

Nyambeenje, a language of the Dogon group

in Northern Mali and its affinities



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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Nyambeenge language, part of the Dogon group, spoken in northern Mali. The wordlist was collected from a group of villagers in Ficko on the 8th of March 2005. The informants were;

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Boureima Tarawali
assisted by;
Isa Karambe
Musa Traore
Hamadi Traore
Usman Traore
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We would like to thank them for their patience as the elicitation session was long and sometimes passed through several languages.

The wordlist was collected as a ‘one-shot’ exercise and the transcription must therefore be regarded as preliminary. This analysis was prepared by Roger Blench, who added the comparative observations¹. This document is being circulated to scholars for comment.

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

As with all groups in the Ampari area, nomenclature is highly variable. Elders in Ficko called their language Nyambeenge and gave Nyamboli as the name of the people speaking it. This term was also given in Kema, but attached to a slightly different list of villages.

2.2 Location and settlements

The settlements of the Nyamboli according to the elders of Ficko are as in Table 1;

Table 1. Nyamboli settlements

Official	IPA-like	1987 pop.	N	W
Bandiougou	Banjugu	2652	14:29:50	3:54:20
Ficko	Fiko	726	14:27:30	3:54:10
Kakori		174	14:29:20	3:49:00
Onjougou	ɔnjɔgɔ			
Taagu	Taagu			
Gona	Gɔna			
Tena	Tena			
Magu	Magu			

Figures from the 1987 population census and the GPS-determined locations are given where available. The first three villages are listed as Mombo-speaking, a term rejected by those we interviewed.

¹ The authors are grateful to the Swiss Ethno-archaeological project for providing funding for this survey.

2.3 Language status

The Nyambeenje language is presently being transmitted to the children. The second language of Nyambeenje speakers is Fulfulde but French is known to schoolchildren and migrant workers. There are perhaps 5000 speakers of the language, although this depends a great deal on where the boundaries are drawn with Mombo proper.

2.4 Nyambeenje culture and history

The Nyamboli are today all Muslim.

2.5 The classification of Nyambeenje

Calame-Griaule (1956:66) says,

Edyenje dō (*ou idyoli dōnɛ*)
Il est parlé dans les cantons de Pignari Makou et Pignari Tougoumé par environ 6.000 Dogon. Certains villages de Pignari Makou parlent un sous-dialecte appelé āmbānɛ (Baboy, Tégueli, Nyongono, Pâ, Koko, Nyamina).
N.B. Ces deux dialectes sont réunis par les Dogon du centre sous le nom de kolum so, « dialectes du couchant »

This seems to refer more to the nearby groups than the language described here, but Bandiougou, at least is included in Hochstetler et al. (2004) under Mombo. The closest language to Nyambeenje is Mombo, with which it has been conflated. Beyond, there are clear similarities with the Ampari cluster, spoken further south.

3. Phonology

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

3.1 Vowels

Nyambeenje probably has seven phonemic vowels;

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

Nyambeenje permits all vowels to be long or short and all short vowels can be nasalised. Examples of nasalised long vowels are not so far recorded, but certainly exist in other Dogon lects.

Nyambeenge and other Dogon languages permit sequences of tone-bearing vowels without any consonants. These can be in contrast with sequences of vowel plus semi-vowel.

3.2 Consonants

Nyambeenge consonants are as follows:

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

There appears to be certain amount of allophonic or free variation between voiced and voiceless alveolars and velars especially in medials. Thus a single elicitation session two speakers may produce the same word with k/g, t/d. The same is true of the palatal forms of alveolar fricatives; these seem to be in free variation with non-palatal forms. [ʃ] and [ʒ] are may not be distinct phonemes and /s/ and /ʃ/ can be produced in parallel especially in initial position, perhaps reflecting perceptions of sentence context. However, in some words, /ʃ/ can be strongly palatalised, possibly a remnant of a lost syllable.

/dʒ/ [=j] is apparently a well-established phoneme, but /tʃ/ [=c] occurs in the single example, /ciũ/ ‘canoe’, which is cognate with the more usual /kin/.

Implosive /ɓ/ and /ɗ/ were recorded in a few lexical items. It is not yet clear whether these represent phonemes or normal speaker variation.

ladder	ɓila
necklace	paɗe

3.3 Tones

Nyambeenge has two tones, High and Low. For example;

mud, clay	ɔ́lɔ́
cloud	ɔ̀lɔ̀
race/running	dúgú
village	dùgù

Glides are rare and confined mainly to pronouns;

we, us	mĩ
they, them	kě

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Plurals of nouns in Nyambeenge are typically formed by the suffix **-(n)ge**. Thus;

cow	na pl. naange
goat	una pl. unange
tooth	ini pl. inige

The rules structuring the insertion of a nasal and lengthening of the stem vowel remain to be determined. One irregular plural has been identified;

eye	gire <i>pl.</i> ge
-----	--------------------

5. Nyambeenje wordlist

The wordlist was elicited via French, Fulfulde and Bambara. This is not entirely satisfactory as pervasive multi-lingualism among the Dogon means that speakers could well be influenced by the phonology or lexis of the second language.

The most likely uncertainties in transcription are vowel length, nasalisation versus syllable-final nasals and the distinction between /e/ and /ɛ/ and /o/ and /ɔ/.

English	Français	Nyambeenje	Commentary
tree	arbre	tuma	
leaf	feuille	kube	
root	racine	dulu	
branch	branche	gube	
bark	écorce	tambu	
thorn	épine	jɔŋ	
grass	herbe	kɔji	
dry grass	herbe sèche	bɛɛŋɛ	
mushroom	champignon	tumbele bole	
seed/stone/pip	semence/graine	sie	
charcoal	charbon	kɛɛŋɔ	
dust	poussière	kundale	
ashes	cendres	dwe	
mud, clay	boue, argile	ɔlɔ	
mud for building	banco	ɔyɔ	
dew	rosée	ɛlemi	
stone	pierre	kin	
pebble	cailloux	kin ni	
sand	sable	soyinda	
smoke	fumée	kumbe	
fire	feu	jɛni	
water	eau	mi	
rain	pluie	kumaanja	
cloud	nuage	ɔlɔ	
lightning	éclair	kumaanja kaji	
rainy season	saison des pluies	yeena	
dry season	saison sèche	yɔɔŋɔ	
year	année	yeena	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
today	aujourd'hui	njɔ	
yesterday	hier	jaagu	
tomorrow	demain	oga	
morning	matin	egage	
evening	soir	denda dɛmɔ	
day	jour	jeene	
night	nuit	doo	
moon	lune	vɛ	
sun	soleil	gɛvɛ	
star	étoile	ɔdɛgɛɛ	
wind	vent	yale	
sky	ciel	amana kumbo	
god	dieu	amana	
ground	sol	sjoy	
river	fleuve	taga	
stream	rivière	ɔndɔ	
pond, lake	marigot	ɔndɔ gɔɔ	
hill	colline	sɔgɔ	
bush	brousse	kɔy	
field	champ	yala	
market	marché	iba	
house	maison	debu	
room	chambre	debu pijɔ	
wall	mur	piŋgi	
roof	toit	kumbo	
shelter	abri, hangar	java	
granary	grenier	paŋga	
well	puits	sã	
road, path	route, sentier	oji	
village	village	dùgù	
public place	place	para	
human being	personne	nta	
man	homme	wala	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
woman	femme	yɔ	
child	enfant	ʊe	
husband	mari	ŋwala	
wife	épouse	ŋyɔ	
co-wife	co-épouse	ela	
father	père	mba	
mother	mère	nni	
mother's brother	frère de la mère		
mother's sister	soeur de la mère		
older brother	grand-frère	ndɛ	
younger brother	petit-frère	nnɔbɛ	
sister	soeur		
son	fils		
daughter	fille		
friend	ami	nnɔlu	
stranger	étranger	biimba	
chief	chef	dulukano	has been largely replaced by the F. borrowing <i>amili</i>
hunter	chasseur	daana	
weaver	tisserand	gejɛti	
thief	voleur	gui	
doctor	guérisseur	jɔŋgajɔŋgi	
witch	sorcière	kolomiŋga	
corpse	cadavre	dwa	
blacksmith	forgeron	dɛmbɛ	
potter	potier	ɔjɛm may	
slave	esclave	gunda	
twin	jumeau	tantaŋgi	
prophecy	prophétie		
shame	honte		
fear/fright	peur		
bravery/courage	courage		
laughter	rires		
wisdom	sagesse		

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
guilt	culpabilité		
anger	colère		
wrestling	lutte	boli	
race/running	course	dúgú	
sleep	sommeil	noode	
circumcision	circoncision	konde	
death	mort	dwa	
name	nom	unu	
grave	tombe	saleenge	
song	chanson	nɔɔ	
proverb	proverbe		
story	histoire	tílé	
word	mot	dɔnshe	
lie	mensonge	tágù	
news	nouvelles	táári	
hunger	faim	kuga	
horn	corne	kɛle	
tail	queue	dilo	
egg	oeuf	pole	
wing	aile	gumbegumbe	
feather	plume	kule	
anthill	termitière/fourmilière	tudebu	
hole, pit	trou	kɔmbu	
hole in tree	trou dans arbre	pɔmbɔɔ	
poison	poison	kolomi	
load	fardeau, charge	dɔɔre	
firewood	bois de feu	teenge	
stick	bâton	tuma	
work	travail	wale	
war	guerre	joon	
fighting	combat		
medicine	médicament	yile	
money	argent	dumɔ	
shadow	ombre	kindo	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
thing	chose	ywε	
land/country	pays	shoy	
sickness/disease	maladie	uru	
smallpox	variolo	kojoge	
diarrhoea	diarrhée, écoulement du ventre	pifɔ sale	
arthritis	arthrite	numboje	
goitre	goitre	ɔjɔ	
fever	fièvre	nyuma lege	
boil	furoncle	tamana	
sore/wound	plaie	mina	
scar	cicatrice	nina fɔnde	
skull	crâne	koo bogolo	
brain	cervelle		
head	tête	koo	
eye	oeil	gire <i>pl.</i> ge	
face	visage	girem pulu	
cheek	joue	gegele	
forehead	front	gendo	
nose	nez	kiinja	
ear	oreille	sugule	
mouth	bouche	doni	
lip	lèvre	doni gusu	
tooth	dent	ini <i>pl.</i> inige	
tongue	langue	nεende	
throat	gorge	oregele	
neck	cou	paro	
jaw	mâchoire		
chin	menton		
shoulder	épaule	kɔlɔkɔlɔ	
armpit	aisselle	karakara	
arm	bras	nwε	
elbow	coude	kolo	
leg	jambe	sigε	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
foot	ped	sigε tɛbɔ	
thigh	cuisse	pɛŋgɛɛ	
knee	genou	kunsoga	
nail	ongle	kɔbɔɛ	
breast (female)	sein	oje	
stomach	ventre	pɪjɔ	
navel	nombril	bɔŋgɔ	
back	dos	dɪŋga	
buttocks	fesses	sukunde	
penis	pénis		
vagina	vagin		
clitoris	clitoris		
skin	peau	guju	
bone	os	gɔwɛ	
rib	côte		
vein	veine	baga oji	
blood	sang	baga	
breath	souffle	nindile	
tear	larme	giremi	'eye-water'
saliva	salive		
bone marrow	moelle		
sweat	sueur	bogare	
urine	urine	mɔŋji	
faeces	merde		
hair	cheveux	kɔŋkule	
beard	barbe	aŋkule	
liver	foie	kinda	
heart	coeur	dɔŋgose	
intestines	intestins	nole	
lung	poumon	pùjùpùjù	
body	corps	ɔnɔma	
meat	viande	nama	
animal	animal	bɛli	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
camel	chameau	nyɔɔmɔ	
cow	vache	na pl. naange	
bull	taureau	na guley	
goat	chèvre	una pl. unange	
sheep	mouton	alana	
pig	cochon	ala	
horse	cheval	sɔndyɔni	
donkey	âne	kòlò	
dog	chien	nke	
cat	chat	gããvɛ	
elephant	éléphant	nigɛ	
buffalo	buffle	koyna	
lion	lion	naambala	
leopard	tigre/panthère	taava	
hyena	hyène	tumbele	
civet	civette		
genet	genette	koy gãã	
jackal	chacal	koy ŋɛ	
fox	renard	tuwele	
wart-hog	phacochère	koy ala	
antelope I	antilope	kiji	
antelope II	antilope	geri	Southern reedbuck ?
antelope III	antilope		
antelope IV	antilope		
porcupine	porc-épic	kyɛmɛ	
vervet monkey	singe	kale	
patas monkey	singe rouge	ɔmbɔrɔ	
baboon	babouin	gumbe	
galago	galago	sheve	
squirrel	écureuil	kunya	
zorilla	zorille	tumɔ	
hedgehog	hérisson	nugul bati	
mongoose	mangouste	kɔrɔdɔ	
dassie	daman des rochers	koynde	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
hare	lièvre	gyɔmɛ	
bush rat	rat de brousse	koyn swa	
shrew	musaraigne	swa ge talay	‘rat with whiskers’
mouse	souris		
aardvark	oryctérope	ambara	
house-bat	chauve-souris	nege jali	
fruit-bat	roussette		
crocodile	crocodile, caïman	kamana	
chameleon	caméléon	mwōyne	
agama lizard	lézard âgama	gɔŋgu	
gecko	gecko, salamandre	tɔgutɔgu	
monitor lizard	iguane, varan	wāũ	
toad	crapaud	ɔŋkune	
frog	grenouille	panda	
tortoise	tortue	gũ	
snake	serpent	nɔmboji	
cobra	cobre	oje	
python	python	nɔmboji tɛmɔ	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	mili	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	tunɔgali	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	saali	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	kojikoji	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	saja bolondo	
fish	poisson	kɔgole	
bird	oiseau	nije	
chicken	poule	shuja	
cock	coq	shuja wala	
pigeon	pigeon	numba n samba	
guinea-fowl	pintade	aanɔ	
vulture	vautour	duba	
cattle-egret		kenekene nije	
hawk	épervier	tebu	
owl	hibou	dunu	
bush-fowl	perdrix	tɔle	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
swallow	hirondelle	gori	
pie crow	corbeau	kaanga	
scorpion	scorpion	nuṅunu	
butterfly	papillon	shiinje	
dragonfly	libellule		
mosquito	moustique	ove	
house-spider	araignée de la maison	nala	
spider	araignée		
mason-wasp	guêpe-maçonne	giṅgirima	
bee	abeille	ɔmono	
housefly	mouche	giinde	
louse	pou	sheme	
cockroach	cafard	kombontu	
termite	termite/fourmi blanche	tu	
flying ant	fourmi volante	kijikiji	
grasshopper	sauterelle	kaya	
mantis		kalogen nweshe	
firefly			
worm	ver de terre	shi	
oil	huile	nu	
fat	graisse	shio	
salt	sel		
soup/sauce	sauce	neũ	
food	nourriture/to	nya	
beer	bière	konje	
handle	manche d'outil	gulɔkujɔ	
sickle	faucille	kɔɔmɔ	
fruit harvester	hameçon de fruit	gɔɔɔ	
firewood knife	couteau de bois de feu	kɔɔɔɔ	
harvesting knife	couteau de moisson	keembe	
cutlass	machette	kalabāy	
iron	fer	dube	
axe big	hache grande	gulɔ	
axe small	hache petite		

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
adze	herminette	abe	
sowing hoe	semeur	gɔɔ	
hoe I	houe I	dɔnjɔgɔ	
hoe II	houe II	daambe	
knife	couteau	tala	
razor	rasoir	shilimbi	
anvil	enclume	suugu	
hammer	marteau	bandala	
pincers	pinces	kàbàlà	
awl	alène	kemɛ	
chisel	burin	tɔnɔ	
tweezers	tire l'épine	eve	
bellows	soufflet	uwuje	
cooling bowl	bol d'eau	tagala	
broom	balaie	jenni	
bag	sac	jɛmbu	
fireplace	foyer	oyɲɛ	
shoe	chaussure	taje	
hat	chapeau	baambla	
clothing	vêtement	soy	
necklace	collier	paɖe	
ring	bague	nwe peguse	
bracelet	bracelet	nwe tene	
mortar	mortier	dɔɔ	
pestle	pilon	dɔɔ ve	
pot	pot	ɔɲkune	
pot I	canari I		
pot II	canari II		
head-pad	coussinet	dû	
basket	panier	togone	
winnowing tray	tamis	tɛmɛ	also ɔɲgo, injuga inje
mat	natte	biingo	
needle	aiguille	menyɛnɛ	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
spear	lance	sabe	
bow	arc	tɔɔ	
arrow	flèche	keme	
quiver	carquois	tɔɔ shege pebu	
rope	corde	shingi	
stool	tabouret	dɔŋɔ	
door	porte	bɔ	
door-frame	seuil	kɔŋgomi	
bed	lit	sambala	
fence	clôture	piŋgi	
ladder	échelle	bila	
canoe	pirogue	ciũ	
paddle	pagaie	kumbewa	
bee-hive	ruche	kobu	
Music	Instruments de musique		
drum I	tambour-sablier		
drum II	tambour	bole	2-headed cylindrical drum
drum III	tambour	kuna bole	
drum IV	tambour	sandi	
hollow logs	blocs de bois	tongolo	
kora	kora		
lute	luth	koŋ	
flute	flûte traversière	peembe	
whistle	sifflet	shendi/shenti	
rattle I	hochet calebasse	kalo bole	
rattle II	hochet		
transverse horn I	corne	puturu	
transverse horn II	corne		
iron bell	clochette de fer	tendɛɛ	
iron slit bell	clochette de fer à fente	kɛŋɛ	
clarinet	clarinette	piŋkoli	
Numbers	Nombres		
one	un	teera	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
two	deux	neenga	
three	trois	tamndi	
four	quatre	keegyɔ	
five	cinq	noomu	
six	six	kùlé	
seven	sept	sɔɔli	
eight	huit	seege	
nine	neuf	towa	
ten	dix	pɛɛlu	
eleven	onze	pɛɛlu teera sugu	
twelve	douze	pɛɛlu	
twenty	vingt	talumɔ	
twenty-one	vingt et un	talumɔ teera sugu	
thirty	trente	pɛtaandi	
forty	quarante	dee	
fifty	cinquante	dee ne pɛɛlu	
sixty	soixante	pɛɛl kule	
seventy	soixante-dix	siŋgini pɛɛlu ola	
eighty	quatre-vingt	tɔnsiŋi	
ninety	quatre-vingt-dix	siŋgini pɛɛlu	
one hundred	cent	siŋgini talu	
white	blanc	eshima	
black	noir	everede	
red	rouge	ɛbɔmbe	
green	vert	ɛkɔjikolo	
yellow	jaune	pɔripuna	
blue	bleu	gulama	
chestnut	marron	ɛpurudu	
heavy	lourd		
light	léger		
large	grand		
small	petit		
many	beaucoup/nombreux		
few	peu		

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
all	tout		
thin	mince		
wide	large		
narrow	étroit		
hard	dur		
soft	doux/tendre		
sweet	doux/sucré		
bitter	amer		
sour	acide		
deep	profond		
shallow	peu profond		
long	long		
short	court		
good	bon		
bad	mauvais		
dirty	sale		
fat	gros		
thin	maigre		
near	proche/près		
far	loin/lointain		
beautiful	beau		
ugly	laid, vilain		
hot	chaud		
cold	froid, frais		
strong	fort		
weak	faible		
ripe	mûr		
unripe	cru/vert		
full	plein		
empty	vide		
Verbs	Verbes		
accompany	accompagner		
add to	ajouter		
agree	être d'accord		
allow	laisser faire		

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
announce	annoncer		
answer	répondre		
apply (ointment)	oindre/huiler		
arrive	arriver	ntubɛ	
ask for	demander	sari	
be born	naître		
beat	battre	nubu	
begin	commencer	dɔŋɔ	
bend/bow	incliner/courber		
bite	mordre	nuŋɔ	
blow (mouth)	souffler (la bouche)	nindile	
blow (wind)	souffler (vent) I	elele	
blow (wind)	souffler (vent) II		
boil	bouillir		
borrow	emprunter		
braid	tresser	mundu	
break	casser	gilo	
breathe	respirer		
bring	apporter	sɔŋɔ	
build	construire, bâtir	shimɔ	
burn	brûler	yaaro	
bury	enterrer		
buy	acheter	soo	
call	appeler	yaalo	
care for	soigner		
carry in arms	porter dans les bras		
carry on back	porter sur le dos	bambo	
carry on head	porter sur la tête	duyɔ	
chew	mâcher	tɛmɔ	
choose	choisir	nyambo	
chop down	abattre	kere	
chop/slice	trancher		
close	fermer	bando	
comb	se peigner		

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
come	venir	ego	
cook	cuisiner		
count	compter	nugu	
cover	couvrir	teuru	
crawl	ramper		
cry out	crier	kajikajo	
cut	couper	pudo	
dance	danser	yebuyebo	
die	mourir	boo	
dig	creuser/labourer	kalma	
divide	diviser		
do	faire	yee	
draw water	puiser	miwo	
dream	rêver		
drink	boire	no	
drive away	chasser/éloigner/repousser		
drop	laisser tomber		
dry up	sécher	meene	
eat	manger	nya	
enter	entrer	noo	
extinguish	éteindre	nimbugu	
fall	tomber	kindo	
fear	craindre		
fill	remplir	jomu	
find	trouver	yero	
finish	terminer	nko	
fly (v.)	voler (oiseaux/avion)	nyadinyado	
fold	plier	tandu	
follow	suivre	dingo	
forbid	interdire		
forget	oublier	ido	
gather	réunir		
give	donner	tabo	
give birth	accoucher	nalo	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
go	aller	anda	
go down	descendre	shigo	
go out	sortir	gunu	
go up	monter	digo	
greet	saluer	tiya	
grill	griller	yaaro	
grind	broyer	namu	
grow/increase	grandir, croître	banyu	
hear	entendre	nunu	
help	aider	bado	
hide	caler	kwirɔ	
hold	tenir	imbu	
insult	insulter		
jump	sauter	tɔmbo	
kill	tuer	jawɔ	
know	savoir	yarɔ	
lack	manquer		
laugh	rire	mabimado	
learn	étudier/apprendre	nunɔ	
leave	laisser		
lend	prêter		
lick	lécher	nɛlo	
lie	mentir	tagu	
lift onto head	soulever	gendo	
light	allumer	niŋgam	
like/love	aimer	keɛŋ	
limp	boiter	tiwɔlɔ	
listen	écouter		
look for	chercher	nɔgɔ	
lose	perdre	mare	
make a mistake	se tromper		
marry	épouser		
measure	mesurer	tuŋwa	
milk	traire	penjɔ	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
mix	mélanger	nigijo	
open	ouvrir	teolo	
peel	éplucher		
pick up	ramasser	kewo	
pierce	percer	muḍu	
plaster	crépir	aral	
play	jouer	tambo	
pound	piler	telo	
pour	verser	tuwə	
pull	tirer	jimbo	
push	pousser	dambo	
put	poser/placer	duḍo	
put away	remiser/ranger		
rain	pleuvoir	woona	
read	lire	kanna	
receive/accept	recevoir/accepter		
refuse	refuser	abanda	
remember	se souvenir	nalo	
repair	réparer		
resemble	ressembler	timmo	
rest	se reposer		
return	revenir	εgo	
ride	monter un animal	dɛlo	
rub	frotter	gugo	
run	courir	duguduguro	
say	dire	dam	
scratch	gratter		
see	voir	shemu	
sell	vendre	solo	
send	envoyer	sɔŋgo	
sew	coudre	kuru	
shake	secouer	nyimu	
sharpen	aiguiser	naando	
shave	se raser	kayo	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
shoot	tirer	tayo	
show	montrer	taro	
sing	chanter	nɔɔ	
sit down	s'asseoir/être assis		
sleep	dormir	nɔyɔ	
smell	sentir	ginni nɔndo	
smoke (tobacco)	fumer (tabac)		
sneeze	éternuer	ijɔli ijɔlo	
snore	ronfler	gɔrɔlo kɔmɔ	
soak	faire tremper	galu	
sow	semmer	nugude	
spit	cracher	soona	
stay	nalu	wanjo	
steal	voler	giyo	
stick onto	coller	dango	
sting	piquer	nunjo	
stroll	se promener	yigilu	
suck	sucer/téter	unjo	
swallow	avaler	miindo	
sweep	balayer		
swell	gonfler	pirido	
swim	nager		
take	prendre	wando	
take off	ôter	ambulo	
taste	goûter		
teach	enseigner		
tear	déchirer	kalo	
tell	raconter	nugu	
think	penser	nalu	
throw	jeter	gujo	
tie	nouer/attacher	pago	
touch	toucher, palper	naro	
tremble	trembler		
try	essayer	kanshe	

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
turn over	se retourner	kodo	
twist	tordre		
undress	se déshabiller		
unfold	déplier		
untie	dénouer/détacher		
urinate	uriner		
vomit	vomir	sōsō	
wait	attendre	jimō	
walk	marcher	oji	
want/need	vouloir/avoir besoin	kenyu	
wash s.t.	laver q.c.	duyō	
wash self	se laver	soy (mōyō)	
weave	tisser	gaji tiyō	
weed	sarcler/arracher les herbes	kōsi umbō	
whisper	chuchoter	temali	
whistle	siffler		
wipe (nose)	se moucher	kinja imbo	
write	écrire		
yawn	bâiller	ababa gubo	
Q words	Questions		
where?	où		
when?	quand		
how?	comment		
how many?	combien		
why?	pourquoi		
who?	qui		
what?	quoi		
Others	Autres		
here	ici		
there	là		
left	à gauche		
right	à droite		
north	nord		
south	sud		

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
east	est		
west	ouest		
I, me	je, moi	mì	
you	toi	ni	
he, she, it	lui, elle	ɔno	
we, us	nous	mĩ	
all of us	nous tous	mĩ sere	
you	vous	ò	
they, them	ils	kě	

Plants

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
Cassava ²	manioc	banankũ	
Sweet potato ³	patate douce	ku	
Wild yam	igname de brousse	ku ban	
cereals		shenŋge si	
Sorghum ⁴	grand mil	ɛmbase	
Bulrush millet ⁵	petit mil	sɛŋgase	
Fonio ⁶	fonio	pɔɔŋge	
Maize* ⁷	mais	dilima	
Rice* ⁸	riz	ɛrɛŋgi	
Cowpea ⁹	nyebe	nuuŋge	
Bambara groundnut ¹⁰	pois de terre	ɔla doole	
Groundnut ¹¹	arachide	ɔleŋge	
Tiger-nut ¹²	souche à manger	gwã	

² (Manihot esculenta)

³ (Ipomoea batatas)

⁴ (Sorghum bicolor)

⁵ (Pennisetum spp.)

⁶ (Digitaria exilis)

⁷ (Zea mays)

⁸ (Oryza sativa/ glaberrima)

⁹ (Vigna unguiculata)

¹⁰ (Vigna subterranea)

¹¹ (Arachis hypogaea)

¹² (Cyperus esculentus)

English	Français	Nyambeenje	Commentary
Perfume sedge	souche à parfum	gwã wala	
Garden egg ¹³	aubergine	kɛɛ	
Okra ¹⁴	gombo	dagu dumɔ	
Sorrel/roselle ¹⁵	oseille	sɔɔ	
Kenaf ¹⁶	kenaf	baja	
Birdseye chili* ¹⁷	piment	keepel	
Onion	oignon	kakunde	
Garlic ¹⁸	ail	lakunde wala	
Tomato ¹⁹	tomate	tamati	
Melon (other) ²⁰	courge		
Edible squash ²¹	potiron		
Sesame ²²	sesam	pàpàlé	
Pawpaw* ²³			
Gourd (Generic)	calebasse	kunɛ	
Gourd-bottle ²⁴	bouteille	tumbe	
Gourd (spherical) ²⁵	calebasse ronde	kumbɛ	
warty gourd	calebasse furonclé	kumbɛ kujuga	
gourd spoon	louche	kundaga	
Other gourds	autres calebasses	kunɛ tɛgɛ	
Cotton	coton	kɔnde	
Cola	cola	goro	
Fan-palm ²⁶	rônier	shiü	
Dum palm	doumier	embe	geleje, alale

¹³ (Solanum melongena)

¹⁴ (Abelmoschus esculentus)

¹⁵ (Hibiscus sabdariffa)

¹⁶ (Hibiscus cannabinus)

¹⁷ (Capsicum annuum)

¹⁸ (Allium sativum)

¹⁹ (Lycopersicon esculentum)

²⁰ (Cucumis spp)

²¹ (Cucurbita pepo)

²² (Sesamum indicum)

²³ (Carica papaya)

²⁴ (Lagenaria siceraria)

²⁵ (Cucurbita maxima)

²⁶ (Borassus aethiopum)

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
Baobab ²⁷	arbre de pain	ɔrɔ	
Shea tree ²⁸	karité	mɛnʒi	karehi
Locust tree ²⁹	néré	pori	narehi
Locust-bean cakes		pori ve	
<i>Guiera senegalensis</i>		tulu	njeloki
<i>Anogeissus leiocarpus</i>		shigoli	kojoli
<i>Piliostigma reticulatum</i>		sàgàsàgá	barki
<i>Cassia tora</i>		kàlànʒkàlá	ulo
<i>Acacia albida</i>	balanzan	kũ	ceeki
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>		só	tanne
Tamarind ³⁰	tamarinier	só	jaʒbe
Sodom apple ³¹		pube	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kùùná	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	eleũ	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	nwoga	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	sana	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	ta eleũ	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	tendɔ	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	wùlá	gumeje
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	gunʒuŋ	boyle
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kaũ	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kuŋgu	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	saanja	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	togolo	bungu
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	talme	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	ɔnna	

²⁷ (*Adansonia digitata*)²⁸ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)²⁹ (*Parkia biglobosa*)³⁰ (*Tamarindus indica*)³¹ (*Calotropis procera*)

English	Français	Nyambeenge	Commentary
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	tɔmbɛ kou	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kaangan doole	