

Lexicon

Phonology

The Romanization of NGB, with its fairly restricted inventory, is as follows:

a - e/ə <e> - f - h - i - k - l - m - n - o - p - s - ʃ <sh> - t - ts - u - ʊ <ï> - v - j <y> - z - ʔ <'>

Word-final <e> is normally schwa, but read as /e/ when following a vowel in word-final position or when finally stressed. Initial or medial forms are /e/, with the exception of unstressed final syllables with the structure CeC, where it is to be read as schwa. They can therefore be Romanized with the same letter <e> (or é when stressed).

The <ts> is an affricate and counted a single consonant. The [ɭ] is dark [ɫ] after a back vowel (i, u, o).

Vowel hiatus is very widespread and accepted in NGB. Vowel sequences are always to be read as separate syllables, not as diphthongs.

Lexicon

'ashili

v

[ʔa.'ʃi.li] (*ʔaʂel)

Love, adore. Used for romantic love as well as lesser varieties. As an experiencer verb, nominal objects are treated as oblique.

#verb

#experiencer

'eya

v

[ʔeja] (*ʔaco)

1. **Get, take, obtain.**
2. **Harvest, gather.** This is the original meaning, which was extended to a more general "getting" after the semantic shift of [anó](#).

The verb is quite irregular, with the perfective form being 'ashó.

#verb

#transitive

'otsa

n

[ʔotsa] (*ʔostso)

Eye. This noun has no paucal or plural in use, but uses the fossilized dual instead (see forms below).

du. *ʔotsoyo*

#noun

'utu

n

[ʔutu] (*iʔot)

1. **Head.** Used for humans and animals alike.
2. **Peak.** Of mountains and similar.
3. **Tip, point.** The extreme or end of a long structure or object. Does not need to imply sharpness, although it can.

pc. *iʔoyi* (irreg.), pl. *iʔofá*

#noun

'uva

v

[ʔuva] (*ʔopo)

1. **Throw, cast, toss.**
2. **Present, show.**
3. **Submit, transfer, hand over.**

#verb

ala

v

[ʔala] (*aʔle)

Sense. Used in a general way for various senses: feeling, hearing, smelling, tasting. Rarely, however, of sight.

#verb

anó

v

[aʔno] (*anos)

1. **Carry, bear.** Semantically shifted from the proto-Kolpic meaning "get, take" (see ['eya](#)).
2. **Wear.** Of clothing, tools, etc.

#verb

ao

n

[ʼao](ʼ*ao)

Life, existence. The animating principle. Sometimes also used by extension to mean "the whole world, the universe".

It is treated as an abstract (singular) noun and cannot be pluralized.

#noun

así

dem

[aʼsi] (ʼ*asem)

This, these. The proximal demonstrative. Pl. *semá*.

#dem

asishi

v

[aʼsifi] (ʼ*asiə)

1. **Give.** The recipient is marked with the *si* oblique marker.
2. **Cede, surrender.** Only used (di)transitively. The person(s) surrendered to are marked oblique, the surrendered object (which can be oneself) accusative.
3. **Provide, deliver.** Used in the context of shipping, providing for a family, and similar senses of the transport of wanted or needed goods.
4. **Concede, admit.** Used in the same way as (2), but the argument surrendered is a complement clause (and naturally not case marked). It still requires an oblique nominal argument.

Note that this verb is irregular:

IPFV: *asifi*

NTR: *asishme*

PFV: *sishí*

PF: *sishutsu*

PLU: *asishoyi*

#verb

avá

v

[a'va] (*awaʔ)

Cry, shout. Includes cries of animals, etc.

#verb

eha

adj

[ʼeha] (*asko)

1. **Cold, chilly.**
2. **Pale, bleak.**

Belongs to the class of true adjectives.

#adj

ehoata

n

[e'hoata] (*asko-at)

North. The compass direction. Literally cold-facing or coldward, as the northward migration of the Great Bay peoples progressed from the equatorial coast up towards the cold deserts. Naturally, the word cannot be pluralized in any way.

#noun

adv

North, northward. North of somewhere or heading in that direction.

#adv

eí

n

[e'i] (*eam)

Arm. This noun has no paucal or plural in use, but uses the fossilized dual instead. No distinction between the upper or lower arm is made. Also used for the limbs of animals insofar used for gripping, climbing, etc.

du. *entse* (irreg.)

#noun

ele

postp

[ˈelə] (*al)

1. **From, away from, coming from.**
2. **By, through doing of.**

Derived from elpele.

#postposition

elpele

v

[elˈpelə] (*alpla)

Cross (over), pass, go through.

#verb

ena

pron

[ˈena] (*ano)

I. First person singular, neutral register.

#pron

espe

n

[ˈes.pə] (*atpa)

1. **Face.** Used for humans and animals, also sometimes metaphorically for landscape features.
2. **Edge, rim, side.** The boundary or joining point of surfaces, bodies, materials etc.

pc. *espai*, pl. *espasha*

#noun

eve

v

[ˈevə] (*axwe)

Laugh.

#verb

eví

v

[e'vi] (*ewin)

1. **Order, arrange, sort.**
2. **Analyze.**
3. **Judge, determine.** Especially in a legal or formal context.

#verb

eze

v

['ezə] (*ate)

Exist, be. Copular verb used in various predicate constructions. Compared to regular verbs, it has limited conjugation for T/A/M.

#verb

fenkaya

n

[fen'kaja] (*panka+fjo)

Spider.

pc. *fenkayotsi*, pl. *fenkayova*

#noun

fenke

n

['fenkə] (*panka)

Web. Used for animal webs (spiders etc.), not manmade nets and the like.

pc. *fenkai*, pl. *fenkasha*

#noun

fette

n

[ˈfettə] (*ptapta)

Father. The phonetic similarity is coincidental.

pc. *fettatsi*, pl. *fettatte*

#noun

fi

v

[ˈfi] (*tiw)

Come, arrive, approach.

#verb

fiza

n

[ˈfiza] (*pito)

Stone, pebble. Only used of the smaller type, not for boulders etc.

pc. *fizoi*, pl. *fizolo*

#noun

fleá

v

[fleˈa] (*fleah)

1. **Cut open.**
2. **Wound, injure.** By extension of the first meaning tends to refer to wounds created by piercing, biting, slashing etc (but not e.g. from a fall or internal injuries).

#verb

#labile

flifí

n

[fliˈfi] (*flipis)

Frog, toad. Folk term for a large variety of species.

pc. *flifitsi*, pl. *flififa*

#noun

fo

n

[fo] (*ptoh)

1. **Smoke, fume.**
2. **Scent, smell.** In a general sense; not necessarily unpleasant in connotation.

An inherently plural word.

#noun

fopo

n

['fopo] (*pohpa)

Rabbit.

pc. *fopatsi*, pl. *fopava*

#noun

fuhu

n

['fuhu] (*puha)

(Desert) elephant. A desert-dwelling subspecies of the main Megaian elephant inhabits the warm margins of the Great Bay coastal deserts. Due to habitat loss and ivory hunting, they are now rare in the coastal regions, but according to tales they once formed great herds.

pc. *fuhatsi*, pl. *fuhava*

#noun

fui

postp

['fui] (*tui < *tuin)

Near, by, next to, adjacent to.

#postposition

ha

postp

['ha] (*fas)

In, at. Derived from [pahe](#). Used for a wide variety of stative locative functions.

#postposition

hao

n

[ˈhao] (*kao)

Person, individual.

pc. *haotsi*, pl. *haoho*

#noun

pron

1. **(One)self.** Reflexive pronoun. It is distinguished from the generic indefinite pronoun [nima](#).
2. **I.** Deferential first person singular pronoun.

In both cases the plural form simply represents the plural equivalent pronoun.

pl. *haoho*

#pron

hehe

v

[ˈhehə] (*haf)

1. **Blow, fan.** Used for the sense of blowing with the mouth as well as of the wind and similar. Also used for artificial airflow such as with a fan.
2. **Swell (up).**

#verb

hema

n

[ˈhema](*kamo)

Back, backside. Both in the anatomical sense and as the backside of buildings, constructions, and so forth.

pc. *hemoi*, pl. *hamoá* (analogized)

#noun

adv

Then, after(wards).

#adv

postp

Behind.

#postposition

hen'óva

v

[hen'ʔova] (kam-ʔopo)

1. **Demand, claim.**
2. **Insist.**

Derivation of ['uva](#).

#verb

hifí

v

[hi'fi] (*e-kipan)

Break (*intr.*), **fall apart**. The consonant gradated mediopassive alter to [kifi](#).

#verb

#middle

hiti

n

['hiti] (*xit)

Rat.

pc. *histsi*, pl. *hispa*

#noun

hopihi

n

[ho'pihi] (*xopf-em)

Farmer, gardener. Used for cultivators of various types. Agentive form of [hupaha](#).

pc. *hopihentsi*, pl. *hopehemí*

#noun

huku

n

[ˈhuku] (*hokɤa)

1. **Wind, gale, storm.**
2. **Air.** General term for the aerial domain as experienced in daily life.

An uncountable, inherently plural term. In Proto-Kolpic, **h-* seems to have had a sound association with air-related words; see also [humu](#).

#noun

humu

n

[ˈhumu] (*homa)

Cloud.

pc. *humai*, pl. *humeshe*

#noun

huna

v

[ˈhuna] (*hono)

1. **Call (out), cry (out).**
2. **Proclaim, exclaim.**
3. **Appeal, beseech.** Includes judicial usage.

#verb

huni

adj

[ˈhuni] (*honi)

Tall, high. A true adjective.

#adj

hupaha

v

[hu'paha] (*xopfo)

Grow, cultivate.

#verb

ikehemi

v

[i'kehemi] (*e-kxemi)

1. **Shimmer.**
2. **Be blurry, be hazy.**

Mediopassive of [kihemi](#).

#verb

ikemia

n

[i'kemia] (*clipped* < *e-kxemi-fjo)

1. **Mirage, fata morgana.**
2. **Spirit, phantom.**

The etymology is based on the old belief that mirages in the desert and on the seas are caused by beings that dwell in, or take the form of, blurry hot air and who seek to mislead travellers to their doom. Originally goes back to [kihemi](#).

pc. *ikemiatsi*, pl. *ikemiova*

#noun

ilí

v

[i'li] (*ilan)

Open. As a labile verb, the transitive and intransitive meanings are morphologically identical.

#verb

#labile

iliki

adj

[i'liki] (*ejlik)

1. **Good, beneficial.** Primarily an evaluation of a result or situation, implying well-functioning, favorable, good quality of work or material, etc. Not used in the sense of "a good person".
2. **Sweet.** Of taste; also used to describe a person as attractive or generally desirable, somewhat akin to modern English *cute*.

Belongs to the class of true adjectives.

#adj

iliyi

n

[i'liji] (*ejlik-jin)

Mercy, forgiveness, forbearance. Related to [iliki](#) and [yi](#), i.e. "goodhandedness". As an abstraction, it cannot be pluralized.

#noun

imi

n

[i'mi] (*imwa)

1. **Log.** Any bulky, firm piece of lumber, e.g. such as used for a mast or a post.
2. **Wood, lumber, timber.** In the sense of the material; implicitly "wooden materials", e.g. in trade, building, etc. Can therefore readily be pluralized (and paucalized), unlike in English.
3. **A measure of wood.** One *imi* of wood represents an ideal-typical storage size of wood, approximately 5 meters long and 1 meter wide and 1 meter high.

pc. *imavai*, pl. *imavala*

#noun

ina

adv

[i'ina] (*ino)

Now, presently, at this time. More "within this timeframe" than the sudden immediacy of [ksihoyí](#).

#adv

ini

v

[ˈini] (*e-na)

Be an officer, be of rank. Originally a middle voice of [ne](#) - lit. "to be greeted". By extension with formalized salutes and modes of address came to be shorthand for having military (primarily naval) or administrative officer rank.

In the port towns of the northern Great Bay region, the mercantile, administrative, and naval hierarchy are so intertwined that they form a single system, with strict definitions of rank and title. Social relations consequently tend to be restricted to between those of similar degree, making the achievement of officer rank a significant leap in social status.

#verb

#middle

inti

n

[ˈinti] (*imtin)

House, dwelling, building.

pc. *intinie*, pl. *intine*

#noun

intinata

n

[inˈtinata] (*imtin-at)

South. The compass direction. The name derives from [inti](#), either due to a practice of building houses facing south or because of the historic migration of the Kolpic speakers from the south into the Great Bay area. Naturally, there is no pluralization.

#noun

isa

pron

[ˈisa] (*iso)

You. Second person singular, neutral register.

#pron

isholo

v

[iˈʃolo] (*e-ʃola)

Appear, become visible.

Mediopassive of [*shulu*](#).

#verb

isia

n

[i'sia] (*isjo)

Feather.

pc. *isioi*, pl. *siosho*

#noun

issenets

n

[is'senəts] (*epsen-ca)

Peace, tranquility. As an abstract noun, it cannot be pluralized.

#noun

issi

v

[i'ssi] (*epsen)

1. **Rest, be calm.**
2. **Be silent, be quiet.**

#verb

itili

n

[i'tili] (*etli)

Water.

An inherently plural noun.

#noun

ivaya

n

[i'vaja] (*ixwa-fjo)

Scorpion. Literally a "pierce-animal", derived from [ive](#).

pc. *ivayotsi*, pl. *ivayova*

#noun

ive

v

[i'və] (*ixwa)

Stab, pierce.

#verb

ivisi

v

[i'visi] (*e+wisa)

Pass away. A culturally euphemistic or polite way to express dying. Mediopassive form of [visi](#).

#verb

iyao

v

[i'jao] (*e-tjao)

Roll (*intr.*). The lexicalized middle voice counterpart to [tsao](#).

#verb

#middle

kameú

v

[kame'u] (*kam-ewom)

1. **Find, encounter.**
2. **Uncover, discover.**

Negative derivation of [yu](#).

#verb

kifi

v

[ki'fi] (*kipan)

Break (*tr.*). Its intransitive counterpart is the consonant gradated mediopassive [hifi](#).

#verb

#transitive

kihemi

v

[ki'hemi] (*kxemi)

Shake, stir, rattle.

#verb

kii

v

['kii] (*kjen)

Fall, stumble.

#verb

kivi

n

['kivi] (*kwim)

Man. Male human being, also sometimes used as generic "person" as a synonym or substitute for [hao](#).

pc. *kivintsi*, pl. *kivinkivi*

#noun

ksiha

v

['ksiha] (*ksiko)

Jump, leap.

#verb

ksiha

v

['ksiha] (*ksiko)

Jump, leap.

#verb

ksihoyí

adv

[ksi.ho.'ji] (*ksiko+jin)

Immediately, instantly, directly. Clipped from *ksikia yi*, "with a jump".

#adv

lao

vs

['lao] (*lao)

Be warm, hot.

#verb

#stative

leve

adj

['levə] (*lawa)

1. **Poor.**
2. **Bad, shoddy, ineffectual.** Especially of material, buildings, fabric, or of work performed.

It is a true adjective, meaning it precedes the noun and does not inflect verbally.

#adj

lipi

v

['lipi] (*lep)

Eat, consume.

#verb

#transitive

lipiya

n

[li'pija] (*lep-fjo)

Animal. Applied to moving creatures, including insects, but not to plants.

pc. *lipiyotsi*, pl. *lipiyova*

#noun

lisa

va

[ˈlisa] (*liso)

Be (blue)green. NGB distinguishes darker greens, eg in plants, from light greens and bluegreens, which are described with this stative verb. *Lisa* is also commonly used to describe the color of the sea.

#verb

#stative

lo

n

[ˈlo] (*low)

Brother. Used of male siblings of any age. Counterpart to [mihi](#).

pc. *lotsi*, pl. *lolu*

#noun

pron

Bro, brother. Informal second person pronoun for addressing men.

#pron

lusi

n

[ˈlusi] (*losi)

Flower, blossom.

pc. *lusí*, pl. *losishi*

#noun

meke

vs

[ˈmekə] (*makwa)

Be black, be dark.

#verb

#stative

mihi

n

[mihi] (*mika)

Sister. Used of female siblings of any age. Counterpart to [lo](#).

pc. *mihatsi*, pl. *mihami*

#noun

pron

Sis, sister. Informal second person pronoun for addressing women.

#pron

milaó

n

[mi.la.'o] (*milaw-ow)

1. **Table, tower, platform.** The term is used (by English norms) rather indiscriminately for elevated constructions, especially those that can be stood on or are used to carry weight.
2. **Plateau, tableland.** Used by extension for natural elevations, especially of the flat-topped variety.

pc. *milaovíe* (<*milauvíe), pl. *milaová*

#noun

milaví

n

[mila'vi] (*milaw+em)

Builder, architect. Agentive derivation from [míló](#).

pc. *milavintsi*, pl. *milavemí*

#noun

mileha

n

[mi'leha] (*mleko)

Dog.

pc. *milehotsi*, pl. *milehova*

#noun

mīló

v

[mɯ'lo] (*milaw)

1. **Build, construct.**
2. **Raise, erect, elevate.** Also used metaphorically - e.g. as the term for people appointed or promoted to a high office.

#verb

#labile

mioko

v

[mi'oko] (*mjok)

Hit, strike, impact.

#verb

mipi

n

['mipi] (*mep)

Liver. As a CVC root, it induces consonant mutation in the plural. Both human and animal livers are indicated by this word. Liver oil from rays and other abundant local marine life is an important delicacy.

pc. *mivie*, pl. *mivi*

mishí

pron

[mi'ʃi] (*miʂen)

I, we. The superior position pronoun for first person singular as well as first person plural exclusive. Comparable to the "royal we" and similar.

#pron

muku

vs

['muku] (*mok)

Be strong. Used both of physique and character with individuals, but only in the sense of resilience, fortitude, and prowess, not in the sense of having social or political power. Can be used with nonanimate nouns to indicate intensity as well, e.g. a powerful sound, a strong wind, etc.

#verb

#stative

mutu

n

[ˈmutu] (*mot)

Heart.

pc. *muyi*, pl. *mutu* (same as sing.)

v

Seem like, make the impression of, come over as. A verb comparable loosely to German *wirken*, it conveys the sense of "having a particular subjective impression or effect on another". Unlike English *seeming*, it does not imply falsehood or deception, just the effect itself, justified or not.

postp

Like, similar to, akin to, in the manner of. Although acting syntactically like a postposition, it is a complex construction, in that the object of the postposition also requires the oblique particle *si*.

ne

v

[ˈne] (*na)

Greet.

#verb

#transitive

postp

For, for the benefit of, on behalf of. Derived historically from the verbal meaning.

#postposition

neza

n

[ˈneza] (*nato)

Mountain.

pc. *nezoi*, pl. *nazoá*

#noun

niki

n

[ˈniki] (*nek)

Front, front side. Of buildings, objects, etc. Probably grammaticalized from [nizaka](#).

pc. *nihie* (very rare), pl. *niki* (same as sing.)

adv

Before, first, firstly.

#adv

nila

n

[ˈnila] (*nilo)

Blood.

An inherent plural. The verb "bleeding" is a fixed construction with the verb [asishj](#).

#noun

nima

num

[ˈnima] (*nemo)

One. The cardinal number 1.

#num

pron

Some(one). The indefinite pronoun, often used as a dummy subject. It can also be used in a formal, respectful register as a first person pronoun.

#pron

nimó

conj

[niˈmo] (< *nemo-mo)

But, however. Clipped from [*nimoma*](#).

#conj

nimoma

adj

[ni'moma] (*nemo-mo)

Only, single, exclusive, unique. Although derived, it behaves like a true adjective in terms of inflection and word order.

#adj

nizaka

n

[ni'zaka] (*nentak)

Nose.

pc. *nizeye*, pl. *nizahe* (irreg.)

#noun

nosí

n

[no'si] (*anos-em)

Thief.

pc. *nosintsi*, pl. *nosisi*

#noun

nosó

n

[no'so] (*anos-ow)

Cloak, robe, overcoat. The typical long overgarment worn by both men and women of the Great Bay. There are simpler versions for travelling, but also very elaborately decorated and designed ones for in the home or for ceremonial purposes. It is usually made of soft hair from camels, goats, or similar animals, interwoven with decorative thread.

pc. *nosuvíe*, pl. *nosushu*

#noun

nu

n

[nu] (*nom)

Meat, flesh.

pc. *numie*, pl. *numu*

#noun

oá

v

[o'a] (*oas)

1. **Go, move.**
2. **Go to(wards).** This takes an oblique object.
3. **Proceed, continue.**

A highly irregular verb, its inflection is as follows:

IPFV: *iti*

NTR: *oama*

PFV: *asá*

PERF: *hutsu*

PLU: *ihoyi*

ohele

n

[o.'he.lə] (*ohal)

Spring, well, oasis. Such places where water wells up in the inland desert are important sites, often indeed the only enduring sites, for human and animal habitation. The term is also used by extension for artificial wells dug to provide water.

pc. *ohelíe*, pl. *oheshe*

#noun

ohó

v

[o'ho] (*oxoh)

Cough, sputter. The mediopassive, *yohó*, means something like "to be coughed up, spat out".

#verb

omu

n

[ˈomu] (*ohmoh)

Name, title. Used both for personal names as well as titles, ranks, and other distinguishing marks of status. Also sometimes used to refer to a family lineage, what we might call a dynasty.

pc. *omutsi*, pl. *omove*

#noun

oo

n

[ˈoo] (*owo)

Owl.

pc. *ootsi*, pl. *oova*

#noun

oshú

v

[oˈʃu] (*oʃon)

1. **Ask, request.**
2. **Pray, petition.** Primarily in a religious context.

A reduplicated intensifier, [*shoshú*](#), is derived from it.

#verb

pahe

v

[ˈpahə] (*pfas)

Stand, stand up.

#verb

pehao

v

[pe'hao] (*pfao)

Stop, cease, block. Obligatorily used transitively; if necessary, a reflexive pronoun [hao](#) can be used.

#verb

pelana

n

[pe'lane] (*plana)

Tree.

pc. *pelanai*, pl. *pelaná*

#noun

pilihi

v

[pi'lihi] (*piliki)

1. **See, look (at), observe.**
2. **Study, discern.**

#verb

#transitive

piono

n

[pi'ono] (*pjona)

Rod, stave. Used in a variety of senses, but the primary meaning is that of a stout walking staff, which can also double as a simple weapon in self-defense for travellers.

pc. *pionai*, pl. *pionova*

#noun

puhala

n

[pu'hala] (*pxol)

(Rock) salt. Used for salts won through mining or evaporation. Distinguished from sea salt ([tseke](#)). As an inherent plural, it cannot be inflected for number.

#noun

#inherent-plural

puhona

n

[pu'hona] (*pfono)

Ear. Only comes in singular number and the ossified dual.

du. *puhonoyo*

puku

v

['pu.ku] (*pwok)

1. **Fight, combat.**
2. **Quarrel, brawl.** When intransitive.

The mediopassive form *epuku* has rather the meaning **to wrestle with, struggle with**, with the reintroduced patient (in the English translation) treated as an agent with oblique marking.

#verb

saka

pron

['saka] (*sak)

You. Second person singular, deferential register. Clipped from [vasaka](#).

#pron

samilépia

n

[sami'lepia] (*psam-lep-fjo)

Vulture, buzzard. Lit. "bone-eater".

pc. *samilépiotsi*, pl. *samilépiova*

#noun

sheha

n

['ʃeha] (*caho)

Path, route, track.

pc. *shehoi*, pl. *shehovo*

#noun

shoshú

v

[ʃoʃu] (*oʃoʃon)

Beg, implore, plead. Reduplicated intensifier of [oshú](#).

#verb

shu

conj

[ʃu] (*ʃwo)

As much as, to the extent of. Can be combined with a stative verb to mean a construction like "X is as Y as Z", or without a comparand, "so X that...".

Grammaticalized from [shve'a](#).

#conj

adv

As much as possible, to the greatest extent. When used adverbially, without any further arguments (other than the verb to which it is applied), it is implicitly "as possible".

#adv

shulu

v(s)

[ʃulu] (*ʃola)

1. **Be white, be radiant, be bright.**
2. **Shine, radiate.**

#verb

#stative

shve'a

v

[ʃveʔa] (*ʃwaʔo)

Reach, extend (to).

#verb

shvele

dem

[ʃʲvelə] (*ɛwal)

That, those. Distal demonstrative, counterpart to [así](#). Pl. *shvalele*.

#dem

shvi

n

[ʃʲvi] (*ɛwih)

Star.

pc. *shvihie*, pl. *shvihá*

#noun

si

n

[si] (*psam)

Bone. Equally applied to human and animal bones.

pc. *semie*, pl. *seme*

#noun

siete

n

[si.'e.tə] (*siat)

Sea(s). In NGB, this word is inherently plural and cannot be made singulative.

#noun

siettóva

v

[siet'tova] (*siat-topo < ?opo)

Sacrifice, offer up. Derived from [siete](#) and ['uva](#), lit. sea-throw, after the ancient practice of ritual sacrifice at sea by casting the ritual object overboard.

#verb

sima

v

[ˈsima] (*psimo)

End, finish.

#verb

n

1. **End(ing), finish.**
2. **Edge, boundary.**

Zero derived nominalization of the verb.

pc. *simoi*, pl. *simovo*

#noun

simoma

vs

[siˈmoma] (*psimo-mo)

Be final, be last. Adjectival derivation from [*sima*](#).

adv

Finally, at last, in the end. Zero derived adverb.

slehe

v

[ˈslehə] (*slaf)

1. **Stream, flow.** Of liquids, rivers, etc.
2. **Run (away), flee.**

This verb can take an object, meaning "stream/flow/run away from X".

#verb

so

v

[so] (*psoh)

1. **Put, place, set (down).**
2. **Plant (agric.)**

#verb

tale

n

[ˈtalə] (*tlas)

Berry. Mostly used in compounds, but can be used on its own as a generic term.

pc. *telasie*, pl. *telasel*

#noun

talí

v

[taˈli] (*talan)

Sit, sit down, crouch.

#verb

teshama

v

[te.ˈʃa.ma] (*tɬam-wo)

Burn, light on fire. Application verbalization of [teshe](#).

#verb

teshamimi

n

[teˈʃamimi] (*tɬam-imwa)

Firewood. Like [teshe](#), it's an inherently plural term.

#noun

teshannaza

n

[teˈʃannaza] (*tɬam-nato)

Volcano. The high ridges of the World Spine consist of many volcanoes, some of which are still active.

pc. *teshannazoi*, pl. *teshannazoe* (NB: not identical to [neza](#))

#noun

teshantse

n

[te'ʃantsə] (*tɕam-tsa)

Flame, flare. Old diminutive/singulative of [teshe](#).

pc. *teshantsatsi*, pl. *teshantsa* < *teshantsata

#noun

teshe

n

[tɕɛʃə] (*tɕam)

Fire. An inherently plural non-count word, it has no singulative. Used broadly for both natural and man-made fires.

#noun

#inherent-plural

tīí

v

[tɕw'i] (*tuin)

1. **Touch.**
2. **Connect, link, tie (together).**

#verb

tilitsi

v

[ti'litsi] (*tlits)

1. **Wrap, fold.**
2. **Twist (around).**
3. **Twirl, swirl.**

#verb

tisé

v

[ti'se] (*tisew)

Drink, imbibe. As in English, can refer to drinking in general or alcohol consumption in particular. The (medio)passive is [zisé](#), which has a wider range of

meanings.

#verb

#transitive

tsao

v

[ʼtsao] (*tjao)

Roll (*tr.*). Its intransitive counterpart is the middle voice verb, [iyao](#).

#verb

#transitive

tse

num

[ʼtse] (*cea)

Two.

#num

tseka

v

[ʼtseka] (*tsak-wo)

Brine, marinade in salt. Application verbalization of [tseke](#). Being a people of the coastal deserts, the speakers of NGB strictly distinguish sea salt from salt won inland, whether from rivers or mines. Sea salt is preferred for preparing brines, which are popularly used to soak fish as well as meat for a day or so before eating. Distinct from pickling, which is done with rock salt ([puhala](#)) and primarily performed on fruit and vegetables (such as can be had through trade or coastal farming).

#verb

n

Brine, salt marinade. Zero derivation from the verb. As an inherent plural, it cannot be inflected for number.

#noun

#inherent-plural

tseke

n

[ʼtsekə] (*tsak)

Sea salt. Being a people of the coastal deserts, the speakers of NGB strictly distinguish sea salt from salt won inland, whether from rivers or mines. As an

inherent plural, the word has no number inflection.

#noun

#inherent-plural

tsesa

n

[ˈtsesa] (*tsaswo)

Child. Gender-neutral, all-purpose term. By itself, it is only used of humans, but in compound constructions it can be used for young animals as well.

pc. *tsotsi*, pl. *tsotso*

#noun

pron

You. Second person singular pronoun, used from a superior position to an inferior addressee. Derived from the nominal meaning.

#pron

tsu

v

[ˈtsu] (*icwon)

1. **Press, push.**
2. **Force, compel.**

#verb

u

conj

[ˈu] (*om)

And, also. Basic clause conjunction. Probably grammaticalized from [umie](#). Note that pragmatically, sequential converbs are used where possible, so that explicit conjunctions appear primarily to switch subjects/reference or emphatically.

#conj

ukimi

n

[uˈkimi] (*okx-imwa)

Redwood tree, redwood timber. The montane forests of the Mediterranean climate belt in the neck of Plateia have large redwood trees, which as timber are a prized commodity for elites throughout the north of Megaia. As the NGB traders encounter them primarily in this form, the word does not distinguish between the living tree and its use as lumber.

pc. *ukimavai*, pl. *ukimavala*

#noun

uku

va

[ˈuku] (*okxe)

1. **Be red.**
2. **Blush.**

#verb

#stative

umie

v

[uˈmie] (*omji)

1. **Join, unite.** As a ditransitive verb, the first element is accusative marked and the second element, to which the first is joined, is oblique. As a transitive verb with only one non-agent argument, that argument is oblique.
2. **Agree with, assent to.** A (pro)noun object argument of this usage (if available) is also oblique. Verbal arguments are in the infinitive.

#verb

umu

n

[ˈumu] (*omwa)

1. **Land, terrain.**
2. **Territory, domain, country.**
3. **Surface, extent.** Used of the flat, often receiving overside of an object, or a way of describing the area of one (usually more or less flat) dimension of it.

pc. *umavai*, pl. *omevásha*

#noun

usa

n

[ˈusa] (*oso)

Dune. The coastal desert is characterized by a highly arid but hilly landscape, in which dry dunes feature prominently.

pc. *usoi*, pl. *soá* (irreg.)

#noun

utsa

n

[ˈutsa] (*ocwo)

Woman.

pc. *utsotsi*, pl. *otsutsu* (irreg.)

#noun

utu

postp

[ˈutu] (*ot)

Above, over, on top of. Grammaticalized from ['utu](#). Also used as the linking element in comparative constructions.

#postposition

vasaka

n

[vaˈsaka] (*waʔsak)

Lord, Noble. Gender-neutral descriptor for someone of noble title or high administrative rank.

pc. *vasaktsi*, pl. *vasevaska*

#noun

ve'a

n

[ˈveʔa] (*fwaʔo)

Fish. Generic term, frequently used (shortened) in compounds. Unlike in English, it can readily be pluralized.

pc. *ve'otsi*, pl. *va'ushu*

velí

adv

[ve'li] (*xwal+jin)

So, thus, in this way. Compression of the ancestors of [shvele](#) and [yj](#), i.e. "with that".

#adv

venīle

n

[ve'nwlə] (*wenil)

1. **Word.**
2. **Statement, utterance.**
3. **Oath, promise.**
4. **Message.**

pc. *venilíe*, pl. *venilíshi*

#noun

venīlpúku

v

[venwl'puku] (*wenil+pwok)

Debate, dispute. Relatively modern compound from [venīle](#) and [puku](#).

#verb

vi

n

[vi] (*fwis)

Bird. Generic folk term, extended to both land and sea birds.

pc. *vitsi*, pl. *vifa*

#noun

vili

v

['vili] (*xwel)

1. **Prick, sting.** By thorns, needles, and the like.
2. **Poison, envenom.** Originally a slang term, now generalized.

#verb

vishi

n

['viʃi] (*xwiʃ)

The Sun. Naturally, it is not pluralizable.

#noun

visi

v

['visi] (*wisa)

1. **Leave, abandon.** The Proto-Kolpic verb seems to have just meant "go", but in NGB it semantically narrowed to a sense of leaving, whence it acquired a transitive syntax. The mediopassive form, ivisi, is now a culturally polite way of expressing "to die" (*q.v.*).
2. **Release, let go.**

#verb

vivisi

v

[vi'visi] (*wiwisa)

Travel, journey. Originally derived by reduplication as an intensifier of visi.

#verb

vivisí

n

[vivi'si] (*wiwis+em)

Traveller, guest.

pc. *vivisintsi*, pl. *vivisemí*

#noun

yi

n

[ˈji] (*jin)

Hand, paw, claw. Used broadly for humans and animals alike. It is the only word in NGB where the fossilized dual and a modern plural are in productive use. The plural was introduced later, using the consonant alternation plural by analogy with other forms.

du. *yines*, pc. *yintsi* (?), pl. *yivi* (irreg.)

#noun

postp/conj

With. Comitative postposition, also often used to conjoin two nouns with each other in a single clause or two stative verbs or adjectives in a modifier sequence.

#postposition

yīle

v

[ˈjɯlə] (*jil)

1. **Want, desire.**
2. **Need.**

Can be used of persons, things, and actions (in the form of complement clauses). As an experiencer verb, its nominal objects take oblique marking.

#verb

#experiencer

yohé

v

[jo'he] (*johe?)

Fly, flutter, hover.

#verb

yu

v

[ˈju] (*ewom)

1. **Cover.**
2. **Shut.** Of lids, doors, etc.

This verb is irregular:

IPFV: *yunti*

NTR: *yomo*

PFV: *yomó*

PF: *yomutsu*

PLU: *yomoyi*

zisé

v

[zi'se] (*e-tisew)

1. **Be drunk, be imbibed.** In the sense of consumption, not of intoxication. Passive form of [*tisé*](#).
2. **Be empty.** Used as a stative verb, derived from the first sense.

#verb

#middle