

Outlines of Argobba Pedagogical Grammar¹

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Abstract: *The main objective of this study is to sketch out the pedagogical grammar of Argobba language. The intended addresses are the Argobba language learners. Although the Argobba people live in different administrative regions of the country (Amhara, Afar, Oromiya, Harari, etc), the language does not have the same status in places where the Argobba people are found. In Aliyu Amba, Ankober, Gachenii and surrounding villages, for instance, only some elderly semi-speakers use the language. Following recent studies (Getahun, 2009, Wetter, 2010), there is stable bilingualism only in Shonke and Tollaha, where the data for this study is collected from. The language is seriously endangered, and it needs revitalization to fulfill the language needs of the speech community. Language pedagogy is one of the components of language revitalization. None of the grammar studies done so far on the language has treated how grammatical items of the language could be made more learnable and teachable. This study outlines the phonology, morphology, and syntax of the language in pedagogical orientation. It is strongly believed that besides its contribution to producing pedagogically sound learning/teaching materials, the study paves the way for detailed and graded pedagogical grammar work on the language. The contribution of this study is, therefore, two-fold: pedagogical and revitalization.*

Keywords: Argobba, pedagogical grammar, endangered, dialect, revitalization

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Introduction

First and foremost, this study is intended to describe in a sketchy manner Argobba grammar in pedagogical orientation. That is, the study focuses on the grammar for learners of the language. For the ease of learning, progression is from simple to complex. Hence, the succession of content in the course of the study is learner oriented. In light of this, the basic orientation of the study is pedagogical and functional. So as to make the presentation self-evident, systematically selected examples are presented.

It is believed that this study has a significant contribution to Argobba learners, teachers, syllabus and textbook developers, and supplementary grammar book writers. Besides, the study provides useful information for linguists who would like to know about the grammar of the language. Accordingly, the contribution of this study would be to Argobba language pedagogy and revitalization, which is the timely campaign of the speech community and different concerned experts such as linguistics and pedagogy professionals *inter alia*.

The study has three sections. The first section gives a brief introduction about the Argobba language, the objective of the study, and the source of data for the study. The second section deals with a short review of literature. The third section focuses on the grammar of the language. It has three subsections, which address the sound system, the morphological and syntactic structures of the language. The fourth section sums up the discussion by providing concluding remarks.

The Argobba language

The term Argobba stands for both the people and the language. Sometimes following the Amharic terminology *Amarigna* 'Amharic', the Argobba people call their language *Argobigna*.

With reference to the origin of the Argobba people, there seems to be no consensus among researchers. As a result, different explanations and assumptions are forwarded. Some argue that the Argobba people originated from Arabia (Tesfaye 2000). Most of the elders of Argobba favor this hypothesis. On the contrary, there is another hypothesis that argues the Argobba people are indigenous people of Ethiopia (Aklilu, 2000).

The Argobba language belongs to the South Ethio-Semitic sub family together with Amharic, Harari and Gurage languages. Some linguists such as Bender and Fulas (1978, p, 5), Zelealem (1994, p.13), Leslau (1997, p.131) consider Argobba as a dialect of Amharic. Contrary to this supposition, Wetter (2006), Getahun (2009, 2017a) strongly argue that Argobba is not a dialect of Amharic; instead, it is an independent but sister language. Apart from this, Argobba is an endangered language heavily influenced by the neighboring languages, Amharic, Afar and Afaan Oromo (Hussein et al. 2014, Getahun 2017a).

Argobba has different regional varieties identified by different researchers. However, there is no consensus among linguists about the name and number of varieties. Getahun (2009, p. 8), affirms two varieties: Gacheni and Tollaha varieties; conversely, Hussein (et al.) (2014, p. 8) identifies three distinctive varieties: Ankober-K'awat variety, Berehet-Minjar variety, Dawa Ch'affa variety. and Girma (2015, p. xvii) identifies four varieties: Shonke-Tollaha, Shagura, Shoa Robit and Aliyu Amba. Of course, these inconsistent findings make it necessary to undertake further exhaustive research on the varieties or dialects of the language. The data for this study is collected mainly from the variety spoken in Shonke and surrounding villages. It is only in Shonke where we find fluent Argobba speakers.

Review of Related Literature

There are some linguistic works conducted on Argobba. The works have focused on different aspects of the language such as vocabulary (Leslau 1978), comparative (Getahun 2017, Hudson 1997, description (Getahun 2017, 2018, and Wetter 2007, 2010).

The Concept of Pedagogical grammar

Pedagogical grammar is commonly described as a grammar developed for learners of a language which employs two separate but interrelated areas of studies: descriptive grammar and language pedagogy (teaching-learning). According to Tomlin (1994, p. 141), *pedagogical grammar depends on critical assumptions about the nature of language and its relationship to language learning*. Applied linguists consider pedagogical grammar as a hybrid grammar because it uses and synthesizes the ideas and assumptions of other grammars choosing the one that best suits the grammatical item being taught (Celce-Murcia, 1991, Larsen-Freeman, 2003, Odlin, 1994).

Pedagogical grammar, thus, presents a possible method or method of how to use grammatical descriptions of a language to communicate for people wanting to learn the language. Unlike other linguistic grammars, pedagogic grammar encloses suppositions about how learners learn; follow certain linguistic descriptions in their learning and use. That is why pedagogical grammar is intended for language pedagogy (teaching and learning) purposes. It is not a mere grammatical analysis of a given language. As a result of this, the method, content, and analysis frequently differ from theoretical grammar. The objective of pedagogical grammar is, therefore, mainly to increase fluency and accuracy of speech rather than to impart theoretical knowledge (Chalker, 1994).

Pedagogical grammar engages in the middle ground between prescriptive grammar and descriptive grammar. The former focuses on rules about how language should be used correctly. It prescribes what to say and what not to say. Inversely, the latter describes how speakers actually use language. Pedagogical grammar in general necessitates rules that are definite, coherent, nontechnical, and cumulative. In the execution, it seeks to frame and describe criteria for rules of language use and language education. Besides, it facilitates to identify most favorable ways for teaching and learning a language in a classroom (Ellis, 2006). Accordingly, Swan (1994) offers six 'design criteria' for pedagogic language rules: truth, demarcation, clarity, simplicity, conceptual parsimony and relevance.

In light of this, this study is designed to fit into pedagogical and functional orientation. It is meant to help Argobba learners, teachers and teaching material writers *inter alia*.

Methodology

The main purpose of this study is to describe the pedagogical grammar of Argobba. A qualitative research approach is employed. This research approach is employed to describe and analyze the pedagogical grammar of Argobba.

Instrument and Source of Data: The data were collected by elicitation technique. Both primary and secondary data were used for the study. The primary sources of data were Argobba native speakers who were used as informants. The secondary data sources were earlier grammatical works on the language.

The Grammar

Sounds and Fidels: The main focus of this subsection is to demonstrate the phonemic inventory of the language and the *fidels* developed for the writing system.

Sounds: Like any natural language, Argobba has consonant and vowel phonemes. In the following two subsections, the phonemic inventories of the consonant and vowel phonemes are addressed.

Consonants: Argobba has twenty-seven consonant phonemes. The following chart shows the consonant phonemes of the language.

Chart 1: Consonant Phonemic Chart

		Labials	Lab-dental	Alveolar	Palatal	velar	Pharyngial	Glotal
Stop	vd	b		d		g		
	vls			t		k		ʔ
	ejec			t'		k'		
Fricative	vd			z	ž			
	vls			s	š			
Affricate	vd				j		ʕ	
	vls		f		č	x	ħ	h
	ejec				č'			
Nasal		m		n	ñ			
Liquid				l, r				
Semi-vowel		w			y			

Vowels: Argobba has seven vowel phonemes. Here is given the seven vowels from the first order to the seventh order of the *fidels* as shown with the *fidel* /ŋ/ below.

በ	ቡ	ቢ	ባ	ቤ	ብ	ቦ
bä	bu	bi	ba	be	bɪ	bo

The phonemic inventory of the vowels is demonstrated in the following chart.

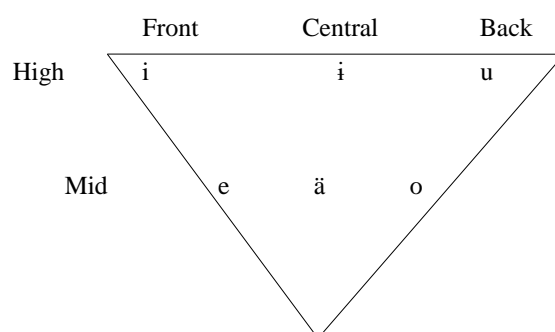


Chart 2: Vowel phonemic chart

Syllables patterns: In Argobba, syllable structures consist of onset, coda and peak. Onset and coda are optional constituents. Argobba words allow the following syllable patterns.

V	type:	<u>a</u> -ruz	‘grrom’
CV	type:	<u>ħa</u> - <u>ra</u>	‘sheep’
CVC	type	zi - <u>naw</u>	‘rain’

CVC ₁ C ₁	type	<u>gärr</u>	far
CVC ₁ C ₂	type	<u>ħars</u>	‘farm’

Phonological Processes: Sounds are systematically arranged to form words. Their arrangement results in syllable structure and Phonological process. In Argobba, deletion, insertion, and assimilation are common phonological processes.

Deletion: In Argobba, a sequence of vowels is not allowed. One of the strategies to avoid the vowel sequence in morpheme or word boundaries is vowel deletion. Consider the following examples.

gäyye - ačč	—	gäyy□ - ačč	—	[gäyyačč]	‘countries’
country-PL					
t’aʔi - ačč	—	t’aʔi□ - ačč	—	[t’aʔičč]	‘goats’
goat - PL	—	□	—		
a - aw		a - aw		[aw]	
‘father’s’					
Gen - father					

Insertion: A sequence of two consonants is allowed in word medial and final positions in Argobba. When there are two consonant sequences word initially and more than two consonants in medial and final positions, the vowel /i/ is inserted to break the impermissible sequence as shown

in the examples: /ngilla/ [ɪngilla] ‘small’, /bet –čči / [betičči] ‘the house’, /mäšor –nnät/ [mäšorinnät] ‘oldness’.

In the case of vowel sequence, besides vowel deletion mentioned above, the semi-vowel /w/ is inserted to break the vowel sequence as exemplified below.

tatte –a	[tattewa]	‘her mother’
mother-her		
ħara –u	[ħarawu]	‘his sheep’
sheep-his		

Assimilation: When sounds are arranged systematically to form words, they share features of neighboring sounds. The following examples show the case in point.

Ṣanguya [ṣaŋg^wuya] ‘cat’, hanbo [ha**m**b^wo] ‘marrow’, sänbät [sä**m**bät] ‘Sunday’

Fidels: With regard to the orthography of Argobba, two attempts have been made. The first was by Gebre in 1991 based on the phonology of the Shonke variety and the second was by Girma in 2006 based on the the Gachenii variety. Both attempts adopted the syllabic writing system (Ethiopic alphabets).

Morphology

Morphology is the study of word structure. The smallest and the important component of word structure is a morpheme. Morphemes are

the smallest meaningful units of a language. In the following subsection, the morphemes in the Argobba language are presented.

Types of Morphemes: Based on the status of the morphemes as independent and dependent in nature, the morphemes are distinguished as free and bound morphemes. A free morpheme is a kind of morpheme that can be a word by itself and can appear independently. On the contrary, there are morphemes that do not stand by themselves. Hence, they get attached to another morpheme or base. These types of morphemes are called bound morphemes. For instance, in **hara-u** 'the sheep' and **a-tatte** 'mother's', **hara** 'sheep' and **tatte** 'mother' are free morphemes. While the morphemes **/-u/** and **/a-/** which are attached to **hara** and **tatte** respectively are bound morphemes.

In Argobba, stems could be free or bound for morphemes, whereas affixes are bound for morphemes. For instance, in **bet-ačč** 'houses', **bet** 'house' is a free stem whereas **-ačč** is an affix. As opposed to this, in **ib-läč'alläč'** 'glittered', **-läč'alläč'** is a bound stem, and **ib-** is an affix. In this case, both the stem and the affix are bound by morphemes.

Due to the effect of the affixation, affixes are treated as derivational and inflectional affixes. Derivational affixes refer to those whose attachment to a base plays a role in the formation of new words. For instance, by adding an affix **-äñña** to a noun **arrat** 'tongue' forms an adjective **arrat-äñña** 'talk-active'. Hence, as **-äñña** is used to form another word, it is identified as a derivational affix of the language. Consider the following similar examples: **re?** 'look at' **a-re?** 'show', **zahi** 'white' **zahi-nnät** 'whiteness', **mägä?ar** 'to work' **mägä?ar -a** 'instrument'

As opposed to derivational affixes, inflectional affixes modify the forms of the stem without affecting the word class and the basic meaning of the stem. The affixes normally mark number, gender, etc. Consider the following examples.

t'aʔi	'goat'	t'aʔi –ačč	[t'aʔičč]	'goats'
lij	'child'	lij-iti	[lijiti]	'the girl'
lij	'child'	lij-čči	[lijičči]	'the boy'

Lexical Categories

In Argobba, nouns, verbs, and adjectives are major lexical categories. Furthermore, there are minor lexical categories such as adverbs and adpositions. The categories are described as follows:

Nouns: There are two types of nouns in Argobba, primitive and derived nouns. The primitive nouns are basic nouns which are not derived by any word formation processes of the language. The derived nouns are those formed by word formation techniques applied in the language. The following are examples for derived and underived/ primitive nouns.

Underived nouns

k'älalaxu	'egg'
ginjala	'stone'
hayyu	'milk'

Derived nouns

difhir	'wedding'
ħaraš	'farmer'
zinaw	'rain'

The derived nouns are formed in three word formation processes - root, affixation and compounding.

Root	Derived noun	
ħ –r –s	ħars	‘farm’
z-n-w	zinaw	‘rain’
s-d-w	sidäw	‘insult (n)’

Affixation: **ħifär –ät** ‘shame’, **xätaw –i** ‘writer’, **zor –ay** ‘beggar’, **nät’ –innät** ‘freedom’

Compounding: **worfaʔa** ‘needle’ **k’ulf** ‘button’ **worfaʔa-k’ulf** ‘softly-pin’, **yätt** ‘night’ **amät** ‘half,’ **yätt-amät** ‘mid-night’, **leba** ‘thief’ **t’aʔut** ‘finger’, **leba- t’aʔut** ‘pointing- finger’.

Argobba nouns inflect (modify their forms) for number, gender and definiteness. The nouns add affixes to mark these grammatical functions as described below.

Number: Argobba nouns have two numbers: singular and plural. Singular nouns are not morphologically marked. The plural nouns, in contrast, have a plural marker **–ačč**. Compare the following singular and plural nouns.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
t’aʔi ‘goat’	t’aʔi- ačč [t’aʔičč] ‘goats’
het’ ‘rat’	het’- ačč [het’ačč] ‘rats’
haraš ‘farmer’	haraš- ačč [harašačč] ‘farmers’
nišča ‘woman’	nišča - ačč [niščačč] ‘women’

Gender: In Argobba, there are two genders: masculine and feminine. It doesn't seem that the nouns bear gender marker affix. The gender of the nouns is indicated in their qualifier or modifier. Apart from that nouns could be identified as masculine or feminine lexically as shown below.

Masculine: **Aba** 'father', **ʔiħ** 'brother', **baʔara** 'ox', **ammo** 'uncle (fatherly)'
Feminine: **tatte** 'mother', **ħit** 'sister', **lam** 'cow', **anne** 'aunt (fatherly)'

Definiteness: In Argobba, nouns appear as indefinite or definite forms. Indefinite nouns are not morphologically marked. However, masculine and feminine definite nouns are marked by **-čči** and **-ti** respectively. These definite articles yield singular definite nouns. The following are illustrative examples: **ħara – čči [ħaričči]**, 'the he-sheep', **ħara – ti [ħariti]** 'the ewe', **lij – čči [lijičči]** 'the boy', **lij – ti [lijiti]** 'the girl'

Pronouns: In view of the fact that pronouns have morphological and functional resemblance with nouns, they are categorized together with nouns. The class of pronouns comprises personal, interrogative, and demonstrative pronouns.

Personal pronouns can be categorized as independent and dependent pronouns. Independent personal pronouns function as subject, object, and possessive in a sentence. The following are independent subjects, objects, and possessive pronouns.²

²2. See Getahun, (2017b) for detailed discussion.

		Subject pronouns	Object pronouns	Possessive pronouns
Sg.	1	an ³	iyyon	iyyo
	2m	ank	axon	ax
	f	anč	ašon	aš
	3m	iwwat	iwwaton	iwwat
	f	iyyat	iyyaton	iyyat
Pl.	1	inna	innan	inna
	2	ankum	axumın	
axum				
	3	illäm	illämin	illäm

Dependent personal pronouns are subject, object and possessive agreement affixes. Consider the following agreement of affixes for the respective grammatical functions. The subject pronoun affixes vary along with the types of verb stems (perfective, gerundive, and imperfective) as shown below.

³ In the variety spoken in Gacheni and surrounding villages, the independent personal pronouns are:

1s iyo, 3ms kissu, 3fs kissa, 3pl kissäm.

		Perfective	Gerundive	Imperfective
Sg.	1	-eñu	-e	Ø
	2m	-ex	-äx	(t-)
	f	-eš	-äš	(t-)
	3m	-Ø	-o	(y-)
	f	-äčč	-a	(t-)
Pl.	1	-ena	-äna	inn-
	2	-exum	-äxum	(t- - u)
	3	-äy	-äm	(y- -u)

Object Pronoun Suffixes

Possessive Pronoun

Sg.	1	-äññ	-e/-yye
	2m	-äx	-x

	f	-äš	-š
	3m	-äy	-u
	f	-äya	-a/-wa
Pl.	1	-äna	-no
	2	-äxum	-xum
	3	-em	-äm

In Argobba, the interrogative pronouns are: **minje** 'how many/much', **amett** 'how', **tett** 'where' **man** 'who', **imbäla** 'what' and **limbäla** 'why'.

Adjectives: Argobba adjectives are simple/underived and derived. The simple ones are small in number. The following are representative simple adjectives: **ʔimbirt** 'naked', **läham** 'big', **tek** 'strong', **habän** 'red', **foyya** 'bad', **dimma** 'good, well', **ingilla** 'small'.

The derived adjectives are formed from consonantal roots, by affixation and compounding as shown below.

Consonantal Root: /x-b-d/ **xäbbad** 'heavy', /f-t-n/ **fät'in** 'fast', /g-r-r/ **gärr** 'far',

Affixation:

	<u>Stem</u>	<u>Affix</u>	
'modern'	zäban 'time'	–ya	[zäbanya]
'gluttonous'	xärs 'belly'	–am	[xärsam]
[arratäñña]	arrat 'tongue' 'talkative'	–äñña	

Adjectives change their form or inflect for number and definiteness. They change their form for plural by complete and partial reduplication as shown below.

<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
big	läham	lähañham
strong	t'ek'	t'ek't'ek'
wide	räñi	räñiräñi
fat	amud	amamud

With regard to definiteness, indefinite adjectives are not marked for indefiniteness. On the contrary, adjectives are morphologically marked. The definite markers are **–e** for masculine and **–it** for feminine adjectives. Consider the following examples.

<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Indefinite</u>	<u>Definite</u>	
		<u>Masculine</u>	<u>Feminine</u>
long	gudär	gudär -e	gudär -it
big	läham	läham-e	läham -it
strong	t'ek'	t'ek –e	t'ek' -it

Verbs: When we talk about Argobba verbs, we talk about Argobba verb stems. Full-fledged Argobba verbs are composed of verb stems and agreement affixes. Hence, the base form for the lexical verb is the verb stem. The basic sources of the stems are consonants called roots. The consonants, which have constituent roots, are radicals. The most common verb roots are composed of three radicals (triradicals). There are, however, Quadri radical and biradical roots. Different vowels are placed between radicals to form different verb stems. The verb stems are derived using three stem formation strategies, namely root, affixation, and compounding. The verb stems (perfective, imperfective, gerundive, and jussive) are derived by putting vowels between radicals as shown in the following subsections.

1. Perfective Stems: The perfective stem is in most cases characterized by having the vowel /ä/ between radicals and geminating penultimate radicals as shown below.

- 1. CäCCäC-pattern:** /l-w-s/ läwwäs- 'wore', /r-k-w/ räkkäw- 'got', /f-l-ḥ/ fälläḥ- 'be boild', /n-k-s/ näkkäs- 'bit', /k'-m-s/ k'ämmäs- 'tasted'.

2. **CäCCaC-** patten: /k'-t'-ʔ/ k'ät't'aʔ- 'punished', /t'-w-ħ/
t'äwwaħ- 'milked', /w-k'-ʔ/ wäk'k'aʔ-
'threshed', /š-r-ħ/ šärraħ- 'bought'
3. **CaCCäC-** patten: /g-l-b/ galläb- 'rode', /m-d-l/
maddäl- 'pounded', /g-r-d/ garräd- 'veiled'
4. **CoCCäC-** patten: /k'-t'-r/ k'ot't'är- 'counted', /g-b-t'/
gobbät'- 'be curved', /k'-f-r/
k'offär- 'dug'
5. **CeCCäC-** patten: /b-d-l/ beddäl- 'mistreated', /h-s-w/
hessäw- 'thought'
6. **CäCaCCäC-** patten: /m-s-k-r/ mäsačkär- 'attested', /d-b-l-k'/
däballäk'- 'mixed', /d-n-g-t'/ dänaggät'-
'shoked', /m-r-m-r/ märammär- 'examined'
7. **Cä CaC-** patten: /f-ħ-k'/ fäħak'- 'rubbed', /l-h-s/ lähas-
'licked', /s-h-t/ sähat- 'missed'
8. **Ca C₁C₁-** patten: m-š/ mašš- 'painted', /l-č'/ lač'č'- 'shaved',
/ʔ-t/ ʔatt- 'entered'
9. **Ce C-** patten: /r-ʔ/ reʔ- 'looked at', /t-ʔ/ teʔ- 'quitted', /č'-ʔ/
č'eʔ- 'stank'

2. *Imperfective Stems:* Unlike the perfective stems shown above, the imperfective stems require prefix agreement pronouns. However, like the perfective stems, the imperfective stems are derived from consonantal roots using the following stem formation patterns.

1. – **CVC₁C₂** Pattern: /n-k-s/ -näks ‘bite’, /l-k-m/ -läk’m ‘pick up’, /k-m-t/ -k’omt’ ‘cut’
2. – **CVCCⁱ⁴C₂** Pattern: /k-f-r/ - k’offir ‘dig’, /l-w-t/ - lewwit’ ‘change’, /m-z-n/ - mezzin ‘weight’, /m-r-k/ -marrik ‘take captive’
3. - **CVCVCCiC** Pattern: /g-n-t-l/-gänat’t’il ‘detach’, /m-s-k-r / -mäsakkir ‘attest’, /d-n-g-t/ - dänaggit’ ‘shock’, /m-r-m-r/ -märammir ‘examine’
4. –**CVC** Pattern: /r-ʔ/ -reʔ ‘see’, /m-t/ -mot’ die’, /z-r/ -zor ‘beg’, /t-ʔ/ -teʔ ‘give up’, /č-ʔ/ -č’eʔ ‘stink’
5. - **CVC₁C₁** Pattern: /l-y/ -leyy ‘separate’, /ʔ-m/ -ʔomm ‘stand up’

3. *Gerundive Stems*: In Argobba, the derivation of the gerundive stem is characterized by geminating the ultimate and in some cases both ultimate and penultimate radicals and by adding a geminated /č/ as shown below.

1. **CVC_i C₁C₁-** Pattern: /l-w-s/ läwiss- ‘wore’. /k-m-t/ komit’t’- ‘cut’, /l-k-m/ läk’imm- ‘picked up’, /h-l-w / haliww- ‘milked’, /ʔ-s-r/ ʔasirr- ‘tied’
2. **CVC₁C₂i C₃C₃-** Pattern: /m-s-k-r/ mäskirr- ‘attested’ /m-n-z-r/ mänzirr- ‘changed’, /d-b-l-k/ däblik’k’- ‘mixed’, /w-r-w-r/ wärrirr- ‘threw’, /k-n-t-s/ k’änt’iss- ‘broke off’

⁴ The [i] here is an epenthetic vowel.

3. **CVC₁C_{1i} C₂C₂- Pattern:** /k'-f-r/ k'offirr- 'dug', /l-w-t'/
läwwit't'- 'changed', /b-t-n/ bättinn- 'dispersed'

4. **CVC + čč- Pattern:** /m-t/ mutičč- 'died', /h-w/ hawičč-
'gave', /r-ʔ/ reʔičč- 'looked'

4. *Jussive stems:* The jussive stems are also formed from roots composed of different number of radicals. The jussive stems, like the imperfective stems, take prefix agreement affixes.⁵

1. *Root:* Different vowels are inserted between radicals to derive different jussive terms. Consider the following patterns of stem formation.

1. **-C₁C₂äC pattern:** /ʔ-s-r / -ʔsärr 'tie', /m-t-ʔ/ -mtäʔ 'hit', /l-k'-
m/ -lk'äm 'pick up'

2. **-C₁C₂aC Pattern:** /t'-h-l/ -t'ahl 'throw', /l-h-s/ -lhas 'lick'

3. **- CVC₁C_{1i}C Pattern:** /ʔ-m-r/-ʔemmir 'order', /k'-f-r/ -koffir
'dig', /h-s-w/ -hessiww 'think', /l-w-t'/ -lewwit'
'change', /m-z-n/ -mazzin 'weight'

4. **- CVC Pattern:** /s-f/ -säf 'sew', /š-š/ -šiš 'ran away', /l-č'/ -
lač 'shave', /z-r/ -zor 'beg'

⁵ For the second person, the agreement prefixes do not surface in the affirmative. In the negative, however, the agreements or the person markers appear following the negative morpheme. Hence, the affirmative jussive stem surfaces like /-CiCär/, /-CuCär/ and /-CiCar/ as exemplified in /-sibär/ 'break', /-k'urät/ 'cut' and /-tiha/ 'throw' respectively.

5. – **CVC₁C₁ Pattern:** /ʔ-m/ -ʔomm ‘stand up’, /l-y/ -leyy
 ‘separate’, /š-ñ/ -šeññ ‘see off’

2. *Affixation:* Besides the verb stem derivations from roots, Argobba verb stems are derived by attaching verb stem formative prefixes to the already derived stems. The common verb stem formative prefixes are **a-**, **as-** and **tä-**. The first two affixes derive causative verb stems, whereas the latter derives passive verb stems. Each of them will be addressed as follows.

II. Morpheme /as-/: **hat’t’äw-** ‘washed’, **as-het’t’äw-** ‘caused to wash’,
näkkäs- ‘bit’, **as- nekkäs -** ‘caused to bite’,
hinj- ‘caught’, **as- hinj-** ‘caused to catch’

III. Morpheme /tä-/: The prefix **tä-** derives the passive verb stem. The prefix, however, does not surface with verb stems as shown in the following passive sentences.

1. **tä -geddäl -Ø** [iggeddäl] ‘He was killed.’

Pass –kill.Pf -3MSs

2. **tä- gedäl - al** [iggedälal] ‘He will be killed.’

Pass-kill.Impf. –Aux

3. *Compounding:* In the compounding, the second components are **äl-** ‘say’ and **gäʔar-** ‘make’. The morpheme **–äl-** is used to derive compound intransitive verb stem, whereas **-gäʔar-** is used to derive transitive verb stems. Consider the following examples.

imbi?-	äl-	'refuse'	käff- gä?ar-	'made high'
k'uč'č'-	äl-	'be seated'	k'uč'č'- gä?ar-	'put down'
k'äss-	äl-	'be slow'	bik'k'- gä?ar-	'made appear'

Tense and aspect: Tense and aspect are two closely related grammatical categories. Both of them are related to verbs. Tense refers to the verb's position in time. That is, the verb could describe a state or action in the past or non-past. Aspect however refers to the extension of state or action in time. In other words, the verb may describe completed or uncompleted action. In the following two subsections, tense and aspect systems of the language will be addressed.

I. Tense: The tense system seems to be binary in nature. That is, the verbs express past and non-past tenses. Under these two tense categories, there are subcategories as can be seen in the due course. The category of past tense can be classified into simple past, past continuous and past perfect tense.

Simple past: In Argobba, simple past tense is expressed by the perfective verb forms. The following examples illustrate the case in point.

1. fat'uma bet **šarraḥ –äčč** 'Fatuma bought a house.'

Fatuma house buy.Pf -3FSs

2. bä – mäsgid mädi **xed – äy** 'They went to a mosque.'

to- mosque to go.Pf -3PLs

3. hayyu **šäčč –äna** 'We drank milk.'

milk drink.Pf -1PLs

Past continuous: The past continuous tense expresses a continuation of an action in the past. It is constructed by the infinitive verb form and the past tense marker auxiliary **imbär-** as shown below.

1. iwwat kitab **mä-k'iri imbär- Ø** 'He was reading a book.'

he book Inf-read Aux.Pas-3MSs

2. bä-timhrt bet ama **mä-xdit imbär –äy** 'They were going to school.'

to-education house Inf- go Aux.Pas -3PLs

3. iyyat säro-wa-n **mä-ht'äw imbär –äčč** 'She was washing her clothes.'

she clothes-3FS.Poss-Acc Inf-wash Aux.Pas-3FSs

Past perfect: The past perfect tense is expressed by the gerundive verb form and the past marker auxiliary **imbär-**. Consider the following examples.

1. 'iwwat kitab **k'äri? -o** **imbär -Ø** 'He had read a book.'

he book read.Ger-3MSs Aux.Pas -3MSs

2. bä-timhrt bet ama **xedičč -em** **imbär -äy**
'They had gone to school.'

to-education house to go.Ger-3PLs Aux.Pas-3PLs

3. säro -wa -n **hat'iw - a** **imbär -äčč**
'She had washed her clothes.'

clothes -3FS.Pos-Acc wash.Ger-3FSs Aux.Pas-3FSs

The non-past subcategorizes simple present tense, present continuous, and present perfect.

1. Simple present tense: The simple present tense is expressed by the imperfect verb form and the present marker auxiliary, which surfaces as -ll/-äl.

1. mäsa¹kir - äl -Ø 'He attests/ will attest.'

attest.Impf -Aux.Pres-3MSs

2. bet šerriḥ - al -Ø 'He buys/will buy a house.'

house buy.Impf –Aux.Pres-3MSs

3. mät' -ill -äčč 'She comes/ will come.'

come.Impf –Aux.Pres -3FSs

4. läws -u -ll -äy 'They wear/will wear.'

wear.Impf-3PLs –Aux.Pres -3PLs

2. *Present continuous*: The present continuous tense is constructed by the infinitive verb form and the present marker auxiliary as exemplified below.

1. zuhriyya **ma- illa? – ill-ina** 'We are eating our lunch.'

lunch Inf- eat -Aux.Pres-1PLs

2. **mä-mät'? –ill - äčč** 'She is coming.'

Inf- come - Aux.Pres-3FSs

3. **mä – t'haf -äl – Ø** 'He is writing.'

Inf -write -Aux.Pres -3MSs

4. säro **mä – ht'äw -äl – äčč** 'She is washing clothes'

clothes Inf –wash –Aux.Pres-3FSs

3. *Present perfect*: The present perfect tense is expressed by the gerundive verb form and the present marker auxiliary. Consider the following examples.

1. **xedičč -em -äl - äy** 'They have gone to school.'

go.Ger -3PLs -Aux.Pres -3PLs

2. **säro -wa -n hat'ww -a -ll -äčč** 'She has washed her clothes.'
washed her clothes.' clothes -3FS.Pos-Acc
wash.Ger -3FSs-Aux.Pres -3FSs

3. **bet šärrih -ana -ll -ina** 'We have bought a house.'

house buy.Ger -1PLs - Aux.Pres-1PLs

II. Aspect: Like tense, aspect is also a property of verbs and the relationship of verbs with time. However, tense and aspect have significant differences in their relationship with time. Tense refers to the verb's fixed position in time, whereas aspect describes how something is viewed in relation to time without focusing on when exactly things happened.

In Argobba, aspect is formed by verb stem derivation and the combination of aspectual verb stem and tense markers. In this regard, perfective, imperfective and progressive aspects are shown below.

1. *Perfective Aspect*: As we have seen earlier in the verb stem derivation, perfective stems are derived from consonantal roots. The

stems are accompanied by subject agreement suffixes. This aspect denotes the completion of action sometime in the past. Consider the following examples.

1. bet **šärrah-äna** ‘We bought a house.’
house buy.Pf -1PLs
2. zäynäba **mät’t’ä?-äčč** ‘Zeyneba came.’
Zeyneba come.PF -3FSs
3. indig k’ärš **räkkäw-Ø** ‘He got a lot of money.’
many money get.Pf-3MSs

The other verb form used to mark perfective aspect is the gerundive verb stem combined with the tense. Tense is marked by **hall/-ll-** and **imbär** for present and past tense respectively.

1. musa **met’? - o -hall** ‘Musa has come.’
Musa come.Ger-3MSs –Axi
2. bet **šärrih- äna-ll -äna** ‘We have bought a house.’
House buy.Ger -1PLs –Aux.Pres-1PLs
3. zäynäba **mät’? -a -ll -äčč** ‘Zeyneba has come.’

Zeyneba come.Ger-3FSs- Aux.Pres-3FSs

2. Imperfective Aspect: Imperfective aspect is used for reference to non-completed event. Imperfective verbs bear the present and past tense marker auxiliaries as illustrated below.

1. bet **inni - šärriḥ - ina** 'We buy/will buy
a house.'

house 1PLs - buy.Impf -1PLs

2. fat'uma säro **hat'w –ll-äčč** 'Fatuma
washes/will was clothes.'

Fatuma clothes wash.Impf –Aux.Pres-3FSs

3. *bä - mäsgid ama xedičč -em imbär -äy* 'They would go to mosque.'

to – mosque to go.lmpf-3PLs Aux.Pas -3PLs

Negation: In Argobba, negation is expressed by a prefix and a suffix attached to verbs. The negative markers are prefix **al-** and suffix **-m**. The /l/ in the prefix **al-** commonly assimilates to the first consonant sounds of verbs.

1. ħara al-šarraħ - Ø –m [aššarraħm] 'He didn't
buy a sheep.'

sheep Neg –buy.Pf -3MSs –Neg

2. al -iññe?a -äčč -im [aliññe?aččim] 'She
didn't sleep.'

Neg –sleep.Pf -3FSs –Neg

3. k'ärš al –aw –äčč –äññ -im 'She didn't give
me money.'

money Neg- give.Pf-3FSs -1So –Neg

Irregular Verbs

The preceding sections reviewed dealt with regular verb forms. There are, however, irregular verbs, which deviate from the derivation and inflection patterns seen in regular verbs. In the discussion to come, the focus will be on copulative and verbs of existence.

1. Copula: The stems and the copulative verb forms in general vary along with the variation in tense and negation. The stem for present affirmative copula is **n-**. However, unlike the present affirmative form, the present negative copulative verb stem is **–kun**. The two stems bear different agreement suffixes as shown below.

<u>Affirmative</u>			<u>Negative</u>		
Sg.	1	n-äññ	'I am'	al –kun - eñu – m	
		[akkuneñum]	'I am not'		
	2m	n-äx	'you are'	al –kun –ex -im [akkunexim]	
			'you are not'		
	f	n-äš	'you are'	al –kun –eš -im [akkunešim]	
			'you are not'		
	3m	n-äy	'he is'	al –kun –a -m [akkunam]	'he is not'
	f	n-äčč	'she is'	al –kun – äčč - 1m	
		[akkunäččim]	'she is not'		
Pl.	1	n –äna	'we are'	al –kun – ena -m	
		[akkunenam]	'we are not'		
	2	n-äxum	'you are'	al –kun – exu –m [akkunexum]	
			'you are not'		
	3	n-äyem	'they are'	al - kun–äy-m	
		[akkunäym]	'they are not'		

Contrary to the present affirmative and negative copulative forms, the stem for the past affirmative and negative copulative verb is **imbär-** as shown below.

	<u>Affirmative</u>		<u>Negative</u>
Sg.	1 imbär- eñu	'I was'	al- imbär- eñu –m 'I was not'
	2m imbär- ex 'you were not'	'you were'	al- imbär- ex -im
not'	f imbär- eš	'you were'	al- imbär- eš -im 'you were not'
	3m imbär- Ø	'he was'	al - imbär- a –m 'he was not'
	f imbär-äčč 'she was not'	'she was'	al - imbär-äčč -im
Pl.	1 imbär- ena	'we were'	al- imbär- –ena – m 'we were not'
	2 imbär- eñum	'you were'	al- imbär- eñum -im 'you were not'
	3 imbär- äy	'they were'	al - imbär- äy -im 'they were not'

The future form of the copulative verb has a stem **hon-**, which adds present and past tense auxiliaries. It also adds agreement prefixes optionally.

<u>Singular</u>		<u>Pural</u>	
1	hon- ill-äñu ‘I will be’	inn - hon- inna	‘we will be’
2m	hon- ill – äx ‘you will be’	ixxon- u -ll – uñum	‘you will be’
f	hon- ill - iſ ‘you will be’	ixxon- u -ll – uñum	
3m	hon – äl ‘he will be’	hon -u- ll- äy	‘they will be’
f	hon- ill –äčč ‘she will be’	hon -u- ll- äy	‘they will be’

The negative future copulative verb uses the same stem like that of the affirmative copulative verb. However, unlike the affirmative verb form, in the negative form, the agreement prefixes appear following the negative morpheme as illustrated below.

Sg.	1	al- hon- im	[axxonim]	‘I will not be’
	2m	al -t- hon- im	[attihonim]	‘you will not be’
	f	al -t- hon- i- m	[attihonim]	‘you will not be’
	3m	al - y- hon- im	[ihonim]	‘he will not be’
	f	al -t- hon- im	[attihonim]	‘she will not be’

Pl.	1	al - inn – hon -im	[annihonim]	‘we will not be’
	2	al -t- hon- u –m	[attihonum]	‘you will not be’
	3	al-y- hon-u- m	[ihonum]	‘they will not be’

Note that the present tense auxiliary in the present affirmative copulative verb forms does not appear in the negative forms.

Verbs of Existence: The other irregular verb in Argobba is the existence verb. The verb of existence for the present tense has the stem **hill-** (except the 3MS, which is **hall-**). In contrast with the affirmative stem the present negative form of the verb of existence uses the stem **yat-**. The following demonstrate this.

		<u>Affirmative</u>		<u>Negative</u>	
Sg.	1	hill- äñu	‘I am/exist’ not/exist’	yat- äñu –m	‘I am
	2m	hill – äx	‘you are’ not’	yat - ix - im	‘you are
	f	hill - iš	‘you are’ not’	yat –eš - im	‘you are
	3m	hall	‘he is’	yat –a –m	‘he is not’
	f	hill -äčč	‘she is’ ‘she is not’	yat –äčč- im	
Pl.	1	hill - ina	‘we are’ not’	yat - ena –m	‘we are

2 hill -iñum 'you are'
'you are not'

yat -eñum -im

3 hill – äy 'they are'
not'

yat – äy-im

'they are
not'

The past existential verb uses the verb stem **imbär-** exactly identical with the past copulative verb form. On the other hand, the past negative verb of existence uses the stem **nur-** which is different from the past affirmative stem as shown below.

Affirmative

Negative

Sg. 1 imbär- eñu 'I was/existed'
[annureñum] 'I was not/existed'

al –nur - eñu–m

2m imbär- ex 'you were'
[annurexim] 'you were not'

al- nur- ex-im

f imbär- eš 'you were'
[annurešim] 'you were not'

al- nur- eš-im

3m imbär- Ø 'he was'
'he was not'

al - nur- a-m [annuram]

f imbär- äčč 'she was'
'she was not'

al - nur- äčč-im [annuräččim]

Pl. 1 imbär- ena 'we were'
'we were not'

al- nur- ena-m [annurenam]

2 imbär- eñum 'you were'
[annureñumim] 'you were not'

al- nur- eñum-im

3 imbär- äy 'they were' al - nur- ey-im [annureyim]
'they were not'

The verb of existence has the affirmative stem **näwr-**, which is derived from the verbal root n-w-r 'exist' for the future tense. What makes the future verb form different from the present and past verb forms is that it uses the same stem for affirmative and negative verb forms. Consider the following.

<u>Affirmative</u>	<u>Negative</u>
Sg. 1 (i-) näwr- ill-ähu 'I will be/exist' 'I will not be/exist'	al -i- näwr- im [annäwrim]
2m näwr- ill – äx 'you will be' 'you will not be'	al-t- näwr- im [attinäwrim]
f näwr- ill - iſ 'you will be' [attinäwrim] 'you will not be'	al-t- näwr- im
3m näwr- äl 'he will be' [innäwrim] 'he will not be'	al-y- näwr- im
f näwr- ill -äčč 'she will be'] 'she will not be'	al-t- näwr- im [atti näwrim]
Pl. 1 inni- näwr- inna 'we will be' [anninäwrim] 'we will not be'	al- inni- näwr- im
2 näwr- u -ill - uhum 'you will be' [attinäwrum] 'you will not be'	al-t- näwr- u- im

3 näwr-u- ill- äy 'they will be' al-y- näwr-u- im
[innäwrum] 'they will not be'

Adpositions: Adposition is a cover term for preposition and postposition grammatical elements. In Argobba, the majority of the adpositions are prepositions. Although there is a small number of postpositions, there are structures where both prepositions and postpositions are found in a single structure (adpositional phrase). The following examples show the list of adpositions with their occurrence in a phrase.

tä-	'from'	tä-suk	'from a shope'
		tä-t'äläha	'from Telha'
		tä-bet wäfč'e house'	'inside the
lä-	'for, to'	lä-xanabo	'for a child'
		lä-samint	'for a week'
		lä-ħar Ğit wäriħ	'for four months'
bä-	'in, with'	bä-ħidar	'in November'
		bä-ħarb	'with a spear'
bä---ama	'to'	bä-kämise ama	'to Kemissie'

Shonke'		bä-šonke ama	'to
ɣintä	'from'	ɣintä-bet	'from a house'
		ɣintä-iwwat	'from him'
		ɣintä –šonke	'from Shonke'
istä	'to, until'	istä –nägan	'until tomorrow'
		istä- šonke	'to Shonke'
istä ---diräs	'to'	istä- šonke diräs	'to Shonke'
		istä-nare diräs	'until
		today'	
		ingure diräs	'until now'
tä---- gujo	'at'	tä-bet gujo	'at the back of a
house'			
tä --- rašo		tä- zaf rašo	'on a tree'
--- wäfč'e	'in, at'	šonke wäfč'e	'at
Shonke'			
bä---wäfč'e	'inside'	bä -bet wäfč'e	'inside a
house'			

-kkul/ -dul 'with' ula-kkul 'with a gust'

bä mäddi 'to --- direction' bä-kämise mäddi 'towards
Kemissie'

Adverbs: The category adverb is not productive in the language. There are few lexically adverb elements, **mäk'k'o** 'soon' and **foyyiñña** 'badly' could be mentioned as an instance.

Syntax

Words are systematically arranged to form different types of phrases. The phrase is used as a unit in a sentence. Each phrase acquires a lexical head. Consequently, the phrase type is determined by the type of lexical head.

This section comprises two subsections. The first subsection deals with three major phrase structures: noun phrase, adjectival phrase and verb phrase, and the two minor phrases, namely adpositional phrases and adverbial phrases. The second subsection focuses on major syntactic structures.

Noun Phrases: Noun phrases are constructed with a nominal head and non-head phrases. The non-head constituents occur preceding heads. The following examples show the case in point.

1. soʔost t'aʔi –ačč 'three goats'

three goat –PL

2. ingulut' hayyu 'a little milk'

little milk

3. a –šonke säw –ačč ‘the people of Shonke’

Gen-Shonke person-PL

4. ʔo baʔar -ičči ‘that ox’

that ox-Def.m

5. a –zäynäba zahi sär-ičči ‘Zeyneba’s white dress’

Gen-Zeyneba white dress-Def.m

Adjectival Phrase: Adjectival phrases are constructed with adjectival lexical head and non-head constituents. The following are representative examples.

1. amä –tatte -wa amiñr ‘as beautiful as her mother’

as- mother -3FS.Pos beautiful

2. bä- dimma läñham ‘very big’

by- well big

3. aläk’it räñhi ‘very wide’

very wide

Verb Phrase: Verb phrases are headed by a head verb. The head verb bears at least a subject pronoun affix. It is preceded with different non-head phrasal constituents as shown in the following examples.

1. aläkit' mät'it't' –o -al 'He is severely sick'
 vey sick.Ger -3Mss-Aux.Pres
2. tä -ʔombärik'k'emät' –Ø 'He sat on the chair.'
 on –chair sit down.Pf -3MSs
3. kemise ama xed –äy 'They went to Kemissie.'
 Kemissie to go.Pf -3PLs
4. hayyu šäčč –eñu 'I drunk milk.'
 milk drink.Pf-1Ss
5. amiñr n-äčč 'She is beautiful'
 beautiful be-3FSs

Adpositional Phrase: Adpositional phrases are headed by a prepositional or a postpositional head. Consider the following examples.

1. lä-ñä?et wäriñ ‘for two months’
for- two month
2. ula-kkul ‘with a gust’
guest -with
3. bä-kämise mädidi ‘towards Kemissie’
by –Kemissie towards

Adverbial Phrase: Adverbial phrases are headed by lexically adverb heads as shown below.

1. aläk’t’ mäk’k’o ‘very soon’
very soon
2. aläk’t’foyyiñña ‘very badly’
very badly

Sentences

Sentence structures are constructed by systematic organization of noun phrases and verb phrases. All constituents in a sentence will be embedded in either of these two phrases. Sentences can be analyzed in terms of their structure and function. With regard to the structure, sentences can be simple or complex. Pertaining to their function, sentences are used to state/declare, question, command etc.

Simple Sentences: A simple sentence contains only one verb. It does not have any subordinate clause. Hence simple sentences are

composed of simple noun phrases and simple verb phrases. The following are examples of simple sentences in Argobba.

1. mussa gäbäre nä - y 'Musa is a farmer.'

Musa farmer be -3MSs

2. zäynäba doro šärräñ –äčč 'Zeyneba bought a chicken.'

Zeyneba chicken buy.Pf -3FSs

3. fat'uma lä-mussa gizi? haw – äčč –äy 'Fatuma gave money to Musa.'

Fatuma to-Musa money give.Pf-3FSs -3MSo

4. naga zinaw yatam 'There is no rain this year.'

this year rain there is no

Complex sentences: A complex sentence contains at least one subordinate or dependent clause and a verb. The dependent clause could be embedded either in the subject noun phrase or in the verb phrase or in both. The subordinate clause serves as a modifier or a complement. The verb in the subordinate clause bears a complementizer. Consider the following examples.

1. mussa nägade amä -imbär hak' -ill – äñu 'I know that Musa was a merchant.'

Mussa merchant Comp-be.Pas know.Impf –Aux.Pres -1Ss

2. zäynäba doro šäriñ -a mät't' –äčč 'Zeyneba came after buying a chicken.'

Zeyneba chicken buy.Ger -3FSs come.Pf -3FSs

3. fat'uma lä –mussa gizi? ami -lä?ah – äčč - all –o sämä? - ell - äñu

Fatuma to –Musa money Comp- send.Pf -3FSs –Aux.Pres - 3MSo –Aux.Pres-1Ss

'I heard that Fatuma had sent money to Musa.'

Interrogative Sentences: An interrogative sentence is a sentence that is used to ask a question as opposed to a sentence that makes a statement. Interrogative sentences contain different interrogative pronouns depending on the issue to be asked. Consider the following examples.

1. man awid –ex? 'Who told you?'

who tell.Pf- 2MSo

2. imbäla šärrañ - hä -yye? 'What did you buy for me?'

what buy.Pf -for -1So

3. mäčče mät't' - ex? 'When did you come?'

when come.Pf -2MSs

4. minjä lij –ačč hill –äy -eš

how many child-PL has.Pres -3PLs -2FSo ‘How many children do you have?’

4. Summary and Concluding remarks

In this study, attempts are made to sketch out the pedagogical grammar of Argobba. Argobba is one of the endangered Ethio-Semitic languages. It is classified as South Ethio-Semitic subfamily together with Amharic, Harari and Gurage languages. As pointed out from the outset of the study, there is no consensus among scholars about the origin of Argobba. Some claim that Argobba are Arabs in origin. As opposed to this, others contend that Argobba are one of the indigenous people of Ethiopia. In some earlier studies on the Argobba language, it was treated as the dialect of Amharic. Recent research, however, confirmed that Argobba is an independent language sister to Amharic.

Argobba has twenty-seven consonants and seven vowel phonemes. There are phonological processes like deletion, insertion, assimilation, etc. The language uses the Ethiopic script or fidel for its writing system.

With regard to its morphological structure, there are free and bound morphemes. The bound morphemes are both stems and affixes. The affixes serve as derivational and inflectional affixes. The derivational affixes are used in word formation processes of the language. Accordingly derived nouns, adjectives, and verbs are formed by nouns, adjectives, and verb derivational affixes, respectively. Besides the derivational affixes, words are derived from roots and compounding.

With reference to the inflectional affixes, the affixes are attached to words to change their form and grammatical function. Nouns and adjectives, for instance, bear inflectional affixes to show their number, definiteness, gender, and case.

Pertaining to the syntactic structure of the language, different phrases and sentence types are identified. The phrase types are identified by their lexical heads. Accordingly, noun phrases, verb phrases, adjectival phrases, adpositional phrases and adverbial phrases have their respective lexical heads. The sentence structure is constructed from a noun phrase and a verb phrase. Due to the number of verbs in the sentence, it will be considered simple or complex sentences. In terms of their function, the sentences are stative, interrogative, and negative. Syntactically Argobba follows SOV word order.

In conclusion, from grammatical descriptions made so far, it is believed that Argobba learners, teachers, Argobba syllabus and textbook developers and supplementary grammar book writers can use the prominent findings of the study.

Abbreviations

Acc	Accusative case Complementizer	Aux	Auxiliary	Comp
Def	Definite Definite feminine	Def.m	Definite masculine	Def.f
Nfor	Noun formative Genitive	Neg	Negative	Gen

Pas	Past possessive	Pass	Passive	Pos
Pres	Present Plural	Prog	Progressive	PL
Pf	Perfective	Impf	Imperfective	

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