

Lesson 53

Sex & Anatomy

We've seen the most basic words for some functions of the healthy female body; it shouldn't surprise you to find that there are more, richer terms for this realm of women's experience.

Some of the words in the vocabulary of this lesson were coined using non-standard processes, eliding (deleting) various parts of the constituent words. The etymologies given here, where not straightforward, are "best guesses" as to the sources that inspired these words.

Vocabulary

lila

to female-sex-act
seen before in Lesson 38

lilahá

lover; one who carries out the female sexual act (not of males)

Female Sexual Anatomy

abathede

clitoris [**aba** (fragrant) + **thede** (jewel)] {RB, BG, PJ}

hib

ovary(ies) [**hibid** (testicle) **subtract** – **id** (MASC): linguist-speak: a back-formation] {YML}

liliháaláa

labia [**lili** (wet) + **-háalish** (DEGREEEXTRAORD) + **láa** (perception)] {JP}

lul

vagina

nemeháalish

clitoris [**nem** (pearl) + **-háalish** (DEGREEEXTRAORD)] {RB, BG}

thol

breast

wodama

exterior female genitalia [**wohóol** (entire female genitalia) + **dama** (touch)] {SH}

wohóol

entire female genitalia [**woho** (all; every) + **óol** (moon)] {SH}

Menstruation

From Suzette Haden Elgin:

[An] example of an English word that distresses me [...] is "menstruation." [It's] ugly; it's hard to pronounce; it hovers on the very edge of violating English phonology. And then there's the fact that it's the name of an experience every woman has for most of her life—but its first syllable is *men*! Etymology or no etymology, there sits "men" at the beginning of that word. It's infuriating. But there it is, and there's no way to get rid of the darned thing. Which is one reason why I gave it so much attention when I constructed Láadan...

osháana

to menstruate; menstrual
seen before in Lesson 10

ásháana

to menstruate joyfully

desháana

to menstruate early

elasháana

to menstruate for the first time

husháana

to menstruate painfully

wesháana

to menstruate late

zhesháana

to menstruate in synch with another woman [**zhe** (similar) + **osháana** (menstruate)]

Blood

We've already seen **ili** (water) and **óol** (moon), the bases for most of these words.

luhili

blood [**ili** (water)] {SH}

luwili

birth blood [**luhili** (blood)] {SH}

óolewil

menstrual blood [**óol** (moon) + **luwili** (birth blood)] {SH}

óolewod

sanitary napkin [**óolewil** (menstrual blood) + **od** (cloth)] {SH}

nilewod

tampon [**nil** (inside) + **óolewod** (sanitary napkin)] {SH}

Pregnancy

lawida

to be pregnant

seen before in Lesson 9

lalewida

to be joyfully pregnant

lewidan

to be pregnant for the first time

lóda

to be wearily pregnant

widazhad

to be pregnant, late in term and eager for the end

Menopause

zháadin

to menopause [**zháa-** (SENIOR) + **-din/-bin/-in** (PROCoF)]

seen before in Lesson 3

azháadin

to menopause uneventfully

elazháadin

to menopause when it's welcome

Male Sexual Anatomy

bom

penis

hibid

testicle(s)

hibidim

scrotum [**hibid** (testicles) + **dim** (container)] {YML}

Beware puns “confusing” **bom** (penis) with **bom** (household oil)! Hee hee!

Exercises

Some friends have agreed to help by providing sentences for us to translate—and one even gave us some short poems! The exercises for this lesson are going to be a little different from what we’ve seen before; the original English will be followed by a note or two as to the why and wherefore of the translation provided, and then space for you to translate into Láadan and then back into English. A translation will follow, along with morphemic analysis and a re-translation into English.

You may want to cover the provided translation, do your own, and then compare the two.

From Heather:

1 She menstruated joyfully when she knew that she was not pregnant.

This sentence is translated using “úwáanú” (due to) rather than “úyahú” (when).

L: _____

E: _____

Bíi eril ásháana be wáa úwáanú lothel be lawida rahóo behé.
Bíi be úwáanú be rahóo
DECL X1 CONJcoz X1 NEG + FOCUS
eril wáa lothel lawida behé.
PAST TRUSTED KNOW BEPREGNANT X1 + EMBED
ásháana
MENSTRUATEJOY

She menstruated joyfully because she knew that she was NOT pregnant.

2 Bethany, being very pregnant, dreams of chocolate.

Heather made it clear that her intention was for the English phrase “very pregnant” to be translated “widazhad” (pregnant, late in term and eager for the end).

Do you remember the idiom for “about X”? We use “bethu” [be (X1) + -thu (PARTV)], literally “of him/her/it” as a postposition. This is what we would use for “of chocolate” in #2.

L: _____

E: _____

Bíi ozh widazhad Bétheni beháa ahanath bethu wáa.
Bíi widazhad Bétheni ahanath wáa.
DECL BePREGNANT- BETHANY CHOCOLATE + OBJ TRUSTED
ozh NEARTERM- beháa bethu
DREAM EAGER X1 + EMBEDREL X1 + PARTV =
ABOUT

Bethany, who is pregnant, near term, and eager for the end, dreams about chocolate.

It’s interesting to note that this Relative Embedding, no matter how convoluted the English translation, contains only one Láadan verb and one noun. We could simplify the grammar quite a bit by using the Relativizer instead, giving the following. We do have a novel situation in that there is a prefix—rather than the usual suffix(es)—that we’ll have to supply a pronoun to carry.

Bíi ozh wowidazhad Bétheni wobe ahanath bethu wáa.

Bíi wowidazhad Bétheni ahanath wáa.
DECL REL + BePREGNANT- BETHANY CHOCOLATE + OBJ TRUSTED
ozh NEARTERM EAGER wobe bethu
DREAM REL + X1 X1 + PARTV =
ABOUT

Bethany, pregnant, late in term, and eager for the end, dreams about chocolate.

3 No one understands her clitoris like her new lady lover.

Grammatically, we cannot modify “lover” with both “new” and “lady”; the relativizer will operate on only one verb at a time. We’ll therefore incorporate “lady” into “lover”: “lilahá” (doer of the female sex act). The feminine suffix is superfluous when considering the verb “lila;” it is the female sex act, after all.

L: _____

E: _____

Bíi en rawith nemeháalish bethath zhe wobun wolilahá betho wáa.

Bíi	nemeháalish	zhe	wolilahá	betho
DECL	CLITORIS	BEALIKE	REL +	X1 + POSS
en	bethath	wobun	FEMALESEXACT +	wáa.
UNDERSTAND	X1 + POSSBIRTH +	REL + BeNew	DOER	TRUSTED
rawith	OBJ			
NoONE				

No-one understands her clitoris like her new lover.

From Layne:

4 Hot flash at midnight! She runs naked out into the Blind Snow Storm.

The first sentence isn’t, in fact, a sentence; it seems more in the nature of a warning.

We needed a word for “hot flash”; that word is “zháahóowadin” (hot flash, primary indicator of full menopause) [zháadin (menopause) + óowa (fire)] {AB & LA}; it was coined during the writing of this lesson in response to Layne’s expressed need for a word for this meaning and has been added to the official Láadan dictionary.

Another word we require is “honáal” (the hours between midnight and dawn) {SH}.

The phrase “Blind Snow Storm” doesn’t mean that the storm cannot see; it means that the storm is so severe that we cannot see in it—seems like a job for a degree marker.

L: _____

E: _____

Bée zháahóowadin honáaleya wo! Yime be bud raden rohoroháalish hishethudim nil.

Bée	honáaleya	Yime	raden	hishethudim
WARN	HOURS MIDNIGHT DAWN	RUN	NON + ASSOC =	SNOW + PARTV +
zháahóowadin	+ TIME	be	WITHOUT	GOAL
HOTFLASH	wo!	X1	rohoroháalish	nil.
	MADEUP	bud	STORM +	INSIDE
		CLOTHING	DEGEXTRAORD	

[warning] Hot-flash in the wee hours! She runs without clothing into the extraordinarily intense snow-storm.

She is the wrinkled Sage
 She turns blood into water
 And then drinks her fill
 Beneath the blood moon

We're translating "turn blood into water" as "[CAUSE_{TO} + BECOME] [BLOOD + OBJ] [WATER + IDENT]" consistent with the case assignments for "nahin" (to become)—the reasons for which will be explained in a not-too-far-off lesson.

"To drink her fill" we're translating as "[DRINK] [X1] [BE_{FULL}] [X1 + EMBED + TIME] [UNTIL]". The rest should be fairly straightforward.

L: _____

E: _____

Bíidu bi wozháa wowothám;

Bíidu	bi	wozháa	wowothám;
DECL + POETIC	XHON1	REL + WRINKLE	REL + (WISDOM + DOER = SAGE) + IDENT

[Statement, poetic] She is [a/the] wrinkled sage;

Dónahin bi luhilith ilim

Dónahin	bi	luhilith	ilim
CAUSE _{TO} + BECOME	XHON1	BLOOD + OBJ	WATER + IDENT

She causes blood to become water

Id rilin bi ume bihéya hathobéeya

Id	rilin	bi	bihéya	hathobéeya
AND _{THEN}	DRINK	XHON1	XHON1 + EMBED + TIME	UNTIL
		ume		
		BE _{FULL}		

And then she drinks until she is full

Óol luhilithusha yil wo.

Óol	luhilithusha	yil	wo.
MOON	BLOOD + PARTV + PLC	BELOW	MADEUP

Below the moon of blood.

While the third line above is correct, there is another way to say the same thing:

Id rilin bi úyahú hathobéeya ume bi. [AND_{THEN}] [DRINK] [XHON1] [CONJ_{TIME}] [UNTIL] [BE_{FULL}] [XHON1]

And another version, also correct and even more concise:

Id rilin bi umeya hathobéeya. [AND_{THEN}] [DRINK] [XHON1] [BE_{FULL} + TIME] [UNTIL]

Bíidu bi wozháa wowothám;
 Dónahin bi luhilith ilim
 Id rilin bi umeya hathobéeya
 Óol luhilithusha yil wo.

6 desháana: a rose tattoo left behind on the upholstered seat

This is given as a definition, so it is translated as “in teaching”—despite the poetic nature of its form.

We have no word for “tattoo;” we’ll use “uzh” (symbol—of notation, alphabet, orthography)—loosely, “glyph.”

We also have no word for “upholstery” or “upholstered”; we’ll translate this as “the cloth of the chair;” the word for “chair” is dalelewodewan [dalel (object; made-thing) + wod (sit) + -wan (PURP)].

The phrase “left behind” is an idiom for which we have no counterpart in Láadan; we’ll render it using the clause “she departs” as an embedded Time-case element.

L: _____

E: _____

Bíidi desháana náham woshahina wohuzh od dalewodewanethusha nasháad behéya arileháam wa.

Bíidi	woshahina	dalewodewanethu-	behéya
DECL + DIDACT	REL + ROSE	sha	X1 + EMBED +
desháana	wohuzh	CHAIR + PARTV + PLC	TIME
MENSTRUATEEARLY	REL + SYMBOL	nasháad	arileháam
náham	od	BEGIN +	FUT + EMBEDREL +
CONT + BePRESENT =	CLOTH	COME GO = DEPART	IDENT
REMAIN			wa.
			MYPERC

Early menstruation is the rosy glyph that remains on the fabric of a chair after she departs.

7 wesháana was her worry, but all she could do was wait

Note how Láadan is creeping into Layne’s sentences; it’s so much more convenient to have the right word!

We’ll need a word we haven’t seen heretofore: “neril” (to wait).

L: _____

E: _____

Bíi eril dólhitharil wesháana beth, izh neril nedahóo be wa.

Bíi	dólhitharil	wesháana	izh	nedahóo
DECL	CAUSEto + [(PEJ +	MENSTRUATELATE	BUT	ONLY + FOCUS
eril	THINK = FRET) +	beth,	thad	be
PAST	FUT = WORRY]	X1 + OBJ	BEABLE	X1
			neril	wa.
			WAIT	MYPERC

Menstruating late made her worry, but the ONLY thing she could do was wait.

with herb tea and a pillow nest,
painful menstruation made her take a rest

It feels odd in Láadan, but for poetic emphasis we're deviating from standard Láadan word order to more closely mirror the English.

We'll also need a verb here that we haven't seen before: "dul" (to refresh; to give rest); in this construction husháana, rather than "refreshing" (dul) her, causes her to "refresh" (dódul) "herself" (beth beyóoth).

We also lack a word for "nest", so we'll use a circumlocution, drawing a word-picture of many pillows around her.

L: _____

E: _____

Bíidu zhu theshethunan i thomenan menedebe besha o,

Bíidu	theshethunan	i	menedebe	o,
DECL + POETIC	HERB + PARTV +	AND	#>5	AROUND
zhu	INSTR	thomenan	besha	
TEA		PILLOW + INSTR	X1 + PLC	

Using tea of herbs and many pillows around her,

eril dódul husháana beth beyóoth wo.

eril	dódul	husháana	beth	wo.
PAST	CAUSEto +	MENSTRUATEPAIN	X1 + OBJ	MADEUP
	GIVEREST		beyóoth	
			X1 + REFLX + OBJ	

painful menstruation caused her to refresh herself.

Bíidu zhu theshethunan i thomenan menedebe besha o,
eril dódul husháana beth beyóoth wo.

Labia hide the beautiful clitoris,
Both wet with wanting
to share
sweet lover's touch

We'll need a verb we haven't seen before: "rumad" (to hide; to cover; to put away) {SH}.

Another word we'll need is "shimá" [shim (to sex-act) + -á (DOER)].

L: _____

E: _____

Bíidu merumad liliháaláa woháya wohabathedeth,

Bíidu	merumad	liliháaláa	woháya	wohabathedeth,
DECL + POETIC	PL + HIDE	LABIA	REL + BeBEAUTIFUL	REL + CLITORIS + OBJ

Labia hide the beautiful clitoris,

Melili bezh woho mahawáan;

Melili	bezh	woho	mahawáan;
PL + BeWET	X2-5	#ALL	SEXDESIRE + COZ

They all are wet from sexual desire;

Menéde mehedethi bezh woho

Menéde	mehedethi	bezh	woho
PL + WANT	PL + SHARE	X2-5	#ALL

They all want to share

Wolema wodama shimáthoth wo.

W16olema	wodama	shimáthoth	wo.
REL + BeGENTLE	REL + TOUCH	SEXACT + DOER + POSS + OBJ	MADEUP

sexual partner's gentle touch.

Bíidu merumad liliháaláa woháya wohabathedeth,

Melili bezh woho mahawáan;

Menéde mehedethi bezh woho

Wolema wodama shimáthoth wo.

11 Put some **bom** in the palm before putting the palm on the **bom** and the **bom** palm will palm the **bom** quite pleasantly.

There's a new word (invented for this exercise, and since added to the official Láadan dictionary): "**niloma**" (**palm of the hand**) [**nil** (**inside**) + **oma** (**hand**)] {AB}. Added to the dictionary along with "**niloma**" was "**raniloma**" (**back of the hand**) [**ranil** (**outside**) + **oma** (**hand**)] {AB}.

There's another word that we're encountering for the first time: "**méeshim**" (**sexual pleasure**) [**méesh** (**pleasure, not sexual**) + **shim** (**to sex-act**)].

L: _____

E: _____

Bíida bere dóham ne bometh nilomasha nil dama ne bometh nilomananehéya eril, ébere dama wobom woniloma bometh méeshimehalenal wa.

Bíida	bometh	bometh	ébere	bometh
DECL + JEST	OIL + OBJ	PENIS + OBJ	...THEN	PENIS + OBJ
bere	nilomasha	nilomananehéya	dama	méeshimehalenal
If...	PALMOfHAND + PLC	PALMOfHAND +	TOUCH	SEXPLEASURE +
dóham	nil	INSTR +	wobom	DEGUNUSUAL +
CAUSEto +	INSIDE	EMBED +	REL + OIL	MANN
BePRESENT = PUT	dama	TIME	woniloma	wa.
ne	TOUCH	eril,	REL +	MYPERC
You1	ne	PAST	PALMOfHAND	
	You1			

[Jest] If you put oil in the palm before you touch the penis with the palm, then the oily palm touches the penis quite sexual-pleasurably.

As with so many plays on words—even ones, like this one, intended to work on puns in another language—the translation is nowhere nearly so elegant as the original. Indeed, part of my difficulty with the punning aspect of this piece is that we're not using "**niloma**" (**palm**) as a verb.

On the other hand (oh, my! pun discovered), what if we *did* use "**niloma**" as a verb (**to palm; to touch with the palm of the hand**)? And, if we're going that far, what about using "**bom**" as a verb (**to oil; to apply oil to**), as well? We might come up with something quite a bit more elegant....

L: _____

E: _____

Bíida bere bom ne nilomath niloma ne bomethehéya eril, ébere niloma wobom woniloma bometh méeshimehalenal wa.

Bíida	nilomath	bomethehéya	niloma	méeshimehalenal
DECL + JEST	PALMOfHAND + OBJ	PENIS + OBJ +	PALMOfHAND	SEXPLEASURE +
bere	niloma	EMBED +	wobom	DEGUNUSUAL +
If...	PALMOfHAND	TIME	REL + OIL	MANN
bom	ne	eril,	woniloma	wa.
OIL	You1	PAST	REL + PALMOfHAND	MYPERC
ne		ébere	bometh	
You1		...THEN	PENIS + OBJ	

[Jest] If you oil the palm before you palm the penis, then the oiled palm palms the penis quite sexual-pleasurably.

Yes, this version is much more elegant. This very elegance is a testament to the versatility of Láadan, wherein we can convert verbs to nouns and vice-versa with so little fuss.