

A bit of Taste of what reform Tigrinya gives

ሐደ ሐደት ጣዕሚ ናይ እዙ እንታይ ሪፈፎርም ትግርይና ትህቦ

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I Tigriyna Infinitive without infinitive maker and its forms

In English **To** is often (ብዙሕኒዜ) used, *as to be ነበረ, to see ረአየ, to come መጸአ*, before **the base form of a verb** to show that the verb is in the **infinitive**. So, the word **To** is not only a preposition but also **infinitive maker**.

But Tigriyna **infinitive**, as we see it, *ነበረ, ረአየ, መጸአ*, is devoid or ስኡን of this particle or ንግብ. Owing to this, to know the simple or basic form of the verb of Tigriyna became puzzling.

(base = መሰረት, እግሪ, ሰኻና, ወንደወንዶ).

Infinitive examples with Tigriyna translation:

To as infinitive maker

to eat = በልዐ
to shine = በርሀ
to see = ረአየ
to thank = አመስገነ
to kill = ቀተለ
to go = ከደ

And To as preposition

going to Eritrea = ምክያድ ናብ ኦርትራ
not to my taste = አይኮነን ናብ ናተይ ጣዕሚ
first visit to Africa = ፈለማ ምብጻሕ ናብ አፍሪካ
to the left = ናብ ጸጋም
from place to place = ካብ ሐደ ስፍራ ናብ እቲ ካልእ
worked to perfection = ስፍራ ናብ እታ ፍጽጽምንና
from top to bottom = ካብ ጫፍ ናብ ዕመቕ

Infinitive phrase examples

To eat like a horse = በልዐ ከም ሐደ ፈረስ
To shine on conversation = በርሀ ልዕሊ እታ ወግዒ
To see and be seen = ምእንቲ ረአየ እውን ነበረ ርኡይ
No need **to thank** me = አይክልሎን እቲ ግድዲ ናብ አመስገነ ንኣይ
To kill a conversation = ቀተለ ሐንቲ ወግዒ
To go too far = ከደ አመና ርሒቕ

First as a student and later as teacher, I had no idea not only of Tigriyna **infinitives** (*to + verb*) but also of the **present** and **past** forms of **verbs, helping verbs, modal verbs, sentence structure**, etc. This casts light on the problem that I had as a student and as a teacher. I was just swimming not in the running but in a stagnant water. This is a fact extremely inconvenient (ኩርኳሕ) to my cultural backgrounds.

Later, when I started to write books in Tigriyna, I knew that I knew nothing about my mother language in terms of rudimentary grammar rules. This was a wakeup call for me. After this, in order to know something, I fought with all my power. Thanks to this I learned:

a) Tigriyna infinitive

- b) Tigriyna sentence structure
- c) Tigriyna articles
- d) Tigriyna word spelling
- d) Tigriyna two tenses (ግዝያት) present and past, and
- e) again two tenses, *passato remoto* ሕሎፍ ርሒቶ and *passato prossimo* ሕሎፍ ጥቓ of its past tense ...

While the war against my mother tongue was beginning, I was about 46-8 years old man. It was too late but it is better than nothing. When I was there, I wept because I knew why I was dark inside (because of mother tongue) and bright outside (owing to my land). And I said to myself 'To have such crooked mother tongue in such land of 24-hour periods of sunlight is really a bad luck/ ሐንቲ ከፍእቲ ዕድድል'.

To return to the subject, Tigriyna past negative sentence is only made with *passato remoto*.

- e.g. እነ ከይደ ናብ ቤት *passato prossimo*
 እነ ከድኩ ናብ ቤት *passato remoto*
 እነ አይከድኩን ናብ ቤት I did not go home.

We know the importance of mother language in elementary school. But this takes place after studding the advantages and the disadvantages of it. Why?

Tigriyna is created to address not the problem of modern school needs but only to serve peasants and shepherds activities. To this end, it was and it is. Withstanding this entered the school without seeing any kind of sifting (ምሔ). In many ways, it has proved that its bad weighs more than its good. But it keeps going, going, going from century to century by attaching and weakening our minds. But now it is time to say enough with steps towards reforming.

A big picture that helps to recognize Tigriyna infinitives and verbs in their present, past, ... forms

<u>Infinitive</u> <u>To + verb</u>	<u>simple pre</u> <u>-sent form</u>	<u>simple</u> <u>past form</u>	<u>past parti-</u> <u>ciple form</u>	<u>verb 'ing &</u> <u>sads' forms</u>
to be ነበረ	is/are እዩ/አደ	was/were ነበሩ/ነበረ	been ንቡር	being ምንባር
to have አልሎ	has አልለዎ	had አልሎው	- -	having ምአልላው
to eat በለዐ	he eats ንስሱ ይበልዕ	he ate በለዐ/በለዐ	h. has eaten አልለዎ ብሉዕ	eating ምብላዕ
to say በለ	he says ንስሱ ይብል	said በለ(አላ, የለ)	said ብሁል	saying ምብባል/ሃል
to go ከደ (ከየደ)	he goes ንስሱ ይከይድ	he went ከይዱ/ከደ	he has gone አዩ ከዩድ.	going ምከይድ

to know ፈለጠ	he knows ንስሱ ይፈልጥ	he knew ፈለጡ/ፈለጠ	known ፍሎጥ	knowing ምፍላጥ
to see ረአየ	he sees ንስሱ ይርእይ	he saw ረአዩ/ረአየ	has seen አልለዎ ርአይ	seeing ምርእይ
to prohibit ከልከለ	prohibits ይከልከል	prohibited ከልከሉ/ከልከለ	prohibited ከልከል	prohibiting ምክልከል
to buy ዕድደገ	he buys ይዕድድግ	bought ዕድዲገ/ ዕድደገ	bought ዕድዲግ	buying ምዕድዳግ
to translate ተርጉመ	translates ይተርገም	translated ተርገሙ/-ገመ	translated ተርገም	translating ምተርጓም
to abuse ዐምመጸ	he abuses ይዕምምጽ	abused ዐምሚጸ/-መጸ	abused ዕምሙጽ	abusing ምዕምማጽ
to consider አስተውዐለ	he considers የስተውዕል	considered አስተውዒሉ/ዐለ	considered አስተውዑል	considering ምስተውዓል
to hang አንጠልጠለ	hangs የንጠልጥል	hung./hanged አንጠልጢሉ/ጠለ	hung./hanged አንጥልጡል	hanging ምንጥልጣል
to shine አንጸባረቅ	he shines የንጸባርቅ	he shone አንጸባሪቅ/ረቅ	he shone አንጽብፋቅ	shining ምንጽብራቅ
to clap አጥጣቅዐ	claps የጥጣቅዕ	clapped አጥጣቂዐ/ቅዐ	clapped አጥጡቅኦ	clapping ምጥጥቅዕ
to confuse አጥጥፋፍኦ	he confuses የጥጥፋፍኦ	confused አጥጥፋፊኦ/ፍኦ	confused አጥጥፋፍኦ	confusing ምጥጥፋፍኦ
to breath አስተንፈሰ	he breaths የስተንፍስ	breathed አስተንፈሱ/ፈሰ	breathed አስተፋንስ	breathing ምስተንፋስ
to dismiss አፍፋኑወ	dismisses የፍፋኑው	dismissed አፍፋኒው/ኑወ	dismissed አፍፍኑው	dismissing ምፍፍናው
to dismiss አስሰናበተ	dismisses የስሰናበት	dismissed አስሰናቢቱ/በተ	dismissed ስንበት	dismissing ምስሰንባት
to baptize አጠምመቅ	baptizes የጠምምቅ	baptized አጠምሚቅ/ቅ	baptized ጥምመቅ	baptizing ምጥምማቅ
to absorb ተሰውወጠ	absorbs ይሰውወጥ	absorbed ተሰውዊጠ/ጠ	absorbed ሰውወጥ	absorbing ምሰውዋጥ
to marry አመርዐወ	marries ይምር ዐው አመርዒወ/ዐወ	married ምርዐው	married ምምርዒው	marrying ምምርዒው
to excuse አመክነየ	he excuses የመክነይ	... excused አመክንዩ/የ	... excused ምክነይ	excusing ምምክናይ

በላ Added Words

There are more than 450 በላ added infinitive verbs. These, in making the three tenses, በላ shows change but the rest no. Here are few examples

to develop ሰላዕበላ	develops ሰላዕይ-በላ	developed ሰላዕቢሉ/በላ	developed ሰላዕ-በሁ-ል	developing ሰላዕምባል
whimper ሕንቅንቅበላ	whimpers ሕንቅንቅይ-በላ	whimpered ሕንቅ...ቢሉ/በላ	whimpered ሕንቅንቅ-በሁ-ል	whimpering ሕንቅንቅምባል
to cheep ጨቅበላ	cheeps ጨቅይ-በላ	cheeped ጨቅበሊ/በላ	cheeped ጨቅ-በሁ-ል	cheeping ጨቅምባል
to spit ጡፍበላ	spits ጡፍይ-በላ	spat ጡፍቢሉ/በላ	spat ጡፍ-በሁ-ል	spitting ጡፍምባል

II Let us shade a little light on the meaning of an infinitive

● **To + Verb = Infinitive** as to be ነበረ, to see ረአየ, to come መጸአ. This is real in English. But in Tigriyna it is only imaginary.

● Because an infinitive is *not* a verb, it cannot be conjugated and you cannot add **s, es, ed, or ing** to the end. Ever!

● infinitive is the basic form of the verb. → Tigriyna-Italian-English Dictionary

● It is a keyword in the dictionary

What is the infinitive form of እዩ, ነበረት, ከዩድ, ከድና, በለዕኩ

Two popular saying or quotes that are constructed of infinitives

● **To err** is human, **to forgive** divine = ሰሐተ እዩ ሰብአዊ, መሐረ መለኮታዊ

● **To be, or not to be**, that is the question = ነበረ, ወይ አይነበረን እዙይ እዩ እቲ ፕሮብለም (ጥይያቕ)

እቲ ኢንፎኒቲቶ infinito (=ብዘይ መወድዳእታ) እዩ ባሰ base (መሰርረት ወይ አግሪ, ሸኸና, ቀርቃዕ) ናይ ሐደ ቨርቦ. እዩ እቲ መርሐቃል ናይ እቲ ዲዝኖናርዮ. ምእንቲ ሐደ ኦብንነት → Tigriyna-Italian-English Dictionary.

III Tigriyna infinitive Division into syllables

Two syllables Words

- a) ሰር-ዐ, በል-ዐ, ቀል-ዐ, ሰም-ዐ
- b) ጀልል-ሐ, በርር-ሐ, ገርር-ሀ, ጨርር-ሐ, ቀርን-ዐ

Three syllables Words

- a) ወ-ለ-ደ, ሐ-መ-መ, ሐ-ነ-ነ, በ-ረ-ቐ, ጠ-በ-ቐ, ጐ-የ-የ, ጸ-ዐ-ነ, ሰ-ሐ-ቐ, ሙ-ጠ-ጠ
- b) ደቅ-ቀ-ሰ, ኢድ-ደ-ገ, ወልወለ. ወልለዐ, ጀምመረ, አግዘመ, ጠርጠረ, ጀፍ-ጀ-ፊ, ጐጸጐጸ ጨልለፊ, ጸንቀቐ, አምዐረ ...

Four syllables Words

- አሰ-ተው-ዐ-ለ,
- ጃሕ-ጃሕ-በ-ለ,
- አ-በር-ከ-ተ,
- አሰ-ተር-ጐ-መ,
- አቕ-በጥ-በ-ጠ,

Five syllables Words

ተ-መ-ጸ-ረ-የ

ፈን-ጸግ-ጸግ-በ-ለ

ተ-መ-ጸ-ደ-ቐ

ተ-በ-ላሽ-ሽ-ው

አን-ቀ-ላ-ው-ጠ

ተው-ላህ-ላህ-በ-ለ

IV the Essential Tigriyna Auxiliary (helping) verbs

ነበረ	to be	አልሎ	to have
እየ/ኢና	am/are	አልለዎ/ዋ	has
ነበርኩ/ነበርና	is/are	አልሉው	had
ነበሮም/ነበሩ	was/were	-	-
ንበር/ንበርቲ	been	-	-
ምንባር	being	-	-
ገበረ		to do	
ት/ይገበር		does	
አልለዋ ግቡር		he did	

e.g.

- አነ ነበርኩ እጽብበይ ምእንታኻ I have been waiting for you
- አልሎ እታ አካላህ/ምክንያት ናይ ገበረ ግዛዕ to have an occasion to do something
- አነ አይአልሉውን ለገብርኩን እኩል ሰልዲ I had had enough money
- ምእንቲ ገበረ እዙይ to do this

V Tigriyna Modal verbs

"A modal is a type of **auxiliary (helping) verb** that is used to express: ability ብልሃት/ውሕላላ, possibility ክእለት, permission ስልጣን/ፍቻድ/ፕርመሰሶ or obligation ግድንነት ."

So, Tigriyna modal verbs are ተገብስኦ to must, ክእለ to can and ደለየ to want.

<u>Tigriyna</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Italian</u>	<u>Germany</u>
ተገብስኦ	to must	dovere	müssen
ክእለ	to can	potere	können
ደለየ	to want	volere	wollen

e.g.

- አነ ይግብብኡኒ ተቻለሰ ምስ ኩልላን እተን ናተይ ሓይሊታት I must fight with all my strength
- አነ እክእል ገበረ ኩልሉ I can do all things
- አነ እደልይ ሓንቲ ብርጭቆ ናይ ማይ I want a glass of water

VI Tigriyna articles

እቲ the, pl. እቶም the » እቲ ሰብኣይ/እቶም ሰብኣት; እቲ ጸሐፊ/ እቶም ጸሐፍቲ
እታ the, pl. እተን the » እታ ሰበይቲ/እተን አንስቲ; እታ ጸሐፊት/እተን ጸሐፍቲ

እቲ the, pl. እቶም the » እቲ/እታ መምህር ጥቓ እቲ/እታ ... the teacher near the ...
እታ the, pl. እተን the » እቶም/እተን መምህራን ... the teachers ...

ሐደ a, an » ሐደ/ሐንቲ አንጭዋ a mouse
ሐንቲ a, an • ሐደ ክብሪ an honor

VII The necessity of new structure, that is to say SVO

There is huge necessity of introducing new sentence structure in Tigriyna, that is to say, subject - verb - object (SVO). This new Tigriyna sentence structure where the subject comes first, the verb second, and the object third closes not with four but with one point. Here is an example of svo and gets expanded with Five Ws and H.

ሐንቲ ሳሬት ሐዘት.

•ገባሪ + ግብሪ

ሐንቲ ሳሬት ሐዘት ሐንቲ ጽንጽያ.

•ገባሪ + ግብሪ + ኦግገትቶ

ሐንቲ ሳሬት (<መን) ሐዘት (እንታይ<) ሐንቲ ጽንጽያ

(አቢይ) ኣብ ሐንቲ ዱር (መአሰ) ዓሚ (ከመይ) ኣብ እቲ ናታ ዓለባ (ንምንታይ) ምእንቲ ሐደ ምግቢ.

A spider caught.

•subject + verb

A spider caught a fly.

•subject + verb + object

A spider (<who) caught (what<) a fly (where) in the forest (when) last year (how) in its web (why) (for a food).

The five Ws (who መን, what እንታይ, where አቢይ, when መአሰ, why ንምንታይ) and One H (how ከመይ) help not to create a hole in a sentence.

The incomprehensive nature of Tigriyna languages advices that we cannot rise to modernity with it. In fact, more a century ago it was said that "Tigriyna is sick in Seraie, dead in Akkeleguzai and buried in Hamasien." From this we can conclude that the death signs of Tigriyna tongue were noticed earlier.

This mother language problem perhaps today is at its top of its hill. But today, internet age, it is not that day. People have a choice. Actually, Tigriyna is seeing its abandonment in mass. The new generation is writing not in Tigriyna but in Latin on internet, face book, YouTube ...



To sum up it is undeniable fact that the language is between life and death. When the mother tongue is in a such bad condition a man like me fights for not to end its life. And I strongly believe if it is reformed it can add life. If its sentence structure is governed by the rule of grammar it has the possibility to be a good bridge player.

That is to say, Tigriyna elementary school will think and built a sentence like a Canadian or British or USA or ... elementary school. And it will not be very difficult, as it now, to translate books ... borrow words ... use internet ... understand films ... in short step by step someone will be bright not only outside but also inside. And we must not forget that to be bright inside is the sign of intellectualism.

After this I invite you to read and correct only the 'headings' of the articles of the news paper that are in semi blue. For your information below picture to the left is minister of Education.

VIII Learning how to read and spell Tigriyna word is very easy but only after learning

In Tigriyna community oral language is the foundation of learning. Generally, learning process begins on the floor of a home and ends there without seeing a classroom even for one day. But this doesn't mean that the Eritrean classroom teaches grammar rule. By now I believe that it is more clear than before the absence of two rules, of law and of grammar, in Eritrea. In the absence of these two it will be hard to see Eritrea as one advanced nation. This teaches that the rule of law and the rule of grammar are two railroad tracks for our civilization.

As mentioned above, Tigriyna is a twisted language. But when we talk about Tigriyna word reading, pronunciation, spelling, ... it is very easy of course not for foreigners but for natives. The rule is what you read, you pronounce and write.

Of all problems that we have let us focus on spelling in consistency and misspelled words with double letters.

- in consistency

As the following example show, Tigriyna writing is full of spelling inconsistency. In the given example the last two words, bread and tomato, are borrowed words. All together they are words carefully chosen to represent not only our difficulties but also our poor spelling.

"ሐደ" - "ሓደ" = one	"ገቢርና" - "ገይርና" = we have don
"አብ" - "አብ" = in	"ጊዜ" - "ግዜ" = time
"ሀገር" - "ሃገር" = nation	"ሕዝብ" - "ህዝብ" = people
"ሐዘ" - "ሐዘ" = to capture	"ሕይወት" - "ህይወት" = life
"ስም" - "ሸም" = name	"እግዚአብሔር" - "እግዚአብሄር" = God
"ነቢሩ" - "ነይሩ" = he was	"ፓጎ" - "ባኔ" = bread
"ነጻ" - "ናጻ" = free	"ፖግዶር" - "ኮመዶር" = tomato
"አይቶ" - "አቶ" = Mr	

- misspelled words with double letters

A word is misspelled:

- when it has two consonants of the same letter e.g. as ተገብብአ, ድርርብ,
- when one consonant is followed by ግእዝ (first form) of the same letter e.g. as በድደለ, መብበል, ነድደረ, ተሐግጦሰ, ገብበረ, መይየሰ, ዐምመረ, ተኸትተለ, አሸልለገ, አኸርረየ, ጀምመረ, ፊልለመ, ገፍፈጠ, አክክበ, ሰልለየ, ሐግገገ, ዐሸሸወ, ወቅቀጠ ...
- when one consonant is followed by ካዕብ (second form) of the same letter e.g. as ከክክናይ, ጸይይቆ, ጸግግም, ግፍፍጥ, ውድድእ
- when one consonant is followed by ሳልስ (third form) of the same letter e.g. as ትክክ. smoke, ሕግጊ law, ሐውዊ fire, ልብቢ (ለብበመ), ስምሚ, ስንኒ (ስንነነ), ስድዲ ግድዲ, ገዝዚፍ big ...
- when one consonant is followed by ራብዕ (fourth form) of the same letter e.g. as አትታለለ, ቅልላጥ, ሀልላይ, ከሰላተ, ሀንናን, ልውዋጠ, ግድዳይ, ላሸሻ, መግ-ጋ-ረጅ-ጃ ...
- when one consonant is followed by ሳድስ (sixth form) of the same letter e.g. as ብልሸሸው, ፍትትሕ, ምልልስ (ተመልሰ),
- when one consonant is followed by ሳብዕ (seventh form) of the same letter e.g. as አልሎ (= 1. to have 2. there is)
- All together, the intention is to make Tigriyna student read and learn according to grammar rule as the following

ገበረ to do	ገበበረ to pay taxes	ክንዲ ናይ instead of
ገባሪ doer	ገብባሪ tributary	ገበረ to do, to pay taxes
ግቡር done	ግብቡር taxed	ገባሪ doer, tributary
ምግባር doing	ምግብባር paying the tribute	ግቡር done, taxed
ተግባር affair	ተገብባሪ liable to tax	...



As we have seen the impact of misspelling words in Tigrinya writing is beyond any limit. Owing to this I believe that Tigrinya writer and reader are the most confused men on the earth. They are the guys who lack the art of composing good sentence. For them if Tigrinya sentence begins with object or subject or verb it doesn't matter: What matters is if a sentence separates itself from another sentence by four points. To add salt to the wound came Iseyas Efewerqi, Eritrean military dictator, who doesn't know correct and incorrect word of Tigrinya. So, in Eritrea any man can say that *in Eritrea there is no rule of law*. Any Tigrinya word can also say that there is no rule of grammar in Eritrea.

To know well, we need to deepen by reading 'ቃለ - መጻኢት ምስ ፕረዚደንት ኢሰያስ አፈወርቁ p. 2, of the newspaper on the left side. The interview has nothing to understand. This shows that Tigrinya language is completely undone/ፍንጥሕቲ ወይ ዝርግቲ ወይ ዝንዘርቲ.

Home work:

As the following example, first choose an infinitive; that is ሰኽና ቨርብ ወይ to + verb. ድሕሪ እዙይ ይዘርዘር እቲ ምፋጽ ሰኽና ቨርብ ኣብ **present, past** and **future tenses** ኣብ እታ ሕንጻጽቲ ሰደቓ ናይ ዝርዘር (ዘርዘር) (conjugation table) ምስ መጀምመርያ ኣካል (ኣነ ወይ ንሕና), ካልኣይ ኣካል (ንስሰኻ, ንስሰኻትኩም/ንስሰኺ, ንስሰኻትኩን), እውን ሳልሳይ ኣካል (ንስሱ, ንስሱሳቶም/ንስሳ, ንስሳተን). ካብ ኩልሉ እዙይ, ንወስድ ሳልሳይ ኣካል ሲንጥላር ኣንስተይቲ.

Eg ሰደቓ ናይ ዝርዘር

Infinitive ወረደ
Present ፕረሰንተ: ንስሳ ትወርድ, (but if the action is going on) ንስሳ ኣልላ ትወርድ
Past ሕሉፍ: 1 passato prossimo (ሕሉፍ ብጻይ ወይ ጥቓ) ንስሳ ወሪዳ 2 passato remote (ሕሉፍ ርሑቕ) ንስሳ ወረደት
Future ፍቲሮ: ንስሳ ትወርድ ድሕሪ ክልትተ ዓመት

Eritrea Today: For both Regime and Sentence Structure Change!

Eritrea Heute: Für beide Regime und Satz Struktur Veränderung!

Gizie-Lewti.com
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