

MARIE LUSTED

Introduction

The Anywa (self-name anwa) are a Nilotic tribe living in western Ethiopia along the Baro, Alworo, and Gilo Rivers, and in the Sudan on the Akobo and Pibor Rivers. They are agricultural people, living on maize and grain sorghum, which they raise on small farms tilled by hand. Protein is supplied by fish, domestic animals, and wild game. They are a generally peaceful people, and outwardly happy and open, though they are conservative toward change, and their lives are regulated by the customs of their ancestors and the fear of spirits. They have been much oppressed by the neighboring tribes throughout the years; which has no doubt increased their own solidarity, and their name anwa from nwak 'to share', reflects their practice of sharing food and all their belongings with the other members of the group.

The Anywa language is part of the Shilluk cluster, but, as Westermann has observed, it is not as closely related to Shilluk as to Acholi, which is spoken in Uganda (Westermann 1912:142). Another very closely-related language is that of the Luo of Kenya. (Also see Greenberg 1963a:85, where Shilluk, Anywa, Acholi, Lango, Alur, Luo, Jur, Bor are listed as sub-group 2 of western Nilotic.) There are estimated to be about 56,000 speakers of Anywa in Ethiopia (Bender 1971:217). The Nuer, speakers of a less closely related Nilotic language, are the other Ethiopian Nilotes (see Bender 1975c).

Earlier estimates of Anywa totals include 40,000 (Lyth p.c. in Tucker and Bryan 1956:100) and 45,000 (Evans-Pritchard 1947). There are four main dialect areas: adongo, ciro, lul, and opëno. The variations in vocabulary, grammatical usage, and pronunciation are slight, and while there are certain words that are peculiar to one area, there is usually some synonymous term known to all, so that there is little difficulty in understanding a speaker from a different area. The most striking pronunciation difference is found in the sound j, which in Ciro is very soft, sounding in many cases like y. I have heard it said that the Adongo dialect is considered to be the "good Anywa".

Following is a list of the names the Anywa call some of the neighboring tribes and are called by them:

Anywa calls ---	Tribe	--- calls Anywa
<u>nwâr</u>	Nuer	<u>bâr</u>
<u>ojän</u>	Majang	<u>burjën</u>
<u>gäåla</u>	Oromo	<u>yambo</u>
<u>amaåara</u>	Amhara	<u>yambo</u>
<u>kwomo</u>	Komo	?
<u>ajïba</u>	Murle	<u>mïroy</u>

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<u>ajwīl</u>	Dinka	<u>bār</u>
<u>colla</u>	Shilluk	<u>apwaagi</u>
<u>dōwok</u>	Tirma	?
<u>länno</u>	Lango	<u>moojanna?</u>

There has been very little written about the Anywa language until recent years; in fact, Westermann's article of 1912 seems to be the only published material until 1959. The information in this article is for the most part accurate, though one would suspect that some of the differences between his data and that collected in Ethiopia are due to the fact that he was studying Anywa from the viewpoint of Shilluk, and many are undoubtedly due to the dialectical differences and time span.

Of the more recent writings, I am most familiar with the works of Hoekstra and Keefer, who lived among the Anywa people for a number of years. Hoekstra's "Manual for Learning Anuak", a series of 20 very elementary lessons, helps to assist a student in learning conversational Anywa. A. Keefer's "The Anuak Verb" shows how verbs are divided into classes and subclasses on the basis of tone. It is the first real study of tone that has been made in Anywa. J. Keefer's dictionary comprises about 1500 words, with references to show where each word occurs in the New Testament, which has been published in the Anywa language in an adapted Ethiopian script. The article on "Anyuak" by Keefer et al (1976) is a short study of the phonology, grammar, and syntax of the language. There are also unpublished vocabularies by E. C. Tunnicliffe and Ray Huffman, and ms. notes on Anywa grammar by Evans-Pritchard.

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