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Open letter to **Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed** and **Chief Administrator Getachew Reda**,

I commend/ኣነ ኣንእድ your recent speech on April 23, 2023, which emphasizes the importance of a democratic approach and solution to address the contradictions within Ethiopia. I think we are at the point where the old era ends and the new one begins.

In our Tigriyna culture, we have a saying: "A good speech breaks the bones of devils." In a similar vein, a powerful speech has the potential to shatter misguided strategies. It is this kind of speech that Ethiopia desperately needs in order to embark on its arduous journey of healing. Therefore, it is essential that we strive for improved speech quality. But how can we achieve this? (*)

The speech delivered at the conference was in Amharic, the language of the former kings. However, the clarity of the language leaves much to be desired, as it remains largely unstudied. If the language of the kings is in such a state, we can only imagine the conditions of other languages spoken by the Ethiopian people, such as Afar, Bilen, Cunama, Oromo, Saho, Somal, Tigriyna, etc. These languages have been disregarded by the language policies of the ruling elites.

Therefore, it is high time that Ethiopia develops a comprehensive language policy that not only promotes the study and understanding of local languages but also allows for the gradual replacement of outdated languages. Countries like Kenya and Ghana have successfully implemented such policies, and Ethiopia should follow suit, regardless of the timeframe. By doing so, future generations will not struggle to comprehend important agreements, such as the current peace deal between the Ethiopian Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Presently, the majority of Tigriyans, let alone others, remain unaware of the details of this agreement due to the government's inability to effectively communicate it in the unstudied and underdeveloped Tigriyna language. The government has yet to grasp the correct spelling of even the word "ስምምምዕ (ተስማምዕ)/agreement" in Tigriyna.

We must acknowledge that the power of language extends far beyond mere communication. It shapes identities, fosters understanding, and bridges divides. A wellcrafted and inclusive language policy can serve as a catalyst for unity and progress in our diverse nation. Let us prioritize this urgent matter, ensuring that every Ethiopian has equal access to knowledge and opportunity.

The healing of our Abyssinia requires more than just speeches; it demands deliberate action and a commitment to addressing the systemic issues that have plagued us for far too long. Together,

let us embark on a journey towards a more inclusive and harmonious Abyssinia/ሐበሻ, Adulis, as before, its port.

Sincerely,

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 29.4.2023

(*) **Footnote**

Here are four base or infinitive verbs from four different languages to serve as samples for language study: The basic form of a verb, which has yet to learn Abyssinian writing, is the form listed in the dictionary.

1

English	Geez (G.)	Amharic (Am.)	Tigriyna (Tig.)
to eat TRANSITIVE VERB	በልዐ	በላ	በልዐ

example sentences:

- Base or infinitive verb: to eat out ♦ (Am.) በላ ውጪ(ጭ) ♦ (Tig.) በልዐ ግዳም/ደግገ/ ወጻኢ.
- Past tense: he/she/it ate ♦ (Am.) እርሱ በላ/እርሷ በላች ♦ (Tig.) ንስሱ በልዐ/ ንስሳ በልዐት or ንስሱ አልለዎ/ንስሳ አልለዎ ብሉዕ ha mangiato
- Past Participle: eaten ♦ (G.) ብሉዕ ♦ (Tig.) ብሉዕ/በልዐቲ -e.g. They have eaten. ንስሳቸው አልለዎም/ንስሳተን አልለወን ብሉዕ.

2

English	Geez	Amharic	Tigriyna
to write (t.v.)	ጻሐፈ.	ጻፈ.	ጻሐፈ.

- Base or infinitive verb: to write sb a letter ♦ (Am.) ጻፈ. አንድ መልእክት ወደ አንድ/አንድ ♦ (Tig.) ጻሐፈ. ሐንቲ መልእክቲ ናብ ሐድሐደ
- Past tense: he/she/ wrote ♦ እርሱ ጻፈ./እርሷ ጻፈች ♦ ንስሱ ጻሐፈ./ ንስሳ ጻሐፈች ወይ ንስሱ አልለዎ/ንስሳ አልለዎ ጻሐፍ ha scritto
- Past Participle: written ♦ (G.) ጻሐፍ (ጻሐፍ ከመ ... Job 42) ♦ (Tig.) ጻሐፍ/ጻሕፍቲ -e.g. The song was written by ... እቲ ዜማ/ ደርፊ ነበረ ጻሐፍ ብ ...

3

English	Geez	Amharic	Tigriyna
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to sell (<i>t.v.</i>)	ህጠ	ሸ(ሼ)ጠ	ሸየጠ (ሸጠ)
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- Base or infinitive verb: to sell sth to sb ♦ (Am.) ሸ(ሼ)ጠ ግዛዕ (አንትን) ወደ አንድ/አንድ ♦ (Tig.) ሸየጠ (ሸጠ) ግዛዕ ናብ ሓድሓድ
- Past tense: he/she sold ♦ (Am.) እርሱ ሸጠ/እርሷ ሸጠች ♦ (Tig.) ንስሱ ሸጠ/ ንስሷ ሸጠት or ንስሱ አልለዎ/ንስሷ አልለዎ ሸየጥ
- Past Participle: sold ♦ (G.) ሥዩጥ ♦ (Tig.) ሸየጥ/ሸይጥቲ -e.g. the goods sold አተን ኢቃሑ ሸየጣት la merce venduta

4

English	Geez	Amharic	Tigriyna
to pass (<i>i.v.</i>)	ኅለፈ	አለፈ	ሐለፈ/ተሳገረ/ገብአ

- Base or infinitive verb: to pass from ... to ♦ (Am.) አለፈ ከ ... ወደ ♦ (Tig.) ሐለፈ/ተሳገረ/ገብአ ካብ ... ናብ
- Past tense: he/she/it passed ♦ (Am.) እርሱ አለፈ/እርሷ አለፈች ♦ (Tig.) ንስሱ ሐለፈ/ ንስሷ ሐለፈት
- Past Participle: passed ♦ (G.) ኅሉፍ ♦ (Tig.) ሐሉፍ/ሐልፍቲስገር/ስግርቲ/ ግብአ/ግብአቲ -e.g. the time has passed አቲ ጊዜ አልለዎ ወይ እዩ ሐልፍ

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26.3.2024, My tweet to MyViewsonNews

When we say that Tigriyna is an unstudied language, we mean that it has not yet received significant scientific attention or research. As a result, there is limited information available about its grammar, syntax, phonology, and other linguistic features. This lack of knowledge makes it difficult for language learners and researchers to understand and study the language.

Furthermore, this means that generations of Tigriyna speakers may not have access to formal language education or resources to help them learn and use the language effectively. As a result, the language may not be fully passed on to future generations, which can lead to language loss and the erosion of cultural heritage.

Therefore, it is important for linguists and researchers to study Tigriyna and document its linguistic features. This can help preserve the language and ensure that it continues to be spoken and understood by future generations.

Here are Tigriyna parst of speech with their examples:

1. noun/ስም/nome ⇒ e.g. to call sb by **name** ጸውዑ ሓድሓድ ብ **ስም** chiamare qn per nome

2. verb/ **ከረሰ**/verbo ⇒ e.g. to **err** is human, to **forgive** divine **ሰሐተ** እዩ ሰብአዊ, **መሐረ** መለኪታዊ Errare è umano, perdonare è divino
3. adjective/ ሳጓ/**አጅጅት-ቲሽ** aggettivo ⇒ e.g. **holy** book **ቅድዱስ** (ቀድደሰ) መጽሐፍ libro sacro
4. adverb/ **አድከርብ**/avverbio ⇒ e.g. We were **too** hungry ንሕና ነበርና **እምብዛ/አመና/ምሒር** ጥምያት Avevamo troppa fame
5. pronoun /**ከንዲ-ናይ-ስም**/ፕሮኖም pronome ⇒ e.g. (e.g., **I**/አነ, **you**/ ንስስኻ/... ንስስኺ/...) or to someone or something mentioned elsewhere in the discourse (e.g., **he**/ንስሱ,**she**/ ንስሳ, **it**/ንስሱ/ንስሳ, **this**/እዚ/እዛ).
6. preposition/ ቀደምመቻምጦ/ፈለግመቻምጦ,**ፕረፖዚዥን**/preposizione is a word such as 'by/ብ', 'for/ምእንቲ', 'into/ክብ', or 'with/ምስ' which usually has a noun group as its object. ⇒ e.g. Cut it **with** a knife/ ቍረጻ/ጽያ **ምስ** ሐደ ካርራ. Sent the parcel **by** the post/ ለአኮ/ስደዶ እቲ ፓክኮ **ብ** እቲ ፖስት(ጣ).
7. conjunction/ ኮንጃክትዮን/congiunzione ⇒ e.g. (and/እውን, but/ግን, if/እንተ) "እንጌራ **እውን** ጠስሚ/bread **and** butter."
8. interjection/ ኢንተጀክትዮን interiezione (ወገን ናይ እቲ ዘረባ ከም ውሃ, ዋዕ, ዓው, አውያት) ⇒ e.g. Hear, hear! **ስማዕ, ስማዕ!**; Wow, you look great today! **ዋው** (**ወይለይ**), አልሎኽ ጽብቡቕ ሎሚ! (if you are a father colpy it and teach your chilren)