Empires Metropolis Starship Living Saga

Primer & Guide to Language Structure
within the Living Starship stories

Note from the Author:
When I decided to un-gender my science fiction series (Living Starship) I realized there was an opportunity to depict a society that had moved past the notion of gendering. Clothing, behavior, romantic involvement - none of the gendered concepts we, as humans, utilize in our personal interactions with people are at play in this fictional galaxy.

So, obviously, the language used to tell these stories has to reflect that. These are not stories where one or two characters operate outside the gender binary, there is not just one species of people described herein that have an "alternative gender structure". The ENTIRE civilization, every single character, every single species, every single culture has evolved beyond the notion.
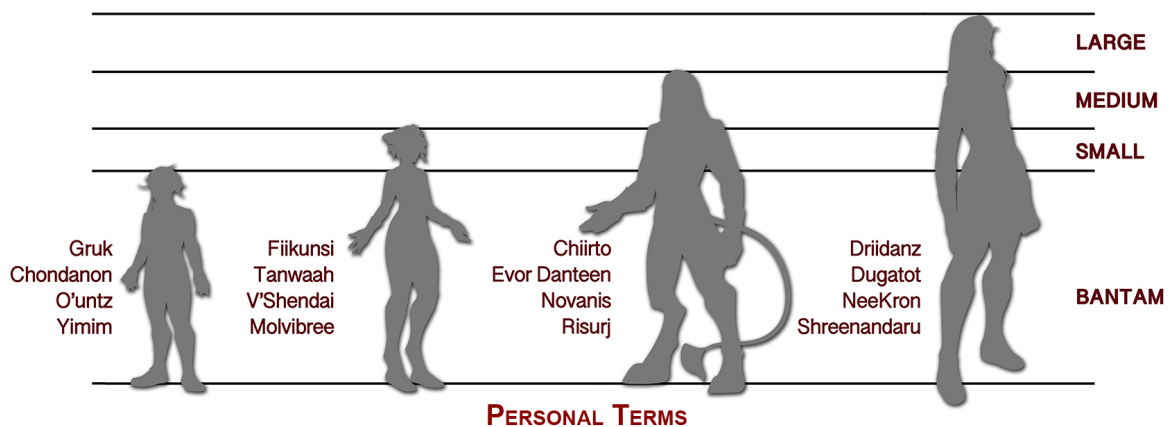
I have chosen to utilize **THEY** • **THEIR** • **THEM** as the exclusive singular pronouns.
   With what had been given to them, they needed three things from the store before meeting up with their friends at the theater.

I have chosen to utilize **THEYZ** • **THEIRZ** • **THEMZ** as the exclusive plural pronouns.
   Theyz all had more than theirz fill of the berry juice. Whoever had given it to themz was cruel.

For those with a classical sense of English grammar, some of the subject-verb agreements are going to ring weirdly in your mind's ear, but trust me, you'll acclimate.

LARGE
MEDIUM
SMALL
BANTAM

Gruk
Chondanon
O'untz
Yimim

Fiikunsi
Tanwaah
V'Shendai
Molvibree

Chiirto
Evor Danteen
Novanis
Risurj

Driidanz
Dugatot
NeeKron
Shreenandaru

Personal Terms

Genome or **Species** is the term used in place of *RACE*
Hominid(s)/Hominidity is the term used in place of *HUMAN(s)/HUMANITY*
Culture or **Ethicity** are terms referring to groups of people sharing common lifestyle or background

Reproductive Anatomy
Insem: has only a penis (derived from *inseminator*)
Jestat: has only a uterus/vagina (derived from *gestator*)
Amalgron: has both Jestat & Insem parts (derived from *amalgamation*)
Androjin: has neither Jestat nor Insem parts (derived from *androgynous*)

Physical Anatomy
Ungulate: evolved from gazelles • have 3 fingers + thumb, hooves, reverse-articulated legs
Primate: evolved from monkeys • have 4 fingers + thumb, toed feet, forward-articulated legs
Agregate: has qualities of both Ungulates & Primates
Quadragon: 4 fingers • hooves and/or reverse-articulated legs
Tripagon: 3 fingers • toed feet and/or forward-articulated legs

New Alphabet for Proper Names
utilizing a customized phonetic version of English

Note from the Author:
My meager attempt at codifying the English language, at least in part, is to develop a set of rules for names of people and places. To that end I have structured a new alphabet. Every letter or letter group (such as double vowels) in this 33-count alphabet has one, and ONLY ONE, pronunciation - without exception.

That means I have done away with the letter "C" as the letters "K" and "S" cover the two sounds the letter "C" produces. Gone also is the letter "X" as the letter "Z" or the combination of "K+S" (as in marks/marx) cover those bases.

a {short vowel as in cat or black}

aa {long vowel as in stray}

b {as in boy}

ch {as in chedder}

d {as in dog}

e {short vowel as in bet}

ee {long vowel as in geek}

f {as in funk}

g {as in gap}

h {as in hope}

i {short a vowel as in spit}

ii {long vowel as in hide}

j {as in jacket}

k {as in keep}

l {as in lamp}

m {as in market}

n {as in never}

o {short vowel as in hot}

oo {long vowel as in hello}

oi {as in toy or hoist}

p {as in pepper}

r {as in riddle}

s {as in sacred}

sh {as in sheep}

t {as in tumble}

th {as in thick}

ü {as in book or wolf}

u {short vowel as in but}

uu {long vowel as in ooze}

v {as in victory}

w {as in wet}

y {as in yes, sounds like "yuh"}

z {as in zipper}

Other Linguistic Practices

Additional Capital Letters

The use of "camel case" capitalization is something I'm experiments with in Living Starship. Coders already use this in computer programming and it has even leaked into common language usage - *iPhone*, *eCommerce*, *PowerPoint*.

For the most part, I use it to highlight a new-constructed word made from either two entire words or two or more word segments. Sometimes these represent the Fleet's propensity to abbreviate terms, but it might also be reflective of words that have gained common usage across the galaxy.

For example: gravity sled become gravSled; data calculators (personal computer devices/interfaces) are called dataCalcs; simulated diversions (i.e. holographic movies/books) are simDivs.

Apostrophe Usage

One element that is still somewhat in flux is my use of apostrophes, especially in proper names of people, species and places.

My current thinking (as of Feb 2022) is that it often denote accent/stress for the following syllable as in M'Hatz Kee (pronounce *muh • HATZ • key* with the accented syllable being HATZ).

There might still be a few words where I was simply using it as a syllabic separator, but I have tried to tidy all that up.