaudible" phonology is introduced below. It should be noted that UPT often is employed for translation of words only. The gestural syntax is not typically relayed using UPT. If Tynlor speak the language of the Drushek, they typically use the syntax of their own language, Umod.

The difference between PGT and UPT can be illustrated (approximately) with analogies to Tibetan transliteration schemes, i.e., *Bstan-'dzin-rgya-mtsho* and *Tenzin Gyatso* are the same exact names, although the first attempts to accurately reflect the orthography of Tibetan not its phonology.

### II.A.7. "Vowels" in Drytok using UPT

No vowels are transcribed in PGT; however, the very nature of UPT requires vowels be transcribed since words in this scheme are meant to be easily pronounced by Tynlor. Being a voiceless language, Drytok does not have vowels as they are normally understood in languages utilizing voicing. However, the concept of the voiceless vowel is applicable in this situation. In X-SAMPA transcription, voiceless vowels include /i\_0, u\_0; E\_0, O\_0; @\_0; I\_0/. "Semi-vowels" are present in the language, namely x, h, r', and r. For example, the word **tr'w.** /tr\_>u\_0/ "being, existence; (a) being" is transliterated into UPT as "dru" whereas **trx.** /rx@\_0/ "gesture, hand-shape" is transliterated "tra."

The transliteration for voiceless vowels can be summarized in the following table:

Phonology (Segment)	Vowel Inserted	Example	X-SAMPA	UPT
<b>Fricative+Stop; Stop+Fricative</b>	E_0	cq.; qs.	/s'E_0q/; /qE_0s/	shek; kes
<b>Eject/Fric/Semivowel rounded</b>	u_0	tr'w.	/tr_>_Ou_0/	dru
<b>Eject/Fricative (single phoneme in segment)</b>	i_0	c.	/s'i_0/	shy
<b>Phoneme+Semivowel</b>	@_0	tx. (tx:.)	/tX@_0/ (/tX@:_0)	ta (taa)
<b>Clicks unrounded</b>	I_0	t*.	/ I_0/	syk

Clicks rounded	O_0	t*w.	/ O-0/	so
----------------	-----	------	--------	----

### II.A.8. Notes on PGT Scheme vs. UPT Scheme

To contrast even clearer distinctions between PGT and UPT schemes, here are several vocalizations in each:

PGT Scheme	UPT Scheme	Translation
<b>zp.th.</b>	<i>zhepta</i>	"foot/leg"
<b>tr'w.cq.</b>	<i>drushek</i>	"Drushek"
<b>tr'.z*w.</b>	<i>drytok</i>	"Drytok"
<b>sx:w.</b>	<i>sekhuu</i>	"wind"
<b>tx:.q't.o.</b>	<i>taagetno</i>	"flat land/plain"

In this work, the primary transcription method will be PGT. When the UPT version is given, it will occur after the PGT word inside parantheses in bold italic. For example: **pln.t'** (***pethendy***) "cloak". Remember that UPT does not transcribe the gestures of Drytok syntax. **Q1-pln.t'** "my cloak" would appear in Umod as ***pethendylangom*** using the possessive Umod suffix -angom (with an intervocalic ***-l-*** between ***pethendy*** and ***-angom***) to denote **Q1**. Of course, Tylnor will also use the gestures but simply substitute their own UPT version of the words. In this case, a Tylnor could be said to use PGT gesture notation with UGT phonetic notations: **Q1-pethendy**.

### II.B. Inaudible Phonology/Morphology

Much of the syntax of Drytok is accomplished by various handshapes, orientations, and motions of these two together. It is not a sign language like American Sign Language (ASL), but has a limited number of possible combinations. For example, ASL often "acts out" the word being stated like "tiger," "bacon," "spaghetti," and "stethoscope" whereas in Drytok these words would be vocalized. A preposition like "above" in Drytok would be signed: handshape **D** held with palm pointing toward the ground held over a fist (handshape **Q**) held perpendicular to the ground (i.e., as if it is going to punch). This would be transcribed as **D4/Q5**. All these (handshapes, transcriptions, etc.) will be discussed below. Incidentally, the ASL for "above" could be transcribed in Drytok as **W4&/W4**. For an excellent online dictionary of ASL, go to <http://www.aslpro.com/cgi-bin/aslpro/aslpro.cgi>.

#### II.B.1 Basic Handshapes and Orientations

There are ten basic handshapes and five basic orientations which provide fifty different "phonemes" of which Drytok makes use. Descriptions and PGT transcriptions of these are summarized in the table below:

**The 10 basic handshapes are:**

**Basic orientations are:**

<b>B</b> = thumb extended, other fingers curled toward palm (a "thumbs up" gesture)	
---	--

<b>C</b> = a C-shaped gesture, thumb and fingers curled but not touching.	<b>1</b> = palm held toward speaker, usually touching speaker's chest
<b>D</b> = fingers together and extended, thumb held against hand	<b>2</b> = palm held toward person spoken to (reverse of 1)
<b>I</b> = index finger extended, other digits curled inward	<b>3</b> = palm held upward, parallel to ground
<b>L</b> = thumb and index finger extended and held at right angles, others curled inward	<b>4</b> = palm held downward, parallel to ground (reverse of #3)
<b>P</b> = last digit extended, other digits curled inward	<b>5</b> = hand held perpendicular to ground
<b>Q</b> = tightly curled fist	
<b>V</b> = index finger and second finger in V-shape	
<b>W</b> = all digits splayed out	
<b>Y</b> = thumb and last digit extended, other digits curled inward	

The following photos provide guidance on forming the hand shapes (as seen from the addressee's perspective, i.e., the palm is pointed away from the speaker). The different background colors are not significant and can be ignored. The handshapes are arranged in the traditional Drytok "alphabetical" order (read left-to-right, top-to-bottom):



**B2**  
*(seen from side)*

**L2**

**I2**

**V2**



**W2**

**D2**

**C2**

**Y2**

*(seen from side)*



**P2**



**Q2**

Note that these photos are of *human* hands demonstrating the Dritok gestures. Drushek hands have only three digits, so, for example, **V2** on a Drushek hand would actually be the thumb, first, and middle digits.

To get an idea of the different **orientations**, imagine looking at these from the back for **Orientation 1**, i.e., the view above would be the perspective of the speaker and *not* the one being spoken to. Imagine lying on the ground and looking up at these gestures. That would be **Orientation 4**. The reverse (looking at these from above) would give you **Orientation 3**. Rotate this page 90 degrees to the left for **Orientation 5** (as seen from the side). This system of basic gestures and orientations provides fifty basic gesture-orientations. However, these gestures can also go through certain **motions** as well as be combined into **two-handed gestures** (e.g., **D4/Q5** mentioned in *II.B.* above).

### **II.B.2. Motions**

There are several standard motions through which each gesture can move. Here is a summary of the standard PGT transcriptions (II.A.6.) and descriptions for each:

**&** - this PGT symbol indicates a circling motion in the plane of the hand. For example, **D2&** would circle vertically (as if wiping a window) where **D4&** would circle horizontally (as if dusting a table).

**>** - this PGT symbol indicates that the gesture begins near speaker and moves toward addressee

**<** - this PGT symbol indicates that the gesture begins near the addressee and moves toward the speaker

**)** - this PGT symbol indicates that the gesture moves across the body in the direction of the back of the hand (i.e., left-to-right for a "right-handed" speaker, right-to-left for a left-handed one) or in the direction of the thumb for gesture B.

**(** - this PGT symbol indicates that the gesture moves across the body in the opposite direction of the back of the hand (i.e., right-to-left for a "right-handed" speaker, left-to-right for a left-handed one)

! - this PGT symbol indicates that the gesture moves in a vertical direction from high to low (usually around eye-level to midsection)

? - this PGT symbol indicates that the gesture moves in a vertical direction from low to high (usually around midsection to eye-level)

^ - this PGT symbol indicates that one gesture changes directly into the other gesture (e.g., **D3^Q3** means that handshape D in orientation 3 changes into handshape Q in the same orientation). This is different than if the gestures were simply in sequence (**D3=Q3**). In the former (**D3^Q3**), the change is gradual, literally the one handshape is "transformed" into the other. In the latter, (**D3=Q3**), the change is staccato and implies "here is one gesture, here is the next." This is one of the skills one acquires as the language is mastered.

+ - this PGT symbol indicates that the motion should be (relatively) rapid

~ - this PGT symbol indicates that the motion should be (relatively) slow. Gestures unfold in a relatively similar timespan with + and ~ being easily discerned as faster or slower than the norm.

@ - this PGT symbol indicates that the fingers should be pointing in the reverse direction as the normally would. For example, **D2@** indicates that the palm should be facing the addressee, but the fingers are pointing *down* instead of the usual *up*: **D2**. This is most often seen in the combination **I1@!/D3** which indicates that the index finger pointing down begins at eye-level and then comes to rest over (and can be touching) the palm of the other hand (which remains stationary).

### II.B.3. Two-Handed Gestures

There are a number of two-handed gestures used in Drytok and these also have their unique set of transcriptions:

/ - this PGT symbol indicates that the gesture on the left of the slash is placed above the gesture to the right of the slash

- - a dash between two gestures means that the hands are placed side-by-side. The main significance is that the gestures and/or vocalizations co-occur.

% - this PGT symbol indicates that the gesture on the left of the sign is placed in front of the gesture to the right of the sign (i.e., the gesture to the right is directly in front of speaker, the gesture to the left is in front of that gesture)

# - this PGT symbol indicates that the two gestures are facing each other instead of simply being placed side by side. For example, **Q1#Q1** indicates that there are indeed two fists next to each other but their knuckles are touching or face each other (as opposed to **Q4-Q4** where the knuckles would be facing the addressee).

### II.C. PGT Combinations

Two more PGT symbols need to be introduced before continuing:

[ ] - brackets in PGT indicate that a gesture (or set of gestures) should be taken as a unit.

= - this PGT symbol connects gestures and vocalizations into "phrases". The = is a sign that each symbol should be done in sequence (as opposed to the - , which means that the elements on either side co-occur).

To illustrate the use of brackets, **[[Q4-Q4]^[D3-D3]]?** indicates that two fists held next to each other change to two hands with palms up and the gestures change from fist to palm-up while rising from midsection to eye-level.

#### **II.D. Translations in This Work**

Those translations in this work from this point onward which correspond to spoken components of Drytok will be in lower case script (or capitalized if it is a proper noun): **tr'w.cq.** "Drushek". If the translation is based on gestures, it will be in ALL CAPITALS: **tr'.cq. pln.t'. P4=C3^Q3** [(the) Drushek (a) cloak HE=HOLDS].

# Chapter 3

## *Linguistic Characteristics*

### III. Introduction

This chapter introduces some of the linguistic characteristics of Drytok in summary form. For those who would like to begin learning the language in-depth, feel free to jump ahead to Chapter 4. One can always return to this chapter once concepts have been introduced in later chapters.

#### III.A. Drytok: Primarily an Isolating Language

In some ways, Drytok is an isolating language in that its verbalizations stand alone. However, it can also be thought of as polysynthetic and/or agglutinative because the hand gestures, in many cases, act like affixes. For example, in a phrase like **Q1-zp.th.** "MY foot", does **Q1** function as a pronoun or as an affix? The - actually signifies that Q1 should even be co-articulated with **zp.th.** Does this mean that **D2-zp.th** "YOUR foot" and **Q1-zp.th.** "MY foot", if the gestures are co-articulated with the verbalizations, should be considered two separate words? Drytok poses many questions when compared with other languages like English (or even Umod) but still remains internally consistent.

#### III.B. "Parts of Speech"

This section will outline some of the grammatical functions of various spoken and signed aspects of Drytok.

##### III.B.1. Substantives: Nouns and Nominals

Much of the vocalized vocabulary of Drytok is composed of substantives, but even this can be fuzzy. A word like **pln.t'** (*pethendy*) can be translated as "cloak, outer protective covering, something that provides comfort or security" in a phrase like **Q1-pln.t'** "MY cloak". However, it can also be used in the sense of an English verb in a phrase like **Q1=pln.t'=P4&** "I shelter/comfort/protect THEM," literally, "I cover THEM with my cloak." The reader will also notice that in this case "my cloak" uses a - in the transcription, whereas "I comfort them" uses =. This shows that, in the first case, the gesture and vocalization are co-articulated; in the latter case, it is a sequence. This multi-faceted nature of Drytok words will be explored in-depth in later chapters.

##### III.B.2. Pronouns

Pronouns are the first set of words exclusively conveyed through gestures. First, a table will summarize them:

Pronoun	Singular	Plural
1st person (I, we, our, etc.)	Q1	Q1&
2nd person (you, your)	D2	D2&

<b>3rd person (he, she, it; they; his, her, their, etc.)</b>	P4	P4&
<b>3rd person obviative (see III.B.2.c.)</b>	P4^Y2	P4&^Y2

### III.B.2.a. Reflexive Pronoun

There are 3 persons (e.g., I, you, he) and two numbers (singular and plural). There is also a reflexive gesture: B5. In use, B5 is amended to the pronoun, so that "we ourselves" would be **Q1&^B5**. B5 can also be used idiomatically in a phrase such as **Q1&^B5-s'.t\*.ql**. "WE speak AMONG OURSELVES." B5 is called the "unitary gesture" meaning it signifies "one, a single unit." It is also used to signify "one" as in the first in a series (as seen from its place in the "alphabetical" order of gestures (II.B.1.) (see III.B.4.c.).

### III.B.2.b. Inclusive Pronouns

There is also a way to expand the meanings of each pronoun. The *gesture*\* **V1** signifies a combination of two pronouns or even two substantives. In the case of pronouns, a speaker can convey the idea of inclusivity with it: **Q1^V1^P4&** "I AND THEY". (*\*Note: From this point forward, gestures will simply be written as they are transcribed without calling attention to the fact that they are gestures. This will be evident from their PG transcription and their being all in capitals.*) Not that the ^ between each component of this gesture shows that this should be a smooth transition from Q1 through V1 and into P4&.

#### III.B.2.b.i. Other Uses of V1

V1 can also be used to denote inalienable possession (i.e., something inherent to the possessor). For example, **Q1^V1-qs.tx:n** (*kestaan*) "MY mind" (inseparable from myself) as opposed to **Q1-pln.t'**. "MY cloak" (separable from me).

### III.B.2.c. 3rd Person Proximate and Obviative Pronouns Using ^Y2

The default aspect of the pronouns in III.B.2. is proximate, that is they refer to a subject close-at-hand or nearby (in the same vicinity). The 3rd person can be changed to an obviative (one *not* nearby but yonder) with the addition of ^Y2 to the pronoun: **P4^Y2** and **P4&^Y2**

#### III.B.2.c.i. Other Uses of Y2

When used with a verb ^Y2 carries the sense of "far away". **Q1-hr:zp.th.=Y2** "I travel YONDER on foot."

### III.B.2.d. Pronouns and Numerals

It is interesting to note that Drytok uses three persons (I, you, they) and only has gestures for "one", "two", and "many." (III.B.4.c.)

## III.B.3. Verbs

### III.B.3.a. Verb Classes

As stated above, there is a hazy line between substantives and verbs in Drytok. There are several classes.

### III.B.3.a.i. Ambiguous Verbs

Ambiguous verbs can be used as both nouns and verbs. An example, as stated above, is **pln.t'**. (*pethendy*) which can be both a noun "cloak, protective covering" and a verb "provide comfort and protection." See *Section III.B.1.*

### III.B.3.a.ii. Stative Verbs

Stative verbs are familiar to English as well as Umod speakers. As in Umod, stative Drytok verbs can be used as modifiers as well as verbs: **tr'.cq. P4-h:qs.p\***. (*hekespyk*) "The Drushek is pleased/content" (literally, "The Drushek, HE is pleased.") or **tr'.cq.=h:qs.p\***. "the content Drushek". Some other verbs can also be used as modifiers: **tr'.cq=C4<-zq.tx.ql.** (*zhektaketh*) "the teaching Drushek" or "the Drushek, who is teaching".

With this use of more than just stative verbs being used as modifiers, the key aspect of Drytok stative verbs is that they can only have one basic meaning (as opposed to **Ambiguous** and **Complementary** Verbs).

### III.B.3.a.iii. Complementary Verbs

Complementary verbs are those which contain two complementary meanings such as "teach/learn" and "give/receive." These verbs use **C4<** and **D3>** to differentiate between the meanings. For example, take the verb **zq.tx.ql.** As a verb, it can be thought of as "to be engaged in education." **C4<** is used for the "agentive" aspect of the verb (or the "active" sense), **D3>** is used for the "recipient" aspect or "passive" aspect. In the sense of **zq.tx.ql.**, **zq.tx.ql-C4<** means "teach", **zq.tx.ql.-D3>** means "learn." To use an example, **tr'.cq.=P4=zq.tx.ql.-C4<=D5^Q5=Q1 D5^Q5-tr'.z\*w.** can be alternatively interpreted as "The Drushek teaches me Drytok" or "I am learning Drytok from the Drushek." Both are equally correct. The sentence literally reads "The Drushek, HE is engaged in education with WITH RESPECT TO ME, WITH RESPECT TO Drytok." To specifically state that "I am learning...", one can restructure the sentence as **Q1=zq.tx.ql.-D3> D5^Q5-tr'.cq. D5^Q5-tr'.z\*w.**

## III.B.4. Modifiers

### III.B.4.a. Stative Verb Modifiers

As stated above (III.B.3.a.ii.), stative verbs in Drytok can be used as modifiers (similar to Umod). To say something like "cloaked Drushek" (i.e., one who is wearing a cloak), one would use the construction

**tr'.cq. pln.t'. P4=C3^Q3**  
[(the) Drushek (a) cloak HE=HOLDS]

There are other modifiers in Drytok as well.

### III.B.4.b. Adverbs

Drytok does not have adverbs as English speakers may think of them, but verbs can be modified by any number of gestures and utterances.

### III.B.4.c. Numerals

Drushek have a unique counting system in Kryslan. They have only three specific gestures for three cardinal numbers:

**B5** - "one"

**L5** - "two" (the hand is in a position like a make-believe "gun")

**W5** - "more than two, many"

Some have also included **&** as a synonym for "many" but the primary difference between **W5** and **&** is that **&** must be appended to another gesture whereas **W5** can stand alone. Some Drushek use both **W5** and **W5&** meaning "a few" and "a multitude", respectively.

It is paradoxical that the Drushek have been able to create a rich, vibrant complex culture without the use of a complex number system.

The number gesture and utterance are co-articulated:

**L5-tr'w.cq.** "TWO Drushek"  
**W5&-lt'.q'.** "MANY paths" (*thedgy*)

### III.C. Word Order

#### III.C.1. Word Order in Clauses

The basic word order in Drytok is:

AGENT - VERB - PATIENT

This is different from what most English speakers think of when they think of parts of a sentence. AGENT can be compared to an English "subject" and PATIENT can be thought of as "Object," although AGENT and PATIENT have a wider meaning than their English counterparts. If one examines a "typical" Drytok sentence, one sees that the prototype order above is a bit more complex:

**W5&-lt'.q'. = P4& ^ Y2-x.: = D5 ^ Q5 = D2**

If this is broken down, we find an AGENT (**lt'.q'.**), but the AGENT is also re-iterated in the use of **P4&** (THEY). The VERB is the all-purpose verb of existence, **x.:**, and, finally, we find the PATIENT referred to with the oblique phrase **D5 ^ Q5 = D2** "WITH RESPECT TO YOU". This clause can be translated as "Many paths exist ahead of you" or "Many paths are there for you." Stripped of most of its syntax, if one wishes to show ONLY the three primary constituents, there would be:

**lt'.q'. - x.: - D2 --or-- P4& - x.: - D2**

Drytok word order is much less flexible than either Umod or Elasin.

### III.C.2. Word Order in Phrases

Word order in phrases is predominantly HEAD-DEPENDENT as in:

**tr'.cq. pln.t'.-[P4=C3^Q3]**

"the cloak-wearing Drushek" or "(the) Drushek (a) cloak HE=HOLDS"

**tr'.cq=C4<-zq.tx.ql.**

"the teaching Drushek" or "the Drushek who is teaching"

#### III.C.2.a. Exception

The exception to this are the numbers as in **L5-tr'w.cq.** "TWO Drushek".

### III.C.3. Verb Phrase: Auxiliaries

In Drytok, there are a number of utterances and gestures used to give the sense of what English-speakers think of as modal auxiliary verbs: *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *ought*, *shall*, *should*, *will*, *would*, and *must*. In Drytok, these occur before the main verb.

### III.C.4. Adpositional Phrases (Prepositions and Postpositions)

It is difficult to say whether or not Drytok has prepositions or postpositions, especially with its co-articulation aspect. See *Section III.A.* for a brief examination of this.

### III.C.5. Comparatives

#### III.C.5.a. Comparative Degree

The formula **a=D4/Q5=b D5^Q5-c** is used to discuss "a is superior to b with respect to c." For example:

**pr.np'.=D4/Q5=sx:w.=D5^Q5-zn.t'.z\*.**

"The sun IS SUPERIOR TO the wind WITH RESPECT TO strength."

"The sun is stronger than the wind."

[UPT: **pr.np'. perneb, s.x:w. sykhuu, zn.t'.z\*. zhendytyk**]

#### III.C.5.b. Superlative Degree

The above formula is augmented with Q5/Q5 to express the superlative degree:

**a=[D4/Q5^Q5/Q5]?=D5^Q5-c**

For example:

**pr.np'.=[D4/Q5^Q5/Q5]?=D5^Q5-zn.t'.z\*.**

"The sun IS SUPERIOR (AUGMENTED) WITH RESPECT TO strength."

"The sun is the strongest."

**Q5/Q5** is added to **D4/Q5** and, as can be seen from **?**, the gesture moves upward, descending again to a one-handed **D5^Q5** while uttering the quality (i.e., "strength" in this case).

### III.C.6. Question Particles and Question Words

### III.C.6.a. Yes/No Questions

Yes/No questions are both introduced and ended with the  $[I1@^I2]+$ :

$[I1@^I2] += pr.np'. = D4/Q5 = sx:w. = D5^Q5 - zn.t'.z* . = [I1@^I2] +$

"(QUESTION) the sun IS SUPERIOR TO the wind WITH RESPECT TO strength  
(QUESTION)."

"Is the sun stronger than the wind?"

Replying to this type of question can be accomplished by **P4-x:.** "IT is" or **P4-o.s'**. "IT (is) not."

### III.C.6.b. Information Questions

Whereas in yes/no questions, the entire statement is bracketed with this gesture, in questions asking for information, the individual word or gesture is bracketed with  $I1@^I2$ :

$tr'w.cq. P4=C4 < -zq.tx.ql. = [I1@^I2] += P4 = [I1@^I2] +$

"The Drushek, HE teaches (QUESTION) HIM (QUESTION)"

"Who does the Drushek teach?"

literally, this reads something like "Which 'him' does the Drushek teach?" Also:

$[I1@^I2] + -tr'w.cq. = [I1@^I2] += P4 = C4 < -zq.tx.ql. = D2$

"Which Drushek teaches you?"

Note that the first  $[I1@^I2] +$  is co-articulated with **tr'w.cq.**

**Chapter 4**  
*Nouns and Noun-Phrase Operations*

**Appendix**  
***Glossary***

