

Reading and writing Nta

(Nebenge na Neyene ka Nta)

A Guide for writing the Nta language

© 2021 Seed Company

in cooperation with

Luke Initiative for Scripture Translation (LIST)

Nigeria

and

Nta Language Development and Bible Translation

Committee

Ikrom LGA, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Printed at Jos

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 The vowels of the Nta language.....	5
Long vowels	8
Chapter 2 The consonants of the Nta language	10
Words ending with consonants.....	17
The sound “ng”.....	17
Chapter 3 The Nta alphabet.....	18
Tone in Nta.....	19
Nta: <i>Nta Lexical Tone</i>	19
Chapter 4 Some notes on the grammar of Nta language.....	23
1. Subject pronouns in Nta.....	23
2. Object pronouns in Nta.....	23
Possessive pronouns in Nta.....	25
Plural formation Nta.....	25
Some compound words in Nta.....	27
Greetings in Nta	28
Chapter 5 <i>Some Informations in Nta</i>.....	29
Mfan ka Nta:-Counting in Nta Language	29
Family relationship in Nta	31
Nta: <i>Colors in Nta</i>	32
Nta: <i>Nta cardinal Points</i>	32
Afo Nta: <i>Nta traditional days of the week</i>	32
Ngara Nnya: <i>Seasons</i>	32

Chapter 6 <i>Some Nta Proverbs</i>	33
Chapter 7 Nta texts:-Traditional stories and farming procedures	38
Ebee manka na munnu	38
Nsan na mfinkpob	39
Ekpanjagara na nsisi.....	39
Nsere si abom egbe bono.	40
Conclusion	41

Aims and objectives

In this booklet we are making recommendations to the Nta Language Committee and to the Nta community leaders on how to write the Nta language. Our purpose is:

- (1) To seek to unite the Nta people in using one spelling system and thus to encourage the writing of new books for all Nta people.
- (2) To develop a writing system that will help Nta people who can already read a Nigerian language or English to be able to read and write the Nta language without difficulty.
- (3) To develop a writing system simple enough for Nta children to learn in the schools.
- (4) To enable foreigners learn to speak, read and write the Nta language easily.

Chapter 1

The vowels of the Nta language

The Nta language has 7 vowels. Five of these vowels are written in the same way as they are in English; these are: **a**, **e**, **i**, **o** and **u**.

The two other vowels are: **ɛ** and **ɔ**.

The Nta vowels are illustrated below in all three positions in which they occur: at the beginning of a word, the middle of a word, and the end of a word.

a

amar	<i>“eyes”</i>
ata	<i>“legs”</i>
alab	<i>“water”</i>
nna	<i>“mother”</i>
agba	<i>“canoes/boats”</i>
akang	<i>“salt”</i>
ane	<i>“people/persons”</i>

e

ero	<i>“hoe”</i>
nte	<i>“trees/sticks”</i>
eben	<i>“iron rod”</i>
eno	<i>“yam”</i>
ekon	<i>“firewood”</i>
esob	<i>“court”</i>

ε

egbe	<i>“farm”</i>
ejebe	<i>“town/village”</i>
emenegbe	<i>“bush”</i>
ejek	<i>“chin”</i>
nte	<i>“friend”</i>
nne/bene	<i>“four”</i>
ekam	<i>“medicine”</i>

i

isi	<i>“head”</i>
nibri	<i>“face”</i>
nsisi	<i>“land/sand”</i>
mfinkpob	<i>“grasshopper”</i>
nji/jiji/wiwi	<i>“one”</i>
esiyiri	<i>“sorrow”</i>

o

obon	<i>“goats”</i>
eno/bono	<i>“yam/yams”</i>
nkpogho	<i>“cup”</i>
jo	<i>“sit”</i>
son	<i>“carry”</i>
efon	<i>“mortar”</i>

o

orɔŋg	<i>“fufu”</i>
otɔŋg	<i>“ear”</i>
ogbo	<i>“path/track”</i>
obo	<i>“hand”</i>
wo	<i>“you”</i>
onam	<i>“grave”</i>
okono	<i>“bees/hut”</i>

u

uju	<i>“theft”</i>
nunu	<i>“sleep/strand of hair”</i>
nkutu	<i>“white soup”</i>
nnu	<i>“hair (on head)”</i>
munnu	<i>“man”</i>
munu	<i>“now”</i>
tufe	<i>“bless”</i>

Vowels Minimal Pairs

e/ɛ

Nte	<i>“trees”</i>
Nte	<i>“friend”</i>

o/o

Bono	<i>“yams”</i>
Boron	<i>“five”</i>
ajo	<i>“slaves”</i>

ebe	<i>“his/her’s”</i>	ɛbɛɛ	<i>“story”</i>
aye	<i>“he/she saw”</i>	ayɛɛ	<i>“he/she saw him she saw her”</i>
Mme	<i>“i”</i>	Mmɛɛ	<i>“moon”</i>
i		li	
yi	<i>“that/which”</i>	Yii	<i>“sing”</i>
fi	<i>“to burn in fire”</i>	Fii	<i>“ride/paddle”</i>
si	<i>“carve”</i>	Sii	<i>“build”</i>
ɔ		ɔɔ	
Wɔ	<i>“you/drink”</i>	Wɔɔ	<i>“all”</i>
Mbɔ	<i>“them”</i>	Mbɔɔ	<i>“cloth”</i>
Abɔ	<i>“hands”</i>	Abɔɔ	<i>“children”</i>
U		Uu	
Mbu	<i>“door”</i>	Mbuu	<i>“name of a special day in every five days in nta”</i>

Chapter 2

The consonants of the Nta language

The Nta language has 19 consonant sounds. Most of them are written in the same way as in English. A few consonant sounds are written with two letters, for example, **gb**, **gh**, **kp**, **ng**, and **ny**. These each represent a single consonant sound.

Here are some examples of each consonant at the beginning and middle of a word, and at the end of a word. Only some consonants (**b**, **g**, **m**, **n**, **r**, **k**, **ng**) occur at the end of a word.

b

biji	<i>“body”</i>
abokogho	<i>“elders”</i>
mbara	<i>“white”</i>
ɔbɔ	<i>“hand”</i>
alab	<i>“water”</i>
bisi	<i>“poison”</i>
bi	<i>“that/who”</i>

d

odemme	<i>“foolishness”</i>
ndene	<i>“okro”</i>
ndon	<i>“forehead”</i>
daghadagha	<i>“faraway”</i>
ade	<i>“lie”</i>
ɔdada	<i>“woodendryer”</i>

ndenge

“sign”

f

afo

“days”

fi

“burn”

fu

“harvest”

mfo

“place”

fɔ

“had/have”

fene

“return”

fa

“here/there”

g

gara

“measure/try”

nogo

“evening”

gang

“bite”

kag

“put”

goro

“sell”

gan

“to pay back”

nagana

“type/kind/style/proverb”

gb

εgbe

“farm”

ɔgbo

“track”

εmenεgbe

“bush”

ɔgba

“boat/canoe”

gbogbo

“loudly/allowed”

gbannga

“close/lock”

gbere

“to know”

gh	(never occurs at the beginning of words)
Imirighi	<i>“evening/night”</i>
Neneghe	<i>“eating”</i>
abokogho	<i>“elders”</i>
bagha	<i>“what/which”</i>
akpogha	<i>“money”</i>
ejagha	<i>“comb”</i>
lagha	<i>“to pass something”</i>

j	
jo/nji	<i>“sit down”</i>
ijing	<i>“darkness”</i>
biji	<i>“body”</i>
ja	<i>“clear bush”</i>
jijaa	<i>“my own”</i>
jere	<i>“shift”</i>
jara	<i>“push”</i>

k	
kɔ	<i>“take”</i>
kag	<i>“put”</i>
kebe	<i>“cut”</i>
enokon	<i>“night”</i>
kan	<i>“tie”</i>
ka	<i>“in/to/on/with/but”</i>

	manka	<i>“woman”</i>
kp	akpogha	<i>“money”</i>
	nkpak	<i>“poor person”</i>
	ntakpa	<i>“big”</i>
	kpakpa	<i>“all”</i>
	kpene	<i>“add”</i>
	kpo	<i>“die”</i>
	kpo	<i>“pack”</i>
l	log	<i>“fight/try”</i>
	lagha	<i>“to past something”</i>
	alog	<i>“cool”</i>
	alab	<i>“water/rain”</i>
	lebe/nebe	<i>“lick”</i>
m	mmo	<i>“child”</i>
	mbon	<i>“goat”</i>
	mba	<i>“road”</i>
	bama	<i>“come here”</i>
	bom	<i>“cultivate/plant”</i>
	mmin	<i>“nose”</i>
	mbono	<i>“seeyer/prophet”</i>
n	ngara	<i>“time”</i>

ton	<i>“pick”</i>
anong	<i>“blood”</i>
noson	<i>“load”</i>
nsan	<i>“thunder/ant”</i>
ano	<i>“words”</i>
nagam	<i>“miracle”</i>

Ng

song	<i>“go”</i>
abing	<i>“faeces”</i>
ngang	<i>“chest”</i>
ngara	<i>“time”</i>
ngon	<i>“fire”</i>

ny

nnya	<i>“meat/animal”</i>
nnyan	<i>“leafs/vegetables”</i>
nnye	<i>“mother”</i>
nnyannya	<i>“some time” (in future)</i>
Anyanya	<i>“insect”</i>

r

rag	<i>“talk”</i>
bri	<i>“look”</i>
amar	<i>“body hair/eyes”</i>
rogho	<i>“serve”</i>
nwer	<i>“book, school”</i>

	ru	<i>“get out”</i>
s	sere	<i>“stop/end”</i>
	nse	<i>“father”</i>
	nsan	<i>“ant”</i>
	seb	<i>“find”</i>
	nogo	<i>“evening”</i>
	ose	<i>“song”</i>
	sam	<i>“dig”</i>
	same	<i>“thank”</i>
t	tam	<i>“get up”</i>
	etan	<i>“ant hill”</i>
	tere	<i>“filter”</i>
	toro	<i>“report”</i>
	etan	<i>“it got lost”</i>
	tufe	<i>“bless”</i>
	ifurutu	<i>“morning”</i>
w	warr	<i>“us”</i>
	nkawa	<i>“your wife”</i>
	wo	<i>“you/drink”</i>
	wen	<i>“give birth”</i>
	yo we	<i>“his/hers”</i>

yo were “ours”
were “to roll”

y

ye “see”
yab “uproot/suck”
ya “tear/slice”
yebe “sweet”
yan “spread”
yenne “write”
yaga “others/past days/month/years”

Consonance Minimal Pairs

g/gb

ɔga “victory/more
 than”
ɔgba “boat”

gara “measure”
ɔgbara “floor”

k/kp

kana “think”
kpakpa “all”

kɔ “take”
kpɔ “die”

Words ending with consonants

There are some words in the Nta language which end with consonants, for example: **b, k, n, ng, r**.

alab	<i>“water”</i>
ejek	<i>“chin”</i>
akang	<i>“salt”</i>
nwer	<i>“book, school”</i>

The sound “ng”

The letters “ng” are pronounced in two ways. This depends on the location in the word. If “ng” is at the end of the word, it is a single sound, as in the following words.

akang	<i>“salt”</i>
otong	<i>“ear”</i>

If the “ng” is at the beginning of a word, then it is two sounds, the “n” and the “g”, as in the following words.

ngara	<i>“ime”</i>
ngon	<i>“fire”</i>

Here is a word that has “ng” at the beginning and also “ng” at the end. The “ng” at the beginning is two sounds, and the “ng” at the end is one sound.

ngang	<i>“chest”</i>
--------------	----------------

Chapter 3

The Nta alphabet

Having examined the pronunciation of the Nta language and studied the vowels and consonants, we wish to recommend the following alphabet letters for the Nta language:

a	A	i	I	O	O
b	B	j	J	o	o
d	D	k	K	R	R
e	E	kp	Kp	S	S
ε	ε	l	L	T	T
f	F	m	M	U	U
g	G	n	N	W	W
gb	Gb	ng	--	Y	Y
gh	--	ny	Ny		

Tone in Nta

In addition to the consonant and vowel sounds, Nta words can also be different according to the tone, or pitch, of the voice.

Each syllable has either a high tone or a low tone.

In most cases, when Nta word occurs in a sentence, speakers of the language will recognize the meaning of the word even when the tones are not written. One pair of pronouns differs only by tone: **ɛyà** “my” with low tones, and **ɛyá** “your” with high tone on the second syllable.

Further research is needed to determine if there are any pairs of words or grammatical structures for which tone would need to be indicated.

Here below other examples which requires more reaserch to ascertain the the right tone.

Nta: *Nta Lexical Tone*

Ekán	“noise”
Ekàn	“we finish/gathering of people”
ɛyá	“your/yours”
ɛyà	“it shines”
Onàm	“grave”
Onám	“you entered”

ጋክንጎ	<i>“bees”</i>
ጋክንዕ	<i>“hut/hall”</i>
ጋሩ	<i>“song/dance”</i>
ጋሩ	<i>“childhood”</i>
ገሰን	<i>“laughter”</i>
ገሰን	<i>“he/she carried”</i>
ዩባላ	<i>“bag”</i>
ዩባላ	<i>“fence”</i>
የሃ	<i>“river”</i>
የሃ	<i>“he/she was sick”</i>
ገሰን	<i>“hands”</i>
ገሰን	<i>“a kind of vegetable”</i>
ገሰን	<i>“clothes”</i>
ገሰን	<i>“children”</i>
ገሰን	<i>“blood”</i>
ገሰን	<i>“he/she lying down”</i>
ዩሜ	<i>“grassland”</i>
ዩሜ	<i>“shoot” (germinating from a seed)</i>

Mbónó	<i>“cover/lid”</i>
Mbònò	<i>“seeyer/prophet”</i>
Bisí	<i>“heads”</i>
Bisì	<i>“poison”</i>
Fà	<i>“here”</i>
Fá	<i>“there”</i>
Gá	<i>“here”</i>
Gà	<i>“there”</i>
Ajò	<i>“he/she was”</i>
Ajọ	<i>“he/she were”</i>
Àjò	<i>“they worship/they sacrifice”</i>
Abíbi	<i>“secret”</i>
Abibì	<i>“evils”</i>
Kpènè	<i>“add”</i>
Kpéné	<i>“borrow”</i>
Nnà	<i>“belly/stomach/inside”</i>
Nná	<i>“mother”</i>

Grammatical tone in Nta

Akièke	<i>He gave him</i>
Akiéke	<i>He will give him</i>

Αγίε γε

He/She saw Him/Her

Αγίε γε

He/She will see Him/Her

Ἄνάnnàn

He cried

Ἄνάnnán

He will cry

Chapter 4

Some notes on the grammar of Nta language

1. Subject pronouns in Nta

The independent subject pronouns of the Nta language are written as separate words. They are not combined with the verb or the tense marker which follows them. They are as follows:

singular	Plural
mme “I”	war “we”
wɔ “you”	war “you”
yɛ “he, she”	mbɔ “they”(humans and animals)

Examples:

Mme nneghene.	<i>I will eat.</i>
War nneghene	<i>We will eat, or you (plural) will eat.</i>
Mbɔ aneghene	<i>They will eat.</i>
A neghene.	<i>It will eat.</i>

2. Object pronouns in Nta

The object pronouns in Nta are not the same as the subject pronouns, and they follow the verb rather than coming before it. Like the subject pronouns, they are mostly written as separate words. The object pronouns are as follows:

	Singular		Plural
Mme	“me”	war	“us”
Wɔ	“you”	war	“you”
Ye	“him/her”	mbɔ	“them”

Example:

A kɛm mme	He gave me
A kia wɔ	He gave you
A kie ye	He gave him/her
A kɛ war	He gave us
A kɛ war	He gave you(pl)
A kɛ mbɔ	He gave them

NOTE:

The plural of the subject pronoun in Nta (**war**) which means both “we” and “you” and the object pronoun the same (**war**) also mean “us” and “you” some time “**ɛjɛrɛ**” and “**ɛwɛrɛ**” also have the same function in some context.

To avoid this ambiguity we here by recommend the addition of the last letter to mark the inclusive “we, us” eg **warr**, **ɛjɛrɛɛ** and **ɛwɛrɛɛ**.

Example:

“(v1) Si ebe anɛ amagara ayenɛ atɛb mbe bi ɛma ba ɛmɛwɛmɛ ka ɛbɔngɔ **ɛjɛrɛ***, (v2) nserɛ si anɛ ba agbɔmba ajɔayɛ ka

ejamannab na ba eragha nono Ɔsɔwɔ asighi abɔ ake **war***.” (Luk 1:1-2).

Possessive pronouns in Nta

Possessive pronouns are also written as separate words. They follow the noun they modify.

singular	Plural
ɛyaa “my”	ɛbrɛ “our”
ɛya “your”	ɛbrɛ “your”
ɛyɛ “his, her”	mbɔ “their”
yi “its”	bi “their” (<i>non-human</i>)

Examples:

mbon ɛya	<i>my goat</i>
mbon ɛyá	<i>your goat</i>
ɔbon mbɔ	<i>their goats</i>

Plural formation Nta

The following have been observed in writing plurals in Nta language:-

1. The first letter of the singular form is replaced with another letter while all other letters remain the same.

e.g	Singular	Plural
	ɔbɔ “hand”	abɔ “hands”
	ofo “day”	afo “days”

ubii	“palm tree”	abii	“palmtrees”
uwer	“book	awer	“books)
ekon	“firewood”	nkon	“firewoods”

2. The first letter of the singular form is deleted, while all other letters remain the same.

e.g	Singula	Plural
	namar “eye”	amar “eyes”
	naman “tooth”	aman “teeth”

3. A prefix is added to the singular form while all other letters remain the same.

e.g	singular	Plural
	egbe “farm”	begbe “farms”
	eneme “shirt”	beneme “shirts”
	emen “neck”	bemen “necks”

4. A letter prefix is added to the singular form with the appropriate vowel following the prefix and the other syllables remain the same.

e.g	Singular	Plural
	eno “yam”	bono “yams”
	ero “hoe”	boro “hoes”

nju	“house”	buju	“houses”
erɔŋ	“knee”	bɔrɔŋ	“knees”
ɛjagha	“comb”	bajagha	“combs”

5. The first two letters of the singular form are deleted and are replaced with another letter

e.g **Singular** **Plural**

nunu	“hairs”	nnu	“hairs”
nufur	“feather”	afur	“feathers”
ninibi	“tongue”	nnibi	“tongues”

Some word that does not have plurals in Nta

Alab	“water”
Akang	“salt”
Akuu	“oil”
esɛsɛɛ	“sand”
isia	“beniseed”

Some compound words in Nta

1. Efon + Ɔrɔŋ efonɔrɔŋ “motar”
2. Nsɔŋ + Ɔrɔŋ nsɔgɔrɔŋ “pistle”
3. Efon + eben efoneben “pail”

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 4. Benyen + amar | benyēnamar | “eye glasses” |
| 5. Ngu + nnya | nguannya | “animal skin” |
| 6. Akpagma + ata | akpaghata | “shoes/snadals” |
| 7. Ndɔgha + notow | ndɔghanotow | “messenger” |
| 8. Mbu + nju | mbunju | “door” |
| 9. Nna + etek | nnetek | “compound” |

Greetings in Nta

Greetings and welcoming address in Nta language all are in a question forms, therefore each requires an answer.

e.g **Good morning:** Omi nyimi? (Have you woken up?)

Omu ru? (Have you come out?)

Welcome: Omaba? (Have you come?)

Orɔghɔ bagha? (Are you coming? or have you come?)

Omokoro? (Have you return? or have you come back)

Grand father Nsense/nsennyɛ

Grand mother nnyense/nnyennyɛ

Chapter 5

Some Information in Nta

Mfan ka Nta:-Counting in Nta Language

1	Nji/jiji	<i>One</i>
2	Mbaa/babaa	<i>Two</i>
3	Nsaa/basaa	<i>Three</i>
4	Nne/bene	<i>Four</i>
5	Ndon/boron	<i>Five</i>
6	Nsaghasa/asaghasa	<i>Six</i>
7	Asimma	<i>Seven</i>
8	Anaghane	<i>Eight</i>
9	Sibawobo	<i>Nine</i>
10	Wobo	<i>Ten</i>
11	Wobo na jiji	<i>Eleven</i>
12	Wobo na baba	<i>Twelve</i>
13	Wobo na basa	<i>Thirteen</i>
14	Wobo na bene	<i>Fourteen</i>
15	Nook	<i>Fifteen</i>
16	Noko na jiji	<i>Sixteen</i>
17	Noko na baba	<i>Seventeen</i>
18	Noko na basa	<i>Eighteen</i>
19	Noko na bene	<i>Nineteen</i>
20	Natan	<i>Twenty</i>
21	Natan na jiji	<i>Twenty one</i>
22	Natan na baba	<i>Twenty two</i>

23	Natan na basa	<i>Twenty three</i>
24	Natan na bene	<i>Twenty four</i>
25	Natan na eron	<i>Twenty five</i>
26	Natan na esaghasa	<i>Twenty six</i>
27	Natan na esimma	<i>Twenty seven</i>
28	Natan na enaghane	<i>Twenty eight</i>
29	Natan na siba wobo	<i>Twenty nine</i>
30	Natan na wobo	<i>Thirty</i>
40	Atan aba	<i>Forty</i>
50	Atan aba na wobo	<i>Fifty</i>
60	Atan asa	<i>Sixty</i>
70	Atan asa na wobo	<i>Seventy</i>
80	Atan ane	<i>Eighty</i>
90	Atan ane na wobo	<i>Ninety</i>
100	Atan aron	<i>One hundred</i>
200	Egor (atan wobo)	<i>Two hundred</i>
300	Egor na atan aron	<i>Three hundred</i>
400	Egor babar	<i>Four hundred</i>
500	Egor babar na atan aron	<i>Five hundred</i>
600	Egor basar	<i>Six hundred</i>
700	Egor basar na atan aron	<i>Seven hundred</i>
800	Egor benne	<i>Eight hundred</i>
900	Egor benne na atan aron	<i>Nine hundred</i>
1000	Egor baron	<i>One thousand</i>
2000	Egor wobo	<i>Two thousand</i>
3000	Egor noko	<i>Three thousand</i>
4000	Egor natan	<i>Four thousand</i>

5,000	ᛖᛝᛞ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ	<i>Five thousand</i>
10,000	ᛖᛝᛞ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ	<i>Ten thousand</i>
20,000	ᛖᛝᛞ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ	<i>Twenty thousand</i>
40,000	ᛖᛝᛞ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ(ᛖᛝᛞ ᛖᛝᛞ)	<i>Fourty thousand</i>
80,000	ᛖᛝᛞ ᛖᛝᛞ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ	<i>Eighty thousand</i>
120,000	ᛖᛝᛞ ᛖᛝᛞ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ	<i>One hundred and twenty thousand</i>
160,000	ᛖᛝᛞ ᛖᛝᛞ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ	<i>One hundred and sixty thousand</i>
200,000	ᛖᛝᛞ ᛖᛝᛞ ᓃᓃᓃᓃ	<i>Two hundred thousand</i>

Family relationship in Nta

Father	Nse
Mother	Nnye
Brother	Mmᛞᓃᓃᓃᛖ ᛖᓃᓃᓃ
Sister	Mmᛞᓃᓃᓃᛖ ᛖᓃᓃᓃ
Uncle	ᛖᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃ/ᛖᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃ
Aunt/Aunty	ᛖᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃ/ᛖᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃ
Nephew	Mmᛞᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃ/ Mmᛞᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃ
Nice	Mmᛞᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃ/ Mmᛞᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᛖᓃᓃᓃ
Cousin	Mfon/afon

Nta: *Colors in Nta*

Mbara	<i>White</i>
Nnyagha	<i>Black</i>
Mbini	<i>Red</i>
Nɔgɔg	<i>Yellow</i>
Mbummu	<i>Ash</i>
Nanyan	<i>Green</i>
Nobo	<i>Blue</i>

Nta: *Nta cardinal Points*

North	<i>Ɔbɔka-mfa</i>
South	<i>Ɔbɔnu-mfa</i>
East	<i>Bɔsɔ-mfa</i>
West	<i>Nɛsɛrɛ-mfa</i>

Afo Nta: *Nta traditional days of the week*

Mbuu	<i>Holy day</i>
Ɛbrakam	<i>X</i>
Ɛkpɛ	<i>X</i>
Nkɔr	<i>X</i>
Asagri	<i>X</i>

Ngara Nnya: *Seasons*

Ono:	<i>Dry season</i>	November to May
Nnana:	<i>Rainy season</i>	June to October
Nɔkɔk	<i>Hamatan season</i>	November to February

Chapter 6

Some Nta Proverbs

Ngana yimong ka Nta

Ngana ka Nta	Proverbs meaning in English
Manka ya asab erem akpogho ka mbu bibi.	<i>A woman who endures suffering dies at one's man door.</i>
Nnya nisin afeb ngon?	<i>A family person does not look for trouble.</i>
Mba arab ga sa araba akpe nkanisi.	<i>No matter how a problem tarries it will expire.</i>
Ji obommō ufugu jeje.	<i>Whatever you sow is what you will reap.</i>
Nsōn a nggana nkon arenge emen eje.	<i>One who looks for problem should know how to solve it.</i>
Jere song ataba nte ete.	<i>If one shift from his sit for a friend can easily lose it.</i>
Osowō ane mba ka mfo bi mba arijo.	<i>God will make a way where there is no way.</i>
Ndene amana kon akab ka abo.	<i>When a person is old he or she depends on the children.</i>
Mgbog aseɓ je ka ebongō akpagma.	<i>You do not have to poke nose in a matter that does not concerns you.</i>

<p>Ɔkam ka akongokongo ka aja ya.</p>	<p><i>A parent could have avoided troubles if not for children.</i></p>
<p>Ngre nisin a ma nwo aru ka ose.</p>	<p><i>Wisdom begins from childhood.</i></p>
<p>Nrogħo a noto a mense aneghe ejo nnyimobom.</p>	<p><i>A child who runs errand eats a miser's food.</i></p>
<p>Mbegha nne a mense atughu ereme ka aku.</p>	<p><i>A child who respects elders is always favored.</i></p>
<p>Ɔjen na nton one nofa.</p>	<p><i>A person who attends to the king is also honored.</i></p>
<p>Nfera eyogho eno, eyogho eno arama neghe.</p>	<p><i>Person where clean roasted yam does not eat roasted yam.</i></p>
<p>Ataba tab okpe nte tab wo ore nebre?</p>	<p><i>A man who receives a little assistance and at the same time trying to assist another person.</i></p>
<p>Agoghogoghosa anebenebe ka fanga ya anaa nkonkon.</p>	<p><i>One loves going to occasion without invitation, but if invited would not want to go home.</i></p>
<p>Mbok asi ofem mme mfea.</p>	<p><i>If you have concerns over somebody, someone would also have concern over you.</i></p>
<p>Njijing asi oba atena ateme egboro.</p>	<p><i>If one is bless outside would carry the blessing to his home.</i></p>
<p>Mbanga nnya ka aman nnya aremasa.</p>	<p><i>A man cannot share something and forget himself.</i></p>

Ma mbon asi, ɔbena embanba mmin ɔkpɔghɔ njan.	<i>One who refuses to work will starve to death.</i>
Mense atam na ɔya ɔse ayon mbon anɛ.	<i>If a person is free from reasoning like a child should thank God.</i>
Mbakpara atonga abeb akpe ɔte na nnyigibɔ.	<i>No matter how a person is wicked there is somebody that he is friendly with.</i>
Nju a nte ɔkaka nna nte ɔgbera.	<i>A pregnant woman does not know the child in her womb.</i>
Asɔn nkuane ka ajagha mbuetek.	<i>Whatever one is not prepared for would be done in haste.</i>
Nting ɛkpa anɔngɔ esagha.	<i>One who serve others but does not think of himself.</i>
Ɛran nton mmogha boso.	<i>No matter how rich one may be he would still lack something.</i>
Amana nkɔk anɔng ka ifi ɔkpetɔ nkong sa aki aman.	<i>Something that is plain does not need further explanation.</i>
Abra mbe amanna kan je esa akpekenne.	<i>If the elderly are all dead only the youth will be left.</i>
Bete ba aligi ɔtɔng sang akɔghɔ aligi namar.	<i>It is not the same treatment you gave to master A could be suitable to master B</i>
Ɔrɔng bi ɔtnten ɔkpe nkɔk kama.	<i>Show no concern for what you have rejected.</i>
Ɛtɔ amanna bɔrɔ, anɛ ba are ka	<i>If a community has rich people the</i>

nna eto atobo ane ba ayim ka egbok onya, ka onya erinajo atobo je?	<i>wealth of the rich would spillover to other members of the community, and vice versa.</i>
Afugu nne a nda atogho wuru ka nda ka awuru ka nsisi.	<i>The urine of hernia person first drop on the hernia before dropping the ground.</i>
Ejo ji egbere ji are ka nna ebar mmog isisingi.	<i>No man knows what is in the heart of a man except himself.</i>
Butubutu eya mbak.	<i>Insisting in a particular thing and at the end you lose it.</i>
Ote enene wo si oma ane ga.	<i>Just a little thing that you have today and you thing you are more than everybody.</i>
Ngogo aneghe mberafu.	<i>The buyer eats the best.</i>
Nte amanna gbo eyeghe nte agbohomba akabbe yi bosu.	<i>When problems arise you would first of all settle the sample ones.</i>
Obobogho ka ajajo nji ka nisin nesere.	<i>He or she would have wants to progress but poverty hindered him.</i>
Nkogho manka njamaya agbara nso eye ka nko egoro.	<i>One who is marrying a woman over the river needs to be careful.</i>
Nkom eba alab ka efoneben jiji arama wogho; agbagha atanga.	<i>Two rams cannot drink from one pail they would clash.</i>

Aso anun nne ya ayobo obo ka aso.	<i>Punishment will go to the defaulter.</i>
--------------------------------------	---

Chapter 7

Nta texts:-Traditional stories and farming procedures

Ebée manka na munnu

Ntu ebée: Tu tu tu

Ba yonga atóng: Bè be be

Ntu ebée: Ebée ee. Ba yonga atóng: mam.

Efò munnu wiwi na akawé ya'ara kpere nggara, ka kpere nggara ya'ara nka aru naban asighe. Ka munnu yò amo ka mfo a mbono amatò mbono si ake ekam ji ye amane nkawé arikpe ru naban. Ka mbono yi atòe si aba na namar mgbe ye ane ekam akie ji nka arikpe ru, munu ne nang ka mfò namar mgbe mayonom. Song si ntóna tóng mba, okpanamo song na mbon na nkòg omotob ka mfo bi mgbe ya ajo. Omanaka kem ofene omo na mbon na nkòg omotob. Etóngò mkpe esar arag si akpemo amakòn na mgbe akana nsere si ajen amatob mbon yi na nkòg mgbe arie bób, ka si mgbe ayie ajofana ayighe yighi, akò mbe bi atob mgbe, mgbe ayighe ye afe ewak ayab namar mgbe akuru nani amatóngé mbono atòe si song nsere si ojen oyab namar mgbe song nena na nkawa si ekam jintingi ji nne nkia erem.

Nsan na mfinkpob

Ntu ebée: Tu, Tu, Tu.

Ba yonga atóng be, be, be.

Ntu ebée: Ebée ee

Ba eyonga atóng: Mam.

Mfinkpob aye nsan na nǎsǎn. Mfinkpob ayǎn nsan, ofege nana ayǎ jẹ. Ba war eyii ǎsẹ, eban eyebe nete. Nsan amanga abriẹ, nggara yifa arem yi nne asagase. Nsan amogho atongo mbe neneghe ama kag ka etan, ka sǎng nggara ǎgba amanasi afo ji aneghe.

Mfinkpob are fa ayighi, ayii abana. Ofo bibi njan amẹ ya, atam amo ama sẹb ja eneghe. Ajen abri ga abri ga, aseb mbe neneghe ka afo asa ariyẹ, etóngǎ afo anẹ ama ye nsan ka etan aneghe ejoneneghe ekpǎe biji anan. Agǎrǎ nsan, kem na tinim mme nne, nsan atǎe sǎng yii ǎsẹ eba ǎban uyuru, naggara yifa ǎjǎ ǎyǎnǎm yǎn si mme yinfẹge nanaa ayǎ. Nayǎ, nayǎ ee ebée jifa eto war si nne nẹ akoro biji si nggara arama jǎ abri nne.

Ekpanjagara na nsisi.

Ntu ebée: Tu, tu, tu.

Ba eyonga atóng: Be, be, be.

Ntu Ebée: Ebée ee

Ba eyonga atóng: mam.

Mmo wiwi aǎ ka ejẹbe jiji, anẹ si Ekpanjagara aten noto. Ofo bibi, nse na nnye atam egbe na abǎ a nnye ama sii ka egbe,

abanga mfo ake nne nne si aja. Ama sii ka egbe atoe si aja. Ama ne noto nggara asi yi akru. Atam ariye Ekpanjara, amo ama abrie ka mfo bi akie si aja akore yi anannan. Fayo yi abomme je esere orine noto? Nsisi atabam noyo, ama sii ka etek abeng abokogho ato mbo asi mbo akagha togho yog, ekan ji. Abokogho ama toe a go mbara mbon ako anee tufe. Munu ekpanjara ane noto ka etingitingi. Nayo nayo ee, enonob si abense ayog abokogho.

Nsere si abom egbe bono.

Nne aseba na si abom egbe bono agbogomba akere ogbo ka mfo bi abom egbe. Etongo ejo ji ane ere si, aja emenegbe. Nggara yi amana ja woo, ka akomo asiante. Anongo awen na nte akpo nnobonno. Awen na nte emanakpo akag ngon, etongo ejo jintingi ere si asara. Amana sara abom abo, ka akag bono. Bono emana me akere nte alebe ka nsis aton ame a bono. Nte ya alebe erabmba na ame a bono oko nkposogo ojam ka ntonga eme eno ka nobo, oyagha ka ete ji ogbomba olab. Oko eme eno okpri ka ntonga obo bunu okag ka obo baka. Etongo jintingi ere si oyab awen; ekora nkpe eba si esa. Nggara yi bono emana kon, eru si ufu.

Conclusion

It is our hope that the Nta language committee and the Nta community leaders will seriously evaluate the recommendations made in this booklet so that literacy in the Nta language might move forward among the Nta people.

The Nta Translation Team