

A COLLECTION OF 100 ETON PROVERBS



BY

LAUR MWEPU LUIZA

African Proverbs Working Group

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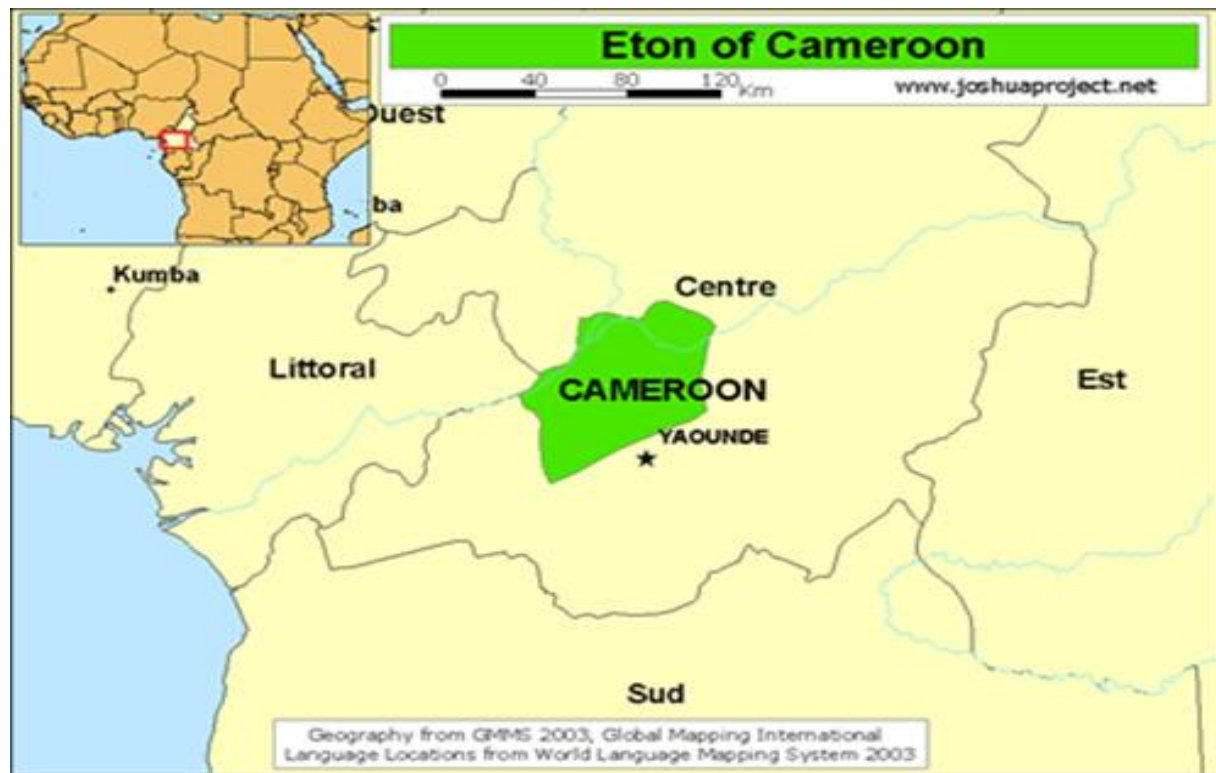
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INTRODUCTION

“ETON” is a language from Cameroon from the Centre region of Cameroon. As part of the “Beti” ethnic group, the language which carries the name of the tribes is spoken by almost 2 million of Cameroonians. The Beti-Pahuin are a Bantu ethnic group located in rain forest regions of Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tomé. Though they separate themselves into several individual clans, they all share a common origin, history and culture. They were numbered at an estimated 8,320,000 individuals in the early 21st century and are the largest ethnic group in Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. Their languages, from the Bantu subgroup of the Niger–Congo language family, are mutually intelligible.

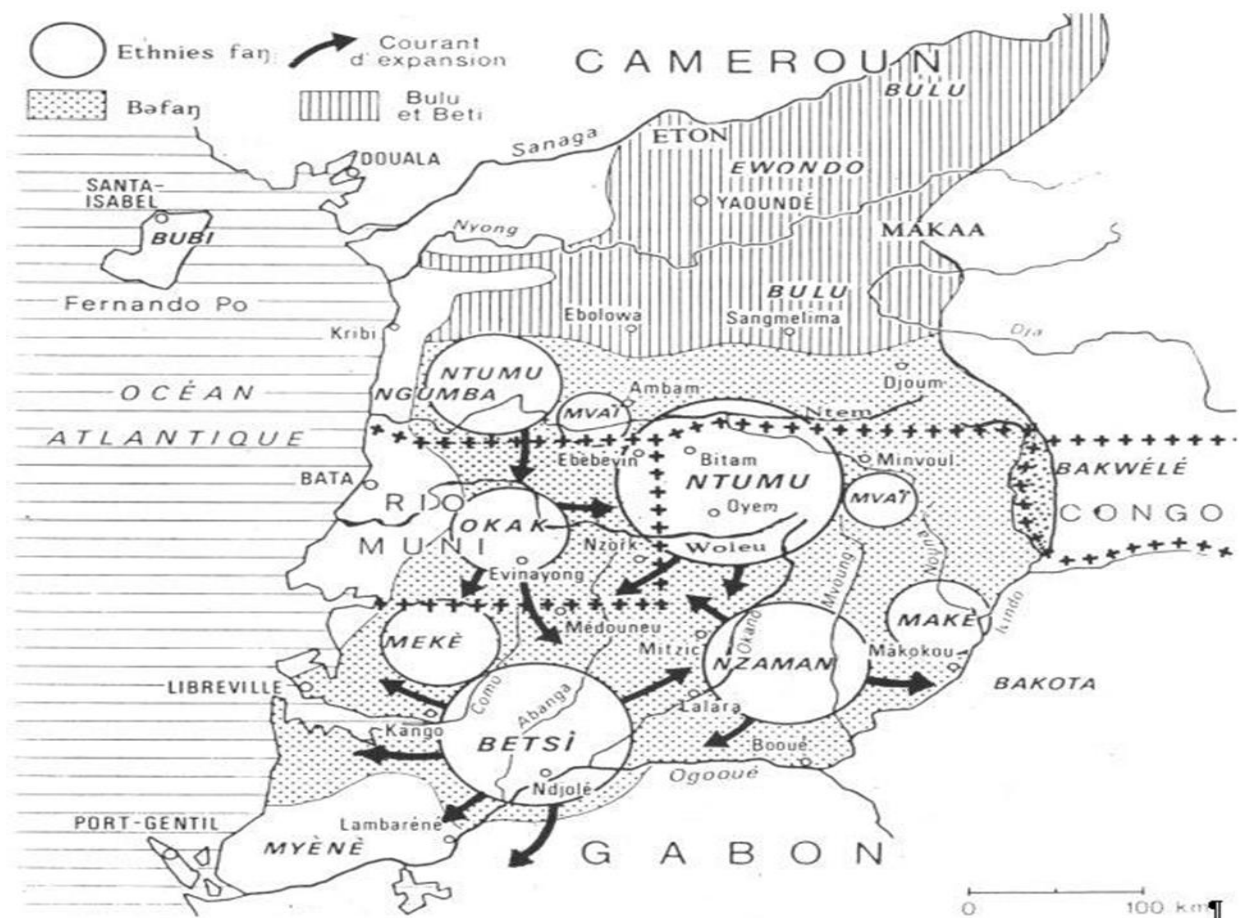
THE ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE ETON ETHNIC GROUP IN CAMEROON



The Beti-Pahuin are made up of over 20 individual clans. Altogether, they inhabit a territory of forests and rolling hills that stretches from the Sanaga River in the north to Equatorial Guinea and the northern halves of Gabon to Congo to the south, and from the Atlantic Ocean to the west to the Dja River in the east. The first grouping, called the Beti, consists of the Ewondo (more precisely Kolo), Bane, Fang (more precisely M'fang), Mbida-Mbane, Mvog-Nyenge, and Eton (or Iton). The Eton are further subdivided into the Eton-Beti, Eton-Beloua, and Beloua-Eton. Their language (or Beti dialect), also called Ewondo, is the most widely spoken of the Beti languages in Cameroon, with an estimated

1,200,000 speakers in 1982. It serves as a *lingua franca* in Yaoundé and much of the rest of Cameroon's Centre and South Provinces. The Eton lives primarily in the Lekie division of Cameroon's Centre Province with major settlements at Sa'a and Obala. They speak the Eton language or dialect, which had 500,000 speakers in 1982. The Beti-Pahuin's exact origins are unclear. At one point, they were thought to have migrated into the territory of present-day Cameroon from the Azande area of Sudan, but the current belief is that they originated in the forests south of the Sanaga River, not far from their current territory. At some point they crossed the Sanaga and moved north until they reached the upper Kadéï River. They soon came under attack there from the Vute or Mbum people, so they fled further north to the eastern Adamawa Plateau

THE ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE ETON ETHNIC GROUP IN CAMEROON



A COLLECTION OF 100 ETON PROVERBS

1. A dit nkou ou teunyéi a djamdoula

SWAHILI: Kuku ni mzito wakati safari ni refu

ENGLISH: A chicken is heavy when the journey is long.

FRENCH: La poule pèse lorsque le voyage est long.

MEANING: Whenever someone gets fed up with something it becomes a burden and needs to let it go.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 16:16

“And it happened, because she distressed him with her words all the days, and urged him; and his soul was grieved to death,”

2. A djemnya'alna e sous bitom

SWAHILI: Kujibu na unyenyekevu kuna punguza asira

ENGLISH: A humble response reduces tension and anger.

FRENCH: Répondre avec humilité fait baisser la colère.

MEANING: Every time a humble response is passed arguments are rare heard it's good to be humble when responding to anyone.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 31:31

“And Jacob answered and said to Laban, because I was afraid. For I said, Lest by force you take your daughters from me.”

3. A mos ou bong no za'awoa ou teudjeum pi nyo'o

SWAHILI: Jogoo wende kulala kukwa na njaa ni kumona mamako

ENGLISH: Cock go to sleep being hungry is seeing your mother

FRENCH: Coq va dormir avoir faim c'est lorsque tu vois ta mère.

MEANING: One who has a mother cannot lack anything, the role of mothers are always seen as figures of love care and security to the children.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 31:2

“What, my son? And what, the son of my womb? And what, the son of my vows?”

4. A mos ou djamtitwo ateuma’alo’oveuamos bi toutoungua

SWAHILI: Siku ya kula nyama haunikaribisha lakini ya mayani unenikaribisha.

ENGLISH: The time of feasting on meat you refused me but the time of legumes you welcome me.

FRENCH: Le jour où tu consommes la viande tu m’évites et pour le légume tu m’invites.

MEANING: It’s good to share in times of need and harvest (*plenty*) *Circumstances change from good to bad or to worse. Hope for a better day, do not get discouraged.*

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 11:7

“And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, Have you not hated me? Yea, you threw me out from my father’s house. Why have you come to me when you are in distress?”

5. A mos ou teukeu a ta’anba’ateubeti leu

SWAHILI: Siku ya kwenda kwenu auwezi kupanda ku muti.

ENGLISH: The day that you travel to your home never climb a tree.

FRENCH: Le jour du voyage pour son village on ne grimpe pas sur l’arbre.

MEANING: When one is going to their home they are filled by joy and must be careful.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus 12:42

“It is a night of celebration to YAHWEH, for bringing them out from the land of Egypt. This night is a celebration for all the sons of Israel to their generations.”

6. A nditmbekle ouneuii mot a mbeuk leu

SWAHILI: Uzito wa kitu hujulikana na alioubeba.

ENGLISH: The weight of something is felt by the one carrying it.

FRENCH: Le poids de la chose est ressenti par celui qui le porte.

MEANING: It is the affected persons who understand better what they are going through, especially when difficult situations are experienced. Those not affected by the matter may not understand the depth of the problem.

Biblical parallel: Psalm 23:4

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

7. Assounya moro ou teusou asokneungua na medjockassi

SWAHILI: Sura ya mzee ina powesha ulevi.

ENGLISH: The face of the old brings down the content of alcohol.

FRENCH: Le visage d’un vieux fait rabaisse l’ivresse.

MEANING: An elder (old) person is expected to give solutions by the young ones. As the major matters are changed by the wise old men depending on their age and the rank they occupy in the society this makes that everybody agree with them and obey to their resolutions.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 16:4

“And Samuel did what YAHWEH said, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the city trembled to meet him, and said, do you come in peace?”

8. Ba’ateusomno’o mot i peu pi ou sseu

SWAHILI: Hauendi makamani kama hakuna ukifwatacho.

ENGLISH: You can never go to the court if you have no interest.

FRENCH: On n’attire pas une personne en justice si on n’a pas d’intérêt.

MEANING: When one takes another to court you must have something you want to achieve.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Esther 1:15

“What shall be done with Queen Vashti according to law, because she has not done the command of King Ahasuerus by the eunuchs?”

9. Ba’ateumvoa bi ou nkournkourawoa I di

SWAHILI: Uji haunywi unei poweshea nini?

ENGLISH: Why should you cool the porridge that you are not eating?

FRENCH: Pour quoi refroidir la bouillie que tu ne consommes pas ?

MEANING: Why involve yourself with things that do not concern you?

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel 12:16-17

“And David sought the Elohim for the child. And David fasted a fast, and went in and stayed the night, and lay on the earth. And the elders of his house rose up toward him, to raise him up from the earth. But he was not willing; and he ate no bread with them”

10. Ba’ateuseuido’a e teuwo’ontong

SWAHILI: Usimtusi mujusi ushafu ni mu nyumba yake unalala

ENGLISH: Never accuse the monitor lizard of dirt because it is in its house you sleep.

FRENCH: N’insulte pas le gros lézard la saleté c’est dans sa maison que tu dors.

MEANING: It’s not good to look down on the person you live with just because of dirt remember you live under his/ her roof and she / he can kick you out any time.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 31:7

“And your father has cheated me and has changed my wages ten times. And Elohim has not let him do evil to me.”

11. Adang peu ngueu a teunyieni nda etam

SWAHILI: Nyule hasikiake mmwashe kule endako atapata solu

ENGLISH: A person that does not hear (listen) to others words should be left alone to find solution where they are going.

FRENCH: Celui qui n’écoute pas on le laisse faire, là où il part il trouvera la solution.

MEANING: Whomever that doesn’t listen to advice they will want it at time they are facing the results of their actions. If one does not take advice, even when he or she has an evident problem people might not do anything to help. He/she will continue doing the wrong things instead of following advice.

Biblical parallel: 1Kings 12:13-14

“And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; and spoke to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, my father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.”

12. A dan mpeukeu a nka li' nguinda e tam

SWAHILI: Ujanja ukiziji utalipata siku ingine mu hewa

ENGLISH: lots of cleverness will leave you in the wind

FRENCH: Lorsque on est trop malin on se retrouvera un jour en l'air.

MEANING: He who knows nothing on a given situation cannot find appropriate solution of it.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel 18:9

“And from that day forward Saul was watching David.”

13. Amot ou seu a bongo

SWAHILI: Hakuna mtoto pakati ya wanaume

ENGLISH: There is no kid or child in between men

FRENCH: Il n'y a pas des petits (enfants) parmi les hommes

MEANING: Age is just a number and a man is never aged per his age. And a man can defend the community and can rule as a king despite his age docket.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 17:42

“And the Philistine looked, and he saw David, and disdained him, for he was a youth, even ruddy, with ah and some form.”

14. A mot ou neu anda'a

SWAHILI: Kukomaa ni kukuwa na nyumba

ENGLISH: Maturity owns a house.

FRENCH: Grandir c'est avoir une maison.

MEANING: When people get married they make a home; more than just people living in one house. It teaches us that a home represents a good relationship, support for one another, care and cooperation. It is not the buildings.

Biblical parallel: [Genesis 2:24](#)

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh “

15. Anoung nya moro ntoute uno um, ou teu tong bebela

SWAHILI: Kinywa ka mze kina numka lakini hakisemi wongo

ENGLISH: Elderly persons have bad breathed in the mouths but their mouths never lie.

FRENCH: La bouche d’un vieux pue mais ne dit pas les mensonges.

MEANING: Elders have acquired experience and wisdom. They are more foresighted and thorough this they help in making best decisions. This proverb urges the youth follow counsel of elder people in order to have a better life.

Biblical parallel: [1 Kings 12:6](#)

“Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked”

16. A wouli e bonya boro a teuso’o e peuk

SWAHILI: Mtoto anae tafuta mamlaka anatembea na waze.

ENGLISH: A child who looks for the power walk with the olds.

FRENCH: l’enfant qui cherche le pouvoir se promène avec les vieux

MEANING: Anybody looks to be strong in life he must follow the grownups.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1kings 12:6

“And King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had been standing before the face of his father Solomon while he was alive, saying, How do you advise in order to answer this people?”

17. Ba’ateusoe e nyan e nguen ne ungua anno’o

SWAHILI: Anae nyoa nywele ili awe na upara upata aibu nywele inapo ota

ENGLISH: The one who shave his hair to be bald his gets ashamed when his hair grows.

FRENCH: celui qui rase sa tête pour prétendre être chauve aura honte lorsque ça poussera

MEANING: Don't imitate yourself with anybody because you will be carped. Everyone is in own personal.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 16:22

"But the hair of his head began to grow, for he had been shaved."

18. Ba'ateuda nganoun ou po'owoa no

SWAHILI: Yule anayeuliza hawezi kamwe kupotea

ENGLISH: He who enquires can never get lost.

FRENCH: Quiconque s'informe ne peut jamais se perdre.

MEANING: He who is aware can never be surprised by an unfortunate event. Meaning once somebody has enough information about a given situation, he/she can be safer to make decisions about any situation.

Biblical parallel: Luke 3:14

"And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, and what shall we do? And he said unto them, do violence to no man neither accuse any falsely; nor be content with your wages."

19. Ba'ateudjem I morate udjip a meubo'o

SWAHILI: Kwa nyayo ya migu hauwezi kamwe kushika mwizi

ENGLISH: You can never accuse someone of stealing out of the footsteps.

FRENCH: Par les traces des jambes on ne peut pas arrêter un voleur.

MEANING: One is a thief if you have evidence of his theft. Without evidence someone should not accuse another of wrong doing. Many times people are misjudged or assumed to have done a wrong deed, yet they are innocent.

Biblical parallel: Leviticus 19:16

"You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD."

20. Ba teubak ndoan a ndoan

SWAHILI: Msitu ukichomeka hauwezi ku ushoma tena

ENGLISH: When the forest is already burnt down you can never relight it.

FRENCH: Lorsque tu incendie la brousse on ne peut plus y passée encore le feu.

MEANING: You can never punish someone twice on the same mistake.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Isaiah9:17

“For this, YAHWEH shall not rejoice over their young men, nor have pity on their orphans and widows; for everyone is a hypocrite and an evildoer; and every mouth speaks foolishness. In all this His anger does not turn away, but His hand is still stretched out.”

21. Ba teveu nkapevo’aidjeungui

SWAHILI: Mchokozi haulizwake kamwe

ENGLISH: The person who was provoked is never asked.

FRENCH: Celui qui est provoqué n’a jamais été interrogé.

MEANING: When some is provoked in their own territory they must defend themselves and their actions should never be questioned because in a way it’s just.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 20:13

“And now, give up the men, sons of worthlessness, which are in Gibeah, and let us execute them. And we shall consume evil from Israel. But Benjamin was not willing to listen to the voice of their brothers, the sons of Israel.”

22. Be djim mot bidi, za’aiteunka’ani

SWAHILI: Usi nyimane kiakula njaa iko kama umande

ENGLISH: Never refuse anyone food because hunger is like dew

FRENCH: Ne prive pas à manger à une personne car la famine est comme le rosé.

MEANING: Hunger is just a temporary problem so one should give food to the hungry ones.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus 16:14

“And the layer of dew went up, and, behold, something small was on the face of the wilderness, scale-like, small like the hoarfrost on the earth.”

23. Be mpkeli imot a teunpen ngueu I teus seuzama ngueni a nkom ngowoa

SWAHILI: Auja auja umbika

ENGLISH: Don't laugh at disabled person because God is still creating.

FRENCH: Ne te moque pas de l'infirme car Dieu te crée encore

MEANING: Don't laugh at anybody because we don't know what will come first.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 17:42

“And the Philistine looked, and he saw David, and disdained him, for he was a youth, even ruddy, with a handsome form.”

24. Beu be betoumba'ateumã'an

SWAHILI: Mwenye tabia baya kamwe haiwacha.

ENGLISH: One with a bad habit never leaves it.

FRENCH: Quelqu'un avec une mauvaise habitude ne le laisse jamais.

MEANING: It teaches that it is difficult to change somebody's bad habits. It should be done by the person's willingness and not by force. If it's not by self-will, then it will not truly change.

Biblical parallel: Ecclesiastes 1:15

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkened unto counsel is wise.”

25. Beulere unkoumkoumo unoung, I djomeve ube e woalereu ouno ungouteu

SWAHILI: Kidole umuyoshea cho mfalme ndio ata kunyoshea

ENGLISH: The finger that you point at the king he will lift it back and to you.

FRENCH: Ne pointe pas le chef ton doigt lorsqu'il se réveille il te pointera le même doigt

MEANING: Don't lift yourself to people who have power over you.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 17:51

"And David ran and stood over the Philistine, and took his sword; and he drew it out of its sheath and killed him. And he cut off his head with it. And the Philistines saw that their warrior was dead, and they fled."

26. Beumbouri miss idjongou teundi e mpeupeuk

SWAHILI: Fungua macho kama ukikula na mwerevu.

ENGLISH: Lighten your eye rushes in order to eat with a cleaver person.

FRENCH: Dores tes paupières pour manger avec un averti.

MEANING: It's good to pretend stupid (foolish) in order to survive among aware people.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 30:31-32

"And he said, what shall I give you? And Jacob said, you shall not give me anything. If you will do this thing for me, I will remain. I will feed your flock and keep it. I will pass among all your flock today, taking from there every speckled and spotted sheep, and every black sheep among the lambs, also the spotted and speckled goats; these shall be my wages."

27. Beuno'obo I nda ou teu bongo I teuseu ou nguenite unkoro

SWAHILI: Usiyambe kule unakolala mbele ya kuhamia

ENGLISH: Never spoil the air where you sleep long before you get out.

FRENCH: Ne chie pas la out u dore avent de déménagé.

MEANING: Never cut the hand that feeds you or abuse those who give you help when in troubles and still you will need them one time in your life.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 31:37

"For you have felt around all my articles; what have you found from all the articles of your house? Set it here before my brothers and your brothers and let them decide between the two of us."

28. Beulõ mot mpkeumpke lngangue niwoteuveul vou

SWAHILI: Usimwite mlozi kabla ya ye kukuroga

ENGLISH: Do not call a person a witch before he has bewitched you.

FRENCH : N'appelé personne sorcière avant qu'il ne vous ensorçèle.

MEANING: One who accuses others of witchcraft is also a witch.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Joshua 7:15

"And it shall be, he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of YAHWEH and because he has committed folly in Israel."

29. Beupemivo uglangu euwo adjidjeu mteu leu douma do'o

SWAHILI: Usihukumu pepo mahali ulijenga kiota ndio mbaya

ENGLISH: Don't judge the devil the place you build the nest is bad.

FRENCH: Ne condamne pas le vent tu as mal placer ton nid.

MEANING: It is not wise to tempt others or ourselves purposely. Better avoid temptations if possible. We should avoid situations which lead us to doing things we did not intend to do.

Biblical parallel: Matthew 26:41

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

30. Ba teusoï dam I za e boum

SWAHILI: Mu tumbo ya mwingine auwezi kumuweka mukono

ENGLISH: Your friend's stomach one can never place his hand.

FRENCH: Dans le ventre de ton prochain on n'y met pas la main.

MEANING: Nothing can be hidden under the sun. A secret will always be exposed, however long it takes to do so.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Luke 12:2-3

"And there is not anything that is covered that will not be revealed, or that is hidden that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you said in the darkness will be heard in the light; and whatever you whispered in the ear in the closets will be proclaimed on the housetops"

31. Be teunkoap ou mpkalvo masseu

SWAHILI: Kila mahali duniani kuna Kwale ana pinga makelele

ENGLISH: All over the world guinea exists and makes a lot of noise.

FRENCH: Partout au monde la perdrix a toujours chante.

MEANING: The world is one there is no other world or any difference.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ecclesiastes 1:5

“The sun also a rises, and the sun goes even panting to its place; it arises there again.”

32. Be teunga ang a nta anveudjongou bong bo I teu

SWAHILI: Ni kijiji kizuri wakati unapo pita kwasio kwishi

ENGLISH: A village is good when one is passing by

FRENCH: C’est un bon village lorsque tu passes sans y rester.

MEANING: Never judge a book by its cover you must get close to someone or something in order to criticize or praise it.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus 16:3

“And the sons of Israel said to them, Would that we had died by the hand of YAHWEH in the land of Egypt, in our sitting by the fleshpots, in our eating bread to satisfaction. For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill all this assembly with hunger.”

33. Be veunkapri a ntcheungou linguimp keln koal woe

SWAHILI: Unapeana mbuzi unachikilia kamba

ENGLISH: You are giving out your goat and still holding its hope.

FRENCH: Tu donnes la chèvre et tu tiens la corde.

MEANING: You can never give out your property and still you heart wants it dearly.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 19:6

“And they sat and ate both of them together, and drank. And the young woman’s father said to the man, please be content and stay all night, and let your heart be good.”

34. Bidi bi ngoïmbis seu bitom

SWAHILI: Nguruwe akikula akuna shida kama ni mtu kuko shida.

ENGLISH: There is no problem when a pig eats but when a person eats much is said.

FRENCH: Il n'y a pas les problèmes lors que le cochon mange, mais si c'est une personne il y a des problèmes

MEANING: When an animal's gets in a farm garden and eats that's no mistake than when person gets into the farm and steals this is because a human being has more thinking brains than an animal.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 31:39

"I did not bring to you the mangled; I replaced it. From my hand you exacted it, that stolen by day and that stolen by night."

35. Bitom e ning bi sama

SWAHILI: Matatizo ni semu ya maisha

ENGLISH: Problems are part of life

FRENCH: Les problèmes font partie de notre vie

MEANING: Everyone in life must pass in a problem it doesn't mean that when you get in a problem you discourage.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 20:1

"And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he is seeking my life?"

36. Bi veungue umbi a teuso'o e mbom

SWAHILI: Kutangulia si kufika mbele

ENGLISH: Slow but use hurry has no blessing

FRENCH: Precede ne pas synonyme d'arrive.

MEANING: Never brag when you get wealth before others you never know what tomorrow brings. Everyone can get what you have and much more you just have to be humble.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 31:22-23

“And Elohim remembered Rachel; and Elohim listened to her and open edher womb. And she conceived and bore a son. And she said, Elohim has taken away my reproach.”

37. Bot beupeuk bo be teunyen ban a boromevo’o

SWAHILI: Mambo makubwa inabadilishwa na wazee

ENGLISH: Major problems have solution with the old men

FRENCH: Les grands problèmes trouvent solution avec les vieux

MEANING: Major issues or projects are treated by great people starting from their vision, experience and expertise they have. Their vision, their experience and expertise make them respectful in the community.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1 kings 12:6

“And King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had been standing before the face of his father Solomon while he was alive, saying, How do you advise in order to answer this people?”

38. Dam e neuido’o a momõ, seu a momissõ

SWAHILI: kile ukonasho akijaisha nani anamshika babangu.

ENGLISH: Things you have is not throw, who is arresting my father.

FRENCH: Ce que tu as ne pas encore fini qui es qui a arrêté mon père.

MEANING: This proverb teaches that people should plan and make correct decisions before undertaking any activity. They should be orderly in order not to lose their valuables in the process of doing what they want.

Biblical parallel: [Luke 14:28-30](#)

“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’”

39. Do’oeveu vo nguondat eubet I leu

SWAHILI: Kidole moja hakivunji chawa

ENGLISH: One finger cannot kill a louse.

FRENCH: Un doigt ne peut pas tuer un pou.

MEANING: This proverb teaches the importance of solidarity against solitude.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ecclesiastes 4:9

“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. ”

40. Ebeung e moa pam e teunkom nango animinga idjeungui

SWAHILI: Kutabasamu kwa kijana kuna zungumuza na mstiana.

ENGLISH: The looking of the man talks to a woman.

FRENCH: Le regard d’un garçon fait parler une fille

MEANING: The looking of anyone has a meaning or a message.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 39:7

“And after these things, it happened that his master’s wife lifted up her eyes to Joseph, and said, Lie with me.”

41. Idam ou nkoapdo;o ou teunkom

SWAHILI: Kile utapata dio utafanya

ENGLISH: Whatever you get is what you do

FRENCH: C’est ce que tu trouves que tu fais.

MEANING: When we engage ourselves in a challenge we should never back down just because things are not smooth. We have to take courage and face the challenges to the end.

Biblical parallel: Daniel 3:17-18

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

42. I djong ou teu di woeveu I leu nka'an

SWAHILI: Una kula asali unapaka mti

ENGLISH: When you eat honey apply it on the tree.

FRENCH: Tu manges les miels tu peins l'arbre.

MEANING: When your life starts getting success you divide among your friends and families don't be selfish.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 30:26

"And David came to Ziklag. And he sent of the plunder to the elders of Judah, to his friends, saying, Behold, a blessing for you of the plunder of the enemies of YAHWEH;"

43. I djongwo atenskap, woe wouos soanidjongi bot babeuvog be mkpei

SWAHILI: Kama hautowi utaona aibu ndungu akipata

ENGLISH: When you don't help someone in need, when he gets his own you will be ashamed

FRENCH: lorsque tu ne partages pas tu auras honte de demander, lorsque les autres auront

MEANING: It's good to share everything you get because there is nothing bigger in whatever you get

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 11:24-26

"There is one who scatters yet increases more; but a withholder of just due comes only to poverty. The blessed soul will be made fat; he who waters will also drink fully. One holding back grain, the people curse him; but a blessing is to the head of one selling grain."

44. Ido'o e teulètda'ateuvou Imbougui

SWAHILI: Mkono mregifu hauvundikake

ENGLISH: A flexible hand cannot easily break.

FRENCH: Une main flexible ne peut pas se casse.

MEANING: He who gives will forever live without lacking anything. It teaches that we should show generosity, so that when we are in need others will help us.

Biblical parallel: Genesis 18:14

"Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, in the spring, and Sarah shall have a Son".

45. I djongisseu ou teutcho gimp kem, betndanyo'o

SWAHILI: Uki waze ju ya Simba funga mlango

ENGLISH: Whenever you think about a lion lock your door.

FRENCH: Lorsque tu penses au lion ferme la porte.

MEANING: It's good to be extra careful whenever you sense danger.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2 Samuel 17:8

"And Hushai said, you have known your father and his men, that they are mighty men. And they are bitter of soul, like a bear bereaved of cubs in the field. And your father is a man of war, and shall not stay the night with the people."

46. Ido'oineundam ou mpkele a mōseundi e teu zou

SWAHILI: Furahia ulicho nacho mkononi kuliko unacho kitazama kwambali

ENGLISH: You hope in whatever you have at hand rather than what you don't have.

FRENCH: Espère à ce que tu as en main pas ce que tu regardes de loin.

MEANING: Through this proverb, they are exhorted to protect what they have and not to count on what is yet to come.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus 14:28

"And the waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, together with all the army of Pharaoh, those going after them, into the sea. And not even one was left among them."

47. Ikolonyateulo'ongnda

SWAHILI: Mali ya ndowa haiwezi kukopwa

ENGLISH: Borrowed bride price can never marry a wife.

FRENCH: La dote empreinte ne marie pas une femme.

MEANING: A wife that you love and cherish one can never borrow her bride price rather one must work hard in order to get his own bride price.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 31:41

“Now I have been twenty years in your house; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock. And you have changed my wages ten times.”

48. Imo’ongo a neumpang a neuinyo’oissa

SWAHILI: Mtoto anae ekaa mzuri ni wamume na anae tembea mbaya ni wamuke.

ENGLISH: A child who stays in a good condition is for the men and who walk badly is for a woman.

FRENCH: L’enfant qui s’assoit bien est pour l’homme et qui marche mal est pour la femme

MEANING: For the Eton every things that is good is for the man and when its bad is for the woman

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 10:1

“The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a father rejoice, but the foolish son is sorrow and depression to his mother.”

49. I mpkem I djong I teu wok za’a, nyateuntal e bim e tit.

SWAHILI: Simba anataka ku kukula hata ona kukonda kwako

ENGLISH: A lion that wants to eat you doesn’t look at your size.

FRENCH: Un lion qui veut te dévoré ne voit pas ta maigrichon (male sante)

MEANING: When you want to help someone never took at the size. Never love someone out of their body sizes.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel19:10

“And Saul tried to strike with the spear through David and through the wall. But he burst forth from Saul's presence. And he struck the spear through the wall. And David fled, and escaped during that night.”

50. Imot a teulo'ongnda e pam a teudjeumivom I mpkem I teubo'onbo

SWAHILI: Anae ishi kwa msitu ujuwa ila sauti ya wanyama

ENGLISH: Men who build inner a forest knows where the lions are.

FRENCH: l'homme qui construit à cote de la fore connaît les lieux ou les lions vivent.

MEANING: When you are inner a danger be careful.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Joshua 9:6

"And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel. "We have come from a far country, so now make a covenant with us."

51. Imot a teuningepan a teudjeum nda'almpkem

SWAHILI: Anae jenga karibu na msitu ajuwa mali samba wapo

ENGLISH: The one who lives in the forest he know n's the sounds of the animals.

FRENCH: Celui qui vie dans le foret connaît ou vie le lion

MEANING: It teaches that it is important to be sure of facts about a matter before making a decision. Consult others who are concerned first.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Kings 12:5

"And he said unto them, depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed."

52. I mvous I mo'ongonyate unyeni a wou

SWAHILI: Mtoto akichoma nyumba hamuwezi kumu weka mu moto.

ENGLISH: A child when burns the house you can't put him into the fire.

FRENCH: Si un enfant brule la maison on ne lui met pas dans les feux

MEANING: This proverb is used when someone seek for the forgiveness and accept the mistake done.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel 14:33

"And Joab came to the king and told him. And he called to Absalom; and he came to the king, and bowed to him on his face to the earth before the king. And the king gave a kiss to Absalom."

53. I ngue ungo umpkele a mo'onyo uteu woe ngnoĩ eyo'o

SWAHILI: Fimbo abanyo mtu ameshika ndio hutumika kwanza kumuwa nyoka.

ENGLISH: The stick one is holding is the one used first to kill the snake.

FRENCH: Le bâton que tu tiens est celui qui est utilisé en premier lieu pour tuer le serpent.

MEANING: One has to use what is at their disposal. Unlike not using the money you have noisily because you hope for bigger amounts tomorrow

Biblical parallel: Exodus 14:16

"But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."

54. Isa'a me nda me neuveunto mileu

SWAHILI: Kwawenyewe ni juu ya mti

ENGLISH: Other people's home is on top of a tree

FRENCH: Chez autrui c'est au dessus d'un arbre

MEANING: There is no better place like home. We are most comfortable with people, things and places which we are familiar with. People present the best about themselves when in a familiar circumstance or environment. We do our best work when performing duties which we are familiar with.

Biblical parallel: Exodus 1:14

"And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour."

55. I veuvo'oedi I teulere ekape lot mboagui

SWAHILI: kula kimia ne kugawanya sawa

ENGLISH: Silent eating is equal division.

FRENCH: Manger en paix c'est partagé équitablement.

MEANING: It's good to share your property with your friends and relative to avoid future curses and fingers being pointed your way.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 30:24

"And who will listen to you in this thing? For as the portion of him who goes down to battle, so shall be his share who remains by the baggage. They shall share together."

56. Iza'amedimo undou ama'ateuzoebo a noung

SWAHILI: Pili pili usiyo ila yakuwashia nini?

ENGLISH: why is the pepper that you have not eaten bitter in your mouth?

FRENCH: Comment es que le piment que tu n'as pas consommé peut te piquer ?

MEANING: Why involve yourself with things that do not concern you?

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel 12:16-17

"And David sought the Elohim for the child. And David fasted a fast, and went in and stayed the night, and lay on the earth. And the elders of his house rose up toward him, to raise him up from the earth. But he was not willing; and he ate no bread with them."

57. I zeuzeugmikok I neu a noung I mot a teuvip

SWAHILI: Utamu wakitu unalingana na Yule anaye kula.

ENGLISH: The sweetness of something depends on the eater.

FRENCH: Le gout de la chose est ressenti par celui qui le consomme.

MEANING: One can never know how something tastes long before he/she takes it in his/ her mouth also the bitterness of it.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus 16:31

"Now the house of Israel called its name manna it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey."

58. Lo'otmva'a e djipla'anba'ateuso'o e mbom

SWAHILI: Pita huko nipite kule si rafiki mzuri wa kusafiri naye.

ENGLISH: Pass there I will pass there is not a good friend to journey with.

FRENCH: Passe la et je passerai de l'autre cote il n'est pas un bon ami de voyage avec.

MEANING: Friends who do not like to do things in cooperation, but prefers to always do things alone are not the best of friends

Biblical parallel: Genesis 26:27

"And Isaac said unto them, wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you?"

59. Mbeulo ungui mot veu me nyeni, mot asseu a ne mpi

SWAHILI: Usisukume dudu ju iko ushi sababu iko na faida ingine kuja kwao

ENGLISH: Pushing away an insect just because it's naked and when you get yield from it you praise it

FRENCH: Ne repousse pas les insectes pour leur nudité, les biens arrivent par eux de fois

MEANING: Never under estimate someone or something because you don't know where your success lies

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ecclesiastes 9:15

"And there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom saved the city. Yet no man remembered that poor man!"

60. Medim e koass me neu e mboé

SWAHILI: Urafiki mwema ni wa samaki na maji.

ENGLISH: A good relationship is like fish and water.

FRENCH: L'eau et le poisson font une bonne amitié

MEANING: If anyone of this lacks one another there is no value. The river or the lakes that don't have fish have no value.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 18:3

"And Jonathan and David cut a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul."

61. Metoum me neubi djem

SWAHILI: Zoezi kuleta bulema

ENGLISH: The habit of doing same thing causes disability.

FRENCH: L'habitude cree l'endicape.

MEANING: Getting used to doing something creates every day's habit.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 27:11

"David did not keep alive man or woman to bring news to Gath, saying, lest they speak against us, saying, So David has done; and so has been his custom all the days that he has lived in the fields of the Philistines"

62. Meump keingom mpkā amteu e mboum

SWAHILI: Wakati nilishika chimbiriki ine nilikwa na Umbwa?

ENGLISH: When I trapped and caught eight Hedgehogs did I have a dog?

FRENCH: Lorsque j'avais attrape huit dama avez-je les chiens?

MEANING: When I didn't go to ask for help as I have been doing you thought I couldn't survive but I have survived long before you started helping me.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges15:16

"And Samson said, with the jawbone of a donkey, a heap, and two heaps; with the jawbone of a donkey I have killed a thousand men."

63. Meung e meleup ngue uke unko alane umiteu

SWAHILI: Mawaida yawazi iko bora kuliko uruma moyoni

ENGLISH: Its better an open advice than heart petty

FRENCH: Un conseil ouvert est plus que la pitié interne.

MEANING: It's better to be openly corrected by a friend than be criticized secretly

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 19:2

“And Saul's son Jonathan delighted exceedingly in David. And Jonathan told David, saying, My father Saul is seeking to kill you. And, now, please be on guard in the morning, and you shall stay in the secret place, and shall hide.”

64. Me nda me neuwong no, mo’ome ute uncap nibidi

SWAHILI: Dirani jo anaweza kula kiako kiakula

ENGLISH: Only the neighbor is willing to feast on your food

FRENCH: Seul le voisin qui peut manger ta nourriture.

MEANING: We are most comfortable with people, things and places which we are familiar with. People present the best about themselves when in a familiar circumstance or environment. We do our best work when performing duties which we are familiar with.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ruth 4:17

“And the neighboring women gave him a name, saying, this is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed1. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.”

65. Me teu ntongimk pem bene e beu mot ngue me teunka’an ban

SWAHILI: Nili lisha simba kama ni mtu nili sifiwa.

ENGLISH: I stayed and raised a lion but if it was a human being he/ she could have said thank you.

FRENCH: Je nourri le lion si c’été une personne je serais apprécié.

MEANING: It’s good to give back thanks to everyone who helps you and showing gratitude. Gratitude is good.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: John 7:4-5

“For no one does anything in secret and him seek to be in public. If you do these things, reveal yourself to the world. For His brothers did not believe into Him.”

66. Minga’a ateunga ngba ane na’ateu bag la ndaeba anyie

SWAHILI: Kuusisha mwana mke mambo ya nyumbani iko mzuri

ENGLISH: A participation in managing her home is appreciable.

FRENCH: La participation de la femme à la gestion de sa maison est appréciable

MEANING: The effort of woman in every society is clearly seen and should be most be appreciated.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 25:18

“And Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves, and two skins of wine, and five prepared sheep, and five”

67. Minkomni mi mo’ongo miteu leril nkan nnang

SWAHILI: Mtoto akikukutusi kuko mtu nyuma yake.

ENGLISH: If a child insults you there is someone behind him.

FRENCH: Si un enfant t’insulte, il y’a une personne derrière lui

MEANING: When you see a child with the courage there is someone who give him strength.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel 14:30

“And he said to his servants, Behold, Joab’s allotment is beside mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire. And Absalom’s servants set the allotment on fire.”

68. Missoglaan mi teusō e misso’s

SWAHILI: Ukinungunika sana utaongea mambo yadunia

ENGLISH: Much complains leads to one saying/ telling about the world.

FRENCH: Murmurer trop on parle des affaires de partout.

MEANING: When one ends up talking so much about others it leads to them telling secrets to the world.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus17:3

“But the people thirsted there for water and the people murmured against Moses and said “why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and cattle with thirst?”

69. Moan a ntita teu nyeu guindou idjonga teuwoula

SWAHILI: Watoto wanyama kukomala mu mwendo.

ENGLISH: A child of the animal grows up in a movement

FRENCH: Les enfants de grandissent dans la marche

MEANING: The children of unstable person grow up with a bad behavior.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Joshua 5:7

“So it was their children, whom he raised up in their stead that Joshua circumcised for they were uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way.”

70. Mo’ongo a sseu a mpkele idama teu ding

SWAHILI: Kila mtu ana mapungufu

ENGLISH: Everyone have his own weakness

FRENCH: Chaque personne a ses faiblesses

MEANING: There is no one who is perfect in the word and there no one who can say hi is perfect than anyone.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 16:1

“And Samson went to Gaza, and saw a woman there, a harlot, and went in to her.”

71. Mo’ongo a teunalba, a teunkat l dam a nyen

SWAHILI: Mtoto hawezi kusema wongo ana sema kile aliona

ENGLISH: A child’s word is never a lie

FRENCH: L’enfant ne trompe jamais, il ne dit que ce qu’il a vu.

MEANING: A child says whatever he/ she saw / witnessed. A Childs testimony is enough in a court because he/ she don’t lie.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 3:18

“And Samuel told him all the words, and did not hide from him. And he said, It is YAHWEH; He does that which is good in His eyes.”

72. Mo'ongo a mot ou voua atenyau di e ibo bomo

SWAHILI: Mtoto wamwenye ugali ula na makamasi

ENGLISH: A child's parent eats her / his meals with mucus.

FRENCH: L'enfant du propriétaire du Ugali mange avec la morve.

MEANING: East or west home is the best. A parent tolerates his/ her Childs mistakes but when they are dealing with other's children they act without understanding and harshness.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 22:8

"That all of you have conspired against me, and no one was revealing in my ear when my son cut a covenant with the son of Jesse? And not one of you is sorry for me, even to reveal in my ear that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day."

73. Mo'ongo me wog a djeung e djogbo

SWAHILI: Mtoto mtifu akosi maali yakulala

ENGLISH: An obedient child doesn't lack somewhere to sleep.

FRENCH: Un enfant respectueux ne manqué pas ou dormir.

MEANING: Good deeds are always rewarded. When you help people when they need your help, they will help you and your family in the future.

Biblical parallel: 2 Samuel 19:38

"And the king answered, Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good unto thee: and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, that will I do for thee."

74. Mora teumvo usano ungnto adiblaa'a

SWAHILI: Hauwezi kusahau kinywa kiako ila usiku

ENGLISH: You can never forget the position of your mouth even in darkness.

FRENCH: On n'oublie jamais sa bouche même pendant la nuit.

MEANING: Even at night you can never forget your relative's or close friend's voices.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 26:17

"And Saul recognized the voice of David, and said, Is this your voice, my son David? And David said, my voice, my master, O king!"

75. Mot a teuviani la na inongseu bi bouk

SWAHILI: Mwana ume anageuka kukitanda hageuki mu maneno.

ENGLISH: A man turns on his bed but not on his words.

FRENCH: L'homme tourne au lit mais pas dans sa parole.

MEANING: Every man should have a stand on his decisions and take responsibilities.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 15:33

"And Samuel said, As your sword has bereaved women of children, so shall your mother be bereft among women. And Samuel cut Agag in pieces before YAHWEH in Gilgal."

76. Mot a iboalibeu pinkapri a teu ding nkaprinyie

SWAHILI: Ndume yambuzi ununka ina pendezwa na mwenyewe

ENGLISH: A smelling he goat is loved by the owner

FRENCH: Le bouc qui pue est aimé par le propriétaire.

MEANING: Despite one being bad or good they still have people who support and love them.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 19:3

"And her husband rose up and went after her, to speak to her heart, to bring her back. And his young man was with him, and a team of donkeys. And she brought him into her father's house. And the young woman's father saw him and rejoiced to meet him."

77. Mot mi nal a teu tibia l nkop

SWAHILI: Umpe jembe mpini amalisie wongo yake

ENGLISH: Give the jembe to the tree to finish his lies

FRENCH: Donner la hache à la houe pour terminer son mensonge

MEANING: Help someone when you are able to help because someone can say that you are the one who made him the way he is because you didn't help him.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 22:2

"And He said, now take your son, Isaac, your only one whom you love, and go into the land of Moriah. And there offer him for a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will say to you."

78. Mot andeundong a ne bitom mo passe

SWAHILI: Kinyua kila kusema nyingi kupata matatizo kila mara

ENGLISH: A talkative mouth has so many problems end up in much trouble

FRENCH: La bouche qui parle porte toujours les problèmes.

MEANING: When you talk much you will find yourself in problems with others so it better to choose your words correctly

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 10:19

"In the abundance of words sin does not cease, but one restraining his lips is prudent."

79. Mot ous seu a teudjem pi dam de

SWAHILI: Maana yakintu aijuwa mwenye kitu

ENGLISH: The value of an item is well known only well by the owner.

FRENCH: Seul le propriétaire de la chose connaît la valeur de sa chose.

MEANING: When one struggles to get something he/ she is only one who knows all the hardships he got and what how much it is of value in his/ her life

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Esther 1:13

“And the king said to the wise men who knew the times for so was the king's manner toward all who knew law and judgment;”

80. Ndjongui bot beunga ngwoa, be lèriwo'o men

SWAHILI: Usijisifu mwenyewe acha wakusifu

ENGLISH: Let the society praise you and not for you to brag.

FRENCH: Ne te glorifie pas toi-même c'est la société qui peut te glorifie.

MEANING: One should never take the initiative to praise him/ hers elf but should let society tell of his/her goodness and achievements.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel18:7

“And the women who were playing answered and said, Saul has slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands.”

81. Ngueumo'ot a teuwoanya'anana'ala a teuntil neuna'a a teudjeubiton

SWAHILI: Kama mtu hakujibu hasitake maneno yako.

ENGLISH: Whenever you talk to someone and doesn't, it means they want nothing to do with you.

FRENCH: Si quelqu'un ne te répond pas, il ne veut pas de ton problème.

MEANING: When someone does answer you it doesn't means they agree with you but another way of disagreeing.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Esther 3:4

“And it happened, when they spoke daily to him, and he did not listen to them, they told Haman, to see if Mordecai's matters would stand. For he had told them that he was a Jew.”

82. Nto'onnyo'a a neumbitda'a teunko'rona aneunyo'o

SWAHILI: Ingawa hana usafi yeye ni mama yako.

ENGLISH: Though she may be dirty she is your mother.

FRENCH: Même si elle peut être sale, c'est ta mère.

MEANING: Parents are parents, no matter what they maybe, they remain our parents. We should respect them and let them guide us.

Biblical parallel: Mathew 15:4

“For God said, Honor thy father and thy mother: and, He that speaketh evil of father or mother, let him die the death.”

83. Ngueu ou teudjeumi inga a bag la’awoa let eboum si do’o

SWAHILI: Ili Mwana mke akulinde umuoneshe chini ya chungu

ENGLISH: When you want a woman to guide you show her under the cooking pot.

FRENCH: Pour qu’une femme te protégé montre lui le fond de la calebasse

MEANING: Every woman likes a man to show her love and the truth inside his heart.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 19:12

“And Michal made David go down through the window. And he went, and fled, and escaped.”

84. Ngueuwo ateu nkeu me nta me bonyaboro, ndamdewo ampkeu ou bila

SWAHILI: Sita enda kwa mze kutakua kile kita kutuma kule

ENGLISH: I will not go to the elders but some reason will push you.

FRENCH: Je ne pars pas chez les grands, il y aura ce qui te poussera d’y aller.

MEANING: You can never refuse to go to the elders because there is where solutions are.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 28:7-8

“And Saul said to his servants, Seek out for me a woman, with the ability to call up the dead, and I will go to her and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, a woman, a medium, is in End or. And Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes.”

85. Ngueun’ganraou lot m’heulounka’ana lot mpognyo’o

SWAHILI: Akiwa umefurahiwa katika mbio utabuka hata kwako

ENGLISH: You are praised of running even your own home you will pass white running.

FRENCH: Lorsque on t'apprécie pour la course tu dépasses même chez toi a la maison.

MEANING: When one performs on a certain field bragging and exaggerated praises should not be the results.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Esther 1:11-12

"To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the royal crown, in order for the people and the princes to look up on her beauty. For she was beautiful to look upon. But Vashti the queen refused to come at the king's command by his eunuchs. And the king was very angry, and his fury burned within him."

86. Nka'ara a teudjon nguibo an a djemngui na e woabeu peube

SWAHILI: Nkala aki zaa kwashia na kwedeleya kusema kule endako ataza tena

ENGLISH: A Crab give birth to his younger ones lives them and says i t will give birth to others.

FRENCH: Lors que le crabe met bas abandonne ses petits en dissent qu'elle aura d'autres petits

MEANING: Every human being has a different way of behaving because of what they inherit from their parent's nature, be it bad or good. The young people may emulate behavior of adults and therefore, care should be taken not to show bad behavior to them.

Biblical parallel: Ezekiel 16:44

"Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter."

87. Nkouya teuntak e a wou iloli

SWAHILI: Kuku usimsheke bata kasho ni zamu yako

ENGLISH: A chicken doesn't laugh at the duck tomorrow is your dy.

FRENCH: Poulet ne te réjouit pas de la mort du canard demain c'est ton tour

MEANING: Everyone has his own day to be successful or to be unsuccessful

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Esther 7:9

"And Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said before the king, Also, look! The wooden gallows which Haman made for Mordecai, who had spoken Good toward the king, is standing at Haman's house. And the king said, Hang him on it!"

88. Nkoul I ma'al I neumbous nyie

SWAHILI: Mutumbo unatembea kwa mukongo

ENGLISH: The floating of the boat is its back.

FRENCH: La flotte de la pirogue et sur son dos.

MEANING: This proverb is used to restore him to awareness about the wrong doings that he is causing to himself and his surroundings.

Biblical parallel: Numbers 16:19

"And Korah gathered the entire congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto the entire congregation. "

89. Nkoul I Nteunteuk I neuvebi diseu bissa

SWAHILI: Mzembe ana nguvu ya kula si ya kazi

ENGLISH: A lazy man has the effort (energy) to eat but not to work.

FRENCH: Un paresseux a la force de manger pas de cultiver.

MEANING: A lazy person finds pleasure in eating the food he/ she has food that he/ she has no idea where it has come from than to work for his own. Never plan for tomorrow what can be done today. Post pone for the other day is not a better way of acting in life.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 6:9

"How long will you lie down, O lazy man? When will you arise out of your sleep?"

90. Ntock nyateuso'o embom

SWAHILI: Mpongo akikwarifu ukifa shauri yako

ENGLISH: If an Antipope informs you in anything when you die it's your problem.

FRENCH: Lorsque l'antilope t'avertit sur quelque chose, si tu meures c'est ton affaire

MEANING: If you are informed in anything don't blame anyone if you fail.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 19:2

“And Saul's son Jonathan delighted exceedingly in David. And Jonathan told David, saying, my father Saul is seeking to kill you. And, now, please be on guard in the morning, and you shall stay in the secret place, and shall hide.”

91. Nyeug leu ngoannyo'oneu te bebogboas si endo de denga'an ban

SWAHILI: Umfuze binti wako kuka uteshimiwa

ENGLISH: Teach your daughter to stay well you will be respected.

FRENCH: Apprend a ta fille à bien s'asseoir ton nom sera honoré

MEANING: When you teach your daughter you teach her family and the future.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 24:47

“And I asked her and I said, whose daughter are you? And she said, The daughter of Bethuel the son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him. And I put the ring on her nose¹, and the bracelets on her hands.”

92. Nyom pam asseu a teudje mebene nyal

SWAHILI: Uzuri wa mke ni mumewe aujuwao

ENGLISH: A wife's beauty depends on the husband way of viewing the beauty.

FRENCH: La beauté de la femme c'est son mari qui la connaît.

MEANING: The person that lives near you will be in a better position to tell much about you than an outside. The beauty of someone or something lies on the eyes of the beholder

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Esther 1:11

“To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the royal crown, in order for the people and the princes to look upon her beauty. For she was beautiful to look upon.”

93. Ou neutchik I nyem a louseuve da ou teuntalikop nyie

SWAHILI: Busiku buna shulinyaka mnyama ila habutanjikake ngozi

ENGLISH: At night an animal can be slaughter but its skin cannot be dried.

FRENCH: On peut dépiécé une bête la nuit mais pas étalé sa peau.

MEANING: Everything must be done at its own specific time.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ecclesiastes 9:10

“All that your hand finds to do, do it with your strength. For there is no work, or planning, or knowledge, or wisdom, in Sheol, there where you go.”

94. Ou noan ou teu ding somlo ou teuwoula e somlo

SWAHILI: Ndege anaye penda inswa kutembea kuvisukulu

ENGLISH: A bird that loves insects walks along the holes their appear (live)

FRENCH: L’oiseau qui aime les fourmis se promène aux termitières.

MEANING: When you are attracted to something you must reduce the long distance and follow it to where it is.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: John 6:2

“And a great crowd followed Him, for they saw His miracles which He did on the sick ones.”

95. Ousseu keudje ngbito mano ungo umbèreu

SWAHILI: Una enda kumambo una laka mambo

ENGLISH: You go out to find some stories and on top of it you give out spoiling (damaging) report.

FRENCH: Tu vas aux problèmes et tu averti les problèmes.

MEANING: One should be careful in whatever you say or do to have a good life in the world.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel 16:22

“And they spread out a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father's concubines before the eyes of all Israel”

96. Ousso’o a mbognyo’o medim I teumes seumbit

SWAHILI: Mtoni wa kwenu nyumbani ata ni chafu maji yake uta ikunywa

ENGLISH: Your home land river will serve you water despite its dirtiness.

FRENCH: La rivière de chez soi même si elle est sale tu y boiras l'eau.

MEANING: You love each and every relative despite their bad behaviors because blood is thicker than water.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 11:1-2

"And Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior. And he was the son of a harlot woman; and Gilead fathered Jephthah. And the wife of Gilead bore sons to him. And the sons of the wife grew up, and they threw Jephthah out, and said to him, You shall not inherit in the house of your father, for you are the son of another woman."

97. Ou teuteu kanka alo'o ngoda

SWAHILI: jiwe moja moja kumaliza nyumba

ENGLISH: One brick and another brick finish a house.

FRENCH: Brique par brique l'ont finis une maison

MEANING: Anything one by one can make a big thing.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1kings 5:17

"And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, quarried stones, to lay the foundation of the house."

98. Ou teutchi li neubekoe

SWAHILI: Safari ya mbote ni kujitupa

ENGLISH: The journey of cushiest is like giving up and throwing themselves.

FRENCH: Le voyage d'un pygmée c'est se jeté.

MEANING: Living a secretive life is of advantage.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: John 7:10

"But when His brothers went up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as in secret."

99. Peuk I tam a toukra'ankoass a djam tit

SWAHILI: Matunda mawili ililalisha mnyama na njaa.

ENGLISH: Two fruits make an animal sleep hungry.

FRENCH: Deux fruits ont fait dormir l'animal affame.

MEANING: A member of society may bring about problems leading to difficulties. It may lead to consequences that he cannot handle. This proverb is used to restore him to awareness about the wrong doings that he is causing to himself and his surroundings.

Biblical parallel: Numbers 16:19, 26

"And Korah gathered the entire congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto the entire congregation. And he spoke unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins"

100. Woula a teudje mabouï a lot nguolmot a ngua nyeu ngui

SWAHILI: Yule ana safari anajuwa kuliko Yule ali soma

ENGLISH: The one who travels more know n's better than who is study.

FRENCH: Celui qui voyage trop connait plus que celui qui a étudié

MEANING: To travel is to study. Anyone who travels studies more than the one who studies and stay.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus 18:14

"And Moses' father-in-law saw all which he was doing to the people. And he said, what is this thing which you are doing to the people? Why are you sitting by yourself, and all the people standing beside you from morning until evening?"

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COLLECTION

KASSE ADELLE CHRISTEL (adellelove2014@gmail.com) Cameroon Yaoundé

COLLABORATION

Mzombo Métangmo (mzogmo@yahoo.fr)

A RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR COLLECTION OF ETON PROVERBS

AND WISE SAYINGS

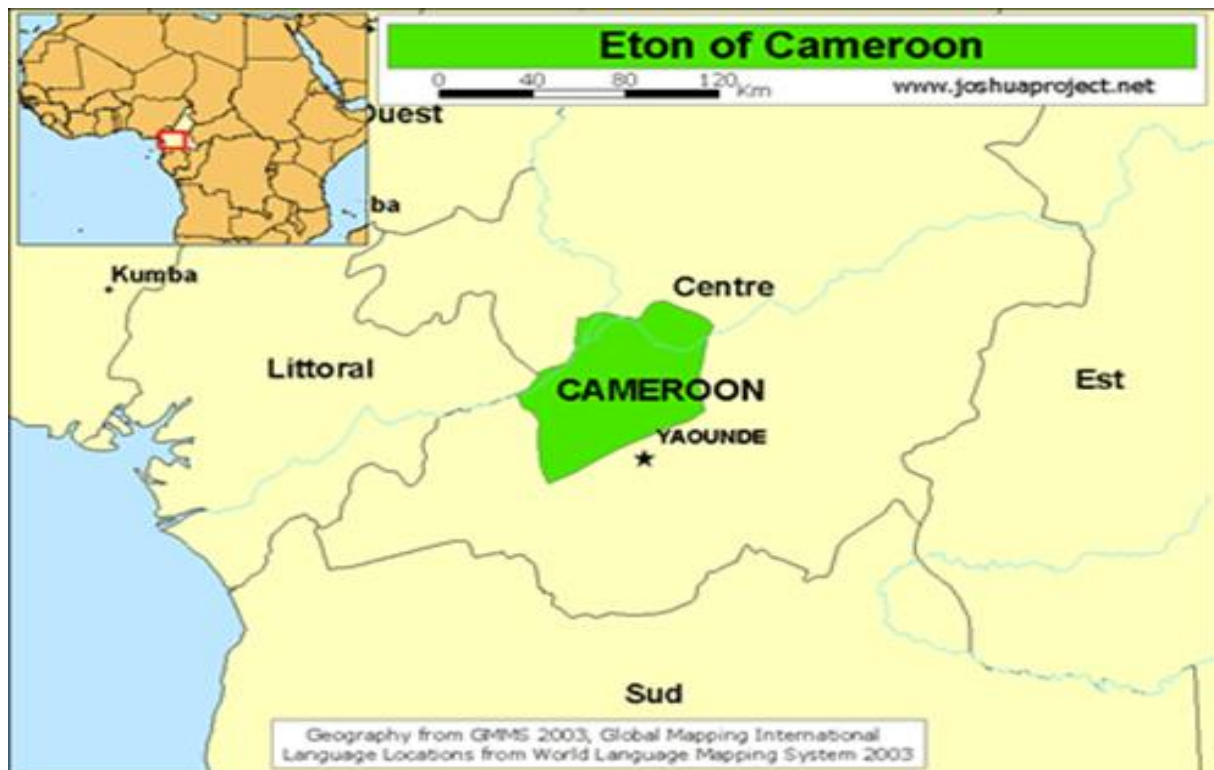
By Laur Mwepu Luiza

(Kenya)

INTRODUCTION

“ETON” is a language from Cameroon from the Centre region of Cameroon. As part of the “Beti” ethnic group, the language which carries the name of the tribes is spoken by almost 2 million of Cameroonians. The Beti-Pahuin are a Bantu ethnic group located in rain forest regions of **Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tomé**. Though they separate themselves into several individual clans, they all share a common origin, history and culture. They were numbered at an estimated 8,320,000 individuals in the early 21st century and are the largest ethnic group in Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. Their languages, from the Bantu subgroup of the Niger–Congo language family, are mutually intelligible.

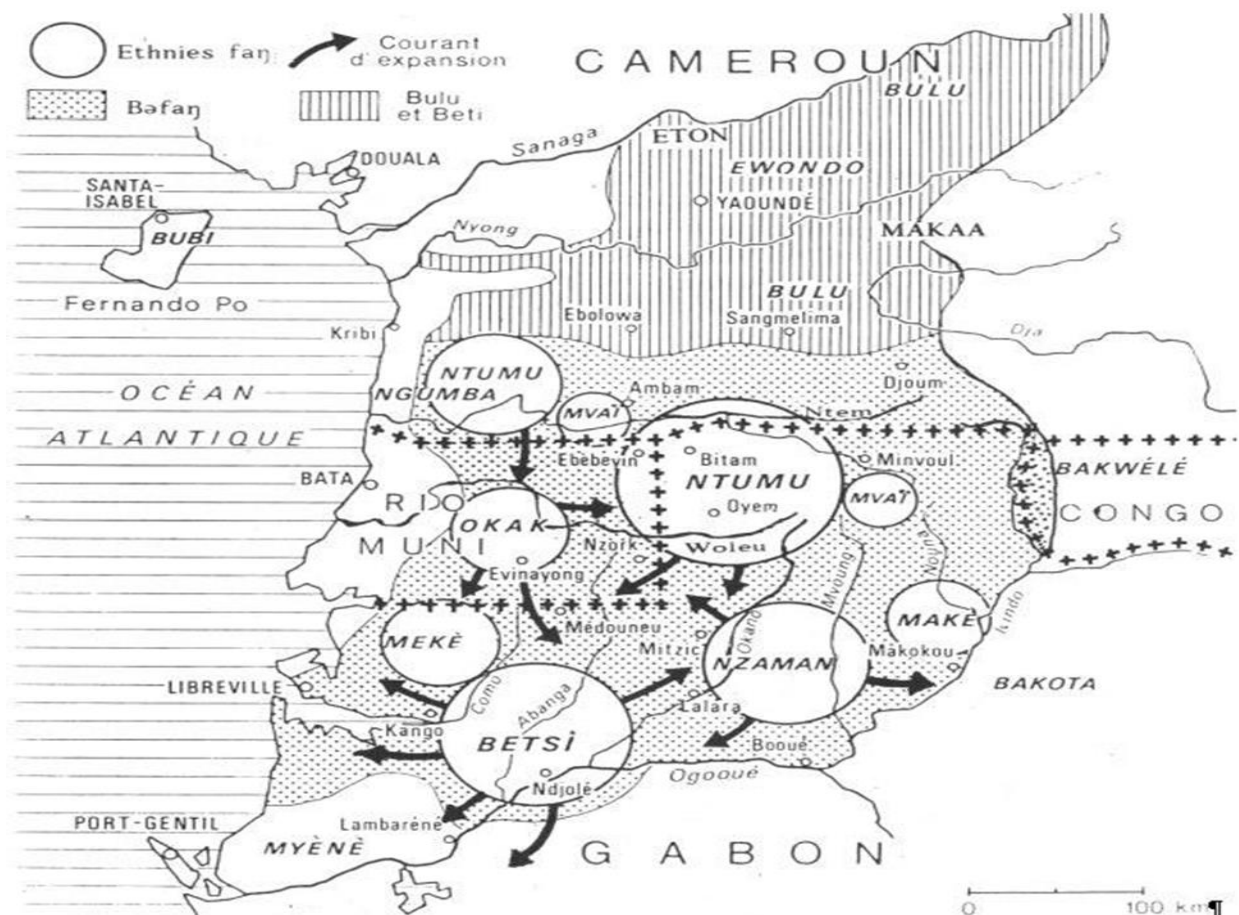
THE ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE ETON ETHNIC GROUP IN CAMEROON



The Beti-Pahuin are made up of over 20 individual clans. Altogether, they inhabit a territory of forests and rolling hills that stretches from the Sanaga River in the north to Equatorial Guinea and the northern

halves of Gabon to Congo to the south, and from the Atlantic Ocean to the west to the Dja River in the east. The first grouping, called the Beti, consists of the Ewondo (more precisely Kolo), Bane, Fang (more precisely M'fang), Mbida-Mbane, Mvog-Nyenge, and Eton (or Iton). The Eton are further subdivided into the Eton-Beti, Eton-Beloua, and Beloua-Eton. Their language (or Beti dialect), also called Ewondo, is the most widely spoken of the Beti languages in Cameroon, with an estimated 1,200,000 speakers in 1982. It serves as a *lingua franca* in Yaoundé and much of the rest of Cameroon's Centre and South Provinces. The Eton lives primarily in the Lekie division of Cameroon's Centre Province with major settlements at Sa'a and Obala. They speak the Eton language or dialect, which had 500,000 speakers in 1982. The Beti-Pahuin's exact origins are unclear. At one point, they were thought to have migrated into the territory of present-day Cameroon from the Azande area of Sudan, but the current belief is that they originated in the forests south of the Sanaga River, not far from their current territory. At some point they crossed the Sanaga and moved north until they reached the upper Kadéï River. They soon came under attack there from the Vute or Mbum people, so they fled further north to the eastern Adamawa Plateau

THE ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE ETON ETHNIC GROUP IN CAMEROON



ETHNICS GROUPES OF CAMEROON:

BULU , EBOLOWA, NTUMU , NGUMBA , MVAI , AMBAM, BETSI, BOOUE ,
MAKAKOU, ETON, NZAMAN, MITZIC , MEDOUNEU , MEKE , EVINAYONG , NZOIK, OKAK ,
NDJOLE, MAKAA, DJOUM, MINVOUL , BITAM ,BAKOTA, NTUMU , OYEM , NDJOLE,
MYENE, BAKWELE, BAFOU,BUBI, BULU...

The Beti-Pahuin groups would not remain there long, however. Their migration coincided with the jihad and Fulbe (Fula) conquests of Usman Dan Fodio and his lieutenant, Modibo Adama, in the early 19th century. Under pressure from Ful be raiders, the Vute moved once more into Beti-Pahuin lands, and the Beti-Pahuin were forced to relocate once again. They moved south and west in a series of waves. The first group included the Bulu and Fang, who split somewhere near what, is today the town of Ebolowa.

These migrations also coincided with the apex of European trade off the Cameroon coast. The newly claimed jungle and near-coastal territories of the Beti-Pahuin allowed them to ensconce themselves into a lucrative role as middlemen; in exchange for European goods, they provided items such as kola nuts, ivory, and slaves. The Beti-Pahuin peoples organize themselves according to a series of patrilineal kinships. The family (a man, his wife or wives, and his children) forms the backbone of this system. Several families of a common lineage live together in a village, and in turn, several related villages form a clan. These clans come under the nominal rule of a chief, who is also traditionally regarded as a religious authority. Nevertheless, these individuals, though still highly regarded, hold very little actual power today, and in some of the southern Beti-Pahuin groups, the office of chief has disappeared altogether. Most decision-making at the village or clan level is done by consensus.

Beti-Pahuin territory also includes a number of sizable towns and cities, most of which were begun by the Germans or French. Here, settlements are more in the European pattern, with a network of streets, various neighbor hoods, and central administrative or commercial districts.

Most individuals maintain an agrarian lifestyle. Manioc and maize form the staple crops with plantains, yams, and groundnuts also playing a vital role (in fact, "Ewondo" and "Yaoundé" mean "groundnut"). A variety of forest products, such as greens, insects, mushrooms, and various palm products, supplements the diet. Livestock is limited to small animals that may be left to forage unattended, such as goats, pigs, and chickens.

Religion Most Beti-Pahuin peoples were Christianized by 1939 (though the Fang were also influenced by the Mitsogo). At this time, much of their traditional culture was abandoned, including much native **dance** and **song**. Nevertheless, the native animist beliefs were never completely extinguished, and traditional practices have enjoyed res urgency since 1945, such as the Bwiti religion and, as has a flowering of new styles of music and dance, such as the Bikutsi of the Ewondos.

Thus, today many Beti-Pahuin consider them Christian, go to church on Sundays, and then attend various secret societies or visit a traditional healer at other times during the week. Other people

dispense with Christianity altogether. A firm belief in witchcraft also persists among much of the population, and even today, sorcery is a punishable offense in some areas.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research are:

1. To collect one hundred proverbs and wise sayings from the ETON people, from the elders and their general community.
2. To translate these proverbs and wise sayings into English, Kiswahili and French, for reference by a wider group of readers.
3. To find Biblical parallels to complement the Christian point of view.

JUSTIFICATION

This will help people to enrich their communication skills by using these proverbs and wise sayings.

METHODOLOGY

The writer will research and collect ETON proverbs and wise sayings from the ETON community at the Cameroon. The teaching and a Bible parallel will be added to each. One hundred of these proverbs will then be recorded for translation into Kiswahili, English, and French and be published in a booklet.

BUDGET

1.	Data gathering and processing	\$ 180
2.	Typing and printing	\$ 100
3.	Binding	\$ 70
4.	Transport	\$ 100
5.	Miscellaneous	\$ 50
TOTAL		<u>\$ 500</u>

