



Rainworld Datasheet

Languages

Interstellar Commonweal

It's a fact of life that all the worlds of the IC tend, over time, to develop unique local tongues. Rainworld is no exception, although the local language has no official name yet, on or off the planet. It's still at a stage where it's recognisably a patois derived from the IC's official languages:

- ▶ Standard Sinic
- ▶ Standard Anglic
- ▶ Neosperanto
- ▶ Commonweal Standard Sign Language

These languages are descendants of Old Earth languages, which underwent natural diversification and drift over the long course of galactic settlement, and have then been partially reconstructed and re-standardised as part of the Commonweal's project of bureaucratically engineered pan-human unity.

Which languages have and haven't received such official treatment is, of course, the outcome of complex and highly political choices.

Ganzfeld

Among those reconstructed tongues passed by for official recognition, Standard Scandic has nonetheless kept a foothold as a similarly widespread and yet standardised one. Feldspar was a majority Scandic-speaking world at the time of the Ganzfelds' origin; like many aspects of their culture, they fiercely ensure its preservation.

Anywhere with a substantial Ganzfeld presence is likely to have a language school among its Feldspar-subsidised amenities. Traditionalist Ganzfelds away from the homeworld raise their children at least bilingual: whatever the locally pervasive language is, and Scandic.

Feldsparian Scandic has two orthographies, one of which almost exclusively appears in their traditional tattooing style, descended from the original penal colonists' inkwork. On minority-Ganzfeld worlds, this may also be useful for passing covert written messages.

Urow

The Urow speak a multiplicity of languages of their own, many of which are not readily interoperable with humans because they rely on vocalisations below the human frequency perception range.

Urow subsonics are a core feature of the throat-singing practised by all Urow cultures and peoples. There are formal, spiritual, and recreational songs, for a single or multiple singers. A widespread traditional form is a close-harmony five-part song, often sung in rounds. All Urow throat-songs feature the Wrue ("Thread"), a rhythmic drone generated low in the throat; its centrality makes the Wrue part of group songs an honoured role, with a number of cultural positions and rituals surrounding it and the selection of the Wrue-singer.

Homunculooids

The Homunculooid Order Code is a rapid & efficient barcode system for conveying textual instructions to Homunculooids, whose culture has a love-hate relationship with it; it's one of the many impositions of their synthetic construction, oriented around their overlords' desire to effectively and undeniably order them.

Both playful uses and violent defacements of HO-Codes frequently feature in homunculooid visual art. Spray-stencilled HO-Coded poetry deniably marks Jailbreaker hangouts.

Malformed Codes appear in homunculooid graffiti, too fragmentary for a positive read by technology but sufficiently suggestive to the homunculooid brain; skilfully done, they may not be apparent to human observers at all.