A BRIEF GRAMMAR
OF THE
HOOZO LANGUAGE

First Draft

This Grammar booklet is produced in the Mao-Komo Language Development Project.

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0   Preface

This brief grammar was developed and written during a workshop held in August 2014 in Asosa. However, it should be known that all the linguistic analysis in the booklet has already been done by the writer for his forthcoming PhD thesis with the title 'A Grammar of Hoozo' under the supervision of Dr. Anne-Christie Hellenthal who also participated in this workshop. The workshop was very important for the fact that some linguistic data were reconsidered, gaps were filled and the whole data got approved by the speakers. Moreover, the workshop was nice since seeing features and observing the similarities and differences across the three languages Komo, Gwama and Hoozo of the Omotic and Nilo Saharan families from the speakers was really fascinating. The purpose of this book is to make the Hoozo community aware of the wealth and variation it inherited with the Hoozo language. The language possesses an intricate system of forms and rules, which all speakers use in their daily lives, often without being consciously aware of them. Many of these forms and rules are presented in this little book.

It also needs to be pointed out that the purpose of this book is not to present a full and comprehensive description of the Hoozo language. This would be beyond the scope of this work, and it would require a different approach to the language. Many forms of the Hoozo language are not even mentioned in here, and some areas of the Hoozo grammar have been omitted from this work. Also this book attempts to use terminology which is understandable by a wide audience. The hope is even that it can be translated into the Hoozo language to make it fully accessible to all Hoozo speakers. Therefore, those who want to see a description of Hoozo according to the latest

linguistic models and terminology may not feel comfort with this work.

We want to thank

Andreas Joswig

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Hoozo speakers (Hoozi) involved during the workshop:

- Zakir Assefa   aged 28
- Assefa Sambo aged 80
- Romedan Welteki aged 40
- Hussien Dotta aged 25
- Abdella Adda aged 90

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1 Introduction

The Hoozo language is spoken by the Hoozi people in the Oromia Region, in different wärädas (districts) like Qondala, Begi and Gaawa. The number of speakers is approximately 3000 according to the 2007 census. Hoozo wordlists were given by

- Grottanelli, Vinigi L. (1940). *Missione Etnografica nel Uollega Occidentale. I.Mao* (Ethnographic Study of Wellega Area part 1 Mao). Roma: Reale Accademia d'Italia.

- Fleming, Harold C. (1984). "The Importance of Mao in Ethiopian History," In Rubenson, S.(Ed.) *Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference of Ethiopian Studies.* Addis Ababa: Institute of Ethiopian Studies, (31-38)

- Siebert, K., Siebert, R. and Wedekind, K. (2002). *Survey on Languages of the Asosa-Begi-Komosha Area.* Part I. S.L.L.E. Linguistic Report No. 11. Addis Ababa: Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University.

Some information on Hoozo sounds and words in comparison with other Omotic languages can be found in

- Bender, Marvin L. (2000). *Comparative Morphology of Omotic Languages*. Muenchen: Lincom Europa.
- Bender, Marvin L. (2003). *Omotic Lexicon and Phonology*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Printing Press.

1.1 Orthography

The orthography contains the following letters:

1.1.1 Vowels:

a   low central vowel /a/   tara, kabba

e	mid front vowel /ɛ/	shee, ʔedzi
i	high front vowel /i/	ʔishi, kelli
o	mid back vowel /o/	shoo, kobbi
u	high back vowel /u/	kure, puu
ə	mid central vowel /ə/	kəmmi, gənga

1.1.2 Consonants:

p	voiceless labial stop /p/	pansi, para
b	voiced labial stop /b/	besʼi, ʔubbi
pʼ	labial ejective stop /pʼ/	pʼoshi, tʼepʼi
m	labial nasal /m/	kəmmi, manza
w	labial semivowel /w/	wuli, shiwi
t	voiceless alveolar stop /t/	tara, kitta
d	voiced alveolar stop /d/	dəkka, ʔalda
tʼ	alveolar ejective stop /tʼ/	tʼendi, tʼora
ts	voiceless alveolar affricate /t͡s/	ʔotsi, titsi
sʼ	alveolar ejective affricate /t͡sʼ/	besʼi, sʼuuli
z	alveolar fricative /z/	zinkʼa, ʔedzi
n	alveolar nasal /n/	nini, nibba
r	alveolar flap /r/	ʔori, tara
l	alveolar lateral approximant /l/	willi, shali
sh	palatal fricative /ʃ/	shali, ʔishi
y	palatal approximant /j/	yəʔi, diye
k	voiceless velar stop /k/	kii, dokki

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g	voiced velar stop /g/	guuri, pengi
k'	velar ejective stop /k'/	k'as'i, bək'ili
h	glottal fricative /h/	hee, hi
'	glottal stop /ʔ/	ʔari, doʔi

In addition to the segments shown above, also tone plays a major role in Hoozo. Tone has both lexical and grammatical functions. Tones are not fully treated in here due to the aforementioned scope and purpose of this work.

1.2 Outline

This grammar sketch of Hoozo is organized according to the structure of the language. Section 2 will deal with the nouns, section 2.3 with modifiers of the noun phrase, section 4 with pronouns and possessives, section 5 with subjects and predicates, section 6 with verbs and person markings, section 7 with transitive verbs, section 8 with non-final verbs and verbal derivations, and section 9 with other types of noun phrases and adverbs. Finally, all aspects of the grammar will be discussed in their proper context (section 10), illustrated by the story *'The Donkey, the Dog and the Goat'*.

For the purpose of this grammar sketch, we will use the following basic linguistic terms:

- noun
- gender
  - o male
  - o female
- number
  - o singular
  - o plural
- definiteness

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- o definite
- o indefinite
- adjective
- numeral
  - o cardinal number
  - o ordinal number
- demonstrative
- pronoun
  - o personal pronoun
  - o object pronoun
  - o possessive pronoun
- person
  - o 1st person
  - o 2nd person
  - o 3rd person
- Role of the Noun Phrase
  - o predicate
  - o subject
  - o object
  - o possessive
  - o dative
  - o locative
  - o directional
  - o ablative
  - o comitative
  - o instrumental
- verb
  - o intransitive
  - o transitive
  - o derivation
    - ▪ causative
    - ▪ passive
    - ▪ reciprocal

- adverb

All these terms will be defined in later sections.

1.3   Different kinds of words

All sentences consist of several words. These words can be classified according to how they look (form) and what they do (function). The following are a number of different kinds of words we will see in this grammar.

- **ʔishi** ' drink', **maa** ' eat', **miki** ' talk', **hee** ' rest', **konti** 'run' for verbs
- **kure** ' donkey', **kera** ' house', **toki** ' head', **immi** ' cow', **shaa** ' goat', **meri** ' child' for nouns
- **t'ut'a** ' black', **manza** ' small', **kunta** ' red', **kawi** ' white' for adjectives
- **ʔonna** ' one', **dombo** ' two', **sijazi** ' three', **betsi** ' four', **kwitsi** ' five' for numerals

Of these, nouns and verbs are most common. You will find them in almost every sentence in your language.

2 Noun ʔishshi

ʔishshe moni ʔelebt'obinti ʔishshi.

Nouns are words that refer to people and things; they often indicate countable and tangible objects. Nouns in Hoozo distinguish the gender of an object (male, female), together with definiteness. The gender is not found when looking at the verb. Number appears to be unmarked.

2.1 Gender

shenʔorinti ʔalabidagətinti ʔishshi

Gender is the grammatical distinction between *male* and *female* of the thing or person the word indicates. Gender often correlates with the natural sex of a person or animal. To show natural sex, nouns in Hoozo can add words indicating the gender. These words are different for people and for animals, as shown in the examples.

meri	'child'		
peli meri	'girl'	**ori meri**	'boy'
imi	'cattle'		
osh imi	'heifer'	**imi gatti**	'bull'
imi deje	'cow'		
shaa	'goat'		
osh shaa	'nanny-goat'	**shaa gatti**	'billy-goat'

Discussion of gender features

The gender of a noun is also shown with "definiteness".
The gender of a noun is not marked on the verb; in the example below the verb is **kwati** for male, female and plural subjects.

Example 1

moo kwati	'a person came'
meri kwati̧.	'a child came'
ʔimm gǝtti kwati	'a bull came'
shéé kwati	'a woman came'
pelmeri kwati	'a female child (girl) came'
moo t'oobi kwati	'people came'
shee t'oobi kwati	'women came'
merk'unda kwati	'children came'
wush dombo kwati	'2 dogs came'

2.2   Number pǝddi

Pǝddi ʔonnaʔonati talish ʔamsa ʔebi shangindi ʔebi

Number in Hoozo can be optionally indicated by using **t'oobi** after the noun. There is no regular plural formation on nouns.

Example 2

wush kwati	'a dog came'
wush t'oobi kwati	'a couple of dogs came'

The use of **t'oobi** needs to be checked in natural speech (stories). The noun **meri** 'child' has a special plural marker as shown below.

pelmeri kwati

'A girl came.'

pelmerkunda kwati.

'Girls came.'

The following chart lists the Hoozo number markers:

	marker	example	
singular		**shee**	'woman'
plural	**t'oobi**	**shee t'oobi**	'women'

2.3 Definite and indefinite

ʔaritindin ʔariwitindin shangindi tandi

In Hoozo the noun can be *definite* or *indefinite*. If indefinite, there is no special marker. If definite, it is marked by **ʔaga** (masc.), **ʔega** (fem) and **ʔene** (pl). In fact, these markers consist of a pronoun plus demonstrative. Alternatively, for plurality the markers **ʔaga** and **t'oobi** are combined.

Example 3

hummo heeti	'a thief slept'
hummo heeti	'a thief slept'
ʔaga hummo heeti.	'the male thief slept'

Ɂega hummo heeti   'the female thief slept'

hummo t'oobi(sha) heeti   'thieves slept'

Ɂene hummo heeti   'the thieves slept'

Ɂaga hummo t'oobi(sha) heeti 'thieves slept'

The use of these "definiteness" markers loosely resembles definiteness markers in other languages. From the story in chapter 10 it is clear that not every definite noun needs to be marked. The unmarked form may be interpreted as male or female, indefinite or definite according to the context.

The following chart shows all the definite and indefinite noun markings in Hoozo:

	definite	example
male	Ɂaga	Ɂaga kera 'the house'
female	Ɂega	Ɂega meri 'the girl'
plural	Ɂene	Ɂene hummo 'the thieves'
	Ɂaga + t'oobi	Ɂaga hummo t'oobi

3 Modifying the Noun Phrase

ʔishsh tenk'il shangiʔebbi

In Hoozo, a lot of things can be done with a noun. If some information is added to the noun, we call the result a noun phrase. The following elements can be added to a noun phrase: demonstratives, numerals, and adjectives. If things are added to a noun in a noun phrase, then we call the noun the head noun of the noun phrase.

3.1 Demonstratives

shilin shwankin shangindi ʔebbi

Demonstratives are words which can be added to a noun phrase. Demonstratives help the speaker to show something; they identify more clearly what the speaker refers to. They signal nearness or distance. In Hoozo, demonstratives show number and gender.

Demonstratives = words that define a noun's reference

We can distinguish between near demonstratives and far demonstratives.

		Near	far	further
Sg.	M	zənga	zanga	zaʔanga
	F	hindinga	zinga	ziʔinga
Pl.	M	zənga t'obi	zanga t'obi	zaʔanga t'obi
	F	hindingat'obi	zinga t'obi	ziʔinga t'obi

3.1.1 Near demonstratives

zənga wadzi this stone

zənga hummo   this thief

3.1.2 Far demonstratives 1

Example 5

zaŋga wadzi   that stone

zaŋga hummo   that thief

3.1.3 Far demonstratives 2

za ʔanga wadzi   that stone

za ʔanga hummo   that thief

Near demonstratives define a noun as near to the speaker.
Far demonstratives define a noun as far from the speaker.

3.1.4 Gender marking on the demonstrative

Demonstratives are marked for gender:

Example 6

Near	**hindinga shee**	this woman
	zənga moo	this man

Far 1	**ziinga shee**	that woman
	zanga moo	that man

Far 2	**ziʔinga shee**	that woman
	zaʔanga moo	that man

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Gender is signaled on the demonstrative by **hindi, zi,** and **ziʔi** for females and **zə, za,** and **zaʔa** for males.

3.1.5   Number marking of demonstratives

Demonstratives are marked for number.

Example 7

Near	**zənga kera**	this house
	zə kera t'oobi	these houses
Far 1	**zanga kera**	that house
	za kera t'oobi	those houses
Far 2	**zaʔa kera**	that house
	zaʔa kera t'oobi	those houses

Number is signaled on the demonstrative by **t'oobi**

3.2   Numerals

pədi t'oobi

Numerals are words which can be added to a noun phrase. They are used to indicate the exact number of the noun in a noun phrase.

Numeral = a word that is employed for counting.

In Hoozo, there are two types of numerals: cardinal numbers and ordinal numbers.

Cardinal number = a numeral that indicates the number of objects (things or people)

3.2.1 Cardinal numbers

Pədindi pədi t'obi

Cardinal numbers are numerals which refer to a particular number of items of the noun they refer to.

ʔonna	one	**dombo**	two	**siyazi**	three
bets'i	four	**kwitsi**	five	**keni**	six
shulda	seven	**shuldashi**	eight	**shiilde**	nine
p'ooshi	ten	**moo kwis'i k'e**	hundred		

But, it is also possible to use **kwitsi ʔotta ʔonna** ' six', **kwitsi ʔotta dombo** ' seven', **kwitsi ʔotta siyazi** ' eight', **kwitsi ʔotta betsi** ' nine'.

In most cases, cardinal numbers are used to count nouns. Usually they follow the noun.

ʔintʔonna	one tree	**keraʔonna**	one house
ʔintdombo	two trees	**kera dombo**	two houses
ʔintsiyazi	three trees	**kera siyazi**	three houses

3.2.2 Ordinal numbers

talin shaminti pədi t'obi

Ordinal numbers tell you the order of things, like the first, the second, the third and so on. Mostly ordinal numbers are

counting a noun. Ordinal numbers are formed from cardinal numbers by **-ti**

Example 8

> **ʔinti domboti**
> the second tree

> **ʔinti siyaziti**
> the third tree

The following chart is a summary of the cardinal and ordinal numbers in Hoozo, and the ways in which they are used.

ʔonna	**dombo**	**siyazi**	**p'ooshi**
one	two	three	ten
ʔint ʔonna	**ʔint dombo**	**ʔint siyazi**	**ʔint p'ooshi**
one tree	two trees	three trees	ten trees
ʔonnati	**ʔint domboti**	**ʔint siyaziti**	**ʔint p'ooshti**
the first tree	the second tree	the third tree	the tenth tree

3.3 Adjectives
ʔeppa ʔishshi

Adjectives are other words which can be added to a noun phrase. They provide information on the quality of the noun.

Example 9

> **mət'i pərsha**   a beautiful horse
> **t'ut'a shimma**   a black cloth
> **kawʔatsi**   a white tooth

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kunta ʔimmi		a red cow
t'wash ʔormeri		a fat boy
shella pelmeri		a slim girl
peʔi koopa		a heavy bag

3.4   Plural Marking on Adjectives

The plural on the adjective is also indicated by -**t'oobi**

Example 10

singular	plural	gloss
mət'i tətsi	mət'i t'oobi tətsi t'oobi	handsome beautiful
t'ut'a	t'ut'a t'oobi	black
kawi	kawi t'oobi	white
kunta	kunta t'oobi	red
t'wash	t'oʔash t'oobi	fat
shuula	shuula t'oobi	slim
peʔi	peʔi t'oobi	heavy

3.5   Gender Marking on Adjectives

The adjective shows also the gender by the pronouns ʔa 'he' or ʔe 'she'

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Example 11

> **ʔa k'əndib hummi**   the short thief
>
> **ʔe k'əndib hummi**   the short woman
>
> **ʔa t'wash gəti**   the fat ox
>
> **ʔe t'wash ʔimm deye**   the fat cow

3.6   Definiteness marked on Adjectives

Definiteness is shown on the adjective by using pronouns.

Example 12

> **m'et'i pərsha**   beautiful horse
>
> **ʔaga m'et'i pərsha**   the beautiful horse

3.7   The order of elements in a noun phrase

In Hoozo the order of elements in a noun phrase are as follows:
demonstrative – adjectives-numeral- noun-(numeral)

Example 13

> **zaʔa titsi t'oobi yaami betsi**
>
> those four long spears
>
> **za t'əri moo siyaziti**
>
> the third strong man

4 Pronouns and Possessives

nomi ʔishshin diyen

In some cases a noun phrase may look different to the ones we have seen so far. Instead of showing a real noun, they may be filled by just a pronoun, or the noun may be accompanied by a possessive noun or pronoun.

4.1 Pronouns

nomi ʔishshin

Pronouns are words that take the position of nouns. The meaning of a pronoun can only be determined by looking at the context.

4.1.1 Personal pronouns

moo nomi ʔishshin

The *personal pronoun* shows who does something. Often it refers to the subject of the sentence. Personal pronouns usually make all the personal distinctions which are important in the language. In Hoozo this is person (1st, 2nd, 3rd), gender (male, female), and number (singular, plural). The speaker is called the 1st person, the person spoken to is called the 2nd person, and the person spoken about is called the 3rd person. In Hoozo there are seven different personal pronouns, four for the singular, three for the plural.

	sg		pl	
1.	na konti	I ran	nu konti	we ran
2.s	hi konti	you ran	do konti	you all ran
3.m	ʔa konti	he ran	ʔinəkonti	they ran
3.f	ʔe konti	she ran	ʔinəkonti	they ran

	sg	pl
1.	**na** 'I'	**nu** 'we'
2.	**hi** 'you'	**do** 'you'
3.m	**ʔa** 'he'	**ʔinə** 'they'
3.f	**ʔe** 'she'	

4.2   Possessive Nouns

diye ʔishshi

Often the speaker wants to indicate who owns the head noun in a noun phrase. In this case it is necessary to employ possessive nouns, which modify the head noun. The noun which is owned and the possessive noun have to be used in the correct order: *possessor-possessed.*

In Hoozo the noun which expresses the ownership precedes the head noun and is marked by **-sha**.

Example 14

hummosha koopa	bag of the thief
shenmosha gidza	money of the trader
diyesha kera	house of the father
pərshasha ʔumbuli	tail of the horse
huzmosha pelmeri	daughter of the farmer

4.3   Possessive Pronouns

nomi ʔishshi diye

Possessive pronouns replace possessive nouns. The exact meaning of the possessive pronoun can again be only determined by vowel length.

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Example 15

> **habtamu kure**
> Habtamu's donkey

> **ʔaa   kuure**
> <u>his</u> donkey

The noun is replaced by a pronoun; in this case the possessive pronoun replaces the noun referring to the owner. The possessive pronoun is expressed by lengthening the final vowels.

Example 16

naa kuure	my donkey
hii kuure	your donkey
ʔaa kuure	his donkey
ʔee kuure	her donkey
nuu kuure	our donkey
doo kuure	your (pl) donkey
ʔinəə kuure	their donkey

The following chart contains the possessive pronouns of Hoozo.

possessive pronouns	sg	pl
1	**naa**	**nuu**
2	**hii**	**doo**
3m	**ʔaa**	**ʔinəə**
3f	**ʔee**	**ʔinəə**

5 Subjects and Predicates

diyen koʔin

Each sentence in Hoozo consists of a *subject* and a *predicate*. The subject is the thing or person that the sentence talks about. The predicate is what is being said about the subject. Other elements may also belong to the sentence. Here are a few examples of subjects with predicates.

Example 17

Subject	Predicate	
zəmooya	**t'əri huzmo**	This man is a good farmer.
ʔegapelmere	**golagəti**	The girl studies.
naa diyabe	**yəns' t'əri**	My brother is very clever.
hi	**naa gazi**	You are my friend.

5.1 Subjects

diye

A *subject* is the thing or person the sentence is all about. Usually the subject is a noun phrase or a pronoun. Always a subject is found at the beginning of a sentence. The subject marking has three options (1) marking by –ya for male and –ye for female answering 'who?/what? (2) by marking with –sha for answering 'which?' (3) using no marking.

In Hoozo the subject is not clear from the form of the predicate, and therefore has to be expressed explicitly.

The following table contains the elements marking subject noun phrases:

subject noun phrase markers	sg	pl
male	ya	ya
female	ye	ya

5.2 Predicates

koʔi

Predicates are the most important thing in a sentence. The predicate is the thing that is being said about the subject. It can be that the subject does something; then the predicate is a verb. We will look at verbs in chapter 6. In many sentences the predicate is not a verb. In Hoozo the predicate usually is at the beginning/middle/end of the sentence.

5.2.1 Noun phrases as predicates

ʔishshi *koʔin miti*

Often the speaker wants to say that the subject is the same as something or someone. Then a noun phrase is used as the predicate:

Subject	Predicate	
zəmooya	t'əri huzmo	This man is a good farmer.
hi	naa diyabe	You are my friend.

In Hoozo, a noun-phrase is not marked when it is used as predicate. It does not change for each person of the subject: The subject can be the person speaking, the person spoken to,

or the person that is spoken about. In grammatical terms, these are called first, second and third person:

Example 18

na huzmo	I am a farmer. (1st person singular)
hi huzmo	You are a farmer. (2nd person singular)
ʔa huzmo	He is a farmer. (3rd person masculine)
ʔe huzmo	She is a farmer. (3rd person feminine)
nu huzmo t'obi	We are farmers. (1st person plural)
do huzmo t'obi	You are farmers. (2nd person plural)
ʔinə huzmot'obi	They are farmers. (3rd person plural)

5.2.2 Adjectives as predicates

ʔishshi nommi koʔin miti

Also adjectives can be used as predicates, when the subject is said to have a certain quality:

Example 19

Subject	Predicate	
zə ʔebbii	**kunta**	This fruit is red.
zaʔa moo	**piyawa təwa**	That man is very bad.

There is no predicate marker for adjectives which is the same as for noun phrases.

5.2.3 Numerals as predicates

Pəddi koʔin miti

Numerals can be used as predicates when the subject is said to be of a certain number, or to be in a certain order.

Example 20

Subject	Predicate	
ʔinə	siyaziti	They are three.
ʔa	ʔonna-ti shishti	He was first.

The absence of predicate marker for numerals is the same as the ones for noun phrases and pronouns.

5.2.4 Possessives as predicates

diye koʔin miti

When the subject is being said to belong to someone, the predicate is either a possessive pronoun, or a possessive noun.

Example 21

Subject	Predicate	
zə	hindi	This is yours.
zaʔa kureya	huzmondi	That donkey is the farmer's.

The predicate marker for possessives is **-ndi** which is not the same as the one for noun phrases.

5.2.5 Modifications to the predicate

koʔish shangbəna

In the Hoozo language, the predicate can be positive or negative.

Example 22

Subject	Predicate	
ʔa	huzmo	He is a farmer.
ʔa	huzmo bishwa	He is not a farmer.
ʔaga ʔebba	kunta	The fruit is red.
ʔaga ʔebba	kunta bishwa	The fruit is not red.

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When a predicate without a verb is used in the negative, it is signaled by **bishwa.** A predicate can also be used in different times. Example 23

Subject	Predicate	
ʔa	huzmo	He is a farmer.
ʔa	huzmo shishti	He was a farmer.
ʔaga ʔebba	kunta	The fruit is red.
ʔaga ʔebba	kunta shishti	The fruit was red.

If a predicate is put into the past, it is indicated by **shishti.**

6   Verbs

pengi

The *verb* is the corner stone of most sentences in Hoozo, because in many sentences the predicate is a *verb*. A verb usually is used when something happens or gets done. Verbs describe events, processes, states or actions. The verb shows the most variation in its forms.

Example 24

Subject	Predicate	
hani	wəshiti	The water flows.
ʔe pele	golagəti	The girl studies.
naa diyabeti	hohosgəti	My brothers fight.
hii diye	ziiti	Your father died.
hii diye	huhunəti	Your father gets sick.
hii ʔabmaʔebbi	maa	Eat your lunch
hi hashibi	kwa	You will come tomorrow

6.1   Person Marking on the Verb

In the Hoozo language, the verb agrees with the subject without any special marker: A subject in the 1st person singular does not require the verb to show the marker for the 1st person singular, and so on. The following verb shows the markers for all persons:

Example 25

na koniti	I run.
hi koniti	you run.
ʔa koniti	he runs.

ʔe koniti	she runs.
nu koniti	we run.
do koniti	you run (pl).
ʔinə koniti	they run.

As can be seen, the marker for all the persons is the same and follows the verb.

6.2   Tense Marking on the Verb

mindi pengi t'ək'a

The verb of Hoozo does not show the person of the subject, but it gives information about the timing of the sentence.

When a speaker relates an event, this event can be reported as happening right now (present), or in the future, or as a past event. These references to time are called tenses. The Hoozo language shows tense differences on the verb.

Tense = temporal reference indicated on the verb

Example 26

heeshe, ʔe konti.
Yesterday, she ran.

heenge, ʔe kokoniti.
Right now she runs.

hashibi, ʔe kontye.
Tomorrow she'll run.

The future and the present tense use different verb forms. But they can sometimes use the same verb form where difference is expressed by adverbial forms elsewhere in the sentence. In the

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past, the element **-ti** is added after the verb stem. In the present and in the future, the element **-iti** and **-ye** respectively are added after the verb stem. For different functional uses however, the future is left unmarked. These elements never change with different persons in the subject.

There are many more time references, as well as other distinctions on the verb. You can go further back in the past:

Example 27

satsin, ʔe konti.
A long time ago, she ran.

For this form, the element **-ti** is added after the verb stem.

In Hoozo, you can indicate that the event is just finished:

Example 28

ʔekwatish ʔekonti penti.
She had just finished running, when he came.

For this form, the element **sh** is added after the verb stem.

In Hoozo, there is also a time preferably used in narratives:

Example 29

ʔashish ʔe konti
And she ran.

For this form, the element **ʔashish** is used at the beginning of a sentence.

A verb can refer to constant repetition:

Example 30

ʔa mismara kikiish hihedziti
He hit the nail again and again.

For this form, the verb is reduplicated and the element **ti** is added after the verb stem. The time adverb **kiish** can also be used as indicated in the example.

For events in the present, there are various possibilities. An event can be described as ongoing at this very moment:

Example 31

> **ʔe kokoniti.**
> She is running.

For this form, the element **ko-** is added in front of the verb stem.

An event can be described as habitual:

Example 32

> **ʔe kongəti.**
> She (usually) runs.

For this form, the element **-gə** is added after the verb stem and in front of the present tense marker **-iti**.

6.3   Positive and negative verbs

Talin shamintimiki t'ək'a

Just like on other predicates, also for verbs Hoozo can express whether something is or is not the case.

Example 33

> **na hummo.**
> I am a thief.
> **na hummo bishwa.**
> I am not a thief.
> **nakoniti**

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I run.

nakontwa.

I don't run.

nakontgishwa

I did not run

Hoozo uses the marker **-wa** at the predicate to show that something is not the case.

7 Transitive Verbs

T'wenpengi

7.1 Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

So far we have only looked at predicates which need to be accompanied by a subject. Some predicates need other noun phrases to be complete. Such predicates are called *transitive verbs*. Verbs which only need a subject are called *intransitive verbs*.

Transitivity is the ability of a verb to take an object.

Here are some examples of transitive and intransitive verbs in Hoozo.

tépí	níní	ʔárí	ʔéwtà
cut	give	know	listen
transitive	transitive	transitive	transitive
kùllí	kóntí	húúnà	zíí
fall	run	be sick	die
intransitive	intransitive	Intransitive	intransitive

Some verbs are clearly transitive, some are clearly intransitive. Some verbs, however, can be used in both ways.

7.1.1 Object marking

koʔi shangi

The *subject* of the sentence is usually the person doing it, and the *object* is usually the thing or person which is affected by the action. About the subject you ask with 'who?' – about the object you ask with 'whom?'

Example 34

ʔáwishiyá ʔeʔadurè shàʔà-ti

The dog bit the cat.

ʔéʔaduré ʔawishiyà shàʔà-ti

The cat bit the dog.

In these examples, the subject is always in the first position of the sentence, and the object always follows the subject. The subject in Hoozo is marked by -**yá** for male and plural, and -**yé** for female.

7.2 Object pronouns

Koʔi nommi ʔishshi

Object pronouns stand instead of a noun in the object position. The direct object pronouns in Hoozo are formed by -ja marker.

Example 35

Marta nayà shúshtì

Martha saw me.

Marta nuyà shúshtì

Martha saw us.

Marta hiyà shúshtì

Martha saw you (s).

Marta doyà shúshtì

Martha saw you (pl).

Marta nayà shúshtì

Martha saw him.

Marta ʔinəyà shúshtì

Martha saw them.

Marta ʔeyè shúshtì

Martha saw her.

object pronouns	sg obj	pl obj
1.	nayà	nuyà
2.	hiya	doya
3.m	ʔaya	ʔinəya
3.f	ʔeya	ʔinəya

8 Added Verbs and Verbal Derivations

ʔeppa pengi

8.1 Verbs which are added to a sentence

In Hoozo there are two kinds of verbs: Those which form a sentence on their own, and those which are added to another sentence. The first kind of verbs is always fully marked with reference for subject and time. The second kind of verbs often expresses an action that happens before the action expressed in the final verb.

Example 36

> **naa diye ʔa gə́bá yeʔina muzi shenti.**
>
> My father went to the market and bought bananas.

> **naa diye ʔa gə́bá yet'i nami muzi shenti.**
>
> My father went to the market and I bought bananas.

> **naa diye ʔa gə́bá yet' muzi shenti.**
>
> Having gone to the market, my father bought bananas.

> **naa diye ʔa gə́bá yeywa kit muzi shenti.**
>
> Without going to the market, my father bought bananas.

In Hoozo there are two forms of added verbs: the first **-na** The second **–ti.**

Other added verbs are used to show that actions are taking place at the same time:

Example 37

> **ʔe kokontish ʔakwati.**
>
> While she was running, he came.

For this form, the element **-tish** is added after the first verb.

Another form of added verbs is used to talk about the action without giving information on person or tense.

Example 38

> **manzamerish ʔedza ʔishshi yəns'.**
> It is very important for a baby to drink milk.

> **manzamerish ʔedza ʔishshi yəns'ibishwa.**
> It is not very important for a baby to drink milk.

> **ʔedza ʔishshi manzamerish yəns'.**
> Drinking milk is very important for a baby.

This form turns the verb into something like a noun, and is called the infinitive. In the Hoozo language, it is formed by the marker**-sh**, or by tone change as in the change from the verb **ʔíshí** 'drink' to the noun **ʔíshì** 'drink'.

8.2   Verbal Derivation

In Hoozo, verbs come in two ways. Some consist of just the verb root with its markers for person and time. Others are called *derived verbs*: They are formed by taking verb roots and adding other elements to them. The following sections show how the Hoozo language forms derived verbs.

8.2.1 Causative

Causative verbs express an action where a person is made to do something by another person. Some of these are expressed by using other verb **koʔi** :

Example 39

   zii → kotzii die →kill (make die)

Other causative verbs are formed by using elements following the verb root.

Example 40

ʔari →ʔarisis	learn → teach
tara →tarasis	be king → make king
maa →maasis	eat → feed (make eat)
kont →konsis	run → make run
gira →girasis	difficult → make difficult
kobbi →kobsis	sit → make sit

The causative marker of Hoozo is **-sis**.

8.2.2 Reciprocal

Reciprocal is a verb derivation where the subjects do the action to each other. The subject is always in the plural. In Hoozo this is accomplished by reduplicating the verb, using the passive marker **-in**, reduplicating the first or third person plural pronouns followed by a series of associative and instrumental markers

Example 41

hedzi →hezinti	beat →beat each other
məsti →məsinti	insult→insult each other
gola →golainti	see →see each other
díílì →díílìnti	respect →respect each other
hashi →hashinti	fight →fight each other
weʔi →weʔinti	marry →marry each other

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8.2.3 Passive

With passive verbs, usually the subject is the target of the action. In Hoozo the passive is formed by **–in**.

Example 42

> ʔa mati →ʔa mainti   he ate →it was eaten
>
> ʔa hezti →ʔa hezinti   he beat →it was beaten
>
> ʔa wenk'i →ʔa wenk'inti he opened →it was opened
>
> ʔa kəmti →kəminti   he closed →it was closed
>
> ʔa paati →paaʔinti   he killed →it was killed

8.2.4 Combinations of Verbal Derivations

There are also cases where derivations occur together. The derivational elements follow each other after the verb stem:

Example 43 (causative + passive)

> ʔe mere ʔee deyen masisinti.
>
> The baby was fed by her mother.

Example 44 (causative + passive)

> ʔa hummoya ʔa kera ʔatimoon ziisisinti kot'i.
>
> The thief was made to be killed by the guard.

9 Other Ways to Use Noun Phrases

shudda shona ʔishsh tenkʼil

So far we have seen noun phrases in three functions: As predicates, subjects and objects. Often they can be used in other ways.

9.1.1 Dative

doʔi

A *Dative* noun phrase indicates the person receiving something, or benefitting from something. The dative is marked in Hoozo by **-sh**. About the dative you ask with 'to whom?'

Example 45

naa diye ʔawushish ʔotsi ninti.
My father gave meat to the dog.

naa deye ʔesh kita ninti.
My mother gave her a dress.

9.1.2 Locative

Kʼesʼi

Locative expresses a general location. The noun phrase in the locative is marked by **-sh**. About the locative you ask with 'where?'

Example 46

ʔagəbakʼesʼish tamin penginti
The market was destroyed by fire.

naa diye ʔagəba kʼesʼish werme shenbətʼi
My father sold tomatoes at the market.

9.1.3 Directional

Gəmmi

Directional expresses a motion towards a location. The noun phrase in the directional case is marked by **–af**. About the directional, you ask with 'where to?'

Example 47

naa diye ʔagəbaf yət'i
My father went to the market.

9.1.4 Ablative

kenʔi

Ablative expresses a motion away from a location. The noun phrase in the ablative is marked by **-sh-shish** About the ablative, you ask with 'from where?'

Example 48

naa diye ʔagəbash shish kwati
My father came from the market.

9.1.5 Instrumental

giwa kongili ʔebbi

Instrumental indicates the instrument or means used to execute an action. The noun phrase in the instrumental is marked by **-n** About the instrumental, you ask with 'with what?'

Example 49

ʔagəbak'es'i tamin penginti
The market was destroyed by fire.

naa diye ʔakabba kenʔin wenk'iti
My father opened the door with a key.

9.1.6 Comitative

Ɂitsilish

Comitative indicates a person accompanying another person. A comitative noun phrase is marked by **-n**. About the comitative, you ask with 'with whom?'

Example 50

> **Ɂahummo kabbaya wenk'iti.**
> The thief opened the door.

> **naa diye Ɂahummon   Ɂakabba wenk'iti**
> My father opened the door together with the thief.

The following chart lists all the markers of Hoozo noun phrases:

case	marker	example
subject	**-ya and ye** first element in sentence	**Example 32**
object	**-ya and ye** second element in sentence	**Example 32**
possessive	**-sha** after the head noun	**Example 17.**
dative	**-sh**	**Example.42**
locative	**-sh**	**Example.43**
directional	**-af**	**Example.44**
ablative	**-sh-shish**	**Example.45**
instrumental	**-n**	**Example.46**
comitative	**-n**	**Example.47**

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All the kinds of words introduced so far have in common that they can be inflected in various ways. There are, however, words in Hoozo which do not get inflected. One class of such verbs are the *adverbs*.

Adverbs = non-inflecting words that describe a predicate.

The adverb gives additional information about the predicate. It answers questions about where, when, how or how much. Adverbs, in fact, can be of very different forms, and often they are derived from other kinds of words, like nouns, demonstratives or adjectives. In Hoozo many adverbs are placed at the very beginning of a sentence (see Example 26).

9.2 Local Adverbs

Local adverbs = adverbs that indicate the place of an event

Hoozo has many locative adverbs. Some are underived; some are made from nouns or demonstratives.

Example 51

zəsh	here
zash	there
zaʔash	away
keli	down/enter

    kera keli   'enter'
    keratəmishkeli 'go down the house'

ʔoli	up
talaf	straight ahead
notsa	left
kʼənsa	right

teemi	over
təmish	on top of
wawish	beside
koli	sideways
ziga	near
gəbba	under

9.3 Temporal Adverbs

Temporal adverbs = adverbs that indicate the time of an event

Here is a sample of Hoozo temporal adverbs:

Example 52

henge	now
shami	later
tali	before
ʔonnak'ənda	at once
habi	today
hashibi	tomorrow
heeshe	yesterday
za gəmmi	this year
heeshebe	the day before
habinti	after some days
habinti shəlda	next week
kwandi shəlda	the coming week
habinti gəmmi	next year

kwandi gəmmi	the coming year
gəmmi durən	last year
talisht'wenti shelda	last week

9.4   Modal adverbs, Manner Adverbs

Modal adverbs = adverbs that describe the manner of doing something

The following are modal adverbs of Hoozo. **Example** 'very' is a special case of an adverb of degree.

tólìn	peacefully
wérán	quickly
shiwan	fast
khán	slowly
zə̀mbín	powerfully
ʔátín	carefully
píyáwà	very
yə́nsʔì	very much

10 Story: Donkey, Dog and Goat

<div align="center">

ኩሬን ውሺን ሻን

kur-n wushi-n shaa-n

</div>

ኩሬን ውሺን ሻን ያብ ቄፅ የእ ዶዕና፨

kuren wushin shaan yaabk'ets' ye?i do?i-na.

ዉንዲሊ ኤቢ ዋስቲ(ት) አልቲ፨

wundili ?ebbi wast ?olti

ለቅሶ ቤት ለመሄድ ፈልገው መኪና ጠይቀው ሄዱ፨

Wanting to go to a funeral, they asked a car and went.

አ ኬዕና ጊድዛ ናሽ ኒኖ ኤቲ ዋስቲሽ ኩሬ አንዲ ኒና ኢፊልቲ፨

?a ke?ina gidza nash nino ?eti was'tish kure ?andi nina ?ifilti

እዚያ ደርሶ ገንዘብ ስጡ ብሎ አህያ ስጥቶ ወጣ፨

When they arrived, the driver asked "Give me the fare". The donkey paid his fare and went out.

ሻሚ ኤቄሽ ጊዛ ሂንኪ ሺሽቲሽ ዉሽ ገበሽ የጥ ቶኪ አስታ፥ ኪንዳ? ኤቴልቲ ዋስቲሽ ጊዛ ናሽ ኒኖ ኢኔቲ፨

shami ?ek'esh gida hinki shishtish wushi gəbəsh yət'i toki ?asta, kinda? ?etelti wastish gidza nash nino ?inəti.

ፍየሏ ገንዘብ ስለሌላት ሄዳ ተደብቃ "ምንድነው?" ብላ ጠየቀች፤ "ገንዘብ ስጡኝ" አለ፨

Because the nanny-goat didn't have money she went and while she hid she asked 'what?'; he (the driver) said: 'Give me the fare'.

ኢኔቲሽ ዉሺ የና አንዲ ኒንቲ ።

ʔinətish wushi yena ʔandi ninti

ሲል ውሻው ሄዶ የራሱን ሰጠ።

When he said that, the dog gave his.

ሻ አጋ ደገሽ ዶጣ ጊዛ ኒንዋቲ ቂና ኮንት ባል ኬልቲ።

shaa ʔaga dəgəsh dot'a gidza ninwati k'ina kont bal kelti

ፍየሊ በዝህ መሃል ተነስታ ገንዘብ ስላልሰጠች ሮጣ ወደ ጫካ ጠፋች።

The goat stood up in the middle of this and because she had not given money she ran into the forest.

አጋ ዉሺ ሻሚ አ ጊድዛ ኪሽ ኒንወቲ ቂና ዊንዲል ኤፕ ሻሚ አሻ ኮ ኮንቲ።

ʔaga wushi shaami ʔa gidza kish ninwəti k'ina wundili ʔebbi shammi ʔashakokonti

ውሻው መልስ ስላልተሰጠው ከመኪና ኋላ ይሮጣል።

The dog, because he was not given exchange, always runs after the cars.