

Language power relationships: Klingon and Elvish

Klingon vocabulary¹:

Hlja'	Yes
ghobe'	No
maj	Good
annoH	sacrifice
'achler	nap, scruff, back of neck
magh	betray (transitive verb)
maqlegh	priest (gender neutral)
tlhamchem	gravitational field
tlhup	whisper
'Iq	be too much, be too many
ghav	carbon
Qo'	no, don't, I won't
nuqjatlh	huh?
-'a'	augmentative
-Hom	diminutive
-Daq	locative
-be'	negation

Elvish (Sindarin) vocabulary²:

lacha-	to flame
calad	light, fire, brightness, shining
ennyn	gate, door
mellon	friend
hain	that
echad-	to form, make, shape
teitha-	to write, draw, inscribe
i	the
hin	this
ab-	after
al-	not
talt	falling, slipping, insecure
tang	bowstring
thar-	across, over, beyond
guruthos	dread, abhorrence, fear, horror, detestation
anu	male (adj)
-en, -ol	past participle

¹ Data from: <https://www.kli.org/activities/klcp/taghwi-beginner/>

² Data from: <https://www.elfdict.com/>, and from Ambar Eldaron. 2008. *Elvish Dictionary*. Ambar-aldaron.com

Language Scenarios:

1. The Klingon Empire has conquered W. Middle Earth and subjugated its peoples. In the first year after conquest, what type of language do you expect to emerge? What vocabulary/morphemes/structures does it have?
2. The Klingon Colonization of Middle Earth has continued for 15 years. What type of language do you expect to be spoken there now? What vocabulary/morphemes/structures does it have?
3. There is an Elvish uprising, and the Klingon Empire is defeated in Middle Earth. Because many people now are bilingual, Klingon and Sindarin are instituted as co-official languages of the interim government. Most people speak Sindarin at home and Klingon in more official public capacities. What type of situation is this, and what types of vocabulary/morphemes/structures do you expect to observe?
4. Five years after the Great Elvish Uprising, some Klingons remain on Middle Earth, and have integrated into Elvish society. Their children claim a mixed identity and identify with both their Klingon and their Elvish ancestry. What type of language might you expect these children to speak?
5. Three hundred years after the establishment of the Elvish Republic, it has become one of the galaxy's most influential governments, making great contributions to philosophy, government, and technology. Sindarin is now the preferred language of galactic trade and government. What might we call it?