



THE HOUSE (NY TRANO^{OFF} / NY TRAGNO^{TSM})



Traditional Malagasy houses are built with wood or raw earth. The roof is made of **tafo bozaka** (thatch) or **tafo taila^{off}** / **tafo tanimanga^{tsm}** (tile / terracotta), typically consisting of 1 or 2 rooms: one room with a kitchen corner or 2 rooms, one of which is a **lakozia** (kitchen) and the other a **tranobe^{off}** / **tragnobe^{tsm}** (large room). Later on, houses became more modernised. Houses from different regions of Madagascar have their own characteristics. All doors of traditional Malagasy houses should always face west so that the house can benefit from the sunlight to sunset.

Note: Malagasy people often use the cardinal points North (**avaratra**), South (**atsimo**), West (**andrefana**), and East (**atsinanana**) for orientation. In Malagasy, there is the word **tanana** or **vohitra** which means town or village. The size of a town is defined by the number of roofs or kitchens.

Bozaka = thatch



tafo taila^{off} / tafo tanimanga^{tsm} = tile / terracotta

Lakozia = kitchen

tranobe^{off} / tragnobe^{tsm} = large room

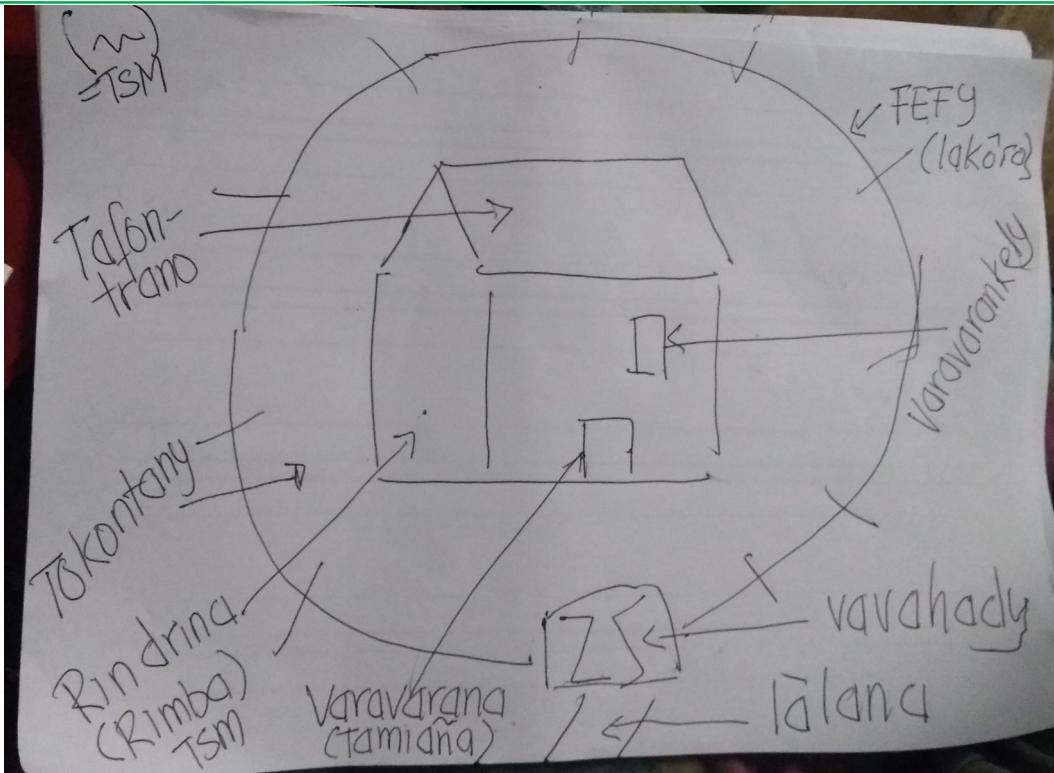
North = avaratra

South = atsimo

East = atsinanana

West = andrefana

Tanana / vohitra = town or village



NOUNS

Ny... (the...)



fefy^{off} / **lakôro^{tsm}** = fence

vavahady = gate

tokontany = courtyard, but zaridaina = garden

lalana = path or street or road

tafo = tafon-trano = roof

rindrina^{off} / rimba^{tsm} = wall

varavarana^{off} / tamiagna^{tsm} = door

varavarankely = window

If the house has multiple levels, there is:

rihana^{off} / etazy^{tsm} = floor

Tohatra^{off} / escalier^{tsm} = stairs

Lavarangana^{off} / rangalava^{tsm} = balcony

ADJECTIVES

Lehibe^{off} / geda^{tsm} = big



Kely^{off} / hely^{tsm} = small

Avo^{off} / ambo^{tsm} = tall

Iva^{tsm} = short

Malalaka = spacious

Tery^{off} / mahety^{tsm} = cramped

Madio = clean

Maloto = dirty

Simba^{off} / maratra^{tsm} = broken

VERBS

Used in relation to the house e.g.trano



Manao = manamboatra^{off} / mitsabo^{tsm} = to build

Manamboatra = to repair

Manadio = to clean

Mividy = to buy / Mivarotra = to sell

Manofa / mamondro = to rent

Used in relation to houses or doors



Mi- for intransitive verbs

Ma- for transitive verbs

Mivohà^{off} / **misokatra^{tsm}** – to be open

Mamoha^{off} / **manokatra^{tsm}** - to open

Mikatona^{off} / **mifôdy^{tsm}** – to be closed

Manakatona^{off} / **mamody^{tsm}** – to close

Mihidy^{off} / **migala^{tsm}** – to be locked

Manidý^{off} / **managala^{tsm}** – to lock



Exercises

Listen, repeat, then translate into your native language the following sentences:

1. lehibe ny trano AND hely ny vavahady
2. ambo ny lakôro AND iva ny varavarana
3. malalaka ny tokontany AND mahety ny trano
4. madio ny trano AND maloto ny lâlana
5. simba ny varavarankely
6. Mitsabo tragno izy
7. Manamboatra fefy izy
8. Nanadio trano izy
9. Hividy trano izy
10. Mamondro tragno izy
11. Misokatra ny vavahady
12. Mikatona ny varavarana
13. Migala ny tragno

