

1.1 Uses of the preposition ‘i’ (‘e’ / ‘y’)

This preposition serves to introduce an indirect object noun. Thus, it is often equivalent to English ‘to / for’. In Tudalt it has the form ‘i’ before a consonant and ‘y’ before a vowel. In Tdraq it has the form ‘e’ before a consonant and ‘y’ before a vowel.

Introducing an indirect object

Often Tamasheq usage corresponds with English and ‘i’ is used where we would use ‘to’ or ‘for’, e.g.:

D	iġa ātay y-əmidi-nnes	He made tea for his friend
D	ənney e-Māryama ‘ālxer āggên’	I said ‘thanks’ to Maryama
D	əmmāyāy y-āyewəd āhûsken	I’m looking for a nice turban
D	eqqāl y-əmidi-nnes	He waited for his friend
U	iġa ātay y-əmidi-nnes	He made tea for his friend
U	ənney i-Māryama ‘ālxer āggên’	I said ‘thanks’ to Maryama
U	iqqāl y-əmidi-nnes	He waited for his friend

With some verbs an indirect object is taken where English speakers might not expect it. The verb lists in Section 4 mark those verbs that take an indirect object with ‘#’, e.g.:

D	āhaləs eyrās e-tāyat	The man slaughtered the goat
D	əlkāmāy y-əmidi-nin	I followed my friend
D	Yusman āllil e-Dāwda əs-Tāmašāq	Rousman helped David with Tamasheq
U	əlkāmāy y-əmidi-nin	I followed my friend
U	Yusman illil i-Dāwda əs-Tāmažəq	Rousman helped David with Tamajeq

With the verb ‘to hear’ the meaning is different depending on whether a direct or indirect object is used.

D	əsley e-tākalt	I heard a noise
U	əsley i-tākalt	I heard a noise
	əsley-as	I heard him
D	əsleq-qi	I have heard of him
U	əsleq-qe	I have heard of him

In other Tamasheq verbs the preposition absent where English speakers might expect it as its meaning is contained in the verb, e.g. ‘to go to...’, e.g.:

D	əkkey hebu	I’m going to market
D	əfālāy-id Onlāter	I come from England
U	əkkey hebu	I’m going to market
U	əfālāy-dəd Onlāter	I come from England
U	əgmāyāy āyewəd ihôssāyān	I’m looking for a nice turban

Some verbs take two direct objects, e.g.:

ikfa amidi-nnes azrəf	He gave some money to his friend
idāl amidi-nnes azrəf	He asked his friend for money

With a verbal phrase

The preposition 'i' can link to a final clause rather than a noun, e.g.:

əmmäyäy y-ad äkk Märkoy	I sought (tried to persuade) that he would go to Markoye
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Expressing 'in order to'

Here again the preposition 'i' introduces a final clause, e.g.:

D osey-id y-ad ənhəyäy amidi-nin	I came to see my friend
D tiwəyän härätän y-a-tän-šənšən däy hebu	They bring things to sell in the market
D əššənšäy torəft y-as tasakaläy	I bought a car in order to travel
U osey-dəd y-ad ənəyäy amidi-nin	I came to see my friend
U tawəyän ärätän y-a-tän-əzzänzin däy hebu	They bring things to sell in the market
U əzzənžäy torəft y-as tašakaläy	I bought a car in order to travel

Following verbal nouns—meaning 'to / from / at'

In certain phrases 'i' links a verbal noun and an 'indirect' qualifying noun, e.g.:

D dat äfel-in e-Märkoy, əššənšäy tafäyät	Before coming to Markoye I bought rice
D dat iki-nin e-hebu, äserädäy	Before going to market I washed
U dat äfel-in i-Märkoy, əzzənžäy tafäyät	Before coming to Markoye I bought rice
U dat iki-nin i-hebu, äššorädäy	Before going to market I washed

Note also the following useful construction:

D Dämbam töllâ-hin e-Märkoy sihen	Dëmbam is beyond Markoye
D Sälmoſsi töllâ-hid e-Märkoy siha-däy	Sälmoſsi is this side of Markoye
U Dämbam töll-în i-Märkoy sen	Dëmbam is beyond Markoye
U Sälmoſsi töll-îd i-Märkoy sa-däy	Sälmoſsi is this side of Markoye

Preverbal form

In certain constructions, notably following the supporting pronoun 'a', the indirect object pronoun is brought in front of the verb. In this position it is replaced by 's', e.g.:

D eles inašš e-wan	Cotton seed is sold for cows
D eles, iwan a-s inašš	Cotton seed, it is for cows that it is sold