

**Broad transcription**

ðə 'nɔɪθ ,wɪnd ən (ð)ə 'sʌn wə dɪs'pjʊtɪŋ 'wɪtʃ wəz ðə 'strɪŋgə, wən ə 'trævələ kəm ə'laŋ 'ɪæpt ɪn ə 'wɔɪm 'klok. ðe ə'ɡɪd ðət ðə 'wʌn hu 'fə-st sək'sɪdəd ɪn 'mekɪŋ ðə 'trævələ 'tek ɪz 'klok ,af ʃʊd bi kən'sɪdəd 'strɪŋgə ðən ðɪ 'æðə. ðen ðə 'nɔɪθ ,wɪnd 'blu əz 'haɪd əz i 'kʊd, bət ðə 'mɔɪ hi 'blu ðə 'mɔɪ 'klosli dɪd ðə 'trævələ 'fold hɪz 'klok ə'raʊnd ɪm; ,æŋ ət 'læst ðə 'nɔɪθ ,wɪnd ,geɪv 'ʌp ðɪ ə'tempt. 'ðen ðə 'sʌn 'ʃaɪnd ,aʊt 'wɔɪmli, ənd ɪ'mɪdɪətli ðə 'trævələ 'tʊk ,af ɪz 'klok. ən 'so ðə 'nɔɪθ ,wɪnd wəz ə'blaɪz tɪ kən'fes ðət ðə 'sʌn wəz ðə 'strɪŋgə əv ðə 'tu.

**Narrow transcription**

ðə 'nɔɪθ ,wɪnd ən ə 'sʌn wə dɪs'pjʊrɪŋ 'wɪtʃ wəz ðə 'strɪŋgə, wən ə 'trævələ kəm ə'laŋ 'ɪæpt ɪn ə 'wɔɪm 'klok. ðe ə'ɡɪd ðət ðə 'wʌn hu 'fə-st sək'sɪdəd ɪn 'mekɪŋ ðə 'trævələ 'tek ɪz 'klok ,af ʃʊd bi kən'sɪdəd 'strɪŋgə ðən ðɪ 'æðə. 'ðen ðə 'nɔɪθ ,wɪnd 'blu əz 'haɪd əz hi 'kʊd, bət ðə 'mɔɪ hi 'blu ðə 'mɔɪ 'klosli dɪd ðə 'trævələ 'fold hɪz 'klok ə'raʊnd ɪm; ,æŋ ət 'læst ðə 'nɔɪθ ,wɪnd ,geɪv 'ʌp ðɪ ə'tempt. 'ðen ðə 'sʌn 'ʃaɪnd ,aʊt 'wɔɪmli, ən ɪ'mɪdɪətli ðə 'trævələ 'tʊk 'af ɪz 'klok. ən 'so ðə 'nɔɪθ ,wɪnd wəz ə'blaɪz tɪ kən'fes ðət ðə 'sʌn wəz ðə 'strɪŋgə əv ðə 'tu.

**Orthographic version**

The North Wind and the Sun were disputing which was the stronger, when a traveler came along wrapped in a warm cloak. They agreed that the one who first succeeded in making the traveler take his cloak off should be considered stronger than the other. Then the North Wind blew as hard as he could, but the more he blew the more closely did the traveler fold his cloak around him; and at last the North Wind gave up the attempt. Then the Sun shined out warmly, and immediately the traveler took off his cloak. And so the North Wind was obliged to confess that the Sun was the stronger of the two.

**Amharic**

KATRINA HAYWARD\* AND RICHARD J. HAYWARD\*\*

\*Department of South East Asia, \*\*Department of Africa, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, UK

Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia is the Semitic language with the greatest number of speakers after Arabic. However, while there are large numbers of people throughout Ethiopia who speak Amharic as a second language, mother-tongue speakers are concentrated in the highland plateau extending from somewhat south of Addis Ababa, the capital, northwards to a line running approximately WNW from Korem. This territory is bounded to the east and west by lowland areas where other languages are spoken.

Some good descriptions of Amharic phonetics and phonology are to be found in Armbruster (1908: 4–50), Cohen (1970: 29–68), Ullendorff (1955), and Podolsky (1991). As regards its dialect situation, Amharic is in great need of systematic research. The only published work on the subject (Habte Mariam Marcos 1973) is both useful and suggestive for future work, but it is a brief pioneering effort. The speech of Addis Ababa has emerged as the standard dialect and has wide currency across all Amharic-speaking communities. The most divergent dialect is that of Gojjam province, though the Mänz and Wällo varieties also show their own marked features, especially in phonology.

**Consonants**

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal	Labialized Velar
Plosive	(p) b		t d			k g		k <sup>w</sup> g <sup>w</sup>
Affricate				tʃ dʒ				
Nasal	m		n		ɲ			
Fricative		f	s z	ʃ ʒ			h	
Tap/Trill			r					
Approximant	w				j			
Lateral Approximant			l					
Ejective Stop	(p')		t'			k'		k <sup>w</sup> '
Ejective Affricate				tʃ'				
Ejective Fricative			s'					

Additional labialized consonants: f<sup>w</sup>, b<sup>w</sup>, m<sup>w</sup>, p<sup>w</sup>, t<sup>w</sup>, h<sup>w</sup>

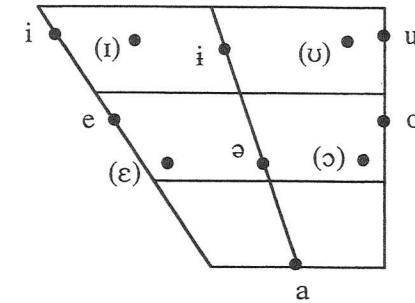
posta	'post (mail)'	t	təkkələ	'he planted'	k	kəbbəbə	'he encircled'
bəkk'ələ	'it sprouted'	d	dərrəsə	'he arrived'	g	gərrəmən	'it surprised me'
p'app'as	'church patriarch'	t'	t'ərrəgə	'he swept'	k'	k'əddədə	'he tore s.t.'
məkkərə	'he advised'	n	nəddəfə	'it stung'			
fəllək'ə	'it gushed up'	s	səbbərə	'he broke s.t.'	h	hakim	'doctor'
		z	zəffənə	'he sang'			
		s'	s'afə	'he wrote'			
		tʃ	tʃəlləmə	'it got dark'			
		dʒ	dʒəmmərə	'he began'			
		tʃ'	tʃ'ərrəsə	'he finished'			
		r	rəzzəmə	'it became long'			
		ʃ	ʃərrəbə	'he plaited'			
		ʒ	ʒəmbər	'sun'			
		l	ləmmənə	'he begged'			
		ɲ	təɲnə	'he lay down'			
		j	ʝəlləm	'there is not'			
wat'ə	'he swallowed s.t.'				k <sup>w</sup>	k <sup>w</sup> as	'ball'
p <sup>w</sup> 'ag <sup>w</sup> ume	'13th month'	t <sup>w</sup>	t <sup>w</sup> 'af	'wax taper'	k <sup>w</sup>	k <sup>w</sup> 'ak <sup>w</sup> 'ate	'whooping cough'
					g <sup>w</sup>	g <sup>w</sup> agg <sup>w</sup> a	'he became full of suspense'
					h <sup>w</sup>	h <sup>w</sup> ala	'after'
b <sup>w</sup> 'amb <sup>w</sup> a	'pipe (conduit)'						
m <sup>w</sup> 'amm <sup>w</sup> a	'it dissolved'						
f <sup>w</sup> 'aff <sup>w</sup> a	'falling water of waterfall'						

ato Yalew Kebede is a 29-year-old male Amhara whose speech was recorded and transcribed for this illustration. He was also responsible for the translation of 'The North Wind and the Sun'. He grew up in Gondar, an urban centre noted for its 'good' Amharic. Gondar Amharic is extremely close to the Addis Ababa standard dialect in all its features. However, one or two things emerge in the passage which identify the origin of the speaker; for example, [bəgənza fək'adu] instead of standard [bəgəzza fək'adu] 'by his own will'.

The voiceless bilabial stops /p, p', p<sup>w</sup>/ are extremely rare, and are confined to words of foreign origin. Phonologically, the postalveolar affricates pattern with the stops. Because of its affinity with the labialized consonants, we have placed /w/ in the 'labial' column. All consonants with the exception of /p, p<sup>w</sup>, t<sup>w</sup>, h, h<sup>w</sup>/ have geminate counterparts. In the case of /p/, single and geminate do not contrast phonologically, and it is usually claimed that the eminate variant occurs intervocally, while the single variant occurs elsewhere. Consonants may be geminated (strengthened) following nasals; an interesting example in our text is /bət'inkare/ 'in strength' (see further below).

## Vowels

i	kis	'pocket'
ɪ	min	'what?'
ɨ	jih ~ jih	'this'
e	k'es	'priest'
ɛ	jəmmil	'he who says'
a	bal	'husband'
ɔ	kəbt	'cattle'
ɔ	g <sup>w</sup> ɔrf	'flood'
o	s'om	'fast' (n)
ɒ	k <sup>w</sup> ɒlf	'lock'
u	t'ut	'breast'



Phonetic diphthongs [aɪ], [au], [əɪ], and [əʊ] occur, but phonotactic patterns suggest that these should be analysed as sequences of /a/ or /ə/ followed by /j/ or /w/. The latter interpretation is the one adopted in the transcription of the specimen passage below.

The vowels written /i/ and /ə/ here are often represented by the symbols /ɨ/ and /ä/ respectively. It is possible to argue that /i/ is not present in underlying representations, but is always epenthetic (see Hetzron 1964; Hayward 1986). In general in the Ethiopic script, each symbol represents a consonant plus a vowel; for example  $\text{ጠ}$  = /mɨ/,  $\text{ጡ}$  = /mɛ/ and  $\text{ጣ}$  = /ma/. However, the symbol for a consonant plus /i/ also does duty for a consonant standing on its own, i.e.  $\text{ጠ}$  = /mi/ or /m/.

The vowels represented by the symbols [ɪ, ʊ, ɛ, ɔ] are not independent phonemes, but allophones of the central vowels /i/ and /ə/. Following postalveolar and palatal consonants, (which, from a phonological point of view, form a 'palatal' series), /i/ and /ə/ are often fronted to /ɪ/ and /ɛ/. Following labialized consonants and /w/, /i/ and /ə/ typically have retracted and rounded pronunciations ([ʊ] and [ɔ]). Spelling also needs to be taken into account here, since a literate speaker, whose spelling of a particular form indicates /i/ or /ə/, may pronounce [ɪ] or [ɔ], especially in careful speech (thus, the variation jih ~ jih noted above). In the specimen passage below, we have written [ɪ, ʊ, ɛ, ɔ], rather than more strictly phonemic /i/ and /ə/, in such cases.

The question also arises of whether [ɪ, ʊ, ɛ, ɔ] (as allophones of central vowels) are really distinct from the independent phonemes /i/, /u/, /e/, and /o/ respectively, as our chart indicates. With regard to the back rounded vowels, the issue is further complicated by the fact that consonants preceding them have anticipatory lip rounding. For example, the /k/ in /ku/ is phonetically [k<sup>w</sup>], and for this reason it is often difficult to choose between /k<sup>w</sup>ɒ/ (= /k<sup>w</sup>i/ in a more strictly phonemic interpretation) and /ku/ on strictly phonetic grounds. In non-final closed syllables and final syllables closed by two consonants, the two series of vowels do not contrast. We have interpreted all vowels in these environments as phonemic central vowels. For example, we have written /g<sup>w</sup>ɒlbət/ rather than /gɒlbət/ 'strength', and /wɔdd/ rather than /wudd/ 'dear, expensive'. This contrasts with our informant's spellings of the same words, which indicate 'gu-' and 'wu-' respectively.

In non-final open syllables and final syllables closed by a single consonant, both series of vowels may occur. In such environments, there is potentially a length contrast, /i, u, e, o/ being susceptible to prolongation. Prototypically, these long vowels contrast with short /i, u, e, o/ in both duration and quality, but there is a less certain middle ground. In the case of verbs and their derivatives, morphological considerations will often lead to a decision in favour of phonemic central vowels. For example, in the case of /kʷʊtʰir/ 'number', the decision to write /kʷʊ-/ (/kʷʊ/ in a more strictly phonemic representation) was influenced by the cognate verb /kʷʊtʰərə/ 'he counted'. This belongs to the same verb class as /kʷʊtʰərə/ 'he hired' and should, therefore, have the same underlying stem vowels; thus, a phonemicization /kʷʊtʰərə/ is to be preferred to /kʷʊtʰərə/. Our /kʷʊtʰir/ agrees with our informant's spelling, which also indicates an initial labialized velar. However, we found it very difficult to decide between /bækkʷʊl/ and /bækkʷʊl/ 'side, direction', where no such cognate forms are available for comparison. Our final choice of /bækkʷʊl/ contrasts with the '-kkul' of our informant's spelling. (The complexity of the situation is well-described in Ullendorff 1951; cf. especially pp. 82–3.)

### Stress

Stress is weak, and its position is variable. Further investigation is needed concerning the relationship between stress and intonation on the one hand and between stress and gemination on the other.

### Conventions

/p, t, tʃ, k, kʷ/ are all moderately aspirated. Voiced obstruents are devoiced pre-pausally and when a voiceless obstruent follows, for example in /libs/ 'clothes', [lɪ̥ps]. /b/ is realized as an approximant [β] medially between sonorants (for example, in /gʷʊlbət/ [gʷʊlβət]). /l/ is always clear, never dark. Single /r/ is a tap, geminate /rr/ a trill. When they precede the vowels /i/ and /e/, but more especially the latter, consonants may be strongly palatalized, for example in /gize/ [gʲiz̥e] 'time'.

In rural speech, /p/ may be replaced by /f/. In initial position, /z/ is now found only in the speech of Mänz. In Addis Ababa, it has been replaced by the affricate /dʒ/. /ɲ/ occurs initially in only one or two rare words. /sʰ/ is most commonly pronounced as an affricate, [tʃʰ]. It is tending to merge with /tʰ/, especially in initial position. However, complex regional and sociolinguistic factors affect the occurrence of initial /sʰ/, which may be retained in certain lexical items in educated speech. Our informant consistently pronounced initial [tʃʰ] in the word /sʰəhaj/ 'sun'.

/h/ is voiced between vowels, and may be realized simply as breathy voice on a preceding and/or following vowel (for example, in /bæzzihim/ 'and on these terms', phonetically [bæzzɪ:m]). Following /i/ or /i/, /h/ is typically pronounced as a palatal fricative [ç]. Thus, the form [bæzzi] 'at this' (/bæzzih/) would be pronounced [bæzziç] in isolation or in slow speech.

A prothetic [i] is often inserted before word-initial /r/, for example [irəɜɜim] 'tall' (no examples occur in the text). [i] may also be inserted after word-final consonants, when the

following word begins with a consonant. In our speaker's rendering of the text below, there is variation, for example [lɪbsi læbso] with epenthesis, but [lɪbs kʰadimo] without it. Such cases of epenthetic [i] are not noted in the transcription. Another case of epenthetic [i] in our informant's rendering of the text which is not noted in the transcription, but which needs to be mentioned, occurs in the form /bətʰinkare/ [bətʰinikkare]. Here, the /k/ undergoes post-nasal strengthening and this conditions [i] insertion. In other cases, [i] may be devoiced and so short that it is barely audible. This occurs in two forms in our text, when it follows the feminine prefix /t-/ (in these morphological contexts geminated to tt-): [sittidzəmmir] 'when she was beginning' and [jəmmittibaltʰ] 'she who is greatest'. In the second of these, the pronunciation of /b/ as [β] confirms the presence of the vowel.

### Transcription of recorded passage

sʰəhajinna kəsəmen jəmminəfsəw nəfas

sʰəhajinna kəsəmen bækkʷʊl jəmminəfsəw nəfas ine neɲ tʰənkarra ine neɲ tʰənkarra bəmmil jikkərakkəru nəbbər. bæzzi gize and mənɣədəɲɲəw jəbɪrd məkkələkəja lɪbs læbso jiggʷaz nəbbər. kəzjam mənɣədəɲɲəw ləbɪrd məkkələkəja læbsot jəmmihədəw lɪbs kʰədimo jaswolləkʰə bətʰinkare jəbəlʰtʰal bəmmil təsmammu. bæzzihim məsərət kəsəmen bækkʷʊl jəmminəfsəw nəfas ballə bələlləw gʷʊlbət bəhajl nəffəsə. honom gin bəhajl bənəffəsə kʷʊtʰir mənɣədəɲɲəw jəbasəwnu bələbbəsəw lɪbs jiddzəbbən jəmmər. bəmətʃʰərrəfam kəsəmen bækkʷʊl jəmminəfsəw nəfas bəgənza ləkʰadu akʷomə. sʰəhajm bətərawa wətʰatʃɪnna mukʰətwan mawrəd sittidzəmmir mənɣədəɲɲəw minimm saj kʷɔj wədjawnu jələbbəsəw lɪbs əwolləkʰə. bəmətʃʰərrəfam kəsəmen bækkʷʊl jəmminəfsəw nəfas sʰəhaj bətʰinkare kəssu jəmmittibəltʰ məhənwən jaləwudd bəgidd əmmənə.

### Orthographic version

ፀሐይና ከሰሜን በኩል የሚነፍሰው ነፋስ

ፀሐይና ከሰሜን በኩል የሚነፍሰው ነፋስ እኔ ነኝ ጠንካራ እኔ ነኝ ጠንካራ በሚል ይከረከሩ ነበር። በዚህ ጊዜ እንድ መንገደኛ የብርድ መከላከያ ልብስ ለብሶ ይጓዝ ነበር። በዚያም መንገደኛው ለብርድ መከላከያ ለብሶት የሚሄደውን ልብስ ቀድሞ ያለውለቀ በጥንካራ ይበልጣል በሚል ተስማሙ። በዚህም መሠረት ከሰሜን በኩል የሚነፍሰው ነፋስ ባለበሌለው ጉልበት በሀይል ነፈሰ። ሆኖም ግን በሀይል በነፈሰ ቁጥር መንገደኛው የባሰውት በለበሰው ልብስ ይጀብን ጀመር። በመጨረሻም ከሰሜን በኩል የሚነፍሰው ነፋስ በገንዘብ ፈቃድ አቆመ። ፀሐይም በተፈጠረ ወጣችና ሙቀቷን ማውረድ አትጀምር መንገደኛው ምንም ሳይቆይ ወዲያውኑ የለበሰውን ልብስ አወለቀ። በመጨረሻም ከሰሜን በኩል የሚነፍሰው ነፋስ ፀሐይ በጥንካራ ከሱ የምትበልጥ መሆኗን ያለውድ በግድ አመነ።

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## Arabic

ROBIN THELWALL\* AND M. AKRAM SA'ADEDDIN\*\*

\*2121 1st Avenue NW, Calgary, AB T2N 0B6, Canada

\*\*University of Kuwait, Kuwait City

There are many tendentious issues in proposing a text in any form of Standard or Classical Arabic in spoken form. We will not justify the present text more than to say that the speaker was born in Safad, North Palestine, lived and was educated in Beirut from age 8 to 15, subsequently studied and taught in Damascus, studied phonetics in Scotland and since then has resided in Scotland and Kuwait.

It seems widely accepted that there are two dominant (prestigious) dialect centres of gravity for Spoken Arabic: first, that of Al-Shaam (greater Syria, from the Mediterranean coast to the eastern edge of the Fertile Crescent) and, second, Egypt (focused on Al-Azhar Mosque and University in Cairo). This is not to disregard the status of the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq or other areas as the sources of models, but the matter remains to be adequately investigated.

## Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	b		t d				k	q		ʔ
Nasal	m		n							
Fricative		f	θ ð	s z	ʃ		x ɣ		ħ	h
Affricate					dʒ					
Trill				r						
Approximant						j	w			
Lateral Approximant					l					

Pharyngealized consonants: tʕ, dʕ, sʕ, ðʕ, lʕ, ʔʕ

Note: /ʔʕ/ is represented as /ʕ/ in the transcriptions below.

b	balla	'recovered'	t	tijn	'figs'	k	kalb	'dog'
m	malla	'got bored'	d	dijn	'religion'	q	qalb	'heart'
f	dafara	'stank'	n	nadda	'released'	ʔ	saʔala	'asked'
θ	daθara	'covered'	s	saara	'walked'	x	xilaaf	'dispute'
			z	zaara	'visited'	ɣ	yilaaf	'cover' (n)