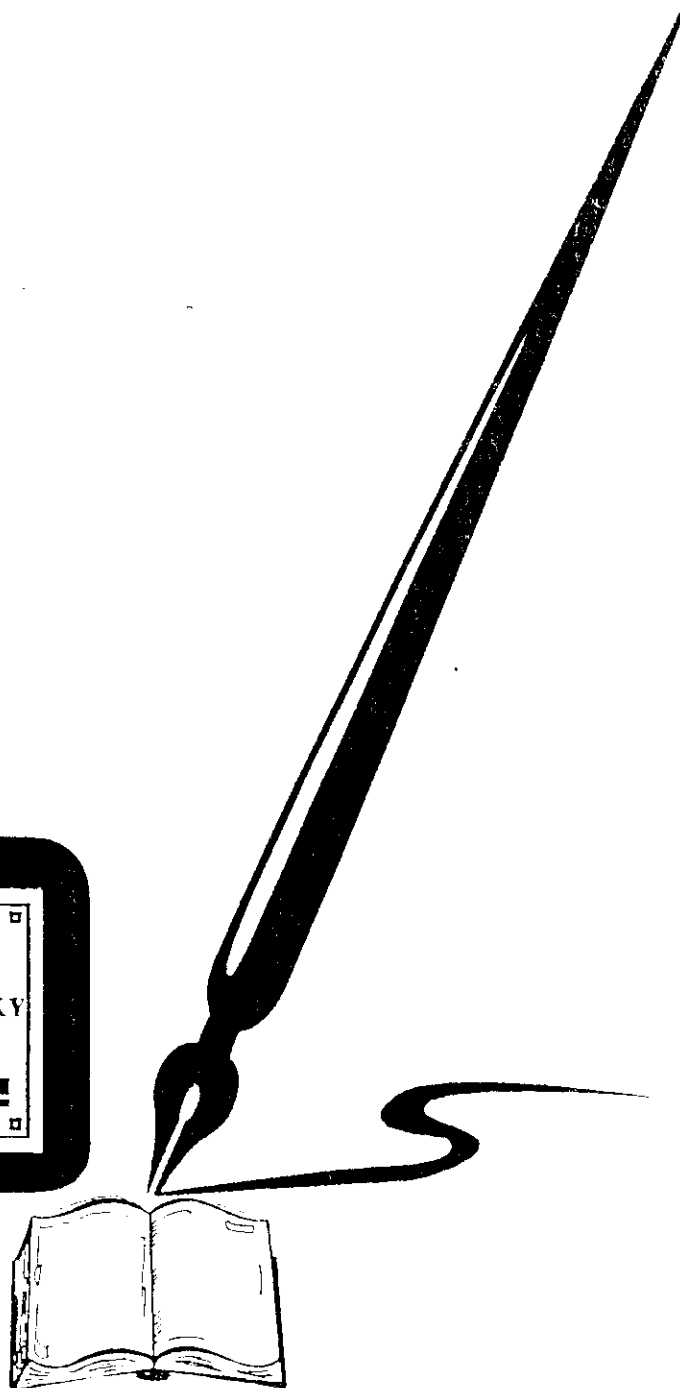


# ALIF-MAAY



# **Draft outline of the Maay Alphabet**

## **" Alif-Maay "**

**Authors:**  
**Abullahi Haji Hassan (Aw-soomow)**  
**and**  
**Ahmed Mohamed Ali (Ycaycurow)**

**For**

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Please forward your inputs to  
The Alif-Maay Committee  
c/o 2063 Islington Ave. # 806  
Etobicoke, On  
M9P 2R7  
Canada

Phone: (416) 633-7553

# GOGHOL DHIG

Umud dhaghingshe i taariikhthiye may lyky ilaaliyi kore afshe, Ingthii afsheeby noolyi ummudaas dhaghingshe i taariikhdiye noolathaayang.

Yeetho Af-maay ingty ku hor liin abtugny, hatyny dhaghingky i taariikhthy ummudy Af-maayky ky hathylaasy my dhungne fa' ku fa' ya nahanis deersiyaayi, mayny tiirshe haayey Afyaalethy, sheley wali ha jeri, geeky tang taaly , i wala ha dereeroby yo dad ha deerisaayi, yoogho Af-maayky hothingnymaathis ku faa'ithoysythaw ya may etheegsythaayena : **Gopey , Bayting, Jiib, Saar, Hees, Lo amaang, i Napy amaang**

Hothingnymaathy Af-Maay leyi, hal sheeghoy ho ly erry, haangshy mal ly deera, haano yer ho has towiiny: Ulumaathy diingty Islaangky faafisjhe dalkeeng isly deersithi may ingky horeeyey ulumaathy afmaalky haaytey diingty ky faafiyaasi Af-maayky , mayny awsho haayey **Aw Barkadky Yusuf**, Alifky baryshoothis, hegaadi Afky Arbeed madi nii kakyti, lanky Af-maay niingky bedeley ha hingdisi usi haayi :

*Alifly kordhowey , Alifly hoosdhowey, Aliflaa gothi.*

**Aw Sheeg Ibdily Isaag**, dalkykeng guthaajhey derejy wiinga ky leya digrighiijhey Af-maayky haayi daash weblbo ky weerey geeky, dugsy quraang meelby yaaly shoofyngty lyky qaatha kor lyku dereeriyaw langki ha hingdisi usi haayi:

*Maajey weelki Aleew*

*Wali usy maaghony*

*Miing taag waayeew,*

*Maas mykii lihiini*

*Maag wal niing siyow*

*Maalyngkeen Allew dhoor Maaliyngshey Allew dhoor.*

**Aw Sheeg Uwees**, Edjhey lang ing dheegny arlaatheng my roogho; Isheethothy baryshoothiye langky futhuthaayey Af-maay ky weeli, usi haayi :

*La ilaaha : Ilaahy keleed Maaby yaalo*

*Ila laahu : Ilaahy wiiny maayi*

Hathyl wali qiimy lahayey Reeghayti mariithi terri, rafaad wali laha marey hortaany haayi, iyooney hikmy wali ly dhaafey hany deeriby husjho hepedley malky haayy koro wal hilmaamey, raadkaas sy usy iniing dhungne eped ku eped ing jery, dad bathinga hortaany ku fikiri sithii liing abtughy lahaayi Af-maay.

**Musdhaf Sheeg**, may aaw ing eyaa , lang ally langki dereemi , Af-maay abtuyghowshey iini liing baahiycy , may weeli, nololis bathiithiye mayky leeysythey, sithii usy ing hely lahaayi far lyky abtughy Af-maay, mayny haayey langky abtughy farti usy ingky maghy dari **Kongtong Barkadly**.

Ba'dyshe dad bathyno wal barythiya dethaalki meelis ku wethi. Ingkastoo far liisky rahi liing helny, hatyny goony goony lang welby far usyley gorythawa ing suubsythi.

Marsy ,1994. Torongto, Canada, may ky kulumey dhalingyery dereengko isky e o dethaalkaas meelis ku wedy, sy liing hely far liisky wathy rahy oo lyky abtughy Af-maay. Dhalingyeroothas may ky balymeena iniyo:

1. Ha aruuriyaang far wali goony goony liing qorey lyky abtughi Af-maay.
2. Rahathaang kutaab wali lyhely kory ku hathylaaw far .
3. Ly hariirang ulumaathy afytee gorythaasy , gaar haang , haang Af-maayky gorythy.

Sy hoolaaas ing suurtygaly, dhalingyeroothas may doorytheene Gobty gobty Af-maayky:

Dr. Abdally Ahmed  
Abdillaahi Haji Hasing  
Abdillyqaadir Sh. Usmaan (Jawaari)  
Ahmed M. Aliyow (Ycaaycurow)  
Eething Buulle Eething  
Abdysalaang Ahmed Huseeng (Malla)  
Mukhtaar Eething Hasing  
Abdillyqaadir Aaming (Boojhaley)

Hoolaas bathiithiye yeetho Gobty ky dhiyaasi, hatyny may jereey dad  
bathyno garyb wiing lyku heli, oo ku mid eying:

Abdiweli Maaling Aliyow  
Abdiwaahid Haji Saalah  
Shamsy Haji Aliyow  
Duniyy Aliyow Eething  
Huseeng Sh. M. Nuradiing  
Ibeeying Aaming.

Yeetho uny isleny far-maayty uny geeky hasiing bangdhikooohayny, may  
naghythy korte far lyky abtughy kory Af-maay meelby usy ku kooyy, ya  
hatyny may lenaa hoolung hol dhamaaty my e , lang weloobyny ing  
furungty ini usy tely ku dhiibythy.

Gobty Af-maayky may mahad ing naghaase lang ally langki qiib ku  
qathythi, galyng lyku heli, mysy dhiirygiliyi inii ly abtughy Af-maay.

Aawky Gobty Af-maayky  
Dr. Abdally Ahmed

# Contents

Alif-maay  
Gogholdhig

## Qiiibty Koowaad

1. Shibly.....	2
2. Shaghal.....	2
3. Shorongshoor.....	2
4. Shalreepy.....	3
5. Shid.....	3

## Qiiibty Lamaad

1. Huruufo Gaarky e.....	4
2. Hagaad.....	5
3. Kelmithy dikaaliyo too e, ma'nasho shalgediising.....	6

## Qiiibty sedyhaad (The English Version)

1. Consonants.....	7
2. Vowels.....	7
3. The "eih" Sound.....	7 - 8
4. Shalreepy ('').....	9
5. Words that double.....	9 - 10

## Qiiibty afaraad

1. Special letters.....	10 - 12
-------------------------	---------

## Qiiibty shanaad

1. Gopey.....	13 - 14
---------------	---------

# Alif-Maay

## Shibly<sup>1</sup>:

**B P T J JH D TH R S SH DH G GH F Q K L M N NG  
W H Y YC**

## Shaghal<sup>2</sup> :

**A E I O U  
AA EE II OO UU**

## Shorongshoor<sup>3</sup> : "Y"

1. "Y" hortiyee shaghal jery, shiblywu

Misaal:

Bay                      dooy                      biyooley

2. "Y" hortiyee shibly jery, shaghalu, weerdhingiyeeny may naghythaase "ie".  
Madi kelmythy ye ing dambooyty may ly taawiyey ini weerdhingiye  
naghythaasy "ieh" lang ufkulaaw haang.

Misaal:

dugsy              serby                                      mingdily              jyny                                      shyny

ø

---

<sup>1</sup> Conconent

<sup>2</sup> Vowel

<sup>3</sup> **Shoronsheer rule of "Y"**

- b) If the letter "y" is preceded by a vowel it is used as consonant and is pronounced as it is "y".  
Example:

Bay              Dooy      Biyooley

- p) On the other hand, if the letter "y" is preceded by a consonant, then the letter "y" is used like vowel and is pronounced as "eih".

Example:

Maghy	= noun	Misgy	= sorghum
Maaycy	= ocean	jyny	= heaven
myfathaw	= I do not want it	shyny	= bee

## **Shalreepy<sup>4</sup> : (')**

Lamy shaghyl hooby shalgohiyeciing, dhatiyo shareepy ya galee.

Misaal: Ta'ady                      Ba'iid                      Ta'asiir

## **Shid :**

Haruufoo shidky koraaw may eyiina (R, L).

Misaal:	<b>r</b>	<b>rr</b>	<b>l</b>	<b>ll</b>
	ering	arring	hilow	hillimy
	iry	arry	iling	illing
	mary	marry	bilaayy	billaaw
	eerang	garruung	iling	illing

---

<sup>4</sup> A vowel followed by different vowel is separated from the second vowel by an apostrophe "Shalreeby".



## Huruufo Gaarky e:

Af-Maay may gaar ing leyaa haruufu hoos ky abtughung:

**P, Jh, Th, Gh, Ng, Yc**

### **P:**

Weerdhingiye may ing dhowtaa b, laakiing may ku kooyasee faruuryco yoogho maany inis daaraany.

misaal:

<i>hopoog</i>	<i>heped</i>	<i>Hapiipy</i>	<i>apaal</i>
<i>liping</i>	<i>hapuug</i>	<i>haped</i>	

### **JH:**

Harfkung weerdhingtis dhenaaga ku kooyasy, mayny ing dhowta "j", waany ku gediisingty.

misaal:

<i>Myjhing</i>	<i>Jhab</i>	<i>tingjhir</i>	<i>jhyring</i>
<i>jhaathyjhaathy</i>	<i>jheer</i>	<i>jhaped</i>	<i>galaangjhy</i>

### **TH:**

Weerdhinty harafkung may ly too etaa "ṡ" ky Af-Arapighy.

misaal:

<i>mathal</i>	<i>etheb</i>	<i>mithow</i>	<i>uthug</i>
<i>etheeg</i>	<i>myfathaw</i>	<i>ithaaleey</i>	<i>mathy</i>

### **GH:**

Weerdhingty harafkung may ing dhowta "ġ" ky Af-Arapighy.

<i>maghy</i>	<i>dhoghor</i>	<i>maghaar</i>	<i>meghed</i>
<i>dhaghyng</i>	<i>dhaghar</i>	<i>aghaar</i>	<i>saghaal</i>

### **NG**

Weerdhingtiye may ku kooyase sangky.

<i>mingdily</i>	<i>mangdy</i>	<i>sang</i>	<i>lang</i>
<i>ting</i>	<i>lung</i>	<i>doghyng</i>	<i>shang</i>

### **YC**

Harafkuung weerdhingtiis may ku kooyase dhenaagy yeetho ilko liisky haayy.

<i>ycaay cur</i>	<i>muy cy</i>	<i>may cagmay cag</i>
<i>ycaay cy</i>	<i>Y cysaang</i>	<i>Y cuuy cy</i>

## Higaad:

<b>B:</b>	bal	barbaar	dab	bybaryd
<b>P:</b>	apaal	lipee	hopoog	shapyl
<b>T:</b>	tab	fatiir	baaty	tytaagsy
<b>J:</b>	jilib	taajir	dhuji	jyny
<b>Jh:</b>	jheer	mujhulug	galaangjhy	jhyjha
<b>D:</b>	dab	ludaay	dubud	dydaar
<b>TH:</b>	mathal	etheb	uthug	mathy
<b>R:</b>	raad	bariisy	bar	ryreeb
<b>S:</b>	safar	basar	baas	syny
<b>SH:</b>	shafar	wishaag	daash	shyny
<b>DH:</b>	dhafar	dhardhaar	geydhy	dhydhaab
<b>G:</b>	gar	ragaal	reg	gygapaar
<b>GH:</b>	naghaar	meghed	ighir	maghy
<b>Q:</b>	quly	waaqow	qooq	qyquuy
<b>K:</b>	kal	bukur	shaky	kykood
<b>L:</b>	laab	bilaayy	lyky	bayly
<b>M:</b>	malmal	gomor	ilmy	myleeety
<b>N:</b>	nab	teneg	magny	naas
<b>NG:</b>	wang	mingdily	galyng	lang
<b>W:</b>	war	dhowaang	saw	sawy
<b>H:</b>	hal	bohol	baahy	hereed
<b>Y:</b>	yas	mayaang	dooy	dooyy
<b>YC:</b>	ycaaycur	muycy	dhilmaaycy	maycagmaycag

Kemithy dhikaaliyo too e, ma'naasho shalgediising:

Alif-maayky may leyaa, kelmythy dhikaaliyo too eh, hadiny ma'naajhony shal eh.  
Misaal:

- b) Eleeng (lab ithaaleey)  
Eleeng lang liing gooriyi, wal ha dhowaayi
- p) Eleeng (kor)  
Waring eleeng liing gemi, meel ky dhiyaaw mal huby
- b) Jeer (wepyga ky jarty)  
Jeer Mingshe wepywu
- p) Jeer (gee)  
Jimaa jeer muslingu
- b) Jirid (dhis)  
Jirid lang gurythi, ming dhisooowa ing jeethy
- p) Jirid (hidid)  
Jirid bubaay hoos my jery

# Alif-Maay

## Consonants:

**B P T J JH D TH R S SH DH G GH F Q K L M N NG  
W H Y YC**

## Vowels:

**A E I O U  
AA EE II OO UU**

## The "ieh" Sound: "Shorongshoor""Y"

The sound "ieh" is a common ending of many words in the Maay language. This sound usually occurs at the end of many nouns and verbs. On occasion, this sound can be found in the middle of some words.

Example:

<b>misgieh</b>	= sorghum	<b>miehfadaaw</b>	= I do not want it
<b>usbieh</b>	= worry-beads	<b>diehdaar</b>	= caressing
<b>doorieh</b>	= chicken	<b>adieh</b>	= you

Like many others who have attempted to find standard alphabet for the Maay language, finding a letter that represents this sound has been a challenge. Here are some of the letters suggested to be used to represent this sound: **ieh**, **h**, **i**, **ih**, **e'**, and **y**. For example the letter "**h**" has been selected by a group of Maay researchers. We tested it to see if it can be used to represent the **ieh** sound. Notice how the use of letter "h" is appropriate in the following words:

**doorh** = chicken  
**mingdilyh** = hut

However the letter "h" does not work when used in the following words:

misg**h** (misg-h) = sorghum

shaash (shaa-sh) = head scurf

ders**h** (ders-h) = shed

The letters "gh" and "sh" are part of the Maay alphabet and they represent other sound.

The use of "**hh**" and "**ih**" were eliminated at initial stages of our research for they presented a consistence problem, because there are letters in the Maay alphabet that have the letter "H" as part of them for example, **jh**, **th**, **sh**, **gh** and **dh**. The letter "e'" was then considered. It consists of the letter "e" and an apostrophe. This letter could be used to represent the "**ieh**" sound; however, there were two problems. This letter is not found as one letter on most conventional typewriters and it involves two key strokes. However, it can be adapted easily with the use of computers and some modern typewriters.

Considerable effort has been put in finding a suitable letter for this sound that does not require special typewriters and the use of computers. In addition, it was suggested that we adopt letters such as x, c, z. After long discussion, the committee has agreed to adopt the use of "**y**" similar to the way "**y**" is used in some English words such as *lorry*, *energy*, *crazy*, *ugly*, and *angry*. The letter "**y**" is used both as consonant and vowel. The word "**Shorongshoor**"-one that changes its role-is then coined for the letter "**y**" because of its double role. The following rule has been put together to clarify when one can use "**y**" as a consonant and as a vowel:

- b) If the letter "**y**" is preceded by a vowel it is used as consonant and is pronounced as it is "**y**".

Example:

Bay      Dooy      Biyooleey

- p) On the other hand, if the letter "**y**" is preceded by a consonant, then the letter "**y**" is used like vowel and is pronounced as "eih".

Example:

Maghy	= Noun	Misgy	= Sorghum
Maaycy	= Ocean	jyny	= heaven
myfathaw	= I do not want it	shyny	= bee

## "Shalreepy" (')

A vowel followed by different vowel is separated from the second vowel by an apostrophe "Shalreeby".

Example:

ta'ady = betray

ba'iid = deer

## "Shid"

### Words that double:

In the Maay alphabet, only letters "R" and "L" are doubled within some words.

Example:

**r**

ering = goat

iry = sun

**rr**

arring = matter

arry = soil

**l**

hilow = nostalgia

iling = tears

**ll**

hillimy = dream

illing = kernel

The letters **b**, **d**, **g**, and **n** are stressed when they are part of a word, but they are not doubled within a word. When they are not stressed, the letter **p**, **th**, **gh**, and **ng** are used respectively in their place. Note how the following words are pronounced.

### **B:**

barbaar = youth

dabaal = foolish

hiblib = meet

### **P:**

hupung = joint (organ)

heped = chest

apaar = drought

### **D:**

derdaar = advice

seddy = three

### **Th:**

mathy = head

mathal = appointment

### **G:**

legding = wrestling

shalgo = seperation

### **Gh:**

maghy = noun

saghaal = nine

**N:**

tinaar = furnace  
 binaang = outskirts

**Ng:**

uungsy = incense  
 boonghshy = bran

**Specail letters: (P, Jh, Th, Gh, Ng, and Yc)**

These letters are used as follows:

**P:**

The letter "p" always occur in the middle of a word. There is no word that starts with the letter "P". This sound is produced by the lips. Its' sound is somewhat similar to the letter "p" in the English alphabet.

pa: apaal = gratitude  
 pe: heped = chest  
 pi: Hapiipy = a name of a person  
 po: hopoog = scarf for married women  
 pu: hapuug = lush  
 py: opy = placenta

**Jh:**

It is guttural and it has similar sound as "j".

jha: jhab = fracture  
 jhe: jheer = shyness  
 jhi: jhiir = name of a grazing land North East of Baidoa  
 jho: jholow  
 jhu: jhuus = sound  
 jhy: jhyring = beard,  
       galaangjhy = wooden spoon

**Th:**

It is pronounced as the article "the" in the English language.

tha: mathel = appointment  
 the: etheb = politeness  
 thi: ithing = permission  
 tho: mithow = black  
 thu: uthug = good smell  
 thy: mathy = head

**Gh:**

It sound like the " غ " of the Arabic alphabet.

gha:	haghar	=	deceive
ghe:	meghed	=	leather
ghi:	meghing	=	refuge
gho:	hoghor	=	mole
ghu:	shughul	=	job
ghy:	meghyl	=	men

**Ng:**

It is similar to the end sound of many English words (e.g., morning, caring, helping)

ang:	angkaar	=	curse
ing:	aming	=	moment
eng:	engjeg	=	dry
ong:	oong	=	thirst
ung:	ungbeer	=	dress
ngy:	haaghyng	=	broom

**Yc:**

The sound that the letter "yc" represents is also found in the words signore, bisogno, and agnello of the Italian language.

yca:	ycaaycuur	=	cat
yce:	myyceeg	=	feeble
yci:	ycisaang	=	the youngest
yco:			
ycu:	Ycuuycy	=	name of a person
ycy:	maaycy	=	ocean

Before we decided the letter "yc" we have tried **yh**, **yn**, and **ny**.

**Yh:**

There is no problem when used in the following words

muy**hy** = sour milk

maay**hy** = oceans

Note that the use of the letter "**yh**" in the Maay word "bey**h**aw", which means fortunate, violates the sound that it represents because this word is read as "**bey-how**". Also, the rule is violated when used in the word "tely**h**aang" that mean as an advice. The "y" is used as vowel to read as "ieh".



**Yn:**

Again the letter **yn** was tried. The letter works according to the sound it represents when used in the word "Mu**yn**y" (sour milk). However, it fails when used in the following words:

"haayny" = we have (it is pronounced as haay-ny)

"leeyni" = we have finished (leey-ni)

**Ny:**

Similarly the letter "ny" was considered. Note how the letter "**ny**" works in the words "mun**ny**" (sour milk) and "maan**ny**" (ocean). However, it fails when we want to represent the Maay the word "haayny" that means "we have".

# BARASHY

Islaangnymy lang ky barbaarey  
Bariyey qiyaamy towyno  
Bilaayy lang dopoolayo  
Bedbaathiyaw derysjhey  
Boobky meekshey madi  
Booly haarang ku etaa  
Ballyngky lang ly wiihha  
Baarangjhey rungley eyaa  
Bariithe ho terooby  
Bilkeerma afshey  
Bay i Bokaal, Gethy i  
Diingty dad is baraaw

Abaabshey ing biringny  
Baalis obsy taaly,  
Dilky iniing binaawayny  
Oghoong ungku booriyaany,  
Biliilyghy liing bahy  
Dha' iniing bereerany,  
Epedjhey ing baajhiny  
Beeng hor ing sheegny,  
Bishaary i neped  
Baas liingku dheeghany,  
Baaloojhy tani Bu'aaly  
Berkykaano jere barooy.

Barwaaghy meelshy madi  
Boholo biyo dereerano  
Beeday walby ooftis myee  
Bariisy dheera apuurky  
Bethyte i bangkytaallothy  
Baruuryghyby ho ha bogsythy  
Byboody i af buuley  
Bilaashahy tirqaaghy  
Balky dhong quwy mye  
Beer lang ing batiya bilis e  
Bangbang i athably boorky  
Baahy malky gorytho berky

Irky isly biryghy  
Mir lyky waa bariisythy,  
Beerey fidhy miing yaalo  
Goob lyky boobsiye,  
Boghongdhowa ha mariye  
Dhatiye malky baahytha,  
Tingjhirty baaryghaasy  
Dhaal wekbo ky buuhy,  
Bofdhy i kingjhi leya  
Wala keleeby baarabarikow  
Tani wepiya baaliyo  
kaany malky beeghythaw.

Baldaaghy meelshey madi  
Barbaarky mathalis  
Billawy abley e iyooney  
Bafty kullaably i geper  
Busty madi isly kato  
Bulaangky isly weero  
Buungty i shangbalky  
Berlo beerrey i qopoopey  
Bilaangty ho goobty billo  
Beedko langki ha biyooby  
Burur madaas hagma  
Baashal dad ha jiithythawny

Beer laal ly deery  
Waro buurshowa,  
Barshy ariir ky shoopaw  
Baraartiye biid ing fuuly,  
Dheel liis billaawy  
Liisky booryboorawy,  
Gurbaang lyky beraho  
Baallo jaari lyly surumy,  
Madby too ha boody  
Alaly bagshiishjhey kyweely  
Dhiig bathing baf errywa  
Berkykaano jere barooy

Abdillaahi Hajy (Aw-Soomow)