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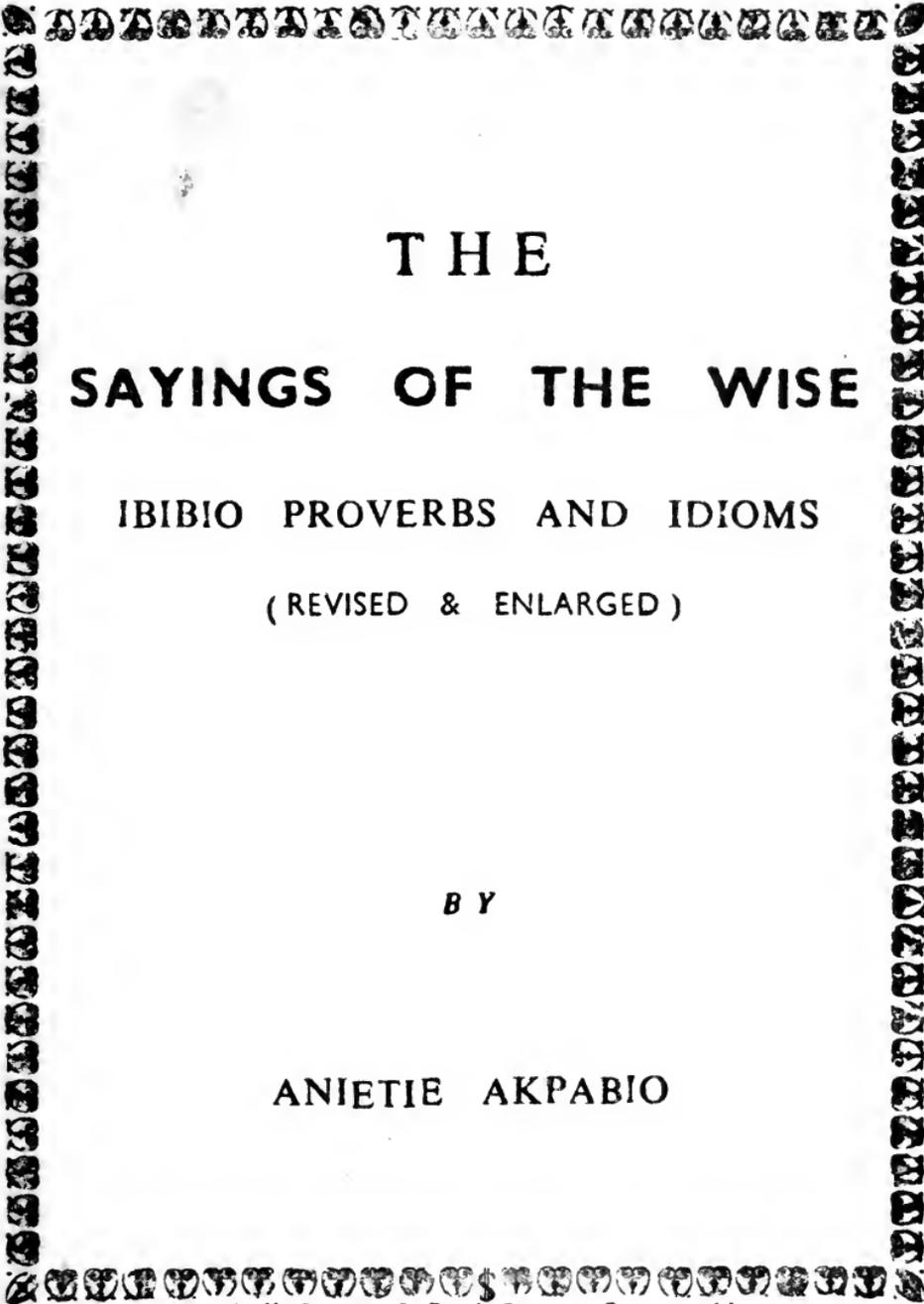
THE
INGS OF THE WISE
IO PROVERBS AND IDIOMS
(REVISED & ENLARGED)

BY

ANIETIE AKPABIO


Marshall Press, 8 Paul Bassey Street, Uyo





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Second Edition.

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CHAPTER ONE

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVERBS

Ibibio proverbs express truths about life and they are based on experience and wisdom. They embody advice, warning, reproach, fate and rules of conduct towards elders, strangers and relations.

Some Ibibio proverbs express philosophical thoughts. The saying ayara adia Abasi abat isua is a clear recognition of God as the Supreme Being and the controller of man's fate. The Ibibios believe that the spirit of man does not die. The saying Ekpo akpa enyin ikpaha uton is based on this fact.

People often employ proverbs to give force and dignity to their statements. They help people to convey their ideas briefly and vividly. Take for example the following proverbs: *Eyen ntiat ese ana nte eka ana*; *Idion ese ebre nto ntie*; *Ka nte abak oyoho ikpan*; *Aka iso enye omomo enyin idim*; *Mmon ama ekpene ke aban ana odongo mbuk*. These expressions have more force and convey our thoughts more sublimely than ordinary plain statements.

Understanding proverbs can be a guide to one's daily behaviour. A proverb could be a source of hope and encouragement to the despairing. When you are faced with a decision to make, or a problem, a moment of thought may remind you of a proverb which can lead you to the right decision.

The following chapters contain some of the current Ibibio proverbs and other idiomatic expressions. Some of them are beautiful. Some contain awkward expressions, and are difficult to interpret. Now take a proverb then think of a suitable situation in which it can be applied.

CHAPTER TWO

CURRENT IBIBIO PROVERBS AND MAXIMS

Ayara adia, Abasi abat isua

Meaning: God reckons the days of evil-doers. The word AYARA here means a strong or clever man and is used in a derogatory sense to describe a rogue or a wicked man. The philosophical implication here is the recognition of God as the supreme judge who can bring any evil doer to Justice and has control over man's destiny.

Adia nkpo ino edi ino

Meaning: He is a thief who receives stolen goods.

Asaga enyle owo enye ofo

Meaning: It is good to have friends where ever one goes.

Afo osukho, afo osukho idem mmog

Meaning: You have no helper.

Atimme etituzk isog ana eketot Abasi

Meaning: Before we do something we should first of all inform our parents or our masters. The implication is that before ATIMME strikes the ground it must first of all go up. The going up of ATIMME is taken to mean literally informing God. Again the

philosophical implication here is the belief that God (Abasi) is the supreme being, our master.

Aṅwana aṅwan edi iba, omum osop ita

Meaning: When two persons are fighting or quarrelling a mediator is necessary to settle the matter. It is an appeal to two quarrelling persons to accept the decision of the mediator

Akpan owo utok, enye akpan mkpa

Meaning: Literally it means a person who prevents another from quarrelling has saved him from death. It emphasizes the fact that a mediator is very important in feuds or disputes.

Asabo adiaha ṅkpọ ọdọṅ ke idip ibom

Meaning: My good is your good. Any privilege or benefit you receive is counted for your family too. The cobra is believed to be offspring the python and so what the python has is also for the benefit of the cobra. In African social life, everybody is his brother's keeper.

Ataha ubom ke esuk owo enyene

Meaning: Idiok owo enyene andinyene. Ataha ubom may refer to a worthless person or thing.

Ama okop tap aya ɔnuhɔ

Meaning: You will regret for your obstinacy. This is often directed to someone who has been warned not to do a certain thing.

Abasi ekit Itit emiag ke enyɔɔ

Meaning: Only God can judge the situation.

Ama ŋkɔɔ ɔbɔk abak

Meaning: If you want something you must toil for it.

Anana ŋkpɔ ese obo ke eyen eka idoho esen

Meaning: It is a poor man who says his brother is not a guest. A guest is usually treated as an important person in Ibibio and is usually received with much reverence—that is—he would be given good and accommodation. A poor man is likely to neglect his brother when he visits him and may not treat him as a guest because of his poverty. That one does not treat one's brother as an important guest may be a sign of poverty.

Asaga Isag ibukhɔ mbuk, inɔ ibukhɔ ntiim

Meaning: No one can recount all his troubles.

Akpan aka utɔk, Udo aka mbono

Meaning: To betray a person, to behave cowardly.

Aman ke udua ete fut ukot

Meaning: It is an open secret.

EXERCISE ONE

1 What is the meaning of the following proverbs?

(a) Adia nkpo ufok owo ada owo mbuk

(b) Ama nkoro obok abak

(c) Etok ebot ckpon aka inie ikpa

(d) Akpan isinaha mbot ufok eka ke idem idin, mme ibiakka eka Akpan, abiak Akpan

2 Akpasana isan eyen idiaha se mbon ufok edia
Who is "akpasana isan" Give the full meaning of this maxim.

3 Complete the following sentences using suitable words or phrases

(a) Atimme etituak ison _____ eketot _____

(b) Akpan aka utok, Udo aka _____

(c) Aman ke udua _____ ukot _____

4 Ayara adia Abasi abat isua

What does "ayara" mean here. Construct a sentence using the above proverb to show its meaning.

Ekpo akpa enyin ikpaha uton

Meaning: Ekpo is blind but is not deaf. Here ekpo refers to a dead person. It means the spirits of our dead ones still alive and with us. If you are making a statement, to emphasize that you are speaking the truth because the dead (understands) hears you, you can use the maxim. A dead person's ears are always open while the eyes are always close

Ekpo use enyin okok afia

Meaning: When ekpo (spirit) is watching and you are still making trap. You are being foolhardy. Ekpo here refers to one's conscience. It means your conscience is blaming you.

Eto otu nnan, otu inan

Meaning: The accident claimed all lives. A falling tree is likely to hit, a blind or a deaf man. A blind man cannot see. A deaf man can't hear. They can't run away at the instance of a falling tree.

Etok inuen asat ama ete atara adan

Meaning: A small bird though pinning away, says it is enjoying good health. To have a false or exaggerated notion about one's self or importance. It is a sort of mockery. Another such saying is: Idoho mfat, ete ido mbon.

Se nte enye ɔɔde inua, idoho mfat ete
ido mbɔŋ.

Ebemiso idim ekit enyin idim

Meaning: The first person to reach the stream in the morning is the one who sees the beauty of the stream.

Eyen ete itiehe nte eyen eka

Meaning: Half brother is not like the real brother. Half brother is not as important as one's real brother. Our love for our relations is shared proportionally according to the connection. The love we have for our real brothers is stronger than that of our half brothers.

Eyene adiaha eka itie eyop, ɔkɔt ndubodo iba

Meaning: One who has a sister in "itie eyop" is sure to take two rolls while others take one each. It means one is sure to enjoy favour when one's close relation is around. In other words "Blood is thicker than water".

Edim usen keet Idukhɔ Isɔŋ

Meaning: One day's rain cannot get deep into the soil. Metaphorically the maxim means that perseverance is the key to success.

Eyene ŋkpɔ omum nnun keet

Meaning: Literally the maxim means: He who owns a thing hold it with one hand. When two people are claiming something, the one

who has less claims to it would be more arrogant and fussy whereas the other person who is the rightful owner would be more calm and confident.

Enyene ufok ama aworo inyon odog ubok ke aban

Meaning: When the head of the house is away Inyon goes to the waterpot to drink (inyon is a person afflicted with ulcers). When the master is away the servants indulge in forbidden acts. In other words, when the cat is away the mice would play.

Eto otu owo utog, otu ifok

Meaning: Literally it means: When a tree hits somebody's ears, it makes the person to gain knowledge. Experience is the best teacher.

Ebob ufok ekeene mboi

Meaning: We build our houses according to the type of poles we have. Cut your coat according to your size.

Example: Ku unam se udukemeke, bob ufok mfo keene mboi.

Ewa ese kpep ewa isoro

Meaning: It is the dog that teaches another how to squat. Habits are formed largely through imitation.

Etok eyen eyem eyot Abasi ɔnɔ nnam

Meaning: The literal translation is: If a child likes crying Abasi gives him yaws. "Nnam" is a serious form of "mfat" just as small pox is more serious than chicken pox.

The saying means that a stubborn or disobedient child who indulges in evil would be punished with greater evil. It is a sort of rebuke. Another similar saying is: Etok eyen eyem mfat Abasi ɔnɔ nnam.

Eka keet ibkɔ uwene

Meaning: The literal meaning is: One mother alone does not feed a poor man. Wealth is not the monopoly of one family.

Enyene ufɔk ese odomo mboi

Meaning: A man has right to run his own home in the way he likes. He would not tolerate any dictation from outside.

Enyene ufɔk akama nnana, esen akama unyɔɔ

Meaning: The host is often anxious to see that a visitor stay for a long time but the guest may be unwilling to do so. In other words the host cannot impose anything on the guest against his wish.

Ediduɔɔɔ inuɔ ke nsia ebɔɔ

Meaning: To salt the porcupine's intestine when it is already salty. That is to waste something or to waste one's efforts.

Edue ukot akpa ita

Meaning: It is risky not to obey the laws of the society.

Eta ekpat eka eyen, ete eyen bap enyin

Meaning: You cannot afford to remain indifferent when evil is being discussed against your relation.

Ebak ata, ata ataha

Meaning: You are being warned but you don't pay heed to the warning.

Eta eno eyen unen, eta eno ndukpo

Meaning: We should warn or blame on both sides. That is: We should not be impartial in our judgement. We should warn both parties.

Edukek eyop enyene etok isip

Meaning: That is something that will waste a lot of time.

Ekpo ufak akaba owo

Meaning: Trouble often begins at home. Jealousy often emanates from some one very close to a person.

Eyem anwan, aka Annan

Meaning: A brave man who wants to fight should go to Annang. Annangs were reputed to be fierce fighters in the pre-colonial days.

Ekikọ unen imaha usọrọ ekpo enye ọkpọk ide

Meaning: One should not rejoice until one has successfully overcome one's problems or danger.

Eto keet isikabake akai

Meaning: A tree cannot make a forest.

Ebot otu ata ebre otu

Meaning: It is an internal trouble, an internal affair.

Enyọn ọsọn akan ebak, ọdọk

Meaning: To swallow more than one can chew.

Edem idoho idem

Meaning: To be ignorant of what is going on behind one's back. Being taken unawares

Eyot ọdọk ke esa aba, aba idibọke.

Meaning: We are not always aware of the evil that is planned against us.

Eke ebaña ke esaha

Meaning: It is the unlucky person that suffers. In other words he is the scape goat.

Enyin ekpere ọkpọ iwuo

Meaning: If not for our relationship I would have treated you badly.

Ekọn isimaha udim

Meaning: We shall not all perish. Literally it means war cannot annihilate a whole/column.

Ebaga idem, idem asaga ke usug

Meaning: If we are thinking about a particular person whom we have not seen or discussing something about him and suddenly the very person appears at that moment then we use the maxim. It means the very person we are discussing about may be on the way coming to us.

Etogo ke idap ekpep mkpa

Meaning: From sleep to death. He who is fond of telling lies may steal. From little things we can commit big offences.

Enag idigoke ufn isim tutu ema ekpikhe efep

Meaning: Often we neglect small things and only when we lose them do we come to realise their usefulness.

Esit mman isogke mman

Meaning: Our love for our relations is natural.

Eka ekpu anyai mmig, eka ekpu okop utebe

Meaning: He is suffering from guilty conscience

Etok ebok osop Inua Ikim enye ata itut

Meaning: Anxiety causes trouble. He who rushes on things often get into trouble

Eyen ikopke item Ino eka enye osusk idem

Meaning: A child who does not heed his or her mother's advice is lost.

Ọsọ ọwọ ekin ọfọ

Meaning: It is the old who instructs the young.

Eyop ọtọ ọ ke etok edi eduek

Meaning: A good palm tree starts from tender age to show a sign of goodness. A person starts from his youth to show good character. Most of our habits are formed when we are young. We can caution someone or praise him by drawing his attention to this maxim.

Example; Kpeme idem fo eyen mmi koro eyop ọtọ ọ ke etok odo eduek.

Ebit eduek eyop edu ọ akwa

Meaning: To spend a great deal of time on one thing or on one good subject. Eduk means good palm fruits. Akwa means a wooden container. Edu ọ akwa means literally to stay in the container. That is to spend much time while preparing (eduek eyop). In other words to spend too much time on one item.

This saying is common in a meeting where so many items are discussed. If someone fears that too much time is wasted on one item he might warn: ọfọ nnyin itre do mbak iku ubit eduek eyop idu ọ akwa.

Esana ke edem eyen etuk eka eba

Meaning: Literally it means: Having access to a woman's breasts through the baby she

is holding. One can intentionally touch a woman's breasts while playing with the child she holds. Generally it means; to have access to something through another person or to win favour indirectly.

Enyene ufak ese odomo mbol ufak esie

Meaning: You have the right to manage your affairs as you like.

Enyene esit enyene ekikere

Meaning: It is your own responsibility. Your feelings come from your heart. You have the right to decide as you like.

Ese eda ubak ukpobbo nsun, ekpobbo okwak

Meaning: Literally it means that it is the very hand that we use in catching a fly that we will use in catching a bee. In other words we should check our behaviour else we shall fall into a big trouble. A similar maxim is: Inua usak imam ke ese eda etua eyot.

Edim akpan inwan, ikpanke udua

Meaning: Rain may prevent people from working on the farm but not from going to the market. This maxim stems from the fact that markets unlike farm are usually held once a week and so people cannot afford to stay for a whole week without going to the market. Another idea is that there are shelters at the market places.

Etuene ekwan uweme

Meaning: A late comer, A late starter.

Ekut mfon emek ukut

Meaning: No one neglects a thing that he judges to be good.

Eda nkpọ akpa-ọfọ, edioọ akpa-ọfọ

Meaning: You are rewarded by your own effort that is — according to what you present.
Kindness begets kindness.

Ekit owo mkpa ke enyin esakka mmọ eyot

Meaning: One who is at the scene of event will understand more the situation, and will be more sympathetic.

Ku use nte uruk - ikot ọnyọọ aka ubara ikọ ukeene

Meaning: Do not be drastic towards someone because of his behaviour.
Do not seek revenge.

Efut ikọ emen nsu

Meaning: To gain from one's endeavours.

EXERCISE TWO

- 1 What is the meaning of each of the following proverbs and maxims?
 - (a) Emen etap ọdionọ nde unan ke usu itọ
 - (b) Eyen ifioke, eka itemmeke
 - (c) Eyen ekit ete isinanake mbuk
 - (d) Enyene idem ọdionọ nte mfat ideep
 - (e) Eyen itiat ese ana nte eka ana
 - (f) Eno inu, ete iyem utasi

2. Enyong osong akan ebok, odook
Who is "ebok" in this context?

Give the full meaning of the following saying:

- (i) Eyen uwene ese oko ikot, ikoho ufok
(ii) Ekpedi udua etibume, odoho akpan udua
(iii) Ekenam eyen eka eno usen mbaba

3. Complete the following sentences using suitable words or phrases:

- (a) Ekpo use enyinafia
(b) Ekpo akpa enyin utog
(c) Edim usen kiet isog

4. Supply the missing words in the following sentences:

- (a) Eyot odokaba, idiojoke
(b) Ekit owo mkpa eyot
(c) Eyen itiat odok esit
(d) Enag ama akpa, ayak ukut ikpa
(e) Eyen ese uforo usuk usuk

Idiag isiboppo enyin ino ntan

Meaning: It is the characteristic of a brave man
not to run away from difficulties

Imo edi ufen

Meaning: We have to toil if we want to be rich

Ifiok iyuhoke owo

Meaning: Our knowledge is imperfect. That means
we do not know everything

Ikpog ikemme ukoono

Meaning: One person cannot face a group

Idoho eka keet obok inem efere

Meaning: Virtue is not practised only by a few
family.

Idat enyene ama

Meaning: Nobody is without a friend

Idat eyam efere ese eno ke eba

Meaning: Anxiety breeds difficulties

Ikpat eka unen isiwotdo ndito

Meaning: A hen's feet cannot kill the chickens
That means the mother's actions are never
meant to be harmful to the children.

Idoho usen etibbeke ube ke mfof ese odus oduk

Meaning: It is not the very day that a pit is dug
that frog will fall into it. That means
success is not always achieved in a day.

Ikaṅ aka ata iḡit, edido unen ayarake ndak ke edem

Meaning: If fire can burn tortoise how much less a fowl. That means a person who is not strong enough will not be able to face the situation.

Iko etip anana owo

Meaning: A person without supporters hardly wins cases.

Ikwot ese atanna nte ekpere ube

Meaning: One should approach a person in whom one has confidence. In other words we should act prudently.

Ibritam ete ino owo, afo udoho owo

Meaning: Do unto others as you would like others do unto you. In the days of slave trade the Aros slave raiders were fond of saying this: Ibritam ete ino owo; i. e. Ibritam wants slaves. But people would rebut: "Afo udoho owo?"—Are you not a man? It was rebuff to the wicked demand.

Imo okoro edet ekpe, uwene okoro ndaam

Meaning: A wealthy man wears costly jewels whereas a poor man puts on raffia (a mean dress). In other words we should act according to our ability.

Ifitke mfuk inannake enyin

Meaning: To receive a guest coldly by offering him neither food nor drink. Kini ntoho Dekosi

ndi, ami mma aka ufok omo edi enye
ikefitde mfuk, inannake enyin.

Ifiak otuk ikpog

Meaning: One person's knowledge is not sufficient

Inuen edo ndo ke ekpuk or ke ete, ke ete, idoho odusat

Meaning: Birds do not mate outside their families
The saying simply implies that people should
marry within their own circles.

Idop, idop ewa, enye ata okpo unam

Meaning: It is a quiet dog that eats the fatest bone

Isua itiaba idoho ekim

Meaning: Seven years is not forever

Idiog ebre nto ntie

Meaning: First come first served.

Ifonke fon obu enye onwune ekug

Meaning: Every events has a cause

Ino ese eyiene ibit okoneyo

Meaning: It is a thief who is a'ways afraid of the
night's drum.

Explanation: A drum signal is not usually given at
night unless there is an emergency, especially
in cases of burglary or theft. A thief who
has stolen something will be afraid of such
signal. He will always keep his ears open
at night for such drum signals so as to
find a way to escape

Isog ekpekpene, edi isopke sop

Meaning: Long standing debts are not irrecoverable

Idiak enyin owot ewa

Meaning: Having a bad reputation is not good.
It is unworthy to have a bad name

Iso ukaha edem utlmmeke

Meaning: You neither go forward nor backward.
That means to be in a fix

iko etip ikpog

Meaning: One who has no support cannot win a case.

Ifiak ofon editibe

Meaning: Two heads are better than one

Ikwa etip mbobo etip uyai

Meaning: To miss both chances. To be completely rejected.

EXERCISE THREE

1. What is the meaning of the following maxims?
 - (a) Ifiak ofon editibe
 - (b) Ino ese eyiene ibit okoneyo
 - (c) Idem osog akpara uweme
 - (d) Idem etok eyen ese eyere idip idip
 - (e) Isidoho ekpe isimke Afaha ebak
2. Complete the following sentences using suitable words:
 - (a) Idat ese _____ ama
 - (b) Idiag _____ enyin _____ ntan
 - (c) Iko etip _____ owo
3. Ikang aka ata ikit. What is the meaning of "ikit" in this context. Write the proverb in full.
4. What is the meaning of the following words? ukpotio iko, ufiot, nke.

Mbuk ikit, idoho efit ido akpaniko

Meaning: There is little or no truth in the story.
The situation is doubtful.

Mbime odukpo ebot (A question of the dead goat)

Meaning: A hypocritical question An unnecessary question.



Mfon ekewot edat

Meaning: Too much kindness can ruin a man.

Mbopiso okpoebot ikpanna unyam

Meaning: Communal duty is compulsory.

Itaga ndia ufok eka ese oboiyo mboho

Meaning: Stealing often start from little dishonest practices at home.

Itkpo ntak udua

Meaning: A profitless venture. A worthless person

Itkpo ifonke ntim nnam

Meaning: Too much care can ruin something

nyuk inyan nime ikan

Meaning: Show your might. Do your worst.

Ọkpọ ekpenam anaan etem ke obot

Meaning: Let evil befall an obstinate person so that he may learn a lesson.

Ọkop ke ebek ifia

Meaning: The news came from outside source.

Nwan unwọn ini okutde eyo

Meaning: Make hay while the sun shines.

Ọkpọ akanam ikot, mfon adat

Meaning There is no smoke without fire.

Ndunọnọ item Itie efere ọfon ke edisinke kaga ikpan

Meaning: Forewarned is forearmed

Owo nwan ọfon ubok etem E s o

Meaning: A good woman does not neglect housekeeping

Nnanenyin esin idap udua

Meaning: It is hardship that brings misery and despair

Nnun ubok Idihe ukem-ukem

Meaning: People are not equal

Ndion edim ekeyem uwem yak enye ekeduk inyan

Meaning: If you want safety you must not isolate yourself from your society.

Ọkpọ ata ọkọk ete Ọdọdọ

Meaning: To accuse wrongly. To blame a wrong person or thing.

Ọwakha ntọ́ọ́ uduag isiyọ́kọ́ nto

Meaning: Something that produces little or no effect
It is a minor contribution,

Ndibọ́ ndọ́ọ́ ke atibe ekpat

Meaning: To live a wasteful life.

Ọkpọ́ Itukhọ́ asaga iba

Meaning: It is helpful to have a companion.

Ọkpọ́ mbaba isibake ndek

Meaning: If you want something eagerly you will spare no trouble to acquire it.

Nnam nte esa, ete ke enye ekeyit atat isin

Meaning: Imitation is bad. A similar proverb is:
Ndubọ́iyọ́ ete ke enye eyire owo efik.

Ọkpọ́ azak owo ayat

Meaning: An unbearable situation.

Nte ubọ́ọ́ ama idem anim ifen

Meaning: You are free to go to where you like.

Ọkpọ́ edi enen ekim

Meaning: Peace is being threatened or danger is approaching

Nso isine ke idip idiaọ́ ikan ekpa nsuọ́

Meaning: It is a minor affair or a common thing

Ọkpọ ekenam obu onwune eku

Meaning: Something must have caused the crayfish to grow a hunch on the back.

Odoro ke eyo owo, odoro ke eyo owo

Meaning: From one generation to another. That is from one era to another or from age to age. The philosophical implication here is that no era of government is permanent.

Owo isidutke editim eyen eka isin ke ọkan

Meaning: Nobody would deliberately do something to mar his brother's success.

Ofuri usen enyene Ino, edi usen kiet enyene enyene inwan

Meaning: A thief will one day meet his doom. That is one day he will be caught. Generally it means that there is a day reckoning for evil-doers

Owo isinaha ọkan kiet ide idap

Meaning: One should not depend on one means of earning a living

Owo efen ọsọsọk owo edem isimke isin

Meaning: No person is like a brother or a relative

Owo akpa akpa ọbọhọ etlbe enyin

Meaning: Nobody is free from trouble or misfortune until he is dead.

Owo ɔdɔŋɔ nte amana, idɔŋɔke nte akpa

Meaning: Nobody knows his or her destiny. A person can say; "This is where I was born" but he cannot say; "This is where I will die." No one can ascertain his future.

Owo ismaha mkpaŋ nyak ke idem idin

Meaning: Decent people do not like ugly thing or treatment

Ɔbɔkhɔ mkpasi akpa ekim

Meaning: To escape from a dangerous situation but fall into another one. Not to be able to free oneself completely from trouble.

Ɔfɔŋɔ etibe

Meaning: A desperate person

Ɔbɔɔk unen isitaha ukpib

Meaning: To get no reward for your labours

Ɔduɔk ntɔŋ ke ntɔŋ ekeene

Meaning: The shaft which is aimed at another turns against one who cast it.

Ɔdɔŋɔ ufɔn

Meaning: A useless person

Ɔtɔk edinyehe

Meaning: A scape goat, A mean person. A target

Ɔtɔ lkpaŋ eyem ŋkɔk

Meaning: He who marries wants a child. This means that the primary aim of marriage is to raise children.

Ọsọ́n esít àtá ọ̀tọ̀n

Meaning: Only a brave man can endure hardship.

Ọ̀tọ̀n ọ̀duuá ọ̀kpọ̀-usuá efré, andiyéne isifréke

Meaning: People tend to forget their wrong actions, but those who suffer from such actions are not apt to forget them. In other words people do not easily forget their misfortunes

Ọ̀wọ̀n eful ete idibọ́ke eke ubọ́k ama

Meaning: It is a matter luck or it is matter of trial and error.

Ọ̀tẹ̀t ọ̀wọ̀ ikọ̀ idohọ̀ idék

Meaning: To lay complain against another person is no sign of cowardice. In other words to protest is no act of cowardice.

Ọ̀fúm ese ekpẹ̀p eto unek

Meaning: Literally it means that it is the wind that teaches the tree how to dance. It is someone's action that generates good will in another person.

Ọ̀kpọ̀sọ́n inemesít ese ada ntuána edí

Meaning: Too much happiness may bring despair

Se eful akama aya ọ̀wọ̀d íbá

Meaning: What is hidden under the anus will be seen by the pant. In other words what a man can do another man can also do. It implies competition by two opponents.

Se iworo ke ifia unen aya eben emen

Meaning : I am ready to face the situation. The saying implies a challenge to an opponent.

Sik saṅ, sik saṅ, ama obo owo itie or yesa, yesa ama obo Efik isṅ

Meaning To much compromise is not good.

Kuse edem se iso

Meaning : Don't look back, look forward

Kudara akpa edim

Meaning: Do not rejoice at your initial success.

Ke ete, ke ete idoho odusat

Meaning: Sharing of property according to the family groupings is not an act of discrimination but for fair and orderly distribution of property. In other words, charity begins at home.

Tuṅ akaba mbre udiaha ibak

Meaning: You have ill-luck or you are in a serious trouble.

Ubak ukpa odo ubak umana

Meaning: Early to bed early to rise.

Unam obokho afia ababaak enonuk eto

Meaning: The animal that escapes from a trap is always afraid of something that looks like a trap. Once bitten twice shy or a burnt child dreads fire.

Uno ekpene itiehe nte uno akai

Meaning: The closer our relationship to some one the stronger the tie

Ukitde iwut eyen ebeek ntan

Meaning: Never prepare sand until you see the dead of the child In other words; Do not count your chickens before they are hatched

Ukot asaga tep tep oyoho aban

Meaning: Little drops of water make mighty ocean

Utu ke mbok esin udi, yak edim edep

Meaning: To avoid a fight let us abandon the business.

Utu ke unam aka ama yak ebiat ikpa

Meaning: Do not allow a hunted animal to escape For a hunter to allow an animal to run away without being killed is regarded as a great loss. The saying metaphorically means that we should try to minimize our loss.

Yem obubit ebote ini eyo mikime

Meaning: Do something at the right time.

Udia efen okposop owo ikpodoho mkpuk

Meaning: It is a great loss to lose an important thing, or something that has been well cared for.

Ukan ebreke eno, inekke

Meaning: He does not do what he is expected to do

Utere ndia

Meaning: A shameless person, a beggar

Utere uduok uduag

Meaning: You are desperate, you are unlucky.

Udua ɔfɔn ŋka idem

Meaning: Do it yourself is better. This is supposed to have been said by a male sheep (ram)

Utin ikpɔŋ ese aka ukag inyan

Meaning: It is one sided affair

Uyio esen owo enem akan ekere

Meaning: It is interesting to hear a stranger talking

Unen akama nditɔ isinaha ke ɔkɔm ufɔk, ekpena nditɔ esomo.

Meaning: A hen with chickens, never sleeps on the roof.

EXERCISE FOUR

1. What is the meaning of the following proverbs?

a Mbuk ikit idoho efit ido akpaniko

b Ndat mmana ifiok, enye ɔsɔŋ ifiok

c Nkpɔ ntom ke ikot uku omum unen

d ɔworo efut ete idionoke eke ubok ama

e Utu ke mbok esin udi, yak edim edep

f Uduag ɔworo ke efut, ete efene

g Ekpan ikopo, ibuot eyem ntan

- g Ọbọ́n esé akpán utók isikpanna mfaḡa
- h Nék unék kedibi isọ́

2. Complete the following sentences with suitable words in the bracket

- a Owo isidutke.....eyen eka isin ke nkaḡ
(ọ́fọ́n, ekrat, editim, ikọ́n)
- b Ọsọ́n esit.....oton (men, duok, ata)
- c Se iwuók ke ifia.....eben imen (ebot, unen)
- d Mbuk unyọ́n mfo ḡkọp ke ebek.....
(eto, okpoho, ifia)

3. Explain the following sayings

- (a) Mbæk nkot eyop isimaha ifen
- (b) Owo esé obíom etok aban akaḡ iba
- (c) Usun inwan ama onyọ́n oboho, inwan esé ososop.
- (d) Owo amadak inék unék edem emem
- (e) Usó isisuaha item
- (f) Se ubók obọp odo eku

4. What is the meaning of the following proverbs:-

- (a) ḡkpọ-unam emen ekim ikpọ́n aka udua
- (b) Ndaḡ ukot isibiatda usoro
- (c) Nnun ekeduk adan ke esé esio efip
- (d) Nso isine ke efut etikke nọ ekpikke oduok
- (e) Owo isitukho aban ikwa afaḡ
- (f) Asua eka ebe, eka ebe

MORE PROVERBS

The Ibibios like to use Proverbs in their conversations. In old days a speaker who had a good command of proverb and idioms was highly respected by his fellowmen. People who want to be diplomatic often employ proverbs in their conversations.

The following are some of the Ibibio proverbs

- 1 Afo atip mfat awuo ayaya
- 2 Abiyo iso Iyak enye omomo enyin idim
- 3 Anditakha Ukaan okop ke idem omu, Ukaan nko onyung okop
- 4 Eda iku inua owo ebiera ikpe eno owo
- 5 Eyem akwa nkpo ese okono mban ayara enan
- 6 Ebot onon edon
- 7 Ese owo inua enye odionu se owo atan
- 8 Ekpa Ekpe
- 9 Ka nte abak oyoho ikpan
- 10 Ndikke Uboikpa isidoho isua keet
- 11 Owo isidionoke ikpat ubon
- 12 Anwan minyeneke se otot ebe, ete ke mmun ifaha ke edet
- 13 Ebet owo ikot isimame nto
- 14 Udono iwuhu itie mmim
- 15 Abia idionoke se abia akama (A challenger may not know the strength of his opponent)
- 16 Ukat ekpedia se adia, ifreke unyon; (A captive never forgets his home no matter how well he is treated by his captors)
- 17 Onyon onon akan ebok adok: (To over reach oneself)

- 18 Eto inwan isikpaha ima (A race cannot perish completely)
- 19 Inua usak imam enye ke ese edad etua eyet (The mouth with which we laugh, is the same with which we shall cry)
- 20 Nduonno item itie efere ofon ke emisinne ikpan (It is better to give advice before something starts)
- 21 Ekpeduok ntak, ntak oho (If the cause or origin of an event is omitted then the event is not well explained)
- 22 Ison isiwotde nya uno
- 23 Esen owo isidiogoke usug otode eko owuo enen
- 24 Owo isibake nka ese ebak ison
- 25 Ifonno editop itiat nsin ke itie emi adan anaha
- 26 Oduk idak ebok enye atakha ebok idip
- 27 Owo isikpikheke mkpat ntak idem iduok
- 28 Etoro ndip ukot ekan ifakho
- 29 Osop ubok enye adianna ekwon enyon
- 30 Omum idem udoro
- 31 Ewa otoiyio se akadia okoro inua
- 32 Unam ekpefro Akpan no Udo atakha, osuk aka eso keet
- 33 Ekpedo aban ekebot idem akpa osio inua ono nte enye ama
- 34 Ino asasa ekebo ke ikpisanja iba imo ikpiyiye ino
- 35 Akama isip keet idoho unyim
- 36 Owo ekpofut ikan emen nsug

- 37 Idiok inua iko ekesio Akpan-ndo eka ke ekon
- 38 Afo okpon afan awakha nsai
- 39 Unia owo enye ode mfon emana
- 40 Ekpedo eka omum eyen uman ana eyie ubok
- 41 Udogo ama ebidat owo idem ana edip abia
- 42 Ndiaha eben owo nkot isu
- 43 Enyia okon emomomono nkana
- 44 Ewok ewok ekufre enim
- 45 Eka iyak abaak enyin owo akpa mbok
- 46 Idadat eyom ebekhe oduk otu mfon
- 47 Okube adat akam okoko afia
- 48 Anie idun ese etim ndem idun omo
- 49 Iko Nnuene-akwa ison ison okop enyon ikoppo
- 50 Nse mfa ison ikan ebeet
- 51 Ufa iyoro ese ekedodo akaan
- 52 Owo akpa dana idem enyenge
- 53 Ataha ataha, Ekoon ke odo
- 54 Etok enyia eno idiok owo item, anam ukere
- 55 Edi kise ikot owo isikamake mmon
- 56 Nsesin ikwa, mbakabak
- 57 Owo odiongo ifok idiongoke nnyaan
- 58 Nkpo ikwat isitippe mfat
- 59 Akpan ukut ekebo ke ise nkem enyon
- 60 Kpa anam utoko okpok ukpikke isim

- 61 Owo isikamake nkpa ubok iba idook ebeet
62 Umiana inua, oyoro imen oyoro ikokko
63 Ntuen ibok isinanake ke itie ukok ibok
64 "Etem utemme" aya ekit "etie udakha"
65 Utere odo adodiongo eyeyen enye okog edet
66 Mbobe ekpekam una, nso ido ubok adan
67 Owo isitiehe enyin afia ibak unam
68 Ewa ata uduok unam isitimmeke ikot
69 Utu ke anwan abia ibok aman iba idip anabunjo
70 Mfine mmi ese aduo ebeek
71 Ubok obop edip, obop kpa edip.
72 Eyen ekpemum eka uman ese eyie ubok
73 Obog ebet nsue, ibetde eniin
74 Nkakat adat ntan ekpep isan enyog
75 Yak usug esine ke udug ebet esen
76 Anwan ikwereke ke mben nto
77 Ekit owo ke ikot idiongoke ke oto ufok
78 Naun ubok keet isioho ndag ke iwut
79 Aka itie eyop aka edog
80 Eben nkanya nka efe obo man owo ikene ekim
81 Owo isitohoke ikot ke uka, ese etoho ke unyog
82 Ebot ata udia enye ke iwa anaam emi
83 Owo mmikpaha nkat itreke
84 Ekpesat ndisug eyop, nso ikpiwuo adan

- 85 Ikpog ibiotke, ekim adia
- 86 Owo utimme ke edem, ete esuk ukene
- 87 Ikaṅ uta inua adia ofo
- 88 Umunamma etok unen ṅkpọ. ana adappa akpukpa ke ikaṅ
- 89 Udia odo ododionṅo akpap odok
- 90 Ebok ama efit idip iyakka emo emo efit
- 91 Ikpang awakha inua ama oṅo ṅkoro
- 92 Akama eyop keet idoho unyim
- 93 Ese odo etetim uyara ke edog eben eka iwut
- 94 Umumke mum inuen ke ubok, okoot ekpa
- 95 Anwan akama ison, ese atag uyo ebe
- 96 Idoho efit imam ke ese enyiin edet
- 97 Owo ama ebidia ṅkpọ inyim eyen uwene, ete abaat ubok
- 98 Idoho efit ekpo ese eduok ibit
- 99 Akpa uka idim, akpa ubom aban
- 100 Iṅkpọ owo isibiarake ikpog
- 101 Adiana iba isip edug ufok keet, edo keet ikitdde keet iso
- 102 Ofon owo edifionṅo ndek akan edifionṅo umiana
- 103 Iwut ebot isisoppo ke eso
- 104 Owo ekpedia se dia ubok idugṅo inua
- 105 Eso ekebo ke ikpa buut ikot ete
- 106 Owo isiforoke idem ikpo
- 107 Se ubok obop odo eku
- 108 Isidoho enyie ufok idiaha ṅkpọ efere akuene ke iso
- 109 Aban ikpaba, ikim iwakhake inua
- 110 Mmamana ndikit ebot iaukko

PART TWO
CHAPTER THREE
IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION

When a person says "Ku nsiak inua" or "Ku mbeen inwek" he is obviously using idiomatic expression meaning: don't make me talk excessively.

"Enye ama nwuk mbara" is a popular expression meaning: He tipped me off. The meaning of these expressions cannot be taken literally. They are sometimes employed for rhetorical effect and they are very important in our language for they are more forceful than plain expressions.

Fiak furo: Dare to escape again!

It is a way of mocking at someone or an enemy who did something wrong and escaped and later was caught again.

Yire mmian: (Go and perish) — Go and never come back in time. It is angry remark usually made against servant who has gone on an errand but fails to return in time. Another form of it is 'ka ke kpa akpek'.

Siak owo ifot:— Accuse a person of witch-craft.

Nwot iman:— The act of committing murder. In Ibibio when a man has intentionally or committed murder, the act is described as "nwot iman". The offender may be expelled from the town or made to pay restitution for the family of the deceased

Uduo obom—The act of committing violence or serious breach of the law or custom

Bo ke ime—Be patient

Siak inua—To cause someone to do a lot of talking
e.g. A disobedient child can make his parents
to talk to him more often than is necessary

Ayara owoden—A man of valour

Tungo uton—Listen attentively

Aya uyaan inam—You are going to be deceived.

Wuk owo mbara—Reveal information to a man in confidence.

Buk mbuk wut inan—Narrate story to a deaf man
If a person tells you something of which you have no previous knowledge, to show how interested you are in what he is telling you, you may use the expression. It is a way of asking the informant to repeat the information in detail.

Nimme ntim:—Kill, nip in the bud.

Kubo nkuk—Sit tight

Aya adatibekhe—There is going to be an unusual show.

Uta esit?—Does it hurt you? or Are you annoyed?
This is a sort of course.

Kup iko:—Kill, nip in the bud.

Yit eyei;—Intervene, mediate, make peace.

Sin asuan:—Stir up trouble among people e.g. Sin asuan ke otu ndito eka. Asin asuan—One who causes trouble.

Ku nkpu*k* iwat—Don't worry me, iwat means white hairs.

Tehe ube—Rest, loosen grip, "ube" is the part of a trap which springs up with great force and draws tight the loop when the trap is disengaged.

Duk edem—Canvas, look for supporters.

Ku ndik*ke* uwem or ku uawem*me*—Don't threaten my life

Mum ukat—Confine a person as a prisoner. Make a person captive.

Ka ekot inan—Be heedless, don't pay attention.

Da owo ub*ok* udom—Revenge or weaken by destroying the right hand man.

Kop idem ke akpap—To place oneself in a position where it is difficult to get out. To handicap oneself.

Suk ito*g*, suk ide, suk ub*ok* (calm down, cure).

Men etap—Pause (when talking.)

Sio ekpe ke ubom—To accomplish difficult task to take a great risk

Mia ub*ok*—Put more; put extra (e. g. when buying something)

Mia ata—Bet, Mia ata m*me* Bassey Arikp*o* aya akan ke anwan emi.

Sio owo ikpat wut esien—Couse someone anxiety.
It is usually addressed by parents to a bad child.

Ofon akpa mon—A faded cloth, A hopeless man or
woman. (Isadok ese osiogo uyo ke aban)

Fak ofon nam nkpo—Be brave! Be daring!

nkama nsia ke ubok—My heart is in my mouth.

Tie ke odu ekom ta ekom—To bite the fingers that
fed you. To criticize fearlessly. To do evil to
someone while still under him.

Asat ewa iwuo:—The situation is hard to manage.
A dog's nose is always wet and if it becomes
dry the dog must have been facing a difficult
situation so as to exhaust all the water
in its nose.

Edikit idem;—Having too high an opinion of oneself
conceited, proud.

Na ubion;—Bail a person out

EXERCISE FIVE

1. Give the meaning of each of the following
idiomatic expressions

- (a) Kubo nkuk
- (b) Tuno uton
- (c) Mia ata
- (d) Yirre mmian
- (e) Ku nkpuke wat

2. Complete the following sentences using a suitable word in the brackets
- a Enye akama nsia ke..... - (idip, ubok, ekpat)
 - b Fak ofon nam.....(unek, ikok, nkpo)
 - c Ku utie ke odun ekom.....ekom (uta, use)
 - d nkpo oro asat ewa.....(inua, iwuo, etap)

3. Explain the following idioms:

- (a) Sio ekpe ke ubom
- (b) Men etap
- (c) Kop idem ke akpap
- (d) Uduo obom



4. Use the following words in the sentences show idiomatic meaning.

- (a) Eyei
- (b) Ntim
- (c) Iko
- (d) Nsia

5. Give the meaning of each of the following words and expressions

- (a) Ikaan
- (b) Ido
- (c) Nkpo unam
- (d) Nkpo ntibe

EXERCISE SIX

Additional Proverbs and Maxims

1. Complete the following proverbs and give their meanings:
- a Afo atip mfat, owuo_____
 - b Aka iso enye_____enyin idim

- (c) Anditakha ukwa okop ke idem.....
 (d) Eda iko inua owo.....eno owo
 (c) Oyom akwa nkpo ese.....mban
 ayara enan.

2. Explain the following Maxims

- a Ebot osan edan
 b Ese owo inua enye odiongo se owo atan
 c Ekpe duk nta, nta otobo
 d Eto inwan isikpaha ima
 e Ekpa ekpe (A leopard's stomach)
 f Ka nte abak oyoho ikpan

3. Complete the following proverbs with suitable words in the brackets

- (a) Owo isidionke.....uban (ukot, ikpat)
 (b) Ubet owo.....usimke nto (ufok, iko, ikot)
 (c) Udongo iworo ke itie.....kaga (mmim, mkpa)
 (d) Mfet mfuk enye esia.....inwan
 (utre, ukpene)
 (e) Abia idionke se.....akama (owo, abia)

4. Translate the following into English to show the correct meaning of the idioms

- (a) Asuan mkpasip ekebo nditot ete enye
 okuyak akim ono imo nnyo
 (b) Ukat ekpedia se dia, ifreke unyan
 (c) Mman ama ekpene ke aban ana odongo mbok
 (d) Isan isiwo do nya uno
 (e) Oko osan akan enan ebet edem
 (f) Ndikhe abokpa isidoho isua keet
 (g) Owo nwan emiyeneke se otot ebe, ete ke
 mman ifaha ke edet.
 (h) Ekit nkpo ke enyin ofick mbuk

Types of constructions:

(a) Verb form with Se, Si

SE is generally translated by:

I always or I used to:

Nse mba ke Uyo nyam udua. Ese anam so ndubi eyio? Ami nse mbre mbre ye akpan eka mmi.

SI is translated by:

I don't always:

Ami nsimaha ndisuhö nsu. Enye isimaha ndifehe itok. Enye isimaha edidug ke obio-Efik. Enye isimaha ediyie idem omö.

(b) Imperatives

The root of the verb is the imperative

| | | | |
|------|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| da! | — (stand) | do ko | — (stand there) |
| fehe | — (run) | fehe di | — (run up) |
| ka | — (go) | ka ko | — (go there) |
| saga | — (walk) | saga di | — (walk here) |
| di | — (come) | di mi | — (come here) |

(c) Connectives

“Ye” and “me” may be used as connectives

(a) Ami ye eka mmi iya ikaa udua

(b) Ami mme eka mmi iya ika udua

“Me” can also be used in special construction to mean: Is it?

Me afo ke odo? Is it you?

Me ami? — Is it me? Me enye?

Me afo? Me afo odo obog Ukat? — Are you the Chief of Ukat? Me afo odo obog etibe?

(d) GENDER:

The words ayara and uman stand for male and female respectively and may be attached to names of animals to show differences in gender except where there is a particular name for the male or female

Example:

| | | |
|-------|------|-----------|
| okpo | ebot | (he goat) |
| uman | ebot | |
| ekiko | unen | |
| uman | unen | |
| ayara | enag | |
| uman | enag | |
| ayara | ewa | |
| uman | ewa | |

(e) NEGATIVE ENDINGS :

no, ke, me, ma, de, ha, ho, and ho etc. May be attached to some verbs to express the negative. They are living suffixes.

Examples:

ndeppe, nyemme, isoppo, ifonno, ndoho (I won't marry) mmaha, idiokho, iyukhoke, ntaha, iferoke, mboho, mfeheke.

OTHER EXPRESSIONS

IBIBIO NUMERALS

In the old days our forefathers rarely counted up to a thousand because there was no necessity for that. As a result, we have no ready made names for numbers above thousand.

(a) CARDINAL

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Keet | 11 Udotkeet |
| 2 Iba | 12 Udotiba |
| 3 Ita | 13 Udotita |
| 4 Inaṅ | 14 Udotinaṅ |
| 5 Ition | 15 Udotition |
| 6 Itiokeet | 16 Udotitiiokeet |
| 7 Itiaba | 17 Udotitiaba |
| 8 Itiaita | 18 Udotitiaita |
| 9 Anankeet | 19 Udot-anankeet |
| 10 Duop | 20 Edip |
| 30 Edipmeduop | 400 ebip inaṅ |
| 40 Edipiba | 500 Ebip ition |
| 50 Edipibameduop | 600 Ebip itiokeet |
| 60 Edipita | 700 „ itiaba |
| 70 Edip-itameduop | 800 „ itiaita |
| 80 Edipinaṅ | 900 „ anankeet |
| 90 Edipinaṅmeduop | 1000 Tōsin (coined from English) |
| 100 Edip ition or ebip | 2000 Tōsin-iba |
| 200 Edipduop or ebipiba | 3000 Tōsin-ita |
| 300 Ebipita | 10,000 Tōsin-duop |

(b) ORDINAL

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Akpa | — | First |
| Udiana | or oyoho iba | — Second |
| oyoho ita | — | Third |

NOTE: Oyoho is the word prefixed to cardinals above one to form ordinals.

| | | |
|------------|---|----------------|
| Oyoho duop | — | tenth |
| Oyoho edip | — | twentieth etc. |

SALUTATIONS :

| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Emesiere | (none) | Esiere |
| Tie-do | (Tie-do) | tie-do |
| Da-do | Da-do | Da-do |
| Sana-sun | (same as morning) | same as morning |
| Ka-di | ” | ” |
| Wara | ” | Wara |
| Emenyon | ” | Emenyon |
| Idem mfo-o | ” | Idem mfo-o |
| Aba die | ” | Aba-die |
| Etie-die | ” | Etie-die |

SOME COMMON WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS:

Iya (an expression of surprise)

Iya mmi !

Iyo — no

Ih — yes

| | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| Ibom | — | Great or high |
| Inyag Ibom | — | the mighty river |
| Abasi Ibom | — | The Almighty God |
| Ikpan Ibom | — | Big spoon |
| Ikono Ibom | — | An Ibibio clan |
| Ibano Ibom | — | " " " |
| Iman Ibom | — | " " " |
| Ibiaku | — | " " " |
| Iboku (Oku Iboku) | — | " " " |

- 1 Abasi Isoṅ — God of the earth
- 2 Ndem Isoṅ — Spirits of the earth
- 3 Ọbọṅ udua — Market master
- 4 Ọbọṅ enaṅ — Chief who settles cases concerning cows
- 5 Ọbọṅ isoṅ — Village Head
- 6 Ọbọṅ ikpa-isoṅ — Paramount Chief
- 7 Esop iduṅ — Village Council
- 8 Esop ikpa isoṅ — Central council for village groups
- 9 Iso ndem — Land surrounding a cult
- 10 Ikot okpo — Sacred land used for burial purposes
- 11 Udua — Market
- 12 Adan — oil
- 13 Mbriyọṅ — Plantain
- 14 U'ua — enemy
- 15 Okpot — pawpaw
- 16 Okpoho — Money
- 17 Ubaha-esen — Morning
- 18 Uweme — Afternoon
- 19 Ndubi — Evening
- 20 Okon — Night
- 21 Uyai — Beauty

- 22 Mbobo — beautiful girl
 23 Nkpə ntibe — accident
 24 Efk — hevia
 25 Unan — wound
 26 Nkpə unam — trouble
 27 Ufək ɲwed — School
 28 Ukara idem — self government
 29 Udo obot (slang) — policeman
 30 Usin-ɲwed — election
 31 Ukara or odukara — government
 32 Ɖborotik — politics
 33 Ino — thief
 34 Ekpu — rat
 35 Ikaɲ — fire
 36 Ikaan — evil spirit
 37 Emiɲ ɲwed — Printer
 38 Ekit-idem — Hypocrite
 39 Ih — yes
 40 Iyo — No
 41 Ufa — New
 42 Soiyə — descend
 43 Ebre — Women's Society
 44 Ntinya — A special cap for title holders
 45 Ukabisua — Christmas
 46 Iban Ibibio — Ibibio Women
 47 Ikwo — Song
 48 Akwa — A wooden container
 49 Ido — culture
 50 Edu-Uwem — Character

- 51 Edu — Habit
- 52 Ntara-anyin — Civilization
- 53 Unwana Enlightenment
- 54 Owoden (owo-eden) A man from eden (Eden is Hebrew word)
- 55 Owonwan (owo-unwan) a help mete
- 56 Taṅ (speak) Gather together to form sense.
Taṅ iko = Gather words to form speech.

ḡḡḡ-ndḡḡ — Orator

Ufien — Negative

Nḡḡḡ — Oration

ḡḡḡyik — Logic

ḡḡḡya — Lawyer

Mbet — Law

Mfana — Arguement

Ntak — Reason

Uyo-iko — Statement

Sio uyo — Make statement

Usuuk-iko — Conclusion

Ukot iko — Major Statement

1 NNEME (CONVERSATION)

Nso ke ekedia?

Ami nkedia ekpaᅇ ᅇkukwo

Nso ke eketem?

Ami ᅇketem iwa mme afaᅇ

Nso ke ekebək?

Ami nkebək otukho ebre

2 Adiaha: Nko, emesiere!

Nko: Ufan, emesiere nde!

Adiaha: Idem mfo-o?

Nko: Mmodo

Adiaha: Afo aka uke?

Nko: Ufan, ami ᅇka Uyo

Adiaha: Afo aka nso do?

Nko: Ufan, endo ke ᅇkaᅇ udo

Adiaha: Taᅇ akpaniko?

Nko: Mbək ntaᅇ akpaniko

Adiaha: Kadi, kom ubet

Nko: Ufan, sososo, tim ba

FOREIGN WORDS:

Some foreign words have been absorbed into our vernacular language.

In doing this we should avoid mixing two different sounds. At present our vernacular language is not well written. It is mixed with different sounds.

Foreign words can be absorbed into our language by making them conform to the way we speak.

EXAMPLES:

| | | |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| Muto | — | Motor |
| Nsinia | — | Engineer |
| Yeriko | — | Jericho |
| Yisosi | — | Jesus |
| Udotadam | — | Rotterdam |
| Yerosedem | — | Jerusalem |
| Dondon | — | London |
| Dekosi | — | Lagos |
| Kadaba | — | Calabar |
| Kpotakod | — | Port-Harcourt |

SEASONS:

Ibibio seasons are three: Ini nda eyo, Ini-edim and Ini ekarika.

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| (a) Ini nda-eyo | — | Summer |
| (b) Ini edim | — | Rainy Season |
| (c) Ini ekarika | — | Harmattan Season |

Farming seasons are divided into three, namely, Ini ntem, Ini uto, and Ini idok.

- | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------------|
| (a) Ini ntem | — | Bush clearing season |
| (b) Ini uto | — | Planting Season |
| (c) Ini idok | — | Harvest Season |

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Ibibio days of the week are eight. They are also important market days. They were associated with certain events in the ancient days.

- (i) Fionadan — A day for worshipping moon
- (ii) Ederetaha — A day of rejoicing
- (iii) Ataetaha — A day of worshipping God of creation (obot)
- (iv) Udua Ukat — A day when people are taken captives.
- (v) Fionetok — A day for worshipping minor planets such as stars
- (vi) Edere obo — A day of rejoicing
- (vii) Obo — A day for farming
- (viii) Udua obom — A day after obo

The Ibibios used to dedicate special days for the worship of heavenly bodies and for other important religious events. The names of the days were therefore associated with the different events and objects which they worshipped. For example, Fionadan is derived from the word ofion (moon).





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