

Walo-Kumbe, a language of the Dogon group in Northern Mali and its affinities



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This printout: March 18, 2005

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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Walo-Kumbe language, part of the Dogon group, spoken in northern Mali. The wordlist was collected by Roger Blench with the assistance of Gindo from a group of villagers in Walo on the 12th of March 2005. The informants were;

Informants:

Bakari Mayga
Ibrahim Mayga
Hamashedi Mayga

all over sixty years. I would like to thank them for their patience as the elicitation session was long.

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

After much discussion, it became clear that the populations of these villages have no common name for their language. The people of Beeni speak ‘Been’ and call themselves ‘Beente’. In Walo, both the people and language are referred to by this word and often the outsiders’ name, Walankore is used.

2.2 Location and settlements

The Walo-Kumbe live in just three settlements, Walo, Beeni and Kumbe. Beeni is a long distance south of the other villages, encircled by Jamsay-Tegu speakers. Traditions in Beeni record that it was founded from Walo, although there is no explanation as to why it is so far from the others. Kumbe (locally called Kumbel-Na) was not visited, but Walo-Kumbe speakers in the other two settlements confirmed that the language was identical. Table 1 shows the locations of the villages of Walo-Kumbe speakers. Kumbe is located from Hochstetler et al. (2004).

Table 1. Walo-Kumbe settlements

Village	N	W	Elevation m.
Walo	15.8.85	2.54.97	301
Beeni	14.51.00	2.56.73	1092
Kumbe	14.55.00	2.59.00	

Source: author survey 12/3/05

The Beeni people told us of another village in their area, Gawru, where the oldest generation speaks this language, but all the younger generations now speak only Jamsay. I was unable to visit Gawru to confirm this.

Walo can be reached by taking a road that goes northwards just at the exit of Douentza on the Hombori road and going about 10 km. north before turning off. The road is only suitable for donkey-carts. The settlement at

¹ The author is grateful to the Swiss Ethno-Archaeological project for providing funding for this survey.

the foot of an isolated range of rocky hills is evidently new, and houses from the older settlement in the hills can be seen above the town. Beeni is on the Bamba road about 30 km. south of Douentza.

2.3 Language status

The Walo-Kumbe language is presently being transmitted to the children in Walo and Beeni. The language has been lost in Gawru and no information was available for Kumbe. The second language of Walo-Kumbe speakers is Fulfulde² in the Douentza area and Jamsay Tegu in Beeni. There are schools at both Walo and Beeni.

The number of speakers is hard to estimate, but these villages are not large. Probably there are 2-3000 speakers at best. As the region opens up in the next few years, Fulfulde and Jamsay Tegu will represent a major threat to the Walo-Kumbe language.

2.4 Walo-Kumbe culture and history

The people of Walo and Beeni are all Muslim, and have been so for a long period. Although their language is clearly related to Nanga, they do not seem to have a tradition of links with these people.

2.5 The classification of Walo-Kumbe

Calame-Griaule (1956) does not mention this language and the first reference to it is in Hochstetler et al. (2004) which several times mentions the possibility of an unknown language spoken in these villages but was unable to provide any evidence for this for lack of data. On the basis of preliminary comparisons, Walo-Kumbe is Dogon, but highly divergent, with many lexical items not found elsewhere. Its nearest relative is Naja, only recorded in Bertho (1953), with which it shares both lexicon and the feature that many nouns have a final -m.

3. Phonology

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

3.1 Vowels

Walo-Kumbe probably has seven phonemic vowels;

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

² (and possibly a form of Songhay, since in Douentza town, Walo is stereotyped as speaking a form of Songhay)

Walo-Kumbe 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.

Walo-Kumbe 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

Walo-Kumbe consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Alveopalatal	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b	t d		j	k g		
Nasal	m	n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill		r					
Fricative		s z	[ʃ] [ʒ]				h
Approximant	v			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. /dʒ/ [=j] and /gy/ are in free variation but /tʃ/ [=c] seems to be a rare but stable phoneme.

Walo-Kumbe has two contrastive /R/ sounds, probably a tap and a flap, symbolised provisionally with /r/ and /r̄/. The contrast can be seen in such words as;

dew	èrèrè
dassie	èrèm

but the identity and nature of this contrast should not be considered as fully established.

Walo-Kumbe allows tone-bearing nasal prefixes as well as initial homorganic nasals. Thus;

ring	ñnáásá
like/love	mbáy

3.3 Tones

Walo-Kumbe has two tones, High and Low, and a variety of glides that apparently arise from intervocalic consonant deletion. The widespread presence of glides is unusual in Dogon lects. For example;

dust	kòkòröy
cloud	nánárây

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Plurals of nouns in Walo-Kumbe are typically formed by the suffix **-báĩ**. Thus;

ásùmǎm-báĩ ‘people’

No exceptions to this were recorded.

5. Walo-Kumbe wordlist

The wordlist was elicited via French and Fulfulde. This is not entirely satisfactory as pervasive multilingualism 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	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
tree	arbre	tíméy	
leaf	feuille	gèndèdé	
root	racine	wòrú	
branch	branche	ná	
bark	écorce	kókómù	
thorn	épine	dòrò	
grass	herbe	sáwá	
mushroom	champignon		
seed/stone/pip	semence/graine		
charcoal	charbon	kirâw	
dust	poussière	kòkòrõy	
ashes	cendres	dõyõy	
mud, clay	boue, argile	lèy	
dew	rosée	èrèrè	
stone	pierre	kùrǒ	
pebble	cailloux	sásárây	
sand	sable	sùmbáy búúrùm	
smoke	fumée	kùkùmbó	
fire	feu	góò	
water	eau	nìì	
rain	pluie	bóónù	
cloud	nuage	nánárây	
lightning	éclair	bòlì kèni	
rainy season	saison des pluies	jɛɛɛɛ	
dry season	saison sèche	ùzùbó nó	
year	année	àrá	
today	aujourd'hui	iyé	
yesterday	hier	yéŋgi	

Roger Blench: Walo-Kumbe Wordlist

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
tomorrow	demain	éù	
morning	matin		
evening	soir	dèndè	
day	jour	ùùdèni	
night	nuit	nyàŋ	
moon	lune	wáá	
sun	soleil	úsú	
star	étoile	bànakóròy	
wind	vent	òsòsò	
sky	ciel	yàri	
god	dieu	zèzè	
ground	sol	sùmbày	
river	fleuve	gòròy	
stream	rivière		
pond, lake	marigot	tààmbà	
hill	colline	này	
bush	brousse	òrò	
field	champ	nyirà	
market	marché	èwá	
house	maison	ùró	
room	chambre	ùró píró	
wall	mur	kókùl	
roof	toit	tébékúù	
shelter	abri, hangar	táï	
stone shelter	hangar en pierre		
granary	grenier	pààngà	
well	puits	dáï	
road, path	route, sentier	ósù	
village	village	isóò	
public place	place		
human being	personne	ásùmăm	
man	homme	ánám	
woman	femme	yám	
child	enfant	yím	

Roger Blench: Walo-Kumbe Wordlist

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
husband	mari	ánám	
wife	épouse	yám	
co-wife	co-épouse		
father	père	bòò	
mother	mère	ḡàrà	
mother's brother	frère de la mère		
mother's sister	soeur de la mère		
older brother	grand-frère		
younger brother	petit-frère		
sister	soeur		
son	fil		
daughter	fil		
friend	ami		
stranger	étranger		
chief	chef		
hunter	chasseur		
weaver	tisserand		
thief	voleur		
doctor	guérisseur		
witch	sorcière		
corpse	cadavre		
blacksmith	forgeron		
potter	potier		
slave	esclave		
twin	jumeau		
prophecy	prophétie		
shame	honte		
fear/fright	peur		
bravery/courage	courage		
laughter	rires		
wisdom	sagesse		
guilt	culpabilité		
anger	colère		
race/running	course		

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English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
sleep	sommeil		
circumcision	circoncision		
death	mort		
name	nom		
grave	tombe		
song	chanson		
proverb	proverbe		
story	histoire		
word	mot		
lie	mensonge		
news	nouvelles		
hunger	faim		
horn	corne	ciá	
tail	queue	dùrá	
egg	oeuf	táári	
wing	aile	genděě	
feather	plume		
anthill	termitière/fourmilière	tùmbùléi	
hole, pit	trou	lòrògòndò	
hole in tree	trou dans arbre		
poison	poison		
load	fardeau, charge		
firewood	bois de feu		
stick	bâton	bèrè	
work	travail	birá	
war	guerre	zày	
fighting	combat		
medicine	médicament	àyá	
money	argent	kèrè	
shadow	ombre	kíndô	
thing	chose		
land/country	pays		
sickness/disease	maladie	òròm	
smallpox	variole		

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English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
diarrhoea	diarrhée, écoulement du ventre		
arthritis	arthrite		
goitre	goitre		
fever	fièvre	kùryëm	
boil	furoncle		
sore/wound	plaie	myë	
scar	cicatrice	kárfi	
brain	cervelle		
head	tête	kúù	
eye	oeil	girè	
face	visage	girè nùm	
cheek	joue	kéndè	
forehead	front	jímbè	
nose	nez	kiné	
ear	oreille	súùn	
mouth	bouche	mù	
lip	lèvre	mù nàmá	
tooth	dent	nyiré	
tongue	langue	dëmlë	
throat	gorge	sòkòrò	
neck	cou	kóró tùndù	
jaw	mâchoire		
chin	menton	ómbòy	
shoulder	épaule	wà	
armpit	aisselle	árikédé	
arm	bras	nàá	
elbow	coude		
leg	jambe	ndòsòò	
foot	pied	tàá	
thigh	cuisse	páá	
knee	genou	cízi	
nail	ongle	sédé kóóró	
breast (female)	sein	ùrù	

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English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
stomach	ventre	piré	
navel	nombril	kòòn	
back	dos	tùndù	
buttocks	fesses	bùtùbáy	
penis	pénis		
vagina	vagin		
clitoris	clitoris		
skin	peau	gùsù	? < F.
bone	os	kirép	
rib	côte		
vein	veine		
blood	sang	gòṅgòrò ósù	
breath	souffle		
tear	larme		
saliva	salive		
bone marrow	moelle		
sweat	sueur		
urine	urine		
faeces	merde		
hair	cheveux	kùyá	
beard	barbe		
liver	foie	kènnè	
heart	coeur	kènnè pàná	
intestines	intestins	pirè kóró	
lung	poumon	pùsùpásá	
body	corps	gésù	
meat	viande	nàmàà	
animal	animal	jáwdi	
camel	chameau	óóyéṁ	
cow	vache	náám	
bull	taureau	náá ánám	
goat	chèvre	bérùm	
sheep	mouton	pèpèm	
pig	cochon	àriyéṁ	

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
horse	cheval	sóòm	
donkey	âne	đùrù	
dog	chien	nyèrùm	
cat	chat	nùmám	
elephant	éléphant	góóm	
buffalo	buffle	káám	
lion	lion	dúŋgúm	
leopard	tigre/panthère	nyòròm	
hyena	hyène	tàm	
civet	civette		
genet	genette	òrò nùmám	
jackal	chacal	òrò ñgyém	
fox	renard		
wart-hog	phacochère	àriyém	as 'pig'
antelope I	antilope		
antelope II	antilope		
antelope III	antilope		
duiker	duiker	véré́m	
porcupine	porc-épic	kémirém	
vervet monkey	singe	kéré́m	
patas monkey	singe rouge	ómróm	
baboon	babouin	déém	
galago	galago		not known
squirrel	écureuil	sárá kwíyém	
zorilla	zorille	yùrù	
hedgehog	hérisson	yùrù gùsùm	
mongoose	mangouste		
dassie	daman des rochers	èrèm	
hare	lièvre	zómóm	
bush rat	rat de brousse	óm	
shrew	musaraigne	òsisím	
mouse	souris		
aardvark	oryctérope	ámám	
house-bat	chauve-souris	sízhím	

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English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
fruit-bat	roussette	síizí gómbò	
crocodile	crocodile, caïman	áíyèm	
chameleon	caméléon	òzi ndààm	
agama lizard	margouillat	kééñùm	
gecko	gecko, salamandre	árkéndém	
monitor lizard	iguane, varan	ùndùm	
toad	crapaud	táázùm	
frog	grenouille	óñkùzùm	
tortoise	tortue	bàrà kíírím	
snake	serpent	áwám	
cobra	cobre	àwà gèmèm	
python	python	sésìm	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	kórkósúm	
snake sp. II	serpent sp. I	ázám	
snake sp. III	serpent sp. I	àwà ólúrúm	
snake sp. IV	serpent sp. I	kúrúsúm	
snake sp. V	serpent sp. I	yàbàrà	
snake sp. VI	serpent sp. I	sésí girám	
snake sp. VII	serpent sp. I	òzè kàrìm	
fish	poisson	íshím	
fish sp. I	poisson	kóndùm	
bird	oiseau	nìim	
chicken	poule	èzèm	
cock	coq		
pigeon	pigeon		
guinea-fowl	pintade		
vulture	vautour		
cattle-egret			
hawk	épervier		
owl	hibou		
bush-fowl	perdrix		
swallow	hirondelle		
pied crow	corbeau		
scorpion	scorpion		

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English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
butterfly	papillon		
dragonfly	libellule		
mosquito	moustique		
house-spider	araignée de la maison		
spider	araignée		
mason-wasp	guêpe-maçonne		
bee	abeille		
housefly	mouche		
louse	pou		
cockroach	cafard		
termite	termite/fourmi blanche		
flying ant	fourmi volante		
grasshopper	sauterelle		
mantis	mante religieuse		
firefly	mouche de feu		
worm	ver de terre		
oil	huile	nìì	
fat	graisse	sí	
salt	sel	nèm	
soup/sauce	sauce	niṅi	
food	nourriture/ <i>to</i>	nyiniṅi	
beer	bière	kwózó	
handle	manche d'outil	sòòkúsá	
sickle	faucille	wòròsò	
fruit harvester	hameçon de fruit	kétéṅ kériyá	
firewood knife	couteau de bois de feu	màpáárù	
harvesting knife	couteau de moisson	sirikévé	
cutlass	machette		
iron	fer	nyélé	
axe big	hache grande	sòò	
axe small	hache petite	gùrá	
adze	herminette	ózó	
sowing hoe	semeur	kùrùkùsá	
hoe I	houe I	sóri	

Roger Blench: Walo-Kumbe Wordlist

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
hoe II	houe II	wára	
knife	couteau	pòò	
mat-knife	couteau pour nattes		
razor	rasoir	siùré	
anvil	enclume	tàrà	
hammer	marteau	sén	
pincers	pinces	kámù	
awl	alène	kěm	
chisel	burin	nyilè bòò	
tweezers	tire l'épine	dòrò gòlúngú	
bellows	soufflet	ùshiyê	
cooling bowl	bol d'eau	téngélé	
broom	balaie	úsírí	
bag	sac	èsè	
fireplace	foyer	íyègírè	
shoe	chaussure	táá	
hat	chapeau	kùkóró	
clothing	vêtement	sùkwôy	
necklace	collier	dùwá	
ring	bague	nnáásá	
bracelet	bracelet	nnáányíré	
mortar	mortier	tundu	
pestle	pilon	táándày	
pot	pot	shééngì	
pot I	canari I		
pot II	canari II		
head-pad	coussinet	dôy	
basket	panier	gwòón	
winnowing tray	tamis	témé	
mat	natte	kára	
needle	aiguille	mbíshíndê	
spear	lance	sáàmbá	
barbed spear	lance	sáàmbá tóòndò	
bow	arc	tóò	

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English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
arrow	flèche	tóò yì	
quiver	carquois		
rope	corde	sóṅgù	
stool	tabouret	tùṅgùrù	
door	porte	táá	
door-frame	seuil		
bed	lit	díráám	
fence	clôture		
ladder	échelle	bíbí	
canoe	pirogue		
paddle	pagaie		
bee-hive	ruche		
Music	Instruments de musique		
drum I	tambour-sablier	gòògòò	
drum II	tambour	bátá	gourd drum
drum III	tambour	bíníndí	cylindrical, long drum
drum IV	tambour		
hollow logs	blocs de bois	gòndò	
kora	kora		
lute	luth		
flute	flûte traversière		
whistle	sifflet	kààkíyá	made of antelope horn
rattle I	hochet calebasse	tòòṅnò	
rattle II	hochet		
transverse horn I	corne		
transverse horn II	corne		
iron bell	clochette de fer		
iron slit bell	clochette de fer à fente	nándáy	
sistrum	sistre des initiés		
clarinet	clarinette	bòbíl	
Numbers	Nombres		
one	un	tùmáá	
two	deux	yöy	

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English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
three	trois	táándi	
four	quatre	nínyèy	
five	cinq	númòy	
six	six	kúròy	
seven	sept	siōy	
eight	huit	gáárà y	
nine	neuf	téésùm	
ten	dix	péérù	
eleven	onze	péér tùmáá	
twelve	douze	péér yōy	
twenty	vingt	péeriyè	
thirty	trente	pétáándi	
forty	quarante	pényèy	
fifty	cinquante	pénúmòy	
sixty	soixante	pékúròy	
seventy	soixante-dix	pésiōy	
eighty	quatre-vingt	pér gáárà y	
ninety	quatre-vingt-dix	pér téésùm	
one hundred	cent	as F.	
white	blanc	pindé	
black	noir	gémêy	
red	rouge	báàrày	
green	vert	sáwá órùm	
yellow	jaune	nòrò pírá	
heavy	lourd		
light	léger		
large	grand		
small	petit		
many	beaucoup/nombreux		
few	peu		
all	tout		
wide	large		
narrow	étroit		
hard	dur		

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English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
soft	doux/tendre		
sweet	doux/sucré		
bitter	amer		
sour	acide		
deep	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		
accept	accepter		
accompany	accompagner		
add to	ajouter		
agree	être d'accord		
allow	laisser faire		
announce	annoncer		
answer	répondre		
apply (ointment)	oindre/huiler		
arrive	arriver		

Roger Blench: Walo-Kumbe Wordlist

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
ask for	demander		
be born	naître		
beat	battre	sòò	
begin	commencer	tùmbùrì	
bend/bow	incliner/courber		
bite	mordre	kùwí	
blow (mouth)	souffler (la bouche)	sùmó	
blow (wind)	souffler (vent) I		
boil	bouillir		
borrow	emprunter		
braid	tresser	érì	
break	casser	dáři	
breathe	respirer		
bring	apporter	zòò	
build	construire, bâtir	mây	
burn	brûler		
bury	enterrer		
buy	acheter	évi	
call	appeler	nyinì	
care for	soigner		
carry in arms	porter dans les bras		
carry on back	porter sur le dos		
carry on head	porter sur la tête	dù	
chew	mâcher		
choose	choisir	zòy	
chop down	abattre		
chop/slice	trancher		
close	fermer	tímbì	
comb	se peigner		
come	venir	wá	
cook	cuisiner		
count	compter	lùwò	< F.
cover	couvrir		
crawl	ramper		

Roger Blench: Walo-Kumbe Wordlist

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
cry out	crier	ziyá	
cut	couper	dùndì	
dance	danser	gyè	
die	mourir	tùwá	
dig	creuser/labourer		
divide	diviser		
do	faire	káŋ	
draw water	puiser	nyikó	
dream	rêver		
drink	boire	nó	
drive away	chasser/éloigner/repousser		
drop	laisser tomber		
dry up	sécher		
eat	manger	nyá	
enter	entrer	nù	
extinguish	éteindre	jà	
fall	tomber	yásiè	
fear	craindre		
fill	remplir	báálí	
find	trouver		
finish	terminer	dùmé	
fly (v.)	voler (oiseaux/avion)	kishiyì	
fold	plier	kòndò	
follow	suivre		
forbid	interdire		
forget	oublier	irèiré	
gather	réunir		
give	donner	bàni	
give birth	accoucher		
go	aller	nó	
go down	descendre	siyò	
go out	sortir	gó	
go up	monter	ùrá	
greet	saluer		

Roger Blench: Walo-Kumbe Wordlist

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
grill	griller	dò	
grind	broyer	námá	
grow/increase	grandir, croître	diándi	
hear	entendre	núi	
help	aider		
hide	caler		
hold	tenir	áyì	
insult	insulter		
jump	sauter	pòtò	
kill	tuer	gyá	
know	savoir	zùnám	
lack	manquer		
laugh	rire		
learn	étudier/apprendre		
leave	laisser		
lend	prêter		
lick	lécher	dyèè	
lie	mentir	kóriì	< F.
lift onto head	soulever		
light	allumer	ámírá	
like/love	aimer	mbáy	
limp	boiter	téé́rí	
listen	écouter		
look for	chercher	zóri	
lose	perdre	máré	
make a mistake	se tromper		
marry	épouser		
measure	mesurer	dáári	
milk	traire		
mix	mélanger	gámírá	
open	ouvrir	pìndìrì	
peel	éplucher		
pick up	ramasser		
pierce	percer	gwói	

Roger Blench: Walo-Kumbe Wordlist

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
plaster	crépir	tára	
play	jouer		
pound	piler	tòrò	
pour	verser	tóótì	
pull	tirer	bàsà	
push	pousser	dámì	
put	poser/placer		
put away	remiser/ranger		
rain	pleuvoir	bón ùmìrì	
read	lire		
refuse	refuser	wáàngì	
remember	se souvenir		
repair	réparer		
resemble	ressembler	múùrù	
rest	se reposer		
return	revenir	bíriyò	
ride	monter un animal	ùrá	
rub	frotter	nwàná	
run	courir	yòwó	
say	dire	gùmí	
scratch	gratter		
see	voir	yàyím	
sell	vendre	tìèmi	
send	envoyer	tĩ	
sew	coudre	kôy	
shake	secouer	zùkùtí	
sharpen	aiguiser	néri	
shave	se raser		
shoot	tirer	tây	
show	montrer		
sing	chanter	nùmàá	
sit down	s'asseoir/être assis	èyě	
sleep	dormir	niyémi	
smell	sentir		

Roger Blench: Walo-Kumbe Wordlist

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
smoke (tobacco)	fumer (tabac)		
sneeze	éternuer		
snore	ronfler		
soak	faire tremper		
sow	semmer	tôy	
spit	cracher		
stay	rester		
steal	voler	gùrù	
stick onto	coller		
sting	piquer		
stroll	se promener		
suck	sucer/téter	óózi	
swallow	avalier	mĩrá	
sweep	balayer		
swell	gonfler	píshíré	
swim	nager		
take	prendre	zémì	
take off	ôter		
taste	goûter		
teach	enseigner		
tear	déchirer	kárii	
tell	raconter		
think	penser	têrĩ	
throw	jeter	gizhì	
tie	nouer/attacher		
touch	toucher, palper		
tremble	trembler		
try	essayer		
turn over	se retourner		
twist	tordre		
undress	se déshabiller		
unfold	déplier		
untie	dénouer/détacher		
urinate	uriner		

Roger Blench: Walo-Kumbe Wordlist

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
vomit	vomir		
wait	attendre		
walk	marcher	ndò	
want/need	vouloir/avoir besoin	mày	
wash s.t.	laver q.c.	jèmì	
wash self	se laver		
weave	tisser		
weed	sarcler/arracher les herbes		
whisper	chuchoter		
whistle	siffler		
wipe (nose)	se moucher		
write	écrire		
yawn	bâiller		
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		
east	est		
west	ouest		
I, me	je, moi	ìm	
you	toi	ùm	
he, she, it	lui, elle	màm	
we, us	nous	íbè	

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
all of us	nous tous		
you	vous	ímbè	
they, them	ils	ém	

Plants

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
Cassava ³	manioc	bálánkù	
Sweet potato ⁴	patate douce	máá kúù	
Sorghum ⁵	grand mil	kònyèè	
Bulrush millet ⁶	petit mil	émbê	
Fonio ⁷	fonio	yùù	
Maize* ⁸	mais	bára émbê	
Rice* ⁹	riz	ára	
Cowpea ¹⁰	nyebe	nùmíí	
Bambara groundnut ¹¹	pois de terre	éérêy pírím	
Groundnut ¹²	arachide	éérêy	
Tiger-nut ¹³	souche à manger		
Perfume sedge	souche à parfum		
Garden egg ¹⁴	aubergine	kévùré	
Okra ¹⁵	gombo	tólôy	
Sorrel/roselle ¹⁶	oseille	izǐ	
Kenaf ¹⁷	kenaf		
Birdseye chili* ¹⁸	piment	tépélù	

³ (Manihot esculenta)

⁴ (Ipomoea batatas)

⁵ (Sorghum bicolor)

⁶ (Pennisetum spp.)

⁷ (Digitaria exilis)

⁸ (Zea mays)

⁹ (Oryza sativa/ glaberrima)

¹⁰ (Vigna unguiculata)

¹¹ (Vigna subterranea)

¹² (Arachis hypogaea)

¹³ (Cyperus esculentus)

¹⁴ (Solanum melongena)

¹⁵ (Abelmoschus esculentus)

¹⁶ (Hibiscus sabdariffa)

¹⁷ (Hibiscus cannabinus)

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
Onion	oignon	gâw	
Garlic ¹⁹	ail		
Tomato ²⁰	tomate		
Melon (other) ²¹	courge		
Edible squash ²²	potiron		
Sesame ²³	sesam		
Gourd (Generic)	calebasse	kwásù	
Gourd-bottle ²⁴	bouteille	tóónò	
Gourd (spherical) ²⁵	calebasse ronde		
gourd spoon	louche	kwátùŋ kóŋgóró	
warty gourd	calebasse furonclé	kwóśó kùzù	
Other gourds	autres Calebasses		
Cotton	coton	námù	< F.
Cola	cola	gòrò	
Fan-palm ²⁶	rônier	shím	
Dum palm	doumier	káájù	
Baobab ²⁷	arbre de pain	óśùrú	
Shea tree ²⁸	karité	mishì	karehi
Locust tree ²⁹	néré	nòòrò	narehi
Locust-bean cakes			
<i>Guiera senegalensis</i>		gòròpírí	njeloki
<i>Anogeissus leiocarpus</i>	kojoli	wóòŋ	
<i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i>	geleje, alale		

¹⁸ (*Capsicum annum*)

¹⁹ (*Allium sativum*)

²⁰ (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)

²¹ (*Cucumis* spp)

²² (*Cucurbita pepo*)

²³ (*Sesamum indicum*)

²⁴ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)

²⁵ (*Cucurbita maxima*)

²⁶ (*Borassus aethiopum*)

²⁷ (*Adansonia digitata*)

²⁸ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)

²⁹ (*Parkia biglobosa*)

English	Français	Walo-Kumbe	Commentary
<i>Piliostigma reticulatum</i>		kòòr pépé	barki
<i>Cassia tora</i>		ulo	ulo as F.
<i>Acacia albida</i>	balanzan	kòzôy	ceeki
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>		mòrǒ	tanne
Tamarind ³⁰	tamarinier	mùróò	
Sodom apple ³¹			

³⁰ (Tamarindus indica)

³¹ (Calotropis procera)