From Elvish to Klingon: Exploring Invented Languages

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From the Elvish language Tolkien invented for denizens of Middle Earth to the science fiction lingo spoken by the Klingons in *Star Trek*, writers have always endeavored to create new forms of expression, not only in the English language, but in languages that exist only in their own imaginations.

Now, in *From Elvish to Klingon: Exploring Invented Languages*, a group of leading linguists offers a lively investigation of all manner of invented languages. Each chapter focuses on a different language, or group of languages, and explores the origins, purpose, and usage of these curious artifacts of culture. We learn about the new languages invented to enhance the experience of video and online games, from the complexities of Gargish, the language of gargoyles in *Ultima VI*, to Simlish, the emotionally expressive language of *The Sims*, and 1334, the entirely exclusionary and satirical language of international gamers. We also learn about the futuristic languages, Newspeak and Nadsat, invented by George Orwell and Anthony Burgess in their dystopian novels *1984* and *A Clockwork Orange*, and many more. The book explores all aspects of invented languages--their unique grammar, vocabulary, and usage--and includes fascinating analysis of sample dialogues and expressions. Written by experts in their fields, chapters cover such topics as International Auxiliary Languages, Invented Vocabularies, Literary "Nonsense", and Language Reconstruction and Renewal. It's all "maj" (good) as the Klingons would say, or "doubleplusgood," as a "duckspeaker" in Orwell's *1984* might observe.

For anyone wanting to understand more fully the intricacies and attractions of invented languages, *From Elvish to Klingon* offers the most thorough study of the subject available today.

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