

Esperanto as a linguistic system

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/wlp.10.c11>

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Pages 59–70 of

Esperanto – Lingua Franca and Language Community

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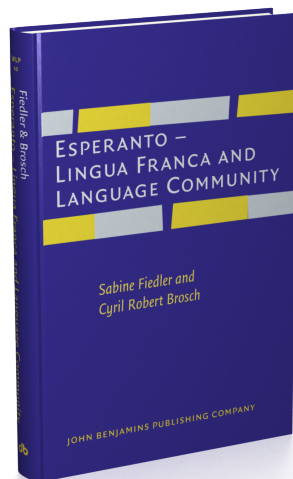
[*Studies in World Language Problems*, 10]

2022. xx, 429 pp.

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Esperanto as a linguistic system

Like any other language, Esperanto can be described in many different ways depending on linguistic trends and authors' points of view.⁴³ What makes Esperanto special are the extremes that can occur in its representations, ranging from its minimal sixteen-rule grammar printed on the back of a business card or, more typically, one sheet of paper (see Appendix 3) to the 598-page *Plena Analiza Gramatiko* (Kalocsay & Waringhien, 1985). Both types of representation seem to have their justification, although the truth of Esperanto's complexity is probably somewhere in the middle.

In short, Esperanto can be characterised as a combination of (European) internationalisms with a regular morphology of a mixed type and a syntax with a notably Slavic influence. This chapter provides an overview of Esperanto grammar, which should enable the reader to analyse the examples we give in Part IV without the need for morphological glossing. Some specific features of the language system will be explained in later chapters in the context of their use.

Phonology and alphabet

Esperanto has twenty-eight phonemes, written by twenty-eight letters of the Latin alphabet without *q*, *w*, *x*, and *y* and with *ĉ* [*tʃ*], *ĝ* [*dʒ*], *ĥ* [*x*], *ĵ* [*ʒ*], *ŝ* [*ʃ*], and *ŭ* [non-syllabifying *u*].⁴⁴ The graphemic inventory thus is as follows:

Aa Bb Cc Ĉĉ Dd Ee Ff Gg Ĝĝ Hh Ĥĥ Ii Jj Ĵĵ Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Rr Ss Ŝŝ Tt Uu Ŭŭ Vv Zz

Whenever the diacritics cannot be used, they should be replaced by *ch*, *gh*, *hh*, *jh*, *sh*, and *u*.⁴⁵ There is no uniform regulation of punctuation and word division.

43. See Gledhill (1998), Janton (1993), Nuessel (2000), and Wells (1978) for linguistic sketches of the language. A comprehensive pedagogical description of Esperanto is found in Wennergren (2020).

44. The letter <ŭ> is used only after *a* and *e* (and in highly debatable words, *o*) to form the diphthongs *aŭ* [*au*] and *eŭ* [*eu*] (e.g. in *ambaŭ* 'both' and *Eŭropo* 'Europe'). Its status as a proper phoneme is debatable, however (see Pokrovskij, 2014).

45. On the Internet, especially in the time before the divulgation of Unicode, many more surrogate systems were in use, e.g. *c^*, *c'*, *ú*, *w*. A common and popular alternative system, however, is

The phonemics and especially phonotactics were not designed to achieve the greatest simplicity (as in, for example, Volapük), but to embrace as much international vocabulary from the source languages (see below) as possible.⁴⁶ The following tables give an overview of the phoneme system (graphemes diverging from their IPA equivalents are given as miniature letters):

Table 2. Esperanto consonants in the notation of the International Phonetic Alphabet

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental/alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		n				
Plosive	p b		t d			k g	
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃʒ ʒj		x _h	h
Affricate			ts _c	tʃ _c	dʒ _g		
Approximant					j		
Trill			r				
Lateral approximant			l				

Table 3. Esperanto vowels in the notation of the International Phonetic Alphabet

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u _{u/ü}
Open mid	ɛ _e		ɔ _o
Open		a	

Esperanto has a fixed word stress. In polysyllabic words, stress is on the penultimate syllable: *Esperanto*, *familio*. It can, however, appear on the last syllable, when the noun marker, word-final *o*, is elided, cf. *komitat'* = *komitato* 'committee'. This optional elision is virtually only found in poems and songs. An apostrophe is also traditionally used in *dank' al* ('thanks to'). Double consonants are rare, but phonemic (*fino* 'end' – *finno* 'Finn').

to replace the accented letter by the plain letter + *x* (e.g. *ĉ*=*cx*, *ĝ*=*gx*) (which means a one-to-one correspondence and allows for automatic conversion into the real letters) (see Chapter 25.5.2). For the sake of intelligibility, in all our quotes we convert unofficial surrogate systems into the official orthography.

46. See van Oostendorp (1999) on the many clusters that Esperanto has taken over from its source languages.

Although rule 9 of the *Fundamento* postulates high precision in pronunciation (“Every word is to be read exactly as written, there are no silent letters”), in practice Esperanto allows for a certain degree of variation, e.g. the pronunciation of <e> and <o> as [e] and [o] or for positional allophones ([aŋkâŭ] besides [ankâŭ]) for *ankaŭ* (‘also, too’). In addition, words with articulatorily difficult structures often, but certainly not always, show assimilations or other simplifications, e.g. *ekzisti* [eksisti/egzisti] ‘to exist’, *absoluta* [apsoluta] ‘absolute’, *biero* [bjerɔ] ‘beer’. Despite the enormous influence of speakers’ native languages, Esperanto has attained a consistent normative pronunciation (see Chapter 28).

Lexicon

The lexicon of Esperanto is based mainly on internationalisms of Latin and Greek origin as they appear in French, Italian, English, German, Yiddish, Russian, and Polish (e.g. *demokratio* ‘democracy’, *spontanea* ‘spontaneous’, *korekti* ‘to correct’). It is therefore essentially of European character. The Romance languages provide approximately 75% of the Esperanto vocabulary (e.g., *filo* ‘son’, *manĝi* ‘to eat’), about 20% is of Germanic origin (e.g. *haŭto* ‘skin’, *trinki* ‘to drink’), and the rest are derived from various other sources, especially Slavic languages (e.g. *bulko* ‘bun’, *kolbaso* ‘sausage’) (Janton 1993, p. 51; see also Jansen, 2011 and Parkvall, 2010).

Esperanto is a language that is practically without homonyms.⁴⁷ In order to avoid homonymy, to facilitate pronunciations and prevent erroneous analysis, roots are sometimes slightly modified or lesser used forms are elected, e.g. *verŝi* (‘to pour’) from French *verser* (as *vers-o* means ‘verse’), *logi* ‘lure’ from German *locken* (as *lok-o* means ‘place’), *abomeni* (‘to abominate’) (as *-in-* marks female sex).⁴⁸ Where there were no internationalisms for a given concept, Zamenhof took words from the languages mentioned above, especially from French and German. Sometimes etymological or accidental phonetic correspondences could be used (e.g. *domo* ‘house’ after Latin and Slavic, *sama* ‘same’ after English and Slavic), sometimes similar forms were combined in a kind of compromise solution, e.g. *ŝtono* (‘stone’) as a mixture of the English and German (*Stein* [ʃtāɪn]) words. A few words, stemming from an early, but later thoroughly modified stage of the language prior to its publication in 1887 (so-called Pra-Esperanto: see Waringhien 1989, pp. 19–48), are without a definitively certain etymology, notably *tuj* ‘immediately’ and *edzo* ‘husband’.

Another feature to keep in mind is the semantic autonomy of the roots. Although they were formally taken from one or more languages, their meanings in

47. For a more detailed discussion on homonymy and the creation of deliberate ambiguity for humorous purposes (so-called pseudo-homonymy), see Chapter 20.

48. See Szerdahelyi (1976) for different types of adaptation. See also Blanke (1985, pp. 249f.) and Janton (1993, pp. 52–53).

Esperanto need not correspond with those in the source language(s). For example, the preposition *ĉe* ('at') is formally taken over from French *chez*, but semantically it is an exact correspondence of Russian *у* (*u*, see Brosch, 2011, p. 139). The meaning of a word can also depend on the lexical class of a root, i.e. the part of speech that it prototypically forms, as we shall see below. A consistent part of a verbal root is also the thematic role of its subject, whether it is an agent (*mi sufokas* 'I suffocate [somebody]') or a patient (*mi dronas* 'I drown').⁴⁹

A comparison of Esperanto dictionaries documents the lexical expansion of the language. Whereas Zamenhof's *Unua Libro* (1887) included fewer than one thousand roots, today's quasi-authoritative monolingual dictionary *La Nova Plena Ilustrita Vortaro* (NPIV) (Duc Goninaz et al., 2002) comprises approximately 17,000 roots (with approximately 47,000 entries in total). Diverging opinions on how many, and which, new roots should be added to the language have accompanied Esperanto almost since its beginnings. In practice, this struggle between "neologists" and conservatives has led to a balanced growth of the lexicon.

Morphology

From a typological point of view, Esperanto is an agglutinative language with isolating and inflectional features (Piron, 1981; Wells, 1978). Its morphology is based on the combination of invariable elements. Besides the purely phonetic elisions described above, the only exceptions to this principle are the hypocoristic suffixes *-ĉj-* and *-nj-* for pet forms of male and female names, which in turn are shortened to the first two to six letters.⁵⁰

Open parts of speech are marked by characteristic suffixes:

- *-o* for nouns (e.g. *telefono* 'telephone')
- *-a* for adjectives (*telefona* 'telephonic, telephone-')
- *-e* for derived adverbs (*telefone* 'by telephone')
- *-i* for verbs in the infinitive (*telefoni* 'to telephone').⁵¹

49. Other than in English, a change of this role has to be marked overtly by a suffix, e.g. *mi sufokiĝas* 'I am suffocated' and *mi droniĝas* 'I drown (somebody)'.

50. E.g. *Peĉjo* 'Pete' (*Petro*) 'Peter', *Elinjo* 'Betty' (*Elizabeto*) 'Elizabeth', but also *Paĉjo* 'dad(dy)' and *Panjo* 'mum(my)' (*patro* 'father', *patrino* 'mother'). In addition to the translation of pet names from other languages, the hypocoristics are nowadays used mostly to address young children.

51. It is not by chance that Lucien Tesnière (1966, p. 64) labelled nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs O, A, I, E in his dependency grammar.

Closed parts of speech like pronouns, primitive adverbs, prepositions, and particles have no categorical suffix and belong to the small class of unbound morphemes.

Most morphemes are bound, but nearly all of them, even those traditionally called “affixes” (see below), can still be used as word bases: for example, *-ebl-*, a suffix indicating possibility (as used in *farebla* ‘feasible’ from *fari* ‘make, do’) with the help of an ending expressing the part of speech, can be the core of an independent word: *eble* (‘perhaps, maybe’), *ebli* (‘to be possible’).

Nouns and adjectives are inflected for number and case: *-j* marks the plural (*telefonoj* ‘telephones’), *-n* marks the object case or accusative (*telefonon*). Adjectives agree in number and case with the noun that they modify (e.g. *nova telefono* ‘a new telephone’ – *nia instituto ricevis novajn telefonojn* ‘our institute received new telephones’). The accusative ending *-n* is also used to express the adverbial functions of measurement (*du metrojn longa* ‘two metres long’), time (*unu tagon okazis* ‘one day it happened’), and goal (*Parizon* ‘to Paris’).⁵²

Other syntactic relations are expressed by prepositions. There is no grammatical gender. Esperanto has only one article, the definite article *la*, which is not inflected. In a similar way as with the noun ending *-o*, its final vowel can be replaced with an apostrophe (*l'*) (for details see 25.5.1). Comparison is expressed with the help of the particles *pli* ‘more’ and *plej* ‘most’ (e.g. *bona – pli bona – plej bona* ‘good’ – ‘better’ – ‘best’).

The personal pronouns are as follows:⁵³

Table 4. The personal pronouns of Esperanto

	1st person	2nd person	3rd person				
Singular	<i>mi</i> ‘I’	<i>vi</i> ‘you’	<i>li</i> ‘he’	<i>ŝi</i> ‘she’	<i>ĝi</i> ‘it’ [‡]	<i>si</i> ‘-self’	<i>oni</i> ‘one, they’ (impersonal)
Plural	<i>ni</i> ‘we’		<i>ili</i> ‘they’				

[‡] Traditionally, with animals *ĝi* is used as a general pronoun, while *li* and *ŝi* designate male and female animals, when needed. Due to the influence of European languages, *ĝi* with humans has only been used for young children.

The possessive pronouns are formed by adding the adjective ending *-a* to the personal pronouns: *mia* ‘my’, *ĝia* ‘its’, etc.

The cardinal numbers below one million do not inflect and are combined from the highest to the lowest unit:

52. This last function is rare today (see Wennergren, 2020, Chapter 12.2.5).

53. The use of Esperanto pronouns has recently undergone changes by many speakers who want to avoid sexist language use (see Chapter 25).

Table 5. The cardinal numbers in Esperanto

0 nul	6 ses	1.000 mil
1 unu	7 sep	1.000.000 unu miliono
2 du	8 ok	11 dek unu
3 tri	9 naŭ	28,5 dudek ok komo kvin
4 kvar	10 dek	60.341 sesdek mil tricent kvardek unu
5 kvin	100 cent	

The ordinal numbers are derived from the cardinal numbers by adding the adjectival suffix *-a*: 1st *unua*, 62nd *sesdek-dua*, 7005th *sep-mil-kvina*.⁵⁴

The verbal system of Esperanto can be presented as follows:

Table 6. The verbal system of Esperanto

Function				Suffix	Label
Naming				-i	Infinitive
Mood	Real	Tense	Past	-is	Future
			Present	-as	Present
			Future	-os	Past
	Desire			-u	Volitive
	Irreality			-us	Conditional

Verbs do not change for person or number. Infinitive verbs are marked by *-i*, the imperative (or volitive, used for wishes and commands) by *-u* and the conditional (or irrealis) by *-us*. The tenses have characteristic vowels (*-i-*, *-a-*, *-o-*): the past tense is formed by the suffix *-is*, the present by *-as*, and the future by *-os* (e.g. *mi telefonis* ‘I telephoned’, *mi telefonas* ‘I telephone’, *mi telefonos* ‘I will telephone’).

Analogously, participles, comprising anteriority, contemporality, or posteriority, are formed by adding the elements *-int-*, *-ant-*, *-ont-* (active) and *-it-*, *-at-*, *-ot-* (passive). Compound tenses are formed by *esti* (‘be’) and a participle. They are used to express the passive (e.g. *ĝi estas finita* ‘it has been/is finished’) and slight modal or aspectual nuances (e.g. *la letero estis forsendota* ‘the letter was about to be sent’), but are usually avoided for stylistic reasons: in most contexts a simple *ŝi iris* is sufficient to express both ‘she went’, ‘she was going’, ‘she has gone’, and ‘she had gone’. The polyfunctional endings of the verb (comprising word class, tense, and voice) can be seen as an inflectional trait.

54. See Eichner (2012, pp. 135–137) about this kind of derivation.

At the intersection of grammar and lexicon, there is a closed subsystem of pronominal-adjectival correlatives. Such relations can be found in other languages, too (see Barandovská-Frank, 2009), but in Esperanto they have become more regularised and are therefore often simply called *tabelvortoj* ('tabular words'):

Table 7. The Esperanto system of correlatives (often called *tabelvortoj*)

	Interrogative or relative	Demonstrative/ deictic ^a	Indefinite	Generalising	Negative
Thing	<i>kio</i> 'what'	<i>tio</i> 'that (thing)'	<i>io</i> 'something'	<i>ĉio</i> 'everything'	<i>nenio</i> 'nothing'
Individuality (person, particular thing)	<i>kiu</i> 'who, which (one)'	<i>tiu</i> 'that (one)'	<i>iu</i> 'someone, some (person or thing)'	<i>ĉiu</i> 'every(one), each'	<i>neniu</i> 'no (one)'
Quality	<i>kia</i> 'what a, what kind of'	<i>tia</i> 'such a, of that kind'	<i>ia</i> 'some kind of'	<i>ĉia</i> 'every kind of'	<i>nenia</i> 'no kind of, of no kind'
Possession	<i>kies</i> 'whose'	<i>ties</i> 'that one's'	<i>ies</i> 'someone's'	<i>ĉies</i> 'everyone's'	<i>nenies</i> 'no one's'
Manner	<i>kiel</i> 'how, like, in what way'	<i>tiel</i> 'so, thus, in that way, like that'	<i>iel</i> 'somehow'	<i>ĉiel</i> 'in every way'	<i>neniel</i> 'in no way'
Place	<i>kie</i> 'where'	<i>tie</i> 'there'	<i>ie</i> 'somewhere'	<i>ĉie</i> 'everywhere'	<i>nenie</i> 'nowhere'
Time	<i>kiam</i> 'when'	<i>tiam</i> 'then, at that time'	<i>iam</i> 'at some time'	<i>ĉiam</i> 'always'	<i>neniam</i> 'never'
Reason	<i>kial</i> 'why'	<i>tial</i> 'for that reason, therefore'	<i>ial</i> 'for some reason'	<i>ĉial</i> 'for all reasons, for every reason'	<i>nenial</i> 'for no reason'
Quantity	<i>kiom</i> 'how much/ many, what amount'	<i>tiom</i> 'that much, so many'	<i>iom</i> 'somewhat, some quantity'	<i>ĉiom</i> 'all of it'	<i>neniom</i> 'none, not a bit'

a. The stem *ti-* is deictically neutral, but together with the particle *ĉi* (originally an adverb 'here') it indicates near objects: *tiu libro* 'this/that book' – *tiu ĉi* / *ĉi tiu libro* 'this book (here)'.

The correlatives in rows 1, 2, 3, and 6, ending in *-o*, *-u*, *-a*, and *-e*, can take the accusative ending *-n*. Those in rows 2 and 3, ending in *-u* and *-a*, can take the plural ending *-j*. The correlatives ending in *-u* and *-a* agree in number and case with the noun they qualify.

Word formation

Word formation in Esperanto is highly productive and autonomous, allowing users to build up a large vocabulary after learning only a limited number of linguistic elements. The main types of word formation besides simple conversion with the part-of-speech endings⁵⁵ are compounding (creating head-final determinative compounds, e.g. *bird(-o)-kaĝ-o* ‘bird cage’) and derivation with one or several of about forty very productive affixes⁵⁶ (e.g. *malsanulejo* ‘hospital’, consisting of *mal-* ‘opposite’, *san-* ‘sound, healthy’, *-ul-* ‘person’, *-ej-* ‘place’, so literally a place for ill persons, similar to German *Krankenhaus*). From this it follows that many common expressions are motivated, i.e. understood on the basis of the morphemes that they contain. Nevertheless, many Esperanto word formations are lexicalised, such as *lernejo* (‘place of learning’), which normally refers specifically to a school, not to all places where learning might take place, or *homaro* (*homo* ‘human being’, *-ar-* ‘set, collection’) is not any ‘group of people’, but ‘mankind’.

As regards Esperanto word formation, it is important to know that each root word has an inherent part of speech (noun, adjective/adverb, or verb). To apply Esperanto affixes correctly, one must know the character of the root. For example, *komb-* ‘to comb’ is a verbal root, so the simple derived noun *komb-o* means the act of combing, while the instrument ‘comb’ is *kombilo* (*-il-* ‘instrument’), whereas *bro-* ‘brush’ builds the primary noun *broso* ‘brush’, and the act of brushing is *bro-sado* (*-ad-* ‘action’).⁵⁷

The productivity of Esperanto word formation can be illustrated by an example. Someone who knows the meaning of *amik-o* (‘friend’) and is familiar with the system of affixes should be able to understand and produce the following words:⁵⁸

55. As in many European languages, change of the part of speech can signify more than the syntactical features: it can also add a new meaning, cf. *krono* ‘crown’ → *kroni* ‘to crown’ → *kronado* (*-ad-* ‘action’) ‘coronation’. Because of this the meaning of a verb derived from a noun is not always predictable. Adjectival derivations as well allow for much polysemy, e.g. *silka robo* ‘silk gown’ (material) – *silka ĉapelo* ‘silk hat’ (ornament) – *silka industrio* ‘silk industry’ (relation) – *silka raŭpo* ‘silk worm’ (product), see Blanke (1985, p. 193). In most cases, however, they are disambiguated by the context.

56. Although we use the traditional term here, from a linguistic point of view these elements are not affixes, but affixoids, i.e. they can be used as bases of independent words, e.g. *malo* ‘opposite’, *ulo* ‘person’, *ejo* ‘place’, *ilo* ‘instrument’.

57. See Wennergren (2020, p. 558) and AKTOJ de la AKADEMIO 1963–1967. Oficiala Bulteno de la Akademio de Esperanto – N° 9. II. ENKETO kaj DECIDOJ de la Akademio pri la demando de la Vortfarado en Esperanto: <https://www.akademio-de-esperanto.org/aktoj/aktoj1/vortfarado.html>.

58. For the use of these words in situational contexts see the Esperanto corpus <http://www.tek-staro.com>.

amikeco ‘friendship’

amikino ‘female friend’

amikineto ‘little female friend’

amika ‘friendly’, adjective, e.g. *amikaj rilatoj* ‘friendly relations’

amike ‘as friends’, adverb, often used as a set phrase when closing emails

malamiko ‘enemy’

malamikino ‘female enemy’

geamikoj ‘group of friends of all genders’, often used to address people:

[Dear] friends!

malamikeco ‘hostility’

malamika ‘hostile’

eksamiko ‘former friend’

malamike ‘in a hostile / an unfriendly way’

amikiĝi ‘to become friends’

amikigi ‘pacify’, ‘to cause people to become friends’

reamikigi ‘to cause people to become friends again’

malamikigi ‘to turn into enemies’

amikema ‘making friends easily’

amikeme ‘inclined to make friends’

amikemo ‘inclination to make friends’

malamikiĝi ‘to become enemies’

amikaĵo ‘a favour to a friend’

amikaro ‘circle of friends’

Compounds include *koramiko* ‘boyfriend/girlfriend’ (*koro* = heart), *homamiko* ‘philanthropist’ (*homo* = human being).

In addition to these endonymic word formations, which are described in rule 11 of the *Fundamento* (see Appendix 3), new lexis can be created by adopting international words to which a suffix marking the part of speech is attached, as prescribed by rule 15 of the *Fundamento*. Sometimes motivated endonyms and international exonyms are used in parallel, forming synonyms, as in the case of *malsanulejo* versus *hospitalo*.

Finally, we should note that the language includes phraseological units: translated expressions (e.g. *nigra ŝafo* ‘black sheep’) and original items motivated intrinsically by the history and culture of the Esperanto speech community (e.g. *rondo familia* ‘family circle’, used as a designation for the Esperanto speech community). See Fiedler (1999, 2015d) and Chapter 21 of this book.

Syntax

Linguistically speaking, Esperanto is a mainly head-initial language with nominative-accusative alignment: it uses prepositions only, and determiners are usually found in front of their heads. Adjectives generally precede their heads but can also follow them for special emphasis, as in Zamenhof's coinages *lingvo internacia* and *rondo familia* ('family circle', see above). In Esperanto all the main parts of speech known from European languages appear: nouns, adjectives, derived adverbs, and verbs as open word classes, while pronouns, primitive adverbs, numbers, and particles are closed classes. Agreement is mainly syntactically driven: adjectives agree with nouns, pronouns, and relative clauses, while adverbs agree with all other kinds of words, especially verbs and phrases: *legado estas amuza* 'reading is amusing' – *legi estas amuze* 'to read is amusing'.

The overt marking of most parts of speech and cases allows for a flexible (although not "free") word order (see Jansen, 2007). Nine out of ten sentences in Esperanto display SVO word order; other orders are mostly used to express distinctions of topic, comment, and focus.

The stylistic effects that a change of word order (or inversion) can produce can be illustrated by some of the items that Zamenhof created for his collection of proverbs, *Proverbaro Esperanta* (see Chapter 21).

Textual examples

To help the reader gain further insights into the linguistic system of Esperanto, we present below two specimen texts with interlinear morpheme-by-morpheme glosses. The first is an online book review. The second example represents the first two paragraphs of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

*Ambaŭ libroj estas verkitaj en la stilo de ĵurnalisma raportaĵo, stilo, kiun la profesia ĵurnalisto Kniivilä senteble bone regas: Legante la librojn, oni havas la impreson, ke oni vojaĝas kune kun Kniivilä tra Rusujo kaj Krimeo kaj persone ĉeestas la intervjuojn, kiujn li faras kun diversaj homoj, de simplaj civitanoj ĝis politikaj aktivuloj.*⁵⁹

Both books are authored in the style of a journalistic report, a style the professional journalist Kniivilä masters noticeably well: reading the books one has the impression that one travels along with Kniivilä across Russia and Crimea and that one is personally present at the interviews he does with various people, from ordinary citizens to political activists.

59. <http://www.liberafolio.org/2015/de-putin-al-krimeo-2013-du-legindaj-jurnalismaj-libroj>

Ambaŭ libr-o-j est-as verk-it-a-j en la stil-o de
 Both book-NO⁶⁰-PL to_be-IND.PRS to_author-PST.PTCP.PASS-ADJ-PL In the style-NO of
jurnal-ism-a raport-aĵ-o, stil-o, kiu-n la profesi-a
 journal-(manner)-ADJ to_report-(thing)-NO style-NO which-ACC the profession-ADJ
jurnal-ist-o Kniivilä sent-eb-l-e bon-e reg-as:
 journal-(professional)-NO Kniivilä to_sense-(possible)-ADV good-ADV to_rule-IND.PRS
Leg-ant-e la libr-o-n oni hav-as la
 to_read-PRS.PTCP.ACT-ADV The book-NO-ACC one/they to_have-IND.PRS The
impres-o-n, ke oni vojaĝ-as kun-e kun Kniivilä tra
 impression-NO-ACC That one/they to_travel-IND.PRS with-ADV With Kniivilä through
Rus-uj-o kaj Krime-o kaj person-e ĉe-est-as la
 Russian-(land)-NO And Crimea And person-ADV at-to_be-IND.PRS the
intervju-o-j-n, kiu-j-n li far-as kun divers-a-j hom-o-j,
 interview-NO-PL-ACC which-PL-ACC he to_make-IND.PRS with diverse-ADJ-PL human-NO-PL
de simpl-a-j civit-an-o-j ĝis politik-a-j aktiv-ul-o-j.
 of simple-ADJ-PL citizenry-(member)-NO-PL until politics-ADJ-PL active-(person)-NO-PL

Ĉiuj homoj estas denaskaj kaj egalaj laŭ digno kaj rajtoj. Ili posedas racian kaj konsciencon, kaj devus konduti unu al alia en spirito de frateco.

Ĉiuj rajtoj kaj liberecoj difinitaj en tiu ĉi Deklaracio validas same por ĉiuj homoj, sen kia ajn diferencigo, ĉu laŭ raso, haŭtkoloro, sekso, lingvo, religio, politika aŭ alia opinio, nacia aŭ socia deveno, posedaĵoj, naskiĝo aŭ alia stato. Plie, nenia diferencigo estu farata surbaze de la politika, jurisdikcia aŭ internacia pozicio de la lando aŭ teritorio, al kiu apartenas la koncerna persono, senkonsidere ĉu ĝi estas sendependa, sub kuratoreco, ne-sinreganta aŭ sub kia ajn alia limigo de la suvereneco.⁶¹

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

60. NO = noun; affixes are given in brackets.

61. See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/Language.aspx?LangID=1115> for the Esperanto version and <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html> for the English version.

Ĉiu-j hom-o-j est-as de-nask-e liber-a-j kaj egal-a-j laŭ
 all-PL human-NO-PL to_be-IND.PRS from-bear-ADV free-ADJ-PL and equal-ADJ-PL according
dign-o kaj rajtoj. Ili posed-as raci-o-n kaj
 dignity-NO and right-NO-PL they to_possess-IND.PRS reason-NO-ACC and
konscienc-o-n kaj dev-us kondu-ti unu al la ali-a en spirit-o de
 conscience-NO-ACC and must-IRR to_behave-INF one to the other-ADJ in spirit-NO of
frateco. Ĉiu-j rajt-o-j kaj liber-ec-o-j
 brother-(quality)-NO all-PL right-NO-PL and free-(quality)-NO-PL
difin-it-a-j en tiu ĉi Deklaraci-o valid-as sam-e
 to_define-PST.PTCP.PASS-ADJ-PL in this here declaration-NO be_valid-IND.PRS same-ADV
por ĉiu-j hom-o-j sen kia ajn diferenc-ig-o, ĉu laŭ
 for all-PL human-NO-PL without what_a _ever difference-(make)-NO whether according
ras-o, haŭt-kolor-o, seks-o, lingvo, religio, politik-a aŭ ali-a
 race-NO skin-colour-NO sex-NO language-NO religion-NO politics-ADJ or other-ADJ
opini-o, naci-a aŭ soci-a de-ven-o, posed-aĵ-oj,
 opinion-NO nation-ADJ or society-ADL from-to_come-NO to_possess-(thing)-NO-PL
nask-ig-o aŭ ali-a stat-o. Pli-e nenia
 to_bear_(become)-NO or other-ADJ state-NO more-ADV no_kind_of
diferenc-ig-o est-u far-at-a sur-baz-e de la
 to_distinguish-(make)-NO to_be-IMP to_make-PRS.PTCP.PASS-ADJ on-base-ADV of the
politik-a, jurisdikci-a aŭ inter-naci-a pozici-o de la land-o aŭ
 politics-ADJ jurisdiction-ADJ or between-nation-ADJ position-NO of the land-NO or
teritori-o al kiu aparten-as la koncern-a person-o
 territory-NO to which to_belong-IND.PRS the concerning-ADJ person-NO
sen-konsider-e ĉu ĝi est-as sen-depend-a, sub
 without-to_consider-ADV whether it to_be-IND.PRS without-to_depend-ADJ under
kurator-ec-o, ne-sin-reg-ant-a aŭ sub kia ajn ali-a
 trustee-(quality)-NI not-itself-to_reign-PRS.PTCP.ACT-ADJ or under what_a _ever other-ADJ
lim-ig-o de la suveren-ec-o.
 limit-(make)-NO of the sovereign-(quality)-NO