

MORO 25/1/68

**SUDAN LOCAL LANGUAGES CENTRE**  
**Notes on Language Use in the Moro Community**  
**in Khartoum**

The Moro community in Khartoum is large, probably one of the bigger Nuba groups. They do speak the language in their homes still, although there is a lot of mixture with Arabic. Ezekiel Kondo estimated about a quarter of the vocabulary used is Arabic. There are also a lot of Moro community gatherings such as weddings, funerals, meetings to discuss community welfare projects or to hear information from the amir. At some of these gatherings traditional wisdom is passed on to the younger generation. An important part of such gatherings is that they unite all Moro, whatever their religion or education or dialect. People speak their own dialects and are understood by the others. Could this be because of the common Arabic vocabulary? Or does everyone adjust a little to the others?

Moro literature is almost entirely of a Christian nature. Only the Primer is more or less neutral, though even that has some Christian content. Other literature consists of the New Testament in an old translation and a newer revision, catechism, Good News stories, Four Spiritual Laws, hymnbook. As a result of the Christian character of most of it Muslim Moro generally do not want to learn to read Moro because they think it will make them Christians.

Moro are represented in some numbers in the following churches: SCOC, ECS, Presbyterian, Brethren, Injili, Coptic and Catholic. Dialect does not seem to affect church affiliation. All these churches use Moro in some way or other, as follows:

**SCOC** There are about 11 Moro congregations around the three towns and these congregations have weekly housegroups. They use both old and new translations of the N.T. though the old one is preferred, also the hymnbook and catechism.

**ECS** The Cathedral in Khartoum has a Moro service. There is no Moro prayer book so they have to use the Arabic one but the rest of the service is in Moro. They use the hymnbook.

**Presbyterian** They have three Moro congregations, in which they use the old N.T. and the hymnbook. Prayers are said in people's own dialects and there are new songs not in the hymnbook.

**Brethren** The main Brethren church is in Bahri and about three quarters of the congregation is Moro but they do not use their own language because of the quarter that are not. However, there is a congregation entirely Moro in Dar es Salaam where they are able to use their own language. They use the old N.T. and sometimes the new one, the hymnbook and many new songs translated from Arabic. Preaching and praying is in Moro and the old people complain if it is in some other language.

**Injili** There is a Moro congregation in Bahri and another in Omdurman, possibly others. They use the Moro N.T. and hymnbook.