T'aḍḍu ʕal fiʕure
A Pardang Short Story*

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January 2022

Abstract

In the following article I will present the Pardang narrative *T'aḍḍu ʕal fiʕure* with glosses and annotations. The text itself is a translation of the story provided by the fourth Segments issue under the direction of u/roipoiboy, u/Lysimachiakis and u/Slorany. After presenting the bare text in comparison with the English equivalent in section 1, I will present a sentence-by-sentence analysis of the clauses' morphosyntactic structures, accompanied by some notes that might be interesting in section 2. At last, I will provide a table of demonstratives/determiners and the sound inventory of the Pardang language in appendices A and B. The glossing abbreviations used in this article can be found in appendix C. If you have any questions, PM me on Discord at tryddle#9377 or on reddit at u/tryddle.

1 Bare Text

T'aḍḍu ʔasen yakka mi ʔaay ʕal fiʕure, ehu-ehu niʔ fo ḍaŋ e haŋ p'aa iwu. Ibu-ibu ʔaxayaa e ʔahołło łot'a fo ḍaŋ. Alt'uŋʷ mi dottu ʔakʷo e af-fuli mi dottu ʔała. ʕa ḍaŋ ep'a ʔakʷo iʔ yattu ʔaweʕiin e yakka ᵑᵐgbabulu-ḍalubu ʔałaŋ mi ʔała. Ɖuy ʔaroŋʷoo bikʷ mi ʔała, erruy e baʔ mi ʔaḍor.

Wol le ḍaŋ yakka p'ir al-ayya ʔafa. ʔum u iʕatta ʔapuy af-fiʕu nał. Łut le ḍaŋ yakka p'ir i am-mu ʔałurk'u u dow xʷaŋ, e ḍuy yakka ʔała i ʔaxʷobbo mu yuk riŋ ʔaʕar urut xʷaŋ nał, yum lah! E ḍaŋ yakka t'eri-t'ari ʔasaʔ ʔasał, ʔum ḍuy yakka ʕalat e ʔanu nał, ʔum ʔafiʕuu axʷ-xʷaŋ riŋ

An old man lived alone with his dog on a small, rocky island. They lived in a wooden hut covered in moss. The sky was always gray and it rained often. The old man had gray hair and a thick, wiry beard. The dog was big with a long, brown coat.

Each morning, the old man drank a bitter tea and shared cold leftovers with his dog. In the afternoon, he walked to the shore to catch some fish. The dog chased away seagulls that wanted to steal the tasty fish. The old man then chopped firewood, and the dog sat by his side, guarding the fish. In the evening, the

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*I'd primarily like to thank the Segments team for providing such a great opportunity for conlangers to present their work. I also thank akam chinjir for creating the baarux and baabbrevs LaTeX packages, which were essential to the formatting of this article.

1

nał. Ep'aʔ ʔała ʔarup'uu e ʔakampa at-tamał, e ʔaḍi af-fiʕu e ḍaʔał, e ḍa an ḍaŋ betteya ʕal maʔatarḍa u ła i ʔokʷooŋ. Al-t'aḍḍu ʔasen ay mi ʔadeʕe eʔum ʕal fiʕur mi ʔała ʕal wa ʔaxeʔ haŋ.

man salted and cooked the fish, and ate them with the dog. They slept by the warm fire to keep away the bitter cold. His life was simple, but so long as he had his dog, the old man was happy.

2   Annotated Gloss

(1) *t'aḍḍu ʔa-sen yakka mi   ʔa-ay ʕal fiʕu-r=e*
man   3-old ERG   GENR 3-live 3   dog-POSSD=with

"An old man lived with his dog [...]"

- In Pardang, property concepts — or what are called 'adjectives' in European languages — are divided between nouns and verbs, meaning that some are expressed by nominal, others by verbal means. In this case, the property concept of *sen* 'old' is expressed by a verb in a relative clause. So-called adjectival verbs may be used for both attributive and predicative constructions, whereas adjectival nouns require special morphology to appear in attributive contexts.
- The verb *ay* 'to live' is a fluid verb, meaning that it can either take *yakka* ERG, or not, depending on the saliency of the subject. Without the ergative marker, the meaning of the verb changes to 'to be alive', which contrasts with the active form, whose meaning is 'to live swh.'.
- Pardang distinguishes alienable and inalienable possession. In this case, alienable possession is present: the marker *-r* attaches to the possessed noun, which is preceded by its possessor.

(2) *ehu-ehu niʔ fo   ḍaŋ*
land~DIM on EXIST VIS.UNSPF

"[...] (they were) on an island [...]"

- The diminutive of *ehu* 'land', which is formed by full reduplication, either means 'small island' or 'islet', or refers to any defined small land area.
- The word *niʔ* refers to the scalp or the top of the head when used as a noun; as a postposition, as in this case, it means 'lying flat on top of sth.', but can also refer to objects that are located on the ground.
- *fo* can only be used for existential constructions that are combined with an adpositional oblique. For bare existential clauses (e.g. "There is a cat."), the verb *ła* 'to exist' is used.
- In narratives, the unspecified visible and non-visible demonstratives may also be used to indicate the pragmatic distance of anaphora.[1]   In that case, a visible demonstrative marks a pragmatically prominent referent, whereas a non-visible demonstrative marks a less prominent one. In sentence 2 *ḍaŋ* refers to both the man and the dog, as number is not distinguished on demonstratives.

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[1]Cf. appendix A for a full table of Pardang demonstratives and determiners.

(3) *e   haŋ   p'aa   iwu*
     and little.one bladder spicy.one

     "[...] and it was small and harsh."

- Equative predicates are constructed by simple juxtaposition. In this sentence, the copula subject is left out twice, once for the first equative construction [$\emptyset_{CS}$[2] *haŋ*$_{CC}$] and then a second time for the other, more complex construction [$\emptyset_{CS}$ [*p'aa*$_{CS}$ *iwu*$_{CC}$]$_{CC}$]. This latter construction could be translated literally as "[The island] is a bladder which is spicy.", or, more naturally, "It is a spicy bladder.".

- In this clause, a mechanism can be observed which is present in numerous Pardang narratives: personification. The island is given human attributes such as *haŋ* 'little' — a property concept which is usually used for humans or animals — and *p'aa iwu* 'angry'. Furthermore, emotions are expressed by stating the physical state of the bladder, as it is seen as the centre of all emotional processes. That way, those two property concepts refer to the size and the inhospitality of the island.

(4) *ibu-ibu   ʔa-xa-ya-a   e   ʔa-hołło   łot'a   fo   ɖaŋ*
     house~DIM   3-wood-REL-VRBLZ   and 3-be.covered.in.moss   inside.of   EXIST VIS.UNSPF

     "They were in a hut that was made of wood and covered in moss."

- *łot'a* also means 'heart'. In Pardang, all spatial relations are encoded through relational nouns like this one.

- To derive material-denoting property concepts from nouns, the relativizer *-ya* is used. This process yields an adjectival noun that can be used predicatively. To use it as an attribute, like in this case, the general verbalizer, which lengthens the last vowel of the stem, is employed. Finally, for the result to be grammatical, a person marker needs to be prefixed, since this construction is a relative clause (cf. 1).

- As the alert reader might have noticed, this clause's structure is equivalent to the one present in sentence 2. It should be noted that parallelism is a common rhetoric device found in Pardang narratives.

(5) *al=t'uŋ*^{w} *mi   dottu   ʔa-kʷo   e   af=fuli   mi   dottu ʔa-ła*
     DEF=sky GENR   always 3-be.gray   and DEF=rain   GENR   often 3-exist

     "The sky was always gray and rain often existed."

- *dottu* usually means 'often', but has been used hyperbolically in this sentence, resulting in the meaning 'always'.

- Nouns referring to weather phenomena must always take the definite article.

- Color terms like *kʷo* 'to be gray' are usually encoded by adjectival verbs.

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[2]In this notation, CS = copula subject and CC = copula complement.

(6) *ʕa   ɖaŋ   ep'a ʔa-kʷo   iʔ   yattu ʔa-weʕiin   e*
REASS VIS.UNSPF hair 3-be.gray and(PHRAS) beard 3-dense:VRBLZ and(CLAUS)

yakka ⁿᵐgbabulu-ɖalubu   ʔał-aŋ mi   ʔa-ła
ERG   ID:jumping_up_and_down 3-say GENR 3-exist

"His (the man's) gray hair and [his] beard which is dense and says *ⁿᵐgbabulu-ɖalubu* existed."

- *ʕa* may be used to denote that the referents of the pragmatic deixis markers have been reassigned. The new assignment of referents can solely be deduced by context, and in this sentence, while at the beginning of the narrative *ɖaŋ* refers to both the dog and his owner, the reassignment results in *ɖaŋ* referring to the owner. This is evident, since *yattu* 'beard' is only used for humans, and not for animal fur.
- The syntactic structure of this clause is as follows: [*ʕa ɖaŋ* [*ep'a ʔakʷo*]$_{POSSD1}$ *iʔ* [*yattu* [*ʔaweʕiin*]$_{REL1}$ *e* [Ø *yakka ⁿᵐgbabulu-ɖalubu ʔałaŋ*]$_{REL2}$]$_{POSSD2}$]$_{NP}$ *mi ʔała*
- *iʔ* is used as a phrasal conjunction; in this case, it connects the possessees 'gray hair' and 'thick, wiry beard' (*ep'a ʔakʷo* and *yattu ʔaweʕiin e yakka ⁿᵐgbabulu-ɖalubu ʔałaŋ* respectively). By doing that, the possessor *ʕa ɖaŋ* does not have to be stated again.
- In this clause, only inalienable possession can be observed, since both *ep'a* and *yattu* are referring to body parts. In inalienable possessive constructions, the possessor is simply juxtaposed to the possessee.
- *e* is used as a clausal conjunction; in this case, it connects the relative clauses *ʔaweʕiin* and *yakka ⁿᵐgbabulu-ɖalubu ʔałaŋ*. Since the S$_O$ of the first relative clause and the S$_A$ of the second relative clause are co-referential, the subject *yattu* is not explicitly stated again.

(7) *ɖuy   ʔa-roŋʷoo bikʷ mi ʔa-ła,   erruy   e baʔ mi   ʔa-ɖor*
NVIS.UNSPF 3-big:VRBLZ fur GENR 3-exist | brown.one and 4.S$_o$ GENR 3-be.long

"Its — it was big — fur existed, [and it was a] brown one, it was long."

- *bikʷ* refers to the fur or skin of animals, whether it be in the context of hunting or not. It may also be used as a derogatory noun referring to pubic hair.
- *roŋʷo* is an adjectival noun and thus requires the verbalizer to appear in attributive position.
- *baʔ* is the fourth person O/S$_O$, and since *ɖor* is an adjectival verb and requires an S$_O$ subject, this form of the pronoun is used. The correspondent A/S$_A$ form is *ʔa*. The fourth person pronoun is rarely employed, and only used to disambiguate between referents. In this case, it refers to the dog's fur, and not to the animal itself.

(8) *wol   le   ɖaŋ   yakka p'ir   al=ayya ʔa-fa*
morning beneath VIS.UNSPF ERG   ACT.HAB DEF=ayya 3-drink

"In the morning, he used to drink *ayya* [...]"

- In Pardang, the time of day is always stated in combination with the postposition *le* 'leg, foot'.

- The active habitual marker *p'ir* is used for encoding that an event has been carried out by a subject multiple times or habitually. It focuses of the agentivity of that subject and is not used with natural cycles or habitual events that occur unvolitionally.
- *ayya* refers to a special kind of bitter herbal tea which, according to the Pardang, has healing abilities. It is often used in rituals but can be drunken in any social context. The word *ayya* is probably related to the verb *ay* 'to be alive, to breathe', since the Pardang attribute sentient qualities to the beverage.

(9)   *ʔum*   *u*   *iʕatta*   *ʔa-puy*   *af=fiʕu*   *naɬ*
       while   OBL   leftovers   3-share.with   DEF=dog   BG

"[...] while he shared *iʕatta* leftovers with his dog."

- *iʕatta* refers to a special kind of savoury pancake that is usually eaten with hot stew for dinner. It is also often consumed with sweet condiments on the next day. Furthermore the noun may refer to any kind of cold leftovers, as it does in this sentence.
- The conjunction *ʔum* 'while' introduces a dependent clause; thus, the constituent order changes to SVO (instead of SOV in independent clauses). Note that in this clause, the subject was omitted since it is co-referential with the subject in the preceding clause. Moreover, a conjunction like *ʔum* belongs to either the set I or set II class, which influences the choice of person markers on the dependent verb. But since the paradigms of set I and set II verbal markers exhibit widespread syncretism, in 9 we don't see any surface-level change.
- The verb *puy* 'to share with' takes the object shared as an oblique argument, marked by the case marker *u*, while the person with whom it is shared is represented as direct object. The coding frame of this verb therefore varies greatly from that in English. *u* is also used to mark the underlying O in applicative constructions, or to mark the object in frustrative constructions.
- The background marker *naɬ* appears in Pardang clause chains and encodes pragmatic prominence. It contrasts with the foreground marker *=ɬ*, which is used whenever a clause is deemed as describing a core event of the narrative. In this sentence, the sharing of the leftovers is not considered a core element of the narrative, and is therefore marked by *naɬ*.
- Another property of clause chains in Pardang is that only the first clause in each chain is marked for aspect. All subsequent clauses are left unmarked. Furthermore, only the first clause in each chain may take a time adverbial. To encode the temporal relations between two clauses, conjunctions like *e*, *p'aʔ* or *ʔum* are used.

(10)   *ɬut*   *le*   *ɖaŋ*   *yakka p'ir*   *i*   *am=mu*   *ʔaɬ-urk'u u*   *dow*   *xʷaŋ*
       later   beneath   VIS.UNSPF   ERG   ACT.HAB   go   DEF=water   3-walk   OBL   catch   fish

"After that, he used to walk to the shore to catch some fish."

- In clauses describing events of motion, the goal of the motion is always marked by the bare form of the verb *i* 'to go'.
- Purposive clauses are formed by attaching a uninflected dependent clause (hence the VO constituent order) to the oblique case marker *u*.

(11) [...] *e   ɖuy   yakka ʔa-ła i   ʔa-xʷobbo mu   yuk riŋ ʔa-ʕar*
       and NVIS.UNSPF ERG   3-do go   3-fly   water bird PL 3-desire

u-r=ut   xʷaŋ nał, yum   lah
OBL-EP=steal fish BG | tasty.one LAH

"And the dog made the water birds which desired to steal the fish fly away, it [the fish] must have been tasty!"

- The verb *ła* 'to do' may be used as a causativizer, similar to English 'make'.
- In isolation, the bare form of *i* 'to go' encodes motion away from the deictic center.
- The verb *ʕar* 'to desire' requires a purposive clause introduced by *u*. In this sentence, the verb *ut* 'to steal' is encliticized to the case marker, with an epenthetic element being inserted between the two parts.
- *lah* is a discourse particle encoding the speaker's persistence on the truthfulness of a seemingly doubtful assertion, but can also be used for epistemic modalities.

(12) *e   ɖaŋ   yakka t'eri-t'ari   ʔa-saʔ   ʔa-sał*
       and VIS.UNSPF ERG   ID:distributed_performance 3-chop.wood 3-do.FG

"And he chopped wood like *t'eri-t'ari*, here and there [...]"

- The ideophone *t'eri-t'ari* is called distributed performance in the gloss, but its meaning is more appropriately approximated using the English phrase 'doing a little here and there, in a scattered manner'. It is often used when talking about activities such as plucking berries or chopping wood.
- Some commonly used verbs — like *ła* 'to do' — have dedicated suppletive forms for their role in clause chaining.

(13) *ʔum ɖuy   yakka ʕalat e   ʔa-nu nał, ʔum ʔa-fiʕuu axʷ=xʷaŋ riŋ nał*
       while NVIS.UNSPF ERG   3.M with 3-sit BG | while 3-guard DEF=fish PL BG

"[...] while it sat with him, while [it] guarded the fish."

- In this narrative, the chopping of the wood is considered to be the foreground activity, whereas the dog guarding the fish is seen as something that happens in the background. Therefore, in 13, *nał* is used.
- The verb *fiʕuu* 'to guard' is derived from the word for 'dog', *fiʕu*, and specifically refers to the protection dogs provide to the property of their owners.

(14) *e-p'aʔ   ʔa-ła ʔa-rup'uu   e   ʔa-kampa at-tam=a-ł*
       and-then 3-do 3-salt:VRBLZ and 3-cook   DEF=fish=EP-FG

"And then, later, he made the fish salty and cooked it [...]"

- To denote a larger temporal distance between two dependent clauses, the conjunction *p'aʔ* can be suffixed onto *e* 'and'.

- The verbalizer mentioned above can also be used to derive verbs from non-adjectival nouns to denote 'having the quality of X'.
- While *xʷaŋ* refers to uncooked, freshly caught fish, *tam* refers to any type of prepared fish, whether it be salted, cooked or smoked.

(15) *e   ʔa-ɖi af=fiʕu   e   ɖaʔ=a-ł*
    and 3-eat DEF=dog with AUDIT.UNSPF=EP-FG

"And he ate them with the dog."

- The auditory unspecified demonstrative may also be used in the same ways as the other demonstratives in the narrative. In this sentence, it refers to the cooked fish.

(16) *e   ɖa   an ɖaŋ   betteya ʕal ma-ʔa-t-arɖa   u   ła i*
    and thus AN VIS.UNSPF fireplace 3   A.PREC-3-by-sleep OBL do go

ʔokʷooŋ
coldness:INTENS

"And thus it was by the fireplace that they slept, to make the coldness go away."

- The particle *an* introduces an object fronting construction, which results in an OSV constituent order and new focus: the object. This transformation causes the verb to take the prefix *ma-* A.PREC which signals that the subject *ʕal* immediately precedes the verb. Moreover, the fronted object is obligatorily marked by the determiner *ɖaŋ*, which is homophonous to the demonstratives used above.
- In this clause, by incorporating an adposition into the verb complex, the underlying oblique was promoted to O. Thus the only way to focus an oblique is by using this kind of applicative construction.
- The general verbalizer also has a secondary function, which is intensifying nouns that describe weather phenomena.

(17) *al=t'aɖɖu ʔa-sen ay mi   ʔa-deʕe   e-ʔum   ʕal fiʕu-r   mi*
    DEF=man   3-old life GENR 3-be.simple and-as.long.as 3   dog-POSSD GENR

ʔa-ła ʕal wa   ʔa-xeʔ   haŋ
3-exist 3   DECL 3-be.happy EMOT

"The old man's life was simple, and as long as his dog existed, he was happy — and still is."

- In Pardang, at the and of a narrative, after only being referred to by demonstrative or pronouns, the protagonists of the story are at last mentioned as entire noun phrases.
- With the meaning 'as long as', the conjunction *ʔum* requires its dependent clauses to be followed by an independent clause that is not marked by aspect particles. In addition, in this narrative, the last clause uses the present, since the old man is considered to be happy up until this day.

- Since the last clause is not marked for aspect, the declarative marker *wa* appears right after the subject *ʕal*. In its most unmarked form it would be accompanied by the particle *an*, which then would appear at the very end of the clause. In this sentence, *an* is replaced by *haŋ*, a discourse particle indicating the subject's emotional involvement regarding the event.

A Demonstratives and determiners

	Visible		Non-Visible	Auditory
	Proximal	Distal		
near speaker	*ŋu*	*ŋaw*	*luy*	
near listener	*lu*	*law*		*ŋaʔ*
near both	*ʕu*	*ʕaw*	*ʕuy*	
far away	—	*ʔa*		*ʕallatuḍḍi*
unspecified	*ḍaŋ*		*ḍuy*	*ḍaʔ*

Table 1: Determiner/demonstrative system[3]

B Sound inventory

	Labial	Dental	Post-Dental	Velar		Guttural
Ejective	p'	t̪'		k'		
Voiceless plosive	p	t̪		k	kʷ	ʔ
Voiced plosive	b	d̪	ḍ			
Prenasalized cons.				ŋmgb*		
Nasal	m	n̪		ŋ	ŋʷ	
Fricative	f	s̪	ɬ	x	xʷ	ħ~ʕ h
Approximants		ɾ̪	ļ			
Glides			j		w	

Table 2: Pardang consonant sounds[4]

	Front	Central	Back
High	i iː		u uː
Mid	e eː		o oː
Low		a aː	

Table 3: Pardang vowel sounds

[3]Each of these forms may be used with a head noun as determiners, or without one as demonstratives. They may also be used with third person pronouns to indicate the deictic relations of the referents.

[4]The consonant marked by * appears only marginally, and I do not consider it to be phonemic due to the lack of minimal pairs.

C List of glossing abbreviations

3	3rd person	**INTENS**	Intensifier
4	4th person	**LAH**	*lah*-marker
A.PREC	A preceding	**M**	Male
ACT.HAB	Active habitual	**NVIS**	Non-visual
AN	*an*-marker	**OBL**	Oblique
BG	Background marker	**PL**	Plural
DECL	Declarative	**POSSD**	Possessed
DIM	Diminutive	**REASS**	Deictic reassignment
EMOT	Emotional involvement	**REL**	Relativizer
ERG	Ergative	**S$_o$**	O-like subject
EXIST	Existential	**UNSPF**	Unspecified
FG	Foreground marker	**VIS**	Visual
GENR	Generic	**VRBLZ**	Verbalizer
ID	Ideophone		