

Sociolinguistic Survey Report of Boro (Shinasha)

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1 Introduction

This report describes some aspects of the sociolinguistic landscape of Boro (Shinasha), and some differences between the highland and lowland dialects of this language.¹ There are differences between the highland and lowland Shinasha:

- (a) in their attitudes towards the languages Amharic and Oromo,
- (b) in their vocabulary, and
- (c) in the various functions of the language.

The main basis for this report is the comparison of word lists and of answers to sociolinguistic questionnaires which were obtained in Bulen (lowland) and Wombera (highland).

In addition to the interviews and word lists, information about the sociolinguistic setting was also obtained by numerous stops for chats with people who were travelling on the road, or living in compounds nearby.

The most striking observation is that not one of the people encountered during interviews was monolingual.

2 Shinasha-speaking areas

The Shinasha-speaking areas (qebeles and villages) in the lowland, as named by the people interviewed in the Primary School of Bulen, are Berber, Dibate, and Dangur.

For the highland, the following names were given: Dadasa Kusano, Amemar C'oneno, Bolele, Minaj, Melislu, Wegid, Geshengesha (where road construction is under way), Tum, and Ebach (Kutteni).

2.1 Number of speakers

Concerning the number of speakers, the census of 1984 speaks of about twenty thousand people for the entire area. The larger number of Shinasha speakers live in the lowlands.

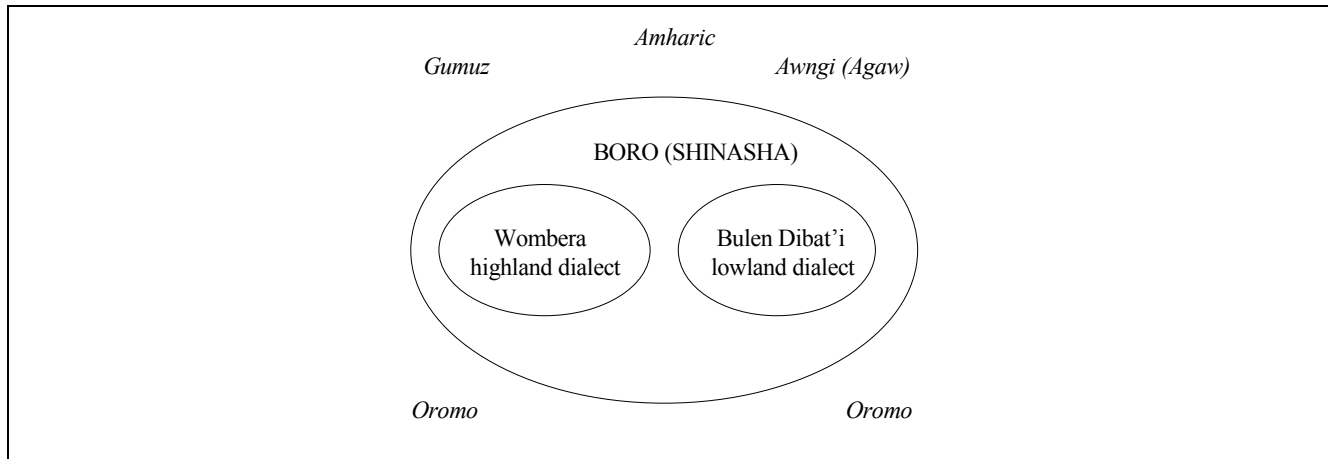
According to various statements by Shinasha speakers in Wombera, another twenty thousand Arabic-speaking Shinasha are supposed to live across the Sudan border. There are also considerable numbers of Borna (Shinasha people) who have migrated south or south-west to Oromo or Amharic-speaking areas, where they lost their language but, nevertheless, stress their Shinasha identity. A small but conspicuous community of such Shinashas live, for instance in Asosa, the capital of zone 6.

2.2 Use of other languages

As is obvious from the answers to the questionnaires, from various interviews and observation, the main languages of wider communication are Amharic and Oromo. But it is also quite frequent that Shinasha people know some Gumuz; and a few also speak Agaw (Awngi).

There is a strong tendency for highlanders to use Oromo, while the lowlanders use Amharic as their second language. Many of them speak both.

¹An earlier version of this report appeared as "A survey of Boro (Shinasha)", Survey of Little-known Languages of Ethiopia (S.L.L.E.). Linguistics Report 26. Addis Ababa: Institute of Ethiopian Studies and Summer Institute of Linguistics



Sketch Map:

Boro (Shinasha) dialects in relation to neighbouring languages

3 Comparison of the word lists

A comparison of the word lists shows that ten percent of the vocabulary of the two dialects is completely different. Another twenty percent of the vocabulary differs only slightly, and these differences are different kinds:

3%	different endings, especially involving <i>-ni</i>
2.5%	different single vowels
3%	different tones but identical segments
3%	insertion of glottal stops ?
2.5%	<i>f</i> instead of <i>h</i>
1.5%	<i>ng, nk</i> instead of <i>g, k</i>
1.5%	<i>s'</i> instead of <i>t'</i>
3%	other differences involving single consonants

To summarise:

- c. 70% of the words are identical in both regions
- c. 20% of the words are slightly different, in ways listed above
- c. 10 % differ completely.

4 Differences in dialects and loan words

There are slight lexical differences between the Highland and Lowland Shinasha varieties, as the comparison of the word lists has shown.

The Highland and Lowland vocabularies seem to be identical in about eighty-five percent of the basic lexicon.

Some of these differences are due to the different ways in which loan words are integrated. Some Oromo and Amharic terms have been integrated into the basic vocabulary of the Shinasha language, and in some cases, a loan word from Amharic or Oromo will be used even though a Shinasha word actually coexists. In the list of basic vocabulary, such loan words are not numerous, but it can be assumed that in daily life they are more frequent.

In any case the dialects spoken in the two different regions must be considered very close varieties of the same language. There is no problem whatsoever in communication across these dialects.

5 Sociolinguistic questionnaires

The questionnaires were administered to thirteen people. The age of the interviewees ranged from twenty-two to about ninety years. Their occupations were as follows:

five farmers,
three employees of the administration,
three teachers,
one tailor, and
one traditional priest.

Of the people interviewed, four had no education and three did not speak Amharic. All of those with education spoke Amharic (cf. table I).

Table I

<i>Generation</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Number</i>
I	older than 50 years	(8 women)	22
II	adults younger than 50 years	(all men)	11
III	children (sex and exact age unknown)		7

6 Influence of schooling

As was pointed out by some of the informants, conservation of the Shinasha language could possibly be achieved by teaching Shinasha at school.

It must be considered, however, that Amharic will be introduced to every Shinasha student at the same time as Shinasha, and this will somewhat neutralise the effect of teaching Shinasha.

7 Conclusions

While generations I and II always had Shinasha as their first language, generation III shows cases with Amharic and Oromo as the first language, although this category was less numerous. (seven children, while the other two categories consisted of 22 and 11 persons).

Strict statistics shows that there is a tendency towards giving up Shinasha as a mother tongue. This tendency can be noticed from the questionnaire data.

The same was expressed by a group of adult Shinasha men who had gathered in the administrative office of Wombera to discuss language matters. When the groups were asked the critical question, "Do you think the use of the Shinasha language is decreasing or increasing?", the immediate answer was: "The use of Shinasha is decreasing." As a second thought, they added the following consideration: "We do not know what will happen if it is taught at school. Then it might increase."

8 Boro word lists

The first Boro word list was given by Ato Lemma Alga and recorded by me in the administration office of Wembera. I am grateful for various kinds of assistance which the administrative staff gave us. The informant of the second word list was Ato Alemu Sembata, Headmaster at the the Secondary School of Bulen. He was assisted by various other staff members who were also mother-tongue speakers of Shinasha.

The transcription in “fidel”² (i.e., the “Sabeian” syllabic script) as given in the column “Wembera fidel” was prepared by Lemma Alga. The IPA transcription uses the phonological symbols of analyses which have been provided by other linguists previously (cf. the list of references).

8.1 Transcription

The data are transcribed with the same symbols as Ashenafi gives in his thesis (1989). In his data, no $r^h \setminus {}^h r$ was found, but this sound is already described in Gabre Bizuneh (personal papers).

Consonants:

	t		k	ʔ
b	d		g	
p'	t'		k'	
	d'			
f	s	ʃ		h
	z			
	ts	tʃ		
	dz	dʒ		
	ts' \ s'	tʃ'		
m	n		[ŋ]	
	l, r			
w		j		

Vowels:

<i>short</i>			<i>long</i>	
i	ĩ	u	i:	u:
e	ä	o	e:	o:
	a			a:

Other features:

<i>Aspiration</i>	$r^h \setminus {}^h r$
<i>Length</i>	:
<i>High tone</i>	´
<i>Low tone</i>	̀

²“Fidel” is the Amharic word for the symbols of the traditional syllabary.

8.2 Word lists of Wembera and Bulen

No.	Gloss	Wembera IPA Lemma Alga	Bulen IPA Alemu Sanbata
320a	<i>all</i>	ʔùn:ó	ʔùn:ó[ní]
129	<i>animal</i>	gìzá	gìzá
137	<i>ant</i>	k'á:tʃ'à	k'á:ntʃ'à
251	<i>arrow</i>	mák':à	dʒó:gà
205	<i>ashes</i>	tùl:à	tùl:à
118	<i>ask</i>	ʔà:tíré	ʔà:tíré
051	<i>axe</i>	dè:s'á	sàk'ùrsá
032	<i>back</i>	jì:k'à	jì:k'à
257	<i>bad</i>	gòndà	gòndà
182	<i>banana</i>	mú:zíjá	mú:zíjá
052	<i>bark N</i>	k'ò:k'ìrà	k'ò:k'ìrà [sic]
179	<i>bark V</i>	kú ^h ré	kùhé ^r é
056	<i>basket</i>	ʔò:ʃà	ʔò:ʃà
135	<i>bat</i>	bò:mbá	bò:mbá
304	<i>bathe</i>	màʃí:ré	màʃè:ré
113	<i>bear child V</i>	ʃú:ré	ʃú:rà
018	<i>beard</i>	ʔìʃán s'ì:rà	ʔìʃà:ná
144	<i>beehive</i>	gà:gúrà	gà:gúrà
029	<i>belly</i>	mà:tʃ'à	mà:tʃ'à
265	<i>big</i>	ʔè:nà	ʔè:nà
152	<i>bird</i>	kàfà	kàfá [sic]
181	<i>bite</i>	ʃà:s'íré	sà:s'íré
242	<i>black</i>	ʔà:k'à	ʔà:k'à
046	<i>blood</i>	t'ét ^s à	s'ás'à
007	<i>blow V</i>	hù:gìré	fùg:à
044	<i>bone</i>	màks'à	màks'à
250	<i>bow</i>	kánbà	dà:já
028	<i>breast</i>	t'á:tsà	s'á:tsà
230	<i>bridge</i>	gó:ndà	gó:ndá
120	<i>brother</i>	ʔèʃ[ì]wà	ʔè:ʃìwà
171	<i>buffalo</i>	gàwzá	gàwnzá, dàngéʃà
200	<i>burn</i>	mìs'ìré	mìs'ìré
048	<i>bush</i>	bù:ʃà	
033	<i>buttocks</i>	dù:là	t'íjà
217	<i>buy</i>	ké ^w ré	kéw ^r é
174	<i>cat</i>	ʔàdúrà	ʔàdúrà

151	<i>chicken</i>	bà:ká	bà:ká
126	<i>chief</i>	nà:ʃá	nà:ʃá
119	<i>child</i>	ná?á	ná?á
017	<i>chin</i>	?ìʃà:ná	hà?á
153	<i>claw</i>	t'íngúsà	s'íngúsà
211	<i>clay</i>	dèngá	ʃàlá
296	<i>clothing</i>	ʃè:m:á	tàhà
222	<i>cloud</i>	k'ùwà	dà ^w ná
202	<i>cold</i>	?à:k'á	?à:k'á
180	<i>come</i>	wà: ^h ré	wà:ré
081	<i>cook</i>	kás:i:rá	kàs:i:rá
088	<i>cough</i>	gót:íré	gót:íré
184	<i>count</i>	tà: ^w ré	tà: ^w ré
148	<i>cow</i>	mì:nzà	mì:nzà
169	<i>crocodile</i>	k'àngà	k'áhà
262	<i>crooked</i>	k'ù:rà	k'ù:rà
084	<i>cup</i>	ʃínjá	kùbà:já
074	<i>cut</i>	k'ùt'íré	k'ùt'íré
010	<i>dance V</i>	gúd:ʃíré	kà:ʃíré
227	<i>dew</i>	kè: ^h rá	kè:rá
093	<i>die</i>	k'ír ^h íré	k'íríré
062	<i>dig</i>	?ìʃíré	gòʃíré
299	<i>dirty</i>	kì:mà	kì:mà
176	<i>dog</i>	kàn:à	kàn:à
149	<i>donkey</i>	dà:zà	dà:zà
189	<i>door</i>	hìngìʃá	fìngìʃà
284	<i>down</i>	dètʃí mà:ndà	dàʃà:ná
083	<i>drink</i>	?úʃíré	?úʃíré
011	<i>drum</i>	bà:mbá	bà:mbá
298	<i>dry</i>	ʃù:k'à	ʃù:k[']à
249	<i>dull</i>	nèk:á	dùk'úmà
213	<i>dust</i>	k'úndà	k'úndà
004	<i>ear</i>	wá:zà	wá:zà
209	<i>earth</i>	dès'à	dàs'à
082	<i>eat</i>	máháré	má:ré
078	<i>egg</i>	k'é:tsà	bà:k'é:sá
103	<i>eight</i>	ʃim:ítà	ʃim:ítà
035	<i>elbow</i>	?ìl:á	?ìl:á
302	<i>empty</i>	bà:ʃà	bá:ʃá [sic]

191	<i>enter</i>	kíndíré	kíndíré
192	<i>exit</i>	kèşíré	kèşíré
022	<i>eye</i>	ʔá:wà	ʔá:wà
021	<i>eyebrow</i>	ʔà:w s'ì:rà	ʔà:w k'ìlwà
092	<i>fall V</i>	díhíré	díhíré
057	<i>farm N</i>	gòşà	gòşà
077	<i>fat N</i>	k'ò:tsá	k'ò:tsá
115	<i>father</i>	nìhà	nìhà
170	<i>fear N</i>	şàt:à	şàt:à
155	<i>feather</i>	bà:k'í bànğá	s'ì:rà
318	<i>fence</i>	kás'à	kás'à
282	<i>few</i>	múk' [í]nàʔí	múk'à
256	<i>fight</i>	kóşíré	kés'éré
041	<i>finger nail</i>	t'úngúsà	ts'úngúsà
199	<i>fire</i>	tàwà	tàwà
162	<i>fish / fishnet</i>	mùs'á, şáşkà	mùts'à, mùts'ì dìs'í kámbà
100	<i>five</i>	ʔù:tsá	ʔù:tsá
069	<i>flower</i>	hú:ndá	fú:ndá
139	<i>fly N</i>	jà:nzá	zà:nzà
156	<i>fly V</i>	bì:díré	bì:díré
095	<i>fool</i>	dò:gà	dìngátá \ dò:gà
036	<i>foot</i>	túwà	túfá [sic]
040	<i>forearm</i>	ʔìndà	ʔìl: á
003	<i>forehead</i>	bàrá	bàrá
099	<i>four</i>	ʔàwd:à	ʔàwd:à
165	<i>frog</i>	gò:lá[nì]	gò:lá
070	<i>fruit</i>	şùwá	şùwá
303	<i>full</i>	s'è:nà	s'è:nà
130	<i>fur</i>	t'òs s'ì:rà	dí:ns'òts'í s'ì:rà
300	<i>garbage</i>	wòtìrá k'àtş'à	wòtìrá k'àtş'à
319	<i>gate</i>	híngìşá	fíngìşá
076	<i>give</i>	ʔímíré	ʔímíré
320b	<i>go</i>	ʔámré	ʔám[í]ré
146	<i>goat</i>	ʔé ^j şà	ʔé ^j şà
127	<i>God</i>	ʔí:k'à	ʔíŋk'à
214	<i>gold</i>	ʔà ^w ntsá	ʔàwùntsá
258	<i>good</i>	şè:ngà	şè:ngà
085	<i>gourd</i>	şóp'á \ ʔùb:á	şóp'á [sic]
066	<i>grass</i>	bòd:á	tò:tsà

094	<i>grave</i>	dò:wá	dòwá
244	<i>green</i>	mòtʃ'á	mòtʃ'ò k'òjí
031	<i>guts</i>	má:tʃ'í k'ətʃ'à	mà:tʃ'í ànzìrá
001	<i>hair of head</i>	s'ì:rá	s'ì:rá
039	<i>hand</i>	kíʃà	kíʃá [sic]
279	<i>hard</i>	kúp':à	kúp'[:]à
059	<i>harvest N</i>	kòʔìjá	mà:rá, màhàrá
310	<i>he</i>	bí:ná	bí:ná
002	<i>head</i>	tò:kà	tò:kà
005	<i>hear</i>	ʃíʃíré	ʃíʃíré
045	<i>heart</i>	nímb:à	líb:à
269	<i>heavy</i>	màŋgá	màŋgá
293	<i>here</i>	ʔók:à	hàn ókè
079	<i>hide</i>	ʔá:síré	ʔá:síré
150	<i>hit</i>	jót'íré	tògíré
061	<i>hoe</i>	tàb:à	
186	<i>hold</i>	dètsíré	dètsíré
145	<i>honey</i>	más'à	más'à
143	<i>honeybee</i>	más' [í] dò:nzà	más' índà
147	<i>horn</i>	k'ál:à	k'álà
201	<i>hot</i>	k'è:s'à	k'è:s'à
188	<i>house</i>	màʔà	mòwà
294	<i>how?</i>	ʔà'k'wè	ʔà' kò:nà
107	<i>hundred</i>	bál:à	bál:à
080	<i>hungry, be</i>	k'à:k'íré	k'à:k'éré
132	<i>hunt V</i>	p'èr:è	kàʃì:rè
131	<i>hunter</i>	p'èrsóní	ʔàzàzíróní
175	<i>hyena</i>	g[ì]rà:zà	g[ì]rà:nzà
308	<i>I</i>	tà:ná	tà:ná
316	<i>jump</i>	t'ólíré	t'óléré
160	<i>kill</i>	ʔù:r ^h :é	ʔù:dúfè, ʔù:dúré
034	<i>knee</i>	gù:bìrá	gùbìrá
247	<i>knife</i>	ʃìk:á	ʃìk:á
320c	<i>know</i>	dén:íré	dán:íré
235	<i>lake</i>	ʔà:ts k'árà	ʔà:tsí k'àkà
086	<i>laugh</i>	mì:s'íré	mì:s'íré
054	<i>leaf</i>	màhàrá	mà:rá
275	<i>left</i>	ʃàndá	gírá
173	<i>leopard</i>	mà:há	mà:há

305	<i>lie (rest)</i>		gìrmá:néré
270	<i>light A \ N</i>	két:á, ʃá:nà	két:á, ʃá:nà
225	<i>lightning</i>	ʔà ^w ʃí gù:mà	gù:mà
012	<i>lip</i>	nò:n[í] k'índà	nò:ní k'índà
177	<i>listen</i>	ʃíʃíré	ʃíʃíré
047	<i>liver</i>	ʔàfá:rà	ʔàfá:rà
263	<i>long</i>	gènzá	gènzá
136	<i>louse</i>	t'ùs'à	s'ùs'à
060	<i>machete</i>	[s'əg:à]	mà:tʃ'írà
064	<i>maize</i>	bòk'ólà	bòk'ólà
194	<i>make</i>	hì:níré	fì:néré
108	<i>man</i>	ʔáʃà	ʔáʃà
281	<i>many</i>	ʔàj:á	ʔàj:á
219	<i>market</i>	gàwjá	gàwjá
111	<i>marry</i>	má:sá dék'íré	dék'íré
073	<i>meat</i>	mè:tsà	mè:tsà
216	<i>money</i>	mà:ʃá	gìzá
172	<i>monkey</i>	ʃé:t'à	ʃé:t'à
238	<i>moon</i>	ʔà ^ʃ tsà	ʔà:ntsísà
117	<i>mother</i>	ʔìndá[nì]	ʔìndà
220	<i>mountain</i>	gùrà, jíndà	gùrá
006	<i>mouth</i>	nò:ná	nò:ná
210	<i>mud</i>	tòk'á	tòk'á
128	<i>name</i>	ʃú:[t]sà	ʃú:sà
260	<i>narrow</i>	t'èb:á, kítʃ'à	t'èb:á
030	<i>navel</i>	júndà	júndà
026	<i>neck</i>	bì:mbà	bì:mbà
157	<i>nest</i>	kàfí kút[:]à	kàfí kútà
272	<i>new</i>	ʔándírà	ʔándírà
237	<i>night</i>	kò:tʃ'à	kò:tʃ'à
104	<i>nine</i>	jè:dìjá, jè:dìjá	jè:dìjá
278	<i>no</i>	ʔà:lí	ʔà:lí
274	<i>none</i>	ʔé:gúr	ʔìk:ón wérím
019	<i>nose</i>	ʃí:t'à	ʃí:nt'à
271	<i>old</i>	nát:à, nàt:à	nàt:à
096	<i>one</i>	ʔìk:à	ʔìk:à
320d	<i>other</i>	k'óʃ[:]à	k'óʃ[:]à
187	<i>path</i>	túf wè:[hè]rá	tùfú [w]è:rà
133	<i>pig</i>	gùrí:sà	gùrí:sà

063	<i>plant V</i>	tók:íré	tók:íré
198	<i>pot</i>	jèrk'á, k'ùl:á	kòrá
301	<i>pour</i>	kít:íré	kít:íré
315	<i>pull</i>	gè:síré	gè:síré
314	<i>push</i>	t'úk'[í]ré	gífínì:ré
223	<i>rain</i>	ʔà ^w ʃà	ʔà ^w ʃà
224	<i>rainbow</i>	hár[ʔ]é dí ^w kà	ʔíkédá
159	<i>rat</i>	ʔì:ns'á	ʔì:ns'á
243	<i>red</i>	bìrá	bìrá
123	<i>rest V</i>	kàʃíré	kàʃéré
276	<i>right</i>	k'àn:á	k'àn[:]á
071	<i>ripe</i>	[kás'íré]	kás'ká
228	<i>river</i>	hòk:á	fòk:á
317	<i>road</i>	wè:r ^h á	wè:ríndà
053	<i>root</i>	s'àp':à	s'àp':à
055	<i>rope</i>	dʒók:à	dʒók:à
072	<i>rotten</i>	ʔòk'ìsóní	ʔòk'ík'á
122	<i>run</i>	wòts'íré	wòts'íré
015	<i>saliva</i>	s'úd[:]à	s'údà
197	<i>salt</i>	bè:dá	bè:rá
212	<i>sand</i>	ʃíjà	ʃíjà
037	<i>sandals</i>	[ʃà:p:á]	nèt'èlà tʃ'à:m:á
116	<i>say</i>	ʔét[:]íré	ʔétíré
161	<i>scorpion</i>	ʔòk'òlíʃà	ʔòk'òlíʃà
320e	<i>scratch V</i>	k'ùs'íré	k'ùs'íré
023	<i>see</i>	s'ílíré	s'ílíré
058	<i>seed</i>	ʃò:kà	ʃò:kà
218	<i>sell</i>	kémíré	kém:ré
102	<i>seven</i>	ʃàwá:tà	ʃèwá:tà
168	<i>sew</i>	ʃìpré	[gàwnà]
248	<i>sharp</i>	ʃàʃà	ʃàʃ[ì] dèsoní
254	<i>shield</i>	gè:pà	gè:pà
264	<i>short</i>	k'à ^w nà	k'à ^w nà
027	<i>shoulder</i>	mà:ngìrá	mà:ngìrá
091	<i>sick, be</i>	ʃò:díré	ʃò:díré
215	<i>silver</i>	ʔàmbà:rà	ʔàmbà:rà
009	<i>sing</i>	dù:bíré	dù:bíré
124	<i>sister</i>	mì:ʃàní	mìʃà
195	<i>sit</i>	bè:hèré	bè:ré

101	<i>six</i>	ʃírtá	ʃírítà
042	<i>skin</i>	gò:k'à	gò:k'à
236	<i>sky</i>	dàrá, dèrá	dàrá
307	<i>sleep</i>	k'èhèré, k'è ^h ré	k'è:[h]ré
266	<i>small</i>	múk'à	múk'à
020	<i>smell</i>	ʃì:k'íré	ʃì:ŋk'éré
204	<i>smoke N</i>	s'íwà	s'íwá
208	<i>smooth</i>	ʔànk'à	nèfá
158	<i>snake</i>	dàwzà	dàwúnzà
090	<i>sneeze</i>	hét':íʃíré	hédíʃíré
280	<i>soft</i>	ʔáŋkà	nèfnèfá
252	<i>spear</i>	gín:à	gínà
140	<i>spider</i>	ʃèránì	ʃàràrít ^{já}
089	<i>spit</i>	s'úd:íré	s'úd:íré
196	<i>stand</i>	ʔè:díré	nè:dédé
239	<i>star</i>	k'è:ná	k'è:nà [sic]
075	<i>steal</i>	ʔù:p'íré	ʔù:mp'éré
206	<i>stick</i>	gùmbà	gùmbà
207	<i>stone</i>	ʃú ^w sà	ʃú ^w sà
193	<i>stool</i>	dò:h[ò]rá	dʒò:rà
261	<i>straight</i>	káw[ó]ná	ká:wà [sic]
240	<i>sun</i>	ʔà:wà	ʔà:wà
016	<i>sweat</i>	s'à:dà	s'à:zà
190	<i>sweep</i>	hòk:íré	fòk:íré
163	<i>swim</i>	wà:kíré	wà:kíré
134	<i>tail</i>	dúʃà	dúʃà
185	<i>take</i>	dèk'íré	dèk'íré
125	<i>teach</i>	dànjìré	dànjìré
025	<i>tear N</i>	ʔá:tʃ'úwá	ʔá:tʃ'úwá
105	<i>ten</i>	tátsà	tátsà
141	<i>termite</i>	ʔàmbúk'à	hà:mbúk'à
142	<i>termite hill</i>	dú:nk'ír ^h á	dùŋk'ùrsà
286	<i>that</i>	ʔék:èwí	ʔék:èwí
313	<i>they</i>	bó:ná	bó:ná
267	<i>thick</i>	ʔò:wá	s'à:dà
038	<i>thigh</i>	ʃók:á, ʃiyá	ʃók:à [sic]
268	<i>thin</i>	k'àtʃ'ínà	t'ídzá
109	<i>think</i>	gúríré	ʔàsàbéré
285	<i>this</i>	hání	hání

049	<i>thorn</i>	ʔàŋgítsà	ʔàŋgítsà
166	<i>thread</i>	hùl:á	fùl:á
098	<i>three</i>	kè:zà	kè:zà
253	<i>throw</i>	ʃàp' [í]ré	ʃàp' íré
226	<i>thunder</i>	múr ^h à	ʔà ^w ʃí bàrk[']à
167	<i>tie</i>	típ:è:r é	típ:è:r é
065	<i>tobacco</i>	tùmbá:kà	tùmbá:kà
014	<i>tongue</i>	ʔàlbé:rà	ʔàlbé:rà
013	<i>tooth</i>	gáʃà	gáʃà
050	<i>tree</i>	mít:à	mít:à
106	<i>twenty</i>	hì:já	hì:já
097	<i>two</i>	gít:á	gít:á
283	<i>up</i>	dàmbí mà:ndà	dàmbá
087	<i>vomit</i>	t'ò:ʃíré	t'ò:ʃíré
121	<i>walk</i>	bít:íwón ʔámré	bít:ífónì ʔám[í]ré
183	<i>want</i>	gé:hr é	gé:r é
255	<i>war</i>	kès' à	kès' à
320f	<i>warm A</i>	k'è:s' à	k'è:s' à
231	<i>water</i>	ʔà:tsà	ʔà:tsà
311	<i>we</i>	nò:ná	nò:ná
112	<i>wedding</i>		wà:mítʃá
068	<i>weed N</i>	ʃós' à	sós' à
024	<i>weep</i>	ʔè:píré	ʔè:píré
232	<i>well N</i>	ʔà:ts t'úp' à, s'ès' á	
297	<i>wet</i>	mò[t]sá	mòtsá
289	<i>what?</i>	[ʔègóʃà]	ʔégòní
290	<i>when?</i>	ʔá ^w ré	ʔá ^w ré
292	<i>where?</i>	ʔá:ké	ʔá:kíná
008	<i>whistle V</i>	ʃú:t' ír:é	ʃú:t' íré
241	<i>white</i>	nès' á	nàs' á
287	<i>who?</i>	kòní	kòní
288	<i>whose?</i>	kòní kè	kòní kè
295	<i>why?</i>	ʔè'í gíʃè	ʔè'í góʃè
259	<i>wide</i>	gàwnà	gàwnà
114	<i>wife</i>	métsì	má:tsà
221	<i>wind</i>	jòŋgà	jòŋgà
154	<i>wing</i>	bàngá	bàngá
110	<i>woman</i>	má:sà	má:[t]sà
138	<i>worm</i>	ʃìp:ìrá	ʃìp:ìrá [sic]

References

Astonishingly, there is quite a number of publications on the Shinasha language, although the region was nearly inaccessible in the past decades. However, most of the authors in the Shinasha language have gathered their linguistic material in Addis or in Nairobi, through informants not living in the Shinasha-speaking area.

Plazikowski-Brauner does not mention the informant who supplied her data, nor does she identify the locality. Ashenafi received his information from students at the Addis Ababa University. Rottland got his data from a Shinasha speaker in Nairobi. Under similar circumstances, Lamberti received his material in Addis Ababa.

For this reason, information about the sociolinguistic situation is practically nonexistent. The survey in that region has made it possible to fill this gap to some extent.

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