

# Ninkyob Ideophones

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Phonology of ideophones .....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1 General.....	1
2.2 Tones.....	1
2.3 Phonology .....	2
<b>3. Morphology .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Syntax.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5. Semantics .....</b>	<b>3</b>

## TABLES

Table 1. Standard phoneme inventory of Ninkyob .....	2
Table 2. Phoneme inventory of Ninkyob ideophones.....	2
Table 3. Master list of Ninkyob ideophones .....	4

## 1. Introduction

## 2. Phonology of ideophones

### 2.1 General

Ideophones typically have unusual phonology, often including sounds that are not found in more standard vocabulary. In Ninkyob, the reverse situation is true, the phonology of ideophones is a subset of the phonology of the language as a whole. The main features are;

- a) reduction of the tonal system from three heights to two
- b) no occurrences of the rarer phonemes

### 2.2 Tones

Ninkyob normally has three contrastive tone heights;

<b>zíḡ</b>	row of ridges
<b>zig</b>	knife
<b>zìḡ</b>	giving gift

as well as rising and falling tones composed of glides between different tone levels. However, ideophones have only two tone heights, low and high, illustrated by the contrastive pairs typical of the repertoire.

<b>gbáḡ</b>	describes s.t far away
<b>gbàḡ</b>	describes s.t. high up such as the top of a tree

There is one exception to this, the word

**gbéndendèḡ** extended form of **gbéndèḡ** describes very heavy buttocks

No obvious explanation is available for this oddity.

True rising and falling tones occur, but they are extremely rare (<2%) of the basic repertoire, although they occur in extended forms of glissando tones;

<b>bǔp</b>	describes the sound of a heavy slap
<b>bûy</b>	describes s.o./s.t. falling into water

However, a number of ideophones, typically CVC, are pronounced with glissandi or portamento tones, sliding either up or down, without regard to the tone levels. The length of the glissando reflects the emphasis the speaker places on the word. Downwards glissandi are much more common than upwards.

The two directions are symbolised by the arrows;

↗            up            ↘            down

Examples are;

<b>duud↗</b>	describes s.o. carrying an extremely large bundle of acca from the field
<b>bɛ↘</b>	describes a tree that has fallen over

A sample vowel is given, but the vowel can be lengthened *ad libitum*.

Many Ninkyob ideophones occur in pairs, either an exact reduplication of a CVC form or a repetition of an internal CV sequence in longer ideophones. The glissando tone is not extended but instead the repeated sequence becomes a repeated High-Low falling tone or a word-length HL sequence;

<b>fɔdɔ</b>	<b>fɔdfɔd</b>	describes approaching s.o. in a quarrel
<b>ladɔ</b>	<b>ladlɔd</b>	describes the eyes of a woman who is engaging in inappropriate behaviour
<b>mɔɔɔ</b>	<b>mɔɔmɔɔ</b>	describes a person who does not feel free or is not active

## 2.3 Phonology

Ninkyob has the following phonemic consonant inventory for the standard lexicon;

**Table 1. Standard phoneme inventory of Ninkyob**

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Alveo-palatal	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d			k g	kp gb	
Nasal	m, ɱ		n		ɲ	ŋ		
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ		ɣ		h
Approximant					y		w	
Tap			r					
Trill			rr					
Lateral Approximant			l					

However, the ideophones no longer exhibit the ‘exotic’ phonemes, possibly because these arise from consonant alternations which in turn derive from eroded prefixes. Table 2 shows the phoneme inventory of Ninkyob ideophones;

**Table 2. Phoneme inventory of Ninkyob ideophones**

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Alveo-palatal	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d			k g	kp gb	
Nasal	m		n		ɲ	ŋ		
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ		ɣ		h
Approximant					y		w	
Tap			r					
Trill			rr					
Lateral Approximant			l					

Other features, such as prenasalisation of many phonemes, are retained by ideophones. Ninkyob also has non-contrastive plosives in morpheme-final position.

As with many other Plateau languages, labialisation and palatalisation play a significant role in noun-class distinctions, but also in making other types of meaning contrast, for example, between the name of a people and their language. Many Ninkyob ideophones show contrastive labial and palatal forms. For example;

<b>fɔdɔ</b>	<b>fɔdfɔd</b>	describes approaching s.o. in a quarrel
<b>fwɔdɔ</b>	<b>fwɔdfwɔd</b>	? the same

<b>lad</b>	<b>lád</b>	describes the eyes of a woman who is engaging in inappropriate behaviour or someone who speaks uncontrollably or inappropriately
<b>lyàd</b>	<b>lyádyàd</b>	?

No clear semantic significance has yet been established for these contrast forms, but it is unlikely they are without meaning.

Ninkyob usually has seven 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	

of which five can be nasalised. These vowels appear in normal distribution in ideophones.

At least one of the ideophones appears to have a schwa;

**gbóròg** | **gbóràròg** | big (general)

This appears to be quite exceptional.

Despite the range of nasalised vowels, only /ã/ appears in ideophones. Some exceptional words, if treated as having /ãĩ/ diphthongs would then have /ĩ/ but this does not occur in isolation.

### 3. Morphology

The principal canonic forms of Ninkyob ideophones are as follows;

CV  
CVC  
CVN  
CVRC  
CVCVC  
CVCCVC

### 4. Syntax

### 5. Semantics

Table 3. Master list of Ninkyob ideophones							
Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
<b>bǎǎ</b>		+					describes s.o. who is late, who has overstayed. Also a respectful way of saying s.o. is dead
<b>bòòòòòb</b>			+				describes water that is lukewarm or food that is bland
<b>bórbòr</b>							describes s.o. who has been made weak by crises or continued suffering
<b>bɛ↘</b>			+				describes a tree that has fallen over, a house or a chair that is low
<b>bêbê</b>		+					describes the walk of an old woman or a chicken going from side to side
<b>bírbír</b>		+	+				devious(ly), describes a man who talks this way, also garrulous.
<b>bìr-r-r-r</b>		+					describes s.o. acting in a confused way, near death or in a crisis
<b>bùp</b>		+					describes the noise of a slap given by a mother to her baby, which has made people criticise her.
<b>bǔp</b>		+					describes the sound of a heavy slap
<b>bûy</b>		+					describes s.o./s.t. falling into water, , and the noise of the final threshing of acca by old women
<b>bûy</b>	<b>bûybûy</b>	+					also the noise of a slap plural form of above to describe many people slapping s.o.
<b>bwàrrr</b>		+					describes liquid being poured from a height (rain etc.)
<b>bwítbwít</b>			+			+	abusive descriptive adjective describing s.o. with small, sunken eyes
<b>dàád</b>		+	+				describes s.o. who behaves very wickedly or s.o. who is wicked
<b>deŋ↘</b>	<b>dêŋdêŋ</b>			+			sound of a large drum Used to mock a girl by saying ‘we didn’t hear any sound of <b>deŋdeŋ</b> at your wedding?’ meaning there were no proper celebrations (maybe she just got pregnant without being properly married)
<b>dĩ↘</b>	<b>dĩĩdĩĩ</b>	+					describes the approach of a large and fearful masquerade or other large entity
<b>dírgdírg</b>			+				smooth as of skin or surface also <b>dírgdírg</b> female cricket with smooth wings
<b>dírìb</b>			+				describes blackness (such as darkness or rain-clouds)
<b>dírrr</b>	<b>dídírr</b>	+			+		<b>a to dírr se ku na</b> he said, insisted that he must do it. Intensifies ‘to’ to make ‘must’
<b>dìrrr</b>			+				describes s.t. arranged in straight lines, such as stones on a compound, or beads sewn on a traditional cloth
<b>dógdòg</b>		+					describes the walk of s.o. who is sick or drunk or poisoned
<b>dũũ↘</b>	<b>dúúddũũ</b>		+			+	abusive term to describe an overlarge mouth or buttocks
<b>duudʔ</b>		+					describes s.o. carrying an extremely large bundle of acca from the field,

Table 3. Master list of Ninkyob ideophones							
Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
fǎǎ		+	+				describes person or animal swelling up in anger light in weight
fàrr		+	+				describes the sharp feeling of pain on skin, such as burning or poison describes a person who is touchy or sensitive
fayn↘	fâynfây	+					describes s.o. walking away in anger describes a person with this behaviour
fěěě			+				light in weight but esp. for small objects such as a plate. cf. fòóó
fěwú			+				light (person)
fěwù			+				moderately priced (said appreciatively) (not cheap)
fírr			+				describes a tail or other long object such as a knife that has been shortened or worn down.
fírr		+					describes noise of a bird flying
fógfòg		+					describes the enjoyment of good food (particular a food made of beans and sesame for the relatives) at a celebration in an expression 'the wife ate the husband's hands fógfóg' means that the wife is enjoying the marriage. The word appears in special songs at funerals the softness of skin after it has been burnt. when the scab peels off the skin left is fógfóg
fógtòg		+	+				describes a spongy object or a large, flabby person falling on the ground a. describing a flabby body
fó-0-0-0			+				light in weight
fòò		+	+				describes any object that when pressed comes back into shape, such as sponge or ball. describes excessive anger of a person describes food on the fire boiling over
fwǎǎ							as fòò
fɔd↘	fɔdfɔd	+					describes approaching s.o. in a quarrel
fúrrr							describes someone asserting they are not involved in a situation
fwɔd↘	fwɔdfwɔd						same as fɔd
fwèb		+	+			+	describes piercing s.t. soft like an over-ripe fruit abusive adjective applied to the tongue of s.o. who cannot speak properly due to stammering or other anatomical abnormality
gbábdàg	gbádàdàg		+				viscous (applied to liquids) but using coarse grains (such as maize)
gbán			+				describes s.t. far away
gbàn			+				describes s.t. high up such as the top of a tree describes a tree with a very straight trunk and tall, esp. palm tree
gbéndèn	gbéndendèn		+			+	describes very heavy buttocks describes s.o. who is healthily fat

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Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
gbèrèŋ							describes deformation of the finger or toe following an injury. A whitlow
gbìrìŋ							as gbèrèŋ
gbìrìŋ							describes a dark sky before heavy rain
gbóròg	gbóròròg		+				big (general)
gbígdiŋ	gbídidiŋ		+				viscous (applied to liquids)
gbiiŋ↘				+			sound of the largest drum
gbíngbìŋ		+					noise of cereals being pounded in a mortar
gbírìg	gbìrìrìg		+				describes s.t. that is plaited to form a thick coil, such as rope or head-pad, or the traditional coiled outfit of Ninkyob women
gbòòŋ			+			+	describes the sunken eyes of a sick person
gbúrgbùg							gregarious ?
górr			+			+	skinny (buttocks) person or dog
górr	górrgórr		+				describes an erect penis
gòrr	gòrrgòrr	+					describes person or animal moving forward aggressively
ghwérghwèr				+			describes the appearance of a healthy and smooth-skinned person, sleek describes newly-sprouted leaves on a tree (soft and ready to eat)
gíb		+					sound of a falling heavy object
gìb	gìbgìb	+					describes the noise of a person who walks with heavy footfalls describes the dropping of heavy objects from a height falling of bundles of corn from a roof for threshing
gúb			+			+	abusive adjective applied to twisted limbs
gùb		+					sound of hitting s.t. hard
hágràg	hágràràg		+				describes a huge person
háhì				+			noise made by donkeys
hógròg	hógròròg		+				describes a huge person who is particularly bulky in the upper body
hééréé		+					describes the blowing of light objects, cotton, chaff etc. in the wind
hèrèrè			+				describes an object that is wide and open, such as a winnowing tray or a football field
hiin↘		+					calmly
hírírí			+				runny (of porridge etc.)
hùrhùg			+				hairy, furry,
hùrùrù			+				describes flour that is finely ground and cotton that is fluffy
hwáá							sound made to send away birds

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Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
hwà yódi yôd							expression used to censure s.o. who has misbehaved. They also wave leaves or hands up and down
hwàp	hwáphwàp	+					describes boldness. <b>hwàp</b> is also a noun for boldness
hwòŋ			+		+		describes s.o. with a long, straight head
hwóŋhwòŋ		+					describes s.o. moving forward aggressively to invade the space of s.o.
hwóróró			+				light in weight
hwóròrò			+				describes the torn skin on a drum or a hole in something
hwékéké			+				tasteless, shameless (of the eyes)
hwyòŋ			+			+	abusive adjective applied to missing teeth also applied to objects with a hole in them such as a water-pipe
hyiin↳							describes s.o. who has become clam, who been placated
hyírghyìrg		+					describes weeping bitterly
hywúhywù		+					describes behaving crazily, madly, strangely
kàkàŋ			+		+		always intensifies ‘white’ or ‘red’ but usually in the metaphorical sense of poor
káìŋkáìŋ							describes intense ‘white’ or ‘red’
kàngà	kàngàngà		+				describes people and animals lying curved on the ground.
kèèŋ			+				describes s.o. stubborn, unco-operative
kéŋgè	kéŋgèŋgè		+				as <b>kèèŋ</b>
kéŋgèkèŋgè	kéŋgèkèŋgè	+					describes s.o. walking in a stubborn manner. The second form applies to many people
kéréŋ	kéréréŋ		+				skinny and rigid (persons)
kérèŋkérèŋ	kérèŋkérèŋ	+					describes how s.o. moves in a rigid, stiff manner. The second form applies to many people
kèrèŋ, kòròŋ			+				describes people or animals stubborn, unco-operative
kíbkìb, kúbkùb		+	+				noise of a thumping walk by a heavy person also can be adjective
kírìŋ			+				disoriented (as taking a strong medicine)
kírkìr			+			+	roundish and flattish such as a winnowing tray or a hut hair could be cut in this way during mourning in the past abusive adjective for the head
kóngò	kóngòngò		+				describes objects that are on the ground curved upwards, such as headboard
kókód	kódkód	+	+				quickly intelligent esp. of children
kóŋ, kóróŋ	kóròròŋ		+				emaciated



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Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
kóròṅkòròṅ	kóròṅkóròṅ	+					s.o. whose body movement is that of a wasted person
kòṅ		+	+				inflexible inflexibly (people who are stubborn)
kóṅgò	kóṅgòrò	+	+		+		very large and tall (people and objects) rigid (like a stick or a corpse)
kpáí		+	+			+	describes the noise of a door closing loudly, describes a touchy person abusive term for a person with a big head
kpáí		+					s.o. speaking loudly and angrily
kpányànyà			+				quarrelsome
kpàngà	kpàngàngà		+			+	describes s.o. with a big head (abusive)
kpàngará				+			sound of falling dish or other enamel vessel
kpàngàrà							?
kpánzàrà							sound of a big thunder fall of a large enamel object
kpàràṅ			+				describes a rough surface describes an elderly person
kpás		+		+			sound of s.t. fragile dropping and breaking sound of a dirty slap
kpɔɔ			+				faded-looking
kpòṅ			+				describes s.t. that is very numerous esp. people and animals
kpóròṅ	kpóròròṅ		+				describes s.t. huge
kpóròṅ			+				describes an elderly person [these words also applied to types of cricket] male cricket n. <b>kpòròṅ</b>
kpéṅ							shallow like a river also describes a knock on a child's head (can also be a verb)
kpéṅgéré			+	+			sound of the fall of a pot or dish describes s.o. scantily dressed
kpèṅgèrè			+			+	empty objects, but also applied to people who have no substance
kpéréṅ			+				shallow like a river easy to deal with
kpìd			+				dwarfish
kpíd, kpís	kpídkpíd, kpíiskpís		+				describes s.o. who talks freely without regard for the consequences
kpíi <sup>7</sup>			+			+	intensifies 'black' describes blackness (such as darkness or rain-clouds or skin or cobra)
kpínzid			+				describes s.t. that is too little and miserly like soup
kpìnzid			+				describes meat that is hard to chew and a person who is inflexible
kpìṅ				+			sound of heavy object falling on the ground
kpíríṅ	kpíríríṅ		+			+	very dirty very black (skin)
kpìrìṅ			+				describes taste of unripe fruit, alkaline

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Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
kpóí		+	+				describes s.o. speaking excessively loudly person who speaks excessively loudly
kpórg		+					describes sweet taste qualifies verb 'to be sweet'
kpùrkpùg			+				describes kunnu etc. that is thick and rich-tasting
kpúú			+				describes smell of rotten pus
kpùù		+					describes the copious flow of mucus from the nose of pus from a boil
kúgkúg			+				ugly
kùŋ, kpùŋ			+				describes crowds of people overflowing adjective preceding noun
kúrkùr		+					see <b>kirkir</b> above, but also without a trace, describing s.o. lost or issues that die with final resolution
kyúrùb		+					describes falling to their knees suddenly
láblàb			+				describes s.o. who speaks in an exaggerated way
ladʌ	ládlád		+			+	describes the eyes of a woman who is engaging in inappropriate behaviour or someone who speaks uncontrollably or inappropriately
ládlád			+				describes s.o. who talks shamelessly, too much
làs				+			sound of a slap sound made by a woman who is enjoying her pounding, a sort of sigh
lórŋ, lírŋ			+				describes a draw soup or anything that is in slimy strips like water-weed. means 'persistence' in ordinary speech
lébléb		+	+				describes lazily, also lazy
lèblèb			+				describes soft leaves, new leaves
lémlém			+				describes food that is slightly sweet
lib	liblib		+				describes s.t. that is completely black but not an intensifier also describes a place full with people
límlím			+				describes pitch darkness
lódlód			+				describes something compressible, spongy, such as ripened fruit
lòdlòd							as above?
lúdlúd			+				describes fine sand or flour, powdery
lyàd	lyádyàd		+				describes s.o. who talks shamelessly, too much
màrg				+			describes sound of s.t. strong breaking
màrgmùrg			+				describes s.o. who eats like a pig
mbámbàm, mbómbòm			+				describes s.o. big and round
mgbòŋ	mgbôŋmgb òŋ			+			sound made by a cow (also the name of cow in some N. dialects in child speech); people who have oblong head
mób			+				describes s.t. narrow, like a road

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Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
móbdòg							glued together
móbmòb			+				describes a person who walks in a way with closed body posture
mɔɔɔ	móòmó		+				describes a person who does not feel free or is not active
mómtòr							as <b>móbdòg</b> but ?
mɛɛɔ	méèméè	+	+				describes the guttering of a flame describes s.o. who is falling asleep or who is going down, personally
méé				+			noise made by sheep and goats
méréré			+				describes s.t. very small
més			+				smallish ?, to quickly wriggle free
mésmés		+					describes walking briskly
mgbákàkà		+	+			+	describes maize cob with very large grains abusive term for person with very large eyes describes speaking to s.o. seriously
mgbárâg				+			sound of s.o. who slurps their drink
mgbóróró							describes a very bitter taste
mgbúmgbúg							describes a fluid with particles in it
mgbùgmgbùg							as above?
mírg			+				describes s.t. made carefully and finely like basket-weaving and beadwork
mìrg	mìrgmìrg	+					describes how columns of soldier-ants move across the ground
mpwòd							tasteless ?
mûrg	mùrgmùrg	+		+			sound of chewing a hard food such as dried maize
mwédmwéd		+					describes crying copiously, qualifies verb 'to weep'
mwên		+					describes the feeling of eating a soft and palatable food
myérèm			+				describes a flash of lightening also s.t. that is mysterious flickering light
mbwàmbwàd			+				describes tuwo or any food that has not been made properly thick
ndéndèn		+	+				describes carry s.t. heavy
ndúndùŋ							childlike behaviour in an adult
nédnèd							?
nígnìg							describes appearance of soldier ants on the move
nkârg	nkârgnkârg						sound of biting into a carrot, crunchy
nkáĩŋkáĩŋ			+			+	describes s.t. bright red, qualifies 'red', perhaps also applied to 'white'
nkāũnkāũ	nkánkāũnkāũ ũ					+	describes a crab like movement the word for 'crab' is related

Table 3. Master list of Ninkyob ideophones							
Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
<b>nkírĩṅkírĩṅ</b>			+				describes appearance of a disoriented person
<b>nsârg</b>							describes biting into poorly cooked tubers describes the stomach of a child who overeats
<b>nsĩrg</b>							?
<b>ntámtám</b>							foolishly
<b>ntántántă</b>			+			+	rough at the edges describes a mouth
<b>nvaaᵛ</b>	<b>nvâânvâà</b>						sound of flies rising up from a rotten place. also bees describes s.o. approaching opponent in anger
<b>nváã</b>							describes s.o. whose mouth is full of teeth
<b>nvěěᵛ</b>			+				abundant
<b>nvènvè</b>							describes unripe corn, fruit or a girl who marries very young
<b>nviriṅviriṅ</b>							describes a huge person
<b>nvooᵛ</b>	<b>nvòònvòò</b>						sound of flies rising up from a rotten place. also bees
<b>nvúṅvùṅ</b>							describes s.o. who moves around like a whirlwind. n.b. this is the word for whirlwind
<b>nórr</b>							pointedly
<b>nyáb</b>							skinny; sound of glued thing peeling
<b>nyàb</b>	<b>nyàbnyàb</b>						as above
<b>nyàmnyàm</b>							describes eating and gobbling
<b>nyêm</b>							describes an open wound
<b>ṗèm</b>							lightning
<b>ṗem</b>							to eye abusively
<b>nyóṅ</b>							all at once in a multitude or group
<b>nyòṅ</b>							as above
<b>nzāĩ</b>							sound of a heavy slap, thunder or a gun, strong pounding sound of woman
<b>nzéd</b>							describes clutching s.o. emotional attachment also
<b>nzèd</b>							undetachable
<b>nzíd</b>							describes a very skinny child
<b>nzìd</b>							tough to bite into
<b>ńzùd</b>			+				describes draw soup very slimy
<b>ṅgááár</b>	<b>ṅgarṅgar</b>	+					describes the sharp pain of an insect bite or one person biting another reduplicated form implies several sharp pains
<b>ṅgírṅgír</b>							describes beautiful person or object
<b>ṅgĩrĩṅgĩrĩṅ</b>							describes the behaviour of a crazy person
<b>ṅkpóṅkpóṅ</b>							describes a very bad smell

Table 3. Master list of Ninkyob ideophones							
Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
ηkpòηkpòη							describes s.o. who has wept so much they are pale in appearance s.o. who has rolled on the ground in sorrow and is with dust poor
ηkpôrg	ηkpôrg ηkpòrg						sound of swilling down fluid
paad↘			+				describes a wide, flat, open place
pěẽ							describes things or people without strength nor substance
píb							describes keeping quiet
píbpíb			+		+		very black (night)
pwób							describes s.t. rounded, swollen as cheeks
pwóndòη			+				describes rounded, swollen cheeks
pwòη			+			+	describes peoples and things that are tall and straight up
pyā			+			+	describes a shaven head
ràà							describes the clearness of the sky at dawn or after rain
rāī		+		+			sound of thunder sound of a woman pounding heavily
rágtág							describes people that are large and heavy
régrég			+				feeble (baby, animal)
régrèg			+				unripe (fruit)
régrèg			+				weak (old person)
régrèg		+					sick (person)
rìb		+					describes the extinguishing of a light
rígríg							describes s.t. correct or straight
rígtìg							thickly big
rīī							happens to, darkened as in colour
rímrim							dark in colour
rõõ				+			describes pulling out a string of dough
rógròg			+				describes s.t. slightly sweet
ròròrò							describes s.t. long, thing and narrow (snake, rope etc.)
rúgrúg			+				describes s.o. crippled
rwódrwòd							soft
rwòηrwòη							sudden fright
ryád		+					describes moving off suddenly in a fearful manner
ryádlýád		+					describes moving about in an unstable way (also applies to speech)
ryágryág			+				describes s.t. clear (eyes, water)

Table 3. Master list of Ninkyob ideophones							
Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
ryèryèm		+					describes speaking soothingly < <b>rēm</b> to appease, comfort
saa↘							describes a downpour due to rain or other cause
sāā↘							describes blood, pus shooting out
sááb							erect; with no regret
sàsàg			+				excited
sèrèṅ							stubborn, uncooperative
sèrr		+					slowly
sũb							describes a knife thrown that sticks upright into s.t.
sôrg	sórgsôrg						describes jerking when startled
suu↘							describes feeling alone, abandoned ??
shāā↘	shāāshāā↘						branching out
shágdàg	shádàdàg						describes s.o. with long limbs as they move
shāũ↘							sound of s.t. frying in hot oil
shāũ							feeling of uneasiness
shēē							glossy
shígdìg	shídìdìg						describes s.t. abundant and thick
shĩĩ							smallish
shĩĩ	shĩĩshĩĩ						bushy, important; big (both of person)
shírìrì							describes objects heaped up
shoṅ							describes a empty place after people have left
shóngòrò							describes a high chair
shóshób							describes crouching down
sh55↘							describes s.o. moving in a stiff way
shwábshwàb							to cut grass lazily, not properly
tábtàb							describes the random movements of a drunk
tágtàg	tágtàgítàg						describes string etc. that is all mixed up
tàrr							describes s.o. who left without good reason
táràrà							describes the spreading of a weedy grass
tás							sound of a slap
tēē↘							soft as thickened porridge
tégtég							s.o. who is lazy.
tègtèg			+	+			describes a flat surface. also a noun meaning a flat place
ténéné							describes fine-ground flour thoroughly done work
tènènè							describes plenty of people or animals
teṅgede							not difficult
téṅgéré							describes a flat thing, open person or thing or issue/matter that isn't difficult

Table 3. Master list of Ninkyob ideophones							
Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
tènggèrè							describes a wide, flat, open object
téréré			+				describes a wide, flat, open place or object
tèrèrè							describes s.t. full with liquid
tííí							very dirty very black (skin) as <b>kpíríng</b>
tíb				+			describes a knife thrown that sticks upright into s.t. describes s.o. jumping down from a height
tírìng							describes a bitter taste
tírìrì							straight
tṣṣ							describes a person who moves very slowly
tóróró							describes movement of a thin and long snake describes a person who is too tall
tṣrṣrṣ							?
tùrr							describes the feeling or a sharp, burning pain
tùrùrù, tùnùnù							describes many people or animals going at the same time
tùrùrù							group movement at once
tũũ↘							describes the approach of a large animal?
tyĩtyĩ							describes going forward ?
tyòd	tyódyòd						describes s.t. pointed extended form describes the walk of a chicken
vaa↘							water falling from a height
vàg, vòg							describes the depth of a sack
vàgvàg, vògvòg							describes the movement of s.o. in an oversized garment describes walking through grass of some height
vírìngvìrìng							tall and huge
vírr							describes a tiny hole in s.t.
vìrr							deep (of a river)
vuu↘							movement of pouring of plenty water e.g. flood
wérwér							sleek and smooth ?
wɔɔ↘							describes a downwards movement
wôrg							describes a sudden jerk forward
wuu↘							sound of wind person who is restless
yárgyàrg							move powerfully towards s.o.
yárgkàk							giant
yárgkàkà	yárgkàkàkà						giant
yěyěb							describes a sickly child
yìrg							suddenness
yírr	yírírííííí						ululation

Table 3. Master list of Ninkyob ideophones							
Primary	Long	av .	a.	n.	i.	ab .	Usage
yǐyǐ							describes swinging from side to side of movement; of tuwo to round it shapely
yòktù			+				despised (person)
yôrr							sound of vomiting
zaa↘							fallen or flying divinely or pouring so
zàn	zánzàn						describes a person with a pronounced hollow in the back so that they lean backwards slightly. reduplicated form describes how they move
zánzǎizán							describes s.t. in long strips in water like noodles
zaza	check						zázá describes the tail of a long-tailed bird
zîŋ							describes looking at s.o. without blinking
zóbòd							sitting up sleeplessly/in statue form
zód	zódzòd...						describes the jumping of a frog
zàà		+	+			+	describes that s.t. that spreads out widely and downwards, such as the branches of a tree describes a person falling backwards with arms outstretched abusive adjective for a wide mouth
zàs, zǎd	zágdàg, zádàg			+			describes the sound of a heavy person falling backwards with arms outstretched
zéndèŋ							hanging heavily e.g. buttocks
zèèm	zémzèm	+	+				describes a slow human person also adv. he does things slowly
zéd, zér			+				describes a pointed object, arrow, spear etc.
zèd, zèr			+			+	abusive term for s.o. with a pointed chin or a tooth sticking out
zèzèrŋ		+	+				describes s.t. knotted together that becomes loose, also 'loose'. <b>dèrŋ</b> is a verb meaning 'to unravel', 'become dismantled'
zíbzib							thickly hanging in clusters
zîb, zír, zírìb			+				describes s.t. thick, hanging down in strands like hair also of clusters of fruits or beans
zɔ↘		+	+				describes walking slowly and unsteadily also as adjective, he has become ~
zónònò, zánànà			+				describes s.t. that stretches out like rubber
zòndòŋ	zòndòndòŋ						hanging downwards e.g. mouth
zɔ↘							hanging downwards
zóbzòb							running of a heavily and big person, animal