

BASIC KINSHIP TERMS

The kinship terms we include in the following table are nouns. They are formed by adding a possessive pronoun prefix such as **shi-** "my" to a noun stem such as **-má** "mother." People rarely use the noun stems by themselves without a prefix. The possessive pronoun prefixes are:

- **shi-** [**shi**] "my" (1st person singular possessive pronoun prefix)
- **ni-** [**ni**] "your" (2nd person singular possessive pronoun prefix)
- **bi-** [**bi**] "his/hers/its" (3rd person possessive pronoun prefix)
- **gu-** [**gu**] "one's" (3a person possessive pronoun prefix) (3a is a special kind of 3rd person)
- **nahi-** [**na.hi**] (or) **nai-** [**nai**] "our², your²" (1st and 2nd person dual possessive pronoun prefix)
- **gúbi-** [**gú.bi**] (or) **gúi-** [**gúi**] "their²" (3a person dual possessive pronoun prefix)

When added to the noun stem **-má**, the following words are formed:

- **shimá** [**shi.má**] "my mother" (1st person singular possessive pronoun prefix)
- **nimá** [**ni.má**] "your mother" (2nd person singular possessive pronoun prefix)
- **bimá** [**bi.má**] "his/her/its mother" (3rd person possessive pronoun prefix)
- **gumá** [**gu.má**] "one's mother" (3a person possessive pronoun prefix)
- **naimá** [**nai.má**] "our² mother", "your² mother" (1st and 2nd person dual possessive pronoun prefix)
- **gúimá** [**gúi.má**] "their² mother" (3a person dual possessive pronoun prefix)

People use the words that we include in the following table when speaking to or about their relatives. The following sentences provide a few examples.

- **Mary-õ shimá.** [**Maryõ shi.má**] "Mary is my mother."
- **Xáõ nitaa'?** [**xáõ ni.taa'**] "Who is your father?"
- **Nik'is-õ nénéi.** [**ni.k'is.õ néné'i**] "You watch your sister." (spoken to a girl or woman) "You watch your brother." (spoken to a boy or man)
- **Nilà-õ du húdzii'-da.** [**ni.làõ du.hú.dzii'.da**] "You don't fuss at your brother." (spoken to a girl or woman) "You don't fuss at your sister." (spoken to a boy or man)

- **Nitsúyé-õ 'inee'**. [ni.tsú.yéõ 'i.nee'] "Your maternal grandfather (or) maternal grandchild is here."

Basic Kinship Terms with Different Possessive Pronoun Prefixes						
Noun Stems and Translations	shi- "my"	ni- "your"	bi- "his/her/its"	gu- "one's"	nahi- (or) nai- "our²", "your²"	gúbi- (or) gúi- "their²"
-taa' "father"	shítáa' [shi.taa']	nítáa' [ni.taa']	bitáa' [bi.taa']	gutáa' [gu.taa']	nahítáa' [na.hi.taa'] (or) naitáa' [nai.taa']	gúitáa' [gúi.taa']
-má "mother"	shímá [shi.má]	nímá [ni.má]	bímá [bi.má]	gumá [gu.má]	nahímá [na.hi.má] (or) naimá [nai.má]	gúimá [gúi.má]
-yee' "son"	shiyee' [shi.yee']	niyee' [ni.yee']	biyee' [bi.yee']	guyee' [gu.yee']	nahiyee' [na.hi.yee'] (or) naiyee' [nai.yee']	gúiyee' [gúi.yee']
-ch'ee'ké (or) -ch'ee'kê (or) -ch'ee' "daughter"	shich'ee'ké [shi.ch'ee'.ké]]]	nich'ee'ké [ni.ch'ee'.ké]]]	bich'ee'ké [bi.ch'ee'.ké]	guch'ee'ké [gu.ch'ee'.ké]	nahich'ee'ké [na.hi.ch'ee'.ké] (or) naich'ee'ké [nai.ch'ee'.ké]	gúich'ee'ké [gúi.ch'ee'.ké]
-zháa' (or) -zhaa' "child"	shizháa' [shi.zháa']	nizháa' [ni.zháa']	bizháa' [bi.zháa']	guzháa' [gu.zháa']	nahizháa' [na.hi.zháa'] (or) naizháa' [nai.zháa']	gúizháa' [gúi.zháa']

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-k'is (or) -k'is-é "same-gender sibling" "same-gender cousin"	shik'is [shi.k'is] shik'is-é [shi.k'is.sé]	nik'is [ni.k'is]	bik'is [bi.k'is]	guk'is [gu.k'is]	nahik'is [na.hi.k'is] (or) naik'is [nai.k'is] (or) naik'is-é [nai.k'is.sé]	gúik'is [gúi.k'is]
-là (or) -là-'é "different- gender sibling" "different- gender cousin"	shilà [shi.là] (or) shilà'é [shi.là.'é]	nilà [ni.là]	bilà [bi.là]	gulà [gu.là]	nahilà [na.hi.là] (or) nailà [nai.là]	gúilà [gúi.là]
-ch'ine "paternal grandmother / paternal grandchild" (woman speaking) In other words: "father's mother / son's child" (woman speaking)	shich'ine [shi.ch'ì.ne]	nich'ine [ni.ch'ì.ne]	bich'ine [bi.ch'ì.ne]	guch'ine [gu.ch'ì.ne]	nahich'ine [na.hi.ch'ì.ne] (or) naich'ine [nai.ch'ì.ne]	gúich'ine [gúi.ch'ì.ne]

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-chú "maternal grandmother / maternal grandchild" (woman speaking) In other words: "mother's mother / daughter's child" (woman speaking)	shichú [shi.chú]	nichú [ni.chú]	bichú [bi.chú]	guchú [gu.chú]	nahichú [na.hi.chú] (or) naichú [nai.chú]	gúichú [gúi.chú]
-ndálé "paternal grandfather / paternal grandchild" (man speaking) In other words: "father's father / son's child" (man speaking)	shindálé [shin.dá.lé]	nindálé [nin.dá.lé]	bindálé [bin.dá.lé]	gundálé [gun.dá.lé]	nahindálé [na.hin.dá.lé] (or) naindálé [nain.dá.lé]	gúindálé [gúin.dá.lé]
-tsúyé "maternal grandfather / maternal	shitsúyé [shi.tsú.yé]	nitsúyé [ni.tsú.yé]	bitsúyé [bi.tsú.yé]	gutsúyé [gu.tsú.yé]	nahitsúyé [na.hi.tsú.yé] (or) naitsúyé	gúitsúyé [gúi.tsú.yé]

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grandchild" (man speaking) In other words: "mother's father / daughter's child" (man speaking)					[nai.tsú.yé]	
-wúyé' "maternal uncle / maternal nephew or niece" (man speaking) In other words: "mother's brother / sister's child" (man speaking)	shiwúyé' [shi.wú.yé']	niwúyé' [ni.wú.yé']	biwúyé' [bi.wú.yé']	guwúyé' [gu.wú.yé']	nahiwúyé' [na.hi.wú.yé'] (or) naiwúyé' [nai.wú.yé']	gúiwúyé' [gúi.wú.yé']
-k'à'é "maternal aunt / maternal nephew or niece" (woman speaking)	shik'à'é [shi.k'à.'é]	nik'à'é [ni.k'à.'é]	bik'à'é [bi.k'à.'é]	guk'à'é [gu.k'à.'é]	nahik'à'é [na.hi.k'à.'é] (or) naik'à'é [nai.k'à.'é]	gúik'à'é [gúi.k'à.'é]

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In other words: "mother's sister / sister's child" (woman speaking)						
-dà'é "paternal uncle / paternal nephew or niece" (man speaking) In other words: "father's brother / brother's child" (man speaking)	shidà'é [shi.dà.'é]	nidà'é [ni.dà.'é]	bidà'é [bi.dà.'é]	gudà'é [gu.dà.'é]	nahidà'é [na.hi.dà.'é] (or) naidà'é [nai.dà.'é]	gúidà'é [gúi.dà.'é]
-dee'dé "paternal aunt / paternal nephew or niece" (woman speaking) In other words: "father's sister / sister's child"	shidee'dé [shi.dee'.dé]	nidee'dé [ni.dee'.dé]	bidee'dé [bi.dee'.dé]	gudee'dé [gu.dee'.dé]	nahidee'dé [na.hi.dee'.dé] (or) naidee'dé [nai.dee'.dé]	gúidee'dé [gúi.dee'.dé]

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(woman speaking)						

The enclitic **-é** that is used with some kinship terms such as **shik'is-é** [**shi.k'is.sé**] and **shilà-é** [**shi.làé**] seems to mean, "my dear" or "my beloved sweet." It seems to emphasize the strong bond between those relatives. A person might use this enclitic when he or she meets a relative whom they have not seen for some time.

Concerning terms for "nephews" and "nieces", a person may call his or her "sister's son" **shiyee'** [**shi.yee'**] "my son" and his or her "sister's daughter" **shich'ee'kê** [**shi.ch'ee'.kê**] "my daughter." A person may call his or her "brother's son" **shiyee'** "my son" and his or her "brother's daughter" **shich'ee'kê** [**shi.ch'ee'.kê**] "my daughter." In other words, a person may call any of his "sibling's children" "my son" or "my daughter", as appropriate. Remember that a person's "siblings" include his or her "cousins."