

A Koorete Text: **ḍiik'ari ?aji ne jese? Frog, where are you?**

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1 Introduction

This paper presents a recorded and transcribed text in Koorete. Koorete is an Omotic language spoken by 156,749 native speakers in Ethiopia (CSA 2007). Fleming (1976) writes that Koorete is genetically classified in the Eastern branch of the Ometo cluster within the Omotic language family. The speakers of the language call themselves *Koore* and their language *Koorete*. The great majority of the Koorete language speakers live in Amarro wereda of the newly formed *YeSegeen Akababi Hizboch* zone of the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPR). The study presents a text in Koorete.

The text is a Koorete narrative of the picture book ‘Frog, where are you?’ This picture book is a story of a boy, a dog and a frog. It tells a pictorial story about the adventures of the boy and the dog while trying to look for the missing frog. The Koorete story is narrated by a native language consultant¹ by looking at the pictures. Prior to the presentation of the Koorete text in Section 3, brief summary of the phonology of the language which is adopted from Theil (2011) is provided in the following section.

2 Phonology

Consonant Phonemes

Theil (2011) gives 23 consonant phonemes for the language. These are:

¹ The text is recorded with Mercha Melak, who is a native speaker of Koorete and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to him. I also wish to thank Samuel Zenabu for editing the text.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <i>labial</i> | <i>coronal</i> | | | <i>dorsal</i> | <i>laryngeal</i> |
| | <i>alveolar</i> | | <i>postalv.</i> | | |
| <i>non-sibilant</i> | | <i>sibilant</i> | | <i>non-sibilant</i> | |
| p | t | s | ʃ | k | h |
| b | d | z | ʒ | g | |
| ɸ | ɗ | s' | ʃ' | k' | ʔ |
| m | n | | | | |
| | r | | | | |
| | l | | | | |
| w | | | | j | |

Vowel Phonemes

Theil (2011) states that the following are the monophthong and diphthong vowel phonemes of the language:

| <i>Monophthongs</i> | | <i>Diphthongs</i> | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| <i>Short</i> | <i>Long</i> | <i>Short</i> | <i>Long</i> |
| i | u | ui | uui |
| e | o | ei | oii |
| a | aa | ai | aai |

3 Koorete Text

ɗiik'ari ʔaji ne jese? 'Frog, where are you?'

- (1) **mamako-i je-tʃa**
 tale-NOM exist-PAii

'There was a tale.'

- (2) **hajja**

'ok'

- (3) **bidzi zaw-aka kana-ni jele-ni ɗiik'ari-ni**
 one (a) house-LOC dog-INCL boy-INCL frog-INCL

hajdze ʔu je-tʃa
 three 3PL exist-PAii

'In a house, there were a dog, a boy and a frog.'

(4) **hinne-ko** **bidzi** **wonte** **k'ama** **jeli-j-ara**
 then-AFOC:DEC one day night boy-EPN-CONJ

kan-ara-i **tak'i-j-aka** **kes-s-o**
 dog-CONJ-NOM bed-EPN-LOC climb-PF-PAi

woj?-ij-aka
 sleep-PROG-LOC

‘Then, one evening the boy and the dog went to bed in order to get sleep.’

(5) **hinne-ko** **je** **wogg-aka** **ḏiik'ari-ʔi** **t'armusi²-j-aka**
 then-AFOC:DEC that time-LOC frog-DIM bottle-EPN-LOC

ʔi **je-tʃa**
 3FS exist-PAii

‘Meanwhile, the frog was in the bottle.’

(6) **hi-d-i-ko** **ʔu** **ʔad-d-ine-ko**
 say-PF-PFT-AFOC:DEC 3PL spend night-PF-TEMP-AFOC:DEC

guta **keti-j-aka** **dend-i-d-i** **t'armusi-j-aka**
 tomorrow morning-EPN-LOC get up-EPN-PF-PFT bottle-EPN-LOC

ʔu **bee-ne** **ḏiik'ari** **ḏee-d-o**
 3PL see-PRES frog lose-PF-PAi

‘They spent the night in such a way. The next day morning, they got up and started to look for the frog which was inside the bottle, but it was not there.’

(7) **hinne-ko** **jell-i** **be** **koba** **gawwa-aka**
 then-AFOC:DEC boy:DEF-NOM REF shoes stomach-LOC

wor-g-i-tʃa **kann-i** **ʔassi** **ʔontse** **ʔi**
 search-IMF-EPN-PAii dog:DEF-NOM again yesterday 3FS

² This is a borrowed Amharic word for bottle.

je-tfo **t’armusi-j-aka** **wor-g-ij-aka** **be** **k’ine**
 exist-PAii bottle-EPN-LOC search-IMF-LOC REF head

t’armusi-j-aka **gels-s-o**
 bottle-EPN-LOC enter-PF-PAi

‘Then, the boy started to look for the frog in his own shoes. And the dog put its head inside the bottle where the frog was staying yesterday in order to search for it.’

(8) **hinne-ko** **t’armusi-j-apa** **?i** **k’ine-i** **kana**
 then-AFOC:DEC bottle-EPN-ABL 3FS head-NOM dog

k’ine-i **kese** **kese** **deed-d-ine**
 head-NOM put out put out resist-PF-TEMP

wor-g-ij-aka **t’armuse** **kana-i** **wod-d-o**
 want-IMF-PROG-LOC bottle dog-NOM break-PF-PAi

‘Then, the dog found it difficult to put its head out of the bottle...while trying to get out the dog broke the bottle.’

(9) **hinne-ko** **jele-i** **be** **kofa** **wor-d-i** **be**
 then-FOC:DEC boy-NOM REF shoes search-PF-PFT REF

dee-d-o **geede be** **lam?-uke** **jele-ni** **kana-ni**
 lose-PF-PAi after REF two-both boy-INCL dog-INCL

je **diik’ar-i?-o** **wor-g-ija** **?u** **kes-s-o**
 that frog-DIM-ABS search-IMF-PROG 3PL get out-PF-PAi

‘The boy searched his shoes and failed to find the frog. Then, both of them went out to look for the missing frog.’

(10) **?u** **han-g-i-tfo-j-nne-ko** **wolla**
 3PL go-IMF-EPN-PAii-EPN-TEM-AFOC:DEC together

han-g-a **?u-j-tfo-j-nne-ko**
 go-IMF-DEP 3PL-exist-EPN-PAii-EPN-TEM-AFOC:DEC

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| ʔogi-j-aka | wula | bidzi | book-ij-o |
| road-EPN-LOC | ditch | one | ditch-DIM-ABS |

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| deges-s-I | booku-w-aka | jell-i |
| meet-PF-PFT | ditch-EPN-LOC | boy:DEF-NOM |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| s'annaʔ-i-tʃa | kann-i | ʔassi |
| look through a hole-EPN-Paii | dog:DEF-NOM | again |

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| han-g-i-tʃ-i-nne | maak'-o | gaagura |
| go-IMF-EPN-PAii-EPN-TEM | be/become-PAi | bee hive |

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| mitsi | bakk-aka | bee-tta-j-d-i | je | gaagura |
| tree | on-LOC | see-DEP-exist-PF-PFT | that | bee hive |

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| mitsi | bakk-aka | doon-g-i-tʃa |
| tree | on-LOC | jump-IMF-EPN-PAii |

‘While the two were going together, on their way, the boy saw a ditch and he kneeled down to see if the frog is inside. At the same time, the dog saw a bee hive on a tree and he started jumping to catch the hive.’

(11) **hinne-ko** **je** **wulli-j-apa** **ʔereʃ'e-i**
then-AFOC:DEC that ditch:DEF-EPN-ABL mouse-NOM

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| wos'-s'-i | kes-s-i | jell-i |
| run-PF-PFT | get out-PF-PFT | boy:DEF-NOM |

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| leemo | kes-s-i | be | nuuna |
| shadow | get out-PF-PFT | REF | mouth |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| ʔajkk-i-tʃ-ine | maak'-o | wo-na | pede | mitsi | bakka |
| hold-EPN-PAii-TEMP | return-PAi | there above | other | tree | on |

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| kapo | keetse | bee-tta-j-d-i-ko | jaha |
| bird | nest | see-DEP-say-PF-PFT-AFOC:DEC | there |

| | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| pede | mitsi | bakka-aka | jell-i | ʃad-d-i |
| other | tree | on-LOC | boy:DEF-NOM | leave-PF-PFT |

kes-s-o

got out-PF-PAi

‘Then, a mouse came out of the ditch and the boy got terrified and held his mouth. Then, he saw a bird cottage and he climbed up the tree.’

- (12) **hinne-ko** **jell-i** **wo-na** **mitsi** **bakk-aka**
then-AFOC:DEC boy:DEF-NOM there-above tree on-LOC

kapo **keetse** **bee-tta** **hi-d-i** **?i** **kes-s-o**
bird house see-DEP say-PF-PFT 3FS got out-PF-PAi

‘Then, having seen the bird cottage in the tree, the boy got on top of the tree.’

- (13) **hatte-ni** **kana-i** **yena** **yena-wo** **gaagura** **mitsi**
now-INCL dog-NOM yet yet-CFOC bee hive tree

bakk-aka **doom-ija** **je-tja**
on-LOC jump-PROG exist-PAii

‘The dog was jumping repeatedly trying to catch the bee hive.’

- (14) **hinne-ko** **kapp-indo-i** **je** **kapo** **najfi**
then-AFOC:DEC bird-mother-NOM that bird children

?indo-i **be** **pange** **budd-i** **joo-ne-ko**
woman-NOM REF wing stretch-PFT come-PRES-AFOC:DEC

jell-i **leemo-kessi** **mitsi** **bakka-pa** **?un-d-o**
boy:DEF-NOM scare tree on-from fell down-PF-PAi

‘Then, the bird’s mother stretched its wing and came towards the boy. The boy was scared of the bird and he fell down from the tree.’

- (15) **jell-i** **?un-d-i** **jesu-ne-ko** **hatte-ni**
boy:DEF-NOM fall-PF-PFT existit-PRES-AFOC:DEC now-INCL

?assi-wo **kana-i** **mitsi** **bakk-aka** **doon-d-i**
again-CFOC dog-NOM tree on-LOC jump-PF-PFT

gaagura **mitse** **ʔenʼus-i-tʃo-j-ne** **gaagura** **mitsi**
 bee hive tree move-EPN-PAii-EPN-TEMP hive tree

ʃiput-t-i **gaagura-i** **shiput-t-i** **ʔapa-pa** **ʔun-d-i**
 cut-PF-PFT hive-NOM cut-PF-PFT above-ABL fell-PF-PFT

hinne-ko **gaagura-pa** **kessa** **ziizo-i**
 then-AFOC:DEC hive-ABL get out bee-NOM

kann-i-wo **good-d-ine** **kann-i-ni** **katse**
 dog:DEF-CFOC chase-PF-TEMP dog:DEF-EPN-INCL breath

bur-d-i **wosʼ-sʼ-o** **jell-i-ni** **ʔassi** **be**
 cut-PF-PFT run-PF-PAi boy:DEF-EPN-INCL again REF

ʔun-d-o **gate** **ʔatt-o-j-d-i** **hinne-ko**
 fell down-PF-PAi place remain-PAi-say-PF-PFT then-AFOC:DEC

wola **ʔu** **hal-l-o**
 each other 3PL separate-PF-PAi

‘The boy fell down and the dog was still jumping to catch the hive. Finally the bee hive fell down and all the bees came out of it and they started chasing the dog.’

(16) **hinne-ko** **kapp-i** **hatte-ni** **be** **pange**
 then-AFOC:DEC bird:DEF-NOM now-INCL REF wing

bud-d-i **joo-ne** **jell-i** **dend-i**
 stretch-PF-PFT come-PRES boy:DEF-NOM raise up-PFT

ʃad-d-i **wosʼ-sʼ-i** **han-d-i** **wora-ka** **gel-a**
 leave-PF-PFT run-PF-PFT go-PF-PFT forest-LOC enter-DEP

wora **be** **gel-l-o** **geede** **mitse** **bija**
 forest REF enter-PF-PAi after tree himself

ʔe **biffi-ne** **mitsi** **be** **ʔufume** **bakk-aka**
 3SM look like-TEMP tree REF horn on-LOC

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| dagga | keen-g-e | gadansa | ʔufume |
| tool made of wood | have-IMPF-PRES | deer | horn |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| ʔajt-t-i | ʔe | bakka-ka | kes-o | ʔi | hi-d-o |
| hold-PF-PFT | 3SM | on-LOC | get out:PF-PAi | 3SF | say-PF-PAi |

‘When the bird flies to the boy stretching its wings, the boy started to run to the forest. In the forest, he caught a horn of deer thinking that it is a branch of a tree. Then the deer got up slowly.’

(17) **hinne-ko** **gadansa-i** **be** **ʔufume** **bakka-ka**
 then-AFOC:DEC deer-NOM REF horn on-LOC

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| gad-d-i | wos'-ija-ka | yes-une | kann-i |
| put-PF-PFT | run-PROG-LOC | exist-TEMP | dog:DEF-NOM |

bee-d-o
 see-PF-PAi

‘The deer then started running carrying the boy on its horns and the dog saw that.’

(18) **kann-i** **bee-ta** **hi-d-i-ko**
 dog:DEF-NOM see-DEP see-PF-PFT-AFOC:DEC

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| wolla | wos'-i-tfo-j-ne | maak'-o | je |
| together | run-EPN-PAii-EPN-TEMP | return-PAi | that |

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| gadansa-i | jell-i-wo | pid-d-i | dap-o |
| deer-NOM | boy:DEF-CFOC | jump-PF-PFT | throw-DEP |

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| hinne-ko | jell-i | ʔun-d-i-ne |
| then-AFOC:DEC | boy:DEF-NOM | fell down-PF-PFT-TEMP |

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| han-d-i | ʔi | bakka-ka | kann-i | ʔi |
| go-PF-PFT | 3SF | on-LOC | dog:DEF-NOM | 3SF |

ʔun-d-o
 fell down-PF-PAi

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| jell-eni | kann-eni | ɖad-d-i | hanke |
| boy:DEF-INCL | dog:DEF-INCL | leave-PF-PFT | that way |
| dot-o | hi-d-i-ko | ʔe | mamakutte |
| return:PF-PAi | say-PF-PFT-AFOC:DEC | 3SM | narrated |

‘Then, they started swimming in the water. They saw dolphin and then they found their own frog and they returned back home.’

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| ABL | Ablative |
| ABS | Absolutive |
| AFOC:DEC | Assertive focus in declarative |
| AFOC:INT | Assertive focus in interrogative |
| AGRE | Agreement |
| CAS | Causative |
| CFOC | Contrastive focus |
| COM | Comitative |
| COMP | Complement |
| CONJ | Conjunction |
| DAT | Dative case |
| DEP | Dependent |
| DF | Definite |
| DIM | Diminutive |
| EPN | Epenthetic |
| GEN | Genitive |
| IMF | Imperfective |
| INCL | Inclusive |
| INST | Instrumental case |
| LOC | Locative |
| M | Masculine |
| NOM | Nominative |
| PAi | Past 1 |
| PAii | Past 2 |
| PAS | Passive |
| PF | Perfective |

| | |
|------|---------------------------------|
| PFT | Perfect |
| PL | Plural |
| PRES | Present |
| PROG | Progressive |
| REF | Reflexive |
| TEMP | Temporal |
| 1P | First person |
| 1PL | First person plural |
| 1SG | First person singular |
| 2SG | Second person singular |
| 3MS | Third person masculine singular |
| 3FS | Third person feminine singular |
| 3PL | Third person plural |

Reference

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