

Five interlinearized Mambay Texts

Songs, a legend, a fable and proverbs

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Language: Mambay (ISO 639-3 language code: mcs)

Language family: Niger-Congo, Adamawa, Kebi-Benue

Principal locations where the language is spoken:

Cameroon: North Province, Bénoué and Mayo-Louti Departments

Chad: Lac-Léré Department

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Transcription: Oussoumanou Bouba and Erik Anonby

The texts, which are part of a larger research project on Mambay, are part of a grammatical description in the following book:

Anonby, Erik. 2011. A grammar of Mambay. Kay Williamson Educational Foundation publication series, Vol. 6. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe.

The transcription conventions used here are explained in the book, and a complete list of abbreviations used in the book (including the texts below) is reproduced at the end of this document.

List of texts:

1. Song: **hùrtìgòhm** 'The locust'
2. Song: **wàhwàh** 'Hubbub'
3. Legend: **táwsòò yáh gwààrè** 'Tawsoo took the sickle'
4. Fable: **kágà má libà** 'The chicken and the guineafowl'
5. Hortatory text: **nà-tù** 'Proverbs'

The texts are presented with an interlinear translation. In the first line, the Mambay text is found; morpheme boundaries are marked with hyphens. The second line gives a literal translation of each morpheme or, when relevant, its grammatical function. In the third line, an idiomatic translation is provided in italics.

1. Song: **hùrtìgóhm** ‘The locust’

hùrtìgóhm mù, hùm “
locust.sp.1 2SG come:PFV EXPECT
Locust, did you come ...

zà'rá kǎ' nà,
dance:VN here QM
to dance here?

mù, hùm nà-kógrà ‘ ”
2SG come:PFV PFX-look(n.) EXPECT
You came to watch, didn't you?

mù, ?ùr káà sàà yǎŋ “,
2SG stand:PFV head/on:LF stone IDEO EXPECT
You stood on the stone unperturbed,

mù, 'náá kùm dáárú.
2SG stretch:PFV neck:2SG.POSS.INAL IDEO
you stretched your neck, craning it and looking all around.

mùyì tìj nà-bàbbá
2SG.IRR become:FUT PFX-locust.sp.2
Will you become a grasshopper

kà mù làà kwáà nà,
and.then 2SG.OPT eat:OPT grass QM
so that you can eat grass too?

2. Song: wàhwàh ‘Hubbub’

wàhwàh! zèlǎ lòòn mí.
hubbub lie:VN bother:PFV 1SG.OBJ
Hubbub! A lie bothered me.

zèlǎ wǎ lóòn páà dǒ' nà, páà dǒ' nà,
lie:VN:LF what? bother:VN man:LF ANAPH QM man:LF ANAPH QM
What rumour is bothering that man, that man?

tí-gérêm wáà dǎd-zí túrà kúù.
AUG-woman.PL:LF chief sow:PFV-PL millet bushland
The wives of the chief sowed millet in the fields.

bǎh [ʔǎǎ]¹ dǎǎ yá, bǎh [ʔǎǎ]¹² dǎǎ yá.
rain 3:PFV.NEG succeed:PFV NEG rain 3:PFV.NEG succeed:PFV NEG
The rain did not come, the rain did not come.

gúú-zí nǐrè vòró fàà sá'bà
pull.back:PFV-PL bottom:3PL.C/I.POSS.INAL to.there back/place:LF traditional.salt
They [the women] bent over at the place where the salt is

kì-gòò nà-rígrìlè, nà-rígrìlè.
place:PFX-prepare:VN PFX-gourd.seed PFX-gourd.seed
to roast gourd seeds, gourd seeds.

¹ This pronoun is absent in the song, but Oussomanou maintains that it is obligatory in normal speech; cf. 7.5.

kwéé ”, mụ yáh tùúrì mụ lòòrí.
Kwe EXPECT 2SG.OPT take.OPT *boule* 2SG.OPT lick:OPT
Kwe, take the boule and lick it.

3. Legend: **táwsòò yáh gwààrè** ‘Tawsoo took the sickle’

lǎh má yáá káà tí-sigró gbàntàŋ.

story 3:OPT sit/be:OPT head/on:LF AUG-land IDEO

May this story live on throughout the wide world.

đáŋ pádpád.

spread.out:OPT/PFV IDEO

[Audience:] [May] it spread out rapidly / It spread out rapidly.

táwsòò yáh gwààrè.

Tawsoo take:PFV sickle

Tawsoo took the sickle.

táwsòò yáh gwààrè ”, bè lè vé-lé

Tawsoo take:PFV sickle EXPECT QUOT 3SG.C/I go:FUT-3SG.INTR

wàà tùgló.

diminish:VN hedge

Tawsoo took the sickle, intending to go and trim the hedge.

tùgló vbí sêhrú.

hedge cut:PFV hand:3SG.POSS.INAL

The hedge cut his hand.

kàr dágé káà ryǎh.

set:PFV mouth:3SG.C/I.POSS.INAL head/reason/on:LF cry(n.)

He opened his mouth with a cry.

ná-gbóglà hùr ”, háá hé’ kètí.

PFX-toad jump:PFV EXPECT until bang:PFV sky

The toad jumped, so high that he banged into the sky.

bǎh húm , nà-táállá gyàà.
rain come:PFV EXPECT PFX-ant.sp. foam.up:PFV

The rain came, and the ants swarmed.

nà-vbérgà bè lè sâr-ná,
PFX-agama.lizard QUOT 3SG.C/I devour:VN-OBJ

The agama lizard intended to devour them.

nà-táállá bè gû mù sâr ré ?án lâ' náá "
PFX-ant.sp. QUOT but.then 2SG devour:VN 3PL.C/I.OBJ how? like this EXPECT

The ants said, But how could he devour them like this?

nà-vbérgà bè léè sâr ró
PFX-agama.lizard QUOT 3SG.C/I:NONPFV.NEG devour:VN 2PL.OBJ

yá , rò gyàà gyáàrì bàgá nà,
NEG EXPECT 2PL foam.up:PFV foam.up:VN:LF a.little QM

The lizard said, [How could it be that] he would not devour them? Did they only swarm a little swarming?

bè réè gyàà yá, bǎh húm húngì
QUOT 3PL.C/I:NONPFV.NEG foam.up:FUT NEG rain come:PFV come:VN:LF

bàgá nà "
a.little QM EXPECT

They said, [How could it be that] they will not swarm? Did the rain only come a little coming?

bǎh bè léè húm yá, ná-gbóglà hè' kètí
rain QUOT 3SG.C/I:NONPFV.NEG come:FUT NEG PFX-toad bang:VN sky

hè'-nì bàgá nà,
bang:VN-OBJ:LF a.little QM

The rain said, [How could it be that] it will not come? Was the toad only banging the sky a little banging?

ná-gbóglà bè léè hé' yá, táwsòò sàh
PFX-toad QUOT 3SG.C/I:NONPFV.NEG bang:FUT NEG Tawsoo rip:VN

rèh bágá nà "
cry(n.):LF a.little QM EXPECT

The toad said, [How could it be that] he will not bang [into the sky]? Was Tawsoo only letting loose a little cry?

táwsòò bè léè sàh yá,
Tawsoo QUOT 3SG.C/I:NONPFV.NEG rip:FUT NEG

tùgló vbíí lé vbìì-nì bágá nà,
hedge cut:PFV 3SG.C/I.OBJ cut:VN-OBJ:LF a.little QM

Tawsoo said, [How could it be that] he will not let loose [a cry]? Did the hedge only cut him a little cutting?

tùgló bè léè vbíí-m yá,
hedge QUOT 3SG.C/I:NONPFV.NEG cut:FUT-2SG.OBJ NEG

mù wàà lé wàà-nì bágá nà "
2SG diminish:VN 3SG.C/I.OBJ diminish:VN-OBJ:LF a.little QM EXPECT

The hedge said, [How could it be that] it will not cut him? Was Tawsoo only trimming him a little trimming?

táwsòò bè léè wáá-m yá, lé
Tawsoo QUOT 3SG.C/I:NONPFV.NEG diminish:FUT-2SG.OBJ NEG 3SG.C/I.OPT

wǎr dâg tí-ʔázè
leave:OPT mouth/door:LF AUG-member.of.ʔàzgàrà:3SG.C/I.POSS.INAL

vòŋ nà "
open QM EXPECT

Tawsoo said, [How could it be that] he will not trim it? Must he leave his mother-in-law's door open?

bè tí-ʔázàm pàg wíí
QUOT AUG-member.of.ʔàzgàrà:2SG.POSS.INAL make:VN what?

yâg-ám nà,
to-2SG.POSS.INAL QM

[The hedge] said, what does his mother-in-law do for him?

bè tí-ʔázè kòò vɪnà,
QUOT AUG-member.of.ʔàzgàrà:3SG.C/I.POSS.INAL bear:PFV woman

yâg lé.
to 3SG.C/I.OBJ

He said, His mother-in-law gave birth to a wife [woman] for him.

vɪnà pàg wíí yâg-ám nà,
woman make:VN what? to-2SG.POSS.INAL QM

... And what does the wife do for him?

vɪnà kòò vɪnà yâg lé.
woman bear:PFV woman to 3SG.C/I.OBJ

... The wife [woman] gave birth to a girl [woman] for him.

bígà pàg wíí yâg-ám nà?
child make:VN what? to-2SG.POSS.INAL QM

... And what does the child do for him?

bígà nìì mɪrà, nà-kùró lêg-ná,
child defecate:VN excrement PFX-vulture suck:VN-OBJ

... The child keeps the vultures happy (lit. the child craps, and the vultures suck it up).

ḡìg vɪ̀nà yáh rù'gó ; bè lè
child:LF woman take:PFV clay.water.jar EXPECT QUOT 3SG.C/I

vé-lé dâg byàá, kpùr 'màhlé
go:FUT-3SG.INTR mouth/edge:LF water bump:PFV foot:3SG.C/I.POSS.INAL

tí-kpèhpèhw.

AUG-IDEO

The girl took the clay water jar, intending to go to the water's edge, and bumped her foot throwing her right off balance.

rù'gó hùg-lé, hàn dágé bè
clay.water.jar break:PFV-3SG.INTR put.back:PFV mouth:3SG.C/I.POSS.INAL QUOT

The clay water jar shattered, and she let out a groan, saying:

sù'nì, mì yàà kà' wáà zàhmbà, mì
damn! 1SG stay/be:PFV area.outside.gate:LF chief IDEO 1SG

háá má sàlá kpàhwwà.

come.back:PFV with cowrie.shell IDEO

"Damn! I was outside the chief's gate all beautifully ornamented, and I came back with the tinkling of cowrie shells."

ḡìg támbúúrà ; ʔóó ḡìg lóólà ;
child:LF pigeon EXPECT braid:PFV child:LF rope EXPECT

ʔóó ḡìg lóólà kàrwàhz ;
braid:PFV child:LF rope IDEO RES

The little pigeon, it braided a little rope, it braided a little rope abruptly and desperately ...

kàvbây " lăh mụ túú káání gá,
the.end EXPECT story 2SG:OPT partake:OPT head:1SG.POSS.INAL NEG.OPT

mụ túú káà tâw gbòòrò "
2SG:OPT partake:OPT head:LF Taw(:LF) bald EXPECT

The end! ... Tale, don't take [any hair] from my head; take it from Taw's bald head / take it from Bald Taw's head ...

4. Fable: **kágà má líbà** ‘The chicken and the guineafowl’

ʔŋg nàá pá-lé , **kágà** , **dúú**
thing:LF REL happen:PFV-3SG.INTR EXPECT chicken EXPECT 3SG.EMPH

tìj zòògì fíí, líbà , **dú** **zòògì kúù.**
become:PFV bird:LF home guineafowl EXPECT 3SG.INDEP bird:LF bushland

This is how it happened that the chicken, he became a domestic bird, and the guineafowl, [became] a wild bird.

bà’ bà’ mákìnáá sí-kètí bó’ **kètí má tí-sìgró**
PAST PAST while PFX-God throw/create:PFV heaven with PFX-earth

, **nàmzá** , **gâh ʔéré** **má nà-pùgpùgá.**
EXPECT animal:PL EXPECT dwelling:LF 3PL.C/I.POSS with humankind

Long ago when God created heaven and earth, the animals, their dwelling was with humankind.

gyààrì bîn , **nâh-zí** **kááré** **vòró**
ones:LF certain EXPECT take.out:PFV-PL head:3PL.C/I.POSS.INAL to.there

kúù , **mûn tìj-zí** **nàmzì** **kúù.**
bushland EXPECT then become:PFV-PL animal:PL:LF bushland

Certain ones departed for the bush, and then became wild animals.

tù nàá pèè-zì-ré **fíí** ,
COLL:HEAD REL be.limited:PFV-PL-3PL.INTR home EXPECT

nà yâh-zí dùgú bàh nàmzì fíí.
1&2 call:VN-PL 3PL.OBJ QUOT.REP animal:PL:LF home

Those confined to habitations, we call “domestic animals.”

tù má gìhǵá lǎŋ , pá-lé lá'
COLL:HEAD with pinion.feather also EXPECT happen:PFV-3SG.INTR like

dòógbúù.

again

And for those with feathers, this happened similarly.

ʔi-náá , ná lá'-zí ʔig náá
HEAD-this EXPECT 1&2:OPT hear:OPT-PL thing:LF REL

pá-lé , kà kágà má pèè-lé
happen:PFV-3SG.INTR EXPECT and.then chicken 3:OPT be.limited:OPT-3SG.INTR

fíí.

home

This thing, let's listen to the thing that happened, whereby the chicken was confined to habitations.

rò' náá ʔèr ʔín líbà má kágà,
word:LF this get.up:PFV body/at:LF guineafowl with chicken

dùgzí bàrgúú zòògì sáà kwéré:
3PL.INDEP both bird:LF inside fence

This issue arose for the guineafowl and the chicken, both of them birds in captivity:

kà ʔù'-lé vǎg vérgà , nà-pùgpùgá
when arrive:PFV-3SG.INTR go:VN:LF travel(ler) EXPECT PFX-humankind

gbàh kágà lá' ʔig nì séh káà
catch:VN chicken like thing:LF bottom:LF hand(adv.) head/reason:LF

pàg mààrà,
make:VN:LF gift

When it has come about to go on a trip, people take a chicken as something in hand to give as a gift.

kà vérgà hûm-lé , **dǔg gbàh kágà,**
when travel(1er) come:PERF-3SG.INTR EXPECT 3GEN catch:VN chicken

káá gòó-nà yâg-rú.
head/reason:LF prepare:VN-OBJ to-3SG.OBJ

When a traveller has come, they catch the chicken to cook it for him.

pàrà rò' ?éé kyàg ?ín kágà rè.
goodness! word 3SG.C/I.POSS hurt:VN body/self:LF chicken TOPIC

Goodness! This issue pains the chicken himself ...

gêh-náá , **tǒg bádgi-zí lààbá má líbà,**
day:LF-this EXPECT be peck.around:VN-PL eat:VN with evening

mûn kágà , **ró' líbà bè**
come:PFV:to.here chicken EXPECT talk:PFV guineafowl QUOT

One day, when they were pecking food in the evening, the chicken came along, and he said to the guineafowl:

'már ?íí, mû lá' ?ig kyàg dígní.
friend:LF 1SG.POSS 2SG.OPT hear:OPT thing:LF hurt:VN liver:1SG.POSS.INAL

"My friend, listen to what is distressing me.

kà nà-pùgá vé-lé vérgà , **?à gbàh**
when PFX-person go:FUT-3SG.INTR travel(1er) EXPECT 3:IMPFV catch:VN

mí , **míí dòógbâh.**
1SG.OBJ EXPECT 1SG:EMPH always

When a person is about to go travelling, he catches me, always me.

kà vérgà hûm-lé hîn ʔîndú,
when travel(ler) come:PERF-3SG.INTR to.here body/at:3SG.POSS.INAL

ʔà gbàh mǐ , káà pàg ná'rà
3:IMPFV catch:VN 1SG.OBJ EXPECT head/reason:LF make:VN sauce

yâg-rú.
to-3SG.OBJ

When a traveller_i has come here to his_j place, he_j catches me, in order to make sauce for him_i.

rógò , má rúgà pímpím, mǐ gòg-ní ,
tomorrow EXPECT with morning very.early 1SG:IRR fly:FUT-1SG.INTR EXPECT

mǐ ví-nǐ kúù.
1SG:IRR go:FUT-1SG.INTR bushland

Tomorrow, early in the morning, I will fly, and I will go to the bush."

líbà gù bè ʔààyéé , lá' ʔi-dô' ,
guineafowl answer:PFV QUOT indeed! EXPECT like HEAD:ANAPH EXPECT

'már ʔíí.
friend 1SG.POSS

The guineafowl replied, "Indeed! So be it (lit. Like that), my friend.

gû , kà mù zǒn-nòm, gû mǐ ,
but.then EXPECT when 2SG.S leave:PERF-2SG.INTR but.then 1SG:EMPH EXPECT

mǐ yáá má víná.
1SG.FUT stay:FUT with who?:QM

But then ... when you have left, but then what about me? Who will I stay with?

kà sí-kètí gù-lé rógò má líbà "
when/if PFX-God consent:PFV-3SG.INTR tomorrow with evening EXPECT

mìj gòg-ní.
1SG:IRR fly:FUT-1SG.INTR

If God has consented, tomorrow evening ... I will fly."

kágà bè káà ʔig kín mù yàh yìh
chicken QUOT head/reason:LF thing:LF which? 2SG.S call:VN name:LF

sí-kètí sàà nà "
PFX-God inside QM EXPECT

The chicken said, "For what reason are you calling the name of God into this?"

sí-kètí gù-lé má gù yá mìj gòg-ní
PFX-God consent:PFV-3SG.INTR with accept:PFV NEG 1SG:IRR fly:FUT-1SG.INTR

rógò má rúgà.
tomorrow with morning

Whether God has consented or not, I will fly tomorrow morning."

nìj rúgà pá-lé kágà dúú gìhgìlé
bottom:LF morning happen:PFV-3SG.INTR chicken hit:PI wing:3SG.C/I.POSS.INAL

", gìh ʔilé bè lè gógrà ",
EXPECT strive:PFV body/self:3SG.C/I.POSS.INAL QUOT 3SG.C/I fly:VN EXPECT

pèè-lé káá kwéréè " kàgzàg.
be.limited:PFV-3SG.INTR head/on:LF fence EXPECT IDEO

When the first light came, the chicken [kaga] flapped his wings, made a great effort intending to fly, but petered out on top of the fence ... with a flop [kagzag].

má rúgà “, **nà-pùgzá lùg-zí, kó-zì-rú bè**
with morning EXPECT PFX-person:PL go.out:PFV-PL see:PFV-PL-3SG.OBJ QUOT

?áhyyàà, ?i-náá kágà yóò “, **?i-náá kágà**
oh.dear! HEAD-this chicken indeed:EMPH EXPECT HEAD-this chicken

yóò.

indeed:EMPH

In the morning, the people went out and saw him [and they said], “Oh dear! This is the chicken, this is the chicken.”

gbăh-zì-rú “, **hăn-zì-rú hîn sàà kwéré.**
catch:PFV-PL-3SG.OBJ EXPECT put.back:PFV-PL-3SG.OBJ to.here inside fence

They caught him, and put him back here inside the fence.

gyâh hâg-lé “, **libà rô'-rú bè**
sun break:PFV-3SG.INTR EXPECT guineafowl say:PFV-3SG.OBJ QUOT

'már ?íj, libà yáh-rì káálé
friend 1SG.POSS evening take:PERF-PERF head:3SG.C/I.POSS.INAL

hîn “, **kà sí-kètí gù-lé**
to.here EXPECT when/if PFX-God consent:PFV-3SG.INTR

mij gòg-ní vòró kúù rè.
1SG:IRR fly:FUT-1SG.INTR to.there bushland TOPIC

When the sunlight had diminished, the guineafowl said to him, “My friend, evening has joined us here ... if God has consented I will fly out to the bush ...”

5. nà-tù' 'Proverbs'

twǎh bèè káà nà "

snake bite:VN stick QM EXPECT

Does a snake bite the stick?

explanation: A snake doesn't bite the stick, but rather the person holding the stick.
In the same way, one should not attack a messenger for bringing bad news.

nà-táállá bò' páà zèèlá tùm.

PFX-ant.sp. throw:VN man:LF lie:VN forward

The ant throws the rumour-monger in front.

explanation: Like the ant that returns to the colony with a report about food and is obliged to lead the way back to the food, a person who makes a claim will have to prove it.

nà-káhrì páà kómna rùrà nì gàmbù.

PFX-fruit.sp.:LF man:LF hunger ripen:VN bottom:LF bag

The fruit of a hungry man ripens at the bottom of his bag.

explanation: A hungry person carefully watches over his or her food supply.

kágà " bè vyàh tûr? sùmù " sé' hìg

chicken EXPECT QUOT winnow:VN millet:LF night EXPECT must give:VN

súgò.

ear

The chicken says, "[Is someone] winnowing night millet? [One] must listen carefully."

explanation: Like a chicken that listens carefully for the sound of food at night, people should be alert for unseen things that might benefit them.

kà mù hí-rì nínù, yâg páà bîn "
when 2SG give:PERF-PERF eye to man:LF other EXPECT

?à ?àà-m kòg kyǎ'.
3:IMPFV surpass:VN-2SG.OBJ see:VN place/situation

When you have given your eyes to another man, his view surpasses yours.

explanation: People exaggerate what they actually see.

nà-mùùrì sùùmù, té'là má, héélà nà ".
PFX-jinn:LF night walk:VN with whistling QM EXPECT

Does the night jinn whistle when it walks?

explanation: If someone is doing something wrong, he or she will do it stealthily.

sígò " hí òùù byàá nîn bàhàà
crocodile EXPECT 3:NONPFV.NEG hit:VN water eye/in.presence.of:LF ibis.sp.

bàti yá.

two NEG

The crocodile, it doesn't stir the water near an ibis twice.

explanation: Like a bird that has been frightened by a crocodile's attack on another bird, a watchful person cannot be overtaken by danger.

páà nàá, nù-lé káám dâg tômná, "
man:LF REL sleep:PFV-3SG.INTR head/on:2SG.POSS.INAL first EXPECT

?à kpûg káám tùm.
3:IMPFV wake.up:VN head/on:2SG.POSS.INAL forward

The man who is asleep ahead of you, he wakes up before you.

explanation: A person that prepares early has an advantage over those who do not.

dǔg hìj nàh kpááyìrá káà
3GEN 3:NONPFV.NEG take.out:VN bulb.plant.sp.:LF head/on:LF

páṅnì ʔéé tédé yá.
site:LF 3SG.C/I.POSS all NEG

One doesn't take out all the plant bulbs from where they are situated.

explanation: People should look after what they may need in the future.

páà nàá lá'-rì káà nà-tú'zì
man:LF REL understand:PERF-PERF head/meaning:LF PFX-proverb:PL:LF

náá " ʔàà sóg ʔìg nàá mì sǒg-nà nì
this EXPECT 3:IRR send:FUT thing:LF REL 1SG send:VN-OBJ bottom/for:LF

ḅèl rógò.
child:PL:LF tomorrow

The person that has understood the meaning of these proverbs will pass on what I pass on for the children of tomorrow.

explanation: A wise person will teach his or her wisdom to the next generation.

Abbreviations and symbols

from Anonby (2011:xviii-xxi)

adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
al.	alienable
ANAPH	anaphoric demonstrative
ATTRIB	attributive copula
AUG	augmentative
borr.	borrowing
C	consonant
C/I	co-referential/impersonal
CAUS	causative
Cd	coda
CL1	class 1
COLL	collective
COREF/coref.	co-referential
dem.	demonstrative
DU	dual
EMPH	emphasis
EXCL/excl.	exclusive
EXPECT	expectation marker
F ₀	fundamental frequency
Fr.	French
Fulf.	Fulfulde
FUT	future
GEN	generic
H	high (tone); laryngeal
h	pharyngealization
HEAD	syntactic head

Hz	Hertz
i	identical participant reference
IDEO	ideophone
IMPERS/impers.	impersonal
IMPFV	imperfective
INAL/inal.	inalienable
INCL/incl.	inclusive
INDEP	independent pronoun
INTR/intr.	intransitive
IRR	irrealis
j	non-identical (switch) participant reference
L	low (tone); Type 2 sonorant
lex.	lexically determined
LF	linked form
lit.	literally
N	nasal consonant; Type 1 sonorant
n.	noun
NEG	negative, negation
NONPFV	non-perfective
NUM	numeral prefix
O	onset; obstruent; object
OBJ	object
OPT	optative
ORD	ordinal
PERF	perfect
PFV	perfective
PFX	prefix
PL/pl.	plural
PLUPERF	pluperfect
pn.	pronoun
POSS	possessive
Pred.	predicate
QM	question-marking particle
QUOT	quotation marker
R	rhyme; Type 3 sonorant
re.	regarding

REAL	realis
REL	relativizer
REP	reported speech
S	subject
SG/sg.	singular
sp.	species
TAM	tense/aspect/mood
TOPIC	topicalization and related functions
tr.	transitive
TRS	tone register shift
V	vowel; oral vowel; verb
Ṽ	nasalized vowel
v.	verb
VN/v.n.	verbal noun
VV	long vowel
w/	with
X	segment (C or V)
α	exhibiting a specific value
μ	mora
σ	syllable
∅	zero pronoun
1	first person
1&2	first-and-second person
2	second person
3	third person
*	ungrammatical or unattested structure
[]	phonetic transcription; boundary
/	either/or; phonological transcription
.	syllable boundary (used to distinguish a g + b sequence from unitary gb); separator between words glossing a single morpheme
:	separator between glosses of fused morphemes
-	morpheme boundary
+	morpheme boundary
=	stem-clitic boundary
±	optional

~	free variation / allomorphic alternation
↓	non-automatic downstep
ˊ	high tone/pitch
ˋ	low tone/pitch
ˆ	falling tone/pitch
-	mid pitch
ˋ	rising tone/pitch
ˊ	expectation marker
ʔ	preglottalization
ʔ	glottalization (vowels)
.	nasalization