

The paper presented by the Afar Language Development and Enrichment Center

The Afar Language Development and Enrichment Center of Afar National Regional State wishes to demonstrate that the development of the community and the development of the language is inseparable. If you further the very existence Afar society as viable is dependant on the development of the language. At the end of 1996 (Ethiopian calendar) the Afar Language Development and Enrichment Center reported what it had achieved since its foundation. Here we will not repeat this report but we will raise the fundamental questions on how the society and language development interrelate.

1. The question is on one side it is good to desire for Afar development and progress but to do so, how can we develop, representing ourselves or others? Shall we develop as Afars whom we are by nature or using neighboring languages and becoming, necessarily them.
2. The second question is see shame in using our language in towns, and we see it more elevating to speak in our neighbors' languages then how can we keep our identity?
3. In town, if expression comes from the use of neighboring languages, the children learn with it and adults are working with it, then how long can our language survive with us?
4. If it is inevitable to be assimilated with the neighboring people because we cannot stop ourselves from being assimilated, then shall we be part of them or not? Those who say not without being swallowed by the neighboring people, remaining as Afar, being born Afar, we can develop. If you say this, the reality on the ground still has not reached that stage, we can save our identity. Then how can we develop?

As we all know, in the Horn of Africa, the Afar are surrounded between 4 strong nationalities: Tigrayans, Amharas, Oromos and Somalis. Historically from an unidentified time till now, Afar are surrounded but having its own territory. They live among this 4 nationalities. Previously, the Afar territory was invaded by outside forces but the invaders were unable to go further and unable to confiscate the Afar land. But today we suspect that, because they have become weak, they could not resist invasion and are loosing identity. How can we remove this suspicion? How can we develop and make progress without being changed? This question is not just for this conference but a question should be raised at every opportunity to find a solution.

Qafaral Dadalih Gaboynal QCGF Xayyosse Warkata

Qafar Agittiinoh Rakaakayih Doolatak Qafarafih Cubbusoo kee Gaddaloysiyyi Fanteena a deffeynay, Qafar ummattah dadal wagsiisak tekkel xayyossam faxxam Qafarafih feerah dadal edde yan caddoo kee cuggud hinnay, Qafarafih feerah dadal kee Qafar ayyuntih dadal sittak baxsa qalle waamih qaada. Bisoh hayya haynek Qafarak manoo kee aneewayti, Qafarafih feerah dadalat axawah tan innu dudnah.

Qafarafih Cubbusoo kee Gaddaloysiyyi Fanteenah biiro soltem kee takke abte taamoomih gabbaaqu Ityoppiyah liggidih loowok amok nek tatre 1996 sanatih ellecabol xayyosseh ten.

A daffeynay Qafar ummattah dadal wagsiisak tekkeh iyyal, away woo gabbaaqih gabbaaqut amo ninnik managillay, Qafar ummattah dadal kee tet feerah dadal elle tangale rakiiboh tan esseroora ugusenno. Tohuuy, Qafar ummattah dadal kee bisô-maxco niyannam meqeeh; fannam meqehik, iyya akkuk dadalnaah yaanamih esseri.

Qafaray kinninoh iyya akkuk dadalnaa? Wonna hinnay kaadu cuggaaneenah afat yaabak geeri ummattooti akkuk dadalnaah?

Magaaloolul ninni afat yaabaanam qakuh nubleeh; cuggaaneenah afat yaabaanam kulsah nublek, ninni kinnaane elle dacrismanninnak tanih taniih?

Magaaloolul qusubuk catinnaanah hora edde tanbem cuggaaneenah af tekkeeh, urri edde bartaah, kasle nek edde taamittam ken afitte tekkek, ni Qafaraf nellih ma gide waaru – waah yaniih?

Elle aninnaan rasul cuggaaneeno yakkeenimih gexso catnu dudnaamak tanih matanak, kuraanibâ missilah yakkoonu – waan baaxo yakkeenihih cate waynam, catnam ceele waynay maay innaah?

Maleey cuggaaneenah addat amuxxuqekal, Yalli nee kah gine Qafarah anuk dadalnu dudnah, inne nee tekkek (tambulle walfii kee weeloola who ma tascassahak Qafariyyok kore – kal elle dadalnu xiqnam anninnaay?

Inkih kah naaxige inna Qafar ummatta Afrikah gaysal geytimta doolatwak sidoc addal, kaxxam maqar – le affara agatak/ agattinat maroh tan. Toh: 1. tigreey 2. Amcaraay 3. Oroomooy 4. Soomaali

Aydaadul qimbo kak amixxige wayti waktiiy takke, Afrikah gaysal Qafar ummatta isi caydu luk fanal kak alooluk sugtem tama kaxxa affara agata-agattina.

Duma warraytem irok teetil akkuk sugte cayla – le gutqooqah bayteh ma suginnâ may, awayi wakto addak abteh tan qakuk gexxaamah, le guubul elle anuk, isi

kinnaane bayissaah, cuggaaneh lih aninnaanih marat baytaamih bolol tet yibbixeh yan.

Toysa, a bolol anninnal kataah Qafar ummattayYalli nee hkah ginek kore-kalah, dadal kee bisô-maxco elle geynu dudnam anni gitaay, inta essero, a daffeyna dibuk hinnay, Qafar ummattah akkinnaanih daffeynal agaarak calli kah geynam faxximta essero.

Assalaamu qaleykum
Waracmatû laahi wa barakaatihi

Jamaal Qabdulkadir Reedo

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