Amharic



Spoken in: Ethiopia

Region: East Africa

Total speakers: 21 million (17.4 million native)

Genetic Classification: Afro-Asiatic Semitic South Transversal Amharic

Official language of: Ethiopia

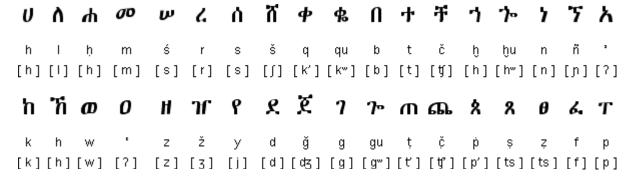
Amharic is a Semitic Language of the Afro-Asiatic Language Group; the origins of the language and its people are traced back to the 1st millennium B.C. Immigrants from south-western Arabia crossed the Red Sea into present-day Eritrea and mixed with the Cushitic population. Thus, new languages formed as a result of this union.

Amharic is a syllabic language that uses a script that originated from the Ge'ez alphabet. It has 33 basic characters with each having 7 forms for each consonant-vowel combination.

The language has different forms of use depending on age and gender. The affix of the 'root word' changes to express differences among age and gender. There is a female form, male form, polite form and informal form.

Amharic alphabet:

Consonants



Vowels

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1 sessional Amharic interpreter.