

## Verbs and Tense in Shughni

‘to ask’ pex̌stoo

‘to cook’ paḡtoo

‘to eat’ xidoo

‘to fall’ weḡtoo

‘to give’ daak

‘to help’ yordam

‘to laugh’ šintoo

‘to see’ čix̌too

‘to weave’ wifto

‘like(s)’ ḡoš

‘like(s), love(s)’ žiuḡ

‘dislike(s)’ nažiuḡ (= can be ‘does not like’)

‘came home’(past) tarčid yat

We can categorize the Shughni verbs we have found into five types by the ways they mark tense. I use the terms ‘xidoo-type’, ‘daak-type’ and ‘ḡoš-type’ for convenience. The verbs in brackets are categorized tentatively since we do not have enough evidence to be sure. Additionally, categorization for the verbs žiuḡ and nažiuḡ cannot be determined yet due to lack of evidence.

Regular	Xidoo-type (eat)	Irregular	Daak-type (give)	ḡoš-type (like)
(pex̌stoo),(paḡtoo), weḡtoo,šintoo,wifto	xidoo	čix̌too	daak yordam	ḡoš tarčid

### Regular verbs

The past tense of a regular verb is marked by its root (infinitive form minus ‘-oo’) preceded by its subject. In this case, the first person pronoun ‘oz’ must be suffixed with the first person marker ‘-om’ or ‘-um’. For first person singular, the past tense can also be marked by the root of the verb suffixed with the same first person marker.

(1) 'I fell' – ozum wɛxt̃ / wɛxtom̃

'he fell' - yɔ wɛxt̃

From what we have found, the account for the present tense of a regular verb can only be made with regards to the first person. The general rule is to add the first person marker suffix '-om' or '-um' to the verb and to change the first vowel (latter optional). The final consonant of the root 't' may or may not be maintained, depending on the verb.

(2) 'I fall' – woxum̃

'I laugh' – šintom̃

Note however, that the present and the past forms for first person 'šintoo' are identical. Also, in some cases, there seems to be an insertion of an additional consonant. Despite this fact, I have categorized 'pax̃too' as a regular verb, because its past forms behave just as those of other regular verbs do.

(3) 'I cook' - oz pizum̃

'I want my mother to cook' - mord fort mo nan pizt̃

'I cooked' – ozum pax̃t̃ / pax̃tom̃

The future tense of a regular verb is marked by adding the suffix '-ta' to the subject. There is only one slot for additional morphemes after a subject, so when '-ta' is used the first person marker '-om' or '-um' must move to the post-verbal position.

(4) 'I will fall' – ozta woxum̃

### **Xidoo (eat) -type verbs**

The verb 'xidoo' ('to eat') behaves somewhat differently from regular verbs. The only past form of this verb is 'xud'. Unlike regular verbs, the first person past cannot be marked with the suffix '-om' or '-um' attached to the verb root.

(5) 'I ate' – ozum xud

\* xudum / \* xudom

The present tense involves a change in the vowel and an insertion of an additional

consonant.

(6) 'I eat' - oz xarom

'he eats' - yɔ xirt

### **Irregular verbs**

An irregular verb found in Shughni is 'čix̌too' ('to see'). By 'irregular', I mean the types of verb whose conjugated forms look entirely different from their infinitive forms. Apart from this characteristic, the past tense for this verb is marked quite similarly to regular verbs.

Ex) 'I saw you' – ozum to wint / wintom to

Although the first person present differs slightly from its past counterpart, the third person past and present forms look exactly the same. However, those forms follow different subject cases according to the tense.

(7) 'I see him' – oz wenom wɛ

'he sees me' - yɔ wint mo

'he saw her' - yɔyɛ wam wint

### **Daak (give) -type verbs**

I categorized the verbs 'daak' (give) and 'yordam' (help) because they seem to behave similarly, if not entirely in the same way. A typical way to mark the past tense for this type of verbs is to add the morpheme 'čud' after the infinitive form, which is used regardless of the person. It is remarkable that the morpheme appears as a separate word in the case of 'yordam', while it appears as a suffix in the case of 'daak'. Additionally, the first person form for 'daak' is 'dakčum', not 'daakčud'. Unlike regular verbs, the first person cannot be marked with the morpheme '-um' suffixed to the subject; the morpheme 'čum' or 'čud' is required.

(8) 'I gave' – oz dakčum / \*ozum daak

'he gave' - yɔyɛ daakčud

‘I helped myself’ – ozum x̌obaə x̌ord yordam čud

‘you helped yourself’ - tot x̌obaə x̌ord yordam čud

‘he helped himself’ – yoye x̌obaə x̌ord yordam čud

The first person present forms for these verbs are marked with the suffix ‘-um’ or ‘-om’ attached to their infinitive forms. The third person present on the other hand is marked with the morpheme ‘kiŋt’. Just like its past counterpart ‘čud’, it appears as a suffix in the case of ‘daak’, while it does as a separate word in the case of ‘yordam’.

(9) ‘I give’ – oz daakum

‘he gives’ – yoy daakiŋt

‘I help’ – oz yordamom

‘he helps’ - yoy yordam kiŋt

Similarly to any other types of verbs, the future tense for these verbs is marked with the tense marker ‘-ta’ suffixed to the subject and the following verb in its present form. From the examples of the verb ‘daak’, one can conclude that the marker ‘-ta’ is used regardless of the person. Although the second person present form of ‘daak’ is not yet known, it is most likely to be ‘daake’ by analogy with the cases of the first and the third persons.

(10) ‘I will give’ – ozta daakum

‘he will give’ – yoyta daakiŋt

‘you will give’ - totta daake

### **X̌oš-type verbs**

The verbs of this type do not change their forms in different tenses; instead, they combine with tense markers. Their infinitive forms are not known at this point.

The present form of the verb ‘to like’ is invariably ‘x̌oš’. When the first person ‘oz’ takes the nominative case, the first person marker ‘-om’ is attached to the dative pronoun, not the verb as is the case with other types of verbs.

(11) 'I like her' - ya mord ǰoš

'you like her' – tord ya ǰoš

'he doesn't like me' - wɛrdom oz ǰoš nəst

There are two kinds post-verbal past markers for these verbs: 'yat' and 'vad' or 'vɔd'. These markers, although they both represent actions somehow related to the past, give different meanings to the sentence.

(12) 'he liked me' – wɛrdom oz ǰoš vad

'he is beginning to like me' – wɛrdom oz dalau ǰoš yat

'he came home' - yɔ tarčid yat

'he was home' - yɔ tarčid vɔd

The future tense of these verbs, like other types of verbs, is marked with the morpheme '-ta' attached to the subject and the following verb in its present form. In the example below, there seems to be a reduction of a consonant, resulting in 'wɛrta' instead of '\*wɛrɔta'. Also, there seems to be an additional word that must be added after the verb. In the example below, it is represented as 'yadom'. The first person marker '-om' moved from the position after the dative pronoun 'wɛrd'. Hence it is likely that the underlying form of this additional marker is 'yad'.

(13) 'he will like me' – wɛrta oz ǰoš yadom

There is evidence that at least one of these past markers, namely 'vɔd', can be used when there is no verb. Moreover, although the word 'sud' has not been used in combination with verbs, it seems to mark the future in the same way as the 'vɔd' marks the past in the example below.

(14) ‘the apricot is white’ – noš safed

‘the apricot was white’ – safed noš vod

‘the apricot will be white’ – safed noš sud

### **Negation**

In Shughni, the morpheme ‘na-’ is typically prefixed to the verb to mark negation. However, in the case of ǰoš-type verbs, it is prefixed to the tense marker. Moreover, for marking the present tense with ǰoš-type verbs, the negation marker ‘nəst’ is added post-verbally instead of the ‘na-’.

(15) ‘I will not give’ – ozta nadaakum

‘I didn’t fall’ – ozum nawəǰt / nawəǰtom

‘he doesn’t like me’ - wərdom oz ǰoš nast

‘he didn’t like me’ - wərdom oz ǰoš nayat / wərdom oz ǰoš navad

\* wərdom oz naǰoš

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