The second path Icétôd could take into the future is the one I dream of. It is the one that would fulfill all my scholarly strivings and confirm my greatest hopes for the Ik. In this path, Icétôd would go on to become the language of a fully literate populace. With explicit knowledge of their grammar and lexicon, educated Ik people would harness the expressive power of their native-born tongue and make it a language of music, poetry, fiction, philosophy, theology, medicine, lower and higher education—literature of all types. This scrappy language that, with its speakers, has barely scraped by countless threats to its existence but somehow managed to pull through, this language that contains the linguistic genes of so many other languages from unrelated stocks, this small language of a small people in small place, could go on to become an enduring symbol of the Icean spirit.

As shown in Figure 1.1, Icétôd can be viewed from an 'Ik-centric' perspective as a 'heart' of East Africa. There it lies near the convergence of four East Africa nations: Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Over the centuries the Ik have migrated through and around each of those four nations. While they did so, their language absorbed words and grammar from the languages spoken in those nations. So in a very real sense, Icétôd embodies the linguistic heritage of northern East Africa. Therefore, could it be that Icétôd is uniquely and providentially situated to blossom into a language that can serve the full range of communicative needs of a modernized Ik society, and then extend its fruited boughs over the Rift Valley escarpment in four directions to become a blessing to the neighboring nations? Time will tell, but it is to the fulfillment of that dream that this book on Icétôd is wholeheartedly dedicated.

1.3. Using the dictionary

1.3.1. Writing system

The Icétôd portions of this dictionary and grammar sketch are written in what is called the Linguistic Orthography (LingO) as described in Schrock 2015. The LingO is a compromise between the simpler Popular Orthography (PopO) and a more scientific writing system. The main reason for choosing the LingO over the PopO is that the LingO encodes three very important features of the Icétôd sound system: voiceless vowels, vowel harmony, and tone. Although these three features are difficult to remember and write, they are indispensable for the correct pronunciation of Icétôd. Therefore it was decided that for this book to be an accurate and enduring record of the

language, the proper pronunciations would have to be reflected in the spellings. LingO writing can easily be converted to PopO, but the reverse is not true, since it requires great linguistic awareness.

The alphabetical order of Icétôd letters is given in (1) below. Note that the vowel pairs E/Ɛ, I/Ɨ, O/Ɔ, and U/Ʊ—whose members differ only in terms of a linguistic feature called Advanced Tongue Root [ATR]— are alphabetized as if they were the same letter. This is done to assist non-native speaker to find words with vowels they might not be able to distinguish at first. Also note that the letter (Ʒ) is in parentheses because even though it belongs to the alphabet, no recorded Ik word begins with that letter. For the pronunciation of these letters, the reader is referred to §2.1 of the grammar sketch in Appendix A.

(1) Icétôd alphabetical order:

A B Ɓ C D Ɗ Dz E/Ɛ F G H H'y I/Ɨ J J' K Ƙ L M N Ɲ Ŋ O/Ɔ P R S T Ts Ts' U/Ʊ W X Y Z (Ʒ)

1.3.2. Structure of entries

The Icétôd-English dictionary section contains entries of the following kinds of Icétôd words: nouns, pronouns, demonstratives, quantifiers, numerals, prepositions, verbs, adverbs, ideophones, interjections, nursery words, complementizers, and connectives (or conjunctions). For a brief description of each word class, the reader is referred to §3 of the grammar sketch in Appendix A. The goal of the present section is to explain to the user the structure of lexicographical entries. To do this, an example of noun entry and a verb entry are discussed.

A typical noun entry has several components. To identify them, match the numbered components in this explanatory paragraph with the superscript number in the model entry below. 1) The lexical headword is in bold typeface. It is the citation form of the noun, that is, the form of the noun spoken in isolation. In Icétôd, the citation form takes the nominative case (see §7.2 in Appendix A). 2) The root or lexical form is in parentheses. It is hyphenated to show that it needs a case ending, and it is the form on which to base all other case forms of this noun. This particular noun is hyphenated in the middle also to signify that it is a compound noun made of two parts (see §4.3 in Appendix A). 3) This is an abbreviation for 'plural', indicating that the next item is the plural form of the headword. 4) This is the plural form of the singular headword *bàdìàm*. 5) This number (1) indicates that what follows is the first and primary sense or meaning of the headword. 6) This is an