

NOTES ON THE  
SOYALI LANGUAGE

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# NOTES ON THE SOMALI LANGUAGE

WITH

EXAMPLES OF PHRASES AND  
CONVERSATIONAL SENTENCES

BY

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## PREFACE

THIS work does not profess to be anything more learned than its title implies. During the present campaign in Somaliland, while raising and training some of the Somali levy companies, I have noted down all the commoner and most useful words and phrases that I found to occur during my interviews with the N. C. O.'s and men both on duty and off. These I have here presented in a continuous form, aiming at the most natural order in which a stranger would be able to pick them up, and at the same time observing what is more or less the ordinary grammatical sequence.

It is hoped that such a collection of conversational phrases and notes may be of use to subsequent travellers, and to civil and military officers in the country.

The excellent Grammar of Frs. Evangeliste

1088025

and Cyprien has been of the utmost assistance ; in fact, without the benefit of their enormous labours, it would have been impossible for me in so short a time to transcribe the words and phrases as uttered by a Somali.

The greatest difficulty to contend with is the pronunciation ; and the Somali jungli is as yet so unaccustomed to Europeans and their modes of speech, and above all finds it so hard to believe that a European would try to talk his language, that, unless the pronunciation is very exact, he will practically refuse to try to understand one. In time, however, the Somalis will become accustomed to our attempts to master their difficult sounds, and in fact in trying to interview strangers I have been able to use my askaris as interpreters.

I had not intended to introduce any grammatical or syntactical paragraphs, but it seemed that the sentences alone were of such little use for building up others with different words, that some grammatical explanation was abso-



lutely necessary. I have confined myself, however, to the most concise and general rules, leaving the exceptions for further study.

I have not attempted to introduce any but the Roman characters, though some sounds cannot really be represented by them. The cerebral **d**, referred to by Frs. Evangeliste and Cyprien, is sometimes pronounced as **d** and sometimes like **r**, though never exactly like either. I have, however, used these letters so as to show in each word which of these two sounds tends to prevail.

Similarly the Arabic letter 'ghain' is very much exaggerated, and these exaggerated guttural aspirates I have tried to distinguish as **ch** (hardly a guttural), **kh** (sharp guttural sound), and **gh** (hard low guttural sound). The long-drawn aspirate seems to be best expressed phonetically by the double letter **hh**.

The tribes from whom I have picked up these phrases are chiefly the Habr Yunis, and Habr Toljaala from the Burao district. This may

account for the different pronunciation of several words, as compared with what is given in the Grammar mentioned above, especially in the case of the diphthong **ai**. Where this occurs in the above Grammar I have found the syllable in more than half the cases to be pronounced as a short **y**, or as **è**, or **ei**.

I have not yet had time to compare the dialects of the Esa and Gadabursi tribes, or of the Dolbohanta or Ogaden, all of which will probably have considerable variations.

There will probably be many errors, as my interpreter speaks but indifferent English. It must be remembered, too, that many apparent irregularities will be due to colloquial contractions. But I can only say that every word and sentence here has been tested successfully by me in actual conversation.

GARRERO,

*June 20, 1903.*

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# PART I.

## ACCIDENCE.

### 1. The *Alphabet*.

**a**, pronounced like *a* in Scotch, 'man.'

**ǎ**, pronounced like *a* in 'cat.'

**â**, pronounced like *a* in 'father.'

**b**

**d** (in some words combines *t, h, r*).

**e**, pronounced like *e* in 'pen.'

**è**, pronounced nearly as *ai* in 'pain.'

**f**

**g**, always hard.

**gh**

**h**

**hh**, emphasized aspirate, almost a separate syllable.

**i**, pronounced as *i* in 'in.'

**í**, pronounced as *e* in 'eel.'

**j**

**k**

**kh**, hard aspirate.

**ch**, pronounced as *ch* in 'loch.'

**l**

ll, similar to Welsh *ll*.

m

n

o, pronounced as *o* in 'on.'

ò, pronounced as *o* in 'own.'

oo, pronounced as *o* in 'ōhh.'

r, always rolled (in some words combines *d, h, r*).

s

t

u, pronounced as *u* in 'full.'

ũ, pronounced as *u* in 'bun.'

ù, pronounced as *oo* in 'moon.'

w

y

ai, pronounced as *i* in 'mine.'

ei, ey, pronounced as *è*, almost *èi*.

oi

ow, pronounced as *ou* in 'mouth.'

2. The *Aspirates* and *Gutturals* **hh, gh, kh, ch** must be learnt by ear, and are very exaggerated deep sounds, difficult to reproduce.

The letters **d, r** are in some words hardly distinguishable. In the same word the letter sometimes may sound like *d*, sometimes like *r*. It appears to be formed by trying to utter a *d* with the tongue on the roof of the mouth.



The acute accent ' is used to denote the accentuation only; the grave accent ` denotes a long full sound.

### 3. *Interjections.*

**wárya! waría! war'**, attracts attention, and commences all conversation.

**hoi! hoihoi!** a shout to call a man.

**-ow!** same as last, added to a name.

**nabat!** Peace, a greeting.

**'ss ka warren?** How are you?

**dèga!** colloquial exclamation.

**kòd, kòdi, waiye,** yes, well? I see, &c.

**howrarsan,** all right.

**wà run,** quite right, certainly.

**ha,** yes.

**maya,** no.

**dochso!** be quick!

**ghunyar! ayar!** steady! slowly!

**haiya!** expression of encouragement.

**wà mahai?** what is it?

**wà sidé?** what's this? Hullo!

**'ss kà eg!** look out!

**'ss ka dá,** never mind.

**ya?** what?

**wayo?** why?

## VERBS.

4. *Verbal Particles.*

The following particles qualify the meanings of verbs:—

**si**, before the verb, expresses motion away from the speaker.

**so**, before the verb, expresses motion towards the speaker.

'**ss ka**, **iss ka**, before the verb, is best translated by the exclamation 'there!'

Verbs ending in **-si**, **-i** are causative. Verbs ending in **-so** denote doing something for oneself.

**i**, me.

**u**, you, him, it.

In the following lists the 2nd pers. sing. imperative is given. To form the 2nd pers. plur. add **a**. In verbs ending in **-o**, **-so** the plural form ends in **-da** or **-ta** (§ 51).

5. *Verbs of Motion.*

**imo**; pl. **yímada** (irreg.), come.

**kàli**, come here.

**soorod**, come on (hurry).

**so raà**, come with me (follow).

**só nòcho** (**nòchda**), come back.

só dǔrug (dùrka), só dowo (dowàda),  
come near.

so wěreg, come round.

so gal, come in.

so bah (só bãha), come out of there.

tag, go.

soo (sooda), go on.

'ss ka tág, go away.

u raa, si raa, go with him (follow).

nocho, dib u nocho, go back.

si wereg, go round.

gal, go in, enter.

'ss ka bah, get out of there.

durug, go further off.

fogo (fogàda), go to a distance.

soo, walk.

orod, run.

ful, ride.

bòd, jump.

arar, run away.

bahso, escape.

jòg, wait, stop.

'ss ka jóg, wait there.

jógso (jogsòda), stand still.

dib u jogso, stand back.

sara jóg, stand up.

ka, ka ka, sara ka, get up.

- faríso (farísta), sit down.  
 í kadi, wait (for me).  
 ú kadi, wait (for him).  
 jir, be (exist).  
 jog, be (be present).  
 oll (irregular verb), be in, be on, lie.  
 jèso (jesta), turn.  
 'ss ká rug, turn round.  
 ghobo (ghobta), get to, reach (a place).

*Transitive Verbs.*

- joji, stop.  
 kahái, move off, move away (persons).  
 sò kahái, bring here.  
 fogèi, move to a distance.  
 u yéd, call, send for.  
 ka dón, look for.  
 dir, send (a man with a message).  
 u gèi, lead, show the way to.  
 kèi, arouse.  
 ràdi, track.  
 dochàji, hurry.  
 daf, pass.

6. *Verbs of Action.*

- la kàli, bring here.  
 i (ka) ken, put (bring) me (there).  
 i (u) si, give me (him).  
 ka ghad, 'ss ka ghad, take away.

- so ghad, fetch away (go and get).  
so (ku) èli, bring (take) back.  
dib, give (hand over).  
u gei, take to him.  
gur, pick up.  
dig, 'ss ka dig, put down.  
sar, put on.  
shid, put in.  
só ('ss ka) behé, take off.  
hèl, get, find.  
haï, have.  
haïso (haïsta), have got.  
heji, hold.  
ghobo (ghobta), take hold.  
ghobso (ghobsòda), catch hold.  
da, ka da, sí da, 'ss ka sí da, leave, let go.  
sid, carry.  
kufi, drop (transitive).  
kuf, da, fall.  
illâl, look after.  
tiri, count.  
fal, yel, ghobo, do.  
somèi, make.  
damèi, finish.  
dil, strike.  
rug, turn round.  
ákhalib, turn over.

maròji, twist.

jid, difo (difta), pull.

tùji, press.

goï, gogoï, cut (up).

bùri, burburi, break (up).

lab, lablab, fold (up).

hid, tie.

fur, unfold, open.

wanaji, make tidy.

bagaji ('ss ku hagaji), make straight, correct.

safèi, adèi, clean.

bùhi, fill.

dalòli, make a hole.

dirir, 'ss dirira, fight, fight together.

rèr, load up.

dubka so shid, make the fire.

dubka bachtì, put out the fire.

òd, hero òd, make a zareba.

ibi, ibso (íbsöta), sell, buy.

gób, pour away.

7. *Verbs of Feeling, Thinking, Willing.*

arag, see.

eg, look.

or, orso (orsoda),

smell.

máchal, hear.

ghobo, remember.

ilò (ilòda), forget.

ùn, eat.

ab, abso, drink.

duduni, taste.

<b>chosol</b> , laugh.	<b>malèi</b> , think.
<b>deh</b> (irregular verb), say.	<b>iss deh</b> , imagine, mean.
<b>shég</b> , tell.	<b>jaal</b> , like.
<b>hadal</b> , talk.	<b>don</b> , want.
<b>weidí</b> , ask.	<b>tasho</b> , think about.
<b>ku èli</b> , answer.	<b>ogho</b> (irregular verb), know.
<b>díd</b> , refuse.	<b>hüb</b> , be sure.
<b>bar</b> , teach.	<b>sug</b> , expect, await.
<b>baro</b> ( <b>barta</b> ), learn.	<b>hanòn</b> , hurt (intransi- tive).
<b>amín</b> , believe.	<b>sèho</b> , sleep.
<b>haucho</b> , try.	<b>ka</b> , awake.
<b>machal</b> , <b>yel</b> , obey.	<b>abi</b> , <b>bacho</b> , be afraid.
<b>áshtako</b> , complain.	<b>aran</b> , be angry.
<b>aï</b> , curse.	<b>alaäl</b> , be sorry.
<b>fasahh</b> , allow.	<b>dulun</b> , ill-treat.
<b>garo</b> ( <b>garta</b> ), under- stand.	<b>owin</b> , help.

## ARTICLE, PRONOUNS, SUBSTANTIVES.

8. The *Article* must first be understood, since it is added to the noun, and in many cases alters the whole appearance and sound of the word.

9. The *Indefinite Article* does not exist, the noun alone being used instead, e. g.

**jonía**, a bag.

**nín**, a man.

Where the indefinite article occurs with an adjective, or alone, it is translated either by repeating the noun, or by **mid**, e. g.

**mid kǎleh í si**, give me another.

**mid wèin ka ken**, put a big one there.

**kùrsi kaleh la kǎli**, bring another chair.

10. The *Definite Article* is a suffix to the noun, and ends in either, **-a**, **-i**, or **-u**.

**-a** is used if what is spoken of is actually at hand, or in front of the speaker.

**-i**, **-u** are used when vagueness or absence is implied.

The commonest form is **-i**.

11. These suffixes are not used alone, but are linked to the noun by certain consonants, which vary according to gender and to the final letter of the word.

Such linking consonants are :—

*Masculine.*

**-k-**, after any consonants except **g**, **k**.

**-g-**, after **g**, **k**, **i**.

**-h-**, after aspirates and vowels except **i**.

*Feminine.*

**-t-**, after consonants except **d**.

**-d-**, after **d**, aspirates and vowels.

(Note—**ld**, **lt** become **sh**.)



12. Examples:—

nin, nin-ka, -ki, ku, the man.

busta, busta-ha, -hi, -hu, the blanket.

bíya, biya-ha, -hi, -hu, the water.

nàg, nag-ta, -ti, -tu, the woman.

míyi, miyi-ga, -gi, -gu, the jungle.

mel, mesha, meshi, meshu, the place.

tol, tol-ka, -ki, -ku, the tribe.

sandúch, sanduch-ha, -hi, -hu, the box.

warach, warach-da, -di, -du, the chit.

biyahu (biyu) la kali, bring the water.

biyaha ka ghad, take away the water.

bustahi? what about the blanket?

ninki mè? (§ 33), where is the man?

13. When the *Definite Article* is used independently, it requires one of the two following consonants:—

if masculine, **k**-.

if feminine, **t**-, e. g.

kí kaleh mé? where is the other?

ti wèin so glad, fetch the big one.

*Plural* :

kuér kaleh mé? where are the others?

14. The *Demonstrative* is similar to the definite article.

The suffixes are :

**-an**, this.

**-as, -à**, that.

These are the same for singular and plural.

The linking consonants are the same as those for the definite article, e. g.

**dágah-has**, that stone.

**mis-kan**, this table.

**nâg-tâ**, that woman.

To make it more emphatic, the demonstrative is often added to the noun with the definite article, e. g.

**áchalkakán**, this house here.

Or, the definite article may follow the demonstrative, but without the linking consonant, e. g.

**nimankána**, these men here.

**nimankâsi**, those men there.

15. The demonstrative may also be used independently with the consonants **k, t**.

In this use it has plural forms, e. g.

**kuan, tuan**, these.

**kuas, tuas**, those.

When this form carries with it any meaning of quantity, the noun **in-ta** is used (§ 30), e. g.

**inta kaleh**, the rest.

**intas waiye**, that's all.

intà damèya, finish that.

inta ka bádán la kàli, bring more than that (§ 68).

16. The *Possessive Pronoun* has forms so similar, and follows so closely the above rules, that it is given here.

The definite article must be added to the possessive, either with or without the linking consonant.

<i>English.</i>	<i>Possessive.</i>	<i>Article.</i>
my	-ey-, -ai-	-ga, -gi, -gu. -da, -di, -du.
thy	-à-	
his	-ís-	Definite article added without linking conson- ant.
her	-èd	
our	-èn-	
your	-ín-	
their	-òd-	
our	-aya-	-ga, -gi, -gu.

Examples :—

banduchèyga, my gun.

abbahàga, thy father.

shuchulkísi, his work.

áchalkèni, our house.

bariskíni, your rice.

sortòda, their food.

kás wa kèygi (§ 66), that is mine.

wa tadi, it is thine.

magahís? (what is) his name?

magahà? (what is) your name?

17. *Personal articles of kit, food, &c.*

alabad-di, baggage, property.	mind-di, knife.
gólup-ki, things.	mùda-hi, fork.
tambùch-hi, tent.	fandal-ki, spoon.
mis-ki, table-ki, table.	cǔp-ki, cup.
kùrsi-gi, chair.	ga'as-ki, glass.
gògol-shi, bed.	seèn-i, plate.
baldi-di, bucket.	charòrad-di, bottle.
sirád-ki, lamp.	dichsi-gi, cooking-pot.
sanduch-hi, box.	sal-ki, bottom.
khùful-ki, padlock.	dab-ki, handle.
mufta-hi, key.	kettli-gi, kettle.
jòniad-di, bag.	kitab-ki, book.
busta-hi, blanket.	ghalim-ki, pen, pencil.
towel-ki, towel.	warach-di, paper.
dàr-ki, clothes.	chad-ki, ink.
kòfiad-di, hat.	fass-ki, axe.
surwal-ki, breeches.	mèjorifád-di, shovel.
kumis-ki, shirt.	musmar-ki, nail.
kǔba-hi, shoes, boots.	irbad-ki, pin, needle.
massar-ki, handker- chief.	dǔbba-hi, hammer.
	sofa-hi, file.
	fur-ki, cork.

suf-ki, rag, duster.	reï-gi, mustard.
sun-ki, strap.	filfil-shi, pepper.
tar-ki, wire.	bur-ki, flour.
kòra-hi, saddle.	baris-ki, rice.
hákuma-hi, bridle.	súnkur-ki, sugar.
ainan-ki, reins.	haïd-di, fat.
durmad-di, bit.	godrad-di, vegetable,
rikáb-ki, stirrup.	fruit.
bír-ti, iron (and any iron tool, instrument, or part of anything).	àno-hi, milk.
sor-ti, food.	burrad-ki, malup-ki,
hilib-ki, meat.	butter.
kïbis-ti, bread.	ùsbah, usub, fresh.
bíya-hi, water.	dugahh, old.
fùd-ki, soup.	hun, bad.
usboh-di, salt.	chahowa-hi, tea.
	bùri-gi, tobacco.

### 18. *Native Articles.*

#### Camel equipment.

- hèrio-di, loading mat (general name).
- kibid-di, loading mat (bark).
- harar-ki, ous-ki, loading mat (grass).
- hádig-gi, rope (general name).
- yel-shi, herio rope.
- hogàn-ti, neck rope.
- surádherad-di, loading rope.

**baïd-di**, breast rope.

**ain-ti**, rope for the 'guri.'

Watering.

**dòlis-ki**, long rope for drawing water.

**wadan-ti**, skin bucket.

**gundil-ki**, skin trough.

**bal-di-di**, European bucket.

**hàn-ti**, large conical vessel for carrying  
water on the march.

**ajàn-ti**, small vessel.

**dil-shi**, small vessel for milk.

**soprà-hi**, **gurbid-di**, skin water-bag.

Living.

**gùri-gi**, hut (made of herios).

**rèr-ki**, village.

**lamado-di**, big skin for 'guri.'

Clothing and equipment.

**máro-di**, long white tobe.

**gòà-hi**, half length tobe.

**mòwis-ti**, coloured waist-cloth.

**kùba-hi**, sandals.

**wáran-ki** (**dèr**, **gaban**), spear (long, short).

**gashan-ti**, shield.

**ghànso-di**, bow.

**falad-di**, arrow.

**gaboyo-di**, quiver.

**bilòwa-hi**, knife.

jedel-ki, whip.  
 masaula-hi, prayer-mat.  
 wèso-di, small water-bottle.  
 tūsbah-hi, rosary.  
 halál-ki, two large pieces of amber (charm).  
 gordas-ki, leather strap for charm.  
 kàtum-ki, ring.  
 fàs-ki, precious stone.  
 farùs-ki, blue stone (? turquoise).  
 lif-ki, marble (children's game).  
 turub-ki, warach-di, cards.  
 dabin-ti, trap.

19. *Physical features.*

miyi-gi, jungle.  
 bŭn-ka, plain.  
 ged-ki, dir-ti, tree, bush.  
 dŭr-ki, grass (long and stiff).  
 gèda-hi, grass (pasture).  
 bŭr-ti, mountain.  
 ghumbur-ti, hill.  
 tul-ki, heap.  
 hatach-di, boran-ti, trench.  
 gòd-ki, hole.  
 tug-gi, river-bed.  
 wadi-gi, river.  
 bahal-ki, animal.  
 nin-ki, man.

- nàg-ti, woman.  
 rǎg-gi, dad-ki, people.  
 rèr-ki, village.  
 òd-di, zareba.  
 dindimúd-di, ant-heap.  
 amùd-di, earth.  
 sísa-hi, sígo-di, dust.  
 derigh-hi, hilin-ki, road.  
 dagahh-hi, rock, stone.  
 ràd-ki, track, pug.  
 èr-ki, sky.  
 chorahh-hi, sun.  
 dayah-hi, moon.  
 hedig-gi, star.  
 darur-ti, cloud.  
 dabèil-shi, wind.  
 rob-ki, rain.  
 unköd-di, thunder.  
 hilah-hi, lightning.  
 hared-di, rain-water.  
 darab-ki, dew.  
 düb-ki, fire.  
 khikh-hi, smoke.  
 ächäl-ki, house.  
 dar-ti, stone building, wall.  
 bülli, low place where water collects.  
 bülli harédleh, rain-water pool.



20. *Names of Animals.*

- hòla-hi, nef-ki, cattle, stock.  
 geli, camel (general term).  
 aur-ki, camel (male, loading).  
 hal-shi, camel (female).  
 aurti, ràti, the camels.  
 ari-gi, sheep.  
 wan-ki, ram.  
 ri-gi, goat.  
 faras-ki (genya-di), horse (mare).  
 dabèr-ki, donkey.  
 bóchol-ki, mule.  
 ogad-di, wild animals.  
 libahh-hi, lion.  
 shabèl-ki, leopard.  
 gududòn-ti, lynx.  
 harimad-di, cheetah.  
 dinád-di, cat.  
 warába-hi, hyena.  
 eìg-gi, dog.  
 godir-ki (yir), koodoo (lesser).  
 beïd-di, oryx.  
 sig-gi, hartebeest.  
 gérenùk-gi, Waller's gazelle.  
 débatag-ti, Clarke's gazelle.  
 dèro-di, aoul-ki, beira-hi, Plateau gazelle.  
 sagàro-di, dikdik.

balungo-di, dòl-ki, waterbuck.  
 maròdi-gi, elephant.  
 wiyil-ki, rhinoceros.  
 jèr-ki, hippopotamus.  
 gerri-gi, giraffe.  
 dofár-ki, warthog.  
 dayir-ki, monkey.  
 fidmer-ti, bat.  
 jir-ki, wallo-di, rat.  
 mas-ki, jilbis-ki, abèso-di, abur-ki, sub-  
     hanyo-di, snake.  
 gungumad-di, lizard.  
 shimbir-ti, bird.  
 beid-di, egg.  
 gòri-gi, ostrich.  
 gorgor-ki, vulture.  
 tuka-hi, crow.  
 badag-gi, duck.  
 digirin-ki, guinea-fowl.  
 abor-ki, ant (white).  
 ghudanyo-di, ant (black).

21. *Names of Trees and Plants.*

galol-shi, megag-gi, large thorn trees.  
 sarmán-ti, table-top thorn trees.  
 gob-ki, dool-ki, dafarùr-ki, tall thornless trees  
     with small red fruit (edible).

derkèn-ti, euphorbia tree.

adád-di, gum tree.

didin-ti, myrrh tree.

ain-ti, ergin-ti, two kinds of snake-like plants  
with milky poisonous juice.

gásangas-ki, low plant with thick root-stock  
useful for washing and softening water.

sabka-di, a low asclepiad with green edible  
fruit, covered with long soft tentacles.

dir-ti, any tree or bush.

lan-ti, branch.

alén-ti, leaf.

ghòdah-hi, thorn.

jirid-di, root.

ghorigh-hi, stem, pole, log, wood.

ùbah-hi, flower.

jilif-ki, bark.

maìdah-hi, underneath layer of bark used for  
chewing, and making ropes and herios.

22. *Parts of the Body, &c.*

míyid-di, corpse.

il-shi, eye.

san-ti, skin.

san-ki, nose.

hílib-ki, flesh.

af-ki, mouth.

rig-gi, blood.

dig-ti, ear.

madah-hi, head.

dan-ki, chin.

timir-ti, hair.

bushin-ti, lip.

weiji-gi, face.

ilig-ki, tooth.

arrab-ki, tongue.	shausho-di, calf.
hunguri-gi, throat.	ancho-di, ankle.
garab-ki, shoulder.	àg-ti, foot.
gaàn-ti, arm.	farah-hi, toe.
muruch-hi, biceps.	idib-ki, heel.
husul-ki, elbow.	àgta àd, sole.
urur-ki, forearm.	iddi-di, nail.
jolochli-gi, wrist.	gàd-ki, whiskers, beard.
gaàn-ti, hand.	sharub-ti, moustache.
sul-ki, thumb.	dabo-di, tail.
farah-hi, finger.	dib-ki, tail (goat).
babao-di, palm.	dilif-ki, tail (sheep).
sakár-ki, chest.	bari-gi, tail fat.
lab-ti, breast.	gar-ti, horn.
dábar-ki, back.	raf-ki, hoof.
alòl-shi, stomach.	gomod-di, camel's foot.
sin-ti, hip.	fol-ki, tusk.
lùg-ti, leg.	laf-ti, bone.
boodo-di, thigh.	indõli-hi, skull.
rug-gi, knee.	

23. *Relationships, &c.*

ábba-hi, father.	walál-shi, sister.
hoyo-di, mother.	inán-ki, wil-ki, son.
nin-ki, husband, man.	inán-ti, daughter.
nàg-ti, wife, woman.	inán-ki, boy.
walál-ki, brother.	gábad-di, girl.

arur-ti, child.	àkhil-ki, chief.
wadád-ki, odé-gi, old man.	nin wein, nin ma-daha, headman.
habr-ti, old woman.	barbar-ki, young man.
moskhén, poor people.	hhàs-ki, family.

24. *Plural Number.*

(i) Masculine monosyllables :—

dab-ki, dabáb-ki, handles.

fas-ki, fasás-ki, axes.

düb-ki, dubúb-ki, fires.

nin-ki, nimán-ki, men.

(ii) Feminine monosyllables :—

hal-shi, halod-di, she-camels.

mel-shi, melod-di, places.

bil-shi, bilod-di, months.

lug-ti, lugod-di, legs.

nàg-ti, nagod-di, women.

exc. lan-ti, lama-hi, branches.

(iii) Nouns ending in a :—

kora-hi, koryal-shi, saddles.

busta-hi, bustyal-shi, blankets.

mufta-hi, muftyal-shi, keys.

(iv) Nouns ending in o :—

asho-di, ashóin-ki, days.

gúdimo-di, gudimoín-ki, gudimos.

sháchado-di, shachadoín-ki, bandoliers.

- (v) Other masculine polysyllables :—  
 tambuch-hi, tambùchyad-di, tents.  
 libahh-hi, libahhyad-di, lions.  
 ghodah-hi, ghodahyad-di, thorns.  
 kursi-gi, kursyad-di, chairs.  
 tèbel-ki, tèbelad-di, tables.  
 sirád-ki, sirádad-di, lamps.  
 fandal-ki, fandalad-di, spoons.  
 shabèl-ki, shabèlad-di, leopards.
- (vi) Other feminine polysyllables :—  
 (a) saad-di, saadòd-di, hours.  
 herio-di, heriodòd-di, herios.  
 darar-ti, dararód-di, days.  
 malin-ti, malmòd-di, days.  
 sanad-di, sanadód-di, years.  
 (b) jòniad-di, jòniada-hi, bags.  
 alén-ti, aléma-hi, leaves.  
 mèjorifád-di, mèjorifáda-hi, shovels.
- (vii) Foreign words :—  
 sanduch-hi, sánaduch-hi, boxes.  
 sirkal-ki, sírakil-shi, officers.  
 askàri-gi, askàrr-ti, soldiers.  
 nin mahàbis, mahabís-ti, prisoners.  
 kùrsi-gi, kurási-di, chairs.

Note that except in (i), (ii) and (vi, a) nouns change their gender in the plural.

The plural is not very commonly used, it only

occurs when any emphasis is to be laid on the number. After numerals and other words of quantity the singular is used.

Sometimes in (iii) the masculine article is used; e. g. **bustyalka**.

ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS, PREPOSITIONS,  
CONJUNCTIONS.

25. *Adjectives* follow the noun they qualify. There are only a few pure adjectives, the remaining adjectival parts of speech being verbal past participles, formed by adding **-an**, **-san** to the verb root (cf. § 49).

The particle **wa** represents the verb 'is,' 'are,' e. g.

**wanáji**, make good.

**wanáksan**, good.

**wa wanáksan**, is good.

**wa nin hun**, he is a bad man.

Besides the particle **wa**, verbs expressing state are formed by conjugating adjectives as verbs, e. g.

**wanáksana**, **wa wanáksana**, is good (§ 54).

(**wa**) **àsya**, is red (§ 52).

(**wa**) **houlyíra**, is easy.

**wa** may be used or not, but usually occurs.

For *Comparison* vide § 68.

*Adverbs* are formed by the particle *si* or by *ghun*, e. g.

**si wanáksan**, well.

**ghunyar**, slowly.

26. *List of Adjectives.*

<b>wein</b> , large.	<b>safaisan</b> , <b>adaisan</b> ,
<b>yâr, yír</b> , small.	clean.
<b>dèr</b> , long, tall, deep.	<b>uskágleh</b> , dirty.
<b>gában</b> , short.	<b>bùha</b> , full.
<b>ádag</b> , hard, strong.	<b>marán</b> , empty.
<b>balàran</b> , thick.	<b>affèyan</b> , sharp.
<b>jilisan</b> , thin, soft, weak.	<b>afbèlan</b> , blunt.
<b>dùban</b> , long and thin.	<b>sàhalan, houlyír</b> , easy.
<b>ùlus</b> , heavy.	<b>kulul, kululan</b> , warm.
<b>fúdud</b> , light.	<b>ghabòban</b> , cold.
<b>wanáksan</b> , good.	<b>àd</b> , bright, white.
<b>rŭn</b> , right.	<b>madò</b> , dark, black, blue.
<b>hun</b> , bad.	<b>às</b> , red, brown.
<b>àjis</b> , lazy.	<b>oul</b> , yellow, green.

27. *Numerals* precede the noun they qualify, and do not require the plural. The definite article is usually attached to the numeral, and not the noun.

*Cardinal numbers.*

**kód**, mid, 1.

**lába-di**, 2.



- sáddehh-di, 3.  
áfar-ti, 4.  
shan-ti, 5.  
llèhh-di, 6.  
todòba-di, 7.  
sidèd-di, 8.  
sagál-ki, 9.  
toban-ki, 10.  
kòbyo toban-ki, 11.  
lábyo toban-ki, 12.  
sáddehhyo toban-ki, 13.  
áfaryo toban-ki, 14.  
shányo toban-ki, 15.  
llèhhyo toban-ki, 16.  
todòbyo toban-ki, 17.  
sidèdyo toban-ki, 18.  
sagàlyo toban-ki, 19.  
labàton-ki, 20.  
kòbyo labàton-ki, 21.  
soddon-ki, 30.  
afárton-ki, 40.  
kóuton-ki, 50.  
llèhhdon-ki, 60.  
todobàton-ki, 70.  
sidèton-ki, 80.  
sagàshon-ki, 90.  
bòchol-ki, 100.

bòchol yo mid, 101.  
 bochól yo toban, 110.  
 laba bòchol, 200.  
 kun, 1000.

*Other forms.*

labàton midla, 19.  
 llèhhdon midla, 59.  
 bòchol midla, 99.  
 sóddon buha, 30.

28. *Ordinal numbers.*

kòwad-di, hòre, 1st.  
 labad-ki, 2nd.  
 saddehhad-ki, 3rd.  
 afrad-ki, 4th.  
 shanad-ki, 5th.  
 llehhad-ki, 6th.  
 todobad-ki, 7th.  
 sidedad-ki, 8th.  
 sagalad-ki, 9th.  
 tobnad-ki, 10th.  
 kòbyo tobnad-ki, 11th, &c., &c.

29. *Other expressions of Number and Quantity.*

mid mid, one by one.  
 toban toban, in tens.  
 nimba toban, two each.  
 bòchol yo nin, 101 men.

bad-ki, half.

labyo seddehh, two or three.

badan, many, much.

idin, any.

idna, any one.

waka, anything.

midna, no one.

kélich, only.

kèli-gi, alone.

walba, every.

kasta, each.

dimán-ti, every one.

gedi-gi, kulli-gi, all.

kaleh, other.

'ss ku míd, ó kaleh, same.

ímisa? how many?

inté? how much?

shò saddehh máha? surely three (§ 59).

wá llèhh, there are six.

àd u tiri, count carefully.

afárton kelich, only forty.

sóddon waiye, just thirty.

wáchaba, nothing.

wahóga, wahyar, a little.

nin kelich, one man only.

ídinku keligi soòda, you go on by yourselves  
(§ 40).

idla, by oneself (without any one).

inta kaleh, the rest.

sanaduchi mel gònia diga, put the boxes in  
one place.

labadatán wa 'ss ku mid, these two are the  
same.

imisa ma hárin ? how many are left ?

ninkan wa kú jira, this man is included.

### 30. *Time and place, &c.*

gor-ti, mar-ki, kol-ki, berri-gi, had-di, time.  
mel-shi, hal-ki, hag-gi, place.

From these nouns, adverbs, conjunctions, and  
interrogatives of time and place are derived.

Similar derivative parts of speech are formed  
from the following nouns :—

in-ti, meaning 'quantity,' 'distance.'

si-di, ,, 'manner.'

aïn-ki ,, 'sort.'

### 31. *Adverbs.*

gortan, markan, kolkan, now.

gortas, markas, kolkas, then.

marki hòri, kolki hòri, before.

marki dambi, kolki dambi, after.

(meshan) hálkan, hággan, here.

(meshas) hálkà(s), hággà(s), there.

sidà, sidas, so.

**intà, intàs, íntan, intatán**, so much.

**aĩnkas**, like that.

**gortatan, haddatan**, now at once.

**haddaba**, now therefore.

**wagi hòri, bérrigi hòre**, formerly.

**gor badan**, often.

**már kaleh**, again.

**gor, kol, mar**, once.

**saddehh gor**, three times.

**gor doò**, soon.

**marmar**, sometimes.

*Other adverbs.*

**íminka, àminka**, now.

**dábadéd**, afterwards.

**dochso**, { at once.  
                  { quickly.

**wèli**, yet.

**dòwad, mel doò**, near.

32. *Conjunctions.*

**gorta, kolka, marka**, when.

**mel**, where.

**inta**, { until.  
          { as much as.

**sida**, as.

These conjunctions are combined with the personal pronoun (vide § 38), and are followed by the conditional (cf. § 50).

33. *Interrogatives.*

gorma? when?

hagge? (meshe?) where?

hadma? at what time?

inté? how far?

inté? how much?

sīde? how?

ímisa gor? how often?

aīnma? what sort?

mè? where? (in simple questions, such as: **ninki mè?** where is the man?).

34. The following nouns are used as adverbs, and form prepositions when combined with the possessive. (Cf. § 16.)

*Adverb.**Preposition.*hòri, { in front. }  
          { before. }

hortísi, or ka hòre.

dambi, { behind. }  
          { after. }

dambísi, or ka dambi.

dabaded, afterwards.

dabadísi, after.

gùdaha, inside.

gudahísi, in.

dibáddi, outside.

dibadísi.

hosta, underneath.

hostísi.

dusha, above.

dushísi, upon.

dèhda, in the middle.

dehdísi, between.

ag <sup>t</sup> í, near.	ag <sup>t</sup> ísi.
fòg, far.	
sida, so.	sidi, as.

35. *Other expressions of Time, Place, &c.*

saàd-di, hour, clock.	
asho-di, darar-ti, malin-ti, day.	
bil-shi, month.	
sanad-di, gù-gi, year.	
kódi, one o'clock.	
saddehda saàd, three o'clock.	
ájarta saàd yo bádki, half-past four.	
shan saàdod, five hours.	
shanta saad, wahad ka	} ten minutes to five.
hòre toban 'minute'	
manta, to-day.	
shalèto, shalè, yesterday.	
dorràd, day before yesterday.	
berri, berríto, to-morrow.	
sà dambi, day after to-morrow.	
sà kùb, day after the day after to-morrow.	
aròr-ti, morning, in the morning.	
sà ka, this morning.	
duhur-ka, midday.	
gelin ka dambi, afternoon.	
gelüp-ti, evening.	
haben-ki, night.	
hálè, halèto, last night.	

berrí arorti, to-morrow morning.

shalèto gelúp, yesterday evening.

haben hòre, night before last.

ásho walba, every day.

áshodi hòri, the other day.

berrigi hòre, some time ago.

laba bilod, two months.

laba sanadod, two years.

íminka 'ss ka tag, you may go now.

wèli wa jóga, he is here still.

haggú jira? where is he?

ninki mè? where is the man.

sidi hòre, as before.

mid àinkas, one like that.

wa sída, it is so, or, there you are.

wa ràgti, you are late.

bari-gi, east.

galbed-ki, west.

intù jira? how far is he (it)?

intè jirta (§ 54)? how far is she (place)?

mel fog }  
wa fògti } far away.

wa agag, wa doòyi, it is quite close.

wèli ma yimi (§ 62)? has he come yet?

gormú yimi? when did he come?

gormád timi? when did you come?

hággead ká timi? where have you come from?



**hággéad tégisa?** where are you going?

**hággéad tákté?** where did you go?

36. The *Prepositions*,

**ka**, from,

**ku**, to,

**la**, with,

are used to qualify, not the noun, which has no declension, but the verb. They always immediately precede the verb, e. g.

<sup>he</sup>  
**Bohòtle bu ká yimi**, he came from Bohotle.

<sup>he</sup>  
**Bohòtle yu-gu tégya**, he is going to Bohotle.

<sup>I</sup>  
**anigu sirkálki la raa**, I go along with the officer.

## PART II.

### SYNTAX.

#### 37. *General Rules.*

The order of a Somali sentence is (1) Subject, (2) Object, (3) Verb.

Adverbial clauses, especially expressions of Time, come first.

If the subject of an adverbial or conditional clause is the subject of the principal sentence, it is placed first, i. e. in front of the conjunction.

The verb always requires the simplest form of the personal pronoun to immediately precede it, whether the true subject is expressed or not.

Complicated sentences are entirely avoided, a string of short remarks describing events in their proper order being employed instead.

Any further rules than these must be left here to be gathered from the examples.

## PRONOUNS.

38. *Simple Form.*

	<i>Subjective.</i>	<i>Objective.</i>
I	-an	i
thou	-ad	u, ku
he	-u	u, ku
she	-ei, -ai	u, ku
we	-einu, -ainu	na
you	-eidin, -aidin	idin
they	-ei, -ai	u, ku.

In the above the subjective cases cannot be used by themselves, but must be attached to the preceding noun, conjunction, interrogative or negative particle.

39. *Prefixes.*

Unless the subjective cases are attached as described in § 38, they are used with certain prefixes :

**w-** (e. g. **wan**, **wad**, **wu**), only used when first in the sentence.

**b-** (e. g. **ban**, **bad**, **bu**). The commonest form.

**y-** (e. g. **yan**, **yad**, **yu**), used for euphony instead of **b**.

The objective cases require no prefixes.

40. *Demonstrative.*

With the subjective case of this form, the simple form is required in addition, preceding the verb.

ànigu, ánigá, I.

àdigu, ádigá, thou.

ísagu, isága, he.

íyadu, iyáda, she.

ánnagu, innagu, annága, innága, we.

èdinku, ídinku, edínka, idínka, you.

íyagu, iyága, they:

41. *Imperative.*

an, 1st person.

ha, 3rd person.

Used with the conditional tense. (For the 2nd person *vide* § 46.)

42. *Indicative.*

This form is used with certain verbs, such as want, hope, think, say, &c., when it may be translated by 'this is what I,' &c.

wahán, this is what I . . .

wahád, this is what thou . . .

wuhú, this is what he . . .

wehé, this is what she . . .

wehènu, this is what we . . .

wehèdin, this is what you . . .

wehè, this is what they . . .

43. *Interrogative.*

**ya?** **ke?** **te?** who? what?

**kùma?** **tuma?** which? (sing.).

**kùama?** **tuama?** which? (plur.).

**ya?** is the subjective case only.

When 'what' is the object of the verb, it is declined similarly to the indicative form.

**mahán?** what I . . . ?

**mahád?** what thou . . . ?

**muhu?** what he . . . ?

**mehé?** what she . . . ?

**mehènu?** what we . . . ?

**mehèdin?** what you . . . ?

**mehé?** what they . . . ? (cf. § 59).

**ya?** also is the interjection, what? eh?

44. *Examples.*

**wahán iri, berrito ban tegya,** I said, I am going to-morrow.

**muhu i shegé?** what did he tell me?

**wuhu dònya,** this is what he wants.

**ànigu máha,** it is not I.

**mahád dònisa?** what do you want?

**ninki wa joga. ke?** The man is here.

Who?

**nin Dolbohanta. kuma?** a Dolbohanta.

Which one?

## CONJUGATION OF VERBS.

45. *Elisions and Contractions.*

(i) In monosyllabic verbs, in the infinitive **a** becomes **e**.

(ii) In polysyllabic verbs, where the last syllable is short, the vowel of the last syllable is dropped in conjugating.

(iii) **lt**, **ld** become **sh**.

(iv) **rd**, **rg** become **rt**, **rk**.

(v) **rn**, **ln** become **rr**, **ll**.

46. *The Root.* The simplest form of a verb is the 2nd pers. sing. imperative. This is the root from which all tenses are formed.

47. *Classes.* There are three classes.

I. The root ends in a consonant, or **-a**, or **-ah**, e.g.

**düb**, roast.

**shég**, tell.

**tag**, go.

**arag**, see.

**raa**, follow.

**ka**, rise.

II. The root ends in **-o**, e.g.

**jogso**, stop.

**soð**, go on.

**nocho**, go back.

garo, understand.

baro, learn.

III. The root ends in -è, -i, -ei, -ai, e.g.

shachèi, work.

somèi, make.

haï, have.

ibi, sell.

si, give.

48. The *Infinitive* is formed—

in I by adding -i to the root, e.g.

dŭbi, shegi, tegi, arki, keï.

in II, III, by adding -n to the root, e.g.

jogson, soòn, nochon, garan, baran, sha-  
chein, sin.

49. The *Participle*, or verbal adjective, is formed by adding to the root,

I. -an.

III. -san, e.g.

dŭban, roasted.

adeisan, cleaned.

kululan, warmed.

gogoisan, cut up.

dalolisan, perforated.

50. *Moods and Tenses.*

There are two *Moods*, Perfect and Imperfect,  
e.g.

I say, I said, I have said, are *Perfect*.

I am saying, I was saying, are *Imperfect*.

These are distinguished by the form of the  
tense inflexions.

There are only three pure *Tenses*—

Present ends in **-a**.

Past ends in **-é**.

Conditional ends in **-o**.

51. *Perfect Mood.* Tenses are formed by adding the tense terminations directly to the root, except in II, in which class the terminations are **-da, -dé, -do**.

In the second class where the final **o** is short it is usually dropped, and the letters altered if necessary according to the rules in § 45, e.g.

wan shega, I tell.    wan shóge, I told.

gortan shego, when I tell.

soo, go on.

wan sooda, I go on.

jogso, wait.

wan jogsoda, I wait.

garo, understand.

wan garta, I understand.

baro, learn.

wan barta, I learn.

yelo, undertake.

wan yesha, I undertake.

nocho, go back.

wan nochda, I go back.



52. *Imperfect Mood.*

The tense terminations are preceded by **i** or **y**, and added to the infinitive.

(In I the **i** of the infinitive is dropped.)

(These seem to be the tenses of an imperfect auxiliary verb **i**, be, conjugated regularly and with the dependent verb in the infinitive preceding it, cf. § 58), e.g.

**wan soǒnya**, I am going on.

**wan shachèinya**, I am working.

**wan shégya**, I am telling.

**wan malènyé**, I was thinking.

The **i** is short in all except those verbs of II where the syllable preceding it is short; e.g.

**garǎnyá**,

**barǎnyá**,

**ghobǒnyá**.

53. *Table of Moods.*

<i>Cl.</i>	<i>Imperative.</i>	<i>Infinitive.</i>	<i>Pres. Perf.</i>	<i>Pres. Imperf.</i>
I.	shég, tell.	shégi.	shéga.	shégya.
II a.	soò, go on.	soòn.	soòda.	soònya.
b.	baro, learn.	báran.	barta.	baranýa.
III.	shachèi, work.	shachèin.	shachèya.	shachèinya.

54. The above terminations are for 1st pers. and 3rd pers. sing. masc. The following are the varieties for person :—

	<i>Present.</i>	<i>Past.</i>	<i>Conditional.</i>
sing. 1	-a	-é	-o
2	{ -ta -sa	{ -té -sé	{ -to -so
3 m.	-a	-é	-o
3 f.	{ -ta -sa	{ -té -sé	{ -to -so
plur. 1	-na	-né	-no
2	{ -tan -san	{ -tén -sén	{ -tan -san
3 m.	-an	-én	-an
3 f.	{ -tan -san	{ -tén -sén	{ -tan -san

In the 2nd and 3rd fem. pers. sing. and plur., **t** is used after a consonant, i.e. in the perfect tenses of I and II.

**s** is used always after **i**, i.e. in all imperfect tenses, and in perfect tenses of III.

55. The *Future* is formed by the present perfect of the auxiliary verb **don**, will.

The auxiliary is often omitted in this tense and the infinitive used alone, e.g.

wan shegi dona } I will tell.  
wan shegi }

56. *Table of Conjugations.**Imperative.*

- (I) **an shego**, let me tell.  
**sheg**, tell.
- (I) **ha machlo**, let him hear.  
**ha machasho**, let her hear.
- (III) **an shacheino**, let us work.  
**shacheya**, work ye.
- (II) **ha bartan**, let them learn.

*Future.*

<b>wan tegi dona</b>	} I will go, &c.
„ <b>donta</b>	
„ <b>dona</b>	
„ <b>donta</b>	
„ <b>donna</b>	
„ <b>dontan</b>	
„ <b>donan</b>	

*Perfect.**Imperfect.*

## Present.

<b>soòda</b> , go on.	(II. a.) <b>soònya</b> , am going on.
<b>soòta</b>	<b>soònisa</b>
<b>soòda</b>	<b>soònya</b>
<b>soòta</b>	<b>soònisa</b>
<b>garna</b> , understand.	(II. b.) <b>baranína</b> , are learning.
<b>gartan</b>	<b>baranísan</b>
<b>gartan</b>	<b>baranýan</b>

<i>Perfect.</i>	<i>Imperfect.</i>
Past.	
tagé, went.	(I.) tégyé, was going.
takté	tégisé
tagé	tégyé
takté	tégisé
arkné, saw.	(I.) machliné, were hearing.
arktén	machlisén
arkén	machlyén
Conditional.	
falo, do.	(I.) félyo, may do.
fasho	féliso
falo	félyo
fasho	féliso
shachèino, work.	(III.) shachèinino, may work.
shachèisan	shachèinisan
shachèyan	shachèinyan

57. *Negative.* The negative particle is **ma**, **an**, or **ha**.

Their use is as follows:—

*Imperative.*

**ha**, with the infinitive with **-in** added, e. g.

**hádál**, talk.

**ha hádlin**, don't talk.

(plur.) **ha hádlinina**, don't talk.

*Perfect Mood.*

*Present tense.*

**ma**, with the present perfect tense, e. g.

**má joga**, he is not here.

*Past tense.*

**ma**, with the infinitive with **-n** added, e.g.  
**midna maàrkin**, I saw no one.

*Conditional tense.*

**an**, with the infinitive with **-in** added, e.g.  
**hádanad ghóbonin**, if you do not do.  
**hádanu jògin**, if he is not here.

58. *Imperfect Mood.**Present and Past tenses.*

The infinitive is used followed by the tense terminations, which are negated as explained above (§ 57). (Cf. note in § 52.)

Thus the **i** again appears as an auxiliary verb, and in this case, in negative form, as a separate word and not combined with the verb itself; e.g.

**doni màya**, I am not wanting.

**garan màya**, I do not understand.

**tegi màin**, I was not going.

The present tense form is conjugated without personal pronouns.

*Present tense—*

**doni maya**

„ **maisa**

„ **maya**

„ **maisa**

„ **mayna**

„ **maisán**

„ **mayan**

} I do not want, *or*,  
 } I shall not want,  
 } &c.

In the past tense the negative form for perfect tenses, being the infinitive, with **ma** and **n**, is not conjugated either in this or in the perfect tenses.

The negative of the future tense is the same as the negative present imperfect.

*Conditional tense.* In this also the **i** may be said to be conjugated regularly, but is not treated as a separate word.

Thus the root **i** makes infinitive **in** and negative conditional **an inin** (§ 57), e.g.

**hadanad ghoboninin**, if you shall not do.

Note.—The negative of **wa** is **maha**. (Cf. § 25.)

### 59. *The Interrogative.*

The interrogative particle is **ma**, e.g.

**ma dónisa** ? do you want it ?

**ma jóga** ? is he here ?

**ma arkten** ? did you see ?

**ma** is combined with the personal pronouns, e.g.

**maan, mian, maad, miad, miu, miad arkté** ?  
did you see ?

After interrogative adverbs or pronouns the particle **ma** is not required.

(For such interrogative parts of speech *vide* §§ 29, 33, 43), e.g.

**ya kaléh jira?** what else is there?

**intè jirta?** how far is it?

The interrogative 'why?' is translated by **mahan u**, **mahad u**, &c. (Cf. §§ 43, 64.)

In negative interrogative sentences the **ma** retains the interrogative sense, and **an** is used as the negative particle, e.g.

**mianad donisa?** do you not want?

The particle **sò**, **shò**, expresses doubt or potentiality, e.g.

**sò àno miad dónisa?** perhaps you want milk? *or*, don't you want milk?

**shò máha?** is it not?

### 60. *The Passive.*

(i) This may be expressed as in English by **wa**, is, are, and the participle (§§ 25, 49), e.g.

**wa adèsan**, it is cleaned.

(ii) The commoner way of expressing the passive is by the use of the particle **la**.

This then has the same meaning as the French *on* in *on dit*, 'it is said.'

The passive subject is in the objective case and the verb is in the 3rd pers. masc. singular, as if **la** were the subject, e.g.

**la kénya**, it is being brought ; it is coming.  
**isága ma la sín**, he has not been given, *or*,  
 no one gave him.

**ímisa la dónya** ? how many are wanted ?

Note : **la u** becomes **lo**.

**la ku** „ **lagu**.

e.g. **sirákishi kaleh biyu lo gèiya**, the other  
 officers are being brought their water.

**wa lagu dulmya**, he is being ill-treated.

### 61. Auxiliary Verbs.

**don**, will.

**kar**, be able, can.

**jir**, be (used in past tense to form a past  
 habitual tense).

These are conjugated regularly, and take the  
 infinitive, which precedes them ; e.g.

**wan tégi dona**, I will go.

**wad tégi kari dóna**, you will be able to go.

**wu soòn kari màya**, he cannot walk.

**wan olli jiré**, I used to live.

### 62. Irregular Verbs.

The principal ones are :—

<i>Imper.</i>	<i>Inf.</i>	<i>Pres.Perf.</i>	<i>Pres.Imperf.</i>
imo, come.	iman.	ímada.	imánya.
deh, say.	oran.	iràda.	oránya.
oll, live.	olli.	al.	(ollya).
ogho, know.	oghon.	oghda.	oghaha.



In these four verbs the imperfect tenses are conjugated regularly, but in the perfect tenses the specific consonants for the different persons are added to the beginning, instead of to the termination.

The past perfects are also irregular :

<b>imi</b> , came.	<b>iri</b> , said
<b>il</b> , lived.	<b>oghàdé</b> , knew.

The conditional of **imo** is **imàdo**.

<b>wan imi</b> , came.	<b>iràda</b> , say.
<b>wad timi</b> .	<b>tiràda</b> .
<b>wu yimi</b> .	<b>yiràda</b> .
<b>wènu nimi</b> .	<b>niràna</b> .

The only other irregular verbs to be mentioned here are the doubtful verbs :

<b>leh</b>	{	have	<b>lahan</b>	<b>lehda</b>	{	laha
		ought				lehya
		should				
<b>weh</b>	{	have not			{	wehya wei
		cannot				wahya
<b>(-i</b>	be	<b>-in</b>				<b>-ia, -yaha</b> ).

(§§ 25, 52, 58.)

### 63. *Examples of Irregular Verbs.*

**gormad timi** ? when did you come ?  
**ma iman** (§ 57), not come (all persons).  
**wa imánya**, he is coming.

yímada, come ye.

hadènu nimàno, if we come.

gortu yimàdo, when he comes.

wahad tiràda, say this.

muhu yiràda? what does he say?

mahad oran? what are you going to say?

wahan oránya, I am saying.

muhu yiri? what did he say?

markan iràdo, when I say.

miska dushísi yal, it is on the table.

áchalkeiga yalin, they are in my house.

haggead talin? where do you live?

Burao ènu nal, I live in Burao.

haggà ènu nil, I lived over there.

wan oghon, I shall know.

wan òghaha, I know.

wan oghàdé, I knew.

moòfi, moòyi, I don't know.

má tǒghan? do you know it?

wáchaba ka ma oghon, he knew nothing  
of it.

mahad i orou lèhdin? what have you to  
tell me?

mahad lehda? what have you (to say)?

wahan lehya, I have, &c.

inad takto yad lehda, you have got to go.

inad egto yad lehda, you must have seen.

'twenty' deh, say 'twenty.'  
 dochso deh, tell him to hurry.  
 anigà leh, it is mine.  
 yà leh? whose?

laagti ban ku sín laha, I should give you  
 the pay. (Cf. § 70.)

64. **Weh.** This is a defective irregular negative verb. It is employed as an auxiliary and consequently takes the infinitive. Its meaning is rather a surprised or unexpected negative, or refusal, or impossibility.

It is especially used after 'why not?' 'why didn't?' (cf. § 59), e. g.

mahád u yéli wèhdi? why didn't you do it?  
 mahád u dònì wèhda? why don't you look  
 for it?

mahad i gu shegweï? why didn't you tell me?  
 weï, wàhyi, I couldn't find him.

leh wah, la wah, he is lost.

biyu meshà bènu ku wehna, we cannot find  
 water at that place.

## PART III.

### EXAMPLES OF SENTENCES.

(The numbers in brackets refer to notes at the end.)

#### 65. *Simple Sentences.*

**muhu dónya?** what does he want?

**nínka bu dónya, wuhu dónya nínka,** the man wants.

**tolmàti? golimàti?** (1) what is your tribe?

**hagge tégisa?** where are you going?

**ma machalísa?** do you hear?

**ma garanísa?** do you understand?

**ha, wa máchlya,** yes, I hear.

**ha, wa garanýa,** yes, I understand.

**mahád wárrenta?** what news do you bring?

**waha kaleh má jira?** is there anything else?

**wáchaba má jira?** (2) there is nothing.

**u shègé,** I have told him.

**u yèdé, lo yèdé,** I have called him; he is sent for.

**mà hǔbta?** are you sure?

**wá hǔba,** I am sure.

**ka wèidi,** ask him.

ha ilòwin, don't forget.

ma ilòwdi? did you forget?

wa ù malènya, (3) I think so.

wa oghánya, (4) I will find out.

wa ku só tashánya, (4) I will think about it.

idna maàrkten? did you see any one?

u dídi, he refused.

ma tégisa? are you going?

ha, berrí wa tégya, yes, I am going to-morrow.

mahád u malènisa? why do you think so?

mahán somènya ànigu? what am I to do?

nas bàti, (5) you are a fool.

mahád oron dónta? what are you going to say?

anigu u raàya, I will accompany him.

faráska ban fúli dona, I will ride the horse.

alabáda háłkan diga, put the luggage down  
here.

sanduchas tambuchèiga ku keu, put that box  
in my tent.

laba saàdod bad ghoboníse inta, you have  
been two hours doing that.

gelũpta damèya, finish it this evening.

íminkan tagno, (6) let us go now.

iminkad tégi Burao, you are now coming to  
Burao.

bíya ma kú jira? is there water there?

intú jira? how far is it?

má jira, ma kú jira, there is none.

imisa ka dambèi, how long after ?

ma haïsta ? (7) have you got it ?

wa haïsta, I have got it.

mahad sidén ? what did you bring ?

wa búka, búksata ; I am sick ; well.

wa buksánya, I am getting well.

wa bachtýa, (he) I am dying.

ninki wa bahsoté, the man has escaped.

wa bahsónya, (8) he will escape.

wa dínti, he is dead.

wa dínyi, it is ready.

wahás ígu ma wanáksana, that is no good  
to me.

rikabyáda i gâbi, (9) shorten the stirrups.

faraska kóri, saddle the pony.

B. intè jirta ? (10) how far is B. ?

D. intè B. jirta ? how far is B. from D. ?

ímisa gèdi u jiran ? (11) how many marches ?

laba lugódleh gormad ku tegisa ? (12) how  
long would you take on foot ?

faráska gormu tégya ? how long on a pony ?

laba ashoin (dararod) B. innagu geina, we  
must get to B. in two days.

dérigha kaleh má jira ? is there another road ?

èilke ma ènu márina ? (13) what well do we  
pass ?

wa dágahah, wa bur, it is stony, hilly.

tolma halkan tal? what tribe lives here?

bíyaha ma órya? does the water smell?

màya, lèkin wa dudun húnyíhi, no, but it tastes bad.

biya éduiku filan ma haísatan? have you enough water?

wahyar bèn haïsona, we have a little.

wa ídiuku filányíhi, it is quite enough for you.

aurka áchalka dóchso ka dàya, that camel's load will fall off directly.

mahád markihòre igu shegweï? why didn't you tell me before?

mahad igu shégisa? why do you tell me?

ma gór hor u tagé? has he gone long?

ghunyar hada!, wahan weidyo wehè ga èli, talk slowly, and answer what I ask.

ànigu tachsir maàn lehya, damèian shuchulkeiga, (14) it is not my fault, I have done my work.

wa kan tèbelka saran ka ken, bring that one there on the table.

áchli ma lahàin, he has no sense.

haggà bochol talába ka dambèya, follow on a hundred yards behind.

haggà ka dūrka, move away in that direction.

sò kala bad, half fill it for me.

**wa kala badanyi**, it is half full.

**adigu radki don, wah kaleh ha ghobonin,**  
**yan lagu arkin**, do nothing but look for  
 the track, and don't let yourself be seen.

**intad beina wastai, o yad tugtai**, you are not  
 only a liar, but a thief.

66. *List of Common Particles, &c.*

**wa**, (i) is, are ;

(ii) affirmative particle ; e.g.

**wa nin hun**, he is a bad man.

**wa sīda**, it is so.

**wa kuan**, here they are.

**wa saddehh**, there are three.

**wa ímisa?** how many are there ?

**wá mahài?** what is it ?

**wa wanáksana**, it is good.

**wa haista**, I have got.

**wá joga**, he is there.

**ma**, (i) negative particle ;

(ii) interrogative particle ; e.g.

**ma jóga?** is he there ?

**má joga**, he is not there.

**ha**, (i) yes ;

(ii) negative imperative particle, 2nd pers. ;

(iii) 3rd pers. pron. imperative ; e.g.

**ha hadlin**, don't talk.

**ha tago**, let him go.



**an**, (i) I ;

(ii) negative particle with conditional tenses  
and with interrogative particle ; e.g.

**hadanan jogin**, If I was not here.

**mianad dónisa?** do you not want ?

**ba**, (i) distributive ;

(ii) generic ; e.g.

**nimba toban u si**, give each man ten.

**aurba**, the camel.

**u, ku, gu**, (i) you, him ;

(ii) to, for ; e.g.

**u si**, give him.

**B. gormad ku takté?** when did you go to B. ?

**mahád u fálisa?** what are you doing it for ?

**ka**, (i) from ;

(ii) that way ;

(iii) more . . . than (§ 68) ;

(iv) that (pronoun) ; e.g.

**haggead ka timi?** where have you come from ?

**ka ghad**, take it away.

**'ss**, 'ss, reflexive, e.g.

**mahad iss tiri?** what did you mean ?

**'ss ku doàda**, close together.

**'ss ka**, there ! e.g.

**'ss ka bahá**, get out of that !

**'ss ka ghád**, take it away there !

**'ss ká tag**, go away there !

la, (i) passive particle ;

(ii) with ;

(iii) deprived of ; e. g.

ma la sin, I have not been given one.

wa sirkalki la joga, he is with the officer (i. e. servant).

labàton midla, 20 minus 1, 19.

idla, without any one.

si, (i) that way ;

(ii) give ;

(iii) adverbial (§ 25) ; e. g.

si jèso, turn that way.

so, this way, e. g.

so jèso, turn this way.

so ghad, fetch.

kāla, apart, e. g.

kala dūrka, move apart, extend.

ād, properly, well, very, e. g.

ād u tiri, count carefully.

malaha, perhaps.

laan, without, e. g.

sentéri laan, without a sentry.

o . . . mahai, without, unless, e. g.

o hūkum mahai, without an order.

àdigu o héli mahái, unless you find it.

adigu mahai imisa kaléh jiran ? how many others are there besides you ?

o, and, because.

yo, -na, and (joins substantives).

ama, mise, or.

lèkin, but.

hadi kaleh, or else.

### EXAMPLES OF COMPOUND SENTENCES.

#### 67. *Relative Sentences.* (15)

nimankà halkà farístan, u yed, send for the men who are sitting over there.

kitábki miskeigi saran, la kàli, bring me the book lying on my table.

ninki ka dón, ki sàka Burao ka yimi, find the man who came from Burao this morning.

ninki íminkan u yèdi, the man I sent for just now.

ninkàni miad àrkté? kan ma ninka ad arkté? is this the man you saw?

askárti o magaòda yan iri, ha yímada, those soldiers whose names I called, come.

wahan shalè ku iri, miadan ghobsan? do you not remember what I said yesterday?

mahad u machli wehda, wehè lagu yiri?  
(16) why don't you listen to what you are told?

wahan ku iràda yel, do what I tell you.

sidan ku iri fal, (17) do as I said.

wahan ku weidie wahad ku èli, answer my question.

nin walba árenka aïnkàsa somèya, tachsirus ya ghobsónisa, every man who makes a complaint like that will get heavily punished.

nimankas hujuddi yai somèyen, tachsirus delin bai nochoden, those men who committed that crime deserve the punishment of death.

áffar aren bai ku so ashtakòden, lába ash-tako run bai nóchodé, (18) they brought four complaints, only two were found to be true.

órod o ka só tasho, run and think about it. gor walba ayarsíska hortísi só baha, hadi kaleh wa lehdiin tachsírya, always turn out before parade, or else you will be punished.

alòshi honònisa, o soòn kari maya, my belly hurts, I can't walk.

gudimoïнки wa afbèlan, o milla affèyan mahái, òda goin màyan, the gudimos are (so) blunt (that) without being sharpened they cannot cut the wood.

wa adágyihi, o lagu goin kari maya, it is so hard, (and) it cannot be cut.

**ha sò nochon, adigu o banduchi héli mahai,**  
(19) do not come back without finding the  
rifle.

**nimánka la ma tachsíre, iyagu o so ashta-  
kòden,** (20) the men were not punished  
because they brought a complaint.

**halkà dérta wa wein,** there, where the big  
trees are.

**ashtakòdi sirkálki gorti u máchalé,** when  
the officer had listened to the complaint.

**nimankàse waha lagu tachsíré, marki ash-  
takòdi la machalé, o sirkálkí iyagi la  
mel nochodé, markasi húkumki díden,**  
(21) but those men were punished, (because)  
when their complaint was heard, and the  
officer had taken their part, still they re-  
fused to obey the order.

**mahád iss tiri, marka wahad somènisé?**  
what did you mean by doing that?

**B. markad ghobto, wahad ku tiràda sir-  
kalki,** (22) when you reach B. tell the  
officer this.

**intan so nòchdo, meshas jogsòda,** wait over  
there until I come back.

**biya an àbo i ken,** (23) bring me drinking-  
water.

**wan oghaha mel i jiro,** I know where it is.

garan maya mel dagahas o kaleh ka dono,

I don't know where to find stones like that.  
wahan faristo i ken, bring me something to  
sit on.

halkí manti dowèda gàden, gada, go as far  
as you went the other day.

intad soon karto soo, o yan idina ku arkin,  
go as far as you can without being seen.

labaton nin o owinan, ban ku so dirya,  
I will send 20 men to help you.

68. *Comparative Sentences.*

kas wa ká wanáksana, that is better.

áchalkakan áchalkihòre ka wéin, (24) this  
house is bigger than the former.

áchalkas achal ka wein somèya, make a  
bigger house than that one.

marka dambe shuchulkà shuchul dàma  
somèya, in the future do more work than  
that.

nimàyo, shuchulkihòre shuchul ka bádán  
ghobten, you men have done more work  
than before.

Isa wárankayàga waran ka wein yu lehyahi  
(síta), the Isa carries a bigger spear than  
ours.

inta waha ka yira i ken, bring me less than  
that.

wárankàs wa fúdud, that is a light spear.

kas wa fudúdyihi, (25) that is very light.

faráska wa wanáksan, wanáksan, wanáksan,  
that horse is really fine.

kán wa ugug wanáksan, this is best of all.

saddehda kas sa wein, (26) that is the biggest  
of the three.

sa sa wanaksan, it is best.

kas sa { houlyíra, that is easiest.  
sahalányihi,

gorigha gorigh ka adag wa wàiyi, (27) there  
is no harder wood to be found than that.

holaha mesha jogan, hola ka wein wèligi  
ma àrkin, the animals at that place are the  
biggest I have ever seen.

waha badan doni maya, I don't want so much.

derigha ya hagáksan, this is the { best  
road. } proper

kan ma kas gabányihi? is that shorter than  
this?

innaga ma idin badna, they are not so many  
as we.

ninkan waha ma tari weï, hog ma leh  
wachaba tari mayo, this man is useless,  
he is not strong enough for anything.

dòliskas eilka ma gàdia? is that rope long  
enough for the well?

inad A. { **ka fogàdo** doni maya, I do not want  
           { **dafto**  
 you to { go further than A.  
           { pass

69. *Oratio obliqua.* (28)

wahan dònya berrí inan tago, I want to go to-morrow.

wahan dònya inu dochso u so nòchdo, I want him to come back quickly.

wahan jaàlahai halkan inan jogo, I should like to stay here.

wahan dònya inad Burao takto, I want you to go to Burao.

inu fogàdo doni màya, I don't want him to go far.

ma inad takto miad donisa? do you want to go?

inu jogo mianu dònya? does he not want to stay?

wahan u malènya, berrí inan tago, I think I am going to-morrow.

wahan súgya inu yimàdo, I am waiting for him to come.

inteinu buhin karo, iminka ineinu buhinno sa sa wanaksan; ineinu mesha biyu ku wehna, ka yàbia (bachánya), it is best for us to fill as much as possible now, (as) I fear we shall find no water at that place.



**málaha wa araré**, I expect (perhaps) he has run away.

**mahád ù malènisa? haggi tagé?** where do you think he has gone?

**wahan ù malènya, Burao bu ku tégi**, I think he is going to Burao.

**wan ù malén maya in ilach dambi daïso**, I don't think there will be more trouble.

**inla sidàyo rahi wanaksan, la doni maya**, (29) one does not want to let good men go.

**àd u garta, wahas wa la húnnyihî, o ghainun maha**, understand thoroughly that that is very bad and not discipline.

**wahad ku tiràda, 'ss ka tága**, tell them to go away.

**wahad ku tiràda, Olesan ghobo, o dochso u tago**, tell him to go to Olesan and hurry up.

**nin ú dir, o Ali wahad ku tiràda, sò nocho**, send a man to tell Ali to come back.

**mise ilòdé, ama ku tiri?** did you forget to tell him?

**mahad u didé u raï? mahad u raï wehdi?** why wouldn't you go with him?

**san (sidan) waha iràdo, garan maya**, I don't know how to say that.

**markas wahan iri, 'shuchulkina ghobta,' markas wehé yíraden, 'ghobon mayna,'**

then when I told them to do their work,  
they said they wouldn't.

70. *Conditional Sentences.* (30)

**haddu jogo haddatan uyed**, if he is here now,  
call him.

**hadènu fogàno, wa**  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{umban} \\ \text{hababi} \end{array} \right.$  **donna**, if we go  
far, we shall be lost.

**hadiad ninki disho, mehè yeli donan?** if  
you kill the man, what will they do?

**hadiàidinan**  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{bachanin,} \\ \text{la absinin,} \end{array} \right.$  **so màydin noch-**  
**den**, (31) if you had not been frightened,  
you would not have returned.

**Burao hadian jogo, Garrero ma ímadén**, if  
I had been at Burao, I should not have come  
to Garrero.

**iminka Burao hadian jogo, laàgti ban ku**  
**sin laha**, (32) if I were at Burao now,  
I should give you the money.

**haddu markihore i shego . . .**, if you had told  
me before . . . .

**machli maya, hadian u malèyo inu bein**  
**shego**, I should not listen, if I thought he  
was telling a lie.

**laag ku sin maya, adigu jogi mahai**, I shall  
not give you pay, if you do not stay.

**haddad jogto, inad egto wad lehda,** if you were there, you must have seen.

**hadiad shuchulkà, an donya, anad ghobonin, shuchulkèyga ku ma wanáksanid,** (33) if you do not do your work as I want, you are no good to me.

**hukumka machala, amaha humado, amaha sumado,** { obey the order, whether bad or good. { listen to

**hadi hukum lagu shego, wáchaba weidinina,** (34) if an order is given you, ask no questions.

**saddehh asho hadiad ka bádsato, laàg heli màysa,** (35) if you are more than three days on the road, you will get no pay.

**nin walba wa ku húkumyahái, haddu iss yiràdo, wa lagu dúlmya, inu ku so ashtakòdo,** (36) every man is allowed, if he imagines he is being ill-treated, to bring a complaint.

### 71. *Military Terms.*

**banduch-hi,** rifle.

**rasás-ti,** ammunition.

**sháchado-di,** bandolier.

**sùn-ki,** belt, strap.

**askàri-gi,** soldier.

- mahâbis, prisoner.  
 illâlo-di, spy, scout.  
 oll-ki, enemy.  
 talâba-di, pace.  
 ayarsís-ki, parade.  
 shúchul-ki, fatigue, work.  
 selíd-di, oil.  
 suf-ki, rag.  
 ration-ki, rations.  
 tímír-ti, dates.  
 barís-ki, rice.  
 súbukh-hi, ghee.  
 hílib-ki, meat.  
 fásahh-hi, leave.  
 tachsir-ki, punishment, fault.  
 áshtako-di, complaint.  
 húkum-ki, order.  
 áren-ki, case, suit.  
 ghainun-ki, discipline.  
 tachsir, punish.  
 haul-shi, business.  
 Wadad-ki, the Mullah.

*Military Phrases.*

- sára jogso, stand up.  
 'ss ku hagàji, stand properly.  
 ha dákhdáchaghin, don't fidget.  
 madahà sar ' u tosi, hold your head up.

- sakàrka sò behé, throw the chest out.  
 hádalka 'ss ka dâya, stop that talking.  
 banducha wanáji, hold your rifle properly.  
 hor u só baha, come forward.  
 dib u jogso, stand back.  
 soòda ! forward !  
 mahad u sùgisa ? what are you waiting for ?  
 talábada hagajía, keep the proper step.  
 talába, take a pace.  
 bídehda, mídigta, left, right.  
 bidehda egta, look to the left.  
 gánta sida, drop the hand.  
 so jeso, 'ss ka rúg, turn this way.  
 adigu waiye ; intí kaleh soòda, only you ;  
     the rest go on.  
 dimántin, the whole.  
 mar keliah, all at the same time.  
 'ss leh egta, all together.  
 'halt ' markan iràdo, when I say 'halt.'  
 sidi iminka, do that again.  
 ka war' ! wake up !  
 so bahá, turn out.  
 nin walba (kasta), every (each) man.  
 shuchalkàga ghobo, do your work.  
 guardka wa ghobónya, he is doing guard.  
 kumà leh ? whose turn is it ?  
 wa Farah leh, it is Farah's turn.

**húkumki àdu machli**, listen to the order.

**hukumki wá mahai?** what is the order?

**dufo**, sound (bugle).

**ma dufta?** shall I sound?

**kala durka**, extend (separate).

**'ss ku doàda**, close (close up).

**fardaha radi**, follow up the horses' tracks.

**fardí so kahai**, bring the horses here.

**ka dá**, get off.

**nin ba maghán**, there is one man absent.

72. The following orders the men in my companies were made to learn by heart.

*Hukumki ragi 'guard'-  
ki waiye.*

*Orders for men on  
guard.*

1. **àd u barta húkumka.**

1. learn the orders.

2. **ninka 'commanding'ka o idin fásahi mahai, ha ka tégina 'guard'ka.**

2. don't leave the guard without leave from the commander of the guard.

3. **'dress'ka yo sháchado midna ha 'ss ka furrina.**

3. don't take off any part of uniform or equipment.

4. **marka sentérigi idin doàgo, dochso u sò bahá, haggá frón-tína u jesta, o 'slope arms.'**

4. when the sentry calls, turn out at once, turn to the front and slope arms.

*Hukumki sentérigi  
waiye.*

*Orders for the sentry.*

1. hukumkàga hé-  
ji.

1. understand your  
orders.

2. frontàda u eg.

2. look to your front.

3. golŭpka sirka-  
liga àd u illali.

3. look after all go-  
vernment property.

4. idna ha la had-  
lin.

4. don't talk to any-  
one.

5. mahabisti tiri,  
o sentéri laan ninna  
ha si déin.

5. count the prison-  
ers, and don't allow one  
out without a sentry.

6. dubka, yo dé-  
luda, ama 'bugle'-  
ka 'alarm' hadi la  
yiràdo, 'guard'ka so  
sàre.

6. In case of fire and  
alarm, or, if the 'alarm'  
is sounded, turn out the  
guard.

7. wahad garan  
wehda hadi-ad ark-  
to, 'guard com-  
manding'ka u sheg.

7. anything unusual  
report to the comman-  
der of the guard.

8. si wanaksan sa-  
adi, o frontí 'ss ka  
rúg, o sirakíshi u  
ida 'salute'si, ma-  
jorka 'present'si.

8. walk about pro-  
perly, turn to the front,  
salute all officers, 'pre-  
sent' to a major.

9. 'guard'ka so sa-

9. turn out the

ra, saddehda bugle, guard, at Reveillé, Retreat, and Tattoo, to the C. O. once, to the O. O., or Visiting Rounds, whenever he tells you, to all armed parties.

'Revellé, Retreat, Tattoo'; sirkalki 'commanding'ka markeliah; 'Orderly Officer,' ama 'Visiting Rounds' marku idin irâdo; partigi askarti banaduchi sidan.



## NOTES.

(1) **-ti** the 2nd sing., **t** prefixed, of the verb **-i**, be.

(2) The negative words **wachaba** and **midna** require the negative particle as well.

(3) This verb almost always is used with **u**.

(4) The present imperfect tense has a sense of futurity, intention, or willingness.

(5) **bati** for **bad ti**, see (1).

(6) **iminkan** for **iminka an**.

(7) **haïso**, have got.

### *Present Perfect Tense.*

**wan haïsta.**

**wènu haïsona.**

**wad haïsta.**

**wèdin haïsatàn.**

**wu haïsta.**

**wè haïstan.**

**wè haïsta.**

(8) Verbs of this class seem to be very irregular in dropping the **o**, and in the length of it.

(9) **i**, for me.

(10) **jirta**, fem. referring to **mesha**, the place.

(11) **gèdi**, one camel's march.

(12) **laba lugodleh**, on both feet; compare also **bulli harédleh**, rain-water bulli; (**mel**) **derkènleh**, place of euphorbia trees; and **anigà leh**, it is mine.

(13) **ke**, an interrogative form of the definite article; cf. interrogative pronoun **ke?** who?

(14) **dameian** for **an dameiè**.

(15) There is no true relative pronoun, it is usually omitted, or represented by the definite article.

(16) Literally, 'what one told you.' **wehé** is the plural, and is object of **yiri**.

(17) **sidan**, **sidi an**.

(18) **so** gives the meaning of 'bringing' the complaint; **ka** would imply 'taking' it.

(19) **mahai** behaves as an auxiliary verb.

(20) **o** is thus used meaning 'because.'

(21) **la mel nochodé**, 'take part with.'

(22) **ghobto** is conditional tense, as always after such conjunctions, unless the time is a definite past.

(23) = 'bring me water that I may drink.'

(24) The subject of comparison is the subject of the sentence and therefore placed first. Where

the subject of comparison is the object of the sentence, it follows the noun it is compared with.

(25) **fududyihi**. This form of adjectival verb gives the superlative sense of 'very.'

(26) **sa**, another form of expressing the superlative, but means 'most.'

(27) **waiyi**, 'cannot be found.'

(28) When there is any intention or uncertainty implied, **in** with conditional tense is used. In direct narrative, the original *oratio recta* is repeated.

(29) Here **la** is evidently used exactly as any personal pronoun, and attached to the conjunction (cf. § 60).

(30) There is at present some vagueness about the correct forms for the various types of conditional sentence. These examples are therefore very deficient.

(31) **maydin** for **ma aidin**.

(32) **laha** makes a conditional tense, and is used as an auxiliary verb.

(33) **an donya**, 'which I want.'

**hadiad . . . anad**, more correctly would be in one word, **hadanad**.

(34) **wachaba weidinina** [cf. note (2)].

Here the negative particle **ha** is omitted, but the verb is put in negative form.

(35) A verb **badso**, increase.

(36) **dulmya** for **dulunya**, **n** before a vowel usually becomes **m**.

**iss yirado**, literally, 'say to oneself.'

## ADDENDA

*(These additional notes arrived from Somaliland too late to be incorporated in the text.)*

### § 5.

**dàf**, descend, go down.

**kor**, climb, go up.

### § 6.

**alamadi**, mark, make a mark on.

**bedel**, change.

**bel**, lose.

**waràbi**, give to drink, water.

**dàji**, graze, take to graze.

**dakh**, graze (*intrans.*).

**ingeji**, dry (*trans.*).

**maïr**, wash (with water).

**maïro**, be washed.

**liss**, milk (*trans.*).

**nasi**, rest, give rest to.

**tab**, touch, meddle with.

**tòl**, sew.

**dufo** (**dufta**), blow (a whistle, bugle).

§ 7.

**ku nocho**, repeat, say again.

§ 10.

The following fine distinction seems to be made between **i** and **u** :—

**u** is employed for persons and things well known, and about which there can be no doubt. It would not be used when any epithet qualifies the noun.

**i** is employed in a perfectly vague and indefinite sense. Thus—

**sirkalka** would refer to an officer actually present.

**sirkalki** would refer to any officer whatever, not present.

**sirkalku** would refer to the man's own immediate officer, or company commander.

**u** is thus used frequently for common and well-known objects, as,

**biyahu, chorahhdu, naguhu,**

and in the personal pronouns,

**anigu, adigu.**

## § 17.

barmil-shi, barrel.

kibrid-di, match.

llòhh-hi, wood (box wood).

masaf-ki, funnel.

saman-ki, goods (general term).

shama-hi, candle.

## § 18.

dàsad-di, any tin pot, can.

gudimo-di, native axe, small blade on a forked stick.

hongol-ki, hooked stick, for dragging in branches for the zareba; entrance to an enclosure.

## § 19.

bilad-di, country, land.

daü-gi, road.

bèr-ti, dried-up dung, grass, &c.

## § 21.

ghodah-hi, general name for thorn trees.

damèl-ki, a thorn tree with small hard pods, like French beans, eaten by Somalis.

## § 25.

All simple adjectives observe the following very general rules of inflexion:—

When qualifying a noun with the def. art., add **a**.

When qualifying a plural noun, reduplicate the first syllable.

Both inflexions take place concurrently, e. g.  
**ninki wanaksana dagahhanta yaryara.**  
**dagahha wanaksana dagahhan balbalaran.**  
**dagahhan yaryar.**

## § 26.

**baan**, bad-tempered.

**dab**, true.

**fian**, good, smart, clever.

## § 54.

In § 24 it is noticed that most polysyllabic nouns change their gender in the plural. If the plural form is masc., the masc. form of the verb is used, and *vice versa*, irrespectively of the natural gender of the noun; e. g.

**ninki wa imanya**, the man is coming.

**nimanki wa imanyan**, the men are coming.

**askarigi wa wanaksenyihi**, the soldier is good.



askarti wa wanaksentahain, the soldiers are  
good.

nagti wa imanisa, the woman is coming.

naguhu wa imanyan, the women are coming.

dagahha wa hunyihî, the stone is bad.

dagahhanta wa huntahain, the stones are bad.

aurti takten, the camels went.

§ 71.

alan-ki, flag.

bedel, relieve, change.

markhad-di, witness.





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