Initial vowel change

Initial vowel change is a process that affects the first syllable of a preverb or verb stem in a conjunct verb or participle. In the regular process of initial change the first vowel of the preverb or stem is replaced as follows:

Unchanged                                 Changed

A                                                       E

AA--------------------------------------AYAA

E                                                       AYE

I-----------------------------------------E

II                                                      AA

O---------------------------------------WE

OO                                                  WAA

**PERSON INDICATORS (VAI’S),**

**VAI “B” FORM SUFFIXES**

EXAMPLE VAI NAGAMO-S/HE IS SINGING

1ST PERSON (me, I)-  **YAAN** EX.- GIISHPIN NAGAMO**YAAN**- IF I AM SINGING

                              -   **AAN** EX – GIISHPIN MINWENDAM**AAN-**IF I AM HAPPY

2ND PERSON (you)-  **YAN** EX – GIISHPIN NAGAMO**YAN**- YOU ARE SINGING

                             -   **AN** EX - GIISHPIN MINWENDAM**AN-**IF YOU ARE HAPPY

3RD PERSON (him/her)-  **D** EX- GIISHPIN NAGAMO**D-**IF S/HE IS SINGING

 -  **G** EX - GIISHPIN MINWENDA*N***G-**IF S/HE IS HAPPY

WE (ex)-  **YAANG** EX – GIISHPIN NAGAMO**YAANG-**IFWE(ex) ARE SINGING

      **AANG** EX – GIISHPIN MINWENDAM**AANG-**IFWE (ex) ARE HAPPY

WE (in)-  **YANG** EX – GIISHPIN NAGAMO**YANG-**IFWE(in) ARE SINGING

     **ANG** EX – GIISHPIN MINWENDA**MANG-**IFWE (in) ARE HAPPY

YOU ALL-  - **YEG** EX – GIISHPIN NAGAMO**YEG-**IF YOU ALL ARE SINGING

 **EG** EX – GIISHPIN MINWENDAM**EG-**IFWE (in) ARE HAPPY

THEY/THEM-  -**WAAD** EX – GIISHPIN NAGAMO**WAAD-**IFTHEY ARE SINGING

  - **OWAAD** EX – GIISHPIN MINWENDAM**OWAAD-** IFTHEY ARE HAPPY

Inamaji’o s/he is feeling a certain way miikawaadizi s/he beautiful

onjii vai s/he comes from a certain place mindido s/he is big

izhi-ayaa s/he is being a certain way agaashiiyi s/he small

izhinaagozi s/he looks a certain way agaji s/he bashful/shy

izhinikaazo s/he is named a certain way ojaanimizi s/he is busy

giiwanaadizi s/he is crazy ombiigizi s/he loud

gizhiiwe s/he is noisy gaagiidizi s/he is sore

wiisagendam s/he is in pain, hurts ikido vai s/he says, speaks so

namadabi vai s/he sits nibaa vai s/he sleeps, is asleep

Preverbs

Ga- pv1 future tense prefix after a personal prefix

Gii- pv1 past verb prefix

Wii- pv1 want to, will future/desiderative verb prefix

Ani- pv2 going away, going along, in progress, on the way, coming up to in no time;

Izhi- pv3 in a certain way, to a certain place, thus, so, there

Onji- pv3 from a certain place, for a certain reason, because

Gagwe- pv4 try

Mino- pv4 good, nice, well

Maajii- pv4 start, begin, start off