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b y



Below is a list of the late Meroitic lexical items. The Meroitic script has 24 signs. The Meroitic script is a syllabic writing system. This system of writing was used for 500 years.



a	Ž	93	m	Z	3	se	#	VII
e	Ą	9	n	<b>***</b>	/ <b>\{</b>	k	3	$/\!$
i	Å,	4	ne	計	X	q	Δ	/3
0	8	/	r	·	W	t	H	7
у	44	///	1	54	4	te		14
w	8	8	<b>h</b>	<b>(</b>		to	1	.(
b	Z)	/	<u>h</u>	也	3	đ	<b>*</b>	$\nabla$
p	<b>#</b>	~_/	š, s	Ш	3	word divider	. 0	1

In this examination of Meroitic we used the transliteration of many Meroitic phonemes proposed by Hintze (1974, 1979), rather than the entire transliteration system for Meroitic proposed by Griffith (1911). Each Meroitic consonant except when followed by the vowel sign /i/, /o/ and /e/ represents the consonant sound plus the schwa (the high/mid central /a/ vowel).

#### **PRONUNCIATION**

	Front	Cent	ral Back
close	i	(y)	(w)
close mic	t	е	0

open a

The Meroitic vowels are distinguished by individual signs for i , e , a , o .

There are four Meroitic vowels /a/, /e/, /i/, and /o/ . There is a neutral vowel sound attached to the Meroitic consonants except for the **te** and **to** signs.

The Meroitic vowel sounds are as follows:

- e long e sound as in make
- a long a sound as in father
- i long i sound as in see
- o long o sound as in sock stands for a in asleep

I believe that Meroitic may have two additional vowel sounds. These sounds may be the open mid vowels è and ò. In many African languages we find these vowels.

It therefore stands to reason that they might also occur in Meroitic. I believe that this is proven by the Meroitic script.

In Meroitic we have the /t/ sound represented by . Eventhough we have the /t/ sound and the vowel /e/ and /o/,

#### **CONSONANTS**

There are five syllables in Meroitic  $\tilde{\mathbf{n}}$ ,  $\mathbf{se}$ ,  $\mathbf{te}$ ,  $\mathbf{to}$  and the so-called divider sign (:) -ne represented by separate sounds (Hintze 1974). In this translation of Meroitic each Meroitic syllable without a vowel attached to it is written as a single consonant.

The consonants of Meroitic are as follows:

- h kh like the rasping **ch**: Scottish loch and Bach in German
- h ch ich breathy ch, ç
- a pronounched like /a/ in father
- b as in English
- d as in English
- i pronounced like /i/ in machine
- k pronounced like the /k/ in King
- I as in English
- m "
- n "
- p "

Blemmy Empire									
r	11								
s	pronounced like /z/ in <b>z</b> oo or /s/ as in ro <b>s</b> e								
<u>s</u>	pronounced like the <b>sh</b> in <b>sh</b> are								
t	as in English								
to	pronounced like the to in stole								
te	pronounced like the <b>te</b> in <b>te</b> a								
W	pronounced like the /w/ in water								
y	as in English								
q	न व								
ñ	ñ pronounced like <b>ng</b> as in si <b>ng</b>								
Mer	oitic Cor	nsonant	<u>s</u>						
Plos	sive	p, b	t,d	h(kh)	k,q	<u>h</u> (ch)	Nasal	m	n
ñ									
Lateral			1						
Roll	ed		r						

 $\underline{s}(sh)$   $\underline{h}(ch)$ 

y

S

## **GRAMMAR**

Semi-vowel

W

Fricative

Late Meroitic has the VSO pattern. The Meroitic language include both prefixes and suffixes, but, suffixes are used extensively in the writing. The popular sentence pattern in late Meroitic inscriptions is -->VP NP or S--> VP NP VP. For example,

wto si lit. to guide you satisfaction

"You guide (me) to satisfaction".

**terike Io wi-ne s** lit. Fashion dispatch the Awe patron "Fashion (and) dispatch the Awe of the patron".

Meroitic was probably a lingua franca used by the Meroites to unite the diverse ethnic groups which lived in the Meroitic empire. Although many vocabulary items of Archaic Meroitic was used to write Late Meroitic text, the Late Meroitic structure is less complicated than Archaic Meroitic.

Many Meroitic words are homophone signs. A homophone sign has the same phonetic value as another. The interchangeable Meroitic homophones include b=/=p, t=/=d, k=/=g,  $s=/=\underline{s}$  and  $n=/=\tilde{n}$ , e.g., **tb / tp 'announce in a loafty voice'.** 

The Meroitic separator sign (:) has the phonetic value -ne. This sign in the Meroitic script was used to change verbs into nouns, or signify the word "good".

The element -ne-, although it is occasionally used in the initial formation of words, the separator sign -ne, was primarially used as a suffix.

### LATE MEROITIC WORD LIST

a1, intensive prefix 'to'; element used to form the future

tense

a2, third person suffix 'he, it, she'.

 $+\omega$  ari, affirmation

ah, teach, to learn, to study

*V*ς ab, ancestor, father

14.7 γωως arrette, Harendotes (Horus the Avenger of his father)

x/4+ως Ariteñ, name of a god

**2**92 -an(a), plural suffix: wi-ne-ana 'much awe, much fright

much respect'

عرب ap, ancestor; father

ナンタ api, the ancestor leaves

\$92 ato, path, road, route

2. out here

3. absent, on tour, away

4. way, march, progressive

3992 atom, he is to be reborn; e.g. atonhene 's/he is be reborn to

realize

4492 ale, the palm off the hand

ω/492 ater, hero

Iως aro, long (time); olden times; perpetuate

:  $I\omega$  arone, perpetuation, perpetuity

\$92 ato, suitable

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४८९ as-I, religious
हें ar, to bring out, produce
+ω92 ari, manifestation; affirmation, revelation
τως art, praise
प्रश्य añ, spirit
श्रद्ध aññ, cosiderable spirit
392 am, soul
ንፎና ant, prophet
रुप ad, he leaves
141と92 apote, agent
$\text{$\text{q}}\ ato, water (?)
४९२ al, nobel
at, down the path
В
μ
          b, Ba (aspect of Man)
                    2, plural element, 'many, much, abundant
IV bo, all; to swell, to inflate
ωV br1, man, men
                       2, sustain, bring
▽V bh, mature, ripe
\mathsf{D}

    □ Description
    □ 

▼ d-ne, transmission, deliver; bequeath, pledge,

inheritance
ママ dd. considerable donation
ママ dd (Egyptian), holy pillar
145 dete, your donation; your almsgiving
                        2. extreme limit
カウマ dot, in the meantime, at such a point; interval
\nu db, leave a grand legacy
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de, indeed; give the offering
+∞ di, on its passage; to place; to set (in place)
ナメナシ dili, wayfaring, travel
级 dl, rising
▽▽ dh, donations; grand donations
♥♥ do, donation, offering; consecrate
        2. give (its) beginning
くとや do-a, gone away
Е
Se1, vouchsafe; give; command; grant a boon
  e2, masculine nominative singular accusative suffix
for
  e3, complete, complement;
 e4, register, book
र्भ e-t, vouchsafe the arrangement
   2. you vouchsafe
       command
    " complete
V γ eb, cover
el, gift و
: 39 elne, revelation
: 9 e-ne, almsgiving; generous
    2. contribution, presentation
र ek, nourishment
: 9 ene, Commander, Chief;
square em, to teach; to direct
   2. great favor
92 : 39 em-ne-a, he is to teach
د: f enep, gives him
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2. Commander
     3. bestowal
19 e-o, beginning now!
  2. give opening too
ω<sup>ς</sup> er, produce, evoke
+\omega eri, go give indeed; go favor indeed; go
vouchsafe indeed
Vς eb, cover
WIS es, welfare, manifestation
   2. es, welfare, manifest
   3. agreed; granted
   4. well, good
φς eto, out here, out
    2. way, route, road, path
र्प eñ, command; punish
III   ey, favor

√

H

▽ h, kha
 3. offer alms
w▽ hr, dignity
3 H
7 h, offering; grand, great
47 hl, support
13 ho, soul
\omega^{z} hr, repute, esteem
4 i, go
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: + ine, tradition, (as) is the Way
₹

ik, place, spot, ; abode, sojour, place where
(one) sojours
WI+ i-s, singular nominative
34 im, s/he goes, it goes
   2. reach; do, make
   3. act, attach
   4. memory, remembrance, recollection
\nabla + ih, (to) the spot
ナシナ idi, give it leave
f≥+ ide, the bequeathal
匙4 in, he goes
K
₹ k, as is obligatory,k-ne, Object of supplication
ドえ kb, to desire
ke, to revitalize; ask permission
: 52 kene, origination, revitalization
: /4ናጂ ketene, ascent
ナミ ki, the order, work
ナダミ kdi, lady; duty
パ kl, tolerate, bear; borne
L
4 -I, meroitic ending particle;
  2. verb "to be"; Ine 'living, existence'
V γ leb, to restore; leb-ne "restoration".
+3 li, exalted; li-ne 'transmittal, transmit,
レジ lh, behold; grand, great
え lk, Lak, a tribal name
える behold
143 Ite, transmigration
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63
    lw, to have glory; lw-ne, gloriy
M
3
   m1 ,measure,; great, much, many; long
    2, used to form verbs into adjectives
    3, third person singular maculine pronoun him,
his
   4, 'to be'
পিছা প্ৰ mde1, great son
         2, proceed, progressively; open with force
      mek, much, many, considerable
4β mi, rain, libation
      2, injury
13
    mo, to be
      2, boast, extensive, ample, expansive,
boundless
ml, under the influence, spirit, soul; heart
企+3 min, good libations
る mk, lord, god
ንዓን met, release
I4凡3 mnte, like, such as
४५३ mel, spirituality
133 mlo, innerheart
十<u>ル</u>3 mni, Amani, a Meroitic god
が mt, break open
143 mte, unlock
w3 mr, hand, luck
III93 mey, measure, proportion, dimensions, length
ランル mnpt, Great Napata
: チァンル3 mnpt ine, Within Great Napata
Ν
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የደናሌ nea, now
PSP neb, much good
ናይ ne, good; intruth
nm, to bend, to incline
+3/2 nmi, bowing, lending, obeisance
えった ntk, the lord
Will ns, to desire
92 : 企 n-ne-a, will be goodness; much goodness;
his goodness
ያየጁ nem, name
nte, honor; bow in reverence
reh, at this moment
net, bow in reverence; your goodness
十是 ni, shinning
らえたいん Nsdoke, Nasadoke ( a tribal name)
w P ▽ № Nhbr, Nkhabara (tribal name)
水 nl. retire
IL no, again, renew
reh, (has) passed away
えレイル nebk, in accord with, in agreement with
ጂዓሌ nek, god
ንዓይ nem, bend, incline, reverence
: + nine, radiance, incandescence

  ▼
  Ñ

ヌ ñ1, good
    2, third person personal pronoun 'his, him'
: \nabla ñ-ne, goodness; to manifest, to show
      2.; his goodness
えァ ñk, now, at this moment; at present
郊 fil, penetrate, to conceal; to retire;
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: 3\pi ñl-ne, departure, parting, emigration,
embarkation
A present No. 2 present
: 3/4x ñtelne, bows in reverence (to the gods)
: \sqrt{x} ñe-ne, Goodness
が, honor, bow in reverence; veneration; piety,
homage, worship
ナシレヌ ñbli, the law
えx ñk, to perish, to disappear; now; present
participle
∭x ñy, bring good
: -ne, good
: -ne,particle used to change verbs into nouns
: 92 nea, now, at this time
: 4 nei, goodness; benevolence
ineno, to show, to manifest, to reveal
ラ : net, bow in reverence
o1, used to change nouns into adjectives
    2. commence, begin, open;
    3. reaching; initiate, start
    4 . attain; to arrive at
l : o-ne, genesis
: 9 o-e, beginning now!
141 ote, esclamation used to express astonishment
or admiration:
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wonder, approbation, recognition, prestige
₹/ ok, produce, produce;
   2. yet, still, as yet;
  3. anew
: え/ ok-ne, the acquisition
डा ol, grand
Sel ode, wonderment, admiration
ot, to esteem; ot-ne 'approbation'
on, to commence, to set about
      2, to stay, to wait for
らって otp, esteem, recognition
oy, commence to make/form
P
Z
    p, beg, solicit, pray
ይይናረ penn-ne 'everywhere'
ナン pi, go pray
らいますと pilqe, Philae
えと pk, take aim
メン pl, praise, righteous; pl-ñ 'righteous good'
マス ph, with the intention; to aspire
Ww マン phrs. Faras
ァス pt, praise
3と pm, clear, bright
۶٤ pe, therefore;
    pe, bestow, vouchsafe, favor, donate
    pe, foot
w<sup>ς</sup>z per, support; to boast, to praise
: wfz per-ne, uplift, nurture
    adulation, glorification, grace; rapture,
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apporbation
プタンpet. reverence
   pet2, he implores
メン pl, righteous
マス ph, with the intention; to aspire
         ripen, mature, decay
タと ps, guard, protection
乏と pk, to aim, to take aim

炒
    pq, fashion, make; make it so, grant (my) prayer

       lit. "prayer make it"
wk≥ pgr, prince
ラス pt, praise
3中と pol, all
マヌらこ peñn, bestow on him Greatness
$392 pesto, viceroy
144ωςz perite, agent
I4ናኝናጆናረ pedeme-te, Ibrim
⇔₩/ς∠ pesto, "pray to manifest dynamicism"
wマス phr, pray for dignity
Q
k>
    q, make, form act; to desire

⟨⟨A⟩⟩ ge creation; ge-ne Creator

1k) honorable
w⊳k gor monarch
R
w r, indeed, certainly
√w re, indeed; give indeed
4ω ri, city
lw ro, unlock
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: Iw rone, unlocking good
 79ω ret, union; to unite, reconcile
$√ω reto, inclination
₹ rit, to look, to search
イミナル rike, indeed to sojour
 えんナω rinek, withdraw, leave
$\displaystyle \square \displaystyle \dintit{\displaystyle \displaystyle \displaystyle \displaystyl
 35w rem, witness
 : 3ω rm-ne, manipulation
k w rq, to cover; to escort
W/w rs, to spread, to extend
+₩//w rosi, unlocking contentment
                                    satisfaction
14\omega rte, to unite
▽w rh, to extend, to spread over; sojour
WI S
W s, son;
       1. to protect, to support;
       2. to be
       3. ascent. rise
: W s-ne prop up ; sne, Protector
划 sl, consecrate
14VII ste, mother; rich
₹₩ s-I, king
VVIII sb, pile' heap, piece
                               2. dedicate, consecrate
                               3. cover, rub with ointment
: $\text{VIII} sl-ne, harmony, merit
sl, bring, set in, motion; to leap over, consecrate
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4111
      si, to be
       2, satisfied, satisfying, happy
: <del>4</del>///
        si-ne, contentment, atonement
匙W sn, clever, skillful
4別 sli, rule, order
         2. regularity, dynasty
3₩ sm, wife
1314VII
        stelo, (he) is (laid) low
             2. he is solitary
             3. he is alone
3
   Sh
   sh, King, patron; to protect, to support
      shne, defeated, destroyed
以 sho, life, to live
4≤ shi, satisfy

≤ sh[a], to consecrate

उ sh[a], spirit body
炒る sh[a]q, Shaqa (a tribal group)
: 53 shene, sustence
ω3 shr, sister, luck
५८ she, son
         2. to be
         3. to prop up, to support
         4. to be
         5. to be patron of
         6. shelter, favor
¬γγ3 shañ, in harmony, art, skill
: 43
       she-ne, to be satisfying, atonement
             2. happy, pleased, glad
             3. to be content, to be alive
```

## 4. encouragement, sustence,

#### maintenance

: +3 shi-ne, atonement, expiration; propitiation

**≼** sh, the spirit body

wጂና skr, dignity, eminent

以 so, to live, life

# Sore, Osiris

*▽/*S soh, happiness, prosperity good, fortune

2. to render, to retire, to restore

3.

ና2ዓይ snea, a (new) vivification

+3≤sim, abode, house

35 sm, refuge, equal

ラム st, exaltation

५२: उ s-ne-a, close at hand, coming, approaching

V3 sb, annoint, cover with oil

र्ड sk, to remain, to stay

I4 조조 skte, 'you will remain'

: /3 sone, animate, existence; vital spirit

ミナム sik, contentment

2. overflowing, to run over, to be flooded

3. to march, to walk, to advance

4. step, pace

१२५४ se-a, favour

w/33 ssor, scribe

wえる skr, to be emminent, to be worthy; to be

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dignitied
ナωえる skr-i, Eminence, Worthy, Dignified
143 ste, mother
Т
7 t1, here
    t2, third personal pronoun 'he, it, her'
   t3, to arrange, to establish
47 ti, go arrange
ናጂን tke, set in motion
えっ tk, set in motion
47 tl, elevate; tl-o 'upstanding'
37 tm. to produce, to be born; tm-o 'open up the
rebirth
III ⟨ 35 Tmey, Tameya ( a tribal group)
พร tr, to be eminent, tr-o 'emminence';tr-ne
"Eminent"
₩/ ts, to put, to lay
+ラ ti, you go
ናጂን tke, to move, to set in
マラtñ, thy
フいらう trot, grand, firm, solicit
37 tm, to be born, bear, came into being; to produce
  2. to fear
42+7 tia, it goes to arrange
: 7 t-ne, the Good
えなっ tak, reflection
\nu_{\bar{\nu}} tb, proclaim;
+V7 tbi, disclosure, dissemination, spreadless
: パンターラー timhene, 'he goes grandly to direct'
いたえず tkha, move
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₹7 tk, set in motion
2. to be, to investigate, to reflect

たっ tn, the rebirth, to be born ママラ tña, come into being wっ tr, this indeed

2. to raise, to erect, to support

3. collect

*l*ωτ tr-o, elevation, Eminence

*III*937 tmey, give form to the rebirth

W/ ts, the Commandant, chief

マラ tñ, to be reborn

: ヌラ tñ-ne, rebirth

37 tm, to be born, come into the world

ছট td, he donates, he gives

४७ tl, to elevate

พร tr, raise

ব্ৰ tsh, to burn, to glow

いっした。 troto, grand, solid, firm

ナミラ tki, go investigate

th, to investigate, to reflect

たいっ trn, here indeed (is) good

Te

14-te, second person pronoun usually used with males 'you, your'

1474: to place, to put

VI4 teb, loftiness; to announce in a lofty voice

*⊅l*4 ted, the donations

: 14 tene, rebirth; to the rebirth

2. to arrange

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414 tel, to elevate,
414 te-I, the one
: 3/4 tel-ne, erection, elevation, ascent
1314tel-o, encouraging, encouragement; elevated,
exalted, uplifted,
    upstanding
∠/4 tep, to announce in a lofty voice
ω/4 ter, to erect
+ω/4 teri, fashion, manner etiquette
Iこ14 tep-o, loftiness
\triangleright 14 te-o, the opening; the beginning
₹I4 tek, to reflect, to investigate
ナッパーチーク tewisti, (Egyptian) adoration
To
⇔-to, second personal feminine suffix 'you, your'
l \Rightarrow to, light, to initiate, to kindle; to shine
   2. here
   3. combustion
   4. stimulate, arouse, animate, elate, evoke, stir
   5. dwell
: \Rightarrow tone vigorousness, dynamicism, energy,
physical fitness;
   2. Good light
▽♥ toh, to establish
₹$ tok, to be, to reflect
W
w, to guide, to leade, to steer; w-ne "Commander,
Steward, Chief;
版 w-o, 'steering, guiding'
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