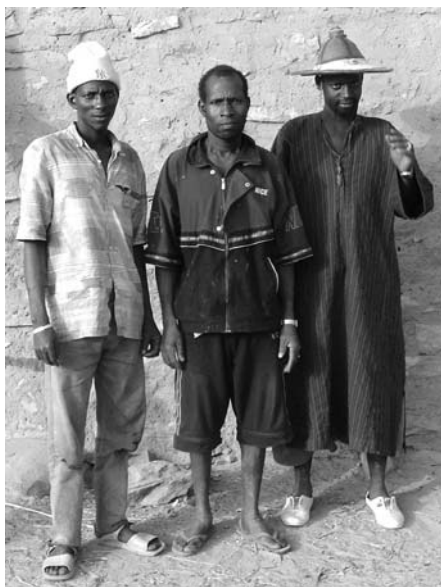


Bunɔge, a language of the Dogon group, in Northern Mali and its affinities



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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Bunɔɛ language, part of the Dogon group, spoken in northern Mali. The wordlist was collected from a group of villagers in Budu Nema on the 24th of February and 11th of March 2005. The informants were;

Bakari Tarawali
Umar Babbuna
Umar Tarawali
Amadu Diallo

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.

This data is believed to be the first ever recorded for this language.

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

Plungian (1994:178) called this language *budu-tagu*, which is in fact the name of the principal town of the speakers. According to Tɔmmɔ-sɔ speakers of nearby Pirɔ called it *budu so* and claimed that Korandabo is the endonym for it. According to the elders at Budu Nema, the correct name of the language is Bunɔɛ, although there is no corresponding ethnonym and people seem to call themselves Budu.

2.2 Location and settlements

The settlements of the Bunɔɛ are in;

Arrondissement Secteur
Bandiagara Goundaka

Hochstetler et al. (2004) say ‘Korandabo is only spoken in two hamlets (Dakuma and Sangou) that constitute the village of Boudou, on the northwest of the plateau.’ This is incorrect. The full list of settlements is as follows (Table 1);

Name	Comment	N	W
Budu Tagu	the oldest village		
Budu Nema	settled from Budu Tagu		
Tabale			
Nema			
Dakuma		14:39:10	3:47:40
Sangu		14:42:50	3:48:50

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

Apart from Nema and Budu Nema, all these settlements are in the rocks and very inaccessible. Bunɔɛ people are gradually moving to the plain.

2.3 Language status

The Bunɔɛ language is presently being transmitted to the children. The second language of Bunɔɛ speakers is Fulfulde, a dominant language in the zone. Based on the 1987 population census, Hochstetler et al. (2004) give a figure of 500. The expanded list of settlements suggest this figure should be increased, but perhaps to 1-2000 only. Bunɔɛ is presently protected by its inaccessibility.

2.4 Bunɔɛ culture and history

The Bunɔɛ are today all Muslim.

2.5 The classification of Bunɔɛ

Calame-Griaule (1956) does not mention this language and a complete absence of data has made all previous assertions speculation. The nominal plural suffix aligns this language with the Ampari/Mombo cluster, but lexically, it is quite remote. Bunɔɛ has probably been diversifying in isolation for a long period.

3. Phonology

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

3.1 Vowels

Bunɔɛ probably has seven phonemic vowels;

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

Bunɔɛ 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, but certainly exist in other Dogon lects. Bunɔɛ and other Dogon languages permit sequences of tone-bearing vowels without any consonants. These can be in contrast with sequences of vowel plus semi-vowel.

3.2 Consonants

Bunɔɛ consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Alveopalatal	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b	t d		c [j]	k g		
Nasal	m	n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill		r					
Fricative		s z	[ʃ] [ʒ]				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 [ʒ] are may not be distinct phonemes and /s/ and /ʃ/ can be produced in parallel especially in initial position, perhaps reflecting perceptions of sentence context. However, in some words, /ʃ/ can be strongly palatalised, possibly a remnant of a lost syllable.

3.3 Tones

Bunɔŋɛ has two tones, High and Low.

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Plurals of nouns in Bunɔŋɛ are typically formed by the suffix -(n)ge. Thus;

cow	na pl. naange
goat	kilo pl. kilɔŋge
sheep	alama pl. alamage

This would align Bunɔŋɛ with the Ampari cluster. Nyambeŋge, for example, has an identical plural for ‘cow’.

cow	na pl. naange
-----	---------------

5. Bunɔŋɛ 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	Bunɔŋɛ	Commentary
tree	arbre	tiliŋɛ	
leaf	feuille	be	
root	racine	bushile	
branch	branche	gobe	
bark	écorce		
thorn	épine		
grass	herbe	ɖʒu	
mushroom	champignon	koɖʒi	
seed/stone/pip	semence/graine		
charcoal	charbon	kɛɛŋɔ	
dust	poussière	dùgù	
ashes	cendres	diwo	
mud, clay	boue, argile	kùlɛŋkùlɛ	
dew	rosée	iwólígò	
stone	pierre	kini	
pebble	cailloux	kóɖʒòkóɖʒò	
sand	sable	suundʒa	
smoke	fumée	kwiye	
fire	feu	geni	
water	eau	gɔ	
rain	pluie	àyàgò	
cloud	nuage	pundu	
lightning	éclair		
rainy season	saison des pluies	yɛná	
dry season	saison sèche	ɲɛŋgentɛmbu	
year	année	waya	
today	aujourd'hui	ɖʒɔŋ	
yesterday	hier	yagu	
tomorrow	demain	oga	
morning	matin	baamba	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunɔŋɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunɔŋɛ	Commentary
evening	soir	dendamba	
day	jour	deni	
night	nuit	ya [check!]	
moon	lune	ya [check!]	
sun	soleil	ɲɛŋɛ	
star	étoile	ɖʒɔŋgule	
wind	vent	yálè	
sky	ciel	ankɔŋgo	
god	dieu	amananɲa	
ground	sol	bòróbòrò	
river	fleuve	déw	
stream	rivière	yìli	
pond, lake	marigot		
hill	colline	sɔŋgɔ	
bush	brousse	ke	
field	champ	bila	
market	marché	iva	
house	maison	obo	
room	chambre	obo kina	
wall	mur	piŋgi	
roof	toit		
ceiling	plafond	kumbo	
shelter	abri, hangar		
stone shelter	hangar en pierre		
granary	grenier	ɔlɔ	
well	puits	taga	
road, path	route, sentier	oɖʒi	
village	village	olo	
public place	place		
human being	personne	sɔɖʒɔ	
man	homme	nolo	
woman	femme	yɔɔ	
child	enfant	bé	
husband	mari		

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunᵛɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunᵛɛ	Commentary
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		
younger brother	petit-frère		
sister	soeur		
son	fil	be nolo	
daughter	fille	be yɔ	
friend	ami	nnolo	
stranger	étranger		
chief	chef	oloko	
hunter	chasseur	danay	
weaver	tisserand		
thief	voleur	kambugande	
doctor	guérisseur	ɖʒungu gedʒungu	
witch	sorcière		
corpse	cadavre	dòwá	
blacksmith	forgeron	kɔɔnɔ	
potter	potier		
slave	esclave	ɔmɔ	
twin	jumeau		
prophecy	prophétie		
shame	honte		
fear/fright	peur		
bravery/courage	courage		
laughter	rires		
wisdom	sagesse		
guilt	culpabilité		
anger	colère		
race/running	course		
sleep	sommeil		

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English	Français	Bunɔŋɛ	Commentary
circumcision	circoncision	kɔndɛ	
death	mort		
name	nom	ini	
grave	tombe	sɛrkabɛ	
cemetery	cimetière	punŋɛɛ	
song	chanson		
proverb	proverbe		
story	histoire		
word	mot		
lie	mensonge		
news	nouvelles		
hunger	faim		
horn	corne		
tail	queue	dilo	
egg	oeuf	pɔɔŋŋɛ	
wing	aile		
feather	plume	kule	
anthill	termitière/fourmilière	túwè	
hole, pit	trou	kɔmbo	
hole in tree	trou dans arbre		
poison	poison		
load	fardeau, charge		
firewood	bois de feu		
stick	bâton	tuma	
work	travail	wale	
war	guerre	kwi	
fighting	combat	ɲɔŋŋɔ	
medicine	médicament	tiliŋŋɛ	
money	argent	tɔndige	
shadow	ombre		
thing	chose		
land/country	pays		
sickness/disease	maladie	uru	
smallpox	variole		

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunɔŋɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunɔŋɛ	Commentary
diarrhoea	diarrhée, écoulement du ventre		
arthritis	arthrite		
goitre	goitre		
fever	fièvre	waage	
boil	furoncle		
sore/wound	plaie		
scar	cicatrice	tɔŋgo nipali	
brain	cervelle		
head	tête	ko	
eye	oeil	gire	
face	visage	gende	
cheek	joue	kεεε	
forehead	front	gende mbulu	
nose	nez	kiná	
ear	oreille	sugule	
mouth	bouche	toni	
lip	lèvre	toni nama	
tooth	dent	in	
tongue	langue	dendebe	
throat	gorge	ɔ́lɔ́lɔ́	
neck	cou	kolaŋge	
jaw	mâchoire		
chin	menton	ɔndɔ	
shoulder	épaule	guba	
armpit	aisselle	karakara	
arm	bras	numε	
hand	main	kolaŋge	
elbow	coude		
leg	jambe	she	
foot	ped	she tabɔ	
thigh	cuisse	pεŋgele	
knee	genou	kundʒuga	
nail	ongle	kovale	
breast (female)	sein	oɖʒe	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunᵛᵛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunᵛᵛ	Commentary
stomach	ventre	dole	
navel	nombril	bᵛᵛgale	
back	dos	pumbu	
buttocks	fesses	pugupugu, bᵛᵛgᵛᵛdè	
penis	pénis		
vagina	vagin		
clitoris	clitoris		
skin	peau	gwi	
bone	os	gay	
rib	côte		
vein	veine		
blood	sang	baga	
breath	souffle	sigᵛᵛ	
tear	larme		
saliva	salive		
bone marrow	moelle		
sweat	sueur		
urine	urine		
faeces	merde		
hair	cheveux	ko kule	
beard	barbe	ᵛᵛᵛᵛ kule	
liver	foie		
heart	coeur		
intestines	intestins		
lung	poumon		
body	corps	wye nama	
meat	viande		
animal	animal	ken nama	
camel	chameau		
cow	vache	na pl. naange	
bull	taureau		
goat	chèvre	kilo pl. kilᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
sheep	mouton	alama pl. alamage	
pig	cochon	abe	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunᵛᵛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunᵛᵛ	Commentary
horse	cheval	shé	
donkey	âne	kulumu	
dog	chien	indʒe	
cat	chat	ɲaali	
elephant	éléphant	nege	
buffalo	buffle	gulu	
lion	lion	nambala	
leopard	tigre/panthère	yaa nulu	
hyena	hyène	kāy	
civet	civette		
genet	genette	keɲali	
jackal	chacal		
fox	renard		
wart-hog	phacochère	ala	
antelope I	antilope		
antelope II	antilope		
antelope III	antilope		
duiker	antilope	kidʒi	
porcupine	porc-épic	kel(ɛ)mɛ	
vervet monkey	singe		
patas monkey	singe rouge	ɔmɔ	
baboon	babouin	gumbe	
galago	galago		
squirrel	écureuil	kwīya	
zorilla	zorille	suŋusay	
hedgehog	hérisson	kudʒukule	
mongoose	mangouste		
dassie	daman des rochers		
hare	lièvre		
mouse	souris	ɲaayi	
cane-rat	rat palmiste	guɖʒu	
bush rat	rat de brousse	ɲaay	
shrew	musaraigne	ɲaay gumbe	
mouse	souris		

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunɔɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunɔɛ	Commentary
aardvark	oryctérope	ambara	
house-bat	chauve-souris		
fruit-bat	roussette		
crocodile	crocodile, caïman	gidzigidzi	
chameleon	caméléon	ɖɔimɛ	
agama lizard	margouillat		
gecko	gecko, salamandre	amgenɔndzɛ	
monitor lizard	iguane, varan	kunkumbe	
toad	crapaud		
frog	grenouille		
tortoise	tortue	gumu	
snake	serpent	namga	
cobra	cobre	yɔɔle	
python	python		
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	kwa	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	miri	F. ndamari
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	ɔlo ɔlo	
snake sp. I	serpent sp. I	niŋgali	
fish	poisson		
Nile perch	capitaine	kule	<i>Lates niloticus</i>
electric fish	poisson électrique	maɖzaw	< F.
puffer- fish	poisson sp. I	fuluru	<i>Tetraodon fahaka</i>
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	sambo	<i>Gymnarchus niloticus</i>
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	dengedzi	<i>Mormyrus spp.</i>
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	gumbi	<i>Hydrocynus vittatus</i>
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	tála	<i>Citharinus citharus</i>
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	kobo	<i>Labeo spp.</i>
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	gɔmɔ	<i>Alestes nurse</i>
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	ŋɔŋgɔ	<i>Alestes baremose</i>
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	kɔɔnare	<i>Synodontis spp.</i>
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	ngari	Schilbeidae spp.
fish sp. I	poisson sp. I	kegebe	<i>Tilapia spp.</i>
bird	oiseau	ɲibe	
chicken	poule	shidza	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunṅɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunṅɛ	Commentary
cock	coq		
duck	canard	tṅṅṅṅṅ (B.)	
pigeon	pigeon	kunekune samba	
guinea-fowl	pintade	amunu	
vulture	vautour		
cattle-egret			
hawk	épervier		
owl	hibou		
bush-fowl	perdrix		
swallow	hirondelle		
pied crow	corbeau		
scorpion	scorpion	numunumu	
butterfly	papillon		
dragonfly	libellule		
mosquito	moustique	boy	Niger-Congo #-bo
house-spider	araignée de la maison	nanambe	
spider	araignée	yalayala	
mason-wasp	guêpe-maçonne		
bee	abeille	ame	
housefly	mouche	nṅṅṅṅṅ	
louse	pou		
cockroach	cafard		
termite	termite/fourmi blanche	tu	
flying ant	fourmi volante		
locust	locuste	kāya	
grasshopper	sauterelle		
large beetle		sṅṅṅṅṅ	
mayfly		daṅṅṅṅṅ	
mantis	mante religieuse	amananṅa lāya	
firefly	mouche de feu		
worm	ver de terre	shi	
oil	huile	nù	
fat	graisse	námáshìò	
salt	sel	kòmùnù	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunɔŋɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunɔŋɛ	Commentary
soup/sauce	sauce	bèdàŋɔ̀	
food	nourriture/ <i>to</i>	pésòmlò	
beer	bière	ámè	
handle	manche d'outil	tòlò	
iron	fer	dubɛ	
sickle	faucille	kɔ̀mɔ	
fruit harvester	hameçon de fruit	dɔŋgo	
firewood knife	couteau de bois de feu	kɔ̀rɔŋɔ	
harvesting knife	couteau de moisson	alkembɛ	
cutlass	machette		
axe big	hache grande	gulɔ	
axe small	hache petite		
adze	herminette	bɛdʒɔŋɔ	
sowing hoe	semeur	tutɔwɔ	
hoe I	houe I	dembe	< Bambara
hoe II	houe II		
knife	couteau	doli	
mat-knife	couteau pour nattes		
razor	rasoir	sirimbè	
tweezers	tire l'épine	ɛɛ	
hair-pin	épingle des tresses	sugase	
anvil	enclume	sugu	
hammer	marteau	danibe	
pincers	pinces	kabala	
awl	alène	gwɔlɛ	
chisel	burin	kedʒo	
bellows	soufflet	ubudʒu	
cooling bowl	bol d'eau	tɛŋɔ	
broom	balaie	ɲèní-ŋgà	
bag	sac		
fireplace	foyer		
shoe	chaussure	taaga	
hat	chapeau	bambula	
clothing	vêtement	gaba	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunɔɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunɔɛ	Commentary
fan	éventail	biyɛgɛfiyɔ	
comb	peigne	kogefulo	
necklace	collier	kɔɛ	
ring	bague		
bracelet	bracelet		
mortar	mortier	dɔ	
pestle	pilon	dɔ be	
pot	pot	nunɔ	
pot I	canari I		
pot II	canari II		
head-pad	coussinet		
basket	panier	tagi, tadʒi	
winnowing tray	tamis		
mat	natte	biŋge	
needle	aiguille		
spear	lance	sambe	
bow	arc	taw	
arrow	flèche	taw she	
quiver	carquois		
rope	corde	shinɔ	
stool	tabouret	ɛruŋɛ	
door	porte	ta	
door-frame	seuil		
bed	lit	karka	= B. ?
fence	clôture		
ladder	échelle		
canoe	pirogue	kĩ	
paddle	pagaie		
bee-hive	ruche		
Music	Instruments de musique		
drum I	tambour-sablier	kalɔŋɔ	hourglass drum < Hausa ?
drum II	tambour	bole	
drum III	tambour		
drum IV	tambour		

English	Français	Bunṓḡ	Commentary
hollow logs	blocs de bois		
kora	kora		
lute	luth		
flute	flûte traversière	peelee, feelee	
whistle	sifflet	teebe peelee	
rattle I	hochet calebasse		
rattle II	hochet		
transverse horn I	corne	pulu	
transverse horn II	corne		
iron bell	clochette de fer		
iron slit bell	clochette de fer à fente	wandḡa	
sistrum	sistre des initiés		
clarinet	clarinette	pumberu	
Numbers	Nombres		
one	un	ntoro	
two	deux	ndega	
three	trois	táánù	
four	quatre	niiu	
five	cinq	nṓṓmṓ	
six	six	kùléw	
seven	sept	sṓṓ	
eight	huit	sheele	
nine	neuf	towa	
ten	dix	kobe	
eleven	onze	kobe ya ntoro ya	
twelve	douze	kobe ya ndega	
twenty	vingt	talima	
twenty-one	vingt et un	talima ya ntoro ya	
thirty	trente	talima kobe ya	
forty	quarante	de	
fifty	cinquante	de kobe ya	
sixty	soixante	talima a sigo	
seventy	soixante-dix	talima a sigo ya kobe ya	
eighty	quatre-vingt	yòlò	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunᵛᵛᵛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunᵛᵛᵛ	Commentary
ninety	quatre-vingt-dix	yòlò yá kobe yá	
one hundred	cent	yòlò yá talime	
white	blanc	shima	
black	noir	yᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
red	rouge	bow	
green	vert	kᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
yellow	jaune	puripuna	
blue		blᵛᵛᵛᵛ	< Fr. ?
ochre		bᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
heavy	lourd	niᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
light	léger	yawyaw	
large	grand	gulu	
small	petit	tumbu	
many	beaucoup/nombreux	ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
few	peu	daambi	
all	tout	sakay	
wide	large	bamba	
narrow	étroit	pᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
hard	dur	male	
soft	doux/tendre	fufu	
sweet	doux/sucré	ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
bitter	amer	karkari	
sour	acide	ami	
deep	profond	ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
long	long	gulu	
short	court	tumbu	
good	bon	dᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ go	
bad	mauvais	dᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ ori	
dirty	sale	demᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
fat	gros	bigi	
thin	maigre	ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
near	proche/près	tunᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
far	loin/lointain	wagi	
beautiful	beau	selabo	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunṅɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunṅɛ	Commentary
ugly	laid, vilain	sɛla ori	
hot	chaud	ɖʒuŋga	
cold	froid, frais	tɔŋgole	
strong	fort	ɛnama	
weak	faible	yawyaw	
ripe	mûr	bile	
unripe	cru/vert	kaɖzi	
full	plein	shini	
empty	vide	pɔmboga	
Verbs	Verbes		
accept	accepter		
accompany	accompagner		
add to	ajouter	bara	
agree	être d'accord		
allow	laisser faire		
announce	annoncer	tayu	
answer	répondre	kigyu	
apply (ointment)	oindre/huiler		
arrive	arriver	ndine	
ask for	demander	edʒaru	
be born	naître		
beat	battre	numbu	
begin	commencer	dogolu	
bite	mordre	nundʒu	
blow (mouth)	souffler (la bouche)	pubulu	
blow (wind)	souffler (vent) I	gubu	
boil	bouillir	waanji	
borrow	emprunter	niŋu	
braid	tresser	begu	
break	casser	melagu	
breathe	respirer	shigɔ	
bring	apporter	sòŋgè	
build	construire, bâtir	sími	
burn	brûler	súmbè	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunṓgɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunṓgɛ	Commentary
bury	enterrer	dĩngè	
buy	acheter	sḵḵwè	
call	appeler	ṗàáṗi	
care for	soigner		
carry in arms	porter dans les bras		
carry on back	porter sur le dos	bambu	< F.
carry on head	porter sur la tête	dwi	
chew	mâcher	tɛmu	
choose	choisir	balay	
chop down	abattre	keru	
chop/slice	trancher	gambagay	
close	fermer	diṗa	
comb	se peigner	pulo	
come	venir	ego	
cook	cuisiner	sombulo balu	
count	compter	diguru	
cover	couvrir	piṅga	
crawl	ramper	abalu	
cry out	crier	pulu	
cut	couper	paraga	
dance	danser	yobu	
die	mourir	dowa	
dig	creuser/labourer	woli	
divide	diviser	gambaga	
do	faire	kankana	
draw water	puiser	goṗa	
dream	rêver		
drink	boire	nnwa	
drive away	chasser/éloigner/repousser	pyaga	
drop	laisser tomber	tubɛ	
dry up	sécher	ṗaṗi	
eat	manger	dʒindʒa	
enter	entrer	dwa	
extinguish	éteindre	dimṓṅṓ	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunɔɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunɔɛ	Commentary
fall	tomber	tubɛ	
fill	remplir	yómù	
find	trouver	mbeele	
finish	terminer	way	
fly (v.)	voler (oiseaux/avion)	pile	
fold	plier	pundo	
follow	suivre	atige	
forbid	interdire		
forget	oublier	ɲali	
gather	réunir	segalama	
give	donner	tabu	
give birth	accoucher	nali	
go	aller	geendo	
go down	descendre	shigo	
go out	sortir	go	
go up	monter	ula	
greet	saluer	ciamu	
grill	griller	sumba	
grind	broyer	nama	
grow/increase	grandir, croître	bajna	
hear	entendre	nunde	
help	aider	báná	
hide	caler	yògá	
hold	tenir	dèbá	
insult	insulter	dó	
jump	sauter	tómbó	
kill	tuer	géù	
know	savoir	ɲama	
lack	manquer	saanda	
laugh	rire	mandu	
learn	étudier/apprendre	vela	
leave	laisser		
lend	prêter		
lick	lécher	dela	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunᵛᵛᵛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunᵛᵛᵛ	Commentary
lie	mentir	shíá	
lift onto head	soulever	dendza	
light	allumer	deba	
like/love	aimer	kaᵛa	
limp	boiter	tiᵛoᵛzu	
listen	écouter	nunde	
look for	chercher	tegulu	
lose	perdre	dibe	
make a mistake	se tromper	sadzi	
marry	épouser	goba	< F. gobugal
measure	mesurer	tumba	
milk	traire	ema	< F. emgul
mix	mélanger	nigidze	
open	ouvrir	deᵛula	
peel	éplucher	kombolo	
pick up	ramasser	mbaale	
pierce	percer	morogo	
plaster	crépir	ara	
play	jouer	merele	
pound	piler	dwa	
pour	verser	tuiye	
pull	tirer	gimba	
push	pousser	duᵛzuro	
put	poser/placer	duᵛju	
put away	remiser/ranger		
rain	pleuvoir	emeᵛa	
read	lire	dzange	< F.
receive	recevoir	aba	
refuse	refuser	abali	
remember	se souvenir	naalu	
repair	réparer		
resemble	ressembler	bo pima	
rest	se reposer	ulanda	
return	revenir	embe ega	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunᵛᵛᵛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunᵛᵛᵛ	Commentary
ride	monter un animal	deyo	
rub	frotter	sudᵛᵛala	
run	courir	dunu	
say	dire	taga	
scratch	gratter	koru	
see	voir	tegu	
sell	vendre	soola	
send	envoyer	tiu	
sew	coudre	kole	
shake	secouer	piᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
sharpen	aiguiser	nama	
shave	se raser	kayu	
shoot	tirer	taya	
show	montrer	mᵛᵛ	
sing	chanter	nuᵛᵛᵛ	
sit down	s'asseoir/être assis	ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
sleep	dormir	biyege	
smell	sentir	kulala	
smoke (tobacco)	fumer (tabac)		
sneeze	éternuer	ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
snore	ronfler	kᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
soak	faire tremper	saba	
sow	semer	towa	
spit	cracher	swa	
stay	rester	ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
steal	voler	kamuga	
stick onto	coller	ᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
sting	piquer	soba	
stroll	se promener	yila	< F. yilugo
suck	sucer/téter	bᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
swallow	avalier	miinda	
sweep	balayer	kuᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	
swell	gonfler	amu	
swim	nager	mᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛᵛ	

Roger Blench and Denis Douyon: Bunɔŋɛ Wordlist

English	Français	Bunɔŋɛ	Commentary
take	prendre	duga	
take off	ôter	gomu	
taste	goûter	daanda	
teach	enseigner		
tear	déchirer	adʒaga	
tell	raconter	digoro	
think	penser	nalu	
throw	jeter	tubu	
tie	nouer/attacher	kuŋga	
touch	toucher, palper	naru	
tremble	trembler	kilomu	
try	essayer	nkane ndʒedʒa	
turn over	se retourner	kuburɔ	
twist	tordre	puladʒa	
undress	se déshabiller	goomu	
unfold	déplier	kundʒulo	
untie	dénouer/détacher	kungula	‘tie + negation’
urinate	uriner	mɔndʒi	
vomit	vomir	su	
wait	attendre	nuriya	
walk	marcher	odʒi	
want/need	vouloir/avoir besoin	nkay	
wash self	se laver	duya	
wash s.t.	laver q.c.	gɔnduya	
weave	tisser	tiya	
weed	sarcler/arracher les herbes	sira	
whisper	chuchoter	ɲemɛɲemɛ	
whistle	siffler	pimbu	
wipe (nose)	se moucher	dimbo	
write	écrire	nuna	
yawn	bâiller	ababe	
Q words	Questions		
where?	où	nalu	
when?	quand	nananɔga	

English	Français	Bunɔŋɛ	Commentary
how?	comment	nandzi	
how many?	combien	aŋga	
why?	pourquoi	ebegeɗa	
who?	qui	ay	
what?	quoi	ɛ̀bɛ̀gɛ̀	
Others	Autres		
here	ici	ma	
there	là	bolo	
left	à gauche	numaga	
right	à droite	giŋgyɔ	
morning greeting		kana	
evening greeting		tiya	
north	nord		
south	sud		
east	est		
west	ouest		
I, me	je, moi	mí, ñ	
you	toi	ú	
he, she, it	lui, elle	wò, mónó, kò	
we, us	nous	mìyá, ñ	
all of us	nous tous	nkundu	or ‘everybody’
you	vous	oya	
they, them	ils	bé, ʒé, āya	

Plants

English	Français	Bunɔŋɛ	Commentary
Cassava ²	manioc		
Sweet potato ³	patate douce		
Wild yam	igname de brousse		
Sorghum ⁴	grand mil	shinja	varieties: yɔ̀lɔ̀lɔ̀, ɛ̀mbage, ndɔ̀ŋgɔ̀
Bulrush millet ⁵	petit mil	yoge	

² (Manihot esculenta)

³ (Ipomoea batatas)

⁴ (Sorghum bicolor)

English	Français	Bunɔŋɛ	Commentary
Fonio ⁶	fonio	fwoŋge	
Maize* ⁷	mais	dilima	
Rice* ⁸	riz	ɛndɛŋɛ	
Cowpea ⁹	nyebe	ɲuunge	
Bambara groundnut ¹⁰	pois de terre	mandam tumu	
Groundnut ¹¹	arachide	mandam gulu, ɪrnú	
Tiger-nut ¹²	souche à manger		
Perfume sedge	souche à parfum		
Garden egg ¹³	aubergine	téù	
Okra ¹⁴	gombo		
Sorrel/roselle ¹⁵	oseille	sɔlɔŋɛ	
Kenaf ¹⁶	kenaf		
Birdseye chili* ¹⁷	piment	dandi	< F.
Onion	oignon	yashi	
Garlic ¹⁸	ail	atima ngure	
Tomato ¹⁹	tomate	tamati	
Melon (other) ²⁰	courge		
Edible squash ²¹	potiron		
Sesame ²²	sesam	palgi	
Pawpaw* ²³			

⁵ (*Pennisetum* spp.)⁶ (*Digitaria exilis*)⁷ (*Zea mays*)⁸ (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)⁹ (*Vigna unguiculata*)¹⁰ (*Vigna subterranea*)¹¹ (*Arachis hypogaea*)¹² (*Cyperus esculentus*)¹³ (*Solanum melongena*)¹⁴ (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)¹⁵ (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)¹⁶ (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)¹⁷ (*Capsicum annum*)¹⁸ (*Allium sativum*)¹⁹ (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)²⁰ (*Cucumis* spp)²¹ (*Cucurbita pepo*)²² (*Sesamum indicum*)²³ (*Carica papaya*)

English	Français	Bunɔɛ	Commentary
calabash plant	calebassier	kwĩ	
Gourd (Generic)	calebasse	dóóni	
Gourd-plant	calebasse-vigne	kùyèngè	
Gourd-bottle ²⁴	bouteille		
Gourd (spherical) ²⁵	calebasse ronde		
gourd spoon	louche		
Other gourds	autres calebasses	tɔŋgutɔŋgu	
Other gourds	autres calebasses	tɛbɛŋɛ	
Cotton	coton	kwɔndi	
Cola	cola	gɔrɔ	
Fan-palm ²⁶	rônier	shimu	
Dum palm	doumier		
Baobab ²⁷	arbre de pain	pɛgi	
Shea tree ²⁸	karité	ɛɛ	karehi
Locust tree ²⁹	néré	pori	narehi
Locust fruit			
Locust-bean cakes			
<i>Guiera senegalensis</i>		tulu	njeloki
<i>Anogeissus leiocarpus</i>		shigoli	kojoli
<i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i>		magala	geleje, alale
<i>Piliostigma reticulatum</i>		sagasaga	barki
<i>Boscia senegalensis</i>		kolo	gijili
<i>Combretum sp.</i>		guje	doko
<i>Cassia tora</i>		kalakala	ulo
<i>Acacia albida</i>	balanzan	kumu	ceeki
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>		shwɔyi	tanne

²⁴ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)²⁵ (*Cucurbita maxima*)²⁶ (*Borassus aethiopum*)²⁷ (*Adansonia digitata*)²⁸ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)²⁹ (*Parkia biglobosa*)

English	Français	Bunɔɔ	Commentary
Tamarind ³⁰	tamarinier		
Sodom apple ³¹			
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kamu	ibe
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kɔmbe, kobenkobe	ndundewi
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	ginjo	kele
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	saya	taki
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	iwo	korewe
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	paya	dibbe
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kugu	nelbe
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	tene	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	saanja	caabule
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	muja	ere
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kambi	pobi
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	pinde	njalihilay
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	tintew	njabbi
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	mula	gumbeje
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	ɲgweɲgwe	
Tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	pɔgɔm	
grass sp. I	herbe sp. I	bɔndi	
grass sp. I	herbe sp. I	degashe	
grass sp. I	herbe sp. I	bɔmba	
grass sp. I	herbe sp. I	kulumbu	
grass sp. I	herbe sp. I	sɔgɔ niniga	
grass sp. I	herbe sp. I	ganja	
grass sp. I	herbe sp. I	bɔntɔnɔ	
grass sp. I	herbe sp. I	sugulimbelu	
grass sp. I	herbe sp. I	bandubandu	
grass sp. I	herbe sp. I	dɛndɛnkule	

³⁰ (Tamarindus indica)

³¹ (Calotropis procera)