
19. ARTICLE

19.1. Argobba has no special morpheme for the indefinite article.
19.2. The definite article has different forms for masculine and feminine singular nouns. For plural nouns there is only one form for the definite article.

For masculine singular nouns ending in a consonant, the definite article is -u; e.g., ሎድ ‘house’: ሎድ-መ ‘the house’.

For nouns ending in a vowel other than -i, the definite article is -መ; thus, ከማ ‘road’: ከማ-መ ‘the road’; ትርጏጎ ‘drinking glass’: ትርጏጎ-መ ‘the drinking glass’; ድሪ ‘fruit’: ድሪ-መ ‘the fruit’ (but see also below).

For nouns ending in -i, the definite article is -ዯመ or -መ, that is, -መ preceded by a semivowel ይ, ወ; e.g., ታጏ ‘sheep’: ታጏ-ዯመ, ታጏ-መ ‘the sheep’.

A semivowel ይ is likewise intercalated in a form such as ይ-ስሬሬሱ-መ-ን ሎድ ‘the house that you bought’ (lit. ‘that-you-bought-it-ን house’).

19.2.1. The article for feminine singular nouns is -መ ‘the woman’.
19.2.2. The article for plural, masculine or feminine nouns, is -መ placed after the plural marker (see 21.1); e.g., ሱ ‘man’: ሱ-ቷ-መ ‘the men’; ሮስቃ ‘woman’: ሮስቃ-ቷ-መ ‘the women’.

The morphemes -መ, and -መ serve also as nominal suffix pronouns of the 3d person, masculine -መ ‘his’, feminine -መ ‘her’ (see 28.1.1). The same morphemes are used in Amharic.

For the article in the other Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, pp. 44-45.

19.3. The article is placed before the morpheme -መ of the direct complement; e.g., እሬ እጏ ትርጏጎ-መ-ን ሱስሬሬሱ-ተ ‘this girl broke the drinking glass’ (lit. ‘this girl glass-መ [direct object] she-broke-it’). Note the object suffix pronouns with the verb referring to the direct object (22.3).
19.4. If the noun is qualified by an adjective, a relative clause or a qualifier-qualified complex, the article is placed after the qualifier. Examples: läham-u *bed the big house*; od bā-ğed-yā yā-halla-w *su man ne? ‘who is that man behind me?’ (lit. ‘that behind-me who-is-the man who he-is?’); bā-bed-yā yālella-w-ən tawra šerrəhiy ‘buy me the objects that are not in my house’ (lit. ‘in-my-house that-is-not-the-n object[s] buy-for-me’); bāmmimāt-u (for bā-əmmimāt-u) amāt hud *bed näham yəhonāl ‘this house will be big next year’ (lit. ‘in-that-will-come-the year this house big it-will-be’); yāngus-u *bed the king’s house* (lit. ‘of-the-king house’); yāšum-u- n *bed gāhare ‘he built the chief’s house’ (lit. ‘of-the-chief-n house he-built-it’).

With a relative clause without an antecedent; e.g., yā-halla-w haw-ənī ‘give me what there is!’ (lit. ‘that-is-the give-me!’).

19.5. The article is also used with various kinds of pronouns: e.g., ənna-w *binna əssanān ‘we quarreled with one another’ (lit. ‘we-the with-we we-quarreled’); yedənəna-w fārāz ne? ‘which horse is it?’ (lit. ‘which-the horse it-is?’); tā-bāqlo-č- u yedənəna-w-ən ʃetk-e? ‘which one of the mules did you sell?’ (lit. ‘of-the-mules which-the-n did-you-sell-it?’); bimāt-əmm baymātəmm hud-ən ne ‘whether he comes or whether he does not come, it is the same’ (lit. ‘if-he-comes if-he-does-not-come the-same it-is’); bā-hud-ən qaṣa ‘on this day’ (lit. ‘on-this-the day’); handhandacč-u bābāre yiṣəṭāllu ‘some (or ‘the ones’) sell pepper’ (lit. ‘some-the pepper they-sell’).

19.5.1. With the distributive element or with the distributive complex. Examples: hand hand-u māṭaʃ ‘each book’; läyyā (for lä-āyyā) fārāsač-u āṣīt āṣīt haw-em ‘give a little to each of the horses!’ , or ‘to each horse’ (lit. ‘to-each horses-the a-little a-little give-them’); bāyyā (for bā-āyyā) qaṣa- u wādā tāmari bēd ṭahedēllah? ‘do you go to school every day?’ (lit. ‘in-each day-the to school you- go?’).

19.5.2. The article may be used with some adverbs: e.g., əcogə-w *andā-modə ‘as soon as he died’ (cp. Amharic wādiya-w andā-motā).

19.6. The use of the definite article in Argobba does not always parallel its use with English. Thus, bā-gābāta səlbāl lihanğ-ənī māṭta ‘he came to see me when I was eating at the table’ (lit. ‘at table’); wādā bed sigāb wāhazī ‘they caught him when he entered the house’ (lit. ‘entered house’); tā-hema tāmmellāsə (for tā-əmm mellāsa) čoga alhanğuhu ‘I haven’t seen him since he returned from the trip’ (lit. ‘from trip’).

As in Amharic, the article is used mainly with reference to a previously mentioned noun. Otherwise the noun appears without the article and can be rendered with ‘a’ or ‘the’; e.g., yā-halle bed mans nād ‘the house that he has is small’ (lit. ‘that-is-to-him house small she-is’).

1 For the feminine expressing smallness, see 20.4.
20. GENDER

20.1. The masculine-feminine treatment is normally not marked by a gender marker attached to the noun. Gender distinction is indicated by the definite article, the demonstrative pronoun, the verb referring to the noun, or by a special gender specifier. Examples: aškār-u ‘the he-servant’; aškār-wa ‘the she-servant’; lāg-u ‘the boy’; lāg-wa ‘the girl’; hud lāg ‘this boy’; huy lāg ‘this girl’.

The feminine marker, whenever indicated, is -(a)d, -it; e.g., āh ‘brother’; šēd ‘sister’; mis ‘husband’; mast ‘wife’; ākāle ‘so-and-so’; fem. ākālid; aroge ‘old’: fem. arogit; hand ‘one’: fem. handid.

For the feminine marker -t used in the various Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, p. 41.

Some nouns with a feminine marker have no corresponding masculine; e.g., qamānd ‘daughter-in-law’.

20.2. Argobba has also gender specifiers for the male and female sex of human beings and animals. The specifiers for human beings are: wänd for males, ēnāšča for females; e.g., wänd(a)d lāg ‘boy’: ēnāšča lāg ‘girl’.

The specifiers for animals are: wänd or awra for males, ēnāšča for females. Examples: wänd ahɔyya ‘he-donkey’: ēnāšča ahɔyya ‘she-donkey; awra doro ‘cock’. ēnāšča doro ‘hen’.

For the gender specifiers in the various Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, p. 41.

20.3. The differentiation between males and females in reference to specific human beings or animals is often expressed by different lexical items. Thus, su ‘man’ (also ‘human being’): ēnāšča ‘woman’; aw ‘father’: ēmmt ‘mother’; amme ‘paternal uncle’: āwahəd ‘paternal aunt’; hara ‘ox’; ləm ‘cow’; fārās ‘horse’: bazra ‘mare’.

20.4. The feminine marker may be used to expresses smallness; e.g., yā-halle bed mansa nād ‘the house that he has is small’ (lit. ‘that-is-to-him house small she-is’; note the feminine nād ‘she is’ referring to the small house).

21. PLURAL

21.1. Noun plurals, both masculine and feminine, are formed by suffixing -č (if the noun ends in a vowel) or -ač (if the noun ends in a consonant). Examples: bed ‘house’: pl. bed-ač; fāyyāl ‘goat’: pl. fāyyāl-ač; gameša ‘camel’: pl. gameša-č; bāqlo ‘mule’: pl. bāqlo-č; bāgi ‘sheep’: pl. bāgi-č; amole ‘bar of salt’: pl. amole-č; hərtu ‘strong’: pl. hərtu-č.

1 In the [A] dialect the gender marker is also expressed by -ičči for the masculine, and iti for the feminine; e.g., lāg-ičći əččawwät ‘the boy played’; lāg-iti əččawwätăčč ‘the girl played’ (Survey, p.9).
On the basis of Amharic -očč it is quite possible that the plural marker of Argobba is -ačč, with geminated č, but in final position the gemination is hardly audible.

The article is placed after the plural marker; e.g., aškär-ačč-u¹ 'the servants'.

With a double plural: su 'man': pl. su-č (with the regular plural marker) and su-ačč (with the addition of -ač by analogy with enoščač 'women'); loğ 'child': pl. loğ-ačč and loğ-ačč-očč.

The plural morpheme -ač is also used in Gafat, Harari, and occasionally in Soddo. The affricate -č is found in Amharic, and Soddo -očč, and in Selți, Wolane, Zway -čč. For more details on the plural marker, see Gafat, p. 42.

21.2. The morpheme of the plural is also used with adjectives, pronouns, and relative qualifiers; e.g., beru-č 'strong' (pl.); lela-č su 'other people' (note that the noun su 'man' has no plural marker; see 21.4.); handhand-ačč-u 'the ones'; wäddä gäbbäta yämmyldëddannà-čč-u ënna nänna² 'it is we who will go to the market' (lit. 'to market who-we-go-the we we-are'; note the plural marker -ačč with the relative verb yämmyldëddanna).

21.3. When the noun is preceded by an adjective, both the noun and the adjective may have the plural marker; e.g., läham(ac) su-čč-ač bā-hud kätäma hallu 'there are important people in this city' (lit. 'important people in-this city there-are').

When the noun is preceded by a quantifier (such as a numeral or 'many, how many?'), the noun may be used in the singular, or the plural. Examples: sost qarš 'three thalers'; ket qäna wäy sost qäna 'two days or three days'; sost aškär-ačč 'three servants'; ket zärr-ačč 'two rivers'; bā-gäbbäydä nëbbur su halla 'there are many people at the market'; nëbbur leba-č 'many thieves'; ayy-emm ägğeg wädağač halluññ 'as for me, I have many friends', but also bā-bed ägğeg su ałëmbära 'there were not many people in the house'; sënt amäd 'how many years?', but also sënt aškär-ačč 'how many servants?'.

21.4. In general the plural marker with the noun is optional; e.g., handhand su or handhand su-č 'certain people'; lelač su 'other people'.

A collective is expressed by the singular; e.g., bā-gäbbäyä yā-hallu sučč-ač näggade nem 'the people who are at the market are merchants' (lit. 'at-market who-are people merchant they-are').

21.5. Plurality may also be expressed by the element ënnä-. When followed by a proper noun, it may have the meaning 'X and his followers'; e.g., ënnä täklä maryam 'Täklä Maryam and his followers'.

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1 The geminated čč is marked only in intervocalic position.

2 Occasionally I recorded nänna.
With parts of speech other than the noun: ēnnāma ‘who?’ (plural), that is, ēnnā with the interrogative ma; or ēnnakum ‘you’ (pl.) from ēnnā and ank ‘you’ (sg.). The element ēnnā is used in nearly all the Ethiopian languages (see Gafat, p. 43).

22. DIRECT OBJECT

22.1. If the direct object is a pronoun, it is expressed by the object suffix pronouns; e.g., gāddāle ‘he killed him’.

22.2. If the direct object is an indefinite noun, it has no special marker. Its function as a direct object becomes clear because of its position in the sentence. Indeed, the normal order of the sentence is: subject-object-verb. Example: māgadač-yā diy-yumm qawi wīzdāmuy (from wāhaza) māṭtu ‘all my relatives brought butter’ (lit. ‘my-relatives all butter they-taking-it they-came’).

22.3. If the direct object is a definite noun, determined either by the article or by a possessive pronoun, it takes the suffixed element -n after a vowel, -ən after a consonant.1 In this case the direct object may be placed at the beginning of the sentence and the verb will have a resumptive object suffix pronoun. Examples: bàrr-u-n atākfāt-e ‘don’t open the door’ (lit. ‘door-the-n don’t-open-it’); tä-ṭewwah ansedo astā-mušed-dorās bāgi-yu-n yəzorel ‘he looks for the sheep from morning until evening’ (lit. ‘from-morning he-beginning until-evening sheep-the-n he-looks-for-it’); äh-yā-n yā-nākkāse wəšša hudinna ‘here is the dog that bit my brother’ (lit. ‘my-brother-n that-he-bit-him dog here-it-is’); huyotte-n lōg hanqohá ‘I saw this girl’2 (lit. ‘this-n girl I-saw-her’); aw-u sayhed lōg-u-n mārrāqe ‘the father blessed his son before leaving’ (lit. ‘the-father while-he-doesn’t-leave his-son-n he-blessed-him’); tä-bāqločč-u yedənñaw-ən šēkte ‘which one of the mules did you sell?’ (lit. ‘of-the-mules which-n did-you-sell-it?’).

For the expression of the direct object in the various Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, p. 48.

22.4. Direct object with pronouns: man-ne hud-ən fārās alhawk-aññ-u ‘why didn’t you give me this horse?’ (lit. ‘what-is-it this-ən horse you-did-not-give-me?’); kəssu mann-ən māhaṭa ‘whom did he hit?’ (lit. ‘he who-ən he-hit?’); mannəmm bihon hud-ən lā-māmāññid yəčəlāl ‘anyone can do this’ (lit. ‘whoever if-it-is this-ən to-do he-can’).

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1 The only element that follows the marker -n is the enclitic -mm: e.g., hand-āmmu-n-əmm alzoremm ‘I don’t want any of them’ (lit. ‘any-of-them-n indeed I-don’t-want-them’).

2 Note that lōg is rendered here ‘girl’ because of the feminine demonstrative huyotte.
With a verb of movement or direction: e.g., dagät-u-n șəwāt attəruṯ ‘don’t run when you go up the uphill slope’ (lit. ‘the-uphill-slope-n when-you-go-up don’t-run’).

22.5. Occasionally the element -n is found even though the direct object is not determined; e.g., ẓəb-an əndā-hangā fārra ‘as soon as he saw a hyena he became afraid’ (lit. ‘hyena-n as-soon-as-he-saw he-became-afraid’).

22.6. If the direct object is qualified by an adjective, demonstrative, complement of possession or a relative clause, the element -n is placed after the qualifier. As mentioned above, the verb has most normally the object suffix pronouns referring to the direct object. Examples: hud-ən bərčeqqo ɣā-sābbārē ɔmən łāg ne? ‘which boy is it who broke this glass?’ (lit. ‘this-n glass who-broke-it which boy he-is?’); yedənḥa-w-ən kərəčča ne źaməttəčine? ‘which saddle will you load?’ (lit. ‘which-the-n saddle it-is that-you-will-load-it?’); ɣə-ʃum-u-n bed gāhare ‘he built the chief’s house’ (lit. ‘of-the-chief-n house he-built-it’); lāḥam-u-n bed ləmən ʂəṭke ‘why did you sell the big house?’ (lit. ‘big-the-n house why did-you-sell-it?’); ɣə-ʃərrəkə-ʃu-u-nd bəsəṇgəṇ-ən ‘show me the house that you bought!’ (lit. ‘that-you-bought-it-the-n house show-me’); dunya yāmmiggənŋaw-ən (for yāmma-yəggənŋaw-ən) saṭən ązorelluh ‘I look for the box where the money is to be found’ (lit. ‘money that-is-to-be-found-in-it-n box I-look-for-it’).

22.7. The particle -n is also used in adverbial or circumstantial expressions; e.g. hod-ən gəże ‘then’ (lit. ‘that-n time’); əy bəčča-yə-n nən ‘I am alone’ (lit. ‘I in-my-aloneness-n I-am’); nāg hud-ən gəzet na ‘come tomorrow at the same time!’ (lit. ‘this-n time come!’). Preceded by a preposition and followed by -n in bā-wod-ən gəzet ‘at that time’; to derivative (from tā-wod-ən) qāna čuğa ‘since that day’.

23. INDIRECT OBJECT

23.1. The indirect object is generally expressed by the preposition lā attached to the noun or pronoun. Examples: aškār-yā lā-bāqlo-wa āɡqeq sir hawaya ‘my servant gave much grass to the mule’ (lit. ‘my-servant to-the-mule much grass he-gave-her’); tamay lāhayā (for lā-āh-ayā) kət bāqlo hawku ‘yesterday I gave two mules to my brother’ (lit. ‘yesterday to-my-brother two mule[s] I-gave’).

23.2. Certain verbs may add the direct object suffix pronouns to express an indirect object even if the indirect object is already present in the sentence; e.g., min-ne hud-ən fārās lāy (for lā-āy) alhawk-ən ‘why didn’t you give me this horse?’ where -ən of alhawk-ən expresses the indirect object (lit. ‘why-is-it this-ən horse to-me you-did-not-give-me?’). Note that in this sentence lāy may also be omitted.

For the expression of the indirect object in the various Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, p. 51.
24. COMPLEMENT OF POSSESSION

24.1. The complement of possession rendered by ‘of’ is expressed by yä+ possessor. The yä+possessor structure functions as a qualifier and as such it precedes the possessed object. Examples: yä-wädaŋ-âyärás ‘my friend’s horse’ (lit. ‘of-my-friend horse’); yä-balagår wëšša aynäksu ‘the dog of the countryside does not bite’ (lit. ‘of-countryside dog he-does-not-bite’).

yä+possessor occurs in all the South Ethiopian languages except in Harari. For Harari and the other Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, p. 48.

Example for yä+pronoun: hud kitāb yä-man ne ‘whose is this book?’ (lit. ‘this book of-who is-it?’).

24.2. If yä+possessor is a predicate it may also be rendered by ‘it belongs to’: e.g., bä-gëbëta-w lef yä-halla-w kitāb yäḥyu (for yä-åh-âyä) ne ‘the book that is on the table belongs to my brother’ (lit. ‘on-the-table [on] that-is-the book of-my-brother it-is’); hud bed yawyä (for yä-aw-yä) ne ‘this house belongs to my father’ (lit. ‘this house of-my-father it-is’).

24.3. If the complement of possession is preceded by a preposition, the element yä- of possession is omitted; e.g., tämäy bä-wädaŋ-âyärás aräggäzkü ‘yesterday I rode on my friend’s horse’ (lit. ‘yesterday on-[of] -my-friend horse I-rode’); bä-krämä (for bä-yä-krämt) wäräh ‘at the month of the rainy season’ (lit. ‘at-[of]-rainy-season month’); tähyu (for tä-yä-åh-âyä) wädaŋ mäś wädä ḡäbüya ḡëkkw (for ḡedk”) ‘I went to the market with my brother’s friend’ (lit. ‘with-[of]-my-brother friend [with] to market I-went’).

In the contact of the vowel -ä of yä- and of the initial vowel of the noun, various kinds of elision occur. Thus, ä-ä > ä, as in yähiyä (for yä-āhiyä ‘of my brother’); ä-a > a as in yawyä (for yä-awyä) ‘of my father’ (see 14.1; 14.2).

24.4. If the complement of possession is qualified by an adjective or a demonstrative, the element yä- is placed before the adjective; e.g., yä-hud mändär bedać ‘the houses of this village’ (lit. ‘of-this village houses’); yä-lela su bäqlø ahekku (for ahed-ku) ‘I took the mule of another man’ (lit. ‘of-another man mule I-took’).

24.5. If the possessor-possessed complex is determined, the yä+possessor takes the article; e.g., yä-ngus-u bed tä-hud ägger rëhuq ne ‘the king’s house is very far from here’ (lit. ‘of-the-king house from-this very far it-is’). For tä-hud ‘from here’, lit. ‘from this’, see 29.6.

24.6. As in Amharic, the yä+noun structure has various meanings, such as ‘something made for, place where a commodity is sold, expression of time and duration’, and so on. I only recorded the phrases yä-bråd mätåd ‘a griddle made of iron’, yä-
bār ḍĭrṣqqa ‘a drinking glass made of silver’. For more details on the usages of yā, see Amharic, pp. 198-201.

25. ADJECTIVE

25.1. There are few primary adjectives in Argobba of the type wəgər ‘good’, dāg ‘good’, ḍagəs ‘new’, lāham ‘big’. Most adjectives are derived from nouns, verbs, adverbs, and so on. Are derived from verbs adjectives such as bərtu ‘strong’, ṭənkərra ‘strong’. From nouns: səssət-am ‘avaricious’, habt-am ‘wealthy’, and others.

25.2. An adjective is occasionally formed by the relative marker yā+verb. Examples: mənəmm-ənkw’a həgg yā-ṭəbbāqa bihon (for bə-yəhon) bā-hud ge bəzu lebač hallu ‘even though the law is strict there are many thieves in this country’ (lit. ‘even-though [the]-law that-was-strict if-it-is in-this country many thieves there-are’); bā-wad bəmbəra (for bə-əmbəra)-gəzet yā-bərātta zənəb təhala ‘when he was in the forest a violent rain fell’ (lit. ‘in-[the]-forest when-he-was that-was-violent rain fell’); yämminät amät ‘next year’ (lit. ‘that-comes year’).

25.3. Adjectives, like any other qualifier, precede the nouns; e.g., lāham bed ‘a big house’.

25.3.1. If an adjective-noun complex is definite, the article is placed after the adjective; e.g., lāham-u bed ‘the big house’ (lit. ‘big-the house’).

25.3.2. If a noun has the plural marker, its adjective may also have the plural marker; e.g., lāhamač (or lāham) su-čč-ač bā-hud kätama hallu ‘there are important people in this city’ (lit. ‘big people in-this city there-are’).

25.3.3. In an adjective-noun complex, possessive suffix pronouns are attached to the noun; e.g., nāham bed-u ‘his big house’ (lit. ‘big his-house’).

25.3.4. If the complement of possession is qualified by an adjective, the element yā- is placed before the adjective; e.g., yā-lāham-u su bāqlo ahekku (for ahedku) ‘I took the mule of the important man’ (lit. ‘of-important-the man mule I-took’).

25.3.5. The marker -n of the direct object is attached to the adjective; e.g., lāham-u-n bed afārräsa ‘he demolished the big house’ (lit. ‘big-the-n house he-demolished’).

For the adjective of insistence ‘my own, his own’, and so on, see 28.6; 28.6.1.
26. INDEPENDENT PERSONAL PRONOUN

26.1. The forms of the independent personal pronoun are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>1st c.</th>
<th>äy(y) 'I'*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2d m.</td>
<td>ank 'you'**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2d f.</td>
<td>anč 'you'***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3d m.</td>
<td>kəssu 'he'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3d f.</td>
<td>kəssa 'she'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pl.</th>
<th>1st c.</th>
<th>ənna 'we'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2d c.</td>
<td>ənnakum 'you'****</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For the 1st person possessive pronoun, see 26.2. The element y of the 1st person also occurs in Čaha, Ennemor əya, Masqan əyya, Zway əya. The 3d m. is composed of kəss- (from kərs- probably from kärs, kāss 'stomach') with the suffix pronoun -u 'his'. The form kəssa 'she' is strange since one would expect kəsswə. For the personal pronouns in the Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, p. 53.

**For ank in the meaning of a vocative, see 119. An element -k for the 2d masc. sg. also appears in Tna. nass-əka 'you', Har. aka-k, Č. M. En. a-ka, Ms. a-ḥā, So. dā-ḥā. In all these languages -k(a) is the suffix pronoun of the 2d masc. sg. The situation may be the same in Argobba.

***From anki.

****Also ənnakum. One would expect ənnank, that is, ənnä-ank (sg. 2d masc.), a structure that occurs in Amharic ənnantä, that is, ənnä-antä.

For the personal pronoun, see also 120.2; 139.3.

26.2. The personal pronoun preceded by yä 'of' expresses possession. The forms are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>1st c.</th>
<th>yəy or yəyyo 'my'*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2d m.</td>
<td>yank 'your'***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2d f.</td>
<td>yanč 'your'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3d m.</td>
<td>yākəssu 'his'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3d f.</td>
<td>yākəssa 'her'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pl.</th>
<th>1st c.</th>
<th>yənna 'our'**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2d c.</td>
<td>yənnakum 'your'**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3d c. yākəssäm 'their'

*With a preceding yä (and also with a preposition such as bā, tā) the form of the 1st person seems to be ay, əyyo (as against äy) so that yä-ay, yä-əyyo results in yəy, yəyyo; also bəyyo
bed ‘in my house’ (for bā-yyyo), təyyo mās ‘with you’ (for tā-yyyo). Note that within Argobba ə alternates with ā (see 12.2).

**Here again ā-ə results in ə (yənna ‘our’ for yā-ənna; yənnakum ‘your’ for yā-ənnakum). This is not the case in Amharic where ã-ə results in ā, as in yāssu ‘his’ for yā-əssu.

***The combination ã-ə results in a as in yank (from yā-ank) ‘your’ (masc.), yanč (from yā-āntc) ‘your’ (fem.). The situation is the same in Amharic.

26.3. The complex yā+ personal pronoun may be either a possessive adjective or a possessive pronoun. Examples: yəyyo bed nāham ne ‘my house is big’ (lit. ‘of-I house big it-is); hud māsob yank ahunemyu ‘this basket is not yours’ (lit. ‘this basket of-you it-is-not’); aw yəyyo ne ‘yes, it is mine’ (lit. ‘yes of-I it-is’); hud bed yā-kəssäm ne ‘this house is theirs’ (lit. ‘this house of-they it-is’).

The complex of possession may be preceded by a preposition. In this case the particle yā is omitted; e.g., bā-kəssu bed ‘in his house’ instead of bā-yā-kəssu bed.

26.4. The repetition of a personal pronoun in the plural, the 2d occurrence being preceded by bā- ‘with’, serves for the expression of reciprocity. Examples: kəssäm bā-kəssäm əssanu ‘they quarreled with one another’; ənna-w binna (for bā-ənna) əssanən ‘we quarreled with one another’; ənnakum binnakum (for bā-ənnakum) əssankum ‘you quarreled with one another’.*

*For the combination ã-ə becoming i (as in binna for bā-ənna), see 14.3.

26.4.1. Reciprocity may also be expressed by the personal pronoun in the singular followed by bā+the singular of the same person with nominal suffix pronouns (for which see 28.1). Examples: kəss bā-kəss-əmmu (also ārs bārəs-əmmu) əssammu ‘they were mutually reconciled’; kəss bā-kəss-əmmo tākafāli ‘share it among ourselves!’; ārs bārəs-əmmo əssanən ‘we quarreled with one another’.

Note that in all the examples the verb is in the tā-C type (see 61.1).

27. PRONOUN OF INSISTENCE

27.1. The pronoun of insistence ‘I myself, he himself’, and so on, is expressed by the personal pronoun followed by the noun nābs ‘soul’ or dəmah ‘head’ with the corresponding possessive pronouns. Note that the noun nābs or dəmah may be preceded by the preposition bā ‘with’. Examples: āy nābs-e (or bā-nābs-e) or dəmah-e (or bā-dəmah-e) əmtəlluh ‘I shall come myself’, lit. ‘I my-soul (or with my soul) or my head (or with my head) I-shall-come’; bā-nābs-u əfaqad mānəndul ‘he did it of his own accord’ (lit. ‘with -(of)-his-soul will he-did’).
### 28.1.1. With nouns ending in a consonant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>1st c.</th>
<th>-(ə)yä, -e</th>
<th>Pl.</th>
<th>1st c.</th>
<th>-ənno, -hinno</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2d m.</td>
<td>-ah</td>
<td></td>
<td>2d c.</td>
<td>-əhu(m)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d f.</td>
<td>-ih</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d m.</td>
<td>-u</td>
<td></td>
<td>3d c.</td>
<td>-āmmu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d f.</td>
<td>-wa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 28.1.2. With nouns ending in a vowel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>1st c.</th>
<th>-yä</th>
<th>Pl.</th>
<th>1st c.</th>
<th>-nno</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2d m.</td>
<td>-h, -ha (after a), -wah, -ha (after o, u), -yah, -ha (after i, e)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2d c.</td>
<td>-hu(m)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d f.</td>
<td>-ih, -hi (after a), -wih, -hi (after o, u), -yih, -hi (after i, e)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d m.</td>
<td>-w</td>
<td></td>
<td>3d c.</td>
<td>-mmu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d f.</td>
<td>-wa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the suffix pronouns of the other Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, p. 57-58.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bed ‘house’</th>
<th>gamela ‘camel’</th>
<th>bäqlo ‘mule’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sg. 1st c.</td>
<td>bed-syä, bed-e</td>
<td>gamela-yä</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d m.</td>
<td>bed-ah</td>
<td>gamela-h, gamela-ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d f.</td>
<td>bed-ih</td>
<td>gamela-yih, gamela-hi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d m.</td>
<td>bed-u</td>
<td>gamela-w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d f.</td>
<td>bed-wa</td>
<td>gamela-wa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pl. 1st c.</td>
<td>bed-ənno</td>
<td>gamela-nno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d c.</td>
<td>bed-əhu(m)</td>
<td>gamela-hu(m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d c.</td>
<td>bed-āmmu</td>
<td>gamela-μmu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bägi ‘sheep’</th>
<th>amole ‘bar of salt’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sg. 1st c.</td>
<td>bägi-yä</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d m.</td>
<td>bägi-‘yah, bägi-ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d f.</td>
<td>bägi-yih, bägi-hi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d m.</td>
<td>bägi-w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d f.</td>
<td>bägi-wa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pl. 1st c.</td>
<td>bägi-nno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d c.</td>
<td>bägi-hu(m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d c.</td>
<td>bägi-μmu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

28.2. In an adjective-noun complex, it is the noun that takes the suffix pronouns; e.g., näham bed-u ‘his large house’.
41. BASIC STEM. TRIRADICALS

41.1. Based on the vocalic structure and on the absence or presence of gemination of the 2d radical, the verb has three types: A, B, and C. Regardless of the type, the 2d radical is always geminated in the perfect, and the vowel of the 3d radical is a in the perfect, 3d person, masculine, singular\(^1\). For the biradicals, see 72 and following.

Type A, sábbära, is characterized by the lack of gemination of the 2d radical in verb forms other than the perfect.

Type B, beddāla, is characterized by the vowel e after the 1st radical and by the gemination of the 2d radical in all verb forms.

Type C, marräka, is characterized by the vowel a after the 1st radical and by the gemination of the 2d radical in all verb forms.

These types are not conditioned either by the nature of the consonants or by the meaning of the verb. Indeed, verbs of any type may be active, transitive, verbs of state, and so on. The types are therefore to be considered lexical items and are not predictable.

41.2. A special class of triradicals comprises verbs with initial a: annäsa ‘be small’; verbs with initial h: hábbäta ‘swell’; with 2d radical h: lähasa ‘lick’; and with 3d radical h: fälläha ‘boil’.

42. Type A: sábbära

42.1. This type is characterized by the gemination of the 2d radical in the perfect only.

I recorded about 90 verbs of this type. Some of them are: bàrräda ‘be cold’, bässäla ‘be ripe’, gäddäla ‘kill’, läqqäma ‘collect, pick up’, mässäla ‘seem’, qäbbära ‘bury’, särräqa ‘steal’, tàqqwära ‘be black’, zärräfa ‘pillage’.

\(^1\) A final vowel a also occurs in Harari and in Tigre.
There are verbs that are of type A in Argobba, but of type B in Amharic: čākkwāla 'hurry', čāllāfa 'draw with a ladle'.

42.2. Some verbs of the class 1.2.2. are: kāssāsa 'accuse', lāqqāqa 'let go', mārrāra 'be bitter', ṭābbāba 'be narrow', sāddāda 'send away', nāddāda 'burn', qāllāla 'be light'. For their conjugation, see 58.1.

42.3. Some verbs with initial radical w are: wāddāda 'love', wāddāqa 'fall', wāllāda 'give birth', wāqqāta 'pound', wārrāda 'go down', wārrāsa 'inherit'. Note that due to the labial w, the vowel following it may be rounded and pronounced a; thus, wāddāqa, wāddāda, and so on.

42.4. There are a few verbs with an initial labiovelar: gāddāla 'decrease', gārrāsa 'take a mouthful', qāffāra 'dig', qārrāsa 'break bread', qāttāba 'save money', qāttāra 'count'.

42.4.1. The labiovelars followed by ā may be reduced to a velar followed by o; e.g., korrāha 'be proud', qollāfa 'lock', qorrāta 'cut, decide' going back to kārrāha, qāllāfa, qārrāta.

A verb such as tollāga 'wither' goes back to a quadiradical tāwāllāga, with -āwā- becoming -o- (see Amharic tāwāllāgā).

For the gemination or the non-gemination of the 2d radical in the various Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, pp. 91-92.

43. Type B: beddāla

43.1. Type B is characterized by the vowel e after the 1st radical. As for the 2d radical, it is geminated in all verb forms of the basic stem.

This type corresponds morphologically to the 2d stem of Arabic and to the pa'al of Hebrew, but whereas in Arabic and Hebrew this stem is a derived stem, type B is a basic stem in Argobba as in the Ethiopian languages in general. It can no longer be derived either morphologically nor semantically from type A. The verbs of type B in Argobba are rather vocabulary items.

For the vowel ā, e, i after the 1st radical and the gemination or non-gemination of the 2d radical in the various Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, pp. 93-94.

I recorded about 45 triradical verbs of type B. Some of these verbs are: beddāla 'mistreat, do injustice', čeggāra 'be difficult', čebbāta 'seize', čerrāsa 'finish', lemāna 'beg', šeffāna 'cover', žemmāra 'begin'.

1 It is quite possible that čākkwāla, čāllāfa are phonetic variants for čekkwāla, čellāfa. These verbs would then be of type B in Argobba as they are in Amharic. Of course, the imperfect would clearly indicate the type of the verb, but I didn't have occasion to record the imperfect.
43.2. Nearly all the verbs that are of type B in Argobba are also of type B in Amharic. The verbs that are of type B in Argobba, but of type A in Amharic are: felläsä ‘uproot’, geффåfa ‘strip off’, qemmäsä ‘taste’, tekkåla ‘plant’.

43.3. There are a few verbs with a geminated 2d radical in all the verb forms, but the vowel of the 1st radical is o. This vowel is due to an initial labial, as in fokkåra ‘boast’ (Amharic also fokkårä), mokkåra ‘try’ (Amharic also mokkårä), qollåla ‘heap’. The vowel o of qoффåra ‘dig’, qorråta ‘cut’ goes back to qʷaffåra, qʷåråta, with qʷ- becoming qo (cp. Amharic qʷaffårä, but also qoффårä).

44. Type C: marråka

44.1. Type C has the form marråka. It is characterized by the vowel a after the 1st consonant and by gemination of the 2d radical in all verb forms of the basic stem.

This type corresponds formally to the 3d stem of Arabic, but whereas the 3d stem of Arabic is a derived stem with a special meaning, type C of Argobba is neither morphologically nor semantically a derived stem. As was the case with type B, type C belongs to the domain of vocabulary.

For type C in the various Ethiopian languages, see Gafat, p. 95.


45. TENSES AND MOODS

45.1. PERFECT

45.1.1. The perfect in the affirmative and in the negative expresses the past. It is formed with suffixes, and the forms are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sg. 3d m.</th>
<th>sädåb-a ‘offend’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3d f.</td>
<td>sädåb-äd¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d m.</td>
<td>sädåb-k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d f.</td>
<td>sädåb-Ç(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st c.</td>
<td>sädåb-ku</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pl. 3d c.</th>
<th>sädåb-u</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2d c.</td>
<td>sädåb-kum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st c.</td>
<td>sädåb-øn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A final -a in the sg. 3d masc. also occurs in Tigre and Harari. A suffix -Ç in the singular, 2d fem. occurs only in Argobba. Note that in the class sämma the suffix is -š (73.7); in the class šäčça, it is -ih (74.1.4); in the verb hänɡa ‘see’, it is hänģih and hänģiš (74.6.2.). For the various suffixes of the perfect, see Gafat, pp. 97-98.

The suffixes of types B and C are the same as those of type A.

¹ Also pronounced sädåbäd, sädåbåt.
ADVERBS

There are primary and derived adverbs. Primary adverbs are basic; derived adverbs are based on a verbal or a nominal form.

113. Adverbs of place

113.1. Primary adverbs: čuh 'here'; e.g. bā-ma ḡaqad čuh əggeññih? 'with whose permission are you here?' (lit. 'with-[of]-who permission here you-are-found?');
čo, čow 'there, over there';
čo mado 'over there'; e.g., čo mado nāham čis yəčesál 'over there a big smoke smokes'; čow aššeme (for as-šeme) 'put it over there';
interrogative: čä, če 'where?'; e.g., če ne? 'where is he?'; če haddärk? 'where did you spend the night?';
če-ga 'whither?'; e.g., če-ga yəhedel? 'whither does he go?, where does he go?'; see also čo, čow, above;
čugga-ga 'toward here'; čogga-ga 'toward there' (see prepositions);
yed 'where? (Amharic yāt).
113.2. Adverbs combined with prepositions, nouns or pronouns; bāyed, bêt 'where?, whither?'; tāyed, ted 'from where?, whence?'; e.g., bā-yed hema hedä 'which way did he go?'; tā-yed təmätallāh? 'from where do you come?';
bā-hud 'here' (lit. 'in-this'); bā-hod, bōd 'there' (from bā-wod, lit. 'in-that');
tā-wod, tōd (contracted from tā-wod) 'from there';
tef, bā-tef 'under'; lef, bā-lef 'up, up there';
bā-wəči 'outside'; e.g., bā-wəči yətebbeqāl 'he waits outside' (cp. Amharic bāwəč 'outside'), from bā 'in' and wəč(i) 'the outside' (from wättə 'go out');
fid lā-fid 'face to face, opposite' (Amh. fit läfīt, from fit 'face');
dar dar-u-n 'along the side'; e.g., dar dar-u-n heda 'he went along the side' (from dar 'limit, border').

114. Adverbs of time

114.1. Primary adverbs: dəro 'formerly, previously, long ago'; combined adverb: zändəro 'this year';
huma ‘today’; huma mušed ‘tonight’ (lit. ‘today night’); yä-huma ‘ago’ (lit. ‘of-today’); yä-huma ket samət mātta ‘he came two weeks ago’ (lit. ‘of-today two week[s] he-came’); yä-huma assər qāna əmbāra ‘it was ten days ago’; tā-huma ḡemmərdə ‘beginning today’, the gerund being used in a form according to the person, as in tā-huma ḡemmərəc wādā fid əmāfolluh ‘beginning today I shall come in the future’ (lit. ‘from-today I-beginning toward future I-shall-come’); tā-huma niddo (gerund of wāhaza; see 69.1) ‘beginning today, henceforth’; kām yā-māssāla bed astā-huma alhanğuhu ‘until today I haven’t seen such a house’ (lit. ‘thus that-resembled house until-today I-have-not-seen’);

tomay ‘yesterday’; tī-tomay bayye ‘the day before yesterday’; tā-tomay čoga ‘the day before yesterday’;
näg ‘tomorrow’; tā-näg čoga ‘after tomorrow’;
aḥan ‘now, at present’;
gāna ‘still, yet’; gāna ne ‘not yet’ (Amharic gāna nāw); sāatu gāna ne ‘it is not time yet’;
mäče ‘when?’;
tālo, tolo, tālo tālo ‘soon, quickly, at once, immediately’;
wātro ‘always, continually’;
̄dəro ‘formerly, ago’;
čog(g)a-w əndä+perfect ‘as soon as’, as in čog(g)a-w əndä moda ‘as soon as he died’.

114.2. Derived adverbs: qādam bodo ‘before’ (gerund of ala ‘say’), as in hud-ən nāgār qādam bodo əlsāmmuh ‘I haven’t heard this thing before’;
bā-fid ‘before, formerly’; wādā fid ‘in the future’;
bā-ğed ‘afterwards’;
diyə əzə ‘always’;
tā-hud čoga-ga ‘from now on, henceforth’; təngədih čogga ‘henceforth’;
bā-mācarrāša ‘finally’.

114.3. Note that adverbial expressions may also be used with the element -n. Examples: wod-ən əzə or bā-wodən əzə or hod-ən əzə ‘then, at that time’; tod-ən qāna čuga ‘since that time, since then’.

See also the indefinite pronouns, such as ‘somewhere, somehow, sometimes’.

115. Adverbs of cause and reason
lä-mən ‘why?’ (lit. ‘for what?’); mən-ne ‘why?’ (lit. ‘what-it-is?’), as in mənne alməṭṭeh? ‘why didn’t you come?; mənne hud-ən fārās alhawkānhu ‘why didn’t you give me this horse?’;
səlā-hud ‘therefore’.
Wolf Leslau

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