### Welcome to Oromo 101

#### Agenda for 07/06/09

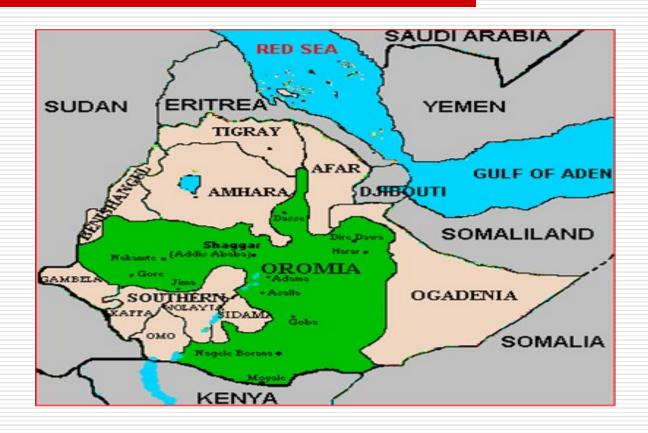
- Introduction to;
  - Oromo people
  - Culture
  - Language
- Afaan Oromo Alphabets
- Questions/Comments

### Who are the Oromos?

### Oromo people;

- Are one of the Cushitic speaking peoples that inhabit the eastern part of Africa a.k.a the Horn of Africa.
- Make up a significant portion of the population occupying the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti, Sudan)
  - About 40 million in Ethiopia alone.
- Call their country Oromia/Oromiya and their language is called Afan Oromo or the Oromo language.
- Enjoy a homogeneous culture and shares a common language, history and descent.

## **Map of Oromia**



### **Oromo Culture**

- During their long history, the Oromo people developed their own cultural, social and political institution known as the GADAA system.
  - a uniquely democratic political and social institution that governed the life of every individual in the society from birth to death.
- Before the colonization of Oromia by black Abyssinia\* with the help of European armaments, the Oromo people lived under a unified Gadaa government.
- Although much of Oromo culture and tradition survived harsh suppression, much has been forgotten or lost. Our goal today is to rebuild/revive our identity/culture and show others the beauty of our culture.

<sup>\*</sup>I often say Black Abyssinia to distinguish Abyssinian colonial settlers from white European colonizers.

### Culture contd...

#### Marriage

- Polygamous society
- No sex B4 Marriage
- Divorce is less common
- Girls marry at young age

#### Food

- Traditional cuisine, budeena being the most common among them.
- Lot of dairy products
- Always Non-pork

#### Religion

- Islam
- Christianity
- Waaqeffannaa\*
- Peaceful coexistence for centuries and tolerant to others beliefs

<sup>\*</sup>Long before the introduction of Christianity and Islam to the region, Oromo people believed in one supreme being called Waaqa (equivalent to God) and their religion is called Waaqeffannaa or Oromo religion.

### Crops

- ☐ **Cereal crops**: wheat, barley, teff, sorghum, corn, millet, etc.)
- Root crops: potato, sweet potato, yam, inset, anchote, etc.
- Pulses : peas, beans, chick-peas, lentils, etc.
- Fruit trees : orange, mango, avocado, banana, lemon, pineapple, peach, etc.
- □ **Spices**: onion, garlic, coriander, ginger, etc.
- ☐ The main **cash crops** are coffee and chat (a stimulant shrub).

**Fun Fact**: Coffee, a major cash earner for many countries, has its origin in the forests of Oromia...first discovered in a place called Kaffa by a goat herder.

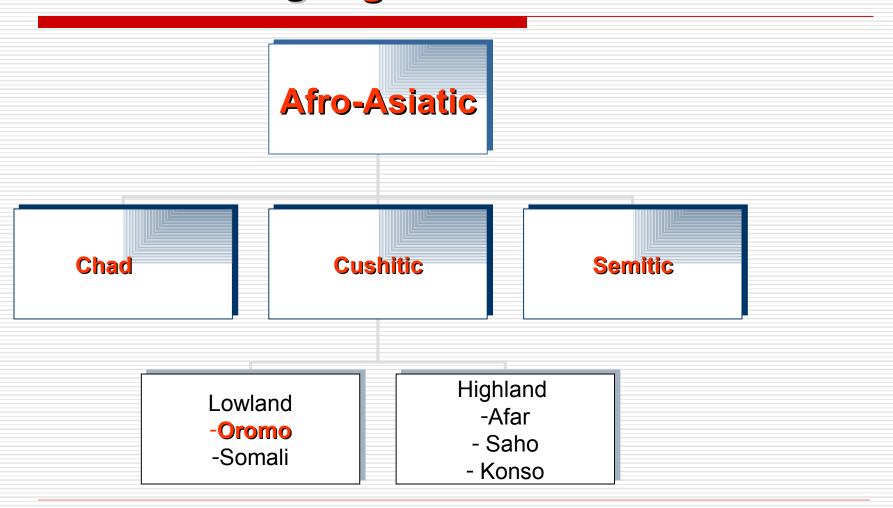
### **Domestic Animals**

- ☐ Farm animals: cattle (cows, ox), sheep, goats, donkeys, mules, horses, camels and chicken.
  - Cows = milk and meat
  - Oxen = to plough the land, to be exchanged for money.
  - Horses are the primary means of transportation in the country side.
  - Mules and Donkeys are used primarily to transfer heavy loads (for example grains or timber woods) from one place to another.
- Pets : Dogs and cats
  - Dogs are used as security or hunting aides. Housed separately from humans. Fed meat and milk products.
  - Cats are normally used to keep mice away from homes.

### **Wild Animals**

- Different species are found in the waters and forests of Oromia: different kinds of fish, hippopotami, and crocodiles
- Land animals: lion, leopard, tigers, rhinoceros, buffalo, giraffe, wild ass, zebra, Columbus monkey and elephant.
- There are also a number of wild animals that are found solely in Oromia, such as nyala, bush-buck (special type), red fox (from Bale mountains), etc.

### African Language Families



### **Afan Oromo**

- The **third** most widely spoken language in Africa, after Arabic and Hausa
- □ A **lingua franca** (widely used as means of communication) in the whole of Ethiopia except for the northern part.
- Oromo have an extraordinarily rich heritage of proverbs, stories, songs and riddles
- **AO** has been not only completely neglected but ruthlessly suppressed by the Ethiopian authorities.
- A determined effort for almost a century to destroy and replace AO with the Amharic language has been mostly ineffectual.
- Has several dialects but the dialect differences are not so big that interdialect comprehensibility is not a problem.
- Afan Oromo Song

### Summary

People: Oromo

**Country:** Oromia (also phonetically spelled as Oromiyaa)

Area: 600,000 sq.km approx.

Capital: Finfinnee (also called Addis Ababa)

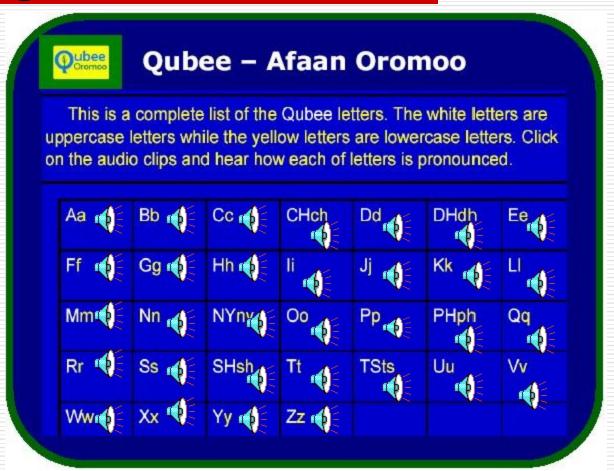
Population: 40 million

Language: Oromo, also called Afan Oromo

**Economy:** Mainly agriculture (coffee, several crops, spices, vegetables) and Animal Husbandry; Mining industry; Tourism trade; Medium and small-scale industries (textiles, refineries, meat packaging, etc)

**Religion:** Waaqqefannaa (the traditional belief in *Waaqa* or God), Islam, and Christian (Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant)

# Oromo Alphabet Qubee Afaan Oromoo



<sup>\*</sup>If the corresponding sound for the letters in this slide doesn't work. Click here to download the slide from Qubee.org

### Qubee Song (Alphabet Song)

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
OPQRSTUV

#### **Oromo Vowels-Consonants**

- Afan Oromo vowels (**Dubbachiiftuu**) are represented by the **five** letters, **a, e, o, u and i. O**r long vowels; **aa, ee, oo, uu and ii**
- CONSONANTS Dubbifamaa (21)
   B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S,T, V, W, X, Y, Z

- □ DOUBLE CONSONANTS **Qubee Dachaa** (6+)
  - CH, DH, NY, PH, SH, TS
- Symbols
  - Hudhaa ' = Apostrophe
  - Qoodduu , = Comma

### Vowels

In AO, Vowels not only have their our sound but they can also have a meaning standing alone.

```
a! = cal jedhaa!, usaa! Hin dubbatinaa... shut up!
```

Ee... = sirrii dha, tole = correct, ok

U! = cinqaa keessa jiraachuu,gadda... being in pain.

uu..! = birmannaa gaafachuu = crying out for help.

oo! = raajeffachuu,dubbachuu = as in OMG

#### Important Rules on Long, short, and stressed sounds Seera Sagalee Jabaa, Dheeraa fi Gabaaba

- In AO consonants do not have their own sound which means that the sound of the consonants depends on the vowels.
  - BCDE
- More than two consonants of the same type cannot be written consecutively.
  - Dammee = refer to a person as honey or it could also be a girls name; but dammmee is meaningless and grammatically wrong.
- You can only use two vowels consequently, unless separated by aphostrophe (hudhaa).
  - Taa'i = Have a sit or Walga'ii = Meeting
- When a consonant is stressed, it brings about change in meaning.
  - Sodaa = Fear; Soddaa = son-in-law
- The sounds of double consonants (ch, sh, ny, ph ) are stressed by nature. Thus, are not doubled to stress.
  - Gurraacha, dhadhaa, Qabeenya (Black, Butter, Resource)
  - Gurraachcha, dhadhdhaa, qabeenynya ( meaningless)
- No more than 4 vowels can be written consecutively.
  - Taa'aa = Take a sit; Taa'aa'aa (no meaning)

### Rules contd...

- If we use two consonants in a word, then the consonant is stressed (sagalee Jabaa).
  - Dammee = refer to a person as honey or girls name
  - Baddaa Madda Ballaa Bullee
- If a vowel is doubled, then the sound is lengthened (sagalee dheeraa).
  - □ Baala = leaf; balaa = accident; gaara
    - Cimaa qoree citaa Dhiira oota
- If in a word a single vowel is used then the sound is shortened (sagalee Gabaaba).
  - Bona = summer; boona = pride
  - mucha qophe ona
  - Iola ana luka
- When two consonants are written consecutively without a vowel; it is assumed as though there is a vowel (Irra Butaa)
  - jilba farda morma arjaa Arba urjii
    - ilkee milkii sirna murna irga galma
- Shaakala = Practice Exercise

#### Oromo 101

#### !!END OF DAY ONE!!

© Congrats! You are a week and 4 days away from becoming the Oromo speaker and writer that you always wanted to be. Wow!! your Oromo friends and /or parents ©

### Lesson # 2 : Numbers

#### Day 2: Agenda

- Review of Day 1
  - ☐ Alphabets/Rules
    - Jabaa, Laafaa, Dheeraa, Gabaabaa
- Numbers in Oromo
  - □ # Exercise = Online
- Money and Trade among the Oromos
  - ☐ Amoolee = Bar of Salt = barter trade
  - Qarshii = Birrii
- Oromo Dance = Shaggooyyee (if there is time)

### Numbers: Lakkoofsoota

1	Tokko	11	Kudha Tokko	30	Soddoma
2	Lama	12	" Lama	40	Afurtama
3	Sadii	13	" Sadii	50	Shantama
4	Afur	14	" Afur	60	Jahaatama
5	Shan	15	" Shan	70	Torbaatama
6	Jaha	16	" Jaha	80	Saddeetama
7	Torba	17	" Torba	90	Sagaltama
8	Saddeet	18	" Saddeet	100	Dhiba
9	Sagal	19	" Sagal	200	Dhibba Lama
10	Kudhan	20	Digdama	1000	Kuma Tokko

### Lakk...

Tokkoffaa = First

1ffaa = 1<sup>st</sup>

**Lamaffaa** = **Second** 

 $2ffaa = 2^{nd}$ 

Sadaffaa = Third

 $3ffaa = 3^{rd}$ 

**Afraffaa** = **Fourth** 

4ffaa = 4<sup>th</sup>

Shanaffa = Fifth

5ffaa = 5<sup>th</sup>

Jahaffaa = Sixth

6ffaa = 6<sup>th</sup>

**Torbafaa** = **Seventh** 

7ffaa = 7<sup>th</sup>

Saddettaffa = Eighth

8ffaa = 8<sup>th</sup>

Saglaffaa = Ninth

9ffaa = 9<sup>th</sup>

**Kurnaffaa** = **Tenth** 

 $10ffaa = 10^{th}$ 

 $\square$  # Exercise = Online

# Quiz/Review

- 1. Vowels
- 2. Consonants
- 3. Numbers

# Greeting and Response Nagaafi deebbii

#### Agenda: Guyyaa 3ffaa (Day 3)

- 2. Review: Numbers
- 3. Review Word list
- 4. Greetings and Responding
- 5. Shaakala (Practice Exercise)
- 6. Oromo Traditional Dance (Tirii)

### Numbers Reviewed

- English
  - **1**7
  - **25**
  - **32**
  - **63**
  - **500**
  - 2000
  - 40<sup>th</sup>
  - **2**nd
  - Sixth
  - **1982**
  - **2009**

- Oromo
  - Kudha Torba
  - Digdamii Shan
  - Soddomii Lama
  - Jahaatamii Sadii
  - Dhibba Shan
  - Kuma Lama
  - 40ffaa
  - 2ffaa
  - Jahaffaa
  - Bara Kudha sagal saddeetamii lama
  - Kuma lama fi sagal

### **Word List**

1.	Qubee = Alphabet	1.	Qabeenya = Resource
_			
3.	Dubbachiiftuu = Vowel	3.	Baddaa = Highland
4.	Dubbifamaa = Consonant	4.	Madda = Source
5.	Dubbachuu = To speak	5.	Ballaa = Blind in one eye
6.	Hudhaa = Apostrophe	6.	Bulee* = Blue
7.	Usaa = Shut up	7.	Dheeraa = long
8.	Tole = Ok, Alright	8.	Gabaaba = Short
9.	Dammee/Damee =	9.	Bona/Boona = summer/Pride
	Honey/Branch	10.	Lola = war
10.	Taa'I = Have a seat	11.	Ana = I
11.	Sodaa/Soddaa = Fear/SIL	12.	Luka = Leg
12.	Guraacha = Black	13.	Farda = Horse
13.	Dhadhaa = Butter	14.	* Bulee = Cuquliisa Urjii = Star
14	Morma = Neck		-

### **Greetings**

#### English

- Good Morning
- Good Afternoon
- 4. How are you this evening?
- 5. How are you?
- 6. What's up?
- 7. Greetings
- 8. How are you doing?
- 9. How is your family?
- 10. What is your name?
- 11. Where Do You Live?
- 12. How old are you?
- 13. Where are you from?

#### Oromo

- Akkam Bulte/Bultan?
- Akkam Oolte/Ooltan?
- Akkam galgala kana?
- ☐ Akkam Jirta?
- ☐ Akkam?
- ☐ Harkaa fuune
- Akkam Nagayaa?
- Maatiin kee Nagayaa?
- Maqaan kee Eenyu?
- □ Eessa Jiraattaa?\*
- □ Umriin kee meeqa?
- ☐ Eessaa dhuftee?

### Responding

- Very well thanks = Fayyaa, Galatoomi
- 2. Fine, Thanks God = Nagaa galata Waaqa
- 3. I am fine, and you? = Ani Nagaa, atihoo?
- 4. Very well = Baay'ee Gaarii
- They are fine = Fayyaa isaaniitti
- 6. I am good, how are you?
  Gaari, ati akkam?
- □ Not too bad = Homa hin jedhu.

## Saying Goodbye

- a. Nagaayatti = Good Bye
- b. Turtii/Yeroo Gaarii Have A Good Time
- c. Nagaayan Ooli = Have A Good Day
- d. Nagaayan Buli/Halkan Gaarii = Have A Good Night
- e. Torban Gaarii Have A Nice Week
- f. Guyyaa Gaarii = Have A Good Day
- g. Ayyaana Gaarii Have A Nice Holiday
- h. Carraa Gaarii = Good Luck
- i. Galatoomi Thank You
- j. Booda Wal Agarra- I Will See You Later
- k. Hayyee, Boru Wal Agarra Ok, I Will See You 2moro

### Nagaa

- Introduce the Concept of Nagaa...
- \*Oromo people value Nagaa (literally means peace) of a person, a country and the world greatly. That is why you hear the word used so often in many contexts especially in prayers or in greetings or when saying goodbye.
- \*Example: Nagaa (fine, peace), Nagayaa (used in question form to ask how well a person is doing), Nagayaan (with peace), Nagayatti (good bye or peace be with you).
- \*In Prayers: Biyyi Nagaa, Oromoon nagaa, malkaan nagaa, gadaan nagaa etc
- Exercise and Role Play
- Tirii

### Pronouns = Bamaqoota

### Agenda Guyyaa Afraffaa

- 2. Review Greetings
- 4. Pronouns

- 6. Simple sentences (p38)
- 8. Oromo Dance (Sirba Walloo)

# Pronouns = Bamaqoota

I – ani	me = Ana
Nuti = we	Nu = us
Nu'u/Nu'i = us	Nuuf = for us
Ati = you	Anaa = for me
Sii'i = you	Sii = you
Siif = for you	Isiif/ishiif – for her
Isin = you (plural)	Isaaf= for him
Isii/ishii = her	Ishiin = she
Isa = Him	Inni = He
Isaan = They	Isaanii = for them

### Nyaata, Dhugaati fi Bineensota Food, Drink and Animals

#### Agenda Guyyaa Shanaffaa

- Review (Days 1 4)
- Food
- Drinks
- Animals
- Exercise

Sirba Oromoo - Shawa

### Nyaata = Food

Buddeena

Ittoo Stew

Daabboo/Qixxaa Bread

Marqaa Porridge (similar to oatmeal)

Foon Meat

Dhadhaa Butter

Baaduu Cheese

Oromo song (Geerarsa)

# Buddeena



# Tongue Twister

#### Nama Nafa Laafu Lafa Rafa

\* Say It As Fast As You Can Repeatedly...fun In Group Exercise!

### Dhugaati = Drinks

Bishaan

Water

Lallaafaa

Soft Drinks (pop)

Biiraa

Beer

Aannan

Milk

Shayii\*

Tea

Buna\*

Coffee

Daadhii

Mead

Araqee\*

Like Vodka (home made)

<sup>\*</sup> The names Shayii, Buna and Araqee are similar to Amharic names for those items. But they are pronounced differently. Even the English language borrow words from other languages. I do not know if Amharic borrowed from Oromo or vice versa.

### **Animals = Bineensotaa**

Saree	Dog	Leenca	Lion
Hoolaa	Sheep	Qeerransa	Tiger
Re'ee	Goat	Harree	Donkey
Farda	Horse	Hantuuta	Rat
Gaangee	Mule	Arba	Elephant
Sa'a/Saawwa	Cow	Bofa	Snake
Sangaa	ОХ	Naacha	Crocodile
Adurree (Bashoo)	Cat	Gaala	Camel

#### Maqaa Maatii = Name of Families

Agenda Guyyaa 6ffaa

- ☐ Greetings Review
- □ Word List

- ☐ Simple sentences (using names of families)
- Oromo song (Geerarsa)

## Name of Family

Father	Abbaa	Eessuma	Uncle
Mother	Haadha	Adeera	Uncle*
Children	Ijoollee	Adaadaa	Aunt
Brother	Obboleessa	Durbii	Cousin
Sister	Obboleettii	Durbiitti	Niece
Grandfather	Akaakayyuu	Durbichaa	Nephew
Grandmother	Akkoo, Akkayoo	Wassoo,wasiila	brother-in-law
Father-in-Law	Soddaa	Sayyuu	sister-in-law
Mother-in-law	Soddaatti	Stepmother	Aayyaa diqqoo

<sup>\*</sup> Adeera or Abbeera is uncle from father's side of the family. This names do vary depending on where you are in Oromia. These are the names used in South Eastern Oromia where I was born and bred.

### Days, Time and Directions

#### Agenda Guyyaa 7ffaa

- 2. Review
- 4. Vocabulary
- 6. Days, Time and Directions
- 8. Exercise
- 10.Oromo Song (Baalee)

#### Maqaa Guyyoota = Days of the Week

Wiixata

Kibxata

Roobii

Kamisa

Jimaata

Sanbata

Dilbata

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

\*A reader sent this along. But I think the original names in the slide are pretty standard.

Monday: Hoja dure Thursday: Isniina/ Kamsaa

Tuesday: Lammaffoo

Wednesday: Facaasa/Harbaa

Friday: Jum'ataa

Saturday: Sanbata Xiqaa Sunday: Sanbata guddaa

### Maqaa Ji'oota = Months

1. Ammajjii

2. Guraandhala

3. Bitootessa

4. Ebla

5. Caamsaa

6. Waxabajjii

7. Adoolessa

8. Hagayya

9. Fulbaana

10. Onkololeessa

11. Sadaasa

12. Muddee

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

### Maqaawwan Waqtii = Seasons

Ganna Winter

Birraa Spring

Bona Summer

Afraasaa/Arfaasaa Fall

### Weather = Haala Qilleensa

☐ Cloud - Duumessa

☐ Hot - O'aa

☐ Thunder -Bakakkaa

Cold - Qabbana

☐ Flood - Lolaa

Rain - Rooba

☐ Sun - Aduu

Wind - Bubbee

☐ Snow - Cabbii

Tornado – Hobomboleettii

☐ Shower – Tiifuu

Fog - Hurrii

#### Shaakala = Practice

What's the weather like today?

It was cold last night.

Last week it was hot.

It was windy this morning.

Tomorrow it is going to be sunny.

The weather is good.

The weather is bad.

It snows a lot in Minnesota

### Kallattii = Directions

Kaaba North

Kibba South

Bahaa East

Dhiha/Lixa West

## **Asking ?s**

- □ Maqaan Kee Eenyuu?
  □ What is your name?
- Maqaan Kiyya Pa'olaa
  My name is Paola.
- □ Maqaan isii eenyuu?
  □ What is her name?
- Maqaan isii Ayyaantuu
  Her name is Ayantu
- Maqaan isaa eenyuu?
   What is his name?
- Maqaan isa Mohaammad
  His name is Mohamed.

### **Question Forms**

- □ Where?□ Who?
- What?
- ☐ How?
- When?
- □ Why?
- What do you know?
- □ What do you think?
- Where is he?
- □ Where is the coffee shop?
- □ Who is he?

- ☐ Eessa?
- □ Eenyu?
- Maali?
- ☐ Akkamitti?
- □ Yoom?
- Maaliif?
- ☐ Maal beekta?
- Maal sitti fakkata?
- ☐ Inni eessa jiraa?
- Manni Bunaa eessaa?
- ☐ Inni Eenyu?

## Every Day Words

Excuse Me!

No Problem! Rakkoon hin jiru Can You Speak Slowly? Suuta dubbachuu dandeettaa? Write It Down Please! Maaloo naaf barreessi! Naa hin galle I Don't Understand! Ani hin Beeku I Don't Know! Kuni Maali? What Is This? Afaan Oromoo barachaan jira I am Learning Oromo Hin Yaadda'in/Yaaddawin **Don't Worry!** 

Dhiifama

### Everyday words

- Today
- Tomorrow
- Yesterday
- Next week
- **Next Month**
- Next year
- What time is it? Saa'a Meeqa?
- Morning
- **Evening**
- Night
- Midnight
- Afternoon
- Before noon

- Har'a
- Boru/bor
- Kaleessa
- Torban Dhufu
- Ji'a Dhufu
- Bara Dhufu
- Ganama
- Galgala
- Halkan
- Halkan Qixxee
- Waaree Booda
- Waaree Dura

- This Kana
- These Kanniin
- Those Sanniin
- Sani/sana That
- Kiyya Mine
- Yours Keeti
- Theirs\* Kan Jaraatti
- Ours Keenya

\*Theirs = Kan Isaanii/Kan jaraa/-ti,-ttii

# **Human Body Parts**

ENGLISH	OROMO	ENGLISH	OROMO
Arm	Irree	Hand	Harka
Body	Qaama	Head	Mataa
Ear	Gurra	Leg	Luka
Eye	lja	Mouth	Afaan
Face	Fuula	Neck	Morma
Foot/Feet	Faana	Nose	Funyaan
Finger	Quba	Stomach	Mataa Luka Afaan Morma Funyaan Garaacha Ilkaan
Hair	Rifeensa	Tooth/Teeth	Ilkaan

## **Body Parts...**

**English** 

**Back** 

Bladder

**Blood** 

**Bone** 

**Brain** 

Chest

**Elbow** 

**Eyebrow** 

**Fist** 

**Palm** 

Lips

Ribs

Lung

Skin

**Oromo** 

Duyda

**Afuuffa** 

Dhiiga

Lafee

Sammuu

Qoma

Ciqilee

Nyaara

**Tontoommi** 

Ganaa

Hidhii

Cinaacha

Somba

Gogaa

**English** 

Hip

Jaw

Kidney Knee

. .

Liver Shoulder

Thigh

Thumb

Waist

**Breast** 

Tongue

Heart

Nails

Beard

Oromo

Mudhii

A'oo Kalee

Jilba

Tiru

Ceeku

Sarbaa

**Abudduu** 

Mudhii

Harma

Arraba

Onnee

Qeensa

Areeda