



Dialogue: Opposites in Conversation

Sarotra ve ny malagasy?

Is Malagasy difficult?

A-a, tsy sarotra, mora.

No, it's not difficult; it's easy.

Ary ny frantsay, sarotra ve?

And French, is it difficult?

Eny, sarotra.

Yes, it's difficult.

Tianao ve ny frantsay?

Do you like French?

Eny, sarotra fa tiako.

Yes, it's hard, but I like it.

Mianatra malagasy ve ianao?

Are you learning Malagasy?

A-a, tsy mianatra malagasy aho satria Malagasy.

No, I'm not learning Malagasy because I am Malagasy.

1. Vocabulary (VOC)

Malagasy	English	Notes/Variations
Sarotra	Difficult	<i>Tsm: Sarotro</i>
Tsy sarotra	Not difficult	
Mora	Easy	<i>Tsm: Môra</i>
Tia	To like/love	
Tianao	You like	
Tiako	I like	
Mianatra	To learn/study	
Tsy mianatra	Not studying	
A-a / Tsia	No	<i>Tsm: Ehe</i>
Eny	Yes	<i>Tsm: Ia</i>
Ary	And	
Satria	Because	
Tsy	Not	
Ve	Is, Are, Do...?	Question marker
Malagasy	Malagasy language	
Frantsay	French	



2. Grammar

In Malagasy, opposites can be formed in two ways:

Using a specific word (adjective, verb, etc.) with its opposite.

Adding the negation *Tsy* before the word.

Examples:

Sarotra ny malagasy.

Malagasy is difficult.

Tsy sarotra ny malagasy. → Malagasy is not difficult.

Tsy sarotra = Mora → Not difficult = Easy.

Mianatra malagasy aho.

I'm studying Malagasy.

Tsy mianatra malagasy aho. → I'm not studying Malagasy.

3. Exercises

Look at the 10 images below. Answer the question:

"Ino mifanohitra amin'ny ... ?" (What is the opposite of...?)

Fill in the table with your answers.

Hely ny paoma	The apple is small	Tsy hely ny paoma	Geda ny paoma
Matanjaka izy	He is strong	Tsy matanjaka izy -	
	The cloth is dirty		
	He is sad		
	The trousers are expensive		
	The seat is hard		
	He is hot		
	The bananas are not ripe		
	The weather is good		
	The rabbit goes fast		



HELY/KELY^{off} GEDA
Any paoma ny paoma



MADIO MALOTO
ny lamba ny lamba



LAFO MORA
Ny jòka ny palitô



MALAELO RAVORAVO
Izy izy



MANINTSY/
Mangatsiaka^{off} MAFANA
Izy izy



MATANJAKA TSY MATANJAKA
Izy izy



TSARA RATSY
ny andro ny andro



MALEMY MAFY
ny sezy/seza^{off} ny sezy



MANDEHA MANDEHA
malaky/haingana^{off} votsa/miadana^{off}
ny bitro ny sokatra



MANTA MASAKA
Ny fôntsy/akondro^{off} ny fôntsy



4. Translation Practice

Translate the following sentences into Malagasy:

Is Malagasy difficult?

Sarotra ve ny malagasy?

No, not difficult, easy.

A-a, tsy sarotra, mora.

And French, is it difficult?

Ary ny frantsay, sarotra ve?

Yes, it is.

Eny, sarotra.

Do you like French?

Tianao ve ny frantsay?

Yes, it is hard, but I like it.

Eny, sarotra fa tiako.

Are you learning Malagasy?

Mianatra malagasy ve ianao?

No, I don't because I am Malagasy.

A-a, tsy mianatra malagasy aho satria Malagasy.