

Introductory Remarks

Klaus Wedekind, Addis Abeba, 2008

This dictionary is based on a preliminary publication of 1978 which had been deposited at the "Institute of Ethiopian Studies" of the Addis Abeba University. So far, however, this dictionary has not been made accessible. The preliminary edition of 1978 was introduced as follows:

"This dictionary contains about 4000 words, including all Gedeo words of high frequency, a number of loan words, and some phrases. Lists of cultural items, proper names and grammatical suffixes have been added in the appendix. The most frequent Gedeo words were taken from a frequency list based on about 30000 words of stories, songs and everyday conversations. Large numbers of words have been contributed by Elias Banaata, Kebede Gaammo, Werku Goolle, Bekele Nunu, Shuntu Lole, and Wakayyehu Biftu. Wakayyehu Biftu and Hailu Alaako have checked large parts of the word lists, and they made numerous improvements. We are grateful for encouragements given by friends from the Institute of Ethiopian Studies and the Institute of Language Studies of the Addis Abba University. We express our thanks to all who helped to improved this book - knowing that it is still is far from perfect - and we invite the users of this book to send us their suggestions for improvements."

This introduction has the following sections:

Notes on Transcription, Abbreviations, Thesaurus and Sound Files

Lists of Morphological Suffixes, Numbers, and Cultural Items

The list of "Cultural Items" includes names of days, months, years, generations, Gada groups, Baallee groups, songs, dances, and neighbouring peoples.

Notes on the Transcription

Phonetic transcriptions have been added to every entry. Most sounds are transcribed as in the International Phonetic Alphabet. There are some exceptions: <d'> for the "implosive d", <c' p' t' k'> for the "ejectives", <'> for the "glottal stop", <c> for the "palatal affricate", <sh> for the the "palatal fricative", and <y> for the "palatal semivowel". Long vowels and geminated consonants are spelled with double letters, as in <aa bb cc ...>. But the gemination of digraphs like <c', d', sh' ...> is shown as <cc', dd', ssh' ...> In 1978, editors at the IES had required that the entries should be sequenced by the "fidel" order. This has, of course, been mended in the present edition. The order follows the international alphabetic order, while the Amharic glosses can be viewed in the fidel order.

Notes on Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used: adj "adjective", adv "adverb", Amh "Amharic", coll "collective", f "feminine", impv "imperative verb", intj "interjection", m "masculine", n "noun, nominal", num "numeral", obj "object, citation", Or "Oromo", pl "plural", ppos "postposition", pr "pronoun", ps "person", ptcp "participle", sg "singulative", subj "subject case", vocat "vocative".

Notes on the Thesaurus

The "Thesaurus" entries is based on the terms and groupings of Roget's categories. The main groupings are the following: Abstract Relations (Existence, Relation, Quantity, Order, Number, Time, Change, Causation), Space (General, Dimensions, Form, Motion), Matter (General, Solids, Fluids), Life (Vitality, Sensation), Intellect (Formation of Ideas, Somcommunication), Volition (Individual, Intersocial Relations, Possessive Relations), Affections (General, Personal, Sympathetic, Moral, and Religious).

Notes on Sound files

In this edition, some sound files have been added (esp. for body parts, see "Parts"). They were kindly provided by Ababayyehu Messele of Yirga Chaffe.

Morphological Suffixes

The following list includes all suffixes that can be attached to nominal or verbal roots:

- a "for"
- a "impf"
- anjo "agent"
- ass "causative"
- ba "near"
- baa ~ -bo "not"
- baro "when"
- belo "without"
- boonno "where"
- c'alla "only"

- cco ~ -cci "singulative "
- darre "at"
- e "past perfect tense"
- ed' "reflexive, autobenefactive"
- ee'e "because"
- eessa "agent, m"
- eesso "rank"
- eette "agent, f"
- em "passive"
- fa'i "if, but if"
- ffa ~ -ssha "like"
- gop'a "fail to"
- i "subj. case, adv"
- in "pers. pl subj"
- is "causative"
- it "fem. or 2nd ps"
- iyy "mean, say, do"
- iyyo "nominalization"
- ke ~ -ke ~ -ki "m identification"
- k'ic'o "till"
- k'ic'o'ni "till"
- la'i "simply"
- le "if, when"
- le "times"
- mma kinni "yes but"
- mo ... -mo "either or"
- na'a "what about"
- naa'ni "from"
- 'ni "from at"
- nna ... -nna "both and"
- nna ~ -nne ~ -nno "1st ps"
- nni "together with"
- o "conditional aspect"
- oole "agents, pl"
- oota "agents, pl"
- ra "plural"
- ssha ~ -ffa "like"
- ta'a "what about"
- te ~ -ti ~ -ta "f identity"
- tt'a ~ -tt'e "f. ident."
- tta -tte -tto "2nd ps sg"
- tt'i "then, same subj"
- u "hypothetic aspect"
- uwwa "pl"
- waali "let it be"
- wodda "when"
- yyo "dear, vocative"

Numbers and Cultural Items - from the Appendix of 1978:

The lists here below include the words for numbers, months, days, years, generations, "Gada" and "Baalle" age groups, songs and dances, and the names of some neighbouring peoples.

Ordinal Numbers

- Taakka "First"
- Langa "2nd"
- Sakka "3rd"
- Sholga "4th"
- Ondi "5th"

Torba "7th"
Saddeeta "8th"
Sallani "9th"
Kud'anni "10th"

Cardinal Numbers

Mitte "1"
Lame "2"
Sase "3"
Shoole "4"
Onde "5"
Jaane "6"
Torbaana "7"
Saddeeta "8"
Sallaane "9"
Tomme "10"
Tommenna mitte "11"
Diddama "20"
Soddoma "30"
Afurtama "40"
Shantama "50"
Jaatama "60"
Torbaantama "70"
Sadeentama "80"
Sagaltama "90"
D'ibba "100"
D'ibbanna tomme "110"
Lame d'ibba "200"
Kuma "1000"
Lame kuma "2000"

Days

Tecco "Today"
Berek'e "Yesterday"
Soodo "Tomorrow"
Omni soodo "2 days from now"
Osse soodo "3 days from now"
Fegerette "4 days from now"
Fe'nessho "5 days from now"

Months

Birre'a f "September"
Onkoleessa m "October"
Sadaasa m "November"
Arfaasa m "December"
Oriito f "December / January"
Ba'leessa m "January / February"
Bititeessa m "February / March"
Adoleessa m "March / April"
C'aamsa m "April / May"
Woc'abayye f "May / June"
Ela m "June / July"
Hageyya f "July / August"

Years

Karno "This year"
Sa'emma sane "Last year"
Dagaa sane "Next year"
Giddi sane "2 years from now"

Ensero "3 years from now"
Fegero "4 years from now"
Niro "5 years from now"

Generations

Dayyuwwa "Brothers, generation of ego"
Annuwwa "1 generation older"
Oose "1 generation younger"
Akka'o "2 generations from ego"
Obobo "3 generations from ego"
Obottoro "4 generations from ego"
Naap'a "5 generations from ego"

Gada groups

Gada "1st position "
Ja'laaba "2nd position"
Roga "3rd position"
Jalk'aba/Fatticca "4th position"
Hayyicca "5th position"
Murra "Assistants"
Ya'a "Common People"

Baalle groups

D'allana "Dallana House"
Guduro "Generation A"
Lubo "Generation B"
Lumaasa "Generation C"
Belbana "Belbana House"
K'ulullo "Generation A"
Yuuba "Generation B"
Raaba "Generation C"

Songs, dances

Geebo "Game, joy"
Siissimo "Women's work"
Googgore "Women's work"
Sirba "Dance, joy"
Loogaashimo "Annual restival"
Dogga "Cradle"
Danboobiyyo "Wedding"
Wi'lissha "Mourning"
Gadda "Mourning"
Hayyata "Trad. religious"
Faaro "Psalm song"
Mazmuure "Church song"
Geeraarsa "Hunting, war"
Wiri'o, Were'o "Hunting, war"
K'eet'ala "Boasting, threat"
Gelele "Farming work"
Weello "Pounding work"
Meella "Pounding work"
Dookko "Women's work"

Neighbouring Peoples

Silt'e "Silti"
Sidaama "Sidamo"
K'awwe "Amhara"
Burji "Burji"

Borano "Borana"

Alaba "Alaaba"

Arose "Arsi"

Koyira "Kwera"

Wolayta "Wolayta"

Janjamo "Jemjem"

Garre "Garra"

Guraage "Gurage"