NOTES

[1]Aucune étude sur le sujet ne nous est connue à ce jour. Un recueil datant de 1981 de Emil SÃANFO existe cependant, cf. bibliographie.

[2]Objet d'un article en préparation.

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A NOTE on J.Kinda 'Les **solem-koeese** chez les Mossi' by Tony Naden (GILLBT, Ghana.)

Kinda gives a very interesting account of a distinctive genre, the Mooré **solem-koeese** ('short-tales') - "a literary genre of an unusual type". Of course the riddle game is widespread and ancient (Tolkien 1954:64) but in the true riddle there is some discernible semantic link between stimulus-item and response, often mediated by pun or cryptic synonymy. I have studied true riddles of this type, for instance, in Bisa and Mampruli. The Bisa riddle session I recorded, however, did include one or two arbitrary items (e.g. **Wurgoo?** [a nonsense word], 'That's a needle!') of the **solem-kɔɛɛga** type - in their Burkina Faso homeland the Bisa are surrounded and influenced by the Mossi.

Terminology for genres in this area links folktales (which may be used as parables or aetiologies), true riddles, problem-stories (folktales initiating discussion of the participants' performance - Naden MS, Duthie,1984), proverbs (non-responsive - Plissart, 1983) and other special items. These latter include the **solem-koeese** and the genre in Mampruli (called the same as 'riddle' in item 4 below) and Sisaala, where a rhythmic question-answer pattern of nonsense-words is recited by a single speaker ('What's in your mouth?' - 'Toya' - 'What's toya?' - 'Toya's baam...') as a young people's elocution exercise:

1. BISA: **mɔɔr** 'a proverb'
noon 'a story
(term for 'riddle' unfortunately not recorded)

GUR LANGUAGES (Oti/Volta subgroup)

2. *SOLM-DI/A:

a) 'a story' ([a] also = 'parable'): Mampruli (MP) **sɔlimni/sɔlma**[a]; Dagbani (DB) **solnli/solma**; Hanga (HG) **sulimni/sulima**; Kusaal (KL) **soluŋ/solima**; Mooré (MR) **sɔlemde/solema**; Frafra (FR) **solene/solema**; 'Loberu' (apud Rattray) **sole/soleʃi**. [redup.] Dagaari (DR) **sɛnsoluŋ** (Kennedy), **sekpogere** (Rattray); Kɔnni (KM) **sunsɔbila**; Buli (BL) **sosoluŋ/sosolema, sunsuelni/sunsuelima**.

b) 'to tell a story' ([b] also = 'to sing praise-names'): MP **n-sɔlim**[b]; DB **n-solim**[b]; HG **sulimi**; MR **solem**; DR **sɔl** (K); KM **sɔbilaa** [BL **maksi** cf. 3b below].

3. 'proverb' ([c] also = 'riddle'; [d] also = 'parable' cf.2a):

a) ***ŋES-DI/A**: MP **nyɛsri/nyɛsa**[c]; DB **ŋahili/ŋaha**[d] ['to tell a proverb' **n-ŋahi**]; HG **kiŋaasa/kiŋaasasi**; BL[1] **/waniesima**.

b) ***MAK-**: FR **maga/magaha** ['to tell a proverb' **makɛ**]; BL[2] **/wamagsima**; [Talni (TL) **ma** 'story'].

c) other: KL **siiliŋ/siilis, siilima** ['to tell a proverb' **siilim**]; MR **yel-bundi/yel-buna**[c,d]; HG 'to tell a proverb' **bo**.

4. 'riddle': MP **loosri/loosa** ['proverb' - 3a can also be used; **loosa** also = special type, see above]; MR same as 'proverb' [special type **solem-koɛɛga/-koeese**].

NOTE: Any additions or corrections to these data would be appreciated:- Tony Naden, PO Box 3, WALEWALE, N.R., Ghana.

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