

Meroitic Word List

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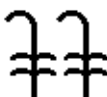







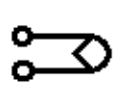



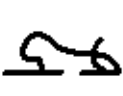























by

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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	 	m	 	se	 
e	 	n	 	k	 
i	 	ne	 	q	 
o	 	r	 	t	 
y	 	l	 	te	 
w	 	h	 	to	 
b	 	h	 	d	 
p	 	š, s	 	word divider	 

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	Central	Back
close	i	(y)	(w)
close mid	e		o
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/,

we also have the signs ↪ /to/ and /te/. This suggests that the vowels attached to t-, must have a different sound than the regular /o/ and /e/ sound. If the sounds were not different the Meroites could have just used the signs ↪ /to/ and /te/ to write these sounds instead of ↪ (to) and /te/. I would therefore venture to say the should be pronounced \$ tò # and should be pronounced \$ tè # in Meroitic.

CONSONANTS

There are five syllables in Meroitic ñ , se, te , 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 pronounced 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**

l as in English

m "

n "

p "

r "

s pronounced like /z/ in **zoo** or /s/ as in **rose**

s pronounced like the **sh** in **share**

t as in English

to pronounced like the **to** in **stole**

te pronounced like the **te** in **tea**

w pronounced like the /w/ in **water**

y as in English

q

ñ pronounced like **ng** as in **sing**

Meroitic Consonants

Plosive p, b t,d h(kh) k,q h(ch) Nasal m n

ñ

Lateral l

Rolled r

Fricative s s(sh) h(ch)

Semi-vowel w y

GRAMMAR

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 lo 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=/s and n=/ñ , e.g., **tb / tp 'announce in a lofty 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 primarily used as a suffix.

LATE MEROITIC WORD LIST

- ϣϣ a1, intensive prefix 'to'; element used to form the future tense
a2, third person suffix 'he, it, she'.
ⲧⲱϣϣ ari, affirmation
ah, teach, to learn, to study
ⲡϣ ab, ancestor, father
Ⲙⲛⲱⲱϣϣ arrette, Harendotes (Horus the Avenger of his father)
ⲠⲘⲧⲱϣϣ Ariteñ, name of a god
Ⲗϣ -an(a), plural suffix: wi-ne-ana 'much awe, much fright
much respect'
Ⲟϣ ap, ancestor; father
ⲧⲞϣ api, the ancestor leaves
ⲜⲞϣ atsh, to glow
ⲛϣ ato, path, road, route
2. out here
3. absent, on tour, away
4. way , march, progressive
ⲛⲛϣ atom, he is to be reborn; e.g. atonhene 's/he is be reborn to
realize
ϣϣϣ ale, the palm off the hand
ⲱⲘϣ ater, hero
Ⲙϣ aro, long (time); olden times; perpetuate
: Ⲙϣ arone, perpetuation, perpetuity
ⲛϣ ato, suitable

ᄃᄃᄆ as-l, religious

ᄆᄆ ar, to bring out, produce

ᄆᄆᄆ ari, manifestation; affirmation, revelation

ᄆᄆᄆ art, praise

ᄆᄆ añ, spirit

ᄆᄆᄆ aññ, considerable spirit

ᄆᄆ am, soul

ᄆᄆᄆ ant, prophet

ᄆᄆ ad, he leaves

ᄆᄆᄆᄆ apote, agent

ᄆᄆᄆ ato, water (?)

ᄆᄆ al, noble

ᄆᄆ at, down the path

B

ᄆᄆ b, Ba (aspect of Man)

2, plural element, 'many, much , abundant

ᄆᄆᄆ bo, all; to swell, to inflate

ᄆᄆᄆᄆ br1, man, men

2, sustain, bring

ᄆᄆᄆᄆ bh, mature, ripe

D

ᄆᄆ d, give, bequeath; to leave a legacy

: ᄆᄆ d-ne, transmission, deliver; bequeath, pledge, inheritance

ᄆᄆᄆ dd, considerable donation

ᄆᄆᄆ dd (Egyptian), holy pillar

ᄆᄆᄆᄆ dete, your donation; your almsgiving

2. extreme limit

ᄆᄆᄆᄆ dot, in the meantime, at such a point; interval

ᄆᄆᄆᄆ db, leave a grand legacy

ᄎᄎ de, indeed; give the offering
ᄎᄎ di, on its passage; to place; to set (in place)
ᄎᄎᄎ dili, wayfaring, travel
ᄎᄎ dl, rising
ᄎᄎ dh, donations; grand donations
ᄎᄎ do, donation, offering; consecrate
2. give (its) beginning
ᄎᄎᄎ do-a, gone away

E

ᄎe1, vouchsafe; give; command; grant a boon
e2, masculine nominative singular accusative suffix
for
e3, complete, complement;
e4, register, book
ᄎᄎ e-t, vouchsafe the arrangement
2. you vouchsafe
" command
" complete
ᄎᄎ eb, cover
ᄎᄎ el, gift

: ᄎᄎ elne, revelation
: ᄎ e-ne, almsgiving; generous
2. contribution, presentation
ᄎᄎ ek, nourishment
: ᄎ ene, Commander, Chief;
ᄎᄎ em, to teach; to direct
2. great favor
ᄎᄎ : ᄎᄎ em-ne-a, he is to teach
ᄎ: ᄎ enep, gives him

2. Commander

3. bestowal

lḡ e-o, beginning now!

2. give opening too

ωḡ er, produce, evoke

†ωḡ eri, go give indeed; go favor indeed; go vouchsafe indeed

ḡ eb, cover

ḡ es, welfare, manifestation

2. es, welfare, manifest

3. agreed; granted

4. well, good

ḡ eto, out here, out

2. way, route, road, path

ḡ eñ, command; punish

ḡ ey, favor

▽ H

▽ h, kha

2. great; : ▽ h-ne 'greatness'

3. offer alms

ω▽ hr, dignity

ḡ H

ḡ h, offering; grand, great

ḡ hl, support

lḡ ho, soul

ωḡ hr, , repute, esteem

l

† i, go

- : ተ ine, tradition, (as) is the Way
ጺተ ik, place, spot, ; abode, sojour, place where
(one) sojourns
፱ተ i-s, singular nominative
ጸተ im, s/he goes, it goes
2. reach; do , make
3. act, attach
4. memory, remembrance, recollection
፵ተ ih, (to) the spot
ተጻተ idi, give it leave
ፋጻተ ide, the bequeathal
፫ተ in, he goes
K
ጺ k, as is obligatory, k-ne, Object of supplication
ሀጺ kb, to desire
ፋጺ ke, to revitalize; ask permission
: ፋጺ kene, origination, revitalization
: 1ፋጺ ketene, ascent
ተጺ ki, the order, work
ተጻጺ kdi, lady; duty
ጸጺ kl, tolerate, bear; borne
L
ጸ -l, meroitic ending particle;
2. verb "to be" ; lne 'living, existence'
ሀፋጸ leb, to restore; leb-ne "restoration".
ተጸ li, exalted; li-ne 'transmittal, transmit,
፵ጸ lh, behold; grand, great
ጺጸ lk, Lak , a tribal name
ጸጸ behold
1ፋጸ lte, transmigration

𐎛𐎚 lw, to have glory; lw-ne, gloriy

M

𐎎 m1 ,measure,; great, much, many; long

2, used to form verbs into adjectives

3, third person singular maculine pronoun him ,
his

4, 'to be'

𐎎𐎚 mde1, great son

2, proceed, progressively; open with force

𐎎𐎛 mek, much, many, considerable

𐎎𐎛 mi, rain, libation

2, injury

𐎎 mo, to be

2, boast, extensive, ample, expansive,

boundless

𐎎 ml, under the influence, spirit, soul; heart

𐎎𐎛 min, good libations

𐎎 mk, lord, god

𐎎 met, release

𐎎𐎛 mnte, like, such as

𐎎 mel, spirituality

𐎎 mlo, innerheart

𐎎𐎛 mni, Amani, a Meroitic god

𐎎 mt, break open

𐎎 mte, unlock

𐎎 mr, hand, luck

𐎎 mey, measure, proportion, dimensions, length

𐎎 mnpt, Great Napata

: 𐎎 mnpt ine, Within Great Napata

N

᠑᠒᠑ᠪ nea, now
᠕᠑ᠪ neb, much good
᠑ᠪ ne, good; intruth
᠑ᠪ nm, to bend, to incline
᠘᠑ᠪ nmi, bowing, lending, obeisance
᠑᠗ᠪ ntk, the lord
᠕᠕ᠪ ns, to desire
᠑᠒ : ᠪ n-ne-a, will be goodness; much goodness;
his goodness
᠑᠑ᠪ nem, name
᠕᠘ᠪ nte, honor; bow in reverence
᠘᠑ᠪ neh, at this moment
᠗᠑ᠪ net, bow in reverence; your goodness
᠘ᠪ ni, shinning
᠑᠑᠗᠕᠕ᠪ Nsdoke, Nasadoke (a tribal name)
᠕᠕᠘ᠪ Nhbr, Nkhabara (tribal name)
᠑ᠪ nl, retire
᠕ᠪ no, again, renew
᠘᠑ᠪ neh, (has) passed away
᠑᠕᠑ᠪ nebk, in accord with , in agreement with
᠑᠑ᠪ nek, god
᠑᠑ᠪ nem, bend, incline, reverence
: ᠘ᠪ nine, radiance, incandescence
᠗ Ñ
᠗ ñ1, good
2, third person personal pronoun 'his, him'
: ᠗ ñ-ne, goodness; to manifest, to show
2. ; his goodness
᠑᠗ ñk, now, at this moment; at present
᠑᠗ ñl, penetrate, to conceal; to retire;

: 𐌶𐌵 ñl-ne, departure, parting, emigration, embarkation

𐌶𐌹 ñq, at present

: 𐌶/𐌴𐌹 ñtelne, bows in reverence (to the gods)

: 𐌶𐌵 ñe-ne, Goodness

𐌶𐌵 ñt, honor, bow in reverence; veneration; piety, homage, worship

𐌶𐌶𐌹 ñbli, the law

𐌶𐌹 ñk, to perish, to disappear; now; present participle

𐌶𐌶𐌹 ñy, bring good

:

: -ne, good

: -ne,particle used to change verbs into nouns

: 𐌶𐌶 nea, now, at this time

: 𐌶𐌶 nei, goodness; benevolence

𐌶𐌶𐌹 : neno, to show, to manifest, to reveal

𐌶𐌶 : net, bow in reverence

𐌶𐌶𐌹 : neh, (has) passed away

O

𐌶 o1, used to change nouns into adjectives

2. commence, begin, open ;

3. reaching; initiate, start

4 . attain; to arrive at

𐌶 : o-ne, genesis

: 𐌶 o-e, beginning now!

𐌶/𐌴𐌹 ote, exclamation used to express astonishment or admiration:

wonder, approbation, recognition, prestige

𐤆𐤀/ ok, produce, produce;

2. yet, still, as yet;

3. anew

: 𐤆𐤀/ ok-ne, the acquisition

𐤆𐤀/ ol, grand

𐤆𐤀/ ode, wonderment, admiration

𐤆𐤀/ ot, to esteem; ot-ne 'approbation'

𐤆𐤀/ on, to commence, to set about

2, to stay, to wait for

𐤆𐤀/ otp, esteem, recognition

𐤆𐤀/ oi, commencing , to reach

oy, commence to make/form

P

𐤆 p, beg, solicit, pray

𐤆𐤀𐤆𐤀 penn-ne 'everywhere'

𐤆𐤀 pi, go pray

𐤆𐤀𐤆𐤀 pilqe, Philae

𐤆𐤀 pk, take aim

𐤆𐤀 pl, praise, righteous; pl-ñ 'righteous good'

𐤆𐤀 ph, with the intention; to aspire

𐤆𐤀𐤆𐤀 phrs, Faras

𐤆𐤀 pt, praise

𐤆𐤀 pm, clear, bright

𐤆𐤀 pe, therefore;

pe₂ bestow, vouchsafe, favor, donate

pe, foot

𐤆𐤀 per, support; to boast, to praise

: 𐤆𐤀 per-ne, uplift, nurture

adulation, glorification, grace; rapture,

apporbation

ᠮᠢᠨᠢ pet, reverence

pet2, he implores

ᠰᠢᠨ pl, righteous

ᠮᠢᠨᠢ ph, with the intention; to aspire
ripen, mature, decay

ᠰᠢᠨ ps, guard, protection

ᠰᠢᠨ pk, to aim, to take aim

ᠮᠢᠨᠢ pq, fashion, make; make it so, grant (my) prayer
lit. "prayer make it"

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨ pqr, prince

ᠮᠢᠨ pt, praise

ᠰᠢᠨᠢᠨ pol, all

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢ peñn, bestow on him Greatness

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨ pesto, viceroy

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨ perite, agent

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨ pedeme-te, Ibrim

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨ pesto, "pray to manifest dynamicism"

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨ phr, pray for dignity

Q

ᠮᠢᠨ q, make, form act ; to desire

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨ qe creation; qe-ne Creator

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨ honorable

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨ qor monarch

R

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨ r, indeed, certainly

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨ re, indeed; give indeed

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨ ri, city

ᠮᠢᠨᠢᠨᠢᠨ ro, unlock

- : /w rone, unlocking good
- ገፍw ret, union; to unite, reconcile
- ፍፍw reto, inclination
- ገተw rit, to look, to search
- ፍጅተw rike, indeed to sojour
- ጂፍጅተw rinek, withdraw, leave
- ፍተገ rito, penchant, bent, inclination
- ገፍw rem, witness
- ገw rm, touch; to witness
- : ገw rm-ne, manipulation
- ገw rq, to cover; to escort
- ፍፍw rs, to spread, to extend
- ተፍፍፍw rosi, unlocking contentment
- " satisfaction
- ፍፍw rte, to unite
- ፍw rh, to extend, to spread over ; sojour
- ፍ S
- ፍ s, son;
 - 1. to protect , to support;
 - 2. to be
 - 3. ascent, rise
- : ፍ s-ne prop up ; sne, Protector
- ፍፍ sl, consecrate
- ፍፍፍ ste, mother; rich
- ፍፍ s-l, king
- ፍፍፍ sb, pile' heap, piece
 - 2. dedicate, consecrate
 - 3. cover, rub with ointment
- : ፍፍፍ sl-ne, harmony, merit
- ፍፍፍ sl, bring, set in, motion ; to leap over, consecrate

†VII si, to be

2. satisfied, satisfying, happy

: †VII si-ne, contentment, atonement

℞VII sn, clever, skillful

†‡VII sli, rule, order

2. regularity, dynasty

‡VII sm, wife

ℓ‡/4VII stelo, (he) is (laid) low

2. he is solitary

3. he is alone

‡ Sh

‡ sh, King, patron ; to protect, to support

: ‡ shne, defeated, destroyed

ℓ‡ sho, life, to live

†‡ shi, satisfy

‡ sh[a], to consecrate

‡ sh[a], spirit body

ℓ‡ sh[a]q, Shaqa (a tribal group)

: ‡ shene, sustenance

ω‡ shr, sister, luck

‡ she, son

2. to be

3. to prop up, to support

4. to be

5. to be patron of

6. shelter, favor

‡‡‡ shañ, in harmony, art, skill

: ‡ she-ne, to be satisfying, atonement

2. happy, pleased, glad

3. to be content, to be alive

4. encouragement, sustence,
maintenance

†∇∫ shi, burial ground

: †∫ shi-ne, atonement, expiration; propitiation

∫∇ sh, the spirit body

ωΞϞ skr, dignity, eminent

∫ so, to live, life

Ϟω∫∫ Sore, Osiris

∇∫ soh, happiness, prosperity good, fortune

2. to render, to retire, to restore

3.

: ∇∫ soh-ne, The Restorer, The Reconciler, The
Deliver

Ϟ∫Ϟ∫ snea, a (new) vivification

†∫∫sim, abode, house

∫∫ sm, refuge, equal

∫∫ st, exaltation

Ϟ: ∫ s-ne-a, close at hand, coming, approaching

∫∫ sb, annoint, cover with oil

Ξ∫ sk, to remain, to stay

∫∫∫ skte, 'you will remain'

: ∫ sone, animate, existence; vital spirit

Ξ†∫ sik, contentment

2. overflowing, to run over, to be flooded

3. to march, to walk, to advance

4. step, pace

Ϟ∫∫ se-a, favour

ω∫∫ ssor, scribe

ωΞ∫ skr, to be emminent, to be worthy; to be

dignified

ᄠωᄡᄡ skr-i, Eminence, Worthy, Dignified

ᄠᄡ ste, mother

T

ᄠ t1, here

t2, third personal pronoun 'he, it, her'

t3, to arrange, to establish

ᄠᄠ ti, go arrange

ᄠᄡᄠ tke, set in motion

ᄡᄠ tk, set in motion

ᄡᄠ tl, elevate; tl-o 'upstanding'

ᄡᄠ tm, to produce, to be born; tm-o 'open up the rebirth

ᄡᄡᄡᄡ Tmey, Tameya (a tribal group)

ωᄠ tr, to be eminent, tr-o 'emminence';tr-ne "Eminent"

ᄡᄡᄠ ts, to put, to lay

ᄠᄠ ti, you go

ᄠᄡᄠ tke, to move, to set in

ᄡᄠtñ, thy

ᄠωᄡᄠ trot, grand, firm, solicit

ᄡᄠ tm, to be born, bear, came into being; to produce
2. to fear

ᄠᄡᄠ tia, it goes to arrange

: ᄠ t-ne, the Good

ᄡᄠᄡ tak, reflection

ᄡᄠ tb, proclaim;

ᄠᄡᄠ tbi, disclosure, dissemination, spreadless

: ᄠᄡᄠᄡᄡ timhene, 'he goes grandly to direct'

ᄠᄡᄡᄡ tkha, move

𐌲𐌿 tk, set in motion
2. to be, to investigate, to reflect

𐌲𐌺𐌿 tn, the rebirth, to be born

𐌹𐌺𐌶𐌿 tña, come into being

𐌵𐌿 tr, this indeed

2. to raise, to erect, to support

3. collect

𐌳𐌵𐌿 tr-o, elevation, Eminence

𐌳𐌹𐌺𐌶𐌿 tmey, give form to the rebirth

𐌵𐌹𐌿 ts, the Commandant, chief

𐌶𐌿 tñ, to be reborn

: 𐌶𐌿 tñ-ne, rebirth

𐌶𐌿 tm, to be born, come into the world

𐌶𐌿 td, he donates, he gives

𐌶𐌿 tl, to elevate

𐌵𐌿 tr, raise

𐌶𐌿 tsh, to burn, to glow

𐌶𐌵𐌿 troto, grand, solid, firm

𐌶𐌲𐌿 tki, go investigate

𐌶𐌿 th, to investigate, to reflect

𐌲𐌵𐌿 trn, here indeed (is) good

Te

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

𐌳𐌿𐌶𐌿 to place, to put

𐌶𐌹𐌿 teb, loftiness; to announce in a lofty voice

𐌶𐌹𐌿 ted, the donations

: 𐌳𐌿 tene, rebirth; to the rebirth

2. to arrange

𐤆𐤋 tel, to elevate,

𐤆𐤋 te-l, the one

: 𐤆𐤋 tel-ne, erection, elevation, ascent

𐤋𐤆𐤋 tel-o, encouraging, encouragement; elevated,
exalted, uplifted,
upstanding

𐤆𐤋 tep, to announce in a lofty voice

𐤍𐤋 ter, to erect

𐤏𐤍𐤋 teri, fashion, manner etiquette

𐤋𐤆𐤋 tep-o, loftiness

𐤍𐤋 te-o, the opening; the beginning

𐤆𐤋 tek, to reflect, to investigate

𐤏𐤏𐤍𐤏𐤏𐤋 tewisti, (Egyptian) adoration

To

𐤍-to, second personal feminine suffix 'you, your'

𐤋 to, light, to initiate, to kindle; to shine

2. here

3. combustion

4. stimulate, arouse, animate, elate, evoke, stir

5. dwell

: 𐤍 tone vigorousness, dynamicism, energy,
physical fitness;

2. Good light

𐤏𐤍 toh, to establish

𐤆𐤍 tom, to bear, to be born

𐤆𐤍 tok, to be, to reflect

W

𐤏 w, to guide, to lead, to steer; w-ne "Commander,
Steward, Chief;

𐤋𐤏 w-o, 'steering, guiding'

𐤙𐤁 wb, to prepare

𐤑𐤁 we, to give escort

𐤕𐤁 wi, honor; wi-ne "Object of Respect, Awe"; good honor'

𐤕𐤕𐤁 wid, leave honor as the legacy

𐤙𐤙𐤁 ws, dress, clothe

𐤕𐤁 wt, place, put

Y

𐤙 y, to make, to form

𐤑𐤙 ye, to be capable

: 𐤙 y-ne, form good

𐤕𐤙 yi, to travel, to journey

: 𐤕𐤙 yi-ne, progressively; eternal

𐤙𐤕𐤙 yir, cleanse, purify

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