

Cwaya Noun Classes

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This document outlines the Cwaya noun classes. The data was provided by Ahmed Abbas Natilly, Hashim Aheel, Mukhtar Wakil Ali and Hissin Gadem. The noun classes are identified by their singular and plural prefixes and by their concords and are summarised in the chart below. The noun class numbering used is that given by Stevenson 1956. Where there are 2 numbers for a noun class, the first number gives the singular form, and the second the plural form. Zero prefixes are indicated by Ø.

noun class number	singular prefix	singular concord	plural prefix	plural concord	semantic identification
1,2	x-,w-,m-,Ø	x-	l-	l-	People
1,2	Ø	x-	-ngá	l-	Sons and daughters
3,4	x-,w-,m-,Ø	x-	y-,Ø	y-	Nature
5,6	l-	l-	ng-	ng-	Sets
7,8	x-,w-,m-,Ø	x-	n-	n-	Common things?
9,10	z-	z-	r-	r-	Long thin things
11,12	z-	z-	y-,Ø	y-	Dangerous things
15,16	ng-	ng-	ny-	ny-	Domestic and small animals and things?
15a	't-	't-	-	-	Diminutive
19	za-	z-	-	-	Infinitive
20	ng-	ng-	-	-	liquids and abstract nouns
21,22	ng-	ng-	Ø	y-	goat
23,24	l-	l-	Ø	y-	tooth

A complete list of all the nouns used in this analysis is at the end of the document. As Cwaya has only recently been written down, spelling can vary. There is generally no variation in how the plurals are formed. The main exceptions are in the people class, where some tone changes occur.

Class Distinctions

The noun class classification above is based on that given by Stevenson for other Heiban group languages. The only Cwaya noun class that Stevenson mentions is the people class and our data corresponds closely to his analysis for this noun class.

However some comments can be made:

- The nature class consists of more than just a few trees. In Cwaya the class seems to have acquired some animals and body parts as well.
- According to Stevenson the sets class contains items which occur in groups or large numbers. Many of the words in this class do not seem to fit this description. However there is evidence (see below) to suggest that many words in the liquids class have a close relationship with this class, lending weight to its semantic identification.
- The common things class is also labeled according to Stevenson's analysis of the Heiban languages.
- The long things and dangerous things classes are becoming indistinct in that some words seem to have changed classes.
- The domestic animals class contains mainly animals, and the words for 'boy' and 'girl'. It is a small class.
- The diminutives class does not have plurals. It is formed by taking a word from another class and replacing the singular suffix with 't-'.
- The liquids and abstract noun class contains mainly liquids. Few abstract nouns which fit here have been found.
- The goat class contains only the word for goat. The word for 'boy' fits the singular and plural prefixes for this class, but has concord agreement according to the domestic animals class. Sometimes this class also contains the word for 'cow', but here 'cow' is in the domestic animals class.
- The tooth class contains 3 words: the words for tooth, breast and skin. In many other Heiban languages, it only contains the word for 'tooth'

In the Cwaya language, arabic words retain their arabic plural forms.

There are many words which have no plural form and these are listed in the data section of this document. For the purposes of pronouns most of these words are considered to be singular. However all the words in the liquids class and most words starting with 'y' or 'i' are considered to be plural. The words for fire, sun and moon are the exceptions to the latter rule. It turns out that a singular prefix can be attached these words. The meaning is then a 'very small amount of'. For example the "singular" form of 'ngar' (water) and 'ngan' (milk) are 'lar' and 'lan' which mean 'a drop of water' and 'a drop of milk' respectively. Similarly, 'ílá' (flour) has the "singular" form 'zílá' meaning 'a pinch of flour'.

Data

X, w, m and Ø to l

elíny
ehra
ixrih
mangga
ma'razahn
nánna
oráh
ohngela
úna
urih
urud
uzahr
wábba
wal
wánndahng
wah
xá'da
xándana
xása'rampa
xáza
xázuda
xahji
xáhmzora
xahrni
xáhrniya
xíh'ri
xih'tini
xóhrmaná

People

lelíny
lehra
lixrih
lámangga
lama'razahn
lanná
loráh
lohngela
lúna
lurih
lurud
luzahr
labba
lal
lánndahng
lah
lá'da
lándana
lása'rampa
láza
lázuda
lahji
láhmzora
lahrni
láhrniya
líh'ri
lih'tini
lóhrmaná

fungus
leopard
uncle
brother, sister
woman
mother
husband
aunt
mother in law
rat, type of
monster
pig
father
fly
worm
wife
frog
branch of Cwaya tribe
branch of Cwaya tribe
animal
branch of Cwaya tribe
person
branch of Cwaya tribe
grandmother, grandfather
grandfather, grandmother
gazelle
rabbit
branch of Cwaya tribe

Ø to - ngá

ampuh
kanníh
lá'da
lá'dula
ngalla
ngohtí
oka
ommá
ohjé
xacíh
xámmá
xohcá

Sons and daughters

ampuhngá
kanníhngá
ngá'da
ngá'dula
ngallangá
ngohtíngá
okangá
ommángá
ohjéngá
xacíhngá
xámmángá
xohcángá

5th born girl
2nd born girl
necklace
insect, type of found in cave
3rd born boy
2nd born boy
first born boy
4th born boy
3rd born girl
4th born girl
1st born girl
5th born boy

X, w, m, Ø to y and x to Ø

inya
irahny

nature

yinya
yirahny

mouth
name

mahŕta
 oh'dam
 óhllá
 óhllóhŕa
 ohpot
 óhzáhmpá
 umpar
 uhmbúhr
 wa'della
 wáden
 wadrel
 wana
 wánnda
 wánni
 wángal
 wa'ra
 wa'ravet
 wa'ta
 wa'tá
 waxar
 xábera
 xab'ranggír
 xadadany
 xa'dang
 xá'dirih
 xájara
 xám
 xama'ra
 xamré'ra
 xánger
 xárbéllá
 xáru
 xa'rabil
 xa'rabu
 xá'ramóná
 xa'rangacá
 xa'rangál
 xa'rér
 xá'tu'tam
 xáva
 xaxrá
 xázabra
 xázabu
 xázax'tu
 xázera
 xazih
 xahmar
 xahm'du
 xahmla
 xahmluxu
 xahmnur
 xahmpŕa
 xahrbo'rá
 xáhvla
 xe'renndar
 xeya
 xíhzihnyul
 xolá'ra
 xohlladar
 xohraram
 xuxriny

yahŕta
 yoh'dam
 yóhllá
 yóhllóhŕa
 yohpot
 yóhzámpá
 yumpar
 yuhmbúhr
 ya'della
 yáden
 yadrel
 yana
 yánnda
 yánni
 yángal
 ya'ra
 ya'ravet
 ya'ta
 ya'tá
 yaxar
 yábera
 yab'ranggír
 yadadany
 ya'dang
 yá'dirih
 yájara
 yám
 yama'ra
 yamré'ra
 yánger
 yárbéllá
 yáru
 ya'rabil
 ya'rabu
 yá'ramóná
 ya'rangacá
 ya'rangál
 ya'rér
 yá'tu'tam
 yáva
 yaxrá
 yázabra
 yázabu
 yázax'tu
 yázera
 yazih
 yahmar
 yahm'du
 yahmla
 yahmluxu
 yahmnur
 yahmpŕa
 yahrbo'rá
 yáhvla
 ye'renndar
 yeya
 yíhzihnyul
 yolá'ra
 yohllader
 yohraram
 yuxriny

horse
 tree, type of
 oesophagus
 tree, type of
 forehead
 ostrich
 lyre
 door
 container for milk
 tree, type of
 tree, type of
 tree, type of
 knife
 snake, type of
 sheep
 tree
 bird, type of
 tree, type of
 bird, type of
 tree, type of
 insect, type of
 tree, type of , poisonous
 thorn tree, type of
 tree, type of
 fruit tree, type of
 tree, type of
 snake, type of
 finger nail, claw
 root, type of
 insect, type of
 tree, type of
 skin
 feather
 thorn tree, type of,
 insect, type of
 tree, type of
 fruit tree, type of
 grasshopper, type of
 tree, type of
 piece of stone
 hen, chicken
 leaf of bean plant
 fruit tree, type of
 tree, type of
 worm, type of
 fruit tree, type of
 tree, type of
 ant
 tortoise
 bark of tree
 fruit tree, type of
 carrying cloth
 fruit tree, type of
 cat
 fruit tree, type of
 fruit tree, type of
 fruit tree, type of
 grasshopper, type of
 snake, type of
 tree, type of
 fruit tree, type of

L. or 'r' to ng sets

lábhn
labatur
labbar
láben
laber
lábirih
láblela

lábóhrá
labraber
lab'raryul
lab'ratur
lá'da
lá'dula
láí
lájallá
lajo'ra
lallany
lama
láma
lamam'rul
lamandih
lamá'ruwá
lamba
lamer
lámmá
lamon
lampala
lampel
lámrod
lamu
lánnara
láng'ro'da
lánya
lanyenya
lápíyu
laraza
larba
larbíhn
larbíhn
larih
larmá'ra
lártá
láru
larxah
la'rabon
la'rabu
la'rácirríh
la'rangacá
la'rcar
la'rcar
la'rengger
la'reya
la'rja
la'rud
lasáh
lassa
lata
látahm
látahrma

ngáhn
ngabatur
ngabbar
ngáben
ngaber
ngábirih
ngáblela

ngábóhrá
ngabraber
ngab'raryul
ngab'ratur
ngá'da
ngá'dula
ngái
ngájallá
ngajo'ra
ngallany
ngama
ngáma
ngamam'rul
ngamandih
ngamá'ruwá
ngambá
ngamer
ngámmá
ngamon
ngampala
ngampel
ngámrod
ngamu
ngánnara
ngáng'ro'da
ngánya
nganyenya
ngápíyu
ngaraza
ngarba
ngarbíhn
ngarbíhn
ngarih
ngarmá'ra
ngártá
ngáru
ngarxah
nga'rabon
nga'rabu
nga'rácirríh
nga'rangacá
nga'rcar
nga'rcar
nga'rengger
nga'reya
nga'rja
nga'rud
ngasáh
ngassa
ngata
ngátahm
ngátahrma

mirror
branch of tree
missing tooth
animal, type of
tail
herb, type of
type if insect which causes disease in cattle
dora cane
insect, type of
insect, type of which shines at night
insect, type of
necklace
insect, type of found in cave
eye
tree, type of
hockey stick
poisonous tree
day
spotted lizard, type of, pot
insect, type of found in excrement
sorghum, type of
herb, type of
lamp
diaphragm
chin
finger
grasshopper, type of
gap in the teeth (missing tooth)
cooking stone
hedgehog
insect, type of (has bad smell)
jaw
herb, type of
tree, type of
fungus
tree, kind of
fruit tree, type of
fruit, type of
gum tree
nerve
pottery
green fennel
herb, type of
knee, kind of fruit
fruit, type of
fruit, type of
flower, type of
tree, type of
fruit tree, type of
fruit, type of
carpal bone
tomatoe
insect, type of
hip
herb, type of
bladder
bean
jaw bone
chameleon

látih
 latréra
 latur
 lavá
 lavra
 láyer
 layína
 lázajá
 lázahmna
 lazri
 lahbah'rahr
 lahber
 lahbllú
 lahb'ra
 lahb'ra'rohl
 lahfēr
 láchfo'ra
 láchgru
 lahammá'ra
 lahmur
 lahmora
 lahmuru
 lahm'ra
 lahrahciht
 lahvel
 láchvihn
 lahvra
 le'da
 lénya
 leya
 léh
 leh'rahr
 líbih
 linndihl
 linndihny
 linnih
 lírih
 lisála
 lóbbba
 lo'dang
 lojá
 lom
 lomár
 loh'ra
 loh'dahm
 lohlang
 lohra
 lóhrilla
 loh'ra
 lóh'ra
 loh'rán
 lúdnini
 lúdu
 lumpái
 lúnggar
 lupupany
 lu'ra
 lu'ra
 lu'rábilli
 lu'râr
 lu'tu'tam

ngátih
 ngatréra
 ngatur
 ngavá
 ngavra
 ngáyer
 ngayína
 ngázajá
 ngazahmna
 ngazri
 ngahbah'rahr
 ngahber
 ngahbllú
 ngahb'ra
 ngahb'ra'rohl
 ngahfēr
 ngáchfo'ra
 ngáchgru
 ngahmmá'ra
 ngahmur
 ngahmora
 ngahmuru
 ngahm'ra
 ngahrahciht
 ngahvel
 ngáchvihn
 ngahvra
 nge'da
 ngénya
 ngeya
 ngéh
 ngeh'rahr
 ngíbih
 nginndihl
 nginndihny
 nginnih
 ngírih
 ngisála
 ngóbbba
 ngo'dang
 ngojá
 ngom
 ngomár
 ngohb'ra
 ngoh'dahm
 ngohlang
 ngohra
 ngohrilla
 ngoh'ra
 ngóh'ra
 ngoh'rán
 ngúdnini
 ngúdu
 ngumpái
 ngúnggar
 ngupupany
 ngu'ra
 ngu'ra
 ngu'rábilli
 ngu'râr
 ngu'tu'tam

palm leaf
 canoe
 navel
 mosquito
 tree, type of
 tree, type of
 tree, type of
 type of special herb root
 kidney
 insect, type of
 snake, type of; branch of palm leaf
 tail
 bird, type of
 word
 parrot
 tail
 lizard, type of
 chest
 herb, type of, snail
 fruit, type of
 herb, type of, useful
 cereal
 stone, core of fruit
 sesame
 fruit, type of
 blood
 stick
 coconut
 egg
 fruit, type of
 bone
 thigh
 sesame plant leaf
 fruit, type of
 hip
 sycamore tree
 thorn tree, type of
 weevil
 horn
 back_of_head
 joint
 fish
 insect, type of
 anus tube
 star
 seed
 charcoal
 testes
 shield
 winnowing stick
 bicep
 gulp
 tree, type of dum
 hook
 drum
 bird
 wood
 stick
 insect, type of
 big lizard, type of
 tree, type of

lútúhmar
luhbbuh
'rah

ngútúhmar
nguhbbuh
nga'rah

mountain
lake
head

X, w, m, Ø to n

common things?

órtá
úna

nórtá
núna

uzahl
xabba
xábba
xábera
xabo'ra
xá'dah
xálla
xáni
xaraw
xárbaba
xarel
xare'ra
xarét
xarihny
xa'rabany
xa'razun
xá'rbeta
xa'rbon
xa'reya
xa'rja
xa'ru
xasohsa
xa'ta
xa'tam
xazahla
xázihl
xazoh'ra
xahdám
xah'dohn
xahrah'rany
xah'rbany
xáh'rbeta
xah'rjá
xahvía
xahzla
xáhzlih
xe'ra
xo'tam

nuzahl
nabba
nábba
nábera
nabo'ra
nndáh
nálla
nání
nndaraw
nárbaba
narel
nndare'ra
nndarét
narihny
na'rabany
na'razun
ná'rbeta
na'rbon
na'reya
na'rja
na'ru
nasohsa
na'ta
na'tam
nazahla
názihl
nazoh'ra
nahdám
nn'dohn
nahrah'rany
nah'rbany
náh'rbeta
nah'rja
nahvía
nahzla
náhzlih
ne'ra
no'tam

bowl
small bowl used for tasting porridge
during cooking
forehead
wing
tree, type of
gap between the teeth
scapula
stone
shoulder
ear
field
foot
december
pebble
clothing
stomach
armpit
tree, type of
leaf
fruit tree, kind of
september, guinea fowl
tree, kind of
april, kind of animal
straining cloth
sesame, type of
tick insect
nose
vine
stool
book
house
fruit tree, type of
armpit
leaf
tree
cat
spider
year
thorn
neck

Z to r

long thin things

zam
zanga
zángangni
zanglet
zar
záraba
zárany
za'rá
zat
zah
zahb'ra

ram
ranga
rángangni
ranglet
rar
ráraba
rárany
ra'rá
rat
rah
rahb'ra

tree, type of, tall and smooth
tree, poisonous, type of
kind of worm
dream
rope
well, seasonal
august
fish spear
road
hand
spirit

zálmani
 zalm'rany
 zalingla
 zel
 zengar
 zó'rang
 ze'rahny
 zoh'dá
 zohngar
 zohnggrera
 zoh'ra
 zohwa
 zohwar
 zúbub'ra
 zul
 zulá
 zúmpará
 zúrany
 zu'ra
 zuwá

ráhmani
 ralim'rany
 rahngla
 rol
 rengar
 ró'rang
 re'rahny
 roh'dá
 rohngar
 rohnggrera
 roh'ra
 rohwa
 rohwar
 rúbub'ra
 rul
 rulá
 rúmpará
 rúrany
 ru'ra
 ruwá

foot
 ulna
 tongue
 well
 right_hand
 coconut root
 lower leg
 last born
 elephant
 insect, type of, lives in water
 back
 fence
 heart
 stirring stick
 giraffe, May
 river
 lion
 february
 dry wood
 root

Z to y dangerous things

zabá
 zábélá
 zábu'ra
 zabzahboh
 zalmal
 zamá
 zamany
 zamolla
 zamohlla
 zangar
 zar
 zárbohllá
 zárzi
 za'rabohny
 za'rar
 za'rahbohny
 za'ru
 zahbza
 zahm'renna
 zahr
 zénndel
 ze'ten
 ziju
 zima
 zíppá
 zixih
 zixna
 zúma

yabá
 ábélá
 ábu'ra
 abzahboh
 almal
 yamá
 yamany
 amolla
 yamohlla
 yangar
 yar
 árbóhllá
 ízi
 a'rabohny
 a'rar
 a'rahbohny
 ya'ru
 yahbza
 yahm'renna
 yahr
 énnndel
 e'ten
 iju
 ima
 íppá
 ixih
 íxna
 yúma

liver
 bat
 string, cotton
 lung
 iron, money
 grasshopper
 thin branch of tree
 grasshopper
 grasshopper, type of
 magic
 rope
 water melon
 meat
 flower
 insect, type of
 flower
 hair
 dry remainder of porridge
 dry mucus
 rope
 louse
 branch
 intestines, gut
 scorpion
 brush
 thorn
 okra
 snake

Ng to ny domestic and small animals

ngabrabor
 ngádulá
 ngánda'ra
 ngánnara
 nga'ra
 nga'rangacá
 ngá'ráhnggá
 nga'rendar

nyabrabor
 nyádulá
 nyánda'ra
 nyánnara
 nya'ra
 nya'rangacá
 nyá'ráhnggá
 nya'rendar

insect, kind of
 insect, type of
 small rat, type of
 insect, type of
 kid
 insect, type of
 donkey
 dove

ngatér
ngáti
ngazrih
ngáhdri
ngáhm'ra
ngáh'ráhbih
nger
ngéhra
ngon
ngoh'ron
ngunany
ngúwá
ngahji

nyatér
nyáti
nyazrih
nyáhdri
nyáhm'ra
nyáh'ráhbih
nyer
nyéhra
nyon
nyoh'ron
nyunany
nyúwá
inyii

bird, type of
palm leaf
worm, kind of
bull
cow
bird, type of
girl
spear
porcupine
weevil
big, long basket
billy goat
boy

Ng, no plural

liquids

ngabá'ra
nga'dóhra
ngála'ra
ngallany
ngáma
ngamandih
ngamruru
ngan
ngánya
ngár
ngáril
ngarlet
ngarramé
nga'rá
ngá'ra
nga'raya
ngá'ráhnggá
nga'rahny
ngasa
ngavá
ngaving
ngawáhz
ngazala
ngahrahciht
ngah'ron
ngáhvihn
ngela
ngézar
nginní
ngisám
ngi'ta
ngosaller
ngohdohng
ngohl
ngohla
ngóhla
ngohny
ngohra
ngohrmaná
ngumpál
ngunya
ngurany
ngútaza

mountain name
village name (eastern)
stew
herb, type of
power
sorghum, type of
type of bean for stew
milk
herbs
water
sky, cloud
dirt
spring
gum
urine
fruit
sorghum, type of
death
mud
sorghum, type of
vomit
work
pus
sesame
speach
blood
oil
sperm
edible root of palm leaf
winter
dust
excrement, stool
wrestling place (eastern)
tears
seed
writing system
saliva
charcoal
village name (eastern)
hook
goat dung
diarrhoea
sweat

Goat
ngo'ra

o'ra

goat

Tooth
langat
lazu
lúhru

ngat
yasu
yohru

tooth
breast
skin

(woman's)

No plural

ába'ru
anyahn
ávil
áwa
ílá
lae
láril
lá'ra
la'rihnya
maréxa
muku
tahmpel
wadala
wasmani
xála
xalu
xáma
xaniny
xarah
xa'rasá
xáw
xáhlíyá
xé'rany
yá
yabá
yála
yará
ya'raná
yihn
zabar'ri
zaber
zajaw
zaraw
zarbabala
zita
zihw
zuru'ul

fog
sun
shadow
moon
flour
honey
cloud
salt
kind of tree with edible roots
sorghum, type of
rat, kind of, big
lorry
mucus
sorghum, type of
place
smoke
porridge
excrement
grass
wine
rain
night
fat
fire
beard
grinding stone
ash
forest
herb, type of
sperm
wind
sand
earth
herb, type of
dust, thin layer of
grass, type of
sorghum, type of