

3. Noun Complex

Nouns, adjectives, pronouns, demonstratives, postpositions; with plurals and cases; and combinations of these.

3.1 Nouns may have any word shape. Singular has no indicator.

3.1.1 Plural. Suffixes -ta, -tta, -ka, -a or "double last consonant and add -a." (These plural suffixes are also used for adjectives, pronouns and verb plural objects). The choice of plural marker is lexically determined.

<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>
<u>no</u>	"eye"	no-ta	asma	"heart"	asim-ta
<u>fara</u>	"horse"	fara-tta	wa:gi	"place"	wa:gi-tta
<u>deregam</u>	"lion"	deregam-ka	sayif	"sword"	sayif-ka
<u>wal</u>	"house"	wal-la	sa:bi	"slave"	sa:b-ba
<u>tús</u>	"ear"	tús-a	sabi	"hair"	sab-a

With numbers greater than one, the plural is used.

e.g., ti: dokko "boy one" ("one" follows its noun)  
ari ta:da "two boys" (ta:da is an irregular plural)

3.1.2 Cases. Subject is marked with -nu, -n (not always used).

"Motion towards" uses -o, -go, -do, -dogo, -to, also marking direct and indirect objects and place at which: "to, into, out, in, on, towards".

"Motion from": -i, -gi, -digi, -ti, meaning "from, by means of, out of, at, on, because of" and also marks comparison.

Genitive: -ga, -(a)mna "of, belonging to".

The forms of these in each group seem to be freely interchangeable, e.g. kita-go/kit-o alto path-on he-went  
da-gi/da-i/d-e woto village-from he-came

3.2 Adjectives. These are also the nouns of agent ("be-er" or "do-er") and are derived from verbs (see 4.2 and 4.5 below). E.g.:

"Do-er" ay-ku, "do-er", "one who does" (habitual or future)  
ay-'dokku, "one who is doing" (present or continuous)  
ay-'tokku, "one who did" (past or completed)

The latter two are the same for singular and plural.

"Be-er", dub-ku, "big person or thing", lok-ku, "near person or thing; (vowel-final): murga-gu "old (person)"  
di:-gu "he who has".

These naturally become Adjectives.<sup>3,4</sup>

#### 4.2.1 Verbs with root-final consonant

	<u>Future/Habitual:</u>	<u>Indicative</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Subordinate</u>
1 sg. ag	ay-e	"I do, make"	ay-ey "Do I do, make?"	ay-ek "I.. making"
2 sg. 'iŋŋa	ay-en		ay-a	ay-aŋ
3 sg. teb	ay-u		ay-á	ay-iŋ
pl. agga	ay-ag		ay-aga	ay-ak
2 pl. iŋ'ŋa	ay-egen		ay-ega	ay-ok
3 pl. tiba	ay-i		ay-iya/ay-iy	ay-oŋ

Present/Continuous: Root plus -d- ~ -ind plus same person suffixes as Future/Habitual.

1 sg. ag	ay-de	"I am doing"	ay-d-ey	ay-d-ek
etc.				

Past/Completed: Sing. root plus -t- ~ -it plus person suffixes; plural omits -t-.

1 sg. ag	ay-t-e	"I did, made"	ay-t-ey (Did I do, make?"	ay-t-ek "which I did," etc.
2 sg. 'iŋŋa	ay-t-en		ay-t-a	ay-t-aŋ
3 sg. teb	ay-t-o		ay-t-á	ay-t-i
1 pl. agga	ay-ago/ay-ogo		ay-akka	ay-t-ak*
2 pl. iŋ'ŋa	ay-ogon		ay-oga	ay-t-ok*
3 pl. tiba	ay-ko		ay-ka	ay-to-oŋ*

#### \*Need verifying

Notice prevalence of -g-/-k- with -o- in plural

Assimilations occur with verb roots ending in -n-, -s-, -š-, -l-, and -d-, e.g. masso < \*man-to, "he said"; nasso < \*nas-to, "he rose"; elšo < \*els-to, "he pulled, dragged it"; nullo < \*nul-to "he entered"; katto < \*kad-to, "he cut". These assimilations are not required in the plural, e.g., manago "we said". In the present/continuous, -t- assimilates to -d-, e.g. laddu < \*lat-du, "he sees."

4.2.2 Verbs with root-final vowels. In the future/habitual, the final vowel is elided, e.g. alli, "go!", all-e, "I go," etc. In the present/continuous, the vowel is elided before -ind-, e.g. all-ind-e, "I am going," etc. In the past/completed, several cases can be distinguished:

(1) Single consonant, l-a(g), "drink!", l-i:t-e, "I drank," etc.

(2) Doubled consonant of form '(C)VC<sub>1</sub>C<sub>1</sub>V, e.g. alli, "go!", 'al-t-e, "I went," etc.

(3) Otherwise, e.g. tudne, "want it!", tudn-it-e, "I wanted it," etc. Plurals are as usual, e.g. all-ago, all-agon, all-igo; l-a:go, l-o:gon, l-i:go.

Note that plural objects have final vowels, e.g. ter-ta, "hit them!", requiring elisions. Thus, future/habitual ter-t-e, "I (will) hit them", present/continuous ter-t-ind-e, "I am hitting them", past/completed, ter-t-it-e, "I have hit them," ter-t-a:go, "we have hit them." Similarly, inin-ka, "put them in!", future/habitual inin-k-e, "I (will) put them in."

Verbs constructed with -ayto also have contractions and elisions, e.g. future/habitual:

wal-aye > wale:/wale	"I (will) speak."
wal-ayen > wale:n/walen	"you (will) speak."
wal-ayu > walaw/waleš*	"he, she, it (will) speak."
wal-ayag > wala:g/walag	"we (will) speak."
wal-ayegen > walaygen/ wale:gen/walegen	"you (will) speak."
wal-ayi > walayi/walay	"they (will) speak."

\*For -ši see 4.5 below.

Present/continuous, no changes, e.g. wal-ay-de, "I am speaking."

Past/completed, no changes in singular, wal-ay-te, "I spoke".

Plural, wal-ayago > wal-a:go, > wal-ayogon > walo:gon,  
wal-ayko > walakko.

Plural objects: ay-ka becomes -akka (see 4.1 above).  
E.g. katab-nay-ke > katabnakke, "I (will) write them",  
katabnakkigo, "They wrote them".

4.3 Irregular Verbs are few, mostly n- final. One example is išu, "come!", wonu "he comes", wondu "he is coming", woto "he came". These tend also to use -ši, e.g. woši instead of wonu.

4.4 Compound verbs. Examples: fiŋŋ-oto (< fiŋŋ-woto), he returned, came"; fassar-nay-nisso, "he explained - did - gave them"; manas-tillindokku, "not-rise-able-who-is" (i.e. paralyzed).

Notice that -ayto verbs are really compounds. Also ni:to /nisso "he gave", is commonly used in forming compound verbs. This touches on the topic of verbs in sequence (see 5.2.1 below).

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