

# Lexical Use of Afaan Oromoo in the Government Mass Media

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## **Abstract**

This study is about lexical use of Afaan Oromoo by journalists in the government mass media; namely, Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, Oromia Radio and Television Organization, and Ethiopian Press Agency. The study aims at identifying, describing and characterizing the problems of lexical standardization in Afaan Oromoo as it is used in the government mass media.

In the government mass media journalists use the varieties of lexical items and hence the audiences cannot get the information fully. Taking into account standardization experiences of different countries, the study recommends the development of guide (style book) so that the use of Afaan Oromoo words in the mass media can be based on an institutionalized norm. As in the case of many standardized languages, an authoritative institution that can effectively coordinate the efforts to standardize the language is crucial. Compiling a standard dictionary and other reference materials, producing standardized educational and cultural materials are necessary steps so as to encourage the use of standard forms of the language. Furthermore, conducting researches on the area and the application of outcomes could enhance the standardization of the language.

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## List of Abbreviations

AB	Arsii – Baalee
ADV	Adverb
ADJ	Adjective
B	Boorana
Caus	Causative
COMP	Complementizer
CONJ	Conjunction
DEM	Demonstrative
EPN	Epinthesis
F	Feminine
FCM	Focus marker
G	Gujii
H	Harargee
IPV	Imperfective
GEN	Genitive
M	Mac'c'a
m	Masculine
NOM	Nominative
T	Tuulama

PERV	Perfective
PL	Plural
POS	Positive
PSV	Passive
PRFX	prefix
REF	Reference
REFs	References
SG	Singular
SPEC	Specifier
SUF	Suffix

# Chapter One

## Introduction

For effective communication to take place, the information intended by the initiator should be received as per his/her intention. If a given language is not standardized, speakers of that particular language may not smoothly communicate because of varieties in the language they use. According to (Bekale 2012:3), due to the present socio-political conditions and the socio-linguistic ecology, proper language planning is necessary to ensure that the use of the various Ethiopian languages guarantee national integration, economic advancement, social justice, cultural identity and progress as well as political participation by all the peoples of the country.

In the case of Afaan Oromoo, there are varieties and effective communication within the speech community is yet to be achieved. The language is in a process of standardization. Among the spheres and institutions where the need for standardization is highly crucial is the mass media. The standardization of the language in the mass media can greatly influence the standardization of the language in the speech community at large. In relation to the importance of media language (Bell 1991:2) says, "Media language, as important and influential as it is, attracts the attention of researchers, especially applied linguists and sociolinguists". Four reasons are given for their interest: a) accessing data concerning languages is easier through the media; b) language use and attitude are very much influenced by the media; c) manner of language use, including the use of different dialects and languages, is itself interesting; and d) the media are crucial since they reflect and shape the culture, politics and life of a society.

The motivation behind the present study is absence of standard use of Afaan Oromoo within the government media<sup>1</sup> and between the media and audiences. The problem is usually encountered in relation to lexical use. A given thing may be referred to or a certain concept may be expressed by different lexical forms by the speakers of the different dialects of the language.

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<sup>1</sup> In this study government media include both Federal and Oromia state Radio, Television and Press, which operate in Afaan Oromoo.

For instance, “dream” in Mac’c’a dialect is *abduu* but *manaama* in Harargee dialect.<sup>2</sup> Homonymy is another lexical problem where the same word form may represent different things or concepts in the different dialects. For instance, in Mac’c’a dialect *bukkee* means ‘beside’, and the same word form is ‘hermaphrodite’ in Arsii-Baalee dialect. To a lesser degree, the existence of words in a dialect that are alien to the speakers of other dialects is also a problem. To avoid such obstacles in communication, standardization is undoubtedly essential.

### 1.1 The People

The Oromo people are numerically the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia. According to the 2007 population census of Ethiopia, the Oromos are 25,489,024, constituting 34.45% of the total population of Ethiopia, followed by Amhara, 19,870,651 constituting 26.89%. The Oromo people live over a large area stretching from close to the Sudan border in the west, through Addis Ababa and beyond to Hararge in the east; in the south from northern Kenya along east of the rift valley to Wallo in the north. The major religions of the Oromo people are Islam, Christianity, and Waaqeffanna.

The basic economic activities of the people are agriculture, mixed farming and pastoralism. A large number of domestic animals including cattle, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, and mules are found in Oromia. Among the main cereal crops are *teff*, wheat, barley, sorghum and corn. The major cash crop is coffee, and *c’at* (a plant whose leaves are chewed and used as stimulant) comes next.

### 1.2 The Language

Afaan Oromoo is one of the Cushetic languages, and it is widely spoken in Ethiopia. It is also spoken in Kenya and Somalia. It is one of the Lowland East Cushitic languages. The Cushitic language family belongs to the Afro-Asiatic phylum. Afaan Oromoo is one of the major Ethiopian languages. According to the 2007 census, the numbers of those who speak the language as a mother tongue are over 25 million. Many others speak it as a second language. Afaan Oromoo is the official language of the Oromia regional state; it is used for education at primary and secondary levels, for administration and mass media. In some universities, the

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<sup>2</sup> Manaama ‘dream’ is borrowing from Arabic (Dr. Shemelis Mazengia, personal communication).

language is offered as a field of specialization for a B.A degree.

According to Gadaa Malbaa (1988: 9) and Mahdi (1995: 11), Afaan Oromo is the third most widely spoken language in Africa after Arabic and Hausa. The language is considered as one of the 169 important languages of the world (Crystal 1997: 344).

In the literature, the language is often referred to as 'Oromo'. However, Oromo is the name of the ethnic group; hence, to avoid confusing the language with the ethnic group and due to the fact that I am dealing with standardization, I prefer to use *Afaan Oromoo* (literally 'mouth of Oromo' otherwise 'language of Oromo'). Currently, the language is known by this name in schools, media and so forth.

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, different written materials have been produced in Afaan Oromoo using the Ethiopic alphabet. Among these, Onesimos Nasib did the translation of the New Testament in 1893, the Old Testament in 1897 and compiled the translation of the entire Bible in 1899. As stated by Kebede (1998), the book entitled, *Spelling Book* was published in 1894 by Onesimos and Aster Ganno. This book begins with the provision of letters for the Oromo sound system borrowed from Ethiopic alphabet. The efforts of Onesimos Nasib and Aster Ganno were somewhat limited to the speakers of Mac'c'a dialect spoken particularly in Wallaga. As reported by Mohammed (1996:253), Sheik Bakri Sap'alo devised the first indigenous script in 1956. Sheik Bakri taught this alphabet to his students and others, and as a result, people had begun to exchange letters using it. But then authorities banned the use of the alphabet and subjected Sheik Bakri to ten years of house arrest. Due to this, Sheik Bakri Sap'alo's alphabet was not widely used.

During the Derg regime *Bariisaa* newspaper was established in 1975, and there was also literacy campaign and adult education in Afaan Oromoo using the Ethiopic alphabet.

In the post Derg Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Transitional Charter gave constitutional right to the peoples of Ethiopia to develop and use their languages, and as a result, Afaan Oromoo started to be written using Latin alphabet, and it became the official<sup>3</sup> language of the Oromia regional state

The FDRE ( Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia) 1995 constitution Article 5 gives equal recognition for all Ethiopian languages and allows members of the federation to determine their respective languages. Article 39 (2) of the constitution guarantees “ every nation, nationality and people in Ethiopia has the right to speak, to write and to develop its own language; to express, to develop and to promote its culture; and to preserve its history”. The Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights Article. 9 also guarantees that “all language communities have the right to codify, standardize, preserve, develop and promote their linguistic system, without induced or forced interference”. At present, the speakers of Afaan Oromoo are enjoying these rights.

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<sup>3</sup> “Official” refers to the working language of Oromia regional state.

The following table shows the list of consonants and vowels of Afaan Oromoo

**Table 1 Consonant phonemes of Afaan Oromoo**

Manner of Articulation			Place of Articulation						
			Bilabial	Labio-Dental	Alveolar	Alveo-palatal	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	Oral	Voiceless	(p) <sup>4</sup>		t			k	ʔ
		Voiced	b		d			g	
		Ejective Voiceless	p'		t'		c'	k'	
Implosive		Voiced			ɗ				
Nasal			m		n		ɲ		
Fricative	Voiceless			f	s	ʃ			h
	Voiced			(v)	(z)				
Affricate	Voiceless					tʃ			
	Voiced					dʒ			
Liquid	Lateral				l				
	Flap				r				
Glide			w				j		

<sup>4</sup> ( ) = sounds in parenthesis are not common in Afaan Oromoo.

**Table 2 Vowel Phonemes of Afaan Oromoo**

i	u
e	o
a	

Vowel length in Afaan Oromoo is phonemic. Therefore, Afaan Oromoo has five short and five long vowel phonemes.

### **1.3 The Problem**

As indicated above, Afaan Oromo has no standard dialect. The different varieties of the language compete with each other, and sometimes, difficulty in understanding occurs between speakers of the different varieties. This is mostly due to the fact that some lexical items do not convey the intended meanings; that is, they are either understood differently or not understood at all. Such instances are not uncommon even among journalists in the government mass media. The problem is reflected through the mass media into the wider use of the language in the society. One encounters, so often, the use of different words to mean the same thing. For example, for ‘energy’ Oromia Radio and Television use *annisaa*, while the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation<sup>5</sup> and *Bariisaa* (weekly news paper) adopted the English word, ‘energy’. For ‘Egypt’, *Bariisaa* uses *misrii*, and sometimes *Idjibt*. Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, as well as Oromia Radio and Television use *Idjipt*. For a ‘spokesperson’, *Bariisaa* uses *arraataa* while the other media use *dubbii himaa*. For the word competition for instance, in a news item concerning the incident where the Ethiopian Football Federation apologized for being penalized as a result of allowing an ineligible player to play, Oromia Radio and Television used *morkii*, *Bariisaa*

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<sup>5</sup> Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation broadcasts in different languages like Amharic, Afaan Oromoo, English, Tigrigna, Somali, Afar, Arabic, French, etc. and in the case of Afaan Oromoo it broadcasts only in radio.

Newspaper *walmorkii*, Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, *dorgommii*. Also to mean 'plays a game' they used different expressions: Oromia Radio and Television, *tap'a taasisuu*, *Bariisaa*, *tap'a adeemsisuu*, Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, *tap'afuu*. The foregoing examples show lack of standardization (from lexical perspective) in Afaan Oromoo in the government mass media.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

##### **a) General Objective**

The general objective of the study is to identify, describe and characterize the problems of lexical standardization in Afaan Oromoo as used in the government mass media; and to recommend possible solutions that would also contribute to the broader effort of standardizing the language.

##### **b) Specific Objectives**

- i. To identify sample words of Afaan Oromoo used by some journalists but misunderstood by other journalists.
- ii. To classify the problem words.
- iii. To propose possible solutions toward standardization.

#### **1.5 Significance**

The result of this study is believed to contribute to the efforts of standardizing Afaan Oromoo in the mass media and beyond. Furthermore, the outcome of the study may help in facilitating effective communication between the mass media and the larger Afaan Oromoo audiences.

#### **1.6 Scope**

The study limits itself to discussing the problem of standardization in the use of Afaan Oromoo words in the government mass media: Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC), Oromia Radio and Television Organization (ORTO), and Ethiopian Press Agency (*Bariisaa*) It will not be

concerned with other problems related to vocabulary such as neologisms, loanwords, and code mixing.

### **1.7 Methodology**

Data were collected from Afaan Oromoo speaker journalists of different dialect areas and audiences of different government mass media. I employed interviews and/or questionnaire as a means of data collection. Written materials were also sources of data. News items from print and broadcast media were used as bases of comparing and contrasting lexical items. Due to the fact that I am a native speaker of Afaan Oromoo (Mac'c'a variety), I have also utilized my own introspection.

The data selected from those collected through interviews and questionnaire as well as from news items have been annotated and documented. The devices I used are:

1. Elan software for annotation;
2. Audio recorder to record interviews;
3. Freekey SIL for transcription;
4. Audacity (Adobe audition) for audio editing.
5. Video recorder to record video;
6. Dell laptop to write the paper and for other purposes.

## Chapter Two

### Review of Related Literature

In this chapter I review works on Afaan Oromoo dialects, language planning, standardization, the role of mass media and government in standardization.

#### 2.1 An Overview of Afaan Oromoo Dialects

According to Chambers and Trudgil (1998:5), “dialect refers to varieties which are grammatically and perhaps lexically as well as phonologically different from other varieties”. Social dialect or sociolect is a variety of speech associated with a particular social class or occupational group within a society; whereas regional dialect is a variety of speech that differs from others based on geographical regions.

According to Williams (2005: 220), “language varies over time, across national and geographical boundaries, by gender, across age groups and by socioeconomic status. When variation occurs within a given language, we call the different versions of the same language dialects.” Defining a dialect in linguistics, however, is not as simple as this because it is a rather slippery term that covers so much territory. (Finch 2003:206) says “A ‘dialect’ as a more or less identifiable regional or social variety of a language distinguishable in terms of vocabulary, syntax and sometimes pronunciation” Trask (1994: 49) also states:

Every language that is spoken over any significant area is spoken in somewhat different forms in different places; these are its regional dialects. Moreover, even in a single community, that may be spoken differently by members of different social groups; these different forms are social dialects or sociolects.

In accounting for the origin of dialects and that of the regional dialects in particular, Trask (1994:36) points out that they are the result of change of language and difference in

geographical location and if a unifying force does not intervene dialects will continue to vary. Language is always changing in terms of its vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, and meaning. However, language does not change everywhere in the same way. Regarding the changes in language, Trask states that:

“when a language is spoken over any significant stretch of territory, changes which occur in one area does not necessarily spread to other areas. As a result, with the passage of time, differences slowly but steadily accumulate among the regional varieties of the language” (1994:58).

Despite the claim that a language may have both regional and social dialects, the literature on Oromo dialectology does not seem to provide description of Afaan Oromoo sociolects. Regarding regional dialects, there are different suggestions. (Gragg 1976:173) points out that Afaan Oromoo spoken in Ethiopia, could be classified into four dialect areas: a) Western (Wallagga, Iluu Abbaa Booraa, Jimma), b) Central (Shawa), c) Eastern (Hararge) and) Southern (Arsii-Baale, Gujii and Boorana). The Baate and Raayyaa of Wollo and Tigray varieties have not been included in this classification. In Kenya, (Heine 1981: 15) recognizes two major dialect areas, ‘Central Afaan Oromoo’ and ‘Tana Afaan Oromoo’. (Lloret 1994:6) divides the dialects of the language into Western and Eastern groups with the former including Raayyaa, Baatee, Macc’a and Tuulama, and the latter including Harargee, Arsii-Baalee, Boorana, Gabra, Orma and Waata.

Kebede (2009:165) on the other hand suggests ten genetic units:

1. Western = Mac'c'a, Tuulamaa
2. Eastern = Arsi, Guji, Borana, Orma, Waata, Barentu, Wollo, and Rayya
3. Central= Arsi, Guji, Borana and Orma
4. South-East-North = Waata, Barentu (including highland Arsi) Wollo and Rayya
5. Southern coastal area of Kenya
6. North- Eastern =Barentu (including highland Arsi), Wollo and Rayya.
7. East = spoken in Arsi, Hararge
8. North = Wollo and Rayya
9. Wallo = Oromia zone in Amhara region
10. Rayya = Wallo and Southern Tigray

Kebede says, of the above ten dialects classification six are the present dialect areas and the other four are historical genetic units. On the above classification one can find a given dialect in more than one place. According to Kebede, this is because of the relationship between dialects or what they share in common.

Banti (2008: 4) classifies the main dialects of Afaan Oromoo spoken in Ethiopia into six. These are:

1) Northern (Baate and Raayyaa), 2) Western (Mac'c'a), 3) Highland (Tuulama), 4) Eastern (Hararge), 5) Central (Gujii and Arsii), and 6) Southern (Boorana). The Afaan Oromoo Standardizing Committee of the Oromia Tourism and Culture Bureau classifies Afaan Oromoo dialects into eight: 1) Macc'a, 2) Tuulamaa, 3) Hararge, 4) Wallo, 5) Raayyaa, 6) Arsi – Baalee, 7) Gujii, and 8) Booranaa. (Mekonnen 2002:9) says the dialect recognized by two or more researchers are Oromo dialects, thus accordingly Mac'caa, Tuulama, Arsii (Arsii-Baalee),

Harargee, Gujii, Booranaa, Raayyaa, and Walloo. (Kebede 2005: 134) argues that variation in Afaan Oromoo is usually pointed out as creates misunderstanding in communication.

The Afaan Oromoo Language Standardizing Committee in (*Wiirtuu* 1999: 200) explains that variations pertaining to vocabulary are much more problematic in communication than pronunciation or grammar.

The variations we observe as we go from one dialect area to another dialect area is called geographical dialect continuum (Chambers and Trudgil 1998: 6).

This study as indicated above is concerned with problems hindering effective communication among journalists in the government mass media as well as between mass media and audiences. To narrow the gap between the communicator and audience, (Kebede 2009) suggests that preparation of standard dictionaries and reference grammars.

## 2.2 Language Planning and Standardization

Bekale (2012: 3) observes that language diversity is a common phenomenon in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. He underscores that this may result in challenges to “national identity, socio-economic advancement, social stability and educational progress”. He also indicates that Ethiopia is not an exception and to meet the challenges language planning is necessary. Language Planning include anything from proposing a new word to a new language (Haugen 1969).

Standardization is the process by which a language is codified or one variety of a language becomes widely accepted throughout the speech community of that language as a supra dialectal norm (Wardhough 1992: 30). This indicates that standardization is treated as a process which helps to create a standard variety of a language. In relation to this, Milroy (1999:173) points out that “standardization is best treated as a process,” because of the fact that “all languages (except dead languages) vary and are in a constant state of change.”

All languages do not require the same degree of standardization. Different types or stages of standardization have been distinguished as given below (Cobarrubias 1983: 87).

1. Unstandardized or oral language: a language for which no written systems have been devised.
2. Partly standardized or unstandardized written language: a language used mainly in primary education. The language is characterized by high degree of linguistic variation in the morphological and syntactic systems.
3. Young standardized language: a language used in education and administration, but not felt to be fit.
4. Archaic standard language: a language which was used widely in pre-industrial times but lacks vocabulary and registers for modern science and technology.
5. Mature modern standard language: a language employed in all areas of communication, including science and technology at a tertiary level.

As pointed out above, Afaan Oromoo is a written language used in schools, mass media and for the purpose of administration. Nonetheless, it is not yet a fully standardized language. According to Cobarrubias's (1983) stages of standardization, Afaan Oromoo falls at the second stage, that is partly unstandardized or 'unstandardized written'. To pursue the standardization process of the language, what is underway seems to be that all major dialects are involved for the selection of norms. This undertaking is similar, for instance, to the standardization of the Shona language of Zimbabwe. In the case of Shona language, the major dialects of the language are taken as a base (Mekonnen 2002). If one dialect is chosen for standardization, that standard variety may be considered as the only one out of many dialects. For example, Trudgill (1992: 57-63) says that standard English is not a language but rather a dialect because it is one variety out of many varieties.

Haugen (1966) developed a framework for the description of the process of language planning. Accordingly, language planning typically consists of four stages, which can (but need not be) sequential. They are:

- a) Selection: selecting the base dialect out of different varieties.
- b) Codification: developing orthography, dictionary, grammar, etc.
- c) Implementation: adopting the standard language in media, administration, court, school, etc.
- d) Elaboration: modernizing the language under consideration.

According to the first suggestion above, standardization involves selecting one dialect among many. The selection may be based on standardizing tendency, number of speakers, etc. However, Haugen's suggestion is not a remedy where it is not easy to select from competing dialects.

Regarding codification, Haugen (1966: 50-71) identifies graphisation, grammatization and lexicalization as the necessary elements. Graphization involves developing the orthography of a language, while grammatization and lexicalization involve developing the grammar and lexicon of the language. Afaan Oromoo has not undergone the above processes adequately; hence effective communication in the mass media has not yet been achieved.

Scholars like Fishman (1968) who claim that interference in language standardization disturbs the natural ecology of a language. On the contrary, there are also scholars like Haugen (1966) who are in favor of standardization. With respect to Afaan Oromoo, standardization seems to be favored. The Afaan Oromoo Standardizing Committee is attempting to standardize the language based on the various dialects.

According to Haugen (1966) Standardization of a language, as a factor for laying a conducive ground for socioeconomic development, is a conscious practice. Taking the preceding reasons into account, countries like India concerning (Hindi), Israel (Hebrew), Papua New Guinea (Tok pisin), Indonesia (Bahasa Indonesia), Tanzania (Swahili), and Zimbabwe (Shona) have made efforts towards standardization. In each case, either a dialect was selected, developed and made to attain universal usage or different dialects were combined. In much of the standardization of the above languages either the combination of dialects were considered or those dialects that had standardizing tendency were taken as a base for standardization.

The Basque language, a language spoken in the south-west of France and north-west of Spain, was standardized by combining major dialects. Thus, "Unified Basque (Euskara Batua) was created from the late 1960s as an amalgamation of the four main Basque dialects" (Mahlau 1991).

### **2.3 The Role of Mass Media in Standardization**

A given dialect plays a role on radio or TV or in press or in all of these. According to (Sibayan 1974: 241), radio and television are the most important influential factors of language change. (Temesegen 1993: 4) also says that the mass media are one of the agents which have an opportunity to popularize the standard form of a language among wider audience. Words that are used on the radio, TV and press are more likely to be standardized than other words. For example, the word *dimma* 'affair' in Mac'c'a got more prevalence than *haadza* in Arsii -Baalee and Harargee) because of its frequent use in the mass media.

Due to the fact that people get influenced by the words that the media use, the mass media play an important role in the standardization of a given language. Karam (1974: 116) says that the mass media "exert a decisive influence not only on the spread of the national language, but also on the

form in which it is ultimately accepted by the public". This indicates that the media are among the powerful agents to establish a standard variety. Thus, media language attracts the attention of researchers.

According to Bell (1991: 34), the following are the reasons why media languages are studied.

1. Accessibility of media as a source of data for some language features.
2. Interest in the way the media use some language features that are also found in ordinary speech.
3. Interest in the role of media in affecting language in a wider society.
4. Interest in what media language reveals as a mirror of the wider society and culture.
5. Interest in how media language affects attitudes and opinions in a society through the ways it present people and issues
6. Availability of media language; that is it is 'there' in large quantities.

The above interests show how the mass media are important in language use and, indeed, in standardization.

#### **2.4. Importance of Standardization**

Language has the natural tendency of developing into varieties. This fact necessitates efforts to control or reduce language variation through the process of standardization. It could be done, as indicated above, by selecting one variety of a language and then codifying, elaborating and implementing in school, media, administration, court, and so forth. A standardized language could also be the result of the amalgamation of various dialects and implementation.

## 2.5. The Role of Government in Standardization

(Haugen 1966: 178) says that governments have advantages over private individuals in having control over the school system, mass media, language academy, court and administration. According to (Sadembouo, 1988: 5) a language academy or committee is a scientific and cultural organization whose objective is to promote and orient the development of a language. This body may be responsible for proposing a standard form and its implementation. It may be established and sponsored by a government constitutionally to serve as the highest authority. It checks, controls, guides, etc., the process of standardization. Such an authoritative body is usually known as an academy in many countries.

The Oromia Culture and Information Bureau has established *Koree Waaltina Afaan Oromo* (The Oromo Language Standardizing Committee) in 1994. The task of this committee is to standardize the language and to enrich it with the necessary modern vocabulary for mass media, administration, and education. Members of the committee were represented from the Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau, academic institutions, judiciary bureaus as well as from government offices. This committee has made significant efforts in the choice of vocabulary items and which are supposed to be used as standard forms. As a result, about 1500 words have been selected and coined based on the different dialects of Oromo and these words were published in five consecutive issues of the annual journal *Wiirtuu* (see *Wiirtuu* 1995-1999, Nos.1-5). 1500 words are few as compared to the experience of some countries. For example, from 1944 to 1950 the language academy of South Africa produced ten different English-Afrikaans bilingual glossaries (Webb, 1995). With regard to the inadequacy of the efforts made by the Afaan Oromoo Standardizing Committee, the following could be the reasons:

1. The committee does not include members from all the dialects.
2. The committee members are few in number and limited in professional representation.
3. There are no clearly stated criteria, methods and directives for selecting and coining words.

4. The committee was not established with authority to check, control and guide the process of standardization across the different bureaus and institutions (Mekonnen 2002)

Due to the above reasons, carrying out the standardization of the Oromo language seems to be beyond the capacity of the existing committee. Thus, to overcome the problem, efforts are being made to establish a language academy.

## **2.6 Criteria for Choosing Standard Forms**

Determining a standard language form among many languages or determining a standard variety among varieties is not an easy task. Many factors need to be taken into account. For instance, to choose a word as standard among alternative words of different dialects, (Haugen 1966) suggests the following criteria: (1) number of speakers (2) frequency of occurrence (3) economy (4) productivity (5) written documents and (6) semantic transparency and acceptance (7) originality (8) the mass media and (9) current status.

### **2.6.1 Number of Speakers**

Sadembouo (1988: 3) says, "It is quite normal to take the majority group when making the choice of dialect(s)". Similarly, Haugen (1966:177) states that the number and distribution of speakers are important in language development. In this regard, it is likely for a dialect spoken by a large number of speakers to be accepted as standard than the dialect spoken by a few speakers. In other words, the number of speakers has a negative or positive impact on the choice of a standard vocabulary. This indicates that the number of speakers of a certain dialect increases the acceptability of vocabulary and vice versa

### **2.6.2 Frequency of Occurrence**

The vocabulary items which are used across many dialects can be standardized more easily than the ones that are restricted to a dialect. Haugen (1966: 177) says "the most widespread usage is the best and most genuine forms". If a given word is commonly known by speakers of different dialects, that particular word will easily be standardized and used in the media, schools, court, etc.

### **2.6.3 Economy**

Economy refers to the structural simplicity of lexical items. Haugen (1966:164) shorter words are more economical and hence more easily learnable than long and complex words. Tauli (1974:60) also underlines that economical words are efficient. During the process of lexical standardization, the word which is shorter than its synonyms should be used as the standard.

### **2.6.4 Productivity**

Productivity refers to the flexibility of words to be used in different forms and categories. For instance, there is the possibility for a word to be used as a base in different derivations. In connection with this, Tauli (1974:60) says, "...it [word] must be elastic, i.e. easily adaptable to new tasks, i.e. for expression of new meanings."

### **2.6.5 Written Documents**

A written document concerns the extent to which a dialect is used in written materials. Written materials have strong effect on the development of a standard dialect. The more the words are used in writing, the more chance they have to be adopted and spread among speakers of other dialects. If there is no written document in a given language, that particular language will not have a chance to be standardized by reaching the speakers of different dialects of that particular language.

### 2.6.6 Semantic transparency and acceptance

The meanings of some words may not fit the social norm or habit of speakers across dialects. Each word cannot be used in formal situations or is considered taboo in some dialects. Lehmann (1992: 263) notes that taboo or avoidance of unspeakable words varies from place to place. For example, the word *bukkee* means 'side' in Macc'a but 'hermaphrodite' in Arsii-Baalee. According to Lehmann (1992) "A more subtle, and sometimes more confusing form of lexical variation is the use of the same word to mean different things in different dialects." For instance, *k'ara* means 'sharp edged' in Mac'c'a and Tuulamaa but it means 'beginning' in Arsii –Baalee.

### 2. 6. 7 Originality

Originality refers to the status of a word as to whether it is indigenous or borrowed. Borrowing is not advisable if there is an option of getting an indigenous word from the different dialects of a language. Original words in the language can have different forms so as to serve as different parts of speech. But the word which is not original cannot be used in different forms. In connection to this, Baye (1994:71) states that there are many words in the Oromo dialects which could easily replace a lot of borrowed words. For example, the English noun 'plough' is expressed as *gindii* in Mac'c'aa and *moofara* in Tuulamaa, both borrowed from Amharic (*gind* is to mean 'stem', and *mofar* is a 'plough'. On the other hand, plough is *nohee* by an indigenous word in Arsii-Baalee and *nuguya* in Harar dialects (both forms are indigenous). Therefore, for the purpose of preserving identity it is advisable to use indigenous words selecting from the existing dialects.

### 2. 6. 8 The Mass Media

The mass media refers to the role that a certain dialect plays in Radio or TV or in newspapers or in all of them. According to Sibayan (1974:241), one of the most important influencing factors of language change and use are Radio and TV. Temesegen (1999: 4) also says that the mass media is one of the agents which have an opportunity to popularize the standard form of a

language among a large audience. Words that are used in the Radio, TV and newspapers are more likely to be standardized than other words.

### **2.6.9 Current Status**

Current status refers to the present situation of the dialect(s) of a language. Talking the current situation of dialect(s), that is the dialect which has the tendency of being standardized helps to identify the potential of a dialect to serve as a base in the standardization process. According to Tauli (1974:60) the role of each dialect should be observed in a standardization process. He also argued that “one must try to evaluate the existing competing variants in language standardization.

## **2.7 Standardization Experiences**

The experiences of standardized languages across the globe could be helpful with respect to what is briefly done here. Thus I will briefly survey the experiences of five countries: two from Africa, Two from Europe, one from Asia.

### **2.7.1 Zimbabwe**

In Zimbabwe, Shona is the most widely spoken African language (Ethnologue: 1996). It is a Bantu language spoken mainly in southern Africa, chiefly Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Mozambique. Within the Shona language there are five main dialects: Namely Ndau, Karanga, Korekore, Manyika and Zezuru (Fasold 1984).

(Fasold 1984) says that the government effort to standardize Shona was first made by the colonial governments. The objective of the standardization was not to harmonize Shona with its dialects, but it was to form a bridge for communication between the various organs of the colonial governments and the Shona communities. However, according to (Fasold 1984:44) “during the colonial times in Zimbabwe the Shona language was degraded and the colonial language English was given priority”. Shona was not developed, and due to that, people

preferred English to Shona to express ideas. Dube (1995) conducted a research on the relationship between Shona and English and her respondents claimed English was more expressive than Shona and Shona lacked grammatical, linguistic and literary terms. To solve this problem, and to and to standardize the language, experts developed monolingual Shona dictionary. Chimhundu (2005:2) notes that “the monolingual dictionary is not only standard setting, but it also gives a language the abstractive power that it needs to describe itself”. For the standardization of the Shona language, African Language Research Institute (ALRI) and Shona Language and Culture Association have played a great role.

There is also evidence that Shona monolingual lexicon has had some effects on both the electronic and print media. Chimhundu (2006: 10) observes that in 1990 the percentage usage of the majority language, Shona, by the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) was 55% on the African languages station, Radio Zimbabwe (then called Radio 2), 40% on the educational channel, National FM (then Radio 4), 1.5% on the almost entirely music station, Power FM (then Radio 3), and 1% on the general and predominantly English language station, Spot FM (then Radio 1). Around that time, television programmes in Shona and Ndebele were very few. Shona covered only 1.5%. The circulation of English language newspapers such was much larger than that of the only indigenous language newspaper for both Shona and Ndebele.

After the independence of Zimbabwe, the government requirement that all broadcasting on radio and television should have 75% local content contributed to a dramatic increase in airtime for local languages, particularly Shona and Ndebele. Chimhundu (2006: 11) underscores the benefits of this shift as follows: improved attitudes towards indigenous languages, and a greater use of local languages in public life and in business, especially advertising.

### **2.7.2 Burkina Faso**

French is the official language in the west African country Burkina Faso but 60 to 70 African languages are spoken among the more than 10 million inhabitants. Burkina Faso is often mentioned in connection with language planning in Africa, and three national languages are specifically promoted namely, Moor!e (4.5 million speakers, that is half of the population),

Fulfulde (250,000; but 768,000 according to (Kedrebeogo 1997) and Jula (Dioula), over 1 million; 34 1,000 according to Kedrebeogo). In Kedrebeogo's list, Gurmanchema is actually ranked above both Fulfulde and Jula and is said to have 430,000 speakers. Moorle is spoken by the Mossi population and Fulfulde and Jula are vehicular languages which cut cross the borders with Mali and Niger.

The three Burkina Faso languages have been standardized by the amalgamation of the dialects of each language (Kedrebeogo 1997).

### **2.7.3 Norway**

Norway is one of the Scandinavian countries. In the Norwegian language planning, two competing languages are officially recognized standards. *Bokmål* ('Book Language') and *Nynorsk* ('New Norwegian'). According to Haugen (1966) Bokmål is the dominant standard language in all sectors of public life, but Nynorsk has a relatively strong position in literature, theatre and university life.

### **2.7.4 Basque**

(Mahlau 1991:79) states that a newly invented Basque standard variety, Batua, was gradually introduced into the Basque educational system and media as part of a massive language revitalization effort. Prior to this time, no broadly accepted Basque standard existed, and Spanish was used exclusively in many prestige domains; schools, the media, government, in which Batua is now an option.

According to (Mahlau 1991: 91-94), the objective of Basque language planners was the development of a literary standard, starting from the birth of Euskaltzaindia (The Basque Language Academy) in 1918. The academy published a standard orthography for Batua, and after that the language has gradually developed syntactic, morphological and (more recently) phonological norms to serve as a standard.

### 2.7.5 India

India is a very special case when it comes to language planning. The country has perhaps over one billion inhabitants and hosts over 400 languages. In fact, India resembles a language planner's nightmare. Hindi and English are the national official languages. There is a Central Institute for Indian Languages (Kedreogo 1997:220).

India's language policy, known as the "three language formula", has the effect of covering 90% of the Indian population. According to Kedreogo (1997:17), "the Indian model of language planning has proven successful and points to a possible solution for multilingual countries". In addition, Kedreogo (1997:18) states that "the English spoken in India is an indigenized variety without colonial connotations, whereas equivalent varieties of French, for example, do not exist in Africa". Fasold (1984), traditionally, the position of English is strong in the higher spheres of society, and the attraction of the language is evident for people with career aspirations. However, few people speak it as a mother tongue.

Hindi was proclaimed the national language of India in 1950, although this was resisted from the southern parts of the country. (Gadellii 1999) says "Owing to the importance of the Dravidian languages and Bengali, it proved impossible to implement Hindi nation-wide". The Constitution was then amended in order to make some twelve languages regional official languages which enabled primary education to be given in the mother tongue. However, the relationship between standardized regional languages and locally spoken varieties has remained unclear. Hindi has 300 million speakers and is the world's third widely spoken language next to Chinese (Mandarin) and English. Although Hindi is the national language of India, it is geographically concentrated in the northern provinces, where it is predominant in the educational system. It is the regional official language in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and the Delhi territory.

Author further notes that points out that "Hindi is not receiving the international attention it deserves considering its size, but attributes this partly to the fact that the educated classes in India master English as a first language to varying degrees and this limits outsiders' contacts with Hindi".

Gadellii (1999:) notes that Hindi is only 100 years old, but includes elements from older languages such as Sanskrit, as well as from regional and local languages. After independence in 1947, Hindi was seen as a symbol of Indian identity.

In addition to Hindi, India hosts the following regional official languages: Assam (10 million speakers), Bengali (50 plus 100 in Bangladesh)), Gujarati (30), Kannada (28), Kashmiri (3), Malayalam (35), Marathi (60), Oriya (22), Punjabi (20 (plus 64 in Pakistan), Tamil (45), Telegu (60), Urdu (perhaps 75 plus as many in Pakistan). Sanskrit is also an official language but is not actually spoken. Gadellii calls Hindi “the language of the Union”, English “an auxiliary official language” and the other 13 “constitutional languages”.

## Chapter Three

### Data Analysis and Interpretation

In this chapter, the data collected through questionnaire and interview will be analyzed and interpreted. The data are about the variety of words used in Afaan Oromoo in the government mass media. The purpose of data collection is to find out the varieties of Afaan Oromoo used in the government mass media, and the way they hinder effective communication among journalists and media users.

For data collection, samples of 28 nouns, 25 verbs, 10 adjectives and 10 adverbs were distributed to journalists in the various government mass media organizations that are Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, Ethiopian Press Agency (*Bariisaa*), and Oromia Radio and Television Organization. The word classes were selected due to the fact that they are often encountered as the major problem areas. The journalists were asked to give equivalent words in their own respective Afaan Oromoo dialects to the words given in my dialect (Mac'c'a). The meaning of each word is given in English. The respondents who speak dialects other than that of mine got the sense of those words they found difficult to understand from the English equivalents provided.

The table below shows the number of journalists who speak different dialects and who work in the different government media organizations.

**Table 3 Number of respondent journalists from each dialect in different media**

No	Dialect	EBC	Oromia Radio and Television Organization	Ethiopian Press Agency	Total	Total in %
1	M	13	24	4	41	48
2	T	5	7	3	17	20
3	AB	5	6	1	10	11
4	H	2	5	-	7	8
5	B	1	3	-	4	5
6	W	1	2	-	3	4
7	G	1	2	-	3	4
8	R	-	-	-	-	-
		28	49	8	85	100

According to Table 2, the number of speakers of each dialect in the different government mass media varies and there is the domination of Mac'c'a, then come Tuulama, and Arsii-Baalee, Hararge, Booranaa, Walloo, and Gujii respectively. The number of the respondents in each medium varies because the number of journalists in each medium is not equal. For example, in the case of Ethiopian Press, journalists who work on Bariisaa are only 8, and the questionnaire is distributed to all 8 members.

Number of respondent journalists according to gender is as follows.

**Table 4 Number of respondents based on gender**

Gender	EBC	Oromia Radio and Television Organization	Ethiopian Press Agency	Total	Total in %
Male	21	35	6	62	73
Female	8	13	2	23	27
Total	29	48	8	85	100

According to the above table, the number of female respondents is 23 (27%), while that of male is 62 (73%).

### 3. Data Collection

The data were collected through questionnaires and interviews (see appendices 1-3). Copies of the questionnaires were distributed to journalists and audiences of government mass media in Afaan Oromoo. Annotation is made from the response of the interviewee. Questionnaire 1 was distributed to 109 Afaan Oromoo journalists working in the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, Oromia Radio and Television Organization and Ethiopian Press Agency (*Bariisaa*) and I collected back 85 copies. I could not collect the rest due to the nature of the work of the journalists, some of whom are usually in the field. A separate questionnaire, (Questionnaire 2) was distributed to audiences of the government media who are working in the Gelan town administration office and in Sebeta town culture and tourism office as well as other audiences who live in Gelan, Sebeta, and Finfinne (Addis Ababa). The purpose was to find out the

comprehensibility of Afaan Oromoo words used in the government mass media. The audiences in the above places were selected because they have much access to the media under consideration. Interviews were conducted with three Afaan Oromoo editors in EBC, Oromia Radio and Television Organization, and Ethiopian Press Agency (*Bariisaa*).

### 3.1 Word Forms used in the Government Mass Media

Of the words used in the mass media, nouns verbs, adjectives and adverbs are the problem areas where communication gap occurs between journalists and audiences. Below are the equivalent words given for the respective words in questionnaire 1, that is nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

#### 3.1.1 Nouns

A noun is a word that refers to a person, thing or abstract idea. A noun tells who or what. It is a naming word (Thomson & Martnet 1986:16).

There are different types of nouns:

- Common nouns: names commonly shared by a group of things. (e.g. dog, car, chair, etc.)
- Countable nouns: things which can be counted ( singular or plural) (e.g. two cows, three cars, etc.)
- Uncountable nouns: are nouns that refer to substances, feelings and types of activity (can only be singular). (e.g. water, sugar, oil, etc.)
- Collective nouns: a group of people or things. (e.g., crowd, flock, group, team, etc.)
- Proper nouns: names of individuals, things or places. Proper nouns are capitalised. (e.g. Tola, France, United Nations, etc.
- Compound nouns: made up of two or more words.(e.g. kitchen table, river bank, etc.)
- Gerunds: formed from a verb by adding *-ing*. e.g. eating, writing, etc.)
- Abstract nouns: refer to things that cannot be seen or touched. e.g. bravery, joy, beauty, etc.)

- Concrete nouns: refer to things one can see or touch. (e.g., tree, computer, etc.)

I distributed 28 nouns and selected 5 nouns that showed variety and treated as sample. The Table below shows the responses obtained with respect to the 5 sample nouns, that are nouns in the various dialects equivalent to the Mac'c'a nouns I provided. Note that the Mac'c'a nouns are translated into English to ensure the respondents understood them properly.

**Table 5 Equivalent nouns given by respondents**

No	Noun in Mac'c'a	Equivalent noun	Gloss	Number of respondents of each dialect							%
				M	T	AB	H	B	G	W	
1	<i>dabaaku'la</i>	a) <i>dabaak'ula</i>	pumpkin	21	17	10		4	3	3	68
		b) <i>buk'k'ee</i>		20							24
		c) <i>baak'ul</i>					7				8
2	<i>sardiida</i>	a) <i>sardiida</i>	fox	21	17						44
		b) <i>dʒeedala</i>				10	4	3	3		24
		c) <i>waangoo</i>		20							24
		d) <i>dʒeedallo</i>					7				8
3	<i>Wiit'ata boodaa</i>	a) <i>Wiit'ata boodaa</i>	Tuesday	17							20
		b) <i>Baakaa</i>		6							7
		c) <i>Fac'aasaa</i>		18							21
		d) <i>Kibt'ata</i>				10	4	3	3		24
		e) <i>Lammaffo</i>			17						20
		f) <i>Salaasaa</i>						7			8
4	<i>uffata</i>	a) <i>uffata</i>	clothes	29	12	2				1	52
		b) <i>kafana</i>		3	3			2	1		10
		c) <i>huc'c'uu</i>				8	7			2	20
		d) <i>wajaa</i>		9	2			2	2		18
5	<i>naata</i>	a) <i>naata</i>	food	41	17	10		7		3	92
		b) <i>sagalee</i>						4	3		8

As seen in number 3 of the above table, in some cases five alternatives are encountered, apart from the Mac'c'a dialect for a single concept. On the contrary, different words may be used for a single concept by speaker of a dialect. There are cases where speakers of different dialects prefer a single word. For example, the word *dabaak'ulaa* is favored by the speakers of Mac'c'aa, Tuulamaa, Arsii- Baalee, Booranaa, Gudžii, and Walloo, while its equivalent words like *buk'k'ee*, and *baak'ul* are favored only by some speakers of Mac'ca and Harar dialects respectively. Thus, the word favored by the majority is likely to be the standardized form.

The data may have some drawbacks for the fact that some of the respondents are influenced by other dialects that are spoken widely in their current residence (Finfinnee and Adama). However, the majority of the respondents gave equivalent words in their respective dialects.

### 3.1.2 Verbs

According to (Thomson & Martnet 1986:76) a verb is a word which tells about some action or event. More specifically a verb denotes:

- a physical action (e.g., to swim, to write, to climb).
- a mental action (e.g., to think, to guess, to consider).
- a state of being (e.g., to be, to exist, to appear).

Verbs can be classified into:

- Intransitive: tell about actions that do not pass over to an object. (e.g. dogs *bark*, boys *run*).
- Transitive: tell about actions that pass over to objects. (e.g. He *likes* swimming).
- Linking: join the subject of a sentence with its complement. (e.g. He *is* a teacher).
- Phrasal Verbs: made up of verbs and prepositions and adverb particles. e.g. Example, Ebola *broke out* in the city.

The following are the verbs taken from the sample of 24 verbs that show variation across the different dialects.

**Table 6 Equivalent verbs given by respondents**

No	Verbs in Mac'c'a	Equivalent Verbs	Gloss	Dialects	Number of respondents for each dialect						
								H	B	G	W
1	<i>mamuu</i>	a) <i>mamuu</i>	to hesitate	W, AB						3	
		b) <i>dareemuu</i>		B,G				4	3		8
		c) <i>sakkuu</i>		M, T, H	41	17	7				
2	<i>fit'uu</i>	a) <i>fit'uu</i>	to finish	M, T, H		10	7				
		b) <i>raawwatfuu</i>		AB,M,T		7	4				
		c) <i>t'umuruu</i>		B,G, W					4	3	3
		d) <i>goolabuu</i>		AB			6				
		e) <i>booraduu</i>		M	9						
3	<i>k'aana?uu</i>	a) <i>k'aana?uu</i>	to be ashamed	M,B,G, H,W		17	7	4	3	3	
		b) <i>saalfatfuu</i>		AB							
		c) <i>jeella?uu</i>		M,							
4	<i>sobuu</i>	a) <i>sobuu</i>	to appease,or to lie	B,G,M,T,W, H		17	3	4	3	3	
		b) <i>kidzibuu</i>		AB,H			4				
5	<i>gargaaruu</i>	a) <i>gargaaruu</i>	to help	M,T,H,AB,W		17	8	7			3
		b) <i>deggaruu</i>		AB, B,G					4	3	

The table shows a given word has many equivalent synonyms. For example the word *fit'uu* has four equivalent synonyms. In the case of some words, the majority of the respondents favor on the two synonyms, while few respondents favor its equivalent word. For example, the word *gargaaruu* is favored by 89% of the respondents while its equivalent synonym *deggaruu* is favored only by 11% of the respondents. As can be observed from the above table, verbs are the area where much variation can be observed. For example, 'to finish' is expressed in five different forms.

As in the case of nouns, there are some verbs that are favored by speakers of different dialects. For example, the verb *sobuu* is favored by the speakers of Mac'c'aa, Tuulamaa, Booranaa, and Gudzii dialects, while its equivalent verb *kidzibuu* is favored by Harar and Arsii- Baalee dialects only.

### 3.1.3 Adjectives

Adjectives are describing words; such as large, grey and friendly.

Adjectives are added to nouns to state what kind, what color, which one or how many. They modify nouns and make the meanings of sentences clearer or more exact.

Types of Adjectives:

- Possessive Adjectives: used to show possession. ( my, your, his, her, its, our and their.
- The Articles:  
“a, an, the” are known as articles and are classified as adjectives too. “a” and “an” are called the indefinite articles as they do not indicate a specific noun whereas “ the” is called the definite article because it does point to a specific noun.
- Demonstrative Adjectives: used to demonstrate or indicate specific things; (“this, that, these , those”)

- Indefinite Adjectives: formed from indefinite pronouns; they do not point out specific things unlike demonstrative adjectives. The most common indefinite adjectives are “no, any, many, few, and several”.

The following are sample adjectives that show variation across the different Afaan Oromoo dialects.

**Table 7 Equivalent adjectives given by respondents**

No	Adjectives in Mac'c'a	Equivalent adjectives	Gloss	Dialect	Respondents for each dialect							Total %
					M	T	AB	H	B	G	W	
1	<i>bareedduu(f)</i>	a) <i>bareedduu (f)</i>	beautiful	M, T, AB, B, G, H	26	17	10	7	4	3	3	
		b) <i>miidagduu(f)</i>		M	15							
2	<i>gaarii</i>	a) <i>gaarii</i>	good	M, T,B,G,W	23	8			4	3	3	48
		b) <i>bareeda</i>		M,T,H	18	9		7				40
		c) <i>mifa</i>		AB			10					
3	<i>t'innaa (m)</i>	a) <i>t'innaa (m)</i>	small	M,	31							36
		b) <i>t'ik'k'aa(m)</i>		T, AB,H,W,M	10	17	8	7		3	53	
		c) <i>dik'k'aa</i>		G,B, AB			2	4	3			

According to the above table, there are differences in the use of adjectives. For example, the word *t'innaa* has equivalent words like *t'k'k'aa (m)* and *dik'k'aa*. The adjective *t'k'k'aa* is

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favored by 53% of the respondents, while *t'innaa* and *dik'k'aa* are favored by 36% and 11% respectively.

### 3.1.4 Adverb

According to (Thomson & Martnet 1986) an adverb can be added to a verb to modify its meaning. Usually, an adverb tells when, where, how, in what manner, or to what extent an action is performed. Many adverbs end in *-ly*, particularly those that are used to express how an action is performed.

Although many adverbs end in *-ly* (*quickly, carefully, etc.*, lots do not ( *fast, ever, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, and there*).

#### Types of Adverbs

Adverbs can usually be categorized into one of the following groupings:

- Adverb of Time: tells time of action.  
(e.g. He will return on Monday).
- Adverb of Place: tells place of an action.  
(e.g. The children are playing in the field).
- Adverb of Manner: tells the manner of an action.  
(e.g. He talked loudly).
- Adverb of frequency: tells how often an action took place.  
(e.g. I have read this book twice).

Adverbs can modify adjectives and other adverbs. Although the term adverb implies that they are only used with verbs, adverbs can also modify adjectives and other adverbs.

The following adverbs show variation across the different dialects of Afaan Oromoo

**Table 8 Equivalent Adverbs given by respondents**

No	Adverbs in Mac'c'a	Equivalent adverbs	Gloss	Dialect	Number of respondents for each dialect							
					M	T	AB	H	B	G	W	%
1	<i>badaa</i>	a) <i>badaa</i>	much many	M,	30							35
		b) <i>baay?ee</i>		M,T,AB,G,B,W	11	17	6	4	3	2	51	
		c) <i>heddu</i>		H, AB, W			4	7			1	14
2	<i>daka</i>	a) <i>daka</i>	down	H,M, T,B,G,W	22	13		7	4	3	3	61
		b) <i>goda</i>		,AB,M,T	19	4	10					39
3	<i>kaleessa</i>	a) <i>kaleessa</i>	yesterday	M,AB,B,G,W	41		10		4	3	3	72
		b) <i>kaleetfa</i>		T		17						20
		c) <i>kalee</i>		H				7				8
5	<i>ariitiin</i>	a) <i>ariitiin</i>	quickly	M,AB,G, B, W	17		6		2	2	2	34
		b) <i>muddamaan</i>		M,T, B, G, W,H	20	9		4	2	1	1	43
		c) <i>d3ard3araan</i>		T, H	4	8		3				18
		d) <i>atattamaan</i>		M			4					5
6	<i>gonkumaa</i>	a) <i>gonkumaa</i>	never	M,T,G,B,W	29	14			4	3	3	62
		b) <i>sirumaa</i>		M,T	12	3						18
		c) <i>inumaa</i>		AB			10					12
		d) <i>abadan</i>		H				7				8

As can be observed from the above tables, the various equivalent words given by speakers of different dialects vividly show there is significant lexical variation in the use of Afaan Oromoo

among journalists. As can be observed from peoples daily use of the language, although there is variation in the kind of adverbs and adjectives used, their disparities are not as much as in nouns and verbs. Some of the words are favored by the majority of respondents, while some words are specific to a given dialect. For example, the word *kaleessa* is favored by speakers of Mac'c'aa, Arsii-Baalee, Booranaa, Gudzii, and Walloo, while the word *kalee* is favored by Harar dialect only.

In general one can observe from the above tables that speakers of different dialects of Afaan Oromoo use different words to express the same concept. There are many synonyms of a given word. It seems that the journalists seem to be using their respective dialects freely in the media because their no standardized form of the language that guides them regarding the words they use.

Based on the limited data given in the forgoing tables, the following table presents words that could be selected as standard forms.

**Table 9 Sample recommended words to be used in the Mass Media**

No	Word Varieties	Gloss	Response	%	Total
1	a) <i>dabaak'ula</i>	pumpkin	58	68	100
	b) <i>bukk'ee</i>		20	24	
	c) <i>baak'ul</i>		7	8	
2	a) <i>Kibt'ata</i>	Tuesday	20	24	100
	b) <i>Fac'aasaa</i>		18	21	
	c) <i>Lammaffo</i>		17	20	
	d) <i>Salaasaa</i>		7	8	
	e) <i>Baakaa</i>		6	7	
	f) <i>Wiit'ta boodaa</i>		17	20	
3	a) <i>t'ik'k'aa</i> (m)	small	45	53	100
	b) <i>t'innaa</i> (m)		31	36	
	c) <i>dik'k'aa</i> (m)		9	11	
4	a) <i>sobuu</i>	to lie, to appease	71	84	100
	b) <i>kidzibuu</i>		14	16	

As can be observed from the above table, some words are favored by the majority of the respondents. For instance, the word *dabaak'ula* is favored by 68% of the respondents while corresponding words, *buk'k'ee* and *baak'ul* are favored by 24% and 8% respectively. Thus, from the above table words like, *dabaak'ula*, *kibt'ata*, *t'k'k'aa*, and *sobuu* are the words recommended to be standardized. Regarding the dialects, although all Afaan Oromoo dialects are considered as correct due to lack of standard form, some dialects seems to dominate in the media. According to Mekonnen (2002:27), "Mac'c'aa dialect is most influential due to the introduction of modern education particularly in west Wallegga by Missionaries".

### 3.3 Word Editing in the Mass Media

Interviewed Afaan Oromoo editors in the different mass media, that is, Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, Ethiopian Press Agency (*Bariisaa*), and Oromia Radio and Television organization, said they face difficulties while editing words used by reporters. This is, as already indicated, because reporters usually use words of their own dialects. Even though it is not the concern of this paper, frequent use of calque (translation of borrowed words) is also a problem area in the lexical use of Afaan Oromoo in the mass media. Direct translation from Amharic and English affects the use of language and the culture of the speakers and as a result it affects its comprehensibility. The criteria editors use to edit words used by reporters is that they prefer words they "believe" will be easily understood by the large audience and words that they "feel" is not peculiar to a given dialect. One editor interviewed from Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation said he edits words used by reporters simply by common agreement (see annotation REF, 083). However, he said when his relatives living in the countryside visit him they frequently ask him the meaning of some words used in the media (see annotation REF, 169). There is direct translation from other languages, and such direct translation may be understood by those who can speak Amharic or English in addition to Afaan Oromoo, but difficult to understand for those who speak only Afaan Oromoo.

The editors themselves are influenced by their own specific dialect to some extent. Some of the editors interviewed said when they doubt whether the word(s) they suggest is acceptable,

they consult with the reporters. If reporters can't understand the dialect of the editors they will negotiate on the word they think will be understood by the majority of the audience.

They negotiate only on those words that they think are specific on a given dialect and may not be understood by others. Those editors interviewed admitted that the words used in the media show variation from editor to editor and from reporter to reporter mainly because of the absence of "style guide" (see annotation REFs, 061, 127, 128 & 129).

The government mass media do not have style guide; but they have editorial policy. For example, Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation currently developed editorial policy under declaration 858/2006.

The editorial policy mainly focuses on the rules and regulations concerning the contents of the content of news items, programs, advertisements, dressing code, etc, instead of language use.

Some media in the world like BBC, Reuters, and The Guardian have style guides that control their use of language. Some online links are provided under "Reference".

Regarding the use of vocabulary in the Afaan Oromoo government media, there is no systematic guideline other than directions given on editorial meetings and on weekly departmental meetings. The directions of editorial meetings mainly focus on policies, choosing among different news worthy activities and not on word choice except on words that represent major current events.

One of the editors interviewed recommended that an academy be established for Afaan Oromoo to conduct research on the language and pave the way to standardization in earnest (see annotation REF, 275).

### **3.4 Common Problems in the Use of Words in Government Mass Media**

Regarding the lexical use in the government mass media, there are various problems that are observed. Some of the words that are used in the media are specific to the particular dialect of the journalist and hence difficult for the speakers of other dialects to understand. There are various synonyms and homonyms in Afaan Oromoo and due to the fact that there are no style books in the government mass media, there is no uniform use of the word among journalists (see annotation REFs, 140 & 141). This creates barrier of communication among journalists themselves and across the wider community. The common problems in the use of lexemes in the government mass media are: Unavailability of style book, varieties in dialects of journalists, and the fact that Afaan Oromoo has no standard form.

#### **3.4.1 Unavailability of Style Book**

Unlike some media organizations like Reuters and BBC, most government mass media in Ethiopia lack a style book that guides the use of language in a particular media. Some government mass media like Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation have editorial policy, which mainly focus on rules and regulations rather than language use. Thus unavailability of style books in the government mass media gave ultimate freedom to journalists to use words as they wish, which results in either misunderstanding among journalists or failure to understand the media the media language by the larger audience.

#### **3.4.2 Varieties in Dialects of Journalists**

Afaan Oromoo has various dialects. The journalists working in the government mass media are from these dialect areas and they speak their own dialects. A word in a given dialect may be taboo in another dialect (see annotation REF. 044). There is nothing in the media that prohibits the journalists to use their own dialect and hence they use their dialect which may result in communication gap.

### **3.4.3 Communication Barriers within Journalists and with the General Audience**

Communication barrier is observed between journalists and the audiences due to varieties of words used in the government mass media. In relation to literate community they better understand each other because they get access to other dialects in schools, and they are exposed to speakers of other dialects. But when they use their particular dialect on the media, their chance of being understood by illiterate community is less (see annotation, REF 159).

### **3.4.5 Problems of the Audience**

A questionnaire was distributed to 101 users of different Afaan Oromoo mass media, and I got back 89 copies. The contents of the questionnaire are questions that are meant to find out whether or not audiences fully understand what are broadcasted in Afaan Oromoo mass media. Most of the respondents said that the words used by journalists in the government mass media are not uniform; hence, they face difficulties in getting the complete messages of what are broadcasted or printed.

Below table 10 shows the number of respondents preferring the various Afaan Oromoo media while table 11 gives the number of respondents according to gender. Tables 12-14 present the views of respondents regarding word use and comprehensibility.

The table below shows the number of individuals and the media (medium) of their choice.

**Table 10 Number of individuals in relation to preferred media**

Mass Media	Number of respondents served	Audiences in %
Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation	15	17
Oromia Radio and Television	24	27
Oromia Radio	11	12
Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, <i>Bariisaa</i> , Oromia Radio and Television Organization	31	35
<i>Bariisaa</i>	8	9
Total	89	100

The majority of the respondents are audience of broadcast media than print media. From 89 respondents only 8 of them said they read *Bariisaa* news paper. As can be seen from the table, the majority of the respondents use different government mass media instead of using only one medium.

**Table 11 Comprehensibility of media messages**

Comprehensibility	Respondents	%
Full	17	19
Partial	72	81
Total	89	100

The table shows that a great majority (81%) responded that they have problems in understanding words used in the government mass media.

The table below gives the causes of the incomprehensibility.

**Table 12 Causes of Comprehensibility**

Reasons	Respondents	%
Dialects difference	11	15
Direct translation	7	10
Not common words	3	4
All the above reasons	51	71
Total	72	100%

According to the majority of the respondents the reason for their failure to understand media words are differences in dialects of journalists and audience, direct translation from other languages, mainly from Amharic and English, and media words are not those words that people use commonly use.

The following table shows the similarity and dissimilarity of words used in the government mass media, and their impact on comprehensibility.

**Table 13 Use of media words**

	Similarity/dissimilarity of media words			If dissimilar, does that negatively affect your understanding?			Did you come across people complaining about non comprehensibility of media words?		Total
	'Yes'	'No'	Total	'Yes'	'No'	Total	'Yes'	'No'	
	8	81	89	51	30	81	61	28	89
Total in %	9	91	100	57	34	91	69	31	100

The great majority of the respondents said that the words used in the government mass media are not similar, and the dissimilarity negatively affects their understanding of media language. However there are few respondents who claim that the words used in the government mass media are similar and they understand words used in the media without any problem.

The following table shows number of respondents based on gender.

**Table 14 Number of Audience respondents based on Gender**

Gender	Respondents	in %
Male	54	61
Female	35	39
Total	89	100

Although the questionnaire was distributed randomly, the number of male respondents happened to be larger than that of female respondents.

In general, the audiences of different government mass media said they face difficulties in fully understanding the words used in the mass media

## **Chapter Four**

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

#### **4.1 Conclusion**

Afaan Oromoo has not been standardized yet. This is evidently reflected in the Afaan Oromoo government mass media. The same is true in the use of the language in the mass media. In the case of Afaan Oromoo, due to the fact that there is no standard form, varieties in the language used in the mass media, and there is no uniform use of the language. Due to the fact that there is no frame of reference that the editors use to edit words used by reporters, journalists use their own dialect which may not be fully understood among speakers of other dialects.

The varieties in the language are reflected in the media and such varieties create communication gap between journalists and the general audience.

There is no standard dictionary and style guide that guides the use of standard forms in the media, so that the majority of the audiences understand the language fully.

#### **4.2 Recommendations**

The following recommendations can be drawn from the result of the study.

1. The media should earnestly attempt to use standard forms and in so doing contribute to the general efforts of standardizing Afaan Oromoo. To do so, the media should be uniform in their use of words.
2. Generally, to standardize the use of Afaan Oromoo in the government mass media, a style guide should be developed.
3. By strictly following the rules of a style guide or the regulations of the editorial, it will be advisable to use one common word always instead of synonyms, so that effective communication between the media and the audiences will be achieved.

4. The media should give frequent instructions, so that the journalists will be strict in their use of the style guide, which may instruct the journalists to use the words that are common among the various audiences.
5. Like the standardization processes of different languages, the Afaan Oromoo language Academy should be established, and it should compile standard dictionary and disseminate on the internet instead of hard copies, cooperate with different cultural, educational and media organizations, to encourage the use standard form of the language in such institutions.
6. Universities should be further encouraged to do research, the outcome of which could enhance the standardization of the language.

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## Appendices

### Appendix I

#### Gaggaaffi I

Kaayyoon gaggaaffii kanaa miidiyaalee mootummaa keessatti haala itti fayyadama jechootaa ilaalchisee odeeffannoo funaanuufi. Odeeffannoon haala kanaan funaanamu dhimma barnoota qofaaf kan ooludha. Maqaa keessan barreessuun gonkumaa hin barbaachisu.

1. Miidiyaalee mootummaa gara garaa keessatti haalli itti fayyadama jechootaa walfakkaataadhaa?

Eeyyee  miti

2. Gaaffii armaan oliitiif deebiin kee MITI, kan jedhu yoo ta'e, sababni isaa maal sitti fakkaataa? Qubee (qubeewwan) deebii keetitti mari.

a) Gaazexeessitooni loqoda gara garaa kan dubbatan ta'uusaanii;

b) Miidiyaalee mootummaa keessa kitaabni hojii (style book) dhabamuu;

c) Afaan Oromoo kan hin waaltofne ta'uu;

d) Hundi deebii ta'uu ni danda'a

3. Jechoonni gaazexeessitoonni hiriyoonni kee itti fayyadamaniif fi kan hubachuuf sitti ulfaatu ykn jedhamuu hin qabu jettu ni jiraa?

Eeyyee  miti

4. Jechoonni miidiyaalee mootummaa keessatti itti fayyadamaman guutummaa guututti dhaggeeffatoota yookin daawwatootaan ni hubatamuu?

Eeyyee  miti

5. Gaaffii lakkoofsa afuriif deebiin kee MITI kan jedhu yoo ta'e, rakkina kana furuuf maaltu godhamuu qabaa?

a) Kitaaba hojii (style book) qopheessuu

b) Afaan Oromoo waaltessuu

c) Lachuu

6. Afaan Oromoo keessa looga bakkeewwan gara garaatti dubbatamanitu jiru. Ogeeyyiin afaanii gara garaa looga Afaan Oromoo kana bakkeewwan gara garaatti qoqqooduuf yaalanii jiru. Kanneen keessaa Koreen waaltina Afaan Oromoo Biiroo Aadaaf Turizimii Oromiyaa looga Afaan Oromoo bakkeewwan saddeetitti qoodee jira. Isaanis: ‘Macca’, looga Wallagga, Jimma, Iluu Abbaa Booraa, kutaalee Shawaa Lixaa fi Shawaa Kibba Lixaa naannoo magaalota Amboo fi Walisootti dubbatamuudha. ‘Tuulama’ looga kutaalee Shawaa afanitti dubbatamuudha. ‘Arsii – Baalee’, looga godinaalee Arsii bahaa fi lixaa akkasumas godina Baaleetti dubbatamuudha. ‘Harar’, looga godinaalee Harar Bahaa fi Lixaatti dubbatamuudha. ‘Wallo’, looga naannoo Amaaraa godina addaa Oromiyaa fi naannooshiitti argamutti dubbatamu. ‘Raayyaa’ looga kutaa Raayyatti dubbatamu ta’ee , yeroo amma Afaanota Amaarinyaa fi Tigrinyaadhaan looga liqimfamaa dhufeedha. ‘Boorana’, looga godina Booranaatti dubbatamuu yoo ta’u, ‘Gujjiin’ immoo looga godina Gujiitti dubbatamuudha.

Haala armaan oliitiin ati looga kam dubbattaa? -----

7. Jechoonni armaan gaditti tarreeffamanii fi fuula 2-6 irratti argaman kan looga Maccaa keessaa fudhatamaniidha. Looga ati dubbattu keessatti jechoota kanneenin irra caalaa maal akka jettu fuuldura jechichaatti naaf barreessi. Jechi kenname looga ati irra caalatti itti fayyadamtu faana yoo walfakkaate, bakkee duwwaa akkuma jirutti dhiisi.

### Maqaalee

1. *daandii*

road

-----

2. *diina*

enemy

-----

3. <i>dubbi himaa</i>	spokes person	-----
4. <i>re'ee</i>	goat	-----
5. <i>abjuu</i>	dream	-----
6. <i>hindaanqoo</i>	hen	-----
7. <i>ji'a</i>	month	-----
8. <i>nyaata</i>	food	-----
9. <i>dabaaqula</i>	pumpkin	-----
10. <i>wiixata boodaa</i>	Tuesday	-----
11. <i>baay'ee</i>	many	-----
12. <i>dhaqna</i>	body	-----
13. <i>hanqaaquu</i>	egg	-----
14. <i>gowwaa</i>	coward	-----
15. <i>gamna</i>	wise	-----
16. <i>walgeettii</i>	coverage	-----
17. <i>indootiyyaa</i>	aunt (sister of mother)	-----
18. <i>adaadaa</i>	aunt (sister of father)	-----
19. <i>wasiila</i>	uncle (brother of father)	-----
20. <i>bokkaa</i>	rain	-----
21. <i>wiixata</i>	Monday	-----
22. <i>dorgommii</i>	competition	-----
23. <i>sardiida</i>	fox	-----

- |                     |          |       |
|---------------------|----------|-------|
| 24. <i>sooressa</i> | rich     | ----- |
| 25. <i>hojii</i>    | work     | ----- |
| 26. <i>waggaa</i>   | age      | ----- |
| 27. <i>qoricha</i>  | medicine | ----- |
| 28. <i>uffata</i>   | cloth    | ----- |

**Verbs**

- |                         |                      |       |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| 1. <i>fixuu</i>         | to finish            | ----- |
| 2. <i>nyaachuu</i>      | to eat               | ----- |
| 3. <i>enaa</i>          | time                 | ----- |
| 4. <i>xuuxuu</i>        | to smoke (cigarette) | ----- |
| 5. <i>gargaaaruu</i>    | to help              | ----- |
| 6. <i>bukkee</i>        | beside (prep.)       | ----- |
| 7. <i>ulfeessuu</i>     | to respect           | ----- |
| 8. <i>ariifachuu</i>    | to hurry             | ----- |
| 9. <i>jalqabuu</i>      | to start             | ----- |
| 10. <i>barreessuu</i>   | to write             | ----- |
| 11. <i>arreeduu</i>     | to come              | ----- |
| 12. <i>rukutuu</i>      | to hit               | ----- |
| 13. <i>darbuu</i>       | to pass              | ----- |
| 14. <i>dorgomsiisuu</i> | to compete           | ----- |
| 15. <i>ooruu</i>        | to be concerned      | ----- |
| 16. <i>ha'uu</i>        | to throw             | ----- |

17. <i>kaachuu</i>	to run	-----
18. <i>shakkuu</i>	hesitate	-----
19. <i>sobuu</i>	to lie	-----
20. <i>miidhuu</i>	to hurt	-----
21. <i>dallanuu</i>	to be angry	-----
22. <i>qaana'uu</i>	ashamed	-----
23. <i>xiraa'uu</i>	to give bad smell	-----
24. <i>qu'achuu</i>	to study	-----
25. <i>funaanuu</i>	to collect	-----

**Adjectives**

1. <i>gaarii</i>	good	-----
2. <i>soba</i>	false	-----
4. <i>gonkumaa</i>	never	-----
5. <i>bareeda</i>	nice	-----
6. <i>bareedduu</i>	beautiful	-----
7. <i>magariisa</i>	green	-----
8. <i>kelloo</i>	yellow	-----
9. <i>xinnaa</i>	small	-----
10. <i>jabaa</i>	strong	-----

**Adverbs**

1. <i>booda</i>	later	-----
2. <i>xinnoo</i>	small/meager	-----
3. <i>daka</i>	down	-----
4. <i>reefu</i>	now	-----
5. <i>kaleessa</i>	yesterday	-----
6. <i>bara darbe</i>	last year	-----
7. <i>ariitiin</i>	quickly	-----

8. *ariifadhu*

hurry up

-----

9. *baay'inaan*

abundantly

-----

10. *badaa*

very

-----

Waan na gargaartaniif baay'ee galatooma!

## Appendix I

### Questionnaire I (Translation)

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information regarding **lexical use of Afaan Oromoo** in the government mass media. The information gathered will be used only for academic purpose.

1. Is there uniform lexical use of Afaan Oromoo in the government mass media?  
Yes  No
2. If your answer for the above question is **No**, what do you think is the reason? Circle the letter(s) of your answer(s).
  - a) The journalists are from different dialect areas.
  - b) There are no style books in the government mass media?
  - c) Afaan Oromoo does not have a standard form.
  - d) All
3. Are there words used by fellow journalists that you find difficult to understand?  
Yes  No
4. Do you think the audience can fully understand words used in the government mass media?  
Yes  No
5. If your answer for question number 4 is **No**, what do you think should be done to solve the problem?
  - a) Provisionally devise a style book.
  - b) Standardize Afaan Oromoo.
  - c) Both
6. In Afaan Oromoo there are different dialects/varieties that are spoken in different geographical locations. Different scholars tried to classify Afaan Oromoo dialects in different ways. Among these the Afaan Oromoo Standardizing Committee of the Oromia Cultural and Tourism Bureau classified the dialects of the language into eight. These are Mac'c'aa, Tuulamaa, Harar, Gujii, Booranaa, Arsii – Baalee, Walloo, and Raayyaa. 'Mac'c'aa' dialect is the the dialect spoken in Wellaga, Jimma, Ilu Abba Bora, and parts

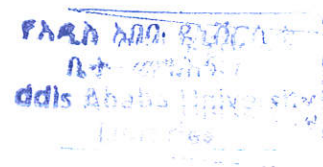
of Shewa especially around Ambo and Weliso. Tuulama dialect is a dialect spoken in the other parts of Shewa, 'Harar' dialect is a dialect used in the west and east Harar zones, 'Arsi- Bale' is used in Arsi- Bale, 'Borana' in Borana zone, 'Guji' in Guji zone, 'Wello', in an Oromia zone in Amhara regional state. Raayyaa in parts of Raayyaa district, very much influenced by Amharic and Tigrigna.

Based on the above information, which dialect do you speak? -----

7. The list of sample words on pages 2-4 are drawn from the macc'a dialect. Give the equivalent(s) of each word most commonly used in your dialect area. If a word in the list is identical to the one you use, leave the space open.

### Nouns

- |                           |               |       |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1. <i>daandii</i>         | road          | ----- |
| 2. <i>diina</i>           | enemy         | ----- |
| 3. <i>dubbi himaa</i>     | spokes person | ----- |
| 4. <i>re'ee</i>           | goat          | ----- |
| 5. <i>abjuu</i>           | dream         | ----- |
| 6. <i>hindaanqoo</i>      | hen           | ----- |
| 7. <i>ji'a</i>            | month         | ----- |
| 8. <i>nyaata</i>          | food          | ----- |
| 9. <i>dabaaqula</i>       | pumpkin       | ----- |
| 10. <i>wiixata boodaa</i> | Tuesday       | ----- |
| 11. <i>baay'ee</i>        | many          | ----- |



12. <i>dhaqna</i>	body	-----
13. <i>hanqaaquu</i>	egg	-----
14. <i>gowwaa</i>	coward	-----
15. <i>gamna</i>	wise	-----
16. <i>walgeettii</i>	coverage	-----
17. <i>indootiyyaa</i>	aunt (sister of mother)	-----
18. <i>adaadaa</i>	aunt (sister of father)	-----
19. <i>wasiila</i>	uncle (brother of father)	-----
20. <i>bokkaa</i>	rain	-----
21. <i>wiixata</i>	Monday	-----
22. <i>dorgommii</i>	competition	-----
23. <i>sardiida</i>	fox	-----
24. <i>sooressa</i>	rich	-----
25. <i>hojii</i>	work	-----
26. <i>waggaa</i>	age	-----
27. <i>qoricha</i>	medicine	-----
28. <i>uffata</i>	cloth	-----

**Verbs**

1. <i>fixuu</i>	to finish	-----
2. <i>nyaachuu</i>	to eat	-----

3. <i>ennaa</i>	time	-----
4. <i>xuuxuu</i>	to smoke (cigarette)	-----
5. <i>gargaaaruu</i>	to help	-----
6. <i>bukkee</i>	beside (prep.)	-----
7. <i>ulfeessuu</i>	to respect	-----
8. <i>ariifachuu</i>	to hurry	-----
9. <i>jalqabuu</i>	to start	-----
10. <i>barreessuu</i>	to write	-----
11. <i>arreeduu</i>	to come	-----
12. <i>rukutuu</i>	to hit	-----
13. <i>darbuu</i>	to pass	-----
14. <i>dorgomsiiisuu</i>	to compete	-----
15. <i>ooruu</i>	to be concerned	-----
16. <i>ha'uu</i>	to throw	-----
17. <i>kaachuu</i>	to run	-----
18. <i>shakkuu</i>	hesitate	-----
19. <i>sobuu</i>	to lie	-----
20. <i>miidhuu</i>	to hurt	-----
21. <i>dallamuu</i>	to be angry	-----
22. <i>qaana'uu</i>	ashamed	-----
23. <i>xiraa'uu</i>	to give bad smell	-----

24. *qu'achuu*

to study

-----

25. *funaanuu*

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**Adjectives**

1. *gaarii*

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4. *gonkumaa*

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5. *bareeda*

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6. *bareedduu*

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9. *xinnaa*

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10. *jabaa*

strong

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**Adverbs**

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-----

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very

-----

## Appendix II

### Gaaffilee gaaffii fi deebii

Gaaffileen armaan gadii gaaffii fi deebii gulaaltota miidiyaalee mootummaa garaa garaa wajjin taasifamuuf kan qophaa'aniidha.

1. Yeroo jechoota gaazexeessitoonni itti fayyadaman gulaaltu rakkinoonni si mudatan maalii?
2. Jechoota gaazexeessitoonni itti fayyadaman jijjiiruuf ulaagaan kee maalii?
3. Yeroo gulaaltu loqodni kee dhibbaa sirratti ni uumaa?
4. Haala itti fayyadama jechoota Afaan Oromoo ilaalchisee miidiyaa keessa hojjattu keessatti garaa garummaan ati hubatte ni jiraa?
5. Miidiyaa keessa hojjattuttis ta'ee miidiyaa biraa keessatti jechoonni Afaan Oromoo seera malee itti fayyadamaman jiruu? Yookin akkaataan itti fayyadama jechoota isaanii sirriidhaa?
6. Miidiyaa ati keessa jirtu keessatti gaazexeessitooni jechoota walfakkaatanitti akka fayyadamaniiif tarkaanfiin fudhatame jiraa?

## Appendix II

### Interview Questions (Translation)

The following sets of questions are devised to conduct with editors in the various government mass media.

1. What are the challenges you face while editing words used by journalists?
2. What are your criteria to change words used by journalists?
3. Is there any measure taken to use uniform lexical items in the media?
4. What differences do you observe in the Afaan Oromoo words in your medium and other media?
5. Is there any influence of your dialect on your editing?
6. Can you convince the reporters in your choice of words?

## Appendix III

### Questionnaire II

Kaayyoon gaggaaffii kanaa jechoonni miidiyaalee mootummaa keessatti dhimma itti Bahaman sirnaan hubatamuu fi dhiisuu isaanirratti odeeffannoo funaanufi. Odeeffannoon gaggaaffii kanaan funaanamu dhimma barnootaa qofaaf kan ooludha. Maqaa keessan barreessuun hin barbaachisu.

1. Miidiyaalee mootummaa keessaa kam sirriitti hordoftaa?
  - a) Reedyoo Itoophiyaa
  - b) Reedyoo Oromiyaa
  - c) TV Oromiyaa
  - d) Bariisaa
  - e) hunda
2. Jechoota midiyaan ykn miidiyaaleen ati hordoftu itti fayyadamu ykn fayyadaman sirriitti ni hubattaa?
  - a) Eeyyee
  - b) Lakki
3. Gaaffii 2ffaadhaaf deebiin kee **lakki** kan jedhu yoo ta'e, sababni isaa maal sitti fakkaataa?
  - a) Gaazexeessitoonni looga kan keetiin ala ta'etti fayyadamuusaanii
  - b) Jechoonni miidiyaan ykn miidiyaaleen itti fayyadamaman tokko tokko kallattiin kan hiikkatanii fi waan Afaan Oromoo keessa jiran fakkaachuu dhabuu isaanii.
  - c) Jechoonni gaazexeessitoonni itti fayyadaman kan hawaasni yeroo hunda guyyaa guyyaan itti fayyadamu ta'uu dhabuusaanii.
  - d) Hunduu deebii ta'uu ni danda'a.
4. Jechoonni miidiyaaleen mootummaa itti fayyadaman walfakkaatuu?
  - a) Eeyyee
  - b) Lakki

5. Gaaffii 4ffaadhaaf deebiin kee **Lakki** kan jedhu yoo ta'e, walfakkaachuu dhabuun jechoota miidiyaa kun hubannoo keerratti dhiibbaan fide jiraa?

a) Eeyyee  b) Lakki

6. Yeroo maatiin kee yookin ollaan kee jechoota miidiyaaleen itti fayyadamu hubachuun nutti ulfaate jedhanii komii dhiyeessan si qunnamee beekaa?

a) Eeyyee  b) Lakki

### Appendix III

#### Questionnaire II ( Translation)

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather data regarding the level of understandability of lexical items used in the government mass media. The information collected by this questionnaire will be used only for academic purposes. There is no need to write your names.

1. Which government mass media do you follow better?

a) Ethiopian Radio b) Oromia Radio c) Oromia Television d) Bariisaa e) all

2. Can you fully understand the words used in the mass media?

a) Yes  b) No

3. If your answer is **No**, what do you think is the reason?

a. The journalists use dialects other than your own dialects

b. Some of the words used in the media seem nonexistent in Afaan Oromoo context

c. They use the words that are not common in the public everyday's speech

d. All

4. Are the words used in different government mass media similar?

a) Yes  b) No

5. If your answer is **No**, does this dissimilarity affect your understanding?

a) Yes

b) No

6. Did you come across when your family or neighbors claim that they fail to understand some words used in the media?

a) Yes

b) No

## Appendix IV

### Annotation

#### REF 001

afaan oromoo afaan hin- waaltofn- e ta?uu n -saa ni beekama  
Afaan Oromoo language NEG-standard PERV being its FCM known  
'It is known that Afaan Oromoo is not standardized language'.

#### REF 002

ak:ami jeroo dzetf-oota gaazet'ees:-oo n:i it:i faj:ad- am- an Gulaal -t- u  
how when word- PL- journalist- PL- NOM to use- PSV P1 edit- 2SG IMPERF  
'When you edit words used by journalists'

#### REF 003

rak:n- oo-n:i si mudat- an ni dzir- Ø uu  
problem-PL-NOM-2S-Face- PL- FCM exist- 3PL PERV  
'are there problems you face?'

#### REF 004

joo dziraat- an maali  
if exist- PL- what  
'if so what?'

#### REF 005

eega afaan hodzii ta?ee jeroo gabaabaa kees:at:ii  
from language work become time short within  
'It is short time after Afaan oromoo became working language'.

#### REF 006

jaa ta?u malee kana kees:t:i jeroo hodzan:- u  
however DEM- in time work - 1P1  
'However, when we work on this'

REF 007

rak:- oole- n ak:anaa og:aa-n ediitii god- u rak:oo- n nu k'un:am- an  
problem- PL- NOM- like when-NOM- edit- make-1S problem-NOM-1PL- face- 3PL  
'we face difficulties while editing'

REF 008

tok:o- f:aa  
first- adv  
'Firstly',

REF 009

afaan- ota  
language- PL  
'languages'

REF 010

duraa- tir:at:i  
first - on  
firstly

REF 011

afaan amaara. a  
language amhara- GEN  
'Amharic language'

REF 012

afaan Ingilizi. i  
language- English- GEN  
'English language'

REF 013

darekt isaan- ir:aa trænsleit waan goduu- f  
darekt- 3Pl- from- trænsleit Adj- make suffix  
'because of directly translating from them'

REF 014

duudaa fi aadaa um:a -n:i sun k'abu  
custom- and- culture- society- NOM- DEM- Posses  
'the custom and culture that society possesses'

REF 015

k'abateetoon kan deemt-u waan hin- taanee- f  
having- what- go- 2S because NEG- being- suf  
'Not proceed in that way'

REF 016

ediitii og:aa goot- u diib:an sun hin dʒira  
edit- when- make- 2S- influence- DEM- POS- exist  
'there is such problem while you edit'

REF 017

isar:- at:i rak:oon nu k'un:amaa  
on- it- problem- 2Pl- face  
'we face problem on that'

REF 018

lam:ata- m:oo  
second- again  
'again secondly'

REF 019

gamuma dʒetʃ-oota haaraa kan mad:- an hin dʒiru-u  
part- word- pl- new- what- source- 3pl- pos exist- 3Pl 'on the part of new words there are  
newly coined words'.

REF 020

gama sijaasatiin -is gama dinagdeetin- is  
part- politics- also part economy- also  
'in the part of politics and also on the part of economy'

REF 021

gama tok:o tok:oon dʒetʃ-oo- n:i haarofti mad:- an hin dʒiru  
part- one- one- word- Pl- NOM- new- emanate- 3Pl- POS- exist  
'On some cases new words newly emanated words exist'.

REF 022

dʒetʃ- oota san- il:een  
word- pl- DEM- CONJ.  
'those words also'

REF 023

ediitii goduu- r:at:i wanti si rak:is- an hin dʒiraa  
edit- make on- what 2S- challenge- 3pl- POS- exist  
'there are problems you face while editing'.

REF 024

ir:a dʒirii sijaasa wadzin wal- k'abateetoon  
especially politics together PRFX- connect  
'mostly, in relation to politics'

REF 025

jeroo it:i fuftuf- is am:a  
when PREP- continue also- now  
'in continuation to this'

REF 026

kirai sabsaabi- n:at kan dzed- an hin dziraa  
corruption NOM- what say- 3pl- POS- exist  
'there is what is called corruption'

REF 027

kiraa sas:aabd- um:aa dze- n:e - e  
corruption NOM- say- 1pl PERF  
'we call corruption',

REF 028

darekt ak:as-umat:i fuda- n: - a malee wanti eejuu dze- n:- u hin dziruu  
direct as is take 1pl- PERF CONJ- what- thing say 1pl PERF POS exist  
'take directly as it is and there is nothing we change'.

REF 029

kuni garuu sir:ii miti odoo ta?ee haj:- oo n: - is  
DEM- but correct not if become expert 3Pl- NOM also  
'but this is not correct it will good if experts'

REF 030

nam- oo- n:i ogeej:i- n afaan kana waaltes:- an- is  
person- 3Pl- NOM- expert NOM language DEM- standardize 3PL also  
'experts who standardize this language'

REF 031

walit:i di jaat- anii dzetf- oota haaraa mad: -an sanii- f  
together come 3pl- word 3pl- new coin 3pl- that- for  
'they come together and those newly coined words'

REF 032

Kana kana dzedame- e odoo ak:asit:i mog:aafame- e gaarida  
DEM- DEM- say- PERF if as name IMPERF- good  
'it will be good if they are named like that'

REF 033

ak:a waliigalaatit:i  
in general  
'in general'

REF 034

hank'n- ooni dzir- an kana kana fak:aat- u  
lack Pl- exist 3PL- DEM- DEM- like 3PL  
'the problems exist are like that'

REF 035

dzetf-oota rip:oortar-oo- ni: jookan gaazet'ees:- oo- ni: it:i faj:adam- an  
word-Pl reporter 3pl NOM- or journalis 3pl- NOM- to use 3PL  
'words used by journalists or reporters'

REF 036

dzidziiruu -f ulaagaa -n kee maali  
change for- criteria NOM- GEN- what  
'what is your criteria to change?'

REF 037

ak:a ediitarii tok:oo- tit:i dzetf- oota  
like editor one as word PL  
'as an editor words'

REF 038

gaazet'ees: - oo- n:i fid- anii duf- an tok:o- f:aa  
journalist - 3PL- NOM- bring 3PL- come 3PL- first -ADV  
'journalists bring first'

REF 039

aadaa fi duudaa um:ataa san wadzin hin deemaa  
culture and - custom society DEM- together POS go  
'does it much with the custom and culture of that society'

REF 040

dzetf- oota isaan fid- anii duf- an sun ak:ami  
word - PL- 3PL- bring 3PL- come 3PL- DEM- how  
'how are those words they brought'

REF 041

naan:oo- n oromijaa gargar ak:a ta?e hin beekamaa  
region NOM- Oromia different as be POS known  
'it is obvious that there is variation in Oromia region'

REF 042

dzetfa sawaa kees:at:i dub:atam- u  
word shewa in- spoke IMPERF  
'words spoken in Shewa'

REF 043

Bale- faa deem- netoon jookin boorana deem- netoon  
bale like go 1PL- or borana go 1PL  
'if we go places like Bale or if we go Borana',

REF 044

k'aanii ta?uu danda?aa  
taboo being could  
'it could be taboo'

REF 045

duuda fi safuu  
custom and- culture  
'custom and culture'

REF 046

hawaasa sanii kan sarbu ta?uu danda?aa  
society DEM- what harm being could  
'it could harm the culture and custom of the society'.

REF 047

lok'od- oota kana- l:ee walii galtfisiis- tatoon  
dialect PL- DEM- also together harmony 2S  
'we also harmonize these dialects'

REF 048

maal dzedama jawaa- t:i maal dzedamaa  
what mean shewa in what mean  
'what it mean, what it is to mean in Shewa'

REF 049

wal:ag:a- t:i maal dzedamaa boorana- t:i maal dzedamaa  
Welega in what mean borana- in what mean  
'what it is to mean in Wellega what it is to mean in Borana'

REF 050

Arsii- t:i maal dzedama dze- n: e- e  
Arsi in what called say 2PL IMPERF  
'what it is called in Arsi'

REF 051

Waliigalt- fsiis- tetoon  
agree- CAUS 2PL  
'you make negotiation'

REF 052

kan ir:aa dzidziir -t- u hin dzira dzetf- oota baa?ee dzetfuuda  
what from- change 2SM/F IMPERF POS exist word PL- many mean  
'there may be many words that you may change'

REF 053

tok:o- f:aa n im:oo  
first ADV- also  
'the first one is that'

REF 054

editoorijaalii waadzi:ri kun teetfise hin dzira  
editorial bureau DEM- put POS- exist  
'there is an editorial of this bureau'

REF 055

editoorijaalii waadziri: kun it:iin buluun  
editorial bureau DEM- with- managed  
'there is an editorial by which this organization is managed by'

REF 056

faal:aa joo ta?e dzetf-oota san  
opposite if being word PL DEM-  
'if it becomes opposite of that those words',

REF 057

bar:eef:ama kees:aa hak'- t'eetoon  
writing from delete 2PL  
'you delete them from writings'

REF 058

kal:at:ii sanii- n sir:ees: -i- taa dzetfuuda  
direction that way correct EPN 2SM/F mean  
'you correct it in that direction'

REF 059

kana dzetfuun waadziritfi  
DEM- mean bureau  
'this is to mean the bureau'

REF 060

stail buk jookin- im:oo dzetfa kana- ti faj:ad- ami kana- m:oo diisi  
style book or also word this to use 2SM/F this- also leave  
'does it have the style book that prescribes words to be used and not to be used'?

REF 061

ispefali afaan oromooti- n hin k'abu  
especially Afaan Oromoo in - NEG- posses  
'it doesn't have especially in Afaan Oromoo'

REF 062

afaan amaari- f'aa- tin - is joo ta?e  
language Amharic ADV- in also if be  
'Even there is no style book in Amharic'

REF 063

afaan ingili- f'aa- tin- is joo ta?e  
language English- ADV- in- also if be  
'Even in English'

REF 064

stail buk hin k'abu wadzir:i kun  
style book NEG- posses organization DEM  
'this organization does not have a style book'.

REF 065

k'op'aa?e dzedf- uu afaan amaari- f'aa - in  
prepared say 3PL- language Amharic ADV- in  
'they say it is prepared in Amharic'

REF 066

k'op'ees:u- u jaal- anii tur - anii  
prepare IMPERF try- 3PL- stay 3PL  
'they tried to prepare'

REF 067

garuu hodzi- ir:a oolmaa- saa  
but work on- implement its  
'but on its implementation',

REF 068

kana mara wanti it:i eepuu dzed- an waan hin dzir:ee- f  
DEM- much what to something say 3PL- because NEG- exist SUF  
'there is not that much work done'

REF 069

stail buk hin k'abu waadzir- itfi  
style book NEG- posses organization- SPEC  
'this organization do not have the style book'

REF 070

jeroo gulaalt- u  
when edit 2SM/F  
'when you edit'

REF 071

lok'od- ni kee diib:aa sir:a- t:i ni uumaa  
dialect NOM- GEN- influence 2S/M/F on FCM create  
'does your dialect influence you?'

REF 072

tarii ak:a lok'oda ofii dub:a- t- :uu- t:i gulaaluu- f ni jaal-taa  
probably as dialect 2S- speak 2S/M/F as edit SUF- FCM- try-2S  
'Probably do you try to edit as the way you speak?'

REF 073

mei bi og:aan ani gulaal- u  
may be when 1SM/F- edit 1SM/F  
'when I edit may be'

REF 074

lok'od- ni sun- il:ee joo na- ti eejuu ta?e  
dialect NOM- DEM- SUF- if 1S- to thing be  
'if that dialect becomes difficult to me'

REF 075

am:a maaltu dzira seet- e  
now what exist think 2SM/F  
'what exists now is'

REF 076

waan tok:o og:aa sir:ees:- i- t- uu - f  
what one when correct EPN 2S IMPERF SUF  
'when you correct something'

REF 077

og:aa ediitii goot- u  
when edit make 2SM/F  
'when you edit'

REF 078

lok'oda kij:a san k'ofa ak:a fudat- an gotfuu hin k'abd- u  
dialect GEN- DEM- only to accept 3PL- make NEG- make 2SM/F  
'I should not make them accept only my dialect'

REF 079

dʒetʃa kana beekt- aa  
word DEM- know 2SM/F  
'do you know this word?'

REF 080

lok'oda kana beekt- aa  
dialect DEM- know 2SM/F  
'do you know this dialect?'

REF 081

dʒedet- anan hin beeku dʒed- Ø ee joo kan rak:isu taʒe  
say 1S NEG- know say 3SM PERV if what difficult be  
'if he/she do not understand my dialect'

REF 082

kam waj:aree  
which better  
'which one is better'

REF 083

kanar:- t:i eejuu goo- n- ee kanaa- n odoo faj:adam-t- ee waj:aa kan dʒedu  
this on thing make 1PL PERF this with if use 2SM/F PERF better what say  
'we agree on the word we need to use'

REF 084

kal:at:ii sanii- n kan teet- ʃif- n- ee teejuun  
direction DEM- that what put CAUS 1PL- PERV sit  
'we work in that direction'

REF 085

lok'oda dirk'ama lok'oda kij:a k'ofa  
dialect must dialect GEN- only  
'only my dialect must be'

REF 086

hodzii- r:a ooluu k'aba kan dzedu miti  
work on implemen be what said not  
'I don't have stand it should be implemented'

REF 087

kamtu waliigaltfa um:ata oromoo sana  
which mediate society Oromo DEM  
'which word mediate Oromo society'

REF 088

kamtu waliigaltfa  
which mediate  
'which word mediates them'

REF 089

bak:a orom- ootan hunda birat:i kamtu  
where Oromo PL- all among which  
'which among all Oromos'

REF 090

dzetfa gaarida dzetfa fudatamaada  
word good word acceptable  
'good word and acceptable word'

REF 091

kan dzedfu sana malee lok'odd- r:at:i baa j?ee hank' n:i hin dzira dzed'ee hin jaad- u  
What say DEM- but dialect on much lack POS- exist say NEG think 1S  
'that is the point and I don't believe that there is a problem on dialect'

REF 092

miidijaa kees:a hodza-t:- Ø u kees:at:i  
media in work 1S 1SM/F IMPERF in  
'in the media you work with'

REF 093

ak:ami garagar - um:aan it:i faj:adama dzetf- ootaa ni dziraa  
how difference being to usage word PL- FCM- exist  
'is there variation in the use of words'

REF 094

afaan biraatinii- n  
word other in  
'in other words'

REF 095

gaazet'ees: Ø oo- n:i yookan rip:oortar- Ø - oo- n:i  
journalist - 3 PL- NOM or reporter 3 PL NOM  
'journalists or reporters'

REF 096

dzetf- uma wal- fakaatutu- t:i faj:adamuu  
word SPEC PRFX similar to use  
'use similar words'?

REF 097

kun hin dziru maalif see- t - e  
DEM- NEG- exist why think 2SM/F IMPERF  
'this does not exist.you know',

REF 098

dzetfa tok:o- t:i tok:o waan biraa faj:ad- am- aa  
word one to- one thing other use 3SM PERV  
'in one word one may use some other word'

REF 099

tok:o kan biraa faj:ad- am- aa  
one what other use 3SM PERV  
'the other may use some other word'

REF 100

am:a nuti barnoota dze- n: - ee  
now 2PL- education say 1PL IMPERF  
'now we categorize as education programs'

REF 101

oduu fi dim:a jeroo dze- n: eetoo kan kutaan ad:aan qood- : an:e hin dzira  
news and affair current say- 1PL- IMPERF what- class differ- categorize-1PL- POS- exist  
'there is what we categorized as news and current affairs'.

REF 102

kanaafuu as- i r:at:i  
because this on  
'for this reason on this point'

REF 103

kutuma oduu fi dīm:a jeroo kees:a-t:uu joo fuda- n: - e  
class news and - affair current in also if take 1PL IMPERF  
'if we take even in news and current affairs section',

REF 104

dʒetf- oota garagaraati kan faj:ad- am- nu malee  
word PL- different what use PSV 1PL- but  
'we use different words'

REF 105

dʒetf- oota tok:o- r:a- t:i  
word PL- one on its  
'in some words',

REF 106

kal:at:ii tok:oon gadi bu?uu dīsun isaa istail buki n sun waan hin dʒiraan:efi  
direction one down ward not its style book DEM- because not exist  
'the dissimilarity emanates from the non existence of style Book'.

REF 107

odoo stail buki- n sun dʒiraatee dʒetf-i- sun  
if style book NOM- DEM- exist word SPEC DEM-  
'if the style book exists that word'

REF 108

kana kana kan dʒe- d- u san  
DEM- DEM- what say 3S IMPERF DEM  
'we classify it by category',

REF 109

ad:aan baasanii waan it:i faj:ad - am- anii- f  
differ categorize because to use PSV 3PL- SUF  
'indentify and categorize',

REF 110

asi- r:atti dʒetfa tok:o- ti faj:ad- am- uu- r:at:i  
this on word one to use PSV IMPERF on  
'on this point on the use of similar word'

REF 111

hank'ina gud:aatu dʒira  
lack big exist  
'big problems exists',

REF 112

kun- is ak:asumat:i eejnuu dʒe-d- a ediitar- oo- n:i hin dʒirani  
this also as thing say 3SM IMPERF editor PL- NOM POS- exist  
'it is like this, and there are editors',

REF 113

Sun- is ak:uma isa - ti: tolut:i ediitii godaa  
DEM- also as his to convinient edit make  
'one may edit as he/she thinks it is right'

REF 114

Sun- is ak:uma isaa galet:i ediitii goda malee  
DEM- also as his understand edit make but  
'the other also edits as he likes'

REF 115

kal:at:iin kee kanaa  
dirrection GEN- DEM  
'this is your direction'

REF 116

Kanaa- n ediitii goot - Ø a kanaa- n eejuu goot- Ø a  
DEM- with edit make 2SM/F IMPERF DEM- with thing make 2SM/F IMPERF  
'you edit by this'

REF 117

dze -d- ectoo wanti taa?e waan hin dzir:ee- f  
say 3SM IMPERF what put because NEG- exist SUF  
'there is nothing exist that way'

REF 118

dzetfa tok:o- t:i hin faj:ad- am- an dze- n: - ee fudatjuu-daaaf  
word one to POS- use PSV 3PL- say 1PL IMPERF take to  
'to take that they use similar words',

REF 119

nama rak:isa  
person difficult  
'it is difficult'

REF 120

haala it:i faj:dama afaan oromoo ilaaltjisee  
way to usage language oromo regard  
'on the use of Afaan Oromoo',

REF 121

miidijaa keessa hodza- t- u kessatti garaagarum:aan ati huba - t:e ni dziraa  
media in work 2S IMPERF in difference 2S observe-2SM/F- POS- exist  
'is there variation in the media you work in?'

REF 122

miidija- n keessa hodza- d- u kees:at:i  
media- NOM in work 1S IMPERF inside  
'in the media in which I work',

REF 123

dztj- oo- n:i afaan Oromoo it:i faj:ad- am- nu  
word- PL- NOM- language oromo to use PSV 1PL-  
'the afaan oromoo words we use'

REF 124

baay?en isaa wal fak:aatfu- u ni danda?a  
much its PRFX similar PRV FCM could  
'majority of them may be similar'

REF 125

haa ta?uutii malee  
however  
'however'

REF 126

guutumaa guutu- t:i dhib:aan dhib:a - t:i tok:o dzetjuun hin danda?amu  
all all in hundred hundred on one say NEG- possible  
'it is difficult to say they are fully similar'

REF 127

garagarum:aan ni dzira  
variation FCM- exist  
'variation exists'

REF 128

Ediitaraa ediitarar:- at:ii  
editor editor from  
'from editor to editor'

REF 129

ripoortaraa ripoortarar:- at:i  
reporter reporter on  
'from reporter to reporter'

REF 130

garaagarum:aan hin dziraa  
variation POS exist  
'there is variation'

REF 131

dzetf- oota tok:o dze- t- eetoo kan it:i faj:ad- am- t- u hin dzirtu  
word PL- one say 2Sm/F IMPERF what to use PSV 1SM/F- IMPERF NEG exist  
'similar words are not used'

REF 132

baaj?een wal- fak:aatfuu danda?a  
much PRFX similar could  
'the majority of the words could be similar'

REF 133

kun- im:oo sababni isaa istaajil buuki- n- is mataa isaa  
this also reason its style book NOM- also self it  
'the reason for this is that a style book itself'

REF 134

waan hin k'op'oofn- e- fi  
because NEG- prepared PRV SUF  
'For the reason that it is not prepared'

REF 135

staajil buukii- n sun odoo k'op'aa?ee dziraatee  
style book NOM- DEM- if prepared exist  
'if a style book is prepared'

REF 136

dzetfi ati it:i faj:ad- am- t -u dzetf- oota  
word 2SM/F to use PSV 2SM/F IMPERF word PL  
'the words you use may be'

REF 137

Wal- fak:aatu waan ta?eef  
PRFX similar because being  
'because they are similar'

REF 138

editara ir:aa editara ir:at:i  
editor to editor from  
'from editor to editor'

REF 139

ripoortara ir:aa ripoortarar:t:i  
reporter from reporter  
'from reporter to reporter'

REF 140

garaa garum:aan kun dufuu hin danda?uuj:u  
difference DEM- bring NEG- could  
'this variation may not be brought about'

REF 141

stail buuki- n waan hin dziraan:e- f  
style book NOM- because NEG- exist SUF  
'due to the non existence of style book'

REF 142

ati- is ak:uma si- t:i fak:aate- t:i  
2SM/F- also as 2SM/F- to think to  
'you work as you think is correct'

REF 143

Sun- is ak:uma it:i fak:aate - t:i  
DEM- also as to think to  
'the other as he thinks correct'

REF 144

waan hodzat- am- uu- f garaagarum:aa hin k'aba  
because work PSV IMPERF SUF variation POS- posses  
'For the reason that it is done that way there is variation'

REF 145

garuu baaj?ina- r:at:i  
but much on  
'but on majority'

REF 146

lok'od- itʃi tok:o waan taʔeef  
dialect SPEC one because being  
'because the language is one'

REF 147

dʒetʃ- oota baa jʔe- r:at:i  
word PL- many on  
'on many words'

REF 148

tok:o dʒetʃuun hin dandaʔama darbee darbeetoon  
one mean POS could some times  
'one can say similar, but sometimes'

REF 149

dʒetʃ- oota haara- r:at:i gara garum:aan jaa uumamu malee  
word PL- new on variation be exist but  
'although there are variation on the use of new words'

REF 150

gaaridha  
good  
'it is good'

REF 151

miidijaa kees:a hodza- t:- u kees:at:- is taʔee miidijaa biraa kees:t"i  
media in work 2S- IMPERF in also be media other in  
'in the media you work in or in the other media'

REF 152

dʒetf- oo- n:i afaan oromoo seera malee it:i faj:ad- amam- an dʒir-uu  
word PL- NOM language oromo law without to use PSV- 3PL exist-3PL  
'are there afaan Oromoo words used inappropriately'?

REF 153

jookin ak:aataan it:i faj:ad- amama saanii sir:iidaa  
or way to use PSV 3PL- correct  
'or is the way they used is correct'?

REF 154

asi- r:at:i ir:a dʒirii am:a miidijaa kees:at:i  
this on especially now media in  
'on this point, especially in the media'

REF 155

dʒetf- oo- n:i nuti it:i faj:ad- am- neetoo hodzatʃaa dʒir:- u  
word PL- NOM- 2PL to- use PSV 3PL- work exist 3PL  
'the words we use and work in'

REF 156

um:ata biraan gaʔaa dʒir- :- u  
society address reach exist 3PL IMPERF  
'the words by which we address the society'

REF 157

tiipikaal war:i afaan- itfa beeku sun  
typically those language ADJ- know DEM  
'typically those who speak the language'

REF 158

war:i baadij:aa dziraatu sun  
those rural live DEM  
'those who live in the countryside'

REF 159

baa j?en isaanii waan nu hubat- an na- t:i hin fak:aatu  
much them because 2PL- understand 3PL- 1S to- NEG- think  
'I don't think that many of them can understand us'.

REF 160

k'oran:oo barbaatfisa haa ta?u malee  
research  
'it need research',

REF 161

k'oran:oo barbaatfisu- s  
research needed even  
'although it needs research'

REF 162

waan nu hubatu na t:i hin fak:aatu  
what 1PL- understand 1S- to NEG- think  
'I don't think that they can understand us'.

REF 163

am:a fak:eeɲa fi  
now example for  
'now for example'

REF 164

ani kan d̥ala- d̥- ee gud:- d̥- e baadij:aa- t:ii  
1PL- what born 1S- PRV grown 1S PRV countryside in  
'I was born and grown in the countryside'

REF 165

Maati- n kij:a na bira hin d̥ufa  
Family NOM- GEN- 1S with POS- come  
'my relatives visit me'

REF 166

d̥ufeetoo oggaa miidijaa- r:a oolu  
come when media on put  
'when they listen to the media'

REF 167

Televizijooṅa- n- is haa taʔu raadijoo- d̥an- is haa taʔu  
Television NOM also if be radio with also if be  
'it could be in television or it could be in radio'

REF 168

og:aa d̥ag:eef:at- an  
when listen 3PL  
'when they listen'

REF 169

maal dʒetʃuudā kun dʒed- aniitoo si gaafat- an  
what mean DEM- say 3PL- 2SM/F- ask 3PL  
'they ask you the meaning of some words'

REF 170

afaan Oromoo- ti dʒe- n:et odees:- inaa  
language Oromo COMP- say 1PL- say 1PL  
'we believe that it is Afaan oromoo'

REF 171

afaan Oromoo- ti dʒe- n:- eet  
language Oromo COMP- say 1PL IMPERF  
'we say that it is Afaan Oromoo'

REF 172

um:ata sani- ti dabarsaa dʒir:aa  
society DEM- to- broadcast exist  
'we broadcast to that society'

REF 173

maal dʒetʃuu - da dʒed- aniitoo jeroon si gaafat - an ni - dʒira  
what mean it say 3PL when 2SM/F ask 3PL- FCM - exist  
'there is a condition when they ask you for the meaning of words'

REF 174

Kana kana wadʒin wal k'abateetoo  
DEM- DEM- together together connected  
'in connection to this'

REF 175

haala barbaad- amee - n  
way need PSV in  
'in the way needed'

REF 176

um:at - itfa bira ga?aa dzira kan dze- d- u hin - k'abu ani  
society ADJ- with reach exist what say 1SM IMPERF NEG posses 1S  
'I don't believe that it is reaching the society'

REF 177

miidijaa - n afaan - itfa gud:isuu- r:at:i  
media NOM- language ADJ- develop on  
'on the language development the media',

REF 178

am:a tok:o haa deemu malee  
upto one to go but  
'it played some role, but'

REF 179

am:a barbaad- ame san deemaa hin - dziruu  
upto need PSV DEM- go NEG- exist  
'its progress in not as what is expected of it'.

REF 180

afaan - itfa t'ik'oo ir:aa dzal:isaa dziraa  
language ADJ- small from deviate exist  
'the language a little bit deviates'

REF 181

kan dʒe- d- u ani idʒan:oo ak:asiiti kan in k'abu  
what say 3SM IMPERF 1SM/F stand like that have  
'I do have such stand'

REF 182

sababiin isaa- m:oo maalin:i  
reason it also what  
'the reason for this is that'

REF 183

dʒetf- o - n:i nuti it:i faj:ad- am - nu  
word PL- NOM- 2PL to use PSV 2PL  
'the words we use'

REF 184

am:a oduu - n nuti hodʒa- n: - u  
now news NOM- 2PL work 2PL IMPERF  
'now the news we produce'

REF 185

sagantaa - n nuti hodʒ- an: - u  
program NOM- 1PL- work 1PL IMPERF  
'the program we produce'

REF 186

darbee darbeeton maaltu dʒira  
sometimes what exist  
'what exists sometimes is that'

REF 187

d̥iib:aa - n afaan amaarif:aa - r:aa tirænsleit og:aa goo - nu hin - dziraa  
influence of language Amharic on- translate when make 1PL- POS- exist  
'there is an influence when we translate from Amharic'

REF 188

afaan ingilif:- aar:aa trænsleit og:aa goo- nu hin dziraa  
language English from translate when make 2PL- POS- exist  
'we also translate from English'

REF 189

um:a - ni tiipikaal baadij:aa  
society NOM- typical countryside  
'the society who live typically in the countryside'

REF 190

afaan oromoo malee kan biraa hin - dandeepe sun  
Afaan Oromoo CONJ- that other NEG- could DEM  
'who speak only Afaan Oromoo'

REF 191

kana nuu hubatfuu hin - dandaʔu  
DEM- 1PL- understand NEG- could  
'may not understand this'

REF 192

kamtu hubataa  
who understand  
'those who can understand us are'

REF 193

oduu nu hodza - n:- u  
news 1PL- work 1PL IMPERF  
'news we produce'

REF 194

sagantaa nu hodza - n:u bafanana nuti hodza - n:u  
program 1PL- work 1PL- entertainment 1PL- work 1PL  
'programs we produce entertainment we produce'

REF 195

war:a Afaan - ota biraa danda?u  
those language PL other can  
'those those who speak other languages'

REF 196

isaantu walit:i himeetoon  
3PL- each other tell  
'they tell each other'

REF 197

wal mad:ii k'abee  
side by side put  
'they see them side by side'

REF 198

Miidijaa- r:a t:i kun hodzt - am- uu k'aba kan dzedu  
Media on- this work PSV IMPERF should what mean  
'this should be made worked on the media'.

REF 199

k'aam - ni miidijaa wal it:i fidu hin - d3iru  
body NOM- media together bring NEG- exist  
'there is no body that bring media together'

REF 200

midijaa - n bij:a kana kees:a hodzat - an  
media NOM- country DEM- in work 1PL  
'those media that work in this country'

REF 201

afaan Oromoo- r:a - t:i kan hodzat - an  
language Oromoo on DEM- work 1PL  
'those who work on Afaan oromoo'

REF 202

k'aam - ni walit:i fideetoon  
body NOM- together bring  
'body that bring together'

REF 203

dzetf - oota ak:amit:i it:i faj:ad- am- uu dandee - jaa  
word PL- how to use PSV IMPERF could 1PL  
'how we can use words'

REF 204

kan walit:i si fideetoon si mari?a- tjiisu hin - d3iruu  
what together 2SM/F bring 2SM/F discuss CAUS NEG- exist  
'who bring together make you agree do not exist'

REF 205

darbee darbee walta?iinsa afaanir:a - t:i  
sometimes standardisation language on  
'sometimes on language standardization'

REF 206

koree - n hodza- t- u tok:o hin - dziraa  
committee NOM- work 3SM IMPERF one POS- exist  
'there is a committee work on it'

REF 207

in: - is ga?aa miti  
that also enough not  
'that is not also enough'

REF 208

miidijaa - lee hunda kes:aa walit:i hin - fudaa- t- u  
media PL- all in together NEG- take 3SM PRV  
'it do not take from different media'

REF 209

ak: - uma it:i fak:aate - t:i eepuu djetfuu - da malee  
as to thinks as thing mean is but  
'work as the committee thinks'

REF 210

in: - is ga?aa waan hin - taane - f  
that also enough because NEG- being- SUF  
'because it is also not enough'

REF 211

k'aam - ni dɪm:i ilaal:atu kana - r:a - t:i  
body NOM- affair concern DEM- on this  
'on this the concerned body'

REF 212

sir:ii - t:i hodzatʃuu k'abaa  
very work should  
'should work on it'

REF 213

afaan - itʃi waaltaʔeetoo afaan saajinsii fi  
language ADJ- standardised language science and  
'the language standardized and becomes scientific language'

REF 214

afaan saajinsaawaa ak:a taʔuu - f  
language scientific to be SUF  
'to make it scientific language'

REF 215

sir:iit:i k'aam - ni dɪm:i ilaal:atu  
very body NOM - affair concern  
'the concerned body should'

REF 216

ir:a - t:i hodzatʃuu k'aba kanin dʒe -dʒu- n k'aba  
on it work shoul what say 1SM/F NOM- have  
'work on it as I believe'

REF 217

afaan Oromoo afaan hin - waaltofn- ee - dā  
afaan Oromoo language NEG standardize IMPERF- is5 'Afaan oromoo is not standardized language'

REF 218

koree - n waaltina afaan oromoo  
Committee NOM- standardizing Afaan Oromoo  
'there is a committee on Afaan Oromoo standardization'

REF 219

ir'a - t:i hodzataa dziraa- t- u - l:ee  
on it work exist 3SM IMPERF though  
'although they work on it'

REF 220

haga am:aat:i Afaan Oromoo hin - waaltofn - e  
upto now Afaan Oromoo NEG- standardize PRV  
'afaan Oromoo is not standardized yet'

REF 221

ak:asuma - m:oo dzetf - oo - n:i it:i faj:ad- am - nu - m:oo  
as also word PL- NOM- to use PSV 1PL- also  
'the words we use'

REF 222

dag:eefat- oota bira- t:i baaj?ina - an hubatamuu dñisuu danda?a  
listener PL- with among much by understood not could  
'may not be understood by listners'

REF 223

gaazet'ees: - oo - n:i dʒetʃ- oota wal fak:aatan it:i ak:a faj:ad- am- an - iif  
journalist - PL- NOM- word PL- PRFX similar to to use PSV 3PL for  
'so that the journalists use similar words'

REF 224

jookan - im:oo miidijaa - n  
or also media NOM  
'or the media'

REF 225

waaltina afaan Oromoo - tiif  
standardisation afaan Oromoo for  
'for the standardization of afaan Oromoo'

REF 226

tarkaanfii n fudat- am - e ni - dʒiraa  
measure take PSV- PRV FCM exist  
'is there any measure taken?'

REF 227

asir:a - t:i tarkaanfin kana hunda fudat-ame dʒe- d- u hin dʒiruu  
this on measure DEM- all take PSV- say 1S- IMPERF NEG exist  
'On this I don't think that there is measure taken'

REF 228

darbee darbee gaʔaa miti in:i - s darbee darbee  
sometimes enough not it also sometimes  
'that is not also enough, and sometimes'

REF 229

c'al:is- neetuma dʒetʃ - oota  
simply 1PL word PL  
'we simply words'

REF 230

want - oo - n:i ma - mat'ansi - neetoon  
thing PL- NOM- PRFX post 1PL  
'what you post'

REF 231

it:i faj:ad - am - nu hin - dʒira kun gaʔaa miti  
make use PSV 2PL POS- exist DEM- enough not  
'make use exists, but this is not enough'.

REF 232

og:aa televiziina- r: - ti - l:ee hodʒat- amaa ture tok:o  
when television on also work PSV stay one  
'when we were working on the television'

REF 233

dʒetʃ - oota kana kana kana - t:i faj:ad- am- uu k'ab - na  
word PL- DEM- DEM- DEM to use PSV IMPRF should 1PL  
'we should use such and such words'

REF 234

wanti waliin mat':ansi- neetoo teetʃif - nu hin - dʒira  
what together post 2PL- put 2PL- POS- exist  
'there is what we post together'

REF 235

garuu kun gaʔaa miti am:a - l:ee  
but DEM- enough not now also  
'but this is not enough even now'

REF 236

am:a- l:ee wanti hafu hed:uutu waan dziruu - f  
now also what left much because exist because  
'even now there are many things left'

REF 237

kun gaʔaa miti dʒe - deetoon fud- adā  
DEM- enough not say 1SM/F- take 1SM/F  
'I believe that this is not enough'

REF 238

miidij - an gaʔee isaa aweir gotʃuu - dʒaa hubatʃiisu - dʒa  
media NOM- role its aware make is understand is  
'the role of media is to inform and to aware'

REF 239

darbee darbee gaʔaa miti kun - is  
sometimes enough not DEM- also  
'sometimes this is not enough'

REF 240

it:i fufiinsaam kan hodʒat - amee miti malee  
continuously what work PSV not but  
It is not what worked continuously

REF 241

haj: - ota hin - mariʔatf- iis- t - aa  
expert PL- POS- discuss Caus 2Sm/F IMPERF  
'you make experts to discuss'

REF 242

k'aam - olee afaani- r:a t:i hodzat - an  
body PL- language on work 3PL  
'bodies that work on the language'

REF 243

aadaa - fi turizimi - is haa taʔuu isan- ir:a - t:i  
culture and tourism also also be 3PL- on it  
'It could be culture and tourism on them'

REF 244

ivin bafanana wadzin joo wal - k'abat - e  
even entertainment with if PRFX connect IMPERF  
'even in connection with entertainment'

REF 245

k'op'ii bafananaar:a - t:i war: i hodzat - an  
program entertainment on those work 3PL  
'those that work on entertainment programs'

REF 246

fiilmii - n afaan Oromoo ak:a dagaaguu - f maal taʔuu k'abaa  
film NOM- afaan Oromoo to develop SUF what be should  
'What should be done to develop Afaan Oromoo film'

REF 247

k'ook' - ni kun dagaag- ee  
language NOM- DEM- develop PRV  
'to make this language developed'

REF 248

afaan saajins - aawaa ak:a ta?uu - f  
language science ADJ- to be for  
'to be the language of science'

REF 249

sagantaa - dan wanti hodzat- amu hin - dziraa  
program with what work PSV POS- exists  
'there is what is being working in programs'

REF 250

oduu - dan - is wanti hodzat- amu hin - dziraa  
news with also what work PSV POS- exist  
'there is also what is done in news'

REF 251

malee kana mara it:i bu?eetoon walit:i fufiinsaa n  
but DEM - much to reach continuously  
'but not that much, to reach continuously'

REF 252

haalaa hawaas - itfa dzidziirun jookin  
way community ADJ- change or  
'the way it may change the community or'

REF 253

k'aama afaan - ota kana - ti faj:ad - am - an  
body language PL- DEM- to use PSV 3PL  
'bodies that use this language'

REF 254

haala huban:oo ken:uu - n wanti hodzat- ame hin - dziru  
way understanding give in what work PSV NEG- exist  
'the way it gives understanding there is nothing worked on'

REF 255

ga?aa miti  
enough not  
'this is not enough'

REF 256

garuu dzalk'ab:iin tok:o tok:o hin - dzira  
but beginning one one POS- exists  
'but there is some initial progress'

REF 257

kun garuu it:i fufiinsan hodzat - amuu k'aba kan dze- d- u  
DEM- but with continuously work PSV should what say 1S IMPERF  
'this should be done continuously'

REF 258

tarii afaan oromoo ak:a waalta?uuf  
probably afaan Oromoo to be standardized  
'probably for Afaan Oromoo to be standardized'

REF 253

k'aama afaan - ota kana - ti faj:ad - am - an  
body language PL- DEM- to use PSV 3PL  
'bodies that use this language'

REF 254

haala huban:oo ken:uu - n wanti hodzat- ame hin - dziru  
way understanding give in what work PSV NEG- exist  
'the way it gives understanding there is nothing worked on'

REF 255

ga?aa miti  
enough not  
'this is not enough'

REF 256

garuu dzalk'ab:iin tok:o tok:o hin - dzira  
but beginning one one POS- exists  
'but there is some initial progress'

REF 257

kun garuu it:i fufiinsan hodzat - amuu k'aba kan dze- d- u  
DEM- but with continuously work PSV should what say 1S IMPERF  
'this should be done continuously'

REF 258

tarii afaan oromoo ak:a waalta?uuf  
probably afaan Oromoo to be standardized  
'probably for Afaan Oromoo to be standardized'

REF 259

kees:aj:uu ak:a miidijaa -t:is taʔee  
especially as media also be  
'especially either in the media or'

REF 260

ak:a wliigalaat:i  
in general  
'in general'

REF 261

wanti taʔuu k'aba dʒe- d- eetoon dʒiruu  
what be should say 1PL- IMPERF exist  
'what I suggest to be done'

REF 262

haj:- oo - n:i afaanii hin - dʒiru  
expert PL- NOM- language POS- exist  
'there are language experts'

REF 263

haj:- oo - n:i afaanii sun  
expert PL- NOM- language DEM  
'those language experts'

REF 264

afaan sun ak:a sir:iit:i waalta? -u  
language DEM- to fully standardize IMPERF  
'that language so that it will be fully standardized'

REF 265

k'aam olee dim:i ilaal:atu kees:aa  
body PL- affair concern from  
'from concerned bodies'

REF 266

waadzira mootum:aa kees:a - s  
bureau government from also  
'from government offices'

REF 267

aadaa - fi turiizimii joo ta?e aadaa - fi turizimii kees:aa  
culture and tourism if be culture and tourism from  
'from culture and tourism'

REF 268

Miidijaa - lee joo ta? Ø e miidija - lee hunda kees:aa  
media PL if be 3SM PRV media PL- all from  
'even media from all media'

REF 269

man: - ee n barnootaa kees:a t:i  
house PL- education in  
'in schools'

REF 270

biiroo barnoota Oromijaa wadzin ta?uu hin danda?a  
bureau education Oromia together be POS- could  
'together with Oromia education bureau'

REF 271

k'aam - ni kana walit:i fidu  
body NOM- DEM- together bring  
'there should be a body that bring this all together'

REF 272

længwidz akadami - n tok:o odoo dziraatee  
language academy NOM- one if exists  
'if one language academy exists'

REF 273

waan kana furuu dandaʔa k'oran:oo - dan - is  
this DEM- solve could research with also  
'it may solve this problem, and also in research'

REF 274

hank'in - oota dzir - an kana ad:aan baasee eejuu gotʃuu waan dandaʔuu - f  
lack PL- exist PL- DEM- identify thing make because could because  
'it may also identify the existing problems'

REF 275

ætlist ak:a waliigalaatit:i længwidz ak:adaami - n uumamee  
atleast in general language academy NOM- established  
'in general at least language academy should be established'

REF 276

in:i risartʃii gud:aa kan it:i hodʒa- t- u  
it research big what on work 3SM/F IMPERF  
'may conduct different research on the language'

REF 277

afaan kana dagaagsu - daaf afaan kana gud:isuu - daaf  
language DEM- develop to language DEM- grow make  
'to develop this language to advance this language'

REF 278

ivin afaan ad:uṅaales:aa ak:a taʔu  
even language global to be  
'even to make it the global language'

REF 279

afaan - itʃi ak:a sir:iiti babalʔatu  
language ADJ- to very developed  
'to make the language advanced'

REF 280

k'oran:oo fi k'uʔan:oo ir:a - t:i k'orat- am- ee  
research and study on it study PSV IMPERF  
'research and study studied on'

REF 281

mootum:aa - n - is gamasatin deeg:aree  
government NOM - also in its side helped  
'government should also support in its side'

REF 282

kun odoo hodzat- am- ee afaan kun fuuldura - t:i  
DEM- if work PSV PRV language DEM- future in  
'if this worked in the future this language will'

REF 277

afaan kana dagaagsu - daaf afaan kana gud:isuu - daaf  
language DEM- develop to language DEM- grow make  
'to develop this language to advance this language'

REF 278

ivin afaan ad:upaales:aa ak:a ta?u  
even language global to be  
'even to make it the global language'

REF 279

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language ADJ- to very developed  
'to make the language advanced'

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k'oran:oo fi k'u?an:oo ir:a - t:i k'orat- am- ee  
research and study on it study PSV IMPERF  
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'government should also support in its side'

REF 282

kun odoo hodzat- am- ee afaan kun fuuldura - t:i  
DEM- if work PSV PRV language DEM- future in  
'if this worked in the future this language will'

REF 283

afaan saajins – aawaatii - f  
language science ADJ- and  
'scientific language and'

REF 284

afaan sir:iit:i waalta?e ta?uu ni danda?a  
language very standardized be FCM could  
'it could be a language that is fully standardized'.

REF 285

gaaf:ii - fi deebii nu faana goot- anii - f baaj?ee galatoom aa  
question and answer 1PL together make 3PL for very thank you  
'thank you for conducting an interview with me'

REF 286

galatoomaa isnis  
thank you too  
'thank you too'.