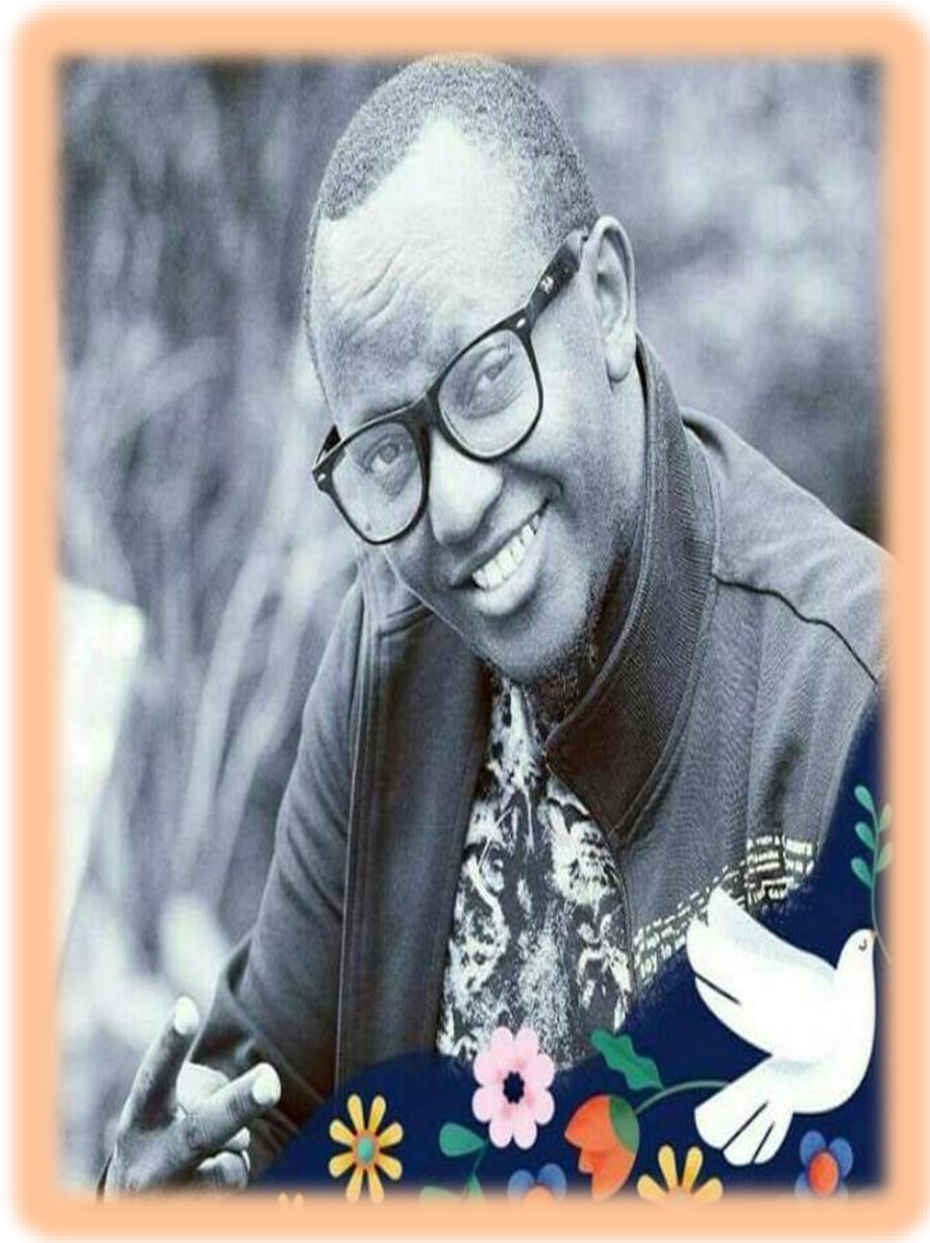


A COLLECTION OF 100 LOPIT (SOUTH SUDAN) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS



By

BENON BENJAMIN CHELO
African Proverbs Working Group
Nairobi, Kenya
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I also appreciate the support of the African Working Group in Nairobi who reviewed the progress of this work during the meetings.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to:

My late adopted father, Dr. Calvin Chelo Katarwa who was one of the pioneer members of the African Proverbs Working Group (Nairobi, Kenya)

My instructor and mentor, Nicholas Kathari of Ernst & Young who always believed in my hard work and encourages me to work even harder.

AND

To ALL the readers of African literature.

INTRODUCTION

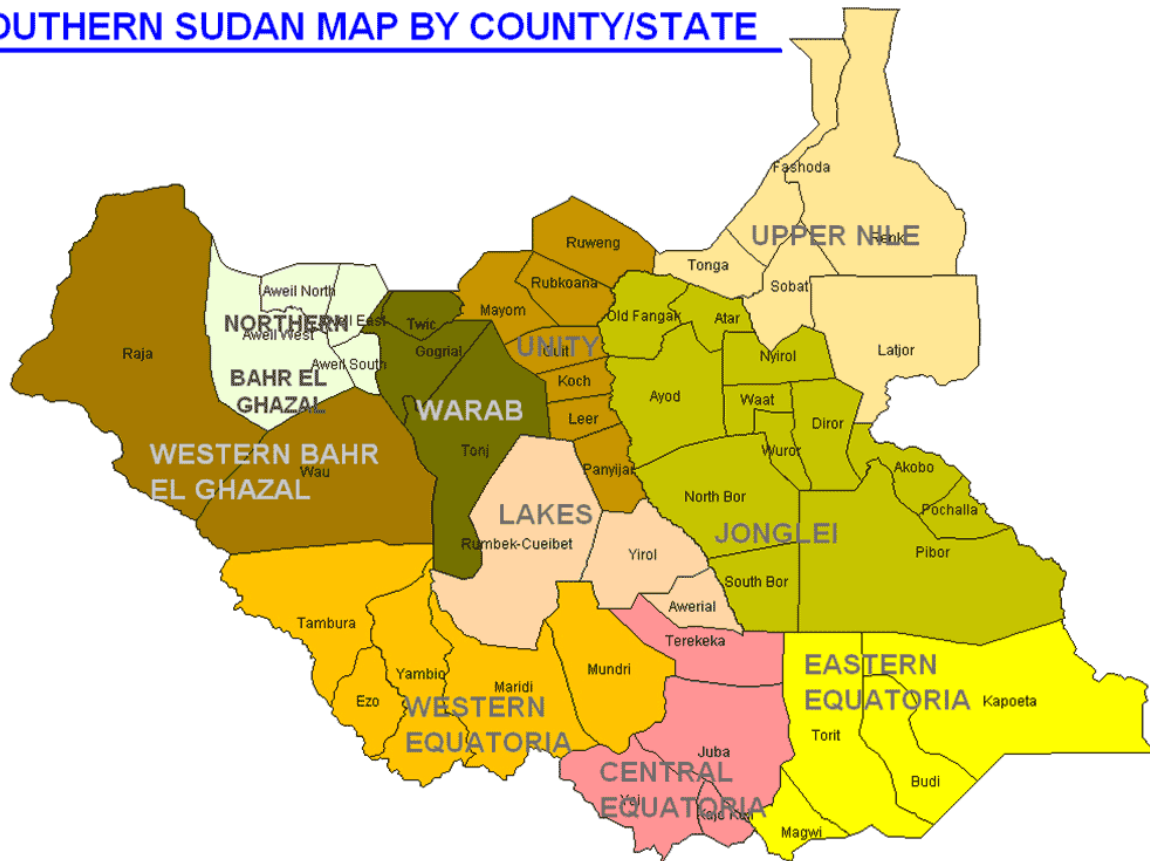
Location

The **Lopit** people are an ethnic group found in Eastern Equatoria State of South Sudan. They also occupy the Lafon county and north end of the Lopit Hills. The language they speak is called **Lopit**, which is alternatively referred to as Lafiit, Lafit, Lafite, Lofit, Lopid and Loppit. This language has several dialects, namely *Lolongo*, *Logonowati*, *Mura*, and *Iboni*.

It has a lexical similarity of 63% with the Otuha. Traditionally, the Lopit refer to themselves as *donge* (plural) or *dongioni* (singular). The Lopit language, has six different dialects: Ngabori, Dorik, Ngotira, Omiaha, Lohutok, and Lolongo.

The Lopit number 160,000 to 200,000 people living in the Lopit Mountains which extends from the east to the north of Torit. The estimated population of South Sudan is 12,733, 427. This means that the Lopit are 1.6% of the population of South Sudan. The Lopit area borders Pari to the north, Bari to north-west, Lokoya and Otuho to the west, Otuho and Dongotono to the south, and Toposa and Boya to the east. Imehejek is the headquarters of Lopa County and is located in the Lopit area.

SOUTHERN SUDAN MAP BY COUNTY/STATE





The Ethnographic Location of the Lopit in South Sudan

There are six payams (administrative areas) in the Lopit area: Imehejek (eastern / centre), Lohutok and Hejuhiteng (south), Harihilo (north), Longiro and Bule (western / centre).

Myth of Origin

Very little is known about the origin of the Lopit apart from the widely held view that they came along with the waves of groups migrating from Lake Turkana. The Lopit are said to have broken away from the Dongotono after a quarrel over gazelle soup. They have been marginalized and politically excluded by the Lotuka elite. There is a small community of Lopit in Kakuma refugee's camp in Northern Kenya.

It is also believed that the Lopit came to Southern Sudan from East Africa, probably late migrants from Lake Turkana.

Culture and Social Structures

The Lopit are proud of their culture and this affects their attitudes and social life. They practice initiation ceremonies: a naming ceremony for a baby, and a second one as a young adult. Marriage begins with courtship and then the girl elopes with her boyfriend; when they return home the dowry is settled and she goes to her new home. The transfer of power to the younger age-set happens every 25 years in a ceremony called hifira. The village administration and authority over community affairs is handed to the next generation.

Their cultural norms are transmitted through songs, poems, dramas and music that express their feelings and emotions. The grand-mother imparts cultural knowledge through folktales and

games, although even the stories, proverbs, myths and words of wisdom which the adults give the children is dying out, especially in urban areas and due to the increase in formal education.

Ruling Age Set

The *monyomiji* are the authorities and representatives of each village, and the most powerful people in the village. They make the important decisions about war, festivals, cultivation, and initiations. They are respected and obeyed, but are obliged to serve the community and previous generation of *monyomiji*. If they are seen to be making bad decisions or not following the rules, then this older generation may suspend them. A great ceremony is held when the new generation takes over from the previous ruling age set. This transfer of power happens at regular intervals, ranging from 12–22 years depending on the location, unless there are exceptional circumstances. When this happens, they are sometimes sent away from the village and expected to return with a valuable item to express their apology.

In central and Northern Lopit (Ngotira, Dorik, Ngabori, Tennet), a new set of *monyomiji* is initiated every 12 years. There are two names which are alternatively used for this group: *ngalam* and *lefirat*. In Southern Lopit, (Lomiaha, Lohutok, Lolongo, and 1 village from Ngotira), a new set of *monyomiji* is initiated every 22 years. The same name is used for each new set: *hifira*.

Girlhood

From the age of 10–11, young girls begin preparing for initiation into girlhood. They begin to form associations amongst themselves, numbering from 3 up to 10–15. The groups of girls need to find a sleeping space to share in the house of an older woman. This older woman may be one of the girls' grandmothers, or a woman that is approached by a pair from the group who seek permission to stay in her house. This time is for the girls to gain experience and knowledge of their expected duties as adolescent girls (*hodwo*). Each day they get up early (around 4am) to start grinding sorghum and other grains for their families. The old woman becomes a mentor to the girls, sharing advice with them in the mornings, as well as stories at night. The formal initiation into adolescence takes place around the age of 14. An individual girl might be selected by the *monyomiji* for initiation, or a whole group might be initiated at the same time as the initiation of the new ruling age set.

They are expected to be present during age set dances because being absent for this occasion is severely punished. Clearing sticks and weeds from the age set farm, providing water to those who work the farm. Preparing peanut butter in a calabash for the Ikanga festival, as well as an edible oil made from a native fruit. They run errands for the *monyomiji* together with the young boys, such as collecting bamboo from the mountain, particularly in Lomiaha.

Girls usually remain adolescents until they are married and have children. At this stage, they are considered to be mature women. Unmarried women may choose to join this group, or remain in

their previous stage for two more years. It takes a period of 30 years before they are initiated to the next age set.



A traditional Lopit woman after initiation

Music and Dance

Music and dancing are central to Lopit culture. There are different dances for different occasions. Each dance has specific costumes, music, at time allocations associated with it. Drums are an important part of the dances. Some main dances are:

Bura - When someone passes away, the dancing happens for 24 hours, beginning with the women.

Ikanga - A dance performed at the end of the harvest.

Rongit - A celebratory dance performed on different occasions, by the ruling age set and the upcoming ruling age set. This is also part of a training process for the upcoming group.

Hitobok - Performed when preparing for a war or fighting.

The Miliang and Hatar dances.

Lam - Performed once a year around May, after a hunt that begins at night-time and ends the next morning. The hunt itself is a race between individual hunters, all of the kill is presented to the king.

Liang - this is an afternoon dance between noon–1:00 pm before evening section dance. It varies between old and young deceased persons. For example, when a young person 20–30-years-old dies, people went hunting far from the village between 3–4:00 am and returned home 12 noon before Liang in mourning of the late person. Many things, e.g. animal meat, will be given to the home of the late to support the family and the visitors as well as a respect.

Lotuhe - this is a dance performed only for an older person 50 and older and it takes place a night before (Bura) normally about 6 pm – 12 am depending on the season or the conditions of that certain villages. E.g. enough food, everyone is happy and any major sicknesses.



Lopit community dancers

These drums produce unique treble and bass tones when played. Their dances play a significant role in rites of passage; harvest, weddings, birth, funerals including prayers for rains mostly in honour of ancestors. Each dance has its own song with specific meaning. During community socialization, the Lopit have annual wrestling events which are very interesting. After a long struggle one of the contestants gallantly emerges the strongest conqueror of all the wrestling matches and is declared winner.

Examples of Lopit Proverbs

1. Ohut deroo fau alara dari

Swahili: Panya huchimba shimo ili kujificha

French: Le rat a creusé le sol comme cachette

English: The rat dug the ground as a hiding place

Proverbs Teaching: It means when your enemies become many, look for any alternatives to avoid them

2. Irwatta ifel ha halu

Kiswahili: Kimbia ukijua ni nani anayekukimbiza kutoka nyuma

French: Courez comme vous le savez qui vous poursuit

English: Run as you know who is chasing you, from behind

Proverbs Teaching: It is always good to know the source of your problems before looking for solutions

Economy

The Lopit live in a hilly and fertile environment and are agro-pastoralists, practicing traditional agriculture as well as livestock rearing. These socio-economic occupations are carried out both on the mountain slopes and in the plains. The main crops are sorghum, bulrush, millet, pumpkin, ground nuts, simsim, okra, syam, cassava, sweet potato, maize and mango. They also harvest forest products, bamboo roots, coconuts, honey, shea nuts (pressed to make oil), figs, and many other sorts.

Like other groups in the area, practice extensive hunting during the dry season, after the harvest (January – April) has ended. This time is for group hunting, when groups of up to 2,000 men team up to hunt game. Neighboring villages team up to hunt in the land of the village that has called for the hunt. The call is put out four weeks in advance.

Religion

They believe in a supreme god, spirits and the spiritual sphere. Worship celebrations are accompanied by dancing and drinking, and alcoholism is a problem amongst them. The rain-maker and other mediums hold great power, and gifts are given to seek their favor for rain and other good things to happen to them.

Political Structure

They have been marginalized and politically excluded by the Lotuka elite. There is a small community of Lopit in Kakuma refugee's camp in Northern Kenya

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A Collection of 100 Lopit (South Sudan) Proverbs and Wise Sayings

1. Lopit: Haipalitak lohorik inyia leten <i>English: Two wrongs don't make a right.</i>	<i>1</i>
2. Lopit: moitemoite teriek heju nelelibo ahosiene <i>English: Always put your best foot forward.....</i>	<i>1</i>
3. Lopit: Odulei hainyagani hiten. <i>English: A customer is always right.....</i>	<i>1</i>
4. Lopit: Inya haji larahan. <i>English: A house is not a home.....</i>	<i>1</i>
5. Lopit: Eijofak homwonj rori ilulun. <i>English: A picture is worth a thousand words.....</i>	<i>1</i>
6. Lopit: Hitiranj nele libo eijerei ade rija. <i>English: A soft answer turneth away wrath.....</i>	<i>1</i>
7. Lopit: sohul nehite nojorwo inya lotuho. <i>English: A woman's work is never done.....</i>	<i>2</i>
8. Lopit: Orukritei no kwaitetaji. <i>English: Absence make the heart grow fonder.....</i>	<i>2</i>
9. Lopit: Oru lira iwahatari <i>English: Actions speak louder than words.....</i>	<i>2</i>
10. Lopit: Eiya rori enele libo. <i>English: All good things must come to an end.....</i>	<i>2</i>
11. Lopit: Ikotindukeidihori a Roma.	

English: All road lead to Rome	2
12. Lopit: eiya rori bi dan ofwo ade.	
English: All things must pass	3
13. Lopit: eiya iniliwak iyye ara munei.	
English: All you need is love	3
14. Lopit: iyya liromo iyye eu iso iyye habalu.	
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15. Lopit: Sayee no loru ere kwakwak.	
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16. Lopit: Inyia hamojok lenyimu bi.	
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17. Lopit: Elibo hawonj tahalu inyia leiri hahaireik.	
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18. Lopit: Ohonya hami lehitok ileitinj.	
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19. Lopit: cien eneleciela iwa ewarita anaboite	
English: Birds of a feather flock together	4
19. Lopit: Ara hodoti hadulei hodoti.	
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20. Lopit: Talerok inya lotulu.	
English: Cheats never prosper	4
21. Lopit: ure ojo hadaak hitimo eilimu rori dede.	
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22. Lopit: Ottu hiyom lakin loboite tehiņa	
English: Christmas comes but once a year	5
23. Lopit: Owuonliboitanjati ho Hollum	
English: Cleanliness is next to godliness	5
24. Lopit: Ihena ijahita inohoi.	
English: Count your blessings.	5
25. Lopit: ijema iyya lajo nanj lakin inya iyya laicem nanj.	
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26. Lopit: tohonyu njiria niliheder nyahal	
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27. Lopit: Idek haihon hana neleitamu iyye.	
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28. Lopit: idek haihena ikiyehi elenyia lobwala	
English: Don't count your chickens before they hatch	6
29. Lopit: Idek hailinj kuburi lahade ittu ade	
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30. Lopit: Idek hailiha cianj nelenyia iyye liheder hatohoi	

English: Don't hunt for what you cannot kill.....	6
31. Lopit: Idekhaiŋotbuk to horiontonohonyie	
English: Don't judge a book by its cover.....	6
32. Lopit: Idekhaifiyakhatel do gufanaboite	
English: Don't put all your eggs in one basket.....	7
33. Lopit: Idekhaiduoklekilekneleinejuk de kijajaneleimarwak	
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34. Lopit: Idekhaiŋortohoni la sayee	
English: Don't shoot the messenger.....	7
35. Lopit: Cienŋi lohosire einefu daha	
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36. Lopit: Efelita fok	
English: The world is moving up and down.....	7
37. Lopit: Aŋaremik halas	
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38. Lopit: Eiyaiŋoueieita ha far nohonyie	
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39. Lopit: eiya hita eyeita ikari arik	
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40. Lopit: Ojule ihiruk doje	
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41. Lopit: Iriboi hima te hima	
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42. Lopit: Iriboi hiribo nele libo	
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44. Lopit: Inno lahade ailoma	
English: Go the extra mile.....	9
45. Lopit: Olwak Hollum huwo ilololwak kwaite	
English: God help those who help themselves.....	9
46. Lopit: Afanurorienelelibo do huwoeleletila	
English: Good things come to those who wait.....	10
47. Lopit: Efidulerieja bi.	
English: Hard work pays.....	10
48. Lopit: einyak hiyabita kwaite	
English: History repeats itself.....	10
49. Lopit: Hailimak rori inalara dede lara imanyit.	
English: Honesty is the best policy.....	10
50. Lopit: Inyia ruha kwakwak leyeita jaha	

<i>English: Hurry hurry has no blessing</i>	10
51. Lopit: leitimok lohuluk icefok	
<i>English: If the cap fits wear it</i>	11
52. Lopit: Lidimak iyye ofwo hafanu	
<i>English: If you build it they will come</i>	11
53. Lopit: ofwo enyia hijo	
<i>English: It goes without saying</i>	11
54. Lopit: Inyalasalakinoduhuni bi	
<i>English: It never rain but, it pour</i>	11
55. Lopit: Elibo haisiere inya leiri haha moju	
<i>English: It's better to give than to receive</i>	11
56. Lopit: Ara haidoloni inya lara fure	
<i>English: It's is a singer not a song</i>	12
57. Lopit: elibo liwon dakal nele libo	
<i>English: It's better to be on the safe side</i>	12
58. Lopit: Iyari lohoho einefu lohoho	
<i>English: It takes a thief to catch a thief</i>	12
59. Lopit: itahutumorot hoi aṇati ojo merok aṇati binno	
<i>English: Keep your friends close and your enemies closer</i>	12
60. Lopit: ceita lara dowa nele libo	
<i>English: Laughter is the best medicine</i>	12
61. Lopit: Itifela moru duuk	
<i>English: Leave no stone unturned</i>	13
62. Lopit: idek inṇou lelejieto hetejiatoi	
<i>English: Let sleeping dog lie</i>	13
63. Lopit: isiere hainyanani heteyien	
<i>English: Let the buyer beware</i>	13
64. Lopit: idek hayok hotonuhei hayok	
<i>English: Let the dead bury the dead</i>	13
65. Lopit: tamanyai wo itiyenu	
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66. Lopit: Manya ara nyo lijiem iyye	
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68. Lopit: Oṇodomunei bi	
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69. Lopit: oruma iso munei ikoi	
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70. Lopit: Has inololuṇa eisiere hiro heijemei	

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72. Lopit: Idek hailita do rori sabak ijemei ijem nohoi	
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English: Misery loves company	15
74. Lopit: Aragurusikoi ne sitana	
English: Money is the root of all evil	15
75. Lopit: Inya gurus lara rori duuk	
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76. Lopit: Bor tolwak hasak	
English: My hands are tied (depending on the situations)	16
77. Lopit: idek hau alejietori ainaa lijoria	
English: Never go to bed on an argument	16
78. Lopit: Idek hairiņa hisorita sigira do hutuk	
English: Never look a gift horse in the mouth	16
79. Lopit: Inyia tihoni lara lowuar ibak	
English: No man is an island	17
80. Lopit: Lenyia diahai inya harumek	
English: No pain, No gain	17
81. Lopit: Ilata he hifioninyaleidia	
English: Oil and water don't mix	17
82. Lopit: eila hana naboite mote	
English: One hand washes the other	17
83. Lopit: limanya damai nelelibo idek haibiro moru	
English: People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones	17
84. Lopit: Hitiena lolwak binno	
English: Practice make perfect	18
85. Lopit: Inyia haji leidimahini tafar tana boite	
English: Rome wasn't built in a day	18
86. Lopit: Ara hiruk wolo.	
English: Seeing is believing	18
87. Lopit: Tejiņak olonok nyahuto	
English: Strike while the iron is hot	18
88. Lopit: owuongura da barahebeg	
English: The cat is out of the bag	18
89. Lopit: Odulei tim nyoriji dakal loboite hamariņ	
English: The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence	19
90. Lopit: Inyia ne hiduoduo hile itikh iteng talamatari he hifioņ	

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91. Lopit: Oborogalamte he fire	
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92. Lopit: Inyia nabo maiiyya hang.	
<i>English: There is no place like home</i>	20
93. Lopit: Inya hinak hiro iyya njiria na sahit	
<i>English: There is no such things as a free lunch</i>	20
94. Lopit: Inya nabo saman efeiya aina	
<i>English: There is no time like the present</i>	20
95. Lopit: inya furio lofuri lenyia hima	
<i>English: There's no smoke without fire</i>	20
96. Lopit: Saalara gurus	
<i>English: Time is money</i>	21
97. Lopit: inya moite lotu	
<i>English: Tomorrow never comes</i>	21
98. Lopit: Haifok inoloja eikarabai jiati	
<i>English: Too many cook spoil the broth</i>	21
99. Lopit: Agal hosi arik naboite	
<i>English: Two heads are better than one</i>	22
100. Lopit: Mai nelerou owuon ikoi	
<i>English: Where there is a will there's a way</i>	22

A COLLECTION OF 100 LOPIT PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

1. Lopit: Haipalitik lohorik inyia leten.

Kiswahili: Hitilafu mbili hazifanye haki.

French: Deux faux ne font pas correct (bien).

English: Two wrongs don't make a right.

Teaching: When one mistake is done, it cannot be corrected by another similar mistake.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Thessa 5: 15 *"See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."*

2. Lopit: moitemoite teriek heju nelelibo ahosiere.

Kiswahili: Daima kuweka mguu wako bora mbele.

French: toujours maître son meilleur pied en avant.

English: Always put your best foot forward.

Teaching: It is important to be sure of what you want to do.

Biblical Parallel: Psalm 119: 105 *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*

3. Lopit: Odulei hainyanani hiten.

Kiswahili: Mteja daima ni sahihi.

French: le client a toujours raison.

English: A customer is always right.

Teaching: This implies that when one is doing business, it is always good to have the interest of the buyer at heart.

Biblical Parallel: Mark 12:17 *"And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marveled at him."*

4. Lopit: Inya haji larahan.

Kiswahili: Nyumba si nyumbani.

French: une maison n'est pas necessairement un foyer.

English: A house is not a home.

Teaching: This simply means that there are certain things in this life that can be compared to others but they always have distinct differences.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 19:14 *"House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD."*

5. Lopit: Einofak homwon rori ilulun.

Kiswahili: Picha inathamani ya maneno elfu.

French: Une image vaut mille mots.

English: A picture is worth a thousand words.

Teaching: It is always advisable to look deep into the importance of something

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 25:11 *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”*

6. Lopit: Hitiraŋi nele libo ejerei ade rija

Kiswahili: Jibu laini huzi maghadhabu.

French: Une réponse douce détourne la colère.

English: A soft answer turneth away wrath.

Teaching: It is always good to be peaceful at all times.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 15:1 *“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”*

7. Lopit: sohul nehite nonjorwo inya lotuho.

Kiswahili: Kazi ya mwanamke haiwezi kumalizika.

French: Le travail d’une femme n’est jamais fait.

English: A woman’s work is never done.

Teaching: Women are very hardworking and we should appreciate their work.

Biblical Parallel: Ezekiel 16:30 *“How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman”*

8. Lopit: Orukritei no kwaitetaji.

Kiswahili: Kutokuwepo hufanya moyo uweze kukua.

French: L’absence agrandit le cœur.

English: Absence make the heart grow fonder.

Teaching: When we miss people we think about them more.

Biblical Parallel: Hebrew 10: 24 *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

9. Lopit: Oru lira iwahatari.

Kiswahili: Hatua zinazungumza kwa sauti Zaidi kuliko maneno.

French: Les actions parlent plus fort que les mots.

English: Actions speak louder than words.

Teaching: It is good to mean things that we say through our actions.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Samuel 2:3 *“For the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.”*

10. Lopit: Eiya rori enele libo

Kiswahili: Mambo yote mema yanapaswa kufikia mwisho.

French: Toutes bonnes choses à sa fin.

English: All good things must come to an end.

Teaching: Everything has a beginning and an end.

Biblical Parallel: Peter 4:7 *“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”*

11. Lopit: Ikotinduukeidihori a Roma.

Kiswahili: Barabara zote zinaelekea Roma

French: Tout chemin mène à Rome.

English: All road lead to Rome

Teaching: There are certain things that are obvious in life because of their expected outcomes.

Biblical Parallel: 2 Timothy 3: 16 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

12. Lopit: eiya rori bi dan ofwo ade.

Kiswahili: Vitu vyote vinapaswa kupita.

French: Toutes choses doivent passer.

English: All things must pass.

Teaching: Everything has an end.

Biblical Parallel: Mat. 24:6 *“For all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”*

13. Lopit: eiya iniliwak iyye ara munei.

Kiswahili: Wote unahitaji ni upendo.

French: Tout ce dont vous avez besoin c’est l’amour.

English: All you need is love.

Teaching: Love is the answer to all the problems in this world.

Biblical Parallel: Mat. 22:32 *“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”*

14. Lopit: iyya liromo iyye eu iso iyye habalu.

Kiswahili: Jinsi unavyopanda ndivyo utakavyovuna.

French: Comme vous semez ainsi vous récolterez.

English: As you sow so shall you reap.

Teaching: The outcomes of your actions will correspond to the decisions you make.

Biblical Parallel: Gal. 6:7 *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”*

15. Lopit: Sayee no loru ere kwakwak.

Kiswahili: Habari mbaya husafiri haraka.

French: Les mauvaises nouvelles voyagent rapidement.

English: Bad news travel fast.

Teaching: People like giving much attention to bad things.

Biblical Parallel: Psalms 112: 6-7 *“For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.”*

16. Lopit: Inyia hamojok lenyimu bi.

Kiswahili: Waombaji hawawezi kuwa wachanguaji.

English: Beggars can't be choosers.

French: Les mendiants n'ont pas de choix.

Teaching: The less fortunate often have no choice.

Biblical Parallel: Thessa. 3:10 *“If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.”*

17. Lopit: Elibo hawoj tahalu inyia leiri hahaireik.

Kiswahili: Bora kucheleva kuliko kamwe.

French: Mieux vaut tard que jamais.

English: Better late than never.

Teaching: It is better to take an action nonetheless.

Biblical Parallel: Eccl. 5: 5 *“Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.”*

18. Lopit: Ohonya hami lehitok ileitiņ.

Kiswahili: Samaki wakubwa huwala samaki wadogo.

French: Le gros poisson mange des petits poissons.

English: Big fish eat little fish.

Teaching: Young ones are often disadvantaged and need protection.

Biblical Parallel: John 12: 24 *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”*

19. Lopit: cien eneleciela iwa ewarita anaboite.

Kiswahili: Ndege wamanyoya huwa pamoja.

French: Les oiseaux de même plumage volent ensemble.

English: Birds of a feather flock together.

Teaching: People of similar characters can always be identified.

Biblical Parallel: 2 Cor 6: 14 *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.”*

19. Lopit: Ara hodoti hadulei hodoti.

Kiswahili: Wavulana watakuwa wavulana.

French: Les garçons seront des garçons.

English: Boys will be boys.

Teaching: Certain things never change in life.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Thessa. 4: 13 *“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”*

20. Lopit: Talerok inya lotulu.

Kiswahili: Waongo kamwe hawafanikiwi.

French: Les tricheurs ne connaissent pas de prospérité.

English: Cheats never prosper.

Teaching: Wrong this can never bear positive fruits.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 11: 1 *“A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.”*

21. Lopit: ure ojo hadaak hitimo eilimu rori dede.

Kiswahili: Watoto na wapumbavu wanasema ukweli.

French: les enfants et les imbéciles disent la vérité.

English: Children and fools tell the truth.

Teaching: Those who are innocent always say the truth

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 12: 17 *“He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.”*

22. Lopit: Ottu hiyom lakin loboite tehiya.

Kiswahili: Krismasi inakuja mara moja kwa mwaka.

French: Noël vient, mais une fois par an.

English: Christmas comes but once a year.

Teaching: certain things are rare.

Biblical Parallel: John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son”*

23. Lopit: Owuonliboitajati ho Hollum.

Kiswahili: Usafi ni karibu na utauwa.

French: La propreté est voisine à la sainteté.

English: Cleanliness is next to godliness.

Teaching: God is pure

Biblical Parallel: Levi. 15: 1-2: 1 *“And the LORD spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When any man hath a running issue out of his flesh, because of his issue he is unclean.”* Or

Psalms 51: 7 *purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

24. Lopit: Ihena ijahita inohoi.

Kiswahili: Hesabu Baraka zako.

French: Compte tes bénédictions.

English: Count your blessings.

Teaching: Always be appreciative in life.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 28:20 *“A faithful man shall abound with blessings.”*

25. Lopit: ijema iyya lajo naŋ lakin inya iyya laicem naŋ.

Kiswahili: Fanya jinsi ninavyosema sio jinsi ninavyofanya.

French: Faites ce que je dis, non ce que je fais.

English: Do as I say, not as I do.

Teaching: Learn from others, but make decisions through your personal experiences in life.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 24: 29 *“Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.”*

26. Lopit: tohonyu ŋiria niliheder nyahal.

Kiswahili: Usiume Zaidi kuliko unaweza kutafuna.

French: Ne mordez pas plus que vous pouvez mâcher.

English: Don't bite off more than you can chew.

Teaching: Do not be greedy

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 25: 19 *“Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.”*

27. Lopit: Idek haihon hana neleitamu iyye.

Kiswahili: Usiume mkono unaokulisha wewe.

French: Ne mords pas la main qui te nourrit.

English: Don't bite the hand that feeds you.

Teaching: Be thankful to those that help you.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Thessa. 2:13 *“Indeed, that is why we also thank God unceasingly”*

28. Lopit: idek haihena ikiyehi elenyia lobwala.

Kiswahili: Usizihesabu kuku zakokablahawajatagwa.

French: Ne comptez pas vos poules avant qu'elles éclosent

English: Don't count your chickens before they hatch

Teaching: Be patient in life and do not be over ambitious.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Kings 20: 11 *“And the king of Israel answered and said, Tell him, Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.”*

29. Lopit: Idek hailiŋ kuburi lahade ittu ade.

Kiswahili: Usiingie daraja mpaka ufikie.

French: Ne franchissez pas le pont jusqu'à ce que vous veniez à elle.

English: Don't cross the bridge until you come to it.

Teaching: Learn to be patient in life.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Timothy 2: 5 *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”*

30. Lopit: Idek hailiha cian nelenyia iyye liheder hatohoi.

Kiswahili: Usiwinde kile ambacho huwezi kuua.

French: Ne chassez pas ce que vous ne pouvez pas tuer.

English: Don't hunt for what you cannot kill.

Teaching: Be careful of the decisions you make in life.

Biblical Parallel: Levi. 17: 1 *“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto Aaron, and unto his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them; This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, saying, 3 What man soever there be of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth it out of the camp”*

31. Lopit: Idekhaijotbuk to horiontonohonyie.

Kiswahili: Usihukumu kitabu kwa kifuniko chake.

French: Ne jugez pas le livre par sa couverture.

English: Don't judge a book by its cover.

Teaching: Do not underestimate anything or anyone.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Corth. 4: 5 *“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come”*

32. Lopit: Idekhaifiyakhatel do gufanaboite.

Kiswahili: Usiweke mayai yako yote katika kikapu kimoja.

French: 32. Ne mettez pas tous vos oeufs dans un seul panier.

English: Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Teaching: Always be prudent when making decisions.

Biblical Parallel: Eccl. 11: 1 *“Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.”*

33. Lopit: Idekhaiduoklekilekneleijejuk de kijajaneleimarwak.

Kiswahili: Usiweke divai mpya ndani ya chupa za zamani.

French: Ne mettez pas du vin neuf dans une Vielle bouteille.

English: Don't put new wine into the old bottles.

Teaching: Do not dwell on the past and focus on new things alone.

Biblical Parallel: Mark 2: 22 *“And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred.”*

34. Lopit: Idekhaijortohoni la sayee.

Kiswahili: Usimuue mjumbe.

French: Ne tirez pas sur le messenger.

English: Don't shoot the messenger.

Teaching: Analyze the message first before judging the person conveying the message.

Biblical Parallel: Luke 4:24 *“Then He added, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown.”*

35. Lopit: Cienji lohosire einefu daha.

Kiswahili: Ndege wa mapema hushika mdudu.

French: Les premiers oiseaux attrapent le ver.

English: Early birds catch the worm.

Teaching: Those who are committed in doing something always get positive results.

Biblical Parallel: Psalms 119: 148 *“My eyes are awake before the watches of the night that I may meditate on your promise.”*

36. Lopit: Efelita fok.

Kiswahili: Dunia inakwenda juu na chini.

French: Le monde (la vie) monte et descend.

English: The world is moving up and down.....

Teaching: Things always change.

Biblical Parallel: Jeremiah 29: 11 *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

37. Lopit: Anjaremik halas.

Kiswahili: Imetosha.

French: Assez est assez.

English: Enough is enough.

Teaching: There is an end to everything.

Biblical Parallel: Deut. 1: 6 *“The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount.”*

38. Lopit: Eiyainjoueyeita ha far nohonyie.

Kiswahili: Kila mbwa ina siku yake.

French: Chaque chien de son propre jour.

English: Every dog has its own day.

Teaching: Everyone gets to have their turn to experience something in this life.

Biblical Parallel: Psalms 17: 14 *“From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.”*

39. Lopit: eiya hita eyeita ikari arik.

Kiswahili: Kila kijiti kina upande mbili.

French: Chaque bâton a deux extrémités.

English: Every stick has two end.

Teaching: Everything that has a beginning has an end.

Biblical Parallel: Ezekiel 37: 17 *“And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.”*

40. Lopit: Ojule ihiruk done.

Kiswahili: Imani itasongesha milima.

French: La foi déplacera la montagne.

English: Faith will move mountains.

Teaching: There is power in believing.

Biblical Parallel: Mark 11: 22 *“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.”*

41. Lopit: Iriboi hima te hima.

Kiswahili: Kupambana na moto tumia moto.

French: On combat le feu par le feu.

English: Fight fire with fire.

Teaching: Always be prepared to face your battles wisely.

Biblical Parallel: Romans 12: 20 *“But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”*

42. Lopit: Iriboi hiribo nele libo.

Kiswahili: Kupambana na kupambana vizuri.

French: Livrez un combat.

English: Fight the good fight.

Teaching: Be prepared to take on a challenge effectively.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Tim. 6:11-12 11 *“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”*

43. Lopit: Imalisak wo toguei.

Kiswahili: Samehe na Sahau.

French: Pardonnez et oubliez.

English: Forgive and forget.

Teaching: Make decisions with no regret.

Biblical Parallel: Matt. 6: 14 *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”*

44. Lopit: Inno lahade ailoma.

Kiswahili: Nenda maili ya Zaidi.

French: Aller le mile supplémentaire.

English: Go the extra mile.

Teaching: Always strive to do more than expected.

Biblical Parallel: Matt. 5: 41 *“And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain: If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.”*

45. Lopit: Olwak Hollum huwo ilololwak kwaite.

Kiswahili: Mungu huwasaidia wale wanaojisaidia wenyewe.

French: Dieu aide ceux qui s'aident eux-mêmes.

English: God help those who help themselves.

Teaching: We can never escape our responsibilities in life.

Biblical Parallel: Isaiah 50: 7 *“For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.”*

46. Lopit: Afanurorienelelibo do huwoeleletila.

Kiswahili: Mambo mazuri huja kwa wale ambao wanasubiri.

French: Les bonnes choses viennent à ceux qui attendent.

English: Good things come to those who wait.

Teaching: Patience has positive outcomes.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 28: 26 *“He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.”*

47. Lopit: Efidulerieja bi.

Kiswahili: Kazi ya bidii huwa na malipo.

French: Le travail dur paie.

English: Hard work pays.

Teaching: Working hard is important.

Biblical Parallel: Col. 3: 23 *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters”*

48. Lopit: einyak hiyabita kwaite.

Kiswahili: Historia hujirudia.

French: L’histoire se répète.

English: History repeats itself.

Teaching: There is nothing new in this world.

Biblical Parallel: Eccl. 1: 9 *“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.”*

49. Lopit: Hailimak rori inalara dede lara imanyit.

Kiswahili: Uaminifu ni sera bora.

French: L'honnêteté est la meilleure stratégie.

English: Honesty is the best policy.

Teaching: It is good to be honest.

Biblical Parallel: 2 Corith. 8: 21 *“Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.”*

50. Lopit: Inyia ruha kwakwak leyeita jaha.

Kiswahili: Haraka haraka haina baraka.

French: Pressé pressén'a pas de benediction.

English: Hurry hurry has no blessing.

Teaching: Always be patient.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 1: 8 *“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”*

51. Lopit: leitimok lohuluk icefok.

Kiswahili: Ikiwa kofia kinakutoshea, kivae.

French: Si la casquette vous convienne, portez-la.

English: If the cap fits wear it.

Teaching: appreciate what suits you.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”*

52. Lopit: Lidimak iywe ofwo hafanu.

Kiswahili: Ikiwa utaijenga watakuja.

French: Si vous le construisez, ils viendront.

English: If you build it they will come.

Teaching: Just start something patiently and when it is successful, people will always join you.

Biblical Parallel: Psalm 37:7 Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act.

53. Lopit: ofwo enyia hijo.

Kiswahili: Inakwenda bila kusema.

French: s’enaie sans dire.

English: It goes without saying.

Teaching: Some things are just obvious.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew 7:7 *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you.”*

54. Lopit: Inyalasalakinoduhuni bi.

Kiswahili: Haijawahi kunnyesha lakini, inamimina.

French: Il ne pleut jamais, mais il verse.

English: It never rain but, it pour.

Teaching: Sometimes the unexpected happens.

Biblical Parallel: Psalms 72: 6 *“He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.”*

55. Lopit: Elibo haisiere inya leiri haha moju.

Kiswahili: Ni bora kutoa kuliko kupokea.

French: Il est mieux de donner que de recevoir.

English: It's better to give than to receive.

Teaching: Those who are generous always get favored.

Biblical Parallel: Acts 20: 35 *“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

56. Lopit: Ara haidoloni inya lara fure.

Kiswahili: Ni mwimbaji si wimbo.

French: C'est le chanteur pas la chanson.

English: It's is a singer not a song.

Teaching: Always know the difference between two distinct things.

Biblical Parallel: 2 Cor. 11:13-15 *“Paul warned that just as Satan disguises himself as an angel of light, even so his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.”*

57. Lopit: elibo liwon dakal nele libo.

Kiswahili: Ni bora kuwa upande wa usalama.

French: Il vaut mieux être du bon côté.

English: It's better to be on the safe side.

Teaching: Always make the right decisions.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 22: 1 *“If you have to choose between a good reputation and great wealth, choose a good reputation. 2 The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord made them both.”*

58. Lopit: Iyari lohoho einefu lohoho.

Kiswahili: Inachukua mwizi kukamata mwizi mwenzake.

French: Il faut un voleur pour attraper un voleur

English: It takes a thief to catch a thief.

Teaching: There is always a solution to every problem.

Biblical Parallel: Judges 16:15-16 *“Then she said to him, ‘How can you say, ‘I love you’? You won't even share your secret with me. This is the third time you have made me look foolish. And you still haven't told me the secret of why you are so strong.’ She continued to pester him day after day. She nagged him until he was sick and tired of it.”*

59. Lopit: itahutumorot hoi aṇati ojo merok aṇati binno.

Kiswahili: Weka rafiki yako karibu na adui zako karibu zaidi.

French: Gardez vos amis près et vos ennemis plus près.

English: Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

Teaching: Love your friends and forgive your enemies.

Biblical Parallel: Matthew. 6:15 *"But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins"*

60. Lopit: ceita lara dowa nele libo.

Kiswahili: Kicheko ni dawa bora.

French: Le rire est le meilleur remède.

English: Laughter is the best medicine.

Teaching: Always seek everything good that leads to happiness.

Biblical Parallel: Matt. 6:33 *"Seek first His kingdom and righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"*

61. Lopit: Itifela moru duuk.

Kiswahili: Usiache jiwe lolote bila kuigeuza.

French: Ne laissez aucune Pierre inverse.

English: Leave no stone unturned.

Teaching: When you do something, do it wholeheartedly.

Biblical Parallel: Matt.24: 2 *"And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down."*

62. Lopit: idek iṇou lelejieto hetejietoi.

Kiswahili: Mwache mbwa wa kulala alale.

French: Laisser un chien endormi se coucher.

English: Let sleeping dog lie.

Teaching: Do not provoke those who can harm you.

Biblical Parallel: Isaiah 56: 10 *"His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber."*

63. Lopit: isiere hainyaṇani heteyien.

Kiswahili: Hebu mnunuzi ajihadhari.

French: Laissez l'acheteur se méfier.

English: Let the buyer beware.

Teaching: Let us always be prudent.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 20: 14 *"It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth."*

64. Lopit: idek hayok hotonuhei hayok.

Kiswahili: Waache wafu wawazike wafu.

French : Laisser les morts enterer les morts.

English: Let the dead bury the dead.

Teaching: Do not involve yourself in everything.

Biblical Parallel: Matt. 8: 21 *“And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.”*

65. Lopit: tamanyai wo itiyenu.

Kiswahili: Ishi na ujifunze.

French: Vivre et apprendre.

English: Live and learn.

Teaching: Life is a learning process.

Biblical Parallel: Phil. 4: 9 *“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”*

66. Lopit: Manya ara nyo lijieem iyye.

Kiswahili: Uzima ni jinsi unavyoifanya kuwa.

French: Vivre c’est ce que vous faites de la vie.

English: Life is what you make it.

Teaching: We are responsible of our lives.

Biblical Parallel: Matt. 6: 34 *“Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”*

67. Lopit: Towolo elenyia iyye lilaŋ.

Kiswahili: Angalia kabla ya kuruka.

French: Regardez avant de sauter.

English: Look before you leap.

Teaching: Be careful before doing things.

Biblical Parallel: Matt. 10: 16 *“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”*

68. Lopit: Onodomunei bi.

Kiswahili: Mapenzi ni kipofu.

French: L’amour est aveugle.

English: Love is blind.

Teaching: There is no limit where true love is found.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Cor. 13: 4 *“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.”*

69. Lopit: oruma iso munei ikoi.

Kiswahili: Mapenzi itapata mwelekeo.

French: L'amour trouvera toujours un moyen.

English: Love will find away.

Teaching: Love can solve many problems in this world.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Cor. 13: 8 *"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."*

70. Lopit: Has inololuŋa eisiere hiro heijemei.

Kiswahili: Mikono mingi hufanya kazi kuwa rahisi.

French: Plusieurs mains rend le travail léger.

English: Many hands make light work.

Teaching: Unity can solve many problems and make it look very easy.

Biblical Parallel: Matt. 18: 20 *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*

71. Lopit: Tecem arik toŋut naboite.

Kiswahili: Pima mara mbili lakini kata mara moja.

French: Mesuredeux fois et coupe une fois.

English: Measure twice cut ones.

Teaching: It is important to be precise when doing things.

Biblical Parallel: Titus 3: 10 *"As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him"*

72. Lopit: Idek hailita do rori sabak ijemei ijem nohoi.

Kiswahili: Zingatia biashara yako mwenyewe.

French: Occupez-vous de vos affaires.

English: Mind your own business.

Teaching: We all have something to solve about our own lives.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Peter 4:15 *"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters."*

73. Lopit: Omuno haitabanak gula.

Kiswahili: Mateso yanapenda mwenzia.

French: La misère aime la compagnie.

English: Misery loves company.

Teaching: Bad always happen and often times repeatedly.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 15: 25 *“God smashes the pretensions of the arrogant; he stands with those who have no standing.”*

74. Lopit: Aragurusikoi ne sitana.

Kiswahili: Fedha ni chanzo cha maovu yote.

French: L'argent est la racine (la cause) de tous les maux.

English: Money is the root of all evil.

Teaching: There are good things about money, but it often negative influence on people.

Biblical Parallel: 1 Timothy 6: 10 *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*

75. Lopit: Inya gurus lara rori duuk.

Kiswahili: Fedha sio kila kitu.

French: L'argent n'est (ne determine) pas tout.

English: Money isn't everything.

Teaching: Money can solve many problems but not all the problems in the world.

Biblical Parallel: Eccl. 2: 10 *“Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor.”*

76. Lopit: Bor tolwak hasak.

Kiswahili: Mikono yangu yamefungwa.

French: Mes mains sont liées (dependamment des situations).

English: My hands are tied (depending on the situations).

Teaching: Everyone can be helpless at one point or another in life.

Biblical Parallel: Acts 21:11 *“He came to us, took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it, and said, “The Holy Spirit says this: ‘This is the way the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man whose belt this is, and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’”*

77. Lopit: idek hau alejietori ainaa lijoria.

Kiswahili: Kamwe usiende kulala kabla ya kusuluhisha ugomvi.

French: Ne jamais aller au lit sur une Querelle.

English: Never go to bed on an argument.

Teaching: Forgive those that wrong you.

Biblical Parallel: Eph. 4: 26 *“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.”*

78. Lopit: Idek hairiṇa hisorita sigira do hutuk.

Kiswahili: Kamwe uangalie farasi wenye vipawa katika kinywa.

French: Un cheval donné, on ne regarde pas dans sa bouche.

English: Never look a gift horse in the mouth.

Teaching: Be careful when dealing with things that you do not understand well.

Biblical Parallel: Deut. 16: 17 *“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.”*

79. Lopit: Inyia tihoni lara lowuar ibak.

Kiswahili: Hakuna mtu aliye kisiwa.

French: Aucun homme n’est une île.

English: No man is an island.

Teaching: We all need one another in this life.

Biblical Parallel: Romans 14: 7 *“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”*

80. Lopit: Lenyia diahai inya harumek.

Kiswahili: Hakuna mapato bila maangaiko.

French: Pas de douleur (sacrifice), pas de gain.

English: No pain, No gain.

Teaching: Sometimes one needs to go through tough experiences to succeed.

Biblical Parallel: John 12: 23 *“And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.”*

81. Lopit: Ilata he hifioninyaleidia.

Kiswahili: Mafuta na maji hazichanganyiki.

French: L'huile et l'eau ne se mélangent pas.

English: Oil and water don’t mix.

Teaching: Some things can never be mixed.

Biblical Parallel: Gal. 5: 4 *“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”*

82. Lopit: eila hana naboite mote.

Kiswahili: Mkono mmoja huosha linguine.

French: Une main lave l'autre.

English: One hand washes the other.

Teaching: We all need each other to succeed in life.

Biblical Parallel: James 4: 8 *“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*

83. Lopit: limanya damai nelelibo idek haibiro moru.

Kiswahili: Watu katika nyumba za kioo hawapaswi kurusha mawe.

French: Les gens dans les maisons en verre ne devraient pas jeter des pierres.

English: People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

Teaching: Before harming others, think about your personal protection first.

Biblical Parallel: Romans 2: 11 *"For there is no respect of persons with God. 12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law"*

84. Lopit: Hitiena lolwak binno.

Kiswahili: Mazoezi hufanya kamili.

French: la pratique (la repetition) rend parfait.

English: Practice make perfect.

French: la pratique (la repetition) rend parfait.

Teaching: Habits become normal.

Biblical Parallel: Hebrew: 10: 14 *"For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."*

85. Lopit: Inyia haji leidimahini tafar tana boite.

Kiswahili: Roma haikujengwa siku moja.

French: Rome n'a pas été construite en un seul jour.

English: Rome wasn't built in a day.

Teaching: For one to achieve something great, they need patience.

Biblical Parallel: Hebrews 12:1-2 *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we must get rid of every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with endurance the race set out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."*

86. Lopit: Ara hiruk wolo.

Kiswahili: Kuona ni kuamini.

French: Voir, c'est croire.

English: Seeing is believing.

Teaching: Sometimes it is good to question things before believing.

Biblical Parallel: John 20: 29 *"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."*

87. Lopit: Tejiñak olonok nyahuto.

Kiswahili: Piga wakati chuma bado ina moto.

French: Battre le fer quand il est chaud.

English: Strike while the iron is hot.

Teaching: Take action when necessary.

Biblical Parallel: James 1: 23 *“For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass.”*

88. Lopit: owuongura da barahebeg

Kiswahili: Paka yu nje ya mfuko.

French: Le chat est sorti du sac.

English: The cat is out of the bag.

Teaching: Secrets can often be disclosed to others.

Biblical Parallel: Jeremiah 23: 24 *“Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.”*

89. Lopit: Odulei tim nyoriji dakal loboite hamariq.

Kiswahili: Nyasi daima ni ya kijani upande wa pili wa uzio.

French: L'herbe est toujours plus verte de l'autre côté de la cloture.

English: The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

Teaching: Often times we forget to appreciate what we already have.

Biblical Parallel: Ephesians 5:20 *“Always Giving Thanks for All Things.”*

90. Lopit: Inyia ne hiduoduo hile itikh iteng talamatari he hifioq.

Kiswahili: Kelele za chura haiwezi kumzuia ng'ombe kunywa maji.

French: Le bruit de la grenouille ne peut pas empêcher une vache boire de l'eau.

English: The noise of frog cannot stop a cow drink water.

Teaching: There are some situations that are not redeemable.

Biblical Parallel: Matt 7: 21 *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.”*

91. Lopit: Oborogalamte he fire.

Kiswahili: Kalamu ina nguvu kuliko panga.

French: Le stylo est plus puissant que l'épée.

English: The pen is mightier than the sword.

Teaching: Words written are more powerful than war ammunitions.

Biblical Parallel: 2 Timothy 3:16 *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.” The KJV has, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

92. Lopit: Inyia nabo maiiyya hang.

Kiswahili: Hakuna mahali kama nyumbani.

French: Il n'y a pas d'endroit comme à la maison (foyer)

English: There is no place like home.

Biblical Parallel: Isaiah 32: 18 *“And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places”*

93. Lopit: Inya hinak hiro iyya ġiria na sahit.

Kiswahili: Hakunavitukama vile chakula cha mchana cha bure.

French: Il n'y a pas de telles choses comme un déjeuner gratuite.

English: There is no such things as a free lunch.

Teaching: There is nothing for free.

Biblical Parallel: Eph. 5: 15 *“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*

2 Thessa. 3: 10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

94. Lopit: Inya nabo saman efeiya aina.

Kiswahili: Hakuna wakati kama sasa.

French: Il n'y a pas de temps comme (plus que) le present.

English: There is no time like the present.

Teaching: We need to learn how to appreciate the now moment as it only comes once.

Biblical Parallel: 2 Cor. 6: 2 *“For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”*

95. Lopit: inya furio lofuri lenyia hima.

Kiswahili: Hakuna moshi bila moto.

French: Il n'y a pas de fumée sans feu.

English: There's no smoke without fire.

Teaching: Everything has a cause.

Biblical Parallel: Exodus 19: 18 *“And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.”*

96. Lopit: Saalara gurus.

Kiswahili: Muda ni pesa.

French: Le temps c'est de l'argent.

English: Time is money.

Teaching: Time has its worth.

Biblical Parallel: Prov. 21: 5 *“The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.”*

97. Lopit: inya moite lotu.

Kiswahili: Kesho kamwe kuja.

French: Demain ne viendra jamais.

English: Tomorrow never comes.

Teaching: Sometimes we make empty promises that can never be fulfilled.

Biblical Parallel: James 4: 14 *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. Or How do you know what will happen tomorrow? What, after all, is your life? It is like a puff or smoke visible for a little while and then dissolving into thin air.”*

98. Lopit: Haifok inoloŋa eikarabai jiati.

Kiswahili: Wengi kupika nyara mchuzi.

French: Trop de cuisiniers gâtent le bouillon.

English: Too many cook spoil the broth.

Teaching: Let us not exaggerate things.

Biblical Parallel: Eccl. 4: 13 *“Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.”*

99. Lopit: Agal hosi arik naboite.

Kiswahili: Vichwa viwili ni bora kuliko moja.

French: Deux têtes valent mieux qu'une.

English: Two heads are better than one.

Teaching: It is always good to work in unison for better results.

Biblical Parallel: Eccl. 4: 9 *“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.”*

100. Lopit: Mai nelerou owuon ikoi.

Kiswahili: Penye nia pana njia.

French: La où il y a une volonté, il y a un moyen. (Quand on veut, on peut).

English: Where there is a will there's a way.

Teaching: When we are willing to learn something, it becomes easy to know.

Biblical Parallel: Phil. 2: 13 *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”*

SUMMARY

My experience while collecting these 100 Lopit proverbs was quite interesting since I was learning a myriad of things from the culture of these people among other unforgettable experiences. I had, there were also several challenges such as getting the native Lopit speakers who were mainly village elders living in the interior parts of South Sudan. Getting there was also a problem because the roads to the interior are so sandy and we kept getting stuck, as if we were on a muddy road. It was a real 'safari' challenge.

Undertaking the collecting the proverbs was comfortable with the translator although slow, because they like to chat and share stories of their experiences in life. Sometimes I felt like they placed an exclamation at the end of each sentence. I was happy to be with these people because they were very welcoming and it made me feel at home.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Lopit proverbs do not just function as mere poetic adornments of speech, neither are they used to meet man's needs for philosophic phrase-mongering. As a rule they are used for some practical purposes in various circumstances of everyday communication and teaching their people the different Lopit community values.

Some of the human values expressed by the Lopit proverbs are such as spontaneous human respect which brings out the feelings of the connection with people. It comes naturally to respect other people, regardless of age and social status. This is shown by the Proverb No. 63. "Even a dog can have refuge." (Karl aka magan a khaba.) is use by the Lopit to emphasize that everyone should be respected because they are human being, not because of their status or financial worth. everybody deserves respect despite the status.

The value of morality which teaches the understanding of what is socially right and wrong behavior is also brought out by proverbs. Proverb No. 45. Says that "A wealthy person is not better than a social person." (Hoola khabeen ichoow et khabeen et khabeene rume ka'hadda.) This proverb advices the people agains greed for wealth because it is not everything. It is most beneficial to cultivate good relationships so that you can have a fuller and happier life.

Certainly these people have regard for universal human values, which they use to guide their daily lives.

Appendix

A RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR THE COLLECTION OF 100 LOPIT (SOUTH SUDAN) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

By

Ricardo Benon Benjamin (Kenya)

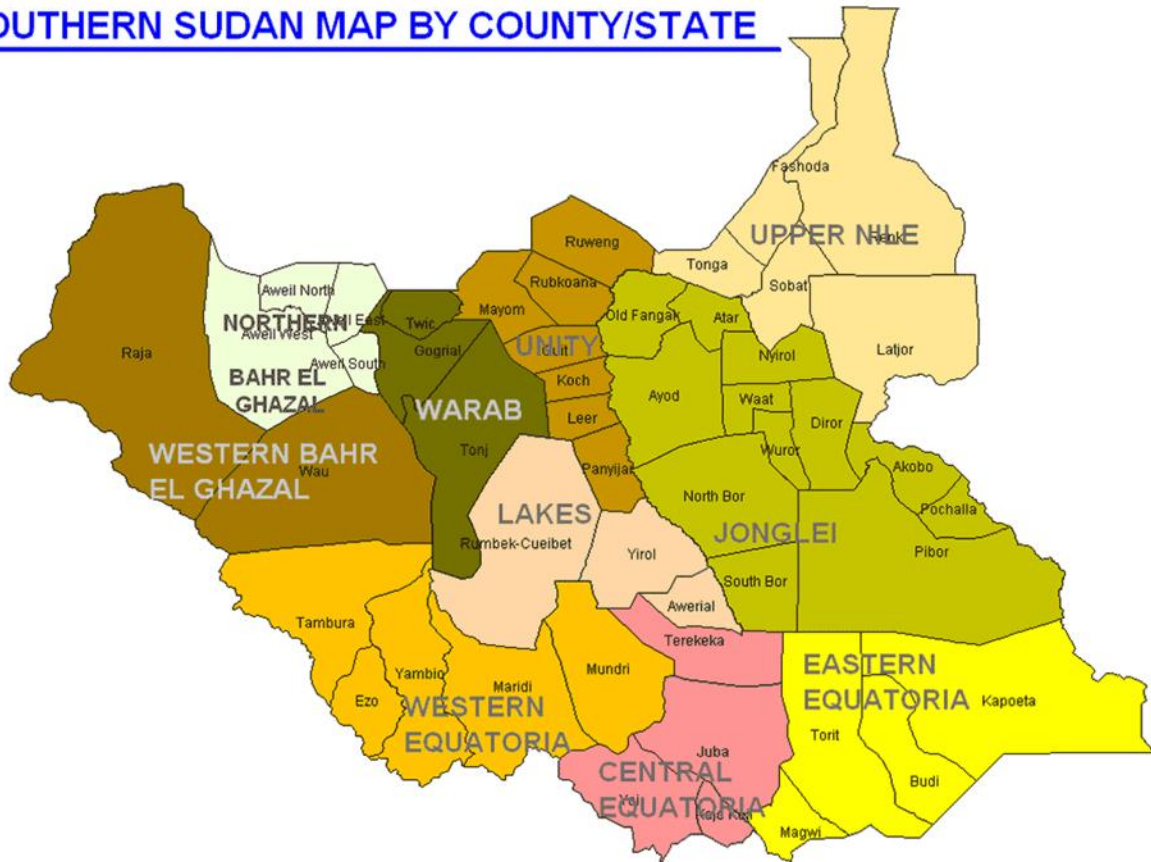
Location

The Lopit people are an ethnic group found in Eastern Equatoria State of South Sudan. They also occupy the Lafon county and north end of the Lopit Hills. The language they speak is called Lopit, which is alternatively referred to as Lafiit, Lafit, Lafite, Lofit, Lopid and Loppit. This language has several dialects, namely Lolongo, Logonowati, Mura, and Iboni.

It has a lexical similarity of 63% with the Otuha. Traditionally, the Lopit refer to themselves as donge (plural) or dongioni (singular). The Lopit language, has six different dialects: Ngabori, Dorik, Ngotira, Omiaha, Lohutok, and Lolongo.

The Lopit number 160,000 to 200,000 people living in the Lopit Mountains which extends from the east to the north of Torit. The estimated population of South Sudan is 12,733, 427. This means that the Lopit are 1.6% of the population of South Sudan. The Lopit area borders Pari to the north, Bari to north-west, Lokoya and Otuho to the west, Otuho and Dongotono to the south, and Toposa and Boya to the east. Imehejek is the headquarters of Lopa County and is located in the Lopit area.

SOUTHERN SUDAN MAP BY COUNTY/STATE



The Ethnographic Location of the Lopit in South Sudan

There are six payams (administrative areas) in the Lopit area: Imehejek (eastern / centre), Lohutok and Hejuhiteng (south), Harihilo (north), Longiro and Bule (western / centre).

Myth of Origin

Very little is known about the origin of the Lopit apart from the widely held view that they came along with the waves of groups migrating from Lake Turkana. The Lopit are said to have broken away from the Dongotono after a quarrel over gazelle soup. They have been marginalized and politically excluded by the Lotuka elite. There is a small community of Lopit in Kakuma refugee's camp in Northern Kenya.

It is also believed that the Lopit came to Southern Sudan from East Africa, probably late migrants from Lake Turkana.

Culture and Social Structures

The Lopit are proud of their culture and this affects their attitudes and social life. They practice initiation ceremonies: a naming ceremony for a baby, and a second one as a young adult. Marriage begins with courtship and then the girl elopes with her boyfriend; when they return home the dowry is settled and she goes to her new home. The transfer of power to the younger age-set happens every 25 years in a ceremony called hifira. The village administration and authority over community affairs is handed to the next generation.

Their cultural norms are transmitted through songs, poems, dramas and music that express their feelings and emotions. The grand-mother imparts cultural knowledge through folktales and games, although even the stories, proverbs, myths and words of wisdom which the adults give the children is dying out, especially in urban areas and due to the increase in formal education.

Ruling Age Set

The monyomiji are the authorities and representatives of each village, and the most powerful people in the village. They make the important decisions about war, festivals, cultivation, and initiations. They are respected and obeyed, but are obliged to serve the community and previous generation of monyomiji. If they are seen to be making bad decisions or not following the rules, then this older generation may suspend them. A great ceremony is held when the new generation takes over from the previous ruling age set. This transfer of power happens at regular intervals, ranging from 12–22 years depending on the location, unless there are exceptional circumstances. When this happens, they are sometimes sent away from the village and expected to return with a valuable item to express their apology.

In central and Northern Lopit (Ngotira, Dorik, Ngabori, Tennen), a new set of monyomiji is initiated every 12 years. There are two names which are alternatively used for this group: ngalam and lefirat. In Southern Lopit, (Lomiaha, Lohutok, Lolongo, and 1 village from Ngotira), a new set of monyomiji is initiated every 22 years. The same name is used for each new set: hifira.

Girlhood

From the age of 10–11, young girls begin preparing for initiation into girlhood. They begin to form associations amongst themselves, numbering from 3 up to 10–15. The groups of girls need to find a sleeping space to share in the house of an older woman. This older woman may be one of the girls' grandmothers, or a woman that is approached by a pair from the group who seek permission to stay in her house. This time is for the girls to gain experience and knowledge of their expected duties as adolescent girls (hodwo). Each day they get up early (around 4am) to start grinding sorghum and other grains for their families. The old woman becomes a mentor to the girls, sharing advice with them in the mornings, as well as stories at night. The formal initiation into adolescence takes place around the age of 14. An individual girl might be selected by the monyomiji for initiation, or a whole group might be initiated at the same time as the initiation of the new ruling age set.

They are expected to be present during age set dances because being absent for this occasion is severely punished. Clearing sticks and weeds from the age set farm, providing water to those who work the farm. Preparing peanut butter in a calabash for the Ikanga festival, as well as an edible oil made from a native fruit. They run errands for the monyomiji together with the young boys, such as collecting bamboo from the mountain, particularly in Lomiaha.

Girls usually remain adolescents until they are married and have children. At this stage, they are considered to be mature women. Unmarried women may choose to join this group, or remain in their previous stage for two more years. It takes a period of 30 years before they are initiated to the next age set.



A traditional Lopit woman after initiation

Music and Dance

Music and dancing are central to Lopit culture. There are different dances for different occasions. Each dance has specific costumes, music, at time allocations associated with it. Drums are an important part of the dances. Some main dances are:

Bura - When someone passes away, the dancing happens for 24 hours, beginning with the women.

Ikanga - A dance performed at the end of the harvest.

Rongit - A celebratory dance performed on different occasions, by the ruling age set and the upcoming ruling age set. This is also part of a training process for the upcoming group.

Hitobok - Performed when preparing for a war or fighting.

The Miliang and Hatar dances.

Lam - Performed once a year around May, after a hunt that begins and night-time and ends the next morning. The hunt itself is a race between individual hunters, all of the kill is presented to the king.

Liang - this is an afternoon dance between noon–1:00 pm before evening section dance. It varies between old and young deceased persons. For example, when a young person 20–30-years-old dies, people went hunting far from the village between 3–4:00 am and returned home 12 noon before Liang in mourning of the late person. Many things, e.g. animal meat, will be given to the home of the late to support the family and the visitors as well as a respect.

Lotuhe - this is a dance performed only for an older person 50 and older and it takes place a night before (Bura) normally about 6 pm – 12 am depending on the season or the conditions of that certain villages. E.g. enough food, everyone is happy and any major sicknesses.



Lopit community dancers

These drums produce unique treble and bass tones when played. Their dances play a significant role in rites of passage; harvest, weddings, birth, funerals including prayers for rains mostly in honour of ancestors. Each dance has its own song with specific meaning. During community socialization, the Lopit have annual wrestling events which are very interesting. After a long struggle one of the contestants gallantly emerges the strongest conqueror of all the wrestling matches and is declared winner.

1. Ohut deroo fau alara dari

Swahili: Panya huchimba shimo ili kujificha

French: Le rat a creusé le sol comme cachette

English: The rat dug the ground as a hiding place

Proverbs Teaching: It means when your enemies become many, look for any alternatives to avoid them

2. Irwatta ifel ha halu

Kiswahili: Kimbia ukijua ni nani anayekukimbiza kutoka nyuma

French: Courez comme vous le savez qui vous poursuit

English: Run as you know who is chasing you, from behind

Proverbs Teaching: It is always good to know the source of your problems before looking for solutions

Economy

The Lopit live in a hilly and fertile environment and are agro-pastoralists, practicing traditional agriculture as well as livestock rearing. These socio-economic occupations are carried out both on the mountain slopes and in the plains. The main crops are sorghum, bulrush, millet, pumpkin, ground nuts, simsim, okra, syam, cassava, sweet potato, maize and mango. They also harvest forest products, bamboo roots, coconuts, honey, shea nuts (pressed to make oil), figs, and many other sorts.

Like other groups in the area, practice extensive hunting during the dry season, after the harvest (January – April) has ended. This time is for group hunting, when groups of up to 2,000 men team up to hunt game. Neighboring villages team up to hunt in the land of the village that has called for the hunt. The call is put out four weeks in advance.

Religion

They believe in a supreme god, spirits and the spiritual sphere. Worship celebrations are accompanied by dancing and drinking, and alcoholism is a problem amongst them. The rain-maker and other mediums hold great power, and gifts are given to seek their favor for rain and other good things to happen to them.

Political Structure

They have been marginalized and politically excluded by the Lotuka elite. There is a small community of Lopit in Kakuma refugee's camp in Northern Kenya

WRITING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research are:

1. To collect a hundred proverbs and wise sayings from the Lopit ethnic group.
2. To translate these proverbs and wise sayings into English for the youth and other literate people to be wise.
3. To prepare a booklet to be posted on the African Proverbs website

METHODOLOGY

The writer will interview Lopit elders and other people with good understanding of the proverbs and wise sayings. He will record them for translation into Kiswahili, English and French, and will add Biblical parallels and present a booklet for publication on African Proverbs website.

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5. Collaborator Telephone contact: Ochuho James +254 706 924 964)

BUDGET

Data gathering and processing	\$ 180
Typing and printing	\$ 100
Binding	\$ 70
Transport	\$100
Miscellaneous	\$ 050
TOTAL	\$ 500
