

Bangi me, a language of unknown affiliation

in Northern Mali



[DRAFT FOR COMMENT -NOT FOR CITATION WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE AUTHOR]

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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Bangi me language, spoken in northern Mali. The wordlist was collected with the assistance of Kabo Bamani from a group of villagers in Niana on the 2nd and 9th of March 2005¹. The informants were;

Informants:

Yamba Babaji
Kunja Kasambara
Baba Tarawali
Ali Babbaji
Kola Basogo
Samba Babbaji

all over sixty years. I would like to thank them for their patience as the elicitation sessions were long and sometimes passed through several languages. Their picture appears on the title page of this document.

2. Information about the language

2.1 Nomenclature

This language has quite a number of alternative names, given the small quantity of published research on the language. These are (Table 1);

Reference	Language name	Comment
Bertho (1953)	Dyeni or Yeni	Village name
Calame-Griaule (1956)	Bãŋgeri me	Endonym
DNAFLA/DRLP (1981)	Numadaw	Unknown
Togo (1984)	Noumandan	Unknown
Plungian & Tembine (1994)	Numa-daw	Unknown
Plungian & Tembine (1994)	Elebo	Outsiders' name
Plungian & Tembine (1994)	Bangeri-me	Endonym
Hochstetler et al. (2004)	Baŋgeri-me	Endonym

The terms 'Numadaw' and similar were completely unknown. This survey found the language name to be Bangi-me and the name of the people to be Banga-na. The intrusive –ri- is found in many records of endonyms in this area (e.g. Duleri for the neighbouring Dulo Dogon and probably derives from Fulfulde.

2.2 Location and settlements

Bangi-me is spoken in seven villages east of Karge and reached by turning off the Sevare-Douentza road 38 km. north of Sevare. Table 2 shows the names of these villages recorded by the present survey with locations as well as the 1987 population where this was given.

¹ The mission was conducted under the auspices of the Mission archéologique et ethnoarchéologique suisse en Afrique de l'Ouest (MAESAO), Genève. I would like to thank the director, Eric Huysecom for support in this work, also my colleague, Denis Douyon of the Université de Bamako, who was part of the broader research on Dogon languages, but was not involved in this particular study. Thanks also to Lee Hochstetler for general advice and arranging access to the original electronic files of the SIL survey.

Table 2. Banga-na villages with locations

Official	IPA	pop. 1987	N	W
Bara	Bara	211	14:48:20	3:45:30
Bounou	Bunu	418	14:47:50	3:45:40
Niana	Nyana	241	14:48:10	3:46:50
Die'ni	Jene		14:47:10	3:45:50
Digari	Digarɔ		14:47:40	3:46:50
Doro	Dɔrɔ		14:49:20	3:47:20
Due	?Jeni		14:48:20	3:47:00

Source: survey and Hochstetler et al. (2004)

Visual observation does not suggest major increases in size since the 1987 census, but the uncensused villages are at least equal in size to those recorded. The population of Bangi-me speakers is likely to be 2-3000.

2.3 Language status

The Bangi me language is presently being transmitted to the children. However, there appears to be a loss of complex vocabulary. For example, the numbers above ten have been replaced in ordinary speech and some lexical items were only recalled by elder speakers. The second language of Bangi me speakers is Niononkhe, the Mande language spoken in Karge. Niononkhe is a dialect of Bozo or Sorko and is referred to as Sɔgɔ. Fulfulde, a dominant language in the zone, is known to some individuals and there is a limited amount of French spoken, usually by migrant workers or students. These languages are the source of a small number of loanwords.

There are no schools in the Banga na villages but some children go to the state school in Karge.

2.4 Banga na culture and history

The Banga-na are farming people and their distinctive names for crops suggest that they were farmers prior to the expansion of Dogon in their area. Their economy has been transformed in recent years by a move from their mountain villages to the plains and the growth of market gardening. The Banga-na are now all Muslims, and this represents a great cultural loss. Possibly aspects of their pre-Muslim culture are recoverable with more in-depth fieldwork.

2.5 The classification of Bangi me

All the authors that have written about Bangi me have noted how different it is from other Dogon varieties. The only published data on this language is the short wordlist of 'Yeni' in Bertho (1953:433) which appears to be accurate and the hundred words collected by the Durieux in 1998, cited in Hochstetler et al. (2004). These latter forms incorporate significant elements from the bound morphology and should thus be used with care.

Bertho (1953) considered that the affinities of the Dogon languages as a whole were with the 'Voltaic' languages (i.e. Gur) but placed Yeni in its own group. Calame-Griaule (1956:66) says;

C'est un dialecte unique en son genre parlé dans le canton de Léolguéou-Nonnonké qui représente moins de 1.000 habitants; il est tout à fait aberrant et ne ressemble à aucun autre, bien qu'il se rattache à la langue dogon par sa structure. Les autres villages de la région parlent le bozo.

and again in Calame-Griaule (1968:viii):

D'un autre point de vue, l'étude du petit dialecte appelé /báŋeri mé/, parlé par une petite fraction de Dogon à l'extrême Nord-Ouest du pays, et qui, bien que reconnu comme «dogon» par les autres, semble présenter des caractères totalement aberrants, serait fort utile pour établir des critères d'appartenance linguistique.

The lexicostatistical table in Hochstetler et al. (2004) records percentages below 10 with other Dogon lects and this would usually be taken to exclude a language from an established grouping. This survey, based on much more extensive material, finds no reason to alter this view, and as a consequence, Bangi-me is treated as a language isolate. Indeed, given that it is surrounded by Dogon speakers and has a grammatical structure similar to Dogon, it is remarkable that the percentage of Dogon words is not higher by the usual process of language interaction.

The wordlist given below notes external, Dogon and other cognates where these can be identified. Some of these are tenuous at best. Bangi me does have some Niger-Congo roots not attested in Dogon, but not enough to establish its membership of the phylum.

If Bangi me is isolated, where is it to be classified? The wordlist below shows that it has slightly more links with common Niger-Congo vocabulary than Dogon, but as with Dogon, the morphology and syntax do not suggest Niger-Congo at all. Certainly it has no links with a particular family of Niger-Congo and for the moment, the best strategy is to treat it as a true isolate, like Hadza and Laal, with some contact with Niger-Congo but heavily influenced by Dogon.

3. Phonology

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

3.1 Vowels

Bangi me probably has seven phonemic vowels;

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

Bangi me permits all vowels to be long or short and all short vowels can be nasalised. Examples of nasalised long vowels are rare, principally the central vowel, e.g.;

cheek **akāāwa**
 twenty **tāāwa**

But also;

tree sp. **k55 myε**

Bangi me and other Dogon languages permit sequences of two tone-bearing vowels which contrast with sequences of vowel plus semi-vowel.

bóù	father
déù	river
dianki	add to
giεra	rub
kiárá	answer
shiã	strong
shio	sew
sié	wipe (nose)

These are assumed to derive from intervocalic consonant deletion. In one case this can be demonstrated, as the following forms co-exist synchronically;

fat **banu ~ bãũ**

It is likely that $i + V \rightarrow yV$ and $V + u \rightarrow Vw$, whereupon the tone is levelled. Some Dogon languages permit more rising and falling tones than Bangi me, suggesting this levelling process takes place at different speeds.

3.2 Consonants

Bangi me consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Alve- olar	Alveopa latal	Palatal	Velar	Labial- velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b	t d		c j	k g		
Nasal	m	n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill		r					
Fricative	ɸ	s z	ʃ		[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. An unusual phoneme is the bilabial fricative /ɸ/;

breast (female) **ɸye**
chicken **ɸye**

These are in contrast with;

guinea-fowl **pye**

supporting the phonemic status of this sound. This phoneme does not occur in neighbouring languages as far as is known.

A voiced velar fricative occurs in some words, such as;

chop down **ɖɔɔ**

No examples of contrast with /g/ have yet been recorded.

Implosive /d/ was recorded in the phonetic data, as with several Dogon languages in this area, but there is insufficient evidence to set it up as a phoneme, and it may be within the normal range of variation. For example;

village **ɖiyà**

Labialisation and palatalisation

Bangi me permits contrastive palatalisation and labialisation of some consonants;

Cy

ɸye	breast (female)
gadyɛ̃	world
gyemɔ	fence
jyɛnshɛ	chief
kyĩ	canoe
myû	I, me
mbye	arrow
nye	mushroom
nnyɛ	yesterday
pye	guinea-fowl
syɛ	hawk
tyɛɛ	load
uyɛ	water
wuyuwye	fonio

Cw

bwɛ	leg
dwa	tree
gwɔ̃	man
jwɛ̃	dream
kwere	fighting
mwɔ	sore/wound
twoy	narrow
ywɛ	moon

Bangi me also allows labialisation with the bilabial approximant for alveolars, which may form contrastive sets with the labial-velar approximant;

ashes	twɛ
clay	dwɛ

Very common in Bangi me and unrecorded in other Dogon lects is a labial-palatal prosody. This occurs with many consonants;

cwyā	head-pad
dwɛmbū	yellow
gbwɛ	mosquito
gwyɛ	land/country
kwɛ	bark
nwyɛ	oil
pwɛ	wife
twɛ	termite

Long consonants

Bangi me, like the Dogon languages, permits some long consonants. Typically these are nasals;

m	patas monkey	mmɔntɔri
	mud	dɔmmɛ
n	west	nnafɛ
	why?	nnesaw

Word-medially, these may arise from morpheme boundaries, but there is no evidence for vowel deletion to explain their presence in the initial slot. Although some Dogon language permit tone-bearing nasals in initial position, there is no evidence for this in Bangi me.

One case of /yy/ has been recorded, and this also occurs in other Dogon languages.

who?	yya
------	------------

/l/ was recorded in some loanwords from Fulfulde.

Nasals and nasalisation

Bangi me has homorganic nasals both medially and word-initially. Thus;

mp/mb

mpa	friend
kampaw	pincers
mbyɛ	arrow
tɔmbe	cooling bowl

nd/nk

ndara	to plaster
yindo	two
nkwa ati	rain
nwanke	leopard

Bangi me permits doubled nasals at morpheme junctures. Thus;

door	minna
mud	dɔmmɛ
four	nnɛ

More unusually, it also permits long nasals initially. The nasals are not tone-bearing.

bush	nna
patas monkey	mmɔntɔri

3.3 Tones

Bangi me has two tones, High and Low, and very restricted glide tones. An example of the two-way contrast is as follows;

dégé	sickness
dègè	head

Rising tones occur on pronouns. For example;

I **myŭ**
 you pl. **ǎw**

The tone is contrastive with;

you sg. **àw**

4. Morphology

4.1 Morpheme structure

The great majority of Dogon words end in an open syllable. In the syllable-final slot, the semi-vowels /y/ and /w/ are permitted, as well as /ŋ/. The first syllable of

tear p̄ernde

appears to permit /r/ but this may be an assimilation phenomenon.

4.2 Nouns

Plurals of nouns in Ban̄gi me are typically formed by the suffixed marker **p̄eɛɛ**. Thus;

n̄oɔɛ bone **n̄oɔɛ p̄eɛɛ** bones

However, these suffixes typically apply to animates and separable objects. Thus ‘head’ and other body parts have no plurals. Ban̄gi me has a few irregular plurals;

Gloss	sg.	pl.
ear	taŋa	taŋa-nɛ
person	yiwɛɛ	yamba

4.2 Pronouns

The paradigm of pronouns in isolation is as follows;

I **mi**
 you sg. **àw**
 he/she **ka**
 we **nne**
 you pl. **ǎw**
 they **ni**

Pronouns incorporate negative clitics (see §5.3).

5. Syntax

5.1 General

Eliciting sample sentences reliably in Ban̄gi me is difficult because of a lack of French speakers familiar with sentence paradigms. Speakers constantly tend to re-translate referential sentences to their own point of view, restructuring pronouns and thus verbal forms. Examples in this section must be treated with the greatest of caution.

5.2 Qualification

Ban̄gi me numerals follow the noun qualified. Thus;

kurɛ tiri dog one

The noun does not agree in number when high numerals are applied;

kurɛ yinu dog two
kurɛ tar dog three

Lower numerals have slightly different adjectival forms from the count forms.

Ordinals are expressed by the word **ntigɔrɔ** following the expression;

kurɛ dɔrɔ ntigɔrɔ first dog
kurɛ yindu ntigɔrɔ second dog

‘One’ has a different form in this expression, but all other numerals are as in the count form.

Adjectives follow the noun and are invariant;

kurɛ pɔrɛ dog black

5.3 Constituent order

Like Dogon, the basic word order of Ban̄gi me is SOV. Thus;

myŭ **bòrèfì** **ndyá**
I food eat

Unlike Dogon, there appears to be no inflection on the verb in agreement with the pronoun. Thus;

I	myǔ	bòrèfì	ndyá
you	àw	bòrèfì	ndyá
he/she	kaw	bòrèfì	ndyá
we	nne	bòrèfì	nendyá
you	ǎw	bòrèfì	nendyá
they	nde	bòrèfì	nendyá

nε- is inserted before the verb to mark plural persons.

Negation is achieved via a morpheme **-be** bound to the pronoun. So;

m̀bé	bòrèfì	ndyá
I not	food	eats
I'm not eating food		

The paradigm of negative pronouns is as follows;

I	m̀bé
you	àbé
he/she	kàbé
we	nnèbé
you	ǎbé
they	nyìbé

Bangi me operates an aspectual system like Dogon, with a completed/incomplete distinction. The complete verb paradigm is as follows;

Boureima	dara	myǔ
B.	hit	me

Object pronouns are the same as subject pronouns in the singular. With plural persons the verb is preceded by a nasal. Thus;

Boureima	ndara	nle
B.	hit	us

and the nasal of the first person plural pronoun becomes a lateral.

Uncompleted verbs are marked by a repetition of part of the verb prior to the object pronoun. Thus;

Boureima	da	mi	ndara
B.	hits	me	hit

6. Bangi me wordlist

Abbreviations for loanwords;

B. Bambara
 F. Fulfulde
 Fr. French
 S. Sogó

The list includes French as this was the primary language of elicitation. Blanks remain for words not elicited but which are in the general comparative Dogon list.

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
tree	arbre	dwa	
leaf	feuille	pūye	
root	racine	yi	
branch	branche	kεmε	
bark	écorce	kwyε	
thorn	épine	tuŋ	
grass	herbe	gujε	
mushroom	champignon	nye	
seed/stone/pip	semence/graine	de	
charcoal	charbon	nyime	
dust	poussière	kure	
ashes	cendres	tuε	
rubbish heap	tas des ordures	diŋi	
mud	boue	dɔmmε	
clay	argile	dve	
dew	rosée	miŋga	cf. widespread #-mi for 'dew' in Niger-Congo
stone	pierre	shimyε	
pebble	cailloux	kɔyo	
sand	sable	nyime	
smoke	fumée	birenyε	
fire	feu	bire	
water	eau	vyε	
rain	pluie	zoŋ	
cloud	nuage	poro	also in Sogó
lightning	éclair	shiren yaga	
rainy season	saison des pluies	nye	
dry season	saison sèche	nyeeru	
year	année	biŋ	
today	aujourd'hui	mwi	

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English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
yesterday	hier	nnye	
tomorrow	demain	bɔrɔ	
morning	matin	dinahũ	
evening	soir	kɔmpe	
day	jour	nneɛhũ	
night	nuit	yihũ	
moon	lune	ywe	
sun	soleil	nɛ	
star	étoile	toromyɛ	
wind	vent	pɛvɛrɛ	
sky	ciel	dege	
god	dieu	ɲara	
world	monde	gadyɛ	
ground	sol	gwyɛ	
river	fleuve	déù	
stream	rivière	ɲgɔɔmbɛ	
pond, lake	marigot	taɣaya	
hill	colline	shimyɛ	
bush	brousse	nna	
field	champ	bwo	
market	marché	kũ	
house	maison	ko	
room	chambre	yanden turumina	
wall	mur	kɔnɔ	
roof	toit	taɲa	also in Sɔgɔ
shelter	abri, hangar	jaɲa	
stone shelter	hangar en pierre		
granary	grenier	paɲgara	
well	puits	pɔrɛ	
road, path	route, sentier	yembe	
village	village	díyà	
public place	place	ganda	
human being	personne	yiwɛrɛ	<i>pl. yamba</i>
man	homme	gwɔ̃	
woman	femme	nyɛrɛ	
child	enfant	yaame	
husband	mari	akande	

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English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
wife	épouse	pwyε	
co-wife	co-épouse		
father	père	bóù	
mother	mère	nya	
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	mpa	
stranger	étranger		
chief	chef	jyenshe	
hunter	chasseur	shishōgō	
weaver	tisserand	dεε	
thief	voleur	punsh ^v ε	
doctor	guérisseur	sawre	
witch	sorcière	jōnshe	
corpse	cadavre	ya	
blacksmith	forgeron	tujwa	
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		
sleep	sommeil		
circumcision	circoncision		
death	mort		
name	nom		
grave	tombe		
song	chanson		

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English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
proverb	proverbe		
story	histoire		
word	mot		
lie	mensonge		
news	nouvelles		
hunger	faim	muyɛ	
horn	corne	sira	
tail	queue	tĩ	
egg	oeuf	kũ	
wing	aile	siyɔn ko	
feather	plume	kuyu	
anthill	termitière/fourmilière	tunkɔ	'termite' is tu in languages such as Bunoge, so this may be analysed as 'termite house'
hole, pit	trou	dɔmbo	
hole in tree	trou dans arbre	gɔmbo	cf. Bunoge kɔmbo .
poison	poison	pwɔsɔ	< Fr.
load	fardeau, charge	tyɛɛ	
firewood	bois de feu		
stick	bâton	gùná	
work	travail	wari	cf. Bunoge wale
war	guerre		
fighting	combat	kwere	
medicine	médicament	gùná	
money	argent	tɔ	cf. Bunoge tɔndige
shadow	ombre	sĩ	
thing	chose	kɛ	
land/country	pays	gwyɛ	
sickness/disease	maladie	dégé	
smallpox	variolo		
diarrhoea	diarrhée, écoulement du ventre		
arthritis	arthrite		
goitre	goitre		
fever	fièvre		
boil	furoncle		
sore/wound	plaie	mwɔ	
scar	cicatrice	mwɔmparɛ	
skull	crâne		
brain	cervelle		

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English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
head	tête	dege	
eye	oeil	shive	
face	visage	tegoro	
cheek	joue	akãawa	
forehead	front	tegoro	
nose	nez	shumbe	
ear	oreille	taŋa pl. taŋa-ne	resembles Niger-Congo #-toN- 'ear'
mouth	bouche	nɔ	resembles Niger-Congo #-nu- 'mouth'
lip	lèvre	nɔ yεε	
tooth	dent	nasiŋ	
tongue	langue	nanyεε	
throat	gorge	gɔndo	
neck	cou	kwa	
jaw	mâchoire		
chin	menton	shemu	
shoulder	épaule	ko	
armpit	aisselle	kumpa	
arm	bras	ni	
hand	main	niŋkuri	
elbow	coude	niŋkubumε	
leg	jambe	bwε	
foot	pied	bwε kumame	
thigh	cuisse	tɔŋgɔɔ	
knee	genou	bwε kugumε	
nail	ongle	kwɔmi shɔge	
breast (female)	sein	φyε	
stomach	ventre	kuri	
navel	nombril	bɔŋgɔɔ	cf. Bunoge bɔŋgale
back	dos	gi	
buttocks	fesses	tukuru	
penis	pénis		
vagina	vagin		
clitoris	clitoris		
skin	peau	kiŋge	
bone	os	nɔɔre	
rib	côte	shʸε	
vein	veine		
blood	sang	yii (friction)	

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English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
breath	souffle		
tear	larme	shive uuye	'eye water'
saliva	salive	nɔnye	
bone marrow	moelle		
sweat	sueur	ganawa	
urine	urine	sĩ	
faeces	merde		
hair	cheveux	kuyu	
beard	barbe		
liver	foie	bimye	
heart	coeur	bikini	
intestines	intestins	kuruwe	
lung	poumon	pùjépùjé	Common Dogon
body	corps	noone	
meat	viande	ɲooŋ	
animal	animal	yirivende	
camel	chameau	nyoŋon mɛ	names of this form are widespread in the Dogon area
cow	vache	na	cf. Niger-Congo #-na
bull	taureau	naaŋ gwɔŋ	
goat	chèvre	bĩ	
sheep	mouton	ɲgamara	
pig	cochon	seŋgen nyaŋa	
horse	cheval	boo	
donkey	âne	kɔrɔŋɔ	
dog	chien	kure	resembles widespread roots for 'dog' in Indo-European and Afroasiatic
cat	chat	tuwɔ	
elephant	éléphant	taŋan bogo	
buffalo	buffle	sɔŋon na	
lion	lion	yara	< Bambara
leopard	tigre/panthère	nwanke	
hyena	hyène	ture	
civet	civette		
genet	genette	gunu	
jackal	chacal	naaŋ kureme	
fox	renard		
wart-hog	phacochère		
antelope I	antilope		

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
antelope II	antilope		
antelope III	antilope		
antelope IV	antilope		
porcupine	porc-épic	kwish ^y ɛ̃	
vervet monkey	singe	karambɛ	
patas monkey	singe rouge	mməntɔri	
baboon	babouin	gumbɛ	
galago	galago	na tɔmɛ	
squirrel	écureuil	gireɛ	
zorilla	zorille		
hedgehog	hérisson	nyintu shiŋɛ	
aardvark	oryctérope	dɔldɔlme	
mongoose	mangouste		
dassie	daman des rochers	kuye	
hare	lièvre	girimeme	
bush rat	rat de brousse		
shrew	musaraigne	nyi	
mouse	souris		
house-bat	chauve-souris	giremeɛ	
fruit-bat	roussette		
crocodile	crocodile, caïman	gyeŋɛ	
chameleon	caméléon	zigi ya gaŋme	
agama lizard	lézard agama	kimye	
gecko	gecko, salamandre	gedemye	
monitor lizard	iguane, varan	bā	
toad	crapaud	bumbu	
frog	grenouille	buguru	
tortoise	tortue	kpumye	
snake	serpent	kernɛkɛ	
cobra	cobre	myeŋɛɛ	
python	python	yɔŋgi	
snake I		mware	
snake II		don sɔndɔ	
snake III		don kwɔ̃	
snake IV		durumina	
snake V		kereme	
snake VI		pɔsekere	
fish	poisson	ŋɔ̃	

Roger Blench: Bangi me Wordlist

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
bird	oiseau	dɔrɔ	
chicken	poule	ɸye	
cock	coq	ɸye kaŋge	
pigeon	pigeon		
guinea-fowl	pintade	pye	
vulture	vautour	kondo kun	
cattle-egret			
hawk	épervier	syɛ	
owl	hibou	gumbi	
bush-fowl	perdrix	shimu ɸye	
swallow	hirondelle		
pied crow	corbeau		
scorpion	scorpion	kɔn duŋgoro	
butterfly	papillon	yana sheme	
dragonfly	libellule		
mosquito	moustique	gbwye	
house-spider	araignée de la maison		
spider	araignée	taare	
mason-wasp	guêpe-maçonne	gumbara	
bee	abeille	mirɔ	
housefly	mouche	ywuri	
louse	pou	sama	
cockroach	cafard		
termite	termite/fourmi blanche	twye	
flying ant	fourmi volante	wiwentumbe	
grasshopper	sauterelle		
locust	locuste	dankiyɛ	
mantis		kindi yiyanje	
firefly			
worm	ver de terre		
oil	huile	nwyɛ	
fat	graisse	na nwyɛ	‘cow oil’
salt	sel	gyɛŋjɛ	
soup/sauce	sauce	pi	
food	nourriture/to	jyɛkɛ	
beer	bière	kwɔnjɛ	
handle	manche d’outil	shyɛ	
sickle	faucille	kɔmɔ	for rice, fonio. cf. Bunoge kɔmɔ and other

Roger Blench: Bangi me Wordlist

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
			Dogon
fruit harvester	hameçon de fruit	doŋgo	cf. Bunoge doŋgo and other Dogon
firewood knife	couteau de bois de feu	kɔrɔ	cf. Bunoge kɔrɔgɔ and other Dogon
harvesting knife	couteau de moisson	kerekembɛ	cf. Bunoge alkembɛ and other Dogon
cutlass	machette		as French
iron	fer	gyɛŋgɛ	
axe big	hache grande	dyewe	
axe small	hache petite		
adze	herminette	dɔwɛ	
sowing hoe	semoir	ciŋgɛlme	
hoe I	houe I	damma	
hoe II	houe II	damba	< Bambara
knife	couteau	ba	
razor	rasoir	shiribe	general Dogon < F.
anvil	enclume	tɛyɛ shimɛ	
hammer	marteau	shimɔrɛ	
pincers	pinces	kampaw	
awl	alène	too	
chisel	burin	—	
tweezers	tire l'épine	kamba	
bellows	soufflet	pupa	
cooling bowl	bol d'eau	tɔmbe	
broom	balaie	gyɛrɛ	
bag	sac	yɛmbɛ	
fireplace	foyer	vɔwɛ	[check]
shoe	chaussure	kwɔkɛ	
hat	chapeau	bambara	cf. Bunoge bambula
clothing	vêtement	sɔ̃	
necklace	collier	kwaramã	
ring	bague	durumbe	
bracelet	bracelet	gɛŋgɛmɛ	
mortar	mortier	swakɛ	
pestle	pilon	swa	
pot	pot	wure	
pot I	canari I	payɔ bogo	
pot II	canari II		
head-pad	coussinet	cwyã	
basket	panier	te	

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
winnowing tray	tamis	yεε	
sieve	crible	tεmε	
mat	natte	kεŋgεε	
needle	aiguille	misina	
spear	lance	pɔnje	
bow	arc	tɔŋgyε	
arrow	flèche	mbye	
quiver	carquois	yεmbε	see 'bag'
rope	corde	boye	
stool	tabouret	kun	
door	porte	minna	
door-frame	seuil	kunɔ	
bed	lit	tāwa	
fence	clôture	gyεmɔ	
ladder	échelle	pε̃	
canoe	pirogue	kyĩ	
paddle	pagaie	yiimbε	
bee-hive	ruche	mirum paya	
Music	Instruments de musique		
drum I	tambour	kwɔŋgε	long cylindrical drum with two heads
drum II	tambour	kaluŋgo	hourglass drum
drum III	tambour		
hollow logs	blocs de bois	pɔrɔmpɔ	
kora	kora		
lute	luth		
flute	flûte traversière	taare	
whistle	sifflet	pir mε	
rattle I	hochet calebasse	tumba	
rattle II	hochet		
transverse horn I	corne	puru mε	
transverse horn II	corne		
iron bell	clochette de fer	lεŋguru	
iron slit bell	clochette de fer à fente		
clarinet	clarinette		
Numbers	Nombres		
one	un	tiye	cf. Tommo-So and Teju Kan tii
two	deux	yindɔ	
three	trois	tarɔ	common Niger-Congo and Nilo-Saharan root

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
			#-tar
four	quatre	nne	common Niger-Congo and Nilo-Saharan root #-na
five	cinq	nundi	
six	six	kere	Dogon forms are always # kure etc.
seven	sept	kiye	
eight	huit	saage	
nine	neuf	tɛɛ	? cf. Donno So tugɔ and similar
ten	dix	kure	
eleven	onze	kekure na keterɛ	
twelve	douze	kekure na yindo	
twenty	vingt	tããwa	
twenty-one	vingt et un	tããwa na keterɛ	
thirty	trente	taana na dyekure	
forty	quarante	debe	
fifty	cinquante	debe na dyekure	
sixty	soixante	tama shigo	
seventy	soixante-dix	tama shigo na budukure	
eighty	quatre-vingt	yɔɔ	
ninety	quatre-vingt-dix	yɔɔ na budukure	
one hundred	cent	yɔɔ na tããwa	
white	blanc	kishiwã	
black	noir	kipɔre	
red	rouge	kubwye	
green	vert	gujakara	
yellow	jaune	dwyembũ	
heavy	lourd	mere	
light	léger	beme	
large	grand	kanyoro	
small	petit	kirame	
many	beaucoup/nombreux	pɛ	
few	peu	kirame	
all	tout	pɛ	
thin	mince	biriwi	

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
wide	large	wetɛŋɔ	
narrow	étroit	twoy	
hard	dur	kolo	
soft	doux/tendre	dara	
sweet	doux/sucré	de	also 'good'
bitter	amer	shimu	
sour	acide	shimu	
deep	profond	yugu	
long	long	bendɛ	
short	court	kurumɛ	
good	bon	de	also 'sweet'
bad	mauvais	begaũ	
dirty	sale	dingi	
fat	gros	banu ~ bāũ	
near	proche/près	wereyerwɛ	
far	loin/lointain	dahakɛwɛ	
beautiful	beau	gaũ	
ugly	laid, vilain	kabɛgɔ̃	
hot	chaud	wa	
cold	froid, frais	dimmo	
strong	fort	shiã	
weak	faible	shiã beway	
ripe	mûr	biway	
unripe	cru/vert	kikara	
full	plein	dẽway	
empty	vide	hakɛterɛ	
Verbs	Verbes		
accompany	accompagner	nawere	
add to	ajouter	dianki	
agree	être d'accord		
allow	laisser faire		
announce	annoncer	naniyɛ	
answer	répondre	kiárá	
arrive	arriver	nu	
ask for	demander	sigá	
be born	naître	kura	
beat	battre	dárá	
begin	commencer	tìiná	
bite	mordre	taŋwa	

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
blow (mouth)	souffler (la bouche)	piyu	
blow (wind)	souffler (vent)	pɛvɛɛ	
borrow	emprunter	kɔɔnɪmi	
braid	tresser	munu	
break	casser	pɛndɛ	
breathe	respirer	nyu	
bring	apporter	dugunɔ	
build	construire, bâtir	kuuma	
burn	brûler	daga	
bury	enterrer	mugɔ	
buy	acheter	ywa	
call	appeler	yendu	
carry on back	porter sur le dos	kumbɔrɔ	
carry on head	porter sur la tête	tɔere	
chew	mâcher	tãwa	
choose	choisir	kɔmyɛ	
chop down	abattre	dɔɔɔ	
chop/slice	trancher	gwyɛndɛ	
close	fermer	shɔgɔ	
comb	se peigner	piindu	
come	venir	nu	
cook	cuisiner	dɛnɛ	
count	compter	nyɪwa	
cover	couvrir	shɔgɔ	
crawl	ramper	kukalanda	
cry out	crier	pɛ̃	
cut with knife	couper	dɔgɔ	
cut with axee	couper	sere	
dance	danser	tũwa	
desire	désirer	mwidá	
die	mourir	yaway	
dig	creuser/labourer	kiinu	
divide	diviser	pende	
do	faire	dugolo	
draw water	puiser	ywě	
dream	rêver	jwě	
drink	boire	nnyɛ	Common Dogon is nɔ , but Toro Tegu has nɛ .

Roger Blench: Bangi me Wordlist

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
drive away	chasser/éloigner/repousser	pereni	
drop	laisser tomber	ciwε	
dry up	sécher	gɔm(ε)rε	
eat	manger	jiya	jiε in Sogo
enter	entrer	minde	
extinguish	éteindre	jiŋwe	
fall	tomber	ciwε	
fill	remplir	jaŋway	
find	trouver	kara	
finish	terminer	buŋway	
fly (v.)	voler (oiseaux/avion)	pindo	Worldwide #pVr for 'to fly'
fold	plier	kuŋwa	
follow	suivre	kɔɔnpe	
forbid	interdire	bentaga	
forget	oublier	tɛmbaki	
gather	réunir	máŋgára	
give	donner	nando	? cf. Dogul Dom nda , though -ndo is likely to be an affix in Bangi me
give birth	accoucher	kikura	
go	aller	were	
go down	descendre	sã	
go out	sortir	ba	
go up	monter	ywe	
greet	saluer	tiya	
grind	broyer	naŋwa	
grow/increase	grandir, croître	puna	
hear	entendre	no	Mombo of Pignari has nunde . widespread Niger-Congo 'ear'
help	aider	bɔyɔ	
hide	cache	daanda	
hold	tenir	taya	
insult	insulter	tugε	
jump	sauter	pindo	also 'fly'
kill	tuer	ywùrá	
know	savoir	shurε	
laugh	rire	ma	
learn	étudier/apprendre	kitimɔrɔ	also 'try'
lend	prêter	taw	
lick	lécher	dε	

Roger Blench: Bangi me Wordlist

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
lie down	être étendu	bunya barnda	
lift onto head	soulever	pomye	
light	allumer	daya	
like/love	aimer	mma	
limp	boiter	segena	
listen	écouter	nnore	
look	regarder	shura	
look for	chercher	naŋ kɔmbɔrɔ	
lose	perdre	tewe	
marry	épouser	domye	
measure	mesurer	tɔŋɔ	
milk	traire	pɔrɔ	
mix	mélanger	swɔ	
open	ouvrir	kyo	
peel	éplucher	mbunda	
pick up	ramasser	kɔmbi	
pierce	percer	tugur	
plaster	crépir	ndara	
play	jouer	saŋa	
pound	piler	sa	
pour	verser	tumbere	
pull	tirer	jimba	
push	pousser	tɛmbi	
put	poser/placer	pye	
put	mettre	tinde	
rain	pleuvoir	nkwa ati	
receive/accept	recevoir/accepter	taw	
refuse	refuser	nyaaŋu	
remember	se souvenir	miru	
resemble	ressembler	dɔŋlashe	
return	revenir	nuwã	
ride	monter un animal	ywe	
grill	griller	siwa	
rub	frotter	giera	
run	courir	tigirɛ	
say	dire	diga	Jamsay Tegu has tigaara .
scratch	gratter	koyɔ	
see	voir	shura	

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
sell	vendre	tùná	
send	envoyer	tùná	
sew	coudre	shio	
shake	secouer	maga	
sharpen	aiguiser	giira	
shave	se raser	ka	
shoot	tirer	ta	Common Niger-Congo root, widespread in West Africa, but not apparently in Dogon. Related to #-ta 'bow'.
show	montrer	tɛɛ	
sing	chanter	nywɛmɛ	
sit down	s'asseoir/être assis	tiri	
sleep	dormir	do	
smell	sentir	nyu	
sneeze	éternuer	oco	cf. English Atchoo!
snore	ronfler	korokoro	
soak	faire tremper	miro	
sow	semer	severe	
spit	cracher	tuyu	
stay	rester	barama	
steal	voler	kūre	
stick onto	coller	ndara	also 'plaster'
sting	piquer	tuguru	
stroll	se promener	kɔmɔrɔ	
suck	sucer/téter	mɔnji	
swallow	avalier	mira	
sweep	balayer	gyendi	
swell	gonfler	pɛvɛɛ	
swim	nager	jíná	
take	prendre	nyaw	
take off	ôter	bundi	
taste	goûter	namebe	
teach	enseigner	kara	
tear	déchirer	pɛrnde	
tell	raconter	nakɛmbi	
lie	mentir	gyɛ	
think	penser	miini	
throw	jeter	guyuru	
tie	nouer/attacher	ba	

Roger Blench: Bangi me Wordlist

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
touch	toucher, palper	daga	
tremble	trembler	maya	
try	essayer	kitimoro	also 'learn'
turn over	se retourner	gomiye	
twist	tordre	nwiwa	
undress	se déshabiller	bunda	
unfold	déplier	sannara	
untie	dénouer/détacher	piindu	
urinate	uriner	shī	
vomit	vomir	inye ndi	
wait	attendre	dəngu	
walk	marcher	wore	
want/need	vouloir/avoir besoin	mma	
wash self	se laver	tura	
wash s.t. I	laver q.c.	kənem	
wash s.t. II	laver q.c.	sanam	
weave	tisser	dəge	
weed	sarcler/arracher les herbes	dye	
whisper	chuchoter	guyemporo	
whistle	siffler	koro	
wipe (nose)	se moucher	sié	
write	écrire	nyononde	
yawn	bâiller	ɲawme	
Q words	Questions		
where?	où	kote	
when?	quand	nene	
how?	comment	numindo	
how many?	combien	nii	
why?	pourquoi	nnesaw	
who?	qui	yya	
what?	quoi	nneshi	
Others	Autres		
here	ici	ima	
there	là	keve	
left	à gauche	bara	
right	à droite	sive	
north	nord	sajo	
south	sud	ballere	< Fulfulde

English	Français	Bangi me	Commentary
east	est	puyɛ	
west	ouest	nnafe	
I, me	je, moi	myû	
you	toi	àw	
he, she, it	lui, elle	kaw	
we, us	nous	nne	
you pl.	vous	áw	
they, them	ils	áw	
everyone	tout le monde	karu	

Plants

English	Français	Bangi Me	Commentary
Cassava ²	manioc	bananku	
Sweet potato ³	patate douce	kùù	
Wild yam	igname de brousse	kùù pɔɛ	
Wild yam	igname de brousse	jɛkɛ	
Sorghum ⁴	grand mil	sinya	
Bulrush millet ⁵	petit mil	damye	
Fonio ⁶	fonio	wuyuwye	
Maize* ⁷	mais	darama yere	
Rice* ⁸	riz	gɔm myɛ	
Cowpea ⁹	nyebe	nnye	
Bambara groundnut ¹⁰	pois de terre	tiga yɛ kurumyɛ	
Groundnut ¹¹	arachide	tiga yɛ bende	
Tiger-nut ¹²	souche à manger	muwɔ myɛ	
Nutgrass ¹³	souche à parfum	muwɔ shiro	
Garden egg ¹⁴	aubergine	taŋ koro	
Okra ¹⁵	gombo	wa myɛ	as in Sɔgo
Birdseye chili* ¹⁶	piment	dandi	< F., Sɔgo

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)

¹³ (Cyperus rotundus)

¹⁴ (Solanum melongena)

¹⁵ (Abelmoschus esculentus)

¹⁶ (Capsicum annum)

English	Français	Bangi Me	Commentary
Onion	oignon	yagu	
Garlic ¹⁷	ail	tumi	< T.
Tomato ¹⁸	tomate	tamati	< Fr.
Melon (other) ¹⁹	courge	təŋgərə	
Sorrel/roselle ²⁰	oseille		
Kenaf ²¹	kenaf	shərə	
Sesame seeds ²²	sesam	para	
Pawpaw* ²³			
Gourd (Generic)	calebasse	kwyε	
Gourd-bottle ²⁴	bouteille	tumba	
Gourd (spherical) ²⁵	calebasse ronde		
warty gourd	calebasse à furoncles	kurundundu	
gourd spoon	louche	kɛŋkɛm mpa	
Other gourds	autres Calebasses	tunge	used to water gardens
Cotton	coton	nogu	
Cola	cola		
Fan-palm ²⁶	rônier	tĩ	
Dum palm	doumier		
Wild date-palm ²⁷	dattier sauvage		
Baobab ²⁸	arbre de pain	bore	
Shea tree ²⁹	karité	wərə	
Shea-fruit			
Locust tree ³⁰	néré	jwe	
Locust fruit			
Locust-bean cakes			
<i>Guiera senegalensis</i>			
<i>Anogeissus leiocarpus</i>			
<i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i>			
<i>Piliostigma reticulatum</i>			
<i>Cassia tora</i>			
<i>Acacia albida</i>	balanzan	kiyεvε	
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>			
Tamarind ³¹	tamarinier	ŋga	

¹⁷ (*Allium sativum*)¹⁸ (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)¹⁹ (*Cucumis* spp)²⁰ (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)²¹ (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)²² (*Sesamum indicum*)²³ (*Carica papaya*)²⁴ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)²⁵ (*Cucurbita maxima*)²⁶ (*Borassus aethiopum*)²⁷ (*Phoenix reclinata*)²⁸ (*Adansonia digitata*)²⁹ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)³⁰ (*Parkia biglobosa*)³¹ (*Tamarindus indica*)

English	Français	Bangi Me	Commentary
Sodom apple ³²			
tree sp. I	arbre I	tuŋ	F. ede
tree sp. I	arbre I	mu	F. gumeji
tree sp. I	arbre I	kɔ̃ɔ̃ myɛ	F. nyelbe
tree sp. I	arbre I	dunju	
tree sp. I	arbre I	pɔ̃rɔ̃wɔ̃	F. peguje
tree sp. I	arbre I	gbɔ̃nɔ̃ myɛ	F. bantineje
tree sp. I	arbre I	kɔ̃ŋgɔ̃rɔ̃	F. saman podi
tree sp. I	arbre I	kwa	F. duneeri
tree sp. I	arbre I	kwĩ	leaves used for soup
liana sp. I	arbre I	ka	F. poguje

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³² (*Calotropis procera*)