

Ywom wordlist

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1. Introduction

This is a wordlist of the Ywom language [also Yiwom, Gerkanci], spoken in the southeast of Plateau State, Nigeria. The first linguistic material on the Ywom language is almost certainly Jungraithmayr (1964). Some of this is reprised in Jungraithmayr & Ibrizimow (1994) but until Ywom Project (2010) there has been no new data. This analysis is based on a recording made with Ruth Pam in Jos in April 2012 as part of the first West Chadic Workshop. Many thanks to the Wycliffe Survey Team for undertaking the recording, and to David Crozier for capturing some copies of the Ywom Reading and Writing book for analysis.

This document is a transcription of the wordlist taken in Jos, with a preliminary phonological analysis. It is transcribed into a long English/Hausa wordlist used for my own elicitations, hence the large number of gaps. The sound-system of Ywom is very unusual, with many sounds only apparently recorded once. These may turn out to be errors or idiosyncratic forms on further checking, but they are given here as sounded on the recording.

2. Ywom society

Ywom speaking people are also known as Garkawa, Gerkachi and Gerka and Gurka from the Hausa name Gerkawa. Hìl Ywom is their main town in the southeast corner of the present Milkang Local Government Area, it and is bounded in the North and East by the Langtang section of Tarok, in the southeast by Dampar South by Inshar and West by the Lalin section of Montol.

The Ywom people have been in their present home for more than two hundred years. The Pitop clan came to the area first and provide itself a stockaded town at a place called Hakbap. The Rohta followed second and settled in Kyel-hyel at Rohta-Hills, North of Hyelyum. Other families arrived in large detachments one after the other and took refuge at Kyel-Hyel. Rohta rock was fortified and was capable of withstanding a siege. In the middle of nineteenth century, other families came from their hills to live in their present homes, the former at Rokta, the latter at Pitop. According to legends preserved by both sections, their ancestors sprang from the ground. The Rokta maintain that they are from river Gwinan in the hills, while the Pitop claim that theirs emerged from the earth. The word *ywom* in the Youm language means ‘leaves’. The folk-etymology connecting these words is the image of trees growing out of the ground, so their ancestors came into being. The name “Gerkawa” was given to them by the Fulani/Hausa traders owing to their military prowess and stubbornness. The name was derived from “Gagararru” which in the course of time become “Gerka” and “Bergarka” and finally Gerkawa. Legend points to the fact that all the families mentioned and who call themselves yiwom or Gerkawa were of Jukun stock that migrated after the breakup of kwararafa empire (West of Bunkudi) and wandered until the settle down in Gerkawa town. Ywom clans are Rokta, Killah, Balbro, Pitop, Talim, Lahlil, Pensong, Gwar-Gingim, Bal’Nlah, Longkrom and Wai. Each clan has its own priest (Bankumkrom). The transcribed names of the sections are; Ywòm, Ròkta, Layôl, Gwàr, Kela, Gímgím, Bálbérô.

3. Ywom phonology

3.1 Ywom consonants

The table shows the consonant phoneme inventory of Ywom.

	Bila- bial	Labio dental	Dental	Alve- olar	Palato alveolar	Pala- tal	Velar	Uvu- lar	Labial velar	Glot- tal
Stop	p b			t d			k g	ɠ	kp gb	ʔ
Implosive		ɓ								
Nasal	m			n		ɲ	ŋ			
Fricative		f v	θ	s z		ʃ ʒ	ɣ			h
Rhotic				r						
Lateral				l						
Approximant						y			w	

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The most striking feature of this inventory are the labial-velars, more characteristic of Benue-Congo languages. The voiced labial-velar /gb/ is not very clearly articulated and appears to be in free variation with ɓ. More surprisingly, for some words, speakers seem to alternate between /g/ and /b/.

Gloss	Ywom	Tarok	Jukun	Chadic
to know	kpən	ɲí	PCJ *-yi	Wangdi pəŋ
to smoke fish	kpan	fəp	?	
gravel	kpàár	ijat	PJ *twom ‘stone’	
to shave	kpar	rəm, gyok	PCJ *ŋwi-a	
hatred	kpaŋ	ɲkpàŋ	PJ *zəp	

Gloss	Ywom	Tarok	Jukun	Chadic
leg	gbák	aʃár	PJ *pwan	Montol kwak
taro	gban	ɲgwàn	Kuteb tɪnyɪŋ	
unripe	gbàáŋ	-gbangkum, -kpəlfək	Kuteb tɪkōŋ	
press	gbàŋ	kàr, byáp	?	

A consonant that only appears once is the voiceless dental fricative /θ/;

to bathe tɪp θɪk

Ywom has a voiced uvular plosive, /g/, which is probably not contrastive with the velar fricative /ɣ/, and is transcribed this way in Ywom Project (2011).

Stone	əgák
Ground	gál
Medicine (generic)	gən
Neck	gǎ

A single example of a problematic sound is the vibrating /v/ in;

Black ɣwu

The lower lip vibrates when the fricative sound is produced.

Ywom permits labialised and palatalised consonants. Examples are as follows;

bw	bwan	useless person
ɓw	ɓwat	dirt
fw	fwap	to squeeze
gw	gwal	crab
kw	kwat	tick
mw	mwàt	to hide
tw	twàl	to discuss
yw	Ywom	name of people

It will be seen that labialisation applies predominantly to stems with a low central vowel. It is not easy to demonstrate that examples of labialisation before a mid back vowel, such as;

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ɓwon	young
bwot	meat stock
dwop	what
fwol	to grow
kwom	bird sp.
mwòt	woman
vwut	dry season
Ywom	Ywom people

are contrastive.

Ywom also has a small number of palatal consonants, almost entirely focused on the stems with a low central vowel;

ky	kyan	front
ɲ	ɲal	scar
ʃy	ʃyep	tree sp.

Again, whether palatals before stems with a mid front vowel are genuinely contrastive is uncertain.

A single case of a palatal-labial;

chin	gywàm
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More prevalent than palatals and labials are stems initials with rhotics and laterals. Rhotacised initials are as follows;

br	mbram	thunder
	mbrombro	eight
pr	pro	four
	pra	to chase
tr	tra	ten
	troŋ	liver
dr	drok	drop of water
	dra	tenth
kr	kɪm	person
	krom	plantain
	kram	difficult
gr	gra	to grind
	grum	placenta
gbr	gbraŋ	to grind roughly
	gbrip	to close forcefully

Almost all stems have the low central vowel and or a back vowel. Consonants followed by a lateral are rare;

dl	dlim	bark of a tree
	dlok	something small
tl	tle	tree
fl	flu	two
	flak	carelessly
pl	plaŋ	young
	plok	to debark
kl	klak	?

Again there is a strong tendency to favour the low central vowel and the back vowels in the stem.

Cl sequences can arise at morpheme boundaries which do not represent lateralisation;

paklin post rainy season period

Doubled consonants can arise from assimilation at morpheme boundaries. For example;

fwollə	old
gaŋŋi	task [ʔ]
kurri	to bend
tettə	to despise

Final vowels in Ywom can be sounded with glottalisation or an unreleased –^k, exactly as in Tarok. Examples of final glottals are as follows;

làʔ	cow
lèʔ	give birth
máʔ	farm
màʔ	mother
pyáŋmùʔ	six
sùwáʔ	mortar (wood)
táʔ	arm, hand
yitmáʔ	tear
tá ^k	drink

On grounds of cognacy with other Chadic languages, some of these are probably phonetic. Others may genuinely represent an eroded consonant.

z^yát dog

3.2 Vowels

Ywom has the same vowel inventory as Tarok and Goemai, with three central vowels, but in contrast to other West Chadic 3 languages.

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

In the following three words a high back unrounded vowel has been recorded.

Salt	kùm
When?	nù
Goat	cù

These contrasts that would warrant setting this up as a separate phoneme and for the moment it is treated as originating in the sequence w + i. Indeed Ywom project (2011) records this word as *kiiin*.

There are long/short contrasts for three vowels, /a/, /e/ and /i/, as in;

yáán	child
dēer	road
kiin	salt

There are no nasalised vowels.

An intriguing morphological process in Ywom is the deletion of vowels, leaving tones or consonant clusters. Examples recorded so far include;

Dog	zyát
Hunger	k`tím
Knee	fřm
Ten	t`rá
Two	f`lù

3.3 Tones

Ywom Project (2011) claims that Ywom has three level tones, but does not present an example of three-way contrast. Although many other languages in Chadic A3 do appear to have three tones, such as Mwaghavul, Ywom almost certainly has two tones and occasional mid-tones are almost certainly phonetic. Minimal pairs are as follows;

wóŋ	song
wòŋ	to wash
mí	one
mì	relation
túŋ	sit down
tùŋ	ant-hill
túk	soup
tùk	to kill

There are surface glide tones, rising and falling, but there are almost certainly the output from sequences of level tones.

The most striking feature of Ywom is the presence of tones on deleted vowels. Many of the modified initial consonants in Ywom are in fact sequences of two consonants with a tone-bearing epenthetic vowel between them. For example, two common numerals, written *flu* and *tra* in the orthography are actually;

Two	f`lù
Ten	t`rá

This explains why attempts to write Ywom often insert an ‘i’ between the two initial consonants, hence the common spelling ‘Yiwom’. The perception that there is a tone-bearing segment between the two consonants is correct, but to assign it to a particular vowel is probably misleading.

Ywom also has initial tone-bearing homorganic nasals. As with Mwaghavul, these are only sometimes sounded, for reasons which are still unclear.

4. Morphology

Hundred	dàn d`rá
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5. Wordlist

Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
Tree (generic)	íccè	ǰép
Leaf	ganyē	ywóm
Root	sàiwā/sauya	
Branch	rēshè	yántá ǰép
Bark (of tree)	ḡāwō	
Thorn	ƙayà	yer
Grass (generic)	cìyāwà	vùvùk
Mushroom	nāmàn dāǰi	
Water-lily	badō	
Seed/stone/pip	irì	kírùṅ
Charcoal	gawàyi/gawai	
Dust	ƙūrā	ḡùk
Ashes	tōkà (cold)/ràushī (hot)	fāt
Rubbish-heap	jūǰi/jibǰi	
Mud	tàḡō	byél
Clay	yumbū	wún
Dew	rāḡā	
Stone	dūtsè	àgák
Sand	yāshī	ǰéṅ
Smoke	hayākī	yèl
Fire	wutā	wùs
Water	ruwā	yám
Rain	ruwan samà	fyén
Cloud	gǰimàréé, gírgǰjèè (rain-cloud)	
Lightning	wàlkiyā	
Rainy Season	dāminā/dāmanā	liṅ
Dry season	rānī	
Harmattan	lokacin sanyi	
Year	shekarà	yì
Today	yāu	
Yesterday	ǰiyà	kézèm mì
Tomorrow	gòòbe	dām
Morning	sāfē	ḡis rá?
Afternoon		lèṅ mór pyè kè?
Evening	yāmmā	ǰiyà ǰéṅ
Day	rānā	
Night	darē	kwót
Midnight		mèr pwót
Moon/month	watà	tár
Sun	rānā [also 'day']	ḡis
Star(s)	tàurārò	
Wind	iskà	
Whirlwind	gūguwà	
God	Allàh	Nàán
Sky	samà	tèṅ
World	dūnìyà	
Ground	kasā	gól

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Gloss	Hausa	Ywom	
Large River	kògì, gulbī	vòr	
Stream	ràfī		
Lake, pond	tábkī		
Forest	kurmì	zàm	
Mountain	tsaunì	kyé	
Hill	túdù		
Cave	kogō		
Bush	dāji		
Farm	gōnā	má?	
Market*	kàsuwā		
Compound	gidā	lùk	
House		bùk	
Room	dāki	pín	
Wall (of room)	bangō		
Thatch roof	jinkā		
Granary	rùmbū		
Well	rījīyā		
Road	hanyā	dèèr	
Path	gēfè		
diversion		frak	
Village/settlement	gārī		
River-bank	gābà		
Swamp/wetland	fàdamà		
Place	wurī	pye	
		kfm	<i>a Ywom ma? are you Ywom?</i>
Person/people	mùtùm		
Man	namiji	kfm	
Woman	màcē	mwót	
Child	yārò	yààn pl. yàròn	
Widow	bàzàwārā		
Young man	sauràyī		
Young girl	bùdurwā		
Father	ùbā	ḡbáḡ	
Mother	uwā	mà?	
Barren woman	bàkārārā		
Relations	dangì	mì	
Ancestors	mùtānén dàurī		
Grandparents	kākā		
Grandchild	jīkà		
Uncle		kan	
Older sibling	wâ	yìdmá?	
Younger sibling	kanè		
Friend	àbōkī	mùtám	
Guest/stranger	bākō	mùdáp	
		mwè	w is pulled back in throat as if uvularised or velarised
King/chief/ruler	sarkī		
Hunter	mài fārautà		

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Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
Thief	ɓàràwò	
Doctor	bōkā	
Witch	mâi	
Corpse	gāwā	
Blacksmith	makèri	
Slave	bāwà	
Servant		zàl
Cult	mài giro	
Shame	kunyà	
Fear/fright	tsorō	
Bravery/courage	mazantakà	fáán
Laughter	dàiyà	
Wisdom	hikimà	
Anger	fushī	
Race/running	gudù	
Suffering	wàhalà	
Death	mutuwà	
Name	sūnā	tím
Grave	kabārī	ɓím
Song	wākà	wón
Proverb	karim màganà	
Story	tātsūniyā	
Word	kalmà	
Lie	ƙaryā	
News	lābāri	
Hunger	yunwà	k`tím
Horn	ƙàhō	nì íkàl k`tím 'he is hungry'
Tail	bindi, wutsiyà	dwǒm
Egg	ƙwai	ínkyè
Wing	fíkàfikī	
Nest	shèkà	
Feather	gāshìn tsuntsū	
Gum/glue	dánkò	
Ant-hill	sūri	tùŋ
Hole in ground	rāmì	tùun
Hole in tree	kogō [also 'cave']	
Smell	wārī	
Poison	dafi	
Load	kāyā	sóni
Bundle	ƙunshì	
Stick	sàndā	
Yam-heap	bungā	
War	yāki	klàn
Work	aiki	
Divination (types)	dūbà	
Medicine (generic)	māgàni	gèn
Money	kuđī	bwày
Shadow	inuwà	

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Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
Thing	àbù	
Length	tsawō	
Sleep	barcī	
Disease(generic)	cīwo	pwōt
Diarrhoea	zāwò	
Eczema	kircī	
Goitre	mākōkò	
Ulcer	gyàmbō	
Sore/wound	ràunī	
Leper	kutùrtā	
Head	kāi	kí
Eye	idò	yít
Face	fuskà	
Cheek	kuncī	
Forehead	gōshī	kuón
Nose	hanci	n̄dú
Ear	kûnnē	ḡóm
Mouth	bākī	pák
Tooth	hakōrī	ɪès
Tongue	harshè	lís
Throat	mākōgwārō	
Neck	wuyà	gě
Jaw	mākārū	
Chin	habà	gywàm
Shoulder	kāfadā	
Armpit	hamatā	
Arm, hand	hannū	táʔ
Leg	kafà	gbák
Thigh	cinyà	ywáy
Knee	gwīwà	fřm
Finger	yātsà / hurcè (S.)	yāntá
Nail (Finger/toe)	farcè	gūgúl
Female breast	nōnò	ūwót
Stomach	cikì	āyák
Stomach internal	tùmbí	āyák
Chest	kìrjī	feer
Navel	cībì	kúm
Back	bāyā	yēngí
Buttocks	ḡuwàwū	
Penis	būrā	
Vagina	dūri	
Skin	fātà	
Bone	kāshī	gós
Rib	hakārkarī	
Vein	jījīyā	
Blood	jinī	jēm
Breath	numfāshī	
Tear	hawàyē	yitmáʔ
Saliva	miyau	lábák

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Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
Sweat	zufà	tèèmƴàŋ
Urine	fìtsari	
Faeces	ƙàshī	
Hair	gāshì	tùwòtikí
Beard	gēmù	
Liver	hantà	
Heart	zūciyā	zagəhə [?]
Intestines	hanjī	
Body	jiki	tík
Meat	nāmà	líyà
Animal (Bush)	dabbàr dāji, nāmàn dāji [but can mean 'mushroom']	
*Camel	rākumī	
Cow	sāniyā	là?
Bull	sā	
Calf	mārākī	
Goat	àkwiyà	gù
He-goat	bùnsurū	
Sheep	tunkiyā	tám
Ram	rāgō	gaam
Dog	kārē	z ^y át
*Cat	kyānwā, mússà	
*Pig	àladè	
*Horse	dōkī	
*Donkey	jākī	
Elephant	gīwā	
Hippo	dorinà	
Buffalo	baunā	
Lion	zākī	
Leopard	dāmisa	
Hyena[1]	kūrā	
Civet cat (musk?)[2]	jūdà / jibda (S.)	
Genet cat[3]	ínyāwáfā	
Jackal[4]	dilā	
Wart-hog[5]	gàdu / gyādō (S.)	
Duiker antelope[7]	gādā	
Kob antelope[8]	mārāyā	
Roan antelope[9]	gwankī	
Porcupine[10]	bēguwā	
Monkey	biri	
Baboon	gōgò, gōgòn biri	
Patas monkey[12]	jan biri	
Vervet monkey[13]	ƙarāmín biri	
Squirrel (ground)	kùrēgē	
Squirrel (tree)	bēram bisà	
Rat (generic)	bēřā	ktám
Bush-rats	e.g. kūsù	
Giant rat[15]	gafiyà	
Fat mouse	haya [not often known]	

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Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
Grasscutter[16]	burgū	
Hedgehog[17]	būshiyā	
Hare[18]	zōmō	tə̄bar
Dassie	rema	
House-bat	birbiri	
Fruit-bat	jēmāgè	
Nile crocodile	kadà	dāŋ
Chameleon	hàwainiyā	
Agama lizard	ƙadangarè	
Skink	kulbà	
Gecko	tsakā	
Monitor lizard (land)	damō	
Monitor lizard (water)	gùzà / tsari	
Toad	kwàdō	jīn
Frog	ƙōzō [not known]	
Tortoise	kùnkurū	
Snake (Generic)	macĵī	wák
Spitting cobra	kùmurcī / bakin macĵī?	
Python	mēsà	
Turtle	ƙìfĵiyà	
Crab	ƙāguwā	
River molluscs	kātantanwà / kōdī	
Fish (generic)	kīfĵ	kiróp
Tilapia (spp.)	gargazā	
Puffer fish[19]	tālibambam	
Catfish (spp.)[20]	ƙùrúngù	
Nile Perch[21]	gīwar ruwā	
Electric fish[22]	minjiryā	
Bird (generic)	tsuntsū	iyát
Chicken	kāzā	kóŋ
Cock	kāĵī	del
*Duck (Domestic)	àgwāgwā	
Pigeon (Domestic)	tāttabārā	
Guinea-fowl	zābō	tewàm
Hooded Vulture[23]	ùngùlū	
Village Weaver[24]	gādō	
Cattle-egret[25]	bilabila?	
Black kite[26]	shāhò	
Standard-wing Night-jar	yautai	
Owl (various spp.)	mūĵiyā	
Grey Parrot[27]	àku	
Senegal Coucal[28]	ragon maza	
Bush-fowl/partridge	kāzan dāĵi	
Swallow	bilbilō, alallakā	
*Pied crow[29]	hānkākā	
Woodpecker	maƙwafƙwafĵ	
Insect (Generic)	ƙwārō	
Scorpion	kùnāmà	dīr
Butterfly	mallām-būdè-littāfi	

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Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
Mosquito	saurō	
Spider[30]	gizògizò	
Mason wasp[31]	zànzarō	
Bee	zuma	m ^v in
Sweat-fly	galla/duma?	
Sandfly	kiyashi	
Housefly	ƙudā	ʃiʃi
Ant (Generic)	kukuda	zin
Louse (Human)	kurukuta	lyè
Millipede	ƙàdandōniyā	
Cockroach	kyànkyašò	
Termite	gārā	
Flying-ant	singe	
Grasshopper	fara	laat
Praying mantis	dokin Allah	
Firefly	màkèsu	
Giant Cricket	gyare	
Earthworm	tānā	
Giant Snail	dòdon kōdì	
Oil	mai	
Fat/grease	kitse	
Salt	gishiri	kùn
Soup/stew	miya	túk
Porridge	tuwo	ɓwón
Porridge sloppy	kunu	
Millet balls	fura	
Sorghum-beer	giya, burkutu	
Palm-wine	bammi	
Peelings	ɓāwō [though = ‘bark’]	
Filter	matācī	
Rag	suma	
Floor-beater	explain !	
Handle (of tool)	ƙōtā, bota	
Sickle	lauje	
Cutlass	adda	
Iron	ƙarfe	
Axe	gatari	yèmtá
Adze	gizago	
Hoe I	fartanya	prɪɲà
Hoe II	galma	
Hammer	masaba	
Knife	wuƙa	kél
Comb	ùr̄yà, matsēfi	
Broom	tsintsiya	yidák
Bag 1	jaka	
Bag 2	burgami	
Shoe	takalmi	
Clothing		bàtík
Sack	buhu	

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Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
Fireplace	murhu	
Grindstone (top)	dütsèn nikà	
Grindstone (lower)	dütsèn nikà [babban]	
Mortar (wood)	turmi	sùwá?
Pestle	tabarya	yémdèl
Pot (generic)	tukunya	ḡú
Pot I	tulu	
Pot II		
Head-pad	gammō	
Basket (generic)	kwando	tùkǽ
Winnowing tray	matankade	
Mat (generic)	tabarma	bàŋ
Needle	allura	
Spear	mashi	loŋ
Bow	baka	
Arrow	kiḡiya	
Quiver	kori	
Chain	sarka	
Rope	igiya	
Stool	kujera	ntók
Wooden door	kyaurē	pàk pín
Fence	darni	
Bridge	gada	
Ladder	sani?	
Canoe	jirgi	
Paddle	hulahuli	
Bee-hive	gidan zuma	
Fish-Net	taru	
Fish-trap I	homa	
Fish-trap II		
Fish-trap III		
Snare	tarko	
One	ḡaya	mí
Two	biyu	f'lù
Three	uku	kùn
Four	hudu	prò
Five	biyar	pwát
Six	shida	pyáŋmù?
Seven	bakwai	m̀bròŋkún
Eight	takwas	m̀bròmbró
Nine	tara	m̀bròm pwát
Ten	goma	t`rá
Eleven	goma sha ḡaya	
Twelve	goma sha biyu	t`rà mà kó f`lù
Fifteen		t`rà mà kó pwát
Twenty	ashirin	t`rà f`lù
Forty	arba'in	
Sixty	sittin	
Eighty	tamanin	

Ywom Wordlist Roger Blench

Gloss	Hausa	Ywom	
Hundred	d̄ari	dàn d`rá	
Black	baki	ywu	The v vibrates
White	fari	pyá	
Red	ja	là	
Sweet	dad̄i		
Bitter	d̄aci		
Ripe		nùŋ	
Rotten		mèmó?	
Unripe		gbááŋ	
Half	rebi		
Big	babba		
Small	ƙarimi	n̄is	
Full		òùm	
Wide		yàt	
Narrow			
Tall	dogo		
Short	guntu	g`ùp	
Long		d̄yáŋ	
Heavy	nauyi	ínèt	
Light	maras nauyi	nét ki	not heavy
Hard		krák	
Soft		d̄ím	
Hot	zafi	nùwá	
Cold	sanyi	yòŋ	
Old	tsoho	gògók	
New	sabo	k`kí	
Good	kyāu		
Bad	maràs kyāu		
Left		k`ló	idea is ‘hand of a woman’
Right			‘hand of a man’
Wet, damp		zám	
Dry	bushe	f̄i	
Dirty		bwàdǎ	
Round	kèwayayyē		
Many	da yawa	zàŋ, báli	This is just the general plural marker
Few		zán ki	
All	duka	pyát	
Add to	kara		
Answer (question)	amsa		
Arrange		kìn	
Arrive	isa, iso		
Ask a question	tàmbayá	təl	
Ask/beg for something	ròk̄ā	òór	
Awaken (s.o.)	tásā		
Bark (dog)	yì haushi	òùk	
Bathe		tìp θík	

Ywom Wordlist Roger Blench

Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
Be bent	lanƙwàshē	
Be heavy	nauyī	
Be on (s.t.)	yanã kân [tebur]	
Be rotten, rot	ruƙè	
Be short, short	gàjērē	
Beat (drum)	buga (ganga)	
Beat (s.o.)	buga mutum	gbáp
Become dry	bushe	
Begin	fara	
Bite	ciza	gát
Blow (flute etc.)	būsà	
Boil	tafàsā, dafā	fwíl
Build (house etc.)	gina	
Burn (fire burns)	kone [wuta ya kone]	ɲàɲ
Bury	binne	
Buy	saya	đíp
Call (to someone)	kira	
Carry	ɗauka	
Carve (wood etc.)	sassaƙa	
Catch	kama	
Chew	tauna	
Choose	zabe	
Climb	hau	
Close	rufe	
Come	zo	ɓál
Come out (of room)	fito	
Confuse		lat
Continue (to do s.t.)	ɗinga	
Cook	dafa	ʃit
Cough	tari	tím
Count	ƙirga	kwèní
Cover	ya rufe tukunya	
Cut down (tree)	yanke icce	ɗât
Cut in two	raba	
Cut off (head etc.)	yanke kai	
Dance	rawa	tám
Die	mutu	mùt
Dig (earth etc.)	gina	
Divide/share	kasa	
Do/make	yi	ɗúm
Draw water	yā ja ruwā	
Dream	yi mafalki	
Drink	sha	tá ^k
Drop	sake	tít
Dry in sun	shanyi	
		so
Eat	ci	nì ísò ɓwòn ‘he is eating porridge’
Enter	shiga	rù
Extinguish	kashè	

Ywom Wordlist Roger Blench

Gloss	Hausa	Ywom	
Fall (rain)	ruwan sama ya		
Fall over	fado	ɓáp	
Fear	tsoro	kír	
Feel (cold etc.)	ya ji sanyi		
Fight (in war)	yi fadà, yi yā̀kì	kès k`láj	
Fill	cika	gbám	
find		kóŋ	
Finish (a task)	gama		
Flog	bulala		
Flow (water etc.)	gagara		
Fly (birds)	tsuntsu ya tashi	tù tíŋ	‘run jump’
Fold (cloth etc.)	nade		
Follow	bī	bì	
Forbid		dàŋ	
Forge		p̄m	
Forget	màntā		
Fry (in oil)	sōyà	tùr	
Gather/collect	tārà		
Get	sāmù		
Give	bā dà	səl	
Give birth	haifù	lò?	
Go	jē	wàt	
Go out/exit	fita	wàt	
Grind	nikà		
Grow (plants)	yi girmā		
Harvest		gàr	
Hatch (egg)	kyankyashē		
Have	dà		
Hear	jī	kəl	
Hide		mwát	
Hoe	nnmā		
Hold		yyá	
Hunt	f̄arautà	bār	
Jump	yī tsallē	rám	
Kill	kashè	tùk	
Kneel	durkùsā		
Know	sani	kpèn	
		trè	nì tré yà mèn tí ‘he laughs a lot’
Laugh	yī dà̀riyà		
Learn	kkyā		
		kì	k`r`m kí ‘the man is going away’
Leave			
Lick	lāsā		
Lie down	kwàntā	tát	
Listen	saurārà		
Lose s.t.	ɓacē		
Make drum		fàn	
Make floor		gim	
Make knot		gùm	

Ywom Wordlist Roger Blench

Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
Marry	aurè	mánɲ
Mix	harhàdǎ	
Mould (pot)	sīgàntā [ʔ]	
Open	būdè	boŋ
Pierce/stab	càkā	
Plait (hair)	kitsà	
Plant (crop etc.)	shūkà	
Play	yī wàsā	díri
Pound (in mortar)	dakà	
Pour (liquid)	zubà	kál
Pour out		kàlfóŋ
Press		gbàŋ
Pull	jā	gbát
Push	tūrà	
Put on (clothes)	sā	
Quarrel	fadǎ	
Receive	kàrbā	
Refuse	kī	
‘Remain’	ràgu	
Remember	tunà	
Resemble	yī kāmā	
Rest		ŋ`yé
Return	kōmà	
Ride (horse etc.)	hau [dōkī]	
Rise		loŋ
Roast on coals	gasà	
Rub	gōgà	
Run	gudù	tùʔ
Say/speak	cē	tòm
Scatter	bajè	
Scratch		gè
See	ganī	ná
Seek	nnmā	
Sell	sayar dà	díp
Send	àikā	ɲìrɔʔ
Set trap	yī tarko	
Sew	dīnkà	dààn
Shake	gìrgìjè	
Sharpen	wàsà	
Shoot (arrow, gun)	hàrbā	
Show		ɲìn
Sing	rērà	
Sit down	zaunà	túŋ
Slaughter (animal)	yankà	
Sleep	yī barcī	dù
Smash, break	fasà	tèn
Smell	sunsùnā	dū
Snap in two	karyà	
Sneeze		wàs

Ywom Wordlist Roger Blench

Gloss	Hausa	Ywom	
Sow seeds	shūkà		
Spit	tōfà	fiyát	
Split	fàskàrà	gʔlák	
Squeeze		míyàr	
		dí	k`r`m ní dí ‘one man stands
Stand up	tāshì		
Steal	sātā	mèr ^k	
Stir (soup)	dāmà		
Submerge		đú	
Suck (breast etc.)	tsstsā		
Surpass	fī		
Swallow	hādīyà		
Sweep	shārā	kúm	
Swell	kumbùrā		
Swim	yī iyò	yíl	
Take	dāukà	mán	
Teach		k`yé	
Tear (cloth etc.)	kēcè		
Tell	fādā		
Think		đyák	
Throw	jēfà	kít	
Tie	dāurà	kyán	
Touch	tabà		
Twist (rope etc.)	murđā		
Untie	kuncè	taa	
Uproot (tuber)	túmbùkē		
Vomit	yī amai	gbiyák	
Walk	yī tàfiyà	mán	
Want/need	sō	đóm	
Wash s.t.	wankà	sál, wòn	
Wear	sā, sānyā		
Weave	sākà		
Weed	yī nōmā ciyawa		
Weep	yī hawāyē	kwò	
Whistle	yī fītò		
Wipe	shafa		
Write, mark		ḃaat	
Work	yī aiki		
Yawn	hammad	ḡà pák	
I	nī	gʔən	
You	kai/kē		
Your		yínú?	
He/she/it	shī/ita	kó?, nù?	
we	mū	mé?	
you pl.	kū	kù	
They	sū	kó	
Their		áyì kò	
Who?	wà/ wānēnē	àwó	
Which?	wānē		

Ywom Wordlist Roger Blench

Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
What?	mè/mmnēnè	mì
When?	yàushē	nù
How?	yaya	
Why?		kòmí
Where?	inā	nù
Here		nàṅtú
Before		bát
Outside		fón
Guinea-yam[32]	doya	
Aerial yam[33]	doyan bisa, tuwon biri	
Water-yam[35]	sakata	
Bush yam		vram
Taro (Old cocoyam)[36]	gwaza	gban
New cocoyam[37]*	mankani	
Cassava*[38]	rogo	
Sweet potato*[39]	dankali	
Wild yam I	doyan daji	
Rizga[41]	rizga	
Sorghum[42]	dawa	ywöl
Bulrush millet[44]	gero	mór
Bulrush millet	maiwa	
Fonio (H. <i>acca</i>)[46]	acca	
Iburu (H. <i>iburu</i>)[47]	iburu	
Maize*[48]	masara	
Rice*[49]	shinkafa	
Cowpea[50]	wake	rém
Spiral cowpea	kanannado	
Bambara groundnut[52]	gurjiya, kwaruru	kír
Groundnut (Peanut)[54]	gyadā	kírkwà
Tiger-nut[55]	aya	
Garden egg[56]	gautā	
Okra[57]	kubewa	
Chili pepper* (large)[58]	barkono	
Birdseye chili*[59]	ata lugu	
Onion (<i>Allium cepa</i>)	albasa	
Garlic[60]	tafarnuwa	
Melon (other)[63]	gúnà	
Edible squash[64]	kabewa	
Sorrel/roselle[65]	yakuwa	ḡám?wàr
Jews' mallow[66]	lalo	
Kenaf[67]	rama	
Sesame seeds[68]	ridi	
Sesame leaves[70]	karkashi	
Bitterleaf[71]	shuwaka	
Waterleaf*[72]	alefu	
Banana (<i>Musa AAA</i>)	ayaba	
Orange*[73]	lemu	
Pawpaw*[76]	gwanda	

Ywom Wordlist Roger Blench

Gloss	Hausa	Ywom
Gourd (Generic)	kwarya	
Gourd-bottle[77]	ludayi	
Gourd (spherical)[78]	duma	
Other gourds		
Cotton	auduga	
Tobacco*	tābà	
Sugar-cane*	reke	
Loofah[79]	soso	
Cola	goro	
Oil-palm[80]	kwáákwa	
Raphia/ bamboo palm[81]	túkúrwáá	
Fan-palm[82]	gígínyà	
Monkey-guava[83]	kanya	
Custard apple[85]	gwandan daji	
Wild date-palm[86]	kajinjira	
Baobab[87]	kuka	
Silk-cotton tree[88]	rimi	
Shea tree[89]	kade	
Locust tree[90]	doroowa	ƙɛp tùúm
Locust-bean cakes	daddawa	bây
Tamarind[91]	tsamiya	
Sodom apple[92]	tunfafiya	
Terminalia sp.[93]	báushè	
Black plum[94]	ǎńnyáá	
<i>Azelia africana</i>	kààwóó	
Mahogany ¹	máǎàací	
<i>Daniellia oliveri</i>	máájè	
<i>Ficus polita</i>	dúrùmíí	
Drum I	gàngā	
Drum II	kalangu	
Drum III		
Flute	suriya	
Zither	molo na kara	
Lute	molo, gurmi, karaya	
Transverse horn	kaho	
Clarinet	tillibo	
Iron gong	kuge	
Gourd-rattle	cakì, kacakacau	
Ankle rattles		

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¹ *Khaya senegalensis*