

Ambaleenge of Kema, a language of the Dogon group

in Northern Mali and its affinities



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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Ambaleenje of Kema language, part of the Dogon group, spoken in northern Mali. The wordlist was collected from a group of villagers in Ambaleenje of Kema on the 9th of March 2005. The informants were;

Suleman Dagoga
Adamu Dagoga

We would like to thank them for their patience. The wordlist was collected as a ‘one-shot’ exercise and the transcription must therefore be regarded as preliminary. This analysis was prepared by Roger Blench, who added the comparative observations¹. This document is being circulated to scholars for comment.

The only previous data on this language appears to be the wordlist in Newcomer (2000) which presents some 800 words in the language of nearby Korikori. The phonetic transcription used sometimes makes her versions of words difficult to compare with the present data and occasionally there seem to be mistranslations as a consequence of faulty French translations. Nonetheless, the results are generally similar. Much technical vocabulary here was not collected by Newcomer.

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

The leaders of Kema called this language Ambaleenje. Hochstetler et al. (2004) say;

Mombo is the endonymic glossonym. It is called *kolu-so* by Donno-so speakers, and *pijari* (language of the district of Pigna) in Fulfulde. A subvariety called *helambo* is spoken in a few villages in the *arrondissement* of Goundaka. Those villages are: Kansila, Kowa, Pina, and Tangadouba. A subvariety called *miambo* is spoken in a village called Makou. The DNAFLA map uses *kolu so* to denote the Mombo variety. The elders in Bandiougou explained the xenonym *kolu so* as the speech of the village of Kori-kori.

This was distinguished clearly from Nyambaleenje (spoken in Ficko) but said to be ‘the same’ as Pa (although the list of Pa taken independently shows many differences).

2.2 Location and settlements

The villages also said to speak nearly the same language as Kema are; Kilmbo, Gamba. Nyongoon, Pa, Danga and Nando Bala. Kema is located at N 14 25.12 W 3 48.88.

2.3 Language status

The Ambaleenje of Kema language is presently being transmitted to the children. The second language of Ambaleenje of Kema speakers is Fulfulde, a dominant language in the zone. There is a limited amount of French spoken, usually by migrant workers or students.

2.4 Ambaleenje of Kema culture and history

The people of Kema are today all Muslims.

¹ The authors are grateful to Eric Huysecom and the Swiss Ethno-archaeological project for providing funding for this survey.

2.5 The classification of Ambaleenɛ of Kema

Calame-Griaule (1956:66) says;

Edyɛnɛ dɔ̃ (*ou idyoli dɔ̃nɛ*)
Il est parlé dans les cantons de Pignari Makou et Pignari Tougoumé par environ 6.000 Dogon. N.B. Ces deux dialectes sont réunis par les Dogon du centre sous le nom de kolum so, « dialectes du couchant ».

There is no doubt that this language is very close to Nyambaleenɛ and in general all the languages that fall under the ‘Ampari’ rubric.

Calame-Griaule (1978:64) expressed doubts about the affiliation of what she calls the ‘dialectes de l’ouest’ which includes Duleri dom and eɛnɛ dɔ̃. She says ‘les groupes 3 [Banɛri me] & 4 seraient à classer à part : la parenté n’apparaît pas comme évidente’. The basis for this statement is unclear, but while Banɛri me is undoubtedly not Dogon, these languages certainly are. Data on Duleri (Dolu-so) is given in Hochstetler et al. (2004) and wordlists of Ambaleenɛ, Nyambaleenɛ and Pa clearly form a group and can be related systematically to the remainder of Dogon.

3. Phonology

The phonology of Ambaleenɛ of Kema is based on rapid observations and should therefore be regarded as tentative at this stage.

3.1 Vowels

Ambaleenɛ of Kema probably has seven phonemic vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Close-Mid	e		o
Open-Mid	ɛ		ɔ̃
Open		a	

Ambaleenɛ of Kema permits all vowels to be long or short and all short vowels can be nasalised. Examples of nasalised long vowels are not so far recorded.

3.2 Consonants

Ambaleenɛ of Kema consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Alveopalatal	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b	t d		[j]	k g		
Nasal	m	n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill		r					
Fricative		s	[ʃ]				h
Approximant	v			y		w	
Lateral Approximant		l					

There appears to be certain amount of allophonic or free variation between voiced and voiceless alveolars and velars especially in medials. Thus a single elicitation session two speakers may produce the same word with k/g/, t/d. The same is true of the palatal forms of alveolar fricatives; these seem to be in free variation with non-palatal forms. [ʃ] and [s] may not be distinct phonemes and can be produced in parallel especially in initial position. However, in some words, /ʃ/ can be strongly palatalised, possibly a remnant of a lost syllable.

In medial position, /dʒ/ and /d/ are in free variation. For example, where the survey recorded **guju** ‘skin’ Newcomer (1998) has **gudu**

3.3 Tones

Ambaleenge of Kema has two tones, High and Low. For example;

tooth	íní
name	ìní

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Plurals of nouns in Ambaleenge of Kema are typically formed by the suffix –ge. Thus;

Gloss	sg.	pl.
cow	ná	náágè

5. Ambaleŋge of Kema wordlist

The wordlist was elicited via French and Fulfulde. This is not entirely satisfactory as pervasive multilingualism among the Dogon means that speakers could well be influenced by the phonology or lexis of the second language.

The most likely uncertainties in transcription are vowel length, nasalisation versus syllable-final nasals and the distinction between /e/ and /ɛ/ and /o/ and /ɔ/.

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
tree	arbre	tinjugo	
leaf	feuille	kube	
root	racine	dùndù	
branch	branche	noove	
bark	écorce	tɔŋɛ	
thorn	épine	gyɔ̃	
fruit	fruit	ve	
grass	herbe	kube	
mushroom	champignon		
seed/stone/pip	semence/graine	she	
charcoal	charbon	keŋgɔ	
dust	poussière	kunakuna	
ashes	cendres	nyàlanyàlà	
rubbish heap	tas des ordures	kɔjɔkɔjɔ tuve	
mud, clay	boue, argile	ɔgɔ, ɔgɔɔ	
dew	rosée	elelemi	
stone	Pierre	kini	
pebble	cailloux	kine	
sand	sable	sweynda	
smoke	fumée	kunɛ	
fire	feu	geni	
water	eau	mi	
rain	pluie	kumaŋga	
cloud	nuage	ale	
lightning	éclair	kumaŋga wenji	
rainy season	saison des pluies	gina	
dry season	saison sèche	gɛ́ɛ́njù	
year	année	wàyà	
today	aujourd'hui	yo	
yesterday	hier	yaagu	
tomorrow	demain	ɔga	
morning	matin	egagu	
evening	soir	dendemo	
day	jour	gedini	
night	nuit	do	
moon	lune	ywe	
sun	soleil	gɛ̀vɛ̀	
star	étoile	aŋkɔle	
wind	vent	yave	
sky	ciel	ámáná kóló	
god	Dieu	ámáná, aruna	
ground	sol	swe	

Roger Blench: Ambaleŋge of Kema Wordlist

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
river	fleuve	dibo	
stream	rivière	ɔndɔɔ	
pond, lake	marigot	ɔndɔ	
hill	colline	teɡɔ	
bush	brousse	kōy	
field	champ	yala	
market	marché	íba	
house	maison	dèbù	
room	chambre	dèbù pijò	
wall	mur	dèbù tudu	
roof	toit	kumbo	
ceiling	plafond	jāwō	
shelter	abri, hangar		
stone shelter	hangar en pierre		
granary	grenier	paŋga	
well	puits	sa	
road, path	route, sentier	oji	
village	village	dugu	
public place	place		
human being	personne	nda	
man	homme	wálá	
woman	femme	yɔ	
child	enfant	ve	
husband	mari		
wife	épouse		
co-wife	co-épouse		
father	père		
mother	mère		
mother's brother	frère de la mère		
mother's sister	soeur de la mère		
older brother	grand-frère	nge	
younger brother	petit-frère		
sister	soeur	nfogɛ	
son	fils		
daughter	fille		
friend	ami	nnolu	
stranger	étranger	biimba	
chief	chef		
hunter	chasseur	daana	
weaver	tisserand	gɛ̀jɛ̀tí	
thief	voleur	giyóngá	
doctor	guérisseur	jɔŋɡujɔŋɡi	
witch	sorcière	kolomuŋga	
corpse	cadavre		
blacksmith	forgeron	dembe	
potter	potier	ojekandi, ojemāy	
slave	esclave	gunda	
twin	jumeau	tantangi	
prophecy	prophétie		
shame	honte	dògà	
fear/fright	peur	niwɔ	

Roger Blench: Ambaleŋge of Kema Wordlist

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
bravery/courage	courage	majun̄gi, majɔnɔ	
laughter	rires	mandi	
wisdom	sagesse		
guilt	culpabilité		
anger	colère	jɔŋ	
race/running	course	du	
sleep	sommeil	noringe	
circumcision	circoncision	kondege	
death	mort		
name	nom	in̄i	cf. tooth in̄i
grave	tombe	salege	
song	chanson	nɔ	
proverb	proverbe	dabale	
story	histoire	tarigi	< Ar.
word	mot	dɔ	
lie	mensonge	tagu	
news	nouvelles	kibali	
hunger	faim	kuba	
horn	corne	siŋgi	
tail	queue	dulo	
egg	oeuf	polle	
wing	aile	kàràkàrà	cf. 'armpit'
feather	plume	kule	cf. 'hair'
anthill	termitière/fourmilière	tolo	
hole, pit	trou	kombu	
hole in tree	trou dans arbre		
gum, glue	colle	nara	
poison	poison		
load	fardeau, charge		
firewood	bois de feu	tèŋgé	
stick	bâton	tumá	
work	travail	wálè	
war	guerre	jɔŋ	also 'anger'
fighting	combat		
medicine	médicament	jɔŋgù	
money	argent	dumó	
shadow	ombre	kíndò	
spirit, soul		kíndòkíndò	
thing	chose	ŋgèyè	
land/country	pays		
sickness/disease	maladie	urù	
smallpox	variole		
diarrhoea	diarrhée, écoulement du ventre		
arthritis	arthrite		
goitre	goitre		
fever	fièvre	nyùmàlègè	
boil	furoncle		
sore/wound	plaie	níná	
scar	cicatrice	níná pónde	
brain	cervelle	ko wòlò	

Roger Blench: Ambaleŋge of Kema Wordlist

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
head	tête	koo	
eye	oeil	giri	
face	visage		
cheek	joue	tegamo	
forehead	front	gindo	
nose	nez	kinja	
ear	oreille	sugule	
mouth	bouche	doni	
lip	lèvre	doni kuju	
tooth	dent	íni	
tongue	langue	neende	
throat	gorge	òjòkòlò	
voice	voix	nòlò	
neck	cou	pàrù	
nape		gulu	
jaw	mâchoire	āwa	
chin	menton	bεε	
shoulder	épaule	kòlòkòlò	
armpit	aisselle	kárakára sùgù	
arm	bras	nuwe	
hand	main	nuwe tebo	
upper arm		gùbá	
elbow	coude	kòlò	
leg	jambe	sè	
foot	ped	sè tebo	
heel	talon	sè gulu	
toes		sèsè	
thigh	cuisse	pengele	
knee	genou	kunjuga	
nail	ongle	kòblè	
breast (female)	sein	oje	
chest	poitrine	gòò	
stomach	ventre	pijo	
navel	nombril	bɔŋgɔ	
back	dos	tundu	
buttocks	fesses	sukundi	
anus	anus	susugulie	
penis	pénis	sugu	
vagina	vagin	sugu sebe	
testicles	testicules	dòlò	
clitoris	clitoris		
skin	peau	guju	N. has gudu
bone	os	gãawe	
rib	côte	sεεne	
vein	veine	baga oji	'blood road'
blood	sang	baga	
breath	souffle	pubulu	
tear	larme		
saliva	salive	sɔɔnde	
bone marrow	moelle	gwóólò	

Roger Blench: Ambaleŋge of Kema Wordlist

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
sweat	sueur	bɔgɔmbɛ	
urine	urine	monji	
faeces	merde	sugɔ	
hair	cheveux	kule	
beard	barbe	bɛɛ kule	
liver	foie	kindá	
heart	coeur	dɔngósè	
intestines	intestins	nooli	
lung	poumon	puɖufadu	
kidney		ciba	
body	corps	goji nama	
meat	viande	nama	
animal	animal	béli	
camel	chameau	nyóńómè	
cow	vache	ná pl. náágè	
bull	taureau	ná wálá	
goat	chèvre	ùná	
sheep	mouton	áná	
pig	cochon	àlùwà	
horse	cheval	sɔnjònì	
donkey	âne	kónná	
dog	chien	ĩŋɛ	
cat	chat	gããre	
elephant	éléphant	nigi	
buffalo	buffle		
lion	lion	yara	cf. Bambara jara
leopard	tigre/panthère	dɔliga	
hyena	hyène	tumbele	
civet	civette		
genet	genette	pòròlò	
bush cat		kɔy gãã	'bush cat'
jackal	chacal	kálò	
fox	renard	kɔy ìŋɛ	'bush dog'
wart-hog	phacochère	kɔy aluwa	'bush pig'
antelope I	antilope	gérìgèrì	
antelope II	antilope		
antelope III	antilope		
antelope IV	antilope		
porcupine	porc-épic	kèèmè	
vervet monkey	singe	kali	
patas monkey	singe rouge	omboro	
baboon	babouin	gúmbè	
galago	galago	tùwélé	
squirrel	écureuil	kūya	
zorilla	zorille	tùmmù	
hedgehog	hérisson	nugulu mbanje	
mongoose	mangouste	seve gɛŋga	
dassie	daman des rochers	kɔy de	
hare	lièvre	jɔmɛ	
bush rat	rat de brousse	kɔy swa	
shrew	musaraigne	swa ge talay	

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English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
mouse	souris		
aardvark	oryctérope	ambara	
house-bat	chauve-souris	ni gil sale	
fruit-bat	roussette	wagi	
crocodile	crocodile, caïman	kámáná	
chameleon	caméléon	mwoyne	
agama lizard	margouillat	kambala	
gecko	gecko, salamandre	tugutugu	
monitor lizard	iguane, varan	waũ	
toad	crapaud	ɔŋune	
frog	grenouille		
tortoise	tortue	gũ	
snake	serpent	nɔmɔŋji	
cobra	cobre	ábá	
python	python	mili	
amphisbaenid		kɔjikɔji	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	òlòlò	green tree snake
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	taŋga nɔmɔŋji	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	abashima	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	nɔmɔŋji teemo	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	segi	F. kuruwa
fish	poisson	kóbùlé	
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	kule	<i>capitaine</i>
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	koro	
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	sòòy	
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	tule	
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	tama	
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	sambwe	
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	geŋgyaũ	
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	kɔmɔ	
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	taĩ	
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	dulɔmbuni	
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	édégélé	
bird	oiseau	iné	
chicken	poule	sija	
cock	coq	sija wala	hen sija yɔ
pigeon	pigeon	saamba	< B.
bush-pigeon	tourterelle	peregere	
guinea-fowl	pintade	aano	
vulture	vautour	duba	
cattle-egret		nyalalinyalali	< F.
hawk	épervier	tebu	
owl	hibou	dùnù	
bush-fowl	perdrix	tòle	
swallow	hirondelle	shinja	?
pie crow	corbeau	káàngà	
scorpion	scorpion	nùŋùnù	
butterfly	papillon	gɔmbepidi	
dragonfly	libellule	yɔ punaŋge kave	‘female menstruating grasshopper’
mosquito	moustique	òvé	
house-spider	araignée de la maison	nalandamba	

Roger Blench: Ambaleŋge of Kema Wordlist

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
spider	araignée	nalan	
mason-wasp	guêpe-maçonne	giŋgidima	
bee	abeille	ómónó	
housefly	mouche	giine	
louse	pou	sheme	
cockroach	cafard	nyembere	< B.
termite	termite/fourmi blanche	tu	
flying ant	fourmi volante	kagidigidi	
grasshopper	sauterelle	kave	
mantis	mante religieuse	deŋgumandengu	
firefly	mouche de feu	keke	
glow-worm		nyambe	
worm	ver de terre		
oil	huile		
fat	graisse		
salt	sel		
soup/sauce	sauce		
food	nourriture/to		
beer	bière		
handle	manche d'outil	sulekuja	
sickle	faucille	kómó	
fruit harvester	hameçon de fruit	gode	
firewood knife	couteau de bois de feu	kórugu	
harvesting knife	couteau de moisson	keniŋkembe	
cutlass	machette	beshe	
iron	fer	dube	
axe big	hache grande	gele	
axe small	hache petite	gula	
adze	herminette	kómbe	
sowing hoe	semeur	sóle	
hoe I	houe I	dambe	
hoe II	houe II		
knife	couteau	tala	
mat-knife	couteau pour nattes		
razor	rasoir	sirimbe	
anvil	enclume	dala	
hammer	marteau	waambe	modern hammer marto
pincers	pincés	kabala	
awl	alène	keme	
chisel	burin	keje	
tweezers	tire l'épine	eve	
bellows	soufflet	uguje	
cooling bowl	bol d'eau	teengo	
broom	balaie	gene	
bag	sac	gembe, boro	
fireplace	foyer	oonge	
shoe	chaussure	taje	
hat	chapeau	bambula	
clothing	vêtement	shoy	
necklace	collier	keengo	
ring	bague	peguse	

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English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
bracelet	bracelet	nwentule	
mortar	mortier	dɔni	
pestle	pilon	dɔɔ ʋe	
pot	pot		
pot I	canari I		
pot II	canari II		
head-pad	coussinet		
basket	panier		
winnowing tray	tamis		
mat	natte		
needle	aiguille		
spear	lance		
bow	arc		
arrow	flèche		
quiver	carquois		
rope	corde		
stool	tabouret		
door	porte		
door-frame	seuil		
bed	lit		
fence	clôture		
ladder	échelle		
canoe	pirogue		
paddle	pagaie		
bee-hive	ruche		
Music	Instruments de musique		
drum I	tambour-sablier	kálángù	
drum II	tambour	bóli	
drum III	tambour		
drum IV	tambour		
hollow logs	blocs de bois	kóndòkóndò	
kora	kora		
lute	luth		
flute	flûte traversière		
whistle	sifflet	peembe wala	
rattle I	hochet calebasse	pěũ	
rattle II	hochet		
transverse horn I	corne	tùtùlù	
transverse horn II	corne		
iron bell	clochette de fer	kèlèŋkèlèŋ	
iron slit bell	clochette de fer à fente	wanja	
sistrum	sistre des initiés	wánjálma	
clarinet	clarinette	pèkòli	
Numbers	Nombres		
one	un	teeda	
two	deux	neenga	
three	trois	taandi	
four	quatre	keejo	
five	cinq	noomu	
six	six	kulěy	

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English	Français	Ambaleenge of Kema	Commentary
seven	sept	sooli	
eight	huit	seeli	
nine	neuf	toowa	
ten	dix	pælu	
eleven	onze	pælu tiram sugo	
twelve	douze	pælu neŋga sugo	
twenty	vingt	penaŋga	
twenty-one	vingt et un	penaŋga tiram sugo	
thirty	trente	petaandu	
forty	quarante	de	
fifty	cinquante	deendu pælu	
sixty	soixante	pəl kulēy	
seventy	soixante-dix	siŋgi pelu ula	
eighty	quatre-vingt	siŋgi	
ninety	quatre-vingt-dix	siŋgi lo pælu	
hundred	cent	siŋgi lo penaŋga	
white	blanc	yéshímá	yatombo in Korikori
black	noir	yeverede	
red	rouge	yabuni	
green	vert	kojikolo	
yellow	jaune		
other colour	autres couleurs		
heavy	lourd	dɔŋga	
light	léger	yayay kande	
large	grand	yaba	
small	petit	deje	
many	beaucoup/nombreux	jwakande	
few	peu	banu	
all	tout	sele	
wide	large	bamba	
narrow	étroit	pembi	
hard	dur	ganŋan kande	
soft	doux/tendre		
sweet	doux/sucré	elala	
bitter	amer	karakara kande	
sour	acide	tɔntɔn	
deep	profond	sumbi	
shallow		sumbi ndaga	
long	long	golo	
short	court	duŋguru	
good	bon	pɔlɔ	
bad	mauvais	pɔlɔ ndaga	
dirty	sale	nemaŋgi	
fat	gros	bala	
thin	maigre	ɔnɛ	
near	proche/près	bebe	
far	loin/lointain	waji	
beautiful	beau	yaga	
ugly	laid, vilain	yaga ndaga	

Roger Blench: Ambaleŋge of Kema Wordlist

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
hot	chaud		
cold	froid, frais	kilolo	
strong	fort	sembenga	
weak	faible	sembenga ndaga	
ripe	mûr	yáùlè	
unripe	cru/vert	kolo	
full	plein	jwe	
empty	vide	pomboga	
Verbs	Verbes		
accept	accepter		
accompany	accompagner	nindɔ	
add to	ajouter	baru	
agree	être d'accord		
allow	laisser faire		
announce	annoncer	taaru	
answer	répondre		
apply (ointment)	oindre/huiler	nombu	
arrive	arriver		
ask for	demander	saru	
be born	naître		
beat	battre	tɛblo	
begin	commencer		
bend/bow	incliner/courber		
bite	mordre		
blow (mouth)	souffler (la bouche)		
blow (wind)	souffler (vent) I		
boil	bouillir		
borrow	emprunter		
braid	tresser		
break	casser		
breathe	respirer		
bring	apporter		
build	construire, bâtir		
burn	brûler		
bury	enterrer		
buy	acheter		
call	appeler		
care for	soigner		
carry in arms	porter dans les bras		
carry on back	porter sur le dos		
carry on head	porter sur la tête		
chew	mâcher		
choose	choisir		
chop down	abattre		
chop/slice	trancher		
close	fermer		
comb	se peigner		
come	venir		
cook	cuisiner		
count	compter		
cover	couvrir		

Roger Blench: Ambaleŋge of Kema Wordlist

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
crawl	ramper		
cry out	crier		
cut	couper		
dance	danser		
die	mourir		
dig	creuser/labourer		
divide	diviser		
do	faire		
draw water	puiser		
dream	rêver		
drink	boire		
drive away	chasser/éloigner/repousser		
drop	laisser tomber		
dry up	sécher		
eat	manger		
enter	entrer		
extinguish	éteindre		
fall	tomber		
fear	craindre		
fill	remplir		
find	trouver		
finish	terminer		
fly (v.)	voler (oiseaux/avion)		
fold	plier		
follow	suivre		
forbid	interdire		
forget	oublier		
gather	réunir		
give	donner		
give birth	accoucher		
go	aller		
go down	descendre		
go out	sortir		
go up	monter		
greet	saluer		
grill	griller		
grind	broyer		
grow/increase	grandir, croître		
hear	entendre		
help	aider		
hide	caler		
hold	tenir		
insult	insulter		
jump	sauter		
kill	tuer		
know	savoir		
lack	manquer		
laugh	rire		
learn	étudier/apprendre		
leave	laisser		
lend	prêter		

Roger Blench: Ambaleŋge of Kema Wordlist

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
lick	lécher		
lie	mentir		
lift onto head	soulever		
light	allumer		
like/love	aimer		
limp	boiter		
listen	écouter		
look for	chercher		
lose	perdre		
make a mistake	se tromper		
marry	épouser		
measure	mesurer		
milk	traire		
mix	mélanger		
open	ouvrir		
peel	éplucher		
pick up	ramasser		
pierce	percer		
plaster	crépir		
play	jouer		
pound	piler		
pour	verser		
pull	tirer		
push	pousser		
put	poser/placer		
put away	remiser/ranger		
rain	pleuvoir		
read	lire		
refuse	refuser		
remember	se souvenir		
repair	réparer		
resemble	ressembler		
rest	se reposer		
return	revenir		
ride	monter un animal		
rub	frotter		
run	courir		
say	dire		
scratch	gratter		
see	voir		
sell	vendre		
send	envoyer		
sew	coudre		
shake	secouer		
sharpen	aiguiser		
shave	se raser		
shoot	tirer		
show	montrer		
sing	chanter		
sit down	s'asseoir/être assis		
sleep	dormir		

Roger Blench: Ambaleŋge of Kema Wordlist

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
smell	sentir		
smoke (tobacco)	fumer (tabac)		
sneeze	éternuer		
snore	ronfler		
soak	faire tremper		
sow	semer		
spit	cracher		
stay	rester		
steal	voler		
stick onto	coller		
sting	piquer		
stroll	se promener		
suck	sucer/téter		
swallow	avaler		
sweep	balayer		
swell	gonfler		
swim	nager		
take	prendre		
take off	ôter		
taste	goûter		
teach	enseigner		
tear	déchirer		
tell	raconter		
think	penser		
throw	jeter		
tie	nouer/attacher		
touch	toucher, palper		
tremble	trembler		
try	essayer		
turn over	se retourner		
twist	tordre		
undress	se déshabiller		
unfold	déplier		
untie	dénouer/détacher		
urinate	uriner		
vomit	vomir		
wait	attendre		
walk	marcher		
want/need	vouloir/avoir besoin		
wash s.t.	laver q.c.		
wash self	se laver		
weave	tisser		
weed	sarcler/arracher les herbes		
whisper	chuchoter		
whistle	siffler		
wipe (nose)	se moucher		
write	écrire		
yawn	bâiller		
Q words	Questions		
where?	où	māũ	
when?	quand	manangay	

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
how?	comment	no	
how many?	combien	aŋgay	
why?	pourquoi	iŋgeguna	
who?	qui	ay	
what?	quoi	iŋge	
Others	Autres		
here	ici	nyu	
there	là	inda	
left	à gauche	naaga	
right	à droite	nunya	
north	nord		
south	sud		
east	est		
west	ouest		
I, me	je, moi		
you	toi		
he, she, it	lui, elle		
we, us	nous		
all of us	nous tous		
you	vous		
they, them	ils		

Plants

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
Cassava ²	manioc		
Sweet potato ³	patate douce		
Wild yam	igname de brousse		
Cereals	cereales		
Sorghum ⁴	grand mil	emba	
Bulrush millet ⁵	petit mil	sheŋge	
Fonio ⁶	fonio	põ	
Maize* ⁷	mais	dulumõ	
Rice* ⁸	riz	ere	
Cowpea ⁹	nyebe	nuuŋge	
Bambara groundnut ¹⁰	pois de terre		
Groundnut ¹¹	arachide	olaŋge	
Tiger-nut ¹²	souche à manger	gooŋgi	

² (Manihot esculenta)

³ (Ipomoea batatas)

⁴ (Sorghum bicolor)

⁵ (Pennisetum spp.)

⁶ (Digitaria exilis)

⁷ (Zea mays)

⁸ (Oryza sativa/ glaberrima)

⁹ (Vigna unguiculata)

¹⁰ (Vigna subterranea)

¹¹ (Arachis hypogaea)

English	Français	Ambaleŋge of Kema	Commentary
Perfume sedge	souche à parfum		
Garden egg ¹³	aubergine	kɛɛ	
Okra ¹⁴	gombo	gaŋgaji	
Sorrel/roselle ¹⁵	oseille	kɔɔ	
Kenaf ¹⁶	kenaf	polli	< F > ?
Birdseye chili* ¹⁷	piment		
Onion	oignon	kakunde	
Garlic ¹⁸	ail	kakunde wala	
Tomato ¹⁹	tomate		
Melon (other) ²⁰	courge	gòń	
Edible squash ²¹	potiron		
Sesame ²²	sesam	pabaliŋge	
Pawpaw* ²³			
Gourd (Generic)	calebasse	koyɛ	
Gourd-bottle ²⁴	bouteille		
Gourd (spherical) ²⁵	calebasse ronde		
gourd spoon	louche	kɔbɛndagay	
Other gourds	autres Calebasses		
Cotton	coton	koonde	
Cola	cola		
Fan-palm ²⁶	rônier		geleje, alale
Dum palm	doumier		
Baobab ²⁷	arbre de pain		
Shea tree ²⁸	karité	minji	karehi
Locust tree ²⁹	néré	poli	narehi
Locust fruit			
Locust-bean cakes			
<i>Guiera senegalensis</i>			njeloki

¹² (*Cyperus esculentus*)¹³ (*Solanum melongena*)¹⁴ (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)¹⁵ (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)¹⁶ (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)¹⁷ (*Capsicum annuum*)¹⁸ (*Allium sativum*)¹⁹ (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)²⁰ (*Cucumis* spp)²¹ (*Cucurbita pepo*)²² (*Sesamum indicum*)²³ (*Carica papaya*)²⁴ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)²⁵ (*Cucurbita maxima*)²⁶ (*Borassus aethiopum*)²⁷ (*Adansonia digitata*)²⁸ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)²⁹ (*Parkia biglobosa*)

English	Français	Ambaleenje of Kema	Commentary
<i>Anogeissus leiocarpus</i>			kojoli
<i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i>			
<i>Piliostigma reticulatum</i>			barki
<i>Cassia tora</i>			ulo
<i>Acacia albida</i>	balanzan		ceeki
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>			
Tamarind ³⁰	tamarinier	suŋ	
Sodom apple ³¹			
<i>Ficus platyphylla</i>		kankūwa	

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³⁰ (Tamarindus indica)

³¹ (Calotropis procera)