

Chapter Fourteen

Causation; Obligation; Possessive Pronouns; Reflexive, Transitive and Intransitive Verbs; Reduplication; the Passive Equivalent.

Causation

In addition to its use as the verb *to give*, *miyo* is used with the sense *to cause*.

Chuodho nomiyo gache deko. *The mud made the lorries late.*

Koth nomiyo wabedo e tiend yath. *The rain made us stay at the foot of the tree.*

The phrase *e momiyo* (lit., *is which causes*) is very common and can usually be translated *therefore*. *Omiyo* has almost the same meaning.

Kwach ne nitie: e momiyo ji ne ringo. *There was a leopard there: therefore the people were running.*

The verb which follows *miyo* is usually in the present tense or the infinitive, but after *e momiyo*, *omiyo* the appropriate tense is used. Compare the last two examples.

Obligation: Must and Ought

Compulsion or necessity is expressed by *nyaka* followed by the subjunctive.

Nyaka imak chikni. *You must obey this law.*

It is convenient, it is fitting and ought are conveyed by the reflexive verb *owinjore*, or the impersonal verb *onego*, followed in each case by the subjunctive. *Onego* is much stronger than *owinjore*.

Owinjore wakony osiepewa. *We ought to help our friends.*

Onego imadh yadhni. *You ought to drink this medicine.*

Oromo, from *romo*, *to suffice*, is used when the sense is *it is time to*: it is followed by the subjunctive.

Oromo wachiem koro. *We ought to be eating now.*

Possessive Pronouns

To form the possessive pronouns, *mine*, *yours*, etc., the personal pronouns are suffixed to the preposition *mar* or its plural *mag*.

Singular	Plural	Meaning
mara	maga or meka	mine
mari	magi or meki	yours
mare	mage or meke	his, hers, its
marwa	magwa or mekwa, mawa	ours
maru	magu or meku, mau	yours
margi	maggi or mekgi	theirs

Examples:

An gi kitapi: kel mara. *I have your book: bring mine.*

Puothegi maggi: eke mau? *These gardens are theirs: where are yours?*

Where a noun is qualified by both demonstrative and possessive adjectives, both adjectives are suffixed to the noun, the demonstrative last.

Pok ineno odani? *Have you not yet seen this house of mine? (Lit., this my house.)*

Wasikwa dwaro puothewagi. *Our enemies want these gardens of ours.*

The Reflexive Form of the Verb

Some verbs have a reflexive form in which *-re* is suffixed to the infinitive. In the table below note the vowel changes in the endings.

pako	<i>to praise</i>
pakore	<i>to praise oneself, boast</i>
apakora	<i>I praise myself</i>
ipakori	<i>you praise yourself</i>
opakore	<i>he, she, it praises himself</i>

wapakore	<i>we praise ourselves</i>
upakoru, upakore	<i>you praise yourselves</i>
gipakore	<i>they praise themselves</i>

Verbs in **-yo** but not **-nyo** drop the **-yo**.

hoyo, to comfort, gives **hore**, to comfort oneself, be comforted, but **gonyo**, to loose, gives **gonyore**, to loose oneself.

Often the reflexive form gives a passive sense:

ketho	<i>to spoil</i>	kethore	<i>to be spoilt</i>
puko	<i>to spill</i>	pukore	<i>to be spilt</i>
iko	<i>to prepare</i>	ikore	<i>to be ready</i>

With other verbs the change is from transitive to intransitive:

choko, v.t.	<i>to gather</i>	chokore, v.i.	<i>to gather</i>
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In those cases where the verb is used in a shortened form—e.g. the future tense, the imperative, the subjunctive, and some cases of negation—the suffix **-re** is added to the shortened stem.

Chokreuru!	<i>Gather yourselves together!</i>
Ka wadhi kiny, wanachandre.	<i>If we go tomorrow, we shall be in trouble.</i>
Japuonj nochikowa mon- do waikre piyo.	<i>The teacher told us to get ready quickly.</i>

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Most transitive verbs can be used intransitively. (In this latter form they are sometimes called qualitative verbs to distinguish them from true intransitive verbs which can never take objects.)

When they are so used without objects, certain changes take place. The basic change is one of pronunciation, open vowels in the transitive verbs becoming closed in the intransitive, and this is not shown in ordinary written Luo.¹ The commonest changes which involve a change in written Luo are:

1 The change of vowel from **a** to **e**.

Transitive	Intransitive	Meaning
twang'o	tueng'o	<i>to sew</i>
madho	metho (note also dh to th)	<i>to drink</i>
chamo	chiemo	<i>to eat</i>

¹ e.g. akomo bel; but, akomo.

2 Dropping the final **-o**.

nywolo	nywol	<i>to give birth</i>
chiewo	chiew	<i>to wake</i>

3 Changes in the final consonant: e.g. final **-yo** to **-cho**, **-wo** to **-po**.

loyo	locho	<i>to overcome</i>
gweyo	guecho	<i>to kick</i>
luwo	lupo	<i>to fish</i>
kawo	kepo	<i>to take</i>

4 The use of the reflexive form as mentioned on the previous page.

Reduplication

This is a form in which a word is repeated twice, the second time with an **a** at each end.

In verbs it is used to state that an action is simply or merely being carried out. Note that it is only the stem that is repeated.

Dhi adhiya nyime.	<i>Just keep going on. (Lit., ahead.)</i>
Obed(o) abeda.	<i>He is just sitting down.</i>
Wachandore achanda nono kuom wachno.	<i>We are merely troubling ourselves about that matter.</i>

Adjectives are also modified: e.g. **matin**, small: **matintin**, fairly small (plural, **matindo**, **matindotindo**).

Some adverbs are formed from verbs in a similar way: e.g. **pando**, to hide, forms **apanda**, secretly.

Nowuok apanda.	<i>He went out secretly.</i>
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The Passive Equivalent

There is no true passive in Luo, but there are two ways in which the equivalent of the English Passive is formed.

In the incomplete aspect **i-**, **i-**, is prefixed to the verb.

Adak e piny miluongo ni Kenya. *I live in a country called Kenya.*

When the subject is a pronoun it is suffixed to the verb, the **-o** dropping out before the singular pronouns.

igoya	<i>I am being hit</i>
igoyi	<i>you are being hit</i>
igoye	<i>he is being hit</i>

igoyowa	<i>we are being hit</i>
igoyou	<i>you are being hit</i>
igoyogi	<i>they are being hit</i>

In the complete aspect o-, o-, is prefixed to the shortened stem of the verb.

Kitabuni ondik marach. *This book is badly written.*

Again in this aspect if a pronoun is the subject it is suffixed to the verb stem.

ogoya	<i>I have been hit</i>
ogoyi	<i>you have been hit</i>
ogoye	<i>he has been hit</i>
ogowa	<i>we have been hit</i>
ogou	<i>you have been hit</i>
ogogi	<i>they have been hit</i>

Ogowa matek gi ludhe. *We have been badly beaten with sticks.*

The past tenses are formed in the usual way by the addition of adverbs.

Ka ne an nyathi, nigero dukani.	<i>When I was a child this shop was being built.</i>
Ode nyowang' nyoro.	<i>His house was burned yesterday.</i>
Gige duto osetieki.	<i>All his things have been finished.</i>

The future tense of the incomplete aspect is rendered with the help of **biro**, while the complete aspect takes the tense sign **n-**.

Kiny ibiro mwono ot.	<i>Tomorrow the house will be being plastered.</i>
Ang' nochwowa (gi) sandan.	<i>I will soon be given an injection. (Lit., I will have been pierced with a needle.)</i>

It will be seen that in written Luo it is impossible to distinguish **igoyowa**, *we are being hit*, from **igoyowa**, *you are hitting us*, or **ogoya**, *he hit me*, from **ogoya**, *I will be hit*, except from the context. The differences are tonal.

The passive is never used in Luo when an agent is mentioned: the sentence is arranged so that the active voice is employed. A sentence

like *This house is being built by Otieno* would have to be re-arranged to read *It is Otieno who is building this house*, and be translated as: **Otieno e ma gero odni.** (The direct translation **Odni oger gi Otieno**, would mean *Otieno is the material of which the house is being made.*)

EXERCISE FOURTEEN

- 1 **Ne ok onyise gi momiyonobiro.**
- 2 **Onego wane owadu ma nopodho mohinyore.**
- 3 **Giparore kuom wach osuru ma onego gichul ka pok ochopo giko due.**
- 4 **Onego okwa jotelo moseti mondo giwe tich.**
- 5 **Ang'o momiyonyiri deko ni skul? Giyuecho.**
- 6 **Wach nolandore piyo e piny ni nawi e ma nokelo tuono.**
- 7 **Nyithindo ne gore mi kikombe otho kendo chak opukore.**
- 8 **Ka fireji odinore, pi ok diwuogie.**

- 1 It is hunger which causes many people to steal.
- 2 What are you doing in my field? We are just going for a stroll.
- 3 The house was built with bricks and therefore will last for a long time.
- 4 I am just an ordinary man, and therefore it is not fitting that I should be asked to preach.
- 5 That cow of yours weighs more than mine.
- 6 These two bicycles are identical. Which is mine?
- 7 You (pl.) will be ready to leave at 7 a.m. tomorrow.
- 8 Should he come while I'm away, ask him to wait for me.

Keys to the Exercises

Only one answer is given to each question, though there may be other, equally correct answers. In particular, when the verb has a pronoun as subject it is impossible to distinguish between the complete and incomplete aspects.

EXERCISE ONE (Page 6)

- 1 He is reading.
- 2 Are they writing a book?
- 3 We want food.
- 4 Otieno and Nyanjom are bringing potatoes.
- 5 They are cups.
- 6 I see him: he sees me.
- 7 He loves us.
- 8 We know them.
- 9 Onyango is opening the door.
- 10 It is a book.
- 11 They are Luo.
- 12 Auma is carrying a book.

- 1 **Onyango somo kitabu.**
- 2 **Ng'ato obiro.**
- 3 **Omiyogi barua koso?**
- 4 **Ji oloso chiemo.**
- 5 **Akelo gi Awiti dware kikombe.**
- 6 **Wadhi(yo) Nairobi.**

- 8 **Gikawo rabolo.**
- 9 **Adwarou.**
- 10 **An japuonj.**
- 11 **En mesa.**
- 12 **Ng'ato okelo barua: japuonj some.**

EXERCISE TWO (Page 13)

- 1 Onyango knows how to look after children.
- 2 Ochieng' has just broken two old cooking pots.
- 3 Four people have come by bicycle.
- 4 The cook is cutting the potatoes with a blunt knife.
- 5 Children love to hear long stories.
- 6 Eighty-five men are working.
- 7 How many dresses can one woman bring?
- 8 I see one hundred and thirty-seven workmen.
- 9 What kind of book is it? It is a black one.
- 10 They are carrying baskets full of knives.

- 1 **Jatich okelo agulni adek madongo.**
- 2 **Ji mang'eny dware skol manyien.**
- 3 **Wachamo rabolo duto.**
- 4 **Awino dho Luo matin.**
- 5 **Mon oting'o aditni madongo.**
- 6 **Otieno nyalo wuotho gi ndiga moti.**
- 7 **Itedo chiemo sa adi?**
- 8 **Adware ng'iewo ndigni ariyo mabeyo.**
- 9 **Ogendni mang'eny ong'eyo (dho) Swahili.**
- 10 **Ojal somo kitabu mane?**

EXERCISE THREE (Page 20)

- 1 Chief Oloo knows Swahili very well.
- 2 Ochieng' is building two small houses.
- 3 He has large debts everywhere.
- 4 He shuts the doors quietly when the children are sleeping.

- 5 How many people can a car carry?
- 6 The chief is speaking to the people (when he is) standing at the foot of the tree.
- 7 He is putting letters into boxes.
- 8 I can see three crows on the tree. Which tree are they in?
- 9 It is very difficult to buy gardens in Nyanza.
- 10 The teacher gives each child three books.

- 1 **An gi barupe auchiel.**
- 2 **Guogi nindo e bwo mesa.**
- 3 **Ondiko barupe gi kalam.**
- 4 **Oting'o bunde ka ma ondiegi ng'enyie.**
- 5 **Giolo lowo e bur gi ndope.**
- 6 **Guogi chamo choke e puodho.**
- 7 **Wanyalo ng'iewo yien mang'eny gi siling' piero auchiel.**
- 8 **Ji ang'wen goyogi matek gi ludhe.**
- 9 **Waringo guogi.**
- 10 **Ng'ato ka ng'ato nwang'o siling' piero ang'wen due ka due.**

EXERCISE FOUR (Page 24)

- 1 Bring three chairs for the visitors.
- 2 Wash the dirty plates with clean water.
- 3 Come in, I want to hear the news.
- 4 Fetch it for me.
- 5 Kill the snakes quickly.
- 6 Put sugar in the tea for them.
- 7 Come here all of you, I have a letter.
- 8 Have you got two spears? Yes I have.
- 9 Stop looking for the black snakes.
- 10 Put the chairs in the tents for me.
- 11 Help the old woman.

- 1 **Dhiuru dala: en sa apar.**
- 2 **Tue piende gi tonde abich.**
- 3 **We timo timbe maricho.**
- 4 **Tednwa ring'o.**

- 5 **Yawnigi dhouidi.**
- 6 **Kitepe piero adek gochiko gi kalembe apar gabich ni e wi mesa.**
- 7 **Gouru bunde matek ka gibiro.**
- 8 **Umbe abich gi pelni aboro olal.**
- 9 **Migi gino.**
- 10 **Weuru goyo guogi gi ludhe.**
- 11 **Wegiuru oko.**

EXERCISE FIVE (Page 30)

- 1 Pour soil in the holes (which are) in the road.
- 2 Long ago young men hunted leopards which came from the hills.
- 3 The teacher for whom I lit the fire paid me two shillings.
- 4 I have just put the plates which I found on the table in the box.
- 5 When people wanted to trap wild animals, they dug holes.
- 6 The hole which I dug is full of water.
- 7 They broke two bowls that had meat in them.
- 8 Do you believe all the news you hear?
- 9 The police are looking for the child to whom I gave the money yesterday.
- 10 The man who repaired the shoes wanted seventeen shillings.

- 1 **Neg apwoche duto ma chamo cham.**
- 2 **Askeche ma nyoro oa Nairobi, nomoko teche mang'eny e i hembe.**
- 3 **Ne gimiyo japuonj wuoche ma ne giyudo e i sanduku.**
- 4 **Yo ma ji duto luwo ni gi buche mang'eny. (or otimo bugni ahinya)**
- 5 **Yien mamokogo mach ni e bwo mesa.**
- 6 **Nyathi ma namiyo pesa noringogo.**
- 7 **Kelna buge ma ne aweyo e mesa.**
- 8 **Nakwanyo kue ma jotich noweyo e dir yo.**
- 9 **En yo manade ma dhi Kisumu?**
- 10 **Nyoro awinjo wende ma rawere nowero.**

EXERCISE SIX (Page 35)

- 1 Call the girls who are playing on that hill.
- 2 That large tree is dead (dry).
- 3 Does this man know Luo?
- 4 This is the day the teacher chose.
- 5 I know only three ways of cooking (by which you cook) meat.
- 6 Last year these rivers dried up.
- 7 These books which they read help them to pass the exam.
- 8 Chop down this tree, but leave that (one).
- 9 Give me those shoes, I want to polish them.
- 10 He speaks to the girls quietly, because the child is asleep.
- 11 Take that stick from him, he can (may) hit you with it.

- 1 **Pidh yiengi e puodho cha.**
- 2 **Jarit obiro omo kifungu ma yawo dhood cha.**
- 3 **Joka nozero ot matin cha.**
- 4 **Dhok ma nodonjo e puodho cha nochamo oduma duto.**
- 5 **Deregi opong'gi oduma: maka opong'gi bel.**
- 6 **Liete ka ketho puodho.**
- 7 **Chung' e tiend yath kacha.**
- 8 **Notieko tijno, moyueyo.**
- 9 **Luw yorni: okadho e dir chiro midwaro.**
- 10 **Oting'o bundeno nikech odwaro nego winygo ma ketho oduma.**
- 11 **Yier ariyo kuom guen adekgi.**

EXERCISE SEVEN (Page 41)

- 1 The chief lives at Ukwala. I am going to see him there.
- 2 Repair the car quickly so that we may go to Kisumu.
- 3 Let us go to the market where prices are cheap.
- 4 I want you to plant seeds in the shade where the sun cannot burn them.
- 5 They cannot open these doors because the key is lost.
- 6 This is where that man (we were speaking about) found the sheep that were lost.

- 7 I do not like these evil deeds.
- 8 Bring me another book to read, this one is very difficult.
- 9 This child passed the exam: the other is still at school.

- 1 **Wach ni ng'atno mondo odhi oom yien.**
- 2 **Adwaro gimoro ma nyalo dinogo bur.**
- 3 **Ok adwar mondo nyithindo odhi e bungu ka ma ginyalo lalie.**
- 4 **Wakano guen e i sing'enge mondo kik giketh cham.**
- 5 **Japuonj notamowa mondo kik wakwang' e aora mathuth cha.**
- 6 **Ka e ka ma naketoe law or, Naketo law kae.**
- 7 **Ket kikombego malo, mondo nyithindo kik neggi.**
- 8 **Nyathi achiel kende e ma nochopo e skol: machielo nodong' chien.**
- 9 **Ne ok gitieko tijno nikech koth nosindogi.**

EXERCISE EIGHT (Page 45)

1. Tomorrow the workmen will finish the work that I gave them yesterday.
 - 2 I will come at five p.m., after work.
 - 3 Why did the messengers throw away the letters?
 - 4 Who stoked up the fire? The smoke will spoil the food.
 - 5 Don't leave the nails here, they will get lost in the grass.
 - 6 I did not hear what he said, and I asked him to speak louder.
 - 7 Where's the man who will take these letters to the post?
 - 8 The hospital has a room for the lame people who come that we may heal them.
 - 9 Tell them to return tomorrow and stack the firewood neatly behind the kitchen.
 - 10 Can I find a carpenter who will repair the window for me tomorrow?
- 1 **Meli moa Kisumu kawuono, kiny nodonj (nochop) Entebbe.**
 - 2 **Tang'! Otenge biro kawo nyiguen ma ok ni e sing'enge.**
 - 3 **Nikano musmande ma nang'iewo Kisumu kanye?**

- 4 Jotelo gin ng'ano gini? Mondo gidhi nyime.
- 5 Kik iyie gi gik moko duto miwinjo, nikech humbe ng'eny e piny ndalogi.
- 6 Ne gidwaro gero skul ka, to ruoth notamogi.
- 7 Ne okwer ni ne ok en ng'at ma nokwalo nyaroya.
- 8 Penj jatedo chieng' ma nong'iewoe tong'gi.
- 9 Kiny wanadhi wapenj japuonj kaka iloko wachni.
- 10 Ere yo manyalo luwo mondo achopi e chiro.

EXERCISE NINE (Page 50)

- 1 I have finished work and am free until nine o'clock.
 - 2 The children have left these books in the garden, and the rain has spoiled them.
 - 3 The food is not yet cooked because the firewood is damp.
 - 4 I have brought everyone I found in the market.
 - 5 He has not yet been here long.
 - 6 You want much more money than I can pay.
 - 7 The vegetables I buy in the market are better than those which people bring to the house.
 - 8 He tells me he is the cleverest boy in the school, but I don't believe him.
 - 9 He replied that he had been ill on Friday but was now better.
 - 10 He said, "I passed the exam in (the year) fifty-eight, but did not find work".
- 1 Yien ka osepodho.
 - 2 Aseng'iewo kalam manyien nikech machon ne ok ndik maber.
 - 3 Cham pok ochiek, to wanakagi e due mar aboro.
 - 4 Pok obiro, to pod warite.
 - 5 Nairobi bor gi Maseno moloyo Kampala.
 - 6 Ma e jatich maber moloyo duto e puodho.
 - 7 Janeno nowacho ni, Naneno mtoka ma notwomo ndiga mogoyo jariemb ndiga e ndara.
 - 8 Nowachona ni nosekendo ka pok Wasungu obiro.

- 9 Bang' wacho mano nodhi nyime ni, Akelonu mos moa kuom jogo man Gem (jo Gem).
- 10 Nokwer ni ne ok okwalo gimoro.

EXERCISE TEN (Page 55)

- 1 The colour of the snake that we saw was green (like grass).
- 2 Don't give the dog chicken bones because they can choke him.
- 3 Goat's milk is richer (fatter) than cow's milk.
- 4 When you have learned Luo you will find that it is similar to Acholi.
- 5 Otieno's debts were so large that he couldn't pay them all this year.
- 6 He will be a brave man when he grows up.
- 7 You will be leader when I go on holiday in July.
- 8 This school will be a Secondary school next year.
- 9 Tomorrow the doctor will take out the tooth of the child who is ill.
- 10 The hand of the workman whom an axe cut will be painful for many days.

- 1 Hik dhano gin piero abiriyo kende.
- 2 Puoth japuonj biro nyago cham maber nikech nene oyaro owuoyo ka koth pok ochakore (ka koth podi).
- 3 Ma limbe mar ariyo mar Otieno e puoth ruoth.
- 4 Nodeko nikech mtoka mokwongo nopong' mi nobiro gi mar ariyo.
- 5 Ne an gi ndiga ka ne pod an nyathi.
- 6 Puothe jogo modak but aora nyago omboga kata ndalo oro.
- 7 We onindi e hospital kawuono.
- 8 Odak e ot mar ang'wen kisekadho aora.
- 9 Ka pok adhi wuoth, nyisa kaka idino ndiga motuch.
- 10 Dong' ka: abiro tero barua dala.

EXERCISE ELEVEN (Page 60)

- 1 The teacher's stories are very interesting and the children do not want to be absent.
- 2 The youth's knife was lost three times before he got home.
- 3 How many times have you visited Kalenjin country?

- 4 Is there any food for the workmen? No (or, None).
- 5 Three-quarters of the children from this school pass the exam every year.
- 6 Tomorrow the people who live in this district will be away because they will have gone to the baraza.
- 7 Is there any room for me in the car?
- 8 The elder's chair was empty because he had gone on a journey.

- 1 Awuotho gi tienda nono nikech aonge wuoche.
- 2 Nawinjo dwond mon ma ne twomo pi e soko.
- 3 Tong jalweny nochwowo chong rawera.
- 4 Nadhi e od jathieth, to noonge.
- 5 Ere wach? Onge.
- 6 Isekelona bel modong' koso? Podi: mondo adhi aome? Ooyo, onge wach.
- 7 Nitie jotich moromo? Wakwangi mondo wanwang' nying jogo ma onge.
- 8 Ndaloni lweny onge: ka ne an rawera, ne githoth.

EXERCISE TWELVE (Page 65)

- 1 These are the shoes of the men we saw washing their clothes in the river.
- 2 The cook's fire was too small to cook food.
- 3 The farmer's sons became owners of the land when he died, and quarrelled (among themselves) bitterly.
- 4 The women are busy weeding the gardens until noon. Afterwards we can teach them sewing.
- 5 The fisherman's wife guarded the crops herself so that the hippos might not spoil them.

- 1 Yo ma dhi Ng'iya otimo chuodho ahinya ndalogi, kendo nobed kainano nyaka ndalo koth rum.
- 2 Nopodho e bur muok gotieno, mi tiende notur.
- 3 Nyar Padri nowuoyo gi mon, kochung' e nyim ot.
- 4 Askeche nomako jakuo ka donjo e (i) sito (od keno) gi dirisa moyawore, mi notere e jela.
- 5 Ma mirni liet moloyo mar yien, kendo ok golnga iro.

EXERCISE THIRTEEN (Page 71)

- 1 If he had passed the village I would have seen him.
- 2 Their father took them away from school because he could not pay the fees.
- 3 The man whose house was recently burned down will build another if we agree to help him.
- 4 His evil deeds shamed him.
- 5 His foot aches because he tripped over an ant-hill.
- 6 Each person who consolidates his land will get more crops than he used to (get).
- 7 If you scratch your skin, you will make your sores worse.

- 1 Kabiro limi, abi gi jaoda koso?
- 2 Nenore ni yamo biro miyo yiedhi deki.
- 3 Wiye nowil gi kome, e momiyo koro obet e lowo.
- 4 Ka iya owang', ok anyal paro malong'o.
- 5 Dhako ma nyocha wang'iewogo adita mar olembe, wiye osewil gi omo pesa.
- 6 Ka wuoda okelo pandi, kete e sanduku.
- 7 Kwara pod nyalo paro ndalo ma ne wasigu bironga kwalo dhok.

EXERCISE FOURTEEN (Page 77)

- 1 He did not tell me the reason for which he came.
- 2 We ought to see your brother who fell down and hurt himself.
- 3 They are worried about the taxes they must pay before the end of the month.
- 4 It is necessary for leaders who are old to be asked to retire.
- 5 What makes the girls late for school? They are sweeping.
- 6 The news spread quickly round the country that the cause of the illness was a spell.
- 7 The children were fighting and a cup got broken and the milk spilt.
- 8 If the pipe were blocked, water would not be flowing.

- 1 En kech ma miyo ji mang'eny kuelo (or, Kech e ma . . .)
- 2 Utimo ang'o e puotha? Wabayo abaya.
- 3 Ot noger gi matafari, e inomiyo obiro dak aming'a.
- 4 An ng'at ang'ata, e momiyo ok owinjore okwaya mondo ayal.
- 5 Dheri cha pek moloyo mara.
- 6 Ndigni ariyogi chalore. Mane e mara?
- 7 Kiny unuikre e sa achiel okinyi (or, unuikru).
- 8 Ka dobi kaonge, kwaye mondo orita.

Appendix on Tone in Luo Verbs

In this elementary grammar the tones of words have not been dealt with, and the student must just be warned that there is a number of words whose meanings are only distinguished by tonal differences. The tonal pattern of the verb is however so fundamental to the difference between the aspects that the following brief notes, for which I am indebted to Professor A. N. Tucker, may be of some help.¹

A tonal division runs right through the Luo verb structure, dividing it, not according to tense, but according to aspect. There are two aspects.

The Incomplete Aspect is used for action still taking place, or which is habitual. (In the case of verbs of state, for the inception of that state.) This aspect has basically a high tone structure.

The Complete Aspect is used for action complete at the time of reference. (In the case of verbs of state, for the existence of that state.) This aspect has basically a low tone structure. There is also the further distinguishing factor that the complete aspect has the prefix **o-** (o-) when the subject is a noun. This prefix must not be confused with the **o-** prefix of the third person singular pronoun, which raises the tone of the first syllable of the verb.

¹ There is also the tendency for a gradual drop in tone throughout the sentence, superimposed on the tones as marked.

In the examples below, the following symbols are used:

' High Tone; ` Low Tone; ! Following syllables slightly lowered in tone; High falling tone. Double vowels show lengthening only.

<i>Present Tense</i> <i>Incomplete</i>		<i>Present Tense</i> <i>Complete</i>		<i>Perfect Tense</i>	
á !	bíló kàdò	à	bílò kàdò	à	sê bilò kàdò
í !	bíló kàdò	ì	bílò kàdò	ì	sê bilò kàdò
ó !	bíló kàdò	ò	bílò kàdò	ò	sê bilò kàdò
wá !	bíló kàdò	wá	bílò kàdò	wá	sê bilò kàdò
ú !	bíló kàdò	ú	bílò kàdò	ú	sê bilò kàdò
gí !	bíló kàdò	gí	bílò kàdò	gí	sê bilò kàdò
Ochieng'	bíló kàdò	Ochiéng'	ò bilò kàdò	Ochiéng'	òsè bilò kàdò

The addition of the tense adverbs, *a*, *ne*, etc., tends to raise the tones of the singular pronouns of the complete aspect, but leaves the tones of the verb itself unchanged. The shortened form *né* from *néné* tends to raise the tone of the pronoun slightly more than the *né* from *néndè*.

<i>Incomplete Aspect</i>				
	nâ	á !	bíló kàdò	(néndè)
	náá	!	bíló kàdò	(néné)
Ochieng'	nê	!	bíló kàdò	(néndè)
Ochieng'	né	!	bíló kàdò	(néné)

<i>Complete Aspect</i>				
	ná	à	bílò kàdò	(néndè)
	náá		bílò kàdò	(néné)
Ochieng'	nóò		bílò kàdò	(néndè)
Ochieng'	nóó		bílò kàdò	(néné)

VOCABULARY

Luo-English

A

A, *v.i.* To come from, go from, leave.

-A-, *pron.* I, me.

A, *adv.* Stands before verb to give very recent past.

Abich, *adj.* Five.

Abila, *n.* Hut.

Abiriyo, *adj.* Seven.

Aboro, *adj.* Eight.

Achiel, *adj.* One.

Achien, *adv.* Afterwards.

Achuna, *adv.* Compulsorily, by force. (Also *achune*.)

Adek, *adj.* Three.

Adhola (*-nde*), *n.* Sore, wound.

Adhong' (*-nge*), *n.* Fist.

Adhula, *n.* Ball, hockey.

Adi, *adv.* How many? How much? *Sa adi?* When? At what time?

Adier, *adieri*, *adv.* Truly, truthfully.

Adiera, *n.* Truth.

Adita (*-ni*), *n.* Basket.

Adundo, *n.* Heart (physical).

Agak (*-ege*), *n.* Crow.

Agoko, *n.* Chest.

Agola, *n.* Verandah.

Agulu (*-ni*), *n.* Earthen cooking pot.

Agwata (*-etni*), *n.* Half-calabash, used for ladling and drinking.

Ahinya, *adv.* Very, very much.

Ahonda, *n.* Cough.

Aidha, *n.* Ground squirrel.

Ajwoga (*-ge*, *-ke*), *n.* Witch doctor, wizard.

Akuru (*-che*), *n.* Dove, pigeon.

Alfu, *n.* Thousand.

Alot (*-e*, *-de*), *n.* Vegetables.

Aluru, *n.* Quail.

Aming'a, *adv.* For a long time.
An, *pron.* I, me.
Ang', *adv.* Soon, later the same day.
Ang'o, *pron.* What? °
Ang'wen, *adj.* Four.
Anjawo, *n.* Misbehaviour, excess.
Aora (-re), *n.* River, stream.
Apanda, *adv.* Secretly.
Apar (piero), *adj.* Ten.
Apwoyo (-che), *n.* Rabbit, hare.
Ara, *int.* All right (implying reluctant agreement).
Ariwa, *adv.* Sideways.
Ariyo, *adj.* Two.
Askari (-eche), *n.* Soldier, policeman.
Asoya, *n.* Bribe. (**Chamo asoya**, to take a bribe.)
Ataro, *n.* Ocean, sea, large expanse of water.
Ataro, *adv.* Flat on the back, inside out.
Athung'a, *n.* Cold (infection).
Atudo (-te), *n.* Duck.
Auchiel, *adj.* Six.
Ayany, *n.* Insult, abuse.

B

Bad, *const.* of bat.
Bakul (-nde), *n.* Basin, bowl.
Bam (bembe), *n.* Hip, outer thigh.
Bam, *v.i.* To be twisted, crooked, (hence wicked).
Bando, *n.* Maize, usually still growing.
Bandho, *v.t.* To demand repayment of a debt.
Bang', *prep.* After, behind (of time or position).
Bang' ka, *conj.* Since, after.
Baro, *v.t.* To split (lengthwise). (**Wiya bara**, my head aches.)
Baro, *v.i.* To turn off a road or path.
Barore, *v.i.* To split, burst.
Barua (-pe), *n.* Letter.
Bat (bede), *n.* Arm. (Hence **Bad yath**, branch of tree.)

Bade

Bath, *n. const.* Edge of, side of, part of.
Bao, bawo (-pe), *n.* Plank, timber.
Bayo, *v.i.* To walk, stroll.
Bayo, *v.t.* To throw at. (**Abayo guok gi kidi**, I throw a stone at the dog.)
Bayo, *v.t.* To miss, lose the way.
Bedo, *bet, v.i.* To sit, be.
Bel, *n.* Millet.
Bende, be, *adv.* Also.
Ber, *n.* Goodness, beauty.
Ber, *v.i.* To be good (*pl. beyo*). . .
Bet. See **bedo**.
Beto, *v.t. & i.* To slash.
Bidho wach, *v.i.* To make clear, go straight to the point.
Bidhore, *v.i.* To be upright, straightforward.
Bilo, *v.t.* To taste.
Bilo, *n.* Magical medicine.
Birika, *n.* Kettle, teapot.
Biro, *n.* Coming.
Biro, *v.i. & aux.* To come, to be going to . . . (do something).
Bith, *v.i.* To be sharp. *bitho plural*
Biye, *n.* Termites, 'white ants'.
Biyo, *v.t.* To squeeze out, wring out.
Bolo, *v.t.* To throw, cast (particularly of nets).
Bor, *n.* Length, height, distance.
Bor, *v.i.* To be far, tall, high (*pl. Boyo*).
Bor, *n.* Hard fat, suet.
Bor polo (boche pqlo), *n.* Cloud.
Both, *adv.* Nearly, almost.
Both, *v.i.* To make a mistake. **Nbbothna**, I did it accidentally.
Budho, *n.* Pumpkin, marrow.
Budho, *v.i.* To waste time, delay, pass time.
Bugo (-ni), *n.* Hole.
Buk (-ge), *n.* Exercise book, book.
Bul (-nde), *n.* Drum.
Bulo, *v.t.* To roast (in the ashes).

Bunde, *n.* Gun.
Bungu, *n.* 'Bush', scrubland.
Bur (-che), *n.* Hole (dug).
Bura (-che), *n.* Meeting for some specific purpose, law case, judgement.
Buru, *n.* Ashes, dust.
But, *prep.* Near, at the side of.
Buya, *n.* Weeds.
e Bwo, *prep.* Under, below.
Bwoch, *v.i.* Ox, castrated animal.
Bwogo, *v.t.* To frighten, surprise.
Bwok, *v.i.* To be frightened, surprised.
Bwonjo, *v.i.* To smile.

C

Cha, *adj.* That over there.
Chai, *n.* Tea (the drink).
Chak, *n.* Milk.
Chako, *v.t.* To begin, to begin to.
Chako, *v.t.* To name.
Chako, *v.aux.* To do (something) again. (**Achako atimo**, I do again.)
Chakruok, *n.* Beginning.
Chalo, **chal**, with **kod** or **gi**, *v.t.* To resemble, be like.
Chalore, *v.i.* To be alike.
Cham, *n.* Crops, unprepared food.
Chamo, *v.t.* To eat.
Chande, *adj.* That (of something already referred to).
Chando, *v.t.* To be without, lack.
Chando, *v.t.* To trouble.
Chandore, *v.i.* To be worried, troubled.
Chandruok, *n.* Trouble.
Chango, *v.t.* To heal, cure.
Chano, *v.t.* To arrange in order, plan.
Charo, *v.t.* To despise, mock. **Charo wang'**, to dazzle.
Chayo, *v.t.* To ignore, despise.
Cheno, *n.* Arrangement, plan.

Chi, *const. of dhako*, wife (of). With pronouns, **chieg-**.
Chich kod, *v.t.* To suspect, be doubtful of.
Chido, *v.t. & i.* To be, or make, dirty, or dark.
Chiegni, *v.i.* To be near, close, recent.
Chiego, *v.t.* To close, shut, lock.
Chiek, *v.i.* To be ripe, cooked, ready (of food).
Chiek, *v.i.* To be short.
Chiel, *n.* Hedge, fence.
Chielo, *v.t.* To fence in, enclose.
Chielo, *v.t.* To roast in a dish, dry, but also to fry.
Chiemo, *v.i.* To eat.
Chiemo, *n.* Food, meal.
Chien, *adv.* Behind, backwards.
Chieng', *n.* Day, sun. **Chieng' Mudira**, *n.* Sunday.
Chier, *n.* Resurrection.
Chier, *v.i.* To rise from the dead.
Chiew, *v.i.* To wake up.
Chiewo, *v.t.* To waken, rouse, wake up.
Chik, *n.* Command, order, rule.
Chiko, *v.t.* To order, command.
Chiko, *v.t.* To trap.
Chikore, *v.t.* To jump, leap, face towards. **Chikore tir**, to be straight.
Chilo, *n.* Dirt.
Chir, *n.* Boldness, courage, bravery.
Chiri, *n.* Rainy season.
Chiro (-ni), *n.* Market, market place.
Chiwo, *v.t.* To offer.
Chiwo, *n.* Offering, gift.
Chodo, *v.t.* To snap, break.
Chogo (-ke), *n.* Bone.
Choko, *v.t.* To collect, gather.
Chokore, *v.i.* To gather, meet together.
Chokruok, *n.* Meeting, gathering.
Chon, *adv.* Long ago, early. (**Chon gilala . . .** Once upon a time . . .)
Chong' (-nge), *n.* Knee. **Goyo chong' piny**, to kneel.
Chopo, *v.t. & i.* To arrive at, reach; to cause to arrive, fulfil.

Chot, *v.i.* To break, snap, be broken.
Chudo, *n.* Payment.
Chue, *v.i.* To rain. **Koth ochue**.
Chuer, *v.i.* To drip, leak.
Chueyo, *v.t.* To create, form, make (of baskets, pots, bricks).
Chula (-ni), *n.* Island.
Chulo, *v.t.* To pay.
Chuma, *n.* Iron, metal.
Chumbi, *n.* Salt.
Chung', *v.i.* To stand, stop.
Chungo, *v.t.* To stand, stop.
Chungo, *v.t.* To strain, sieve.
Chuno, *v.t.* To force, urge, strongly.
Chuny, *n.* Liver; hence, heart, spirit, soul.
Chuodho, *n.* Mud.
Chupa (-e, -ni), *n.* Bottle.
Chuth(o), *adv.* Entirely, completely.
Chwado, *v.t.* To thrash, whip, beat with cane.
Chwako, *v.t.* To stoke a fire.
Chwako, *v.t.* To boil, bring to the boil.
Chwalo, *v.t.* To move by pushing, push along.
Chwanyo, *v.t.* To cause to stumble.
Chwanyore, *v.i.* To stumble.
Chwarni, *n.* Bedbug(s).
Chwat, *n.* Beating.
Chwe, *v.i.* To be fat.
Chwero, *v.t.* To drip, leak (something).
Chwiri, *n.* Akt. form of **chiri**. Rainy season.
Chwo, *n.* Married men, husbands. (*Pl. of dichwo*).
Chwowo, *v.t.* To pierce, stab.
Chwoyo, *v.t.* To sow, scatter.

D

Da, *conj.* If.
Dagi, *v.t. & i.* To refuse, deny.
Dago (degni), *n.* Swamp.

Dak, *v.i.* To live, dwell.
Dak (degi), *n.* Large earthen pot used as a store.
Dak, *adv.* Introduces a question. Why don't you . . .
Dakika, *n.* Minute.
Dala (mier), *n.* Home, homestead, 'village'.
Dapi (depige), *n.* Water pot.
Dar, *v.i.* To migrate, move house.
Daraja, *n.* Bridge.
Dayo, *n.* Grandmother. (**Daha**, my grandmother.)
Debe (pe), *n.* Four-gallon tin.
Dek, *n.* The stew eaten with **kuon**.
Deko, *v.t. & i.* To detain, delay, be late.
Del, *n.* Skin, whip. Commonly used for body. **Denda rach**, I'm not feeling well.
Dembore, *v.i.* To be humble.
Dendo, *v.t.* To praise, respect, give honour to.
Denyo, *v.i.* To be hungry, not properly filled.
Dere, *v.r.* To hang oneself.
Dero (-e), *n.* Granary.
Dewo, *v.t.* To care about, attend to.
Deyo, *v.t.* To strangle, choke.
Dhach, *v.i.* To stagger, as of child learning to walk.
Dhahabu, *n.* Gold.
Dhako (mon), *n.* Woman, wife.
Dhano (ji), *n.* Man, mankind, person, corpse.
Dharangach (-ye), *n.* Gate, gateway.
Dhaw, *n.* Quarrel.
Dhaw, *v.i.* To quarrel.
Dher, *const. of dhiang'*. Cow of.
Dhero, *v.i.* To be thin.
Dhi, *v.i.* To go (shortened form of **dhiyo**).
Dhiang' (**dhok**), *n.* Head of cattle.
Dhiego, *v.t.* To wet thoroughly, drench.
Dhiek, *v.i.* To be wet, watery, runny.
Dhier, *v.i.* To be poor.
Dhiero, *v.t.* To be beyond the ability of, to mystify.

Dhil gi, *v.t.* To endure, put up with.
Dhing', *n.* Sieve.
Dhing'o, *v.t.* To filter, sieve.
Dhiro, *v.t.* To push.
Dhiyo, *v.i.* To go.
Dho-, *const. of dhok.* Mouth of, language of, edge of.
Dhodho, *v.t.* To suckle.
Dhoho, *n.* Leprosy.
Dhok, *n.* Mouth, language, edge.
Dhok, *n.* Cattle (*pl. of dhiang'*).
Dho nam, **dhonam**, *n.* Coast, shore.
Dho ot, **dhoot** (**dhoudi**), *n.* Doorway, door.
Dho wath, **dhowath**, *n.* Landing place for boats.
Dhum, *v.i.* To speak in a foreign language.
Di-, *prefix.* Indicating so many times. **Didek**, three times.
Di, *conj.* If.
Dich, *v.i.* To be busy, full up.
Dichiel, *adv.* Once.
Dichol, *adj., fem. only.* Black.
Dichwo (**chwo**), *n.* Husband, married man.
Didi, *adv.* How many times?
Diedo, *v.t.* To balance.
Diel (**dick**), *n.* Goat.
e Dier, *prep.* Among, in the middle of.
Dier ot, **dierot**, *n.* Floor.
Din, *v.i.* To be closed, blocked.
Dini (**-nde**), *n.* Religion, denomination.
Dino, *v.t.* To block up, close up.
Dino, *v.t.* To thresh.
Dinore, *v.r.* To block itself up.
Diny, *v.i.* To be narrow.
Di po ka, **dipo ka**, *conj.* Perhaps.
Dir, *n. const.* Side of, part of.
Dirisa (**-e**), *n.* Window.
Diriyo, *adv.* Twice.
Diro, *v.t.* To throw, hurl.

Diyo, *v.t.* To compress, squeeze.
Doho, *n.* Law Court, tribunal (place, not people). Polygamy.
Dok, *v.i.* To go back to, return to (where you came from).
Doko, *v.t.* To become.
Dolo, *v.t.* To bend.
Dolore, *v.i.* To be bent, bend (oneself).
Dong', *v.i.* To remain, be left over, stay behind.
Donge, *adv.* Introduces question to which the questioner does not know the answer.
Dongo, *v.i.* To grow up, progress, or cause to do so.
Dongo, **dongruok**, *n.* Progress, growing up, advancement.
Donjo, *v.t. & i.* To enter.
Donjo ni, *v.t.* To take to court, accuse before authority.
Doyo, *v.t. & i.* To weed.
Due (often **duwe**), *n.* Moon, month.
Duk, *v.i.* To be naked. (Used with full pronouns, **an duk**, etc.)
Duka (**-e**, **-ni**), *n.* Shop.
Dum, *v.i.* To ascend, jump, take off (as bird or plane); hence smell.
Duogo, *n.* Return.
Duogo, *v.t. & i.* To return, come back (to where you are).
Duong', *n.* Greatness, glory, importance.
Duto, *adj.* All, whole.
Dwanyo wach, *v.i.* To use foul language.
Dwanyore, *v.i.* To misbehave.
Dwaro, *v.t. & i.* To want, look for, hunt for.
Dwaro, *n.* Wish, will.
Dwasi (**-esni**), *n.* Cow.
Dwoko, *v.t.* To return, give back, reply to.
Dwol, *n.* Voice, sound, throat.
Dwong'o, *v.t. & i.* To tap, knock (e.g. a door).

E

E, *prep.* At, in, during, to. Used with other nouns to form prepositions.
E, *v. aux.* Is, it is. (Copula.)
-E, *pron. suffix.* Him, her, it.
-E, *prep. suffix.* Suffixed to verbs in relative clauses denoting position.

Ee, part. Yes.
Ei, prep. In, inside. (More correctly *e i*.)
Eka, conj. And then, thereupon.
Eke, adv. + v.i. Where are . . . ?
Eki, adv. + v.i. Here are . . .
Elo, v.t. To uncover, reveal, open (of book).
Em (-be), n. Thigh.
En, pron. He, she, it.
Ere, adv. + v.i. Where is . . . ?
Eri, adv. + v.i. Here is . . .
Erokamano, n. Thanks, thank you.

F

In some areas **F** and **H** are interchangeable, so that if a word cannot be found under **F**, look under **H**, and vice versa.

Fedha, n. Gold.
Fereji, n. Tap, pipe.
Firimbi, n. Whistle.
Fundi, n. Skilled workman.
Fundo, v.t. To pack, put together (e.g. a suitcase).
Fuoni (-de), n. Joint, limb.
Fuwo, n. Foolishness, folly. (*Const. fup.*)
Fuwo, v.i. To be foolish.
Fwenyo, v.t. To make known, reveal.
Fwolo, v.i. To cough.

G

Gago, v.t. & i. To breakfast, take the first meal of the day.
Gajore, v.i. To be complicated, intricate.
Galo, v.i. To think, be of the opinion, suppose.
Gamo ni, v.t. To pass to, hand to.
Gana, adj., n. Thousand.
Gango wach, v.i. To lie.
Gari (-che), n. Vehicle, train, cart—almost anything with wheels.
Gedo, v.i. To build.

Geng, n. const. Bank (of river).
Geng'o, v.t. To intercept, prevent, stop.
Geno, n. Hope, trust.
Geno, v.t. To trust in, hope for.
Ger, v.i. To be fierce.
Gero, v.t. To build.
Gi, prep. With, and (not joining clauses); also from, against.
-Gi-, pron. prefix and suffix. They, them, their.
-Gi, adj. suffix. These.
Gi (gik), n. Thing.
Gik, v.i. To end, be the last.
Gikeni, n. Inheritance.
Giko, n. End.
Gimoro (gik moko), n. Something. *Gimoro amora, n.* Anything.
Gin, n. pron. They.
Gir, n. const. Thing of.
Giri, n. And the people or things belonging or similar to.
-Go, pron. suffix. Him, her, it. Alt. form of *-e*.
-Go, adj. suffix. Those.
-Go, prep. + pron. With it.
Goch, n. Blow.
Gok (-e), n. Shoulder.
Golo, v.t. & i. To take away, subtract, remove, take out.
Gombo, v.t. & i. To desire, covet.
Gonyo, v.t. To untie, loose.
Gore, v.r. To fight one another. *Gore piny, to fall down.*
Goro, v.t. & i. To draw.
Got (-de), n. Hill, mountain.
Gowi (-pe), n. Debt.
Goyo, v.t. To strike, beat, hit. (Many idiomatic uses.)
Guedho, v.t. & i. To bless.
Gueth, n. Blessing.
Gueyo, v.i. To bark.
Gunia (-de), n. Sack, bag.
Gundho, v.i. To abound, be plentiful.
Guok (-gi), n. Dog.

gogo - net for fish

orimba net for birds/made with sisal

Guondo, *v.i.* To be mean.
Guondo, *n.* Meanness.
Guro, *v.t.* To nail, peg, pin, crucify, pitch (a tent).
Gwaro, *v.t.* To scratch deeply.
Gwelo, *v.t.* To beckon.
Gweng' (-ge), *n.* Smallish area inhabited by one family group.
Gweno (guen), *n.* Chicken.
Gweyo, *v.t.* To kick.
Gwonyo, *v.t.* To scratch (an itch). **Gwonyore**, to scratch oneself.

H

Hango, *v.t.* To slander.
Hawi, *n.* Luck. (*const. hap.*).
Hema (-be), *n.* Tent.
Hera, *n.* Love.
Hero, *v.t.* To love.
Hewo, *v.t.* To surpass, be too heavy for.
Higa (-ni), *n.* Year.
Hik, *const. n.* Age of.
Hingo, *v.t.* To surpass, be too heavy for.
Hinyo, *v.t.* To harm, cause pain.
Hinyo, *v. aux.* Usually to . . . followed by the infinitive.
Hoho (-ni), *n.* Valley.
Holo, *v.t.* To borrow (when followed by the thing borrowed). **Aholo ndiga**. To lend (when followed by the person to whom lent). **Aholo Auma ndiga**.
Hombo, *v.t.* To ask of, beseech, implore.
Hono (-ni), *n.* Wonder, miracle.
Hono, *v.t.* To hawk, vend.
Hore, *v.i.* To be patient.
Hoyo, *v.t.* To comfort, console, persuade.
Hulo, *v.t.* To confess, declare, tell, report, proclaim.
Huma, *n.* Fame, rumour.
Huyo, *v.i.* To fly.

I

If a word cannot be found under **I**, look under **Y**, and vice versa.
-I-, *pron. prefix & suffix.* You. (*sing.*)
I, *n. const.* Inside of.
I, *v.i.* To wrestle.
Ich (iye), *n.* Stomach, womb, interior. (*Const. i.*)
Idho, *v.t. & i.* To go up, ascend, climb, get into (bus, train, etc.)
Iko, *v.t.* To prepare, make ready.
Iko, *v.t.* To bury.
Ikore, *v.i.* To be ready, prepared.
Il, *v.i.* To be overjoyed, rejoice.
Ilo, *n.* Great happiness, rejoicing.
Ilo, *v.t.* To itch, cause to itch. **Oila**, I itch. (*Lit.*, It causes me to itch.)
Im (-be), *n.* Ram.
Imbo, *n.* West. Name of most westerly location.
In, *pron.* You. (*sing.*)
Ip, *n.* Tail.
Ir, *prep.* To, towards (of people only). Takes personal pronouns as suffix.
Iro, *n.* Smoke. (*Const. ich.*)
It, *n.* Ear.

J

Ja- (jo-). Prefix denoting agent.
Jabura, *n.* Councillor.
Jachan, *n.* Poor man.
Jachien (-de), *n.* Devil, evil spirit.
Jacholo, *n.* Midwife.
Jadoho, *n.* Polygamist.
Jadolo, *n.* Priest, one who makes sacrifices.
Jaduong' (jodongo), *n.* Elder, important person.
Jafwamb wach, *n.* Reporter.
Jajwok (-gi), *n.* Wizard.
Jakanyo, *n.* Member.
Jakinda, *n.* Hard-working, persistent man.

Jakom, *n.* Chairman.
Jakuo, *n.* Thief.
Jakwath, *n.* Herdsman, shepherd.
Jalang'o, *n.* Member of Kipsigis or Nandi tribes.
Jali (jogi), *n.* This man. (Cf. **jogi**, your people.)
Jalo (jogo), *n.* That man.
Jaloko, *n.* Interpreter.
Jamni, *n.* Cattle, domestic animals in general.
Jamwa, *n.* Non-Luo, member of another tribe.
Janek, *n.* Murderer.
Janeko, *n.* Madman.
Janeno, *n.* Witness.
Jaote, *n.* Messenger, apostle.
Japidi, *n.* Nurse, one who looks after children.
Japuonj, *n.* Teacher.
Japuonjre, *n.* Student, learner, disciple.
Japur, *n.* Farmer, cultivator.
Jarit, *n.* Guard.
Jatedo, *n.* Cook.
Jatelo, *n.* Guide, leader.
Jatheth, *n.* Blacksmith.
Jatich, *n.* Workman.
Jawar, *n.* Saviour, redeemer.
Jela, *n.* Jail, prison.
Ji, *n.* Men. (*Pl. of ng'ato, dhano.*)
Jier, *v.i.* To belch.
Jikon, *n.* Kitchen.
Jimbo, *v.t.* To exaggerate, make worse, enlarge.
Jip, *n.* Encouragement.
Jir, *v.i.* To sneeze.
Jiwo, *v.t.* To encourage.
Jo, *const. n.* People of. Often used as prefix to denote agent.
Jogi, *n.* These people.
Jogi, *n.* Your people.
Jok gi, *v.i.* To be tired of, fed up with.
Jony, *v.i.* To be stiff, tired.

Juma (-be), *n.* Week. **Juma pili**, Sunday.
Jwang'o, *v.t.* To neglect.

K

Ka, *n. & adv.* Here.
Ka (kuonde), *n.* Place.
Ka, *conj.* If, as, when, that, whether.
Kaachiel, *adv.* Together.
Kacha, *adv.* Over there.
Kado, *n.* Soup, gravy, salt.
Kadho, *v.t. & i.* To pass, pass by, overtake.
Kahawa, *n.* Coffee.
Kaka, *adv.* As, how, like.
Kalam(a) (-embe), *n.* Pen, pencil.
Kalatas (-ese), *n.* Paper, page.
Kalo, *v.t.* To cross (a river or road).
Ka ma, *adv.* Where.
Kama, *adv.* Thus, like this.
Kamano, *adv.* Like that. In reply to a question signifies agreement.
Kamoro, *adv.* Perhaps, some time, somewhere else.
Kano, *v.t.* To save, store.
Kanye, *adv.* Where?
Kanyna (kenje), *n.* Donkey.
Kanyo, *n.* There.
Kar, *const. n.* Place of, place for. **Kar keno**, store.
Kar, *prep.* Instead of.
Karan (-ende), *n.* Clerk.
Karang'o, *adv.* When?
Kare, *adv.* Correctly, justly.
Kare, *v.i.* To be correct, right, just, righteous.
Kata, *conj. & adv.* Either, neither, although, even, or.
Kawo, *v.t.* To take, receive.
Kawuono, *adv.* Today, now.
Kayiem, *adv.* In vain.
Kayo, *v.t.* To bite.
Kayo, *v.t.* To harvest.

kuonde keno etc

but it is by itself

josony har e keragi

Ke, *v.i.* To be scattered, dispersed.
Kech, *n.* Hunger, famine. **Kech kaya**, I am hungry.
Kech, *n.* Mercy, pity.
ni Kech, *conj.* Because.
Kede (-te), *n.* Short twig (green).
Kedo, *v.i.* To fight.
Kelo, *v.t.* To bring.
Kend, *n.* Wedding, marriage.
Kende, *adv.* Alone, only. Suffixes pronouns: **kenda**, I alone.
Kendo, *conj.* And.
Kendo, *adv.* Again.
Kendo, *v.t. & i.* To marry. (Man as subject, woman as object.)
Kendo, *n.* Fireplace; hence stove, oven.
Keno, *v.i.* To store, save.
Ketho, *v.t. & i.* To spoil, destroy, waste, make a mistake, sin.
Kethore, *v.i.* To be spoiled.
Keto, *v.t.* To place, put.
Keyo, *v.i.* To harvest.
Keyo, *v.t.* To scatter.
Kiawa, *n.* Doubt. **Riwo gi kiawa**, To doubt.
Kibirit, *n.* Match.
Kich (-ye), *n.* Orphan (either parent dead).
Kich, *n.* Bee.
Kidi (-te), *n.* Pebble, small stone.
Kido, *n.* Custom, appearance, shape, colour.
Kier, *v.i.* To slide, slip, skid.
Kiew (-pe), *n.* Boundary.
Kiewo, *v.t.* To border on.
Kijiko (-e), *n.* Spoon.
Kifungu, *n.* Key.
Kihondko, *n.* Worry.
Kik, *adv.* Not. Used to negative imperative and subjunctive.
Kiko, *v.t.* To mingle, mix; of powders, grains, not liquids.
Kikombe, *n.* Cup.
e Kind, *prep.* Between, among.
Kinda, *n.* Persistence, zeal.

Kinde, *n.* Opportunity, occasion, permission, time.
Kiny, *n. & adv.* Tomorrow, the morrow, the day after.
Kiny, *v.i.* To be quarrelsome, pugnacious, bad tempered.
Kirni, *v.i.* To shiver, tremble, chatter (of teeth).
Kiro, *v.t. & i.* To scatter, sprinkle, sow, broadcast.
Kirowo (-pe), *n.* Bag.
Kitabu (-pe), *n.* Book.
Kitamba, *n.* Handkerchief, headcloth.
Kitanda (-endni), *n.* Bed.
Kitundu, *n.* Corpse.
Kitungu, *n.* Onion.
Kiya, *n.* Ignorance.
Kiya, *v.t. & i.* Not to know, be ignorant of.
Ko, *v.i.* To tell, say, ask.
Kocha, *adv.* On that side, over there.
Kod, *prep.* With, and, from, against. Often with pronoun suffixes.
Kodhi, *n.* Seed.
Kofia, *n.* Hat.
Kogno (-ke), *n.* Fingernail, toenail.
Koguen, *n.* Cockcrow, dawn.
Kok, *v.i.* To make a noise, shout.
Koko, *n.* Noise, disturbance.
Kom (-be), *n.* Stool, chair.
Komo, *v.t.* To plant by dibbing. **Komo**, *v.i.*
Kondo, *n.* Head-dress; hence hat.
Kong'o, *n.* Beer.
Koni, *adv.* On this side. **Koni gi kori**, on both sides.
Konyo, *v.t.* To help, rescue, save.
Konyore gi, *v.t.* To use.
Konyruok, *n.* Help, assistance.
Kor, *n.* Chest.
Kor, *n. const.* The side of, wall of. **Kor ka**, concerning.
Kor (-che), *n.* Game path, animal track.
Koro, *adv.* And now, then.
Koro wach, *v.i.* To foretell, prophesy.

Koso, *adv.* Or, in questions. Stands at end of many questions, untranslatable.

Koth, *n.* Rain.

Kowo, *v.t.* To escort from one's home a short way, give a lift to, to take or send with a messenger.

Koyo, *n.* Cold.

Ku, *n.* & *adv.* There, here, place.

Kucha, *adv.* Over there.

Kudho, *n.* Thorn.

Kudho, *v.t.* To blow up, pump up, blow on.

Kue (often **kuwe**), *n.* Peace.

Kuelo, *v.i.* To steal.

Kuero, *n.* Taboo.

Kueyo, *v.t.* To cool (**Kue**, *v.i.*)

Kul (-**nde**), *n.* Kraal, cattle boma.

Kulo, *v.t.* To bow, bend down. **Dhiyo kulo**, To fetch water.

Kulore, *v.i.* To be bent, to bow, bend down.

Kumo, *v.t.* To punish.

Kunchiel, *n.* Half, part.

Kunyo, *v.t.* & *i.* To dig a hole; hence to bury.

Kuo, *n.* Theft.

Kuodho, *v.t.* To backbite, talk about behind one's back.

Kuok, *v.i.* To go bad (of meat). To be ripe (of fruit).

Kuom, *prep.* On account of, for, through, from (wide range of uses).

Kuon, *n.* Cooked maize meal.

Kuonde, *n.* Places.

Kuong'o, *v.t.* To curse.

Kuong'ore, *v.i.* To take an oath, vow. (Originally followed by ordeal.)

Kuor, *n.* Revenge. **Chulo kuor kuom** . . . To take revenge on . . .

Chulo kuor ni . . . To avenge, take revenge for . . .

Kuot, *v.i.* To be swollen, swell. **Wich kuot**, shame. **Wiye okuot**, he is ashamed.

Kuoyo, *n.* Sand; hence sugar.

Kure, *adv.* Where?

Kuyo, *n.* Sorrow.

Kwach (-**ye**), *n.* Leopard.

Kwalo, *v.i.* To steal.

Kwan, *n.* Count, number, total.

Kwang', *v.i.* To swim, float.

Kwano, *v.t.* To count, regard as.

Kwanyo, *v.t.* To pick up, elect, select.

Kwaro (-**ere**), *n.* Ancestor.

Kwayo, *v.t.* To ask for, request.

Kwayo, *v.t.* To herd.

Kwer (**kwe**, **kue**), *n.* Hoe.

Kwero, *v.t.* To forbid. (Followed by negated verb in clause.)

Kwesi (-**ni**), *n.* Pipe (for smoking).

Kwiny, *v.i.* To be quarrelsome, bad tempered.

Kwiri, *n.* Poison, venom.

Kwo, *v.i.* To be healed, saved.

Kwongo, *v. aux.* To do something first.

Kwongo ni, *v.t.* To precede, go before.

Kwoyo, *v.t.* To heal.

Kwoyo, *v.t.* To sew.

ne gikwengo gidhi (cheer)

L

Lach, *n.* Width, breadth.

Lach, *n.* Urine.

Lak (-**e**, -**eke**), *n.* Tooth, edge, thread (of bolt, etc.)

Lal, *v.i.* To be lost.

Lalore, *v.i.* To have fellowship.

Lalruok, *n.* Fellowship.

Lamo, *v.t.* To pray to, worship. **Lamo ni**, pray for.

Lando, *v.t.* To spread news, publish.

Laro, *v.t.* To dispute ownership of.

Laro, **laru**, *n.* Courtyard, compound.

Law (**lewni**), *n.* Cloth, clothes, dress. (*irr. const.*, **law**, **law-**).

Lawo, *v.t.* To pursue, chase.

Layo, *v.i.* To urinate, pass water.

Le, *n.* Wild animals that are hunted for food, game.

Le (-dhi), n. Axe.
Lek (-ge), n. Grazing land, pasture.
Lek, n. Dream.
Leko, v.t. To dream. (Followed by lek as object.)
Lela wang', n. Forehead.
Lem (-be), n. Cheek.
Lemo, v.i. To pray.
Lemo, n. Prayer, service.
Leny, v.i. To melt.
Lenyo, v.t. To melt.
Ler (-che), n. Vein, artery, tendon.
Ler, n. Light, cleanliness, holiness.
Ler, v.i. To be clean, light, holy.
Lep, n. Tongue. (*Const. lew.*)
Lewo, v.i. To be late.
Liech (liech), n. Elephant.
Liedo, v.i. To shave, cut off the hair.
Liel (-te), n. Ant-hill, grave.
Lielo, v.t. To shave, cut the hair of. **Lielo wich, to shave the head.**
Liero, v.t. & i. To hang.
Liet, n. Heat, warmth.
Liet, v.i. To be hot.
Lihudu, n. Rainbow.
Lil, v.i. To be dirty, dark.
Limbe, n. Visit.
Limo, v.t. To visit, call on.
Ling', v.i. To be quiet, silent.
Ling'ling', adv. Secretly.
Ling'o, v.t. To dip into a liquid.
Lit, v.i. To be painful.
Lith lwedo, n. Finger.
Liyo, v.i. To whistle.
Loch, n. Victory, rule.
Logo, v.i. To wash one's hands.
Lok (-ge), n. Handle (of axe, hoe).
Loka, adv. & prep. Across there, the other side of, across (river, valley).

Lokó, v.t. To change, alter, turn over, sell.
Loko chuny, v.i. To repent.
Loko paro, v.i. To change one's mind.
Loko wach, v.i. To interpret, translate.
Lokore, v.i. To repent, change.
Long'o ni, v.t. To please, be clear to, satisfy.
Lony, n. Skill.
Lony, v.i. To be skilful, expert.
Lonyo, v.t. To take off, remove (clothes).
Lor, v.i. To descend, come down, alight (from train, bus).
Lor, v.i. To be shut.
Loro, v.t. To shut, close.
Loso, v.t. To arrange, mend, repair.
Loso, v.i. To talk, converse.
Lowo (-pe), n. Soil, land.
Loyo, v.t. To defeat, surpass.
Lum, n. Grass.
Lung'ore, v.i. To bow.
Luongo, v.t. To call, invite, name.
Luor, n. Honour, respect.
Luor, v.i. To be afraid.
Luoro, n. Fear.
Luoro, v.t. To fear, honour.
Lupo, v.i. To fish.
Luth (-dhe), n. Stick, rod, staff.
Luto, v.t. To dip into water; immerse.
Luwo, v.t. To fish.
Luwo, v.t. To follow.
Luya, n. Sweat.
Lwanda (endni), n. Large rock, boulder.
Lwang'ni, n. Flies.
Lwar, v.i. To drop, fall.
Lwaro, v.t. To drop, let fall.
Lwedo (-te), n. Hand.
Lweny (-je), n. War, battle, fight.
Lwoch, n. Overcast conditions. **Otimo Lwoch, It is overcast.**