

A Dictionary of a Lesser-known Language Nyishi

Sudhanshu Shekhar

Assistant Professor Department of Tribal Studies
Coordinator, Centre for Endangered languages
Central University of Jharkhand
Ranchi – 835 205
shekhar921@gmail.com
Mobile no: +91 9801044682

About Nyishi Language

Modern-day Arunachal Pradesh is one of the linguistically richest and most diverse regions in all of Asia, being home to at least thirty and possibly as many as fifty distinct languages in addition to innumerable dialects and sub dialects thereof. Boundaries between languages very often correlate with tribal divisions - for example, Apatanis and Nyishis are both tribally and linguistically distinct - but shifts in tribal identity and alignment over time have also ensured that a certain amount of complication enters into the picture. Nyishi is a tribal language also known as Nissi and Nishing. Nyishi language is specially speaks by Nishi tribal people in Arunachal Pradesh. Nyishi language belongs to Tibeto- Burman language family sub-division of Sino-Tibetan language family.

Grierson in *Linguistics Survey of India* “noticed that the Nyishi Language is closely related to Abormiris and Daflas dialects they have same speech form (Grierson 1996 p 568).

Nyishi uses the deictic demonstration to use reference in the context. Third person gender pronoun is not distinguished in Nyishi. However, third person nouns are distinguished for gender. Nouns referring to biologically male are masculine in gender and those which are biologically female are feminine in gender. Masculine gender is identified with the marks *pu/bu* and feminine marker is *ne*. Nyishi language has numerals and quantifiers. Plural markers are also found in the Nyishi language.

About ToolboX

ToolboX is a computer program designed to help linguists and linguists organize and analyze language data. ToolboX helps you collect field language data you want to study, analyze it and publish. In ToolboX dictionary annotated data can be stored and lots of corpus empirical sentences can also be included. It is especially useful for maintaining lexical data, and for parsing and interlinearizing text, it is a text-oriented database management system with added functionality designed to meet the needs of a field linguist. The underlying DBMS offers full user flexibility in the design of any type of database. But for ease of use, the Toolbox package includes prepared database definitions for a typical dictionary and text corpus. Interlinear text can be exported in a form suitable

for use in linguistic papers. Toolbox has export capabilities that can be used to produce a publishable dictionary from a dictionary database.

Semantic Domain

Semantics is a term that refers to how meaning is assigned in language. A domain is essentially a specific place or territory. A **semantic domain** is a specific place that shares a set of meanings, or a language that holds its meaning, within the given context of the place. Harriet Ottenheimer (2006), a writer of Linguistic Anthropology defines a semantic domain as a “specific area of cultural emphasis”. Abbreviated form /Sd/ has been used for semantic domain.

The Dictionary

A - a

alo₁ Variant: solo. *noun.*,/sd body part/.. bone. **alo doma** there is no bone.



B - b

bali *noun.*, /sd universe/.. sand. **bali alema**. sand is not good.



banəm *v.*,/sd ailment/... vomit.

bedpw̥ta *noun.*,/ sd bird/.. a kind of bird.



bəla *noun*/sd daily life/. . a piece of glass with a shiny metallic back which reflects light, producing an image of whatever is in front of it.



benəm *verb*. /sd language and thought/. . to say a word or an expression which is not polite and shows that you are very angry

benəm *noun*. /sd water/. . draught.

bəpa *noun*/sd food/. . a kind of plant from which sugar is made..



bərmo *noun*/sd numeral/. . five (for rupees).

biju *adj.* correct.

bimin *verb*. /sd physical actions/. . to sing.

biru *adj.* /sd states/. . full.

boji *n.* /sd work/. . work. **ŋo boji to.** you do work.

bɔr *n.* /sd kinsip/. . term brother.

borbinsala *noun*. /sd insect/. . a type of insect with large often brightly coloured wings. **borbinsala nə jər do.** butterfly is flying. this butterfly is generally found in the forest.



boskapa *noun* /sd sense/. . danger.

bɔsnam *noun*. /sd sense/. . fear.

bʊʃbəja *noun*. /sd water/. . rain in very small light drops.

bʊlə *pro* /sd grammar/. . they.

bunəm *v.* /sd physical action/. . suck

bwurm *n.* /sd kinship term/.. sister.

C - c

campi *n.* /sd numeral/.. twenty
cenəm *verb.* /sd animal/.. bite. **iki cenəm** dog bites.

cıŋəm *verb.* to know. **ŋo am cıŋəm.** i know him.
copja *noun./sd* body part/.. chin.

D - d

dənəm *v./sd* physical state/.. stand
dəm *noun.* /body part/.. hair of human body. **dəm kja do** hair is black. Variant: **đum.** /sd body part
dəmpɔ *noun.* /sd body/.. part the upper most part of a huamn body. **dəmpɔ dəmci do.** my head is aching.
dən *noun.* /sd person/..woman. **dəne gə nəsi sodu.** woman are doing something.
dərəp *noun.*/sd illness/.. a substance, especially in the form of a liquid or a pill, which is a treatment for illness or injury.
didərus *noun./sd* water/..overflow of water in rivers,ponds or the places where human live. **đidərus ta te do.** flood is big.
doku *noun.* /sd daily life/.. an object consisting of a round hollow part and a handle, used for mixing, serving and eating food.



đol *fever* /sd ailments/.. a kind of ailment where the temperature of the body goes up. nyisi people use special kind of herbs to cure fever.

đomčə *noun.* /sd Universe/.., creation the water body that is formed in the sky and which is responsible for rain.



đop *n.* /sd universe/.. sun. **đop calıŋ do.** the sun is rising.



đonəm *verb.* /sd physical state live.
đonpɔ *noun* /sd Universe, creation. sky.



đumpɔ *noun./sd* body part/.. head.
đunəm *verb./sd* physical actions/.. to dig.

habo *noun* /sd body part/.. front of the body.
hah?ən *noun.* /sd kinship term/.. father's father.
hapum *noun* /sd universe/.. fog.



harnəm *verb.* /sd activity/.. an activity of friskly moving legs.
has *noun.* /sd animal/.. an animal which is found in forest and are used as pet as well. **has ɳə kubu dədu.** the cat is eating a rat. Nyishi people use cat for meat too.



həbləkəm *pro.* /sd grammar/.. if.
həbnəm *verb.* /sd physical activity/.. to produce tears as the result of a strong emotion, such as unhappiness or pain.
həbo *noun.* /sd body part/.. chest.
həi *noun.* /sd water cold/.. water.
həŋ *noun* /sd body part/.. heart. **ɳo galoo həŋ do dən.** i have heart.
henəm *verb* /sd activity/.. to write.
hətɔ Variant: **hapəm.** *verb.* /sd activity/.. come.
həw *adj.* /sd physical condition freeze.
hidəm *when.* /sd grammar/..
hiəm Variant: **kinəm.** *verb.* /sd numerals/.. to count. **ɳul təkər hiðo.** we count stars.
hijə *pro* /sd grammar/.. some.

hikajnəm *noun* /sd vehicle/.. train.



hitəb *noun* /sd human activity/.. a set of pages that have been fastened together inside a cover to be read or written in. **kja hitəb** black book.



hogabə *preposition* /sd grammar/.. because.
hɔgə *pro* /sd grammar/.. what.
homnəm *verb* /sd human activity/.. to sew.
hənəm *verb* /sd human activity/.. to earn.
hɔrɔp' *adj.* /sd human activity/.. costing little money or less than is usual or expected.
hɔṭepəbʊŋ *noun.* /sd water/.. sea.
hubu Variant: **tunəm.** *adj* /sd water/.. dry. **isiga hubu pəku.** water has dried.
huglə *pro* /sd grammar/.. where.
hugub /sd grammar/.. how.

humə *noun.* /sd food/.. green vegetables.



humnəm *verb.* /sd religion/.. worship.

hun *noun.* /sd metal/.. a kind of metal yellow in color.

hunpinbo *noun.* /sd occupation/.. someone who makes objects from gold.

hwrtɔ *v.* /sd physical activity/.. Thorw

I - i

iəbwatal *noun* /sd body part/... right side of the body. tal is the word for side.

iəgwatal *noun*/sd location/.. right side.

iŋkonəm *n.* /sd human activity clothing.

iŋmanbo *noun.* /sd human/.. weaver.

iki *noun.* /sd animal/.. dog. ik kab do. the dog is crying.



isi *n* /sd water/... water. so isi si ʈuɳəm ja. this water is good to drink.

J - j

janbo *adj.* /sd attribute/.. rotten. so kuppa si janbo pa. banna is rotten.

jəmd *noun.* /sd food chilli/.. Nyisi people generally do not use chilli in their food. they use it sometimes in food.

jəlna *noun.* fall.

juktɔ *v./sd* physical activity/.. sleep.

juma *noun.*/sd physical activity/.. dream. sol ɳo juma manəm. today i dreamt.

jupuɳ *adj./sd* colour/.. white.

K - k

kac *adj.* dirty.

kagnəm Variant: səŋkuk. *verb.* barking of dog.

kano *noun* /sd physical activity/.. hunger. ɳəm kano pa. i feel hungry.

kat *verb/sd* physical activity/... see.

kəco Variant: kacəkyə. *noun.* dust. ʈebəl kəco do. there is dust on the table.

kedat *noun./sd* kinship term/.. landlord.

kəjə	<i>adj.</i> /sd attributes /..black.
kəji	<i>noun.</i> /sd kinship term/.. maternal uncle.
kəmnəm	<i>pro.</i> /sd grammar/.. with.
kən	<i>n./sd numerical</i> /.. eight.
kən	<i>noun.</i> /sd universe /..night.
kepə	<i>noun.</i> /sd physical activity/.. belly.
kərnəm	<i>verb.</i> to lie.
ki	<i>noun.</i> /sd kinship term/.. mother's mother.
kɔ	<i>noun</i> /sd fruit/.. child.
kohosi	<i>noun</i> /sd kinship term/.. grandson.
kɔi	<i>adj.</i> big.
koʃ	<i>noun</i> /sd human activity/... bangles.
kokər	<i>adj.</i> /sd attribute/.. shaped like a ball or circle, or curved.
kɔnəga	<i>noun.</i> /sd kinship term/.. son.
kɔnəm	<i>noun.</i> /sd kinship term/.. daughter. ano kɔnəm she is my daughter.
koppə	<i>noun.</i> /sd fruit a kind of fruit/... ŋo koppə də dən. i eat banana.



ko? *noun.*/sd kinship term/.. nephew.

kubu	<i>noun.</i> /sd animal /..a small mammal with short fur, a pointed face, and a long tail.
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kohi *noun* /sd tree/... bark of tree.



kuppa *noun* /sd fruit/... banana.

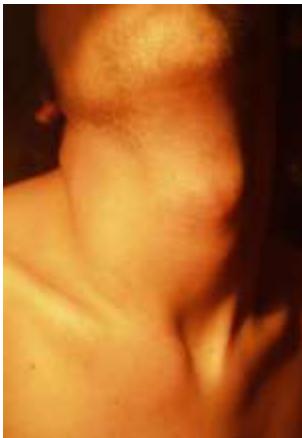


L - I

la	<i>preposition</i> /sd grammar/.. and.
lac	<i>noun.</i> /sd body part/.. palm.



lactal *noun* /sd location/.. left side.

lan	<i>noun.</i> /sd body part/. the short thick finger on the side of your hand which makes it possible to hold and pick things up easily .See picture. lan ka tunjo. do not show me your thumb.		litj	<i>n</i> /sd numeral/... hund.
			linəm	<i>v./sd human activity/..</i> to tie.
			lubw	<i>noun</i> /sd body part/.. knee.
			luci	<i>adj</i> /sd attribute/.. red.
			lugw	<i>noun./sd body part/.. neck.</i> ŋo gə lugw əci ḍo. my neck is paining.
				
laŋk	<i>Variant:</i> /sd body part/. koju. <i>noun.</i> back.			
lasin	<i>noun.</i> /sd body part/. claw.			
ləcw	<i>noun</i> /sd body/.. partany of the long thin separate parts of the hand. alo ləcw gə po cwpe. his finger is small.		lu:gu:	<i>noun.</i> /sd body part/.. neck.
ləmta	<i>noun.</i> road.			
lənk	<i>noun</i> /sd location/.. back.			

M - m

mamija	<i>noun.</i> /sd tree root/... pipal <i>sejne</i> mamija kol do. pipal's root is big.		mica	<i>pronoun./sd numerals/.. few.</i>
			mij	<i>adj</i> /sd attribute/.. smooth.
			minam	<i>verb./sd human activity/..</i> to hit.
			miŋnəm	<i>verb./sd human activity/..</i> to kill. əm minjo. do not kill.
mate	<i>noun</i> /sd kinship/.. sister's husband.			
məcwp	<i>noun.</i> narrow.			
məktə	<i>noun./sd kinship term/..</i> paternal aunt's husband.			
mi	<i>pro/sd grammar/..</i> he.			

modi *noun* /sd flora and fauna/.. a raised part of the Earth's surface, much larger than a hill, the top of which might be covered in snow.
modi pute do. mountain is big.



mw *noun* /sd kinship term/.. wife of younger paternal uncle.
m̄bu *noun*. ashes.

mwgəpnəm *verb*/sd physical activit/..y. to be able to bring back a piece of information into your mind, or to keep a piece of information in your memory. **ŋo nəm mwgəpdən.** i remember you.

mw̄i *noun*./sd kinship term/.. brother's wife.
mw̄lu *pro* ./sd gramma all.
mw̄nəm *v.*/sd physical activity/.. to think.

N - n

nabur *noun* ./sd body part/.. one of the two soft, red edges of the mouth.
nale *pro* ./sd grammar/.. many.
nənəm *verb*./sd human activity/.. to earn.
narikɔl *noun*./sd friut/.. a kind of fruit.



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nəm *noun*./sd location/.. a construction traditionally made with bamboo flask and wood where people live.



nəmpum *noun*./sd location/.. a group of houses and other buildings, such as a church, a school and some shops, which is smaller than a town, usually in the countryside.



niknəm *verb*./sd human activity/.. to press or be pressed against something with a circular or up and down repeated movement.
nirnəm *verb*/sd physical activity/.. to laugh.
nit *adj* ./sd attribute new. **ŋo nit ije kaŋum do.** my new cloth is good.
nɔmərəŋni *noun* ./sd kinship term. host.
nurnəm *v* /sd cook. to cook.
n?h *noun*/sd body part/.. mouth.

O - o

og *noun./sd attribute/..* a kind of cover for head to protect from sun or rain.



ognəm *adj.* warm.

ogum *adj./sd location/..* near.

oko *Variant: ok. noun. /sd flora nad fauna/..* leaves of trees, plants and saplings. **oko tacu do.** leaf is small.



P - p

pat *noun./sd animal/..* a large wild animal of the cat family with yellowish brown fur which lives in Africa and southern Asia.



penəm *Variant: petonəm. verb./sd attributes/..* to cut. **ŋul ədij pedo.** we are cutting meat.

pənəm *verb./sd physical activity/..* to hear.

pep/pəp *noun./sd food/..* egg. **poro gə pep/pəp pudo.** hen lays egg.



pirnəm *adj./sd attribute/..* wide.

pi:n *noun./sd numerals/..* eight.

poz *noun./sd bird/..* a kind of bird.



pc *Syn: 1.noun /sd universe/... a heavily body. pc
ca lin do pa.* the moon is coming out.



pc *Syn: 2.noun /sd universe/.. year.*

pcđc *adj./sd attributes/..* thin.

porabɔ *noun./sd human activity/..* one who teaches in a school generally.

pcđa *noun./sd daily life/..* letter.

pcđe *adj.* fat/ grease.

pwca *Variant: poca. adj.* dull.

pułi *noun /sd flora nad fauna.* seed.

pułv *adj./sd attributes/..* white.

puŋ *noun. /sd body part/..* brain. brain of any animate thing.



punəm *verb.* sell.

punəm *verb.* pull.

pore *noun./sd physical activity/..* scratch.

purnəm *v./sd location/..* to turn.

pwutw Variant: **pəta**. *noun./sd bird/..* bird.

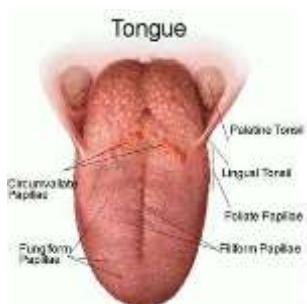


R - r

renəm *verb.* to buy.

rinəm *verb./sd attributes/..* to obtain meaning by looking at words or symbols.

ro *n.* tongue. /sd body part/. **yo ro əm naliñ kasa.** show me ur tongue.



ronjəm *verb./sd human activity/..* the activity of coloring surface of something.

cañinjəc *noun.* farmer.

rubin *noun.* /sd daily need/.. a piece of jewellery, usually one of a pair, worn in a hole in the ear or fixed to the ear by a fastener: **so rubin si rupa gə.** this earring is made from rupa(a kind of metal).

ruga *noun./sd physical activity/..* mentally ill, or unable to behave in a reasonable way. **ruga woman** mad woman. maddness is considered as a result of anger of the nature.

rupa *noun.* /sd daily need/.. a kind of metal generally used in the form of ornaments.

S - s

sah *noun./sd food/..* a drink made by pouring hot water onto) dried and cut leaves and sometimes flowers, especially the leaves of the tea plant.



se *noun./sd animal/..* cow. **so se si buñ lupa.** this cow is white. generally cow is not used for milk. It is used as food.



səb?i *noun./sd animal/..* an animal that lives in hot countries, has a long tail and climbs trees. Monkeys are primates (= the group of animals which are most like humans).



səda *n./sd flora and fauna/.., a thin piece of wood. generally stick is used for keepin domestic animals under control.*



sejasibin *noun./sd animal/.. sheep. si ɳul ɠe sejasibin. this is our sheep.*



səma *noun/sd human/... a huamn body which is not now living.*

səŋ *noun./sd tree/.. tree. səŋ hɛtə ja. tree is big.*



sənəm *verb./sd physical activity/.. to breath.*

sət *noun /sd animal/... a kind of animal.*

sibiŋ *noun./sd animal/.. goat.*



sikur *adj. //sd season.. cold (for weather).*
siɳe *noun /sd universe/... lake.*



sinəm *verb./sd physical activity/.. to die.*

sini *noun./sd food/.. a sweet substance which is obtained especially from the plants sugar cane and sugar beet and used to sweeten food and drinks.*



sipahi *noun./sd language/.. soldier. it is a laon word from hindi language.*

sircnam *verb./sd grammar/.. to spit.*

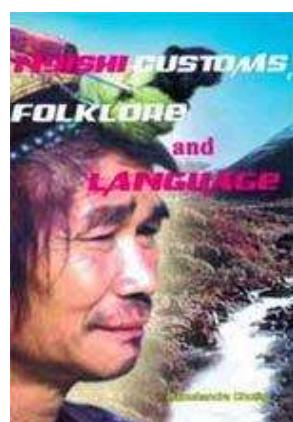
sɔ *pro. /sd location/.. here.*

sobu *noun./sd universe/.. river.*

sonəm *verb./sd human activity/.. to play.*

sɔsi *pro./sd grammar/.. this.*

stup *noun/sd human/... male/ man.*

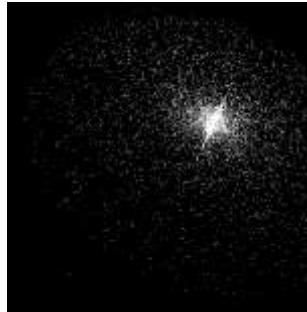


T - t

tadur *adj./sd attributes/.. warm.*

taka *noun./sd ailment/.. a kind of ailment.*

takər *noun/sd universe/... star.* **sol təkər ɳə kaṇun do.** the star is beautiful.



tapəmb' *n./sd universe/.. snow.*



tat *adj./sd location/.. wide.*

təbuw *n/sd animal/... a reptile.* **kja təbuw.** black snake.

təh *noun./sd daily life/.. a flat piece of plastic, wood or metal with a thin row of long narrow parts along one side, which you use to tidy and arrange your hair. See picture .*



tələb *noun/sd food/... a plant of the onion family that has a strong taste and smell and is used in cooking to add flavour.*



tələp *noun./sd food /..a plant of the onion family that has a strong taste and smell and is used in cooking to add flavour.*



təli *noun./sd daily life/.. a kind of liquid used in cooking or massaging body.*

təmdir *noun./sd ailment/.. a kind of an ailment which is caused due to cold generally.*

təŋnəm Variant: **tənəm.** *Verb /sd physical activity/... to drink.* **ɳo isi təndo.** i drink water.

təpum *noun/sd food/... ice.*



təpum/ane *noun/sd body part/... eye.*



təru	<i>noun./sd insects/..</i> a kind of insect that bites people. təruəm min to. kill mosquito.		tərəp'	<i>noun/sd insects/...</i> a very small insect which lives under the ground in large and highly organized social groups. no tərəp' ako dəpən. i ate ant.	
təsw̥	<i>noun/sd body part/...</i> the hard slightly curved part that covers and protects the top of the end of a finger.		trinəm	<i>adj/ sd food/..</i> describes food which has a strong and very pleasant flavour.	
tiŋk	<i>noun./sd daily life/..</i> the coins or notes which are used to buy things. nyisi people think money in terms of coins generally. but with the adamant of time, this perception has changed.		tu	<i>noun./sd insects/..</i> a kind of insect which is found in home.	
tipnəm	<i>v./sd human activity/..</i> to wipe.		tunəm	<i>verb/sd human activity/...</i> push. alo am tujo. do not push him.	
tɔŋ	<i>noun./sd daily life/..</i> a sweet sticky yellow substance made by bees and used as food.		turñəm	<i>noun./sd dailylife/..</i> the grey, black or white mixture of gas and very small pieces of carbon that is produced when something burns.	
tonm	<i>verb./sd grammar/..</i> to flow.		tut	<i>noun./sd body part/..</i> forehaed. alo ga tuta tate ja. his forehead is big.	
tɔpo	<i>noun./sd food/..</i> a tall plant grown in many parts of the world for its yellow seeds which are eaten as food, made into flour or fed to animals.		tɔh	<i>noun/sd insects/...</i> louse.	

U - u

ur *noun./sd body part/.. blood.*



u:ra *pre/sd grammar/... in.*