



Proverbi della Sierra Leone.

Attraverso i proverbi gli anziani trasmettono i valori e gli insegnamenti per una educazione idonea alla vita nel villaggio, quello che oggi può essere definito il processo di socializzazione.

I proverbi sono scritti in **Krio**, il dialetto dei neri del villaggio di Goderich, discendente dal creolo e tradotti in inglese.

WATASAI STON Nɔ̄ FRED REN.

A waterside stone is not afraid of rain. This stone is nearly always wet.

NɛK WE Nɔ̄ BROK GO WɛR Kɔ̄RIA.

A neck that isn't broken will wear a necklace.

WE LɛPɛT TIT GO HAT AM, NA-IN GOT KIN GO Kɔ̄LDɛT.

When the leopard has a toothache, then the goat can go and collect a debt.

ɔ̄KPɔ̄Lɔ̄ Nɔ̄ GɛT TIT, Bɔ̄T IF YU PUT YU HAN INSAI IN Mɔ̄T, I GO SɛT AM.

A frog has no teeth, but if you put your hand in his mouth he'll bite down.

TAYA Nɔ̄TO LES. Being tired isn't the same as being lazy.

ɔ̄L Kɔ̄NDɔ̄ LEDɔ̄N NA DɛN BɛLɛ; YU Nɔ̄ NO US WAN BɛLɛ DE HAT AM.

All lizards lie on their bellies; you can't tell which one has a stomach ache.

GLADI Mɔ̄T Nɔ̄BA BLO FAYA.

A happy mouth can't blow a fire.

DɛN DE Tɔ̄L YU BɛL, YU DE AKS UDAT DAI.

They are tolling your bell, you ask who died.

SUP WE GO SWIT, Nɔ̄TO DI TUMɔ̄S Sɔ̄L WE DɛN GO PUT AM.

Fɔ̄M FUL Fɔ̄ GEN WISDɔ̄M. Feign ignorance to gain wisdom.

PRɔ̄MIS NA DɛT.

A promise is a debt.

Nɔ̄ TEK DAI BABU SKIAD Mɔ̄NKI.

Don't try to scare a monkey with a dead baboon.

WATA WE YU Nɔ̄ FRED, NA DE YU GO LɛF.

The water that you're not afraid of is where you'll drown.

I COMPAGNI DI
JENEBA

ASSOCIAZIONE A TUTELA DEI MINORI - ONLUS



IF YU YεRI BLεNYAI MAN SE, "A GO STON YU," I DɔN MAS STON.

If a blind man says, "I'm going to stone you," it means he's stepped on a stone.

HAW DI BATA DE BIT--NA SO DI DANS DE GO.

As the drum beats, so the dance goes.

YU YON DɔL KɔTLAS BεTε PAS YU NEBA SHAP WAN.

Your own dull machete is better than your neighbor's sharp one.

WE REN DE KAM, YUBA SE I GO BIL HOS; WE SAN KɔMɔT, I FɔGεT.

When it's raining, the vulture says he'll build a house; when the sun comes out, he forgets.

εNI SAI WE YU SI SMOK, FAYA DE.

Where there's smoke, there's fire.

FUL Nɔ DE MεN, BɔT KRES DE MεN.

You can cure madness, but you can't cure a stupidity.

ALIGETA DE RɔN FRɔM REN, I GO FɔDɔN NA WATA.

The crocodile runs from rain, he'll fall into the water.

IF TU FRεN KIP MɔNI NA WAN PLES, WAN GO LAF εN WAN GO KRAI.

If two friends keep money in the same place, one will laugh and one will cry.

WɔD NA FɔL EG.

A word is (like) an egg.

WAN HAN Nɔ DE TAI BɔNDUL. You can't tie a bundle with one hand.

IF YU DE KɔL DɔG, YU Nɔ Fɔ HOL TIK.

Don't call a dog when you have a stick in your hand.

HAT NɔTO BON.

The heart is not made of bone.

MɔNKI WE Nɔ GεT TIT NɔBA LAF.

A monkey with no teeth never smiles.

YU Nɔ GO MεSɔ SNEK TE I DAI.

You can't measure a snake until it's dead. You don't realize a person's worth until he's gone.

I COMPAGNI DI
JENEBA

ASSOCIAZIONE A TUTELA DEI MINORI - ONLUS



DLWE BABU WAKW SOTE, I MARED TU MANKI IN SISTA.

No matter how ugly the baboon is, he's married to the monkey's sister.

MeSenJA NABA DAI NA WA.

A messenger never dies in the war.

NA YAI DE TES BIFO MDT.

The eye tastes before the mouth.

SINGG DKN, WKD LfF.

The song is done, the words remain.

PUT YU YAI DKN, YU GO SI NOS.

Cast your eye down, you will see your nose.

εNJεL NABA FITYAI GD.

An angel never disrespects God.

BAL-ED MAN NABA AMBNG HANI.

A bald man never aggravates bees.

WE YU SE KKP KL KLEM FENCH, YU MNS NO SE GRN WAM.

When you see a frog climb a fence, you know that the ground is hot.

NKTO KL TIK MANKI KIN KLEM.

It's not every tree a monkey can climb.

BIFO KRAWO WES, NA SPUN GO BεN.

Before "krawo" goes to waste, the spoon will bend.

IF PεPε SWIT, RNB AM NA YU SCFUT.

If pepper is so delicious, rub it in your sore.

GeT-GeT N WANT, WANT-WANT N GeT.

He who has doesn't want, he who wants doesn't have.

KKTIN-TRI FDKN SOTE, IN HED PAS GRAS.

No matter how low a cotton tree falls, it's still taller than grass.

DKG WE N GeT TEL N EBUL SALUT IN MASTA.

A dog without a tail can't greet its master.

I Compagni di Jeneba

Associazione a tutela dei minori - ONLUS

Strada del Castellaro, 84/L - 60019 - Senigallia (AN) - Italy

T. +39 071 69 89 41 - M. +39 340 47 92 017

www.compagnidijeneba.org - info@compagnidijeneba.org

Codice Fiscale 92028020425

IBAN IT87D 050180 26000 00000 139822 c/o Banca Etica

I COMPAGNI DI
JENEBA

ASSOCIAZIONE A TUTELA DEI MINORI - ONLUS



DŃG KECH KOL TE, I NŃ DE WAM INSEF NA LEPET KANDA.

No matter how cold a dog gets, he doesn't warm himself in leopard skin.

LŃ TAN LEPKE BISKIT.

The law is like a biscuit (cracker).

NA TRŃBUL MEK BABU WES DE SHAIN.

It's trouble that makes an ape's rear shiny.

TIK TE NA WATA SOTE, I NŃ GO TŃN ALIGETA.

No matter how long a tree lies in the water, it will never turn into a crocodile.

YAMS KŃL KŃMITI, KOKOYAMS SE I WAN RID AJENDA.

The yam calls a meeting, the cocoyam wants to read the agenda.

MŃNKI WE NŃ GET TIT NŃBA CHAM.

A monkey without teeth never chews.

AIEN NŃ DE HŃT WE DEN NŃ PUT AM NA FAYA.

Iron doesn't get hot if they don't put it in the fire.

DI MERE SIN BITA PAS DI SIK.

The medicine is worse (more bitter) than the disease.

HŃG AKS IN MAMI SE, "MAMI, WETIN MEK YU MŃT LANGGA SO?" IN MAMI SE, "BŃBŃ, WET LILIBIT,
YU GO NO."

The pig asks his mother, "Mummy, what makes your mouth so long?" His mother says, "My ooy, wait
awhile and you'll know."

BLAK GOT HAT FŃ FEN NA NET.

A black goat is hard to find at night.

PIKIN WE NŃ DE FRED GO MEK WATA RŃN NA MAMI YAI.

A child who is fearless is going to bring tears to his mother's eyes.

WE DEN TOT YU NA BAK, YU NŃ NO SE ROD LANGGA.

If they carry you on their back, you won't know that the road is long.

FAMBUL TIK KIN BEN, BŃT I NŃBA BROK.

The family tree may bend, but it never breaks.



I COMPAGNI DI
JENEBA

ASSOCIAZIONE A TUTELA DEI MINORI - ONLUS

IF HOS Nɔ SɛL YU, TRIT Nɔ GO BAI YU.
If the home doesn't sell you, the street won't buy you.

KRACH-KRACH Nɔ DE MEK PUS PIKIN FRED IN MAMA.
Scratching won't make a kitten afraid of its mother.

GɔD GO BɔTA MI BRED.
God will butter my bread.

MɔNKI IN TRɔSIS TAIT SOTE, I MɔS LɛF PLES Fɔ IN TEL.
No matter how tight a monkey's trousers are, he has to leave space for his tail.

DAT SHIP WE BRINGG BAIBUL, NA-IN BRINGG RɔM.
The same ship that brought the Bible also brought rum.

UDAT TREDIN WIT GɔD NɔBA LɔS.
He who trades with God never loses.

GɔD, WE GI MAN KRɔ-KRɔ, NA-IN GI AM HAN Fɔ KRACH AM.
God, who gave man scabies, also gave him hands to scratch them.

BRA YUBA Nɔ GɛT BABA, BɔT ɔL TɛM IN HED GO SHAIN.
Bra Vulture doesn't have a barber, but his head is always shiny.

DIS LAIF WI LIB: NɛKS WɔL Nɔ GO TAN SO.
This life that we live: The next world won't be so.

NA GɔD WAN NO WETIN MEK WE FINGGA DɛN ɔL DIFRɛN.
Only God knows what makes all our fingers different.

GIAL PIKIN Nɔ GO NO SE I MARED TETE IN MAMA DAI.
A girl doesn't realize that she's married until her mother dies.

Kabò !