Below is a list of the late Meroitic lexical items. The Meroitic script has 24 signs. The Meroitic script is a syllabic writing system. This system of writing was used for 500 years.
In this examination of Meroitic we used the transliteration of many Meroitic phonemes proposed by Hintze (1974, 1979), rather than the entire transliteration system for Meroitic proposed by Griffith (1911). Each Meroitic consonant except when followed by the vowel sign /i/, /o/ and /e/ represents the consonant sound plus the schwa (the high/mid central /a/ vowel).
**PRONUNCIATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Front</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Back</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>close</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>(y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(w)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>close mid</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>open</td>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Meroitic vowels are distinguished by individual signs for i, e, a, o. There are four Meroitic vowels /æ/, /ɛ/, /iː/, and /oː/. There is a neutral vowel sound attached to the Meroitic consonants except for the te and to signs.

The Meroitic vowel sounds are as follows:

- **e** long e sound as in make
- **a** long a sound as in father
- **i** long i sound as in see
- **o** long o sound as in sock
  
  stands for a in asleep

I believe that Meroitic may have two additional vowel sounds. These sounds may be the open mid vowels è and ò. In many African languages we find these vowels.

It therefore stands to reason that they might also occur in Meroitic. I believe that this is proven by the Meroitic script.

In Meroitic we have the /t/ sound represented by . Even though we have the /t/ sound and the vowel /ɛ/ and /oː/,
we also have the signs /to/ and /te/. This suggest that the vowels attached to t-, must have a different sound than the regular /o/ and /e/ sound. If the sounds were not different the Meroites could have just used the signs /to/ and /te/ to write these sounds instead of (to) and (te). I would therefore venture to say the should be pronounced $tò$ # and should be pronounced $tè$ # in Meroitic.

**CONSONANTS**

There are five syllables in Meroitic ñ, se, te, to and the so-called divider sign (:) -ne represented by separate sounds (Hintze 1974). In this translation of Meroitic each Meroitic syllable without a vowel attached to it is written as a single consonant.

The consonants of Meroitic are as follows:

- **h** kh like the rasping ch: Scottish loch and Bach in German
- **h** ch ich breathy ch, ç
- **a** pronounced like /a/ in father
- **b** as in English
- **d** as in English
- **i** pronounced like /i/ in machine
- **k** pronounced like the /k/ in King
- **l** as in English
- **m**
- **n**
- **p**
r          "
s  pronounced like /z/ in zoo or /s/ as in rose
s  pronounced like the sh in share
t  as in English
to pronunciation like the to in stole
te  pronounced like the te in tea
w  pronounced like the /w/ in water
y  as in English
q
ñ  pronounced like ng as in sing

-----------------------------------------------------------------

Meroitic Consonants

Plosive          p, b  t,d  h(kh)  k,q  h(ch)  Nasal  m  n
ñ
Lateral  l
Rolled  r

Fricative          s  s(sh)  h(ch)

Semi-vowel  w  y

**GRAMMAR**
Late Meroitic has the VSO pattern. The Meroitic language include both prefixes and suffixes, but, suffixes are used extensively in the writing. The popular sentence pattern in late Meroitic inscriptions is -->VP NP or S--> VP NP VP. For example,

\textbf{wto si} lit. to guide you satisfaction

"You guide (me) to satisfaction".

\textbf{terike lo wi-ne s} lit. Fashion dispatch the Awe patron

"Fashion (and) dispatch the Awe of the patron".

Meroitic was probably a lingua franca used by the Meroites to unite the diverse ethnic groups which lived in the Meroitic empire. Although many vocabulary items of Archaic Meroitic was used to write Late Meroitic text, the Late Meroitic structure is less complicated than Archaic Meroitic.

Many Meroitic words are homophone signs. A homophone sign has the same phonetic value as another. The interchangeable Meroitic homophones include \textit{b=/=p, t=/=d, k=/=g, s=/=s and n=/=ñ}, e.g., \textit{tb / tp 'announce in a loathy voice'}.

The Meroitic separator sign (\textit{;}) has the phonetic value \textit{-ne}. This sign in the Meroitic script was used to change verbs into nouns, or signify the word "good". The element \textit{-ne-}, although it is occasionally used in the initial formation of words, the separator sign \textit{-ne}, was primarily used as a suffix.
LATE MEROITIC WORD LIST

a1, intensive prefix 'to'; element used to form the future tense
a2, third person suffix 'he, it, she'.

ari, affirmation
ah, teach, to learn, to study

ab, ancestor, father

arrette, Harendotes (Horus the Avenger of his father)

Ariteñ, name of a god

-an(a), plural suffix: wi-ne-ana 'much awe, much fright
much respect'

ap, ancestor; father
api, the ancestor leaves
atsh, to glow

ato, path, road, route
2. out here
3. absent, on tour, away
4. way, march, progressive

atom, he is to be reborn; e.g. atonhene 's/he is be reborn to realize

ale, the palm off the hand
ater, hero
aro, long (time); olden times; perpetuate
arone, perpetuation, perpetuity
ato, suitable
as-1, religious
ar, to bring out, produce
ari, manifestation; affirmation, revelation
art, praise
añ, spirit
añ, cosiderable spirit
am, soul
ant, prophet
ad, he leaves
apote, agent
ato, water (?)
al, nobel
at, down the path
b, Ba (aspect of Man)
2, plural element, 'many, much, abundant
bo, all; to swell, to inflate
br1, man, men
2, sustain, bring
bh, mature, ripe
d, give, bequeath; to leave a legacy
d-ne, transmission, deliver; bequeath, pledge, inheritance
dd, considerable donation
dd (Egyptian), holy pillar
dete, your donation; your almsgiving
2. extreme limit
dot, in the meantime, at such a point; interval
db, leave a grand legacy
de, indeed; give the offering
di, on its passage; to place; to set (in place)
dili, wayfaring, travel
dl, rising
dh, donations; grand donations
do, donation, offering; consecrate
  2. give (its) beginning
do-a, gone away
do-a, gone away
e1, vouchsafe; give; command; grant a boon
e2, masculine nominative singular accusative suffix for
  e3, complete, complement;
e4, register, book
e-t, vouchsafe the arrangement
  2. you vouchsafe
    " command
    " complete
eb, cover
el, gift

: elne, revelation
: e-ne, almsgiving; generous
  2. contribution, presentation
ek, nourishment
: ene, Commander, Chief;
em, to teach; to direct
  2. great favor
: em-ne-a, he is to teach
enep, gives him
2. Commander
3. bestowal

$ e-o, beginning now!
2. give opening too

$ er, produce, evoke
$ eri, go give indeed; go favor indeed; go vouchsafe indeed
$ eb, cover

$ es, welfare, manifestation
2. es, welfare, manifest
3. agreed; granted
4. well, good

$ eto, out here, out
2. way, route, road, path

$ eņ, command; punish

$ ey, favor

$ H
$ h, kha
2. great; $ h-ne 'greatness'
3. offer alms

$ hr, dignity

$ H
$ h, offering; grand, great
$ hl, support
$ ho, soul

$ hr, repute, esteem

$ i, go
ine, tradition, (as) is the Way

\(\text{ik, place, spot, ; abode, sojourn, place where (one) sojourns}\)

\(\text{i-s, singular nominative}\)

\(\text{im, s/he goes, it goes}\)

2. reach; do, make

3. act, attach

4. memory, remembrance, recollection

\(\text{ih, (to) the spot}\)

\(\text{idi, give it leave}\)

\(\text{ide, the bequeathal}\)

\(\text{in, he goes}\)

\(\text{k, as is obligatory, k-ne, Object of supplication}\)

\(\text{kb, to desire}\)

\(\text{ke, to revitalize; ask permission}\)

\(\text{kene, origination, revitalization}\)

\(\text{ketene, ascent}\)

\(\text{ki, the order, work}\)

\(\text{kd, lady; duty}\)

\(\text{kl, tolerate, bear; borne}\)

\(-l,\text{ meroitic ending particle;}\)

2. verb "to be" ; Ine 'living, existence'

\(\text{leb, to restore; leb-ne "restoration".}\)

\(\text{li, exalted; li-ne 'transmittal, transmit,}\)

\(\text{lh, behold; grand, great}\)

\(\text{lk, Lak, a tribal name}\)

\(\text{behold}\)

\(\text{lte, transmigration}\)
lw, to have glory; lw-ne, glory

measure,; great, much, many; long
used to form verbs into adjectives
third person singular masculine pronoun

him, his

to be'

great son

proceed, progressively; open with force

much, many, considerable

rain, libation

injury

be

boast, extensive, ample, expansive,

boundless

under the influence, spirit, soul; heart

good libations

lord, god

release

like, such as

spirituality

innerheart

Amani, a Meroitic god

break open

unlock

hand, luck

measure, proportion, dimensions, length

Great Napata

Within Great Napata
Blemmy Empire

\( \text{\(\ne\)} \) nea, now
\( \text{\(\neb\)} \) neb, much good
\( \text{\(\ne\)} \) ne, good; intruth
\( \text{\(\nm\)} \) nm, to bend, to incline
\( \text{\(\nmi\)} \) nmi, bowing, lending, obeisance
\( \text{\(\ntk\)} \) ntk, the lord
\( \text{\(\ns\)} \) ns, to desire
\( \text{\(\ne\)} : \text{\(\ne\)} \) n-ne-a, will be goodness; much goodness; his goodness
\( \text{\(\nem\)} \) nem, name
\( \text{\(\nte\)} \) nte, honor; bow in reverence
\( \text{\(\neh\)} \) neh, at this moment
\( \text{\(\net\)} \) net, bow in reverence; your goodness
\( \text{\(\ni\)} \) ni, shinning
\( \text{\(\ne\)} / \text{\(\ns\)} \) Nsdoke, Nasadoke (a tribal name)
\( \text{\(\omega\)} / \text{\(\nu\)} \) Nhbr, Nkhabara (tribal name)
\( \text{\(\nl\)} \) nl, retire
\( \text{\(\no\)} \) no, again, renew
\( \text{\(\neh\)} \) neh, (has) passed away
\( \text{\(\nebk\)} \) nebk, in accord with, in agreement with
\( \text{\(\nek\)} \) nek, god
\( \text{\(\nem\)} \) nem, bend, incline, reverence
\( \text{\(\nine\)} \) nine, radiance, incandescence
\( \text{\(\nn\)} \) \(\nn\)
\( \text{\(\nn\)} 1 \) \(\nn\), good
\( \text{\(\nn\)} 2 \) \(\nn\), third person personal pronoun 'his, him'
\( \text{\(\nn\)} \) \(\nn\)-ne, goodness; to manifest, to show
\( \text{\(\nn\)} 2 \) \(\nn\); his goodness
\( \text{\(\nnk\)} \) \(\nnk\), now, at this moment; at present
\( \text{\(\nnl\)} \) \(\nnl\), penetrate, to conceal; to retire;
Blemmy Empire

: ñl-ne, departure, parting, emigration, embarkation

ñq, at present

: ñtelne, bows in reverence (to the gods)

ñ-ne-ne, Goodness

ñt, honor, bow in reverence; veneration; piety, homage, worship

ñbli, the law

ñk, to perish, to disappear; now; present participle

ñy, bring good

-ne, good

-ne, particle used to change verbs into nouns

nea, now, at this time

nei, goodness; benevolence

neno, to show, to manifest, to reveal

net, bow in reverence

neh, (has) passed away

-o1, used to change nouns into adjectives

2. commence, begin, open;

3. reaching; initiate, start

4. attain; to arrive at

-o-ne, genesis

-o-e, beginning now!

ote, esclamation used to express astonishment or admiration:
wonder, approbation, recognition, prestige

1. ok, produce, produce;
   2. yet, still, as yet;
   3. anew

: ok-ne, the acquisition

ol, grand

ode, wonderment, admiration

ot, to esteem; ot-ne 'approbation'

on, to commence, to set about
   2. to stay, to wait for

otp, esteem, recognition

oi, commencing , to reach

oy, commence to make/form

p

p, beg, solicit, pray

penn-ne 'everywhere'

pi, go pray

pilqe, Philae

pk, take aim

pl, praise, righteous; pl-ñ 'righteous good'

ph, with the intention; to aspire

phrs, Faras

pt, praise

pm, clear, bright

pe, therefore;
   pe₂ bestow, vouchsafe, favor, donate
   pe, foot

per, support; to boast, to praise

per-ne, uplift, nurture
   adulation, glorification, grace; rapture,
Blemmy Empire

apporbbation
ṣṣṣṣ pet, reverence
pet2, he implores
ṣṣ pl, righteous
ṢṢ ph, with the intention; to aspire
ripen, mature, decay
ṢṢ ps, guard, protection
ṢṢ pk, to aim, to take aim
ΚΖ pq, fashion, make; make it so, grant (my) prayer
lit. "prayer make it"
ωΚΖ pqr, prince
ΣΣ pt, praise
ΣΩŚ pol, all
urahan, bestow on him Greatness
ΣΣ pesto, viceroy
ΣΣ perite, agent
ΣΣ pedeme-te, Ibrim
📅 pesto, "pray to manifest dynamicism"
📅 phr, pray for dignity

Q
.Usage q, make, form act ; to desire
Usage qe creation; qe-ne Creator
Usage honorable
Usage qor monarch

R
Usage r, indeed, certainly
Usage re, indeed; give indeed
Usage ri, city
Usage ro, unlock
: 1w rone, unlocking good
2w ret, union; to unite, reconcile
3w reto, inclination
4w rit, to look, to search
5w rike, indeed to sojourn
6w rinek, withdraw, leave
7 w rito, penchant, bent, inclination
8w rem, witness
9w rm, touch; to witness
: 10w rm-ne, manipulation
1w rq, to cover; to escort
2w rs, to spread, to extend
3w rosi, unlocking contentment
" satisfaction
4w rte, to unite
5w rh, to extend, to spread over; sojourn
6  s
7  s, son;
   1. to protect, to support;
   2. to be
   3. ascent, rise
: 8w s-ne prop up; sne, Protector
9w sl, consecrate
10w ste, mother; rich
11 w s-l, king
12  sb, pile' heap, piece
   2. dedicate, consecrate
   3. cover, rub with ointment
: 13w sl-ne, harmony, merit
14w sl, bring, set in, motion; to leap over, consecrate
si, to be
  2. satisfied, satisfying, happy
si-ne, contentment, atonement
sn, clever, skillful
sli, rule, order
  2. regularity, dynasty
sm, wife
stelo, (he) is (laid) low
  2. he is solitary
  3. he is alone
Sh
sh, King, patron ; to protect, to support
shne, defeated, destroyed
sho, life, to live
shi, satisfy
sh[a], to consecrate
sh[a], spirit body
sh[a]q, Shaqa (a tribal group)
shene, sustenance
shr, sister, luck
she, son
  2. to be
  3. to prop up, to support
  4. to be
  5. to be patron of
  6. shelter, favor
shañ, in harmony, art, skill
she-ne, to be satisfying, atonement
  2. happy, pleased, glad
  3. to be content, to be alive
4. encouragement, sustenance, maintenance

\[ \text{shi, burial ground} \]
\[ \text{shi-ne, atonement, expiration; propitiation} \]
\[ \text{sh, the spirit body} \]
\[ \text{skr, dignity, eminent} \]
\[ \text{so, to live, life} \]

\[ \text{Sore, Osiris} \]
\[ \text{soh, happiness, prosperity good, fortune} \]

2. to render, to retire, to restore
3.

\[ \text{soh-ne, The Restorer, The Reconciler, The Deliver} \]

\[ \text{snea, a (new) vivification} \]
\[ \text{sim, abode, house} \]
\[ \text{sm, refuge, equal} \]
\[ \text{st, exaltation} \]
\[ \text{s-ne-a, close at hand, coming, approaching} \]
\[ \text{sb, anoint, cover with oil} \]
\[ \text{sk, to remain, to stay} \]
\[ \text{skte, 'you will remain'} \]

\[ \text{sone, animate, existence; vital spirit} \]
\[ \text{sik, contentment} \]

2. overflowing, to run over, to be flooded
3. to march, to walk, to advance
4. step, pace

\[ \text{se-a, favour} \]
\[ \text{ssor, scribe} \]
\[ \text{skr, to be eminent, to be worthy; to be} \]
dignitied

$0$
skr-i, Eminence, Worthy, Dignified

ste, mother

T

$t1$, here

$t2$, third personal pronoun 'he, it, her'

$t3$, to arrange, to establish

$ti$, go arrange

$tke$, set in motion

$tk$, set in motion

$tl$, elevate; $tl-o$ 'upstanding'

$tm$, to produce, to be born; $tm-o$ 'open up the rebirth

$Tmey$, Tameya (a tribal group)

$tr$, to be eminent, $tr-o$ 'emminence'; $tr-ne$

"Eminent"

$ts$, to put, to lay

$ti$, you go

$tke$, to move, to set in

$tthn$, thy

$trot$, grand, firm, solicit

$tm$, to be born, bear, came into being; to produce

2. to fear

$tia$, it goes to arrange

$t-ne$, the Good

$tak$, reflection

$tb$, proclaim;

$tbi$, disclosure, dissemination, spreadless

$timhene$, 'he goes grandly to direct'

$tkha$, move
tk, set in motion
2. to be, to investigate, to reflect

tn, the rebirth, to be born
ța, come into being
tr, this indeed
2. to raise, to erect, to support
3. collect
tr-o, elevation, Eminence
tmey, give form to the rebirth
ts, the Commandant, chief
ț, to be reborn
ț-ne, rebirth
tm, to be born, come into the world
td, he donates, he gives
tl, to elevate
tr, raise
tsh, to burn, to glow
troto, grand, solid, firm
tki, go investigate
th, to investigate, to reflect
trn, here indeed (is) good

Te
-te, second person pronoun usually used with males 'you, your'
-t, to place, to put
teb, loftiness; to announce in a lofty voice
ted, the donations
tene, rebirth; to the rebirth
2. to arrange
tel, to elevate,
tel-ne, erection, elevation, ascent
tel-o, encouraging, encouragement; elevated, exalted, uplifted, upstanding
tep, to announce in a lofty voice
ter, to erect
teri, fashion, manner etiquette
tep-o, loftiness
t-e-o, the opening; the beginning
tek, to reflect, to investigate
tewisti, (Egyptian) adoration
To
-to, second personal feminine suffix 'you, your'
to, light, to initiate, to kindle; to shine
2. here
3. combustion
4. stimulate, arouse, animate, elate, evoke, stir
5. dwell
:tone vigorousness, dynamicism, energy, physical fitness;
2. Good light
toh, to establish
tom, to bear, to be born
tok, to be, to reflect
w
w, to guide, to leade, to steer; w-ne "Commander, Steward, Chief;
w-o, 'steering, guiding'
wb, to prepare
we, to give escort
wi, honor; wi-ne "Object of Respect, Awe'; good honor'
wid, leave honor as the legacy
ws, dress, clothe
wt, place, put
y
y, to make, to form
ye, to be capable
y-ne, form good
yi, to travel, to journey
yi-ne, progressively; eternal
yir, cleanse, purify


Windekens van, A.J. 1941. Lexique etymologique des dialectes. Louvain.