

In the second part of this paper¹⁷ we will attempt to document in brief detail the problems and feasibility of a Thai-based orthography for five minority languages of Thailand. This will be followed with brief notes from Sudan and Ethiopia. There will then be a summary of the practicability of such systems, and of the principles of adaptation which emerge, in the hope that with this much documentation, people who are faced with choices concerning non-Roman orthographies will have more information on which to base their decisions.

AGATU AND GREEK

We were concerned to find an adequate word for the term "hypocrite". The obvious definition is someone who pretends to be someone he isn't. We have found that the best way to find an equivalent is to create a situation and then ask what word is used to describe the thing or action in mind. In this instance, the first reply was, "A madman?" After giving another illustration, our informant came up with "Oh do you mean a proud person (that is, he values himself too highly)?" or, "Perhaps a deceiver?"

Now, we did not wish to get caught up in this last suggestion because Agatu has 7 terms showing 7 different ways of deceiving—and yet, one of these, *injei* (a person who deceives by bad example), was not far off the mark. Until we could find something better, it would have to do for the time being.

Then Young's Concordance reminded us that the Greek word had the thought of an actor—one who was playing the part—and on looking up Vine's Expository Dictionary we found, "it was a custom for Greek and Roman actors to speak in large masks with mechanical devices for augmenting the force of the voice; hence the word became used metaphorically of a dissembler"—and why, that was just exactly like the native *aledede*, a masked 'spirit' with a reed in his mouth to disguise his true voice! We even had a photograph of one handy, and showing it to our informant Omaye, he immediately said, "Oh yes, that's an *ɔcɛ gigbefu*," meaning a disguised person acting a part—and so we found our Agatu word for hypocrite!

When applied to the Jews in Mark 7:6, "This people honours Me with their lips, but their heart is far from me...", Omaye exclaimed, "Yes, *ɔcɛ gigbefu* has caught them exactly!" It may be some time before some professing "Christians" begin to realise that it has caught them too—but we feel sure that one day it will!

(Extract from a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Mackay, Agatu translators in Idah, N. Nigeria)

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