

In conversation and particularly in narration, we find separate words called "Ideophones". Most of them convey a notion of sound or movement and they make the speech extremely vivid. Here are some examples: it looks like a succession of pictures.

Inetekumudzi mbwe, m'nyumba loŵu, sambeni, pampano khaleni, nkulemba kalata.

Mwana ŵa mphale bwanu, tsukotsukeni, phu! Muni ti ti ti, mpaka anatsiriza ŵaŵa ili tswi.

Njinga ŵali pa ŵiŵi; adangeza kuti terereku, ndiye phofo pansu khu!

Zi wakomola. nani nyamu ulendo wa kuchipatala; monsemo ali chikomokere.

Note the great variety of forms: some are monosyllabic; others are reduplicated; many of them correspond to a verb and suggest an attitude, a gesture or sound (onomatopoeia).

Mbwe! arrive at: Adayenda msanga; kungoti mbwe wafika.

Phu! be finished: Nsima yatha phu! (Fsi!) nothing left

Tswi! setting down: Dz. ŵa ili tswi! at sunset

Gwa! firm, strong: Ndiri gwa! in excellent condition

Phe! still, motionless: Khalani phe! Don't move!

Dzi speechless, silent: Anangoti dzi, kusoŵa choyantha.

Chete! quiet, silent: Ine chete, ludabwa. Chetechete santisa nyama.

Se! level, flat: Dziko lingoti se, lopanda mapiri.

Fwa! full: Tili nacho chimanga chambiri; nkhekwe ili fwa.

Mya! smooth, soft: Ubweya weti mya. Marwa a mya.

Zi! nobody in sight: Kunjira kuli zi! Alendo aja sabwera.

insipid: Ndiwo za zi. Nkhani ya zi. without interest

Bi! black, dark: Kwada bi! M'nyumba muno muli bi; tsegulani chitseko!

multitude: Anthu anasonkhana ambiri, kungoti bi kubwalo.

Mbe! white, bright: Kwacha mbe! Maso ake ali mbe, kukondwa.

Mbu! white: Ufa uli mbu! Onse anabwala zoyera, kungoti mbu!

Psyu! red; Magazi ali psyu! Maso ake ali psyu kuyang'ana kunjira.

Firiwiri red; Nsara ya piriwiri. Biriwiri green, blue

(cha) chikasu yellow; (cha) mtambo blue; (cha) msipu green

Dzidzidzi suddenly: Unali ulendo wadzidzidzi. Anafika mwadzidzidzi.

Nda nda nda in a row: Nyumba zili nda nda nda m'nyumbe mwa msewu.

Waliwali shining: Ng'anang'ani glittering: Chizichezi shining.

Balabalalala scatter, disperse: Yayamba mvu'a, anthu angoti balabalalala.

Piringupiringu move to and from; Zwezwe round and round.

—**KHALA** stay, live: Mumakhala kuti? Wakhala pansu zaka zambiri.

sit: Khalani pa mpandopa! Khalani pansu!

be (future) : Mwanayu adzakhala mnyamata wamphamvu. p. 23

subjunctive) : Ambuye akhale nanu!

have future) : Tidzakhala ndi chimanga chambiri chaka chino.

(subjunctive) : Mwana ali yense akhale ndi bukhu lakelake.

not to go, stay away from : Anakhala kusukulu dzulo.

Munakhalliranj kumsonkhano?

Khalani bwino! (: Tsalani bwino!)

-khalala or -khalira in the negative and followed by the Infinitive indicates that the action takes without delay:

Ndiwozi sizikhala kupsya. ...does not take much time to be cooked.

Amana anga sakhala kupsya mtima. ...gets angry easily.

Mitengoyi sikhallira kukula ndi kubereka zipatso.

Pokhala "a place where to stay" : Akusoŵa pokhala. p. 42, 80

"since" (also Poti, Popeza kuti, M'malo moti) p. 93

Simuyenera kutenga njingayo, pokhala mwini wake palibe.

Pokhala kuti ndiliba njinga, sindipita ku msonkhano.

Akhala expresses a supposition (conditional) p. 73

Akhala mwalemba kalata, bwenzi nditakuyankhani msanga.

also Kuchikhala kuti mwalemba kalata, bwenzi nditakuyankhani.

Ngakhale or -ngakhale "even if, although" p. 74

"either... or" : Onse ali okondwa, ngakhale amuna ngakhale akazi.

Mphunzitsi sanabwere lero, kapena nkukhala chifukwa cha matenda.

Chipewachi chikandikhala bwino. fits me

Ndinampeza ali khale. just staying

INVERSIONS are quite common in Chicheŵa; here are some more examples.

Munthu wamkulu thupi (: Munthu wa thupi lalikulu) a stout person

Mnyamata wohepa msinkhu (: wa msinkhu wohepa) a short boy

Mtsikana wopunduka miyendo. a lame girl: wolumala

Nyumba yanga khomo lake lopanda chitseko (Khomo lanyumba yanga..)

Mwanayo khalidwe lake si labwino (: Khalidwe la mwanayo.....)

Nkhani imenayo sindidziŵa kutha kwake, inatha bwanji? Kaya!

Kuyenda amayenda, koma pang'ene pang'ene. He does walk, but slowly.

Kumva ndamva. I have understood what has been said but it does not

mean that I agree. We expect something else: Koma

Ndamva. Here no limitation: "agree".

Proverb : Atambwali sametana