

Lesson 14

Your Turn 2

Indefinites

beye

Indefinite Pronoun (someone, somebody, something)

“Beye” is known grammatically as an “indefinite pronoun” and means “someone” or “something.” As it is a pronoun, it also has the forms “beyezh” and “beyen” meaning “some(ones)” or “some(things)” — few/several (2 to 5) and many (more than 5), respectively. Whether the item/items to which “beye/beyezh/beyen” refers is/are people or things is subject to interpretation for the purposes of translation into English.

The various forms of “beye” can also be used to signify a non-specific subset of the available set of a given noun is (are) under discussion—as in the examples below:

Bíi melaya mahina wa.

Flowers are red.

The flowers are red.

Bíi melaya mahina beyen wa.

Some-many flowers are red.

Báa íthi bo?

Is a mountain tall?

Is the mountain tall?

Báa íthi bo beye?

Is some mountain tall?

In both of these examples, the item(s) being discussed are (is) many (or one) of the possible flowers (or mountains), but we’re not specifying which one(s). Notice that when used in this way, the “beye/beyezh/beyen” is postpositional to (immediately follows) the noun it modifies.

Vocabulary

eshá

sailor [esh (boat) + -á (DOER)]

-hal

Degree Marker: to an unusual degree

-hil

Degree Marker: to a minor degree; rather; somewhat

ili

water

ilisháad

to swim [ili (water) + sháad (to go/come)]

lili

to be wet

mela

ocean [me- (aggrandizer) + ili (water)]

melamid

dolphin, porpoise [mela (ocean) + mid (creature)] {CH}

réele

harbor

shumáad

to fly [shum (air) + sháad (to go/come)]

Here we see two more of the set of Degree Markers. The first, “-hal,” (to an unusual degree) is less strong than “-hul” (to an extreme degree) which we’ve seen before. The second, “-hil,” (to a minor degree) denotes that the action is less intense than neutral.

English Text

The Harbor

The day is beautiful. The stiff breeze is cool and moist. The sky is fleecy-clouded and blue; the clouds are high and white. The sea is green. Some-many seabirds are flying; fish and dolphins swim.

There are boats; some-few are large, and some-many are small. Some-many are white; some-few are gray; some-many are green and yellow. These-many boats are fast. The sailors are strong and beautiful, and they travel widely and are blessed.

Your Láadan Translation & Retranslation into English

The Harbor

L: _____

E: _____

The day is beautiful. The stiff breeze is cool and moist. The sky is fleecy-clouded and blue; the clouds are high and white. The sea is green. Some-many seabirds are flying; fish and dolphins swim.

L: _____

E: _____

There are boats; some-few are large, and some-many are small. Some-many are white; some-few are gray; some-many are green and yellow. These-many boats are fast. The sailors are strong and beautiful, and they travel widely and are blessed.

L: _____

E: _____

My Láadan Translation with Morphemic Analysis & Retranslation into English

The Harbor

Réele

Réele

HARBOR

Harbor

The day is beautiful. The stiff breeze is cool and moist. The sky is fleecy-clouded and blue; the clouds are high and white. The sea is green. Some-many birds are flying; fish and dolphins swim.

Bíi háya sháal wa. Rahowahil i lilihil yulehal. Bol i leyi thosh; mehíthi i melíithi boshum. Liyen mela. Meshumáad babí beyen; mehilisháad thili i melamid.

Bíi	i	leyi	Liyen	mehilisháad
DECL	AND	BEBLUE	BEGREEN	PL + (WATER + COMEGO = SWIM)
háya	lilihil	thosh;	mela.	thili
BEBEAUTIFULTIME	BEWET + DEGMINOR	SKY	OCEAN	FISH
sháal	yulehal.	mehíthi	Meshumáad	i
DAY	WIND + DEGUNUSUAL	PL + BEHIGH	PL + (AIR + COMEGO = FLY)	AND
wa.	Bol	i	babí	melamid.
MYPERC	BEFLEECYCLOUDED	AND	BIRD	DOLPHIN
Rahowahil	i	melíithi	beyen;	
(NON + BEWARM = BECOLD) + DEGMINOR	AND	PL + BEWHITE	INDEF>5	
		boshum.		
		CLOUD		

The day is beautiful. The unusually strong wind is cold and wet, both to a minor degree. The sky is fleecy-clouded and blue; the clouds are high and white. The ocean is green. Some-many birds are flying; fish and dolphins are swimming.

There are boats; some-few are large, and some-many are small. Some-many are white; some-few are gray; some-many are green and yellow. These-many boats are fast. The sailors are strong and beautiful, and they travel widely and are blessed.

Bíi meham esh wa; merahíya beyezh, i mehíya beyen. Melíithi beyen; melíithin beyezh; meliyen i meléli beyen. Meralóolo esh hin. Medo i meháya eshá, i mehimehal i mehothel ben.

Bíi	i	beyezh;	esh	i
DECL	AND	INDEF2-5	BOAT	AND
meham	mehíya	meliyen	hin.	mehimehal
PL + BEPRESENT	PL + BESMALL	PL + BEGREEN	DEMO>5	PL + TRAVEL + DEGUNUSUAL
esh	beyen.	i	Medo	i
BOAT	INDEF>5	AND	PL + BESTRONG	AND
wa;	Melíithi	meléli	i	mehotheh
MYPERC	PL + BEWHITE	PL + BEYELLOW	AND	PL + BEBLESSED
merahíya	beyen;	beyen.	meháya	ben.
PL + (NON + BESMALL = BELARGE)	INDEF>5	INDEF>5	PL + BEBEAUTIFUL	X>5
beyezh,	melíithin	Meralóolo	eshá,	
INDEF2-5	PL + BEGRAY	PL + (NON + BESLOW = BEQUICK)	BOAT + DOER = SAILOR	

There are boats; some-few are large and some-many are small. Some-many are white; some-few are gray; some-many are yellow and green. These-many boats are quick. The sailors are strong and beautiful, and they travel to an unusual degree and are blessed.

My Láadan Text

Réele

Bíi háya sháal wa. Rahowahil i lilihil yulehal. Bol i leyi thosh; mehíthi i melíithi boshum. Liyen mela. Meshumáad babí beyen; mehilishaad thili i melamid.

Bíi meham esh wa; merahíya beyezh, i mehiya beyen. Melíithi beyen; melíithin beyezh; meliyen i meléli beyen. Meralóolo esh hin. Medo i meháya eshá, i mehimehal i mehothel ben.

Comments

We've used the new Degree Markers in some routine, normative ways: **rahowahil** (cool, a minor degree of coldness); **lilihil** (moist, a minor degree of wetness). We also use them in some more advanced ways: **yulehal** (stiff breeze, an unusual degree of wind); **mehimehal** (travel widely, an unusual degree of traveling). These are good examples of perfectly acceptable uses for any of the Degree Markers.

At the beginning of the second paragraph, we use the Indefinite pronouns postpositionally to specify a non-specific subset of the available boats; however, having declared that we're talking about boats in the first clause, we repeatedly use the Indefinite pronouns to modify that noun—but never restate the noun. Human languages avoid the frequent repetition of identical information, so this use of the modifier without the modified noun is perfectly acceptable.