

COMPENDIUM OF THE
**PROVERBS
& SAYINGS**
OF THE NAGAS

SPONSORED UNDER TRIBAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DEPARTMENT OF ART & CULTURE
GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND, KOHIMA

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PROVERBS
& SAYINGS
OF THE NAGAS



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FOREWORD

Naga history is replete with accounts of oral cultural traditions, history, literature, folklore and arts & crafts. The outwardly forms and expressions of the cultural history vary from tribe to tribe. The Proverbs and sayings of the Nagas are laden with symbolic connotations which signify the intrinsic values upon which every Naga tribe is built on. They give us a glimpse of the values embedded in our cultural traditions. Sponsored under Tribal Research Institute, the Department of Arts & Culture has taken the initiative to document and publish the Proverbs and Sayings of the Nagas. I sincerely hope that the publication of this book will give a deeper understanding of the Naga culture and values.

Puchosale Yore

Addl. Director (HoD)
TRI, Art & Culture,
Nagaland, Kohima.

15 July 2019





01
ANGAMI

Chusi zo di talie mu chu zoya mo
'It is not like chilly which burns the mouth when chewed.'
Results may not be forthcoming immediately, but it will surely
come.



Niaki keletie zorei Phichumia dieze morosuoya.
'Even at sunset advice of the elder is needed.'
The advice/ council of an elder is required and need to be
obeyed.



U Ngumvümia sü u zierütsü zo.
'Our enemies are our sharpening stone.'
We are made stronger through challenges posed by our
adversaries.



Kerüsuo maro kupriü / kuti / zorei telieya mo.
'Unless we worship God, even a grasshopper cannot be caught.'
Overconfidence kills all possibilities.



Kijü zha hade zhürei prajolie di tetsuya.
'Though the world is so big we miss our step and fall.'
Carelessness leads to unnecessary mistakes.

Thevo puo se nhie nu sie tei mguyakezha zo shie.

‘A pig can see the sky only on his death day.’

This saying refers to a person who does not socialize.



Mia ra vi pie thedze chü zorei khawa khrie zomo.

‘A foreign place may be like paradise but there is no regret leaving it.’

There is no place like home.



Ga chacü, pfhemenei puo kra se di leshüda kesa phrüro mhasilieya.

‘Eating poorly, wearing old worn out clothes, but reading new books educate us.’

Ignoring ones living standards and emphasizing on education uplifts oneself.



Kerügumia seinyükepie puorei pri di tazhüya.

‘Even a mere falling leaf is enough to scare away a thief.’

Thieves are afraid of what they are doing.



Phoutephouguo thenumia rütso kemesakera thepfumia zivi.

‘Morality is female ornament, smartness is male beauty.’

A good moral character is the essence of female beauty and smartness is attributed as male quality.

Pieümia thuo pieü mia dze pushüya.
'One prostitute exposes the other prostitute.'

From one's own experience and actions we come to know others.



Tei kerünuo rei bie zolie thenyüsie.
'Even the lower portion of the sky seems within reach.'

To think that every impossible task can be achieved.



Kemerüe kelhetho.
'Hunger is the best food.'

When one is hungry all food are tasty.



Dzü tietuoi.
'Like the edge of water.'

Penetrating every corner.



Tei a pfu, kijü a pfü.
'The sky is my father, the land is my mother.'

Refers to worshipping god and the crops.

Haho zoho.

‘Like a bat.’

Not taking a clear stand,



Seguo krüpfü puonuo kepetha mhie.

‘Like the crab teaching her child.’

Teaching one’s child to do something which he/she does not obey.



Puo zuo siazhü ru puo pelepfü tsü nepie bashie.

‘His mother has died yet he has been caressing his girlfriend’s head.’

Not knowing ones priority.



Buoto kemehou chü

‘Like praising faecal waste.’

Admiring something useless.

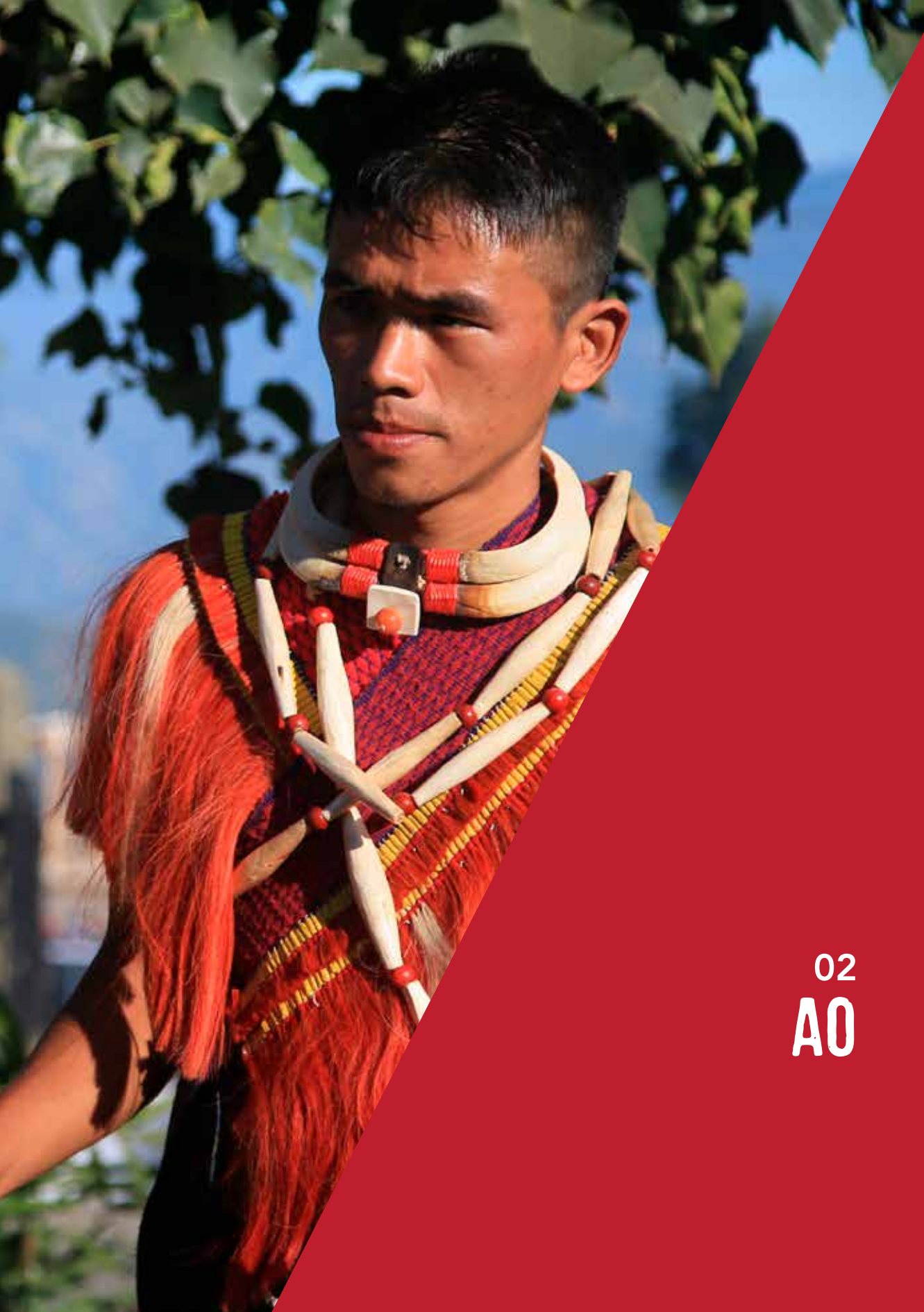


N vopho whepfü di mia vopho tha.

‘Covering one’s goiter and pointing to other’s goiter.’

Not knowing one’s fault but pointing out others mistakes.





02
A0

Tsümgmok atener, tsünglo maro ama.

‘Thunder without rain.’

An expression used to describe a person who aimed very high,
but achieved nothing



Waro oer tempang koshi ama.

‘Hitting the tree trunk after the crow has flown away.’

To justify after the verdict.



Azü pang nung jilong nemtsü ama.

‘To feed an ungrateful dog’

Expression used to describe a person with an ungrateful nature



Ak tsüngtang perem endok ama

‘Casting pearls before the swine.’

To share wisdom with a foolish person



Ak o azü na alumongi ao ama.

‘Like a pig and dog working together in the field.’

Undeserved person who takes all the credit. This saying is taken from the folk tale about the dog and pig working their master’s (man) field. The pig did all the work but the dog covered the pig’s footprints with his own leading the master to believe that the dog worked alone. The pig was chased out of the house and the dog was rewarded with living in the house with the master.

Amang milen züksep ama.
'To extinguish the night lamp'

An expression used when misfortunes strike a helpless person who is already burdened.



Süngjang mener tsüker.
'A ripened fruit will eventually fall down.'

Time will reveal the truth.



Melongsang ajungshi
'Stoking the firewood.'

To add more fuel to the fire



Mesü tongpang jakrep ama.
'Like the deer's broken earring.'

'Tongpang' means the crystal earring worn by the ladies of the Ao tribe. This saying is taken from the folktale of the deer's broken earring and accusations of who broke it flying from one to the other. To accuse from one person to another.



Kangrang külep ki nung jenok ama.
'Like a toad sheltering in an armadillo den.'

A parasite.





03

CHAKHESANG

It is wise to first face the challenges of life and enjoy the pleasures later than to enjoy the pleasures first and face the challenges later.



Listen and obey the wise saying of the elders, to receive the blessings of life.



An outcast you will be if you don't listen to and obey the sayings of your leaders.



Don't be jealous or envy others rather be happy in the prosperity of your friends and try to be like them.



Be honest and be yourself. Don't live a pretentious life.



Don't be controlled by your anger and your worries.



Let the truth clothe you . Let the truth light and guide your life.



Look not to the sky because it will bring you poverty, but look at the ground and cut the earthworm than you will be rich and prosperous.



A person who does not have time to sit and think about his life will be led by others.



It is the greatest responsibility to receive guests from other village, so always be courteous and hospitable.





04
CHANG

Lang kousi lang-a odta; Pu pu-a odta; Müt müttä nongda.

“A rolling stone halts on a stone; a falling tree halts on a tree,
men always lean on men alone.”

Just as a rolling stone is halted by another stone, a falling tree
lands on another tree. When a man is down he leans on another
for support.



Nashou kaosak gao-a säüh-a kei.

“Like a child in tantrum refusing to get up from the ground.”

Refers to an adult behaving immaturely.



Puka attatbü lakto lekkei, dyei-ei phonglangkei hoba saonyuei
shoukei.

“Falling from a tree, rolling down a steep hill only to be washed
away by the river and finally eaten by the tiger.”

Refers to a person who leads a troubled life with misfortunes
clouding him daily. Even his death was unfortunate and
unexpected.



Hin ei youmo lambü tügü.

“A crab trying to glean leftover paddy after harvest.”

An expression used to describe a person who does things in a
wrong way at the wrong time.



Noje oksi shilepakei.
“Your intestine is being stitched.”

A saying in reference to a person who is a failure mainly because of his easy going nature and lack of discipline.



Meishi shishet, ngaophok phokmai.
“Loss in hunting, gain in fishing.”

Hunting is not always successful, it does not always provide the expected meal but fishing always yields a catch. There is more gain in fishing than in hunting.



Akoxsa-a.
A loser.

A person with a defeatist attitude.



Onying mangmai tügü kia.
“Like a cheerful Cicada.”

This expression is in praise of a person who is always cheerful like the Cicada, a winged insect that sings aloud perching from tree to tree and filling the surrounding area with its cheerful chatter.



Khunuyua wankak sokan tejinku.
“Don’t pour hot charcoal on the head.”

Never encourage anger when one is in a sulky mood.

Ngouto kei-ei ngongbü jam.

“A dog barking at a Mithun (*Bos frontalis*).”

Refers to a person who never listens to the advice or correction of others.





05

KACHARI

Akhalai khe musuba sau ha soloba.
If you speak ill of others, it will bounce back to you.



Baryung phaiyasani daoyah yaoba, hayung- hayasani khaophain
jaoba.

To prevent or avoid unpleasantness is better than finding a cure.



Bongphahng phangsi jahng hagrah majangya.
A single tree can never make a forest.



Dangne ringya dang-ga jigni.
An unskilled man redoes the work again and again.



Daokha baija da, mandab maiji da.
The crow rise early, but the squirrel eats first.



Daothu maijiba, rujung maijaoba.
Someone does the wrong, another gets the blame.



Gaoba zingkring phang, nangba brargahng.
Aiming at someone but hitting the wrong target.



Hagra majahng subangbi, mala majahng saibangbi.
Just like a beautiful forest with many thorns, a pretty girl has
many admirers.



Khuha gurudi, khaha gathari.
One should not be taken in by words but by actions.



Naram masi jahng khuthim samaoba.
A bad man shakes the whole society.





06

KHIAMNIUNGAN

Kiansüzimnya thaiutha dempun noh müshen lonyapji.
Gossip before a plate of rice / food and drinks will cripple one
for life.



Cholak, lühwai haikotü jihza sei yahza pao chen.
Lazy sons and daughters are no better than fattened pigs and
dogs.



Khaiunyamei noh thangkim, liokim poploji.
Sons are like floods that sweep away the property of others.



Angja nohtü thiktsa-e lüko mongthe nütü laitsümo-e.
Poverty overtakes laziness. Bad temper / sulking remains
forever.



Ah-oun nai chhinü ah-ou nai lühe. Ah-mein nai chhinü ah-mein
nai lühe.
Work in the rain to eat during rainy days. Work in the sun to
eat during sunny days.



Thensai tsünek tsüntü omhenn, angyann nai napanji.
Love of good food and sleep is a bottomless pit that leads one to
eternal poverty.

Ahlotsün sei chhikü poantsün nehjetkotü khaimm nohli
emmeji.

There is an ocean of difference between ; waiting for good luck
and working for good luck.



Humsülüm vonphaio tsangko tsüsaih, peiko tsütaio.

A hunter enjoys the spoils but he seldom stores it.



Luptongtü thaotsünsoühlu yamheji.

He who toils harvests much.



Cholak khi aunyatsaktü alokhesunlu, üoshe haiühtü ütöaiuloji.

A lazy man loves to eat well but a hard working man loves to
save.



Phaotsüsankaün khaiunya eiuyam nai yamüh tsüpon, khaih
tsüpon.

A man who fails to avenge the death of his father has a narrow
face to show and a narrow path to tread.



Hoikom nai aniamniam noikülu, lionai zao nü noikülu.

There is no bush without thorn, no society without discord.

Tsamnüto phanü laji naha tsamsügo, tsamkhaiu nüto mongaio
tsangkü.

A house is made by hand but a home is made by heart.



Son nü alanglangji, khaiunya nü chhisha noh lotsangji.

Iron is sharpened by iron, man is taught by man.



Lila khiaunyatsaküh athot nü angloji, mainga noh pai-opta saoji.

An understanding man accepts rebuke, foolish man deserves the
rod.





07
KONYAK

Aosha yeyuo pejongte heei
“Could not reach the crow and struck the tree trunk”
When high ambitions are not achieved it results in blame.



Huhman me huh nyiem kamman me kham nyiem
“Prickly thorns grow only from its seeds”
The end results of all actions reflect its source.



Lalepa rhah la ngaipa nyah
“A steady man harvests much and sincerity catches the fish”
Steady and sincere works is rewarded well.



Anghya toi yeang pu
“Princess getting old”
High expectations coupled with pride leads to ones downfall and
darkness creeps in when waiting for perfection.



Jinlot meei shahlah
“Eat meat to prolong life”
Do good to live a long life.



Mailang tahlei lamlang yamyah

“Look for old ways but not ex-lover”

Contacts with ex-lover leads to family problems but retaining what is good leads to life.



Noak tahlon ngon tahlon

“Poverty and leprosy cannot be hidden”

Truth cannot be concealed.



Ham jiman jekho sho, kah jiman ma kho tho

“Careless walk stumbles the feet, careless tongue ruins the body”

Carelessness leads to destruction.



Shumnyu shu toh shumhah shu

“Playing the small drum while other plays the big drum”

This saying refers to a person who cannot get along with others, his thoughts and actions contradict the general opinion.



Nyu li pheii me wa kha shaap

“Mending the broken ‘machan’ (elevated bamboo platform) after the death of mother”

Repenting after it is too late.





08
KUKI

Athi puldou sangin Ahing puldou ahah joi.
Mourning for the dead is painful but it is more painful
mourning for the living.



Bang ngin kol aneije.
Even walls have ears.



Chagan khovei akinep pi-e.
The poor always hope for the coming year.



Gucha del louvin ajam me.
Thieves flee even when they are not chased.



Eima kisei phat leh, Sakhi ngalla ima abeh poi.
To brag about oneself is likened to the deer's leg which has little
flesh.



Eima tohga soh bou alhouve.
Only what is obtained by hard work lasts.



Haovin be angaije.
The rich always crave for more.



Ah in neta long ati nala min, aki lokhu khume.
'A hen when attempting to eat from the basket storing grain
stand on the edge / rim of the basket causing it to tilt and bury
the hen.'

Greed will bury you.



Mihoimo midem min ahatne.
The ugly are often the ones who criticize other's appearance.



Min akam athipin San akhonung athipie.
A man's tongue brings death upon himself, just as being struck
by the hoof of animals.





09
LOTHA

Ovüingna ngaro pvüsü titüka.

‘Don’t weave baby-carrying cloth before marriage.’

Do not prepare in advance for something that has not happened or is unlikely to happen.



Sotsü mman anila.

‘Like an elephant’s stomach.’

Expression used to describe a person with a healthy appetite.



Tsümpiro lilan esan.

‘Be like ants going to field.’

Be hardworking and disciplined.



Tchüchüingi ongo hungtechicho tvüka.

‘Like seeing fish under the sea.’

Refers to something uncertain.



Kyashak zenna kacho.

‘Inherited from the crow.’

Tricky / cunning traits.



Mencho püngo yotsoro tvü.
'Just like a leaf moving at the edge of a landslide.'

Uncertain, likely to fall off/ lose at any time.



Ngaropvüi kyongtiana ngaro meyanala
'The baby gets hurt when there are many caretakers.'

Too much of everything is not good.



Nzyu tsünglan tvüka.
'Like summer weather.'

Changing frequently. Unpredictable.



Tsüphi sophan ka.
'Like a weasel chasing its prey.'

A deceitful person. Cunning.



Hono lolok nkhüm ka.
'Like a hen buried under the basket .' (When the hen stands on
the rim of the basket it overturns and buries the hen.)

To be buried by one's own misdeeds.



Mvüro püngo vamo ji esüa titssoa.

‘Don’t be like an object at the mouth of the winnowing fan.’

Do not be swayed by anything.



Velongvü püngzüng esüa titssoa.

‘Don’t be like the owl who declared that there be nine days of light and darkness.’

Don’t give foolish judgment. May be referenced from the folk lore where the owl gave the judgment in the meeting of the animals to let there be nine days of darkness followed by equal duration of light.



Mani-wolo yenjü tvüka.

‘Like dew drops on taro leaves.’

Nothing sinks in. Refers to a person who does not listen to or learn what is taught.



Phonglani rhüjüng hanpong ka.

‘Like a hornbill on the mountain.’

Something majestic and difficult to attain.



Ongüm na mmhayachoka.

‘As if overwhelmed by the power of a python.’

To be enticed or spell bound.





10
PHOM

Lungvanppa mah naumei yak shemdaijong hamchong ang
nyuipu minlok.

A leader may die and a noble may perish yet a leader relieves a
leader and a noble succeeds a noble.



Shokha makha nunu yang yang, shenyak mih ha dim ah mah.
The grass hopper and the spiders regenerate and live, humans
die and perish.



Unglang kohpen pangpu pinung mak yeu yah.
This is a saying that, humans learned the practice of
headhunting from a fight between the spider and the mantis
when the spider chopped off the head of the mantis.



Laubhui nyungtuk mangtukbuyu yangnyu shung kihi kon
meibu nyuke.
Learning by working is education for life.



Mop hi moyu shenyakei tukhilog homei nuvai, habayu
kauvangi shobu moihiman.
Wealth is not merely the work of man but it is given by god.



Monyu tempu hapau buhi ba hi tap lungbu hatu netai pamtei
ongtishi nyuhem hatu moihiman yupu hepak huk nyuke.

The concept of celebration is to forget and forgive the past
misdeeds and to go forward and co-exist in harmony.





11

POCHURY

Nori küsosit kenü nyurinu kütshü tewathou.
'Others have already learnt when attempting to teach you.'

Expression used to describe a slow learner.



No müzhü kulovü dunyinü küproku lovü duvü
I will not leave no matter how hard you try to escape from me.



Lounyi mükünyie tüla nosü kübelawanyu.
There will be no today if there was no yesterday.



Azhie rike tsankuo dhajuwu rike tsankuo
'I want to eat as big as sky and earth.'
Expression used to describe a person with a desire to learn.



Anyi mükütsonü, anyikhu küshuwanyu.
There is no smoke without fire.



Aküsinü amavi mütashu
Death knows no age





12

RENGMA

Thapie shwen kela tsü khini lohümvü, tsonlo njvü gwakemvü
hüsü la hünyon.

Do not take back what is discarded lest you cultivate bad habits.



Lonyu rongu le yepvü bebin tsü gü-o tsü tyü hünvü, tsonlo
kakhwün nyu kengü gwamvü la kehü genyu.

Do not cultivate the field which is infested with wild vines. It
leads to disunity and misunderstanding.



Zülo tso-o zü hyu lo mvüla yatselo tsenyü, kechamvüla
nkeyhun nezüla kehügenyu.

Survey and understand the source of water before digging a
pond. It is a source of life.



Pechenyu segü la a-nu khela-o tenunyu kecha zen-o yhun tin la
yo a-ano a Kenya a-phu pe a-nugi lo a-nyu den tsü la hü. Ai-
ajen lo jenkü khi lo gwa.

The man who leaves his wife must leave behind all his
belongings for his wife and children.



Süjen keshvü.

‘Like deer’s fat.’

Refers to unpredictable outcome / circumstances / person.



Chonrhen sha kenyen hontse.

‘Like a ‘Chonrhen’ fruit.’ (An un-edible fruit with bright red covering and black gritty seeds found in the jungle.)

A woman possessing outer beauty but unappealing inner qualities.



Khonju ka kekhewn.

‘Letting ‘Khonju’ look after the house.’ (A variety of wild cat, notoriously known for stealthily killing domestic chicken.)

Entrusting an unreliable person with responsibilities.



Chinten hontse.

‘Like ‘Chinten’ glue.’ (A traditional glue made from seeds and plants, used for trapping birds.)

Refer to a very stingy person with numerous irritable complaints.





13

SANGTAM

Akhunganü lede chonu chingre ta hi khotessü akhehala
mülongyohre

‘A child demands for the moon but it never falls in his hand.’

Impossible deeds / expectations.



Tsang pehtsupehyongba tsü, tsangnü drotsire.

‘The food runs away with wastage.’

Wastage leads to scarcity.



Dsibhongbi luh yuthsahre ta abi nohlüm du nguhre.

‘Cleaned field with fagot but got only his share.’

Something less than expected.



Tsuzarü müsuhroenü xehnipühtsü tükyah.

‘Don’t weave baby carrying cloth before giving birth.’

Don’t prepare in advance for something with uncertain outcome.



Alaa tsucho lüh müsaare.

‘Excessive eating blocks the throat.’

Greed will choke you.



Merü nüsü jichikhang mükyüre.

‘Even the snake (merü) bites when he is disturbed.’

To retaliate when provoked.



Nengchüh tsü ajühkhara dhsüza nüsü münü-iti khohre.

‘Even the mithun with impressive horns will not cover up the defamation.’

Even a heavy price cannot compensate.



Atsicho rü lüh nguhre ta anüplicho jingdrang lü khodesü münguhre.

‘Going away footprint is traced out, but not the returning footprint.’

May refer to persons, things, blessings, that goes out but does not come back.



Kihkekhüu langnü akyü shüpba lüh akyüti tsü khodesü mshüpchehre.

‘Trying to hatch eggs beyond the river will never succeed.’

Trying to do something beyond one’s capabilities or something impossible.



Chünye nünnü singtang tangkhang atu hütsü michah nütsurüti
khyahshangnung.

‘If you lay out the floor today your children will take rest on it
tomorrow.’

Setting up a strong foundation that will benefit even in the future.



Khula khu chungrangre, bhala bha chungrangre.

‘The carrying baskets (khu) and (bha) are stacked accordingly.’

This saying refers to something in common or shared similarities.



Fühza dunü abürü külühcho thali müyahlire.

‘Only the dog licks its own vomited food.’

One cannot take back what is spoken.



Khürünü rangmühshuh tsü i-ire ta hi khürüdunü khyüseh
khyüre.

‘Someone chased after the wild animal but another man kills it.’

Undeserving person who takes the credit.



Luh tsü khürü yuhthsahre ta khürünü aparü jingdrang
drangtijühre.

‘Someone cleans the field but another covers the foot print of
the other.’

To take credit by deception.



Anyüzehlang führü dbhücho lüh khodesü müxore.

‘Spreading out the grains in the evening will never dry it.’

Trying to do something when it is too late.





14
SUMI

Awu kimiye toi
'Like a white hen'

Distinguished for his/her bad character.



Amusu kukuzu toi
'Like a burning wood being swung around'

Refers to a person or persons working actively and efficiently.



Tunhaqu kukula.
'Snails marriage'

Too slow.



Atsu lulo kuhu.
'Going to the dog's field' (Refer Ao proverb).

Pretending to work efficiently or a cunning deed or person.



Ashiphi kutsu kupukha.
'Wanting a Pangolin's head'

Denotes being greedy or wanting something beyond ones means.



Akhakhu lekiphe.
'Singing unknown song.'

Blindly following anyone without knowing the consequences.



Amughusu.
'Axe handle'.

Expression used in reference to someone with leadership qualities.



Angakire kugho.
'Weaving a baby carrier'

Preparing in advance for something without any valid reason.



Aneno sho.
'Struck by a goat.'

Unable to grow well.



Ashimine aghumine.
'Greedy. Wanting everything.'



Achuyi mloha.
'Like a frog's heart'

Knowingly falling into enemy trap without any preparation.



Ajukiviu aji sokusau
'Good looking wine but bitter in taste'.

Good on the outside but bad from the inside.



Jichukili samo.
'Rodent's dream'.

Meaningless dream.



Auloba kuxu
'Life like fingers'

An unlucky life. No two fingers are similar likewise one's destiny/
fate is uncertain.



Akiki mulo
'Squirrel's heart . '

Absent minded.





15

YIMCHUNGER

Khum bah yimtsuh sho lang mun khide ke choh.
Hunger is the best and tastiest meal.



Tumumukamde alakhi, halimshe yung julimshe yunh de alaru
jew phihnu lup lup be ruk-a de tha choh, phihnu lup lup bo
jew wuhnu nushe apiju wuhnu-a de mukhe yuk tusho phihnu
nushe phihnu-a de mukhe yuk choh de tha choh.

This saying refers to people who have no clear direction or
standing. They are likened to bats neither a bird or animal.



Nuk kutukhuh zu banu jutu khu zukhit choh/ yukchoh.
Junangde muhrunu kutukhuh isa chichi baa, tun tha baa Isa
kukhiuk jew mu re nuk nangde zukhit choh.

The more a knife is sharpened it remains sharp. Likewise,
criticism sharpens us and we become wiser.



Isa mulo jew he threp be phuru-a de tha choh.
The human tongue is like a rice cleaning tray.



Tumu mijih yuk baanu ju mujihlang yim choh.
You shall reap the seed that you sow.



Mihtsuru mulo jew motru ruk-a. Awung/kimtsuh she motru
anikhuh nu tak kham choh.

The human tongue is like fire. It can burn down the whole
mountain or vast areas by a tiny spark.



Ke ching kuyiki she nuk nu mukam kiu choh. Nihbe lang yiuri
lo-a luchoh de thachoh.

Never strike water with one's own knife. It will only cause
injury to self.



Muhru yam ching khide kheaku mukam wuchoh. Yungsho
thranan-a bahbah.

Avoid frequent visits to peoples homes lest you be hated.



Kudo nulang phi bah khide trede tso choh de tha choh.
Only bears fart and run out of fear.



Ajak, aku lupu yung le, api mulung lang alubah.
It is not the physical beauty but a good heart that is required in
a woman.







16
ZELIANG

Cingbang ke hu be tingkai gui nteila, cinzwa mina keyi mede
mina marang ntei la.

‘Wind blows harder where tall groves grow.’

Behind an important person gossips follow.



Mipau me rata teieh, mirun mcai tau di cai, mirun mzau dila.

Displeasing elders leads to ones downfall.



Matei kera nriakra puncak lak, tei kera kirie pungcum.

‘To work it cannot even clear the spider webs, to eat it can
break down walls.’

This saying refers to the lazy and greedy.



Keci, kecet, mahei keku swa leirau yi lie la.

It is said that courtesy is better than wealth.



Me kekia tei kenkie me, hemui pet la.

Disobedience leads to a miserable life.



Kenkuna paidi teu lie la.

‘A person from a less privileged background tend to wear a bigger shawl.’

It means that the poor have an attitude larger than life.



Tei kemak cukang di.

A barking dog never bites.



Kenhet me mai hena polie la.

A lazy workman has more working tools.



Kenhet me mui kum la.

Liars talk sweetly.



Kepung mene kerut mcha cila.

‘The one who carries the load knows whether it is heavy or not.’

The one who face hardships in life knows its impact.

