

The Təsu language

of

Central Nigeria and its affinities

**[DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT -NOT FOR CITATION WITHOUT REFERENCE TO
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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Təsu language, spoken in Plateau State, Nigeria. The first wordlist of Təsu was collected by Roger Blench with the assistance of Selbut Longtau from the Chief Mathys Akwe (50 years old) and Musa Akwe (59 years old) in Chessu-Sarki on the 8th of January 1999. Mr. Yakubu A. Ameh (38 years old) was kind enough to speak the examples clearly for the tape. Barau Kato took over checking and collection of Təsu in January 2003 and we are grateful to the people of Chessu for their help in expanding the lexical data.

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

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

These languages have previously been referred to as ‘Arum-Chessu’ and seem to have been first recorded in Maddieson (1972). The correct name of the language and people is as follows;

Arum	→	Alumu
Chessu	→	Təsu

The plural form is made in both languages by adding –mbo to any substantive. The initial a- in Alumu is probably an old plural prefix.

2.2 Location and settlements

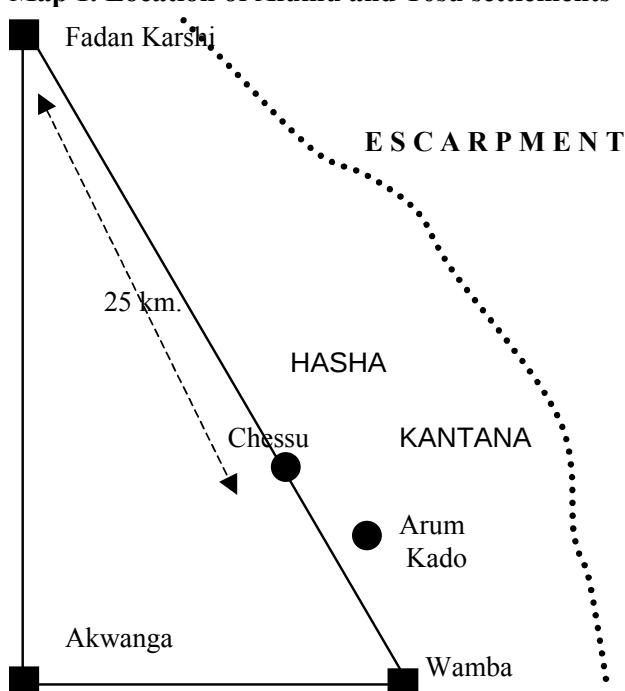
Chessu (a Hausaised form of Təsu) is a single settlement divided into two villages about a kilometre apart, called Chessu Sarki and Chessu Madaki. These villages are on the Wamba Fadan Karshi road of Akwanga Local Government Area of Plateau State. The Arum live in several settlements, also along the same road, the chief of which is Arum Kado. These are shown in Map 1. The other settlements of the Alumu are as follows;

Arum-Tsabo	Arum-Sarki
Arum-Tumara	Arum-Chugbu
Arum-Kurmi(Gbira)	Arum-Chine

2.3 Language status

To judge by the size of their settlements, there must be under 2000 speakers of Təsu and perhaps 5000 speakers of Alumu. Both languages seem to be well maintained, with informants showing no hesitation in producing lexical items.

Map 1. Location of Alumu and Təsu settlements



¹ I am grateful to Kay Williamson (†) who assisted me with external parallels and other comments.

2.4 Alumu/Təsu culture and history

There are virtually no references to these people in the ethnographic literature. Temple (1922:267) mentions Arum as a clan of the Mama (i.e. Kantana) but has nothing further to say. Ames (1934:258-259) mentions Arum, Chesu and Turkwam, and says;

‘The origin of Arum, Chesu and Turkwam is uncertain. It has been said that the founders of the first two came from the adjoining district of Ayu of the Jemaa Emirate and that Chesu, which was formerly called Fiacha, was part of Arum until it moved to its present site.’

His account seems to be somewhat confused, to at least at odds with traditions collected more recently (JOHLT?). The major source of information is CAPRO (ined.) and most of the rest of this section is based on this document².

Alumu traditions record that they came from Bauchi through the Gindiri (Mangu) area to Sha (Bokkos), where they settled for some time. Due to conflicts, they later moved to Ayera, Angama and Klashi. From Klashi the individual clans dispersed and founded the present villages, including Arum Jimara, Arum Tsabo, Arum Tumara, Arum Anbra, Arum Sarki (Tava), Arum Chubo, Arum Chini and Chessu. The people hold a tradition that they are an off-shoot of Konkulere of Bokkos LGA. They left their brother because of insecurity due to wars and lack of sufficient farm land.

The Alumu are bounded on the east by the Mama, on the south by the Bu, to the west and north are the Ninzam and Toro respectively. The traditional etymology of their name means "people of great eloquence". Although there are some minor differences between the speech of each settlement, all the people can understand one another. The people repudiate the idea that they are part of the Kantana people, but they have some similarities in cultural practices and beliefs.

Among the Alumu the major occupation is farming. The main crops are guinea corn, maize, yam, cassava, acha, cocoyam, sweet potatoes, beans, cow-peas and palm oil. The people also rear goats, sheep, chickens and pigs; goats and chickens especially are used for marriages. Dogs are kept for hunting and security purposes. Individuals go hunting as well as groups. For group hunting, a day is set and every man comes out for the expedition. For successful hunting it is expected that no man should have any sexual contact with a woman the night before the hunting trip. Anyone who breaks this rule will cause bad luck.

The people traditionally pierce their ear lobes and nostril. Women pierce the lower lips and insert a straw. Other decorative items include beads, necklaces and anklets. They live in traditional round mud houses, built close to each other and roofed with grass thatch. But in recent years modern structures are fast overtaking the old ones.

Politically, the affairs of the people are managed by the family or clan heads. There are also community leaders who take decisions concerning the community. The community leaders serve as religious chief priests. Today there is centralized authority with the chief carrying the title *Agamo* who lives in Arum Sarki.

Childbirth

When a woman is pregnant, a rope from the *Mangam* section of the masquerade cult is tied on her for protection against any misfortune that might befall the woman or the conceived child. When the woman gives birth to a baby boy, a horn is blown and the *Mangam* cult comes out, hailing the new born baby. But it is not so at the birth of a female baby. Any child can be named the very day that he/she is born. However, the woman and the child remain in the house until the umbilical cord falls off. Traditionally, children were tied to their mothers' backs with an animal skin. But today, they are tied on the back using a wrapper or a piece of cloth.

² I am grateful to Patience Ahmed and Lois Fuller for giving me preliminary access to this important text, which may never now be published.

Also among the Alumu there is the custom of consulting a seer before or after delivery to safeguard the child, particularly if the mother has had a previous miscarriage. To redeem the woman from miscarriage, certain rites are performed and the woman is later taken to the river for a special bath by the *Agalama* cult. In return the woman offers a goat or chicken to the priest for sacrifices. If a woman in labour is finding it difficult to give birth and is bleeding much, the *Waro* masquerade is called upon to help. It is believed among them that when the *Waro* comes, before he goes back to the shrine the woman will give birth. The Alumu do not practice circumcision, although in recent years it is done according to Muslim or modern medical practice.

Initiation

Boys aged fifteen and above are gathered in one place for initiation. Traditionally, before initiation a boy is expected to have no affair with a girl or else he has to pay a goat for the rite of purification before the initiation rite. After the boys gather, they are introduced into the three classes of the *Waro* cult, which include *Mangama*, *Asuwuriwuri*, and *Klanglene*. Before the initiation process begins, the boys are expected to pay fees of chickens, goats or dried meat to the priest or elders in charge. Other things expected from the boys include palm oil, salt, acha and beniseed.

The initiation process, which sometimes lasts for a year, includes training (orientation into manhood) and discipline, in order to make the initiates responsible men in the society. They are warned never to reveal the secrets of the gods to women. In fact, during the process they are not allowed to talk to women, especially younger women. For this reason the boys are asked to cover their mouths with leaves. The leaves are removed when an antelope is killed during the hunting exercise done by the boys. As part of the initiation, the boys are introduced to various objects and their functions in the cult.

Marriage:

Among the Alumu, when a baby girl is born the person who wants his son to marry her brings some palm oil in a vessel, part of which is rubbed on the baby's lips. Once this is done it signifies that the person is interested in the girl for marriage. This is further followed up with the gift of beniseed oil, palm-oil, palm kernel and salt. If these items are accepted by the girl's parents, the girl is betrothed. From this time, the suitor goes regularly to work in her parents' farm until the girl grows up. When the girl is ready for marriage, the bride price is paid. It includes twelve goats, well prepared beans in a big container and some other things. After all is paid, the bride is escorted to her husband's house. The escorts play flutes with a very good melody to keep her company.

If the groom is from a different village, when the bride reaches the gate of the village they stop until a hoe is given to them. This is repeated when they approach the groom's house. The escorts return home the following day after the marriage feast. Polygamy is common. Adultery is forbidden. Divorce is also practiced especially when adultery is confirmed.

Burial:

When an elderly person dies, information is sent to all the relations far and near. It is expected that the grandsons and in-laws of the deceased will be present during burial. However, this depends on what the deceased said before death. Sometimes a man chooses who among the children should be responsible for his burial and where he should be buried. In that case, until the selected person comes, the corpse cannot be buried. That person must be the first to dig at the location of the grave before others join him.

Young children cannot be present or go near the grave during burial. The grave is dug some feet into the ground then a tunnel is made off to the side in which the corpse is laid. The corpse is buried prostrate. A man is buried with his left hand under the head, facing the east while a woman is the opposite. Sometimes chickens and goats are tied to the deceased's leg and buried with the corpse. Three or four months after

burial, the grave is opened and the skull is removed and examined to find out whether or not the deceased was a witch. This marks the end of the mourning period. Before the last mourning feast the wife remains disguised in the state of mourning.

When a powerful member of the secret masquerade cult dies, his burial is controlled by the cult. Some men, before they die, tell the cult to punish or chase their wife away from the house, particularly if she is a stubborn woman. Such orders are carried out by the cult. The deceased's possessions are inherited by the children or brother.

Religion

God, known as *No*, is recognized as the Supreme God but there are several minor deities found among the people. The Alumu people believe that God is in heaven (*womenza*). But the small gods found among them are *Agalama*, *Da* and the secret dodo cult which is further subdivided into *Mbuka*, *Gulla*, *Gbegbe* (*Jakawa*), *Gbasha*, *Mangama* and *Kaburu*.

The household gods, (*Wura* and *Da*) are kept by individual families or clans. The cult is represented by stones of different shapes and sizes. This cult is consulted by the heads of families before going out for hunting. The blood from animal sacrifices is shed on the bow and arrows with hope of success. *Dashafe* is a twins cult that is represented by two small pots kept for worship. Only twins are entitled to have this cult. Chickens are sacrificed and beer is offered to it. These household cults are represented in the farm to ward off theft.

Another god worshipped by the people is *Agalama* which is represented by a tree. This cult is believed to prevent miscarriage and to stop bleeding during delivery. Its rite is performed in the river and the hair of the supplicant is shaved.

The masquerade cult is highly feared by everybody in the area. At the feast organized for the dodo, women are not allowed to take part, only men who are formally initiated into the cult. The dodo cult maintains law and order in the society. For example, *Kaburu* is the dodo that announces festivals or ceremonies and warns people against quarrels.

Mbuka and *Gula* are the masquerades that discipline rude or disrespectful women. *Jakawa* (*Gbegbe*) does the same, while *Mangama* settles quarrels between families or husband and wife. *Gbasha* is said to be the part that relates with women. In whatever case, the masquerade is believed to be a spirit of the dead ancestors. Therefore it is respected and feared. Sacrifices of goats, chickens etc. are made in honour of the masquerade.

There are two recognized festivals in the area, namely, *Anbiyi* and *Anhuguri*. The *Anbiyi* festival is celebrated in December after the harvest of guinea corn. It is the time that the first fruits are offered to the gods in appreciation. Another feast in March/April is organized to plead for a fruitful farming season. here are still many devotees of these gods in the area. A few of them have accepted Islam, especially in Arum Sarki, Tumara and Tsabo.

Christianity

The first missionary to visit the area to preach was Mr. Hepburn, in 1936, followed by Mr. Douglas in 1939 to evangelize the Wamba area. Having been established in Kago station, the gospel spread to other places which led to the founding of Arum station, probably at Arum Kado, 1952. Among the Alumu, the coming of the gospel led to severe persecution and opposition from the people. The persecution was against the missionaries and the converts because of the colour of the missionaries' skin. The people believed that the preachers would reveal the secrets of their gods to women, and that the gospel would cause the people to refuse to worship their traditional gods which to them, would result in serious difficulties. The teaching of no work in the farm on Sunday was strongly opposed by the people. The converts were beaten severely,

refused wives, and sometimes food. But with time the people and the chiefs that were opposing the gospel changed their attitude. Today, a church is found in almost every Alumu village.

3. Phonology

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

3.1 Vowels

Təsu probably has ten phonemic vowels;

Table 1. Təsu vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
	ɪ		ʊ
Close-Mid	e		o
Open-mid	(ɛ)	ə	ɔ
Open		a	

These can be arranged as follows;

+ATR	-ATR
u	ʊ
i	ɪ
o	ɔ
e	ɛ
a	ə

Mud **blāblāsa** appears to have nasalised vowels but this is so exceptional it is probably an error.

3.2 Consonants

Təsu consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alve-olar	Alveopalata l	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d		[c] j	k g	kp gb	
Nasal	m		n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill			[r]					
Fricative	ɸ	f v	s z	ʃ ʒ				h
Approximant					y		w	
Lateral			l					
Approximant								
Tap			r					
Retroflex			ɭ					
Implosive	ɓ		ɗ					

Orthographic conventions are as follows;

tʃ	c
dʒ	j
ʃ	sh
ʒ	zh
ɲ	ny
ŋ	ng

3.3 Tones

Təsu has three level tones, and numerous glide tones that arise from sequences of level tones. The basic conventions are as follows;

High	'
Mid	Unmarked
Low	`
Rising	ˊ
Falling	ˋ

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Təsu has entirely converted to a system of a single plural suffix, with no functioning noun-prefixes. Nonetheless, these can be recovered in part from the existing nouns, especially by comparison with cognate forms in other Plateau languages. The following tables presented some suggested fossil prefixes, in Təsu pairs, together with external cognates, which sometimes make clear that the initial is a prefix. Some have very few examples and may be only unidentified compounds.

The most common prefix is a- and ə- is probably its allomorph.

a-

Gloss	Təsu	External cognates
Tree (generic)	àgbè	
Mushroom	àwá	
Thorn	àtòtò	
Sand	a-seŋge	cf. Toro anzai
Farm	a-yi	cf. Toro eyi, Tarok anyín, Irigwe kèyí,
Man	a-tifa	cf. Toro atifa,
Father	a-da	cf. Hasha a-da

ə-

Song	ə-humu	cf. Hasha i-hum,
Leaf	ə-fu	cf. Toro asu,
Road	ə-ki	

e-

Cloud	èvírí	
Mouth	èné	

Grasshopper **ésə**
Spear **émbè**

ì-

Algae **ibu**
Tomorrow **íkyá**
Large stone **itre**
Cloud **ive**

ku-

Thatch roof **kuturu**

ñ-

Smoke **ñ-zu** cf. Toro **muṣzu**
Sun **nə**
Evening **ṣviṣi**
Work **ñdɔmɔ** a reflex of the Niger-Congo **#tom-** root
Land/country **ñzimbɔrɔ**
Navel **ṣbu**

ù-

Bush-fowl **úgró**

The Reshe example for ‘leg’ suggests that this prefix is very conservative.

4.2 Verbs

As with many Plateau languages, proto-Təsu-Toro (henceforth PTT) probably had a rich system of verbal extensions. PAT extensions seems to be unproductive synchronically and are only recoverable by morphological analysis and comparison with cognate forms in other Plateau languages. It is true, however, that verbal extensions are not easily elicited in rapid survey work and PTT may in fact have functioning extensions.

The following examples are taken from Təsu, where the data is much richer than for Alumu.

-ra/re

-ra/re is the clearest case of such an extension, since cognate roots are recorded without the extension in other Plateau languages.

Ask/beg for s.t.	kwere	cf. Toro kəzi , Yeskwa ŋkusa , Hasha kuse
Become dry	kwara	cf. Berom hwōgōt , Aten hwohwo , Basa ihoo , cLela hš , Ijọ kàngá , Gworok kwát probably independent weakenings of the widespread #- koro roots. See BCCW, 30.
Gather/collect	fira	
Give birth	mara	#ma is a widespread root for ‘give birth’
Hear	sere	
Slaughter (animal)	tra	
Want/need	vira	
Wash	hwara	

-na

Smash	kurana	
Snap in two	kyana	
Mould (pot)	mina	
Know	wena	
Enter	nyi	Alumu nyina
Fight (in war)	mlana	
Finish (a task)	trəna	
Jump	hwana	
Swallow	mina	

-fi

-fi is not common in ATT languages but widespread elsewhere in Plateau and is thus included here.

Be heavy	rifi	cf. Toro rifi ,
Tear (cloth etc.)	hwafe	

5. Təsu wordlist

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
1.	Tree (generic)	àgbè	
2.	Leaf	əfú	cf. Toro asu ,
3.	Root	əɾiɾi	cf. Toro riɾi
4.	Bark (of tree)	àkùkù	cf. Toro ùkùkù ,
5.	Branch	əvuvu	cf. Bu vuvu ‘leaf’,
6.	Grass (generic)	bini	
7.	Vine (generic)	àhoondo	
8.	Mushroom I	àwá	
9.	Water-lily		
10.	Algae	ibu	
11.	Rust	həŋgó	
12.	Seed/stone/pip	birə	cf. Toro biro , Ningye be , Bu ibi , Shall biri ,

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
			Tarok ap̄ir ultimately related to widespread Niger-Congo ‘child’ roots.
13.	Thorn	àtòtò	? cf. Hasha i-tyok , Ningye ntu
14.	Charcoal	ʃimbi	cf. Toro ifibini . The first element may be the widespread ifi root for fire and the -bini element for charcoal. If so, there are scattered cognates; Mada n-klambri , Kohumono è-pine , Bekwara à-bi , Yala ibi , Degema ibí
15.	Dust	huru	cf. Toro huru ⁺ , Bu iwuru , Hasha iwur
16.	Ash	àto	vegetable ash used in cooking. # tu- is a Niger-Congo root
17.	Ashes	túʃirá	cf. Toro tu-ʃera . The tu- element is a reflex of the widespread Niger-Congo root #toN- (BCCW,5).
18.	Rubbish-heap	kpeɲúvú	cf. Toro avùvù ,
19.	Rubbish-pit	tsyóvùvù	
20.	Mud	blāblāsa	cf. Toro ù-rù
21.	Clay	tsimi	
22.	Dew	ímé	cf. Hasha eme , Ningye mmeɲ , Rukul mmaɲ , Tarok imimyaɲ , Yaɲkam myaɲ , also Mambiloid but almost certainly going back to an ancient Niger-Congo root # me-
23.	Stone	kpákpá	cf. Hyam kpak ⁺ ,
24.	Large stone	itre	cf. Toro tari , reflecting widespread Niger-Congo #-ta- root
25.	Flat stone	qá	
26.	Sand	àseɲge	cf. Toro anzay
27.	Smoke	n□-zò	cf. Toro muɲzu also Mambiloid
28.	Fire	ʃira	cf. Toro ʃara , Jili átra ,
29.	Water	əmù	cf. Toro amunu also Mambiloid
30.	Rain	əwí	cf. Toro awi , Ce àwòrù ,
31.	Cloud	èvírí	
32.	Thunder	kpálala	cf. Jili óplà ,
33.	Rainy Season	àme ɽyanzí	
34.	Harmattan	əmbri	
35.	Dry season	àmenó	
36.	Year	huʃí	cf. Hasha i-kusan , Ce ki-kus ⁺ ,
37.	Day	nó	cf. Plateau roots for ‘sun’ and ‘God’ #nom-
38.	Night	ʃíní	cf. Hasha i-sun , Toro tu-somo ,
39.	Moon/month	nàrà	cf. Hasha nwar , Toro nara ,
40.	Sun	nó	also Alumu ‘God’
41.	Star(s)	ákpókpa	cf. Hasha i-kp̄etik , Igbo kpákpándà
42.	Cloud	ive	= H. <i>gajimare</i>
43.	Wind	ínyò	cf. nyô ‘evil wind’
44.	God	nó n-zâ	also ‘sun, sky’

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
45.	Sky	n-zâ	also ‘God’
46.	World	nzyô	
47.	Ground	nzí	
48.	Large River I	q̣irì kéré	small ~ fini akéré
49.	Large River II	moogbe	small ~ mo kéré
50.	Stream	ámôsò	where fish are trapped
51.	Pond	mogbogbo	
52.	Forest	mblá	? cf. Nungu mamgba
53.	Mountain	ágbəgbó	
54.	Hill	kpòŋgòrò	cf. Hasha i-gon , Toro a-kongoro ,
55.	Bush	ahóró bini	The ahoro element is likely to be a weakening of Proto-Benue-Congo #- kuli
56.	Farm	ayé	cf. Toro eyi , Tarok anyín , Irigwe kèyí ,
57.	Market* ³	kpakpranda	
58.	Compound	n-gbáqya	cf. Toro afyá ,
59.	Room	dá	
60.	Wall (of room)	kúkúcùnù	
61.	Veranda	něfi	
62.	Thatch roof	kútúró	
63.	Kitchen	à tswá kpà	
64.	Granary I	làk eve	for women
65.	Granary II	gèndzi	general
66.	Granary III	làŋgà	inner grain store
67.	Grain carrier	àtàvà	
68.	Well*	tsyómù	
69.	Road	àki	
70.	Path	àki ákeré	‘small road’
71.	Village/settlement	àq̣a keré	
72.	River-bank	ənífini klé	
73.	Swamp/wetland	blê	or blèmù
74.	Place	àtsiq̣i	
75.	Today	ándrɛ̃ mɛ	
76.	Yesterday	nùmòlé	
77.	Tomorrow	íkyá	
78.	Morning	nerebí	
79.	Evening	nviǵi	
80.	Dawn	ijĩfini	not tone-marked
81.	Person/people	kyanguri	cf. Nungu u-ŋgrí
82.	Man, husband	àtsiq̣à	cf. Toro atifa ,
83.	Woman, wife	àq̣à	cf. Toro afiya ,
84.	Child	àmeré	cf. Hasha a-mwen , Tikar mwāē , Jaku mín , Bapi mwén , Vute mon ,
85.	Household head	kyàŋ wuri dá	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
86.	Widow	àqà kwe	
87.	Wife	natsefa	or afiya
88.	Young man	àmeré yógbà	
89.	Barren woman	àqà kuri	
90.	Young girl	ànyíqá keré	
91.	Old person	àcɔ́	
92.	Father	àdà	cf. Hasha a-da , Nupe , Ibibio , Ijọ dāù
93.	Mother	ánà	
94.	Relations	??	
95.	Brother	ətsimýá	check!
96.	Ancestors	àdà mbɔ	
97.	Sibling (same father)	ətsi àsará	
98.	Twin	qèsè	
99.	Friend	zàmyá	
100.	Guest/stranger	sèni	Ibibio èsén , Mambiloid ken ,
101.	King/chief/ruler	àgòmbò	cf. Hasha agom , a widespread East Benue-Congo root. Also Chadic: Boghom, Geji guŋ ,
102.	Hunter	kyɛ□ŋgúrí duwi	
103.	Thief	əyuhu	
104.	Doctor	kyɛ□ŋgúrí wura	
105.	Witch	ámbofíɸa	
106.	Sorcerer	ágúgu	
107.	Corpse	komo	A widespread East Benue-Congo root. cf. Hasha i-kum , Eggon okomo , Kulu ukum , Mambila kómón ,
108.	Blacksmith	kyɛ□ŋgúrí tandara	
109.	Slave	àhùrà	
110.	Masquerade	ásò	Forbidden to women. cf. Hasha a-so
111.	Masquerade I	màŋgàmà	‘has horns’
112.	Masquerade II	əgbegwè	
113.	Masquerade III	kengene	‘next to ásò ’
114.	Masquerade IV	ásɔ́ wúrí	
115.	Masquerade V	gòlà	
116.	Masquerade VI	ŋgbóka	
117.	Masquerade VII	àgbàfà tása	‘woman’
118.	Masquerade VIII	áfámbàra	
119.	Masquerade IX	əkùmbúrí	
120.	Masquerade X	àjákawé	
121.	Masquerade XI	ǰɾipwe	
122.	Masquerade XII	àgbàfàŋguri	‘male’
123.	Masquerade XIII	njáci	
124.	Masquerade XIV	kândé	
125.	Race/running	gbó	
126.	Punch	mlâ	
127.	Death	kwe	widespread

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
128.	Fear	jìrì	
129.	Name	sa	
130.	Grave	kpínyòqò	
131.	Song	əmumu	cf. Hasha i-hum , cf. Igboid
132.	Proverb	trénatsiq̃a	
133.	Story	tso	
134.	Word	ənítsiq̃a	
135.	Big word	tifagba	
136.	Lie	húrútsiq̃a	
137.	News	??	
138.	Hunger	nyo	cf. Hasha i-yuŋ , Fyem yón , Tarok ayán . Also in Chadic, cf. Mangar yuŋ , Hausa yunwa .
139.	Egg	asubé	cf. Hasha i-subwoy , Boya afibi , Tarok aci , Nupe ezì . Cited in BCCW,33 and a Niger-Congo root. The –bV suffix, however, is distinctive to this area of Plateau.
140.	Horn	àtama	cf. Hasha a-tom ,
141.	Tail	zyomí	cf. Hasha i-jum , Bruce note -dim
142.	Wing (of bird)	àngbà	
143.	Beak (of bird)	kokoro nyi	
144.	Nest (of bird)	əvùrù kúkú	
145.	Gum/glue	àngàngà	
146.	Ant-hill	dáfingà	‘room of ant’
147.	Hole in ground	tsyo	
148.	Heap	kpénru	
149.	Hole in tree	hwòndò	
150.	Smell	nyongwe	
151.	Poison	tòsò	used on arrows
152.	Bundle	kpí	
153.	Firewood	jí	cf. Kadara ifi , Reshe úcə , Aten tson , possibly independent weakening of the Niger-Congo root for ‘tree’ #-ti .
154.	Yam-heap	əvrú kyirú	
155.	War	gòqò	
156.	Work	ndomo	a reflex of the Niger-Congo #tom- root
157.	Divination (I)	àkàbè	
158.	Divination (II)	àkàgbă	
159.	Divination (III)	jí	
160.	Divination (IV)	were dyé	
161.	Divination (V)	əqirosè	
162.	Medicine	wúrá	
163.	Medicine I	túturú	
164.	Medicine II	mmă	
165.	Money	həŋgrə	
166.	Shadow	lulu	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
167.	Thing	àndrǎ	
168.	Strength	wówána	
169.	Land/country	nzimbóró	
170.	Sleep	lémla	
171.	Disease(generic)	bífi	
172.	Smallpox	àdámá	
173.	??	àkwaʃa	
174.	Prickly heat	marúʃiqó	
175.	Cirrhosis	bìʃáhrǎ	
176.	Bone-sickness	rye námi ná koho	‘feel cold in the bones’
177.	??	nnó yàgàmi	‘feel pain when urinating’
178.	Gonorrhoea	mbòmbòká	
179.	Jaundice	bìʃíʃaʋìrò	
180.	Epilepsy	njàvé	
181.	Headache	húri kpi	
182.	Migraine	kpi myá hǎnǎna	
183.	Diarrhoea	were bí	
184.	Cough	kpi kpi rǎ	
185.	Whooping cough	kpi kpi rǎ bíbǎnu	
186.	Eczema	amo húhwá	
187.	Goitre	fló àgbà	kpǎndǎ agba is ‘swelling on the neck’
188.	Boil (small)	à□firo akere	cf. Hasha ifǎr
189.	Boil (large)	à□firo gbánu	cf. Hasha ifǎr
190.	Crooked body	túturú	as a result of magical attack
191.	Sore/wound	blà	
192.	Leprosy	kòmò	
193.	Head	kpi	cf. Yangkam pi, Takaya pwe, Kadara epe, Kuda ukpay
194.	Eye	yoʃúyo	cf. Eggon èyí, Irigwe riyí, Yala èyì, Arum iyù, Nupe eye ⁺ , (BCCW, 36). Also in Chadic: cf. Fyer yuurù, Mangar yíw and related forms in other Ron languages
195.	Face	tómó	cf. Hasha i-tǎm ‘forehead’
196.	Forehead	gbomó	cf. Sambe gbo, Toro igbùmù
197.	Skull	kókór kpi	‘bone of head’
198.	Cheek	àṅámá	cf. Sambe kuṅga,
199.	Nose	sónó	? cf. Mbd. mouth
200.	Ear	àʃótó	ʃǎ- + #to. cf. Sambe tǎn, Hasha i-tu, Horom tǎṅ, Fyem hutǎṅ, Bo utó, Ningye tǎṅ, also throughout Tarokoid, but a PVC root #tuN-. The ʃǎ- element is likely to be an old prefix e.g. Fyem hu-tǎṅ.
201.	Mouth	éné	cf. Hasha anye, Eggon anyu,
202.	Tooth	ànyine	a Niger-Saharan root
203.	Tongue	àlimi	cf. Tarok aḍilim ⁺ , Mabo de-rem, cLela d-

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
			rémé , ultimately PNC #- lima
204.	Throat	n□dɛ□ndɛ□gbà	
205.	Neck	agbà	cf. widespread ‘jaw’ ?
206.	Jaw	àwùrùkámà	
207.	Chin	àdòdòmò	cf. Toro adòdomo
208.	Elbow	àcògbà	
209.	Shoulder	àqrè ngbá	
210.	Armpit	àhórògbà	cf. Eggon à-ɲg’bá ,
211.	Fist	gùnùvɔ	
212.	Arm	ngbá	
213.	Hand	vɔ	cf. Tarok awó , Aten wò , Cara vɔ , Berom vwó , probably all weakenings of the widespread #bok- forms (BCCW,2).
214.	Palm	àngbè vɔ	
215.	Leg	hwaná	cf. Reshe ú-kánà , Kohumono kɛ-hán □ ‘animal leg’,
216.	Foot	àmbè hwana	
217.	Female breast	bɛɛ	cf. Toro bɛɛ but widespread
218.	Stomach	yèrà	cf. Toro i-yara ,
219.	Navel	àngbò	cf. Ijò, Kegboid
220.	Thigh	ritsi	
221.	Knee	gbólo	cf. Toro gbérù
222.	Nail (Finger/toe)	àkókóró	
223.	Back	àsè	Widespread in BC, also referring to ‘hips’, ‘waist’ and reconstructed by Blench (ms.) as #- ɸim for Proto-Benue-Congo. This root is discussed in Williamson (1989,b:257). There is an old NC root #- ma which is largely replaced by #siN roots in BC. Also Mumuye sáń ‘waist’.
224.	Buttocks	cu	cf. Toro itu ,
225.	Penis	kpàndà	cf. Toro kpanda
226.	Vagina I	àhò	
227.	Skin	binatɔ	
228.	Bone	əkuqú	cf. Fyem huhúp pl. ahúp , weakened from the more widespread # kup . Cf. Bo ukúp , Pe ukup , Tarok akúp and Yanjam kup and PB #- kubi
229.	Rib	hɔnɔ	
230.	Vein	əɽiɽi	
231.	Blood	myà	
232.	Breath	ɸene	same as ‘heart’ (241.)
233.	Tear	əmuyú	
234.	Sweat	hròhrò	? cf. Hasha huhunje ,
235.	Saliva	àtá	widespread

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
236.	Urine	ə̀q̣ìrò	? cf. Hasha pəri .
237.	Faeces	ə̀bi	cf. Nupe ebi ⁺ #bi- is an extremely widespread Niger-Congo root
238.	Hair	ʃina	
239.	Beard	ʃiná dòdòmò	‘hair of chin’ cf. Toro adə̀dəmɔ
240.	Liver	àhrɔ	cf. Rukul ahɔr , Toro ahɔrɔ , Horom ázɔ ‘liver’, Fyem đu-zo pl. a-zo ‘liver’, Ayu ajor , Lungu izur
241.	Heart	qene	same as ‘breath’ (232.).
242.	Intestines	màréyirà	
243.	Body	ətɔ	
244.	Meat	ìwe	cf. Toro i-wu , Hasha i-vwe , Yangkam vi , widespread in Jukunoid as wi , suggesting a regional root #- vwi . See BCCW,1 where this is treated as a weakening of Jukunoid #- bi and is treated as a semantic shift from Proto-Niger-Congo ‘goat’.
245.	Animal (Bush)	weyè	
246.	Cow	àlòndo	this root is widespread in both Plateau and adjacent Chadic languages
247.	Bull	tì hòlòndo	
248.	Calf	àmé lònɔ	
249.	Goat	bí	cf. Tarok ibí ,
250.	He-goat	bó	
251.	Castrated goat	àzáná	
252.	Sheep	àtafi	
253.	Ram	àtsiqa tafi	
254.	Dog	ə̀va	cf. Tarok ivá ,
255.	*Cat	mũsù	cf. Ngas mus . A common term in this region originally derived from Hausa
256.	*Pig	émó dàqya	
257.	*Horse	n□yàmà	
258.	*Donkey	as Hausa	
259.	Elephant	n□yì	cf. Bu ninyi , Toro nyi , Yangkam nyi , Mada nyi , Yala inyì . An old Niger-Congo root (BCCW, 34).
260.	Buffalo	yèrè	cf. Toro yari , Rukul i-yàt , Cara i-yàt pl. yat , Yangkam yyet , Nupe eya , Mbd, PB #- páti reflecting a more widespread root #- yati in East Benue-Congo. See also Daffo yàt
261.	Lion	grêgre	
262.	Leopard	ikwè	cf. Horom kyè , Fyem kwe , Hasha ehwe , Jari ì-kwì , Rukul ikwi related to old Niger-Congo root #- gbe , -kpe
263.	Hippo	wémò	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
264.	Warthog	ətəmbiri	
265.	Monkey (generic)	yeráma	
266.	Baboon	háha	cf. Hasha e-he pl. he-he ,
267.	Patas monkey ⁴	yeráma tífa	
268.	Squirrel (ground)	ótò	
269.	Squirrel (tree)	àkpáná	
270.	Rat (generic)	ìkwi	cf. Hasha ì-kwi , Fyem kwi , Pe ikuu , probably also Tarok ìpi . Ibibio ékú
271.	Bush-rats I	àjè	
272.	Bush-rats II	ugə	
273.	Bush-rats III	àzwèmbła	
274.	Bush-rats IV	kwí aqya	
275.	Bush-rats V	kwi atása	
276.	Bush-rats VI	kwí jifi	
277.	Bush-rats VII	ɲgri	
278.	Pygmy mouse	kyúrá	
279.	Fat mouse	àzwè	
280.	Giant rat ⁵	óhwí tsí	
281.	Cane Rat ⁶	bibiya	Widespread
282.	Hare ⁷	ásòmò	Cf. Cara izum , Tarok izum , but a root widespread within Plateau, also Hausa zóómóó
283.	House-bat	àɲɲbírí	
284.	Fruit-bat	éɲga	cf. Hasha agak
285.	Nile crocodile	kúró	cf. Toro kuru , Ninzam akru , Bu ɲkuru , Nungu mekru , Kuteb ù-kúr , Ufia kí-kwù . May be linked with #- kuru forms for ‘tortoise’.
286.	Chameleon	tèndè	cf. Ningye nte
287.	Agama lizard	ágàmà	
288.	Skink	qìribù	
289.	Gecko	ágàmàsə	
290.	Toad	ívrà	
291.	River frog	ńzwàrà	
292.	Edible frog	ɲgboma	
293.	??	kúkrùdú	
294.	Land tortoise	kpòkpùṅgùrù	
295.	Turtle	kpòkpùṅgròmù	
296.	Snake (Generic)	iyó	cf. Horom yə ‘snake sp.’, reconstructed as generic for ‘snake’ in Benue-Congo as #- yoCo (Blench ms.)

⁴ *Erythrocebus patas*⁵ (*Cretomyces* sp.)⁶ (*Thryonomys Swinderianus*)⁷ (*Lepus Crawshayi*)

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
297.	Spitting cobra	aniŋgá	
298.	Snake I	tsíŋgrò	= H. <i>guza</i>
299.	Snake II	ənu	= H. <i>kasa</i>
300.	Snake III	ɣyù	brownish
301.	Snake VI	həhwá	= H. <i>mesa</i>
302.	Snake V	yú tərè	= H. <i>gobe da nisa</i>
303.	Snake VI	yú kwi	small black snake eats rats
304.	Snake VII	sé	green snake
305.	Snake VIII	zənzərə mù	= H. <i>maciji ruwa</i>
306.	Snake IX	kókò	= H. <i>maciji kwara</i>
307.	Snake X	əhù	small, white, can jump. cf. Hasha i-hup ,
308.	River crab	àhàràbà	cf. Toro aharaba . PB #- kádá , but an ancient Niger-Congo root and worldwide (Blench 1997).
309.	Fish (generic)	kpó	
310.	Catfish	kpálà	
311.	Fish I	kpó hùŋgìrì	
312.	Fish II	ɽibu	
313.	Fish III	kófa	
314.	Fish IV	lúluŋgu	
315.	Fish V	bré	
316.	Fish VI	zenzê	
317.	Fish VII	kpótásá	white fish sp. àtása ‘white’
318.	Bird (generic)	əkúkú	This is a widespread root for ‘chicken’. cf. Bu ukə , Mada kòkò , Kahugu akoro and is probably a shortening of the t-k-r roots found in this group and outside BC. See BCCW, 43 and Williamson (1999)
319.	Chicken	àdye	cf. Toro ade ,
320.	Cock	àgbá	cf. Toro agba ,
321.	Duck (Domestic)	kàza	
322.	Guinea-fowl	sòrò	cf. Hasha a-saram ,
323.	Hooded Vulture ⁸	ákpəbi	
324.	Village Weaver ⁹	ágwe	A widespread root in Benue-Congo and reconstructed for Proto-Benue-Congo as #- gba in Blench (ms.)
325.	Cattle-egret ¹⁰	əkúkú lòndò	‘bird of cattle’
326.	Pigeon	əkúkú bâ	
327.	Black kite ¹¹	əwe	
328.	Owl (various spp.)	kùkùkù	perhaps. ‘bird of death’. cf. Hasha i-kuk
329.	Bush-fowl	úgró	

⁸ (*Neophron monachus*)⁹ (*Ploceus cucullatus*)¹⁰ *Ardeola ibis*¹¹ (*Milvus migrans*)

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
330.	Kingfisher	àkúkú mò	
331.	Nightjar	əbəbê	
332.	*Pied crow ¹²	àŋgə	
333.	Woodpecker	əkúkú pásagbè	
334.	Bird sp.	úgwè	small birds that go in groups
335.	Insect (Generic)	lo	
336.	Scorpion	ínà	Reflects a widespread Niger-Congo root #ena
337.	Butterfly	ágàràkpákpá	
338.	Mosquito	avə	PLC *bəŋ
339.	Spider ¹³	átátana	
340.	Mason wasp ¹⁴	mbîmbî	
341.	Bee	əfi	cf. Hasha i-suk , Berom ʃòk , Ningye sə , Bu ifə , Izere ifəʃ pl. ifəʃ , Horom sèkə , ? what is əfirunzi
342.	Sweat-fly	ánjihiri	it follows dirt
343.	Fly sp.	mbrumbrúsù	
344.	Housefly	àsu	cf. Hasha i-sisi , Tarok ìcìŋcìŋ , Bu cinci , Berom cíŋ . Reconstructed as #- ciN to Proto-Benue-Congo in Blench (ms.). Also LC Also in Chadic: Ngas nʃi , Mwaghavul ndifii , Tangale tîŋ cf. Hasha a-naŋ
345.	Ant (Generic)	nàna	
346.	Louse (Human)	bírókàwri	
347.	Millipede	ákpáhre	
348.	Cockroach	ʋóʋó	
349.	Termite	ànùŋgbà	
350.	Flying-ant	pídí ʃìŋgà	
351.	Praying mantis	əgege	
352.	Grasshopper	ésə	
353.	Firefly	mámatú	
354.	Giant Cricket	áyíró	
355.	Earthworm	tsíŋgiri	
356.	Giant Snail	kpólo	What is kpəŋgrəŋ ?
357.	Soap (Traditional)	sabulu àtə	Tones?
358.	Oil	àmɛ □ nɛ □	cf. Toro amɛnɛ , Rukul manai , Berom nói , Aten noi , Gure mani , Central Kambari màniʃ and ultimately Hausa mai .
359.	Fat/grease	àqèqè	cf. Cara ibip , Hasha e-fef ‘fat’, Tarok m̀pìp ‘animal fat’, Chawai bap , Samba Nnakenyare byep . Reconstructed to East Benue-Congo as #- byep in Blench (ms.)
360.	Salt	m □ ma	cf. Toro ama , Rukul mmək , Horom, Fyem

¹² (*Corvus albus*)¹³ (*Acarina* spp.)¹⁴ (*Belenogaster* spp.)

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
			ma , Tarok m□màn , but also Fulfulde manda
361.	Soup/stew	imí	
362.	Porridge/tuwo I	ákpà	cf. Tarok ḡkpàḡ ,
363.	Porridge/tuwo II	ágirigbó	
364.	Sorghum-beer	àḡgú	
365.	Sorghum-beer II	àḡgóto	
366.	Pito beer	kpyéḡgu	
367.	Palm-wine	àḡgóhye	
368.	Honey	tə	
369.	Potash	ató	
370.	Potash water	àmòto	used in soup
371.	Peelings	hònò	What is əkuku?
372.	Funnel	fórə	
373.	Filter	āse	
374.	Rag	kəfíkuri	
375.	Floor-beater	gəvəda	Not tone-marked
376.	Handle (of tool)	kətəwə	
377.	Sickle	ambíhùwí	
378.	Cutlass	ambídákù	
379.	Iron	əkpró həḡgrə	
380.	Axe I	əké	cf. Tarok ikù ,
381.	Axe II	əḡge	
382.	Adze	ḡḡgye	
383.	Hoes (general)	zəhə	
384.	Hoe I	zəhə húra	
385.	Hoe II	zəhə haŋa	
386.	Hoe III	zəhə fúmúbrə	
387.	Hammer	egbirigbi kwan	Not tone-marked
388.	Knife	əmbíyá	
389.	Comb	kprəgra	
390.	Broom	əyú	
391.	Sack	əprə	
392.	Fireplace	tréqìqì	
393.	Shoe	əkpréteré hwàná	
394.	Cloth	kwírí	
395.	Mortar (wood)	tú	cf. Tarok atúm ,
396.	Pestle	bíjǐ	
397.	Pot (clay) (generic)	əzu	check!
398.	Pot I (soup)	əzu mí	
399.	Pot II (medicine)	əzu wura	
400.	Pot III	əzwákpà	for cooking porridge
401.	Pot IV	əzə trəsə we	for men to cook meat in
402.	Pot V	əzu trəsə ḡgù	for cooking beer
403.	Pot VI	əzə cəḡgù	for mixing beer
404.	Pot VI	te	???

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
405.	Pot VII	gəmàmùwa	for drinking water
406.	Pot VIII	da	for putting palm-oil
407.	Pot IX	kpòkpòzə agbáŋu	very large
408.	Pot X	gbirigbó tsòŋgu	to store beer
409.	Pot XI	kàkàrà	local eating tray
410.	Head-pad	hárá	Widespread #kata
411.	Basket (generic)	əkrí	
412.	Winnowing tray	kúmú	
413.	Mat (generic)	tàkpələ́	
414.	Spear	émbè	
415.	Bow	ta	Niger-Congo root #-ta
416.	Arrow	səra	cf. Toro ƙara , Doka ire-sala , Surubu u-cira , Hasha ikir , Kulu dekila , Piti ucir . Also ? LC – daŋ , Mambila sàŋ . See BCCW,4
417.	Quiver	àŋbó	
418.	Chain	zenzele	
419.	Rope	ɽíjĩ	
420.	Stool	kpra	
421.	Wooden door	ànyídá	
422.	Fence	hamba	
423.	Ladder	agrá	
424.	Canoe	kpókòŋgrə	
425.	Paddle	ókpòvùtròmò	
426.	Aeroplane	girgi nzà	‘canoe of sky’
427.	Train	girgi ndzi	‘canoe of ground’
428.	Car	gbo grundo	
429.	Bicycle	àgbòkà	
430.	Bee-hive (log)	túndú	
431.	Bee-hive (house)	dəjĩ	
432.	Bee-hive (?)	àsòsò	what is this?
433.	Fish-trap I	kene	
434.	Fish-trap II	ŋgbómó	
435.	Snare	əkrwí gyìwè	
436.	One	ànyimbere	
437.	Two	àhùrwi	
438.	Three	àtaato	
439.	Four	aanē	
440.	Five	atúŋgú	Niger-Congo root #toon-. cf. Hasha atukun , Tarok ùtúkún , cf. Hasha ikwiv ,
441.	Six	térékífi	
442.	Seven	térékífi nanyí	
443.	Eight	tsyátsyá	
444.	Nine	tsyátsyá nanyí	
445.	Ten	gòròmàvo	
446.	Eleven	gòròmàvo hwá	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
		nyimbere	
447.	Twelve I	gòròmàvɔ hwá àhùrwì	
448.	Twelve II	tsɔ	Not tone-marked.
449.	Twenty	gòròmàvɔ àhùrwì	
450.	Twenty-four	tsɔ̃ hùrwì	
451.	Forty	gòròmàvɔ ànɛ	
452.	Hundred	gòròmàvɔ dá gòròmàvɔ	
453.	Black	hòŋgwà	
454.	White	àtása	
455.	Red	atífa	
456.	Blue	ákpakpaw	
457.	Yellow	òmò dádápá	
458.	Green	òmò fú	
459.	Brown	òmò uru	Not tone-marked.
460.	Good	lòndè	
461.	Sweet	náná	
462.	Bitter	birírí	
463.	Half	kprókpró	
464.	Hot	yaha	
465.	Cold	náná gbálálá	
466.	Old	acó	
467.	New	aué	Niger-Congo root # -fe. cf. Tarok -pipe ,
468.	Wet	tèmù	What is vuruna ?
469.	Dry	hwara	
470.	Smooth	kòkóna	
471.	Clean	zánána	e.g. Cloth that is washed and looks clean
472.	Quick	qíqí	
473.	Bent thing	hurúna	
474.	Add to	gyànkpí	
475.	Answer (question)	kera	
476.	Ask a question	lúfú	cf. Surubu rivi , Nindem irib , Doka lirbi , Hyam libi , Hasha rifi , Ningye ryip , Rukul rip , Ningye ryip , (BCCW,6/9)
477.	Ask/beg for something	kwèrè	cf. Toro kəzi , Yeskwa ɲkusa , Hasha kuse
478.	Awaken (someone)	həŋgá	What is yiriŋwə ? cf. ‘to fly’ (532.)
479.	Bake in ashes	kwesé	
480.	Bark (dog)	kpəŋgáva	What is hugofo ? cf. Toro guvu ,
481.	Be bent	gúnu	cf. 473.
482.	Be rotten	hwènà	cf. Toro hwana ,
483.	Be short	kprúkprú	
484.	Become dry	hwara	cf. Berom hwōgōt , Aten hwohwo , Basa ihoo , cLela hǎ , Ijọ kàngá , Gworok kwát probably independent weakenings of the widespread #- koro roots. See BCCW, 30.
485.	Begin	jíji	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
486.	Bite	nyuŋwá	cf. Toro nyuŋwa , Yangkam nwan , Ningye nyum , Che nyumu , LC lum
487.	Blow (flute etc.)	wè	cf. Sur wuri , Yangkam wurok , Horom wil , Berom wōlōm , Len Mambila èwəl , LC *fud
488.	?	wuri	
489.	Build (house etc.)	míná	cf. Toro mara , Ninzo mé , Bu mə , Che me , Hasha mai , Tarok me⁺ , Bekwara mè , reflexes of an old Niger-Congo root. See BCCW, 13.
490.	Burn (fire burns)	qyá	cf. Toro fya , Rukul fyi , Fyem fwíf ‘burn off vegetation’, Berom fwúsh ‘to burn food’,
491.	Buy	sá	cf. Toro sa ,
492.	Call (to someone)	qì	cf. Toro fifin ,
493.	Carve (wood etc.)	kwənɛ	
494.	Catch	dyè	
495.	??	bi	
496.	Chase s.t.	kətsi	
497.	Chew	ríyá	cf. Toro rya ,
498.	Choose	sè	cf. Toro sənɛ , Ijò sɛ□lɛ , PB #-cad
499.	Climb	ká	
500.	Come	bá	cf. Toro ba , Tarok ḡá , Rukul ba , Fyem ḡé , Yangkam ḡi , but a widespread root reconstructible at least to Proto-Atlantic-Congo. Also Yiwom bəl , Kulere bo
501.	Come out (of room)	kété	cf. Toro ti , Kambari ùtə , possibly related to widespread Bantu roots #təb , #tum
502.	Continue (to do s.t.)	ritomo	
503.	??	liya	
504.	Cough	kpikpiru	Not tone-marked.
505.	Count	brè	cf. Toro bere , Kadara pula , Bu bəla , Ninzo bré , Ninzam ble , Mada bla , Kulung ḡala , Mbe pāl , PLC *bəd , PB #-bəd-
506.	Cut down (tree)	ḡimbá	cf. Toro kpere , Horom pwer
507.	??	kpa	cf. Toro kpere , Horom pwer
508.	Cut in two	ḡáqá	
509.	Cut off (head etc.)	qà	
510.	Dance	kira	cf. Toro kyara ,
511.	Die	kwe	cf. Toro ku , Hasha kwe , Kenyi kie , Surubu kee , although these forms have developed from the more common Niger-Congo #-ku root.
512.	Dig (earth etc.)	ḡimú	cf. Yangkam suŋ , Sur ḡiŋ Fyem cin , Tesu fumu , Kulu cem , Berom cīŋ
513.	Divide	ḡàqà	cf. Tarok kap ,
514.	Do/make	ləsa	cf. Toro rəsa ,
515.	Drag	kpí	also ‘pull, uproot’. cf. Toro pi ,

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
516.	Draw (water)	kpí àmù	
517.	Drink	wa	cf. Toro, Yaŋkam, Sur, Tarok wá . See also Mambiloid, LC
518.	Eat	ríyá	The ri- is the old Niger-Congo root widely attested in Plateau. The -ya is also found in some other languages, e.g. Kulu liya , Nindem rea , Gyem liá , PLC *lia
519.	Empty	ndré makpe	
520.	Enter	nyí	
521.	Equal, to be	ətswè	
522.	Extinguished, to be	mríndrí	
523.	Fall (rain)	hwa	cf. Hasha hu , Fyem hó , Aten hwò , Berom hwò ('fall on top of s.t.), Yashi hu . The widespread Plateau forms have a labial velar, but ? cf. Wapan ko , Cara go , Jar ko , Yala gwo , PB #- gwa .
524.	Fall over	hwa	as above
525.	Fear	nyiri	
526.	Feel (cold etc.)	tó náná gbálálá	
527.	??	sere	
528.	Fight (in war)	mláná	
529.	Finish (a task)	tréna	
530.	Flog	mlà	
531.	Flow (water etc.)	gbú	
532.	Fly (birds)	həŋgá	cf. 'awaken' (478.)
533.	Fold (cloth etc.)	gùnù	cf. 'be bent'
534.	Follow	tàqà	
535.	Forget	tí khlókhlo	
536.	Fry (in oil)	yáŋgá	cf. Kurama paga ,
537.	Gather/collect	qirá	
538.	Give	ŋgə	cf. Hasha nago , Aten nəŋ , Nindem nogo , Gworok nwak . Reflex of the widespread #- pa- (also as na and nga) root (see BCCW,45)
539.	Give II	níŋgé nù	
540.	Give birth	màrà	Widespread African root. PLC *màn
541.	Go	nánzə	Plateau has various forms with a na- element that might be connected.
542.	Go out/exit	kəti	?? cf. 'come out'
543.	Grind	hwà	
544.	Grow (plants)	tyàgbà	? cf. Jju, Nindem tub , Lokaa -táwá
545.	Hatch (egg)	kpá sèbé	'to pound the egg'. cf. Tarok pwak ,
546.	Hear	seré	
547.	Heavy, to be	ɽiɽi	cf. Toro rifi ,
548.	Heavy, to be II	kêmi	as of a load
549.	Hit (drum tc.)	mímí	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
550.	Hoe	nzohə	
551.	Hunt	qlá	cf. Fyem fofár , Hasha far , Tarok fár ‘to be a good marksman’. Also in Chadic: cf. Bokkos faar , Tangale para (n.), Ngizim bárâ and Hausa fàráwtàà
552.	Jump	hwáná	
553.	Kill	kwe	
554.	Know	wena	
555.	Lack	yámákpé	
556.	Laugh	wènee	
557.	Leak	fürù	
558.	Lick	qené	
559.	Light, to be	rijíkpe	
560.	Lie down	lé	cf. Aten lal , Tarok dàl ‘to stretch’, Yeskwa lalo ‘sleep’, Mbe and Common Ekoid lál , PB # -dáád- see ‘hear’
561.	Listen	serémí	
562.	Look for	qá	
563.	Marry	tsáqà	
564.	Mix	toqo	
565.	Mix food	tsyò	
566.	Mould (pot)	mìnà	cf. ‘swallow’ (612.)
567.	Open	vuru	
568.	Plant (crop etc.)	bíyá	
569.	Play	kpótó	
570.	Pound (in mortar)	kpá	see ‘hatch’
571.	Pour (liquid)	saŋgrá	
572.	Press	hwiwá	
573.	Pull	kpí	
574.	Receive	sa	
575.	Refuse	leke	
576.	Remember	kòndò	
577.	Repair	lesa	Not tone-marked.
578.	Resemble	àtsyè ándrə	
579.	Return	bá miya	
580.	Ride (horse etc.)	ká	
581.	Roast on coals	yàhà	cf. Toro yaha ,
582.	Run	gbóó	
583.	Say/speak	brè	
584.	??	tsifa	
585.	See	nzá	
586.	Sell	ríqá	? rep rot?
587.	Send	tómó	
588.	Set trap	sumú	
589.	Sew	wəno	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
590.	Shake	sùsù	
591.	Sharpen	mya	
592.	Shine		
593.	Shoot (arrow, gun)	da	
594.	Sing	kpa mumu	
595.	Skin (animal)	trá	
596.	Slaughter (animal)	qà	
597.	Sleep	lém rà	‘to sleep a sleep’. See cognates under ‘lie down’
598.	Smash	hwrá	
599.	Smell	nyingwé	
600.	Snap in two	kyána	
601.	Speak	tsiqà	
602.	Spit	toqó atá	‘spit saliva’
603.	Spread in sun to dry	làqà	
604.	Squeeze out	gùgùnùna	
605.	Stand	həŋgáfi	
606.	Steal	kə yuhu	‘do theft’
607.	Stir (soup)	vutunu	
608.	Store cocoyam in a hole	tsyó mgbasa	
609.	Stretch oneself	nyifaná	
610.	Suck (breast etc.)	momó	
611.	Surpass	áráke	
612.	Swallow	minà	cf. ‘to mould’ (566.)
613.	Take	gú	
614.	Take out	gúnyí mbéré	
615.	Tear (cloth etc.)	hwafe	
616.	Throw	fi	
617.	Throw carelessly	tàvɔ	
618.	Twist (rope etc.)	kámá	Mbd ‘squeeze’ kòm
619.	Uproot (tuber)	kpí	cf. ‘drag’ (515.)
620.	Walk	hende	
621.	Want/need	kirá	
622.	Wash	hwàrà	
623.	Wear	wèrè	
624.	Weep	kpaŋgá	
625.	Work	ndɔmɔ	
626.	I	myá	
627.	You	nòn	
628.	He/she/it	ŋwó	
629.	we	mbɔrɔ	
630.	you pl.	mɔnɔ	or gágá
631.	They	ámvóŋi	
632.	Thank you!	kwende	

Edible and Useful Plants

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
633.	Guinea-yam ¹⁵	kírù	
634.	Yam sp.	àbìcìrì	loanword?
635.	Aerial yam ¹⁶	ónərí	
636.	Red yam I ¹⁷	kirú lomo	
637.	Red yam II	kamáca	
638.	Water-yam ¹⁸	kirú téfa	
639.	Taro (Old cocoyam) ¹⁹	aḡbasa lomo	‘Alumu cocoyam’
640.	Taro (Old cocoyam) II	aḡbasa ḡgàtɔ́	
641.	New cocoyam ^{20*}	aḡbasa kòbɔ́	cf. Toro aḡbásá akòbò
642.	New cocoyam II	aḡbasa kpànà	
643.	Cassava ^{*21}	əɽiɽi grɔ́mɔ	
644.	Sweet potato ^{*22}	jólùlù	
645.	Wild yam I	gbàhà	
646.	Wild yam II	atambo	
647.	Wild yam III	kətru	
648.	Wild yam IV	ɸiḡkədu	
649.	Tumuku ²³	əfumiya	
650.	Rizga ²⁴	àhàrà	
651.	Sorghum ²⁵	əkrù	cf. Tarok ìkùr,
652.	Fonio (H. acca) ²⁶	kpòkpò	
653.	Fonio II	yefi	cf. Tarok ìbìfì,
654.	Iburu (H. iburu) ²⁷	yefi hùrùtùtù	
655.	Iburu II	yefi hùḡgùrì	
656.	Iburu III	yefi àtífà	
657.	Maize ^{*28}	əkúrúfì	
658.	Rice ^{*29}	àjàkámhá	
659.	Cowpea ³⁰	dòsò	cf. Cf. Toro dòsò, Tarok asò, Irigwe òzò, Wapan a-so, Nupe ezo ⁺ . Also in Adamawa: Mumuye zòkó. See BCCW,8
660.	Spiral cowpea	əkíkìmi	

¹⁵ (*Dioscorea guineensis*)¹⁶ (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)¹⁷ (*Dioscorea cayenensis*)¹⁸ (*Dioscorea alata*)¹⁹ (*Colocasia esculenta*)²⁰ (*Xanthosoma mafaffa*) (H. wali)²¹ (*Manihot esculenta*)²² (*Ipomoea batatas*)²³ (*Plectranthus esculentus*)²⁴ (*Solenostemon rotundifolius*)²⁵ (*Sorghum bicolor*)²⁶ (*Digitaria exilis*)²⁷ (*Digitaria iburua*)²⁸ (*Zea mays*)²⁹ (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)³⁰ (*Vigna unguiculata*)

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
661.	Lima bean ^{31*}	dosóó abəgba	
662.	Other beans I	əpirú	
663.	Other beans II	səfə	Not tone-marked. long, red blotched pods and almost black beans
664.	Other beans III	dosóó kekere	= H. <i>aci shiru</i>
665.	Other beans IV	àbirà	
666.	Bambara groundnut ³²	əhwì pìrù	cf. Tarok afi ,
667.	Groundnut (Peanut) ³³	əhwì	
668.	Garden egg ³⁴	mbré	
669.	Okra ³⁵	ándra	
670.	Chili pepper* (large) ³⁶	ɸiɸá zèzé	
671.	Birdseye chili* ³⁷	ɸiɸá kékéré	‘small chili’
672.	Tomato ³⁸	mbré masara	Not tone-marked. ‘white man’s garden egg’
673.	Egusi melon ³⁹	əkáse	
674.	Edible squash ⁴⁰	ətəngé	
675.	Sorrel/roselle ⁴¹	agbaraja	cf. Tarok agbántár ,
676.	Jews' mallow ⁴²	səɸi	
677.	Edible squash ⁴³	lese	Not tone-marked.
678.	Sorrel/roselle ⁴⁴	lú	
679.	Black sesame ⁴⁵	lú nja	
680.	Red sesame ⁴⁶	lú ŋgwe	
681.	???	súnù	
682.	Sesame leaves ⁴⁷	hùŋgúrí	
683.	Bitterleaf ⁴⁸	tréɸi	
684.	Waterleaf* ⁴⁹	ɸúmí	‘bush type’

³¹ (*Phaseolus lunatus*)³² (*Vigna subterranea*)³³ (*Arachis hypogaea*)³⁴ (*Solanum melongena*)³⁵ (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)³⁶ (*Capsicum frutescens*)³⁷ (*Capsicum annuum*)³⁸ (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)³⁹ (*Citrullus lanatus*)⁴⁰ (*Cucurbita pepo*)⁴¹ (H. *yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)⁴² (H. *lalo*)(*Corchorus olitorius*)⁴³ (*Cucurbita pepo*)⁴⁴ (H. *yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)⁴⁵ *Sesamum radiatum*⁴⁶ (H. *Ridfi*) (*Sesamum indicum*)⁴⁷ (H. *karkashi*)⁴⁸ *Vernonia amygdalina*⁴⁹ (*Amaranthus* spp)

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
685.	Plantain (Musa AAB)	àyàbà	male banana
686.	Banana (Musa AAA)	gbugbeṇu màrà nyaté	'bush banana'
687.	Pawpaw* ⁵⁰	kràbúsú	
688.	Gourd (Generic)	həndó	cf. Toro hwondò, cLela ì-hònò, Tyap hám, Hausa kondo,
689.	Gourd-bottle ⁵¹	əngbò	cf. Toro aṇbu ⁺ , Tarok abəṇ,
690.	Gourd-bottle II	ku	cf. Mama koro, Yakö lè-kòlò, Basa ee-kəle,
691.	Gourd (spherical) ⁵²	əkpífi	cf. Pe ankafa,
692.	Food gourd	bəgbá	cf. Ninzo agbugba, Rindre ubga, Tarok abəṇ,
693.	Tobacco*	ataba	
694.	Sugar-cane*	wa	the name of a grass in the bush
695.	Loofah ⁵³	as Hausa	< H.
696.	Cola	kókóró	
697.	Oil-palm ⁵⁴	àgbè hwe	cf. Toro a-hwé
698.	Palm-fruit	kpí ahwe	cf. Toro ù-wri
699.	Palm-oil	àmènè hwe	cf. Toro a-mene
700.	Palm kernel	àhəɾə	cf. Toro a-horo
701.	Raphia palm ⁵⁵	nànása	
702.	Fan-palm ⁵⁶	kpàmà	= H. giginya
703.	Canarium tree ⁵⁷	kpàngé	
704.	Custard apple ⁵⁸	tu	
705.	Wild date-palm ⁵⁹		
706.	Baobab ⁶⁰	kúkúru	
707.	Silk-cotton Tree ⁶¹	kúmú	cf. Mbd
708.	Strawberry tree	tasa	= H. tafashiya
709.	Mahogany	bísó	
710.	Shea tree ⁶²	mərə kpázàṣa	
711.	Locust tree ⁶³	nyinyí	
712.	Locust fruit	mərə nyí	also mere nyinyi
713.	Locust-bean cakes	nyínyí tràsà	
714.	Tamarind ⁶⁴	àmyămya	

⁵⁰ (*Carica papaya*)⁵¹ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)⁵² (*Cucurbita maxima*)⁵³ (H. soso) (*Luffa cylindrica*)⁵⁴ (*Elaeis guineensis*)⁵⁵ (*Raphia* spp.)⁵⁶ (*Borassus aethiopum*)⁵⁷ (*Canarium schweinfurthii*)⁵⁸ (*Annona senegalensis*)⁵⁹ (*Phoenix reclinata*)⁶⁰ (*Adansonia digitata*)⁶¹ (*Ceiba pentandra*)⁶² (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)⁶³ (*Parkia biglobosa*)⁶⁴ (*Tamarindus indica*)

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
715.	<i>Terminalia</i> sp. ⁶⁵	kó	= H. <i>baushe</i> .
716.	Black plum ⁶⁶	kpu	Not tone-marked.
717.	Tree sp. I	jejengre	= H. <i>jan yaro</i>
718.	Tree sp. II	àmvlà	used to make <i>madadi</i>
719.	Tree sp. III	tétéghúl	large edible fruits like mangoes
720.	Tree sp. IV	krin	breaks hoe
721.	Tree sp. V	dzi	= H. <i>gwaska</i>
722.	Tree sp. VI	cóćóć	used to make spoons
723.	Tree sp. VI	sene	very strong tree
724.	Tree sp. VI	tòtò yàwũ	= H. <i>kashin yawo</i>
725.	Tree sp. IX	táqé	small, edible fruits
726.	Tree sp. X	ákpakurí	ogbono tree
727.	Tree sp. XI	àkpokpó àgbè	= H. <i>kaushe</i>
728.	Tree sp. XII	íqikpvó	= H. <i>gwawo</i>
729.	Tree sp. XIII	ànggrughù	= H. <i>sha zuma</i>
730.	Plant sp. I	ndòndoná	scented plant grown around the house against snakes
731.	Plant sp. II	binyíngwe	plant used to treat catarrh
732.	Plant sp. III	afúnyíngwe	local curry
733.	Sodom apple ⁶⁷		
734.	Mushroom sp. I	àwa îya	
735.	Mushroom sp. II	ánâta	
736.	Mushroom sp. III	àgùgwà	
737.	Mushroom sp. IV	àwa fíngà	
738.	Mushroom sp. V	àwa sènge	
739.	Mushroom sp. VI	àwa yíra	
740.	Mushroom sp. VI	àmeré mgbila	
741.	Mushroom sp. VI	ánjirìnjírí	
742.	Mushroom sp. I	àwa londo	‘cow mushroom’
743.	Mushroom sp. I	àshoto yiráma	

Musical Instruments

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
744.	Drum	kàngà	Barrel drum similar to Hausa gangaa
745.	Drum	àkèdú	Hourglass-drum similar to Hausa kalanguu
746.	Drum	àtábafa	Hourglass-drum with one head similar to Hausa kotso
747.	Drum	àgblègblè	Tall (1.5 m), single-headed cylindrical drum with a pegged head and short legs
748.	Drum	èdzi	shorter, wider version of the previous drum
749.	Flute I	kpígri	
750.	Flute II	éqìqì	
751.	Cruciform whistle	àri gbótò	
752.	Zither	ànggòngò	
753.	Xylophone	èdzi àgbè	not an indigenous instrument

⁶⁵ (H. *baushe*)

⁶⁶ (*Vitex doniana*)

⁶⁷ (*Calotropis procera* H. tumfafiya)

754.	Horn I	dùrùmu	
755.	Horn II	purú	
756.	Gourd-rattle	kwakwara ɔvɔ	
757.	Ankle rattles I	ɲgbawà	iron
758.	Ankle rattles II	àcècè	small palm-leaf boxes
759.	Ankle rattles III	àkwakwara	large dried fruit shells
		kwánà	

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