

A COLLECTION OF 100 TETELA PROVERBS



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I appreciate the support of the African Working Group in Nairobi for reviewing the progress of my work during their meetings.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to:

My dear OKUBO

The African Proverbs Working Group (Nairobi, Kenya) and
to all the readers of African literature.

INTRODUCTION

The Tetela people (or Batetela in the plural) are an ethnic group of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, most of whom speak the Otetela. The Tetela is a Bantu language,

The Batetela live in the region between Lusambo and the Upper Congo River, in the provinces of Sankuru and Maniema. They are related to the Kusu people, and only became separate in the late 1800s after the arrival of Arabs and Belgians in the region. Both the Batetela and the Kusu are subgroups of the larger Mongo group. The name Motetela comes from a god named Motetela, meaning either "he who laughs not" or "heat whom one may not laugh History according to Emil Torday, who studied the tribes of the Congo between 1908 and 1909, the Batetela originated on the right bank of the Lomami River and migrated to their present territory at some unknown date. In 1869-70 their language is called Otetela. (Otetela, Kitetela, Kikitatela), also Sungu, is a Bantu language of northern Kasai-Oriental Province, Democratic Republic of Congo spoken by the Tetela people.

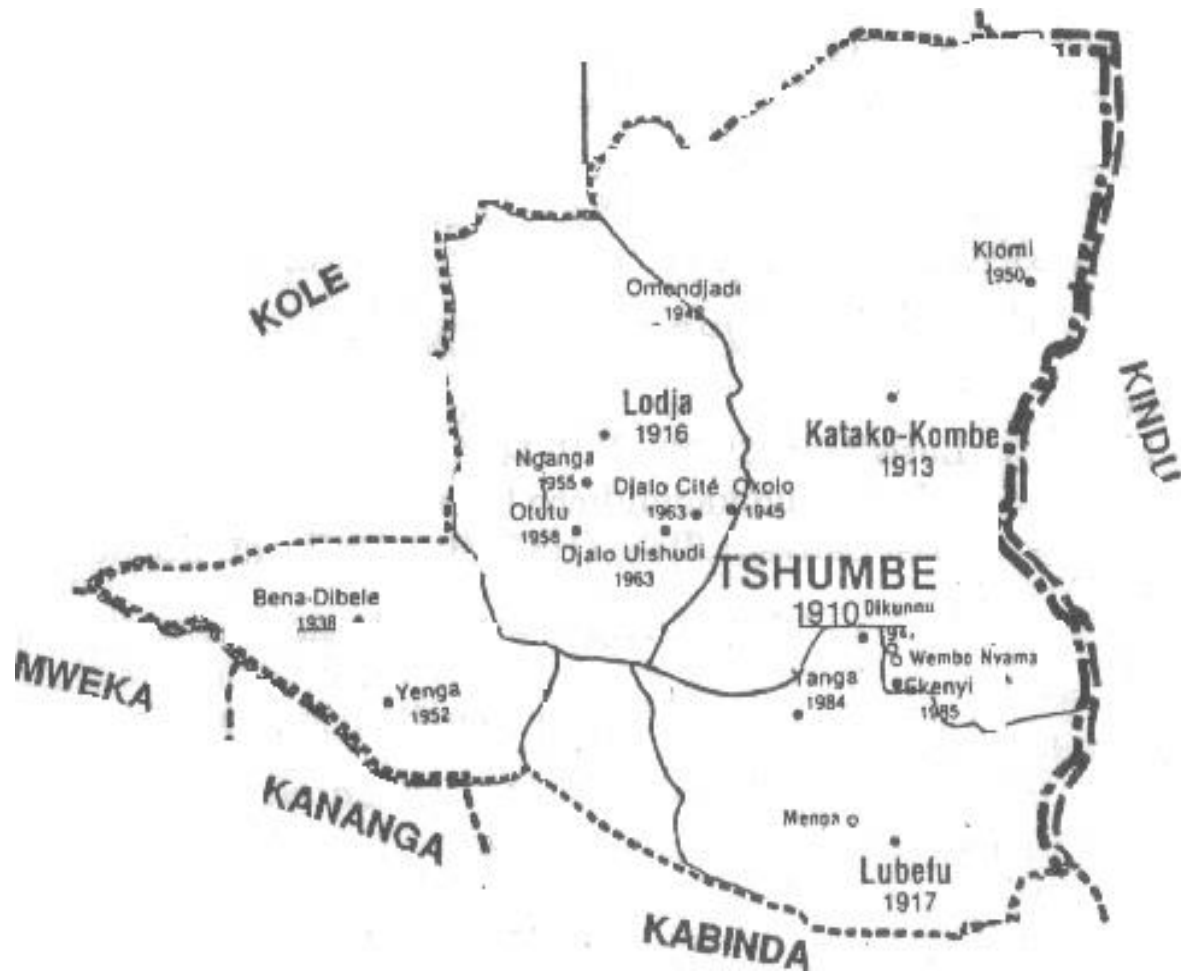
The Batetela live in the area between Lusambo and Upper Congo River, in the provinces of Sankuru and Maniema. it is a little more than that. The territory limits of the Tetela community are defined by influences of the population in a territory. Tetela leaving their ancestral home some settled down in the grass-land of the Lubefu, others in the forest of the Lukenye River. Some came into contact with the relatively cultured Basongye and Isambo, others with the primitive Bakusu; some were influenced by the Baluba coming from south others by the AKEL, immigrant from the north. Some were conquered by the Arabs and lived for years under their influenced others become soldiers of the white man and benefited by his education. These two latter groups seeing of less interest the anthropologist than to the colonial administrator may be dismissed in a few words. The Batetela soldiers of the Congo state, when they freed themselves of their officers, become the terror of the country and continued so for several years. Allied to the Portuguese slave traders of Angola they practically depopulated large tracts in the south of the Congo state and practiced on the natives such wanton cruelty as is probably unknown in history. It may be said that contact white man and the Arab has brought out in the Batetela all the savagery of their prehistoric ancestors. Not so when they came into touch with other tribes of their own race then they changed too; many of their ways underwent considerable alteration, but still they continued. It would be difficult to find a people in Africa which would illustrate the effect of such events better than the Batetela.

The Tetela culture, culturally the Tetela lived in the forest and built huts of mud on the wall and thatched with grasses on the roofs. They are the hunter, fish man done by men, while women do farming of cassava, banana and rice, their main staple food is "Oyoko" cooked from cassava, rice "Epunga"

THE ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE TETELA ETHNIC GROUP IN KASAI PROVINCE



THE LOCATION OF THE TETELA ETHNIC GROUP IN KASAI ORIENTAL (D.R.CONGO)



A COLLECTION OF 100 TETELA PROVERBS

101. Aha ndwela akalanga la kanya dadi

SWAHILI: Husigombanie mkaa na mwenda wazimu

ENGLISH: Dont fight over charcoal with a mad person

FRENCH: Ne vous disputez pas les braises avec le fou

MEANING: Don't fight or argue with a person who is not in your level. Respect yourself and people will respect you.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus 2:14

“And he said who appointed you as a man, a ruler and a judge over us? Are you saying to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, surely the thing is known.”

102. Akambu wa landja wulu

SWAHILI: Mambo yote ya dunia ni magumu

ENGLISH: Way of the world are hard

FRENCH: les affaires de ce monde sont difficiles

MEANING: These are no easy way out in the world you need to strong to get was is life.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 28:13

“And the king said to her, Do not be afraid. For what have you seen? And the woman said to Saul, I have seen an Elohim coming up out of the earth.”

103. Amantu weko paka wamantu kuku aha tshe butshukami

SWAHILI: Wote ni wanawake lakini sio wote wandoa

ENGLISH: Not every woman is marriage able

FRENCH: Toute sont femme mais toute ne sont pas mariable

MEANING: The behavior and character of a woman lead to become old in marriage.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Esther 1:12

“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.”

104. Ambena onanyo kawenyaka komba luudu moyo kayaka landja

SWAHILI: Ukimuona ndugu yako husimusalimie nje muonesha nyumba

ENGLISH: Whenever you see your brother doesn't greet him outside your home but inside the house.

FRENCH: Si tu vois ton frère ne le salue pas dehors montre lui la maison

MEANING: A visitor is not served or talked to outside the house but is welcomed in the house.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis24:31

“And he said, Come in, blessed of YAHWEH! Why are you standing outside? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels.”

105. Antu fanaka endakawa mbudjase dihule otoi

SWAHILI: Tunakuwa mapacha tunapoishi pamoja

ENGLISH: You become twins when ones you live together

FRENCH: On devient jumeau lorsqu'on vie ensemble

MEANING: When people live together they possess some behavior

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ecclesiastes 4:9

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

106. Atshukami wa dimena eko paka kudumba

SWAHILI: Wana ndoa wazuri ni njiwa

ENGLISH: A role model couple is the pigeon in the world

FRENCH: Le plus bon couple ce celui des pigeons

MEANING: When a couple imitates the pigeon they become the best and live happy

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Luke 1:6

“And they were both righteous before Elohim, walking blameless in all the commandments and ordinances of YAHWEH.”

107. Bisha wumuntu sheke yaye ndjayange aui

SWAHILI: kumuambia mwanamke siri yako ni kujitafutia shida katika maisha yako

ENGLISH: A secret given to a girl by someone is like searching for trouble (problem)

FRENCH: Donner son secret à une femme s’est se crée des difficultés dans sa vie

MEANING: It’s never good to give a girl a secret because people can force it out of her and use her.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 16:18

“And Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart. And she sent and called for the Philistine rulers, saying, come, for this time he has told me all his heart. And the Philistine rulers came up to her, and brought the silver in their hand.”

108. Dikambo diambotama le antu pumbaka mbukama

SWAHILI: Uwamuzi wa pamoja ni ya kueshimu kwajumla

ENGLISH: A groups decision stand stop be respected

FRENCH: La décision de l’assemblée doit être respectée de tous

MEANING: When a decision is passed by many no one has a right to go against it

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 14:4

“And between the passes by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistine fort, there was a rocky crag on the one side, and the rocky crag opposite this; and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other, Seneh.”

109. Dikundju dia wumuntu eko okunda

SWAHILI: Tumbo la mwanamke ni msitu

ENGLISH: The stomach of a woman is a forests.

FRENCH: Le ventre d'une femme est une foret

MEANING: One woman give birth to different children with different behavior.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 25:23

"And YAHWEH said to her, two nations are in your womb; even two peoples shall break from your body. And one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger."

110. Diwala eko kalasa le wadi l'umi

SWAHILI: Ndoa ni shule

ENGLISH: A marriage is a school (place to learn new things each day)

FRENCH: Le mariage est une école

MEANING: A husband and a wife must stay together in order to learn each other's likes and dislikes also the character

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Titus 2:4

"That they might train the young women to be modest, to love their husbands, and their children,"

111. Diuvu dia ndjovu kema uhumba uku dia boloko

SWAHILI: Ngozi ya ndovu haina na umuhimu kuliko ya swala

ENGLISH: The skin of a deer is far more of importance than that of an elephant

FRENCH: La peau de l'éléphant n'est pas plus importante que celle de l'antilope

MEANING: Even the last person in the world he/she is also far much important

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Mathews 2:6

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, in no way are you least among the governors of Judah, for out of you shall come out One ruling, who shall shepherd My people Israel."

112. Diui dia lundu la mbishama haurusanyek'antu

SWAHILI: Mambo ya chumbani sio ya nje

ENGLISH: Bedroom issues are not to be taken outside.

FRENCH: les affaires de la chambre a couchée ne sont pas à amener en dehors.

MEANING: The need to resolve problems discretely between married people. Not insulting or discussing each other on their private life in public, or telling other people about your problems.

Biblical parallel: Proverbs 24:3-4

“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures”.

113. Djema y’untu edinga wutala

SWAHILI: kitu cha mwengine ni kama moshi kwenye kaala

ENGLISH: Same item is like the smoke with (senyenge)

FRENCH: la chose d’autrui c’est la fume sur fumier.

MEANING: You just see the negative side of other and you forget yours

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1 Samuel 5:11

“And they sent and gathered all the rulers of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the Elohim of Israel, and let it return to its place, and it may not cause me and my people to die. For there had been a great destruction throughout all the city. The hand of the Elohim had been very heavy there.”

114. Engenyi weli kame mbayunga ndu wa lui wulu

SWAHILI: Vijana ni nguvu kazi ya kesho

ENGLISH: Young growing are the future for tomorrow.

FRENCH: Les jeunes en croissance sont les futures de demain.

MEANING: It teaches that the young are the hope of tomorrow’s future.

Biblical parallel: [Psalm 71:18](#)

“Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come”

115. Engo kaye paka kene kelilu anya wakiye

SWAHILI: Kitu chako ni kile kilicho mkononi mwako

ENGLISH: A thing is what you hold in your hands.

FRENCH: Votre chose est ce que vous tenez dans vos mains.

MEANING: One has to rely and use what they have. Not to misuse what one has presently because they hope for more tomorrow.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Mathew 6:34

"Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

116. Engo ka wuvi hukulutsha pundju

SWAHILI: Vitu vya wizi havishibishi

ENGLISH: Stolen things never finished the famine.

FRENCH: Les choses du vol ne rassasié pas

MEANING: The ill-gotten benefits are not helpful to anybody. Many gain wealth wrongfully but later lose it all. They may not use it comfortably or invest it for fear of being found out.

Biblical parallel: Proverbs 20:17 and 21:6

"Bread of falsehood is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel. The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vapor driven to and fro by them that seek death".

117. Esungu sakanaka endaka weko lului

SWAHILI: Miti inakwaruzana ikiwa karibu

ENGLISH: Trees which are next to each always brush against each other.

FRENCH: les arbres qui sont au côté d'autres se brossent les uns les autres.

MEANING: Differences are inevitable when we live with other people. People must accommodate each other and live in harmony.

Biblical parallel: Genesis 26:22

“And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, for now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”

118. Fudutshe mbeyaka kefu kande

SWAHILI: Kila ndege anajuwa chicha lake

ENGLISH: Every bird knows its nest

FRENCH: Chaque oiseau connait son nid

MEANING: Everyone knows his/ her home. And everyone has an origin.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus 2:11

“And it happened in those days, when Moses was grown, and he went out to his brothers and looked upon their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian man strike a Hebrew man of his brothers.”

119. Fo katshitshe mbitsha nyakofo yaweke

SWAHILI: Mbwa mtoto anaweza kufukuza mbwa kwao

ENGLISH: In their compound a small puppy is strong he can even chase other dogs

FRENCH: Le petit du chien chasse les chiens dans son enclos

MEANING: One is more capable in their area of familiarity.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 29:7

“And now return, and go in peace that you not do evil in the eyes of the rulers of the Philistines.”

20 Hanonyi hakundja woto

SWAHILI: kama hauna hela hauna rafiki

ENGLISH: If you don't have money you don't have friends

FRENCH: Si tu n'as pas l'argent tu n'as plus d'amis

MEANING: Friends follow the one who has money and leave the one without money. He one with money always has many friends.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 19:4, 6

Wealth adds many friends, but the poor is separated from his neighbor. Many will beg the favor of a noble, and all are friends to him who gives gifts.

21. Hawudjaka lungya lu wushu w'olui kanga vo kema

SWAHILI: Husiweke mkono kwenye shimo ya nyoka hata kama hayupo

ENGLISH: Never place your hand in a snake's whole even when it's not there.

FRENCH: Ne met jamais ta main dans le trou du serpent même à son absence

MEANING: Never tempt others even when you see them not strong and they are silent. It is not wise to tempt others or ourselves purposely. Better avoid temptations if possible.

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."

22. Kanga nende ende eko ongenyi wa awuyi

SWAHILI: Mvivu ni rafiki wa maneno

ENGLISH: A lazy person is a friend to noise and senseless talks

FRENCH: Un paresseux est ami des paroles

MEANING: When you just plan your things with empty words you will never move from your economic status of life

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 12:27

"A person of laziness does not start after his prey, but the wealth of a working man is precious."

23. Kanga kasha hawuwu mbulaka

SWAHILI: Muongo haulizwi

ENGLISH: A liar should never be interrogated

FRENCH: Le menteur n'a jamais été interrogé

MEANING: A liar cannot be trusted

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Mathews 28:13

"Saying, Say that his disciples came and stole him by night, while we slept."

24. Kanga hemo ndame keye hemo kandi

SWAHILI: Mgonjwa mwenyewe ndio anae pata maumivu

ENGLISH: The sick is the only one who feels his sickness

FRENCH: La douleur n'est ressentie que par le malade

MEANING: A problem is better understood by one going through it.

Biblical parallel: [2 Timothy 3:11](#)

"Persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them"

25. Kema nemboka lene ena ndiase kandi

SWAHILI: Nyani uruka ana poona wanyama wengine

ENGLISH: A monkey jumps whenever it sees other animals

FRENCH: Le singe saute que lorsqu'il voit d'autres bettes

MEANING: It teaches that at times we do not look at our own problems but capitalize on problems of others.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Luke 6:42

"Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye."

26. L'asa luhusu l'usungu hawotoka

SWAHILI: Hawezi kuingiza kidole katikati ya mti na ganda

ENGLISH: In between the stem and the bark of a tree one doesn't put a finger in there

FRENCH: Entre l'arbre et l'écorce on n'y met pas son doigt

MEANING: An issue from a family or marriage one doesn't interfere or come in between if he/ she isn't from the family and a husband or wife to a marriage

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 33:4

"And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him. And they wept"

27. L'engola la numba ndu nde eko numba

SWAHILI: Rafiki wa Malaya ni malaya

ENGLISH: A prostitute's friend is just a prostitute.

FRENCH: L'amie d'une pute est aussi pute

MEANING: Whenever you walk with a bad person who has no moral values you yourself become and own similar behavior (one rotten potato makes the rest rot) A lot can be told of a person by the choice of his friends. The kinds of friends you choose show your character. They must be people you rhyme with and therefore, they reflect on yourself. We should therefore choose good friends so that you are viewed positively.

Biblical parallel: Proverbs 22:24

"Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul. Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts."

28. Lohita otoi hatongo naodika

SWAHILI: Kidole kimoja hakiwezi kuogota jiwe

ENGLISH: One figure can not old a stone

FRENCH: Un seul doit ne peut pas ramasser une pierre

MEANING: A proverb used to teach that about team spirit. People should support one another in order to succeed in their endeavors in life. Ideas and opinions of more than one person are more fruitful.

Biblical parallel: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.”

29. Lokondo la ndjovu kema woma

SWAHILI: Mkisafiri kama ndovu hamchoki

ENGLISH: An elephant’s journey is not tiresome

FRENCH: Lorsqu’ont voyagé comme des éléphants ont ne se fatigue pas

MEANING: Patience is a real quality and power for a man. A good leader or a good parent must learn to be patient in his path.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ecclesiastes 9:16

“And I said, Wisdom is better than strength; but the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.”

30. Luhusu la okoko eko dihondo dia usedu ngipendi

SWAHILI: Ngozi ya kondoo ni nguo ya wanafki

ENGLISH: The sheep’s skin is the cloth for hypocrites

FRENCH: La peau du mouton est l’habit des hypocrites

MEANING: Every bad person pretends to be good by laughing and talking well but in them they still remain to be bad.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel 20:1

“And a man of worthlessness happened to be there, and his name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a man of Benjamin. And he blew the ram's horn and said, we have no part in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Each mans to his tent, O Israel.”

31. Lukilu eko ludiala ukundji hawu shilaka

SWAHILI: Mme hayishi kutowa mahari

ENGLISH: A bride price has no ending

FRENCH: Un home ne finit jamais de dote

MEANING: A husband's help is always needed at his wife's home

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 14:10

"And his father went down to the woman, and Samson made a feast there, for so the young men usually did."

32. Lukulu la koko hakuke hakukendja kayanayandi

SWAHILI: Mguu wa kuku hauwezi kuuwa kifaranga chake

ENGLISH: A chicken's feet cannot kill its chick

FRENCH: La patte de la poule ne peut tuer son poussin

MEANING: A parent's punishment can never kill a child but makes them strong and act wisely

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2 Samuel 18:5

"And the king commanded Joab, and Abishai, and Ittai, saying, for my sake deal gently with the young man, with Absalom. And all the people heard as the king commanded the commanders concerning Absalom."

33. Lukuke laki kanga nende vo mbindiaka tuhu

SWAHILI: Nyumba ya mvivu ina mlango wa mkeka

ENGLISH: The lazy bone's house will always have a carpet as a door

FRENCH: La maison du paresseux a la natte pour porte

MEANING: A lazy person has no respect to any one

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ecclesiastes 10:18

"The framework tumbles through laziness; and through lowering of hands, the house leaks."

34. Lunya latundja haluhumbaka enao

SWAHILI: Mkono ambayo unatowa haukoshi kupokea

ENGLISH: A hand which gives receives in return.

FRENCH: Une main qui donne reçoit en retour.

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"

35. Mbetsha ona wu muntu ulimunda wo ayulaka nyawakindi

SWAHILI: kuelimisha msichana ni kuelimisha vizazi vijavyo

ENGLISH: Educating a girl is like educating a future.

FRENCH: Eduquer une fille c'est éduquée les futures

MEANING: Educating a women the children and the society will be bright and successful because she will make sure they learn also.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 24:46

"And she hurried and let down her pitcher from her and said, Drink, and I also will water your camels. And I drank, and also she watered the camels."

36. Mboloko kuku ndjaka ndjovu

SWAHILI: Swala anaweza kuangusha ndovu

ENGLISH: A deer can be able to defeat an elephant.

FRENCH: Un éléphant peut être renversé par une antilope

MEANING: Never fear any problem that looks too big. You can definitely solve it.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel17:49

"And David put his hand into the pouch and took a stone from there. And he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth."

37. Mbite wadie shike yake eko ukundjelu wa losenolaye

SWAHILI: Kumuhusisha mwanamke

ENGLISH: Whenever you invite a ladies opinion in your project it becomes successful.

FRENCH: Associer une femme à son projet c'est réussir son projet

MEANING: What a man can do a woman should be given a chance to do it and make good out of her life

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges16:18

"And Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart. And she sent and called for the Philistine rulers, saying, come, for this time he has told me all his heart. And the Philistine rulers came up to her, and brought the silver in their hand."

38. Mbudi ka tshukanelu hawusundjaka

SWAHILI: Mbuzi ya mahari haiuzwi

ENGLISH: Cattles given as bride price is not sold

FRENCH: La chèvre reçue pour dote ne peut être vendue

MEANING: Something given from the heart as a gift is not sold given out or thrown away.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: judges 15:2

"And her father said, I certainly said that hating you would hate her, and I gave her to your companion. Is not her sister, the young one, better than she? Please let her belong to you, instead of her."

39. Mbuka Lusaka eko yimba

SWAHILI: Anayesema asente ni mwenye hekima

ENGLISH: Saying thank you is wisdom

FRENCH: Celui qui dit merci est sage

MEANING: It's always good and wise to say thank you in consideration of tomorrow

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Luke 17:16

"And he fell on his face at His feet, thanking Him. And he was a Samaritan."

40. Naka wambuta etawo mindu

SWAHILI: Mwenye watoto ukubali uchafu

ENGLISH: People with children (love) must have habit of dirt.

FRENCH: Celui qui a des enfants accepte la saleté

MEANING: The dirt of a child the parent doesn't see it. But a person with no children will feel irritate

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel 15:3

"And Absalom said to him, Behold, your matters are good and right. And there is no listener to you from the king."

41. Naka ambulanga wadi wayutunja djovu

SWAHILI: Anae mpenda mke umzawadiya ndovu

ENGLISH: Whenever love her wife he offers her an elephant

FRENCH: Celui qui aime une femme lui offre un éléphant

MEANING: When one loves he/ she gives something that has the at most value in his life

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 1:5 5

"And to Hannah he gave one double portion, for he loved Hannah. And YAHWEH had shut up her womb"

42. Naka onanyo eko owandji lemiandi uku atu tshe

SWAHILI: Kaka'ko akiwa na madaraka mueshimu kama wengine

ENGLISH: Respect the authority of your Brother like the others.

FRENCH: Si to frère a le pouvoir fait lui les honneurs comme les autres

MEANING: Authority of your brother should be respected. Family is at the house.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel19:12

"You are my brother; you are my bone and my flesh. And why are you the last to bring back the king?"

43. Naka wambolenya uwandji lemia wandiendi ndanandi tshe

SWAHILI: Kimueshimu mfalme mueshimu pia malkia

ENGLISH: If you respect the King then respect even his wife.

FRENCH: Lorsqu'on honore le roi on honore aussi la reine

MEANING: Something that like the boss then respect it because it has power like the owner.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Esther 5:12

"And Haman said, Also, Esther the queen did not let anyone come in with the king to the banquet that she had prepared, except me. And also tomorrow I am called to it with the king."

44. Naka wambokenya ngomo ku nyu pembola

SWAHILI: Unapocheza na ngoma lazima usimamishe

ENGLISH: When playing the drum, you should also stop

FRENCH: lorsque on joue au tam-tam ont doit arrêter

MEANING: It invite to a sense of moderation and limits in doing things.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Numbers 22:28

"And YAHWEH opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?"

45. Naka wumuntu mbisha umendi kibawo antu wayunga la diambo

SWAHILI: Mke akimuadhibu mme wake jamii yote ujuwa lakini kama ni mke uwishia chumbani

ENGLISH: Whenever a wife punishes a husband the world (society) is alerted.

FRENCH: Lorsque une femme punit son mari la société est alerte et si c'est la femme la situation est de la chambre

MEANING: A strong girl in her decision is known all rounds

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?"

46. Naka weko la kanyi wa kolole wadie wayu na dimena

SWAHILI: Ukiwa na mawazo mabaya kwa mke wako unamwekelea iwe ya ukweli

ENGLISH: If you have evil or bad thoughts about your wife then it will come to pass.

FRENCH: Lorsqu'on a des mauvaises intentions pour sa femme on lui impute pour vrai

MEANING: There is no person who is perfect, but women with bad luck get husband who don't love them

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Luke 23:2

"And they began to accuse Him, saying, we found this one perverting the nation, and forbidding giving the head tax to Caesar, saying He to be a king, Messiah."

47. Nak'owandji ambumala kundi ndjiha lukuke

SWAHILI: Mfalme akiamuwa anafunga mlango

ENGLISH: When the king decides he closes the door.

FRENCH: lorsque le roi décide il ferme la porte

MEANING: The voice of a king is the law

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ecclesiastes 8:4

"Because the king's word is that which has power; who then will say to him, what are you doing?"

48. Na na kekek'untu untu hekala komola

SWAHILI: Mwanaume ni yule anaetenda jambo pasipo kulazimishwa

ENGLISH: Someone who has habit of taking without a care (care)

FRENCH: Un homme est celui qui prend avec aisances et non avec la chicotte

MEANING: People like where there are facilities but where there is difficulty no one likes such places.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Esther 1:8

"And the drinking was according to the law, no one compelling; for so the king had ordered every chief of his house that they should do according to every man's pleasure."

49. Ndelu dia onaki osukayi dio kema dimena uku diaki one

SWAHILI: Unaweza kuvumilia kulia kwa mtoto wako kuliko wa jirani wako

ENGLISH: The cry of a neighbor's child is irritating but yours isn't

FRENCH: les pleurs de son fils sont supportable que celles de celui du voisin

MEANING: He who does not rejoice with a brother has something against him. The proverb is addressed to call upon them to rejoice with others, to share in the joy of the success of others.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 21:9-10

"And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking. And she said to Abraham, Drive away this slave-girl and her son, for the son of this slave-girl shall not inherit with my son, with Isaac."

50. Nduku lundu lahumba munga la dikambo

SWAHILI: Kila nyumba ina matatizo

ENGLISH: Every house has its problems

FRENCH: Dans chaque maison il y'a des problèmes

MEANING: In every place there must be some misunderstandings.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 16:5

And Sarai said to Abram, My injury be upon you; I gave my slave-girl into your bosom, and she saw that she had conceived, and I was despised in her eyes. Let YAHWEH judge between me and you.

51. Nduku dihule diololo uku la ngelu kaye

SWAHILI: Hakuna sehemu nzuri kama nyumbani

ENGLISH: There is no better place like home

FRENCH: Pas de meilleur endroit comme à la maison.

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: Exodus 1:14

"And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of ser

52. Nyu k'utoka wasa hanyungala diese wuh'oti

SWAHILI: Tunaweza kuzaliwa mapacha lakini tusiwe na bahati moja

ENGLISH: Everyone has their own chances and opportunities despite being twins

FRENCH: On peut naitre jumeau mais pas avoir la même chance

MEANING: Every thing don't look alike and every person has there on time to succeed

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 25:27

“And the boys grew up. And Esau became a man knowing hunting, a man of the field. And Jacob was a simple man, living in tents. ”

53. Olui mbotaka paka olui

SWAHILI: Nyoka uzaa nyoka

ENGLISH: The young one of a snake is just snake

FRENCH: Le serpent n'enfante qu'un serpent

MEANING: A good person gives rise to good children but a bad person gives rise to a bad child. People judge parents and their children on their comparative (similar) behaviors

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 24:14

“After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom are you pursuing? After a dead dog? After a flea ? ”

54. Olui wa tshitshe eko paka olui hawutshikitana

SWAHILI: Nyoka mdogo hana utofauti na nyoka mkubwa

ENGLISH: A small (young one of a snake) snake is the same as the big snake.

FRENCH: Le petit serpent (serpentons) ne pas différent du grand serpent

MEANING: There is no venom (poison) of a big snake or a small one but it is still poison out. There is no big or small mistake all are mistakes.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Colossians 3:11

“Where there is neither Jew nor Aramean, circumcision and uncircumcision, foreigner, Scythian, slave or freeman, but Messiah is all and in all men.”

55. Omaki nyo eko paka sho

SWAHILI: Yule ambaye anaoa mamako ni babako.

ENGLISH: One who marries your mother is your father.

FRENCH: Celui qui épouse votre père ou votre mère devient votre parent.

MEANING: A step father or mother is our parent. They may not be our blood relation, or given birth to us. The caregiver or guardian should be respected because they are parents who nature us. We should therefore respect all elders.

Biblical parallel: 2 Samuel 16:21

“And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, who he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.”

56. Onaki ona owandji ndi kema owandji [okona]

SWAHILI: Mtoto wa mtoto wa mfalme sio mfalme

ENGLISH: The son of a prince is not a King.

FRENCH: Le fils au prince ne pas prince

MEANING: The one who's the father is not a king and the children of the Prince don't have the respect of the royal family. The respect is given to the Prince only.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus 2:10

“And the child grew, and she brought him to the daughter of Pharaoh. And he became a son to her, and she called his name Moses, and said, because I drew him out of the water.”

57. Okoma otoi hawukuke Kenya lulunya

SWAHILI: Kikomo kimoja akiwezi kusheza kwenye mkono

ENGLISH: A one wrist band doesn't make nor play around on the hand

FRENCH: Un seul bracelet ne peut bouger sur le bras

MEANING: One single person cannot survive alone in this world

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 30:10

"And David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred men stood, who were too exhausted to pass over the torrent Besor."

58. Ona kanga nende salaka ulimu andi la wulu dia nongosola loseno landi

SWAHILI: Mtoto wa mvivu unyoosha maisha yake kwa kufanya kazi kwa biji

ENGLISH: A lazy bone's child makes him/ her life better by working hard

FRENCH: L'enfant d'un paresseux améliore sa situation en travaillant dure

MEANING: You work harder to improve the life style that you have (poverty)

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 12:24

"The hand of the hard worker shall rule, but the lazy ones will become forced labor."

59. Ona lokitanyia katoleka djema y'untu

SWAHILI: Mtoto mtihifu upata vingi

ENGLISH: An obedient child gets success

FRENCH: Un enfant obéissant est bénéficiaire des beaucoup

MEANING: Whenever a person is obedient he/ she benefits from any relationship they have

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 26:5

"Because Abraham listened to My voice and heeded My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My Torah."

60. Ona wadi henaka diumbu diumanyangu

SWAHILI: watoto wa mke hawaoni kaburi ya baba wa kambo

ENGLISH: A child of a mother should not see the where the husband to her/ his mother is buried.

FRENCH: Les fils de la femme ne voit pas la tombe du mari de sa mère

MEANING: If someone is not your father you won't be unfitted to heritage. And you won't listen to the will to one who is not your real father.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Judges 11:2

"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."

61. One lalomba ketshi hakuke ndja kema

SWAHILI: Anaye omba msamaha haadhibiwi

ENGLISH: A person that repents (begs for forgiven) is never killed

FRENCH: Celui qui implore la pitié ne peut être punis

MEANING: Every time a person realizes and accepts his mistake, people shouldn't judge him harshly.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 16:9

"And the Messenger of YAHWEH said to her, Return to your mistress and submit yourself under her hand."

62. One latalawo la wulu hakumela wulu lene atandatshu

SWAHILI: Anaetembea kwa kukimbia anafika akiwa amechoka

ENGLISH: Whenever runs to get where ever he/ she is going arrives there with no strength (energy).

FRENCH: Celui qui marche en courant n'arrive pas à destination avec force

MEANING: Hurry has no blessings but slow but sure.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2 Samuel 18:23

"And he said, yet whatever it may be, let me run. And he said to him, run. And Ahimaaz ran the way of the circuit and passed by the Cushite."

63. Ongenda ngenda ndende dia vula

SWAHILI: Mgeni ni kama mvua

ENGLISH: A guest is like rain

FRENCH: Un visiteur est comme la pluie

MEANING: Do not argue with a guest he/ she is a passing.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 31:17-18

“And Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. 18 And he drove all the livestock and he took all his goods which he had gotten, livestock of his property which he had gotten in Padan-Aram, to come to his father Isaac, to the land of Canaan. Vice in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serves, was with rigour.”

64. Ongeno ngeno wa diwala eko paka ama

SWAHILI: Furaha ya ndoa ni watoto

ENGLISH: A marriage's happiness and joys is children

FRENCH: la joie dans le mariage c'est les enfants

MEANING: The joy of married people is when they have children to continue their lineage.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 30:1

“And Rachel saw that she did not bear to Jacob, and Rachel was jealous of her sister. And she said to Jacob, Give me sons; and if there is none, I shall die.”

65. Ongenda genda haleki kanga lundu

SWAHILI: Mgeni hamzidi mwenye nyumba

ENGLISH: A guest cannot pass the owner of the house.

FRENCH: le visiteur ne dépasse pas le propriétaire de la maison

MEANING: When you are invited to a person's house for first time, relax do not like you know the house without the permission of the owner

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 31:9

“And Elohim has taken away the livestock of your father and has given to me.”

66. Ongenda ngenda henaka yoto

SWAHILI: Mgeni haoni mwezi

ENGLISH: The visitor does not see the moon

FRENCH: le visiteur ne voit pas l’alune

MEANING: There is always needed to be prudent in our actions when we are visitors in a place. Behave honorably in presence of people, and they will respect you and accept you.

Biblical parallel: Proverbs 22:1

“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.”

67. Ose ongongu eko ongenyi w’use ongongu, use wala eko ongenyi w’use wula

SWAHILI: Tajiri ni rafiki wa tajiri na mkulima ni rafiki wa mkulima

ENGLISH: The rich man is a friend to a rich man, while a farmer is a friend to a farmer

FRENCH: Le riche est ami du riche et le cultivateur est ami du cultivateur

MEANING: Friendship is always according to status of life.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 19:4

“Wealth adds many friends, but the poor is separated from his neighbor.”

68. Pami keya ololo kana dimena dia wadiendi

SWAHILI: Uzuri wa mwanamke ajuwae ni mume wake

ENGLISH: The beauty of a wife lies in the eyes of her husband

FRENCH: La beauté de la femme est reconnue par son mari

MEANING: If you are not a husband or a wife to someone you can never judge them.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 26:7

“And the men of the place asked about his wife. And he said, She is my sister, for he was afraid to say, My wife, lest the men of the place kill me on account of Rebekah, for she was beautiful of form.”

69. Papa keli untu luleki wulu tshelandja wutundu

SWAHILI: Baba’ke ni mwenye nguvu zaidi duniani

ENGLISH: A person’s father is the strongest person in the world (in their children ‘s eyes)

FRENCH: Son père est le plus fort du monde

MEANING: In the eyes of a child the father will forever be a hero

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Isaiah28:2

“Behold might and strength is to YAHWEH; like a hailstorm, a destroying storm; like a storm of mighty waters overflowing; He sets down to the earth with His hand.”

70. Pita tshe mbutoka kuku tshikitana

SWAHILI: Vidole uyamkono ni ndugu engawa havilingani

ENGLISH: The fingers of are never equal, but recognize each other as brothers

FRENCH: Les doigts de la main sont frères malgré leurs inégalités

MEANING: The status does not change the equality in dignity

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: John 7:3

“Then His brothers said to Him, Move away from here and go to Judea, that Your disciples will also see Your works which You do,”

71. Puke unyimba hema la mbesho

SWAHILI: Sufuria ya msimbe hakawii kwenye moto

ENGLISH: The Bachelard sufuria dont last on fire

FRENCH: la casserole d’un célibataire ne traîne pas à la cuire

MEANING: The one who has not married is always in a hurry.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL:

72. Ukundji kema sundja ona oshinga

SWAHILI: Mahali haina bei

ENGLISH: The bride price of marriage has no certain price (monitory value)

FRENCH: La dote n'a pas des prix

MEANING: A child has no price

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 29:20

"And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they were in his eyes like a few days, in his love for her."

73. Ukundji menemaka kuku hateketaka

SWAHILI: Utajiri una alama lakini auna kinywa

ENGLISH: Wealth is not bragged or said but seen

FRENCH: La richesse a des signes et elle n'a pas des bouches

MEANING: Never brag because of wealth others are wealthy by brain and health.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 26:13

"And the man grew great, and he went on, going on to be great, until he became exceedingly great."

74. Uwandji wuka dikambo l'atui ahendi kya pembula

SWAHILI: Mfalme anayesikiliza kwa masikiyo mawili utowa maamuzi sahihi

ENGLISH: A king who listens with both ears he gives wise grudging

FRENCH: Le roi qui écoute avec ses deux Oreille tranche mieux les contentieux

MEANING: For a fair judgment a good judge should listen to both sides

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Kings 3:27

"And the king answered and said, Give to her the living child, and do not put it to death at all; she is its mother."

75. Soui y'antu efula mbeshaka ndjuku

SWAHILI: Mate ya wengi uchemsha maharagi

ENGLISH: Many people's salver makes the beans boil

FRENCH: La salive des plusieurs fait bouillir les haricots

MEANING: All problems can be solved once united.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 30:9

"So David went on, he and six hundred men who were with him. And they came to the torrent Besor. And those that were left stood."

76. Soyi y'olongo tu ku lutulu

SWAHILI: Ukitema mate kwa juu itakurudilia mwenyewe

ENGLISH: When you throw saliva up in the air, will return a gain on you

FRENCH: Lorsque tu jettes la salive en l'air ca reviendra encore sur toi

MEANING: It is not a punishable children or family member has previously causes him wrong, any situation that will happen to him even treated by you.

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."

77. Sonyi sonyi k'ahoho oshilu

SWAHILI: Aibu umaliza kila kitu

ENGLISH: Shyness finishes everything

FRENCH: la honte fait que tout soit finie

MEANING: Shyness blocks an individual from progressing in life.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 12:4

“A woman of virtue is a crown to her husband, but one causing shame is like rottenness in his bones.”

78. Sumbu mumalaka naka ambunga la ekimelu

SWAHILI: Nguruwe anagoma wakati mambo ya na mzidi

ENGLISH: The pig revolts when its have surpassed

FRENCH: le cochon se révolte lorsqu'il a trop supporte

MEANING: This proverb is used to call upon members of the society to avoid any form of exaggeration in whatever they do or obedience has limits.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Exodus 2:11-12

“And it happened in those days, when Moses was grown, and he went out to his brothers and looked upon their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian man strike a Hebrew man of his brothers. And he turned here and there and saw that no man was there. And he struck the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.”

79. Tambwe betshaka anandi lu ulumatelu wandi

SWAHILI: Simba uwafundisha watoto wake kwa kuwararua

ENGLISH: A lion teachers its cubs while biting them.

FRENCH: Le lion forme ses petits (lionceaux) en les mordent

MEANING: The way of passing teaching and educating in every family differ very much. The punishment inflicted by a good parent to his child has an educational character, for a stimulus has become official, grow in the right line.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ephesians 6:4

“And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and teaching of our Master.”

80. Tena k'untu wati uku la hemokana kanga lunga luseka l'ameli weheyi l'etiyi

SWAHILI: Usiukumu mtu kwa sura

ENGLISH: Do not Judge a man by the face

FRENCH: Ne juger pas un homme par le visage

MEANING: The appearance is deceptive

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 1:16

“Do not put your handmaid down for a daughter of wickedness; for from the abundance of my complaint and grief until now I have been speaking.”

81. Tendaka elundji k’ongenda ngeda enda ute m’andi

SWAHILI: Husiangelie uso wa mgeni angalia tumbo lake

ENGLISH: We don’t look at a visitor’s face but at his stomach.

FRENCH: Ne regarder pas le visage du visiteur regarder plutôt son ventre

MEANING: Before inquiring on why a person has come to visit us, it is better to understand how they are well. Be concerned about their well-being first.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 18:5

“And I will bring a bite of bread and will sustain your heart. Then you may pass on, for this is why you have passed over to your servant. And they said, Do so, as you have said.”

82. Tola naka ambubekefula keti ndelu eko suke

SWAHILI: Cheko ikizidi uko karibu na kulia

ENGLISH: If you laugh too much crying is coming.

FRENCH: Lorsqu’on rigole trop on est prêt à pleurer

MEANING: If happiness pass by then pain is coming

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 24:17

“And he said to David, You are more righteous than I. For you have done good to me, and I have rewarded you with evil.”

83. Tundu ka nyungu kana umbutshi ona tshikalaka paka ona

SWAHILI: Kwa mama wewe ni mtoto tu

ENGLISH: In the eyes of a person's mother he/ she will remain a child

FRENCH: Devant sa mère on est toujours enfant

MEANING: A person's mother sees not a person age increase she will just give advice

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: John 2:3, 5

"And being short of wine, the mother of Yahshua said to Him, They have no wine. His mother said to the servants, Whatever He says to you, do."

84. Tudimake untu engo kande kuku dimande daku

SWAHILI: Husimnyime mtu chakula bali umnyime ushauri

ENGLISH: Dont refuse him / her Food, refuse him / her advice

FRENCH: Ne prive pas à manger a quelqu'un prive lui plutôt le conseil

MEANING: Food has a meaning to one who is hungry not advice.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 14:29

"And Jonathan said, my father has troubled the land. See, now, that my eyes became bright, for I tasted this little honey."

85. Ukunda kalungula keti usui

SWAHILI: Kama msitu umeunguwa itakuaje kwa pori?

ENGLISH: If the forest is on fire what about Savannah ?

FRENCH: Si la forêt prend feu que dire de la savane ?

MEANING: if he says to close in this way how will behave towards others..

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Luke23:31

"For if they do these things in a live green tree, what may take place in the dry1?"

86. Uminde eto elo dimi layukunde lui

SWAHILI: Nichikie kiwavi kesho ni wakati wangu

ENGLISH: Catch for me a Caterpillar, tomorrow i twill do the same for you.

FRENCH: Attrape les chenilles pour moi, demain se mon tour

MEANING: A parent who takes care and responsibility of their children would be sure to receive back that care in their old age from their children

Biblical parallel: Genesis 47:11

“And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Ramses, as Pharaoh had commanded.”

87. Undu olenge kakitaka olenge

SWAHILI: Mzizi ndio unaworithi mti

ENGLISH: The roots inherit the plant (tree).

FRENCH: C’est la racine qui hérite l’arbre

MEANING: A child takes over the father’s properties and everything he has.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs12:3

“A man shall not be established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous shall not be dislodged.”

88. Untu l’ukana l’ukana l’asukanyi andi ananmdi tshikalaka la ki

SWAHILI: Ukiwa na uhusiano mzuri na jirani, watoto wako watakuwa wenye furaha

ENGLISH: Whoever maintains good relationship with a neighbor's children will be happy

FRENCH: Celui qui entretient la bonne relation avec son voisin ses enfants seront heureux

MEANING: The neighbor is one who lives with you at all times and can more than your brother who lives a distance. He/ she know better because all children cause he/she have children also.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis21:23

“And now swear to me here by Elohim, that you will not lie to me, and to my son, and to my heir, according to the kindness which I have sworn to you. Do to me and to the land in which you have lived in.”

89. Utamba wakamama hawunulaka

SWAHILI: Hauwezi kunyoosha Kamba ya tembele

ENGLISH: A sweet potato cannot be straightened.

FRENCH: On ne redresse jamais la patate douce

MEANING: There are people who would never accept correction. They do not wish to change even when given a chance. They should therefore, be appreciated in society with their weaknesses.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ecclesiastes 1:15

“That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.”

90. Untu l’ahetawo dombelo dia wadiendi mbetawoka kibawo

SWAHILI: Anaekataa maombi ya mwanamke anakubali adhabu

ENGLISH: Whenever refuses the wife’s prayers (plea) accepts punishment.

FRENCH: Celui qui n’accepte pas la prière d’une femme accepte la punition

MEANING: Every time you are not in terms with your wife there is no peace prevailing but when in peace there is success.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 21:10

“And she said to Abraham, Drive away this slave-girl and her son, for the son of this slave-girl shall not inherit with my son, with Isaac.”

91. Vo bisha k’untukene kakayakundja l’untu

SWAHILI: Unaweza kutowa ulicho kipata

ENGLISH: You can also give out even what you were given

FRENCH: On ne peut donner que ce que l’on a reçu de quelqu’un

MEANING: You can never teach something you yourself don't know

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 10:1

"And Samuel took the flask of oil and poured on his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because YAHWEH has anointed you for a leader over His inheritance?"

92. Vole numataka paka one luyile

SWAHILI: Pili pili umuwasha anaye itumia

ENGLISH: Chilly pepper is only bitter to the person that eats

FRENCH: Le piment ne pique que celui qui le consomme

MEANING: Why involve yourself with things that don't concern you?

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel 6:9

"And watch; if it goes up by way of its own border, to Beth-Shemesh, He has done this great evil to us. And if not, then we shall know that it is not His hand that touched us; it was an accident to us."

93. Wadiaki ongenyi wake kema ongenyi aye

SWAHILI: Mke wa rafiki yako sio rafiki yako

ENGLISH: The friend to your wife she is not your friend

FRENCH: La femme de ton ami n'est pas aussi ton amie

MEANING: Don't confuse friendship. Friendship should always have boundaries

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 39:9

"No one in this house is greater than I, and he has not withheld anything from me except you, because you are his wife. And how should I do this great evil and sin against Elohim?"

94. Watu m'untu l'uhita ku lumi lakutuna we

SWAHILI: Ukimnyoosheya mtu kidole, unajinyooshea na wewe kidole

ENGLISH: When you point people with one finger the rest are pointing at you

FRENCH: Si tu pointe a une personne ton doigts ton pousse te pointe aussi.

MEANING: Whenever you mistreat other the deeds will eventually come back to you

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1 KINGS 12:18

“And King Rehoboam sent Adoram who was over the tribute, and all Israel threw stones at him, and he died. And King Rehoboam made haste to go up into a chariot to flee to Jerusalem.”

95. Wengo w’antu ahendi kema woma mbelaka eteti

SWAHILI: Kutembea wawili hamuwezi kuwa na uwoga bali uchangamfu

ENGLISH: Togetherness does not bring fear, but rather creates courage.

FRENCH: Chemine a deux ne peut apporter la peur que le courage

MEANING: Unity is strength. Team work, mutual support, solidarity and cooperation can result in bigger achievement.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Ecclesiastes 4:9

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

96. Wondju wa buluku kema hemo

SWAHILI: Kukonda kwa swala sio ugonjwa

ENGLISH: The body size of a deer is not any illness but its nature.

FRENCH: La petitesse de l’antilope ne pas une maladie

MEANING: Never judge a person’s capability or ability by his/ her body size

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel17:42

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

97. Wumuntu kumbu kemendi kelikumbu kandi

SWAHILI: Familia ya mke ni ile ya mme wake

ENGLISH: A wife’s family is name and holds that of her husband upon marriage

FRENCH: La famille pour une femme c’est celui de son mari

MEANING: A one wrist band doesn't make nor play around on the hand

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Genesis 31:15

"Are we not counted strangers by him? For he has sold us, and selling he has sold us for silver."

98. Wumuntu holaka l'otemandi kuku ndelaka la sulu diandi

SWAHILI: Mwanamke hacheke na moyo bali Analia na moyo

ENGLISH: A girl never laughs with her heart but she cries in it.

FRENCH: Une femme ne rigole pas avec son Cœur mais pleure avec son cœur

MEANING: Whenever a woman cries she cries from her heart over true things but when she laughs she can laugh over still things.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 1Samuel15:16

"And Samuel said to Saul, Stop, and I will declare to you that which YAHWEH spoke to me tonight. And he said to him, Speak."

99. Yumba ndeka ongongu

SWAHILI: Akili anapita hela

ENGLISH: Brain is of more meaning than wealth.

FRENCH: L'intelligence depasse l'argent

MEANING: Wisdom surpasses all wealth. A wise man is richer than a man with materialistic thins.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: Proverbs 8:14

"Counsel and sound wisdom are mine; I understand; I have strength."

100. Yango y'untu hawoleka l'anyamindu kuku kakewayole

SWAHILI: kitu cha mwingine huliwa na mikono misafi lakini chako uliwa na mikono michafu

ENGLISH: You should eat someones food with clean hands but yours with dirty hands.

FRENCH: la chose d'autrui se mange avec les mains propre pour soit même avec les mains sales

MEANING: You always want to eat someone else money while your which you know how hard you got.
You don't spend we don't plan.

BIBLICAL PARALLEL: 2Samuel 12:4

"And a traveler came to the rich one, and he spared to take of his own flock, and of his own herd, to prepare for the traveler who had come to him. And he took the ewe lamb of the poor man, and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

A RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR COLLECTION OF TETELA PROVERBS

AND WISE SAYINGS

By ELISE META

(Kenya)

INTRODUCTION

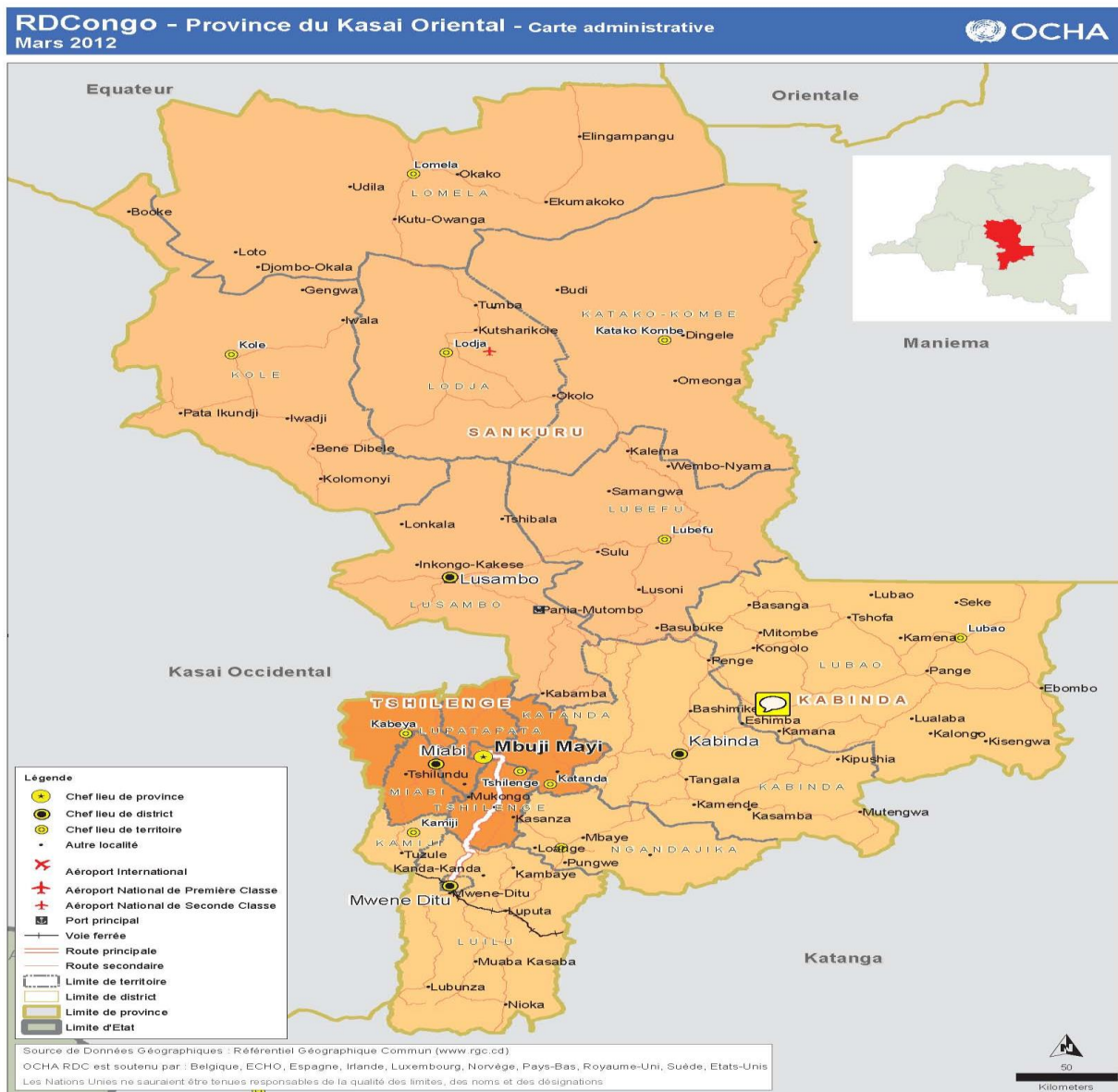
The Tetela people (or Batetela in the plural) are an ethnic group of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, most of whom speak the Otetela. The Tetela is a Bantu language,

The Batetela live in the region between Lusambo and the Upper Congo River, in the provinces of Sankuru and Maniema. They are related to the Kusu people, and only became separate in the late 1800s after the arrival of Arabs and Belgians in the region. Both the Batetela and the Kusu are subgroups of the larger Mongo group. The name Motetela comes from a god named Motetela, meaning either "he who laughs not" or "he at whom one may not laugh. History according to Emil Torday, who studied the tribes of the Congo between 1908 and 1909, the Batetela originated on the right bank of the Lomami River and migrated to their present territory at some unknown date. In 1869-70 their language is called Otetela. (Otetela, Kitetela, Kikitatela), also Sungu, is a Bantu language of northern Kasai-Oriental Province, Democratic Republic of Congo spoken by the Tetela people.

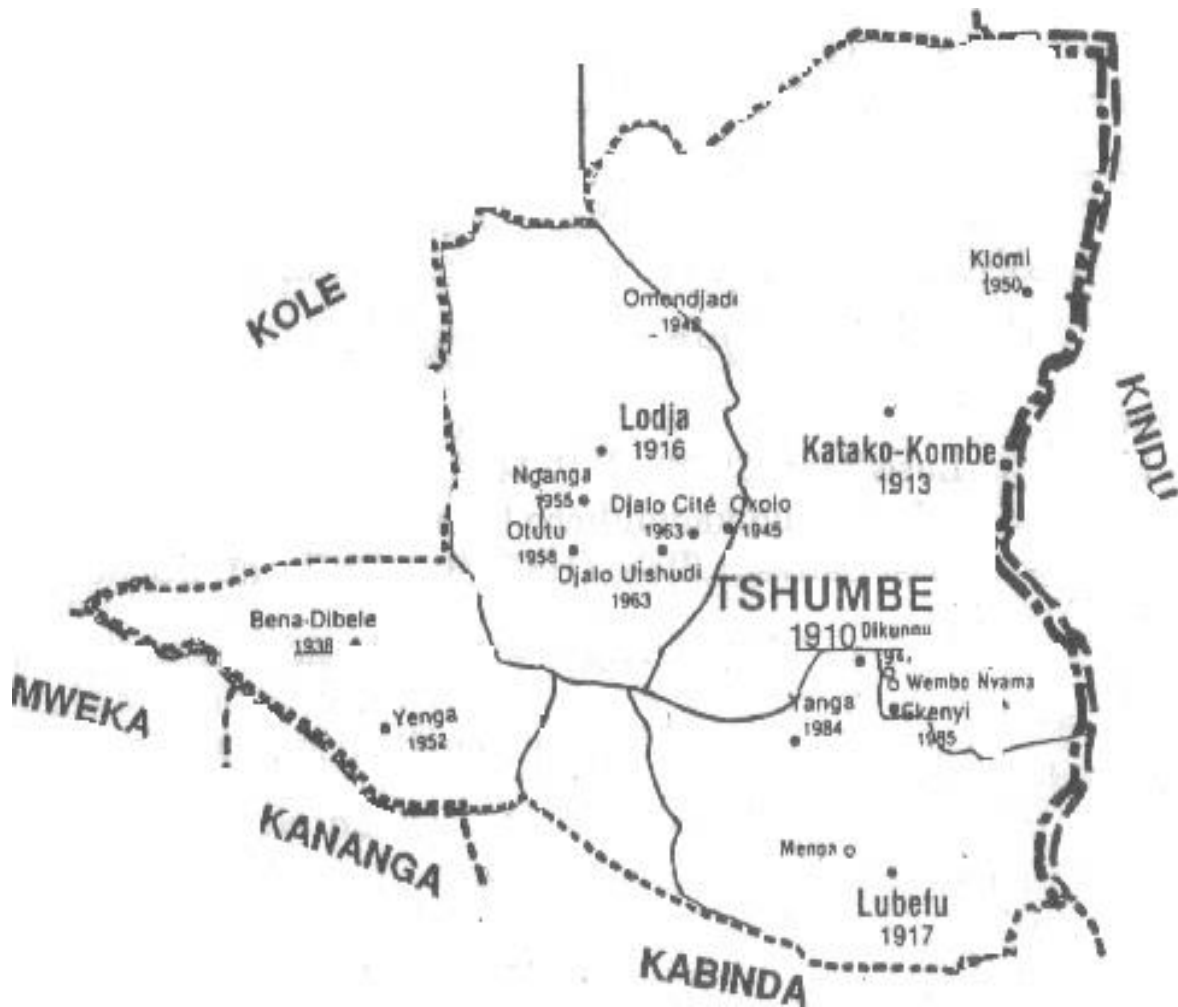
The Batetela live in the area between Lusambo and Upper Congo River, in the provinces of Sankuru and Maniema. It is a little more than that. The territory limits of the Tetela community are defined by influences of the population in a territory. Tetela leaving their ancestral home some settled down in the grass-land of the Lubefu, others in the forest of the Lukenye River. Some came into contact with the relatively cultured Basongye and Isambo, others with the primitive Bakusu; some were influenced by the Baluba coming from south others by the AKEL, immigrant from the north. Some were conquered by the Arabs and lived for years under their influence others became soldiers of the white man and benefited by his education. These two latter groups seeing of less interest the anthropologist than to the colonial administrator may be dismissed in a few words. The Batetela soldiers of the Congo state, when they freed themselves of their officers, become the terror of the country and continued so for several years. Allied to the Portuguese slave traders of Angola they practically depopulated large tracts in the south of the Congo state and practiced on the natives such wanton cruelty as is probably unknown in history. It may be said that contact with white man and the Arab has brought out in the Batetela all the savagery of their prehistoric ancestors. Not so when they came into touch with other tribes of their own race then they changed too; many of their ways underwent considerable alteration, but still they continued. It would

The Tetela culture, culturally the Tetela lived in the forest and built huts of mud on the wall and that chad with grasses on the roofs. They are the hunter, fish man done by men, while women do farming of cassava, banana and rise, their main stable food is "Oyoko" cooked from cassava, rise "Epunga"

THE ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE TETELA ETHNIC GROUP IN KASAI PROVINCE



THE LOCATION OF THE TETELA ETHNIC GROUP IN KASAI ORIENTAL (D.R.CONGO)



OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research are:

1. To collect one hundred proverbs and wise sayings from the Tetela 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 Tetela proverbs and wise sayings from the Tetela community at the D.R.Congo. 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.

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BUDGET

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

