

KIKONGO MISTREATED!...

English Version

“If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.” (Sir. Isaac Newton)

"The cultural identity of African people is manifested (among other things) in the use of national languages and names assigned to families. In our case we have family names in national languages because we are Angolans, and family names in Portuguese because we were colonized by the Portuguese and this makes sense. " Said a wise Angolan.

Mu; Mu(si) = singular

Ba; Be(si) = plural

e.g:

MU-KONGO(Mukongo/**Nkongo**)

BA-KONGO(Bakongo/**Akongo**); **TAKE NOTE: THERE IS NO: “S” in the word: “Bakongo”** because the word is already in plural due to the prefix: “BA”

Bantu languages: All nouns comprise a stem and one of a set of singular and plural prefixes

MU-NTU(Muntu)

BA-NTU(Bantu)

MU-Zombo(Muzombo, N'zombo) = man or woman of Makela do Zombo county(Angola) [originally: MAKELA MA ZOMBO]

BA-Zombo(Bazombo, Azombo) = people from Makela do Zombo county, Uíge province (Angola) [originally MAKELA MA ZOMBO - "...Nzé e Lukezo kà tóma sóba ye fwasá e nkumbu zeto!..."]

MU-Ana(Muana or Mwana) = son/daughter **B-Ana(Bana, Âna)** = children

Mwana Kongo Día Ntontela **Bana Ba Kongo Día Ntontela**

Musi Nkusu-Mpete = a person from(native) Nkusu-Mpete district in Damba county, Uíge province(Angola).

Besi Nkusu-Mpete = people from Nkusu-Mpete

PLEASE RESPECT THE USE OF NASAL SOUNDS: **M** and **N**

KUMBU = FAME

NKUMBU = A NOUN

Note: by omitting or ignoring “**M**” or/and “**N**” you will be corrupting: nouns, adjectives, verbs etc... (In this way you may “redefine” Kikongo language itself).

Will you please make an effort to preserve kikongo grammar as it was originally setup by the honorable Mr. João NLEMVO in 1885

The other famous linguist Nkongo often overlooked, was Tata Miguel Nèkáká¹ (19th century). He translated significant parts of the Bible from English to Kikongo including the book of Ruth in *Nkanda Nzambi* (the Holy Bible).

A Nkongo doctor of theology, graduated in Brazil and professor of Hebrew language said he prefers reading the *Nkanda Nzambi* due to etymological approach of many words and Kikongo expressions to the Hebrew language. This confirms the magnificent work of the translators one of them of course, Tata Miguel Nèkáká.

“If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.” (Sir. Isaac Newton)

We would like to pause to honor all Angolans linguists of the 19th century, whose magnificent work of reference continues to serve today and will surely for more and more generations.

Our special recognition for the work of **Jelemia Dia Sabatelu** of Malanje (Portuguese name: Jeremiah Álvares da Costa) he is the Angolan who taught the Methodist missionary and linguist Swiss Heli Chatelain Kimbundu language. In 1890 he was taken by Mr. Heli to the United States where he continued his work on Kimbundu grammar which formed the basis for translating the Bible into Kimbundu.

Jelemia Dia Sabatelu gave a contribution to the science of linguistics so important, that he was honored with a statue, which still can be seen at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.



We give big thank you, to Mr. **William Holman Bentley**² of the BMS (Baptist Missionary Society), a British Missionary Society. He worked with Nkaka **João Nlemvo** in compiling the Dictionary and Grammar of the Kongo Language in 1887.

He sailed for the Congo (Zaire) in April 1879 in the company of Thomas and Minnie Comber, H. E. Crudgington, and J. S. Hartland. In January 1881, Bentley and Crudgington became the first Europeans to establish a route inland from the mouth of the Congo to Stanley Pool, where modern Kinshasa is situated.

In 1884, Bentley returned to England on a furlough. He took with him a Congolese assistant, Nkaka **Nlemvo**, who worked with him on the compilation of the Dictionary and Grammar of the Kongo Language (1887).

Bentley also translated Genesis, Proverbs, and part of the Psalms. For these achievements he was awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity by the University of Glasgow(Scotland)..

"MISTREATED" WORDS!

Note: The list below is by no mean exhaustive. There is hundreds of words in Kikongo language to which a small change in writing (misspelling) will definitely change and corrupt the original meaning of the word, as you will discover by reading these notes.

Good pronunciation is critical in Kikongo language for the sake of the original meaning of the word (etymology), as it is in Shakespeare's language.

MUNA NDIINGA KONGO DÍA NTONTELA

Bala = Hard

Mbala = Name usually given to boys (sorghum, **masa ma Mbala**).

Baká = 1. to obtain; 2. explanation, sense, preface(to a book)

Mbaka = short(height) man/woman

Banza = v., Think

Mbanza = Town, city

Buka = come in a great crowd

Mbuka = bedstead

Bungu = reason(motive)

Mbungu = ants' bread

Dinga(dinga-dinga) = larynx

Ndinga = voice

Fulá = to blow, forge

Mfula = n., the powder (cam-wood powder, pepper, crushed ironstone, ochre, &c.) in a bundle of fetish(ebunda)

Funa = leavened (Funisa, v.t., to leaven)

Nfuna = starving

Fuka = to cover

Mfuka = debt

Fwidi = bereavement

Mfwidi = n., one who has been bereaved

Kanda = clan (dynasty?...)

Nkanda = v., to present with one's freedom

Kanga³ = to tie

Nkanga = bunch(banana bunch)

Káka = alone

Nkaka = grandparent

Kendá = "Marching order" – imperative, third person singular –
NDÁ! ..., Second person singular (i.e. Go away! ...).

Nkenda = sad(sadness)

Kôngo = west Africa ancient kingdom

Nkongo = good hunter (sniper)

Kôko = arm

Nkóko = river (small river)

Kosi = First (i.e. ordinal numbers,[**Kole** = Second])

Nkosi = Lion

Kuba⁴ = v.t., to contribute, give a contribution.

Nkúba = Beating

Kuna = Preposition, expresses place – location

Nkuna = 1. plant(planted); 2.kind; 3. specie

Kûku = n., a small hoe

Nkuku = 1. grime

Kutu = Ear (**ma-kutu** = Ears)

Nkutu = Bag (handbag, backpack etc...)

Kûmbi = 1. n., one who has been initiated in the “mystery” of the Elongo *or* the Eseka; 2. **kumbi-kumbi** = n., a lady-bird; 3. Transport (**Kumbi dia Ntoto** = a car; **Kumbi dia zulu(ndeke)** = an airplane; **Kituku-tuku** = a motorbike; **Masini** = a train; **Kumbi dia Kalunga** = a ship; **paka-paka** = an helicopter); **Kumbi dia nzadi(nlungu)** = a canoe
Nkumbi = n., a wonder, marvel.

Kûmbu = Fame

Nkûmbu = a noun

Kûnga = v.t., to gather together

Nkûnga = song

Kûlu = foot

Nkúlu = a patriarch

Kúsu = to rub on or smear

Nkusu, (- mingyende) = adv., day by day

Lôngo = 1. Wedding; 2. Marriage

Nlôngo = 1. holy; 2. only; 3. medicine

Lúla = pathway,

Nlúla = n., anger, rage, bitterness. O nlula, adv., in an angry mood; wele o nlula, he went away in an angry mood.

Ludi = truth

Nlúdi = ceiling

Sâlá = Stay (**sâlá kiambote** = take care, bye).

Nsâlà = Feather, shell

Sânda = v., search

Nsânda = Mulembeira

Sâmbu = 1. Psalm; 2. Prayer meeting; 3. Sunday church service

Nsâmbu = grace, favour

Sanga = the adverbial particles, also require the Prefix in k.

Nsânga = 1. necklace: 2, n., a brother or sister of the opposite sex only, i.e. a brother uses it of a sister & vice-versa

Simbá = 1. to hold; 2. to keep

Nsimbà = older brother/sister twin(the one that was delivered first during birth)

Sita = barren

Nsíta = anger

Suka(suka-suka) = 1. Cramp and stiffness after sitting a long while; 2. stab, v.,

Nsuka(oku nsuka ntu) = 1. finally; 2. at least; 3. in the end

Sunda = v.t. + to overreach, get an advantage over.

Nsúnda = n., the excelling

Sûku = chamber

Nsuku = stocks, fetters.

Têka: v.i. to shine, come out as sunshine after dullness, shine forth

Ntéka = a man's name, implying that now that he is born the family which had become diminished will soon increase.

Tóna(tonena) = recognize

Ntóna = 1. genius; 2. instinct

Tôko = Young man

Ntôko = Beauty

Tûlu = Sleep

Ntûlu = Breast

Túmbu = Punishment

Ntúmbu = Needle

Tunga = to build

Ntúnga = jigger(jigger flea)

Vûnda = v., to halt for rest

Mvûnda = Debauch, evil effects of, n.,; Drunkenness, the after-effects of, n.,

Vula: 1. disperse of crowds, clouds; 2. be enlarged; 3. nation

Mvûla: selfishness; 2. Rain (original Kikongo: **mfwefo** = light rain, **mvumbi** = heavy rain).

Zadi(zadi-zadi) = quickness

Nzádi = river (big river)

Zala = v.i. +to rise (of the tide)

Nzála = hunger

Zengo = n., a woman who has ceased bearing or who has never borne a child, although long married; used also of a man or animal in like condition, a castrated animal, a eunuch.

Nzêngo = n., a sentence, judgment, decision in a law court or in one's own mind, opinion, a price agreed upon, contract price.

Zinga⁵ = 1. Blessing / Wish For example: "LONG LIVE THE KING! ..." (People with authority in general), the proclamation during the traditional ceremony of enthronement of the new king of the Kongo or the new NTONTELA (the title given to the kings of Kongo); 2.to live or remain alive

Nzinga = 1. Roll. **Nzinga** is the name attributed to children born with the umbilical cord around the neck; 2. an angle, corner.

Zola = love

Nzola = 1. Desire (wishing); 2. Desire (pleasure, enjoyment etc..)

Zômbô: (one of species)Kola nut, a genus of about 125 species of trees

Nzômbô: a siluroid(mud fish?), cat-fish

Zúmba = adultery (**Tá Zúmba** = to have an affair)

Nzûmba = a woman's name

Kikongo language, as any other language deserves a "linguist respect". *Hole* is not the same word as *Whole*; *Night* is not *Knight*. The list of words sounding alike, is very long in English language.

Although they share the same pronunciation, each word has different meaning.

Kikongo language top linguist was the honourable Mr(nkaka). João Nlemvo.

(To Bakongo people Mr. Nlemvo is their William Shakespeare (Brits); pour les Bakongo Mr. Nlembo c'est l'équivalent de Mr. Jean-Baptiste Poquelin[Molière] (les Gaulois); para nós Bakongo o Senhor Nlemvo é o nosso Luís Vaz de Camões(Os Lusos)).

Talking about Kikongo dictionary translation work, in the "Appendix to the Dictionary and Grammar of Kongo Language", William H. Bently in 1895 said: "In this translation and linguistic work, Nlemvo, who rendered such valuable assistance in the preparation of what was published in 1887, has still continued his aid, rendered all the more efficient by these fourteen years of work, which have trained and developed his great natural aptitude. This gives the uniformity which is to such great importance".

Tutondele wawu vo e nding'eto kayi vila ko. E vo ngeye u mwana Kongo dia Ntontela, tuku dodokele mpasi vo watoma kebanga e nding'eto. Tanina yo, ye toma tumba bena be zolanga fwasas (be fwasanga) ye soba (be sobanga) e nding'eto; Sunguna nkutu e nkumbu zeto za mbote za tuvana mase ye zingudi zeto. Tufuetu toma yo tanina; ye nwanina yo muna kibakala... "ye nzala, ye meno meto..."

Mfoko,

The Bakongo Research Institute(BRI)

¹ Tata **Miguel Nèkàka** was a contemporary of **TULANTE BUTA** (Buta was a lieutenant in the Portuguese Army in time of the Monarchy in Portugal), the man who led the Revolt against Portuguese colonial rule (1913 -1915).

Tata **Miguel Nèkàka** had been falsely accused of collaborating with Tulante Buta. The injustices he suffered, and the tortures that were inflicted on **Miguel Nèkàka** which he survived thanks to his physical strength.

² **William Holman Bentley** was a Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) missionary in the Congo. Bentley was born at Sudbury, Suffolk, England, where his father was a Baptist minister. He worked as a bank clerk before being accepted by the BMS for its new Congo mission.

He sailed for the Congo (Zaire) in April 1879 in the company of Thomas and Minnie Comber, H. E. Crudgington, and J. S. Hartland. In January 1881, Bentley and Crudgington became the first Europeans to establish a route inland from the mouth of the Congo to Stanley Pool, where modern Kinshasa is situated.

In 1884, Bentley returned to England on a furlough. He took with him a Congolese assistant, Nlemvo, who worked with him on the compilation of the Dictionary and Grammar of the Kongo Language (1887), a work still used today.

During this furlough he married Hendrina Margo Kloekers. Bentley returned to the Congo in 1886 to assume responsibility for a station on the upper river, but the death of Thomas Comber in 1887 diverted him to Ngombe Lutete among the Bakongo people. There Bentley remained, nurturing the growth of the Kongo church and devoting his linguistic expertise to the translation of the New Testament into Kikongo, which was completed in 1893.

He also translated Genesis, Proverbs, and part of the Psalms. For these achievements he was awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity by the University of Glasgow. He died in Bristol.

³ **Kanga o nkangu** = make a pact. **Kanga e mbaki** = to ambush

⁴ Fundraising, after the appeal for financial aid. Usually before the traditional Bakongo wedding (Lombila), the civil marriage (especially wedding feast) and "imperative" to perform the funeral of a family member, in this context it means the Extended Family i.e. uncles, aunts, sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, cousins ,grandsons, granddaughters, etc ...

⁵ A hole or pool left by a river at low tide. **Zinga o nkondo** = crossing his arms over the shoulders of the chest.