

**A dictionary of the Jili (Migili)
language
of
Central Nigeria**

[DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT]

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1. Introduction

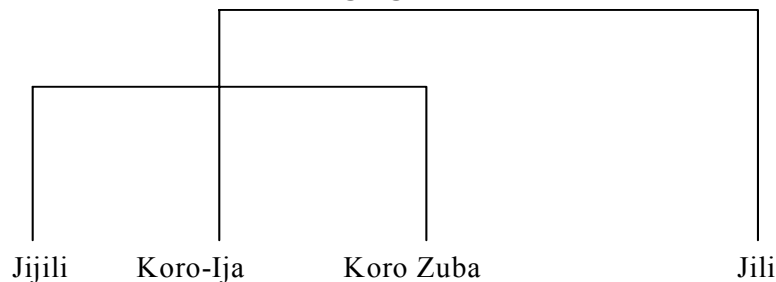
This is a draft dictionary of the Jili language, spoken in about twenty villages in Nassarawa State in Central Nigeria. The material is from two sources: extracted from Stoffberg (1978a,b) documents never published and available only on microfiche and data collected in Jos in January 2001. This document is being circulated to scholars for comment.

1.2 Existing classifications

Jili, under the names Koro of Lafia and Migili is known through some ethnographic references (xx) and through Stoffberg (1978a,b). On the basis of a short list collected by Roger Blench in 1982, Jili was classified together with Jijili, the language of the Koro of Kafin Koro in Niger State. This classification was circulated as a comment and published in Gerhardt (1989) and Crozier and Blench (1992).

The term ‘Koro’ is widespread as an ethnonym in Central Nigeria and Gerhardt (1983) has published data on the Koro spoken in the Kadarko area. However, neither Jili nor Jijili show any particular relationship with these languages and this seems to be a case of a floating outsiders’ name applied to quite distinct peoples. There are two more groups of Koro, the Koro-Ija and Koro Zuba reported for the first time in Crozier and Blench (1992). These languages are spoken near Lambatta on the Suleja-Minna road and near Zuba rock on the main Kaduna-Abuja highway. No data was available for these languages, then as now, but discussions in Adunnu suggest that they are related to Jijili. It is likely that ‘Jili’ is the base ethnonym of these peoples and it is here used to refer to the group. The following proposal is therefore made;

Figure 1. Tentative classification of the Jili languages



The historical scattering of these languages is something of a puzzle, as Lafia is quite geographically remote from Kafin Koro. The explanation may lie in the precolonial slave trade. Recent communications have made these groups aware of each other and church groups now hold annual meetings to unite the disparate Jili groups.

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

The Jili are usually known as ‘Koro’ in the literature, although this name applies to a number of disparate groups in Central Nigeria and should generally be discarded. The name Migili, used extensively locally, is a version of their name, but still incorrect. The Jili call themselves /**jijili**/ and their language /**linjili**/. The reduplicated **ji-** element is almost certainly a prefix and thus should be deleted to make a reference name.

2.2 Location and settlements

The Jili live in Lafia Local Government Area and in the Obi, Doma and Keffi areas of Nassarawa State. They are bounded to the north by the Gwandara and Eggon peoples, and to the south by Alago. Tiv live east and west of them. Their main villages are; Adebi, Agewu, Agyaragu, Akaba, Akalegu Motor, Anuwu, Ashige, Atabla, Buba, Dazhila, Debe, Doka, Duglu, Echuwanza, Gbodu, Gidan Musha, Giditye, Goli, Gude, Ichichene, Idazogwa, Ishugu, Kanga, Keleku, Kpanungwa, Kponwa, Kunza, Kyakale, Nene, Shiga, Shipe, Ume, Zagyo, Zedumu, Zergba.

2.3 Language status

The Jili language is probably spoken by 30-50,000 individuals and there is no reason to think that it is presently declining. Although it is divided into several dialects, no research is available as to the relations between these.

An orthography was devised for Jili in the 1970s and this underwent some undocumented revisions in the 1980s. A Reading and Writing book was published in 1975 and a book of Folk Tales in 1976. The entire New Testament was published in 1987. It seems that the absence of an accompanying literacy programme has meant that it is little used.

3. Phonology

The phonology of Jili is based on Stoffberg (1978b) amended in the light of current research.

3.1 Vowels

Jili has nine phonemic vowels;

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

Jili operates a limited harmony constraint, such that an open-mid vowel will never occur with its close-mid counterpart. Some exceptions have been identified in complex compounds.

Following the work of Stoffberg in the early 1970s, a translation of the New Testament was prepared. However, the orthography was changed from that proposed by Stoffberg, on what basis is not now clear. The IPA symbols ɛ, ɔ and ɨ were used and ɪ and ʊ were introduced. The justification for the extra phonetic symbols has never been published, although on the basis of current research it seems that the ɪ represents the /ə/ and the ʊ the ɯ.

Jili has seven nasalised vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
Close	ĩ		ũ
Close-Mid	ẽ		õ
Open-Mid	ẽ̃		õ̃
Open		ã	

These are all contrastive but only occur in word-final syllables. These can shown to be contrastive with CVN syllables, which also occur with every non-nasalised vowel except /u/. In the orthography, final ‘ŋ’ is used for nasalisation, but since ŋ occurs elsewhere, the tilde is used throughout in this document.

3.2 Consonants

Jili consonants are as follows:

	Bilabi al	Labio- dental	Alveo- lar	Alveop alatal	Palata l	Velar	Labial -velar	Glott al
Plosive	p b		t d		c j	k g	kp gb	ʔ
Nasal	m		n		ɲ	ŋ	ŋm	
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ				h
Affricates			ts dz					
Approximant					y		w	
Vibrant			r					
Lateral			l					

Stoffberg (1978b:67) notes a single example of a contrast between long and short /l/;

/li/ to sell
/lli/ wart-hog

It may be that the first /l/ of wart-hog is actually a prefix and could be analysed as tone-bearing.

Free variation

The following, although clearly distinct phonemes, can sometimes be interchanged;

/l/ and /r/
/l/ and /n/
/s/ and /ʃ/
/z/ and /ʒ/
/z/ and /d/

Prosodies

Jili permits labialisation, palatalisation, lateralisation and rhoticisation of most consonants. In the case of C + R clusters, these can also be labialised. Thus;

trwà	to swell
drwā	to groan
srwē	to join
zrwē	precariously
tʃrwâ	sound of stalks being cut

3.3 Tones

Jili has three level tones, as the following minimal triplets show;

Form	Gloss	Form	Gloss
bé	to come	ká	‘that he’
bɛ	question particle	ka	to guard
bè	to choose	kà	to exceed

There are also numerous complex glide tones. These symbolised as follows;

RISING	Low-High	hachek over the syllable	˘
	Low-Mid		˘
	Mid-High		˘
FALLING	High-Low	circumflex over the syllable	ˆ
	High-Mid		˘
	Mid-Low		˘

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Jili has a system of nominal plurals based on prefix alternations. [Table 1](#) is a matrix showing the possible pairings of singular and plural prefixes.

Table 1. Matrix showing matching of singular and plural prefixes in Jili

Singular prefixes	Plural prefixes								
	á-	à-	àmà-	í-	mí-	mì-	mú-	mù-	Ñ-
cù-							+		
jì-						+			
kí-	+			+					
kú-	+								
lú-				+					+
mí-				+					
mú-				+					
Ñ-				+					
Ñ-			+		+		+		
ò-/ò-	+			+			+	+	
rí-	+								+
rú-									+
∅-	+	+		+	+		+	+	

Source: adapted from Stoffberg (1978:316)

4.2 Pronouns

[Table 2](#) shows the pronouns in Jili. The distinction between the two types of third person pronoun is not entirely clear; Stoffberg (1978a:337) notes that it is connected with paragraphs in discourse. Tones on pronouns change according to the TAM features of the clause in which they occur.

Table 2. Jili pronouns

		Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4
Singular	I	n	me	imè	ime
	You	ɔ	wɔ	iwɔ	iwɔ
	He/she/it (1)	a	nɔ	inɔ	inɔ
	He/she/it (2)	inɔ			nwâ
Plural	we	la	la	ila	ila
	you pl.	yi	yi	iyi	iyi
	They (1)	ba	ba	iba	iba
	They (2)	iba			iba

Source: adapted from Stoffberg (1978:331)

Set 1. pronouns are usually the subject of a sentence and also function as recapitulating pronouns.

Set 2. pronouns are identificatory or deictic and usually precede a subject noun.

Set 3. pronouns are usual when the pronoun appears in isolation.

Set 4. pronouns are used only in reported speech

Like all languages, Izere words can be classified according to the function they have in the sentence. These are known as 'parts of speech' - the most well-known types are nouns and verbs. The following table gives the abbreviations used in the dictionary with short explanations;

Abbreviation	Full form	Explanation
a.	Adjective	Describes a noun
adv.	Adverb	Qualifies a verb
aux.	Auxiliary	Added to a verb to modify it, like a tense-marker
conj.	Conjunction	A word used to join two or more nouns, verbs or clauses
dem.	Demonstrative	Words used to point out something. 'this', 'that' etc.
excl.	Exclamation	Greetings or expressions that do not form part of an ordinary sentence
int.	Interrogative	Question words
loc.	Locative	Describes the position of things in time or space
n.	Noun	Refers to things, objects etc.
n.p.	Noun phrase	A phrase where a head-noun is joined to other words to form an expression
num.	Numeral	Number
part.	Particle	Short words added to complete the sentence
p.n.	Proper Name	A name of a person or object; always capitalised
prep.	Preposition	A word positioning nouns or verbs in time or space
pron.	Pronoun	A word that stands for a noun
v.	Verb	Expresses action
v.i.	Intransitive Verb	A verb with no object
v.n.	Verbal Noun	A noun formed directly from a verb to express a state of being
v.p.	Verb phrase	A phrase where a head-noun is joined to other words to form an expression

Needless to say, these categories were developed to describe English grammar and not all Izere words fit neatly into them. For example, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish verbs from adjectives. Only a clear grammatical description will help the reader understand the function of a word in a sentence. At that point, the assignment to a particular part of speech is somewhat arbitrary; what counts is consistency throughout.

JILI DICTIONARY

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
ácansòlò		n.	Fingernail I	
ádzi		n.	Faeces	
adzi' shâ		n.	Diarrhoea	
áfufā		n.	Broken pieces	
ágá		n.	Thing	
ágbágbà		n.	Indecision	
ágbā		n.	Smell I	
ágèwú		n.	Village name	
ágibàkúć		n.	Comb	
ágīniwee		n.	Pen	'thing of writing marks'
ágītā		n.	Food	'thing of eating'
àglàmà		n.	Ant (Generic)	
áglò	—	n.	Sorghum ¹	
ájá		n.	Witchfinder	
ájī		n.	Night	
akà		n.	Shell, outer covering	
áklodzi		n.	Money	
akpe ⁺		n.	Tree sp.	
àkpòshí		n.	Amen	
álí		n.	Forest	
álo		n.	Air (fresh)	
amla		n.	Lie	
àmò		n.	Bulrush millet ² (<i>gero</i>)	
àmotò		n.	Motor vehicle	
anakò		n.	Masquerade IV	
asetra		n.	Fireplace	
áse		n.	Fireplace	
ási		n.	Face	
ásò		n.	Bush	
átra		n.	Fire	
avambù		n.	Harmattan	
avandē		adv.	At this time	
ávli		n.	Groundnut (Peanut) ³	
áwá		n.	Fear/fright	
áwyáro		n.	Dew	
áyé		n.	Heart	
àyé		excl.	No (denial)	
áyékpō		n.	'Tough-heart'	
áza	—	n.	Name	

¹ (*Sorghum bicolor*)² (*Pennisetum* spp.)³ (*Arachis hypogaea*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
ázádana		conj.	otherwise, or else	
B.				
baga		excl.	Salutation to a chief	cf. Nupe Bagadozhi
bā		v.	Hatch (egg) II	
bè		v.	Choose	
bèkíyì		v.	Invent	
bène	íbéne	n.	Patas monkey ⁴	
bène		v.	Pull	
bě		num.	Two	
bé		v.	Come	
bē⁺		v.	Question	
bebe		a.	Both	
bène		v.	Drag	
béré	ábéré	n.	Partner	
blà	áblà	n.	Slave	
blá		v.	Be ripe	
bla múdó		v.	Feel (hot)	
blamba		n.	Castrated animal	
blê		conj.	Perhaps	
blêde	í-blêde	n.	Ram	
bleme	i-bleme	n.	Female goat	
bô...zhi		v.	Get lost	
bô...zhi		v.	Disappear, get lost	
bō⁺		v.	Feed	
brô		v.	Become spoiled	
brō⁺		v.	Spoil	
buba		n.	Village name	
C.				
cá		excl.	Expresses intense emotion	
cakale		p.n.	Village name	
càkpà	—	n.	Slatted head carrier	
cē		v.	Pick up (objects)	
cene		v.	Get, find	
cē		v.	Worship	in traditional religion. Also ‘to greet an elder’
cène, cēm, cē		dem.	Here	
cé		num.	Three	

⁴ (*Erythrocebus patas*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
cémé	í-cémé	n.	Sheep	
cε⁺		v.	Greet	
cē		v.	To pick	
cene		dem.	There	
cene⁺		v.	Find	
cí		v.	Add to	
ci kutrō		v.	Tie (knot)	
cíci		adv.	Together	
cìcì		adv.	Consecutively	
côitsi	—	n.	Master of the house	
cômbla	—	n.	Master of slaves	used for Christ, Saviour
crwâ		id.	Sound of stalks being cut	
cùco	múco	n.	Grandfather	
cuwō⁺		v.	Remember	
cwe		v.	Be on (s.t.)	
cwe⁺		v.	Follow	
cwe⁺		v.	Put on top of	
D.				
da		v.	Blow (flute etc.)	
da⁺	dala, dara	v.	Do II	
da⁺		v.	Touch	
da⁺	dala	v.	Tread	
da kpútro		v.	Cough	
da kutro		v.	Dance	
da kúló		v.	Fight (in quarrel)	
da nsō		v.	Run	
dã		dem.	Thus	
dã, dē		dem.	This way (manner)	
dàma		v.	Bend down s.t. (branch)	
dàma		v.	Sway	
dãne, dã		dem.	There (remote)	
dânkáli		n.	Sweet potato ⁵	
dàve		v.	Welcome back	
dĩ, didĩ		v.	Cold	
dídre		v.	Sit down	
dó		v.	Praise	
dō⁺		v.	Hot	also dudō
dō⁺		v.	Give	
dò		v.	Be (II)	
dòrō		v.	Meet	

⁵ (*Ipomoea batatas*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
dǒtra		v.	Burn (fire burns)	
drò	mudrò	n.	Hare ⁶	
drò		v.	Say/speak	
dró kishíshā	mùdró kishíshā	n.	Storyteller	
drólóló		a.	Long	
dró⁺		v.	Bathe	
dre		v.	Sitting, be	
drème		v.	To wake	
drème		v.	Awaken (s.o.)	
drí		v.	Shake	
drì		v.	Drive away	
drídrò		v.	Withered	
drwǎ		v.	Groan	
dúglu		p.n.	Village name	
dugo⁺		v.	Move	
dùmù	ídùmù	n.	He-goat	
dzá	ádzá	n.	Child	
dzákice		n.	Grindstone (top)	
dzákùzwa		n.	Pestle	
dzánda	ádzánda	n.	Brother, sister II	father's side
dzánma	ádzánma	n.	Brother, sister I	mother's side
dzáravé	ádzáravé	n.	Childhood	
dzárùṅ	ádzárùṅ	n.	Bird (generic)	
dzi		v.	Come out (of room)	
dzi⁺		v.	Go out/exit	
dzídzí		a.	Bad	
dzidzi⁺		a.	Evil	
dzisà		adv.	Next day	
dzúgò		n.	Nephew, niece	
E.				
ê		excl.	Surprise	
ê		excl.	Acknowledgement I	
èye		excl.	No	
èhê		excl.	Acknowledgement II	
èhê		excl.	Satisfaction	

⁶ (*Lepus Crawshayi*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
F.				
fa		v.	Bite s.t. soft	
fa⁺		v.	Break s.t. soft	
féfégê		a.	Light	
fê		v.	Easy	
flò		v.	Wet	
flá		v.	Press down	
flòflò	aflò	n.	Mushroom	
fli		v.	Fold (cloth etc.)	
flò		adv.	Slowly	
fofogo⁺		a.	Light (weight)	
fòro	—	n.	Hat	? cf. Hausa fula ?
frɔ⁺		v.	Peel (maize)	
frú		v.	Boil	
frú		v.	Sprout (new shoots from a tree)	
funu⁺		v.	Swell	
G.				
gbágblà		v.	Think	
gbáld		v.	Shout	
gbégbê		adv.	On the way	
gbètánà	ágbètánà	n.	Prophet	
gbètànà	—	n.	Prophecy	
gbètúmá	ágbètúmá	n.	Messenger	
gbè⁺		v.	Buy	
gbè⁺		v.	Receive	
gbè		v.	Resemble	
gbé	ágbé	n.	Hunter	
gbenwala		excl.	Good afternoon!	
gbèrè		n.	Falling	
gbèridzà		excl.	Said to a naughty child	
gbî		n.	Consensus	
gbî		v.	Agree	
gbî		v.	Answer (call)	
gbìgblin		n.	Electric fish ⁷	
gbili		v.	Tremble	
gbili awo		v.	Feel (cold)	
gbìyènè		excl.	Good evening!	
gbísa		excl.	Good morning!	

⁷ (*Malapterurus electricus*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
gblù		id.	Sound of fire	
gbo		v.	Throw	
gbo ⁺		v.	Grind	
gbo ⁺		v.	Shoot (arrow, gun)	
gbòdu		n.	Village name	
gbogbo ⁺		adv.	Exceedingly, ever	of time or degree
gbolu	i-gbolu	n.	Elephant	
gbomiji				
gbòno		v.	Weed	
gbòtò		id.	Sound of horses' hooves	
gbɔ̃	gbèrɛ	v.	Fall (rain)	
gbónkwáɛ		v.	Swim	
gbɔ̃rɔ		v.	Bark (dog)	
gbúgbɩa		v.	Fall over	
gbùgblo		v.	Rub	
gɛ ⁺		a.	Small III	
gɛ̃		a.	Different	
gɛ̃gɛ̃		a.	Different, various	
gène		v.	To cross	
gègā		n.	Drum I	
gidinyè		n.	Village name	
gige ⁺		v.	Be able	
gige ⁺		v.	Repeat	
gige ⁺		adv.	Again, able	
gijimì		adv.	Late, last	
gìsì		int.	What thing?	
glɔ̃		excl.	Welcome	
glúmá		n.	Onion (<i>Allium cepa</i>)	
gɔ̃		v.	Catch	
gɔ̃		n.	Female personal name	
gòno		a.	Very, too much	
gru	gùgra	v.	Wash	pl. 'to wash thoroughly'
gúgú		n.	Basket I	
gúgrɔ̃		n.	Old (thing)	
guguma		n.	Poison	
gúndúgùndù		id.	Expresses bigness	
gúsho	àgusho	n.	Stool	
gùso		v.	Close	
gwāgwa		n.	Head-pad	? < Hausa
gwàra		v.	Open	

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
H.				
hár, yár		adv.	Until	< Hausa
I.				
ibô		int.	What event?	
íbà		n.	Fish sp. I	
íbe	—	n.	Spear	
íbe		n.	Shelf	built near cooking area
ibeni	—	n.	Stick to stir food	
ícē		n.	Broom (hard)	
ícìcène		n.	Village name	
ícízwe		n.	Village name	
ídò	ádò	n.	Granary	
ídó		n.	Sweat	
ídà		n.	Treading	
ídrò		n.	Pot I	
ídú		n.	Masquerade II	
ídzi		n.	Going out	
ífó		n.	Axe	
ifúnú		n.	Boil, swelling	
ígā	ágā	n.	Thorn	
ígaba		n.	Lion	
ígbá		n.	Iron	
ígbá		n.	Snare	
ígōyé		n.	Courage	
ígri		n.	Buttocks	
ígrifò		n.	Toad	
ígúbé		n.	Fish-trap, fish-hook	
íjèrè		n.	Weaving	
íkò		n.	Bulrush millet (<i>maiwa</i>)	
íkāzò		n.	Palm kernel	
íkísí		n.	Remainder	
íklévù		n.	Zither	
íklwâ		n.	Plant sp. I	poisonous
íkpiní		n.	Drinking gourd	
íkplinyè		n.	Evil spirit	
íkúklá		n.	Strength	
ílwé		n.	Harvesting	
ílwí		n.	Mixing	water with a dry substance
ímò	ámò	n.	Dry grass stalk	left after burning
ímà		n.	Boundary	

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
ímà		n.	End	
íme		n.	Back	
imlò	amlò	n.	Throat	
ímrù		n.	Chin	
ínò		n.	Plaiting	
ína	—	n.	Scorpion	
ínâ'glò		n.	Dragon-fly	
inágloo		n.	Earwig	'scorpion of guinea-corn'
íne		n.	Tips of millet sprouts	
ínrǒ		n.	Pain	
ínù		n.	Pot (generic)	
ínùma		n.	Hunger	
ínyè		n.	Yesterday	
inyènè		n.	Evening	
ípéré		n.	Time	
ípérésí		int.	When?	
ípêgā		n.	Knowledge	
ípênyí		n.	Wisdom	
íprisà		n.	Dawn	x + 'day'
írǒ		n.	Calling	
ísà		n.	Day	
ísási		n.	Eyeball	
isé		n.	Field	
iséle	aséle	n.	Armpit	
iséme		n.	Cutting II	
isele		n.	Rib	
iseni		n.	Large River	
ishá		n.	Divination (types)	
ishǒ		n.	Bee	
ishénéré		n.	Cloud	
ishishe ⁺		n.	Dirt	
ísì		n.	Giant Cricket	
ísì		n.	Strumming	
ísìmì		n.	Cloth	
ísisà		n.	Morning	x + 'day'.
ísivòdrǒ		n.	Day after tomorrow	
ísò múzǒ		n.	Palm-fruit	
íswile		n.	Plaiting	
ítà	átà	n.	Charm sewn in goatskin	
ítalá		n.	Personal name	
itsi		n.	Nest (of bird)	i.e. 'house' ()
ítsi		n.	Compound	
itsiga		n.	Village name	'house of salvation'. Where Migili people went during the slave raid

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
				era
ítuma		n.	Vagina	
ítútrɔ		n.	Laughter	
ívǔ		n.	Tomorrow	
ívà		n.	Gourd-bottle ⁸	
íwɔ		n.	Killing	
íwi		n.	Water-hole	
iwi ⁺		n.	Stream II	
íwòro		n.	Breath	
íyè		n.	Mosquito	
iyí		excl.	No (refusal)	
ízǎ		n.	Grave	
ízà		n.	Returning home	
íze		n.	Sin	
ízí		n.	Sesame seeds ⁹	
ízùmà	ázùmà	n.	Tail	
ízwá		n.	Vein	
J.				
javǔ		n.	Water-lily	
jè		v.	Wear	
jè kúva		v.	Begin II	lit. 'put hand'
jè	jèle	v.	Put (I)	pl. to put repeatedly, including 'to stoke' (fire)
jè	lòo	v.	Put (II)	pl. reflects a plural subject or mass nouns and other multiple objects
jè		v.	Put on (clothes)	
jè		v.	Send	
jè		n.	Taro (Old cocoyam) ¹⁰	
jè ígbǎ		v.	Set trap	
jème		v.	Take a long time	
jèrɛ		v.	Plant (crop etc.)	
jèrɛ		v.	Snap II	
jètuma		n.	Sender of message	
jejeje ⁺		adv.	Equally, exactly, side-by-side	
jì	jìli	v.	Sting	
jìjì		adv.	Ticklishly	
jìjili	mìjili	n.	Human being	
jò	jòno	v.	Cut down (small tree)	
jòno		v.	To harvest (sorghum)	

⁸ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)

⁹ (*H. Ridfi*) (*Sesamum indicum*)

¹⁰ (*Colocasia esculenta*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
jriji		v.	Follow s.o. closely	
K.				
kà		v.	Surpass	
kâ		adv.	Only, merely	
kă		?	Like	
ka ⁺		v.	Guard	
kà...lúkpoo		v.	Be impossible	The object is inserted between the two halves of the verb
ká		v.	Request	
kaba	íkaba	n.	Baboon	
kácá		a.	Hard, strong	
kàkà	àkàkà	n.	Grandmother	borrowed Hausa term gradually displacing nywa⁺
káká		adv.	Firmly, securely, strongly	
kàlè	íkàlè	n.	Vervet monkey ¹¹	
kan ⁺		excl.	Don't	
kan ⁺		adv.	Nearly, imminent, soon	
kanɔ ⁺		v.	Fry (in oil)	
kàngà		n.	Fan-palm ¹²	
kéri		adv.	Straight, intently	
kě		v.	Struggle	
kéri		n.	Whirlwind	
kádóda		n.	Plain, clearing	
kəgã		n.	Mat (generic)	
kəlawɔ	alawɔ	n.	Charm sewn in skin	worn in sets on the upper arm
kəna ⁺	áná	n.	Farm	
kíce		n.	Grindstone (lower)	
kíce mùlo	áce mùlo	n.	Locust-bean cakes	
kíci	áci	n.	Tree (generic)	
kíci		n.	Handle (of tool)	
kída	—	n.	Swamp/wetland	
kída nàgblà		n.	Proverb	
kidegé		n.	slope	
kidényé		n.	Shea-fruit	
kídíga		n.	Gun	< Hausa bindiga .
kídrî	ádrî	n.	Housefly	
kíje	áje	n.	Thigh	
kíjì	ájì	n.	Feather	
kíkã	ákã	n.	Charm sewn in animal skin	
kikandre, ndre ⁺	akandre ⁺	n.	Charcoal	

¹¹ (*Cercopithecus aethiops*)

¹² (*Borassus aethiopum*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
kìkì		id.	Sound of digging	
kílà	álà	n.	Hole in tree	
kílélé		n.	Dream	
kílí	álí	n.	Rope	
kínìkìnì		a.	Spherical	
kínri		n.	Dust	
kínyí	ányí	n.	Tooth	
kíplá(má)	áplá(má)	n.	Branch	
kísà	ásà	n.	Stalk	
kísà	ásà	n.	Volunteer seed	
kísā		n.	Sugar-cane	
kishagā	ashagā	n.	Rag	
kíshíshā		n.	Story, folktale	
kísí	ási	n.	Eye	
kísi		n.	Clay	
kísi		n.	Matting	
kísísí		int.	Where?	or sí, sìsí, cìsí.
kísētra	ásētra	n.	Fireplace	
kíta	áta	n.	Skin	the pl. refers to animal skins
kítá	átá	n.	Debt	
kítâci	átâci	n.	Base of tree	
kítátrè	átátrè	n.	Shoe	
kítrè	átrè	n.	Leg, foot	
kitukpa		n.	Calf	
kíyarɔ	áyarɔ	n.	Broom (soft)	
kíyè	áyè	n.	Relations	
kíyé	ayé	n.	Liver	
kizhizhi	ázhízhī	n.	Earthworm	
kízī		n.	Soup/stew	
kl̩		v.	Be finished	
klɔ ⁺		v.	Finish (a task)	
klà		adv.	At a distance	
klèlè		a.	Circular	
klú		n.	Land tortoise	
klúmu	áklúmu	n.	Barren woman	
klwá		v.	Complete	
kēnge		n.	Sickle	
ko ⁺		v.	Cover	
ko ⁺		v.	To carry a baby on the back	
kokà		p.n.	Masquerade III	
kolí		n.	Giant Snail	
kò		v.	Pluck	
kó		v.	Say/speak II	
kó		conj.	Then	
kólo		v.	Become dry	
kòrókò	ákòrókò	n.	Cock	

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
kɔsɔ ⁺		v.	Finish up	
kpɔ̂	kùkpô	adv.	Strongly	
kpəʃá	ákpəʃá	n.	Young girl	
kpâ		id.	Sound of a slap	
kpálábá		n.	Cutlass	
kpangwa		n.	Village name	
kpàshó	—	n.	Gourd (Generic)	
kpété		a.	Shallow, flat	
kpètè		a.	Short (animates)	
kpéle		v.	Return II	
kpɛ ⁺		adv.	Again	
kpele ⁺		v.	Turn back	
kpézi		v.	Stop	
kpézi		v.	Wait	
kpî		v.	Be short (inanimates)	
kpī	ikpī	n.	Rat (generic)	
kpīkpī		a.	Dead	
kpɔ ⁺		v.	Turn	
kpláklá		adv.	Healthily	
kpłě		adv.	Suddenly	
kpłi	ákpłi	n.	Women's shrine where dead spirits are consulted	
kpłija		n.	Sore/wound	
kpô		v.	Grow tall	
kpô		adv.	Idly, uselessly, merely	
kpo ⁺		v.	Die	
kpô ⁺		v.	Hoe, cultivate	
kpôkpô		a.	Only, just, ordinary	
kpokú	àkpokú	n.	Masquerade I	
kporo		v.	Vomit	
kprð		id.	How Hare begins to run	
kpû		id.	Sound of a heavy fall	
kpútrû		a.	Tough, thick	
krɔ ⁺		v.	Pack away	
krɔ ⁺		v.	Sweep	
krɔ...ku		v.	Gather/collect	
krùkrù		a.	Intensity of burning	
ku ⁺		adv.	Publicly, openly, unashamedly	
kũ ⁺		v.	Gather	
kú		v.	Cover with lips when biting	
kũ		v.	Make (hole etc.)	
kũ		v.	Bend s.t. (stick)	
kúɔ	áɔ	n.	Bundle	
kúɔ dī		n.	Patience I	

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
kúco sō		n.	Patience II	
kúcó	ácó	n.	Head	
kudunu ⁺	adunu ⁺	n.	Rubbish-heap	
kúdza	ádza	n.	Pawpaw ¹³	
kúfrɔ	áfrɔ	n.	Bark (of tree)	
kúfrɔ	áfrɔ	n.	Peelings	
kufufã		n.	Half	
kugbá	agbá	n.	Jaw	pl. means ‘molars’
kúgbã	ágba	n.	Thatch roof	
kúgbadó		n.	Groundnut cultivar	
kúgbe	ágbe	n.	Neck	
kúgbénrī	ágbénrī	n.	Yam-heap	
kúgúmu	ágúmu	n.	Root	
kújúwɔ		n.	Sand	
kúkú	ákú	n.	Bone	
kúkú		n.	Shield	
kúkpa	ákpa	n.	Egg	
kukpã ⁺		n.	Bird sp. I	
kúkpála	ákpála	n.	Raphia/ bamboo palm ¹⁴	
kúkpī		n.	Outside	
kùkpô	klɔklɔ ⁺	n.	Big	Note suppletive plural. See also ‘strongly’ ()
kúkū		n.	Kneel, bend down	
kúkùma		n.	Hyena ¹⁵	
kúkúmú		n.	Silk-cotton tree ¹⁶	
kukunsulo		n.	Fingernail II	‘bone of finger’
kúkwáshó	àkwáshó	n.	Kitchen	
kukwe		v.	Be near to s.o.	
kúlu	álu	n.	Knee	
kúmru		n.	Wind	
kúnɔ	ánɔ	n.	Chicken (General)	
kùndrù		n.	Fist	
kúnwɔ	ánwɔ	n.	Nose	
kúpḁ	ápḁ	n.	Village/settlement	
kúpele	ápele	n.	Stone	
kúpì	ápì	n.	Building	
kúpì	ápì	n.	Wall (of room)	
kúpla	ápì	n.	Wing (of bird)	
kúsó	ásó	n.	Shoulder	
kusɔnɔ ⁺		n.	Suffering	
kúsò	ásò	n.	Grass (generic)	
kúsolo	ásolo	n.	Finger	
kúswé	áswé	n.	Fish (generic)	

¹³ (*Carica papaya*)

¹⁴ (*Raphia* spp.)

¹⁵ (*Crocuta crocuta*)

¹⁶ (*Ceiba pentandra*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
kùswi		adv.	Persistently	
kútṣ	átṣ	n.	Ear	
kutrṣ		n.	Song	
kútsa	—	n.	Resting-place in front of a man's house	
kútsà		n.	Wealth	
kútū kídénýé	átū kídénýé	n.	Shea tree ¹⁷	
kútū múlo	átū múlo	n.	Locust fruit	
kutulukpṣ	atulukpṣ	n.	Navel	
kútúmá	átúmá	n.	Horn	
kútuma		n.	Work	
kutuṅ muga	atuṅ muga	n.	Shrine II	
kúva	áva	n.	Arm, hand	
kuvi	avi	n.	Intestines	
kúvóyó	ávóyó	n.	Fog	
kúwa	áva	n.	Leaf	
kúwóro		n.	breath	
kúwṣ		n.	Thirst	
ku-ye	a-ye	n.	Chest	
kúyo	áyo	n.	Room	
kuzṣ	ázṣ	n.	Hole in ground	
kúzùgbè	ázùgbè	n.	Star(s)	
kuzunu ⁺	azunu ⁺	n.	Shadow	
kuzunu ⁺	azunu ⁺	n.	Sperm	
kúzwa		n.	mortar	
kwana ⁺		v.	Take s.t. off s.t. else	
kwara ⁺		n.	Hoe II	small
kwê		a.	Small (few)	
L.				
le...tri		v.	Drop	
le		v.	Leave	
le		v.	Stop	
lè		adv.	Today	
létṣ		n.	Sorghum clarinet	
lê		a.	Many I	
le...ye		v.	Leave out	
li		v.	Arrive at destination	
lí		v.	Sell	
li ⁺		v.	Enter	
ligâ	aligâ	n.	Seller	
lǐngíni		a.	Single	
línye		n.	Language	

¹⁷ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
liyí		n.	Price	
lízhǎ		n.	Well	<Hausa rijiya .
lí	mùllí	n.	Wart-hog ¹⁸	
ló		v.	Tie (sheaves)	
lǒ		num.	One	
lǒ		n.	in-law	
lǒhò		n.	Waterleaf ¹⁹	< Hausa
lǒlǒ		v.	‘Remain’	
lǒlǒ		n.	Fool, stupid person	
lùbe		n.	Village square	
lúcò	mínyecò	n.	Junior sibling	
lucwe		n.	Death	
lúfi, lísi		adv.	Before, first	
lugbà		n.	Ant-hill	
lúkó	ńkó	n.	War	
lúkpe		n.	Belly, stomach, inside	
lúkpò	mínyekpò	n.	Elder sibling	
lúkpólúkpo		adv.	Authoritatively	
lúme		n.	Cunning	
lúnwò	nwò	n.	Voice	
lūwò		n.	Dry season	
lwe		v.	Cut down (large tree)	
lwe ⁺		v.	Harvest (sorghum)	
lwe ⁺		v.	Reap	
lwí		v.	Mix	dry substance with water
M.				
mà		v.	Be enough	
ma ⁺		v.	Take	
ma nyran		v.	Marry wife	
ma...so		v.	Hide	the object is inserted between the two halves of the verb
mádǎ		conj.	Also	
màdǎ		n.	Winnowing tray	
mágló		v.	Shine brightly	
makpò		n.	Father’s or mother’s younger sister	
màkwê		n.	Father’s or mother’s elder sister	
mbá		n.	Anger	
mbám		n.	Palm-wine	

¹⁸ (*Phacochoerus aethiopus*)¹⁹ (*Amaranthus spp*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
m̄bana		n.	Village name	
m̄bám̄bá		adv.	Angrily	
m̄bé		n.	Female breast	
m̄belé		n.	Kind, type	
m̄blē		n.	Urine	
m̄blimbli		adv.	At dawn	
m̄èrè		v.	Learn	
meshè	ámeshè	n.	Servant	
m̄èdà		n.	Whistle, cross-shaped	
m̄gbíjǎ		n.	Cheek	
m̄íjē	íjē	n.	Road, path	
m̄íkélé		a.	Medium-complexioned	
m̄íne	íne	n.	Tongue	
m̄ínyísí		int.	Who? pl.	
m̄isí ⁺		a.	Sour I	
m̄ìsìsùmá		v.	Dare to do s.t.	
m̄ìtí		a.	Deep-black	
m̄ízē		n.	Market	
m̄ízē̄		n.	Distance	
m̄izí ⁺		num.	Six	
m̄lá		n.	Bitterness	
m̄lǎ		v.	Hang	
		v.	Suspend	
m̄lǎmlǎ		a.	Sour II	
m̄lí		v.	Mould (pounded yam etc.)	
m̄lu		v.	Be heavy	
m̄ma	—	n.	Mother I	
m̄ô		excl.	Wonder, amazement	
m̄ru		n.	Smell	
m̄rû	m̄úmrú	n.	Mother II	
m̄údû		n.	Sorghum-beer	
m̄údó		n.	Heat	
m̄údrō		n.	Inheritance	
m̄údrɔ		n.	Length	
m̄ugǔ	ámugǔ	n.	Grandchild	
m̄ugá	igá	n.	Medicine (generic)	
m̄ùkǔ	ìkǔ	n.	Corpse	
m̄ùkónù		n.	Monitor lizard	
m̄úkɔɔ		p.n.	Clan name	
m̄úlá		n.	Bitterness	
m̄úlámúlá		id.	Sternly, angrily	
m̄úmlu		n.	heaviness	
m̄ùnɔ		conj.	With	
m̄úna		n.	Flesh	

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
múna		n.	Meat	
muna⁺		adv.	Not	
múnāso	ínāso	n.	Animal (Bush)	
múpánó		n.	Clan name	
músó	ísó	n.	Year	
musó⁺	isó⁺	n.	Seed/stone/pip	
mùshà		n.	Clan name	
músù	ámúsù	n.	Cat	< Hausa
mùtà		num.	Seven	
múwa	íwá	n.	Snake (Generic)	
múzó		n.	Journey, travel	
múzò	ízò	n.	Oil-palm ²⁰	
múzā		n.	Stream I	
múzrô		n.	Clan name	
mútà		n.	Bow	
mvê		excl.	Expresses sympathy	
mvélè		n.	Manliness	
N.				
na		v.	Go	
na		v.	Work	
na lubala		v.p.	Marry husband	
na⁺		v.	Do I	
nàjìmi		conj.	After	
nàrɔ		num.	Four	
narà		n.	Goitre	
narùkpéné	ànàrùkpéné	n.	Pig	pl. also mùnàrùkpéné
nayisi		int.	When?	
ńbā		n.	Knife	
ńcĕ		n.	Saliva	
ńcĕ		n.	Fence	
ńcô		n.	First	
nda	—	n.	Father	
ndakpò		n.	Father's, mother's elder brother	
ndakwê		n.	Father's, mother's younger brother	
nere		v.	Lick	
nènè		a.	Sweet	
néré		n.	Rain	
nere		n.	Eunuch	

²⁰ (*Elaeis guineensis*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
ńgblǎ	ágblǎ	n.	Manner	
ńgbladzí	ágbladzí	n.	Wrongdoing	
ńgúnu		id.	Sound of hitting	
ńgwábè		excl.	Greeting to a man	
ní		v.	Extinguish	
ni		v.	Bury	
nímí	ànímí	n.	Orange ²¹	< Hausa
níní		v.	See	
nínkpi	munínkpi	n.	Seer	
ninyrá	míninyrá	n.	Wife, female	
ńjē		n.	Fat/grease	
ńklwī		n.	Patience	< Hausa <i>hankuri</i> .
ńkɔɔ		n.	Gruel	
ńkpī	—	n.	Place	
ńkpīdzèla		n.	Brightness, plainness	
ńkplē		n.	Okra ²²	
ńkpō		n.	Wickedness	
ńkwálè		n.	Water	
ńkwále		n.	‘Drink’	
ńla		n.	Sleep	
ńlá		n.	Difficulty	
ńna	àmùna	n.	Cow, cattle	
ńne		dem.	that	
ńne ⁺		art.	The/this	
ńnoro	ánoro	n.	Mud	
ńnɔsónó		n.	Palm-oil	
ńnɔ		n.	Oil	
ńnye	mínye	n.	Person/people	
ńnyé		int.	Who?	
ńnyi	inyi	n.	Mouth	
ńjmalè		n.	Happiness	
nònó		v.	Become fat	
nɔ		v.	Write	
nɔ ⁺		v.	Be (I)	
nɔ ⁺		v.	Become	
nɔ ⁺		v.	Give pain	
ńsá		n.	Salt	
ńsí		n.	Tear	
ńsó		n.	Ashes	
ńsō		n.	Shame	
ńsō		n.	Race/running	
ńswàná		n.	Hair	

²¹ (*Citrus sinensis*)

²² (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
ńswanimru		n.	Beard	‘hair of chin’
ńtòtòkò		n.	Mud	
ńtrè		n.	Gum/glue	
ńtrí		n.	Guinea-yam ²³	
nùnu nkòlò		v.p.	Make gruel	
ńv́á		n.	Birdseye chili ²⁴	
nwá		v.	Obey	
ńwalá		n.	Sun	
nwàne		dem.	This	
nwǎne		dem.	That I	
nwisí		int.	Which?	
ńwo		excl.	Yes	
nwó		n.	Cutting I	
ńwô		excl.	Yes	
nwù		v.	Butcher	
nyankwále	ínyankwále	n.	Hippo	
nyèzǎ	mínyèzǎ	n.	Guest/stranger	
nyéló	mínyéló	n.	In-laws	
nyémùla		n.	Needle	
nyézhò	ázhò	n.	Young man	
nyê		adv.	Past time	
nyekúkó	mínyekúkó	n.	Old person	
nyemũgá	mínyemũgá	n.	Doctor	
nyenyé	mínyenyé	n.	Bravery	
nyeríná		v.	Walk	
nyevelè	mínyevele	n.	Man	
nyi ⁺		conj.	Because	
nyíbô		int.	Why?	
nyíkíkpí	mínyíkíkpí	n.	Ghost	
nyínyê		n.	Truth	
nyínyrǎ	mínyinyrǎ	n.	Woman	
nyo kínyî		v.	Tear with teeth	
nyolo		pron.	Somebody	
nyrajo	ijò	n.	Woman in joking relationship with man	
nyrá mudru		n.	Widow	‘inherited wife’
nyrǎ		v.	Sharpen	
nywa ⁺		n.	Grandmother I	original term, but also used in insults
ńzá		int.	What type?	
ńzane		adv.	At this moment	
ńzē		n.	Blood	
nzi		n.	Sesame leaves ²⁵	

²³ (*Dioscorea guineensis*)²⁴ (*Capsicum annuum*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
ńzò		n.	Cowpea ²⁶	
ńzḑ		n.	Smoke	
		n.	Tobacco	
ŋ.				
ŋgà		n.	Personal name	woman
ŋgbá		n.	Claw	
ŋgbetré		n.	Forehead	
ŋmlḑ ⁺		n.	River frog	
ŋmlḑ ⁺		v.	Swallow	
ŋmḑŋmlḑ ⁺		n.	Naked	
O.				
òcā	múcā	n.	Uncle	
òco	múco	n.	Male ancestor	
òdó	ídó	n.	Horse	
oka	ka	n.	Word, matter, issue	
oka		n.	News	
óplà	áplà	n.	Lightning	
òsi		n.	God	This is the vocative form, with o-prefix. nasi is also possible. cf. Jijili usi ,
oyi	áyí	n.	Thief	
òzḑ	ízḑ, mùzḑ	n.	Guinea-fowl	
Ɔ.				
ḑ		excl.	Pause-filler	
ḑcī		n.	Bush-rat I	
ḑjé	ijé	n.	Witch	
ḑkḑ	mùkḑ	n.	Buffalo	
ḑke		n.	Animal sp. I	
ḑkpa		n.	Antelope sp. I	
ḑtsa	áttsa	n.	Moon/month	
ḑvḑ	ivḑ	n.	Goat	
ḑzhi	mùzhi	n.	Bush-rat II	

²⁵ (H. karkashi)

²⁶ (Vigna unguiculata)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
P.				
pa		v.	Beat (drum)	
		v.	Beat (s.o.)	
		v.	Flog	
pà		v.	Hit/strike (drum)	
pà...sala		v.	Smash	
pákítá		v.	Pay debt	
pánó		n.	Floor-beater	
pàplà		adv.	Fast, quickly	
parɔ		v.	Tear (cloth etc.)	
para⁺		v.	Wipe	
pàtà		?	All over, plenty, much	
pê		id.	Sound of object falling	
pê		id.	Expresses gentleness or softness	
pe⁺		v.	Know	
pise		v.	Want/need	
pise⁺		v.	Seek	
píyē		v.	Pour (liquid)	
plà		v.	Change direction	
plâ		v.	Turn off	
plá		id.	Sound of a catapult	
plá, pàplà		adv.	Early	
pligě		v.	Deviate	
pló		conj.	Plus	
pɔ⁺		v.	Stagger	
pro⁺		v.	Clear bush	
púpú		a.	Deep white	
R.				
rà		v.	Play	
rətóməzà		n.	River-bank	
ri⁺		v.	Rise	
ríblí	—	n.	Body	
rici	áci	n.	Firewood	
ríje		n.	Porridge	
rísí, lísí		?	Like	
ritre muga	atre muga	n.	Shrine I	
rogò		n.	Cassava ²⁷	
rɔ⁺		v.	Call (to someone)	

²⁷ (Manihot esculenta)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
rubɔ̃		n.	Land/country	
rúbɔ̃		n.	World	
rúbɔ̃		n.	Ground	
rùbõrùbõ		id.	Lower	
rúgɔ̃	ńgɔ̃	n.	Mountain, hill	
rúgɔ̃		n.	Disease (generic), sickness	
rugbẽ		v.	Hunt	
rùgbã		adv.	Clearly, perfectly, well	
rugrɔ		n.	Rainy Season	
rúgɔ̃sónó		n.	Leprosy	‘disease + x’
rújwe		n.	Fish-Net I	
rúlwe		n.	Sky	
rúmɔ		n.	Worm sp.	
rùnó		num.	Eight	
ruplé		n.	Penis	
rúsonò		n.	Well-being, peace	
rúvɔ̃		n.	Trust, confidence	Originally referred to the juice from a poisonous plant used in ordeals
S.				
sala		v.	Split	
sàprú		n.	Soap (Modern)	< Hausa sabulu .
sásɔ̃		n.	Lessening	
sawá		n.	Fear	
sɛ	ala	v.	Hatch (egg) I	
sèle		v.	Slip	
sé		v.	Sing	
sé		v.	Snap I	
sé		v.	Strain	
sele		v.	Dig	
seme		v.	Cut in two	
seme		v.	Cut off (head etc.)	
seme bẽ		v.	Snap in two	
sere		v.	Deny	
shĩ		?	All I	
shá	múshá	n.	Husband	
shakata		n.	Water-yam ²⁸	
shámá	àshámá	n.	Louse (Human)	
shishe ⁺		a.	Dirty I	
shishishe		a.	Dirty II	

²⁸ (*Dioscorea alata*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
sho ⁺		v.	Ask/beg for something	
shōka, shōyi		v.	Ask a question	
sho ⁺		v.	Dip	
sho ⁺		v.	Fetch	
sho		v.	Draw water	
shō	páj	v.	Lying down, be	
shōkopa		n.	Rice ²⁹	< Hausa
shōnla		v.	Sleep	
shro ⁺		id.	Sound of rustling	e.g. a snake
shúshō		v.	Lie down	
sí		v.	Point	
símí		v.	Carve (wood etc.)	
sísá		a.	New	
sise ⁺		v.	Stir (soup)	
sisele		n.	Maize ³⁰	
sitsalísà		excl.	Goodnight!	
sívò		excl.	Until tomorrow!	
sō		num.	Five	
sō		adv.	Quietly	
só	mùsó	n.	Python	
sô		adv.	Quiet	
sòno		v.	Roast on coals	
srwē		v.	Join	
srwīsrwē		v.	Float	reduplication of srwē 'to join'
súlúlú		adv.	Immediately	
súrú		a.	Many II (emphatic)	
súsónó		a.	Red, yellow	
swa		v.	Climb	
swa		v.	Ride (horse etc.)	
swé		v.	Drink	
swé		v.	Suck (breast etc.)	
swí		v.	Fill hole	
swile		v.	Twist (rope etc.)	
swile		v.	Plait (hair)	

²⁹ (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)³⁰ (*Zea mays*)

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
T.				
ta		v.	Chew	
tā⁺		v.	Eat	
tá		v.	to dissolve	
tana⁺		v.	Tell	
tàsò		v.	Untie	
tàtà		adv.	Steeplly	
tàtà		adv.	More so	
tátàcò		v.	Do s.t. more	
tàtàkplĩ		n.	Butterfly	
tàtàwálo		?	More, all the more	
tê		conj.	Whether, or	
tényê		a.	very old (person)	
tíne		adv.	That time	
tingìlì		a.	Small II	
títrê		a.	Dark-coloured	inc. green, blue etc.
to...lugba		v.	Help	
tónónó		v.	Remain silent	
tó		adv.	Now	
tó⁺		v.	Hate	
tó⁺		v.	Refuse	
tò		v.	to peel (yams)	
tòrò⁺		v.	Abuse	
trémé	átrémé	n.	Chameleon	
trĩ		v.	broadcast seeds	
tritré		v.	Pronounce curse	‘to sow a curse’
trötrö		a.	Smooth	
tró		v.	Cook	
trò		v.	Carry	
trumo⁺		v.	Be cold	
trwà		v.	Swell up	
tša		v.	Give birth	
-tsè		adv.	a while	
tsé	àtsé	n.	Blacksmith	
tsene⁺		v.	Count	
tsi		v.	Harvest (yam)	
tsrôtsrô			?	
tsrà(tsrà)		adv.	Quickly I	Emphatic. Used mainly to children.
tú		v.	Germinate	
		v.	Pierce	
		v.	Sew	
		v.	Stab	

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
túlo		adv.	Ever	
túlo		adv.	Very fast	
tùtrɔ		v.	Laugh	
tútró	átútró	n.	Unripeness, freshness	
U.				
ùvã		n.	snake sp. I	
ùva/òva	íva	n.	Dog	
V.				
vélevéle		a.	Full	
vɪ̀		v.	to mix	
võ		v.	Be rotten	
võ		v.	Harvest (cassava)	
vǔ		v.	Uproot (tuber)	
vrò		a.	Red (emphatic)	
vri		id.	Sound of stone being thrown	
vrî		id.	Intensity of speed	
vukɔ ⁺		v.	Forget	
vúvlú		a.	Light-coloured	
W.				
wá		v.	Stative	
wara		v.	Break (stick)	
wara		v.	Harvest (maize)	
wara ⁺		v.	Pluck	
wàyàwàyà		v.	Openly, freely	
wɔ ⁺		v.	Kill	
wró		v.	Break object	
wrùtùtù		id.	Describes whirring of wings or the hum of a crowd	
wǔ		v.	Slaughter (animal)	
wusɔ		v.	Listen	
		v.	Hear	

Singular	Plural	PoS	Meaning	Additional information
Y.				
yà	áyà	n.	Friend	
yàka		v.	Show, explain, tell	
yé		v.	Fly (birds)	
ye gbõ		v.	Jump up	
ye zuzwe		v.	Jump down	
yi		v.	Steal	
yise		v.	Push	
yuwõ ⁺		v.	Hold	
ywara		v.	Dry in sun	
ywara ⁺		v.	Spread out	
Z.				
zǎ		v.	Return I	
zà		v.	Arrive home	
zá, zǎ		v.	Short while	
zābe àbě		num.	Twenty	10 x 2
zābe mizī		num.	Sixty	
zābe nàrɔ		num.	Forty	
zābe rúnó		num.	Eighty	
zābe rúnó		num.	Hundred	
zābè		num.	Ten	12-2 ?
zābè plo àbě		num.	Twelve	10 cross-over 2
zābè plo lo		num.	Eleven	10 cross-over 1
zacé		num.	Nine	12-3 ?
zǎŋwõ		v.	Weep	
zàrɔ		n.	Fanning	
zàrɔ		v.	to choose	
zē		v.	Far	
zhédùmú		n.	Village name	
zhàgàzhàgà		adv.	Fancily, excessively	
zhé	àzhé	n.	King/chief/ruler	
zhegben		n.	Leopard	
zhri		conj.	Still, for a while	
zǐ		v.	Standing, be	
zìkpõ		v.	Be bent	
zízǐ		v.	Stand up	
zó		part.	Pre-verbal negative	
zoro		v.	Mould (pot)	
zoro...nkpõ		v.	Hurt	
zõ		v.	Flow (water etc.)	

