

## **Ngoyo Shi (Love Song)**

told by Kiimshey Kimsing

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Text number	SDM13-20111101-02_SM_JVC_Kamshey_LoveSong
Name	Ngoyo Shi (Love song)
Informant	Kiimshey Kimsing, Nongtham village, Kharsang circle
Place	recorded at the home of Simon Rera, Phulbari
Author	
Languages	Tangsa
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	Translation Tangsa'
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## Tangsa Text and Translation

Ikvnanng lei ngoyo lei hong lei.	'This is the love song, the <i>ngoyo shi</i> .'
Yiirin lei dung lei marin dung lei.	'(There is pain and sadness in the heart).'
Ikvnanng lei po saison nang yo.'	'(This is the love song, I am singing).'
Yo sa saison ka wa nak ngo	'Don't say who is singing.'
Yo sa lei ngon ka wa nak ngo	'Don't say who the singer is.'
Alei sankha tvlung-lata saihang lii.	'I am singing about (my) delighting of my village.'
Sangsa nang tii rai ang wii	'(Delighting in her like the fish migrating in the river)'
Ikvnanng lei ngoyo hong lei.	'This is the love song, the <i>ngoyo shi</i> .'
Yiirin dong lei marin dong lei.	'(There is pain and sadness in the heart).'
Alei nyau wa raq saison.	'Our ancestors would sing (this song).'
Man ra lei ya na.	'(About) long ago when we were in (our youth).'
Nausa lei saison likching pa-na.	'The young people would be in the girl's dormitory.'
Ikvnanng lei ngoyo hong lei.	'This is the love song, the <i>ngoyo shi</i> .'
Yiirin dong nai warin dong lei	'(There is pain and sadness in the heart).'
Ikvnanng lei ngoyo hong lei nai.	'This is the love song, the <i>ngoyo shi</i> .'
Sanpai ichhang wan ma kan ka lei.	'Just as is the sun is setting into the hills.'
Yinggin iwang wan ma lam la.	'So the girl is looking for a way to go (into marriage).'
Ikvnanng lei ngoyo hong lei.	'This is the love song, the <i>ngoyo shi</i> .'
Yiirin dong nai warin dong lei	'(There is pain and sadness in the heart).'
Ikvnanng lei ngoyo hong lei.	'This is the love song, the <i>ngoyo shi</i> .'
Yiirin dong lei marin dong lei.	'(There is pain and sadness in the heart).'
Nyau saison man ra lei ya na.	'The ancestors would sing (this song about) long ago when we were in (our youth).'
Nausa lei saison likching pa-na.	'The young people would be in the girl's dormitory.'
Ikvnanng lei ngoyo hong lei.	'This is the love song, the <i>ngoyo shi</i> .'
Yiirin lei dong lei marin dong lei.	'(There is pain and sadness in the heart).'
San pai ichhang wan ma kau ka.	'Just as is the sun is setting into the high hills.'
Yinggin iwang wan ma lam la.	'So the girl is looking for a way to go (into marriage).'
Ra chheng na aten wang ma.	'(I), the young man, need a bed to sleep in.'
Wo dang kan na idang wang ma	'The cock needs a hill to perch on.'
Man sa lei no ringin lei	'The girl from the other village is so lovely.'
Nok sa la ma wang sa la i.	'Rather than looking for girls of the same village, let us look for those from different villages.'
Hatya lam ma riya tsaq i.	'Just as rather than splitting the hard cane it is (better) to use the soft cane.'
Nok sa la ma man sa lei la i.	'Rather than looking for girls of the same village, let us look for those from different villages.'
Hatya lam ma riya tsaq i.	'Just as rather than splitting the hard cane it is (better) to use the soft cane.'
None dangdang ngo ki wa.	'But it is the natural way for the two of us.'
Samla la khau-shi tvro ki wa.	'We will wear the same one piece of cloth together.'
Man sa lei no ringin lei	'The girl from the other village is so lovely.'

## Analysis

- 1) ikvnanɣ lei ngoyo lei hong lei.  
 ikənənɣ lei ɲojo lei hoŋ lei  
 opening word PRT.SO love song PRT.SO AUX PRT.SO  
 ‘This is the love song, the *ngoyo shi*.’

Notes: *hong* is the auxiliary word that comes in spoken Kimsing as *ho*.

- 2) yiirin lei dung lei marin dung lei.  
 jɤrin lei duŋ lei marin duŋ lei  
 ? PRT.SO ? PRT.SO ? ? PRT.SO  
 ‘(There is pain and sadness in the heart).’

The exact literal meaning of this line is not known. Rev. Yanger speculated that *yiirin* might refer to females and *marin* to males.

- 3) ikvnanɣ lei po saison nang yo.’  
 ikənənɣ lei po saison nəŋ jo  
 opening word PRT.SO ? singing ? PRT.SO  
 ‘(This is the love song, I am singing).’

The meaning of this line is ‘If I get the opportunity to sing’  
 Yanger believes that this is probably not the correct pronunciation. Perhaps the word *po* is the word *kii*, which refers to the self.

- 4) yo sa saison ka wa nak ngo  
 jo sa saison ka βa nak ngo  
 who child song that RL PROH say  
 ‘Don’t say who is singing.’

Literally ‘Who is singing (*yo sa saison*), don’t say that one (*ka wa nak ngo*).  
 The word *ka* here could be translated as ‘who’. This is almost a kind of co-relative construction

The word *sa* ‘child’ here means the person

0’33”

- 5) yo sa lei ngon ka wa nak ngo  
 jo sa lei ŋon ka βa nak ngo  
 who child PRT.SO song that RL PROH say  
 ‘Don’t say who the singer is.’

0’42”

- 6) alei sankha tvlung-lata saihang lii.  
 alei sank<sup>h</sup>a tɔluŋ-lata saihaŋ lɣ  
 PRT.SO village delight-AGR.1SG sing PRT.SO  
 ‘I am singing about (my) delighting of my village.’

- 7) sangsa nang tii rai ang wii  
 saŋsa naŋ tɣ rai aŋ βɣ  
 ? ? ? ? ? ?  
 ‘?’

It seems that this line should read *sangsa ngaq wang*  
 It is not known what the meaning of *sangsa* is

- 8) ikvnang lei ngoyo hong lei.  
 ikənaŋ lei ŋojo hoŋ lei  
 opening word PRT.SO love song AUX PRT.SO  
 ‘This is the love song, the *ngoyo shi*.’

- 9) yiirin dong lei marin dong lei.  
 jɣrin doŋ lei marin doŋ lei  
 ? ? PRT.SO ? ? PRT.SO  
 ‘(There is pain and sadness in the heart).’

Notes: When we were translating this section, Kiimshey started laughing because traditionally these songs were not sung at home particularly in the presences of sisters or elders, so it is funny to sing it in that way.

1’05”

- 10) alei nyau wa raq saison.  
 alei nau wa ra? saison  
 PRT.SO mother father AG sing  
 ‘Our ancestors would sing (this song).’

*Nyauwa = nyungwe*

This line in modern Chamchang would be *ngung we shi-tvlo*

- 11) man ra lei ya na.  
 man ra lei ja na  
 long ago ? PRT.SO time at  
 ‘(About) long ago when we were in (our youth).’

Notes: When transcribing this line, Rev. Yanger suggested writing *rii* for the second word, which would probably represent the Chamchang pronunciation.

In spoken language, youth is *je<sup>2</sup>ro<sup>2</sup>* ‘male’ *je<sup>2</sup>tu* ‘female’

*Man* may mean ‘long ago’

*Ja na* at that time

*Ji na* (spoken) at that time

- 12) nausa lei saison likching pa-na.  
 nausa lei saison liktɕiŋ pa<sup>2</sup>-na<sup>2</sup>  
 young people PRT.SO song girls dormitory in  
 ‘The young people would be in the girl’s dormitory.’

Common language *lapchii<sup>2</sup>*

The boys dormitory *lappong<sup>1</sup>*

- 13) ikvnang lei ngoyo hong lei.  
 ikənəŋ lei ŋojo hoŋ lei  
 opening word PRT.SO love song AUX PRT.SO  
 ‘This is the love song, the *ngoyo shi*.’

- 14) yiirin dong nai warin dong lei  
 jɕrin doŋ nai warin doŋ lei  
 ? ? PRT.SO ? ? PRT.SO  
 ‘(There is pain and sadness in the heart).’

Note: In this line, the fourth word is pronounced *warin* rather than *marin*.

1'46''

- 15) ikvnanng            lei            ngoyo            hong            lei            nai.  
ikənaŋ            lei            ŋojo            hoŋ            lei            nai  
opening word    PRT.SO    love song    AUX            PRT.SO    PRT.SO  
'This is the love song, the *ngoyo shi*.'

1'59''

- 16) sanpai    ichhang    wan    ma    kan    ka    lei.  
sanpai    itɕ<sup>h</sup>aŋ    wan    ma    kan    ka    lei  
sun        NOMZ-set    COS    A.AG    hill    edge    PRT.SO  
'Just as is the sun is setting into the hills.'

In spoken language

(nst-kim\_20120307\_13\_SM\_H4n\_Yanger\_NgoyoShiExplanation\_line16spoken)

rashe achha wan ma, kuki na.  
ra<sup>2</sup>ʃe<sup>3</sup> a<sup>1</sup>tɕ<sup>h</sup>a<sup>2</sup> wan<sup>3</sup> ma<sup>2</sup>, ku<sup>2</sup>ki<sup>3</sup> na<sup>2</sup>.  
'The sun is setting into the hill.'

- 17) yinggin    iwang    wan    ma    lam    la.  
jiŋgin    iwaŋ    wan    ma    lam    la  
girl        NOMZ-go    COS    A.AG    road    look for  
'So the girl is looking for a way to go (into marriage).'

Spoken version:

(nst-  
kim\_20120307\_13\_SM\_H4n\_Yanger\_NgoyoShiExplanation\_line17comparison\_edited)

junrii awa wan ma, lam lii  
ʒun<sup>2</sup>rɿ<sup>2</sup> a<sup>1</sup>βa<sup>3</sup> wan<sup>3</sup> ma<sup>2</sup>, lam<sup>2</sup> li<sup>3</sup>  
'The young girl looks for a way (to get married).'

- 18) ikvnanng            lei            ngoyo            hong            lei.  
ikənaŋ            lei            ŋojo            hoŋ            lei  
opening word    PRT.SO    love song    AUX            PRT.SO  
'This is the love song, the *ngoyo shi*.'

- 19) yiirin dong nai warin dong lei  
 jɤrin doŋ nai warin doŋ lei  
 ? ? PRT.SO ? ? PRT.SO  
 ‘(There is pain and sadness in the heart).’

2’28” of the main song text

- 20) ikvnanŋ lei ngoyo hong lei.  
 ikənaŋ lei ŋojo hoŋ lei  
 opening word PRT.SO love song AUX PRT.SO  
 ‘This is the love song, the *ngoyo shi*.’

- 21) yiirin dong lei marin dong lei.  
 jɤrin doŋ lei marin doŋ lei  
 ? ? PRT.SO ? ? PRT.SO  
 ‘(There is pain and sadness in the heart).’

2’42”

- 22) nyau saison man ra lei ya na.  
 ŋau saison man ra lei ja na  
 mother song long ago ? PRT.SO time at  
 ‘The ancestors would sing (this song about) long ago when we were in (our youth).’

*Nyau* is short for *nyau wa*.

- 23) nausa lei saison likching pa-na.  
 nausa lei saison liktɕiŋ pa<sup>2</sup>-na<sup>2</sup>  
 young people PRT.SO song girls dormitory in  
 ‘The young people would be in the girl’s dormitory.’

3’00”

- 24) ikvnanŋ lei ngoyo hong lei.  
 ikənaŋ lei ŋojo hoŋ lei  
 opening word PRT.SO love song AUX PRT.SO  
 ‘This is the love song, the *ngoyo shi*.’



25) yiirin lei dong lei marin dong lei.  
 jɤrin lei doŋ lei marin doŋ lei  
 ? PRT.SO ? PRT.SO ? ? PRT.SO  
 ‘(There is pain and sadness in the heart).’

26) san pai ichhang wan ma kau ka.  
 sanpai itɕ<sup>h</sup>aŋ wan ma kau ka  
 sun set COS A.AG hill edge  
 ‘Just as is the sun is setting into the high hills.’

27) yinggin iwang wan ma lam la.  
 jiŋgin iwaŋ wan ma lam la  
 girl go COS A.AG road look for  
 ‘So the girl is looking for a way to go (into marriage).’

3’24”

28) ra chheng na aten wang ma.  
 ra tɕ<sup>h</sup>eng na aten waŋ ma  
 young man bed at sleep go up A.AG  
 ‘(I), the young man, need a bed to sleep in.’

Spoken version

nst-kim\_20120308\_08\_SM\_H4n\_Yanger\_NgoyoShiExplanation\_line28\_spoken

riiwe chhang na akon wa ma  
 rɤ<sup>2</sup>βe<sup>1</sup> tɕ<sup>h</sup>aŋ<sup>2</sup> na<sup>2</sup> a<sup>1</sup>kon<sup>3</sup> βa<sup>3</sup> ma<sup>2</sup>  
 ‘The young man (needs) a bed to sleep on.’

29) wo dang kan na idang wang ma  
 wo-daŋ<sup>3</sup> kan na idaŋ waŋ ma  
 bird-perch hill in perch go up A.AG  
 ‘The cock needs a hill to perch on.’

Spoken version

nst-kim\_20120308\_08\_SM\_H4n\_Yanger\_NgoyoShiExplanation\_line29\_spoken

wuda kin na ada wa ma  
 βu<sup>1</sup>da<sup>3</sup> kin<sup>2</sup> na<sup>2</sup> a<sup>1</sup>da<sup>3</sup> βa<sup>3</sup> ma<sup>2</sup>  
 ‘The bird (needs) a hill to perch on.’

The meaning of these two lines is as a bird needs a perch, so a young man needs a bed to sleep

3'34"

- 30) man sa lei no ringin lei  
man sa lei no rin.gin lei  
other child PRT.SO YO.BR lovely? PRT.SO  
'The girl from the other village is so lovely.'

Notes: The compound *mansa* means from the girl from the other village; this is in opposition to *noksa*, girl from the same village  
This is discussed at SDM13-20111106-56\_SM\_T\_Kamshey\_NgoyoShi\_Explanation4 about 6'30"

This word would be *minsi* in spoken language

This means that the boy prefers the girl from another village

Kiimshey says at around 8'00" that the song can be made from any village.

We are not sure what the exact meaning of *no ringin* is; it refers to the girl from another village, whom the boy is courting, and he is addressing her as younger, *no ringin*, which may mean something like 'lovely girl'

- 31) nok sa la ma wang sa la i.  
nok sa la ma waŋ sa la i  
our people child look A.AG other people child look HORT  
'Rather than looking for girls of the same village, let us look for those from different villages.'

Notes: The words for 'girl of the same village' and 'girl of different village' are *nokse* and *binse* respectively in the spoken language

(nst-kim\_20120308\_10\_SM\_H4n\_Yanger\_NgoyoShiExplanation\_line31\_spoken)  
In spoken language, this would be

Nokse la ma binse lo i

Nokse<sup>1</sup> lam<sup>2</sup> ma<sup>2</sup> bin<sup>1</sup>se<sup>1</sup> lɔ<sup>3</sup> i<sup>3</sup>

'As for the way of local girls, let us look at the girl from the other village.'

- 32) hatya lam ma riya tsaq i.  
hatja lam ma rija tsa? i  
hard cane road A.AG soft cane split HORT  
'Just as rather than splitting the hard cane it is (better) to use the soft cane.'

Explanation begins at around 9'00"

Notes: This is a simile. It means that as he prefers to soft cane to the hard, so he prefers a girl from another village rather than the same one.

*Hat* is the bigger cane that is hard and thick

*Ri*<sup>2</sup> is thinner and softer

Spoken version (last part)

nst-kim\_20120308\_10\_SM\_H4n\_Yanger\_NgoyoShiExplanation\_line32\_spoken.wav

Hatji ka soq ke i

3'52''

33) nok sa la ma man sa lei la i.  
nok sa la ma man sa lei la i  
our people child look A.AG other people child PRT.SO look HORT  
'Rather than looking for girls of the same village, let us look for those from  
different villages.'

34) hatya lam ma riya tsaq i.  
hatja lam ma rija tsaʔ i  
hard cane road A.AG soft cane split HORT  
'Just as rather than splitting the hard cane it is (better) to use the soft cane.'

35) none dangdang ngo ki wa.  
no-ne danɗan ŋo ki wa  
1PL-two natural way say AUX RL  
'But it is the natural way for the two of us.'

Explanation at SDM13-20111106-56\_SM\_T\_Kamshey\_NgoyoShi\_Explanation4  
11'33''

Kiimshey said that this means the boy has said he prefers the girl from the other village, but then he comes back to refer to the girl who is local, saying that we said we would say together. It seems that this line might be a line that the girl says, unlike the previous few which were the boy's line

In spoken language this would be:

(nst-kim\_20120308\_11\_SM\_H4n\_Yanger\_NgoyoShiExplanation\_line35\_spoken)

Nanai dongdii rvngo kai iha ta  
Na'nai<sup>2</sup> doŋ<sup>2</sup>dɿ<sup>2</sup> rəŋo<sup>2</sup>-kai<sup>3</sup> i'ha<sup>2</sup>-ta<sup>2</sup>.  
'We agree to stay together'

- 36) samla la khau-shi tvro ki wa.  
 samla la k<sup>h</sup>au-ji təro ki wa  
 clothing wear cloth-one together AUX RL  
 ‘We will wear the same one piece of cloth together.’

Notes: This means that the couple will share the same blanket.

In spoken language this would be:

(nst-kim\_20120308\_11\_SM\_H4n\_Yanger\_NgoyoShiExplanation\_line36\_spoken)

Nanai khathum ashi rvro sam-kai iha ta

Na<sup>1</sup>nai<sup>2</sup> k<sup>h</sup>at<sup>h</sup>um a<sup>1</sup>ji<sup>1</sup> təro<sup>2</sup> sam<sup>2</sup>-kai<sup>3</sup> i<sup>1</sup>ha<sup>2</sup>-ta<sup>2</sup>.

‘We are wearing one cloth together.’

- 37) man sa lei no ringin lei  
 man sa lei no rin.gin lei  
 other child PRT.SO YO.BR lovely? PRT.SO  
 ‘The girl from the other village is so lovely.’

4’20”

38)

‘