

The Idũ language of Central Nigeria

Phonology, wordlist and suggestions for orthography changes



[DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT]

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This version: July 30, 2010

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Roger Blench: Idū Wordlist

1. Introduction

This is a phonology and grammar sketch of the Idū language, spoken in Ramindop B village in Kaduna State, Nigeria. An annotated wordlist, is included as an appendix. The wordlist was collected by Roger Blench and Barau Kato from Wayo Bai in Ramindop on the 30th of January 2008 and in Jos 20-21st March 2008, at a meeting facilitated by Mark Gaddis. In Jos, the collaborators were; Wayo Bin Philip, Kish Hai Bai, Wayo Bai. An additional meeting to revise the orthography and collect additional evidence for the phonological sketch was held in Jos on March 22nd, 2010, Roger Blench, Wayo Bai and Pastor Joshua Praise Henry.

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

The Idū language was known in the older literature as Lungu, and in more material as Duhn̄ya and similar formulations. The name of the language is Idū́, one person is Udū́ and the people are Adū́.

2.2 Location and settlements

The main villages of the Adun are as follows;

Idū names

Ùndofà	Udou	Táymě	Adar	Igbà
Měmdər	Hùrtǎ	Àgbàṅàṅər	Ùmbùmbàṅ	
Jàja	Ñdam	Kùkaṅ	Ùkare	
Ùnwĩ	Igbayinər	Ìdēzini	Ugērē	

Hausa names [not tone-marked]

Shinkafa Yèlwa Jabe Panda Gunduma

2.3 Language status

The language appears to widely spoken by all ages. Hausa is the main second language. A literacy and translation project has been under way since 2004.

3. Phonology

3.1 Vowels

3.1.1 Vowel inventory

Idū probably has nine phonemic vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
Close High	i		u
Close high-mid	ɪ		ʊ
Close-Mid	e		o
Open-Mid	ɛ		ɔ
Open		a	

These are arranged in $\pm$ ATR vowel harmony sets. However, the high-mid vowels /ɪ/ and /ʊ/ are disappearing and are heard most clearly in older speakers. Younger and more urbanised speakers have effectively switched to a seven-vowel system. Vowel harmony no longer appears to operate; both +ATR and –ATR forms of vowels can appear in the same word.

Chest **ikǎ**
Navel **iko**

Idū has seven nasalised vowels as follows;

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

No examples of /ĩ/ or /õ/ have yet been recorded.

Idū permits final –n and final –ŋ in the syllable. The preceding vowel(s) are then heard phonetically nasalised, but there does not seem to be a contrast between CŨN and CVN.

3.1.2 Nasal spreading

Idū exhibits nasal spreading; nasalisation in the root spreads leftwards may lead to all vowels becoming phonetically nasalised. This sometimes spreads to the prefix and is sometimes realised as a homorganic nasal following the prefix.

àzhãĩ	Liver
irãrã	Disease (generic)
izẽĩ	Stream
tẽrã	Dry in sun
ùgãrã	Slave
ùpfũwã	Hill

The rules governing nasal spreading are not well understood, but it is likely that the nasalisation of vowels left of the final vowel are not phonemic but phonetic nasals.

Examples where a nasalised stem has led to nasal insertion between a u- prefix and the initial consonant of the stem.

Hole in ground	ùndãwã
Crab	ùnkãĩ
Praying mantis	ùndórã

3.1.3 Long vowels

Idū has long vowels as follows;

	Front	Central	Back
Close	ii		uu
Close-Mid	ee		oo
Open-Mid	ɛɛ		ɔɔ
Open		aa	

Contrasts

The following examples show contrast in vowel length;

a ~ aa

Please!	má
Finish (a task)	maa

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He/she/it **ŋâ**
Who? **ŋaa**

e ~ ee

Egg **udzee**
Go out/exit **dze**

ε ~ εε

Water **àmmè**
Cloud **amme**

i ~ ii

At **ní**
Dew **níí**

o ~ oo

hand **ubo**^[k]
Mosquito **iboo**

ɔ ~ ɔɔ

Ashes **àtó**
Fill **tɔɔ**

u ~ uu

Lie down **nù**
Be on **nú**
And **nuu**

No examples of /ɪɪ/ or /ʊʊ/ have yet been recorded, which may simply be a consequence of their scarcity in the lexicon. Sequences of two similar vowels often have different tones, leading to phonetic glides. This strongly suggests that their origin lies in the deletion of an intervocalic consonant and subsequent vowel assimilation.

Long nasalised vowels only occur in final position.

Stand	děě
Grass (generic)	bńń
Burn (fire burns)	kpńń
Cough	gǔǔ
to harm	fúú

Long nasalised vowels are quite rare, so evidence for contrast with short vowels is not always present. However, the following contrasts have been noted.

Dawn	gǔ
Cough	gǔǔ
Climb	fú
to harm	fúú

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3.1.4 Vowel + approximant sequences

Idū has sequences of V+w and V+y, in contrast with diphthongs such as Vu and Vi. Sequences so far recorded are;

V+w sequences

Soup/stew	dzaw
clay seat inside house	bèw
to fan	fèw
Tie	bow
Fight (in war)	fuw

V+y sequences

Buffalo	ìyày
Oil Fat/grease	atséy
Bee	ìwoy

3.1.5 Diphthongs

Idū has a rich array of diphthongs, with and without nasalisation. Unusually, these are in contrast with sequences of V + semivowel.

The following pairs indicate contrast between V + y sequences and Vi;

ay ~ ai

liver	àzhǎi
to move about	zhǎy

daughter	ùnàì
life	nay

to put in the mouth, grab	kpai
ant (generic)	ùkpùkpay

ey ~ ei

?	
to ridicule	yei
buffalo	ìyày

to deny	tsèi
oil fat/grease	atséy

oy ~ oi

breath	uwoi
bee	ìwoy

small hoe	ukoi
millipede	ùkùkòy

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rainy season **idòì**
sowing **idòy**

The following pairs indicate contrast between V + w sequences and Vu;

aw ~ au

describes heavy rainfall **dzàù**
soup/stew **dzaw**

arrow ii **ìkpàw**
quiver **uhwaw**

ew ~ eu

clay seat inside house **bèw**
grasscutter¹ **ibèù**

ew ~ eu

to fan **fèw**
thief **uvèu**

clear soil from crops **tèw**
village/settlement **uteu**

ow ~ oo

iboo Mosquito
bow Tie

ow ~ ou

to massage **shòw**
Beak **ushou**

uw ~ uu

foam **fuu**
fight (in war) **fuw**

3.2 Consonants

Idũ consonants are as follows:

¹ (*Thryonomys Swinderianus*)

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	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alve-olar	Post-alveolar	Retro-flex	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d			c j	k g	kp gb	
Nasal	m		n				ŋ		
Tap			r		ɽ				
Trill			r						
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ			x γ		h
Affricate	pf bv		ts dz						
Approximant						y		w ɥ	
Lateral			[l]						
Approximant									

Status of [l]

[l] only appears in recent loanwords, principally from Hausa. These may or may not be phonologised, according to the speaker. Thus;

Status of [ɽ]

Apart from [r], Idū has a retroflex [ɽ], occurring in the following words;

Tongue	uɽɛm	to fetch	ɽɛpá
Neck	uɽɔ ^[k]	to paste onto	ɽɛré
Castrated goat	ɪɽám	to slap s.o.	ɽáré
Dream	ɽɛy[i]ɽɔ	to pick out	ɽɔ̃
Lick	ɽɛn	to ask	ɽùsà
Say/speak	ɽɛɽé	to trick, deceive	ɽíɽèm
to shine	ɽàŋ	thread	ɽuuɽu
to drop	ɽòŋ		

The retroflex /ɽ/ is commonly written ‘rh’ in Nigerian orthographic practice.

[r] and [r̥]

The flap and trilled ‘r’ are in complementary distribution. [r̥] occurs at the end of words and as the intermediate consonant of the root, while [r] occurs in root-initial position.

Louse (Human)	iro
Bush	arûm
Be bent	kɔ̃ɛ
Be heavy	mɔ̃ɛ

In principle, ‘r’ could be used for both phones, and speakers would automatically supply the correct allophone. However, since the sounds are quite distinct and orthographic practice has developed of writing the rolled ‘r’ with a double ‘rr’, this convention could also be retained without problems.

/x/

The velar fricative was not envisaged in existing orthographies, but is clearly present. The following are examples of its occurrence.

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xàpá	near
xepá	to fetch plenty of s.t.
xěwǎ	to turn a group of s.t. around
xèwá	to whisper

It also has a labialised counterpart;

xwépá	to hiccough
xwòpá	to raise up a baby on the back
xwéke	to feed a baby

‘kh’ has been suggested as an appropriate orthographic convention for this sound, which would be in line with Nigerian orthographic practice.

Doubled consonants

Deletion of vowels at morpheme boundaries has resulted in doubled consonants. Examples are as follows;

shoe	àbàddà
scorpion	innà
stomach	ànnà
hooded vulture ²	ùngbéppè
flying-ant	ngbapputo
black kite	ipippere

One contrastive pair has been noted;

scorpion	innà
bush fruit	inà

Unreleased k

Idū has an unreleased /k/ that occurs in final position almost entirely with body parts;

arm, hand	ubo^[k]
leg	uda^[k]
chest	ikɔ́^[k]
stony area	ukɔ́^[k]
neck	urɔ́^[k]

Since the [k] is realised in some sentence contexts, and speakers ‘hear’ it, it makes sense to write it, even in isolation.

Labiodentalisation

Idū has the affricate /bv/ but it also permits labiodentalisation, a –v- modifying root-initial consonants.

Dog ijvwí
Meat ijvwe

Labialised consonants

Labialised consonants are rare and the only examples recorded are shown in Table 1.

² (*Neophron monachus*)

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Table 1. Idū labialised consonants

Idū	Gloss
Mouth	aŋwi
Money	hwɛ
Snake (Generic)	ibvwì
Agama lizard	ìgywír
Hoe type	ihwun
Meat	ìjvwɛ
Dog	ìjvwí
Nose	ìqwu
War	ìywà
Pied crow ³	ùghwánà
to hiccough	xwépá
Fast rat ?	ùhwérɛ̃
Handle (of tool)	ùhwo

Palatalised consonants

Palatalised consonants are at best marginal phonemes in Idū and seem to only occur in abstract nouns. Table 2 shows the palatalised consonants so far recorded;

Table 2. Idū palatalised consonants

Idū	Gloss
Strength	ik ^y ir
Sweat	ìzyù
Smell	nuwyí
Fear	wyey

It is notable that these all occur in abstract nouns. Perhaps this points to a former noun-class marker or other vanished morpheme.

Labial-palatal

This sound is highly characteristic of Plateau languages, is rare in Idū but does not seem to be a loan-phoneme. It has been recorded in;

kanɕey	spiral cowpea
iqɛ	insect found in cowdung
iqɛ̃ĩ	ankle

Prenasalised consonants

Idū permits contrastive homorganic nasals preceding consonants, although they are not common in the language. These are realised as m- before bilabials, ŋ- before velars and n- before all others. Thus;

granary	gbùmgbàn
masquerade	kòm̩pfu
lie	gbéràŋwĩ
hunting poison	ùgùŋgúmà
clay	bindem
harmattan	ndzèr

In principle, all of these could be written ‘n’ or each one could be written as it sounds. Nigerian orthographic practice usually writes ‘m’, ‘n’ and ‘ng’ for ‘ŋ’.

³ (Corvus albus)

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3.3 Tones

Idū 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

Some examples of tonal contrast are given below establishing the three tone heights.

be on **nú**
 smell **ìnu**
 chicken **ìnù**

urine **àmè ghwìrì**
 stir on fire **ghwìrì**
 soup type **ughwìrì**

Words that contain all three tone-heights

yesterday **àrékè**
 masquerade i **ngbáshipfù**
 shrew **ùndzúsikpi**
 sandfly **ùzúribi**

Contrast with the falling tone is established as follows;

go **zìŋ**
 basket **uzìŋ**
 darkness **zîŋ**

Phonetic glides often occur as a result of different tones on sequences of like vowels. However, some appear to be underlying as they occur on single vowels. Falling tones are common and play a role in the system of nominal plurals (§5.) but rising tones are very rare.

The example shows a typical pattern of Idū plurals, where low tones in a singular (usually) become High-Falling in the plural.

vine (generic)	kàr	íkâr
mushroom	isù	isû
star(s)	ìdzèr	ídzêr
mountain	ìgû	ígû

Low tones also occur on stems without a link to pluralisation.

bush	arûm	-
husband	utsákâ	atsákâ
intestines	karâbi	-
gecko	ùshàrándêm	àshàrándêm

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Rising tone

Rising tone is rare but has been recorded in the following words.

axe	àṅgǎy
compounds	ayǎ
masquerade	yǎgàtà
to move about	zhǎy
porcupine	iyǐk

4. Orthography

This section makes suggestions and recommendations for improvements to the orthography. Some are the symbolisation of ‘new’ phonemes’, others concern making distinctions not previously made. Some are simply changes in convention that could be decided via the orthography committee, others must be tested with readers.

Additional vowels

Although the high-mid vowels /ɪ/ and /ʊ/ can be clearly heard in some words pronounced by older speakers, they are disappearing and are often not realised in the speech of urban or younger speakers. Few significant meaning distinctions appear to be made, and it is probable that the orthography can continue to use seven vowels. If later experience does suggest that these vowels have to be marked, then the typical Nigerian conventions of ‘u’ and ‘i’ could be adopted.

Representing the existing vowels

The practice of representing vowels with underlines;

ɛ	as <u>e</u>
ɔ	as <u>o</u>

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 [r̃]

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’.

[ʒ]

For some reason, a convention of writing ‘zy’ for [ʒ] was adopted, even though ‘sh’ is written for [ʃ]. However, Idū has a rare genuine [zy], as in;

Sweat izyù

which is distinct from [ʒ]. It is strongly recommended that ‘zh’ be adopted for [ʒ].

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Final semi-vowels and diphthongs

Probably the single greatest problem for the Idū orthography will be distinguishing between final semi-vowels and true diphthongs (§3.1.4 & §3.1.5). The Hausa convention of writing syllable-final semi-vowels ‘w’ and ‘y’ is misleading in phonological terms, but works for Hausa because there is no contrast with diphthongs. In principle, a reader of Idū has to distinguish the following possibilities for back vowels;

consonant + u
 consonant + uu
 consonant + uw
 consonant + wu

Although probably these do not all occur together. One typical example is;

fuu foam
fuw fight (in war)
 also
fú climb

or;

shòw to massage
ushou beak

To develop orthographic practice, it is essential to collect more minimal pairs of this type and see how easy it is to get writers and readers to distinguish them. However, the argument for distinguishing them in the writing system is very strong.

Nasal spreading

Nasal spreading means that the nasalised vowels in the middle of words are not underlyingly nasal and it is possible that the nasalisation marks could be omitted, as long as the nasalisation on the final vowel is marked. Thus;

Crab ùnkārī might be written ùkarī
 and;
 ùgàrà slave might be written ùgarà

This cannot be decided in advance. It must be tested with readers, to see if a single nasalisation mark will help them read the word correctly.

Tones

Tone plays a crucial role in Idū 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. At this point, some exploration of strategies for marking noun plurals should be undertaken with the literacy committee and new readers. For example, tonal plurals are always higher than singulars, so a single high tone could be marked. This would work as follows;

Gloss	IPA		Possible orthography	
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
Nile crocodile	ìvār	ivár	ivar	ivár
Cow	inà	iná	ina	iná
Navel	iko	iko	iko	ikó

However, the possible confusion with grammatical tone is still to be understood.

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Distinguishing homophones and homograms

Another problem that may be resolved by partial tone-marking is distinguishing homophones. If the following set of words were written without tones, they would all appear identical on the page, i.e. they would be homograms. In such cases, it may be necessary to mark the tones on all occurrences.

Chest	íkò ^[k]	íkô
Cock	íkò	íkô
Baboon	íkò	íkó

To illustrate the importance of correct transcription and careful orthography, if we add the following set of words, the potential for confusion becomes much greater still;

Navel	iko	iko
Bush-fowl	ików	ikow
Knife	ikon	àkon

5. Morphology

5.1 Nouns

5.1.1 General

Idū 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. For many words, the singular prefixes have been deleted in citation forms and only appear in sentence contexts. 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.

5.1.2 Morphologically marked plurals

Idū has a very restricted range of vowel prefixes marking nouns. These 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. Many nouns now have no prefix. 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 Idū is on the way to losing all its prefixes, as in some neighbouring languages, such as Mada.

Singular prefixes

i, u

Plural prefixes

a, i, í, u

Nouns apparent singular a- prefixes are those with no morphologically marked plural. The vast majority of prefix alternations in Idū are u/a (Table 3);

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Table 3. u/a plural alternations in Idū

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Tree	ucíí	àcíí
Leaf	ùyèré	àyèré
Stone	utar	atar
Moon/month	ùfě	àfě
Room	ubā	abā
Husband	utsákā	atsákā
Song	ubom	abom
Horn	utsòm	atsòm

Two nouns concerned with persons show an unusual form of u/a alternation;

Man	kútsá	kátsá
Woman	kútsér	kátsér

Table 4 shows the much rarer i/a alternation;

Table 4. i/a plural alternations in Idū

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Compound	iya	ayǎ
Name	itso	atso
Ant-hill	ítsiye	àtsiye
Head	itsi	àtsi

Table 5 shows some examples of rare u/i plural alternations;

Table 5. u/i plural alternations in Idū

Gloss	sg.	pl.
Village	uteu	ìtèù
Corpse	ukom	ìkòm
Word	uɾem	ìɾèm
Wound	usɔɔ	ìsɔɔ
Neck	uɾɔ ^[k]	ìɾɔ

5.1.3 Tonally marked plurals

Numerous noun plurals are marked only by tone. These patterns are highly various, but some common patterns emerge. One of the most salient is Low → High falling;

Vine (generic)	kār	íkār
Mushroom	ìsù	ìsû
Star(s)	ìdzèr	ídžêr
Mountain	ìgû	ígû

A second pattern is in three-syllable words where the second syllable, i.e. the first syllable of the stem, is raised from Low to High.

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Thorn	ídídò	ídídò
Disease (generic)	irǎrǎ	irǎrǎ
Thigh	ijèṇdà	íjèṇdà
Ram	ítsùrì	ítsùrì
Horse	ínyàwǎ	ínyàwǎ
Mole-cricket	idíyà	idíyà
Grasscutter	ibèù	íbèù

A third pattern is for the Low tone of the prefix to be raised to High;

Flat rock	ìpfà	ípfa
Patas monkey	isem	ísém
Rat (generic)	ìkpi	íkpi
Vein	icím	ícím
Baboon	ikɔ	íkó
Sore, scab	inòr	ínòr
Cow	inà	íná
Nile crocodile	ivàr	ivár

It will be seen that there is a strong, but not perfect correlation with animals or other natural world phenomena. It is possible that the i- prefix originally represented a noun-class with semantic relevance.

5.2 Pronouns

Idũ is relatively rare in that subject and object pronouns are the same. They are marked for tense/aspect, as is common in Plateau languages. The table shows the pronouns for the completive and progressive aspect.

I	múm
You	ṇɔ
He/she/it	ṇâ
we	mên
you pl.	mbî
They	mbɔ

múm	ndě	kwɛr	jvwi
I		beat	dog

all the same through the paradigm

For the future, uncompleted aspect, the singular pronouns change, but the plurals remain the same as for the completive aspect.

I	mi...tun
You	ṇwu...rɔ
He/she/it	ṇai...ra
We	mên... mên
You pl.	mbî ay... mbî
They	mbɔ ay... mbɔ

Thus;

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mi kwɛr tun jvwi	I will beat the dog
ɲwu kwɛr rɔ jvwi	etc.
ɲai kwɛr ra jvwi	
mɛn kwɛr mɛn jvwi	
mbɪ ay kwɛr mbɪ jvwi	
mbɔ ay kwɛr mbɔ ay jvwi	

The completed past has a very similar paradigm to the future, except that kV is inserted between the initial pronoun and the verb;

múm ki kwɛr tun jvwi	I have beaten the dog
ɲɔ ku kwɛr rɔ jvwi	You have beaten the dog
ɲa ka kwɛr ra jvwi	He has beaten the dog
mɛn ki kwɛr mɛn jvwi	We have beaten the dog
mbɪ ka kwɛr mbɪ jvwi	You have beaten the dog
mbɔ ka kwɛr mbɔ jvwi	They have beaten the dog

5.3 Verbs

5.4 Adjectives

Adjectives and numerals follow the noun, but otherwise show no agreement in number, prefix or tone. Adjectives appear to take a ki- prefix.

ijvwí kifřã	black dog
ijvwí kitera	white dog
ijvwí kibãã	red dog
ijvwí nyiɲ	one dog
ijvwí vää	two dogs

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6. Idū wordlist

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
1.	Tree (generic)	ucíí	àcíí	cf. Tinor iti ,
2.	Leaf	ùyèré	àyèré	cf. Tinor guyi ,
3.	Root	ùnúná	ànúná	cf. Tinor guna ,
4.	Branch	ubó cíí	abó cíí	
5.	Bark (of tree)	ùbvùbvú	àbvùbvú	
6.	Thorn	ídídò	ídídò	cf. Tinor gìdídòk , Nyankpa èdòk ,
7.	Grass (generic)	bíí		cf. Nyankpa obe , Ashe ùbèhè ,
8.	Vine (generic)	kàr	íkâr	
9.	Mushroom	isù	isù	cf. Nyankpa èsùsùk , Nunku jũ ,
10.	Algae	ibvùwǎ	-	
11.	Stone, cereal seed	jaar	ijǎár	
12.	Charcoal	zuù	-	cf. Nyankpa ónzònzò ,
13.	Dust	zúru	-	
14.	Ashes	átó	-	cf. Nyankpa àtòk , Tinor bòtòk , Niger-Congo #ntoN
15.	Rubbish-heap	bita	-	
16.	Mud	ùhè	-	
17.	Clay	bindem	àbindem	
18.	Dew	níí	-	cf. Tinor unwi ,
19.	Stone	utar	atar	cf. Tinor gùtà , Nyankpa èta , Niger-Congo #ta
20.	Flat rock	ìpfà	ìpfà	
21.	Sand	zuzew	-	
22.	Smoke	àzòò	-	cf. Tinor gàzù , Hyam jòŋ , Eggon odzo
23.	Fire	ura	-	
24.	Water	àmè	-	cf. Nyankpa àmè , Eggon ami , Ake imbi , Akpa imèny ,
25.	Rain	inai	-	cf. Nyankpa èney , Ashe ì-nây ,
26.	Cloud	amme	-	
27.	Lightning	nyàka		
28.	Thunder	gbasha		
29.	Rainy Season	idòi	-	cf. Nyankpa èdò ,
30.	Break in rains	kói		
31.	Dry season	inoi		cf. Nyankpa ènwi , Ashe ì-nôy ,
32.	Harmattan	ndzèr		
33.	Year	mék	imék	cf. Nyankpa èmè ,
34.	Today	iréré		cf. Nyankpa élé , Hyam re ,
35.	Yesterday	àréke		
36.	Tomorrow	dǎ		cf. Nyankpa èdà , Ashe idà ,
37.	Morning	kpèèkà		
38.	Evening	rèèkà		
39.	Afternoon	àténuma		
40.	Dawn	gǒ		
41.	Day	numâ		cf. widespread Plateau #-nom forms.
42.	Night	tsúùkà		
43.	Moon/month	ùfè	àfè	
44.	Sun	shàánùm		
45.	Star(s)	idzèr	idzèr	
46.	Wind	ugba		cf. Nyankpa ɔgbak ,
47.	God	nùm		
48.	Sky	fafǎ		cf. Nyankpa afan ,

Roger Blench: Idū Wordlist

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
49.	World	pǔ	-	
50.	Ground	àbì		cf. Nyankpa àbe,
51.	Large River	zè	àzè	cf. Nyankpa ójè,
52.	Stream	ìzèrì	ìzèrì	
53.	Lake, pond	dèpfripfu	ídèpfripfu	
54.	Forest	akoi		
55.	Mountain	igù	ígù	cf. Nyankpa ègò,
56.	Hill	ùpfūwā	àpfūwā	
57.	Bush	arūm	-	cf. Nyankpa àlùm ‘farm’,
58.	Farm	usi	asi	
59.	Market*	izεε	-	
60.	Compound	iya	ayă	
61.	Room	ubă	abă	
62.	Wall (of room)	bândzin	-	
63.	Thatch roof	àkàŋ		cf. Nyankpa ònkàŋ,
64.	Granary	gbùmgbàn	àgbùmgbàn	
65.	Road, path	utsíndì	atsíndì	
66.	Village/settlement	uteu	itèù	
67.	River-bank	bánázè	abánázè	cf. Nyankpa èbàŋ,
68.	Swamp/wetland	idón	idón	cf. Nyankpa èdón,
69.	Place	inàŋ	anaŋ	
70.	Person/people	únérâ	ánérâ	
71.	Human being	únér gwàr	ánér gwàr	
72.	Man	kútsá	kátsá	
73.	Woman	kútsér	kátsér	
74.	Child	uwákuci	awakaci	
75.	Husband	utsákâ	atsákâ	
76.	Wife	utser	atser	
77.	Widow	útsérà pfu	átsérà pfu	
78.	Young man	uwédzè	awédzè	
79.	Young girl	unádzè	anádzè	
80.	Old man	tsàtsaikū	àtsàtsaikū	
81.	Old woman	yà tserkū	áyà tserkū	
82.	Father	ùte	àte	
83.	Mother	ùya	ayi	
84.	Barren woman	ukpîr	akpîr	
85.	Relations	ùnaŋ	ànaŋ	
86.	Son	uŋwe	aŋwé	
87.	Daughter	ùnàì	ànàì	
88.	Brother	uŋweme	aŋwéme	
89.	Sister	unápme	anápme	
90.	Friend	ùwere	àwere	
91.	Guest/stranger	utsen	atsen	
92.	King/chief/ruler	uyere	ayere	
93.	Hunter	ughaw	aghaw	cf. Nyankpa odghap,
94.	Thief	uveu	aveu	cf. Nyankpa ovep,
95.	Doctor	nerá gòw	abí á gòw	
96.	Witch	ùdzim	àdzim	cf. Nyankpa ójim,
97.	Corpse	ukom	ikòm	?
98.	Blacksmith	ner nàì	abí nàì	
99.	Slave	ùgàrà	agàrà	cf. Nyankpa ògàrà,
100.	Masquerade general	upfu	apfu	cf. Nyankpa ofu,
101.	Masquerade I	ngbášhipfù		

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
102.	Masquerade II	pfú á koy dou		
103.	Masquerade III	yǎgàtà		predicts the future
104.	Masquerade IV	màátàpfu		last one
105.	Masquerade V	kòm̐pfu		bullroarer
106.	Masquerade VI	pfútore		
107.	Masquerade VII	jákò		black, dangerous, ‘police’. cf. Nyankpa jakù ,
108.	Masquerade VIII	nángàrà		wife of jako
109.	Masquerade IX	terúp̐fu		second wife of jako
110.	Masquerade X	nan̐gbazhi		large, covered with leaves
111.	Wandering	zhooma		
112.	Death	akpe		cf. Nyankpa akpo ,
113.	Name	itso	atso	
114.	Grave	udza	adza	
115.	Song	ubom	abom	cf. Nyankpa ɔbom ,
116.	Proverb	agben	ǎgben	!
117.	Story	ùtsùtson	àtsùtson	
118.	Word	uɾem	ìɾem	
119.	Lie	gbéràṅwì	ìgbéràṅwì	
120.	News	isàrè	-	
121.	Hunger	imèr	-	
122.	Horn	utsom	atsom	cf. Nyankpa ɔntom ,
123.	Tail	usĩ	asĩ	cf. Nyankpa ofĩ ,
124.	Egg	udzee	adzee	cf. Nyankpa oje , Ewe àzì , Nupe ezhì , Igede èjì , Ukum àtsì , CB# - gí
125.	Wing	ufe	afe	cf. ‘armpit’ cf. Nyankpa ófèt ,
126.	Beak	ushow	ashow	cf. Nyankpa osuk ,
127.	Nest	ishíyà nùnù	àshíyà nùnù	
128.	Feather	isàr	ísàr	cf. Nyankpa unsát ,
129.	Gum/glue	àdam		cf. Tinor bòdɔm , Nyankpa àdɔm ,
130.	Ant-hill	ítsíye	àtsíye	cf. Tinor wùciyi ,
131.	Hole in ground	ùndǎwǎ	àndǎwǎ	
132.	Hole in tree	ushon	ashon	
133.	Smell	inu	-	
134.	Poison	ùmàw	àmàw	
135.	Hunting poison	ùgùṅgúmà	àṅgùṅgúmà	
136.	Load	ubin	abin	
137.	Bundle	utsá	atsá	
138.	Firewood	kú	-	cf. Tinor ya-kū ,
139.	Stick	ìgbòṅ	ìgbòṅ	
140.	Yam-heap	ùmpfūwǎ	àmpfūwǎ	cf. Nyankpa ɔmpú ,
141.	War	iywà	iywà	cf. Nyankpa èwà ,
142.	Work	itsêr	itsêr	cf. Nyankpa ití ,
143.	Diviner	nêr ɾi	àbî ɾi	
144.	Medicine	àgòw	àṅgòw	cf. Tinor u-gɔp ,
145.	Money	hwe	-	
146.	Iron	imân	ímân	sg. means ‘ring’ pl. means ‘money’
147.	Shadow	úzír[i]zĩ	ázír[i]zĩ	
148.	Thing	ubin	abin	
149.	Strength	ikʸir	-	
150.	Length	idir	-	
151.	Land/country	àbĩ		
152.	Sleep	ùrɔ	-	
153.	Disease (generic)	irǎǎ	irǎǎ	

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
154.	Smallpox	kpàtsù	-	
155.	Diarrhoea	nyìṙǎ	-	
156.	Goitre	bvùṙṑ		
157.	Boil	ùbe	àbe	
158.	Sore, scab	ìnòr	ínòr	
159.	Wound	usòò	isòò	
160.	Leprosy	rǎrá kí bǎṙǎ		‘sickness of red’
161.	Head	itsi	àtsi	
162.	Eye	usu	asu	
163.	Cheek	utam	atam	
164.	Forehead	ishi	àshi	
165.	Nose	in̄wu	-	
166.	Ear	ut̄	at̄	
167.	Mouth	aṙwi	-	also ‘hole in ground’
168.	Tooth	unyi	anyi	
169.	Tongue	uṙem	aṙem	
170.	Throat	itémṙṑ	itémṙṑ	
171.	Neck	uṙṑ ^[k]	ìṙṑ	
172.	Jaw	àngbòkà	-	
173.	Chin	andz̄or	-	
174.	Shoulder	ucey	acey	
175.	Armpit	ufe	afe	cf. ‘wing’
176.	Fist	ikpoi	ikpoi	
177.	Arm, hand	ubo ^[k]	abo ^[k]	
178.	Leg	uda ^[k]	ada ^[k]	
179.	Foot	ùndàydà	àndàydà	
180.	Thigh	ìjèṙdà	íjèṙdà	
181.	Knee	ùtsùrù	àtsùrù	
182.	Nail (Finger/toe)	ùgbàrtò	ágbàrtò	
183.	Female breast	ubě	abě	
184.	Stomach	àna	-	
185.	Chest	ikò ^[k]	íkò	
186.	Navel	iko	iko	
187.	Back	ùndziṙ	àndziṙ	
188.	Buttocks	ukpó	akpó	
189.	Penis	tsàysáà	-	
190.	Vagina	ifi	ifi	
191.	Skin	ùbvùr	àbvùr	
192.	Bone	upfupfu	apfupfu	
193.	Rib	sèr[i]gbóm	-	
194.	Vein	ícím	ícím	
195.	Blood	àdzìr	-	
196.	Breath	uwoi	-	
197.	Tear	nyùnyi	anyùnyi	
198.	Saliva	aci		
199.	Sweat	ìzyù	-	
200.	Urine	àmè ghwìrì	-	
201.	Faeces	àbi		
202.	Hair	igwar	-	
203.	Beard	andz̄or		
204.	Liver	àzhǎi		
205.	Heart	ìkpì	-	
206.	Intestines	karâbi	-	
207.	Body	yor		

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
208.	Meat	ijvwe	-	
209.	Animal (Bush)	ijvwerùm	ijvwerùm	
210.	Cow	inà	iná	
211.	Goat	ibũ	ibũ	
212.	He-goat	ishúr	ishúr	
213.	Castrated goat	itàm	itàm	
214.	Sheep	idôy	idôy	
215.	Ram	itsùrì	itsùrì	
216.	Dog	ijvwí	ijvwi	
217.	Cat	ùmàteu	àmàteu	
218.	Pig	lédè	-	< Hausa
219.	Horse	inyàwà	inyàwà	
220.	Donkey	ùzhíkà	àzhíkà	
221.	Elephant	inni	inni	
222.	Buffalo	iyày	iyây	
223.	Lion	yere jvwèrùm		‘king of animals’
224.	Leopard	igbĩ	igbĩ	
225.	Jackal ⁴	ijvwíngbàkò	ijvwíngbàkò	
226.	Wart-hog ⁵	ivekũba	ivekũba	
227.	Duiker antelope ⁶	ùhwĩ		H. gada
228.	Antelope	ùnkpòrà	ànkpòrà	H. makuna
229.	Antelope	idzaŋ	idzaŋ	H. barewa
230.	Porcupine ⁷	iyík	iyik	
231.	Baboon	ikò	íkó	
232.	Patas monkey ⁸	isem	ísém	
233.	Vervet monkey ⁹	idzu	idzu	
234.	Squirrel (ground)	ùndok	àndok	cf. Berom rók , Ayu itòk , Alumu i-tò , Tarok iritòk ,
235.	Squirrel (tree) I	ùkpírkpĩ	àkpírkpĩ	
236.	Squirrel (tree) II	ìkpíshòr	ìkpíshòn	
237.	Rat (generic)	ìkpi	ìkpí	
238.	Striped mouse	izèr	ízêr	
239.	Fast rat ?	ùhwérě	áhwérě	
240.	Giant rat ¹⁰	ìkɔr	ìkɔr	
241.	Pygmy mouse	ùtàrkùn	àtàrkùn	
242.	Grasscutter ¹¹	ibèù	ibèù	
243.	Shrew	ùndzúsikpi	àndzúsikpi	‘rat-catcher’
244.	Hedgehog ¹²	ìmun	ímún	
245.	Hare ¹³	ùndzoo	àndzoo	
246.	House-bat	ùkpùkpàŋ	àkpùkpàŋ	
247.	Fruit-bat	ùvǎĩ	àvǎĩ	
248.	Nile crocodile	ivàr	ivár	
249.	Chameleon	unyànyawǎ	anyànyawǎ	

⁴ (Canis aureus)

⁵ (Phacochoerus aethiopus)

⁶ (Cephalophus spp.)

⁷ (Hystrix cristata)

⁸ (Erythrocebus patas)

⁹ (Cercopithecus aethiops)

¹⁰ (Cretomyces sp.)

¹¹ (Thryonomys Swinderianus)

¹² (Atelerix albiventris)

¹³ (Lepus Crawshayi)

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
250.	Agama lizard	ìgywír	ìgywír	
251.	Skink	ùndáándzûn	àndáándzûn	
252.	Gecko	ùshàrándê	àshàrándê	
253.	Monitor lizard (damo)	pfun̄gywír	ápfun̄gywír	‘masquerade lizard’
254.	Monitor lizard (guza)	ùyàr	àyàr	
255.	Toad	ùwèr	àwèr	
256.	Frog	wáánjár	àwáánjár	
257.	Tortoise, turtle	ùmpfur	àmpfur	
258.	Snake (Generic)	ìbvwi	ìbvwi	
259.	Spitting cobra	ìdzùm	ìdzùm	
260.	Python	itsē	ítsē	
261.	Crab	ùnkārī	ànkārī	
262.	Snail	ìkɔr	ìkɔr	
263.	Fish (generic)	ùbèr	àbèr	
264.	Bird (generic)	ùnùnù	ànùnù	
265.	Chicken	ìnù	ínù	
266.	Cock	ìkô	ìkô	
267.	Duck (Domestic)	ùgògò	àgògò	
268.	Pigeon (Domestic)	ùnúrèw	ànúrèw	
269.	Guinea-fowl	ìdzoo	ìdzoo	
270.	Hooded Vulture ¹⁴	ùngbéppè	àngbéppè	
271.	Village Weaver ¹⁵	ùyùye	àyùye	
272.	Cattle-egret ¹⁶	ùnùnù àpâtâ	ànùnù àpâtâ	
273.	Black kite ¹⁷	ìpippere	-	
274.	Owl (various spp.)	ùṅúhũ	àṅúhũ	
275.	Senegal Coucal ¹⁸	ùtútùúr	àtútùúr	
276.	Bush-fowl	ìków	ìkow	
277.	Swallow	ùkpàṅàpfu	àkpàṅàpfu	
278.	Pied crow ¹⁹	ùghwánà	àghwánà	
279.	Woodpecker	ùṅgashon	àṅgashon	
280.	Scorpion	innà	innà	
281.	Butterfly	ùkàtâpfu	àkàtâpfu	
282.	Mosquito	ìboo	ìboo	
283.	Spider ²⁰	ùtùtèn	àtùtèn	
284.	Mason wasp ²¹	ùmàndzi	àmàndzi	
285.	Bee	ìwoy	ìwoy	
286.	Sweat-fly ground	azur	-	
287.	Sweat-fly tree	ìshim	-	
288.	Sandfly	ùzùribi	àzùribi	Also makes honey
289.	Housefly	ìzù	ízù	
290.	Ant (Generic)	ùkpùkpay	àkpùkpay	
291.	Louse (Human)	ìro	ìro	
292.	Millipede	ùkùkwòy	àkùkwòy	

¹⁴ (Neophron monachus)

¹⁵ (Ploceus cucullatus)

¹⁶ (Ardeola ibis)

¹⁷ (Milvus migrans)

¹⁸ (Centropus spp.)

¹⁹ (Corvus albus)

²⁰ (Acarina spp.)

²¹ (Belenogaster spp.)

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
293.	Cockroach	ùfùfēw	àfùfēw	
294.	Termite	yee		
295.	Flying-ant	ngbapputo	-	
296.	Clothes-moth	ùghě	àghě	
297.	Grasshopper	ùsùsu	àsùsu	
298.	Praying mantis	ùndórà	àndórà	
299.	Firefly	ìdzēr	ìdzēr	Cf. 'star'
300.	Mole-cricket	ìdiyà	ìdiyà	
301.	Earthworm	ùtùtòŋ	àtùtòŋ	
302.	Soap (Traditional)	ufúádù	-	
303.	Oil Fat/grease	atséy		
304.	Salt	anywā		
305.	Soup/stew	dzaw		
306.	Porridge	ùhwo		
307.	Sorghum-beer	àde		
308.	Palm-wine	àmmēŋe		'water of palm'
309.	Peelings	ufeka	afeka	
310.	Filter	use	-	
311.	Rag	ùtà toro	àtà toro	
312.	Floor-beater	ùmāámbò	àmāámbò	
313.	Handle (of tool)	ùhwo	àhwo	
314.	Sickle	ùràwje	àràwje	< Hausa
315.	Cutlass	ùdaa	àdaa	
316.	Axe	àŋgǎy	-	Ramindop
317.	Axe	ìgɔ	-	Siba, Ida
318.	Axe	kéré	-	Ndofa
319.	Adze	amaw	-	
320.	Hoe I	ùkpír	àkpír	
321.	Hoe II	ùkpír wái	àkpír wái	
322.	Hoe III	ihwun	ihwun	
323.	Hoe IV	ìgan	ìgan	
324.	Hoe V	ùkoi	àkoi	
325.	Hammer	utsoŋ	atsoŋ	
326.	Knife	ikon	àkon	
327.	Comb	kpàitsi	-	
328.	Broom I	suser	asuser	
329.	Broom II	ishòm	ishòm	soft
330.	Broom III	ufɔɔ	afɔɔ	soft for cleaning winnowing tray
331.	Bag	ùkpòka	àkpòka	
332.	Sack	ìgàshà	ìgàshà	
333.	Fireplace	tséndàrà	àtséndàrà	
334.	Shoe	àbàddà	-	
335.	Cloth	atoro	-	
336.	Grindstone (top)	ùŋwánà	àŋwánà	
337.	Grindstone (lower)	ukɔ	akɔ	
338.	Mortar (wood)	utsur	atsur	
339.	Pestle	udzii	adzii	
340.	Pot (generic)	ínwi	ínwí	
341.	Pot I	ìdzò	ìdzò	
342.	Pot II	ìgàmà	ìgàmà	
343.	Pot III	ìdzúmadè	ìdzúmadè	
344.	Pot IV	ìdzúmàmè	ìdzúmàmè	
345.	Pot V	ùndzoma	àndzoma	

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
346.	Head-pad	ùdzùdzìr	àdzùdzìr	
347.	Basket (generic)	uziŋ	aziŋ	
348.	Winnowing tray	utar	atar	
349.	Mat (generic)	ùfùfàr	àfùfàr	
350.	Needle	agwe	-	
351.	Spear I	ásáwà	-	
352.	Spear II	ádórà	-	Made entirely of wood
353.	Bow	utɔɔ	atɔɔ	
354.	Arrow	agwe	-	
355.	Arrow II	ikpàw	ìkpàw	
356.	Quiver	uhwaw	ahwaw	
357.	Rope	àri	-	
358.	Stool	idè	ídè	
359.	Grass door	ùpfùpfùm	àpfùpfùm	
360.	Fence	ufom	afom	
361.	Bridge	udaar	adaar	
362.	Bee-hive	ugbór woi	agbór woi	
363.	Fish-trap	isaŋ	isaŋ	
364.	One	nyin		
365.	Two	vàà		
366.	Three	ntaar		
367.	Four	nnaar		
368.	Five	ntɔ̃ɔ̃		
369.	Six	tɔ̃ɔ̃ĩ		
370.	Seven	tɔɔvà		
371.	Eight	tɔɔrɔk		
372.	Nine	tɔɔrà		
373.	Ten	kóp		
374.	Eleven	dòòm		
375.	Twelve	sók		
376.	Thirteen	ɲgàr nyin		
377.	Fourteen	ɲgàr vaa		
378.	Twenty	ɲgàr tɔ̃ɔ̃ĩ		
379.	Twenty-four	ɲgàr sók		
380.	Thirty-six	sɔk kay taar		
381.	Forty-eight	sɔk kay naar		
382.	Black	fírá		
383.	White	térá		
384.	Red	bárá		
385.	Sweet	tòŋa		
386.	Bitter	kpère		
387.	Half	téŋâ		
388.	Hot	mani		
389.	Cold	ghèŋa		
390.	Old	kúgbe		
391.	New	kúfa		
392.	Wet	kúghwèp		
393.	Dry	kúkoi		
394.	Smooth	kúghwòw		
395.	Add to	toma		
396.	Answer (question)	dzipà		
397.	Arrive	baŋâ		
398.	Ask a question I	rúsá		
399.	Ask a question II	dèpa		more 'modern'

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
400.	Ask/beg for something	fēna		
401.	Awaken (s.o.)	zita		
402.	Bark (dog)	gboy		
403.	Be bent	kǝrre		
404.	Be heavy	mǝrr		
405.	Be on	núú		
406.	Be rotten	vǝ		
407.	Be short	kpíná		
408.	Beat (drum)	barr	bata	but also 'play musical instrument' so also 'blow flute'
409.	Beat (s.o.)	kwerr		
410.	Become dry	koy		
411.	Begin	tiṛí		
412.	Bite	shaar	shan	
413.	Blow (mouth)	fēppa		
414.	Boil	ṛùna	ṛiṛùna	
415.	Build (house etc.)	dzín		
416.	Burn (fire burns)	kpǎí		
417.	Bury (person)	gwiṛi		
418.	Bury (object)	dzáke		
419.	Buy	goy	gòòì	
420.	Call (to someone)	yisa	yíyisa	
421.	Carry on head	tsǎ	tsǎṛǎ	
422.	Carry on back	kama	kíkama	
423.	Carve (wood etc.)	tsē		
424.	Catch	dzūr	dzui	
425.	Chew	tāí	títāí	
426.	Choose	tsū	tsusa	
427.	Climb	fū	fífūṛǎ	
428.	Close	fǝm	fífǝm	
429.	Come	ba	bíba	
430.	Come out (of room)	dzakà	dzèiwà	
431.	Continue (to do s.t.)	kòre	kíkòre	
432.	Cook tubers in water	shàpa	shíshàpa	
433.	Cook food	pfur		
434.	Cough	kòsha [gǝṣṣ]	kíkòsha	also means to pour grains from one container to another
435.	Count	vàre	vívàre	
436.	Cover	tsime	tsíttime	
437.	Cultivate, farm	kàw		
438.	Cut down (tree)	gberr		
439.	Cut in two	zhare		
440.	Dance	zerr	zízerr	
441.	Die	kpe	kpíkpei	
442.	Dig (earth etc.)	sim	sísima	
443.	Divide/share	gàsha		
444.	Do/make	kore		
445.	Drag	gbírr		
446.	Draw water	shoy		
447.	Dream	ṛèy[i]ṛo		

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
448.	Drink	hwa		
449.	Drop	shoɔr		
450.	Dry in sun	tērã		
451.	Eat	gha		
452.	Enter	tsĩ		
453.	Extinguish	rĩ		
454.	Fall (rain)	dòì		
455.	Fall over	gbà		
456.	Fear	wyey		
457.	Feel (cold etc.)	gũ		
458.	Fight (in war)	fuw		cf. fuu = ‘foam’
459.	Fill	tɔɔ		
460.	Finish (a task)	maa		
461.	Float	yàn		
462.	Flog	kwerr		
463.	Flow (water etc.)	dzẽ		
464.	Fly (birds)	sòkáfè		
465.	Fold (cloth etc.)	feta		
466.	Follow	dòsa		
467.	Forget	yirí		
468.	Fry (in oil)	kǎĩ		
469.	Gather/collect	kɔŋ		
470.	Get	yey		
471.	Give	dzòwe		
472.	Give birth	màrr		
473.	Go	zìŋ		
474.	Go out/exit	dze		
475.	Grind	gɔ		
476.	Grow (plants)	sèn		
477.	Hatch (egg)	hwòŋ		
478.	Have	we		
479.	Hear	gũ		
480.	Hoe	kpòta		
481.	Hunt	ghaw		
482.	Jump	térrshà		
483.	Kill	ferr		
484.	Kneel	táràru		
485.	Know	hweŋ		
486.	Laugh	nyírǎ		
487.	Learn	mesá		
488.	Leave s.t. behind	bórre		
489.	Lick	ɾɛn		
490.	Lie down	nù		
491.	Listen	kpétoo		
492.	Lost, to be	gwir		
493.	Marry	pfuna		
494.	Measure			
495.	Mix	dàkà		
496.	Mould (pot)	dzĩ		
497.	Mount = climb			
498.	Open	tsuri		
499.	Pierce/stab	tarr		
500.	Plait (hair)	tsère		
501.	Plant (crop etc.)	dòy		

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
502.	Play	gwera		
503.	Pound (in mortar)	ṛún		
504.	Pour (liquid)	wùpá		
505.	Pull	gbìír		
506.	Push	yiri		
507.	Put on (clothes)	tsím		
508.	Receive = get			
509.	Refuse	kpè		
510.	‘Remain’	děẽmɔ		
511.	Remember	yíta		
512.	Resemble	yey		
513.	Return, go back	pfuri		
514.	Ride (horse etc.)	dzwi		
515.	Roast on coals	vum		
516.	Rub	dzùka		
517.	Run	tí		
518.	Rush down from tree	hwaré		
519.	Say/speak	ṛetṛé		
520.	Scatter	nà		
521.	See	nyà		
522.	Seek, search	bee		
523.	Sell	góshe		
524.	Send	dène		also ‘put down’
525.	Set trap	dèyi		
526.	Sew	sɔr		
527.	Shake	zúnṛ		
528.	Sharpen	fàr		
529.	Shoot (arrow, gun)	taṛ		
530.	Sing	tsú		
531.	Sit down	sèy		
532.	Slaughter (animal)	ṛwǎ		
533.	Sleep	rà		
534.	Smash	yarr		
535.	Smell	nuwyí		
536.	Snap in two	bvũ		
537.	Sow seeds = plant	dòy		
538.	Spit	tar		
539.	Split	sém		
540.	Stand	děẽ		
541.	Steal	vew		
542.	Stir (soup)	dàsa		
543.	Suck (breast etc.)	yam		
544.	Surpass	naṛ		
545.	Swallow	ṛwù		
546.	Sweep	yàrr		
547.	Swell	sèṛ		
548.	Swim	zoy		
549.	Take	nyaṛa		
550.	Talk	gbewa		
551.	Tear (cloth etc.)	vaar		
552.	Tell	dòyi		
553.	Throw	taṛ		

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Notes
554.	Tie	bow		
555.	Touch	baɲa		
556.	Turn back	bvwí		
557.	Twist (rope etc.)	shĩrǎ		
558.	Untie	tisa		
559.	Uproot (tuber)	bvùri		
560.	Vomit	gòy		
561.	Walk	zẽrǎ		
562.	Want, need, love	bema		
563.	Wash	sòr		
564.	Wear = cover	tsim		
565.	Weave	nù		
566.	Weed	zɔŋ		
567.	Weep	cuw		
568.	Wipe	wánɲ		
569.	Work	tsèrr		
570.	Yawn	yem		
571.	I	múm		
572.	You	ŋɔ		
573.	He/she/it	ŋâ		
574.	we	mên		
575.	you pl.	mbî		
576.	They	mbɔ		
577.	Who?	ŋaa		
578.	Which?	kúsônɲ		
579.	What?	àwùsé		
580.	When?	kânɲ		
581.	Where?	rineɛ		

Edible and Useful Plants

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
582.	Tuber	ùgàrè	àgàrè	
583.	Guinea-yam ²²	útsír	atsir	
584.	Aerial yam ²³	ídèm	ídêm	
585.	Water-yam ²⁴	ùzámbárá	ázámbará	
586.	Taro (Old cocoyam) ²⁵	ùsèkènu	àsèkènu	
587.	New cocoyam ^{26*}	ùgàrè'gho	àgàrè'gho	
588.	Cassava ²⁷	ùrógò		- < Hausa
589.	Sweet potato ²⁸	ùrawur		- < Hausa
590.	Wild yam	avé		
591.	Thorny yam ? cult.	àndùndɔn		
592.	Tumuku ²⁹	ànàngò káfīrǎ		

²² (*Dioscorea guineensis*)

²³ (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)

²⁴ (*Dioscorea alata*)

²⁵ (*Colocasia esculenta*)

²⁶ (*Xanthosoma mafaffa*) (*H. wali*)

²⁷ (*Manihot esculenta*)

²⁸ (*Ipomoea batatas*)

²⁹ (*Plectranthus esculentus*)

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NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
593.	Rizga ³⁰	ànàngò kábārā		
594.	Sorghum ³¹	abvúr[ì]dòòr	-	
595.	Bulrush millet ³² (<i>gero</i>)	imara		
596.	Fonio (H. <i>acca</i>) ³³	itsem		
597.	Iburu (H. <i>iburu</i>) ³⁴	iyarr		
598.	Maize* ³⁵	abvúr[ì]vur		
599.	Rice* ³⁶	sùkabo		
600.	Cowpea ³⁷	ineu		
601.	Spiral cowpea	kanqey		
602.	Lima bean ^{38*}	nùneu		
603.	Bambara groundnut ³⁹	manirr		
604.	Kersting's ground-nut ⁴⁰	népabèy		
605.	Groundnut (Peanut) ⁴¹	izhîî		
606.	Tiger-nut ⁴²	hwàán		
607.	Garden egg ⁴³	ìfer	ifer	
608.	Okra ⁴⁴	àghwo		
609.	Chili pepper* (large) ⁴⁵	ibōō		
610.	Onion (<i>Allium cepa</i>)	ùgbirima	-	
611.	Melon (guna) ⁴⁶	itsey		
612.	Edible squash ⁴⁷	igbùù		
613.	Sorrel/roselle ⁴⁸	ikpái		
614.	Kenaf ⁴⁹	rāwā	< H.	
615.	Sesame seeds ⁵⁰	itar		
616.	Black sesame ⁵¹	ikūrā		
617.	Sesame leaves ⁵²	ùdzaw		
618.	Bitterleaf ⁵³	ìtoy		
619.	Banana (Musa AAA)	ingben		

³⁰ (*Solenostemon rotundifolius*)

³¹ (*Sorghum bicolor*)

³² (*Pennisetum* spp.)

³³ (*Digitaria exilis*)

³⁴ (*Digitaria iburua*)

³⁵ (*Zea mays*)

³⁶ (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)

³⁷ (*Vigna unguiculata*)

³⁸ (*Phaseolus lunatus*)

³⁹ (*Vigna subterranea*)

⁴⁰ (*Macrotyloma geocarpa*)

⁴¹ (*Arachis hypogaea*)

⁴² (*Cyperus esculentus*)

⁴³ (*Solanum melongena*)

⁴⁴ (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)

⁴⁵ (*Capsicum frutescens*)

⁴⁶ (*Cucumis* spp)

⁴⁷ (*Cucurbita pepo*)

⁴⁸ (H. *yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)

⁴⁹ (H. *rama*) (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)

⁵⁰ (H. *Ridii*) (*Sesamum indicum*)

⁵¹ (*Sesamum radiatum*)

⁵² (H. *karkashi*)

⁵³ *Vernonia amygdalina*

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NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
620.	Lime	ukoo	akoo	
621.	Pawpaw ⁵⁴	ivèsa	-	
622.	Gourd (Generic)	àtóbin		in home
623.	Gourd-bottle ⁵⁵	dùdār		
624.	Gourd (spherical) ⁵⁶	kíkí kigõ		
625.	Cotton	ruru		
626.	Tobacco*	àzò		
627.	Loofah ⁵⁷	wàágǎ		(H. soso)
628.	Oil-palm ⁵⁸	ĩte		
629.	Palm-oil	tsé kabārā		
630.	Fan-palm ⁵⁹	wákpà		
631.	Ebony tree	ìkpikpiyà		
632.	Canarium tree ⁶⁰	afar		
633.	Custard apple ⁶¹	gùgwíyà		
634.	Wild date-palm ⁶²	inêy		
635.	Silk-cotton tree ⁶³	ipfum		
636.	Shea tree ⁶⁴	iriwa		
637.	Locust tree ⁶⁵	irũwǎ		
638.	Locust fruit	urũũ		
639.	Locust fruit	inyĩ		
640.	Locust flower	ùgbě rùũ		
641.	Locust-bean powder	àghwì tũ rùũ		
642.	Locust-bean cakes	ùgbě		
643.	<i>Terminalia</i> sp. ⁶⁶	shúshôn		
644.	Black plum ⁶⁷	ijèn		

Musical Instruments

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
645.	Drum I	ùngũgǎ		
		kúgõ		
646.	Drum II	ùngũgǎ kúci		
647.	Drum III	wyey gũgǎ		
648.	Flute	sèrwa		
649.	Cruciform whistle general	àṅwii		
650.	Cruciform whistle I	kúgõ		
651.	Cruciform whistle II	kwámè		

⁵⁴ (*Carica papaya*)

⁵⁵ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)

⁵⁶ (*Cucurbita maxima*)

⁵⁷ (*Luffa cylindrica*)

⁵⁸ (*Elaeis guineensis*)

⁵⁹ (*Borassus aethiopum*)

⁶⁰ (*Canarium schweinfurthii*)

⁶¹ (*Annona senegalensis*)

⁶² (*Phoenix reclinata*)

⁶³ (*Ceiba pentandra*)

⁶⁴ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)

⁶⁵ (*Parkia biglobosa*)

⁶⁶ (*H. baushe*)

⁶⁷ (*Vitex doniana*)

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652.	Cruciform whistle III	ndèn	
653.	Cruciform whistle IV	uyír	smallest
654.	Zither	ìgbòm	
655.	Lute	ìgbòm fārĩ	
656.	Transverse horn	atsom	in sets
657.	Grass oboe	ìpāwā	for acha harvest
658.	Iron gong	uhwor	
659.	Palm-leaf rattles	àdzùdzà	
660.	Ankle rattles	wēzhērĩ	

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