

The Mao and Komo Languages in the Begi – Tongo area in Western Ethiopia: Classification, Designations, Distribution

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1. Introduction

The ethnic and linguistic situation in the western part of Oromia Regional State and the southwestern part of Benishangul Gumuz Regional State in Western Ethiopia is complicated. The Oromo language is the only official and clearly dominating language in Oromia, and it serves as a lingua franca in the southern and western parts of Benishangul Gumuz. Amharic is the official language in Benishangul Gumuz where it is used as the language of instruction in most public schools, but in many areas it is of limited importance for daily communication. Berta, Gumuz, Shinasha (Borna), Mao and Komo are officially recognised as the nationalities in Benishangul Gumuz which have the right to get education in their mother tongues. While *Berta*, *Gumuz* and *Shinasha* as linguistic and ethnic terms seem to be fairly clear, *Mao* and *Komo* appear to be confusing.

There are good reasons that cause me to believe that those who are commonly referred to as “Mao and Komo” in the Western Wollega zone in Oromia and in Mao Komo Special Woreda and in the Asosa zone in Benishangul Gumuz speak as many as six different languages: Gwama, Komo, Hozo, Seze, Northern Mao and Ganza, some of them belonging to the Omotic (Afro-Asiatic) and some to the Koman (Nilo-Saharan) families.¹ It seems that *Mao*

¹For the genetic classification of each of these language groups cf. the works of Ahland (2012); Bender (1975; 1985; 1996; 2000); Ehret (2001); Fleming (1974; 1976; 1986) and Hayward (2000). A discussion of the different suggestions would go beyond the scope of this survey.

and *Komo* are - besides being self-designations for some groups - ethnically and linguistically ambiguous terms. They became the official terms in Benishangul Gumuz for different groups of people regardless of their own ethnic identity, and for different languages regardless of the self-designations and the linguistic classification.

Until now barely any comparative linguistic research has been done on those “Mao and Komo languages” and the findings are partially contradictory. There is no detailed overview on the linguistic situation of the area and there are no satisfactory language maps. The number of speakers of each language seems controversial, and the ethnic, social and linguistic terminologies are frequently mixed and confused with self-designations and outside labels.

This survey endeavours through field research along with a critical review of relevant literature to shed some light on the complicated socio-linguistic and language-geographic situation in the Begi –Tongo area in Western Ethiopia, and to suggest a more consequent use of relevant terminology. It strives for a clear distinction between ethnic and linguistic description, provides detailed language maps and proposes terms based on linguistic comparative word lists and sociolinguistic questionnaires. The findings of this study may function as a basis for further discussion and contribute to the more purposeful linguistic and social development of the concerned people groups and the area.

1.1 The Mao and Komo languages in Western Ethiopia: A state of confusion

The name *Mao* is used in different and partially confusing ways in the literature – both within linguistics and ethnology. In his ground-breaking article about “The Mao Problem”, Lionel M. Bender (1975:128) states:

The people who are usually referred to as 'Mao' include the following: (1) Anfillo, [...] not Nilo-Saharan speakers (at least not now); (2) The Komo and Kwama of west and south of Begi [...] (3) The Hozo and Sezo clans of the Begi area; (4) The Maramo clans of the Bambeshi area.[...]. Of these only in Hozo (ma^w) and Sezo (ma:y), is 'Mao' or a variant of it, the word for 'people'. However, Bambeshi seems to be fairly closely related to Hozo and Sezo, and I shall henceforth refer to Hozo, Sezo, and Bambeshi as the Mao languages.²

Davis et al. (2011:5) follow this tradition that Mao as a linguistic term is used for different Northern Omotic languages or dialects branching into Begi Mao (Seze and Hozo) and Northern Mao (Bambasi). Later they conclude with the contradictory statement that Begi Mao refers to a Koman language, most probably a variety of Gwama (Davis et al. 2011:19).

Bender (1975) mentions that also the Nilo-Saharan languages Komo and Kwama³ are referred to as *Mao*. Ahland (2012:8) calls it a “complicating factor [...] that the name ‘Mao’ [...] may be used to refer to at least two [...] (Nilo-Saharan) languages”- Gwama and Komo. In the entry for Kwama language in the *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica* (Bryant et al. 2007:461) Mao appears as “one of the dialects of Kwama” i.e. a Koman language, spoken in the Begi and Tongo area and different from the ‘Omotic Mao’ around Bambasi. Kievit et al. (2011) seem to have the same idea when they classify the Mao language of Begi and Tongo as dialects of Gwama: “The Mao language of Bambassi and Didessa, sometimes called Northern Mao, is Omotic. The Mao language of Begi, sometimes called Southern Mao, is classified as Nilo-Saharan

²Since Anfillo Mao is not used in the Begi area, it is not treated in detail here. This article follows Ahland (2012:8) and uses Northern Mao for what is called “Bambeshi” by Bender, today mainly *Bambasi* for town and Woreda. Bender uses Northern Mao as a general term for Seze, Hozo and Bambasi.

³For *Kwama* vs. *Gwama* cf. 4.1.5; here Kwama and Gwama are considered to be synonyms.

[...]” (ibid:14).⁴ Here as in Bryant et al. (2007) the Omotic “Begi Mao languages” Seze and Hozo are not mentioned, and one may get the impression that all Mao in this area speak a Koman language.

Zelalem Leyew (2005:1-2) only acknowledges two types of Mao: the Anfillo (Southern Mao) and what he calls Northern Mao; the latter he equates with Gwama. This seems to be contrary to a common opinion where the term Northern Mao is used for the Omotic language around Bambasi and in the Didessa valley (Ahland 2012) or for Seze and Hozo (Grotanelli 1941). Following Greenberg (1966), Anfillo is called Southern Mao, but Davis et al. (2011:2) confusingly use this term for Seze and Hozo opposite to Northern Mao around Bambasi.

In his article on Mao Ethnography in the *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*, Smidt (2007:757) tries to balance the different opinions. He differentiates between three groups of Mao: the Omotic speaking Anfillo (Southern Mao), Seze and Hozo (Northern Mao, “Mao of Begi”) and as a third group Nilo-Saharan speaking people, also being called Kwama or Northern Mao and listed as Begi Mao in Siebert et al (1994). Bambasi Mao is not included in this classification.

As we see from this short literature review, the picture is rather confusing. One of the problems seems to be that there is a mix between ethnic and linguistic designations, self designations and designations from outside, and a highly arbitrary use of terms. Since the situation particularly in the Begi area obviously *is* complicated and the linguistic and ethnic terms are not congruent, frequently only a bit of the truth is displayed. By differentiating between ethnic self- and alien designations on the one hand, and linguistic and geographical facts and findings on the other hand, this article tries to create some clarity and suggest a terminological and geographical foundation for further research.

In summary, we can say that *Mao* as a linguistic term is used for both Koman and Omotic languages and has therefore to be handled with extreme caution. In this article, I use *Omotic Mao* for Bambasi and Ganza⁵ in Benishangul Gumuz and the related languages Seze and Hozo in Western Oromia. Following Ahland (2012) *Northern Mao* is used as a synonym for Bambasi⁶, not for Seze/Hozo or any Koman dialect. *Southern Mao* may be synonym to Anfillo⁷, spoken in a not connected area and reckoned as a different branch of the Omotic languages. *Koman Mao* is used for a cluster of Nilo-Saharan dialects mainly in Begi Woreda and Mao Komo Special Woreda. The relationship between Koman Mao and Gwama will be discussed later. *Begi Mao* is used only in reference and quotation since it arbitrarily refers to both Omotic and Koman languages. Komo is a separate language and is designated as such.

⁴*Southern Mao* is traditionally used for the Omotic Anfillo Mao, not for a Nilo-Saharan language.

⁵Ganza is a closely related Omotic language, but is normally not referred to as *Mao* (cf. 4.2.4).

⁶For the designation of this and related “Mao languages” language by the speakers cf. Ahland (2012:7)

⁷Cf. Moges Yigezu 1995: Dying twice: the case of Anfillo languages. *Afrikanistische Arbeitspapiere* 43.

Language family ⁸	Linguistic designation	Ethnic designation	Remarks
Afro Asiatic → Omotic	Bambasi (=Northern Mao)	Mao	Not spoken in the area covered by this survey; cf. Ahland (2012)
	Seze	Mao	
	Hozo	Mao	
	Ganza	Ganza	Possibly referred to as “Mao” by others
	Anfillo (= Southern Mao)	Mao	Not spoken in the area covered by this survey. Does not belong to the same branch of the Omotic languages.
Nilo-Saharan → Koman	Koman Mao (T’wa Sit Shwala) ⁹	Mao (Sit Shwala)	In this paper a particular attention is given on the complicated linguistic relationship between Gwama and varieties of Koman Mao, and the use of Mao, Gwama and Komo as ethnic designations
	Gwama	Gwama/Komo	
	Komo	Komo	

Table 1: Designations used in this paper¹⁰

Who is referred to and refers to himself as “ethnic Mao” varies according to the social setting and is more dependent on the social situation than on linguistic facts. Generally, it seems that people give priority to ethnicity over language, and that the boundary between ethnic Komo and ethnic Mao is not coincident with the boundary between any (Koman or Omotic) languages.¹¹

1.2 An overview over the area

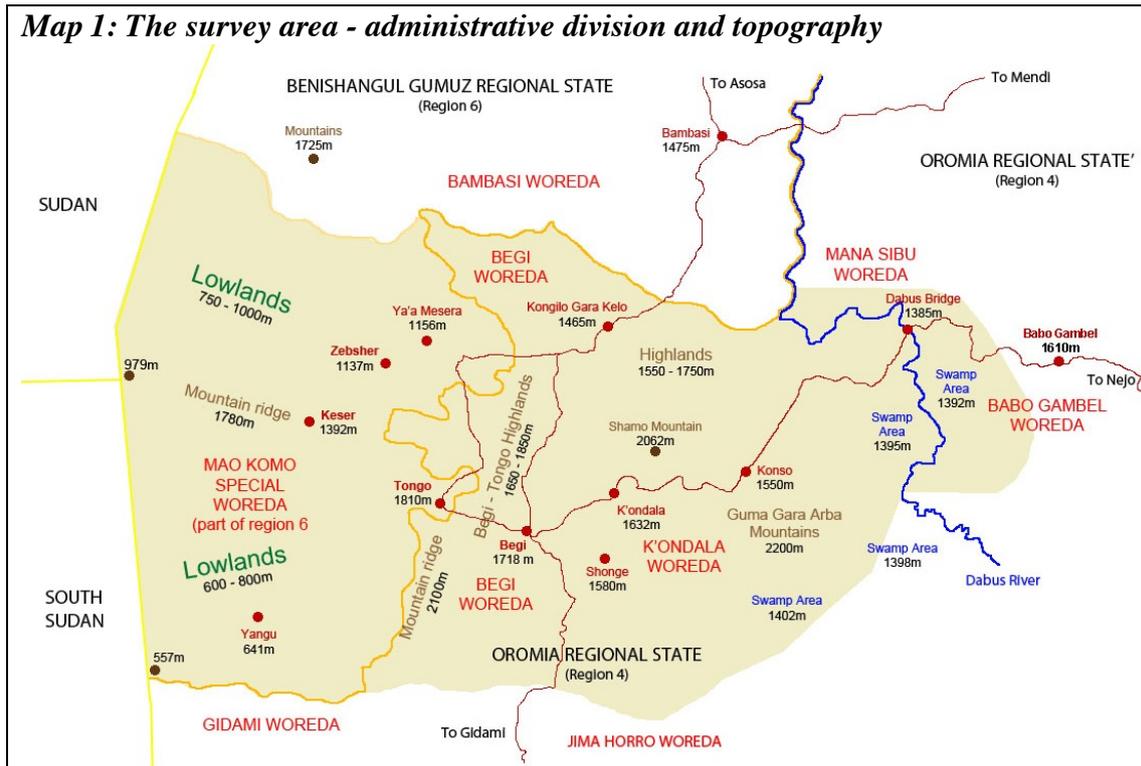
This survey is roughly limited to the “Mao and Komo languages” spoken in Mao Komo Special Woreda in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State and the Begi and K’ondala Woredas in the Western Wollega Zone, Oromia Regional State. During the field research it turned out that there is a contiguous area of villages with speakers of “Mao languages” east of the Dabus River - in the westernmost part of Babo Gambel Woreda and the southernmost tip of Mana Sibul Woreda; these areas were included in this survey. The Omotic Mao language in Bambasi Woreda is not included here, neither is the Anfillo Mao in the Anfillo Woreda in Kelem Wollega Zone. There are speakers of Gwama and Komo in Gambela Regional State, and speakers of Komo, Gwama and Ganza on the other side of the border in Sudan/South Sudan; these are considered in this survey, but no particular investigation was conducted. There are a few references to villages with Mao and Komo speakers in the Jima Horro and Gidami Woredas in Kellem Wollega Zone in Oromia Regional State; those are not part of this survey.

⁸A discussion of the internal classification within the language families is not within the scope of this paper; for references cf. 4.1 and particularly 4.2.1 for the Omotic languages.

⁹Different linguistic and ethnic self designations. Most used is (*T’wa*) *Sit Shwala*, cf. 4.1.2.

¹⁰Cf. sections 3 and 4 for discussions regarding linguistic and ethnic self – and foreign designations.

¹¹Cf. particularly map 3 and map 4.



The study area is located on the western edge of the Ethiopian highlands and the easternmost part of the Sudanese plain between $9^{\circ}10'$ and $9^{\circ}40'$ Northern latitude. In the east on both sides of the Dabus River there are vast and highly inaccessible swamp areas at about 1400 meters above sea level. Further west follow rugged highlands with more than 2200 meters elevation. The population is concentrated along the road on the plains east of Konso with large settlements of immigrants from the eastern and northern parts of Ethiopia, and in the fertile valleys further east. While the bigger villages along the road are mainly inhabited by Oromo with only a minor Mao population, the more exclusive Mao settlements in the Guma Gara Arba Mountains and towards the Dabus Swamps are remote, small and scattered.

Farther west the land expands to a rather densely populated highland around 1600-1700 meters over sea level with Begi as a natural focus and with road connections to the north (Bambasi/Asosa), south (Gidami/Dembi Dollo) and further west to Tongo. Also here the bigger villages close to the roads are mainly inhabited by Oromo or oromised Mao, but there are minor Mao settlements throughout the whole area, often at the peripheries of the Oromo villages.

The Begi-Tongo highland falls gradually to about 1100 meters towards the north to the area of Zebsher. West and south-west of Tongo the mountains rise to more than 2050 meters. The incline towards the south-west to a huge plain 600–800 meters above the sea level around the village of Yangu is abrupt. While the foot of the mountains is densely inhabited, the number of settlements decreases in the dry-hot plain to the west. Due to governmental settlement programmes the majority of the population seems to have been moved into larger villages such as Yangu, Lak'e, Keser and Zebsher, so that a vast strip of land towards the Sudanese border appears as largely uninhabited. The population in the lowland villages consists mostly of Gwama, Komo as well as Berta and Opo.¹² Oromo and immigrants from other parts of Ethiopia are found in all larger settlements, usually as government employees or merchants.

¹²Cf. 3.4 for the (ethnic) terms *Gwama* and *Mao*; Mao here is not considered identical with Gwama.

2. Data collection

2.1 Methods and activities

As a first step a questionnaire asking for social, linguistic and geographical conditions, and a short word list was developed (cf. appendix 1). The word list follows roughly the SIL comparative African wordlist (SILCAWL),¹³ reduced to merely 38 words. This was sufficient for being able to swiftly and unambiguously assign the languages and dialects to their respective language families. Then three field teams consisting of two young locals each were organised and trained. For the work of these teams, the area was tentatively divided into three sections: The western lowlands from west of Tongo to the border of Sudan (team 1); a central area with the towns of Tongo and Begi and the surrounding highlands (team 2); and the eastern part from around K'ondala to the swamps at the Dabus river (team 3).¹⁴ The teams should visit as many villages in their area as possible and collect data by individual and collective interviews for providing a first overview over the linguistic and ethnic situation. The main focus was on the following questions (cf. appendix 1):

- What do the ‘Mao or Komo people’ call themselves and their language;
- What are they and their language referred to by others;
- What is their clan identity;
- In which other villages do they speak the same language;
- Which (other) languages are spoken in their village.

With the help of the short wordlist¹⁵ the teams were enabled to make a first rough identification of the languages they had found. The geographical location of the villages was described by coordinates (GPS detecting; appendix 2). Through this process a huge amount of data from more than 70 villages were provided. In many of the locations there had been more than one interview and the teams had recorded more than one “Mao Komo language”. It is obvious that these teams of lay researchers with only a few days’ training in using a GPS and checking a word list with predetermined choices, could not provide scientifically reliable data, and that a lot of additional questions would arise out of their findings. However, this approach gave an interesting overview as a basis for more specific investigations.

As a second step over a period of about two years I took a couple of field trips mainly to villages where particularly interesting questions had arisen from the overview survey. On these field trips a longer word list based on the short list but extended to 78 words was used for individual interviews. All interviews were recorded by an audio recorder and more specific questions were asked.¹⁶ Additionally, the same teams as previously or other similar groups were sent back to some of the villages for collecting additional information. The wordlist re-

¹³Cf. <http://www.sil.org/resources/publications/entry/7882>

¹⁴Team 1: Ramadan Harun (Gwama and Komo speaker) and Wendemu Zeleke (Gwama and Komo speaker); Team 2: Matiws Adaba (speaker of Koman Mao; cf. 4.1.2) and Samuel Walakuri (Komo speaker); Team 3: Hika Dinbasha (Seze speaker) and Ramadan Hassan (Seze speaker with knowledge of Hozo); cf. map 1.

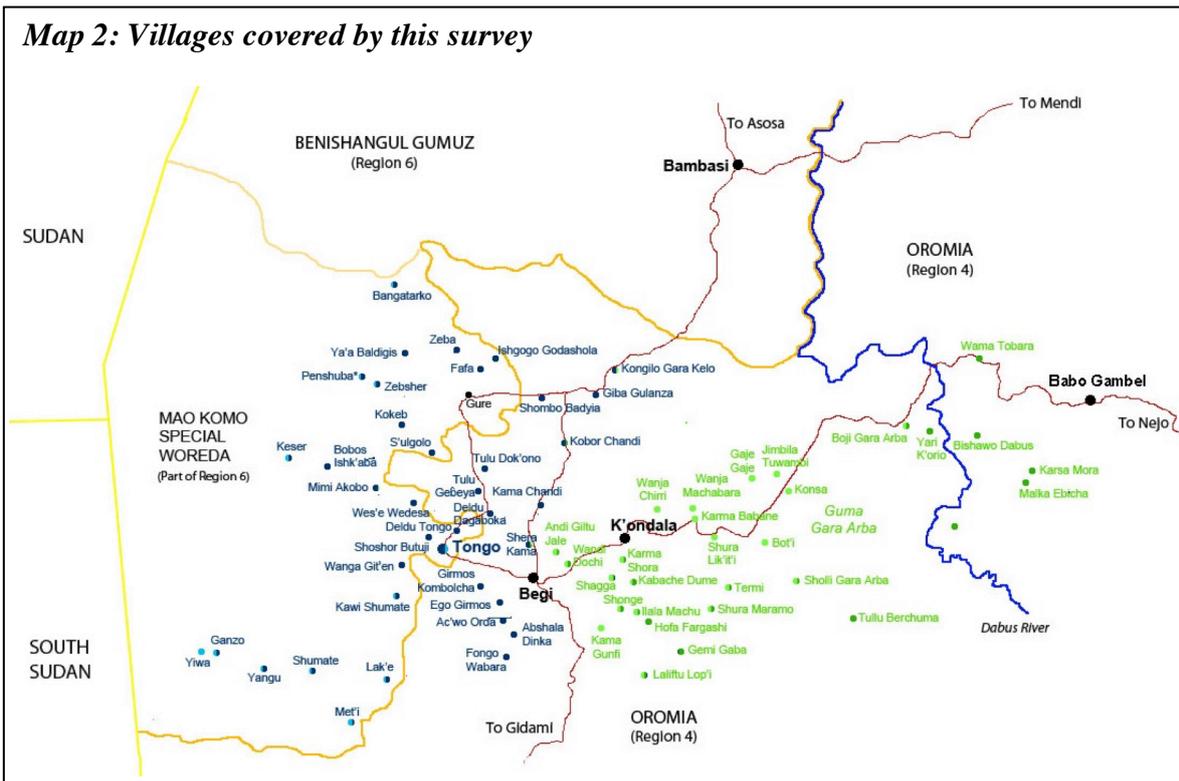
¹⁵The word list contained word choices in Seze, Hozo, Ganza, Gwama and Komo taken from the relevant literature for facilitating a quick and proper placement of the languages.

¹⁶Recorded interviews and wordlist with people from 26 different villages; cf. appendix 3. The interviews were conducted with the help of local translators (English – Amharic or English – Oromo); in the case of Ganza, a translation via Amharic into Gwama was necessary.

cordings were roughly transcribed phonetically and compared with findings from other recordings.¹⁷

As a third step the corpus of data was organised, maps were drawn and the word lists were commented on by other researchers.¹⁸ Fruitful cooperation with linguists and anthropologists working on relevant topics brought additional insight. Finally, the data was cross checked at a couple of workshops, and several meetings with resource people in the area for further clarification of linguistic and social details were accomplished.

2.2 Geographic distribution



Village names: **Blue**: Mainly Koman speakers; **Green**: Mainly Omotic speakers

Village points: **Light blue**: Komo; **Dark blue**: Gwama/Koman Mao (cf. 4.1.2); **Light green**: Seze; **Dark green**: Hozo/Shuluyo (cf. 4.2.3)

Interviews were made in all villages marked with blue or green on this map; in 26 villages detailed interviews with voice recordings were accomplished. For all villages coordinates were determined by GPS. Details and the results of the field survey appear in the appendices 2 and 3. As can be seen, the border area towards the Sudan and South Sudan appears mainly uninhabited. The villages of Yiwa, Ganzo, Shumate and Met'i may now be abandoned as the population has been resettled to Yangu and/or Lak'e. The area south of Begi along the road towards Gidami still requires further investigation as well as the area north of the road to

¹⁷The transcription took place at the office in Addis Ababa mainly without native speakers available. Doubtful cases were clarified when back in the field. This method is acceptable as no phonetic or phonemic analysis was intended, but the creation of a comparison corpus consisting of a limited number of words. What is said in the sections 4.1 and 4.2 on cognates must be taken with great caution. For clear statements on degrees of relationship and diachronic developments a larger corpus and the inclusion of morphologic and syntactic facts would be necessary.

¹⁸Seze by Girma Mengistu, Addis Ababa University, Hozo by Getachew Kassa, Addis Ababa University, Komo by Manuel Otero, Oregon University and Gwama/Koman Mao by Anne-Christie Hellenthal, SIL Addis Ababa;

Bambasi including the area of Bangatarko. Some Mao settlements in the Dabus Swamps in the south-eastern part of the survey area and north of the bridge over the Dabus River in Mana Sibbu Woreda were recorded, but could not be approached.

3. Ethnicity and nomenclature

3.1 Ethnicity and language

One of the main factors that has contributed to the terminological confusion is the non-congruence between ethnic and linguistic terms (cf. section 1.1). *Mao* and *Komo* are primarily used as ethnic terms on several levels, both as a description from the outside as well as self-designations. Some of those who are called Mao or Komo by others would not use this term for themselves, while others would. *Mao* and *Komo* are also (parts of) names of languages belonging to different families (Koman and Omotic).

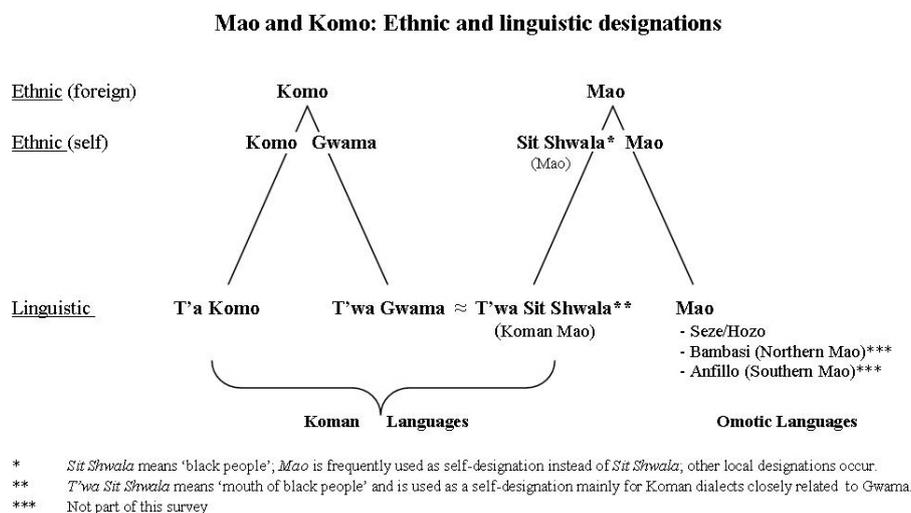


Figure 1: Main correlations between ethnic and linguistic designations.

This figure is best understood when starting from both extremes on the language level. Those who declare that they speak one of the Omotic Mao languages Seze or Hozo¹⁹ call themselves *Mao* and are called *Mao* by others. Those who say that they speak Komo language call themselves *Komo* and are normally called *Komo* by others²⁰. Within our survey area, these “proper Komo” live in Mao Komo Special Woreda in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State²¹, while the speakers of Seze and Hozo with the exception of a few recent settlements²² live in the Western Wollega Zone in Oromia Regional State.

The situation of speakers of the Gwama – Koman Mao/T'wa Sit Shwala dialect cluster is more complicated. The self-designation of these people is heterogeneous and they often just refer to their clan name such as *Kuro* or *Kirin*. The people in the eastern highlands who call themselves *Sit Shwala* would generally accept being called *Mao*, while the Gwama speaking people in the western lowlands might rather choose *Komo* than *Mao* for their ethnicity.

¹⁹Shuluyo [ʃulʊʝ] or [ʃulʊʝ] is used for varieties of or as a different designation for Hozo; cf. 4.2.3.

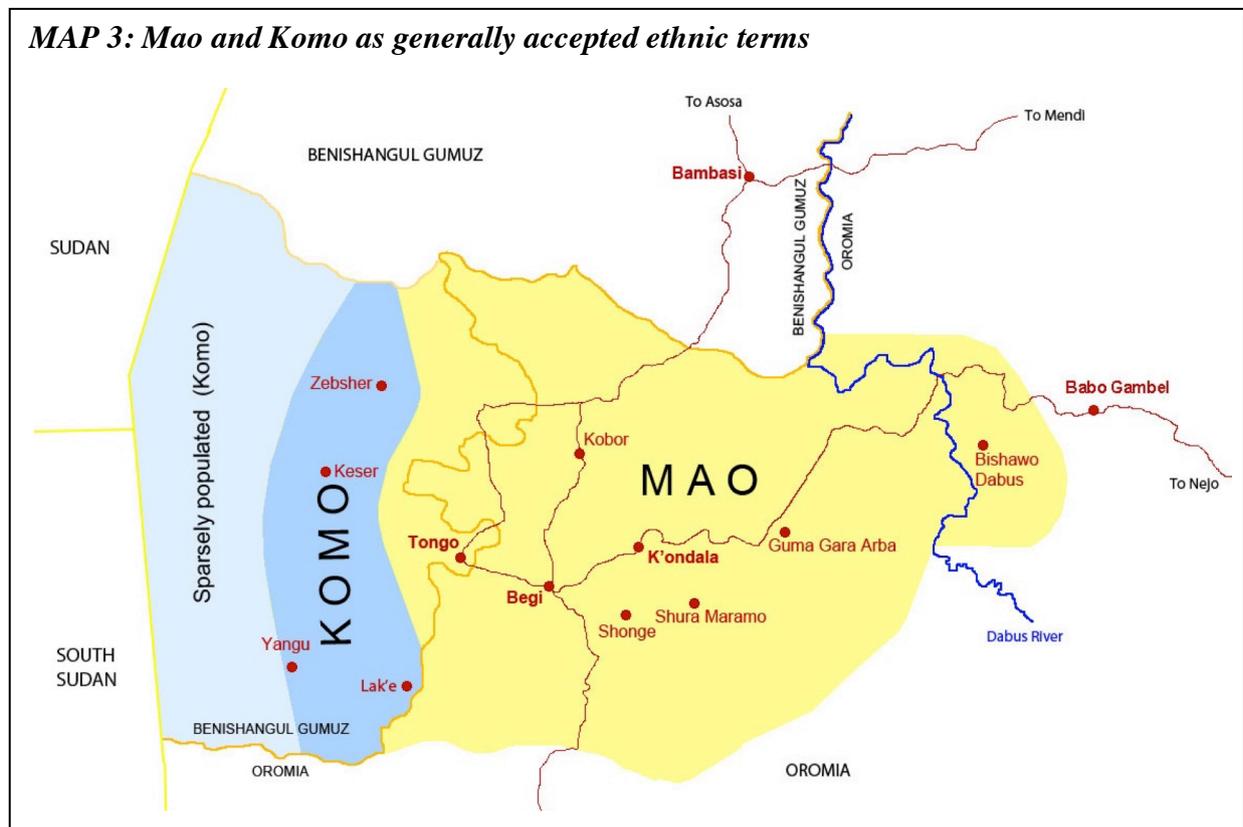
²⁰For Komo ethnicity and language and the differences between Komo and Gwama cf. 3 and 4.1.1.

²¹Komo people speaking Komo language may also live in Gidami Woreda in Kelem Wollega Zone in Oromia south of our survey area. For the Komo in Gambela Regional State cf. 4.1.1.

²²Mimi Akobo; cf. 4.2.2 and appendix 2 and appendix 3.

3.2 Mao and Komo as ethnic designations

Map 3 gives a rough picture of the use of *Mao* vs. *Komo* as official ethnic terms.



The term 'M[ao]' is mainly used by the western Oromo for all 'indigenous' peoples especially of western Wälläga [Oromia Regional State] who accept to any degree a measure of association with the Oromo (James 1981:29).

This statement by Wendy James corresponds well with the findings in the interviews. On question 6 in the questionnaire: "What do other people call you" (appendix 1), the vast majority of interviewees in the Western Wollega zone of Oromia answered "Mao". This can be considered as an official designation and is widely accepted by the different groups of indigenous people in the area. At this level, the language differences Koman vs. Omotic is not of importance. In Mao Komo Special Woreda, the picture is more complicated. While the term *Mao* is most common both as outside and self-designation of the indigenous people around Tongo and in the north-eastern part of the Woreda (cf. appendix 2), the indigenous people of the lowland areas around Lak'e, Yangu, Keser and Zebsher are called *Komo*. The term *Komo* here functions as an official designation used by the government. Also in this case the language differences (Komo vs. Gwama) does not play a decisive role.

In the transition area west and north of Tongo you will find people living together in the same village and speaking dialects of the same language, but attributing themselves either to Mao or to Komo, as well as people being summarised as Komo in spite of speaking different languages. The border between Oromia (Western Wollega zone) and Benishangul Gumuz (Mao Komo Special Woreda) does not function as a boundary between ethnic groups or ethnic

designations; the boundary between the ethnic groups seems to rather go between lowlands and highlands – or in their “distance to the Oromo culture.”²³

3.3 The Mao: One ethnicity, different dialects

James (1981:29) states that *Mao* can be considered a social term that identifies indigenous people with a close relationship to the dominating Oromo population, not as equal partners but as servants or farm workers depending on the land owners. The highlands – lowlands opposition may reinforce this fact since the Oromo and thus the Mao population traditionally is limited to the areas with higher elevation. Mao can be speakers of Omotic languages, yet also speakers of a Koman language (cf. Bender 1975:125). However, on a deeper level we see some differences. When asked for self-designation, speakers of Omotic languages call themselves Mao without any hesitation, while it turns out that the term Mao is not equally accepted by speakers of Koman Mao:

They call us Mao – but we are Sit Shwala (Matiwos Adaba, Ac’wo Orda).

The word *Mao*²⁴ is Omotic and means ‘man; people’, occurring as [ma:ɪ] in Seze and as [mɔ:] in Hozo²⁵. In the Koman Mao dialects the meaning of a word <mao> is opaque. It would, however, give a wrong picture to limit the term Mao to the speakers of Omotic languages.

In figure 2 the villages with mainly speakers of Koman Mao/Gwama and Komo are arranged in clusters according to the self-designation of the people (P) and their languages (L). The arrangement of the villages is based on the answers of the questions 3. *What do you call your people?* (P) and 4. *What do you call your language?* (L). Neighbouring villages with for the most part identical answers are combined in an oval.

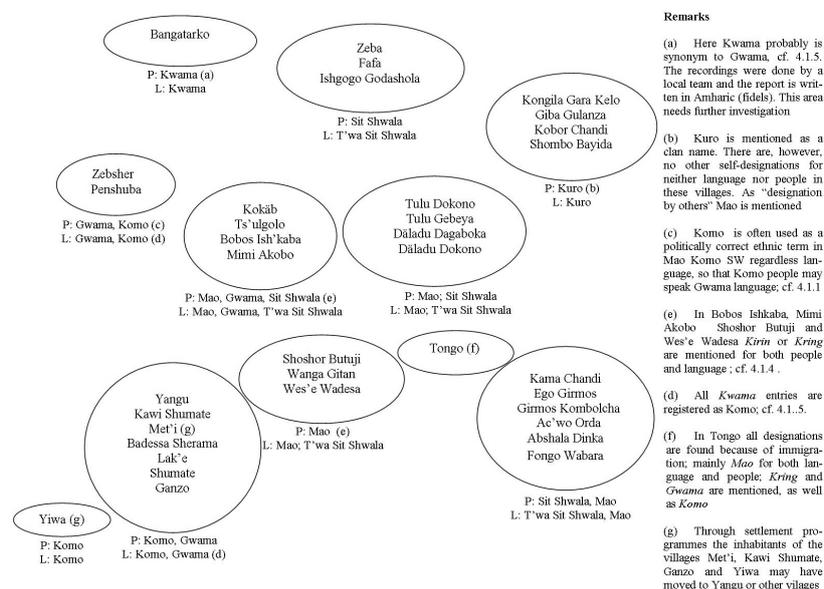


Figure 2: Villages with mainly Koman Mao/Gwama and Komo speakers in clusters according to the self-designations for people groups (P) and languages (L).

²³All since the research by James (1981) it seems to be widely accepted that the close relationship of subordination under the ruling and dominant Oromo is a constituent factor for the term Mao; the forthcoming PhD dissertation by Alexander Meckelburg on the history of the Mao, Hamburg University, will bring new insights.

²⁴Pronounced [ma^w] by the people of the area, not [ma^o] as heard from "outsiders", particularly Amhara.

²⁵Cf. Bender (1975:125) and Ahland (2012:5) for Northern Mao; cf. also Smidt (2007:756).

Regarding the **ethnic self-designation (P)**, we see a significant number of *Mao* entries all over the central area there, while *Komo* and *Gwama* is dominating in the western lowlands and the *Kuro* and *Sit Shwala*²⁶ mainly in the northern and eastern parts. It appears that *Mao* and *Sit Shwala* here often are used synonymously with a predominance of *Sit Shwala* when asked for ethnicity. The use of *Sit Shwala* is possibly a demarcation against the Oromos who prefer or even impose the term *Mao*. *Mao* may probably feel “closer to Oromo” than *Sit Shwala*.

In the villages around Shoshor Butuji east of Tongo and in Tongo town, *Mao* is the most common self-designation and *Sit Shwala* recedes. Here it seems that particularly the prominent Warra Seta clan²⁷ uses *Mao* both for ethnicity and language. A further investigation of this clan and its history and political influence might give some more information.

Conclusively we may state that *Mao* is frequently used as an ethnic term, and that there is a kind of *Mao* identity across the language differences. The fact that there is a considerable group of people speaking a Koman language who consider themselves and their language *Mao* makes it impossible to restrict this designation to speakers of an Omotic language.

3.4 *Mao* and *Gwama*: one language, different ethnicity

Somi Ambeyu is an old *Mao* man from Kokeb. The village is located about 15 km northwest of Tongo at 1230m altitudes, halfway down to the lowlands towards the border of South Sudan. When he was asked for the difference between *Mao* and *Gwama* in Kokeb, he recounted:

I was born in Tense [Begi Woreda, Oromia] and came down here during the time of Haile Selassie and married here. There was only one single [*Mao*] person when I came down here [...] there were only *Komo* people living here. Now there are *Mao*, *Komo* and *Gwama* speakers here; the *Mao* speakers understand the *Gwama* language. There is a lot of Oromo now and our people start to speak Oromo.

Here *Komo* and *Mao* are used as both ethnic and linguistic terms, while *Gwama* seems to function only as a language term. Some *Komo* people may speak *Komo*, others *Gwama*.

In a group discussion with *Gwama* speakers in Zebsher, a few kilometres north-west of Kokeb and still further down in the lowlands, we recorded the following quotation:

The *Mao* lived up [in the highlands] but now they are down here and mixed with us.
(Group discussion in Zebsher 10/2012)

This area of transition between the highlands and the lowlands (cf. map 3), seems to be the area of some dynamic movements. Not only Oromo people move down as office workers,

²⁶*Sit Shwala* ‘black people’ does in principle not seem to be pejorative, at least for those who use it as a self-designation. The language *T’wa Sit Shwala* ‘mouth of black people’ is part of Koman *Mao/Gwama* dialect cluster; cf. 4.1..2. For *Kuro* as an ethnic and linguistic term cf. 4.1.4.

²⁷The Warra Seta clan seems to play an important role in the hierarchy of the Koman speaking *Mao* community. According to informants from Zebsher, the Warra Seta are “mixed with Oromo and speak *Mao* language”. However, Tadesse Fayisa from Ego Girmos points out that “the Warra Seta live around [Wanja] Git’en. They speak also *Twa Sit Shwala*”. Many members of this clan are less dark than other *Mao*. They might be immigrants with Arab descent who mixed with the *Mao*, took their language and became their landlords (cf. Sheik Harun in Tongo, called “the father of the *Mao*”). The forthcoming PhD dissertation of Alexander Meckelburg, may shed some light into these correlations. Cf. also Theis (1995) on people with Arab-Berta descendants who played an important role as slave trades and tax collectors for the *Komo* people in South Funj in Sudan. Cf. also Ahmad (1999) on the same topic.

workers for land investors and farmers in search of fertile land, but also Mao from the highlands speaking a language very similar to Gwama, but with a different ethnic identity.

Gwama is, however, not merely the name for a language. As shown in figure 2, in the village cluster north-east of Tongo where amongst others Kokeb and S'ulgolo are grouped, we find Gwama and Mao as ethnic self-designations side by side. These terms do not refer to the same ethnic group as it is the case with Mao and Sit Shwala. The ethnic Gwama – called Komo by others – will not call themselves Mao while ethnic Mao do not accept the term Gwama nor Komo as a name for themselves. This seems to depend on a mutual dislike: The Mao with their Oromo-influenced way of living may consider the Gwama as “far from civilisation”, while the Gwama look at the Mao as “mixed” and “oromised”.²⁸

3.5 Gwama: More than a linguistic term.

The following statement gives the impression that Gwama is merely a linguistic term:

They who speak T'wa Gwama are all Komo. (Tadesse Fayisa Ego Girmos, 4.10.2012)

As mentioned in 3.2, *Komo* is used by others as an ethnic term for speakers of Komo and Gwama. This may be because of political reasons.²⁹ In Benishangul Gumuz Regional State, *Komo* is – besides *Mao* – established as an ethnic term while Gwama is not (cf. the name *Mao Komo Special Woreda*); thus *Komo* is used for Komo and Gwama speakers by the authorities. On a lower level, the picture will be more nuanced:

We are called Komo, but we call ourselves Gwama. We call our language T'wa Gwama. (Group discussion in Penshuba, 3.10.2012).

Gwama is obviously used as an ethnic term as well, not only as a linguistic term. There are e.g. *Gwama houses*³⁰ in Ishgogo and in other areas, *beehive huts* that play an important role in the culture and believe of the Gwama people.³¹ This indicates a cultural Gwama identity. Figure 2 shows further that Gwama is used as an ethnic term in most of the villages west of Tongo when people were asked for the ethnic self-designation (cf. question 3, appendix 1).

We can conclude that there is a correspondence on the level of ethnic self-designation of the speakers of Komo and Gwama in the lowland areas west of Tongo. The Gwama speakers do have an ethnic Gwama identity, but are classified as Komo by the government and would rather call themselves *Komo* than *Mao* in spite of the language differences. The Komo always call themselves *Komo*, but they are aware that there are others called Komo speaking a different language than they do (Bryant et al. 2007:460).

²⁸Cf. Neudorf (2011:9): “The Gwama, who speak a very similar language variety as Mao in Tongo, sometimes call themselves Komo, but not Mao; and Mao do not want to be called neither Gwama nor Komo.”

²⁹See also Davis et al. (2011:6-7): “[...]the researchers encountered conflicting reports on whether Komo and Kwama [Gwama] are separate groups speaking different languages. They were told that Kwama speakers call their language T'wa Kwama but their people Komo. Government officials and other language groups call this language and the people Komo.”; for Gwama vs. Kwama cf. 4.1.5

³⁰The Gwama houses, *swal gwama* and *swal ushombo* (‘healer houses’), are traditional houses, *beehive huts*, as described by Grotanelli (1941); they are not the same as the well known Dorze houses. The term was recently used by Alfredo Gonzalez-Ruibal (2014).

³¹Information from Alexander Meckelburg, Hamburg University, about Gwama traditions (p.c.).

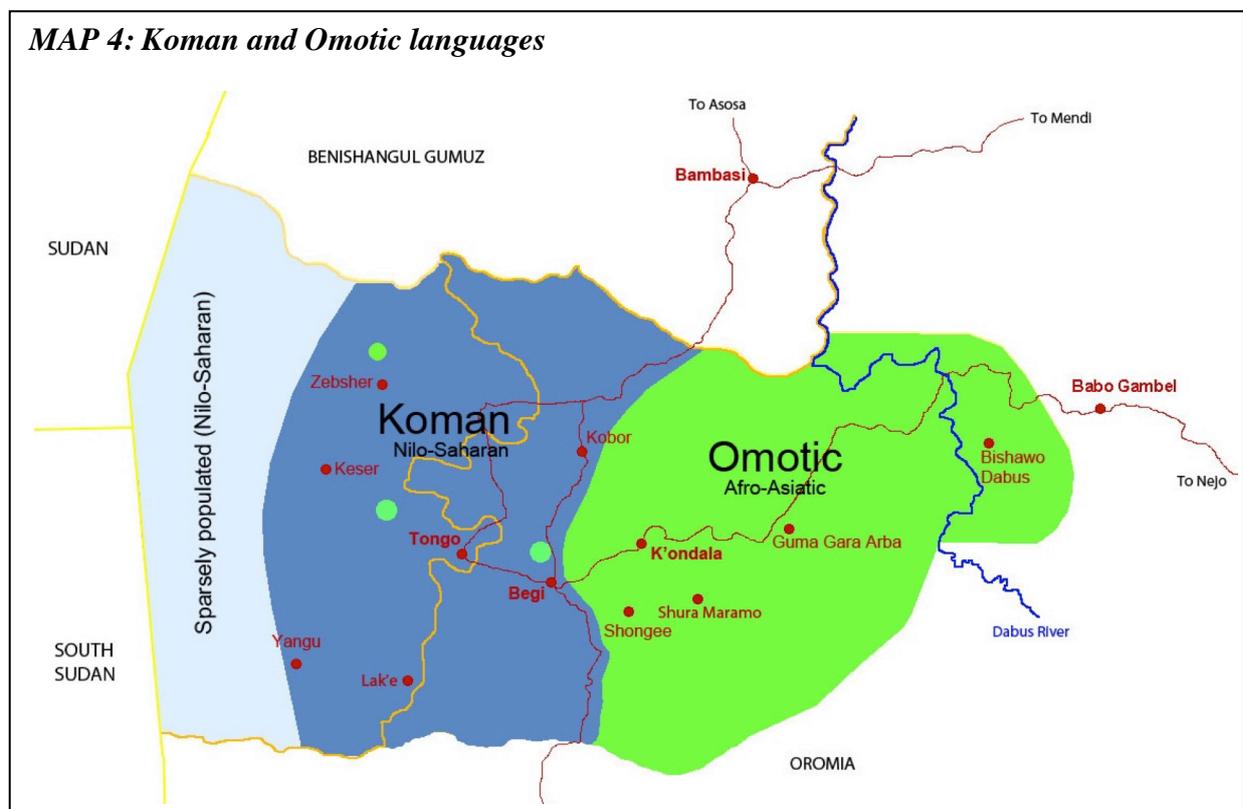
3.5 Ethnic identity and clan affiliation

A deeper analysis of the relationship between clan affiliation, ethnic self-identification and language is beyond the scope of this study. A more detailed investigation of the raw data listed in appendix 2 might also give increased knowledge and insight. So far, my findings show that, to some extent, there is a cross linguistic clan identity; this clan affiliation seems to be stronger than the language affiliation, at least within the different language families.

Obviously there is a Mao identity beyond the borders of the language families, e.g. Koman Mao and Omotic Mao speakers may feel common clan loyalties which, amongst other things, result in intermarriage, while Gwama speakers have affiliations to the Komo in spite of language differences. At this point, it can only be assumed that this has to do with language change and voluntary or involuntary displacement of entire ethnic groups due to political and social conditions. Further investigations could possibly shed some light on language change and migration in this area. Slavery may have had a huge impact on the societies in the region - coupled with common exogamy in marriage practices, and may have caused creolisation or change of languages or cross linguistic ethnic affiliations.

4. Language and nomenclature

In spite of the frequent use of terms like “the Mao language” or “the Mao Komo language” even by officials in Tongo and Asosa who actually speak one of the concerned languages and are well aware that these are different and mutually unintelligible, it is now generally accepted that the languages subject to this survey belong to different language families: the Koman and the Omotic languages.



In the eastern part of the survey area we find the Omotic languages Seze and Hozo³², while the related Northern Mao is spoken around Bambasi north of our survey area and in the Didessa valley. The Omotic language Ganza is spoken by small minorities in some Koman speaking villages around Zebsher. In the western part of the area and continuing to the other side of the border to Sudan/South Sudan, the indigenous peoples Komo and Gwama speak Koman languages. *Mao* is not the ethnic or linguistic self-designation of these peoples and is rarely used by others.

Between those distinct eastern and western groups we find a considerable number of speakers of a Koman language on both sides of the border between Benishangul Gumuz and Oromia region who would accept to be called Mao people speaking a Mao language and partly use *Mao* as ethnic and linguistic self designation (compare maps 3 and 4). This group is often overlooked, e.g. when the term “Mao languages” is reserved to the Omotic Hozo, Seze and Northern Mao, or when the Koman languages in the area are limited to Gwama and Komo

As shown in map 4, the border between Omotic and Koman languages goes slightly south and east of the road Bambasi – Begi, i.e. most of the speakers of Omotic Mao in this area do not live in Begi Woreda, but in K’ondala or in Babo Gambel Woredas. Along this road there are minorities of Omotic Mao speakers in villages with a relative Koman Mao majority³³ (cf. appendix 3 and map 2). Except these meeting places there are very few villages with both Koman and Omotic speakers.³⁴ The border between the regional states, i.e. the eastern border of Mao Komo Special Woreda neither occurs as a language border nor as a boundary between ethnic groups.

4.1 The Koman varieties

This survey focuses on the Koman languages Komo and Gwama without any further discussion of the internal relationship within the Koman languages or the relationship between the Koman languages and other Nilo-Saharan languages like Berta and Gumuz.³⁵ Opo is, together with Berta, mentioned in several villages as an additional language to Gwama and Komo.³⁶

The relationship between Gwama and the closely related language varieties on both sides of the border between Mao Komo Special Woreda and Begi Woreda in Oromia - here referred to as *Koman Mao* - will be given special attention. This may give a satisfying answer to the question whether these Koman Mao dialects constitute one or more separate languages, or if they – together with Gwama - are varieties of one and the same language.

³²Several other designations for the same language or closely related dialects; cf. 4.2.3.

³³The majority of speakers in all those villages along the road will be Oromo anyway.

³⁴Mimi Akobo is one of the few exceptions with newly immigrated Seze speakers; cf. Appendix 2.

³⁵“K[oman] is one of the ‘small’ language families of the Ethio-Sudanese border area, belonging to Nilo-Saharan, probably within a larger ‘core’ grouping which includes East Sudanic, Gumuz (exclusive to Ethiopia), and the Kadu languages [...].There are five distinct K[oman] languages: Twampa (usually known as Uduk), Komo, Opuuo, Kwama and Gulé.” (Bender, 2007:416-417). The 5 Koman languages Gwama, Komo, Uduk, Opo and Gule are frequently put together with Gumuz into a “Komuz family”. This classification is, however, controversial (cf. Kievit et al., 2011 and Colleen Ahland, 2010).

³⁶Berta and Opo (also Opuuo) are mainly spoken outside of the survey area and are thus not treated in detail here. The villages where Berta and Opo speakers were reported are listed in appendix 3. For Berta we find the designations *Ruta*, *Fadashi* and *Berta* in the interviews - with the following pattern: In the north-western area – around Fafa, Zeba, Ishgogo and Bangatarko – only *Ruta* is mentioned, in some highland villages around Tongo *Fadashi* is used and in many villages in the lowlands they use *Berta*. Additionally we have many references to Arabic in the lowlands which could also refer to Berta. Opo (K’ina and Dana) speakers are reported in the south-western lowland villages of Shumate, Yangu and Yiwa. The Ethnologue (Lewis, 2009) lists *Kina* as a synonym for Opo, while *Dana* is the Gwama and Komo designation for the same language/people group. The term Opo is not mentioned in any of the interviews.

4.1.1 Komo and Gwama

In figure 2 on page 14 all villages with a Koman language speaking majority, which are part of this survey, are arranged in clusters according to the self-designation of the people groups regarding their ethnicity (P) and language (L). The findings are derived from the answers to question 3: “What do **you** call your people” and question 4 “What do **you** call your language” in the questionnaire (appendix 1). When systemising the answers of the questionnaires some decisions had to be made. This was particularly the case with the term *Kwama* that in some cases may be a synonym for *Gwama*, while in others – where it is mentioned side by side with Gwama and obviously refers to a different group of speakers - it may be taken as the Gwama term for the Komo language.³⁷

The word list interviews and recordings (appendix 3) give a clear understanding that there are two different Koman languages in the area – disregarding Opo and possibly also Uduk: Komo and Gwama.³⁸ The word list in appendix 4 shows that there are around 30 % cognates between Gwama (with related varieties) and Komo.³⁹ This indicates that Gwama and Komo are related but not mutually understandable languages and corresponds with the findings in Davis et al. (2011:19), where a Kwama cluster and a Komo cluster are discovered: “The results of this survey have confirmed the existence of a separate Komo language but have also shown that the Komo people are commonly bilingual in Kwama.”

The existence of two separate Koman languages in the area and the bilingualism of Komo speakers is confirmed in several field interviews. According to Abdulalem, a teacher in Penshuba and a Gwama speaker, Komo is spoken in Yangu, Lak’e and Kawi Shumate and is not understood by Gwama speakers. Abdulalem calls the language “Kwama Dini, which is the same as Komo” (Penshuba, 10/2012).⁴⁰ In a group interview in Zebsher it was mentioned that “they who live in Keser may also understand Komo. All Komo speakers understand Gwama. The Gwama speakers cannot understand Komo.” (Zebsher 10/2012). The same information was given about Yangu and Lak’e:

You can say that 90 % of the Komo people can speak both the Komo language and the Gwama language. (Andinet Arega, 3/2013)

The majority of speakers in Lak’e speak Gwama. All Komo speakers are fluent in Gwama. (Wendemu Zeleke⁴¹, Asosa, 7/2013).

See also Bryant et al. (2007:460)

Map 5 shows the distribution between Komo and Koman Mao/Gwama in our survey area. Komo was found to be spoken only in the westernmost part of the Koman speaking area – in the lowlands towards the border of Sudan.⁴² There is a Komo speaking community in the Woreda town Tongo, which may be due to rather recent immigration. As shown in map 2, the

³⁷Cf. note (a) and (d) in Figure 2, and 4.1.5: What is *Kwama*.

³⁸Here Gwama may stand for related dialects, called *T’wa Gwama*, *T’wa Sit Shwala*, *Afaan Mao* or *T’wa Kuro* by the users. For the relationship within this Gwama/Koman Mao dialect cluster cf. 7.2

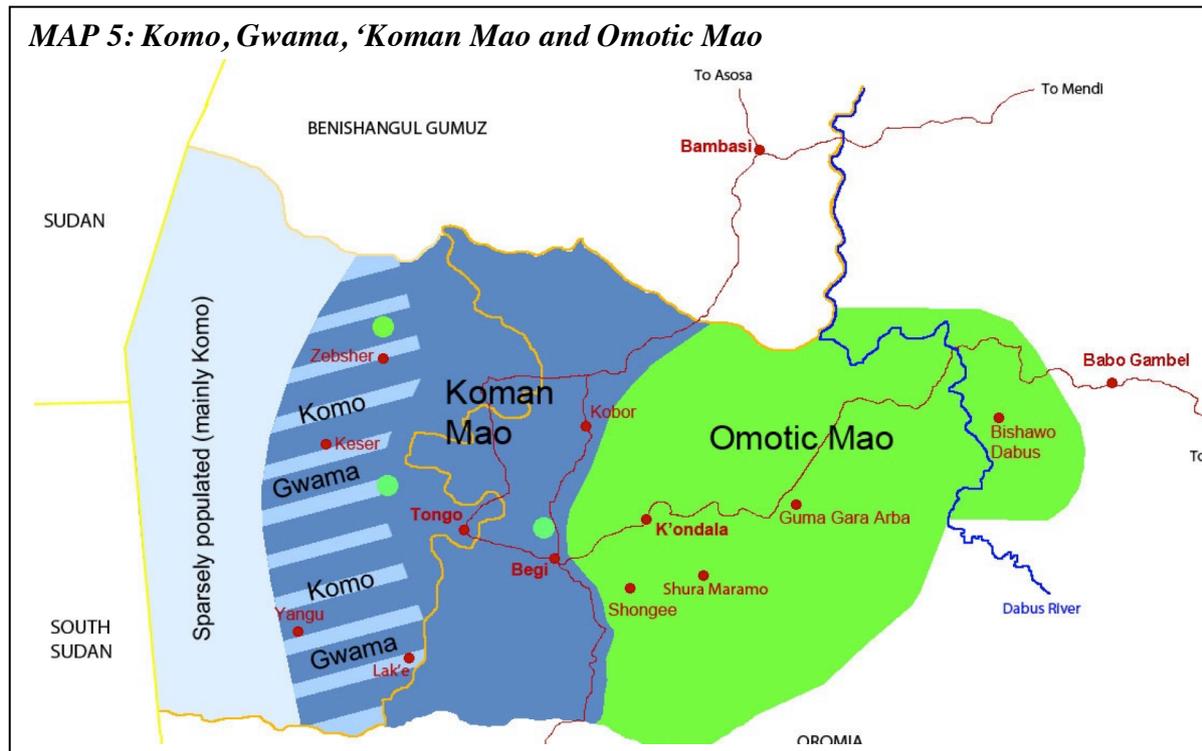
³⁹What is said here and in the following sections about cognates must be taken with great caution. For clear statements on degrees of relationship and diachronic developments, a larger corpus and the inclusion of morphologic and syntactic facts would be necessary.

⁴⁰Here the Komo were considered one of the Gwama sub-groups. Cf. 4.1.5 for *Gwama* vs. *Kwama*.

⁴¹From Lak’e; member of Survey Team 1. Ethnic Komo who speaks Komo and Gwama fluently.

⁴²The Bangatarko area in the north-western part of the survey area needs further investigation. There might be bilingual villages with mainly Gwama and a few Komo speakers and a Berta minority. Cf. appendix 2.

Komo and Gwama speakers live together in the same village, which makes it difficult to draw language maps.⁴³



According to interviews, the villages of Yiwa, Met'i and Kawi Shumate, which may have had a Komo speaking majority, were abandoned and the population has been moved to Yangu, Lak'e and Keser because of governmental resettlement programmes from 2009 to 2011. There they live as minorities in mainly Gwama speaking villages.⁴⁴ There are no or only few Komo speakers in villages with a majority of Koman Mao speakers. It may be repeated that the Gwama speakers living together with the Komo speakers prefer to be called Komo rather than Mao in spite of the fact that their language and the Koman Mao dialects appear to be very similar while the Komo language is not understandable for them (cf. 3.6 and 4.1.2).

Outside our survey area, some recordings indicate a few settlements with Komo and Gwama speakers further south along the border to South Sudan in Gidami Woreda in Oromia. A Komo speaking population is found in the Yabus area in Sudan.⁴⁵ Theis (1995:13) estimates the number of Komo speakers in Sudan to be around 5000.⁴⁶ In Gambela Regional State, Pokung Special K'ebele on the road to Itang, 28 km from Gambela town has mainly Komo speakers. There are small Komo speaking groups in Gambela town (Batur/Doser Lami) and in Bonga on the road to Bure in Oromia.

⁴³Penshuba close to Zebsher records 108 households with Gwama speakers and only 10 households with Komo speakers. There may be similar proportions in other villages with Gwama and Komo speakers.

⁴⁴Tesfaye Nagash (p.c.) 4.9.2012; confirmed by Manuel Otero (p.c.).

⁴⁵For the Komo in this area cf. the detailed descriptions in Theis (1995:13); cf. also Krell (2011).

⁴⁶For the number of speakers in Ethiopia cf. 5.1.

4.1.2 T'wa Gwama, T'wa Sit Shwala or Afaan Mao?

In the Koman speaking area east of the road Bambasi – Tongo there were 3 main answers to question 4 in the questionnaire (cf. appendix 1) “What do **you** call your language”: *T'wa Gwama*, *T'wa Sit Shwala* and *Afaan Mao*⁴⁷. It seems that these terms designate closely related languages or varieties of the same language in spite of different ethnic affiliations of the speakers (cf. section 3).⁴⁸ The following section endeavours to shed some light on the use of these terms as linguistic designations and thus in the relationship between the language varieties.

K[wama] (also Takwama, Gwama, Goma, Gogwama, Afan Mao, Twa Kwama) is one of the least-known Ethiopian languages and belongs to the Koman subgroup of the Nilo-Saharan phylum. [...] One of the dialects of K. called Mao is spoken in the Begi and Tongo areas (different from the Mao of Bambasi which belongs to a Mao group of Omotic languages [...]). (Bryant et al. 2007:460f)

The reference to “[o]ne of the dialects of K[wama], called Mao” and “Afan Mao” as a synonym for Gwama/Kwama are of particular interest. Kievit et al. (2011:14/15) give the following information:

Hellenthal (2005) provides a sketch of the Mao spoken around Tongo [...] and reports that it may be considered a dialect of Gwama. A comparison of the Gwama data presented here and Hellenthal's data shows there is strong similarity, though phonological, lexical, and morphosyntactic differences do exist. [...] Gwama and the Mao of Begi/Tongo appear to be dialects of the same language.

The findings of this survey do confirm that the language called “Mao [...] spoken in the Begi and Tongo areas” is a Koman language very similar to Gwama, spoken in a wide area in Begi Woreda and the eastern part of Mao Komo Special Woreda. This language or language variety is mainly called *T'wa Sit Shwala* or – oromised – *Afaan Mao* by the speakers.

Out of the results of the interviews and the word lists (cf. appendix 3) and on the basis of the data provided in map 2, 4 and 5 as well as in the figures 1 and 2 we can draw the following conclusions:

(1) Gwama and the languages varieties mainly called *T'wa Sit Shwala* by the speakers (Koman Mao) show a very high degree of cognates.

On the long word list (78 items in English; entries based on own voice recordings; cf. appendix 3) as well as on the short wordlist based on written recordings by the survey teams there are only few clear lexical differences between Gwama and the Koman Mao varieties *T'wa Sit Shwala* and *Kuro*. The cognates between Gwama and *T'wa Sit Shwala* are more than 90 %. Table 2 shows some of the few lexical differences. The forms for Gwama and *Sit Shwala* were cross checked with speakers from different villages; the *Kuro*-forms are taken from the word list and need further investigation.⁴⁹

⁴⁷*T'wa* ‘mouth’ i.e. ‘language’ in Gwama and Koman Mao (*afaan* also means ‘mouth’ or ‘language’ in Oromo.) *Sit Shwala* ‘black people’. *T'wa Sit Shwala* ‘mouth/language of the black people’.

⁴⁸For the clearly distinct Komo language cf. 4.1.1.

⁴⁹*Kuro* (cf. figure 2 and 4.1.4) is locally considered a clan of *Sit Shwala* people and the language a variety of *T'wa Sit Shwala*. However, the people in some north-eastern villages consequently call themselves and their lan-

English	Gwama	Sit Shwala	Kuro	
‘bridge’	k ^w ans ⁵⁰	k ^w ans	de:p’e	Borrowing?
‘goat’	ɲa	ɲa	mi’a	
‘hand’	mit’	bit’	bit’	Sound change
‘knife’	ʃik’ɪ/ʃɪɪ ⁵¹	tul; albala	kala	
‘man; people’	sɪt	sɪt	ɪsɪ	
‘smoke of fire’	siŋk’	siŋk’	sip’	
‘stone’	p’idin	pɪ’ngɪl	p’ɔkɔm	
‘sweet’	(a)mɪzɪ	(a)ɪŋɪʃ	?	
‘tongue’	t’akɪ	t’agal	daik’uʃ	For [t’akɪ] vs. [t’agal] cf. table 3

Table 2: Some lexical differences between Gwama and Koman Mao varieties

In several interviews with Gwama speakers it was mentioned that the Mao (i.e. Koman Mao) speakers use a lot of different words, and that they are partly oromised. This may be the case in some areas; however, it is not clearly reflected in the limited material of this survey.

guage Kuro and may feel a certain distance to other Koman Mao speakers. This is confirmed by the word list (cf. appendix 3) where there are a few obvious lexical differences to other Koman Mao varieties, possibly due to borrowings and/or creolisation. A thorough dialectological survey of this area would be required.

⁵⁰These are phonetic ‘average forms’. That means that the most frequent forms in the interviews/on the word lists are used as heard and transcribed from the audio recordings. For further information cf. appendix 3.

⁵¹Possible confusion between the voiced plosives [b], [d] and [g] with the corresponding ejectives [p’], [t’] and [k’]. This is mainly the case for handwritings in field notes by the survey teams. Examples:

[g] – [k’] [p’ɪgm] - [p’ɪk’m]: ‘ashes’
 [b] – [p’] [t’ɔb] - [t’ɔp’]: ‘to drink’
 [d] – [t’] [sɪd] - [sɪt’]: ‘man; people’

The phonemic analysis by Hellenthal & Kutsch Lojenga (2011) shows three series of stops, voiceless, voiced and ejective on bilabial, alveolar and velar places: /b/ - /p/ - /p’/; /d/ - /t/ - /t’/; /g/ - /k/ - /k’/; however, the pronunciation of the ejectives often occurs to be soft so that they are easily mixed with the corresponding voiced plosives even by people trained in written Amharic where the distinction +/- ejective is crucial.

(2) There are some regular sound correspondences between Gwama and the Koman Mao languages varieties mainly called *T'wa Sit Shwala* by the speakers.

	Gwama	T'wa Sit Shwala (Koman Mao)	English
(1) [i]/[j]/[-] vs [ɪ]	dugi	dugul	'knee'
	kaja	kala	'sun'
	kɪwɪ	k(i)wil	'wind'
	k'okɪ	k'okol	'cheek'
	ɔjɔ	ɔlɔ	'clothes'
	p'ɪ	p'ɪl	'neck'
	paja	fala	'pot'
	s'aja	s'ala	'anger'
	s ^w ɔja	s ^w ala	'tree'
	s ^w ui	s ^w al	'house'
	suj(a)bit	s ^w albit	'nest', lit. 'house of bird'
	t'akɪ	t'agal	'tongue'
t ^w i	tul	'sadness'	
(2): [p] vs. [f]/[ɸ] ⁵²	bak'up	balk'uf	'hair on the head'
	dulpu	dulfu	(a type of) 'beans'
	paja	fala	'pot'
	k'up	k'uf	'head'
	paka	faka	<i>injera</i> (Ethiopian food)
	pɔgɔ	fɔgo	'river'
	ɔpɪɲɪ	(k)ufɪɲɪ	'heart'
(3) [l] vs. [r] ⁵³	kalaɲ/karaɲ	karaɲ	<i>wott</i> (Ethiopian food; stew)
(4) [m] vs. [mb] ⁵⁴	kumut	kumbut	'five'
	t'ut'umu	t'ut'umbu	door; gate

Table 3: Regular sound differences between Gwama and T'wa Sit Shwala/Koman Mao

⁵²My findings confirm the analysis of Hellenthal & Kusch Lojenga (2011), who do not propose a separate phoneme /f/, but a phoneme /p/ with free allophonic realisations as [p], [ɸ] or [f]. The word for 'river' can thus be pronounced [pɔgɔ], [ɸɔgɔ] or [fɔgɔ] by speakers of the Koman Mao varieties – but always [pɔgɔ] by Gwama speakers. That means that in Koman Mao, this phoneme has three allophones and in Gwama it does not vary. The variation in Koman Mao is subphonemic and not predictable. The speakers of Kuro-dialects in the north-east clearly seem to prefer the [f] variety. According to Ahland (p.c.) this is also the case in the Omotic languages in the area (e.g. Northern Mao), where the bilabial stop has free allophonic realisations.

⁵³Koman Mao allows variation between [l] and [r], Gwama does not: Koman Mao [gɛlgɛs]/[gɛrgɛs] // Gwama [gɛrgɛs]; Anne-Christie Hellenthal (p.c.); only one case was found in the material of this study.

⁵⁴According to Michael Ahland, (p.c.) Strengthening of m > mb is commonly found in Ethiopia and beyond, cf. Northern Mao, Bertha, Amharic.

The most prominent of these sound differences is [j] vs. [l] as in [kaja] ‘sun’ in Gwama vs. [kala] ‘sun’ in all Koman Mao varieties. This feature is well known by the speakers. All other sound differences reflect tendencies, like e.g. the [b] and [mb] in (4). The Kuro variety normally shows the forms with [mb]. Together with some other Kuro features such as [s^want’] vs. [sont’] ‘foot’, the retaining of ending vowels as in [ant’i] vs. [ant’] or [bit’i] vs. [bit’] and the lexical differences as shown in table 2, the dialects in the north-eastern part of the area seem to stand out in several ways. Our material is, however, not sufficient to give answers on theories regarding origin, migration and language change of these people groups.

None of the differences listed in table 2 and 3 should hinder the communication and enhance the theory that Gwama and the varieties of Koman Mao are mutual understandable.

(3) Gwama and the languages varieties of Koman Mao are mutually understandable.

In order to check statements like this gained through the interviews and the conclusion drawn from the word lists, we did two short experiments during a workshop in Asosa in July 2013 with speakers from different dialect areas.⁵⁵ In one case a T’wa Sit Shwala (Koman Mao) speaker told a story based on a series of pictures in their mother tongue and without the help of additional explanations in Afaan Oromo, and then the Gwama speakers would retell this story in Gwama. In the second case a Gwama speaker described a picture in Gwama and the T’wa Sit Shwala speakers would draw a picture based on what they had been told. In both cases, the listeners were able to reproduce the story respectively the images correctly.

The experiments confirmed the mutual intelligibility of the varieties represented at the workshop. These findings were strengthened by the fact that the Gwama speakers easily functioned as interpreters by using their mother tongue for ‘Koman Mao’ speakers who did not speak Amharic. In the cases where the communication between the Gwama speakers from the lowlands and the Koman Mao speakers mainly from Begi Woreda in Oromia Regional State was difficult or failed, the main problem seemed not to be a linguistic one. In almost all cases the Koman Mao speakers showed a significantly poorer language competence than the Gwama speakers from the lowlands, and in many cases they preferred to use Afaan Oromo instead of Gwama/Koman Mao.

(4) In spite of mutual intelligibility and a high degree of cognates, there is only little sense of unity between the speakers of Gwama and the varieties of Koman Mao.

In figure 2 above the information of the interviews are systematised and the villages grouped according to the ethnic and linguistic self-designation of the people. The figure shows a clear differentiation between an eastern, northern and central area (Begi Woreda and north-eastern Mao Komo Special Woreda) on one side and the West (western part of Mao Komo Special Woreda) on the other side. In the North, the East and around Tongo the people call themselves *Sit Shwala* or *Mao* and their language *T’wa Sit Shwala* or *Afaan Mao*.⁵⁶ *Mao* occurs more often as an ethnic designation than as a language name. *Gwama* is in very few cases mentioned as a language name only.

In the villages in the western and south-western part of the survey area the people call themselves *Komo* or *Gwama* and their language *Komo* for “proper Komo” and *Gwama*.

⁵⁵Wendemu Zeleke from Lak’e, Mao Komo SW (Gwama); Asadik Habte from Ya’a Baldigis, Mao Komo SW (Gwama); Subeda Hadi from Kama Chandi, Begi Woreda (Sit Shwala) and Matiwos Adaba from Ac’wo Orda, Begi Woreda (Sit Shwala); cf. appendix 2 and 3 and map 2.

⁵⁶Oromo speakers use *Mao*, and this is partly accepted as a self-designation. It is interesting to note that combinations as **Afaan Sit Shwala* or **T’wa Mao* do not occur in our material. Hellenthal, however, reports *T’wa Mai* from Ishgogo.

Gwama and Komo speakers live normally together in the same village. The Gwama speakers would never call their language *Afaan Mao* or *T'wa Sit Shwala*, but they are aware of the existence of a people group commonly called *Mao*, which speaks a similar language as they do.

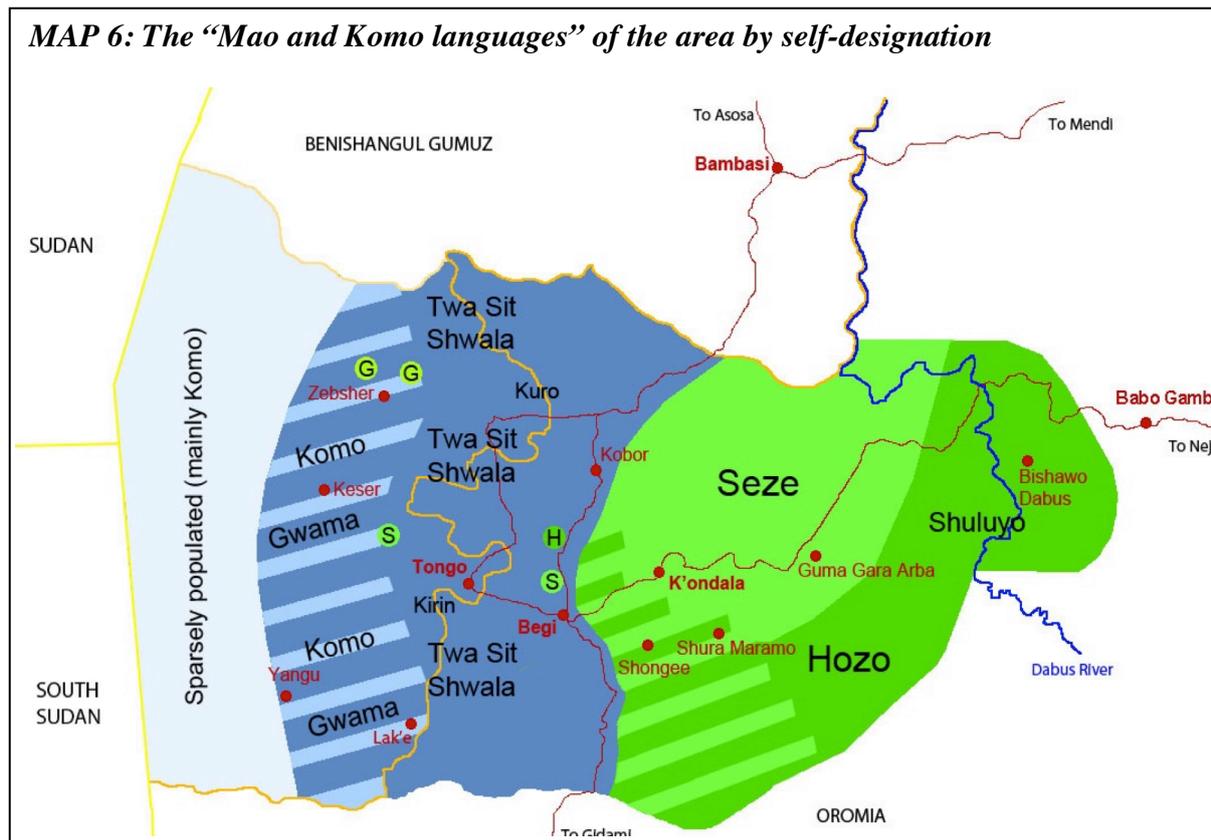
Speakers from Zebsher [Gwama] refuse that people in Ishgogo speak Gwama. According to them the people in Ishgogo speak Mao; but they do understand everything they say. (Anne-Christie Hellenthal, p.c. 09.2012)

In the central western villages of Kokeb, S'ulgolo, Bobis Ishkaba and Mimi Akobo on the slope from the Tongo Highland down to the Sudan plains, both people groups meet and define themselves as either *Mao/Sit Shwala*, speaking *Afan Mao/T'wa Sit Shwala* or as *Gwama*, speaking *T'wa Gwama*. In an interview conducted in Kokeb we got an immediate impression that there is a considerable difference between those people groups and their languages. While the Mao here occur as immigrants from the highlands looking for fertile soil, the Gwama are said to be the indigenous population with roots to the lowlands in the west and closely related to the Komo people. If we, however, take a look at the linguistic findings and compare the word list interviews with Somi Ambeya who calls himself and his language Mao and Abdula-lem Atair who calls himself and his language Gwama, the difference is small and qualifies the forms as varieties of the same language.⁵⁷ Thus the difference between these two people groups which is expressed so clearly in the interviews seems to have other reasons than linguistic.

4.1.3 *Gwama* or *Koman Mao* - a language with no name

Map 6 shows the main self-designations for the Koman and Omotic languages subject to this survey. On the basis of linguistic findings, the Koman languages can be divided into Komo (light blue) and Gwama/Koman Mao (dark blue). It has been proved that Gwama and the Koman Mao varieties are mutually intelligible and thus can be considered to be varieties of the same language (cf. 4.1.2). The answers to question 10 in the questionnaire (cf. appendix 1): “*Where else (in which villages) do people speak your language?*” confirm this view. As seen in appendix 2, table 1, column 9, in many cases typical Gwama speaking villages are mentioned by Koman Mao speakers in Begi Woreda as references where they speak “the same language”. There are few or no examples where it is the other way round. In typical Gwama speaking villages in the lowlands of Mao Komo Special Woreda, highland villages where the people call their language *T'wa Sit Shwala*, *T'wa Kuro* or *T'wa Kirin* are not mentioned as references where people might speak the same language.

⁵⁷According to Anne-Christie Hellenthal (p.c.), there are a couple of morphologic and tone differences besides the already mentioned phonetic differences and some rather well known varieties in the vocabulary. The morphologic differences concerning topics such as the systems of personal pronouns would need further investigation, as well as the partial (?) loss of tone distinctions in Koman Mao.



As explained earlier the term *Mao* is arbitrary and would not be accepted by the Gwama people to designate neither their language nor their ethnicity. The – artificial – term *Koman Mao* (cf. map 5) used in this paper is a somewhat more precise term than just *Mao* and excludes the Omotic *Mao* languages. It would, however, not include Gwama.⁵⁸

The term *Sit Shwala* for the people and *T’wa Sit Shwala* for the language is widely used as self-designations by the people groups called *Mao* by others, and may fit as a synonym of *Koman Mao* and as a generic term for the clan related terms *Kuro* and *Kirin*.⁵⁹ It would not include Gwama and is refused by the lowland Gwama speakers. This was made clear during the workshops on the Gwama language in Asosa in July and October 2013. Adadik Habte, a young Gwama from Ya’a Baldigis in Mao Komo Special Woreda clearly refused the use of *T’wa Sit Shwala* in spite of the fact that his language and the *T’wa Sit Shwala* language of other participants were easily mutually understandable. According to Adadik the term *Sit Shwala* simply refers to “*any kind of black people*” and is not distinct enough for being used for a particular language; thus also speakers of an Omotic *Mao* language could be called *Sit Shwala* – ‘black people’. The discussion gave the impression that the Gwama speakers disliked this term and that *Sit Shwala* might have something to do with the complicated and asymmetric relationship between *Mao* and Oromo people particularly in *Begi* Woreda. The *Sit Shwala* participants in the same workshop insisted that this term did not have any pejorative connotation, but they were more inclined to accept Gwama as a positive common designation than the Gwama people were to accept (*T’wa*) *Sit Shwala*.

⁵⁸It is worth mentioning that *Mao* and *Komo* are two of the five recognised indigenous people groups of Benishangul Gumuz Regional State, not *Gwama* and *Komo* as could be expected, cf. article 2 in the constitution of Benishangul Gumuz Regional State: “[...] the indigenous nation nationalities of the Region are Berta, Gumuz, Shinasha, *Mao* and *Como*.”

⁵⁹Cf. map 5 and map 6 ; for *Kuro* and *Kirin* cf. 4.1.4.

There are Gwama people speaking the Gwama language on the other side of the border in Sudan.⁶⁰ The terms *Mao* and *Sit Shwala* do not seem to be in use in Sudan and would probably not be accepted. The Ethiopian Gwama are aware of the existence of Gwama in Sudan and they have an understanding of a common origin. The *Mao* – if Koman or Omotic speaking – have a rather vague idea of “coming from the highlands” and “belonging to the same family” in spite of different languages.

All this suggests that *Gwama* might be the more useful and even more prestigious term compared with *T’wa Sit Shwala*, which is ambiguous and potentially pejorative, and *Koman Mao*, which is an artificial term. *Gwama* is already widely accepted in literature, but it still excludes thousands of speakers of very similar dialects.

4.1.4 Kirin and Kuro

In some of the interviews *Kirin* (*Kring*; *Kiring* ከሪንግ) and *Kuro* were mentioned either as ethnic terms for people groups and/or clans, or as language self-designations. Both terms seem to refer to clans or sub groups of ‘Koman Mao’ and to their language.⁶¹

Kirin is mainly reported from some villages around Tongo, such as Bobos Ishkaba and Wanga Git’en, as well as from Tongo town (cf. appendix 2 and map 6). There is one isolated reporting from Lak’e in the lowlands. In all cases, *Kirin* as a linguistic term stands in contrast to *Gwama* and *Komo*. The information that *Gwama* and *Kirin* are mutually understandable indicates that *Kirin* here designates a variety of *Koman Mao*.⁶²

Kirin may also designate a particular group of *Mao* with Arabic origin and a light complexion that forms a kind of political “*Mao elite*” (Alexander Meckelburg, p.c.). According to oral traditions, they learned *Koman Mao* only three generations ago when they immigrated to or were placed in the Tongo area. Nowadays some *Kirin* people (*Tongo Mao*) may call their language *Gwama*, no longer *Mao* because of political or status reasons. This avoids confusion with the Omotic *Mao* languages east of *Begi*.

A discussion of this complex issue exceeds the boundaries of this paper, and a more thorough investigation of this form of *Koman Mao* and their speakers might be fruitful, as well as of the reported use of *Kirin* for the languages of the *Seze* and *Hozo* people. So far, the meaning of the term *Kirin* does not really seem clear to me.

Kuro as an ethnic and linguistic term is mainly reported from some villages in the north-eastern part of the survey area, such as *Kongilo Gara Kelo*, *Giba Gulanza*, *Shombo Bayida* and *Kobor Chandi* (cf. figure 2, appendix 2 and map 6). Differing from *Kirin*, *Kuro* often occurs as the only term both for the language and the people in the villages of this defined area. According to other *Koman Mao* speakers, *Kuro* is a clan name, and as a language term it is simply “a dialect of *T’wa Sit Shwala*”⁶³. As mentioned in 4.1.2 (cf. table 2), the *Kuro* speakers use a significant number of different words compared with all other *Koman Mao* and *Gwama* varieties, which could give a reason to consider *Kuro* a distinct dialect of *Koman Mao*. A confirmation of this assumption would require further investigation. It should be noted that an Omotic speaking minority (*Mao Seze* or *Mao Hozo*; cf. appendix 2) is reported from the *Kuro*

⁶⁰Cf. Theis (1995) and Krell (2011).

⁶¹In a few cases this or a similar term was used for speakers of Omotic *Mao* as by the *Seze* speakers Hika Dinbasha and Ramadan Hassan (*Begi*, 1.10.2012): “*Hozo and Seze are from the same family; their language is ‘Krij’*”, or by Abosh Mustafa, a *Koman Mao* speaker from *Wanga Git’en* (*Asosa*, 24.7.13) who called the language of the *Seze* people ‘*Krij*’.

⁶²Cf. Manuel Otero, p.c., September 2012: “*Kirin* is an ethnic and/or language term. *Kirin* and *Gwama* are mutually intelligible although the *Komo* who spoke *Gwama* say *Kirin* is a little different from *Gwama*.”

⁶³*Matiwos Adaba*, *Ac’wo Orda*, *Begi Woreda*, Survey Team 2.

villages mentioned above; Kuro thus appears at the interface between Koman Mao and Omotic Mao.

In the villages Gemi Gaba and Laliftu Lop'i with a Hozo or Seze speaking majority, Kuro is mentioned as an additional language. This might suggest that there is a Koman Mao speaking minority in these villages. The information we got from Shagga that there were some old people in this village, who speak "an old and traditional language called Kuro" could indicate a similar situation. According to Kasim Hassan, Kuro is a "dying language" in this area that is different from all other languages; young people would not understand it.⁶⁴

In Shera Kama, also on the boundary between Koman Mao and Omotic Mao, Kuro is mentioned as the name of a clan (cf. appendix 2). Some of the Kuro people in Shera Kama appear to speak Koman Mao and others an Omotic language - Seze or Hozo. It is noteworthy that some of the speakers of Koman Mao in Shera Kama acknowledge the people in Shagga and Kabache, villages that have clearly Omotic speaking populations, as "the same people".

Tadesse Fayisa from Ego Girmos, a Koman Mao speaking village, explains that the majority of the people in his village belong to the clan of *Kur*. They traditionally intermarry with Seze and Hozo. He states:

The grandfathers of the people of Ego Girmos originally came from Kabache, but today the people in Kabache only speak Seze. There are still a few people in Shagga and Kabache who speak Kuro and they are *Kur* just as we are. (Tadesse Fayisa, Ego Girmos, 4.10.2012).

This information could be connected to the notice from Shagga, Kabache's neighbouring village, about the rests of a Kuro speaking population and would possibly also explain why there is a relationship between the Koman Mao speakers in Shera Kama and the people in Shagga and Kabache.

It seems obvious that the clan membership is more important for the people than belonging to a particular language group. This is also the case for people from the Hozo clan, who may speak Hozo in one place and Seze in the other (cf. appendix 2). These findings lead to a couple of additional questions: Do the remains of Koman Mao speakers called *Kuro* in Shagga on one side and the Omotic speaking Kuro in Shera Kama on the other side indicate that there is an on-going language change from Koman Mao to Omotic Mao in this area? Or is the opposite the case – that the Kuro in the north-east of the survey area as well as the *Kur* in Ego Girmos, originating from Kabache, spoke an Omotic language while today they are Koman Mao speakers? If some radical language change has been going on in recent times in this area, could this so help us to explain the origin and the migration of the Mao? Could this give some answers to the question why some groups who speak a Koman language closely related Gwama today consider themselves to be 'Mao' and look at Seze or Hozo speaking clan as the same people, but who do not look at Gwama people from the lowlands this way?

The enigmatic term *Kuro* at the interface between "Mao and Mao" would be an interesting starting point for further studies, preferably together with historians and anthropologists.

4.1.5 What is *Kwama*?

The use of term *Kwama* has caused some confusion. What does it mean? Is it a separate language or a dialect variety of Gwama or even Komo, or is it merely a synonym of Gwama? In much of the literature such as Bender (1975; 1983); Siebert et al. (1993; 1994) and Davis et al. (2011) *Kwama* is used for the language or at least for a part of a dialect cluster, which is

⁶⁴From an interview with Kasim Hassan from Shagga, belonging to Hozo Clan, speaker of Seze.

here called Gwama.⁶⁵ In *The Ethnologue* (Lewis 2009) we find an entry on *Kwama*, where Gwama is mentioned as one of the synonyms and as the term used by Komo speakers.

All relevant entries in *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica* (cf. Bryant et al 2007; Bender 2007; Fleming 2007) follow this terminology. In other publications such as Hellenthal (2005), Zela-layew (2005) and Kievit et al. (2011), as well as in this survey, *Gwama* is used to refer to this language or to a part of this dialect cluster. All this indicates that Gwama and Kwama can simply be considered to be synonyms, addressing the same Koman dialects spoken in the western part of our survey area (cf. map 6). This fits with several statements made in the interviews with Gwama people who mentioned that the most correct designation of their language would be *T'wa Kwama*.

This opinion is confirmed by Asadik Habte from Ya'a in the transition area between highland and lowland. According to him, the Gwama speakers would use [t^wa k^wama] or [t^wa g^wama] for the language and [k^wama] or [g^wama] for the people - with strikingly fronted [a]'s. Whether it is pronounced with an initial [g] or [k] does not seem to be of relevance.

There is, however, other evidence that makes it difficult to believe that Kwama merely is a synonym of Gwama. In our material Kwama sometimes was noted besides Gwama, particularly in villages such as Lak'e, Shumate and Bangatarko with a mixed Gwama and Komo speaking population. Here it was reported that there are people who speak *Gwama* while there are others who speak *Kwama*.

From Yiwa, most likely a purely Komo speaking village west of Yangu⁶⁶, we received the notice that the people call themselves *Komo* while others call them or their language *Kwama*. This again fits with what is explained in Kievit et al. (2011:13)⁶⁷ and what is mentioned by Theis (1995). Otero (p.c.) and Hellenthal (p.c.) suggest that *T'wa Kwama* might be the term Gwama speakers use when they refer to the Komo language. Accordingly, *Kwama* here could be considered to be the Gwama word that is used when referring to the Komo language.

This opinion was confirmed in interviews in the villages around Penshuba, a multilingual area in Mao Komo Special Woreda (cf. appendix 2 and map 2). Here the Gwama speakers clearly state that there are people who speak a language that is not understood by them - the same languages that is spoken in Yangu and Lak'e. Gwama speakers call it *Kwama Dini*. It is obvious that they here refer to Komo. So *Kwama Dini* and *T'wa Kwama Dini* is at least in this area the Gwama designation for the Komo people and their language. The Komo of the area would call them themselves [kɔm] and their language [t'a kɔm]⁶⁸; [g^wama] and [t'a g^wama] is the Komo designation for Gwama.⁶⁹ Krell (2011:11) presents a similar suggestion:

“Komo speakers from the village of Gondolo call themselves Koma. They call their language Koma or Kwoma. The Ganza and Kwama [Gwama] people also call them Koma or Kwoma.”

⁶⁵Cf. Kievit et al. (2011: 14): “[...] the term Kwama is used in these surveys to refer to Gwama”

⁶⁶Now abandoned because of governmental “villagesation”; people mainly resettled to Yangu and Lak'e

⁶⁷“The Gwama people are known by others as Komo. This name is, however, also applied to another ethnic group. On the basis of language and cultural identity those that the name Komo is applied to can be divided into two groups: proper Komo and Gwama. The former call themselves T'a Komo and are called T'wa Kwama by the Gwama. The Gwama call themselves T'wa Gwama and are called T'a Gwama by the Komo. This is summarized in table 1.” Cf. also Kievit et al. 2011: 13

⁶⁸[kɔm] or [k^wɔm] may be heard. It seems that the vowel quality [ɔ]/[^wɔ] vs. [a]/[^wa] is most decisive

⁶⁹According to Abdarhaman Bitu, Penshuba, the Ganza call the Komo people [k^wɔmɔ] and their language [t^wa k^wɔmɔ] – with a clearly velar A-sound.

In summary we can say that *Kwama* may either - as frequently used in literature – be a synonym for Gwama or the Gwama word for the Komo language.⁷⁰ There is no evidence proving the existence of a separate Kwama language or even a Kwama dialect of either Gwama or Komo. In order to avoid misunderstandings and terminological confusion, I would recommend sticking to the terms Gwama and Komo both for the people and for their language.

4.2 The Omotic Mao languages

4.2.1 Designations and relationships

The scientific discussion with regard to the genetic position of the Mao languages is thoroughly documented in Ahland (2012:13-18). While it is generally accepted today that Omotic is one of the primary branches of the Afro-Asiatic family, the position of the four languages Hozo, Seze⁷¹, Ganza and Northern Mao is still being discussed. Ahland, (2012:15f) refers to Bender (2003) who suggests a 2-way split from Proto-Omotic into Mao and all other Omotic languages⁷², and to Hayward (2000) who classifies the Mao languages as one member of a 3-way split from Proto-Omotic into Mao, South Omotic and North Omotic.⁷³ Ahland further refers to Bender (2000) who states that the Mao languages are the most divergent in Omotic and supports a 2-way split solution lumping Omotic Mao in one group and all other Omotic languages in another branch. Finally, he concludes:

What's most important here is that these scholars each position the Mao group [i.e. the Omotic Mao languages Hozo, Sezo, Northern Mao and Ganza] as an early split from Proto-Omotic. Ahland (2012:16)

This discussion regarding the genetic classification of Mao only addresses the Omotic Mao languages. We cannot overlook that a substantial number of speakers in the Begi - Tongo area at least in certain circumstances call themselves and their Koman language *Mao*, and that for the Oromo, the entire indigenous population of the area indiscriminately speaks what is referred to as “Afaan Mao”.

This survey has no intention of interfering with the discussion about the internal classification of the Omotic languages. It merely intends to suggest the use of terms that are as clear and unambiguous as possible. I would therefore like to make the following statements:

(1) We do not use the term *Mao* as an linguistic term unless it is well defined and specified in detail through its combination with another term.

⁷⁰What makes this case more complicated is the fact that Gwama, Komo and Ganza speakers have their own way of pronouncing this word – that additionally may have different meanings in the different languages. The “colour” of the A-sounds seems to be at least as important as the initial [g] vs. [k].

⁷¹One may find different varieties of this name; *Sezo* seems to be most used in older literature. Siebert et al. (1993/2002), Davis et.al. (2011) and Ahland (2012) use *Seze* (*Seeze*, *Seezi*). Girma Mengistu, who works on a PhD dissertation on Seze at Addis Ababa University, has decided to use *Sezi* as the language designation in his work since all nouns in this language terminate in an [i] (p.c. 29.4.2013). I here follow most of the newer literature by using *Seze*. The frequently heard pronunciation [se:ɖʒo] may be developed by Oromo speakers.

⁷²Cf. Figure 1.5 in Ahland (2012:15), based on Bender (2003:1).

⁷³Cf. Figure 1.6 in Ahland (2012:16), based on Hayward (2000:242).

As shown in figure 2, Mao is used as a designation for a Koman language – often synonym to T’wa Sit Shwala but different from Gwama (cf. 4.1.2). The term “Begi Mao” is ambiguous and misleading.

(2) Seze, Hozo, Northern Mao and Ganza are Omotic languages and may be called *Omotic Mao*.⁷⁴ Anfillo is a Northern Omotic Kefoid language, not belonging to the Mao branch of the Omotic languages though its speakers call themselves and their language Mao.

This is regardless of whether Omotic Mao is classified as an independent second or third branch of the Omotic languages (Bender 2003; Hayward 2000) or as a branch of the North Omotic languages. The degree of affiliation between Ganza and this group is not yet clear (cf. 4.2.4). Northern Mao here designates the Omotic language, which is spoken around Bambasi and in the Didessa valley and may form the “eastern branch” of the Omotic Mao languages.⁷⁵ The closely related languages Hozo and Seze may so form the “western branch” of this language group. There is no common name for these two languages/dialects; here I will use *Seze/Hozo* even if the status of Hozo and related dialects is not completely clear yet, or just Omotic Mao – well knowing that this term normally also includes Northern Mao and Ganza.

4.2.1 The Seze – Hozo language area

Seze, Hozo and closely related dialects are spoken in the eastern part of the survey area with their centre in K’ondala Woreda. There are also recordings from villages with Seze and Hozo speakers east and north of the Dabus River in the western part of Babo Gambel Woreda and the southernmost part of Mana Sibu Woreda (cf. maps 1 and 2). In the eastern part of Begi Woreda and along the road from Begi to Bambasi there are villages with at least Seze or Hozo minorities. It is not known if there are villages with speakers of Hozo, Seze or related dialects in the northern part of Jima Horro Woreda, but that would not be unlikely.⁷⁶

The Omotic Mao languages Seze and Hozo form a compact area in Oromia Regional State surrounded by Oromo speakers on three sides (cf. map 4). Today there may be a majority of Oromo speakers within the whole area. These as well as immigrant groups from southern and north-eastern Ethiopia live mainly along the Begi –K’ondala – Babo Gambel road, while there are still villages with almost exclusively Omotic Mao speaking inhabitants in the remote parts of the Guma Gara Arba mountains and in the Dabus Swamps.

In the West close to the road from Gidami via Begi to Bambasi there may be some overlap between the Omotic Mao and Koman Mao areas. In some of the mainly Koman Mao speaking villages such as Kobar Chandi and Kongilo Gara Kelo, there are reported Hozo or Seze minorities (cf. appendix 3), as well as in the Girmos-area south of the Begi – Tongo road. Investigations in this area have shown that those “minorities” in some cases are women moved there by marriage, something that again confirms the close relationship between the Omotic Mao and the Koman Mao with a common ethnic Mao identity in spite of the languages differ-

⁷⁴As far as I can see, Ganza speakers would not call themselves or their language *Mao*.

⁷⁵Cf., however, Smidt (2007:756), where Northern Mao is used differently: “The Northern M[ao] are a cluster of several, linguistically and culturally closely related Omotic-speaking groups, mainly consisting of the Hozo and Sezo, who call themselves collectively the Beg-mawa (‘M. of Begi’).”

⁷⁶Very little reliable linguistic research has been done on the indigenous languages of this area. Cf. Siebert et al. (1993/2002; 1994/2002). In Siebert et al. (1993/2002) word lists of Hozo, Seze 1 and Seze 2 are given without specifying the origin of the Seze-varieties. In Davis et al. (2011) this word lists are the basis for a statistics of cognates. The result is surprising: only 58 % of cognates between Seze 1 and Seze 2 and 50 % respectively 37 % between Hozo and the two Seze varieties (cf. p.14). The existence of different Seze varieties is not confirmed by my material and may be due to a mixture between Seze and Hozo forms or the different understandings of the English terms.

ences. Regarding the role of the Kuro clan and the obviously bilingual area around Shera Kama cf. 4.1.4.⁷⁷

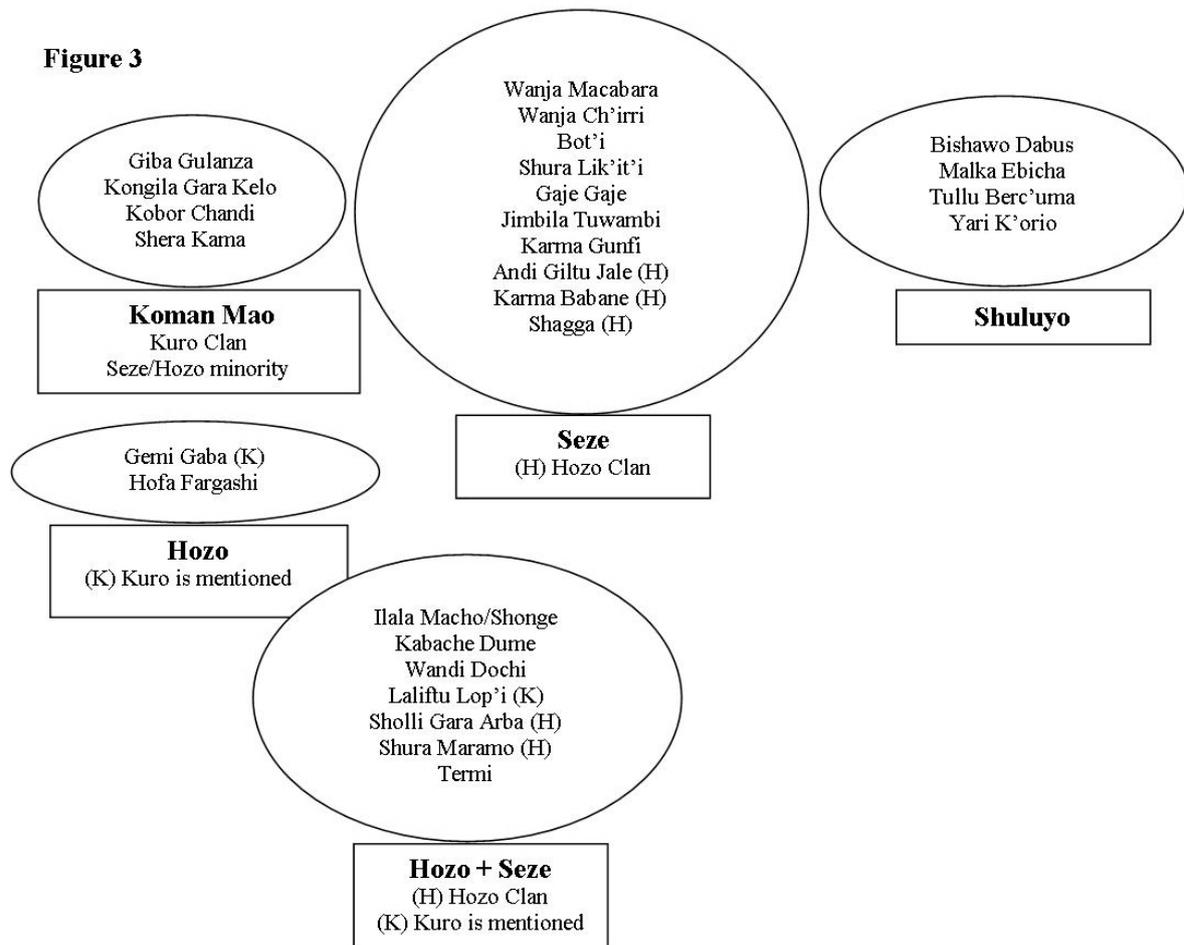


Figure 3: Villages with mainly Seze and Hozo/Shuluyo speakers in clusters according to the self-designations for the languages.

As we can see from this figure, Seze is spoken in the central and northern part of this Omotic Mao area, while Hozo is mainly spoken in the south and southwest (cf. also map 6 and appendix 2). Shuluyo here considered closely related to Hozo or as a part of a Hozo dialect cluster is reported as the only Omotic Mao language in the east. In the southern and western part both Seze and Hozo speakers are reported from most of the villages.⁷⁸ This may amongst other reasons be because of the existence of minorities due to intermarriage or the confusion arising from the fact that a significant portion of the members of the Hozo clan speaks Seze. The *H* behind the name of villages on figure 3 indicates that the majority of the speakers in this village belong to the Hozo clan – regardless if they speak Seze or Hozo. The *K* indicates that there is reported a “Kuro speaking minority”.

The only occurrence of Seze/Hozo in Mao Komo Special Woreda seems to be in the village of Mimi Akobo (cf. appendix 2 and map 6; not included in figure 3). The interview with

⁷⁷The Seze recordings from Shera Kama do not show any significant differences from recordings from other Seze speaking villages e.g. in the central Guma Gara Arba area.

⁷⁸Girma Mengistu and Getachew Kassa, Addis Ababa University, assume an even bigger number of bilingual villages than could be confirmed in this survey. See also appendix 2, table 2; right column.

Atherpha Dina (10/2012) confirms the findings of survey group 2 that there is a significant Omotic speaking population in this Gwama/Koman Mao speaking village.⁷⁹ The word list recording shows that these people speak Seze without any obvious differences to other Seze speakers. The Seze speakers in Mimi Akobo belong to the typical Omotic Mao clan of Madego and call their language *Dashen* or *Fargashi*. They claim that they came from Hofa Fargashi in K'ondala Woreda down to the lowlands looking for fertile land. Curiously the people in Hofa Fargashi all seem to be Hozo speakers and belong to the Gadatso, a mainly Hozo speaking clan (cf. appendix 2).

4.2.2 Seze – Hozo – Shuluyo

There seems to be some disagreement amongst the scientists⁸⁰ as well as amongst the speakers in how far Seze and Hozo can be classified as two different languages or as dialects of the same language. Furthermore, in the interviews and wordlist recordings, three language self-designations occur; besides Hozo and Seze there is a considerable group of speakers who consistently call their language Shuluyo. When discussing the question how many different Omotic Mao languages are spoken in the area with the speakers, I got the following statements:

You cannot say that they [Seze and Hozo] are two different languages. There are just different dialects from village to village. [...] Hozo and Seze are from the same family; their language is *Kriŋ*⁸¹ (Hika Dinbasha from Konsa in Guma Gara Arba k'ebele, Seze speaker, Survey team 3, 1.10.2012)

Our language [Hozo] is the same [as Seze] but there are differences like in Oromo – there are different dialects [...]. (Asafa Sambo, Hozo speaker, Hofa Fargashi, 1.7.2011)

This [Shuluyo] is also our language – only a little bit different. It is the same language and we understand it well. They just use some other words and different sounds. (Ramadan Hassan, Seze speaker, Shagga, Survey tem 3, 1.10.2012)⁸²

Those interview statements may give the impression that there is only one Omotic Mao language in this area, and that Seze, Hozo and Shuluyo are just different varieties of the same language. Hika and Ramadan would even establish a hierarchy between these “dialects”:

Shuluyo is under Seze; Hozo is also under Seze (Hika Dinbasha and Ramadan Hassan, both Seze speakers, 1.10.12)

There may be several reasons for this statement. Seze has a well defined distribution area with a centre in Guma Gara Arba K'ebele. This area in K'ondala Woreda on both sides of the road to Babo Gambel still seems to have a rather homogenous and vivid Seze speaking community that is well aware and conscious of their language. Another reason may be that Seze as a linguistic and ethnic term is well known and established, and is used indiscriminately by all speakers for their language. Dialect differences in Seze are not reported.

⁷⁹According to Atherpha Dina there are as many as 1000 Seze speaking people in Mimi Akobo – in addition to a majority of around 5000 Gwama/Koman Mao speakers.

⁸⁰Cf. e.g. Bender (2003) who lists Seze/Hozo as one branch of the Mao languages contrasting to the two other branches: Ganza and Northern Mao (“Bambassi-Diddesa”).

⁸¹The term *Kriŋ* is unclear; a Koman Mao speaking Kirin clan seems to exist in some villages near Tongo, which is obviously not meant here. Cf. 4.1.4.

⁸²When mentioning this, Ramadan was listening to an audio recording from Bishawo Dabus; however, he has good knowledge of Hozo.

This is not the case for Hozo and Shuluyo. The Hozo area appears to be scattered, and there are only a few villages where Hozo is reported as the only Omotic Mao language (cf. figure 3). Additionally, Hozo is used as a clan name for both Hozo and Seze speaking people in the area. The main difference, however, seems to be that Hozo is by far as known and generally accepted as Seze. In our interviews in the south-eastern and eastern part of the area, in Boji Gara Arba k'ebele⁸³, in the remote Guma Gara Arba Mountains, in the Dabus Swamps, on the eastern bank of the Dabus River and in the swamps on the K'ondala side, we recorded word lists, which were more or less identical with the Hozo recordings in the south-western part of the area and with the findings for Hozo in the literature (cf. appendix 3). The speakers, however, did not accept the term *Hozo* for the people or for the language. In these remote areas they only use *Mao Shuluyo*. This is also the term that Seze speakers in the more central areas of Guma Gara Arba use to refer to them. When the Shuluyo speakers mention villages where they speak “the same language” (cf. appendix 1, question 10) they only refer to villages in the close surroundings. There are no recordings of connections to the Hozo language that is spoken in e.g. Hofa Fargashi in the south-west of the Omotic Mao area (cf. map 6; appendix 2).

The informants on the eastern side of the Dabus River, in Bishawo Dabus and Malka Ebicha did not even have a specific name for their language. They called themselves and their language [mɔ:]⁸⁴, ‘Mao’, and supposed that their language was not spoken any other place. However, when we talked about marriage they did admit that they took wives from Boji Gara Arba on the K'ondala side “where they speak the same language”. Any relationship to the language or clan called Hozo was denied.

The linguistic facts, however, show a different picture. The cognates between Seze and Hozo in my material are not more than 70 %, while I could not find any systematic differences between what was called *Hozo* and *Shuluyo* by the speakers.⁸⁵ In table 4 a few examples of systematic sound contrast with common roots are shown:

⁸³Boji Gara Arba was called the heart of the Shuluyo area. There are no references to other areas, but the predominant clan in Boji Gara Arba is Makep'o which in other areas seems to be a typical Seze speaking clan (cf. appendix 2). Here as in other cases we cannot find any clear coincidence between clan and language.

⁸⁴The meaning is ‘man’, ‘person’ in Hozo and related dialects.

⁸⁵Because of unclear recording about 14 % of the total material has not been counted. Especially regarding the adjectives, a large number of varieties were mentioned. They may often have similar meanings. On closer examination, the percentage of cognates would probably increase slightly. See also 2.1 regarding the limitations of the method for making statements about genetic relationships and mutual understandability of languages out of a very limited corpus of words.

	English	Seze	Hozo/Shuluyo
[w] vs. [b]		[w]	[b]
	‘bird’	ka:wi	kabi
	‘eye’	a:wi	a:bi
[s] vs. [t]		[t]	[s]
	‘moon’	ɛmtɪ	ɛmsɪ
	‘tear’	(h)amsi	amti
	‘tree’	ɛ:nsɪ	ĩnti (H)
Loss of consonants			
	‘goat’	ʃak’i	ʃa
	‘heavy’	pek’i	pe’i
	‘nose’	ʃinti	ʃini
	‘water’	ha:ns(’)i	ha:ni

Table 4: Examples of regular sound differences between Seze and Hozo/Shuluyo:

In about 30 % of our –very limited - material, Seze and Hozo/Shuluyo show different roots.

English	Seze	Hozo/Shuluyo	Comments
‘donkey’	huldi	kure(:)	cf. [kuru] in Gwama
‘foot’	tugɪ	daka	
‘heart’	ʃin ^ʔ tʉɪ	niba	Hozo also [diba]
‘house’	kja:ɪ	kera	Sound contrast?
‘road’	k ^w ɛ:ɪ	kaʃi	Sound contrast?
‘stone’	ʃæwi	wa:ðzi	
‘tail’	wĩɲɪ	ʉmbɪli	
‘wind’	(Φɪʃa)wɔɲɪ	ʃa:wi	Seze also [piʃawɔɲɪ]
‘one’	ɪʃɪle:	ɔɔ	

Table 5: Some known cases of different roots in Seze and Hozo/Shuluyo:

These findings correspond well with the data in Bender (2007:85):“The lexical resemblance between Hozo and Sezo is about 65 % of basic lexicon, implying a low degree of mutual intelligibility”

In contrast to what was previously stated, there are a couple of reports that would deny that Hozo and Seze are mutually intelligible, as the informants from the very remote place Tullu Berc’uma prove. These Shuluyo speakers clearly assured that they prefer Oromo when communicating with Seze speakers. They admitted that there were many similar words, but the mutual intelligibility was not guaranteed or at least very arduous.

These findings may lead to the conclusion that Seze and Hozo/Shuluyo should be considered two different languages rather than a dialect cluster. The statements mentioned above indicating the opposite can thus be taken as wishful thinking, as expressions of an ideal “Mao

unity” in a situation where all Mao languages, at least in Oromia region, are endangered and extremely pressed by Oromo.

With regard to Shuluyo, our material does not give any evidence for a distinguished third Omotic Mao language in the area. There are only few differences between Hozo and Shuluyo, which might even be due to different words randomly used for the same concept or interference from Seze or Oromo. Hozo and Shuluyo may thus be considered to be the same language (cf. appendix 3). However, since the speakers in the north-eastern part of the survey area – on both sides of the Dabus River – do not accept the term *Hozo* for their language and consequently use *Mao Shuluyo* as the linguistic self-designation, we may face a terminological problem in case of a development and further description of this language.

4.2.3 The Ganza mystery

According to The Ethnologue (Lewis 2009), Ganza is a language spoken in the Yabus area in Sudan belonging to the same branch of the Omotic languages as Hozo, Seze and Northern Mao. However, geographically it is rather distant and isolated from the three other Omotic Mao languages. Ganza is supposed to be closer related to Hozo⁸⁶ or to the Seze/Hozo cluster than Northern Mao.⁸⁷ These statements are not substantiated and may be taken only as assumptions until the degree of relatedness between Ganza and the other Omotic Mao languages is investigated more closely.

Ahland (2010:2) questions the idea of Fleming (1986) and Bender (2003) that Ganza only is spoken in the Yabus area of Sudan.⁸⁸ He refers to speakers of Northern Mao who suppose that Ganza speakers also live on the Ethiopian side of the border west of Bambasi town, and that their language is somewhat similar to their own language.

When travelling in Mao Komo Special Woreda I was frequently told that there are Ganza people in the area of Penshuba and Ya’a Baldigis (cf. map 2).⁸⁹ In fact, during field visits in the area this could be proved. According to the people in Penshuba⁹⁰, there are around 15 – 20 households of Ganza speakers in the village – probably less than 100 speakers. Also in Ya’a Baldigis there may be not more than 100 Ganza speakers.⁹¹ A few Ganza speakers may be found in Banga Kesi in Penshuba k’ebele, 4h on foot from the k’ebele village. The references to Yangu k’ebele regarding Ganza speakers gave negative results. According to all interviewees, the majority of Ganza speakers are still found in the Yabus area of the Sudan.⁹²

⁸⁶Cf. Smidt (2007): “A group culturally linked to the Kwama (but, unlike them, speaking an Omotic language belonging to the Mao language group), and related to the Hozo, are the Ganza [...]”

⁸⁷Cf. also the “Ganza” article in EAE by Fleming (2007:756): “Ganza [...] is one language with no recorded internal diversity. First discovered by Redhead and James, it is found nearby in Sudan in the hill country near the Ethiopian border, being the only Omotic language found outside of Ethiopia. [...]. [T]here is some indication that – lexically – Ganza is a little closer to the Hozo-Sezo cluster than it is to the Bambeshi-Didessa branch.”

⁸⁸Theis (1995) refers to a strong and culturally self conscious Ganza population along the Yabus River just west of the Ethiopian border south of Asosa. According to Theis, the Ganza settle together with Komo, Gwama, Uduk and Shita. Cf. the map in Theis (1995:35) with the settlement area of these people groups.

⁸⁹Girma Mengistu (p.c.) informed me about Ganza speakers in Ya’a Baldigis and gave me a short word list he had noted down. Ahland (2012:4) refers to Krell (2011:10) who reports that Ganza speakers live in a place called Yamasala; this could refer to the village Ya’a Mesera, close to Ya’a Baldigis. Cf. also Hofmeister (2010) with references to Ganza speaking villages in Sudan.

⁹⁰Group interview with Gwama, Komo, Berta and Ganza speakers 3.12.2012; the interview was conducted in Gwama which is the lingua franca in the village. The findings were confirmed in an interview with Abdurahman Bitu (3.10.2013).

⁹¹Interviews with Yakub Allejawo (18.1.2013) and Mengistu Abdulla (3.10.2013) from Ya’a Baldigis

⁹²Krell (2011:10) reports from the Ganza in South Sudan, as a vital ethnic and linguistic group: “Ganza speakers from Dahmoh call themselves Gwami [gwamí]. The Uduk also call them Gwami. They say that Ganza is an Arabic term. When speaking their mother tongue, the Ganza speakers also call it Gwami. [...] Other villages where

The Ganza in Penshuba and Ya'a are supposed to come from the Duga Bele Mountain in Sudan; they did not live in Ethiopia at the time of Almahdi.⁹³

The Ganza in Penshuba and Ya'a Baldigis call their language *Gwami*; Ganza as a language name is only used by others. The self-designation of the people seems to be Ganza (*Ganzo*), while *Gwami* is limited to the language. They are divided into several clans as e.g. *Ganza deshisi*, *Ganza dokanuku*, *Ganza puni/φuni*, *Ganza walagimbu* and *Ganza gwunzi*.

All Ganza in Penshuba and Ya'a Baldigis seem to be bilingual and use *Gwama/Koman Mao* as lingua franca. There is no or only limited knowledge in *Komo*, *Oromo* and *Amharic*, but they may know some *Berta*. The Ganza community occurs rather closed where Ganza only intermarry with Ganza and children do not attend any school. This contributes to the conservation of the language in spite of the small number of speakers.⁹⁴ An exchange with Ganza from *Yabbus* area in Sudan is not reported. On a social level the Ganza seem to have lower status compared to the *Gwama*, and use their own language only inside their houses or in other 'safe' settings.

On the basis of these interviews, the two villages with Ganza speakers in the survey area are marked with *G* on map 6; the green-yellow colour indicates *Omotiic Mao*.

Very little linguistic research has been done on Ganza, and only based on my limited material the relationship between Ganza and other *Omotiic* languages such as *Seze/Hozo* or *Northern Mao* is impossible to state with certainty.⁹⁵ An analysis of the recorded word list (cf. appendix 3) shows – with all reservation – the following cognates: 39% with *Seze/Hozo*, 11% with *Gwama* and 5.5 % with *Komo*.⁹⁶ For 44.5 % no clear cognates with any of those languages could be found.

Ganza/*Gwami* is spoken include *Tugubele*, *Korbum*, *Darsoma*, and *Yeshkab*. *Yamasala*, Ethiopia is a village where Ganza is also spoken. Apparently, all the people living in *Dahmoh* speak Ganza."

⁹³Almahdi , 1941 – 1974, son of *Khojali* and governor of *Begi*

⁹⁴According to *Mengistu Abdulla* (3.10.2013), the Ganza speaking community is even growing because of high fertility and the fact that the Ganza do not send their children to school and do not intermarry with others.

⁹⁵In September/October 2013 *David Ford*, SIL Ethiopia, elicited, transcribed and recorded the CWL 1700-word wordlist for the Ganza language with *Abdurahman Bitu* from *Penshuba* and *Mengistu Abdulla* from *Ya'a Baldigis* as informants (unpublished). This word list is currently the biggest and most reliable corpus of Ganza words. A thorough examination of this list and a comparison of similar list from the other *Omotiic Mao* languages may answer some questions regarding the relationship and the mutual intelligibility.

⁹⁶78 words were asked, 72 Ganza correspondences could be used for comparison; in six cases the answers were unclear or arbitrary. The answers from the interviews were checked against the wordlist of *Girma Mengistu*, *Addis Ababa University*, *Krell* (2011) and the 1,700-word wordlist elaborated by *David Ford*, SIL.

English	Seze (S)/Hozo (H)	Ganza	Comments
'ashes'	pendi (H)	kenda	-i - -a
'bird'	kawi(S)/kabi (H)	kapi/kaϕi	aw/ab - ap/aϕ
'cow'	imi (S/H)	imi	also Gwama
'to drink'	ifi	ifi-	
'ear'	we: [?] i (S)/we (H)	wɔja	ε: [?] i - ɔja
'to eat'	ma([?]) (S/H)	ma [?]	
'eye'	a:wɪ (S)a:bi (H)	ap/aϕ	aw/ab - ap/aϕ
'foot'	tugi (S)	toko/tɔgɔ	-i - -ɔ
'goat'	ʃagi (S)/ʃa (H)	ʃa [?] a	-i - -a
'hand'	kusi (S)/ k'ɪɔzi (H)	kɔnsɔ	-i - -ɔ ?
'house'	k'a:ɪ (S)/kera (H)	ka [?] a	-i - -a
'lip'	wɑ:n gɔŋki (S)	nana gɔŋgɔ/ gɔŋkɔ	-i - -ɔ
'meat'	ɔs:i (S)/ɔs'i (H)	wasi	
'moon'	ɛmsi (S)/ ɛmti (H)	anzi/ans'i	“S“ vs. “T“
'nest'	kawk'a:ɪ (S)/ kabikera (H)	kapika([?] a)	aw/ab - ap
'nose'	ʃi:nti (S)/ ʃini (H)	ʃi:nt(i)	
'road'	k ^w ε: [?] i (S)	k ^w ɔja	ε: [?] i - ɔja
'smoke of fire'	s'u:wɪ (S)/ s'u:bi (H)	s'uba	w/b - b; -i - -a
'sun'	a:w-tuɪ (S)/ abi (H)	aba/awa	w/b - b; -i - -a
'tree'	ε:nsɪ (S)/ ĩnti (H)	ins'a	“S“ vs. “T“; -i - -a
'water'	i. ha:nsɪ (S)/ ha:ni (H)	ha [?] a	-i - -a
'woman'	ʃa:ɪ (S)/ ʃε: (H)	sa [?] a	a:ɪ - a [?] a
'one'	ifiɪe (S)	ifi-	Only Seze!
'two'	nɔmbe (S)/ dɔmbɔ (H)	mambu	
'three'	si:ze (S)/ ʃeazi (H)	dizi/t'izi	?
'four'	bɛs'e (S)/ bɛs'i (H)	mazi/maz'i	?
'five'	k ^w ɪze (S)/ (g)is'i (H)	g ^w us'i/k ^w ɪzi	

Table 6: Possible Ganza and Seze/Hozo cognates

My tentative findings support the classification of Ganza as an the Omotic Mao language. In the column of comments, a couple of observations are listed which might indicate regular differences –like [w]/[b] in Seze/Hozo vs. [p]/[ϕ] in Ganza, or [-a]/[-ɔ] endings in Ganza where Seze/Hozo has [-i]/[-]. It would be particularly interesting to compare the 1700 items list recorded by David Ford (unpublished) with a Northern Mao word list for assessing the family relationship between those two languages. Generally we need more linguistic research on Ganza to able to make any final statements.

In summary my investigation has revealed that there are around 200 - 300 Ganza speakers in Mao Komo Special Woreda in Ethiopia. These Ganza live in villages with a majority of Gwama speakers and are aware of their descent from the Yabus area in Sudan, where the ma-

majority of Ganza speakers live. The wordlist shows a connection to Seze/Hozo that indicates that Ganza together with Seze, Hozo and Northern Mao belongs to the Omotic Mao languages.⁹⁷ The relationship to Seze and Hozo and probably also Northern Mao is, however, beyond mutual intelligibility.

5. The status of the “Mao – Komo languages”

5.1 Number of speakers

It is difficult to give dependable statistics of the number of speakers of each of the “Mao - Komo languages” in the survey area. One of the reasons for this is the general lack of reliable data with regard to inhabitants and language use. The arbitrary and confusing ethnic and linguistic designations are another challenge. Finally, there is probably a considerable number of bilingual people in this area, many of whom are about to lose the language of their ancestors and acquire a new mother tongue, and who would classify themselves differently depending on the context in which and by whom the data was collected.⁹⁸

The Ethiopian census only uses the categories *Mao* and *Komo*. According to the census of 2007, there are 46,026 ethnic Mao in Ethiopia; 33,683 of them state that *Mao* is their mother tongue. There is no indication of the distribution of these *Mao speakers* to the different language groups.⁹⁹

With regard to the number of speakers of the single languages, relevant literature mainly refers to *The Ethnologue* (Lewis 2009), which provides the following figures: Seze 3,000; Hozo 3,000; Bambasi Mao 5,000; Gwama 15,000; Komo 1,500 (Ethiopia) and Ganza 5,400 (Sudan). Some of these figures are controversial. Ahland (2012:13) assesses that the number of Northern Mao speakers (Bambasi and Didessa area) may not exceed 2,000 – 3,000; according to Krell (2011:11) the number of Ganza speakers in Sudan may only be around 2,600. With regard to Gwama, Kievit et al. (2011:11) suppose that the number of 15,000 speakers is too high. They argue that the total population of Mao Komo Special Woreda is put to 42,050 (2007 census) and estimate that only 5 % of them are Gwama speakers, i.e. little more than 2000 people. However, in this calculation they have not taken the Koman Mao speakers in eastern Mao Komo Special Woreda and in Begi Woreda in Oromia Regional State into account. Many of them may either be counted as Gwama in *The Ethnologue* or as Mao in the Ethiopian census.

My own material obtained through the interviews is not very consistent either. The difference between “households” and “people” (cf. appendix 1, questions 8 and 9) was frequently misunderstood. Furthermore, the questionnaire did not differentiate between people with full mother tongue competence and others who only have a basic knowledge of the language of their ancestors. But even if the numbers resulting from the addition of the tentative figures given in the interviews should be notably too high, we can gain interesting insights by e.g. looking at the mutual size ratio of the languages regarding the number of speakers.

For the **Omotic Mao** we got the following tentative figures: Seze: around 13,000 speakers; Hozo (including Shuluyo): around 6,000 speakers. These figures reflect the impression we got during the interviews - that Seze is the dominating language with a solid and compact language area¹⁰⁰, while the Hozo area is more mixed with Seze speakers in the south and south-

⁹⁷Cf. Ahland (2012:398ff) on /ha/ formative in Ganza and Northern Mao that may indicate a grammatical relationship that can not be found in other Omotic Mao languages.

⁹⁸Theis (1995:171and:178) draws an impressive picture of the "ethnic and linguistic flexibility" of the Komo in the “South Funj” (South Sudan).

⁹⁹<http://www.csa.gov.et/index.php>; cf. Ahland (2012:10)

¹⁰⁰In most of the villages there is majority of Oromo; most of the Seze speakers are able to speak Oromo.

west, and scattered in the remote mountains and swamps in the south-eastern and eastern part. On the basis of our information, the number of Ganza speakers in Ethiopia is estimated to be less than 500 people. Together with the estimation for Sudan mentioned in Krell (2011), there may not be more than 3,000 Ganza speakers in both countries together.

For **Koman Mao** and **Gwama** the situation is more complicated and there is much room for interpretation. If we add all entries for Koman Mao (Afaan Mao, T'wa Sit Shwala; T'wa Kirin, T'wa Kuro), we come to the impressive figure of 16,000 speakers. The number of Gwama speakers obtained by this method amounts to 8,700.¹⁰¹ Together there would be nearly 25,000 speakers of this dialect cluster. Even if this estimation of Koman Mao speakers is significantly too high and many people who have already abandoned this language in favour of the Oromo language have been counted,¹⁰² it is obvious that the Koman Mao speakers are a non-negligible group. It is not really surprising that there are at least historically more Koman Mao speakers in the densely populated highlands around Begi and Tongo than “proper Gwama” in the vast and sparsely populated lowland. Still, the average Gwama speaker surely has considerably better language skills and a higher linguistic self-confidence than most of the Koman Mao speakers who are linguistically and culturally highly influenced by the dominating Oromo surroundings.

On the basis of my material, it is not possible to give any reliable estimation of the number of **Komo** speakers in the survey area. Komo is in all places mentioned as a minority language with Gwama as the dominating language. The number of Komo speakers in Ethiopia may not exceed a few thousand. The situation in Sudan seems to be similar where Krell (2011:11) does not report a particular number of speakers, but we get the impression that there are not more than a few thousand either. For Gambela there are rather different estimations regarding the number of Komo speakers, but even here they do not exceed 1,000 – 2,000 people. So we would not be far off if we assume that, all together, there are no more than 5,000 to 10,000 Komo speakers – probably with a majority in Sudan.¹⁰³

5.1 Degrees of Endangerment and Development

Even if we add the highest estimates with regard to the number of speakers for all 5 languages subject to this survey, their number will not exceed 50,000 – 0,06 % of the Ethiopian population of at least 90 million; the number of speakers with full language competence will still be significantly lower. What makes the situation worse is that all Mao and Komo people are highly marginalised and underprivileged with low self-esteem and with less education, influence and access to participation in the civil society than the members of the dominating people groups in the area such as the Oromo.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰¹There may be a few hundred Gwama speakers in Gambela. I do not have any figure for Gwama speakers in Sudan. The Ethnologue (Lewis 2009) only mentions Yabus, included in the estimated total of 15,000 speakers; Cf. also Theis (1995) who frequently refers to Gwama speakers in “South Funj”.

¹⁰²This was confirmed in several workshops on Gwama in Asosa in autumn 2013. Almost all Koman Mao speakers from the highlands (Begi Woreda and around Tongo in Mao Komo SW) no longer had full mother tongue competence. Even if the wordlists indicate a huge number of cognates and thus mutual intelligibility (cf. 7.2), the communication with the Gwama speakers from the lowland did often fail and the Koman Mao speakers felt more comfortable when using the Oromo language. However, in spite of their poor competence in Afaan Mao/T'wa Sit Shwala, the participants from the highlands made it very clear that they by no means were Oromo but *Sit Shwala*, ‘black people’.

¹⁰³The forthcoming MA dissertation by Manuel Otero, University of Oregon, may provide more reliable data regarding the number of Komo speakers and their geographical distribution.

¹⁰⁴The situation in Mao Komo Special Woreda may be somewhat different with “Mao and Komo” recently assigned for use in governmental positions. But even there the Oromo – the largest the ethnic group in the Woreda town Tongo - as the economically and culturally dominating group have much influence.

In the field interviews, most of the interviewees drew a picture of languages degraded to “house languages” that are highly endangered.

Our language is on the brink of extinction. We still use T’wa Sit Shwala at home and with our neighbours, but the children learn in Afaan Oromo at school and when they come back from school they use this language also at home. (Hadi Bula, Kama Chandi, 4.10.2012)¹⁰⁵

We are not afraid to use our language [Shuluyo], but normally we use it inside the house only. Our children are more and more accustomed to use Afaan Oromo. (Aza Fato, Bishawo Dabus, 15.9.2012)

There are only few statements that indicate the opposite, some from Gwama speakers in the lowlands of Mao Komo Special Woreda, and a few from Seze speakers from Guma Gara Arba in K’ondala Woreda.

It goes beyond the capacity of this survey to make profound statements on the degree of endangerment of the five languages subject to this survey – e.g. as Ahland (2012)¹⁰⁶ is able to do for the Northern Mao around Bambasi and in the Didessa Valley. He analyses the situation for these language according to the indicators for measuring the degree of endangerment of languages in the report of UNESCO’s Ad Hoc Group on Endangered Languages (2003) and concludes clearly that “the Northern Mao language is endangered.” (Ahland 2012:31):

In reference to the UNESCO report’s terminology, the language use pattern is characterized as “dwindling” [...]. That is, the language is not used outside the home domain, and there is evidence that the more dominant language, in this case Oromo, is beginning to be used in the home.(Ahland 2012:34).

Through my field research and discussions with native speakers I got a similar impression of the sociolinguistic situation for the indigenous languages within the survey area. Schools seem to play an important role in the negative development of these small languages – at least in Oromia, where Oromo as the only school language reinforces the dominating role of this language in the society. The same can be said for at least the protestant churches where only Oromo is used as a medium of reading, preaching and instruction.

The Omotic Mao languages **Seze** and **Hozo** are exclusively spoken in Oromia Regional State. In Oromia, Oromo is the only medium of instruction and the only language used in public, and it is the only language recognised in the constitution of the regional state. As long as this situation continues, the negative development for Seze and Hozo probably will continue. As far as I know, there are no plans to develop neither Seze nor Hozo to be used as languages of instruction or even to be recognised as existing languages.

What makes it even more difficult is that Seze and Hozo/Shuluyo are not easily mutually understandable. Speakers of these languages live in the same area, often together in the same villages, but Oromo most often functions as a means of communication and takes a more and more important role as the home language of the younger generation. Younger speakers with full mother tongue competence are therefore often found only in very remote areas.

¹⁰⁵Hadi Buli is conscious of the situation of his mother tongue and the negative role the school plays for its preservation. His now grown up and well educated children are not longer fluent in Koman Mao, the language of their ancestors, and have to be considered as Oromo speakers in spite of their clear identity as Mao (Sit Shwala).

¹⁰⁶Cf. particularly chapter 1.9: The Sociolinguistic Situation.

Up to now, very little linguistic research and data collection has been done on these two languages¹⁰⁷, no orthography has been developed and no script decision has been made. SIL Ethiopia supports some linguistic work on Seze and Hozo, and starting from 2014 a couple of workshops on these languages will be arranged within a Mao Komo language development project. Through this more clarity on the current sociolinguistic situation and the degree of language erosion amongst young speakers is expected. It can be hoped that it is not too late, and that in the near future, small texts in Seze and Hozo can be developed for informal use.

The situation for **Koman Mao/Gwama** is even more complicated. The **Gwama** speaking area is mainly limited to the lowlands in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State. It is a compact area with rather little influence from outside and where Gwama even plays the role as lingua franca in communication with speakers of even smaller languages such as Komo, Ganza and Uduk. Most Gwama speakers in this area seem to have a well-developed awareness of their language, and you will easily find young people with fully developed language competence.

Gwama is included in a multilingual education programme run by Benishangul Gumuz Regional State and facilitated by SIL, and it is on the way to become a medium of instruction in at least some pilot schools in the lowlands in Mao Komo Special Woreda. A script decision has been made, and the last decision on the orthography is imminent. First texts in the preliminary Gwama orthography are developed will be printed in 2014. More linguistic research will be done, and a comprehensive grammar and a dictionary will hopefully soon be developed.¹⁰⁸

There seems to be an interest in developing this language both from the regional government's side and from the side of the speakers around Zebsher, Keser, Yangu and Lake in Mao Komo Special Woreda. What obviously makes a difference is that Amharic functions as the language of instruction in Benishangul Gumuz Regional state, a fact that lessens the pressure from the side of Oromo. It will remain interesting to see in how far those who classify themselves as Sit Shwala (Koman Mao) and would not accept their language to be called Gwama can benefit from this development programme in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State.

The situation for the **Koman Mao** speakers is much more uncertain; this people group seems to be neglected or overseen since they do not belong to the Omotic Mao, nor are they included in the development of Gwama. Whether Koman Mao speakers around Tongo will profit from the development of Gwama in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State will probably depend on the question if the "Maos" accept Gwama as their language – and if they are accepted by "proper Gwama speakers". In Oromia, where the majority of the Koman Mao speakers live, there will barely be efforts to introduce Koman Mao as a school language or in public life, and there is fear that this language will be crowded out by Oromo within a relatively short period of time. The workshops in 2013 have clearly shown that it already now is almost impossible to find young and literate Koman Mao speakers with fully developed language competence. The majority of the young Sit Shwala from Begi Woreda only have basic skills in Koman Mao and prefer to use Oromo in daily conversations, even with each other.¹⁰⁹ This does not mean that these Koman Mao speakers are not interested in the use and development of their language. In contrary, the loss of their mother tongue on one hand and the lack

¹⁰⁷Currently, Girma Mengistu, Addis Ababa University, works on a PhD dissertation on Seze and Getachew Kassa, Addis Ababa University, works on Hozo.

¹⁰⁸Anne-Christie Hellenthal, SIL Addis Ababa, has contributed to the research of the sound and tone system in Gwama and to the development of the Gwama orthography. Hellenthal is involved in the production of the first written texts in Gwama and is assigned as a coordinator of the further work on the "Mao – Komo language development". Amare Tsehay, Addis Ababa University is currently working on a Master's thesis on Gwama. Further linguists are expected to come from abroad to SIL to do research on this languages.

¹⁰⁹According to Anne-Christie Hellenthal (p.c.) these speakers have e.g. lost the tone distinctions, show a vowel system that is reduced from 7 to 5 phonemes and the verbal system is significantly simplified. There may also be changes or simplifications in the pronominal system. The technical and elaborated vocabulary is Oromo.

of acceptance in the Oromo society on the other hand, seem to make it even more difficult to find a positive cultural identity. This increases their interest in the language of the ancestors – particularly for the active young people who suffer from the loss of their mother tongue. To actively involve Koman Mao speakers in the development of the Gwama orthography and literature and to stimulate the use of Mao Koman orally and in writing in the non-state sector seem to be the only option to counteract the negative development.

Here it is very difficult to say something about the degree of endangerment of **Komo**. Since Komo is an extreme minority language throughout the area, a high degree of vulnerability is likely. On the other hand, Komo is exclusively spoken in the Gwama language area in Benishangul-Gumuz, and there it is far less exposed to the pressure from the side of Oromo than e.g. Koman Mao or Omotic Mao in Oromia Regional State. Interestingly Komo, not Gwama is one of the languages mentioned in the constitution of Benishangul-Gumuz regional state, what gives this language group huge prestige and a far greater level of visibility than the small number of speakers would suggest.

Komo is part of the same governmental development programme for multilingual education in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State as Gwama, and has even come farther. The orthography is decided and first writer's workshops are accomplished; there is on-going linguistic research on Komo.¹¹⁰ The problem for Komo may be that the language area is extremely scattered with few if any areas where Komo is spoken as the only language, that most of the Komo speakers are bilingual in Gwama or in another local language and that the number of native speakers is very small in all areas – no good conditions for the use of Komo in schools and in other public fora.

My field research has provided evidence that there is a vibrant **Ganza** language community in Ethiopia. Here Ganza is spoken as an extreme minority language in some villages in Benishangul Gumuz. The majority of the Ganza speakers may live in South Sudan, but the total number of speakers is small. Research or development activities on Ganza are not known, and it is not likely that there will be any development programme for Ganza as a medium of instruction in schools in Ethiopia.

Surprisingly the information both from Ethiopia and from Sudan indicate that the Ganza speaking community is stable and that the children still show fluency in this language.¹¹¹ The reason for this may be the relative remoteness of all Ganza speakers, their limited exchanges with other groups in the society and that their children do not join any schools. With only a few hundred speakers within a changing multilingual society, the survival of the Ganza language will anyway be doubtful.

5.3 Summary and Outlook

In conclusion, we can state that all the information gathered in this survey indicates that all *Mao-Komo languages* are endangered. Koman Mao already seems to be highly reduced and displaced by Oromo as the native language for the younger generation. Gwama in the lowlands of Mao Komo Special Woreda appears to have a much better chance for surviving as a mother tongue. Since Koman Mao and Gwama are closely related dialects of the same language and Gwama is subject to a governmental language development project and it can be hoped that the development of Gwama may have a positive effect on the survival of Koman Mao.

¹¹⁰Manuel Otero, University of Oregon, has contributed a lot to the development of a Komo orthography. Tesfaye Nagash, Addis Ababa University, currently works on a PhD on Komo language and culture.

¹¹¹“The Ganza are a settled population in Sudan with a distinct ethnolinguistic identity. They consider speaking the Ganza language a basic component of being Ganza. [...] Ganza is a vital language with no indication of language shift.” (Krell 2011:15)

The risk status of Seze and Hozo is difficult to assess, and more sociolinguistic studies are needed. Since these languages are exclusively spoken in Oromia and the local population, e.g. through schools and churches, is exposed to a severe linguistic assimilation in favour of Oromo, it can be taken as granted that these languages are highly endangered and already declining both quantitatively and qualitatively. No official development programmes are planned, but there are a few attempts through private organisations and churches to implement development tasks such as recordings of music and poems and printing of traditional stories on an informal level.

Ganza and Komo are only spoken by very small groups that are exclusively minorities in their respective settlements. The relatively good survival of these languages may amongst other reasons be related to the lack of formal education of its speakers. However, small changes may have large impacts and may quickly bring these languages to the brink of extinction if appropriate measures are not taken. Ganza is by far the least explored indigenous language of the area. It will, however, be included in a research project by SIL and should be given priority for further research. The development and research work of Komo is on-going and currently, much attention is given to this language. Whether the use of Komo as a language of instruction will be successful or even possible since the number of Komo students will always be a minority within the Gwama majority, remains to be seen. In the worst case, the lack of skilled teachers and the unclear use of ethnic and linguistic designations could lead to increased confusion.

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Appendix 1

Questionnaire (English/Oromo/Amharic)

Name of responsible:

Date of interviews:

Name of the village/k'ebele:

1. General Information

Coordinates of the place (by GPS) <i>Iddichi kan itti argamu(....°... Kaaba /... °'...Ba'a)</i>	...°... '...'' N / ...°... '...'' E
Description of the place (roads? rivers? mountains? communications? institutions?) <i>Ibsa Bakka kanaa(daandii,laga,tulluu,Bus,mana barumsaa,wajjira ykn...</i> ስለአካባቢው መግለጫ (መንገዶች፣ ወንዞች፣ ተራሮች፣ መገናኛ፣ ተቋማት)	
Interview partners (group? individuals? m/f?) ; if possible names of the interview partners <i>Namoota gaafataman (garee?nama tokko,dhiira ykn dubara?) yoo danda'ame immoo maqaa warra gaafatamanii caqasi (barreesi)</i> የቃለ-መጠይቁ ተሳታፊዎች (ቡድን? ግለሰቦች? ወንድ/ሴት?)፤ ከተቻለ የተሳታፊዎችን ስም	
Which language do YOU think the people of this village are using? <i>Namooti mandara kanaa afaan kam waan dubbatan sitti fakkaata</i> የዚህ ሰፈር ሰዎች በምን ቋንቋ ይጠቀማሉ ብለው ያስባሉ?	

2. Questions about the place, the peoples and the languages

1.What is the name of this village/Kebele? <i>Maqaan ganda(Kebele) kanaa maali?</i> የዚህ መንደር/ቀበሌ ስም ምን ይባላል?	
2.What is the name of the Woreda? <i>Maqaan Aanaa kanaa maali?</i> የወረዳው ስም ምንድን ነው?	
3.What do you call your people? <i>Sabichi maal jedhee ofii isaa waama?</i> ሕዝባችሁን ምን በሚል ስም ነው የምትጠሩት?	
4.What do you call your language? <i>Afaan dhalootaa keessan maali?</i> ቋንቋችሁን ምን ብላችሁ ትጠሩታላችሁ?	
5.What do you call your clan? <i>Qomoon keessan maal jettu?</i> የእናንተ ጎሳ ስሙ ምን ይባላል?	
6.What do other people call you? <i>Namooti biroon eenyu jedhanii isin waamu?</i> ሌሎች ሕዝቦች ምን ብለው ነው የሚጠሩአችሁ?	
7.What do other people call your language? <i>Namooti (sabi)biroon afaan keessan maal jedhanii waamu?</i> ሌሎች ሕዝቦች የእናንተን ቋንቋ ምን ብለው ነው የሚጠሩት?	
8.How many households in your Kebele speak this language? <i>Maatii(abbaa warraa) meeqatu afaan kana dubbata ganda kana keessaa?</i> በቀበሌያችሁ ደህንን ቋንቋ የሚናገረው ቤተሰብ ብዛት ስንት ነው?	
9.How many people in your Kebele speak this language? <i>Namoota meeqatu afaan kana dubbata ganda kana keessaa?</i> በቀበሌያችሁ ደህንን ቋንቋ የሚናገረው ሕዝብ ብዛት ስንት ነው?	
10.Where else do people speak your language? <i>Bakki biroon itti afaanni keessan dubbatamu eessa?</i> የእናንተ ቋንቋ በሌላ አካባቢ የት የት ይነገራል?	

<p>11. Which language do you speak with your children? <i>Afaanni kamiin ijoolee kessanii wajjin dubbattu</i> ከልጆቸዎ ጋር የሚነጋገሩበት ቋንቋ ምንድን ነው?</p>	
<p>12. Which language do you speak at the market? <i>Afaan kam gargaaramtu lafa gabaatti (iddoo bittaa fi gurgurtaatti)</i> በገበያ በታ የሚናገሩት የተኛውን ቋንቋ ነው?</p>	
<p>13. Which other languages do your people know? <i>Affanni biroo sabni keessan beeku kami?</i> የእናንተ ሰዎች ሌላ ምን ምን ቋንቋዎችን ያውቃሉ?</p>	
<p>14. Are there people in this village with another mother tongue? How many? How is it called? <i>Namooti biroon ganda kana keessaa afaan ofii isaani qaban jiruu? Meeqa ta'u? afaanichi maal jedhama?</i> አፍ መፍቻቸው ሌላ ቋንቋ የሆነ ሰዎች በዚህ ቀበሌ ውስጥ አሉ? ያ ቋንቋ ምን ይባላል?</p>	
<p>15. Do you think your children should learn to read and write in their <i>mother tongue? Why?</i> <i>Ijooleen (daa'mni) keessan yoo afaan haadha isaanii dubbisuu fi barreesuu barachuu qabu jettanii yaadduu? Yoo eyyee, maaliif?</i> ልጆቻችሁ የእናንተን አፍ መፍቻ ቋንቋ ማንበብና መጻፍ መማር አለባቸው ብለው ያስባሉ? መልስዎ አዎ ከሆነ?</p>	

Appendix 2

Villages covered by this survey – organised on the basis of language identification on the word lists¹¹²

The following tables give an overview over the villages investigated in this survey. One of the interesting findings of the interviews and the word lists¹¹³ is the fact that there are very few villages where speakers of Omotic Mao and Koman languages mix, but there is a high number of villages where speakers of different Koman languages and speakers of different Omotic Mao respectively live together. Exceptions are the speakers of Ganza, an Omotic language with only few speakers who live as minorities in villages with speakers of Koman languages. In a few Koman Mao villages, Hozo and Seze speakers are reported as a minority. Mimi Akobo seems to be the only Koman Mao village with a considerable number of Seze speakers, which is due to recent immigration.

On the basis of these findings, the investigated villages are organised in two groups – villages with (almost) exclusively Koman Mao/Gwama and Komo speakers (Table 1) and villages with (almost) exclusively speakers of Omotic Mao (Seze and Hozo/Shuluyo) (Table 2). Ganza is, thus Omotic, entered into Table 1 since there is no village with a majority of Ganza speakers.

Table 1: ‘Koman Mao’/Gwama, Komo and Ganza

Village Name	Woreda & RS	Coordinates	Rec. ¹¹⁴	People ¹¹⁵	Clans ¹¹⁶	Language ¹¹⁷	Other languages ¹¹⁸	Reference villages ¹¹⁹	Comments
Abshala Dinka	Begi, Oromia	9°17'44.96"N 34°30'35.21"E	I G2 SW	Sit Shwala	Yala	T'wa Sit Shwala (GW)	no	Mimi Akobo; Shoshor Butuji; Wes'e Wedesa; Wanga Git'en	(T'wa) Sit Shwala for people and language. The language is called Mao on the word list. References to 'Koman Mao villages' around Tongo. G2: SHORT WORD LIST (2)
Ac'wo Orda	Begi, Oromia	9°18'31.80"N 34°29'41.4"E	I G2; own; LW/V	Mao	Yala; Kor	T'wa Sit Shwala (GW)	no	Mimi Akobo; Shenbola; S'ulgolo; Zeba; Ego Girmos; Girmos Kombolcha; Wanga Git'en	Mao for people and T'wa Sit Shwala for the language. References to 'Mao/Twa Sit Shwala villages'; LONG WORDLIST/voice recording
Badesa Sharama	Mao Komo SW, BG	Unclear (not noted on map 2)	I G1	Gwama	Poshal; P'osh-s'yaka	Gwama (GW)	Komo	Lak'e; Shumat'e; Ganzo	Komo and Gwama speakers. Gwama here also as an ethnic self-description; by others all called Komo. G2: References for Komo from Penhuba and Tongo. References to bilingual villages in the close surroundings

¹¹²Many villages are bi- or trilingual. Then the village is placed according to the language of the majority of speakers – Oromo not included.

¹¹³As a first and rough language identification, the Survey Groups (G1/G2/G3) presented word lists over the following languages: Komo (KO), Gwama (GW), Seze (SE), Hozo (HO) and Ganza (GA); the different “Mao speakers” had so to choose their language. *Twa Sit Shwala* speakers regularly chose Gwama without hesitation.

¹¹⁴I: Interview by group G1/G2/G3 (Appendix 1); own: In depth interview; LW/V: Long Wordlist; voice recorded and wordlist transcribed (Appendix 3); SW: Short written word list by G2 or G3 (Appendix 3).

¹¹⁵Self designation acc. to no. 3 on the questionnaire (Appendix 1) or in depth interviews; for the complicated situation for Komo/Mao/Sit Shwala etc. cf. section 3.

¹¹⁶The clan names are not verified or studied systematically; there may be mistakes or incorrect designations.

¹¹⁷Self designation acc. to no. 4 on the questionnaire (Appendix 1) or in depth interviews; for Gwama/Twa Sit Shwala etc. cf. 4.1.2; the language identification (majority) of the word list is mentioned here. In brackets the choices of the interviewees on the wordlist: Komo (KO), Gwama (GW), Seze (SE), Hozo (HO) and Ganza (GA).

¹¹⁸Oromo is found in all villages and not separately mentioned here; Amharic is found in many villages particularly in Mao Komo SW and not mentioned here; Language names with (Girma) according to p.c. from Girma Mengistu; with (Getachew) according to p.c. from Getachew Kassa, both Addis Ababa University.

¹¹⁹Answer to no. 10 on the questionnaire (Appendix 1): “Where else (in which villages) do people speak your language”.

Bangatarko	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°39'27.60"N 34°23'29.40"E	I G2 ¹²⁰	Gwama	Mahogo; Kwama; Kugemandungu; Boshol; Kugi T'ege	Gwama (GW)	Berta (Ruta) Komo?	Zebsher, Keser, Mimi Akobo, Lak'i, Badesa Sherema; Kokeb; S'ulgolo, Yangu; Yiwa	G2: Gwama speaking village with some Berta speakers. Consequent use of Kwama and T'wa Kwama (always "K"); here transcribed as Gwama. cf. 4.1.5. G1 refers to Bangatarko as bilingual Gwama-Komo. The reference to Mimi Akobo indicates Gwama/Koman Mao; reference to Yiwa could indicate Komo speakers
Bobosh Ishkaba	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°26'59.99"N 34°18'39"E	I G2	Gwama	Manasasa; Mashawo; Yaya; Boshol	Gwama (GW)	no	Zebsher, Bangatarko, Mimi Akobo; Yiwa; Yagu; Keser, Penshuba	Use of Kwama and Gwama arbitrary, mostly double writing in fidels (Kwama Gwama). Gwama also used as a name for the people. Probably mainly Gwama speakers, but references to Yiwa and other partially Komo speaking villages. <i>Kirin</i> is mentioned as language; cf. 4.1.4.
Deldu Dagaboka	Begi Oromia	9° 24' 39.0"N 34° 29'7.80"E	I G2	Mao	Mashawo	T'wa Sit Shwala (GW)	no	Ego Girmos; Girmos Kombolcha; S'ulgolo; Ac'wo Orda; Ifteri Sanbo; Tongo; Wanga Git'en; Shoshor Butuji; Mimi Akobo	The people are called Mao and the language consequently T'wa Sit Shwala; cf. Ac'wo Orda and the Girmos-villages. Reference to Shoshor Butuji where people and language are called Gwama (Kwama).
Deldu Tongo	Mao Komo SW, BG	9° 23' 43.2" N 34° 27'22.8"E	I G2	Mao	Mashawo; Kor	T'wa Sit Shwala (Mao) (GW)	no	Fongo Wabara; Wanga Git'en; Wes'e Wedesa; Shoshor Butuji ; Tulu Dokonu; Deldu Dagaboka; Ego Girmos; Boshema Karikege (unknown)	Mao or T'wa Sit Shwala for the language and Mao for the people. References to many Koman Mao villages with T'wa Sit Shwala or Gwama as language terms.
Ego Girmos	Begi, Oromia	9° 19' 34.2"N 34° 29'41.4"E	I G2; own LW/V	Mao	Kor	T'wa Sit Shwala (Mao) (GW)	no	Fongo Wabera; Shera Kama; Kobor; Ihud Gebeya; Tulu Gebeya; Fach'asa; Deldu Tongo; Deldu Dagaboka; Tongo, Git'en Keche; Ac'wo Orda, Abshala Dinka; Shera Kama; Kama Chandi, Shoshor Butuji; Wes'e Wedesa; Kokab ; S'ulgolo; Shemal Toke; Bobos Ishk'aba; Ishgogo Goda Shola; Giba Gulanza; Kawi Shumate; Yangu; Bangatarko	Language always T'wa Sit Shwala; however, references to many Gwama speaking villages. According to in depth interview the people speak the same language in Zebsher and Penshuba, but they are "Komo people" there and call their language Gwama, never Twa Sit Shwala. The existence of a Hozo and Seze speaking population (Girma) could not be verified; there live a few Seze speakers through intermarriage who are considered Mao in the same way as the 'Koman Mao' speakers. LONG WORDLIST/voice recording

¹²⁰Data not sufficient (no word list) and information from G1 and G2 partly inconsistent; the north-western part of the survey area needs further investigation.

Fafa	Mao Komo SW, BG	9° 34' 4.8" N 34° 29'16.8"E	I G2	Mao; Sit Shwala	Mawajo; Mak'ezo; Kuro	T'wa Sit Shwala (GW)	Berta (Ruta)	Zeba; Ishgogo; Kobor; Ego Girmos; Mimi Akobo; Bobos Ishkaba; Kokeb; S'ulgolo	Belongs to a group of villages in Mao Komo SW where they call themselves Mao and their language T'wa Sit Shwala (cf. Zeba and Ishgogo). References to typical Koman Mao villages. Berta minority
Fongo Wabera	Begi Oromia	9°16'48.99"N 34°30'17.48"E	I G2 SW	Sit Shwala	Mayala	T'wa Sit Shwala (GW)	no	Mimi Akobo; Wes'e Wedesa; Shoshor Butuji; Wanga Git'en; Bobosh Ishkaba; S'ulgolo;	Cf. Abshala Dinka; Consequent use of (T'wa) Sit Shwala for people and for the language. References to 'Koman Mao villages' around Tongo G2: SHORT WORD LIST (2)
Ganzo	Mao Komo SW, BG	Unclear coordinates. May be abandoned and the people resettled to Yangu etc.	I G1	Komo	Poshal	Gwama (GW)	Komo	Pawala; P'ashimi; Wadesa	May be or as been a bilingual Gwama – Komo community. Komo as only ethnic designation. No reference from G2 to this place! References to unknown villages Pawala and Pashimi (Sudan?). G2 describes Wadesa as Gwama speaking only.
Giba Gulanza	Begi, Oromia	9°31'26.34"N 34°32'31.40"E	I G3	Kuro	Kuro	Kuro (GW)	no	No references to other villages	Kuro as name of the clan and of the language. The terms Sit Shwala or Gwama do not occur; cf. Kongila Gara Kelo and Kobor. No references to other villages. Acc. to the wordlist, Kuro seems to be a variety of the Koman Mao. G3 SHORT WORDLIST <i>Kuro</i>
Girmos Komba	Begi, Oromia	9° 20' 28.8"N 34° 28'31.8"E	I G2	Mao	Makasho; Wara Seta	T'wa Sit Shwala (GW)	no (unconfirmed reference to Seze)	Yangu; Kawi Shumate; Mimi Akobo; Bobos Ishk'aba; Ishgogo; Shoshor Butuji; Wes'e Wedesa; Wanga Git'en; Kokeb; Bogos Keseri; Penshuba; Damshir Kikit	Consequent use of Mao for the people and T'wa Sit Shwala for the language. Yangu and Penshuba as a reference villages is surprising since they are "far away Gwama speaking villages". This may confirm the similarity of T'wa Sit Shwala and Gwama as spoken in Yangu. Some Seze speakers at least in the surroundings.
Ishgogo Godashola	Mao Komo SW, BG	9° 34' 5.4" N 34° 30'46.2"E	I G2	Sit Shwala	Mankasha; Isman; Mana Wailama; Wap'i Manayama; Gugul Manakunbu	T'wa Sit Shwala (GW)	Berta (Ruta)	Mimi Akobo; Bobos Ishk'aba; Kobor; Kongilo Gara Kelo; Giba Gulanza; Shombo Bayida; Kober; Ego Girmos; K'arkäge; S'ulgolo;	Consequent use of (Twa) Sit Shwala for people and language. Gwama according to the wordlist. The same pattern as in Fafa and Zeba. Berta minority. References to 'Koman Mao villages' in the surroundings.
Kama Chandi	Begi Oromia	9°25'14.62"N 34°32'6.97"E	Own LW/V	Sit Shwala	Is Gulo (= Sit Gulo)	Twa Sit Shwala (GW)	no	Kobor Chandi, Shombo Bayida, Gara Kelo, Shenta Goba, Giba Gulanza; Ego Girmos, Shoshor Butuji, Wes'e Wedesa; Zebsher	Only (T'wa) Sit Shwala for language and people. Reference to Gwama in Zebsher noteworthy. The Seze (Hozo) speakers (Omoti) in Kabache and Shagga are recognized as "the same

									people, namely Mao". LONG WORDLIST/voice recording
Kawi Shumate	Mao Komo SW, BG	Unclear Cf. Shumate. The same village?	I G1	Komo	Kwasha; Busho zebishaw	Gwama (GW)	Komo	Wadesa; Bangatarko; Yabus (Sudan)	Bilingual community; wordlist identification both Komo and Gwama. Komo as ethnic description for both speaker groups. Kwama may be synonym to Gwama for language or another word for Komo. Use of both Gwama and Komo with the children indicates bilinguality. Koman Mao is mentioned as third language; cf. Kokeb.; G2 refers to Kawi Shumate as Gwama speaking village.
			I G1	Komo		Komo (KO)	Gwama		
Keser ¹²¹	Mao Komo SW BG	9°27'42.58"N 34°18'7.50"E	Cf. footnote	Komo		Gwama	Komo (Opo)		According to my information a big village with both Gwama and Komo speakers, calling themselves Komo. In addition some "Mao who speak a similar language as Gwama" (cf. Kokeb); minor groups of Opo speakers in the surroundings.
Kobor Chandī	Begi Oromia	9°28'28.31"N 34°33'39.79"E	I G3 SW	Kuro	Kuro	Kuro	Hozo (?)	Giba Gulanza	Kuro as name of the clan and of the language. The term Sit Shwala does not occur; cf. Giba Gulanza and Kongila Gara Kelo; for Kuro cf. 4.1.4. Hozo as clan name and (rests of?) Hozo speakers around; cf. 4.2.2. G3 SHORT WORDLIST <i>Kuro</i>
Kokeb	Mao Komo SW BG	9°29'55.85"N 34°23'51.23"E	I G2 SW; own LW/V (2)	Mao (Komo)	Mashawo; Kirin Manasasa; Makanbo; Kugiu; Kor; Manganza; Kwawasha	Mao/Twa Sit Shwala (Gwama) (GW)	Berta Komo	Keser; Penhuba Zebsher; Bangatarko; Tsulgolo; Mimi Akobo; Bobosh Ishkaba; Ya'a Masera; Keser; Bergushu	Mainly Mao or (T'wa) Sit Shwala for people and language. Komo for "other people group". The references to Zebsher, Keser and Bangatarko point to Gwama; confirmed in the interviews. Berta speakers and a small group of Komo speakers (newly resettled). Boundary between Koman Mao/Sit Shwala and Gwama. The recordings confirm the similarity of the languages, but the interviews point out the difference between the people groups. G2: SHORT WORD LIST (3) LONG WORDLIST/voice recording <i>Mao</i> LONG WORDLIST/voice recording <i>Gwama</i>

¹²¹ Information about this village with Gwama and Komo speakers from Tesfaye Nagash, PhD student at Addis Ababa University and Manuel Otero, MA student at Oregon University, USA.

Kongila Gara Kelo	Begi, Oromia	9°33'27.47"N 34°36'48.58"E	I G3 SW	Kuro	K'osha	Kuro (Gwama) (GW)	Seze	Shera Kama; Kobor Chandi	Kuro as name of the people and of the language. The term Sit Shwala does not occur; cf. Giba Gulanza, Shombo Bayida and Kobor Chandi. Gwa-ma is mentioned – influence from the word list? G3: SHORT WORD LIST Kuro
Lak'e	Mao Komo SW, BG	Uncertain	I G1	Komo	Mangunza Buyolt	Gwama (GW)	Komo (Kaya?)	Keser; Zebsher; Shumate	Komo used as an ethnic term also for Gwama speakers. Bilingual village, Gwama and Komo (minority). <i>Kwama</i> could refer to Komo; cf.: "other people in the village speak Kwama"; references to other bilingual villages. Kaya is mentioned twice as a language; unknown term. Lak'e is one of the resettlement areas with a population of both Komo and Gwama speakers. Kirin speakers are mentioned; refers probably to Koman Mao.
Met'i	Mao Komo SW, BG	Uncertain	I G1	Komo	Yaya; Posho	Komo (KO)	Gwama	Keser; Lak'e; Badesa; Peshuba	Komo according to the word list identification; bilingual village with Komo (=Kwama?) and Gwama. References: Villages with at least some Komo speakers. G2 refers to Met'i as Komo and Gwama speaking. May be abandoned now and people resettled at Lak'e (and Yangu?)
Mimi Akobo	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°25'51.30"N 34°22'39.40"E	I G2; own LW/V ¹²²	Mao	Kugul; Yala; Boshir Kirin	Mao/Twa Sit Shwala (Gwama) (GW)	Seze	Zebsher; Bangatarko; Bobos Ishkaba; Yangu; Keser; Peshuba; Badesa Sherama; Lak'e; Met'i; Tongo, Wanga Git'en; Ac'wo Orada; Girimos	Cf. Kokeb. Mainly Mao/ (T'wa) Sit Shwala for people and language, but also reference to Gwama both for language and people. The interviews show that different clans/groups call themselves and their languages differently: Mao/ (T'wa) Sit Shwala or Gwama. Wordlists show only minor lexical differences. References point in different directions: the Gwama speakers refer to villages in the lowlands, the Mao speakers (Boshir Kirin clan?) refer mainly to villages around Tongo. LONG WORD-LIST/recording <i>Mao</i>

¹²² Additionally written information from Alexander Meckelburg, Hamburg University who visited the village and recorded interviews amongst others with Omotiic Mao speaker; cf. table 2.

Penshuba ¹²³	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°32'45.53"N 34°21'29.03"E	I G2; own LW/V	Gwama	Boshal; Buyu	Gwama (GW)	Komo; Ganza	Zebsher; Bangatarko, Keser; Kokeb; Kawi Shumate; S'ulgolo; Lak'e; Shumate; Yan- gu; Badesa Sherama	Three languages: Gwama, Komo and Ganza. The ma- jority in Penshuba speaks Gwama and uses Gwama as a designation for the people who are "officially called Komo". Mao is mentioned neither for peo- ple nor language. Kwama Dini is synonym for Komo, not Gwama. The Komo (Kwama Dini) speakers are bilingual Komo/Gwa-ma. The Ganza speakers are a small minority who are bi- lingual at least with Gwama LONG WORDLIST/voice recording <i>Komo</i> LONG WORDLIST/voice recording <i>Gwama</i> LONG WORDLIST/voice recording <i>Ganza</i>
			I G2; own LW/V	Komo	Bidebe; Boshwal; Buyu	Komo (KO)	Gwama, Ganza	Yiwa; Met'i; Yiwa; Kawi Shumate; Lak'e, Gambela	
			own LW/V	Ganza	Ganza de- shi; Ganza dokanuku	Ganza ¹²⁴ (GA)	Gwama; Komo	Ya'a Baldigis; Banga kesi (Penshuba), (South Sudan	
Shera Kama ¹²⁵	Begi, Oromia	9°22'55.10"N 34°31'24.70"E	I G3 Ref	Sit Shwala	?	Gwama (GW)	Hozo Seze	(Ref. from other Koman Mao villages to Shera Kama)	3 "Mao languages" seem to meet: T'wa Set Shwa- la/Koman Mao, Seze and Hozo; needs further inves- tigation; Cf. Shera Kama on Table 2 below.
Shombo Bayida	Begi, Oromia	9°31'43.80"N 34°35'22.30"E	I G3 SW; own LW/V	Sit Shwala; Kuro	Mashó Kuro	Twa Sit Shwa- la: Kuro (GW)	no	Kongila Gara Kelo; Shant'a; Goba; Shera Kama; Kobor Chandi	Two interview groups; one uses consequently (Twa) Sit Shwala for people and language. The other uses only Kuro as language and clan name. Gwama is not mentioned by either; cf. Kongila Gara Kelo. The word list recordings of the two groups do not show significant differences. LONG WORDLIST/voice recording "Gwama" G3 SHORT WORD LIST <i>Kuro</i>
Shoshor Bu- tuji	Mao Komo SW, BG	9° 23' 28.2" N 34° 25' 19.2"E	I G2 SW	Sit Shwala	Wara Iso Farakirin	Twa Sit Shwala (GW)	no	Wanga Git'en; Mimi Akobo; Girmos; S'ulgolo; Bobos Ishk'aba; Bangatarko; Yangu;	(T'wa) Sit Shwala for peo- ple and language; in one case the language is called T'wa Sidi Gindil; unique designation. People and language called Mao by others. Frequent ref. to Wanga Git'en. References to Yangu, Bangatarko and Bobos Ishk'aba surprising. No indication of Komo. G2 SHORT WORDLIST <i>T'wa Sit Shwala</i>

¹²³ Penshuba is one of the two villages where Ganza speakers were found; Omotiic Ganza is only spoken as a minority language in Koman speaking villages; cf. 6.3.4

¹²⁴ This seems to be a term used by others; the Ganza speakers call their language Gwamí; in Ya'a Baldigis Gwamí is used both for the language and for the people.

¹²⁵ Interview and Wordlist only for Seze (Omotiic Mao); the information about 'Koman Mao'/Twa Set Shwala is obtained through refer-ences.

Shumate	Mao Komo SW, BG	Unclear Cf. Kawi Shumate. The same village?	I G1	Komo	Posho; Selou [?]	Gwama (GW)	Komo Opo (Kaya?)	"Begi Mao"?	Probably bilingual community where Kwama could indicate Komo. The main language may be Gwama; ref. to <i>Begi Mao</i> = Koman Mao? Ref. to Gambela and Sudan indicate Komo connections. Komo is consequently used as an ethnic term. G2 refers to Shumate as Komo speaking village. Opo and Berta minorities. <i>Kaya</i> needs clarification.
S'ulgolo	Mao komo SW, BG	9°28'8.60"N 34°25'39.70"E	I G2; SW	Gwama Sit Shwa-la (GW)	Kor; Mashu'o; Makanba; Manp'es'e	Gwama Twa Sit Shwala (GW)	Berta	Mimi Akobo; Bobos Ishkaba; Zebsher, Keser and Bangatarko Yangu, Lak'e, Met'i; Ya'a Mesera, Ishgogo; Shera Kama; Ego Girmos; Wes'e Wabera; K'elem Afteri Sanbo	Mainly Gwama (Kwama) for people and language Other recordings mention (Twa) Sit Shwala for people and language; cf. Kokeb: different people groups who speak very similar dialects. The references Bobos Ishkaba, Zebsher, Keser, Yangu, Lak'e, Met'i and Bangatarko indicate Gwama; Shera Kama, Ego Girmos, Wes'e Wabera etc. indicate Koman Mao. Some Berta speakers. G2: SHORT WORD LIST
Tongo	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°22'27.97"N 34°26'18.86"E	I G2 SW	Mao (Gwama)	Wara Setta; Kukul; Makanbo	Mao/Twa Sit Shwala (Gwama) (GW)	Different other groups; many im-migrants	Mimi Akobo, Shoshor Butuji, Ya'a Mesera, Wanga Git'en, Zeba, Yangu, Keser; Kokeb; Zebsher; S'ulgolo; Bangatarko; Giba Gulanza, Shera Kama, Kongilo Gara Kelo	There is a small Komo speaking community in Tongo; recent immigrants from the lowlands. The 'Koman Mao' speakers are divided into those who call themselves and their language Mao or Twa Sit Shwala with roots to the immediate surroundings and those who call themselves and their language Gwama and who may have connections to the lowlands. Clan differences. Ref. to many different villages according to the background. G2 SHORT WORDLIST <i>Twa Sit Shwala</i> LONG WORDLIST/Voice recording <i>Komo</i>
			I G2; own LW/V	Komo	Nasho	Komo (KO)			
Tulu Dokono	Begi, Oromia	9°27'21.77"N 34°28'8.91"E	I G2	Mao/Sit Shwala	Manabosh Yala Kukulu	Mao/Twa Sit Shwala (GW)	Berta (Fadashi)	Zeba; Kokeb; Ego Girmos; Wanga Git'en; S'ulgolo; Girmos Kombaolcha; Mimi Akobo; Bangatarko; Bobosh Ishk'aba;	Mao or (Twa) Sit Shwala for language and people, Gwama not mentioned. Same as Tulu Gebeya; Berta speakers here Fadashi. Ref. in interview 1 points to the west (Mimi Akobo; Bangatarko; Bobos Ishk'aba) where the language is called Gwama; references to 'Koman Mao' villages in other interviews. Diff. clans?

Tulu Gebeya	Begi, Oromia	9° 26' 4.2"N 34° 28' 27"E	I G2	Mao/Sit Shwala	Kukulu	Mao/Twa Sit Shwala (GW)	Berta (Fadashi)	Deladu Tongo; S'ul-golo; Ego Girmos; Girmos Kombolcha; Shoshor Butuji; Wes'e Wadesa; Ac'wo Orda	Consequently Mao or (Twa) Sit Shwala for language and people. Gwama not mentioned. Same as Tulu Gebeya; Berta speakers Fadashi. References only to Koman Mao villages in the surroundings.
Wanga Git'en	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°21'50.70"N 34°24'14.60"E	I G2	Mao	Manasasa; Wara Seta	Mao (GW)	no	Shoshor Butuji; Bangatarko Bobos, Ishkaba; Ego; Girmos Kombolcha; Mimi Akobo; Zebsher; Yangu; Penshu-ba; Wes'e Wedesa	Mao as ethnic and linguistic term. References to the west: Mimi Akobo; Bangatarko; Penshuba; Yangu, where the language is called Gwama; other references are 'Koman Mao' villages". Some conscious speakers start to call themselves and their language Gwama. cf. 4.1.3.
We'se Wadesa	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°25'19.74"N 34°24'58.09"E	I G2 SW	Mao/Sit Shwala	Manasasa; Man-kasha; Wara Seta; Kukul	Mao/Twa Sit Shwala (GW)	no	Shoshor Butuji; Mimi Akobo; Tongo; Wanga Git'en; Shera K'ama; Giba Gulanza; Boshor; Ego Girmos; Girmos Kombolcha; Mak'arekege; Bangatarko; Zebsher; Begi; Shash; Yiwa; Yangu	Mao or (Twa) Sit Shwala for language and people; Gwama is not mentioned. References are both Koman Mao villages and Gwama villages. Clan Wara Seta appears in Tongo, Girmos Kombolcha and Wanga Git'en and seems to be dominant for 'Tongo Mao' (Koman). Do ref. to Yangu and Yiwa indicate Komo speakers in Wes'e Wadesa? G2: SHORT WORD LIST
Ya'a Baldigis	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°33'21.27"N 34°24'52.56"E	Own LW/V	Mao Gwama		Mao (GW)	Ganza Berta	?	Multilingual village; language recordings only for Ganza (small minority).
				Gwami (Ganza)		Gwami (=Ganza) (GA)	Gwama Berta	Penshuba; Yabbus in Sudan	The language situation is complex. The majority in the village are T'wa Sit Shwala and/ or Gwama speakers. These terms are used by different people with different ethnic background. There are few or no speakers of Komo. Different from Penshuba where only Gwama, Komo and Ganza is mentioned, not Mao. LONG WORDLIST/Voice recording <i>Ganza</i>
Yangu	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°12'31.6"N 34°14'04.0"E	I G1; own LW/V	Komo Gwama	Boshor	Gwama (GW)	Opo (=K'ina)	Laki, Meti; Zebsher; Kawi Shumate; Keser, Penshuba; Mimi Akobo; Bangatarko; Odush; Buldadina; Ya'a Mesera	Komo used as ethnic and linguistic term. As ethnic term for Gwama speakers only from outside. Gwama here as ethnic self-designation. Recorded wordlist for both Komo and Gwama. Opo speaking minority. References from G1 and G2 for Komo and Gwama from all over the area. Resettlement place. References to P'awala; Dazo; P'ashim in South Sudan
				Komo (Komo Dani)	Manganza; Warini; Shew (?)	Komo (KO)		Lak'e, Met'i, Penshuba, Gambela, Keser, Odush, Buldadine, Wadesa; Pawala; Dazo; P'ashim in South Sudan	

									Dani (Dina); Kwama here a Gwama term for Komo, not synonym to Gwama, cf. 4.1.5. LONG WORDLIST/Voice recording <i>Komo</i> LONG WORDLIST/Voice recording <i>Gwama</i> (2)
Yiwa	Mao Komo SW, BG	Uncertain	I G1	Komo	Bikwami; Manganza	Komo (KO)	Opo (K'ina)	Yangu; Ganzo; Pawala	Only Komo speakers recorded, but bilingualism in Gwama is mentioned for Komo speakers. Komo used as a linguistic and ethnic term. Opo speakers like in Yangu.. Pawala in South Sudan. Village may be abandoned; people moved to Yangu etc.
Zeba	Mao Komo SW, BG	9° 35' 10.2"N 34° 29'31.2"E	I G2	Sit Shwala	Isiman Hogo; Kugul	Twa Sit Shwala (GW)	Berta (Ruta)	Ishgogo Godashola; Kongila Gara Kelo; Kobor; Boshima Karakege; Girmos; Mimi Akobo; Bobos Ishk'aba; Kokeb; Ego Girmos; Giba Gulanza; Shanta Goba; Tagaba Goba; Gure	Consequent use of (Twa) Sit Shwala for people and language. Mao only as foreign designation. Wordlist identification: Gwama. Same pattern as Fafa and Ishgogo Godashola with Sit Shwala as dominating term. References mainly to 'Koman Mao' - highland, but not exclusively. In all these villages there is a Berta minority (Ruta).
Zebsher	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°32'17.90"N 34°22'21.90"E	I G1; own	Gwama (Komo)	Manganza; Kug; Nashi	Gwama (GW)	Berta	Bangatarko; Keser; Penshuba; Yangu	Komo used as an ethnic term, but also Gwama for Gwama speakers; three people groups identified: Komo, Gwama and Koman Mao. Mao is only used for new immigrants from the highlands who speak a "language similar to Gwama". The term Kwama used by Gwama speakers means Komo. Komo speakers are a small minority. There is also a Berta minority (Ruta). References only to other lowland villages.
			I G1; own	Komo		Komo (KO)			

Table 2: Omotic Mao: Seze and Hozo/Shuluyo

Village Name	Woreda & RS	Coordinates	Rec. ¹²⁶	People ¹²⁷	Clans ¹²⁸	Language ¹²⁹	Other languages ¹³⁰	Reference villages ¹³¹	Comments
Andi Giltu Jale	K'ondala Oromia	9°22'30.93"N 34°33'43.65"E; uncertain	I G3	Mao Seze	Hozo	Seze (SE)	Hozo (Shuluyo)	Ilala Macho; Shagga	Village with Seze speakers ¹³² . Some people may know Hozo cf. Shagga and Ilala Macho where there may be a similar situation. Shuluyo' is unexpected in this area.
Bishawo Dabus	Babo Gambel, Oromia	9°29'18.83"N 34°58'3.90"E	I G3; Own LW/V	Mao Schuluyo	Gondacho ("Mo")	Schuluyo (Bischawo) (HO)	no	Maramo; Karsa Mora (Malka Ebicha k'ebele), Boji (Gara Arba), Gindi k'ebele (Manasibu woreda)	Mao Shuluyo as self designation for the people. Word list identification: Hozo; full concordance with other Hozo word lists. The informants hesitate with regard to the name of their language. They don't call it Hozo. <i>Afaan Bishawo</i> seems to be used randomly, the same for the clan: <i>Mo</i> means just 'man'. <i>Getachew</i> : Hozo LONG WORD-LIST/recording: <i>Shuluyo</i> (2)
Boji Gara Arba (area)	K'ondala Oromia	9°29'49.88"N 34°53'52.30"E Coordinates approximate	I G3	Mao Seze	Makep'o	Seze (SE)	Shuluyo (Hozo)	Guma Gara Araba	Seze and Hozo speaking area. Shuluyo (Hozo) in the more remote villages; references from Shuluyo villages on the other side of the Dabus river. cf. Bishawo Dabus. Cf. also Guma Gara Arba for Seze
Bot'i	K'ondala Oromia	9°23'25.35"N 34°45'28.08"E	I G3 SW	Mao Seze	Makep'o	Seze (SE)	no	Konsa; Shagga	Guma Gara Arba k'ebele. Village in the central Seze speaking area; no Hozo recorded. G3 SHORT WORDLIST <i>Seze</i>
Gaje Gaje	K'ondala Oromia	9°25'27.30"N 34°44'33.86"E	I G3	Mao Seze	Madego	Seze (SE)	no	Guma Gara Arba	Village with Seze speakers only. No indication of Hozo speakers.
Gemi Gaba	K'ondala Oromia	9°16'43.52"N 34°40'24.96"E	I G3	Mao Hozo	Gadatso	Hozo (HO)	Kuro	Nanino Maramo	Only Hozo speakers; Seze not reported. Hozo name of the language, not the clan! <i>Kuro language</i> is mentioned; reference to Koman Mao? cf. 4.1.4. <i>Girma</i> : Seze minority.

¹²⁶ I: Interview by group G1/G2/G3 (Appendix 1); own: In depth interview; LW/V: Long Wordlist; voice recorded and wordlist transcribed (Appendix 3); SW: Short written word list by G2 or G3 (Appendix 3).

¹²⁷ Self designation acc. to no. 3 on the questionnaire (Appendix 1) or in depth interviews.

¹²⁸ The clan names are not verified or studied systematically; there may be mistakes or incorrect designations.

¹²⁹ Self designation acc. to no. 4 on the questionnaire (Appendix 1) or in depth interviews; the language identification (majority) of the word list is mentioned here. In brackets the choices the interviewees made on the wordlist: Komo (KO), Gwama (GW), Seze (SE), Hozo (HO) and Ganza (GA).

¹³⁰ Oromo is found in all villages and not separately mentioned here; Amharic is found in many villages particularly in Mao Komo SW and not mentioned here; Comments: *Girma*: language spoken according to Girma Mengistu; *Getachew*: language spoken according to Getachew Kassa, both Addis Ababa University

¹³¹ Answer to question no. 10 on the questionnaire (Appendix 1): "Where else (in which villages) do people speak your language?"

¹³² In most villages there is an Oromo speaking majority.

Giba Gulanza	Begi, Oromia	9°31'26.34"N 34°32'31.40"E	I G3	Mao Seze		Seze (SE)	'T'wa Kuro'		Koman Mao majority (<i>T'wa Kuro</i>); cf. Table 1 above. Seze speakers confirmed by G3 and <i>Girma</i> . G2 only Koman Mao references.
Guma Gara Arba (area)	K'ondala Oromia	9°24'11.60"N 34°45'56.67"E	I G3	Mao Seze	Kosasi (Kosaji? unclear writing)	Seze (SE)	Shuluyo (Hozo)	Konsa; Yrashi (writing unclear)	A wide area with mainly Seze speakers in the central places; Hozo (Shuluyo) speakers in the more remote areas. An area with several Mao speaking villages (e.g. Bot'i, Iggi, Konsa) <i>Girma</i> : Seze; <i>Getachew</i> : Hozo
Hofa Far-gashi	K'ondala Oromia	9°18'23.58"N 34°38'33.90"E	I G3	Mao Hozo	Gadasho	Hozo (HO)	no	Maramo, Gemi Gaba, Shonge	Village with Hozo speakers. Hozo as name of the language, not the clan! Seze is not mentioned. Reference to other villages with Hozo. <i>Getachew</i> : Hozo
Ilala Macho	K'ondala Oromia	9°18'54.36"N 34°37'20.51"E (tentative)	I G3	Mao Seze	Makep'o	Seze (Saba) (SE)	no (Hozo?)	Shagga; Karma Gunfi	Mainly Seze speakers. Hozo is not mentioned. Term <i>Saba</i> unclear. The relation between Ilala Macho and Shonge is confusing; Hozo reference; neighbouring villages with Seze and Hozo and speakers? <i>Getachew</i> : Hozo. Wordlist by Meckelburg from Shonge: Hozo. Probably bilingual area with Seze and Hozo speakers.
Jimbila Tuwambi	K'ondala Oromia	9°26'3.48"N 34°46'14.10"E (tentative)	I G3	Mao Seze	Maburo	Seze (SE)	no	Guma Gara Arba; Shura Maramo	Village with Seze speakers. Reference to Shura Maramo – only for Seze? Coordinates tentative.
Kabache Dume	K'ondala Oromia	9°20'42.70"N 34°37'39.74"E	I G3	Mao Hozo	Mayalo	Hozo (Ho)	Seze	Maramo, Hofa Far-gashi, Gemi Gaba	Village with Hozo (majority) and Seze speakers; Hozo not name of the clan! References to villages with Ho-zo speakers. <i>Getachew</i> : Hozo; <i>Girma</i> : Seze (minority)
Karma Babane	K'ondala Oromia	9°24'58.05"N 34°39'0.31"E	I G3	Mao Seze	Hozo	Seze (SE)	no (Hozo?)	Shagga; Shura Maramo	Probably mainly Seze speakers. The people may not speak Hozo, but belong to Hozo clan (cf. Andi Giltu Jale and Shagga). According to SIL ¹³³ Hozo speaking, <i>Girma</i> : Seze; <i>Getachew</i> : Hozo (minority).
Karma Gunfi	Begi Oromia	9°18'2.52"N 34°35'42.00"E	I G3	Mao Seze	Madego	Seze (SE)	no	Laliftu Lop'i; Shagga; Ilala Macho	Village with Seze speakers. Hozo is not mentioned. The east coordinates are not sure. <i>SIL</i> and <i>Girma</i> : Seze. G1: Seze

¹³³ Siebert et.al. (2002): Third S.L.L.E. Survey on Languages of the Begi/Asosa Area, with maps of villages with Seze and Hozo speakers

Karma Shora	K'ondala Oromia	9°22'24.00"N 34°37'22.70"E	I G3 I G2	Mao Seze	Hozo	Seze (SE)	Hozo	Gemi Gaba, Shura Maramo	In spite of an interview in 2011, the main language may be Seze; Hozo is the clan name. cf. Shagga. Confirmed by G2 and others; however, references to Hozo speaking villages. G2 and G3 : different information
Kobor Chandi	Begi, Oromia	9°28'29.02"N 34°33'39.60"E	others	Mao Seze	?	Seze (SE)	Twa Sit Swala (Gwama)		Koman Mao majority (T'wa Sit Shwala); cf. Table 1 above. Seze speakers conformed by G3 and <i>Girma</i> . G2 only Koman Mao references, <i>Getachew</i> : also Hozo
Kongilo Gara Kelo	Begi Woreda ORS	9°33'27.47"N 34°36'48.58"E	others	Mao Hozo	?	Hozo (HO)	Twa Kuro (Gwama)		Koman Mao majority (T'wa Kuro); cf. Table 1 above. Hozo speakers conformed by G3 and <i>Getachew</i> . G2 only Koman Mao. <i>Girma</i> : also Seze
Konsa (Guma Gara Arba)	K'ondala Oromia	9°25'25.20"N 34°46'29.30"E	IG 3 own SW; LW/V	Mao Seze	Makep'o	Seze (SE)	Shuluyo (Hozo)	Kamsi, Bot'i, Kirashi, Geeshe; (all Guma Gara Arba) Ilala Macho; Shagga;	Guma Gara Arba k'ebele. Village with Seze speakers. Shuluyo (Hozo) in the surroundings; cf. Boji Gara Arba with a similar situation. → Guma Gara Arba SHORT WORDLIST recording 'Seze' LONG WORDLIST recording <i>Seze</i> (2x)
Lalifto Lop'i	K'ondala Oromia	9°15'18.18"N 34°38'13.26"E	IG 3	Mao Seze	Madego	Seze (SE)	Hozo; Kuro	Kave; Ulagubo; Shura Falat'a	Probably mainly Seze speakers. Hozo is mentioned. 200 speakers of Kuro, cf. 4.1.4. Cf. Gemi Gaba and Shagga. References to unknown villages. <i>Girma</i> :Hozo
Malka Ebicha	Babo Gambel Oromia	9°25'35.60"N 35° 0'52.15"E	I G3	Mao Shuluyo	Gondacho	Schuluyo (HO)	(Seze)	Yari K'orio; Karsa Mora; Bishawo Dabus	Only Shuluyo speakers. Word list identification: Hozo. Seze is known but not spoken. Ref. Yari K'orio: Shuluyo speakers. Cf. Bishawo Dabus. <i>Getachew</i> : Hozo
Mimi Akobo	Mao Komo SW, BG	9°25'51.30"N 34°22'39.40"E	I G3; others	Mao Seze (G3: Fargashi ?)	Madego	Seze (Dashe) (SE)	Mao/T'wa Sit Shwala (Gwama)	Guma Gara Arba; Jarso Gambel (?)	Cf. Table 1. There is a considerable group of Seze speakers besides Koman Mao/Gwama. Newly immigrated. They call their language 'Dashe'. The reference to Guma Gara Arba indicates Seze. LONG WORDLIST <i>Seze</i> (Alexander Meckelburg)

Shagga	K'ondala Oromia	9°21'0.82"N 34°36'19.91"E	I G3 (2) SW own LW/V	Mao Seze	Hozo; Matui (?); Kirinyi (?)	Seze (SE)	Hozo (?) Kuro	Gunfi; Karma Babane; Konso (Guma Gara Arba); Kama Shoro; Gemi Gaba; Manazi; Shura Maramo	Seze speakers; Hozo as a clan name for Seze speakers (cf. Andi Giltu Jale and Karma Babane); there may be Hozo speakers in the k'ebele. <i>Kirinyi</i> (clan name) is dif- ficult to understand. The <i>Kiring</i> are Koman Mao speakers from around Tongo; for <i>Kuro</i> cf. 4.1.4. G3 SHORT WORDLIST LONG WORDLIST re- cording <i>Seze</i> (2x)
Shera Kama	Begi Oromia	9°22'55.10"N 34°31'24.70"E	I G3 SW	Mao Seze	Kuro	Seze (SE)	T'wa Set Shwala Hozo	Shagga; Shonge	3 "Mao-languages" seem to meet: Twa Sit Shwala (majority), Seze and Hozo. If so, both Omotic and Koman Mao (cf. Ta- ble 1 above). The mem- bers of the Kuro clan seem to speak Omotic; different languages within one clan? G2 and <i>Get- achew</i> : Hozo. G3 SHORT WORDLIST <i>Seze</i> ;
Sholli Gara Arba	K'ondala Oromia	9°20'43.63"N 34°47'17.73"E (tentative)	I G3	Mao Hozo	Hozo	Hozo (HO)	(Seze)	Fargashi	Hozo (Shulyuo) speakers. Hozo as the name of the clan and of the language! At least knowledge of Seze language; Shulyuo references from Tullu Berc'uma
Shonge	K'ondala Oromia	9°19'26.3"N 34°37'16.5"E	Own LW/V others	Mao Seze	Mayalo	Seze (SE)	Hozo	Guma Gara Arba, Gemi Gaba, Hofa Far- gashi, Kabache Dumme, Gunfi Karma	Seze and Hozo speakers; Seze dominateing. Refer- ences to Hozo speaking villages. Relation be- tween Ilala Macho and Shonge is confusing; neighbouring villages with Seze and Hozo and speakers? Wordlist (Meckelburg): Hozo. Re- cordings (Andinet Arega): Seze. LONG WORD- LIST/recording <i>Seze</i>
Shura Lik'it'i	K'ondala Oromia	9°23'19.33"N; 34°42'22.92"E	I G3 (2) SW	Mao Seze	Maburo; Mayalo;	Seze (SE)	no	Ilaala Maccho; Guma Gara Arba; Konsa; Bot'i	Seze speakers. Hozo is not mentioned; cf. Bot'i, Guma Gara Arba etc. Ac- cording <i>SIL</i> : Seze; <i>Gir- ma</i> : Seze; <i>Getachew</i> : Hozo. G3 SHORT WORD LIST <i>Seze</i>

Shura Mara-mo	K'ondala Oromia	9°19'35.38"N 34°40'29.13"E or 9°18'14.20"N 34°43'32.90"E	I G3	Mao Seze	Maburo	Seze (SE)	Hozo	Shura Lik'it'i; Guma Gara Arba	Both Hozo and Seze speakers; separate interview for Hozo. <i>SIL III</i> only Seze, <i>Girma</i> : Seze and Hozo.
			I G3 (2); SW	Mao Hozo	Maburo	Hozo (HO)	Seze	Gemi Gaba, Fargashi; Kabache Dumme	Bilingual village or neighbouring villages. Maburo clan with mainly Seze speakers; Ref. from many Hozo speaking villages. Acc. to the wordlists very similar to Shuluyo, but the speakers would deny this. <i>Girma</i> : Seze; <i>Getachew</i> : Hozo G3 SHORT WORDLIST <i>Hozo</i>
Tirmi	K'ondala Oromia	9°20'23.10"N 34°43'13.20"E	I G3 SW	Mao Seze	Makep'o	Seze (SE)	Hozo	Shagga , Shoro Gaba	Mainly Seze speakers; there may be Hozo speakers in the area; at least do people know Hozo; cf. map; the village lies south of the central Seze area. G3 SHORT WORDLIST <i>Seze</i>
Tullu Berc'uma (Guma Gara Arba)	K'ondala Oromia	9°20'3.74"N 34°49'1.51"E (tentative)	Own LW/V	Mao Shuluyo	T'e Gic'o	Shuluyo (HO)	no	Kirashi, Sholli, Gol Bella, Kawa, Gomi Shashi, Yari K'orio (in GGA K'ebele) Malka Ebicha, Bishawo, Boke (Babo Gambel)	Only <i>Mao Shuluyo</i> speakers. Many small and remote villages scattered over the Guma Aara Arba mountains. The language on the other side of the Dabus seems to be the same: cf. Bishawo Dabus. The informants never use the term Hozo nor see themselves as part of a Hozo community. LONG WORDLIST/recording <i>Shuluyo</i>
Wandi Do-chi	K'ondala Oromia	9°21'30.82"N 33°45.13"E	I G3	Mao Seze	Madego	Seze (SE)	Hozo	Guma; Gunfi	Both Hozo and Seze speakers; cf. Andi Giltu Jale. <i>Girma</i> : Seze; <i>Getachew</i> : Hozo.
Wanja Ch'irri	K'ondala Oromia	9°25'1.66"N 34°41'7.50"E	I G3	Mao Seze	Mayalo	Seze (SE)	no	Guma; Iggi; Konsa	Only Seze speakers The people may not know Hozo. <i>Seze</i> references. The coordinates are tentative.
Wanja Machabara	K'ondala Oromia	9°24'24.16"N 34°41'14.93"E	I G3	Mao Seze	Maburo	Seze (SE)	no	Shura; Geshe	Probably only Seze speakers; Hozo is not mentioned; cf. Wanja Ch'irri.
Yari K'orio (Boji Gara Arba)	K'ondala Oromia	9°29'29.02"N 34°55'13.71"E	I G3 SW	Mao Hozo (Shuluyo)	Makep'o	Shuluyo (HO)	no	"no other places"	In Boji Gara Arba k'ebele. No reference to other villages. Hozo and Shuluo are not considered to be identical. Makep'o in other areas a Seze speaking clan; G3 SHORT WORDLIST <i>Shuluyo</i>

Appendix 3

Word List - Seze / Hozo / Ganza / Gwama / Komo

English	Amharic	Oromo	Seze		Hozo		Ganza	Gwama	Twa Sit Shwala Koman Mao	Kuro Koman Mao	Komo
			long word list ¹³⁴	short word list ¹³⁵	long word list ¹³⁶	short word list	long word list	long word list	long word list	short word list	long word list
			average ¹³⁷	average	average	average	average	average	average	average	average
arm	ከንድ	irree	ka ^w i		kimi		k ^w ɒpa	k ^w apa	k ^w apa		kup
ashes	ከመድ	daaraa	pūsi	pusi	p(‘)endi	pendi	kenda pianda ¹³⁸	p’ɪkɪn	p’ɪkɪn	p’ɪgɪn	p’ɪn
bed	ከልጋ	siree	sa:nzi		ʃɪn:i		aŋgar ¹³⁹	jesiʃ aŋgar	seansa		aŋgar
bird	ወፍ	simbirroo	kawi ¹⁴⁰	ka:wi	kab:i	kabi	kapi/kaʃi	bit ¹⁴¹	bit	bit	di ^w u
blood	ደም	dhiiga	hambili	hambili	hambili	hambili	ha(:)nda	s’am	s’am	s’am	baʃ
bone	ከጥንት	lafee	bak’ili	bak’ili	bak’ili	bakili	mat’af	si	si	si	ʃuma(k’)
bridge	ድልድይ	riqicha (nooraa)	k ^w af:i	k ^w afi/koʃi	k ^w af:i	koʃi	g ^w anza ¹⁴²	k ^w ans’	k ^w ans’	k ^w ans’ denp’e ¹⁴³	k’as(‘)ɪ
brother	ወንድም	obboleessa	de:mali		diabi		(ti)nawan	werk ^w am ¹⁴⁴	work ^w ɒm(a) ¹⁴⁵		kam(ba)
clothes	ልብስ	uffata	ʃem:i		ʃəma(:)		buran	ɔjɔ ¹⁴⁶	ɔɔ		bɔlan
cow	አም	saawwa	i:mi		imi		imi	imi	imi		bɪb
(to) drink	መጠጣት	dhugaatii	ifi	ifɛ-	ifi	ifi	ifɪ-	-t’ɔp’	-t’ɔp’	-t’ɔp’	ɪp-
donkey	ከህያ	harree	huldi	huldi	kure(:)	kure	gaŋa	kuru	kuru	kuru	kura ¹⁴⁷
door, gate	በር	balbala	gɪfan(i) ¹⁴⁸		kaba/-p’a ¹⁴⁹		kanɔ(nɔ)	t’ut’omɔ	t’ut’ombo		t’ɔt’ɔmɔ
drum	ከበሮ	dibbee	gɪbi		giba(:)		g’eluk ^(w) a	pamba	pamba		bul
ear	ጭሮ	gurra	we:i	we:’i	we:/we’e	we:	wɔja/wæja	s’e	s’e	s’e	s’e
(to) eat	መጠጣት	nyaachuu	mæ’		ma:/ma’		ma’-	ʃa	ʃa		ʃa/ uʃ
empty	ባዶ	duwwaa	ke:wi menke/-ge		ɪŋki		bat-	digi	digi		

¹³⁴ Long word lists: Average phonetic transcription from own audio recordings.

¹³⁵ Short word lists: Transliterated from wordlists filled in Oromo orthography (Seze and Hozo) or fidels (Gwama) by the interview teams; no differences between open and closed vowels; many double writings when Oromo orthography was used; Amharic sound system in case of Fidels.

¹³⁶ Mainly interview with Shuluyo speakers from the eastern part; many affricates [tʃ] and [dʒ] where other dialects may have [s’] and [z’] or even [s] and [z]

¹³⁷ “Average” means in all cases that the most frequent forms in the interviews/on the word lists are used. If more than one word is filled, the reason will normally be explained in a foot note. When nothing is written in the columns for the long word lists, there were mentioned many different words/forms so no single form could be extracted as “average”.

¹³⁸ Sudan; cf. Krell 2011.

¹³⁹ Probably Komo word used in Ganza and in some Gwama villages in the lowlands.

¹⁴⁰ Girma Mengistu: káwwi; cf. ‘arm’; tone difference; tones may be distinctive in all “Mao-Komo languages”, but are not written here because of poor data.

¹⁴¹ Different from [bit’] ‘hand’ also by tone.

¹⁴² David Ford, Ganza word list: [gwantsa]; unclear if [z] or [s’]/[ts].

¹⁴³ [denp’e] or [de:p’e] only in Kuro; cf. 4.1.4.

¹⁴⁴ Phonetic varieties.

¹⁴⁵ Cf. the term *Kwama* that may be related to [wɔrk^wɒm(a)].

¹⁴⁶ Gwama [j] vs. T’wa Sit Shwala [l]; cf. 4.1.2.

¹⁴⁷ Or [kuru]? cf. also [kuru] in Gwama and [kure(:)] in Hozo

¹⁴⁸ Several other words are mentioned

¹⁴⁹ [b], [p] or [p’]? “soft ejective”, most like [b’]; the same as in [pamba] ‘drum’?

eye	ዓደኝ	ija	a:wɪ	a:wɪ	a:bi	a:bi	ap/aφ	zi	zi	zi(:)	b'i/ p'i/βi
feather	ለባ	baallee	baŋki		baŋka		(wɔŋa) mɔl	bak	bak		mul
fire	አሳት	abidda	tam:i ¹⁵⁰	tami	tam:i	tami	tama	ant'	ant'	ant'/ant'i	wɔt'i
fish	ዓሳ	qurxummii	wɔs'i		wɔs'i/waz'i		maka	was'	was'		was'
flower	አበባ	abaaboo	φ/pundi	φ/pundi	pundi	pundi	k'us(:)-	(h)ĩnzi	ĩnzi	hinz minp'it' ¹⁵¹	
foot	አግር	miilla	tugɪ	tugɪ	daka	daka	toko	sont'	sont'	sont'	ʃɔg/ ʃɔk
frog	አኝቀራራት	fattee	k ^w akɪ/-gɪ		k ^w aka		tukul	paɔɔŋɔ	paɔɔŋɔ ¹⁵² k'ɔgɔgɔ k ^w aga		(bɔ)ɔɔŋɔ
(to) go	መሄድ	deemuu	ʃɔ:i		ʃɔ ^ɔ		ha-	-hɔ	-hɔ/-hɔ		i/ja-
goat	ፍፍል	re'ee	ʃæk'i/ʃagi ¹⁵³	ʃak'i/-gɪ	ʃa:	ʃa	sa ^ɔ a	ɲa	ɲa	ɲa mi'a	mɛ
grass	ሳር	marga	mɪzi		ɔs'a/ ɔz'a		kuda ¹⁵⁴	(ʃu)ʃuʃu	mɔ(n)zɔ ¹⁵⁵ ʃuʃu		
hair (on head)	ፀጉር	rifeensa	ʊnsuli		tɔk untli		k ^w adi mul	bak up ¹⁵⁶	bak uf/-up		mul(ʷkup)
hand	አጅ	harka	kʊsi	kusi(:)	k'is'i ¹⁵⁷	kosi	kɔnsɔ/g ^w -	mit' ¹⁵⁸	bit'	bit'	k'ɔɔ
head	ራስ	mataa	tʊ:i	tʊ ^w i	tɔki	toki	k ^w adi	(k')up	k'up k'uf	k'up k'uf ¹⁵⁹	k'up
heart	ልብ	honnee	ʃin tʊi	ʃin tʊ ^w i	niba/d-	niba	kiz/kis'	ʊp(p)ɪɪ ¹⁶⁰ ʃiʃi	ʃiʃi	ʃinʃ(i) ʃiʃi(:)	k'updu
heavy	ከባድ	ulfaataa	φ/pɛk(:)ɪ/e-		pɛ ^ɔ i		paj-	si	s(:)il		did-
house	ቤት	mana	k'a:i	k'ai	kera	kera	ka ^ɔ a	s ^w ɪ	s ^w al	s ^w al	gubi
knee	ጉልበት	jilba	gub:i		k'umi		ukul	dugi	dugul		bɔm
knife	ቢላዋ	haaduu	ʃiki:	ʃiki(:)	ʃiki(:)	buto ¹⁶¹	kandil	ʃiki ¹⁶² bila	ʃiki bila	albala ʃeg kala ¹⁶³	ʃiba/ ʃiɸa
lip	ከንፈር	hidhii	wa:n gɔŋki wa:ni	wā(:)ngɔŋki wāni	wandi	wa(:)nd wandigonk'o	nana gɔŋɔ	k'ek't ^w a	k'ek't ^w a	k'ek't ^w a	t'a
long	ረጅም	dheeraa	ʃa:mi		d'is'i/-tʃi		pili	atu ¹⁶⁴	aldu		tul-
man	ሰው	namicha	ma:i	ma:i	mɔ:	mɔ:	asi ¹⁶⁵ ganza ¹⁶⁶	sɪt	sɪt	sɪt/std isi ¹⁶⁷	jiba
meat	ሥጋ	foon	ɔsi	ɔsi	ɔs'i/ɔʃi	ɔs:i	wasi	sʊm	sʊm	sʊm	ʃʊm

¹⁵⁰ Probably short vowel; not long consonant.

¹⁵¹ Only Kuro.

¹⁵² [paɔɔŋɔ]: mainly T'wa Gwama (cf. T'a Komo); [k'ɔgɔgɔ]: only T'wa Sit Shwala.

¹⁵³ Different phonetic varieties [a/æ] and [k'/k/g]

¹⁵⁴ [kuda] 'dry grass'; [mati] 'green grass'.

¹⁵⁵ [mɔ(n)zɔ] 'small grass'; [ʃuʃu] 'big gras'; common for all.

¹⁵⁶ Sound change [f] vs.[p]: T'wa Sit Shwala mainly [-ɸf]; T'wa Gwama [-up]; cf. 4.14.

¹⁵⁷ Or [kiz'i]/[kiɸi]; "soft ejective" or fricative; same sounds as in 'fish' and 'grass'.

¹⁵⁸ Dialect varieties [b] vs.[m]

¹⁵⁹ Kuro always [k'uf]

¹⁶⁰ Both words are common over the whole area

¹⁶¹ This word is also used by some T'wa Sit Shwala speakers and found in the literature as "Hozo word"

¹⁶² Probably "soft ejective" or [ʃiɸi]

¹⁶³ Only Kuro

¹⁶⁴ Cf. 4.1.2

¹⁶⁵ David Ford, Ganza word list: 'tribe, ethnic group'

¹⁶⁶ Sudan; cf. Krell 2011

¹⁶⁷ Kuro always [isi]; T'wa Sit Shwala mainly [sɪt], in some dialects [is-]; cf. place name *Ishgogo*.

milk (n)	ወተት	aannan	ba:zi ¹⁶⁸		-		ata	bas'	bas'		ko
moon	ጨረቃ	ji'a	emsi	emsi	emti	emti	anzi/ans(°)i	s'ewan	s'ewan	s'ewon	paj
mountain	ተራራ	tulluu	guli		guns'i/-tʃi		kwe	k(°)o	ko		b'i/bi
mouth	አፍ	afaan	wa:ni	wa(:)ni	wandi	wandi	nana	t ^w a	t ^w a	t ^w a	t'a
name	ስም	maqaa	i:ji ¹⁶⁹		ifi		wasa	ʃigt/ʃegi	tul sont		zaga
nest	የወፍ:ቤት	mana simbiraa	kawk'a:ɪ	kawk'ai	kabikera	kab(ɪ)kera	kapika(°a) kaɸika(°a)	suʃ(a)bit	s ^w albit	s ^w albit(i)	gubi di ^w u
new	አዲስ	haaraa	ɔ:li ¹⁷⁰		hel:i		k'a-	-didiʃ	-didiʃ		-s'ɪʃ
nose	አፍንጫ	funyaan	ʃi:nt(°)i	ʃint'i	ʃi:ni	ʃini	ʃin(t)	ʃöʃ/ʃonʃ	ʃöʃ	ʃonʃ(i)	ʃöʃ
old (thing)	ያርጌ/ክሮጌ	moofaa	mo:fai ¹⁷¹		?		sas-/naka- ¹⁷²	-sasi ¹⁷³	?		guba
red	ቀይ	diimaa	ta:nti		k'-/gonta		bumba-/w-	-k'aʃ	gaʃ(agaʃ)/k'-		t'el-
river	ወንዝ	laga	kuzi		kuz'i/-ɸi		woma	pogɔ	f-/pogɔ s'ul ¹⁷⁴		s'ʊ
road	መንገድ	karaa	k ^w ε:ɪ		kaʃ:i		k ^w ɔja	p ^w aŋa	aŋa		kuma
(to) run	መሮጥ	fiiiguu	zinz(°)ε/ɪ		ko:nti		wo'a	-gus	gus(agus)		paj(a)
sand	አሽዋ	cir'achaa	ʃaku/ʃawɪ		ʃegu(°wɪ)		sima	waŋas'	waŋas'		puʃ
short	አጭር	gabaabaa	k'andu:°wɪ		kandr:°wɪ		ʃira-	-gut	aldunɔ ¹⁷⁵ -gut		kud-
smoke (of fire)	ጠስጨስ	haara	s'ʊ:°wɪ	s'ʊwi	s'ʊ:bi/ tʃ-	s'obi	s'ʊba/-wa k'urum ¹⁷⁶	siŋk'	siŋk'	sink' sip ¹⁷⁷ (t'oba)t'ob	kur
star	ኮከብ	urjii	kɔzi	kɔzi	maz'i/-ɸi ¹⁷⁸	koze/-a	pjala	bis'an	bis'en	bis'an	kil
stone	ድንጋይ	dhagaa	ʃæwi/ʃa-	ʃawi	wa:z'i/-ɸi	waz'i	ʃa(:)ŋa	p'idin	p'ingil (p'idin)	p'ingil	ɔʃ
sun	ፀሐይ	biiftuu	a:°w tɔɪ ¹⁷⁹	a:°w tɔɪ	abi	abi	aba/awa	kaja	kala	kala	t'i/ t'ε
sweet	ጣፋጭ	mi'aa	manʃi		tanʃi/gandʃi		mis'-/miz-	-mizi/s'i	-inʃiʃ		-s'em-
(to) swim	መዋኘት	dakuu	knde: ¹⁸⁰		kundi		mulin	sæŋk'	ɔm(b)ut ¹⁸¹		ɸ/pag(i)
tail	ጁራት	eegee	wi:ŋi	wiŋi wiŋi	umbili	umbuli	k ^w ende/k ^w u-	uŋu	uŋu	uŋu areŋ	sin
tear (eye)	አንባ	immimamaan	(h)amsi		amti		a:p/a:ɸ	mu(n)zi	mu(n)zi		ima ⁿ bi
thick	ወፍራም	furdaa	tumbuli		t ^w aʃ-		s'aza/s'as'a	-tindi -waga	-tindi -waga		did-
thin	ቀጭን	qallaa	zeŋemɪ		ʃela		?	-zinzi	-zinzi ¹⁸²		mæs ^w an
tongue	ምላስ	qoonqoo	ʃens'ili gɔlgi	gɔlgi	go(:)ra	golgi/-ε	insgal/k'al ins'al ¹⁸³	t'aki	t'agal	t'agal daik'uj ¹⁸⁴	let'

¹⁶⁸ Or [ba:s'i]; cf. Koman Mao/Gwama; Oromo word *aannan* seems to be more usual.

¹⁶⁹ Girma Mengistu: With L.L tone; [ʔi:ʃi] ;with L.H tone means 'honey'.

¹⁷⁰ According to Girma; many different words are recorded.

¹⁷¹ Cf. Oromo.

¹⁷² [naka-] 'old people'.

¹⁷³ Many different words are mentioned; similar meanings.

¹⁷⁴ Only T'wa Sit Shwala.

¹⁷⁵ [aldunɔ] only T'wa Sit Shwala.

¹⁷⁶ Sudan; cf. Krell 2011.

¹⁷⁷ Only Kuro.

¹⁷⁸ Only Shuluyo.

¹⁷⁹ Literally "head of day" or "head of God" (Girma).

¹⁸⁰ Many other words are mentioned both in Seze and Hozo.

¹⁸¹ Many differnt suggestions.

¹⁸² Many different words; not clear.

tooth	ጥርስ	ilkaan	as'i		az'i/aḏḏi		nana k ^w is nan p ^w es'	ʃi	ʃi		ʃe/ʃeɪ
tree	ዛፍ	muka	ɛ:nsi/i:-		ĩnti		ins(ʔ)a	s ^w aja	s ^w ala		sa
water	ውኃ	bishaan	ha(:)nsi	hans'i	ha:ni	hāni	hā'a	ija	ija	ija	ji
(to) weep	ማልቀስ	boo'uu	s'i:ʷi		i'abɪ		aje:	-ku	-ku		ko/ kɔ
wind	ንፋስ	bubbee	biʃaḞogɪ biʃawogɪ	b/Ḟiʃawogɪ	z'ɔŋka/ḏ-	ʃawi/sawi	ʃu(:)bi/ ʃu(:)wi	kas(:) kɪwɪ ¹⁸⁵	kas(:)	k(i)wil kaʃa ¹⁸⁶	puḏ/Ḟuḏ
woman	ሴት	dubartti	ʃa:ɪ		ʃe:		sa:(ʔa)- ¹⁸⁷ pali	kik'ata ¹⁸⁸	kik'ata ¹⁸⁹ d ^w a		bæmit
one	አንድ	tokko	iʃɪle	iʃɪle:	ɔno	ɔno	i/uʃɪg ^w ain/-en	sene	-sene	-sene	d'ɪ(d'ɪ)
two	ሁለት	lama	nɔmbe ¹⁹⁰	nɔmbe	dɔmbɔ	dɔmbɔ	mambu	s ^w ija ¹⁹¹	sija	sija	su ^(w) in
three	ሦስት	sadii	si(:)ze	size	seazi/ʃ-	sia:zi	dizi/tizi	t ^w asen(e)	t ^w azen(e)	t ^w asen(e)	diʃ(in)
four	አራት	afur	bes'e	bes'e	bes'i/-ʃi	bes'i	mazi/maz'i	bɪzɪn/s'ɪn	bɪzɪn/s'ɪn	bɪs'ɪn	dɔɣɔn(in)
five	አምስት	shan	k ^w ize	g'/k'use	(g)is'i/iʃi	kis'i	g ^w us'i/k'uzi	kumot'	kom(b)ut'	kum(b)ut' ¹⁹²	bus(in)
six	ስድስት	ja'a	ḏʒa:ɪ ¹⁹³		gans'ɔno		iʃgɪbin	kɔ-/k ^w azen ¹⁹⁴	kubasene ku ^w asene		kaŋ(ag'di)
ten	አስር	kudhan	ku:se		gandɔmbɔ		konzɔwa/-ba	k'uzi ¹⁹⁵	k'u ^(w) a)zi'a		kɔʃ('n)kɔlɔ ¹⁹⁶

¹⁸³ Sudan; cf. Krell 2011.

¹⁸⁴ Only Kuro.

¹⁸⁵ [kiwɪ] 'air' in Gwama; also in use in T'wa Sit Shwala as [kiwil].

¹⁸⁶ Only Kuro; phonetic varieties.

¹⁸⁷ [sa'a]: not married; [pali]: married.

¹⁸⁸ [kikjata] – [tikjata] and other varieties.

¹⁸⁹ [kikjata] 'woman'; [dwa] 'girl'.

¹⁹⁰ Stress on last vowel.

¹⁹¹ Several cases of labialization in the lowlands; cf. 'mountain'.

¹⁹² Kuro always with [b].

¹⁹³ Oromo.

¹⁹⁴ Several short forms like [kwɔzen] or [kɔzen] in the lowlands.

¹⁹⁵ Dialect varieties.

¹⁹⁶ With ejective [k']?.