

# Gwara, an unknown language of Central Nigeria

Phonology, wordlist and suggestions for  
orthography



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## 1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Gwara language, spoken in Gora A village in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Gwara has not previously been referred to in any document or reference work. Unknown languages are, of course, easier to find when their villages are marked with clear signboards in English. This Gora is not the same as the language Idon-Gora-Ankwe listed in Crozier & Blench (1992) which is spoken elsewhere in Kaduna State. The wordlist was collected by Roger Blench with the assistance of Baba Duhnya from a group of villagers in Gora A on the 20th of April 2009. The main informants were;

Pastor Joshua Ndakas  
Jonathan Musa  
Dogwara Agwai  
Yano Yaki  
Wayo Bai

Thanks to them and to the chief for arranging the elicitation session.

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

## 2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

### 2.1 Nomenclature

The nomenclature for the people speaking the Gwara language is as follows;

iGwara	language
uŋGwara	one person
aGwara	Gwara people

This pattern is similar to Idū and Nyankpa. The Hausa form of this name, ‘Gora’, has been adopted as the village name.

### 2.2 Location and settlements

The Gwara live in five settlements known locally as Gora A,B,C, D and E in Jaba and Kagarko Local Governments in Kaduna State. Their correct local names are;

Gora A	Gɔride
GoraB	Agarage
Gora C	Dey Goma
Gora D	Akpirko
Gora E	Ŋgẽ

The turnoff to Gora A, C, D and E is a few kilometres left, north of Kwoi on the Keffi-Kaduna road. Gora B is a few kilometres before Kubacha at the turnoff a Kurmin Jibrin, further north on the same road.

**2.3 Language status**

From the number and size of settlements, it is likely that there are less than 3000 speakers with some knowledge of Gwara. Most children still have at least a passive knowledge of the Gwara language, but it is definitely threatened and active knowledge is disappearing. There are probably only a few hundred truly competent speakers, although interventions by schoolchildren during the elicitation sessions suggested that the views of adults may be too pessimistic. Hausa is the dominant language of intercommunication and is often spread by adults who have worked outside in the cities. Other languages spoken by many older people include Idū, Ashe and Hyam. Nearby languages include Gyong and Hyam, but it appears these are not widely spoken by Gwara. Idū in particular may be an important source of loanwords in Gwara.

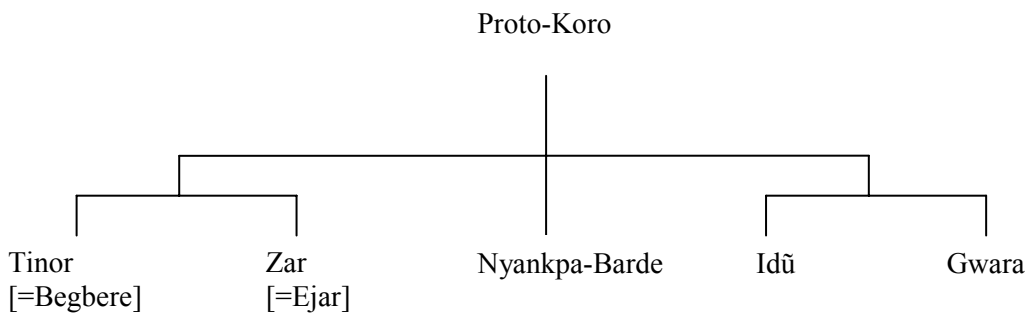
**2.4 Gwara culture and history**

The chief recounted that the Gwara have been in their present location for at least the last century, and that they originally migrated from the Jaba (i.e. Hyam-speaking area) which is no great distance. Despite this, their language shows little influence from Hyam.

**2.5 The classification of Gwara**

Gwara is undoubtedly a member of the Koro cluster and shows lexical links with Tinor and Nyankpa, but most importantly with Idū. Figure 1 shows a tentative outline classification of the languages in the Koro cluster.

**Figure 1. Classification of the Koro languages**



It is puzzling that Idū and Gwara do not show more evident sound-correspondences; lexical cognates appear to be highly varied. It may be that the languages are related, but that there is a significant layer of Idū loanwords as well.

**3. Phonology**

**3.1 Vowels**

Gwara has seven phonemic vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
<b>Close</b>	i		u
<b>Close-Mid</b>	e		o
<b>Open-Mid</b>	ɛ		ɔ
<b>Open</b>		a	

The close-mid back vowel /o/ is often high and sometimes centralised, and so can be difficult to distinguish from [u] and /u/.

All vowels can be nasalised, and probably doubled, although no examples have yet been recorded for some vowels.

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

Gwara permits Vy and Vw sequences in word-final position, but these are not contrastive with Vi and Vu as is the case in Idũ.

One of the striking features of Gwara is the occurrence of  $\tilde{V}\tilde{V}$  sequences, presumably resulting from intervocalic consonant deletion. Examples;

Nose **éũ**  
Go **dzéõ**

### 3.2 Consonants

Gwara consonants are as follows:

	Bila- bial	Labio- dental	Alve- olar	Post- alveolar	Retro- flex	Palata l	Velar	Labial- velar	Glot- tal
Plosive	p b		t d			c j	k g	kp gb	
Nasal	m		n				ŋ		
Tap					ɽ				
Trill/Tap			rr						
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ			ɣ		h
Affricate			ts dz						
Approximant						y		w	
Lateral Approximant			l						

No doubled consonants of the type recorded in Idũ were heard.

As with the other languages in the Koro cluster a rolled ‘r’ is heard in word-final position, or sometimes word-medially. This is probably a positional allophone.

Status of [ɽ]

Apart from [ɽ], Idũ has a retroflex [ɽ], occurring in the follow words;

Today	<b>ìɽeɽ</b>
Yesterday	<b>àɽetse</b>
Neck	<b>ùɽɔ</b>
Pigeon (Domestic)	<b>ɽinèw</b>
Sleep	<b>ɽɔ</b>

This is commonly written ‘rh’ in Nigerian orthographic practice.

Palatalisation and labialisation are relatively infrequent in Gwara.

### Palatalisation

Palatalised consonants occur in Gwara but are rare.

Star	<b>ìgyɛrr</b>
Farm	<b>ìkyàŋ</b>
Man	<b>sukya</b>
King/chief/ruler	<b>ùwyere</b>
Agama lizard	<b>ìgbyér</b>

### Labialisation

Labialised consonants occur sporadically in Gwara. Table 1 shows all the forms so far identified;

Table 1. Labialised consonants in Gwara	
Gloss	Gwara
Forest	<b>akwoy</b>
Dog	<b>igwí</b>
Cock	<b>ìkwòy</b>
Millipede	<b>dakwoy</b>
Animal (Bush)	<b>igywe</b>

It seems possible that some labialisation is a non-phonemic consequence of the sequence velar plus back vowel.

### Prenasalised consonants

Gwara permits contrastive homorganic nasals preceding consonants, although they are uncommon in the language. These are realised as m- before bilabials, ŋ- before velars and n- before all others. With a very few exceptions, these are not tonebearing. In the case of the nouns, these almost certainly arise from the deletion of a vowel prefix and the move of the tone rightwards onto the nasal. However, as in Idū, in pronouns and interrogatives there are syllabic nasals of uncertain origin, for example;

They **mbɔ**

### 3.3 Tones

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

High	'
Mid	Unmarked
Low	`
Rising	ˊ
Falling	ˋ

All syllables are marked for tone in the present document. Thus any unmarked syllables should be assumed to be mid.

A number of words exhibit three tone heights in one word, illustrating the contrast. Examples;

Doctor	<b>néragòw</b>
Masquerade	<b>náŋgbaʒì</b>
Thigh	<b>ìgyóŋda</b>

Falling tone is very important and is often a significant marker of plurals in nouns. E.g;

Housefly	<b>ìdzù</b>	<b>ídžù</b>
Chicken	<b>ìnù</b>	<b>ínù</b>
Cow	<b>ìnà</b>	<b>ínà</b>

Rising tone is much rarer, but is present;

Sheep	<b>idòy</b>	<b>ídòy</b>
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## 4. Morphology

### 4.1 Nouns

#### 4.1.1 General

Gwara must originally have had a system of nominal plurals based on affix alternation, but this has almost entirely broken down, its only remnants being i- and u- prefixes in the singular and a- prefixes in the plural. The disappearance of the prefixes appears to have resulted in a complex morphotonology; tone changes between singular and plural of nouns are highly unpredictable with only fragmentary patterns occurring. In addition, many nouns that might naturally have plurals, such as household objects, seem to have lost them.

#### 4.1.2 Morphologically marked plurals

The remaining vowel prefixes marking nouns are probably remnants of a more complex nominal class system that has collapsed. There are some fossilised traces of nasal prefixes, which are no longer functional. The citation forms of nouns are often given without prefixes and the correct prefix can only be elicited in a frame or by forming singular plural pairs. It seems likely that Gwara is on the way to losing all its prefixes, as in some neighbouring languages, such as Mada.

Singular prefixes

**i, ù**

Plural prefixes

**a, ì, í**

A feature of Gwara not shared by Idū is the reduplication of the first syllable of the noun root in the plural. This is a typical feature of Chadic and may represent a long-ago interaction with Chadic languages. There is some evidence that this may have once been characteristics of Idū as a number of noun-roots have non-productive reduplication. These appear to be particularly focused on body parts although there are some examples outside this domain. Examples;

Chameleon	<b>nyànyaha</b>	<b>ènyahanyaha</b>
Body	<b>yórr</b>	<b>àyùyórr</b>
Nail (Finger/toe)	<b>gbèrtó</b>	<b>gbègbèrtó</b>
Leg	<b>uda</b>	<b>àdùda</b>
Arm	<b>ubɔ</b>	<b>àbùbɔ</b>
Neck	<b>ùrɔ</b>	<b>àrùrɔ</b>

### 4.1.3 Tonally marked plurals

Numerous noun plurals are marked only by tone, almost exclusively those with an *ì-* prefix. These occur most commonly with animal names, although there are some examples outside this domain. The patterns are highly various, but some common patterns emerge.

Tooth	<b>ìga</b>	<b>ígá</b>
Horse	<b>ìdɔ</b>	<b>ídɔ</b>
Cow	<b>ìnà</b>	<b>ínà</b>
Goat	<b>ìbù</b>	<b>íbù</b>
Sheep	<b>ìdòy</b>	<b>ídòy</b>
Elephant	<b>ìdzóm</b>	<b>ídzóm</b>
Chicken	<b>ìnù</b>	<b>ínù</b>

### 4.2 Pronouns

Gwara subject and object pronouns are identical. They are marked for tense/aspect, as is common in Plateau languages. The table shows the pronouns for the completive and progressive aspect.

I	<b>mê</b>
You	<b>ɲwu</b>
He/she/it	<b>iyê</b>
we	<b>idê</b>
you pl.	<b>kutsadè</b>
They	<b>mbɔ</b>

## 5. Orthography

The Gwara language is unwritten and the speakers had no knowledge of attempts to write it; indeed it seemed not to have occurred to them. Nonetheless, there is an active community around the church and older speakers were not opposed to the idea. Gwara phonology has fewer problems than Idū and a functioning orthography could be developed relatively simply. However, it would not be a worthwhile exercise unless the status of the language is confirmed vis-à-vis Hausa. Below are some suggestions concerning writing issues.

The practice of representing vowels with underlines;

ɛ	as e
ɔ	as o

and so on, derives from the days when there were no computers and this was a convention easily available on a typewriter. However, it has the disadvantage that the underlines are easily left off or forgotten. The use of IPA-like symbols (as, for example the nasalisation adopted for Idū) would avoid this problem. With computers used to prepare all documents, it is now easier and more practical to use ‘ɛ’ and ‘ɔ’. However, there is nothing wrong with underlined letters in terms of the sounds of the language, if that is what the community decides.

[ɽ]

It is strongly recommended that the retroflex [ɽ] be considered a significant sound and written consistently. Nigerian orthographic practice usually uses ‘rh’ for this sound.

[r] and [r̄]

As noted above, these are in complementary distribution and could both be written ‘r’. However, there would be no problem in retaining the orthographic convention ‘r’ and ‘rr’.



**Tones**

Tone plays a crucial role in Gwara and it is difficult to see how an effective orthography could ignore this. Numerous plurals are made only by tone. The role of grammatical tone is yet to be explored, but it is unlikely to be minor.

## 6. Gwara wordlist

This wordlist is partly filled in as a reflection of the time available. The gaps are left so that it is possible to complete the list with the community another time.

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
1.	Tree (generic)	titi	àtiti	cf. Tinor ìti,
2.	Leaf	iyèra	àyèra	cf. Idũ ùyèré,
3.	Root	ñnaŋ	ànunaŋ	cf. Idũ ùnúná,
4.	Branch	nnàbé	ànùnàbé	
5.	Bark (of tree)	gùgu	àgùgu	
6.	Thorn	ìdídò	ídídô	cf. Idũ ìdídò, Tinor gídídòk, Gwara èdòk,
7.	Grass (generic)	mbèhè	ùmbèhè	
8.	Vine (generic)			
9.	Mushroom	isùú	ísùú	cf. Idũ isù, Gwara èsùsùk, Nunku jǔ,
10.	Water-lily			
11.	Algae			
12.	Seed/stone/pip			
13.	Charcoal	súwà	ísúwà	cf. Idũ zuù,
14.	Dust	kirà	ìkàrà	
15.	Ashes	tɔ	àtɔ	cf. Gwara àtɔk, Idũ àtɔ́, Niger-Congo #ntoN
16.	Rubbish-heap			
17.	Mud	dem	àdem	
18.	Clay	àbē sakaya	—	
19.	Dew	àmèhè	—	
20.	Stone	tər	ater	cf. Tinor gùtà, Idũ utar, Niger-Congo #-ta
21.	Sand	àdzidzew	—	cf. Idũ zuzew,
22.	Smoke	àdzò	—	cf. Idũ àzòò, Tinor gàzù, Hyam jòŋ, Eggon odzo
23.	Fire	ila	—	
24.	Water	àmè	—	cf. Idũ àmè, Gwara àmè, Eggon ami, Ake imbi, Akpa ìmèny,
25.	Rain	inay	—	cf. Idũ ìnai,
26.	Cloud	iburr	—	
27.	Lightning			
28.	Rainy Season			
29.	Dry season			
30.	Harmattan			
31.	Year	améège	—	cf. Idũ mék,
32.	Today	ìreŋe		cf. Idũ ìréré,
33.	Yesterday	àretse		
34.	Tomorrow	idà		cf. Idũ dǎ,
35.	Morning			
36.	Evening			
37.	Dawn			
38.	Day	únómàne		
39.	Night	tuge		
40.	Moon/month	ùhè	àhè	cf. Idũ ùfè,
41.	Sun	ínòŋ	—	

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
42.	Star	ìgyerr	ìgyerr	
43.	Wind	ugba	—	cf. Idū ugba,
44.	God	ínòm	—	
45.	Sky	ahā	—	
46.	World	udē	—	
47.	Ground	àbē	—	cf. Idū àbì,
48.	Large River	ádzē	—	cf. Idū zē,
49.	Stream			
50.	Lake, pond	kángór'âmē		
51.	Forest	ak <sup>w</sup> oy		cf. Idū akoi,
52.	Mountain, Hill	ìgù	ìgù	cf. Idū ìgù,
53.	Bush	usi	—	cf. Idū usi 'farm',
54.	Farm	ìkyàṅ	ìkyâṅ	
55.	Field			
56.	Market*			
57.	Compound			
58.	Room			
59.	Wall (of room)			
60.	Thatch roof			
61.	Granary			
62.	Well			
63.	Road, path	údĩ	àndĩndĩ	cf. Idū utsĩndĩ,
64.	Village/settlement	téwsúcika		cf. Idū uteu,
65.	River-bank			
66.	Swamp/wetland			
67.	Place			
68.	Person/people	nèrê	ànergwàr	cf. Idū únérâ,
69.	Man	sukya	àsakya	
70.	Woman	sutser	satsɛr	
71.	Child	ṅwēcika	àṅwésàcika	
72.	Husband	ntèrɛ		
73.	Wife			
74.	Widow			
75.	Young man			
76.	Young girl			
77.	Old person			
78.	Father	tètɛ	àtètɛ	cf. Idū ùtɛ,
79.	Mother	yàyá	àyàya	cf. Idū ùya,
80.	Barren woman			
81.	Relations			
82.	Ancestors			
83.	Grandparents			
84.	Grandchild			
85.	Brother			
86.	Sister			
87.	Friend	ùwɛrɛ	àwɛrɛ	

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
88.	Guest/stranger	<b>tsen</b>	<b>atsen</b>	
89.	King/chief/ruler	<b>ùwyere</b>	<b>àwyere</b>	
90.	Hunter	<b>law</b>	<b>alaw</b>	
91.	Thief	<b>uhɛw</b>	<b>ahɛw</b>	
92.	Doctor	<b>néragòw</b>	<b>ábíyagòw</b>	
93.	Witch	<b>údzîm</b>	<b>ádzîm</b>	
94.	Corpse	<b>kóm</b>	<b>àkùkóm</b>	
95.	Blacksmith	<b>nérnàhà</b>	<b>àbínàhà</b>	
96.	Woodworker			
97.	Slave	<b>ùgàrà</b>	<b>àgàrà</b>	
98.	Masquerade I	<b>ukuu</b>	<b>akuu</b>	
99.	Masquerade II	<b>nángbazi</b>		
100.	Masquerade III	<b>tèrukuu</b>		
101.	Masquerade IV	<b>kùjákùm</b>		
102.	Masquerade V	<b>ukomkuu</b>		
103.	Masquerade VI	<b>kúúdòm</b>		
104.	Masquerade VII	<b>bùmbíyà</b>		
105.	Masquerade VIII	<b>ndànêr</b>		
106.	Masquerade IX	<b>kusagò</b>		
107.	Masquerade X	<b>kusatsika</b>		
108.	Prophecy			
109.	Shame			
110.	Fear/fright			
111.	Bravery/courage			
112.	Laughter			
113.	Wisdom			
114.	Guilt			
115.	Anger			
116.	Race/running			
117.	Suffering			
118.	Death			
119.	Name			
120.	Grave			
121.	Song			
122.	Proverb			
123.	Story			
124.	Word			
125.	Lie			
126.	News			
127.	Hunger	<b>imer</b>		
128.	Horn	<b>tom</b>	<b>atom</b>	
129.	Tail	<b>saw</b>	<b>asaw</b>	
130.	Egg	<b>dze</b>	<b>adze</b>	
131.	Wing	<b>pě</b>	<b>apě</b>	
132.	Beak			
133.	Nest			

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
134.	Feather			
135.	Gum/glue			
136.	Ant-hill			
137.	Hole in ground			
138.	Hole in tree			
139.	Smell			
140.	Poison			
141.	Load			
142.	Bundle			
143.	Firewood			
144.	Stick			
145.	Yam-heap			
146.	War	<b>iwyà</b>		
147.	Work	<b>ikyèr</b>		
148.	Divination (types)			
149.	Medicine (generic)			
150.	Money			
151.	Shadow			
152.	Thing			
153.	Strength			
154.	Length			
155.	Land/country			
156.	Sleep			
157.	Disease(generic)			
158.	Smallpox			
159.	Diarrhoea			
160.	Eczema			
161.	Goitre			
162.	Boil			
163.	Sore/wound			
164.	Leprosy			
165.	Head	<b>kee</b>	<b>àkikee</b>	
166.	Eye	<b>fu</b>	<b>àfùfu</b>	
167.	Face	<b>êfu</b>		
168.	Cheek	<b>tam</b>	<b>atam</b>	
169.	Forehead	<b>ifi</b>		<i>H. goshi</i>
170.	Nose	<b>éù</b>		
171.	Ear	<b>uto</b>	<b>ato</b>	
172.	Mouth	<b>anyi</b>	<b>ànyinyí</b>	
173.	Tooth	<b>iga</b>	<b>ígá</b>	
174.	Tongue	<b>εrem</b>		
175.	Throat	<b>tòmɾɔ</b>		
176.	Neck	<b>ùɾɔ</b>	<b>àrùɾɔ</b>	
177.	Jaw			
178.	Chin			
179.	Shoulder	<b>ute</b>	<b>àtùte</b>	

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
180.	Armpit			
181.	Fist			
182.	Arm	<b>ubɔ</b>	<b>àbùbɔ</b>	
183.	Hand			
184.	Leg	<b>uda</b>	<b>àdùda</b>	
185.	Foot			
186.	Thigh	<b>ìgyónḡda</b>	<b>ìgyonḡada</b>	
187.	Knee	<b>kíkêrù</b>	<b>ákíkêrù</b>	
188.	Nail (Finger/toe)	<b>gbèrtó</b>	<b>gbègbèrtó</b>	
189.	Female breast	<b>bě</b>	<b>abě</b>	
190.	Stomach			
191.	Chest			
192.	Navel			
193.	Back	<b>bũ</b>		
194.	Buttocks			
195.	Penis			
196.	Vagina			
197.	Skin			
198.	Bone			
199.	Rib			
200.	Vein			
201.	Blood	<b>àdzir</b>		
202.	Breath			
203.	Tear			
204.	Saliva	<b>àkyi</b>		
205.	Sweat			
206.	Urine	<b>àhirà</b>		
207.	Faeces	<b>àbi</b>		
208.	Hair			
209.	Beard			
210.	Liver	<b>afay</b>		
211.	Heart	<b>ikpi</b>		
212.	Intestines			
213.	Body	<b>yórr</b>	<b>àyùyórr</b>	
214.	Meat			
215.	Animal (Bush)	<b>ìgywe</b>		
216.	Horse	<b>idɔ</b>	<b>idɔ</b>	
217.	Donkey	<b>jàkyi</b>	<b>àjàkyi</b>	
218.	Cow	<b>inà</b>	<b>ínà</b>	
219.	Bull			
220.	Calf			
221.	Goat	<b>ibũ</b>	<b>ibũ</b>	
222.	He-goat			
223.	Castrated goat			
224.	Sheep	<b>idòy</b>	<b>ídòy</b>	
225.	Ram			

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
226.	Castrated sheep			
227.	Pig	<b>lédè</b>	<b>àlédè</b>	
228.	Dog	<b>igvwí</b>	<b>aṅwe'gvwí</b>	
229.	Cat	<b>músà</b>	<b>àmúsà</b>	
230.	Elephant	<b>ìdzóm</b>	<b>ídzóm</b>	
231.	Hippo			
232.	Buffalo	<b>iyáy</b>	<b>íyáy</b>	
233.	Lion	<b>wyé'é'gwyé</b>		'king of beasts'
234.	Leopard	<b>nángòṃ</b>	<b>ànángòṃ</b>	
235.	Hyena <sup>1</sup>	<b>mùrĩ</b>	<b>àmùrĩ</b>	
236.	Civet cat <sup>2</sup>			
237.	Genet cat <sup>3</sup>			
238.	Jackal <sup>4</sup>			
239.	Wart-hog <sup>5</sup>	<b>ìbígíbá</b>	<b>àbígíbá</b>	
240.	Bush-pig <sup>6</sup>			
241.	Duiker antelope <sup>7</sup>			
242.	Kob antelope <sup>8</sup>			
243.	Roan antelope <sup>9</sup>			
244.	Porcupine <sup>10</sup>	<b>iyík</b>	<b>íyík</b>	
245.	Tree pangolin <sup>11</sup>			
246.	Baboon			
247.	Patas monkey <sup>12</sup>	<b>itsém</b>	<b>ítsém</b>	
248.	Guenon monkey <sup>13</sup>	<b>idù</b>	<b>ídú</b>	
249.	Squirrel (ground)			
250.	Squirrel (tree)			
251.	Rat (generic)	<b>ikpí</b>	<b>íkpí</b>	
252.	Bush-rat I			
253.	Bush-rat II			
254.	Bush-rat III			
255.	Bush-rat IV			
256.	Giant rat <sup>14</sup>	<b>ikúr</b>	<b>íkúr</b>	
257.	Fat mouse			

<sup>1</sup> (*Crocuta crocuta*)

<sup>2</sup> (*Viverra civetta*)

<sup>3</sup> (*Genetta genetta*)

<sup>4</sup> (*Canis aureus*)

<sup>5</sup> (*Phacochoerus aethiopus*)

<sup>6</sup> (*Potamochoerus Porcus*)

<sup>7</sup> (*Cephalophus spp.*)

<sup>8</sup> (*Kobus kob*)

<sup>9</sup> (*Hippotragus equinus*)

<sup>10</sup> (*Hystrix cristata*)

<sup>11</sup> (*Manis tricuspis*)

<sup>12</sup> (*Erythrocebus patas*)

<sup>13</sup> (*Cercopithecus aethiops*)

<sup>14</sup> (*Cretomyces sp.*)

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
258.	Pygmy mouse			
259.	Grasscutter <sup>15</sup>	<b>ìbéw</b>	<b>íbéw</b>	
260.	Hedgehog <sup>16</sup>			
261.	Hare <sup>17</sup>	<b>ìṅgyó</b>	<b>àyìṅgyó</b>	
262.	House-bat			
263.	Fruit-bat			
264.	Nile crocodile			
265.	Chameleon	<b>nyànyaha</b>	<b>ènyahanyaha</b>	
266.	Agama lizard	<b>ìgbyér</b>	<b>ígbyér</b>	
267.	Skink	<b>fabidòm</b>	<b>àfabidòm</b>	
268.	Gecko			
269.	Monitor lizard ( <i>damo</i> )			
270.	Toad	<b>ùwè</b>	<b>àwè</b>	
271.	Frog	<b>wàránján</b>	<b>àwàránján</b>	
272.	Tortoise	<b>ùnkúrr</b>	<b>ànkúrr</b>	
273.	Snake (Generic)	<b>ìsú</b>	<b>ísú</b>	
274.	Spitting cobra	<b>ídúm</b>	<b>ídúm</b>	
275.	Python	<b>ítsáṅ</b>	<b>ítsáṅ</b>	
276.	Turtle			
277.	Crab	<b>tánkwoy</b>	<b>àtánkwoy</b>	
278.	River molluscs			
279.	Fish (generic)	<b>kyá</b>	<b>íkyá</b>	
280.	Tilapia (spp.)			
281.	Puffer fish <sup>18</sup>			
282.	Catfish (spp.) <sup>19</sup>			
283.	Nile Perch <sup>20</sup>			
284.	Electric fish <sup>21</sup>			
285.	Bird (generic)			
286.	Chicken	<b>ìnù</b>	<b>ínù</b>	
287.	Cock	<b>ìkwòy</b>	<b>íkwòy</b>	
288.	*Duck (Domestic)			
289.	Pigeon (Domestic)	<b>ṛìnèw</b>	<b>àṛìnèw</b>	
290.	Guinea-fowl	<b>ìgyó</b>	<b>ígyó</b>	
291.	Hooded Vulture <sup>22</sup>			
292.	Village Weaver <sup>23</sup>			

<sup>15</sup> (*Thryonomys Swinderianus*)<sup>16</sup> (*Atelerix albiventris*)<sup>17</sup> (*Lepus Crawshayi*)<sup>18</sup> (*Tetraodon fahaka*)<sup>19</sup> (*Synodontis* spp.)<sup>20</sup> (*Lates niloticus*)<sup>21</sup> (*Malapterurus electricus*)<sup>22</sup> (*Neophron monachus*)<sup>23</sup> (*Ploceus cucullatus*)



NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
293.	Cattle-egret <sup>24</sup>			
294.	Black kite <sup>25</sup>			
295.	Standard-wing Night-jar			
296.	Owl (various spp.)			
297.	Grey Parrot <sup>26</sup>			
298.	Senegal Coucal <sup>27</sup>			
299.	Bush- fowl/partridge			
300.	Swallow			
301.	*Pied crow <sup>28</sup>			
302.	Woodpecker			
303.	Insect (Generic)			
304.	Scorpion	<b>ìnàhà</b>	<b>ànàhà</b>	
305.	Butterfly	<b>kàtàku</b>	<b>àkàtàku</b>	
306.	Dragon-fly			
307.	Mosquito	<b>ìbòw</b>	<b>ìbów</b>	
308.	Spider <sup>29</sup>			
309.	Mason wasp <sup>30</sup>			
310.	Bee	<b>ìwoy</b>	<b>ìwóy</b>	
311.	Sweat-fly			
312.	Sandfly			
313.	Housefly	<b>ìdzù</b>	<b>ìdzû</b>	
314.	Ant (Generic)			
315.	Louse (Human)			
316.	Millipede	<b>dakwoy</b>	<b>adakwoy</b>	
317.	Cockroach			
318.	Termite	<b>wye</b>	<b>àghwye</b>	
319.	Flying-ant	<b>gbangato</b>	<b>àgbangato</b>	
320.	Grasshopper			
321.	Praying mantis			
322.	Firefly			
323.	Giant Cricket			
324.	Earthworm			
325.	Giant Snail	<b>ìkór</b>	<b>ìkór</b>	
326.	Soap (Traditional)			
327.	Oil			

<sup>24</sup> (*Ardeola ibis*)

<sup>25</sup> (*Milvus migrans*)

<sup>26</sup> (*Poicephalus senegalus*)

<sup>27</sup> (*Centropus* spp.)

<sup>28</sup> (*Corvus albus*)

<sup>29</sup> (*Acarina* spp.)

<sup>30</sup> (*Belenogaster* spp.)

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
328.	Fat/grease			
329.	Salt			
330.	Soup/stew			
331.	Porridge			
332.	Sorghum-beer			
333.	Palm-wine			
334.	Peelings			
335.	Filter			
336.	Rag			
337.	Floor-beater			
338.	Handle (of tool)			
339.	Sickle			
340.	Cutlass			
341.	Iron	<b>dzaw</b>	<b>àdzaw</b>	
342.	Axe			
343.	Adze			
344.	Hoe I			
345.	Hoe II			
346.	Hoe III			
347.	Hammer			
348.	Knife			
349.	Comb			
350.	Broom			
351.	Bag			
352.	Sack			
353.	Fireplace			
354.	Shoe			
355.	Cloth			
356.	Grindstone (top)			
357.	Grindstone (lower)			
358.	Mortar (wood)			
359.	Pestle			
360.	Pot (generic)			
361.	Pot I			
362.	Pot II			
363.	Pot III			
364.	Pot IV			
365.	Head-pad			
366.	Basket (generic)			
367.	Basket I			
368.	Basket II			
369.	Winnowing tray			
370.	Mat (generic)			
371.	Mat I			
372.	Needle			
373.	Spear	<b>waj</b>	<b>àwaj</b>	

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
374.	Bow	<b>tɔɔ</b>	<b>atɔɔ</b>	
375.	Arrow	<b>gwe</b>	<b>agwe</b>	
376.	Quiver			
377.	Chain			
378.	Rope			
379.	Stool			
380.	Wooden door			
381.	Fence			
382.	Bridge			
383.	Ladder			
384.	Canoe			
385.	Paddle			
386.	Bee-hive			
387.	Fish-Net			
388.	Fish-trap I			
389.	Fish-trap II			
390.	Fish-trap III			
391.	Snare			
392.	One	<b>nyɪŋ</b>		
393.	Two	<b>kwɛ̀r</b>		
394.	Three	<b>̀ntar</b>		
395.	Four	<b>naà</b>		
396.	Five	<b>ntɔ̀ò</b>		
397.	Six	<b>tɔ̀y</b>		
398.	Seven	<b>tɔ̀kwɛ̀r</b>		
399.	Eight	<b>tɔ̀rɔ̀k</b>		
400.	Nine	<b>bɔ̀nkòp</b>		
401.	Ten	<b>kóp</b>		
402.	Eleven	<b>sóg gí nyì ye yí</b>		
403.	Twelve	<b>sóg gí nyì ye kwɛ̀r</b>		
404.	Twenty	<b>sóg gí kwɛ̀r</b>		
405.	Twenty-four			
406.	Forty			
407.	Sixty			
408.	Eighty			
409.	Hundred	<b>nàgge</b>		
410.	Black			
411.	White			
412.	Red			
413.	Sweet			
414.	Bitter			
415.	Half			
416.	Hot			
417.	Cold			
418.	Old			
419.	New			

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
420.	Wet			
421.	Dry			
422.	Smooth			
423.	Add to			
424.	Answer (question)			
425.	Arrive			
426.	Ask a question			
427.	Ask/beg for something			
428.	Awaken (s.o.)			
429.	Bark (dog)			
430.	Be bent			
431.	Be heavy			
432.	Be on (s.t.)			
433.	Be rotten			
434.	Be short			
435.	Beat (drum)			
436.	Beat (s.o.)			
437.	Become dry			
438.	Begin			
439.	Bite			
440.	Blow (flute etc.)			
441.	Boil			
442.	Break	<b>hárgé</b>		
443.	Build (house etc.)	<b>dzim</b>		
444.	Burn (fire burns)			
445.	Bury			
446.	Buy	<b>goy</b>		
447.	Call (to someone)			
448.	Carry	<b>kī</b>		
449.	Carve (wood etc.)			
450.	Catch			
451.	Chew			
452.	Choose			
453.	Climb			
454.	Close			
455.	Come	<b>ba</b>		
456.	Come out (of room)			
457.	Continue (to do s.t.)			
458.	Cook			
459.	Cough			
460.	Count			
461.	Cover			
462.	Cut down (tree)			
463.	Cut in two	<b>gbèr</b>		

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NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
464.	Cut off (head etc.)			
465.	Dance			
466.	Die	<b>tséré</b>		
467.	Dig (earth etc.)			
468.	Divide/share			
469.	Do/make			
470.	Drag			
471.	Draw water			
472.	Dream			
473.	Drink	<b>hwa</b>		
474.	Drop			
475.	Dry in sun			
476.	Eat	<b>le</b>		
477.	Enter			
478.	Extinguish			
479.	Fall (rain)			
480.	Fall over			
481.	Fear			
482.	Feel (cold etc.)			
483.	Fight (in war)			
484.	Fill			
485.	Finish (a task)			
486.	Float			
487.	Flog			
488.	Flow (water etc.)			
489.	Fly (birds)	<b>sòyàṅ</b>		
490.	Fold (cloth etc.)			
491.	Follow			
492.	Forget			
493.	Fry (in oil)			
494.	Gather/collect			
495.	Get			
496.	Give			
497.	Give birth			
498.	Go	<b>dzéò</b>		
499.	Go out/exit			
500.	Grind			
501.	Grow (plants)			
502.	Hatch (egg)			
503.	Have			
504.	Hear			
505.	Hit/strike (drum)			
506.	Hoe			
507.	Hunt			
508.	Jump			
509.	Kill	<b>her</b>		

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
510.	Kneel			
511.	Know			
512.	Laugh			
513.	Learn			
514.	Lick			
515.	Lie down			
516.	Listen			
517.	Lose s.t.			
518.	Marry			
519.	Mix			
520.	Mould (pot)	<b>dzim</b>		
521.	Mount			
522.	Open			
523.	Pierce/stab			
524.	Plait (hair)			
525.	Plant (crop etc.)			
526.	Play			
527.	Pound (in mortar)			
528.	Pour (liquid)			
529.	Pull	<b>dàra</b>		
530.	Push	<b>yírá</b>		
531.	Put on (clothes)			
532.	Receive			
533.	Refuse			
534.	'Remain'			
535.	Remember			
536.	Resemble			
537.	Return			
538.	Ride (horse etc.)			
539.	Roast on coals			
540.	Rub			
541.	Run			
542.	Say/speak			
543.	Scatter			
544.	See			
545.	Seek			
546.	Sell	<b>gwegè</b>		
547.	Send	<b>dùngé</b>		
548.	Set trap			
549.	Sew			
550.	Shake			
551.	Sharpen			
552.	Shoot (arrow, gun)			
553.	Sing			
554.	Sit down	<b>fífedà</b>		
555.	Slaughter (animal)			

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
556.	Sleep	ɾò		
557.	Smash			
558.	Smell			
559.	Snap in two			
560.	Sow seeds			
561.	Spit			
562.	Split			
563.	Stand up	sòdúdē		
564.	Steal			
565.	Stir (soup)			
566.	Suck (breast etc.)			
567.	Surpass			
568.	Swallow			
569.	Sweep			
570.	Swell			
571.	Swim			
572.	Take			
573.	Tear (cloth etc.)			
574.	Tell			
575.	Throw			
576.	Tie			
577.	Touch			
578.	Twist (rope etc.)			
579.	Untie			
580.	Uproot (tuber)			
581.	Vomit			
582.	Walk			
583.	Want/need			
584.	Wash			
585.	Wear			
586.	Weave	kyère		
587.	Weed			
588.	Weep			
589.	Wipe			
590.	Work			
591.	Yawn			
592.	I	mê		
593.	You	ŋwu		
594.	He/she/it	iyê		
595.	We	idê		
596.	You Pl.	kutsadè		
597.	They	m̄bo		
598.	Who?			
599.	Which?			
600.	What?			
601.	When?			

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
602.	Where?			
	Exclamations			
603.				
	Adverbs			
604.				
	Particles etc.			
605.				

**Edible and Useful Plants**

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
606.	Guinea-yam <sup>31</sup>			
607.	Aerial yam <sup>32</sup>			
608.	Red yam <sup>33</sup>			
609.	Water-yam <sup>34</sup>			
610.	Taro (Old cocoyam) <sup>35</sup>			
611.	New cocoyam <sup>36*</sup>			
612.	Cassava <sup>*37</sup>			
613.	Sweet potato <sup>*38</sup>			
614.	Wild yam I			
615.	Wild yam II			
616.	Tumuku <sup>39</sup>			
617.	Rizga <sup>40</sup>			
618.	Sorghum <sup>41</sup>			
619.	3-month Sorghum <sup>42</sup>			
620.	Bulrush millet <sup>43</sup> ( <i>gero</i> )			
621.	Bulrush millet ( <i>maiwa</i> )			
622.	Eleusine <sup>*44</sup>			
623.	Fonio (H. <i>acca</i> ) <sup>45</sup>			
624.	Iburu (H. <i>iburu</i> ) <sup>46</sup>			

<sup>31</sup> (*Dioscorea guineensis*)

<sup>32</sup> (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)

<sup>33</sup> (*Dioscorea cayenensis*)

<sup>34</sup> (*Dioscorea alata*)

<sup>35</sup> (*Colocasia esculenta*)

<sup>36</sup> (*Xanthosoma mafaffa*) (H. wali)

<sup>37</sup> (*Manihot esculenta*)

<sup>38</sup> (*Ipomoea batatas*)

<sup>39</sup> (*Plectranthus esculentus*)

<sup>40</sup> (*Solenostemon rotundifolius*)

<sup>41</sup> (*Sorghum bicolor*)

<sup>42</sup> (H. *jigaari*)

<sup>43</sup> (*Pennisetum* spp.)

<sup>44</sup> (H. *tamba*) (*Eleusine coracana*)

<sup>45</sup> (*Digitaria exilis*)

<sup>46</sup> (*Digitaria iburua*)



NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
625.	Maize* <sup>47</sup>			
626.	Rice* <sup>48</sup>			
627.	Cowpea <sup>49</sup>			
628.	Spiral cowpea			
629.	Lima bean <sup>50*</sup>			
630.	Other beans I			
631.	Other beans II			
632.	Other beans III			
633.	Bambara groundnut <sup>51</sup>			
634.	Kersting's groundnut <sup>52</sup>			
635.	Groundnut (Peanut) <sup>53</sup>			
636.	Tiger-nut <sup>54</sup>			
637.	Garden egg <sup>55</sup>			
638.	Okra <sup>56</sup>			
639.	Chili pepper* (large) <sup>57</sup>			
640.	Birdseye chili* <sup>58</sup>			
641.	Onion ( <i>Allium cepa</i> )			
642.	Garlic <sup>59</sup>			
643.	Tomato <sup>60</sup>			
644.	Egusi melon <sup>61</sup>			
645.	Melon (other) <sup>62</sup>			
646.	Edible squash <sup>63</sup>			
647.	Sorrel/roselle <sup>64</sup>			
648.	Jews' mallow <sup>65</sup>			
649.	Kenaf <sup>66</sup>			
650.	Sesame seeds <sup>67</sup>			
651.	Black sesame <sup>68</sup>			

<sup>47</sup> (*Zea mays*)<sup>48</sup> (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)<sup>49</sup> (*Vigna unguiculata*)<sup>50</sup> (*Phaseolus lunatus*)<sup>51</sup> (*Vigna subterranea*)<sup>52</sup> (*Macrotyloma geocarpa*)<sup>53</sup> (*Arachis hypogaea*)<sup>54</sup> (*Cyperus esculentus*)<sup>55</sup> (*Solanum melongena*)<sup>56</sup> (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)<sup>57</sup> (*Capsicum frutescens*)<sup>58</sup> (*Capsicum annuum*)<sup>59</sup> (*Allium sativum*)<sup>60</sup> (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)<sup>61</sup> (*Citrullus lanatus*)<sup>62</sup> (*Cucumis* spp)<sup>63</sup> (*Cucurbita pepo*)<sup>64</sup> (*H. yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)<sup>65</sup> (*H. lalo*)(*Corchorus olerius*)<sup>66</sup> (*H. rama*) (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)<sup>67</sup> (*H. Ridi*) (*Sesamum indicum*)

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NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
652.	Sesame leaves <sup>69</sup>			
653.	Bitterleaf <sup>70</sup>			
654.	Waterleaf <sup>*71</sup>			
655.	Plantain ( <i>Musa</i> AAB)			
656.	Banana ( <i>Musa</i> AAA)			
657.	Orange <sup>*72</sup>			
658.	Bamboo			
659.	Pineapple <sup>*73</sup>			
660.	Coconut <sup>*74</sup>			
661.	Pawpaw <sup>*75</sup>			
662.	Gourd (Generic)			
663.	Gourd-bottle <sup>76</sup>			
664.	Gourd (spherical) <sup>77</sup>			
665.	Other gourds			
666.	Cotton			
667.	Tobacco*			
668.	Sugar-cane*			
669.	Loofah <sup>78</sup> ( <i>H. soso</i> )			
670.	Cola			
671.	Oil-palm <sup>79</sup>			
672.	Palm-fruit			
673.	Palm-oil			
674.	Palm kernel			
675.	Raphia/ palm <sup>80</sup> bamboo			
676.	Fan-palm <sup>81</sup>			
677.	Monkey-guava <sup>82</sup>			
678.	Canarium tree <sup>83</sup>			
679.	Custard apple <sup>84</sup>			
680.	Wild date-palm <sup>85</sup>			
681.	Baobab <sup>86</sup>			

<sup>68</sup> (*Sesamum radiatum*)

<sup>69</sup> (*H. karkashi*)

<sup>70</sup> *Vernonia amygdalina*

<sup>71</sup> (*Amaranthus spp*)

<sup>72</sup> (*Citrus sinensis*)

<sup>73</sup> (*Ananas comosus*)

<sup>74</sup> (*Cocos nucifera*)

<sup>75</sup> (*Carica papaya*)

<sup>76</sup> (*Lagenaria siceraria*)

<sup>77</sup> (*Cucurbita maxima*)

<sup>78</sup> (*Luffa cylindrica*)

<sup>79</sup> (*Elaeis guineensis*)

<sup>80</sup> (*Raphia spp.*)

<sup>81</sup> (*Borassus aethiopum*)

<sup>82</sup> (*Diospyros mespiliformis*)

<sup>83</sup> (*Canarium schweinfurthii*)

<sup>84</sup> (*Annona senegalensis*)

<sup>85</sup> (*Phoenix reclinata*)

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
682.	Silk-cotton tree <sup>87</sup>			
683.	Shea tree <sup>88</sup>			
684.	Shea-fruit			
685.	Locust tree <sup>89</sup>			
686.	Locust fruit			
687.	Locust-bean cakes			
688.	Tamarind <sup>90</sup>			
689.	Sodom apple <sup>91</sup>			
690.	<i>Terminalia</i> sp. <sup>92</sup>			
691.	Black plum <sup>93</sup>			

**Musical Instruments**

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
692.	Drum I			
693.	Drum II			
694.	Drum III			
695.	Flute			
696.	Zither			
697.	Lute			
698.	Xylophone			
699.	Harp			
700.	Transverse horn			
701.	Clarinet			
702.	Iron gong			
703.	Gourd-rattle			
704.	Ankle rattles			

**7. Conclusion**

Gwara is an unknown language of the Koro group with a small but significant body of speakers. Its vitality is hard to gauge without further survey. The community are in principle receptive to a literacy initiative, although this has not been fully assessed. The phonology is relatively simple compared with some neighbouring languages and many of the same conventions adopted for Idū could be adapted for Gwara.

**References**

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 Crozier, D. and Blench, R.M. 1992. *Index of Nigerian Languages (edition 2)*. SIL, Dallas.

<sup>86</sup> (*Adansonia digitata*)  
<sup>87</sup> (*Ceiba pentandra*)  
<sup>88</sup> (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)  
<sup>89</sup> (*Parkia biglobosa*)  
<sup>90</sup> (*Tamarindus indica*)  
<sup>91</sup> (*Calotropis procera* H. tumfafiya)  
<sup>92</sup> (*H. baushe*)  
<sup>93</sup> (*Vitex doniana*)