

**Initial SLLE Survey of the Zway Area**

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## 1 Introduction

This report presents findings from a short visit to a settlement of Zway speakers west of Asella at the shores of Lake Zway. The first results will be presented here without interpretation.\*

*Zway (Lak'i)* is a language which is comparatively well-researched, with the exception of its sociolinguistic aspects and its developments during recent decades.

The survey team gratefully acknowledges the help which was given by various individuals and the administrative offices concerned: We appreciated the preparation of explanatory letters by Ato Katamaa Wayyeessaa and his V.P. office staff (The Oromiya Council, Addis Ababa); the directions from Ato Abote of the Showa Administration (Zway), and the enjoyable hospitality and help from the school director Getachew Eshetu Belachew and his staff at the shores of Lake Zway: The data were provided by Beriso Sado Bedecha. We also appreciated the linguistic help which we received from the *Silt'e* dictionary team, who took time to prepare a *Silt'e* word list to facilitate lexical comparisons: thanks to Eeva Gutt and Hussein Mohammed.

## 2 Update: Population Estimates

The teachers Getachew Eshetu Belachew and Beriso Sado Bedecha provided estimates about the Zway-speaking population. The figures are those of the following sketch map; the total comes to a little less than 4000 speakers.

*On the shores:*

Herera Mendoyu: 30 Zway speakers

Mek'i town: 300 Zway speakers

Woch'eessa area: 1000 Zway speakers

Zway town: 100 Zway speakers

*On the islands:*

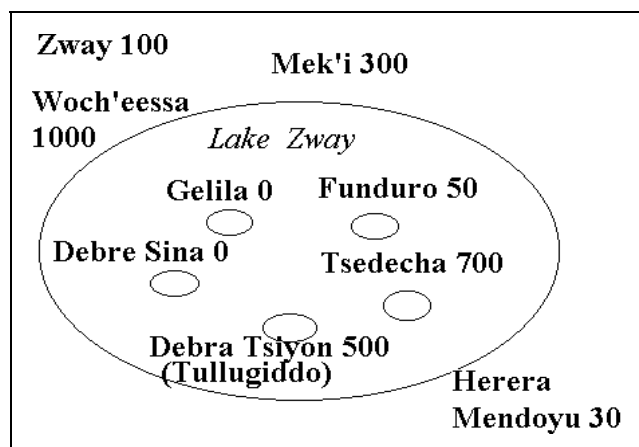
Funduro: 50 Zway speakers

Tsedecha: 700 speakers

Debre Tsiyon (Tullugiddo): 500 Zway speakers

Debre Sina: none

Gelila: none



*Zway (Lak'i)*-speaking areas: sketch and figures  
(based on a sketch by Beriso Sado Bedecha)

\*An earlier version of this report appeared in Survey of Little-known Languages of Ethiopia S.L.L.E. Linguistic Report 14, January 1994. Addis Ababa: Institute of Ethiopian Studies and Summer Institute of Linguistics.

### 3 The 320-Item SLLE Word List on *Zway*, Provided by Beriso Sado Bedecha, with *Silt'e* Entries Provided by Eeva Gutt and Hussein Mohammed

No.	English Gloss	Silt'e	Zway
320.	all	(h)ul:	hul:umanı
326.	and	-wa:	wa
129.	animal	di:nat / bisa:wa / giza:t	gıza:t
137.	ant	go:nda/go:nde	tıfa:ʃu
251.	arrow	?	t'ılo
205.	ashes	amad	ʔaməd
118.	ask, she asks	tasa:la	təsa:lənu
327.	at	ba-	ja ji
051.	axe	kalta	ʃıbat:a
032.	back	tʃ'in / antʃ'e	mıskət
257.	bad	bo:z	bad:u
182.	banana	mu:z	mu:z
179.	bark, it barks	nok'e	ʔu:nba:lo
052.	bark, of tree	lit'a:tʃ'e	lit
056.	basket	k'artʃ'a:t	k'urk'u
135.	bat	tʃ'alas / ja:ro:t unf	ja:ru:t 'unf
304.	bathe, he bathes	tara:t'a	təra:t'anu
113.	bear, she b. a child	tʃ'e:ne	tʃ'ıq:ıtunu
018.	beard, cf. chin	kintʃif	ʔareda
144.	beehive	k'afo	ga:gura
029.	belly	dal	dad
265.	big	ja:ro:re / gido:n (tall)	gıd:ir
152.	bird	unf	ʔu:nf
181.	bite, verb	/ vt. / nakasa	nakasanu
242.	black	t'e:m	gambalə
046.	blood	dam	dəm
007.	blow, he blows	nofe / foge / uf: ba:la	ufumbaləw
044.	bone	at'm	ʔat'ım
250.	bow, see arrow	?	-
028.	breast	t'ub	t'ub
230.	bridge	zara:m:a	-
120.	brother	ji:ndat lidʒ / ma:t'a / wa:dʒi	ʔu:n
246.	brown	da:ma / ka:ra	bun:am:a
171.	buffalo	rafazo	goʃ
200.	burn, it burns	/ vi. / nadada	nədədənu
048.	bush	?	-
033.	buttocks	fo:do	moʔo
217.	buy, he buys	vt. / wakaba	wəwhəb
229.	canoe	safi:na / markab	dʒəlba
174.	cat	adan	ʔadur:u
151.	chicken	intʃ'a:k'o	ʔınta:k'u

126.	chief	wa:dʒi	-
119.	child	tʃ'u:lo	baju
017.	chin	gu:ntʃ'a	ʔareda
153.	claw	tʃ'a:fla	-
211.	clay	afar / ʃirk'a (fresh dung)	ʃirk'a
296.	clothing	liba:s	lɪba:ʃa
222.	cloud	dabana	da:bana
202.	cold, adjective	barad	bara:du
203.	cold, of weather	bird	k'or:a
180.	come, it comes	mat'a	mət'a:nu
081.	cook, cooks food	/ vt. / dʒe:re	ʔabasaltunu
088.	cough, he coughs	/ vi. / sinababa	ʔux:anba:lo
184.	count, c. the bananas	/ vt. / e:lak'a	jilək'ənu
148.	cow	la:m	la:mun
169.	crocodile	az:o	ʔaz:o
262.	crooked	muk:	t'ama:ma
084.	cup	si:n	kək:ob:ə
074.	cut, he cuts meat	/ vt. / k'o:tʃ'e	k'o:tʃ'in
010.	dance, he dances	/ vi. / ʃe:bala / tafe:k'ara	təf k'ərənu
227.	dew	loja	fit'ensa
093.	die, he dies	/ vi. / mo:ta	mo:tanu
062.	dig, he digs	/ vt. / kare	k'umfərənu
299.	dirty, of clothing	nit'r	nət'aru
176.	dog	butʃo	gʊŋi
149.	donkey	uma:r	ʔuma:r
189.	door, see gate	wazgab	gɪfit'
284.	down	kolo	wəst'
083.	drink, he drinks	/ vt. / satʃe	sat:ʃi
011.	drum	karabo	ʔarabu
298.	dry, of clothing	darak'	dərək'
249.	dull	durzuz	du:ma
213.	dust	tib:a	ʔaʃəwaj
004.	ear	izn	ʔizɪn
209.	earth, ground	datʃ:i	leɪm
082.	eat, he eats	/ vt. / bala	bələn
078.	egg	bu:b:a	ʔɪnk'ak'u
103.	eight	sum:ut:	sum:utɪn
035.	elbow	kirma:jo	tʃɪkɪlə
302.	empty	go:fa	gu:funu
191.	enter, e. the house	/ vi. / gaba	gaba:nu
192.	exit, e. the house	/ vi. / wat'a	wət'a:nu
022.	eye	i:n	ʔin
021.	eyebrow	k'irb	kɪfkiɪt
092.	fall, he falls down	/ vi. / wadak'a	wədəkənu
057.	farm, field	/ vt. (field) / arasa	ʔurawʃa
077.	fat, grease	tʃ'o:ma / mo:ra	tʃ'o:ma, mo:ra
115.	father	abot / a:b:o	ʔa:bu

170.	fear	fira:tʃ:e / farna:tʃ:e ...	wəfɪrt
155.	feather	zo:rɔ / k'osa	bɑ:lɛ
318.	fence	int'irat	ʔat'ɪri
282.	few	t'i:t'	t'it
256.	fight, he fights	/ vi. / ti:dʒaadʒe / taʃe:nana	tət'ɔ:lunu
041.	fingernail	t'ifr	kɪnd
199.	fire	dʒira	dʒɪra
162.	fish	k'urt'um:e/k'urtʃ'um:e	tulum ʔ jɪtulum mərəb
163.	fishnet	tʃa:tʃ:a:t	wa:kanaɪ
100.	five	am:ist	ʔam:ɪstɪn:
069.	flower	ʒe:l	ʔaba:bo
139.	fly, insect	zinb/zimb	zɪmb
156.	fly, it flies	barara	bərəranu
095.	fool	gaw:a	bu:z
036.	foot	ingir	ʔɪŋgɪr
040.	forearm	indʒi / arak'	ʔarəki
003.	forehead	k'afat	k'əfət
099.	four	arɑ:t:	ʔarɪt:
165.	frog	unk'ura:ri:t/ink'ura:ri:t	ʔɪnk'urarɪt
070.	fruit	fɪre / so:bla / busi	fɪri
303.	full	mul:a	mulɪnu
130.	fur	t'igar	jəbɪnɪnsɑ dɑb:asə
300.	garbage	hu:ra	-
319.	gate, see also door	bar	-
076.	give, gives to me	/ vt. / wa:ba	wa:bɑnu
321.	go	he:da / asma:da (step)	ʔasɑ:mɑdanu
146.	goat	fe:k'	ʒɪk'
127.	God	ɑ:lɑ/ɑ:lɑh /ɑ:lɑhɑ	ʔɪgʒer
214.	gold	wark'	tɪb:a
258.	good	fɑ:ʒɑ / be:zɑ	bəʒɑ
085.	gourd	k'ula / ank'ula	hul:e
066.	grass	sɑ:r	sɪr
094.	grave	k'abr	k'ɑbɪr
244.	green	(cabbage) / aml dana	ʔarəŋgwɑde
031.	guts	dalmu:t / maratʃ'ɪe	mərətʃ'
001.	hair of head	dum	dəb:esɑ
039.	hand	indʒi	ʔarəki
279.	hard	dɑrɑk' (tough) / t'arɑ:ɪ	t'əbɑ:k'u
059.	harvest, noun	ɑzmɑ:rɑ	ʔɑzɑmərə
310.	he	uɦɑ	ʔutɔ
002.	head	dum	ʔohɑt
005.	hear; he, it hears	/ vi. / sɑmɑ	səməhən
045.	heart	wɑzɑnɑ	wəzɑnɑ
269.	heavy	ɑbɑ:dɔ/hɑbɑ:dɔ	hɑbɑ:du
293.	here	(h)ɪ:nku	bɪdʒɪ
079.	hide, hides egg	ʃe:me	ʃɪmɪnɑ
150.	hit, h. the donkey	/ vt. / wɑk'ɑ	wɔk'ən

061.	hoe	jak'o:fiaro kalta	do:ma
186.	hold, h. the bananas	/ vt. / e:nza	?inzənu
145.	honey	t'igaj	t'əgej
143.	honeybee	inza:t	ɪndʒa:t
147.	horn	k'ar	k'or
201.	hot, of water	mu:k'	mu:k'un
188.	house	gɑ:r	gɑ:r
294.	how?	ajnako	?ajku
107.	hundred	bak':il	bək'ɪl
080.	hungry, is hungry	go:ro e:nzaj / ra:baj	rabejnu
132.	hunt, he hunts	/ vt. / watʃ:e ba:la	?adamsɪnsa:no
131.	hunter	watʃ:a:no	?adamo
175.	hyena	wara:ba	bɪnensa
308.	I	ihe / ije	?eja
316.	jump, he jumps	/ vi. / sarara	k'ənət'anu
160.	kill, snake k. rat	/ vt. / k'atala	k'atʃinu
034.	knee	birk	gʊlbət
247.	knife	golo:do / maʃ:a (big knife)	maʃ:a
322.	know	tʃa:la	tʃa:lənu
235.	lake	danbal / maj	maj 'aba:sa
086.	laugh, he laughs	/ vi. / sa:k'a	sa:k'an
054.	leaf	tʃ'a:f	k'ɪtəj
275.	left, left side	gura	gra
173.	leopard	nawr	k'eransa
305.	lie, he lies down	/ vi. / re:bata / ije	?ɪjɪnu
270.	light, not heavy	k'ali:lo	k'əl:a:lu
225.	lightning	bilik':it / t'a:t	bɪr:ək'at
012.	lip	gɪrtʃ'e	lɛfɪlɛf
177.	listen, see hear	at'na:ba	?at'əna:banu
047.	liver	kabd	gʊb:ot
263.	long	gudar / gido:r	gudər
136.	louse	k'uma:l	k'uma:j
060.	machete, see knife	tabatʃ:e / zartzara	wənaget'
064.	maize	bok':o:l:ɔ	(?)ma:ʃɪl:a
194.	make, m. a stool	abe:ʒe / ak'ana	səranu
108.	man	sab / mi:ʃ	səb
281.	many	bal:a / biʒ:	bɪzɪnu
219.	market	gabaja	gəbəja
111.	marry, he m.	agaba	nək'ələnu
073.	meat	basar	bəsər
216.	money	di:nat / bir:	bɪr
172.	monkey	dʒa:ndʒe:ro	dʒaldes:a
238.	moon	wari	t'ɪrk'a
117.	mother	indat / a:d:e	?a:jɪ
220.	mountain	wandaban	sarɪ
006.	mouth	af	?afɪn
210.	mud	tʃ'ik'a	dət:ʃɪ

128.	name	sum	sɪm
260.	narrow	t'uk':	t'aba:bu
030.	navel	utb	ha'nu:ra
026.	neck, nape	girdid (nape) / angat	ʔangət
157.	nest	ju:nf ga:r	jəwənf ga:r
272.	new	adʒis	wəjra
237.	night	aro:t / miʃe:t	mɪʃit
104.	nine	zi:t'əŋ:e	zət'əŋ:in
278.	no, see none	alo:na /e:la / ba:j /inko ...	-ʔil:o
274.	none, there is not	ad:im / ad:im e:la	ʔil:o
019.	nose	barbare	nɪfɪt'
271.	old, not new	ra:ga	mɔ:fa
096.	one	(h)ad:	had:
323.	other	gana	-
187.	path, see way	unga	ʔununga
133.	pig	iraja	boj:ə
063.	plant, plants seed	/ vt. / k'abara	tʃihalənu
198.	pot	waʃo	ʔoʃərbət:
301.	pour, he pours water	/ vt. / k'ada	k'adanu
315.	pull, he pulls	/ vt. / zamada	za:fanu
314.	push, he pushes	/ vt. / gafa	gafanu
223.	rain	zila:m	zɪnab
224.	rainbow	samaj dink'o	jɪmajram dunkut
159.	rat	ufr	ʔufur
243.	red	buʃa	k'ojɪ
123.	rest, he rests	/ vi. / afo:je	ʔafowin
276.	right, right side	k'əni:t	k'əŋɪt
071.	ripe	busl / jadʒe:dʒe	jədʒidʒ
228.	river	mi:de	wənz
317.	road, see also path	mawt'a	-
053.	root	sir	sɪr
055.	rope	wadaro	fɪfɪt
072.	rotten	mit'amat'a	jət'ik'
122.	run, he runs	/ vi. / raw:at'a	bararanu
015.	saliva	mirak'	mɪrək'
197.	salt	asabo	ʔasob
212.	sand	fɪʃa:ra	ʃək'la
037.	sandals	aʃna / nat'ala tʃ'a:m:a	ʔaʃɪn
116.	say, he says	/ vi. / ba:la	ba:lənu
161.	scorpion	(no word for scorpion)	-
324.	scratch, he s. himself	ankaka	ʔankakanu
023.	see, he sees	/ vt. / anʒe	ʔirinu
058.	seed	fire	səŋ:
218.	sell, he sells	/ vt. / awakaba	tʃ'igaranu
102.	seven	sa:bt	sa:bitɪn
168.	sew, he sews	/ vt. / safe/sofe	safanu
248.	sharp, sharp edge	buli	bɪl

254.	shield	agre	wontəj
264.	short	antf'ir	?antfɪr
027.	shoulder	gotatf'e	k'oru
091.	sick, he is sick	antf'e:j / ta:ntf'e	tidabanu
215.	silver	bir:	k'ərʃɪ bɪr:
009.	sing, he sings	/ vt. / ʃe:bala/ʒe:hara/zak:ara	zəmərānu
124.	sister	ji:dat garad/wa:ʃt/ma:t'e:t	?u:t
195.	sit	/ vi. / tago:bala	təgo:binu
101.	six	sid:i:st	sɪd:ɪstɪn
042.	skin	goga	t'ɪfɪr
236.	sky	samaj	səmaj
307.	sleep, he sleeps	/ vi. / iʃne	?ɪʃɪnu
266.	small	k'al:	t'it
020.	smell, smells flower	/ vt. / aso:ntʃe / aga:na	?asu:ntʃɪnu
204.	smoke, of fire	tan	tan
208.	smooth, see soft	luz:ub	ləum
158.	snake	inba:b / imba:b	dʒa:na wuru
090.	sneeze, he sneezes	/ vi. / ant'iʃ: ba:la	?at:ɪʃo:nba:lə
280.	soft	lumlum	-
252.	spear	k'alat'	bɪrət
140.	spider	ɪʃe:t	ɪnʃərɪt
089.	spit, he spits	tuf ba:la	tufɪnba:lə
196.	stand	/ vi. / k'a:nana	k'a:nənənu
239.	star	kalbaʒo	ko:kəbi
075.	steal, steals meat	/ vt. / sarak'a	sərək'ənu
206.	stick	bart	bərt
207.	stone	u:n	?umun
193.	stool	bortf'im:a / wanbar	wəmbərūnu
261.	straight	sut: / biz:it	bəsɪ:r:u
240.	sun	ajr	?arid
016.	sweat	wuza:t/uza:t	wɪz
190.	sweep, s. the house	/ vt. / ansasa	?ansasanu
164.	swim, it swims	/ vi. / wa:tʃe	-
134.	tail	fa:tʃo	gu:ŋə
185.	take, t. the bananas	/ vt. / wasada / nak'ala	nək'ələnu
125.	teach, t. the child	/ vt. / ak'ara / atma:ra	?atma:rən
025.	tear, of eye	inb	?ɪmb
105.	ten	as:ir	?as:ɪrɪn
141.	termite	k'ina:wre	?onət
142.	termite hill	ko:j:a	gulman:a
286.	that	at:a:j/hat:a:j / (h)aji:	ja:haj
313.	they	uhnu/uhun	?ɪnəmu
267.	thick	magari	zu:r:a
038.	thigh	wudr/udr	gud:eda
268.	thin	k'atf'i:n	k'ət:ʃɪn
109.	think, he thinks	/ vt. / at'ra:mata / as:aba	wus:əb
285.	this	(h)it:a:j/ (h)i:	?ɪxi, 'ɪhi

049.	thorn	iso:k	ʔusu:fu
166.	thread	kir:	kɪr
098.	three	ʃe:ʃt	-ʃeʃt
253.	throw, he t. the spear	/ vt. / wuro:ra/uro:ra	wərawəɾ
226.	thunder	gurt	gʊmɡʊm:at
167.	tie, t. the thread	/ vt. / agada	ta:gadanu
065.	tobacco	tunba:k:o/tumba:k:o	tɪmba:hu
014.	tongue	aramat	ʔaramat
013.	tooth	isn	sɪn
050.	tree	int'	want'a
106.	twenty	kuja	huja:n
097.	two	(h)o:ʃt	hojt
283.	up	dar:a	dər
087.	vomit, he vomits	/ vi. / at:o:fe	ʔat:ifa:nu
121.	walk, he walks	/ vi. / asma:da	ʔasu: madanu
183.	want, w. bananas	/ vt. / kaʃe	fa:ʃ'ɪ
255.	war	arb	sɪna:n
325.	warm, see hot	mu:k'	muk'
231.	water	maj	maj
311.	we, exclusive	ɪɲa	ɪɲato
112.	wedding	bol:otʃ:o	tʃ'ɪða
068.	weed, the weed	arama	ʔarama
024.	weep, he weeps	/ vi. / batʃe	bətʃɪnu
232.	well, of water	buk'o	burk'ɪtu
297.	wet, of clothing	busk' / ru:s	ʔurt'ub
289.	what?	min	mɪna:l
290.	when?	matʃe	mətʃɪ
292.	where?	ajne	ba:ɲi
008.	whistle, he whistles	/ vi. / fe:lak'a	fɪk'sɪn sano
241.	white	gumara	ɡo:marɑ
287.	who?	ma:	ma:nu:ta
288.	whose?	jama	jəma:nu:ta
295.	why?	lamin	ləmɪn
259.	wide	fat:	səfi
114.	wife, see woman	mɪʃt	jəɡa:rajɪ
221.	wind	nifa:s	nɪfas
154.	wing	k'osa	kɪf
110.	woman, see wife	mɪʃt	set:ʃa
138.	worm	tuli	tul
306.	yawn, he yawns	/ vi. / la:be ba:la	ʔala:babanu
245.	yellow	(no word for yellow)	bo:ra
277.	yes	a:wo / jahun / jawn	ʔo:
291.	yesterday	tartʃe:na	ta:ʃɪna
312.	you pl.	atum	ʔatumu
309.	you sg, m	ata	ʔata