

Title:**Cøllø (Shilluk) in South Sudan and Nobíin Nubian in Sudan:
How Do the Teaching Situations Differ?**

Twong Yolong Kur, Professor, English Language, Upper Nile University.

Sabet Akwakwan Papiti,. Director, Kings' Academy of Languages and Translation; Lecturer, English Language, Upper Nile University

Abdon Twong Yolong, Assistant Professor of Animal Nutrition, Upper Nile University.

Herman Bell, formerly Professor at the Institute of African and Asian Studies, University of Khartoum; Honorary Research Fellow, University of Exeter.

Key Words: Cøllø, Nobíin, Teaching

Abstract:

This study deals with the teaching situations of two Nilo-Saharan languages in order to identify benefits that teachers of each language might derive from a greater understanding of the procedures of the other. Extensive teaching materials have been developed both for Cøllø (Shilluk) in South Sudan and for Nobíin Nobíin in Sudan. However, the context for teaching these two languages is dramatically different.

On the one hand, a three-year course for teaching the local language Cøllø is now proceeding at the Kings' Academy of Languages and Translation (KALT) by staff who also hold faculty positions at Upper Nile University. Teachers are also involved with training students to master the English language for business and government in the South Sudan. Particular attention will be given to any advantages or disadvantages that may arise from the dual commitment of teachers to Cøllø and English.

On the other hand, Nobíin Nubian is not normally supported by the educational system of Sudan as a result of the policy of Arabicization (*ta'rib*) generally followed in Sudanese educational institutions, although there have been exceptions such as the Yūsuf al-Khalīfa Centre for Writing Languages in Arabic Letters at the International University of

Africa in Khartoum. Nobiin is widely recognised as an historic language of culture and especially the creative arts involving songs and poetry.

The development of materials for teaching Nobiin has been the concern of the Centre for Nubian Studies and Documentation, the DAL Group in Khartoum and Nubian scholars such as the late Muḥammad Mitwalli Badr, who was a senior educator in the school system of Egyptian Nubia and who produced in 1955 a Nubian grammar which is still in use today. Language teaching has received some support from generous Nubian philanthropists. However, there is also a perceived threat that even Nobiin may require greater support if it is ultimately to survive.

Both Nobiin and Cøllø are considered to be languages of high culture with a great history. The present project will compare and contrast the situations in which they are taught for the mutual benefit of the teachers involved and, if possible, to benefit teachers of other Nilo-Saharan languages as well.