



Sylheti **সিলেটি**

Language Lessons

2014 - 2015

SOAS Sylheti Project

After an invitation from the director of the Surma Centre, Camden, during Endangered Languages Week presentations at SOAS in 2012, the SOAS Sylheti Project was created. For the past three years, SOAS MA linguistics students have participated in this extracurricular project to document Sylheti spoken by users of the Surma Centre. The SOAS Fieldmethods course has also worked with Sylheti speakers to document Sylheti grammar. Besides other sub-projects, the SOAS Sylheti Project is compiling a dictionary for the Sylheti language and launching a dictionary app.

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/soassylhetiproject/>

YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/soassylhetiproject>

SOAS Sylheti Language Society

The SOAS Sylheti Language Society organizes weekly Sylheti language lessons and meets to discuss the grammar of the Sylheti language. Sylheti-speaking members practice teaching and develop lessons. This booklet represents our first efforts to create teaching materials for the Sylheti language. We thank our teachers Kushie, Nadia and Monsur!

Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/soassylhetilanguagesociety

Information on the SOAS Students' Union webpage:

<http://soasunion.org/activities/society/7438/>

June 2015, London

Pictures in this booklet are taken from *pixabay.com* unless otherwise specified.

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Lesson 00: Spelling and transcription conventions

Sylheti does not yet have a standardized alphabet and spelling system. Because of this, we are using the following spellings to represent IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) sounds.

Consonants

p = [p]
f = [f / ϕ]
b = [b / β]
m = [m]
t = [t]
T = [t]
d = [d]
D = [d]

$$\begin{aligned} n &= [n] \\ N &= [n] \\ r &= [r] \\ R &= [r] \\ l &= [l] \\ k &= [k] \\ g &= [g] \\ ng &= [n] \end{aligned}$$

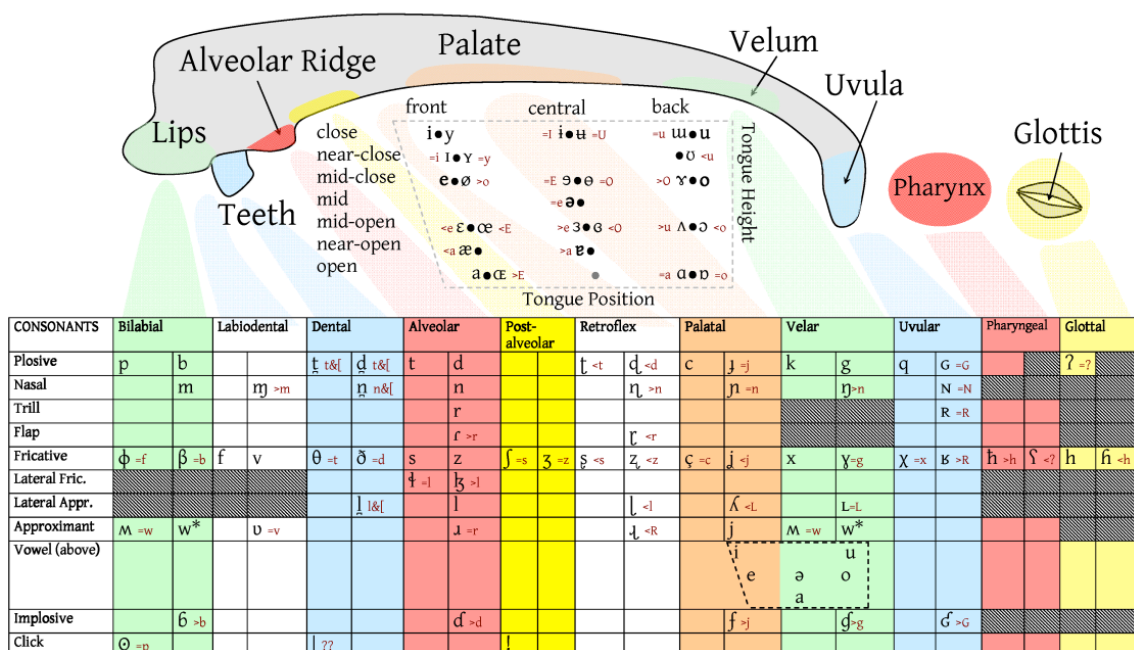
s = [s]
sh = [ʃ]
S = [ʂ]
z = [z]
x = [x]
h = [h]
c = [tʃ]
j = [dʒ]

Vowels

$$\begin{aligned} i &= [i] \\ i &= [I] \\ u &= [u] \\ u &= [\bar{u}] \\ e &= [e] \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned} e &= [\varepsilon] \\ o &= [o] \\ o &= [o] \\ a &= [a] \\ ai &= [ai] \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned}ae &= [a\varepsilon] \\ ei &= [\varepsilon i] \\ oi &= [\text{ɔ} i] \\ ua &= [\text{ʊ} a]\end{aligned}$$

Sylheti is an Indo-Aryan language on the branch of the Eastern group (with Bengali and Assamese):

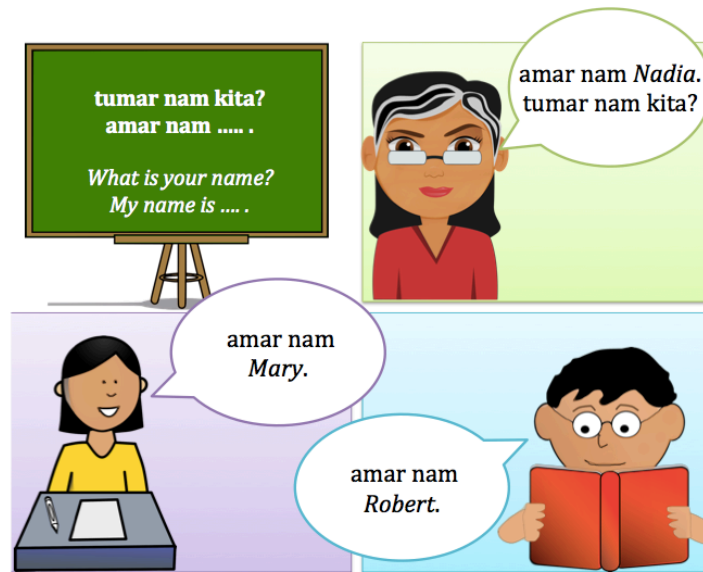
- Like most South Asian languages, Sylheti has different dental and retroflex consonants - t / d / r versus T / D / R.
- Unlike most South Asian languages, Sylheti does not distinguish non-aspirated and aspirated consonants - k / g / etc. versus kh / gh / etc.
- Sylheti does not distinguish between long and short vowels.
- Sylheti does not have nasalized vowels.
- Sylheti has lexical tone.
- Sylheti has classifiers (like Bengali, Assamese, Nepali, etc.) and one-word verbs.



Lateral flap: ɭ >ɭ. Other symbols: ' >ɿ pʰ pʰh ˢc ˢnc pˀ pˀl tˀ tˀˀ eˀ eˀl mˀ mˀl tʃ tʃˢˢ

(Taken from *scriptsource.org*)

Lesson 01: 'What is your name?'



Q- amar nam *Monsur*. tumar nam kita?

R- amar nam *Mary*.

Q- tar nam kita?

R- tar nam *John*.

Q- tair nam kita?

R- tair nam *Kate*.

Q- tarar nam kita?

R- he ar tai, tara, tarar nam *Robert* ar *Kate*.

Q- amar nam kita?

R- afne, afnar nam *Monsur*.

Q- amrar nam kita?

R- amra, amrar nam *Monsur* ar *Mary*. ami ar afne, amra, amrar nam *Monsur* ar *Mary*.

Q- afnar nam kita?

R- amar nam *Monsur*.

Q- afnarar nam kita?

R- ami ar tai, amrar nam *Monsur* ar *Kushie*.

Q- tumrar nam kita?

R- amrar nam *Robert* ar *Kate*.

amar nam kita?
tumar nam kita?
tar nam kita?
tair nam kita?

ami
tumi
he
tai

amrar nam kita?
tumrar nam kita?
tarar na kita?

amra
tumra
tara

afnar nam kita?
afnarar nam kita?

afne
afnara

amar nam
tumar nam
tar nam
tair nam

amrar nam ar
tumrar nam ar
tarar nam ar

afnar nam
afnarar nam ar

Lesson 02: 'Where are you from?'

ami taki aisi.
tumi kunan(o) taki aiso?
tumi kunano taxo?
afne kunan(o) taki aisoin?
afne kunano taxoin?

*I am from
Where are you from?
Where do you live?
Where are you from (polite)?
Where do you live (polite)?*

ami taki
he/tai taxe
tumi taxo
afne taxoin
afnara taxoin

ami aisi
he/tai aise
tumi aiso
afne aisoin
afnara aisoin

Q- ami *Bangladesh* taki aisi.
tumi kunan(o) taki aiso?

R- ami *France* taki aisi.

Q- tumi kunano taxo?

R- ami London taki.

Q- he kunan(o) taki aise ar he kunano taxe?

R- he *America* taki aise ar he london taxe.

Q- tai kunan(o) taki aise ar tai kunano taxe?

R- tai *Bulgaria* taki aise ar tai london taxe.

Q- ami kunan(o) taki aisi ar ami kunano taki?

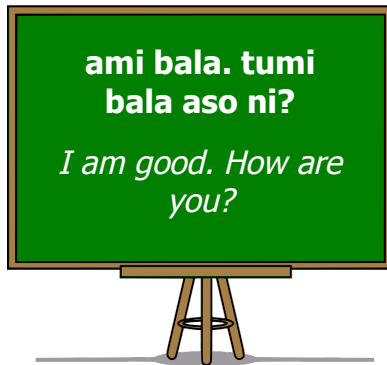
R- afne *Bangladesh* taki aisoin ar london taxoin.

Q- tumra kunan(o) taki aiso ar tumra kunano taxo?

R- amra *America* taki ar *Bulgaria* taki aisi. amra *London* taki.

kunano = kun xano 'where'
kunan(o) taki = kunanor
kunano = xoi = xoiTa
kun 'which?'
kita 'what?'
ar 'and'

Lesson 03: 'How are you?'



ami bala (asi).
'I'm good.'



ami shuki (asi).
ami khushi (asi)
'I am happy'



ami gusa (asi).
'I am angry.'

Q- ami bala (asi). tumi bala (aso) ni?

R- ami bala (asi).

Q- tumi bala (aso) ni?

R- ami bala (asi). ar afne?

Q- he kushi (ase) ni?

R- na he kushi nae. he gusa (ase).

Q- tai shuki (ase) ni?

R- oi, tai shuki (ase).

Q- tara bala (ase) ni?

R- he ar he, tara bala (ase).

Q- amra bala (asi) ni?

R- oi, amra bala (asi).

-

Q- afne shuki (asoin) ni?

R- oi, ami shuki (asi).

-

Q- tumra bala (aso) ni?

R- ami bala (asi) ar tai bala (ase). amra bala (asi).

Lesson 04: 'Faruke xoe

Faruke xoe ... 'Faruk says...'

he/tai xoe ..

ami xoi ...

- ubao / ubaouka 'Stand!'
- mato / matouka 'Speak'
- aTo 'Walk!'
- xao 'Eat!'
- boi taxo 'Sit!'
- mata laRo 'Move/shake (your) head!'
- mata so 'Touch (your) head!'
- anguil doro 'Hold (your) finger!'
- gurao 'Turn around!'
- dexo 'Look!'
- lexo 'Write!'
- gumao 'Sleep!'
-

Lesson 05: Feelings (present tense)

Q- tumar kila lagse? / tumi bala aso ni? 'How are you?'

R- amar zoto kushi lagse./ami zoto kushi (asi). 'I'm very happy.'

Q- tar kila lagse? 'How is he?'

R- tar ze gusha lagse. = he ze gusha. 'He's very angry.'

Q- tair kila lager? 'How is she feeling?'

R- tair bezar lager. = tai bezar (ase). 'She's feeling sad.'

Q- tarar gorom na TaNDa lagse/lager? 'Are they hot or cold?'

R- tarar gorom lagse na. tara beshi TaNDa (ase). 'They aren't hot. They're very cold.'

R- amar fanir fiasse dorse.
 R- ami premo forsi.
 R- tai premo forse.
 R- amar gume dorse.

'I am thirsty (for water).'
'I'm in love.'
'She's in love.'
'I am sleepy.'

bemar 'ill(ness)'
 hoiran 'tired/exhausted'
 shorom 'shy'
 (sokut) gum 'sleepy'
 (feTo) buk 'hungry'
 fiasse 'thirst'
 prem 'love'



ami bemar.
'I am sick.'



ami hoiran.
'I am tired.'



amar (sokut)
 gum (aise).
'I am sleepy.'

beshi = ze = zoto 'very'
 na 'or'
 beTa / beTi 'man/woman' → beTa shorom (fae). *'The man is shy.'*
 fua / fuRi 'boy/girl' → fuRi premo forse. *'The girl is in love.'*

Lesson 06: Possession and everyday objects

Q- oTa kita? *'What is this?'*
 R- oTa exTa xolom. *'This is a pen.'*
 Q- oTa xar xolom? *'Whose pen is this?'*
 R- oTa tair xolom. *'This is her pen.'*
 Q- oTa xar boi? *'Whose book is this?'*
 R- oTa amar boi. *'This is my book.'*
 R- oTa Mary-r boi. *'This is Mary's book.'*
 R- oTa John-or boi. *'This is John's book.'*
 Q- oTa xar goRi? *'Whose watch is this?'*
 R- oTa her / tar goRi. *'This is his watch.'*



goRi



xolom



boi



satti



aNTi,
 angTi



foisha,
 Texa

Q- xotoTa aNTi/angTi? *'How many rings?'*
 R- fasTa aNTi/angTi. *'Five rings.'*

Q- tumar zinish amare deo! *'Give me your thing!'*
 R- doro! *'Catch!, Here you go!'*

Q- tar satti taire deo! *'Give her his umbrella!'*

Q- tarar foisha amrare deo! *'Give us their money!'*

R- tarar foisha tarar ges taki neo! *'Take their money from them!'*

fani	'water'	ex	'one'
beg	'bag'	exTa	'one thing'
xagoz	'paper'	dui	'two'
sabi	'key'	duiTā	'two things'
shoshma	'eye glasses'	tin	'three'
unna = uRna	'scarf'	sair	'four'
toki	'hat'	fas	'five'
gonji	'pullover'	soe	'six'
oshud	'medicine'	shat	'seven'
buTol	'bottle'	aT	'eight'
Tebul = Tebil	'table'	noe	'nine'
angul	'finger'	dosh	'ten'

oTa = eTa = iTa *'this, that'*
xoto = xotoTa = xoTa *'how many/much?'*

Lesson 07: Writing in Syloti / Syloti Nagri script

সীলহী

The traditional order of South Asian alphabets begins with consonant sounds that are produced in the back of the mouth, continues to sounds produced by the lips and finishes with sounds that are closer to vowels - velars, palatals, alveolar retroflexes, dentals, bilabials, approximants. Sylheti, over hundreds of years or so of evolution, has changed the sound values in the traditional order of South Asian alphabets. Sylheti also no longer distinguishes 'aspiration' so that several letters are redundant, except for indicating the origin of tone.

Sylheti can be written with various alphabets and scripts. Because Syloti Nagri is now in Unicode, you can today type in it on your computer. However, it is not yet very common. Therefore, Sylheti is most often written/typed using the Bengali script with modified sound values, or using the Roman script (of most European languages) with various sound values. Linguists use the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) to write the sounds of languages.

Vowels

ঐ	ই	উ	ঐ	ঔ
a	i	u	e	o
[a]	[i]	[u]	[ɛ]	[ɔ]

Vowel diacritics and other symbols

𑍇 𑍈 𑍉 𑍊 𑍋 𑍌
 ka ki ku ke ko kong

Dvisvara sign

𑍍 𑍎 𑍏 𑍐 𑍑 𑍒
 koi khai bui oi ai khai

Consonants

𑍇 𑍈 𑍉 𑍊 𑍋 𑍌 𑍍 𑍎 𑍏
 ko kho go gho co cho jo jho to
 [kɔ] [xɔ] [gɔ] [ɣɔ] [tʰɔ] [tʰɔ̃] [ɕɔ] [ɕ̃ɔ] [tɔ]
 [k] [x~k^h] [g] [ɣ~g^h] [tʰ] [tʰ^h] [ɕ] [ɕ̃~ɕ^h] [t]

𑍐 𑍑 𑍒 𑍓 𑍔 𑍕 𑍖 𑍗 𑍘
 tho do dho to tho do dho no po
 [ʂɔ] [dɔ] [zɔ] [tɔ] [θɔ] [d̪ɔ] [ðɔ] [nɔ] [pɔ]
 [ʂ~t^h] [d] [z~d^h] [t] [θ~t^h] [d̪] [ð~d̪^h] [n] [p]

𑍙 𑍚 𑍛 𑍜 𑍝 𑍞 𑍟 𑍠 𑍡
 pho bo bho mo ro lo ro so ho
 [pɔ] [bɔ] [βɔ] [mɔ] [rɔ] [lɔ] [r̥ɔ] [sɔ] [hɔ]
 [p̪~p^h] [b] [β~b^h] [m] [r] [l] [r̥] [s] [h]

Conjunct consonants

𑍇𑍈 𑍈𑍉 𑍉𑍊 𑍊𑍋 𑍋𑍌 𑍌𑍍 𑍍𑍎 𑍎𑍏 𑍏𑍐
 kko kto cco ccho jjo tto nto ndo nno
 𑍐𑍑 𑍑𑍒 𑍒𑍓 𑍓𑍔 𑍔𑍕 𑍕𑍖 𑍖𑍗 𑍗𑍘 𑍘𑍙
 bbo mbo mmo rlo sko sco scho sto sbo

Numerals

𑍑 𑍒 𑍓 𑍔 𑍕 𑍖 𑍗 𑍘 𑍙
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

(Taken from www.omniglot.com/writing/syloiti.htm)

Lesson 08: Professions

xam	'work'
ami xam xori	'I work.'
tumi xam xoro	'You work.'
he / tai / tara xam xore	'He / she / they work.'
afne xam (xoro) / xoron / xoroin	'You (formal) work.'

--> ami shebikar xam xori	'I work as a nurse.'
--> tumi foisha gono	'You count money.'
--> ami suri xori	'I do robbery.'
--> he gudamo xam xore	'He works in a warehouse.'
--> he mas dore = he mas mare	'He fishes.' (mas = 'fish')
--> tara moila saf xorar xam xore	'They work as cleaners.'
--> tai dorzir xam xore	'She works as a seamstress/tailor.'
--> tai xafor shilai xore	'She sews (clothes).'
--> tara xani manae	'They make food.'
--> he shelunor xam xore	'He does (hairdresser) salon work.'

mashTor	'teacher (m.)'	maimal = maimol	'fisherman'
mashTorni	'teacher (f.)'	moila saf xorua	'cleaner'
satro	'student (m.)'	xompauNDar	'pharmacist'
satri	'student (f.)'	donni beTi	'midwife, doula'
DaxTor	'doctor (m.)'	meramot-xari	'mechanic'
DaxTorni	'doctor (f.)'	domxol xamla	'fireman'
dator DaxTor	'dentist (m.)'	kosTar / bas salox	'bus driver'
dator DaxTorni	'dentist (f.)'	daruan	'housekeeper, gatekeeper'
shebika	'nurse (f.)'	dorzi	'tailor'
fion = fus masTor	'postman'	Teski slox	'taxi driver'
fulish ofisar	'police officer'	babursi	'chef/cook'
sur	'thief'	naiox	'actor'
gongona-xari	'bank teller'	naiika	'actress'
gudamor xamla	'warehouse worker'	tikadar	'builder'
nafet	'hairdresser, barber'		

dat	'teeth'	saf xora	'to clean'
gudam	'warehouse'	meramoT	'repairs'
moila	'dirt, rubbish; dirty'	xafor	'clothes'
saf	'clean'	shilai	'sewing'

Lesson 09: Daily activities (past tense)

ami	xorsi	<i>'I've done (it).'</i>
tumi / afne	xorso	<i>'You've done (it).'</i>
he / tai	xorse	<i>'He / she has done (it).'</i>
afne / tain	xorsoin	<i>'You / he (formal) have/has done (it).'</i>

ami	xorsilam	<i>'I did (it).'</i>
tumi / afne	xorsilae	<i>'You did (it).'</i>
he / tai	xorsil	<i>'He / she did (it).'</i>
afne / tain	xorsila	<i>'You / he (formal) have/has done (it).'</i>

shoxal = bian	<i>'morning'</i>
shoxale = biane	<i>'in the morning'</i>
madan	<i>'midday'</i>
madane	<i>'at midday'</i>
duifori bela = duifor	<i>'midday'</i>
hainja = bial= bikal	<i>'afternoon, evening'</i>
hainjar shomoi	<i>'evening (time)'</i>
rait	<i>'night'</i>
raitku	<i>'night (time)'</i>
(goto) xail	<i>'yesterday'</i>

aiz	<i>'today'</i>
bat salon	<i>'rice-curry, meal'</i>
gor = baRi	<i>'house'</i>
goro = baRit	<i>'at/to home'</i>
iskulo	<i>'at/to school'</i>
find- / finda	<i>'wear / wearing'</i>
bianor xani = nasta	<i>'morning meal, breakfast'</i>
raitkur xani	<i>'evening meal, supper'</i>

ami goto xail shoxale gum taki uTsilam	<i>'I got up from bed yesterday in the morning.'</i>
ami lefTino gesilam / geslam	<i>'I went to the toilet.'</i>
ami gusol xorsilam	<i>'I bathed.'</i>
ami muk doisilam	<i>'I washed my face.'</i>
ami sul hukaisilam	<i>'I dried my hair.'</i>
ami sul asRoaisi	<i>'I combed my hair.'</i>
ami bisna Tik xorsilam	<i>'I made the bed.'</i>
ami dat goshaisilam	<i>'I brushed my teeth.'</i>
ami biane nasta xaisilam	<i>'I ate breakfast in the morning.'</i>
ami xafor finccilam	<i>'I wore clothes.'</i>
ami shoxale tiar oisilam	<i>'I got/became ready in the morning.'</i>
ami iskulo gesilam / geslam	<i>'I went to school.'</i>

tumi goto xail baRit geslae	<i>'You went home yesterday.'</i>
tumi raitkur xani xaisilae	<i>'You ate dinner.'</i>
tumi lexa-foRa xorsilae	<i>'You studied (writing-reading).'</i>
tumi boi foRsilae	<i>'You read a/the book.'</i>
tumi raitku gumaisilae	<i>'You slept at night.'</i>
tai xafor finder	<i>'She's wearing clothes.'</i>

Q- tumi shoxale dat goshaislae ni	<i>'Did you brush your teeth in the morning?'</i>
R- na ami shoxale dat goshaislam na	<i>'No, I didn't brush my teeth in the morning.'</i>
Q- tumi sul hukaiso ni	<i>'Have you dried your hair?'</i>
R- oe ami sul hukaisi	<i>'Yes, I've dried my hair.'</i>

Lesson10: Numbers, Colours, Shapes, Sizes

COLOURS

oTa kun rong?

'Which colour is this?'

					
oilda/oldia/ oilda/olda 'yellow'	xomla 'orange'	lal 'red'	beguni/ bainguni/baingoni 'purple'	lilua=nilua 'blue'	xosua 'green'

					
dola,shadda safed 'white'	xala 'black'	badami, maxra, maTirong, buramaTi 'brown'	sai, dushor 'grey'	gulafi, gulabi fingla 'pink'	rongila rongbirongi rongbirongor 'colourful'

ashman
ashmani
oloid
badam
maTi

'sky'
'blue, sky blue'
'tumeric'
'almond'
'earth, soil'

gulaf
sai
moila shadda = moila dola
moila
begun/bengon/baingon

'rose (flower)'
'ash'
'grey'
'dirty'
'aubergine'

SHAPES

oTa kun ruf?

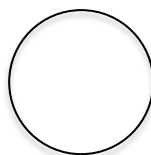
'Which shape (is) this?'



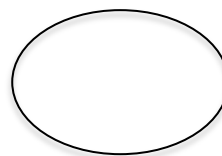
lamba sair kuna
'rectangle'



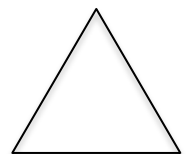
sair kuna
'square'



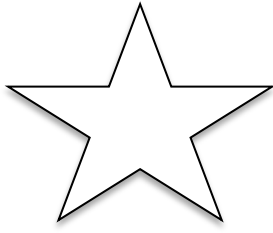
gul
'circle'



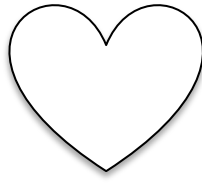
lamba gul
'oval'



tin kuna
'triangle'



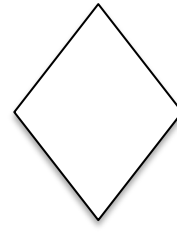
tera
'star'



dil
'heart'



sand
'moon'



biritto
'diamond'

'GO FISH !'

Q- tumar gese ase ni ____ ?

'Do you have ____?'

Q- tumar gese ____ ase ni ?

'Do you have ____?'

-

exTa lal gul

'one red circle'

duiTa beguni dil

'two purple hearts'

tinTa xosua biritto

'two green diamonds'

sairTa oilda sand

'four yellow moons'

fasTa xala lampa sair kuna

'five black rectangles'

soeTa gulafi lampa gul

'six pink ovals'

xatTa lilua tera

'seven blue stars'

aTTa maxra sair kuna

'eight brown squares'

noeTa xomla tin kuna

'nine orange triangles'

doshTa xala na shida

'ten black zigzags'

R- amar gese nae. mas doro!

'I don't have (it). Go fish!'

R- amar gese nae. (tumi) tukaia bar xoro!

'I don't have (it). Search and take!'

R- amar gese ase. amarTa neo.

'I have (it). Take mine!'

Lesson 11: Feelings (future tense)

Q- tumar kila lagse? / tumi bala aso ni?

'How are you?'

R- ami kushi / bezar / gusha / hoiran / bema.

'I'm happy / sad / mad / tired/ sick.'

R- ami bema forsi.

'I'm sick., I fell sick.'

R- ami bema dorsi.

'I'm sick., I caught sick.'

R- amar bema oise.

'I'm sick., I caught sick.'

R- ami premo forsi.

'I'm in love., I've fallen in love.'

R- amar (fanir) fiase dorse.

'I'm thirsty (for water).'

Q- agami xail tumar kila lagbo?

'How will you be tomorrow?'

R- ami kushi / bezar / heran.

'I'll be happy / sad / tired.'

R- ami bema formu.

'I'll be/fall sick.'

R- ami bema dormu.

'I'll be sick., I'll catch sick.'

R- amar bema oibo.

'I'll be sick., I'll catch sick.'

R- ami premo formu.

'I'll be in love., I'll fall in love.'

R- amar (fanir) fiase dorbo.

'I'll be thirsty (for water).'

Q- tar kila lagse / lager?	<i>'How is he?'</i>
R- tar kushi / bezar / gusha / hoiran lagse.	<i>'He's happy / sad / mad / tired.'</i>
R- tar shorom / TaNDa / gorom lagse.	<i>'He's shy / cold / hot.'</i>
R- tar kushi / bezar / gusha / hoiran lager.	<i>'He's happy / sad / mad / tired.'</i>
R- tar shorom / TaNDa / gorom lager.	<i>'He's shy / cold / hot.'</i>
R- tar (feTo) buk lagse.	<i>'He's hungry (in the stomach).'</i>
R- tar (sokut) gum aise.	<i>'He's sleepy (in the eyes).'</i> (souk 'eye')
Q-agami xail tar kila lagbo?	<i>'How will he be tomorrow?'</i>
R- tar kushi / bezar / gusha / heran lagbo.	<i>'He'll be happy / sad / mad / tired.'</i>
R- tar shorom / TaNDa / gorom lagbo.	<i>'He'll be shy / cold / hot.'</i>
R- tar (feTo) buk lagbo.	<i>'He'll be hungry (in the stomach).'</i>
R- tar (sokut) gum lagbo.	<i>'He'll be sleepy (in the eyes).'</i>
R- amar shundor lagse.	<i>'It looks good (to me).'</i>
R- amar mozar lagse.	<i>'It's tasty (to/for me).'</i> (moza 'taste')

Lesson 12: Daily activities (past and future tense)

(goto) xail 'yesterday'

ami	xorsilam	<i>'I did (it).'</i>
tumi / afne	xorslae / xorsilae	<i>'You did (it).'</i>
he / tai	xorsil	<i>'He / she did (it).'</i>
afne / tain	xorsla / xorsila	<i>'You / he (formal) have/has done (it).'</i>

agami xail 'tomorrow'

ami	xormu	<i>'I'll do (it).'</i>
tumi / afne	xorbae	<i>'You'll do (it).'</i>
he / tai	xorbo	<i>'He / she will do (it).'</i>
afne / tain	xorba	<i>'You / he (formal) will do (it).'</i>

he nasta xaisil.	<i>'He ate breakfast.'</i>
he nasta xaibo.	<i>'He will eat breakfast.'</i>



tai gum taki uTsil.	<i>'She got up from bed/sleeping.'</i>
tai gum taki uTbo.	<i>'She'll get up from bed/sleeping.'</i>
(gum 'sleep')	

ami dat goshaislam / goshaisilam.	<i>'I brushed my teeth.'</i>
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ami dat goshaimu.

'I'll brush my teeth.'

tumi lefTino geslae / gesilae.
tumi lefTino zaibae.
amra iskulo geslam / gesilam.
amra iskulo zaimu.

'You went to the toilet.'
'You'll go to the toilet.'
'We went to school.'
'We'll go to school.'



tara lexa-foRa xorsil.
tara lexa-foRa xorbo.

'They studied (writing-reading).'
'They'll study (writing-reading).'

afne bisna Tik xorslae / xorsilae.
afne bisna Tik xorsla / xorsila.
afne bisna Tik xorbae.
afne bisna Tik xorba.

'You made the bed.'
'You made the bed. (formal)'
'You'll make the bed.'
'You'll make the bed. (formal)'



tai sul hukaisil.
tai sul hukaibo.

'She dried her hair.'
'She'll dry her hair.'

he sul asRoaisil.
he sul asRoaiibo.

'He combed his hair.'
'He'll comb his hair.'

ami raitku gumaislam / gumaisilam.
ami raitku gumaimu.

'I slept at night.'
'I'll sleep at night.'



tumi raitkur xani xaisilae.
tumi raitkur xani xaibae.

'You ate dinner.'
'You'll eat dinner.'

tara boi foRsil.
tara boi foRbo.

'You read a/the book.'
'You'll read a/the book.'



Q- goto xail tumi dat goshaislae ni?
R- na goto xail ami dat goshaislam na.
agami xail ami dat goshaimu.

'Did you brush your teeth yesterday?'
'No, I didn't brush my teeth yesterday.'
'I'll brush my teeth tomorrow.'

ami sul asroairam.
tumi sul asroairae.
he sul asroair.

'I'm combing my hair.'
'You're combing your hair.'
'He's combing his hair.'

ami sul doimu ar ami sul asroaimu ar ami sul hukaimu.
'I'll wash my hair and I'll comb my hair and I'll dry my hair.'

shoxale
nasta
biale

'in the morning'
'breakfast'
'in the evening'

rait
raitku
raitkur xani

'night'
'night (time)'
'dinner'

Lesson13: Passive constructions (past tense)

bilai undur xaisil.
undur xaoa oisil.
undur bilai di xaoa oisil.
beTare bilai di xazuani oisil.

'The cat ate the rat.'
'The rat was eaten.'
'The rat was eaten by the cat.'
'The man was scratched by the cat.'



beTare kun xora oisil. = beTar kun oisil.
xafor faRa oisil.

'The man was murdered.'
'The cloth was ripped.'

fuar ufre faRa deoa oisil.

'The boy was stepped on.'



beTare (gas di) xaoa oisil.
gorre falani oisil.

'The man was eaten (by the plant).'
'The house was knocked over.'

haf xaTa oisil.

'The snake was cut.'



zanala batash di banga oisil.
zanala fua di banga oisil.

'The window was broken by the wind.'
'The window was broken by the boy.'

gaRi banga oisil.
gaRi fuTani oisil.

'The car was broken/smashed.'
'The car was blown up.'



raikushre gaRi di maria deoa oisil.
raikushre (raikush di) mara oisil.

'The alien was run over.'
'The alien was hit (by the (other) alien).'

DaxTorre (kutta di) xamoR deoa oisil.

'The doctor was bitten (by the dog).'

fuare (fuk di) xamoR deoa / xamoR mara / xamRani oisil.
'The boy was bitten (by the insects).'



beTare tushani / tushi deoa / tusha deoa / tusha mara oisil
'The man was punched.'



xeluarre aTxani oisil.

'The player was tackled/stopped.'

beTare (malik di) lat deoa oisil na.
beTare (toluar di) gaoani oisil na.

'The man wasn't kicked (by (his) boss).'
'The man wasn't stabbed (by/with the sword).'

fuare Tela mara / Tela deoa / Telani oisil.
fuare moe di summa deoa oisil.
fuare kutta di summa deoa oisil.
monare / gedare neoa oisil.

'The boy was pushed.'
'The boy was kissed by his aunt.'
'The boy was kissed by the dog.'
'The baby was taken.'

di = dia	'by'	zanala	'window'	malik / mazon	'boss'
bilai	'cat'	batash	'wind'	toluar	'sword'
undur	'rat'	gaRi	'car'	mona / gedar	'baby'
kun	'murder'	raikush	'alien'		
ufor	'up/stairs,top'	xeluar	'player'		

Lesson14: Obligation of chores ('must / have to')

forti	'per, apiece, every'	fortex mash	'monthly, every month'
fortex (= forti + ex)	'every'	fortex bosor / sal	'yearly, every year'
fortex din	'daily, every day'		

Q- tumar fortex din iskulo zaoa lage ni.
'Do you have to go to school everyday?'

R- oe, amar fortex din iskulo zaoa lage.
'Yes, I have to go to school everyday.'

R- na, amar fortex din iskulo zaoa lage na.
'No, I don't have to go to school everyday.'

Q- tumar fortex din iskulo zaoa lagbo ni.
'Do you have to go to school everyday?'

R- oe, amar fortex din iskulo zaoa lagbo.
'Yes, I have to go to school everyday.'

R- na, amar fortex din iskulo zaoa lagto nae.
'No, I don't have to go to school everyday.'

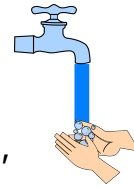
Q- tumi fortex din iskulo zaitae oibae ni.
'Do you have to go to school everyday?'

R- oe, ami fortex din iskulo zaitam oibo.
'Yes, I have to go to school everyday.'

R- na, ami fortex din iskulo zaitam nae.
'No, I don't have to go to school everyday.'

Q- (asking self) ami fortex din iskulo zaitam oimu ni.
'Do I have to go to school everyday?'

R- oe, ami fortex din iskulo zaitam oibo.
'Yes, I have to go to school everyday.'



tumar muk doa lage
tair xafoR doa lage / lagbo
tar zanala /kiRki doa lage
amar almari saf xora lage
tumar bada saf xora lage

'You have to wash your face.'
'She has to wash the clothes.'
'He has to wash the windows.'
'I have to clean the cupboard.'
'You have to clean the rubbish.'
'You have to take out the rubbish.'



tar kutta(re) aTat loia zaoa lage
tair kutta(re) xani deoa lage
amrar bagano xam xora lage

'He has to walk the dog / take the dog walking.'
'She has to feed the dog.'
'We have to work in the garden.'

he bashon doito oibo
tai moila / dula saf xorto oibo
ami xafoR forti xortam oibo
tai xafoR istori xorto oibo
tumi lexa-foRa xortae oibo
amra gash xaTtam oibo
tai gasho fani dito oibo
tumi kuta zaRu xortae oibo
tumi gor huRtae oibo

'He has to wash the dishes.'
'She has to clean the dirt / dust.'
'I have to fold the clothes.'
'She has to iron the clothes.'
'You have to study.'
'We have to cut the grass.'
'She has to water the grass.'
'You have to sweep the room.'
'You have to sweep the room.'



Lesson15: Causative of chores ('make do')

amar baf(e) amare dia ... 'My father makes me ...'

- gor / maTi fusain 'wipe/mop the house / floor.'
- zanala duain /doain 'wahe the windows.'
- almari saf xorain 'clean the closet.'
- moila / dula saf xorain 'clean the dirt / dust.'
- kuttare gusol xorain 'bathe the dog.'
- kuttare xani xaoain / deoain 'feed / give food to the dog.'

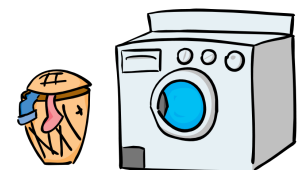
Q- tumar ma(e) tumare dia xafoR doain ni .
'Does your mother make you wash the clothes?'

R- oe, amar ma(e) amare dia xafoR doain
'Yes, my mother makes me wash the clothes.'

doa-	'make wash'
xor-	'do'
xora-	'make do'

R- na, amar ma(e) amare dia xafoR doain na.
'No, my mother doesn't make me wash the clothes.'

tair ma(e) taire dia xafoR doain.
'Her mother makes her wash the clothes.'



ami amar boinre dia xafor forti xorai.
'I make my sister fold the clothes.'



amar baf(e) amare dia xafoR isTori xorain
'My father makes me iron the clothes.'



he tar fuare dia gash xaTae
'He makes his son cut the grass.'

amar boRo boin(e) amare dia gasho fani deoain
'My big sister makes me water the grass.'



amar suTo boin(e) amare dia gasho fani deoae
'My little sister makes me water the grass.'

tar bou(e) tare dia bagano xam xorae
'His wife makes him work in the garden.'

amar boRo bai(e) amare dia bada saf xorain
'My big brother makes me clean the rubbish.'

amar suTo bai(e) amare dia bada saf xorae.
'My little sister makes me clean the rubbish.'

baf	'father'
ma	'mother'
ma-baf	'parents'
zamai	'husband'
bou	'wife'
fua	'son'
fuRi	'daughter'
fua-fuRi	'children'
bai	'brother'
boin	'sister'
bai-boin	'siblings'

tumar zamai(e) tumare dia bashon doain ni.
'Does your husband make you do the dishes?'

tumi tumar fuare dia gor zaRu deoao.
'You make your son sweep the house.'

agami xail amar baf(e) amare dia kuttare xani xaoaiba / diba
'Tomorrow my father will make me feed / give food to the dog.'

Verb agreement in present tense

Type 1

ami/amra ____-i
tui ____-os
tumi/tumra ____-o
afne/tain ____-o(i)n
he/tai/tara ____-e

Type 2

ami/amra ____-am
tui ____-e
tumi/tumra ____-ae
afne/tain ____-a
he/tai/tara ____-o

Lesson16: Passive constructions (present tense)

bilai undur xaise.	<i>'The cat has eaten the rat.'</i>
undur xaoa oise.	<i>'The rat has been eaten.'</i>
undur bilai dia xaoa oise.	<i>'The rat has been eaten by the cat.'</i>
bilai undur xair / xar.	<i>'The cat is eating the rat.'</i>
undur xaoa or.	<i>'The rat is being eaten.'</i>
undur bilai dia xaoa or.	<i>'The rat is being eaten by the cat.'</i>
haf(re) xaTa oise.	<i>'The snake has been cut.'</i>
haf(re) xaTani oise.	<i>'The snake has been (made/caused to be) cut.'</i>
oxon zanala banga or.	<i>'The window is being broken now.'</i>
goto xail zanala banga or.	<i>'The window was being broken yesterday.'</i>
zanala bangani or.	<i>'The window is being (made/caused to be) broken.'</i>
beTare kun xora oise.	<i>'The man has been murdered.'</i>
beTare kun xora or.	<i>'The man is being murdered.'</i>
xafor faRa oise.	<i>'The cloth has been ripped., The cloth is ripped.'</i>
tar ufre faRa deoa oise.	<i>'He has been stepped on.'</i>
beTare (gas dia) xaoa or.	<i>'The man is being eaten (by the plant).'</i>
gaRi banga oise.	<i>'The car has been broken/smashed.'</i>
gor falani or.	<i>'The house is being knocked over.'</i>
tare falani or.	<i>'He's being made to fall down., His falling is occurring.'</i>
afnare falani or.	<i>'You're being made to fall down., Your falling is occurring.'</i>
fattoror iTani or.	<i>'The stone is being (made) thrown., The stone's throwing is occurring.'</i>
fattoror iTani oisil.	<i>'The stone was (made) thrown., The stone's throwing occurred/happened.'</i>
raikushre gaRi dia maria deoa or.	<i>'The alien is being run over by the car.'</i>
raikushre (raikush dia) mara oise.	<i>'The alien has been hit (by the (other) alien).'</i>
DaxTorre (kutta dia) xamoR deoa oise.	<i>'The doctor has been bitten (by the dog).'</i>
xeluare aTxani or.	<i>'The player is being tackled/stopped.'</i>
gaRi fuTani oise.	<i>'The car has been blown up.'</i>
baccare neoa oise.	<i>'The child has been taken/kidnapped.'</i>
beTare bilai di xazuani or.	<i>'The man is being scratched by the cat.'</i>
beTare (malik dia) lat deoa or na.	<i>'The man isn't being kicked (by (his) boss).'</i>
fuare Tela mara / Tela deoa oise.	<i>'The boy has been pushed.'</i>
beTare (toluar dia) gaoani oise na.	<i>'The man hasn't been stabbed (by/with the sword).'</i>

fuare (moela dia / kutta dia) summa or.
'The boy is being kissed (by his aunt / by the dog).'

fuare (fuk dia) xamoR deoa / xamoR mara / xamRani or
'The boy is being bitten (by the insects).'

beTare tushani / tushi deoa / tusha deoa / tusha mara or
'The man is being punched.'

Lesson17: Modal verbs ('like/love, can, want, know')

ami xortam sai	<i>'I want to do (it).'</i>
tumi xortae sao	<i>'You want to do (it).'</i>
afne xorta sain	<i>'You want to do (it). (formal)'</i>
tain xorta sain	<i>'He wants to do (it). (formal)'</i>
he xorto sae	<i>'He wants to do (it).'</i>

amar xafoR shilai xora bala lage	<i>'I like to sew clothes.'</i>
amar xafoR shilai xorte bala lage	<i>'I like sewing clothes.'</i>

ami xafoR shilai xora bala fai	<i>'I like to sew clothes.'</i>
ami xafoR shilai xortam bala fai	<i>'I like sewing clothes.'</i>

ami xafoR shilai xora fari	<i>'I can sew clothes.'</i>
ami xafoR shilai xortam fari	<i>'I can sew clothes.'</i>

ami xafoR shilai xortam sai	<i>'I want to sew clothes.'</i>
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ami xafoR shilai xora zani	<i>'I know how to sew clothes.'</i>
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tumi amare xafoR shilai xora hikaitae farbae ni	<i>'Could you teach me to sew clothes?'</i>
tumi amare xafoR shilai xora hikao	<i>'Teach me to sew clothes?'</i>
he amare xafoR shilai xora hikaito farbo	<i>'He could teach me to sew clothes.'</i>

ami bemar oa bala fai na	<i>'I don't like to be sick.'</i>
amar bemar oa bala fae na	<i>'I don't like to be sick.'</i>
amar bemar oa bala lage na	<i>'I don't like to be sick.'</i>
amar bemar oite bala fae na	<i>'I don't like being sick.'</i>
amar bemar oite bala lage na	<i>'I don't like being sick.'</i>

Q- ami siloTi mat zani na	<i>'I don't know Sylheti (speech/language).'</i>
Q- ami siloTi hiktam sai	<i>'I want to learn Sylheti.'</i>

Q- tumi amare siloTi hikaitae farbae ni?	<i>'Could you teach me Sylheti?'</i>
R- oe ami tumare siloTi hikaitam farmu.	<i>'Yes, I could teach you Sylheti.'</i>
R- na ami tumare siloTi hikaitam fartam nae	<i>'No, I can't/couldn't teach you Sylheti.'</i>

R- na ami tumare siloTi hikaitam nae
'No, I can't/couldn't teach you Sylheti.'

... xaron ami siloTi mattam fari na
'because I can't speak Sylheti.'

R- tumar siloTi hikani amar bala lage.
'I like your Sylheti teaching.'

amar fua iskulo exla zaito fare.
'My son can go to school alone/by himself.'

tumar bai(e) zanala saf xorta bala fain na.
'Your (elder) brother doesn't like washing windows.'

baf(e) gor zaRu / huroin deoa bala fain. 'Father likes sweeping the house.'
baf(e) gor huRa bala fain. 'Father likes to sweep the house.'

ami bashon doitam sai. 'I want to wash the dishes.'
he bada saf xorto fare. 'He can clean out the rubbish.'
ami DaxTor(ni) oitam sai. 'I want to become a doctor.'

tumi bagano xam xortae sao ni 'Do you want to work in the garden?'
tumi murgi xaitae bala fao ni 'Do you like eating chicken?'

tumar saf xora bala lage '(We) like your cleaning.'
tumar siloTi mata tar bala lage 'He likes (how) you speak Sylheti.'
tumar siloTi mat tar bala lage 'He likes your Sylheti speech/speaking.'
tumar siloTi hika amar bala lage 'I like (that) you learn Sylheti.'

Lesson18: Hobbies

guDDi uRani
doRi fala
futul dia naTox xora
futul dia xelani
boi foRa

'flying a kite'
'jumping rope'
'acting with puppets'
'playing with dolls'
'reading books'

taba xelani
fazol xelani
tash xelani
xafoR shilai xora
meramoT xora
zinish banani
sobi axa

'playing chess'
'doing puzzles'
'playing cards'
'sewing (clothes)'
'repairing, making repairs'
'making things'
'drawing pictures/images'

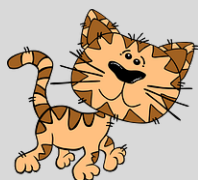


Tibi dexta
 bagano xam xora
 fono mata
 zadu salani
 saikel salani
 foTo tulani
 randa
 doRa
 aTa
 xelna gaRi/Tren dia xelani

'watching TV'
 'gardening'
 'talking on the phone'
 'doing magic'
 'riding bikes'
 'taking photos'
 'cooking'
 'running'
 'walking'
 'playing with toy cars/trains'



Animals



bilai 'cat'



atti 'elephant'



faki 'bird'



bandor 'monkey'



xoTa 'squirrel'



kutta 'dog'



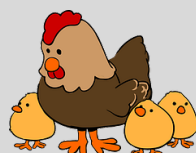
xaTua 'turtle'



zolati 'hippopotamus'



gonNDar 'rhinoceros'



murug 'chicken
(in general)'



murgi 'hen'



murga 'rooster'

Kinship

ma-baf	<i>'parents'</i>
ma	<i>'mother'</i>
baf	<i>'father'</i>
amma	<i>'mom (title/term of address)'</i>
mai(zi)	<i>'mom (title/term of address)'</i>
abba	<i>'dad (title/term of address)'</i>
baba(zi)	<i>'dad (title/term of address)'</i>
bai	<i>'brother'</i>
boin	<i>'sister'</i>
baia	<i>'brother (title/term of address)' - said by younger to elder sibling</i>
afa	<i>'sister, female cousin (title/term of address)'</i> <i>- said by younger to elder sibling</i>
baisab	<i>'male cousin (title/term of address)'</i>
baifut / boinfut	<i>'nephew / niece' - said by female of her sister's children</i>
baizi / boinzi	<i>'nephew / niece' - said by female of her brother's children</i>
batiza / batizi	<i>'nephew / niece' - said by male of his brother's children</i>
babna / bagni	<i>'nephew / niece' - said by male of his sister's children</i>
zamai	<i>'husband'</i>
bou	<i>'wife, daughter-in-law'</i>
damand	<i>'groom, son-in-law'</i>
sasa (sasu)	<i>'uncle, father's brother' --> sasi 'aunt, father's brother's wife'</i>
fufa	<i>'uncle, father's sister's husband' --> fufu 'aunt, father's sister'</i>
mama (mamu)	<i>'uncle, mother's brother' --> mami 'aunt, mother's brother's wife'</i>
mama	<i>'uncle, mother's elder sister's husband'</i>
xalu	<i>'uncle, mother's younger sister's husband'</i>
moe (moela), xala	<i>'aunt, mother's sister'</i>
moer goro bai / boin	<i>'cousin'</i>
xalar goro bai / boin	<i>'cousin'</i>
sasar goro bai	<i>'cousin'</i>

Review

X = any noun

V = verb stem/root

P = person

p = person agreement

POSSESSIVES

X-(o)r ____ (ase)

tumar nam kita? *'What's your name?'*

amar boi ase. *'I have a book.'*

Farukor boi *'Faruk's book.'*

Farhanar boi *'Farhana's book.'*

IMPERATIVE / COMMANDS

V-o(uka)

xao *'Eat!'*

xaouka *'Eat please!'*

FEELINGS

P ____

P-(o)r ____ lagse / lager / lagbo

tumi kushi *'You're happy.'*

tumar (fanir) fiase dorse. *'You're thirsty.'*

tumar shorom lagse *'You seem/are shy.'*

Faruk heran *'Faruk is tired.'*

Farukor heran lagse *'Faruk looks tired.'*

PASSIVE

X / P-re (P di(a)) V-a oisil / oise / or / oibo

X / P-re (P di(a)) V-ni oisil / oise / or / oibo

zanala (fua dia) banga oisil. *'The window was broken (by the boy).'*

beTare (gas dia) xaoa or. *'The man is being eaten (by the plant).'*

Note: People always with -re.

OBLIGATION

P-r V-a lage / lagbo

P-r V-ni lage / lagbo

P V-t-p oibo

tar zanala saf xora lagbo *'He must clean the windows.'*

tumar mas banani lagse *'You have to make/prepare fish.'*

amra gash xaTtam oibo *'We must cut the grass.'*

CAUSATIVE

P(-e) P-re di(a) V-a-p

amar baf(e) amare dia zanala doain *'My father makes me wash the windows.'*

MODALS

P-r V-a bala lage
P-r V-te bala lage
P V-a bala fa-p
P V-t-p sa-p
P V-a far-p
P V-t-p far-p
P V-a zan-p

amar xora bala lage *'I like to do it.'*
tair xorte bala lage *'She likes doing (it).'*
he xora bala fae *'He likes to do (it).'*
tumi xortae sao *'You want to do (it).'*
afne xora faroin *'You can do it.'*
amra xortam fari *'We can do (it).'*
ami xora zani *'I know how to do (it).'*

QUESTION k-words

kita *'what?'*
kunano / kun xano *'where?'*
kuai *'where?'*
kun *'which?'*
kila *'how?'*
xoto *'how much/many?'*

POSTPOSITIONS

taki *'from'*
di / dia *'by, with'*
-r gese *'with'*
-r lagi *'for'*
-r loge *'with'*
-r bai di(a) *'towards'*

TENSES/ASPECTS

0 -- general (present) -- he V-e	<i>'He V-s.'</i>
-r -- continuous -- he V-r-o	<i>'He's V-ing.'</i>
-s -- perfect -- he V-s-e	<i>'He has V-ed.'</i>
-l -- past -- he V-l-o	<i>'He V-ed.'</i>
-s-l -- past perfect -- he V-s-i-l	<i>'He had V-ed.'</i>
-b -- future -- he V-b-o	<i>'He will V.'</i>
-t -- irreal -- he V-t-o	<i>'He would V. / He used to V. / He wants to V.'</i>