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A grammar of Tagdal: a Northern Songhay language

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A grammar of Tagdal,
a Northern Songhay language

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(cover picture by Jonah Horowitz, IMG_0579.JPG | This is a Tuareg on his Camel | Jonah Horowitz | Flickr) The original picture was modified using Microsoft Word picture format tools.

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0.1 Glosses, abbreviations and symbols

-	morpheme boundary
=	clitic boundary
'	stress marker, when over a vowel
'	stress marker, only in phonetic transcriptions
[]	phonetic transcription
1SG	first person singular
1PL	first person plural
2SG	first person singular
2PL	second person plural
3SG	third person singular
3PL	third person plural
ADJ	adjective
ADV	adverb
ADJR	adjectiviser
ALL	allative
CAUS	causative
DEF	definite
EMPH	emphatic
FUT	future
GEN	genitive
IMP	imperfective
IND	indefinite
LOC	locative
NEG	negation
OBJ	object
PASS	passive
PL	plural
PRF	perfective
REL	relative
SUB	subject
SBDR	subordinator
SBJ	subjunctive
VEN	venitive

0.2 Grammatical Morpheme index

morpheme	gloss	section
a=	Third person singular clitic (3SG)	3.5.5
=a	Third person singular clitic, object (3SG.OBJ)	3.5.5
a-	Nominaliser, M Tuareg etymology	3.1.2
aayó	Singular definite demonstrative, proximal (DEF)	4.1
ayʒí	Singular medial distance demonstrative (COMP.MED)	4.1
ayʃén	Distal demonstrative (COMP.DIS)	4.1
akka	Interrogative, tag questions (INT.TG)	4.10.2
ámmaaka	Conditional 'if'	4.7.1
-an, -en, -wan, -tan	PL suffix	3.1.2
-an, -nan	Adjectiviser	3.3.1
anʒi=	Second person plural clitic (2PL)	3.5.5
ánʒi	Second person plural independent pronoun (2PL.IND)	3.1.1, 4.11.2
áŋga	Third person singular independent pronoun (3SG.IND)	3.1.1, 4.11.2
áygas	Connector, main clause, adversative 'however', 'therefore'	4.11.1
b-	Imperfective (IMP)	3.5.5
ə-	Subject Relative marker (SUB.REL)	4.8.1, 3.3.1
éŋguuʒi	Connector, focus 'suddenly'	4.11.1
ənta	Interrogative, functions to cast doubt upon an assertion (INT)	4.6
ya= / =ay	First person singular clitic (1SG)	3.5.5
yaay	First person singular independent pronoun (1SG.IND)	3.1.1, 4.11.2
da	Emphatic marker (EMPH)	4.11.2
daayó	Locative postposition 'place'	4.3
felás	Reason subordinator 'because'	4.7.1
fo	Singular indefinite demonstrative (IDF)	4.1

ga	Locative postposition 'on'	4.3
harwá	Subordinating construction 'still'	4.7.1
ha aayó nda	Interrogative construction 'how?'	4.10.3
hažiggá	Connector, main clause, reason 'because'	4.11.1
hažikán	Connector, main clause, marks end of discourse or section 'therefore'	4.11.1
i=	Third person plural clitic (3PL)	3.5.5
i-	PL prefix, Tuareg etymology	3.1.2
=i	Third person plural clitic, object (3PL.OBJ)	3.5.5
iiri=	First person plural clitic (1PL)	3.5.5
íiri	First person plural independent pronoun (1PL.IND)	3.1.1, 4.11.2
íngi / ínga	Third person plural independent pronoun (3PL.IND)	3.1.1, 4.11.2
ʒi	Singular medial distance demonstrative (MED)	4.1
kan	Locative postposition 'in'	3.5.5, 4.3
-kat	Venitive (VEN)	3.5.5
koy	Agentive, Songhay etymology	3.1.3
kud	Conditional 'if'	4.7.1
m-	Subjunctive (SBJ)	3.5.5, 4.7.1
-ma	Agentive, Tuareg etymology	3.1.3
man	Interrogative 'where?'	4.10.3
may	Interrogative 'who?'	4.10.3
maʃʃán, míʃʃan	Adversative coordinator 'but'	4.6.2
ma aafó	Interrogative construction 'which?'	4.10.3
məʃʃí	Interrogative 'what?'	4.10.3
meeda	Coordinate connector 'or'	4.2, 4.3
n, m, ɳ	Genitive (GEN)	2.4.1, 2.4.4, 3.5.5, 4.1, 4.3
-nan	Allative (ALL)	3.5.5
nə-	Perfective negation (NEG.PRF)	3.5.5
nəm-	Reciprocal (REC)	3.5.3, 3.5.4
nda	Coordinate connector 'and', 'with'	3.4
nda anəʃí	Negative conditional 'unless'	4.7.1
-nén	Plural suffix, demonstratives	4.1
-nen	PL Adjectiviser	3.3.1
ni= / =in	Second person singular clitic (2SG)	3.5.5
nin	Second person singular independent pronoun (2SG.IND)	3.1.1, 4.11.2
n beena	Locative construction 'over'	4.3
s-, ſ-, z, ʒ	Causative (CAUS)	3.5.3, 3.5.4
sa	Dative postposition (DAT)	3.4, 3.5.5,

		4.3
sa	Subordinator (SBDR)	4.7, 4.7.2
sə-	Imperfective negation (NEG.IMP)	3.5.5
ʃen	Singular distal demonstrative (DIS)	4.1
t-	Nominaliser, F Tuareg etymology	3.1.2
tə-	Future (FUT)	3.5.5, 4.7.1
təw-	Passive (PASS)	3.5.3, 3.5.4
təzzár	Connector, main clause, time relation 'then'	4.11.1
-yen	Nominaliser, Songhay	3.1.3