Malagasy

Intro

Malagasy belongs to the Austronesian language family.

For speakers of Indo-European languages it can be quite hard to start with Malagasy. The vocabulary is hardly similar and even the sentence structure is different, as the subject is normally placed after the verb and object (verb-object-subject order). However, in the province and at the coast, they do use the subject-verb-object order which is much more comfortable for speakers with Roman or Germanic language background.

Dialect	Sentence Structure	Example
Plateau Malagasy	Verb-Object-Subject (VOS)	Manasa lamba aho
Sakalava Malagasy	Subject-Verb-Object (SVO)	Zaho manasa lamba

Phrases

Malagasy	English	Comment
Ambesa!	wait!	
Araiky tavela	Another one (drink)	Literally one is left
Azafady	Excuse me, please, sorry	In contrast to english it is used for both asking and apologizing
Azala!	Damn!	To express disappointment
Inona no vaovao?	What's the news?	Usually, the response is tsisy vaovao
JIRAMA	Water and electricity (utility company)	Acronym for jiro sy rano malagasy. Tsisy JIRAMA means there is no power... and maybe no water, too
Karakôry	How are you doing?	
Mbola tsara	Hello	literally still good
Misaotra betsaka!	Thank you very much!	Normally just misaotra
Misy môko	There are mosquitoes	
Mora mora!	Easy easy!	Tranquillo!
Ngoma anao zaho	I miss you	
Ny anarako dia Samuel	My name is Samuel	Literally the name of mine is Samuel as -ko is a genitive suffix
Rano maventy araiky, azafady!	A big bottle of water, please!	
Salama	Hello	From arabic salaam
Tiako anao	I love you	Composed of tia (love) -ko (of me) and anao (you)
Tsaiky lehilahy	A boy, young man	Composed of tsaiky (child) lehilahy (man)
Tsisy miresaka	No news	Nothing to say

Malagasy	English	Comment
Tsisy vaovao	No news	
Tsy haiko	I don't know	
Tsy mavandy!	Don't tell me lies	
Tsy misy olana!	No worries!	There is no problem, hakuna matata
Veloma!	Farewell!	
Zah hiala!	Leave me alone!	Literally I will leave

Words

Malagasy	Word Type	English	Comment
anarana	n	name	
araiky	num	one	
ary	conj	and	used for last addition after connecting nouns with sy
asa	n	work	verb miasa
atsika roe	pron	the two of us	
avy	prep	from	zaho avy ... => I am from ...
be	adj	big	
eny	adv	yes	
eto	adv	here	
firy	adv	how many	
fo	n	heart	
foko	n	tribe	heart of mine
gasy	adj	Malagasy, Madagascan	
hamaray	adv	tomorrow	
hoatrinona	adv	how much?	other spelling ohatrinona
ia	adv	yes	
ianao	pron	you	
izaho	pron	I	
kelikely	adj	a bit	
kely	adj	little	
kibo	n	belly	
kiraro	n	shoes	also savaty
lamba	n	clothes	
lehilahy	n	man	
loaka	n	hole	
madiniky	adj	small	
mafana	adj	hot	
mahay	v	to know something	
malagasy	adj	Malagasy, Madagascan	
malala	adj	beloved	
malalako	n	my dear	
maloto	adj	dirty	
mamita	v	to finish	
mamy	adv	sweet	
manangy	n	a woman	
mandeha	v	to walk	
manintsy	adj	cold	

Malagasy	Word Type	English	Comment
marary	adj	ill	
matory	v	sleep	
matsiro	adj	delicious	
maventy	adj	big, heavy	
miambe	v	to wait, to pay attention	
miasa	v	to work	
mifoha	v	to wake up, to get out of bed	
mihinana	v	to eat	
mila	v	to want, to need	
mipetraka	v	to live in	
misy	v	there is	
mitsangantsangana	v	to stroll	
mody	v	to go home	
mofo	n	bread	pronounced like mofu but u does not exist in malagasy
mora	adj	easy	
moramora	adv	slowly, slowly	
mosary	n	hunger	zaho mosary means I am starving
môko	n	mosquitoes	
ngoma	n	miss	
nono	n	breast	
nosy	n	island	Nosy Be the big island
ny	det	the	determined atricle
olana	n	problem	
ondana	n	a pillow	
rano	n	water	
ratsy	adj	bad, ugly	
ronono	n	milk	composed of ro (bouillon) and nono (breast)
savaty	n	shoes	
sipa	n	girlfriend, boyfriend	vady is much more common
sira	n	salt	
siramamy	n	sugar	composed of sira (salt) and mamy (sweet)
sy	conj	and	
tavela	n	leftover	
teny	n	word	
tsaiky	n	child	
tsara	adj	good, nice	

Malagasy	Word Type	English	Comment
tsia	adv	no	
tsisy	adv	nothing	
tsy	adv	not	
vadiko	n	my spouse	
vady	n	spouse	
vaovao	adj	new	
vary	n	rice	
vava	n	mouth	
vazaha	n	foreigner	like mzungu in Africa
velona	adj	living	
vita	v	finished	
voky	adj	full	no more hungry
vola	n	money	
zaza	n	child	