

Modern Scythian

The Scythian language is spoken in what was formerly northern Gaul, in the territory of the Belgae and Treveri, and east towards the Rhena river. It borders the Helvetian lands to the south, and ends its territory at the beginning of the <Rhône> river in upper Gaul. In the west it abuts the Norman lands, and follows the curve downward of the Nantes Gallic dialects quite snugly.

The history of the Scythian people is a long one, with a very dark beginning, and is covered in more detail in the reading. Suffice to say the Ganžas tribes formed the first true empire on the European continent, and were destroyed as a malevolent fighting force in 507AUC, and were reformed into the Scythian nation as it stands today.

Here we are generally describing the modern language, but references to older stages are quite useful, and are included where needed.

1. Phonology

1.1 Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Palatal	Velar
Stop	p b	t d	č ĝ	k g
Spirant	(f)*	s z	š	x γ
Nasal	m	n		ŋ
Liquid		l		
Rhotic		r		
Semivowel	v		j	

*The phoneme /f/, in Old Ganžas, was extremely rare, and only present in a few loans. To this day, it remains the rarest sound in the language, and is frequently exchanged with /p/. *P~Fēniča* 'Phoenician' remains the only common occurrence, and even it is usually replaced with *punika*.

The phoneme /ŋ/ is not as marginal as it is in other western European languages, even having a grapheme in the old Ganžas alphabet, *ŋel*, which patterned with the palatals *šel*, *žel*, *yel* and *lyel*. In modern times, /ŋ/ is indicated by a ligature letter of the greek *nu* and *gamma*, named as *ŋamma*, transliterated by the greeks as *γγαμμα*.

The Old Ganžas phoneme *lyel* was the least common letter and only used commonly in the verb *šalyapadyai* 'come up, be at' (MS *čagê*). Nearly every instance of *lyel* merged with a stop to form /tʃ/, and those which did not merged with the normal /l/.

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The Scythian orthography is fairly straight-forward, with only a few points that need clarification. All **i**-stem words have a final palatal consonant due to the dropping of most final vowels in the last century; thus the word **gensi** 'waterfowl' is pronounced [genʃ], while its Genitive **gensiš** is [genʃiʃ], and its Nominative plural **gensia** is [genʃi]. Most consonants convert into their Palatal counterparts, with **p** and **b** becoming palatalised [pj

bj]. For historical reasons, **č** and **ĝ** do not appear in this context, as they appeared from **š**, **k** and **ž**, **g** before OG **y** respectively.

1.2 Vowels

i (ü)	u
e ö	o
ê	ô
a	ā

The standard language maintains the distinction between long and short (in reality front and back) /a/, long after the corresponding length in /i/ and /u/ was dropped; only the conservative dialects of the South and East retain phonemic length, apart from a few sporadic instances in Western Scythian. The phoneme /y/ is firmly bracketed, as it is only distinguished in the standard language from /ø/ by native speakers of Western, where they are retained.

1.3 Alphabet

The Modern Scythian language uses a Greek-derived alphabet, having abandoned the Classical Ganžas script, derived from the Avestan abjad, in the years following the Fall of Blackmoon. A few traces of that script survive, mostly in old writings, but also in the abbreviation for Ohrmazd, Xšd. (which was, in Classical Ganžas *xašazdus* 'the enemy' later reinterpreted as 'annointed one', and generally translated into Massilian Greek as *χριστος*) when the modern form is usually *Ayumaġā Ide* 'Great Spirit'. In modern times, the modified alphabet has been extended to deal with the range of sounds present in the language (at first only the greek letters most closely corresponding to the sounds, namely Sigma for both /s/, /z/, /ʃ/ (even the later /tʃ/), and /ʒ/ (!); Gamma for /ŋ/, /ɣ/ and /g/, and Digamma for /w/. It is best to give a table and examples of the early orthographies:

A	/a/, /a:/	Ξ	/ks/
B	/b/, /w/	O	/o:/
Γ	/g/, /ɣ/, /ŋ/	Π	/p/
Δ	/d/	P	/t/
E	Ø	Σ	Ø
Z	Ø	Σ	/s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/
H	/e:/	T	/t/
Θ	/t/ (infrequent)	Y	/u/
I	/i/, /i:/	ου	/u:/
K	/k/	Φ	/f/ (rare)
Λ	/l/, /lʰ/	X	/x/

M	/m/	Ψ	/ps/
N	/n/	Ω	Ø

May you die!

Marsiam Twāi laubyēt!

<Μαρσιαμ τραι λαυβητ>

(Classical Ganžas had all but lost the subjunctive/optative tenses, and these were replaced by contracted forms of *laubyāi* 'have' and *aiyāi* 'go'. The future contraction substituted for a jussive subjunctive)

Parsia wāus galēti. 'The Lutetian cow ate (grass).'

Parsia wāus ȝalēti. 'The Lutetian cow slaughtered (humans).'

<παρσια φουσ γαλητι.>

Context could be used to distinguish these, obviously, but it was still not the ideal situation. Certain writers (particularly in the east and south, where Greek influence was more pronounced) devised systems to get around this, unfortunately mostly centering on using vowel signs not otherwise used to indicate the consonant quality. In the central areas, (particularly the writers of Parzya), they developed new symbols for the consonants, and for the new vowels as they developed. This was the direct ancestor of the Modern Scythian script, and differed from it in very few ways, mostly in things peculiar to the Parzya dialect (which tends to bridge the gap between the Central and Western dialect groups, a consequence of its position as gateway to and later master of the Teutonic frontier.

The Modern Scythian orthography is explained thusly:

A α	/a/ <a>	Ŋ Γ γγ	/ŋ/ <η>
B β	/b/ 	O o	/o/ (OG <i>ō</i>) <o>
Γ γ	/g/ <g>	Π π	/p/ <p>
Ɔ ɔγ*	/dʒ/ <ĝ>	P ρ	/r/ <r>
Q q	/ɣ/ <ɣ> (qoppa)	**	/tʃ/ <č>
Δ δ	/d/ <d>	Σ σ	/s/ <s>
E ε	/ɛ/ (OG <i>ai</i>) <ê>	T τ	/t/ <t>
Z ζ	/z/ <z>	Y υ	/u/ <u>
H η	/e/ (OG <i>ē</i>) <e>	Oυ ου	/u/ <u>
I ι	/i/ <i>	Φ φ	/f/ (rare) <f>
K κ	/k/ <k>	X χ	/x/ <x>

Λ λ	/l/ <l>	**	/ʃ/ <š>
M μ	/m/ <m>	Ω ω	/ɔ / (OG <i>au</i>) <ô>
N ν	/n/ <n>		

*The symbol **ġel** is a block(majuscule)/stretched(minuscule) version of the Roman *Cappa*. It derives from *gamma*, by the addition of a bar on the bottom, not unlike the Etruscan modification that produced *Cappa*.

**The symbol *čel* was borrowed from the Old Ganžas alphabet, as was the grapheme *šel*.

1.4 Sound Changes

1.4.1 Old Ganžas to Early Middle Ganžas

1. w > v. The gradual loss of velarisation

w > v / _ *wāus* > *vau* 'cow'; *wažja* > *veġa* 'path, road'

2. Nasal changes.

m > n / _# neuter Nominative *-am* > *-an*

nt > n / _ Infinitive *-ntam* > *-(n)an*

3. voicing with loss of /r/. This change is common to all of the languages of northern Gallia as well as Scythian, Aquitanian, and the Saxon elements of Normandic.

Cr, rC > C_{vcd} / _ *marsati* > *mazad* 'he died'; *trais* > *dê* 'three'; *Parsia* > *Paġa*

4. voicing of obstruents.

p > b /V _V

t > d /V _V

k > g /V _V *lakas* > *laga* 'goat's milk'

š > ž /V _V

x > γ /V _V *axalas* > *aγala* 'mountain'

A feature of late Classical Ganžas dialects was syncope, with the second syllable of a three (or more)-syllable word typically losing its vowel: Old Ganžas *bamaliā*, early Middle Ganžas *bamlya*, Modern Scythian *bača*. Related was the loss of double syllables: Old Ganžas *šantam*, early Middle Ganžas *šanan*, Modern Scythian *šan*. Words whose third syllable was an inflectional one did not lose the vowel, in the central dialects; the Southern grouping, however, did, giving forms *axla*, *ača* for Standard Scythian *aγala* 'mountain'.

1.4.2 Middle Ganžas sound changes

lC > č / _X *walpas* > *vača* 'wolf(nom.)'; *altarās* > *ačar* 'one of two'

Cl > č / _ *maylā* > *mača* 'great'

kt, pt > č *saptam* > *začan*

C > č, ġ / _i, j *γamaliā* > MG *γamlya* > *γača*

s > z /V _V *sōsā* > *zoza* 'dry'

s > z /# _ *saiš* > *zêš* '6'

1.4.3 Modern Scythian sound changes:

d > ġ / _i, j *dīus* > *ġu* 'deity'

ž > ģ	<i>ažam</i> > <i>aġa</i> 'I'; <i>žanus</i> > <i>ġan</i> 'royal family'
a > e / _i,j	<i>gansis</i> > <i>gensi</i> 'goose'; <i>manias</i> > <i>mena</i> 'spirit, ghost'
o > ö / _i,j	<i>daundias</i> > <i>dönda</i> 'wind'
ai > ê	<i>trais</i> > <i>dê</i> 'three'; <i>aikā</i> > <i>êga</i> 'one'
au > ô	<i>augainadyai</i> > <i>ôġênaġê</i> 'snow(v); be cold'
a > a	<i>ažaias</i> 'leader' > <i>aġe</i> 'mayor'
s > Ø / _#	a-stem nom. sg. <i>-as</i> > <i>-a</i>

1.4.4 Dialects

There are four main Scythian dialects, each with its own subset of dialects.

The standard language is based on the Central dialect, which was the area colonised shortly after the beginning expansion of the Ganžas tribes. It is closely associated in the national consciousness with the glory that was the Blackmoon Empire, which is venerated here after many long years of denial and cursing. It is usually held to be the most conservative dialect, even though this title really goes to the northeastern dialects surrounding the Ruins of Blackmoon.

The lands along the Rena are the territory of the Eastern dialect, which are the conservative dialects, retaining many features of Middle Ganžas (though they do have their own distinguishing traits (notably the nonconditional syncope as opposed to the conditioned syncope of Central dialects; this is one feature it shares with Southern Scythian)). There is one dialect on the east bank of the Rena, which is heavily influenced by the Teutonic languages around it. It is not ruled by the Scythian crown, but remains as the last testament to the fractuous nature of the Scythian nation predating unification in 900AUC. It is rather different from even its compatriots on the west bank, and preserves some features that were lost in other Eastern dialects.

The language has four main dialects, the Central, on which the standard is based, the Southern, which is spoken in the higher southern reaches of the Scythian realm, and Eastern, spoken along the banks of the Rena and north towards the blasted capital of the ancient Blackmoon Empire. These three are the traditional dialects, but half a millennium ago (c.1300AUC) the state annexed the Saxon peasants of the Teutonic Coast, and began settling its people there. This dialect, referred to as Western, is in many ways a leveling of the old dialects, but also has considerable influence from the Teutonic language it mostly replaced.

2 Verbs

The Scythian verb is quite like the Ganžas verb system, but it has expanded its range of formations, and reanalyzed forms into new meanings. There are 3 primary verb classes, each splittable into two different subtypes, although this system, based on the infinitive, is increasingly unwieldy, with a better distinction being drawn between transitive and intransitive verbs, a distinction which partly coincides with some of the old categories, but also cuts across others. There is also another split among all verbs, those which alternate between **z** and **r** between the Aorist and all other tenses, traceable to the common West European sound change which converts a cluster of stop plus **r** to the corresponding voiced stop.

The old system of dividing verbs based on their infinitive, still adhered to, is increasingly obsolete, given a few facts about the conjugations:

1. The I class verbs, mostly consisting of doublets as it was, has unified with one form of the verb continuing to be used widely, with the other serving as an alternate meaning of the infinitive, notably *maran* 'die' and *marane* 'to commit suicide, to die purposefully'. It is seemingly a random selection which type is standardized, as *šumane* 'sew', while *šuman* is used for infinitive complements.

2. The IIa class is mostly based on derivatives of *kaġê* 'do, make' and *naġê* 'see' such as *sikaġê* 'create wonders, storywrite' and *mernaġê* 'patrol'; the IIb series is mostly used in Southern, and southern importations into the standard, such as *partaġan* 'to ascend, climb mountains', Southern *paġaġan*. There is no difference between the conjugations of the forms.

3. The III conjugation is a grab bag, mostly consisting of the irregulars *aġīn*, *êiê*, *mariê*, and their derivatives.

Example verbs:

Ib *bêzan* 'drink' *maran* 'die'
IIa *kaġê* 'do, make' *naġê* 'see'

2.1 Present

	S	P	S	P
1	bêzan	bêzamaz	maran	marmaz
2	bêzaġ	(bêzasta)	maraġ	(marasta)
3	bêzad	bêzand	marad	marand
II	s	p	s	p
1	karin	karīmaġ	nên	nêmaġ
2	kareġ	(karesta)	naleġ	(nalesta)
3	karad	karand	nalad	naland

The present system has little changed from the Ganžas system. The principle difference is the loss of the second person plural inflection, in favor of a analytic device using the pronoun *aġê* and the 3rd plural inflection; the east and southern dialects do tend to retain the separate inflection more, with some of the dialects bordering on the Central area using *aġê* plus the second person inflection.

2.2 Aorist

	S	P	S	P
1	bêzan	bêzamaz	mazan	mazmaz
2	bêzast	(bêzasta)	mazast	(mazasta)
3	bêzat	bêzan	mazat	mazan
II	s	p	s	p
1	karen	karemaġ	nalén	nalemaġ
2	karest	(karesta)	nalest	(nalesta)
3	karet	karen	nalet	nalén

The Aorist is the least-used of the tenses, its functions being primarily taken over by the old Preterit; that being said, the language does maintain an imperfect distinction aspectwise: the verb *lôbiê* (etymologically 'have') is used with the active and passive preterit participles to distinguish perfect aspect when necessary:

Ayalāz lôbiôd ôgênôzi, dên...

'The snow had finished falling from the mountain(s), when...'

2.2 Preterit

	S	P	S	P
1	babêzan	babêzama	mamran	mamrama
2	babêzast	(babêzasta)	mamrast	(mamrasta)
3	babêzôt	babêzar	mamrôt	mamrar
II	s	p	s	p
1	čagô	čagamaĝ	nanlô	nanlamaĝ
2	čagast	(čagasta)	nanlast	(nanlasta)
3	čagôt	čagar	nanlôt	nanlar

The Preterit tense, descended from the Proto-Indo-European Perfect, has undergone a levelling in the I class, adopting the endings of the Aorist; the II class has retained the older endings, as well as its own distinctive forms.

2.3 Future

	S	P	S	P
1	bêzanin	bêzanima	maranin	maranima
2	bêzanist	(bêzanista)	maranist	(maranista)
3	bêzanid	bêzanin	maranid	maranin
II	s	p	s	p
1	kaĝên	kaĝêma	naĝên	naĝêma
2	kaĝêst	(kaĝêsta)	naĝêst	(naĝêsta)
3	kaĝêd	kaĝên	naĝêd	naĝên

Anza panima nabaz anar!

2.4 Class III: Irregular verbs

The Old Ganžas language had a great many irregular verbs (not to mention the previously mentioned varied infinitives), but a few stand out: these are *asyim* (be), *aiyāi* (go), *maryāi* (carry), *kardyai* (do, make), and *laubyāi* 'have, hold'. Their conjugations are quite, odd to say the least, particularly in the case of *esyim* and *maryāi*. In a great many cases, *eyāi* copies *esyim*, and *kardyai* partially follows *maryāi*, but it is best analysed as a different conjugation, given it has many verbs which follow its pattern, and indeed its pattern is generally recognised as the model for the II conjugation. It is primarily

included here because in Modern Scythian, it displays features which are only to be found among the irregulars, namely the form of the 1st person plural in *-maĝ* instead of the I conjugation ending *-maz*, a feature borrowed from a Ganžas dialect which was not recorded, as the Classical Ganžas language has no signs of it until the early Middle Ganžas period, when it begins to show up in popular dramas. By the Early Modern Scythian Period, it was fully established in the II and III conjugations.

Old Ganžas conjugation

Present

	<i>aĝin</i>	<i>êiê</i>	<i>mariê</i>	<i>lôbiê</i>
1	<i>zên</i>	<i>īn</i>	<i>mam</i>	<i>lôbīn</i>
2	<i>aĝ</i>	<i>êĝ</i>	<i>maĝ</i>	<i>lôbiĝ</i>
3	<i>zad</i>	<i>zêd</i>	<i>mad</i>	<i>lôbid</i>
4	<i>azamaĝ</i>	<i>īmaĝ</i>	<i>marmaĝ</i>	<i>lôbimaĝ</i>
5	<i>zmasta</i>	<i>êasta</i>	<i>masta</i>	<i>lôbiasta</i>
6	<i>zmand</i>	<i>īand</i>	<i>mand</i>	<i>lôbiar</i>

*this form is a contamination from its counterpart *zad*.

Aorist

	<i>aĝin</i>	<i>êiê</i>	<i>mariê</i>	<i>lôbiê</i>
1	<i>azan</i>	<i>en</i>	<i>man</i>	<i>lôbien</i>
2	<i>azast</i>	<i>est</i>	<i>maĝ</i>	<i>lôbiest</i>
3	<i>azat</i>	<i>et</i>	<i>marat</i>	<i>lôbiat</i>
4	<i>azazamaĝ</i>	<i>emaĝ</i>	<i>marmaĝ</i>	<i>lôbiemaĝ</i>
5	<i>azmasta</i>	<i>esta</i>	<i>masta</i>	<i>lôbiesta</i>
6	<i>azmant</i>	<i>en</i>	<i>mant</i>	<i>lôbier</i>

Preterit

	<i>aĝin</i>	<i>êiê</i>	<i>mariê</i>	<i>lôbiê</i>
1	<i>azô</i>	<i>iô</i>	<i>mamrô</i>	<i>lôbô</i>
2	<i>asta</i>	<i>êst</i>	<i>mamrast</i>	<i>lôbest</i>
3	<i>azôt</i>	<i>iôt</i>	<i>mamrôt</i>	<i>lôbaut</i>
4	<i>azamaĝ</i>	<i>iêmaĝ</i>	<i>mamraĝ</i>	<i>lôbimaĝ</i>
5	<i>zmasta</i>	<i>iesta</i>	<i>manzda</i>	<i>lôbiasta</i>
6	<i>zmar</i>	<i>er</i>	<i>mamar</i>	<i>lôbiar</i>

Future

	<i>aĝin</i>	<i>êiê</i>	<i>mariê</i>	<i>lôbiê</i>
1	<i>aĝinīn</i>	<i>êiēn</i>	<i>mariēn</i>	<i>lôbiēn</i>
2	<i>aĝinêĝ</i>	<i>êiêĝ</i>	<i>mariêĝ</i>	<i>lôbiêĝ</i>
3	<i>aĝinêd</i>	<i>êiêd</i>	<i>mariêd</i>	<i>lôbiêd</i>
4	<i>aĝinimaĝ</i>	<i>êimaĝ</i>	<i>mariêmaĝ</i>	<i>lôbiêmaĝ</i>
(5	<i>aĝinêsta</i>	<i>êista</i>	<i>mariêsta</i>	<i>lôbiêsta</i>)
6	<i>aĝinand</i>	<i>êand</i>	<i>mariênd</i>	<i>lôbiênd</i>

2.5 Participles

The participle system is changed little from Ganžas times. The present active participle is formed by palatalizing the last consonant in the stem, and adding the *-a* of declension 1. This is a direct descendant of the Ganžas form *-ias*, which had a double meaning in the demonstrative pronoun *yas*, though there is a very simple distinction between them: the verbal *-ias* palatalized consonants, while the nominal raised and fronted vowels.

maġa 'dying' versus *mera* 'death'

The past participle is an old one, from Proto-Indo-European **-t-os*, Ganžas *-tas*. It survives today as the past passive suffix *-da*. A newer, active passive has been formed, based off the old future active in *-us-*, and, with allowances for sound changes, has the form *-uzi*:

marada 'dead(pass)' versus *marôzi* 'having died'

2.6 Infinitives

	OG	Scyth
I ^a	-(a)nte	-ne
I ^b	-(a)antam	-(n)an
II ^a	-dyai	-ġê
II ^b	-dyam	-ġan
III ^a	-yâi	-jê <-iê>
III ^b	-yim	-jin <-īn>

2.7 Verb Affixes

Old Ganžas had quite an array of verbal suffixes and prefixes. Many made changes in the inflection of the word they were appended to, such as **mar-**, a general causative which changed the verbal class to IIa.

3. Nouns

Noun declensions

Sg	a-	o-	u-	i-	s-*	r/n
N	-ā	-as/-am	-us	-is	-as	-ār
G	-āša	-aša	-uša	-iša	-asaša	-ānaša
D	-āi	-ai	-auai	-ī	-asai	-ānāi
Ac	-ām	-am/-am	-um	-im	-asam	-ār
Instr	-āmi	-ami	-umi	-imi	-asmi	-āmi
Loc	-āi	-ai	-uī	-ī	-asai	-āni
Abl	-ād	-ād	-ūd	-īd	-ad	-ānd
Plural	a-	o-	u-	i-	s-*	r/n
N	-ās	-ās/-a	-auas	-ias	-asas	-ana
G	-āsam	-asam	-auam	-isam	-asasam	-ānasam

D, Abl	-āmas	-amas	-umas	-īmas	-asamas	-ānāmas
Ac	-āns	-ans/-a	-uns	-ins	-asans	-ana
Instr	-āmīs	-amīs	-umīs	-imīs	-asmīs	-āmīs
Loc	-āsu	-asu	-usu	-īsu	-asu	-ānsu

*The *s*-stems were early assimilated to the combined *a-/o*-stem pattern, leaving no relics.

The Classical Ganžas case system stood like this:

Sg	a-	u-	i-	r/n
N	-ās/-am	-us	-is	-ār
G	-āša	-uša	-iša	-ānaša
D	-āi	-auai	-ī	-ānāi
Ac	-ām	-um	-im	-ār
Instr	-āmi	-umi	-imi	-āmi
Loc	-āi	-uī	-ī	-āni
Abl	-ād	-ūd	-īd	-ānd

Plural	a-	u-	i-	r/n
N	-ās/-a	-auas	-ias	-ana
G	-āsam	-auam	-isam	-ānasam
D, Abl	-āmas	-umas	-īmas	-ānāmas
Ac	-āns/-a	-uns	-ins	-ana
Instr	-āmīs	-umīs	-imīs	-āmīs
Loc	-āsu	-usu	-īsu	-ānsu

This was simplified into the system inherited by early Middle Ganžas:

Singular	a-	u-	i-	r/n
N	-ās/-an	-us	-is	-ār
G	-āša	-uša	-iša	-ānaša
D	-āi	-uai	-ī	-ānāi
Ac	-ān/-an	-un	-in	-ār
Instr	-āmi	-umi	-imi	-āmi
Loc	-āi	-uī	-ī	-āni
Abl	-ād	-ūd	-īd	-ānd

Plural	a-	u-	i-	r/n
N	-ās/-a	-uas	-ias	-ana
G	-āsan	-uan	-isan	-ānasan
D, Abl	-āmas	-umas	-īmas	-ānāmas
Ac	-āns/-a	-uns	-ins	-ana
Instr	-āmīs	-umīs	-imīs	-āmīs
Loc	-āsu	-usu	-īsu	-ānsu

The Middle Ganžas case system underwent some drastic reductions. The *a*-stems lost their neuters to the *r/n*-stems, which became the sole means of marking the neuter gender in the language, even in adjectives:

sōsa, sōsas, sōsār. The *r/n*-stems were by no means not affected by the absorption; in the <Burgundy> dialect, they abandoned the *-ār* nominative/accusative, using instead the form *-an*. The word-final loss of /s/ and all vowels (except diphthong) is begining to be felt now, with a greatly reduced declension.

Singular	a-	u-	i-	r/n
N	-a	-u	-i	-ār
G	-āš	-uš	-iš	-ānaš
D	-āi	-ua	-i	-āna
Ac	-ān	-un	-in	-ār
Instr	-ām	-um	-im	-ām
Loc	-āz	-uz	-iz	-ānz
(Abl)	-ā	-ū	-ī	-ān)*

Plural	a-	u-	i-	r/n
N	-ā	-ua	-ia	-an
G	-āsa	-usa	-isa	-ānza
D, Abl	-āma	-uma	-īma	-āma
Ac	-ān	-un	-in	-an
Instr	-āmi	-umi	-imi	-āmi
Loc	-āz	-uz	-īz	-ānz

The Ablative as a distinct case from the Dative is lost at this point; The written language retained it, however, and it was frequently imported into the language. The modern usage of *ak* + the Dative had not come about yet, and *ak* still retained its distinct meanings. The Locative only retained it's distinct form by spreading the /z/ of the plural to the singular: Old Ganžas *wadār*, Locative *wadanī*, late Middle Ganžas *wadār*, Locative s/p *wadānz*.

3.#. Adjectives

The Scythian adjective has few declinable forms, with the only remaining from the rich Ganžas declension system being the comparative, superlative, elative degrees and the gender markers.

The gender markers are the simplest, and are generally *-a* for masculine/feminine, and *-ār* for neuter. The consonant stem adjectives, however, do not distinguish the genders at all, and generally deal with concrete concepts such as directions and states:

adrug 'northern'
madrug 'western'
zudrug 'southern'
ġudrug 'eastern'

magat 'stormy'
édug 'parched'
 'soaked'

niranug 'blasted'
ag 'rocky'

The extremely frequent ending *-(u)g* is a remnant of a Ganžas adjectival formant *-ks*, which began the trend of invariant adjectives in the Early Middle Ganžas period. The first recorded instance of this is in 1100AUC, in the Annals of the Duke of Parzya, where the conquest of a great portion of the later Scythian province of *Skuča Madrug* (Western Scythia) is described.

4. Pronouns

4.1 Personal Pronouns

	1sg	1pl
N	aġa	zāma
G	miš	zānsa
D	mai	zāma
A	man	zān
I	mām	zāmi
L	maz	zānz

	2sg	2pl
N	tu	va
G	tuš	vasa
D	tai	vama
A	tan	van
I	tām	vēmi
L	taz	vaz

	3sg	3pl
N	ê	êa
G	eiš	êsa
D	ei	êma
A	en	ên
I	êām	êmi
L	ez	êz

4.2 Demonstratives

OG demonstratives

ai 'this' (in Scythian, becomes 3rd person)

yas (exceptionally weak demonstrative, frequently suffixed to nouns)

atus 'that'

atias 'that yonder'

paias 'this one, he who' (becomes Scythian proximal demonstrative, *pêa*)

atupas 'that one' (replaces *adu* in the Western and Southern dialects)

altaras 'one of two'

ksyā 'where'

yayā 'here'

MS demonstratives

pêa 'this'

adu 'that'

aduba 'that one' (replaces *adu* in Western and Southern)

ača 'yonder'

ačar 'other of two'

anġaran 'a few'

kša 'where'

iê 'here'

4.3 Interrogatives and Relatives

Old Ganžas interrogative declension:

	Old S/P	Middle S/P	New S/P
N	pas	pa(s)	pa
G	paša	paš	paš
D	pāi	pāi	pai
Acc	pam	pan	pan
Instr	pami	pām	pām
Loc	pai	pai/paz	paz
Abl	pād	-	-

4.4 Numerals and other pronouns

Scythian numerals

Ganžas	Modern	Scythian
aikā	êga	1
duā	dva	2
trais	dê	3
patuar	padvar	4
pampa	pamba	5
saiš	zêš	6
sapta	začan	7
akta	ača	8
nawa	navan	9
dakam	dagan	10 ¹
aikam	êgan	11
twalam	dvalan	12
triam	ġan	13
patiam	peġan	14
pampiam	penčam	15
saišiam	zêġan	16
saptiam	zaptian ²	17
duākam	dvagan	20
triakai	ġagê	30

patwakai	padvagê	40
pampakai	pambagê	50
saišakai	zêġagê	60 ³
saptakai	začagê	70
patuduākam	patudvagan	80
nawakam	navagan	90
šantam	šan	100
dušantam	duġan	200
triašantam	ġaġan	300
patušantam	padvaġan	400

¹This form is impossible to explain internally, and is assumed to be a borrowing from a *centum* Indo-European language.

²*zaptjan* is a reborrowing of *saptiam*, which had become homophonous with *začan* '7'.

³ Eastern dialects have *ġadvagê* (OG *triaduakai*) for 60, reflecting the old system of counting by twenties. They also have *bagên* for 200, and *dubagên* for 400.

5. Syntax

<i>žanumīs marsa</i>	'I died by the clan'
<i>žanumīs marsat</i>	'He died by the clan'
* <i>ġanumi maza</i>	'I/he died by the clan'

The last sentence is used in written Modern Scythian, but is replaced by the old Perfect (now used as a preterit) in spoken Scythian: *ġanumi mamarad*. Eastern dialects retained the aorist, and solved this dilemma by utilizing a participial formation with cliticised versions of the pronouns, copying the Iranian ergative preterits: *mazadaên ġanumi* 'the clan killed him' (killed-he clan-instr), attested with that meaning in the writings of Kseia of Zdurana (modern *Ġôran*, a city-state of the old East, absorbed by the Dukedom of Mazarde in 1460AUC), contrasted with the modern Eastern Scythian *mazadan ġanum* 'the clan killed him' with the Ergative-Instrumental *-m*.

6. Lexicon

<i>ača</i>	'yonder' (OG <i>atias</i>)
<i>ača</i>	'far' (OG <i>alkas</i>)
<i>ačar</i>	'one of two'
<i>adaġê</i>	'deliver' (OG <i>atradyai</i> 'send')
<i>adêa</i>	'delivery service'
<i>aġêa</i>	'delivery, deliveryman'
<i>adrug</i>	'northern'
<i>adu</i>	'that'
<i>aduba</i>	'that one' (replaces <i>adu</i> in Western and Southern)
<i>aġala</i>	'mountain'
<i>aġa</i>	'I'
<i>aġa</i>	'animal sprite'

aġaiê 'lead' (OG *ažayai*)
aġe 'mayor, town alderman' (OG *aġaias* chieftan)
aiyāi 'go'
ak 'out of, away, from' (from Gallish *ec* 'out of, from', cf. Old Latin *ex*)
anġaran 'a few'
aṅgu 'thin'
apalas 'eel' (Western retains the *-f-* of its cognates, e.g. NG *evlo*, Old Gallic *efelos*)
asyim 'be'
balema 'knight of darkness'
bamaġê 'come'
bača 'family'
bêzīn 'to drink' (stem *bêza-*)
bôgla 'pickle' (Western *bôgLa* < Low Teutonic *beukel*)
ê 'he/she/it'
êa 'they'
ečavêa 'wrangler' *ečavêa kôra* 'animal catcher; noble's huntsman (arch)'
ečavu 'animal cage' (OG *ēkyawus* 'horsetrap' < Gall. *ek^wiaos*)
êga 'I'
êdug 'parched' (OG *aitruks*)
Êndug 'world' (OG *Aintrus*, world, *-g* extended by analogy with the directional adjectives)
dê 'three'
dena 'house'
dolane 'love'
dönda 'wind'
galaġê 'eat, chew' (of cattle, horses, other ruminants)
gens 'goose, duck'
ġan 'royal family'
ġu 'deity, worldly god'
yača 'family'
yalaġê 'slaughter' (refers solely to humans)
ide 'great' (OG *itrai*)
ix- 'iterative pref.'
ixadaġê 'constantly deliver' (OG *ixs atradyai* 'to send over-and-over')
kaġê 'do, make'
kažôġê 'to oppress, to enslave' (OG *karxyaudyai* 'to farm with slaves')
kômār 'nobleman' (OG *kauramnār* 'councilman')
kôra, -ār 'official(adj)' (OG *kauryam* 'noble')
laga 'goat's milk'
lanġiba 'Viking longboat' (from a source akin to English *lanje šip*)
lanjār-steppe
mača 'great'
magat 'stormy' (OG *makrats*)
maran 'to die'
marane 'to commit suicide, to die purposefully' (inf. compliment only)
mariê 'carry'

mena 'spirit, ghost'
ôgênaġê 'snow, be cold' (OG *augainadyai*)
Ôruba 'Europe'
pêa 'this'
pa 'who (interr & rel)'
padvar '4'
pamba '5'
Paġa 'Lutetia, Paris'
pimna 'drunkard' (OG *pimanās*)
puniča 'carthaginian (desp.)'
punika 'carthaginian'
sačan '7'
skuča 'Scythia' (OG *skutyas* < Greek *σκυθος*)
šan '100'
šavan 'to farm' (alternate infinitive *šōnan*, aor. stem *šō-*; OG *xyawantam* 'to farm, slave')
šavu "
 'to farm'
šumane 'sew' (w/dative; OG *siumante*)
šöma 'sewing'
Tadāda 'Asia, Tartary' (Euxine Greek *Τατατος*, tatar)
tu 'thou'
tu, tva 'thine'
va 'you(pl)'
vača 'wolf'
vadār 'water'
vau 'cow'
veġa 'path, road'
zaġu 'annointed one, Ohrmazd' (OG *xašazdus*)
zaġug 'annointed' (OG *xašazduks*)
Xêpriga 'Libwa' (Modern Latin *hafricānus* Libwan)
Xindba 'India' (CL *Hindba* India < Bactrian Greek *Χινδβα* Northwest India < Persian
hindv-, the Indus river)
zāma 'we'
zêš '6'
zlôîār 'eel'
znêvār 'snow'
zazi 'sister, nun' (OG *srasis* 'concubine')
zoza, zozār 'dry'
zudrug 'southern' (invariant)

7. Scythian states predating the Unification of 1633AUC

During the fractuous times following the collapse of the post-Ganžas confederacy, many local strongmen organized the Scythian territory into hundreds of independent states in 650AUC, who battled each other and conquered outlying territories, finally stabilizing c.800AUC into approximately 140 separate states, variously governed by Dukes, Princes,

tribal *ažaiās* (though these were barely distinguishable from the Dukedoms), and a few independent cities, those along the Teutonic borders. The East was by far the most fractuous, with the area surrounding the old capital being almost deserted. The South arrayed itself into 5 major principalities, and approximately 40 smaller realms. The largest states were in the west, where the expansion against the coastal *Saksonua* was constant, eventually reaching the coast. Around 1300AUC, the states of Paġa (*Parzya* at the time) began in earnest to conquer the coastal Teutons, embarking on a mission to acquire a seaport to begin to compete in sea trade, which was dominated by the Carthags and Normans.

Parzya'Paġa' Paġa, the second city of the kingdom, supported its own Dukedom during the fractuous times following the collapse of the post-Ganžas confederacy. It was the first state to begin the conquest of the Western lands.

Zdurana 'Ġōran' This city-state lay along the <Ambileve, Malmedy> river. It was a center of learning and scholarship, and retained the only complete contemporary account of the fall of the Blackmoon Empire.

Mazarde 'Mazada' (Mains)

OLD GANŽAS INFORMATION

2.4 Class III: Irregular verbs

The Old Ganžas language had a great many irregular verbs (not to mention the previously mentioned varied infinitives), but a few stand out: these are *asyim* (be), *aiyāi* (go), *maryāi* (carry), and *kardyai* (do, make). Their conjugations are quite, odd to say the least, particularly in the case of *esyim* and *maryāi*. In a great many cases, *eyāi* copies *esyim*, and *kardyai* partially follows *maryāi*, but it is best analysed as a different conjugation, given it has many verbs which follow its pattern, and indeed it's pattern is generally recognised as the model for the II conjugation. It is primarily included here because in Modern Scythian, it displays features which are only to be found among the irregulars, namely the form of the 1st person plural in *–maġ*, instead of the more usual *–maz*, a feature borrowed from a Ganžas dialect that was not recorded, as the Classical Ganžas language has no signs of it until the early Middle Ganžas period, when it begins to show up in popular dramas. By the Early Modern Scythian Period, it was fully established in the II and III conjugations.

Old Ganžas conjugation

Present

	<i>asyim</i>	<i>aiyāi</i>	<i>maryāi</i>	<i>kardyai</i>	<i>laubyāi</i>
1	zmi	īmi	mami	karimi	laubīmi
2	asi	aisi	marsi	karēsi	laubisi
3	sati	saiti*	marti	karati	laubiti
4	azamasi	īmasi	marmasi	karimasi	laubimasi
5	zmasta	aiasta	masta	karēsta	laubiasta
6	zmanti	īanti	mantī	karanti	laubyar

*this form is undoubtedly a contamination from its counterpart *sati*.

Aorist

	<i>asyim</i>	<i>aiyāi</i>	<i>maryāi</i>	<i>kardyai</i>	<i>laubyāi</i>
1	azam	ēm	mam	karēm	laubyēm
2	azast	ēst	marst	karēst	laubyēst
3	azat	ēt	marat	karat	laubat
4	azazamas	ēmas	marmas	karēmas	laubyēmasi
5	azmasta	ēsta	masta	karēsta	laubyēsta
6	azmant	ēnt	mant	karant	laubyēr

Preterit

	<i>asyim</i>	<i>aiyāi</i>	<i>maryāi</i>	<i>kardyai</i> *	<i>laubyāi</i>
1	azau	yau	mamarau	šakarēu	laulōbīmi
2	asta	aist	mamarast	šakarēst	laulōbisi
3	azaut	yaut	mamaraut	šakarēut	laulōbiti
4	azamasi	yaimasi	marmasi	šakarēmasi	laulōbimasi
5	zmasta	yēsta	mamasta	šakarēsta	laulōbiasta
6	zmar	ēr	mamar	šakarar	laulōbyar

*The *ē* in *kardyai*'s conjugation for the preterit was leveled with the **a** of the other verbs, producing the modern forms **čagô**, etc.

Future

<i>asyim</i>	<i>aiyāi</i>	<i>maryāi</i>	<i>kardyai</i>	<i>laubyāi</i>
asyim īmi , etc.	aiyāi īmi	maryāi īmi	kardyai īmi	laubyāi īmi

The Old Ganžas future was formed periphrastically, using the verb **aiyāi** following the infinitive, which developed into the modern future conjugation.