

Amharic Semantic Primes, with English equivalents (Version 1, 2016)

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ine, antə/antʃi, and səw, and nəgər, səw, səwinnət እኔ፣ አንተ/አንቺ፣ አንድ ሰው፣ አንድ ነገር፣ ሰው፣ ሰውነት	substantives
I, YOU, SOMEONE, SOMETHING~THING, PEOPLE, BODY	
ajnət, kifil አይነት፣ ክፍል	relational substantives
KINDS, PARTS	
jih, and ajnət, lela ይህ፣ አንድ አይነት፣ ሌላ	determiners
THIS, THE SAME, OTHER~ELSE	
and, hulətt, andand, hullu, bizu, t'ik'it አንድ፣ ሁለት፣ አንዳንድ፣ ሁሉ፣ ብዙ፣ ጥቂት	quantifiers
ONE, TWO, SOME, ALL, MUCH~MANY, LITTLE~FEW	
t'iru, mət'fo ጥሩ፣ መጥፎ	evaluators
GOOD, BAD	
tillik', tinnif ትልቅ፣ ትንሽ	descriptors
BIG, SMALL	
awwək'ə, assəbə, fəlləgə, alfəlləgəmm, təsəmma-, ajjə, səmma አወቀ፣ አሰበ፣ ፈለገ፣ አልፈለገም፣ ተሰማ፣ ዓየ፣ ሰማ	mental predicates
KNOW, THINK, WANT, DON'T WANT, FEEL, SEE, HEAR	
alə, k'al, iwənət አለ፣ ቃል፣ እውነት	speech
SAY, WORDS, TRUE	
adərrəgə, honə, tənək'əsak'k'əsə አደረገ፣ ሆነ፣ ተንቀሳቀሰ	actions, events, movement
DO, HAPPEN, MOVE	
(and bota) nəw, allə, (and səw/and nəgər) nəw (አንድ ቦታ) ነው፣ አለ፣ (አንድ ሰው/አንድ ነገር) ነው	location, existence, specification
BE (SOMEWHERE), THERE IS, BE (SOMEONE/SOMETHING)	
jəne (nəw) የኔ (ነው)	possession
(IS) MINE	
norə, motə ኖረ፣ ሞተ	life and death
LIVE, DIE	
gize, ahun, k'ədmo, bəhwala, bizu gize, tinnif gize, ləhonə gize, band gize ጊዜ፣ አሁን፣ ቀድሞ፣ በህዋላ፣ ብዙ ጊዜ፣ ትንሽ ጊዜ፣ ለሆነ ጊዜ፣ ባንድ ጊዜ	time
WHEN~TIME, NOW, BEFORE, AFTER, A LONG TIME, A SHORT TIME, FOR SOME TIME, MOMENT	
jət/bota, izzih, bəlj, bətatʃtʃ, ruk', k'irb, gonn, nəkka የት/ቦታ፣ እዚህ፣ በላይ፣ በታች፣ ሩቅ፣ ቅርብ፣ ጎን፣ ነካ	place
WHERE~PLACE, HERE, ABOVE, BELOW, FAR, NEAR, SIDE, INSIDE, TOUCH	
a(l) . . . mm, minalbat, tʃalə, silə-, kə- አ(ል) . . . ም፣ ምናልባት፣ ቻለ፣ ስለ፣ ከ	logical concepts
NOT, MAYBE, CAN, BECAUSE, IF	

bət'am, jibəlt' በጣም፣ ይበልጥ ----- VERY, MORE	intensifier, augmentor
ind- እንደ ----- LIKE~AS	similarity

Notes: • Exponents of primes can be polysemous, i.e. they can have other meanings in addition to the semantically primitive meaning • Exponents of primes may be words, bound morphemes, or phrasemes • They can be formally complex • They can have combinatorial variants or “allolexes” (indicated with ~). Some Amharic primes may have other allolexes in addition to those indicated in the Table. • Each prime has well-specified syntactic (combinatorial) properties.