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A PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF ARGOBBA

BY

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Argobba is spoken in the region north of Ankober in the villages of Aliyu Amba, Čanno, and elsewhere. The Argobba are Moslems. In most of the villages only the older people still speak the language whereas the younger generation uses Amharic. Argobba speakers coming from the Ankober region are also found in the market section of Addis Ababa. The preliminary description presented here is the result of my investigation in 1946 undertaken in Addis Ababa and in 1950 undertaken in Aliyu Amba ⁽¹⁾.

In the region South of Harar there was also an Argobba dialect, but my various attempts to find Argobba speakers in that region remained unsuccessful. The Argobba in Harar speak Galla at present.

A detailed description of Argobba will be published at a later date. The detailed description will be comparative and will present the position of Argobba in Ethiopic ⁽²⁾.

PHONOLOGY

CONSONANT PHONEMES

The consonant phonemes of Argobba are as follows :

	Labials	Dentals	Prepalatals	Velars	Laryngeals
OCCLUSIVES :					
Simple.	<i>b</i>	<i>d t</i>	.....	<i>g k</i>	'
Glottalized. . . . .	.....	<i>t̥</i>	.....	<i>q</i>	
Labialized. . . . .	.....	.....	.....	<i>gʷ kʷ</i>	
Labialized glottalized. . . . .	.....	.....	.....	<i>qʷ</i>	
SPIRANTS.	<i>f</i>	.....	.....	.....	<i>h</i>
SIBILANTS. . . . .	.....	<i>z s</i>	<i>ʒ ʃ</i>		
AFFRICATES :					
Simple. . . . .	.....	.....	<i>ʃ č</i>		
Glottalized. . . . .	.....	.....	<i>č̥</i>		
NASALS.	<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>ɲ</i>		
LIQUIDS. . . . .	.....	<i>l</i>	.....	
SEMI-VOWELS.	<i>w</i>	.....	<i>y</i>		

⁽¹⁾ *A year of research in Ethiopia*, in *Word* 4 (1948), p. 224; *Report on a second trip to Ethiopia*, in *Word* 8 (1952), p. 73.

⁽²⁾ For a bibliography on Argobba, see *Word* 8 (1952), p. 73.

All the phonemes, except ' (1) and *h*, occur simply (e. g. /*b*/) or doubly (e.g. /*bb*/). The phoneme /*h*/ when geminated occurs doubled as laryngeal /*hh*/; it occurs only in intervocalic position.

The phoneme /*s*/ occurs as /*sw*/ in two examples: *swäbiy* « baby », (2) and *swädäqa* « death commemoration ». (3)

WOWEL PHONEMES

The vowel phonemes are :

/*a*/, low, back;

/*ä*/, higher-low, central; with the allophone [*ã*];

/*e*/, mean-mid, front;

/*ə*/, lower-high, central; with the allophone [*ẽ*];

/*i*/, high, front; with the allophone [*ĩ*];

/*o*/, mean-mid, back, rounded; with the allophone [*õ*];

/*u*/, high, back, rounded.

The phoneme /*ä*/ seems to occur only in Arabic loanwords : *ğimād awwal* « name of month ».

WORD INITIALS AND FINALS

To judge from the recorded examples a word can begin with *ä, ə, a, c, ö*.

Examples : *ägğäg* « very », *əzzab* « anklet », *awre* « wild animal », *en* « eye », *äd* « this ». No examples with initial *i, u* were recorded.

A word can end in any vowel except in *ä, ə*. Examples : *tewa* « abandon », *wole* « again », *gizi* « domestic animal », *bado* « abandoned house », *kəfu* « bad ». Only particles end in *ä* : *əndä* « like », *čä* « where ? », *wädä* « toward »; the particles, however, are not used by themselves without being followed by a noun or verb so that they cannot be considered as sentence-endings.

A word can begin and end with any consonant except with ' and *h*.

GENERAL PHONETIC PRINCIPLES

Palatalization

The dentals, sibilants and *l* followed by the front vowels *i, e* become palatalized. This palatalization occurs only in verbal forms. Thus, imperfect, sg. 2nd fem. *tawürši* « you inherit », from *wrs*; *təgädəy* « you kill », from *gd*. The same phenomenon occurs in the imperative, sg. 2nd pers. feminine.

Devoicing of *t*

An original final *t* is often voiced and pronounced *d*. Thus, *çohüd* « noise » (for *çohät*), *mušed* « evening », *bäred* « cattle-pen », *səred* « bottom », *anžäd* « bowels ». However, final *t* is also preserved : *qäläbät* « ring », *qumät* « height », *bat* « calf of leg », and others.

¹ occurs mainly in Arabic loanwords

² From Arabic *şabiyy*.

³ Perhaps from Arabic *şadaqa* « alms, charity ».

MORPHOLOGY

NOUN

NOMINAL FORMS

There are certain nominal forms that express a particular meaning. Thus the nouns of profession and qualities are expressed by the ending — (ä)ñña : *gartäñña* « worker », *balätäñña* « clever », *həsräñña* « prisoner ».

The instrumental is formed by the prefixed morpheme *mä-* and the suffixed morpheme — (i)ya: *mätträbiya* « axe », from *ṭärräba* « adze »; *mätträgiya* « broom », from *ṭärräga* « sweep »; *mäsčä* « pipe », from *säčča* « drink ».

The abstract is formed by the type CəCaC (C = consonant), as in *dəkam* « weakness », and others, or by the suffixed morpheme — (ə)nnät as in *ləğənnät* « childhood » from *ləğ* « child ».

ADJECTIVE

The forms of the adjectives are varied. Thus, *hačir* « short », *käbid* « heavy », *räžžin* « heavy »; *rəhuq* « far », *nəbbur* « abundant », *kəfu* « bad »; *nəham* « big », *qällal* « light »; *ṭuwōl* « long », *gudōr* « long ». Without special form : *zah* « white », *donqoro* « deaf », and many others.

The adjective is placed before the noun : *kəfu su* « a bad man ».

GENDER

The nouns can be of masculine or feminine gender, although, as a rule, there are no distinguishing marks in the noun itself. Thus *käbid* « heavy » is both masculine and feminine. The gender is reflected in syntactic relations with verbs and pronouns.

The Semitic morpheme *-t* of the feminine is only occasionally used in the noun. In Argobba it is mainly represented as *-d*, but also as *-t*. Thus *əhəd* « sister », but *əh* « brother »; *gəmžäd* « daughter-in-law »; *arogit* « old » (fem.), but masculine *aroge*. The feminine morpheme *-t* also occurs in *äkäle* « so-and-so », fem. *äkilit*; and *hand* « one », fem. *handit*.

For the sex differentiation of humans, *wänd* « male » is used for males while *ənəšča* « female, woman » is used for females; thus, *wändə ləğ* « boy », *ənəšča ləğ* « daughter » (*ləğ* « child »).

Some living beings have different roots for the masculine and feminine; thus *färäs* « horse », but *bazra* « mare »; *aw* « father », but *əm* « mother ».

NUMBER

Argobba has a singular and a plural. The plural is formed by the suffixed morpheme *-ač* regardless of the gender of the noun; thus *bed* « house » : pl. *bedač*; *lam* « cow » : pl. *lamač*. If the noun ends in a vowel, only *-č* is added to the singular basis; thus, *gamela* « camel » : *gamela-č*; *bäqlo* « mule » : *bäqlo-č*; *bägi* « sheep » : *bägi-č*.

If the noun is determined by an adjective, the adjective can have the plural morpheme : *läham* or *lähamač sučäč* « important men ».

ARTICLE

INDEFINITE ARTICLE

The indefinite article is not expressed : *färäs* « horse, a horse ».

DEFINITE ARTICLE

The definite article for the masculine, singular is the suffixed morpheme *-u* : *bed-u* « the house » (from *bed* « house »). If the noun ends in *-a*, *-o* the article is expressed by the suffixed semi-vowel *w* : *hema-w* « the road », *bərčəqo-w* « the glass ». If the noun ends in *-i*, the semi-vowel *y* is intercalated between the *-i* and the *-u* of the article : *bägi-y-u* « the sheep ». The article for the feminine is the suffixed morpheme *-wa* : *aškär-wa* « the she-servant », *ənəšča-wa* « the woman ». The article for the plural is *-u* regardless of the gender of the noun : *suč-u* « the men », *ənəščač-u* « the women ».

COMPLEMENTS

DIRECT COMPLEMENT

If the direct complement is indefinite it is expressed by its position immediately before the verb, without any added morpheme : *qärš täsäräqa čoga tafdo heda* « as soon as he has stolen the money he disappeared », lit. « money as-he-stole after disappearing he-left ».

If the direct complement is definite it can be expressed by the suffixed morpheme *-n* (*-ən* after a consonant) placed after the article or the suffixed pronoun. Example : *bär-u-n atəkäfte* « do not open the gate », lit. « gate-the-*n* do-not-open-it »; *ähe-yä-n yänäkkäse wəšša hudinna* « here is the dog that bit my brother », lit. « my-brother-*n* who-bit-him dog behold ».

INDIRECT COMPLEMENT

The indirect complement is expressed by the preposition *lä* « to » prefixed to the noun : *təmay ləhyä ket bäqlo hawku* « yesterday I gave two mules to my brother », lit. « yesterday to-my-brother two mule(s) I-gave ».

COMPLEMENT OF APPURTENANCE

The element of appurtenance « of » is expressed by *yä-* prefixed to the possessor, the complex *yä* + possessor preceding the possessed object. Example : *yä-wädağəyä färäs* « my friend's horse », lit. « of-my-friend horse ».

If the complement of noun is preceded by a preposition, the element *yä-* is omitted : *təmay bä-wädağəyä färäs arəggäzku* « yesterday I sat on my friend's horse », lit. « yesterday on-(of)-my friend horse I-sat ».

PRONOUN

INDEPENDENT PERSONAL PRONOUN

The forms are :

Sg. 1st com.	<i>äy</i> « I »	Pl.	<i>ənna</i>
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2nd masc.	<i>ank</i>	}	<i>ənnakum (ənnankum)</i>
2nd fem.	<i>anč</i>		
3rd masc.	<i>kəssu</i>	}	<i>kəssäm</i>
3rd fem.	<i>kəssa</i>		

The personal pronoun preceded by the particle of possession *yä-* expresses possession : *yank* « your » (for *yä-ank* « of you »), *yənnə* « our » (for *yä-ənnə*).

PRONOUN OF INSISTENCE
(« I myself », etc.)

The personal pronoun of insistence « I myself, he himself », etc., is expressed by the personal pronoun followed by (*bä*)*näbs* « (with) soul » or (*bä*)*dəmah* « (with) head » with the nominal suffixed pronouns referring to the person of the personal pronoun. Example : *äy näbse* (or *bänäbse*) or *dəmahe* (or *bä-dəmahe*) *əmətälluh* « I shall come myself », lit. « I my-soul (or with-my-soul) or my-head (or with-my-head) I-shall-come ».

SUFFIXED PRONOUNS
Nominal suffixed pronouns

The nominal suffixed pronouns added to the noun express the possessive adjective « my, his », and so on. The forms of the suffixed pronouns ending in a consonant are :

Sg. 1st com.	<i>-yä</i> or <i>-e</i>	Pl.	<i>-ənnə</i>
2nd masc.	<i>-ah</i>	}	<i>-ühū(m)</i>
2nd fem.	<i>-ih</i>		
3rd masc.	<i>-u</i>	}	<i>-ämmu</i>
3rd fem.	<i>-wa</i>		

Example : *bed* « house ».

Sg. 1st com.	<i>bed-yä, bed-e</i> « my house »	Pl.	<i>bed-ənnə</i>
2nd masc.	<i>bed-ah</i>	}	<i>bed-ühū(m)</i>
2nd fem.	<i>bed-ih</i>		
3rd masc.	<i>bed-u</i> « his house »	}	<i>bed-ämmu</i>
3rd fem.	<i>bed-wa</i>		

With nouns ending in a vowel the suffixed pronouns are attached without vocalic initial; thus, sg. 2nd masc. *-h*, pl. 1st com. *-nnə*, and so on.

Verbal suffixed pronouns

The verbal suffixed pronouns serve for the expression of the direct complement : *gäddäl-e* « he killed him ».

Only the suffixed pronouns with *gäddäla* « he killed » and *yəgdäl* « may he kill » will be mentioned here.

From <i>gäddäla</i> « he killed » :	
<i>gäddäle</i>	« he killed him »
<i>gäddälya</i>	« he killed her »

<i>gäddalah</i>	« he killed you » (sg. masc.)
<i>gäddalih</i>	« he killed you » (sg. fem.)
<i>gäddäläñ</i>	« he killed me »
<i>gäddälem</i>	« he killed them » (com.)
<i>gäddälūhu(m)</i>	« he killed you » (pl. com.)
<i>gäddälänna</i>	« he killed us » (com.)

From *yəgdäl* « may he kill » :

<i>yəgdäle</i>	« may he kill him »
<i>yəgdälyə</i>	« may he kill her »
<i>yəgdäləh</i>	« may he kill you » (sg. masc.)
<i>yəgdälīh</i>	« may he kill you » (sg. fem.)
<i>yəgdäläñ</i>	« may he kill me »
<i>yəgdälem</i>	« may he kill them » (com.)
<i>yəgdälūhum</i>	« may he kill you » (pl. com.)
<i>yəgdälänna</i>	« may he kill us » (com.)

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN AND ADJECTIVE

For near objects :

Sg. masc. *hud* « this », fem. *huy*, pl. com. *hulläm*. Examples : *hud asčaggari ne* « this is difficult », *hud su* « this man », *huy læğ tädämqälläd* « this girl is pretty », *hulläm sučač* « these men ».

Prepositions formed with *hud* are : *əndähud* « thus », lit. « like this »; *bähud* « here », lit. « in this ».

For far objects :

Sg. masc. *öd* « that », fem. *öy*, pl. com. *ölläm*, *wölläm*. Prepositions formed with *öd* are : *böd* « there », lit. « in that »; *əndöd* « thus », lit. « like that ».

RELATIVE PRONOUN

The relative pronoun is expressed by *yä-* prefixed to the perfect for all genders, numbers and persons; *yämmə-* (or *əmmə-*) prefixed to the imperfect for all genders, numbers and persons. The relative clause being a qualifier is placed before the noun. Examples : *yä-säddäba su* « the man who offended », *yä-säddäbäd ənəšča* « the woman who offended », *yä-säddäbu suč* « the men who offended », *yämmisädəb su* « the man who offends », *əmmisädbu suč* « the men who offend », *əmməs(s)ädəb* (for *əmmətsädəb*) *ənəšča* « the woman who offends ».

If the relative clause is preceded by a preposition the relative pronoun *yä-* is omitted : *täwäddäqa bed wätta* « he came out of the house that has fallen down », lit. « of (that)-fell house he-came-out ».

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN AND ADJECTIVE

« Who? », sg. com. *ma*, pl. com. *ma* or *ənnäman*. With following *-ne* « he is », the interrogative pronoun is *man*. Example : *hur su* (for *hud su*) *man ne* « who is this man? », lit. « this man who he-is? ».

« Whose? », *yäma*, lit. « of who? » : *hud kitab yäman ne* « whose is this book? », lit. « this book of-who it-is? ».

- « What?, which? », *mən*.
 « What sort?, what kind? », *kämäy yähalla*, lit. « how that-it-is? ».
 « Which? », masc. *yedəññaw*, fem. *yeyeññäwa*.

INDEFINITE PRONOUN AND ADJECTIVE

- « Someone, anyone », *mannəm*, *mannəm bihon* (lit. « anyone if-he-is »), *handə su* (lit. « one man ») or *handəm su*.
 « Something », *handə nägär* or *hann nägär* (< *hand nägär*), lit. « one thing ».
 « Anything », *mənəm*.
 « Any », *mannəm* (adjective), *handəm* (pronoun).
 « No one », *handəm su*, with the verb in the negative.
 « Nothing », *mənəm* or *handəm nägär*, with the verb in the negative.
 « Whatever », *mənəm*, *yähonaw* (lit. « that what-is »).
 « Other, another, someone else, something else, anything else », *lela*.
 « No other, nothing else », *lela* with the verb in the negative.
 « One... another, one... the other », *handu... handu*.
 « Some... others, the ones... the others », *handand-... handand-*, or *handand-... lelaču*.
 « Several, some, certain », *handand*.
 « Certain others », *lelač*.
 « Some of, certain of », *handand-* with the nominal suffixed pronouns of the plural.
 « Either of », *hand-* with the nominal suffixed pronouns.
 « Neither of », *hand-* with the nominal suffixed pronouns, the verb being in the negative.
 « Different », *ləyyu* or *yä-leyya* (lit. « that-is-different »).
 « Same », *hand aynät*, lit. « one kind ».
 « So-and-So », masc. *äkäle*, fem. *äkälit*.
 « Such », *käm mäsay* (lit. « like-this resembling »), *hud-ən yämässäla* (lit. « this who-resembled »).

PRONOUN AND ADJECTIVE OF TOTALITY,
ISOLATION AND DISTRIBUTION

- « All », *diyyu(m)* placed mostly after the noun : *mäsobač diyyu(m)* « all the baskets ». As pronoun : *diyyum yimtu* « may all come ».
 « Whole », *muli* placed after the noun : *ettaw muli* « the whole place ».
 « Alone », *bəčča*, *läbəčča*. Example : *läbəččaw täwe* « leave him alone ».
 « Apart », (*lä*)*yyäbəčča-* with the suffixed pronouns : *läyyäbəččaḥum argəzu* « sit down apart », lit. « each-of-you-apart sit-down ».
 « Each, every », *hand hand* followed by the noun (*hand handu kitab* « each book ») or is expressed by the repetition of the noun : *qədame qədame yəmätäl* « he comes every Saturday », lit. « Saturday Saturday he-comes ».

NUMERALS

CARDINAL NUMERALS

1	<i>hand</i> , fem. <i>handit</i>	12	<i>assər ket</i>
2	<i>ket</i>	20	<i>kiya</i>
3	<i>sost</i>	30	<i>sasa</i>

4	<i>arbit</i>	40	<i>harba</i>
5	<i>amməst</i>	50	<i>hamsa</i>
6	<i>səddəst</i>	60	<i>səlsa</i>
7	<i>sa'int</i>	70	<i>säba</i>
8	<i>səmmənt</i>	80	<i>sämanya</i>
9	<i>žähṭwäñ</i>	90	<i>zätäna</i>
10	<i>assər</i>	100	<i>mäto</i>
11	<i>assər hand</i>	1.000	<i>ši</i>

ORDINAL NUMERALS

The ordinal numerals are formed with the suffixed morpheme *-äñña*; thus 1st *handäñña*, 2nd *ketäñña*, 3rd *sostäñña*, and so on.

COPULA AND VERBS OF EXISTENCE

COPULA

The copula « he is, it is » is expressed by the element *n* with suffixed pronouns. The forms are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>ne</i> « he is, it is »	Pl. }	<i>nem</i>
3rd fem.	<i>näd</i> « she is »		
2nd masc.	<i>nah</i>	}	<i>nəhum</i>
2nd fem.	<i>nih</i>		
1st com.	<i>näñ</i>		<i>nänna</i>

The copula is placed at the end : *kəssu ihye ne* « he is my brother », lit. « he my-brother he-is ».

The negative verb of quality « he is not, it is not » is expressed by *ahun-* with suffixed pronouns. The forms are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>ahuneyu</i>	Pl. }	<i>ahunemu</i>
3rd fem.	<i>ahunädu</i>		
2nd masc.	<i>ahunku</i>	}	<i>ahunkumaw</i>
2nd fem.	<i>ahunču</i>		
1st com.	<i>ahunku</i>		<i>ahunännaw</i>

The element *ahu* is perhaps to be compared with Geez *'ako* « no, not ». As for the second element (*-neyu*, *-nädu*) it contains the copula *ne* « he is, it is » with the negative suffixed morpheme *-u*.

The past « he was, it was » is expressed by *əmbära* « he was » conjugated in the past (see p. 260).

The negative « he was not » is expressed by the negative form of *əmbära*. Thus, *al-imbära-w* « he was not », *al-imbäräd-u* « she was not » (see p. 261).

The future « he will be » is expressed by the compound imperfect of *honä* « he became, he was »; its form is *yəhonäl* (for the conjugation, see p. 261).

The negative future « he will not be » is expressed by the negative imperfect of *honä*; its form is *ayhonu* (for the conjugation, see p. 261).

VERB OF EXISTENCE

The verb of existence « he is » is expressed by the verb *halla*. The forms are:

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>halla</i>	Pl. }	<i>hallu</i>
3rd fem.	<i>halläd</i>		
2nd masc.	<i>hallah</i>	}	<i>hallühu(m)</i>
2nd fem.	<i>hallih</i>		
1st com.	<i>halluh</i>		<i>hallən</i>

The negative « he is not, there is not » is expressed by *ellay*, *yellay*, that is, by the negative form of *halla*. The forms are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>ellay</i> , <i>yellay</i>	Pl. }	<i>ellum</i>
3rd fem.	<i>ellädu</i> , <i>yellädu</i>		
2nd masc.	<i>ellahu</i>	}	<i>ellühumay</i>
2nd fem.	<i>ellihu</i>		
1st com.	<i>elluhu</i>		<i>ellənnay</i>

The existence in the past « he was, there was » is expressed by *əmbära* (see p. 260). The existence in the future « he will be, there will be » is expressed by *yəhonäl* (see p. 261).

VERB OF POSSESSION

The possession in the present is expressed by *halla* « it is, there is » (see p. 260) with the verbal suffixed pronouns referring to the possessor. For an object in the singular, masculine, the forms are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>halle</i> « he has », lit. « there is to him »
3rd fem.	<i>halləya</i> « she has »
2nd masc.	<i>hallah</i> « you have »
2nd fem.	<i>hallih</i> « you have »
1st com.	<i>halläñ</i> « I have »
Pl. 3rd com.	<i>hallem</i> « they have », lit. « there is to them »
2nd com.	<i>hallühum</i> « you have »
1st com.	<i>hallänna</i> « we have »

The negative possession in the present is expressed by *yellä-* (*ellä-*, see above) with the verbal suffixed pronouns.

The forms are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>yelleyu</i> « he does not have », lit. « there is not to him »
3rd fem.	<i>yelləyay</i>
2nd masc.	<i>yellahu</i>
2nd fem.	<i>yellihu</i>
1st com.	<i>yelläññu</i>
Pl. 3rd com.	<i>yellemu</i>
2nd com.	<i>yellühumay</i>
1st com.	<i>yellänna</i>

The possession in the past is expressed by *əmbära-* « it was » for the positive, by *al-imbära-* « it was not » for the negative combined with the verbal suffixed pronouns. Examples : *imbäräñ* « I had », lit. « it was to me », *alimbäräñ* « I did not have », lit. « it was not to me ».

VERB

The Argobba verbs are biliteral, trilateral, and quadrilateral.

The biliterals and trilaterals have the types A, B, and C. The quadrilateral verbs have types A and C.

The morphological difference between these types lies in the vowel of the 1st radical and in the gemination or non-gemination of the 2nd radical in certain verbal forms.

TYPES

Type A

Type A has the form *säddäba*, that is, the vowel is *ä* after the 1st radical and the 2nd radical is geminated only in the perfect, but simple in the other forms.

The meaning of the verbs of type A is transitive, active, intransitive, neutral, stative, and so on.

Note that the final vowel is always *a*.

Type B

Type B has the form *beddäla*, that is, the vowel is *e* after the 1st radical and the 2nd radical is geminated in all the verbal forms. Morphologically this type corresponds to the so-called 2nd form of Arabic and the pi'el of Hebrew, but whereas in Arabic and in Hebrew this stem is a derived one, it is a basic stem in Argobba. The meanings of the verbs of type B are the same as those of type A.

Type C

Type C has the form *marräka*, that is, the vowel is *a* after the 1st radical and the 2nd radical is geminated in all the verbal forms. This type corresponds formally to the 3rd form of Arabic, but whereas the 3rd form of Arabic is a derived stem with special meaning, type C of Argobba is neither morphologically nor semantically a derived stem.

In the quadrilaterals the type C has the form *däballäqa*.

TENSES

PERFECT

Positive perfect

The perfect expresses the past. It is formed by suffixed morphemes. These morphemes are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	-a	Pl. }	-u
3rd fem.	-äd		
2nd masc.	-k	}	-kum
2nd fem.	-č(i)		
1st com.	-ku		-(ə)n

Thus from *säddäba* :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>säddäba</i>	Pl. }	<i>säddäbu</i>
3rd fem.	<i>säddäbäd'</i>		

2nd masc.	<i>säddäbk</i>	}	<i>säddäbkum</i>
2nd fem.	<i>säddäbč(i)</i>		
1st com.	<i>säddäbku</i>			säddäbən

Negative perfect

The negative perfect is formed by the prefixed element of negation *al-* and by the suffixed morpheme *-u* (*-u* after a vowel), or *m* in the plural forms ending in *-u*. The forms are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>alsäddäbaμ</i>	Pl. }	<i>alsäddäbum</i>
3rd fem.	<i>alsäddäbädu</i>		
2nd masc.	<i>alsäddäbku</i>	}	<i>alsäddäbkumaμ</i>
2nd fem.	<i>alsäddäbčü</i>		
1st com.	<i>alsäddäbku</i>		<i>alsäddäbnaμ</i>

IMPERFECT

There is a simple and a compound imperfect.

Simple imperfect

The simple imperfect is used only in the subordinate clause (relative clause included) and in the negative clause. It expresses the present and the future.

The imperfect is formed by prefixed and suffixed morphemes. These morphemes are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>yə-</i>	Pl. }	<i>yə---u</i>
3rd fem.	<i>tə-</i>		
2nd masc.	<i>tə-</i>	}	<i>tə---u</i>
2nd fem.	<i>tə-i</i>		
1st com.			<i>əl---ən</i>

Thus from *säddäba* :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>yəsädəb</i>	Pl. }	<i>yəsädbu</i>
3rd fem.	<i>təsädəb</i>		
2nd masc.	<i>təsädəb</i>	}	<i>təsädbu</i>
2nd fem.	<i>təsädbi</i>		
1st com.			<i>əlsädbən</i>

Type B : *yəneggəd*. Type C : *yəmarrak*.

The final *-i* of the 2nd fem. sg. causes the palatalization of a preceding dental, sibilant and *l* (becoming *y*) : *təwärgi* (root *wrd* « go down »), *təwärsi* (root *wrs* « inherit »), *təgädəy* (root *gdl* « kill »).

The negative imperfect is expressed by the prefixed element of negation *a-* and the suffixed element *-u* (*-u* after a vowel), or *-m* in the plural forms ending in *-u*. The forms are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>aysädbu</i>	Pl. }	<i>aysädbum</i>
3rd fem.	<i>atsädbu</i>		

2nd masc.	<i>atsädbu</i>	}	<i>atsädbum</i>
2nd fem.	<i>atsädbu</i>		
1st com.	<i>alsädbu</i>		<i>alsädbənaɣ</i>

Compound imperfect

The compound imperfect consists of the simple imperfect and of the verb of existence *halla* « he is » becoming *äl*. Both the main verb and the auxiliary *äl* are conjugated, but in a form slightly different from their independent state. The compound imperfect expresses the present (momentary or customary) and the future in the main clause. The forms are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>yəsädbäl</i>	Pl. }	<i>yəsädbällu</i>
3rd fem.	<i>təsädbälläd'</i>		
2nd masc.	<i>təsädbällah</i>	}	<i>təsädbällūhum</i>
2nd fem.	<i>təsädbällih</i>		
1st com.	<i>əsädbälluh'</i>	}	<i>əsädbällən</i> <i>(əsädbənənən)</i>

Type B : *yəneggädäl*. Type C : *yəmarəkäl*.

JUSSIVE

The jussive expresses a positive order or an intention for the 1st and 3rd persons. The 2nd person of the jussive is used only in the negative form to express a prohibition. A negative jussive in any person other than the second also expresses the prohibition. The forms are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>yəsädb</i>	Pl. }	<i>yəsädbu</i>
3rd fem.	<i>təsädb</i>		
2nd masc.	<i>attəsädb</i> (negative)	}	<i>attəsädbu</i>
2nd fem.	<i>attəsädbi</i>		
1st com.	<i>ləsädb</i>		<i>ləsädbən</i>

Type B : *yənəggäd*. Type C : *yəmarək*.

IMPERATIVE

The imperative expresses an order. The prohibition is expressed by the negative jussive (see above). The forms are :

Sg. 2nd masc.	<i>sädäb</i>	Pl. }	<i>sädäbu</i>
2nd fem.	<i>sädäbi</i>		

Type B : *nəggäd*. Type C : *marək*.

GERUNDIVE

Simple gerundive

The gerundive expresses a subordinate action. The tense of the gerundive is conditioned by the tense of the main verb. The forms are :

Sg. 3rd masc.	<i>sädbədo</i>	Pl. }	<i>sädbədäm</i>
3rd fem.	<i>sädbəda</i>		

2nd masc.	<i>sädbədəh</i>	}	<i>sädbədəhum</i>
2nd fem.	<i>sädbədih</i>		
1st com.	<i>sädbəč</i>			sädbədän

If the 3rd radical is a liquid *r*, *l*, *n*, the syllabic structure of the gerundive is *säkərdo* (root *skr*), *bäsəldo* (root *bsl*), *kädəndo* (root *kdn*).

Type B : *beddəldo*. Type C : *marrəkdo*.

The suffix *-do* stands for *-to*. It is the element that is used in Amharic with the biliterals of the type *sämma* (gerundive *sämtö*) and *qärrä* (gerundive *qärto*). In Argobba it is extended to all the verbs.

Compound gerundive

The compound gerundive consists of the simple gerundive and of the verb of existence *hallä* becoming *hal*, *-äl*. The compound gerundive expresses a resultative action : an action that began in the past and stretches over into the present; thus, *säkərdul* « he has been drunk, he is drunk ». The forms are :

Sg.	3rd masc.	<i>sädbədul</i>	Pl.	}	<i>sädbədəmäl</i>
	3rd fem.	<i>sädbədalläd</i>			
	2nd masc.	<i>sädbədəhal</i>	}		<i>sädbədūhumäl</i>
	2nd fem.	<i>sädbədihäl</i>			
	1st com.	<i>sädbəčälluh</i>	}		<i>sädbədänäl</i> (<i>sädbədänällən</i>)

Type B : *beddəldul*. Type C : *marrəkdu*.

NOMINAL FORMS

Participle

The active participle has the form *sädabi* « he who insults ». Type B : *näggadi*.

Infinitive or noun of action

The infinitive of type A has the form *mäsdäb* « to offend, action of offending ». Type B : *mänäggäd*. Type C : *mämarräk*.

SUMMARY

The basic forms of the three types are :

	A	B	C
	—	—	—
Perfect.....	<i>säddäba</i>	<i>neggäda</i>	<i>marräka</i>
Imperfect.....	<i>yäsädəb</i>	<i>yəneggəd</i>	<i>yəmarrək</i>
Jussive.....	<i>yəsädəb</i>	<i>yənäggəd</i>	<i>yəmarrək</i>
Imperative.....	<i>sädəb</i>	<i>näggəd</i>	<i>marrək</i>
Gerundive.....	<i>sädbəbo</i>	<i>neggəddo</i>	<i>marrəkdo</i>
Participle.....	<i>sädabi</i>	<i>näggadi</i>	<i>marräki</i>
Infinitive.....	<i>mäsdäb</i>	<i>mänäggäd</i>	<i>mämarräk</i>

DERIVED STEMS

FREQUENTATIVE STEM

The frequentative stem consists of the repetition of the 2nd radical, the supplementary syllable having the vowel *a* : *läqaqqäma* (type A), *bätattäna* (type B). This stem expresses a frequentative, repeated, augmentative or attenuative action. The inflection of the type A and B is the same. The forms are :

Perfect.....	<i>läqaqqäma</i>
Imperfect.....	<i>yäläqaqqəm(äl)</i>
Jussive.....	<i>yäläqaqəm</i>
Imperative.....	<i>läqaqəm</i>

STEMS WITH PREFIXES

Stem with *tä-

A. *Reflexive-passive stem.*

The passive-reflexive action is expressed by a stem with the prefix *tä-. This prefix appears only in the imperative (*tä-näkäs*); in the other forms the *t* is assimilated to the 1st radical which is geminated. There is no distinction in the form between the types A and B. The radical of the reflexive-passive is that of the type B regardless of the form of the basic stem. The forms are :

	A, B	C
Perfect.....	<i>ənnekkäsa</i> « he was bitten »	<i>əmmerräka</i>
Imperfect.....	<i>yənnekkäs(äl)</i>	<i>yəmmerrük(äl)</i>
Jussive.....	<i>yənnäkäs</i>	<i>yəmmäräk</i>
Imperative.....	<i>tänäkäs</i>	<i>tämaräk</i>
Gerundive.....	<i>ənnəkəsdə</i>	<i>əmmərəkdo</i>
Infinitive.....	<i>männäkäs</i>	

B. *Reciprocal.*

A reciprocal action is expressed by the prefix *tä- with the basis of the type C regardless of the basic form of the verb. The forms in the plural are :

Perfect.....	<i>ənnakkäsu</i> « they bit one another »
Imperfect.....	<i>yənnakkäs(ällu)</i>
Gerundive.....	<i>ənnakəsdäm</i>

Stem with *a-*
(*Causative*)

The stem with *a-* serves mainly for the expression of the causative; thus, *qärräba* « he was near » : *a-qärräba* « he brought near, he presented ». The prefix *a-* is added to the basis of the fundamental stem. The forms are :

	A	B	C
Perfect.....	<i>amälläta</i>	<i>abettäna</i>	<i>ašaggäta</i>
Imperfect.....	<i>yamälṭ(äl)</i>	<i>yabettən</i>	<i>yašaggət</i>
Jussive.....	<i>yamlṭ</i>	<i>yabättən</i>	<i>yašaggət</i>
Imperative.....	<i>amlṭ</i>	<i>abättən</i>	<i>ašaggət</i>
Gerundive.....	<i>amälṭədo</i>	<i>abettəndo</i>	<i>ašaggətədo</i>

Stem with *as-*
(*Causative, factitive, adjutative*)

The stem with *as-* expresses the causative, and perhaps also the factitive (« have something done by another ») and the adjutative (« help to do something »). The prefix *as-* is added to the basis of type B regardless of the basic stem of the verb. The forms are :

Perfect	<i>asmelläsa</i>
Imperfect	<i>yasmelläs(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yasmälläs</i>
Imperative	<i>asmälläs</i>
Gerundive	<i>asmelläsdo</i>
Infinitive	<i>masmälläs</i>

Stem with **astä-*

There are a few examples with the morpheme *astä-*. It occurs in verbs that seem to be Amaharic loanwords; thus *astewwäqa* « inform » (Amharic *astawwäqä*), and *astewwäsa* « remind » (Amharic *astawwäsä*).

Stem with *ən-, an-*

There is a certain number of verbs, mainly quadrilaterals, and biliterals and trilaterals of type C, that have a prefix *ən-* for the intransitive, reflexive or passive meaning. Their causative is expressed by *an-*. There is no special value attached to the prefix *ən-*. The verbs that use these prefixes express mainly movement, noise, light, and so on. The forms are :

	<i>ən-</i> --	<i>an-</i> --
Perfect	<i>ənṭäläṭṭäla</i>	<i>anṭäläṭṭäla</i>
Imperfect	<i>yənṭäläṭṭäl(äl)</i>	<i>yanṭäläṭṭäl(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yənṭälṭäl</i>	<i>yanṭälṭäl</i>
Imperative	<i>tänṭälṭäl</i>	<i>anṭälṭäl</i>
Gerundive	<i>ənṭälṭäldo</i>	<i>anṭälṭäldo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mänṭälṭäl</i>	<i>manṭälṭäl</i>

SPECIAL TRILITERAL CLASSES

The trilateral special verbal classes are those with initial *a*, and with *h* as first, second or third radical. The types are : *arräfa*, *halläba*, *sähaqa*, and *qäddaha*.

Verbs with initial *a-*

These verbs are in relation with Proto-Ethiopic verbs the 1st radical of which was a glottal stop (') or ' , occasionally *h*, *ḥ* or *ḫ*. There is only type A. Examples : *ammäna* « believe » (Geez 'amnä), *arräfa* « take a rest » (Geez 'a-'räfä). Their causative is formed only by *as-*.

	BASIC	tä-	as-
Perfect	<i>arräfa</i>	<i>ättezzäza</i>	<i>asennäsa</i>
Imperfect	<i>yarf(äl)</i>	<i>yättezzäz(äl)</i>	<i>yasennäs</i>
Jussive	<i>yäräf</i>	<i>yättäzäz</i>	<i>yasännäs</i>
Imperative	<i>äräf</i>	<i>täzäz</i>	<i>asännäs</i>
Gerundive	<i>arfädo</i>		<i>asennäsdo</i>
Infinitive			<i>masännäs</i>

Verbs with initial *h*

These verbs are in relation with Proto-Ethiopic verbs the 1st radical of which is the laryngeal *h* or the velar *ḥ* : *habbäṭa* «swell» (Geez *ḥabätä*), *haddäga* «leave» (Geez *ḥadägä*). This class has only the type A. Their causative is formed only by *as-*.

	BASIC	tä-	as-
Perfect	<i>halläba</i>	<i>əḥḥelläba</i>	<i>aserräda</i>
Imperfect	<i>yähalbäl</i>	<i>yəḥḥelläb</i>	<i>yaserräd(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yəhläb (yəläb)</i>	<i>yəḥḥäläb</i>	<i>yasärräd</i>
Imperative	<i>häläb</i>	<i>tähäläb</i>	<i>asärräd</i>
Infinitive	<i>mäläb</i>	<i>mähḥäläb</i>	

Note that geminated *h* in the *tä-* stem becomes *ḥḥ*. The stem with *as-* has the same form as that of the verbs with initial *a-*.

Verbs with 2nd radical *h*

These verbs are related with Proto-Ethiopic verbs the 2nd radical of which is the laryngeal *h* or the velar *ḥ* (occasionally '). In various verbal forms *h* disappears and the verb takes the appearance of a biliteral of the type *laka* (for which see p. 267). Examples : *ṣähara* «rake» (Geez *ṣäḥarä*), *dähara* «bless» (Geez *däḥarä*). This class has only the type A. Note that *h* is not geminated.

	BASIC	tä-
Perfect	<i>sähaqa</i>	<i>əmmeheta</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəsähqäl (yəsīqäl)</i>	<i>yəmmehetäl</i>
Jussive	<i>yəsaq</i>	<i>yəmmähät</i>
Imperative	<i>sähaq (saq)</i>	<i>tämmähät</i>
Gerundive	<i>sähaqdo (siqdo)</i>	<i>əmmehätdo</i>
Participle	<i>saqi</i>	
Infinitive	<i>müsaq</i>	<i>mämmähät</i>
	a-	as-
Perfect	<i>arähaqa</i>	<i>asmeheta</i>
Imperfect	<i>yarähqäl (yarīqäl)</i>	<i>yasmehetäl</i>
Jussive	<i>yarhəq (yariq)</i>	<i>yasmähät</i>
Imperative	<i>arhəq (ariq)</i>	<i>asmähät (asmiṭ)</i>
Gerundive	<i>arhəqdo (ariqdo)</i>	<i>asməhetdo</i>
Infinitive	<i>maraq</i>	

A special verb of this group is *wähaza* or *nähaza* « take ». The gerundive *wizdo*, *widdo* or *niddo* « seizing » with a verb in the finite form has the meaning « with ». Example : *färasun wizdo* or *niddo mäṭṭa* « he came with the horse », lit. « the-horse he-seizing he-came ».

Verbs with 3rd radical *h*

These verbs are in relation with Proto-Ethiopic verbs the 3rd radical of which is *h* or the velar *ḥ*. This class has types A, B, and probably C. The perfect of type A has the form *bäzzäha* or *bäzzəha*. Examples of type A : *fälläha* « boil » (Geez *fälḥa*), *näffäha* « blow » (Geez *näfḥa*). Type B : *kelläha* « cry ».

	BASIC	tä-	a-	as-
Perfect	<i>qäddäha</i> (<i>qäddəha</i>)	<i>əṭṭerräha</i> « be called »	<i>abäzzäha</i>	<i>aṣṭerräha</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəqädhäl</i>	<i>yəṭṭerräh(äl)</i>	<i>yabäzhäl</i>	<i>yasṭerräh(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yəqdäh</i>	<i>yəṭṭäräh</i>	<i>yabzäh</i>	<i>yasṭärräh</i>
Imperative	<i>qədäh</i>	<i>tätäräh</i>	<i>abzäh</i>	<i>aṣṭärräh</i>
Gerundive	<i>qädhədo</i>		<i>abzəhdo</i>	<i>aṣṭerrəhdo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mäqdäh</i>	<i>mätṭäräh</i>	<i>mabzäh</i>	

BILITERALS

The biliterals in Argobba result mainly from original trilaterals with a laryngeal as 2nd or 3rd radical or with a semi-vowel *w*, *y* as 2nd or 3rd radical. The biliteral classes are : *laka*, *qälla*, *moda* and *heda*.

Class *laka*

This class represents verbs that are in relation with Proto-Ethiopic verbs the 2nd radical of which is a laryngeal ' , ' or *h*. Dialectally this class has also the form *lähaka*. There is only type A in this class. Examples : *laka* « send » (Geez *lä`akä*), *ṣana* « load » (Geez *ṣä`anä*), *laqa* « grow » (Geez *lähəqä*).

	BASIC	tä-	a-	as-
Perfect	<i>gara</i>	<i>əggera</i> (<i>əggehera</i>)	<i>awela</i>	<i>asleqa</i> (<i>asleheqa</i>)
Imperfect	<i>yəgīräl</i> (<i>yəgähəräl</i>)	<i>yəggeräl</i> (<i>yəggeheräl</i>)	<i>yawiläl</i>	<i>yasleqäl</i> (<i>yasleheqäl</i>)
Jussive	<i>yəgar</i>	<i>yəggar</i>	<i>yawil</i>	<i>yasləq</i>
Imperative	<i>gar (gähar)</i>	<i>tägar</i>	<i>awil</i>	<i>asləq</i>
Gerundive	<i>gīro</i>	<i>əggerdo</i>	<i>awildo</i>	<i>asləqdo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mägar</i>	<i>mäggarid</i>		

Special verbs of this class are : *hawa* « give » (root *whb*), and *ala* « say » (root *bhl*). The forms of *hawa* are :

	BASIC	tä-	as-
Perfect	<i>hawa</i>	<i>əḥḥewwa</i>	<i>ashewwa</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəhaw(äl)</i>	<i>yəḥḥeww(äl)</i>	<i>yasheww(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yəhaw</i>	<i>yəḥḥäw</i>	<i>yashäw</i>
Imperative	<i>haw</i>	<i>tähäw</i>	<i>ashäw</i>
Gerundive	<i>hawdo</i>		<i>ashewwədo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mähawid</i>	<i>mähḥawid</i>	<i>mashäwwid</i>

The forms of *ala* « say » are :

	BASIC	tä-
Perfect	<i>ala</i>	<i>əbbehela</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəl(äl)</i>	<i>yəbbehel(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yəbäl</i>	<i>yəbbähäl</i>
Imperative	<i>bäl</i>	<i>täbähäl</i>
Gerundive	<i>bədo</i>	<i>əbbeheldo</i>
Infinitive	<i>malät</i>	<i>mäbbähäl</i>

Class *qälla

This class covers two biliteral classes of the other South Ethiopic languages. It represents : a) trilaterals with an original last radical ' , ' , occasionally *h* , *ḥ* : type *sämma*; b) trilaterals with an original last radical *w* , *y* : type *ṭäbba* , *mäšša*.

a) Type *sämma*.

As it was said above, this class represents verbs that are in relation with Proto-Ethiopic verbs the 3rd radical of which is ' , ' , occasionally *h* or *ḥ*. This class has types A and B. Examples for type A : *gäbba* « enter » (Geez *gäb'a*) , *bälla* « eat » (Geez *bäl'a*). Type B : *lekka* « measure » (Tigrinya *läkkə'e*). The forms are :

	BASIC	tä-	a-	as-
Perfect	<i>gäbba</i>	<i>əwwegga</i>	<i>agäbba</i>	<i>asgebba</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəgäb(äl)</i>	<i>yəwwegg(äl)</i>	<i>yagäb(äl)</i>	<i>yasgebb(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yəgbi</i>	<i>yəwwäg</i>	<i>yugbi</i>	<i>yasgäbbi</i>
Imperative	<i>gəbi</i>	<i>täwäg</i>	<i>agbi</i>	<i>asgäbbi</i>
Gerundive		<i>əwweggədo</i>	<i>agbədo</i>	<i>asgebbədo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mägbit</i>	<i>mäwwäggid</i>	<i>magbid</i>	<i>masgäbbid</i>

b) Type *ṭäbba* , *mäšša*.

The type *ṭäbba* represents verbs that are in relation with Proto-Ethiopic verbs the 3rd radical of which is *w* whereas *mäšša* represents verbs the 3rd radical of which was *y* that caused the palatalization of the preceding consonant if it was

a dental or a sibilant. This verbal class has the types A, B, and C. Examples : *ṭäbba* «suck» (Geez *ṭäbäwä*), *mäšša* «be evening» (Geez *mäsäyä*). Type B : *šeñña* «accompany» (root *sny*). Type C : *wañña* «swim» (Geez *tä-wanäyä*). The forms of type A are :

	BASIC	tä-	a-	as-
	—	—	—	—
Perfect	<i>šäčča</i>	<i>äggäñña</i>	<i>agäñña</i>	<i>asgeñña</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəšäč(äl)</i>	<i>yəggäññ(äl)</i>	<i>yagäññ(äl)</i>	<i>yasgeññäl</i>
Jussive	<i>yəšči</i>	<i>yəggäñ</i>	<i>yagəñ</i>	<i>yasgäñ</i>
Imperative	<i>šəči</i>	<i>tägäñ</i>	<i>agəñ</i>	<i>asgäñ</i>
Gerundive	<i>šäčdo</i>	<i>äggäññədo</i>	<i>agəññədo</i>	<i>asgäññədo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mäščid</i>	<i>mäggäññid</i>	<i>magäññid</i>	

Class *qoma*

This class is in relation with the Proto-Ethiopic verbs of the same form. Examples : *hona* «become» (Geez *konä*), *qoma* «stand» (Geez *qomä*). The forms are :

	BASIC	tä-	a-	as-
	—	—	—	—
Perfect	<i>qoma</i>	<i>əzzora</i>	<i>aqoma</i>	<i>asroṭa</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəqom(äl)</i>	<i>yəzzor(äl)</i>	<i>yaqom(äl)</i>	<i>yasroṭ(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yəqum</i>	<i>yəzzor</i>	<i>yaqum</i>	<i>yasruṭ</i>
Imperative	<i>qum</i>	<i>täzor</i>	<i>aqum</i>	<i>asruṭ</i>
Gerundive	<i>qomdo</i>	<i>əzzordo</i>	<i>aqumdo</i>	<i>asruṭdo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mäqom</i>	<i>mäzzor</i>	<i>mäqom</i>	<i>masroṭ</i>

Class *heda*

This class is in relation with the Proto-Ethiopic verbs of the same form. Example : *heda* «go» (Geez *kedä* «stamp»). The forms are :

	BASIC	tä-	a-	as-
	—	—	—	—
Perfect	<i>heda</i>	<i>əššeṭa</i>	<i>aheda</i>	<i>asheda</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəhed(äl)</i>	<i>yəššeṭ(äl)</i>	<i>yahed(äl)</i>	<i>yashed(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yəhid</i>	<i>yəššeṭ</i>	<i>yahid</i>	<i>yashid</i>
Imperative	<i>hid</i>	<i>täšeṭ</i>	<i>ahid</i>	<i>ashid</i>
Gerundive	<i>heddo</i>	<i>əššeṭdo</i>	<i>ahiddo</i>	<i>ashiddo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mähed</i>	<i>mäššeṭ</i>	<i>mahed</i>	<i>mashed</i>

PLURILITERALS

There are verbs that consist of four radicals (quadrilaterals) and of five radicals (quinquilaterals).

Quadriliterals

The form of type A is *dänäggäta*. Type C has the form *däballäqa*. There is no type B in the quadriliterals.

	BASIC	tä-	a-	as-
Perf.	<i>dänäggäta</i>	<i>assebässäba</i>	<i>agäläggäla</i>	<i>asmenezzära</i>
Imperf. . . .	<i>yädänägəṭ</i>	<i>yassebässäbäl</i>	<i>yagäläggəläl</i>	<i>yasmenezzəräl</i>
Jussive . . .	<i>yädängəṭ</i>	<i>yässäbsäb</i>	<i>yagälgəl</i>	<i>yasmänzər</i>
Imper	<i>dängəṭ</i>	<i>täsäbsäb</i>	<i>agälgəl</i>	<i>asmänzər</i>
Gerund. . . .	<i>dängəṭdo</i>	<i>assebässäbdo</i>		
Infinit. . . .	<i>mädängəṭ</i>	<i>mässäbsäb</i>	<i>magälgəl</i>	<i>masmänzär</i>

Abbreviated quadriliterals

The recorded abbreviated quadriliterals have the types : a) *bärätta*; b) and *säläčča*.

a) Type *bärätta*

This class represents original quadriliterals the last radical of which was ' or ' . The forms are :

	BASIC	tä-
Perfect	<i>bärätta</i>	<i>äggenäbba</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəbärätt(äl)</i>	<i>yəggenäbb(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yəbärt</i>	<i>yəggänäb</i>
Imperative	<i>bärt</i>	<i>tägänäb</i>
Gerundive	<i>bärtədo</i>	<i>əggenäbbədo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mäbärtid</i>	<i>məggänbit</i>
	a-	as-
Perfect	<i>abärätta</i>	<i>asfenädda</i>
Imperfect	<i>yabärätt(äl)</i>	<i>yasfenädd(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yabärt</i>	<i>yasfänd</i>
Imperative	<i>abärt</i>	<i>asfänd</i>
Gerundive	<i>abärtədo</i>	<i>asfändədo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mabärtit</i>	<i>masfändid</i>

b) Type *säläčča*

This class represents original quadriliterals the last radical of which was *w* or *y*. The forms are :

	BASIC	a-
Perfect	<i>säläčča</i>	<i>asäläčča</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəsäläčč(äl)</i>	<i>yasäläčč(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yəsälč</i>	<i>yasälč</i>
Imperative	<i>sälč</i>	<i>asälč</i>
Gerundive	<i>sälčədo</i>	<i>asälčədo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mäsälčid</i>	

Quinquiliterals

The recorded quinquiliterals have the constitution of 1.2.3.2.3. and occur only with the prefix ə- for the intransitive (*əbläçälläça* « scintillate »); with the prefix a- for the transitive or causative (*abläçälläça*). The forms are :

	BASIC	a-
Perfect	<i>əbläçälläça</i>	<i>abläçälläça</i>
Imperfect	<i>yəbläçälläç(äl)</i>	<i>yabläçälläç(äl)</i>
Jussive	<i>yəbläçläç</i>	<i>yabläçläç</i>
Imperative	<i>täbläçläç</i>	<i>abläçläç</i>
Gerundive	<i>əbläçläçdo</i>	<i>abläçläçdo</i>
Infinitive	<i>mäbläçläç</i>	<i>mabläçläç</i>

COMPOUND DESCRIPTIVE VERBS

This class of verbs consists of an invariable element and of the inflected verb *ala* « to say ». The invariable element is a biliteral, trilateral or a quadrilateral; it can end in a consonant or in a vowel. The verbs compounded with *ala* are mainly intransitive; the active or the causative meaning is obtained by *männä* « make, do ». Examples : *bəq ala* « appear », *qäs ala* « be slow », *əntəf ala* « spit », *wälläl ala* « be bright ». For the conjugation of *ala*, see p. 268.

PARTICLES

PREPOSITIONS

bä « in (place, time), at, on, with, by, for, against »; *lä* « for, to, in favor of »; *tä* « into, to, of, out of, from, from among »; *əndä* « like, according, as »; *wädä* « toward, to, about »; *alä* « without »; *sälä* « because of, for the sake of, in the name of »; *əstä* « until ».

PREPOSITIONS AND POSTPOSITIONS

bä- -lef, tä- -bälef « on, above, over, upon »; *bä- -tef, tä- -bätef* « under »; *bä- -gaft* « between »; *bä- -sared* « under »; *bä- -mähakkäl* « among, in the midst of »; *bä- -ačägäb* « near »; *bä- -wəfç, tä- -wəfç* « inside, among, into »; *bä- -fid, tä- -fid, tä- -bäfid* « before, in front of »; *tä- -ğed, tä- -bäğed* « after, behind, beyond »; *bä- -nägär* « because of »; *bä- -yennessa* « because of »; *bä- -ga, tä- -ga* « at, at the side of, to »; *bä- -dar* « along »; *bä- -fanta, tä- -fanta* « instead »; *bä- -gən* « to, at »; *tä- -mäš* « with »; *tä- -bäqär* « except »; *tä- -čugga* « after, since »; *tä- -čoga* « beyond »; *əstä- -däräs* « until, as far as ».

ADVERBS

Place : *čuh* « here »; *čow, čo* « there »; *bähud* « here »; *böd* « there »; *tef, bätef* « under »; *lef* « up »; *bäğed* « behind »; *bäwəšç* « inside »; *bä-wəxi* « outside »; *fid läfid* « face to face, opposite »; *dar darun* « along »; *čuggaga* « toward ».

here ». Interrogative : *yed* « where? »; *če* « where? »; *bed, bāyed* « where? »; *čega* « whither? ».

Time : *huma* « today »; *təmay* « yesterday »; *näg* « tomorrow »; *ahañ* « now »; *dəro* « formerly »; *bäğed* « afterwards »; *särk* « always »; *wätro* « always »; *diyyə gəz'e* « always »; *təngədih čoga* « henceforth »; *tähud čugaga* « from now on »; *tälo tälo* « immediately »; *gäna* « still, not yet »; *wädä fid* « in the future »; *zändro* « this year »; *amna* « last year ». Interrogative : *mäčče* « when? ».

Cause and reason : *sälähud* « therefore »; *mənalbat* « perhaps ». Interrogative : *minne* « why? »; *lämän* « why? ».

Manner : *əndähud* « thus »; *käm kämkäm* « thus »; *kammun* « thus, gratis »; *bāhandə gən* « together »; *alod* « otherwise ». With the preposition *bä-* « with » : *bäğəd* « necessarily, absolutely »; *bäqälal* « easily »; *bäqəṭ* « rightly ». Interrogative : *kämäy* « how? ».

Measure and quality : *äšit* « few, little, a little »; *ägğəg* « very, much »; *nəbbur* « very, much ». With *bä-* : *bätam* « very, quite »; *bäwägär* « well, quite ». Interrogative : *sənt* « how much?, how many? »; *mən yähal* « how much? ».

CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions of coordination

Annexation : « and », *-nna, -m*.

Alternation : « or », *we-m, wāyəm*; « either... or », *wāy... wāy*; « whether... or », *-m bihon* following each element of the alternative (*sətbäl-əm bihon səttəšäč-əm bihon quč bäl* « whether you eat or drink remain seated »); « neither... nor », *-m* added to each element of the alternative with the verb in the negative.

Opposition : « but », *gən, nägär gən, əngi*; « not only... but (also, even) », *ənk'an... ənk'an*.

Insistence : *-s, -n, -m*.

Affirmation and negation : « yes », *ō, aw*; « all right », *əšši*; « no! », *əmbi*.

Interrogation : *-ə, -amma*; or by raising the voice.

Vocative : « O you! », *ankə su*, lit. « you man! ».

Conjunctions of subordination

Time and circumstance.

« While, when, as » is expressed by *sə-* with the simple imperfect or by *bä-* with the perfect + *gəze*.

« While » is expressed by *äyyä-* with the perfect.

« Before that » is expressed by *sə-* with the negative imperfect followed or not by *bäfit* « before »; or by *tä-* with the infinitive followed by *bäfit*.

« After that » is expressed by *tä-* with the perfect followed by *čugga* or *bäğed* (« after »).

« Until that » is expressed by *əstə-* with the simple imperfect followed or not by *dərəs*.

« Since » is expressed by *tä-* with the perfect, mostly followed by *čoga*, *čugga* or *čugaga*.

« As soon as » is expressed by *čogaw əndä-* with the perfect, or by *əndä-* with the perfect followed by *čogawnu*.

Finality.

« In order that » is expressed by *lə-* with the simple imperfect.

« In order that not, lest », is expressed by *əndə-* with the negative imperfect.

Cause and reason.

« Because, as » is expressed by *səlä-* with the perfect.

« As » is expressed by the gerundive or by *tä-* with the perfect.

Condition.

In the real condition, the protasis (the « if »-sentence) is formed with *yä +* perfect followed by *əndəhonä*, the apodosis being in the imperfect or imperative.

In the unreal condition, the protasis is formed by *bə +* imperfect followed by *nurdo*, the apodosis having either the imperfect with *əmbär* (« he was ») or *bä-* perfect followed or not by *əmbära*.

Concession.

« Even though, although » is expressed by *bə-* with the positive or negative imperfect followed by *ənk'an*; or by *mənəm* followed or not by *ənk'an* followed by *bə +* imperfect.