

Yamba idiophones

Mbem
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The following Yamba idiophones and other descriptive terms were produced by the Yamba literacy committee during the workshop in March 2009. I have divided them up by approximate semantic categories. The tone-marking has some ambiguity since mid and high tones are not distinguished in the orthography. The process of checking these is under way.

Yamba	Sense	Example sentence	Translation	Also
Sounds				
bəp	describes the noise of a soft, heavy object falling to the ground	ntú' néŋ ná gbù dɔ̀ bəp	the lump of fufu fell down, <i>bəp</i>	
càà	noise of liquid or grains falling to the ground	ndzəp sɔ̀ gbù mwé' cəcwà dɔ̀ càà	water is falling down the waterfall <i>càà</i>	
cápcápcáp...	describes the noise of a person running in the bush	ŋwe ne nàm yí caŋ də cápcápcáp ŋgò ca tiŋ na'	When a person sees an animal he runs <i>cápcápcáp</i> to catch it	
cūācūācūā	describes the noise of a waterfall	ndzəp gbù tsə gə də cūācūācūā	The waterfall sounds <i>cūācūācūā</i> ...	
dùùŋ	describes the dripping of saliva or a thick liquid	nté sɔ̀ tésɔ̀ tsɔ̀ yí mú cùhú dùùŋ	saliva is dripping from his mouth <i>dùùŋ</i>	
kìpkìpkìp...	describes the noise of a heavy person running	ŋwu ne tèrì' cagə ye de kìpkìpkìp...	A heavy person runs with the sound <i>kìpkìpkìp</i> ...	
kpàà	describes the noise of a bundle of raffia bars falling to the ground	mbə' rərəŋ ná gbù dɔ̀ kpàà	the bundle of raffia bars fell down <i>kpàà</i>	
kuəp	describes the sound of something hard like a bone when chewed			
kùpkùp	describes the noise of heavy raindrops	mbùŋ cərə və̀ kùpkùp	rain fell heavily <i>kùpkùp</i>	
ŋgəŋ	describes the noise of a something metallic falling to the ground	tətíŋ ntéŋ ná gbù dɔ̀ ŋgəŋ	the piece of metal fell down, <i>ŋgəŋ</i>	
ŋkwes	describes the noise when your hand slips away from s.o. holding you by force	pəlis à ko mù, mù swèè' tɛsə dzə bokho yí ŋkwes nə caŋ lo	The policeman arrested me and I escaped <i>ŋkwes</i> !	
pim	describes the noise of a stone falling to the ground	lis ná gbù dɔ̀ pim	the stone fell down, <i>pim</i>	
swak	describes the noise of a spear landing in the bush	kòòŋ sə cəəm tə də swak	The spear landed <i>swak</i>	

Yamba	Sense	Example sentence	Translation	Also
swelele	describes the noise of breaking glass, plates etc.	m̄ ɲwɪŋ ɲgàp am na feha ɲbù d̄ swelele	I bought a plate but it fell and broke <i>swelele</i>	
wààp	describes the noise of tearing a cloth	yi gb̄ mun̄ basakù, c̄k ye sah̄ d̄ wààp	She fell from her bicycle and tore her dress <i>wààp</i>	
Experiential				
bikikiki	describes a large crowd	busiŋ mà mvwó' satiká' n̄ v̄'ə bikikiki	There is a large crowd <i>bikikiki</i> at the festival	
bim	describes keeping silent, clamming up	hwɪŋ s̄ c̄əp̄ yi cum m̄gu ve'e bim	he kept silent <i>bim</i> while the others spoke	
bip	describes s.t. very heavy	lis n̄ rwi' v̄'ə bip	the stone is very heavy	
cwi'	describes the experience of a sudden bite by an insect	v̄m lem mu d̄ cwi' mù vehe v̄'é wùrɪŋ	The mosquitoes bit me <i>cwi'</i> and I was startled	
daàŋ	bright	Kùu ye à s̄ r̄ɛŋ daàŋ daàŋ co n̄ɛŋ n̄ wo t̄ k̄ v̄ho	his feet were as bright as an iron burnt in fire	
daŋdaŋ	describes s.t. very clean and bright	ndz̄p̄ n̄ s̄ r̄ɛŋ ve'ε daŋdaŋ co mù no	The water looks very clean for drinking	
d̄mm	dull facial appearance	si aw̄ɛŋ...yà'a kp̄ d̄mm	your faces appear as dull as that of the dead	
f̄k̄f̄k̄	overflowing	Ndz̄p̄ r̄wɪŋ ve'e f̄k̄f̄k̄	The river is full to overflowing.	
gh̄rr	describes surrounding completely	Bwe ɲgàa f̄ha ye w̄ɛŋ à k̄ ḡm yi gh̄rr	His disciples surrounded him completely.	
j̄jar̄	unclear, dim, dark	A s̄ ȳ bum ɲgà'a nt̄ j̄jar̄	Now we still see things dimly.	
j̄k	completely dark or locked up	Ndz̄m duk mvwe' lak s̄ n̄m n̄ cu ɲkum fo' s̄ pwe' j̄k	Darkness covered the whole country where the animal was king.	
ju	describes s.t. piled on top of the normal quantity			
juhu	describes signs especially in the eye indicating too many activities or confusion			
j̄rr	absolutely regular, in a straight line	m̄ s̄ ca lo m̄gù r̄r̄ɛŋ j̄rr , ...	I am running absolutely straight	
jwaŋ	straightaway, swiftly	yi c̄a jwaŋ , ...	He passed along without hesitating	
jw̄	quickly			
kp̄k	describes short, sharp action	kùm kp̄k	tap sharply	
kùk fù	describes s.t. that grows fast	t̄'am à bì t̄ mòk n̄' sa kùk fù vehe wùrɪŋ	My father planted a tree and it is	also n̄n̄k

Yamba	Sense	Example sentence	Translation	Also
			growing very fast	
làha lèeŋ lip	describes speaking garrulously describes the appearance of lightning secretly	Mbàŋ bà'a lèeŋ Kà də wèeŋ jə càsə fe'lə mbàam ŋwə nəmòk ŋga yà'a bisə lip duk	The lightning has appeared Do not take money from a person that will not be accounted for.	<i>Syn:</i> sak, ba'a.
lòm lwii'	describes dark, dusk flashing (as lightning); smoothly cut			<i>Syn:</i> bà'a, ɲèŋ, lèeŋ.
lwiiŋ	smooth, not stopping at one point	Yi ci' njàp nə lwiiŋ	He cut the meat, not stopping at one point	
mpaaŋ, mpùŋ ncuk	describes s.t. firmly closed describes an abrupt end to something e.g. putting off light	Ncùu sə tə lələk mpaan ghàha ye sə duk gù ve'e ncuk kə' mò'fis, nə ca gesə lo	The door was firmly closed. his wealth came to an abrupt end	
ŋkùŋ	firmly closed; totally or intensely dark night			
ŋup	unresponsive, stone-faced when beaten on the buttocks	Yi tə vè' ŋup	He stood thus stone-faced.	
saksak swèè'	at exactly noon describes escaping from danger	Nùm tə maràŋ saksak mū swèè' tēsə dzə boko jàdàm nə bɛ ŋgə	The sun is exactly overhead (noon) I escaped from the policeman's hand after a hard struggle	
swùk	describes swallowing a whole object without chewing.			
təp təp	describes outright rejection describes going about aimlessly, carelessly; ignorantly	Mu nə kà fàha sə gù təp yi sə gi təp kə'	I will not work. He walked about foolishly	
wùrr	instantly; en masse	Bùu sə wo à jə vè yi sə wèŋ lokok təŋ mutsə wùrr	The people who brought him stood up as a group	
wuk táhàtáhà taptap	describes a charged atmosphere describes wishing s.o. good luck describes staring at s.o.			<i>Syn:</i> sɛɛŋ, raprap, jwaan, njàun.
təəŋ	describes leaving abruptly; making a long line.			
wòòŋ	describes s.o. who is lazy and weak	yi sə lokoko wòòŋ ŋgò kə tehə mudzə co	He gets up <i>wòòŋ</i> like a little child	

Yamba	Sense	Example sentence	Translation	Also
yèŋ	describes s.t. or s.o. dead but still looking fresh	mweke' ŋwu nə'ə kpu ne nooŋ ve'e yèŋ co yi curi ŋwum	This person is dead but he still looks yèŋ as if he was alive	
yàhàyàhà	describes growing or standing out in hairlike manner like a maize-tassel			
Intensifiers				
baam	completely, clear like fine weather	..ŋgò ri bum sà yi dzəm yà' pwe'fo' baam	To know all the things he wants completely.	
hip	totally, completely	Fuk sà ghaŋ à rwiŋ ca ve'e hip	Big fish filled it completely.	
jwaan	intently			
leer	completely full	Wo tuk rwiŋsə kùuŋ sà bə ndzəp ve'e leer	They drew water and filled the pot completely.	
kpək	absolutely all	Yi jə gòmbi sà kpək nə kpək.	He took absolutely all of the corn.	
mpon	intently; carefully; silently	cugə mpon, yu'rə mpon	there is total silence, listen carefully	
njàan	intensely light; bright; straight.			
njùuŋ	absolutely; completely	Wo sà lò rəŋə ve'e njùuŋ	They are going absolutely straight.	
nyaap	quietly			
Tastes				
cəcəp	describes the taste of a sour lemon	mə sà buə lemu nə na'a cəcəp	I am sucking a sour lemon	
cəcík	describes a bitter taste	zə nə'e ci' ve'e wuriŋ	this piece of colanut is very bitter	
cəcwə'	describes s.t. tasteless	dzə yágə cəcwə'	water is tasteless	
cərəcərə	describes the taste of food that has been left overnight	mə zu səm beŋ yà ye cərəcərə	I ate the food that was left overnight and it is a bit sour	
cú'rəcúr'rə	describes a slightly bitter taste	njàə nə'e kə cuhu cú'rəcúr'rə co wo mak gəsə wup ca	the soup tastes cú'rəcúr'rə as if there is bitterleaf in it	
geləgelə	describes taste between sweet and bitter with some stickiness	kup nə'ə kə cuhu mə a nə geləgelə	the raphia seed I am eating tastes geləgelə	
lólúm	describes a sweet taste	ma àm nogə yo rük nə lólúm	my mother is drinking sweet palmwine	
lúrəlúrə	describes a slightly sweet taste	torə ndzəp sà mwe nu nə ŋga yà'ye lúrəlúrə	Mix some honey in the water to make it a bit sweet	
sóhòsòhò	describes the taste of cocoyam in the mouth	mbakap nə mu cuho mù sóhòsòhò	the cocoyam I am eating has no taste sóhòsòhò	

Yamba	Sense	Example sentence	Translation	Also
Smells				
rəm sààŋ	describes a good smell	urdi' ne'ε sə rəm sààŋ bòn̄sə ve'ε wùrìŋ	This scent has a good smell, it's very nice	
rərám	describes a bad smell	cuk nàm mòk nē yi yágè rərám	the shrew [?] is an animal that smells	
rəm sòòŋ	describes a bad smell	njàp ne'ε sə rəm sòòŋ. Nà a bup lan	This meat smells off, it is already bad	
Colours				
fəfəp	describes whiteness	mù ywíŋ mvəp nə fəfəp	I have bought a white fowl	
fəfəp búú	describes s.t. very white	ŋwə sə fəp buu	the moon is bright white	
fəfəp bupbup	describes s.t. intensely white	ndap te'am bə ncom fəfəp bupbup	my father's hair is intensely white	
fəfəp taptap	describes s.t. intensely white			
səsəŋ	describes blackness	mə tsə' ŋgbu nə səsəŋ	I have a black dog	
səsənē	describes s.t. dark black	maam ni tse' cuk səsənē	my mother is wearing a dark black dress	
səsəŋ bìp	describes s.t. very black	te' am ŋwù nə' səsəŋ bìp	My father is a very black man	
səsəŋ dikdik	describes s.t. intensely black	ves tsə' mvəp mòk səsəŋ dikdik	We have an intensely black fowl	
bəbáŋ	describes redness	cə'ām tsə ncām bəbáŋ	My cloth is red	
bəbárē	describes s.t. very red	ndzə nə bəbárē	the goat is very red	
bəbáŋ juàŋ	describes s.t. deep red	mə tsə' gòmbī nə bəbáŋ juàŋ	My maize has deep red grains	
bəbáŋ vòŋ	describes s.t. deep red			
bəbáŋ jéŋ	describes s.t. bright red	nə əm tu mo āam bəbáŋ jéŋ	My child has bright red hair [?]	
fəfərə	colour between black and white			
jwààŋ	intensely red	ŋwə ban buəŋ ye co nduəm jwààŋ	The moon turned completely red like blood.	
twéétwéèŋ	describes mixed colours	cəhə mòòk yégè twéétwéèŋ	some clothes have mixed colours	
Animal noises				
mooo...	noise of a cow	mbòòŋ wa'gə də mooo	the cow bellows <i>mooo</i>	
mééé...	noise of a goat	ndzə wa'gə də mééé	the goat bleats <i>mééé</i>	
miomio...	noise of a cat	pátú wa'gə də miomio	the cat cries <i>miomio</i>	
wúùwúùwúù	noise of a dog	ŋgbu vehe cəp gə də wúùwúùwúù	the dog howls <i>wúùwúùwúù</i>	
kwakkwakkwak	noise of a duck	gwàgwá cəp gə də kwakkwakkwak	the duck honks <i>kwakkwakkwak</i>	

Yamba	Sense	Example sentence	Translation	Also
mèèè...	noise of a sheep	nsùngeŋ wa'gə də mèèè	the sheep bleats <i>mèèè</i>	
kàkákākā...kā̀	noise of a cock	nto mvəp wa'gə də kàkákākā...kā̀	the cock cries <i>kàkákākā...kā̀</i>	
kékéké	noise of a hen	ntsə' mvəp wa'gə də kékéké	the hen clucks <i>kékéké</i>	
kòkkòkkòk...	noise of a mother hen	məma mvəp cəp gə də kòkkòkkòk	the mother hen clucks <i>kòkkòkkòk</i>	