

Acknowledgements

Compiling a dictionary is a massive undertaking, far more so than I had imagined it would be. Although it was I alone who spent so many hours, days, and months on the project, a whole host of people put me in a position to do so. And here I wish to acknowledge them all.

First, I want to express a heartfelt *Hákásukotàà zùk*^u to all the Ik people of Timu for welcoming us into their community and patiently enduring the long process of a foreigner trying to learn their language. To the following Ik men and women, I give thanks for their participation in a word-collecting workshop from October 2009 in which roughly 7,000 Ik words were amassed: Ariko Hillary, Kunume Cecilia, Lochul Jacob, Lokure Jacob, Longoli Philip, Losike Peter, Lotuk Vincent, Nakiru Rose, Nangoli Esther, †Ngiriko Fideli, Ngoya Joseph, Ochen Simon Peter, Sire Hillary, and Teko Gabriel. The following ten Ik men are thanked for giving me a clearer view of the Ik sound system and for helping me edit several hundred words during an orthography workshop in April 2014: Amida Zachary, Dakae Sipriano, Lokauwa Simon, Lokwameri Sylvester, Lomeri John Mark, Longoli Philip, Longoli Simon, Lopeyok Simon, †Lopuwa Paul, and Lotuk Paul. One of those men, Longoli Philip, deserves special thanks for the years he spent as my main guide into the grammar and lexicon of Icétôd. The number and quality of entries in this book are owed in large part to his skillful labors. Four others—Lojere Philip, †Lochiyo Gabriel, Lokwang Hillary, and Lopuwa Paul—also deserve thanks for teaching me bits of the language at various points along the journey.

But it is another group of Ik men that I wish to give special honor. These are the ones who for an entire year went with me through every word in this dictionary, slowly and painstakingly, to refine their spellings and define their meanings. They include the respectable elders Iudà Lokauwa, Locham Gabriel, and Lemu Simon, as well as our translators Kali Clement, Lotengan Emmanuel, and Lopeyok Simon. The three elders not only shared their intimate knowledge of the language with me but also befriended me with a grace and humility that can only come with age. Every moment I spent with them was a blessing I will never forget. As they said, if I ever come back, I should ask if those old men are still around. I pray they are.

Next, I want to gratefully mention several linguistic colleagues who contributed to this work in one way or another: Bernd Heine whose Ik-English dictionary from 1999 formed a lexicographical foundation;

Ron Moe, who helped me lead the 2009 word-collection workshop; and Dusty Hill, who supervised and encouraged me all the way.

The fourth group I wish to thank are our friends and family whose generous donations have made it possible to live and work in Uganda since 2008. It has been a privilege to be financially supported in doing long-term work on the Ik language, and I don't take that for granted.

Fifth, I want to thank my own little family: my two daughters, Kaloyang Mercy and Lemu Immaculate, and my wife Amber Dawn. Their love and care enabled me to carry out this long work in an otherwise isolated and often very lonely environment. The existence of this book is owed in great measure to Amber's innumerable sacrifices big and small. It came into being at great cost to her. For that and many other reasons, I thank her from the bottom of my heart.

Finally, I want to thank God for making me a linguistic being in a linguistic universe where my mind and the Ik language could collide, sending out bright rays of new knowledge into the world.