Menya

*An Introduction to the proto-language
of the savannah people*

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Chapter I - Phonology

I.1 - Consonants and Vowels

      Menya possesses a consonant inventory of 37 consonants, with 21 of them being related to nasals (so by including pre-nasalised stops). This means that more than 56% of its consonants are nasals.

      As well, Menya possesses a distinction between dental and alveolar for multiple manner of articulation, and an evident lack of any kind of fricative.

Proto		Peripheral			Laminal		Apical	
		Labial		Velar	Palatal	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex
		Plain	Velarized					
Nasal	Plain	m	mˠ	ŋ	ȵ	n̪	n	ɳ
	Labialized	mʷ	mʷˠ	ŋʷ	ȵʷ	n̪ʷ	nʷ	ɳʷ
Plosive	Plain	b~p	bˠ~pˠ	g~k	ɟ~ȶ	d̪~t̪	d~t	ɖ~ʈ
	Prenasalized	ᵐb	ᵐbˠ	ᵑg	ᶮɟ	ⁿd̪	ⁿd	ⁿɖ
Lateral					ʎ	l̪	l	ɭ
Approximant		w		ɰ	j			ɭ̡
Rhotic							ɾ~r	

      It should be noted that the "palatal" consonants are actually better described as alveolo-palatal, a place of articulation uncommon for stops and sonorants, but often found with fricatives, in languages such as Japanese [(d)ʑ] [ɕ] and Polish [d͡ʑ] + [t͡ɕ]. The exception to this rule is in Australian Aboriginal Languages, where they are often the preferred realisation.

      As for its vowels, it is a simple three vowel system of / a i ɯ / (the usual /u/ is here unrounded) with also the presence of /ə/ making it a total of four vowels. There is a growing tendency, especially for youth, to realise /ə/ as /ɛ~ɪ/ following laminals, and /ɔ/ following apicals.

      Unusually, there appears to be little to no allophonic variation outside of the schwa, other than /ɾ/ in free variation with /r/, and how the plain stops may devoice in a multitude of positions in one's own idiolect. For clarity, they are only transcribed with their voiced counterparts, and ⟨r⟩ is transcribed with [r].

	Front	Mid	Back
High	i	ə	ɯ
Low		a	

I.2 Orthography

Menya's orthography is made with the Latin script, in what could be said to be more of a romanization than a real orthography. In the world these fictional speakers live in, writing has not yet been invented.

Proto		Peripheral			Laminal		Apical	
		Labial Plain	Labial Velarized	Velar	Palatal	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex
Nasal	Plain	m	m'	ng	ny	nh	n	rn
Nasal	Labialized	mw	mw'	ngw	nyw	nhw	nw	rnw
Plosive	Plain	p	p'	k	ty	th	t	rt
Plosive	Prenasalized	b	b'	g	dy	dh	d	rd
Lateral					ly	lh	l	rl
Approximant		w		w'	y			
Rhotic							rr	r

	Front	Mid	Back
High	i	e	u
Low		a	

I.3 - Phonotactics

Syllables in Menya are said to be $P/CV(N)(C)$, which means that a syllable starts with one consonant as their onset, which must be a peripheral at the start of the word, or /j/. Then after the one vowel the coda may be formed of, in order, one nasal consonant and one other consonant.

It may also be described as Peripherals and /j/ being the only permitted onsets for stressed syllables, as this language has stress exclusively on the first syllable, with no exceptions.

I.4 - Word Order

Menya uses a small number of word orders to convey grammatical meaning. The most common of the word order is the default VOSA word order (A being adjuncts) for transitive sentences, and shift to a SVA word order for intransitive sentences. As well, with the use of auxiliary the word order changes to SaV, OSAV word order (aV being auxiliary verb) for transitive sentences and to SaV, SAV word order for intransitive sentences.

Chapter II - Pronouns

Pronouns in Menya are split between human and non-humans, with human being split by clusivity (I/we/you and he/she/it/they) and working with a nominative-accusative alignment, as opposed to the near universal ergative-absolutive alignment used for all other nouns. As for non-humans, they may only be referred to using demonstrative, who are split by distance between proximal and distal.

Also, pronouns may be omitted when they can be deduced from context, making Menya a pro-drop language.

		Nominative	Accusative
Human	Inclusive	karn [gaɳ]	karntyi [ˈkaɳ.ɖ̡i]
	Exclusive	bunh [ᵐbɯn̠]	bunhtyi [ˈᵐbɯn̠.ɖ̡i]
Animate & Inanimate	Proximal	ngwey [ŋʷəj]	
	Distal	mirl [miɭ]	

The proximal and distal demonstrative can also be used for humans, but then it can only mean "this/that". For example: ngwey mar-te… (as for this person…).

Despite this small inventory of pronouns, it appears that the speakers are evolving a much larger selection to choose from, with a politeness and honorific system in place not too different from Japanese.

"Barla(tyi)" [ˈᵐba.ɭa.(ɖ̡i)] is an uncommon, yet casual way to refer to oneself, with the meaning of "one's own home", reflecting the hospitality that is expected between friends and family. It is more often used by the youth of slave owners, as opposed to slaves who are expected to speak formally, even in their own private circles.

```
B'any-rti      mirl        bal       barla.
drink.HAB DEM.DIST tea.ABS  1SG.NOM
I drink that tea.
```

Note that -tyi [ɖ̡i] appears to be an evolution for an accusative case, however due to its near complete absence in all vocab except for pronouns, it is not included in the following report on suffixes.

Chapter III - Nouns

Nouns are not defined for number nor definiteness, as such " barla " could mean " the/a house(s) " and are left to context.

III.1 Suffixes

Typical nouns and noun phrases in Menya are often formed by using a combination of suffixes. Most of them could be considered as cases, but are said to be suffixes for easier comprehension.

III.1.1 The Ergative-Absolutive-Aversive Suffixes

III.1.1.1 The Absolutive

The absolutive is the case by default, as it needs no suffix to be attached to the noun. The absolutive is used for the subject of an intransitive sentence and the object of a transitive sentence, such as :

Mw'emw'e-∅   pirnpirn
wildebeest-ABS CONT-chew
The wildebeest is chewing (something)

Nga-rti   b'anh-∅   mw'emw'e-mw'aya
eat-NFUT tall.grass-ABS wildebeest-ERG
The wildebeest eats tall grass

III.1.1.2 The Ergative

The ergative is formed with the suffix -(C)aya, where C is the last onset of the word, and is used for the subject of a transitive sentence, for example in the last example :

Nga-rti   b'anh-∅   mw'emw'e-mw'aya
eat-NFUT tall.grass-ABS wildebeest-ERG
The wildebeest is eating tall grass

III.1.1.3 The Aversive

The Aversive (glossed EVIT), formed with the suffix -(C)arlityi, where C is the last onset of the word, is used to show that the noun transformed by the suffix should be feared, or on the contrary, revered. While it may be used in combination with the Absolutive or the Ergative, it is often used on its own in whichever place feels natural, often before the verb. For example:

Way-arlityi   yaya   karn-kinyw !
fire-EVIT CONT-run INCL.NOM-ABL
The fire is coming towards us !

III.1.1.4 The Topical

The Topical, formed with the suffix -te, is used to show importance and emphasis on the noun / word. This frontens the word to the start of the sentence. (the topical can also instead be clitisized to the last part of the phrase to form an emphasis on a complete or part of a phrase.

>   Ngaka-dhila-te,   karn   ga
>   food-BEN-TOP   INCL.NOM   hunt.AOR
>   Hoping for food, I hunt.

/!\ Note that for sentences without verbs, Absolutive and Ergative may be omnited.

III.1.2 Locative and Motion Suffixes

III.1.2.1 The Adessive

The Adessive, formed with the suffix -(u)ly, is used to show position at, near, or by the noun, in exterior in a non-precise or in a abstract manner, like at a country, city, or place that is not yours or not your native one. For example :

>   M'ep-∅   gard-uly
>   rock-ABS plateau-ADESS
>   The rock at the plateau

>   Karn m'epany-ly
>   INCL.NOM mountain-ADESS
>   I am at the mountain (I do not live there or go there often)

III.1.2.2 The Inessive

The Inessive, formed with the suffix -nadha, is used to show position in or inside the noun, but can also show position at a place that is yours or your native one. For example :

>   mw'emw'e-∅   ya-rti   meng-nadha
>   wildebeest-ABS go-NFUT water-INESS
>   The wildebeest went inside the water

>   Karn   gard-uly
>   INCL.NOM plateau-INESS
>   I am at the plateau (I live there or go there often)

III.1.2.3 The Superessive

The Superessive, formed with the suffix -tanhl, is used to show position on top of the noun or to express the past in time.

ngwey   kahd   m'ep-tanhl
`DEM.PROX stick rock-SUPESS`
This stick nearby is on top of the rock.

III.1.2.4 The Subessive

The Subessive, formed with the suffix -gul, is used to show position under the noun or to express the future in time.

Malh ngudy p'any-gul-eda
`sap tree bark-SBESS-GEN`
There is sap under the bark of the tree

III.1.2.5 The Intrative

The Intrative, formed with the suffix -w'iny, is used to show position of the noun between two other objects, which may be the same or different.

Meng-any   yaya   gard-w'iny   m'epany-w'iny
`water-AUG CONT-run plateau-ITRT mountain-ITRT`
The river is flowing between plateaux and mountains

III.1.2.6 The Ablative

The Ablative, formed with the suffix -tyenhlh, is used to show motion away from the noun.

Ya-rti   mw'emw'e-tyenhlh-arlityi !
`go-NFUT wildebeest-ABL-EVIT`
Go away from the wildebeests !

III.1.2.7 The Allative

The Allative, formed with the suffix -kinyw, is used to show motion to, towards the noun.

Galy-gul-te,   yaya-rnwi karn   barla-kinyw-eda   (karntyi)
`hunt.INF-SUPESS-TOP,go-FUT  INCL.NOM home-ALL-GEN  (INCL.ACC)`
After the hunt, (I) will go to my home.

III.1.3 The Temporal and Limitative Suffixes

III.1.3.1 The Temporal

The Temporal, formed with the suffix -dhe, is used for time period, to show moment or duration.

```
Nga-rti     mw'ala-dhe
eat-NFUT  noon-TEMP
```
I eat at noon

III.1.3.2 The Limitative

The Limitative, formed with the suffix -rdunle, is used to show a limit at a moment or a time period, to limit the time.

```
Karn        kun  ga    kiny-rdunle
INCL.NOM NFUT hunt night-LIM
```
I usually hunt until the night

III.1.4 Comparatives and Translatives Suffixes

III.1.4.1 The Comparative

The Comparative, formed with the suffix -gany, is used to show the resemblance between two nouns.

```
M'epany-gany     mengany ya-rti
mountain-CMPR river    run-NFUT
```
The mountain-like river flows / The big river flows

III.1.4.2 The Augmentative

The Augmentative, formed with the suffix -(a)ny, is used to show greaterness, or respect, to the noun.

```
Pirnmeny-rti   karntyi     wa-ny
speak-NFUT  INCL.ACC man-AUG
```
The great man speaks to me

III.1.4.3 The Diminutive

The Diminutive, formed with the suffix -rru, is used to show littleness, or to show disdain on the noun.

```
Wa-ru      kun   bi
man-DIM    NFUT  play
```
The boy plays

III.1.4.4 The Translative

The Translative, formed with the suffix -rrungd, is used to show change of state, be it physical, or even in mind. It is also used when saying to translate a word into another language.

```
Bunh        mar-rrungd
EXCL.NOM    adult-TRANSL
```
He became an adult

III.1.5 With-like Suffixes

III.1.5.1 The Instrumental

The Instrumental, formed with the suffix -giw', is used to show that the action was done with the help of a tool, an animal, or with the help of a slave.

```
Kenhw-rti     barla       karn       kenhwriw'-giw'
build-NFUT    house-ABS   INCL.NOM   tool-INST
```
I built an house with tools

III.1.5.2 The Comitative

The Comitative, formed with the suffix -geli, is used to show that the action was done with or with the help of someone else, who is human.

```
Kun   ga     mw'emw'e      karn       ngidh-geli
NFUT  hunt   wildebeest    INCL.NOM   family-COM
```
I hunted wildebeests with my family

III.1.5.3 The Causative

The Causative, formed with the suffix -(u)dye, is used to show who caused the subject to do the action. It is also used for necessitative mood construction.

```
Kiny    mw'el-nhwi-dye
night   sun-ABESS-CAUS
```
It is night because there is no sun

III.1.5.4 The Benefactive

The Benefactive, formed with the suffix -dhila, is used to show for who or what did the subject do the action. It is also used for optative mood construction.

Kenhw-rti   p'ety   karn   bunh-dhila
build-NFUT house INCL.NOM EXCL.NOM-BEN
I built a house for him

III.1.5.5 The Abessive

The Abessive, formed with the suffix -nhwi, is used to show the lack of something, and is used for negation as well, since negation goes on the noun, and not on the verb.

Nga-rti   ngaka-nhwi
eat-NFUT food-ABESS
I didn't eat food / lit. I ate no food

III.1.5.6 The Utilitative

The Utilitative, formed with the suffix -kalu, is used to show that the subject or the object is used for a goal that is the noun.

Kenhw-rti p'irn galy-e-kalu
build-NFUT spear hunt-N-UTI
I made a spear for hunting

III.1.6 Place Suffixes

III.1.6.1 The Situational

The Situational, formed with the suffix -re, is used to mean " the place of where the noun is " and is often used as a substitution for place name to put emphasis on a precise characteristic of that place.

Ya-rti   ngudy-re   karn
go-NFUT tree-SIT INCL.NOM
I went to the forest / lit. I went to the place of trees

III.1.6.2 The Native

The Native, formed with the suffix -ngwere, is used to mean " the inhabitant of a place " and is often used as substitution to put emphasis on a precise inhabitant of a place.

Kun   ga   mengany-ngwere karn
NFUT hunt   river-NATIVE   INCL.NOM
I hunted river fishes / lit. I hunted the inhabitants of the river

III.1.7 The Genitive Suffixe

The Genitive, formed with the suffix -(C)eda, where C is the last onset of the word, is used to show possession, and is marked on the posessee while the possessor is put as an adjective before the noun.

    Ye-rti   ngidh   p'irn-eda
    take-NFUT close.friend spear-GEN
    I took my friend's spear

Chapter IV - Verbs

IV.1 Verb Classes

Verbs in Menya are classified into two categories, or classes : These are the Apical verbs, and the Laminal verbs, named based on their infinitive endings, as well as the place of articulation for many of their conjugations.

The Apical verbs tend to be verbs related to physical action, or with physical repercussions, while the Laminal verbs are those who are related to mind, or spirit actions, it also englobe verbs related to life, such as to live, to birth, or to die.

Verbs also tend to be found in both classes, with their meanings changing, which allow for a better diversity of meanings, and for poetic speech, especially combined with suffixes such as the aversive, the augmentative, and the diminutive.

IV.2 Tenses

Verbs in Menya have 4 main tenses, with one more for the Laminal verbs. These tenses are as follows:

The Non-Future Tense, which also functions as the Habitual Aspect. This tense is used for any action that happened in the (often near) past, or that happens quite usually in time.

Example Verb: ngar
Meaning: to eat
Tense Formation (Apical): -rti
Tense Formation (Laminal): kun-VERB

    Ngarti   w'am   mwithrru-rraya
    eat.HAB berries-ABS girl-ERG
    The girl eats berries (often).

The Continuous Aspect, which means that an action is still ongoing or is actually happening, without any care for the time it is done (past, present, and future are not distinguished in this tense) and can be expressed by other constructions (mention of the time, adverbs …).

Example Verb: b'anyu
Meaning: to drink
Tense Formation (Apical): Reduplication of the initial consonant and vowel at the front of the verb CVN → CVCVN
Tense Formation (Laminal): Identical to Apical verbs

    B'ab'any   meng-nhwi   bunh
    `CONT~drink water.ABESS.ABS 3P.NOM`
    She isn't drinking water.

The Narrative Past Tense, which is a special tense used for storytelling or history records that happened long in the past. It is often unused in casual speech, for obvious reasons.

Example Verb: bily
Meaning: to play, to joke around
Tense Formation (Apical): -dal
Tense Formation (Laminal): ngwe-VERB-tanhl (superessive)

    Warru-ye-rreda-te,   geng-rru   ngwe-bi-tanhl   ngith-geli!
    `man.DIM.GEN.NZ.TOP angrily.DIM NARR.PST.play.SUP friend.CMT`
    When I was a boy, I played rough with my friends!

The Future is used for referencing action happening in a future time.

Example Verb: yer
Meaning: to take (in one's hand)
Tense Formation (Apical): Reduplication identical to continuous aspect, suffixed with -rnwi
Tense Formation (Laminal): -gwel (subessive)

    Mirl ben-te,   yeyernwi   kinyuganh-gaya garn-kinyw.
    `DEM.DIST.TOP FUT~take.FUT bend-AGT.ERG 1P.ALL`
    The slave will bring that fish to us.

The Aorist tense is special as it can only be used by Laminal verbs, those related to mind and life actions. This tense is used to refer to the action itself, instead of who or what did / experienced the action. This tense is often found in Laminal verbs for the mediopassive or the Antipassive voices.

Example Verb: pirnmenyi
Meaning: to ponder, to wonder about
Tense Formation (Apical): N/A
Tense Formation (Laminal): -∅

M'epany-tanhl-te,   pirnmeny   Karlityi.
`rock.AUG.SUP.TOP ponder-AOR universe.ABS`
Atop the mountain, pondering the universe is what I did.

IV.2.1 Apical Verbs

Apical Verb endings in Menya are most often made with the base verb and a suffix changing the tense, with the Infinitive suffixes -r, -rr, or -u, as the base suffix (each verb uses one of these suffixes, -u being used when a consonant suffix would make the cluster illegal, while -r and -rr seems to be quite random but tend to prefer to take the place of articulation of the preceding consonant).

The most common ending suffix used for those verbs is the Non-Future suffix, which is -rti. For the Narrative past, the suffix -dal is used.

The Continuous and the Future tenses are special for the Apical Verbs, as they are made using reduplication. This is made by reduplicating the onset and the vowel of the first syllable of the verb, and putting it at the start of it. This suffices for the Continuous, and the future only needs to add on top of it the suffix -rnwi to the verb.

IV.2.2 Laminal Verbs

Laminal Verbs in Menya are more unorthodox in their endings than Apical ones, in the way that it is not only suffixes and reduplication.
One thing that doesn't change are Infinitive suffixes, here -ly, -y, or -i (like above, the -i is used when a consonant suffix would make the cluster illegal, and -ly is more common than -y).

Laminal Verbs have adverbs added to indicate tense, like "kun" for the Non-Future, put straight before the verb. It can also have a suffix, like the Future suffix -gul ; or both, for the Narrative Past being the use of the adverb "ngwe", and the verb with the suffix -tanhl.

Reduplication is also used for the Continuous tense like for the Apical Verbs, with the onset and the vowel of the first syllable of the verb being reduplicated and put at the start of the verb.

As for the special Aorist tense, it is simply the base form of the verb, without any suffix, though a Voice suffix might be used.

IV.3 Voices

There exist 4 voices in Menya. The most common of them being the active voice, marked with nothing and using the default word order.

```
mw'ad         pen=te,     mengany-kinyw  karn        ya-rti
obtain.AOR fish=TOP, river-ALL     INCL.NOM  go-NFUT
To obtain fishes, I went to the river
```

The passive voice, making the subject the patient of the action, is made by using the Instrumental suffix on the object.

```
Nga-rti      karntyi-giw'       pen
eat-NFUT INCL.ACC-INST fish
A fish was eaten by me / lit. eat by me a fish
```

The Mediopassive is a kind of middle voice that is used in Menya, and is used for a lot of different meanings based on context. Exemples of it would be marking reflexive, reciprocal, or for stative verbs, where the state of being caused by the action is seen as being done by the subject and on the subject by itself. This voice is made possible by the use of the clitic "=nwu" on the verb.

```
Kun    mw'i=nwu     keng   karn
NFUT feel=MID     angry INCL.NOM
I feel angry
```

The Antipassive is the fourth and last voice of Menya, it is used as a way to demote the object of a transitive sentence and promote the subject to the non-marked absolutive case. In Menya, it is also often used to promote the action in itself rather than the doing of the action and is used for intransitive imperative sentence constructions. This voice is made possible by the use of the clitic "=pa"

```
Pirn-rti=pa            mw'emw'e
chew-NFUT=ANTIP    wildebeest
The wildebeest is chewing (on something)
```

IV.4 Imperative

Imperative in Menya is used for both giving orders and advice, with the use of the small word "ya" at the end of the sentence.

Nga-rti=pa   ya !
eat-NFUT=ANTIP IMP
eat (something) !¹

B'any-rti   bal   ya !
drink-NFUT tea   IMP
Drink the tea !

¹ *: For imperative sentences with no object, the antipassive has to be used.*

Note that the impact of the imperative can be lessened by using the form " yany " instead, which is the imperative word with the Augmentative suffix on it, causing to show respect to the one receiving the order, often transformed to more of an advice. For example the first sentence would become :

Nga-rti=pa   yany.
eat-NFUT=ANTIP IMP.AUG
Please eat (something) / You should eat something.

IV.5 Interrogative

Interrogative is separated in Menya between the usual yes/no questions and the open questions. yes/no questions in Menya are unmarked, as they are marked by a rising in the pitch while saying the question.

B'any-rti   bal   karn ?
drink-NFUT tea   INCL.NOM
You drink tea ?

To which the one asked may respond for yes with :

B'any-rti   (bal)
drink-NFUT (tea)
I drink (tea)

Or for no :

B'any-rti   bal-nhwi
drink-NFUT tea-ABESS
I drink no tea

(Note that with no object, the negation would be put on a "placeholder" noun, that is, a noun that is used solely for marking the negation)

Open Questions may be asked by clitisizing using the word " nga " and using suffixes to precise what is asked.

Nga-rti   nga   karn ?
```
eat-NFUT INT  INCL.NOM
```
You ate what ?

B'any-rti   bal   nga-dhe ?
```
drink-NFUT tea INT-TEMP
```
When do you drink tea ?

Chapter V - Syntax

V.1 Relative Clauses

As mentioned below, relative clauses are formed very similarly to conditional sentences. They are identical to conditional constructions except for the lack of a particle.

```
Kiny-de-nhwi-te,           ya-rti      mengany-kinyw  karn
moon-TEMP-ABESS-TOP, go-NFUT river-ALL    INCL.NOM
As for it being at night, it wasn't when I went to the river
```

```
Ya-rti      mengany-kinyw  karn,        kiny-de-nhwi
go-NFUT river-ALL    INCL.NOM, moon-TEMP-ABESS
I didn't go to the river when it was nighttime.
```

V.2 Conditional Constructions

Conditional Constructions in Menya are made using a VOSA, OSAV way, like a relative clause (see above), but with the word "me" at the end of the first half, with the following second half being the condition.

```
Ya-rti      mengany-kinyw  karn        me,    kiny-de-nhwi
go-NFUT river-ALL    INCL.NOM COND, moon-TEMP-ABESS
I would go to the river, if it wasn't night
```

Note that the order could easily change with the topical.

```
Kiny-de-nhwi-te,           ya-rti      mengany-kinyw  karn        me
moon-TEMP-ABESS-TOP, go-NFUT river-ALL    INCL.NOM COND
If it wasn't night, I would go to the river
```

V.3 Adjectives and Adverbs

Adjectives and Adverbs in Menya are considered to be one the same. Indeed, they are both words that modify the word directly after. Adjectives (both will be referred as adjectives to simplify writing) thus possess two meanings each : one for when it modifies a noun, and another one for when it modifies the verb.

```
Punrr        nga-rti    bunh        ngaka-keda
discreetly eat-NFUT EXCL.NOM food-GEN
```
I discreetly ate his food

```
Nga-rti      bunh        punrr    ngaka-keda
eat-NFUT EXCL.NOM small  food-GEN
```
I ate his small food

Chapter VI - Numbers

Menya possesses a sort of split base system, though it is overall more considered as a base 5 number system. Indeed, in their Cardinal form, numbers are distinct from one to ten, each of these numbers being linked to the name of fingers.

The Cardinal numbers are used to tell numbers in itself, like " one, two, three, four… " it can also be used for Ordinal number, by using the number as an adjective before the noun with for example " wa p'irn " being " the first spear ".

Number	base 5	Cardinal	Meaning
1	1	wa	one
2	2	ka	two
3	3	min	three
4	4	kin	four
5	10	ngwil	five
6	11	gur	six
7	12	b'anh	seven
8	13	ngen	eight
9	14	parl	nine
10	20	mul	ten
11	21	mul-wa	ten-one
12	22	mul-ka	ten-two
13	23	mul-min	ten-three
14	24	mul-kin	ten-four
15	30	min-ngwil	two-five
16	31	min-ngwil-wa	three-five-one
17	32	min-ngwil-ka	three-five-two
18	33	min-ngwil-min	three-five-three
19	34	min-ngwil-kin	three-five-four
20	40	ka-mul	two-ten
21	41	ka-mul-wa	two-ten-one
22	42	ka-mul-ka	two-ten-two
23	43	ka-mul-min	two-ten-three
24	44	ka-mul-kin	two-ten-four
25	100	yatyik	hundred

30	110	yatyik-ngwil	hundred-ten
50	200	ka-yatyik	two-hundred
75	300	min-yatyik	three-hundred
100	400	kin-yatyik	four-hundred
125	1000	ngwil-yatyik	five-hundred

Menya also possesses Counter words that act like in the Japanese language, and has to be used as a suffix after the number to be counted as one.

Gur bal
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six tea
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The sixth cup of tea

Gur-b'alh (bal)
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six-drink.NUM.CL (tea)
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Six cups (of tea)

Ordinal Counter	Meaning	Gloss
me	human counter	HCNT
meny	polite human counter	PHCNT
ngap	fish counter	FCNT
gin	animal counter	ANCNT
b'alh	drink, beverage counter	DRCNT
pid	long, thin object counter	LCNT
w'anh	basic object counter	GNRCNT
rlidy	monster, bad spirit counter	SPRCNT
dhi	time counter	TMPCNT
w'e	tool and weapon counter	TWCNT

This can be combined with the affixes -w'iny -tyenhlh, and -kinyw to make the following adjectives:

W'anh-w'iny - middle
W'anh-tyenhlh - last/final
W'anh-kinyw - first

It should be noted that these are non-specific, and are better described as a spectrum:

W'anh-w'iny - somewhere in the middle
W'anh-tyenhlh - near the last
W'anh-kinyw - among the first

Translated Text

Here is a translation of the text presented below in Menya.

> "As I said, it was one of the last boxes I opened on the second day. It was late, and I had already made my way through most of a bottle of wine. The more I think about it, the more I think that opening that box felt no different to any of the others. No hard feelings, no smells, nothing. It was just a box empty of everything except a single typewritten note and an old hand mirror."
> - The Magnus Archives 60: Observer Effect, by Jonathan Sims

> "Karn pirnmenyrru-rti-te, w'anh-tyenhlh yu, dhi-ka mw'el-dhe kiny-rti. Kun mw'i-nwu kelh. B'any-rti geng-bal karn. Pirnmeny karn, kun mw'i-nwu kip. Kenge-nhwi, wama-nhwi, pithganh-nhwi. Yanyi kip yu-nadha-te, yanyi wa-w'anh menyi, yanyi mengm'ep."

Without Hyphens:

> "Karn pirnmenyrrurtite, w'anhtyenhlh yu, dhika mw'eldhe kinyrti. Kun mw'inwu kelh. B'anyrti gengbal karn. Pirnmeny karn, kun mw'inwu kip. Kengenhwi, wamanhwi, pithganhnhwi. Yanyi kip yunadhate, yanyi waw'anh menyi, yanyi mengm'ep."

Wordlist

Here is the wordlist of Menya:

b'anh [ˈᵐbˠaɲ̊] (noun) - tall grass
b'anh [ˈᵐbˠaɲ̊] (noun) - right middle finger
b'anyu [ˈᵐbˠa.ɳ̻u] (verbApical) - to drink
bal [ˈᵐbal] (noun) - tea
barla [ˈᵐba.ɭa] (noun) - home
bily [ˈᵐbiɭ̻] (verb - laminal) - to play, to joke around, often childish
galh [ˈᵑgaɭ̊] (noun) - animal (general term)
galy [ˈᵑgaɭ̻] (verb - laminal) - to hunt, to look for animal traces
galye [ˈᵑga.ɭ̻ə] (noun) - a hunt, a hunt party, hunting
gard [ˈᵑgaⁿɖ] (noun) - plateau
gur [ˈᵑgɯɻ] (noun) - right index finger
ka [ˈga] (noun) - left middle finger
kadh [ˈgaⁿd̪] (noun) - stick, stalks
Karlityi [ˈka.ɭi.ɖi] (noun) - the meaning of life, the universe, dreams
kelh [gəɭ̊] (adjective) - late / to be a procrastinator
keng [ˈgəŋ] (adjective) - in an angry and fast way / angry, scorned, rejection
kengrru [ˈgəŋ.rɯ] (adjective) - in a rough way / roughness (of a game, interaction)
kenhwly [ˈgəɲ̊ʷɭ̻] (verb - laminal) - to create, to imagine, to conceive
kenhwr [ˈgəɲ̊ʷɻ] (verb - apical) - to build, to construct, to erect
kenhwriw' [ˈgəɲ̊ʷ.ɻiɯ] (noun) - tool
kin [ˈgin] (noun) - left pinky
kiny [ˈgiɲ̻] (noun) - moon, night
kinyu [ˈgiɲ̻.ɯ] (verb) - to bend (an arm, knee, finger), work
kinyuganh [ˈgi.ɳ̻ɯ.ᵑgaɲ̊] (noun) - slave, manservant
kip [ˈgib] (adjective) - dead, empty, hollow
m'alh [mˠaɭ̊] (noun) - sap
m'el [ˈmˠəl] (adjective) - soon, early / to be an early bird
m'ep [ˈmˠəb] (noun) - rock, stone
m'epany [ˈmˠə.baɲ̻] (noun) - mountain
mar [ˈmaɻ] (noun) - person, adult human
marany [ˈma.ɻaɲ̻] (noun) - elder, expert, superior (noun)
meng [məŋ] (noun) - water
mengany [ˈmə.ŋaɲ̻] (noun) - river
menya [ˈmə.ɳ̻a] (noun) - menya language
menyi [ˈməɲ̻i] (noun) - tongue, word, utterance
merr [ˈmər] (noun) - face
mi [ˈmi] (noun) - foot
min [ˈmin] (noun) - nose
min [ˈmin] (noun) - left ring finger
mirru [ˈmi.rɯ] (noun) - toe
mul [ˈmɯl] (noun) - right thumb

mw'adi [ˈmʷaˠ.ⁿdi] (verb -laminal) - to obtain, to take possession of

mw'ala [ˈmʷaˠ.la] (noun) - midday, noon

mw'el [ˈmʷˠəl] (noun) - sun, day

mw'eli [] (verb- laminal) - to illuminate, to give light

mw'emw'e [ˈmʷˠə.mʷˠə] (noun) - wildebeest (gnu / gnou)

mw'iy [ˈmʷˠij] (verb - laminal) - to feel

mwith [ˈmʷiṯ] (noun) - woman, adult female

mwithrru [ˈmʷiṯ.rɯ] (noun) - girl, young female

ngaka [ˈŋa.ga] (noun) - food

ngar [ˈŋaɻ] (verb apical) - to eat

ngela [ˈŋə.l̪a] (noun) - thigh

ngen [ˈⁿgən] (noun) - right ring finger

ngith [ˈŋiḏ] (noun) - family, close friends

ngudy [ˈŋɯⁿɖ] (noun) - tree

ngwa [ˈŋʷa] (noun) - hand

ngwarru [ˈŋʷa.rɯ] (noun) - finger

ngwe [ˈŋʷə] (adjective) - in a strange way, done a little badly / strange, foreign, exotic, far, far away, in the horizon...

ngwerd [ˈŋʷəⁿɖ] (noun) - spirit, soul

ngwil [ˈŋʷil] (noun) - left thumb

p'any [ˈbˠaṋ] (noun) - tree bark

p'ety [ˈbˠəɖ] (noun) - house

p'irn [ˈbˠiɳ] (noun) - spear

paly [ˈbal̪] (noun) - sand

parang [ˈba.ɻaŋ] (noun) - neck

parl [ˈbal̪] (noun) - right pinky

pen [ˈbən] (noun) - fish, water animal

pinhlhi [ˈbin̪.l̪i] (noun) - head

pinhlhiny [] (noun) - king, chieftain, commander of a group

pirnmenyi [ˈbiɳ.mə.ṋi] (verb - laminal) - to ponder, to think

pirnmenyr [ˈbiɳ.məɳɻ] (verb - apical) - to speak

pirnmenyrrur [ˈbiɳ.məɳ.rɯɻ] (verb - apical) - to say, to pronounce

pirnr [ˈbiɳɻ] (verb - apical) - to chew

pith [ˈbiṯ] (verb - laminal) - to do (non-specific)

pith-ganh [ˈbiṯ.ⁿgan̪] (noun) - thing, wherever, whatever

punrr [ˈbɯnr] (adjective) - discretly, in secret / small

puth [ˈbɯṯ] (noun) - eye

puthi [] (verb - laminal) - to see, to percieve

w'am [ˈɰam] (noun) - raisin bush berries

w'amany [ˈɰa.maṋ] (noun) - raisin bush

w'ambal [ɰam.ˈᵐbal] (noun) - tea made from raisin bush leaves

w'any [ˈɰaṋ] (noun) - ground, soil

w'ed [ˈɰəⁿd] (noun) - arm

w'enh [] (noun) - clay, clay tablet

w'enhputhi [] (verb - laminal) - to read

wa [ˈwa] (noun) - man, adult male

wa [ˈwa] (noun) - left index finger

wama [wama] (adjective) - sense (of smell, hearing, taste)
warru [ˈwa.rɯ] (noun) - boy, young male
way [ˈwaj] (noun) - fire
weny [ˈwəŋ̟] (adjective) - in a pompous way, with great details / big, tall, important
yanyi [ˈja.ɲ̟i] (adjective) - alone, just, only
yar [ˈjaɻ] (verb - apical) - to go, run
yer [ˈjəɻ] (verb - apical) - to take (with hands mostly)
yu [ˈjɯ] () - basket, container
yulet [ˈjɯ.ləd] (noun) - lower leg