What has worked well and what hasn't?

This is a review of Algilez, looking at the features in the language that appear to have worked well since it was originally conceived and those features that I am concerned about.
The review (like the design of the language itself) is very subjective. Generally when a particular grammatical feature has

1. continued to be effective (i.e. express the meaning intended)
2. not caused any ambiguities
3. been reasonably compact
4. been able to be easily applied in a consistent and intuitive way

then I consider that it has worked well.

Where the feature has not satisfied the above criteria then it has been changed or added to the list for future investigation.

What has worked well:-

1.   Algilez Alphabet
The decision to use the Algilez alphabet was not an easy one. However I am convinced that to continue with what we call the 'Latin Alphabet' (in practice, the English language version of the Latin Alphabet) was not right for an international language. The Algilez alphabet retains those Latin alphabet letters which are used in the same way by the majority of languages but uses new or modified characters where the pronunciation differs. This applies to a number of the Algilez consonants and to all of the vowels.

The great advantage is that it provides a single unique pronunciation for each letter, which cannot be confused with any other language. It also eliminates alternative alphabet characters (i.e. upper case and handwritten letters) and only uses the lower case letters (enlarged for upper case but still the same form). Both of these features help make learning Algilez easier.

The full Algilez alphabet also provides unique, related characters for all of the letters in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). This enables foreign language words to be written in Algilez. Although the reader may not know the correct pronunciation of some of the letters, they would be able to see which letter 'family' it belongs to and have an approximate idea of the pronunciation. E.g. the nasal 'ŋ' clearly belongs to the 'n' family of letters.

2.   The initial 'K' question form
I consider this very successful. Queries are immediately marked as such at the beginning of the sentence. Even when queries appear later in a sentence, that also is clear.
Possible modifications would be the change from 'K' to 'Ke' and the combination of the key question words (K ɛf, K sɛ, K rɛ, K ʌs etc) into compound words (Kɛɛf, Kɛsɛ, Kɛrɛ, Kɛʌs etc).

3.   The initial 'ˀk' (Please) request form
This form might be considered rather strange by native English speakers but simply follows the same logical form as for questions. Questions, requests and commands have become so mixed in English that it must be very difficult for non-native speakers to understand the subtleties of the differences between them. Algilez takes these sentence forms back to basics and eliminates ambiguity.

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4.   Double verb forms
Successful. E.g. I wish to go - ᛗɛ ʘɪʃɢɛ�ز, He liked running – ᛁˡ ˡɪkrɪnɒᴢ. It provides a compact way of expressing a verb plus infinitive (which is very common in English). This form is also used for the perfect tenses and hypothetical conditionals (see below).

5.   Verb/tense prefixes for perfect tenses
Successful. The perfect tenses in English (e.g. those that refer to something already done in the past) can be complicated and confusing (I will have gone, ᛗɛ ʀᛣɢuᴢ). Algilez, using the Double Verb form mentioned above, provides a compact way of expressing the perfect tenses. The main tense marker is retained consistently at the end of the word and does not seem to cause any confusion.

6.   Conditional (hypothetical situation) affixes (ʌᴢ)
Successful. The mixture of prefixes and suffixes allows a variety of meanings to be expressed very compactly. Possibly some further examples and clarification of the rules might be required (plus a check to see that I have complied with my own rules when giving previous examples!)

7.   Compound word formation
Successful. A compound word uses two or more root words to logically form a third word with a different semantic meaning. A compound word formed in this way will hopefully be quicker to understand (if never encountered before) and easier to remember (if it is one which is little used), compared with a root word which may not provide anything to help identify the basic meaning. E.g.:-

 a) identity   dɛn
 b) hide   hʌd
 c) disguise   dɛnhʌd

8.   General purpose suffixes for making compound words
fold   fɒd
fault, defective, undesirable   ɒ¢
crease   fɒdɒ¢

I consider this successful. It includes roots such as 'ɒ¢' – faulty, 'ᛣk' – effect/outcome, 'ɒd' – product of etc. Once the meanings of these 'general purpose' root words are known, the meaning of the compound words should be fairly obvious (I hope).

Problem areas

9.   Understanding compound words
With some two-part compound words there may be some difficulty in deciding if one part is a 'headword' (which defines the basic meaning) and the other a 'qualifying word' (which modifies the meaning) e.g.:
cupboard, closet   klᴜs
cabinet (free standing piece of furniture)   klᴜsfun
Does this mean a *free-standing cabinet* (as intended) or a *cupboard for furniture*? Which part of the compound word should come first?
The general rule is that the first part of a compound word describes the second (i.e. the opposite of noun and adjective pairs). In many cases, it is possible to take the first part of the compound word, add a 'ʌ' suffix and put it as a separate word, *after* the second part,

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e.g. fun klusʌ, i.e. a piece of free standing furniture which is a cupboard (as opposed to a built-in cupboard).

Note that this may not apply in all cases and that another affix may be more appropriate e.g. the reverse form of the word 'funklus' might mean 'cupboard for furniture' and hence be modified to 'klus funɟʌ' i.e. the 'ɟʌ' suffix giving the meaning 'a cupboard for the purpose of furniture'.

Another example is:-

outdoors, open air   osbʊd

Does this mean *outdoors, open air* (as intended) or an '*outside building*' (e.g. a shed)? In this case the compound word consists of a preposition 'os' plus a noun 'bʊd' meaning 'outdoors, outside a building'. It would be necessary to use a noun and adjective to describe an 'outside building' 'bʊd osʌ'.

Hence for compound words, the 'headword' comes second. Preceding words help clarify or modify the headword (but are not always the same as adjectives that have been joined with the noun to form a new compound word).

10.   Homonyms (different words with the same spelling)

writing   rɪtɪz (rɪt-ɪz)
to retake   rɪtɪz (rɪ-tɪz)

This is going to be an issue with many Algilez words, although the context should usually help to avoid ambiguity.

Other choices available are to change some root words (in this case 'rɪt') or to change the prefix 'rɪ'. Both options would have considerable knock-on effects and probably cause more problems than they would solve.

A possible solution where the context is not clear enough to avoid ambiguity would be to include a gap or hyphen between parts of the word, both in the written and spoken forms, e.g. 'rɪt-ɪz' and 'rɪ-tɪz'.

Having said that, any language that could not allow for the occasional pun is going to be a very dull language indeed!

11.   Choice between root words and compound words

Are some of the compound words used unnecessarily long and would shorter, unique root words have been better (e.g. racial prejudice, racism, pɛɡozɟɛɟoȼ)? Strictly speaking, the 10 character Algilez word 'pɛɡozɟɛɟoȼ' replaces the 15 character, two word expression 'racial prejudice', so there is probably no problem there. The English expression 'racism' is compact but does not fully describe the meaning in English. Possibly the nearest Algilez equivalent would be 'pɛɡoȼɛʃ'. On the whole, it appears that Algilez is sufficiently flexible for this not to be a major problem.

12.   Choosing the right compound word

truce (peace gap)   pɪsɡʌp
truce (fight lull)   fɪtlʊl

Which one is better? In cases like this I am perfectly happy for Algilez users to propose (and start using) alternatives.

13.   Temptation to use English language forms for compound words

card   kɪd
board   bʌd
cardboard   originally ~~kɪdbʌd~~ now changed to pʌpbʌd

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There may be others that I have done this with (because to me as a native English speaker, they appear intuitively correct) but which I am no longer able to see!

14.   Being clear about the meaning in English, in order to use the correct suffix
The Algilez word for breath is 'brɛf'. Is 'respiration' therefore:-
    a) the action associated with breath (ɪd):-   'brɛfɪd'
    b) the cause of breath (kↄ):-   'kↄbrɛf'
    c) the result of breath (ↄk):-   'brɛfↄk'

or does respiration means exactly the same as 'breath' - or something else entirely?
Failure to choose the correct affix may result in confusion and reduce the intuitive recognition of unfamiliar words.

15.   Gerunds, Participles and infinitives
The forms 'The man who was running' (Pɛɪl rɪnɪozↄ) and 'The men who will run' (Pɛɪlɪ rɪnuzↄ) are clear and unambiguous. But the simpler expression 'A running man' 'Pɛɪl rɪnɪzↄ' could possibly also be written as, 'Pɛɪl rɪnɛzↄ' or 'Pɛɪl rɪnↄ'. What are the differences in meaning and how important are they? Have I been inconsistent in applying the rules to these? Is there a conflict between compactness 'Pɛɪl rɪnↄ' and exactness 'Pɛɪl rɪnɪzↄ'?

In Algilez I have basically used the two English language verb forms 'to ...' and '...ing' (e.g. to run, running; to see; seeing; to read, reading etc.) as interchangeable and with the same meaning and grammatical use. I have not found a problem with this (yet) but I am concerned that I might have missed something.

16.   Passive forms
The active form 'John saw the cat' - 'ɖon soz fɪlɪs' becomes 'The cat was seen by John' - 'fɪlɪs ↄdsoz ɖon', or, in its simplest form, 'The cat was seen.' - 'fɪlɪs ↄdsoz.'
The prefix 'ↄd' converts the verb from active to passive. Where the agent (the person/thing that does the action) immediately follows the verb, then it is not necessary to include 'ↄd' (by) again, thus saving an unnecessary word. Putting in another 'ↄd' would only be necessary when the agent is separated from the verb by another word, e.g. 'The cat was seen *yesterday* by John' - 'fɪlɪs ↄdsoz *ozdɛ* ↄd ɖon'.
The difficulty arises when the verb requires an indirect object. In English, verbs such as *called, named, addressed* etc. use the form 'John named his cat, Tom' 'ɖon nↄmoz fɪlɪs ↄvɪl, tom'. With the passive form there is some danger of confusion, since the Algilez form uses a different word order – 'The cat was named Tom, by John' - 'fɪlɪs ↄdnↄmoz ɖon, tom' or, less confusing 'fɪlɪs ↄdnↄmoz bɪz tom, ↄd ɖon' (the cat was named (to be) Tom, by John'.
Hence readers would need to be careful that 'fɪlɪs ↄdnↄmoz ɖon' means 'The cat was named *by* John' – not that the cat was named 'John'.
Possibly this is more of a problem for native English speakers (like me), who would be more inclined to use the English language form and word order?

17.   Prepositions
Although not a major problem, I find that prepositions in Algilez (similar to English) can sometimes be used as adjectives or adverbs. The issue is then deciding whether to include the adjectival 'ↄ' ending or not (and whether it makes any difference to the meaning).

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18.   Prepositions relating to time 'Yet' & 'Already'

Prepositions in English are generally short and often single syllable. Since Algilez words are generally quite compact, I have tried to make Algilez prepositions from component root words, so that they are easier to understand. Sometimes this has caused problems.

For example, the words 'Yet' and 'Already'. For 'already', I finally settled on 'ᴚᴠtɛ/ᴚᴠtɛʌ' (before the time mentioned), which appears to work.

'Yet' is a little more complicated. The dictionary definition is '*used in negative sentences and questions about something that has not happened but that you expect to happen*'. After several unsuccessful attempts to use various time-related affixes, I gave up and adopted 'ɟɛt' as an Algilez root word with the same meaning as English!

19.   'Before' & 'After'

Another carry-over from English. "I eat dinner after I do homework." The ambiguity means it is unclear which is done first, eating dinner or doing homework. In English, pauses and commas are used to distinguish the differences. In Algilez we use 'ᴝᴠʌ' (after) and 'ᴝᴚʃʌ' (after that), e.g.

 "I eat dinner *after* I do homework." - ₥ɛ ᴉᴠmᴉlᴉz ᴝᴠʌ mɛ ʃostudᴉz. (Homework first, then dinner)

"I eat dinner, after (wards) I do homework." - ₥ɛ ᴉᴠmᴉlᴉz, ᴝᴚʃʌ mɛ ʃostudᴉz. (Dinner first, then homework).

The words 'ᴚᴠʌ' (before) and 'ᴚᴠʃʌ' (before that) can be used in exactly the same way. Although the Algilez system is neat and simple, unfortunately, I still don't find this particularly intuitive.

20.   Possessives and adjectives

My car is 'kᴉr mɛᴚʌ' (i.e. the car possessed by me). My arm could be 'ᴉm mɛᴚʌ' or 'ᴉm mɛʌ' (where 'mɛʌ' is an adjective describing 'arm'). Do you 'possess' an arm or a family etc. or would the 'mɛʌ' form make more sense?

I am still unsure about this one but for the time being I have used the 'ᴚʌ' form with all personal pronouns, which at least give some consistency!

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