



GALO WELFARE SOCIETY

# Galo-English Dictionary

*with English-Galo Index*

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Galo Welfare Society

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# Galo-English Dictionary

*with English-Galo Index*

Compiled by the Galo Language Development Committee:

<i>`Igoo Rwbaa</i>	<i>Mark W. Post</i>	<i>`Ilww Rwbaa</i>
<i>`Miilww `Xodu</i>	<i>`Kenjum `Bagra</i>	<i>`Bomcak Rwbaa</i>
<i>Toomoo Rwbaa</i>	<i>Notoo Aado</i>	<i>Dambom Keenaa</i>

Under Chairmanship of:

*Tadoo Karloo*

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## Foreword

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The Galo Welfare Society extends its deep gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. Mark W. Post for his contributions in bringing out this Galo-English Dictionary in its present form. Perhaps, it may never have been possible without Dr. Post to achieve the present level of accuracy, inclusive of the minutest details and meanings of words in the Galo language, and credit must go to him for his personal initiative and compilation through research work, albeit, with the patient and generous assistance of many members of our Galo Society.

The preservation of Galo culture rests with the preservation of Galo language, and thus, the contribution of Dr. Post will always be acknowledged in posterity for this contribution to the preservation of Galo culture and identity. Dr. Post has travelled the length and breadth of Galo-inhabited areas, stayed and interacted with many local people, and researched the minute details of Galo grammar, pronunciation and meanings for his PhD thesis "A Grammar of Galo". It is a pleasure to find that he was then subsequently able to contribute his experience to the production of this valuable dictionary.

The Galo Welfare Society, on behalf of the Galo community, highly appreciate and acknowledge the dedication, hard work and love of Dr. Mark Post, and will always cherish his contribution to Galo welfare.

Toomoo Baasar  
General Secretary, Galo Welfare Society

## Introduction

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This volume is the first ever large-scale Dictionary of the Galo language of Arunachal Pradesh, North East India. It is, however, a very preliminary work. Official recognition of the Galo language has only been completed in 2008, and the first Galo language textbooks will only be introduced into schools in Galo-dominated areas of Arunachal Pradesh in 2009. Both this Dictionary and the mentioned textbooks are based on Galo Script, which itself was only finalized and adopted by the Galo Welfare Society in 2008. All of the Compilers of this Dictionary have completed whatever work they could in their spare time only, trying to approximate in the space of only two or three years what teams of professional lexicographers often spend ten to fifteen years to complete with full dedication. Accordingly, there are certain to be large numbers of mistakes herein, and/or other points which are unclear and should have been clarified, for which the Compilers can only apologize in advance and beg for our readers' patience and understanding.

A serious difficulty which we are only beginning to address concerns dialect variation within the Galo language. While most of the Compilers of this Dictionary speak *Laree* Galo, the variety of Galo spoken mainly around the Baasar area, there is in fact a large number of Galo dialects and subdialects, which are spoken widely throughout West Siang District, Upper Subansiri District, and East Siang District in Arunachal Pradesh. A full survey of all Galo dialects would take many years of constant effort, and while we have begun this survey, it is nowhere close to completion at the present time of writing. Therefore, we have chosen to base this Edition of the Dictionary on the *Laree* dialect of Galo, although we have also included a certain number of *Puugoo* Galo words where this was possible. We intend to expand the number of Galo dialects that we are able to include in the dictionary; however, we hope to do this in a systematic manner. Therefore, it will take additional time and we must beg apologies from speakers of Galo whose pronunciation and vocabulary is not well-represented in this Edition.

Other challenges relate to the structure of Galo language, which is quite different from the structures of English, Hindi, Chinese, or other languages with long histories of writing and dictionary-making. While in English or Hindi, for example, it is relatively easy to identify most meaning-units as

“words” and list them in dictionaries, in Galo and other Tani languages it is often difficult to do so. For example, consider the Galo word *`inmen* ‘stroll’. The first part of this word comes from *innam* ‘to go’, while the second part is a suffix *-`men* which means ‘play’ or ‘do something playfully’. So, while it is easy to list English ‘play’ as a word in a dictionary, what to do with *-`men*? It isn’t a “word”; however, failing to list it in a Galo dictionary would make the dictionary incomplete. This is only one of hundreds of similar problems encountered, for which in some cases only partial solutions have been found up to now.

Despite the incomplete and partial nature of this Dictionary, we have decided to publish this First Edition for one major reason: *we are running out of time!* Only forty or fifty years ago, one could travel to a Galo village and find that every single man, woman and child in the village spoke fluent Galo, and learned and used other languages (such as Assamese, English and Hindi) as second languages for education, work, government purposes, and general communication with outsiders. Nowadays, however, we find that these “major” languages are *replacing* Galo in the speech of many Galo people. Even in so-called “interior” villages now, it is possible to find Galo children and young adults who speak fluent English and Hindi, but who can barely speak Galo at all. What is the future of the Galo language under such conditions? Children who do not speak Galo cannot teach Galo to their children, pure and simple. *Unless parents can teach Galo language to their children, without additional support, the Galo language will die.* We find this situation intolerable, and cannot sit back and do nothing about it. We must do whatever we can.

With these facts in mind, we have begun a community-based project of Galo dictionary-writing, script and textbook development, and language research for one major reason, and that is to *preserve the Galo language*. That means: we wish to honor the legacy of our ancestors and enable future generations to appreciate Galo language and culture. But we also wish to celebrate what we believe is truly a rich and beautiful language on its own terms. The world is changing quickly, and Galo children can and should continue to advance in society by learning “major” languages such as Hindi and English. But this does *not* mean that it is necessary or even advisable for Galo children to give up their mother tongue. It is possible, and preferable, to have *both*. By teaching children the richness of Galo language, Galo children will be able to understand much of the way of thinking of a Galo ancestor, and will be able to see the world in a unique and irreplaceable way. We believe that this will help rather than hinder their cognitive development, as studies by international psycholinguists are

now beginning to show. We believe that this will also help Galo children to develop a coherent personal and social identity, which is both modern and yet rooted deeply in longstanding tradition, and help avoid the social problems of identity loss and disenfranchisement which are common in so many other places. We cannot force Galo children to maintain their language and culture. But up to now, the fact is that many Galo children have not *had* a choice. How can a child who is sent to a boarding school in a distant land, who spends most of his childhood away from his home village, be expected to learn his or her mother tongue? We *must* give them and all Galo children the choice to maintain their language if they choose, by teaching it to them directly and, when that is not possible, by providing them with materials so that they can learn, or supplement their knowledge, by themselves. We hope that this Dictionary will constitute a solid first step in that direction.

Galo Language Development Committee  
Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh



## Acknowledgements

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This volume would not have been possible without support and aid of various kinds (financial, logistical and moral) from a large number of people and organizations over a long period of time. The Compilers would like to take this space to thank them:

*Toomoo Baasar, Moogii Oorii, Kwuto `Sooraa, Takoo Daabww, Toomoo Rwbaa, Boraa `Votv, `Tabom Baam, `Tumko `Bagro, Jiken Rwbaa, Bomtoo Rwbaa, Idam `Bagra, Gumjum Haidar, Puutwk `Xokwr, `Tajap Keenaa, `Rokom Baado, Huujar `Lolen, `Gvvyum Paaduu, `Teejum Paaduu, Jumbom `Koyu, `Dooxaa Rwbaa, Jarjum `Votv, Karken Ciram, `Marxaa Ciram, Martoo Rwbaa, Isaac Modi, Dakkar Gaaraa, and R. M. W. Dixon, Alexandra Aikhenvald, Randy LaPolla at The Research Centre for Linguistic Typology at La Trobe University.*

Lastly, but, in fact, most importantly, we thank:

*All members of the `Galoo community of Arunachal Pradesh, who have kept your language alive for us to learn. This book is for you, and for your children.*

## About Galo language

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Galo is a language of the *Tani* branch of the *Tibeto-Burman* language family, one of the largest and most diverse language families in the world. Galo may be spoken by around 50,000 people in some form, mainly in the West Siang, Upper Subansiri and East Siang Districts of Arunachal Pradesh, North East India. Galo people have close cultural, linguistic and social connections with other Tani tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, notably Hills Miri in the West, Tagin in the Northwest and Adi in the East, among others. According to Sun (1993; 2003) and Post (2007), Galo is classified as a Western Tani language, with its closest linguistic relations to Nishi and related tribes. Galo has also been referred-to as “Adi Galo”. Adi and Galo people have traditionally shared close cultural connections, are often exposed to one another’s languages, often make efforts to learn one another’s languages, and therefore can often understand each other relatively easily. However, in their pure forms, Galo and Adi are not mutually intelligible and are to be identified as distinct languages on these grounds. In addition, one often finds the spelling “Gallong”. This is in fact an exonym, which is not used by Galo people in general.

In 2008, the State Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh approved recognition of Galo as an Official Language of areas of Arunachal Pradesh in which Galo speakers predominate, with a distinct grammar and script. In early 2009, the International Standards Organization (ISO 639-3) also recognized the existence of Galo language, and recorded the official name of the language as “Galo”. This book is a Dictionary of that language.

### *Dialects of the Galo language*

Galo is a single *language*. By this it is meant that all Galo people can understand each other when speaking Galo without great difficulty. However, Galo has several *dialects*. This means that from region to region, village to village, and clan to clan, Galo people speak slightly differently. Sometimes differences are in pronunciation, sometimes in the actual words used, sometimes in the meaning of those words, and sometimes in the way they are used (i.e., the grammar). This makes it very difficult to design a “unified” Galo dictionary. If words like *hottum* ‘bear’ and *horv* ‘wild boar’ are also pronounced as *sottum* and *sorv*, does that mean that the words should be given twice – once in the *h* section and once under *s*? Or should they be written with an oblique *hottum/sottum* or *sottum/hottum*? In that case,

should they go under the *h* section or the *s* section? And how can a dictionary user whose Galo is not perfect understand which form is the one they should use? Is it all just random?

The important thing to note is that these differences are *not* in fact random. Someone who says *sottum* does not usually say *horv*, and someone who says *hottum* does not usually say *sorv*. Instead, expert speakers speak in relatively consistent patterns, and these consistent patterns make up the Galo *dialects*. We think that these patterns are very important, and can teach us much about the history and heritage of Galo people and about the richness and diversity of Galo culture. Therefore, we have decided in this dictionary to not simply randomly include whatever words we could without regard to dialect, but instead to carefully identify words according to the Galo dialects that we know.

The problem is that not all Galo dialects have been comprehensively studied at this point, because this is a project which requires several years of continuous work. Therefore, instead of misrepresenting Galo dialects which we don't know well, we have based this Dictionary on the *`Laree* dialect of Galo as it is mainly spoken around Baasar area, simply because it is the variety of Galo which we know best. In using *`Laree* as a standard pronunciation, we do *not* mean to imply that *`Laree* is "better" or "more correct". However, we need to have a basic reference variety against which to measure all other varieties, and for this purpose we have chosen the variety which we know best.

We have also tried to include as much as we could of the *Puugoo* dialect of Galo, mainly as it is spoken around the Aaloo area. Wherever a *Puugoo* form is entered in the dictionary, it is identified as **(P)**. Wherever a *`Laree* form is contrasted with a *Puugoo* form, it is identified as **(L)**. A very small number of forms from the Dapo-Rwwjoo/Baarww-Rwwjoo area which are not found in either *`Laree* or *Puugoo* dialects are also included here. They are identified as **(NW)** (for "North-Western"). However, please note that the only fully comprehensive work contained here has been conducted on *`Laree* only, and if a form occurs with no identifier, it should not be automatically *assumed* to be pan-Galo (despite that this is usually, in fact, the case). Similarly, the examples are almost exclusively written using *`Laree* pronunciation, again in the interest of accuracy and consistency keeping in mind the limitations of our knowledge and experience. We hope to produce a more precise, inclusive, expanded edition of this dictionary in the future, and we invite any interested potential volunteers to join us in this effort.

## *Goqku agom*

*Goqku agom*, or Galo classical/ritual/poetic language, is a very important part of Galo heritage, but it is also something which requires much time and effort to be put into research. Up to this point, we have only been able to compile a very small number of *Goqku* words, with only very basic definitions. We hope very much to include more such words in future editions, although since accurate representation of *Goqku agom* requires extensive and detailed knowledge and experience, it is our sincere hope that people who know far more than we do about *Goqku agom* will take the initiative to produce materials of their own for the benefit of everyone.

## `Galoo Ennam and Alphabetical Order

This dictionary is written in `Galoo Ennam (Galo Script). `Galoo Ennam is *not* the same as “English” script. It is a variety of *Modified Roman Script* (MRS). English is also written in MRS, just like most other European languages, and many other languages of the world, such as Turkish, Swahili, Indonesian, Vietnamese, and Khasi. All forms of MRS are based on the Roman Script used to write Latin language many centuries ago, although with modifications. These modifications help to allow the script to represent a language accurately.

Since `Galoo Ennam is *not* a variety of English Script, the English alphabetical order is also not used in this dictionary. Instead, the order used here is the Sanskrit-derived *devānagāri* order. This is the order which is usually used to alphabetize Asian languages, and has been used in Japanese, Burmese, Khmer, Tibetan, Thai, Lao, Newari and Meithei, among others. This order has been chosen because it is a) scientifically-based and b) able to accurately organize the phonology (sound patterns) of the Galo language. For example, all the vowels are grouped first, then the consonants in order of *place of articulation* (from the back of the mouth *k* to the front *p*) followed by *manner of articulation* (voiceless *k*, voiced *g* and nasal *ŋ* for all the *stops*, followed by *liquids* *y*, *l*, *r* and then *fricatives* *s*, *h*). Although it may be difficult for some people to get used to at first, it is a far superior system in its design than English order, which has no logic to it whatsoever.

This is the basic inventory of `Galoo Ennam, contrasted with *devānagāri*, unmodified Roman, and IPA (the International Phonetic Alphabet). The order given here is the order followed everywhere in this Dictionary:

# *`Galoo Ennam*

## Vowels

<b>`Galoo</b>	A	I	U	E	O	W	V
	a	i	u	e	o	w	v
Roman	A	I	U	E	O	--	--
	a	i	u	e	o	--	--
Devanagari	अ	इ	उ	ए	ओ	--	--
Phonetic	a	i	u	e	o	i	ə

## Consonants

<b>`Galoo</b>	K	G	Q	C	J	X	T	D	N	P	B	M	Y	R	L	S	H
	k	g	q	c	j	x	t	d	n	p	b	m	y	r	l	s	h
Roman	K	G	NG	CH	J	NY	T	D	N	P	B	M	Y	R	L	S	H
	k	g	ng	ch	j	ny	t	d	n	p	b	m	y	r	l	s	h
Devanagari	क	ग	ङ	च	ज	ञ	त	द	न	प	ब	म	य	र	ल	स	ह
Phonetic	k	g	ŋ	tʃ	dʒ	ɲ	t	d	n	p	b	m	j	r	l	s/ʃ	h

## Tones

<b>`Galoo</b>		`
Roman	--	--
Devanagari	--	--
Phonetic	ˈ	˘

## How to write in `Galoo Ennam

---

In this section we explain the system and conventions which have been used in this book, according to the sound system of spoken Galo as we understand it.

### *Long and short sounds (consonants and vowels)*

Unlike in English, Hindi or Assamese, Galo has long and short sounds in *both* consonants *and* vowels. In Galo Script, short sounds are symbolized using a single letter. Long sounds use two letters:

<i>a</i>	<i>aa</i>	<i>pa<u>n</u>am</i> 'to cut'	<i>pa<u>an</u>am</i> 'to hover'
<i>i</i>	<i>ii</i>	<i>ji<u>n</u>am</i> 'to give'	<i>pi<u>in</u>am</i> 'to prick'
<i>u</i>	<i>uu</i>	<i>u<u>n</u>am</i> 'to boil'	<i>u<u>un</u>am</i> 'to be awake'
<i>e</i>	<i>ee</i>	<i>he<u>n</u>am</i> 'to pull'	<i>he<u>en</u>am</i> 'to bear fruit'
<i>o</i>	<i>oo</i>	<i>o<u>n</u>am</i> 'to fall'	<i>o<u>on</u>am</i> 'to tend'
<i>w</i>	<i>ww</i>	<i>w<u>n</u>am</i> 'to pound'	<i>w<u>wn</u>am</i> 'to slither'
<i>v</i>	<i>vv</i>	<i>v<u>n</u>am</i> 'to spread'	<i>v<u>vn</u>am</i> 'to decant'
<i>k</i>	<i>kk</i>	<i>ako</i> 'old'	<i>cokko</i> 'chin'
<i>g</i>	<i>gg</i>	<i>ago</i> 'warm/hot'	<i>yoggoo</i> 'circle'
<i>q</i>	<i>qq</i>	<i>aqo</i> 'strange'	<i>aqqo</i> 'five'
<i>c</i>	<i>cc</i>	<i>aco</i> 'breast'	<i>accoo</i> 'quiet; slow'
<i>j</i>	<i>jj</i>	<i>ejv</i> 'clothing'	<i>ejjum</i> 'wring out'
<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>axi</i> 'elder sister'	<i>axxii</i> 'little bit'
<i>t</i>	<i>tt</i>	<i>ato</i> 'grandfather'	<i>etto</i> 'wrote'
<i>d</i>	<i>dd</i>	<i>yadv</i> 'how much'	<i>yaddvm</i> 'when'
<i>n</i>	<i>nn</i>	<i>gi<u>n</u>am</i> 'to transport'	<i>gi<u>nn</u>am</i> 'to wipe'
<i>p</i>	<i>pp</i>	<i>apii</i> 'darling'	<i>appii</i> 'four'
<i>b</i>	<i>bb</i>	<i>tabv</i> 'snake'	<i>tabb v</i> 'it's a snake'
<i>m</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>namv</i> 'house'	<i>nammv</i> 'facial hair'
<i>y</i>	<i>yy</i>	<i>ayo</i> 'night'	<i>ayyom</i> 'at night'
<i>r</i>	<i>rr</i>	<i>parv</i> 'will chop'	<i>narrv</i> 'will borrow'
<i>l</i>	<i>ll</i>	<i>alo</i> 'salt'	<i>alloo</i> 'tomorrow'

s	ss	`isi 'water'	`iss v 'it's water'
h		ohoo 'rope; cane'	

It is also important to note that Galo has vowel length at the *ends* of words. Although it may be difficult to notice in some cases, this is an important part of the Galo sound pattern:

alo 'salt'	aloo 'bone' (or aloo 'day')
axi 'elder sister'	alii 'seed'
alv 'good'	alvv 'forepaw'

Some important properties which differentiate long and short vowels are:

- 1) word-final short vowels usually disappear when followed by another word, whereas long vowels don't:

Ab <sub>o</sub> Tanii	→	Ab Tanii 'The Father of Humankind'
aloo pookoo	→	aloo pookoo 'skeleton'

- 2) word-final short vowels which are preceded by only two letters (not three) disappear and cause the preceding consonant to double when followed by certain grammatical words such as *v* and *vm*, whereas long vowels don't:

axi + v	→	axx v 'it's elder sister'
alv + v	→	all v 'it's good'
alii + v	→	alii v 'it's a seed'
alvv + v	→	alvv v 'it's a forepaw'

### *Special phonological processes in Galo*

#### **Consonant voice copying within words**

In Galo, most words end either with a vowel (such as *v*), a nasal consonant (such as *n*), a liquid consonant (only *r*) or else with a voiceless consonant *k*, or *p*. When words ending in a voiceless consonant are used to create new words, the voiceless consonant is sensitive to the following word and generally changes. That is, if a voiceless consonant has a voiced consonant to its right, it will also become voiced:



*alak* 'arm/hand' → *lagbor* 'palm of the hand'  
*vrap* 'door' → *`rabgo* 'doorway'

### Consonant place copying within words

Words ending in nasal consonants *n* or *m* also change when they are used to form new words. They move to the *place of articulation* (location in the mouth) of the following consonant. For example:

*`igin* 'basket variety' → *`giggww* '*`igin* basket spine'  
*adin* 'meat' → *dimpaa* 'chopping block'  
*`Siyom* 'river name' → *Yoggoo* 'river name'

### Total consonant copying within words (-*nam* verb forms "1" and "2")

Certain roots which appear to end in *-n* in fact fully copy any following consonant. If they occur at the end of a word, they are pronounced *k*. If they are followed by a vowel, they are pronounced *g*. These are roots which once ended in *\*-t* or *\*-s* (they still do in Adi and Mising), but which have changed in Galo. Other roots which appear to end in *-n* in fact *do* end in *-n*, and these roots do not assimilate. Since it is not possible to differentiate a "real" and a "copied" *-n* in the citation forms of verbs, we have adopted a convention of marking the *non-copying* roots with a (1), and the *copying* roots with a (2). For example:

*cinnam* (1) 'to pick' → *`cinduu* 'picking'  
→ *cinto* 'picked'  
→ *`cinlww* 'want to pick'  
→ *cinrv* 'will pick'

*cinnam* (2) 'to throw a spear' → *`cidduu* 'throwing a spear'  
→ *citto* 'threw a spear'  
→ *`cillww* 'want to throw a spear'  
→ *cirrv* 'will throw a spear'

## Vowel deletion at ends of words

As we saw above, *short vowels* are usually deleted when they are followed by some other word. According to this pronunciation, they are not written in this dictionary, *except* in the main entry:

<i>Ab<u>o</u> Tanii</i>	→	<i>Ab Tanii</i> ‘The Father of Humankind’
<i>al<u>o</u> go</i>	→	<i>al go</i> ‘some salt’
<i>`at<u>o</u>-`ayo</i>	→	<i>`at-`ayo</i> ‘grandparents’
<i>aci-<u>abo</u></i>	→	<i>ac-abo</i> ‘mature man’
<i>al<u>v</u> `duu</i>	→	<i>al `duu</i> ‘fine’
<i>`hw<u>wnv</u></i>	→	<i>`hw<sup>w</sup>n `v</i> ‘it’s a tree’

## How to read and write Galo tones

Recognizing and writing tones is one of the most challenging aspects of writing in Galo. However, it is also necessary, since hundreds of Galo words are differentiated by tone only. *Plain* words are spoken with a normal, level pitch; they are *unmarked* in Galo Script. *Tense* words are spoken with a rising-falling pitch; they are marked by a symbol ` at the *beginning* of a word.<sup>1</sup> For example:

<u>Plain</u>	<u>Tense</u>
<i>aci</i> ‘elder brother’	<i>`aci</i> ‘pain’
<i>xibo</i> ‘guest’	<i>`xibo</i> ‘priest’
<i>tabv</i> ‘snake’	<i>`tabv</i> ‘sugar cane’
<i>ai</i> ‘tooth’	<i>`ai</i> ‘heavy’
<i>au</i> ‘fat; grease’	<i>`au</i> ‘spicy; chili taste’
<i>axi</i> ‘elder sister’	<i>`axi</i> ‘two’
<i>adwr</i> ‘tired’	<i>`adwr</i> ‘unnaturally oriented’
<i>anv</i> ‘leaf’	<i>`anv</i> ‘mother’
<i>takv</i> ‘squirrel’	<i>`takv</i> ‘body louse’

In general, if a tone is marked on a word in the dictionary, it should be marked on that word in a sentence, even though the “contour” of the pitch may be slightly different for contextual reasons:

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<sup>1</sup> Note that this is not the same as “present tense” or “past tense” in English grammar. “Tense” tone refers to the added tension in the vocal cords produced when making these sounds.

*`bww `qok acc v `na* 'He's my elder brother.'  
*`bww `qok `ann `v `na* 'She's my mother.'

Another important point regards *suffixes*. In general, if any word contains a suffix with a Tense tone, that word will itself be Tense. In this example, *donam* is a Plain verb, but the Imperfective suffix *-`duu* is Tense. Therefore, the word resulting from their combination is also Tense:

*donam* 'to eat' + *-`duu* 'Imperfective' → *`doduu* (not *doduu*)  
*donam* 'to eat' + *-`lww* 'Desiderative' → *`dolww* (not *dolww*)

If a Plain verb has a Plain suffix, the resulting word is also Plain:

*donam* 'to eat' + *-to* 'Perfective' → *doto* (not *`doto*)  
*donam* 'to eat' + *-rv* 'Irrealis' → *dorv* (not *`dorv*)

Any Tense verb will always be Tense, no matter what kind of suffix it takes:

*`duunam* 'to sit' + *-`duu* 'Imperfective' → *`duuduu* (not *duuduu*)  
*`duunam* 'to sit' + *-`lww* 'Desiderative' → *`duulww* (not *duulww*)  
*`duunam* 'to sit' + *-to* 'Perfective' → *`duuto* (not *duuto*)  
*`duunam* 'to sit' + *-rv* 'Irrealis' → *`duurv* (not *duurv*)

Here is the basic rule: if **any** part of a word is Tense, that entire word will be Tense. If **all** parts of a word are Plain, that entire word will be Plain.

### *Where to put spaces between words*

Word spacing can be extremely difficult in Galo. This is because Galo grammar and Galo phonology operate somewhat differently in the way "boundaries" are assigned to "words". This is a common thing in Tibeto-Burman languages, but it can be very frustrating when working out a writing system or learning to write.

The majority of words in Galo are *disyllabic* (made of two syllables). Examples are *alak* 'hand/arm' and *donam* 'to eat'. But this is not a requirement. Many words are also *monosyllabic* (made of a single syllable). Examples are *xii* 'person' and *paa* 'dawn'.

The problem begins when grammatical forms are added. Grammatical forms are usually not very good as independent “words”, and they tend to “lean” on nearby words. Therefore, it can be tempting to write them as part of “the same” word. But if we listen closely, there are differences between what happens inside a word and what happens at the word’s edge. For example, the “special phonological processes” discussed above happen only inside words, not at a word’s edge. In the below example, note that *-p*, as in *kap*- ‘cry’ becomes *-b* when it occurs next to a voiced consonant *inside* a word, but not when it comes at the *end* of a word, as in *`rop* ‘begin’:

*kap*- ‘cry’ + *-rop* ‘begin’ + *-`duu* ‘Imperfective’ → *kabrop`duu*

But now, note that the same *-p* in *-rop* ‘begin’ becomes *-b* when it occurs inside a word:

*kap*- ‘cry’ + *-`lww* ‘want’ + *-rop* ‘begin’ + *-`duu* ‘Imperfective’ →  
*kablww`rbduu*

Therefore, it is important to write *kabrop* and *`duu* as *separate phonological words* even though *-`duu* ‘Imperfective’ is a grammatical suffix. In this sense, although *kap-rop-`duu* is a *single grammatical word*, it is realized in Galo as *two phonological words*: *kabrop* and *`duu*. Since most Galo writers tend to try to reflect their actual pronunciation when writing, we have also tried to follow this principle.

Another important point regards *tone marking*. If *kap-rop-`duu* is written as a single word *kabropduu*...where do we put the tone mark? In fact, *kabrop* is a Plain word, while *-`duu* is a Tense suffix. So, can we put the tone mark in the beginning: *`kabropduu*? Probably not. Compare *`kablww + -`duu*, a Tense word plus a Tense suffix. This word sounds different: *`kablwwduu*. If we write *`kabropduu* and *`kablwwduu* the same way, this violates the way Galo people actually speak and makes the tone symbol almost meaningless. Instead, if the phonological words are written separately, as they are spoken, then the tone symbol can accurately represent pronunciation and reading and writing become easier:

~~*`kabropduu*~~    *kabrop`duu*  
~~*`kablwwduu*~~    *`kablww`duu*

A similar problem concerns the Accusative (object) marker *`vm*. This is a very common word which sounds very much like a suffix, in that it *leans* on a preceding noun. But here we have the same problem with tone marking.

Consider  $\text{'opoo}$  'rice beer' +  $\text{'vm}$  'Accusative' and  $\text{ohoo}$  'cane; rope' +  $\text{'vm}$  'Accusative'. If we write  $\text{'opovm}$  and  $\text{'ohovm}$ , the sound is different, but the spelling is the same. But, if we write the words separately, then the pronunciation and the spelling match:

<del><math>\text{'opovm}</math></del>	$\text{'opoo}$ $\text{'vm}$
<del><math>\text{'ohovm}</math></del>	$\text{ohoo}$ $\text{'vm}$

This rule is followed even when the combination of a word plus the Accusative create a disyllabic sequence (normally, a good "word"). This may be difficult to grasp at first, but it is important to ensure that the pronunciation and the spelling match:

$\text{tabv}$ 'snake' + $\text{'vm}$	→	$\text{tabb}$ $\text{'vm}$
$\text{'tabv}$ 'sugar cane' + $\text{'vm}$	→	$\text{'tabb}$ $\text{'vm}$

Finally, we note that certain grammatical words do not have an assigned tone, but instead take tonal *spreading* from a neighbouring word. The most important such example is  $v$ , which functions as both an article and a copula. When following a Tense word,  $v$  is realized  $\text{'v}$ . When following a Plain word,  $v$  is realized  $v$ :

$\text{tabv}$ 'snake' + $v$	→	$\text{tabb}$ $v$
$\text{'tabv}$ 'sugar cane' + $v$	→	$\text{'tabb}$ $\text{'v}$

## Conclusion

This section has outlined a basic system for writing Galo using Galo Script. However, we are sure that other people will have other ideas, and it is also possible that the system that we have outlined here does not suit the speech of some particular Galo dialects which we have not considered. If this is so, we hope that people will bring any problems they encounter to the attention of the Galo Language Development Committee, and help us work toward solutions. Everything in this book is a work in progress. Let's complete it together.

## Abbreviations

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The following *part-of-speech* abbreviations are used:

<i>ace.</i>	adjectival compound element
<i>adj.</i>	adjective
<i>adj:expr.</i>	expressive adjective
<i>adj:mono.</i>	monosyllabic adjectival root
<i>adjs.</i>	adjective suffix
<i>adv.</i>	adverb(ial)
<i>advs.</i>	split adverbial
<i>art.</i>	article
<i>clfr.</i>	classifier of kind (root form)
<i>clfq.</i>	classifier of quantity (root form)
<i>cnj.</i>	conjunction
<i>cop.</i>	copula
<i>dem.</i>	demonstrative
<i>expr.</i>	expressive
<i>int.</i>	interjection
<i>mono.</i>	monosyllabic
<i>n.</i>	noun
<i>n:clf.</i>	classifier of kind (nominal/citation form)
<i>n:clfq.</i>	classifier of quantity (nominal/citation form)
<i>n:kin.</i>	kinship term
<i>n:num.</i>	numeral (nominal/citation form)
<i>n:qual.</i>	qualifying noun
<i>n:rel.</i>	relator noun
<i>n:time</i>	time noun
<i>name.</i>	proper name
<i>nce.</i>	nominal compound element
<i>num.</i>	numeral (root form)
<i>onom.</i>	onomatopoeia
<i>pcl.</i>	particle
<i>px.</i>	prefix
<i>poet.</i>	poetic/ritual
<i>pos.</i>	postposition
<i>pro.</i>	pronoun

<i>pro:int.</i>	interrogative pronoun
<i>pros.</i>	pronoun suffix
<i>v.</i>	verb
<i>v:c.arg.</i>	verb with cognate (related) argument (noun)
<i>vce.</i>	verbal compound element
<i>vi.</i>	intransitive verb
<i>vt.</i>	transitive verb
<i>vd.</i>	ditransitive verb
<i>vs.</i>	verb suffix
<i>vs:asp.</i>	verb suffix with aspectual function
<i>vs:adv.</i>	verb suffix with “adverbial” function
<i>vs:advos.</i>	“split” adverbial suffix
<i>vs:advosr.</i>	“split” reduplicative (repeating) adverbial suffix
<i>vs:mod.</i>	verb suffix with modal function
<i>vs:nf.</i>	non-final (“subordinate”) verb suffix
<i>vs:nzr.</i>	verb suffix with nominalising function
<i>vs:val.</i>	verb suffix with valence changing function

## How to read an entry

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