



GALO WELFARE SOCIETY

Galo-English Dictionary

with English-Galo Index

Appendix:

Galo Lexicon and Grammar

Numerals

<i>`aken</i>	'one'
<i>`axii</i>	'two'
<i>aum</i>	'three'
<i>appii</i>	'four'
<i>aqqo</i>	'five'
<i>akko</i>	'six'
<i>`kanv</i>	'seven'
<i>`piinv</i>	'eight'
<i>`keqqaa</i>	'nine'
<i>`wrww</i>	'ten'
<i>`wrww gola `aken</i>	'eleven'
<i>`wrww gola `axi</i>	'twelve'
...	
<i>`camxi</i>	'twenty'
<i>`camxi gola `aken</i>	'twenty-one'
<i>`camxi gola `axi</i>	'twenty-two'
...	
<i>camum</i>	'thirty'
<i>campii</i>	'forty'
...	
<i>acam `kanv</i>	'seventy'
<i>acam `piinv</i>	'eighty'
<i>acam `keqqaa</i>	'ninety'
<i>acam `keqqaa gola `aken</i>	'ninety-one'
...	
<i>camrww</i>	'one hundred'
<i>camrww gola `aken</i>	'one hundred and one'
...	
<i>camrww gola camum gola `aken</i>	'one hundred and thirty-one'
...	
<i>camrww `axi</i>	'two hundred'

<i>camrww aum</i>	'three hundred'
<i>`ajar</i>	'one thousand'
<i>`ajar gola camrww `axi</i>	'one thousand two hundred and thirty-one'
<i>gola camum gola `aken</i>	
<i>`ajar campii gola `aken</i>	'forty-one thousand' (41,000)
...	

Ordinal Numbers

<i>`loken</i>	'once'
<i>`lxi</i>	'twice'
<i>lvum</i>	'thrice'
<i>lvppii</i>	'four times'
<i>lvqqo</i>	'five times'
<i>lvkkv</i>	'six times'
<i>lvrww</i>	'ten times'

Months of the year

Note: The traditional Galo calendar is a *lunar* calendar, and corresponds to phases of the moon. Traditionally, it did not match the international calendar, although it is starting to be used this way. As a result, there is a certain amount of confusion and variation from village to village and person to person. This represents one possible account of the Galo calendar, although there are certainly many others.

<i>deecww</i>	First moon (January)
<i>`aglo</i>	Second moon (February)
<i>lumii</i>	Third moon (March)
<i>lukww</i>	Fourth moon (April)
<i>lucwr</i>	Fifth moon (May)
<i>`ilo</i>	Sixth moon (June)
<i>`tenlo</i>	Seventh moon (July)
<i>`hwo</i>	Eighth moon (August)
<i>`hwwtv</i>	Ninth moon (September)
<i>pwraa</i>	Tenth moon (October)

<i>lubww</i>	Eleventh moon (November)
<i>`ratv</i>	Twelfth moon (December)
<i>`ralww</i>	Thirteenth moon (December)

Units of Time

Days

<i>kenjur-aloo</i>	'six days ago'
<i>kenkur-aloo</i>	'five days ago'
<i>`kendaloo</i>	'four days ago'
<i>`keqkulo</i>	'three days ago'
<i>`kenlò</i>	'two days ago'
<i>`mvroo</i>	'yesterday'
<i>`hiloo</i>	'today'
<i>`allo</i>	'tomorrow'
<i>`roo ~ rov</i>	'two days hence'
<i>`rorv</i>	'three days hence'
<i>`roten</i>	'four days hence'
<i>`tene</i>	'five days hence'
<i>`tenkur</i>	'six days hence'

Years

<i>kenjur</i>	'six years ago'
<i>kenkur</i>	'five years ago'
<i>`kendaxww</i>	'four years ago'
<i>`keqkvxww</i>	'three years ago'
<i>`kenxww</i>	'two years ago'
<i>`moxww</i>	'last year'
<i>`hwxww</i>	'this year'
<i>`luuxww</i>	'next year'
<i>`xwv</i>	'two years hence'
<i>`xwrv</i>	'three years hence'
<i>`xwvten</i>	'four years hence'
<i>`tene</i>	'five years hence'
<i>`tenkur</i>	'six years hence'

Classifiers

Galo has *sortal* and *mensural* classifiers. Classifiers are common in East Asian languages, but are not usually found in Indo-European languages (although they are found in Assamese). Classifiers help in counting, measuring and referring-to objects and quantities. In Galo, classifiers occur both as words, such as *abor* 'sheet of', and as roots compounded to numerals and some adjectives, such as *`bor-xi* 'two sheets of' and *`bor-tv* 'large, of a sheet-like thing'. Some common sortal classifiers are:

Word	Meaning	Classifies
(a)hoo	'length of'	long, thin, potentially flexible things (cigarettes, lengths of rope)
(a)poo	'trunk of'	things with length <i>and</i> rotundity (fat torsos/stomachs, fat fingers)
(a)daa	'stick of'	rigidly sticklike things (branches, twigs)
`(a)rwv	'staff of'	staves; upright things (trees, stands of trees, staves of bananas)
(a)paa	'baton of'	oblong things with some thickness (bananas, eggplants, packs of cigarettes)
(a)buu	'tube of'	pipes or tubes, especially bamboo; rivers
(a)bor	'sheet of'	sheets; spread-out things (papers, pillows)
`(a)tam	'side of'	flat-sided objects (walls, doors, floors)
`(a)cwr	'grain of'	small, grainlike things (pebbles, grains of rice, peas, insects, drops of water)
`(a)pv	'ball of'	round or egglike things, or things that lay eggs (eggs, apples, balls, birds)
`(a)buk	'pod of'	Pods; bulging sections of a whole (pods of a jackfruit, sections of orange, halves of a vagina)
(a)bv	'edge of'	sides; edges (of a container, of a computer screen)
(a)cvv	'finger of'	fingers; bodies with fingers (lengths of ginger rhizome, rootstocks)
`(a)dor	'body of'	high animals (all mammals, plus large lizards and frogs (as well as humans, in jocular sense), but not small reptiles, snakes, fish, birds or insects)
`(a)nv	'stem of'	living plants/plant stems, fish
(a)twv/ (a)twr	'group of'	groups/flocks/herds of animate entities (cattle, dogs, chickens, people...)
(a)baa	'variety of'	types/varieties

<i>(a)gom</i>	'word of'	vocalizations/vocalizers (mouths, words, points/topics)
<i>`(a)baa</i>	'rendition of'	songs
<i>(a)dap</i>	'volume of'	things which occur in levels or volumes (books, grades/ classes, levels in a course)
<i>`(a)bar</i>	'piece of'	treasures (units of currency, brass platters, ornaments)
<i>`(a)xww</i>	'year of'	years
<i>(a)loo</i>	'day of'	days
<i>(a)rum</i>	'evening of'	evenings/nights (non-day periods of time)
<i>`(a)yup</i>	'night of'	night cycles (full dusk-dawn cycles)

Some common mensural classifiers are:

Word	Meaning	Classifies/Quantifies
<i>(a)cam</i>	'ten of'	any set of individuals in groups of ten
<i>(a)hu</i>	'four of'	any set of individuals in groups of four
<i>(a)tik</i>	'bushel of'	bushels of large-sized leaves (40 by standard)
<i>`(a)ro</i>	'bundle of (poles)'	bundles of staffs or poles (40 by standard)
<i>(a)rwk</i>	'bundle of (sticks)'	bundles of sticks (40 by standard)
<i>`(a)yum</i>	'handful of'	handfuls of any substance
<i>(a)ok</i>	'heaping handful of'	heaping handfuls of any substance
<i>`(a)um</i>	'mouthful of'	mouthfuls, especially of liquid
<i>`(a)pum</i>	'heap of'	heaps of any substance or individual
<i>`(a)tum</i>	'clump of'	clumps of any substance of individual (such as packed-together soil)
<i>`(a)lum</i>	'cluster of'	clusters of individuals
<i>`(i)gin</i>	'basket of'	tight conical basketfuls of any substance
<i>(v)bar</i>	'basket of'	loose conical basketfuls of any substance
<i>`(u)juk</i>	'ladleful of'	ladlefuls of any substance
<i>(a)pee</i>	'bunch of'	bunches of sticklike things, such as bananas
<i>(a)par</i>	'team of'	teams; work groups; divisions of labour
<i>(a)par</i>	'grinding of'	grinding's worth; set of paddy or other grain, viewed as the amount ground at one time in a mortar
<i>(a)kor</i>	'pace of'	any length/ distance as measured by paces
<i>(a)gop</i>	'handspan of'	any length/ distance as measured by handspans
<i>(a)du</i>	'forearm span of'	any length/ distance as measured by forearm spans

(a)jek	'slice of'	slices of any substance or individual flat sided entities which are cut- or broken-off sections of a whole, such as betelnut
(a)tak	'fragment/side of'	lengths/stretches of a long thing, such as wood chips cut from a pole, or stretches of road or river
(a)tvk	'stretch of'	
(a)duu	'section of (bamboo)'	sections of bamboo of any size
`(a)tvv	'full section of (bamboo)'	full sections of bamboo (including knot)

Verb suffixes

Galo has a huge range of derivational *verb suffixes* (vs:adv), which are combined with verb roots to form words with complex and versatile meanings. Many of these meanings translate into languages like English and Assamese as adverbs; however, in Galo they are not "words", but are rather a *part* of a larger, more complex word. Because of the huge size and versatility of the Galo system of verb suffixes, Galo can easily express meanings which are very difficult to express in other languages.

For example, consider the predicate derivation *`-men* 'do something playfully'

Verb	Meaning	Suffix	Word	Meaning
<i>innam</i>	'go'	-`men	<i>`inmen</i>	'stroll'
<i>donam</i>	'eat'	-`men	<i>`domen</i>	'snack'
<i>`rwnam</i>	'do'	-`men	<i>`rwmn</i>	'do playfully'
<i>`onam</i>	'fall'	-`men	<i>`omen</i>	'fall playfully'
<i>kaanam</i>	'look'	-`men	<i>`kaamen</i>	'take a look'
<i>japnam</i>	'talk'	-`men	<i>`jabmen</i>	'chat'
<i>iinam</i>	'extend hand'	-`men	<i>`iimen</i>	'extend a hand in play'
<i>`vnam</i>	'plant something'	-`men	<i>`vmen</i>	'plant something just for fun, to see what will happen'
<i>harnam</i>	'play'	-`men	<i>`harmen</i>	'ruffhouse'
<i>`duunam</i>	'sit'	-`men	<i>`duumen</i>	'have a seat; sit around'
....				

Hundreds of words like this can be easily formed in Galo. Notice how

simple and direct the Galo expressions are, and how roundabout the closest English translations are!

Sometimes, derivational verb suffixes can be “doubled up” to convey even more elaborate meanings. In some cases, both of the “doubled” suffixes have meaning, while in other cases only the first has meaning, while the second is simply a rhyming syllable with no independent meaning. For example, in *`menken`menpaa maa* ‘it’s frustratingly difficult to say’, both predicate derivations *-`ken* and *-`paa* have independent meanings ‘easy/good’ and ‘get/manage’, respectively. But, in *`tagm`wk`tagmak* ‘smash into a million pieces’, only *-`m`wk* has meaning, as in *`rwm`wk* ‘do carefully/ minutely’; *-`mak* has no meaning, but is only included to give a more expressive sense.

Spatial reference

When talking about the motion or location of something in Galo, it is important to consider a number of factors. Is the thing closer to the speaker or the addressee? Is the thing visible? If so, is it higher, lower, or on the same level? If not, is it to the north, to the south or to the east/west? If it is near a river, is it upriver, downriver, or across/away from the river? If talking about a human being or group, is it at or moving to or away from its own home village, or is it at or moving to or away from the speaker’s home village?

Motion verbs

Verb	Meaning	Describes
<i>`caanam</i>	‘to ascend’	motion upward/upriver, to the north, or to a home located upward of one’s own home
<i>iinam</i>	‘to descend’	motion downward/downriver, to the south, or to a home located downward of one’s own home
<i>aanam</i>	‘to come’	motion on the same level, not along a river course, to the east or west, or to one’s own home
<i>innam</i>	‘to go’	general motion, especially motion away from one’s own home or in an unspecified direction
<i>aanam</i>	‘to enter’	motion into a space or into one’s home or village

`nennam 'to exit' motion out of a space or outside of one's home or village and into the outside world

Demonstratives and postpositions

	Near Speaker	Near Addressee	Away, Upward	Away, Downward	Away, Same Level
Simple	`hi	vv	`tvv	`bv	aa
Individuative	`hwgw	`vgv			
Locative	`hogo	`ogo	`tolo	`bolo	alo
Ablative	`hokv	`okv	`tokv	`bokv	`akv
Semblative	`hokv	`vkv	`tokv	`bokv	`akv
Manner	`hombv	`vmbv	`tombv	`bmbv	`ambv

Locative existential verbs

In English, to show existence and possession we use only *be* and *have*, as in: *there are two people* or *I have a pen*. In Galo, there are five different verbs, three of which also show position. When talking about existence and possession in Galo, we must consider: is the thing alive or not alive? Is it possessed by something else, or independent? Is it in sitting position, standing position, or lying position? Is it a long and thin in shape, spread-out and sheetlike in shape or voluminous and ball-like in shape? Does it have legs or not? Is it attached to something else or contained in something else or is it independent?

Verb	Meaning	Use
<i>rvnam</i>	'to live'	actively living things of all kinds
<i>kaanam</i>	'to have'	simply existing things of all kinds, possessed things
<i>`duunam</i>	'to sit'	living things which are temporarily staying in a place or are in sitting position, non-living things which are voluminous in shape and in sitting position
<i>`dagnam</i>	'to stand'	living things which are in standing position, non-living things which have legs, or long and thin things which are in a vertical position, or things which are attached to or contained inside something else
<i>doonam</i>	'to lie'	living things which are permanently settled in a place or are in lying position, non-living things which are flexible or sheetlike in shape, or non-

living things of any shape which are lying on a surface

Relational (“Case”) Marking

Relational marking shows the relationship between a noun and a predicate. For example, in English *he hit me*, the subject *he* is in the Nominative case, while the object *me* is in the Accusative case. It is incorrect to put the subject in Accusative case and the object in Nominative case: **him hit I* is not a good English sentence.

In Indo-European languages like English, Hindi and Assamese, the relationship between a noun and a predicate may be shown by changes in the form of the word – such as *I* and *me* – or else by case markers or adpositions (prepositions or postpositions) – such as *to John*. In Galo, relational marking is almost always postpositional.

Case	Marker	Example	Meaning
Nominative	--	<i>`bww pagro</i>	‘He will manage it.’
Accusative	<i>`om</i>	<i>`bwom tukaa</i>	‘Someone kicked him.’
Non-agentive	<i>`ne</i>	<i>abo `ne tukaa</i>	‘Someone kicked father.’
Locative	<i>lo</i>	<i>dooluu lo</i>	‘at the village; in the village’
Dative	<i>`bv</i>	<i>aci `bv</i>	‘to elder brother’
Genitive	<i>`gv</i>	<i>aci `gv</i>	‘elder brother’s; of elder brother’
Ablative	<i>`lokv</i>	<i>dooluu `lokv</i>	‘from the village’
Partitive	<i>gonna</i>	<i>vrok gonna</i>	‘one of the pigs’
Temporal dumessive	<i>`gobv</i>	<i>`iji `gobv</i>	‘up to now’
Spatial dumessive	<i>`lobv</i>	<i>`hogo `lobv</i>	‘up to here’
Ordinal delimitative	<i>`naana</i>	<i>aqgo `naana</i>	‘fifth’
Iterative delimitative	<i>`naabv</i>	<i>`lxi `naabv</i>	‘second (time)’
Temporal delimitative	<i>`naako</i>	<i>looqo `naakv lo</i>	‘within five days’

Referential marking

Referential marking gives information about the way a noun is being identified or referred-to in a sentence or conversation. Usually, referential markers are called “articles”. In English, referential marking usually gives information about whether a referent is *known* or *unknown* (*the man* vs. *a man*), is *individual* or *multiple* (*a man* vs. *some men*) or is *specific* or *general* (*the men* versus *men*). In Galo, referential marking has similar, but not identical, properties.

Function	Marker	Example	Meaning
Generic	--	`ao kaamaa	‘(He) has no children.’
Topical	v	vrok v	‘The pig(s)...; As for the pig(s)...’
Individual	go	vrok go	‘a pig’

Particles

In many Asian languages, complex ideas related to a speaker’s *attitude*, *knowledge*, *opinion* and *evidence* for making a statement are expressed using very small words called “particles”. Particles usually occur either at the end of a sentence or at the end of a noun phrase. Particles do not usually occur in Indo-European languages such as English or Hindi; instead, speaker attitude is usually conveyed by intonation and knowledge or opinion is expressed using individual words or larger sentence structures.

Galo has a *huge* range of particles, most of which can be found either at the end of a sentence or at the end of a focused noun phrase. A few examples are given below.

Noun phrase particles

Function	Marker	Example	Meaning
Completive	ku	`bww ku...	‘he, in the end...’
Additive	`cin	`bww `cin...	‘he too...’
Contrastive	da	`bww da...	‘but he; he, however...’
Comparison	`den	`bww `den...	‘he, on the other hand...’
Recursive	dada	`bww dada...	‘he, just like before...’
Concessive	daram	`bww daram...	‘even he...’

Abessive	`lvv	`qok aci `lvv...	'oh, my elder brother...'
Suppositional	baa	`bww baa...	'suppose he...'
Delimitative	`xum	`bww `xum...	'only he...'
Precisative	`cvo	`bww `cvo	'exactly he...; none but he...'

Imperative particles

Function	Marker	Example	Meaning
Polite hortative	`kee	`jilaa `kee	'please give it'
Advisative hortative	`kaa	jit `kaa	'you ought to give it'
Abrupt hortative	-k	jitok!	'give it!'

Declarative particles

Function	Marker	Example	Meaning
Reportative	`yuu	`bww inkaa ku yuu	'He left, it is said.'
Evidential	`ben	`bww inkaa ku ben	'It seems he left.'
Uncertainty	`pv	`bww inkaa ku `pv	'He may have left.'
Mirative	`lakaa	`bww inkaa ku `lakaa	'He left, to my surprise!'
Admonitive	ne	`bww inkaa ku ne	'He left, don't you see!'
Counterexpective	xoo	`bww inkaa ku xoo	'He left, in fact.'

Temporal-Aspectual Marking

In most Indo-European languages, the temporal structure of an event is described using both *tense* and *aspect*. *Tense* shows the time of an event in relation to the time of speaking, such as *present tense*, *past tense* or *future tense*. *Aspect* shows the way in which an event progresses over time, as *progressive aspect*, *habitual aspect* and *perfect aspect*. So, a sentence such as *he has been there* is in *present perfect*, and uses a mixture of *present tense* and *perfect aspect* to show that the event is *finished* (perfect) as of the *present* time of speaking.


In most Asian languages, including Galo, *tense marking does not occur*. Instead, there is a very large and complex *aspectual* system.

Function	Use	Marker	Example	Meaning
Imperfective	unfinished events	-`duu	`bww `caaduu	'He is going up (he is on the way).'
Stative	general/habitual	-doo	`bww	'He goes up (on

	conditions		`caadoo	a regular basis).'
Change of State	current/new state	-`dak	`bww `caadak	'He's now going up (unlike before).'
Perfective	finished event	-to	`bww `caato	'He went up (and returned).'
Perfect	finished activity with ongoing effect	-kaa	`bww `caakaa	'He has gone up (and is still there).'
Continuous	events which began in the past and are still ongoing	-`tuu	`bww `caatuu	'He has gone up (and is still on the road).'
Experiential perfect	events which have occurred at least once in experience	-bee	`bww `caabee	'He has been up (at some point).'
Negative	events which do not or did not occur	-maa	`bww `caamaa	'He didn't/doesn't go up.'
Irrealis	events which are unreal, either because they are imagined or are predicted	-rv	`bww `caarv	'He will/would go up.'

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Galo is a language of the Tani branch of the Tibeto-Burman family, one of the largest and most diverse language families in the world. Galo is spoken by around 30,000 ~ 40,000 people in central Arunachal Pradesh, North East India. However, this number is beginning to dwindle. Like many other tribal languages in India and throughout the world, Galo is facing the great challenge of language endangerment and language loss. This dictionary is part of a concerted community-based attempt to stem the tide of loss by introducing materials and systems for accurate and practical representation of the Galo language, so that expert speakers will be able to preserve their knowledge in written form and less expert speakers will be able to increase their knowledge if they choose to.