

The invention and design of a new script is quite rare. One for an alien race is perhaps even more so. The aliens in question are the Queezies. Their home planet is Queezon 3 and their language is Queezoid.

The script was originally commissioned as part of a brand identity. A principal requirement for which was that it should easily replace English text – much like changing the weight of a font – essentially a new set of shapes to replace our existing ones. Two styles were developed into working fonts. One reflects the informal qualities of Queezie handwriting (Queezoid Hand – ງາວໄຊ້ກໍລຸ່ ຈີວັງຕຸ້), whilst the other is a more formal printing type (Queezoid Sans – ງາວເປັຊຽກໍລຸ່ ປ່າງໄປ).

Initial research revealed a huge world of 'conlangers' (people who create constructed languages), with many books and websites on the subject. Although fascinating, too much attention given to constructed languages proved to be of little use.

Closer to home 28Pdn7 NP 8Pzn

Reviewing the many different languages and writing systems of the world offered a rich source of inspiration. Whilst collecting together various scripts, an idea of what Queezoid could be began to take shape. It was decided not to approach the design as a joined script such as Arabic. Although possible with OpenType technology, it would have involved a large amount of programming to make it function as required. Orientation was also kept left to right for ease of use.

Pollard

Syllabary scripts, such as Pollard are visually stiff and machine like with a stereotypical alien look. The repetition of shapes found in a syllabic script does impart a mathematical or engineered feel, which was something worth exploring. So the concept of a geometric origin developed and became core to Queezie cultural history and development.

Kuoyu

The Kuoyu script has a visual similarity to Pollard, yet the Demotic script has a softer appearance, as does the Cypriote script. Both the Kuoyu and Demotic scripts each possess a visual nesting idea, where duplicate shapes appear grouped, again something worth exploring.

Demotic

Cypriote

The scripts of Brahmi and Balti are block-like in appearance with an interesting pattern and symbol-like feel. All these scripts could function as an alien writing system.

Brahmi

፣β4ነ 20ቭቢጬራうኤኔ ዜ ኄ ጌቭ 6 ይ ዜ የ የ ነጋ ነጋ ነጋር ረዚ ሆ ደ ማ መን ጉን የአኑ ተ

Balti

Many of the scripts though suffer from a lack of vertical movement. The Lahnda script originally used in north-western India, and the Pahlavik script of the Sassanian Persian Empire, both possess elements that suggest ascenders which add more visual rhythm and energy.

676 MYM 76 5M NN6 Y69M9M M3M 38M FHE 0605 75369 M3M 56E 6 37 1995 716 EX 38M 4638 MYEEM

Lahnda

שאוב - שלאום ניעשיתנת שו שו ילאטי ישאו פנת עש מישיוו ישאו וב ולאר יות עשי לב לא שאטיו לב ישישושו לב ילאו ולב ביי

Pahlavik

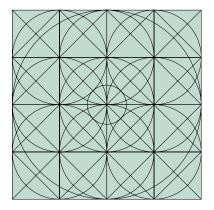
Satavahana script is an ancient South Indian script, it has an ornamental feel and is reminiscent of the Tengwar script that JRR Tolkien invented. The ornate appearance does distract but is interesting as an example of how a lettershape could be embellished.

Satavahana

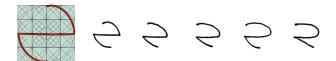
Origins

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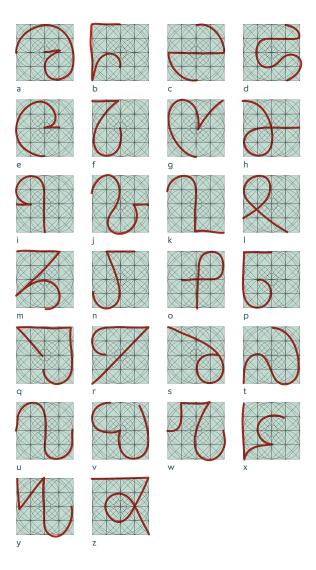
Geometry, maths and science are well practiced and hold deep significance to the Queezie culture. In their prehistory the division and sub-division of circle and square gave rise to the *ubergrid*. It is on this grid that the lines which describe the core lettershapes were originally traced.



The Queezie ubergrid



The original line shape of 'c' and the evolution to its modern shape



The original core letter shapes fitted to the ubergrid

The core lettershapes

სეմഗ_്67ე/ՊეՋ ეՐԳ_၄ ებს

а	Э	J	b	5	[С	5	7
d	ረ	く	е	C	ዑ	f	\mathcal{F}	Շ
g	\wedge	٧	h	ծ	ծ	i	ব	ብ
j	ᢧ	_ይ	k	٦	ጊ	I	Q	ጻ
m	3	3	n	Г	Γ	0	P	የ
	G		q	7	ŋ	r	9	7
S	9	Ь	t	\forall	٨	u		ጥ
٧	ω	ω	w	r	Л		V	
у	n	ч	Z	ন	ಷ			

Queezoid is a single case script and is read left to right. Originally the 26 lettershapes all aligned, but over generations of use they became adjusted around a common middle section. Some letters are aligned from middle to top, some from middle to bottom and some are full height, across all three sections. The idea of a baseline can be applied between the middle and bottom sections.





middle & top

full

middle & bottom

Visual texture of the script

արգան ՆԳ ոչտանա հեշարի Ջմագորա

The handwritten form of Queezoid has resulted in many natural joins between letters. The visual appearance of which provides a more relaxed and natural look than that of the more formal printed version.

bi	নি	bl	FR.	bu	Γ
et	ശ	eu	Á	ew	୯୵
fc	$\sqrt{\zeta}$	fl	72	fo	\mathcal{F}
gl	Z N	go	M	ha	બ્ર
hl	Ж	ho	SP	hy	дц
ja	vo	jo	Vf	ki	27
ku	2	li	Ry	lt	℘
lu	ℓ √	mn	3 5	mt	$\zeta \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \!$
mu	₹/\	na	ત્	nc	R
nj		nk	Y	nl	ሃ
nm	ス	no	رار ا	ny	М
nz	风	рс	وخ	pl	ઝ
ро	F	ui	4 9	ut	$\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{J}}$
wi	<i>ሚ</i> ባ	wt	N	wu	7 0
xa	ત્ય પ્ર	хс	K	xm	K
хо	LP	yi	ለ ህ	yu	ŊΛ



One grammatical feature of Queezoid is the occurrence and marking of double letters in text. This idea was developed from conjunct consonants, especially those seen in the Burmese script where a bracket device appears to surround a letter (similar to a cartouche). In Queezoid, several common double letter combinations developed as individual lettershapes, such as 'aa' and 'oo'. Less common ones change the second letter to a low or high mark that denotes the occurrence of the repeat.

Burmese ခေ့ခြကကြိ

mark	7	ר	aa	v	<u></u>	bb	ريما	۲
СС	হ	ચે	dd	ς_{J}	ረገ	ee	G	ტ
ff	$\mathcal{V}_{\mathbf{J}}$	ሪ	gg	Μ	М	hh	$\delta_{\rm J}$	δ
ii	ચુ	ىل	jj	$\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{I}}$		kk	ก	ባገ
II	श	શ	mm	괴	য	nn	Л	D
00	в	В	pp	Մ յ	ნე	qq	کی	ŋ
rr	9,	7,	SS	9)	ብ	tt	\bigcirc	\bigcup
uu		ብ	vv	ω ₎	սJ	ww	T)	υĴ
xx	اکم	لم	уу	rij	ъ	ZZ	ਕੀ	ਕੋ







The combinations 'ch', 'ei', 'fa' and 'sh' developed to become distinct shapes.

$$_{ch}$$
 $_{ch}$ $_{ch$



Another grammatical feature of Queezoid is the 'tone mark'. This appears above or below the second vowel in a mixed vowel combination, such as 'ae' or 'iu'.



Punctuation & marks

Only a few symbols are used to punctuate a text. Words are separated by spaces, which are also used after punctuation and before some symbols. A stop or pause in text is marked by a simple short vertical stroke that appears in the top section. Two stop marks joined together are used for emphasis, similar to an exclamation mark. A single dot, centred between the middle and top sections, is used as an apostrophe and to mark each end of a quotation. A small ring placed in the bottom section is used as a reference mark. There is only one shape for a parenthesis, bracket and brace. These symbols developed from cupped hands and are similar to large 'less then' and 'greater than' shapes. There are also lettershapes that function as an ampersand and the commercial at.

Ownership has increasingly become important throughout the Queezie cluster of planets. Currently three symbols are used which can be compared to our use of copyright, trademark and registered.

Number system

լուշ[ը7 ժուժոնե

The Queezie number system is based on units of 10. In their prehistory traders would communicate and count using their fingers and hands. Interestingly, they evolved with only eight digits – three fingers and a thumb on each hand. In order to communicate all the numbers, a flat hand was used to represent zero. This developed as a straight line in the number system. The nine is the largest single digit. To portray this they used both hands brought together to form a circle. The circle is one of their most important shapes and also gave rise to the Queezie currency and percent symbols.

Over time several of the numbers modified to become simpler shapes but, to some extent, their origins can be seen and traced back to their initial finger and hand gestures.

Mathematical symbols originated from a vertical line with additional marks on one or both sides. Addition is an increase, indicated by a mark on the right; whereas subtraction is a decrease, with a mark appearing on the left. Multiplication is an increase and is derived from the plus symbol. Division is a separation into parts and is represented by a split line. The equals sign indicates a balancing of both sides of an equation. Less than and greater than modify this balancing concept in favour of one side or the other of an equation. The number system and related symbols are aligned across the middle and bottom sections.

Examples

გეՋშჳნზეგ

The following examples show various uses of numbers, symbols of ownership, and the protocols of internet, email and social media.

Launch at 7:00am

©Interstellar

Explorer Z-class®

Black Hole™

© Galactic Travel

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_ຊ7 ժնՔշՂ

Further reading

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