

The Lopa language
of
Northwestern Nigeria and its
affinities

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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Lopa language, spoken in a series of villages on the West Bank of Lake Kainji in Niger State, Nigeria. The wordlist was collected by Roger Blench with the assistance of John Stark from a group of villagers in Tsupamini on the 26th of November 1992.

The wordlist was collected as a 'one-shot' exercise and the transcription must therefore be regarded as very preliminary. In general, tones are not marked, although the data was taped and they will be added when time permits. This analysis was prepared by Roger Blench, who added the comparative observations. This document is being circulated to scholars for comment.

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

The precise name of the Lopa, known as Lopawa in Hausa and many early reference texts, is unclear. The names Kirikjir for the language and Djiri for the people have been recorded but I was unable to confirm these during an interview. Lopa is retained here pending further information.

2.2 Location and settlements

The Lopa live in Niger State, Borgu LGA and in Kebbi State, Yauri LGA. There are at least six villages on the east shore of Lake Kainji plus two others on the west shore. Their traditional patterns of migration were disrupted by the creation of the Lake in 1974, but the new economic opportunities it offered have probably increased their wealth and numbers.

2.3 Language status

To judge by a single interview in one settlement, the Lopa language is thriving, despite widespread near-bilingualism in Hausa. A Native Authority Census in 1950 recorded 4,960 individuals so it is safe to assume that there are between 5-10,000 Lopa at present. However, whether all settlements speak the language is unknown.

2.4 Lopa culture and history

The Lopa and Laru are fishing peoples who live around the edge of Lake Kainji. Very little is known about their culture, apart from comments in Reed *et al.* (1974), and passing references in ethnographic texts. Following the creation of the lake in 1974 their settlement patterns were disrupted.

2.5 Existing literature on the classification of Lopa

Meek had access to wordlists of Lopa and Laru collected by a DO, Hoskyns Abrahall. Thomas (in Meek 1925,II:137) put many of the West Kainji languages into 'Nigerian Semi-Bantu' but joined Lopa and Laru with Bariba in 'Volta' i.e. Gur. The recognition that the group now known as West Kainji forms a genetic unit is due to Bertho (1952:264-6) who asserted its coherence on the basis of unpublished wordlists. Bertho rejected the Gur affiliations of Lopa and Laru proposed by Thomas and stated that the affiliations of the '*groupe Kamberi*' were with central Nigerian Platoid languages. Following Hansford *et al.* (1976) Laru and Lopa are generally classified together as one branch of West Kainji, a view supported in Blench (ined.). However, published proof of this classification is entirely lacking.

A sketch of the phonology of Lopa is purportedly recorded in Adekunle (1986). However, comparison of lexical items in his text with the wordlists taken for Meek and by the author in 1992 (which substantially

agree) reveals almost no resemblances. Since Adekunle provides no detail on the elicitation of his material, the wisest course is to eliminate this document from further consideration.

3. Phonology

The phonology of Lopa is based on rapid observations and should therefore be regarded as tentative at this stage.

3.1 Vowels

Lopa probably has eight oral vowels;

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

The schwa, /ə/ occurs both in prefixes and stems, but it is likely that it has no phonemic value in prefixes, becoming an epenthetic vowel as the prefixes evolve towards a single consonant, similar to those in the Lela-Hun languages.

Each vowel has a nasal counterpart;

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

Doubled vowels are common, but frequent tonal changes suggests these should always be analysed as VV sequences, arising from vowel assimilation and intervocalic consonant loss. Lopa also permits numerous dissimilar VV sequences, as well as combinations of V and \tilde{V} .

3.2 Consonants

Lopa consonants are as follows:

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

Labialisation and palatalisation are quite common, although their precise phonemic significance remains to be analysed.

3.3 Tones

Tone on verb stems tends to be predictable as with many Kambari lects.

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Lopa has an extremely rich system of nominal morphology. It has apparently undergone multiple affixing as many stems show clear traces of former prefixes that have become part of the stem.

By far the most common plural prefix is a-, which can combine with almost any singular prefix. The following tables set out the possible combinations;

∅-/SV-

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Tree (generic)	ʃə	ʃi-ʃə
Leaf	fwã	sə-fwã
Root	naũ	sə-naũ
Smoke	'yu	sə-'yu
Grass (generic)	∅-kwa	sə-kwa
Forest	kwam	su-kwam

SV plural prefixes are extremely common in Lopa. The S is palatalised with a stem-initial /ʃ/, but otherwise it is realised as /s/. No rule seems to determine the value of V in sV and this may be just free variation.

∅-/a-

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Moon/month	'yuuru	a-'yuuru
Sun	gwi	a-gwi
Market*	ribu	a-ribu

rV/a-

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Field	ra-hãi	a-hãi
Seed/stone/pip	re-kero	a-kero
Mountain	ri-yam	a-yam
Name	ri-hinǝ	a-hinǝ
Day	ru-bwi	a-bwi
Night	ru-ira	a-ira
Death	ru-uə	a-uə

There is a general rule of harmonisation between the V of the prefix and the first stem-vowel. However, the presence of labials and palatals take precedence over vowel quality. Thus the prefix for –yam is **ri-** not **ra-**. The word for 'night' however, remains anomalous.

fV/a-

Gloss	sg.	pl.
River turtle	fɔ-hāārə	
Rubbish-heap	fɔ-kūhū	a-kūhū
Stone	fɔ-tāārə	a-tāārə
Year	fo-vɔra	a-vɔra
Star(s)	fo-geŋgiŋi	a-geŋgiŋi
Swamp	fo-pwəzə	a-pwəzə
Tooth	fo-yefə	a-yefə
Farm	fu-tuma	a-tuma

The V in fV prefixes is restricted to back vowels, /ɔ/, /o/ and /u/. The distinction between **fɔ** and **fo** is difficult to analyse, although there seems to be a correlation between **fɔ** and nasalised stem vowels. The following word looks very much as if a former **fu-** prefix has been incorporated in the stem and then a new prefix added.

Squirrel (ground) **fukusa** **a-fukusa**

sV/a-

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Urine	səkāhā	
Dew	sə-myem	a-myem
Liver	sə-'ya	
Room	su-rukwə	a-rukwə
Faeces	su-binni	a-binni

sV- is most commonly a plural prefix, but in these limited examples, it is a singular alternating with a-. The evidence so far suggests that **su-** is assigned to high stem-vowels /i/ and /u/ while **sə-** harmonises with all other vowels. The following word appears to have incorporated a former **sV-** prefix and then been reprefixed, since #-**gulu** is a widespread root for 'vulture'.

Hooded Vulture **saguru** **a-saguru**

See, e.g. Nupe **gulu**, Tarok **ngūluk**.

N/a-

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Water	m-mi	a-mi
Sorghum-beer	ŋ-kwa	a-kwa
Palm-wine	ŋ-kwahu	a-kwahu

Niger-Congo has an ancient liquids class with a nasal affix and this seems to have been maintained in Lopa. The nasal quality is determined by the initial stem-consonant with **m-** prefixing bilabials and **ŋ-** prefixing k-. More examples would be needed to determine the whole range of possibilities.

do-/bV-

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Person/people	do-hūmwa	bo-hūmwa
Man	do-rumburu	bu-rumburu
Woman	do-aarə	bu-aarə

The singular prefix **do-** seems invariant, but the determinants of the V of the bV plural prefix are unclear. The strong association of bV- with plurals of nouns referring to persons is an old Niger-Congo pattern (see also following glosses).

∅-/bV-

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Child		bi
Chief/ruler		bi
	tɔ̃ɪʃa	bə-tɔ̃ɪʃa
Hunter	totei-arə	bə-totei-arə

Again, the small number of cases makes it hard to determine the reasons for vowel quality in the bV- affix.

∅-/bə-

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Father	metō	məbətō
Mother	meno	məbəno
Friend	medo	məbədo

The infixing of a -bə- sequence is probably a special case of the previous example.

In the following cases, the plurals are formed by the deletion of a suffix **-bi** on the singular and the addition of an sV- prefix.

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Hair	hī-bi	sehī
Bee	hinə-bi	ʃi-hinə

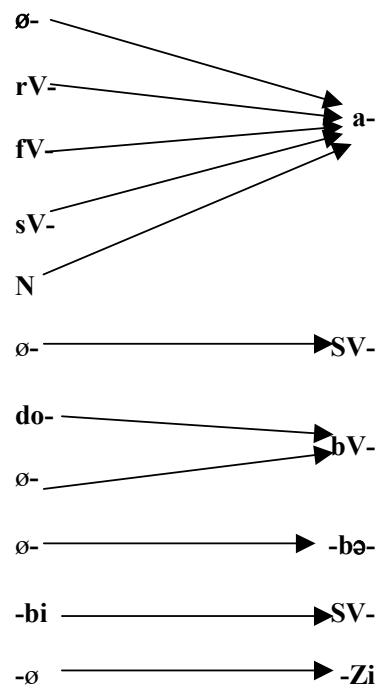
The following two words are exceptional, forming a plural with stem + **ji/zi**. This is an identical procedure to Nupe (a language without noun-classes) and it may be that there is a connection, although the two items recorded are not Nupe loanwords.

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Word	saaji	saaji-ji
Breath	huhu	huhu-zi

saa, generally meaning ‘news’ or ‘information’, is a widespread loanword from Hausa in this region.

Figure 1 summarises the Lopa system of singular/plural affix alternation:

Figure 1. Lopa noun-class affix pairings



4.2 Verbs

Lopa verbs are morphologically very diverse and some patterns suggest that verbal extensions can be hypothesised from a number of common final CV syllables. Additional support for this is given by the fact that the first CV of the stem is sometimes cognate with a widespread Niger-Congo root. The West Kainji cognates show that the extensions were attached to the verb stems prior at an early stage in the diversification of the group. Some possibilities are as follows;

-rV

Buy	kiirə	
Follow	kumbərə	
Play	soweerə	
Spit	wərə	
Work	tum wərə	
Cut off (head etc.)	sari	?
Burn (fire burns)	tooru	cf. tHun də , Ror də ,
Fight (in war)	asə uuru	
Hatch (egg)	kyaguru	
Sing	ajaaru	cf. Laru swàrú ,
Throw	toguru	

Generally speaking, the vowel of the suffix is realised as a high back vowel if this is the last vowel of the stem and a schwa elsewhere. **sari** may not form part of this set, while ‘sing’ is an exception, although the cognacy of the Laru form suggests the form is accurate.

-gV

Stir (soup)	nigi	
Know	ʃigi	cf. Laru ʃébi ,
Grow (plants)	bengi	
Cut down (tree)	cigi	
Cut in two	tsigi	
Dance	fɪnyigi	
Sell	lagu	cf. Səgəruk na-ragu ,
Sharpen	guugu	
Say/speak	saaji	?

The vowel of the suffix is realised as a high back vowel if the last vowel of the stem is /a/ or /u/ and /i/ elsewhere. **saaji** may not form part of this set.

-s~zV

Ride (horse etc.)	haasə	
Give birth	maazə	cf. Laru máji , cLela maco , Ror, tHun mat and a widespread Niger-Congo root #ma.
Flog	fazə	
Fry (in oil)	guuzu	
Fold (cloth etc.)	kuuzu	
Flow (water etc.)	tuuzu	

The vowel of the suffix is realised as a high back vowel if this is the last vowel of the stem and as /ə/ elsewhere.

5. Lexical comparison and the classification of Lopa

Lopa is conventionally classified as Benue–Congo: Kainji: Western Kainji: Lake group. Its nearest relative is Laru, unfortunately a poorly known language and the next nearest relative is Reshe, which is itself a highly divergent member of West Kainji. Etymological comparisons given in the wordlist that follows are intended to shed some light on its classification. It is likely, however, that Lopa has come under the influence of both Songhay and Gur languages. Table 1 shows the principal sources of data for lexical comparison;

Language or group	Source	Abbreviation (if any)
Benue-Congo	Williamson & Shimizu (1968) & (1973)	Williamson BCCW
Hausa	Newman (1997)	NW
West Kainji	Regnier (ined.)	Rg

Niger-Congo comparisons are often made in terms of the levels of reconstruction within the phylum. These are based on data presented in Westermann (1927) and Mukarovsky (1976-77) and analysed in Blench (ined, b). The following levels are recognised;

This paper adopts the convention for reconstructions used in the Niger-Congo volume edited by Bendor-Samuel (1989), distinguishing those established by regular sound-correspondences from those derived by quick inspection of cognates. By this criterion, most major reconstructed forms are quasi-reconstructions (inevitably). The effect of this is to translate the starred forms of various writers to hache '#'.

6. Lopa wordlist

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
1.	Tree (generic)	ø-ʃə	ʃi-ʃə	cf. cLela s-ɕe , but these are weakened forms of the widespread #ti- roots
2.	Leaf	ø-fwā	sə-fwā	cf. Laru fò , cLela k-va , sSaare ofwa ,
3.	Root	ø-naũ	sə-naũ	cf. Kambari àà-ràlũ ,
4.	Branch	ø-tāāngu	a-tāāngu	
5.	Grass (generic)	ø-kwa	sə-kwa	cf. Gwamhi d-gwa , tHun t-gwá ,
6.	Mushroom	ru-guregurya	a-guregurya	
7.	Seed/stone/pip	re-kero	a-kero	cf. Shama byero ,
8.	Bark (of tree)	ø-kyaaro	sə-kyaaro	cf. Gwamhi t-kwu , cLela c-koko , tHun u-keg ,
9.	Thorn	ø-hǒǒrè	sə-hǒǒrè	cf. Ror u-hir , cLela k-hilə ,
10.	Charcoal	wǒhũ	sə-wǒhũ	cf. Wuri əhu ,
11.	Dust	tuŋ	sə-tuŋ	possibly shift from ‘ashes’, e.g. cLela m-tonj ,
12.	Ashes	əaũ		cf. Reshe m-étù if intervocalic –t- is lost.
13.	Rubbish-heap	fə-kũhũ	a-kũhũ	
14.	Mud	səlaagu		
15.	Clay			
16.	Dew	sə-myem	a-myem	cf. Gwamhi d-mi , cLela cu-mwi , Rukul mmaŋ , Tarok imimyaŋ , Yaŋkam myaŋ but almost certainly going back to a Niger-Congo root #me-
17.	Stone	fə-tāārə	a-tāārə	cf. Gwamhi r-tale , with the #ta- element probably Proto-Niger-Congo.
18.	Sand	re-henda		
19.	Smoke	ø-’yu	sə-’yu	
20.	Fire	la		cf. Laru rwá , Gwamhi u-la , but a widespread Niger-Congo root
21.	Water	m-mi	a-mi	cf. sSaare m-mi , but also Rogo mani , possibly suggesting a link with terms for ‘oil’
22.	Rain	ntoogu		
23.	Cloud			
24.	Lightning			
25.	Rainy Season	wěhě	a-wěhě	
26.	Dry season	nyabi		
27.	Harmattan			
28.	Year	fo-vəra	a-vəra	
29.	Day	ru-bwi	a-bwi	
30.	Night	ru-ira	a-ira	
31.	Moon/month	ø-’yuuru	a-’yuuru	
32.	Sun	gwi	a-gwi	cf. Laru gye ,
33.	Star(s)	fo-gengifi	a-gengifi	cf. tHun o-rogen , Cinda bi-ringwan ,

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
34.	Wind	nyã		cf. Laru nyã , Ror m-mya ,
35.	God	iratõndu		
36.	Sky	a'arə		cf. Ror urə 'God', Gwamhi domo ire , Rogo tə-ran ,
37.	World			
38.	Ground/Earth	ẽẽʃi		cf. Gwamhi u-cihi ,
39.	Large River	anãu		
40.	Stream			
41.	Forest	kwam	su-kwam	
42.	Mountain	ri-yam	a-yam	
43.	Hill			
44.	Bush	kwõa		cf. cLela k-kade , tHun ɔ-kɔt . ? connected with widespread #kɔl roots for 'forest'.
45.	Farm	fu-tuma	a-tuma	
46.	Field	ra-hãi	a-hãi	
47.	Market*	ribu	a-ribu	
48.	Compound	atyɔɔa		
49.	Room	su-rukwə	a-rukwə	? Metathesis of other W. Kainji, e.g. cLela k-kuru , Ror u-kur , tHun o-kur ,
50.	Wall (of room)	tsimwə		
51.	Thatch roof			
52.	Well* ¹			
53.	Road	ʃena	a-ʃena	cf. Reshe ù-cìnà . This root is fairly widespread in East Benue-Congo. PDW reconstructs #-zena .
54.	Path	ʃena kwajarə		
55.	Village/settlement	ru-kumekafi	a-kumekafi	
56.	River-bank			
57.	Swamp/wetland	fo-pwəəzə	a-pwəəzə	
58.	Place			
59.	Today	neneya		
60.	Yesterday	ham		
61.	Tomorrow	ʃeham		
62.	Morning			
63.	Evening			
64.	Dawn			
65.	Person/people	do-hũmwa	bo-hũmwa	
66.	Man	do-rumburu	bu-rumburu	cf. Laru lúrɔ̀ndò , . The -rum- element is presumably related to the widespread #rom for 'man'.
67.	Woman	do-aarə	bu-aarə	
68.	Child	bi	bu-bi	cf. Reshe ú-bì . Widespread Niger-Congo #bi .

¹ * Starred items are unsuitable for historical reconstruction

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
69.	Husband			
70.	Wife			
71.	Widow			
72.	Young man			
73.	Young girl			
74.	Old person	do-rumburu ʃiʃi	bu-~	
75.	Father	metō	mebətō	
76.	Mother	meno	mebəno	
77.	Barren woman			
78.	Relations	metowuru		
79.	Ancestors			
80.	Grandparents			
81.	Grandchild			
82.	Brother			
83.	Sister			
84.	Friend	medo	mebədo	
85.	Guest/stranger			
86.	King/chief/ruler	tōiʃa	bə-tōiʃa	
87.	Hunter	totei-arə	bə-totei-arə	
88.	Thief			
89.	Doctor			
90.	Witch			
91.	Corpse			
92.	Blacksmith			
93.	Woodworker			
94.	Slave			
95.	Masquerade I			
96.	Prophecy			
97.	Shame			
98.	Fear/fright			
99.	Bravery/courage			
100.	Laughter			
101.	Wisdom			
102.	Guilt			
103.	Anger			
104.	Race/running			
105.	Suffering			
106.	Death	ru-uə	a-uə	
107.	Name	ri-hinə	a-hinə	cf. Reshe r-inə , cLela dinə , Tarok adɪn . Widespread in BC and perhaps Niger-Congo.
108.	Grave			
109.	Song	dyaaru		
110.	Proverb	sageʃigi		
111.	Story			
112.	Word	saaji	saajiji	

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
113.	Lie			
114.	News	saaji	saajiji	
115.	Hunger			
116.	Famine			
117.	Egg	ri-ira	a-ira	cf. Reshe r-ere , Laru iri .
118.	Horn	ri-gyø	a-gyø	
119.	Tail	ri-ina	a-ina	cf. Laru ínà , ? Shama bi-enu ,
120.	Wing (of bird)	keesu	sə-keesu	
121.	Beak (of bird)			
122.	Nest (of bird)	rerea	a-rerea	
123.	Gum/glue			
124.	Ant-hill			
125.	Hole in ground	ru-buuru	a-buuru	cf. Nupe gbòrǒ , but this can be reconstructed to Niger-Saharan.
126.	Smell			
127.	Poison	mvi		
128.	Bundle			
129.	Firewood	ʃiə larə		
130.	War	rəaarə		
131.	Work	atomwarə		The # tom- element is Niger-Congo
132.	Divination (types)			
133.	Medicine (generic)	kaasu	a-kaasu	
134.	Money	fo-kai		cf. Shama karubi ,
135.	Shadow			
136.	Thing			
137.	Strength			
138.	Length			
139.	Land/country			
140.	Sleep			
141.	Disease (generic)	ʃǝrwa isə		
142.	Sickness	sa'ənə		cf. Gwamhi m-sanə , cLela m-sono ,
143.	Smallpox			
144.	Diarrhoea			
145.	Eczema			
146.	Goitre			
147.	Boil			
148.	Sore/wound			
149.	Leprosy			
150.	Head	ri-hyendə	a-hyendə	cf. tHun r-hyí , cLela d-hyí , Basa u-hyuhu . The -də is likely to be an incorporated noun-class affix.
151.	Eye	ru-ɔmbi	a-ɔmbi	cf. Laru mèmbí
152.	Face	a-haahū		
153.	Cheek	ri-hēm	a-hēm	

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
154.	Forehead	rə-payanə	a-payanə	
155.	Nose	ro-hõro	a-hõro	? cf. Laru gó , tHun r-ho ,
156.	Ear	to	a-to	cf. Laru có , tHun o-to though a widespread Niger-Congo root.
157.	Mouth	nu	a-nu	cf. Laru nú , though a widespread Niger-Congo root.
158.	Tooth	fo-yefə	a-yefə	cf. Laru yùwí ,
159.	Tongue	ri-rimiya	a-rimiya	cf. widespread Niger-Congo #lem
160.	Throat	ɔrobi	a-ɔrobi	If -bi is an old incorporated affix, then this is cognate with W. Kainji forms with initial t- thus Səgəmək bi-taro , cLela s-toro etc.
161.	Neck	rə-ɔru	a-ɔru	see 'throat' (160.)
162.	Jaw	kərə	a-kərə	
163.	Chin			
164.	Shoulder	tam	a-tam	
165.	Armpit			
166.	Arm	taha	a-taha	cf. Laru tá
167.	Forearm	taha tuuru		
168.	Hand	taha parə		
169.	Fist	fo-dembi	a-dembi	
170.	Leg/foot	kuna	a-kuna	cf. Laru púnà , Reshe ú-kánà . Kambari kùnè , Gwamhi ka-nə suggests this form may have developed from a re-interpreted prefix.
171.	Thigh	kuna tsəŋ	a-kuna tsəŋ	
172.	Knee	kuna rugu	a-kuna rugu	cf. East Benue-Congo #-rúŋù
173.	Female breast	ri-hinga	a-hinga	
174.	Stomach	ru-kusu	a-kusu	
175.	Navel	ru-kuuru	a-kuuru	
176.	Nail (Finger/toe)	gungu	a-gungu	cf. Laru zúùgù , ? tHun kanku , cLela kukbu ,
177.	Back	ru-wa'		
178.	Buttocks	rubusujenda		
179.	Penis	ri-rigə	a-rigə	
180.	Vagina	ri-lau	a-lau	
181.	Body	ayero		
182.	Skin	yaagu	a-yaagu	cf. Laru yábà ,
183.	Bone	iingə	a-iingə	cf. Laru ùŋgú ,
184.	Rib	təngya	a-təngya	
185.	Vein			
186.	Blood	ŋɔrɔŋ		cf. Laru ure ,
187.	Breath	huhu	huhu-zi	
188.	Tear	ɔ'ɔ mbimi		
189.	Sweat			
190.	Urine	səkāhā		

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
191.	Faeces	su-binni	a-binni	cf. Nupe ebi ,
192.	Hair	hī-bi	se-hī	cf. cLela, tHun s-hi , Shama tə-hinj ,
193.	Beard	bəibu	sə-bəibu	
194.	Liver	sə-'ya		
195.	Heart	rə-bi	a-bi	cf. Laru yàβí , cLela d-debe
196.	Intestines			
197.	Meat	mərə	a-mərə	
198.	Animal (Bush)	mərə kwāārə		
199.	*Camel			
200.	Cow	na	a-na	Niger-Congo root #na
201.	Bull			
202.	Calf			
203.	Goat	vini	a-vini	Proto-Niger-Congo #bi- root
204.	He-goat			
205.	Castrated goat			
206.	Sheep	tam	a-tam	Widespread root in many languages of this ecozone. cf. Shama bi-temi , but also Hausa tumaaki .
207.	Ram			
208.	Castrated sheep			
209.	Dog	vavi	a-vavi	Widespread Niger-Congo root #va
210.	*Cat	a-dama		
211.	*Pig	gurusunu	a-gurusunu	cf. Laru sursunu , old Hausa kursunu , Nupe kutsun . A regional loanword.
212.	*Horse	taango	a-taango	
213.	*Donkey	fo-jaki	a-jaki	< Hausa
214.	Elephant	tsya	a-tsya	cf. Laru cã ,
215.	Hippo	dyom	a-dyom	
216.	Buffalo	geehū	a-geehū	cf. Laru gen 'hippo' also ? Ror u-hwut .
217.	Lion	kau	a-kau	
218.	Leopard	tariifa	a-tariifa	
219.	Hyena ²	kwøndə		
220.	Wart-hog ³	kume	a-kume	
221.	Bush-pig ⁴			
222.	Duiker antelope ⁵			
223.	Porcupine ⁶			
224.	Baboon	gbədəgi	a-gbədəgi	cf. Berom bōgòm , Nupe gbogi , perh. Hausa gogo .
225.	Patas monkey ⁷	gwam mokarə		
226.	Squirrel (ground)	fukusa	a-fukusa	

² (*Crocuta crocuta*)³ (*Phacochoerus aethiopus*)⁴ (*Potamochoerus Porcus*)⁵ (*Cephalophus* spp.)⁶ (*Hystrix cristata*)⁷ (*Erythrocebus patas*)

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
227.	Rat (generic)	kyaw	a-kyaw	cf. Alumu ì-kwì and PEBC #i-kwa
228.	Fat mouse			
229.	Pygmy mouse			
230.	Giant rat ⁸	kadzowe	a-kadzowe	
231.	Grasscutter ⁹	rə-vega	a-vega	
232.	Bush-rat I	ru-ubwə	a-ubwə	
233.	Bush-rat II			
234.	Hedgehog ¹⁰			
235.	Hare ¹¹	ləm	a-ləm	
236.	House-bat	mopemberi	a-mopemberi	
237.	Fruit-bat	kamba	a-kamba	
238.	Nile crocodile	ruwa		cf. Laru ra , . Curious similarity to Hausa 'water'.
239.	Chameleon	kalau		
240.	Agama lizard	kaarə		
241.	Skink	kasanguru	a-kasanguru	
242.	Gecko	karani	a-karani	
243.	Toad	karengu	a-karengu	
244.	River frog	kadangi	a-kadangi	cf. Rogo u-kundu ,
245.	Land tortoise	urukpəgərə	a-urukpəgərə	cf. Laru kógù ,
246.	Snake (Generic)	ru-muuba	a-muuba	
247.	Spitting cobra	kapiirə	a-kapiirə	
248.	Python			
249.	Puff adder			
250.	River turtle	fə-hāārə		
251.	River crab	kaangu		cf. Kambari má-káná , but also Hausa kaguwaa .
252.	River molluscs	haangu		
253.	Fish (generic)	kifi		could this be the source for Hausa kiifi ?
254.	Tilapia (spp.)			
255.	Puffer fish ¹²			
256.	Catfish (spp.) ¹³			
257.	Nile Perch ¹⁴			
258.	Electric fish ¹⁵			
259.	Bird	nifibi	a-nifibi	
260.	Chicken	taarə	a-taarə	cf. Reshe hí-táalkə , Kambari mó-tǔǔ . Probably connected with widespread #tokoro roots.

⁸ (*Cretomyces* sp.)⁹ (*Thryonomys Swinderianus*)¹⁰ (*Atelerix albiventris*)¹¹ (*Lepus Crawshayi*)¹² (*Tetraodon fahaka*)¹³ (*Synodontis* spp.)¹⁴ (*Lates niloticus*)¹⁵ (*Malapterurus electricus*)

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
287.	Housefly	fə-'yu	a-'yu	? weakened from forms such as cLela gyumu , thence Yangkam gyoŋ .
288.	Ant (Generic)	fo-benebi	a-benebi	
289.	Louse (Human)	fo-koropata	a-koropata	< Hausa
290.	Millipede	fo-gɔguru	a-gɔguru	
291.	Cockroach	haribi 'yuwa	a-haribi 'yuwa	
292.	Termite	fə-fyərə	a-fyərə	
293.	Flying-ant	fə-zɔŋguna		
294.	Praying mantis	ki atɔɔndu	a-ki atɔɔndu	
295.	Firefly	mɔmwanzəmwanzə	a-mɔmwanzəmwanzə	
296.	Giant Cricket	fə-hāārə	a-hāārə	
297.	Earthworm	fə-doobu	a-doobu	
298.	Giant Snail	ru-koto	a-koto	
299.	Soap (Traditional)	nzomi		
300.	Oil	mum		cf. Abua a-munum , Batu mɛm , Mama muru .
301.	Fat/grease	afyoma		cf. cLela m-sema , Ror m-sem ,
302.	Salt	ŋwá		
303.	Soup/stew	a-'yumū		
304.	Porridge	ri-kya	a-kya	? cf. cLela d-ga , tHun r-ga ,
305.	Sorghum-beer	ŋ-kwa	a-kwa	cf. cLela mkya , tHun m-kyɛ ,
306.	Palm-wine	ŋ-kwahu	a-kwahu	
307.	Peelings	saasə	saasə-gi	
308.	Funnel	fo-kakaki	a-kakaki	< Hausa 'trumpet'
309.	Rag	nyasai	sə-nyasai	
310.	Floor-beater	mɔɔde'bɛmɔ		
311.	Handle (of tool)	wuura	a-wuura	
312.	Sickle	a-yari		
313.	Cutlass	mɔsari arə		
314.	Iron	tɔŋwa		
315.	Axe	ru-o	a-o	
316.	Adze	tsohi	a-tsohi	
317.	Hoe I	fo-tso ufu	a-tso ufu	
318.	Hoe II	fo-kifu	a-kifu	
319.	Hoe III	tsohibi kunfari		planting hoe
320.	Hammer	amadafi	a-amadafi	
321.	Knife	sōi		cf. Laru fi ,
322.	Comb	mɔhi 'yurumɔ		
323.	Broom	fɔhɔ	a-fɔhɔ	cf. cLela wesə ,

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
324.	Sack	rə-marə	a-marə	
325.	Fireplace	ri-genda	a-genda	
326.	Shoe	rə-katsu	a-katsu	? cf. cLela u-kata , Ror u-kaat , but may be metathesis of widespread # tak - roots.
327.	Cloth	pugu	a-pugu	
328.	Grinding-stone	rənam		
329.	Mortar (wood)	tuŋ		cf. tHun r-du , Horom u-duŋ , Pe utuŋ , and ultimately Hausa túrmíí
330.	Pestle	fuŋwi	a-fuŋwi	
331.	Pot (generic)	i-ŋgi		
332.	Pot I	ruburu	a-ruburu	
333.	Pot II	garanda	a-garanda	
334.	Pot III	ri-ɛŋgə saʃəri	a-ɛŋgə saʃəri	
335.	Pot IV	dàgá	a-dàgá	
336.	Head-pad	rə-aarə	a-aarə	
337.	Basket (generic)	səŋgwuri		
338.	Basket I	səŋguru	a-səŋguru	
339.	Winnowing tray	katau		
340.	Mat (generic)	wurwə		
341.	Spear	fo-taabu	a-taabu	cf. Laru tàgú , cLela k-taka , tHun o-tak ,
342.	Spear II	sau	a-sau	cf. Wuri v-sahə , Ror u-sap ,
343.	Spear (3-point, barb)	zabagū	a-zabagū	
344.	Hippo harpoon	riyapu	a-riyapu	
345.	Bow	fota	a-fota	# ta is a widespread Niger-Congo root and fo- an incorporated prefix.
346.	Arrow	ro-bay	a-bay	cf. Reshe ri-bábè . Plateau has widespread # bi forms which may be cognate
347.	Quiver	fo-yaw	a-yaw	
348.	Chain	motsiro fu arə	a-motsiro fu arə	
349.	Rope	wāhā	su-wāhā	cf. cLela s-hwə , tHun o-hər , Rogo i-wə ,
350.	Stool	baarə	a-baarə	cf. Laru bà ,
351.	Wooden door	bagurə		
352.	Fence	baaru	a-baaru	
353.	Canoe	tum	a-tum	
354.	Paddle	farom	a-farom	
355.	Fish-Net	motogozə		
356.	Fish-trap (<i>suru</i>)	ri-hyū		
357.	Fish-trap (<i>nduruttu</i>)	mobondori		
358.	Circular fish-fence	wanda		
359.	Fish-trap (<i>gara</i>)	gula		

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
360.	Snare	tūwacendə		
361.	One	kinə		cf. Laru kíní , cLela cin but widespread in BC, Ijoid and Kwa. See Williamson (1989:255).
362.	Two	sə'ə		
363.	Three	taara		An ancient Niger-Congo root
364.	Four	naha		cf. Laru náʔà , an ancient Niger-Congo root
365.	Five	tīhi		cf. cLela tan but an ancient Niger-Congo root
366.	Six	kerarə		
367.	Seven	tembisə		5 + 2
368.	Eight	tembitaara		5 + 3
369.	Nine	tembinaha		5 + 4
370.	Ten	obwa		cf. Laru úbà , but most of the West Kainji languages have lost the initial k- of a widespread BC #kop- root.
371.	Twenty	kubi kinə		1 x 20
372.	Black	humbulu		
373.	White	puuru		cf. Laru pú , but #pu- is a widespread Niger-Congo root.
374.	Red	ʃeerə		cf. Laru séi , Shama ʃen , Kuki ʃeni ,
375.	Sweet	lililə'		
376.	Bitter	ɲarə'		
377.	Half	kafi		
378.	Hot	laasə		
379.	Cold	nnya'		
380.	Old	solahu		
381.	New	hahū		
382.	Wet	ɲgohu		
383.	Dry	ɲweniya		
384.	Add to	soguru		
385.	Answer (question)	kuru		
386.	Ask a question	bigi marya		
387.	Ask/beg for s.t.	kofərəm		
388.	Awaken (someone)	yiū		
389.	Bark (dog)			
390.	Be bent			
391.	Be heavy			
392.	Be rotten	sam		cf. Kambari ʃāmâ , cLela zəmó , Aten sà , Hyam seŋa .
393.	Be short	kumi		
394.	Become dry	məwənya		

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
395.	Begin	tsogo		
396.	Bite	rum		cf. Laru dáròm , but Kambari lùmà and widespread Niger-Congo: Diola rum .
397.	Blow (flute etc.)	piibu		cf. Laru píbí ,
398.	Build (house etc.)	maha		Identical to ‘mould’ (458.). #ma is a widespread Niger-Congo root, and in Jarawan Bantu it has a long vowel: Mama maa .
399.	Burn (fire burns)	tooru		cf. tHun dɔ , Ror dɔɔ ,
400.	Bury			
401.	Buy	kiire		
402.	Call (to someone)	ranɔ		
403.	Capture	habu		
404.	Carve (wood etc.)	yigi	yigigi	
405.	Catch			
406.	Chew	rumogye		
407.	Choose			
408.	Climb	ruwa		
409.	Come	yaana		
410.	Come/go out (of room)	rwi		cf. cLela rwéŋ , tHun rwén , possibly Chawai ru .
411.	Continue (to do s.t.)	ina hahū		
412.	Cough	warə		cf. Ror war , Gwamhi wahə , Rogo wagət ,
413.	Count			
414.	Cut down (tree)	cigi		
415.	Cut in two	tsigi		
416.	Cut off (head etc.)	sari		cf. Mada sär , Nupe sá , Yoruba ǰá , representing PBC #-sa(r)-. The -rV suffix is probably a relic verbal extension not found in WBC
417.	Dance	finyigi		
418.	Die	u		cf. Laru úʷ , Rogo, Kuki u . These are probably forms of the widespread #ku or #wu roots with loss of C ₁ .
419.	Dig (earth etc.)	gahū		cf. cLela hinə , tHun hɪn , Cinda hɪndu ,
420.	Do/make	ruwa		
421.	Drag	yitəɔ		
422.	Drink	gun		cf. Laru múgù ,
423.	Drop			
424.	Dry in sun			
425.	Eat	ri		cf. tHun ré , cLela ryà , but a widespread Niger-Congo root.
426.	Enter	rifu		
427.	Fall (rain)	togo numbera		
428.	Fall over	donu		
429.	Fight (in war)	asɔ uuru		

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
430.	Finish (a task)	haure		
431.	Flog	fazə		
432.	Flow (water etc.)	tuuzu		
433.	Fly (birds)	wudó		
434.	Fold (cloth etc.)	kuuzu		
435.	Follow	kumbərə		
436.	Forget			
437.	Fry (in oil)	guuzu		
438.	Gather/collect	kum		
439.	Give	kam		cf. Cinda panam , Kambari càâ , Ekoid Q kâr , Rukul kaŋ ,
440.	Give birth	maazə		cf. Laru máji , cLela maco , Ror, tHun mat and a widespread Niger-Congo root #ma.
441.	Go	arə		
442.	Grind	nam		
443.	Greet			
444.	Grow (plants)	beŋgi		
445.	Hatch (egg)	kyaguru		
446.	Hear	yom		cf. Laru yó'əm ,
447.	Hit/strike (drum etc.)	biinə		cf. Laru cób'wi ,
448.	Hunt			
449.	Jump			
450.	Kill	so'wi		
451.	Know	ŋigi		cf. Laru ŋébi ,
452.	Laugh	manji		cf. Laru mánèŋyì ,
453.	Lick			
454.	Lie down			see 'sleep'
455.	Listen	yom		
456.	Marry	ya		
457.	Mix			
458.	Mould (pot)	maha		see commentary under 'build' (398.)
459.	Open			
460.	Plant (crop etc.)	kūhū		
461.	Play	soweerə		
462.	Pound (in mortar)	suŋ		
463.	Pour (liquid)	iyere		
464.	Pull			
465.	Push			
466.	Receive	kugwə		cf. cLela kaba , Ror kab ,
467.	Refuse	ahā		? cf. cLela hòlà , Fyem ha .
468.	Remember			
469.	Return	yagunə		
470.	Ride (horse etc.)	haasə		

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
471.	Roast on coals	kwogi		? cf. CB #- káng , C. Kambari kàngalâ , PUC * kaŋa
472.	Run	tso		cf. Ror, Cinda som ,
473.	Say/speak	saaji		
474.	See	mato		
475.	Sell	lagu		cf. Səgəmək na-ragu ,
476.	Send			
477.	Shake			
478.	Sharpen	guugu		
479.	Shoot (arrow, gun)	tai		
480.	Sing	ajaaru		cf. Laru swàrú ,
481.	Sit down			
482.	Slaughter (animal)			
483.	Sleep	lahu		cf. Laru ʳábù , Səgəmək mo-rabu , tHun m-rew , Tarok rá , Aten lal .
484.	Smash	kōyēsə		
485.	Snap in two	yogo		
486.	Spit	wərə		
487.	Squeeze			
488.	Stand up	yu		
489.	Steal	yəfə		The yə- element may be cognate with widespread #yi .
490.	Stir (soup)	nigi		
491.	Suck (breast etc.)	ham		
492.	Surpass	mbau		
493.	Swallow	laha		
494.	Sweep			
495.	Swim			
496.	Take			
497.	Tear (cloth etc.)	babo		
498.	Throw	toguru		
499.	Twist (rope etc.)	mi		
500.	Uproot (tuber)			
501.	Walk	i'inə		cf. Laru ínàhà ,
502.	Want/need	ci		cf. Ror, tHun can ,
503.	Wash			
504.	Wear			
505.	Weep	tu		
506.	Work	tumwərə		
507.	I			
508.	You			
509.	He/she/it			
510.	we			
511.	you pl.			
512.	They			

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
513.	Who?			
514.	Which?			
515.	What?			
516.	Where?			

Edible and Useful Plants

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
517.	Guinea-yam ²³	rə-’yuuru	a-’yuuru	
518.	Water-yam ²⁴	rə-sakata	a-sakata	< Hausa
519.	Taro (Old cocoyam) ²⁵	ru-kuku	a-kuku	
520.	New cocoyam ^{26*}			
521.	Cassava ^{*27}	ro-gbangbara	a-gbangbara	
522.	Sweet potato ^{*28}	rə-daŋkali	a-daŋkali	< Hausa
523.	Wild yam I	rə-’yuuru kwārə	a-’yuuru kwārə	
524.	Sorghum ²⁹	rə-giu	a-giu	cf. Laru gwu,
525.	Millet ³⁰ (<i>gero</i>)	rə-tsuuru	a-tsuuru	cf. Laru toro,
526.	Millet (<i>maiwa</i>)	ru-kuuru	a-kuuru	
527.	Eleusine ^{*31}	fo-tabo	a-tabo	
528.	Maize ^{*32}	ru-tumaji	a-tumaji	cf. Laru dumajo,
529.	Rice ^{*33}	ru-gwerə	a-gwerə	cf. Laru keri, tHun m-bere,
530.	Cowpea ³⁴	ri-irə	a-irə	cf. cLela v-yala, Ror u-yar
531.	Spiral cowpea			
532.	Lima bean ^{35*}			
533.	Other beans I	ri-iri cinari		
534.	Bambara groundnut ³⁶	ru-umugbənə		
535.	Groundnut (Peanut) ³⁷	ru-umwə		cf. Laru um,
536.	Tiger-nut ³⁸	fo-pwā	a-pwā	cf. Nupe efá
537.	Garden egg ³⁹	ru-kutiya	a-kutiya	

²³ (*Dioscorea guineensis*)²⁴ (*Dioscorea alata*)²⁵ (*Colocasia esculenta*)²⁶ (*Xanthosoma mafaffa*) (*H. wali*)²⁷ (*Manihot esculenta*)²⁸ (*Ipomoea batatas*)²⁹ (*Sorghum bicolor*)³⁰ (*Pennisetum* spp.)³¹ (*H. tamba*) (*Eleusine coracana*)³² (*Zea mays*)³³ (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)³⁴ (*Vigna unguiculata*)³⁵ (*Phaseolus lunatus*)³⁶ (*Vigna subterranea*)³⁷ (*Arachis hypogaea*)³⁸ (*Cyperus esculentus*)³⁹ (*Solanum melongena*)

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
538.	Okra ⁴⁰	ri-keremə	a-keremə	
539.	Chili pepper* (large) ⁴¹			
540.	Birdseye chili* ⁴²	fu-cita	a-cita	< Hausa
541.	Onion (<i>Allium cepa</i>)	arambasa	su-arambasa	< Hausa
542.	Tomato ⁴³			
543.	Egusi melon ⁴⁴			
544.	Melon (other) ⁴⁵			
545.	Edible squash ⁴⁶	ru-hũ	a-hũ	cf. Gwamhi r-ròhò ,
546.	Sorrel/roselle ⁴⁷	kaarə	sə-kaarə	
547.	Jews' mallow ⁴⁸	ru-aaru	su-aaru	
548.	Kenaf ⁴⁹	vi	sə-vi	
549.	Sesame seeds ⁵⁰	fu-jebusu	a-jebusu	
550.	Black sesame ⁵¹			
551.	Sesame leaves ⁵²	koro	so-koro	
552.	Bitterleaf ⁵³	fabwəsə	su-fabwəsə	
553.	Waterleaf* ⁵⁴	yiho	sə-yiho	< Hausa allayaho
554.	Banana (<i>Musa AAA</i>)	ri-yaba	a-yaba	< Hausa
555.	Orange* ⁵⁵	ri-lem	a-lem	< Hausa
556.	Pawpaw* ⁵⁶			
557.	Gourd (Generic)	tiri	a-tiri	
558.	Gourd-bottle ⁵⁷	fu-dě̀nrǎ		
559.	Gourd (spherical) ⁵⁸	tuuru	a-tuuru	
560.	Other gourds	koko	a-koko	cf. Kambari mò-kó'ò , tHun r-kók ,
561.	Tobacco*			
562.	Sugar-cane*			
563.	Loofah ⁵⁹ (H. <i>soso</i>)			
564.	Cola			
565.	Oil-palm ⁶⁰			

⁴⁰ (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)⁴¹ (*Capsicum frutescens*)⁴² (*Capsicum annuum*)⁴³ (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)⁴⁴ (*Citrullus lanatus*)⁴⁵ (*Cucumis* spp)⁴⁶ (*Cucurbita pepo*)⁴⁷ (H. *yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)⁴⁸ (H. *lalo*)(*Corchorus olitorius*)⁴⁹ (H. *rama*) (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)⁵⁰ (H. *Riđi*) (*Sesamum indicum*)⁵¹ (*Sesamum radiatum*)⁵² (H. *karkashi*)⁵³ *Vernonia amygdalina*⁵⁴ (*Amaranthus spp*)⁵⁵ (*Citrus sinensis*)⁵⁶ (*Carica papaya*)⁵⁷ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)⁵⁸ (*Cucurbita maxima*)⁵⁹ (*Luffa cylindrica*)

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
566.	Raphia/ bamboo palm ⁶¹	rə-'ərɔya'	sə-'ərɔya'	
567.	Fan-palm ⁶²	fə-ʃa	a-ʃa	
568.	Monkey-guava ⁶³	ri-nini	a-nini	
569.	Canarium tree ⁶⁴			
570.	Custard apple ⁶⁵			
571.	Wild date-palm ⁶⁶	gã	sə-gã	
572.	Baobab ⁶⁷	kufwə	a-kufwə	cf. cLela k-kubu , Ror u-kuk , and presumably ultimately Hausa kuka .
573.	Silk-cotton tree ⁶⁸	fu-umwəbi	a-umwəbi	cf. Laru umu ,
574.	Shea tree ⁶⁹	rirə	a-rirə	cf. cLela s-rigə , Cinda a-rig ,
575.	Shea-fruit			
576.	Locust tree ⁷⁰	rū	a-rū	
577.	Locust fruit	fə-kwenyibi	a-kwenyibi	
578.	Locust-bean cakes	su-kwī	a-kwī	
579.	Tamarind ⁷¹	rə-gbam	a-gbam	
580.	Sodom apple ⁷²			
581.	<i>Terminalia</i> sp. ⁷³			
582.	Black plum ⁷⁴	ri-kyǎ	a-kyǎ	

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⁶⁰ (*Elaeis guineensis*)

⁶¹ (*Raphia* spp.)

⁶² (*Borassus aethiopum*)

⁶³ (*Diospyros mespiliformis*)

⁶⁴ (*Canarium schweinfurthii*)

⁶⁵ (*Annona senegalensis*)

⁶⁶ (*Phoenix reclinata*)

⁶⁷ (*Adansonia digitata*)

⁶⁸ (*Ceiba pentandra*)

⁶⁹ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)

⁷⁰ (*Parkia biglobosa*)

⁷¹ (*Tamarindus indica*)

⁷² (*Calotropis procera* H. tumfafiya)

⁷³ (*H. baushae*)

⁷⁴ (*Vitex doniana*)

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