

## Chapter 11: Rigwe interjections

Rigwe	Sense	Example	Translation	Comment
[á]á'á	Expresses regret concerning an unfortunate occurrence	á'á! mà n̄zì jì ní rimí â zè né mē?	Oh! What can we do now?	
âhâ	Well! Marks s.t. surprising or a sudden discovery	âhâ! á ré 'jé he jé fa?	Well! What is your name?	
càát	Expresses regret concerning an unfortunate occurrence	Càát! ewé ré [à]á 'hú áá?	Oh! Has this boy died?	
cát	Expresses disapproval of s.o. who has done s.t. bad	Cát! kò ɲ'é rí èw'é wè èé?	Oh dear! Don't you see? [what you have done wrong?]	
òhòó	Expresses gradual realisation	òhòó! à jì [â] ní èè?	Oho! Is that so?	
cé <sup>j</sup>	Expresses disappointment at s.o.'s action or s.t. that you do not expect			
èhè	OK!	èhè, bé mí [â] hé!	OK, bring it here	
<sup>2</sup> hòhòó	Expresses imminent danger. Look out!	<sup>2</sup> hòhòó! jì ní n̄zì be n̄zì tó	Look out! Let us get out of here!	
hóóó	Introduces expressions of praise <sup>1</sup> but also can have a mocking sense	Hóóó! <sup>2</sup> rwé, ɲ'é 'bé ñné	Ho! Friend, you are worthy enough	
		Hóóó! á jé 'lò ɲ'è he jé?	Ha! What is your name? i.e. Who are you?	
jóówé	Expresses danger or misfortune that has happened to s.o. else	jóówé, ɲ'è he ɲ'è kpè wè kpeé ɲ'è	Well! Since you say you characteristically fall down, fall down then!	
jówèè	Expresses agreement	jówèè, áá ní n̄zì rina fa	Well, I am in favour of that! lit. It has become good for me	cf. Hausa yauwa!
káát	Expresses the sense that s.t. is too much, excessive	Káát! ñtè'wà ñná [àá] 3'wò	Hm! There's too much salt	
kä <sup>j</sup>	Expression of discouragement	Kä <sup>j</sup> ! mà ñdzé jì ní rimí nê?	Oh dear! What can I do now?	cf. Hausa kai!
két	Expresses the identification of a mistake or an expression of unworthiness	Két! héri ɲ'è 'bè ní n̄zì dz'è éé?	Ha! Have you [a high status person] come to visit me?	
kót	Expresses surprise. Wow!	Kót! áá 'tjé rimí ɲú kpri [â] ní èè?	Wow! How did he come to roll down like that?	
ñhñ	Expresses agreement	Ñhñ, ní n̄zì be n̄zì né fa!	OK, let's go!	
wàì	Expresses doubt	Wàì! à rí ní n̄zì drè	Hm! It will be hard for me!	
wá <sup>j</sup>	Expresses the feeling that s.t. is impossible	Wá <sup>j</sup> ! ñdzé rí huɲ kpé ɲgè	Ha! Will I be able to carry this load?	

<sup>1</sup> When the traditionalists are praising a hero they use this exclamation

<b>Rigwe</b>	<b>Sense</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Translation</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<sup>2</sup> wúúù	Expresses the discovery that s.t. bad is happening or alternatively used when s.o. wants to hide s.t. good from other people	né èé? <sup>2</sup> wúúù, níŋ bè ŋ <sup>w</sup> ε já rí jàǵcá wè r <sup>w</sup> e	Ooh! Come and see s.t. here!	