Otoro Noun Classes

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This document outlines the Otoro noun classes. 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 ∅. The concord agreement prefixes are not included because they have not yet been investigated. However in most cases, these will be the same as the noun class prefixes. The analysis is based on a list of about 125 nouns.

noun class number	singular prefix	plural prefix	semantic identification
1,2	g-, k-, ∅	l-, li	People
1,2	∅	-ga	Relatives
3,4	gw-	j-	Tree
5,6	l-	g-	Sets
7,8	g-, q-	j-	Common things
9,10	dh-, t-	d-	Long thin things
11,12	dh-, t-	j-, c-	Large and dangerous things
13,14	g-	n-	Hollow and deep things
15,16	g-	ny-	Domestic and small animals and things
20	g-	-	liquids and abstract nouns
21,22	g-	j-	goat
23,24	l-	j-	tooth
25.26	∅	j-	Words beginning with a vowel
29,30	d-	d-	various

A complete list of all the nouns used in this analysis is at the end of this document.

Class Distinctions

This analysis corresponds closely to that given by Stevenson, and in many cases we have defaulted to Stevenson's analysis because of the lack of data, and because of similarity with other related languages. However some comments can be made:

- The long things and dangerous things classes seem very mixed.
- The class labeled 'various' was not found by Stevenson. We only have 4 words in this class, but it is included because it appears in other Heiban group languages.

References:
Stevenson, R. C. *A Survey of the Phonetics and Grammatical Structure of the Nuba Mountain Languages with Particular Reference to Otoro, Katcha and Nyimat.* Africa und Ubersee, vol XLI 1956-57

Data

People   g- ⇒ l-

guj	luj	person
gutobo	lutobo	ostrich
guwa	lla	woman
guwmia	llemia	man
kodolo	lodolo	worm
kwal	lal	fly

mage	limage	sister
magen	limagen	brother
merta	limerta	horse
uwe	luwe	moon

Relatives   ∅ ⇒ -ga

baba	babaga	father
nana	nanaga	mother

Tree   g- ⇒ j-

gware	jare	tree

Sets   l- ⇒ g-

lamam	gamam	dove
lamon	gamon	day
lara	guwara	foot
lerh	gurh	head
leru	gueru	shield
lipir	gupir	tail
lipopna	gopopna	feather
lircid	gurcid	sesame
lirgom	girgom	mountain
lirko	gurko	knee
lira	gura	charcoal
libu	gubu	pond
liporpor	guporpor	pebble
loba	goba	flower
lojo	gojo	chin
lomi	gumi	fish
lony	gony	egg
lrrgel	gurrgel	lake
luba	guba	horn
lunyu	gunyu	mouth
lupe	gupe	stick
lurrom	gurrom	star
luya	guya	bone

Common things   g- ⇒ j-

gaba	jaba	village
gaduma	jaduma	stool
gadilo	jadilo	nose
gamon	jamon	claw
gare	jare	stomach
geyi	jeyi	eye
gedul	jidul	forehead
gedhlye	jedhlye	earth, ground
gidilye	jidilye	year
giliye	jiliye	night
gimilgu	jimilgu	bark (of tree)
gibur	jibur	door
gidde	jidde	louse
gidol	jidol	stone
gidhi	jidhi	pot
givide	jivide	shoe
gupel	jupel	shadow

q- ⇒ j-

qabile	jabile	bat

jagiro		chicken
jalpere		skin
jimile		tortoise
jiriya		clothing

Long things   dh- ⇒ d-

dhadder	dadder	crocodile
dhara	dara	fence
dherny	derny	leg
dhimo	dimo	scorpion
dhigila	digila	tongue
dhirawe	dirrawe	river
dhireny	dirreny	field
dhrawe	drrawe	sea
dhugor	dugor	elephant
dhuri	duri	forest

t- ⇒ d-

tat	dat	path
tul	dul	giraffe

Large and dangerous things   dh- ⇒ j-

dhugi	jugi	thorn
dhuge	juge	snake

t- ⇒ c-

tar	car	rope

Hollow and deep things   g- ⇒ n-

geni	neni	ear, leaf
gibo	nibo	wing

Domestic and small animals and things   g- ⇒ ny-

gagedho	nyadedho	buffalo
gare	nyare	child
gerpein	nyerpein	fish-spear
gin	nyin	dog
gire	nyire	spear
gidiri	nyidiri	bull
gimro	nyimro	cow
giruwe	nyiruwe	bird

Liquids   g-

gan	milk
gaw	water
geral	porridge
gila	oil
guce	salt
gudede	root
guen	blood

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Goat   g- ⇒ j-

gwɾo   jwɾo   goat

Tooth   l- ⇒ j-

legad   jigad   tooth

Words beginning with a vowel   Ø ⇒ j-

awe   jawe   liver
enyen   jenyen   sun
ăŭo   jĕŭo   breast (woman's)
idră   jidră   drum

Various   d̠- ⇒ d-

d̠eyi   deyi   hand
d̠idig   didig   neck
d̠ɪgor   dɪgor   heart
d̠uɾo   duɾo   back