

# Byma language (Speedlang Challenge 8)

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# Introduction

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This document is a grammatical description of Byma ([ˈpə.ma]), a language constructed for the Speedlang Challenge 8 organized by Miacomet (a.k.a. u/roipoiboy). The challenge timeframe was from March 1, 2021 to March 14, 2021.

The Speedlang Challenge 8 had several restrictions that had to be taken into account while creating our languages:

- Phonology
  - “Make use of some sort of quantity distinction.” There are both phonemic consonant and vowel length (§1.1 and §1.2).
  - “Glides/semivowels may not contrast by rounding or point of articulation.” Byma does not have phonemic semivowels, and if two consecutive vowels appear, they are always considered to belong to its own syllable.
  - “Have some sort of suprasegmental feature that isn’t tone or stress.” Byma features suprasegmental palatalization that affects the last syllable of the verbal root and any syllables that follow.
- Grammar
  - “Include an open pronoun class.” This was difficult, but Byma does have an open class of pronouns that shows politeness and familiarity.
  - “Feature insubordination.” Insubordination appears in imperatives and expressions that convey both positive and negative emotional reactions.
  - “Have asymmetrical negation.” Negation in Byma is constructed by nominalising the main verb and using a negative auxiliary verb to which the person and aspect affixes attach.
  - “Mark indefinite noun phrases but not definite ones.” Nouns are definite by default, and an indefinite article *me* exists.

*Qeméqi Danutagpýsve Byma* ([ʔɛ'me:ʔɪ ta,nɔtʰak'pʰi:svɛ 'pəma], lit. 'the language that was made quickly'), often shortened to *Byma* ('the language'), is an agglutinative language that makes relatively heavy use of verbs. There are no adjectives, as their role is taken up by verbs that stand before the noun. There's a system of personal pronouns that can be described as a subset of nouns.

Chapter 1 is a phonological and orthographical description of *Byma*. Chapter 2 describes the *Byma* noun and its properties, whereas chapter 3 does the same with verbs. Pronouns are treated in chapter 4. An incomplete description of *Byma* syntax is presented in chapter 5. And last, a short lexicon appears in chapter 6.

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# Glossary

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1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
ACC	accusative
AUX	auxiliary
CTFG	centrifugal motion
CTPT	centripetal motion
DAT	dative
DEF	definite
GEN	genitive
IMP	imperative
INDF	indefinite
INTR	intransitive
IPFV	imperfective
IRR	irrealis
NEG	negative
NMLZ	nominalizer
NOM	nominative
OBJ	object
PFV	perfective
PL	plural
POSS	possessive
REL	relative
SBJ	subject
SBJV	subjunctive
SG	singular
TR	transitive

## Chapter 1

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# Phonology and orthography

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## 1.1 Consonants

The consonantal inventory of Byma consists of 12 distinct phonemes:

*Table 1.1: Consonant inventory of Byma*

	Labial	Dent.-Alv.	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m	n	ŋ	
Stop	p p <sup>h</sup>	t t <sup>h</sup>	k k <sup>h</sup>	ʔ
Fricative	f	s	x	
Tap/flap	v	ɾ		

The following general affirmations can be made about Byma consonants:

- The labial nasal and stops are bilabial, whereas the fricative /f/ and the flap /v/ vary between [f~ɸ] and [v~ɸ̣] respectively. /f/ is always [f], /v/ can be [ɸ̣] after /m/.
- The stops /t/ and /t<sup>h</sup>/ are denti-alveolar, that is, they're pronounced with the flat tongue against the alveolar ridge and the upper teeth. /n/, /s/ and /ɾ/ are alveolar, but assimilate to the point of articulation of /t/ and /t<sup>h</sup>/.
- There is no velar flap, as it's deemed impossible to produce.
- /ʔ/ is the only glottal consonant in Byma.

## 1.2 Vowels

Byma has 12 distinct vowels phonemes (see table 1.2). Vowel length is represented in the orthography with an acute accent above the letter. There's a quality variation

Table 1.2: Vowel inventory of Byma

	Front		Central		Back	
	Long	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
High	i:	ɪ	i:	ə	u:	ʊ
Mid	e:	ɛ			o:	ɔ
Low			a:	a		

between short and long vowels: short vowels, except /a/, tend to be more central /ɪ ɛ ə ɔ ʊ/, whereas long vowels are peripheral. Compare these contrasting examples:

- *dina* /'tɪ.na/ 'tomb'
- *diná* /'tɪ.na:/ 'smoke; fog'
- *dinna* /'tɪn.na/ 'clear, transparent'

### 1.3 Phonotactics

The maximal structure of Byma words is as follows:

$$\#[(C_1(R))V(C_1(F)) \dots (C_1(R))V(C_1(F)).(C_1(R))V(C_2)]\#$$

- $C_1$ : any consonant
- R: any of the two rhotics
- F: any of the three fricatives
- $C_2$ : /m k n s t ɲ ʔ r/

This means that syllables may have up to two onset consonants and up to two coda consonants (that is, clusters of up to four consonants), and only one coda consonant in the final syllable.

### 1.4 Stress

Byma words are stressed according to simple rules, with few exceptions:

- Bisyllabic words are always stressed in the first syllable.
- In words with three syllables or more, the penult syllable is stressed if it's heavy (that is, if it has a long vowel as its nucleus or a coda), otherwise, the antepenult is stressed.

Syllable weight is determined by its shape: syllables that have one or two coda consonants are heavy, whereas light syllables have a zero coda. Compare these examples:

- (CVV<sub>H</sub>.CV<sub>L</sub>): *kéře* [ˈkʰɛ̃.ɾɛ̃] ‘beetle’
- (CVC<sub>H</sub>.CVC<sub>H</sub>): *digdan* [ˈtɪk.tan] ‘to provide’
- (V<sub>L</sub>.CV<sub>L</sub>.CVV<sub>H</sub>): *edumó* [ˈɛtomo:] ‘boat’
- (V<sub>L</sub>.CVC<sub>H</sub>.CV<sub>L</sub>): *egyyme* [ɛˈkəɲmɛ] ‘badge’

## 1.5 Suprasegmental palatalization

Byma features a palatalization process that affects the last syllable of bisyllabic verbal roots (or the entire monosyllabic root) and the following syllables after it. This feature comes from an omitted transitive suffix *\*-iC* in the proto-language. This feature affects mostly verbs, as it marks the transitive version of certain intransitive verbs.

- *ɲidfɲɪd* (intransitive) [ˈɲɪtfəɲɪt] ‘to sink’
- *ɲidfɲɪɖ* (transitive) [ˈɲɪtfɪɖɲɪɖ] ‘to sink sth, to submerge’

## 1.6 Orthography

Byma is written with the Latin alphabet. For the most part, the orthography is phonemic. The table 1.3 shows the Byma alphabet and its sound correspondence.

Table 1.3: *Byd orthography*

Letter	IPA	Letter	IPA	Letter	IPA
A a	/a/	I i	/i/	Q q	/ʔ/
B b	/p/	K k	/kʰ/	R r	/r/
D d	/t/	M m	/m/	S s	/s/
E e	/e/	N n	/n/	T t	/tʰ/
F f	/f/	Ŋ ŋ	/ŋ/	U u	/u/
G g	/k/	O o	/o/	V v	/v/
H h	/x/	P p	/pʰ/	Y y	/i/



### 1.6.1 Diacritics

There are two diacritic marks in Byma, an acute accent that indicates vowel length, and a comma under a letter (above the letter if it has a descender) indicate suprasegmental palatalization, both of which help disambiguate minimal pairs.

- *ina* 'to be sorry' vs. *iná* 'to cooperate; to conspire'

## Chapter 2

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# Nominal morphology

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Nouns are a kind of words that identify people, objects, places or abstract concepts. Byma nouns inflect by gender, number and case, and are also lexically marked for definiteness. The citation form of nouns is the singular nominative.

## 2.1 Gender

Byma nouns are divided according to grammatical gender in common and neuter nouns. Common nouns largely refer to autonomous, sentient beings like human beings, animals, simple microorganisms and human-like self-driving mechanisms (i.e., robots and automata). Neuter nouns refer to inert objects: natural materials, man-made products and celestial objects. Plants and trees are also grammatically neuter, even though they're living organisms.

This division of nouns corresponds to an active-stative alignment that otherwise does not exist in Byma grammar and syntax, as it exhibits a nominative-accusative alignment. Morphologically, common nouns are distinguished from neuter nouns by the use of different nominative and accusative case suffixes.

- (2.1) a. *keme*  
kem-e  
person(DEF)-NOM  
'the person'
- b. *sagsda*  
sagsda-∅  
rock(DEF)-NOM  
'the rock'

Nouns are gender neutral, that is, a word like *qreṇóe* 'worker' does not indicate if the referent is a man or a woman. If the gender of the referent needs to be specified, the roots *mo-* 'man' and *ki-* 'woman' can be prefixed to the noun:

- *moqreṇóe* 'male worker' vs. *kiqreṇóe* 'female worker'

There are, however, a few nouns that are lexically masculine or feminine, like *qroge* 'father', *bryde* 'mother', *meqqí* 'cow', and *tóre* 'bull'.

## 2.2 Number

Plurality in Byma is marked by reduplicating the first syllable of a noun. In the process, long vowels are shortened and aspirated stops are deaspirated. This process doesn't always occur in neuter nouns (especially when they refer to abstract concepts), and it isn't required when a noun is modified by a numeral other than one, two or three.

- (2.2) a. [*Daónogkri've*                   ] *tryvid*           *hahádrama*  
 da-ónog-kri=ve                   tryvid           ha~hádra-ma  
 3SG.SBJ-be.strong-IPFV=REL   root(DEF).ACC   PL~oak(DEF)-GEN  
*vehaŋma'bu*                   *góqotagdymyes.*  
 vehaŋ-ma=bu                   gó-qo-tag-dymye-us  
 ground(DEF)-GEN=from   3PL.SBJ-3PL.OBJ-CTFG-pull-PFV

'The strong roots of the oak trees were torn from the ground.'

(Syntax test #77)

- b. *Fefeje*                   *ne*   *gvéte*           *náma*   *gókambygvakri.*  
 fe~feŋ-e                   ne   gvéte           ná-ma   gó-kaŋ-bygva-kri  
 PL~dog(DEF)-NOM   four   leg(DEF).NOM   3SG-GEN   3PL.SBJ-CTPT-exist-IPFV

'Dogs have four legs.'

## 2.3 Case

Byma nouns inflect for case. There are four cases: nominative, accusative, genitive and dative. The following is the case paradigm for common and neuter nouns.

Table 2.1: Noun case paradigm

Cases	Common		Neuter	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-e	$\sigma_1\sim[\sigma_1\sigma_2]_\omega + -e$	$\emptyset$	$(\sigma_1\sim[\sigma_1\sigma_2]_\omega)$
Accusative	-er	$\sigma_1\sim[\sigma_1\sigma_2]_\omega + -er$		
Genitive	-ma	$\sigma_1\sim[\sigma_1\sigma_2]_\omega + -ma$	-ma	$(\sigma_1\sim[\sigma_1\sigma_2]_\omega) + -ma$
Dative	-da	$\sigma_1\sim[\sigma_1\sigma_2]_\omega + -da$		

Case syncretism is notorious in neuter nouns: morphologically speaking, there are only two distinct cases, the nominative-accusative and the genitive-dative.

## 2.4 Definiteness

Speakers of English are familiar with the notion of definiteness. A noun phrase is definite when the article *the* appears, while an indefinite noun phrase is marked with

the article *a(n)*, or determiners like *some* or *any*. Byma also distinguishes between definite and indefinite NP, but the marking of each differs.

In Byma, the lack of any article indicates that the referent of an expression in a given discourse is unique and specific, and thus the NP is definite. A NP is understood to be definite when i) the referent has been mentioned earlier in the discourse, ii) any party of the discourse shares knowledge about the referent, or iii) the context of the discourse given enough description about the specific nature of the referent.

In contrast, indefinite noun phrases are used to indicate a referent that may be unfamiliar to both the speaker and hearer, or when it's introduced in the discourse for the first time. In Byma, an indefinite NP is marked with two kinds of determiners, the article *me* ('one', also the equivalent to English *a(n)*) and the determiner *ag* (equivalent to *some* or *any* in English).

- (2.3) a. *Dú fem me teakibsdyka bynsbí'gvi pytryṃus.*  
 dú fem me tea+kibsdyka bynsbí=gvi py-Ø-tryṃ-us  
 this day INDF machine+cart.ACC road(DEF).ACC=on 1SG.SBJV-3SG.OBJ-see/TR-PFV

'Today I saw a car on the street.'

- b. *Ag teakibsdyka dú fem bynsbí'gvi gvitryṃdabi?*  
 ag tea+kibsdyka dú fem bynsbí=gvi gvi-Ø-tryṃ-dabi  
 any machine+cart.ACC this day road(DEF).ACC=on 2SG.SBJ-3SG.OBJ-see/TR-IRR

'Did you see any cars on the street today?'

## Chapter 3

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# Verbal morphology

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Verbs play an important role in Byma, as they're the part of speech that contain the most information about constituent relationship and overall meaning in the sentence. Verbs express an action, the state or the existence of its subject. Verbs can be classified in intransitive, (di)transitive, intransitive stative, and impersonal.

**Intransitive verbs** do not require an object and can very well be the only word in a sentence.

- (3.4) *Dakaŋsítis.*  
da-kaŋ-síti-us  
3SG.SBJ-CTPT-go-PFV  
'He/she/it came.'

**Transitive verbs**, on the other hand, need an object.

- (3.5) *Fadáe dasídonkrive eqvurkor damíqríŋus.*  
Fadá-e da-sídon-kri=ve eqvurkor da-Ø-míqríŋ-us  
F-NOM 3SG.SBJ-be.red-IPFV=REL house(DEF).ACC 3SG.SBJ-3SG.OBJ-find/TR-PFV  
'Fada found the red house.'

**Ditransitive verbs** are identical to transitive verbs, and also an indirect object is required.

- (3.6) *Gviqroge húméda me fvegtaq dakajeddoŋus.*  
gvi-qrog-e húmé-da me fvegtaq da-Ø-kaŋ-eddoŋ-us  
POSS.2SG-father-NOM wife-DAT INDF ring.ACC 3SG.SBJ-3SG.OBJ-CTPT-give/TR-PFV  
'Your father gave me (lit. 'wife') a ring.'

**Intransitive stative verbs** are essentially the same as what would be known as adjectives in other languages. They describe an inherent or temporal quality of its subject.

- (3.7) *Fes*                    *dahrúgókri*.  
 fes                        da-hrúgó-kri  
 sky(DEF)-NOM    3SG.SBJ-be.blue-IPFV  
 ‘The sky is blue.’

**Impersonal verbs** are identical to intransitive verbs in that they usually do not require an object, but there is also a lack of subject marking. Verbs that indicate weather conditions, and the verb *ana* ‘to be needed, to be required’ is impersonal.

- (3.8) *Taghékri*.  
 Tag-hé-kri  
 CTFG-rain-IPFV  
 ‘It’s raining.’

## 3.1 The verb template

-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
Subject	Object	Valency	Direction	ROOT	Tense	Aspect

As shown above, the morphological verb consists of the verbal root and a series of affixes, each of which plays a different role in the verb. Each affix will be explained in the following sections.

### 3.1.1 Person prefixes

Aside from the case marking in nouns, the subject and object role are also marked as prefixes in the verb. Table 4.1 in §4.1 (p. 17) shows the person prefixes that attach to the verb.

### 3.1.2 Direction

There are two general directional prefixes: *-kaj-*, which denotes a centripetal force, and *-tag-*, which indicates centrifugal motion. These two markers mainly appear in verbs of motion (in which case they act as venitive and andative markers) and ditransitive verbs, although they can also appear in other verbs that don’t refer to spatial movement or state. In this case, the centrifugal and centripetal markers indicate a range of emotional

and rational nuances, like empathy, disgust, or lack of knowledge. Compare these examples:

- (3.9) a. *Me mafti pykajhruǵkri.*  
 me mafti py-Ø-kaŋ-hruǵ-kri  
 INDF book.ACC 1SG.SBJ-3SG.OBJ-CTPT-read/TR-IPFV  
 ‘I’m reading a book.’
- b. *Me mafti pytaghruǵkri.*  
 me mafti py-Ø-tag-hruǵ-kri  
 INDF book.ACC 1SG.SBJ-3SG.OBJ-CTFG-read/TR-IPFV  
 ‘I’m reading a book.’

The directional markers alone give a hint about the nature of the reading: 3.9a would be used in a context where the speaker is alone and reading by him/herself, whereas 3.9b indicates that the speaker may be reading a book aloud for an audience.

### 3.1.3 Root

The core of the verb are the verbal roots, which cannot appear in a sentence by themselves. The citation form of verbs is the bare root in its intransitive form.

(Di)transitive verbs are distinguished from intransitive verbs by the presence of prasegmental palatalization, which arose from the loss of a transitivity suffix *\*-iC*.

- *hruǵ* ‘to read’ (intransitive) vs. *hruǵ* ‘to read’ (transitive)
- *krón* ‘to speak, to communicate’ (intransitive) vs. *krón* ‘to say; to utter; to speak a language’ (transitive)

### 3.1.4 Tense and aspect

There are three different suffixes that determine the aspect of a verb: the imperfective, the perfective and the irrealis aspect.

- Imperfective: *-kri*
- Perfective: *-(u)s*
- Irrealis: *-dabi*

The imperfective aspect indicates actions or processes that are incomplete or in progress. It’s compatible with time expressions that show past, current and future actions. When used with expressions of futurity, it indicates certainty that the action will take place.

- (3.10) *Kie*                      *vej̄mabu*                      *fenno/dvymvó/dvygñen*  
 ki-e                      vej̄-ma=bu                      fenno/dvymvó/dvygñen  
 woman(DEF)-Nom    city(DEF)-GEN=from    yesterday/now/tomorrow  
*dakaṅsítikri.*  
 da-kaṅ-síti-kri  
 3SG.SBJ-CTPT-go-IPFV

‘The woman was/is/will be coming from the city yesterday/now/tomorrow.’

The perfective aspect refers to completed actions or processes viewed as a whole, without any internal structure. The perfective suffix *-us* is attached to verb roots ending with a consonant. If the root ends in a vowel, the *-u-* is omitted. This suffix cannot be used to indicate current or future actions.

- (3.11) *Kie*                      *vej̄mabu*                      *fenno*                      *dakaṅsítis.*  
 ki-e                      vej̄-ma=bu                      fenno                      da-kaṅ-síti-us  
 woman(DEF)-Nom    city(DEF)-GEN=from    yesterday    3SG.SBJ-CTPT-go-PFV

‘The woman came from the city yesterday.’

The irrealis aspect refers to actions that might happen in the future, but whose certainty cannot be asserted. It’s also used with negative constructions, dependent clauses and modal expressions.

- (3.12) a. *Kie*                      *vej̄mabu*                      *dakaṅsítidabi.*  
 ki-e                      vej̄-ma=bu                      da-kaṅ-síti-dabi  
 woman(DEF)-Nom    city(DEF)-GEN=from    3SG.SBJ-CTPT-go-IRR

‘The woman will/might come from the city.’

- b. *Kie*                      *kaṅsítiá*                      *dahoṅdabi.*  
 ki-e                      kaṅ-síti-á                      da-hoṅ-dabi  
 woman(DEF)-NOM    CTPT-go-NMLZ    3SG.SBJ-NEG.AUX-IRR

‘The woman won’t come.’



## Chapter 4

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# Pronouns

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Pronouns are the part of speech that function as substitutes of nouns or noun phrases and are known or understood from the context of a discourse. Byma is of particular interest as pronouns are an open class of words. This means that new pronouns can be created and used with relative ease to substitute nouns or nouns phrases, as opposed to what happens in other languages where new pronouns are rarely created.

### 4.1 Personal pronouns

There is a set of “true” personal pronouns that are unequivocally equivalent to English ‘I’, ‘you’, ‘he’, ‘she’, etc. However, these pronouns are seldomly used in practice and are replaced with other noun-like pronouns like kinship terms, societal roles and superior-subordinate labels.

Table 4.1: Byma personal pronouns (Independent and prefixed)

	INDEPENDENT		SUBJECT PREFIXES		OBJECT PREFIXES	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
First	<i>pyd</i>	<i>sí</i>	<i>py-</i>	<i>sí-</i>	<i>-my-</i>	<i>-sá-</i>
First incl.	–	<i>bypyq</i>	–	<i>byq-</i>	–	–
Second	<i>gvin</i>	<i>fyr</i>	<i>gvi-</i>	<i>fy-</i>	<i>-gi-</i>	<i>-es-</i>
Third	<i>dva</i>	<i>gó</i>	<i>da-</i>	<i>gó-</i>	<i>-∅-</i>	<i>-qo-</i>

As stated above, Byma-speaking people usually refer to themselves and each other with pronouns that are morphologically identical to nouns. Table 4.2 offers a very brief overview of the most common personal pronouns that show deference between speakers of different social ranks. Since there is no opposition between masculine and feminine nouns in Byma, all pronouns are gender neutral and equally used by men and women.

Table 4.2: *Byma* personal pronouns

FIRST PERSON		
Byma	Meaning	Usage
<i>dokeme</i>	‘this person’	<i>Dokeme</i> is a fairly neutral and polite way of referring to oneself. It is used with strangers when first meeting. While it is not self-deprecating, it can also be used when the speaker stands lower in the social hierarchy rank than the addressee.
<i>nyqsúe</i>	‘servant’	This is a self-deprecating first person pronoun usually used by servants, peasants and subjects of a ruler.
<i>tetióe</i>	‘student’	Used primarily by students in a classroom. Its reciprocal is <i>emnúqóe</i> ‘teacher’.
<i>gekeme</i>	‘people’	This is an inclusive first person plural pronoun that can be heard at social gatherings, like parties or protests, when referring to all the presents.
<i>mutedue</i>	‘crowd’	A polite way of referring to the subjects of a ruler.
<i>gvihe</i>	‘oneself’	An informal way of referring to oneself when being around friends.
SECOND PERSON		
<i>groge</i>	‘father’	Used to address elderly men. Its equivalent is <i>bryde</i> ‘mother’.
<i>soyaqe</i>	‘uncle/aunt’	A polite way of addressing middle-aged men and women.
THIRD PERSON		
<i>yibuúe</i>	‘master’	Used to refer to people that stand high in the social and political rank, like the actual master of a household or the president of a company.
<i>síe</i>	‘blood’	This is an endearing term to refer to one’s family.

## Chapter 5

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# Syntax

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Syntax is the set of rules that dictate the ways in which words combine to form phrases, clauses and sentences. This chapter describes an incomplete set of rules that govern the Byma syntax.

### 5.1 Word order in simple clauses

Since Byma has grammatical case to mark the syntactic role of nouns in a given clause, and also marks verb for subject and object, word order is flexible for the most part. Verbs, however, are consistently the last part of speech that appear in a sentence.

Simple clauses consists of a single predicate, without any nouns phrases, adverbial complements or dependent clauses. In the informal register, Byma allows to drop the subject and object of a sentence because they're already marked on the verb.

(5.13) *Pygitym̄us.*  
py-gi-tryṃ-us  
1SG.SBJ-2SG.OBJ-see/TR-PFV

'I saw you.'

In more formal registers, personal "pronouns" are required to show deference both from the speaker and toward the addressee.

(5.14) *Dokeme            ṅibuír            pygitym̄us.*  
dokem-e            ṅibuír-er            py-gi-tryṃ-us  
this.person-NOM    master(DEF)-ACC    1SG.SBJ-2SG.OBJ-see/TR-PFV

'I saw you.' (formal)

## 5.2 Dependent clauses

A dependent clause is, simply put, a clause embedded inside another clause. They usually appear as complements to a main verb.

### 5.2.1 Insubordination

Insubordination is defined as the use of constructions that usually appear in dependent clauses in environments where an independent clause is expected.

This feature is present in questions, imperatives and constructions that usually involve an emotional expression of awe, disgust, surprise, etc.

- (5.15) *Aṅ ro datagnesítidabi?*  
 aŋ ro da-tag-nesíti-dabi  
 and if 3SG.SBJ-CTFG-go.about-IRR  
 ‘What if he went for a walk?’

In imperatives, insubordination comes from a reanalysis of relative constructions that express desire:

- (5.16) *Na gvitagsítidabive (pykiṅkri).*  
 na gvi-tag-síti-dabi=ve (py-∅-kiṅ-kri)  
 there 2SG.SBJ-CTFG-go-IRR=REL/IMP (1SG.SBJ-3SG.OBJ-want/TR-IPFV)  
 ‘(I want you to) walk over there.’

## 5.3 Negation

Negation in Byma is marked by different construction according to the valency and the aspect of the verb in the positive declarative clause.

### 5.3.1 Imperfective aspect, intransitive verbs

A negative auxiliary morpheme *-hoN-* derived from the verb *hoje* ‘to do’ is used, to which the subject personal prefix is attached. The main verb is nominalized.

- (5.17) a. *Pykaṅhrugkri.*  
 py-kaṅ-hrug-kri  
 1SG.SBJ-CTPT-read/INTR-IPFV  
 ‘I’m reading.’

- b. *Kaṇhrugá*                      *pyhoṇkri.*  
 kaṇ-hrug-á                      py-hoṇ-kri  
 CTPT-read/INTR-NMLZ 1SG.SBJ-NEG.AUX-IPFV  
 ‘I’m not reading.’

### 5.3.2 Imperfective aspect, transitive verbs

Same strategy as above, but what was the object in the positive declarative sentence is now an indirect object marked with the dative case.

- (5.18) a. *Me mafti pykaṇhrugá.*  
 me mafti py-∅-kaṇ-hrug-á  
 INDF book.ACC 1SG.SBJ-3SG.OBJ-CTPT-read/TR-IPFV  
 ‘I’m reading a book.’
- b. *Kaṇhrugá me maftima pyhoṇkri.*  
 kaṇ-hrug-á me mafti-maṇya-hoṇ-kri  
 CTPT-read/TR-NMLZ INDF book.DAT 1SG.SBJ-NEG.AUX-IPFV  
 ‘I’m not reading a book.’

### 5.3.3 Perfective and irrealis aspect, intransitive and transitive verbs

The distinction between perfective and irrealis aspect is neutralized in negative constructions, as a negative clause indicates an action that essentially never happened or is never expected to happen.

- (5.19) a. *Pykaṇhrugus.*  
 py-kaṇ-hrug-us  
 1SG.SBJ-CTPT-read/INTR-PFV  
 ‘I read.’
- b. *Kaṇhrugá pyhondabi.*  
 kaṇ-hrug-á py-hoṇ-dabi  
 CTPT-read/INTR-NMLZ 1SG.SBJ-NEG.AUX-IRR  
 ‘I didn’t read.’

## Chapter 6

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# Lexicon

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### A

**ana** *v. imp.*: to be needed, to be required.

### B

**bigsubé** *v. sta.*: to be ugly.

**bryde** *n.*: mother.

### D

**digdaŋ** *v. tr.*: to provide.

**dina** *n.*: tomb.

**diná** *n.*: smoke || fog.

**dinna** *v. sta.*: to be clear, to be transparent.

**dymye** *v. tr.*: to pull || to tear, to rip.

### E

**edumó** *n.*: boat.

### H

**hádra** *n.*: oak tree.

### K

**keme** *n.*: person.

**kéye** *n.*: beetle.

### M

**meqgí** *n.*: cow.

### O

**ónog** *v. sta.*: to be strong.

### Q

**qreŋóe** *n.*: worker.

**qroge** *n.*: father.

**qvardymue** *n.*: lion.

### S

**sagsda** *n.*: rock, stone, boulder.

### T

**tóre** *n.*: bull.

**tryrgoq** *n.*: dead roots, stump || log.

**tryvid** *n.*: roots.