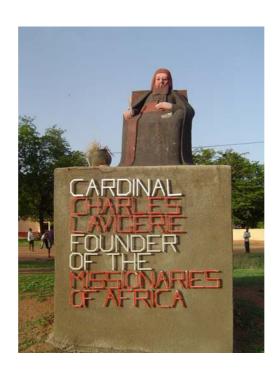
## 'Observers are worried'

# A DICTIONARY OF GHANAIAN ENGLISH



### [DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT]

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Wa, Thursday, 12 January 2006

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#### **Preface**

This dictionary of Ghanaian English was stimulated by preparing a dictionary of Nigerian English and finding many similarities between the two. Although Ghanaian English is quite well-studied in some other respects, only one compilation of Ghanaian English exists, by Fr. John Kirby. Valuable though it is, many words that it contains are not specifically Ghanaian, but are standard British English, forms which may seem unusual to North Americans, but which are not characteristic of Ghana. It therefore seems useful to prepare something more scholarly with more attention to the sources of typical words and refer to outside comparisons, where these exist. Language moves and new expressions have surfaced since the publication of Kirby, which it seems worthwhile capturing. In its present form, this dictionary is very much a first attempt, intended for circulation to interested parties, not for publication. Needless to say, the author would be grateful for all additions and corrections.

Roger Blench Wa Thursday, 12 January 2006

#### Introduction

These notes are intended to raise some issues on sources, interpretation and the definition of Ghanaian English.

#### Sources<sup>1</sup>

One of the most difficult issues in lexicography is documenting usages in a semi-written language. If dictionaries of indigenous African languages are prepared they usually depend entirely on oral sources and thus no specific justification is given for entries. However, Ghanaian English is sometimes written, especially in newspapers and magazines, and thus has some sort of orthographic tradition. Nonetheless, many of the most picturesque expressions are strictly oral and must still be captured in the present document. Although previous studies in this direction have tended to cite novels or literary works these are sometimes unrepresentative of the spoken language. I have therefore used newspaper, notices and overheard speech as sources. Example sentences not specifically sourced should be treated as based on the author's or his correspondents' experiences.

#### **Spelling**

Ghanaian writing of English has some widespread misspellings such as 'portable' for 'potable' and 'groupper' for 'grouper'. If these seem to have gain wide currency they are included.

#### Ghanaian / Ghanaian / West African English

One of the more surprising things about Ghanaian English is the extent to which it has a common lexicon and grammar with other West African Englishes, notably Nigerian. I have less information about Cameroun, Sierra Leone and Gambia and would welcome further insights. However, the puzzle is the history of some of these forms. Do they go back to the early days of colonial presence on the coast or are they more recent products of the massive migration of Ghanaians to Nigeria during the oil-boom era of the 1970s and 1980s? Probably both, but only a detailed scanning of earlier sources will provide answers.

#### West Coast Pidgin (WCP)

I use this slightly ungainly term to cover the generic items that have come into Ghanaian English from the Pidgin spoken along the West Coast of Africa from Gambia to Cameroun. Ghana has never had a recognised Pidgin in the same way as Nigeria and Cameroun, but nonetheless, the 'broken English' of the markets shares many common features, although it is less developed and more prone to relexification from SGE. Typical terms that come from WCP are 'pikin' (=small child), 'fit' (=be able) and others.

#### **Tropical English**

There are numerous terms which may be termed 'Tropical English'; unknown to most speakers of SE, they are nonetheless not specific to Nigeria, but are nonetheless widely used across the Anglophone tropics. This is very common in pan-tropical plants, for example 'oil-palm' or 'yam-mound'. I have marked these in the text as TE.

#### Student slang

University students are a rich source of rather ephemeral expressions everywhere and Ghana is no exception. Such expressions are intended to lay down sociolinguistic markers as to the status of the speaker. As a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Thanks to Mary-Esther Kropp-Dakubu and Gordana

consequence, these idioms are not widely known outside the University environment and often disappear quickly. The same is true of schoolchildren.

#### Missionary English

I have marked some entries ME, 'Missionary English'. Missionaries seem to have been responsible for some particular usages that were propagated via church materials. These include pejorative terms for traditional religion such as 'idol', 'fetish' and 'juju', but also a series of terms for animals, assimilating indigenous West African animals to those found in Europe and North America. These include 'fox' for genet (or jackal?) and 'rabbit' for giant rat. [Many of the early missionaries were of Sierra Leonean rather than European origin; possibly some of these are due to their interpretations of English words.] Missionary English terms are sometimes characteristic of West Africa, sometimes part of the worldwide vocabulary of missionaries in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and turn up in the South Seas as much as in Africa.

#### **Borrowings from indigenous Ghanaian languages**

As elsewhere, the richest contributions to local English are borrowings from indigenous languages. Ghana has some fifty indigenous languages, most with only a small number of speakers. However, the major languages have millions of speakers and cultural borrowings, especially in the area of food and clothing are extensive. There are also interesting calques, whereby the structure of an expression in an indigenous language is translated word-for-word into English. The major languages are;

Twi

Ewe

Ga

Hausa is not technically an indigenous language, since it is spoken as a trade language in northern towns

Dagbane

#### **Titles**

Ghana has a rich heritage of traditional titles and many of the more common ones are regularly used in newspapers, for example, Asantehene. I have not listed all of these since they are more resemble proper names.

#### Scientific names, and trade names

In the early colonial era, when many new species were coming to scientific attention and the uses of those known botanically were also being explored, many West African vernacular names were developed, notably for timbers and for economic grasses. These were used in colonial literature but with a few exceptions never really entered West African speech and are rarely heard today. For example, the African olive, *Canarium schweinfurthii*, is called the 'bush-candle' in older literature. Charming and evocative as this name is, I have never heard it in current speech and perhaps it was only ever used by forestry officers in the colonial era. I have entered such forms sparingly, pending further evidence of their context of use. Nonetheless, there are a great many names for the timbers of Ghanaian trees that are used, although in the specialised context of the timber trade. Some of these are Ghanaian, used in the West African region and some have become international trade names. I have adopted the entries from Burkill (1985 ff.).

#### **Regional variation**

## Parts of Speech

The following table shows the abbreviations used in Column 2 of the dictionary. Some of these assignations should be regarded as highly provisional.

Abbreviation	Full form	Explanation
a.	Adjective	Describes a noun
a.p.	Adjectival	Describes a noun
•	phrase	
adv.	Adverb	Qualifies a verb
adv.p.	Adverbial phrase	Qualifies a verb
cond.	Conditional	Expresses the relation between two events
conj.	Conjunction	A word used to join two or more nouns, verbs or clauses
dem.	Demonstrative	Words used to point out something. 'this', 'that' etc.
excl.	Exclamation	Greetings or expressions that do not form part of an ordinary sentence
excl.p.	Exclamatory	Fixed phrases that form sentences indicating a single idea
	phrase	
int.	Interrogative	Question words
n.	Noun	Refers to things, objects etc.
n.p.	Noun phrase	Phrase where a head-noun is joined to other words to form an expression
num.	Numeral	Number
part.	Particle	Short words added to complete the sentence
p.n.	Proper Name	A name of a person or object; always capitalised
p.u.t.	Pre-utterance tag	A tag or exclamation used prior to an utterance to indicate the
		underlying sense of the utterance
prep.	Preposition	A word positioning nouns or verbs in time or space
pron.	Pronoun	A word that stands for a noun
sal.	Salutation	A word or phrase that stands alone as a greeting or introduces a dialogue
s.t.	Sentence tag	A word or clause standing at the end of a sentence, that intensifies the meaning in some way but is unnecessary to the syntax.
v.	Verb	Expresses action
v.a.	Verbal auxiliary	An inflected verb that co-occurs with an uninflected main verb
v.c.	Verbal	Additional word or words found in phrasal verbs [???]
	complement	
v.i.	Intransitive Verb	A verb with no object
v.n.	Verbal Noun	A noun formed directly from a verb to express a state of being [only one type; what of agentives?]
v.p.	Verb phrase	A phrase where a head-noun is joined to other words to form an expression [head-noun or verb?]
v.t.	Transitive verb	A verb with an object

#### **Abbreviations**

AE	African English
Ar.	Arabic
arch.	archaic
BE	British English
CE	Colonial English
der.	derogatory
dial.	dialect
e.g.	for example
euph.	euphemism

F.	French
fem.	feminine
hum.	humorous
id.	ideophone
ins.	insulting
joc.	jocular
lit.	literally
masc.	masculine
n.	noun
NE	Nigerian English
NGE	Northern Ghanaian English
neg.	negative
over.	overused
pl.	plural
prov.	proverb
refl.	reflexive
S.	singular
sc. sl.	schoolboy slang
SE	Standard English
SGE	Southern Ghanaian English
st. sl.	student slang
t.	transitive
TE	Tropical English
v.	verb
W.	with
WAE	West African English
Y.	Yoruba

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Changian English	<u> </u>	Evalenation Circulate		Etymology
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
<b>A.</b>				
A-1	n.p.	monosodium glutamate		cf. white Maggi
A.D. one one	adv.p.	by foot, walking		
Aba!	excl.	expression of surprise,		? Hausa <b>haba</b> (q.v.)
		disbelief, annoyance		
abinchi	n.	food, money		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
abinga	n.	thing, food, money		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
abolo	n.	cassava bread		<ewe< th=""></ewe<>
abuse	V.	to insult		
abuse	n.	insult	it is an abuse it is an insult	
Accra	p.n.	only the Makola area within Accra		
achumo	n.	popular street food		<ga< th=""></ga<>
add	V.	to give something more		
adinkra	n.	Akan symbols		<twi< th=""></twi<>
adinkra cloth	n.p.	cloth printed with traditional Akan symbols		<twi< th=""></twi<>
Adjei!	excl.	expression of severe pain or bad news		<twi< th=""></twi<>
adua	n.	stately Asante dance		<twi< th=""></twi<>
adua bie	n.	kind of bean soup		<twi< th=""></twi<>
advise oneself	v.p.	to think through, to have second thoughts about		
again	adv.	any more, any left		
agbele kakolu	n.	food made of cassava		<ewe< th=""></ewe<>
Aheeehn!	excl.	strong agreement: Yes, that's my point!		
ahenema	n.	broad leather Akan sandals		<twi< th=""></twi<>
air condition	n.	lacy blouse		
airtight	n.	students' metal storage chest		see chop box
Akosombo	p.n.	electric power, reference to hydro dam at A.		
akpateshie	n.	home-distilled gin		cf. hot, patash, VC-
akpele	n.	unfermented maize porridge		<ewe< th=""></ewe<>
akrantie soup	n.	grasscutter soup, cooked with intestines		
Akuffo	p.n.	small size Club beer, short like Akuffo Addo		
albarka!	excl.	no sale!		Ar. via Hausa God's blessings
alele	n.	common street food in Tamale		<ewe< th=""></ewe<>
Alfa	p.n.	respectful title for Muslim who reads Arabic		
Allah!	excl.	God!		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
alligator	n.	crocodile		true alligators are only in the Americas
all two of us	a.	both		
alomo	n.	sweetheart, girlfriend		
also	a.	even		
am	pron.	him, her, it, them, some		
amanee?	int.	asking the purpose of		<twi< th=""></twi<>
	1		<u> </u>	1

Gnanaian English			on Drait	T1
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
		someone's visit		
America film	n.p.	film produced in USA, usu.		
		action-drama		
America man	n.p.	person from the USA		
America tin	n.p.	one US gallon, USAID relief	9	also <b>oloka</b>
		oil container		
			10-	
			SI	
			EGET	
			FORTIFIED	
			EXCHANGED	
			100	
ampe		girls' game with jumping and		<twi< th=""></twi<>
		clapping		
Anansi	p.n.	Anansi, the trickster spider of		<twi< th=""></twi<>
		Akan folklore		
anything	quant.	money, a gift		
anything?	int.	What is the matter?		
Apostolic	p.n.	general name for Independent		
		Churches		
aprapransa	n.	corn TZ with ingredients		<twi< th=""></twi<>
A	ou ol m	mixed in		
Are you sure?	excl.p.	I don't believe you!		
arrest	v.t.	catch, seize		2 1 1 11
articulator	n.	truck-tractor and trailer, semi- truck		<articulated-lorry< th=""></articulated-lorry<>
as for + pron.	part.	in my case, in your case, in his		
as for   profit.	part.	case etc.		
as if	cond.	like		
ashawo	n.	prostitute(s)		<yoruba< th=""></yoruba<>
at	prep.	in (place)	I am living at Wa	101404
at all	adv.	really, if ever, if at all possible	- and writing at 11 th	
at least	adv.	surely		
aunty	sal.	term of respect for an older		
<del></del> -		woman, like madam		
Ayekoo!	excl.	well done		
-				
В.				
bad death	n.p.	certain kinds of anti-social		
	_	deaths have no funeral		
balance	n.	change from an amount paid		
balance	v.t.	to give change, to complete a		
		sum of money		
banana	n.	fashionable hair-style		
banku	n.	fermented maize cooked in		<ewe< th=""></ewe<>
•		leaves		
baranzim	n.	multi-strand whip used by a		
hawhaw	-	chief's bailiff		
barber	n.	shaves hair, does minor		
	1	surgery, circumcises		l

	Dictionary	Roger Bienen Circulati		
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
barber	V.	to cut hair		
barbering	n.	barber's shop		
salon				
basabasa	a.	unorganised, untidy, useless		<twi< th=""></twi<>
basaa	a.	mess, dirty, confused		<twi< th=""></twi<>
<b>Basel-Mission</b>	p.n.	Presbyterian Church		
batakari	n.	long loose cotton Hausa/Muslim over garment		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
bathe	V.	to swim or take a shower		
bathroom	n.	room with open drain for bathing and urinating		
battery water	n.p.	sulphuric acid		
baturi	p.n.	white man, foreigner		<pre><hausa africa,="" child="" fezzan<="" lit.="" of="" pre="" the="" toure="N."></hausa></pre>
baya	n.	backside, behind		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
be	V.	indeclinable; to be	I be; ibi fine, you be fine too; we all be fine!	
beat	v.t.	attack, overcome, thump, knock, harass		
been-to	n.	person who has been to Europe		NE.
beg	v.t.	ask for, request earnestly		
beg for the road	v.p.	ask permission to leave		ans. The road is there
bend	V.	turn		
baby-Benz	n.	smaller Mercedes-Benz car e.g. 190)		
big big	a.	very big, great, enormous		
big man	n.p.	boss, higher authority, chief, manager		
bitter tomato	n.	garden egg, local eggplant, Solanum incanum		
black	a.	all dark colours		
black	n.	evil, dire circumstances, deadly situation		
black	n.	racially nuanced term for an African person		
black	a.	darker colouring; not racially nuanced		
black-and- whites	n.	candy, esp. peppermint, from type of striped candy		
blackman palaver	n.p.	juju, witchcraft, family problems, etc.		
blade	n.	double-edged razor blade		
bleach	V.	use strong chemicals to lighten skin colour		
blood	n.	strength		
blow-man	n.	fighter, tough		
blows	n.	strikes with fist or open hand		
blue blue	n.	popular name for valium		
bluff	V.	to posture, show off, try to impress, boast, brag		
bo!	excl.	expression of surprise and being impressed		

Ghanaian English Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation Circulate	on Drait	Etymology
		-	Example	
bo-belt	n.	red and black medicine capsule, ampicillin		<twi< td=""></twi<>
bodi boys	n.	boys around lorry parks		<se (<box="" hausa="" via=""></se> boarding ???)
body-condom	n.	any very tight clothes on a young person		st. sl.
bo-fruit	n.	round doughnut		lit. ball-float also bol-flot
bo-styles	v.p.	be in style, stylish clothing		
bogadiceous	a.	bogah like		cf. bogah
bogah	n.	flashy wheeler-dealer, gold chains, baggy trousers		<hamburg< td=""></hamburg<>
bogah-meat	n.	pork		
bogus	a.	unreal, false		obsolete
boil in oil	v.p.	fry		
bola	n.	garbage dump		<twi< td=""></twi<>
Bolga bag	n.	colourful straw/twine handbags from Bolgatanga		
bone-shaker	n.	old Bedford truck, maame truck		archaic BE
bo!	excl.	sound made when shocked or startled		
bo (styles)	V.	knows how to (be stylish), live it up		<twi beat<="" lit.="" td=""></twi>
book	V.	to mark well, enter in a register, book, journal		
book doctor	n.	Ph.D.		
booklong	a.	having knowledge derived from school, books		
bookman	n.	ticket seller esp. at lorry parks		
boozed	a.	be drunk		
borrow	v.	to lend		
bosom	n.	fetish shrine/spirit, earth shrine/spirit		<twi< td=""></twi<>
boss	n.	as SE but only used if there is a joking relation with superior		
boss-ism	n.	obsolete despotism, too many orders		
both the two of us all	a.p.	both of us, the two of us		(see all two)
boy	n.	any young man up to about 30 years old, a servant (even an old man) CE. <hindi bhai<="" td=""><td></td><td></td></hindi>		
boys' quarters	n.p.	usually a row of small rooms behind a large house where house-servants or younger relatives live		NE.
branch	v.i.	to turn aside, to divert to (when on the way to somewhere else)	I am going to branch at his house	NE.
bread	n.	sweetened bread, sugar bread		(see tea bread and butter bread)
bread fat	n.	shortening		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
breakfast	n.	heavy starchy meal ca. 10.00		
		AM		

brounya n. Christmas present, expected from Europeans brutal a. exciting, fun, enjoyable bu-bra n. draft beer	Ghanaian English Dictionary		Roger Blench Circulation Draft		
money etc.	Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
Drokages   n.   debts   obsolete? brokerage   Droken   n.   n.   colloquial English, Pidgin	bring it!	excl.p.	the deal is struck, bring the		
Droken English   Drother					
Image: Comparation of the same generation in an extended family. Applied by extension to those of a comparable status in ethnicity religion, politics etc.		n.			obsolete? brokerage
Description of the same generation in an extended family. Applied by extension to those of a comparable status in ethnicity religion, politics etc.		n.p.	colloquial English, Pidgin		
same generation in an extended family. Applied by extension to those of a comparable status in ethnicity religion, politics etc.  brouni-wawu  n. second hand clothing  brounya  n. Christmas present, expected from Europeans  brutal  a. exciting, fun, enjoyable  bu-bra  n. draft beer  bumping against it  burnt  v.a. burnt out, gone out, no longer functioning  bush  n. uncultivated land, usually open savanna  bush  a. rustic, uncouth  bush  a. rustic, uncouth  bush  bush  a. unkempt, wild, disorderly  bush cat  n. Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer  bush man  n. wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkin  bush pig  buth ow  bush ow  n. Cape duffind margarine but no sugar added  by-day boy  n. young man hired by the day for work  by-heart by-heart  by-heart by-heart  by-heart by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  creating mannered, coummon sense  catematican thencisty  attenticity  catematication in extended family. Applied by  catematication in extended from trucity  catematication in expected from Europeans  catematication in expected from Europeans  catematication in extended from truck tires  common sense  catematication in extended in the thing has burnt it??  Ithe thing has burnt it??  AE. In originally forest areas, woodland  NE.  AE. In originally forest areas, woodland  NE.  Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer  bush man on civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval  bush or civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval  bush or civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval  bush or civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval  country bumpkin  country					
extended family. Applied by extension to those of a comparable status in ethnicity religion, politics etc.  brouni-wawu  n. second hand clothing  Christmas present, expected from Europeans  brutal  a. exciting, fun, enjoyable  bu-bra  n. draft beer  draft beer  bumping against it  burnt  v.a. burnt out, gone out, no longer functioning  bush  n. uncultivated land, usually open savanna  bush  a. rustic, uncouth  bush a. rustic, uncouth  bush a. rustic, uncouth  bush cat  n. Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer  bush man  n. Wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkin  bush pig  butter bread  by-day boy  n. young man hired by the day for work  by-heart by-heart  by-heart by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  by-heart  bround  ACTwi 'white man dead'  ATwi 'pour ar bring'  burnt white man dead'  the thing has burnt  the thing has burnt  it?'  the thing has burnt  the thing has burnt  it?'  the thing has burnt  it?'  AE. In originally forest areas, woodland  NE.	brother	n.			
extension to those of a comparable status in ethnicity religion, politics etc.  brouni-wawu n. second hand clothing  brounya n. Christmas present, expected from Europeans brutal a. exciting, fun, enjoyable bu-bra n. draft beer  bumping against it burnt v.a. burnt out, gone out, no longer functioning bush n. uncultivated land, usually open savanna bush a. rustic, uncouth bush a. rustic, uncouth bush a. unkempt, wild, disorderly bush cat n. Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer bush man n. Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer bush mannered, country bumpkin bush pig n. brack bush pig n. warthog butter bread by-heart by-heart by-heart by-heart by-heart by-heart by-heart by-heart by-heart bround christoria etausin ethnicity religion, politics etc.  STWi 'white man dead'   STWi 'white man dead'  STWi 'white man dead'  STWi 'pour ar bring'  The thing has burnt it?'  AE. In originally forest areas, woodland  NE.  AE. In originally forest areas, woodland  AE. In originally and unkernon to 'How tite'.  'I'wi 'pour ar bring'  'I'wi 'pour ar bring'  'I'wi 'pour areas areas'  'I'wi 'pour areas and write to 'How tite'.  'I'wi 'pour areas areas'  'I'wi 'pour areas and write to 'How tite'.  'I'wi			•		
comparable status in ethnicity religion, politics etc.   second hand clothing   second ha					
religion, politics etc.   religion, politics etc.   religion, politics etc.   religion, politics etc.   respected from Europeans   respected from European					
Second hand clothing   Second hand hand clothing   Second hand clo					
brounya n. Christmas present, expected from Europeans brutal a. exciting, fun, enjoyable bu-bra n. draft beer					
Drutal   a.   exciting, fun, enjoyable	brouni-wawu	n.			<twi 'white="" dead'<="" is="" man="" td=""></twi>
burbar   n.   draft beer	brounya	n.			
bushora       n.       draft beer <twi 'pour="" are="" bring'<="" th="">         bugalow       n.       poor man's sandals made from truck tires         bumping against it       v.p.       struggling       answer to 'How it?'         burnt       v.a.       burnt out, gone out, no longer functioning       the thing has burnt functioning         bush       n.       uncultivated land, usually open savanna       He is going to clear a bush       AE. In originally forest areas, woodland         bush       a.       rustic, uncouth       NE.         bush cat       n.       civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval       vid       serval         bush cow       n.       Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer       syncerus caffer         bush man       n.       wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkin       sush caded       in warthog         butter bread       n.       bread with margarine but no sugar added       sugar added       sugar added         by-heart       by-heart       by-heart       a.       rough, impulsive, without any common sense       in common sense</twi>	brutal	a.			
bumping against it  burnt  v.a. burnt out, gone out, no longer functioning  bush  n. uncultivated land, usually open savanna  bush  a. rustic, uncouth  bushy  a. unkempt, wild, disorderly  bush cat  n. civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval  bush man  n. Wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkin  bush pig  butter bread  by-day boy  n. young man hired by the day for work  by-heart by-heart by-heart  burnt  v.a. burnt out, gone out, no longer the thing has burnt functioning  answer to 'How it'?'  het thing has burnt the thing has burnt functioning  het it is going to clear a bush  AE. In originally forest areas, woodland  NE.  AE. In originally forest areas, woodland  NE.  AE. In originally forest areas, woodland  NE.  bush very abush  forest areas, woodland  NE.  bush pig  n. civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval  butter bread  n. civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval  bush pig  n. warthog  butter bread  n. warthog  bush pig  n. bread with margarine but no sugar added  by-heart by-heart by-heart  common sense	bu-bra	n.	draft beer		1
against it  burnt  v.a.  burnt out, gone out, no longer functioning  n.  uncultivated land, usually open savanna  a bush  n.  unkempt, wild, disorderly  bush cat  n.  civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval  bush cow  n.  Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer  bush man  n.  wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkin  butter bread  n.  bread with margarine but no sugar added  by-day boy  n.  young man hired by the day for work  by-heart by-heart  bush uncultivated land, usually open aburnt functioning  He is going to clear AE. In originally forest areas, woodland  NE.  AE. In originally forest areas, woodland  NE.  bush year bush  n.  viet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval  cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer  bush man  n.  young man hired by the day for work  by-heart by-heart  bush  a.  rough, impulsive, without any common sense	bugalow	n.			
bushn.uncultivated land, usually open savannaHe is going to clear a bushAE. In originally forest areas, woodlandbusha.rustic, uncouthNE.bushya.unkempt, wild, disorderlybush catn.civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, servalbush cown.Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus cafferbush mann.wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkinbush pign.warthogbutter breadn.bread with margarine but no sugar addedby-day boyn.young man hired by the day for workby-heartby-heartyoung mon sense		v.p.	struggling		answer to 'How is it?'
bushn.uncultivated land, usually open savannaHe is going to clear a bushAE. In originally forest areas, woodlandbusha.rustic, uncouthNE.bushya.unkempt, wild, disorderlybush catn.civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, servalcivet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, servalbush cown.Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus cafferbush mann.wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkinbush pign.warthogbutter breadn.bread with margarine but no sugar addedby-day boyn.young man hired by the day for workby-heart by-hearta.rough, impulsive, without any common sense	burnt	v.a.	_	the thing has burnt	
bushy       a.       unkempt, wild, disorderly         bush cat       n.       civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval         bush cow       n.       Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer         bush man       n.       wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkin         bush pig       n.       warthog         butter bread       n.       bread with margarine but no sugar added         by-day boy       n.       young man hired by the day for work         by-heart       by-heart       common sense	bush	n.	uncultivated land, usually open	0 0	forest areas,
bush cat       n.       civet, genet, wild cat, golden cat, serval         bush cow       n.       Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer         bush man       n.       wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkin         bush pig       n.       warthog         butter bread       n.       bread with margarine but no sugar added         by-day boy       n.       young man hired by the day for work         by-heart by-heart       a.       rough, impulsive, without any common sense	bush	a.	rustic, uncouth		NE.
bush cow n. Cape buffalo, water buffalo, Syncerus caffer  bush man n. wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkin  bush pig n. warthog butter bread n. bread with margarine but no sugar added  by-day boy n. young man hired by the day for work  by-heart by- heart n. rough, impulsive, without any common sense	bushy	a.	unkempt, wild, disorderly		
bush man       n.       wild, unkempt, rough mannered, country bumpkin         bush pig       n.       warthog         butter bread       n.       bread with margarine but no sugar added         by-day boy       n.       young man hired by the day for work         by-heart by-heart       a.       rough, impulsive, without any common sense	bush cat	n.			
bush pig n. warthog butter bread n. bread with margarine but no sugar added by-day boy n. young man hired by the day for work by-heart by-	bush cow	n.	-		
butter bread       n.       bread with margarine but no sugar added         by-day boy       n.       young man hired by the day for work         by-heart by-heart       a.       rough, impulsive, without any common sense	bush man	n.			
by-day boy n. young man hired by the day for work  by-heart by-hea	bush pig	n.			
by-heart by- a. rough, impulsive, without any common sense	butter bread	n.			
heart common sense	by-day boy	n.			
bye-bye v.t. say good-bye to		a.			
	bye-bye	v.t.	say good-bye to		

Charaian	Dog	Evalenation	E	Etymology
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
<b>C.</b>				
caffre	n.	boiled maize dough		<twi< th=""></twi<>
caked	V.	be congested, be congealed, be frozen		
can	V.	to like [in relation to food]	Can you eat that type of food? Do you like that type of food?	NE
can	v.a.	are you really able to?		expects a negative answer
canvas	n.	tennis shoes		
caravan	n.	nine-seater station wagon		
carpet	n.	linoleum		
catch	V.	affect; colds, fever, illness are assoc. w. harmattan		
caterpillar	n.	bulldozer		
cedi	n.	unit of currency		<twi 'cowry'<="" th=""></twi>
chacha	n.	gambling		? <hausa< th=""></hausa<>
chamber and hall	n.	standard compound apartment of two rooms		
chamber pot	n.	pot to urinate in at night		BE obsolete
chanji	n.	spare, small, loose change		
charge	n.	to accuse of a fineable offence		
Charley	p.n.	general term for a peer: man, guy, sport, boy, bloke		also Koo
chasing	n.	pursuing girls		
chemical seller	n.p.	pharmacist		
chemical shop	n.p.	pharmacy (may also stock veterinary supplies)		
chemical store	n.p.	pharmacy (may also stock veterinary supplies)		
chemshi	n.	aluminium or galvanized steel roofing sheets		also <i>chemsi</i>
chensi	n.	pots and pans, also metal roofing sheets		(S.) (see chemsi, chemshi)
chew	V.	to cram for exams, eating kebab or other meat		
chew and pour	n.p.	nickname for method of revising for exams. Student chews over his books at the last minute and pours out the information in an exam the next day		
chewing stick	n.	traditional toothbrush made of a cut section of the branch of certain tree species		also chewstick. WAE
chieftaincy	n.	the national sport of Ghana,		
dispute		enjoyed by all ages and more popular than football		
chin-chinga	n.	kebab		<twi kyinkyinga<="" th=""></twi>
Chinese Chinese	p.n.	any East Asian		<e.g. japanese,<br="">Korean etc.)</e.g.>
Chinese rice	n.p.	Chinese food in general, usually fried rice		11010411 010.)

				1 =
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
Cho-boi!	excl.	Ga war chant, football chant, workers chant etc.		<ga< th=""></ga<>
chock	V.	to place chocks to stop a vehicle rolling away		
chook	v.t.	to jab, puncture, penetrate with a sharp object		CE
chop	n.	food		TE ? <hindi chapatti<="" th=""></hindi>
chop	V.	eat, confiscate, steal, have sex with		
chop bar	n.	local eating place	UNITY CHOP BAR & A 8AM-IPM FUFU Special	
chop box	n.	student's chest for personal items		<chap box<="" th=""></chap>
chop master	n.	the one who buys the food and sets the menu		
chop money	n.	weekly allowance to wife or student for food		
chop time	n.	time to eat		
cigarette tin	n.	measurement for dry goods		obsolete
cine	n.	film, movie, movie theatre, video show, cinema		
circle	n.	interchange, roundabout		
clerk	n.	educated, literate person, official, bureaucrat		
climb	v.t.	to enter into (vehicle)	I will climb this car	
coalpot	n.	steel grill for charcoal cooking		
coaltared	n.	tarred, paved		
collect	v.t.	to take, to pick s.t. up		
come and see!	excl.p.	storyteller in mid-narration: and listen to this!		
come back	n.	nominal reincarnation		
coming	I'm coming!	to leave with the intent to come back		
comm. centre	n.	booth on the street where telephone calls and other business services are available		
compound	n.	grounds inside wall of house, school etc.		
compound house	n.	rented rooms in house of square format		
concert	n.	any public performance (often by children)		
concrete	n.	popular name for gari, rice, beans and oil mixed		
condemn	V.	to scrap something		
confusionist	n.	s.o. who brings about confusion	he is just a confusionist	NE
contact		to have conversation with; sexual relations with		
continental	a.	describes non-Ghanaian food of vaguely European type		NE. archaic BE
control	n.	government-controlled or subsidized price		(orig. ced price)

Ghanaian English			on Draft	T24 1
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
cook	V.	to prepare food for a man implies sexual relations		
cook	v.t.	to subvert by secret arrangements and planning		
copper- coloured	a.p.	light-coloured skin, esp. for describing women		
corner corner	a.	sly, deceitful, cunning		
cornroll	n.	female hairstyle resembling raised ridges of a farm	RASTA	for cornrow
counters	n.	bottle caps, used by children learning to count		
country	n.	country-man, fellow tribesman		
court court	a.	always taking each other to court		
cover cloth	n.	sheet, one sheet per bed on bottom, own cloth for cover sheet; plain piece of cloth worn toga style or wrapped around the body or knotted at the neck		
cowboy	n.	boys who take care of the cows, don't go to school		
cow head soup	n.	soup served as snack in pito bars		
cow meat	n.	beef		
crispy	a.	crispy		
curve	V.	turn		cf. bend, branch, pass
curve curve	a.	winding		usu. ~road
custard apple	n.	artichoke-shaped fruit, Annona senegalensis		AE
customs	n.	funeral ~, rites		
cut	V.	(wood, cement blocks, fufu, lotto, a relationship, a path) chop the tree; cast cement blocks; eat fufu; stake lotto; break a relationship; hack a path		
cut cut	a.	having frayed ends, many small cuts or cracks		
cutlass	n.	long slashing knife, machete or machet		

Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
D		1		.J
ע				
daa	adv.	a long time, forever		<twi< th=""></twi<>
Damba	n.	Day of sub-chiefs and subjects		Mohammed's
Damba	11.	offering their fealty.		birthday; v.
		one mg then really.		important
				chieftaincy
				celebration for
				Dagomba and
				Gonja.
dammit	excl.	show of empathy		
dash	n.	tip, gift, bribe, to tip or bribe		<dasheen< th=""></dasheen<>
dash	V.	a tip, gift, bribe, to tip or bribe		<dasheen< th=""></dasheen<>
dawadawa	n.	locust bean tree, Parkia		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
		biglobosa, seeds used for		
J	1	native condiment in soup		F V.C
day name	n.	name reflecting the day of one's birth		e.g. Fri. = Kofi, Kwasi, Kojo,
		one s on m		Kwasi, Kojo, Kwame etc.
deck	n.	video deck or tape cassette		TYVAITIC CIC.
	11.	player/recorder		
dedeede	a.	the absolute sweetest, nicest,		<twi< th=""></twi<>
		etc.		
delay	v.i.	to go slow, take one's time		
deliver	v.i.	give birth		
deskin	v.t.	to remove from chiefly office		
		in North		
destool	v.t.	to remove from chiefly office		
_		in South		
dey	V.	exist, be there		/ 1' 1 /
dialect	n.	language		≠dialect
dialects	n.	our own language		(usu. if another is
die	V.	lose ignition on combustion		present)
uic	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	engine on combustion		
different	a.	different from each other, of		
different		various types		
dirty blows	n.p.	good beating, sound thrashing		
disting	n.	substitute for a noun the		
		speaker cannot immediately		
		remember		
disappearing	n.	magic which helps drivers to		
medicine	12	escape accidents		
disco watch	n.	watch with LCD display		
dish	n.	prepared food presented on a plate		
disturb	V.	to beg or trouble persistently		
divine	V.	contact with unseen world to		
arvine	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	discover reason behind a		
		misfortune, evil etc.		
diviner	n.	seer		cf. soothsayer
do	v.a.	used before a verb to imply	I do come to	cf. use to
		habitual action	Tamale	
doctor	n.	any expert	watch-doctor	NE
		_ ^	watch-repairer	
	1	I.		

Gnanaian English		8	on Drait	T
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
doko doko	n.	sweet, sweets, drinks like Fanta, unfermented pito		<twi< th=""></twi<>
Don't bring yourself!	excl.p.	stop grand-standing, being smug, self-important		
Don't disturb!	excl.p.	Don't be troublesome! Shut up!		
don't go out	v.p.	leave the house; implies isn't having any fun		
don't mind him!	excl.p.	Don't pay any attention to him, he is nothing!		
don't you want to?	int.p.	expecting answer 'yes!'		
don't-mind- your-fuckin'- father	n.p.	not obc., hoodlum hairstyle with shaved sides		
donkey hours	adv.p.	long time		
dowry	V.	to give a bridewealth prestation for		
dress	n.	style of dress, male or female clothing		
drink	V.	to breathe smoke, fumes etc.		
drinking oracle	n.p.	witch-catching oracle using poison odum bark		
drinking soup	n.p.	soup prepared in European fashion		
drive away	v.p.	to harass and quarrel with someone until they go		
driver's mate	n.	driver's assistant, loads passengers, takes money		
drop	v.i.	to get out of a vehicle		
dropping	V.	to take a taxi somewhere off his fixed route		(see charter service ); for the fixed route simply get in and say nothing until you reach your destination (Orig. meant following the fixed route and dropping along the way but has come to mean the opposite.)
dry season	n.	N. = NovFeb.; S. = Dec Mar., Aug.		
dua car	n.	lorry with wood superstructure		<twi car,<="" lit.="" th="" wooden=""></twi>
dundu	n.	small drum squeezed under arm to vary tones		
duplicator	n.	mimeograph, m. machine		
durbar	p.n.	ceremonial gathering of dignitaries		<ce india<="" th=""></ce>
dwarf	n.	fairy, mischievous bush spirit, sprite		

Gnanaian English		Roger Blench Circulate	<u> </u>	T
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
<b>E.</b>				
earth	n.	earth deity, associated with		
		the earth shrine		
earth priest	n.p.	custodian of earth shrine		
earth shrine	n.p.	place of contact with local		
		earth deity		
ease (oneself)	V.	to urinate, to go to the toilet		BE obsolete, also NE
eat	V.	only staples are counted as food		
egushi	n.	seeds of Cucumeropsis edulis		neri, also agusi
elders	n.	senior advisors, authorities in family and village		
emo tuo	n.	glutinous rice in form of balls		(lit. rice guns ) usu. with groundnut soup <twi< td=""></twi<>
enskin	V.	to be officially appointed a chief (North)		
enstool	V.	to be officially appointed a chief (South)		
estates	n.	Western styled government housing		
eto	n.	mashed yam and palm oil		<twi< th=""></twi<>
even	conj.	to make matters worse		
ever	adv.	to give positive affirmation, i.e. not never	I ever went there	
Except God!	excl.p.	unless through God's help		
excuse me to say	v.p.	pardon me (said before a criticism, interrupting).		cf. Twi sebe, tafrakye
exist	V.	to be living		
F.				
Τ.				
face the wall	n.p.	popular name for konkonte, lapewa, cassava T.Z.		
Fada	p.n.	Father, an RC missionary or any Westerner		
fair	a.	light coloured complexion		
family planning	n.	contraceptives		
Fante dokono	n.	maize dough in the Fante style		<twi< th=""></twi<>
farewell	n.	going away party, send-off		
farewell	V.	to say goodbye to		
fed up	V.	to be absolutely full, unable to eat more		
feel shy	v.p.	to be embarrassed		
feel to	V.	to feel like	( feel like eating )	
fetish	n.	to put a spell on, invoke shrine spirit against	(	
fetish priest	n.	traditional religious specialist, diviner etc.		
fever	n.	malaria		
fill the hole	v.p.	to compensate		
	ik.	to compensate	I	

Gnanaian English		Roger Bienen Circulati		
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
fine	a.	to be good, happy, peaceful		
fine, fine!	excl.	Everything is very good!		
finish	adv.	until completed		
finish	v.	to use up, run out of something		
finish	v.	to destroy, overcome		
fit	v.	to be able		WCP
follow (s.o.)	V.	to go with, accompany;	I will follow you to your country	(for women: love a man)
follow	V.	to take, ride in a vehicle	they will follow the bus to Wa	
fonio	n.	fonio, a tiny grass seed for porridge		
food	n.	generic name for all starchy and grain staples		
for	prep.	in, into	put water for this cup	
for	V.	belonging to, by (can express parenthood)	She has two children for him. Also Is this thing for you?	
fos	n.	second hand clothing		< SE folks
four eyes	n.	able to see into the unseen spirit world, a witch		
fowl	n.	chicken		NE. arch. SE for the specific
fox	n.	jackal		ME
free range	adv.	defecating in the bush		
French	n.	French speaking countries next to Ghana		
friend	n.	girl-friend/boy-friend		
froy	n.	blended dip of oil and pepper, onions, coco yam leaf, garden eggs		<twi 'mixed'<="" th=""></twi>
from today onward going	adv.p.	from now on		
from the first beginning	adv.p.	from the beginning		
fufu	n.	boiled yams pounded to rubbery mass		WAE. <twi lit.="" th="" white<=""></twi>
fula	n.	dampened, lightly fermented millet flour cakes		(N. cf. Hausa fura
Fulani	p.n.	usual Ghanaian name for the FulBe people, cattle pastoralists found throughout West Africa		< Hausa. NE.
full piece	n.	man's cloth made from 12 yds cotton print		
function	n.	an official occasion, celebration		
funeral	n.	mortuary rites, grand remembrance celebrations (burial, 1st f., 2nd f.)		
funeral	n.	mortuary rites, esp. second f.		
customs		long after burial		

Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Evennle	Etymology
Guadalali	103	Explanation	Example	Lightongy
G.				
1.11				
gabli	n.	maize and bean boiled cake with pepper		<ewe <b="" cf.="">tubani</ewe>
galamsay,	n.	illegal small-scale gold		
galamsi		mining, esp. in the North		
gallon	n.	plastic container for liquid		Originally the 4-litre
				containers for oil,
				but now generalised
				to any plastic or
				other container in
				the shape of a jerry-
		1 . 1		can. NE.
garden egg	n.	eggplant, brinjal		NE. Solanum
				incanum. Applies to
				local, bitter
				varieties, including
( )•		1:1		inedible types.
gar(r)i	n.	dried, grated cassava		WAE. Cassava is
				processed in this
				way to eliminate the
				cyanide in bitter types. The name and
				technology were
				brought by the
				Portuguese from the
				New World
gari foto	n.	food type		Tiew World
gas oil	n.	food type		
gas oil	n.	diesel fuel		<french< th=""></french<>
gboyo	p.u.t.	completely		<ga< th=""></ga<>
general	n.p.	tiredness, bodyache	I am suffering from	NE.
weakness	1	j	general weakness	
get	v.	to take	=	
get	v.t.	to have	he get plenty money	Pidgin also NE.
3			he has a lot of	
			money	
get up	v.p.	to embark upon a task, prepare		
		to do something		
Ghana man	p.n.	Ghanaian		
gidi gidi	a.	restless, busy-body		<twi< th=""></twi<>
give	v.t.	to arrange s.t.	he gave me six	
			o'clock he arranged	
			to meet me at six	
go	N 0	will = futura/angaina tanga	o'clock	
go out	v.a.	will = future/ongoing tense implies a rendezvous,		
go out	V.	entertainment		
go speed	V.	to drive fast, speedily		
go-come-go-	n.p.	deferment, postponement		
come	p.	, postponent		
Golden Stool	p.n.	main royal ancestral shrine of		
		Asante		
		10		

Ghanaian English		Roger Blench Circulati		I —
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
gong-gong	n.	hand held, two-note iron clapperless bell, beaten to alert people for an announcement		
gonji	n.	African fiddle		<dagbani< td=""></dagbani<>
good-bye	v.t.	to say good-bye to		(see farewell)
got	v.a.	has become	the minerals got finished the minerals have run out	NE.
grass	n.	thatch or roofing grass; weeds in general		
grasscutter	n.	cane rat, Thryonomys swinderianus		also 'cutting-grass'. WAE. More often printed than spoken
greet	v.i./t.	to greet (which is a much elaborate and formulaic process in Ghana)	it is correct to greet greeting is appropriate behaviour. She greeted him implying a formal, social process	NE.
greet the chief	v.p.	euph. for going to toilet	•	
greet the funeral	v.p.	pay respects, visit with friends etc. at a funeral		
groundnut	n.	peanut (Arachis hypogaea)	TE	
groundnut soup	n.p.	peanut sauce accompanying staple		
guinea-corn	n.	sorghum		WAE. Sorghum bicolor
guitar	n.	fiddle		
guttural	a.	scandalmongering, appealing to low taste	those magazines are guttural	<pre><se 'gutter="" 'gutter'="" as="" in="" pre="" press'<=""></se></pre>
guy	n.	fashionable, trendy		
guy name	n.	nickname		NE.
Н.				
Haba!	excl.	Expression of surprise or amazement		< Hausa and heard mainly in the North. NE. N.B. Habahaba! was a common expression of joking amazement in the US in the 1940s. Related?
Hacks	n.	mentholated cough drop or candy		(see old-man)
had	V.	got, achieved, attained		
hair	n.	feathers		
half piece	n.p.	woman's cloth 6 yds of traditional cotton print		
hand	n.	SE hand, also arm, wing of bird		

Ghanaian English	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
		=	Example	Etymology
hankete	n.	handkerchief		
harmattan	n.	dry dust-laden desert wind, November-March		WAE
Hausa onion	n.p.	garlic		
have it	excl.p.	take it!		
head-load	n.	basket or basin-load carried on the head		
head-pad	n.	quoin, circular cloth or fibre pad, to protect the head when carrying a basin or similar		NE
head-pan	n.	pans used for carrying cement and other building materials on the head		
head-tie	n.	headscarf		
head-tax	n.	colonial taxation of individual family heads		CE
hear	V.	to understand, speak		
hear	v.t.	to sense		
hell of	a.p.	lot of, much, plenty		< Hell of a lot of
hello-hello friends	n.p.	good-time friends, short-lived friendships		obsolete
help	n.	small donation, dash		
herbalist	n.	traditional doctor who treats patients, in principle with plant remedies, but also other types of socially approved magical remedies		NE
here to stay	adv.p.	said of a child after the name- giving ceremony		
highlife	p.n.	Ghanaian music with calypso/Soca beat		
Hmmm!	excl.	N. = sign of disapproval, S. = sign of worries		
ho!	excl.	expression of contempt		
home second	a.p.	second hand items imported from Europe		
home use	a.	reconditioned, ersatz, imitation spare parts, etc.		
hook	v.t.	cut grass, weeds etc. with a cutlass		
hoot	V.	to embarrass or chase away with loud shouting		
horrible film	n.p.	horror film		
hot	a.	busy		
hot	a.	serious		
hot	n.	spirits		cf. akpateshie, VC-10, patash
house	n.	family, family origins, genealogy, building		
house name	n.	name referring to an ancestor come back.		
house of chiefs	n.	regional assembly of chiefs		
house people	n.p.	extended family members		
How!	excl.	strong disagreement		
How be?	excl.p.	greetings, How are you?		
		,	1	I.

Gnanaian English		Roger Biench Circulaus	I	
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
how possible!	excl.p.	impossible, incredible		
hu hu hu	id.	sound of shouting, hooting		<twi< th=""></twi<>
huhudious	a.	obsolete, colossal, vast		
humbug	V.	to harass (sexually), disturb,		
		annoy		
Hunger idey	excl.p.	to be very hungry		
kill me!				
hungry rice	n.	fonio, semi-domestic grain in		WAE. also <b>fonio</b> ,
		W. African Savannah,		hunger rice
		Digitaria exilis		
huro	V.	to shout at		<twi< th=""></twi<>
husband	n.	customer; relationship for		
		market		
I.				
1.				
I am areas		love along trougant recome 1		at al
I-am-aware	n.p.	low-slung trousers worn by		st. sl.
I see!	excl.p.	Women I don't really believe you!		
ibi so ibi so!	excl.p.	It is like that. That is the way it		
	cxci.p.	is!		
ice block	n.	ice cubes, ice water sold in plastic bags		
iced kenkey	n.	cooled water leftover from		
if	conj.	making kenkey when		
if	cond.	whenever		
in his bottle		drunk	the man was in his	
III IIIS DOLLIE	a.p.	drunk	bottle	
in time	adv.	quickly	Donne	
Independent	n.	churches with charismatic		
Churches	11.	leaders and healers		
India film	n.p.	Indian films: popular because		
_	1.	romance w/o. sex		
Indian hemp	n.	marijuana, hashish		
ingredients	n.	all items that go into making soup or sauce		
ino be so?	int.p.	Isn't it like that?		
inside	prep.	there, under the surface, deep		
	rr'	down		
interesting	excl.	mild surprise and slight		
		disagreement		
iron sheets	n.	roofing sheets of galvanized steel or aluminium		
is that how you	excl.p.	reproof for being cheap, a sign		
are!	ononp.	of bad character		
it got	v.a.	it became broke/used up/lost it		
<u> </u>		1		
		l	l .	1

Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Evennle	Etymology
	103	Explanation	Example	Etymology
J.				
Jato	sal.	nickname for any light-skinned		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
		person or albino		
join	V.	to go with		
joke	V.	be careful		serious warning
joker	n.	jovial, affable manner, not		
		serious		
joking	n.p.	rough humour, mock		
relations Jollof rice		quarrelling rice boiled with meat, tomato		(ania franc
Johof rice	n.p.	and pepper sauce; resembles paella, pilao/pilaf		(orig. from Jolof/Wolof people of Senegal)
Joromi	p.n.	with embroidery design esp. in front of shirts		
Joseph	n.	nickname for cat soup		
jot	n.	cigarette		
juju	n.	magical manipulation of spirit world, evil devices		
jujuman	n.	magician, witch doctor, shrine custodian		
Julie	p.n.	any young female, like male Charley		
jump	n.	outdoor dance Saturday afternoons at hotels		
junior	n.p.	junior high		
secondary				
school		1 0 1 1		
just	a.	just plain, very, definitely		not only or simply
¥7				
К.				
YZYYD				
KVIP	n.p.	public ventilated pit latrine		
kaba	n.	cover, woman's blouse, Ghanaian cotton print		
kaba and slit	n.	former style of women's dress		
kabako!	excl.	We have a big problem!		
kai!	excl.	showing surprise and annoyed disagreement		
kakolo and	n.	mashed fried plantain and		
beans		beans		
kakra	n.	a little bit		<twi< th=""></twi<>
kalabule	n.	illegal trading or other activities, graft, corruption		
kama	a.	beautiful, serene		<twi< th=""></twi<>
Katamanto	p.n.	part of central Accra for hardware goods		<twi< th=""></twi<>
Karamo	n.	Muslim holy man or magician		(Ar. teacher)
karte-cake		peanut brittle		<twi< th=""></twi<>
kaya apple	n.	ackee apple		often confused with cashew
kaya-kaya	n.	women load carriers in Accra market		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
keep long	v.p.	to be late, a long time away		

Ghanaian English		Roger Blench Circulation		T = .
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
kelewele	n.	small slices of fried plantain		<ga< td=""></ga<>
kenkey	n.	boiled maize flour in the Ga style		<ga< td=""></ga<>
kente	n.	richly woven colourful cloth in Asante		<twi< td=""></twi<>
Keta-boys	n.	small fry, small fish especially from Keta lagoon		
kick	v.	effect of an electric shock		
kikiriki	id.	crowing of a rooster		<twi< td=""></twi<>
kill	V.	slow jay-walker accusing passing motorist		
kill-me-quick	v.p.	hair-style		
kill-me-quick	v.p.	local gin		see also akpateshie
knickerbocker	n.	popular baggy shorts		BE obsolete
knocking	excl.	sound made before entering a compound		
Kofi and Ama collection	n.p.	monthly church collection done by day-name		
koko	n.	porridge, gruel		<hausa< td=""></hausa<>
kola	n.	kola nut, gift, dash, bribe		
koliko	n.	fried yam or cassava chips		<twi< td=""></twi<>
konko	n.	empty tin cans		<twi< td=""></twi<>
konko bus	n.	large passenger truck with steel superstructure		<twi< td=""></twi<>
konkonsa	n.	slander, backbiting, rumours, idle gossip		<twi< td=""></twi<>
konkonte	n.	T.Z. made with cassava flour		<twi< td=""></twi<>
konkrompe	n.	place for old car parts		<twi< td=""></twi<>
kontombere	n.	?		
kontumire	n.	green broadleafed vegetable made into a stew		<twi< td=""></twi<>
koraa	n.p.	not at all, not in the least bit		<twi< td=""></twi<>
korakora	n.	burnt rice left at the bottom of the pot after preparing Jolof rice		
kose	n.	fried bean-cakes		<hausa< td=""></hausa<>
kra kra kra kra	id.	sound of crying		<twi< td=""></twi<>
kri kri kri kri	id.	sound of someone running		<twi< td=""></twi<>
kube-cake	n.	coconut biscuit		<twi< td=""></twi<>
kudi	n.	money		<hausa< td=""></hausa<>
kuka soup	n.	soup made from dried baobab leaves		<hausa +="" english<="" td=""></hausa>
kulikuli	n.	cakes made from the residue of peanuts after the oil has been expressed		<hausa< td=""></hausa<>
kwa	n.	for nothing, with nothing to show		<twi< td=""></twi<>
kwadu	n.	banana		<twi< td=""></twi<>
kwa kwa kwa kwa	id.	sound of laughter		<twi< td=""></twi<>
Kwaku-Anansi	p.n.	Kwaku the spider, Akan folk hero		<twi< td=""></twi<>
Kwasi-Brouni	p.n.	European born on a Sunday (or any European)		<twi< td=""></twi<>

	Dictionary	Roger Bienen Circulation		
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
kwataa	p.u.t.	at all, nothing at all		<hausa cf.="" koraa<="" td=""></hausa>
kwish!	excl.	sound made to chase away goats		
L.				
L.				
lace	n.	cloth in the style <i>broderie</i> Anglaise, with many gaps.  Imported from Austria and prestigous because expensive		
lampo	n.	head tax, income tax		<french <i="">l'impôt</french>
landlord	n.	ritual owner, head, father, grandfather, uncle sr.br.	R. I. P. ALHAJI SEIDU JIGIBALI BORN - 1869 PILGRIMAGE TO MSCCA 1951 LANDLORD OF NAKORI 1975 DIED IN JULI 1989	
landowner	n.	earth shrine custodian, indigenes of a place		
langalanga	a.	lanky, lean and tall		
langalanga	n.	steel bands for binding boxes used to attach roof to walls		
lapewa	n.	cassava flour porridge		<hausa< td=""></hausa<>
laps	n.	lap, thigh		
lasilasi	n.	unreliable character, backbiter		N. <hausa< td=""></hausa<>
last	a.	final, referring to price of goods	What is your last price? The price is fifty thousand cedis, last.	
latrine carrier	n.	faeces	,	cf. night soil
lavender	n.	any perfume, deodorant etc.		-
lean	a.	thin, especially because of worries, witchcraft etc.		
Lebanese	p.n.	Arab, Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian etc.		
leemu	n.	any citrus fruit		<hausa< td=""></hausa<>
left small	prep.	soon, in a little while, just a little bit more and		
let	V.	expresses polite imperative of a verb	let you buy orange for me	
libilibi	n.	crooked, not straightforward, not trustworthy		</td
lie-lie man	n.	liar	_	
life	n.	good times		
light	n.	electrical power	Is there light?	NE
light soup	n.	tomato, onion and pepper soup with a thin texture like consommé	V	cf. drinking soup
like	conj.	as if, if		
like	V.	offer of love/sex by a man to a		

Gnanaian English		Roger Bienen Circulau	1	
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
		woman		
like that	a.	not kind or generous; a bad person or situation		
like that	adv.p.	doing nothing special, no aim or direction, no help		
like that	adv.p.	very strong, bad		
line	n.	route, direction of journey, what one is doing next		
linguist	n.	interpreter, spokesperson especially attached to chiefs in southern tradition. Visitors must speak through the linguist even when the chief is familiar with their language		
linguist staff	n.	carved wooden stick held by chiefly linguists		
lip-shine	n.	Chapstick, Vaseline for cracked lips		
lock	V.	shut off		
locust	n.	locust-bean tree		cf. dawadawa.  Parkia biglobosa.  N.B. locust as an insect is usually 'cricket'
lomo	n.	cow head soup		< ? Y.
long mouth	a.	gossipy, garrulous		(insulting)
Look at it!	excl. p.	There it is. Can't you see it?		
look for	v.p.	to look after, take care of		
Look ooo!	excl.	to mark well, note well		
lorry	n.	any large motor vehicle, four- wheel drive, small truck		large truck ≠ lorry, unlike BE
lorry fare	n.	price of a taxi or bus ride		
lorry mate	n.	commercial driver's assistant		
lorry park	n.	place assigned in each town for long-distance commercial transport of people and goods		
lost	n.	loss	Management is not responsible for lost of possessions	
louvre blades	n.	narrow plates of glass to fit into a mechanical frames in a window, for ventilation		
love all!	excl.	?	He went to the love-all canteen.	
low cost	n.p.	subsidized government housing		
		nousing		
low hair	n.p.	hair shaved close to the head, characteristic of schoolchildren		

Ghanaian English Dictionary Roger Blench Circulation Draft				
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
<b>M.</b>				
maame	sal.	mother, title for mature woman		<twi< td=""></twi<>
Mami-Wata	p.n.	female water deity held		<west coast="" pidgin<="" td=""></west>
		responsible for death of		
		fishermen but also the object		
		of a cult along the West African coast		
macho bike	n.p.	cross-country bicycle, balloon		
macho bine	n.p.	tires, gears		
Maggi	p.n.	brand-name used as a generic		
		for stock-cubes		
mai gida	n.p.	head of the house		<hausa< td=""></hausa<>
make	v.	let, should, obligation to do or	make you see me in	
		say something	the morning	
make better	v.p.	perform sacrificial rituals		
make cheers	v.p.	to propose a toast		
make-ups	n.	make-up, esp. face powder		
mammy-truck	n.	Bedford truck with wooden		also mammy-
mommy	n	superstructure  Bedford truck with wooden		wagon, tro-tro also mammy-truck,
mammy- wagon	n.	superstructure		tro-tro
man	n.	person of a particular		10 110
		nationality or tribe		
man's cloth	n.p.	10 or 12 yards of material		cf. ntoma,
		worn like a toga		traditional cloth, full
				piece
man's cloth	n.p.	rectangular cloth of 10-12 yds		
		worn like toga bushmeat soup: antelope,		cf. Twi <b>barima</b>
man's soup	n.p.	bushmeat soup: antelope, grasscutter etc.		nkwan
manager	n.	titles of respect like boss,		IIKwan
		chief, mastah		
map box	n.p.	glove compartment		archaic BE
market	n.	good price, many sales, good		
		business		
masa	n.	fried fermented maize cakes		< H.
master	n.	term of respect, junior		
mate	n	addressing a senior classmate		≠ spouse
matter	n.	things about a person		≠ spouse ≠ I like/love you
matter	n.	case, problems, situation		+ 1 HKC/10VE YOU
matter	n.	business, problem, case, issue		
means	n.	means of transport		
means	n.	money	I don't have means	
meat	n.	live animals, game, bush meat	- don there means	
medicine	n.	chemicals, medicine,		
		gunpowder, juju, magic		
meet	v.t.	as SE but objects, groups of	I met your absence	
		people and events can also be	I went but found	
		'met'	you were not there.	
			I met a meeting I	
			went there and	
			found there was a	
			meeting	

Gnanaian Englisi		Roger Biench Circulati	1	T =
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
men's thing	n.p.	walking stick, goatskin bag, shrines, magical objects (esp. property of a man)		
mercury	n.	stew with oily layer on top		sc. sl.
message	v.t.	to send a message		50. 51.
middle school	n.	school between primary and secondary		obsolete cf. JSS
mighty	n.	grand, big, powerful		used widely and without ironic intent
mind	n.	way of seeing things		
mineral	n.	soft drink, soda		
Ministries	p.n.	government office complex		
misbehave	v.i.	engage in illegal, illicit, immoral, harmful activity		
Mister white!	excl.	station boys taunting a European		
Modin sane!	excl.	beware of jealousy, beware of witchcraft		<ga< td=""></ga<>
moon die	adv.p.	end of the month, pay day		
moons	n.	months		archaic BE.
more	comp.	stronger, bigger, better, etc. by context		
morning morning	excl.	good morning		
mother	n.	term of respect for older woman, mother's sister		
moto	n.	motorcycle		
motorway	n.	bald head/person		
mouth	n.	edge, opening, face, end		common polysemy in African languages
mouth medicine	n.	magical protection against envy		
my grace	title	mistaken for your grace, title for archbishop		
my lord	title	respectful title for bishop or judge		
N.				
name	n.	nickname for someone having the same name		
Nananom	p.n.	? traditional association		
napkin	n.	baby's nappy		
Nasala	p.n.	European, non-Black		<arabic hausa<="" td="" via=""></arabic>
nere	n.	seeds of the locust tree		<west african<br="">French, originally Fulfulde nerehi</west>
New Year	p.n.	New Year holiday season		(roughly Jan. 1 - 15)
Nigeria	p.n.	amphetamines used by farmers to work harder etc.		
Nigeria	a.	Poor quality spare parts and equipment manufactured in Nigeria sold in Ghana in with packaging labelled as		

Gnanaian English Dictionary Roger Biench Circulation Draft				
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
		European or Japanese.		
night-school	n.	classes in villages after work in		
-8 5050-		the fields in literacy or other		
		topics, usually sponsored by		
		churches or NGOs		
nika nika	n.	mechanical grain grinding		
		machine		
nkyenkyema	n.	rickety old car, 'old banger'		<twi< td=""></twi<>
no catch	v.	not to be enough		cf. reach
noko	n.	something (i.e. money )		<ga< td=""></ga<>
not correct	a.	mentally ill, retarded,		
		mongoloid		
not good	a.	no money, presence of bad		
O		spirits		
not happy	a.	to be annoyed with someone		
not long	adv.p.	only a short time		
not necessary	a.	to be avoided, not fitting		
<b>J</b>		behaviour, gossiping etc.		
not right	a.p.	mad, strange, handicapped		cf. not correct
not serious	a.p.	of no account, having no		
		influence		
not well	a.	mad, insane, sick with worry		
now-now	adv.	right away, at once	I'm coming now-	
			now	
ntoma	n.	cloth of 10 yards worn like a		<twi< td=""></twi<>
		toga, also for sleeping		
nyama nyama	a.	useless, worthless, bogus,		<twi< td=""></twi<>
		nasty		
nyombeka	n.	Mossi corn T.Z. with bean		
		leaves, pepper and oil		
0.				
obibini	n.	African, coloured black or with		<twi< td=""></twi<>
		blue dye		
obolobo	a.	big (person)		
obrouni kokoo	n.	red-skinned person from over		<twi< td=""></twi<>
		the horizon		
obrouni	n.	dark-skinned person from over		<twi< td=""></twi<>
tuntum		the horizon		
occasion	n.	special event or celebration		
odum	n.	important commercial timber		
ce		tree		
off	v.t.	to switch off		1 1 2 2 2 2
ogah	n.	big man		also used in Nigeria.
0		Carra Carat		Source?
Ogua	p.n.	Cape Coast		<fante lit.="" market<="" td=""></fante>
ohene	n.	Akan chief		<twi< td=""></twi<>
old lady	n.	mother		not wife
old man	n.p.	honourable title for elder of the		
		house		
old-man	n.p.	Hacks cough drops/candy		
old timers	n.p.	highlife and reggae dance		
		records or band		

Gnanaian English		Roger Biench Circulati		T
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
oloka	n.	tin used as a dry measure		also America tin
Omo	p.n.	brand name of detergent		see: soap powder
		applied to soap powders as a		
om.	** *	generic to switch on	.1 1: 1.	
on	v.t.		on the light one William was	
one	pron.	particular instance, case, situation, thing, often applied	having the post at	
		to personal names	that time	
one man one	n.p.	bus with individually ticketed	THEIR THINE	
seat	т.р.	seats		
one pound one	n.p.	fast service Peugeot passenger		
pound		taxi Accra-Kumasi		
one one	adv.	one at a time, once in a while,		
<b>4</b> •	- 1	a few, a little		
one time	adv.	all at once and very quickly I admire	Only warm of 1 1 1	
only	part.		Only your shoes! I admire your shoes	
only	a.	there is only $x$ left	Only your bag!	
			Only your bag is	
Onyame!	excl.	God!	left	<twi ans.="" are<="" th="" you=""></twi>
•				marvellous!
Osino Graphic	p.n.	sweet corn dough from Osino, Achim		
osofo	n.	respectful title for priest or minister		<twi< th=""></twi<>
outdoor	v.t.	to formally appoint s.o., to	The chief was	
		celebrate the birth of a baby	outdoored last	
			week	
outdooring	n.	name-giving ceremony, also		
		any formal notification of appointment		
overfloat	V.	overflow		
overflood	V.	flood over the edge of s.t.	the river has	
			overflooded	
Overseas	p.n.	isolated area n. of Mole, w. of		
	_	the White Volta		
oware	n.	game in which tokens are		<twi< td=""></twi<>
ovigho	n	dropped in cups European, white man		< Y.
oyigbo	n.	European, white man		< Y.
P.				
paa	adv.	proper, really, very well, very good		<twi< td=""></twi<>
pains	V.	to be painful to, emotional hurt		
palaver	n.	argument, trouble, difficulty,		< Portuguese
		business, talk		palabra
palaver sauce	n.	sauce made from cocoyam leaves		
palm nut soup	n.p.	soup made from the nuts of the oil palm		
palms	n.	palm wine		cf. Twi nsa fufu
palogo	n.	night time entertainment with		<ga kpanlogo<="" th=""></ga>
1 0	i -		I	T

Gnanaian English		Roger Biench Circulati		
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
		drum and dance		
pano	n.	bread		<twi from<="" th=""></twi>
•				Portuguese
pantaloons	n.	long dress/trousers for women		obsolete
pant	n.	underpants, briefs, panties,	she tore her pant	
		knickers		
papaapa	excl.	the best, superlative		<twi< th=""></twi<>
Paramount	p.n.	high level of traditional chieftaincy		cf. Paramount Chief, Paramount Stool etc.
pass	V.	to be confused; not to know what to do		
pass	v.	to be more than		
pass	v.	to pass by		
pass	V.	to turn		cf. curve, bend, branch
pass all	a.	superlative, the most		WCP
pass out	v.p.	graduate from school or military/police training		
patash	n.	alcohol from fermented sugar cane/palm wine		cf. akpateshie, VC-10
paya	n.	avocado pear		<english <i="">pear</english>
pay all	n.	lottery shop	ASARE ORIGINAL PAY ALL WA BRANCH U.W.R. P.O. BOX380.TEL22093	
pe	part.	when, then at that exact moment		<twi< th=""></twi<>
pear	n.	avocado pear		
peg	v.t.	to secure something as by a stake in the ground		
Pentecost	p.n.	Pentecostals, any Evangelical or Independent Ch.		
pepper	n.	red pepper, chili pepper		
pepper sauce	n.	hot sauce made with pepper, onion, tomato		
pepper soup	n.p.	spicy soup served at drinking bars		cf. light soup
perch	V.	to be somewhere temporarily	we are just perching in this office for now	
performances	n.	rituals, esp. with sacrifices		
petty petty	a.	pointless, worthless, of no account, petty, trivial, unimportant	these petty petty things	NE
petrol Shell	n.p.	filling station		
pick	V.	to pick up, give a ride in one's car to someone		
pick	v.t.	to take out, to take away	they have already picked it they have already taken it out	
piece	n.	12 yards of printed cotton cloth cut from bolts		
piece piece	adv.p.	into pieces		
pieces of advice	n.p.	advice		
pig meat	n.p.	pork		

Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
pikin	n.	child		< West Coast Pidgin, originally Portuguese <i>pequeno</i> , 'small'
pin	V.	give a shot/injection to		
pintin	n.	completely full like a drum		<twi< td=""></twi<>
pito	n.	sorghum beer		<hausa< td=""></hausa<>
place	n.	country of origin		
plain	a.	open in plain view		
play	v.i.	to have a joking relationship with each other (both individuals and ethnic groups)		
playmates	n.	having joking relations		
please	excl.	excuse me		
polish	v.	to powder one's face		
pomade	n.	petroleum jelly, Vaseline		
pouffe	n.	stuffed leather hassock, pillow, or ottoman		<pre><be 'homosexual'<="" french="" orig.="" pre="" ≠=""></be></pre>
poso poso	a.	old and feeble		<twi< td=""></twi<>
possible best	n.	best possible, the best that he/she could do		
post sec	n.	post secondary school, for teacher's training etc.		
pot	n.	container for serving <b>pito</b> or palm wine		
potopoto	n.	mashed yam and palm oil		<twi< td=""></twi<>
powder	n.	talcum powder		
praise-singer	n.	singer and instrumentalist who goes before powerful people and proclaims their praises, recites their ancestry etc.		WAE
pray	V.	definition of a Muslim: He prays.		
Presby	p.n.	Presbyterian Church		
project	n.	major problem		
proper	adv.	really, very well, completely, thoroughly		cf. T. paa
prospering	v.i.	to grow fat		
provide	V.	to take care of all needs, food, shelter, expenses		
Pshaaa!	excl.	contemptuous disbelief		archaic BE
Pue!	excl.	sounds made in mourning the death of a loved one		<twi< td=""></twi<>
pulling bar	n.	crowbar of a carpenter		
punk	a.	youthful hairstyle, shaved sides and high top		
punky	a.	punk-like, modern styles set by rap singers		
put	V.	to be controlled by the witch-catching shrine		

Gnanaian English		Roger Biench Circulati		
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
Q.				
Queen Mother	p.n.	female senior elder in matrilineal royal family		
Queen's English	n.p.	Standard English		reference is to Queen Victoria
query	V.	to subject a junior to questioning		BE
quite	a.	very	It is quite far i.e. it is very far. Also negative: It is not quite far	NE
quite	adv.	well	I quite remember when they came here	
R.				
rain	n.	lightning		
Rambo	p.n.	physically strong man		cf. macho man. < film character played by Sylvester Stallone
ramp	V.	to pound or compress gravel for flooring		
rastah	n.	hairstyle for women: fine braids, not dreadlocks		
rate	n.	cost of admission to movie, concert, play etc.		
rather	adv.	are more likely to	they rather handle the new notes with care	< 'would rather'
Rawlings park	p.n.	car park of several blocks in central Accra		
reach	v.i.	be sufficient, not enough e.g. money	the money will not reach	cf. not catch
reach	V.	arrive at e.g. place, conclusion, etc.		
red	a.	red and related colours		'white' people are often said to be red
red-eyes	a.p.	sign of danger, hot, envious, greedy		SGE
red-eyes	n.	serious, no nonsense, angry, hotly on something		
red fish	n.	snapper		
red-red	n.	stew containing palm-oil and plantain, both reddish in colour		
reduce	V.	to ask that the price be lowered		
remains	V.	to be left	e.g. only are/is left.	
remember	V.	reminds me of		cf. Twi
remove	v.i.	to come out	the thing will not remove	
reply	V.	to respond to, send or give a		
I v			l .	<u>l</u>

	Dictionary		on Drait	
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
		reply to		
resemble	v.	to look alike		
retaliate	V.	to pay back, return		e.g. even a favour; jokingly used by elites
retire	V.	to no longer use, to remove from active service		<twi< td=""></twi<>
rice balls	n.	coagulated rice shaped in balls		see <b>emo tuo</b> ; usually served with groundnut soup
rice water	n.	rice porridge, thin wet rice congee, rice pudding		
rival	n.	co-wife		
roam	V.	to be adulterous, going after men		
roam with	V.	go about with	that one you were roaming with yesterday the person you were going about with yesterday	
rogues	n.	ruffians, hooligans, bad boys		archaic BE
Roman	p.n.	Roman Catholic Church		
rough	n.	merciless teasing		
rough road	n.p.	gravel, unpaved road		
Rwanda boys	p.n.	name of a gang of hoodlums in Tamale		
Robb	p.n.	brand name of mentholated petroleum jelly		TM also NE
rubber	n.	plastic bag, gallon jug, pail, tub		
rubber tree	n.	tree sp., Funtumia elastica		
running diarrhoea	V.	to have diarrhoea		
running fever	V.	to have malaria		
S.				
sabe	V.	to understand		borrowed from West Coast Pidgin, ultimately < Portuguese saber
sabesabe	a.	know it all, pretentious, too knowledgeable		1 01048400 50000
sack	v.t.	chase away; also divorce		
sack	n.	unit of money, 200 cedis		
sacred grove	n.	heavily forested site of earth shrine, cemetery etc.		
sakora	a.	bald head, tires etc.		<hausa< td=""></hausa<>
salaminga	p.n.	European, Christian		Northern. (Ar. follower of the Nazarene see Nasala) (pl. siliminsi)

Ghanaian	PoS	<b>Explanation</b> Circulate	Example	Etymology
		<u>-</u>	Example	Lightology
same mother, same father	n.p.	He/she is my real		
same rather sand-winning	n n	brother/sister, not cousin. digging sand for sale		
	n.p.	that		
say schnapps	n.	Dutch gin: Henneke, Bols etc.		
scimapps	11.	given to chiefs		
scholarship	n.	rich woman paying a boy's		
5 <b>011010115111</b> P	11.	school fees for sex		
school girl	n.	school girl's hair cut, very		
O .		short, no style		
see ourselves	v.p.	to meet again		
see	V.	to understand s.o. is not telling		
		the truth		
see	V.	to look at		cf. Twi
see x later	V.	to meet with s.o. to discuss s.t.	I will see you later	
colf	0	private, such as money	I!II T	/ itaalf
self	a.	follows noun for emphasis	I will go Tamale self	< itself
sell	v.t.	to speak in a language	seij	
	1.0.	unknown to some present		
sellers	n.	persons moving about selling		
		things		
selves	pron.	to discuss together		
send	v.t.	to ensure that s.o. reaches a	I will send him	
		destination	back to you I will	
			bring him or ensure	
			he gets back to you	
			[no imperative	
			sense]	
send to	v.p.	to put under a magical spell		
senior	a.	older in family situation thus		
		senior mother, father, brother, wife etc.		
senior	n	secondary school		
secondary	n.	Secondary School		
school				
serious	a.	foolish, stupid, ridiculous,		euph.
		absurd		
service	n.	passenger wishes to go off the fixed route		cf. dropping, charter
sew	v.t.	to sew, to make up a		
50 11	٧	commissioned item of clothing		
sex	v.t.	to have sex with		NE
shake	V.	to shake hands with		
sharpsharp	adv.	very quickly, right now		
sheep-meat	n.p.	mutton		
shepherd	n.	cowherd followed the cows		cf. cowboy
shito	n.	fish pepper sauce of Ga people		<ga< th=""></ga<>
shoe-shine-	n.p.	rascals, street urchins, boys		
boys		shining shoes		
short	v.t.	to not give s.o. enough, to	I have shorted you,	
		cause s.t. to decline	they have shorted	
			the water	
shortshort	adv.	not enough, e.g. the money		
		packs are each short		

Gnanalan English	Dictionary	Roger Biench Circulation	on Drait	
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
Should I come?	int.p.	Aren't you going to invite me?		
side	n.	region, place		
signboard	n.	sign, advertisement, logo		
silba-shine	n.	steel wool or Brillo pads		
silk cotton	n.	kapok		TE
simpa	n.	drum kit made up of bongos		1L
Simpa		('bingoes') (side drum and base drum); club sponsoring the playing of <b>simpa</b> ; nontraditional young people's social dance with <b>simpa</b> band		
singlet	n.	open neck sleeveless undershirt		BE
sister	n.	female sibling, cousin, girlfriend, friend		
sister	n.	fellow female church-member		
skin	n.	the chiefly throne, political power		
skin pain	n.p.	jealousy		
skirt and	n.p.	voting for one party for		
blouse		President and for an MP of different political affiliation		
slang	n.	colloquial expression	it is a slang	used with indefinite article, also in plural
slap	V.	to discipline		always by senior to junior
slaps	n.	open-handed blows, esp. as a correction		
sleeping cloth	n.	man's full cloth		ntoma used as cover sheet
sleeping money	n.p.	small amount given to girl friend/wife after sex		
slim	a.	skinny, thin, fine boned		
slippers	n.	flip-flops, thongs, beach- walkers		also Charley-wote
slit	n.	woman's long lower Ghanaian skirt		
slowly slowly	adv.	little by little		
small	n.	tin box use by Dagomba women to keep their most important possessions		confined to Dagomba area?
small	adv.	just a little bit		of food or drink etc.
small	excl.	vocative expression for young boys 8 to 12		
small boy	n.p.	of no account, unimportant person		
small-boys	n.p.	young boys from 8-12 years old		
small-chops	n.p.	fast food, snacks		
small small	adv.p.	a little, a little bit better, little by little, slowly, carefully		
smash	V.	to mash		
smock	n.	heavy loose woven cotton shirt from the North		archaic BE
snap	V.	to take a photo of s.o.		
•	•	-		

Gnanaian English		Roger Biench Circulation		
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
SO	part.	thus, like that		
sothat	adv.	doing s.t. to the extent that s.t.	the bus was so	
		happens	speeding that it hit	
			the lorry	
S0-S0	a.p.	such and such	so-so amount	NE
some	pron.	any		
some few	a.p.	not a large number of		NE
some funny	n.p.	a strange thing		
thing		4.1.		
something	n.	a great thing		
something	n.	a small dash, gift, help		
something something	a.	something about		
sonn	adv.	on and on and on		<ga< th=""></ga<>
sóini sóòò!		discourse marker introducing		<b>~</b> Ua
3000.	conj.	the next element in a story		
Sorry!	excl.	to sympathize with		AE
~~~J +	3	someone/something/oneself at		
		a misfortune without implying		
		responsibility		
soup	n.	generic name for all edible		
		vegetables cooked as a sauce		
soursop	n.	green fruit with white flesh and		TE
,	,	black seeds		
spark	v.t.	to turn on the ignition		
spider has	v.p.	hand or foot is asleep		
caught his/her -foot, -hand)				
spoil	v.i.	to get broken		
spoil	v.t.	to ruin, subvert with bribery,		
Spon	· · · · ·	by backbiting		
sponge	n.	coarse nylon netting for		
• 0		bathing		
squeeze	v.t.	crumple up, crush		
squeeze eyes	v.p.	sign of disagreement,		
G		resistance from a junior		
Sssst!	excl.	sound made when calling		
ston	n n	anyone, esp. a taxi		
star screwdriver	n.p.	Phillips screwdriver		
station boy	n.p.	load carriers, hoodlums around		
Saucion Doj	11.p.	lorry parks		
stay	v.	to live at/with, reside at/with	I am staying at	NE
-		ĺ	Tamale I live in	
			Tamale	
steel-bender	n.	works steel rods for reinforced		
		concrete		
stew	n.	dip or sauce of vegetable puree		cf. soup
4*1_6* 1		with oil and pepper		
stinkfish	n.	smelly sun-dried fish		Ga momone
stool	n.	seat of power in South, sign of		
stool lands	n n	chief lands associated southern		
Stout lanus	n.p.	chiefship		
story film	n.p.	drama, film with a plot		as opposed to action
Story min	11.P.	arama, mm wim a piot		as opposed to action

Ghanaian	Dictionary PoS	Roger Blench Circulation	Example	Etymology
Guanaian	103	Explanation	Example	• 50
-4 1 97.79		Leading a 2d of		film
storey building	n.p.	building with more than one		NE
stranger	n.	floor or story guest(s), visitor(s)		many African
su anger	11.	guest(s), visitor(s)		languages equate these concepts
structure	n.	figure (usually of a woman)		
suffer	V.	to have difficulties while striving to get ahead		
sugar-mammy	n.	female version of sugar daddy		
suman	n.	talisman, juju, magical protection		<twi< td=""></twi<>
summer	n.	hot part of dry season		(Jan., Feb., Mar.)
summer hut	n.	gazebo, palaver hut		
supie	n.	superior, a girl's elder school mate/friend		obsolete
suspecting	V.	expecting		suspecting that you would come)#
susu	n.	rotating credit associations		? Yoruba
swallow	V.	fufu and TZ are swallowed without chewing		
swear	V.	to call upon ancestors to judge a wrongdoing		
sweet	a.	delicious, savoury, enjoyable		
sweet	V.	to be pleasant, to have a savoury taste or experience		
sweet bat	n.	fried cake like spherical doughnut		<'sweet batter'
sweet head	n.	luck		
T.				
,				
T.Z.	n.	porridge of millet, sorghum or maize		acronym from Hausa tuwon zafi
taboo	V.	to prohibit		
take	v.t.	to eat		
take and	v.a.	typical serial verb construction		
take care	V.	to be careful		
take it	v.p.	to understand something as, to be		
take seed	v.p.	to become pregnant		
Take time!	excl.p.	to take your time, be careful, take it easy, cool off		
take time	V.	take a long time, delay s.t., to cool off		
talia	n.	pasta, spaghetti, noodles		< Italian <i>tagliatelle</i> , via Hausa
tapper	n.	palm wine tapper		
tea	n.	tea, coffee or other hot drink		
tea bread	n.	non-sweetened bread		
tell lies	v.p.	to lie, distort the truth		despite its prevalence, considered very offensive

Ghanaian	PoS	<b>Explanation</b> Circulate	Evampla	Etymology
		-	Example	
tey	excl.	on and on, straight on		cf. Twi, Ga
that's all!	excl.	it is finished, over		
the	p.a.	my, his, her		
their	a.	possessive pronoun showing habitual action		
thief	V.	rob or steal from		no distinction
thiefman	n.	thief		no distinction
thirty-first	p.n.	main market in central Accra,		
December	p.11.	Makola		
this our	a.	humble, self-deprecating		
		description		
this time	adv.p.	nowadays, these days		
three days	n.p.	It's been a long time since we've seen each other.		
tie the rain	v.p.	to have magical power over local rains		
tie	V.	to bind up by magic, to prevent from acting		
tiger	n.	leopard		ME
tii	n.	drinking chocolate, any hot drink		
tinapa	n.	tinned meats (corned beef, mackerel, sardines etc.)		? <tin-opener< th=""></tin-opener<>
tipper	n.	dump truck		BE
toloku boys	n.p.	truck boys, pulling small carts for hire		<english th="" truck<=""></english>
tomatosi	n.	tomatoes		<twi <i="" abbreviated="" further="" to="">ntosi</twi>
tomorrow	adv.	indefinite future		
tomorrow self	adv.	within the course of tomorrow	tomorrow self, they will finish it	
tongkasi	n.	conservancy worker, grass cutter long curved blade		<english [worker]="" council="" th="" town="" twi<="" via=""></english>
to!	excl.	well then , so if that is the case then		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
too	comp.	very, exceedingly		
too good	adv.	exceedingly good		
too much	adv.	exceedingly		
torchlight	n.	torch, flashlight		
tot	n.	shot glass measure of spirits, whiskey etc.		BE
tough	a.	heavy, fat		very good, praiseworthy
tower bolt	n.p.	bolt for a door or window		BE
town	n.	place, village, indicator of, euph. for, ethnic origin		
Traditional Area	p.n.	area designated as under the authority of a traditional ruler		
traditional attire	n.	traditional or customary garb depending on locality for formal wear on special occasions		
traditional cloth	n.	cloth worn toga-style at funerals, state functions,		

Ghanaian English Dictionary		Roger Blench Circulation Draft		
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
		formal gatherings		
trafficator	n.	indicator light on car		archaic BE
travel	v.	to go on a journey		
trot	v.	to jog		
trotro	n.	outmoded word for threepence		lit. three, three
trotro	n.	passenger lorry		<threepenny fare<="" td=""></threepenny>
trunk call	n.	long-distance national telephone call		archaic BE
try	v.	to do very well		
tunabu	n.	bell-bottom trousers		<twi obsolete,<="" td=""></twi>
tupaya	n.	any medicine in a capsule, usually antibiotics		<twi< td=""></twi<>
tutufo	n.	prostitute		<twi< td=""></twi<>
tyre	n.	catapult, slingshot		
U.				
Uganda boys	p.n.	gang of ruffians and station boys in Tamale		
uncle	n.	mother's brother, title for friend of one's parents		
under	a.	to be under conception, pregnant		
unless	conj.	the only choice left is might as well		
Unless God!	excl.p.	if not for God, over to God, in the hands of God		
up to	a.	up to the amount specified or agreed upon	the money is not up to the money isn't enough	
up and down	n.	top and trousers of same material		
use to	v.a.	precedes verb to indicate habitual action	he use to go to Accra	cf. do
V.				
VC-10	n.	alcohol fermented from sugar cane or palm wine		cf. akpateshie, patash
vex	v.i.	to be disturbed, annoyed		
vex	v.t.	to disturb, to annoy		
vulcanise	v.t.	to repair a puncture	go and vulcanise the tyre	NE. archaic in SE but not in West Africa
vulcaniser	n.	one who repairs tyres		NE. archaic SE

Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
	105		Dampic	Lightology
W.				
		1		TT 1 1
wace	n.	beans, cowpeas		<hausa. also="" th="" wakye<=""></hausa.>
wagashi	n.	Fulani cheese, local thickened cottage cheese		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
wahala	n.	trouble, difficulties, suffering		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
waist	n.	lower back, common complaint from farmers		
wakye	n.	beans, cowpeas		<pre><hausa. also="" conventions.="" pre="" spelling="" twi="" uses="" wace<=""></hausa.></pre>
walka walka	v.	to walk and walk, go by foot		
want	V.	to be starting to, to be going toward		
wanzam	n.	barber, circumciser		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
wasawasa	n.	yam dried, grated to flour and boiled to a dough		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
wash film	v.p.	to develop film		NE
water	n.	as SE, also pus, bodily fluids, semen, saliva, juice of fruit		see also rice water
watertank	n.	radiator on a car		
wax (print)	n.p.	Dutch/Indonesian wax batik cotton prints		WAE
We don't want that!	excl.p.	Heaven forbid!		
weave-on	n.	hairdressing style where additional hair is added to the natural one		? recently imported from Nigeria (also weavon)
wee	n.	marijuana, dope, cannabis		,
What again?	int.p.	What else, what now?		NE
what and what	n.p.	many things, I don't know what all, this and that		
when	conj.	in so far as, since		
when!	excl.	When will I achieve my dreams!		
white	n.	white, off-white, yellow, pink, light blue		
white	n.	victory, innocence, goodness, happiness		
white Maggi	n.p.	monosodium glutamate		cf. A-1
white-man	p.n.	Europeans, red or white- skinned foreigners		
white-man's groundnut	n.	popular spreading shade tree from India		
Whites	excl.	Europeans or light-skinned foreigners, racial slur		
Who told you!	excl.p.	I don't agree with what you said!		
Why now?	excl.p.	Why should this have happened?		NE
wicked	a.	miserly, mean, stingy, not many friends		
win	n.	illegal mining of gold, collection of sand, etc.		cf. sand winner BE

Gnanaian English		Roger Biench Circulati	on Brait	
Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
		(winning, winners)		
winter	n.	rainy season		
witchcraft	n.	refers to the witch herself or		
witchcraft	11.	her practice		
wofa	n	mother's brother, provider,		<twi< th=""></twi<>
wora	n.			~1 W1
16		parent, friend of parent		ME 1 NE
wolf	n.	hyena, Crocuta crocuta		ME, also NE
woman's cloth	n.p.	3 parts: top, bottom, baby wrap		
		6 yard piece of rectangular		
		cloth for women		
women's	n.p.	cloth, clothing, pots, bowls,		
things		jewellery, cosmetics		
wonderful!	excl.	strange, extraordinary, absurd,		WAE
		incredible		
woo, woo,	excl.p.	Shame on you!		<twi eyes<="" lit.="" th="" your=""></twi>
w'ani awu!	•			have died
work	n.	responsibility, task, play		
workaworka	V.	to work and work		
worry	V.	to bother someone, to sexually	why are you	
WULLY	<b>v</b> .	harass a woman, to attack		
		(insect)	worrying me? Some	
		(msect)	insects are	
			worrying the onion	
			roots	
would	v.a.	will	Guests would be	
			responsible for lost	
			of keys	
Χ.				
11.				
Xmas box		box for donations in offices		
Amas box	n.			
<b>V</b> 1 4		and shops at Christmas		C T : 1
Xmas hut	n.	Christmas play/party hut built		cf. Twi brounya
		by children		apataa
<b>Y.</b>				
yaka yaka		cassava bread		<ewe< th=""></ewe<>
yam chips	n.	fried finger-sized pieces of		
7 P3		yam		
yam mound	n.	heaped mound of earth in		
Jam mounu	11.	which yam is grown		
yeiii!	excl.	surprise at having just		<twi< td=""></twi<>
yem.	CACI.	discovered something		~1 W1
voi voi	evel			<twi< td=""></twi<>
yei yei yei!	excl.	in pain, suffering emotionally		~1 W1
11 6		or physically		
yellow fever	n.p.	yellow sandals made of heavy		
		plastic		
yes!	excl.	a response to an either or		
		question		
yesa!	excl.	Yes sir! polite response to		
		patron/superior		
yommo	n.	black hair dye used by middle-		<twi< th=""></twi<>
-		aged men		
	1		ı	1

Ghanaian	PoS	Explanation	Example	Etymology
yoo	excl.	okay, I have heard you, well then		
you see!	excl.	So there! Didn't I tell you so!		
you will see!	excl.	serious threat, something bad will happen to you!		
your mother!	excl.	grave insult with sexual connotations		obscene
Z.				
zana mat	n.p.	mat woven of tall grass used for fencing		
zed	n.	letter Z, also for Zenabu, a woman's name		
zimtiim	n.	Guinness		<dagbani blood+medicine</dagbani 
zongo	n.	outskirts of town for northerners & foreigners		<hausa< th=""></hausa<>
zonkom	n.	cake made of fried maize and sugar		<frafra ?<="" td=""></frafra>

n.

DCE District Chief Executive

G.N.T.C. (TM) (acron.) Ghana National Trading Corporation

G.P.R.T.U. (acron.) Ghana Private Road Transport Union G.W.S.C. (acron.) Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation

J.J. (initials of Rawlings) (for: Junior Jesus ) Jerry John Rawlings' nickname

J.S.S. (acron.) junior secondary school

N.A.S.P.A. (acron.) National Service Personnel Association

N.D.C. (acron.) N.D.C. has won the election. National Democratic Convention

Neoplan (TM) He took a N. instead of S.T.C. a government bus company, manufactured in Gh.

O.S.A. (acron.) government-run local bus line

P. & T. (acron.) He rang from the P. & T. post office, telegram office, telephone booth

P.-One (abbrev.) Primary School-Class One

S.C.O.A. (TM) (acron.) Multi Stores, French West African Trading Co.

S.S. (acron.) senior secondary school

S.S.N.I.T. (acron.) Social Security

T.U.C. (acron.) Trade Union Congress (Workers' Union)
U.A.C. (TM) (acron.) United Africa Company (Unilever)

U.T.C. (TM) (acron.) United Trading Company

V.R.A. (TM) (acron.) Volta Region Authority (electricity corporation)