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<tr>
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<td>Hieda, Osamu</td>
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KOEGU, a preliminary report

Osamu Hieda

1. Introduction

The Koegu are a very small group numbering about 300 individuals, who call themselves /koegu/, and who are called Mugují (which means 'black ant') by the Kara and Umucu by the Bume. They were scattered in villages along the banks of the Omo River in the extreme southwestern corner of Ethiopia. They, however, concentrated and made a village at Kuchur, along the western bank of the Omo, 3km up from the point where it is joined by the Mako River, a few years ago, in order to resist the pressure from the neighbouring powerful groups, though they hope to go back to their home villages when the outer threat is diminished.

They practice flood cultivation along the banks of the Omo, with durra as a main crop. Hunting and gathering make a large contribution to their daily diet, and especially fishing in the Omo produces a main resource for their protein supplies. They also gather honey for their own consumption and trade.

They are allotted by their Kara and Bume neighbours to the social inferior position. The Kara do not share food from the one container with the Koegu and do not allow intermarriage between themselves and the Koegu. The Bume do not have such strong taboos against the Koegu. The Bume men do not hesitate to marry the Koegu girls nowadays (because such a big bride-price is not needed to marry them as to marry the Bume girls).

The Koegu were connected by symbiotic relationship with the Kara until quite recently. The Kara claim that the Koegu do not own their land and borrow their farms from their Kara patrons, and that in return the Kara receive services from the Koegu as expert hunters-gatherers and makers of dogout canoes. There recently happened a conflict of opinions on land between the Kara and the Koegu, who considered that the Koegu land was originally of their own. The Koegu swore their independence from the Kara and chose the Bume as a new patron.

Most of the Koegu speak both their own language and the language of the Kara (an Omotic language). The social change mentioned above is reflected in a sociolinguistic situation that the Koegu learn the language of the Bume (a Nilotic language) on the increase.

2. Koegu and Kwengu-Muguji languages

The Koegu language is the one variant of the Kwengu-Muguji languages, which belong to the southeast Surma group within the Surma languages in the Nilo-Saharan phylum. The another variant of the Kwengu-Muguji languages is the Kwengu language, which is spoken by a small group (numbering probably no more than 300 individuals, according to Turton & Bender, 1976), who call themselves Kwengu, and who are called Nyidi (pl.) by
the Mursi and Yidi (pl.) by the Bodi. The Kwegu live among both the Mursi and the Bodi along the banks of the Omo further north from Kuchur. The Koegu know of the existence of a group of people speaking a similar language to their own one who live north. Even a few of the Koegu explain their own origin from the people who live north. However, there is no evidence to identify the Kwegu among the Mursi and the Bodi indeed with the people of whom the Koegu know of the existence.

Haberland mentions Kwoygi, a cast of hunters among the Dizi (an Omotic speaking people). It is impossible to decide if the people among the Dizi speak a variant of the Kwegu-Muguji languages, due to lack of linguistic data.

The Koegu and the Kwegu variants show sufficient convergence to be dialects of the one language group, though not a few differences are observable between the two variants, as the result of the fact that the Koegu and the Kwegu were separated geographically by the neighbouring powerful groups who continuously conflicted with each other. The Kwegu language is affected by contact with the Mursi and the Bodi (Surma) languages. The Koegu language shows considerable divergence lexically and grammatically from Surma patterns because it is strongly influenced by the Kara language. In fact the Koegu language has a quite lot of loan words from the Kara language.

There are some regular correspondences between the Koegu language in my data and the Kwegu (Yidenić) language in Haberland, 1966. There are three groups of lexical items. The first group consists of the lexical items which have the same forms between the Koegu and the Kwegu languages. The second one consists of the lexical items which show regular correspondences between the Koegu and the Kwegu languages. The third one consists of the lexical items of which the languages use different forms.

1) Lexical items which have the same forms between the two languages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Koegu</th>
<th>Kwegu(Yidenić)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mouth</td>
<td>tōk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>way</td>
<td>gūar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water</td>
<td>mwā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fire</td>
<td>gu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cow</td>
<td>bī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goat</td>
<td>toq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lion</td>
<td>móho</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Lexical items which show regular correspondences between the two languages.

a) Koegu A : Kwegu(Yidenić) E

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Koegu</th>
<th>Kwegu(Yidenić)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eye</td>
<td>kárbo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ear</td>
<td>nábo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foot</td>
<td>jap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
<td>bāi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Koegu A : Kwégu(Yidenić) A

girl iŋashi iñas
arm búá bọa
ground daalí dâlu
way gúar gwâr
water mwá műa
elephant núar nǒ'ar
bird kúbar kúbar
fish árte árto

b) Koegu I : Kwégu(Yidenić) U

ground daalí dâlu
star biiri bĩ'elu

c) Koegu I : Kwégu(Yidenić) I

girl iŋashi iñas
forest dúái dĩ
stone bái bëi
moon tígishi tígĩs
cow bì bì
bird kírů kírên

c) Koegu U : Kwégu(Yidenić) O
	nose júruŋ gûro
arm búá bọa
elephant núar nǒ'ar

Koegu U : Kwégu(Yidenić) U

head shûbô sûbo
fire gu gu
sun shûũshi sûs
bird kúbar kúbar
d) Koegu SH : Kwégu(Yidenić) S

head shûbô sûbo
sun shûũshi sûs
moon tígishi tígĩs

Koegu SH : Kwégu(Yidenić) SH

hyena gûšur gûšur
e) Koegu final C or V : Kwegu(Yidenić) zero

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Koegu</th>
<th>Kwegu(Yidenić)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>girl</td>
<td>iğashi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nose</td>
<td>júruŋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sun</td>
<td>shúûshi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moon</td>
<td>tîgisi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the data are not sufficient to make clear the process of sound change and to find out the cause which brings about the sound change, these correspondences suggest a systematic sound shift rather than inconsistency of the data. The hypothetical sound shift in the Kwegu(Yidenić) is schematized as follows.

\[
i \rightarrow u \\
\uparrow \\
e \rightarrow o \\
\uparrow \\
a
\]

The sound change from /a/ to /e/ is evidenced by the correspondence listed above in a). The sound changes /i/ to /u/ and /u/ to /o/ are manifested on the correspondences in b) and c) respectively. There is a probable evidence to show the sound change from /e/ to /i/.

f) Koegu E : Kwegu(Yidenić) I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Koegu</th>
<th>Kwegu(Yidenić)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hair</td>
<td>c'érasi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3) Lexical items which the two languages use different forms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Koegu</th>
<th>Kwegu(Yidenić)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>body</td>
<td>rúá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ox</td>
<td>bi júmú</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dog</td>
<td>kiani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>house</td>
<td>to'o</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some lexical items are replaced by other forms for various reasons. The Koegu language uses the general term which is modified by an adjective in stead of the word having a specific meaning for 'ox'. Original lexical items are sometimes replaced by loan words, which show the linguistic situation where the two languages are located. The Koegu language has a lot of loan words from the Kara language, on the other hand the Kwegu language has loan words from the Mursi or the Bodi languages. The numerals of the Koegu and the Kwegu languages give an interesting example of the language contact mentioned above.
It is clear that the Koegu language borrows the numerals over five to nine from the Kara language and that the Kwegu language borrows the numerals over three to nine from the Bodi language.

3. Koegu and Surma languages

Fleming, H.C. schematized the subclassification of the Surma languages in 1983, as follows:

```
  | Proto-Surma
  |   | Proto-Northern Surma   | Majang
  |   | Proto-Southern Surma   |   |
  |   |   | Proto-Southeast Surma  |   |
  |   |   |   | YKM | Koegu
  |   |   |   |     | Kwegu(Yidenić)
  |   |   |   |     | Kara
  |   |   |   | MkB | Bodi
  |   |   |   |     | Mek‘en
  |   |   |   | STM | Mursi
  |   |   |   |     | Tirma
  |   |   |   |     | Suri
  |   |   |   | ZB  | Bale
  |   |   |   |     | Zilmamu
  |   |   |   | DLM | Murle
  |   |   |     |     | Longarim
  |   |   |     |     | Didinga
```

The Koegu language shows considerable divergence lexic­ally and grammatically from Surma patterns, though there are sufficient evidences to identify the Koegu language with a member of the Southeast Surma languages. I give some exam­ples, referring to the etymological sets listed in Fleming, 1983.
The Koegu language shows an unique vowel pattern in possessive pronoun: 1st person -a-, 2nd person -i-, 3rd person -u-. The other Surma languages show the possessive pronoun vowel pattern: 1st person -a-, 2nd person -u-, 3rd person -e-, and the personal pronoun vowel pattern: 1st person -a-, 2nd person -i-, 3rd person -e-. The Koegu language has personal prefixes which are affixed to a verb stem in verbal conjugation. The personal prefix vowel pattern is: 1st person a-, 2nd person i-, 3rd person ø-.
3rd person vowel element, and merged the possessive pronoun vowel pattern with the personal pronoun vowel pattern.

<p>| | | | |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11) foot</td>
<td>Ko</td>
<td>jåp</td>
<td>SES jagari, jaari, jar- (STM, MkB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SWS</td>
<td>dho-c (DLM), so, sho, tho (ZB)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>dira-n, derə-n</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12) hand</td>
<td>Ko</td>
<td>búá</td>
<td>SES ɬba/ɭba 'arm' (DLM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SES</td>
<td>si-t, thi-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SWS</td>
<td>adhi-t/adi-na (pl.) (DLM), aayi (Ba)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>ari</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13) fire</td>
<td>Ko</td>
<td>gú</td>
<td>SS go, gwo, gu, gwu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>maat, maad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14) ear</td>
<td>Ko</td>
<td>nábo</td>
<td>SES nyab, nab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SWS</td>
<td>it-at, itat/itatiin (pl.), kitat/kina (pl.) (DLM), idhaani (Ba)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>wrna, weyna, wiina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15) egg</td>
<td>Ko</td>
<td>móógo (borrowing from Omotic)</td>
<td>SWS bur- (STM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SWS</td>
<td>bur- (DLM, Ba)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>tutuka-n</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 16) eye | Ko | kárbo | SES *kabar-
|   | SWS | *keber-
|   | NS | tama |
| 17) hyena | Ko | gúshur | SES gushur (Ms) |
|   | SWS | gudhul, guludh (LM) |
|   | NS | duqit |
| 18) leopard | Ko | kárůŋ | SES kěřŋ (Kw) |
|   | SWS | cɛɛlaŋ/xɛłaŋ, kɛɛlaŋ (DLM), kelaŋ (Zi) |
|   | NS | domon |
| 19) cow/cattle | Ko | bíí | SWS bi, bi' |
|   | SWS | be'e (Zi, possibly borrowed from Majang) |
|   | NS | be'e |
20) sun  
Ko  shúúushi  
SES  sus-, suu (Tirma of Bender)  
SWS  kor, kɔrr, koro (DLM, ZB), kɔr  
'day' (Ml)  
NS  wawi

21) dog  
Ko  kianì  
SES  boho (YKM)  
SES  rɔtʰ, rɔs, ros (STM), ros- (Mkb)  
SWS  oðhɔr, urudh, ɔrɔtʰ (DLM), oresha, ɔrsa' (ZB)  
NS  war, warr

22) belly  
Ko  kίyaŋ  
SES  *kianj- (STM), keŋ- (Mkb)  
SWS  kɛŋj, keŋ, keŋn, kæŋ- (DLM, ZB)  
NS  am, amd', amt

23) body, skin  
Ko  rúá  
SES  eri, ɛri (STM)  
SWS  ɛlɛ 'body' (DLM)  
NS  ɛk 'body', wan 'human skin', tarma-n  
'animal hide'

24) honey  
Ko  ítire  
SES  retn/Irɛte (Ti)  
SWS  lete-, liti, lete 'bee' (DLM, ZB)  
NS  ɛtɛt

25) blood  
Ko  nyiábo  
SES  *nyaba  
SWS  ɓiyɛ, Ñedha (DLM,ZB)  
NS  yerum, yerm

26) bone  
Ko  gíči  
SES  *gígec, gi' c/giɛt/giec/gi'ec (Mkb), gige (Su), gige/gigai (Ti), giye (Ms)  
SWS  ɛmɛ-n, amɛ-n (DLM,ZB)  
NS  emenan, emene, emenen/emek (pl.)

27) knee  
Ko  kuamin  
SES  k'omɛc, kɔmɪ, kwaami-n  
SWS  hodhɔŋ/kudhɔŋ/kodhɔŋ, kushuŋ-at (Zi)  
NS  kɔɾŋa-n, kɔɾɔŋ-ay, kɔɾɔrna-n, koronja-n

28) fish  
Ko  ārte  
SES  urgusi, urguth, urgush, urgicha (STM)  
SWS  k-ulug-oc/-a' (pl.), ulugeta, k-ulug-it, ulugut (Zi)  
NS  olt/olt-ir
29) grass
Ko: shúchu
SWS: art- (DL), arrte-ni (Ba)
NS: elti

30) goat
Ko: tog
SWS: tono (TM, MkB)
SWS: eth/edh (DLM), esh (Zi)
NS: këmt

31) hair
Ko: c'érasi
SWS: cor-, c'or-, cira-sh-
SWS: ima, eme (DLM, ZB)
NS: ami

32) meat
Ko: áruñ
SWS: aayu, ayu, ayub, acuk (STM), acuk (MkB)
SWS: idíñ (DLM), idíñ (Zi), ëëdi (Ba)
NS: tar, tarr

33) moon
Ko: tigishi
SWS: *tagis, taqi (STM), ta'is (MkB)
SWS: nyilok, nyelok, nyılő (DLM, ZB)
NS: eyğn

34) nose
Ko: júruñ
SWS: giroğ, giro, juuro
SWS: oğe-c, oğe-c, oği-c, oanye
NS: eğe-n

35) drink v.
Ko: mat
SWS: mat-, mad- (STM, MkB)
SWS: ir (MkB, TM)
SWS: k-a-hudi, -udi, a-wudi (DLM), wudo (Ba)
NS: ut, umeric

36) lion
Ko: móho
SWS: ma, maa/mata (pl.) (DLM)
NS: dêpe

37) snake
Ko: chaach
SWS: kuno, kono, kunu, kɔn (STM, MkB)
SWS: xuka-t/kuka-t (Di), koki-at, kuka (ZB)
NS: kuku, kɔkɔ, kɔkɔ
The innovations took place in various areas, that is, Proto-Southern Surma, Proto-Southeast Surma, etc., which were caused by both external and internal factors. Whichever the Koegu language inherited the innovated forms and the other languages preserved the original forms, or the Koegu language preserved the original forms and the other languages inherited the innovated forms, the Koegu language shows the lexical items which originate in Proto-Southeast Surma: 12), 14), 20), 25), 26), 27), 30), 31), 33), 34), 35), and the items which originate in the Proto-Southern Surma: 13), 16), 17), 18), 22), 23), 24), 36), and the item which originates in the Proto-Surma: 19). The lexical items which were innovated only in the Koegu language are 15), 21), 29), and 37).

The Koegu language, however, does not have the items which are not common to the other Southeast Surma languages, but common to the Southwest Surma languages except for 32). In 32) the Koegu form árun is common to the southwest Surma form iduñ, and both of them are originated from the Proto-Surma, moreover from the Proto-Nilo-Surmic. The innovations took place in the Southeast Surma languages except for the Koegu language, and the Northern Surma languages. These facts are clear evidence of the membership of the Koegu language into the Southeast Surma.

4. Concluding remarks
The Koegu language is quite unique in the Surma languages. The uniqueness is due to its geographical situation, not to the archaism. The Koegu language was separated from the other Surma languages and was greatly influenced by the Omotic and the other languages. Further research on the contact among these languages will give more evidence for us to study the history of the Koegu people and the neighbourings.

Note
My field research on the Koegu language was made at Kuchur in Ethiopia, between December 1987 and February 1988, and between January and March 1989, supported by the fund of the Ministry of Education, Japan. And I also appreciate the cooperation of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies of Addis Ababa University.
Abbreviation
Ba: Bale
Bo: Bodi
Di: Didinga
Ko: Koegu
Kw: Kwegu
Ml: Murle
Ms: Mursi
NS: Northern Surma
SES: Southeast Surma
SS: Southern Surma
SWS: Southwest Surma
Ti: Tirma
Zi: Zilmamu

References