

Marghi

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

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1 Language Information

- Source: Hoffmann (1963)
- Glottlog: <http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/marg1265>
- ISO-identifier: mrt
- Speakers:
- Location: Nigeria
- Geneology: Afro-Asiatic > Chadic > Biu-Mandara > North Biu-Mandara > Margi-Mandara-Morfu > Bura-Marghi > Marghic > Marghi Central

2 Nominal Morphology

Plurality is expressed by the suffix -'yàr. The plural form of some nouns has a different stem than the singular form.

3 Verbal Morphology

The verb can inflect for three numbers - singular, dual (only in first person), and plural (there is a distinction between inclusive and exclusive in first person).

4 Conjunction

The coordinative conjunctions found in Margi are *àgá* 'and, also, with' (it is used between words, phrases, and subordinate clauses), *kàkà* 'and, also', *bàdà* 'and, and also, also, too', *tsú (yé)/ tsí (yé)* 'also, too, and' (it occurs after the word, phrase or clause), *dá* 'and, then, so', *jàh/jàhý* 'and, then, so', *jàh dá/jàhó dá* 'and, then, so', *àmá* 'but', and *yà* 'but'.

- (1) nàndà sál àgá màlà
?
'they were husband and wife' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (2) nì àyí gá lí Bǎdǎlí. àgá niyù (or bàdǎ niyù)
?
'I want to go to Dille. And I too.' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (3) dǎl dǎgàl àgá dzègàm kàkàmtè nà
?
'that very large and deep river' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (4) dǎ kàbdàlyàr gyàp àgá lǎfù gá fàr sèr bǎdè víyár ná aǎ́jǎnù
?
'then both the lame and the blind man took those ogres home' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (5) sàtǎ dǎ ptǎl kàkà mǎjì gǎndà gá nàr tìr dlǎmbwádù àgá kàngá...
?
'when the chief and his people heard the sound of the dl.-drum and the k.-drum...' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (6) mafa mǎnagù kaka jiri
?
'a good and true servant' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (7) nà' y àyí gá lí Bǎdǎlí. kàkà niyù
?
'We want to go to Dille. And I too.' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (8) dǎ ndà gá lí àkwá gá fà kárír mtàyàr nà gá fà kàkà kùm
?
'So they went in to take the goods of the ogres and to take also the meat.' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (9) ...tǎdǎ wàyàr nǎ́vèr tsá kàngá bàdǎ dlǎmbwádǎyàr nà
?
'... who (pl.) is beating the k.-drum and the dl.-drum.' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (10) dzár àgá tlǎdlám àgá kwákyimbá àgá mcádù bàdǎ mtǎfù
?
'a dz.-loin-cloth and a tl.-leather belt and an armlet and a mc.-mat and also a mt.-mat.' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (11) mafa dǎmì bafá batal
?
'a wicked and slothful servant' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]

- (12) *dó dónyá ñkwà nà gà mbàr kú gà tsía, ñkwà nà tsú gà 'ù̀y_émp_tú*
?
'Then the girl's father caught a goat and killed (it), and the girl ground flour.'
[Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (13) *jàj_ d_ó sál ná gà d_ár wù_ gà ñà m_èny_á_gá d_óny,... D_ó ñkwà gà d_ár wù_ gà ñà*
?
m_óny_á_gá d_óny tsú...

'So the man climbed on the tree to call his mother and his father... Then the girl climbed on the tree to call her mother and her father, too...' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 261]
- (14) *à_rá m_óny_í m_àl_à mù_t_è nà tsú w_àm_àl_à)_á'_i_ á_r ps_á_r_á_j_á b_àd_à hy_í_r_á_j_á d_èd_èg_àl*
?
k_àk_àmt_ù_ ts_í y_é

'And his mother, that witch, had an (old) knife at her waist, and her teeth (were) very large, too.' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 262]
- (15) *n_ì ts_ú y_é = n_ì ts_í y_é*
?
'I,too' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 262]
- (16) *j_àj_ d_ó sál ná gà d_ár wù_ gà ñà m_èny_á_gá d_óny, à_m_á n_ànd_à nd_à ñ_à_r m_àì*
?
'And the man climbed on the tree to call his mother and his father, but they did not hear.' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 263]
- (17) *m_è_m_ù_ a'_i, a_m_a a'_i b_ù_t_u m_àì*
?
'There is honey, but (it) is not cheap.' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 263]
- (18) *n_ì gà hy_à m_d_ù_ í_r_á_g_ù_ à_b_ér, k_è g_ásh_í_l_í k_ù_l_àk_ù_l_à, y_à k_èrs_è g_ù_, j_àj_ s_èr s_óm ts_ú á'_i*
?
m_àì

'I sent somebody to you, you should come in the morning, but you are too late, so there is no more food.' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 263]
- (19) *à_ñ_á_r y_ù_ s_é_v_èr ts_uk_w_à s_ù_ ú_ v_ù'_í, n_ì y_é k_èrs_è y_ù_ m_ì sk_á hy_à, m_àmp_ól_é_ñ_ù*
?
àmb_ár bz_ár k_ù_ g_é_y_à...

'I heard something touching something in the night, but I was too late; before I got up, the hyena had caught my kid...' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 263]

5 Disjunction

Disjunction is marked by *ndə̀gà* 'or' (used only in questions) and *kwá/kó*.

- (20) *ké́j* *dá* *g* *à*yí *ndə̀gà* *kó* *rá*?
?
'do you want this one or this one?' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 97]
- (21) *ámcká* *skwàrndə̀gá* *ntəm* *də́fú*?
?
'the soup-pot or the mush-pot?' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 98]
- (22) *àhár* *d* *í* *a*' *í* *rá*? *k* *y* *à*má *áli* *Bdéli* *ndə̀gà* *k* *y* *à*shá *rá*?
?
'What shall I do? Shall I go to Dille or shall I leave it?' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 98]
- (23) *mì* *j* *dá* *g* *à*yú *k* *y* *à*nán *rá*? *tlá* *ndə̀gà* *múzhà* *rá*?
?
'What do you want me to give you? A cow or a múzhà-spice?' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 98]
- (24) *Dzémá* *kó* *Sə̀bdù*
?
'Friday or Saturday' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 262]
- (25) *tádányá* *bzər* *à*rá *də́lbá* *tlá* *kwá* *kú*
?
'the boy's father will buy a cow or a goat' [Hoffmann, 1963, p. 262]

6 Prepositions

Here is a list with some of the prepositions in Margi.

1. *a-* 'in, at'
2. *àgá* 'with, and'
3. *də́* 'with' (instrumental)
4. *ànú* 'to, for'
5. *àr/ár* 'on, at, in, to, from'
6. *àrà* 'in possession of, with, from, because of, for, against'
7. *bà/ há(r)/kəl* 'until'

References

Hoffmann, Carl (1963). *A Grammar of the Margi Language*. London: Oxford University Press.