Prodigal, v2.7.9
Prodigal

*** Appendices (v. v2.7.9)\textsuperscript{1} ***

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\textsuperscript{1}This is a draft, obviously. Please send comments to airfoyle@gmail.com.
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Appendix A

The Sounds of Glish Words

and Names

Throughout the translation, an anonymous human is referred to using third-person plural pronouns as in: “There may be someone who doesn’t like this convention; if so, they are free to write their own translation themselves.” This device of avoiding “he or she,” “his or hers,” “him or her,” and “himself or herself” by using “they” and its possessive, objective, and reflexive variants (the last in either the form “themselves” or “themself,” whichever seems appropriate) is called singular they; see the entry of that title in Wikipedia.
The translation from Glish to English is straightforward most of the time, but tricky issues arise when speakers of Glish and speakers of the language of Earth, *Terrano*, compare notes. When fragments of *Terrano* are expressed as sounds familiar to speakers of Glish in the alphabet of English, one gets written phrases full of “pseudo-words” that would look and sound weird to speakers of all three languages. We resort to this device only when focusing tightly on how the *Terrano* words sound to the Glish speakers. It should be kept in mind that the Glish phonological system may be incapable of expressing *Terrano* sounds exactly. So the Prezghodlings pronounce the name of the language of *Terra* thus: “Tayhanu.” But the *Terranos* have similar difficulties; they pronounce the name “Prezghod” thus: Prezgarrod. (The double r is an h-ish sound; rs are not rolled in *Terrano* the way they would be in Spanish.) The first time or two that a novel phrase in a foreign tongue is heard or spoken, it is rendered in a sans-serif font: Tayhanu or Prezgarrod.

All names and phrases expressed using the the *Terrano* alphabet and phonology are written in italics. The occasional word in a “savage” language such as “Glockish” are rendered with a slanted but non-italic font (e.g., neeg).

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1 Italics are used for emphasis, of course, for poems, prayers, and Sangh’s internal dialogue, and for the names of ships.
Glish names are written using an upright font. The net effect is that we're pretending Glish is English.

The remainder of this appendix is a list of the conventions used to express Glish sounds in the English alphabet. However, unless you are an abject pedant, the sort of person tempted to learn Klingon, feel free to pronounce Glish words in whatever way you find comfortable.

The letter corresponding to our ‘h’ is quite prominent in the orthography of Glish. It denotes a sound consisting of an aspirated glottal stop (IPA $h$). It is never pronounced otherwise unless accompanied by an accent.

A circumflex above the $h$ makes it silent: $\hat{h}$

A grave accent (´) on the letter preceding the $h$ means its pronunciation depends on that letter, which must yield one of the combinations shown in table A.1.

A few more observations:

- Few words start with a vowel in Glish, and its speakers find it hard to pronounce words in other languages that start with vowels. The exceptions are words in which the vowel is followed immediately by

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2In the classic Connecticut accent, from, say, Waterbury, this is the sound of the second “t” in “tighten.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pair</th>
<th>IPA</th>
<th>SAMPA</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>āh</td>
<td>aː</td>
<td>ah</td>
<td>water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ĕh</td>
<td>tf</td>
<td>tS</td>
<td>chain</td>
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<td>ţh</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>ghost</td>
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<td>ōh</td>
<td>ōu</td>
<td>@U</td>
<td>pole</td>
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<td>žh</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>azure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table A.1: Special $xh$ pairs, with IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) and SAMPA equivalents, and an example of a similar sound in English
a liquid (‘l’ or ‘r’), such as “Allaţi” and “Ertî”, or by a glottal ‘h’ (“OhMañan”). Otherwise, when a Prezghodling tries to say the word they insert the sounds “dh” before the vowel.

- The letter ‘u’ is always pronounced short and unstressed, unless it is doubled: ‘uu’. Exception: At the end of a word, a single ’u’ is long and unstressed.

- The letter ‘o’ is similar, but ‘oo’ is pronounced as a long ‘u’ while holding the lips in an ‘o’ position: υ (IPA symbol).

- The sequence ‘nw’ is a crude attempt to render the letter whose name is pronounced ‘unh’, which somewhat resembles a Latin ‘n’ and ‘w’ mashed together. It indicates that the previous vowel or vowel group is to be nasalized. It is not otherwise pronounced, and does not sound like an ‘n’ or a ‘w’.

- All other letters sound pretty much as in English. In particular, an ‘e’ at the end of a word is often silent, and used purely to lengthen the sound of the vowel in the last syllable.

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4Speech Assessment Methods Phonetic Alphabet, a subset of IPA using only ASCII characters.

A Glossary of Glish and Terrano words
Appendix B

Glossary of Glish and Terrano words

B.1 Glish

/: brosya:] Porridge, flavored with spice native to Prezghod.

/: harmonica:] A row of tubes of semisolid space rations.

/: khobok:] Clown. Peasant.

/: kippen:] A native plant on Prezghod; the stalk of this plant, especially dried.

/: nucky:] Dicey
/: phook:] Fuck, but only in some metaphorical sense, not literally copulate

/: P-hours:] One twenty-fourth of a day on Prezghod. Days aboard ship are calibrated to the home planet, for want of any other standard.

/: shizzle:] Thin diarrhea (vulgar)

/: sinjing na krue:] From some conquered tribe in Bigwun, a phrase whose meaning may be triangulated somewhere in the region “singing the blues,” “blowing smoke,” “improvising.”

**sklad:** A group of about 10 soldiers in the Prezghod armed forces. (A platoon is made up of 5 sklds.)

/: vhatta:] Title for commander of ship who also serves as priest, spiritual advisor, and confessor for the crew.

/: virchee:] Word coined by translator as translation of Terrnao novirtual

### B.2 Terrano

/: novirtual:] (Portmanteau word from NO*V*ela vIR*T*UAL. Plural: *novirtu*-  
ais. Glish equivalent: *virchee.*) Story told in virtual reality, meaning viewers can move to new vantage points within a scene.
/: Bloco:] (Glish speakers’ pronunciation: Blocku.) A robotic person, intelligent and conscious, and required by law to be humanoid. (The word for “robot” is offensive if applied to a Bloco.) Literal meaning: block (as of cheese, or of the supersemiconductor material used inside Blockus for high-density computing).

/: Molho:] (Glish speakers’ pronunciation: Molyu.) A biological person.

Literal meaning: sauce, after all the wet stuff inside a Molyu.