

# **The Dampo language of Central Ghana and its affinities**

**[DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT -NOT FOR CITATION WITHOUT REFERENCE TO  
THE AUTHOR**

**[THIS DOCUMENT IS A WORKING DRAFT ONLY AND CONSIDERABLY MORE WORK NEEDS  
TO BE DONE ON EXTERNAL PARALLELS. ALL COMMENTS WELCOME.]**

Roger Blench  
Kay Williamson Educational Foundation  
8, Guest Road  
Cambridge CB1 2AL  
United Kingdom  
Voice/ Ans (00-44)-(0)1223-560687  
Mobile worldwide (00-44)-(0)7847-495590  
E-mail rogerblench@yahoo.co.uk  
<http://www.rogerblench.info/RBOP.htm>

This printout: January 6, 2015

## 1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Dompo language, spoken in Dompofie village Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana. The wordlist was collected by Roger Blench from Mr. Kosi Mila (ca. 55 years old) and a group of villagers on the 2nd of April 1998. The oral traditions were narrated by the Chief, Mr. Nanas Siano, assisted by the elders. I am grateful to all who took part for their enthusiastic co-operation. The existence of the Dompo language has been known previously only through the 100 words given in Painter (1967) and the animal names transcribed by Cansdale (1971)<sup>1</sup>. It has several times been reported not to exist, or to be just an ethnonym or a submerged clan. As the present document shows, this is false. The wordlist was collected as a ‘one-shot’ exercise and the transcription must therefore be regarded as very preliminary. In general, tones are not marked. This document is being circulated to scholars for comment.

## 2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

### 2.1 Nomenclature

As far could be ascertained, Dompo is the name of both the people and the language. The name ‘Ndompo’ given in some documents seems to be a garbled version of this.

### 2.2 Location and settlements

The Dompo live in a settlement adjacent to Banda, the main town of the Nafaanra people. Painter (1967) gives a map reference as 8° 09′ N 2° 22′ W. Banda is reached from Wenchi by going northwards from the main road to Bondoukou in Côte d’Ivoire and is still south of the Black Volta. A new road is being built that will eventually join Banda to Kintampo via Mo, but this is presently only passable with a four-wheel drive. The quarter of Banda where the Dompo live is called Dompofie. One or two women who married out are said to reside in nearby villages, but this is the only settlement of the Dompo.

The map accompanying Painter (1967) shows two very small areas near Banda marked ‘Ndmop’ and a much larger area south of Larabanga marked NDMPO (Kwa Akan) inside the Gonja area. To judge by a slight mismatch between the list of surveyed villages (p. 31) and the data tables (p. 46 ff.) Painter probably found that only one of his sites actually spoke Dompo but subsequently failed to correct the map. This may also be the source of the idea that Dompo is only a Gonja subgroup, as this probably *is* the status of the larger group.

### 2.3 Language status

Dompo is spoken by ten households, all of whom are also fluent in Nafaanra. All members of these households seem to have some command of the language, but whether it will be transmitted to the next generation in more than an attenuated form is open to doubt. Nonetheless, there is no evidence that it has ever been spoken by many people and bilingualism in Nafaanra must long have been a feature of the community. There are presently some 60-70 people with some command of the language and perhaps 10 who can recall obscure lexical items.

### 2.4 Dompo culture and history

The Dompo people have a very rich oral tradition, explaining how they came to be at their present site, and their interactions with the other ethnic groups in the area. A summary form of this tradition is as follows;

[STILL TO BE DONE]

---

<sup>1</sup> The present exercise confirmed, as far as possible, all Cansdale’s identifications, and that his transcriptions were also reasonably accurate.

### 3. Phonology

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

#### 3.1 Vowels

Dompo probably has seven phonemic vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
<b>Close</b>	i		u
<b>Close-Mid</b>	e		o
<b>Open-Mid</b>	ɛ		ɔ
<b>Open</b>		a	

#### 3.2 Consonants

Dompo consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Alveopalatal	Palatal	Velar	Labiodental	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d		[c] j	k g		
Nasal	m		n			ŋ		
Trill			[r]					
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ				h
Approximant					y		w	
Lateral Approximant			l					

#### 3.3 Tones

The tone system of Dompo is quite restricted with only two tones. No cases of glide tones seem to occur. In most cases the tone is left unmarked.

### 4. Lexical comparison and the classification of Dompo

Dompo is clearly a problematic language to classify and I have tried to consult as wide a variety of sources as possible. Table 1 shows my data sources (only provisional here) for the lexical comparisons;

**Table 1. Principal sources of data for lexical comparison**

Language group	Source	Abbreviation (if any)
Gonja	Rytz (n.d.)	R
Ligbi	Persson and Persson (1980)	L
Nafaanra	Jordan and Jordan (1980)	N
Twi	Christaller (	

A number of Twi and Nafaanra items were identified by speakers during the interviews.

**Dompo Wordlist**

	<b>Gloss</b>	<b>Dompo</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>No.</b>	<b>Nouns</b>		
1.	head	<b>ɲu</b>	
2.	hair (head)	<b>nyine</b>	
3.	eye	<b>nyisi</b>	cf. Gonja <b>nìsì</b>
4.	nose	<b>kangɔnɔ</b>	
5.	mouth	<b>kanu</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kánɔ</b>
6.	ear	<b>sepe</b>	
7.	tooth	<b>nyì</b>	<b>#nyi-</b> is an ancient Niger-Congo root
8.	tongue	<b>dandulo</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kì-dùndúlòn</b>
9.	forehead	<b>kasirɔ</b>	
10.	cheek	<b>ngbwi</b>	
11.	chin	<b>kaye</b>	
12.	beard	<b>kanufuu</b>	‘mouth’ + <b>fuu</b>
13.	face	<b>nyirɔ</b>	The <b>nyi</b> element appears in ‘hair’ and ‘eye’
14.	neck	<b>kɔnɔ</b>	
15.	throat	<b>gbɔntɔnɔ</b>	
16.	arm/hand	<b>hale</b>	
17.	shoulder	<b>baa</b>	
18.	armpit	<b>baa</b>	
19.	elbow	<b>hale mbwi</b>	arm + ?
20.	leg	<b>yaa</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kèyà</b>
21.	thigh	<b>jampulu</b>	
22.	knee	<b>ngwali</b>	
23.	nail	<b>ngurufe’</b>	
24.	breast (female)	<b>nyupo</b>	A <b>#ny-</b> root for ‘breast’ is common in Kwa languages but also occurs in Dakoid, suggesting a Benue-Kwa origin.
25.	belly	<b>punu</b>	<b>#pu-</b> is a widespread Niger-Congo root for ‘belly’
26.	navel	<b>pulu</b>	presumably the <b>pu-</b> element is Niger-Congo ‘belly’
27.	back	<b>kamene’</b>	
28.	buttocks	<b>ntɔnɔba</b>	
29.	body	<b>yuru’</b>	
30.	skin	<b>bla</b>	
31.	bone	<b>wuu</b>	
32.	heart	<b>lɔlɔŋo</b>	< N
33.	lungs	<b>fɔrɔfɔrɔ</b>	
34.	liver	<b>buruce’</b>	
35.	blood	<b>nkla</b>	cf. Gonja <b>ɲ-kàlɔŋ</b>
36.	saliva	<b>kilo</b>	v
37.	tear (n)	<b>nyisizu</b>	
38.	shit	<b>duni</b>	
39.	urine	<b>buflɔ</b>	
40.	breath	<b>futi</b>	
41.	person	<b>ɟya</b>	
42.	man	<b>nyine</b>	
43.	woman	<b>kii</b>	
44.	child (general)	<b>kadya</b>	
45.	husband	<b>kulu</b>	
46.	wife	<b>ka</b>	
47.	mother	<b>ne nii</b>	
48.	father	<b>tru</b>	
49.	son	<b>nyine</b>	
50.	daughter	<b>kii</b>	
51.	grandfather	<b>nyi nangine</b>	
52.	grandmother	<b>nina</b>	

Dompo Wordlist – Circulation Draft

	Gloss	Dompo	Commentary
53.	ancestors	<b>nyaɲine ana</b>	
54.	friend	<b>nakpa</b>	
55.	guest/stranger	<b>fɔ</b>	
56.	chief	<b>wura</b>	
57.	doctor (native)	<b>durapu</b>	
58.	blacksmith	<b>gilihɔ</b>	
59.	hunter	<b>pampo</b>	
60.	slave	<b>dipo</b>	
61.	thief	<b>yudipo</b>	
62.	witch	<b>gbɛ</b>	
63.	widow	<b>kuluwepo</b>	
64.	barren woman	<b>ɛmɛɲkuri</b>	
65.	shadow	<b>kayu</b>	
66.	corpse	<b>buni</b>	
67.	name	<b>nyine</b>	
68.	forest	<b>duri</b>	
69.	bush	<b>fa</b>	
70.	grass	<b>fa</b>	
71.	tree	<b>yi</b>	cf. Gonja <b>keyia</b>
72.	branch	<b>yi hale</b>	
73.	leaf	<b>mfana</b>	
74.	bark (of tree)	<b>jɔfwe</b>	
75.	root	<b>li</b>	
76.	seed	<b>yisure</b>	
77.	thorn	<b>wi</b>	
78.	vine	<b>fla</b>	
79.	mushroom	<b>njerewe</b>	
80.	sorghum	<b>tuu</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kùtúwè</b>
81.	millet	<b>nɛɛ</b>	
82.	maize	<b>basawe</b>	
83.	rice	<b>malo</b>	< N.
84.	yam (general) ( <i>D. guineensis</i> )	<b>jɔ</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kújɔ</b>
85.	red yam	<b>kaɲba</b>	< Twi?
86.	aerial yam	<b>kwi</b>	
87.	new cocoyam <sup>2</sup>	<b>mankani</b>	<
88.	cassava	<b>li</b>	
89.	sweet potato	<b>mflɔjɔ</b>	
90.	root plants	<b>yisore</b>	all plants that fruit underground
91.	cowpea ( <i>Vigna unguiculata</i> )	<b>cibi</b>	cf. Gonja <b>cèbè</b>
92.	groundnut(s)	<b>daɲra</b>	
93.	Bambara groundnut	<b>kwi</b>	
94.	chili pepper	<b>ciri</b>	
95.	cotton	<b>kurande</b>	< ?
96.	sorrel	<b>nsɛ̃</b>	
97.	okra	<b>ngbeni</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kàgbìní</b>
98.	garden egg	<b>tiri</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kàtèré</b>
99.	onion	<b>gyinde</b>	
100.	tomato	<b>gunisuri</b>	
101.	melon	<b>ɲkerawe</b>	
102.	plantain	<b>brana</b>	< Twi
103.	banana (AAA) ( <i>Musa</i> )	<b>kɔdu</b>	< Twi
104.	sugar-cane	<b>afigye</b>	

<sup>2</sup> (*Xanthosoma mafaffa*)

Dompo Wordlist – Circulation Draft

	<b>Gloss</b>	<b>Dompo</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
105.	pawpaw	<b>brɔ̃fre</b>	< Twi
106.	gourd (generic)	<b>kawe</b>	
107.	oil palm	<b>abe'</b>	< Twi
108.	raffia-palm	<b>dinsa</b>	
109.	silk-cotton tree (C. <i>pentandra</i> )	<b>kle</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kàkílyà</b>
110.	shea tree (V. <i>paradoxa</i> )	<b>ɲkili-u</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kàkùlúwù</b>
111.	dawadawa ( <i>Parkia biglobosa</i> )	<b>kakune'</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kácónò</b>
112.	animal	<b>sɔ'</b>	
113.	tail	<b>sɔ'bi</b>	
114.	horn	<b>mfa</b>	
115.	dog	<b>kantiti</b>	
116.	cat*	<b>kaɲan nyisi</b>	
117.	goat	<b>sii</b>	
118.	he-goat	<b>luru</b>	
119.	castrated goat	<b>biseemo</b>	
120.	sheep	<b>sede</b>	
121.	ram	<b>sede nyine</b>	
122.	bull	<b>naa nyine</b>	
123.	cow	<b>naa</b>	
124.	donkey*	<b>kunumo</b>	
125.	horse*	<b>baɲa</b>	
126.	pig*	<b>piraku</b>	< Portuguese via Twi?
127.	elephant	<b>sulo</b>	
128.	hippopotamus	<b>ca</b>	cf. Mpra <b>caji</b>
129.	buffalo	<b>bo</b>	
130.	lion	<b>nyinagbɔ̃</b>	
131.	leopard	<b>ɲkurofeso</b>	
132.	serval	<b>gbaɲ</b>	
133.	civet	<b>kaɲkane</b>	Evidently a common word in this area, as it is identical in Mo, Wangara and Banda
134.	bush genet	<b>gbari</b>	
135.	porcupine	<b>kɔ̀tɔ̀kɔ̀</b>	Common to most nearby languages
136.	brush-tailed porcupine	<b>apese</b>	Common to Mo and Banda (Ashanti)
137.	hyena	<b>kunu</b>	
138.	hunting dog	<b>mbokimbo</b>	
139.	wart-hog	<b>luwi</b>	
140.	bushpig	<b>kɔ̀kɔ̀te</b>	Common to most nearby languages
141.	aardvark	<b>soblɔ̃</b>	
142.	giant pangolin	<b>pra</b>	
143.	tree pangolin	<b>kulele</b>	
144.	hedgehog	<b>tuɲburu</b>	similar to Banda (Ashanti)
145.	antelope spp.	<b>sana</b>	
146.	Western hartebeest	<b>cɔ̃ɲ</b>	cf. Mpra <b>junga</b>
147.	red-flanked duiker	<b>sana</b>	
148.	monkey generic	<b>yihoso</b>	
149.	White-thighed colobus	<b>popo</b>	N.B. <i>Colobus polykomos vellerosus</i>
150.	green monkey	<b>fari</b>	
151.	patas monkey	<b>prɛ</b>	
152.	baboon	<b>yya</b>	
153.	bushbaby	<b>fanyeemi</b>	
154.	hedgehog	<b>tuɲburu</b>	similar to Banda (Ashanti)
155.	antelope spp.	<b>sana</b>	

Dompo Wordlist – Circulation Draft

	<b>Gloss</b>	<b>Dompo</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
156.	Western hartebeest	<b>cɔŋ</b>	
157.	red-flanked duiker	<b>sana</b>	
158.	Maxwell’s duiker	<b>kakpwẽẽ</b>	
159.	grey duiker	<b>coo</b>	
160.	oribi	<b>wuloŋ</b>	
161.	reedbuck	<b>foloŋɔ</b>	
162.	waterbuck	<b>buruŋ</b>	
163.	kob	<b>fulofulo</b>	cf. Mpra <b>volo</b>
164.	Roan antelope	<b>koo</b>	cf. Mo <b>ko</b> , Lobi <b>kɔɔ</b> , Dagbani <b>kɔɔɔ</b> .
165.	bushbuck	<b>lɔrɔ</b>	
166.	water-chevrotain	<b>kirikirija</b>	Identical word in Mo and Gyɔɔɔ
167.	hare	<b>loŋɔ</b>	
168.	Gambian squirrel	<b>apuru</b>	Resembles Gyɔɔɔ and Banda (Ashanti)
169.	Ground squirrel	<b>kyapo</b>	
170.	Gambian mongoose	<b>nyaawuro</b>	
171.	dwarf mongoose	<b>kɔkɔbo</b>	The same word in almost all languages of the area
172.	bat, fruit	<b>kɔŋkɔ</b>	
173.	bat, house	<b>jampepe</b>	perhaps resemble Mo word for fruit-bat <b>jɛm</b>
174.	rat (generic)	<b>levuro</b>	
175.	giant rat	<b>kore</b>	
176.	striped mouse	<b>cawe</b>	
177.	clawless otter	<b>buso</b>	
178.	honey badger	<b>sisiri</b>	
179.	cane rat	<b>kɔla</b>	
180.	tortoise 1	<b>singunu</b>	
181.	tortoise 2	<b>sɛɔ</b>	
182.	terrapin	<b>kapaca</b>	
183.	turtle	<b>yilemi</b>	
184.	crocodile	<b>leŋe</b>	
185.	frog	<b>plu</b>	
186.	toad	<b>plu</b>	
187.	agama lizard	<b>lamrɛ</b>	perhaps generic for small lizard
188.	gecko	<b>kadinsa</b>	
189.	chameleon	<b>gɔŋguro</b>	
190.	Bosc’s monitor	<b>tandi</b>	
191.	water monitor	<b>due</b>	
192.	skink	<b>blɔblɔ</b>	cf. Banda Ashanti
193.	snake (generic)	<b>we’</b>	an ancient Niger-Congo root
194.	spitting cobra 1	<b>we’ bibri</b>	
195.	spitting cobra 2	<b>dɔɔdɔɔ</b>	
196.	amphisbaenid	<b>diŋculo</b>	
197.	African python	<b>ŋgle</b>	
198.	royal python	<b>ŋglegɔ</b>	
199.	water snake	<b>dumiri</b>	
200.	sand snake	<b>wepepere</b>	
201.	green mamba	<b>vãva</b>	
202.	rhinoceros viper	<b>berɛ</b>	
203.	carpet viper	<b>gbeteri</b>	cf. Banda, Gyɔɔɔ
204.	fish	<b>kabɛɛ</b>	
205.	mudfish	<b>kɔplɔ</b>	
206.	tilapia	<b>sikuri</b>	
207.	electric fish	<b>bugusu</b>	
208.	crab (water)	<b>ngla</b>	
209.	bird	<b>kabwi</b>	
210.	wing	<b>baa</b>	
211.	feather	<b>mutɛɛ</b>	
212.	egg	<b>fle</b>	cf. Gonja <b>fúlè</b>

Dompo Wordlist – Circulation Draft

	<b>Gloss</b>	<b>Dompo</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
213.	duck (domestic)*	<b>apɔ</b>	
214.	chicken	<b>kusi babi</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kòfí</b>
215.	cock	<b>kusi nyine</b>	
216.	guinea-fowl	<b>cya</b>	
217.	vulture	<b>kəkəsaki</b>	
218.	black kite	<b>lanɛ</b>	
219.	cattle-egret	<b>bɔŋɔbɔŋɔ</b>	
220.	owl	<b>kayidi supo</b>	
221.	housefly	<b>tansi</b>	
222.	cockroach	<b>tɛbre</b>	
223.	mosquito	<b>kapini</b>	
224.	louse	<b>ŋsɔ'</b>	
225.	bee	<b>ŋɔnsi</b>	
226.	mason wasp	<b>vuvuŋɔ</b>	
227.	butterfly	<b>katoto</b>	
228.	praying mantis	<b>bɔŋgɔrɔ</b>	
229.	ant (generic)	<b>fifi</b>	
230.	ant, flying	<b>prepre</b>	
231.	termite (generic)	<b>kaŋka</b>	
232.	termite hill	<b>sipra</b>	
233.	spider	<b>nase'</b>	
234.	giant scorpion	<b>gagagoma</b>	cf. Nafaanra, Gyɔɔɔ etc.
235.	brown scorpion	<b>kanaa</b>	
236.	village	<b>ndɔwi</b>	
237.	compound	<b>landreenyɔ</b>	
238.	road	<b>kpa</b>	cf. Gonja <b>àkpábì</b>
239.	field	<b>raki</b>	
240.	farm	<b>ndɔ</b>	
241.	granary	<b>dɔŋdɔŋ</b>	
242.	house	<b>landɔ</b>	
243.	roof	<b>buŋu</b>	
244.	door	<b>klu</b>	
245.	wall (of room)	<b>ma</b>	
246.	iron (metal)	<b>glihɔ</b>	
247.	axe	<b>kafɛ</b>	
248.	hoe (gen)	<b>kadegbe</b>	
249.	hoes (types)	<b>kadegbe</b> <b>buŋɔ</b>	
250.	handle (of tool)	<b>foo</b>	
251.	knife	<b>bɔfia kacai</b>	
252.	cutlass	<b>bɔfia gbɔ</b>	
253.	adze	<b>luu</b>	
254.	bow (weapon)	<b>poo</b>	
255.	arrow	<b>paŋ</b>	
256.	quiver	<b>puri</b>	
257.	rope	<b>fla</b>	cf. Gonja <b>éfól</b>
258.	chain	<b>glihɔ</b>	see 'iron'
259.	ladder	<b>dipɔ</b>	
260.	stool	<b>kaja</b>	
261.	bed	<b>dihɔ</b>	
262.	mat (gen)	<b>janja</b>	
263.	mat (sleeping)	<b>deŋle</b>	
264.	comb	<b>kaŋwaari</b>	
265.	money	<b>ŋwəsire</b>	
266.	cloth (wrapper)	<b>kaca</b>	
267.	bag (types)	<b>puri</b>	
268.	basket (general)	<b>kake</b>	



Dompo Wordlist – Circulation Draft

	<b>Gloss</b>	<b>Dompo</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
269.	head-pad	<b>kne</b>	
270.	broom	<b>psi</b>	
271.	mortar	<b>pni</b>	
272.	pestle	<b>pnimpo</b>	
273.	winnowing tray	<b>kanuwe'</b>	
274.	grindstone (lower)	<b>bwi</b>	see 'stone'
275.	pot (clay) (generic)	<b>kalo</b>	
276.	spear (types)	<b>paŋ</b>	but see 'arrow'
277.	food	<b>giɔ</b>	
278.	meat	<b>bla</b>	
279.	soup	<b>po</b>	
280.	salt	<b>flo</b>	
281.	fat	<b>fwe</b>	
282.	oil	<b>ŋku</b>	
283.	palm-wine	<b>nsafufulu</b>	water + ?
284.	water	<b>nsu</b>	cf. Gonja <b>ɲcu</b>
285.	fire	<b>dee</b>	cf. Gonja <b>è-dé</b>
286.	fireplace	<b>sire</b>	
287.	firewood	<b>kadee</b>	
288.	ashes	<b>nsine</b>	
289.	charcoal	<b>dinu</b>	
290.	smoke	<b>disi</b>	
291.	rubbish heap	<b>ngwuna</b>	
292.	earth, soil	<b>kawole</b>	
293.	stone	<b>bwi</b>	
294.	sand	<b>nyise</b>	
295.	mud	<b>dɔpɔɔ</b>	
296.	clay (for pots)	<b>cuu</b>	
297.	dust	<b>pi</b>	
298.	hole (in ground)	<b>pe</b>	
299.	dew	<b>mwezu</b>	
300.	land/country	<b>fi kawole</b>	
301.	lake	<b>bũ</b>	
302.	swamp/wetland	<b>mpende</b>	
303.	hill/mountain	<b>bii</b>	
304.	valley	<b>kpa</b>	
305.	river	<b>bundo</b>	
306.	riverbank	<b>bundi</b>	
307.	sky	<b>bware nyiro</b>	
308.	cloud	<b>mpwece</b>	
309.	wind	<b>afu</b>	
310.	rain (n.)	<b>gwari</b>	
311.	sun	<b>pa</b>	cf. Gonja <b>èpèŋí</b> cf. Gonja <b>kòfól</b> . This is an ancient Niger-Congo root for moon given by Westermann (1927:276). This form, however, resembles the Benue-Congo attestations, often of the form #- <b>fele</b>
312.	moon/month	<b>fle</b>	
313.	star	<b>mpwece abi</b>	
314.	day	<b>kake</b>	
315.	night	<b>kanya</b>	cf. Gonja <b>kányé</b>
316.	today	<b>kabiri</b>	
317.	yesterday	<b>ndiri</b>	
318.	tomorrow	<b>ke</b>	
319.	year	<b>kafaanu</b>	
320.	disease / illness	<b>lɔ'</b>	
321.	sore / wound	<b>lɔk nyimi</b>	
322.	hunger	<b>kaŋku</b>	

	<b>Gloss</b>	<b>Dompo</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
323.	thirst	<b>tyepu</b>	
324.	war, fight	<b>kɔ</b>	
325.	death	<b>lewu</b>	
326.	work (n)	<b>sumi</b>	
327.	song	<b>ŋgyɔ</b>	
328.	medicine (trad.)	<b>pru</b>	
329.	God	<b>bwarɔŋgo</b>	
<b>Pronouns</b>			
330.	I	<b>mi</b>	
331.	you	<b>wo</b>	
332.	he/she/it	<b>nyine</b>	
333.	we	<b>aniya</b>	
334.	you	<b>aniide</b>	
335.	they	<b>bam</b>	
<b>Verbs</b>			
336.	accompany	<b>yɔ</b>	
337.	add to	<b>kyakɔɔ</b>	
338.	arrive	<b>lwa</b>	
339.	be pregnant	<b>kame</b>	
340.	beat (drum)	<b>la</b>	
341.	beg	<b>kuli</b>	
342.	begin	<b>tɔnɔ</b>	
343.	bite	<b>dusɔ</b>	
344.	blow (wind)	<b>biri</b>	
345.	blow ( mouth)	<b>fusɔ</b>	
346.	boil (v)	<b>daa</b>	
347.	breathe	<b>fute</b>	
348.	build (house)	<b>yu</b>	
349.	burn (vi)	<b>cɔ</b>	
350.	buy	<b>tɔ</b>	
351.	call (summon)	<b>tiri</b>	
352.	carry (load)	<b>hra</b>	
353.	chew	<b>we</b>	
354.	choose	<b>lyaku</b>	
355.	climb	<b>gyi</b>	
356.	come	<b>ba</b>	cf. Gonja <b>bà</b>
357.	cook	<b>daa</b>	
358.	count	<b>kla</b>	
359.	cut (cloth)	<b>kwi</b>	
360.	cut down (tree)	<b>kwi</b>	
361.	dance	<b>cya</b>	
362.	defecate	<b>kɔ</b>	
363.	descend	<b>bule</b>	
364.	die	<b>wu</b>	cf. Gonja <b>wú</b>
365.	dig	<b>pagyɔ</b>	
366.	divide (share out)	<b>mare</b>	
367.	do/make	<b>bɔ'</b>	
368.	dream (v)	<b>kudare</b>	
369.	drink	<b>nu</b>	cf. Gonja <b>nú</b> though an ancient Niger-Congo root (W. 269)
370.	dry in sun	<b>fa</b>	
371.	eat	<b>gyi</b>	cf. Gonja <b>jì</b>
372.	enter	<b>lwabrɔ</b>	
373.	fall (v)	<b>trɔ</b>	
374.	finish (a task)	<b>lwi</b>	
375.	fly (v)	<b>cu</b>	

Dompo Wordlist – Circulation Draft

	<b>Gloss</b>	<b>Dompo</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
376.	forget	<b>ta</b>	
377.	gather (things)	<b>kula</b>	
378.	give	<b>wɔ</b>	
379.	give birth	<b>kure</b>	
380.	go out/exit	<b>yɔ</b>	
381.	grind (vt)	<b>kɔrɔ</b>	
382.	grow (v.i.)	<b>da</b>	
383.	hear	<b>nu</b>	cf. Gonja <b>nú</b>
384.	jump	<b>tɛ</b>	
385.	kill	<b>mɔmɔ</b>	
386.	kneel	<b>guɔu ɲwale</b>	
387.	know	<b>nyi</b>	cf. Gonja <b>nyì</b>
388.	laugh (v)	<b>muse</b>	
389.	lick	<b>disa</b>	
390.	lie (down)	<b>kawole</b>	
391.	like, want	<b>liso</b>	
392.	live (exist)	<b>wɔŋkpa</b>	
393.	marry	<b>liɲfu</b>	
394.	mould (pot)	<b>kula</b>	
395.	pass (by)	<b>kyɔ</b>	
396.	plait (hair)	<b>kiriɲu</b>	
397.	pound (mortar)	<b>wese</b>	
398.	pour (vt)	<b>bli</b>	
399.	pull	<b>briso</b>	
400.	push	<b>nyinimu</b>	
401.	receive	<b>wura</b>	
402.	refuse (request)	<b>hɔmi</b>	
403.	remember	<b>kana</b>	
404.	reply (question)	<b>nyɲi</b>	
405.	return (vi)	<b>laɲemba</b>	
406.	ride (horse etc.)	<b>gyi</b>	
407.	roast	<b>tɔ</b>	
408.	rub	<b>tuɔo</b>	
409.	run	<b>hile</b>	cf. Gonja <b>ɟilé</b>
410.	say	<b>ye</b>	
411.	scratch	<b>wɔle</b>	
412.	see	<b>wu</b>	cf. Gonja <b>wù</b>
413.	sell	<b>fɛɛ</b>	
414.	send (s.o. to do s.t.)	<b>swa</b>	
415.	shoot (v)	<b>manya</b>	
416.	show	<b>tu</b>	
417.	sing	<b>benjɔ</b>	
418.	sit (down)	<b>tyena</b>	
419.	sleep (v)	<b>dihi</b>	cf. Gonja <b>dí</b>
420.	smell	<b>fyɛ'</b>	
421.	sneeze	<b>ɲgosi</b>	
422.	spit	<b>fwi kule</b>	
423.	stand (up)	<b>kaɲli</b>	
424.	steal	<b>yuri</b>	
425.	suck	<b>nyupɔ</b>	
426.	swallow	<b>mene</b>	cf. Gonja <b>mén</b> but this appears to be a common West African root, reconstructed by Westermann for PMC.
427.	sweep (vt)	<b>fi</b>	
428.	swim	<b>la</b>	
429.	take off (clothes)	<b>lyamɔ</b>	
430.	throw (vt)	<b>tu</b>	perhaps related to common Niger-Congo <b>#ta-</b>
431.	turn round (vi)	<b>hile kamla</b>	

Dompo Wordlist – Circulation Draft

	Gloss	Dompo	Commentary
432.	twist (rope etc.)	<b>ki</b>	
433.	urinate	<b>bu fulɔ</b>	
434.	vomit	<b>kwe</b>	
435.	walk (v)	<b>nare</b>	
436.	wash	<b>fru</b>	
437.	weave (e.g. cloth)	<b>luk</b>	
438.	weep (cry)	<b>su</b>	
439.	wipe	<b>deje</b>	
440.	work (v)	<b>sumi</b>	
441.	yawn	<b>fute</b>	see ‘breathe’
<b>Adjectives</b>			
442.	black	<b>bibiri</b>	
443.	white	<b>fufulu</b>	
444.	red	<b>pepere</b>	
<b>Numerals</b>			
445.	one	<b>kòò</b>	
446.	two	<b>nyðð</b>	cf. Lorhon <b>nyooř</b>
447.	three	<b>saa</b>	A weakening of <b>#taa</b> , an ancient Niger-Congo root for ‘three’
448.	four	<b>nayi</b>	
449.	five	<b>nuum</b>	the <b>#nu-</b> element is very widespread in West Africa (W. 271) but the bilabial nasal in C <sub>2</sub> only exists in scattered attestations, e.g. Dogon <b>nùmɔno</b>
450.	six	<b>ʃye</b>	
451.	seven	<b>sɔno</b>	
452.	eight	<b>buluwe</b>	
453.	nine	<b>kpannu</b>	
454.	ten	<b>kiri</b>	
455.	eleven	<b>kirikoo</b>	
456.	twelve	<b>kirinyðð</b>	
457.	twenty	<b>ɖyð</b>	
458.	twenty-one	<b>ɖyð na kiri</b>	
459.	thirty	<b>ɖyð na kuli</b>	
460.	forty	<b>ɖyð nyðð</b>	
461.	hundred	<b>lafa</b>	< N. <b>lafaa</b>

### The Classification of Dompo

The most recent influence on the Dompo language is clearly Nafaanra, but Dompo is clearly not related to it. Painter (1967) assumes that Dompo belongs to North Guang, which, on the basis of the lexicostatistic counts used in his paper, it does. The numerous correspondences with Gonja suggest either that;

- it is a dialect of Gonja that has come under heavy influence from other languages
- it is a Guan language related to Gonja that has been relexified from Gonja and other languages
- it is a language of unknown provenance that has been heavily relexified from Gonja and other languages

One argument in favour of c) is that no names for wild animals in Dompo resemble those of Gonja in any way. Some of them resemble Mo and the Senufoid languages in the area (not only Nafaanra but Gyɔɔɔ and Banda Ashanti) but others seem to have no external parallels. Given the lack of detailed lexical material on many neighbouring languages this cannot be the basis for any firm conclusions. Nonetheless, it does suggest that Dompo might retain some traces of the pre-Niger-Congo languages of West Africa.

## References

- Cansdale, G.S. 1971. *A list of the scientific and vernacular names of the fauna of Ghana*. Accra: Legon University Press.
- Jordan, D. and C. Jordan (1980) Nafaara. In *West African Language Data sheets*. M.E. Kropp-Dakubu ed. [pages not sequentially numbered]. Leiden: West African Linguistic Society/ African Studies Centre.
- Painter, C. 1967. The distribution of Guang in Ghana and a statistical pre-testing on twenty-five idiolects. *Journal of West African Languages*, 4,1:25-78.
- Persson, A. and J. Persson (1980) Ligbi. In *West African Language Data sheets*. M.E. Kropp-Dakubu ed. [pages not sequentially numbered]. Leiden: West African Linguistic Society/ African Studies Centre.
- Rytz, O. (n.d [but before 1979]) (ed.) *Gonja-English dictionary and Spelling Book*. Legon: Institute of African Studies.