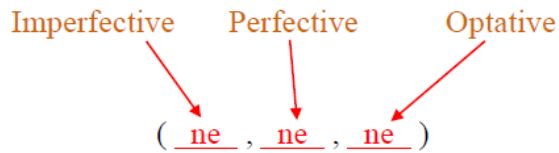


6.5 MOMENTANEOUS (ne, ne, ne) conjugation pattern

(28) Momentaneous conjugation pattern



The MOMENTANEOUS (ne, ne, ne) conjugation pattern is the primary aspectual string of the MOTION verb theme category. Motion verbs include verbs such as *go*, *walk*, *depart*, *arrive*, *come back*, and *start heading back*. Motion verbs are intransitive (you can't say 'I go you' or 'he arrives me'), and as a result the use of the (ne, ne, ne) pattern with object agreement is quite limited. There are only two situations in which the (ne, ne, ne) pattern can be used with object agreement. The first is with handling verbs. You can say *níyíla* 'he/she put them down' or *níyízaq* 'he/she put the heavy object down'—however, this object agreement can only be used with 3rd person singular subjects, as explained in §6.5.3. The other main exception is the verb *laáthir* 'kill', which can take object agreement, but is also in some ways irregular. This verb is given its own separate section, §6.5.4. In the vast majority of cases, *ne* conjugation is used as part of the TERMINATIVE derivational string, as illustrated in §6.5.2.

6.5.1 In word-initial position

It is not entirely certain whether there are any genuine examples of *ne* conjugation being used in word-initial position. There is only one verb where we have what looks like *ne* word-initially, which is the verb *nida* 'come back'. This verb could be analyzed as using a TRUNCATED REVERSATIVE construction. While normally the reversative, meaning 'go back', consists of two prefixes /na...d/ (see §00), this verb expresses reversative meaning using just the *d* classifier. However, *nida* is also unusual in that the conjugation marker *ne* occurs in an unexpected position: *ne*-conjugation seems to have been re-interpreted as a preverb, and now occurs at the beginning of the word throughout the paradigm.

(29a) Imperfective of *nida* 'come back' (*d*-classifier)

Underlying form	Surface form	Syllabics	English gloss
/ne-s-d-a/	nɪsda xa	ʃnɔ̃ ɔ̃ɔ̃	'I will come back'
/ne-ne-d-a/	nɪda xa	ʃɔ̃ ɔ̃ɔ̃	'you (sg) will come back'
/ne-d-a/	nɪda xa	ʃɔ̃ ɔ̃ɔ̃	'he/she will come back'
/ne-híd-d-ʔás/	nít'ás xa	ʃɔ̃ɔ̃'n ɔ̃ɔ̃	'we (2) will come back'
/ne-uh-d-ʔás/	nuht'ás xa	ɔ̃nɔ̃ɔ̃'n ɔ̃ɔ̃	'you (2) will come back'
/ne-he-ne-d-ʔás /	nɪhɪt'ás xa	ʃ'ɔ̃ɔ̃'n ɔ̃ɔ̃	'they (2) will come back'
/ne-híd-d-dél/	nídél xa	ʃUs ɔ̃ɔ̃	'we (pl) will come back'
/ne-uh-d-dél/	nuhdél xa	ɔ̃hUs ɔ̃ɔ̃	'you (pl) will come back'
/ne-he-ne-dél/	nɪhɪdél xa	ʃ'ɔ̃Us ɔ̃ɔ̃	'they (pl) will come back'
/ne-ts'e-ne-dél/	mits'ɪdél xa	ʃɔ̃ɔ̃'Us ɔ̃ɔ̃	'people will come back'

If we analyze the *ni* which occurs at the beginning of the word *nida* as coming from the *ne* conjugation marker, then this means that *ne* is being used redundantly in some of the forms. This is, in the forms *nihyt'ás*, *nihydél* and *nts'udél*, it would seem that the *ne* conjugation marker is actually being used twice. An alternative analysis would be that the *ni* we see at the beginning of this verb has nothing to do with *ne* conjugation at all, but rather is the disjunct prefix *ni* meaning ‘upwards’. However, this other *ni* is otherwise always used as part of a longer derivational string with its own special conjugation pattern (see §00). So, under any analysis, the verb *nida* ‘come back’ is somewhat irregular.

(29b) Perfective of *nida* ‘come back’ (*d*-classifier)

Underlying form	Surface form	Syllabics	English gloss
/ne-i-s-d-ya/	nɪsja	ʈnɛ	‘I came back’
/ne-ne-d-ya/	nɪja	ʈɛ	‘you (sg) came back’
/ne-ne-d-ya/	nɪja	ʈɛ	‘he/she came back’
/ne-híd-ɹás/	nít'ás	ʈC'n	‘we (2) came back’
/ne-uh-d-ɹás/	nuht'ás	ʈhC'n	‘you (2) came back’
/ne-he-ne-d-ɹás/	nihyt'ás	ʈ'ΔC'n	‘they (2) came back’
/ne-híd-d-dél/	nídél	ʈUs	‘we (pl) came back’
/ne-híd-d-dél/	nuhdél	ʈhUs	‘you (pl) came back’
/ne-he-ne-d-dél/	nihydél	ʈ'ΔUs	‘they (pl) came back’
/ne-ts'e-ne-d-dél/	nts'udél	ʈɹ'Us	‘people came back’

(29c) Optative of *nida* ‘come back’ (*d*-classifier)

Underlying form	Surface form	Syllabics	English gloss
/ne-ghu-s-d-yá/	nusjá	ʈnɛ	‘I will come back’
/ne-ghu-ne-d-yá/	nujá	ʈɛ	‘you (sg) will come back’
/ne-ghu-d-yá/	nujá	ʈɛ	‘he/she will come back’
/ne-ghu-híd-d-ɹás/	nút'ás	ʈC'n	‘we (2) will come back’
/ne-ghu-uh-d-ɹás/	nuht'ás	ʈhC'n	‘you (2) will come back’
/ne-he-ghu-d-ɹás/	nehuut'ás	ʈ'▷C'n	‘they (2) will come back’
/ne-ghu-híd-d-dél/	núdél	ʈUs	‘we (pl) will come back’
/ne-ghu-uh-d-dél/	nuhdél	ʈhUs	‘you (pl) will come back’
/ne-he-ghu-d-dél/	nehuudél	ʈ'▷Us	‘they (pl) will come back’
/ne-ts'e-ghu-d-dél/	nets'uudél	ʈɹ'Us	‘people will come back’

What gives this verb its special meaning ‘go back’ rather than just ‘go’ is the presence of the *d* classifier. How can we tell that the *d* classifier is there? If we look in the underlying forms, we can actually see the same stem set that we use with all of the other motion verbs: *a* ~ *ya* ~ *yá* in the singular, *ɹás* ~ *ɹás* ~ *ɹás* in the dual, and *dél* ~ *del* ~ *dél* in the plural. So the reason why the stems in this verb look different than other motion verbs is just because we have added the *d* classifier, which has caused the so-called ‘d-effect’ (see §00).

6.5.2 After a disjunct (Level 5) prefix

When a the *ne* conjugation marker is preceded by a disjunct prefix, we see long vowels throughout the paradigm. The *ne* conjugation marker itself does not nasalize these long vowels, for example *nísa* ‘I arrive’ and *nígha* ‘he/she arrives’; the long vowels are only nasal if they would be nasal anyways for some other reason, for example *nígha* ‘you (sg) arrive’. Following the Level 3 prefixes *he* and *ts’e*, however, we do get the long nasal vowels *hɨ* and *ts’ɨ*, as in *níhɨdél* ‘they (pl) arrive’. The perfective forms, in (30b), are similar, except that in the singular forms, the stem *gha* is replaced with *ya*, and all of the stem vowels have Low tones.

(30a) Imperfective of *nígha* ‘arrive’ (Ø-classifier)

Underlying form	Surface form	Syllabics	English gloss
/ní-ne-s-gha/	nísa	ʃɿ	‘I arrive’
/ní-ne-ne-gha/	nígha	ʃɿ	‘you (sg) arrive’
/ní-ne-gha/	nígha	ʃɿ	‘he/she arrives’
/ní-ne-híd-ǰás/	níit’ás	ʃɿC'n	‘we (2) arrive’
/ní-ne-uh-ǰás/	núuhǰás	Ɂh"ɿn	‘you (2) arrive’
/ní-he-ne-ǰás/	níhɨǰás	ʃ'ɿ"ɿn	‘they (2) arrive’
/ní-ne-híd-dél/	níidél	ʃɿUs	‘we (pl) arrive’
/ní-ne-uh-dél/	núuhdél	ɁhUs	‘you (pl) arrive’
/ní-he-ne-dél/	níhɨdél	ʃ'ɿUs	‘they (pl) arrive’
/ní-ts'e-ne-dél/	níts'ɨdél	ʃɿɿ'Us	‘people arrive’

(30b) Perfective of *nígha* ‘arrive’ (Ø-classifier)

Underlying form	Surface form	Syllabics	English gloss
/ní-ne-i-ya/	níya	ʃɿ	‘I arrived’
/ní-ne-ne-ne-ya/	níyya	ʃɿ	‘you (sg) arrived’
/ní-ne-ne-ya/	níyya	ʃɿ	‘he/she arrived’
/ní-ne-híd-ǰás/	níit’ás	ʃɿC'n	‘we (2) arrived’
/ní-ne-uh-ǰás/	núuhǰás	Ɂh"ɿn	‘you (2) arrived’
/ní-he-ne-ne-ǰás/	níhɨǰás	ʃ'ɿ"ɿn	‘they (2) arrived’
/ní-ne-híd-del/	níidel	ʃɿUs	‘we (pl) arrived’
/ní-ne-uh-del/	núuhdel	ɁhUs	‘you (pl) arrived’
/ní-he-ne-ne-del/	níhɨdel	ʃ'ɿUs	‘they (pl) arrived’
/ní-ts'e-ne-ne-del/	níts'ɨdel	ʃɿɿ'Us	‘people arrived’

In the *he* and *ts’e* forms, we get nasal vowels not just in the perfective, but also in the imperfective as well—for example *níts'ɨdél xa* ‘they will arrive’. So when *ne* is preceded by a Level 3 prefix (*he* or *ts’e*), you get a long nasal vowel, but when it is preceded by a Level 5 (disjunct) prefix or Level 4 (object agreement) prefix, you get a long non-nasal vowel (unless the vowel was already nasal for some other reason). Interestingly, however, there is no nasal vowel in the optative plural—we use the syllable *huu* and not *hɨu*. Thus, to say ‘they will arrive’, the preferred form is *níhuudél* rather than *níhɨudél* (although some speakers do say *níhɨudél* as well). This is true even

though we would expect a nasal vowel there, given the more general phonological rules of the language. The most likely reason for this is that the syllable *huu*, which is used in other 3rd person plural optative forms (like *huujën* and *huutsagh*), gets memorized as a whole syllable, and then spreads to other verbs, where *huy* had been used before.

With *ne* conjugation, there are also some special things about the optative. While in most optative forms, there are short vowels in the singular forms and long vowels or diphthongs in the dual and plural, with *ne* conjugation, all of the forms have long vowels, even in the singular. Thus we have *níusá* ‘I will arrive’, *núyyá* ‘you (sg) will arrive’, and *núuyá* ‘he/she will arrive’.

(30c) Optative of *nígha* ‘arrive’ (Ø-classifier)

Underlying form	Surface form	Syllabics	English gloss
/ní-ne-ghu-s-yá/	núusá	ᠨᠤᠰ	‘I will arrive’
/ní-ne-ghu-ne-yá/	núyyá	ᠨᠤᠶᠶ	‘you (sg) will arrive’
/ní-ne-ghu-yá/	núuyá	ᠨᠤᠶ	‘he/she will arrive’
/ní-ne-ghu-híd-ᠵás/	núút’ás	ᠨᠤᠲᠦᠨ	‘we (2) will arrive’
/ní-ne-ghu-uh-ᠵás/	núuhᠵás	ᠨᠤᠬᠦᠵᠠᠰ	‘you (2) will arrive’
/ní-he-ne-ghu-ᠵás/	níhuuᠵás	ᠨᠢᠬᠤᠵᠠᠰ	‘they (2) will arrive’
/ní-ne-ghu-híd-dél/	núúdél	ᠨᠤᠤᠳᠡᠯ	‘we (pl) will arrive’
/ní-ne-ghu-uh-dél/	núuhdél	ᠨᠤᠬᠦᠳᠡᠯ	‘you (pl) will arrive’
/ní-he-ne-ghu-dél/	níhuudél	ᠨᠢᠬᠤᠳᠡᠯ	‘they (pl) will arrive’
/ní-ts’e-ne-ghu-dél/	níts’uudél	ᠨᠢᠲᠦᠰᠦᠳᠡᠯ	‘people will arrive’

Although the momentaneous (*ne, ne, ne*) conjugation pattern is the primary aspectual string for motion verbs, it is also used extensively with the verb theme category of handling verbs. These verbs have verb stems which specify whether the action refers to a heavy object, a sticklike object, a round container filled with liquid, a flat container, or plural objects of any type. When the terminative derivational string is used with handling verbs, it has meanings such as *set down*, *bring*, and *put down*.

An example of the terminative used with a handling verb is given in (31), the verb *níle* ‘put down plural objects. The forms in (31) can also be used with *dá*, thus one could say *ᠵeldzēs nidáilya* ‘we all set traps’ or *ᠵeldzēs nidáhyla* ‘they all set traps’. However, with this verb, the plural forms are typically used without *dá*, even if there are 3 or more people involved, and so the *dá* forms have been omitted in the above examples.

For more examples of the terminative derivational string, and other verbs that can be used in the terminative, see §00. For more discussion of handling verbs, and other derivational strings that can be used with them, see §00.

 Note on Usage...

The conjugation marker *ne* is most often used as part of the TERMINATIVE derivational string /ní...ne/. Terminative means ‘stopping’. So when used with motion verbs, by itself, it has the meaning ‘arrive’ (because arriving is when you stop moving), as in *k’abídéné jᠶ níya* ‘I arrived here this morning’. When used together with the postposition *ghq*, it has the meaning of ‘meet someone’. For example, *shéts’elyi kué seghq núyyá* ‘meet me at the restaurant’, or *nánik’é neghq níusá* ‘I’ll meet you at the store’.

(31a) Imperfective of *nīle* ‘set (plural objects)’ (Ø-classifier)

Underlying form	Surface form	Syllabics	English gloss
/ní-ne-s-le/	nūsle	ŋ ^o ŋ	‘I set’
/ní-ne-ne-le/	nūle	ŋŋ	‘you set’
/ní-ne-le/	nīle	ŋŋ	‘he/she sets’
/ní-ne-híd-lye/	nīlye	ŋs ^l	‘we set’
/ní-ne-uh-le/	núuhle	ŋ ^o ŋ	‘you set’
/ní-he-ne-le/	níhūle	ŋ ^o Δŋ	‘they set’

(31b) Perfective of *nīle* ‘set (plural objects)’ (Ø-classifier)

Underlying form	Surface form	Syllabics	English gloss
/ní-ne-ı-la/	nūla	ŋ ^o l	‘I set’
/ní-ne-ne-ne-la/	nūla	ŋ ^o l	‘you (sg) set’
/ní-ne-ne-la/	nūla	ŋ ^o l	‘he/she set’
/ní-ne-híd-lyā/	nūlyā	ŋs ^l ʔ	‘we set’
/ní-ne-uh-la/	núuhla	ŋ ^o l	‘you set’
/ní-he-ne-ne-la/	níhūla	ŋ ^o Δl	‘they set’

(31c) Optative of *nīle* ‘set (plural objects)’ (Ø-classifier)

Underlying form	Surface form	Syllabics	English gloss
/ní-ne-ghu-s-le/	nūsle	ŋ ^o ŋ	‘I will set’
/ní-ne-ghu-ne-le/	nūle	ŋŋ	‘you (sg) will set’
/ní-ne-ghu-le/	nūle	ŋŋ	‘he/she will set’
/ní-ne-ghu-híd-lye/	nūlye	ŋs ^l	‘we will set’
/ní-ne-ghu-uh-le/	núuhle	ŋ ^o ŋ	‘you will set’
/ní-he-ne-ghu-le/	níhuule	ŋ ^o Δŋ	‘they will set’

 Note on Usage...

The verb *nīle* means to ‘set down plural objects’. One common use of this verb is to mean ‘set traps’. You can say *zeldzēs nūsle* ‘I set traps’ or *setā zeldzēs nūla* ‘my father set traps’. Another frequent use of this verb is to ‘set the table’. You can say *tth’á nūla* ‘I set the table’, literally ‘I put the plates down’. You can also use it in a question *tth’á nūla-ú?* ‘Did she set the table?’ or as a command, *xjłts’én shīlyı xa tth’á nūle* ‘set the table for supper’.

6.5.3 After an object agreement (Level 4) prefix

With the momentaneous (ne, ne, ne) conjugation pattern, there are only two situations in which there can be object agreement. One is with the verb *laáthur* ‘kill’ (§6.5.4). The other situation is with handling verbs, where it is possible to say ‘he/she put *it* down’ in just one word—where ‘it’ is part of the verb, expressed as the object marker *ye*. However, *ye* is the only object agreement marker

that can be used with handling verbs, which means that we can only use it to talk about 3rd person singular subjects acting on 3rd person objects. Why should this be?

1st and 2nd person objects (*se, ne, nuhe*) are only used for people. There are handling verbs that can be used for people, to say things like ‘put the baby to bed’ or ‘drop the kids off at school’—however, these have their own special conjugation pattern (see §00). So the handling verbs in (32) are used only for things—for example, a stick, a rock, or a teapot. With inanimate things, we can talk about them, but we do not talk to them. This is why, unless you are talking to the teapot, or the rock is talking to you, the verbs in (32) can only be used with a 3rd person object.

It is possible to use a 1st or 2nd person *subject*, you just wouldn’t get an object marker in that case. Recall from §00 that when a 1st or 2nd person subject acts on a 3rd person direct object, the object marker is zero (Ø). So you can say *nísle xa* ‘I will put it down’, *níle xa* ‘you (sg) will put it down’, and *níyúle xa* ‘he/she will put it down’. The only place the *ye* shows up is if the subject is 3rd person. If the object is plural, you still use *ye*, together with the *le ~ la ~ le* stem set for plural objects.

(32) Handling verbs with object agreement (3sg subject > 3sg object)

Type of Object	Imperfective	Perfective	Optative
plural objects	níyúle xa	níyúlla	níyúule
heavy object	níyúzá xa	níyúzá	níyúuzá
clothlike object	níyúłchuth xa	níyúłchúth	níyúulchuth
sticklike object	níyútı́ xa	níyútı́	níyúutı́
round container full of liquid	níyúłtı́ xa	níyúłtı́	níyúultı́

In (32), all of the examples have a long vowel with falling tone right before the stem. The tone comes from the *ne* conjugation marker. It has been observed elsewhere that the *ne* conjugation marker also has its own floating tone, just like *the* conjugation (Rice & Hargus 1989), and we can see it in these examples. So *ye-ne* becomes *yú* as in *níyúle xa* ‘he/she will put it down’. The *n* of *ne*

 *Note on Usage...*

Just like the pronoun ‘it’ in English, the object marker *ye* in Tetsóť’mé is typically used for something we have just mentioned earlier in the conversation. So words like *níyúlla* ‘he put plural objects down’ or *níyúłchúth* ‘he/she put the clothlike object down’ are not words we would just say out of the blue, we need a context for them. Here are some examples of how these words might be used.

- Q: Tı́’ombále zedlájá? *What happened to the tent?*
 A: Setá bethchën yé **níyúzá**. *My father put it in the sled.*
 Q: Líbarlá zedlájá? *What happened to the tarp?*
 A: Setá bethchën k’e **níyúłchúth**. *My father put it over the sled.*
 Q: zek’ídhe zedlájá? *What happened to the gun?*
 A: Setá beschën yé **níyútı́**. *My father put it in the sled.*
 Q: Lidıtıl zedlájá? *What happened to the teapot?*
 A: zamá bek’e shéts’elyı́ k’e **níyúłtı́**. *Mom put it on the table.*