

DICTIONARY

OF THE

LANGUAGE OF THE BAS(S)A PEOPLE

[This dictionary was prepared in Edenye in 1991 with a collaborative effort between the three individuals mentioned. It is very much work in progress and some lexical fields are much better characterised than others. Tones are not yet marked and the concord system will ultimately be included for each noun. Work in progress.

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PLEASE NOTE!

READERS WHO USE EXISTING BASSA

PUBLISHED WORK!

**BASSA IS A LANGUAGE WITH A WELL-
ESTABLISHED WRITTEN TRADITION USED IN
THE BIBLE AND READING BOOKS.**

**THIS DOCUMENT IS A DICTIONARY BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF
MODERN LINGUISTICS. IT IS THEREFORE WRITTEN USING A
SYSTEM DIFFERNT FROM THE ONE GENERALLY FAMILIAR IN
BASSA.**

**PLEASE READ THE INTRODUCTION CAREFULLY, WHICH EXPLAINS
HOW TO READ THE DICTIONARY AND SHOWS HOW THE
TRADITIONAL BASSA WRITING SYSTEM CORRESPONDS TO THE
ONE USED HERE.**

Author's Preface

This is a dictionary of the ruBasa or Basa-Benue (formerly Bassa-Kwomu) language spoken in Kogi State, Nigeria. The present manuscript is being made available in the Basa-Benue area to those interested in the development of the language for religious, cultural and educational purposes.

We are hoping to have *two* editions; an edition that can be sold outside Nigeria and a version printed in Nigeria. A locally printed version will be substantially cheaper than a book that has to be printed outside Nigeria and imported and so more people will be able to buy it.

This dictionary is being developed for the Basa-Benue community and we hope that those who are interested will take the opportunity to make constructive comment on the text. The more words that are included and the clearer the definitions the better. The computer will help us make an English-Basa section to help find the Basa words -however, it is better to prepare this when the Basa-English section is complete, otherwise both parts must be edited.

We hope you enjoy reading this and that the existence of the dictionary will be the beginning of a move towards the creation of an accepted orthography, updated primers and the use of Basa in the schools.

Roger Blench

Introduction

This is a draft for a dictionary of the language of the Basa (Bassa) people of Kogi State in central Nigeria. These people were formerly known as Bassa-Kwomu. The name 'Kwomu' seems to have come about from the greeting 'Oku'. Whatever the case, Kwomu has now been rejected and Bassa or Basa is preferred. Since 1991, the Basa people have had their own Local Government Area, called Bassa, centred on Oguma, near the Benue river in northeast Kogi State.

Basa or Bassa?

Traditionally, the name of the people has been spelt 'Bassa' and this is still the one in common use. The use of the two s's is based on English spelling conventions. However, Basa is not English and there is no reason to follow its system. Basa is a language based on a regular pattern of consonants and vowel and two consonants *never* follow each other. This is generally recognised in the Basa spelling system where double s does not otherwise occur. So in this dictionary we propose to use the more logical spelling 'Basa'. We realise that this will meet with some resistance from readers more familiar with the older form, but we hope they will come to accept the reason for the change.

Writing ruBasa

Languages that have been written for a long time, such as English, have great problems with their spelling systems, because they were set up before the growth of modern linguistics. As a result, English spelling is often difficult as every individual word has to be remembered (compare the different pronunciations of the syllable 'ough'). The aim of modern studies of spoken languages is to establish the sound-system people use with a view to setting up a logical writing system. Such systems are popularly called 'phonetic' although this is not really correct. At any rate, the aim is to try and devise a writing system (or orthography) that makes it possible to write down words exactly as they are pronounced and to read them back accurately. If the system has been correctly analysed, then a reader coming across an unfamiliar word will be able to read and pronounce it correctly.

At the back of the dictionary there is a technical appendix which explains the structure of the Basa sound system for the use of linguists. It also shows how the underlying sounds are to be written and why certain decisions have been taken.

Existing Orthography and the System in this Dictionary

Basa has gone through a number of orthographic changes during the history of publication and the writing system is still being debated. The following table shows how the present system corresponds to the system used in this dictionary.

Basa Writing	This dictionary
ɥ	ɔ
ŋ	n

The 'ŋ' was introduced to show a nasalised vowel at the end of words. Nasalised vowels in the middle of words are marked with an 'n'. To spell in a more consistent way it has been decided to use 'n' in all cases.

Basa also has two glottalised letters, /'w/ and /'n/. These are quite rare and occur only in front of the first letter of the stem of nouns (except where the stem has a reduplicated element, such as the tree species, **u-wu'wu**). For example, **i-'wune** 'annual okra' or **o-'nyaso** 'cockroach'. The origin of the glottal stop is probably the deletion of a original consonant. Thus **i-'wune** may originally have been **i-kwune** (as it still is in some other languages) and the 'k' dropped out leaving the glottal stop. The glottal stop is ignored in the alphabetisation, so please look up a word under the following letter.

In terms of linguistics, 'kp', 'gb', etc. are distinct sounds -however, for those familiar with the principles of English alphabetisation is probably safer to treat them as made up of two separate letters.

Tones

Like most Nigerian languages, Basa is a tone language and important distinctions of meaning are based on tones. This section explains the tone-system briefly and the marks used to indicate tone. Tones fall on vowels and nasal consonants. There are five possible tones, three level tones and two glides, rising and falling. These latter are rare and they could be analysed as combinations of level tones. The tones are shown over the letter to which they apply as follows;

High	ˊ
Mid	Unmarked
Low	ˋ
Rising	ˆ
Falling	ˋˊ

When words are different only in tone, they are listed in the order low, middle, high.

The common writing system does not mark tone, which is a pity as it is slower to read an unfamiliar text. However, marking tone is not traditional, so the present writing system will probably remain in use. However, in a scientific document like a dictionary, the tones must be put in, to help readers understand the language.

Many distinctions of meaning are made in Basa through tones. In some cases these are grammatical. For example;

	Present	Past
'to say'	hyen	hién
or;		
	Imperative	Past
to return	guré	gurè

In other cases, the meaning of words is different according to the tone. For example;

to wear	úrúgónó
to cover	ùrùgono

When you are marking new words it is always a good thing to see if there are any other words with the same spelling but different tone -if so, it is useful to mark the tone.

Parts of Speech

Like all languages, Basa words can be classified according to the function they have in the sentence. These are known as 'parts of speech' -the most well-known types are nouns and verbs. The following table gives the abbreviations used in the dictionary with short explanations;

Abbreviation	Full form	Explanation
a.	Adjective	Describes a noun
adv.	Adverb	Qualifies a verb
aux.	Auxiliary	Added to a verb to modify it, like a tense-marker
conj.	Conjunction	A word used to join two or more nouns, verbs or clauses
dem.	Demonstrative	Words used to point out something. 'this', 'that' etc.

excl.	Exclamation	Greetings or expressions that do not form part of an ordinary sentence
int.	Interrogative	Question words
n.	Noun	Refers to things, objects etc.
num.	Numeral	Number
part.	Particle	Short words added to complete the sentence
p.n.	Proper Name	A name of a person or object; always capitalised
prep.	Preposition	A word positioning nouns or verbs in time or space
pron.	Pronoun	A word that stands for a noun
v.	Verb	Expresses action
v.i.	Intransitive Verb	A verb with no object
v.t.	Transitive verb	A verb with an object

Needless to say, these categories were developed to describe English grammar and not all Basa words fit neatly into them. For example, the repeated words that follow nouns, reflecting the noun-class prefix, could be called particles, demonstratives or pronouns. Only a clear grammatical description will help the reader understand the function of a word in a sentence. At that point, the assignment to a particular part of speech is somewhat arbitrary; what counts is consistency throughout.

How To Look Up Words In The Dictionary

The order of letters is a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, 'n, o, p, r, s, t, u, v, w, 'w, y, z.

The glottalised letters are ignored for alphabetisation.

Because of the complicated changes that both nouns and verbs undergo, three columns have been allocated to each word. In the case of nouns, these cover, the singular, plural and collective plural. For example;

i-kpekpe o-kpokpo shi-kpokpo n. Chili pepper.

Not all nouns have plurals or collective plurals -in these cases the columns are left blank.

All nouns are treated as having a prefix and a stem, separated from one another by a dash. This dash is ignored in the alphabetisation. A few nouns appear to have no prefix in the plural, although the vowels in the stem may change. In this case, the symbol ø is used to show that there is no prefix. For example;

i-nyenu ø-nyanu n. Nose

For verbs, there seem to be three basic forms, the present continuous, the past and the completed or perfect tense. These are as unpredictable as the nouns, so the forms are given in three columns, corresponding to the three columns used for nouns. For example;

dwala dweri dwolwo v. to seek

Some verbs change the first consonant from present to past. Always look these words up under the present or the imperative. For example;

lo ri ruwo v. to cut down

Another problem comes from 'defective' verbs. These are verbs that have one tense 'missing' i.e. not used in the language. Some examples are;

-- **gembi gombwo v.** to be enough
'wa -- **'wawa v.** to follow

The sign -- means that this tense is not used. Where the present is missing, the entry in the dictionary will be slightly indented as in the first example.

Adjectives that have concordial prefixes present a particular problem since it might be said there is no 'underlying' prefix, such as on nouns. As a result, it has been decided to enter these adjectives without the prefix. For example;

-biye a. good

So for **i-biye**, **u-biye** etc. cut off the prefix and look up the stem.

Other parts of speech that do not change are marked in the first column and the others are left blank.

Etymology and Loan-words

To understand words it is often useful to know how they are constructed, that is the words or parts of words that were combined to make the new term. Etymologies are sometimes given, showing the parts that make up a word.

The Basa people have travelled a long distance from their original home in northwest Nigeria and on the way they have borrowed a number of words from the many peoples with whom they have interacted. Sometimes it is possible to identify the language from which these words are borrowed. The sources of many words have not been identified; however, obvious loanwords from other languages are marked in the text.

Codes for abbreviations for source of loanwords

- E. = English
- F. = Fulfulde
- H. = Hausa
- Gb. = Gbari
- Ig. = Igala
- N. = Nupe
- Y. = Yoruba

Scientific Names

In this dictionary, many scientific names are given for plants and animals. Scientific names are in Latin, and they are written in italics to show they are not English. Scientific names are intended to be an international language so that researchers in all countries will have a single name for a living creature, although the name in their own language will vary. So when the definition of a word is ray, *Potamotrygon garouensis*, this means that ray is the common English name corresponding to the Latin or scientific name following.

BASA-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
A.				
a-alu	she-		n.	Arrangement of three stones for cooking
aan			excl.	Expression of surprise
aba			a.	Their
a-ba			n.	Back
a-bagu	shi-		n.	Quiver
a-bata	shi-		n.	Ceiling
a-bɔsɔ	shi-		n.	Back of head
a-bwaka	shi-		n.	Pot. Large pot used to take bath.
à-dwá			n.	prayer
a-dugwa	shi-		n.	Mat
a-hwɔrɔkɔ	shɛ-		n.	Rodent sp.
áiyà			excl.	Please!
a-jɛ	shi-		n.	Wart-hog
a-jezhe	she-		n.	Ray. <i>Potamotrygon garouensis</i>
aka			n.	Time
aka elele			adv.	Anytime, always
a-kama	shi-		n.	Fish-hook.
akana			int.	When?
a-kara	shi-		n.	Chair
a-kpa	shi-		n.	Fish-fence place across a stream
a-kpa	shi-		n.	Litter for a sick person
à-kpà	shi-		n.	Door
a-kpɔsɔlɔ	shi-		n.	Clot of blood
a-kukpa i-shiwɛ				
à-kwàkwà	shi-		n.	Mat. Sleeping mat made from guinea-corn stalks with the strips running lengthways
a-kwɔrɔrɔ	shi-		n.	Snoring
a-lala	shi-		n.	Pestle
a-luma	sha-luma		n.	Hen
a-luma sha	sha-luma ~		n.	Egret
agwatana				
a-lɔngwɔ	sha-		n.	Animal like a squirrel
a-mbalaka	shi-		n.	Long-tailed nightjar. <i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i> .
a-mbɛ	shɛ-mbɛ		n.	Grass
a-mbɔrɔkwɔ	shi-		n.	Goitre
amɛ tu-hantu			n.	Trouble
a-na	shi-		n.	Scorpion
a-ngala	shi-		n.	Gecko
a-ngarankpa	shi- ~		n.	Roof-frame for a round house
ukogo				

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
ánanjan			v.	to preach
anta	enci	ontwo	v.	to bend, to be curved
a-nya			a.	Other (precedes noun)
a-panya	shi-		n.	Roof overhang
a-pashe	shi-		n.	Tongs used by a blacksmith
a-pashe			n.	Cloth strip. When a body is buried, a certain number of cloth strips are used for the corpse. these must be taken off by the buriers before the grave is filled in and taken to the chief of the clan. One of the strips is used to wrap a stone placed on top of the grave.
a-pashe icele			n.	Strip of cloth that hangs from the club of a traditional priest.
apata			dem.	There
àràdà			n.	Fishing
arahan			a.	Free
a-rigada	shi-		n.	Basket. A small, round, lidded basket used to store fish.
a-rumba	shi-		n.	Bat sp.
a-shamanje			n.	Denial
àshasha			n.	scale
àshàshà			n.	tree sp.
a-shenje	she-		n.	Chain. Heavy, for dog etc.
a-sòbò	shi-		n.	Liver
ata			dem.	That
atwa-ø	atwa-mwa		n.	Person/people
a-vula	sha-vula		n.	Winnowing tray. Round and made of woven grass
a-'walu	shi-		n.	Greetings
a-wan	she-wan		n.	Mosquito
àwo			excl.	No!
a-zazaguma			n.	Mason wasp, mud wasp
a-zwε	shε-		n.	Hare.
a-zuba	shi-		n.	Heaven
a-zuga	shi-		n.	Bellows

B.

bágá	beji	bogwo	v.	to split (lengthways), to cut
bana	beni	bonwo	v.	to come out to go out to leak from
bangwɔ			n.	width
bata	beci	botwo	v.	to stretch
ba-tagu	a-		n.	Senior brother or sister
beni			v.	to go out
bε-cεnwε			n.	Weevil

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
bɛ-hiɛnzɛ	cɛ-		n.	Feather
bɛ-shɛmba	i-shimbɛ		n.	Antelope sp.
bɛ-zhɛgba	a-		n.	Rich person
bi-degwele	e-		n.	Pygmy mouse
bi-enji	ti-			Spatula. A wedge-shaped piece of calabash used to serve out porridge from the cookpot
bi-enyi	ti-		n.	Straw for building
bi-enzhi	ti-		n.	Charcoal
biga	bɛjɛ	bigwa	v.	to feed (animal) to rear
bi-gbe be ehilo	i- ~		n.	Porcupine
bi-gbe bu uwapa	i- ~		n.	Brush-tailed porcupine
bì-gezhìjì			n.	runner
bi-gɛzɛngbiri	i-		n.	Pigeon pea. <i>Cajanus cajan</i> .
bi-genyi	i-		n.	
bi-hinzhe	ti-		n.	Hair
bi-'itowa	i-'itowɛ		n.	Mat. A mat made from stripped guinea-corn heads. cf. o-tongolo
bi-jana	ì-jénè		n.	Fish (general)
bijingo	bijinji	bijingwo	v.	to turn inside out
bila	bɛɛ	bilwa	v.	to plant (from seeds)
bi-ndeshi	ti-		n.	Locust-bean tree and fruit
bi-ndo	ti-		n.	Seed of the locust-bean and cakes used to flavour soup. (Hausa dandawa)
bi-ne	e-		n.	Mother
bi-ne bwolo	e-ne olwo		n.	Woman's mother-in-law
bi-nemi	i-		n.	Buffalo, bush-cow. <i>Syncerus caffer</i>
bi-nishi	i-		n.	Fish. <i>Malapterurus electricus</i> .
bi-nwa	a-		n.	Man's father-in-law
bi-shí	e-		n.	Father
bi-shí bwo-lo	e-shi o-lwo		n.	woman's father-in-law
bi-shí	bí-shí		n.	Fly
bi-shiwa	i-shiwɛ		n.	Oil palm. <i>Elaeis guineensis</i> .
bi-shosho	i-sheshe	n-shyoshyo	n.	Broom
-biye			a.	Good
bi-yikwo tuzana	e- ~		n.	Wife (<Gb?)
bi-yipa	i-pɛ		n.	Cutting-grass, cane-rat.
bi-yoyo	o-		n.	Medium-sized chick.
bì-yòyò	ì-ywèywè		n.	Goat
bi-zeci	i-		n.	Lion
bi-zhigwenyi	i-		n.	Bean.
bi-zhikperi	i-		n.	Bean.
bo-da	i-de		n.	Flying ant
bo-hondo			n.	Emptiness
bo-'yinywa	i-'yinywɛ		n.	Garden egg
bɔ̀nà			n.	cow
bo-ngwɔfwɔ	a-		n.	Sister

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
bɔ-rɛcɛ̀			n.	cashier
bɔ-sɔ	i-swɛ		n.	Bee
bɔ-tɔ̀	a-twà	á-twamwa	n.	Person, people
bɔ-vɔvɔ	i-vɛvɛ		n.	Month of year corresponding to January
bɔye			n.	eater
bu-banaiza	tu-		n.	Weed sp.
bu-baza	tu-	i-beze	n.	Grass species used for thatching roofs
bu-busa	a-	i-buse	n.	Grass species used for thatching roofs
bu-dakwa	i-dakwɛ		n.	Horse (<H. via N?)
bu-dogu	i-degu		n.	Rodent sp.
bu-ɖuci	i-		n.	Rodent sp.
buga	bujɛ	bugwa	v.	to sit on eggs between laying
bu-gbare			n.	Masquerade or spirit-figure who appears after someone dies. They wear a mask, the body is covered in white chalk and grass. They utter strange bird-like cries and run along the streets, smashing pots of anyone who displeases them. Women are supposed to flee the bu-gbare .
bù-gbongo	tu-		n.	Squash. <i>Cucurbita</i> sp.
bu-gongo	tu-		n.	Basket. Large, round basket.
bu-gwezhe	i-		n.	Groundnuts. <i>Arachis hypogaea</i> . (<H. gujiya?)
bu-gwezhe bi-kekpe	i-gwezhe i-kekpe		n.	Groundnuts. <i>Arachis hypogaea</i> . (to distinguish from Bambara nuts)
bu-gwezhe bi-shenje	i-gwezhe i-shenje		n.	Bambara groundnuts. <i>Vigna subterranea</i> . Et. 'red groundnuts'.
bu-kanɛ	ti-kanɛ		n.	Ring
bu-kapa	i-kepɛ		n.	Cowpeas, bean. <i>Vigna unguiculata</i> .
bu-ko tukala	tu-ko tu tu-kala		n.	Catapult
bu-komburu	tu-		n.	Pawpaw. <i>Carica papaya</i> . (<Gb?)
bu-kpeku	ti-		n.	Hill
bu-kpukpu	tu-		n.	Motor-cycle (<Gb?)
bu-kwa	tu-		n.	Arrow with wooden tip
bu-lolopo	o-		n.	Fish. <i>Clarias</i> sp.
bu-luba	i-lubɛ		n.	Antelope sp.
bu-menji	ti-		n.	Measurements
bùmo			n.	builder
bu-ngufu	a-		n.	Sister
bu-noso	i-neswe		n.	Upper grinding stone
bu-ruvene	e-rivene		n.	New-born chick.
bu-so			n.	buyer
bu-swa	i-swɛ		n.	Small bush-rat
bu-swa bɛ cɛnjɛ	i-swɛ icɛnjɛ		n.	Rodent sp.
bu-swa bu meni	i-swɛ meni		n.	Water-rat

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
bu-swa bi shenje	i-swɛ ishenje		n.	Rodent sp.
bu-swa bu tubaza	i-swɛ tubaza		n.	Rodent sp.
bu-swane	i-swɛni		n.	Genet (?)
bu-tatugwa	a-		n.	Grandfather on wife's side
bùto			n.	barrier
bù-tumwa			n.	Messenger
bu-wazhi	i-wɛshi		n.	Spotted grass-mouse
bu-'wumwa	tu-		n.	Alcoholic drink made from black fruit (? <i>Vitex doniana</i>).
bu-zagwu	i-zagwu		n.	Seed, pip, stone
bu-zogu	tu-		n.	Bush-melon. Not edible. Use to de-hair animal skins and rolled as a target when children are practising shooting arrows.
bu-zundo	o-		n.	Thief
bu-zuzu	o-	tu-	n.	Rag
bwa	bwi	buwa	v.	to count
bwada	bweji	bwodwo	v.	to break to shell (as groundnuts)
bwágà			v.	to take out
bwaratoga	bwereteji	bworotogwo	v.	to shock (as electric fish) to break to be painful
bwolo	bweri	bwolwo	v.	to weed
bw-olo	-olwo		n.	Husband
C.				
cɛnjɛ			a.	White
cɛnjɛ			n.	earth
ceé			int.	Where?
ciga	cɛnjɛ	cigwa	v.	to draw water
como	cwemi	cwomwo	v.	to chew
cwé			v.	to pluck
cwɛn			a.	small
D.				
derere			a.	thin
dice			a.	Little
dimi			adv.	Firmly
dɔlɔma	dɔlɔmɛ	dulumwa	v.	to be far
du			conj.	Also
dubo	jibi	dubwo	v.	to beat, strike
dubo ohyo	~ ~	~ ~	v.p.	to thresh (guinea-corn)
dudugono	dudugeni	dudugwonwo	v.	to pour (liquid from small to large vessel)
dula	durɛ	duwa	v.	to bathe, to wash body

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
duma	jɛmɛ	dumwa	v.	to speak
duwa			a.	Much
dwa	jwe	dwowo	v.	to cut guinea-corn in the farm to cut rope or long object
dwa uzagwu	~ ~	~ ~	v.p.	to lie lit. 'to cut a lie'
dwala	dweri	dwolwo	v.	to seek
dwatwaga	dwetweji	dwotwogwo	v.	to tear (cloth etc.)
dwonu	--	dwonwonwo	v.	to snap
dwotwogonu	--	dwotwogwonon wo	v.	to share

E.

ɛ-ciwɛ	shi-		n.	Fishing-spear with three prongs
ɛ-dɛngurɛbɛ	ɛ-		n.	Twins
ɛgbɛɛ			adv.	Often, constantly
ɛ-kpe	shi-		n.	Oven for smoking fish
ɛ-kpɛtɛ			n.	small cricket
ɛ-kpɛtɛ	shi-		n.	large calabash used for carrying loads on the shoulder
ɛ-rice	shi-		n.	Weed sp.
ɛ-tɛ			dem.	Those
è-tè	shi-		n.	Traditional bed
e-genegbe	shi-		n.	Ladder
e-hinjilo	shi-		n.	Stick used to stir soup.
e-jeku	shi-		n.	Squirrel
e-jishi			n.	Sneeze
e-kuzhi	shi-		n.	Mat. A sleeping mat made from guinea-corn stalks arranged transversely.
ekwunyi			prep.	Behind
elele			pron.	Any
enè			n.	Teeth
e-ngere	shi-		n.	Skink
epe			prep.	here
eshigiri			adv.	Suddenly
e-shilo	shi-		n.	Rain
e-'wuji	shi-		n.	man's mother-in-law

F.

fata			v.	to scrub
finifiní			id.	indicating small holes
foso	foshi	foswo	v.	to be rotten
funga	funjɛ	fungwa	v.	to flow
futa	fuceɛ	futwa	v.	to skin (an animal)

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
G.				
gaguma	gagumε	gagumwa	v.	to be bitter to be enraged
gánà			v.	to urinate
gana			conj.	as (<H.)
ganana			int.	How?
ganga	genji	gongwo	v.	to leave off, to stop doing s.t.
garataga	gereteji	gorotogwo	v.	to scatter
gbádágbádá			id.	describes aloud noise
gbaga	gbeji	gbogwo	v.	to vomit
gembi	gembi	gombwo	v.	to be enough
gembi			a.	Big
gembi ufugwo			a.	Very numerous
gozhigo	gezhiji	gozhigwo	v.	to run
gulo	gurè	gulwo	v.	to return (towards speaker)
guré!			v.	Come back!
gurú			id.	rough or shabby surface condition
H.				
hiba	hibε	hibwa	v.	to dance
hien	hien	hinwa	v.	to say
hiin			v.	One
hila	hiεε	hilwa	v.	to fly
hinana	hinanε	hinwanwa	v.	to be on heat (dogs) to be ready to unfold (guinea-corn head)
hinga ilεtu	hinjε ~	hungwa ~	v.	to laugh
hino	hini	hinwo	v.	to dig
hioko	hiεci	hiokwo	v.	to look
hombilo	hembiri	hombilwo	v.	to crawl
hóntono	hénteni	hóntonwo	v.	to ask (question)
hɣgwa [?]			v.	to rest
huga	hujε	hugwa	v.	to hear, to feel
huga ɔngwɔ			v.p.	to hurt, to feel pain
húló	huri	hulwo	v.	to blow (e.g. musical instrument)
húlò	huri	hulwo	v.	to go away
hulupono	hulipeni	huluponwo	v.	to blow (away from speaker) to blow (on a fire)
hungana	hunganε	hunganwa	v.	to taste
hungo	hinjε	hungwa	v.	to laugh
huwai go			adv.	just now
huwø	huwi	hùwø(wø)	v.	to finish
hwága	hwaji	hwagwawa	v.	to be worn out, to be used up
hwàga	hwajε	hwagwa	v.	to cut (hair)
hwεε			a.	All

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
hwonno	hwenni	hwonwo	v.	to burn
hwotono	hweteni	hwotwonwo	v.	to dry out
I.				
ibɛ			conj.	and
ibècɛ			n.	item of dress no longer worn
i-bɛgɛɛ	n-bagala		n.	Mat hung over doorway
i-bele	n-bolo		n.	Cat. (<H.?)
ì-biredì			n.	bread
i-cɛ	n-ca		n.	Beans with palm-oil
i-cɛɛ			n.	Club carried by the bu-gbare masquerader
i-cece	n-coco		n.	Bicycle (<H.)
i-cele	n-celo		n.	Adze
ìdike	n-dɔká		n.	shirt
i-dindi	n-dindi		n.	Fried. E.g. i-dindi n-gana 'fried yam'
i-dwɛtwɛ	n-dwɔtwɔ		n.	Throne, dais where chief sits
'ĩɛ			v.	to spit
i-gbɛjɛ	n-gbaja		n.	Thick, viscous residue from palm-oil processing that is spread on food.
i-gbɛjɛgbɛjɛ	n-gbajangbaja		n.	Yam stew
i-gbɛlu	n-gbalu		n.	wooden peg
igɛ			dem.	This
i-gɛdɛ	n-gada		n.	Giant African land snail
i-gɛsɛji	n-gasaji		n.	Parlour
i-gɛzu	n-gazu		n.	spider (cf. H.?)
i-gewe	n-gowo		n.	Hoe
i-gune ijɛnɛ	n-guno mi ijɛnɛ		n.	Fishing net
i-gweze	n-gwozo		n.	Mat. A double-width sleeping mat made from palm-leaves.
ì-gwezhe	n-gwozho		n.	Groundnut [acc. to Imoh]
i-gwuni	n-gwuno		n.	Net. Cast net for fishing.
i-gwuzhi	n-		n.	Knife
ì-hentennen			n.	Question
ìhentennen			v.n.	Driving
Ihiin			excl.	Oh! Exclamation of surprise
i-hilwe	n-hilwo		n.	Pot. Round pot used to carry water from the stream
i-hil'wapa	n-		n.	Pot. Round pot used to carry water from the stream
i-hilwe ɔ-nɛnɛ	n-hilwo		n.	Pot. Lit. 'one-tenth penny pot'. A size of pot to measure out beer.
i-hilwe tuguna			n.	Pot. Used to store cloth
i-hilwe u-deri	n-hilwo		n.	Pot. Lit. 'ha'penny pot'. A size of pot to measure out beer.

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
i-hilwe u-hungana	n-hilwo -		n.	Pot. Beer-pot reserved by a woman for her husband
i-hilwe u-kpobo	n-hilwo		n.	Pot. Lit. 'penny pot'. A size of pot to measure out beer.
i-hilwe u-kurubi	n-hilwo		n.	Pot. Used to store money secretly in the farm.
i-hilwe u-toro	n-hilwo		n.	Pot. The lying pot kept by chiefs. When an individual has been judged guilty of an offence he has to fill the pot with beer as a fine. The pot takes the contents of 6 ordinary water-pots.
i-hilwe u-zagwu	n-hilwo		n.	Pot. Lit. 'ha'penny pot'. A size of pot to measure out beer.
ihinhin			n.	top of s.t.
i-hirɛɛ	a-hirara		n.	Yellow-fronted canary. <i>Serinus mozambicus</i> .
i-hungwɛ			n.	Breath
ì-hwenzhenjì			n.	Habitual burning
ijɛ			dem.	These
i-jènè	n-gana		n.	Yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . General term
ì-jené			n.	bush
i-jeje	n-jojo		n.	Spoon. Calabash spoon used to eat porridge
i-jile			n.	A charm to protect the house
i-jile i-hwe			n.	Invisible spirit that punishes thieves and can kill people. When someone has been killed by this spirit they will go to dig up his skull after some months and take it to the p[lace of sacrifice, arubada . The skull may then be used for a drinking-cup.
i-jile wapa			n.	Masquerade that lives in the forest and is dressed in specially grown leaves o-kuma . It appears whne someone dies.
i-kɛpi			n.	Circular fish-fence placed in stream
i-keke	n-koko		n.	Calabash. Spherical tuberculed calabash used as a container for charms.
i-kele	n-kolo		n.	Calabash used for drinking
i-kemi	n-komu		n.	Pig.
i-kereku	n-koroku		n.	Guinea-pig.
i-kpekpe	o-kpokpo	shi-kpokpo	n.	Chili pepper.
i-kpekpe eyeje	o-kpokpo ~	shi-kpokpo~	n.	Chili pepper. Long, thin and hot. Et. 'pepper of the dog's penis'
shiwawa			n.	Chili pepper. Large and not very hot.
i-kpekpe agbarɛ	o-kpokpo~	shi-kpokpo~	n.	Chili pepper. Large and not very hot.
i-kpɛsu	n-kpasu		n.	star
i-kpɛtɛ	n-kpata		n.	Box (<H.)

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
i-kurɛ	n-kura		n.	Mammal sp.
i-kureni	n-kuronu		n.	Basket. A round basket used to carry guinea-corn to market
ì-kwade	̀n-kwodo		n.	plate
i-kwɛshɛ	n-kwashya		n.	Pot. (general)
i-kwede	n-kwodo		n.	Calabash used to serve food
i-kwele	n-kwolo		n.	Sling
i-kweshe arubada			n.	Pot. Used for sacrifices. A round pot is placed in a pit in the ground, pebbles are placed inside and it is filled with water. A sacrificed animal is placed in the pot. When someone is sick he or she either rubs the purulent water on their body or drinks from a snail-shell.
i-lɛkungbe	n-lakungbo		n.	Hedgehog (<N.)
i-lɛlɛ	n-lala		n.	Bean pie in palm-oil
i-lemi	n-lomu		n.	Citrus fruit (<H.)
i-lemi a-basa	n-lomu mo abasa		n.	Lime. <i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> . Et. 'Basa citrus'
i-lemi u-latu	n-lomu		n.	Orange. <i>Citrus sinensis</i> . Et. '? citrus'
i-luwuzhe	n-luwuzho		n.	Sickle (<H.)
ima	iɛmɛ	imwa	v.	to catch in indirect speech
ima	imɛ	imwa	v.	to catch for speaker also figurative. e.g. oholobwo ma ima -'pain catches me' i.e. -it hurts
ima isɛbwe			v.p.	to be patient lit. to 'catch anger'
imbe			pron.	What
imo	imi	imwo	v.	to hate
ina	inɛ	inwa	v.	to be lost
i-nɛmɛ	n-nama		n.	Flour made from cereals, maize, millet etc.
i-nɛnɛ	n-nana		n.	Lower grinding stone
inga	injɛ	ingwa	v.	to be old
i-ngbebi	ɔ-ngbobi		n.	Grass waist-band for women
i-ngbɛlɛlɛ	n-ngbololo		n.	Top of wall
i-'nwene	n-		n.	Load
i-'nwene	n-		n.	Possessions
i-'nwune	n-'nwuno		n.	Long type of okra, animal foetus
i-'nwurɛ	n-		n.	Iron tool used to sharpen hoes
i-nibi	e-		n.	Medicine
i-njɛ	n-		n.	Scraper. A shell from a river mollusc used to scrape the inside of cookpots.
inwa	inwɛ	inwunwa	v.	to throw
inwa ihungwɛ	~~	~~	v.p.	to relax lit. 'to throw breath'
inwa mecemi	~~	~~	v.p.	to spit out
i-nyenu	ɔ-nyanu		n.	Nose
i-nyenye	ɔ-nyonyo		n.	Mammal that steals chickens. Mongoose?

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
inzo	inzhi	inzwo	v.	to ease oneself (see next entries)
inzo meyingo	inzhi ~	inzwo ~	v.	to urinate
inzo tunwi	inzhi ~	inzwo ~	v.	to defecate
i-rɛ	ɔ-nrɛ		n.	Tool used to chip away parts of the teeth for cosmetic purposes.
i-sɛbwɛ			n.	Anger
i-sɛbwɛ	n-sabwa		n.	Comb
isɛbwɛ'wi	--	uwo	v.	to forget
i-shɛbɛ	n-		n.	Porridge
i-shɛmɛ	n-shama		n.	Mountain
i-shɛrɛ	n-shara		n.	Mat. A sleeping mat made from wild grasses.
i-shɛrɛ o-yibwo	n-shara mo		n.	Mat. A plastic mat bought in a store.
i-shekpe	o-yibwo			
	n-shakpa		n.	Medicine. A special protective medicine stored in the calabash u-regeje that you bring from your mother's compound.
i-sheshe	n-shosho		n.	Broom for sweeping compound
i-sheshe shipa	n-shosho mu		n.	Whisk. Broom-like whisk for stirring thick soup.
	shipa		n.	Blackness
i-shi			n.	to get up
ishiga	ishijɛ	ishigwa	n.	Rat snare
ì-tètè	n-tata		n.	Sea (<H.)
ì-teku	e-teku		n.	Forehead
i-tùnè	n-tùnø		n.	Antelope (<Ig.)
ì-tùné	h-tùnó		n.	Sesame, beniseed.
i-vwege	u-vwaga		n.	eunuch
ì-vwele			n.	dog
ì-wèwè			n.	Otter. Lit. 'water-dog'
i-wɛwɛ meni	shi-wawa ~		n.	Okra. Annual okra planted each year from seed.
i-'wune	n-'wuno		n.	Thing
i-yi			n.	Arrow
ì-'yilɛ	a-'yila		n.	Key
i-zegu	n-zogu		n.	Melon with edible seems similar to egusi. Probably <i>Citrullus lanatus</i> .
i-zhigɛ	a-zhiga		n.	Grey-crowned negro-finch. <i>Nigrita canicapilla</i> .
i-zhinyɛci	n-zhinyaci		n.	Donkey.
J.				
jaja	jeji	jojwo	v.	to cut (across)
jajaga	jejeji	jojogwo	v.	to chop up
jalakaka	jelekeci	jolokwokwo	v.	to seek
jalo	jeri	jolo	v.	to want, to need

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
jasa	jeshi	joswo	v.	to fight
jishiga	jishije	jishigwa	v.	to reply, to answer
jiyono	jiyeni	jiyonwo	v.	to incubate eggs after laying a clutch (cf. buga)
K.				
kaana	keeni	koonwo	v.	to be old
kakai			adv.	Quickly
			excl.	Hurry up!
kala	keri	kolo	v.	to throw to shoot
kala ranje	~~	~~	v.p.	to lay egg
kapa	kepi	kopwo	v.	to enclose, to fence around
kapishinga	kepishinji	kopishingwo	v.	to open (door etc.)
kashika	keshici	koshikwo	v.	to pass
-kekpe			a.	? (see groundnuts)
kirikiri			a.	round
kírírí			a.	round
kokulo	kekuri	kokulwo	v.	to drag
kpa			a.	All
kpátákpátá			a.	describes completeness
kpàtàkpàtà			id.	shows pelting rainfall or bleeding
kpógokpògo			id.	describes crookedness
kulana	kulane	kulwanwa	v.	to feel like
kuna	kune	kunwa	v.	to kill
kungulo	kunguri	kunguwo	v.	to fold
kuno	kuni	kunwo	v.	to begin
-kuzo	sho-kuzo		n.	mouse found in the house.
kwabilana	kwebileni	kwobilwonwo	v.	to repeat
kwo			conj.	Either, or
kwuba	kwube	kwubwa	v.	to see to look at
L.				
laka	lace	lakwa	v.	to refuse
lashiga	leshiji	loshigwo	v.	to receive
lásò	lasò	lasawa	v.	to defeat opponent, to win
latuma	laceme	latumwa	v.	to be sweet to be good friends to be sharp
laya	lei	loyo	v.	to fall away from
laya	lai	loyo	v.	to fall towards
lo	ri	ruwo	v.	to cut down (as tree)
lomicingo	lemicinji	lomicongwo	v.	to meet
lono	leni	lono	v.	to agree
lubo	lubi	lubwo	v.	to love

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
lukumo	lukumi	lukumwo	v.	to be tired
luma	lumε	lumwa	v.	to bite
lumo	lumi	lumwo	v.	to price (cf. F. luumo 'market?')
luba	lubε	lubwa	v.	to sharpen
lupa	lupε	lupwa	v.	to ask for, to beg for
lwogo	lweji	lwogwo	v.	to weaken

M.

-ma			suff.	Plural marker, including those present. Can be added to verbs or exclamations. Corresponds to Southern American y'all. E.g. okuma Hallo, everybody!
ma	mo	monwo	v.	to build to mould pot
ma-alu			n.	ashes
ma-jεrεka	tε-		n.	Stone wedge used to prop up cooking pot
ma-laba			n.	Teardrop
ma-labɔ			n.	Sleep
ma-nε	no pl.		n.	Salt
mà-nεbè	no pl.		n.	Oil
ma-nεbε mi ishiwε	no pl.		n.	Palm-kernel oil
ma-nεbε mo ololo	no pl.		n.	Oil of the tree <i>Canarium schweinfurthii</i> the 'bush-candle' tree.
manga	menji	mongwo	v.	to test, try
mapa	mepi	mopwo	v.	to know
mata	meci	motwo	v.	to give birth
mba	mbo	mbowo	v.	to pull
mbiana	mbiane	mbianwa	v.	to turn (head etc.)
mbɔɔ			adv	Straight, directly
mecemi			n.	Saliva (<N.)
mèhyè	—		n.	blood
mè-ni	no pl.		n.	Water
me-ni mi ishiwε	no pl.		n.	Palm-wine (from the oil-palm)
mi			p.a.	my
mi-hiun			n.	Ground beans
mo-dugulo	no pl.		n.	Snare
mungo	munji	mungwo	v.	to climb
mu-zhimi	no pl.		n.	Palm-oil
mwo	mwi	munwo	v.	to uproot

N.

na	nε	nunwa	v.	to be ripe to make soup
naka	neci	nokwo	v.	to grind

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
nama			v.	to stay
nanga tulagu	nanjε ~	nangwa ~	v.	to play
naṅwu			n.	Equal
nazhε			conj.	then
nda	njε	nduwa	v.	to do, make. Used a wide variety of compound expressions.
nda ashamanje	~ ~	~ ~	v.p.	to deny lit. to make denial
nda bohondo	~	~	v.	to empty
nda ejishi	~ ~	~ ~	v.	to sneeze
nda kakai	~	~	v.	to hurry
nda shiibwo	~ ~	~ ~	v.p.	to cough
nda tijal	~	~	v.p.	to hunt
nda ugonda	~	~	v.p.	to work
nda unyasa	~	~	v.	to rejoice
nda useida	~	~	v.	to mark
nεnε			a.	each
ngbo	ngbi	ngbuwo	v.	to fall (rain) to jump down from
nguso	nsushi	nguswo	v.	to bark
njisa	njeshe	njiswa	v.	to be long, tall
niso	nishi	nuswo	v.	to pound (dry foods) (cf. vo)
nó	ni	nunwo	v.	to plant (yam) to bury (person)
'nwa	'nwε	'nwunwa	v.	to throw away
nwafunwa			a.	Clear
nwana	nwanε	nwanwa	v.	to grow
nwáná	nwanε	nwananwa	v.	to carry, to hold
-nwana	i-nwεnε		n.	sun
'nwusono	'nwuseni	'nwusonwo	v.	to ask
nwùzùnkwùzù			id.	describes s.t. in fragments
nyashinga	nyashenje	nyashingwa	v.	to wash s.t.
'nyata	'nyeci	'nyotwo	v.	to write
nyitana			v.	to keep
nyizonom			adv.	Forever
nyoso	nyeshi	nyoswo	v.	to roast
ngulonṅonṅo	ngulenṅenji	ngulonṅonṅo	v.	to murmur
'ṅwana	'ṅwanε	'ṅwananwa	v.	to carry

Ɔ.

ɔ-bɔlɔ	a-	shi-	n.	Type of large yam
ɔ-dàkwɔ	àdàdkwɔ		n.	anthill
ɔ-dɔlɔ			n.	Distance
ɔ-gbanjo			n.	Basin
ɔ-gbɔdɔ			n.	Dirt settled on the bottom of a water-vessel (see also to-gbɔdɔ)
ɔ-gwɔ	a-		n.	Contract

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
ɔ-gwɔdɔ	a-		n.	Sheep
ɔ-hwà				
ɔ-hwɔnkwɔ	a-		n.	Loofah, <i>Luffa cylindrica</i>
ɔ-kpɔrɔ	a-	shi-	n.	Bullet
ɔ-kpɔkpɔrɔ	a-		n.	Lump in porridge
ɔ-kwɔrɔ	a-	shi-	n.	Deafness
ɔ-lɔgwɔ	sha-		n.	Type of arrow
ɔ-ndɔrɔ	a-	shi-	n.	Upright stem remaining when guinea-corn has been harvested
ɔ-nɛnɛ			n.	one-tenth of a penny (<H.)
ɔ-ngwɔ			n.	pain, sickness
ɔ-nɔnɔ	sha-		n.	Bird (generic)
ɔ-'nwɔndɔ	a-		n.	Crab
ɔ-rɛ	a-		n.	Burnt place
ɔ-rɔkwɔkwɔ	a-		n.	History
ɔ-rɔmɛ	a-		n.	Evening
ɔ-rɔpɛ	a-		n.	Sacrifice
ɔ-rɔrɔgwɔ	a-	shi-	n.	Bird species
ɔ-vwɔvwɔ	a-		n.	Bird (generic)
ɔ-wɔnndɔ			n.	Crab
ɔ-'wɔtɔ	a-		n.	Greatness
ɔ-'wɔ'wɔ	i-'wɛ'wɛ		n.	Tree sp.
ɔ-yɔgwɔ	sha-		n.	Guinea-fowl

O.

o-bida	a-		n.	shoe
o-dubo	shi-		n.	opening
o-fo			n.	place
o-godo	shi-		n.	Bed (<H.)
o-gogo	shi-		n.	Clock, watch (Y. via Ig?)
o-gúbo	shi-		n.	Axe
o-gubogubo			n.	praying mantis
o-gugu			n.	Peelings, pod, husk
o-gwobo	shi-		n.	Fruit-bat
ò-handà			n.	motor-bike (< Honda)
ò-hilo	?		n.	Farm
o-holobwo			n.	Heat
o-homa	shi-		n.	Net. Clap-net used for fishing. (<H.)
o-hyɛ	shi-		n.	Fish. <i>Tilapia</i> sp.
o-'inyaso			n.	cockroach
o-koko	shi-		n.	Gourd. Bottle-gourd used to contain water and also as a rattle.
o-kolo	shi-		n.	Calabash -large.
o-kpododo	shi-		n.	Basket. A wide, shallow basket used to carry yams from the the farm.
o-kpoko	shi-		n.	Senegal coucal. <i>Centropus senegalensis</i> .

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
o-kuma	a-		n.	Plant grown for its leaves used to dress the masquerade ijile wapa
okwokwo			n.	water-lodge [?]
ò-kwòkwò	shi-		n.	Pot. A large water-pot that stays in the compound.
o-lowo	a-		n.	Sorrel, roselle. <i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i>
o-mbolo ijibi	i-mbele ~		n.	Stick used to thresh guinea-corn
o-nunu	sho-		n.	Mortar
o-rubo	sho-		n.	Bush-fowl, francolin
o-shipu	shi-		n.	Mat. a mat woven from a bush-grass.
o-shyamu	a-		n.	Hammer used by blacksmiths
o-sumo	she-		n.	Ant (generic)
o-tongolo	shi-		n.	Mat. A mat made from stripped guinea-corn heads. cf. bi-'itowa
o-tula	a-		n.	Bitterleaf. <i>Vernonia amygdalina</i>
o-tulo	shi-		n.	Needle
o-tulo adugwa	shi-tulo sha adugwa		n.	Needle for weaving mat
o-tulo bi-hinzhe	shi-tulo shi ti-hinzhe		n.	Needle to stick in hair
o-tulo itεgenε	shi-tulo itεgenε		n.	Needle for sewing
o-vwo	shi-		n.	Crocodile
o-yibwo			n.	European, white person. (<Ig.?)
o-yo	shi-		n.	Giant cricket
o-ywo	shi-		n.	Cricket
P.				
pa	po	powo	v.	to hit, strike (person etc.)
pana	peni	pono	v.	to give
patana	peteni	potonwo	v.	to be on, to place on, to put on
pècè			adv.	Slowly, softly
peye			dem.	Yonder, over there
pícípící			id.	describes chips
pilo	piri	pilwo	v.	to wring out to squeeze
pingo	pinji	pingwo	v.	to twist
pínípíní			id.	describes a cluster of things in bits
puso	pushi	puswo	v.	to clap hands
R.				
raworawo			id.	describes immaculate whiteness
ràwòràwò			id.	shows largeness in size
rikito	rikici	rurutwo	v.	to tread on
rikpírikpí			id.	in little lumps

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
ríngbíríngbí			id.	small sized
rítà	ræɛ	rutwa	v.	to count
ròwuròwu			id.	describes a burning fire
rɔ-hwɔn			n.	Voice
ru-hyu	o-		n.	Guinea-corn, sorghum
ru-shina	a-		n.	Millet
S.				
sá	so	sowo	v.	to buy
saba	sebi	sobwo	v.	to sprout, to put out green shoots
sákasàka			id.	disorganized, confused
sanga	senji	songwo	v.	to sell
sànyé			adv.	Quietly
sapa	sepi	sopwo	v.	to prick
sasana			adv.	Again
semi			conj.	Except, unless
sha	shɛ	shɛwa	v.	to become
shaba	shebi	shobwo	v.	to peel, to shave, to remove bark, to take off excess
sháná			v.	to wear
shápá	shepi	shopwo	v.	to take, to pick up
sheneni				
she-gba			n.	Chain. Small, decorative
-shenje			a.	red
shenjemi			n.	Redness
shɛ			part.	Not
--	shɛn	shinwa	v.	to swell up
-shi			a.	black
shībwo			n.	Cough
shikono	shikeni	shikononwo	v.	to stand up
shilaga	shilajɛ	shilagwa	v.	to listen
shilo	shiri	shilwo	v.	to put
shilo	shɛrɛ	shilwo	v.	to slaughter to cut finger to plant something from a seed
shipa			n.	soup
shiriri			a.	Upright
shitogo	shiteji	shitogwo	v.	to cook
sísì			n.	sixpence
songo	senji	songwo	v.	to lick
subɛ			a.	like
subo	subi	subwo	v.	to suck
sugo	suji	sugwo	v.	to sweep
sugo	suji	sugwo	v.	to carry
suka	sucɛ	sukwa	v.	to ride, to travel in a vehicle
sukono	sukeni	sukonwo	v.	to block up

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
sukutogo	sukuteji	sukutogwo	v.	to confuse
sùsùsù			id.	extremely cold or extremely gentle or sluggish
suyana	suyane	suywanwa	v.	to call
swá	swe	swoswo	v.	to drink
swaka	sweci	swokwo	v.	to hide
swana	sweni	swonwo	v.	to flog to patch a hole in something
swon			a.	different
T.				
tá			v.	to lock
ta	to	towo	v.	to roast in sand (as beans), to fry
ta ogu	to ~	towo ~	v.p.	to heap up (yam mounds)
taa dɔɔ			adv.	far away
taama			n.	Porridge
tà-hanu	--	--	n.	Journey
tala	teri	tolwo	v.	to choose
tala ashamanje	~ ~	~ ~	v.p.	to deny lit. to choose denial
tana			num.	Five
tanga	tenji	tongwo	v.	to gather, to pick up (see also zanga)
tàpishànáá			excl.	Incredible! Unbelievable!
tatu			num.	Three
tebye			a.	well
teinje	--	teingwo	v.	to remember
tibelè			n.	stinging fly
tiga			n.	Pounded or mixed food
tiga tu n-gana			n.	Pounded yam
tigatiga te bi-ndeshi	~ te ti-ndeshi		n.	Yellow powder that encases the seeds of the locust bean
ti-gezhe			n.	Wickedness
ti-jala			n.	Hunt
ti-'nyita			n.	Wisdom
tiri			a.	Dirty
tì-seyda			n.	witness
tishi			n.	Darkness
titagana	titagane	titoganwo	v.	to pollute, to stain, to mark, to nail to wall, to crucify, to beat with fists
tòga	no pl.		n.	food
tɔ-gbɔɔ			n.	Dirt settled on the bottom of a water-vessel (see also ɔ-gbɔɔ)
to	to	towo	v.	to hit
to ivune	~ ~	~ ~	v.p.	to stamp
to odubo	~ ~	~ ~	v.p.	to lock door
tono	teni	tonwo	v.	to enter
tono cɛn	~ ~	~ ~	v.p.	to be right, to fit

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
tufurungo	tufurinji	tufurungwo	v.	to untie
tù-gungù			n.	Boundary
tu-gunɔ ta apashe			n.	Loom used by men for narrow-strip weaving
tu-gunɔ te ekpere				Loom used by women for broad-cloth weaving
tu-gunɔ tu-nkolo			n.	Cloth woven from narrow strips and joined together for presentation at funerals. The number of strips woven together and presented reflects the closeness of the relationship.
tu-la			n.	sky
tumongono	timengeni	tumongonwo	v.	to touch
tumwana	tumwané!	tumwanwa	v.	to send away from
tumwana	tùmwanɛ	tumwanwa	v.	to send towards speaker
tuna	cɛnɛ	tunanwa	v.	to marry (woman marries man) (cf. zana)
tunwana			v.	to grow
tupa	cɛpɛ	tupwa	v.	to settle a debt
tupana	tupanɛ	tupwanwa	v.	to take revenge
tu-'wa			n.	Following
tu-'walu			n.	Fruit (in general)
tu-'wo			n.	Death
twá			v.	to hit
twa	--	twawa	v.	to meet, to agree, to come to a decision
twa u'wo	cwɛ ~	tuwa ~	v.p.	to weep
twaga	twajɛ	twagwa	v.	to abuse
twala	tweri	twolwo	v.	to swallow
two	cwi	tuwo	v.	to pick, pluck
U.				
u-ala	i-ɛɛ		n.	Hand
u-bà			n.	wall
u-bagaga	a-		n.	Tool used to beat thread to make it stick together
u-bagaga	a-		n.	Wrist-guard and knife used by archers. Made of wood.
u-bakarinya	a-		n.	Green mamba
u-bambam			n.	tsetse fly
u-bambu dibeni	a- ~		n.	Beater used to flatten floors
u-bambu ngana	a- ~		n.	Stick used to uproot yams
u-bangama	a-		n.	Flat basketry dish used to dry locust-seed cakes.
ùbanò			n.	eunuch
u-basu	a-		n.	Brush. A small brush used to dust off the grinding stone.
ù-bata			n.	drought

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
u-bawra	a-		n.	Anvil
u-bawta			n.	suffering
ù-baybùùrù			n.	Bible
u-bèrɛ	ɛ-bèrɛ		n.	lightning
u-bizhinga	a-		n.	Gun (<H)
u-bizo	shi-		n.	Dung-heap
u-bonu	o-		n.	? Patas monkey
u-buba	a-		n.	Leaf
ùbútú			id.	describes s.t. tall
ù-butu			n.	millet [?]
u-da	i-de		n.	termite
u-dagariya	a-		n.	Lizard. Water-monitor, <i>Varanus niloticus</i>
ú-dagba	a-	Done!	n.	Ram
ú-dàgbà	à-	Done!	n.	Elephant
u-daku urefu	a- ~		n.	Island
u-dalɔ	a-		n.	Tax
u-dambwala	a-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety.
u-damwa	shi-		n.	Bushbuck (!)
u-dapekeshi	e-depekeshi		n.	Squirrel sp.
u-datu	shi-		n.	wall
u-degbe	i-		n.	Hippopotamus
u-dekuci	e-		n.	Sugar-cane.
u-denji	e-		n.	Tribe
u-deri	e-		n.	Halfpenny in former currency
u-dodo	o-		n.	Mud
u-dogbo	o-		n.	Green leaf vegetable
u-domu	o-		n.	cloud
u-doro	o-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety.
u-du	o-	shi-	n.	Aerial yam. <i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>
u-du atwa u-'uye	o-du atwa e-'uye		n.	Aerial yam that grows wild in the bush
u-dudu	o-		n.	Shikra. <i>Accipiter badius</i> .
u-dudumwoku	o-		n.	Parrot
u-dulo	shi-		n.	Kitchen
u-dusa	a-		n.	Stool
u-duu	shi-		n.	Fish. <i>Protopterus annectens</i>
u-dwamwa	shi-		n.	Antelope sp.
u-fugwo			a.	Many
u-fuya	a-		n.	Cutlass
u-futwa	a-		n.	Scabbard
u-fwoku	o-		n.	House-snake
ù-hantò			n.	Boat
ugana	uganɛ	ugwanwa	v.	to cry out
u-garɛ	a-		n.	Monkey sp.
u-garuwa	a-		n.	Kerosene tin (<H.)

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
u-gbaagwu	a-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety. Now rare
u-gbagbada	a-		n.	Fried cake
u-gbalu	a-		n.	Green fruit-pigeon. <i>Treron australis</i>
ù-gbamgbam	a-		n.	Zinc sheets used to roof houses
ù-gbamgbam	a-		n.	Enamel bowl used for food
u-gbajo	o-gbonjo		n.	Large bowl
u-gbando	a-		n.	Giant
u-gbaruma	a-		n.	Plantain.
u-gbebe	e-		n.	Rodent sp.
u-gbeji	e-		n.	Eagle
u-gbereji	e-		n.	baboon
u-gbɔgbɔlwa			n.	yam-beetle
u-gbukoko	o-		n.	Fish. <i>Synodontis</i> sp.
u-gburudu	shi-		n.	Mammal sp. in forest
u-gbwogbwɔ	o-		n.	Fish. Juvenile <i>Citharinus citherus</i> .
u-gɛndɛ	ɛ-		n.	Banana
u-gɛndɛ o-yibwo	ɛ-gɛndɛ yibwo	o-	n.	Pineapple. Et. 'Europeans' banana'
u-gɛnɛɛ			n.	Assassin bug
u-gebi	e-		n.	Leopard
u-godoon			n.	Water-snail
u-gondu			n,	Work
u-gu	o-		n.	Anvil
u-gudu	a-		n.	Sheep
u-gugu	o-		n.	Pod, husk, outer skin e.g. u-gugu bi-ndeshi locust-bean pod.
u-gulu	o-		n.	Common or hooded vulture. <i>Neophron monachus</i> . (<H?)
u-gunukweshi	o-		n.	Grandfather on the husband's side
u-guru	o-		n.	Trap of metal
u-guruwa	a-		n.	Lizard buzzard. <i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i> .
u-gusu	o-		n.	Spotted hyena. <i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
ù-gwàgwà			n.	Pied crow. <i>Corvus albus</i>
u-gwagwa	a-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety.
u-gwanyagwanya	a-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety.
u-gwɛgwɛ	shi-		n.	Antelope sp.
u-gwogwori	o-		n.	Black kite. <i>Milvus migrans</i> .
u-gwogworugwoni	o-		n.	White-faced owl. <i>Otus leucotis</i> .
u-gwolo	o-		n.	Village weaver. <i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
u-gwova	o-		n.	Guava. (<E.)
ù-gwubaga			n.	woodpecker
u-hantu	i-hɛntu		n.	Canoe, vehicle
u-hantu azuba	i-hɛntu ~		n.	Aeroplane
u-hantu meni	i-hɛntu ~		n.	Canoe with outboard motor

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
u-hantu cɛnjɛ	i-hɛntu ~		n.	Train
ù-hin jano			?	Rest
u-hinga iletu	a-hinga iletɛ		n.	Monkey sp.
ù-hunu			n.	Shade
u-hwa	a-		n.	Snake (generic)
u-hwa cɛnjɛ	a-hwa cɛnjɛ		n.	Burrowing snake
u-hwa dakwa	a-hwa dakwa		n.	Beauty snake
ù-hwanna	ì-hwɛnnɛ		n.	Road
u-hwɛ	n-hwan		n.	Home
u-hwohwo	i-hwehwe		n.	Rope
u-huru o-yibwo	o-		n.	Green leaf vegetable recently introduced.
ù-hyɔkɔhwana			n.	light
u-hyɔn	a-		n.	Smile
ù-hyùhyù	?		n.	Head
u-jɛjɛ	a-		n.	Flappet lark. <i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>
u-ka	a-ka		n.	Mammal sp.
ù-kadè			n.	card
u-kaka	a-		n.	Grandmother (<H?)
u-kakacɛ			n.	Trumpet (<H.)
u-kango			n.	Firefly
u-kara	a-		n.	Fried bean-cake (<Y. via Ig.?)
u-kara meni	a- ~		n.	Boiled bean-cake
u-karaba	a-		n.	Maize
u-karubana	a-		n.	Red-flanked duiker. <i>Cephalophus rufifilatus</i>
u-kashu	a-		n.	Cashew fruit and tree. (<E.)
u-kazaruba	a-		n.	Duck.
u-kazhezheɛ	a-		n.	Rodent sp.
ù-keke			n.	monkey sp.
u-kekpeshi	e-		n.	Pair of V-shaped sticks used to lodge loads in shoulder-carrying bowls. There are different sizes depending on the load.
u-kelegbe	e-		n.	Water-yam. <i>Dioscorea alata</i> . [?]
u-kere	e-		n.	Calabash spoon with long handle used to draw beer from a pot.
u-kerebishi	e-		n.	Tuber. Probably rizga, <i>Plectranthus esculentus</i> .
u-kerende	e-		n.	?
u-keɛɛ	e-		n.	Hammer of imported type
u-kɔngulɔ	ɔ-		n.	Dung-beetle
u-koko	shi-		n.	Fish. Juvenile <i>Heterotis niloticus</i>
u-kokoro	o-		n.	Cock, rooster.
u-koloku	o-		n.	Garden egg

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
u-kondo	o-		n.	Mat. A single-width sleeping mat made from palm-leaves. cf. i-gweze .
u-konwu	shi-		n.	Antelope sp.
u-korobubu	o-		n.	House-bat.
u-korombo			n.	Millipede
u-koshilo	o-		n.	Foundation
u-koto	o-		n.	Nail (<N?)
u-kotolo	o-		n.	Black liquid extracted from boiling locust-bean pods. Used to glaze pots and seal floors.
u-kpa	a-		n.	Door frame Clay wall made to protect blacksmiths from the heat of the forge
u-kpa azuga	~ ~		n.	Place where bellows are inserted into tuyères
u-kpaci	a-		n.	Fish. <i>Synodontis clarias</i>
u-kpaga			n.	Cloth wrapped around body when sleeping
u-kpakpa	a-		n.	Food. A local version of bean paste or moinmoin boiled in leaves. (<Gb.?)
u-kpakpalashe	a-		n.	Bean. Small multicoloured beans.
u-kpakwɔ	a-		n.	Tortoise
u-kpara	shi-		n.	Water-dip used by blacksmiths to cool molten metal
u-kpashikworo	a-		n.	Leather pouch
u-kpatafu	a-		n.	Fish. Adult <i>Citharinus citherus</i> .
u-kpɛtɛrɛ	shi-		n.	Fish. <i>Tilapia</i> sp.
u-kpekperɛ	e-		n.	Okra. Perennial okra. Grows in the forest and can be harvested for up to twenty years.
u-kpere	e-		n.	Cloth strip about 1 m. wide. Three are sown together to make a sleeping cloth.
u-kpere	e-		n.	Pot lid or cover
u-kpobo			n.	Penny, kobo
u-kpogu	o-		n.	Compound
u-kpotu	shi-		n.	Fish. <i>Tilapia</i> sp.
u-kputu	o-		n.	Arrow to kill birds
u-kubɛhɛ	ɛ-		n.	Round, conical basketry tray used for drying fish etc.
u-kubiri	e-		n.	Aardvark. <i>Orycteropus afer</i> .
ù-kùcìme	e-		n.	Red-billed wood dove. <i>Turtur afer</i> N.B. Imoh give plural as ñkwùcìmo
u-kugba	a-		n.	Working cloth
u-kuka	a-		n.	Ring Plaited ring of guinea-corn heads used to prevent eggs from rolling away

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
				Small grass rings placed in the shoulder-carrying calabash to prevent the load from shifting
				Wheel
u-kukunduku	o-		n.	Sweet potato. <i>Ipomoea batatas</i> . (<F?)
u-kurudu	shi-		n.	Pot. Small pot for carrying water
u-kuturu	o-		n.	Laughing Dove. <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> .
u-kuzo	sho-		n.	Rodent sp.
u-kwa	a-		n.	Fish. <i>Polypterus senegalus</i>
u-kwa	shi-		n.	Fish. Adult <i>Heterotis niloticus</i>
u-kwagwa	a-		n.	Male agama lizard
u-kwarkwata			n.	louse (<H.)
u-kwepi	e-		n.	Cup (<E.)
u-kwerukwe	e-		n.	Red-eyed turtle-dove. <i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
u-kweshε	n-kwasha		n.	Pot of any kind
u-kweshε shipa	n-kwasha mu shipa		n.	Pot for soup.
ù-kweshi	e-		n.	Spoon. Traditional wooden spoon but also applied to modern metal spoons.
u-kwo	o-		n.	Soap made from ashes
u-kwo	o-		n.	Calabash. A spherical calabash used by fishermen both as a float and as a creel to store the catch.
ù-kwókwó	o-		n.	Grey plantain-eater. <i>Crinifer piscator</i> .
u-kwokworo	o-		n.	Cocoyam. <i>Colocasia esculenta</i> . (<N.?)
u-kwokworogwo	o-		n.	Grass species. Not useful, but children place internodes on the fire to explode them
u-kwonyi	a-		n.	Brother
u-kwoshi	e-		n.	Spoon. (<Gb?)
ù-kwù			n.	Fist
u-kwunu	o-		n.	Non-fermented drink of cereal flour, water and spices (<H. kunnu)
u-kwushε	ε-		n.	Okra, sliced.
u-la	a-		n.	Grey-headed sparrow. <i>Passer griseus</i> .
u-lamu	a-		n.	Generation
u-lamu	i-lεmu		n.	Path
ù-laynè			n.	line
u-lεkungbe	shi-		n.	Hedgehog. (Cf. Nupe?)
u-lεlεbε	ε-		n.	Black-shouldered kite. <i>Elanus caeruleus</i> .
u-lighbii	e-		n.	Puff adder
u-lubwa	a-		n.	Flour made from yam peelings (<H.)
u-luka	a-		n.	Beer made from guinea-corn or millet
u-lukuku	o-		n.	Pigeon. (<N.)
u-luma	shi-		n.	Bush-pig.

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
u-lupwo	o-		n.	First food mix of meal
u-luwu	shi-		n.	Spitting cobra
ù-lwá	a-lwa or ilwε		n.	fire
ù-lwá ù-jita	~ ~		n.	Witchweed, <i>striga senegalensis</i> . lit. 'fire of night'.
u-mala	a-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety.
u-manga	a-		n.	Wrist-guard and knife used by archers. Made of iron.
u-mbalu	a-		n.	Fireplace
u-mbukulu	o-		n.	Fish. <i>Alestes</i> sp.
u-mongworo	o-		n.	Mango. (<H.)
ù-motù	o-		n.	Car
u-mpε			a.	Mad
úmpwá			num.	ten
ù-mwàmwà			n.	Family
u-mwono	shi-		n.	Room
u-mwono bu weci	shi- ~		n.	Bedroom
u-mwono idurε	shi- ~		n.	Bathroom
u-nabara	shi-		n.	Antelope sp.
u-naka	a-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety. Now rare
u-namwa	sha-mwa		n.	Monkey (general term)
u-namwa cenjε	sha-mwa she cenjε		n.	Monkey sp.
ùnángá	unanjε	unangwa	v.	to lend
ùnangà	unanjε	unangwa	v.	to divide into portions for sale in the market
u-nasa	a-		n.	Foetus of small ruminant
u-ndwori	o-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety.
u-ngezhe	e-		n.	Orange-cheeked waxbill. <i>Estrilda melpoda</i> .
u-ninivεε	ε-		n.	Pin-tailed whydah. <i>Vidua macroura</i> .
u-noikwo	o-		n.	Newborn small ruminant
u-nu	o-		n.	Mouth
u-nu azuga			n.	Tuyère
u-nwana	a-		n.	Fish. Adult <i>Gymnarchus niloticus</i>
u-nwana			n.	Sun
unwana			v.	Grow!
u-'nyɔɔ	a-		n.	Monkey sp.
u-'nywa			n.	grasshopper
unywanywa			n.	next year
u-'ɲwuno	o-		n.	Lizard. Bose's monitor, <i>Varanus exanthematicus</i>
u-palu	a-		n.	Calabash lid.
u-papa	a-		n.	Speckled pigeon. <i>Columba guinea</i> .

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
u-pata	a-		n.	Calabash used for drinking
u-pepe	e-		n.	Fan made of woven grass
u-pi	e-		n.	Male goat, billy-goat
u-pindwa	a-		n.	Bottom
u-pipa	a-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety.
u-pipiri	e-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety. Now very rare
ù-pyanù	i-pyεnε		n.	moon, month
ù-radyò			n.	radio
uranga	uranjε	urangawa	v.	to continue
u-rawana			n.	Fish. Juvenile <i>Gymnarchus niloticus</i>
u-refu	e-refu		n.	River
u-regeje	e-		n.	Calabash. Long thin calabash that contains the medicine i-shekpe . You bring it with you from your mother's compound to protect you.
úrúgónó	urigeni	urugwonwo	v.	to wear
ùrùgono	urigeni	urugwonwo	v.	to cover (pot etc.)
u-rugwo	o-rogwò		n.	Cassava, manioc. <i>Manihot esculenta</i> . (<H.)
ù-rworwo			n.	neck
u-rupasa	a-		n.	Onion. (<H. via Gb.?)
u-rusu	o-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety. Now rare
u-sakwo	a-		n.	Snake. Rock-python.
ùsàpà			n.	unmarried woman
u-sεkpεdεrε			n.	stink-bug
u-sεmburεrε			n.	dragon-fly
u-seida			n.	Mark
u-sekpe	e-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety.
u-semberi	e-		n.	Young man
u-shamu	a-		n.	Traditional hammer (cf. u-kεcε)
u-shapa	a-		n.	Pit trap
u-shεpu	a-		n.	Village
ù-shéríyá			n.	Judgment (<H.)
u-shenje	e-		n.	Beer from guinea-corn or millet. Extra-strong
u-shibwo	e-		n.	Common duiker. <i>Cephalophus grimmia</i>
u-shikapa	a-		n.	Rice. (<H. via Ig.?)
u-shikwo	n-		n.	Smoke
ushigo	ushiji	ushigwo	v.	to take off (clothes)
u-shina	shi-		n.	Giant rat
ù-shørørò			n.	owl sp.

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
u-sikidi			n.	Cloth of thirty narrow strips sewn together. The highest prestige presentation made at a funeral, entitling the giver to a gown when the deceased's clothes are shared out.
ù-sísi			n.	sixpence
u-suka	a-		n.	Ridging
ùsùkulù			n.	school
u-sukupengede	shi-		n.	Squirrel sp.
u-sunda	i-sunde		n.	meat, animal
u-suswa	a-		n.	Scrubber. A bundle of de-seeded guinea-corn heads used to clean out the inside of cookpots
u-swe	e-		n.	Beauty snake
u-swenyi	e-		n.	Toe
ù-swingune			n.	bird sp.
ù-swinswin	e-		n.	Senegal fire-finch. <i>Lagonosticta senegala</i> .
ù-ta	i-tɛ		n.	Bow
u-tahuba	a-		n.	Coconut
u-tagwu	shi-		n.	Iron spike used by blacksmiths
u-tai	a-		n.	Stone
u-taka	a-		n.	Snake. Royal python
ù-takàda	à-takàda		n.	book
u-tata	a-	shi-	n.	Handle of tool
u-temberi	e-		n.	Block for building
u-to	o-to		n.	Thunder
u-togwo	o-		n.	Robe (<Lat. 'toga')
u-totobe	o-		n.	Guinea-yam. <i>Dioscorea guineensis</i> . A cultivated variety.
u-toro			n.	Threepence in former currency
u-tukpa	shi-		n.	Wooden bowl for supporting firewood when carried on the shoulder
u-tuku ɔɔpɛ			n.	Altar. Usually made from a heap of earth and placed on a boundary in the farm.
u-tuku tu-gungu			n.	Shrine used to mark boundary.
u-tunjetunje	e-		n.	Scarlet-breasted sunbird. <i>Nectarinia senegalensis</i> .
u-tupa	a-	shi-	n.	Grass species used for thatching roof
u-turaje	a-		n.	Duiker
ùtutu			n.	pack
ùtùtù			n.	shoulder
u-twala	a-		n.	Mammal sp.
ù-twatwa			n.	earthworm
u-twenyi	e-		n.	Tail
u-uluwa	a-ulwa		n.	Peeble, small stone
u-vugu	o-		n.	Fan palm

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
u-vwεvwεjε	e-		n.	Foot
uwaaci			adv.	Until
u-wabaga	a-		n.	Black cobra
u-wapa	a-		n.	Forest
u-wawai	a-wawai		n.	Pangolin
uwe			conj.	For
u-wε			n.	Word
uwεnεpo			adv.	until
u-wεwε	shi-wawa		n.	Dog
uwembepo			int.	Why?
u'wo			n.	Weeping
u-wundu	e-wundu		n.	Window (<E.)
u-'yibwa	a-		n.	Hole
u-yigo	o-		n.	Tree. The tree <i>Canarium schweinfurthii</i> , the 'bush-candle' tree.
u-yiwawa	a-		n.	Grass species woven into waist-band (i-ngbebi) for women
u-yogwu	sha-igwu		n.	Guinea-fowl.
u-ywa	shi-		n.	Year
u-zagwu			n.	Lie
u-zhapɔ	a-		n.	Charm used by blacksmiths to protect forge
u-zhika	a-		n.	Sack (<H.)
ùzhùkwùkwù			n.	owl sp.
u-zɔmɔdundu			n.	
u-zo			a.	Low
u-zoto			a.	High
u-zunguru	o-		n.	Gourd. A long, thin gourd used to apply henna. (<H.)
ù-zwòzwò			n.	Bottom of hill

V.

vàà			v.	to take out
vo	vi	vuwo	v.	to pound (yam) (cf. niso)
vula	vurε	vulwa	v.	to turn
vundo	vunji	vundwo	v.	to stir
vwá			v.	to take out of (close object)
vwájé			v.	to bring out (enclosed place)
vwálá			v.	to cut
vwáné			v.	to remain
vwé			v.	to take out of (further away)
vwó			v.	to cook
vwo			v.	to be hot
vwonje			v.	to lose
vwɔŋga			v.	to loose
vwúndò			v.	to turn

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
W.				
'wa	--	'wawa	v.	to follow
'wala	'weri	'wolwo	v.	to bear fruit
'walu	'walu	'walawa	v.	to greet
wε			a.	bad
'wε			v.	to help s.o. shoulder a load
'wo	'wi	uwo	v.	to die
woto	weci	wotwo	v.	to lie down
woto malabo	~~	~~	v.p.	to sleep
wuû			excl.	shows disgust
Y.				
yá	yε	yiwa	v.	to eat
'yaga	'yajε	'yagawa	v.	to have
'yaka	'yacε	'yakawa	v.	to wait
yashinga	yashenje	yashingwa	v.	to wash
yeù	myà-wú		n.	child
ye-u yei	myà-wú mey		n.	son
ye-u yoo	myà-wú moo		n.	daughter
yebi			num.	Two
yièrèrè			a.	slow
'yima	'yεmε	'yimwa	v.	to catch
yinga	yinjε	yingwa	v.	to turn around
yuo			v.	to read
Z.				
zána	zeni	zonwo	v.	to marry (man marries woman) (cf. tuna)
zanga	zenji	zongwo	v.	to gather, to pick up (see also tanga)
zawa			pref.	negates or reverse anynoun to which it is prefixed
zha	zhe	zhogwo	v.	to go
zha tahanu	~~	~~	v.p.	to walk. lit. 'to go journey'
zhága!			v.	Go!
--	zhàgàjé(zhogwogwo	v.	to rise (of a river)
zhagaga	zhàgajε	zhagagowa	v.	to accompany
zhajε	zhaàjε	zhogwo	v.	to come
zhεmε			a.	Good
zhεshε			a.	Bad

Singular/Present	Pl. 1/Past	Pl. 2/Completed	PS	Gloss
zhimanana	zhimananɛ	zhimwanwanwa	v.	to recover (from illness), to survive
--	zhinjɛ	zhingwo	v.	to wake up, to awaken
zhingoto	zhingeci	zhingwotwo	v.	to shake
zhinono	zhineni	zhinwonwo	v.	to be heavy
zono	zeni	zonwo	v.	to pour into (liquid etc.)
zono mecemi	~~	~~	v.p.	to spit at
zundo	zunji	zundo	v.	to steal
zunga	zunjɛ	zungwa	v.	to sing
zwé			v.	to descend
zwogo	zweji	zwogwo	v.	to pour (dry substances into container)
zwóno	zwéní	zwonwo	v.	to pour (between two similar vessels) to put

APPENDIX 1

Notes on Phonology and Grammar

Phonology

The phonology of Basa is relatively unproblematic as it has not developed the long-short distinctions of the Kambari cluster and has retained strict CV structures.

Consonants

The following are the phonemic consonants of Basa.

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Alveo-palatal	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
PLAIN								
Plosive	p b		t d		c j	k g	kp gb	ʔ
Nasal	m		n			[ŋ]		'n
Trill			r					
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ		h		h
Approximant					y		w	'w
Lateral Ap'x'nt			l					

Generally speaking, s~ʃ and z~ʒ are not contrastive, with [s], [z] before central and back vowels and [ʃ],[ʒ] before front vowels. However, the contrast can exist where the following vowel is nasalized. Thus;

Prenasalized segments

Prenasalised segments are quite rare in Basa, but are definitely present. The most common examples are /nd/, /nj/ and /mb/. Examples;

njisa to be long
mba to pull

They seem to only occur word-initially.

Vowels

There are seven underlying vowels;

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

/ɛ/ is written in the existing orthography, but ɔ is written u, somewhat in contrast to common Nigerian orthographic conventions.

Sequences of VV for similar vowels occur regularly and have been recorded for most vowels. Aparent dissimilar VV sequences are rare and can probably all be analysed as V + approximant, except in the case of recent loanwords. For example;

u-noykwo	foetus of small ruminant
a-tay	stone

Nasalization

Nasalization appears to be a pervasive feature of the Basa vowel-system and has been recorded for all vowels, although it is more common for /ĩ / and /ã/.

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

There are thus seven oral and seven nasal vowels. Nasalisation is somewhat inconsistently marked in the existing orthography. Usually it is an 'ŋ' word-finally and n in the middle of words. Occasionally, however, 'ŋ' appears in the middle of a word.

Long vowels

Basa has no true long vowels as all VV sequences can be analysed as a succession of vowels. Almost all vowels can be doubled although /aa/, /ee/ and /oo/ are the most common. However, the stem changes in verbs show that doubled vowels change regularly. For example;

to be old kaana keeni koonwo

Probably all long vowels can be nasalised, although there are no existing cases for some.

Harmony Constraints

Synchronically, there are only traces of vowel harmony; the vowels can be regarded as two sets, front and back with /a/. The stems of most words are restricted to vowels from one of the two sets; there are however, numerous exceptions, especially in words that contain close vowels, such as **u-kubiri**, 'aardvark'.

Again it is substantially more common for the close-mid and open-mid vowels to occur throughout a word;

u-lɛlɛbɛ	'black-shouldered kite'
i-ngbelele	'top of a wall'

Again there are exceptions;

u-gɛgɛle 'little African swift'

Synchronically, many Basa nouns are CVCVCV stems (and sometimes longer). It seems (speculative hypothesis), however that they have an underlying CVCV form that has been extensively compounded. This underlying stem seems to retain the harmony constraints that have been dissolved with the evolution of longer stems.

Tones

The tone system of Basa There are three level tones and two glides, rising and falling. These latter are rare and they could be analysed as combinations of level tones. However, they seem to occur in isolation on some words which indicates that they must be treated as separate tonemes.

Grammar

This is not the place to publish a full grammatical description of Basa. These notes are intended to introduce the main topics in the syntax, especially as they relate to understanding particles and other lexical items.

Word Structure

Nouns

Noun stems are usually either CV, CVCV or CVCVCV. Longer forms are usually either loan-words or compounds.

Pluralization

The Prefix System

Basa has a complex and variable system of noun prefixes that change with the number of the noun. These prefixes are either V or CV. The vowel in the CV prefixes harmonises with the 'underlying' vowel in the noun stem. This is most marked in the case of the shV- plural prefix. The following forms are all attested;

Form	Example	Gloss
sha-	sha-luma	hens
shɛ-	shɛ-mbɛ	grasses
she-	she-jezhe	rays
shi-	shi-lala	pestles
sho-	sho-rubo	francolins

There are no cases of **shɔ-** and **shu-** at present recorded. The **shi-** prefix is predominant and can apparently occur with any stem vowel, synchronically. This prefix is common in related languages and can probably be regarded as the underlying form inherited from proto-Basa. It seems as if the process of prefix-concord is in progress and has not yet reached completion.

A similar plural prefix **tV-** has a more limited range of variants. In this case, the **tu-** form is the most common and again this corresponds to a similar prefix in other languages. The logic of the changing vowels remains to be elicited.

Form	Example	Gloss
tɛ-	tɛ-jɛrɛka	Stone wedges
ti-	ti-kpeku	Hills
tu-	tu-zogu	Bush-melons

With a few exceptions, words that have singular prefixes beginning in m, s, or t do not form plurals. These may originally have been uncountable nouns, such as liquids, but presently, they seem to have no semantic unity.

The V- prefixes also harmonise, with the open and close-mid vowels. Stems with dominant E and O are more likely to take a concordial vowel.

Alternation in stem vowels

One of the more striking features of the Basa noun-class system is the changes in quality of the vowels in the stem of nouns. The most common alternation is between a and ε, more rarely between u and ε or i and ε. These are not tied to the alternation between singular and plural, nor to the quality of vowel in the prefix. Thus;

Gloss	Singular	Plural
Horse	bu-dakwa	i-dɛkwɛ
Dog	u-wɛwɛ	shi-wawa
Tree	u-'wu'wu	i-'wɛ'wɛ
Antelope sp.	bɛ-shɛmba	i-shimbɛ

A less common alternation is **o**↔ **(w)e**. The absence of phonological conditioning is shown by the following pairs of words;

Gloss	Singular	Plural
Chick	bi-yoyo	o-yoyo
Goat	bi-yoyo	i-yweywe
and;		
Rope	u-hwohwo	i-hwehwe
Bicycle	i-cece	n-coco

This alternation also occurs in verb stems;

Gloss	Present	Simple past
Enter	tono	teni
Ask (question)	hóntono	hénteni
Throw	kala	keri
Drag	kokulo	kekuri

Verbs also allow limited alternations in initial stem consonants (see below).

Verbs

Verbs are most commonly CV but can be CVCV or CVCVCV.

Tense

The changes in the form of verbs as they pass through the procession of tenses is very complex and for this reason they are listed in full in the dictionary. The following table gives some idea of the variety of transformations possible.

Tense	I + 'make'	I + 'go'	I + 'see'
Future	n zhe ma nda	n zhe ma zha	n zhe ma kwuba
Present	ma nda	ma zha	ma kwuba
Simple Past	n nje	n zhe	n kwube
Completed Past	n nduwa	nzhogwo	n kwubwa

Future

The future forms are invariably the present tense with **n zhe** prefixed. This could be translated with the English 'I am going to..'

Simple past

The simple past is marked with the invariable pronoun 'n' and a change of a consonant, vowel or both in the verb stem. Broadly speaking, if there is a central or back vowel in the present stem then it can become a front or central vowel in the past.

Completed past

The completed past is marked with the invariable pronoun 'n' and either followed by the same as the present verb stem or with **wo** suffixed. The **wo** marker can be realised in a great variety of ways, depending on the final consonant of the stem or the underlying vowel.

Consonant Alternation in Verb stems

Apart from the vowel alternations that occur in both noun and verb stems, verbs also permit a series of consonant alternations. Those recorded so far are;

t~c d~j g~j

The main underlying process is palatalisation. There is no example of the voiceless velar /k/ undergoing this mutation. Examples;

Gloss	Present	Simple past
Pluck	two	cwi
Make,do	nda	nje
Speak	duma	jeme
Laugh	hinga	hinje

Adjectives

Compared with many African languages, adjectives in Basa are quite numerous. The most common adjectives deal with colour, size and state. True adjectives always follow the noun. Hence;

Basa	Gloss
u-refu shi	Black river
i-εε tiri	Dirty hands
a-twa u-fugwo	Many people

Surprisingly for a language with such an elaborate concord system, many adjectives are invariable and do not show agreement. However, certain adjectives seem to behave more like nouns and show concord on the prefixes. For example;

Basa	Gloss
bu-tu bi i-biye u-gondu u-biye	A good man Good work

Adverbs

Adverbs in Basa always follow the noun they qualify. Many end in -y or -yi, corresponding to the English -ly.

Basa	Gloss
zhaga kakay bi zhe sanyi	go quickly he went quietly

Numerals

Numerals in Basa always follow the nouns they qualify.