

The Ayu language
of
Central Nigeria and its affinities

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TABLES

1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Ayu language, spoken in Ungwar Nungu village in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The wordlist was collected by Roger Blench with the assistance of Barau Kato from Shittu B. Salihu with assistance from other villagers in Ungwar Nungu on the 10th of February 2001 and 17th December 2002.

The wordlist was collected as a 'one-shot' exercise and the transcription must therefore be regarded as very preliminary. This analysis was prepared by Roger Blench, who added the comparative observations. This document is being circulated to scholars for comment.

The Ayu language appears in many sources classified as Plateau IV ?, in other words part of the group of languages that include Mada and Ninzo. Published data are very scarce, confined to a few citations in the Benue-Congo Comparative Wordlist, most of which have turned out to be highly inaccurate. To remedy this situation, I visited the Ayu area with Barau Kato on the 10th of February 2001 to try and obtain more definitive information. We first visited the chief, who is resident in Fadan Ayu [=Iciyai], a large settlement on the road from Fadan Karshe to Wamba, some 15 km. south of the junction. The chief and his councillors turned to no longer speak Ayu and recommended us to his brother in Ungwar Nungu, a large village some 5 km. north of Fadan Ayu in Kaduna State. We eventually contacted Mr. Shittu B. Salihu who kindly assisted us with a very complete wordlist.

Ayu speakers live in the following villages: Kongon, Gwade, Tayu, Arau, Diger, Ikwa [=Mayir], Agamati, Anka Ambel and Amantu all in the hilly region around Fadan Ayu. Many of these are mixed settlements and many of the ethnic Ayu living there have only a limited command of the language. The dominant language in this area is Hausa and almost the entire population seems fluent in it. The Ayu are almost entirely Muslim, in contrast to most other groups in the area which may account for the prestige of Hausa. Children appear to have a passive knowledge of Ayu but do not speak it on a daily basis. Even the older generation are easily at a loss for words in Ayu and it seems that it is not spoken all that much on a daily basis. Despite this, the Ayu are intensely proud of their culture and history and it clear that Ayu identity is not under threat. Consequently the loss of the language could probably be reversed. The number of ethnic Ayu might be as high as 10,000 given the relatively large settlements, but truly fluent speakers are probably only in the hundreds. Nonetheless, there are many individuals with a fragmentary knowledge of the language.

2. Phonology

2.1 Vowels

Ayu has seven phonemic vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Close-Mid	e		o
Open-Mid	ɛ		ɔ
Open		a	

There are no nasal vowels and no sequences of dissimilar vowels.

2.2 Consonants

Ayu consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Alveopalata l	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d		[c] dʒ	k g	kp gb	
Nasal	m		n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill			[r]					
Fricative		f v	s z		ʃ ʒ			h
Approximant					y		w	
Lateral Approximant			l					

/dʒ/ is represented as /j/ in this paper.

As with many other Plateau languages, there is non-phonemic labialisation of high back vowels and non-phonemic palatalisation of high front-vowels.

2.3 Tones

Ayu has three level tones and a rising and falling tone. These are represented as follows;

High	H	wór	Tear (cloth etc.)
Mid	M	rɔp	Tie
Low	L	cèl	Walk
Rising	R	wǒk	Want/need
Falling	F	kwâk	Sharpen

3. Ayu Morphology

3.1 Overview

The most striking feature of Ayu nouns is their plural morphology. Ayu employs the following pluralisation strategies;

- a. prefix alternation or addition
- b. consonant mutation
- c. tone-change
- d. nasal insertion

Ayu permits combinations of the above strategies.

3.2 Prefix alternation or addition

Ayu has an extremely restricted range of prefixes, namely a- and i-, both of which can occur in singulars and plurals and can occur, if rarely, in combination with a zero-prefix. Their tones are highly variable, and appear to be driven by the stem-tone(s) rather than reflecting an older system of prefix-pairing. In particular, the prefixes are combined with mutating prefixes, without any demonstrable phonological effect, suggesting that they are recent additions.

The following tables give some examples of Ayu prefix pairings.

Gloss	s.	pl.
Nail (Finger/toe)	kububòk	akúbubok

Root	ishî	ashî
Thorn	idor	ador
Hill	ìbal	àbal

Star(s)	àndìndár	ándindar
Old man	àrùm	àrúm
Father	àbà	abâ
Doctor	aḿiyál	áḿikàl

Tail	ìdúm	ìdùm
Medicine (generic)	ìyal	ìkàl
Forehead	ìgwóḿ	ìgwòḿ
Mosquito	ìbo	ìbo

3.3 Consonant mutation

Ayu is also notable for consonant mutation, a procedure well-known from the Beromic languages, notably Berom, Cara and Iten, as well as the Hyam group. However, its presence in this area is more surprising. The alternations occasionally include the addition of nasals, a process recorded in Ninzo.

w/k

	s.	pl.
Tree (generic)	iwoon	íkóón
Duiker antelope ¹	ìwó	àkó
Bird sp.	iwǒli	akǒli
Nile crocodile	ìwórò	ìkórò
Handle (of tool)	ìwùt	ìkùt
Knife	iwór	ìkòr
Stool	itówòṅ	itókòṅ
Guest/stranger	àwèrèṅ	àkwèrèṅ

y/k

	s.	pl.
Medicine (generic)	iyal	ìkàl
Baboon	iyau	ìkyau
Crab	iyale	àkale
Chicken	iyànáṅ	ànkánáṅ
Adze	iyáp	akáp
Hoe I	iyash	akásh
Head-pad	iyâr	akár

h/k

Leopard **ihwè** **ìkwé**

y/j

Tooth **inyiniṅ** **ijiniṅ**
 Buffalo **iyár** **ijár**
 Patas monkey² **iyaram** **ijaram**

Ayu would originally have had an affix system of classic Niger-Congo type, whose traces remain only in the system of consonant mutation. With one exception, the alternating consonant in the singular is a semi-vowel, ‘y’ or ‘w’. The palatal occurs before central or front vowels and the labial before back vowels. This points strongly to original close vowel prefixes, -i or -u and a now deleted initial stem consonant.

The above tables give many examples of tone changes. Nasal insertion is more difficult to characterise.

	s.	pl.
Tooth	inyiniṅ	ijiniṅ
Mushroom	kwínkwèrem	aṅkwínkwèrem
Work	itùm	antomóṅ
Grasscutter ³	ijep	ànjep
Chicken	iyànáṅ	ànkánáṅ

Many words appear to have a nasal inserted before the stem in both singular and plural, suggesting that this process occurred prior to the prefixing system.

¹ (*Cephalophus* spp.)

² (*Erythrocebus patas*)

³ (*Thryonomys Swinderianus*)

	s.	pl.
Star(s)	àndindár	ándindar
Bark (of tree)	ĩkpák	aṅkpák
Horn	àṅkɔ̀lɔ̀k	aṅkɔ̀lɔ̀k
Nose	ĩgwóʃ	ĩgwòʃ

From this data we can reconstruct a tentative morphological history of Ayu nouns.

4. The classification of Ayu

The group of languages originally named Plateau IV by Greenberg, I have recently renamed ‘Ninzic’ because they seem to include the element Nin- in their name which is a root for ‘person’ in some languages. Membership currently includes the following;

- Ninzic
 - Ninzo
 - Ce
 - Bu-Nĩkada
 - Mada
 - Numana-Nunku-Gwantu-Numbu
 - Ningye
 - Kanufi
 - Ninkyop-Nindem
- Others
 - Vaghat-Ya-Bijim-Legeri
 - Ayu?
 - Shall-Zwall?

Of these, Shall-Zwall can be excluded, as it is apparently Beromic and data on the Vaghat cluster is too exiguous to be certain. More extensive data for the Ninzic group suggest that these languages are correctly classified together but doubts about the position of Ayu must arise from the very fragmentary data so far published. To contribute towards resolving the classification of Ayu, I have compared the major wordlist items with nearby languages in §5. The sources of comparative data are as follows;

Hasha, Shall, Sur, Yangkam, Tarok, Ninzo, Berom, Ce, Ningye, Mada, Rukul, Toro, Alumu, Cara, Horom, Bu, Təsu, Izere, Fyem, Bo, Pe, Eggon, Iten, Kulu	own data
Ura, Bokyi, Anaang, Kiong, Ashe, Gure, Kambari, Tiv, Kajju, Rindre, Kwanka, Kuturmi, Gworok, Nindem, Irigwe, Eloyi, Cori, Gyong, Lungu, Jarawan Bantu,	BCCW
cLela	Detweiler
Tala, Buli, Ngas, Dera, Karekare	J & I (1994)
Ron languages: Daffo, Bokkos, Sha, Fyer	Uwe Seibert (n.d.)
Mambiloid languages	Bruce Connell (n.d.)
PLC	Bruce Connell (n.d.)
Hausa	Abraham (1962)
Nupe	Banfield (1914)
Degema	Kari (2000)

5. Ayu wordlist with lexical comparisons

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
1.	Tree (generic)	iwoon	íkóón	cf. Kulu í-kòṅ , Izere kâkón , Hasha iko , Shall kun , Sur kon , Yangkam koon , Tarok akún ‘firewood’. This root is widespread in Niger-Congo, often meaning ‘firewood’.
2.	Leaf	ihwíhwì	ahwíhwì	
3.	Root	ishî	ashî	cf. Tahoss shehe , Ninzo u-zhízhì , Yeskwa ishak ,
4.	Branch	ishár iwoon	ashár íkóón	
5.	Bark (of tree)	ɪŋkpák	ɔŋkpák	cf. Mada kpakpm̄kì ,
6.	Thorn	idor	ador	cf. Yeskwa i-dòk , Ningye ntu , Alumu tòtò , Hasha i-tyok , Ce ì-ttò , Mada ncw̄r
7.	Grass (generic)	ibele	abele	cf. Yeskwa ube ,
8.	Mushroom	kwíŋkwèrem	ɔŋkwíŋkwère m	
9.	Seed/stone/pip	ihwe	—	cf. Iten hwi , ? Izere izhà
10.	Charcoal	incirà	—	
11.	Dust	ìmbüt	—	cf. Berom bwúm , Iten abùŋ , Kulu ge-mpuŋ ⁺
12.	Ashes	antóra	—	cf. Ninzo ìntúró , ?connected with widespread Niger-Congo -ton roots?
13.	Rubbish-heap	itúdúk	—	
14.	Mud	imborin	—	cf. Berom bwórók , Hasha mbimbar ,
15.	Clay	itém	—	cf. Ce ku-ntè , Ningye nkyem , Bu nteme , Mada nt̄r , Hasha titeŋ ,
16.	Dew	iméŋ	—	cf. Berom mwēngē , Kulu u-muŋ , Iten imij , Ninzo àmé , Ningye mmeŋ , Mada m̄mē , Hasha eme , Rukul mmaŋ , Tarok imìmyàŋ , Yangkam myaŋ Niger-Congo root #me-
17.	Stone	itári	itári	cf. Toro tari , Ce ki-tái , Shall tiri , Niger-Congo root #ta-
18.	Sand	incé	—	cf. Yeskwa acep ,
19.	Smoke	àncò	—	cf. Yeskwa u-ŋò , Kulu inci , Ce ìnci , Ningye nteŋ , Bu ente , Berom kyéŋ ,
20.	Fire	ira	—	cf. widespread #-ra roots. Shall ra , Kuturmi ura , Ebira , Kulu ù-lá , Alumu ifira
21.	Water	mayír	—	cf. Yeskwa ame , Ninzo amasírr , Bu mma , Cara mal , Horom bamal , also Ura mò and Bokyi ɔ-mo . Also in Chadic: Tala maal , Buli màl . Words for ‘water’ with ma- are Africa-wide and may derive from the Niger-Congo ma- class-prefix for liquids. ? cf. Ce àwòrò , Kulu ibilá ,
22.	Rain	ibúr	—	
23.	Cloud	abút	—	
24.	Lightning	iràt	arát	
25.	Rainy Season	ibur’ùwò	—	
26.	Dry season	icip’gwè	—	‘season of sun’
27.	Harmattan	àshàwin	—	
28.	Year	iray	aray	
29.	Today	itúró	—	

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
30.	Yesterday	ǎrè		cf. Ninzo nârè , Rukul ire , Ningye ryeɛŋ , Kulu ùlé ,
31.	Tomorrow	ìcám̀bìrì		cf. Ce kambàlà , Bu mbre , Ningye mbwer , Təsu merebi ,
32.	Morning	ìcám̀bìrì		
33.	Evening	ìcàrì		
34.	Dawn	ihwál ìcám̀bìrì		
35.	Day	ìgwécò		
36.	Night	atúk		cf. Yeskwa ucuk , Berom túrūk , but also tūk ‘day of 24 hours’. Also Izere kâ-túk , Sur gutuk , Kulu gè-túk , cf. widespread #tuk- forms See BCCW
37.	Moon/month	ihwé		cf. Yeskwa ufe , Ce Ì- hél , Mada hwé , Berom pwēl , Rukul u-fye , Fyem fyél , Bo fye , but an old Niger-Congo root. Also Ron, Sha, Kulere #fen though probably a loan into Chadic.
38.	Sun	igwé		cf. Berom gwey , Iten gbey ,
39.	Star(s)	àndindár	ándindar	
40.	Wind	igúl		cf. Berom gul ,
41.	God	igwé		as ‘sun’ (38.)
42.	Sky	àhwalabùr		
43.	Ground	icí		
44.	Large River	igókwi		
45.	Stream	igóŋ		
46.	Forest	igóŋ		
47.	Mountain	itùbàl	àtùbàl	
48.	Hill	ibal	àbal	cf. Ce Ì- gbùl , Bu ŋbulu , Ningye nkugbu , Ninzo i-gbú , Cara i-gale ,
49.	Bush	àyây		
50.	Farm	àyây		
51.	Market*	itun’òshir		‘hut of trading’
52.	Compound	iba hurik		
53.	Room	igaŋ	àgaŋ	
54.	Field shelter	imbùt		cf. Ninzo i-burr ,
55.	Wall (of room)	ishincinì		
56.	Thatch roof	alí	—	
57.	Granary	ìŋkpok	àŋkpok	cf. Ninzo ,
58.	Road	ìcúkwi	àcúkwi	
59.	Path	ihwinì	àhwinì	
60.	River-bank	núg̀d̀ŋ	anug̀d̀ŋ	
61.	Swamp/wetland	irók	ìr̀d̀k	
62.	Place	àtèr	—	
63.	Person/people	incéŋ	acéŋ	
64.	Man	incéŋ	acéŋ	
65.	Woman	in̄ar	aŋar	
66.	Child	ihwe	aŋwê	
67.	Husband	aráy	àrày	
68.	Wife	in̄ar	aŋar	
69.	Young man	ihwiʃ̀d̀ŋ	aŋwéʃ̀d̀ŋ	
70.	Young girl	ihwélǎŋ	aŋwélǎŋ	

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
71.	Old man	àrùm	àrúm	
72.	Old woman	iyakùk	ayakùk	
73.	Father	àbà	abâ	
74.	Mother	iyâ	—	cf. Ningye iya , Mada yā . Also widespread in Afroasiatic e.g. Hausa iya
75.	Barren woman	ìkpà	—	
76.	Relations	anér		
77.	Ancestors	àshíci		
78.	Brother	atúnj		
79.	Sister	ala		
80.	Friend	ajèn	àjen	cf. Ningye tsen ,
81.	Guest/stranger	àwɛɛɛɛ	àkwɛɛɛɛ	
82.	King/chief/ruler	àgòm	agòm	cf. Butu gwomu , Wapa kəmu , Abuan ùwémú , Mapeo gàŋ , PEG *- kúm ,
83.	Hunter	àshilum	—	
84.	Thief	àyí	ayí	
85.	Doctor	afíyál	áfíkàl	the –kal element is widespread across Plateau as ‘medicine’ (cf. Below).
86.	Witch	àgòròm	àgòròm	
87.	Corpse	ikóm icén	akóm acén	cf. Yeskwa ukom , Jijili ukɔ , Ake ɔkwɔ , Eggon okom , Ce ki-kúm , Izere kukóm , Mada kón , Tarok akúm ., Also in Chadic Goemai kum , Ngas kuum .
88.	Blacksmith	afítúgatúk	—	
89.	Slave	ákwà	—	
90.	Masquerade	aboof	ábóóf	cf. Izere Àbòs . Generic term for masquerade
91.	Masquerade I	ámberéntú		celebrates the first cutting of palm-fruits
92.	Masquerade II	àdàkir		
93.	Masquerade III	àgbàfa		
94.	Masquerade IV	ìjàŋgbòŋ		
95.	Masquerade V	akobéré		
96.	Shame	ishà		
97.	Fear/fright	aník		
98.	Bravery/courage	ashékígír		
99.	Laughter	ìmɛm		
100.	Wisdom	ìgùp		
101.	Guilt	ashétaátik		
102.	Anger	ìkèrè		
103.	Race/running	àtele		
104.	Suffering	ìrishiyâ		
105.	Death	kpók		
106.	Name	índíshi		
107.	Grave	ikút	akút	
108.	Song	ìle	àle	
109.	Story	abínòŋ	ábínòŋ	
110.	Word	àŋkpɛŋ	àŋkpɛŋ	
111.	Lie	ihwák	ihwák	
112.	News	abín		
113.	Hunger	iyonj		Widespread throughout Plateau. cf. Kulu iyonj ⁺ , Berom vyonj , Ningye jonj , Yeskwa uvome , Fyem yónj , Tarok ayánj , Sur yyonj

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
114.	Horn	àṅkólók	àṅkólók	
115.	Tail	idúm	idùm	Throughout Benue-Congo cf. Egeṅè ù-tùmù , Hasha i-jum , Arum ijimù , Ningye ndum , Izere kúrùm , Vute dūúm , Tahoss rum ,
116.	Egg	icèbè	àcèbè	cf. Tarok aci , Yeskwa ku-cai , Nupe ezi , Pe ti-ci pl. a-ci , Yaṅkam gyo Common in Plateau in this form, but reflects a Niger-Congo root with g- initial (W. 214)
117.	Wing	àkún	—	
118.	Beak	ikóbénù	—	
119.	Nest	ikut	—	
120.	Feather	ishêm	àshêm	
121.	Gum/glue	ìntàm	—	
122.	Ant-hill	ikuruṅḍk	—	
123.	Hole in ground	irók	iròk	see 'swamp'
124.	Hole in tree	iduṅ	idùṅ	
125.	Smell	ilâk	—	
126.	Poison	itòsh	—	
127.	Load	ìgom	—	
128.	Bundle	ìto	—	
129.	Firewood	ìkon'orà	—	
130.	Stick	àgâr	agâr	
131.	Yam-heap	afil	—	
132.	War	ìren	—	
133.	Work	itûm	ántomónḡ	Widespread Niger-Congo root #-tom
134.	Medicine (generic)	iyal	ikàl	cf. Ce íkál , Berom hwal ⁺ , Iten hwál ,
135.	Money	àtom	—	
136.	Shadow	imà	àmá	
137.	Thing	ìgum	—	
138.	Strength	àcéshek	—	
139.	Length	injanḡ	—	
140.	Land/country	ici	—	
141.	Sleep	àrá	—	
142.	Disease(generic)	indo	—	
143.	Smallpox	indodà	—	
144.	Diarrhoea	ihwirinḡ	—	
145.	Goitre	ikururkêk	—	
146.	Boil	ihwík	—	
147.	Sore/wound	ihoor	àhoor	
148.	Head	ito	ato	cf. Ningye tu , Mada tú but probably a vowel-change from the more common #ti-roots
149.	Eye	ijo	ajo	cf. Tari ajo ,
150.	Face	ajo	—	i.e 'eyes'
151.	Cheek	abató	—	
152.	Forehead	ìgwòḡ	ìgwòḡ	
153.	Nose	inḡwòḡ	inḡwòḡ	
154.	Ear	ito	ato	cf. Yeskwa ku-tɔ , Kulu gù-tónḡ , Ninzo ùtú , Mada tɔn , Fyem hutónḡ , Bo utó also throughout Tarokoid, but a PVC root #tuN-

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
155.	Mouth	inú	—	Also Chadic: Sha 'a-tôn cf. Berom nú, Ningye nyu, Mada nyū, Fyem núŋ, but a Niger-Congo root
156.	Tooth	inyiniŋ	ijiniŋ	cf. Ninzo ìnyìrr, Bu enyiri, Shall yinin, Tarok ìnyin. A Niger-Congo root
157.	Tongue	ibér	ibèr	cf. Kulu i-blé 'lip',
158.	Throat	ìŋìŋgwòr	—	the -gor element is widespread in Niger-Congo
159.	Neck	ìkèk	akêk	
160.	Chin	ìrèfèŋ	arêfèŋ	
161.	Shoulder	atôjak	—	
162.	Armpit	abâk	—	cf. Tarok abáksím,
163.	Arm	ajâk	—	
164.	Hand	ibok	abók	PP2 gu-bok but a widespread Niger-Congo root
165.	Leg	ìhwól	ahwól	cf. Yeskwa ku-vo, Berom bwol,
166.	Thigh	iták	àtak	also ìŋkpâ iták. cf. Shall tak, Berom tà,
167.	Knee	itúkùl	àtúkùl	
168.	Nail (Finger/toe)	kububòk	akúbubok	
169.	Female breast	ìŋgbál	àngbál	cf. Kulu di-báára,
170.	Stomach	ilăw	ilàw	cf. Niger-Congo words for 'intestine'.
171.	Chest	àgìr	—	
172.	Navel	iwòp	àwòp	cf. Yeskwa ivop, Berom hwóp, Pe, Tarok ìgum, Yanjam kum, Nindem ìkom, also PLC *-kóp, Nizaa kómni, Vute cómè.
173.	Back	ìŋkùni	àngkùni	
174.	Buttocks	atámbùn	—	
175.	Penis	ìhwì	àhwì	
176.	Vagina	ìhwél	ahwél	
177.	Skin	ìhwá ilòk	—	
178.	Bone	ìkùp	àkùp	cf. Berom, Iten kùp, Hyam kup, Bo ukúp, PJ *kup, Kwanja Ndung kfê, Ninzo ukfúkúfú, Yeskwa ku-fup, Fyem huhúp pl. ahúp, weakened from the more widespread Niger-Congo #kup.
179.	Vein	icíp	acíp	cf. Tarok icíp, Kulu è-cóp, Cara i-vip, Hasha i-ŋif,
180.	Blood	àmiŋ	—	cf. Berom nèmí, Eggon manji,
181.	Breath	isháŋ	—	
182.	Tear	ayil	—	cf. Kulu bè-ziri,
183.	Saliva	àncésh	—	
184.	Sweat	icil	—	
185.	Urine	ahwiri	—	cf. Kulu bepíli,
186.	Faeces	ijin	—	
187.	Hair	antúli	—	
188.	Beard	àntèn	—	cf. Ninzo à-ntàrr,
189.	Liver	aŋai	—	cf. Cara anye,
190.	Heart	àjòr	—	
191.	Intestines	ìgilau	—	cf. Ningye rìre, Rukul ilel, . Proto-Ijoid ílá
192.	Body	ilau	—	as 'stomach'
193.	Meat	ìnám	—	Niger-Congo #-nam
194.	Animal (Bush)	ìnàm yây	ìnàm kây	

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
195.	Cow	àràndon	árándón	cf. Ninzo a-lando , but widespread in Plateau
196.	Goat	ìbùlú yìt		cf. Ce Ì-wúl, Kulu gí-mbuṅ ,
197.	He-goat	agbôm	—	
198.	Castrated goat	irà̀m	—	cf. Mada ràm ,
199.	Sheep	ìtambas	àtambas	cf. Tarok itám ,
200.	Ram	àtùrù		
201.	Dog	ijá	anjá	
202.	*Cat	adamús	ádámús	< Hausa
203.	*Horse	idûsh	àdûsh	
204.	Elephant	inyè	ànyé	cf. Yeskwa inyè , Anaang é-nìn , Kìyong e-nie , Ashe ini , Mada , Eggon è-njí , and also in WBC
205.	Buffalo	iyár	ijár	cf. Tarok izàr , Ninzo iyár , Hyam hyas , widespread in BC also in Chadic, cf. Daffo yàt .
206.	Lion	adár	ádár	
207.	Leopard	ihwè	ikwé	cf. Yeskwa ike , Horom kyè , Rukul i-kwì , Niger-Congo root #- gbe , -kpe
208.	Civet cat ⁴	ijëbur		
209.	Wart-hog ⁵	idúrá	adúrá	
210.	Duiker antelope ⁶	iwó	àkó	= H. <i>barewa</i>
211.	Roan antelope ⁷	irosh	arosh	
212.	Porcupine ⁸	anyícat	ányícat	
213.	Baboon	iyaw	ikyaw	cf. Hyam
214.	Patas monkey ⁹	iyaram	ijaram	cf. Izere izàrà̀m ,
215.	Vervet monkey ¹⁰	agarama	ágáramà	
216.	Squirrel (ground)	it̀̀k	àt̀̀k	cf. Ce Ì-t̀̀k, Berom rók , Kulu gè-cúk , Ganang a-r̀̀k , Alumu i-t̀̀d , presumably proto-Plateau
217.	Rat (generic)	iku	àṅku	cf. Alumu i-kwì , Hasha i-kwì , Fyem kwi , Pe ikuu , probably also Tarok ipi . + LC
218.	Bush-rat I	ìkucècè		
219.	Bush-rat II	ìkuyey		
220.	Giant rat ¹¹	ihwèrè	àhwèrè	cf. Kulu gè-kúré ,
221.	Grasscutter ¹²	ijep	ànjep	
222.	Hedgehog ¹³	iciríca	iciríca	
223.	Hare ¹⁴	àṅwúminjèṅ	àṅwúminjèṅ	
224.	Fruit-bat	ìṅgbok	àṅgbok	
225.	Nile crocodile	iwórò	ìkórò	cf. Tari nhworin , Kulu èguru , Toro kuru , Bu ṅkuru , Ninzo àkur , Ce ikut , Also in

⁴ (*Viverra civetta*)⁵ (*Phacochoerus aethiopus*)⁶ (*Cephalophus* spp.)⁷ (*Hippotragus equinus*)⁸ (*Hystrix cristata*)⁹ (*Erythrocebus patas*)¹⁰ (*Cercopithecus aethiops*)¹¹ (*Cretomyces* sp.)¹² (*Thryonomys Swinderianus*)¹³ (*Atelerix albiventris*)¹⁴ (*Lepus Crawshayi*)

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
				Chadic: Goemai ƙut , Ngas kut .
226.	Chameleon	íshùrùwé	áshùrùwé	cf. Kulu è-cùrú ,
227.	Agama lizard	íbwôl	ábwôl	
228.	Skink	íntámêr	ántámêr	cf. Ningye cimbwôr ,
229.	Gecko	íntalâs	ántalâs	
230.	Monitor lizard (<i>damo</i>)	ákúrúbá	—	
231.	Monitor lizard (<i>guza</i>)	ìjeŋ	àjeŋ	
232.	Toad	íŋkpònjèrè	áŋkpònjèrè	
233.	Tortoise	íŋkúrùhwà	áŋkúrùhwà	
234.	Snake (Generic)	ìgwak	àgwak	cf. Ninzo iwa , but a widespread Niger-Congo root
235.	Spitting cobra	ítùk	átúk	
236.	Python	ìceŋ	àceŋ	cf. Kulu i-ceŋ ,
237.	Crab	ìyale	àkale	
238.	Fish (generic)	ìmbére	ambére	cf. Ningye mbe , Bu lambe ,
239.	Bird (generic)	ìnòn	anón	cf. Horom nòn , Tarok inyil , Pe i-nol , Yañkam noi A common Benue-Congo root also found in Bantu. Mukarovksy (II, 405) gives examples that suggest a reconstruction to Proto-Volta-Congo.
240.	Chicken	ìyànáŋ	ànkánáŋ	
241.	Cock	agwâk	—	cf. Ningye gbak , Bu bakò ,
242.	Guinea-fowl	ítèk	aték	
243.	Hooded Vulture ¹⁵	ìŋgùlùk	áŋgùlùk	
244.	Black kite ¹⁶	ìhweŋ	áhweŋ	
245.	Owl (spp.)	ìkùp	àkùp	
246.	Woodpecker	ìgòsikò		
247.	Swallow	agáhywèrè		
248.	Senegal coucal	ítùtu		
249.	Dove	ìrátere		H <i>kurciya</i>
250.	Bird I	àkajá	—	3/3
251.	Bird II	acétòri		long beak
252.	Bird III	akwiríkwà		big, white and black
253.	Bird IV	iwɔ̀li	akɔ̀li	10/2
254.	Bird V	ítèk	aték	
255.	Scorpion	ìláj	àláj	cf. Berom lyàŋ , Kulu ì-naŋ ,
256.	Mosquito	ìbo	ibo	cf. Yeskwa i-bò ,
257.	Spider ¹⁷	àntíntaŋ	—	
258.	Bee	ìŋwòk ikò		
259.	Housefly	ìcúwè	icúwè	
260.	Ant (Generic)	adashí shànàŋ		cf. PP2 #-s(u)an,
261.	Termite	ìŋwòk		
262.	Giant Snail	kwikwári		Nupe ekpa , Mada kpār , Kulu gí-kwel ,
263.	Oil	ànð		cf. Bu inye , Hasha ane , Təsu amene , Berom nói , Iten noi , Gure mani , Tarok

¹⁵ (*Neophron monachus*)¹⁶ (*Milvus migrans*)¹⁷ (*Acarina spp.*)

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
				n̄m̄i , Central Kambari m̄n̄i and ultimately Hausa mai .
264.	Fat/grease	ahwêp		cf. Kulu d̄i-pép , Chawai bap , Jijili mbye , Berom sēbwép , Yangkam m-byep , Nnakenyare byep , reconstructed to EBC as #-byep
265.	Salt	imbâsh		cf. Cara imbasi , Berom nvwāshè , Rukul mmok , Fyem, Horom ma , Tarok m̄m̄an , but also Fulfulde manda
266.	Soup/stew	àniŋ		cf. Izere riniŋ , Ningye nyiŋ , Nindem à-niŋ , Ninkyop n̄iŋ ,
267.	Porridge	ìngbò		
268.	Sorghum-beer	ànc̄i		cf. e.g. Tarok ñcè , Ningye ncen ,
269.	Palm-wine	ànc̄anàk		
270.	Handle (of tool)	ìwùt	ìkùt	
271.	Iron	ìtom		cf. Kulu ì-com ,
272.	Axe	ìgbè	agbé	cf. Hasha ikai , Ningye ŋgai , Ninzo á-ŋgar , Bu in̄ge , Nupe egbà , cf. Gworok kap 'hoe'
273.	Adze	iyáp	akáp	
274.	Hoe I	iyash	akásh	
275.	Knife	iwór	ìkòr	cf. Izere its̄òr , Hyam kõn ,
276.	Comb	ìgwèsh	ìgwèsh	
277.	Fireplace	àhwírà	—	
278.	Shoe	ahwahwól	—	
279.	Mortar (wood)	ìntúm	àntúm	cf. Hyam ntuur ,
280.	Pestle	ìntíshi	àntíshi	
281.	Pot (generic)	ìre	àre	cf. Rukul a-risen , Ningye ren , Ninzo àmpírì , ka- element is a widespread Volta-Congo root. cf. PWN
282.	Head-pad	iyâr	akár	cf. Ningye sisan̄ , Ninzo í-sísà , Hyam shiseŋ ,
283.	Basket (generic)	ìshèn	àshèn	cf. Ningye mbumbum ,
284.	Winnowing tray	imûm	amûm	
285.	Mat (generic)	ìgomolòòk		
286.	Mat I			
287.	Needle	iwêp	—	
288.	Spear	in̄kâm		widespread Niger-Congo root
289.	Bow	àtáù		#-ta is a Niger-Congo root
290.	Arrow	ishér	ìshèr	cf. Toro sara , Doka ire-sala , Surubu u-cira , Hasha ikir , Piti ucir . Also ? LC -dan̄ , Mambila sàn̄ . See BCCW,4
291.	Quiver	agbanduŋ	àgbándúŋ	cf. Ningye banduŋ ,
292.	Rope	irík	ìrik	cf. Tarok irík , Ningye riri , Kulu ù-lík ,
293.	Stool	itówòn	itókòn	
294.	Wooden door	ankpôŋ		
295.	Fence	ìntaŋ	antaŋ	
296.	Bee-hive	àkàshítóŋ	—	
297.	Fish-Net	àkpòrò		
298.	Fish-trap I	ihúsh		
299.	Fish-trap II	àngwòk		
300.	One	ìdì		cf. Kulu ,
301.	Two	àhwà		cf. Tari hwan , Mbòŋnò hwaan , Somyev

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
				haan , Tiv -hár ?, Kajju -hwa , Mada há , Rindre a-ha , These may all be independent weakenings of the more widespread #-fa root.
302.	Three	atáár		#-tar- roots are widespread in Niger-Congo
303.	Four	ànáṅàs		#-naas- roots are widespread in Niger-Congo
304.	Five	atúgen		#-toon- roots are widespread in Niger-Congo. The inserted -g- is somewhat unusual and cf. Kwanka towon and Berom tūngūn ,
305.	Six	àtéèr		cf. Tari titar , Horom taran , Izere ìgàtaar , ? cognate with widespread roots such as Nindem ù-táání
306.	Seven	atáráṅash		
307.	Eight	kánárash		cf. Izere ìkara ,
308.	Nine	atúlí bwook		cf. Tari abok ,
309.	Ten	ishók		cf. Izere kùsók , Hyam shok , Təsu tsə , Tari nsok , Ninzo tsó 'twelve',
310.	Eleven	ìṅbedî		
311.	Twelve	anḡehwâ		
312.	Twenty	ishoo hwâ		
313.	Twenty-four	ishoo hwâ nenanàsh		
314.	Forty	ishoo náṅàsh		
315.	Hundred	inàk		cf. Izere kùsók inyak ,
316.	'Remain'	shik		
317.	Add to	mólùk		
318.	Answer (question)	yit		
319.	Arrive	yek		
320.	Ask a question	lúṅúk		cf. Kuturmi u-runo ,
321.	Ask/beg for something	cumáà		
322.	Awaken (s.o.)	yèlèk		
323.	Bark (dog)	gbush		cf. Izere gbúsùm , Gworok gbúm , Ningye bus , Ningye bus , Ake bḡ , Jijili boro ,
324.	Be bent	yàlàk		
325.	Be heavy	lígen		
326.	Be on (s.t.)	hwal		
327.	Be rotten	jish		
328.	Be short	kpésh		cf. Ningye pes ,
329.	Beat (drum)	góròk		
330.	Beat (s.o.)	góròk		? cf. Gyong ywot ,
331.	Become dry	lâp		also 'dry in sun' (364.).
332.	Begin	túmúk		
333.	Bite	rət		cf. Fyem đót , Berom rot and Irigwe ryo and possibly Akpet ro . All may ultimately derive from the loss of the final nasal on forms related to PB #-dum- which appears as #-rom- in some Plateau languages
334.	Blow (flute etc.)	gwi		

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
335.	Boil	sháshe		
336.	Build (house etc.)	lok		cf. Berom, Kwanka lok , Gworok nók , Izere nók ,
337.	Burn (fire burns)	gwen		
338.	Bury	yap		
339.	Buy	yáye		
340.	Call (to someone)	wush		
341.	Carry	bək		
342.	Carve (wood etc.)	shábak		cf. Fyem sep , Kulu, Nindem, Kwanka sep and Jju ʃab , Cara ʃipal , Ningye, Bu ʃe , Pe ʃap , Hasha sep . < Proto-Plateau ʃep . cf. Fyem, Horom wum ,
343.	Catch	wúm		
344.	Chew	rəŋ		
345.	Choose	shəl		cf. Kulu sèè ,
346.	Climb	jerek		cf. Izere ŋárak ,
347.	Close	cit, kábak		
348.	Come	yek		
349.	Come out (of room), exit	wirik		cf. Izere wúruk , Irigwe wùrù , Iten wuru , Gworok wurug , Kulu wuluu , Hasha wərek , Degema wðlá ,
350.	Continue (to do s.t.)	kðl		
351.	Cook	sháshe		
352.	Cough	kðrðsh		
353.	Count	hwágak		
354.	Cover	cit		
355.	Cut down (tree)	cam		cf. Kulu cám , Gworok tyam ,
356.	Cut off (head etc.)	cat		cf. Kəjju tyat ,
357.	Dance	cét		
358.	Die	kpómó		cf. Eloyi é-kpómò , Cori aŋ-kpu , Kulu kpu ⁺ ,
359.	Dig (earth etc.)	shin		cf. Fyem cin , Berom cin , Yanjam sun , Sur ʃin , Təsu ʃumu , Kulu tum ⁺ ,
360.	Do/make	kðl		
361.	Drag	cuk		
362.	Drink	wó		cf. Tarok wá , ? Gyong xwa , Hasha wu ,
363.	Drop	kpək		
364.	Dry in sun	láp		also 'become dry' (331.). cf. Ninzo là , Mada lá ,
365.	Eat	re		cf. Fyem dyé , Bo ré , Mada ré , linked to the widespread -ri , -di roots found in Niger-Congo
366.	Enter	kóyò		
367.	Extinguish	rín		cf. Gyong limi , Berom rimo , Mada rin , Izere rímín , but a widespread Niger-Congo root.
368.	Fall (rain)	kúsh		cf. Mada kū , Gworok kwa ,
369.	Fall over	kó		cf. Rindre ruku ,
370.	Fear	nik		cf. Anaang n-dik , Iten ,
371.	Feel (cold etc.)	coroshè		

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
372.	Fight (in war)	gwa		
373.	Finish (a task)	taram̀̀		
374.	Flow (water etc.)	shìshì		
375.	Fold (cloth etc.)	yàl		
376.	Follow	kwishí		cf. Izere kúùs ,
377.	Forget	kpà shúnùŋ		
378.	Fry (in oil)	yáláŋ		
379.	Gather/collect	mólùk		
380.	Get	wó		
381.	Give	nàma		cf. Izere naŋ , Tarok ná #na is widespread throughout Plateau. Also Chadic: Tangale oni .
382.	Give birth	már		cf. Tarok mar , Idun mara , Niger-Congo #ma ,
383.	Go	naŋ		
384.	Grind	kwàk		cf. Mada, Bu k̀̀ , Rukul kwɔ , Cara kɔŋ , Pe kòk , PLC *kók , Sur gwak , Yanƙam gba , Tarok kpà . < PEBC #kpwak . Also in Chadic: Ngas gwak
385.	Grow (plants)	wùshék		
386.	Hatch (egg)	hoshok		
387.	Hear	coroshè		
388.	Hoe	coŋ		
389.	Hunt	lúm		
390.	Jump	lár		
391.	Kill	hu		Weakening of widespread Niger-Congo root #ku
392.	Know	ye		cf. Tarok nyí , Pe yi ,
393.	Laugh	mèm		cf. Horom mis , Izere mas , etc. Also found in Chadic, e.g. Diri mēs , Tera másó but probably a loan into Chadic.
394.	Learn	másh		
395.	Lick	le		cf. Gyong lén , Buji lama , Kwanka lyam , cLela lèmse , Lamnso la . Forms with initial l- are very widespread in Niger-Congo and there may be an ideophonic element
396.	Lie down	lòsh		
397.	Listen	cò		
398.	Lose s.t.	bùdúm̀̀		cf. Kulu bùlù ,
399.	Marry	j̀̀̀m		
400.	Mix	shen		cf. Ningye saŋ ,
401.	Mould (pot)	lok		cf. 'build' (336.)
402.	Open	yarak		
403.	Pierce/stab	torok		cf. Izere túbùk ,
404.	Plait (hair)	lok		cf. 'build' (336.)
405.	Plant (crop etc.)	tùrèk		cf. Izere túùs ,
406.	Play	j̀̀̀l		cf. Izere yórók ,
407.	Pound (in mortar)	tòk		widespread Niger-Congo root
408.	Pour (liquid)	kwírik		cf. Izere kórók ,
409.	Pull	cùk		
410.	Push	càlàk		? cf. Kulu tal ⁺ 'pull',

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
411.	Put on (clothes)	kwírík		
412.	Receive	yáí		
413.	Refuse	jak		
414.	Resemble	ri		cf. Mada ru , Kulu lílí ,
415.	Return	kpiŋ		
416.	Ride (horse etc.)	jèrək		cf. Izere ŋárək ,
417.	Roast on coals	gwěk		
418.	Rub	hwâŋ		cf. Gworok kwan ,
419.	Run	télén		cf. Izere téŋ , Yamba cəŋ , Tarok cír , < PBC # ŋir -
420.	Say/speak	shé		cf. Izere fě ,
421.	See	rìn		cf. Izere dí ,
422.	Seek	bè		
423.	Sell	shĩŋ		
424.	Send	coshè		
425.	Set trap	kushi		
426.	Sew	toreŋ		widespread but scattered in Plateau. cf. Kulu taà , Berom tolo Lungu sór , Cori tar , Gworok twáy , Tari fwel , Izere tós and Fyem twol , but probably also Jarawan Bantu # soro . Also in Chadic: Daffo, Bokkos toor , Fyer sool .
427.	Shake	gbik		
428.	Sharpen	kwâk		
429.	Shoot (arrow, gun)	táák		cf. Izere, Kulu tá , Tarok, Yangkam, Sur tat ⁺ . A Niger-Congo root often found as # ta ‘bow’
430.	Sing	lé		
431.	Sit down	wósh		
432.	Slaughter (animal)	kwàr		
433.	Sleep	lóshàra		? cf. Hyam of Kwoi ló , and widespread # la elements in Niger-Congo
434.	Smash	wòdòk		cf. Ningye wòl ,
435.	Smell	làk		cf. Tari lam ,
436.	Snap in two	bun		cf. Tarok óún ,
437.	Sow seeds	hwík		
438.	Spit	kpánces		
439.	Split	wórók		
440.	Stand	yele loi		see homophonous ‘fly’. cf. Fyem yila , Bo yaláx , Sur yel , where similar associations obtains. Also in Chadic: Dera yir- , Karekare ’yaar- , perhaps Hausa tsáyàà cf. Tarok yi , Kulu jii ⁺ ,
441.	Steal	yí		
442.	Stir (soup)	hwírík		
443.	Suck (breast etc.)	wo		
444.	Surpass	shòò		cf. Kulu seele ⁺ , ? Tyap ŋak ,
445.	Swallow	mé		cf. Mada mrě , Yangkam mər , Sur mərək , Tarok məkən ⁺ , Ekoid mèl , Mambila mènà . Connected with a widespread root for ‘throat’ reconstructed for PEBC as # -meren
446.	Sweep	yásh		

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
447.	Swell	hùluk		
448.	Take	hwăk		
449.	Tear (cloth etc.)	wór		
450.	Tell	ruyí		
451.	Throw	táák		cf. 'shoot' (429.)
452.	Tie	rəp		cf. Nindem lɔp , Gworok láp ,
453.	Touch	tálak		
454.	Twist (rope etc.)	yálăk		
455.	Untie	bírík		cf. Izere bísík , Gworok byuk ,
456.	Uproot (tuber)	cúnúk		cf. Ningye cun ,
457.	Vomit	hwésh		
458.	Walk	cèl		cf. Tarok cèn ,
459.	Want/need	wók		cf. Kulu wáá , Nupe wá , Kadara waŋ , Tarok wá , Yakö wó ,
460.	Wash	kùsh		cf. Izere kúsú ,
461.	Wear	kwírík		
462.	Weed	tolon		cf. Izere koron ,
463.	Weep	kúr		
464.	Wipe	yásh		
465.	Work	tùm		cf. Ningye tum , but a widespread Niger-Congo root
466.	Yawn	yáshé àkpərən		
467.	I	mè		
468.	You	njuk		
469.	He/she/it	yíyo	inyàntò	
470.	we	bibîr		
471.	you pl.	bibìn		
472.	They	bíra		

Edible and Useful Plants

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
473.	Guinea-yam ¹⁸	icit	acít	cf. Yeskwa acit , widespread Benue-Congo root #-ci
474.	Aerial yam ¹⁹	ìtom	àtom	
475.	Water-yam ²⁰	cíbéyeŋ		
476.	Taro (Old cocoyam) ²¹	àgù	ágù	
477.	Cassava* ²²	cíbíwòòn	cíbíkòòn	
478.	Sweet potato* ²³	àdàŋkàlì		< Hausa
479.	Wild yam I	irûk	arûk	
480.	Wild yam II	ákácây		
481.	Sorghum ²⁴	kwírík		

¹⁸ (*Dioscorea guineensis*)

¹⁹ (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)

²⁰ (*Dioscorea alata*)

²¹ (*Colocasia esculenta*)

²² (*Manihot esculenta*)

²³ (*Ipomoea batatas*)

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482.	Bulrush millet ²⁵ (<i>gero</i>)	àṅgai		
483.	Eleusine* ²⁶	àṅkwana		
484.	Fonio (<i>H. acca</i>) ²⁷	ìkan		
485.	Iburu (<i>H. iburu</i>) ²⁸	àmana		
486.	Maize* ²⁹	àkurû		cf. Tarok ìkùr 'sorghum',
487.	Rice* ³⁰	ìhwé bèlè		
488.	Cowpea ³¹	ìtèk		
489.	Bambara groundnut ³²	ìwhítùm		
490.	Groundnut (Peanut) ³³	ìwhí		cf. Tarok aḿi
491.	Pigeon pea	ìtek shìrû		an important crop
492.	Tiger-nut ³⁴	ìbôk		
493.	Garden egg ³⁵	ìwhe		cf. Izere ìwhè
494.	Okra ³⁶	andani		
495.	Chili pepper* (large) ³⁷	ìshép		
496.	Birdseye chili* ³⁸	ìshebìcì		
497.	Edible squash ³⁹	ìwhètàr		
498.	Sorrel/roselle ⁴⁰	ìjobe		
499.	Kenaf ⁴¹	ìhwash		
500.	Sesame seeds ⁴²	ànkón		
501.	Sesame leaves ⁴³	ànyiyir		
502.	Bitterleaf ⁴⁴	àtùle		
503.	Plantain (<i>Musa</i> AAB)	ìṅwàr		
504.	Banana (<i>Musa</i> AAA)			
505.	Orange* ⁴⁵	lèmu	—	

²⁴ (*Sorghum bicolor*)

²⁵ (*Pennisetum* spp.)

²⁶ (*H. tamba*) (*Eleusine coracana*)

²⁷ (*Digitaria exilis*)

²⁸ (*Digitaria iburua*)

²⁹ (*Zea mays*)

³⁰ (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)

³¹ (*Vigna unguiculata*)

³² (*Vigna subterranea*)

³³ (*Arachis hypogaea*)

³⁴ (*Cyperus esculentus*)

³⁵ (*Solanum melongena*)

³⁶ (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)

³⁷ (*Capsicum frutescens*)

³⁸ (*Capsicum annuum*)

³⁹ (*Cucurbita pepo*)

⁴⁰ (*H. yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)

⁴¹ (*H. rama*) (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)

⁴² (*H. Riđi*) (*Sesamum indicum*)

⁴³ (*H. karkashi*)

⁴⁴ *Vernonia amygdalina*

⁴⁵ (*Citrus sinensis*)

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506.	Bamboo	ija	àja	
507.	Gourd (Generic)	icè	àcé	
508.	Pawpaw* ⁴⁶	ihwèè		
509.	Gourd (Generic)	icè	àcé	
510.	Oil-palm ⁴⁷	iwol	ìkol	cf. Tarok akúlóm,
511.	Palm-fruit	ìtuwòl	àtokòl	
512.	Palm-oil	ànd'yèŋ	—	
513.	Palm kernel	ìŋkpè'wol	ankpe'kòl	
514.	Fan-palm ⁴⁸	ìŋkwòk	àŋkwòk	cf. Kulu gáŋkúk,
515.	Canarium tree ⁴⁹	ihwar	àhwar	
516.	Custard apple ⁵⁰	àmùrùgwák		
517.	Wild date-palm ⁵¹	àshíshare		
518.	Silk-cotton tree ⁵²	íkúm	akum	cf. Kulu gù-kúúmú, but a widespread root in the W. African savanna
519.	Shea tree ⁵³	ìndíndèn		cf. Tarok itíní,
520.	Locust tree ⁵⁴	ìlòy	àlòy	cf. Tarok ilúr, Mada lō, Nupe lonci, and widespread in West Africa
521.	Locust fruit	idúshilôy	adúshilôy	
522.	Locust-bean cakes	ibè	abé	
523.	<i>Daniellia oliveri</i>	itup	—	
524.	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	ìŋgàr	—	
525.	p. 288	intèp		
526.	<i>Parinari curatellifolia</i>	ìndùn		
527.	<i>Piliostigma thonningii</i>	àŋbàŋ		H. kalgo
528.		ìkpār		224
529.		ìŋgút		218
530.	<i>Lannea acida</i>	ihwár	—	
531.	<i>Khaya senegalensis</i>	ìnjàr	ánjàr	
532.				
533.				
534.				
535.				
536.				
537.	<i>Grewia mollis</i>			
538.				
539.	<i>Terminalia</i> sp. ⁵⁵	ìkírìŋ		
540.	<i>Vitex doniana</i>	itú	atú	cf. Tarok ìcù, Kulu gè-nshù,

⁴⁶ (*Carica papaya*)

⁴⁷ (*Elaeis guineensis*)

⁴⁸ (*Borassus aethiopum*)

⁴⁹ (*Canarium schweinfurthii*)

⁵⁰ (*Annona senegalensis*)

⁵¹ (*Phoenix reclinata*)

⁵² (*Ceiba pentandra*)

⁵³ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)

⁵⁴ (*Parkia biglobosa*)

⁵⁵ (*H. baushae*)

541.	<i>Vitex sp.</i>	ítú' yà̀r	atú' yà̀r	

Musical Instruments

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
542.	Barrel-drum	àṅgìṅgàṅ	áṅgìṅgàṅ	corresponds to Hausa <i>gangaa</i>
543.	Hourglass Drum	aṅkandûṅ	áṅkándûṅ	
544.	Long drum	ìṅgìṅgǎ wàsa	—	long drum, beaten with the hands, held between the legs. Played after the harvest
545.	Flute	aṅâsh	aṅash	vertical flute, 40 cm. long with three fingerholes, played to praise important people
546.	Raft-zither	ìrùm	—	played to accompany women's dancing. high-pitched
547.	Raft-zither	ìrùm ðkwì	—	played for important people. low-pitched
548.	Lute	ìrùm ùcè	—	played by old people for personal amusement
549.	Transverse clarinet	ànjór	—	made of a guinea-corn internode. Played by young men after harvest
550.	Bean-pod rattle	akwíkwá	—	played by old women for amusement
551.	Musical bow	àṅgìrìṅgòṅ	—	
552.	Ankle rattles	atánjòk	—	palm-leaf boxes made from the fan-palm. Used when the masquerade appears
553.	Women's dance	ìhwas ìrùm		performed during marriage

6. Conclusion

The most striking thing about the lexical cognates of Ayu is the wide variety of Plateau subgroups they appear to draw on. Kulu, Izere, Berom, Tarok and Ninzic languages all show some good or very good cognates. since many of these do not go back to Niger-Congo or even proto-Plateau, it is reasonable to assume they are borrowings, adopted when the migrant Ayu stayed long enough to intermarry and become partial bilinguals.

From the present data it seems likely that Ayu is not fundamentally a Ninzic language; cognates are essentially the result of contact, not genetic links. The cognates with Izere and Beromic languages, with which it is not today in contact directly, suggest a quite different geographical location in the past. Berom has a wide influence on languages in the region, whereas Izere is remote and is not used as a second language. This suggests that Izere cognates have important significance in historical terms. Is it possible that Ayu is originally a Plateau 2 group (called South-central in the most recent classification). South-central Plateau consists of;

Irigwe
Izere cluster
Jju

Tyap cluster (Tyap, Gworok, Atakar, Kacicere, Sholyo, Kafancan)

The principal published source on this group is Gerhardt (1983).

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