

Holodhennet and Kat Nol, and how they are used in the Nasfaqqian society

Nasfaqq could use Holodhennet as a secondary language, and use the Holodhennet alphabet for loanwords and words and names that are not writeable using the Kat Nol abugida. Lore-wise, this would make sense, since Holodhennet would be understood widely on the holocontinent, and nasfaqq is largely a nation of immigrants. Those who came from the holocontinent would have brought Holodhennet with them.

Below is an example of how this would look like for two canon names that are unwriteable with Kat Nol abugida alone.

𐌆𐌔𐌚𐌚 or 𐌆𐌔𐌚𐌚 for "Epoch", written as "Epok" and "Epokh" respectively.

𐌆𐌚𐌚𐌔𐌚 or 𐌆𐌚𐌚𐌔𐌚 for "Aggaya", written as "Aggaija" and "Aggaija" respectively.

I am personally a proponent of using just Holodhennet alone for the loanwords and unwriteable words rather than substituting the starting vowel sound with a Holodhennet letter.

Kat Nol would be the language of the natives

<https://reentry.org/MerchantLore#the-ka-timak-people> that has since then been adopted as the majority language of the nation. Holodhennet would still be understood, and occasionally used, as a secondary language. The citizens of the republic are expected to be able to read the lettering of both.

As for the usage of both languages, here is how I would see it:

Kat Nol is the majority language, every Nasfaqqian is taught Kat Nol since birth, and every nasfaqqian citizen would "think" mostly in Kat Nol. The language is used in private and casual settings, and Kat Nol is the language you'd hear spoken in the streets, at the market, and at the mahjong parlour. It is the language of the commoner, and the language a nasfaqqian citizen would speak in among friends and family.

Holodhennet is a widely understood secondary language, and those who can afford good education have been taught to be on at least a conversational level in the language. Everyone knows some of the basics, and pretty much everyone who can read Kat Nol, can also read the Holodhennet lettering. Holodhennet is used in formal and business settings, especially when dealing with foreigners. It is the language of the elite, used by the plutocrats when speaking to each other, or when they want to make an impression. It would be shameful for a plutocrat

to not be fluent in Holodhennet. You are most likely to hear Holodhennet spoken at a private party among the plutocrats, spoken by the Dev Council when making an announcement, or chanted by a priest during a religious ritual or prayer.

As Holodhennet is perceived as more noble a language than Kat Nol, a nasfaqqian citizen would use Holodhennet loanwords when talking about things that are perceived as being high class, elegant, noble, or holy. This would also apply to everyday words that already exist in Kat Nol, for example, if a nasfaqqian citizen would use the Kat Nol word for "wine" when talking about what he is selling, the usage of the Kat Nol word implies that the wine he is selling is cheap or meant for common consumption. If he instead uses the Holodhennet word for "wine", he is implying that his wine is high quality, expensive, and meant for the elite. This way Kat Nol would have no need for a specific word for "a fine wine", as the native speakers would instinctively substitute the word with the Holodhennet word instead to imply higher quality.

This would likely only concern words for things that are considered luxurious or prestigious. It would be improper to imply a tool would be higher quality by using a Holodhennet word instead of the Kat Nol one. To imply a finely crafted tool, or a high-quality weapon, the nasfaqqian citizen would simply say "finely crafted tool" or "high quality weapon" in Kat Nol. However, if a certain type of weapon would be seen as more noble or elegant than most weapons, using a holodhennet word for it could be proper. For example, a gun would be referred to by using Kat Nol, while a rapier could be referred to by using Holodhennet.

Another instance where Kat Nol words can be substituted by Holodhennet would be when talking about the divine. If a nasfaqqian speaker is unwilling to utter the name of the deity (perhaps seeing it as taboo, or too direct), they could instead refer to them using Holodhennet. For example, when a nasfaqqian citizen is talking about "A Shark" using Kat Nol, it would be understood that he is referring to the animal, but if instead he used the Holodhennet word for "A Shark", it would be understood that he is talking about the Shark Goddess, Gura.

Notes on the Nasfaqqian society and the implications of certain concepts and words

Profitable

A nasfaqqian citizen would likely use the word "profitable" as an adjective for things with potential for growth, and for things they perceive as good. For example, the Kat Nol phrase for "Fertile earth", referring to good farmland, would be "Profitable (farm)land".

Suggested word changes and additions

Words and concepts I believe deserve to have unique words. If a word already exists as a compound, but I think it deserves to be its own word, I'll mark the word with an asterisk.

Fruit*

Gold

Silver

Copper

Eight of a thing (like how "dozen" means 12 of a thing).

A Place

The World*

Country* (I suggest the word for "land" (Si3) is used. Whether the speaker means "country" or "land" would depend on the context.)

Ocean*

Sea* (ocean and sea should have separate words. Or perhaps, there should be a unique word for a sea, and then a compound for ocean).

Lake*

River*

Flow <https://reentry.org/MerchantLore#the-flow>. This is another word where the Holodhennet word for "flow (of a liquid or energy)" could be used as the word.

Various types of ships

nasfaqq is a seafaring nation, and the people have a deep cultural connection to the waters

due to being economically so reliant on them. This means that it is likely that Kat Nol would have different unique words for different bodies of water. Hell, I'd go so far as to claim that Kat Nol has different words, compound or unique, for different types of water. A unique word for a stormy water, stagnant water, calm water, disturbed water, salt water, fresh water, so on.

Indicator/word for things perceived as profitable.

Indicator/word for things perceived as unprofitable.

Gas*

Solid*

Buy

Sell

Trade

Market

Trader/Merchant

Cute

There is justification for multiple words for cute things. There should be a unique word for childlike cuteness, feminine cuteness, cute (male), and gap moe type of cute.

Beauty

Seed*

Vegetable

Fish

Most of the food in Nasfaqq comes from the sea, so in general there would be unique words for different types of fish and seafood.

Wife and Husband

These words should be gender neutral. A nasfag does not make difference between men and

women when looking for lover, only whether they are cute or not. Thus, the Kat Nol phrase for a "wife" would not refer to the female party of a romantic relationship, but the submissive/beautiful/cute party, while the Kat Nol phrase for "Husband" would prefer to the dominant party, not the male one.

Clock

Squirrel

Dead

People / Folk

Titles and/or honorifics

Stuff like "Mr.", "Mrs.", "Ms." (likely gender-neutral owing to the above point about the phrase for a wife or a husband). Perhaps a specific title or word for a plutocrat, or a person of immense wealth.