

Yami (Tao) Dictionary

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Introduction

Yami (Tao) Dictionary is an English translation of the Chinese version, compiled by Maa-Neu Dong, Victoria Rau, and Ann Hui-Huan Chang. The Chinese version of the dictionary was completed with a Yami dictionary project grant awarded to Victoria Rau and Maa-Neu Dong by the Council of the Indigenous Peoples, Executive Yuan, Taiwan from July 1, 2007- June 30, 2009. The dictionary project¹ was carried out with the assistance of our research team, consisting of Meng-Chien Yang, Ann Hui-Huan Chang, Hui-Shiuan Guo, Yin-Sheng Tai and Chia-Ying Tseng at Providence University, and two Yami language consultants, Yong-Quan Xie and Xi-Yue Zeng, on Orchid Island. A Yami learning dictionary and a Yami culture dictionary were produced at the end of the first year and second year of the project, respectively, in the process of building the lexical database. The current dictionary is a carefully revised version of the Yami culture dictionary (unpublished monograph). In the English translation and proofreading we were assisted by Daniel E. Rau and Gerald A. Rau.

This dictionary aims to provide Yami lexical data and audio/video information for Austronesian linguistics researchers and language learners. It contains 6,028 lexical entries, including 2,118 roots and 3,910 derived words. There are two parts of the dictionary: Yami-Chinese and Yami-English. The data were drawn primarily from the 44 selected texts video-taped, transcribed, and translated into Chinese by the Yami consultants, and from the supplemental texts gathered for the ELDP project (2005-2007) awarded to Victoria Rau and Meng-Chien Yang to produce Yami digital archiving documentation² and Yami e-Learning.³ For Yami cultural information, we consulted publications by Yami authors and Journals of the Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica for information on anthropology, ethnobiology and the ecology of Marine creatures on Orchid Island. All lexical items were entered into a Toolbox database and output using Lexique Pro for dictionary formatting. All the example sentences were revised or rewritten from the texts. An English index is placed at the end. There is also a CD to go with this dictionary, containing audio recordings of all the lexical entries and example sentences in three accents: Iraralay, Ivalino, and Iratay.

A detailed description of the Yami grammar can be found in Victoria Rau and Maa-Neu Dong's *Yami Texts with Reference Grammar and Dictionary* (2006), Language and Linguistics, Special Monograph A-10, Taipei: Academia Sinica.

¹ The information on our dictionary project is available from the Yami online dictionary website (<http://yamibow.cs.pu.edu.tw>).

² <http://yamiproject.cs.pu.edu.tw/yami>

³ <http://yamiproject.cs.pu.edu.tw/elearn>

How to use this dictionary

This dictionary is organized in English alphabetical order. The velar nasal /ng/ is ordered behind /n/. The glottal stop, represented by /ʔ/, is listed at the very end. Each lexical entry is represented by its root. If the root/stem can be used independently as a word, it is followed by its pronunciation⁴ in square brackets, its word class, glossary, and an example sentence. The verbs after the auxiliaries *ji* “not, indeed” and *to* “just, then” undergo morphophonemic alternations. Thus, the auxiliary, such as *ji*, is listed after the verb in parentheses. For example,

tayo [tayo] *v.* hide. **angay tayo do pazezevengan ito.** Go hide near the door.

nayo (ji) [náyo] *v.* (not) hide. **ka ji nayo?** Are you not going to hide?

tayoen [tayo]en *v.* hide. **tayo**en mo do alavat mo. Hide it in your pocket.

tomayo [tomayo] *v.* hide. **tomayo ka do likod no pazezevengan.** Hide behind the door.

The word classes in Yami contain the following categories: verbs, nouns, pronouns, deictics, exclamations, adverbs, linking words, conjunctions, particles, auxiliaries, and onomatopoeic words. Pronouns and deictics distinguish case markings, such as nominative, genitive, oblique, and locative. First person plural pronouns distinguish inclusive and exclusive forms.

The majority of the roots are free. When a root is bound, it is preceded by a dash. For example,

-sdep [sdep] *enter.*

asdep [ásdep] *v.* enter. **asdep jito.** Please come in. Come in from over there.

mandep [mandep] *v.* break in. **mandep so kavahayan a manakaw.** (He) broke into someone’s house to steal.

sdepan [sdepan] *N.* front porch. **kavias na rana do sdepan.** Then he cleaned the front porch.

⁴ The pronunciation gives information on the stress pattern if the stress does not fall on the last syllable. Otherwise, the information in the square brackets is the same phonemic transcription as the orthography.

Phonological variations of /ay/ and /aw/ are represented by their variant forms. For example,

akay [akay] Variant: **akey**. *N.* grandfather. **ya nimai si akay**. Grandfather is here.

Homophones are represented by subscripts, while different senses of the same word are listed with preceding numbers. For example,

araw₁ [araw] *N.* 1 • sun. **ya teymavalang o araw**. The sun is too strong. **ya rako o araw**

siciaraw ya. The sun is bright today.

2 • day. **araw no niai ko sio**. The day that I came. **ikadoa na araw**. The second day.

araw₂ [araw] a festival day during flying fish season.

araw₃ [araw] move the coals.

Yami Orthography

There are twenty consonants (Table 1), four vowels and four diphthongs (Table 2) in Yami. All the symbols in the tables represent standard Yami orthography.

Table 1: Classification of Yami consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Stop	p, b	t	d		k, g		'
Fricative	v		s			h	
Nasal	m	n			ng		
Liquid		l	r				
Affricate				c, j			
Trill		z					
Glide	w			y			

Table 2: Classification of Yami vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		o
Mid		e	
Low		a	
Diphthong	ay, aw, oy, iw		

1.1. Stops

	Initial	Medial	Final
p	pongso (island)	apo (grandchild)	sakop (cap)
b	beken (not)	abo (not exist)	aob (smoke)
t	tao (people)	mata (eye)	annget (sweat)
d	doa (two)	momodan (nose)	ilaod (Taiwan)
k	kaka (older sibling)	akes (grandmother)	anak (child)
g	gomcin (descend)	man-gegen (build)	ariag (eat breakfast)
'	'okso (jump)	man'acing (tie/trip)	

1.2. Nasals

Initial	Medial	Final
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m	mehakay (male)	somdep (enter)	minom (drink)
n	nohon (okay)	ina (mother)	cinon (weave)
ng	ngepen (tooth)	mangay (go)	dengdeng (cook)

1.3. Fricatives

	Initial	Medial	Final
v	vato (stone)	mivatek (carve)	
s	soli (taro)	asa (one)	akas (drop)
r	rarakeh (old people)	ciring (language)	
h		mehakay (male)	mitkeh (sleep)

1.4. Liquids, affricates, and trills

	Initial	Medial	Final
l	lima (hand)	irala (Orchid Island)	tagakal (porch)
c	cita (see)	macimoy (rain)	
j	jino (where)	manowji (last)	
z	zaka (agate necklace)	zezak (shine)	tawaz (fish net)

1.5. Glides

	Initial	Medial	Final
w	wawa (sea)	miwalam (play, rest)	araw (sun, day)
y	yaken (I)	ayoy (thanks)	wakay (sweet potato)

1.6. Vowels

	Initial	Medial	Final
i	ikongo (what)	makcin (hungry)	mai (come)
o	oo (head)	tokon (mountain)	sino (who)
e	esem (<i>Begonia fenicis</i>)	sesdepan (front porch)	
a	apia (good)	kagagan (friend)	lisna (sit)