

## Rigwe interrogatives

### 1. Post utterance tags

Post utterance tags are words or short phrases that are placed in sentence-final position, usually after a pause, marking the interrogative status of a previously declarative sentence. Very often these seek confirmation or are effectively rhetorical questions rather than seeking new information.

ní 'ì ɥa rʷì ě, kà dè ní 'ì ɥa wé  
you PAST go yesterday CM, or not you PAST go not?  
You went yesterday, didn't you?

ní 'ì ɥa rʷì ě, kà dè ʃî ʔní wé  
you PAST go yesterday CM, or not is so not  
You went yesterday, isn't it so?

â zè ne ɲú he ʔní ě, ɲú a ʔné  
at time that he said that CM, he then left  
When he had said that, then he left.

à he ne m̃bé he á rí mà sra ré ʔní ʔní ě  
he said to them saying they will IMPV live to do that CM  
He told them to keep doing that.

àà ʔré ɲʷà kà dè é ʔré ɲʷà wé  
he you sg. give or not he you give not  
He has given it to you, hasn't he?

à he ne ɲú he rè ɥa wé Zògú ä  
he said to him saying he go just to Zogu CM  
He told him to simply go to Zogu.

à he ne ɲú he rè ɥa wé lírì è  
he said to him saying he go just to lírì CM  
He told him to simply go to lírì.

### 2. Interrogative markers

#### 2.1 General

Interrogatives in Rigwe can be divided into two major types, polar questions and the general question marker. There are three ? polar question markers;

Query either seeking an echo response or anticipates a positive response

Disinterested or neutral query

Query where the answer is presupposed or suggested by the question or the question merely seeks confirmation of a proposal

#### 2.2 Polar question markers

A shwaa àm àà?  
you drink water Q

Rigwe has two interrogative particles marked for aspect that are placed at the end of utterances. The most common particle has a complex set of allomorphs. These are;

- 1    àá, áá, àà    follows words ending in -ɔ, -u, and -a  
      èé, éé        follows words ending in -i, -e, and -ε
- 2    jé            follows words ending in any vowel and denotes emphasis

hérí    ñdʒé    ʔʷé    ʌièě,  
 even    I        drank    beer,  
 I even drank beer,

ŋʷé    ʔʷé    éè  
 you    drank    ConfM  
 You drank it?

ñdʒé    ʔkí    ŋʷà  
 I        him    gave  
 I gave it to him

ŋʷé    ʔkí    ŋʷà    rì    ìì  
 you    him    gave    really    ConfM  
 So you really gave it to him?

The form *aa* is marked for aspect as follows;

- áá    all future and conditional aspects
- àà    expresses s.t. that has just happened
- àá    all completive aspects

Examples of áá;

à    teó    be    teú    áá  
 He    walk    come    today    Q  
 Is he coming today?

à    rí    cu    áá  
 He    will    wash    Q  
 Should he wash it?

Examples of àà;

ŋʷé    j.ʷε    ñdà    àà  
 You    kill    lizard    Q  
 Did you just kill a lizard?

àá    re    ŋʷà    óŋgó    ñnà    àà  
 He    you    give    plate    the    Q  
 Has he just given you the plate?

Examples of àá;

ɲʷé j.ʷɛ ñdà àá  
You kill lizard Q  
Did you kill a lizard?

àá re ɲʷà óngó àá  
He you give plate Q  
Has he given you the plate?

Despite the apparent similarity of the pronoun and the question marker, this appears to be only a coincidence.

èé, éé allomorphs

éé all present, future and conditional aspects  
èè ? missing  
èé all completive aspects

Examples of éé;

àá kpe bè éé  
It has fall ground Q  
Has it fallen on the ground?

Another example

No èè ?

Examples of èé;

ɲʷé gí rí èé  
You him see Q  
Are you seeing him [now]?

ɲʷé rí gí rí èé  
You will him see Q  
Will you see him?

ɲʷé sê èé  
You buy Q  
Have you bought it?

jé

An emphatic question marker, corresponding to the English ‘really’.

Is the tone always static?

à ní ɲû jé  
He is him Q  
Is it really him?

àá gí nè jé

He COMP go Q  
Did he really go?

Examples *not* following a nasal

### 3. WH questions

Who?

ní 'nɛ́  
is who  
who is that?

ní 'nɛ́ ɲú tɔɔ ànà  
is who he comes that  
Who is that coming?

á ré 'jê he nɛ́  
they you call say who  
What is your name?

When?

ɲʷɛ́ rí 'bé á rékpè  
you will come on when  
When will you come?

ní rékpè ɲʷɛ́ rí 'bé  
is when you will come  
When will you come?

fronting focuses on the 'when'.

Where?

ɲʷɛ́ 'ɥa á he  
you went to where  
Where did you go?

ní he ɲʷɛ́ níɲ 'ɥa  
is where you it went  
Where did you go?

What?

à fĩ ɲì òdà  
he PTCP do what  
What is he doing?

ní òdà ɲú fĩ ɲìɲ  
is what he PTCP doing

What is he doing?

ɲʷɛ hu níŋ ʔti cá ɲú fĩ ɲiŋ éé  
you can me tell thing he PTCP doing QM  
Can you tell me what he is doing?

Why?

ɲí ndá ɲú ʔtĩ ne ɲʷé ɲzí ndzò ä  
is what it cause that you going Jos QM  
Why are you going to Jos?

ɲí ndá ɲú ʔtĩ ne ɲʷé ɲzí ndzò áá  
is what it cause that you going Jos EQM  
Why are you going to Jos?

ɲí áha nda ɲʷé ɲzí ndzò ä  
is because of what you going Jos QM  
Why are you going to Jos?

How?

ɲʷé ʔkí ʔɲí rimí  
you it do how  
How did you do it?

rimí ɲʷé ʔɲí ʔní ẽ  
why you do that QM  
Why did you do that?

ɲʷé ʔkí ʔɲí rimí ìì  
you it do how EQM  
How did you do it?

How much?

ɲʷé ʔsé nérà wêṃʷà  
you bought naira how much  
How much did buy you it (How many naira did you buy it)?

It is not possible to front *wêṃʷà*.