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**AN APPROACH TO THE ASTURIAN
LANGUAGE**

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1. INTRODUCTION

What is Asturian?

Asturian is a Romance language derived from Latin. It is spoken nowadays in the Princedom of Asturias, in Spain. Asturian belongs to a wider linguistic group called Asturian-Leonese, which was the language of the ancient kingdom of León. Its greatest expansion in the XIth century occupied today's Spanish provinces of Asturias, León, Zamora, Salamanca, the western half of Cáceres and Badajoz, the Portuguese region of Miranda do Douro and the eastern bank of Cantabria. Asturian-Leonese never had a unified linguistic standard and several dialects were spoken all over this area. Today Castillian (or Spanish) has almost extinguished all these dialects except two: Asturian and Mirandese (the Asturian-Leonese variant spoken in the Northeast of Portugal).

From all these dialects only Asturian has had an outstanding literature. Since the XVI century there is an Asturian literature. Today some important young authors are making a modern and excellent literature. Some independent publishing houses edit a dozen titles every year.

The Asturian spelling system is questions not still solved. The alphabet is Spanish-based though some peculiar features can be found, such as the apostrophe. The language is more or less standardised by the **Academia de la Llingua Asturiana** (Asturian Language Academy), which recently gave birth to the expected *Gramática de la llingua asturiana* (May 1998).

On the other hand, Mirandese is following a similar process, though in this case Portuguese scholars survey the normalisation of this co-dialect. Here a spelling handbook has recently being prepared, too. As a matter of fact the spelling system of Mirandese is Portuguese-based.

How to read Asturian: the writing system

If you are familiarised with Castillian Spanish, you'll have no problem to read Asturian texts. Anyway, the Asturian alphabet is:

- a** it sounds as in Spanish.
- b** it sounds as in Spanish.
- c** it sounds as in Spanish, i.e. as /k/ before /a/, /o/, /u/ or a consonant and as Spanish *zeta* before /e/, /i/. It is possible to find it combined with <h>, so it is <ch> which sounds /ç/, as in English "chest" or Italian "cento".
- d** it sounds as in Spanish.
- e** it sounds as in Spanish.
- f** it sounds as in Spanish.
- g** it sounds as in Spanish before /a/, /o/ /u/ and another consonant. If you want to spell /ge/, /gi/ then it must be written <gue>, <gui>. For /gwe/, /gwi/ the spelling is <güe>, <güi>.
- h** it does not sound.
- i** it sounds as in Spanish.
- l** it sounds as in Spanish. It may appear duplicated <ll>; in such cases it sounds

	/j/.
m	it sounds as in Spanish.
n	it sounds as in Spanish.
ñ	it sounds as in Spanish, i.e., as <gn> of French “gagner” or Italian “ogni”.
o	it sounds as in Spanish.
p	it sounds as in Spanish.
q	it sounds as in Spanish. It is always in the <que>, <qui> series to spell /ke/, /ki/.
r	it sounds as in Spanish, even <rr>.
s	it sounds as in Spanish.
t	it sounds as in Spanish.
v	it sounds as in Spanish, i.e., /b/, so there’s no difference between and <v>.
x	it has two values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /s/ in classical words: <i>sexu</i>, <i>existir</i>. Most authors write simply /s/ here. • As in English “sh”, in <i>xente</i>, <i>xornada</i>, etc.
y	it only has a consonantal value: /y/. As a vowel it is used in two cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with co-ordinated conjunction y (=and), sometimes ya. • with the dative personal pronoun –y (plural –yos) which is always joined to the previous word.
z	it sounds as in Spanish, i.e., with /a/, /o/, /u/ or at the end of a syllable or word.

The accent rules are the same as in Spanish. These are some typical cases of dia-critic accent:

pa (preposition, =for)	pá (=father, also padre)
tan (conj. =so)	tán (3PP pr. ind. =they are)
ente (=between, among)	énte (before, in front of, ahead)
tres (=after, along)	trés (=three)
pues (conj. =so, then)	pués (verb poder =can)
el (article)	él (personal pronoun)
un (article)	ún (personal pronoun)

Demonstratives are accented when used as pronouns, except neuters *esto*, *eso*, *aquello* which are never accented. Interrogative pronouns are always accented in direct and indirect questions.

The apostrophe is used to mark the dropping of a vowel. Some words can be apostrophed:

- Singular definite articles before and after a noun or verb: **l’animal**, **l’otru día**, **l’alborada**; **canta’l gallu**.
- Some prepositions: **de > d’**; **en > n’**. The preposition **pa** is apostrophed when the next word begins by a-, but this feature is stylistically condemnable.
- Unstressed personal pronouns **me**, **te**, **se**: **Ya m’anunciaron que...** (=I’ve announced that...)
- Conjunction **que**: **Hai qu’apurase** (=it is necessary to hurry up).

Anyway Asturian spelling suffers from an excess of apostrophes, which often makes its writing and reading too much difficult.

2. MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES

Gender

Asturian is the only western Romance language that possesses three genders: masculine, feminine and neuter.

1. *Masculine nouns* usually end by **-u** and sometimes by **-e** or consonant. Most of them coincide with Spanish: **el tiempu** (=the time and the weather), **l'home** (=the man), **el pantalón** (=the trousers), **el xeitu** (=the way, the mode), etc.
2. *Feminine names* usually end by **-a**, but not always: **la casa** (=the house), **la xente** (=the people), **la nueche** (=the night).
3. *Neuters names* can have any ending in the nouns. In fact, Asturian neuters are of three kinds:
 - *Masculine neuters*: they have a masculine form and take a masculine article: **el fierro vieyo** (=old iron).
 - *Feminine neuters*: they have a feminine form and take a feminine article: **la lleche frío**.
 - *Pure neuters*: they are not nouns but nominal groups with and adjective and neuters pronouns: **lo guapo d'esti asuntu ye...** (=the interesting [thing] of this issue is...)

Neuter is marked specially in the adjective. So most adjectives have three endings: **-u** (masc.), **-a** (fem.) and **-o** (neuter), which are respectively:

El vasu ta frío (=The glass is cold)
Tengo la mano fría (=My hand is cold)
L'agua ta frío (=Water is cold)

The use of neuter is rather complex in Asturian; anyway neuters nouns have no plural (except in some cases, where they are taken metaphorically, in which case they lose this gender, such as in *les agües tán fríes* (=Waters are cold) or when you want to concretise an abstract noun: *Tien el pelo roxo* (=his hair is red) is neuter but *Tien un pelu roxu* (=He's got a red hair) is masculine. By the way, look at the change of ending in the noun). Neuters nouns refer to abstract, collective and uncountable nouns. There are some cases in which the gender of the Asturian word is different from the Spanish one. Let's see some examples:

Spanish	Asturian	English
la labor	el llabor	task
la sangre	el sangre	blood
el fin	la fin	end
el color	la color	colour
el calor	la calor	heat
el puente	la ponte	bridge

Singular and plural

The formation of plural is not simple at all. It is formed according to the following schedule:

TYPE SINGULAR PLURAL REMARKS

- Masculine nouns ending by **-u** > **-os**: **almariu** > **almarios**
- Feminine nouns ending by **-a** > **-es**: **vaca** > **vaques**
- Masculine or feminine nouns ending by consonant: nothing > **-es**: **animal** > **animales**; **xabón** > **xabones**
- Words ending in **-z** may take **-os** in masculine in order to distinguish the masculine plural from the feminine one: **rapaz** > **rapazos**; **rapaza** > **rapaces**.
- Masculine nouns ending by **-ín** > **-inos**: **camín** > **caminos**. In this case the etymological vowel is re-established.
- Feminine nouns ending by **-á, -ada, -ú** > **-aes / -úes** where the original etymological vowel is re-established: **ciudá** > **ciudaes**; **cansada** > **cansaes**; **virtú** > **virtúes**.

The meaning of the former Asturian words is: **almariu** (=wardrobe), **vaca** (=cow), **xabón** (=soap), **animal** (=animal), **rapaz** (=boy), **rapaza** (=girl), **camín** (=way, path), **ciudá** (=city), **cansada** (=tired, fem.), **virtú** (=virtue).

Definite article

Its forms are:

	singular			plural	
	masc.	fem.	neut.	masc.	fem.
Before cons.	el	la	lo	los	les
Before vow.	l'	la/l' *			

Remarks:

*Only before words beginning by **a-**: **l'arma**, **l'alma**, but **la entrada**, **la idea**.

It must be noted that masculine singular article **el** may be omitted when preposition **en** precedes it:

Metió les ferramientes en coche (=he/she put the tools in the car)

Dexemos la ropa n'almariu (=we left the clothes in the wardrobe)

Indefinite article

Its forms are:

singular		plural	
masc.	fem.	masc.	fem.
un	una	unos	unes

For the plural is rather usual to find **dellos, delles** (see further 'quantifiers'):

Había unes / delles caxes enriba la mesa (=There were some boxes on the table)

Possessives

Possessives have both a weak (unstressed) and a strong (stressed) form. The first one is used as a qualifier, while the second one is used as a pronoun.

The unstressed forms are:

	singular	plural
One possessor*		
1 PS	mio	mios
2 PS	to	tos
3PS	so	sos
Several possessors**		
1 PP	nuesu -a -o nuestru -a -o	nuesos -es nuestrós -es
2 PP	vuesu -a -o vuestru -a -o	vuesos -es vuestrós -es
3 PP	so	sos

Remarks:

* they only admit a plural form but not a gender ones.

** they admit all the variations of gender and number in the 1PP and 2PP; 3PP work as singular forms.

Possessives are preceded by the determined article, which must keep the agreement in gender and number with the noun. Examples:

La mio casa ye nueva (=My house is new)
Les mios cases son nueves (=My houses are new)

When referred to family names, the article is mostly omitted:

Mio padre trabaya na fábrica y mio madre trabaya en colexu (=My father works at the factory and my mother works at school)

Stressed pronouns are used only as pronouns, usually preceded by the definite article. In this case they must agree with the noun they refer to (even if it's neuter). In case such a noun doesn't exist or it is related to a situation, then neuter forms will be used. In this case these forms admit all the endings. Its forms are:

	singular	plural
One possessor*		
1 PS	míu -a -o	míos -es
2 PS	tuyu -a -o	tuyos -s
3PS	suyu -a -o	suyos -es
Several possessors**		
1 PP	nuesu -a -o nuestru -a -o	nuesos -es nuestrós -es
2 PP	vuesu -a -o vuestru -a -o	vuesos -es vuestru -es
3 PP	suyu -a -o	suyos -es

Examples:

Esi galanu ye suyu (=masculine: that toy is his/hers)
Esa caxa ye tuya (=feminine: that box is yours)
Esa fariña ye nueso (neuter: that flour is ours)

Together with these stressed forms it is very usual to use another construction: it is used with preposition de plus unstressed forms mio, to, so, nueso, vueso, so (i.e., in neuter):

Esi galanu ye de so
Esa caxa ye de to
Esa fariña ye de nueso

Demonstratives

Asturian keeps three degrees of demonstratives which are related to the first, second and third persons of personal pronouns. They can be used both as determiners and as pronouns (the only difference is that in the first case they are unstressed and in the second one they are stresses; apart from that, pronouns are accented, except esto, eso, aquello, i.e., the neuters forms which are always pronouns).

singular			plural	
masc.	fem.	neut.	masc.	fem.
esti	esta	esto	estos	estes
esi	esa	eso	esos	eses
aquel	aquella	aquello	aquellos	aquelles

Aquel may take the form **aquelli** when used as pronoun. They usually precede the noun they go with: *esti rapaz ye mio hermanu* (=This boy is my brother), but it is also possible to place it after the noun, in which case the definite article is required:

el neñu esti ye mio hermanu

Demonstratives may go with a relative pronoun:

esa que ta ehí ye la mio ciudá (=That one over there is my city)

Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns have stressed and unstressed forms. The first ones are of two kinds: subject pronouns and object pronouns, but always preceded by a preposition. The unstressed pronouns are always used as object pronouns (OD and OI).

PERSON	SUBJECT	OBJECT WITH PREP.	OBJECT	REFLEXIVE
1 PS	yo	min, conmigo	me	me
2 PS	tu	ti, contigo	te	te
3 PS m.	él, elli	él, elli	lu (OD), -y (OI)	se
3 PS f.	ella	ella	la (OD), -y (OI)	se
3 PS n.	ello	ello	lo	se
1 PP	nós	nós	nos	nos
2 PP	vós	vós	vos	vos
3 PP m.	ellos	ellos	los (OD), -yos (OI)	se
3 PP f.	elles	elles	les (OD), -yos (OI)	se

The pronouns **nós**, **vós** may also appear as **nosotros -es**; **vosotros -es** when referred to inclusive persons; i.e. when they speaker wants to remark that these persons are a closed cluster or group.

The courtesy person is **vusté** (pl. **vustés**), which uses the paradigm of the third person.

Unstressed third person pronouns are used not only when they substitute a noun, but also when the nominal group they are referred to is placed at the beginning of the sentence (this use is also common in Spanish and Galician): **Dieron sidra a tola xente** (=all the people were given cidre), but: **A la xente dieron-y sidra**. Another example: **Fixeron la casa nueva a la vera de la carretera** (=a new house was built (made) by the road), but: **La casa nueva fixéronla a la vera de la carretera**.

Subject pronouns are mostly omitted because the verb indicates which person it is referred to. If they are put in the sentence, they express emphasis, as in most romance languages.

Pronoun **se** expresses impersonal subject. These sentences are used when the subject is not important (it is equivalent to the medial voice in ancient languages and it is often translated by the passive voice in English):

Equí fállase inglés, francés y alemán (=English, French and German are spoken here)

These impersonal sentences are also possible with the third person plural, where the subject is omitted (ellos, elles) and it doesn't matter to find out who performs the action:

Venden llibros vieyos a bon preciu (=Old books are sold at a good price)

Unstressed personal pronouns maintain a very ancient placing before or after the verb in Asturian. Their rules are:

1. They go after the verb:
 - 1.1. At the beginning of a sentence: **Merquélos na tienda** (=I bought them at the shop)
 - 1.2. With the imperative tense: **Daime lo que nun queráis** (=give me what you don't want)
 - 1.3. In periphrases and compound tenses, the pronoun may be placed after the past participle: **Tengo vistolo** (=I've seen it) or **téngolo visto**.
2. They go before the verb:
 - 2.1. In subordinated clauses: **Espero que me lo digas** (=I hope you say it to me)
 - 2.2. After certain conjunctions and adverbs: **Nun se vieron** (=they didn't see one another); **Yá te lo dixi** (=I've already told you); **Si nos acompañes, verás un sitiü perguapu** (=if you come with us, you'll see a very nice place)
 - 2.3. With the infinitive it may be before it if there are **que**, **nun** or **si**: **Tenéis que lo facer** (=you must do it); **Nun sé si me lo traerán** (=I don't know whether they'll bring it to me).

The order of unstressed pronouns is always: first OI pronoun and then OD pronoun: **Voi da-ylo** (=I'm going to give it to him). All infinitives drop their /r/ when any pronoun joins it: **escribir > escribilo, escribinos, escribí-y**, etc.

Orthographically pronouns **-y** and **-yos** are always written with an hyphen and joined to the former word, whatever it may be.

Comparison of adjectives

Comparative of superiority is formed: **más... que**; comparative of equality: **tan... como** (when used with nouns **tantu / tanta / tanto ... como: tengo tanto dineru como tu**); comparative of inferiority: **menos... que: Elli ye más altu que tu**.

Absolute superlative follow the same rules but the definite article must be placed before the comparative particles:

Elli ye'l más altu de la clas

Relative superlative is formed by placing such adverbs as **mui, bien** before the adjective. It is also possible to use prefix **per-**:

Ye perinteresante
Ye mui interesante
Ye interesante

The ending **-ísimu, -a, -o, -os, -es** is also possible: **Mio padre ta ocupadísimu** (=He's really busy).

Quantifiers

Quantifiers may be variable or invariable. Some of them may work as either pronouns or as adjectives, some are only adjectives and some are only adjectives. The list of them is as follows:

Algún, alguna, algunos, algunas (Pronoun and adjective):

- Some, several. **Atopé algunos amigos na cai** (=I met some friends on the street). It also presents the variant **dalgún -a -os -es**.

Nengún, nenguna, nengunos, nengunes (Pronoun and adjective):

- Any (negative), no: **Nengún d'ellos nun lo sabía** (=None of them knew it)

Ún, una, unos, unes (Pronoun):

- One. **¿Mercaste camises? Sí, merqué una** (=Did you buy any shirts? Yes, I bought one)

Dél, della, dello, dellos, delles (pronoun and adjective):

- Some, several; a little, a few. **Quiero della lleche** (= I want some / a little milk)

Daqué or **(d)algo** (pronoun):

- Something. **Quiero ver daqué na tele** (=I want to watch something on TV)

Nada (pronoun):

- Anything (negative), nothing. **Nun nos traxeron nada** (=they didn't bring anything to us). **Nun veo nada** (=I see nothing). In this case other pronouns may be used: **cosa, gota, un res**.

Daquién or **(d)alguién** (pronoun):

- Somebody. **¿Hai daquién?** (=Is there somebody?)

Otru, -a, -o, -os, -es (pronoun and adjective):

- Other, another. **A la fin, lleí otu llibru** (=At the end I read another book)

Cada (adjective):

- Each, every. **Vémonos cada selmana** (=We see one another every week)

Varios, -es (pronoun and adjective):

- Some, several. **Toi lliendo varios llibros al mesmu tiempu** (=I'm reading some books at the same time)

Tou, -a, -os, -es (pronoun and adjective):

- All. **Vienen equí tolos díes** (=They come here all days)

Munchu, -a, -o, -os, -es (pronoun and adjective):

- Much, many. **Tengo munchu tiempu** (=I've got much time)

Pocu, -a, -os, poques (pronoun and adjective):

- Little, few. **Tengo pocu tiempu** (=I have little time)

Cualquier (adjective):

- Any (affirmative). **Vendrá cualquier día** (=He'll come any day)

Quienquiera (pronoun):

- Whoever, anybody. **Que lo faiga quienquiera** (=it can be done by anybody)

Some remarks must be added about the use of some of these quantifiers:

- Asturian doesn't use **un otu**, as Spanish doesn't either, in constructions as Catalan **un altre** or French **un autre**. In this case, only **otru** can be found: **Si nun quies esi periódicu, dame otu** (=If you don't want that newspaper, give me another one).

- **Varios**, **-es** is only used in plural.
- **Tou** is contracted to the article forming one word: **tol, tola, tolos, toles: toles selmanes** (=all the weeks, every week)
- **Poques** is just an orthographic change; it's not irregular.
- **Cualquier** may be a pronoun, but in that case it takes another form: **cualquiera**: **Qué traxe pongo? Pon cualquiera** (=what shall I put on? Put on anyone). Also possible **cualquiera que** (=whichever, whoever). There's a compound form in **qualquier cosa** (=whatever).
- **Quienquiera** is rather rare. Most of the times is substituted by **cualquiera**.

Numerals

Cardinal numbers are:

1	Un, unu; una
2	Dos
3	Tres
4	Cuatro
5	Cinco
6	Seis
7	Siete
8	Ocho
9	Nueve
10	Diez
11	Once
12	Doce (dolce)
13	Trece (trece)
14	Catorce
15	Quince
16	Deciséis
17	Decisiete
18	Deciocho
19	Decinueve
20	Venti
21	Ventiún, ventiuna
22	Ventidós
23	Ventitrés
30	Trenta
31	Trenta y un, una
32	Trenta y dos
40	Cuarenta
50	Cincuenta
60	Sesenta
70	Setenta
80	Ochenta
90	Noventa

100	Cien
200	Doscientos,-es
300	Trescientos,-es
400	Cuatrocientos,-es
500	Quinientos,-es; cincocientos,-es
600	Seiscientos,-es
700	Setecientos,-es
800	Ochocientos,-es
900	Novcientos,-es
1.000	Mil
2.000	Dos mil
3.000	Tres mil
1.000.000	Un millón

Ordinal numbers are rarely used. The most common forms are from 1st to 10th. After that, cardinal numbers are used instead. They take all endings of gender and number, though here we just give the masculine and feminine of singular.

1	Primer,-a (if pronoun masculine form is primeru and neuter form is primero)
2	Segundu,-a
3	Tercer,-a (the same case as primeru)
4	Cuartu,-a
5	Quintu,-a
6	Sextu,-a
7	Sétimu,-a
8	Octavu,-a
9	Novenu,-a
10	Décimu,-a

As for the rest: **El Papa Xuan xxiii** (=El Papa Xuan **Ventitrés**: Pope John XXIIIth).

Other numerals are:

Metada ~ metá: half
Doble: double
Triple: third part
Cuartu: forth part
Quintu: fifth part
Mediu, -a: half
Decena: ten
Docena: dozen

Interrogative and relative pronouns

Most of the relative pronouns are also interrogative. Some of them may take endings but other are invariable:

Relative pronouns are

- **que**: who, which, that. It may take an article or a demonstrative: **esa mujer ye la que me dio esto** (=that woman is who (the one who) gave that to me)
- **quien**: who, only with people, especially in indirect questions
- **el cualu, la cuala, lo cualu, los cuales, les cuales**: which, who, especially in explicative sentences

Relative pronouns may be preceded by prepositions: **el sitio a que / al cual vas** (=the place to which/ where you go). Notice that Asturian doesn't use Spanish and Portuguese pronoun **cuyo**.

Interrogative pronouns may work as relatives especially in indirect questions. Their forms are:

- **¿qué?**: what?
- **¿quién?**: who?
- **¿cuál?**: (with variations of gender and number: **cuála, cuálus, cuáles**) which one(s)?
- **¿cómo?**: how, what like?
- **¿ónde?**: where?
- **¿ulu,-a...?**: where is he/she/it?
- **¿cuándo?**: when?
- **¿cuántu, -a, -o...?**: how much, how many?

They also may be preceded by a preposition.

Verbs

Verbs are the richest element of the Asturian language as it usually happens in Romance languages. It would be impossible to give a full account of all its shades, so we will show an overview of the paradigms and other elements.

Generalities:

1. Tenses: Tenses are mainly three: present, past and future. Asturian keeps pluperfect as a single form together with Galician.

2. Aspects: Aspect is, as in all romance languages, perfective (i.e. fulfilled action) and imperfective (i.e., unfulfilled action). The perfective aspect corresponds to all present and future tenses plus the imperfect. The rest of tenses are preterit and pluperfect; compound tenses must be included here, too.

3. Compound tenses: They have a very scarce use. Asturian clearly prefers simple tenses. Take notice of this equivalence between Spanish and Asturian:

ASTURIAN	SPANISH
canté	canté
	he cantado
tengo cantao	tengo cantado

Forms like tengo cantao are used to express an action which began and may be repeated in the present or in the future, so Asturian doesn't distinguish, as Spanish does, between something happened in the past whose score has completely ended (simple past) or whose score may reach the present moment (present perfect). Spanish does distinguish he cantado (past action reaching the present) and tengo cantado (it adds a certain idea of iterative action coming from the past which will probably appear again). This last use is also known by Asturian.

4. Mode: Indicative, subjunctive, imperative and conditional, as in all Romance languages with no aspect about it to be remarked.

5. Non-personal forms: they are infinitive, gerund and (past) participle. They perform the same habitual functions of these special forms as in other Romance languages. The infinitive may work as a substantive, the gerund as an ad-verb and the participle as an adjective (as a verb it is used in periphrases and in compound tenses and just the neuter form is correct: falao, bebío, partío); when adjective it takes the five endings of all adjectives: **faláu, falada, falao, falaos, falaes; bebíu, bebía, bebío, bebíos, bebies; partíu partía, partío, partíos, parties.**

Table of regular verbs

1st conj.	2nd conj.	3rd conj.
Falar (=to talk)	Beber (=to drink)	Partir (=to leave; to split)

Indicative Present

falo	bebo	parto
fales	bebes	partes
fala	bebe	parte
falamos	bebemos	partimos
faláis	bebéis	partís
falen	beben	parten

Imperfect

falaba	bebía	partía
falabes	bebías	partías
falaba	bebía	partía
falábamos	bebíamos	partíamos
falabeis	bebíeis	partíeis
falaben	bebían	partían

Preterit

fale	bebí	partí
falaste	bebiste	partiste
faló	bebió	partió
falemos	bebimos	partimos
falastis	bebistis	partistis
falaron	bebieron	partieron

Pluperfect

falara	bebiera	partiera
falaras	bebieras	partieras
falara	bebiera	partiera
faláramos	bebiéramos	partiéramos
falarais	bebierais	partierais
falaran	bebieran	partieran

Future

falaré	beberé	partiré
falarás	beberás	partirás
falará	beberá	partirá
falaremos	beberemos	partiremos
falaréis	beberéis	partiréis
falarán	beberán	partirán

Conditional

falaría	bebería	partiría
falaríes	beberíes	partiríes
falaría	bebería	partiría
falaríamos	beberíamos	partiríamos
falaríeis	beberíeis	partiríeis
falaríen	beberíen	partiríen

Subjunctive Present

fale	beba	parta
fales	bebas	partas
fale	beba	parta
falemos	bebamos	partamos
faléis	bebáis	partáis
falen	beban	partan

Imperfect

falare	bebiere	partiere
falares	bebieres	partieres
falare	bebiere	partiere
faláremos	bebiéremos	partiéremos
falareis	bebieréis	partiereis
falaren	bebieren	partieren

Imperative

fala	bebi	parti
falái	bebéi	partii

Compound tenses are (notice that the past perfect of indicative, i.e. the pluperfect, is a simple tense):

Indicative Present perfect

tengo falao	tengo bebío	tengo partío
tienes falao	tienes bebío	tienes partío
tien falao	tien bebío	tien partío
tenemos falao	tenemos bebío	tenemos partío
tenéis falao	tenéis bebío	tenéis partío
tienen falao	tienen bebío	tienen partío

Future perfect

tendré falao	tendré bebío	tendré partío
tendrás falao	tendrás bebío	tendrás partío
tendrá falao	tendrá bebío	tendrá partío
tendremos falao	tendremos bebío	tendremos partío
tendréis falao	tendréis bebío	tendréis partío
tendrán falao	tendrán bebío	tendrán partío

Subjunctive Present perfect

tenga falao	tenga bebío	tenga partío
tengas falao	tengas bebío	tengas partío
tenga falao	tenga bebío	tenga partío
tengamos falao	tengamos bebío	tengamos partío
tengáis falao	tengáis bebío	tengáis partío
tengan falao	tengan bebío	tengan partío

Pluperfect

tuviere falao	tuviere bebío	tuviere partío
tuvieras falao	tuvieras bebío	tuvieras partío
tuviere falao	tuviere bebío	tuviere partío
tuviéremos falao	tuviéremos bebío	tuviéremos partío
tuviereis falao	tuviereis bebío	tuviereis partío
tuvieren falao	tuvieren bebío	tuvieren partío

The non-personal forms:

Infinitive

falar	beber	partir
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Gerund

falando	bebiendo	partiendo
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Participle

faláu -ada -ao	bebíu -ida -o	partíu -ida -o
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Some irregular verbs

There are a lot of irregular verbs in Asturian. The first cause of irregularity is caused by the diphthongation of the stem vowel in 1PS, 2PS, 3PS, 3PP of both indicative and subjunctive present and 1PS of imperative according to this rule (which reaches the three conjugations):

Infinitive		Diphthong in Present
-e-	>	-ie-
-o-	>	-ue-

It's seen on these tables with verbs **sentar** and **contar**:

Present indicative

siento	cuento
sientes	cuentes
siente	cuenta
sentamos	contamos
sentáis	contáis
sientan	cuenten

Present subjunctive

siente	cuenta
sientes	cuentes
siente	cuenta
sentemos	contemos
sentéis	contéis
sienten	cuenten

Imperative

sienta	cuenta
sentái	contái

The rest of the irregularities mostly affect the stems in the present and in the preterit. Here are some of these verbs with their main irregularities (regular tenses are not included). We'll show some abbreviations that are:

- I:** indicative
- S:** subjunctive
- Pr:** present indicative
- Imp.** imperfect
- Pt:** preterit indicative
- F:** future
- Pf:** pluperfect
- Gerd.** gerund
- Part.** participle

Caber (=to fit, to be contained)

Prl quepio, cabes, cabe...
 Ptl cupe, cupiste, cupo...
 PrS quepia, quepias, quepia....

Dar (=to give)

Prl doi, das, da, damos, dais, dan
 Pfl diera, dieras, diera...
 PrS dea, deas, dea...

Dicir (=to say)

Prl digo, dices, diz, dicimos, dicís, dicen
 Ptl dixé, dixite, dixo, diximos, dixistis, dixeron
 PrS diga, digas, diga...
 Part. dicho

Dir (=to go)

Prl voi, vas, va , vamos, vais, van
 Imp. diba, dibes, diba, díbemos, dibeis, diben
 Ptl fui, fuiste, foi, fuimos, fuistis, foron
 Pfl fora, foras, fora, foramos...
 PrS vaiga, vaigas, vaiga, vaigamos...

Esmoler (=to worry)

Prl esmuelgo, esmueles, esmuel...
 PrS esmuelga, esmulgas, esmuelga...

Facer / faer (=to do, to make)

Prl faigo, faes, fai, fa(c)emos, fa(c)éis, faen
 Ptl fice:fixe, ficiste:fixiste, fixo:fizo:fezo:fexo, fici-mos:fiximos,
 ficistis:fixistis, ficieron:fixeron
 Fl fadré, fadrás, fadrá...
 PrS faiga, faigas, faiga...
 Ger. haciendo:fayendo
 Part. fecho

Haber (=to have to)

Prl he, has, ha, habemos, habéis, han
 Ptl hube, hubiste, hubo, hubimos...
 Fl habré, habrás, habrá...
 Pfl hubiera, hubieras, hubiera...
 PrS hebia, hebias, hebia...

Oyer (=to hear)

Prl oigo~oyo, oyes, oi, oyimos, oyís, oyen
 PrS oiga, oga, oigas...

Poder (=can)

Prl puedo, puedes, puede...
 Ptl pude, pudiste, pudo, pudimos, pudisteis, pudieron
 PrS pueda, puedas, pueda...

Poner (=to put)

Prl pongo, pones, pon, ponemos, ponéis, ponen
 Ptl punxe, punxite, punxo, punximos, punxitis, punxeron
 Fl pondré, pondrás, pondrá...
 PrS ponga, pongas, ponga...
 Part. puesto

Querer (=to want)

Prl quiero, quies, quier, queremos, queréis, quieren
 Ptl quixe, quixiste, quixo, quiximos, quixistis, quixeron

Saber (=to know)

Prl sé, sabes, sabe, sabemos, sabéis, saben
 Ptl supe, supiste, supo, supimos, supistis, supieron
 PrS sepia, sepias, sepia...

Ser (=to be)

Prl soi, yes, ye, somos, sois, son
 Imp. yera, yeras, yera, yéramos, yerais, yeran
 Ptl fui, fuiste, foi, fuimos, fuistis, foron
 Ftl sedré, sedrás, sedrá...
 PrS seya, seyas, seya, seyamos...

Tar (=to be, to stay, to stand)

Prl toi, tas, ta, tamos, tais, tan
 Ptl tuve, tuviste, tuvo, tuvimos, tuvisteis, tuvieron
 PrS tea, teas, tea...

Tener (=to have)

Prl tengo~teo, tienes, tien, tenemos, tenéis, tienen
 Ptl tuve, tuviste, tuvo, tuvimos, tuvistis, tuvieron
 Fl tendré, tendrás, tendrá...
 PrS tenga, tengas, tenga...

Trayer (=to bring)

Prl traigo, trais, trai, trayemos, trayéis, trayen
 Ptl truxe, truxiste, truxo, truximos, truxistes, truxeron
 PrS traiga, traigas, traiga...

Valir (=to be worthy, to cost) Salir (=to go out) is alike.

Prl valgo, vales, val, valemos, valéis, valen
 Fl valdré, valdrás, valdrá, valdrá...
 PrS valga, valgas, valga...

Ver (=to see)

Prl veo, ves, ve, vemos, veis, ven
PrS ve(y)a, ve(y)as, ve(y)a, ve(y)amos...
Part. visto

Venir (=to come)

Prl vengo, vienes, vien, venimos, venís, vienen
Ptl vine, viniste, vieno, vinimos, vinistis, vinieron
FI vendré, vendrás, vendrá...
PrS venga, vengas, venga...

Some notes about verbs

- Impersonal 'there be' is **hai, había, habrá**; it's the third person singular (always invariable). Take notice of **hai** instead of **ha**.
- Verbs having **-l, -z, -n** in the last syllable lose their final **-e**: **producir > produz**; **nacer > naz**; **crecer > crez**; **salir > sal**, **valir > val**, **tener > tien**, **poner > pon**, **venir > vien**.
- Auxiliary verbs are: **ser** + participle (for the passive voice): **La carretera ye construída polos obreros** (=The road is made by the workers); **tener** + participle (=have), already explained. Obligation is expressed with **haber (de)**, **tener de** + infinitive: **has (de) / tienes de trabayar más** (=you have to work harder). **Deber** is also possible.
- Future tense is very little used. Instead of it the periphrasis **dir** + infinitive is the most common way to express future: **vamos viaxar a China esti branu** (=We're going to travel to China next summer).
- Asturian knows a kind of continuous tenses with **tar** + gerund. Compare **trabayu de mañana** (=I [usually] work in the morning) with **toi trabayando de mañana** (=I'm working this morning).
- The so-called inchoative verbs (ending in **-ecer**) and verbs ending in **-ucir** are perfectly regular except for their 3PS of Present Indicative: **florez < florecer**, **deduz < deducir**.
- Verbs ending in **-uyir** are regular except for 3PS: **contruyir > constrúi**.
- Verbs of the second and third conjugations having **-ñ-** or **-x-** in the stem, just before the ending, do not form their gerund with **-ie-** but with **-e-**: **tiñir** (=to dye) > **tiñendo**, **fuxir** (=to escape, to take away) > **fuxendo**.

Adverbs

Many adverbs are adjectives used adverbially. In this case, they always take the neutre form **-o**:

Artur ye mui altu (=Arthur is very tall → adjective)

Artur fala mui alto (=Arthur speaks aloud → adverb)

Other examples are: **solu: solo** (alone, only), **baxu: baxo** (short, low; bellow). Asturian often uses the **-mente** ending added to an adjective to make it an adverb (note that the adjective must take the feminine singular form): **rápido > rápidamente** (but in **ven rápido** (=come quickly), **rápido** is an adverb as in the former cases), **llocu > llocamente** (=madly), etc. On the other hand there are many genuine or pure adverbs, which are classified here according to the traditional criteria.

It must be quoted that Asturian, like Galician and Catalan (here it's obligatory), admits the double negation when a negative quantifier (or another word related to a negative category) commences a sentence:

Nun quiero nada (=I don't want anything)

Nadie nun vien or nun vien nadie (=Nobody's coming)

In the first part of the second sentence we could also find:

Nadie vien

We include not only the adverbs themselves, but also adverbial locutions:

Manner

asina	so
d'esta miente / manera	in this way
d'esti mou	in this way
a xeitu	right(ly)
aspacio	slowly
adulces	slowly
bien	well
mal	bad(ly)

Quantity

mui	very
poco	(a) little
abondo	enough
a esgaya (asgaya)	in a great deal
enforma	rather, quite
nada de	no, nothing of
algo: daqué (de)	somewhat
muncho	(very) much
dafecho (-amente)	absolutely, completely

Time

agora	now
lluego	immediately
depués (de)	after(wards)
sero	late
ceo	soon
mañana	tomorrow
güei	today
ayeri	yesterday
tarde	late
más tarde	later
antes (de)	before
enantes	before, previously
cuantayá	a long time ago
hai	ago
de mañana	in the morning
de tarde	in the afternoon
de nueche	in the evening (night)
de sutrucu	suddenly
de repente	suddenly
de sotque	suddenly
de xemes en cuando	from time to time
dacundo	sometimes
nunca	never
(en)xamás	never
otra vez: vegada: vuelta	again

Place

dayuri	somewhere
nenyuri	anywhere (neg.), nowhere
delantre	in front, ahead
detrás	behind, at the back
dentro	inside
fuera	outside
equí	here
ehí	there
ellí	over there
enriba	up(side)
embaxo	down(side)
a la manzorga	on the left
a la mandrecha	on the right

Affirmation

sí	yes
por supuesto	of course
claro	sure
tamién	also, too.

Negation

non	no
nun	not
tampoco	either (neg), neither

Doubt

talvez	maybe
al meyor	perhaps
seique	maybe
posiblemente	possibly

Prepositions

The simple ones are:

a	to (direction, OI, and OD when referred to people: vi a María na cai =I saw Mary on the street)
con	with
contra	against
de	of, about, from, in (de tarde, d'hibiernu =in the winter). This preposition is often omitted when linking two nominal groups whenever it is placed among vowels: casa campu (=country house), vasu vino (=glass of wine)
dende ~ desde	from, since
escontra	in direction to, towards
hacia	into
hasta	until; also dica
pa	for, to (directions)
por	by (agentive), along. Per equí : this way
según	according to
sin	without; also possible the reinforcement ensin
so	under
sobre	on
tres	after, behind
xunta	together with, by (proximity), near

The main compound prepositions are:

a lo llargo de	along
al delláu de	close to, near, by
pola mor de	because of
a causa de	because of
per aciu de	by means of
en metanes de	in the middle of, in the centre of
a(l) través de	through

Conjunctions

Here we'll also follow the traditional classification:

Coordinative prepositions:

copulative

y (ya) y tamién nin	and (ya before a word beginning by (h)i-) and also and not, neither
---------------------------	---

disjunctive

o (u) o bien	or (u before a word beginning by (h)o-)
-----------------	---

distributive

yá... yá ora... ora nin... nin	either...or neither... nor
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------

adversative

pero mas sicásí poro	but however nevertheless anyway
-------------------------------	--

Subordinative conjunctions

cause

porque por mor de (que)	because because of
----------------------------	-----------------------

time

cuando siempre que	when whenever
-----------------------	------------------

concession

maguer aunque inda que alpesar de que	although despite
--	-------------------------

finality

pa + inf. pa que	to (+inf) for (sb) to, in order to
---------------------	---------------------------------------

condition

si nel casu de (que)	if in case
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3. THE ASTURIAN LANGUAGE NOWADAYS

This is just an overview of the Asturian grammar according to the standard language used in literature. We haven't taken notice of the dialects; even western Asturian is used in literature, so some main features, which differ from central standard Asturian, are:

- Western Asturian is much more conservative than central Asturian. It still keeps falling diphthongs: **ouru** (=gold), **touru** (=bull), **falóu** (=he/she spoke), **pouco** (little); **faléi** (=I spoke), **I.leiteiru** (=milkman, however feminine is not **-eira**, but **-era**)
- It doesn't know the neutre gender, so there are only masculine and feminine genders
- The change **-as > -es** and **-an > -en** don't take place
- Some consonant cluster shows an ancient state: **muitu** (standard Asturian **munchu**), **estreitu** (standard Asturian **estrech**), etc.
- Standard Asturian **ll-** and **-ll-** have evolved into /ts/, which is normally spelt as <ll>

On the other hand, Mirandese has its own grammar. The language resembles Western Asturian, but it is much more conservative, especially in phonetics (it keeps the same system of sibilants as northern Portuguese of Minho and Trás-os-Montes). Its spelling system is based upon Portuguese.

We are aware that these pages lack many elements but this scheme may be large enough for somebody who wants to approach the language for the first time.