

The Ayere and Ahan languages
of
Central Nigeria and their affinities

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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Ayere language, spoken in Ayere village in Kwara State, Nigeria. The wordlist was written by Mr. E.O. Olumorin for the West African Languages Survey in November 1961.

This analysis was prepared by Roger Blench, who added the comparative observations. This document is being circulated to scholars for comment.

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

2.2 Location and settlements

2.3 Language status

2.4 Ayere culture and history

3. Phonology

3.1 Vowels

Ayere probably has seven phonemic vowels;

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

3.2 Consonants

Ayere consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alve-olar	Alveopalata l	Palata l	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d		[c] j	k g	(kp)	
Nasal	m		n			ŋ		
Trill			[r]					
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ		ɣ		h
Approximant					y		w	
Lateral Approximant			l					

3.3 Tones

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Gloss	sg.	pl.

5. Lexical comparison and the classification of Ayere

6. Ayere wordlist

No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
1.	Tree (generic)	oṅwu		cf. Yoruba igi ,
2.	Leaf	uwewe		cf. Yoruba ewé , Igara àvé ,
3.	Root	inín		cf. Igala ili ,
4.	Branch I	omukowo		
5.	Branch II	noṅu		
6.	Bark (of tree)	ígwú		cf. Ebira ìgùhá ,
7.	Trunk	arenrèn		
8.	Fruit	inje		
9.	Flower	adòdó		< Yoruba òdòdó ,
10.	Thorn	uyé		cf. Ebira ikéyi ,
11.	Grass (generic)	iwówó		cf. Dibo áwò ,
12.	Vine (generic)			
13.	Mushroom			
14.	Water-lily			
15.	Algae			
16.	Seed/stone/pip	ènjé		cf. Dibo eje ,
17.	Charcoal	kùsà		
18.	Dust	erukutu		
19.	Ashes	éndú		cf. Gbari Kuta otnú ,
20.	Rubbish-heap			
21.	Mud	anfà		
22.	Clay			
23.	Dew	inyen		cf. Ebira ánya , Yoruba enini ,
24.	Stone	ekita		cf. Yoruba òkúta , S. Gbari kútá , Edo ò-kútá ,
25.	Sand	enyèn		cf. Yoruba iyòrĩ ,
26.	Smoke	ēgo		
27.	Fire	úná		cf. Igala úná , Nupe enā , Ebira irá ,
28.	Water	oyin	opī	cf. Akpes ayī , Kupa iji , Ebira éni ,
29.	Rain	eji		cf. Gupa eje , Yoruba òjò ,
30.	Cloud	ibàdà		
31.	Fog	endù		
32.	Lightning	mamala		cf. Ife màmà , Hausa marimari ,
33.	Thunder	akpala		< Yoruba àkpàará ,
34.	Rainy Season	ale áàfò		
35.	Dry season	ale égbé		
36.	Harmattan			
37.	Year	ɔnjɔ		cf. Yoruba oḽū ,
38.	Today			
39.	Yesterday			
40.	Tomorrow			

Roger Blench: Ayere Wordlist

No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
41.	Morning	opopo		
42.	Noon	enha		cf.
43.	Evening	ene		cf. Gade gá-nè , Igala áné ,
44.	Dawn	engeni onu fápá		
45.	Sunset	engeni onu fáwà		
46.	Day	ehan		
47.	Night	otu		cf. Yoruba òru , Gade ùtú ,
48.	Moon/month	ofu		cf. Igala ócù , Igala òòfé ,
49.	New moon	osu éntó		
50.	Full moon	osu fankata		
51.	Sun	õnu		cf. Igala ólù ,
52.	Star(s)	irawo		< Yoruba irawò ,
53.	Wind	awu		cf. Ife awu , Gade àfu ,
54.	God	ɔlorú		cf. Yoruba ɔlorú ,
55.	Sky	eje nɔnɔ		
56.	World			
57.	Ground	abilalè		cf. Yoruba ilè ,
58.	Large River	ogo		cf. Gupa ègbò , Uhami ú-kò , Yoruba òkú 'ocean',
59.	Stream			
60.	Lake, pond			
61.	Forest	odu		cf. Gade gu-tú ,
62.	Mountain	udí		
63.	Hill	ejudí		
64.	Bush			
65.	Farm	afi		
66.	Field			
67.	Market	ájá		cf. Udi áfwa ,
68.	House	aja		cf.
69.	Room	iyàrá		cf. Yoruba iyàrá , Ebira iyara 'inner room',
70.	Wall (of room)	ejejuli		
71.	Thatch roof	agonuli		
72.	Granary			
73.	Well	kõga		cf. Yoruba kõga , Ebira ìkàh̄gá ,
74.	Road, path	ùwa		also 'door' (),
75.	Village/settlement	ègwu		cf. Igala éwò ,
76.	Spring	oyin nata		
77.	River-bank			
78.	Swamp/wetland			

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
79.	Place	uwé		
80.	Person/people	olohu		cf. Etuno ɔ́nórú ‘man’, Igala ónè ,
81.	Man	oyika		cf. Edo ò-kpìá ,
82.	Woman	oyikpu		
83.	Child	omo tonto		cf. Yoruba omò ,
84.	Husband			
85.	Wife			
86.	Widow			
87.	Son, boy	omo yiko		
88.	Daughter, girl	omo yifu		
89.	Son-in-law	aye		
90.	Parent-in-law	ana		cf. Yoruba ana ,
91.	Young man	emento		
92.	Young girl	ominja		
93.	Old person	arugbo		cf. Yoruba arúgbó ,
94.	Father I	baba		Worldwide root
95.	Father II	eta		cf. Ebira àdà , Igala atá ,
96.	Mother I	mama		
97.	Mother II	aya		cf. Nupe èyà , Yoruba iyá ,
98.	Barren woman			
99.	Relations			
100.	Ancestors			
101.	Grandfather	etani élá		
102.	Grandmother	ani élá		
103.	Grandson	omoya		
104.	Grand-daughter	omonu		
105.	Brother, sister	egbɔ̃		cf. Yoruba ègbɔ̃ ,
106.	Friend	olùku		cf. Igala ónukwu ,
107.	Guest/stranger	onófó		cf. Igala ònoñojò ,
108.	Chief/ruler I	odio		
109.	Chief/ruler II	ɔba		cf. Yoruba ɔba ,
110.	Hunter	ɔde		< Yoruba ɔde , also loaned into Edoid
111.	Thief	ójí		cf. Ebira oyí , Igala ójí ,
112.	Doctor	ologù		cf. Yoruba oògù ‘medicine’,
113.	Witch			
114.	Corpse	oku		cf. Yoruba òkú , Ebira ókù , Ibibilo ó-khùù ,
115.	Blacksmith			
116.	Weaver	onàngaki		
117.	Potter	amuja		cf. Igala úcà ‘pot’,
118.	Woodworker			
119.	Slave	árú		cf. Ife arú ,
120.	Masquerade I			

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
121.	Masquerade II			
122.	Masquerade III			
123.	Masquerade IV			
124.	Ghost	eyà		
125.	Prophecy			
126.	Shame			
127.	Fear/fright			
128.	Bravery/courage			
129.	Laughter			
130.	Wisdom			
131.	Guilt			
132.	Anger			
133.	Race/running			
134.	Tiredness	angè		
135.	Suffering			
136.	Death	ikwu		cf. Yoruba ikú , Dibo ekyu ,
137.	Life	igbesi na iye		< Yoruba ìgbésí ayé ,
138.	Dream	ólá		cf. Igala òná ,
139.	Sleep	orū		< Yoruba oorū ,
140.	Name	éwú		cf. Ekpeye éwà ,
141.	Grave			
142.	Language	èdè		< Yoruba èdè ,
143.	Song			
144.	Proverb			
145.	Story			
146.	Word			
147.	Lie	ojinà		
148.	Truth	otito		< Yoruba òtító
149.	News			
150.	Time	afiko		cf. Yoruba àsikò ,
151.	Hunger	arì		cf. Nupe arigi ,
152.	Thirst	orugbe		cf. Yoruba òrùgbè ,
153.	Horn	ongba		cf. Isoko ò-gbà , Igala ìgbà ,
154.	Tail	undu		also 'penis'. cf. Degema ùtúm , Ce u-ndú , Proto-Akokoid indù ,
155.	Egg	eja		cf. Igala ége , Ebira aje ,
156.	Wing	oka		cf. Igala íká , Ebira aváká ,
157.	Claw	irenren		= 'nail' (224.),
158.	Beak			
159.	Nest			
160.	Feather	uja		
161.	Gum/glue			

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
162.	Ant-hill			
163.	Hole in ground	òyò		
164.	Hole in tree			
165.	Smell			
166.	Poison			
167.	Load	ahu		cf. Ife àrù,
168.	Bundle			
169.	Firewood			
170.	Stick			
171.	Yam-heap			
172.	War	ogū		< Yoruba ogū,
173.	Work	ajò		
174.	Divination (types)			
175.	Medicine (generic)	ògu		cf. Yoruba oògū ‘medicine’,
176.	Money	elé		probably connected with a widespread root for ‘profit’ e.g. Nupe èlè, Idoma ilè,
177.	Shadow	àyèyè		cf. Yoruba òjji,
178.	Thing	úwènwèn		cf. Igala éwū,
179.	Strength			
180.	Length			
181.	Land/country			
182.	Disease(generic)	ɔla aikeyà		
183.	Fever	iba		cf. Yoruba ibà, Gade ri-bà, and throughout WBC
184.	Cough	úkó		cf. Igala úkó,
185.	Smallpox			
186.	Diarrhoea			
187.	Eczema			
188.	Goitre			
189.	Boil			
190.	Sore/wound	uwo		
191.	Leprosy			
192.	Skull	egbe nago		‘gourd of the head’ – cf. a similar formation in Yoruba
193.	Brains	ɔkpɔɔ		cf. Yoruba ɔkpɔɔ,
194.	Head	ago	éri	cf. Yoruba o-rí,
195.	Eye	éjé	ewú	cf. Epira eyí,
196.	Face	eje		cf. Igala éjú,
197.	Forehead			
198.	Nose	ówú	owū	
199.	Ear	éndí	éndi	cf. Yoruba etí, Akoko uto, Epira òtós,
200.	Mouth	anu	arū	cf. Yoruba enu, Akpes onū, Arigidi orū, Gade

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
				gà-nú , Berom nú , Ningye nyu , Mada nyū , Fyem núŋ , but a Niger-Congo root
201.	Upper lip	oke nanu		
202.	Lower lip	ajehe nanu		
203.	Tooth	éyí	epī	cf. Igala éńí , Oba eyí , Ebira apí , Bu enyiri , Tarok inyin . A Niger-Saharan root
204.	Tongue	únú	iré	cf. Arigidi iré , Ibilo ú-rè ,
205.	Voice	ohū		cf. Yoruba ohū ,
206.	Throat	oyo nigògò		
207.	Neck	igògò	unkòrò	cf. Ife Yoruba ogorò ,
208.	Chin	amgbehe	ündē	
209.	Cheek	àngbà		cf. Kupa angbá , Igala, Idoma àgbà ‘chin’,
210.	Jaw	àngbà	àngbà	cf. Arigidi àngbà , and as ‘cheek’,
211.	Shoulder	óka		cf. Nupe ekpá , Ife iká ,
212.	Armpit	abiya		cf. Yoruba abiyá ,
213.	Fist			
214.	Arm	okà	àkà	cf. Yoruba akpá ,
215.	Hand	ówó	o	cf. Yoruba owó , Ehuen o-wò , but these may be independent weakenings of Niger-Congo #-bo
216.	Finger	omanowo		cf. Igala ómowó ,
217.	Leg	ehè	esè	cf. Yoruba esè ,
218.	Foot	atilehe		
219.	Heel	anjawun nehe		
220.	Toe	omukehe		‘child of the leg’,
221.	Thigh	úntá	unta	cf. Igala úta , Yoruba itá ,
222.	Knee	àtekú	égú	cf. Yoruba eekú ,
223.	Elbow	ingogo		cf. Ife gàgàngogo ,
224.	Nail (Finger/toe)	irènrèn	èkìkà	cf. Ife èkìkà ,
225.	Female breast	émó	emū	cf. Yoruba omú ,
226.	Stomach	ifu	duduruku	cf. Igala éfù , Oḥuḥu áfó , Oyin ifu , Osayin (Okoid) épuru ,
227.	Belly	ahi	asi	
228.	Chest	èjò		
229.	Hips	atíté		
230.	Navel	úgó	ùwò	cf. Yoruba àgó ‘waist’, Yoruba iwò ‘umbilical cord’,
231.	Back	ànjáun	àun	cf. Kakanda azū ,
232.	Buttocks	angbewun	úđí	cf. Edoid údzì , Yoruba awé-ídí ,
233.	Anus	elewun nayinku		

No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
234.	Penis	ùndu	undu	also 'tail'. cf. Arigidi ìndù, Ebira-Koto ìrètù, Degema ò-dúdù but cognate with more widespread words for 'tail' e.g. Ce u-ndú,
235.	Vagina	enfu	ìntì	cf. Takum sur-à, Nizaa fūr, . cf. Akpes ántá,
236.	Testicles	ego		cf. Ife ekpḽ,
237.	Skin	awola	idzi	cf. Yoruba awo, . Edoid..
238.	Hair	itu	ítu	cf. Yoruba irū, Ukuen étù,
239.	Beard	ìndàún	ihĩnde	cf. Owere àhwò,
240.	Liver	èjò(r)	èjò	cf. Yoruba èdò, Èdo ùdù, Ayu ajor, Hasha a-nzor,
241.	Heart	okḽ		cf. Yoruba okḽ, Gade rù-kwo,
242.	Kidney	amá		
243.	Intestines	ifu		cf. Yoruba ifū,
244.	Lung	ifukù		cf. Yoruba fukú,
245.	Bladder	angayintito		'house of urine'
246.	Bone	egbe	igbegbe	cf. Nupe egbā,
247.	Rib	iya		
248.	Vein	inín		cf. Igala, Idoma ìli,
249.	Blood	èfwè	èsè	cf. Yoruba èjè,
250.	Gall	osu		cf. Igala ócú,
251.	Breath			
252.	Tear			
253.	Saliva	ĩto, únta	itó	cf. Yoruba itó,
254.	Sweat	ifo		cf. Izii éfóró,
255.	Urine	itò		cf. Yoruba itò,
256.	Faeces	apinku	ímí	cf. Ayu imbi, Kakanda amì, Yoruba imí, Idoma èmi,
257.	Body	ólá	àgbè	cf. Igala óla, Yoruba ara. cf. Èdo ègbé, Asu àgà,
258.	Meat	ena		= 'animal'
259.	Animal (Bush)	ena		cf. Nupe enā, Igala éla,
260.	*Camel			
261.	Cow	molū		< Yoruba mààlúù,
262.	Bull			
263.	Calf			
264.	Goat	éwó		cf. Igala éwó, Asu èwù, Aoma é-wè,
265.	He-goat	ákóró		
266.	Castrated goat			
267.	Sheep	anda		
268.	Ram	àgbò		< Yoruba àgbò,
269.	Castrated sheep			
270.	Rabbit	éndi		

No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
271.	Dog	afwa		cf. Yoruba ajá , Nupe efi , Root widespread in Central Africa. cf. Fur asà , Lugbara atsí , Katcha is(s)ì , Dogon-Taba ifì ,
272.	*Cat	musùn		< Hausa.
273.	*Pig			
274.	*Horse	aganshi		cf. Igala àṅà ,
275.	*Donkey	kétékété		< Yoruba kétékété ,
276.	Elephant	erī		< Yoruba erī ,
277.	Hippo	erīmi		< Yoruba erīmi , ‘elephant of the water’
278.	Buffalo	ehiko		
279.	Lion	kiniū		<Yoruba kīniū ,
280.	Leopard	oloko		cf. Yoruba ekū ,
281.	Hyena ¹	omíní		
282.	Civet cat ²			
283.	Genet cat ³			
284.	Jackal ⁴			
285.	Wart-hog ⁵			
286.	Bush-pig ⁶			
287.	Duiker antelope ⁷			
288.	Kob antelope ⁸			
289.	Roan antelope ⁹			
290.	Antelope sp. I	erà		cf. Yoruba ìrà ,
291.	Antelope sp. II	ahi-enfi		
292.	Porcupine ¹⁰			
293.	Tree pangolin ¹¹			
294.	Baboon	igbògìdù		cf. Nupe gbògì ,
295.	Patas monkey ¹²	ayiga		
296.	Vervet monkey ¹³			
297.	Colobus monkey ¹⁴			
298.	Squirrel (ground)	akerehe		cf. Yoruba àkéré ,

¹ (*Crocuta crocuta*)

² (*Viverra civetta*)

³ (*Genetta genetta*)

⁴ (*Canis aureus*)

⁵ (*Phacochoerus aethiopus*)

⁶ (*Potamochoerus Porcus*)

⁷ (*Cephalophus* spp.)

⁸ (*Kobus kob*)

⁹ (*Hippotragus equinus*)

¹⁰ (*Hystrix cristata*)

¹¹ (*Manis tricuspis*)

¹² (*Erythrocebus patas*)

¹³ (*Cercopithecus aethiops*)

¹⁴ (*Colobus polykomos*)

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
299.	Squirrel (tree)			
300.	Rat (generic)	ologbo		? error for 'cat'. cf. Ife ògóló ,
301.	Bush-rat I			
302.	Bush-rat II			
303.	Bush-rat III			
304.	Bush-rat IV			
305.	Giant rat ¹⁵			
306.	Fat mouse			
307.	Pygmy mouse			
308.	Grasscutter ¹⁶			
309.	Hedgehog ¹⁷			
310.	Hare ¹⁸			
311.	House-bat			
312.	Fruit-bat	àdā		cf. Ebrie, Arigidi, Ikaramu ada , Ife Yoruba àdā , Nupe èdā̃- , CB #- dema ,
313.	Nile crocodile	oyen		cf. Ebrira Koto onyè , Igala òpù ,
314.	Chameleon	ayinlo		cf. Gade ápápa , Igala àhínya , Idoma àpípa ,
315.	Agama lizard	apáàrà		cf. Kupa bara , Nupe gbàrà , Mada gbre ,
316.	Skink			
317.	Gecko			
318.	Monitor lizard (<i>damo</i>)			
319.	Monitor lizard (<i>xx</i>)			
320.	Toad			
321.	Frog	èdà		
322.	Tortoise	obarum		
323.	Snake (Generic)	uwefi		cf. Niger-Congo #- wa ,
324.	Spitting cobra			
325.	Python			
326.	Snake sp. I	unfanalè		
327.	Turtle			
328.	Crab	anká		cf. Ife akārā ,
329.	River molluscs			
330.	Fish (generic)	emefwi	eđu	cf. Gbagyi Nkwa fewo ,
331.	Tilapia (spp.)			
332.	Puffer fish ¹⁹			
333.	Catfish (spp.) ²⁰			

¹⁵ (*Cretomyces* sp.)

¹⁶ (*Thryonomys Swinderianus*)

¹⁷ (*Atelerix albiventris*)

¹⁸ (*Lepus Crawshayi*)

¹⁹ (*Tetraodon fahaka*)

²⁰ (*Synodontis* spp.)

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
334.	Nile Perch ²¹			
335.	Electric fish ²²			
336.	Bird (generic)	eriye		cf. Yoruba eye , Nupe elú ,
337.	Turkey	tòlótóló		< Yoruba tòlótóló ,
338.	Chicken	ɔma najiye		
339.	Cock	akɔ̀kɔ̀		<Yoruba àkùkò ,
340.	*Duck (Domestic)	kpekpeye		< Yoruba kpékpéye ,
341.	Pigeon (Domestic)	enyele		<Yoruba eyelé ,
342.	Dove (Domestic)	àribàdù		
343.	Guinea-fowl	antinte		
344.	Hooded Vulture ²³	igwu		< Yoruba igũ , ? related to Hausa angulu via Nupoid, e.g. Kupa aṅgù ,
345.	Village Weaver ²⁴			
346.	Cattle-egret ²⁵			
347.	Black kite ²⁶	udi		cf. Yoruba àwòdì ,
348.	Standard-wing Night-jar			
349.	Owl (various spp.)			
350.	Grey Parrot ²⁷			
351.	Senegal Coucal ²⁸			
352.	Bush- fowl/partridge			
353.	Swallow			
354.	*Pied crow ²⁹			
355.	Woodpecker			
356.	Insect (Generic)			
357.	Scorpion	ikēkē		cf. Yoruba àkekèè , Ebira ikù , Nupe kínkèrè , Hwida (Gbe) kekire ,
358.	Butterfly			
359.	Dragon-fly			
360.	Mosquito	írū		
361.	Spider ³⁰	alayigòdò		
362.	Mason wasp ³¹			

²¹ (*Lates niloticus*)

²² (*Malapterurus electricus*)

²³ (*Neophron monachus*)

²⁴ (*Ploceus cucullatus*)

²⁵ (*Ardeola ibis*)

²⁶ (*Milvus migrans*)

²⁷ (*Poicephalus senegalus*)

²⁸ (*Centropus* spp.)

²⁹ (*Corvus albus*)

³⁰ (*Acarina* spp.)

³¹ (*Belenogaster* spp.)

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
363.	Bee	oyí		< Yoruba oyí ,
364.	Sweat-fly			
365.	Sandfly			
366.	Housefly	infi		cf. Igala ácici , Ebira isi , Akunnu íncí , but widespread in BC, hence PBC #- cin
367.	Ant (Generic)			
368.	Louse (Human)	ínánágò		'head-lice'. cf. Igala íná ,
369.	Millipede			
370.	Cockroach			
371.	Termite	inka		cf. Nupe eká , Yoruba ikǎ ,
372.	Anthill	oluninka		
373.	Flying-ant			
374.	Grasshopper			
375.	Praying mantis			
376.	Firefly			
377.	Giant Cricket			
378.	Earthworm	inkùnrùn		
379.	Giant Snail			
380.	Soap (Traditional)			
381.	Oil	ekpú	ékpú	cf. Yoruba ekpo ,
382.	Fat	ila		cf. Igala ùlà ,
383.	Grease	ipara		
384.	Salt	owû	oũ	cf. Oko òbú , Igala ómu ,
385.	Soup/stew	ɔndɔ	ɔndo	
386.	Food	uwafe		
387.	Porridge			
388.	Sorghum-beer			
389.	Palm-wine	óntè	ɔnte	cf. Yoruba otí ,
390.	Milk	oyin nemo		
391.	Peelings			
392.	Filter			
393.	Rag			
394.	Floor-beater			
395.	Stick	ekpò		cf. Yoruba ðkpá ,
396.	Handle (of tool)			
397.	Sickle	ilenzhe		< Hausa
398.	Cutlass			
399.	Iron	uren		cf. Yoruba irí ,
400.	Gold	ude		cf. Igala úde 'brass',
401.	Axe	angɔ		cf. Kupa ágbā , Ebira ìràgà ,
402.	Adze			
403.	Hoe I	anpè		

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
404.	Hoe II			
405.	Hoe III			
406.	Hammer			
407.	Knife	āké		
408.	Scissors	amuga		< Yoruba àmúga ,
409.	Comb			
410.	Broom			
411.	Bag			
412.	Sack			
413.	Fireplace			
414.	Shoe			
415.	Cloth			
416.	Grindstone (top)			
417.	Grindstone (lower)			
418.	Mortar (wood)			
419.	Pestle			
420.	Pot (generic)	ufà		cf. W. Gbari ḡawū , Igala ùcà ,
421.	Pot I			
422.	Pot II			
423.	Pot III			
424.	Pot IV			
425.	Head-pad			
426.	Basket (generic)	agb̀̀		cf. Ebira àb̀̀ , Yoruba agb̀̀ ,
427.	Basket I			
428.	Basket II			
429.	Winnowing tray			
430.	Mat (generic)	ayiba		
431.	Mat I			
432.	Needle			
433.	Spear	aḡi		cf. Asu acī ,
434.	Sword	agada nogun		
435.	Bow	ɔ̀̀		cf. Igala ó̀̀
436.	Arrow	ɔ̀̀		cf. Etuno ɔ̀̀ , Yoruba ɔ̀̀
437.	Quiver	ákpó		cf. Yoruba akpó ,
438.	Chain			
439.	Rope	úfa		
440.	Stool			
441.	Wooden door	ùwa		
442.	Fence			
443.	Bridge			
444.	Ladder			
445.	Canoe	ɔ̀̀n eḡe		calque from Yoruba ɔ̀̀n oḡú omi ‘vehicle of the

Roger Blench: Ayere Wordlist

No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
		woyin		face of the water',
446.	Paddle			
447.	Bee-hive			
448.	Fish-Net			
449.	Fish-trap I			
450.	Fish-trap II			
451.	Fish-trap III			
452.	Snare			
453.	One	inka		cf. Igala òòkà ,
454.	Two	iji		cf. Yoruba èjì ,
455.	Three	ita		cf. Gade ìtá , reflecting Niger-Congo #-ta
456.	Four	iyen		
457.	Five	intu		cf. W. Gbari ètnù ,
458.	Six	ifa		cf. Yoruba èfà ,
459.	Seven	ifwi		? cf. Igboïd 'six' eg. Izii ìfù ,
460.	Eight	iro		
461.	Nine	inda		
462.	Ten	igwa		cf. Igala ègwá , Gbari Kuta ogwò ,
463.	Eleven	igwaninka		10 + 1
464.	Twelve	igwaniji		10 + 2
465.	Sixteen	afeliyen egbòlo		
466.	Seventeen	afelita egbòlo		
467.	Nineteen	afeleka egbòlo		
468.	Twenty	egbòlo		cf. Yoruba ogū ,
469.	Forty	egbòji		cf. Yoruba ogóji ,
470.	Sixty	egbòta		
471.	Eighty	egbòyen		
472.	Hundred	egbòntu		
473.	Black	enju		
474.	White	enfu		cf. Yoruba fūfū but #-fu is a Niger-Congo root
475.	Red	enfi		
476.	Green	ayinrin		
477.	Big	ndū		
478.	Small	kēne		cf. Yoruba kéré 'to be small',
479.	Many	yè		
480.	Few	ukéyè		
481.	All	kókólè		
482.	Thick	ngbù		
483.	Thin	gbé		cf. Yoruba ógbè 'flimsy',

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
484.	Wide	la		
485.	Narrow	dinrin		
486.	Hard	lé		cf. Yoruba le ‘resistant’,
487.	Soft	rò		cf. Igboid e.g. Owere rù , Igala lɔ ‘soften’,
488.	Sweet	yɔn		cf. Igala ùrípò ‘sweetness’,
489.	Bitter	npa		
490.	Sharp (taste)	mu		cf. Yoruba mú lit. ‘to seize’,
491.	Sour	búlàbúlà		
492.	Half			
493.	Deep	hɔ		cf. Yoruba kɔ ,
494.	Shallow	ukehɔn		‘not deep’,
495.	Long	rì		
496.	Short	pěle		
497.	Good	tɔ		cf. Ife sɔ ,
498.	Bad	ɟwi		
499.	Full	ngɔ		
500.	Round			
501.	Dirty	lɔ		
502.	Clean	ɟwi		
503.	Fat	hɔla		
504.	Thin	gbe		
505.	Dear	fɔ		
506.	Cheap	kpò		cf. Yoruba kpò ,
507.	Near	ywe		
508.	Far	nāri		
509.	Sharp	nɔ		
510.	Blunt	kùtùkpú		
511.	Beautiful	hewa		
512.	Ugly	uke tɔ		
513.	Hot	fɔ		
514.	Cold	hun		
515.	Deaf	jinlendi		
516.	Old			
517.	New	entɔ		cf. Ife titɔ ,
518.	Strong	hɔnke		
519.	Weak	le		
520.	Wet	hūn		
521.	Dry			
522.	Smooth			
523.	Accompany	hɔ		
524.	Add to			

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
525.	Answer (question)	nānu		
526.	Arrive			
527.	Ask a question	bèrè		cf. P-Edoid * bhiənhə ,
528.	Ask/beg for something			
529.	Awaken (s.o.)			
530.	Bark (dog)			
531.	Be bent			
532.	Be heavy			
533.	Be light	fuyé		< Yoruba fúyé ,
534.	Be on (s.t.)			
535.	Be rotten	ro		cf. Ogbakiri rõ + òrô ,
536.	Be short			
537.	Be tired	àngè		
538.	Beat (drum)			
539.	Beat (s.o.)	lu		cf. Gbagyi lú , Ndele (Igboid) ló ,
540.	Become dry	gbe		cf. Ekpeye kpé ,
541.	Beget	ywi		
542.	Begin	bere		
543.	Bite	pē yin		
544.	Blow (mouth)	fé		cf. Oḣuḣu fé ,
545.	Boil	yà		
546.	Break	gbá		cf. P-Igboid *- gbá(a) ,
547.	Bring	wúnwá		
548.	Build (house etc.)	ko		
549.	Burn (fire burns)	ʃe		cf. Guruntum ʃi ,
550.	Bury	ri		cf. Ndele lí , but Niger-Congo #-li
551.	Buy	dà		cf. Ekpeye dé 'sell', Ukue de , but Niger-Congo #-la
552.	Call (to someone)	ʃwí		
553.	Carry	hu		
554.	Carve (wood etc.)			
555.	Catch			
556.	Chew			
557.	Choose			
558.	Chop	ngu		
559.	Climb			
560.	Close	pú		cf. Oḣuḣu ḣù ,
561.	Come	wá		
562.	Come out (of room)			
563.	Continue (to do s.t.)			
564.	Cook			

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
565.	Cough			
566.	Count			
567.	Cover			
568.	Cry (babies)	njɔ		see 'weep'
569.	Cut down (tree)	pě		cf. Yoruba, Idoma be , Owere bí , Nizaa bēg , PEdoid *be ,
570.	Cut in two			
571.	Cut off (head etc.)			
572.	Dance	jú		
573.	Decrease	kene hi		
574.	Defecate	ayinku		
575.	Die	ku		Niger-Congo root, more usually for 'kill'
576.	Dig (earth etc.)	gbo		cf. Nupe gbà , Igala gwà , Edo gua , Ọnịca g^wú , Mada gyà , CB #gúngù ,
577.	Dig (tuber)	dě		
578.	Divide/share	mā		
579.	Do/make	shii		cf. Dibo fiʒi , Ehueun sere ,
580.	Drag			
581.	Draw water			
582.	Dream	lólá		cf. Ọhụhụ rò áró ,
583.	Dress	yaaki		
584.	Drink	yɔn		
585.	Drive away	hirī		
586.	Drop			
587.	Dry in sun			
588.	Eat	je		
589.	Enter	wùrè		
590.	Extinguish			
591.	Fall (rain)			
592.	Fall over	ri		cf. Gade piri , Uvbie rie ,
593.	Fear			
594.	Feel (cold etc.)			
595.	Fight (in war)			
596.	Fill	go		
597.	Finish (a task)	kpari		
598.	Float			
599.	Flog			
600.	Flow (water etc.)			
601.	Fly (birds)	fù		cf. Nupe fù , Ọhụhụ fé ,
602.	Fold (cloth etc.)			
603.	Follow	hǎ		cf. Ọhụhụ sǎ ,
604.	Forget	gbé		

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
605.	Fry (in oil)			
606.	Gather/collect	kwūsho		cf. Daja kyo shukwu , Gade kwó ,
607.	Get	na		
608.	Give	gbà		cf. Gbagyi Kuta gà , Ndele ngâ ,
609.	Give birth (humans)	yoma		cf. Niger-Congo #- ma ,
610.	Give birth (animals)	kpo		
611.	Go	dā		
612.	Go down	rā		
613.	Go out/exit	dú		cf. Nupe dzū ,
614.	Go up	pá		
615.	Grind			
616.	Grow (plants)			
617.	Hatch (egg)			
618.	Have			
619.	Hear	gbɔ		
620.	Help	pa aji		
621.	Hide	wun sha		
622.	Hit/strike (drum)	gbaye		
623.	Hoe	yanya		
624.	Hunt			
625.	Increase	ndu hi		
626.	Insult	gbé		
627.	Jump	fū		cf. Ndele fé ,
628.	Kill	kpu		cf. P-Igboid *- gbú ,
629.	Kneel			
630.	Know	mà		cf. Oḣuḣu má ,
631.	Laugh	ni		cf. Ebira jíjí ,
632.	Learn	ko		
633.	Lick			
634.	Lie down	shii hale		
635.	Lift	wun hōke		
636.	Listen			
637.	Lose s.t.			
638.	Marry	wun hàja		
639.	Mix			
640.	Mould (pot)			
641.	Mount	fupá		
642.	Open	ḣī		
643.	Pierce/stab			
644.	Plait (hair)	pa		cf. P-Edoid * ḣaNa , P-Igboid *- kpaá ,

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
645.	Plant (crop etc.)			
646.	Play			
647.	Pound (in mortar)			
648.	Pour (liquid)	ja duwa		
649.	Pull	nfa		
650.	Push	ti		cf. P-Edoid *ci 'pull',
651.	Put away	gba hingene		
652.	Put down	gbahale		
653.	Put on (clothes)			
654.	Read	kā		
655.	Receive			
656.	Refuse	mà		cf. Nupe mā ,
657.	'Remain'			
658.	Remember	ruhi		
659.	Resemble			
660.	Rest	hunrun		
661.	Return	pada		
662.	Ride (horse etc.)			
663.	Roast on coals	hɔn		cf. Epira hù , Igbooid-Ehugbo hó ,
664.	Rub			
665.	Run	hure		
666.	Say/speak	gbē		cf. Gade gè ,
667.	Scatter			
668.	See	yɛ		cf. Nupe le...yé ,
669.	Seek			
670.	Seize	gbonke nà		
671.	Sell	ta		
672.	Send			
673.	Set trap			
674.	Sew			
675.	Shake			
676.	Sharpen			
677.	Shoot (arrow)	tɔfa		
678.	Shoot (gun)	lubo		
679.	Show	gba yen		
680.	Sing	ko		A Benue-Kwa root. cf. Epirie ko , Nupe kó , Ekpeye gwu , Proto-Manenguba * kó ,
681.	Sit down	kákà		
682.	Slaughter (animal)			
683.	Sleep	ʃii		cf. Ndele ʃi ,
684.	Smash			
685.	Smell	gbunu		

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No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
686.	Snap in two			
687.	Sneeze	shi tiha		cf. Ogbakiri zĩ ,
688.	Sow seeds			
689.	Spit			
690.	Split			
691.	Stand	kaho		
692.	Steal	jí		cf. Nupe yí ,
693.	Stir (soup)			
694.	Suck (breast etc.)			
695.	Surpass	to agbayo		
696.	Swallow	fa yen		
697.	Sweep	gbalā		
698.	Swell			
699.	Swim	lòlè		
700.	Take			
701.	Talk	hɔ		
702.	Teach	ko		
703.	Tear (cloth etc.)	yā		cf. Gbagyi Kuta sá...ya ,
704.	Tell	kaji		
705.	Think	rahi		
706.	Throw	hě		
707.	Tie	gbu		cf. Ogbakiri kfũ , Uvbie gba ,
708.	Touch	gbowoda		
709.	Twist (rope etc.)	kpinra		cf. Dibo pi , Onicha fi ,
710.	Undress	pimbombolo		
711.	Untie	fu		
712.	Uproot (tuber)			
713.	Urinate	tito		
714.	Vomit			
715.	Walk	nā		
716.	Want/need			
717.	Wash			
718.	Wear			
719.	Weave	ṅɔ		
720.	Weed	pe fo		
721.	Weep	kí		
722.	Wish	bě ni		
723.	Wipe			
724.	Work			
725.	Write	kɔ		
726.	Yawn	yan		
727.	I			

No.	Gloss	Ayere	Ahan	Commentary
728.	You			
729.	He/she/it			
730.	we			
731.	you pl.			
732.	They			
733.	Who?			
734.	Which?			
735.	What?			
736.	When?			
737.	Where?			
	Exclamations			
738.				
	Adverbs			
739.				
	Particles etc.			
740.				

Edible and Useful Plants

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Commentary
741.	Guinea-yam ³²		
742.	Aerial yam ³³		
743.	Red yam ³⁴		
744.	Water-yam ³⁵		
745.	Taro (Old cocoyam) ³⁶		
746.	New cocoyam ^{37*}		
747.	Cassava ^{*38}	ikpaki	< Yoruba kpáki
748.	Sweet potato ^{*39}		
749.	Wild yam I		
750.	Wild yam II		
751.	Tumuku ⁴⁰		
752.	Rizga ⁴¹		
753.	Sorghum ⁴²	ekà	cf. Yoruba òkà ,
754.	Bulrush millet ⁴³ (<i>gero</i>)	ijero	< Hausa

³² (*Dioscorea guineensis*)

³³ (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)

³⁴ (*Dioscorea cayenensis*)

³⁵ (*Dioscorea alata*)

³⁶ (*Colocasia esculenta*)

³⁷ (*Xanthosoma mafaffa*) (*H. wali*)

³⁸ (*Manihot esculenta*)

³⁹ (*Ipomoea batatas*)

⁴⁰ (*Plectranthus esculentus*)

⁴¹ (*Solenostemon rotundifolius*)

⁴² (*Sorghum bicolor*)

⁴³ (*Pennisetum* spp.)

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Commentary
755.	Bulrush millet (<i>maiwa</i>)		
756.	Eleusine* ⁴⁴		
757.	Fonio (H. <i>acca</i>) ⁴⁵		
758.	Iburu (H. <i>iburu</i>) ⁴⁶		
759.	Maize* ⁴⁷	agbado	< Yoruba àgbàdo ,
760.	Rice* ⁴⁸		
761.	Cowpea ⁴⁹	elè	cf. Asu edè , Yoruba erèé ,
762.	Spiral cowpea		
763.	Lima bean ^{50*}		
764.	Other beans I		
765.	Other beans II		
766.	Other beans III		
767.	Bambara groundnut ⁵¹	ekpa kurubu	cf. Yoruba èkpà orubu ,
768.	Kersting's ground-nut ⁵²		
769.	Groundnut (Peanut) ⁵³	èkpayo	
770.	Tiger-nut ⁵⁴		
771.	Garden egg ⁵⁵		
772.	Okra ⁵⁶	ila	cf. Yoruba ilá ,
773.	Chili pepper* (large) ⁵⁷	atayo	cf. Yoruba ata ,
774.	Birdseye chili* ⁵⁸		
775.	Onion (<i>Allium cepa</i>)	alubasa	< Hausa
776.	Garlic ⁵⁹		
777.	Tomato ⁶⁰		
778.	Egusi melon ⁶¹		
779.	Melon (other) ⁶²		
780.	Edible squash ⁶³		
781.	Sorrel/roselle ⁶⁴		

⁴⁴ (H. *tamba*) (*Eleusine coracana*)

⁴⁵ (*Digitaria exilis*)

⁴⁶ (*Digitaria iburua*)

⁴⁷ (*Zea mays*)

⁴⁸ (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)

⁴⁹ (*Vigna unguiculata*)

⁵⁰ (*Phaseolus lunatus*)

⁵¹ (*Vigna subterranea*)

⁵² (*Macrotyloma geocarpa*)

⁵³ (*Arachis hypogaea*)

⁵⁴ (*Cyperus esculentus*)

⁵⁵ (*Solanum melongena*)

⁵⁶ (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)

⁵⁷ (*Capsicum frutescens*)

⁵⁸ (*Capsicum annuum*)

⁵⁹ (*Allium sativum*)

⁶⁰ (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)

⁶¹ (*Citrullus lanatus*)

⁶² (*Cucumis* spp)

⁶³ (*Cucurbita pepo*)

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Commentary
782.	Jews' mallow ⁶⁵		
783.	Kenaf ⁶⁶		
784.	Sesame seeds ⁶⁷	igogo	cf. Igala ígógo ,
785.	Black sesame ⁶⁸		
786.	Sesame leaves ⁶⁹		
787.	Bitterleaf ⁷⁰		
788.	Waterleaf* ⁷¹		
789.	Plantain (<i>Musa</i> AAB)		
790.	Banana (<i>Musa</i> AAA)	ogede wẹre	<Yoruba ògèdè wẹere ,
791.	Orange* ⁷²		
792.	Bamboo		
793.	Pineapple* ⁷³		
794.	Coconut* ⁷⁴		
795.	Pawpaw* ⁷⁵		
796.	Gourd (Generic)	ufẹ	
797.	Gourd-bottle ⁷⁶		
798.	Gourd (spherical) ⁷⁷		
799.	Other gourds		
800.	Cotton		
801.	Tobacco*		
802.	Sugar-cane*		
803.	Loofah ⁷⁸ (<i>H. soso</i>)		
804.	Cola	ẹ̀yì	
805.	Oil-palm ⁷⁹	erèn	
806.	Palm-fruit		
807.	Palm-oil		

Musical Instruments

NO.	Gloss	Singular	Commentary
808.	Drum I	ulò	cf. Yoruba ilù ,

⁶⁴ (*H. yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)

⁶⁵ (*H. lalo*)(*Corchorus olitorius*)

⁶⁶ (*H. rama*) (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)

⁶⁷ (*H. Ridfi*) (*Sesamum indicum*)

⁶⁸ (*Sesamum radiatum*)

⁶⁹ (*H. karkashi*)

⁷⁰ *Vernonia amygdalina*

⁷¹ (*Amaranthus spp*)

⁷² (*Citrus sinensis*)

⁷³ (*Ananas comosus*)

⁷⁴ (*Cocos nucifera*)

⁷⁵ (*Carica papaya*)

⁷⁶ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)

⁷⁷ (*Cucurbita maxima*)

⁷⁸ (*Luffa cylindrica*)

⁷⁹ (*Elaeis guineensis*)

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