

Table of Contents

List of Tables	ix
List of Abbreviations	xi
List of Grammatical Morphemes	xiii
Map of the Southern Cushitic Area	xvi
Map of the Alagwa Area	xviii
1. Introduction	1
2. Phonology	11
2.1 Consonants	11
2.2 Vowels	18
2.3 Tone	21
2.4 Intonation	26
2.5 Syllable	29
2.6 Positional and sequential restrictions	32
2.7 Reduplication	35
2.8 Processes involving vowels	40
3. Nominal modifiers and pronouns	43
3.1 Introduction	43
3.2 The gender of nouns	44
3.3 Nominal suffixes and agreement	46
3.4 Demonstrative suffixes	47
3.5 Demonstrative pronouns	50
3.6 Possessive suffixes	55
3.7 Possessive pronouns	58
3.8 Directional suffixes	59
3.9 Predicative suffix kóo	62
3.10 Negation or questioning suffixes	65
3.11 Anaphoric pronouns	66
3.12 Personal pronouns	68
4. Number formation and nominal derivation	70
4.1 Properties of number formation	70
4.2 Plural formation with a masculine base	78

4.3	Plural formation with a feminine base	85
4.4	Singulative suffixes	95
4.5	Language suffix -a'isa	101
4.6	Gender and number	102
4.7	Nominalization	103
4.8	Compounds	111
5.	Verbal derivation	113
5.1	Form characteristics of verbal derivation	113
5.2	Meaning of the derivational verbal suffixes	119
5.3	Causative -is	121
5.4	Middle -it	122
5.5	The imperfective -im	128
5.6	Reduplications	132
5.7	Former derivation in -a'	138
5.8	Former derivation in -am	139
5.9	Inchoative de-adjectival verbalisers	140
5.10	De-nominal verbalisers	142
5.11	Compounds	147
6.	Verbal inflection	153
6.1	Introduction	153
6.2	The person, number and tense suffixes	156
6.3	The sentential suffixes	164
6.3.1	The subordination suffix	164
6.3.2	The background suffix	165
6.3.3	The background suffix -(i)yâ	165
6.3.4	The positive insistence suffix -iyêe	166
6.3.5	The yes/no questioning intonational suffix	166
6.3.6	The negative suffix	167
6.4	Imperatives	169
7.	Selectors	173
7.1	Introduction	173
7.2	The basic selectors	174
7.3	Prefixes to selectors	176
7.4	Suffixes to selectors	181
7.5	Clitics to selectors	185
7.6	Morphophonological processes in selectors	186
7.7	Selectors in relative clauses	188
7.7.1	Object relative clauses	188
7.7.2	Beneficent object relative clause	191
7.7.3	The subject relative clause	192
8.	Adjectives, adverbs and other word classes	193
8.1	Adjectives	193

8.2	Quantifiers	196
8.3	Adverbs	198
8.4	Ideophones	202
8.5	Question words	205
8.6	Prepositions	211
9.	Basic sentence structure	219
9.1	Nominal sentences	219
9.2	Basic sentence structure	222
9.3	The subject	223
9.4	The object	224
9.5	Beneficiary objects	226
9.6	Locative complements	228
9.7	Infinitival complements	228
9.8	Prepositional phrases and coordination	231
9.9	Questions	232
9.10	Relative clauses	234
10.	Texts	237
10.1	Mzee Isa, Kwa Dinu	237
10.2	Kibibii	247
10.3	Sindiya	258
11.	Lexicon	267
11.1	Alagwa - English Lexicon	267
11.2	English index	325
	References	349