

## **On-site Education of Practical Language for Area Studies**

### **Report in 2008**

**—Amharic, Addis Ababa University, 1 Nov. 2007 – 30 Mar. 2008—**

Year of Enrollment: 2006

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#### **Research theme**

The people who lived in the Derashe special warada of the Ethiopian southern part store sorghum (sorghum b:color) by the traditional convention storehouse called polota. This storehouse is made by digging like a pot shape on the impermeable layer land. The polota can save sorghum for greatest 20 years, after tight seal by being putted sorghum in it and being closed the cap with a stone. The sorghum has been special food from old day. It is clear by the existence of such a special storehouse. Their staple food is liquor made from sorghum and maiz. However, recently, the ratio of which cultivate the foreign crops such as the maiz is more riser than the convention crops such as the sorghum in Ethiopia. I could confirm that a similar phenomenon was happened in Derashe special warada by hearing investigation to the government official of the Agricultural Ministry. It shows that the occupation activity such as the eating habits, agricultural methods, working hours is transforming by the introduction of the foreign crops. With a back ground like mentioned above, I aim to clear the capability, social and cultural function of polota which is storehouse of convention crops in Ethiopian village society under the enlarged maiz on my study.

#### **Outline of language training**

The Amharic is an Ethiopian official language. And, it belongs to "Afro Asia family of languages, Sem group of a language family" as well as Arabic and Hebrew.

The Amharic has 21,000,000 speakers out of 77,000,000 total population in the Ethiopian country. There are more than 80 languages in Ethiopia. So, they speak totally different language in the earch areas. But, the school education is performed by Amharic and English as the official languages.

#### **Contents of Amharic language**

I aim to clear the capability, social and cultural function of polota which is storehouse of convention crops in Ethiopian village society under the enlarged maiz on my study by agronomic approach and anthropological approach. Therefore, training purpose is that I get basic language ability of Amharic like necessary word and grammar to perform a field work by communicate with informant smoothly.

But, Addis Ababa university haven't short term Amharic training program. So, I was set a schedule of language program specially by Mamo Hebo who is the associate professor of anthropology department in Addis Ababa university and Haragawein gabada who is my this Amharic training teacher. And I took a private lesson of Amharic according to schedule about 3 ~4 hours every day except holiday. Lecture is performed by English and

Amharic.

First two months, I tried to acquire a basic construct and a basic word and these pronunciation of the Amharic. After one month, I studied mainly that I made a word and question lists to do agriculture research in my field and I tried to learn it. Last 2 months, I learned necessary word and basic expression to do agricultural research mainly. And I visited to my field and tried to improve my Amharic by doing research practically by studied word and expression.

### **Impressive experience in language training term**

This is time when I visited my research place as a part of the language study training.

Usually, they don't speak Amharic but Derashinia language as local language. Of course, All village peoples can speak Amharic except little children, because school attendance percentage is very high in the investigation ground.

I noticed that young peoples speak some difference intonation and a meaning of Amharic from studied Amharic. Because, Amharic is not mother tongue for them. And, because Amharic is not mother tongue, they doesn't speak perfect Amharic like me, and their words are not right Amharic like appearing on the book Amharic, like, what they called words of high school girl generation, you know. As in this case, whenever the world is changes slowly with a generation changes.

### **About the achievement degree and reflection point of the aim**

I learned grammar constitution and pronunciation. It is difficult to learn by myself. So, at now, I become to speak Amharic. As that, I could understand peoples convention on the field in every life and communicate with informant without interpreter at the time of interview. In addition, It is thought that in the future, I can do research more efficiency by mastering word and expression about agriculture which have relation ship with research.

But, at this stage, I am impossible to hear the conversation and to make the sentence including complicated constructs.

Also, I can't pronounce the word correctly. Because, there aren't like this pronunciation in Japanese.

In the future, I want to improve hearing and convention and making sentences ability by practical learning with field work investigation.