

A popular musical performance in the Kusaal Language on Covid-19 Safety Protocols

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Background

This short note is a transcription and translation of a *googi* on COVID-19. The term *googi* is locally used among the Kusaasi people of Ghana to refer to the performance or the song as well as the performer who often doubles as the composer. The song in this write up is used in educating the Kusaal-speaking communities in the Upper East Region of Ghana on the COVID-19 safety protocols.

Composer

This popular *googe* musical performance is composed by Alembood Akidaug Akologo from Yakuti-Bawku in Ghana. The picture below is the composer together with her team in action.



The Song

The song is transcribed and translated by Hasiyatu Abubakari and used in writing the article Abubakari et al (forthcoming): 'Framing of Covid-19 Safety Protocols in Kusaal Musical Health Communication: Language and Literary Analysis'.

The *googi* performance is a classical representation of the use of an indigenous language through popular art to educate local folks and to promote awareness on the safety precautions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The song was composed between March and April 2020 just when Ghana was preparing to go into a lock down.

Rural folks are often deprived of important information due to language barriers. The life-saving performance by this local artist deserves commendation as it highlights almost all the safety precautions of the pandemic outlined by the World Health Organization and trumpeted by the Ministry of Health, Ghana.

Transcription and Translation

It is important to indicate that the transcription tries to keep to the original text which means that there may be spots where one may observe grammatical inaccuracies but the attempt is to stick to the structure of the Kusaal language as presented in the song.

ENGLISH	KUSAAL
(1) That's why we are grouped together like that, the son of the blind person riding on an elephant is crying that the land is shaking. His land is shaking. (2) The thing got to Tamale town yoo. The thing got to Bolga town yoo, the thing got to Zebilla town yoo. (3) Asigiri is crying that no one should perform a funeral. Amadu has said, no one should gather. Akusa'al has said, no one should hold a meeting. (4) Parents, have you heard? if you get up in the morning stay away from your wife, and also stay away from your children, and also stay away from the man himself (this is to the woman). (5) No one should shake hands, because of the disease, have you heard? Ayoolung called me, Kusaasi called me. (6) My father, woo, woo, wooye, he said because of the land he is lamenting. (7) The disease is not for the hospital, the thing has no local treatment, if you refuse and try, know that it is a shovel and a pickaxe, it has no medicine, and he said it, for the sake of the women, what are you doing, for the place to be good. (8) My mother woo yee yei-yei people of the world, the place is about to, be destroyed, Chief Asigiri is pursuing the thing, and called the Pusiga chief, The child of tɔn'ɔsvɔg, the child of Gbanwaa. (9) He should pour libation to the shrine yoo, he should tell Tɔn'ɔsvɔgɔɔ and	(1) ...Din yela ka ti bir taaba anwa la, zɔŋ ban'ad wabug biigi kaaseɛ, teŋ la dammidaa, o teŋ la dammidaa. (2) Bɔn la daa paae Tamar teŋ la yoo. Bɔn la daa paae Bolga teŋ la yoo. bɔn la daa paae Sabil teŋ la yoo. (3) Asigiri kaas, sɔ' da maan kɔvɔɛɛ. Amadu yel yaa, sɔ' da la'aseɛ. Kusa'al yel yaa, sɔ' da maal mitinneɛ. (4) Du'adibaa ya wɔmya bɛɛ, ya ya'a yi bɛogɔn ya luaki ya pu'a zugɔɔ, ka luaki ya biisa men yoo, ka len luakid bɔraa la mɛŋaa. (5) Sɔ' da gban'e o tiraan nu'ugɔɔ, wiim la yela la, ya wɔmya bɛ? Ayɔɔlvɔŋvɔ buol mam, kusaasi buol mam. (6) M ba' wo, woo wooye, o ye teŋ la yela ka on fabinnaa. (7) Ye wiim la ka' dɔgta yel yee, bɔn la ka' nya'ari tukidaa, fɔ ya'a zan'as ka walibɛɛ, banim ka soobul nɛ piŋgaaseɛ, li ka' tiim yoo, ka o yel ya yoo, o ye o biis la yel la yee, m pu'ab la yela yee, ya maan wala bɛɛ, ka teŋ la maannaa. (8) M ma woo yee yei-yei, dunia dima baaba, ye teŋ la bɔɔd nwa'abɔ, ka na'ab Asigiri kat yela ya, ka tɔlisi buol Punsig na'abaa, ɔn'ɔsvɔg biigaa, gbanwaa biigaa. (9) O gbin'em ku'om bas teŋgban la yoo, o yel Tɔn'ɔsvɔgɔɔ, ka yel Gbanwaa woo, li da paanaa, ka pu'ab zu'oe bɛdegɔɔ, ka biis la zu'oe yoo. (10) Ba maan wala-wala bɛɛ, dunia dimaa abɔbɛ wooi? (11) M ye m buoli ba yoo, fɔ ya'a pɔ wɔm labaareɛ aba, Dɔgta Akunye buol ya yoo, o ye o yel Asigiree,

tell Gbanwaa woo, it has arrived, and women are many, and children are many yoo. (10) What will they do, people of the world why? (11) I want to call them, if you've not heard the news, Doctor Akunye has called. He wants to tell Asigiri, if Akunye had a cedi, he would make the world better, he would have developed Bawku for na'aba Asigiri, and also develop Pusiga, he has no cedi, but his advice is a cedi, he has no money but his advice is money, he also has no drug but his advice is drugs. (12) The world should hear, no one should allow his child to go out. (13) Because of Coronavirus, no one is going to the market again. (14) He said no one should attend a funeral; no one should go to the parent house. (15) If you refuse and go, if you bring the problem, the death is not yours alone, you will infect the man himself, and infect all your rivals, and also infect all the children. (16) When it attacks it covers the whole area, if it covers the whole area what will you then do? (17) That's why Akunye is lamenting, Ayɔɔlɔŋ is lamenting, Aziidkum is lamenting, Aba'ania'ad is lamenting, if you don't know, ask the Chinese, if they get up in the morning, they don't eat, they don't drink. (18) In the morning they don't know the road to the borehole, they don't know the way to the market. (19) They are now struggling for themselves. (20) Akunye heard it, he sent me, that I should tell you, all should avoid it (stay indoors); man should avoid it; children should avoid it (stay indoors). (21) Asigiri already told you, do not perform funerals, don't go to a fellow's house, do not meet in groups. (22) Amalis said so, I want to ask whether Bugri chief has heard? (23) The late Alɔdiban's chief, Ana'amu'ar chief, Zukpar chief, because of Coronavirus, have you all heard? Dr. Akunye has said, everybody should avoid it; children should avoid it; men should avoid it; no one should shake hands. It is because of the area that he is chanting like this. (24) Akunye says I should tell Bugri's chief, Akunye has no cedi, he doesn't have a million to spend, but he has advice to give, if there is no child, no chieftaincy, if there is no woman in this world, there is no chieftaincy, that's why he

Akunye ya'a mɔrin yɔlɔgɔɔ, o naan maalin dunia teŋ la yoo, o naan maali tisa bɔk na'ab Asigire, ka lɛbna maal Punsig teŋine, o kae yɔlɔgɔɔ, ka o sa'alug an yɔlɔg; o kae ligidii ka o sa'alug an ligidi, o mɛ kae tiim ka o sa'alug an tiim. (12) Dunia dim ya di'em keligi ya, sɔ' da kɛ ka o biig yi yiiŋa. (13) Koronavirus yel la yee, sɔ' da kɛ ka o pu'a yi yiiŋaa, sɔ' woo pu len kpɛn'ed da'a aba. (14) O ye nid woo da keŋ kɔvɛɛ, sɔ' da keŋ o suzua yire. (15) Fv ya'a zan'as ka yii keŋɛɛ, fv ya'a mɔr yelaa paae naa, bvn la ka' fv kɔn'ɔkɔn' kum yoo, fv na taas bɔraa la meŋaa, ka taasi fv nintaas la wɔsaa; ka lɛbna taas biis la wɔsaa. (16) Li ya'a yi la ye li yadig teŋ la nɛ, li ya'a yadig teŋ la ya maan wala-wala bɛ? (17) Din la ka Akunye fabinna, ka ayɔɔlɔŋ fabinna, ka aziidkum fabinna, ka aba'ania'ad fabinna, ya ya'a zi' yaa, ya bu'osim China dima woo, ba ya'a yi beogvɛɛ, ye sa'ab pu ditta, ku'om pu nuuda. (18) Ba ya'a yi beogvɛɛ ba zi' kɔlɔg suore, ba zi' da' suore. (19) Ba yv'un mɔɔdi ba meŋ yelleɛ. (20) Akunye daa vɛɛs ka wɔm, one tum mam na, o ye m yeli ya, sɔ' faan luakim, bɔraa luakim, biig woo luakima. (21) Asigir daa pvn yeli ya, ya da maan kɔvɛɛ, da keŋ tiraan yire, ya da la'asid gurube. (22) Amalisi yel wala la, m ye m bu'os ye Bugur bɔgna'ab fv wɔmya bɛ? (23) Alɔdiban dabɔɔgvn na'aba, ana'amu'ar na'aba, zukpar na'aba, koronavirus yel yee, ya woo wɔmya bɛ? Adɔgta Kunye yel ya, sɔ' faan luakima, ye biig luakima, bɔraa luakima, sɔ' da gban'e o tiraan nu'ugɔ, ye teŋ la yel ka o kan'ad anwana la. (24) Akunye ye m yel Bugur na'abaa, Akunye kae yɔlɔgɔɔ, o kae miliyon dittaa, amaa o mɔr sa'alug tittaa, biig ya'a kae yaa, na'am kae dittaa, pu'a ya'a kae dunia nii, na'am kae dittaa, din la ka o fabin koronavirus la yelleɛ, ya wɔmya bɛ? (25) Sɔ' woo wɔmya bɛ? (26) Koronavirus yelleɛ, ye biig wɔmya bɛ? (27) Ya piem nu'us nyainne, ya piem nu'us nyainne. (28) Ya ya'a yi beogvn lɛbna, ya piem nu'us nyainne, sɔ' da gban'e o tiraan nu'ug ya'as ya, dunia dim ya wɔmya bɛ? (29) Akunye yel wala la, Ayɔɔlɔŋ yel wala la, Aziidkum yel wala la, Azvɔng pu'ayua biig, Agiŋ pu'ayua biig, o kae yɔlɔgɔɔ, ka mɔr ya'am sa'an naa, sa'alim

is lamenting because of the Coronavirus, have you heard? (25) Has everybody heard? (26) Because of Coronavirus, have the children heard? (27) Wash your hands clean, Wash your hands clean. (28) When you come back in the morning, wash your hands clean, no one should shake hands again, people of the world have you heard? (29) Akunye said so, Ayɔɔlɔŋ said so, Azvɔng daughter's child, Agiŋ daughter's child, he has no cedi, but has wisdom to advice, advice all the world, they should avoid the disease, for the disease has no medication, the disease is not for a hospital, it is not to swallow paracetamol for it to stop. The thing has not exempted the doctor himself, it got to all the whiteman's land, it has not exempted governors, how much more people. (30) Yes, MPs have died, chiefs are all dying, it doesn't know a woman or a man, it doesn't also know a child to spare, it doesn't know a rich person, it doesn't know a poor person. (31) Everybody is dying, children are dying and pregnant women are dying, and babies are dying, and all men are dying and MPs are dying, and the governor himself is dying, have you heard. (32) Aaaaaa: Chief Asigiri, funerals are not permitted, no weddings, all meetings are not held. (33) Asigiri, it's not Asigiri's fault, it's because of life, life is not double. (34) One person cannot solve all problems; if he gives, it's all finished, money is finished, food is finished, good dresses are finished, wearing of smocks is finished. (35) It's not the fault of Asigiri; it's because of our life he is lamenting. (36) Amalis's son, Adɔl-bɔn-yinne has said that, he has no cedi to give, he also doesn't have ten million to give. (37) Doctor Akunye says he likes advice, people of the world, because of Coronavirus. (38) You should beware, abaa, my mother, Akunye is saying, what Akunye has seen is what he is saying, they shouldn't allow people to go to Sankasi again, they shouldn't allow people to also go to Bitu again. (39) they shouldn't go with a lorry to Accra road, Kumasi road, hilltop road, they should all be closed, because of the virus he said so. (40) If you are able to wait, if you close the borders, we will have health, if you don't

dunia dim woo ne, ba luakim ban'a la, ka ban'a la ka' tiim maanna, ye ban'a la ka' dɔgta yellee, li ka'a vol pala ka li basee, ka bɔn la pu ke dɔgta menaa, li daa paae ne na'asaateŋ la wɔsaa, ye gɔmma nam li pu kee ba, ka yaki yetne nidibaa. (30) Aba ye MP nam kpinee, na'anam woo woo kpiidne ye, li zi' pu'a ne dau be bɔɔ, bɔn la me zi' biigi ganida, li zi' bɔndaane ganidaa, li zi' nɔŋdaane ganidaa. (31) Sɔ' woo kpiidne, biis kpiidne ka pu'apɔɔs kpiida, ka bilia kpiida, ka buraa woo kpiida, ka MP nam kpiida, ka gɔmma men kpiid yoo, ya wɔmya be. (32) Aaaaaa: Na'aba Asigiree, kɔɔr pu maanna, Awure pu maanna, mitin nam faan pu ditta. (33) Asigiree, li ka' Asigir yelle, nyɔɔr la yelle, nyɔɔr ka' abuyi'inaa. (34) Nida arakon' dit ka lem maanna, o ya'a tisida, li woo naae ya, ligidi naae ya, diib naae ya, fusɔŋ naae ya, banaas yeeb naae ya yooi. (35) Li ka' Asigir yelle, ti nyɔɔr yel ka o fabinna. (36) Amalis biiga, adɔl bɔn yinne yel ye yaa, on kae yɔlɔgv lee tit ye, o me kae miliyɔn piiga tittaa. (37) Dɔgta Akunye yel ye o bɔɔdi sa'alɔgɔɔ, dunia dima woo, koronavirus yela. (38) Ya banjimi ya, abaa, m maa, Akunye ye yaa, Akunye la nye si'el ka yettaa, ba da ke ka san'kaans len wa'ae yoo, ba me da ke ka bitu len wa'ae yoo. (39) Ba da dɔl lɔr Ankara suoree, Kumasi suore, zuorin soure, sɔ' faan yɔɔmaa, virus la yela ka o yel wala la. (40) Ya ya'a nyaŋi mɔdigi ya yela ye, ya ya'a yɔ bɔda nam la, ti na nye laafi, ya ya'a pu siake, ka ye ligidi yellee, ligidi ti bene ka saalib lee kae, ka bɔɔ dittaa, sankan laa, ka Akunye ye yaa, o daa pɔn yeli ti, ti yɔɔm bɔdaa, Sankaans da wa'ae ya, Kuakno'ɔg da wa'ae ya, Bitu da wa'ae ya, ka yaki yeti Ankara teŋa, Kumasi teŋa ne zuorin teŋa. (41) Ya daa zan'as ne, sankan la dunia dim ti yv'un be ya be? (42) Ka' Asigir yelle. (43) Mmmmm, ya banjimi yaa aba, na'asaarnam bane mɔr tiim, amaa na'asaateŋ la nidib la naae ya yooi, China nidib naae ya yooi, Italy nidib naae ya yooi, USA nidib naae ya yooi, Spain nidib naae ya yooi. (44) Amaa na'ab Asigiree, o daa buol o Ba' ka bas ku'om ya, o ku'onwamme pibi la. (45) Akɔlpuak woo, Akɔldaug woo, o daa di'e ku'om ka yel Amalis teŋin ya, kɔsaa teŋin yaa, ba duon

<p>agree, and say because of money, money will continue to be there and people will not be there, and what will spend it, at that time, Akunye will say, he already told us, to close borders, shouldn't go to Sankasi, shouldn't go to Kuaknogo, shouldn't go to Bitu, how much more Accra, Kumasi and hilltop. (41) You refused, at that time where will we be, people? (42) It is not the fault of Asigiri. (43) Mmmmmm, you should be aware, the White men they have drugs, but in the White man's land the people are finished, Chinese are finished, People of USA are finished, the Spaniards are finished. (44) But chief Asigiri, he called his father and poured libation, that is the calabash there. (45) Akolpuaka, Akoldaugo, he took water and told the Amalis vicinity and the Kusaa vicinity that they should be proactive, for the area is still there. Akunye has now arrived; he asked Asigiri what the world is saying? (46) Then Asigiri responded that he already told them, no funeral, no playing of drums, no playing of deck, no playing of violin. (47) If they destroy that in fact our lives will continue to be there. (48) Mmmmm, my mother my mother, Dr. Kunye has said that, Dr. Akunye has said that, Asigiri said there should be no funeral, yet they organize funeral secretary, they shouldn't hide to perform wedding and yet they hide to perform weddings, meetings should not be held but they hide and hold meetings, and Akunye arrived, and now told them the disease has no drug, it has no local treatment...</p>	<p>zi'ene, ka tej la kpen be ne yooi, Akunye yv'un paae na, ka bu'os Asigire, o ye dunia dim ye bo? (46) Ka Asigir ye yaa, o pun yeli ba, kuvr da maale, binnir da nwe'eda, dek da nwe'eda, kona da nwe'eda. (47) Ba ya'a kv din la kasa gbagba ti nyoor kpen be ne yee. (48) Mmmmm, M maa- m maa, Doga Kunye yel ye yaa, Doga AKunye yel ye yaa, Asigiri daa yel ye kuvr da maanna, ka ba su'a maale, aware da looda, ka ba su'adi lood, mitin da ditta, ka ba su'adi dit, ka Akunye paae na, ka yv'un yeli ba, ban'a la kae tiim, li kae nya'ari tukida...</p>
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References

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