

Contents

Foreword — v

Series Editors' Preface — vii

Preface — ix

1 About this Grammar — 1

1.1 Scope of this book — 1

1.2 Sources — 1

1.3 Interpreting examples — 2

1.4 Corpus source codes — 3

1.5 Symbols and abbreviations — 5

1.6 A preview of this grammar — 9

2 The Dhivehi Language — 11

2.1 Introduction — 11

2.2 Geographical setting, dialects, and literacy — 12

2.3 History and people — 15

2.4 Previous work — 18

3 Phonology and Writing System — 21

3.1 Dhivehi phonemes — 21

3.1.1 Consonants — 21

3.1.2 Vowels — 24

3.1.2.1 Nasalized vowels — 25

3.1.2.2 Diphthongs — 25

3.1.3 Glides — 26

3.2 The Thaana script — 26

3.2.1 Written consonants — 28

3.2.2 Written vowels — 29

3.2.3 Writing prenasalized stops — 31

3.3 Writing foreign words — 32

3.4 Syllables — 34

3.4.1 Phoneme distribution — 35

3.4.2 Stress — 37

3.5 Phonological alternations and the coda condition — 38

3.5.1 Spelling and Romanization of coda consonants — 42

3.6 Morphophonology — 43

3.6.1 S-lenition — 44

3.6.2 U-deletion — 44

3.6.3 Alternation of L with long vowels or YO — 44

3.6.4	Gemination and palatalization —	45
3.6.5	N-gemination —	47
3.6.6	Vowel and diphthong shortening —	48
3.7	Numerals —	48
3.8	Punctuation —	49
3.9	Theoretical works —	49
4	Lexicon —	51
4.1	Structure of the lexicon —	51
4.2	Sources of the lexicon —	52
4.2.1	Indo-Aryan vocabulary —	52
4.2.2	Dravidian influence —	53
4.2.3	Loanwords from Arabic, Persian, Urdu —	54
4.2.4	Other sources —	54
4.2.5	Modern loanwords from English —	55
4.3	The honorific system —	55
4.4	Word spacing in Dhivehi —	57
4.5	Lexicographical Works —	57
5	Nouns and Noun Morphology —	59
5.1	Plural formation —	59
5.2	Definiteness inflection —	61
5.3	Cases —	63
5.3.1	Case suffixes —	63
5.3.2	Case suffix allomorphy —	66
5.3.2.1	Genitive and locative case suffixes —	66
5.3.2.2	Ablative/instrumental case suffix —	69
5.3.2.3	Dative and sociative case suffixes —	69
5.3.3	Vocative forms —	72
5.4	Names and kinship terms —	72
5.4.1	Personal names —	72
5.4.2	Kinship terms —	74
5.5	Generic nouns —	78
5.6	Compounding and derivational noun morphology —	79
5.6.1	Collective compounds —	79
5.6.2	Other compounds —	81
5.6.3	Derivational morphology —	83
5.7	Children's terms —	84
5.8	Honorific suffixes —	84
6	Demonstratives, Pro-forms, and Noun Modifiers —	87
6.1	Demonstratives —	87

- 6.2 Personal pronouns and pro-forms — 90
- 6.2.1 First- and second-person pronouns and phrases — 91
- 6.2.2 Third-person pro-forms and pro-phrases — 94
- 6.2.3 Logophoric and impersonal pronoun — 98
- 6.3 Reciprocals and reflexives — 100
- 6.4 Interrogative pro-forms — 101
- 6.5 Indefinite pro-forms — 102
- 6.6 Quantifiers — 103
- 6.6.1 Numeric quantifiers — 103
- 6.6.2 Non-numeric quantifiers — 110
- 6.7 Adjectives — 110
- 6.7.1 Plural adjectives — 111
- 6.7.2 Comparatives and superlatives — 111
- 6.7.3 Adjective derivation — 111
- 6.7.3.1 Noun-adjective compounds — 112

- 7 Postpositions and Adverbs — 115**
- 7.1 Postpositions — 115
- 7.1.1 Nominal postpositions — 115
- 7.1.2 Verbal postpositions — 117
- 7.1.3 Other postpositions — 119
- 7.2 Adverbs — 121
- 7.3 Degree modifiers — 123

- 8 Verbs and Verb Morphology — 125**
- 8.1 Derivational verb families — 126
- 8.1.1 Valence and agentivity — 128
- 8.1.1.1 Two-valence and existential/locational verbs — 132
- 8.1.2 Honorific verbs — 134
- 8.2 Inflectional classes — 138
- 8.3 Verbal inflections — 139
- 8.3.1 Finite indicative verbs — 141
- 8.3.1.1 A-stem verbs — 142
- 8.3.1.2 E-stem verbs — 143
- 8.3.1.3 N-stem verbs — 144
- 8.3.1.4 Monosyllabic-stem verbs — 147
- 8.3.2 Participles — 149
- 8.3.2.1 Progressive aspect and focus verbs — 150
- 8.3.2.2 Suffixed forms of participles — 151
- 8.3.3 Nonfinite verbs — 152
- 8.3.3.1 Converbs — 152
- 8.3.3.2 Converbs and the perfect tense/aspect — 156

- 8.3.3.3 Verbal Nouns — 157
- 8.3.3.4 Infinitives — 160
- 8.3.4 Non-indicative moods — 161
- 8.3.4.1 Imperative, hortative, and optative moods — 162
- 8.3.4.2 Potential mood — 165
- 8.3.4.3 Irrealis mood — 167
- 8.3.4.4 Prospective irrealis — 168
- 8.3.5 Particles of relative timing — 169
- 8.4 Negation of verbs — 172

9 Particles, Interjections, Conjunctions, and Discourse Markers — 175

- 9.1 Particles — 175
- 9.1.1 Sentence-ending particle — 176
- 9.1.2 Quotative particles — 177
- 9.1.3 Question particles — 178
- 9.1.4 Copula — 179
- 9.1.5 Emphatic particles — 180
- 9.1.6 Negative particles — 180
- 9.1.7 Complementizers — 182
- 9.1.8 Particle of present relevance — 182
- 9.1.9 Adverbial subordination particles — 183
- 9.1.9.1 Timing particles — 183
- 9.1.9.2 Manner particles — 183
- 9.1.9.3 Reason particle — 183
- 9.1.9.4 Conditional and concessive particles — 184
- 9.2 Conjunctions and discourse connectives — 185
- 9.3 Interjections — 186
- 9.4 Discourse markers — 188

10 Noun Phrases — 191

- 10.1 Noun phrase elements and their order — 191
- 10.1.1 Quantifiers — 191
- 10.1.2 Adjectives — 194
- 10.1.3 Demonstratives — 197
- 10.1.4 Genitives and other phrases — 197
- 10.1.5 Overall order — 198
- 10.2 Conjunction and disjunction — 199
- 10.3 Noun-modifying clauses — 201
- 10.3.1 Participles and participial clauses — 201
- 10.3.2 Adjectival and negative clauses — 205
- 10.3.3 Generic noun phrases as free relatives — 206

- 10.4 Infinitive complements of nouns — 207
- 10.5 Comparisons and exclusions — 207
- 10.5.1 Comparative noun phrases — 208
- 10.5.2 Exclusionary noun phrases — 210
- 10.6 Verbal noun phrases — 210

- 11 Compound Verbs, Verbal Collocations, and Verbal Complexes — 213**
- 11.1 Noun-verb compounds — 213
- 11.2 Verb-verb compounds and collocations — 216
- 11.2.1 Converb-verb compounds and pseudo-compounds — 217
- 11.2.1.1 Light verb compounds — 217
- 11.2.1.2 Honorific compounds — 220
- 11.2.1.3 Compound-like suffixed verbs — 222
- 11.2.2 Converb-verb collocations with verbs of motion — 223
- 11.3 Verbal complexes — 224
- 11.3.1 Auxiliary complexes — 225
- 11.3.1.1 Auxiliary-converb complexes — 225
- 11.3.1.2 Auxiliary-simultaneous complexes — 228
- 11.3.2 Verbs taking infinitive complements — 229
- 11.3.2.1 Modals and existential/locational verbs — 230
- 11.3.2.2 Other verbs with infinitive complements — 233
- 11.3.2.3 Combinations of infinitives — 236

- 12 Simple Sentences — 237**
- 12.1 Nonverbal sentences — 237
- 12.1.1 Adjectival sentences — 237
- 12.1.2 Copular (equational) sentences — 238
- 12.2 Verbal sentences — 239
- 12.2.1 Arguments and their order — 240
- 12.2.2 Adverbials and their order — 245
- 12.2.3 Tensed alternatives to adjectival and copular sentences — 246
- 12.3 Null arguments — 248
- 12.4 Sentences with IN-verbs — 250
- 12.4.1 Inactive and passive sentences — 251
- 12.4.2 Involitive sentences — 254
- 12.4.3 Sentences of reception and perception — 255
- 12.4.4 Ability sentences — 256
- 12.4.5 The status of dative “subjects” — 258
- 12.5 Non-canonical word orders — 260
- 12.5.1 Focus — 260
- 12.5.2 Word order in speech — 263

12.6	Statements of existence, location, and possession —	264
12.6.1	Existence and location —	264
12.6.2	Possession —	268
12.7	Negation —	269
12.7.1	Negation of nonverbal sentences —	270
12.7.2	Existential negation —	274
12.7.3	Verbal sentence negation —	277
12.8	Questions and exclamations —	280
12.8.1	Questions —	280
12.8.2	Exclamations —	283
12.8.3	Tag questions —	284
12.9	Commands and requests —	285
13	Complex Sentences —	291
13.1	Clause chaining —	291
13.1.1	The successive particles <i>-fai</i> and <i>-gen</i> —	293
13.1.2	Negation of chained clauses —	297
13.2	Clausal complements —	297
13.2.1	Embedded questions —	302
13.3	Quotes —	304
13.4	Adverbial clauses —	308
13.4.1	Conditionals and concessives —	309
13.4.2	Clauses of relative timing —	313
13.4.2.1	Concurrent timing —	313
13.4.2.2	Subsequent timing —	316
13.4.2.3	Prior timing —	317
13.4.3	Reason and cause clauses —	319
13.4.4	Manner clauses —	321
13.5	Exceptions —	322
References	—	325
A	Verb Paradigms —	329
A.1	Regular Verbs —	329
A.2	Irregular verbs —	332
Index	—	341

List of Figures

1.1	In-line example —	3
1.2	Interlinear example —	3

- 2.1 Map of the Maldives — 13
- 8.1 Verb structure — 125

List of Tables

- 3.1 Dhivehi consonants — 22
- 3.2 Dhivehi vowels — 24
- 3.3 Thaana consonant letters — 29
- 3.4 Thaana vowel signs (fili) — 30
- 3.5 Writing prenasalized stops — 32
- 3.6 Dotted Thaana — 33
- 3.7 Coda consonants — 41
- 3.8 Coda consonants—examples — 43
- 3.9 Gemination and palatalization — 46

- 4.1 Number names compared — 53

- 5.1 Plural suffixes — 61
- 5.2 Human plurals — 61
- 5.3 Definiteness inflection — 62
- 5.4 Noun cases — 64
- 5.5 Case and definiteness marking — 65
- 5.6 Case suffix allomorphy with consonant-final stems — 67
- 5.7 Case suffix allomorphy with vowel-final stems: genitive and locative — 70
- 5.8 Case suffix allomorphy with vowel-final stems: ablative/instrumental, dative, and sociative — 71
- 5.9 Kinship terms — 74
- 5.10 Older siblings — 76
- 5.11 In-laws and step-relatives — 77
- 5.12 Kin groups — 78
- 5.13 Collective nouns for classes of living things — 81

- 6.1 1st person pronouns — 92
- 6.2 2nd person pronouns and pro-phrases — 94
- 6.3 3rd person pro-forms and pro-phrases — 96
- 6.4 3rd person honorific pro-phrases — 97
- 6.5 Interrogative words — 101
- 6.6 Number names 1–10 — 104
- 6.7 Number names 11–30 — 105

- 6.8 Number names 31–39 — **106**
- 6.9 Number names 40–59 — **107**
- 6.10 Number names 60–79 — **108**
- 6.11 Number names 80–99 — **109**
- 6.12 Large numbers — **110**
- 8.1 Verb families: ‘make’ — **127**
- 8.2 Verb families: ‘do’ — **128**
- 8.3 Valence/agentivity triples — **129**
- 8.4 Verbs with -ev in IN-form — **130**
- 8.5 Causative verbs — **131**
- 8.6 Two-valence verbs — **133**
- 8.7 Existential and locational verbs — **134**
- 8.8 Morphological (double causative) honorific verbs — **136**
- 8.9 Suppletive honorific verbs — **137**
- 8.10 Compounding honorific verbs — **138**
- 8.11 Inflectional classes — **139**
- 8.12 a-stem verbs — **143**
- 8.13 e-stem verbs — **144**
- 8.14 n-stem verbs — **146**
- 8.15 n-stem locational/postural verbs — **147**
- 8.16 Common monosyllabic-stem verbs — **148**
- 8.17 More monosyllabic-stem verbs — **148**
- 8.18 Participles — **149**
- 8.19 Progressive/focus verbs — **151**
- 8.20 Converbs and perfects, a-stem — **153**
- 8.21 Converbs and Perfects, e-stem — **154**
- 8.22 Converbs and perfects, n-stem, active — **154**
- 8.23 Converbs and perfects, n-stem, locational/postural and IN-verb — **155**
- 8.24 Converbs and perfects, monosyllabic stem — **155**
- 8.25 Verbal nouns: a-stem, e-stem — **158**
- 8.26 Verbal nouns: n-stem — **158**
- 8.27 Verbal nouns: n-stem, part 2 — **159**
- 8.28 Verbal nouns: monosyllabic stem — **159**
- 8.29 Infinitives — **161**
- 8.30 Imperatives, hortatives, optatives — **164**
- 8.31 Potentials — **167**
- 8.32 Irrealis mood — **168**
- 8.33 Prospective irrealis mood — **169**
- 8.34 Successive particles — **170**
- 8.35 Contemporaneous particles — **171**
- 8.36 Simultaneous existential verbs — **172**

- 8.37 Negated verbs — **173**
- 12.1 Existential and locational verbs — **265**
- 12.2 Negative concord markers — **270**
- 12.3 Question particles — **281**
- A.1 Regular verbs — **329**
- A.2 Some irregular verbs — **333**
- A.3 Postural/locational verbs — **337**

