

LESSON 17

TO BE: -li and ndi

Ukwati	wedding, marriage	-kwatira	marry
Bwenzi 5	friend 5	-kwatiwa	be married to ndi-
Mbale 1	brother, sister (same sex)	-bala	give birth; produce
Mlongo	sister, brother (opposite sex)	-badwa	be born
Mkulu	elder (brother)	-kula	grow up, be big
Mng'ono	younger brother	-kalamba	be old, grow old
Dzina	name pl. Maina	-tchula	pronounce, call
Mwini	owner pl. Eni	-lemekeza	honour, respect

TO BE: The verb -ji is used to show the position of an object or to attribute a quality: Ali kuti? Ali mtsikana wanzeru.

NDI But when we want to identify a person or an object, or to express the idea of possession, we must use the word ndi "is; are". It can also be found in the attribution of a quality.

Munthu amene waima pamseu ndi mfumu wathu.
 Bul'u limene liri patebulo ndi langa.
 Katundu ndi wanga, koma njinga ndi ya mphunzitsi.
 Kodi mfuti imene ili m' umbamu ndi yanu?
 Chigayo changa ndi chatsopano (: chili chatsopano).

SI "is not; are not" is the corresponding form expressing a negation:

Amene wakuitanani ku msonkhano si mphunzitsi koma mfumu.
 Galimoto limene laonongeka si langa; ndi la bwenzi langa.
 Njinga yanga si yatsopano, ndi yakale. (: ...sili yatsopano...).

Ndine	It is I	Mfumu pano ndine! Ndine amene ndakuitanani.
Ndiwe	It is you	Kodi ndiwe unaba buku langa? — Iai, si ine.
Ndiye	It is he	Mwana wa mfumu ndiye adapha galu wathu.
Ndife	It is we	Chigayo chimene chili mumseu eni ake ndife.
Ndinu	It is you	Ndapeza katundu panjira; kodi mwini wake ndinu?
Ndiwo	It is they	Amuna anga ndiwo (amene) adayamba ndewu.

Dzina lanu ndizu yani? What is your name? : Dzina lanu ndani?
 Dzina langa ndine Jemusi. Bambo wanga dzina lake ndi Semu.
 Kodi phiri liri uko dzina lake ndi chiyani? for objects...
 Mtengo umene uli pakhomu, dzina lake mumati chiyani?

Uje, Ujeni so-and-so Mai wanga dzina lake ndi Ujeni...ndaiwala pang'ono.
 Nsomba imene ntagula lero dzina lake ndi ujeni...
 Mwitane aUje ndi aUje; ndikuwafuna. Call X...andY...

Mwini pl. Eni "owner": the Concordial particle is often dropped:
 Mwini (wa) sitoro ndani? Kodi sitoro mwini wake ndani?
 Katundu ali m'nyumba umo mwini wake ndine. Note inversion.
 Ngati mumafuna kudziwa, funsani mwini wake the person concerned.
 Za mwini things belonging to others: Waononga zinthu za mwini.
 Aratenga mkazi wa mwini. Musatenge kanthu ngati mwini wake palibe.

Whose Relative pronoun -mene: Note the special construction:
 Mfumu anaitana anthu amene ana a sapita kusukulu.
 Mnyamata amene njinga yake ili pakhomu ndi mng'ono wanga.
 Anthu amene munkhokwe mwao mulibe chimanga adzamva njala.

Whose? Interrogative pronoun yani follows the Qualifying particle:

Mkulu wanu anakwatira mwana wa yani? Mwabwerekka njinga ya yani?
 Munakwera galimoto la yani? Khasu limene liri pano ndi la yani?
 (Kamudzi) kwana ndi kwa yani? What is the name of your village?
 Anakwatira pamudzi pa yani? Pamudzi pano ndi pa yani?

Chabe "just": Mukupita kuti? — Kuyenda chabe.
 "only": Ndikufuna kumwa pang'ono kulawa chabe.
 "nothing": Musataye nthawi pachabe.

- The wedding-feast will be on Saturday; I have invited many people.
- I had 3 workers; but two ran away last night. I don't know why.
- You have a foreign name; how do you pronounce it?
- The chief's wife was sick for two weeks and died on Thursday.
- My sister's child was born last month; his name is Jimu.
- If you want a school here, ask the chief, the owner of the land.
- Take care of the books; they are not yours, they belong to me.
- The hens belong to my elder brother, but the cock is mine.
- What is the name of your (girl) friend? In what village does she live?
- There was a burial in my village on Tuesday, but I was absent.
- In whose car did you travel when you went to the lake last week?
- I have one brother and two sisters; I was born eight years ago.
- What is the name of the animal which you killed? — It is...
- The new plate which is on the table is not mine; is it yours?
- Our teacher is a good man; but his wife is lazy.

Proverb: Pano ndi pathu anagona ndi njala.