

Reading and writing Goji (Kushi)

A proposal for writing the Goji language

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Inviting your comments and suggestions

Gabatarwa

Damuwar da ta ke tsakanin mutanen Goji wadanda suke da ilimin karatu da rubutun Hausa da Turanci shi ne, mutanen kamar ba yan kabilan su ba saboda rashin iya rubutu da karatu cikin harshen Goji. An riga an manta da yare wajen, rayuwa da kuma sadarwa tsakaninsu. Ana amfani da Hausa da Turanci kawai. Har wadanda suka manyanta, ba za su yi magana, ba tare da sun garwaya da Turanci ko Hausa ba.

A wuraren sujada ma suna moran Hausa da Turanci wurin wa'azi wanda ya zama da wuya tsofofinsu, su fahimci abinda ake nufi. Wata damuwa game da kaiwa bishara cikin yaren shi ne, kowa zai yi tunanin rubuta kalmomin bisa ga yadda yake kiransu a yaren. Shi ne ya sa ya zama da wuya ga wani dabam ya karanta. Har ma mai rubutun da kansa, ya kasa karanta abinda ya rubuta. Dalili kuwa shi ne, domin ba'a sami kayadadun wasula da bakaken yaren ba.

Wadannan dalilai sune suka iza mutanen Gojiyawa su kafa komiti domin rubutu da karantu cikin yarensu. Da shi ke ba za a iya rubuta yaren Goji da wasula da bakaken Hausa ko Turanci tsantsa ba, ya zama dole a kirkiro na yaren.

In this booklet we are making recommendations to the language committee for Goji.

Aims and objectives

- (1) To encourage the use and development of the Goji language.
- (2) To unite the Goji people in using one spelling system and thus to encourage the writing of new books for all Goji people.
- (3) To develop a writing system that will help Goji people who can already read Hausa and English to be able to read the Goji language without difficulty.
- (4) To develop a writing system that is simple enough for Goji children to learn. They will be encouraged to use it in school.
- (5) To enable strangers and foreigners to learn to speak and read the Goji language easily.

Manufofi

- (1) Domin a karfafa muhimmancin yaren Goji, da kuma gina ta domin mafada su anfana.
- (2) Domin a hada kan mutanen Goji su yarda da ƙa'idodin rubutu don a sami karfin gwiwan rubuta takardu da mutanen Goji za su yi amfani da shi.
- (3) Domin a inganta ƙa'idodin rubutu wadanda zai taimaki Gojiyawa wadanda sun iya karatun Hausa da Turanci su iya karanta maganan Allah da Gojanci ba tare da samun matsala ba.
- (4) Domin a inganta ƙa'idodin rubutu a sauƙake wa ya'yan Gojiyawa yadda za su iya amfani da shi a makarantu.
- (5) Domin a ba dama wa baki da 'yan kasar waje, su koyi magana da rubutun yaren Goji a sauƙake.

Chapter 1

The vowels of the Goji language

Alepara yee de shorum

Basic vowels

The Goji language has six vowels. Five of these vowels are written in the same way as they are in Hausa and English. These are:

a, e, i, o and u

These five vowels are pronounced in the same way as they are pronounced in Hausa. They are illustrated below:

a	ammo	“to climb”	<i>hau</i>
	ka	“porridge”	<i>kunu</i>
	shela	“stone”	<i>dutse</i>
e	eno	“move that” (command)	<i>bude</i>
	ge	“to look”	<i>kallo</i>
	kile	“good morning”	<i>ina kwana</i>
i	iro	“mat”	<i>tabarma</i>
	vin	“grind stone”	<i>dutse nika</i>
	gaari	“tick”	<i>kaska</i>
o	sho	“leg”	<i>kafa</i>
	Goji	“Goji people”	<i>Kushi</i>
	niyo	“person”	<i>mutum</i>
u	duro	“bambarra nut”	<i>gurjiya</i>
	wuji	“nose”	<i>hanci</i>
	yiu	“hold it” (command)	<i>rike</i>

The extra vowel

Goji has one additional vowel sound which is marked differently than vowels in Hausa and English. This is, however, an important and significant sound in the Goji language. We recommend that it be written “o”. Compare the pronunciation of this sound with the vowel written “o”.

<u>o</u>	lo	“meat”	<i>nama</i>
	sh <u>oo</u>	“witch”	<i>maita</i>

Compare with:

lo	the name of a tribe	<i>Yare</i>
sho	“leg”	<i>kafa</i>

Long vowels

There are some words in the Goji language that have long vowel sounds. We recommend that in these words the vowel letter should be written doubled. Here are some examples of words with long vowels:

aa	gaalu	“to gather ”	<i>tarasu</i>
kaa		“greet him” (command)	<i>gaisheshi</i>
kpaalo		“to throw”	<i>wurga</i>

Compare with:

a	galu	“to drop”	<i>tarasu</i>
ka		“gruel, porridge”	<i>kunu</i>
kpalo		“to slap”	<i>mari</i>

ee	lee	“to pluck”	<i>sinka</i>
	meena	“he is back”	<i>ya dawo</i>
	tee	“that is”	<i>shine</i>

Compare with:

e	le	“this”	<i>wannan</i>
	meno	“he has transferred”	<i>kaura</i>
	te	“she”	<i>ita</i>

oo	diyoo	“sat (long time)”	<i>zama</i>
	fooro	“to train”	<i>horeshi</i>
	shoo	“witch”	<i>maita</i>

Compare with:

o	diyo	“sitting” (short time)	<i>zama</i>
	foro	“to reach”	<i>kaisa</i>
	sho	“leg”	<i>kafa</i>

uu	yiuu	“to have”	<i>karba</i>
	tauu	“to mash”	<i>taka</i>
	kauu	“to cover”	<i>rufe</i>

Compare with:

u	yiу	“hold it” (command)	<i>rike</i>
	tau	“mash it” (command)	<i>taka</i>
	kau	“cover it” (command)	<i>rufeshi</i>

We do not know of any words in Goji that have a long “ii”.

We believe that writing long vowels as double letters will help people to read the language more easily. It will also help Goji children and also foreigners who are learning Goji to pronounce these words correctly.

Vowel combinations (diphthongs)

Sometimes two vowel sounds occur together in Goji words. The vowels that occur together most often in Goji words are:

ai, au, ei, and oi

Here are some examples of words that have these vowel combinations:

ai	bai	“dog”	<i>kare</i>
	gai	“digging rod”	<i>matoni</i>
	tai	“the shoe”	<i>takalmi</i>
au	au	“to open”	<i>bude</i>
	jauwit	“knife”	<i>wuka</i>
	kauri	“ward”	<i>sunna angwa</i>
ei	dei	“tomorrow”	<i>gobe</i>
	gei	“war”	<i>yaki</i>
	teilo	“asked”	<i>tambaye</i>
oi	boi	“today”	yau
	fottun boi	“up till now”	harwa yau
	doi yua gbe	“rain water”	ruwan sama

Chapter 2

The consonants of the Goji language

Eleparo yeti ya shor

The Goji language has 24 consonant sounds and most of them are written in the same way as in Hausa or English. There are a few consonant sounds that are written with two letters, for example, ‘sh’. This letter combination is a single consonant sound.

Here are some examples of each basic consonant:

b	baghri	“dove”	<i>tattabara</i>
	balok	“leprosy”	<i>kuturta</i>
	woobo	“worship service”	<i>sujada</i>
ɓ	bang	“strong”	<i>karfi</i>
	bangi	“raw”	<i>denye</i>
	bangkumo	“stubbornness”	<i>taurinkai</i>
d	dummo	“hoe”	<i>fatanya</i>
	duwo	“grave”	<i>kabari</i>
	moodo	“millet (grain)”	<i>gyaro</i>
ɗ	dummo	“to warm”	<i>duma</i>
	det	“fire”	<i>wuta</i>
	dong	“farm”	<i>gona</i>
f	fiya	“to blow (mouth)”	<i>hura</i>
	fok	“mouth”	<i>baki</i>
	fonno	“my daddy”	<i>babana</i>

g	gei	“war”	<i>yaki</i>
	liguni	“start”	<i>fara</i>
	shigi	“to see”	<i>gani</i>

gb	gbolu	“to box”	naushi
	gbalam	“writing”	<i>rubutu</i>
	gburam	“wooden bed”	<i>gadon katako</i>

*The **gb** sound is made by forming a **g** sound and a **b** sound at the same time.*

gh	gagha	“old woman”	<i>sohuwa</i>
	k <small>o</small> gho	“road”	<i>hanya</i>
	shegha	“missing”	<i>bata</i>

*Notice the difference between the sound **g** and the softer sound written **gh**.*

j	jangoni	“leopard”	<i>damisa</i>
	jamo	“rope”	<i>igiyia</i>
	angojo	“lizard”	<i>kadangare</i>

k	kalatau	“church members”	<i>ikilisiya</i>
	dfukni	“fig tree”	<i>bau’re</i>
	karak	“boundary”	<i>iyaka</i>

ꝑ	ꝑommo	“ward”	<i>sunna angwa</i>
	kumo	“ear”	<i>kunne</i>
	dangyuk	“frog”	<i>kwado</i>

*The **ꝑ** sound is like **k**, only made with the tongue at the very back of the mouth.*

kp	kpalo	“to slap”	<i>mari</i>
	kpaalo	“to throw”	<i>wurga</i>
	kpomo	“ten”	<i>goma</i>

The kp sound is made by forming a k sound and a p sound at the same time.

l	laano	“my son”	<i>yarona</i>
	mollo	“my brother”	<i>dan’uwana</i>
	lummo	“flower”	<i>fure</i>

m	minna	“house”	<i>gida</i>
	raamo	“revenge”	<i>ramo</i>
	wijin	“nose”	<i>hanci</i>

n	nano	“funeral”	<i>janaiza</i>
	nee	“fight”	<i>fada</i>
	molan	“sister”	<i>kanuwa</i>

ng	daarang	“sun”	<i>rana</i>
	dangu	“wait”	<i>jira</i>
	gwang	“food”	<i>abinci (tuwo)</i>

nw	nwang	“tribe”	<i>yare</i>
	nwangro	“swing”	<i>waina</i>
	nwen	“what is that”	<i>menene</i>

The nw sound is a w sound with a very short n sound before it.

p	pomina	“door”	<i>kofa</i>
	oppo	“dig” (command)	<i>tone</i>
	gup	“king”	<i>sarki</i>

r	resho	“fight him” (command)	<i>dukeshi</i>
	shero <u>o</u>	“stop, wait” (command)	<i>tsaya</i>
	vaare	“billy goat”	<i>bunsuru</i>
sh	sheg	“wicked”	<i>mugu</i>
	insha	“to win”	<i>shin nasara</i>
	poshu	“toes”	<i>yatsotsi kafa</i>
t	tere	“moon”	<i>wata</i>
	teret	“broom”	<i>tsintsiya</i>
	tangu	“continue”	<i>cigaba</i>
v	viye	“soup”	<i>miya</i>
	vo <u>o</u>	“a hole in a tree”	<i>rami a cikin itace</i>
	v <u>on</u>	“pumpkin”	<i>kabewa</i>
w	wobodiyo	“chair”	<i>kujera</i>
	wooku	“cap”	<i>hula</i>
	yuwaju	“approval”	<i>yarda</i>
y	yamma	“God”	<i>Allah</i>
	dingyi	“sheep”	<i>tumaki</i>
	yippo	“night”	<i>dare</i>

We recommend the above letters for the Goji consonants.

There are, however, two possible alternatives to consider:

- (1) **f** or **q** We have used the consonant **f** because the sound is similar to the sound in Hausa which is represented by **f**. Those who read Hausa are already familiar with this letter. The letter **q** is used when transcribing the same sound in Arabic.
- (2) **nw** and **w** We have suggested that the sounds represented by **n** and **nw** be represented by two different consonants. This decision is reflected in the above alphabet. It may be better though, to write all words presently written

with **nw** with a **w**. The word “**nwen**”, for example, would be written “**wen**”. Below are contrastive examples of both:

Nwang	name of a tribe	<i>sunnan kabilia</i>
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nwanna	they have come (indefinite)	<i>sunzo</i>
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Compare with:

wang	speaker of Nwang	<i>mai fadi</i>
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wanna	he has come (definite)	<i>yazo</i>
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Consonant combinations

There are two types of consonant combinations:

(1) For a consonant with ‘w’ the following combinations are possible:

dw and gw

Here are some examples:

dwagra	“brief (short)”	<i>gajire</i>
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dwaghno	“ground nut”	<i>gyada</i>
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gwang	“food”	<i>abinci (tuwo)</i>
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(2) It is possible to have a long “m” sound at the beginning of a word. This is represented by “mm”.

Here are some examples:

mmaro	“to read”	<i>kirga</i>
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mmere	“working”	<i>tafiya</i>
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mmero	“to twist”	<i>murdawa</i>
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Compare with:

maro	“count”	<i>kirga</i>
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mera	“brooding time”	<i>dade wa akoyi</i>
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meno	“he has transferred”	<i>kaura</i>
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Chapter 3

A proposed Goji alphabet

Kogho penwe

We have thoroughly examined the pronunciation of Goji and critically analyzed the vowels and consonants. Therefore we wish to recommend the following alphabet for Goji:

a b ɓ d ɗ e f g gb gh i j k ƙ kp l m n ng nw o ọ
p r sh t u v w y

With reference to **ƙ**, as noted above, there is the alternative of **q**.

Tone

Tone is the pitch of the voice in words. Initial work in Goji suggests that there may be three levels of tone — high, mid, and low.

Some words in Goji have the same consonant and vowel sounds, and are distinguished only by their tone. Two examples follow:

pamma	“thank you”	<i>na gode</i>	<u>level tone</u>
pamma	“to swear”	<i>ransuwa</i>	<u>low-high</u>
pamma	“feather”	<i>gashi</i>	<u>high-low</u>
biro	“tree”	<i>itace</i>	<u>mid-high</u>
biro	“cane, sceptre”	<i>sanda</i>	<u>high-low</u>

Further research on tone is suggested.

Chapter 4

Counting in Goji language

Mari tapo Goji

	Goji	English	Hausa
1	d <small>o</small> k	“one”	<i>daya</i>
2	palou	“two”	<i>biyu</i>
3	tat	“three”	<i>uku</i>
4	pereu	“four”	<i>hudu</i>
5	fuwat	“five”	<i>biyar</i>
6	paragbana	“six”	<i>shida</i>
7	parlau	“seven”	<i>bakwai</i>
8	pididou	“eight”	<i>takwas</i>
9	fejereu	“nine”	<i>tara</i>
10	kpomo	“ten”	<i>goma</i>
11	ge d <small>o</small> k	“eleven”	<i>sha daya</i>
12	ge palou	“twelve”	<i>sha biyu</i>
13	ge tat	“thirteen”	<i>sha uku</i>
14	ge pereu	“fourteen”	<i>sha hudu</i>
15	ge fuwat	“fifteen”	<i>sha biyar</i>
16	ge paragbana	“sixteen”	<i>sha shida</i>
17	ge parlau	“seventeen”	<i>sha bakwai</i>
18	ge pididou	“eighteen”	<i>sha takwas</i>
19	ge fejereu	“nineteen”	<i>sha tara</i>
20	nopalou	“twenty”	<i>ashirin</i>
21	nopalou d <small>o</small> k	“twenty one”	<i>ashirin da daya</i>
22	nopalou palou	“twenty two”	<i>ashirin da biyu</i>

	Goji	English	Hausa
23	nopalou tat	“twenty three”	<i>ashirin dà uku</i>
24	nopalou pereu	“twenty four”	<i>ashirin dà hudū</i>
25	nopalou fuwat	“twenty five”	<i>ashirin dà biyar</i>
26	nopalou pargbana	“twenty six”	<i>ashirin dà shida</i>
27	nopalou parlau	“twenty seven”	<i>ashirin dà bakwai</i>
28	nopalou pididou	“twenty eight”	<i>ashirin dà takwas</i>
29	nopalou fejereu	“twenty nine”	<i>ashirin dà tara</i>
30	notat	“thirty”	<i>talatin</i>
40	nopereu	“forty”	<i>arbain</i>
50	nofuwat	“fifty”	<i>amsin</i>
60	noparagbana	“sixty”	<i>sittin</i>
70	noparlau	“seventy”	<i>sabain</i>
80	nopididou	“eighty”	<i>tamanin</i>
90	nofejereu	“ninety”	<i>tasain</i>
100	shigdok	“one hundred”	<i>dari</i>
200	shigpalou	“two hundred”	<i>dari biyu</i>
300	shigtat	“three hundred”	<i>dari uku</i>
400	shigpereu	“four hundred”	<i>dari hudū</i>
500	shigfuwat	“five hundred”	<i>dari biyar</i>
600	shigparagbana	“six hundred”	<i>dari shida</i>
700	shigparlau	“seven hundred”	<i>dari bakwai</i>
800	shigpididou	“eight hundred”	<i>dari takwas</i>
900	shigfejereu	“nine hundred”	<i>dari tara</i>
1000	dupdok (shigpomo)	“one thousand”	<i>dubu</i>

sulmit

a thing that cannot be counted

Chapter 5

Days of the week in Goji language

Ne leka nen pen shommo daran ta po goji ye kama kan te tamago

The following chart is provided for the reader to practice writing the Goji language. English and Hausa words for each of the days of the week have been written. A blank space is provided for the Goji names for each of the days of the week.

Goji	English	Hausa
	Monday	<i>Litinin</i>
	Tuesday	<i>Talata</i>
	Wednesday	<i>Laraba</i>
	Thursday	<i>Alamis</i>
	Friday	<i>Jumma</i>
	Saturday	<i>Asabar</i>
	Sunday	<i>Lahadi</i>

Chapter 6

Singular and Plural Nouns We dok kan ye yega dok

Some basic rules apply for adding number to nouns in Goji. These rules, along with examples, are presented below:

The basic rule for making nouns plural:

- (1) Most nouns are made plural by using either a number (dok, palou, ...) or the word “many” (gbe) following the noun.

bai	“dog”	<i>kare</i>
bai <u>dok</u>	“one dog”	<i>kare daya</i>
bai <u>gbe</u>	“many dogs”	<i>karnuka</i>
fe	“hen”	<i>kaza</i>
fe <u>dok</u>	“one hen”	<i>kaza daya</i>
fe <u>gbe</u>	“hens”	<i>kazuna</i>
wi	“goat”	<i>akuya</i>
wi <u>dok</u>	“one goat”	<i>akuya daya</i>
wi <u>gbe</u>	“many goats”	<i>awaki</i>

The rules for adding number to nouns that change:

- (2) Some nouns require that a new sound be added to the end of the word, or that a change be made to the last sound in the word.

- a. Words that end in “m”, add “i” to the end.

gburam	“wooden bed”	<i>gadon katako</i>
gburami <u>dok</u>	“one wooden bed”	<i>gadon katako</i>
gburami <u>gbe</u>	“many wooden beds”	<i>gadon katakai</i>

shirim	“fish”	<i>kifi</i>
shirimi d <small>ok</small>	“one fish”	<i>kifi</i>
shirimi gbe	“many fish”	<i>kifaye</i>

b. Words that end in “o”, add “wi” to the end.

iro	“woven mat”	<i>tabarma</i>
irowi d <small>ok</small>	“one woven mat”	<i>tabarma</i>
irowi gbe	“many woven mats”	<i>tabarmai</i>

c. Words that end in “k”, change the “k” sound to “g”, and then add “i” to the end.

buk	“field”	<i>kasa</i>
bugi d <small>ok</small>	“one field”	<i>fili</i>
bugi gbe	“many fields”	<i>filaye</i>

d. Words that end in “a”, add “i” to the end. This creates the vowel combination “ai”.

tanga	“cow”	<i>shanu</i>
tangai d <small>ok</small>	“one cow”	<i>shanu</i>
tangai gbe	“many cows”	<i>shanaye</i>

Nouns that do not follow any of the above rules (irregular nouns):

(3) Nouns that refer to something that is young, use the word “la” before the noun for singular, and the word “shibo” for plural.

la bai	“young dog”	<i>kare</i>
la bai	“one young dog”	<i>kare daya</i>
shibo bai	“many young dogs”	<i>karnuka</i>

la shuji	“a young boy”	<i>namiji</i>
la shuji	“one young boy”	<i>namiji</i>
shibo shuji	“many young boys”	<i>yamaza</i>
la biro	“sapling (young tree)”	<i>yan itace</i>
la biro	“one sapling”	<i>yan itace</i>
shibo biro	“many saplings”	<i>yan itatua</i>
la poomun	“girl”	<i>yarinya</i>
la poomun	“one girl”	<i>yarinya</i>
shibo sherep	“many girls”	<i>yamata</i>

- a. The following nouns do not follow any we have come across in research yet.
More study may be done here.

poomun	“woman”	<i>mace</i>
poomun	“one woman”	<i>mace</i>
sherep	“many women”	<i>mataye</i>
shuji	“man”	<i>namiji</i>
shuji d <small>ok</small>	“one man”	<i>namiji</i>
shuji gbe	“many men”	<i>mazaje</i>
niyo	“person”	<i>mutum</i>
niyo	“one person”	<i>mutum</i>
memme	“people”	<i>mutane</i>

Chapter 7

Kogho yee Goji weyan kuju ti tom Shelate

Diyo Goji ye dì ti shi shelaye, shelayee yuwaro woo marku Goji, mma diyee, dì long ku nwen. Di long kuunei gei riya shegkuju kan nwang. Gei ma illina, shelayen yooro woo marku Goji, yee Goji ma ammoju shi shelaye, wa den jun, nwang ma amna adfei kogho yee po yun ammobim. Qo Gojin shiru shigju, de pirinne an gei ta pirinnum awashigim kame Kauri, kame Kommo, kame Dirang, kame Gomle.

Goji, yuuwa karak kan Janga, Gojin ya karak kan Gwandum, karak yee Goji yuwa. Diyee, tibine gei ye yuwa kan nwang insha bukye. Burak peru tebi shela in minin buk. Powero peru ta bi shela, in minin buk. Qo boi Gojin galkuju, yoju niye dok ta shini, nee ma illina. me Kauri taya shejum, me Kommo taya shejum, me dirang taya shejum, me Gomle taya shejum, In galkuju in ne an gei ju. Fottunboi, te kogho ye yikkabi in wa kuju titom shela te.

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Ambe kan adewe

Yuwa manni niyen ambe, pera paara, wa kwomi kan juk, inbe jughi ta shi in shari. ko mmere ti malo ta shei inya mere ta shei, va peru, in bena ta shi in shari. Le lo juk, le lo va, tiya mmere ta shi, tiya mmere, in peru ta shurmi we shurmi bena. Yuwa tat tikirai, jolli shi dokni, in shari din ti kuni, in tiya mmere, tiya mmere, in wawe shi golom, in shar shoni tawin ki golomiye. Ta sharani, adewe ya paro, ambe le juk tikuno pemo, le lo va, le lo shurmi, golomiye pemo we shigi, pemo leka. Qo pemo da woja tere, yoro sheju pemo legha. Ye yamma mina, ti pemo agbemiya? pemo wojoju tere, yoro wo pammondo sheju, ye shinta pammondei. Pemo, kan wo kira gbe, ti kirano pemo, pemo shar le, pemo legha tokkon sheri. Qo mo ambe ya, we adoni weya shigi, we kirani yikka, shira wojanim kaye, de kogho ye shita wojanim. In koni, adewe ya, yamma ma niyo pemo, yamma ra minju we shin po pammo dei. Qo yamma ma niyom, yamma ta minju, kogho no yamma gbe. ambe koni, tiya mmereni, tiya mmereni, le juk, le va, le shurmi, le golom, in fottu po do, wa gal shari ye kuyam tughä, ta she do. In peru ta jangoni, jangoni waru, wa yiu lo

va, kan lo jughi, kan lo shurmi, kan golomidin in tappoki. Ambe peru ta ya paro, yiu ambe tughi, ambe wa addo loim, tishegki lo yee weya din ta shi le lo, awam ko dok ti taim.

Nera ya pare ti nwen, nera ya, pare ti kune, ma we ke weya, min ti molgho. Ke ma weya do kogho le, wejo nummo dogi kaghoi. ken gall dwei ding, kamo yoro shegho, mao, takadda yamma ya, te kogho ye po yorom. kebe ye mo ambe kan te, liya shi ta shilibi. Yamma mina, alewo mondiginwem, ye adoni weya shigim, te paro ye ne tiku yani na, kama minti me kekante lawi, wojo molgho inwe yamma yake minu shita mingo ne panma.

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Conclusion

Finally, it is our sincere desire that the committee will take serious note of the observations and recommendations that we have made in this booklet in order to fulfill the aims and objectives that were stated at the beginning.

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