

## A Dictionary of a Lesser-known Language *Nyishi*

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### About Nyishi Language

Modern-day Arunachal Pradesh is one of the linguistically richest and most diverse regions in all of Asia, being home to at least thirty and possibly as many as fifty distinct languages in addition to innumerable dialects and sub dialects thereof. Boundaries between languages very often correlate with tribal divisions - for example, Apatanis and Nyishis are both tribally and linguistically distinct - but shifts in tribal identity and alignment over time have also ensured that a certain amount of complication enters into the picture. Nyishi is a tribal language also known as Nissi and Nishing. Nyishi language is specially speaks by Nishi tribal people in Arunachal Pradesh. Nyishi language belongs to Tibeto- Burman language family sub-division of Sino-Tibetan language family.

Grierson in *Linguistics Survey of India* “noticed that the Nyishi Language is closely related to Abormiris and Daflas dialects they have same speech form (Grierson 1996 p 568).

Nyishi uses the deictic demonstration to use reference in the context. Third person gender pronoun is not distinguished in Nyishi. However, third person nouns are distinguished for gender. Nouns referring to biologically male are masculine in gender and those which are biologically female are feminine in gender. Masculine gender is identified with the marks *pu/bu* and feminine marker is *ne*. Nyishi language has numerals and quantifiers. Plural markers are also found in the Nyishi language.

### About ToolboX

ToolboX is a computer program designed to help linguistics and linguists organize and analyze language data. ToolboX helps you collect field language data you want to study, analyze it and publish. In ToolboX dictionary annotated data can be stored and lots of corpus empirical sentences can also be included. It is especially useful for maintaining lexical data, and for parsing and interlinearizing text, it is a text-oriented database management system with added functionality designed to meet the needs of a field linguist. The underlying DBMS offers full user flexibility in the design of any type of database. But for ease of use, the Toolbox package includes prepared database definitions for a typical dictionary and text corpus. Interlinear text can be exported in a form suitable

for use in linguistic papers. Toolbox has export capabilities that can be used to produce a publishable dictionary from a dictionary database.

### Semantic Domain

Semantics is a term that refers to how meaning is assigned in language. A domain is essentially a specific place or territory. A **semantic domain** is a specific place that shares a set of meanings, or a language that holds its meaning, within the given context of the place. Harriet Ottenheimer (2006), a writer of Linguistic Anthropology defines a semantic domain as a “specific area of cultural emphasis”. Abbreviated form /Sd/ has been used for semantic domain.

## The Dictionary

### A - a

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**alo**, Variant: **solo**. *noun.*, /sd body part/.. bone. **alo doma** there is no bone.



### B - b

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**bali** *noun.*, /sd universe/.. sand. **bali aľema**. sand is not good.



**banəm** *v.*, /sd ailment/... vomit.

**bedpuća** *noun.*, /sd bird/.. a kind of bird.



**bela** *noun*/sd daily life/. . a piece of glass with a shiny metallic back which reflects light, producing an image of whatever is in front of it.



**benəm** *verb*. /sd language and thought/.. to say a word or an expression which is not polite and shows that you are very angry

**benəm** *noun*. /sd water/.. draught.

**bəpa** *noun*. /sd food/.. a kind of plant from which sugar is made..



**bəmo** *noun*. /sd numeral/.. five (for rupees).

**bijw** *adj*. correct.

**bimin** *verb*. /sd physical actions/.. to sing.

**birw** *adj*. /sd states/.. full.

**boji** *n*. /sd work/.. work. **no boji to**. you do work.

**bər** *n*. /sd kinsip/.. term brother.

**borbinsala** *noun*. /sd insect/.. a type of insect with large often brightly coloured wings. **borbinsala nə jər do**. butterfly is flying. this butterfly is generally found in the forest.



**boskapa** *noun* /sd sense/.. danger.

**bəsnam** *noun*. /sd sense/.. fear.

**bəjbəja** *noun*. /sd water/.. rain in very small light drops.

**bələ** *pro* /sd grammar/.. they.

**bənəm** *v*. /sd physical action/.. suck

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**buwm** *n.* /sd kinship term/.. sister.

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**C - c**

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**cam̄pi** *n.* /sd numeral/.. twenty  
**cen̄əm** *verb.* /sd animal/.. bite. **iki cen̄əm** dog bites.

**ciṅnəm** *verb.* to know. **ṅo am ciṅdən.** i know him.  
**copja** *noun.*/sd body part/.. chin.

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**D - d**

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**ḍanəm** *v.*/sd physical state/.. stand  
**ḍəm** *noun.* /body part/.. hair of human body. **ḍəm kja ḍo** hair is black. *Variant: ḍum.* /sd body part  
**ḍəmpo** *noun.* /sd body/.. part the upper most part of a huamn body. **ḍəmpo ḍəmc̄i ḍo.** my head is aching.  
**ḍən** *noun.* /sd person/..woman. **ḍəne gə nəsi soḍu.** woman are doing something.  
**ḍərap** *noun.*/sd illness/.. a substance, especially in the form of a liquid or a pill, which is a treatment for illness or injury.  
**ḍidərus** *noun.*/sd water/..overflow of water in rivers,ponds or the places where human live. **ḍidərus ta te do.** flood is big.  
**ḍoku** *noun.* /sd daily life/.. an object consisting of a round hollow part and a handle, used for mixing, serving and eating food.



**ḍoli** *fever* /sd ailments/.. a kind of ailment where the temperature of the body goes up. nyisi people use special kind of herbs to cure fever.

**ḍoma** *noun.* /sd Universe/.., creation the water body that is formed in the sky and which is responsible for rain.



**ḍoṅ** *n.* /sd universe/.. sun. **ḍoṅ caliṅ ḍo.** the sun is rising.



**ḍonəm** *verb.* /sd physical state live.  
**ḍoṅpəl** *noun* /sd Universe, creation. sky.



**ḍumpo** *noun.*/sd body part/.. head.  
**ḍunəm** *verb.*/sd physical actions/.. to dig.

**həbo** *noun* /sd body part/.. front of the body.

**həhʔən** *noun* /sd kinship term/.. father's father.

**həpʊm** *noun* /sd universe/.. fog.



**hərnəm** *verb* /sd activity/.. an activity of friskily moving legs.

**has** *noun* /sd animal/.. an animal which is found in forest and are used as pet as well. **has n̄ə kubu d̄ədu**. the cat is eating a rat. Nyishi people use cat for meat too.



**həbləkəm** *pro* /sd grammar/.. if.

**həbnəm** *verb* /sd physical activity/..to produce tears as the result of a strong emotion, such as unhappiness or pain.

**həbo** *noun* /sd body part/.. chest.

**həi** *noun* /sd water cold/.. water.

**həj** *noun* /sd body part/.. heart. **n̄o galo həj d̄o d̄ən**. i have heart.

**hənəm** *verb* /sd activity/... to write.

**həʔə** *Variant: həpəm. verb* /sd activity/.. come.

**həw** *adj* /sd physical condition freeze.

**h̄idəm** *when* /sd grammar/..

**h̄iəm** *Variant: kinəm. verb* /sd numerals/.. to count. **n̄ul t̄əkər h̄ido**. we count stars.

**hijə** *pro* /sd grammar/.. some.

**hikajənəm** *noun* /sd vehicle/.. train.



**hiʔəb** *noun* /sd human activity/.. a set of pages that have been fastened together inside a cover to be read or written in. **kja hiʔəb** black book.



**hogabə** *preposition* /sd grammar/.. because.

**hōgə** *pro* /sd grammar/.. what.

**hōmnəm** *verb* /sd human activity/.. to sew.

**hōnəm** *verb* /sd human activity/.. to earn.

**hōrōp̄** *adj* /sd human activity/.. costing little money or less than is usual or expected.

**hōʔepabōj** *noun* /sd water/.. sea.

**hubu** *Variant: tunəm. adj* /sd water/.. dry. **isigə hubu p̄əku**. water has dried.

**hōgl̄o** *pro* /sd grammar/.. where.

**hugub** /sd grammar/.. how.

**humə** *noun.* /sd food/.. green vegetables.



**humnəm** *verb.* /sd religion/.. worship.

**hun** *noun.* /sd metal/.. a kind of metal yellow in color.

**hunpinbə** *noun.* /sd occupation/.. someone who makes objects from gold.

**huwtə** *v.* /sd physical activity/.. Thorw

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## I - i

**iəbwtəl** *noun* /sd body part/... right side of the body. **təl** is the word for side.

**iəgwətəl** *noun*/sd location/.. right side.

**ijkonəm** *n.* /sd human activity clothing.

**ijmanbo** *noun.* /sd human/.. weaver.

**iki** *noun.* /sd animal/.. dog. **ik kab do.** the dog is crying.



**isi** *n* /sd water/... water. **so isi si tawəm ja.** this water is good to drink.

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## J - j

**janbo** *adj.* /sd attribute/.. rotten. **so kuppa si janbo pa.** banana is rotten.

**jəmd** *noun.* /sd food chilli/.. Nyisi people generally do not use chilli in their food. they use it sometimes in food.

**jəlna** *noun.* fall.

**jəktə** *v./sd physical activity/.. sleep.*

**jəma** *noun./sd physical activity/.. dream.* **sol ɲo juma manəm.** today i dreamt.

**jəpəŋ** *adj./sd colour/.. white.*

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## K - k

**kac** *adj.* dirty.

**kagnəm** *Variant: səŋkuk. verb.* barking of dog.

**kano** *noun* /sd physical activity/.. hunger. **ɲəm kano pa.** i feel hungry.

**kaɟ** *verb/sd physical activity/... see.*

**kəco** *Variant: kacəkya. noun.* dust. **təbəl kəco do.** there is dust on the table.

**keɟat** *noun./sd kinship term/.. landlord.*

**kəjə** *adj.* /sd attributes /..black.  
**kəji** *noun.* /sd kinship term/.. maternal uncle.  
**kəmnəṃ** *pro.* /sd grammar/.. with.  
**kəṇ** *n.* /sd numerical/.. eight.  
**kəṇ** *noun.* /sd universe /..night.  
**keṛə** *noun.* /sd physical activity/.. belly.  
**kəṇṇṇṃ** *verb.* to lie.  
**ki** *noun.* /sd kinship term/.. mother's mother.  
**kə** *noun* /sd fruit/.. . child.  
**kəhosi** *noun* /sd kinship term/.. grandson.  
**kəi** *adj.* big.  
**koḷ** *noun* /sd human activity/.. bangles.  
**kəkəṛ** *adj.* /sd attribute/.. shaped like a ball or circle, or curved.  
**kəṇḷəga** *noun.* /sd kinship term/.. son.  
**kəṇḷəṃ** *noun.* /sd kinship term/.. daughter. **ano kəṇḷəṃ** she is my daughter.  
**kəppə** *noun.* /sd fruit a kind of fruit/.. **ḷə kəppə ḷə ḷəṇ.** i eat banana.



**koḷ** *noun.* /sd kinship term/.. nephew.

**kubu** *noun.* /sd animal /..a small mammal with short fur, a pointed face, and a long tail.



**kəhi** *noun* /sd tree/.. bark of tree.



**kuppa** *noun* /sd fruit/.. banana.



L - I

**la** *preposition* /sd grammar/.. and.

**lac** *noun.* /sd body part/.. palm.



**laḷṭal** *noun* /sd location/.. left side.

**lan** *noun.* /sd body part/.. the short thick finger on the side of your hand which makes it possible to hold and pick things up easily .See picture. **lan ka tunjo.** do not show me your thumb.



**lan̄k** *Variant: /sd body part/..* **koju.** *noun.* back.

**lasin** *noun.* /sd body part/.. claw.

**ləcu** *noun* /sd body/.. partany of the long thin separate parts of the hand. **alo ləcu gə po cupe.** his finger is small.



**ləm̄ta** *noun.* road.

**lənək** *noun* /sd location/.. back.

**liṅ** *n* /sd numeral/... hund.

**linəm** *v./sd human activity/..* to tie.

**luḅu** *noun* /sd body part/.. knee.

**luḅi** *adj* /sd attribute/.. red.

**luḅu** *noun./sd body part/..* neck. **ṅo gə luḅu əci ḁo.** my neck is paining.



**lu:gu:** *noun.* /sd body part/.. neck.

## M - m

**mamija** *noun.* /sd tree root/... **pipəl seṅne**  
**mamija kol do.** pipal's root is big.



**maṭe** *noun* /sd kinship/... sister's husband.

**məcuḅ** *noun.* narrow.

**məkṭe** *noun./sd kinship term/..* paternal aunt's husband.

**mi** *pro/sd grammar/...* he.

**mica** *pronoun./sd numerals/..* few.

**mijṅ** *adj.* /sd attribute/.. smooth.

**minam** *verb./sd human activity/..* to hit.

**miṅnəm** *verb./sd human activity/..* to kill. **əm**  
**minjo.** do not kill.



**modi** *noun* /sd flora and fauna/. a raised part of the Earth's surface, much larger than a hill, the top of which might be covered in snow.  
**modi puute do.** mountain is big.



**mu** *noun* /sd kinship term/.. wife of younger paternal uncle.

**mubu** *noun*. ashes.

**mawgəpnəm** *verb*/sd physical activity/..y. to be able to bring back a piece of information into your mind, or to keep a piece of information in your memory. **no nəm mawgəpḍən.** i remember you.

**mwi** *noun*./sd kinship term/.. brother's wife.

**mawlu** *pro.* /sd grandma all.

**mawnəm** *v*./sd physical activity/.. to think.

## N - n

**nabur** *noun.* /sd body part/.. one of the two soft, red edges of the mouth.

**nale** *pro.* /sd grammar/.. many.

**nanəm<sub>1</sub>** *verb*./sd human activity/.. to earn.

**narikəl** *noun*./sd fruit/.. a kind of fruit.



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**nəm** *noun*./sd location/.. a construction traditionally made with bamboo flask and wood where people live.



**nəmpum** *noun*./sd location/.. a group of houses and other buildings, such as a church, a school and some shops, which is smaller than a town, usually in the countryside.



**niknəm** *verb*./sd human activity/.. to press or be pressed against something with a circular or up and down repeated movement.

**nirnəm** *verb*/sd physical activity/... to laugh.

**niṭ** *adj.* /sd attribute new. **no niṭ ije kaṇum do.** my new cloth is good.

**nəwəwəni** *noun* /sd kinship term. host.

**nawrənəm** *v* /sd cook. to cook.

**nʔh** *noun*/sd body part/.. mouth.

O - o

**og** *noun./sd attribute/..* a kind of cover for head to protect from sun or rain.



**ognəm** *adj.* warm.

**ogum** *adj./sd location/..* near.

**oko** *Variant: ok. noun. /sd flora nad fauna/..* leaves of trees, palnts and saplings. **oko tacu do.** leaf is small.



P - p

**paṭ** *noun./sd animal/..* a large wild animal of the cat family with yellowish brown fur which lives in Africa and southern Asia.



**penəm** *Variant: petonəm. verb./sd attributes/..* to cut. **ḡul əḡiḡ peḡo.** we are cutting meat.

**pənəm** *verb./sd physical activity/..* to hear.

**pep/pəp** *noun./sd food/..* egg. **poro gə pep/pəp puḡo.** hen lays egg.



**pirnəm** *adj./sd attribute/..* wide.

**pi:n** *noun./sd numerals/..* eight.

**po3** *noun./sd bird/..* a kind of bird.



**pəl** *Syn: 1.noun /sd universe/..* a heavenly body. **pəl ca liḡ ḡo pa.** the moon is comin out.



**pəl** *Syn: 2.n/sd universe /..* year.

**pəḡḡḡ** *adj./sd attributes/..* thin.

**porab3** *noun./ Sd human activity/..* one who teaches in a school generally.

**pəṭə** *noun./sd daily life/..* letter.

**pəṭə** *adj.* fat/ grease.

**pa3ca** *Variant: poca. adj.* dull.

**pəli** *noun /sd flora nd fauna.* seed.

**pə3s** *adj./sd attributes/..* white.

**pəḡ** *noun. /sd body part/..*brain. brain of nay animate thing.



**punəm** *verb.* sell.

**pəḡnəm** *verb.* pull.

**p̄re** *noun./sd physical activity/..* sratch.  
**p̄rnəm** *v./sd location/..* to turn.

**pwtu** *Variant: p̄ta. noun./sd bird/..* bird.



## R - r

**renəm** *verb.* to buy.  
**rinəm** *verb./sd attributes/..* to obtain meaning by looking at words or symbols.  
**ro** *n.* tongue. /sd body part/.. **ɲo ro əm naliŋ kasa.** show me ur tongue.



**roŋnəm** *verb./sd human activity/..* the activity of coloring surface of something.

**roŋŋinbɔ** *noun.* farmer.

**rubin** *noun. /sd daily need/..* a piece of jewellery, usually one of a pair, worn in a hole in the ear or fixed to the ear by a fastener: **so rubin si rupa gə.** this earring is made from rupa(a kind of metal).

**ruga** *noun./sd physical activity/..* mentally ill, or unable to behave in a reasonable way. **ruga woman** mad woman. madness is considered as a result of anger of the nature.

**rupa** *noun. /sd daily need/..* a kind of metal generally used in the form of ornaments.

## S - s

**sah** *noun./sd food/..* a drink made by pouring hot water onto) dried and cut leaves and sometimes flowers, especially the leaves of the tea plant.



**sɛ** *noun./sd animal/..* cow. **so sɛ si buŋ lupa.** this cow is white. generally cow is not used for milk. It is used as food.



**səbʔi** *noun./sd animal/..* an animal that lives in hot countries, has a long tail and climbs trees. Monkeys are primates (= the group of animals which are most like humans).



**səda** *n./sd flora and fauna/..* a thin piece of wood. generally stick is used for keepin domestic animals under control.



**sejasibin** *noun./sd animal/..* sheep. **si ɲul gə sejasibin.** this is our sheep.



**səma** *noun./sd human/..* a huamn body which is not now living.

**səŋ** *noun./sd tree/..* tree. **səŋ heŋe ja.** tree is big.



**sənəm** *verb./sd physical activity/..* to breath.

**səŋ** *noun /sd animal/..* a kind of animal.

**sibiŋ** *noun./sd animal/..* goat.



**sikur** *adj. //sd season..* cold (for weather).

**siŋe** *noun /sd universe/..* lake.



**sinəm** *verb./sd physical activity/..* to die.

**sini** *noun./sd food/..* a sweet substance which is obtained especially from the plants sugar cane and sugar beet and used to sweeten food and drinks.



**sipahi** *noun./sd language/..* soldier. it is a laon word from hindi language.

**sircnəm** *verb./sd grammar/..* to spit.

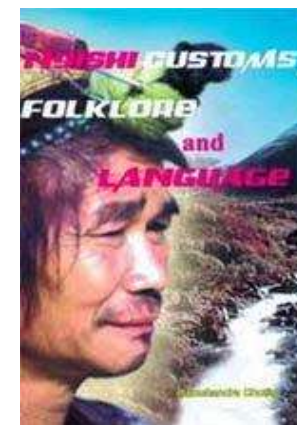
**sɔ** *pro. /sd location/..* here.

**sobu** *noun./sd universe/..* river.

**sonəm** *verb./sd human activity/..* to play.

**sɔsi** *pro./sd grammar/..* this.

**sɔp** *noun./sd human/..* male/ man.



## T - t

**ɬadur** *adj./sd attributes/..* warm.

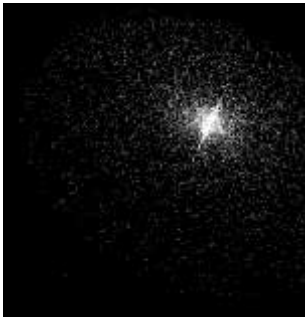
**ɬaka** *noun./sd ailmmnt/..* a kind of ailmmnt.

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**ṭakər** *noun/sd universe/...* star. **sol ṭakər ɳə kaɳun ɖo.** the star is beautiful.



**ṭapəmb** *n./sd universe/..* snow.



**ṭat** *adj./sd location/..* wide.

**ṭəbu** *n./sd animal/...* a reptile. **kja ṭəbu.** black snake.

**ṭəh** *noun./sd daily life/..* a flat piece of plastic, wood or metal with a thin row of long narrow parts along one side, which you use to tidy and arrange your hair. See picture .



**ṭələb** *noun/sd food/...* a plant of the onion family that has a strong taste and smell and is used in cooking to add flavour.



**ṭələp** *noun./sd food /..*a plant of the onion family that has a strong taste and smell and is used in cooking to add flavour.



**ṭəli** *noun./sd daily life/..* a kind of liquid used in cooking or massaging body.

**ṭəmdir** *noun./sd ailment/..* a kind of an ailment which is caused due to cold generally.

**ṭəɳnəm** *Variant: ṭunəm. Verb /sd physical activity/...* to drink. **ɳo isi ṭəɳɖo.** i drink water.

**ṭəpɯm** *noun/sd food/...* ice.



**ṭəpɯm/ane** *noun/sd body part/...* eye.



**ṭəru** *noun./sd insects/..* a kind of insect that bites people. **ṭəruəm miŋ ʈo.** kill mosquito.



**ṭəsɯ** *noun./sd body part/..* the hard slightly curved part that covers and protects the top of the end of a finger.



**ṭiŋk** *noun./sd daily life/..* the coins or notes which are used to buy things. nyisi people think money in terms of coins generally. but with the adamant of time, this perception has changed.

**ṭipnəm** *v./sd human activity/..* to wipe.

**ṭṅ** *noun./sd daily life/..* a sweet sticky yellow substance made by bees and used as food.



**ṭonm** *verb./sd grammar/..* to flow.

**ṭɔpɔ** *noun./sd food/..* a tall plant grown in many parts of the world for its yellow seeds which are eaten as food, made into flour or fed to animals.



**ṭɔrɔp** *noun./sd insects/..* a very small insect which lives under the ground in large and highly organized social groups. **ŋɔ ṭɔrɔp ako dəpən.** i ate ant.



**ṭrinəm** *adj/ sd food/..* describes food which has a strong and very pleasant flavour.

**ṭɯ** *noun./sd insects/..* a kind of insect which is found in home.



**ṭunəm** *verb./sd human activity/..* push. **alo am ʈujo.** do not push him.

**ṭurnəm** *noun./sd dailylife/..* the grey, black or white mixture of gas and very small pieces of carbon that is produced when something burns.



**ṭɯṭ** *noun./sd body part/..* forehead. **alo gə ʈuta ʈate ja.** his forehead is big.

**ṭʔh** *noun./sd insects/..* louse.



## U - u

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**ur** *noun./sd body part/.* blood.



**u:ra** *pre/sd grammar/...* in.