

REFORMED NOVIAL

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Reformed Novial
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Introduction

Novial is the international auxiliary language created by Otto Jespersen. Its author reformed it several times and, with the advent of the Internet, other people had tried to improve it by creating several “Novialides” i.e. languages derived from Novial.

However, most of these projects are just sketches and proposals that have not been further developed. Out of all of them, I would like to note two, which I believe are the most successful ones: Novial98 and Proyo.

This work is my attempt to improve Novial, changing the flaws that I find in the language. I have to say these changes can be summarise as follows:

- An intermediary orthography between the “phonetical” one used by the first version of the language and the last version proposed by the author. I deleted the letters Ç and C, but I keep CH, SH, X and Z.
- A simplified grammar, where I just keep one passive that can be expressed by using both BLI + infinitive or by ES + past participle. Also, the perfect uses the past particle and not the infinitive of the verb as it happened in Novial.

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Alphabet

Letter	Pronunciation	Notes
A	[a]	
B	[b]	
CH	[tʃ]	
D	[d]	
E	[e]	
F	[f]	
G	[g]	
H	[h]	
I	[i]	
J	[dʒ], [ʒ]	
K	[k]	
L	[l]	
M	[m]	
N	[n]	
O	[o]	
P	[p]	
R	[r]	
S	[s]	
SH	[ʃ]	
T	[t]	
U	[u]	
V	[v]	
X	[ks], [gs]	
Y	[i], [j]	
Z	[z]	It can also be pronounced [dz], [ds] or [s], whatever is easier for the speaker

Articles

There are two articles in Reformed Novial:

- The definite article is **li**.
- The indefinite article is **un**.

Contractions

The combination of the prepositions *a*, *de* and *da* plus the article *li* can be contracted:

- de li > del (of the)
- a li > al (to the)
- da li > dal (by the)

Nouns

Nouns end in **-e**.

The nouns with natural sex can have three endings:

- **doktore** – doctor (male or female)
- **doktora** – female doctor
- **doktoro** – male doctor

The plural is formed by adding **-s** or **-es** (after a consonant).

The accusative is identical to the nominative, and it is never marked. The genitive is formed with the preposition **de**¹.

- li hause del medike or li hauses del medikes

¹ Novial accepted forms such as “li mediken hause”, using the genitive; however, in Reformed Novial, the genitive is used only in pronouns.

Adjectives

All adjectives end in **-i**, but this may be dropped if it is easy enough to pronounce and no confusion will be caused.

Adjectives do not agree with the noun but may be given noun endings if there is no noun present to receive them.

- **boni puera** or **bon puera** – a good girl
- **boni pueras** or **bon pueras** – good girls
- **boni puero** or **bon puero** – a good boy
- **boni pueros** or **bon pueros** – good boys
- **boni pueres** or **bon pueres** – good children (boys and/or girls)
- **li bonis** (the good ones)

Degrees of adjectives

Comparative adjectives are formed by placing various particles (*plu*, *tam*, and *min*) in front of the adjective receiving the comparison and *kam* afterwards. Likewise, the superlative particles (*li maxim* and *li minim*) precede the adjective. The adjective does not receive an inflection to its ending.

- *Li blanki es **plu** bel **kam** li redi.*
- *Li blanki es **tam** bel **kam** li redi.*
- *Li blanki es **min** bel **kam** li redi.*
- *Tri ek li homes, **li maxim** kurajosis kavalkad en li angusti vale.*

Pronouns

Subject and object

	Singular	Plural
First person	me (I, me)	nus (we, us)
Second person	vu (you, singular)	vus (you, plural)
Third person	lo (he, him) la (she, her) le (he or she, him or her) lu (it)	les (they, them)

Possessive

We add **-n** or **-en** (after a consonant) to the personal possessive adjectives to form the possessive pronouns. This is the genitive (i.e. possessive) of the pronoun so **vun** means both *your* and *yours* (of you).

- **men** – my, mine
- **nusen** – our, ours
- **vun** – your, yours
- **vusen** – your, yours (more than one person)
- **lon** – his
- **lan** – her, hers
- **len** – his or her, his or hers
- **lesen** – their, theirs
- **lun** – its
- **lusen** – their, theirs (all sexless objects)

Demonstrative

- Pronouns: Dis and dat
- Determiners: Disi and dati

Examples:

- Dis es men kate > This is my cat
- Disi kate es men > This cat is mine
- Dati hause es vun > That house is yours.
- Dat es vun hause > That is your house.

Verb

All infinitives end in -a.

All persons are the same: me ama, vu ama, vus ama, etc.

The negative is formed with **no** (*no!*), which precedes the verb.

nus no sava lu – we don't know it

Tenses

- Present, infinitive, and imperative > same
- Past > did + infinitive or infinitive + -d
- Future > va + infinitive
- Conditional > vud + infinitive
- Perfect > ha + past participle
- Passive > es + past participle or bli + infinitive²
- Present active participle > amand
- Past passive participle > amad

Example

- Present and infinitive > ama
- Past > did ama or amad
- Future > va ama
- Conditional > vud ama
- Simple perfect > ha amad
- Pluperfect > had amad
- Future perfect > va ha amad
- Conditional perfect > vud ha amad

² They are the same, no difference between passive of becoming or passive of being that Otto Jespersen included in his version.

Active voice

Grammar	English	Reformed Novial	Novial
Infinitive	(to) love	ama	ama
Present	love(s)	ama	ama
Future	will (shall) love	va ama	sal ama
Simple past	loved	did ama or amad	did ama (ama-d)
Past perfect	have (has) loved	ha amad	ha ama
Pluperfect	had loved	had amad	ha-d ama
Future perfect	will (shall) have loved	va ha amad	sal ha ama
Future in the past	was going to (would, should) love	vad ama	sal-ed ama
Conditional	would (should) love	vud ama	vud ama
Conditional perfect	would (should) have loved	vud ha amad	vud ha ama
First imperative	let us love!	let nus ama!	let nus ama!
Second imperative	love!	ama!	ama!
Third imperative	let him love!	let lo ama!	let lo ama!
Present continous	is (am, are) loving	es amand!	es ama-nt
Future continuous	shall (will) be loving	va es amand!	sal es ama-nt
Past continuous	was (were) loving	did es or esed amand	did es (es-ed) ama-nt

Passive voice

In Reformed Novial, there is no distinction between passive of becoming or passive of being.

There are two ways of forming the passive which are interchangeable:

- bli + infinitive
- verb TO BE (es) conjugated + past participle

Grammar	English	Reformed Novial
Infinitive	to be protected	es protekted or bli protekte
Present	I am protected	me es protekted or me bli protekte
Present Perfect	I have been protected	me ha esed protekted or me ha bli protekte
Simple Past	I was protected	me did es protekted or me esed protekted or me blid protekte
Past Perfect	I had been protected	me had esed protekted or me had bli protekte
Future	I will be protected	me va es protekted or me va bli protekte
Conditional	I would be protected	me vud es protekted or me vud bli protekte

Auxiliary verbs

There are several auxiliary verbs that are monosyllabic:

dev (*should*), did, es, ha³, had, let, mey (*may*), mus (*must*), pova (*can*), va, vol (*want*), vud (*would*).

³ The verb "to have" is "ha", which is also used as an auxiliary verb.

Adverbs

An adjective is converted to a corresponding adverb by adding **-m** after the **-i** ending of the adjective. Ex: boni > bonim.

Comparative and superlative adverbs are formed in the same manner as comparative and superlative adjectives: by placing a specific particle before the adverb receiving the comparison.

There are some “proper adverbs”, which do not use **-im**.

We can group the adverbs according to their sense and thus we have adverbs of time, manner, degree, place, quantity, doubt, affirmation, and negation.

The *adverbs of manner* answer the question **Kimam?**, for instance: timan, kelkiman, omniman, nuliman

The *adverbs of quantity* answer the question **Kuantum?**, for instance: tantum, kelkum, omnum, nulum.

The *adverbs of place* answer the question **Kilok** or **Vor?**, for instance: hir, tilok/der, kelkilok, omnilok, nulilok

The *adverbs of time* answer the question **Kitem** or **Kuand?**, for instance: titem/tand, kelkitem, omnitem/sempré, nulitem

The *adverbs of affirmation, negation or doubt* are: yes, no, poves.

Prepositions

- *A*
 - to (of place and time): *fro London a Paris; fro tempe a tempe; fro li generalo al simpli soldato; util a omnes; parla al direktore*; for the indirect object: *dona 10 dollars al povres*; also: *amo al homes; invidio a altres*, etc.
- *Ante*
 - before, only of time. *Ante ke. Longitem ante nun* long ago. *Ante yer* before yesterday; *preyer* the day before yesterday
- *Along*
 - *along li strade, li fluvie. Alongu.*
- *Apud*
 - by the side of, on one side of, near, for time and space, close by, near, next to: *la did es apud li porte, apud li venke* near the victory. *apudi* adjective: *li apudi venke.*
- *Che*
 - at, by, in the house of: *che men patro* at my father's; *che nus es kustome ke...*
- *Da*
 - by (the agent; the converted subject): *li libre skripted da John* = the book written by John.
- *Dank*
 - thanks to: *dank lon afableso, nus vidad omnum. Danku.*
- *De*
 - of. It usually covers the genitive, but it also expresses relation.
- *Desde*
 - since: *me es der desde du semanas* I am there, for two weeks. *Desde ke tu disad lu* since you said it.
- *Detra*
 - behind.

- *Devan*
 - before, in front of, ahead of.
- *Durant*
 - during (the whole period of). *Durant ke* while.
- *Exeptt*
 - except
- *Exter,*
 - outside.
- *Fro*
 - from.
- *In*
 - in, inside.
- *Inter*
 - between, among.
- *Insted*
 - instead of
- *Kontra*
 - against
- *Kon*
 - with
- *Malgre*
 - in spite of, despite; *malgre ke* though, notwithstanding the fact that. *Lo marid se malgre li desiro de sen patro; malgre ke lon patre interdiktet lu. Malgre omnium.*
- *Oposit*
 - opposite (to): *nus lojia oposit li banke.*
- *Per*
 - by means of: *venka per ruse; pruva per exemples.* (*Peru* by that means.) *Per ke* through the fact that: *lo sava per ke lo vidad li krime.*
- *Por*
 - for, in favour of, in view of: *vota por X* (the opposite of *kontra*)
- *Pos*

- *Tri yares pos nun* in three years.

- *Preter*
 - past, passing by, indicates motion from one side of the object to the further side.

- *Pri*
 - concerning, about, of
- *Pro*
 - because of
- *Sis*
 - on this side of: *sis li Alpes. Sisu.*

- *Sekun*
 - according to, in accordance with. *Evangelie sekun Markus. Sekun men opinione (sekun me).*
- *Sin*
 - without
- *Sirk*
 - (a)round (about), also temporal, etc.: *sirk du bores; sirk 100 eures.*

- *Sub*
 - under, below.
- *Super*
 - over, above (without contact).
- *Sur*
 - on (= *super* with contact)
- *Til*
 - to, up, to, till, of space and time, emphasizing that some point has been reached.

- *Tra*
 - through, across: *tra London, tra li porte.*
- *Trans*

- on the other side of, beyond.

- *Ultra*
 - besides
- *Vers*
 - towards, in the direction of; also of time.
- *Ye*
 - indefinite preposition, to be used in all those cases in which a preposition is wanted, but none of the existing precisely fits.
 - Ye li fine del libre > at the end of the book
 - Lo es ye duanti > He is tewnti years old

Conjunctions

- an > even, an si even if
- anke > also
- ankore > yet, still
- apene > hardly, scarcely (=preske no).
- bald > soon
- dunke > consequently, therefore.
- e > and
- ja > already
- jus > just now, a moment ago
- ke > that, conjunction: me dikta ke dis es veri; Combined with prepositions: pro ke, sin ke, etc. see Prepositions.
- kom > as
- ma > but
- ni ... ni > neither... nor
- no > no
- nun > now
- nur > only
- o... o > either ... or
- plu, min > plus, minus
- preske > nearly, almost.
- sat > enough
- si > if; *si non* if not, unless; *si nur* if only.
- tamen > yet, however, notwithstanding
- tre > very
- tro > too
- yes > yes

A lot of conjunctions are form out of prepositions or adverbs to which we add KE

- *Exter ke lo es mediko*, besides his being a medical man.
- *Kontra ke* while (in contrast).
- *Desde ke me saveskad lu* since I got to know it.
- *Durant ke* while (time)
- *Per ke through the fact that:* lo sava per ke lo vidad li krime.
- *Ob nus pove fa tu, sin ke lo vida lu?* can we do that without him seeing it?
- *Me sava pro ke (because) me vidad lu self.*
- *malgre ke* though, notwithstanding the fact that. *Lo marid se malgre li desire de sen patre; malgre ke lon patre interdiktet lu.*
- *por ku* for what purpose? *Por ke on (mey) judika justim.*

Questions

Yes/no questions

For yes/no questions, we add the word **ob** at the beginning of the sentence:

- **Ob vu parla Novial?** - Do you speak Novial?
- **Ob vu konosa les?** – Do you know them?

Question words

We add a question word at the beginning of the sentence and this doesn't change the word order (as it occurs in English).

- **Ku vu voli?** – What do you want?
- **Kuand vu va veni?** - When will you come ?

Answering questions

Positive answer is **yes** and negative answer is **no**.

- **Ob vu drinke kafe?**

- **Yes**, me drinke kafe.
- **No**, me no drinke kafe.

Derivation

Prefixes

pre-	<i>before</i>	previda <i>foresee</i>	prehistorie <i>prehistory</i>	prepaga <i>prepay</i>
anti-	<i>against</i>	antialkoholisme <i>anti-alcoholism</i>	antiklerikal <i>anticlerical</i>	antimilitaristi <i>antimilitarist</i>
non-	negative prefix <i>not</i>	nonexistant <i>nonexistent</i>	nonposibli <i>impossible</i>	nonreal <i>unreal</i>
des-	direct opposite	desobedia <i>disobey</i>	desfasil <i>difficult</i>	desutili <i>harmful, pernicious</i>
dis-	dispersion or separation	disdona <i>distribute</i>	dissenda <i>send out</i>	distrancha <i>carve</i>
mal-	<i>bad, wrongly</i>	malodoro <i>stink</i>	malformat <i>malformed</i>	malhumerosi <i>ill-tempered</i>
par-	<i>perfectly or thoroughly</i>	parlerna <i>learn thoroughly</i>	parlekte <i>read thoroughly</i>	parmori <i>die out completely</i>
<u>ri-</u>	repetition or restoration	rielekte <i>re-elect</i>	riforma <i>reform</i>	rigana <i>regain</i>
retro-	<i>back(wards)</i>	retroflua <i>flow back</i>	retroaktiv <i>retroactive</i>	retroseda <i>cede back, restore</i>

mi-	<i>half</i>	mihore <i>half-hour</i>	miklosat <i>half closed</i>	milume <i>twilight</i>
bo-	relation by marriage	bopatro <i>father-in-law</i>	bofilia <i>daughter-in-law</i>	boparentes <i>in-laws</i>
ex-	<i>late, former, retired, ex-</i>	ex-presidente <i>ex-president</i>	ex-marito <i>ex-husband</i>	ex-marita <i>ex-wife</i>
ark(i)-	<i>arch, senior, main</i>	arkianjele <i>archangel</i>	arkepiskopo <i>archbishop</i>	arkenemike <i>arch-enemy</i>
pseudo-	<i>pseudo-, false</i>	pseudo-sientie <i>pseudo-science</i>	pseudo-romanti <i>pseudo-romantic</i>	pseudo-profete <i>pseudoprophet</i>

Substantival Suffixes (which form nouns)

-ese	to form abstracts, denotes state of being	verese <i>truth, state of being true</i>	feblese <i>weakness</i>	venkatese <i>defeat</i>
-e	forms verbal nouns	plore <i>weeping</i>	opine <i>thinking, opinion</i>	sentie <i>feeling, feel</i>
-(t)ione	the result or the resulting state and/or the way or manner in which something is done	definisione <i>definition</i>	evolutione <i>evolution</i>	satisfakzione <i>satisfaction</i>
-ure	the result or product (as distinct from the act itself)	piktüre <i>picture</i>	inventüre <i>invention</i>	fotografüre <i>photograph</i>

-ere	denote operator or	bakere	konsiliste	klimere
-iste	person occupied with	<i>baker</i>	<i>councillor</i>	<i>climber</i>
-iste	adherents of a doctrine or those occupied in certain professions	ateiste	dentiste	sientiiste
		<i>atheist</i>	<i>dentist</i>	<i>scientist</i>
-isme	doctrine	ateisme	kapitalisme	socialisme
		<i>atheism</i>	<i>capitalism</i>	<i>socialism</i>
-iere	a person or thing characterized by a certain object or considered as its bearer	pomiere	kandeliere	milioniere
		<i>apple tree</i>	<i>candle holder</i>	<i>millionaire</i>
-arie	recipient of an action, the person for whom something is destined	sendarie	pagarie	mandatarie
		<i>addressee</i>	<i>payee</i>	<i>mandate holder</i>
-ie	domain, province or country of someone	Anglie	filosofie	printerie
		<i>England</i>	<i>philosophy</i>	<i>printing office</i>
-torie	place where something is done	observatorie	dormitorie	promenatorie
		<i>observatory</i>	<i>dormitory</i>	<i>promenade</i>
-aje	something made of, consisting of, having the character of	lanaje	lignaje	subtilaje
		<i>woolen goods</i>	<i>woodwork</i>	<i>(a) subtlety</i>
-ede	quantity which fills something	kulierede	manuede	bokede
		<i>spoonful</i>	<i>handful</i>	<i>mouthful</i>
-are	collection, group, or set of things	homare	vortare	aristokratare
		<i>mankind</i>	<i>vocabulary</i>	<i>aristocracy</i>

-ide	descendant	Atreide <i>son of Atreus</i>	regide <i>person of royal blood</i>	Napoleonide <i>descendant of Napoleon</i>
-yune	young one	bovyune <i>calf</i>	hanyune <i>chick</i>	katyune <i>kitten</i>

Verbal Suffixes (which form verbs)

-ira	living beings acting as	profetira <i>to prophesy</i>	rivalira <i>to rival</i>	rebelira <i>to rebel</i>
-isa - ifika	to make into, transform into, render	justifika <i>to justify</i>	rektifika <i>to rectify</i>	modernisa <i>to modernize</i>
-isa	to provide with, supply with, cover with	armisa <i>to arm</i>	harmonisa <i>to harmonize</i>	spisa <i>to spice</i>
-ada	repeated or continuous action	frapada <i>to go on beating</i>	kantada <i>to keep on singing</i>	parlada <i>to keep on speaking</i>

Adjectival Suffixes (which form adjectives)

-al(i)	relating to	universal(i) <i>universal</i>	national(i) <i>national</i>	sexual(i) <i>sexual</i>
- an(i)	inhabiting or belonging to a class or party	italian(i) <i>Italian</i>	urban(i) <i>urban</i>	akademian(i) <i>academic</i>

-ari	agreeing with or fit for	reglari <i>regular</i>	populari <i>popular</i>	ordinari <i>ordinary</i>
-osi	having, especially in large quantity	porosi <i>porous</i>	kurajosi <i>courageous</i>	danjerosi <i>dangerous</i>
-isi	a very high degree	grandisi <i>enormous</i>	varmisi <i>hot</i>	belisi <i>gorgeous</i>
-iv(i)	doing naturally or capable of doing	instruktiv <i>instructive</i>	sugestiv <i>suggestive</i>	atraktiv <i>attractive</i>
-asi	having the tendency or inclination to	disputasi <i>quarrelsome</i>	laborasi <i>hard-working</i>	atakasi <i>combative</i>
-bli	what is susceptible to the verb	lektebli <i>readable</i>	explicabli <i>explicable</i>	audibli <i>audible</i>
-ndi	that deserves to be	lektandi <i>that must be read</i>	fandi <i>compulsory</i>	soluandi <i>that must be solved, to be solved</i>

General Suffixes

-et-	diminutive suffix	riverete <i>brook</i>	varmeti <i>lukewarm</i>	rideta <i>to smile</i>
-on-	greatness, quantity	pluvone <i>heavy rain</i>	ridona <i>to guffaw</i>	ridone <i>guffaw</i>
-ach-	derogatory	kavalacha <i>nag</i>	jurnalacharo <i>the gutter press</i>	kriacha <i>to shriek</i>

Numeral Suffixes

-anti forms tens	duanti <i>twenty</i>	trianti <i>thirty</i>	otanti <i>eighty</i>
-o forms nouns from numerals	duo <i>duo</i>	trio <i>trio</i>	dekduo <i>dozen</i>
-esmi forms ordinal numbers	unesmi <i>first</i>	duantesmi <i>twentieth</i>	sentesmi <i>hundredth</i>
-ime forms fractions	duime <i>a half</i>	sixime <i>a sixth</i>	sentime <i>a hundredth</i>
-opli multiplying suffix	duopli <i>double</i>	triopli <i>triple</i>	multopli <i>multiple</i>
-opim forms distributive adverbs	triopim <i>in threes</i>	pokopim <i>little by little</i>	gutopim <i>in drops</i>

Adverbial Suffixes

-tem time	nultem <i>never</i>	irgitem <i>any time, no matter when</i>	ultem <i>ever, any time</i>
-foy time in repetition, occasion	dufoy <i>twice</i>	altrifoy <i>another time, on another occasion</i>	kelkifoy <i>sometimes</i>
-lok place	omnilok <i>everywhere</i>	nulilok <i>nowhere</i>	altrilok <i>somewhere else</i>

-kas	denotes case	omnikas <i>in every case</i>	irgikas <i>anyway, in any case when</i>	tikas <i>in that case</i>
-grad	degree	altigrad <i>to a high degree</i>	kelkigrad <i>to some extent, fairly</i>	pokigrad <i>to a small extent, slightly</i>
-man	manner	omniman <i>in every way</i>	altriman <i>in another way, differently</i>	samiman <i>in the same way</i>
-m	forms adverbs	privatim <i>privately</i>	seperatim <i>separately</i>	spesialim <i>specially</i>

Correlatives

	question	demonstration	indefinite	universality	negation	elective dubitative existential
person	ke (-o, -a)	te (-o, -a)	kelke (-o, -a)	omne	nule (-o, -a)	kekunk
thing	ku	tu	kelku	omnu	nulu	kukunk
quality	ki	tali	kelki	omni	nuli	kikunk
place	kilok/vor	tilok/der	kelkilok	omnilok	nulilok	vorkunk
time	kitem/kuand	titem/tand	kelkitem	omnitem/sempre	nulitem	kuandkunk
amount	kuantum	tantum	kelkum	omnum	nulum	kuantkunk
method	kiman	timan	kelkiman	omniman	nuliman	kimankunk
reason	kirez	tirez	kelkirez	omnirez	nulirez	kirezunk
ownership	ken/kun	ten/tun	kelken/kelkun	omnen/omnun	nulen/nulun	nulkunk