UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
P.O.B. 200 • SE 405 30 GOTHENBURG

We offer net-based courses in Somali & Oromo
free of charge for citizens of the EU and EEA

Beginner's Oromo Grammar

Morgan Nilsson

Updated
17 November 2026

This is work in progress. Read it critically!
Feel free to contact me with comments.

morgan.nilsson@gu.se

Introduction

Symbols

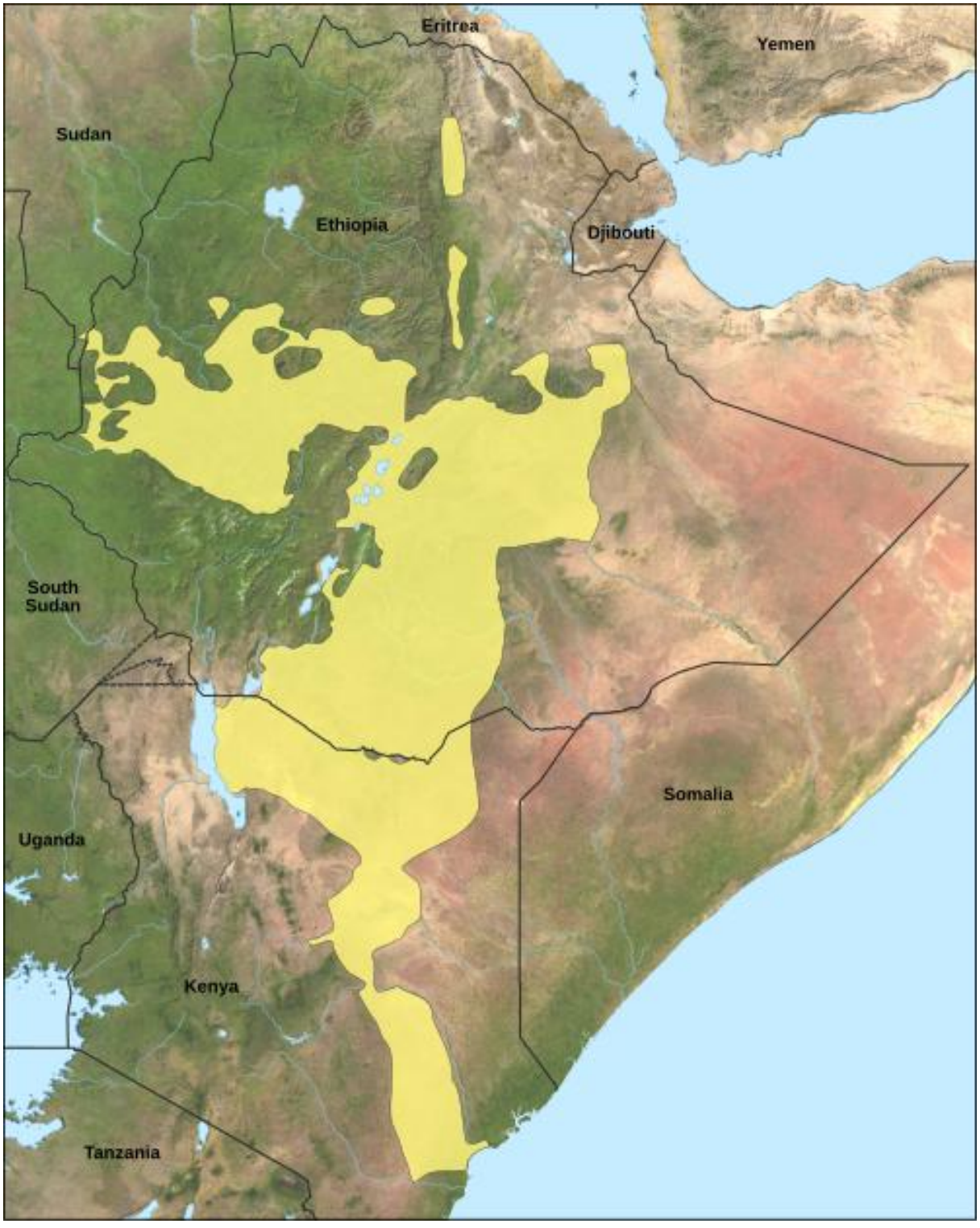
→ eeg

Abbreviations

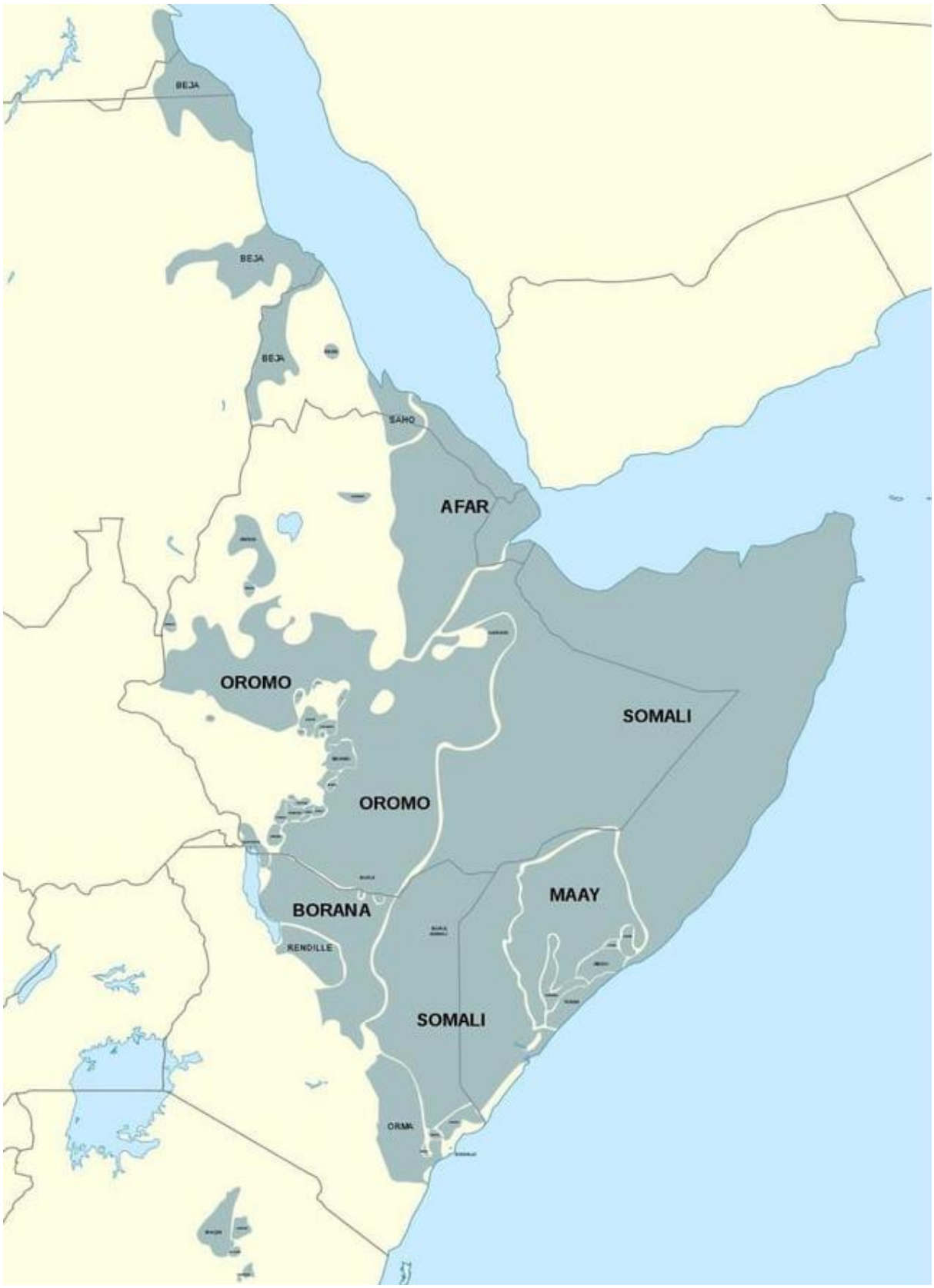
ikk.	iyo kuwo kale
m.gr.	magac gaar
m.gr.dh.	magac gaar oo dheddig ah
m.gr.l.	magac gaar oo lab ah
q.y.	qaab yeele

Preface

https://languageprofiles.ca/home/oromo/

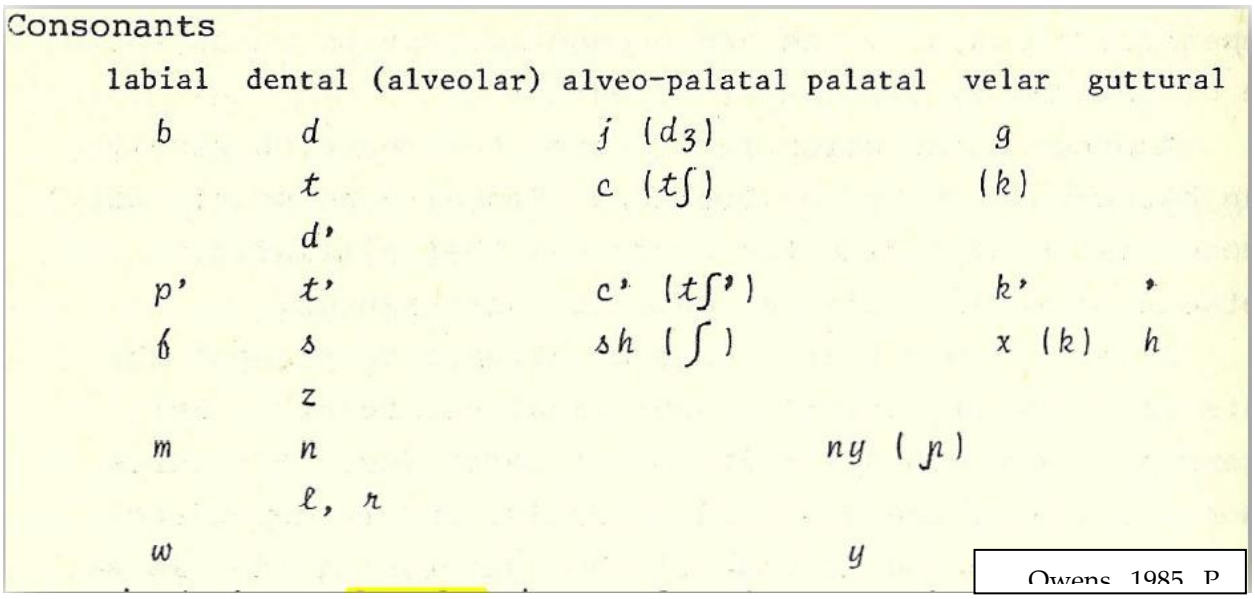


Source: Wikimedia Commons.



Source: https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/mxu0hu/map_of_the_cushitic_languages/

Phonemes



Consonants

labial	dental (alveolar)	alveo-palatal	palatal	velar	guttural
b	d	j (dʒ)		g	
	t	c (tʃ)		(k)	
	d'				
p'	t'	c' (tʃ')		k'	'
f	s	sh (ʃ)		x (k)	h
	z				
m	n		ny (ɲ)		
	l, r				
w			y		

Owens 1985, P

Illustration 1: Oromo consonant phonemes (Owens 1985)

<ph> [p'] is a voiceless ejective labial stop.
<x> [t'] is a voiceless ejective dental stop.
<q> [k'] is a voiceless, ejective velar stop.
<c> [ʧ'] is a voiceless ejective affricate.
<ch> [ʧ] is voiceless,
<j> [ʤ] is voiced.
<dh> [ɗ] is implosive.
<kh> [x] is voiceless velar fricative that only occurs in eastern dialects as a weakened variant of /k/ between vowels.

Vowels

Foniimyada shaqallada ah ee afka Oromada waa /a/, /aa/, /e/, /ee/, /i/, /ii/, /o/, /oo/, /u/, /uu/ oo u eg yihiin shaqallada fudfudud ee uu af Soomaaligu leeyahay. Wax shaqallo culus ah kuma jiro afka Oromada.

Vowel lengthening

Shaqalka ugu dambeeya ee eraygu waxa uu noqdaa mid dheer haddii uu ku yaallo

Falka ama erayga ugu dambeeya ee su'aasha

Erayga kayska jeenitifka ah.

Dibkabayaashan ka hor

–n (kayska inistirumeentalka)

–f (kayska daytifka)

Faahfaahiyaha **biraa** *kale* ka hor.

Namoonnii biraas akkuma saa otobusii eegu.

qaabsaleedka: **namoonni** < namoota + ni (q.y.)

Vowel shortening

Vowel insertion

i *change* [epenthesis (a vowel inserted for euphony's sake to break up consonant clusters)] **O** dabarsine 'we passed it on', ergfleeti 'she has sent out', obsitanii 'that you endure and...', odeessituu 'carrier of tales', osoo hin beekinis ta'e 'whether it was also unknowingly' [G§3.5, R12, R15=2, R16, R18b, R24b, R25, R26, R29, R30, R31, R32=4, BES-76:132, MM-39:29]

Vowel loss

3.3. Vowel Loss

It is very common for a word ending in a single vowel to lose that vowel when suffixes are added.

baballinni (R08)	the spread [= CV- ballin(a)-ni]
ibsi (R07)	the statement [= ibs(a)-i]
manni (R02)	the house [= man(a)-ni]
namootni (R04)	the people [= nam(a)-oot(a)-ni]
qabeenyummaa (R01)	ownership [qab-eeny(a)-ummaa]
qajeelchi (R03)	the authority [= qajeelch(a)-i]

Isbeddelka shaqallada

–fis: epenthetic -i- [why short -af??]

fuuldurafi**s** *for the future too*

Consonants

c *alph* letter of the Oromo alphabet, representing the voiceless alveo-palatal stop consonant; is not the first consonant in native Oromo words;
ww *change* ww [change of n to w] [BES-76:132]
yy *change* yy [change of n to y] [BES-76:132]
CC *change* consonant gemination or doubling [required when some roots with a single consonant are derlved into other parts of speechl **O** addcese 'he clarified' [ad(ii)-CC-ees-el; gaaffii 'question' |gaaf-CC-ii|; lammaffaa 'second' [lama-ffaa]; manneen 'houses' [man(a)-CC-een] [G§3.1, R03, R06, R14, R17, R28b]
d² *change* change of t to d after a voiced stop **O** hin qabdu 'she does not have' [= qab-tu], yaaddu 'that she schemes' [= yaad-tu] [G§3.4, R32#1#3]
ll *change* 11 [change of n tol] **O** ilaalla 'we shall see' [= ilaal+na]; haa ilaallu 'let US seel' [= ilaal+nu] [G§3.4, R19b=2, R25a, R28a, R29, R31, BES-76:132]
mb *change* mb [change of n to m before b) **O** shimbirro ~ shinbirro 'bird' [G§3.4, BES-76:132]
nn *change* nn [change of t (or another consonant) to n; assimilation of stem final consonant to n of suffix] © kiliniikoonni 'the clinics' [= kiliniik(a)- oot(a)-ni]; Oromoonni 'the Oromos' [= Orom-oot(a)-ni]; jennaan 'after having said' [= jedh-naan] [G§3.4, R11, R13=3, R14, R26b, R30#3#6, BES-76:132]
rr *change* m [change of n to r] **O** baaburri 'the train' [= baabur(a)-ni]; hin jirre 'it was not available' [= jime]; jarri 'someone' [= jar(a)-ni]; waajjirri 'the department' [= waaj]ir(a)-ni] [G§3.4, R04, R07, R10, R17, R28=3, BES-76:132,133, MZ-90:xiii]

s *alph* letter of the Oromo alphabet, representing the voiceless alveolar fricative consonant; (Zorc)
x *alph* letter of the Oromo alphabet, representing the voiceless glottalized dental ~ alveolar stop consonant; may be long [xx] or short [x] (Zorc)
q *alph* letter of the Oromo alphabet, representing the voiceless glottalized velar stop consonant; may be long [qq[or short [q] (Zorc)
y *alph* letter of the Oromo alphabet, representing the voiced palatal semivowel; may be long [yy] or short [y] (Zorc)

Consonant length

Consonant length is phonemic. Almost all Oromo consonants can be long or short. Only three consonants cannot be long:
/ ʼ/ the voiceless glottal stop is never long.
/h/ the voiceless glottal fricative is never long.
/ḵh/ the voiceless velar fricative is never long. Instead, it is replaced by long /kk/. (Tucho ikk. 1996, Youssouf 2025).

Gemination is represented by double graphemes, except for the digraphs for which length is not distinguished in the standard Oromo spelling. However, some author use cch, ddh, kkh, nny, ssh in order to indicate length of the sounds written with digraphs.
Digraphs are usually not doubled.
< *hodhi* > /hoɗi/ 'suck' and < *hodhi* > /hoɗɗi/ 'sew'.

One proposed solution is to double the first letter of the digraph to indicate gemination, but this is rarely applied.

< *hodhi* > /hoɗi/ *hoddhi* /hoɗɗi/

saphii /sap'i:/ 'pubic hair' *happhii* /hap'p'i:/ 'thin'

dhadhaa /ɗaɗa:/ 'butter' *haddhaa* /haɗɗa:/ 'sourness'

Foniimyada /c/ iyo /ɲ/ (grafiimyada < ch > iyo < ny >) are practically always germinate between vowels, hence no need for a marking it orthographically. An exception is *kacaccala* 'corruption' with a singleton /c/ in a medial position.

Similarly, /x/ (represented by < kh >) is allophonic with /k/ and never geminated, as it reverts to /k/ in geminating environments. (Youssouf 2025)

Consonant alternations

/k/-da oo noqonaya [x]

/VkV/ has changed to /VxV/, but

/VkkV/ has not changed. Therfore there is no /xx/.

Lenition of /k/ to [x] between vowels and word finally in the Eastern varieties. Also word initially, but inhibited if a preceding word ends in a consonant. However, nowadays it is becoming more and more common with lenition to [x] also after a preceding word ending in a consonant. (Youssouf 2021)

akaakuu [axaaxuu] 'ancestry'

Ak tahe *ax tahe* 'something happened to him'

Kurkummii *xurkummii* 'strike on the head with knuckles'

Kukummii *xuxummii* 'groups of kids'

Kulaankula *xulaankula* 'a bunch'

Kolkolee *xolkolee* 'tools'

Okolee *oxolee* 'a container for milking'

Bakakkaa *baxakkaa* 'lightening'

Halkan *halkan* 'night'

ol ka'i *ol kai* 'get up'

hin kakadhu *hin kaxaxu* 'I don't swear'

as kaajii *as kaaji* 'put (it) here'

jala kaayi *ala xaaji* 'put under'

Assimilation

Progressive voice assimilation

qab+ti> qabdi Somali regressive: qabtaa [qaptaa]

Tone

Script and alphabet

A, B, C…

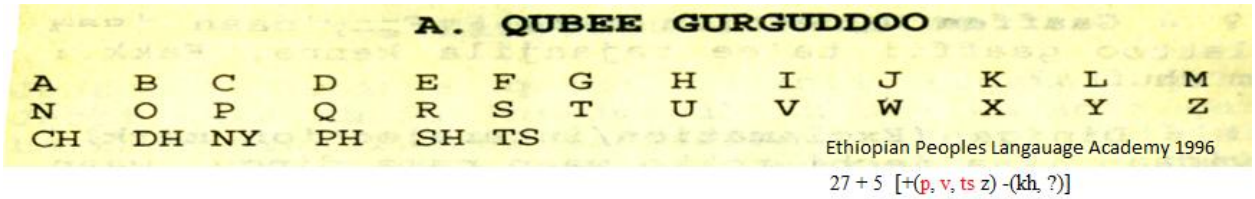


Table 2. Ethiopian Peoples Language Academy Oromo Phoneme Inventory (1996)

ts *alph* borrowed digraph letter in the Oromo alphabet, representing the voiceless palatal affricate consonant of Amharic **O** Written: ts (but limited to loanwords) [Zorc]

There is no consensus on the alphabetical ordering of digraphs. Some texts place them at the end of the alphabet (a, b, c, d... z, ch, dh, sh), while others integrate them (a, b, c, ch, d, dh, e...). The first approach creates difficulty in dictionary look-up; for instance, the word *dhadhaa* ('butter') would be listed after all words beginning with single letters, not under 'd'.

A related issue is ordinal numbering. It is unclear whether digraphs should be used in sequences (e.g., a), b), c), ch), d), dh)...). Placing digraphs at the end of the alphabet avoids this dilemma for numbering, but it does not resolve the challenge of alphabetizing words.

Abbreviations and Capitalization
The use of digraphs in abbreviations and acronyms creates ambiguity. For example, *Dhaabbata Demokraatawaa Oromoo* ('Oromo Democratic Organization') has been abbreviated as *Dh. D. O.* or *DhDO*. This raises questions about whether to use periods and whether to include both letters of the digraph.

Capitalization rules are also debated. For acronyms like *Dhaabbata Nyaataa fi Qonna Addunyaa* (FAO), should it be written as *DH. NY. Q. A.*? Capitalizing both letters of the digraph clarifies the abbreviation, whereas using only the first letter (e.g., *D. N. Q. A.*) could correspond to numerous expanded forms with different meanings. This creates confusion with the way it is used in other Latin alphabet-based languages, especially English.

Variation

Foniimka	Farta guud ee ***qubee***	Ali & Zaborski		
/ ʧ /	ch	c		
/ ʧ ʼ / ejective	c	ch		
/ pʼ / ejective	ph			
/ tʼ / ejective	x	th		
/ kʼ / ejective	q			
/ ɗ / implosive	dh			

Ortoogarafiga

ABOn *n-subj* the OLF

ABOtti *pn-loc* to the Oromo Liberation Front © See: ABO

Nouns

The formation of nouns

ina *n-suf* -ship, -ty, -ness [forms an abstract noun from an adjective] Obareedina 'beauty', furdina 'fatness', qallina 'thinness', hir'ina 'lack, insufTiciency, rakkina 'hardship' «-inni» [G§5.4]

–a

Forms general nouns.
akeeka *objective*
beeksiisa *information*
beela *hunger*
dhukkuba *disease*
fayya *health*
gurgura *sale*
horata *produce*
lixa *west*
lola *battle*
xumura *conclusion*
qalma *sacrifice* (thing sacrificed)

–aa:

Forms general nouns.
ergaa *message*
fiigaa *running, race*
haasaa *talk, speech*
kutaa *section*
kuusaa *reserves*
Forms agent nouns
barataa *student*
barsiisaa *teacher*
dammaqsaa *agitator*
ergamaa *messenger*
faarsaa *singer*
gorsaa *advisor*
hojjetaa *worker*
konkolaachisaa *driver*

–aata: forms result nouns
akkaata situation; means
filmaata *choice*
furmaata *solution*
hirbaata evening meal
hirmaata *portion (item shared)*
qormaata examination

–chaa: forms nouns

ajjeechaa *killing, murder*

naannawucha *vicinity*

forms agent nouns

duulchaa *commander*

bulchaa *administrator*

–ee

Instrumental or resultative nouns.

bonee *summer crop*

cuuphee *dagger* [lit: for dunking into];

damee *branch*

dhibee *problem, trouble*

jaalee *comrade*

–eenya [eennya]

Forms abstract nouns

addeenya *whiteness*

qabeenya *resources, wealth* > **qabeenyummaan** *ownership*

–eessa (lab)

dargaggeessa *youth, young man*

obboleessa *walaal -ka*

ogeessa *male medical expert*

qopheessa *preparation*

–eettii (dheddig)

obboleettii *walaal -sha*

ogeettii *female medical expert*

-iffa – names of lanauges

Oromiffa *the Oromo language*

Amaariffa *the Amharic language*

Arabiffa *the Arabic language*

Ingiliffa *the English language*

–iinsa

Forms abstract nouns.

bariinsa 'learning'

kenniinsa 'giving

wal-ta'iinsa *agreement, cooperation*

–ina

Forms abstract nouns.

bareedina 'beauty'

furdina 'fatness'

qallina 'thinness'

rakkina 'hardship'

–oo

biyyoo *soil, dust*

naannoo *area, place, vicinity*

qabsoo *struggle, wrestling*

qottoo 'axe',

rakoo 'problem',

yaaddoo 'worry'

–oota

barmoota *lessons (things studied)*

–tee: forms result nouns

bittee *purchase* < **bita** *buys*

–tii: forms nouns ; See also: -aati

abbaltii *trial*

amantii *belief*

jarjartii restlessness

–tuu

Forms agent and instrument nouns, gender is related to individual professions. This suffix is historically feminine, but in modern Oromo it is gender neutral and can stand for either a male or a female depending on the situation.

barattuu *student* <

dhaltuu *female* [lit: birth-er] < dhala

jaartuu *builder* <

wallistuu *singer* <

eegduu *guard, keeper* < eega

–umma

Forms abstract and collective nouns.

afchaalumma *cleverness*

diinumma *enmity*

namummaa *humanity* < **nama** *person*

qabeenyummaa *ownership*

qopheessummaa *preparation*

tokkumma *unity* < **tokko** *one*

Shortened to **–uma** if preceding consonant is long.

dulluma *old age, being old*

(h)iyyuma *poverty*

–umsa

Forms abstract nouns.

barumsa *knowledge, learning*

eegumsa *waiting; care, protection* < **eega**

Verbal nouns

–aa

bitaa *buying*

daakaa *swimming*

galaa *returning home*

gochaa *act, deed*

qotaa *cultivating*

ukkaamsaa *kidnapping*

aati

dhugaati 'drinking; beverage, drinks;

hubaati ‘damage, injury’;
kufaati ‘downfall, collapse’;

annaa < = -at -naa

the autobenefactive verb root ending in -at-
eeggannaa ‘protection, care; precautionary measure';
faarfannaa 'singing ~ hymn of praise';
hubannaa ‘sense, attention’;
iyyaafaannaa ‘investigation, inquiiy, search’;
too’annaa ‘control, check

–annoo

added to autobenefactive verb stems ending in **–at–**.
barannoo *lesson*
boqannoo *rest*
dahannoo ‘shelter’,
injifannoo ‘victory’,
qorannoo ‘research’,
too'annoo ‘inspection

–icha

boo’icha *crying*
fiigicha *race*
riqicha *bridge*
waamicha *calling, invitation*

–ii

Shows action in progress or a process.
abdii *hope*
baasii *expenditure*
dorgommii *running race*
fedhii *want, need*
galii *income*
morkii *rivalry, dispute*
qophii *preparation*
sassaabbii *collection*
yaalii *attempt, trying*

–iinsa

abstract ~ verbal noun forming suffix
bariinsa ‘learning
bulchiinsa ‘administration
kenniinsa ‘giving
wal-ta’iinsa agreement, cooperation

–sa

Verbal noun forming suffix.
abaarsa *cursing, curse*
adaamsa *hunt*
gargaarsa *helping, aid, assistance*
ijaarsa *constructing, construction*

–uu

Forms the infinitive = the verbal noun

deemuu *going*

loluu *fighting*

–m– Passive noun forming suffix.

barmoota 'lessons' (things studied),

caalma 'difference' (item surpassed),

hirmaata 'portion' (item shared),

qalma 'sacrifice' (thing sacrificed);

qormaata 'examination';

Plural forms of nouns

The following suffixes are used to pluralize a noun.
Note that after a number, plural forms are not generally used.

–oota

Subject form: **–ootni / –oonni**

	atileetoota	*athletes',*
barata, barattuu	**barattoota (barattoonni)**	*arday*
	beektoota	*experts',*
	dargaggoota	*youths',*
farda	**fardoota**	*fardo*
gabaa	**gaboota**	*suuqyo*
biyya	**biyyoota**	dhulal, dalal (?)
Jarman	**Jarmanoota**	dad Jarmal ah
Oromoo	**Oromoota**	dad Oromo ah
ganda	**gandoota**	*tuulooyin*
harree	**harroota**	*dameero*
hiriyaa	**hiriyoota**	*saaxiibbo*
mana	**manoota**	*guryo*
nama	**namoota**	*qofaf*

–ota – after a long vowel in the preceding syllable

Subject form: **–otni / –onni**

barsiisaa	**barsiisota**	macallimiin
gaara	**gaarota**	buuro
hoolaa	**hoolota**	ido
laagaa	**laagota**	luqumo, dhuumo
magaalaa	**magaalota**	magaalooyin

–wwan – after a long vowel

(magacyo qarsoon)

x	**biqiltuuwwan**	seedlings
x	**haalluuwwan**	colors
hojii	**hojiiwwan**	shaqooyin
waggaa	**waggaawwan**	sannado
x	lammiiwwan	citizens
x	**meeshaawwan**	machineries
x	**qorichaawwan**	medicines

(kuwa dibkabaha **–eettii** leh)

dureetti	**dureettiiwwan**	*taajirro* (dheddig)
obboleettii	**obboleettiiwwan**	*gabdho walaalo ah*
hiyyeettii	**hiyyeettiiwwan**	*masaakiin* (dheddig)

–wan – after a short vowel

x	guyyawan	days
x	jaarsawan	old people

–yyii

magacyo leh dibkabaha **–(e)essa/–(e)ensa/-eettii**)

dureessa	*rich man*	**dureeyyii**	*rich people*
dureettii	*rich woman*	**dureeyyii**	*rich people*
obboleessa	*brother*	**obboleeyyii**	*brothers*
hiyyeessa	*poor man*	**hiyyeeyyii**	*poor* (masculine)
hiyyeettii	*poor woman*	**hiyyeeyyii**	*poor* (feminine)
ogeessa	ogeeyyii	khabiirro	
bineessa	*animal*	**bineeyyii**	*animals*
(or **bineensa**)			
x		**dargaggeeyyii**	*youngsters*
waraabessa		**waraabeyyii**	*hyenas*

–een

the final vowel of the root is lost and the flnal consonant is doubled

laga	lageen	webiyo
ganda	gandeen	tuulooyin
jara	jarreen	dadyow (?)
farda	fardeen	fardo
mana	manneen	guryo
x	bakkeen ‘places’	
x	gaarreen 'mountains’	
x	jarreen ‘(these) people’	
x	kanneenii ‘the others’	
x	laggeen ‘rivers’	
x	manneen barumsaa	schools
x	qubbeen 'fingers'	

–aan is a more rare plural suffix, but it occurs in a few very frequent words.

x	**ilkaan**	*teeth*

x	**ilmaan**	*sons*

–an

[plural noun suffix, the flnal vowel of the root is lost and the flnal consonant is doubled]

x	**gaarran**	*hills*
x	beerran 'old ladies'	
x	adeerran 'uncles'	

–ani

x	boollani	*holes*
x	daa'imani	*infants*
x	haadhani	*mothers*

–(a)n

ilma *boy*	**ilmaan**		*boys*
eessuma	eessumman	abti	
wasiila	wasiillan		adeer
miila *foot, leg*	miillan		*feet, legs*
sibiila	sibiillan		qori ???

–lee

fakkii	**fakkiilee**	*pictures*
jabbii	jabbiilee	weyl
mormii	mormiilee	??? Wiederspruch
re'ee	re'eelee	??? Ziege
qeyee (qe'ee)	qeyeelee	??? Hof
qotiyyoo	qotiyyoolee	??? Pflugochse
x	**aanaalee**	*districts*
x	**ilmoolee**	*children*
x	**kutaalee**	*sections*
x	**mooraalee**	*camps*
x	??**uijiilee**	*stars*

–(o)olii

gaangoo	gaangolii	Maulesel ???
gooftaa	gooftolii	mudane, nin
gos...	gosooli 'tribes	
haadha	haadhoolii 'mothers'	
harree	harrooli 'donkeys'	
j...	jaarmoolii 'organizations',	
mootii	mootolii	boqor
mucaa	mucoolii	ilmo yar
sangaa	sangoolii	dibi

–oo – an archaic plural suffix.

farda	*horse*	**faradoo**	*horses*
orma	*people*	**oromoo**	*peoples*
y...		**yaadanoo**	*memories*

Singulative forms of nouns

PARTICULATIVE or **SINGULATIVE**, specific noun suffix.

–icha *one, the particular.* Masculine.

<ch> is pronounced as long /cch/

fiigicha *the race*
namicha *the man*
qaallicha *the priest, the shaman*
riqicha *the bridge*

–ittii *one, the particular*. Feminine.

qaallittii *the (female) priest, shaman*

Allomorphs

–ticha

Oromticha *the Oromo man*
namticha *the man*

–tittii

Oromtittii *the Oromo woman*

–ttii shortens a preceding long vowel

biyyattii keessatti *in this country*
magaalattii *this specific city*

The singulative suffix can the be modified with different case suffixes.

–ichi *with the subject suffix* **–i**

dhukkubichi *the particular disease*
harichi *this lake*
namichi *this same man*
qajeelchichi 'the speciflc department

-ichaa *with lengthened final vowel marking the genitive*

aanichaa *of the district*

Case forms

The absolute form

The base form is used as the object of a transitive verb as well as with a postposition or preposition. It is also the citation form of nouns when mentioned without any context.

The subject form

This is the head of the verb, what the sentence is about, the doer of the action, etc. It is marked in one of the following ways:

–n – used after a long vowel

Tulluu	Tulluun	(m.pr.n.)
Turaa	Turaan	(m.pr.n.)
Kuulanii	Kuulaniin	(f.pr.n.)
Bishooftuu	Bishooftuun	(m.gr. magaalo)
obboleetii	obboleetiin	*sister*
abbaa	abbaan	*father*
barsiisaa	barsiisaan	*teacher*
hojii	hojiin	*work*
gabaa	gabaan	*market*
magaalaa	magaalaan	*twon, city*
biiroo	biiroon	*bureau*
aadde Aliimaa	aadde Aliimaan	*Mrs Alima*
	hoolaan	*sheep*
	qabeenyummaan	*ownership*

-n shaqal dheer ka dib

Bishooftuun biyya Oromoo keessa jira.

Bishooftuu waxa ay dhulka Oromoada ku dhex jirtaa.

Eenyu Chaaltuun? Waa tuma Jaaltuu?

Ibsaan eessa jira? Ibsaa halkee joogaa?

–ni – used instead of **–a** after one consonant

mana	manni	*house*	
nama	namni	*person*	

Including all plural forms ending in **–oota**.

namoota	namootni	*people*	< nam(a) -oot(a) -ni

Notice the assimilations

nyaata	nyaanni	*raashin, cunto*	< nyaat(a) -ni
baabura	baaburri	*train*	< baabur(a) -ni
waajjira	**waajjirri**	*department*	< waajjir(a) -ni

-ni **-a** gaaban meesheed – hal shibbane ka dib

mana, manni *guri, aqal*

–i – used instead of **-a** after two consonants

obboleessa	**obboleessi**	*brother*
warra	**warri**	*famliy*
biyya	**biyyi**	*land*

x dhumiinsi 'the depletion',
x gargaarsi 'the aid',
x ibsi 'the statement',
x ogeessi 'the expert',
x qajeelchi 'the authority'

-i **-a** gaaban meesheed – laba shibbane ka dib
Obboleessi koo mana hin jiru. *Walaalkay guriga ma joogo.*

–ti – used with a few feminine nouns
shaqalka -a meeshiisa, hal shibbane ka dib
x lafti 'the land'
Notice the following assimilations:

intala	intalli	*gabar*	< intal -ti
haadha	haati	*hooyo*	< haadh -ti

-ti magacyada dheddigga ah tiradooda yar

-a+ti > -ti	**lafa, lafti** *dhul, dal*
	mara, marti *dhammaan*
-dha+ti > -ti	**haadha, haati** *hooyo*
-la+ti > -lli	**intala, intalli (intalti)** *gabar*

Other noun suffixes

–na *this*, a deictic suffix.
akkana *thus, like this*
barana *this year*
garana *this side*
–s *that*, a deictic suffix.
akkas *like that*
garas *that way*
–tu / –u emphatic ~ focus form

eenyu ?	eenyutu?	*ayo?*

kamitu 'which one?'
namu 'someone'
–u – emphatic subject noun suffix expressing focus.
–uu – additional length for additional emphasis.
lameenuu *both, the two of them*
namu *someone*
–uma / –dhuma *just, only, none other, precisely, simply, self, same,* . Indicates emphasis.
dhimm<u>uma</u> kana *this same matter*
gaaf<u>uma</u> *the very same day*

Numerals

Ordinal number are mostly used with the ending **-affaa**, but forms ending in **-eessaa** also exist. Another suffix **-eechaa** is sometimes encountered.
Abbreviations: 1ffaa, 2ffaa, 3ffaa etc.

1	**tokko**, (q.y. **tokkoon**, dh. **takka**)	tokkoffaa (duraa, duree, dursaa, durseessa, jalqabaa)
2	lamma	lammaffaa (lammeessaa)
3	sadii	sadaffaa (sadeessaa)
4	afur	afraffaa (afreessaa, afuraffaa, arfaffaa)
5	shan	shanaffaa (shaneessaa)
6	ja'a (jaha, jaya)	jahaffaa (jeheessaa)
7	torba	torbaffaa (torbeessaa)
8	saddeet	saddeetaffaa (saddeeteessaa, saddeessaa)
9	sagal	salgaffaa (saglaffaa, sagleessaa, sagalaffaa)
10	kudhan	kurnaffaa (kudhanaffaa, kurneessaa)
11	kudha-tokko	kudha-tokkaffaa
12	kudha-lamma	kudha-lammaffaa
13	kudha-sadii	kudha-sadaffaa
14	kudha-afur / kudhafur	kudha-afuraffaa
15	kudha-shan	kudha-shanaffaa
16	kudha-ja'a	kudha-ja'affaa
17	kudha-torba	kudha-torbaffaa
18	kudha-saddeet	kudha-saddeetaffaa
19	kudha-sagal	kudha-salgaffaa
20	digdama	digdamaffaa
21	digdamii tokko	
22	digdamii lama	
30	soddoma	
33	soddomii sadii	
40	afurtama	
44	afurtamii afur	
50	shantama	
55	shantamii shan	
60	jaatama	
70	torbaatama	
80	saddeettama	
90	sagaltama	
100	dhibba (tokko)	
105	dhibbaa fi shan	
150	dhibbaa fi shantama	
155	dhibba tokkoo fi shantamii shan	
300	dhibba sadii	
700	dhibba torba	

1,000 kuma (tokko)
1,005 kumaa fi shan
5,000 kuma shan
10,000 kuma kudhan
1,000,000 kumaatama (tokko)
9,000,000 kumaatama sagal

Oromo numerals are modifiers that follow after the head noun that represents the counted object. The head noun is usually in the singular form.
ji'a tokko *hal bil*
nama lama *laba nin*
obboleeyyii afur *afar walaalo ah*

The suffix **-n** expresses approximation: **laman** *approximately two*, **sadan** *appr. three*, **arfan, afuran, afran** *appr. four*, **shanan** *appr. five*, **ja'an** *appr. six*, **saddeetan** *appr. eight*, **salgan, sagalan** *appr. nine*, etc.

The suffix **-nu** expresses totality: **lamanu** *both*, **sadanu** *all three*, **arfanu** *all four*, **saddeetanu** *all eight*, **salganu** *all nine*, etc.

The words **hogga/hoggu, al, gar, naqa, 'awu** mean *times*: **hogga lama** *two times*, etc.

"Collective" Group numerals

The suffix -an indicates some collection, group or unit of the number to which it is added. The exact meaning can be gotten from context:

	TIRAALE AASAASI AH	TIRAALE-KOOXEED
1	tokko	**tokkeen** *hal*
2	lama	**lamaan** *lammaane*
3	sadii	**sadan** *kooox saddex ah*
4	afur	**arfan/afran** *koox afar ah*
5	shan	**shanan**
6	ja'a (jaha)	**ja'an**
7	torba	**torban**
8	saddeet	**saddeettan**
9	sagal	**saglan**
10	kudhan	**kurnan**

Specialised meanings

shanan *five day period* (e.g., convalescence after a woman has given birth)
torban *week*

Pronouns

Personal pronouns

PERSON	ABSOLUTE		SUBJECT	(-i, -n, -ni, -ti)	
1SG	**(a)na**	*I, me*	**an(i)**	*I*	
2 SG	**si**	*you*	**at(i)**	*you*	
3 SM	**isa**	*he, him, it*	**inni**	*he*	< is-ni
3 SF	**ishii / isii**	*she, her, it*	**ishiin / isiin**	*she*	
1PL	**nu**	*we, us*	**nu(ti) / nu(y)**	*we*	< nu -ti / nu-i
2PL	**isi(n)**	*you*	**isin(i)**	*you*	
3PL	**isaan**	*they, them*	**isaan(i)**	*they*	

	lsg	**2sg**	**3ms**	**3fs**	**lpl**	**2pl**	**3pl**
Focus	anaatu	isiitu	isaatu	isiitu	nuyitu	isintu	isaantu
Focus	natu	si(i)tu			nuutu		
Conj	anis		innis			isiniis	isaanis
Gen	naati	siiti	(i)saa(ti)	isiiti	nuuti	isiniiti	isaaniitii
Dat	naaf	siif	isaatiif	isiif	nuuf	isiniif	isaaniif
Instr	naan	siin	isaatiin	isiin	nuun	isiniin	isaaniitiin
Loc	natti	sitti	isatti	isiitti	nutti	isinitti	isaanitti
Abl	narraa	sirraa	isarraa	isiirraa	nurraa	isinirraa	isaanirraa

1) 3f is altemately expressed in different dialects as: isee (base), iseen (subj), iseetu (focus), iseef (dat), ish ~ ishee (base), isheen (subj), ishii (obj), ishiin (subj), etc.
2) lpl is alternately expressed in different dialects as: nu'i, nu'yi, nuy, nuhi, or nuyi (subj), nutu (focus), etc.
3) Only the first person singular pronoun has a suffixed subject form. See the poem (R32) for examples.

Possessive pronouns and determiners

Can stand alone or be used as determiners: **abbaan koo** *my father* [subject], **kooti** *mine*.

		(DHEDDIG)	
koo / kiyya	*kayga, tayda*	(**too / tiyya**	*tayda)*
kee	*kaaga, taada*	(**tee**	*taada)*
(i)saa	*kiisa, tiisa*		
ishee (ishii, isii)	*keeda, teeda*		
keenya	*keenna, kayaga*	(**teenya**	*teenna, tayada)*
keessan	*kiinna, tiinna*	(**teessan**	*tiinna)*
(i)saanii	*kooda, tooda*		

Demonstrative pronouns and determiners

lab dheddig

mayeele	yeele		mayeele	yeele	
kana	kuni	*kan*	tana	tuni	*tan*

lab iyo dheddig

mayeele	yeele	
san(a)	sun(i)	*kaas/taas*

Turaan mana sana bite. Turaa gurigaas ayaa uu soo iibsaday.

Possessive + demonstrative determiner

Hiriyaan <u>koo</u> <u>kuni</u> nu gargaara. *Saaxiibkaygani ina caawin doonaa.*

Interrogative words

ABSOLUTE	SUBJECT	
eenyu?	**eenyutu?**	*who?*
maal?		*what?*

eessa?	*where?*
eessaa?	*from where?*
akkam?	how?

Adjectives

Sifooyin aasaasi ah

Sifooyinka tiradooda yari hal qaab oo keli ah uun ayaa ay leeyihiin.

KELI - LAB IYO DHEDDIGBA	
adda	different
adii	*cad*
duwwaa	empty; alone
dhihoo	*dhow*
fagoo	*fog*
gaarii	*fiican, wanaagsan*
guutuu	full, whole
ha(p)phii	thin, light (weight)

Sifooyinka intooda badan waxa ay leeyihiin laba qaab-keliyeed: qaabka labka iyo qaabka dheddigga.

Gender of adjectives

–aa / –tuu

LAB	DHEDDIG	
beekamaa	**beekamtuu**	*[well-known, famous]*
dheeraa	**dheertuu**	*dheer*
diimaa	**diimtuu**	*cas, guduudan*
hamaa	**hamtuu**	*xun*
harkifamaa	**harkifamtuu**	*[elastic, stretched, stetchable]*
jaalatamaa	**jaalatamtuu**	*[loved, liked, likable]*
jabaa	**jabduu**	*xoog badan, xoog leh*
laafaa	**laaftuu**	*jilicsan*
kajeelaa	**kajeeltuu**	*[greedy]*
qaraa	**qartuu**	*[clever]*

Assimilation of **–t–** to **–d–** in the feminine suffix

bareedaa	**bareedduu**	*qurux badan*

Epenthetic **-i-** in the feminine form in order to avoid a cluster of three consonants.

fayyaa	**fayyituu**	*healthy*
shaggaa	**shaggituu**	*fiican, qurux badan*

-aa'aa / -ooftuu

beelaawaa/beelaa'aa	**beeloowtuu/beelooftuu**	*hungry*

–aa / –oo

LAB	DHEDDIG	
furdaa	furdoo	fat

guddaa	**guddoo**	*weyn*
jabaa	**jaboo**	*[strong, hard, powerful, brave, serious, important]*
xinnaa	xinnoo	small
xiqqaa	xiqqoo	little

–eessa / –eettii

LAB	DHEDDIG	
ba'eessa	ba'eettii	*good*
dureessa	**dureettii**	*[rich]*
sooreessa	sooreettii	*wealthy*

Notice that the corresponding nouns forms the plural with -eeyyii, whereas these adjectives have plurals with reduplication.

Plural of adjectives

Sifooyinkan aasaasiga ahi waxa ay leeyihiin qaab-wadareed oo ku samaysan ridablikayshanka alanka ugu horreeya ee erayga.

CVC is added as a copy from the original initial syllable resulting in a CVCC sequence.

KELI	WADAR	
ba'eessa, ba'eettii	**babba'eessa, babba'eettii**	*good*
bareedaa, bareedduu ????	**babareedaa, babareedduu**	*qurux badan*
diimaa, diimtuu	**diddiimaa, diddiimtuu**	*cas, guduudan*
furdaa, furdoo	**fuffurdaa, fuffurdoo**	*fat*
gaarii	**gaggaarii**	fiican, wanaagsan
guutuu	**gugguutuu**	full, whole
jabaa, jabduu	**jajjabaa, jajjabduu**	*xoog leh, xoog badan*
laafaa, laaftuu	**lallaafaa, lallaaftuu**	*jilicsan*
sooreessa, sooreettii	**sossooreessa, sossooretti**	*wealthy*
xinnaa, xinnoo	**xixxinnaa, xixxinnoo**	*small*
xiqqaa, xiqqoo	**xixxiqqaa, xixxiqqoo**	*little*

/dh/ is geminated in the pronunciation but not in the standard spelling

dheeraa, dheertuu	**dhedheeraa, dhedheertuu**	*dheer*
dhihoo	**dhidhihoo**	*dhow*

/h/ can never geminate

hamaa, hamtuu	**hahamaa, hahamtuu**	*malicious*
haphii [pph]	**hahaphii**	thin, light (weight)

There are a few irregular plural forms

adda	adda-addaa	different
adii	a'adii ~ adaaddii	cad
duwwaa	duduwwaa	empty; alone
fagoo	fagfagoo	fog

Dissimilation of /gg/ –> /rg/

guddaa, guddoo	**gurguddaa, gurguddoo**	*large*

Passive verbal adjective have unreduplicated genderless plural forms with -oo.

beekamaa, beekamtuu	**beekamoo**	*known*

Some other words may also have this -oo optionally:

diimaa, diimtuu	diimoo	*cas, guduudan*
dheeraa, dheertuu	dhedheeroo	*dheer*

Plural or feminine???

hundumaa, -tuu *oo dhan*
Namoonni hundum<u>tuu</u> keessa seenu. *All the people get inside.*

Comparison

Dameen bareedduu.
Dameen isii (i)rra bareedduu.
Dameen daran baredduu.
Bilisaan jabaa.
Bilisaan isa (i)rra jabaa.
Bilisaan daran jabaa.

aa *adj-m-suf* -ed, -able [masculine adjective forming suffix] Olaafaa 'soft [masculine]', banamaa 'opened'; Fem; -tuu [G§5.1]
aa[2] *adj-m-suf* masculine adjective former **O** furdaa 'fat [man]', guddaa 'large'; Fem: -00
aa'aa *adj-suf* masculine stative adjective former **O** beelaa'aa 'hungry' [masc]: Alt: -aawaa: **Fem:** -ooftuu [G§9.2.5] [Wei]
aawaa *adj-suf* masculine adjective former **O** beelaawaa 'hungry' [masc]; Alt: -aa'aa; Fem: -oowtuu [G§9.2.5] [Har]
acha *adj-suf* masculine adjective former © daalacha 'gray' [masc]; Alt: -eettii [fem] «-acca» [G§9.2.4]
affaa *num-ord-suf* -th [ordinal numeral suffix) **O** shanaffaa 'fifth'; See also: -ffaa [G§8.3]
an[4] *adj* -ing. (for) doing VERB [adjectival verb forming suffix] Obanan 'opening', calleessan 'for producing', dubbisan 'for reading' [G§9.2.6]
dhabdoota *adj-pl-cmp-suf* not having, -less [compound plural adjective forming suffix) **O** hojii dhabdoota 'unemployed'; See: -dhabduu
dhabduu *adj-cmp-suf* not having, -less [compound adjective forming suffix] **O** humnadhabduu 'powerless'; qaanyiidhabduu 'shameless'; Opp: -qabduu « = dhab tuu, dhabdoota» [G§9.3.2]
eessa[3] *adj-suf-m* masculine adjective suffix O dureessa 'rich' [masc]; Alt: -eettii [fem] [G§9.2.3]
-eessaa[2] *num-ord-suf* -th [ordinal numeral suffix]
eettii[2] *adj-suf-f* feminlne adjective suffix Odaaleettii 'gray' [fem], dulleettii 'old woman'; Alt: -acha [masc] [G§9.2.5]
eettii[3] *adj-suf-f* feminine adjectlve sufiix O dureettii 'rich', hiyyeettii 'poor'; Alt: -eessa [masc] [G§9.2.3]
ffaa *num-ord-suf* -th [ordinal numeral sufifix] **O** tokkoffaa 'flrst', lammaflfaa 'second', jahaffaa 'sixth'; See also: -affaa «-ffaa» [G§8.3]
oo *adj-f-suf* feminine adjective former **O** furdoo 'fat [feminine]'; Masc: -aa [G§5.2]
oo[2] *adj-pl-suf* plural adjective forming suffix **O** diimoo 'red ones'; beekamoo 'known ones'

oowtuu *adj-f-suf* feminine adjective former **O** beeloowtuu ‘hungry’ [fem]; Alt:-aawaa [masc] [Har]
qabduu *adj-suf* havtng, -ful [compound adjective forming suffix] **O** bifaqabduu ‘colorful’; abdiiqabduu ‘hopeful’; Opp: -dhabduu « = qab tuu» [G§9.3.3]
tuu² *adj-f-suf* -ed,-able [feminine adjective former] Obanamtuu‘opened’, filatamtuu ‘selected’, laaftuu ‘fat (female)’; Masc: -aa [G§9.2.1]

Verbs

There are quite few simple finite verb forms in Oromo: present, past, subjunctive and imperative. There is also a verbal noun.

The Infinitive and verbal noun

The Oromo infinitive always ends in **–uu**. It is also used as a noun form of the verb.

Infinitive + auxiliary

Isa <u>eeguu</u> hin <u>danda'u</u>. *Isaga ma sugi karo.*
Isa <u>eeguu</u> <u>feetaa</u>? *Ma doonaysaa in aad sugtid isaga?*

The infinitive used as a noun

The Imperative mood

2nd person singular	**–i**	(1st & 3rd conj.)
	–u	(2nd conj.)
2nd person plural	**–aa**	

The Prohibitive construction

the negative particle	**hin**	
2nd person singular	**–in**	
2nd person plural	**–inaa**	

2nd person singular	**hin deemin** *don't leave*
2nd person plural	**hin deeminaa**

The Present tense

1SG	**–n**	**–a**	
2SG		**–ta**	
3SM		**–a**	
3SF		**–ti**	
1PL		**–na**	
2PL		**–tu**	(–tani)
3PL		**–u**	(–ani)

Sometimes present tense is additionally expressed through the prefix **ni–**.

Hangafni <u>ni</u>kabajama. *Seniors are shown respect.*

The Past tense

1SG	**–n**	**–e**
2SG		**–te**

3SM	**–e**
3SF	**–te**
1PL	**–ne**
2PL	**–tan**
3PL	**–an**

The Subjunctive mood

1SG	**–u**	
2SG	**–tu**	
3SM	**–u**	
3SF	**–tu**	
1PL	**–nu**	
2PL	**–tan**	(–tani, –tanu)
3PL	**–an**	(–ani, –anu)

Negation

Present tense
hin + the subjunctive

Yeroo hin qabu. *Wakhti ma lihi.*

Sometimes **hin** is written together with the verb as a prefix.

Verb focus

hin / **ni–** + present or past tense

Hayaa, nin dhufa. *Yes, I will come.*

The Present Progressive

The main verb takes the suffix **–aa**, followed by the ausiliary **jira** *is* inflected in the present tense.

Duulaan qe'ee isaa qulqulleessaa jira.
Halkoon aannan qabeen dhugaa jirti.
Korbeessi re'ee baala nyaataa jira.
Hojjetamaa jiran. *They are being built. They are under construction.*

It also occurs with the infinitive of the main verb.

Inni achi rafuu jira. *He is sleeping there.*
Isiin kitaaba dubbisuu jirti. *She is reading a book.*

The Future tense

The infinitive of the main verb takes the dative suffix followed by the auxiliary **taa'a** in the present tense.

Isaan mana jaaruuf taa'ani. *They are going to build a house.*

The basic present tense forms are very often used with a future meaning.

The Present Perfect

The final vowel of the past tense forms of the main verb is lengthened to **–ee**. After a final **-n** the long vowel **–ii** is added. These past tense froms of the main verb are then followed by the auxiliary **jira** *is* inflected in the present tense.

This form mainly expresses recent past events that are still relevant for the present situation. In complex sentences with both a simple past and a perfective past verb, the event expressed by the simple past is usually more distant in time than the event expressed by the perfective past which is then more recent.

	PAST TENSE		PAST PERFECT CONSTRUCTION		
1SG	**-n** deem**e**	*(I) left*	**-n** deem**ee**	**jira**	*(I) have left*
2SG	deem**te**		deem**tee**	**jirta**	
3SM	deem**e**		deem**ee**	**jira**	
3SF	deem**te**		deem**tee**	**jirti**	
1PL	deem**ne**		deem**nee**	**jirra**	
2PL	deem**tan**		deem**tanii**	**jirtu**	
3PL	deem**an**		deem**anii**	**jiru**	

Boruun uffata aadaa Karrayyuu uffatee jira.
Adurreen hantuuta qabattee jirti.
Daa'imman uffata aadaa uffaatanii jiru.

There are also contracted forms where the first syllable /ji/ of the auxiliary verb has fallen.

LSG	-n	-eera
2SG		-teerta / -teetta
3SM		-eera
3SF		-teerti / -teetti
LPL		-neerra
2PL		-taniirtu / -taniittu
3PL		-aniiru

The Pluperfect

Temporal auxiliary verbs
tur- [pluperfect],

Voice

Oromo has a passive voice that can productively be form from practically any verb through the addition of the suffix **–am–**.

kabaja *respects (somebody)* **> kabajama** *(somebody) is respected*
Hangafni nikabajama. *Seniors are shown respect.*

1st person singular

1st person singular verb forms are preceded by the clitic -n corresponding to the Somali short subject pronoun *aan*.

Ani manan jira. *(Anigu) Guriga ayaan joogaa.*

The longer independent from nan when there is no word to cliticise on.
Ani nan deema. *Waan tagayaa.*
Ani nan beeka. Waan og ahay. Waan aqaannaa.

Hayaa, nin dhufa. *Haye, waan iman doonaa.*

Indefinite 3rd person plural

3rd person plural verb forms are used for reference to indefinite subject(s) in a way similar to the use of the indefinite subject pronoun *la* in Somali .

Waan dhugan maal fettan? *Wax la cabbo maxaad rabtaan?*

The 1st conjugation

The first conjugation contains most basic verbs as well as those formed through addition of the causative and passive suffixes.

INFINITIVE / VERBAL NOUN	
deem**uu**	*to leave, leaving*

PERSON	IMPERATIVE	
2SG	deem**i**	*leave*
2PL	deem**aa**	*leave*

PERSON	PRESENT TENSE		PAST TENSE		SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD	
1SG	**-n** deem**a**	*(I) leave*	**-n** deem**e**	*(I) left*	deem**u**	*(I) leave*
2SG	deem**ta**	*(you) leave*	deem**te**	*(you) left*	deem**tu**	*(you) leave*
3SM	deem**a**	*(he) leaves*	deem**e**	*(he) left*	deem**u**	*(he) leaves*
3SF	deem**ti**	*(she) leaves*	deem**te**	*(she) left*	deem**tu**	*(she) leaves*
1PL	deem**na**	*(we) leave*	deem**ne**	*(we) left*	deem**nu**	*(we) leave*
2PL	deem**tu**	*(you) leave*	deem**tan**(i)	*(you) left*	deem**tan**(u/i)	*(you) leave*
	(or deem**tan**(i))					
3PL	deem**u**	*(they) leave*	deem**an**(i)	*(they) left*	deem**an**(u/i)	*(they) leave*
	(or deem**an**(i))					

Other 1st conjugation verbs:
bita, bitti *iibsadaa, iibsataa*

r + n > rr
l + n > ll

INFINITIVE		1ST PERSON PLURAL	
jiruu	jir + na >	**jirra**	*(waan) jirnaa, joognaa, nahay*
gargaaruu	gargaar + na >	**gargaarra**	*(waan) caawinnaa*
turuu	tur + na >	**turra**	*(waan) joognaa*
buluu	bul + na >	**bulla**	[wir verbringen die Nacht]
galuu	gal + na >	**galla**	*(waan) galnaa*
yaaluu	yaal + na >	**yaalla**	*(waan) tijaabinnaa*

t + n > nn

INFINITIVE		1ST PERSON PLURAL	
bituu	bit + na >	**binna**	*(waan) iibsannaa, iibsanaynaa*
fiduu	fid + na >	**finna**	*(waan) keennaa, keenaynaa*

Verbs with a stem ending in /b/, /d/ or /g/

/t/-da dibkabayaashu waxa ay noqotaa /d/ shibbanayaasha /b/, /d/, /g/ ka dib

MASDAR	qabuu	eeguu	diduu
1 k.	-n qaba	eega	dida
2 k.	qab**d**a	eeg**d**a	did**d**a

3 k.l.	qaba *haystaa, leeyahay*	eega *sugaa*	dida *diidaa*
3 k.dh.	qab**d**i	eeg**d**i	did**d**i
1 w.	qabna	eegna	di**n**na
2 w.	qab**d**u	eeg**d**u	did**d**u
3 w.	qabu	eegu	didu

Sidaas oo kale:

barbaada *rabaa*, **dhuga** *cabbaa*,

d + n > nn			
diduu	did+na >	**dinna**	*(waan) diidnaa*
fiduu	fid + na >	**finna**	*(waan) keennaa, keenaynaa*

Verbs with a stem ending in /s/

/s/-da salka falku waxa ay noqotaa /f/ shibbanayaasha /t/ iyo /n/ ka hor.

MASDAR		baasuu
1 k.	-n	baasa
2 k.		baa**f**ta
3 k.l.		baasa *bixiyaa (lacag)*
3 k.dh.		baa**f**di
1 w.		baa**f**na
2 w.		baa**f**tu
3 w.		baasu

Likewise:

raasa *ruxaa*,

Verbs with a stem ending in two consonants or a long consonant

Shaqalka /i/ oo dheeraadka ah waa in lagu daro dibkabaha ka hor haddii uu dabkabuhu ku bilaabo shibbane.

INFINITIVE		qopheessuu
1SG	-n	qopheessa *diyaariyaa*
2SG		qopheess**i**ta
3SM		qopheessa
3SF		qopheess**i**ti
1PL		qopheess**i**na
2PL		qopheess**i**tu
3PL		qopheessu

Verbs with a stem ending in /dh/

Vdh + t > Vtt
/dh/-da salka falku waxa ay noqotaa /t/ shibbanaha /t/ ka hor.

INFINITIVE		jechuu
1SG	’n	jedha
2SG		jetta

3SM	jedha
3SF	jetti
1PL	jenna
2PL	jettu
3PL	jedhu (jedhani)

The verbs *fedha* 'wants', *fuudhuu* 'takes', *godhuu* 'makes, does'

Shibbanayaasha /t/ iyo /n/ ka hor ayaa uu codka /dh/ lumaa, shaqalka hortiisa yaalna wuu dheeraadaa.

INFINITIVE		fedhuu	godhuu
1SG	-n	fedha	godha
2SG		f**ee**ta	g**oo**ta (gotta)
3SM		fedha *rabaa*	godha *sameeyaa*
3SF		f**ee**ti	g**oo**ti (gotti)
1PL		f**ee**na	g**oo**na (gonna)
2PL		f**ee**tu (fettani)	g**oo**tu (gottu)
3PL		fedhu	godhu

INFINITIVE		fuudhuu
1SG	-n	fuudha
2SG		fuuta
3SM		fuudha *qabaa*
3SF		fuuti
1PL		fuuna
2PL		fuutu
3PL		fuudhu

k + t > tt (only in some varieties)
k + n > nn (only in some varieties)

beekuu	beek + ti >	beekti (beetti)	*(way) og tahay, taqaannaa*
	beek + na >	beekna (beenna)	*(waan) og nahay, naqaannaa*

The 2nd conjugation

The second conjugation contains the mainly autobenefactive verbs formed through the addition of the suffix -at-.

	INFINITIVE					
	-ach -uu		**nyaachuu**		*to eat, eating*	
	PRESENT TENSE				**PAST TENSE**	
1SG	-addh -a	**-n**	**nyaadha**	-n	**nyaadhe**	[ddh]
2SG	-at -ta		**nyaatta**		**nyaatte**	
3SM	-at -a		**nyaata**		**nyaate**	
3SF	-at -ti		**nyaatti**		**nyaatte**	
1PL	-an -na		**nyaanna**		**nyaanne**	
2PL	-at -tu		**nyaattu**		**nyaattan**	
3PL	-at -u		**nyaatu**		**nyaatan**	

	IMPERATIVE		
2SG	-addh -u	nyaadh**u**	[ddh]
2PL	-addh -aa	nyaadh**aa**	[ddh]

The 3rd conjugation

The third conjugation contain mainly stative verbs.

'be ready'

QOFKA		JOOGTO	TAGTO	MADHACDO
1 k.	ani	**qoph-aa(w)-a**	**qoph-aa(w)-e**	**qoph-aa(w)-u**
2 k.	ati	**qoph-oof-ta**	**qoph-oof-te**	**qoph-oof-tu**
3 k.l.	inni	**qoph-aa(w)-a**	**qoph-aa(w)-e**	**qoph-aa(w)-u**
3 k.dh.	isheen	**qoph-oof-ti**	**qoph-oof-te**	**qoph-oof-tu**
1 w.	nuti	**qoph-oof-na**	**qoph-oof-ne**	**qoph-oof-nu**
2 w.	isin	**qoph-oof-tan(i)**	**qoph-oof-tan**	**qoph-oof-tani**
3 w.	isaan	**qoph-aa(w)-an(i)**	**qoph-aa(w)-an**	**qoph-aa(w)-an**
		PERFECT		
1 k.	ani	**qoph-aa(w)-eera**		
2 k.	ati	**qoph-oof-teetta**		
3 k.l.	inni	**qoph-aa(w)-eera**		
3 k.dh.	isheen	**qoph-oof-teetti**		
1 w.	nuti	**qoph-oof-neerra**		
2 w.	isin	**qoph-oof-taniittu**		
3 w.	isaan	**qoph-aa(w)-aniiru**		

MASDAR	**qoph-aa(w)-uu**
SOCOTO	**qoph-aa(w)-aa**
Aux form	**qoph-aa(w)-utti**
Completive	**qoph-oof-naan**
AMAR	
KELI	**qoph-aa(w)-i**
WADAR	**qoph-aa(w)-aa**

The 4th conjugation

The fourth conjugation contains verb with a stem final glottal stop. Many irregularities occur in these verbs. For details see Gamta (1995: 66–69).

QOFKA		JOOGTO	TAGTO	MADHACDO
1 k.	ani	**ta'-a** *be, become*	**ta'-e**	**ta'-u**
2 k.	ati	**taa-ta**	**taa-te**	**taa-tu**
3 k.l.	inni	**ta'-a**	**ta'-e**	**ta'-u**
3 k.dh.	isheen	**taa-ti**	**taa-te**	**taa-tu**
1 w.	nuti	**taa-na**	**taa-ne**	**taa-nu**
2 w.	isin	**taa-tu / taa-tan**(i)	**taa-tan**(i)	**taa-tan**(u)
3 w.	isaan	**ta'-u / ta'-an**(i)	**ta'-an**(i)	**ta'-an**(u)
		PERFECT		
1 k.	ani	**ta'-eera**		
2 k.	ati	**taa-teetta**		
3 k.l.	inni	**ta'-eera**		
3 k.dh.	isheen	**taa-teetti**		
1 w.	nuti	**taa-neerra**		
2 w.	isin	**taa-taniittu**		
3 w.	isaan	**ta'-aniiru**		

MASDAR	**ta'-uu**
SOCOTO	**ta'-aa**
Aux form	**ta'-utti**
Completive	**taa-naan**
AMAR	
KELI	**ta'-i**
WADAR	**ta'-aa**

Sidaas oo kale waa in loo isrogrogaa (la isu rogrogaa) falalka

ka'a *kacaa*

iwm.

QOFKA		JOOGTO	TAGTO	MADHACDO
1 k.	ani	**danda'-a** *karaa*	**danda'-e**	**danda'-u**
2 k.	ati	**dand-eessa**	**dand-eesse**	**dand-eessu**
3 k.l.	inni	**danda'-a**	**danda'-e**	**danda'-u**
3 k.dh.	isheen	**dand-eessi**	**dand-eesse**	**dand-eessu**
1 w.	nuti	**dand-eenya**	**dand-eenye**	**dand-eenyu**
2 w.	isin	**dand-eessu**	**dand-eettu**	**dand-eessu**
3 w.	isaan	**danda'-an(i)**	**danda'-an**	**danda'-anu**
		PERFECT		
1 k.	ani			
2 k.	ati			
3 k.l.	inni			
3 k.dh.	isheen			
1 w.	nuti			

2 w. isin
3 w. isaan

MASDAR **danda'-uu**
SOCOTO
Aux form
Completive
AMAR
KELI
WADAR

Formation of verbs

Autobenefactive verbs

suffix -at-

Passive verbs

suffix -am-

Causative verbs

suffix -s-/-siis-

Adverbs

dhaa² *adv-suf* really, truly, very much so [intensifier] Ogochuudhaa 'to really work (at s.t.)'; walakkaadhaa gadi 'veiy much less than half; Isiin bareedduudha. 'She is very beautiful.' [G§11.6, R08, R10, R17, R23a, R25, R32#12=2, BES-76:140, MZ-90:6f, WB-95:21] {Har}
fa'i *adv-suf* like, such as, for example; and the like **O** Alt: faa [R32#7x, TG-89:205, TY]
faa *adv-suf* like, such as, for example; and the like, and also **O** Alt: fa'i [R32#7, TG-89:203, TV]
llee *adv-suf* even, -ever [emphasis marker; shortens any previous long vowel] Odeemullee [= deemuu+(i)llee] 'even if (I) go'; See also: illee [G§11.6, JO-85:11, TG-89:428, WB-95:14]

Phrases

Phrasal cases

Genitive

The genitive expresses possession or association.
long final vowel:

mana nam<u>aa</u> *someone's house*
bulchinsa godina Bahaa Wallagg<u>aa</u> *the administrative subdistrict of East Wallaggaa*
itti gaafatamaan godin<u>aa</u> *the head of the region*
sassaabbii gibir<u>aa</u> *tax collection* [lit: *collection of tax*]

–ii

on nouns that end in a consonant
[genitive case marking suffix for a words ending in a consonant]
baadhattootni vaayiras<u>ii</u> AIDS *carriers of the AIDS virus*
baasii gara qarshii miliyoon<u>ii</u> 125 *an expenditure of about 125 million birr*
fiigicha maaraatoonii *marathon race*
kudhanii *of ten*

–dha

stem extension???
[also an incremental suffix before the dative ~ instrumental case] See: -dhaaf, -dhaan
genitive case suffix; incremental aillx sometimes inserted before the dative ~ instrumental case suffixes **O** See: -dhaaf, -dhaan [G§5.3.3]

kan (**tan**):

mindaa <u>kan</u> ji'a tokk<u>oo</u> '*one month's salary*
dhiheesajalaa <u>kan</u> bun<u>aa</u> *an undersupply of coffee*
<u>kan</u> baran<u>aa</u> *of this year*

–ti

isaati *his, of his*
[possessive ~ genitlve noun case-marking suffix; also inserted before an instrumental case ending]

Certain verbs require the genitive as expression of source or origin. This use of the genitive in Oromo is similar to function of the ablative or partitive case in many languages.

Tulluun sa'aatii lamatti man<u>aa</u> ba'a. *Tulluu leaves the house at eight.*

Biliseen ganamaan hirrib<u>aa</u> kaati. *Bilisee aroortii ayay hurdada <u>ka</u> toostaa.*
ganama 'subax' -VVn waa kayska qalabka, habka iyo wakhtiga
hirriba 'hurdo' – Shaqal dheer

–dhaa *ka*

Baddalleedhaa gara magaalaa Naqamtee *from Beddellee to Nek'emte City*

-ti (genitive on genitive)

Mana hidhaati bayee? *Is he released from prison?*

bakka hojii isaaniitii ukkaamamanii *they were kidnapped from their workplace and...*

–tiin *ka*

biyya alaatiin *from abroad*

"Genitive on Genitive"

Iddoon hojii saa<u>tii</u> dhiyoo dha. *His work place is far away.*

(**hojii saa**) – is a primary genitive

<u>Iddoon</u> (**hojii saa**)**<u>tii</u>** – is a secondary genitive

Tulluun sa'aatii saddeetitti mana barumsaatii deebi'a. *Tulluu comes back from school at two.*

(**mana barumsaa**)**<u>tii deebi'a</u>.**

Dative

–VV*f*

This case indicates to whom, for which, for (duration of time), or in order to + VERB.

shaqal dheer + f

QAAB-ASALEED		DAYTIF
nama	*qof*	**namaaf**
intala	*gabar*	**intalaaf**

Namaaf kuna fidi! *Ninka bun u keen!*

Intalaaf shaayii fidi! *Gabarta shaah u keen!*

The suffix is added at the end of the whole NP.

Namicha kanaaf mee bishaan kenni! *Fadlan, ninkan biyo u keen.*

This morpheme always lengthens the preceding vowel.

obboleessaaf *to brother*

naaf *for me, on my behalf*

bara hedduuf *for many years*

expresses purpose when added to a verbal noun:

ilaaluuf *in order to see*

sassaabuuf *in order to collect*

walitti qabuuf *to collect, for collection*

–ii– epenthetically after consonant final stem

If there isn't any vowel, an epenthic -i- is inserted an lengthened.

bishaaniif 'for water', waan du'aniif 'because he died'

isaaniif 'to them';

ji'a sadiif 'for three months';

miidhamaniif 'for those who were hurt';

waan du'aniif 'because he died'

Optional stem extension after an individual noun

–dhaa– after inifinitives

argachuudhaaf 'for getting'

oolchuudhaaf 'in order to save'

–ti–

kanaatiifis 'for this one also',

Dative –f is preceded by obligatory (???) stem extension after genitive phrase.

Ammoo Tulluun yeroodhaan barnoota saatiif yuniversitii waan ga'uuf gammada.

… in time for his lecture …

ummata naannawuchaatiif 'for the people of the surrounding area'

MAGACUYAAL-QOFEEDYADA

	LAYEELE TOOSAN		LAYEELE DADBAN = DAYTIF	QAABAB LAHJAD AH
1K	**na**	*i*	**naaf / naa**	**naadhaaf / naadhaa**
2K	**si**	*ku*	**siif / sii**	**siidhaaf / siidhaa**
3KL	**isa**		**isaaf / isaa**	**isaadhaaf / isaadhaa**
3KD	**ishi**		**ishiif / ishii**	**ishiidhaaf / ishiidaa**
1W	**nu**	*(i)na*	**nuuf / nuu**	**nuudhaaf / nuudhaa**
2W	**isin**	*idin*	**isiniif / isinii**	**isiniidhaaf / isiniidhaa**
3W	**isaan**		**isaaniif / isaanii**	**isaaniidhaaf / isaaniidhaa**

Isaaf buna kenni! *Bun sii isaga.*

The suffix **-f** can be added to the verb instead of the noun phrase. The preceding final vowel of the verb is then lengthened.

Namicha kanaa mee bishaan kenniif! *Fadlan, ninkan biyo u keen.*

Buna isaa kenniif! *Bun sii isaga.*

Third person pronouns may then be dropped altogether.

Buna kenniif! *Bun sii.*

fuuldurafls *for the future too*

Lexicalised expressions

Kanaaf taaksii waammata. *Therefore he calls a taxi.*

Locative

–tti *ku (dhex)*

The preceding vowel is not lengthened.

Position, place:

Zoonii Arsiitti *in Arsi zone*

gidduutti *in between, among*

Inni mana barumsaatii hojii qaba. Isagu waxa uu shaqo ku leeyahay dugsiga.

Fakkiilee maqaa isaatti firoomsi. *Match each picture with its name./Match the pictures with their names.*

Sana booda Tulluun manatti barata. *Afterwards Tulluu studies at home.*

Time:

guyyaatti *per day, daily*

hanga ammaatti *up to the present*

gannatti *in the rainy season*

Boru yeroo laaqanaatti kottu. *Berri wakhtiga qadada kaalay. (**at** lunch time)*

Turaan sa'aatii lamaa fi ruubiitti hojii deema. *… at a quarter past eight…*

Abbaan saanii sa'aatii lamaa fi walakkaatti mana barumsaa deema. *… half past eight …*

Manner:

gaariitti *in good (condition)*

ifatti *clearly, openly*

irra / –rra *ku*

keessa *ku*

Bishooftuun biyya Oromoo keessa jira. *Bishooftuu waxa ay dhulka Oromoada ku dhex jirtaa.*

Instrumental

godhaniin v-instr by ~ in which he (polite) made O banan haasa'a Obboo Hasan Alii godhaniini dha 'it was by means of the opening speech which Mr. Hasan Ali made'

VV–n

This morpheme always lengthens the preceding vowel.

If there isn't any vowel, an epenthic -i- is inserted an lengthened.

Some speakers insert a stem extension -dha- or -ti- before the instrumental mrorpheme, which are then also lengthened to -dhaa- and -tii- and themselves preceded by vowel lengthening as well.

This phrase final clitic is used to express a number of related meanings.

tool

means of transportation

Asi taaksiin daqqiqaa kudhan deemta. *Halkan waxay tagsi ku timid 10 daqiiqo ka hor.*

makiinaan *by car*

means of payment

qarshii miliyoona sadiin *for three million birr*

manner (by, through)

Qubeewwan tartiibessuun jecha barreessi. *Write the word by putting the letters in order.*

akkaataa sodaachisaadhaan 'in an alarming way'

reason

Barattoota taphaa ala ta'aniin geengoo gidduu galan. *Because the students were excluded from the game, they have entered into the middle of the cirle.*

rakkina addaa addaatiin 'due to various problems';

rakkina addaa-addaatiin kan ka'e 'due to several problems which arose'

agent of passive verb (more or less similar to the subject form, but the subject suffix is added to the head noun at the beginning of a phrase, whereas the instrumental clitic is added to the last word in the phrase)

konkolaachisaa Gammachuu Gabreetiin kan ofamaa ture konkolaataan 'the vehicle which was being driven by driver Gammachu Gabre';

time

kanaan 'now, at this (time)';

haalaan 'in future';

Tulluun yeroodhaan barnootaaf yuniversitii ga'uutu irra jira.

Tulluu has to arrive to univeristy in time for the lecture.

adverb (-ly)

afaan Oromootiin 'in the Oromo language';

afaaniin 'by language',

baajataatiin 'with the financial allocation';

bawuudhaan 'by coming (out)',

beelaan 'with hunger';

dhaqqabeen 'as it approached';

EPRDF tin 'by the EPRDE',

fooniin 'in the flesh'

Gammachuu Gabreetiin kan ofamaa ture 'which was being driven by Gammachuu Gabree';

haasaa godhaniin 'in the speech he made'

hojii irra oolchuutiin 'in the implementation'

ol aanaan 'vastly, extensively'

Qajeelcha Aadaa fi Ispoortii godina Lixa Wallaggaatiin 'by the west Wallagga Department of Culture and Sports';

seenuudhaan 'by entering';

teeknooloojii ammavaatiin with the latest technology';

Vocative

na[5] *n-voc-suf* ohl, hey! [vocative suffix; used for calling s.o.] **O** namana 'hey, manl; Alt: -nana; See also: ya
nana *n-voc-suf* ohl, heyl [vocative suffix; used for calling s.o.] **O** namanana 'hey, manl'; Alt: -na; See also: ya
o[2] *n-voc-suf* oh!, hey! [vocative suffix; used for calling s.o.] {rare} Ointalo 'hey, girl!'; See also: -na, -nana

Adpositions

Preposition

gara *xagga, u, ku*
Haati too gara gabaa deemte. *Hooyaday xagga suuqa bay tagtay.*
Finfinneerraa gara Dirree Dawaa adeemaa *going from Addis Ababa to Dire Dhawa*

Postpositions

irra / –rra *??*

Lexicalised phrases
Kana irra eeguu hin danda'u. *He can't wait any longer.*

irraa / –rraa *ka*
This postposition primarily indicates the source or place from which something originates.
It may be contracted with the precedin word.
Does it lengthen the preceding vowel???
Ani mana barumsaa irraan dhufe. *Dugsiga ayaa aan ka yimid.*
Inni Jimmarraa dhufa. *He comes from Jimma.*
Finfinneerraa gara Dirree Dawaa adeemaa *going from Addis Ababa to Dire Dhawa*

keessa *ku (dhex)*

It may also be used as an independent particle.
Oggaa taaksiin dhufu Tulluunis keessa gala. *When the taxi arrives, Tulluu then gets inside.*
Namoonni hundumtuu keessa seenu. *All the people get inside.*

keessaa *ka (dhec)*
Intalli mana keessaa hojii qabdi. Gabartu waxa ay guriga ka/ku leedahay shaqo,.
Bishooftuun biyya Oromoo keessa jira. Bishooftuu waxa ay dhulka Oromoada ku dhex jirtaa.

It may also be used as an independent particle.

Clauses

The Subject

The use of the subject case

The Oromo subject ending is added to the head noun of the noun phrase, whereas the Somali subject ending is added to the last word in the phrase.
Man**ni** barumsaa achi miti.
Digsigu halkan ma jiro.
Abbaa**n** koo barsiisaa miti.
Aabbahay bare ma aha.
When two nouns are use in apposition, both nouns take the subject ending.
Obboleess**i** koo Turaa**n** mana hin jiru.
Walaalkay Turaa guriga ma joogo.
Obboleettii**n** too Kuulanii**n** mana jirti.
Walaashay Kuulanii guriga bay joogtaa.

Subjektets ändelse placeras på huvudordet, före possessiva och demonstrativa pronomen.

Haati too gara gabaa deemte. *Hooyaday xagga suuqa bay tagtay.*
Intalli mana keessaa hojii qabdi. *Gabartu waxa ay guriga ka/ku leedahay shaqo.*
Manni keenya magaalaa Bishooftuu jira.
Gurigeennu magaalada Bishooftuu ayaa uu ku jiraa.

Om subjektet innehåller flera personer måste varje huvudord markeras med subjektsändelsen.

Abbaan **Tulluu fi ijoolleen sa'aatii tokkoo fi walakkaatti ka'u.**
Tulluu aabbihiis iyo carruurtu waxay toosaan toddoba iyo barka.

The subject forms of the personal pronouns

Ani Tulluu dha. *Anigu Tulluu ayaan ahay.*
Ati obboleettii Tulluutii? *Adigu Tulluu walaashiis miyaad tahay?*
Inni hojii jira. *Isagu shaqada ayuu joogaa.*
Ishiin nyaata bitti. *Iyadu cunto ayaa ay iibsanaysaa.*
Nuti mana qabna. *Annagu guri ayaannu leenahay.*
Isaan dhiyoo mana dhufu. *Iyagu hadhow ayaa ay imanayaan guriga.*

Qaababka mayeelaha:
Isa eeguu feetaa? *Ma doonaysaa in aad sugtid isaga?*

Apposition

Laba magacmadaxeed oo isla marka ay ku dhex jiraan hal oraahmagaceed.

Haddi uu oraadhmagaceedkani yahay yeelaha weerta, waxa ay labada magac soo qabaan dibkabaha yeelaha **-n** ama **-i**.
Obboleessi koo Turaan mana hin jiru. *Walaalkay Turaa guriga ma joogo.*

Eessa gandi Barentuu? Xaggee bay ku taal tuulada Barentuu?

Focus

-tu (qurub diiradeed) *-ba*
tu *focus-marker* the one who ~ that [focus marker that requires the verb forms to be simplified] **O** Eenyu tu dhufe? 'Who is the one who came?'; Ji'a keessatti guyyootii 30 tu jiran. 'In a month there are 30 days.'; Sa'atu du'e 'It was a COW that died.' [G§5.3.1]

Agreement

magac urureed + fal qaab-wadareed leh

Warri kee akkam jiru? *Qoyskaagu sidee ayuu yahay?* (FG! **jiru** *yihiin*)

ama qaab-keliyeed

Oromoon loon jaallata. *Oromadu hilib ayaa ay jecel yihiin.* (FG! **jaallata** *jecel yahay*)

Existential clauses

Haddii uu khabarku waa hal magac oo keliya:

Kuni mana.	*Kani waa guri.*
Inni Bilisaa.	*Isagu waa Bilisaa.*

Haddii uu magacu ku dhammaado shibbane, waa in lagu daro qurubka **–i** *weeye*.
… looni

Haddii uu magacu ku dhammaado shaqal dheer, waa lagu dari karaa qurubka **dha** *weeye*.

Abbaan koo barsiisaa dha.	*Aabbahay bare weeye. / Aabbahay waa bare.*
Ani Tulluu dha.	*Anigu Tulluu ayaan ahay.*

Haddii uu khabarku waa sifo oo keliya ama magac iyo sifo, waa in lagu daro qurubka **dha** *weeye*.

Ishiin gaarii dha.	*Iyadu waa ay fiican tahay.*
Kuni mana aarii dha.	Kani waa guri wanaagsan.

Haddii uu khabarku waa laba magac oo uu midka labaad yahay faahfaahiye ka koowaad, waa in lagu daro qurubka **–ti** *weeye*.

Manni barumsaa burqaa beekumsaati. *Dugsigu waa il-aqooneed (isha aqoonta).*

Barnoonni <u>hundee guddinaati</u>. *Waxbarashadu waa asalka horumarinta.*
Ani Turaa, <u>hiriyaa Tulluuti</u>. *Waxaan ahay Turaa, Tulluu saaxiibkiis.*
Ati <u>obboleettii Tulluutii</u>? *Ma waxaad tahay Tulluu walaashiis?* (shaqal dheer = weydiin)

Sidoo kale magacuyaallada lahaansheed ka dib:
Kuni <u>obboleessa kooti</u>. *Kani waa walaalkay.*
Inni <u>abbaa kooti</u>. *Isagu waa aabbahay.*

Diidmo

Kuni mana miti.	*Kani guri ma aha.*
Kuni mana aarii miti.	Kani guri wanaagsan ma aha.

Afguriga magaalada Harar waxa uu leeyahay qaab lab oo gaar ah:

Weeraha jiritaanka iyo joogitaanka

Jira is used in the present tense only.
Tulluun mana jiraa?
Lakki, Tulluun mana hin jiru.
Inni hojii jira.
Biyya kam jirta? 'In which country do you live?';
Eennyu mana jira? 'Who is at home?';

The verb **ture** is used for the past and the verb **tahe** for the future.

Questions

aa[9] *qw-suf* is it? [long vowel marking a question] **O** Eenyuutu ayyaneffataa? 'Who is the one to celebrate it?', Kamitu qajeela dhaa? 'So which one is correct?' [G§16.1J
ree *qW-SUf* question SUffix «-re'» [G§16.1]
ii[4] *qw-suf* is it? [long vowel marking a question] **O** Irdii Goshuu ni beektanfl? 'Do you know Irdi Goshu?' [G§16.1]

Shaqal dheer
Ati <u>obboleettii Tulluutii</u>? *Ma waxaad tahay Tulluu walaashiis?*

eessa
Eessa deemta? *Halkee ayaad tagaysaa?*

Conjunctions

immoo / –mmoo *sidoo kale, -ba (but, again, furthermore; however; and*
This clitic marks contrastive emphasis. It shortens any preceding long vowel.

guurummoo < guuruu + (i)mmoo

fi / –ffi / –f *iyo, oo, -na*
This clitic lengthens a preceding short vowel.

tokkoof *one and* < tokko + –f

–s *sidoo kale, -ba (and, also, too, likewise)*
This clitic is sometimes preceded by a long vowel. If necessary, it is preceded by an epenthetic **–i–**.

kunis *this too*

fuulduraafis *for the future too*

Erayo kale

Kanaafuu ishiin gargaara. *Taas darteed ayaan caawiyaa iyada.*

Asyndetic VP coordination

No conjucntion, only final vowel lengthening in the first VP.

Fakkiilee ilaalii jechoota dubbisi. *Fiiri sawirrada oo akhri erayada.*

Himoota armaan gadii dubbisii barreessi. *Weeraha halkan hoos ku jira akhri oo qor.*

Asyndetic constructions may also express the temporal order of events, or the effect of one event on the other (cause and effect)

Isiin nyaata bitee haa deebitu. *Let her buy food and return. ?? She has bought the food, let her return. ?? Give her some time, she'll be back as soon as she has bought some food.*

Kitaaba dubbisee rafa. *He read the book and (now) he sleeps.*

Oggaa hundi saani deeman haati Tulluu mana qulqulleessitee boodas suuqii deemti.
When all of them had left, Tulluu cleaned the house and then she goes to the shop.

Zorc says this is a clitic conjunction ee that marks verb coordination without regard to tense or mood (Zorc &). Banti doesn't discuss these forms, but he glosses them CNV (converb) (Banti &).

Subordinate clauses

Temporal subclauses

yeroo *when* (literally: *time*)

Yeroo deebite dhiyaana qopheessiti. *When she has returned she prepares lunch.*

oggaa

Oggaa taaksiin dhufu Tulluunis keessa gala. *When the taxi arrives, Tulluu then gets inside.*

akkuma + –VV**n** (inistirumeentalka)

Akkuma taaksiin ka'uun, Tulluun otobusii dhufuu arga.

As the taxi sets off, Tulluu sees a bus arrive.

Inta uu tagsigu meesha ka tagayo waxa uu Tulluu arkayaa bas oo imanaya.

SUBJUNCTIVE-VV **boodas** *after (having)*

Dhiqatanii boodas bultee nyaatu. *After having washed themselves, the eat breakfast.*

Causal subclauses

waan MASDAR–f

Ammoo Tulluun yeroodhaan barnoota saatiif yuniversitii waan ga'uuf gammada.

Tulluu is also happy becasue he arrives (for the sake of arriving) to university in time for his lecture.

Background subclauses ???

otoo

Amma otobusiin tokko dhufa, garuu otoo ((hin dhaabatin)) dabra.

Now one bus arrives, but it passes by without stopping.

Accusative with infinitive

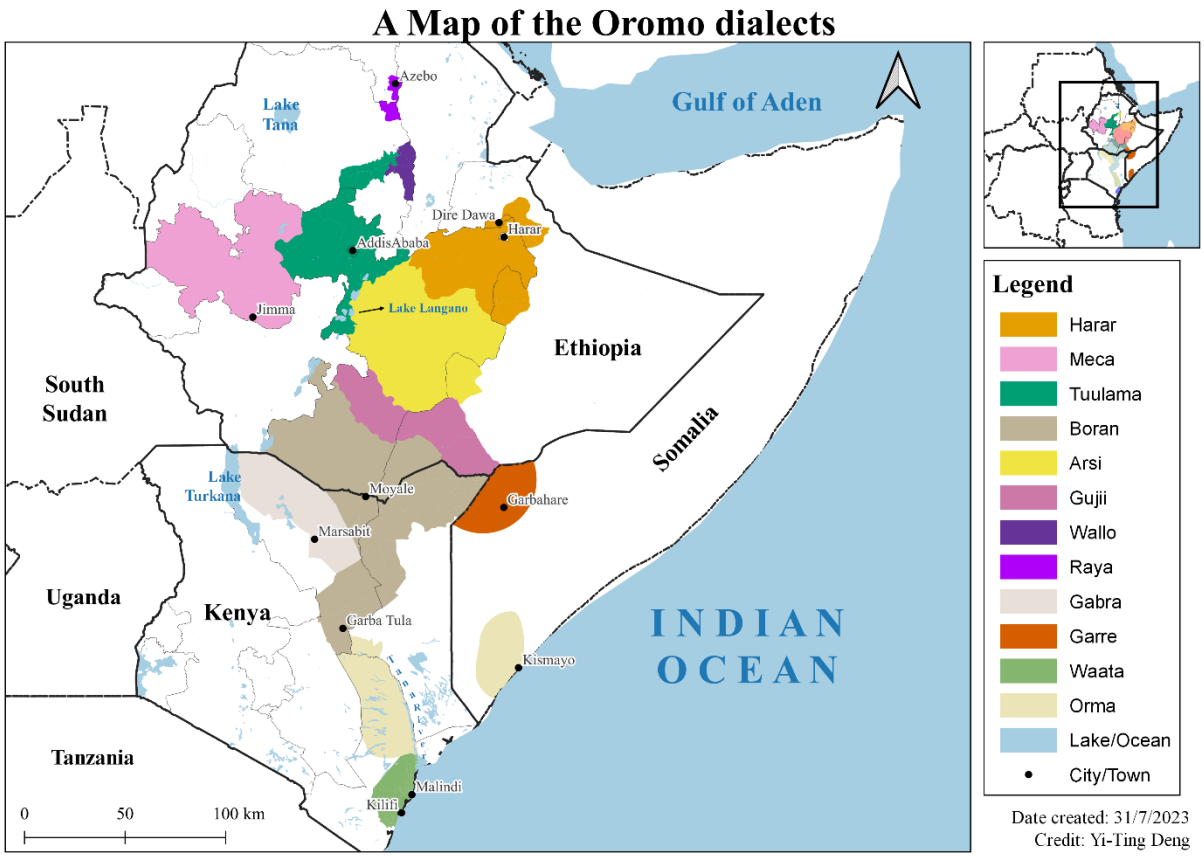
Before verbs expressing seeing (**arga**) etc., the direct object may be accomapnied by an inifitive form that expresses what the object is doing.

Akkuma taaksiin ka'uun, Tulluun <u>otobusii dhufuu</u> arga.

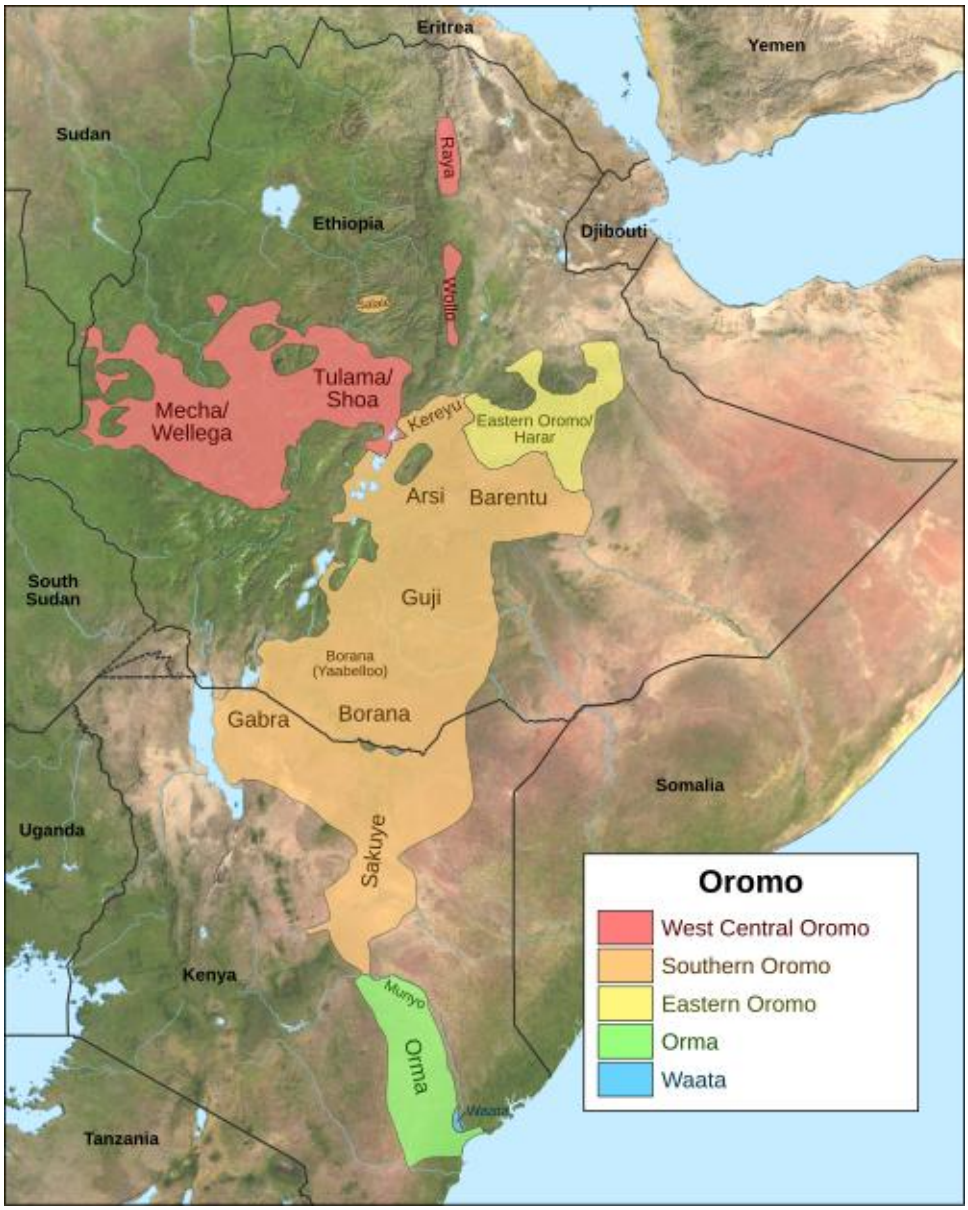
As the taxi sets off, Tulluu sees <u>a bus arrive</u>.

Inta uu tagsigu meesha ka tagayo waxa uu Tulluu arkayaa <u>bas oo imanaya</u>.

Dialects



Source: https://languageprofiles.ca/home/oromo/



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Money

1 qarshii	=	2 shilingii	=	10 faraankaa	=	100 saantima
		1 shilingi	=	5 faraankaa	=	50 saantima
				1 faraanka	=	10 saantima

References

Bijiga, Teferi Degeneh. 2015. *The Development of Oromo Writing System*. Canterbury: University of Kent (Doctoral dissertation). https://kar.kent.ac.uk/52387/ (18 Dec 2025).

Ali, Mohamed & Andrzej Zaborski. 1990. *Handbook of the Oromo Language.* Wrocław: Polska Akademia Nauk.

Gragg, Gene. 1976. Oromo of Wellegga. In M. Lionel Bender (ed.), *The non-Semitic language of Ethiopia*, 166-195. Michigan: Michigan State University Press.

Griefenow-Mewis, Catherine & Tamene Bitima. 1994. *Lehrbuch des Oromo.* Köln: Rüdiger Köppe.

Griefenow-Mewis, Catherine. 2001. *A grammatical sketch of written Oromo*. Köln: Rüdiger Köppe.

Tucho, Yigazu, R. David Zorc, and Eleanor C. Barna. 1996. *Oromo newspaper reader, grammar sketch, and lexicon*. Kensington, MD: Dunwoody Press.