

1. 阿美字典用法指引

阿美字母

阿美字母包括了下列依字母次序排列的符號。這列表是我們在字典裏查閱生字時的重要指引：

a	n
c	o
d	p
f	r
g	s
h	t
i	w
k	x
l	y

要查閱生字，可依照上列次序排成字母。不僅每一個生字的頭一個字母如此排列，接續的每一個字母亦是依此排列而成。以下是一個例子：

要找 ca'it 這個字，你先由 '， a，一直找到第三個字母 c，然後你注意到第二個字母是 a，於是你知道這個字是置於以 c 為首的字母表裏，第三個字母中是列於字母表的第一個字，因此它是置於 ca' 第三部位的第一個字母。

要找 tosor，你可查看字母表，從 'ac 到接近於最後字母表的 t。當你查到 t 字之後，你又必須在字母表查閱第二個字母 o。查到 to 之後你又得查看字母表的後半部，你就可找到 tos；從 tos 之後你便很容易找到 tosor。

2. 發音指引

在下面部分裏，我們將對每一個符號所代表的音做一番說明：對那些受過英語訓練的人，下列的說明將助於改正這些字母的含糊發音。

- ‘——是一種喉塞音，空氣經由喉嚨所發出的聲音。
- a——與 father 中的 a 發音相同。
- c——在母音 i 之前發 ch 的音，在 a, e, o 等母音之前則發 ts 的音。
- d——在英語中沒有相類似的音，是一半 l, 一半 s 的舌尖摩擦音。
- e——與 hut 中的 u 發音相同，是 ə 的音。
- g——是 ng 的音。
- h——有很重的氣音，不像英語中的 h。
- i——與 me 中的 e 發音相同。
- l——拍擊音，與 matter 中的 tt 發音相同。
- o——與 oh 中的 o 發音相同。
- r——r 的顫音。
- s——與英語 s 在其他子音，母音 a,e,o 前發音相同，在 i 前發音為 sh。
- x——由喉嚨發出的高摩擦音。
- ‘——影響鄰旁的母音，所以當 i 接著，則將 e 在 me 的發音改為 i 在 it 的發音。

e——只發生於字序中間，在某些情況下與喉塞音相似。阿美語的喉塞音有輕重之分，但也僅用於少數極小差異的兩個字中（字相同但意義不相同）（例：é's'es）

- p. t. k. 只有在字尾時才成為振音，否則它們是無聲無振動的音。
- m. n. g. 是鼻音。
- w 和 y 在某些情況下，可在一字中發音成完全子音，但它們也用於母音與子音的組合音中；即是雙重母音。

在喉塞音與母音有相當的不明確。字首中許多字音像是結合音，但因為在發音及字的脈絡有許多的不一致，我們只好把這些字用‘的符號來標示；或許輕重喉塞音的差異影響拼字上的問題。例如'nor/'enor-anchor (錨；成為力量的支持物)；li'/eli'-grass thatch (茅屋)。

持著與一些語音學者相反的觀點，我們相信阿美語有許多字首子音羣，一些外行人甚至阿美族人在子音間接著許多 e 的母音；但多次聽阿美人說話時，這些子音則明確地連接在一起，其他時候可聽到輕母音的發聲，以下的

字的確是一個音節的字，並不是2，3個音節：ckroh-to push（推）；krah-to dry out（使乾涸）；kter-anger（生氣）。

不管在 CVCCVC 結合音中有特殊的情況，在這裡有一個疑問就是究竟要不要將 e 插入於音節中。例如：simlag／simelag-unbecoming（無法變成）。

阿美語言的正確拼字，是提供給部族人民以及呈獻給 1957 年 Edvard Torjesen 的傳道的語音學者。

3. 字典的記事結構

字根：此本字典的單字是根據字根排列，若有其他通用的同義衍生語言，則於字後標示斜線符號（／），以句點結束；如果沒有其他通用的同義字，則直接列出英語的同義語，用長劃符號—）標示於阿美語與英語的釋義間。在單字後首先列出字面的基本意義，有時會連接著片語、子句作更進一步的解釋；因為此本字典是由電腦打出來的，無法使用逗號（，）號，故以星號（＊）將字義的相關意義分開。如果一個字有兩個或更多的意義與用法時，我們則用 1，2 等數條列之，有時這些意義是這個字義用於其他的衍生語言中。

次變化字：在字根以下，我們列出一些較不常用的首尾接詞的組合字，這些組合字改變了字根的語句意義，顯然的我們無法列出通用的字首接詞如 ma-，mi-，pi-，pa-，它們本身是可明確預測的，同時它們也包含文法的成份；但是當一些字首接詞導致字根的語意產生相當的變化時，我們將會舉實例說明之。有些次變化在本文中以句子或子句使用。

阿美語與歐洲語言不同之處是：阿美語族沒有詞類（名詞、動詞、形容詞等）的區分，而文字的使用就如名詞、動詞受其他的 valances 以及文法記號而附加接詞或改變，因此我們並不給予這些字的文法名稱；但正如你注意字義，尤其是次變化字時，你可以根據自己母語的觀點，瞭解這些首尾詞的功用，並賦與它們文法的名稱。阿美語的確可依據首尾接詞的類別來區分，不過這些類別並不相同於西方文法的功能。

一些廣為熟知的通用次變化字列於字典的本文中，但你可在目錄的次衍生語言的單字表裏查尋。

* 如果你想對字根的概念有所認知與瞭解，可參閱附錄 1。

阿美語音系統

LINGUISTIC CHART

補音 Consonants		唇音 (雙齒·唇齒) Labial	舌尖音 (齒齦) Aveolar	舌根音 (軟頸) Velar	喉音 Glottal
擦音 Fricatives	清 擦	, f	s	x ㄤ	h ㄏ
	清邊擦 或濁齒擦		d		
半元音 Semivowels		w	y		
塞音 Stops	不 擦	p	t	k	ˊ ㄻ
	塞 擦		c		
震動音	頭		r		
	朴		l		
鼻音 Nasals		m	n	g ng	

元音 Vowels		前 Front	央 Middle	後 Back
	高 High	i		u
	中 Middle		e	o
	低 Low		a	

INSTRUCTIONS IN THE USE OF THE AMIS DICTIONARY

THE AMIS ALPHABET

The Amis alphabet includes the following symbols which will be alphabetized in the order given below. This list is an important guide for finding words in the dictionary.

a	m
c	n
d	o
e	p
f	r
g	s
h	t
i	w
k	x
l	y

To look for words, the letters of the words are arranged in the order above. Not only is the first letter of each word arranged alphabetically, but in order each succeeding letter is arranged alphabetically. Here is an example:

To find ca'it you look down through the alphabet from ' a to c, the third letter of the alphabet. Then you look at the second letter of ca'it and note that it is a, so you know that it is near the beginning of the list of c words. The third letter ' you will remember is the first letter listed, so the ca's will have ' as the first letter in the third position.

To find tosor you look down through the alphabet from ' a c to the t which is near the end of the alphabet. After finding the t words in the dictionary, you will look more than half way through the word list to find the second letter o. After finding to you will look through the to words down toward the end of the list where you will find tos words, and from there it will be easy to find tosor.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

On the following page is a description of the kind of sounds made by each of the symbols of the Amis alphabet. For those with an English orientation, the following information will clarify the sounds of some of the letters that are ambiguous.

- ' - is a glottal stop, a stop of flow of air in the throat.
- a - is pronounced like the a in father.
- c - is pronounced ch before the vowel i.
- is pronounced ts before the vowels a, e, and o.
- d - has no equivalent sound in English. It is an aveolar fricative, half l, half s sound.
- e - is pronounced like u in hut. It is the Θ sound.
- g - is the ng sound.
- h - has heavy breath sound unlike English h.
- i - is pronounced like e in "me."
- l - is a flapped "l", pronounced like the tt in "matter".
- o - is pronounced like the o in "oh."
- r - is a trilled r.
- s - is pronounced like an English s before other consonants and the vowels a, e, and o, but it is pronounced sh before i.
- x - is a highly fricative sound made in the throat.

' affects the vowel next to it, so that i followed by a ' changes from the e sound in "me" to i sound in "it".

e occurs word medially only. It is similar to the glottal stop in some positions. Amis has heavy and light glottal stops, but uses only one symbol for these inspite of a few minimal pairs (e.g. 'es'es).

Word finally the voiceless non-aspirated stops - p t k ' - become aspirated. Otherwise they are voiceless and non-aspirated.

m n g are nasal sounds.

w and y can serve as full consonants in some positions in a word, but they are also used in vowel-consonant combination; they are diphthongs.

There is considerable ambiguity in writing the glottal stop (') and the vowel e. Word initially many words sound like they have both of these sounds in combination, but because there is so much inconsistency in pronunciation and context of these words, we have written all such words with ' only. Probably heavy and light glottal stop variances affect the problems in spelling.

e. g. 'nor /'enor - anchor ; 'li' / eli' - grass thatch

Contrary to the view of some linguists we believe that Amis has many consonant clusters word initially. Some outsiders and even some native speakers have written a lot of e vowels in between consonants, but when listening to native speakers many times these consonants are definitely linked. Other times a slight vowel sound is heard between. The following words are actually one syllable words, not two or three syllable words as some would suggest:

ckroh - to push; krah - to dry up; kter - anger
There are however cases especially in CVCCVC combinations
where there is a question of whether or not to write e
between syllables. e.g. simlag / simelag - unbecoming.

The orthography of the Amis language was introduced to the tribal people and presented to a group of missionary linguists by Edvard Torjesen in 1957.

TEXT :
STANDARD DIALECT
WORDS AND
MEANINGS
通用衍生語言單字及意義

THE STRUCTURE OF THE DICTIONARY ARTICLE

Roots*: We have listed words by roots and in some cases have put a slash (/) after the word, indicating alternate dialect words followed by a period. Otherwise, we immediately give the English equivalent with a dash (-) between the Amis word and the English meaning. Our first meaning gives the literal basic meaning, perhaps followed by a phrase or clause further explaining the meaning. Because this dictionary was prepared by computer, we could not use commas (,), so we used asterisks (*) to separate related component meanings of a word. If the word has two or more distinct meanings or usages, we number the meanings 1. 2. etc. Sometimes these meanings are deviate understandings of the words as used in other dialects.

Subentries: Under the root word we list some of the less common affix combinations that change the lexical meaning of the root. Obviously we could not add all the common prefixes such as ma-, mi-, pi-, pa-. They are fairly predictable, and they carry the grammar. But when the root meaning is significantly changed lexically by some prefixes, we give you a sampling. These subentries are by no means exhaustive. Some of the subentries are sentences or clauses using words in context.

Contrary to European languages, this family of languages does not have word classes as such (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.). Words act like nouns or verbs as they are affixed and controlled by valences, the grammatical markers. Therefore, we have not given these words a grammatical designation. But as you note the meanings, especially the meanings of the subentries, you will become aware of the effect of affixes to give them grammatical designation from the perspective of your mother tongue. Amis words do fit into classes according to the kinds of affixes they carry, but these classes do not parallel Western grammatical functions.

A few very common subdialect words heard widely are included in the main body of the dictionary, but you will find in the appendix a larger list of subdialect words.

*To understand the concept of roots, see Appendix 1.