JAAMACADDA GÖTEBORG
KULLIYADDA AFAFKA IYO SUUGAANTA
P.O.B. 200 • 405 30 GÖTEBORG • ISWIIDHAN

University of Gothenburg offers
**net-based distance courses in Somali grammar & linguistics**
for native speakers of Somali.
Courses are free of charge for Norwegian, Swiss & EU citizens.

# AASAASKA QORISTA WACAN AMA ORTOOGARAFIGA AFKA SOOMAALIGA

Morgan Nilsson

31 January 2026

**Valid for Spring Term 2026**
*This is work in progress. Read it critically!*
*Feel free to contact me with comments.*
morgan.nilsson@gu.se

# Tusmo

# Sookoobidaha

**KOORBUSYADA**

D4, *D4 = qaybta ***Buugaag Dugsiyeed*** ee koorbuska ***Korp*** ee Jaamacadda Göteborg.

H4, *H4 = koorbuska ***HaBiT Somali Web Corpus*** ee Jaamacadaha Brno[1], Addis-Ababa, Trondheim iyo Oslo.

K4, *K4 = koorbuska ***Korp*** ee Jaamacadda Göteborg.

– The number refers to the relative frequency per million tokens.

– The star indicates that the seach included all forms of the word with various suffixes.

**BUUGAAGTA NAXWAHA**

GA73 = Guddiga. 1973. *Aasaaska naxwaha af Soomaaliga*…

MP99 = Abdalla Omar Mansur & Annarita Puglielli. 1999. *Barashada naxwaha af Soomaaliga.* London: Haan Associates.

**QAAMUUSYADA**

QI93 – Zorc

QR12 – Alejnikov

QS04 – Qaamuus

QS08 – Khaalid Cali-Guul-Warsame. 2008. *Qaamuuska Af Soomaaliga, Koobaha Af Soomaaliga.* Dragør & Nairobi.

QS12 – Annarita Puglielli & Cabdalla Cumar Mansuur (tif.). 2012. *Qaamuuska af-soomaaliga.* Roma: Roma TrE-Press.

QS13 – Adan Xasan Adan (tif.). 2013. *Soo Maal, Qaamuus Afsoomaali.* Jabuuti: Machadka Afafka ee Jabuuti (ILD) & Naadiga Qalinleyda iyo Hal'abuurka Soomaaliyeed (SSPEN).

QS22 – Qaamuus dugsiyeedka

QS71 – Abwaanka

[1] Brno [bárno] waa magaalada labaad ee Jamhuuriyadda Jeeg (Czech Republic).

QS76 – Yaasiin C. Keenadiid. 1976. *Qaamuuska af-soomaaliga.* Muqdisho: Wasaaradda Hiddaha iyo Tacliinta Sare & Akademiyaha Dhaqanka.
QT – Dizionario somalo-italiano

# Introduction

Different speakers of a language use their language in slightly different ways, but most of the time most speakers agree on what is correct and what is incorrect usage.

When people speak, there isn't much time to think about correctness, but when we read and write we have plenty of time to think and analyze the text. Therefore people usually have stronger opinions about the correctness or incorrectness of written texts. When a majority of the speakers are of the same opinion, we call their opinion the ”norm” for that language. The ”norm” offers us guidance on how others expect us to use the language.

For larger langauges, information about the norm is often collected by linguists in dictionaries, reference grammars and other handbooks with the purpose of helping people to write (and speak) in a way that is accepted by the majority of speakers of that language. Often, certain dictionaries and other handbooks have a particularly good reputation. This is often the case when they are written by a large group of specialists, rather than by an individual. For Somali there are three important groups that have produced the folowing dictionaries: Muqdisho 1976, Rooma 2012 & 2022, Jabbuuti 2013.

The development of handbooks that describe the norms of a languages is an important step in the language **standardisation** process. Other steps are the implementation of the norm through the language teaching that is carried out within the educational system and through the texts that are published by different branches of administration (government, local authorities, courts, police etc.) as well as massmedia.

Sometimes, the so called **codification** of the norm in handbooks present a somewhat idealised image of the language, and the majority of speakers express themselves in a different way in everyday situations. Then there is a tension between the norm and the usage. One thing is taught in schools and prescribed by the handbooks, but on the other hand, people might not care very much about certain rules, even though they know the rules. In Somali, one such instance is the doubling of consonants in spelling. All dictionaries agree that one should write *kubbad*, and moste people also agree that *kubbad* is the correct spelling, but if we look in a corpus such as HaBiT, we find 2,738 instances of

*kubad* and only 1,174 of *kubbad*. There is evidently a tension here between the prevailing norm and the codification of the standard versus the prevailing usage. Other instances are the codified standard Somali forms *dayaarad* or *dayuurad* versus the form *diyaarad* which is absolutely dominating in the usage.

**Careful use of language**

In order to facilitate communication, especially written communication, it is often useful to adhere to well established norms. It is important not to distract the readers, so that their full attention is on the content of the text, not on the form of it. It is thereofre usually a good idea to write as most people do, or maybe even better, as most people have been taught to write.

Certain things are expected in a carefully written text, e.g. a correct use of the subject endings, even though many speakers don't use the in everyday spoken communication. Another thing that is expected is traditional spelling in accordance with the reccomendations found in the dictionaries.

> **Norm** – A set of socially accepted rules and conventions for language use.
> **Standard** – A codified form of the norm, documented in dictionaries, reference gammars and other handbooks. The standard language is typically used in formal settings like administration, education and media.
> **Usage** – The ways in which the norm is applied in real life contexts.

**Reflect**

What Somali spelling or writing rules do you know?
Which of them are the most important?
What rules would you teach to shool children?
What rules would you tell your friends?

Write down a few rules!
We'll discuss them in class.

# Qoraallo ku saabsan qorista wacan

Lägg till svenska handböcker


Aadan X. Aadan (tif.). 2013. ***Qaamuus Afsoomaali.*** Jabuuti: Soo Maal. 1575 s.

Abdalla Masuur & Annarita Puglielli. 1999. *Barashada naxwaha af Soomaaliga*. London.

Ayres-Bennett, W. & J. Bellamy (eds.). 2021. *The Cambridge Handbook of Language Standardization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Banti & Abdirachid

Cabdalla Cumar Mansuur. 2016. Midaynta iyo Hor umarinta Af-soomaaliga.

Cabdalla Cumar Mansuur. 2017. Toosinta iyo casriyaynta haybta shakhsiga Soomaaliyeed.

Cabdifataax Xasan Maxamed 'Barawaani'. 2019. Hab-qorista qumman ee af Soomaaliga, Casharka 1aad. *Bandhige* 11 October 2019.

Cabdifataax Xasan Maxamed 'Barawaani'. 2019. Hab-qorista qumman ee af Soomaaliga, Casharka 2aad. *Bandhige* 12 October 2019.

Cabdifataax Xasan Maxamed 'Barawaani'. 2019. Hab-qorista qumman ee af Soomaaliga, Casharka 3aad. *Bandhige* 13 October 2019.

Cabdiraxmaan Xuseen Daa'uud. 2019. Xeerka astaamaha qoraalka: Sidee loo isticmaalaa astaamaha qoraalka?

Dürscheid, Christa. *Standardsprache und Variation*.

Feyruus

Guddiga Af-Soomaaliga. 1973. *Aasaaska naxwaha af Soomaaliga*. Muqdisho.

HABIT (Brno, Addis Abeba & Oslo)

Hawd

Khaalid Cali-Guul-Warsame. 2008. ***Qaamuuska Af Soomaaliga. Koobaha Af Soomaaliga.*** Nairobi & Dragør. 541 s.

KORP (Språkbanken, Göteborgs universitet)

Mansur, Abdalla. 2017. The case of Somali language.

Mansuur

Maxamed Deeq Darajo. 2020. Qaab qoraalka tolmoon. *Facebook* 25 April–5 June 2020.

Maxamed Xuseen Raabbi. 2009. Astaamaynta Afsoomaaliga. Ka: Maxamed Xaaji Xuseen Raabbi, *Qaan gaadh ee qaabku waa …: qoraallo ku saabsan Afsoomaaliga: collected papers about the Somali language*, 141–156. Jabuuti: Machadka Afafka ee Jabuuti.

Maxamed Xuseen Raabbi. 2009. Maxaa ainnu uga baahan nahai qorista midaisan. Ka: Maxamed Xaaji Xuseen Raabbi, *Qaan gaadh ee qaabku waa …: qoraallo ku saabsan Afsoomaaliga: collected papers about the Somali language*, 79–92. Jabuuti: Machadka Afafka ee Jabuuti.

Maxamed Xuseen Raabbi's older texts…

Mustafa Fayruus. 2015. Isrogrogidda falka Af-soomaaliga.

Mustafa Fayruus. 2021. Astaamaynta Qoraalka Calaamadaha iyo Xeer.

Puglielli, Annarita & Cabdalla C. Mansuur (tif.). 2012. ***Qaamuuska Af-Soomaaliga*****.** Roma: RomaTrE-Press. 947 s. (dabaacadda 2aad, 2017, Leicester, UK: Looh Press)

Shire Jaamac Axmed. 1976. *Naxwaha af-Soomaaliga*. Muqdisho.

Yaasiin C. Keenadiid (tif.). 1976. ***Qaamuuska Af-Soomaaliga*****.** Muqdisho: Wasaaradda Hiddaha iyo Tacliinta Sare, Akademiyaha Dhaqanka, Guddiga Af-Soomaaliga. 498 s.

# § 3. Xarfaha Waaweyn

används

- i **<u>början av en mening</u>**,

- i **<u>början av namn</u>** som betecknar

  personer, t.ex. Sahra

  städer, t.ex. Muqdisho

  länder, t.ex. Itoobiya

  berg, t.ex. Surad

  hav, t.ex. Badweynta Hindiya

  floder, t.ex. Jubba, Shabeelle

  veckodagar, t.ex. Sabti, Khamiis, Jimce (Soomaali 5 2010: 114)

  månader, t.ex. Nofeembar, Diseembar

  invånare i länder, t.ex. Soomaali, Itobiyaan

  språk, t.ex. af Soomaali, af Ingiriis

  iwm …

Stor bokstav används inte i vanliga substantiv:

af, luuqad Af, Luuqad

Många, men inte alla, använder stor bokstav i

- årstider,
- väderstreck, Bari/bari
- rubriker

Vissa namn består av flera ord:

Gobolka Banaadir, Badda Cas, Badweynta Hindiya, Bariga Fog, Bariga Afrika, Geeska Afrika,

Beskrivande ord framför namn bör inte ha stor bokstav:

webiga Jubba, buurta Surad, afka Soomaaliga

Konjunktioner brukar inte skrivas med stor bokstav:

Wasaaradda Hiddaha iyo Tacliinta Sare

Också enkla prepositioner skrivs gärna med liten bokstav:

u, ku, ka, la

Men i dagens somaliska, särskilt på nyhetssajter, har det blivit väldigt vanligt att skriva alla ord med stor bokstav.

namn?
Gacanka Cadan
Gobolka Bari
Badweynta Hindiya

magaalada Muqdisho
bisha Abriil
buurta Surad
maalinta Axadda

Wasiiradda Waxbarashada

Waxaan tagay xafiiska shaqada.

# § 4. Shaqallada dhaadheer

Labanlaabidda shaqalku waxa ay tilmaamaysaa cod dheer.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ín**a**n 'wiil' | ≠ | ín**aa**n < in + aan |
| **u** (horyaale) | ≠ | **uu** (magacuyaal) |
| **i** 'aniga' | ≠ | **ii** < i + u |

## 1.1 Erayada qaarkood

f**aa'ii**do, faa'iidaa, faa'iideeyaa
S**oo**m**aa**li, Soomaaliya, Soomaaliyeed, af Soomaali / af-Soomaali

aasaasi –ga / asaasi –ga
deegaan –ka / degaan –ka
luuqad –da / luqad –da

kaarboon K156 karboon K16 absoluta tal

## 1.2 Dibkabe-tusmeedyada -kan/-tan

Både kort och lång vokal förekommer som regionala varianter inom standardspråket. Formen med kort vokal är statistiskt vanligare.

xilliga**a**n$^{H39}$ / xilliga**aa**n$^{H13}$
arrinta**a**n$^{H92}$ / arrinta**aa**n$^{H12}$

## 1.3 Dibkabaha joogtada

Verben slutar på **-aa** om satsen **har** (eller **kan ha**) ett subjektspronomen. Verben slutar på **-a** om satsen **inte kan ha** något subjektspronomen.

## 1.3 <aay>, <eey>, <ooy>

Att skriva lång vokal + <y> är ovanligt.
Om det kommer en konsonant efter <y> skriver man nästan aldrig lång vokal.
Sist i ord skriver man ganska sällan lång vokal före <y>
Om det kommer en vokal efter <y> skriver man i en del ord och former lång vokal före <y>.

### Falalka kooxda 2aad

Ett särskilt viktigt fall är verb med imperativ som slutar på -ee. De skrivs med långt <eey> före vokal, men med kort <ey> eller <ay> före konsonant.

**eey** + shaqal — sam**eey**aa, sam**eey**ay

**ey/ay** + shibbane — sam**ayn**, sam**ays**aa

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *samee!* | *sameeya!* | *sameyn* | / *samayn* |
| | *sameeyaa* | *sameysaa* | / *samaysaa* |

De flesta andra ändelser skrivs alltid med kort vokal.

Den progressiva ändelsen <ay>/<ey>
Ändelsen i preteritum <ay>/<ey>
Den possessiva ändelsen <ay>/<ey>

magac**ay**ga — magac**eey**ga

Vokativ
Ändelsen i vokativ <ey>/<ay>/<oy> skrivs oftast med kort vokal, men ibland används även lång vokal, kanske för att spegla ett känslomässigt uttal.

FG!!
<ey> (hund) är valigast,men även <eey> förekommer.
<ciyaartoy> är vanligare än <ciyaartooy>

<mallaay> är vanligare än <mallay>

## 1.4 <aaw>, <oow>

Att skriva lång vokal i dessa diftonger…

# § 5. Shibbanayaasha xoogga leh

Labanlaabidda shibbanuhu tilmaamaysaa cod xoog leh.
Eeg: Af-Soomaali 5, b. 99
bara: bb, dd, gg, ll, mm, nn, rr – inga andra

Wadarta jiraalayaasha **LABKA** ah: -bb-, -dd-, -ll-, -mm-, -nn-, -rr-.
Jiraalayaashani waxa aan ku dari karnaa dibkabaha cayiman **-da**.

dagaalka, dagaa**ll**o, dagaa**ll**ada

waddanka, wadda**mm**o, wadda**mm**ada

aqoonyahanka, aqoonyaha**nn**o, aqoonyaha**nn**ada

Dibkabe-wadareedka Carbeed ee **–iin** ka hor shibbanuhu ma laablaabmayo.

waalidiin H5.7 *waaliddiin H0.2

## 5.1 -bb-

aa**bb**e, aa**bb**o

ku**bb**ad ku**b**o
ku**bbadd**a 'banooniga' ku**bad**a 'caloosha ariga'

ca**bb**ir

LAAKIIN:

la**b**o, la**b**a, la**b**ada, la**b**adii

FG!

Much more common Less common

Ja**b**uuti H235 Ja**bb**uuti H1.52

## 5.2 -dd-

Jiraalayaasha dheddiga ah ee ku dhammaada xarafka –d:

- qaabka qodobka leh: kubba**d**(**d**a), bari**d**(**d**a), jaamaca**d**(**d**a)
- qaabka tusmeed: kubba**dd**an, kubba**dd**aas
- qaabka lahaansheed: kubba**dd**ayda, kubba**dd**eenna…
- qaabka weydiimeed: kubba**dd**ee?

Tusaale ahaan: jamhuuriya**dd**a, khariida**dd**a, koofiya**dd**a…

| | |
|---|---|
| kubba**d** | shaqo |
| kubba**d**+**da** | shaqo+**da** |
| kubba**dda** | shaqa**da** |
| jaamaca**d** | boqortooyo |
| jaamaca**dda** | boqortooya**da** |
| wasiira**d** | waxbarasho |
| wasiira**dda** | waxbarasha**da** |

| DHEDDIG | LAB | MAGAC | SIFO |
|---|---|---|---|
| boqora**d** | boqo**r** | ba**d** | (ba**d**iyaa) |
| | boqo**rr**o | ba**dd**an | ba**d**an |
| boqora**dd**a | boqo**rr**a**d**a | | |
| boqora**d**o | | | |
| boqora**d**aha | | | |
| saaxiibad | saaxii**bb**o | | |
| saaxiiba**dd**a | saaxii**bb**ada | | |

## Erayo kale

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| wa**dd**an [wád:an]<br>wa**dd**anka | ≠ | wa**d**an [waðán] (fal)<br>wa**d**anayaa |
| ci**dd**i [cid:i] nagel, klo<br>ci**dd**ida | ≠ | ci**d**i [ciði] 'qof'<br>cid, cidda |
| ci**dd**a, ci**dd**ii<br>cid | ≠ | ci**d**a, ci**d**ii<br>ci' |
| mu**dd**o<br>in aad/ay muddo, ma muddo<br>muddo (wakhti) | | mu**d**o<br>in aan/uu mudo, ma mudo |
| ha**dd**a | | |
| maa**dd**o | | |

### FG!

| Mycket vanligare | Mindre vanligt |
|---|---|
| mukhaa**d**araad | mukhaa**dd**araad |
| wey**d**ii *H261 | wey**dd**ii *H7.9 |
| xu**d**uud *D16,7 *H123 | xu**dd**uud *D1,6 *H4,9 |

## 5.3 -gg-

Jiraalayaasha labka ah ee ku dhammaada xarafka –g:
- qaabka qodobka leh: buu**gg**a
- qaabka tusmeed: buu**gg**an, buu**gg**aas
- qaabka lahaansheed: buu**gg**ayga, buu**gg**eenna…
- qaabka weydiimeed: buu**gg**ee?

Tusaale ahaan: tuu**gg**a, …

Växling:

| fal | sifo |
|---|---|
| de**g**aa | de**gg**an |
| dhe**g**aa | dhe**gg**an |

Minimala par av ord med olika betydelser

Xa**g**aaga < Xagaa -ka  xa**gg**aaga < xag -kaaga

## 5.4 -ll-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| du**l**innimo < dulin | ≠ | du**ll**innimo < dulli |
| ga**l**ay (fal) | ≠ | ga**ll**ey -da (magac) |
| i**l**aa (xiriiriye) | ≠ | i**ll**aa (yaab) |
| shi**l**in -ka (lacag) | ≠ | shi**ll**in -ka (geed) |

ba**ll**aaran/ba**ll**aadhan

dha**ll**in, dha**ll**inyaro

i**ll**oobaa, i**ll**owdaa

maca**ll**in, macallimad, macallimiin, macallinnimo

yaa**ll**aa, taa**ll**aa MP99:145

## 5.5 -mm-

a**mm**aan-ka, a**mm**aan-ta

dha**mm**aad, dhammaan, dhammeeyaa,

dha**mm**i

i**mm**isa

i**mm**inka / i**mm**ika

la**mm**aane

### FG!

| Mycket vanligare | Mindre vanligt |
|---|---|
| aa**m**us *H53 *K68 *D16 | aa**mm**us *H1.6 *K9.1 *D4.2 |
| maa**m**ulaa, maa**m**ule | maa**mm**ulaa, maa**mm**ule |
| ooman D3.1 | oomman D0.4 |

## 5.6 -nn-

ERAYO MUHIIM AH:

| | |
|---|---|
| aa**nn**u (= annagu) | LAAKIIN: aa**n**u < (in) aan + uu |
| i**nn**aga (qaab dheer) | LAAKIIN: i**n**aga < ina (q. layeele) + ka |
| afkee**nn**a (af+keenna) | LAAKIIN: afkee**n**a < afkee? + na |
| afkii**nn**a (af+kiinna) | LAAKIIN: afkii**n**a < afkii + na |
| ba**nn**aan | |
| sa**nn**ad-ka | LAAKIIN: sa**n**o-da |
| sa**nn**ado badan | sa**n**ooyin-ka |

Magacuyaallada iyo dhammaadyada: **keenna, teenna, kiinna, tiinna.**

Qaamuusyada:

**keenna**[1] *mu.lh.l* **(kuweenna, w)** Magacuyaal lahaansho oo lab oo tilmaamaya wax innagu (qofka koowaad ee wadarta ah oo kuwa lala hadlayo ay ku jiraan) aynu leennahay. Tus. "Gurigiisa keenna ayaa ka dhow".
**keenna**[2] **(-keenna)** *dk.lh.l* Dibkabe lahaansho oo tilmaamaya wax innagu (qofka koowaad ee wadarta ah oo kuwa lala hadlayo ay ku jiraan) aynu leennahay. Tus. "Aan aadno gurigeenna". *ld* **keen**[3].

**Keenna** — Waxa ama kan innagu aynnu lee nahay.

QS12

| | |
|---|---|
| 5. Keenna | Teenna |
| 6. Kayaga | Tayada |
| 7. Kiinna | Tiinna |
| 8. Kooda | Tooda |

QS76

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1° wa.m.m. | *kaayaga/taayada* | *kuwayaga* |
| 1° wa.m.s. | *keenna/teenna* | *kuweenna* |
| 2° wa. | *kiinna/tiinna* | *kuwiinna* |
| 3° wa. | *kooda/tooda* | *kuwooda* |

GA73:18 MP99:65

| | dalkeenna | dalkeena | dhexdiinna | dhexdiina |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HaBiT | 1 264 | 4 458 | 97 | 109 |
| Korp | 369 | 1 080 | 96 | 36 |
| Korp Dugsi | 248 | 115 | 0 | 0 |

Mellan två vokaler:

1 person plural av verb: cu**nn**ay, kari**nn**ay, guursa**nn**ay

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1° k. | *cunay* | *toosiyay* | *caddeeyay* | *dhaqday* | *qabsaday* |
| 2° k. | *cuntay* | *toosisay* | *caddaysay* | *dhaqatay* | *qabsatay* |
| 3° k.l. | *cunay* | *toosiyay* | *caddeeyay* | *dhaqday* | *qabsaday* |
| 3° k.dh. | *cuntay* | *toosisay* | *caddaysay* | *dhaqatay* | *qabsatay* |
| 1° wa. | *cunnay* | *toosinnay* | *caddaynay* | *dhaqannay* | *qabsannay* |
| 2° wa. | *cunteen* | *toosiseen* | *caddayseen* | *dhaqateen* | *qabsateen* |
| 3° wa. | *cuneen* | *toosiyeen* | *caddeeyeen* | *dhaqdeen* | *qabsadeen* |

M&P 1999, b. 135

1 person plural av subjektspronomen:

**annága = aannu** *(we)* ≠ **aanu** < aan + uu *(he not)*

**innága** *(we)* ≠ **inagá** < ina + ka *(from us)*

### Xiriiriyaha -na

Fasalkii shanaad waxa aad ku soo baratay habdhiska neefsashada aadamaha iyo habdhiska neefsashada kalluunka. Fasalkanna waxa aad ku baran doontaa qaybaha habdhiska dheefshiidka aadamaha iyo ka shimbiraha.

### Dibkabaha -nimo

shaqal + -nnimo: saaxiibti**nn**imo, macalli**nn**imo, geesi**nn**imo
shibbane + -nimo: mi**dn**imo

### Falka -nahay

baaha**nn**ahay = baaha**n** **n**ahay

baah**n**ahay < baahan + ahay

lee**n**ahay H96.3, K115, D42.4 < lee + nahay leennahay H3.4, K3.9, D3.5

### FG!

| Mycket vanligare | Mindre vanligt |
|---|---|
| ay**n**u | ay**nn**u |
| i**n**a | i**nn**a |

### Layli: n/nn

Wasiirkii wasiirradiisa ugu sarreeyey, waxaa__u amar ku siiyey in habeen walba gabadh bikrad ah oo ka mid ah hablaha ugu quraxda badan boqortooyda loo kee__o si uu u guursado.

## 5.7 -rr-

a**rr**in

ca**rr**uur

ho**rr**eeyaa, ugu ho**rr**ayntii

sa**rr**eeyaa

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| caro | carro | |
| Carab | carrab | |
| bare | Barre | <bar+le(h) |

bari -ga = öst

beri -ga = dag, tid, gång, tillfälle

berri -ga = fastland, inland

berri -da = morgondag, i morgon

# More will follow

More text will be added to this pdf each week.
If you are intersted in the longer version right now, you may have a look at an older version at
https://morgannilsson.se/AasaaskaOrtogaraafigaAfkaSoomaaliga.2022.pdf