

**AN  
EDO-ENGLISH  
DICTIONARY**



**R.N. AGHEYISI**





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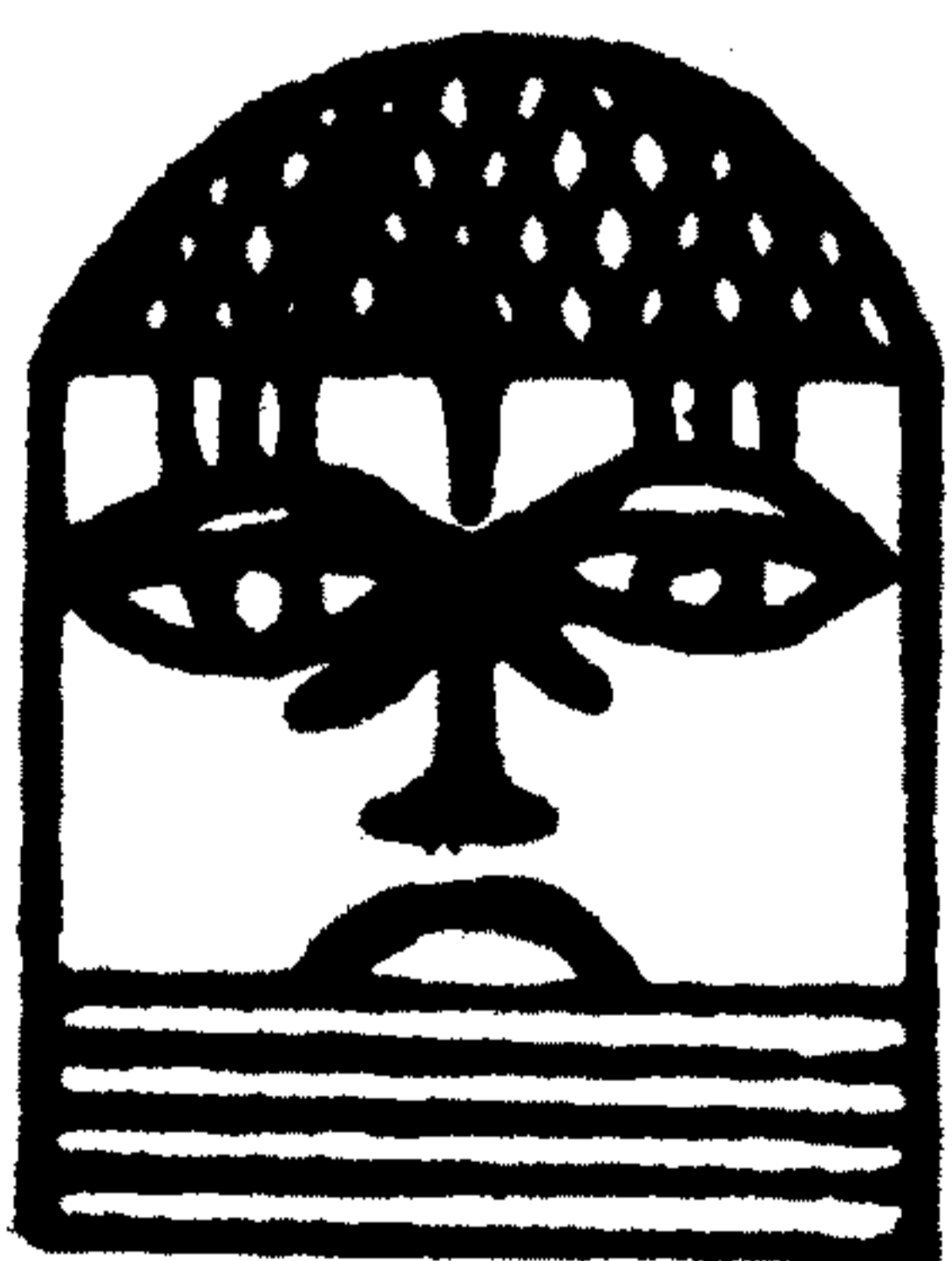




**AN EDO – ENGLISH DICTIONARY**

**BY**

**REBECCA N. AGHEYISI**



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The Departments of Linguistics of both the University of Kansas,



Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A., and the University of California in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. hosted me during the 1980/81 academic year, during which period work on the final stages of this dictionary was done. I gratefully acknowledge the assistance rendered to me by members of these two departments, in particular, for the library and research resources made available to me.

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In a work such as this, there are bound to be a number of inadequacies and shortcomings. For every one of them, I accept full responsibility.

January, 1982

R.N. Agheyisi



## INTRODUCTION

### *(i) The language and its name*

Any formal account on any aspect of Edo language must begin with a clarification of the term “Edo”, especially as it has come to be associated with a number of distinct interpretations. The oral traditional account, as diligently documented by Chief (Dr) Jacob U. Egharevba in his various works on Benin History, traces the origin of the use of the term “Edo” as the indigenous name for Benin City to Oba Ewuare (1440 – 1473). According to one version of the account:

“Edo was a slave to the then Ogiefafa. He saved Ewuare from a sudden death when he was about to be arrested by the Chiefs. Therefore in order to immortalize the name of his deified friend, Edo, for the good service he rendered him, Ewuare changed the name of the City to “Edo” according to his friend’s name . . . . .”

(Egharevba 1954:8)

If this account is true, (and it has not yet been contested in the literature), it would appear that the extension of the name to refer also to the language of the inhabitants of the City, and indeed of the Benin Kingdom, was a natural development from this. One of the earlier names for the territory before this change to Edo was Idu, a term which remains current in names such as Idubọ; Idumwonyi, etc.

The other names also currently associated with the city and the language of its inhabitants, namely, “Benin” and “Bini” have a somewhat more obscure origin. Again, according to the traditional account:

“from the time of Ogiso Igodo (Obagodo) to Ere, the country was known and called ‘Igodomigodo’; from the time of Ogiso Ere to Evian, it was called ‘Ile’. Oramiyan called it ‘Ile-Ibinu’, Oba Ewedo (i.e. 1255 – 1280) changed it to ‘Ubini’ (Benin)”

(Egharevba 1956:3)



Again, if Oba Ewedo's name for the City "Ubini" is the origin of "Benin" and "Bini", then it would seem that their use for the City and the language pre-dates that of "Edo"; in which case the latter was intended to have replaced them. According to another account by Chief Egharevba:

"Ruy de Sequira discovered Benin in 1472. He does not appear to have known of the new name, as it was by the old name, Benin, that he made the country known to Europe"

(Egharevba 1954:8)

Thus all three names have continued to be used side by side, though with some degree of specialization in their respective references. "Benin" systematically came to be used strictly as a territorial label, as in the expressions: Benin City, Benin Kingdom, Benin Empire, Benin Division, etc., while the other two names, "Bini" and "Edo" have become predominantly linguistic and ethnic labels referring in scope to the language and people of the entire Benin Division. In addition "Edo" however, has continued to serve as the indigenous name for the City.

Further ambiguity was introduced later into the reference of the term "Edo" as a linguistic label, when linguists decided to use it as the designation for the group of historically related languages and dialects spoken in various communities within and around the former Benin Kingdom. These languages and dialects include the Edo language proper of the Benin Division; the Ishan group of dialects; the languages and dialects now spoken in the present Owan, Etsako and Akoko-Edo Local Government Areas; Urhobo, and Isoko and their related dialects. Northcote W. Thomas is said to have initiated the practice by referring to the speakers of these languages and dialects as the "Edo-speaking peoples", in his famous ethnographic report of 1910. It is interesting to note however that not all subsequent scholars have followed in this practice. Westermann, for example, in his *Languages of West Africa* created his own kind of ambiguity by referring to the group as the "BINI language group", and to the single language as BINI. He, however, noted that "The name EDO (the old name of Benin) is used by some writers (e.g. Thomas) to cover all the languages of the Group" (p. 87). Greenberg, on the other hand, did not use the name EDO at all in any of his classifications, but merely listed the languages of the group by their individual names, using



BINI for the Edo language. Also, Melzian in his famous dictionary of the language refers to Edo language as BINI. However, in more recent works the trend has been to use expressions such as "The Edo language Group" or "Edo Group of languages" for the genetically related languages. For the Edo language proper, it was suggested at the 1974 *Seminar on Edo language* which took place at the University of Lagos, that the designation "Edo (Bini)" be used in all formal writings to eliminate its confusion with the language group.

However, the ultimate solution to the nomenclatural problem may be found in the recent proposal by Elugbe (1979) of the designation "Edoid Languages" for the group of historically related languages. This would then free the term "Edo" for use in reference to the single language only.

The focus of the present work being on the single language per se, rather than the group of related languages, the usual nomenclatural ambiguity is presumed to be irrelevant, and so "Edo" is intended to refer to "Edo (Bini)" rather than the Edoid languages.

## *(ii) Extent of its speaking population*

The Edo language is today spoken natively throughout most of the territory coterminous with the Benin Division of the former Mid-Western State of Nigeria, and which has now been demarcated into the Oredo, Ovia and Orhionmwon Local Government Areas. This same area constituted the permanent core of the pre-colonial Benin Kingdom and empire and its inhabitants have always referred to themselves as Ivbi-Edo. The estimated area of the territory is about 10,372 square kilometres, while the 1952 and 1963 population figures for the Division are given as 292,081 and 429,907 respectively. A small proportion of the population however constitutes the non-Edo immigrants who are either permanent or temporary residents in the area. On the other hand, there are believed to be other communities of Edo native speakers in the *Okitipupa Division of Ondo Province*, as well as in and around Akure in Ondo State. In addition to these native speakers, thousands of other residents in the Bendel State speak Edo as a second language, especially those with Ishan and Afenmai native language back-



grounds.

The main Edo speech community is generally homogeneous, though noticeable peculiarities do exist in the speech of the inhabitants of some of the peripheral communities. For example the common saying about *Oza* speech: “*Oza ne o yin ke Edo ne o ze eghoen!*” (*Oza*, the *Edo* neighbours who speak a foreign language!), though exaggerating, serves to illustrate this fact. However, all the different varieties are mutually intelligible.

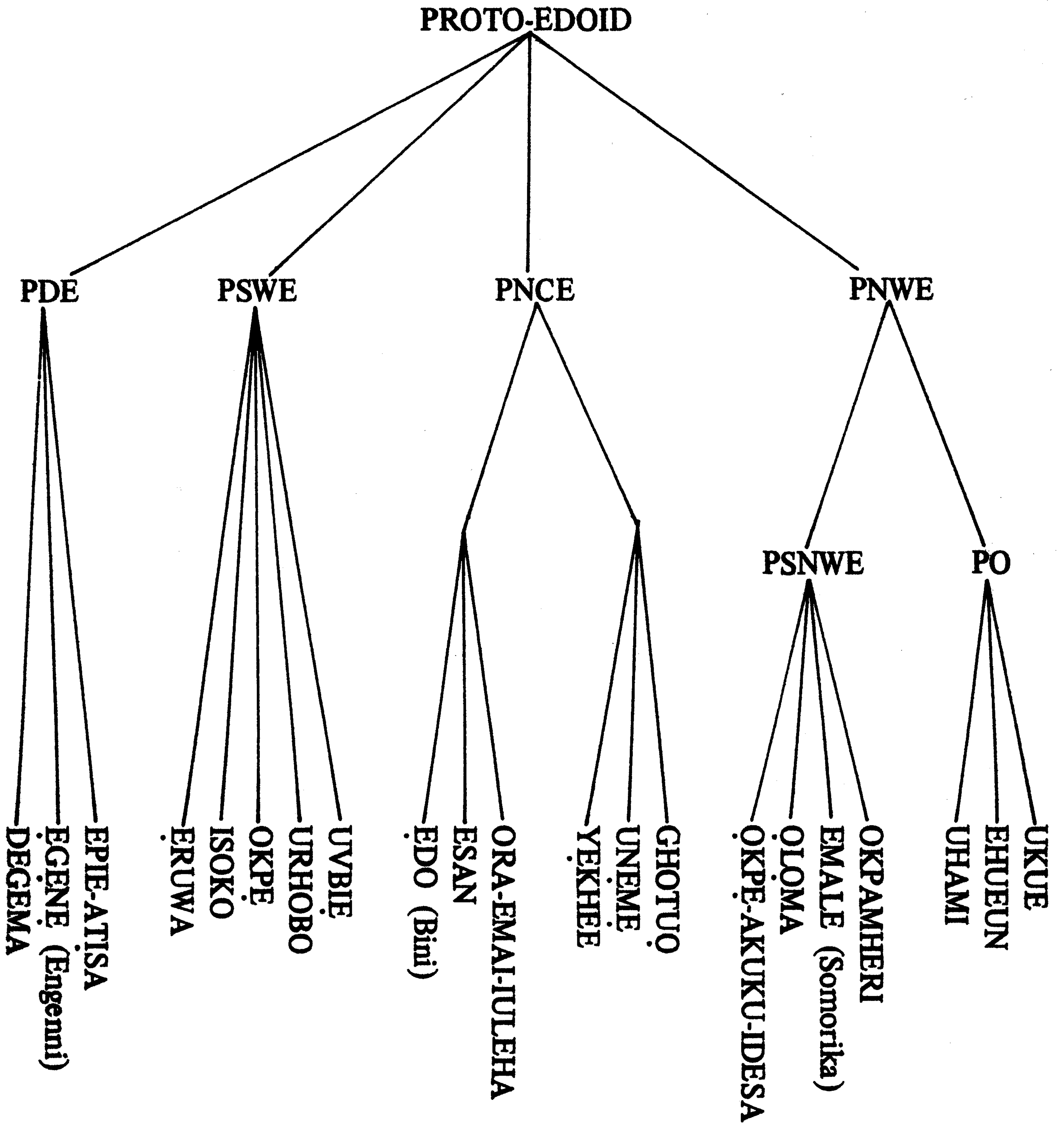
### ***(iii) Linguistic affinity with other Nigerian Languages***

Investigations into the nature of the historical relationship between the various Nigerian languages are still at a very elementary stage. Only very broad outlines of the pattern of genetic relationship have yet emerged. It is now a firmly established fact that Edo is a core member of a larger group of genetically related languages and dialect clusters, usually referred to as the Edoid Group of languages, which in turn belongs, along with other Nigerian languages such as Yoruba, Nupe, Idoma, Igbo, and Izon, to the *KWA* branch of the *NIGER – CONGO* family (Westermann 1952; Greenberg 1966).

Further research into the structure of relationship within the Edoid Group has led to more detailed sub-grouping of the languages. For example the classification presented below is the latest rendering of the relationship by Elugbe in his 1979 paper. It presumably supercedes other earlier analyses of the relationship such as Elugbe 1973; Hoffmann 1974; etc.



# THE EDOID FAMILY TREE



- PDE** = PROTO DELTA EDO  
**PSWE** = PROTO SOUTH-WESTERN EDO  
**PNCE** = PROTO NORTH-CENTRAL EDO  
**PNWE** = PROTO NORTH-WESTERN EDO



As a genetic classification, it constitutes a hypothesis about the historical development of these languages and their respective speech communities. For example, the fact that *Edo* (*Bini*), Esan, Ora-Emai-Iuleha have been isolated into a sub-group that excludes Urhobo, for instance, implies that the speech communities of each of the five languages in the sub-group must have shared a longer period of common identification and close contact than any one of them must have had with Urhobo speakers in the past. Furthermore, the classification further implies that all these contemporary languages and dialects must have evolved in various stages from a common ancestral language, (*i.e. Proto-Edoid*) under the influence of various historical processes. However, neither by nomenclature, nor by arrangement does it identify the common ancestral language with any one of the contemporary languages. Thus even though the entire language group is named the *Edoid* Group, this is usually not intended to imply that the various languages and dialects derived historically from *Edo*. It is quite possible however, that the choice of the name may have been influenced by the fact that the geographical location in which these languages are now spoken is generally coterminous with the stable scope of the former Benin Empire, with *Edo* (Benin City) as its administrative base. Thus even though the name may not connote a derivational historical relationship between *Edo* and the other languages of the Group, it certainly reflects the fact of the socio-political unity that derived from the dominion of the empire.

There is no doubt that it would be most desirable to be able to complement, and indeed confirm, some of the sketchy and sometimes undocumented accounts from oral traditions about the cultural heritage of the various linguistic groups, with inferences derivable from language classifications such as these. For example, many of the communities within and without Bendel State, in their oral traditions, trace their origins to Benin City or other parts of the Benin Kingdom. (Moore: 1970; Bosah 1976; Obuke 1975; etc.). To what extent are these accounts of migrations reconcilable with the diversification in speech forms implied in the classifications? Unfortunately the present classifications are yet too limited in the information they provide. Until it becomes possible to estimate the dates of the various sub-groupings the historical primacy of any one of them cannot be established.



#### **(iv) *The Present Work***

The present study, in many respects, builds on the foundation of previous lexicographical works on Edo such as Thomas' *Anthropological Report on the Edo-Speaking Peoples*; Munro's *English-Edo Wordlist*, and most importantly, Hans Melzian's most commendable earlier work on Edo Language; in particular, his *A concise Dictionary of the Bini Language of Southern Nigeria* (1937), which unfortunately has long gone out of print. The few copies of this work which today exist are confined to the private collections of a few privileged individuals, and some institutional libraries mainly in Britain and America. This has, in general, rendered this work inaccessible to the interested man-in-the-street, especially in the Edo linguistic community, where it is probably most relevant. Furthermore, the absence of any other comprehensive lexicographical publication on Edo since Melzian's has helped to create the undesirable vacuum that has since existed in this aspect of available reference material on the Language. The need to fill this vacuum has been a prime motivation for the undertaking of this work.

This dictionary is designed basically to reflect Edo contemporary usage, with particular awareness of the complex sociolinguistic environment in which the language is being used today. In this respect, it anticipates the special needs of the average Edo speaker, for whom the necessity to be able to operate bilingually in Edo and English has become a pressing reality. This perspective is clearly reflected in both the selection of entries for the dictionary, as well as the quality and range of information provided for each entry. Thus, there are, for example, a number of entries found in Melzian's dictionary, deriving particularly from his intensive research into Edo traditional and religious rituals and folklife, which are not found in the present work; while on the other hand, there is a sizeable number of everyday vocabulary and adapted loan words included here, which are not found in the earlier work. Generally, however, the underlying objective, which has been to produce from the available resources on Edo, a collection which would qualify for the designation "a modern dictionary of Edo" has hopefully been realized.

Special efforts have also been made to incorporate both phonological and grammatical information for each of the entries, in anticipation of the specialized needs of the language researcher and others interested in linguistic



information on Edo.

The research activities which led to the production of this work were initiated in 1976, and carried out in three phases. Work in the first phase focussed around the compilation of Edo words from miscellaneous sources, including published works, manuscripts, recorded tapes and individual contacts. The list of the formal works consulted is provided at the end of the section.

The main activity of this phase entailed combing through these various sources for words and expressions to be used as entries in the dictionary. Melzian's Dictionary served as a final reference in this regard, especially for crosschecking for additional items that may have been overlooked or unattested in the other sources. Also most of the Latin names for plants and trees were taken directly from this dictionary.

This phase of the project did not end until mid 1979, when the target of 7,500 items was eventually achieved. It was expected that after analysis of the data thus collected, at least half of the items would be selected as suitable entries.

The second phase was devoted to the grammatical and semantic analysis of the data that had been assembled. The objective was to determine the lexical status of each item as well as their grammatical and semantic properties. As a result of work in this phase, the 7,500 items compiled previously became analyzed into a little under four thousand entries. This reduction in number of entries came about mainly by the application of the principle whereby forms which are grammatically predictable (i.e. forms derivable from others by highly productive grammatical rules) did not qualify as independent entries. Thus, for example, the set of adjectives derivable from ideophonic adverbs by the addition of *né-* as prefix, such as: *nemosemose* "lovely"; *neworo* "long"; *netuein* "tiny"; *nekhuerhekhuerhe* "soft"; etc., were eliminated from independent listing. This also accounts for the non-listing of most of the verb-based nominals derived by the affixation of { *u-mwẹn* } to verb stems, such as *usanmwẹn* – "jumping"; *udemwẹn* – "falling"; etc. Only forms of this category that can be said to have acquired independent lexical status in usage have been retained as entries. Examples of such words include *ugamwẹn* – "christian church service"; *udonmwẹn* – "leanness"; *ukonmwẹn* – "stupidity"; *utomwẹn* – "longevity"; *uwanmwẹn* – "brightness;



light", etc.

The final phase of the project was devoted to processing and collating all the information that had been assembled on the various entries, and in particular, to conducting a final cross-checking of the meanings of various words. It was often necessary to hold discussion and consultation sessions with various individuals over the meanings of certain items. In the final draft that emerged from this phase, for each entry in the dictionary, the following categories of information were provided:

- (1) a phonetic transcription, with tone indicated;
- (2) the grammatical category to which the word belongs; and
- (3) the meaning of the word in English, often with illustration of usage in Edo.

The following are the formal works consulted for the compilation of entries:

- Aigbe, Emman I. 1960. *Iyeva yan Ariasen vbe Itan Edo*. Lagos
- Ebohon, Osemwegie *Oba Ehengbuda Kevbe Agbon-Izeloghomwan*.  
Ethiope Publishing Corporation, Benin City.
- Egharevba, Jacob U. *Ekherhe vbe Itan Edo*. Benin City.
- *Okha Edo*. Benin City.
- 1972. *Itan Edagbon mwen*. Ethiope Publishing Corporation, Benin City.
- *Iha Ominigbon*. Benin City.
- *Agbedogbeyo*. Benin City.
- *Ebe Imina*. Benin City.
- "A ma z'evbo omwan tawiri". Benin City.
- Idahosa, U.A. *Eb' omunhen N' ogieva, Primer Two*. Longmans, Green & Co., Ibadan.
- Melzian, Hans 1937. *A concise Dictionary of the Bini Language of Southern Nigeria*. London.



- Munro, D.A. *English – Edo wordlist.* Institute of African Studies, U.I. Occasional Publications No. 7.
- Thomas, N.W. 1910. *Anthropological Report on the Edo-speaking Peoples.* 2 Vols. London.

**(v) Orthography**

The orthography employed in the writing of Edo in this dictionary is generally consistent with the system recommended for Edo in 1974 by the Ad Hoc Mid-West Language Committee, and approved by the Bendel State Ministry of Education. The only modification to that system adopted here is the re-introduction of *mw* for the labio-dental nasal approximant [ɱ], in conformity with the current practice in the writing of Edo by the Edos. Thus the symbols employed for the vowels and consonants are as follows:

<i>Vowels:</i>		Oral		
a	as	in	ada	“sceptre”
e	as	in	ebe	“leaf”
ẹ	as	in	ẹde	“day”
i	as	in	iri	“rope”
o	as	in	okò	“parcel”
ọ	as	in	ọgọ	“bottle”
u	as	in	uguu	“vulture”

<i>Vowels:</i>		Nasal		
an	as	in	ọdan	“glue”
ẹn	as	in	ọden	“joke”
in	as	in	ivin	“nut”
on	as	in	edon	“flying termite”
un	as	in	edun	“bitter kola”

*Details of the Committee's recommendations are included in a publication of the Ministry of Education, Benin, entitled Report of the Seminar on Edo Orthography, 1974.*



## CONSONANTS:

<b>b</b>	as	in	baa	“to shine”
<b>d</b>	as	in	de	“to buy”
<b>f</b>	as	in	faa	“to disgrace”
<b>g</b>	as	in	ga	“to serve”
<b>gb</b>	as	in	gba	“to tie”
<b>gh</b>	as	in	ghee	“to look at”
<b>h</b>	as	in	he	“to refuse”
<b>k</b>	as	in	kaa	“to carve”
<b>kh</b>	as	in	khə	“to resemble”
<b>kp</b>	as	in	kpa	“to lift up”
<b>l</b>	as	in	laə	“to enter”
<b>m</b>	as	in	maa	“to be good”
<b>mw</b>	as	in	mwən	“my”
<b>n</b>	as	in	na	“to narrate”
<b>p</b>	as	in	pepe	“to pamper”
<b>r</b>	as	in	re	“to eat”
<b>rh</b>	as	in	rhie	“to take”
<b>rr</b>	as	in	rre	“to arrive”
<b>s</b>	as	in	saa	“to burst”
<b>t</b>	as	in	taa	“to imitate”
<b>v</b>	as	in	vaa	“to split”
<b>vb</b>	as	in	vbaa	“to meet”
<b>w</b>	as	in	wii	“to get lost”
<b>y</b>	as	in	yee	“to remember”
<b>z</b>	as	in	zoə	“to germinate”

Also consistent with the stipulations of the official orthography, tone marking has been confined exclusively to those forms which might remain ambiguous without the indication of tone. The tone marks on such forms are expected therefore to be regarded as part of their regular spelling. In



this regard, only two tones are marked namely “ ‘ ” for high tone and “ ` ” for low; intermediate or mid tone is left unmarked. Below is a near-exhaustive list of the words for which tone must be indicated as part of their regular spelling:

àba [àbá] “an old fashioned address term for “father”.

ába [ábà] “anklet worn by an omada”.

àda [àdà] “crossroads”.

áda [ádá] “sceptre”.

àden [àdè] “placenta”.

áden [ádé] “hooked pole used for plucking fruit”.

àgbada [àgbàdà] “two-edged sword”.

ágbada [ágbádá] “flowing robe”.

àka [àká] “a hearth shelf”.

áka [ákà] “a grass snake”.

aká [áká] “trumpet”.

àko [àkò] 1. “location, place”; 2. “gift parcel”.

áko [ákò] “pepper fruit”.

àkhue [àxué] “bath”.

ákhue [áxuè] 1. “tomorrow”; 2. “marble”.

akpà [àkpà] “a fool”.

akpá [àkpá] “foetus”.

àranmwèn [àṛám̃ɛ̀] “game meat”.

áranmwèn [áṛám̃ɛ̀] “tongue”.

àro [àrò] “eye”.



áró [átó] “dye” .

àse [àsé] “authority”.

áse [ásé] “environ”.

avàn [àvā] “afternoon”.

aván [àvā́] “thunder”.

àwa [àwá] “dog”.

áwa [áwà] “hour”.

àwe [àwè] “fast”.

áwe [áwé] “a large bird”.

àyon [àyō] “wine”.

áyon [áyṓ] “black rubber tree”.

dè [dè] “interrogative pronoun: What?, which?”.

ègbọ [ègbó] “the tree-felling phase in the preparation of farmland”.

égbọ [égbọ] “a variety of native song”.

ekèn [èkē] “soil; wall”.

ekén [èkḗ] 1. “egg”; 2. “the day of week on which no market-day falls”.

ekhàrha [èxǎřà] “umbrella”.

ekhárha [èxářà] “recitation”.

èkhue [èxwè] “shame”.

ékhue [éxwé] “garden-egg”.

èkpa [èkpá] 1. “vomit”; 2. “cause; consideration”.

ékpa [ékpà] “fist”.

eni [eni] “name”.



ení [ení] “elephant”.

ère [ètè] “profit”.

ére [érè] “beans”.

èsago [èsago] “a large bottle, usually encased in wicker-work”.

evè [èvè] “elephantiasis of the scrotum”.

evé [èvé] “weeping”.

evbàvba [èvává] “a term for “father”.

evbávba [èvávà] “the supreme authority”.

èwoe [èwòè] “follower”.

éwoe [éwóé] 1. “whistling”; 2. “lava of a certain fly”.

egbèe [ègbèè] “widow”.

egbéee [ègbéè] “family”.

eghè [èyè] “time”.

eghé [èyé] “small yam-pole”.

èhun [èhũ] “worm-dust”.

éhun [éhũ] “fart”.

etè [ètè] “sore; ulcer”.

eté [èté] “monkey”.

heñen [hěě] “no!”.

hěñen [hěě] “yes!”.

ibà [íbà] “mud bench”.

ibá [íbá] “mischief”.

ibiye [íbyè] 1. “the male youth in a household”; 2. “a secret language used by members of the Iwebo society”.



**íbiẹ** [íb yé] “intestines”.

**ìgbon** [ìgbõ] “a derogatory word for the Igbo-speaking people”.

**ìgbon** [ìgbõ] “knee”.

**ìgho** [ìyò] “horn”.

**ìgho** [íyo] 1. “money”; 2. “milk-teeth”.

**ìse** [ìsé] “amen”.

**ìse** [ísè] “seeds used in a game of the same name”.

**ìtan** [ità] “the feather ordeal”.

**ítan** [ítā] “proverb”.

**ìwu** [ìwù] 1. “Edo ethnic marks”; 2. “direct off-spring”.

**íwu** [íwù] “capacity”.

**ìyoyọ** [ìyòyò] “tassel”.

**íyoyọ** [íyóyó] “a kind of vegetable”.

**odìn** [ódĩ] “a mute”.

**odín** [ódĩ] “the deep portions of a river”.

**odò** [ódò] 1. “abdominal dropsy”; 2. “potash”.

**odó** [ódó] “mortar”.

**òha** [òhá] 1. “bush”; 2. “a mission of search”.

**óha** [óhà] “a spike”.

**òhoho** [òhòhò] “a whole thing”.

**óhoho** [óhòhó] “(soup) without oil”.

**òko** [òkó] 1. “nest”; 2. “an address term used for peers”.

**óko** [ókò] “horn blown by native doctors”.

**okò** [òkò] “parcel”.



**òkun** [òkũ] 1. "sea"; 2. "the decorated box carried in "isoton".  
**ókun** [ókũ] "twine".  
**okhuò** [òxwò] "woman".  
**okhuó** [òxwó] "portion of work".  
**òkpe** [òkpè] "wine-tapper".  
**ókpe** [ókpè] "a flute".  
**òme** [òmē] "hiss".  
**óme** [ómē] "young palm leaves".  
**òrere** [òrétè] "hare".  
**órere** [órété] "out-yard".  
**òso** [òsó] "a chunk".  
**óso** [ósó] "wizard".  
**osùsu** [òsùsù] "tuft".  
**osúsu** [òsúsú] "arranged monthly contribution".  
**òwa** [òwá] "house".  
**ówa** [ówá] "market stall".  
**òga** [ògá] "boss".  
**óga** [ógà] "net".  
**ogò** [ògò] "palm-wine".  
**ogó** [ògó] "bottle".  
**ohà** [òhà] "catarrh".  
**ohá** [òhá] "bride".  
**òka** [òká] "leader".  
**óka** [ókà] "corn".



òkpa [òkpà] “rooster”.

ókpa [ókpa] “one”.

okpá [òkpá] “staff”.

òten [òtē] “relative”.

óten [ótē] “a sweet drink”.

òwa [òwà] “castrated animal”.

ówa [ówá] “epilepsy”.

ùde [ùdè] “advice”.

úde [údè] “a children’s disease”.

ukè [ùkè] 1. “cripple”; 2. “a fast dance”.

uké [ùké] “a hair-dressing pad”.

ukhù [ùkhù] “inheritance”.

ukhú [ùkhú] 1. “gag”; 2. “the sprouting tip of a germinating seed”.

ùkhuerhe [ùxuéré] “a low stool”.

úkhuerhe [úxuèrè] “sugar-cane”.

ukhùnmwun [ùxũᵐũ] 1. “sky”; 2. “medicine”.

ukhúnmwun [ùxũᵐũ] “famine”.

ùkpo [ùkpó] “year”.

úkpo [úkpò] 1. “bed”; 2. “paved road”; 3. “post”.

ùkpokpo [ùkpòkpò] “harassment”.

úkpokpo [úkpòkpò] “staff”.

ùwu [ùwú] “death”.

úwu [úwù] “line”.



uwú [úwú] “the inside of something”.

zighó [zíyó] 1. “to cut milk teeth”; 2. “to pay a fine”.

zighò [zíyò] “to grow horns”.

## A NOTE ON GRAMMAR

Parts of speech labels which have been employed in the categorization of Edo words in this dictionary, though determined primarily on the basis of the internal structure of Edo, do however generally convey the broad meanings conventionally associated with these labels in their use by linguists. Thus an item identified as a *noun* would normally be expected to have a substantive rather than a relational reference, just as one identified as a *verb* would be adjudged to describe an action, state or process. However, the characteristics of some of the major grammatical categories in the language deserve further specification.

1. *Nouns*: These are generally substantives and they all begin with a vowel. They usually function as subjects or objects (direct and indirect) of sentences. Representative examples include: okpia — “man”, okhuo — “woman”; Ozo — “a proper name borne by males”; owa — “house”; erhan — “tree”; ehoho — “wind”; evbare — “food”; ovbe — “sleep”; ohu — “anger”; ose — “beauty”; use — “poverty” etc.

2. *Verbs*: These generally designate actions, state events, or processes, and they occur as the core or nucleus of the predicate in sentences. All Edo verbs begin with consonants and may be mono or multi-syllabic, though most basic, underived verbs are monosyllabic. Most stative verbs in Edo correspond to the category of descriptive or qualifying adjectives in English. Representative examples of words in this category are: de — “to buy”; gbe — “to dance”; rree — “to be far”; khòrhìon — “to be ugly”; mose — “to be beautiful”; wii — “to get lost” etc.

3. *Adjectives*: These generally designate qualities of substantives. They are predominantly ideophonic in form, and with the exception of the few underived forms such as dan — “evil, bad”, they are usually used predicatively, and are introduced by the verb ye — “to be like; to seem”, or other



copulative verbs; Ọ ru vbirrivbirri – “It seems hazy”; Ọ ye *kangunkangun* – “He seems *very lean*”. Like verbs, all adjectives begin with a consonant. Representative examples include: guenren – “tiny” j ghegheghe – “weak, unsteady”; khuerhe – “gentle”; wenrenren – “thin”, etc. A large sub-class of adjectives are derived from stative verbs by means of the derivational affix {n ·}. For example:

	<i>Verb</i>		<i>Derived Adjective</i>
1.	wenren – “to be thin”	nwenren	– “thin”
2.	kherhe – “to be small”	nekherhe	– “small”
3.	mose – “to be beautiful”	nemosee	– “beautiful” etc.

This derivational process is highly productive, and it accounts for most of the common adjectives in the language.

4. *Adverbs*: These generally modify verbs or the entire sentence or clause in which they occur. Like adjectives, they are mainly ideophonic in form and the majority are derived, usually from verbs. Indeed most derived adverbs have formally identical adjectival counterparts, and their identification as adverbs usually has to be determined from the contexts in which they occur; for example: *gbadaa* [gbádaá] in the sentences below can be both an adverb and an adjective, as in 1 and 2 respectively below:

1. Ọ yan unu *gbadaa* – He opened his mouth wide.
2. Unu enren ye *gbadaa* – His mouth is wide.

All adverbs, like verbs and adjectives, begin with a consonant.

#### (vi) *Alphabetical Order*

The alphabetical order of entries is as shown below:

a	b	d	e	ẹ	f	g	gb	gh	h	i	k
kh	kp	l	m	mw	n	o	ọ	p	r	rh	rr
s	t	u	v	vb	w	y	z				



## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>adj.</b>	—	<b>adjective</b>
<b>adv.</b>	—	<b>adverb</b>
<b>art.</b>	—	<b>article</b>
<b>aux.</b>	—	<b>auxilliary</b>
<b>cf.</b>	—	<b>reference to</b>
<b>compltz.</b>	—	<b>complementizer</b>
<b>conj.</b>	—	<b>conjunction</b>
<b>cop.</b>	—	<b>copula</b>
<b>dem.</b>	—	<b>demonstrative</b>
<b>dem. pron.</b>	—	<b>demonstrative pronoun</b>
<b>dem. pronom.</b>	—	<b>demonstrative pronominal</b>
<b>e.g.</b>	—	<b>for example</b>
<b>Eng.</b>	—	<b>English</b>
<b>ind. det.</b>	—	<b>indefinite determiner</b>
<b>int.</b>	—	<b>interjection</b>
<b>inter phr.</b>	—	<b>interrogative phrase</b>
<b>inter. pron.</b>	—	<b>interrogative pronoun</b>
<b>inter. quant.</b>	—	<b>interrogative quantifier</b>
<b>iter.</b>	—	<b>iterative</b>
<b>lit.</b>	—	<b>literal or literally</b>



<b>n.</b>	—	<b>noun</b>
<b>neg.</b>	—	<b>negative</b>
<b>num.</b>	—	<b>numeral</b>
<b>obj.</b>	—	<b>object</b>
<b>part.</b>	—	<b>particle</b>
<b>pl.</b>	—	<b>plural</b>
<b>Port.</b>	—	<b>Portuguese</b>
<b>poss.</b>	—	<b>possessive</b>
<b>prep.</b>	—	<b>preposition</b>
<b>pron.</b>	—	<b>pronoun</b>
<b>quant.</b>	—	<b>quantifier</b>
<b>rel. pron.</b>	—	<b>relative pronoun</b>
<b>sgl.</b>	—	<b>singular</b>
<b>temp.</b>	—	<b>temperature</b>
<b>tense/asp. part.</b>	—	<b>tense/aspect particle</b>
<b>vb.</b>	—	<b>verb</b>
<b>vbl. part.</b>	—	<b>verbal particle</b>



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## A

- a<sup>1</sup>** [à] *pron.* an impersonal pronoun, usually rendered by the impersonal “we” in English: a rri ọre – “we eat it” i.e. “it is edible.”
- a<sup>2</sup>** [á] *pron.* a bound form of the 2nd per. sgl. pronoun, rue [rùé]: ọ guaa < ọ gua rue – “it accommodated you”; owaa ọna khin < owa rue ọna khin – “Your house this is” i.e. “This is your house.”
- aan** [ãã] *int.* 1. an exclamation of disbelief, surprise or shock; it usually entails a request for confirmation of what had been said. Also: aan nia? 2. indicates that an utterance was either not heard properly or not understood: Aan, vbua kha hee? – “What did you say?”
- àba** [àbá] *n.* an old-fashioned deferential address term used for an elderly male as part of a greeting: “Domo, àba! – “Greetings, old father!” (cf. Esán aba – “father”).
- ába** [ábà] *n.* anklet worn by an ọmada (palace young male attendant and sceptre-bearer), also more commonly known as ẹronmwon.
- ababe** [àbábè] *n.* witchcraft practice (cf. ọmwanbabe).
- abakuru** [àbákùrú] *n.* error, mistake, oversight. 2. (in the religious sense) – sin: ya abakuru mwan bọ mwan, Osanobua – “Forgive us our sins, O God.”
- aban** [ábã] *n.* 1. native hand-cuffs, traditionally used for restraining prisoners or mentally deranged persons. 2. a native-doctor’s implement.
- abe** [àbé] *n.* guilt (in a case, or lawsuit): a bu abe gbee – “He was found guilty”.
- abee** [ábéè] *n.* 1. pen-knife. 2. native single-edged knife with a sheath, used mainly for shaving.
- abekpen** [àbèkpē] *n.* a special knife used for slaughtering animals.
- abemwen<sup>1</sup>** [àbéṃē] *n.* stammerer. (cf. bemwen).
- abemwen<sup>2</sup>** [àbéṃē] *n.* disputation; quarrelsomeness: Ọ mu abemwen gbe – “She is excessively fond of disputation. (cf: abọ ; ẹmwẹn).
- abigengen** [ábígégé] *n.* a derogatory nickname for a very skinny or undernourished person.
- abode** [àbòdè] *n.* gnat; a tiny insect that typically flies into people’s eyes.
- abọ** [àbó] *n.* 1. branch, extension: aberhan (< abọ-erhan) “tree branch”. 2. edge, corner: abiba (< abọ-iba) “edge of a slab”; abukpon (< abọ-ukpon) “corner of a large cloth”. Other compounds derived from abọ include abutete (< abọ-utete) – “edge of a hill”; abukpo (< abọ-ukpo) – “edge of the road”, “curb”; abuhae (< abọ-uhae) – “edge of a well”; abevbo (< abọ-ẹvbo) – “corners of the town”, etc. 3. strap: abekpo (abọ-ẹkpo) – “straps of a bag.” 4. sleeves (of a garment).
- abọ** [àbó] *n.* sane or sober mood; nor-



malcy. Usually occurs in the expression — *Ei re oḡhe abo* — “it is not normal” — implying that the event or state is subject to the influence of some extraneous forces, such as witchcraft, magic, madness, alcohol, etc.

**abokpo** [ábókpò] *n.* a staff carved like a machet, which is carried by each of the female relatives of the deceased during the dances in traditional burial ceremonies. It is believed to serve to ward off evil spirits from the family.

**àda** [àdà] *n.* crossroads; road junction.

**áda** [ádá] *n.* The sceptre or state-sword ceremonially borne before the Oba as symbol of his royal and imperial authority. It is also borne before certain senior chiefs and native religious priests. (cf. *omada*).

**adaze** [àdàzé] *n., adj.* an affluent and respectable person in a community: *Adaze-omwan no* — “He is a respectable person”.

**adeken** [àdèkē] *n.* female cricket (cf. *ogoro*).

**adesẹ** [àdèsè] *n.* 1. centre, middle: *o mudia ye adesẹ ode* — “He stood at the centre of the road.” 2. between: *o mudia ye adesẹ iran eveva* — “he stood between them both”; (also *adeseneva*). 3. core, kernel: *rhie adesẹ ore me* — “Give its core to me”.

**adeḷe<sup>1</sup>** [àdélè] *n.* a square shape

**adeḷe<sup>2</sup>** [àdélè] *n.* indiscriminate purchases; unnecessary spending; *adeḷe bun erren gbe* — “He is too fond of indiscriminate spending.”

**áden** [ádē] *n.* a long pole with a hook at its tip, used for picking fruit from tall trees.

**àden** [àdè] *n.* placenta; afterbirth.

**adiye** [ádiyé] *n.* chicken; fowl (cf. *okhokho*).

**adogbanno** [àdógbānṵ] *n.* success; accomplishment.

**adoḷo** [ádòlṵ] *n.* reconciliation.

**Adoḷo** [ádòlṵ] *n.* name of an Oba of Benin who reigned from 1848 — 1888. He was the father of Oba Ovonramwen (Egharevba: 1968, pp. 46-47).

**Aduwawa** [àdúwàwà] *n.* name of an Edo village on the outskirts of Benin to the East.

**afa** [àfá] *n.* a Moslem priest (cf. Yoruba “*alùfaá*”).

**afiala** [àfyáfá] *n.* flag.

**afian** [àfyá] *n.* chisel.

**afiangbe** [àfyǎgbè] *n.* blessing: *afiangbe Osanobua* — “God’s blessing”.

**afianma** [àfyámà] *n.* apprehension; fear; worry: *afianma fian mwen ighe o gha de* — “apprehension grips me that he might fall” i.e. I am worried that he might fall.

**afienrhan** [àfyèrà] *n.* headache.

**afiwerriẹ** [àfiwèrrié] *n.* change, transformation: *Arrioba mu afiwerriẹ nibun rri Edo* — “The government brought many changes to Benin”.

**afo** [àfó] *n.* 1. greens; vegetable (also *ebafọ*). 2. soup prepared from vegetables.

**afuede** [àfwédè] *n.* 1. a grey-haired person. 2. an old person.



**afuozu** [àfwózu] *n.* a blind person (cf. arhuaro).

**aga** [ágá] *n.* chair.

**agalezi** [àgàlèzí] *n.* 1. a young lizard.  
2. a nickname for a tall and clumsy person.

**agan** [àgã] *n.* 1. a childless woman; 2. an infertile person or plant.

**aganmwinsoso** [àgãm̄ísósó] *n.* a serious case of whitlow, believed to be caused by the poison of a certain kind of caterpillar known as "issue".

**agele** [àgèlè] *n.* bullet.

**agięghę** [àgyęyę] *n.* coins used as small change; change (in monetary transactions).

**agikpa** [àgikpá] *n.* an adult male; a full-grown male: ọ khian agikpa ne – "He has become a full-grown person already."

**agięn** [agię] *n.* corrosive acid.

**agięgięn** [àgyęgyę] *n.* sensitivity; concern; interest: agięgięn ọmọ i gię kpa se iran rae – "Her motherly concern will not let her desert them."

**agio** [àgyó] *n.* a kind of root dye that changes white cloth, or similar materials, to yellow.

**agobo** [àgóbò] *n.* left hand side; left hand.

**ago** [àgó] *n.* camp; temporary settlement.

**aguegbero** [àgwęgberò] *n.* 1. being in agreement, matching each other. 2. (in mathematics): equivalence: congruency.

**ague** [àguè] *n.* a seven-day fast held at the Oba's palace, as well as at the households of some senior chiefs. It is usually held in January after Igue festival.

**agukisinmwiongie** [àgúkísimyógye] *n.* the morning star. Its name no doubt derives from its extreme brightness: (< a-gue-uki-sinmwiongie – "that who with the moon struggles for supremacy" i.e. the moon's rival).

**aguobegbe** [àgwóbegbè] *n.* compatibility; having mutual accord; harmony.

**aguro** [àgúrò] *n.* correspondence; match.

**àgbada** [àgbàdà] *n.* a two-edged sword used mainly by butchers.

**ágbada** [ágbádá] *n.* the large and flowing outer robe of men's Nigerian national dress.

**agbadi** [àgbàdì] *n.* bridge (Melzian).

**Agbado** [àgbàdò] *n.* name of one of the oldest native markets of Benin City, situated along Akpakpava Road.

**agbaka** [àgbákà] *n.* crocodile.

**agbakpan** [àgbákpã] *n.* a bald person. (cf. akpan).

**agban** [àgbã] *n.* wicker basket with a wooden base, used mainly for conveying foodstuffs.

**agbanmwęn** [àgbãmwę] *n.* chin; lower jaw.

**agbazi** [àgbàzírò] *n.* confidant; one with whom one confers.

**Agbazi** [ágbàzírò] *n.* name of one of the local government areas in the



Esan-speaking part of Bendel State.

**agbegue** [àgbégwe] *n.* covering up; making secret.

**agbeva** [àgbèvà] *n.* something made up of two components; dual; twin.

**agben** [àgbé] *n.* 1. line, row. 2. course, route.

**agbete** [àgbétè] *n.* one afflicted with one or more body ulcers, especially on the legs.

**agbo** [àgbò] *n.* ram.

**Agbodo** [àgbódó] *n.* 1. the name of a lake in Ugo. 2. general term for a cave or any deep and wide hollow in the ground.

**Agboghidi** [àgbóyìdì] *n.* the name of a famous and historic ruler of Ugo.

**agbokhokho** [àgbùxòxò] *n.* hornet.

**agbon** [àgbò] *n.* the world, the universe; mortal life, as opposed to the immortal realm of spirits. 2. a collective reference to the people of the earth.

**agha** [àyá] *n.* a wood-carver's implement.

**aghadaghada** [àyàdàyádà] *n.* Each of the four lines constituting the cross (+) configuration has in the Edo game, *Isẹ*. The significance of aghadaghada in the game derives from the mystical meaning of the + symbol.

**aghanghan** [áyǎǎ] *n.* a very high price; expensive value: aghanghan ere i hae ye owa nii — "It was a very high price that I paid for that house."

**aghen** [àyè] *n.* native mat made from

strips of the pulpy stem of "ekpogho" plant.

**aghonghon** [áyǒǒ] *n.* shadow.

**aha** [àhá] *n.* leech.

**ahannoze** [àhànòzé] *n.* a select group; an exclusive group.

**ahẹ** [áhè] *n.* convulsion (typically afflicts infants).

**ahen** [áhè] *n.* sieve.

**ahianmwẹn** [áhyámè] *n.* bird; ahianmwẹn-Osa — "the African Pied wagtail".

**ahio** [àhyó] *n.* urine.

**aho** [àhó] *n.* hoe.

**ahobekun** [àhóbèkú] *n.* state of being lost or irrecoverable.

**ahoemwẹn-egbe** [àhwèmèégbé] *n.* mutual love; caring for each other.

**ahoemwọ̀nọ̀mwan** [àhwèmèjǎjǎ] *n.* love, amity; goodwill.

**ahoo** [àhòó] *n.* goodwill, benevolence.

**ahua** [áhúà] *n.* hawk.

**ahuemwẹn** [àhwémè] *n.* trouble-maker; (also aruemwẹn).

**aibanuafo** [àibǎnǎfòó] *n.* small under-garment worn by men.

**airebaa** [àíébaá] *n.* very potent poison, hence its name which literally means "one-does-not-eat-in-addition-to-it".

**aitalo** [áytàló] *n.* sore-throat (also atalo).



**áka** [ákà] *n.* a common kind of grass snake.

**àka** [àkà] *n.* a shelf over the traditional kitchen hearth used for drying meat and fish and for preserving other ingredients such as crayfish, etc.

**aká** [áká] *n.* trumpet.

**akaba** [àkàbà] *n.* a ritual dance which forms part of the Okhuahe festival.

**Akaeromwon** [ákáéĩǝmǝ] *n.* The Palace Court Jester.

**akasan** [àkàsǎ] *n.* corn pudding, usually dispensed in molds wrapped in special leaves known as ebieba [èbíèbá].

**akanmwundu** [àkǎmǔdù] *n.* a diminutive object. (cf. kanmwan).

**akeegbe** [àkèègbé] *n.* a pretentious person.

**akenni** [àkě̀nì] *n.* ivory (< akon-eni) "elephant's tooth" (cf. akon).

**Akengbuda** [àkě̀gbúdà] *n.* the name of the Oba of Benin who reigned from 1750 to 1803 (Egharevba 1968: p. 74).

**Akenzua** [àkě̀zuà] *n.* the name of two past Obas of Benin: Akenzua I 1713 to 1734 and Akenzua II 1933 to 1978.

**akia** [ákíà] *bound morpheme.* month; it occurs with numerals to express monthly periods of time; e.g. ákiàhá = three-month period; akiaihinrin = nine-month period.

**akiyeye** [ákíyèyé] *n.* foolery, joke.

**áko** [ákò] *n.* a fruit tree (*Dennettia tripetala*), whose fruit is peppery-hot when ripe, and is very popular and

used as a hospitality gift.

**àko** [àkò] *n.* gift parcel; present; (also oko).

**àko** [àkò] *n.* 1. normal location; place  
2. enclosure; bag; case; sheath: àkoomọ  
– "the case for a child": womb.

**akobe** [àkòbè] *n.* metal trap, used mainly for catching small animals such as house mice.

**akobie** [akobyè] *n.* a mud idol moulded in human shape.

**akoomọ** [àkwómọ] *n.* womb (cf. àko).

**akota** [àkòtà] *n.* evening time: from about 4 p.m. to nightfall; akota khuerhe – "late evening".

**akon** [àkǝ] *n.* tooth; akingho (akon-ighó) "milk teeth".

**akosọ** [ákósó] *n.* a thorny creeper (*Uvaria macrotricha*).

**akowe** [àkòwé] *n.* clerk. (cf. Yoruba: akowe).

**akuenrhankuinrri** [àkwéřákwírì] *n.* pupa encased in a shell of twigs and strings.

**akuete** [àkwétè] *n.* 1. something of tremendous size or quality: amẹ akuete ẹre ọ rhore – "It was an extraordinarily heavy rain that fell." 2. the name of a woven fabric made in Ghana.

**akugbe** [àkúgbè] *n.* unity; accord; akugbe nohuanren – "Holy Communion".

**akughagha** [àkúyàyà] *n.* tree bear.

**akuiron** [àkwířǝ] *n.* a dark-brown bird



with fluffy plumage.

**akha** [àxà] *n.* weaver bird.

**akhaen** [àxãẽ] *n.* stinginess.

**akharha** [àxàřà] *n.* crutch; also a euphemism for the genitals.

**akharho** [àxářò] *n.* a variety of monkey.

**akhase** [áxasè] *n.* prophet.

**akhe** [àxé] *n.* a clay pot usually used for drinking water.

**akhie** [àxyè] *n.* mourning.

**akhionkpa** [àxĩõkpa] *n.* loner (also okhionkpa).

**akhonmioto** [àxõmiõtò] *n.* success, fulfilment, victory.

**akhowa** [àxòwà] *n.* 1. night-watchman; security guard. 2. deputy.

**ákhuankhuinsan** [áxwãxwĩsã] *n.* dung-beetle.

**akhuanwa** [áxwãwà] *n.* wall ghecko.

**akhuarhamwunnu** [áxwáramũnú] *n.* lips.

**ákhue<sup>1</sup>** [áxwè] *n.* marble.

**ákhue<sup>2</sup>** [áxwè] *n.* tomorrow.

**àkhue** [àxwé] *n.* wash; bath.

**akhuen** [áxwẽ] *n.* joint.

**akpá** [àkpa] *n.* 1. foetus; 2. spirit.

**akpà** [àkpà] *n.* a foolish person.

**akpakomiza** [àkpàkómizà] *n.* hyena.

**akpakpa** [àkpa'kpa] *n.* spider.

**Akpakpava** [àkpa'kpa'vava] *n.* the name of one of the streets in Benin City, it leads from the Ring Road to Ikpoba Slope.

**akpalakperhan** [àkpàlakpèřá] *n.* Grey woodpecker.

**akpalode** [àkpàlódè] *n.* a belt worn as a protection against evil forces and charms.

**akpan** [àkpá] *n.* baldness; bald head (cf. agbakpan).

**akpannago** [àkpà'nágó] left-handed person.

**akpata** [àkpátá] *n.* an indigenous musical instrument that is played like a harp.

**akpanmwunse** [àkpà'mũsè] *n.* eczema.

**akpannigiakon** [àkpà'nigyakò] *n.* sore-gums; infected gums.

**ákpawè** [àkpáwè] *adv.* "were it that . . ." e.g. akpawè i mwèn igho, i gha dè imoto — "were it that-I-had-money, I-would-buy-a-car: if I had money, I would buy a car."

**akpele** [àkpèlè] *n.* a woman pregnant for the first time.

**akpo** [àkpò] *n.* a nickname for a very short person.

**akpolo** [àkpólò] *n.* a string of beads worn around the waist by girls.

**akpokò** [àkpókó] *n.* a variety of native pepper that's very small and hot.

**Akpòlòkpòlò** [àkpólòkpólò] *n.* one of the praise titles of the Oba of Benin:



Ọmọ n'Ọba n'Edo, Uku Akpọlọkpọlọ.

**alagbode** [àlágbòdè] *n.* the last born of a woman. lit. meaning: "one who passes and blocks the way."

**alaghodaro** [àláyòdárò] *n.* progress; improvement.

**alama** [àlámà] *n.* meddling (cf. igbal-ama).

**alase** [àlásè] *n.* carelessness/irresponsibility: ọ ya igbo fi alase gbe = he-uses-money-make-carelessness excessively i.e. "he is too careless with money."

**alazi** [álázi] *n.* ape.

**alele** [àlélè] *n.* procedure; established way of doing things; (also ilele).

**alele** [álèlè] *n.* a creeper that's mainly used for tying yam.

**alevbe** [àlèvè] *n.* a bat-like night bird that flies only a short distance when stirred.

**alimoi** [àlìmoí] *n.* orange; alimoi-negiere-lime.

**alubarha** [àlùbárá] *n.* onion; (Yoruba: àlùbósà).

**alughaen** [àlúyáē] *n.* difference.

**alumagazi** [àlùmàgázi] *n.* a pair of scissors; (cf. Yoruba: àlùmógàjí) (also ugbeto; etuheru).

**alume** [àlùmè] *n.* a bird.

**alumioghon** [alumi ǝyǝ] *n.* the smooth-skinned lizard, which is also smaller than the normal lizard.

**ama**<sup>1</sup> [ámǎ] *n.* 1. mark: ọ vin ama yọ — "he drew a mark on it"; 2. sign,

symbol: ama emwin nodee ọna khin (the sign of thing coming this is) "this is a sign of things to come."

**ama**<sup>2</sup> [ámǎ] *n.* a bronze or brass casting: Iran sa ọre ye ama — "They cast it in bronze/brass." i.e. "They immortalized it."

**amame** [ámǎmē] *adj.* watery: uwonmwẹn amame ẹre ọ lee — It was a watery soup that she cooked. (cf. ame).

**amaze** [ámazè] *n.* carved or moulded figurines in a shrine.

**ameda** [ámédà] *n.* rain-water (collected from a drainage tunnel on a roof, or as it flows down the roof). (cf. ame; eda).

**amerhen** [áméřè] *n.* hot water (cf. ame; erhen).

**ameve** [ámévè] *n.* tears (cf. evé).

**ame** [ámè] *n.* 1. water. 2. rain: ame rho — "Rain is falling". 3. liquid: ọ de ame — "It has liquified". 4. juice: ame alimoi — "orange juice".

**ameme** [ámèmmè] *n.* a tree whose leaves have sandy surfaces like sandpaper. (cf. ebameme), and is usually used for polishing wooden surfaces.

**ameze** [ámèzè] *n.* stream water (believed to be very cool): Ọ furre vbe ameze — "It is cool like stream water".

**amiekue** [ámýèkwè] *n.* concession; admission as accurate or true.

**amivin** [ámívi] *n.* coconut milk.

**amolokun** [ámólókũ] *n.* sea-water. (cf. Olokun).



**amogba** [àmǒgbà] *n.* pipe-borne water.

**amuetinyan** [àmwétĩyǎ] *n.* faith, trust.

**amufi** [àmũfì] *n.* acrobats who used to perform at the *isiokuo* ceremony.

**amunu** [àmũnú] *n.* verbal abuse or insult.

**amuro** [àmũrò] *n.* sympathy, consideration.

**amurhukpa** [àmũrùkpà] *n.* kerosine.

**amwenbo** [ámjèbó] *n.* favourite wife.

**amwen** [ámjè] *n.* 1. female; 2. wife.

**amwonba** [ámjǒbá] *n.* 1. wife of the Oba of Benin (also *oloi*); 2. wife of a ruler.

**anini** [áníní] *n.* an old Nigerian coin that was worth  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a Kobo.

**apientisi** [ápýé̃tisi] *n.* 1. apprentice driver. 2. apprentice in general. (cf. Engl.).

**araba** [árábà] *n.* 1. rubber. 2. plastic wares (cf. Engl.).

**áranmwèn** [áǎmǎ] *n.* tongue.

**àranmwèn** [àǎmǎ] *n.* 1. animal, usually wild rather than domestic. 2. game meat.

**arebun** [àrébù] *n.* a variety of white yam.

**arevbukhu** [árèvúxù] *n.* inheritance; heritage; legacy (cf. ukhu).

**areken** [àrèkè] *n.* a variety of snake that feeds on eggs.

**arenren** [áǎrǎ] *n.* priggishly professing to know.

**arigheghan** [arigeyǎ] *n.* a painful swelling in the groin region.

**áro** [áró] *n.* dye; indigo dye: ọ rhuan ukpon áro — She is wearing a cloth that has been dipped in indigo dye.

**àro** [àrò] *n.* 1. eye; 2. face: ọ gbe orhue ye àro — She rubbed chalk on her face. 3. front or right side: Ọ mu ukpon aro daa iyeke — She turned the front side of the cloth to the back. 4. variety; kind: àro ughughan — “different kinds”.

**aroegbe** [àrwégbè] *n.* a matching set; things of the same kind.

**aroewu** [àrwéwù] *n.* hearth.

**aroerimwin** [àrwéřimǎ] *n.* 1. the shrine at which the rites of erimwin (the ancestors) are performed. 2. (idiom) the brink of death: Emianmwene ọ khuonmwini kiekie naa, aroerimwin ere a ke na ya wolo ere rhie ladian — “This sickness that afflicted him lately, it was from the brink of death that he was saved.”

**aroete** [àrwétè] *n.* the surface of an ulcer.

**aroirofikhoewerrie**  
[àrwířofyéxǒéwèřiyè] *n.* repentance (lit: one-thinks-thought-changes-mind.)

**arookpa** [àrwókpá] *adj.* of the same kind: àro okpa “one variety”; arookpa eveva khin — “both are of the same kind”.

**arooma** [àrwómà] *n.* good fortune àro oma: face (of) goodness: “T’u ghamię arooma: “May you find good fortune.”



**arobemwen** [àròvéṃḗ] *n.* greed (aro + vbe-mwen: "eye – wideness": o mwen arovemwen gbe – "he is too greedy.")

**arowa** [àròwà] *n.* 1. master, boss. 2. husband.

**aro** [àrò] *n.* cripple; paralysed person.

**arokpa** [àròkpá] *n.* oneness; solidarity.

**Arúkhọ** [àrúxò] *n.* name of the ill-treated wife of Ogiso in Edo folklore.

**arherhe** [árèrè] *n.* gentle persuasion, coaxing.

**arhiema** [àryémà] *n.* demonstration, proof.

**arhiokpaegbe** [àryókpaègbé] *n.* resurrection; (Christian sense) Easter.

**Arhuanràn** [àrwáṛà] *n.* name of the historic giant sized brother of Oba Esigie.

**arhuaro** [àrwá[ò] *n.* a blind person (cf. afuozu).

**arhue** [àrwè] *n.* circumcision.

**arhunmwun** [àrúmú] *n.* individual person: arhunmwun-ókpa – "one person" (also orhunmwun).

**arhunmwonto** [àrúmòtò] *n.* viper.

**arra** [àrá] *n.* a variety of green caterpillar, typically found underneath leaves, and causes extreme irritation of the skin when one comes into contact with it.

**arrale** [áralè] *n.* a busybody; a gossip.

**arriana** [àryánà] *n.* this life, as opposed to the previous or the next re-incarna-

tion.

**arre** [árè] *n.* tradition; cultural history: emwin-arre – historical event.

**arria** [àryá] *num.* bound variant of uri (200) which occurs in multiples of 200: arriagbe – 2,000 (i.e. 200 × 10).

**arriaisen** [àryáísè] *num.* one thousand. arriaisen-arriaisen – "one million".

**arriavbehe** [àryávèhé] *n.* next reincarnation.

**arrianusin** [àriánúsí] *n.* the previous life (i.e. before the present one).

**arrioba** [àryóbá] *n.* kingdom; government.

**arriokpa** [àryókpa] *n.* the colourful tail feather of a rooster.

**arriukpa** [àryúkpa] *n.* a variety of moth that hovers around lamps at night.

**arron** [àrõ] *n.* a flaky skin disease that affects domestic animals such as goats and sheep.

**asa** [àsá] *n.* shield.

**asaka** [àsákà] *n.* a variety of large black ant that troops in a single file and stings when encountered. It also gives off a very strong smell when squashed. asaka-nokhiokpa [àsákà-nókhiókpa] a variety of black ant that goes singly. It typically has a painful sting.

**asan** [ásá] *n.* cane, usually used for flogging people or animals.

**asanikaro** [àsànikà[ò] *n.* pioneer.

**asanmwonto** [àsàmòtò] *n.* a variety



of brown ants that troops in large numbers, and typically collects over greasy surfaces and left-over foods in garbage dumps.

**ase** [àsé] *n.* state of being in the right in a case or a quarrel – Ozo ọ rri-ase vbe emwen naa – “Ozo is in the right in this case.”

**asefen** [àsèfè] *n.* the sides of the human body.

**aseza** [ásézà] *n.* soldier; (possibly from English: soldier); warrior (also ovbi-iyokuo).

**áse** [ásé] *n.* 1. proximity; environ – áse ni ọ rhie ere yi – “It is *around that place* that he put it”; áse ni ọ na ru ere – “It was *around that time* that he did it.”

**àse** [àsé] *n.* authority.

**asegie** [áségyé] *n.* iron rod used by farmers for harvesting yam.

**asele** [ásèlé] *n.* cricket (also osele).

**asen** [àsè] *n.* saliva.

**asese** [ásèsé] *n.* a bird: robin.

**asimo** [ásímó] *n.* a nickname for a very lean person.

**asokito** [ásòkító] *n.* hospital (cf. English: hospital) (variant forms are: asikito; ọsupito; etc).

**asokosagba** [ásókósàgbà] *n.* a bikini-type underwear.

**asologun** [àsólógú] *n.* xylophone.

**asoro** [ásóró] *n.* a spear.

**asoso** [ásósó] *n.* a wild fruit that's very

sweet, borne by a local plant known as *ebièba*.

**ason** [àsó] *n.* night.

**asua** [àswá] *n.* bad luck.

**asuen** [áswè] *n.* a shrub (*Carpolobia lutea*) whose wood is used for making the native harp, *akpata* [ákpátá].

**asukpe** [àsùkpè] *n.* hiccups.

**ata** [átá] *n.* a variety of monkey.

**atabatibo** [àtàbàtibó] *n.* something that has developed or has been extended out of proportion: Ọ ya mwen emwen khian atabatibo – “He has turned my words into an incredible exaggeration; i.e., he has exaggerated my words beyond recognition.”

**ataighimua** [àtáiyimwǎ] *n.* a final resolution (a-ta-ai-ghi-mua) – “that which is said and is not to be debated.

**ataikpin** [àtàikpì] *n.* a variety of snake, which is like a boa, but of a smaller variety.

**Atakparhakpa** [àtàkparákpa] *n.* 1. name of the legendary rogue who was reputed to be a most skillful robber: Atakparhakpa ne ogie-oyi – “Atakparhakpa, the chief of robbers.” 2. nickname for a thief.

**atalakpa** [àtálàkpà] *n.* leopard.

**atalo** [átaló] *n.* sore-throat (also aitalo).

**atanunuyan** [àtánùnúyǎ] *n.* a nickname for a very talkative person (a-ta-ne-unu-yan): “one who talks till (his) mouth tires.”

**atata-** [átátá] *bd. n.* surface, as in atata-obo – palm (i.e. surface of hand);



- atata-owe -- "sole of the feet."
- atauvbi [àtàuvi] *n.* the period just before sunset, characterized by the warm glow of the setting sun.
- ateete [átèètè] *n.* grasshopper.
- ate [àtɛ́] *n.* displayed merchandize, traditionally on cane trays (atete) in the market place.
- atete [àtètè] *n.* the traditional cane tray on which merchandize, such as pepper, crayfish, etc., is displayed in measured portions for sale in the market place.
- atiebi [àtyèbi] *n.* a large insect that typically makes its characteristic calls at dusk; hence its name, which literally means: "caller of darkness".
- atimakasa [àtimàkàsà] *n.* antimacassar a crotched covering thrown over chairs and other pieces of furniture as protection from grease or as an ornament. (cf. English).
- atita [àtítá] *n.* childish term for "meat".
- ato [àtó] *n.* grassy plain; savana.
- atorhi [àtòrì] *n.* gonorrhoea.
- atowo [àtòwò] *n.* whitlow on the finger, believed to be caused by the poison of the caterpillar, *isue*.
- atugien [àtùgỹɛ́] *n.* a variety of monkey.
- ava [àvá] *n.* wooden or iron wedge used for splitting wood.
- avan [àvã] *n.* 1. afternoon; 2. daylight (as opposed to ason — night-time).
- aván [àvã́] *n.* thunder and lightning; also avan-nukhunmwun.
- avien [àvĩɛ́] *n.* clitoris.
- avbe [ávɛ́] *spec.* 1. it precedes nouns or pronominals in the plural to express specificity: avbe ikpia nii — "those particular men"; Vs. ikpia nii — "those men"; avbe iran — "those ones" Vs. iran — "they". 2. serves as an optional plural marker with nouns, esp. those that do not mark plural morphologically: iyan nii — that yam or those yams; avbe iyan nii — those yams.
- Avbiana [àvĩámá] *n.* the name of an Edo-Speaking village.
- avbie [àvviɛ́] *n.* few or of limited quantity: igbo ne o mwèn — i-re avbie — "the money that he has is limitless".
- avbiere [àvviàtɛ́] *n.* 1. a coward; a weak person.
- àwa [àwá] *n.* dog (also ekita; ovbiakota).
- áwa [áwà] *n.* hour (cf. Engl. hour).
- awan [àwã́] *n.* tongs.
- awanwan [áwãwã́] *n.* brightness, light.
- awarokpa [àwàtókpa] *adv.* immediately; at once (also owarokpa).
- áwe [áwɛ́] *n.* a large bird with a tuft on its head.
- àwe [àwè] *n.* a fast, usually associated with the Muslim religion.
- awua [àwwà] *n.* taboo.
- awuekia [àwwékyà] *n.* impotent man.
- ayaengbomwan [àyáégbòmã́] *n.* independence (in the political sense);



2. freedom from apprenticeship.

**aye** [áyé] *n.* world.

**ayegbema** [àyégbémà] *n.* self-betrayal.

**ayegbemie** [àyégbemǝ̃] *n.* endurance.

**ayere** [àyèrè] *n.* memoriam; remembrance.

**ayi** [áyì] *n.* creation; nature.

**ayighe** [áyíǝ̃] *n.* a weakling; also ayinghen.

**ayinto** [àǝ̃ítò] *n.* (a-yin-to) – “dwelling with longevity” a traditional greeting expressed to somebody who has just completed either the foundation of a residence or the entire building, to wish him long life.

**ayo** [áyò] *n.* the norm; the usual moderation; it is usually preceded by the comparative verb *see*: ọ rhięrhieę see ayo – it is sweet surpassing moderation, i.e. “it is extremely sweet”.

**ayenho** [àyéhò] *n.* 1. a deaf person; 2. (idiom) a stubborn person.

**àyon** [àyǝ̃] *n.* 1. wine; 2. beverage; 3. alcoholic drink.

**áyon** [áyǝ̃] *n.* black rubber tree.

**ayonni** [áyǝ̃nǝ̃] *n.* pressing iron (cf. English: iron).

**aza** [ázà] *n.* 1. store-room in the house; 2. bank.

**azagba** [àzàgbà] *n.* the open; a public place: ghe talo emwen mwen se azagba – “don’t announce my affairs to the open, i.e. keep my affairs secret.”

**Azama** [ázámà] *n.* the name of a deity of the Oba, said to have been an historic royal courtier.

**azanna** [ázǝ̃nǝ̃] *n.* boar (bush and domestic).

**azebe** [ázébè] *n.* library (aza ebe) “bank of books”.

**aze** [ázé] *n.* fee; contribution; levy.

**azen** [ázé] *n.* witch.

**azi** [ázì] *n.* adze (cf. Engl.).

**azigan** [ázìgǝ̃] *n.* jigger (cf. English: jigger).

**ázigho** [ázíyó] *n.* (aza-ígho) “store of money”: commercial bank.

**àzigho** [ázíyò] *n.* stag beetle.

## B

**ba<sup>1</sup>** [bá] *v.b.* to watch; to guard: gha ba ere ne e ghe le fua – “keep watching it so that it does not run off”.

**ba<sup>2</sup>** [bá] *v.b.* 1. to do something steal-

thily: te o ba la owa ere i ma na hon – “he sneaked into the house, and that is why I did not hear him”. 2. to walk lifelessly, as if from weakness.



**ba**<sup>3</sup> [bá] *aux.* to pretend to be doing something; to fake: Te o ba vie – “He is pretending to cry” (also ma).

**baa**<sup>1</sup> [bàá] *vb.* 1. to be red or orange; 2. to be brightly coloured. 3. to shine, e.g. of the moon; to be lit (of lamps & other sources of light).

**baa**<sup>2</sup> [bàá] *vb.* 1. to implant a straight object into something, mostly into the ground; to thrust: o baa erhan ye otọ – “he stuck a stick into the ground”. 2. (idiomatic) (withohoghoi): to pin on, to attribute to: o baa mwẹn ohoghoi – “he pinned lies on me; i.e., he told lies against me.”

**baa**<sup>3</sup> [bàá] *vb.* to be difficult, arduous.

**baa**<sup>4</sup> [bàá] *vb.* 1. (with emwẹn) to twist; to alter: o baa mwẹn emwẹn – “he twisted my words: he lied against me”.

**baa**<sup>5</sup> [bàá] *vb. part.* (usually with vbs. such as *rhie, mu, viọ*, etc.) to add to: rhie ona baa oni – “take this to add to that; i.e. add this to that”.

**baa**<sup>6</sup> [bàá] *adv. compltz.* for the sake of; because of: o gbee mwẹn baa emwẹn ruẹn – “he beat me because of your affair: he beat me because of you.”

**baan** [bãã] *vb.* to abstain from; to give up something; to stop doing something.

**baba**<sup>1</sup> [bàbá] *vb.* plural or reiterative sense of **baa**<sup>3</sup> i.e. to implant several objects or to implant the same object repeatedly: o baba erhan lele otọ – “he stuck sticks along the ground”.

**baba**<sup>2</sup> [bàbá] *vb.* reiterative sense of **ba**<sup>1</sup> above; i.e. to watch repeatedly; to spy on continuously: gha baba ere ne o ghe le fua – “keep watching it

so that it does not run off.”

**baba**<sup>3</sup> [bàbá] *vb.* to grope; to feel about as one does in the dark.

**ba igban** [bàigbã] *vb.* (idiom) to proclaim a woman as the wife of the Oba of Benin: iran baa uvbi nii igban – “they declared that young woman a wife of the Oba.”

**ba ku** [bàkú] *vb.* 1. to make a mistake, to miss; in the Christian sense – to transgress; to sin.

**balọ**<sup>1</sup> [bàlọ] *vb.* to be painful; to hurt.

**balọ**<sup>2</sup> [bàlọ] *vb.* 1. to scoop liquid with a small container; 2. to spill; to pour out.

**ban** [bã] *vb.* 1. to peel off; 2. to separate forcibly: o gha banikpakpa re fua – “he will peel the skin off”.

**banbaan** [bãbãã] *adv.* immediately; right now. (also: banbanna and banbanbanban).

**banno** [bãń] *vb.* plural or reiterative sense of **ban**: e.g. to peel off several slices; or two or more people peel off something.

**bebe** [bèbé] *vb.* 1. to be mischievously overactive; troublesome (usually of children): ovbokhan na bebe gbe – “This child is too troublesome.” 2. adventurous.

**begbe** [bègbé] *vb.* (< ba egbe) to be self-protective; to be on one’s guard.

**bebuu** [bèbúù] *vb.* child language expression meaning “to lie down”.

**beẹ**<sup>1</sup> [bèé] *vb.* to slice: beẹ iyan nii ye akhe – “slice that yam into the pot (and cook it)”.



**bẹẹ<sup>2</sup>** [bèé] *vb.* (with ọgọ) to tap (palm wine); to collect and store away. (cf: ọbọgọ; bọgọ).

**bẹbẹbẹ** [bébéébé] *adj.* (used with the verb *ye*): very large extensive; nene akhe ye bẹbẹbẹ – “the pot is extremely large.”

**bẹghe** [bèyèé] *vb.* to see; to sight: I bẹghe ẹre vbe ọ dee – “I saw him as he was approaching”. (cf: deghee).

**bekun** [bèkū] *adv.* 1. (usually with vbs such as ru; bọ; re, etc.) – incompletely: ọ bọ owa nii bekun serae ye evba – “he built that house half-way and left it there”. 2. (usually with the vb. hoo: “to look for”) abortively; unsuccessfully: iran hoo ẹre bekun – “they searched for him unsuccessfully; i.e. he is nowhere to be found”.

**bẹlẹ** [bèlè] *vb.* plural reiterative sense of bẹẹ<sup>1</sup>: to cut into several slices; or for several people to engage in slicing.

**bẹtẹ** [bètè] *adj.* (usually introduced with the vb: *ye*) fat; stocky; chubby: ovbi-ẹre ye bẹtẹ – “her child is chubby.”

**bẹtẹbẹtẹ** [bètèbètè] *adj. pl.* sense of bẹtẹ: ivbi-ẹre ye bẹtẹbẹtẹ – “her children are all chubby.”

**bẹtẹẹ** [bètèé] *adj.* (usually introduced with the vb. *ye*) very large; expansive: eki ni ye bẹtẹẹ – “that market is very large.”

**bemwẹn** [bé mɛ̃] *vb.* to stammer.

**bi<sup>1</sup>** [bí] *vb.* 1. to shove, to push: bi ẹre hin ode rre – “push it out of the way”. 2. (idiomatic) to be moved by; to be of concern to; (usually occurs in negative clauses): ẹmwẹn ọnrẹn ma bi mwẹn – “His affairs are not of any

concern to me”. (cf. kaan).

**bi<sup>2</sup>** [bí] *vb.* to vomit: ọ bii ukhunmwun nii hia kua – “He vomitted all that medicine out”. (cf. kpa).

**bi<sup>3</sup>** [bí] *vb.* 1. to be dark in shade or colour: ukpon naa ẹre ọ bi sẹ ọnii – “This cloth is darker than that one.” 2. (with amẹ) to threaten; to be imminent: amẹ bi – “Rain is threatening” (that is, there are dark clouds in the sky). 3. (with certain fruits, such as orunmwun; orhurhu; etc.): to be ripe; to be ready-to-eat: orunmwun naa bi nẹ – “This pear is ripe.”

**bian** [biǎ] *vb.* to slice off a strip.

**bibi<sup>1</sup>** [bibí] *vb.* to grope; to roam aimlessly (cf. bibi-ode).

**bibi<sup>2</sup>** [bibí] *vb.* to be foolish; to be stupid: ú bibi – “you are stupid.”

**bibiode** [bybiòdè] *vb.* to get lost; to go astray (bibi (vb) + ode – road).

**biegbe** [byègbé] *vb.* to give way; to dock.

**biẹ** [byé] *vb.* 1. to give birth; 2. to have children (as opposed to being barren); 3. to have off-shoots (with plants such as *iyán* or *igari*).

**bigọọ** [bigòó] *vb.* to be crooked; curved or bent; not straight: erhan na bigọọ – “This tree is crooked.”

**bigọbigọbigọ** [bigóbìgòbigó] *adj.* (usually introduced by the vb. *ye*): very crooked.

**bigbe** [bigbé] *vb.* to shut; to close.

**bii** [bií] *vb.* to stab; to jab with a pointed object: ọ ya opia bii ẹre –



“He stabbed him with a knife.”

**bobo** [bòbó] *vb.* to run anxiously back and forth (like a hen about to lay an egg); to wander aimlessly.

**bode** [bòdɛ́] *vb.* to stand guard (ba<sup>1</sup> + ode – road).

**bolo** [bòló] *vb.* to peel (skin), to strip off: ọ́ bolo alimo – “he peeled the orange.”

**bọ<sup>1</sup>** [bó] *vb.* to build; construct: ọ́ bọ egedege: “he built a storey-house.”

**bọ<sup>2</sup>** [bó] *vb.* 1. to predict; to tell one's fortune: ọ́bo bọ me – “the native-doctor told me my fortune.” 2. to consult a fortune-teller or native doctor: i khian ya bọ yọ – “I am going to consult a native-doctor on the matter.”

**bọ<sup>3</sup>** [bó] *vb.* to be favourable to; to be good for (usually in proper names such as Isibọ; Edobọ; etc.).

**bọlọzọ** [bòlòzò] *adj.* (introduced with the *vb.* ye) chubby; pleasingly fat and healthy-looking: ọ́mọ ni ye bọlọzọ – “that child looks nice and chubby.”

**bọnmwẹn<sup>1</sup>** [bòṃwɛ́] *vb.* 1. to drop in small pieces, or granular form; to flake off: iku ehẹn esọ bọnmwẹn kua – “some small pieces flaked off from the fish.” 2. to winnow. 3. to shake off dust or dirt from a surface: bọnmwẹn aga nii u ke tota yọ – “dust that chair before you sit on it.”

**bọnmwẹn<sup>2</sup>** [bòṃwɛ́] *vb.* (usually with verbs such as rhie, mu, kpao, dee, etc.) to do swiftly; to do briskly; to whisk off: ọ́ bọnmwẹn kpao – “She left briskly”.

**bọọ** [bòó] *vb.* to console; to cheer up

(usually a child who has been crying).

**bọon** [bòǒ] *vb.* (of wearing apparel) to lift, to raise up: bọon ukpon – “to raise up cloth (thereby revealing what lies below).”

**bọọzi** [bòòzì] *adj.* (usually introduced with the *vb.* ye) big and long; larger than normal size.

**buan** [bũǎ] *adv.* sufficiently; in more than enough quantity or value: ọ́ winna buan – “he worked sufficiently or hard enough.”

**bubu** [bùbú] *vb.* 1. (usually with verbs like kpaegbe; tota; kpao, etc.); to move in an awkwardly brisk manner: ọ́ bubuu kpaegbe: “he got up in an awkwardly brisk manner.” 2. to be awkward; clumsy.

**bue** [bùé] *vb.* to stay long; to linger: ghẹ bue vbe ẹki-o – “don't linger at the market.” iran buere – “they stayed long”.

**bukpe** [búkpɛ] *excl.* formula of thanks expressed by females to their elders after a meal; it is also used as a greeting to an older person who sneezes.

**bun** [bũ] *vb.* 1. to be plentiful; to be numerous: ẹvbo bun vbe odoọ: “people are plentiful over there.” 2. *vb.* (usually with the *adv.* gbe) to be much with: iku bun ẹnřen gbe: “he is too fond of playing – he plays too much.”

**bunno** [bũnǒ] *vb.* plural or reiterative sense of buun: aberhan bunno kue oto – “Tree branches have broken off on the ground”.

**buu<sup>1</sup>** [bùú] *vb.* 1. to go toward; to approach something/somebody; to meet or join: Ọ buu erhae – “He



went to meet his father.” 2. to approximate or approach in size or value: *ona buu onii* – “This one approaches that one in value”. 3. to deposit money toward; to make a down-payment on.

**buu**<sup>2</sup> [bùú] *vb.* 1. to settle (e.g. a case): *Ọ buu ohien ne iran* – “He settled the case for them.” 2. to decide on something; to fix (e.g. a date): *ọ buu ede ne iran* – “He fixed a date for them (i.e. He gave them an appoint-

ment).”

**buu**<sup>3</sup> [bùú] *vb.* 1. to found; to establish: *Ọ kperere ne a ghi buu eybo nii* – “It is a long time since that town was founded. 2. to assemble for a meeting; to meet as a group.

**buun**<sup>1</sup> [bũũ] *vb.* to break; to snap.

**buun**<sup>2</sup> [bũũ] *vb.* to confess to adultery by a woman.

## D

**da**<sup>1</sup> [dá] *vb.* (usually with *obo* as subj.) to affect severely; to feel gravely: *obo ohanmwen da re* – “The hand of hunger was severe on him; i.e. he starved.” 2. (with *ame*) to fall heavily: *Ame na wa da* – “This rain fell very heavily”.

**da**<sup>2</sup> [dá] *vb.* to rouse a feeling of longing; to cause to desire: *Emwen ose mwen da mwen* – “The thoughts of my friends rouse a feeling of longing in me.

**da**<sup>3</sup> [dá] *vb.* to be stingy with; to hold precious: *igho da okpia na gbe* – “This man is very stingy with money.”

**da**<sup>4</sup> [dá] *vb.* to drink (especially alcoholic drinks).

**da**<sup>5</sup> [dá] *adv.* indicates that an action has just been begun or completed; or that it has just taken place: *Te Ozo da rre na.* – “Ozo has only just arrived.”

**da**<sup>6</sup> [dá] *adv.* (usually with expression vbs. such as *tie, van, go*, etc.): loudly:

*Ọ da tie ere* – “He called loudly for him”.

**daa**<sup>1</sup> [dàá] *vb.* to treat with respect and consideration: *Ọ daa ne erhae gbe* – “He treats his father with deference.” (hence *Adaa* – name of a person).

**daa**<sup>2</sup> [dàá] *vb.* (with *obo*) to stretch out toward; *ọ daa obo nee* – “he stretched out (his) hands for him – i.e. as though to pick him up”.

**daa** [dàá] *vb.* (with *ame*) to collect rain water dropping from the roof: *laho, daa ame me* – “Please collect some rain-water for me.”

**daa** [dàá] *vb. part.* toward: *mu aro daa mwen* – “turn (your) face toward me.”

**dabadogun** [dàbàdógù] *n.* a tree, *Parinarium*.

**dada** [dàdá] *vb.* to haul by hand (usually involving more than one person). *Iran dada re laọ owa* – “they



hauled it into the house.”

**daeho** [daeho] *vb.* – to anticipate;  
to expect.

**dagben** [dǎgbě] *vb.* – to be accurate;  
to fall into line.

**dame** [dámě] *vb.* to become liquified.

**dan** [dǎǎ] *adj.* bad, evil: omwan dan  
no – “He is an evil person”.

**dandaandan** [dǎdǎǎdǎ] *adv.* exactly;  
precisely (of time or location).

**danmwenho** [dǎmǎhó] *vb.* 1. to listen:  
laho danmwenho mwen – “Please,  
listen to me.” 2. to obey; to heed.

**danmwen** [dǎmǎ] *vb.* 1. to taste some-  
thing; 2. to test; to try out.

**dayi** [dáyí] *vb.* 1. to hold; to grip;  
to retain. 2. to withhold; to prevent:  
Iwinna ere o da mwen yi ne i ma na  
se eke ne u ye – “It was work that  
prevented me from coming to your  
place.”

**dayon** [dáyǒ] *vb.* to drink wine or  
any alcoholic drink. (cf. da<sup>4</sup>).

**de**<sup>1</sup> [dé] *vb.* 1. to fall: Ovbokhan nii  
dee – “That child fell.” 2. to be  
epileptic.

**de**<sup>2</sup> [dé] *vb.* to result in; to arise or  
follow as consequence: Ezo de igbinna  
ne iran – “The quarrel resulted in a  
fight between them.” 2. to come  
about; to happen: vbe ezọ na a ya  
de he? – “How did this quarrel come  
about?”

**dè**<sup>3</sup> [dè] *inter. pron.* what? which? as  
in:  
deghe? (< de eghẹ) – “what time?  
when?”

dehe? (< de ehe) – “what place?:  
where?”

devbene? (< de evbene) – “what  
manner?: how?”

demwin? (< de emwin) – “what  
thing?: what?”

doghe? (< de oghe) – “whose?”

donwan? (< de omwan) – “who”. etc.

**debaa** [dèbàá] *vb.* 1. to join with; to  
mix with. 2. to support; to side with.  
3. (in the religious sense): to bless.

**dede** [dèdé] *vb.* to embrace.

**dee**<sup>1</sup> [dèé] *vb.* to hold in a leash; dee  
ewe nii ne e ghe leẹ fua – “Hold that  
goat in a leash so that it won’t escape.”

**dee**<sup>2</sup> [dèé] *vb.* 1. to approach; to be  
in the process of coming; Oten mwen  
dee vbe ode “My sister is approaching  
down the road”; 2. to indicate that  
referent will be available in a short  
while: o dee ne o do tuọ – “He will  
soon come to greet you.”

**deghe**<sup>1</sup> [dégɛ] *conj.* if.: deghe u yo,  
u gha mioen – “if you go, you will  
see it.”

**deghe**<sup>2</sup> [dégɛ] *inter part.* an interroga-  
tive marker requiring a ‘Yes’ or ‘No’  
answer: Q: Deghe u mioen? Ans. Eo,  
i ma mioen; or Een, i mioen – Q:  
“Did you see it? Ans No, I did not  
see it; or Yes, I saw it.”

**dekaan** [dèkǎǎ] *vb.* to touch; to come  
in contact with: abọ ukpon onren  
dekaan mwen – “The tip of her cloth  
touched me.”

**dekee** [dèkèé] *vb.* to remain; to be left-  
over. (also dekerre).

**dekuun** [dèkũũ] *vb.* to collide with; to  
bump into: Iran dekuun egbe vbe ode  
– “They bumped into each other on



the way.”

**demu** [dè mú] *vb.* to pertain to; to concern.

**dele** [dè lé] *vb.* plural or reiterative sense of *de*<sup>1</sup>.

**de** [dè] *vb.* to buy: *o de evbare vbe ebuka* – “He bought some food at the canteen.”

**deghe** [dè yé] *vb.* to see; to sight: *I deghe ere vbe obo ore* – “I sighted it in his hands.”

**dia**<sup>1</sup> [diá] *vb.* to be located at; to reside at: *Edo ere i dia* – “I resided in Benin City”.

**dia**<sup>2</sup> [diá] *vb.* to menstruate.

**dia** [dyá] *vb.* 1. to be straight: *úkpó naa diae* – “This road is straight.”  
2. *dia* [diá] to straighten, to make straight; *dia erhan na me* – “straighten this stick for me.”

**diake** [dyà ké] *vb.* to be located close to; to stay with; *Diake omọ me ne i ya gięgię khue* – “Stay with the child for me while I go quickly to bathe.”

**diakhee** [dyà xé] *vb.* to wait for: *Diakhe mwen* – “Wait for me”.

**dido** [di dò] *vb.* 1. to be large; expansive: *ukpon na dido* – “this cloth is very wide.” 2. to be mature; experienced with age; strong: *erhan na dido ne* – “This tree has achieved full maturity.”

**dię** [di ě] *vb.* to be senior to; to be older than: *Reņ o dię mwen* – “He is older than me.”

**digie** [di gyé] *vb.* to become firmly established.

**digien** [di gỹé] *vb.* to squat.

**digue** [di gwé] *vb.* to kneel down.

**digba** [di gbà] *vb.* to be big; large; extensive – *Ugbo ere digba see oghomwen* – “His farm is larger than mine.”

**dihoi** [di hoì] *vb.* to become nothing; become worthless or useless; to fail.

**dikhuekhue** [di xwè xwé] *vb.* to be dwarfed.

**din**<sup>1</sup> [di] *vb.* to be brave; to be bold.

**din**<sup>2</sup> [di] *vb.* to be hoarse – *urhu mwen din ne eve* – “My voice is hoarse from crying.”

**dinmwin**<sup>1</sup> [di mĩ] *vb.* 1. to be deep; 2. to be complex; 3. (of Edo) to be idiomatic: *Edo na dinmwin* – “This Edo speech is deep; i.e., very idiomatic.”

**dinmwin**<sup>2</sup> [di mĩ] *vb.* to dip into liquid: *O dinmwin ukpu ye uwu akhe-amę* – “He dipped the cup into the water pot.”

**dinmwindinmwin** [di mĩ di mĩ] *adj.* (usually introduced by the verb *ye*) very deep.

**dinna** [di nã] *vb.* to reach; to arrive at: *Eghe dinna egogo eha ne* – “Time has reached 3 o'clock already.”

**divu** [di vú] *vb.* (of seed-yam only) to rot and germinate.

**diyi** [di yi] *vb.* 1. (used as a curse) to become an outcast; to be denounced. *Te u gha diyi* – “May you be denounced.” 2. (< *de*<sup>1</sup> + *iyi*): “to contravene a rule or law”; to commit a breach.

**diyęndiyę** [di yě di yě] *adj.* clumsy in



shape or motion.

**dizigha** [díziá] *vb.* to commit murder.

**do**<sup>1</sup> [dó] *vb.* to weave: ọ guẹ okhuae ne a do. – “He knows how to weave a basket.”

**do**<sup>2</sup> [dó] *vb.* 1. (of a gathering or an occasion) to hold: iran gha do iko vbe Edo – “They are holding a meeting in Benin.” 2. to be in full session (e.g. of eki): Eki do vbe odo – “The market is in full session overthere.”

**do**<sup>3</sup> [dó] *vb.* to move restively: Ọ gha do yo do rre – “He is moving back and forth.”

**do**<sup>4</sup> [dó] *adv.* stealthily; secretly: Ọ do ta ma ren – “She told him secretly.”

**doboyi** [dòbóyì] *vb.* to stop; to terminate: Iran we ne Ozo doboyi vbe iwinna – “They said that Ozo should stop at work; i.e. Ozo was terminated at work.” (cf. da-yi).

**dodia** [dòdyá] *vb.* to stay quietly; to live peacefully.

**doeki** [dwéki] *vb.* to trade.

**dogaa** [dògáá] *vb.* to surround; to encircle.

**domia** [dòmǎ] *vb.* 1. to toss and roll about uncomfortably: Ọ gha domia vbe ukpo vba – “He is tossing about overthere on the bed.” 2. to wander aimlessly; to drift: Te ọ ghara domia khian vbe uwu agbon. “He was just wandering about aimlessly in the world.”

**domu** [dòmú] *vb.* to carry secretly; to steal (a large or heavy object).

**doo**<sup>1</sup> [dóó] *int.* an informal greeting,

equivalent to “hello”, expressed between peers, or by an older or senior person to a younger or junior one. The plural form, wa doo!, is usually used by an older person to two or more younger people. It is also used by an adult visitor to announce his presence in a house.

**doo**<sup>2</sup> [dóó] *vb.* an expression inviting somebody to do something: Doo tota! – “Come and sit down.”

**doo**<sup>3</sup> [dóó] *adv.* serves as a sequential marker in a narrative or discourse: iran ghi se evba, iran na doo tue evbo hia; iran na doo tota . . . – “when they got there, they then greeted everybody; they then sat down.”

**dorhie** [doryé] *vb.* to steal.

**dovbe** [dòvé] *vb.* to toss about in sleep.

**dọlo**<sup>1</sup> [dòló] *vb.* 1. to repeat; to do again (also dọlegbe): Ọ dọlo boe – “He built it again.”

**dọlo**<sup>2</sup> [dòló] *vb.* to rub a mud floor or wall with the traditional muddy solution.

**dọlo**<sup>3</sup> [dòló] *vb.* (with ukpon): to sew: Ọ ya emasini dọlo ukpon mwèn – “He sewed my cloth by machine.”

**dọlo**<sup>4</sup> [dòló] *vb.* to reconcile; to make up after a quarrel: Iran dọlo ne vbe ezo ne iran te gha gui – “They have reconciled after the quarrel that they had.”

**dọloyi** [dòlòyí] *vb.* 1. to repair; to mend: Ọ dọlo ikeke mwèn yi – “He repaired my bicycle.” 2. to take care of; to arrange; to put in safe keeping: Ọ dọlo emwin hia yi vbe uwowa – “She arranged everything



in their proper place inside.”

**dọmọ** [dómò] *int.* 1. a deferential greeting, normally used for chiefs or other elderly people to whom courteous regard is due: Dọmọ, edionmwan! “Greetings, old man!” 2. a greeting used for people resident at the Oba’s palace.

**dọmwandẹ** [dómǎǎ́] *adj.* each one; everyone: Dọmwandẹ ẹvbo mwẹn urhu ne ọ zẹ – “Each country has the language that it speaks.”

**dọn** [dǒ] *vb.* to be or become lean; to be emaciated.

**dọnmwẹn** [dǒmǎ́] *vb.* to construct the frame of a roof with rafters, before it is covered with thatch.

**dọnmwinyi** [dǒmǎ́yí] *vb.* to proclaim a law or regulation.

**dọṣ** [dǒṣ] *vb.* 1. to snap. Ifi Ozo

**dọṣren** – Ozo’s trap snapped (i.e. and caught some animals). 2. to operate a switch.

**dọyọ** [dòyó] *vb.* to quench; to cease burning: Erhẹn naa dọyọ nẹ – “This fire has ceased to burn.”

**dududu** [dúdú] *adv.* very dark: Ọ siere dududu – “It is extremely dark.”

**due** [dùé] *vb.* to scatter; to disrupt.

**dunmwun**<sup>1</sup> [dũmũ] *vb.* to pound: Iran dunmwun ema ne ima – “They pounded pounded-yam for us.”

**dunmwun**<sup>2</sup> [dũmũ] *vb.* to introduce into fashion; to bring into vogue: igoru ikhuo-Edo ghi vbe ya dunmwun rre – “Gold is what Benin women have introduced into fashion.”

**dunna** [dũnā] *vb.* to be successful; to turn out right.

## E

**ebaan** [èbǎǎ] *n.* now; at this time. (Also: ebanban; ewaan; ewanwan).

**ebaba** [èbàbá] *n.* address term, used mainly by the young, for father. Other terms include evbavba; erha.

**ebafo** [èbáfò] *n.* a small plant whose leaves are used as vegetable in afo soup.

**ebakhue** [èbáxwè] *n.* the red feather-tail of a parrot.

**ebakpe** [èbákpe] *n.* a plant (milletia thonningii) whose leaves are used for medication against dysentery.

**ebameme** [èbámǎmǎ] *n.* the leaf of a local shrub with abrasive surface, and used for cleaning and shining rough surfaces.

**eban** [èbǎ] *n.* the act of stripping off clothes (cf. ban).

**ebe** [èbé] *n.* 1. leaf; 2. vegetable; 3. paper; book.

**eebebe** [èbéèbé] *n.* 1. greenish colour; 2. foliage.

**ebekhue** [èbéxwé] *n.* the leaves of “garden egg” used in a variety of soups



- as vegetable.
- ebeni** [èbéni] *n.* a kind of leaf used for making the thatched roof of traditional houses.
- ebevbarrie** [èbév̄aryé] *n.* (< ebe + evbarie) a kind of fish (usually smoked) used in soups and stews.
- eben<sup>1</sup>** [èbɛ̃] *n.* a boundary, a line of demarkation, especially between adjacent farms.
- eben<sup>2</sup>** [èbɛ̃] *n.* dangerous debris, usually in the form of broken bottles and metal rods used to prevent trespassers from farms and other restricted territories.
- ebi** [èbí] *n.* night; darkness; ebi ro: "darkness has fallen." (Also ebiebi); ebiebi so: "night has fallen i.e. it has become dark."
- ebiakabianu** [èbyàkáyánu] *n.* nonsensical talk; unintelligible utterances.
- ebiavan** [èbyávã] *n.* "afternoon darkness": eclipse of the sun.
- ebibi** [èbíbi] *n.* aimless groping or wandering.
- ebie** [èbíè] *n.* beer (cf. Engl.).
- ebięba** [èbíębá] *n.* a local leaf traditionally used for parcelling cooked food such as boiled rice (ize) or ekusu (a kind of corn pudding), etc.
- ebihieghe** [èbíhyèyè] *n.* (< ebe + ihieghe) the fresh leaves of a tree (*Myrianthus arboreus*) used as vegetable in a variety of soup.
- ebitete** [èbitètè] *n.* the leaves of a small plant used as vegetables in afo soup.
- ebiwinna** [èbíwĩnã] *n.* "work paper": job application.
- ebiyen** [èbíyɛ̃] *n.* report; newsletter.
- ebiyoyo** [ebíyóyó] *n.* another name for ebitete.
- ebo** [ébo] *n.* white-man; European.
- eboriwo** [èbóɾíwò] *n.* (< ebe + oriwo) "bitter leaf", the leaves of a shrub, bitter in taste, often used with ikpogi (melon seeds) to make a common Edo soup.
- ebobozi** [èbòbòzì] *n.* thin slices of boiled cassava, soaked in cold water, usually eaten as a snack, rather than as a meal.
- ebododon** [èbódòdò] *n.* "water leaf"; the leaves of a small plant (*Talinum triangulare*) used as vegetable in preparing a variety of soups.
- ebololu** [èbólù] *n.* ball (also; ibolu) (cf. Engl.) (also iboru/eboru).
- eborherhe** [èbòřhèřé] *n.* a variety of local vegetable used in preparing soup.
- ebube** [èbùbè] *n.* fine sand; dust.
- ebuka** [ébúkà] *n.* food canteen.
- ebuluku** [èbùlúkù] *n.* a full-gathered wrap-around skirt that women traditionally wear under their wrappers. It is also worn as an outer garment by some native priests.
- ebumwen** [èbúmɛ̃] *n.* "salt leaf" a creeper (*Manniophyton africanum*); it is said to cause itching when touched.
- ebumwenkhen** [èbúmɛ̃xé] *n.* "pumpkin leaf" a creeper whose fresh leaves are used as vegetable in soup. The



- seeds of the fruit are also edible when boiled.
- eda** [èdá] *n.* rain water collected from the eaves of a roof. (cf. daa<sup>3</sup>).
- Edaikēn** [èdàikē] *n.* the title of the heir-apparent to the Edo throne; his court is at Urelu.
- edanmwēn** [èdámwē] *n.* examination (cf. danmwēn<sup>2</sup>).
- ede** [èdé] *n.* bush-cow; buffalo. (also ehan).
- edede** [èdèdé] *n.* old woman.
- ede** [èdé] *n.* grey hair.
- edi** [édí] *n.* civet-cat.
- edigue** [èdigwè] *n.* villager; unsophisticated person.
- edigun** [èdigū] *n.* iron.
- edion** [èdyō] *n.* 1. the elders of a clan or village usually about 42 and above in age; 2. pl. of odion: "older ones."
- edionmwan** [èdyōmwā] *n.* old man.
- ediran** [èdíĩā] *n.* this way; this side; this part; (also oderan: < ode + eran).
- edireva** [èdírevà] *n.* driver of a vehicle (cf. Engl.: driver) (also edrreva).
- Edogun** [èdógū] *n.* title of a war-chief.
- Edoheñ** [èdòhē] *n.* title of one of the chiefs belonging to the Uzama.
- edokita** [èdókità] *n.* doctor (cf. Engl.) (also edokita).
- edon** [édō] *n.* flying termite.
- edu** [èdú] *n.* translation (used with the vb. ze).
- ee** [éé] *int.* response to most greetings and directives: A: lare! B: ee! — A: come here! B: okay!.
- efa** [èfá] *n.* disgrace; embarrassment.
- efada** [èfàdá] *n.* a Roman Catholic Father. (cf. Engl.).
- efen** [èfē] *n.* 1. side of the body.
- efenrhinyen** [èfēriyē] *n.* a snack prepared from unsifted cassava, eaten mainly in the delta area of Bendel State.
- efiaide** [èfyaídè] *n.* Friday (cf. Engl.).
- efoni** [èfónì] *n.* telephone.
- efoto** [èfòtó] *n.* photograph; picture.
- efonkpa** [èfókpa] *n.* 1. a certain place; a certain location; 2. the same place (also ehokpa).
- efuke** [èfùkè] *int.* an expression which implies that what had been said was a joke, a lie or a bluff.
- efun** [èfú] *n.* boneless meat; flesh of animals or human beings; muscle. (also ifun).
- ega-ifi** [ègáifì] *n.* an enclosed area in which traps are set.
- egalahi** [ègàláhì] *n.* a tiny drinking glass used for serving liqueur.
- egedege** [ègédége] *n.* storey building.
- egile** [égilè] *n.* snail.
- egirramu** [ègírámù] *n.* gram (cf. Engl.).



**egirrepi** [ègírèpì] *n.* grape-fruit (cf. Engl.).

**egosimeti** [ègòsímèti] *n.* gold-smith (cf. Engl.).

**Ego** [ègò] *n.* a Bini village situated on the road leading to Siluko.

**egueva** [ègùévà] *n.* guava. (cf. Engl.).

**egui** [ègwí] *n.* land-tortoise.

**eguo** [ègwò] *n.* a feat; an exploit; a performance.

**egba** [ègbá] *n.* hunter's ambush.

**egbaha** [ègbàhà] *n.* the beam placed above a door to support the wall above it in traditional houses.

**egbakhian** [ègbàxyá] *n.* 1. lovers; 2. a close friend of any sex.

**egbalaka** [ègbàlàkà] *n.* ladder.

**egbe<sup>1</sup>** [ègbé] *n.* 1. body; egbe hia khia mwèn – “all my body hurts me”; 2. bulk: ẹkpẹtin na mwèn egbe – “This box has bulk.”

**egbe<sup>2</sup>** [ègbé] *n.* one another; each other: Iran tuẹ egbe – “They greeted each other.”

**egbe<sup>3</sup>** [ègbé] *n.* kind, variety; egbe ọna ẹre ọ yẹẹ mwèn – “It is this kind that pleases me; i.e. This is the kind I like.”

**egbe<sup>4</sup>** [ègbé] *adv.* in spite of; though: Egbe ne i ya khama ọnrẹn ighe i dee, i ma ye vba ọre vbe owa – “In spite of the fact that I had told him that I was coming, I still did not meet him at home.”

**egbebalomwèn** [ègbèbálómè] *n.* hot temper; quick temper. (also ibalegbe).

**egbedamwèn** [ègbèdámè] *n.* being acutely sensitive to physical or emotional discomfort; being acutely affected by external stimuli, especially those that cause pain.

**egbegiengiemwèn** [ègbègỹégyè mè] *n.* being incapable of enduring or accommodating pain.

**egbekanmwèn** [ègbèkámè] *n.* being easily irritable.

**egbeken** [ègbékè] *n.* wall (especially of a house).

**egbemumwèn** [ègbèmúmè] *n.* excitement.

**egberokhomwèn** [ègbèròxómè] *n.* peace and comfort; luxury and leisure.

**egberranmwèn** [ègbèrà mè] *n.* health.

**egbewomwèn** [ègbèwómè] *n.* tiredness and fatigue.

**egbowa** [ègbówà] *n.* the out-house used for toilet facilities: Egbowa nokhua “the big out-house; i.e. latrine”; egbowa nekherhe – “urinary”.

**égbò** [égbò] *n.* a variety of traditional songs sung on solemn occasions such as funerals.

**ègbó** [ègbó] *n.* the phase of tree-felling in the process of making a new farm.

**egbon** [égbò] *n.* a high fence made of ikhinmwín trees, and standing at the entrance of a village (ughe); it serves to ward off evil spirits and bad charms from the village.

**egbona** [ègbónà] *n.* (< egbe<sup>3</sup> + ọna) “this kind”; this variety (cf. egbe<sup>3</sup>).



**egbogho** [égbòǵò] *n.* native tobacco; it has a very pungent smell.

**egbu** [égbú] *n.* a kind of woodpecker which has a very big head and short beak.

**Eghaevbo** [éǵàèwò] *n.* the title of two sets of Edo chiefs: 1. Eghaevbo Nore, and 2. Eghaevbo Nogbe. The latter is made up of officials of the palace (eguae), while the former consists of town chiefs; such as Iyase, Esogban, Eson and Osuma.

**eghan**<sup>1</sup> [éǵǎ] *n.* metal chain used for harnessing convicts.

**eghan**<sup>2</sup> [éǵǎ] *n.* imprisonment; confinement.

**eghere** [éǵéɾè] *n.* idleness; something of ineffective value; something lacking in purpose or worth.

**eghian** [éǵyǎ] *n.* enemy; 2. pl. of oghian – enemy.

**egho** [èǵó] *n.* the over-night rubbish lying in the house before it is swept in the morning.

**egho** [èǵó] *n.* (of food) staleness, resulting from lack of preservatives, especially over-night; 2. (of persons) the bad breath before mouth is cleaned in the morning.

**eghore** [èǵórè] *n.* an idiomatic expression for pregnancy.

**eghoen** [éǵǒè] *n.* foreigner.

**eghute** [éǵuté] *n.* 1. beach; riverside; 2. port; harbour.

**eha** [èhá] *num.* three.

**Ehaekpen** [èháekpè] *n.* title of a

category of Edo chiefs.

**ehan** [éhǎ] *num.* six.

**ehankon** [èhèǎkǒ] *n.* plaque on teeth.

**ehaya** [èháya] *n.* rent; hire: ọ mu imoto ere ye ehaya – “He put his car on rent.”

**ehe**<sup>1</sup> [èhé] *n.* 1. place; location (also eke) De ehe ne i gha mu enren yi – “What place shall I put it?” 2. journey: I gha ye ehe akhue – “I shall go on a journey tomorrow.”

**ehe**<sup>2</sup> [èhé] *n.* menstruation.

**eheha** [èhéhá] *n.* groups of three; threes.

**eheikehe** [èhéikèhé] *n.* anywhere; wherever: eheikehe ne u rhirhi na miẹ onren, u gh u khama mwen – “wherever you happen to find it, you tell me.”

**ehen** [éhè] *n.* fish.

**Ehengbuda** [èhèǵbúdà] *n.* Name of a past Oba of Benin who reigned from about 1578 to about 1607 (Egharevba 1968:73).

**Ehenmihen** [èhèmíhè] *n.* name of a past Oba of Benin who reigned in the first half of the thirteenth century (Egharevba 1968:73).

**ehenneden** [èhènéédè] *n.* perfect health and wholesomeness.

**ehia** [éhya] *ind quant.* all (also hia when it occurs as a modifier.)

**ehiagha**<sup>1</sup> [èhyayà] *n.* cf. ihiagha.

**ehiagha**<sup>2</sup> [èhyayà] *n.* (with ivin) palm



- kernel: *Ọ ya ivin-ehiagha wọn igari* – “He used palm kernel to drink garri; i.e. he ate garri with palm kernels.”
- ehianmwẹn** [éhyá mǝ̃] *n.* the hard shell of a fruit or nut: ehianmwẹn-ivin – “coconut shells”.
- ehiẹn** [éhyě̃] *n.* nails (of human); claws (of birds) (also ihien).
- ehionbo** [éhyǝ̃bò] *n.* (< ehiẹn-obo) finger-nails (also ihionbo).
- ehionwe** [éhyǝ̃wè] *n.* (< ehiẹn-owe) toe-nails (also ihionwe).
- eho**<sup>1</sup> [èhó] *n.* 1. ear. 2. edge.
- eho**<sup>2</sup> [èhó] *n.* an annual festival of sacrifice to the ancestors.
- Eho** [èhò] *n.* Ehor, a town on the boundary between Edo and Esan-speaking people.
- ehokpa** [èhókpa] *n.* same as efonkpa.
- Ehondon** [èhǝ̃dǝ̃] *n.* title of a chief whose special function is to oversee the slaughtering and butchering of sacrificial animals at all the Oba's sacrifices.
- ehonmwẹn** [èhǝ̃ mǝ̃] *n.* purification.
- Eka** [èká] *n.* The Ika people and their language. They are a branch of the Igbo-Speaking people.
- eka** [ékà] *n.* a variety of fried traditional cake made from maize or beans, and eaten mainly as snack. ekaere – fried bean cake.
- ekabita** [èkábità] *n.* carpenter (cf. Engl.).
- ekaebo** [ékáebò] *n.* (< eka + ebo):
- “Whiteman's cake”: biscuits.
- ekagha** [èkàgà] *n.* muzzle; gag.
- ekainkain** [èkǎikǎí] *n.* traditionally brewed gin.
- ekalaka** [èkàláka] *n.* drinking-glass; tumbler (cf. Port.: caneca).
- ekasa**<sup>1</sup> [èkàsà] *n.* 1. a tree (*Omphalocarpum procerum*); 2. the rattle made from the husks of the seeds of the tree, strung with raffia and worn around the ankles by dancers.
- ekasa**<sup>2</sup> [èkàsà] *n.* a very colourful dance performed by a dance troupe from Ogbelaka as part of the ceremonies to celebrate the Oba's coronation.
- ekasiu** [èkàsiú] *n.* cashew: the plant, the fruit and the nut. (cf. Engl.).
- Ekatakpi** [èkátákpì] *n.* a nickname for a short and fat person, with short limbs; it derives from a character in Edo folklore who was a stump.
- ekatapila** [èkàtàpìlà] *n.* caterpillar; truck (cf. Engl.).
- eke** [èké] *n.* place; location: *I yo eke ne ọ na winna* – “I visited the place where he works.” (cf. ehe).
- eke** [èké] *n.* stunted round yam, used mainly for planting.
- ekesogban** [ékésógbǎ] *num.* 25. Also isenyan-ugie.
- ekesugie** [ékésùgyé] *num.* 15.
- ekekerebo** [èkèkèrèbò] *n.* something of little worth or consequence.
- eken**<sup>1</sup> [èkē] *n.* one of the four days



in the traditional week on which no market-day falls. The other days of the week are: *ẹkioba*; *ẹken naka*; and *agbado*.

*ekén*<sup>2</sup> [èkɛ̃] *n.* egg.

*ekèn* [èkɛ̃] *n.* soil, mud; 2. wall of a house.

*ekennekhui* [èkɛ̃nɛ̃xui] *n.* (< *ekèn* + *nekhui*— “black soil”; humus.

*ekennekenne* [èkɛ̃nɛ̃kɛ̃nɛ̃] *n.* a spotted design; a pattern of spots: *ewu ẹre gbenne ẹkennekenne* — “His garment is spotted in design.”

*eketekete* [èkétékété] *n.* ass; donkey.

*eki* [èkí] *n.* trick.

*eki* [éki] *n.* (same as *ukuoki*) a pad placed to wedge a load on the head.

*ekia* [ékyá] *n.* penis.

*ekiawa* [ékyáwà] *n.* a shrub, *Erythrina* species.

*ekigbesiyeha* [èkígbesiyéhà] *num.* 50.

*ekigbesiyene* [èkígbesiyénɛ̃] *num.* 70.

*ekigbesiyisen* [èkígbesiyísɛ̃] *num.* 90.

*ekilo* [èkílò] *n.* kilogram (cf. Engl.).

*ekilomita* [èkílómítà] *n.* kilometre (cf. Engl.).

*ekinyanwo* [èkíyáwó] *n.* guinea-fowl egg (< *ekèn* + *iyawo*) (cf. Yoruba *eyin-awo*).

*ekiosisi* [ékyósísí] *n.* (< *ekia* + *osisi*) “penis of gun”: trigger of a gun.

*ekita* [ékítà] *n.* dog (also *awa*;

*ovbiakota*).

*eko*<sup>1</sup> [èkó] *n.* temporary camp; settlement used for purposes of hunting, farming and, in the past, war.

*Eko*<sup>2</sup> [èkó] *n.* the Edo name of Lagos, which originated with the use of the territory as a war-camp by Edo warriors in the 15th and 16th centuries.

*ekoko* [èkókò] *n.* Utte masquerades, noted for the long chins of their masks. The masquerade is said to date back to the reign of Oba Oghen in the 14th century.

*ekokodia* [èkòkódyà] *n.* ceremonial name for coconut.

*ekokohien* [èkókóhɛ̃] *n.* a long snail’s shell previously used as native spoon.

*ekokoma* [èkókómà] *n.* a variety of native pop dance.

*ekokoo* [èkòkòò] *n.* cocoa (cf. Engl.).

*ekonbue* [èkòbúɛ] *n.* (< *ekèn* + *obue*) clay; soil with a large proportion of clay.

*ekongbe* [èkògbè] *n.* (< *ekèn* + *ogbe*) “wall of Ogbe”; the wall that encloses the Oba’s palace in Benin City.

*ekororo* [ékóroro] *n.* (< *eka* + *ororo*) bean cakes fried in groundnut oil, rather than palm oil.

*ekoka* [ékókà] *n.* (< *eka* + *oka*) “maize cake” traditional cake made from ground corn, and fried in palm oil.

*ekonka* [èkókà] *n.* the dried out cob of corn to which the grains are attached in an ear of maize.

*ekonkhokho* [èkókòkò] *n.* (< *ekèn* +



- okhokho) chicken egg.
- ekotu [èkótù] *n.* law-court (cf. Engl.).  
(also ikotu).
- eku [èkú] *n.* malice.
- ekuabo [ékwábò] *n.* upper arm.
- ekuawe [ékwáwè] *n.* thigh.
- ekue [ékwé] *n.* bellows.
- ekuku [èkúkù] *n.* cook (cf. Engl.).
- ekuomò [ékwómò] *n.* a fat brown rat  
(also known as ebete).
- ekuu [èkúù] *n.* semen.
- ekuye [èkùyé] *n.* spoon (cf. Port.:  
colher).
- ekha [èxá] *n.* a declaration; an author-  
itative statement: Ekha gue Osa –  
“Declarations are with god; i.e. god  
proposes.”
- ekhae [éxàe] *n.* sand.
- ekhaemwen [èxàemwɛ̃] *n.* chiefs; pl. of  
okhaemwen.
- ekhaosisi [éxàosísí] *n.* (< ekhae + osisi)  
“sand of gun”: gun-powder.
- ekhàrha [èxàǎrà] *n.* umbrella (also  
ugbinname).
- ekhárha [èxáǎrà] *n.* recitation; recital.
- ekhekhæ [éxèxàe] *n.* (< ekhae +  
ekhae) full of sand; being sandy.
- ekherhe [èxéré] *n.* a little bit (of  
something).
- ekhen [èxɛ̃] *n.* a band of travellers,  
whether on foot or by some public  
means of transport: ekhen ni rrie eki  
– “travellers going to the market”;  
ekhen ni rrie ugbo – “travellers going  
to the farm.”
- ekhøe<sup>1</sup> [éxòe] *n.* mind; will: ekhøe  
daan – “wickedness”; “meanness.”
- ekhøe<sup>2</sup> [éxòe] *n.* palm-branch shed of  
its leaves, used for tying yams.
- ekhuae [éxwæ] *n.* a group of charm  
made of pounded medicines used in  
both cursing and blessing rituals.
- èkhue [èxwè] *n.* 1. shame, embarras-  
ment. 2. shyness; self-consciousness.
- èkhue [éxwé] *n.* garden-egg; egg plant.
- ekhuekhue [èxwéxwè] *n.* palm-wine  
tapped from fallen palm tree (also  
udegboto).
- ekhui [èxwì] *n.* the scaly ant-eater.
- ekhuorho [éxwòǎ] *n.* swamp; muddy  
soil; slush.
- èkpa<sup>1</sup> [èkṗá] *n.* vomiting; vomit.
- èkpa<sup>2</sup> [èkṗá] *n.* consideration; cause;  
Èkpa rue ere o ya mwɛn rre – “It  
was on account of you that I came.”
- épka [ékṗà] *n.* 1. fist: o kuun épka da  
mwɛn – “He clenched his fist at me”;  
2. hitting with the fist; boxing: o fi  
mwɛn épka – “He boxed me”.
- ekpaghudo [èkṗàyúdò] *n.* a tree,  
*Albizzia zygia*.
- ekpakara<sup>1</sup> [èkṗákárá] *n.* a variety of  
beetle found mainly on the raffia  
palm; it sucks juice out of the cuttings  
made by wine-tappers.
- ekpakara<sup>2</sup> [èkṗákárá] *n.* convulsion;



it afflicts mainly children.

**ekpakpahunmwangan**

[èk̀p̀àk̀p̀àh̀ù̀m̀àg̀ã] *n.* scorpion.

**ekpalakpala** [èk̀p̀àl̀àk̀p̀àl̀á] *n.* a flat fish with many bones and rough scales.

**ekpamaku** [èk̀p̀àm̀ák̀ù] *n.* 1. corrugated iron sheet, used for roofing modern houses, in place of the traditional thatch; 2. enamel plate, dish or bowl used in the household.

**ekparhurhu** [èk̀p̀árűr̀ù] *n.* a variety of wasp that makes its nest on creepers. It has a very painful sting.

**ekpaye** [èk̀p̀áỳè] *n.* followers; attendants.

**ekpelekpele** [èk̀p̀èl̀èk̀p̀éle] *n.* mosquito lava swimming under the water surface.

**ekpekpeye** [èk̀p̀ékp̀éỳé] *n.* duck. (cf. Yoruba *pépéye*).

**ekpetesi** [èk̀p̀èt̀ésì] *n.* storey building (also egedege). (cf. Yoruba *petesi*).

**ekpinni** [ék̀p̀ínì] *n.* half-penny (cf. Engl.).

**ekpo** [èk̀p̀ò] *n.* 1. masquerade; 2. a particular masquerade society of young boys.

**ekpokpo** [èk̀p̀ók̀p̀ò] *n.* traditional bronze toy "guns" which children mount on wooden holders and shoot with nails, using match-stick heads and sand as gun-powder.

**ekpokò** [èk̀p̀ók̀ò] *n.* milky drivel emitted by babies, especially after a meal.

**ekponkpon** [èk̀p̀ónk̀p̀ón] *n.* a U-

shaped pin used as a hair dressing implement by women.

**ekponmwen** [èk̀p̀ónm̀wèn] *n.* 1. thanksgiving performed by a newly-made chief in the form of a procession to the palace and various shrines. 2. (in the Christian context) a special service of thanksgiving in which special offerings are made to the church in gratitude to God for some special goodwill recently experienced by donor – such as the birth of a child; successful completion of education, etc.

**ekpukpu** [èk̀p̀úk̀p̀ú] *n.* a dish prepared from cassava.

**elaghalogho** [èl̀áyal̀òỳò] *n.* a bell used in the Okhuahe cult, shaped like egogo, but with a nail inside it.

**elalo** [èl̀ál̀ò] *n.* ringworm.

**elapurhu** [èl̀ápűr̀ù] *n.* fugitive swellings in the groin.

**elarhelarhe** [èl̀árel̀árel̀è] *n.* a disease in which fluid collects in cavities or tissues of the body; dropsy.

**elawagbon** [èl̀áwag̀b̀ón] *n.* maturity and experience that one acquires through diversified contacts and exposure.

**elede** [él̀éd̀è] *n.* domestic pig.

**eledi** [él̀éd̀ì] *n.* lead; lead pencil.

**elikhukhu** [èl̀íx̀ùx̀ù] *n.* pigeon (also enikhukhu).

**elita** [èl̀ít̀à] *n.* litre (cf. Engl.).

**eloya** [èl̀óỳà] *n.* lawyer (also ulaya) (cf. Engl.).

**elukeluke** [èl̀ùk̀él̀ùk̀é] *n.* river-tortoise



(also *eruvbo*).

**ema**<sup>1</sup> [èmə] *n.* drum; there are different varieties, such as *emedo*; *emighan*; *emugho*; etc.

**ema**<sup>2</sup> [èmə] *n.* 1. pounded yam; yam fufu; 2. a collective name for the different varieties of yam tuber, such as *ikpen*; *igbin*; *ivu*, etc.; 3. the soft pulp of fruits, usually edible: *emaronmwun* – “the pulp of native pear.”

**emaba** [èmàbà] *n.* 1. a variety of drum made from calabash, with a rattle attached to it; it is played in palace festivals; 2. a dance for which the *emaba* drum is used.

**emabule** [èmábule] *n.* a nickname for a very stupid person.

**emaili** [èmaìlì] *n.* mile (also *ibiriki*) (cf. Engl.).

**emakaeson** [èmàkàésò] *n.* bicycle repairer.

**emakaliki** [èmàkálìkì] *n.* mechanic; auto technician (cf. Engl.).

**emasini** [èmàsínì] *n.* machine: 1. sewing machine; grinding machine and similar appliances; 2. motor-cycle: U mię emasini ne Ozo da de? Did you see the motor-cycle that Ojo just bought?

**ematon** [èmátò] *n.* metal; *ematon nowegbe* – “steel”.

**emazuoko** [èmázuókó] *n.* a very stupid person; imbecile.

**emehe** [èméhè] *n.* 1. reserve; extra stock kept for future use: *O ya evbare nii zę emehe ye iran ihę*: “He packed that food for them as reserve”; 2. gift:

*Osanobua o ya re kpe emehe gun mwęn* – “God sent it to me as a gift.”

**eme** [èméè] *n.* a general name for apes; individual varieties, include *alazi*, *akharho*, *osa*, etc.

**emedo** [èmédò] *n.* (< *ema* + *Edo*) “drum of Benin”: a big round drum beaten with one stick and beaten during *ugie ukpetue*.

**emelu** [èmélú] *n.* bull.

**emi** [émí] *n.* bulk, thickness; weight: *Okan na mwęn emi* – This plate has bulk.

**emiamwęn** [èmỹǎmę] *n.* illness (also *uhunmwonva*); *emiamwęn-Uhobo* – “Urhobo sickness”, i.e. gonorrhoea.

**emiegbę** [èmýęgbè] *n.* beads, worn around the neck, wrist, or around the hips. (also *emwin-egbe*).

**emieho** [èmýéhò] *n.* ear-rings (also *emwin-ehọ*).

**emiekhue** [èmýéxwè] *n.* disgrace; shame. (also *emwienkhue*).

**emieki** [èmýékì] *n.* native pudding made from yam; it is steamed in wraps of *ebięba* leaves.

**emighan** [èmíyǎ] *n.* a drum for chiefs, placed on the ground and beaten with two sticks.

**emile** [émílè] *n.* a variety of red yam.

**emiowo** [èmýówò] *n.* meat (also *aranmwęn*).

**emita** [èmítá] *n.* meter (cf. Engl.).

**emitan** [èmítǎ] *n.* laziness; indolence.



**emite** [émítè] *n.* a dwarf; a stunted person.

**emizaduma** [émízàdùmá] *n.* a war drum.

**emizagbede** [émízàgbédé] *n.* a drum played for the izagbede dance.

**emonde** [émóndè] *n.* Monday (cf. Engl.).

**emorho** [émóǎ] *n.* (< ema-orho) "yam of rainy season": new yam.

**emosima** [émósímá] *n.* a kind of tortoise said to have been charmed by Okhuahe, and put in the bush surrounding his shrines.

**emota** [émótà] *n.* (< ema + ota) "pounded yam of the evening", evening meal; supper.

**Emotan** [émótǎ] *n.* the name of an Edo heroine of the 15th century commemorated by the bronze statue of a queen mounted in 1954 at her grave site where a sacred *uruhe* tree once grew, in front of the Oba market; this had been cut down inadvertently by a construction firm. By Ewuare's decree, the Oba makes sacrifices to it, and every traditional burial procession visits the statue and offers it cowries and chalk.

**emo** [émó] *n.* children; off-spring (pl. of omo).

**emowe** [émówè] *n.* a variety of white yam, generally not used for pounding.

**emuen** [émwè] *n.* ashes.

**emugho** [émúyò] *n.* a small dance-drum beaten by hand, and used mainly by women.

**emunemune** [émũnèmũnè] *n.* fire-fly; glow-worm.

**emwan** [émǎ] *adv.* here.

**emwanmwan** [émǎmǎ] *n.* arrangement; preparation (cf. mwanmwan).

**emwenmwen** [éměmě] *n.* madness.

**emwienho** [emyěho] *n.* ear-rings (also emieho).

**emwienkhue** [émjěxwè] *n.* disgrace; shame; embarrassment. (also emiekhue).

**emwin** [émjǐ] *n.* thing; object; issue.

**emwinnehua** [émjínéxwà] *n.* "the great things": the idiomatic designation for the burial rites of an Oba.

**emwindamwen** [émjídámě] *n.* tight-handedness; stinginess.

**emwinfi** [émjǐfí] *n.* smallpox.

**emwingbeni** [émjǐgbéní] *n.* "thing that killed elephant": tooth-ache (also emwinrrakon).

**emwinkemwin** [émjǐkémjǐ] *n.* anything; whatever thing.

**emwinrebo** [émjǐrèbò] *n.* chinaware; porcelain.

**emwinrenren** [émjǐrèrè] *n.* creeping insects (cf. renren).

**emwinrrakon** [émjǐrákò] *n.* "something in the teeth": toothache (also emwinrrunu).

**emwinrraro** [émjǐrárò] *n.* fever; also yellow fever or malaria fever (also evbirraro).



**emwinrri** [èmjírì] *n.* “thing of the rope”: domesticated animals, such as sheep and goats.

**emwinrroḃevbo** [èmjíróbɛvò] *n.* “things that are in the Oba’s land”: male youth of 7 – 14 years; traditionally they constituted an age-grade responsible for sweeping the streets. In villages, they also empty the refuse. (also evbirrevbo).

**emwionko** [èmjyókò] *n.* farm crops; mainly cash crops.

**emwionrho** [èmjyórhò] *n.* harvest.

**emwiunbiemwen** [èmjúbɛmɛ] *n.* “matter-of-childbirth.” labour.

**emwiunwawa** [èmjúwàwà] *n.* bean pottage made with palm oil.

**ena** [ènǎ] *dem. pr.* these, these ones: Ena ɛre o khaa – “These are the ones he means”.

**enamwunsin** [ènámúsì] *adv.* a long period of time back, for long ago: enamwunsin o ghise edinran – it is a long time since he got here: He has been here for long.

**enaimwen** [ènǎímɛ] *n.* “my owner”; “my lord”; a deferential address term used by women to their husbands and the latter’s relatives.

**ene** [ènɛ] *def. art.* the: ene okpia vboo? – “Where is the man?”

**enena** [ènɛnǎ] *dem.* these ones.

**enene** [ènɛnɛ] *adv.* in groups of four; fours.

**ene** [ènɛ] *num.* four.

**eneirroḃbugie** [ènɛíróvugyè] *num.*

sixteen (i.e. four-missing-from-twenty), eneirrovbogban – “twenty-six”: (i.e. four-missing-from-thirty).

**eneghedene** [ènɛyédenɛ] *n.* four days ago.

**ení** [èní] *n.* elephant; ení-ame – “water elephant”: hippopotamus.

**ení** [èní] *n.* name (also erin).

**enia** [ènyǎ] *adv.* thus; so; this manner.

**enibokun** [èníbòkú] *n.* cattle egret.

**enigie** [ènígýè] *n.* chiefs and other titled rulers.

**enii** [èníí] *dem.* those ones.

**enikaro** [èníkàrò] *n.* (< ene-i-karo) “those who came in front”. 1. the ancestors. 2. pioneers.

**enikere** [èníkɛrɛ] *n.* the others; the remainder.

**enikhukhu** [èníxùxù] *n.* pigeon (also elikhukhu).

**enitan** [ènítǎ] *n.* prawns and shrimps.

**eniwanren** [èníwǎrɛ] *n.* 1. a deferential address term used for a group of elderly people. (sg. – enowanren); 2. elders. eniwanren-ason – “elders of the night”: an idiomatic expression for witches, wizards, and other evil spirits.

**(e)nokpa** [ènókpa] *n.* the other one.

**enoyaenmwan** [ènóyǎǎmǎ] *n.* “our owner”: (in Christian sense): our Lord.

**epa** [èpàá] *n.* a colloquial address term for a man, used mainly by young people. (cf. Engl. Pa).



- epentiro** [èpɛ̃tɪró] *n.* petrol (cf. Engl.).
- epianpian** [èpyãpyã] *n.* the piping hornbill.
- ére** [éɾè] *n.* beans.
- ère** [èɾè] *n.* 1. profit; gain; advantage; 2. reward. *Ọ rri ere iwinna esi ne ọ winnaṅ* — He got the reward of the good things he had done.
- Erediauwa** [éɾédyàúwà] *n.* name of the reigning *Ọba* of Benin.
- Eresoyen** [éɾésòyɛ̃] *n.* name of a past *Ọba* of Benin.
- erere** [èɾéɾè] *n.* deception.
- erenren** [èɾɛ̃ɾɛ̃] *num.* eight.
- ero** [èɾó] *n.* deception; trick.
- erọ** [èɾò] *n.* knife.
- eru** [èɾù] *n.* placenta.
- eruan** [èɾwã] *n.* any harmful charm.
- erha** [éɾá] *n.* 1. father; male parent; 2. ancestor for whom a shrine is mounted in the home.
- erherha** [éɾéɾá] *n.* “father’s father”: paternal grandfather.
- erhiye** [éɾíyɛ̃] *n.* “mother’s father”: maternal grandfather.
- erha-nagbon** [éɾànágɓò] *n.* “earthly father”; lover.
- erha-nasagbonmien** [éɾànàsàgɓòmɪɛ̃] *n.* “father-one-reaches the world to find”: foster father or benefactor.
- erha-nokhua** [éɾànóxwà] *n.* “big father”: grandfather.
- erha-odede** [éɾháodèdè] *n.* great grandfather; also grandfather.
- Erhamwonsa** [éɾàmɔ̃sà] *n.* “Osa, my father” an appellation for the Supreme God, Osa.
- erhan** [èɾã] *n.* 1. tree; plant; shrub; 2. wood; stick, rod; 3. magical charm.
- erhe<sup>1</sup>** [èɾè] *n.* part of the palm fruit by which it is attached to the tree.
- erhe<sup>2</sup>** [èɾè] *n.* a copper stool said to have been sent to the *Ọba* of Benin by the Portuguese (Melzian p. 40).
- erhen** [èɾɛ̃] *n.* fire.
- erhenbavbogo** [èɾɛ̃bàvógò] *n.* 1. a shrub, *Enantia affinis*; the wood is bright yellow on the inside and gives off a yellow sap; 2. yellow colour.
- erhenzo** [èɾɛ̃zò] *n.* (< erhen + ɛzo) “wood of the law-suit” — dock, witness box. *Iran tie ẹre ne ọ do se ose vbe erhenzo* — “He was called to the witness box to testify”.
- erherhe** [èɾɛ̃ɾɛ̃] *n.* a variety of melon, used for soup.
- erhigoen** [èɾígòɛ̃] *n.* heron (also etingoen).
- erhindo** [èɾĩdo] *n.* (< erhan + ido) “loom stick”: the rod to which the threads are fastened in a loom.
- erhon** [èɾɔ̃] *n.* crawl-crawl; rashes. *erhonfo* — heat rash.
- erhuan** [èɾwã] *n.* shedded skin or scales (e.g. of a snake).
- erhuaengbe** [èɾwãɛ̃gbè] *n.* disciples;



followers; attendants.

**erhumohi** [èřúmohì] *n.* the dark-heeled Cuckoo or Senegal Coucal.

**erhunmwun** [èřùmũ] *n.* prayer (mainly Christian sense, but also used in traditional religion); blessing.

**erhunmwunrriarria** [èřùmũryáryà] *n.* butterfly.

**erhunmwunyen** [èřùmũyé] *n.* stranger; guest in a house.

**erhuru** [èřúrú] *n.* a variety of yam that has a slightly bitter taste when boiled.

**erra** [érá] *n.* ganglion.

**erri** [èrì] *n.* knotty part in a piece of wood or creeper.

**erria**<sup>1</sup> [èryá] *n.* grazing.

**erria**<sup>2</sup> [èryá] *n.* 1. interpretation, explanation (e.g. of code terms in oracles or riddles).

**erriarra** [èryáryà] *n.* sandfly.

**erriọ** [èryó] *adv.* thus; so; like that: vbene u gie ẹre, erriọ ẹre ọ wa gha ye – “Just as you described it, so it was exactly.”

**erro** [èró] *n.* 1. the state of being a tenant rather than landlord: erro ẹre ọ ye vbe òwa nii – “He is a tenant in that house.”; 2. suspense; uncertainty.

**erru** [èrú] *n.* a rack on which yam harvest is arranged and tied for storage and safe keeping.

**esa** [èsá] *n.* relevance; connection; contribution in some enterprise: wẹ i mwẹn esa ne u ye vbe emwẹn na –

“You have no relevance in this matter, i.e. there is no contribution you can make in this matter.”

**esagiẹn** [èságỹè] *n.* blood (also ẹrhaẹn).

**Esago** [ésàgó] *n.* the name of the god of thunder, Sango; (also esango; isango; & isago) (cf. Yoruba sango).

**èsago** [èságò] *n.* a large narrow-necked bottle, usually encased in wicker-work.

**Esagho** [ésàyò] *n.* the name of the chief wife of Ogiso, typically depicted in Edo folktales as ill-fated.

**esakpaede** [èsákpáedè] *n.* 1. a variety of drum, used for a dance by the same name, and danced to by men (ighele).

**esakpareghodin** [èsákpáreyòdĩ] *n.* great-grandchild.

**esalebo** [èsàlébò] *n.* a plant, whose black seeds are strung around a calabash to make the musical instrument known as “ukuse”.

**esalo** [èsálò] *n.* a disease in the form of small sores on hands and feet.

**Esama** [ésámá] *n.* the title of the chief who performs the ama ceremony.

**Esan** [ésǎ] *n.* the Ishan people, one of the tribes in the Edo ethnic group.

**esatođe** [èsátòdéè] *n.* Saturday (cf. Engl.).

**esanmwan** [èsǎmǎ] *n.* any carved bone or ivory.

**ese** [èsè] *n.* any sacrifice that should have been made according to the prediction of an oracle: ese ọ rre ọre



egbe ne o na khuonmwin — “He is sick because he is in default of making a sacrifice that was predicted.”

**eseku** [èsèékú] *n.* a dwarf-like being believed to wander in the dense forest, with a woven mat tucked under his armpit.

**Eserè** [èsèrè] *n.* the title of a senior chief of the Iwèguæ society.

**eseso** [èsésò] *quant.* some; any (occurs only in negative clauses): i sè evba, i ma miè iran eseso — “I got there and found none of them.”

**esegheseghe** [esɛɛsɛgɛ] *n.* the gum-tree (*Tetrapleura tetraplera*).

**esentimeta** [èsɛ̀tímɛ̀tà] *n.* centimetre (cf. Engl.).

**esi**<sup>1</sup> [èsì] *n.* bush-pig (also esi-oha). esi-ebo — domestic pig; hog.

**esi**<sup>2</sup> [èsì] *n.* goodness; the right or desirable qualities: omwan esi — “a person of goodness”; i.e. a good person; emwin esi — “a thing of goodness”: a good thing.

**esia** [èsyá] *n.* hale; ikpesia — “halestone”.

**esiasio** [èsyásyò] *n.* the Bristlebill bird.

**esiesi** [èsyési] *n.* (< esi + esi) excellent quality; perfection.

**esieki** [èsyéki] *n.* cheque (cf. Engl.).

**esiga** [èsigá] *n.* cigarette (cf. Engl.).

**esikpogho** [èsíkópógò] *n.* the Bulbul.

**esiliki** [èsílikì] *n.* silk; also rayon (cf. Engl.).

**esimeti** [èsimɛ̀tì] *n.* cement (cf. Engl.).

**eso** [èsó] *n.* some: eso rre emwan — “some are here.”

**esoghosogho** [èsógósógó] *n.* baby’s rattle. (cf. sogho).

**esosomaye** [èsósómàyè] *n.* a charm, having predictive power, owned by the Oba.

**esobiri** [èsóbìrì] *n.* shovel, spade (cf. Engl.).

**esobu** [èsóbù] *n.* shop; trading store; workshop. (cf. Engl.).

**Esogban** [ésògbá] *n.* the title of a senior chief, who is a member of the Eghævbo n’Ore, and who acts for the Iyase in his absence.

**esokisi** [èsókìsì] *n.* socks (cf. Engl.).

**Esõn** [ésõõ] *n.* the title of a senior chief, who is a member of the Eghævbo n’Ore.

**esonde** [èsóndè] *n.* Sunday (cf. Engl.).

**esosi** [èsósi] *n.* Church (cf. Engl.).

**Esu** [èsù] *n.* 1. in traditional religion: the name of a harmful deity believed to be sent by the other gods to cause trouble: it cannot kill a man, but would lead him into danger or temptation; 2. In the Christian sense, the Devil; Lucifer.

**esughusughu** [èsùgùsùgù] *n.* owl.

**esuku** [èsùkù] *n.* school (cf. Engl.).

**eta** [ètá] *n.* talk; speech (also pl. of ota — speech).

**etalò** [ètálò] *n.* 1. utterances; 2. talk-



- ativeness.
- etalugbo** [ètálúgbó] *n.* a farmer's small wrap that he wears to the farm; loin-cloth.
- etaro** [ètárò] *n.* (< eto – aro) "hair of the eyes;brows": eyebrows.
- ete** [ètè] *n.* crisis; problem; trouble.
- etebetebe** [ètébétébé] *n.* a very small insect that runs on the surface of water in rivers, streams and ponds.
- eteburu** [ètébùrù] *n.* table. (cf. Engl.).
- etekia** [ètékyá] *n.* (< eto – ekia) "hair of the penis": male pubic hair.
- etẹbite** [ètébítè] *n.* eternity; forever.
- etẹlivişon** [ètẹlivişɔ̃] *n.* television (also etiivi).
- etẹn** [èté̃̃] *n.* relatives; siblings. (also pl. of ɔ̃tẹn – relation).
- etianran** [ètĩǎǎ] *n.* 1. peacock; 2. silk.
- etifuanro** [ètífũǎ̀] *n.* (< eto – ifuẹn – aro): "hair of the wings of the eyes": eyelashes.
- etivi** [ètívi] *n.* television. (also etẹlivişon).
- etingoẹn** [ètíḡó̃̃] *n.* heron (also erhigoẹn).
- etisa** [ètísà] *n.* teacher (cf. Engl.).
- etitibiiti** [ètìtibî̀tì] *n.* a black bird with a lyre-shaped tail, believed to be the king of birds.
- eto** [ètó] *n.* hair; eto nakiin – "hair plaited with thread"; eto namẹn – "braided hair"; etonuken – "kinky hair".
- etolotolo** [ètòlótòlò] *n.* turkey.
- etobatoba** [ètòbàtóbá] *n.* 1. something that has become permanently glued on to something else; 2. a permanent stain. (cf. toba).
- etoghotoḡho** [ètóḡótóḡó] *n.* rooster's crest at its throat.
- etõnni** [etõñĩ] *n.* ton (cf. Engl.).
- etuhe** [ètúhè] *n.* (< eto – uhe) "hair of the vagina": female pubic hair.
- etuheru** [ètùhé̀rù] *n.* scissors (also ugbeto; alumagazi).
- eturarri** [ètúràrí] *n.* frankincense.
- etuu** [ètúù] *n.* cannon.
- eva** [èvá] *num.* two.
- evebu** [èvè̀bù] *n.* verb (cf. Engl.).
- evavu** [èvávù] *n.* valve, in cars, motorcycles and bicycles; (also evav) (cf. Engl.).
- evé** [èvé] *n.* weeping.
- evè** [èvè] *n.* elephantiasis of the scrotum.
- éveva** [évèvá] *quant.* 1. both (also èvèvá): viọ éveva me – "give both to me".
- èveva** [èvèvá] *adv.* in pairs; two's.
- even** [èvè̃̃] *n.* wrestle.
- evie** [évyé] *n.* a block with an iron surface on which smiths work metal; anvil.



- evuato** [éwátò] *n.* grass-cutter.
- evue** [éwé] *n.* a variety of ant that is found on corpses.
- evba** [èváà] *adv.* over there; there: mu ye evba: "place it over there."
- evbaakhue** [èvááxwɛ] *n.* soap.
- evbare** [èvǎré] *n.* food.
- evbarriɛ** [èvǎryé] *n.* an ingredient prepared from melon, used in native soups.
- evbávba** [èvǎvá] *n.* an address and reference term meaning "father", used mainly by adults. It also conveys some degree of respect and deference; in Christian prayers, it is usually used as an address term for God.
- evbávba** [èvǎvǎ] *n.* 1. the supreme authority; 2. an address term often used for the Oba.
- evbayamose** [èvǎyámòsé] *n.* soap (also evbakhue).
- evbayawuo** [èvǎyáwùó] *n.* body cream; pomade.
- evbibiomɔ** [evibyɔmɔ̃] *n.* parents.
- evbihiorɔ** [evihyɔɾɔ] *n.* reptile.
- evbikhɔɔ** [èvixòó] *n.* something of no value; a "no-good".
- evbisun** [èvisú] *n.* a general name for the different varieties of snails, such as egile, akikɔ, etc., derived from their mode of crawling motion.
- evbɔ** [èvó] *n.* scabies.
- evbu** [èvúù] *n.* dew; morning mist.
- ewa** [èwá] *n.* sleeping-mat made out of the stems of ebiɛba.
- ewan** [èwǎǎ] *n.* now (cf. eban).
- ewannien** [èwǎnǎ̃] *n.* response; reply; answer.
- ewanmwɛn** [èwǎmǎ̃] *n.* palm branch with the leaves on.
- ewɛn** [èwɛ̃ɛ̃] *n.* 1. breast; 2. milk: ya ewɛn nɛrɛn wɛn — "breast-feed it."
- ewɛnmila** [èwɛ̃milá] *n.* (< ewɛn — emila) "cow's milk": dairy milk.
- ewi** [éwí] *n.* a variety of fish, usually sold in the smoked form.
- ewindo** [éwídò] *n.* window (cf. Engl.).
- ewinso** [èwísò] *n.* whistle (cf. Engl.).
- ewisiki** [èwìsikí] *n.* whisky (cf. Engl.).
- éwoɛ<sup>1</sup>** [éwóè] *n.* whistling (by mouth).
- éwoɛ<sup>2</sup>** [éwóè] *n.* lava of a fly found under mats on mud beds that had been urinated on. It causes itching and crawl-crawl.
- èwoe** [èwòè] *n.* attendants; followers.
- Eyaɛn** [èyǎǎ̃] *n.* the name of a village on the outskirts of Benin along the Benin — Auchi Road.
- eyan** [èyǎǎ] *n.* pledge; promise (cf. yan).
- eyanyan** [èyǎǎ̃] *n.* yawn (cf. yanyan); yawning.
- eyeye** [èyéyé] *n.* (< eye — eye) "grandchild-grandchild": cousins.



**eye** [èyé] *n.* grandchild.

**eze** [èzé] *n.* a chisel-like blade used by wine-tappers; (cf. afian).

**ezegizegi** [èzégízégí] *n.* dysentery diarrhoea.

**eziken** [ézíkèè] *n.* 1. flute; it is made from a long thin calabash, and played during certain palace festivals; 2. the whining of a child.

**ezini** [ézĩnĩ] *n.* engine (cf. Engl.).

**ezinniya** [èzĩniyà] *n.* engineer (cf. Engl.).

**ezobu** [èzóbù] *n.* job: usually daily-paid labour, often requiring no specialized skill.

**Ezoti** [èzóti] *n.* name of a past Oba who reigned in about 1473. (Egharevba 1968:73).

## E

**ẹ** [è] *pro.* 3rd per. sgl. pronoun in the negative: O maa ra ẹ i maa? "He is good or he is not good? i.e. is he good or not?"

**ẹbae** [ébàè] *n.* a meal made from processed cassava and eaten with soup.

**ẹbee** [èbéè] *n.* danger; adversity.

**ẹbete** [ébétè] *n.* a variety of brown bush rat (also ekuomọ).

**ẹbee** [èbéè] *int.* used to express delight at somebody's mishap, especially if the mishap had been planned by the sufferer to befall someone else; it is the equivalent of "serves you right!" and is used mainly by children and women.

**ẹben<sup>1</sup>** [èbè] *n.* a ceremonial sword carried by chiefs as part of their status symbols; it ranks lower than the sceptre, ada.

**ẹben<sup>2</sup>** [èbè] *n.* a tree, found near water, (*Mitragyna macrophylla*), from which ceiling planks are obtained.

**ẹbi** [èbù] *n.* a force that draws one into danger or peril.

**ẹbibi** [èbìbì] *n.* (used with the verb zẹ), bustle; excited activity: ẹbibi zẹ vbe ore – "there is a lot of bustle in town; 2. publicity; news of a person's reputation: ebibi ẹre sẹ ehe hia nẹ – "his publicity had reached everywhere".

**ẹbo<sup>1</sup>** [ébò] *n.* a variety of sedge, whose stems are used for weaving mats and bags.

**ẹboo** [èbóò] *n.* charm, medicine.

**Ẹbomisi** [èbómìsì] *n.* name of an Edo deity who is said to have transformed himself into the hill now known as Oke Ẹbomisi along the Benin – Agbor road.

**ẹbo** [èbò] *n.* 1. a god; deity; 2. symbolic objects instituted to represent particular gods and deities.

**ẹbu** [ébú] *n.* a group of many individual objects or persons; a crowd: Ghe rhie ẹre laọ uwu ẹbu – "Don't



- take him into the crowd".
- ẹbubule** [èbùbùlé] *n.* a herb used as vegetable in soups.
- Ebue** [èbuè] *n.* name of Bini village.
- ẹda** [èdà] *n.* leucorrhoea.
- ede** [édé] *n.* crown.
- ẹdekita** [èdékítà] *n.* doctor, physician (cf. Engl.).
- ẹde** [èdé] *n.* day.
- ẹdeḃiri** [èdébirì] *adv.* all day: ẹdeḃiri ẹre ọ wa ya vbe oḃo – "It was the entire day that he spent over there; i.e. He stayed there all day."
- ẹdeḃemwende** [èdéḃémḃèdè] *adv.* forever; ever. Ghe rha ẹdeḃemwende – "don't steal ever."
- ẹdeḃbe** [èdéḃbè] *adv.* 1. daybreak; 2. overnight.
- ẹdeḃbe** [édèḃbé] *adv.* ten days duration.
- ẹdeḃbedeḃbe** [èdéḃbedéḃbè] *adv.* everyday; daily (also ẹdeḃeḃbe; and ẹdeḃbeḃbe).
- ẹdeḃbeḃbe** [èdéḃbéḃbè] *adv.* everyday; daily (also ẹdeḃeḃbe; and ẹdeḃbedeḃbe).
- ẹdeḃha** [édèḃhá] *adv.* three days duration: ẹdeḃha ọ ya ru ẹre foo – "He took three days to complete it."
- ẹdeḃhan** [édèḃhā] *adv.* six days duration.
- ẹdeḃhanre** [èdèḃhārè] *adv.* six days hence; in six days' time.
- ẹdeḃhinrin** [édèḃhírì] *adv.* nine days duration.
- ẹdeḃhinron** [édèḃhírò] *adv.* seven days duration.
- ẹdeḃhinronre** [èdèḃhírè] *adv.* seven days hence; in a week's time.
- ẹdeḃikede** [èdéikèdé] *adv.* any day; whatever day: ẹdeḃikede ne o rhirhi noḃ, u ghi rhiè neḃ – "any day he asks at all, give it to him."
- ẹdeḃki** [èdékì] *n.* market day.
- ẹdeḃne** [édèḃné] *adv.* four days duration.
- ẹdeḃrenren** [édèḃrèrè] *adv.* eight days duration.
- ẹdeḃruanre** [èdèḃruāre] *adv.* eight days hence; in eight days time.
- ẹdeḃriḃo** [édèḃrìḃò] *adv.* the other day; that day. ẹdeḃ ne i miḃen, ẹdeḃriḃo ẹre ọ se Eḃo – "The day I saw him, that day he arrived in Benin: That day I saw him was when he arrived in Benin."
- ẹdeḃsen** [édèḃsè] *adv.* five days duration.
- ẹdeḃva** [édèḃvá] *adv.* two days duration.
- ẹdiangḃon** [èdɪāḃḃò] *n.* processed coconut oil, used as body cream.
- ẹdienbo** [èdɪēḃò] *n.* "European palm-nuts": pineapple.
- ẹdienhiagha** [èdɪēḃhɪyāyà] *n.* palm kernel.
- ẹdiketin** [èdikètì] *n.* "day of rest": Sunday (in the Christian sense) (also ẹduzọla; ẹdizọla).



**edizola** [èdízólá] *n.* Sunday (also *eduzola*; *ediketin*).

**Edo** [èdó] *n.* 1. the native name for Benin City, as well as for the language of its inhabitants and environs; 2. the classificatory name for the group of related languages spoken in most of Bendel State, and which is a subgroup of the Kwa branch of the Niger – Congo family; 3. the ethnic label for the speakers of the Central-Edo group of languages.

**edogbo** [èdógbò] *n.* neighbourhood; immediate environment.

**edoo** [èdòò] *n.* cf. *ederrio*.

**edun** [èdũ] *n.* “bitter cola”, the fruit of the tree, *Garcinia Kola*.

**eduzola** [èdúzólá] *n.* “day of the week”: Sunday (also *eduzola nokhua*; *ediketin*; *esonde*; *edizola*).

**een** [éé] *int.* “yes”; positive response to a question requiring Yes/No answer.

**efe** [èfè] *n.* wealth; property.

**efo** [èfó] *n.* same as *afo*

**efoto** [èfótò] *n.* (< *efe* + *oto*) “riches of the earth”: mineral.

**efua** [éfuà] *n.* whiteness; light complexion: *ovbi-ere nekherhe mwen efua* – “His smaller child has light complexion”.

**egiegie** [ègyégyè] *n.* haste; hurry; ya *egiegie gha dee* – “use haste to come: Come with haste.”

**egion** [égyõ] *n.* a single-stringed native musical instrument fashioned like a bow. It is put in the mouth and played with two sticks.

**egogo** [égógó] *n.* 1. bell: *iran kpe egogo owie ne* – “They have rung the morning bell.”; 2. clock; watch: *o gba egogo ye obo* – “He straps a watch on his wrist: He is wearing a wristwatch.”; 3. hour; time: *inu egogo o tu?* – “How many hours have struck: what time is it?”.

**eguae** [égwàe] *n.* 1. the Oba’s palace in Benin City; 2. the residence of a ruler.

**egue** [égwé] *n.* hoe.

**eguen** [égwé] *n.* the variety of bat that lives in house ceilings.

**egun** [égũ] *n.* 1. the bathroom in the traditional Edo house; 2. an area in the traditional house for storing foodstuff such as yams and plantains.

**egba** [égbà] *n.* armlet.

**egbe** [égbè] *n.* a quick dancing step.

**egbenogbifie** [ègbènògbifyé] *n.* “Killer that kills the cleared bush”: harmattan wind (also *ekhuakhua*).

**egbedin** [égbèdĩ] *n.* cylindrical drum; large barrel.

**egbee** [égbèe] *n.* widow.

**egbee** [égbéè] *n.* family; sib.

**egbele**<sup>1</sup> [égbèlé] *n.* a small piece of embroidered cloth wrapped around the waist by people attending *ugie*.

**egbele**<sup>2</sup> [égbèlé] *n.* an idiomatic word for suicide.

**egbo** [égbó] *n.* forest; jungle.

**eghele** [éyèlè] *n.* a man belonging to the *ighele* age-group; i.e. from 21 to



42 years. They were responsible for fighting during wars, and doing other community chores such as house building and tree felling.

**eghé** [èyɛ́] *n.* small yam-pole.

**eghè** [èyɛ̀] *n.* time; period; eghè hia – “at all times;” “always”; eghè naa – “at this time”; “nowadays”; “now”; eghè nii – “at that time”; “then”; “in those days”.

**egheikeghe** [èyɛ̀íkɛ́yɛ̀] *adv.* any time; whenever.

**eghenede** [èyɛ̀nédɛ̀] *adv.* in the olden days; in the past.

**egheso** [èyɛ̀só] *adv.* sometimes; occasionally.

**eghodin** [éyòdĩ] *n.* African black kite.

**eghodo** [éyòdò] *n.* 1. courtyard; 2. an unroofed and enclosed courtyard within the traditional Edo house into which rain water flows; eghodo-errie – “courtyard in the harem”. eghodo-ikun – “courtyard in the ikun”.

**eghorho** [èyóřò] *n.* (< eghe – orho): “time of rains”: rainy season.

**eghoren** [ɛyɔ̃ɛ̃] *n.* a tree *Terminalia superba*, used as firewood only.

**eghughu** [èyúyù] *n.* alligator.

**eghute** [èyùtɛ̀] *n.* a kind of dance.

**eghuyunmwun** [èyúyũmũ] *n.* (< eghe – uyunmwun) “time of dryness”: dry season.

**ehae** [èhaè] *n.* forehead (also uharo).

**ehan** [éhã] *n.* buffalo (also ede).

**ehi** [èhì] *n.* one’s guardian spirit.

**ehien** [èhiɛ́] *n.* a general name for different varieties of native pepper.

**ehiendo** [èhíɛ̀dò] *n.* (< ehien – Edo) “Benin pepper”: a variety of spice known as “alligator pepper”.

**ehihi** [èhíhì] *n.* a very small variety of black ants usually found around sweet substances.

**ehinakhoe** [èhínáxɔ̀è] *n.* region at the back of the head.

**ehiunhobo** [èhyúhòbò] *n.* (< ehien – Uhobo) “Urhobo pepper”; pepper soup – a variety of soup prepared with much pepper and without oil, usually for convalescing people, or for women after childbirth. It is also prepared as an appetizer with choice meat or fish.

**eho** [èhóò] *n.* 1. throat; 2. voice.

**ehoheziza** [èhóhezizà] *n.* (< ehoho – eziza) “the wind of eziza” – whirlwind.

**ehoho** [èhóhò] *n.* wind; breeze; ehohoni – *n.* (< ehoho – oni) “breeze of fever”: cool breeze (believed to cause a cold if exposed to it).

**ehuan** [éhwã] *n.* 1. lightness; brightness; light complexioned. (cf. efua). 2. light coloured kola-nut.

**ehue** [éhwè] *n.* somebody/something with a large capacity for consumption; thing/person with big appetite.

**éhun** [éhũ] *n.* fart (used with the verb ne).

**èhun** [èhũ] *n.* decayed parts of tree stems; effect of insect contamination in grain and other foodstuff; worm-



- dust.
- ekan** [èkǎ] *n.* agate beads.
- ekete** [ékété] *n.* 1. a ruler's throne;  
2. the throne of the Oba.
- eke** [èké] *n.* cunning; deception.
- Ekehuan** [èkéhwá] *n.* name of an Edo village.
- eki** [èkì] *n.* 1. market; 2. trade;  
Eki-Oba – “Oba market”; Eki-agbado – “Agbado market”.
- ekire** [ékìré] *n.* frog.
- ekiudu** [èkyúdù] *n.* force: o ya ekiudu miẹ ẹre re – “He used force to take it from him: He took it from him by force”.
- eko** [èkóò] *n.* 1. belly; 2. capacity:  
Akhe na mwẹn eko – “This pot has capacity i.e. it is large”.
- ekobalomwẹn** [èkòbálómǝ] *n.* “hurting of the belly”: grief; sadness; distress.
- ekohiḡmwen** [èkòhíhyémǝ] *n.*  
“pouring of the belly”: diarrhoea.
- ekokodu** [ékókódù] *n.* “apex of the chest”: heart.
- ekokhomwẹn** [èkòxómǝ] *n.* “badness of the belly”: displeasure; irritation.
- ekorhienrhienmwẹn** [èkòryíeryémǝ] *n.*  
“sweetness of the belly”: happiness; joy; pleasure.
- ekorriaramwẹn** [èkòrátámǝ] *n.*  
“bitterness of the belly”: unhappiness; sorrow.
- eko** [èkó] *n.* hot cereal made from
- corn.
- ekue** [èkwé] *n.* 1. the Edo name for the town of Akure and its natives;  
2. a general name for the Yoruba people.
- ekun** [èkú] *n.* waist.
- ekuonkhuo** [èkóxwò] *n.* (< ekun – okhuo) “woman's waist”: a large piece of cloth, usually four yards wide, wrapped by women as part of their traditional outfit.
- ekhókho** [éxóxó] *n.* 1. dark corner; any place characterized by secrecy.
- ekhòkho** [éxòxò] *n.* a variety of large monkey.
- ekhu** [èxù] *n.* door; entrance.
- ekhun** [`xũ] *n.* a person who is unable to work due to weakness or illness; a cripple.
- ekhunkhun** [èxũxũ] *n.* “sweat fly”: gnat.
- ekhuia** [èxwya] *n.* bull.
- ekpahio** [ékpáhò] *n.* “urine bag”: bladder.
- ekperokhue** [ékpéròxwè] *n.* a shining black bird, the size of a pigeon.
- ekpeho** [ékpéhò] *n.* deep and resonating voice quality.
- ekpen** [èkpè] *n.* leopard.
- ekpetin** [ékpètì] *n.* box; chest.
- ekpiku** [ékpíkù] *n.* rubbish heap.
- ekpirro** [ékpíró] *n.* an edible fruit with velvety brown skin of the tree



*Chrysophyllum africanum.*

**ekpiyeke** [ékpiyèkè] *n.* “space of the back”: middle of the back; region between shoulder blades.

**ekpó** [ékpó] *n.* 1. space between two objects; gap: rhié ekpó ne iran — “give them gaps.”; 2. time period: ekpó nii — “during that time”; ekpó rriọ — in those days; that period.

**ekpò** [ékpò] *n.* 1. bag; 2. ₦200.00, or the equivalent of one hundred pounds sterling.

**ekpofi** [ékpófì] *n.* “bag of yaws” — a yaws-ridden person.

**ekpoghò** [ékpóyò] *n.* a pint-sized bottle used for measuring palm-oil for sale.

**ekpoghó** [ékpóyó] *n.* a variety of bamboo plant, used for building houses and sheds.

**ekpohian** [ékpóhyã] *n.* leather bag.

**ekpohunmwun** [èkapòhũmũ] *n.* headache.

**ekpoki** [ékpókì] *n.* a cylindrical leather bag.

**ekpokhurhu** [ékpóxùrù] *n.* stomach.

**ekpoliyẹkẹ** [ékpòlíyèkè] *n.* pregnant woman (also ekponiyẹkẹ).

**ekpowa** [ékpówà] *n.* wall gecko.

**elede** [éledè] *n.* domestic pig (also elede).

**elu** [èlú] *n.* purple dye, obtained from the leaves and roots of a local plant. (also elaali).

**elubo** [èlùbó] *n.* yam or plantain flour used for preparing the meal by the same name.

**emila** [émilá] *n.* cow.

**emwanta** [èmǎtà] *n.* truth.

**emwen** [èmǐ] *n.* 1. word; speech; utterance: I họn emwen ne u tae — “I heard the words you said; i.e. I heard what you said”. 2. matter; subject; affair; case: iran si emwen nii sẹ ekọtu — “They have dragged that case to court.”

**enina** [éníná] *n.* sensitivity; feeling.

**eo** [εo] *n.* no; negative response to a question.

**epipa** [épipá] *n.* keg, barrel.

**ere<sup>1</sup>** [èrè] *cop.* a variant of the focalizing copula ore, which serves to link the focalized item with the rest of the sentence: aga ere ọ tota yi. “It is a chair that he sat on”, as opposed to ọ tota ye aga — “He sat on a chair” — in which no item is focalized.

**ere<sup>2</sup>** [ècé/ésrè] *pron.* one of the forms of the 3rd person singular pronoun when it occurs as object or as possessive: Ozo gbe ere — “Ozo beat him”; ebe ere nọ — It is his book. Other forms of this pronoun are: enren; ore; onren;

**erere** [éréré] *n.* flute.

**erẹ** [érè] *n.* today.

**Eribo** [éríbò] *n.* the title of the second senior chief of the Iwebo society.

**erin** [èrĩ] *n.* a small variety of squirrel with bulging eyes.



**erinmwin** [èrímî] *n.* 1. the other world; the life hereafter; in the Christian sense: heaven; the seat of God and the other heavenly bodies, as well as the resting-place of the saved; in the traditional sense: the world of the spirits of the dead, as well as of Osa and the other gods; 2. infants; 3. the spirits of ancestors; masquerade dancers, who are symbolically linked with the gods they represent.

**erinmwin-Idu** [èrímîdú] *n.* "god of Idu" (idu was an old name for Edo, as well as the name of a past Oba of Benin); the shrine of the Oba's father at the Eguae.

**eriyo** [èrìyó] *n.* the title of a chief.

**Ero** [èró] *n.* title of the chief whose court is at Urubi quarters in Benin City, and who is a member of the Uzama.

**ero** [éró] *n.* that part of a rope in a trap which entraps the victim.

**erokhin** [éroxî] *n.* chameleon.

**eroro** [éroró] *n.* a small bell which is found in shrines.

**eromwɔn** [érómɔ̃] *n.* brass; brass bracelets and anklets.

**eru** [èrù] *n.* female antelope (cf. erhue).

**eruvbo** [èrúvò] *n.* river-tortoise (also elukeluke).

**erha** [èrá] *n.* bush-cat.

**erhaen** [èráè] *n.* blood. (also esagien).

**erherhe** [èřèřè] *n.* brain.

**erhe** [èřè] *n.* groin; lower abdomen.

**erhia** [éřià] *n.* 1. malefactor; 2. rubbish.

**erhonmwɔn** [èřómɔ̃] *n.* hermaphrodite.

**erhu** [èřú] *n.* hat; cap.

**erhunrhunmwonwa** [èřúřú mōwá] *n.* the roof of a house.

**erhunrhunmwun** [èřúřú mû] *n.* tail.

**erree** [èrèè] *n.* 1. someone else, who's unknown to speaker, Ghe rhie, ighe ogherree no – "Don't take it, for it belongs to someone else (who I don't know)"; 2. some unknown enemy: erree o gha gbuè – "May you be killed by some unknown enemy!" – used as a common curse; 3. peer: erreegbe – "peers of each other"; matched pair: equals in strength and resources: Iran vbe ore se erreegbe – He and she are matched.

**errie** [èryé] *n.* 1. harem; 2. the Oba's harem in the palace.

**Errie** [èryè] *n.* the name of the street in which the first storey building in Benin City was constructed.

**erru** [èrú] *n.* yam-stack.

**ese** [èsé] *adv.* well, properly: o le evbare na ese – "She cooked this meal properly".

**esee** [èséè] *n.* favour; kindness; good turn: esee Osanobua – "God's kindness".

**esese** [èsésè] *adv.* very well; very much: o ye mwɔn esese – "It delights me very much."



- eseseṃwense** [èsésémǝṣé] *adv.* very much; exceedingly; extremely: O ghaan eseseṃwense – “It is expensive very much: it is extremely expensive.”
- Esigie** [ésigyè] *n.* name of a past Oba of Benin.
- esin** [ésí] *n.* horse.
- eson** [èsǝ] *n.* poverty; destitution.
- etè** [ètè] *n.* sore; ulcer.
- eté** [èté] *n.* monkey.
- etẹbọ** [ètẹbó] *n.* heap of mud collected for building purposes.
- eti** [étì] *n.* 1. place in the forest which is rendered impassable by creepers and climbers; 2. confusion; obstruction.
- etin** [ètí] *n.* strength; power; force.
- etinfomwẹn** [ètíńfómǝṣé] *n.* (< etin – fo – mwen): “the finishing of strength”: weakness.
- etu** [ètù] *n.* beard.
- evbẹe** [èvɛè] *n.* kola-nut, presented to guests as a sign of hospitality and good will; also used in several traditional ceremonies.
- evbigbagia** [èvígɔ̀gɔ̀] *n.* the variety of Kola that typically has only two cotyledons and is found mainly in Hausaland. It leaves an orange stain in the mouth. It is also known as evbigabari – “Gambari-Kola”. It is not used in any ceremonial function in Edo land.
- evbii** [èvúí] *n.* 1. palm oil; animal fat.
- evbo** [èvò] *n.* 1. country; land: evbo-Igbo – “Igbo-land”; 2. people: evbo ne i rre owa – “people who are at home”; 3. language: evbo Uhobo – “Urhobo-language”.
- ewae** [èwàe] *n.* 1. family; sib (also egbee; unie); 2. empire: ewae Edo – “Benin empire”.
- ewe** [èwé] *n.* goat; ewe-amwen – “female goat”; ewe-owẹ: “he-goat”; ewe-owa: “castrated goat.”
- Ewẹdọ** [éwɛdò] *n.* name of a past Oba of Benin.
- ewẹdọ** [éwɛdò] *n.* prison.
- ewẹe** [èwɛè] *n.* chest (part of the body).
- Ewẹka** [ɛwɛka] *n.* name of the first Oba of Benin in the present dynasty. The title was also assumed by the father of Oba Akenzua II as Ewẹka II.
- ewia** [éwɔ̀] *n.* smell; very strong odour.
- ewo** [èwó] *n.* funnel.
- ewobi** [éwóbí] *n.* a despicable person.
- ewu** [éwù] *n.* garment; dress.
- Ewuakpe** [éwwakpè] *n.* name of a past Oba of Benin.
- Ewuare** [éwwaɾè] *n.* name of a past Oba of Benin.
- eyoto** [èyòtò] *n.* the foundation of a house.
- eze** [èzè] *n.* river; stream.
- ezi** [èzì] *n.* 1. tree stump when several



feet above the ground; 2. the stem of an object that may be used as handle for lifting it; 3. the area surrounding the base of a tree.

**eziza** [èzìzà] *n.* a spirit believed to roam in the forest and give rise to

whirlwinds: ehoheziza.

**ezo** [ézó] *n.* case; quarrel; law-suit.

**ezuwunu** [èzúwúnú] *n.* (< ezo-uwunu) "case of interior of mouth": grumbling.

## F

**faa** [fàá] *vb.* to disgrace; to embarrass.

**fafa** [fàfá] *vb.* to fade.

**fan** [fǎ] *vb.* 1. to release; to acquit, to set free: A fan onren vbe eghan – "He has been freed from imprisonment". fan edin – "to cut loose palm nuts from the tree", 2. to fall; drop suddenly: o fan fi igue – "he dropped suddenly unto his knees"; amen fan fua – "the rain started to fall suddenly".

**fanno** [fǎnǒ] *vb.* 1. to loosen; to untie; to unfold: fanno oko ne a ghe emwin ne o rre uwere – "loosen the parcel so we can look at what it contains"; 2. plural or reiterative sense of fan: Iran fanno avbe oleghan kua – "They have released the prisoners.

**fe<sup>1</sup>** [fé] *vb.* to escape; to become free. Ewe fe vbe irri – The goat has escaped from the leash; 2. to recover from illness: O fe ne vbe uhunmwonva ne o te vae – "He has recovered from the illness that had afflicted him".

**fe<sup>2</sup>** [fé] *vb.* to be wealthy; to be rich.

**fee** [fèé] *vb.* to make rich; to enrich.

**fenma** [fěmǎ] *vb.* (< fan – ema)

"free yam": to remove yams from the yam stack.

**feferefe** [féfɛ́ɛ́] *adv.* (usually with the verb fo) entirely; completely; finally: (also, fere) O rri ore foo feferefe – He ate it up completely.

**feghere** [féyɛ́ɛ́] *adj.* 1. (used with the verb "ye"): very light; without bulk or weight: o ghi ye feghere – It has become very light; 2. *adv.* lightly; with little effort: O ru ere feghere – "He did it with little effort".

**feko** [fèkó] *vb.* to be gentle, mild or gradual in doing something: Iran feko dee vbe umodia – "They are gradually approaching in the distance." (also heko).

**fere** [féɛ́ɛ́] *adv.* completely; entirely: Tue ere yoo fere – "Pour it in completely: i.e. pour it all in".

**ferefe** [fèɛ́ɛ́ɛ́] *adv.* (occurs with the verb mu) very sharp: Ero na mu ferefe – "This knife is very sharp."

**fi<sup>1</sup>** [fí] *vb.* to throw: o fi igho fil oto – "he threw the money onto the ground."

**fi<sup>2</sup>** [fí] *vb.* 1. to beat (of the pulse) Udu ere gha fi lelei – "His heart is



beating rapidly". 2. to hit: Ọ fi ere ubi – "He hit him a slap" i.e. "He slapped him".

fi<sup>3</sup> [fí] *vb.* to shoot: ọ fi ahianmwẹn vbe uhunmwun erhan – "He shot a bird on the tree."

fi<sup>4</sup> [fí] *vb.* to cover; to surround: Erhọn fi ere egbe hia – "craw-craw covered all his body: he is covered all over with craw-craw", fi ekharha gue ere – "Spread an umbrella over him: cover him with an umbrella."

fi<sup>5</sup> [fí] *vb.* to leave behind: Ọ fi ọmọ yọ mwẹn otọ – "She left a child behind with me."

fi-don [fídɔ́] *vb.* "to throw and miss": to miss a target; to make a mistake.

fiagba [fyàgbá] *idiom, vb.* an idiomatic expression that means "to summon a meeting" – used mainly in folktales.

fian<sup>1</sup> [fỹǎ́] *vb.* 1. (active sense): 1. to cut; 2. to break (e.g. of string or rope); (stative sense): to be cut or broken; to be loose: Ero fian mwẹn obọ – "The knife has cut my hand."; Irri ne u ya dee ewe fiaen – "The rope with which you tied the goat is broken." 2. (of money): to change into smaller denominations (cf. fingo).

fian<sup>2</sup> [fỹǎ́] *vb.* 1. to be salty; 2. to have a sharp smell: Orere hia waa fian ne ahio – "The entire yard has a sharp smell from urine"; Uwọnmwẹn ne u lee waa fian. – "The soup you cooked is too salty."

fian-re [fyǎ́rɛ́] *vb.* "cut eat"; to bite.

fian-rraa [fỹǎ́ràà] *vb.* "cut cross": to cross over (e.g. a river).

fiangbe [fỹǎ́gbé] *vb.* "cut in addition

to": to bless.

fianmwẹn [fỹǎ́mǎ́] *vb.* to hit (against): Ọ rhie erhan fianmwẹn onrẹn uhunmwun – "He took a stick hit him on the head: He hit his head with a stick".

fianyaengbe [fỹǎ́yǎ́ǎ́gbé] *vb.* (< fian-yan-egbe) "to cut over body". to self-aggrandize; to over-estimate one's worth.

fie [fié] *vb.* to clear a plot with hoes and machets in preparation for farming. This usually precedes the felling of the trees on the plot.

fieghe [fyèyé] *vb.* to swing something; to sway; to wave: Ọ fieghe obọ daa mwẹn vbe ọ gberra – "He waved hands to me when he passed."

fienwẹn [fỹèwé] *vb.* "to cut breast": to wean; to be weaned.

fienwin [fyèmǎ́í] *vb.* "to hit something": to hit (somebody).

fiekun [fyèkú] *vb.* "to throw waist": to move the hips back and forth as in the movements during coitus.

fienfienfien [fỹé́fỹé́fỹé́] *adv.* describes a sharp sucking noise, as that produced when one tries to suck at bone marrow; or the squeaking noise of house mice.

fifi [fífi] *vb.* 1. to leer with a longing for something: Ghe fifi yọ mwẹn evbare – "Don't leer at my food."

fiha [fíhà] *vb.* "to throw oracle": to cast oracle; to consult a diviner.

fii [fií] *adv.* into: Ọ de fii eze – "He fell into the river."



**fiko** [fìkó] *vb.* to stand and stare.

**filo** [filó] *vb.* plural or reiterative sense of fi<sup>1</sup> and fi<sup>3</sup>: 1. throw or drop things one by one; many people dropping things at the same time; 2. to shoot things one by one; or many people shooting things at the same time.

**findin** [fídì] *vb.* “cut a grave”: to dig a grave.

**fingho** [fíyó] *vb.* 1. “cut money”: to fine; to issue a fine; 2. to change money into smaller denominations; to give change.

**finhue** [fíhué] *vb.* “to cut nose” 1. to have a deformed nose; 2. to have excessive nasality in one’s speech.

**finve** [fívé] *vb.* “to cut a price”: to price something.

**fioghofiogho** [fyóyófyóyó] *adj.* (usually introduced by the verb *ye*) very tall and thin.

**fioghoroko** [fyóyóróko] *vb.* to hop about on one foot.

**fiokin** [fyókì] *vb.* “to throw circles”: to turn round and round on the same spot (often leads to giddiness).

**fionrueghe** [fỹǒ̀wèyè] *vb.* “to cause disturbance”: to harass.

**fionsughu** [fỹǒ̀suyù] *vb.* “to cause trouble”: to inflict trouble or problems.

**fionvan** [fỹǒ̀vǎ] *vb.* “to throw a proverb”: to quote a proverb at somebody, expecting the latter to determine its meaning.

**fiunu** [fyùnù] *vb.* “to throw mouth”:

to speak disrespectfully of, or to, one’s superior.

**fiwerie** [fìwèrié] *vb.* to change; to transform.

**fiya** [fìyá] *vb.* 1. to die; 2. to abandon.

**fiyekegbe** [fíyèkègbé] *vb.* “to throw back against”: to ignore; to neglect.

**fo** [fó] *vb.* to finish; to end: *evbare foo vbe owa* – “food is finished in the house.”

**foo** [fòó] *adv.* completely; totally: *I tie ebe nii foo* – “I read that book completely”.

**fọ** [fó] *vb.* (used with *ọfọ* as subject) to perspire: *ọfọ fọ mwẹn* – “Perspiration is perspiring me”: I am perspiring.

**forhion** [fòyǒ̀] *vb.* “to finish strength”: to faint; to pass out.

**fu** [fú] *vb.* to be gentle; docile: *ekita naa fu gbe* – This dog is very docile.

**fua**<sup>1</sup> [fúá] *vbl. part.* (usually occurs with vbs such as *rhie*, *mu*, *fi*, *de*, etc.) and indicates that the relevant object/subject of the main verb is thrown away, or out: *ọ de fua* – “It fell out”: it dropped.

**fua**<sup>2</sup> [fwá] *vb.* to be white or whitish (also *fuofua*).

**fuan** [fũǎ] *vb.* to perish; to be annihilated.

**fuegbe** [fwègbé] *vb.* “to be gentle to body”: to suit; to be agreeable for.

**fueko** [fwèkó] *vb.* “to be gentle in the belly”: to be of a gentle disposition.



**fuen<sup>1</sup>** [fwɛ́] *vb.* to stamp and roll about in: Ibieka nii gha fuen vbe ekhuorho — Those children are stamping and rolling about in the mud."

**fuen<sup>2</sup>** [fwé] *vb.* to waste; to squander: O fuen igho erhae hia foo — "He squandered all his father's money completely."

**fuenfuen** [fũɛ́fũɛ́] *adv.; adj.* (usually introduced by the vb. ye) 1. very weak; almost lifeless e.g. a dying fire; 2. (with hewɛ) fast; repeatedly: O hewɛ fuenfuen — "He is panting".

**fuenrhen** [fwɛ́rɛ́] *vb.* to smear on: O ya uwonmwen fuenrhen egbe hia — He smeared himself all over with soup.

**fuozu** [fwózu] *vb.* to be blind. (also fuezu).

**fuofua** [fwɔ́fwá] *vb.* to be white or whitish (also fua).

**furhu** [fùrú] *vb.* to grab; to snatch, to rush for, (usually of many objects and by more than one participants): Iran furhu ehia foo — "They have grabbed it all completely". (also fuu).

**furhemwen** [fùrɛ́mɛ́] *vb.* "to rush words": to stutter. (also furhemwen).

**fuu** [fùú] *vb.* (usually in relation to large quantities): to grab; to appropriate greedily; to snatch.

## G

**ga<sup>1</sup>** [gá] *vb.* to serve: o ga mwen la ukpo eha — "He served me for three years."

**ga<sup>2</sup>** [gá] *vb.* to be cooked; to be ready to eat. Iyan na gae ne — "This yam is cooked."

**gaa** [gàá] *vb.* to surround; to encircle (also legaa; gaga).

**gadagbaa** [gádágbáá] *adj.; adv.* (usually introduced by the verb ye) huge; expansive.

**gaga<sup>1</sup>** [gàgá] *vb.* cf. gaa.

**gaga<sup>2</sup>** [gàgá] *vb.* 1. to manage; to cope with limited means. 2. to care for; to look after: Ren ere o gagae khian — "He is the one tending him."

**gaigai** [gàigài] *adv.* describes a manner of walking: with wide confident strides.

**gaingain** [gàigǎi] *adv.* describes gait: with an air of arrogance.

**gegeege** [gégéégé] *adv.* (usually introduced with the vb. ye): describes something that is in a heap, that is, so plentiful that it is in a heap: Ize ne o dee ye gegeege — "The rice she bought is in a heap."

**gele** [gèlè] *adv.* really; indeed; actually: O gele se evba — "He actually reached there."

**gelegele** [gèlègèlè] *adv.* in fact; in truth.

**geletee** [gélétée] *adv.; adj.* (usually in-



roduced by the vb. yo, or ye), describes height, very high (also golotoo).

**gedegbee** [gédégbéé] *adv.; adj.* (usually introduced by the vb. ye) describes size: very big, very bulky.

**gedegede** [gèdègèdè] *adv.* usually used as an emphatic modifier after personal prons.: me gedegede?: "my very self?" i.e. do you actually mean me?

**gengenengen** [gégégégé] *adv.* (usually introduced by the vb. ye) very tight; bloated – Eko ere ye gengenengen – "His belly looks bloated."

**genne** [géné] *adv.* not at all: Erhokpa ma de fua genne – "None dropped at all."

**gi** [gí] *vb.* to allow to do; to permit to do, to let: O gi Ozo la owa – "He let Ozo enter the house". It has a variant gu when the object is 1st or 2nd pers. sg. pro.: O gu mwen la owa – "He let me enter the house."  
2. to be able (to do something).

**gia** [giá] *vb.* plural or reiterative sense of fian: 1. to cut into several parts or pieces; 2. to cut several objects; 3. several people cut the same object; several people cut various objects. (also giagia).

**giagia** [gyàgyá] *vb.* cf. gia.

**giagha** [gyàyá] *vb.* to cut or tear into shreds or little pieces. O giagha ukpon ye ore ekun – "He tore her cloth into shreds on her waist: "He tore the cloth she wrapped around her waist into shreds."

**giangiangian** [gỹãgỹãgỹã] *adv.; adj.* (usually introduced by the verbs, baa or ye) very bright; brightly-

coloured.

**gianranran** [gỹãrãrã] *adv.; adj.* 1. (with the verb tu): describes sound: the cry of a very young infant, especially at birth or during a bath; 2. (with ye): describes size: very tiny and numerous.

**giasen** [giásè] *vb.* "to spit saliva": 1. to spit; 2. to pronounce a curse or evil wish on a person.

**gidigbo-gidigbo** [gidígbògidígbò] *int.* a formula pronounced at the initiation of a wrestling match by one of the contending pairs.

**gidigidi**<sup>1</sup> [gidìgìdì] *adj.; adv.* (usually introduced by the verb ye) describes size: big and thick or strong (e.g. of yams; or human legs).

**gidigidi**<sup>2</sup> [gidìgìdì] *adv.; adj.* (usually introduced by the verb baa) describes flame: blazing hot.

**gidigbi** [gidìgbì] *adv.* firm and strong.

**gie** [gyé] *vb.* to send: O gie ere Edo – "He sent him to Benin."

**gie**<sup>1</sup> [gié] *vb.* to describe; to show: O gie ode ma mwen – "He described the road to me; he showed me the way".

**gie**<sup>2</sup> [gié] *vb.* to compare: (usually occurs with a pre-verb ya) Ya ona gie onii – "Compare this with that."

**gie**<sup>3</sup> [gié] *vb.* to spit (e.g. of a snake such as the spitting cobra).

**gie**<sup>4</sup> [gié] *vb.* to affect (of certain sickness): Uruvba gie ere akharha – "Boil has affected his thigh: he has a boil on his thigh."



**gie** [gyè] *prep.* indicates a direction: towards; to: Rhie ígho gie Ozo – “Take the money to Ozo”.

**gie**<sup>1</sup> [gyé] *vb.* to laugh.

**gie**<sup>2</sup> [gié] *vb.* to rip off, or tear off: abo ukpon mwèn giere – the edge of my cloth has ripped off.

**giegie**<sup>1</sup> [gyègyé] *vb.* to tear to bits; to break into pieces.

**giegie**<sup>2</sup> [giégyè] *vb.* to make haste; to be fast: giēgie rri ore – “Eat it fast.”

**gieghe** [gyèyé] *vb.* to be small (of many objects), in size, rather than quantity: tiny.

**gieghegieghe** [gyèyègyèyé] *adj.; adv.* (usually introduced by the verb, ye) describes size: very small; tiny. (of many objects). (also giēren or giere).

**giē** [g̃é] *vb.* to burn.

**giēgiē** [g̃ỹé] *vb.* 1. to have low endurance or tolerance for pain or physical discomfort: Egbe giēgiē mwèn gbe – “My body cannot endure much pain.” 2. to be hypersensitive.

**giēren** [g̃ỹé] *adj.; adv.* (usually introduced by the verb ye): very small; tiny, (of many objects). (also guērenren).

**giere** [gyè] *adj.; adv.* cf. giēren.

**giogilo** [gílogíló] *adj.; adv.* (usually introduced by the verb ye) describes appearance: tall and thin. (also fiofio).

**gin** [gí] *vb.* to leak.

**ginna** [gíná] *adv.* against; to: O gba ere ginna erhan – “He tied him to a tree”.

**giogio** [gyògyògyò] *adj.; adv.* (with the vb. baa) bright red. 2. (with the vb. ton). very hot.

**girri/grri** [gìrì/grì] *adv.* describes motion: sudden or unexpected motion.

**go** [gó] *vb.* to shout, to scream (also so).

**gogo**<sup>1</sup> [gógóógó] *adj.; adv.* (with the verb, so): describes noise: very loud. 2. (with the verb yo): very high.

**gokaan** [gókáá] *adv.; adj.* (usually with the verb ye) describes appearance: very tall and clumsy.

**golotoo** [gólótóó] *adv.; adj.* (usually with the verb yo or tan) very tall.

**go** [gó] *vb.* (in the active sense): to bend or curve; (in the stative sense): to be bent, curved or crooked.

**golo** [gòló] *vb.* to walk gracefully.

**gologolo** [gòlògòlò] *adv.* describes a manner of walking: with graceful gait.

**gon-ugie** [gõúgyè] *vb.* to worship; to hold the festival of.

**gongongon** [gõgõgõ] *adv.; adj.* describes appearance: pointed or angular.

**gu**<sup>1</sup> [gú] *co-verb* to accompany in doing; to help in doing: O gu erhae winna – “He worked with his father.”

**gu**<sup>2</sup> [gú] *vb. part* cf. gi.

**gu-de** [gùdé] *vb.* “to help buy”: 1. to assist in buying; 2. to buy from.

**gu-dia** [gùdiá] *vb.* to live with (usually as a ward or servant).



**gu-guan** [gùgũá] *vb.* to speak with; to speak to.

**gu-gui** [gùgwí] *vb.* “to quarrel with”: to scold; to query.

**gu-gbinna** [gùgbìná] *vb.* “to fight with”.

**gua<sup>1</sup>** [gùá] *vb.* 1. to adulterate; to admix (also guagua).

**gua<sup>2</sup>** [gùá] *vb.* (< gue-vbe-a-ya): to know how (to do something); always occurs as a first member of serial verb constructions. (also guara).

**gua<sup>1</sup>** [gwá] *vb.* to row (a boat). (also guoko).

**gua<sup>2</sup>** [gwá] *vb.* 1. to dig; 2. to plant pieces of yam or cassava in prepared heaps of soil.

**gua<sup>3</sup>** [gwá] *vb.* (of space) to be capable of accommodating; to have enough room for. Emwana gha gua ima – “This place can accommodate us.”

**gua<sup>4</sup>** [gwá] *vb.* (with ehien) to scratch or tear (with finger nails).

**gua<sup>5</sup>** [gwá] *vb.* (with kpao) to rise; to swell.

**gualo** [gwàló] *vb.* 1. to look for; to search; O gha gualo igbo – “He is looking for money” (also hoo).

**guagua** [gwàgwá] *vb.* to admix (cf. gua<sup>1</sup> (vb)).

**guan** [gũá] *vb.* to speak; to say something.

**gue<sup>1</sup>** [gùé] *vb.* 1. to cover; to put a lid on; 2. to shut; to close: O gue unu ne – “He has shut mouth: he has shut up.”

**gue<sup>2</sup>** [gwé] *vb.* 1. to be located with; 2. to be in possession of. Ebe mwèn gue Ozo – “My book is with Ozo.” Igho i gue mwèn – “Money is not with me: I have no money”.

**guemwin** [gwèmjũ] *vb.* to know something”: to be skilled; to be proficient.

**guero** [gwèró] *vb.* (< gue – ero) “to know tricks”: to be cunning.

**gue** [gwé] *vb.* to know; to be skilled at something.

**gue** [gùé] *vb.* to make sacrifice to one’s head during the Igue ceremony; (also ruhunmwun).

**guenrenren** [gwèrèrè] *adj.; adv.* (cf. gieghegieghe).

**gueze** [gwézè] *vb.* “to row river”: to cross a river by boat.

**guezegueze** [gwèzègwèzè] *adv.* (usually with the verb rhia or kulo): describes degree: completely; totally; entirely. Omọ na wa kulo guezegueze – “This child is spoiled completely. i.e. The child is very badly behaved.”

**gui<sup>1</sup>** [gwí] *vb.* 1. to quarrel; to have a disagreement. ma vbe ore gui – “He and I are quarrelling”; 2. to complain; to be displeased with: O gui ighe i ma tue ore – “He is complaining that I did not greet him”; 3. to state one’s case (in a quarrel): O ghi gui oghèe ne, me na vbe gui oghomwen – “After he had stated his case, I then stated mine.”

**gui<sup>2</sup>** [gwí] *vb.* to drone; to mutter indistinctly.

**guięzo** [gwyézo] *vb.* 1. (< gui-ęzo) to argue a case. 2. to complain.



**gukaan** [gùkǎǎ] *adj.; adv.* (with tota): clumsily, as if collapsing.

**gulugulu** [gúlúgúlú] *adj.; adv.* (usually with dinmwin or ye) very deep; (of eyes): sunken.

**gunu** [gùnǔ] *vb.* “to shut mouth”: to keep quiet; to shut up.

**guo** [gùó] *vb.* to collapse; to break down.

**guobo** [gwòbó] *vb.* “to know hand”: to be accustomed to; to understand (somebody or something).

**guoko** [gwòkó] *vb.* to row or sail a boat.

**guo** [gwó] *vb.* to tremble; to shiver.

**guogho** [gwòɣó] *vb.* 1. (in the transitive sense): to break; to crush; to pull apart; 2. (in the intransitive sense): to be broken; to get crushed or crumpled.

**guonmwengbe** [guǒmǐǐgbé] *vb.* to turn away abruptly (as if in protest).

**guonmwen** [guǒmǐǐ] *vb.* 1. to move abruptly or suddenly; 2. (of a dog's tail): to wag.

## GB

**gba**<sup>1</sup> [gbá] *adv.* indicates that the action in the main vb. was performed collectively: Iran gba rrievbare – “They ate together”.

**gba** [gbà] *vb.* to tie; to bind: ya irri gbae – “Use a rope to tie it: Tie it with a rope”.

**gba**<sup>3</sup> [gbá] *vb.* 1. to be complete; to be accurate; 2. to assemble; to gather (of people): Evbo gba ye evba – “People are gathered there.” Ígho nii gbae – “That amount is accurate.”

**gbakhee** [gbàxèé] *vb.* to waylay; to lie in wait for.

**gbaa** [gbàá] *vb.* to know somebody thoroughly, (especially his/her weaknesses or failures): Iran hia gbaa rue ne – “They all know all your weaknesses already.”

**gbaan** [gbǎǎ] *vb.* to shift; to cause to

move or fall by brushing against: O ya ukoko-obo gbaan mwen emiowo fua vbe obo – “He used his elbow to knock down my meat from my hand”.

**gbadaa** [gbádaá] *adj.; adv.* (with ye) wide and expansive (e.g. field; lake). (also gbalaa; gbalazaa, gbodoo).

**gbae** [gbàè] *vb.* to be big; to be full-sized (also digba).

**gbaengbe** [gbǎǎgbé] *vb.* (< gbaengbe): “to shift body”: to move out of the way for something/someone; to shift one's position; to avoid.

**gbaghada** [gbàɣàdà] *adv.* describes a manner of falling: like the fall of something with branches or extensions (e.g. a person falling from a height with the limbs spread out).

**gbaigbai**<sup>1</sup> [gbàigbài] *adv.* (with the



verb yunnu: to open and close repeatedly; to gasp: ọ ghi yunnu gbaigbai vbene ọ khian wu – “He is now gasping like someone about to die.”

**gbaigbai**<sup>2</sup> [gbàigbài] *adv.* describes a manner of walking: with confident strides: ọ gha ze owe gbaigbai: “He is striding confidently”.

**gbakiyeye** [gbákíyèyé] *vb.* (< gbe-akiyeye) “to make a joke”, to make a fool of; to make a joke of: Iran gha yae gbakiyeye – “They are making a fool of him”.

**gbakpan**<sup>1</sup> [gbákpá] *vb.* (< gbe-akpan) to be bald.

**gbakpan**<sup>2</sup> [gbákpá] *vb.* (< gbe-akpan): “to cause obstruction with foot”: 1. to obstruct or intercept someone walking along by causing him/her to stumble over his/her foot: Ọ gbakpan yọ mwẹn owe, i na de – “He caused me to stumble, and I fell”: to cause to falter in one’s walk: Ukpon ne ọ rhuaen gbakpan ye ọre owe “The cloth she had wrapped around her caused her to falter in her walk.”

**gbalama** [gbálàmà] *vb.* (< gbe – alama) to be meddlesome; to undertake responsibilities that normally belong to others.

**gbalaza** [gbálázá] *adj.; adv.* cf. gbadaa.

**gbaletto** [gbàlètó] *vb.* (< gbalọ – eto) “to wrap hair”: to wear a head-scarf.

**gbalọ** [gbàlọ] *vb.* 1. to wrap; 2. pl. or iter. sense of gba: to tie several objects; or to tie a rope round and round several times.

**gbangbanangban** [gbǎgbǎǎgbǎ] *adj.;* *adv.* 1. (introduced by the verb ye): strong; tight; 2. (used with

other verbs): tightly; firmly: Ọ ya ise kan iran kugbe gbangbanangban – “He nailed them together firmly.”

**gbangbanangban** [gbǎgbǎǎgbǎ] *adj.;* *adv.* erect; stiff; rigid.: ọ mudia gbangbanangban: “It stood erect.”

**gbankangbankan** [gbǎkǎgbǎkǎ] *adj.;* *adv.* describes shape: big and thick (of several objects).

**gbanno** [gbǎnǎ] *vb.* 1. to clear; to brighten up; (e.g. of cloudy weather): Iso hia gbanno ne – “The entire sky has cleared. (i.e. it won’t rain any longer); 2. (of sickness) to improve: Oni ne ọ gbee feko gbanno ne – “The fever that had afflicted him is now gradually improving.”

**gbaroghee** [gbá[òyèé] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>2</sup> – aro – ghee): to take care of; to look after: Rẹn ere ọ gbaroghe mwẹn vbe asikito – “He was the person who looked after me in the hospital”.

**gbasan** [gbásǎ] *vb.* 1. (< gbe<sup>3</sup> – asan) “to beat (with) cane”; to whip; to cane; 2. (idiomatic); to urinate (of male only).

**gbe**<sup>1</sup> [gbé] *vb.* 1. to hatch: ọkhọkhọ mwẹn gbe ihinron – “My hen hatched seven (chicks); 2. to break (of day): Ede ma he gbe – “The day has not broken: It is not yet daybreak.”; 3. to force open (e.g. door) Urho-iyekowa ere oyi gbe laọ owa – “It was the back door that the thief forced open to get into the house.”; 4. (with ete olighi, etc.): to precipitate something; to cause; to bring about: Ọ gbe olighi ye iran iko – “He caused a disruption in their meeting.”

**gbe**<sup>2</sup> [gbé] *vb.* 1. to dance: Iran gha gbe ugho – “They are dancing ugho



dance". 2. to move: *o gha gbe yo gbe re* – "It is moving back and forth; i.e. it is not stable".

**gbe<sup>3</sup>** [gbé] *vb.* 1. to beat; flog: *Iye Ozo gbe ye emwin ne o mu-fua* – "Ozo's mother beat him on account of the thing he lost". 2. to catch in a trap: *O ya ifi gbe uzo* – "He caught an antelope with his trap." 3. to kill; *imoto gbe arhunmwenva vbe ode Edo* – "A car killed two people along the Benin road."

**gbe<sup>4</sup>** [gbé] *vb.* to pick leaves of a plant by hand: *I khian ya gbe ebuwonmwen vbe iyekowa* – "I am going to pick vegetables from the back-yard."

**gbe<sup>5</sup>** [gbé] *vb.* to undertake; to do; to make; to produce; *gbugbo gbe – ugbo*): "to do farm" – to make a farm, or to engage in farming.

**gbe<sup>6</sup>** [gbé] *vb.* 1. (usually with liquids) to pour, to spill: *O gbe amẹ ye oto* – "He poured water on the ground"; 2. to expose to; to come into contact with: *O ya egbe gbe amẹ* – "He got his body wet." 3. to soil; to make dirty: *O gbe ukpon gbe* – "she wears out cloth too readily."

**gbe<sup>7</sup>** [gbé] *vb.* to be forfeited; to be gone for good: *Igho hia ne o ze ye ovbokhan ren uhunmwun gbee* – "All the money he had paid on his wife's head (i.e. as bride-price) is forfeited."

**gbe<sup>8</sup>** [gbé] *adv.* 1. very well; very much: *o mose gbe* – "She is very beautiful"; 2. excessively; too much. *Oghue bun gbe* – "Yours are too plentiful i.e. Yours are more than you should have."

**gbè** [gbè] *prep.* against: *O mu uh-*

*unmwun gbe ekhu* – "He hit his head against the door."

**gbè-gué** [gbègwèé] *vb.* to protect one's secrets or weakness; to cover up for someone.

**gbè-kaan** [gbèkãẽ] *vb.* "to move and touch": to venture into contact with; to cross somebody's path (in an adventurous sense): *Ghe gbe-kaan ren ighe e i maa* – "Don't cross his path, for he is not good!"

**gbe-kue** [gbèkweé] *vb.* "to break and spill over": to abuse vituperatively; to revile a person. *Okhuo nii ghi gbe-kue Ozo ne, ekhue na ghi mu enren* – "After that woman had reviled Ozo, he became ashamed."

**gbe-muoto** [gbèmwótò] *vb.* "to beat to the ground" 1. to ruin completely; to exhaust someone's resources; 2. to deface; to wreck.

**gbe-rua** [gbèruá] *vb.* "to beat to the limit": to kill. (also *gbua*).

**gbee** [gbèé] *vb.* 1. to slant: *Owe ovbokhan na gbeere* – "This child's legs are slanted i.e. they are not straight." 2. *Iran mu erhan gbee ode* – "They placed a stick across the road to block it."

**gbegbeegbe** [gbégbéégbé] *adv.* all (without exception); totally: *Iran hia kpaa gbegbeegbe* – "They all left totally."

**gbei** [gbéí] *adv.* (usually occurs after a clause or sentence to denote that the action expressed by the verb in the clause/sentence was performed in vain: *Vbene iran gualo ore se, gbei, a ma mioen* – "In spite of how hard they looked for it, it was in vain; it was not found."



**gbehen** [gbéhě] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>3</sup> - ehen) "to catch fish": to fish.

**gbenbe** [gběbé] *vb.* (< gben-ebe) "to write book": to write; to write a letter.

**gbele** [gbèlé] *vb.* pl. or reit. of gbe: Ọ ya asan gbele iran - "He flogged them with a cane."

**gberraa** [gbèràá] *vb.* to pass; to cross; to go through.

**gbeben** [gbébé] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>2</sup>-eben) "to dance (with) eben": to toss eben in the ceremonial dance performed by chiefs while paying their respects to the Ọba.

**gbehun** [gbèhú] *vb.* (< gbe - ehun) "to break into a decayed state": to decay from insect contamination.

**gbemwenho** [gbèmèhó] *vb.* (< gbemwen-eho): to spell out the meaning of a word in direct terms; to speak in direct, rather than idiomatic language.

**gben<sup>1</sup>** [gbé] *vb.* to write; to carve; to mark.

**gben<sup>2</sup>** [gbé] *vb.* to deflesh a piece of meat; to chew around bone.

**gben<sup>3</sup>** [gbé] *vb.* to clear off grass from a plot: gben irunmwun - "cut grass".

**gbengben** [gbégbé] *vb.* 1. intensive sense of gben<sup>2</sup>; 2. to narrate in great detail, especially in secret: Emwin hia ne iran ru ere vbe iyee i rre owa, ọ na doo gbengben ehia ma iyee - "All the things that they had done to her when her mother was away from home, she then narrated it all in great detail to her mother".

**gbenne** [gbèně] *vb.* pl. and reit. sense

of gben<sup>1</sup>: Ọ gbenne emwin ye aro - "She has marks on her face."

**gbero** [gbéró] *vb.* to be exterminated. U gha gbero - "May you become exterminated". (a common curse).

**gbete** [gbétè] *vb.* (< gbe - ete): to have an ulcer or a sore (usually on a leg or foot).

**gbeu** [gbèu] *adv.* describes a sudden and hard fall.

**gbidii** [gbídíí] *adv.* with the verb (hunwan): mute; without uttering a sound. I tuẹ ọre: ọ hunwan gbidii - "I greeted him; he remained dead silent."

**gbidii** [gbìdìì] *adv.* describes the sound of something heavy, such as a tree falling into water.

**gbigiawe** [gbìgyáwè] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>2</sup> - igiawe) to move with loud steps; to stamp around; to step firmly and loudly.

**gbigunma** [gbìgúmǎ] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>5</sup> - iguma) to grunt (e.g. with pain or fatigue).

**gbigbi** [gbìgbí] *vb.* to spread like the wind: Iyẹn nii gbigbi se ehe hia ne - That news has spread everywhere (like the wind).

**gbigbigbi** [gbìgbìgbì] *adv.* describes 1. the sound of a forceful knock on the door; 2. the movement of a strong wind or storm.

**gbigbo** [gbìgbò] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>3</sup> - igbo) "to hit a top: to play the game of igbo (in which a top is spinned in sand, by means of a piece of string tied to a stick).



**gbú** [gbú] *adj.; adv.* (with ye) numerous; very many.

**gbighidi** [gbìyìdì] *adv.* describes the falling of a big and heavy object.

**gbikhiavbo** [gbíxyavò] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>3</sup> – ikhiavbo) to beat okro in a wooden mortar with a pestle (the traditional method of preparing okro for use in soup.)

**gbinna**<sup>1</sup> [gbĩná] *vb.* to fight.

**gbinna**<sup>2</sup> [gbĩná] *vb.* to seek the protection of somebody (from an adversary).

**gbinrunmwun** [gbĩrũmũ] *vb.* (< gben – irunmwun): to clear grass.

**gbirhu**<sup>1</sup> [gbĩrú] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>5</sup> – irhu) to make a roost (of a bird) to sit on eggs; to brood.

**gbirhu**<sup>2</sup> [gbĩrú] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>5</sup> – irhu) “to make a shade” to cast a shade.

**gbirro** [gbíró] *vb.* (< gbe – irro): to pose a riddle.

**gbiyarre** [gbiyárè] *vb.* (< gbe-iyare) “to shout ‘Iyare’”: to wish well somebody who is embarking on a challenging enterprise by uttering “Iyare” (May you go and come); to wish safe return from the performance of a feat.

**goba** [gbóbà] *vb.* (< gbe – oba): to be dented; to cave in.

**gbobodo** [gbóbóddò] *vb.* (< gbe – obodo): “to dance obodo”: to pirouette; to spring and spin round and round on one foot.

**gbodan** [gbódá] *vb.* (< gbe – odan): to interrupt; to obstruct.

**gbodoo** [gbódóó] *adj.; adv.* very wide, broad (also gbodoo [gbòdòò]; gboo).

**gbogie** [gbògyé] *vb.* (< gbe – ogié) laugh at; to make fun of.

**gbohio** [gbòhyó] *vb.* (< gbe – ohio): to cave in; (of ground): to give way.

**gbokoo** [gbókóó] *adj.* (used with ye) well-built; (of human beings); tall and stout.

**gbokhokho** [gbóxoxò] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>3</sup> – okhokho): to hit on the head with the knuckles.

**gbokhokheve** [gbòxóxèvé] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>1</sup> – okhokho-eve): to burst into tears; gbokhokhogie: “to burst into laughter”.

**gboo** [gbóó] *adj.* cf. gbodoo.

**gboto**<sup>1</sup> [gbótò] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>3</sup> – otò): to wear routinely; to wear everyday.

**gboto**<sup>2</sup> [gbótò] *adv.* (< gbe – otò): against the ground; down: O de gboto: “It fell down”; “it dropped”.

**gbofò** [gbɔfɔ] *vb.* (< gbe – ofò): to break out (with) sweat: to become damp; to be wet.

**gbohun** [gbóhúú] *adj.; adv.* of human beings: to be tall and stout (e.g. an over-grown child).

**gboṣṣ** [gbòṣṣ] *vb.* to bark (of a dog).

**gboṣṣ** [gbòṣṣ] *vb.* to plant seedlings or cuttings: O gbṣṣ iyan – “He planted yam seedlings.”

**gboṣṣṣ** [gbòṣṣṣ] *adv.* staring foolishly; looking agape.



**gborho** [gbóřò] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>1</sup> – orho):  
“to hit mud”: 1. to be muddy, to  
get into mud; 2. to move around in  
the mud.

**gboton** [gbótò] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>1</sup> – oton)  
to break out with rust: to become  
rusty.

**gbovo** [gbòvó] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>5</sup> – ovo–:  
to begrudge; to resent.

**gbua** [gbùá] *vb.* (see gbe-rua).

**gbubi** [gbúbì] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>3</sup> – ubi):  
to slap (somebody).

**gbugbo** [gbúgbó] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>5</sup> – ugbo)

“to make farm”: to farm.

**gbuke** [gbúkè] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>2</sup> – uke):  
“to dance uke dance”: to dance with  
joy by stamping around to a beat.

**gbukegbuke** [gbúkégbúké] *adv.* de-  
scribes a revolting smell: *Ọ wia*  
*gbukegbuke* – It smells very badly.

**gbukpukpe** [gbúkúpúkù] *vb.* (< gbe<sup>2</sup>  
– ukpukpe) 1. to dance “ukpukpe”  
dance; 2. to trek back and forth  
anxiously.

**gbuu** [gbùù] *adv.* describes a bad  
smell; (e.g. of fermented cassava.).

## GH

**gha<sup>1</sup>** [yá] *tense/asp. part.* 1. present  
progressive marker: 2. future tense  
marker: *Ọ gha vie*: 1. “He is crying.”;  
2. “He will cry”.

**gha<sup>2</sup>** [yá] *inter. pron.* Interrogative  
personal pronoun: *gha oni khin?*  
“Who is that?” *Gha ọ miọren?* –  
“Who saw it?”

**ghà** [yà] *aux.* (occurs in conditional  
sentences): 1. if, when: *ọ gha rre,*  
*u ghi rhie ne ẹnren* “If/when he  
comes, give it to him.”; 2. would  
have, (when it occurs in the con-  
sequent clause of a hypothetical  
sentence): *Akpawẹ i mwẹn ígho,*  
*i gha de ọre.* If I had money, I would  
have bought it. In this context, the  
subject pronoun always has a high  
tone.

**gháa** [yáa] *tense/asp. part.* 1. (with  
high-mid tone) past progressive: *ọ ghaa*

*viẹ vbe u kpaá* “He was crying when  
you left.” 2. (with high-high tone)  
future progressive: *Ọ gháá viẹ vbe*  
*u a kpaá ne* – “She will be crying  
after you will have left.”

**ghaa** [yàá] *vb.* to bask (usually in the  
sun, firelight, etc.); to enjoy warmth  
and light.

**ghaan** [yǎǎ] *vb.* to be expensive; dear.

**ghabiona?** [yábyóná] *idiom.* “Who  
gave birth to this?”: a great, great,  
great grandchild; i.e. the fifth genera-  
tion of offspring. (cf. *eye; ihienhien;*  
*esakpareghodin*).

**ghae** [yàé] *vb.* to share; to divide: *Iran*  
*ghae egbe ye ihieva* – “They divided  
themselves into two parts.”

**ghagha** [yàyá] *vb.* to brag; to show  
off.



**ghan** [ɣǎ] *vb.* to behave haughtily; to be contemptuous.

**ghanghan** [ɣǎɣǎ] *adv.* of weather: to be very hot and bright and by implication uncomfortable: Ehe hia wa ye ghanghan — “Everywhere is very uncomfortably hot.”

**gharrao** [ɣáráo] *idiom.* a goodwill greeting used for chiefs — wishing them long life.

**ghee** [ɣèé] *vb.* 1. to look at; to watch. 2. *vbl. part.* toward; in the direction of: Ọ niẹ ebọ ghee odukhunmwun — “He stretched his arm toward up; i.e. He lifted his arm upwards.”

**gheghe** [ɣèéyé] *adv.* suddenly; unexpectedly: Ọ gheghe lẹ fua — “He simply ran away unexpectedly.”

**ghe** [ɣé] *aux.* 1. expresses negation in imperative and subjunctive sentences: Ghe rhie neẹ — “Do not give him.”; 2. (with a mid tone) it expresses the negative of gha in the consequent clause of a hypothetical sentence: (i.e. would not have) I kpa ren, i ghe de — Had I known, I would not have bought (it).

**gheẹ** [ɣèé] *vb.* to fornicate; to be promiscuous.

**gheghe** [ɣèyé] *vb.* 1. to manage or handle a delicate or clumsy object with caution; 2. to cope with great effort: Ọ feko gheghe egbe khian — “He is merely managing to survive.”

**ghegheghe** [ɣèyèyè] *adj.; adv.* 1. (with omaen) very old: ọ khin omaen ghegheghe: “He has become a very old man.”; 2. unsteadily; insecurely: Ọ guọ ghegheghe — “He is shaking insecurely.”

**ghereghereghere** [ɣéréyèrèyèrè] *adv.* describes a manner of operation: unsteadily, as though unsure of a goal or target; without enthusiasm or zeal: Iwinna ne a mu neen ru, ọ gha ru ere ghereghereghere — “The work he was given to do, he is doing without enthusiasm.”

**ghi**<sup>1</sup> [ɣí] *aux.* 1. occurs as a temporal particle in clauses: Ọ ghi rre, ọ na rri evbare — “When he arrived, he ate.”; 2. as an *aux* in negative clauses, meaning “any more”: E i ghi yo ugbo eghe hia — “He does not go to the farm all the time any more.” It has a variant *ghu* after the 2nd per. pron. 3. as an *aux* in an affirmative sentence to express resultative meaning “to become”: Ọ ghi don: “He has become lean”.

**ghi**<sup>2</sup> [ɣí] *aux:* occurs in the consequent clause of a conditional sentence as the conditional marker U gha miẹ enren, u ghi tue ọre — “If you see him, you should greet him.” (also occurs as *ghu* after 2nd pers. sing. pron.

**ghirighiri** [ɣìrìrìrì] *adv.* describes something very hot: Ame na ton ghirighiri — “This water is very hot (like boiling water).”

**ghogho** [ɣòó] *vb.* to wander; to roam; go from place to place.

**ghoo**<sup>1</sup> [ɣòó] *vb.* 1. to hawk things for sale (e.g. by carrying them displayed on a tray or basket). 2. of birds: to fly around in circles.

**ghoo**<sup>2</sup> [ɣòó] *vb.* to be a religious follower of; ma i ghoo ebọ; Osanobua ere ima ghoo — We do not worship or believe in pagan gods; it is God that we worship and believe in.



**ghoghọ** [ɣòɣó] *vb.* to be glad; to rejoice: I ghoghọe ighe u setin rre. "I am glad that you could come."

**ghu** [ɣú/ɣù] *aux.* af ghi 1 & 2.

**ghughe** [ɣùyé] *vb.* (< ghee-ughe): "to look at a show": to watch a performance; to stare.

**ghughe** [ɣùɣé] *vb.* to stoop; to bend.

## H

**ha**<sup>1</sup> [há] *vb.* 1. to pierce; 2. to penetrate: Ha uvun ye ebe na – "Pierce a hole in this paper." Olode ha mwen obo – "A needle has pierced my hand."

**ha**<sup>2</sup> [há] *vb.* to start suddenly; to shudder: O hae vbe o beghe mwen – "She started suddenly when she saw me."

**haa**<sup>1</sup> [hàá] *vb.* to frighten; to cause to shudder.

**haa**<sup>2</sup> [hàá] *vb.* 1. to parcel something; 2. (yams) to tie to stakes.

**haako** [hàákò] *vb.* (< haa-ako) "to parcel a gift": to send a gift parcel.

**hae** [hàé] *vb.* to pay; to compensate: Ha ígho ne o khare – "Pay the amount she specified."

**haan**<sup>1</sup> [hǎǎ] *vb.* to slope; to slant.

**haan**<sup>2</sup> [hǎǎ] *vb.* (of eating) to cause to choke (from food or liquid going into the windpipe). Ehiẹn haan mwen – "Pepper has choked me (by getting into my windpipe)."

**haan**<sup>3</sup> [hǎǎ] *vb.* to deck up oneself in good clothes; to be all dressed up.

**hanmwan** [hǎmǎ] *vb.* to be pregnant; to be with child.

**hanno** [hǎnǎ] *vb.* to select; to pick out; to choose.

**hapa** [hápà] *vb.* to tie a piece of cloth around the waist and between the legs (to protect the sex organs) like underpants. This is often done as extra precaution before a fight.

**he**<sup>1</sup> [hé] *vb.* to refuse; to reject; to decline.

**he**<sup>2</sup> [hé] *adv.* (occurs in negative sentences): as yet: I ma he kpao – "I did not leave as yet; i.e. I have not yet left."; I i he kpao – I do not leave as yet; i.e. I will not leave as yet."

**he**<sup>3</sup> [hé] *aux.* indicates that an action was "finally" performed after much reluctance or difficulty: o he kpao – "He finally left (thank goodness!)."

**heu** [héù] *int.* an exclamation of surprise; regret, or lamentation.

**hej**<sup>1</sup> [hèé] *vb.* to pack and take away several things; to gather and remove.

**hej**<sup>2</sup> [hèé] *vb.* in: hej yo, hej rre – to heave up and down (e.g. of waves); to parade up and down.

**hej**<sup>3</sup> [hée] *adv.* the second part of the interrogative formula for "how" questions: vbe-hej?: vbe o kha hej? –



“How did he speak: what did he say?”  
vbe ọ ru hee? – “How did he behave?”.

**heken** [hèékè] *vb.* (< heẹ – eken)  
“to pack mud”: to pile up and pre-  
pare mud for house-building.

**heén** [hèé] *int.* yes.

**heèn** [hèè] *int.* no.

**heko** [hèkó] *vb.* cf. feko.

**hengahen** [hèhè] *vb.* 1. to level up;  
to make level; 2. to form a sediment  
in a liquid.

**henhonto** [hèhòtò] *vb.* (< hengahen –  
oto) to level ground in preparation  
for erecting a building on it.

**henmwèn** [hèmwèn] *vb.* (< hon –  
emwèn) “to hear word” to be  
obedient; to be responsive to instruc-  
tion.

**henneden** [hèndèdè] *adv.* safely;  
wholesomely.

**hewè<sup>1</sup>** [hèwé] *vb.* (< heẹ<sup>2</sup> – ewee) –  
to breathe: Ọ gha hewè fuèn-fuèn –  
“He is breathing fast: He is panting”.

**hewè<sup>2</sup>** [hèwé] *vb.* 1. to rest; to take  
a break from something exerting: Ọ  
ghi zẹ winna, ọ na yaa hewè – “After  
working for a while, he went to rest.”;  
2. to refrain from doing something;  
to stop doing what one was previously  
doing: ọ hewè neẹ, ẹ i ghi viẹ – “She  
has stopped, she is no longer crying.”  
(also koetin).

**hi** [hí] *vb.* to pledge with one’s maker  
about the course of one’s life in the  
next reincarnation.

**hia<sup>1</sup>** [hiá] *vb.* 1. to make an effort;  
to try; 2. to struggle against odds;

3. to make appreciable mark in one’s  
effort: Ọ hiare vbe edanmwèn ne  
iran ruu – “He tried in the examina-  
tion that they did.”

**hia<sup>2</sup>** [hiá] *vb.* to scrape off (skin or  
cover): Hia ukpakon na me – “Scrape  
off the skin from this chewing-stick  
for me.”

**hia** [hyá] *quant.* cf. ehia.

**hian** [hiá] *vb.* to be clear and clean  
(e.g. of stream-water); to be bright  
(e.g. of cloth that has been washed  
clean).

**hie<sup>1</sup>** [hié] *vb.* to blow on a fire to  
keep it glowing: Hie erhen na ne ọ  
ghe doyo – “Blow this fire so that  
it won’t go out”; 2. to steam, or  
massage with a hot substance: Ọ ya  
amerhen hie ere uhunmwun – “He  
massaged his head with hot water.”

**hie<sup>2</sup>** [hié] *vb.* 1. to put a ceiling on  
a room; 2. to construct the ridge of  
a roof.

**hie<sup>3</sup>** [hié] *vb.* to arch; to bend; (also  
hierre): Iyeke ere ghi hierre ne ihe –  
“His back has become bent from the  
load he has been carrying”.

**hiehie** [hiéhié] *adv.* (occurs in ques-  
tions or negative sentences only)  
at all: Ọ ma hiehie ra? – “Is it good  
at all?” Eo, ẹ i ma hiehie – “No, it’s  
not good at all.”

**hiengbe** [hyègbé] *vb.* (< hin – egbe)  
“to climb body”: to cover one’s body:  
Ọ ya ukpon hiengbe: “He used cloth  
to cover his body: He is covering  
his body with a cloth”.

**hie** [hié] *vb.* to reduce in quantity or  
intensity: (e.g. of a crowd). evbo hie  
ne vbe evba – “People are now fewer



there.”

**hiere** [hiárɛ́] *adj.* (usually with ye) quiet and peaceful: Ehe hia ye hiere – “Everywhere is peaceful”.

**higboo** [hígboó] *adj.* describes height: very tall and well-built (of human beings) (cf. gbøhuun).

**hihie** [hihyé] *vb.* to pour; to spill: hihie amẹ kua vbe akhe nii – “Pour out the water from that pot.”

**hii** [hii] *int.* 1. exclamation of shock, regret, or disappointment: Hii! u ghe ghe de – “Oh dear, you shouldn’t have let it drop.”; 2. *adj.*; *adv.* very quiet; very calm.

**hiihii** [hiihii] *adj.*; *adv.* (occurs with ye or ru) misty; hazy.

**hiin** [hiin] *vb.* 1. to climb: ọ hiin odukhun – “He climbed up.”; 2. to swell: Ehe ne ọ gbekpa yọ ọre hiinrin – The place where he hit him has swollen up (cf. hinmwian); 3. (of new moon) to rise or appear: Uki hiinrin node – “The new moon appeared yesterday.”

**hin** [hiin] *vb.* to ride [e.g. bicycle or horse).

**hinmwian** [hiinmiã] *vb.* to swell; to be swollen: Owe ne i ya khian hinmwiaen – “The feet with which I walked are swollen.”

**hio** [hyó] *vb.* to be arrogant; to be proud.

**hió<sup>1</sup>** [hió] *vb.* to urinate.

**hió<sup>2</sup>** [hió] *vb.* to run a line through something with a knife to open it (e.g. a pod of Kola-nut).

**hioro** [hyòrɔ́] *vb.* 1. to crawl along the ground (e.g. a snake’s motion); 2. to drag something on the ground (e.g. something heavy): Iran gba hioro erhan nii la iba – “They both dragged that piece of wood on to the slab.”

**hionron** [hyòrɔ́] *vb.* to breathe.

**ho-bekun** [hòbèkú] *vb.* (< hoo<sup>1</sup> – bekun) to fail to find; to be irrecoverable; to be lost.

**hoaro** [hùárò] *vb.* (< hoo<sup>1</sup> – aro): to be curious; to be forward.

**hoemwen<sup>1</sup>** [hùémwè] *vb.* (< hoo<sup>1</sup> – emwen) 1. to be quarrelsome; 2. to provoke; to offend: Iran ọ ho ere emwen: “They are the ones who provoked him.”

**hoemwen<sup>2</sup>** [hùémwè] *vb.* (< hoo<sup>1</sup> – emwen) “to want the words to like somebody; to love somebody.

**hoho** [hòhó] *vb.* to blow (e.g. of wind).

**hohua** [hòhùá] *vb.* to come to naught.

**hoo<sup>1</sup>** [hòó] *vb.* 1. to look for; to want.

**hoo<sup>2</sup>** [hòó] *vb.* to have sexual intercourse with.

**họ** [hó] *vb.* to lay (eggs).

**họn** [hǒ] *vb.* 1. to hear; 2. to understand. 3. (with emwen) to obey; to heed counsel or advice.

**họnmwen** [hǒmwè] *vb.* to brush oneself or something as a means of purification (e.g. after a breach of taboo): Ọ gbe ewe ya honmwengbe – “He killed a goat and used it to purify himself.”



**hõnmwengbe** [hõ̃mẽgbe] *vb.* to perform purification of self. (cf. hõnmwẹn).

**họ** [hòó] *vb.* to wash (of clothes).

**họn** [hõ̃õ] *vb.* 1. to sprout (of new leaves); to grow (of hair).

**hu**<sup>1</sup> [hú] *vb.* 1. to foam; 2. (of soap) to form a lot of suds (i.e. to be effective for washing things clean).

**hu**<sup>2</sup> [hú] *vb.* to show rapid growth (esp. the young of humans or animals).

**hu**<sup>3</sup> [hú] *vb.* (with ekpa) to cause to want to vomit: to cause nausea; Ewia naa hu mwẹn ekpa – “This smell rouses nausea in me; i.e. it makes me want to vomit.”

**huan** [hṹǎ] *vb.* 1. to be clean; to become clean; to be neat; 2. to be holy (in the Christian sense): Orhion Nọhuanrẹn – “The Holy Spirit”.

**hue** [hùé] *vb.* to swell; to rise; to increase in bulk: Igari na huere – “This garri has increased in bulk.”

**hue** [hùé] *vb.* to sulk; to be moody.

**huehue** [hwèhwé] *vb.* to be sickly.

**huẹn** [hṹế] *vb.* to rouse somebody (from sleep or state of unconsciousness).

**huẹnrẹn** [hṹếrẹn] *adj.* very narrow and deep (like a long narrow passage, or a bush path).

**hughu** [hùýú] *vb.* to heave; to move back and forth (of a mass, such as water or a crowd). Iran na gha hughu yo hughu rre – “They were heaving back and forth.”

**hun** [hṹ] *vb.* (with the noun *ovbe* – “sleep”) to have a desire for (sleep): Ovbe hun mwẹn – “Sleep is with me” – I am feeling sleepy.

**hunhunhun** [hṹhṹhṹ] *adv.* (with the verb *gui* – to grumble) describes the indistinct hum of muttering: O gha gui vba hunhunhun – “He is there muttering indistinctly (like a bee).”

**hunwan** [hṹwǎ] *vb.* to be silent; to stop crying (of a child).

**hurọ** [hùròò] *adv.* describes a dull appearance; lifeless and dull.

## I

**i** [ì] *pron.* Non-emphatic first pers. sgl. subj. pronoun: I: I rrie owa – I am going home.

**ibá** [íbá] *n.* mischief: Ovbọkhan na ze iba gbe – “This child makes mischief excessively: This child is extremely mischievous.”

**ibà** [íbà] *n.* mud bench; slab: iba-orere:

“the mud bench on the front veranda”; iba-iyekowa: “the mud-bench on the back veranda”, etc.

**ibaba** [ìbàbà] *n.* brass bracelet worn by princesses.

**ibaigban** [ìbaigbǎ] *idiom.* “planting a thorn”: the act of declaring a woman an oloi (a wife of the Oba) or a boy



- an *omada* (sceptre-bearer of the *Oba*).
- ibalegbe** [ìbàlègbè] *n.* (< i-balò-egbe): quick temper; hot temper. (cf. *egbebalomwèn*).
- ibaro** [ìbàrò] *n.* long-suffering; ordeal.
- ibata** [ìbàtà] *n.* 1. shoe, footwear (cf. Bata Shoe Co.); 2. a measuring unit equivalent to one foot.
- ibi** [ìbí] *n.* 1. charcoal; 2. soot.
- ibiba** [ìbíbá] *adv.* especially; in particular: *Gbe iran hia, ibiba enòdion ne ọ rroọ* – Beat all of them, especially the oldest one among them.
- ibiẹ** [ìbyé] *n.* intestines.
- ibiẹ<sup>1</sup>** [ìbyé] *n.* the male youth in a household; also *ibiẹgae*.
- ibiẹ<sup>2</sup>** [ìbyé] *n.* a secret language used by the members of the *Iwebo* society. It is said to contain many Portuguese words.
- ibiẹka** [ìbìékà] *n.* 1. young children; 2. dependants (includes wives, children, wards and servants); pl. of both *ovbókhan* and *ovbòkhan*.
- ibiẹkikhuo** [ìbìékíxuò] *n.* (< *ibiẹka-ikhuo*) “female children”: girls (usually 7 – 14 years of age); young ladies.
- ibiẹkikpia** [ìbìékíkpià] *n.* (< *ibiẹka-ikpia*) “male children”: boys (usually 7 – 14 years of age); young men.
- ibiẹrrugha** [ìbèrrúyà] *n.* (< *ibiẹ-rre-ugha*) “male youth that are in the chamber”: the young men in the service of the *Oba* in the palace, such as retired *emada* (sceptre bearers); and the younger members of the *Iwegae*, *Ibiwe* and *Iwebo* societies.
- ibiriki** [ìbíríkì] *n.* 1. mile; milestone; 2. brick (cf. Engl.).
- ibiro** [ìbíró] *n.* an address term that means comrades; peers: *Ibiro mwan, wa lare ne a doo kuu!* – “Comrades, come and let us play.”
- ibisi** [ìbìsì] *n.* of despicable character; of villainous quality: *Ekhoe ibisi ọ gue okhuo na* – “This woman has a villainous mind.”
- Ibiwe** [ìbíwè] *n.* the name of one of the three palace societies. It is the one responsible for the harem.
- ibo** [ìbò] *n.* riddle (also *itan*).
- ibobo** [ìbòbò] *n.* 1. thin outer skin; a flake of skin: *Ibobo erhan bonmwèn fi ọre aro* – “A flake of the tree bark blew into her eyes.”; 2. soft skin (e.g. of boiled yam); 3. a sheet (e.g. of a book); a slice.
- ibota** [ìbótà] *n.* (< *ibu-ota*) “evening gathering”: traditionally the evening gathering of members of one or several households for the purpose of storytelling and the enactment of other verbal entertainment.
- ibowa** [ìbòwà] *n.* (< *i-bọ-owa*) “the act of building a house”: house-building.
- ibozeghe** [ìbòzèyè] *n.* a small proportion; a few. *Emwan ibozeghe ẹre ọ he zẹ igho iran* – “Only very few people have paid their dues.”
- ibokpo** [ìbòkṗò] *n.* 1. tent; 2. mosquito net.
- ibu** [ìbú] *n.* meeting; assembly, gathering.
- ibude** [ìbùdè] *n.* 1. giving advice; 2.



advice.

**ibuemwin** [ìbwèṃî] *n.* founding; establishing.

**ibuẹde** [ìbwèdè] *n.* fixing a date; making an appointment.

**ibun** [ìbùn] *n.* confession of adultery by a woman.

**ibuohien** [ìbwòhyè] *n.* judgement.

**idabo** [ìdàbò] *n.* (< i-daa -obo) begging for alms; 2. inviting a baby to one's arms.

**idada** [ídàdá] *n.* a frizzled haired person, usually believed to possess some magical powers; the shaving of the hair must be preceded by some rites. (cf. Yoruba: *dáda*)

**idaeho** [ìdàèhò] *n.* cf. idamwenho.

**idagbo** [ìdàgbó] *n.* 1. a public place; 2. bright and open place, as opposed to a shady and private place.

**idan** [ídǎ] *n.* a drum beaten after the Oba when he is going to an ugie.

**idandan** [ídádǎ] *n.* a hunch; a suspicion; a guess.

**idanmwenhò** [ìdǎṃèhò] 1. listening; 2. expectation; anticipation.

**idanwe** [ídǎwè] *n.* heel.

**idase** [ídásé] *n.* rascality (of young children); daring acts of playfulness.

**idase** [ìdàsé] *n.* novice; freshman.

**idegbe** [ìdègbè] *n.* unbetrothed girl.

**ideghedeghe** [ìdèyédèyè] *n.* heights; a very high place.

**idenghen** [ídèyè] *n.* a variety of native knife, used mainly in the kitchen.

**idin** [ìdì] *n.* grave.

**ido** [ìdó] *n.* loom.

**idoboo** [ìdòbòó] *n.* 1. impediment; obstacle.

**idodia** [ìdódyà] *n.* name of a small, black snake, with a white spot on each side of its head. Its name ("I stay quietly") derives from its characteristic poise: it lies coiled up, making little or no motion.

**Idogbo** [ìdógbò] *n.* name of an Edo village.

**Idokpa** [ìdòkpa] *n.* name of an Edo village.

**idola** [ídólà] *n.* "dollar" — worth English 20 pence (used to be a two shilling coin in Nigerian currency, but is no longer in use.)

**idu** [ídù] *n.* a variety of wild dove.

**Idu** [ìdù] *n.* an older name for Edo people, still in use in some Igbo communities.

**idunmwun** [ìdũṃwũ] *n.* a neighbourhood; quarters in a town: Idunmwun-Oliha: "Oliha quarters".

**ifaegbua** [ìfaegbwa] *n.* (< i-faa-egberua) "the act of disgracing one's self": disgrace; embarrassment.

**ifenmwèn** [ífèṃṣè] *n.* 1. arrow; 2. any thin piece of stick with a point: ifenmwèn-aguẹ — "ribs"; ifenmwèn-ikeke — "spokes of a bicycle wheel"; ifenmwèn-uhanbo — "the arrow of a bow"; etc.



**ifi** [ìfí] *n.* the general name for traps of all kinds.

**ifianyaengbe** [ìf̄yã̀yã̀ẽgbè] *n.* self-aggrandizement; over-estimation of one's worth.

**ifie** [ìfyé] *n.* clearing a plot as the first stage to preparing it for farming purposes. Next stage is burning the grass cleared, and followed by the felling of trees.

**ifiento** [ìfyè̀tò] *n.* the name of a group of men who wear their hair in small plaits and dance in certain palace ceremonies.

**ifiezo** [ìfiézo] *n.* a formal accusation; a court case.

**ifuanro** [íḿwã̀tò] *n.* (< ifuḿ-aro) "wing of the eye": eyelashes.

**ifuḱo** [ìfwè̀kò] *n.* (< i-fu-ḱo) "being gentle of belly": gentleness; calmness.

**ifuḱen** [íḿwẽ̀] *n.* wing e.g. of any flying thing.

**ifuḱero** [ìfwè̀tò] *n.* diligence; dedication.

**igabari** [ìgà̀bà̀rɪ] *n.* "Gambari"; the Edo reference term for the Hausa/Fulani people and various Arab tribes.

**igan** [ìgã̀] *n.* feather.

**igarawa** [ìgá̀rã̀wá] *n.* pail; bucket.

**igari** [ìgà̀rɪ] *n.* 1. processed cassava, in the form of rough powder, used for making ẹbae; 2. the name of the cassava plant.

**igaza** [ìgà̀zà] *n.* shackles for the feet; fetters.

**igedu** [ìgédú] *n.* timber; any timber tree.

**igengen** [ìgẽ̀gẽ̀] *n.* 1. the thin handle of a mug, jug or cup; 2. a small branch (of a tree).

**igiangian** [ìgyã̀gyã̀] *n.* 1. excited singing, shouting and clapping of hands, in support of masquerade dancers or wrestlers; 2. the excited cry or panic of someone in anticipation of pain (e.g. when an ulcer is going to be cleaned or dressed).

**igiawe** [ìgyáwè] *n.* 1. footsteps; the stamping of feet; 2. the heel of the foot.

**igie** [ìgyè] *n.* 1. the main part; the base; igiogbe – the seat of operation; the headquarters; 2. corner.

**igiemwin** [ìgyèm̄ĩ] *n.* illustration; description. *Ọ ya oni ru igiemwin ma iran* – "He used that as illustration to them".

**igie** [ìgyè] *n.* the stamping of the feet.

**igiemwen** [ìgyèm̄ẽ] *n.* (< igie – ẹmwen) "the base of speech": the chest. (part of the body). (also ẹwẹ).

**igiode** [ìgyòdè] *n.* (< i-gie-ode) "describing the road": guidance, direction.

**igiogbe** [ìgyógbè] *n.* the headquarters.

**igiorua** [ìgyò̀rúá] *n.* water-yam (a variety of white yam).

**igo** [ìgò] *n.* a full-sized bottle used as a measure for selling palm oil, kerosine, etc.

**igobe** [ìgóbèlè] *n.* a tall drinking glass (cf. Engl. goblet).



**Igodomigodo** [ìgòdòmìgòdò] *n.* an old name for the Benin Kingdom.

**igogo** [ìgògò] *n.* (with the vb. kpe) an unsteady walk: Ọ kpe igogo dee vbe urria – He is approaching unsteadily in the distance.

**igolu** [ìgólù] *n.* gold (cf. Engl.).

**igogo** [ìgógò] *n.* corner; bend (of a road).

**iguabo** [ìgwábò] *n.* elbow.

**igue** [ìgwé] *n.* village; interior.

**iguemwin** [ìgwèmjí] *n.* skill; know-how; proficiency.

**igwe<sup>1</sup>** [ìgwè] *n.* knee.

**igwe<sup>2</sup>** [ìgwè] *n.* the festival of traditional thanksgiving annually performed by the Oba and all Edo nationals.

**iguenguẹn** [ìgwéḡwé] *n.* stabbing with needle-like points: Ọ solo ẹre iguenguẹn – He stabbed it with pointed objects. iguenguẹn-uwegbe (idiom): secret malicious molestation that may take various forms.

**iguẹse** [ìgwèsè] *n.* expert.

**Igun** [ìgú] *n.* a quarter in Benin which was traditionally occupied by the guild of blacksmiths. They formed a sib, whose morning greeting is “laa ni!”.

**igunma** [ìgúmǎ] *n.* a grunt; a low guttural sound which may express fatigue, distress, or weakness.

**iguomorre** [ìgwòmòré] *n.* first servants of a newly crowned Oba.

**igba** [ìgbà] *n.* (with numerals) time;

instance: igbava (< igba eva) “two times”; igbaha (< igba eha): “three times” etc.

**igbagia** [ìgbàgyá] *n.* the variety of kola nuts introduced by the Hausa; (also evbigabari).

**Igbaghon** [ìgbayò] *n.* 1. the Edo name for the Jamieson river, near Sapele; 2. the name of the goddess of the river.

**igbama** [ìgbámǎ] *n.* an adult male, anywhere from about age 14 to about 21.

**igban** [ìgbǎ] *n.* 1. thorn; 2. bone of fish.

**Igbanke** [ìgbǎkè] *n.* the name of a town inhabited by both Edo and Ika people, to the East of Benin City. It is a boundary town between the Edo-speaking and Ibo-speaking areas of Bendel State.

**igbe** [ìgbé] *num.* ten.

**igbegbe** [ìgbégbé] *n.* velvet material.

**igbehẹn** [ìgbèhè] *n.* 1. fishermen; 2. (< i-gbe-ehe) – fishing.

**Igbekhue** [ìgbèxwè] *n.* the name of an Edo village, 25km. west of Benin.

**igbemaba** [ìgbèmàbà] *n.* “calabash drummers” in the service of the Oba.

**igbesa** [ìgbèsà] *n.* supporters of each side of a context or a quarrel.

**igbesanmwan** [ìgbèsǎmǎ] *n.* 1. the traditional wood and bone carvers for the Oba; the name of the quarters occupied by this group of artisans.

**igbigbe** [ìgbìgbé] *n.* all ten: Viọ



- igbigbe rre** – “Bring all ten of them.”
- igbigbe** [ìgbígbè] *n.* tens; in groups of ten.
- igbin** [ìgbí] *n.* the second round of yam tuber produced by a yam plant; it is usually very hard and it is used mainly as seed-yam for planting.
- igbinna** [ìgbǐnà] *n.* a fight; fighting; a struggle.
- igbiragia** [ìgbìtàgyà] *n.* prostitute; harlot.
- igbo**<sup>1</sup> [ìgbò] *n.* a top; a conical wooden toy which rotates on its sharp point when spinned in the sand.
- igbo** [ìgbò] *n.* the Igbo-speaking people; (also igbọ).
- igbogię** [ìgbògyè] *n.* (< i-gbe-ogię) making fun; jesting.
- igbolighi** [ìgbòlì] *n.* “making confusion”: causing confusion; disrupting.
- igboo** [ìgbòó] *n.* 1. echo; 2. interference.
- igbọn**<sup>1</sup> [ìgbǒ] *n.* knee.
- igbọn**<sup>2</sup> [ìgbǒ] *n.* a derogatory Edo word for the Igbo-speaking people; (not much in use any more with this meaning, but as a general abusive term).
- igbovo** [ìgbòvò] *n.* grudge; resentment.
- igbu** [ìgbú] *n.* 1. a big piece of cloth, about six yards wide before it is sewn, used by men as a covering-cloth.
- ighaan** [ìyǎǎ] *n.* the Edo name for Igarra and its environs.
- ighe** [íyè] *conj.* 1. serves as complementizer for embedded noun clauses: ọ mię ighe iwinna nii logho: “He found that that work was difficult”; 2. serves as a subordinating conjunction in sentences with sequential clauses: I khian ighe egbe wọ mwẹn – I am going, for I am tired; 3. serves to introduce nouns or noun phrases in apposition: Ọ rre ne ighe Ozo – “He has come, that is, Ozo: He, Ozo, has come.”
- ighehe** [ìyèhè] *n.* molar teeth.
- ighele** [íyèlè] *n.* manhood age group from about 21 to 42 years. Initiation into this age group is usually marked by some ceremony.
- ighibierrię** [ìyíbyèryé] *n.* the female servants of the palace harem.
- ighisu** [íyísù] *n.* (< igho-isu) interest paid on loan.
- igho**<sup>1</sup> [íyó] *n.* money; igho nọba – “gold”; igho nofua – “silver”; igho-ehaya: rent; igho-uhunmwun – “tax” (paid by every head of the population; hence the name).
- igho**<sup>2</sup> [íyó] *n.* milk-teeth. Ọmọmọ zę igho ne: “The baby has started to have some milk-teeth.”
- igho** [ìyò] *n.* horn.
- ighobioye** [íyóbyóyé] *idiom.* something very expensive; something considered precious.
- ighogho** [ìyòyò] *n.* 1. smoke.
- ighonmighon** [íyǒmìyǒ] *n.* the Edo name for a native of Igarra (it is not complimentary).
- iha** [ìhà] *n.* oracle: iha ominigbọn –



“Ominigbon divination.”

**ihako** [ihàkò] *n.* presentation or gift – giving; gift.

**Ihama** [ihámá] *n.* the title of leader of the Ihogbe chiefs; he attends to the Oba's ancestral shrines of the paternal side.

**ihan** [ihâ] *n.* 1. the wrong side; the awkward direction; *Ọ la mwẹn ihan rre* – “It came through my wrong side.”

**íhan** [ihã] *n.* a deep dry well.

**ihe** [ihè] *n.* 1. location; place; 2. position, rank. *ihe ne iran do rhie ere yi na ma zede ke neę* – “The position at which they have now placed him does not suit him at all.”

**ihēgbe** [ihégbè] *n.* (< ihe-egbe) equals in rank.

**iheni** [ihèni] *n.* naming; name-giving (of a child).

**ihērhe** [ihèřè] *n.* the toothless gums (of infants or the aged) (also irriorrio).

**ihe** [ihé] *n.* load; luggage: *ihe ore bun gbe* – “Her luggage is too much.”

**ihēn** [ihěě] *n.* 1. curse: *Ọ tie ihēn mę* – “He called out a curse to me”: “He cursed me.” 2. oath: *Ọ ya mwẹn vęn ihēn* – “He used me to take an oath”: “He made me take an oath.”

**ihēnhunnu** [ihěhũnũ] *n.* (< i-hēnhēnu) “levelling of mouth”: a consensus; a unanimous decision.

**ihēmwen** [ihémwě] *n.* 1. kidney beans; the kidneys.

**ihiaġha** [ihyàġà] *n.* 1. tassel of corn;

2. flowers of fruit trees; 3. naturally matted hair.

**ihie** [ihyé] *n.* 1. ceiling; 2. the ridge of the roof of a house.

**ihieghe** [ihyèyè] *n.* 1. a tree, *Myrianthus arboreus*, whose fresh leaves are used as vegetables in a native soup of the same name.

**ihiehie** [ihyèhyé] *n.* a variety of beans, black in colour.

**ihien** [ihyě] *n.* 1. nails, claws; *ihionbo*: (< *ihien-obo*): – finger nails; *ihionwe*: (< *ihien-owe*): toes.

**ihienhien** [ihyěhyě] *n.* great-grandchild; third generation of off-spring.

**ihiiin** [ihĩĩ] *n.* mucus.

**ihinrin** [ihĩĩĩ] *num.* nine.

**ihinron** [ihĩĩõ] *num.* seven.

**ihion** [ihĩõ] *n.* 1. pod of the plant, *Luffa egyptiaca*, used as sponge; 2. any substance used as sponge.

**iho** [ihò] *n.* 1. one's peer; comrade; one's equal: when used with a pronoun, *iho* becomes *ihua*: *E i re ihua mwẹn* – “He is not my peer” (usually implies he is inferior to me).

**ihoi** [ihoi] *n.* zero; naught; nothing.

**ihonmwengbe** [ihõmwěgbè] *n.* (< *ihonmwẹn-egbe*): self-purification; the ritual is a complicated process, which includes brushing the body with the animal (or part thereof), usually a chicken intended for the ritual, as well as certain leaves, and the tip of a palm leaf, while certain purification formulas are recited.



**ihonmwonwa** [ihõmõwà] *n.* (< i-honmwen-owa): the purification of house; usually performed to avoid the evil effects of a broken taboo.

**ihu** [ihú] *n.* 1. foam; 2. poison.

**ihua** [ihuà] *n.* cf. iho.

**ihuan** [ihwá] *n.* song.

**ihuarò** [ihwàrò] *n.* curiosity; forwardness.

**ihue** [ihwé] *n.* nose.

**ihuru** [ihúrù] *n.* an itchy foot irritation, believed to be caused by the droppings of earthworm: isinkolo (isan-ikolo).

**ihunhun** [ihúhũ] *n.* millipede.

**ika<sup>1</sup>** [íká] *n.* a special variety of coral necklace worn by chiefs, which is strung up on wire and forms a wide ring around the neck.

**ika<sup>2</sup>** [íká] *n.* the hard spur-like projection on a cock's leg.

**ikadele** [íkàdélè] *n.* a pole with a fork (usually used for pegging things, to give them support).

**ikagha** [ikàyà] *n.* 1. bridle; 2. gag. (also ukhu).

**ikainse** [ikãisè] *n.* a special charm used to arrest the powers of witches and wizards to transform back into their human forms.

**ikan** [íkã] *n.* a creeper used for canes, as well as for weaving baskets. Its Latin name is given as *Eremospatha macrocarpa*.

**ikannaban** [ikãnãbã] *n.* in an unripe

state; tartness (of fruit).

**ikaun** [ikãũ] *n.* potash.

**ikawẹ** [ikàwè] *n.* footstep: Ọ lele ẹre ikawẹ ikawẹ – “He followed his footsteps one after the other.”

**ike** [ikè] *n.* log; ikerhan (ike-erhan): a log of wood.

**ikebe** [ikèbè] *n.* buttocks (also itotaya).

**ikebezu** [ikèbèzú] *n.* fury.

**ikeferi** [ikèfèrì] *n.* non-Christians; heathens; pagans.

**ikele** [ikèlè] *n.* a large piece; a lump of: ikele ema “a large piece of pounded yam”.

**ikewu** [ikéwù] *n.* pot-rest.

**ikedẹ** [ikèdè] *n.* “counter of days”: calendar.

**ikega** [ikégà] *n.* 1. wrist (also urhuabọ); 2. good-luck charm in the form of a carved hand on a stool (used by men) or as an anklet of cowries (used by women). The idiom: “khon mu obo yan ikega” – “to succeed; to be victorious” probably relates to the latter meaning.

**ikeke** [ikèké] *n.* bicycle.

**ikenren** [ikèrè] *n.* 1. poker dots; 2. drops of water on the skin (usually after a bath) like poker dots.

**iketin** [ikètí] *n.* rest from work: ediketin (ede-iketin): day of rest: (for Christians): Sunday; (for non-Christians): eken.

**ikian** [ikyá] *n.* fly; housefly.



**ikiewua** [ik̄yèwuà] *n.* waking the Oba ceremonially by imitating the crow of the cock.

**ikiokhoe** [ik̄yɔ̄xɔ̄è] *num.* one hundred and forty.

**iko** [ikó] *n.* council; meeting.

**ikolo** [íkòlò] *n.* earthworm.

**ikoro** [íkóró] *n.* a very broad brass armlet worn by chiefs at certain ceremonies.

**ikoroba** [íkóróbá] *n.* bucket; pail (also igarawa).

**ikotu** [ikótù] *n.* court. (cf. Engl.).

**iko** [ik̄] *n.* adversary; opponent; enemy.

**ikobo** [íkóbò] *n.* penny.

**iku**<sup>1</sup> [ikù] *n.* 1. dirt; rubbish garbage; 2. small bits of; crumbs; left-over.

**iku**<sup>2</sup> [ikù] *n.* (of a sore) pus; gangrene: *iku la ọre ẹte ne* — “His sore is now gangrene.”

**iku**<sup>3</sup> [ikù] *n.* 1. play; games; dances, etc; 2. friendship; cordiality.

**ikueken** [ikwék̄] *n.* attendants; followers.

**ikun**<sup>1</sup> [ikũ] *n.* bundle; a bunch (e.g. of plantains).

**ikun**<sup>2</sup> [ikũũ] *n.* the equivalent of the parlour in the Edo traditional house in which the various ancestral shrines are housed. There may be more than one *ikun* in a house, depending on the affluence of the house-owner. e.g. *ikun ne ughoree* — “outer *ikun*”; *ikun ne errie* — “the harem *ikun*”; etc.

**ikuenkuen** [ikw̄ɛkw̄ɛ] *n.* wrinkles: *Ukpon mwɛn bunno ikuenkuen* — “My cloth broke wrinkles: My cloth is wrinkled.”

**ikuigho** [ikw̄íyó] *n.* (< *iku-igho*) “small bits of money”: coins.

**ikhan** [ix̄ã] *n.* 1. (of human beings): 1. strong body odor; 2. the stale smell of rotting food.

**ikharo** [ix̄áɔ̄] *n.* (< *ikho-aro*) “tribal mark of the face”: the tribal marks that were made on the forehead.

**ikhegbe** [ix̄ɛgb̄è] *n.* (< *i-khegbe*) supporting body; self-support; security.

**ikhi** [ix̄i] *n.* vengeance; revenge.

**ikhian** [ix̄ȳã] *n.* the magical transformation from human form into animals or other forms.

**ikhianbo** [ix̄ȳàvò] *n.* okra (*Hibiscus esculantus*)

**ikhiegbe** [ix̄ȳɛgb̄è] *n.* (< *i-khie-egbe*) lamentation; distress.

**ikhinmwini** [ix̄ímj̄i] *n.* a tree, believed to be the oldest of all trees. It is planted as a hedge in shrine-cites. Its Latin name is given as *Newbouldia laevis*.

**ikho** [ix̄ò] *n.* the traditional tribal mark made on the forehead of both men and women.

**ikhoeko** [ix̄òɛkò] *n.* (< *i-kho-eko*) — “badness of belly” displeasure; unhappiness.

**ikhorhion** [ix̄òȳɔ̄] *n.* (< *i-kho-orhion*) “badness of soul”: ugliness; unsightliness.



**ikhuiwu** [ìxwíwù] *n.* jealousy; hatred.

**ikpakpa** [íkpákṗá] *n.* skin; peel; bark.

**ikpakpalo** [íkpákṗálò] *n.* brown lima beans.

**ikpanro** [íkpárò] *n.* eye-balls.

**ikpata** [íkpátá] *n.* highway robbers.

**ikpatako** [íkpátákò] *n.* 1. a small stool used for sitting mainly in the kitchen. 2. a makeshift bench.

**ikpawẹ** [íkpàwẹ] *n.* floor of house.

**ikpayẹ** [íkpàyẹ] *n.* followers; attendants.

**ikpekere** [íkpékéré] *n.* a snack made from unripe plantains (peeled, sliced thinly, salted and fried crisp in palm oil.)

**ikpekhie** [íkpèxiè] *n.* a variety of white beans.

**ikpekperu** [íkpékpérù] *n.* an edible kind of mushroom found on decaying tree trunks.

**ikpema** [íkpèmã] *n.* the original royal drummers who resided in Ikpema quarters (idunmwùn ikpema).

**ikpenma** [íkpēmã] *n.* (< i-kpen-ema) yam-harvesting.

**ikpeziken** [íkpèzikè] *n.* the blowers of horn-trumpets and calabash flutes for the Oba.

**ikpe** [íkpè] *n.* 1. seed e.g. ikpogi (ikpe-ogi): melon seed; ikporu (ikpe-oru): cotton seed; 2. grain: ikpoka (ikpe-oka) corn grains: 3. the unpounded bits of yam that feature like grain in badly-pounded yam.

**ikpe**<sup>2</sup> [íkpè] *n.* individual piece or member: ikpeḍe (< ikpe – eḍe) individual days; date; ikpeḍe ene – four days; ikpokuta (< ikpe – okuta): a piece of stone – a gravel.

**ikpeḍe** [íkpédè] *n.* (ikpe – eḍe) individual days: Inu ikpeḍe o ghi ye ne o ghi kpao? – “How many days is it since he left?”

**ikpedin** [íkpēdī] *n.* palm nuts.

**ikpekete** [íkpèkètè] *n.* drummers placed behind the Oba while he is in attendance at a ceremony.

**ikpekpe** [íkpèkpé] *n.* cemetery (also ite).

**ikpen** [íkpè] *n.* yellow yam.

**ikpesi** [íkpèsì] *n.* a tall yam-pole.

**ikpianbo** [íkpíābɔ] *n.* cf. ikpihianbo.

**ikpianwe** [íkpíāwè] *n.* cf. ikpihianwe.

**ikpigho** [íkpíyó] *n.* cowries.

**ikpihianbo** [íkpíhīābɔ] *n.* finger: ikpihianbo-nogie; “the chiefly finger”: the thumb; ikpihianbo-nusexae: “the finger that points”: the indicator; (also ikpihianbo-nowuaoroka – “the finger that forbids rings”); ikpihianbo-nadesẹ: middle finger; ikpihianbo-oroka: ring finger; ikpihianbo-nekherhe – little finger.

**ikpihianwe** [íkpíhyāwè] *n.* toe; ikpihianwe-nogie: big toe.

**ikpin** [íkpí] *n.* 1. boa; 2. rainbow.

**ikpirunmwun** [íkpířũmũ] *n.* the seeds of a weed that cling to clothes and body-hair.



**ikpise** [ìk̀p̀ísè] *n.* (< ikpe-ise) the black seeds woven in a net around a calabash to make the musical instrument known as ukuse.

**ikpo** [ìk̀p̀ó] *n.* very hard and dry mud.

**Ikpoba** [ìk̀p̀òbà] *n.* name of the river that runs along the eastern side of Benin City.

**ikpogi** [ìk̀p̀ógì] *n.* melon-seed used for preparing soup. (Yor: egusi).

**ikpoleki** [ìk̀p̀ólèkì] *n.* an annual festival of the deity Okhuahe.

**ikpolo** [ìk̀p̀ólò] *n.* sweeping (mainly done in the morning, during which the entire house and premises are swept.)

**Ikpokpan** [ìk̀p̀òkpã] *n.* name of an old village component of Benin City which is now part of the urban complex.

**ikpokpan** [ìk̀p̀ókpã] *n.* a high rack over the hearth, used for storing various cooking ingredients and left-over soup.

**ikporhu** [ìk̀p̀òřù] *n.* 1. sermon-preaching (in the Christian worship as a part of the Sunday service); 2. evangelism.

**ikpotoki** [ìk̀p̀òtókí] *n.* the Edo name for the Portuguese, the people and their language. (also ikpotokin).

**ikpon** [ìk̀p̀ó] *n.* pound (money; previously equivalent of the pound sterling and the Nigerian pound; now worth two Nigerian naira).

**ikpowia** [ìk̀p̀òwya] *n.* the ceremonies performed on the sixth night of a "second burial."

**ikpu<sup>1</sup>** [ìk̀p̀ú] *n.* a variety of skin disease which itches very much.

**ikpu<sup>2</sup>** [ìk̀p̀ú] *n.* a poisonous preparation.

**ilaguegue** [ìl̀ágwégwè] *n.* a kind of disease known as paralysis agitans.

**ilakhue** [ìl̀áxwε] *n.* a variety of dark brown ant which builds its nest on the underside of leaves.

**ilavbode** [ìl̀áuòdè] *n.* passers-by.

**ile** [ìl̀è] *n.* a bet.

**ilekhue** [ìl̀èxwè] *n.* 1. forbearance; consideration (for someone); 2. compassion.

**ilele** [ìl̀élè] *n.* procedure; established rules of doing things (also alele).

**ilelegumaza** [ìl̀élégúmàzà] *n.* hunchback.

**ilovbie** [ìl̀óviè] *n.* lying down.

**ilu** [ìl̀ú] *inter. pron.* how many: ilu iran o rre? How many of them came? (also inu).

**ima** [ìm̀à] *pron.* emphatic 1st per. pl. pronoun; we, us, our, etc. it may be intensified by the suffix -mwan imamwan. As subject of a sentence, the initial vowel is usually dropped: Ma o rre Edo: We are the ones in Benin.

**imamase** [ìm̀àmàsé] *n.* pretence; feigning (also imaru) (cf. Yoruba momose).

**imaru** [ìm̀àrú] *n.* pretending; feigning.

**ime** [ìm̀è] *pron.* emphatic 1st per. sgl. pronoun: I, me, my etc.; it may be intensified by the suffix -mwèn:



- imemwɛn** – me, myself; as subject of a sentence, the initial vowel is usually dropped: **mɛmwɛn** ɔ ruɛɛ – I myself did it.
- imiamiegbe** [im̩yãm̩yẽgbè] *n.* (< i-miamia-egbe) “forgetting self”: forgetfulness.
- imiefan** [im̩yẽfã] *n.* (< i-miefan): redemption; salvation (in the Christian sense).
- imiekue** [im̩yẽkwè] *n.* 1. (in the Christian sense): admission of sins; confession; 2. acknowledgement.
- imina** [im̩ínã] *n.* dream.
- imu** [ímũ] *n.* confinement; imprisonment; arrest.
- imuaɛnmwɛn** [im̩wãɛm̩jẽ] *n.* (< i-mua-ɛmwɛn) “arguing of words”: disagreement; argument.
- imuakpa** [im̩wãkpà] *n.* 1. representing (a person) 2. representative.
- imudia** [im̩údià] *n.* standing.
- imuegbe** [im̩wẽgbè] *n.* (< i-muegbe) “preparing”: preparation; planning.
- imuegberrioto** [im̩wẽgbèriòtò] *n.* (< i-mu-egbe-rioto) “bringing body low”: humility; humbleness.
- imue** [im̩wẽ] *n.* mosquito.
- imuohan** [im̩wõhã] *n.* gift-offering; presentation of gifts.
- Inɛ** [ínɛ] *n.* title of a chief; he is a member of the Ibiwe society.
- inɛnɛ** [ínɛnɛ] *n.* an endearment term for mother.
- inia** [ínýá] *n.* 1. root (e.g. of a tree); 2. vein.
- inoṭa** [ìnòtà] *n.* 1. question, interrogation; 2. interrogating.
- inu** [ínú] *inter. pron.* cf. **ilu**.
- inugba** [ínúgbá] *inter. phr.* 1. (< inu-igba): how many times; 2. *adv.* at any time; whenever: **Inugba ne ɔ rhirhi miɛ mwɛn, te ɔ gha tuɛ mwɛn** – “Whenever he saw me, he must greet me.”
- ipapa** [ìpàpà] *n.* a sheet of something; a slice. (cf. **ibobo**).
- irakhue** [íráxwè] *n.* next tomorrow; the day after tomorrow.
- iran** [íĩã] *pron.* the 3rd per. pl. pronoun: they, them, their etc.
- iranme** [íĩámẽ] *n.* the eaves of a house.
- iranmwɛn** [íĩámjẽ] *n.* small black ants that are found around the house.
- iranmwɛnran** [íĩámjĩĩã] *n.* a kind of water-plant that floats on the surface of ponds and lakes.
- irere** [ítétè] *n.* armpit.
- iren** [íĩẽ] *pron.* the emphatic 3rd per. *sgl.* pronoun. Variant forms of this pronoun include **ironɛn**, **iroɛn**, **ɛn**, **roɛn**. As subject, or first item, in a sentence, the initial vowel is usually dropped: **Rɛn ɛre iran khaa** – “He is the one they mean”.
- irewe** [ìrèwè] *n.* a band of night-guards.
- irewe** [írèwè] *n.* the fruit of **ogo** used as fish-poison by fishermen.



**irenmwın** [iɾɛ̃mĩ] *n.* (< i-rẽn-emwin) "knowing something" 1. cleverness; 2. knowledge. Irenmwın enren se ore gbe — "His knowledge/cleverness is too much for him i.e. he is incredibly knowledgeable."

**iro** [iɾó] *n.* main road; main highway.

**iro** [iɾò] *n.* thought; meditation.

**iroghae** [iɾòyaè] *n.* a male age-grade consisting of about 14 – 21 year olds. They were responsible for various communal labour in villages such as helping in house-building, sweeping public places; and clearing farm plots. (cf. igbama).

**irorinmwın** [iɾòɾĩmĩ] *n.* burial ceremony.

**iron** [iɾĩ] *n.* body hair (mainly of animals).

**irueken** [iɾwèkɛ̃] *n.* preparing the mud for building purposes.

**iruebo** [iɾwèbò] *n.* 1. performing the rites of a god, or juju; 2. pagan worshipping.

**iruemwin** [iɾwèmjĩ] *n.* (< i-rue-emwin) "learning something": 1. training; apprenticeship; 2. a lesson.

**iruen** [iɾwɛ̃] *n.* dirt; filth.

**irunmwun** [iɾũmjũ] *n.* grass; weed.

**irhanro** [iɾãɾò] *n.* (< i-rhan-aro) "opening of eyes": sophistication; civilization; enlightenment.

**irhiaeni** [iɾyãeni] *n.* "spoiling of name": libel.

**irhiaeko** [iɾyãekò] *n.* "spoiling of belly": sorrow; unhappiness.

**irhiama** [iɾyãmà] *n.* "taking of the sign": baptism (Christian).

**irhiede** [iɾièdè] *n.* "taking of days": holidays; leave.

**irhinrhun** [iɾĩrũ] *n.* cf. irhunrhun.

**irhiokhuo** [iɾiòxwò] *n.* "taking of a woman": marriage (also irhiõha).

**irhiõha** [iɾyòhà] *n.* (< i-rhie-õha) "taking of a bride": marriage. (also irhiokhuo).

**irhirhan** [iɾĩrà] *n.* numbness; cramps.

**irhiso** [iɾisò] *n.* locust.

**irho** [iɾò] *n.* cheek.

**irhu<sup>1</sup>** [iɾú] *n.* shade.

**irhu<sup>2</sup>** [iɾú] *n.* a bird's roost.

**irhuaengbe** [iɾwãɛ̃gbè] *n.* pl. disciples. (also erhuaengbe) (Christian).

**irhunmwınrhun** [iɾũmjĩrũ] *n.* nakedness.

**irhunrhun** [iɾũrũ] *n.* mould; mildew; fungus. (also irhinrhun).

**irri** [iɾí] *n.* 1. rope; string; 2. creeping or climbing plant; erhan vbe irri — "trees and creepers."

**irriabe** [iɾyàbè] *n.* being guilty (of a crime; or in a case); guilt.

**irriaikhi** [iɾyàixì] *n.* revenge; vengeance.

**irriase** [iɾyàsè] *n.* being innocent in a case.

**irriegie** [iɾyègyè] *n.* (pl. of oriegie); title-holders; chiefs.



- irriokode** [ir̩yòkòdè] *n.* (< i-re-okode) “eating of a parcel on the way”: misappropriation of property held in one’s trust; embezzlement.
- irriorrio** [ir̩yòriyò] *n.* gums (of the mouth); the toothless gums of infants or the aged.
- irriovbe** [ir̩yóvè] *n.* deep sleep.
- irrioya** [ir̩yòyà] *n.* punishment.
- irriwe** [ir̩íwè] *n.* beach.
- irro** [ir̩ò] *n.* riddle.
- irru** [ir̩ù] *n.* louse.
- irruarusa** [ir̩wárusá] *n.* (< irru-Hausa): “Hausa louse” – bed-bug.
- isagha** [ísáyá] *n.* a snack prepared from unsifted cassava. (also efenrhinyen).
- isame** [isámè] *n.* 1. Christian baptism; 2. fetching of water.
- isan** [isã] *n.* excrement; faeces.
- isango** [isàngó] *n.* Sango, believed to be the god of thunder.
- isanhen** [isáhè] *n.* key.
- isasegbe** [isàsègbè] *n.* smartness; being athletic.
- isawewe** [isáwèwè] *n.* groundnut: *Arachis hypogoea*.
- ise** [isé] *n.* 1. nail; 2. pains in the chest caused by the inflammation of the pleura (i.e. the two serous membranes lining the thorax and enveloping the lungs).
- isekha** [isèxà] *n.* a word used before pronouns to express sympathy or empathy with the referent of the pronoun: it usually denotes something like “Poor so-and-so”: Egbe ma zede rran isekha mwen – “Poor me, I am not well at all.” (also odigwe).
- isele** [isélè] *n.* shilling (i.e. former English, now 5 pence); equivalent of 10K in Nigerian money.
- ise** [isé] *n.* amen; response to a prayer or blessing; implies: “So may it be!”.
- ise** [isè] *n.* 1. the seeds used for making ukuse: they are woven loosely around the calabash with thread in the pattern of a net. 2. a native game played in a carved frame with marbles or the seeds of the otien fruit. 3. any indoor game involving the use of seeds.
- iseguen** [iségwé] *n.* 1. rough, gravelly terrain that’s very uncomfortable to walk on barefoot.
- Isekiri** [isèkírì] *n.* The Itsekiri people.
- isen** [isè] *num.* five.
- isi**<sup>1</sup> [isí] *n.* foreign land; a place other than the homeland. (also isievbo).
- isi**<sup>2</sup> [isí] *n.* source; origin; the base: Emwin ne u ru na hia, e i mwen a ma mié isi ere – “All these things you are doing, we must see the source.”
- Isti** [isì] *n.* name of a group of Edo villages.
- isiame**<sup>1</sup> [isyàmè] *n.* (< i-si-ame) “drawing of water”; rain-making.
- isiame**<sup>2</sup> [isyàmè] *n.* the state of being emaciated.
- isievbo** [isyéuvò] *n.* foreign land. (cf. isi).



**isinmwiengbe** [isĩmỹēgbè] *n.* (< i-sinmwĩn-egbe) "saving of the body" – treatment from illness.

**isinmwĩn** [isĩmĩ] *n.* siblings born after one; one's younger sibling or the equivalent: Ozo ọre isinmwĩn mwẹn ukpogie eha – "Ozo is my sibling born third after me." or "Ozo is equivalent to someone born- 3rd after me."

**iso**<sup>1</sup> [isó] *n.* sky; space.

**iso**<sup>2</sup> [isó] *n.* a deep muscle abscess suffered by the elderly.

**isoko** [isókó] *n.* 1. outskirts of; environs: isoko-Edo – the outskirts of Benin; 2. the people of Isoko ethnic group.

**isoton** [isòtõ] *n.* a part of the second burial ceremony at which a procession dances through the streets with oton and okun. It takes place on the fifth day.

**isoken** [isòkē] *n.* contentment; satisfaction.

**isote** [isòtè] *n.* defiance; rebellion.

**isu** [isú] *n.* interest (e.g. paid on a loan).

**issue** [isué] *n.* 1. a hairy caterpillar believed to emit some poison when touched; 2. whitlow, caused by the caterpillar. (cf. atowo, aganmwĩnsoso).

**isunsun** [isũsũ] *n.* nuisance; trouble.

**itaba** [ítábà] *n.* tobacco.

**itakhuen** [ítáxwē] *n.* 1. a load-carrying pad made from the bark of the plantain plant; it is also used as the sponge for rubbing mud walls and

floors with a fresh coating of wet mud; 2. rags; shredded cloth.

**itakpa** [ítákpa] *n.* the Edo name for the Nupe people; (the name derives from the tribal marks which they wear on their faces).

**italawe** [ítálàwè] *n.* trousers.

**ítan** [ítã] *n.* 1. proverb; 2. a story illustrating a saying or a proverb; 3. a historical narrative, usually with a moral.

**ítan** [ítàn] *n.* the feather-ordeal, which was used to detect the culprit in a theft, or to determine whether somebody was guilty or not of adultery.

**itee** [ítèè] *n.* unending menstrual flow, or foul-smelling vagina discharge.

**itehie** [ítèhyé] *n.* the small berries of a wild plant used by some in a sauce for eating boiled yam or plantain; it is said to have a sour taste.

**itengbemu** [ítègbèmũ] *n.* "lifting up one's self": haughtiness; disdainfulness; lack of humility.

**ite** [íté] *n.* cemetery (also ikpekpe).

**itiezo** [ítỳèzò] *n.* "calling of a case": summoning to court; serving with summons.

**itohan** [ítòhã] *n.* mercy; compassion.

**itohia** [ítòhyà] *n.* guinea-worm.

**itotaya** [ítòtàyà] *n.* buttocks. (also ikebe).

**itue** [ítwé] *n.* a tree; it has an orange-coloured latex.

**ive** [ivé] *n.* selling price.



**ivie** [ìvyé] *n.* 1. coral beads; 2. beads.

**ivin** [ívi] *n.* 1. palm tree; 2. coconut (also ivin-ebo); 3. palm kernels (also ivin-ehiagha); 4. nut.

**ivin-eva** [ívyèvá] *idiom.* “two nuts”: twins; ivin eha: “tree nuts”: triplets, etc.

**ivbabọ** [ìvábò] *n.* 1. empty-handedness; 2. poverty.

**ivbi** [iui] *n.* scrotum.

**ivbie** [ívyè] *n.* quiet and solitary place or time.

**ivbiekpo** [ìvyèkpò] *n.* a variety of poisonous snake (possibly the night adder).

**ivbiorre** [ìvyóré] *n.* (< ivbi-orre): members of the new generation: the youth; the young people.

**ivbioven** [ìvyóvè] *n. idiom.* “children of the sun”: small butterflies that fly in swarms, usually of a single colour only.

**iwakon** [ìwàkò] *n.* (< i-wo-akon) “being strong of teeth”: greed; avarice.

**iwaniemwen** [ìwànyè mǝ] *n.* response; reply.

**iwero** [ìwèrò] *n.* 1. conscienciousness; diligence; 2. maturity; sensibility: Iwero oghè enekherhe èrè o sè oghè enodiọn. “The sense of maturity of the younger is greater than that of the older.”

**iwenwen** [íwèwè] *n.* craftiness; cunning.

**iwinna** [ìwìnà] *n.* work; labour.

**iwowo** [íwówó] *n.* a shed or shack built of planks, leaves, or any other make-shift material.

**ìwu<sup>1</sup>** [ìwù] *n.* the Edo traditional ethnic marks; no longer worn by present generations.

**ìwu<sup>2</sup>** [ìwù] *n.* direct off-spring; one's children. (also omo-ìwu).

**íwu** [íwù] *n.* capacity (of a container); cubic capacity. 2. the interior of a container.

**iya** [ìyà] *n.* 1. ditch; valley; 2. the big ditch around the Benin walls: Iya Oguọla – Oguọla's ditch (the ditch was said to have been dug at the instance of Oba Oguọla).

**íyà** [iiyà] *int.* an exclamation of irritation or impatience. Iya, wẹ i henmwẹn ne a ta? – “Why, don't you hear what is being said?”

**iyabo** [ìyábọ] *n.* forgiveness.

**iyama** [ìyáma] *n.* 1. an identification mark; 2. scar.

**iyān** [ìyā] *n.* yam.

**iyarre** [ìyárè] *n.* “May you go and return”: goodwill greeting, usually called out to somebody embarking on a challenging enterprise such as war; or to somebody going on a long journey. It is also the traditional greeting to the Oba or any of his chiefs by the populace on any stately occasion.

**Iyase** [ìyàsé] *n.* the title of the most important chief in Benin; he is the head of the Eghaevbo n'Ore.

**iyayi** [ìyáyì] *n.* belief; faith.: iyayi Ekristi: “the Christian faith.”



- iyé** [íyé] *n.* mother; **iyiye**: “mother’s mother”: maternal grandmother.
- iyé-nagbon** [íyènágbò] *idiom.* mistress; lover.
- iyé-nokhua** [íyènoxwà] *n.* grandmother.
- iyekabo** [iyékàbó] *n.* “back of the hand”: carelessness; lack of diligence.
- iyéke** [iyèkè] *n.* back (of the body); hind side (of something).
- iyekiyeke** [iyèkiyèké] *adv.* backwards: **iyekiyeke o ru ghe** – “He is always doing backward, i.e. He does not make progress”.
- iyekowa** [iyékòwá] *n.* (< **iyéke-owa**) “back of the house”; backyard; latrine.
- iyenho** [iyèhò] *n.* (< **i-yin-ehò**) “deafness”: disobedience; stubbornness.
- iyerha** [íyerhá] *n.* (< **iyé-erha**) “father’s mother”, paternal grandmother.
- iyerhen** [iyèřè] *n.* “the setting of fire” burning the undergrowth on a plot as part of its preparation for cultivation.
- iyé** [iyè] *n.* (chicken lice) a kind of tiny insect found on chickens.
- iyen** [iyè] *n.* news; gossip.
- iyen-noma** [iyènomá] *idiom.* 1. (Christian): gospel; 2. good tidings.
- iyengbe** [iyègbè] *n.* straining to eject something from the body (e.g. a woman during childbirth; or somebody defecating).
- iyi** [iyí] *n.* law; rule; regulation. (cf. **uhi**).
- iyin** [íyĩ] *n.* the sasswood tree; the bark is used in the preparation of an ordeal for witches.
- iyiye** [íyiyé] *n.* (< **iyé-iyé**) “mother’s mother”: maternal grandmother.
- iyobo** [iyòbò] *n.* assistance; help.
- iyodede** [iyódèdè] *n.* (< **iyé-odede**) “old mother”: grandmother.
- iyokuo** [iyòkwò] *n.* warrior; soldier.
- iyokho** [íyòxó] *n.* coco-yam.
- Iyoba** [íyóbá] *n.* (< **iyé-Oba**) “mother of the Oba” the Queen-mother.
- iyoha** [iyòhà] *n.* pawn; something left in a creditor’s keeping as security or pledge for an unpaid debt.
- iyomo** [íyómò] *n.* 1. a nursing mother; 2. any woman who has borne a child.
- iyoyo** [iyòyò] *n.* tassel (e.g. of ear of corn); loosely hanging cords as ornamented fringe on native crowns.
- iyoyo** [íyóyó] *n.* a variety of vegetable used in native soups. (also known as **ebe nesiensien** “narrow leaves”).
- izabo** [ízábò] *n.* shoulder.
- izabobo** [izabòbò] *n.* merriment in the form of singing and dancing.
- izagodo** [izàgódó] *n.* kerosine tin, usually about 4 gallons in capacity.
- izakhue** [izàxwè] *n.* the ceremonies performed on the 3rd day of a second burial; which involves the killing of a goat at the deceased’s gate, and a processional dance through town.
- izazako** [izàzàkó] *n.* a brown variety



of antelope.

**izedu** [ìzèdù] *n.* translating; interpreting.

**izenofua** [ìzènófwa] *n.* crayfish.

**izevbu** [ìzèvùdù] *n.* "being hard in the heart": stubbornness; obstinacy.

**ize** [ízè] *n.* rice.

**ize-Edo** [ízedò] *n.* "Benin rice": the native variety of rice, which is a tree: *Treculia africana*, with big and round fruits, the seeds of which constitute the rice. It is processed and made into rice pudding which is sold in little cakes as snack, rather than a full meal.

**izeghede** [ìzèyèdè] *n.* a shack.

**izetin** [ìzètî] *n.* defiance; open disobedience: Emwin izetin ne o ru ere iran gu mu enren khui — "His defiant acts are what made them arrest him."

**iziengbe** [ìzyègbè] *n.* patience; endure.

ance.

**izigha** [ízìyá] *n.* murderer.

**izobo** [ìzóbò] *n.* sacrifice in the form of food, or food substances left at road junctions for witches and other evil forces.

**izohu** [ìzòhù] *n.* (< i-ze-ohu) "producing anger", provocation; irritation.

**izozo** [ìzózò] *n.* wandering; roaming.

**izola** [ìzòlá] *n.* week (also uzola).

**izomo** [ìzòmò] *n.* naming ceremony of an infant; it was traditionally performed on the seventh day of birth, but the timing is no longer rigid in practice.

**izu** [ìzù] *n.* even number.

**izunu** [ìzùnù] *n.* being hard to please with food; refusing to eat what one does not like, and finding little to like.

## K

**ka<sup>1</sup>** [ká] *aux.* 1. indicates that "the subject" of the clause was first to perform the action in the verb: me o ka rre — "I came first"; 2. that the action had been performed before in the past: Ma ka rri eybo naa yi — "We had come to this town before."

**ka<sup>2</sup>** [ká] *vb.* to recount all the evil deeds committed as a witch, or practitioner of other strong and evil forces; to confess to evil doings.

**ka<sup>3</sup>** [ká] *vb.* to count; to reckon: Ka iran ghee deghe iran gbae — "Count them to see whether they are correct."

**ka<sup>4</sup>** [ká] *vb.* to dry; to be crisp: eka ne o fiaen ma ka — "The bean-cake that she fried was not crisp!"

**ka<sup>5</sup>** [ká] *vb.* to buy palm wine (or other kinds of drinks): O ka ogo ayon eha gie arowa ore — "He bought and brought three bottles of wine to his master."



**kaa**<sup>1</sup> [kàá] *vb.* to make dry; to cause to become crisp: Iran gha kaa ehen vbe oven: "They are drying fish in the sun."

**kaa**<sup>2</sup> [kàá] *vb.* to carve (e.g. a piece of wood).

**kaa** [káa] *aux.* (< ka-gha) same as ka (*adv.*). Iran o kaa se evbo naa — "They were the first to come to this town".

**kaan**<sup>1</sup> [kãã] *vb.* 1. to touch; 2. to pertain to; to concern: Emwen na kaan mwən — "This matter concerns me."

**kaan**<sup>2</sup> [kãã] *vb.* (of gun, pipe, etc.), to load; to fill with relevant substance: O kaan ukoko ne ose ore si — "He filled a pipe for his friend to smoke." o kaan osisi mu go — "He loaded a gun and placed it by."

**kada** [kádà] *idiom.* a greeting formula expressed by males to their elders after a meal as a mark of respect and gratitude. It is also expressed as a good-will greeting to an elder when he sneezes.

**kadese** [kádèsè] *adv.* (< ke<sup>2</sup> — adese). to be located between; to be in the middle of; to be at the centre of. (also kadeseneva).

**kadeseneva** [kádèsènévà] *adv.* cf. kadese.

**kae** [kàé] *vb.* the cry of a squirrel.

**kaen** [kãé] *vb.* 1. to construct or build with wood; O kaen ùkhuerhe me — "He constructed a stool for me."; 2. to nail something; to attach things together with a nail: O kaen erhan nii mu ekhu-orere me: "He nailed that wood to the front door for me."

**kaka** [kàkà] *vb.* 1. to become dry; to be dehydrated (e.g. of leaves becoming dry and crisp).

**kakabo** [kàkàbó] *adv.* very much; exceedingly: O kakabo tan: "He is very tall."

**kalo** [kàló] *vb.* to stab repeatedly; to chop down: Izigha ya opia kalo iran vbe ode: "A highway robber stabbed them with a machete on the way."

**kalokalo** [kálókáló] *adj.; adv.* (used with the verbs sie, bi, or ye describes profound darkness: O bi kalokalo: "It is extremely black."

**kan** [kã] *vb.* to be difficult; to be tough: eghe naa ghi kan gbe — "These times are now very tough: These are difficult times."

**kan** [kãã] *adj.* bare; empty.: Ghe ya eko kan la ode — "Don't go on the road with an empty stomach: don't go without eating first".

**kan** [kã] *vb.* in the idiom kan ukò: to query; to find fault with.

**kangunkangun** [kãgũkãgũ] *adj.* (used with the vb. ye) very lean; emaciated. O ye kangunkangun — "He is very lean."

**kankanankan** [kãkããkã] *adv.* intensely: 1. (with van: "to shout"): loudly; 2. (with gba: "to tie") tightly, firmly: O ya irri gba ere kankanankan — "He tied it with a rope very firmly"; 3. (with bi or siere: "dark"): profoundly: O bi kankanankan: "It is profoundly dark".

**kanro** [kãrò] *vb.* to feel unenthusiastic about (doing something) to feel reluctant about: Eki na waa kon mwən aro ne a yo: "I am not at



all eager about going to this market.”

**kanmwan** [kãṃǎ] *vb.* to be small.

**kanyan** [kã̃yã̃] *adj.* unlikely; remote; unusual, etc. (usually used with the verb *ye*): *Ọ ye kanyan vbe aro mwẹn* – “It strikes me as being unrealizable.”

**karo** [kátò] *vb.* “to be in front of”  
1. to precede; to be ahead of; 2. to be first: *Ozo ọ karo vbe edanmwẹn ne iran ruu* – “Ozo was first in the examination that they did.”

**katakpi** [kátákṗì] *n.* the name of a mythical being that had no limbs; thus the word describes anything or anybody that looks fat and stout and tends to roll along rather than walk.

**katekate** [kátékáté] *adv.* especially; particularly: *Iwinna rẹn keghi ye arowa ọre eṣese, katekate ne obọ na wa vbe ke ọre* – “His work was pleasing to his master very much, especially as he was also very fast.”

**kayon** [kàyõ] *vb.* (< *ka*<sup>4</sup> – *ayon*) to buy wine.

**ke**<sup>1</sup> [ké] *vb.* 1. to be located next to; to be near: *Owa mwẹn ọ ke ọghee* – “My house is next to his.”

**ke**<sup>2</sup> [ké] *vb.* to be located at, relative to something else; to occupy a space (relative to something else): *Ọ we ne ime ke odaro ne iren ke iyeke*: “He said that I should stay in front while he stays behind.”

**ke**<sup>3</sup> [ké] *aux.* (often occurs with *ghi*) sequential marker: indicates that the action in the main verb occurred sequentially after the action in the verb of the preceding clause: *Ọ ghi se evba, ọ ke totaa*: “When he got

there; he then sat down.”

**ke**<sup>4</sup> [ké] *prep.* 1. (occurs with verbs of motion, such as *yo*, *rre*, *dee*, etc.) indicates source or origin of motion: from: *Igue ọ ke rri iwinna*: “It is from the village that he comes to work.”; 2. general “source” notion (i.e. in respect to time and place). *Egogo eva ere ọ ke winna*: “He has been working from 2 p.m., i.e. he has been working since 2 p.m.”

**ke**<sup>5</sup> [kè] *conj.* serves to link up nouns, pronouns and noun phrases: *Ọ tie enodion ke enekherhe* – “He called both the older and younger” (cf. *kevbe*).

**kee** [kèé] *vb.* 1. to support on a pot-rest (to cook): *Mu iyan kee ne a re* – “Put the yam on the pot-rest so that we may eat: Cook the pot of yam (over the fire) on the pot-rest for us to eat.”. 2. to prop up, to hold up in place: *Ọ ya erhan kee ere* – “He supported it with a stick.

**keegbe** [kèègbé] *vb.* (< *kee* – *egbe*) “to prop up self”: to assume falsely a higher status than one is entitled to.

**keere** [kèèrè] *vb.* to be appropriate; to be good; to be suitable: *Ọ keere ye ukpo ne iran muřen yi naa* – “He is appropriate for this post that they have now put him.”; *Ọ keere ne a gha ta emwanta* – “It is good for us to be telling the truth: “It is good for us to speak the truth always”.

**kegbe** [kègbé] *vb.* (< *ke*<sup>1</sup> - *egbe*): “to be near each other”: to be located next to each other; to be neighbours. *Iran bọ owa kegbe* – “They built houses next to each other.”

**keke** [kèké] *vb.* to jostle; to push against: *Ọ keke ere fi eḱhokho* – “He



jostled her into a corner.”

**kevbe** [kèvè] *conj.; adv.* a conjunction linking up nouns, pronouns and noun phrases: amwèn onrèn kevbe ivbi ère – “his wife and children”; 2. also, as well: Ọ kevbe re oduẹki – “He is also a trader”.

**keeke** [kèékè] *adv.* (< ke-ere-ke) along with; together with; Ozo keeke amwèn onrèn ère ọ gba gha rrie ugbo – “Ozo together with his wife it was that went to the farm: It was Ozo and his wife that went together to the farm.”

**keẹ** [kèé] *vb.* 1. to be prompt; to be quick: obo keẹ iran vbe iwinna na – “Hand was quick for them in this work: they were quick in completing this work”; 2. (as an idiom with obo): obo keẹ nẹ: “The work has already been completed”. (also “Ọ keẹ nẹ”: “It is already completed”.) Thus: ọ keẹ iran ya ruẹe nẹ i ke se evba. “They were already done with doing it before I got there: They had already completed doing it before I got there.”

**keẹ** [kèé] *vb.* to remain; to be left over: ígho ne ọ keẹre ọna khin – Here is the money that was left over. (also kerre).

**kekan** [kèkã] 1. *adj.* 1. bare: owe kekan – bare foot; 2. ineffective; inconsequential: eve kekan ọ viẹ – “He is crying in vain; She is crying ineffectively.” 2. *adv.* only; merely: gu ère gui kekan ne u ghẹ gbẹe – “Merely reprimand him; don’t beat him.”

**keke** [kèké] *vb.* to rot; to become rotten.

**kekereke** [kèkèrèkè] *adv.* describes the

crowing of a rooster.

**kennekenne** [kènèkènè] *adj.* (with gbenne) describes a spotty design (cf. ekennekenne).

**kerre** [kèré] *vb.* to remain; to be left over. (cf. keẹ).

**(e)ketekete** [kétékété] *n.* ass; donkey. (cf. eketekete).

**ketin** [kétín] *vb.* (< koo – etin) “to gather strength”: 1. to rest, to relax; 2. to give up; to stop; 3. to die.

**kie**<sup>1</sup> [kié] *vb.* 1. to open; to unfold (e.g. ekharha: umbrella); 2. to display: Ọ do ya ukpon ne ọ da de kie vbe eki – “She came to display her newly-acquired cloth in the market.”

**kie**<sup>2</sup> [kié] *vb.* to remove: Ọ kie ukpon hin oven rre: She removed the clothes from the line.

**kiekie** [kyékyè] *adv.* (< ke – iyeke) to be last (in doing something) Ren ọ kiekie rre. “He was the last to come.”

**kigho** [kíyó] *vb.* (< ka – ígho) “to count money”; to reckon money.

**kii** [kií] *vb.* 1. to coil; to curl up (e.g. of reptiles); 2. to coagulate or thicken (e.g. of owo – a kind of sauce; or palm-oil): Ofigbon na kii mu ọgo – “This palm oil has coagulated and stuck to the bottle.”

**kin**<sup>1</sup> [kí] *vb.* 1. to tie tightly; to bind: Ọ ya okun kin ẹbo – “She used a twine to tie the bag tightly.”; 2. to plait hair with thread.

**kin**<sup>2</sup> [kí] *vb.* 1. to look for (fallen) fruits at the base of a tree; 2. to examine traps for catch.



- kinmwín** [kĩmí] *vb.* to hit hard; to strike hard.
- kinna** [kĩná] *vb.* to watch cautiously; to spy on.
- kinnegbe** [kĩněgbé] *vb.* (< kinna – egbe) “to watch body cautiously: to be on the alert for one’s safety; to be mindful about one’s safety.”
- kinno** [kĩń] *vb.* 1. to coil around (iter, sense of kii 1.); 2. to bind with rope: Iran ya irri kinno enren mu erhan – “They bound him to a tree with rope”.
- kiokiokio** [kyòkyòkyò] *adv.* describes a peel of laughter.
- kisi** [kìsì] *adv.* (with *saan* – “to jump”) smartly; nimbly: O sanren kisi: “He jumped nimbly”.
- kiyeke** [kíyèkè] *vb.* (< ke<sup>2</sup> – iyeke) “to be located at the back”, to be behind or at the back of.
- kiza** [kìzá] *vb.* 1. to be senseless; to be stupid; 2. to be mad.
- ko<sup>1</sup>** [kó] *vb.* to hold a meeting; to congregate: Iran gha ko vbene iran khian ya suen onren hee: “They are meeting to decide how they will set about starting it.” 2. *aux.* indicates that the action in the main verb was performed by more than one person: Iran hia o ko rri ore – “They all ate it together; or, They all joined in eating it.” (also koko).
- ko<sup>2</sup>** [kó] *vb.* to make a load pad: o ghi ko ne, o na mu ihe yan uhunmwun: “After she had made a load-pad, she lifted the load on her head.”
- kodaro** [kòdàrò] *vb.* (< ke<sup>2</sup> – odaro) to be in front. (also karo).
- koikoi** [koikoi] *adv.* describes the sound of the pestle hitting the mortar during the pounding of yam or other meal.
- kokerhen** [kòkéré] *vb.* (< koko<sup>1</sup> – erhen) “to assemble five” – to make a fire.
- koketin** [kòkè tí] *vb.* (< koko<sup>1</sup> – etin) “to gather strength” – to rest; to take a break (from labour) (also ketin).
- koko<sup>1</sup>** [kòkó] 1. *vb.* to gather together; to assemble; to collect: O na koko iran ígho viò: “He collected their money and took it.” (Used only in the transitive sense). 2. *adv.* same as ko<sup>1</sup>: Iran koko kpaò – “They left together”.
- koko<sup>2</sup>** [kòkó] *vb.* 1. to care for; to tend: Ren o koko omò me: She is the one who tends the children for me; 2. to feed; to provide for.
- kokomeme** [kókómè mè] *n.* cucumber (cf. Engl.).
- kokooko** [kókóókó] *adv.; adj.* (used with the verb *ye*): 1. describes something that is very solid and firm; 2. also describes something that is very dry and crisp.
- koo** [kòó] *vb.* to set fractured bones.
- koto** [kótò] *vb.* to be underneath or below.
- koyò** [kóyò] *int.* a general greeting formula; it expresses a wide variety of sentiments ranging from general good will to sympathy and affection.
- kọ** [kó] *vb.* 1. to plant; to grow something; 2. (with *ẹbọ* – “a god”) to put up a shrine for: O kọ olokun ne amwen onren – “He installed an olokun shrine for his wife”.



**koḷo** [kòlɔ́] *vb.* to pick (fruit or leaves) from a tree; to pluck.

**kon**<sup>1</sup> [kɔ́] *vb.* to be foolish; to be senseless. *Ọ kon seẹ ewe* – “He is foolish more than a goat: He is more foolish than a goat.”

**kon**<sup>2</sup> [kɔ́] *vb.* (of humans) to crawl around on all fours; (of animals) to graze.

**konkon** [kɔ́kɔ́] *vb.* (pl. ref.) to be big in size: *Iyan ne u de rre na waa konkon* – “These yams that you bought and brought are very big.”

**konyon** [kɔ́yɔ́] *adv.* describes a kind of look (occurs with ghee: to look) to look at with an evil eye; to glare at: *Ọ gha ghe mwẹn konyon* – “He is glaring at me.”

**ku**<sup>1</sup> [kú] *vb.* to dip (in liquid); to immerse; to plunge: *Ọ ku obo ye uwu akhe sa amẹ* – “He dipped his hand into the pot and collected some water.”

**ku**<sup>2</sup> [kú] *vb.* to lose in value; to be devoid of worth: *Eki ne ọ do ku gbe ere* – “The trading that he was doing has become worthless: he has gone bankrupt in his trading.”

**ku**<sup>3</sup> [kú] *vb.* to join with; *Iran ku kugbe rri ore*: “They joined together to eat it”.

**kua** [kùá] *abl. part out; away; off*: *Amẹ tue kua vbe akhe*: “water poured out of the pot”, *Alimoi kharha kua vbe ekpanaku* “Oranges dropped off from the plate.” (cf. fua).

**kuakuakua** [kwàkwàkwà] *adv.* describes a peal of laughter.

**kuame** [kuámè] *vb.* (< kue – amẹ)

“to allow water” – to become soggy; to become unwholesomely or unpleasantly damp.

**kuan**<sup>1</sup> [kũā] *vb.* 1. to injure; to cause injury to; to afflict, or be afflicted: *Emwin kuan ren vbe oha* – “Something afflicted him in the bush.”; 2. (usually as a second verb): to hit against: *Ọ mu obo kuan ye egbeken* – “He hit his arm against the wall.”

**kue**<sup>1</sup> [kwè] *vb.* 1. to agree to something: *Ọ kue ne ọ rhie vbe oghee* – “He agreed for her to take from his own”; 2. for a woman to allow a man to have sexual intercourse with her.

**kue**<sup>2</sup> [kwé] *adv.* it occurs before a verb to convert the clause into a question requiring confirmation: *Ọ kue rre?* “Did he come at all?”; *Ọ kue rri evbare* – “Did he eat anything?” *Een, ọ rri ekherhe* – “Yes, he ate a little.”

**kue**<sup>3</sup> [kùé] *prep.* on, over, at: *Amẹ sa kue Ọzo ukpon* – “Water spilled on Ozo’s cloth”. *Ekhæ tue kue oto* – “Sand poured on the floor”. It is realised as *kui* in clause-final position: *Vbe ọ sa kui* – “Where did it pour?” and as *kuo* before *mwẹn* or *mwan*: *Amẹ tue kuo mwẹn* – “Water poured on me.”

**kuebe** [kwèbé] *vb.* (< ku<sup>2</sup> – ebe) “to be devoid of leaves”, (of a tree) loose leaves; to become bare.

**kuei** [kwèi] *adv.; adj.* describes something very small; iter.: *kueikuei*: very tiny.

**kueki** [kwéki] *vb.* (< ku<sup>2</sup> – eki) “to be devoid of value in trade”; 1. to depreciate in value; 2. to become bankrupt.



**kuən** [kwě] *vb.* (occurs with *də*: to buy): without paying: on credit: *Ọ də ẹwu kuən vbe obọ mwẹn*: “She bought a dress on credit from me.”

**kùən** [kwě́] *vb.* to curl (also *sikuən*).

**kuəkhun** [kwě́xũ] *vb.* (< *kun-ekhun*) “to form a cripple”: to become immobile; to be rendered motionless.

**kuətin** [kwětí] *n.* cf. *kətin*.

**kugbakəghere** [kúgbakèχé[ε]] *adv.* cf. *ukugbakəghere*.

**kugbe<sup>1</sup>** [kùgbé] *vb.* to join together; to unite (also *kukugbe*).

**kugbe<sup>2</sup>** [kùgbé] *adv.* together.

**kughudu** [kúyúdu] *adj.* describes something small and deep, like a little bowl.

**kukugbe** [kùkùgbé] *vb.* cf. *kugbe<sup>1</sup>*.

**kukuku** [kùkùkù] *adv.* describes the look of sprouting new leaves: *Ebe erhan na wa họn kukuku*: “The leaves of this tree have spouted in swarms.”

**kukhunmwun** [kúxũmù] *vb.* (< *ke<sup>2</sup>* – *ukhunmwun*) to be above: to be on top of; to be higher than.

**kulo** [kùló] *vb.* to be damaged; to be spoiled: *Ikeke na kulo ne; ẹi ghi gie a hiin*. “This bicycle is now bad; it can no longer be ridden.”

**kulu** [kùlú] *vb.* iter. of *ku*: *Iran kulu obọ ye uwawa zọọ emiwo ne i rọọ viọ* – “They dipped their hands into the pot and picked out all the meat in it.”

**kun** [kũ] *vb.* to construct something; to fashion something: *Ọ kun imoto neẹ ya gha kuu* – “He constructed a (toy) car for him to play with.”

**kuun** [kũũ] *vb.* to package something; to pack together: *Ọ kuun emwin ẹnren hia kpaọ* – “He packed all his things away.”

**kuọ** [kùó] *vb.* to faint; to become unconscious.

**kuroọ** [kù[óó]] *adv.; adj.* (used with the verb *ye*) dull, lifeless: *Ede neẹ ye kuroọ* – “The day today is very dull.”

## KH

**khaa** [xàá] *vb.* to say.: *Vbe ọ khaa heẹ?* “What did he say?”

**khaan<sup>1</sup>** [xãã] *vb.* to be fed up with; to have had enough of (something): *Iwinna khaan mwẹn*: “I have had enough of work.: I don’t want any more work.”

**khaan<sup>2</sup>** [xãã] *vb.* to sift; to separate

the undesirable parts from the good parts (of something): *Khaan ẹre nii u ke muẹn ye akhe* – “Sift those beans before you put them into the pot.”

**khaevbise** [xàevísé] *vb.* “to say what comes to be”: to be in authority; to govern.



**khamaa** [xà<sup>h</sup>mǎǎ] *vb.* to tell: Khamaa ren – “Tell him” (also tamaa).

**kharha** [xǎ<sup>h</sup>rá] *vb.* to drop (of many things). Alimoi kharha kua vbe okhuae – “The oranges have dropped from the basket.”

**kherhe** [xè<sup>h</sup>řé] *vb.* 1. to be small; to be little.

**kherhe** [xè<sup>h</sup>řé] *adj.* 1. (used with the verb ye) small; little: Ọ ye kherhe ne ọ kere: “It is small that is left: What is left is small.” 2. *adv.* a little bit; slightly: ọ kan ren kherhe – “It touched it slightly.”

**kherhekherhe** [xè<sup>h</sup>řéxéřé] 1. *adj.* very small, tiny (of many things). (used with the verb ye). Iran ye kherhekherhe – “They are very small”; 2. *adv.* slightly; a little: Ọ balọ kherhekherhe: “It is painful a little bit.”

**kheę** [xè<sup>h</sup>é] *vb.* to await; to expect: Ọ kheę rue vbe uwowa: “He is waiting for you inside.”

**khekhe** [xè<sup>h</sup>éxé] *vb.* to be simple; to be easy (usually occurs in negative clauses: Iwinna na i khekhe – “This work is not easy: It is tough.”

**kheke** [xè<sup>h</sup>ké] *vb.* to be appropriate (in the sense of “what should be”): Ọ kheke ne u rhie ígho ere neę – “It is appropriate that you give him his money: You ought to give him his money.”

**kheko** [xè<sup>h</sup>kóò] *vb.* (< khọ – ẹko) “to spoil stomach”: to irritate or be irritated; to upset or be upset: Ẹmwen ne ọ tae nii wa khọ mwen ẹko – “Those things that he said really upset me.”

**khia**<sup>1</sup> [xiá] *vb.* to hurt: Ọọ khia

mwen – “(my) hand hurts me.”

**khia**<sup>2</sup> [xiá] *vb.* to scrape, to scratch with a sharp object. (skin or bark of something) khia ukpakon na me – “Scrape off the bark from this chewing stick for me.”

**khian**<sup>1</sup> [xyǎ] *vb.* to walk; to go by foot. Imoto u la rre ra te u khiaen? “Did you come by car or did you walk?”

**khian**<sup>2</sup> [xyǎ] *adv.* indicates that the action in the main verb continues over a period of time: Ọ vie khian – He is crying along; Ọ rhule khian: he is running along.

**khian**<sup>3</sup> [xyǎ] *aux.* inceptive marker; indicates that the action in the verb is about to begin, or that it will take place: it may be translated by: about to; going to; or want to: Ọ khian gbee: He is going to beat him”; I khian kpaọ – I am about to leave; I want to leave; etc.

**khian** [xiǎ] *vb.* to transform into something else; to change; (usually by magical means): ọ khian enowanren ne – “He has become an elderly person; he has aged.”; 2. to become.

**khianmwun** [xyǎmũ] *vb.* to proceed; to keep going: Ọ na khianmwun vbe uwowa – “He proceeded into the house.”

**khie**<sup>1</sup> [xié] *vb.* to mourn for; to grieve: khiegebe – “to mourn self”: to show conventional signs of grief.

**khie**<sup>2</sup> [xié] *vb.* 1. to obstruct a passage with something; 2. to put a cork on a bottle.

**khien** [xyé] *vb.* 1. to sell; to trade in: Ọ khien ukpon vbe eki – He



sells cloth in the market. Igari ọ khien: "She is a trader in garri: She is a garri-seller."; 2. to defeat (somebody) in a game. Ọ khien mwẹn vbe ise ne ima fii. "He defeated me in the game of ise that we played."

**khien** [xĩẽ] *vb.* to wipe off; to clean off: Ọ khien ameve hin aro rre – "She wiped off the tears from her eyes."

**khien** [xĩẽ] *vb.* to twist: ọ khien mwẹn obo ghee iyeke – "He twisted my arm to the back."

**khin**<sup>1</sup> [xí] *cop.* 1. to be: Ọvbokhan ren i khin. "His wife I am: I am his wife." 2. to become; used with time words to mean "till": ọ khin akhue – "It becomes tomorrow; till tomorrow." Ọ khin evbaghazekpee – "It becomes after some time: till later."

**khinko** [xĩkǒ] *vb.* (< khian<sup>4</sup> – iko) "to become an impediment"; to constitute a nuisance; an opponent or an enemy: Ọ khin ere iko vbe isiwinna ren – "He has constituted himself into a nuisance for him at his work place."

**khinraan** [xĩrǎǎ] *vb.* 1. to melt. (e.g. of coagulated fat when heated).

**khirhi** [xĩrĩ] *vb.* to do hurriedly; to be in haste: Ọ khirhi le ere – "He was in haste in cooking it: He hastily cooked it."

**khirhikhirhi** [xĩrĩxĩrĩ] *adv.* in a hurry; hurriedly: Ọ lee ere khirhikhirhi – "He cooked it in a hurry".

**khiokhio** [xyòxyó] *vb.* 1. to scrape off (e.g. the burnt sediment of food in a pot.); 2. to scratch (with a sharp edge) Eho ughegbe khiokhio mwẹn obo – "The edge of the mirror

scratched my hand".

**khọ** [xó] *vb.* to resemble; to look like: Ọvbokhan na ma zede khọ evbibioe – "This child does not at all resemble his parents."

**khonu** [xònú] *vb.* (< khọ – unu) "to be bad in the mouth"; to taste bitter or sour. (cf. rriara).

**khọ** [xòó] *vb.* to be evil; bad: evbikhọ – "a no-good"; orukhọ: evil deeds; sins (in the Christian sense).

2. to be stern, strict, or severe: Etisa na khọ gbe – This teacher is very strict; 3. to be un-pleasant; to be bitter: Ukhunmwun na khọ unu – "This medicine is unpleasant (in) the mouth: it is bitter."

**khọn**<sup>1</sup> [xǒǒ] *vb.* 1. to fight incessantly: Te iran vbe ọvbokhan ren khọn sin – "He and his wife have been fighting incessantly all this time."; 2. to fight a war with: Ebo iran o gu evho ima khọn. "It is their town fighting a battle with our town." Ma ere ọ khian khọn mie oto – "We are the ones who shall fight and receive the ground: We shall win."

**khọn**<sup>2</sup> [xǒǒ] *vb.* 1. to be desired; to be craved: Iyan khọn mwẹn: "I have a desire for yam". Iboru ne a gbe khọn mwẹn: "I crave ball-playing: I feel like playing ball"; 2. to be inclined toward doing, to feel like doing: Ọ gha khọn ruẹn u rhie nọn deghe ọ ma vbe khọn ruẹn u hewe – "If you feel inclined to do so, you give it to her, if you are not so inclined, you leave it i.e. if you like you may give it to her, if not, you don't."

**khoro** [xòtǒ] *adv.* excessively; too much: Ọvbokhan na vie khoro: "This



child cries too much.”

**khōrhion** [xòŋí] *vb.* to be ugly: Aro ẹre khōrhion gbe — Her face is very ugly.

**khu** [xú] *vb.* 1. to chase; to run after; 2. to drive away: Iran khu mwẹn vbe ẹvbo nii — “They drove me away from that town.”

**khua**<sup>1</sup> [xùá] *vb.* to be heavy: Ihe na khua mwẹn — “This load is heavy for me (to carry).”

**khua**<sup>2</sup> [xùá] *vb.* to catch on a hook; to hang up: Khua ukpon na ye ise ne ọ rre egbeken — “Hook this cloth on the nail on the wall.” 2. to clamp: Ekhu khua mwẹn obo — “The door has clamped my hand.”

**khuakhua** [xwàxwá] *vb.* 1. to be tight; to be insufficiently roomy: Aga na khuakhua ima — “This chair is tight for us”; 2. to jostle one another (e.g. in a crowd); to pack into a limited space.

**khuan** [xwǎ] *vb.* to earn money; to make money: Ígho ne ọ khian ya bo owa ẹre ọ khuan. “It is the money that he intends to build a house with that he is making.”

**khuan** [xũá] *vb.* (with isan: faeces): to feel the urge to defecate: Isan khuan mwẹn — “I feel the urge to defecate.”

**khuankhuanankhuan** [xũáxũáxũá] *adj.; adv.* 1. very close; firm: Ọse khuankhuanankhuan ẹre iran khin — “They are very close friends.”; 2. very securely: Ọ rhie ẹre lere khuankhuanankhuan — “He hid it away very securely.”

**kuarha** [xwàǎ] *vb.* to crack open

by force (e.g. of a nut).

**khue** [xùé] *vb.* (of udu: “heart”) to pound; to beat fast: Iran ghi mu enren, udu ẹre na gha khue lelei: “When they caught him, his heart was pounding very fast.”

**khue** [xùé] *vb.* 1. to bathe; to wash (one’s body); 2. to swim.

**khuen** [xwǎ] *vb.* (of ifi: trap) to set: Ọ khuen ifi ye iyekowa — “He set a trap in the backyard.”

**khuenne** [xwǎnyǎ] *vb.* to respond; to reply.

**kuerhe** [xwǎǎ] *vb.* 1. to be soft. 2. to be easy; not difficult.

**kuerhe** [xwǎǎ] *adj.* 1. gentle; peaceful. 2. (of ota — “evening”) late.

**khuo** [xwó] *vb.* to be slippery: Iba na khuo gbe — “This slab is very slippery.” (also mioghon).

**khui** [xùí] *vb.* to lock: Khui ekhu nii — “Lock that door”.

**khuia** [xwyá] *vb.* to become clear, (of a person): Urhu ne ọ te din mwẹn khuia ne — “My voice that was ‘lost’ is now clear.”

**khuikhui** [xwixwí] *vb.* to be black; to be dark in complexion.

**khui** [xuítí] *adj.* describes something that is very dark.

**khuiwu** [xwiwù] *vb.* to be jealous; to begrudge: Ọ khuiwu ọrue ọre gbe — “She is overly jealous of her mate.”

**khulo** [xùló] *vb.* iter, or pl. sense of khu: Ọ khulo iran hia kua — “He chased all of them away.”



**khuorho** [xwòřó] *vb.* to putrefy; to rot.: Alimoi ne ọ de rre hia wa khuorho – “The oranges that she bought here have all rotted.”

**khuon** [xũǒ] *vb.* 1. (with ọka: maize): to detach the grains from the cob: Khuon ọka yọ mwẹn ọkpan – “Detach some corn grains (and put them) onto my plate.”; 2. to pick off (of leaves or fruits from a tree); 3. to shed or be shed; to fall off:

e.g. of leaves from a tree: Ebe erhan naa hia khuon kua ne – “The leaves of this tree have all been shed.”

**khuonmwin** [xwǒmí] *vb.* to be sick; to be afflicted: I ma ren emianmwẹn ne ọ khuonmwin – “I don’t know the ailment that afflicts him: I don’t know what he is sick of.”

**khurhu** [xùřú] *vb.* to be thick (of sauce or soup).

## KP

**kpa**<sup>1</sup> [kṗá] *vb.* 1. to vomit; 2. (with itan: proverb) to produce; to give: Ọ kpa itan ma iran – “He told them proverbs.”

**kpa**<sup>2</sup> [kṗá] *vb.* (of plantain and banana plants) to bring forth fruit: Ọghede na kpa ne – “This plantain plant has sprouted a fruit.”

**kpa**<sup>3</sup> [kṗá] *aux.* 1. occurs as the conditional element in the hypothetical clause of a conditional sentence: 1. kpa ren, i ghe rre: “Had I known, I would not have come”; 2. occurs in the idiom: Ọ kpa maa . . . meaning “It is just as well . . . : Ọ kpa maa ighe ọ ma yo, e ghe hon emwẹn ne iran ta “It is just as well that he did not go, he would not have heard what they were saying”.

**kpa**<sup>4</sup> [kṗáá] *vb.* 1. to raise; to lift up: Kpa ihẹ na ghee deghe ọ khua – “Lift up this load to see whether it is heavy”; 2. to help to carry load: Gu mwẹn mu ekherhe kpa ruẹ vbe ihẹ naa – “Let me help you to carry some of this load.”

**kpaegbe** [kṗaègbé] *vb.* (< kpa – egbe) “to raise body”: to stand up; to rise.

**kpaen** [kṗǎé] *vb.* 1. to yank off (e.g. branches of a tree); 2. to pluck (e.g. fruits from a tree); 3. to fall off (by itself). Abo ore kpaen fua – a branch of it has fallen off.

**kpankpanankpan** [kṗáṗááṗá] *adj.* very strong; very hard; extremely solid: Ọ ye kpankpanankpan – “It is very hard”.

**kpaikpai** [kṗaikpai] *adj.* very few; “one in a number”; an occasional one: Emwan kpaikpai ọ se evba – “Only a few people get as far as there.”

**kpakpakpa** [kṗàkṗàkṗà] *adv.* describes the friskiness of an excited person or animal: Ọ fi kpakpakpa – “He is darting up and down excitedly.”

**kpalo** [kṗàló] *vb.* to peel; to strip the bark off (e.g. a piece of wood or a tree-trunk): Lahọ, kpalo alimoi na me – “Please peel this orange for me.”



**kpanno** [kḽānḽ] *vb.* reit. or pl. sense of kpaen: Ebe hia kpanno vuon oto – “The leaves have all fallen to the ground.”

**kpannokpanno** [kḽānḽkḽānḽ] *adj.*  
(used with ye) describes a very rough surface.

**kpao** [kḽāó] *vb.* to leave; to depart: Erhae kpao gha rrie Eko – “His father left and went to Lagos.”

**kpasi** [kḽāsì] *adv.* describes a manner of standing: firmly and upright: O mudia kpasi – “He stood up straight and firm.”

**kpataki** [kḽatàkì] *adj.* important; significant: Omwan kpataki no vbe evbo na – “He is an important person in this town.”

**kpatale** [kḽatálè] *vb.* to defecate (not in popular use).

**kpe** [kḽé] *vb.* 1. to wash (something): kpe okpan: to wash dishes; to do dishes. 2. to immunize oneself with charms against various sources of harm; 3. to dress a wound: of. kpete.

**kpee<sup>1</sup>** [kpèé] *vb.* 1. to play a musical instrument: Iran gha kpee ema vbe odo – “They are playing drums over there.”; 2. to sing and dance in a procession: Iku kpee dee vbe urria: “A dance group is approaching in the distance”.

**kpee<sup>2</sup>** [kpèé] *vb.* to blame (somebody) for something that went wrong; to accuse of being responsible for a mishap: Ghe kpee mwen ighe i ma ren okpa, i ma ren eva vbe emwin ne o rue – “Don’t blame me, for I know nothing about what is wrong with you.”

**kpee<sup>3</sup>** [kpèé] *vb.* to shout continuously; to scream: O kpee eve rua vbe o ya aro mie onren – “She shouted out a cry when she saw it with her eyes: She burst out crying when she set eyes on it.”

**kpee<sup>5</sup>** [kpèé] *vb.* (with uhunmwun: “head”): to ache: uhunmwun kpee mwen: “My head is aching me: I have a headache.”

**kpeema** [kpèémà] *vb.* (< kpee<sup>1</sup> – ema) “to play drums”: to drum.

**kpeghe** [kpèyé] *vb.* to shake; to sway: Akon mwen kpeghe – “My tooth is shaking.”

**kpepe** [kpèé] *vb.* to be a long time, to remain for long.: O kpere vbe ugbo – “He was a long time at the farm.”

**kpeghee** [kpèyéè] *adj.* describes something that is very smooth: Ukhu egbe ere ye kpeghee – “Her skin is very smooth.”

**kpekuru** [kpèkùrù] *adj.* short.

**kpekpe** [kpèkḽé] *vb.* to frequent a place; to visit frequently. O kpekpe vbe owa mwen – “He visits my house often.”

**kpen** [kpé] *vb.* (with iyan or ema): to harvest. Iran gha kpen iyan vbe ugbo – “They are harvesting yams at the farm.”

**kpenren** [kpé[é] *adj.* of very limited value; not much: Ege kpenren ere o



gbe vbe evba – “It was a very short time that he spent there.”

**kp̄etesi** [k̄p̄ètésì] *n.* cf. ekp̄etesi.

**kp̄ewekp̄ewè** [k̄p̄èwèk̄p̄èwè] *adj.* unhealthily; puffy: irho kp̄ewekp̄ewè – “puffy cheeks.”

**kp̄igho** [k̄p̄íyò] *v.b.* (< kpe-ìgho) “to wash horns”: (idiom) to struggle (with somebody); to compete (with somebody): Iran vbe arowa re gha kp̄igho – “He is having a struggle with his master.”

**kp̄iìi** [k̄p̄iì] *adv.* describes a loud applause by a crowd. (also tiii).

**kp̄ogho<sup>1</sup>** [k̄p̄òyó] *v.b.* to be loose; not tight: Italawè na kp̄ogho vbe èkun mwen – “These trousers are loose around my waist.” (also logho).

**kp̄ogho<sup>2</sup>** [k̄p̄òyó] *v.b.* to make a solution; to prepare a liquid mixture: Kp̄ogho ukhunmwun n̄ēn̄ n̄ē ō w̄on – “Mix a solution of medicine for him to drink.”

**kp̄okpo** [k̄p̄òk̄p̄ó] *v.b.* to worry (somebody); to harass; to disturb.

**kp̄olo** [k̄p̄òló] *v.b.* 1. to sweep; 2. to gather (things) together; to assemble (things): Emwin hia ma ghi mwen vbe owa, avbe oyi kp̄olo ehia, iran viore. “All the things that we have in the house, the thieves assembled all and took away”; (cf. koko<sup>1</sup>).

**kpoo<sup>1</sup>** [k̄p̄òó] *v.b.* to sink; to give way (e.g. of the ground): Otò kpoo vbe iyekowa – “The ground sank in the backyard.”

**kpoo<sup>2</sup>** [k̄p̄òò] *adv.* describes intensity of brightness, (e.g. of a flame): Erhen baa kpoo – “The fire is flaming very brightly.”

**kpooorhu** [k̄p̄òórhu] *v.b.* (< kpee-urhu) “to shout voice”: to preach.

**kp̄o** [k̄p̄ó] *v.b.* to be plentiful; to be in large supply: Evbare waa kp̄o vbe evbo na – “Food is in large supply in this town.”

**kp̄ok̄o** [k̄p̄òk̄ó] *v.b.* to dribble; to emit saliva: (of infants, after a meal.)

**kp̄okp̄ookp̄o** [k̄p̄ók̄p̄ók̄p̄ó] *adv.* (usually with hunwan: to be silent) total silence: Iran hunwan kp̄okp̄ookp̄o – “They maintained total silence.”

**kp̄olo** [k̄p̄òló] *v.b.* to be large; big; huge. Owa ne ō boe waa kp̄olo – “The house he built is quite large.”

**kp̄onronkp̄onron** [k̄p̄ȭr̄ȭk̄p̄ȭr̄ȭ] *adj.* (with aro: eye) protruding: O ru aro kp̄onronkp̄onron vbe aro èkire – “He has protruding eyes like those of a frog.”

**kp̄onmwen** [k̄p̄ȭm̄w̄é] *v.b.* to thank; to give thanks to: O kp̄onmwen mwen ye iyobo ne i rhi n̄ēn̄ – “He thanked me for the help I gave him.”

## L

**la<sup>1</sup>** [lá] *v.b.* 1. to pass; to take (i.e. a certain way); to cross. Edinran u

lae ra odo? – “Was it this way you took or the other (way)?”; 2. to



expire; to be out-dated: *Eghe ore la ne; a i ghi ru ee*: Its time has passed; it is no longer done.

**la<sup>2</sup>** [lá] *vb.* to be loud; to resound: *Urhu ere la se oghomwen* – “His voice is louder than mine.”

**la<sup>3</sup>** [lá] *vb.* 1. to emit pus (e.g. of an infected ear): *Eho ore la*: “His ear is giving off pus”. 2. to produce water; to run (of a faucet): *Ogba ne o rre owa na i la* – “The tap in this house does not run.”

**la<sup>4</sup>** [lá] *idiom.* (as part of a clan greeting): the first part of a clan greeting, such as “Lamogun”; “Laani” etc., which is used by younger or junior people to their elders and superiors as part of the morning greeting. The greetings may also be used on other occasions to extend respect, deference or goodwill.

**laa** [làá] *vb.* to haul or carry many things, individually: *yaa laa iyan na la owa* – “Go and carry each of those yams into the house”.

**ladian** [làdǎǎ] *vb.* to come out; to appear. *O ladian vbe iyekowa* – “He appeared in the backyard”.

**lagha** [làǎǎ] *vb.* to dangle; to hang: *Obo ovbue lagha fua vbe uwu ukpon* – “Your child’s arm is dangling from the cloth” (i.e. the cloth with which the child is tied behind his mother.)

**laghalagha** [làǎǎǎ] *adv.; adj.* describes something that is dangling. *Ab o ore ne o bunrun de rro o laghalagha* – “The branch of it that was broken hung in a dangling form.”

**laho** [làhó] *vb.* please: *Laho, mu me* – “Please, help me to lift the load on my head.”

**lalo** [làló] *vb.* to lick: *O lalo uwonmwen foo ne* – “He has finished licking the soup.”

**lao** [làó] *vb.* 1. to enter (e.g. into a house): *O ma lao uwowa vbe o se emwan* – “He did not come into the house when he got here”: (also *lao*); 2. *prep.* occurs after verbs such as *rhie, mu, vio*, etc., to mean “into”: *O mu ihe ore lao owa* – “He carried his load into the house.”

**le<sup>1</sup>** [lé] *vb.* 1. to cook food; to prepare food: *O gua le ere* – “She knows how to cook beans.”; 2. to immunize with charms.

**le<sup>2</sup>** [lé] *vb.* to be very dirty; to be filthy: *Te ughugha ere le* – “His room is filthy”.

**lee** [lèé] *vb.* (used with *yan*) to insult somebody with abuses and belittling gestures: *O lee yan ren* – “She rained abuses on him and belittled him with gestures.” (also *leghe*).

**lele<sup>1</sup>** [lèlé] *vb.* 1. to follow; to accompany: *O lele erhae gha rrie ugbo* – “He followed his father to the farm.”

**lele<sup>2</sup>** [lèlé] *vb.* 1. to roam; to wander: *O lele evbo hia khian* – “He is traveling through every country”; 2. to be everywhere: *Utun wa lele ehehia vbe ugbo na* – “There are mushrooms everywhere in this farm.”

**lele<sup>3</sup>** [lèlé] *prep.* 1. along; with: *O vie lele ere dee* – “He is crying along with him as they approach” (i.e. either he alone is crying or they are both crying); 2. after: *O rhule lele ere dee* – “She is running after him as he approaches” (i.e. he is ahead of her, and not running.) If he were also running with her, then the meaning of *lele* in the sentence would



be “along” or “with” rather than “after”).

**lee<sup>1</sup>** [lèé] *vb.* to flee; to run away: Oyi nii leere – “That thief fled.”; 2. (of river) to flow.

**lee<sup>2</sup>** [lèé] *vb.* to run (off colour); to wash off colour; to be non-colour-fast. Ukpon na lee – “This cloth runs”.

**legaa** [lègáá] *vb.* to surround; to go around. 2. as a prep. it means “around”: O gba ogba legaa owa re – “He built a fence around his house.”

**lelele** [lélélé] *adj.* (with ye) huge; very big: Omo ne o biee ye lelele – “The baby she gave birth to is very big.”

**lere** [lèré] *vb.* to hide: O lere ye iyeke ekhu – “He hid behind the door.”

**leu** [lèu] *adv.* describes the sound made by a heavy object when it drops and hits the ground. O de leu – “It fell heavily”.

**leuleu** [léúléú] *adj.* large-sized, huge: Iran hia ye leuleu – “They are all bigger than average size”.

**levbo** [lévò] *vb.* (< la – evbo) “to pass town”: to roam through town; to perambulate.

**lighi** [lìyí] *vb.* 1. to tangle (e.g. of a string); 2. to disrupt; to disturb peace (e.g. of a gathering): O lighi iko ne iran do rua – He disrupted the meeting that they were holding.

**likpalikpa** [likpàlikpà] *adj.; adv.* describes a rough surface, or a lumpy substance: Aro ore ye likpalikpa –

“His face is not smooth.”

**logho** [lòyó] *vb.* 1. to be watery (of a solution): Uwonmwèn na logho gbe – “This soup is too watery: it is not thick enough.” 2. to be slack; not tight: Ewu na logho vbe egbe mwèn – “This dress is too slack on me. (also kpogho). loghologho – watery; 3 loose.

**loo** [lòó] *vb.* 1. to use: Ero mwèn ere o looro ya fiaen – “It was my knife that he used to cut it.”; 2. to spend (e.g. time; money; etc.). Uzola eva ere o looro vbe evba nii – “Two weeks was what he spent in that town.”; O loo ígho hia ne o guee foo – “He spent all the money that he had.”

**lore** [lóé] *vb.* to roam; to walk about (also levbo).

**lo** [ló] *vb.* 1. to grind: O lo ehien: She ground pepper; 2. to sharpen: lo ero na me – “Sharpen this knife for me.”; 3. (idiomatic): to be a witch.

**loṛo** [lòṛó] *vb.* 1. to press clothes with an iron: O gha loṛo ewu ne o khian yo – “She is pressing the dress that she will wear.”; 2. to press over or hit with something heavy: O ya odo loṛo ore obo – “She pressed over her hand with the mortar.”

**logho<sup>1</sup>** [lòyó] *vb.* 1. to be difficult; to be taxing: Iwinna na logho gbe – “This work is very difficult.” 2. to cause suffering or agony: Uhunmwonva na waa logho mwèn – This sickness is really causing me a lot of agony.

**logho<sup>2</sup>** [lòyó] *vb.* to dangle (cf. lagha).

**loghologho** [lòyòlòyò] *adv.; adj.* cf. laghalagha.



**lolo** [lòlò] *vb.* iter. of loḡ<sup>2</sup>: Ọ ya ekpa loḡ ọre arọ – “He pounded his face with blows (from his fist).”

**lue** [lùé] *vb.* to chew: lue unu – “to chew mouth”; “to munch”.

**luelue** [lwèlwé] *vb.* 1. (of plants) to wither; 2. to be fatigued.

**lughaen** [lúyáé] *vb.* to be different; to be unique: Ọna ọ lughaen vbe uwu iran – “This is the unique one among them.”

**lughu** [lùyú] *vb.* to stir up; to disturb: Ọ lughu amẹ nii – “She stirred up the water”. 2. to be unsettled; to be turbulent: Ẹko mwẹn lughu ne i na rhule – “My stomach became unsettled because I ran.”

**luuulu** [lúúúú] *adj.; adv.* cf. lelele.

**lurho** [lúřò] *vb.* “to pass gates”: to go from door to door.; to make the round of houses.

## M

**ma**<sup>1</sup> [mǎ] *vb.* to fit; to suit (e.g. of clothing), Ẹwu naa ma mwẹn – “This dress suits me (i.e. it looks good on me).”

**ma**<sup>2</sup> [mǎ] *vb.* to form a crowd; to cram: Evbo ma ye evba – “People have formed a crowd there.”

**ma**<sup>3</sup> [mǎ] *vb.* 1. to mould something (e.g. pots or building blocks). (cf. manọ<sup>1</sup>) 2. to make; to install (into office).

**ma**<sup>4</sup> [mǎ] *aux.* to pretend to be doing something: Ọ ma viẹ – “He is only pretending to be crying.”

**ma**<sup>5</sup> [mǎ] *adv.* the neg. particle in clauses with past or perfect tense meaning: I ma yo: “I did not go.” I ma he yo – “I have not yet gone”.

**ma**<sup>6</sup> [mǎ] *aux.* 1. indicates that the action in the main verb had been performed sometime before: Ọ ma nọ ọnrẹn ne – “He had asked him already before.”

**ma** [mǎ] *pron.* a form of the 1st per. pl. pronoun; it usually serves as subj. of the clause or sentence in which it occurs: Ma se owa ne – “We have reached home already”.

**maa**<sup>1</sup> [mǎǎ] *vb.* 1. to teach; to show: Ọ maa ọnrẹn ebe: “He taught her (book)”. Ọ maa mwẹn ode – He showed me the way; 2. prep. occurs after verbs such as *rhie*, *ta*, *kha*, etc. as the equivalent of the prep. “to”: Ọ rhie ẹre maa mwẹn – “He showed it to me.”

**maa**<sup>2</sup> [mǎǎ] *vb.* to be good; nice; proper, etc. Okhuo na maa me gbe – “This woman is very good to me.”

**malomalo** [málómálo] *adj.; adv.* 1. twisted, rumped. 2. roughly; untidily: in appearance: Ọ vbuọ ukpon nii malomalo – “He folded that cloth roughly.”

**mama**<sup>1</sup> [mǎmǎ] *vb.* 1. to adhere; to stick together; Ukpon ne ọ he ye ekpetin hia mama kugbe – “The



clothes he packed into the chest have all stuck together."

**mama**<sup>2</sup> [mãmã] *vb.* to massage: Ọ ya ukpon mama onren egbe — "She massaged his body with a piece of cloth."

**mano**<sup>1</sup> [mãnõ] *vb.* iter. or pl. of ma<sup>3</sup>: Iran mano akhe vuon otọ — "They moulded pots all over the place."

**mano**<sup>2</sup> [mãnõ] *vb.* to writhe; to twist and roll oneself about. (e.g. with pain or discomfort). Ọ gha mano yo mano rre vbe ukpo — "He is writhing on the bed."

**meto** [mětó] *vb.* (< mọ — eto) to plait hair.

**mẹ**<sup>1</sup> [mĕ] *vb.* to hiss (to express contempt or grief.) Ọ mẹ sueṅ: "She hissed a hissing sound".

**mẹ**<sup>2</sup> [mĕ] *vb.* to plait hair. Ọ guẹ eto ne a mẹ — "She is good at hair-plaiting."

**mẹ**<sup>3</sup> [mĕ] *pron.* 1. a form of the emphatic 1st per. sgl. pronominal which serves as subject of the clause or sentence in which it occurs: Mẹ yo ne — "I have gone already"; 2. with a high tone, it represents the indirect object form of the 1st pers. sgl. pron. Ọ rhie mẹ — "He gave me" (The high tone on the pronoun is realized as slightly lower than the preceding high tone because it is at an utterance final position).

**mẹtin** [mĕtí] *n.* cf. setin.

**mi** [mí] *vb.* to squeeze; to wring: Ọ mi ukpon nii ọ ke taṅ — "She wrung that cloth before she spread it out."

**miamia** [myãmyã] *vb.* to forget: Ọ

miamia eni mwẹn — He forgot my name.

**miaro**<sup>1</sup> [myãrò] *vb.* (< miẹ — aro) "to find eye", to have the opportunity to do something: I ma miaro ya se ode oghue — "I did not find the chance to get to your place: I have been pre-occupied".

**miaro**<sup>2</sup> [myãrò] *vb.* (< mi — aro) "to squeeze eye" 1. to make faces at; to sneer at.

**miegbe** [myĕgbé] *vb.* (< miẹ — egbe) "to see each other"; to meet.

**miẹ** [myíĕ] *vb.* to see; to find: I miẹ iyan ne u viọ rre — "I saw the yams that you brought."

**miẹ** [myĕ] *vb.* to accept; to receive: Ọ miẹn mwẹn ígho — "She accepted (the) money from me."

**miedia** [myĕdiá] *vb.* to be in waiting; to grant audience to.

**miefan** [myĕfã] *vb.* to redeem; to rescue.

**miẹkue** [myĕkwé] *vb.* to admit (something) as fact; to confess to something.: Ọ miẹkue íghẹ rẹn ọ rriọe — "He admitted that he was the one who ate it."

**miẹrhie** [myĕrĕ] *vb.* (< mie — rhie): "to see and take"; to come upon; to find; to discover. Ọ mie ígho rhie vbe odeki — "He found some money on the way to the market."

**miẹmiẹ**<sup>1</sup> [myĕmyĕ] *vb.* to suck something: Ọ gha miẹmiẹ ikpe omerhan — "He is sucking the seed of a fruit."

**miẹmiẹ**<sup>2</sup> [myĕmyĕ] *vb.* to be sugary-sweet: Ọ miẹmiẹ sososo: "It is overly



sweet”.

**miemiemie** [myɛ̃nyɛ̃myɛ̃] *adj.* (usually with the vb., ye) sugary sweet.

**migbo** [mígbó] *vb.* to echo: Urhu ẹre migbo la umọdia – “His voice echoed down the street.”

**mile** [mílè] *vb.* (< miẹ – ile) “to accept a bet” to make a bet; to bet. (also file: < ta ile – “to say a bet).

**mimi** [mímí] *vb.* (with aro) to shut; to close: Wa mimi aro ne a nerhunmwun: “Close your eyes and let us pray.”

**mina** [míná] *vb.* to dream: Ọ mina miẹ ọse ọre nasọn – “He dreamt about his friend last night”.

**miobo** [myǒbó] *vb.* “to find hand”: to find time; to be chanced: I ma miobo ya rre node – “I did not find time to come yesterday.” (cf. miaro).

**mioghon** [mĩǒǒ] *vb.* 1. to be slippery; to cause to slip: Eke ne ọ tue amẹ yi na mioghon – “This place where he spilled water is slippery”; 2. to slip: Ọkpan mioghon fua vbe obo mwẹn – “The plate slipped out of my hand.” (cf. khuo).

**mioghon** [myǒǒ] *adj.* (usually with ye) smooth glossy: Egbe ẹre ye mioghon – “Her body is very smooth.”

**mitan** [mítá] *vb.* to be lazy; to be sluggish: Ọvbokhan naa mitan gbe – “This child is very lazy.”

**mitanmitan** [mítámítá] *adv.; adj.* lazy; weak; wretched: Ọ gha họ ukpon vba mitanmitan – “She is washing clothes over there in a very lazy manner.” Oghede na ye mitanmitan

– “These plantains are very wretched”.

**miuhunmwun** [myũhũmũ] *vb.* (< mie – uhunmwun) “to see head”: to survive: Ei miuhunmwun vbe eke ne iran gie ẹre na – “He won’t survive from this mission that they have sent him.”

**mobo** [mòbó] *adv.* very much; very well: Evbare na mobo rhiernhiern – “This meal is very delicious”.

**mohu** [móhù] *vb.* to be angry. (also muohu).

**mose** [mòsé] *vb.* to be beautiful; lovely; nice.

**mosee** [mòsèè] *adj.* very beautiful; appealing: Eṽbo na ye mosee – “This town is very beautiful.” (also mosemose).

**mosemose** [mòsèmòsè] *adj.; adv.* 1. cf. mosee. 2. beautifully.

**mọ** [mǒ] *vb.* to bear fruit. Erhan ogui na ma mọ ukpo na – “This ogui tree did not bear fruit this year.”

**mọmọ** [mǒmǒ] *vb.* 1. to borrow: Ọ mọmọ igho vbe aza ya bowa – “He borrowed money from the bank to build a house.”; 2. to lend: Ọ mọmọ igho nẹn ya de evbare: “He lent him money to buy food with.”

**moton** [mǒtǒ] *vb.* “to acquire rust” 1. to rust; 2. to be rusty; ise na moton – “This nail is rusty” (also muoton).

**mu**<sup>1</sup> [mú] *vb.* to carry; to lift up: Ọ mu aga yan uhunmwun eteburu – He lifted the chair on top of the table.

**mu**<sup>2</sup> [mú] *vb.* to catch; to capture; to arrest: Olakpa mu iran vbe ode ẹki – “The police arrested them



on the way to the market.”

**mu<sup>3</sup>** [mũ] *vb.* 1. to be afflicted (e.g. by disease or sickness) (the cause of affliction is always subject of sentence): Oni mu ẹnren nasọn – “He was afflicted by fever last night.; 2. to be moved emotionally or psychologically (the emotion or psych. state often occurs as subject): Ohu mu mwẹn – “I am angry”. Ekhue mu ẹnren – “He was shamed.”

**mu<sup>4</sup>** [mũ] *vb.* to acquire (usually a status): O mu okaro vbe edanmwẹn ne iran ruu – “He acquired the first position in the exam that they did.” O mu eye ne – “He has already acquired a grandparent’s status.”

**mu<sup>5</sup>** [mũ] *vb.* to be sharp: Opia na i mu – “This machete is not sharp.”

**mu<sup>6</sup>** [mũ] *vb.* 1. (of soup) to lose taste; (e.g. from having been kept for too long): Uwọnmwẹn na mu ne – “This soup has deteriorated”; 2. (of day) to lose light; to grow dark: Ede mu ne – “The day has grown dark.”

**mu-dede** [mũdèdè] *idiom.* to embrace; to hug: O muerhae dede – “He embraced his father.”

**mu-fua** [mũfùá] *idiom.* to lose: O mu ígho fua vbe ode – “He lost money on the way.”

**mu-gba** [mũgbá] *idiom.* cf. mu-ri.

**mu-gbo** [mũgbó] *idiom.* to establish; to found: O mu esuku gbo ye eybo ima – “He established a school in our town.”

**mu-hen** [mũhě] *idiom.* to initiate; to start: O ma he ye mu iwinna nii hen – “He still hadn’t started on that

job.”

**mu-hin** [mũhĩ] *idiom.* to store away (something); to conceal: O ya mu ígho hin vbe aza – “He went and stored away money in the bank.” (also mu-lerée). 2. to remove from; to take away from.

**mu-kee** [mũkèé] *idiom.* to put on the fire (to cook): O mu iyan kee – “He put some yam on the fire (to cook).”

**mu-khue** [mũxùé] *idiom.* to promise away in marriage; to betroth: o mu ovbi-ere noḍion khue me – “He betrothed his oldest daughter to me”.

**mu-khui** [mũxwí] *idiom.* to arrest. Olakpa mu Ozo khui – “The police has arrested Ozo.”

**mu-kpaa** [mũkpàá] *idiom.* to help to carry load. O ma miẹ omwan ne o gha mu ihe kpaa ore – “She did not find anybody to help her carry some of her load.”

**mu-lerée** [mũlèrèé] *idiom.* to conceal something. (cf. mu hin).

**mu-maa** [mũmàá] *idiom.* to show (something) to. O mu owe ne o bunrun ma mwẹn – “He showed me his broken leg.”

**mu-na** [mũnǎ] *idiom.* to give (something big or bulky) to: O mu owa ne ima – “He donated a house to us.” The particle *na* changes to *ne* when immediately followed by its object.

**mu-rre** [mũré] *idiom.* to bring: Imoto mu iran rri Edo – “A vehicle brought them to Benin.” The particle *rre* changes to *rri* when immediately followed by its object.

**mu-rri** [mũrí] *idiom.* to get stuck; to



experience a stalemate; to encounter difficulties — Ẹmwẹn iwinna rẹn mu-rri. He has encountered a stalemate in the matter of his job. (i.e. he hasn't made any progress in his job prospects). (also mu-gba).

**mu-roo** [mũ̀ròó] *idiom.* “to worry about (something)”; to grieve over: Ẹmwẹn ovbi ẹre ne ọ wuu ẹre ọ mu-rooro — “It is the matter of his deceased child that he is grieving about.”

**mu-ru** [mũ̀rú] *idiom.* to cheat (somebody). Ọ mu iyee ru gbe — “He cheats his mother excessively.”

**mu-ve** [mũ̀vé] *idiom.* to buy wholesale: Ọ mu ikhiavbo nii ve — “He bought that okro wholesale.”

**mu-vbovbo** [mũ̀vòvó] *idiom.* to carry on the back: Ọ mu ovbi-ẹre vbovbo — “She backed her child.”

**mua**<sup>1</sup> [mũ̀ǎ] *vb.* to multiply; to increase. Ọ mua ígho ne ọ ya suẹn ẹki igbava ne — “She has multiplied the amount with which she started trading twice over already.”

**mua**<sup>2</sup> [mũ̀ǎ] *vb.* (with ẹmwẹn) to argue with; to disagree with. Ọ mua arowa re ẹmwẹn — “She disagreed with what her husband said.”

**muawẹ** [n̄́wawè] *vb.* (< mu — awẹ) “to hold fast”: to observe a fast; to fast.

**muegbe**<sup>1</sup> [mwè̀gbé] *vb.* (< mu<sup>1</sup> — egbe) “to carry body” to prepare; to get ready.

**muegbe**<sup>2</sup> [mwè̀gbé] *vb.* (< mu — egbe) to dress up; to adorn oneself.

**muemue** [mwè̀mwè] *vb.* to idle: Ọ gha muemue vbe ẹzieken — “She is idling by the corner.”

**mugbo** [mwgbó] *vb.* (< mu — ugbo) to make farm; to start a farm.

**muigbinna** [mwígbinǎ] *vb.* to stop a fight; to settle a quarrel.

**muma** [mũ̀mǎ] *vb.* to form a lump; to cling together into a lump.

**munie** [mũ̀níě] *vb.* to be sluggish; clumsy.

**muohan** [mwòhǎ] *vb.* 1. to be afraid; to be frightened: Ọ muohan mwẹn: “He is afraid of me”; 2. to terrify; to make afraid: Ebiebi mu mwẹn ohan — “Darkness terrifies me.”

**muohan** [mũ̀òhǎ] *vb.* to offer as a gift; to present. Ọ ya ígho muohan ne iran — “He presented them with money”.

**muohioro** [mũ̀óhiótò] *vb.* to be lonely; to be desolate. Owa na mu ọmwan ohioro — “this house makes one feel lonely.”

**muohu** [mwóhù] *vb.* cf. mohu.

## MW

**mwaan**<sup>1</sup> [mǎǎ] *vb.* to measure; to gauge; to weigh: Mwaan ọnrẹn ne

a rẹn vbene ọ tan sẹ heẹ — “Measure it so that we may know how long



it is.”

**mwaan**<sup>2</sup> [mǎǎ] *vb.* to perform a surgical operation on; to cut open the body as part of an operation: Te iran mwaan enren egbe vbe asokito – “He was operated upon at the hospital.” (Also used of corpses to describe the process of an autopsy).

**mwaanme** [mǎǎmǎ] *vb.* (< mweṅ + ame) to be juicy; to contain much fluid: Ivin-ebo na waa mwaanme – “This coconut has much milk.”

**mwan** [mǎ] *pron.* a form of the 1st pers. pl. pron. used mainly in religious contexts: our; us: orukho mwan – “our sins”; mien mwan fan – “save us”; etc.

**mwanmwan** [mǎmǎ] *vb.* to arrange (things and people): O mwanmwan ukpon ye ekpetin – “He arranged clothes into the box.”

**mweṅ** [mǎǎ] *vb.* to have; to possess: o mweṅ emo eva – “She has two children.” mwen-igho – “to be affluent.”

**mwen** [mǎ] *pron.* a form of the 1st pers. sg. pron: me; my: o gbe mwen – “He beat me.” Ose mwen – “my friend.”

**mwoṅghae** [mǎǎyaè] *vb.* (< mweṅ + oghae) to be warm in temperature (e.g. water, or the body, etc.).

## N

**na**<sup>1</sup> [nǎ] *vb.* 1. to narrate: Ozo na evbene emwin nii hia ya sunu heṅ – “Ozo narrated how all those things came about”; 2. to say, to utter (e.g. a prayer). (cf. naa).

**na**<sup>2</sup> [nǎ] *adv.* sequential marker: then; and then: O ghi tuṅ iran ne, o na tota: – “After he had greeted them, he then sat down.”

**na**<sup>3</sup> [nǎ] *prep.* A variant of the *prep.* ne which introduces the recipient or beneficiary in a sentence with verbs such as rhie, mu, viṅ, etc. na is used when the complement NP does not immediately follow it: O rhie igho ne Ozo: “He gave money to Ozo”; Ozo ere o rhie igho na – “It is Ozo that he gave the money to.”

**na** [nǎ] *adv.* 1. occurs in relative clauses in which the relation is either temporal or locational: Eghe ne o na rre, ma ma mie onren – “At the time when he came, we did not see him.” 2. O khama ima ehe ne o na mie onren – “She told us the place where she saw him.”

**na** [nà] *dem. pron.* 1. this: Owa na ere o ye – “This house is where he lives.”; 2. general proximate: nearest, next before or after (in terms of place, order, time, thought sequence, causation, etc.): Emwin ne u ru na i ye mwen – “What you are doing now does not please me.” Ne o na rre na, vbe o ghi ra dia? “As he has now come, where will he stay?”

**naa** [nǎǎ] *vb.* to spread uncomplimentary information about; to broadcast



maliciously: *Ọ* gha naa mwən khian ighe i ma rhie okhuo: "He is spreading unpleasant news about me concerning my not marrying."

**naa-ẹko** [nãɛkó] *idiom.* to make pregnant; to put in the family way: *Ozo* ọ naa Atiti ẹko: "It was *Ozo* that put Atiti in the family way."

**namwunsin** [námũsĩ] *adv.* — cf. enamwunsin.

**nana** [nãná] *vb.* 1. to tread step by step; to climb gradually; *Fẹkọ* nanae ne u ghe de — "Climb it slowly and gradually so that you may not fall." 2. to narrate in detail; to spell out fully.

**nè<sup>1</sup>** [nè] *rel. pron.* it introduces a relative clause; the vowel is usually deleted before the vowel of the pron. subj. of the rel. clause, or the initial vowel of the following noun: *Ọ* ma mwən eke ne ọ diaa: "He showed me where he stays."

**nè<sup>2</sup>** [nè] *prep.* see na<sup>3</sup>.

**nè<sup>3</sup>** [nè] *adv.* so that; that: *Lare* ne i khama ruən — "Come so that I may tell you (something)."

**né<sup>1</sup>** [né] *complz.* serves as a complementizer for (embedded) subjunctive clauses: *I ho* ne u gha die owa mwən — "I want you to come to my house." *Ọ* we ne ima kpaọ — "He said that we should leave."

**(e)né<sup>2</sup>** [(e)né] *dem.; art.* serves to specify a definite reference; the vowel is usually deleted before a following vowel in normal speech: *ene* ọmwan vboo? "Where is the person?" *I de* ene ukpon ne u khare — "I bought the cloth that you indicated." In this sense, *ne*, though translated as

"the", is different from the English def. article in that when it occurs with a noun, it does not merely indicate that the noun is not a first mention, but more strongly indicates that it is a specific reference: note the difference between these two sentences: *Imie* ọnrən vbe ẹki. "I saw it at *the market*". *Imie* ọnrən vbe *ene* ẹki. "I saw it at *that particular market*"; 2. also serves to make attributive adjectives out of certain stative vbs: *kherhe* — "to be small"; *nekherhe* — "small"; *wenren* — "to be thin"; *newenren* — "thin."

**né<sup>3</sup>** [né] *epithetic part.* 1. introduces attributive or titular qualifiers of a noun: *ovbi-ere* nokpia: "his male son"; *Arhuanran* n'oletin: "Arhuanran the strong one", etc.; 2. when it introduces a noun which serves as qualifier of itself, the particle usually serves to amplify the meaning of the noun, or to indicate the authenticity of the value of the noun: *okpia* ne *okpia* ọ — "He is a real man"; *Ezo* ne ẹzo ẹre ọ gui rhu ruẹ naa — "It is a very solid case that he has argued against you."

**né<sup>4</sup>** [né] *temp. part.* occurs before temporal nouns to express the sense of "that has passed": *nukpo* — "the year that has passed" — "a year ago"; "last year"; *n'owie-ere* — "the morning that has passed": this morning.

**negedeegbe** [négèdègbè] *adj.* very big, huge.

**nekherhe** [néxeře] *adj.* small; little: *Owa* nekherhe — "a little house."

**nekhui** [néxwì] *adj.* black: *Ọmwan* nekhui — "a black person."

**nene** [néne] *dem. art.* emphatic form of **nè<sup>2</sup>**: *n'okpia* ọna khin — "This



is the man (we were talking about)."  
*nene okpia ona khin* – “This is the  
 very man (we were talking about).”

**nerhunmwun** [néřùmjù] *vb.* to pray  
 (also lerhunmwun).

**ne<sup>1</sup>** [né] *vb.* to defecate; to pass out  
 faeces.

**ne<sup>2</sup>** [né] *adv.* already: *Ọ wu ne ra?*  
 “Has he died already?”

**ne<sup>3</sup>** [né] *pron.* the form of the 3rd  
 per. sgl. pronoun “it” which occurs  
 with the interrogative word *vboo*:  
*ne vboo nia* – “Where is it now?”

**nedẹ** [nédè] *adj.; adv.* in the days past;  
 in the old days.

**nedeso** [nédesò] *adj.; adv.* some time  
 ago.

**neghedia** [néχédya] *adj.; adv.* two  
 days ago (third day back from today).

**nekpennekpen** [nèkpènèkpè] *adv.*  
 gradually, cautiously: *Si irri nii  
 nekpennekpen ne ẹ ghe fian* – “Pull  
 that rope cautiously so that it won’t  
 cut.”

**nevusen** [névúsè] *adj.; adv.* four days  
 ago (fifth day back from today).

**ni<sup>1</sup>** [ní] *vb.* 1. to subscribe (money)  
 toward a group fund; to pay a mem-  
 bership levy: *i ni ígho-emitin mwẹn  
 ne* – “I have paid my membership  
 levy for my society”; 2. to impose  
 a membership levy: *Iran ni ígho-  
 ukpon emitin gun mwẹn* – “They  
 sent to me about the membership  
 levy I was required to pay, toward  
 the purchase of the society uniform.”

**ni<sup>2</sup>** [ní] *vb.* 1. (of a boat or canoe)  
 to overturn; to sink: *Ọkọ iran ni*

*ye ẹze* – “Their boat overturned  
 in the river.”

**ni<sup>3</sup>** [ní] *vb.* (with *orhion*) to fail; to  
 cease: *Orhion ni mwẹn* – “Soul has  
 failed me”: “I feel faint; I am tired.”

**nia** [niã] *adv.* 1. now; at this time:  
*ọ setin gha khian ne nia* – He is now  
 able to walk already; 2. at last, finally:  
*Eban i ghi doo mioen nia* – “It is  
 now that I have finally found it.  
 (nia never occurs in utterance initial  
 position).

**niania** [nyãnyã] *vb.* (usually with an  
 abstract obj.) to drag indefinitely;  
 to extend beyond proportions: *Ọ  
 guẹ vbe a niania ẹmwẹn heẹ gbe* –  
 “He is too fond of dragging matters  
 indefinitely.” (also *tiantian*).

**nie** [niẽ] *vb.* 1. to stretch; to extend,  
 to point: *Ọ nie owe gbe ode* – “He  
 extended his legs across the way.”

**nii** [nií] *dem. adj.* 1. “that”: *ebe nii*  
 – “that book”; 2. generally specifies  
 things remote or far away, in place  
 or time: *Ne u na rre nii* – “that (time)  
 when you came”; *ehe ne i ma te ye  
 nii* – “that place where we used  
 to be”, etc.

**niwewẹ** [niwèwè] *adj.* (with *ame*)  
 drizzling: *ame niwewẹ ne ọ miẹ ẹde* –  
 “the drizzling rain that took all day.”

**node** [nòdè] *adv.; adj.* yesterday.

**nogie-**[nògiè] *adj.; num.* prefix used  
 with numerals to derive their ordinal  
 forms: *nogieva* – second; *nogieha* –  
 third; *nogiene* – fourth. etc.

**nokaro** [nòkàrò] *adv.; adj.* the first.

**no** [nò] *cop.* to be; a form of the



copula which does not take a complement. *Ose mwẹn nọ* – “My friend it is”: “He is my friend”. *Rẹn nọ* – “Him it is”: “It is him.” (also cf. *khin*.)

*nọfua* [nɔ̃fwà] *adj.* white; whitish (pl. *nefua*).

(e)*nọkhaevbiş* [nɔ̃xæviş] *adj.; n.*  
“he who says what comes to be”: the one in authority; the presiding authority. (pl. *nikhaevbiş*).

*nọkhua* [nɔ̃xwà] *adj.* 1. big, large – *erhan nọkhua* – “big tree”; 2. (with kin terms): grand: *erha-nọkhua* – (pl. *nekhua*) “grandfather”.

*nọkpa* [nɔ̃kpà] *adj.* the other (one): *Ebe nọkpa ọ re ọghomwẹn* – “It is the other book that is my own (pl. *nekpa*).”

*nọkpolo* [nɔ̃kpɔ̃lɔ] *adj.* large, expansive: *Evbo nọkpolo ọ ye mwẹn* – “It is large towns that I like.” (pl. *nikpolo*).

*nọmaa* [nɔ̃mãã] *adj.* good: *evbare nọmaa* – “good food”.

*nọno* [nɔ̃nɔ̃] *vb.* to drip; to pour a drop at a time, or very slowly e.g. *ofigbon nọno ye aga* – “Some palm oil dripped on the chair.”

*nukpo* [nũkpò] *adv.; adj.* last year: *Ọ rre nukpo* – “He came last year.”

## O

*oba* [óbà] *n.* dent; *Ikoroba na gbe oba* – “This pail has a dent”.

*obalo* [òbàlò] *n.* pain; misery: *Ọ mu mwẹn fi obalo* – “He brought me into pain.”

*obele* [óbèlè] *n.* paddle: *Ọ ma mię obele ya gua okọ* – “He did not find a paddle with which to row the canoe.”

*obeleş* [óbèlè] *n.* a rough path; a track: *Iran fian obeleş dee* – “They are making a track as they approach.”

*oberhomwan* [òbéřómã] *n.* (< *obọ-erha-omwan*) “one’s father’s hand”: the right hand; the right-hand side.

*oberure* [òbátúrè] *n.* “the hand that does not do to eat”: a resourceless person; a person with no means: *Ghẹ rhie ọmọ nẹn ighe oberure nọ* – “Don’t give him your child (to marry) for he is a resourceless person.”

*obi* [óbì] *n.* snake-poison.

*obiyomwan* [òbíyómã] *n.* (< *obọ-iye-omwan*) “one’s mother’s hand”: the left-hand; the left-hand side (also *agobo*).

*obobo* [óbobò] *n.* flower: *Ọ kọlo obobo mę* – “He picked a flower for me.”

*obòbo* [óbobò] *n.* boiled yam or plantain mashed in palm oil; it is often



used in izobo (sacrifice).

**obodo** [òbòdò] *n.* a kind of agile dance that entails spinning around several times.

**obọ** [òbọ] *n.* 1. arm, hand. *Ọ* rhie ẹre obọ mweṅen – “He held her by the hand”; 2. side; direction: *D’obọ* ne ọ lae yi – “What direction did he take”; 3. *prep.* with; in the sense of location: *Ọ* sẹ iwinna rẹn rae yo ọmwẹn obọ – “He left his work in my hand: He left his work with me”; 4. from (in the sense of source): *Ọ* doo rhie ọten onrẹn vbe obọ mwẹn – “He came to take his relative from me.”

**obue** [óbwé] *n.* clay.

**odan** [ódǎ] *n.* 1. heel; 2. interruption (in conversation): *Eghe* hia ẹre ọ ya gbe odan yo mwẹn ẹmwẹn – “It is at all times that he causes interruptions in my speech.”

**odaro** [òdárò] *n.* front; forward direction; ahead: *Sike* odaro – “Move forward.”

**odede** [ódèdè] *n.* 1. (with kin terms): grand: *erha-odede* – “grandfather”; *iye-odede* – grandmother; 2. senior; leader; elder: *odede iko* – “leader of a society.”

**odegbe** [òdégbè] *n.* a full-grown she-goat.

**odekun** [òdèkú] *n.* accident (esp. road accident). *Okuo* odekun ghi bun gbe vbe ẹghe na – “The incidence of accidents is too much these days.”

**ode** [òdé] *n.* 1. way: *Imoto* de gbee ode – “A car is blocking the way.” *Maonrẹn* ode ne ọ gha la – “Show him the way that he can take.”; 2. a

path, road: *Ode* na i maa – “This road is not good.”; 3. manner of doing things: *Gie* ode evbene a ya ruẹ heẹ ma mwẹn – “Describe the way to do it to me.”

**oderriẹ** [òdéríyè] *n.* (< ode-erriẹ) the harem; the women’s quarters in a house.

**odibo** [òdìbò] *n.* 1. a reliable and conscientious servant or assistant; 2. a delegate; messenger.

**odidon** [òdìdǒ] *n.* (with amẹ) cold: amẹ odidon – “cold water.”

**odighi** [òdìyì] *n.* lake.

**Odighi** [òdìyì] *n.* the name of an Edo-speaking village to the West of Benin City.

**odin** [ódǐ] *n.* a deaf and dumb person.

**odin<sup>1</sup>** [ódǐ] *n.* the deep portions of a river or pool.

**odin<sup>2</sup>** [ódǐ] *n.* (as part of the expression *kpa-odin*) mind; the basis of one’s conviction or reason: *Emwin* ne ọ ru nii ke ghi *kpa agbon* hia *odin* – “That thing that he did indeed disturbed everyone’s mind; i.e.: astonished everyone.”

**odiyeke** [òdìyèkè] *n.* behind; at the back of.

**odiyekowa** [òdìyèkòwá] *n.* 1. behind the house; 2. a euphemism for toilet facilities.

**odò<sup>1</sup>** [ódò] *n.* a kind of potash used for thickening certain native soups.

**odò<sup>2</sup>** [ódò] *n.* a disease: a variety of abdominal dropsy.



**odó** [ódó] *n.* mortar, used for pounding.

**ododo** [ódòdó] *n.* scarlet-cloth, used for ceremonial outfits by priests of various gods.

**odore** [òdóré] *n.* the front of a house (facing the street).

**odo** [òdó] *n.* over there: Yaa mudia vbe odo – “Go and wait over there.”

**odonghon** [òdǒyǒ] *n.* 1. the sticky saliva emitted by a drivelling child or invalid; 2. inner membrane enclosing foetus.

**odukhunmwun** [òdúxũmũ] *n.* 1. top (of); top side; up: Mu ẹnren ye odukhunmwun – “Place it at the top; 2. the skies: O gbaro ghee odukhunmwun – “He raised his eyes toward the skies.”

**oduma** [òdùmá] *n.* lion.

**oduwowa** [òdúwówà] *n.* the sleeping quarters of a house, usually not accessible to strangers or visitors.

**ofen** [òfě] *n.* mouse, rat.

**ofi** [òfí] *n.* yaws.

**ofigbon** [ófígbǒ] *n.* palm-oil (also evbii).

**ogi** [ògì] *n.* the melon creeper; its fruit and the seeds which are used for making a variety of native soup, also known as egusi (cf. Yoruba egusi).

**ogiason** [ògyàsǒ] *n.* mid-night; dead of the night.

**ogiavan** [ògyávǎ] *n.* mid-afternoon, when the sun is at its brightest and hottest: also ogiavan-ogiohogho.

**Ogidigan** [ògídígǎ] *n.* a praise-name for Oba Ewuare, which reflects his power and military exploits; equivalent of “the great”.

**ogie** [ògyè] *n.* a titled ruler; a ruling chief; 2. an outstanding or superior variety of any set of things: ogie-ukpon ere emitin ima deẹ ùkpo na – “It is a very superior cloth that our society bought this year.”

**ogiemwin** [ògyémì] *n.* a most surprising thing; an unusual thing: Ogiemwin ona khin – “This is a most surprising thing.”

**ogienebo** [ògyènébò] *n.* “The white ruler”: the British Monarch, or the white local administrator during the colonial rule.

**ogieva** [ògyèvà] *n.* comrade; friend, associate, etc.: Ogieva mwẹn nọ – “He is my friend.”

**ogie** [ògyé] *n.* laughter: O rhie mwẹn ogie – “He takes my laughter; i.e. he makes me laugh.”

**Ogiso** [ògisó] *n.* the title of an early set of kings of Benin who are set to have reigned from about 900 – 1200 AD.

**ogiukpo** [ògyùkpò] *n.* 1. altar (in the Christian church); 2. the dais on which shrines are made.

**ogieurro** [ògyúrò] *n.* the frame of the Ise game.

**ogolobiyen** [ògòlòbyèyě] *n.* praying mantis.

**ogologo** [ògòlógó] *n.* a dancer on stilts; 2. a nickname for an excessively tall person.



**ogoro** [ògòrò] *n.* male cricket.

**ogue** [ògúè] *n.* state of poverty; destitution.

**oguerhan** [ógwérǎ] *n.* the shade cast by the foliage of trees; the shaded area under trees.

**oguęga** [ògwégà] *n.* a method of divination in which the seeds of the uguęga tree (*Detarium senegalense*) are used.

**ogui** [ógwí] *n.* Bush-mango tree (*Irvingia gabonensis*) and the fruit.

**ogunmagala** [ógúmǎgàlǎ] *n.* chameleon (also erokhin).

**oguo** [ógwò] *n.* rioting; mass fighting.

**oguo zizi** [ógwózizì] *n.* high fever involving much shivering.

**ogba**<sup>1</sup> [ógbà] *n.* stake for digging yams.

**ogba**<sup>2</sup> [ógbà] *n.* 1. fence: O ya okpa ematon gba ogba lega owa ore — “He fenced his house around with iron rods.”; 2. a fenced yard or plot. Iran vę laọ ogba esuku — “They rushed into the (fenced) school compound.”

**Ogbe** [ógbè] *n.* the section in Benin where the palace is. Other important public facilities in this area are the Sports Stadium and the air-port.

**ogbee** [ógbèè] *n.* next year.

**ogbigbi** [ògbígbi] *n.* excitement, sensation, commotion: (e.g. a running crowd): Iran lę dee ogbigbi — “They are approaching with excitement and commotion.”

**ogbodu** [ògbòdú] *n.* a bird: the pin-

tailed whydah.

**ogboi** [ògboi] *n.* 1. an ignorant person; an uninformed person: Ogboi nọ vbe egbe owa ne a bọ — “He is uninformed about house construction.” 2. someone who has not been initiated into the mysteries of a particular cult.

**ogboleghan** [ógbóléyǎ] *n.* “the yard of prisoners”: prison yard.

**Ogboni** [ògbónì] *n.* the name of a secret society.

**oghagha** [òyàyà] *n.* brag, boast, swaggering.

**ogheghe** [óyeyè] *n.* the edible berries of okhikhan tree.

**oghe** [òyè] *n.* prostitution; adultery.

**oghen** [òyē] *n.* 1. crowd; a large collection: Iran ya oghen khian — “They are going in a crowd.”; 2. (of animals) a flock.

**oghian** [óyǎ] *n.* 1. enemy, adversary; 2. a euphemism used in reference to anybody favoured by the speaker, when the event concerning the referent(s) is unpleasant or unfavourable: Oni waa gbe oghian mwęn — “Fever is afflicting my enemy (i.e. me): A wę erha oghian Ozo wu — “They said the father of Ozo’s enemy is dead (i.e. poor Ozo’s father) etc.”

**oghoo** [òyóò] *n.* ram.

**oghodan** [òyòdǎ] *n.* ingratitude: Omwan ęse oghodan Ozo khin — “Ozo is an ungrateful person.”

**oghodua** [óyóduà] *n.* the Christian equivalent for the “Almighty.”

**oghogho** [òyòyò] *n.* beetle.



**oghohen** [òyóhè] *n.* a tree (*Musanga smithii*).

**oghohon** [òyòhó] *n.* the vulturine fish-Eagle; the feathers are used ornamentally in various ceremonies.

**oghoroko** [òyóróko] *n.* hopping; springing along on one foot.

**oghoghò** [òyòyò] *n.* joy; happiness.

**oghunmwun** [oyũmjũ] *n.* prisoner of war; a captive, traditionally used for sacrifice.

**òha<sup>1</sup>** [òhá] *n.* 1. bush; forest: àranmwèn bun vbe oha — “Beasts are plentiful in the forest.”

**òha<sup>2</sup>** [òhá] *n.* a mission of search (for something): Ọ rrie oha-erhan — “He is going in search of firewood.”

**óha** [óhà] *n.* a spike; a staff with a pointed tip used for piercing things.

**ohaha** [òhahà] *n.* a tree used mainly for firewood. Its Latin name is *Macaranga barteri*.

**ohan<sup>1</sup>** [òhǎ] *n.* fear; terror: Ohan mu Ozo gbe — “Ozo gets too easily frightened.” Ibięka mu ohan erhen — “Children fear fire.”

**ohan<sup>2</sup>** [òhǎ] *n.* gift: ọ ya ewe ẹre mu ohan guę — “He made a gift of his goat to you.”

**ohanabe** [òhánábè] *n.* of a severe sort; an intense variety: Ohanmwèn gbee ọghe ohanabe — “Hunger hit him in a severe way: He was severely hungry.”

**ohanmwèn** [òhǎmjè] *n.* hunger: Ohanmwèn gbe mwèn — “Hunger is hitting me: I am hungry.”

**ohen** [òhèè] *n.* priest; religious minister.

**ohia<sup>1</sup>** [óhyà] *n.* pod: ohia-ẹvbee — “kola-nut pod.”

**ohia<sup>2</sup>** [óhyà] *n.* a tree, reputed to burn well as firewood; it also has medicinal value.

**ohiame** [òhyámè] *n.* (< ohio-ame) hole in tree-trunks filled with rain water, in which birds bathe, and other small animals drink water.

**ohian** [òhyè] *n.* leather; also unprocessed skin of animal.

**ohie** [òhié] *n.* a brief period of cessation of rains during the rainy season, usually in August.

**ohien** [òhyè] *n.* judgement.

**ohindin** [òhydĩ] *n.* the looped rope used for climbing palm trees.

**ohinmwìn** [óhĩmjĩ] *n.* the Edo name for the River Niger.

**ohio** [òhyó] *n.* hole; dent.

**ohioro** [óhyóró] *n.* solitude; loneliness: Tẹ ohioro mu ọmwàn vbe owa negedeęgbe na — “One must feel solitary in such a big house”.

**ohogha** [òhòyá] *n.* an empty state (e.g. of a container). Ikoroba ohogha ẹre ọ mu ke ọgba rre — “It was an empty pail that he brought back from the tap.”

**ohoghe** [òhóyè] *n.* falsehood; lie. Ọ ba mwèn ohoghe — “He told a lie against me.” (also ohoghoi).

**ohoghoi** [òhóyòì] *n.* cf. ohoghe.



**òhoho** [òhóhò] *n.* a whole or complete thing, as opposed to a part or portion thereof: Rhie ohoho mę; li gualo ukhionmwęn — “Give me a whole one, I do not want a part.”

**óhoho** [óhòhó] *n.* (of soups) the variety cooked without palm oil: ikhiavbo ohoho — “Okra prepared without palm oil.”

**ohonmi** [óhǒmí] *n.* the person who is free from faults; the faultless person in a dispute, or in comparison to others.

**ohohọ** [òhòhò] *n.* slovenliness; untidiness: Ohohọ okhuo na bun gbe — “This woman’s slovenliness is too much.”

**ohū** [òhù] *n.* anger; aggravation: Iran ya ohu mu mwęn — “They caused anger to catch me: They made me angry.”

**ohuan** [óhwǎ] *n.* sheep.

**ohue** [òhué] *n.* 1. hunter; 2. dragon-fly.

**ohuęn** [óhwé] *n.* cough: ohuęn si ęre — “cough is worrying him: He has cough.”

**ohukpo** [òhúkǫ̀] *n.* a variety of okra.

**okan** [òkǎ] *n.* 1. blame; censure: vbe ne o gae se, okan o mię vbọ — “In spite of how much service she rendered to him, it was censure that she got out of it.”; 2. what one is lacking in; one’s deficiency: gbe okan — “to hit (on) one’s deficiency: to taunt with: o ya ígho gbe mwęn okan — “He taunted me with money (which I lack).”

**okaro** [òkàrò] *n.* (also okao): the first;

the primary (thing).

**oke** [òké] *n.* hill; cliff.

**okeke** [òkéké] *n.* false pretences, designed to cover up misdemeanours committed.

**okerhęn** [òkéřé] *n.* (< oko-erhęn) 1. steamship; 2. all motor boats and ocean liners.

**okehoho** [òkéhòhò] *n.* (< oko-ehoho) “boat of the air”: aeroplane; aircraft.

**okieke** [òkyèké] *n.* the last; the end: Okieke emwin ne u ru na i khian gha maa — “The end of this thing that you are doing will not be good.”

**okin** [ókí] *n.* 1. spinning continuously; 2. giddiness: O ghi ze gbe okin, okin na mu ęnřęn — “After spinning continuously for a while, he became giddy.”

**okiogho** [ókyòyó] *n.* disturbance; noise; fighting: Okiogho bun iran gbe vbe owa na — “There is too much fighting and rioting among them in this house.”

**okiriboto** [òkìřìbòtò] *n.* a rash infection of the scrotum.

**okitikiti** [òkìtìkìtì] *n.* a state of rush; stampede: Iran gha vę khian okitikiti — “They are stampeding along.”

**òko<sup>1</sup>** [òkó] *n.* an address term used by peers for each other: oko, gu mwęn ru ęre — “Please mate, help me to do it.”

**òko<sup>2</sup>** [òkó] *n.* nest (usually of a bird; but also applicable to other small animals, such as lice): Ahianmwęn bọ oko ye ęrhunrhunmwun-owa na — “A bird built a nest in the eaves of this house.”



**óko** [ókò] *n.* a horn (usually of ivory or from cattle) blown by native doctors in some of their rituals.

**oko** [òkò] *n.* 1. a packaged gift; 2. a parcel. (also ako).

**okobo** [òkóbó] *n.* a foolish person.

**okode** [òkódè] *n.* something misappropriated; an instance of misappropriation.

**okoro** [òkóró] *n.* 1. prince; 2. the address and reference term for the male offsprings of the Oba, and some chiefs.

**okọ** [òkó] *n.* boat, canoe.

**okuku** [òkùkú] *n.* traditional method of hair dressing by women, in which the simplest style is where the hair is packed up and bunched to form a nut at the top of the head; different varieties of the hair-style exist, some of which are still worn on ceremonial occasions by women of royal connections.

**òkun<sup>1</sup>** [òkũ] *n.* sea; also ocean.

**òkun<sup>2</sup>** [òkũ] *n.* the decorated box carried on the head in the funeral procession known as "isoton".

**ókun<sup>3</sup>** [ókũ] *n.* 1. twine; thick rope.

**okuo** [òkúò] *n.* war; battle: Okuo i mose – "War is not nice."

**okuta** [òkútá] *n.* rock; stone.

**okha** [òxá] *n.* 1. story; folktale: O ta okha nɔhienrhiɛn ma ima – "He told us an interesting story."; 2. History: okha Edo – "The history of Benin."

**okhan** [òxǎ] *n.* a rodent with a long snout, that lives in the ground. It gives off a very strong and unpleasant smell. It is not edible.

**okhi** [óxi] *n.* circle, ring.

**okhian** [òxǎ̃] *n.* a variety of ants known as "soldier-ants". They go in very large bands, and are usually found crowded over leftover food or oily surfaces.

**okhiɛ<sup>1</sup>** [òxyé] *n.* edge; margin: O mudia ye okhiɛ úkpo gha khe imoto – "He stood at the edge of the road to wait for a vehicle."

**okhiɛ<sup>2</sup>** [òxyé] *n.* plug, stopper; cork: Rhie okhiɛ mɛ ne i ya khiɛ ogo na – "Give me a stopper to cork this bottle with."

**okhikhan** [óxiǎ] *n.* a tree whose berries (ogheghe) are edible.

**okhiokhi** [óxyòxi] *n.* ripples: Amɛ ne o rre oghodo naa gha lɛ okhiokhi – "The water in this pond is flowing in ripples."

**okhionkpa** [òxǎ̃kpà] *n.* a solitary person; a loner. (cf. akhionkpa).

**okhogbo** [òxógbó] *n.* a shack; a hut made of pitched stakes and roofed with thatched leaves.

**okhokho** [óxoxò] *n.* a knock on the head made with the knuckles: O gbe okhokho yo mwen uhunmwun – "He hit me on the head with his knuckles."

**okhokho-eve** [òxóxòevé] *n.* a burst of tears: O sa okhokho-eve – "She burst out crying."

**okhokho-ogie** [òxóxò-ògyé] *n.* a burst



of laughter — *O sa okhokho-ogie* —  
“He burst out laughing.”

**okhọ** [òxò] *n.* 1. sternness; severity; (of children) crankiness; irritability: *okhọ ovbokhan naa tua gbe* — “This child’s crankiness is too severe.”

**okhuae** [òxwaé] *n.* basket.

**okhuakhua** [oxwàxwà] *n.* the harmattan season, which usually extends from mid-November to late January.

**okhualema** [òxwálèmã] *n.* (< *okhuae* — *olema*) “the cook’s basket.” — a little basket with a cover, in which the ingredients for cooking are stored; it is usually hung above the fire-place.

**okhue** [óxwè] *n.* fruit: walnut. It is boiled to be eaten.

**okhuen** [òxwè] *n.* a tree: *Riciodendron africanum*.

**okhuò** [òxwò] *n.* 1. woman; 2. wife: *E i mwèn okhuo* — “He has no wife.”; 3. female: *omọ-okhuo* — “female offspring: daughter.” (pl. = *ikhuo*).

**okhuó** [òxwó] *n.* assigned portion of work or labour in a communal enterprise: *Iran fian okhuó me* — “They assigned a portion of work to me.”

**okhuohanmwèn** [òxwóhãm̃è] *n.* (< *okhuo-ohanmwèn*) a pregnant woman (also *ekponiyekẹ/ekpoliyekẹ*).

**okhuoba** [òxwóbá] *n.* (< *okhuo-oba*) an adult female; a full-grown woman.

**okpa** [òk̃pá] *n.* path; passage; track: *okpa-ame* — “drain”; *okpa àranmwèn* — “The track through which animals pass.”

**okpaga** [òk̃pàyà] *n.* a tree, *Pentacle-*

*thra macrophylla*.

**okpame** [òk̃pámè] *n.* (< *okpe* — *ame*) “big rain”: heavy downpour, the type that causes flooding everywhere.

**okpan** [òk̃pã] *n.* calabash, esp. the round variety cut and used as dishes in the home.

**okpe-** [òk̃pé-] *adj.* usually occurs as a bound constituent of a compound it forms with the noun it modifies; it indicates that the noun is big, large, great or heavy, etc.: *Okpemwin ere o ru nuẹ na*: “It is a great thing that he has done for you.”

**òkpe** [òk̃pè] *n.* wine-tapper (usually palm wine).

**ókpe** [ók̃pè] *n.* 1. a flute (usually made from a variety of calabash); 2. also generally for any resonating musical trumpet; saxophone, etc.

**okpemwin** [òk̃pém̃ii] *n.* (< *okpe* — *emwin*) “a big thing”: a great event; a big service, etc.

**okperhan** [òk̃pérã] *n.* (< *okpe* — *erhan*): a big tree.

**okpehoho** [òk̃péhòhò] *n.* (< *okpe* — *ehoho*) a big wind; a storm.

**okpevbo** [òk̃pévò] *n.* (< *okpe* — *evbo*) a big town, country, etc.

**okpeze** [òk̃pézè] *n.* (< *okpe* — *eze*) a big river.

**okpia** [òk̃pyá] *n.* 1. man; 2. male: *omọ-okpia* — “male offspring: son” (pl. = *ikpia*).

**okpiokhuo** [òk̃pyóxwò] *n.* (< *okpia-okhuo*) “woman’s man”: a henpecked husband.



**okpioba** [òkpyóbá] *n.* (< okpia – o<sub>ba</sub>):  
an adult male; a full-grown man.

**okpo**<sup>1</sup> [òk<sup>h</sup>pó] *n.* male dog.

**okpo**<sup>2</sup> [òk<sup>h</sup>pó] *n.* the ridge beam of a  
roof.

**okpokhuo** [òk<sup>h</sup>póxwò] *n.* (< okpe –  
okhuo) “a great woman”; an illustrious  
woman.

**okpoto** [òk<sup>h</sup>pòtó] *n.* toad.

**okpovbie** [òk<sup>h</sup>pòvié] *n.* wake-keeping;  
overnight vigil (usually involves  
dancing and singing).

**okpowe** [òk<sup>h</sup>pówè] *n.* (< okpe – owe)  
“big leg”: long, confident strides.:  
Ọ ghaze okpowe dee —“He is approach-  
ing with confident strides.”

**okpota** [òk<sup>h</sup>pótà] *n.* (< okpe- – o<sub>ta</sub>)  
“big talk”: talking big; boasting.

**okpomwan** [òk<sup>h</sup>póm<sup>h</sup>ǎ] *n.* (< okpe- –  
omwan) “big person”: an eminent  
person.

**okpunu** [òk<sup>h</sup>púnũ] *n.* (< okpe – unu)  
“big mouth”: word of mouth (not  
backed by action); empty talk.

**ola** [òlà] *n.* the flow of the menses.

**olaga** [ólágá] *n.* chairman (e.g. of an  
occasion).

**olakpa** [ólák<sup>h</sup>pà] *n.* law-enforcement  
officer; police.

**oleghan** [ólé<sup>h</sup>ǎ] *n.* prisoner.

**oleghere** [ólé<sup>h</sup>yè<sup>h</sup>é] *n.* 1. a swing; 2.  
swaying on a swing.

**oletin** [ólétĩ] *n.* a very strong person.

**oligbegbe** [ólí<sup>h</sup>gbè<sup>h</sup>gbè] *n.* goitre; morbid  
enlargement of thyroid gland, often  
showing as a large pendulous swelling  
in the neck.

**olighi** [ólí<sup>h</sup>yí] *n.* confusion; disruption.

**Oliha** [ólí<sup>h</sup>hà] *n.* the name of a chief  
who is first in rank at the Uzama.

**olikemwen** [ólíkém<sup>h</sup>è] *n.* (< olike –  
emwen) the gist of a statement; the  
essence of a message.

**olima** [òlím<sup>h</sup>ǎ] *n.* file (a carpenter’s  
tool).

**olimehi** [ólímè<sup>h</sup>ì] *n.* a variety of yellow  
yam.

**olode** [òlòdè] *n.* 1. sewing needle; 2.  
injection.

**ologbo** [óló<sup>h</sup>gbò] *n.* cat (also ovbiēden).

**oloi** [ólói] *n.* a wife of the Oba (pl.  
= iloi).

**olokun** [ólókũ] *n.* the name of a god,  
believed to be “the owner of the sea”;  
He is believed to bestow wealth,  
prosperity and fertility on his fol-  
lowers; has many women priests  
and worshippers.

**olokun** [ólókũ] *n.* the sea (also okun).

**olose** [ólósè] *n.* 1. a kind of snake;  
2. the embodiment of beauty.

**olotu** [ólótù] *n.* the chairman or head  
of a society.

**olọ** [óló] *n.* grinding stone, used as a  
kitchen utensil.

**olọgho** [òlò<sup>h</sup>ǎ] *n.* hardship; difficulty.

**olokomwenho** [ólókóm<sup>h</sup>è<sup>h</sup>ò] *n.* (<



- olokomwen – ẹho) wind-pipe.
- oluku [òlùkù] *n.* the young of animals:  
oluku-ewe – “kid or/the young of  
a goat”; oluku ohuan – “lamb.”
- òme [òmĕ] *n.* hiss.
- óme [ómĕ] *n.* the fresh yellow leaves  
of young palm leaves, often used in  
the construction of masquerade  
dancers’ outfits, as well as for dressing  
shrines. It is also used for making  
crosses and decorating churches by  
Christians during the celebration of  
Palm Sunday.
- omi [ómí] *n.* a variety of new yam,  
that is considered to be of very good  
quality.
- omiamwenze [ómyãmĕzĕ] *n.* iguana.
- ominigie [òmìngyè] *n.* class of titleless  
people; the common people.
- ominigbon [òmìngbõ] *n.* a more ex-  
clusive term for the ogwega divination.
- omugui [òmùgwí] *n.* lawyer; advocate.
- omuhen [òmùhĕ] *n.* beginning; start.
- omuyan [òmùyǎǎ] *n.* 1. upper layers  
or levels of things stacked; upper  
storeys in a building.
- omwan [òmǎ] *n.* measure; gauge.
- ona [ònǎ] *n.* design; pattern.
- oni [ònǐ] *n.* 1. fever; cold; 2. cold  
weather, capable of causing a cold:  
Oni naa fi gbe – “This cold weather  
is too severe.”
- Onioni [ónyónǐ] *n.* the name of the  
son of Arhuan who was noted for  
his excessive might.
- onioni [ónyónǐ] *n.* doing things with  
excessive force and strength but with  
little evidence of rationality: O gha  
kun ẹnren onioni – “He is packing  
them with a lot of show of strength.”
- onisan [ònísǎ] *n.* 1. anus; the terminal  
outlet of the alimentary canal.
- onurho [ònũrò] *n.* door-way; entrance.
- ope [ópè] *n.* calabash bowl used for  
drinking palm wine.
- opirhi [ópĩrí] *n.* a kind of dance which  
entails swinging the waist back and  
forth; it is native to the Delta peoples  
and danced mainly by women.
- òre [òré] *n.* native mat, woven from  
a variety of reed.
- òre [óré] *n.* 1. outdoors; outside (i.e.  
from the house.) Erhae rrie òre –  
“His father has gone outside.”; 2.  
the streets of a town; within the  
boundaries of the town: Óre Edo –  
“within the City of Benin”; òre ẹbo –  
“centre of town”. (also orere).
- oregbe [òrègbé] *n.* over-feeding.
- órere [óréré] *n.* cf. ore.
- òrere [òrèrè] *n.* hare.
- ori [òrǐ] *n.* body cream; pomade (usu-  
ally made from coconut or palm  
kernel oil).
- orinmwìn [òrǐmǐ] *n.* corpse; dead-  
body.
- oriwo [órǐwò] *n.* bitter-leaf; the leaves  
of a cultivated shrub, used as vege-  
tables in soup.
- oro [órò] *n.* secret practices; usually  
associated with witchcraft and juju



- culcs; confidential communication; secret meeting.
- oroboto** [òròbòtó] *n.* hippopotamus (also eniame).
- orogo** [òrógò] *n.* dog (also ekita; awa).
- orogho** [òròyò] *n.* muddy puddle (esp. of rain on the road).
- oroka** [òròkà] *n.* ring (worn on the finger).
- orokè** [òròkè] *n.* horse-tail used as a whisk, or carried as part of a ceremonial dress by chiefs and native priests.
- oroviè** [òróvyè] *n.* filth; messy condition or situation: Sɛrae ye oroviè ne ọ yè — “Leave her in the mess that she is in.”
- oròmwen** [òròm̀wèn] *n.* state of marriage; married state: Ọ rre oròmwen vbe igue — “She is in marriage in the village: She is undergoing her married state in the village.”
- oru** [òrù] *n.* (also oruru) 1. cotton (the plant and the fibre); 2. cotton thread; 3. thread in general: iku-oru — “a piece of cotton fibre”; ikpe-oru — “cotton seeds, used for preparing a variety of native soup.”
- oru** [órùú] *n.* an edible lava found in the stem of fallen palm trees.
- orubu** [órùbù] *n.* a smooth-skinned lizard with a red under-side; it is said to be poisonous.
- orueghe** [òr̀wèyè] *n.* bother; disturbance; nuisance.
- orukuru** [òr̀ùkùr̀ù] *n.* havoc; reckless misbehaviour.
- orukhọ** [òr̀ùx̀òó] *n.* sin (in the Christian sense); wrongdoing. (cf. ru-khọ).
- orunmwun** [ór̀úm̀wù] *n.* pear, mainly native variety; orunmwun-ebo — “avocado pear”.
- oruoru** [ór̀wóru] *n.* reckless action; rash deeds, heedless of consequences: Oruoru ne ọ ya ru vbe odọ ẹre iran na iyen ọnrẹn ma mwẹn — “It is the rash deeds which he went to perform over there that they are narrating to me.”
- orhiekoko** [òr̀yèk̀òk̀ó] *n.* an adopted child: Ẹ i mwẹn erha, ẹi mwẹn iye; orhiekoko nọ vbe owa na — “She has no father, she has no mother; she is an adopted child in this house.”
- orhiènrhiè** [òr̀yèr̀yè] *n.* sweetness; delight: Ọ gha miè orhiènrhiè iwinna rẹn vbe okiekie — “He will see the happy reward of his work in the end.”
- orhikhan** [òr̀ix̀ǎ] *n.* struggle; worry; effort; exertion: Ọ si orhikhan lele ivbi-ere gbe — “She takes too much trouble over her children: She exerts herself much over her children.”
- orhiọ** [òr̀ỳó] *n.* 1. spirit; soul (esp. the religious sense, both traditional and Christian): Orhiọ Nọhuanrẹn — “The Holy Spirit”; 2. strength; power: Okhuo naa i mwẹn orhiọ — “This woman has no strength; she is lazy.”
- Orhionmwọ** [ór̀ĩ̀ò̀m̀ẁó] *n.* the name of an Edo river after which a local government area has been named. Anglicized form is Ossiomo.
- orhiọnni** [òr̀ỳǹǹi] *n.* laziness; idleness.
- orhokhua** [òr̀òx̀wà] *n.* a staff; a walking stick. (also ukpokpo).



**orhọ** [òř̀ò] *n.* 1. rainy season: usually from late April to early November; 2. harvest season, when new crops flood the market: ọkorhọ – “new corn; iyan orhọ – “new yam”. etc.

**orhọnmwẹn<sup>1</sup>** [óř̀ǒmǔ̃] *n.* 1. heavenly star; 2. spotty design: ukpon ọnren filo orhọnmwẹn – “Her cloth has a spotty design.”

**orhọnmwẹn<sup>2</sup>** [óř̀ǒmǔ̃] *n.* guinea fowl.

**orhue** [òř̀wè] *n.* chalk (white chalk), traditionally regarded as a symbol of happiness and good fortune it is therefore used in all joyous occasions: wa gun mwẹn gbe orhue – “Rub on some chalk with me: rejoice with me by rubbing on some chalk.”

**orhuọ** [òř̀wò] *n.* bragging; boasting.

**orhunmwun** [óř̀ũmũ̃] *n.* (cf. arhunmwun) individual; person.

**orhunmwunyẹn** [óř̀ũmũ̃ỹ] *n.* visitor; guest.

**Orra<sup>1</sup>** [órà] *n.* the Ora people and their language.

**orra** [órà] *n.* stain; soil; smear: Ọ ya orra ye ukpon ne ọ rhuaen – “She got some stain on the cloth she was tying.”

**orre** [órè] *n.* the young generation; the youth: Orre ne a ghi miẹ na ya egbe ta ivbi-eghọen gbe – “The youth that one encounters these days like to imitate foreigners excessively.”

**orre** [òré] *n.* pillar.

**orriamugho** [óryámúyò] *n.* wandering; perambulating: Ọ gha gbe orriamugho khian – “He is wandering about.”

**orriara<sup>1</sup>** [òryàrà] *n.* bile.

**orriara<sup>2</sup>** [òryàrà] *n.* 1. bitterness; sour taste: orriara ukhunmwun na ma ye khuia vbe unu mwẹn – “The bitter taste of this medicine has still not cleared from my mouth: The bitterness of this medicine has still not left my mouth.”; 2. sorrow: Ọ mu iyẹ fi orriara – “She plunged her mother into sorrow.”

**orriiri<sup>1</sup>** [òriri] *n.* electric eel.

**orriiri<sup>2</sup>** [òriri] *n.* tremor; thrill of fear.

**orruaen** [orwãẽ] *n.* any relative-in-law.

**osa** [òsà] *n.* debt; indebtedness.

**Osa** [òsà] *n.* the Supreme God; also Osanobua (esp. in the Christian context). (also Osalobua).

**ose** [òsé] *n.* beauty.

**oseghe** [òsèyè] *n.* (with sinmwun) defence, support: ọ sinmwun oseghe ne ọten ọnren – “He provided defence for his relative: He defended his relative.”

**ose** [ósè] *n.* 1. witness.

**oseka** [òséká] *n.* debt: Ọ mu oseka yọ mwẹn urhu – “He placed debt on my neck: He put me into debt.”

**osi** [òsí] *n.* worry; anxiety.

**osiba** [òsibà] *n.* a gesture, in the form of bowing and extending folded hands to a skilled dancer, as a mark of acknowledgement of or admiration for his/her dancing ability: Ọ mu osiba mẹ – “She gestured to acknowledge my dancing ability.”

**osisi** [ósísí] *n.* gun; ammunition.



**óso** [ósó] *n.* wizard; sorcerer.

**Osodin** [ósòdĩ] *n.* the title of a chief; he stands for the Oba's departed father.

**osorhue** [òsòřwé] *n.* a variety of porcupine.

**osonno** [òsònnò] *n.* irritating sight; eyesore; thing that offends the sight.

**osonmwẹn** [òsǒmǐ] *n.* 1. a broken piece of something that has (been) broken off it: e.g. osonmwẹn erhan — “a chip of wood.”

**osonmwẹnhen** [òsǒmǐhɛ́] *n.* a broken piece from a clay pot, large enough to be used as a make-shift plate or dish.

**osonmwinyan** [òsǒmǐyā] *n.* (< osonmwẹn — iyan) a cut piece of yam.

**osonmwunkpon** [òsǒmǐkpo] *n.* (< osonmwẹn — ukpon) a piece of rag.

**òsu** [òsú] *n.* a lump; a chunk; a whole piece: oso-orhue — “a chunk of white-chalk.”

**Osun** [òsũ] *n.* the magical spirit of herbs from which herbalists derive their healing power. It is worshipped as a god.

**osuakon** [òswákò] *n.* incisors, front teeth.

**osuan** [óswā] *n.* contest; competition.

**osughu** [òsùghù] *n.* trouble; disturbance: we ne ọ mu osughu ẹre ghe odọ — “Let him take his trouble elsewhere.”

**osukhon** [òsùxò] *n.* a person with a raised navel.

**Osuma** [ósùmá] *n.* a chief, fourth in rank among the Eghaevbo n'Ogbe.

**osuru** [òsùrù] *n.* at a single instance; at a first attempt: Ọ rra ise nii hia vbe osuru — “He caught all the seeds at a single instance.”

**osusu** [òsùsù] *n.* a crown of feathers on the head of certain birds (e.g. esikpogho; awe; etc.).

**osúsu** [òsúsú] *n.* an organized monthly contribution engaged in by two or more people, in which a single member receives the total monthly collection in turn by agreement.

**ota** [òtà] *n.* evening time; from about 4 p.m. till night fall; (also akota); ota-khuerheẹ — “late evening.”

**oti** [òtí] *n.* leprosy.

**otiegba** [òtiègbá] *n.* full assembly: Iran na tie iko otiegba — “They summoned a full assembly.”

**otien** [ótĩɛ́] *n.* an edible berry of the tree — *Chrysophyllum albidum*.

**otighi** [òtìghì] *n.* disturbance; disruption.

**otiku** [òtikù] *n.* (< otọ — iku): refuse dump.

**otiti** [òtìtì] *n.* fame; popularity.

**otoro** [òtòrò] *n.* 1. diarrhoea; fluid faeces: Ọ sa otoro kue egbe — “He passed fluid faeces on his body.”

**otota** [òtótà] *adv.*; *adj.* (< ota — ota): every evening; evenings: Rẹn ọ levbare otota — “She is the one who cooks every evening.”

**ototo** [òtótò] *n.* bottom of; under:



- ototo erhan — “under the tree.”
- oto<sup>1</sup> [òtò] *n.* (also otoe, esp. in the speech of the elderly). 1. ground; soil: Ghe gie ere ya owe kan oto — “Don’t let him touch the ground with his feet.”; 2. bottom of: (e.g. of a container): Iku henhen ye oto ore — “Dust particles have settled at the bottom of it”; (in this sense, also ototo): O rhie ere lere ye oto (or ototo) ekpetin: “He hid it at the bottom of the box”; 3. floor; ground: O tota ye oto — “He sat on the floor.”
- oto<sup>2</sup> [òtò] *n.* reason; explanation: Rhan oto emwin ne o gu kpaọ ma mwẹn — “Explain to me the reason for his leaving.”
- otoło [òtòlò] *n.* an itch; itching sensation. Ebe na si otoło — “This leaf causes itching.”
- oton [òtò] *n.* a decorated box carried along with dancing in one of the procession ceremonies of the traditional second burial.
- otowa [òtòwà] *n.* the floor of a room (as opposed to *iba* (slab) or *úkpọ* (bed).
- otu [òtù] *n.* 1. a society; a social club: otu Ahuẹmwengbe — “The Ahuẹmwengbe society”; 2. age-group; age-mate; peers: Otu ma vbe ọre khin — “We are age-mates.”
- otue [òtúé] *n.* greeting; salutation.
- otutu [òtùtù] *n.* a frightening object or sight (esp. to children): Otutu dee, ne u ghe ghi vie — “A frightening object is approaching, so don’t you continue to cry.”
- ovan [òvǎ] *n.* nickname: De eni ne o ya rri ovan yi? — “What did he use as a nickname: What is his nickname?”
- oven [òvĕ] *n.* sun; sunshine: Oven yunmwun: “The sun is shining.”
- ovian [òryǎ] *n.* complaints; expression of regrets; grumbling.
- Ovọnrramwẹn [òvǒráṃĕ] *n.* (also written as Ovọramwẹn): the reigning Oba of Benin during the British “Punitive Expedition” of 1897.
- ovba [óvǎ] *n.* spleen.
- ovbame [òvámĕ] *n.* thirst: O kpere ne ovbame ke gbe mwẹn sin — “It is a long time since I have been suffering from thirst.”
- ovbe [òvé] *n.* sleep: Ovbe hun mwẹn — “Sleep is affecting me: I am sleepy.”
- ovbeni [óvĕnĭ] *n.* elephant trunk.
- ovbekhe [óvĕxĕ] *n.* a timber tree: *Triplachiton Scleroxylon*.
- ovbevbẹ<sup>1</sup> [òvèvè] *n.* spade.
- ovbevbẹ<sup>2</sup> [òvèvè] *n.* centipede.
- ovbi-[òvì] *n.* (pl. ivbi) 1. child of; offspring of (always occurs with a noun or pronoun as possessor): ovbi Ozo — “Ozo’s child”; ovbi-mwẹn — “my child.”; 2. the young or small of anything; also things generally small-sized: obvi-ewe — “a kid”; ovbi-aga — “a small chair”; a small stool”; ovbi-erhan: “a small piece of stick, or a young plant”; ovbi-eho — “a small voice, like that of a child” etc.; 3. member of a group, society or social category: ovbi-esuku: “a pupil of a school”; ovbi-Edo — “a native of Edo” ovbi-esọsi — “a Christian”, etc.



- ovbi-abee** [òvyábèè] *n.* pen-knife; small knife.
- ovbi-akota** [òvyákòtà] *n.*; (idiom) dog.
- ovbi-aleke** [òvyálèkè] *n.*; (idiom) young lady; miss. (also uvbi).
- ovbi-alume** [òvyálùmĕ] *n.* a small bird.
- ovbi-aro** [òvyárò] *n.*; (idiom) pupil (of the eye).
- ovbi-erinmwin** [òvyéřĩmĩ] *n.*; (idiom)  
1. the child of a deceased person who is being buried; 2. an infant; a young child.
- ovbi-erree** [òvyéréè] *n.*; (idiom) 1. poor fellow; poor innocent person; *Sè ovbi-erree rae ighe ọ ma ruẹ emwin rhokpa* – “Leave the poor fellow alone, for he did you no wrong.”; 2. someone else’s child.
- ovbi-eybo** [òvyéyò] *n.*; (idiom) same as ovbi-erree.
- ovbi-odo** [òviódó] *n.* pestle.
- ovbi-urunmwun** [òvyúrũmũ] *n.*; (idiom) implement shaped like a dumb-bell used for grinding things in a wooden tray known as “urro”.
- ovbiakhowe** [òvyáxowè] *n.*; (idiom) (< ovbiakhe – owe): “small pot of the leg”: shin.
- ovbieghoen** [òvyéyĩĕ] *n.* foreigner; non-native.
- ovbiogue** [òvyógwè] *n.* a poor person; a destitute.
- ovbioha** [òvyóhà] *n.* bride.
- ovbivbie** [òvyvié] *n.* a snake: “black mamba”; it spits, and is poisonous.
- ovbukho** [òvúxò] *n.* he-goat.
- òwa** [òwá] *n.* 1. house, dwelling; 2. building.
- ówa** [ówá] *n.* market stall.
- owame** [òwámĕ] *n.* (< òwa – ame): water tower.
- owebe** [òwébè] *n.* (< òwa – ebe) 1. school; 2. a house roofed with thatch.
- oweken** [òwékĕ] *n.* (< òwa – eken) mud house.
- owere** [òwèré] *n.* senior elder; a respected elderly person; *odionwere* – most senior, by age, of the senior elders.
- owe** [òwè] *n.* 1. foot; 2. leg.
- owe** [ówéè] *n.* broom.
- owen** [òwĕ] *n.* sun; setting sun.
- owie** [òwyé] *n.* morning: *owie vbirh-ivbirhi* – “dawn”; *owie fiororo* or *owiewiemwonkpa* – “day-light”; *owiwie* – “every morning.”
- owinna** [ówĩnã] *n.* carpenter (also ekabita).
- owo<sup>1</sup>** [òwó] *num.* one (in counting).
- owo<sup>2</sup>** [òwó] *n.* a palm oil sauce used for eating boiled yam and plantain.
- owogho** [ówòyó] *n.* noise (in particular created by loud talk or laughter).
- owowo** [òwòwò] *n.* 1. heat (e.g. from proximity to a burning fire), 2. hot-temper; reactionary disposition: *Owowo ẹre tua gbe* – “His hot temper is too intense.”



**owokhõnmwõn** [òwókḥṣ̄ mḥṣ̄] *n.* (< owa – okhõmwõn) “house of the sick”: hospital.

**owõn** [ówṣ̄] *n.* 1. bee: Ọ gha gui vbe owõn – “He is grumbling like a bee.”; 2. wax (used by brass-smiths); 3. honey: Ọ rhiẽnrhiẽn vbe owõn – “It is sweet like honey.”

**owõnwõn** [òwṣ̄wṣ̄] *n.* a bird: toucan; it has an immense beak.

**owõrõ** [òwṣ̄rṣ̄] *num.* eleven.

**oya** [òyà] *n.* insult; humiliation: Ọ ya oya ne – “She gave insult to him: She insulted him.”

**oyanghan** [òyãḡã] *n.* worry; bother; harassment.

**oyaya** [òyàyà] *n.* excitement, enthusiasm; warmth: Ọ sa oyaya mu enren – “She received him enthusiastically.”

**oyi** [òyi] *n.* thief; robber: oyi erinmwìn (idiom) – “a very crafty thief.”

**oyiya** [òyiyà] *n.* comb.

**ozan** [òzã] *n.* 1. defect; shortcoming; fault: Ozan i irõ ọre egbe hiehie – “There is no fault in her body at all: she is absolutely faultless!”; 2. criticism: Ozan ne ọ zan ren ere ọ ya ohu mu enren – “The criticism that he criticized her is what made her angry: The way he criticized her is what angered her.”

**oze** [òzé] *n.* lead (the metal).

**ozi<sup>1</sup>** [òzi] *n.* crab.

**ozi<sup>2</sup>** [òzi] *n.* a gentle breeze.

**oziguẹ** [ózigwè] *n.* a boat-handler; the rower of a boat or canoe.

**ozikpalõ** [ózikpálṣ̄] *n.* lizard.

**oziya** [òziyá] *n.* frankincense; a kind of aromatic gum resin produced by the oziya tree, *Daniellia thurifera*, which is burned as incense, and also by hunters on their hunting trips.

**ozubu** [òzùbú] *n.* a fluffy-haired puppy.

**ozuõba** [ózwṣ̄bá] *n.* same as oloi.

## O

**ọ** [ò] *pron.* 3rd per. sgl. pronoun: he, she, it; usually functions as subject of the clause or sentence in which it occurs: Ọ gbe ewe – “He killed a goat.”

**õba-[õba]** *int.* a formula of salutation which is prefixed to various words designating times, seasons, occupations, dispositions, etc. in greeting on appropriate situations: õbota (<

õba – ota) “greetings of the evening.” Good-evening! õbiwinna (< õba – iwinna) “Greetings as you work!”, etc.

**Ọba** [óbá] *n.* 1. The ruler of Benin kingdom; 2. (without the captial letter): king; ruler. Eṽbo na i mwẽn õba – “This town has no ruler.”

**õbadan** [òbàdã] *n.* almond tree; õmõbadan – “almond fruit and seed.”



**ọbafi** [òbàfí] *n.* hunting trip; hunting:  
Erhae rrie ọbafi — “His father is going  
a-hunting.”

**ọbaikpo** [òbàikpó] *n.* male lizard.

**ọbavan** [óbávǎ] *int.* Good afternoon  
(cf. Ọba).

**ọbevbaru** [óbévàrú] *int.* well-done (cf.  
ọba).

**ọbiro** [òbíró] *n.* oracler; a diviner.

**ọbo** [òbó] *n.* 1. a general term for  
various categories of doctors: ọbo-  
oromila — “diviner”; ọbo-itan —  
“ordeal doctor”; ọbo-ebe — “a Ph.D.  
holder; etc.; 2. ritual priests of various  
gods or deities.

**ọbokhian** [óbóxyǎ] *int.* welcome!

**ọbolokan** [óbòlòkǎ] *adj.; adv.* without  
soup or sauce: Eba ọbolokan ere ọ  
mu neṅ re — “It was eba without  
soup that she gave him to eat.” Ọ  
rri ore ọbolokan — “He ate it without  
soup.”

**ọbota** [óbótà] *int.* Good evening!

**ọbowa** [òbòwà] *n.* house-builder.

**ọbowa** [óbówà] *int.* a greeting ex-  
pressed by a new arriver to people  
met at home on arrival. “Greetings  
for staying at home.”

**ọbowie** [óbówiè] *int.* Good morning!

**ọbude** [òbùdè] *n.* adviser; counsellor.

**ọbuohien** [òbwòhyè] *n.* judge.

**ọdafen** [òdàfè] *n.* 1. husband (usually  
occurs with noun or pronoun indicat-  
ing whose husband it is: Ọdafen  
mwèn — “My husband”; ọdafen

onṅen — “her husband, etc.” (also  
ọdọ); 2. a man who is a head of  
household.

**ọdan** [òdǎ] *n.* gum; glue.

**ọdayon** [òdàyǒ] *n.* an excessive drinker  
of alcoholic drinks; a drunkard.

**ọdekuen** [òdèkwé] *n.* sale on credit.

**ọden** [ódè] *n.* joke; jest.: Ọ gha gu  
iran gbe ọden — “He is having a joke  
with them.”

**ọdiyon** [òdyǒ] *n.* 1. oldest (chronological-  
ly). Ozo ọ re ọdiyon vbe uwu iran —  
“Ozo is the oldest among them.”; 2.  
the primary thing; the most im-  
portant; the first; Vbe uwu emwin  
hia ne u ziro ere re na, owa nabọ ore  
ọdiyon: “Of all the things you have  
just suggested, house-building is the  
most important.”

**ọdọ** [òdò] *n.* 1. husband; 2. an ad-  
dress term for relatives of husband.  
Lahọ, ọdọ mwèn, daeyi me — “Please,  
my husband’s relative, hold it for  
me.”

**ọdọlukpon** [òdòlùkpò] *n.* tailor (< ọ  
— dọlọ — ukpon) “mender of cloth.”

**ọdueki** [òduèkì] *n.* 1. trader; 2. a  
small measuring aluminium bowl used  
for selling commodities like garri,  
rice, beans, etc. mwaan ọdueki isen  
me — “Measure 5 bowls for me.”

**ọdukpon** [òdùkpò] *n.* weaver (of  
fabrics).

**ọfendin** [òfèdī] *n.* palm-nut reaper.

**ọfionto** [òfiótò] *n.* a big bush rat  
(edible); locally referred to as a  
“rabbit” in English, but is quite  
different from the real rabbit.



**ọfọ** [òfó] *n.* sweat; perspiration: Ọfọ fọ gbe vbe ẹghe na — “Sweat sweats a lot at this time: one sweats a lot at this time.”

**ọfuan** [òfùán] *n.* destruction; annihilation (cf. fuan).

**ọfunmwengbe** [òfũmègbè] *n.* comfort; peace. (< ọ — fu — vbe — egbe) “coolness of the body”.

**ọfurre** [òfùrè] *n.* (< ọ — furre) “coolness”: calmness, tranquility.

**òga** [ògá] *n.* boss; master.

**óga** [ógà] *n.* net.

**ọgiode** [ògyòdè] *n.* guide.

**ọgioro** [ògyòró] *n.* heavy chain.

**ọgọ** [ògó] *n.* bottle.

**ọgò** [ògò] *n.* palm-wine tapped from the top of the raffia palm. (also ọgorọ).

**ọgogo** [ògògò] *n.* (of a cock) cock’s crest. (also etoghotogho).

**ọgorọ** [ògòró] *n.* same as ọgọ.

**ọgua** [ògwá] *n.* the room which serves as a “parlour” in the traditional Edo house.

**ọgueva** [ògwèvà] *n.* a double-faced person, who fosters trouble by stealthily backing both parties in a quarrel.

**ọguięzọ** [ògwýęzò] *n.* (< ọ-gui-ęzọ) “one who argues a case”: litigant.

**ọguomwandia** [ògwòmjãdyà] *n.* “he who stays with one”: a servant; a house-help.

**ọgba** [ògbá] *n.* tap; faucet.

**ọgbagba** [ògbàgbà] *n.* a row of (things): ọgbagba owa — “a row of houses (on a street).”

**ọgbakha** [ògbàxá] *n.* conference.

**ọgbalama** [ògbàlàrà] *n.* a nosey person; a busy-body.

**ọgban** [ògbã] *num.* thirty.

**ọgbehę** [ògbèhè] *n.* (< ọ — gbe — ehę) fisherman.

**ọgbekpa** [ògbèkpà] *n.* (< ọ — gbe — ekpa) boxer.

**ọgbenbe** [ògbèbè] *n.* (< ọ — gben — ebe) clerk.

**ọgbeni** [ògbènĩ] *n.* (< ọ — gbe — eni) elephant-killer, elephant-hunter.

**ọgbọlofo** [ògbòlófò] *n.* public knowledge; the open. Ẹmwęn na dinna ọgbọlofo ne — “This word has now become publicly known; it has reached the open.”

**ọgbon** [ògbõ] *n.* new, fresh.

**ọgbugbo** [ògbùgbò] *n.* (< ọ — gbe — ugbo) “one who makes farms”, farmer.

**ọghae** [òyaè] *n.* heat; warmth: mwọ-onghae (< mweęn — oghae) “to have heat”; hot.

**ọghe** [óyé] *prep.* 1. possessive particle: of; belonging to: ọghe Ozo — “Ozo’s”; ọghe ima — “ours”; 2. pertaining to, concerning: ọghe owię — “pertaining to the morning”; uyinmwęn ọghe ẹghenęde — “behaviour of the old days: traditional behaviour.” It combines with pronouns and pronominals to form expressions such



as: ọghue – “yours” (e.g.); ọghoẹ/  
ọghẹe – “his/hers/its”; ọghomwan –  
ours; ọghiran – theirs; ọghua –  
“yours” pl.; etc.

ọghẹde [òɣɛ̀dɛ̀] *n.* plantain.

Ọghenne [óɣɛ̀nɛ̀] *n.* 1. the Edo name  
for the Oni of Ife.

ọghere [òɣɛ̀rɛ̀] *n.* hymen; okhuo ne a  
ma he fian ọnren ọghere – “a woman  
whose hymen has not been cut”:  
a virgin.

ọghesi [óɣɛ̀sì] *adv.* very much; exceed-  
ingly: iran gbẹe ọghesi – “They  
flogged him very much.”

ọgho [òɣò] *n.* respect; deference.

ọghodo [òɣòdò] *n.* pond.

ọghodogbo [òɣòdógbò] *n.* a kind of  
weed: wild sugar-cane, not edible.

ọhá [òhá] *n.* bride.

ọhà [òhà] *n.* catarrh; head-cold.: ọha  
kpokpo mwen “catarrh is worrying  
me”: I have catarrh.

ọhae [òháè] *n.* 1. bachelor; 2. widower.

ọhe [òhé] *n.* 1. gift; 2. present.

ọhen [òhɛ̀] *n.* a variety of red ants  
that are found on fruit trees.

Ọhen [óhɛ̀] *n.* the name of a past  
Ọba of Oba of Benin, who became  
crippled in the later days of his reign.  
He was the father of Ọba Ewuare.

ọka [ókà] *n.* corn; maize.

ọka [òká] *n.* leader; usually followed  
by the noun or pronoun denoting  
what ọka is leader of: ọka egbẹe –

“leader of clan; head of family”;  
ọka idunmwun – “head of the  
neighbourhood (same as ọdionwere).”

ọkade-ọkade [òkádéokade] *adv.* step  
by step; gradually.

ọkaruosa [òkárwòsà] *n.* debtor.

ọkemwionko [òkèmjìòkò] *n.* (< ọ-kọ-  
emwin-ọkọ) “crop-planter” large-scale  
farmer; cash-crop farmer.

Ọkiekie [òkyékyé] *n.* fore-play; love-  
play.

ọkoto [òkòtò] *n.* the bottom position;  
the last: ọmọ-ọkoto – “the last born  
child”.

ọkuẹkuẹ [òkùékwè] *n.* jog; trot.

ọkuu [òkúù] *n.* disaster; calamity; total  
damage: Okuu ọkuu ọ ru lele oghian  
mwen khian – “Constant calamity  
is what he keeps having after me;  
i.e. He is forever encountering disaster  
in all he does for me.”

ọkha [óká] *n.* the cotton-seed tree (ceiba  
pentandra).

ọkhaemwen [òxáèmjɛ̀] *n.* chief;  
special rank of traditional elders,  
appointed by the Ọba. They discharge  
various responsibilities within the tradi-  
tional judicial system. The ọkhaemwen  
status is less important than that  
of an Ogie – “a titled ruler” – though  
every ogie is by implication an  
ọkhaemwen.

ọkhaen [òxáɛ̀] *n.* porcupine.

ọkhan [òxá] *n.* 1. termites; 2. white  
ants.

ọkhe [òxé] *n.* hunter’s ambush in the  
wild.



**okhen** [òxè] *n.* clientele; customers!  
Obọ ọre tie okhen – “His hands invites clientele; i.e. His patronage attracts additional clientele”.

**okherhe** [òxèřè] *n.* a young palm tree.

**okhoe** [óxcæ] *n.* worm; larva.

**okhokho** [òxóxò] *n.* chicken; hen; fowl: iyokhokọ (iye okhokho) “mother-hen”: a fully-developed hen.

**okhonmwon** [òxómwò] *n.* a person suffering from a long-term or chronic illness: okhonmwon – oti – “leprosy patient”.

**okhoọ** [òxòó] *n.* evil deed; malicious act; mischief: okhoọ bun ibieka na gbe – “These children are fond of (performing) mischief.”

**Okhuahe** [òxùáhè] *n.* 1. the name of a river in an Edo village by the same name, situated along Benin-Asaba road; 2. the name of a famous magician during the reign of Oba Ewuare. He is said to have transformed himself into the river Okhuahe, and is worshipped today as a deity.

**okhue** [òxwè] *n.* parrot.

**okhue** [òxwé] *n.* “small chop”; snacks bought and consumed compulsively (usually, due to lack of self-discipline) Ọ ya igho ere hia rri okhue foo – “She spent all her money compulsively buying and consuming snacks.

**okhuen** [óxcwé] *n.* a tree (*Brachystegia eurycoma*).

**okhuenkhuen** [óxcwéxcwé] *n.* a variety of thorny creeping plant.

**okpa** [ókpá] *num.* one; single: ebe okpa – “one book.”

**okpa** [ókpà] *n.* rooster (also okporhu).

**okpá** [ókpá] *n.* 1. rod, staff; 2. a yard measure: Okpa ene ukpon na khi – “This cloth is four yards long.”

**okpakpata** [ókpàkpàtà] *n.* (< ọ-kpe-akpata) akpata player (usually accompanies the playing with a chant of folk narratives).

**okpan**<sup>1</sup> [ókpá] *n.* plate.

**okpan**<sup>2</sup> [ókpá] *num.* odd number.

**okpankpan** [ókpákpá] *n.* anger born of frustration: Ghe ya okpankpan so mwèn – “Don’t vent your frustration on me.”

**okpatale** [ókpàtàlè] *n.* severe case of gonorrhoea.

**okpayan-uri** [ókpáyāuri] *num.* 1. 201; 2. (idiomatic): innumerable.

**okpema** [ókpèmà] *n.* drummer.

**okpen** [ókpé] *n.* side of; edge of: Ọ mudia ye okpen úkpo – “He stood at the side of the road.”

**okpenze** [ókpézè] *n.* (< okpen-eze) bank of the river.

**okpetu** [ókpètú] *n.* a disagreeable event, or person: a nuisance.

**okpo**<sup>1</sup> [ókpò] *n.* pile; haemorrhoids.

**okpo**<sup>2</sup> [ókpò] *n.* goal; score (e.g. in a soccer game).

**okporhu** [ókpòřù] *n.* 1. rooster; 2. preacher.

**okpo** [ókpó] *n.* walking stick; staff.

**okpokpa** [ókpókpa] *n.* one by one.



**okpòmwan** [òkpòmǎ] *n.* attendant; assistant; servant.

**okpòmwanse** [òkpòmǎsè] *n.* a grateful person.

**olele** [òlèlǎ] *n.* hall-way; passage way.

**ologhòmwan** [òlòghòmǎ] *n.* problems; hardship.

**oma** [òmǎǎ] *n.* goodness.

**omada** [òmǎdà] *n.* the Oba's ceremonial sword bearer (pl. emada).

**omaen** [òmǎèn] *n.* old person; the aged.

**omakhe** [òmǎxè] *n.* (< o - ma - akhe) potter.

**omamwaenmwin** [òmàmǎǎmwin] *n.* (< o - ma - emwan - emwin) teacher (also etisa).

**omerhan** [òmèrǎ] *n.* (< omọ - erhan) fruit.

**omiòmwanfan** [òmòmǎǎfǎ] *n.* (< omię - omwan - fan) saviour (in the Christian sense).

**omiwu** [òmíwù] *n.* direct off-spring, as opposed to eyẹ - "grandchild."

**omobọ** [òmóbò] *n.* (< omọ-obọ) "child of the arm": infant.

**omoto** [òmótò] *n.* (< omọ-oto): "child of the soil": native, indigene.

**omọ** [òmǎ] *n.* 1. child; off-spring (pl. emọ): Emọ eha o mwen - "He has three sons; 2. (of a plant or tree): fruit.

**Omo** [òmǎ] *n.* an appellation for the Oba: "Omo n'Oba n'Edo" - "Omo,

the ruler of Benin."

**omọbe** [òmǎbè] *n.* problem child.

**omomọ** [òmǎmǎ] *n.* baby; infant.

**ona** [ònǎ] *dem. pron.* this one (pl. ena): Ona o ma se ehia: "This one is the best of them all." (also onona).

**onii** [óníí] *dem. den.pron.* that one (pl. enii): Onii o ye mwen - "That one is what I like."

**opakharha** [òpákárá] *n.* empty boasts; bluff.

**opekherhe** [òpèxèrè] *n.* yam pottage.

**opia** [ópià] *n.* cutlass; machete.

**oporhipọ** [òpǎrípò] *n.* a tree, *Sterculia tragacantha*.

**ora** [òrǎ] *n.* dried okra (sliced and dried in the sun, to last longer).

**ore<sup>1</sup>** [òrè] *cop.* 1. serves as the link between a focalized element in a sentence and the rest of the sentence: owa ore o na vbaa re - "Home it was that he met him: it was at home that he met him."; 2. serves as a link between clauses or sentences in a narrative discourse: Iran ghi se evba, ore iran na tuẹ ore; ore iran na tota - "When they got there, they greeted him, they then sat down . . ." (variant form is ere).

**ore<sup>2</sup>** [órè] *pron.* 3rd pers. sg. possessive pron: his, her, its: owe ore - "his/her/its feet." (Variant forms: ere, onren, enren, re, ren).

**orere** [òrèrè] *n.* a variety of beans.

**oro** [òrò] *n.* paralysis.



**orogio** [òrògyò] *n.* a kind of wooden rattle.

**orue** [òrúè] *n.* co-wife.

**oruero** [òrwèrò] *n.* (< o-ru-ero) a cunning person; a deceitful person.

**oruẹbo** [òrwèbò] *n.* (< o-ru-ẹbo) pagan.

**oruosa** [òrwòsà] *n.* (< o-ru-osa) debtor.

**orhẹnrhẹn** [òřěěřě] *n.* a lot; a large quantity: *Ígho ne o mu rre orhẹnrhẹn* – “The money he brought was a whole lot.”

**orhẹnrhẹnbiẹnrhẹn** [òřěřěbīěřě] *adj.* very large or numerous.

**orhia** [òřiàè] *n.* useless thing; a no-good (person or thing).

**orho** [òřò] *n.* mud; slush.

**orhore** [òřòré] *n.* waterfall.

**orhomwungborrie** [òřómũgbóryè] *adj.* numerous: *Ma deghe orhqvungborrie evbo ne i rre* – “We saw the numerous people that came.”

**orriegie** [òryègyè<sup>1</sup>] *n.* (< o-ri-egie) title-bearer; a titled person.

**orriovbe** [òryòvè] *n.* alien; stranger; foreigner.

**orriukhu** [òryùxù] *n.* (< o-ri-ukhu) heir; inheritor.

**osa** [òsà] *n.* big ape: gorilla; chimpanzee.

**osama** [òsàmà] *n.* 1. (< o-sa-ama) brass-smith; sculptor.

**osara** [òsàrà] *n.* saw (carpenter's implement).

**ose** [òsè] *n.* 1. friend; 2. lover.

**osegbe** [òségbè] *n.* in turns; turn by turn (also the reduplicated form: osegbese-osegbe).

**osele** [òsèlè] *n.* cricket (also asele).

**Osemwende** [òsémwèdè] *n.* name of a past Oba of Benin.

**osiwu** [òsiwù] *n.* the tribal mark cutter (no longer in practice).

**osuohuan** [òswòhũa] *n.* (< o – su – ohuan): “leader of sheep”: shepherd.

**ota** [òtá] *n.* speech; conversation: *Iran gha gbe ota vba* – “They are conversing there.”

**otakho** [òtàxó] *n.* back-biting; slander.

**otan** [òtã] *n.* squirrel.

**otẹn<sup>1</sup>** [òtế] *n.* a very sweet drink made from fermented ripe plantains.

**otẹn<sup>2</sup>** [òtế] *n.* 1. general blood relative: *Oten ma khin* – “We are blood relatives”; 2. sibling; 3. an address term for anybody one feels favourably disposed toward: *Ghe gui oten mwẹn* – “Don't be offended please.”

**oton** [òtò] *n.* rust.

**Ovia** [òvyá] *n.* 1. the name of a river; 2. the name of the goddess of Ovia river, and the cult that worships it.

**ovien** [òvyế] *n.* slave; servant.

**ovo** [òvó] *n.* half-heartedness; disinclination. (also in the reduplicated form: ovovo): *Ovovo o ya ru iwinna na* – “He did this work half-heartedly.”

**omwan** [òmũa] *n.* person; human being (pl.: emwan): *emwan nibun* – “Many people.”



**omwanbabe** [òṃãbàbè] *n.* a witch (also azen).

**omwɛnmwɛn** [òṃḗṃḗ] *n.* a mad person.

**ovbehe** [óvèhé] *n.* another one; another.

**ovbokhan** [òvókã] *n.* 1. child; a young person, hence **ovbokhonkhuo** (< **ovbokhan-okhuo**): girl; **ovbokhonkpia** (< **ovbokhan - okpia**) "boy"; 2. servant, assistant; 3. (also with low tones: **ovbokhan**) "wife" — always occurs with a possessive: **ovbokhan mwɛn** — "my wife."

**ovbokhunvbi** [òvókũví] *n.* a girl or young woman (in her mid to late teens).

**owa** [ówá] *n.* epilepsy.

**owa** [òwà] *n.* castrated animal: ewe owa — "castrated goat."

**owara** [òwàrà] *n.* 1. straight, uninterrupted stretch (of time or space): **owara uki eha** — "for an uninterrupted period of three months."

**owe** [òwè] *n.* male (used of animals only).

**oweɛ** [òwéè] *n.* farmer (also ogbugbo).

**owewɛ** [òwéwé] *n.* a kind of native explosive fired like a gun at second burial ceremonies.

**owiɛyi** [òwièyí] *n.* used item; second-hand.

**owo** [òwò] *n.* a variety of house-bat.

**oyarra** [òyàrá] *n.* an uncouth person.

**oyɛnmwɛn** [òyèṃḗ] *n.* joy; merriment.

**oyunnua** [òyũnwá] *n.* a surprise; amazement.

**oza** [òzá] *n.* a sash used by a woman for tying a baby to the back.

**Oza** [òzà] *n.* the name of an Edo-speaking community, whose dialect of Edo is quite distinct.

**ozedu** [òzèdù] *n.* (< o-ze-edu) interpreter.

**ozeba** [òzèbá] *n.* a sticky and unanticipated problem.

**Ozolua** [òzòluà] *n.* the name of a past Oba of Benin. He was the father of Oba Eṣigie.

**ozuo** [òzuò] *n.* fool; idiot.

## P

**panpanpan** [pápápá] *adv.* describes a quality of noise, such as the blast of an automobile horn: **O gha tu panpanpan** — "He is crying, making a flat and loud noise."

**pápá** [pàpá] *v.b.* 1. to stroke gently

with the palm of the hand, or any flat object.; 2. to attach (something) to a flat surface: **o papa ebe nii mu ɛkhu** — "He attached that sheet of paper to the door."

**papaapa** [pàpàpà] *adj.; adv.* describes



something flat and wide: Ọ ru aro papaapa — “He has a face that is flat and wide.”

**parha** [pãa] *adv.; adj.* describes an object that's broad and flat, such as a tray, a human head that's big and flat at the top: Ọ ru uhunmwun parha — “He has a head that's big and flat.”

**pepepe** [pépépé] *adv.* describes a general friskiness or liveliness: Ọ gha dan khian pepepe — “He is hopping friskily along.”

**pepe** [pèpé] *vb.* 1. to lure; entice: Ọ pepe ore fi osa — “She lured him into debt.”; 2. to pet; to pamper.

**perere** [pèrèrè] *adv.* describes the gliding motion of a bird in flight: Ọ tin fua perere — “It flew away in a glide.”

**perhe** [pèřè] *adj.; adv.* describes a flat surface that is also low, such as a stool, or the top of a low tree stump.

**pianranran** [pyãĩã] *adj.* describes something that is thin and long, or extended (e.g. like a cane).

**pien** [piẽ] *vb.* 1. to press against; 2. to push forcibly into a limited space

or against a hard surface: Ọ piẹn ọnren mu egbeken — “He pressed her against the wall.”

**piẹnpiẹn** [pỹẽpỹẽ] *vb.* 1. same as piẹn; 2. (of space) to be too tight.

**piẹnrhẹn** [pỹẽřẽ] *vb.* to become smashed; (of ripe fruit or vegetable) to be smashed; to decompose.

**piorhọ** [pyòřó] *vb.* same as piẹnrhẹn.

**piorhọpiorhọ** [pyòřòpyòřò] *adv.; adj.* describes something that is soft and messy, such as over-ripe or rotten fruit.

**pirhi** [piĩi] *vb.* 1. to blur, or smear: Ọ pirhi ehia kugbe — “He smeared all together.”; 2. to be or become blurred, or smeared — Emwin hia ne i gben pirhi vbe aro mwẹn — “Everything I wrote became blurred in my eyes.”

**pirhipirhi** [piĩpiĩi] *adv.; adj.* unclear; blurred; confused: Ehia ye pirhipirhi — “They all seem confused and indistinct.”

**pupupu** [pùpùpù] *adv.* describes the fluttering of a large bird in a short distance flight: Ọ gha gbe ifuẹn pupupu — “It is fluttering its wings.”

## R

**ra<sup>1</sup>** [râ] *inter. part.* question particle requiring a “Yes” or “No” answer: Ọ rre ra? — Did he come?

**ra<sup>2</sup>** [râ] *conj.* or; a conjunction introducing the second of two alternatives: Ọ gha rre ra ẹ i dee? “Will

he come or not?”

**ra** [rá] *adv.* inceptive formative which indicates that an action is about to begin: Ọ ra kpaọ — “He is about to depart.”



**raan** [rãã] *vb.* to fill; to stuff up; to cram: Ọ ran uvun ne ọ tɔnnọẹ – “He filled the hole that he dug.”

**rae** [ràé] *vb.* to go to a place (occurs more generally in a negative clause): Ọ wẹ iren i ghi rae – “He said that he will not go any more.”; 2. (with sẹ in sẹ-rae): to leave; to depart: Ọ sẹ erhae rae ye igue – “He from his father departed at the village” – “He departed from his father in the village or: He left his father behind in the village.”

**raghoragho** [ráyórátó] *adj.* describes the shades of colour between light green and light blue. Ukpọn ne ọ rhuaen ye raghoragho – “The cloth that he tied looked greenish.”

**ranmwẹn** [rãmɛ̃] *vb.* to fry in oil; to cook by frying – Ọ ranmwẹn emiowo ne ima re – “He fried meat for us to eat.”

**ranran** [rãrã] *vb.* to melt; to become liquefied by heat: Ofiugbọn ne ọ mu yan erhen ranran ne – “The oil that he put on the fire has melted.”; 2. (fig.) to melt with fear or apprehension: ọ te ranran vbe ọ deghe ere – “He almost melted when he saw her.”

**re<sup>1</sup>** [ré] *vb.* to eat (when followed directly by its object, it becomes rri) Iran rri ema ne ọ le ne iran – “They ate the pounded yam that he cooked for them.”

**re<sup>2</sup>** [ré] *vb.* to acquire (something): (when directly followed by its object, it becomes rri) – Iran gu ere ghoghọ ye egie ne ọ re – “They rejoiced with him over the chieftaincy title that he acquired.” Ọ rri egie – “He acquired a title.”

**re<sup>3</sup>** [ré] *vb.* to incur (e.g. hardship)

(when directly followed by its object, it becomes rri): Ọ rri oya vbe owa ọdọ ọre – “She incurred abuse in her husband’s house.”

**re<sup>4</sup>** [ré] *vb.* (of shoes, blades of knives, machetes, etc.) to deteriorate in quality; to wear; to show signs of damage or age as a result of ordinary use: Ibata na re ne – “These shoes are now worn.”

**re<sup>5</sup>** [rè] *cop.* to be: Ọkpa re okpia nokere re okhuo – “One is male while the other is female.”

**ree** [rèé] *vb.* 1. to bury (a dead person).; 2. to conceal: Ọ ree ere ye uwu ukpọn – “She concealed it in her apparel.”

**reghe** [réyé] *adv.* describes something that is very high up: Ọ rhie rro reghe vbe odukhunmwun – “He hung very high above (also reghereghe).”

**reghereghe** [réyéyé] *adv.* 1. very high; far beyond reach; 2. (of eyes): deep-set.

**rere** [rére] *int.* a greeting, used mainly by the elderly, to mean “welcome”.

**rerere** [rérére] *adv.* describes a very high pitched sound – Ọ da van rerere – “He gave vent to a loud shrill.”

**reřen** [rèé] *vb.* 1. to know – I reřen inu ne ọ rre evba – “I know how many that are there.”; 2. to be acquainted with; to recognize – Ọ ma ghi te reřen onřen – “He almost did not recognize him.”

**reghereghe** [rèyéyé] *adj.* (of colour): shades ranging from pale pink to light shades of red and orange; (of temperature): warm, lukewarm: Amẹ na ye reghereghe – “This water is lukewarm.”



**renren<sup>1</sup>** [rɛ̃rɛ̃] *vb.* 1. to tickle (somebody); to excite the nerves (of somebody) to produce laughter: Ọ gha renren mwen – “He is tickling me.”; 2. to be tickled.

**renren<sup>2</sup>** [rɛ̃r̄ɛ̃] *vb.* to crawl (like an insect); to glide slowly on the ground.

**renrenren** [r̄ɛ̃r̄ɛ̃r̄ɛ̃] *adv.; adj.* describes smooth and gentle motion, or appearance.

**rere** [rɛ̃rɛ̃] *vb.* 1. to deceive – Ọ rere ore miẹ onren igho – “He deceptively took money from him.”; 2. to lure, to entice: Ọ ya igho rere ore rhie kpaọ – “He used money to lure her away with him. He lured her away with money”.

**riin** [r̄ī] *dem. adj.* a variant of the demonstrative adjective “nii”, used mainly by old people”.

**rinnwian** [r̄ɪ̄m̄ȳā] *vb.* to beg; to plead with: Rinnwian mwen ne i ghe kpaọ se rue rae – “Plead with me not to depart from you.”

**ro<sup>1</sup>** [rɔ̃] *vb.* to be cheap: Evbare waa ro vbe evbo na – “Food is quite cheap in this town.”

**ro<sup>2</sup>** [rɔ̃] *vb.* (of a boil or an inflamed tumour) to leak out pus; to discharge pus: arigheghan ne ọ mu ere owe ma he ye ro – “The boil that afflicted him on the leg has not yet started to discharge pus.”

**ro<sup>3</sup>** [rɔ̃] *vb.* to flood; to inundate; to form a crowd: Amẹ ro vuon ukpo – “Water has flooded the road: The road is flooded with water.” Ọgba ro ne evbo – “The tap is crowded (with people).”

**roghe** [rɔ̃ɔ̃] *vb.* to be undesirably soft

or watery; (of fruit or vegetable); to deteriorate; to start to rot.: Etamatosi hia ne ọ de rre roghe vuon okhuae – “All the tomatoes she bought here have started to rot in the basket.”

**roo** [rɔ̃ɔ̃] *vb.* cf. roro.

**roro** [rɔ̃rɔ̃] *vb.* 1. to think, to meditate; 2. to compute; to reckon; 3. to add: Roro ehia kugbe ne u khama mwen inu ne iran khin – “Add all together and tell me how many they are.” (also roo).

**ro<sup>1</sup>** [rɔ̃] *vb.* 1. to exchange: Ya onona ro onii – “Exchange that with this.”; 2. to change money into smaller denominations; to make change: Lahọ, ro igho na me – “Please, change this money (into smaller denominations) for me.”

**ro<sup>2</sup>** [rɔ̃] *vb.* to come to a standstill; to rest; to stop: Ai miẹ eghe ne agbanmwen onren ya ro – “There is never a time that his jaws are at rest. (i.e. He is forever talking).”

**rokhọ** [rɔ̃xɔ̃] *vb.* (of fruit) 1. to be very ripe: alimoi na rokhọ ne – “This orange is now very ripe.”; 2. to be easy (to do); to be stress-free: Iwinna ne ọ mu me ru rokhọ – “The work that he gave me to do is easy.”; 3. to be comfortable; peaceful: Owa na rokhọ mwen egbe – “This house is comfortable for me (for my body)”. 4. (of illness) to subside; to lessen: Uhunmwonva ere feko rokhọ ne – “His illness is gradually subsiding.”

**ron** [r̄ɔ̃] *vb.* 1. to drip; to shed moisture or liquid; to leak: Ofiugbon ron kua vbe uko – “The oil dripped out of the calabash.”; 2. to look radiant; to have a sheen: Ke ne ọ ya se Edo, te ọ ghi ron – “Since she arrived in



Benin, she has been looking radiant.”

**ronmwɛn** [ɾɔ̃ṁḙ] *vb.* to marry (used mainly of a woman) **Ọtenmwɛn ẹre ọ ronmwɛn** – “It is my relation that she married.”

**ru** [ɾú] *vb.* 1. to do; to perform – **Ọ ru iwinna ne a munɛn nẹ** – “He has already performed the task that he was assigned.”; 2. to perform the ritual rites (e.g. of ancestors or a deity); to offer sacrifice: **Akhue ẹre ọ khian ru erhae** – “It is tomorrow that he will perform the rites of his father (or ancestors).”; 3. to be like; to have the characteristics of: **Ukpon ne iran dẹ ru ebebe** – “The cloth which they bought is greenish (is like foliage)”.

**ru-khọ** [ɾùxòó] *vb.* 1. to sin; to err; 2. to ill-treat.

**rua**<sup>1</sup> [ɾùá] *adv.* indicates that the action in the verb with which it co-occurs was performed to the extreme limit: **Ọ bun mwɛn obọ rua** – “He broke my hand completely.” (Other forms of the adverb are ruan; -uan; -ua, -a).

**rua**<sup>2</sup> [ɾùá] *pron.* same as ruan<sup>2</sup>.

**ruan**<sup>1</sup> [ɾũá] *vb.* to drug (a person); to administer poison (to a person). **Iran ruan rɛn vbe ehe ne ọ yoo** – “They drugged him where he went.”

**ruan**<sup>2</sup> [ɾũá] *pron.* a form of the 2nd person pl. pron. (poss. & obj.) which is used mainly by the elderly: **Emwɛn ruan ọ ya mwɛn sẹ usẹ** – “It is on your (pl.) account that I am suffering”: I am suffering on your account”. Now most people would say: “Emwɛn **uwa** ọ ya mwɛn sẹ usẹ.” (other forms of the pronoun are rua, -uan, & -ua).

**ruburubu** [ɾùbùɾùbù] *adj.* (usually introduced by the vb. **ye**) describes something that is round and smooth.

**rue** [ɾùé] *vb.* to vie with (usually of co-wives).

**ruegbe** [ɾwègbé] *vb.* to engage in a verbal or physical tussle with somebody: **Te iran eveva ruegbe sin** – “Both of them have since been engaged in a tussle.”

**rueghe** [ɾwèyé] *vb.* to shake; to move back and forth; to be unsteady.

**rue**<sup>1</sup> [ɾùé] *vb.* 1. to learn: **Ọ rue vbene a ya kuun ɛnɛn heɛ** – “He learned how it is constructed”; 2. to teach (to somebody) **Ọ rue ọre ikeke ne a hin** – “He taught him how to ride a bicycle.”

**rue**<sup>2</sup> [ɾùé] *pron.* a form of the 2nd pers. sgl. pron. (possessive): **ebe rue** – “Your book”; (other forms of the pron. are ruen, -ue, -uen, -ɛn, -ẹ).

**ruen** [ɾũé] *vb.* to pour liquid into a container; to fill with liquid: **Ruen amẹ ye ọgọ nii mẹ** – “Fill that bottle with water for me.”

**ruen** [ɾũé] *pron.* same as rue<sup>2</sup>, but occurs only in a nasal environment: **emwɛn ruen** – “your matter”.

**ruese** [ɾwèsé] *vb.* 1. (< ru<sup>1</sup> – ẹse) “to do a kindness”; to help; to bestow a favour; 2. (as part of the greeting: “U ruese”) to be deserving of one’s gratitude or indebtedness: “U ruese vbe egbe mwɛn ” – “I am grateful for your help/kindness to me.”

**rundenrunden** [ɾũdɛ̃ɾũdɛ̃] *adj.* (usually intr. by the vb. “ye”) describes something (or somebody) that is weak and unhealthy-looking.



**runran** [rũrã] *vb.* to be startled; to start or shudder (e.g. with shock or fright): Ọ runraen vbe avan-nukhunmwun vaen – “She shuddered when it thundered.”

**ruosa** [rwòsá] *vb.* (< ru<sup>1</sup> – osa) to incur a debt; to be in debt.

**rururu** [rùrùrù] *adj.* (usually introduced by the vb. “ye”) describes a big and distended object.

## RH

**rhaa** [řàá] *vb.* to steal: Iran rhaa gbe vbe evbo na – “They steal exceedingly in this town (i.e. there is a lot of stealing in this town.)”

**rhaan** [řãã] *vb.* 1. to loosen; to untie: Rhan irri nii hin enren owe rre – “Loosen that rope from its leg.”; 2. (with *aro*) to open.

**rhaanro** [řããrò] *vb.* (< rhaan – vbe – aro) “open at the eyes”: to be sophisticated; to be civilized. (cf. ìrhànrò).

**rhanmwèn** [řãmjẽ] *vb.* 1. to dip (a piece of food) into soup or sauce (before eating it) (e.g. eba or pounded yam).; 2. to touch, to come into contact with: Ukpon ne ọ rhuaen rhanmwèn otọ – “The cloth she is tying touches the ground.”; 3. (idiom) to be affected severely: Obo rhanmwèn onren vbe ugbemwèn ne iran gbée – “He really had it from the beating that they gave him.”

**rhanmwèn** [řãmjẽ] *adv.* “to the extent that”; “so much so” (usually occurs in a negative clause): Ei rhule rhanmwèn ne obo ghe vba ore – “He cannot run so much (so fast) that he would not be caught.”

**rhanrhananrhan** [řãřããřã] *adv.* very loudly: Ọ vaen rhanrhananrhan – “He

shouted very loudly.”

**rhee** [řèé] *adv.* even though; though: Ọ rhee ye mwèn, sokpan ii khian setin dọe – “Even though I like it, I will however be unable to buy it.”

**rherhe** [řèře] *adv.* quickly, early, in good time: Ọ rherhe kpao – “He left in good time.” U ghi rherhe rre – “Arrive early” (As part of the greeting: U rherhe) “farewell”; “safe-journey”, etc.

**rhia** [řyá] *vb.* 1. to spoil or to become spoilt; to go bad; to develop a fault: Ikekẹ mwèn rhiae – “My bicycle has developed a fault.” Uwonmwèn na rhiae – “This soup has gone bad.”

**rhia** [řiá] *adv.* wastefully; wrongly: Ọ lo ígho hia ne a mu nẹn rhia – “He spent all the money he was given wastefully.”

**rhie** [řié] *vb.* 1. to take; to acquire (used generally of a singular obj. only) Ọ rhie ebe ne ọ ghaa rre evba – “He took the book that was there.”; 2. to pick up something: Ọ rhie ere kpao gha rrie owa – “He picked it up and took it home (with him)”. Combination with advs. and other verbs: rhie baa – “to add”: Ọ rhie ekherhe baa re – “He added a little to it”; rhie-fua – “to throw away”:



“Ọ rhie enọkẹre fua” – “He threw away the other one”: rhie-gbakhua – “to save”; to put away as standby”: Ọ rhie ígho kherhe gbakhua kheę ivbiere – “He saved a little amount of money away for his children.” rhie – hin – 1. “to remove”: Ọ rhie neįma ne ọ rroọ hin vbo – “He removed the bad one out of it”.; 2. to store away; to keep: Ọ rhie ígho ne iran rhie neę hin – “He kept the money that they gave him.” rhie – lẹre – “to hide (something)”: Ọ rhie ígho ẹre lẹre ye uwowa – “He hid his money in the house”; rhie maa “to show”; “to prove to”: Ọ rhie uyinmwẹn dan ren maa vbe evba – “He demonstrated his bad habit there.” rhie na – “to give to”; “donate”: Ọ rhie ígho ne ibiẹka eso – “He gave money to some children.” “rhierro” – 1. “to perch”: Ọ rhie rro ye uhunmwun erhan – “It perched on the tree.”; 2. “to hang up” – Ọ rhie ẹwu ẹre rro ye irri – “He hung up his garment on the rope.” rhie mweęn – “to hold”: Ọ rhie ẹkpo mweęn vbe obo – “He was holding a bag in his hand.”; 3. rhie-yi – “to place or leave (somewhere)”: Ọ rhie ígho ye otọ – “He left money down (behind)”.

**rhiegbe** [řyègbé] *vb.* to take self”: to emancipate from apprenticeship or wardship.

**rhienrhien** [řyèřrié] *vb.* 1. (of edible things) to be delicious; to be appetizing: Evbare na waa rhienrhien – “This meal is very delicious”; 2. (of non-edible things): to be delightful, pleasant and pleasurable: Eghe emwiunkpo rhienrhien gbe – “The new year period is very pleasant.”

**rhikhan** [řixã] *vb.* to be smooth, supple and pliable; (of pounded yam): to be of smooth consistency; “good-to-eat.”; 2. to put up a struggle: Ọ rhikhaęn lelee – “She struggled after him”.

**rhinno** [řinǒ] *vb.* 1. to disturb a wound through contact with something: Ọ rhinno mwẹn owe – “He hurt the

wound on my leg.”; 2. to rouse painful memories: Ẹmwẹn onren wa vbe rhinno mwẹn orhion – “Thoughts of him have again roused painful memories in my mind.”

**rhinrinrin** [řiriři] *adv.* (of time) continuously; non-stop. Te iran ye kheę ọre rhinrinrin do se ẹre na – “They are still waiting for him continuously up to this day.”

**rhioboyebe** [řiòbóyèbé] *vb.* (< rhie-obọ-ye-ebe): “Put hand on paper” – to sign or certify a document.

**rhiọ** [řyó] *vb.* to do something very early in the morning (at the crack of dawn): Ọ rhiọ khue ne ọ mieke na rherhe muegbe – “He bathed at dawn so that he would be ready in time.”

**rhiọha** [řyòhá] *vb.* (< rhie – ọha) “to take a bride”: to marry.

**rhiọon** [řyǒǒ] *adv.; adj.* indicates extreme state of coldness. Ọ gbonni rhiọon – “It is freezing cold.”; Egbe ẹre ye rhiọon – “Her body is very cold.”

**rhiọre** [řyòré] *vb.* to wake up; to rise: Ọ rherhe rhiọre nowiere – “He woke up early this morning.”

**rhirhi** [řiri] *adv.* expresses the general adverbial meaning shared by the following Eng. pronouns: whatever, whoever, whenever, however: ever: Eghe ne ọ rhirhi khon ruęn – “whenever you like”; omwan ne o rhirhi re – “whoever comes”; ehe ne u rhirhi yo . . . “wherever you go”, etc.



**rhiukororo** [řiúkóròó] *vb.* (< rhi-uko-roro) “to hang up the gourd”: an idiom for “to commit suicide by hanging”; “to hang.”

**rhoo**<sup>1</sup> [řòó] *vb.* 1. to praise (esp. in the religious sense); 2. to compliment or commend somebody on some outstanding achievement or good disposition.

**rhoo**<sup>2</sup> [řòó] *vb.* to commit a breach of etiquette in reference to the Oba.

**rhovbie** [řòvʒé] *vb.* to abuse or insult verbally: Ne o na rhovbie mwèn ère i na gbee — “On account that he abused me verbally was why I beat him.”

**rhokpa** [řòkpa] *quant.* (occurs usually in neg. clauses). any: emwin rhokpa rre evba — “anything is not there: nothing is there. I ma miè onwan rhokpa vbe evba — “I did not see any person there: I saw nobody there.”

**rho**<sup>1</sup> [řòó] *vb.* to pick up things from the ground: O gha rho alimoi ne i kharha kua — “She is picking the oranges that dropped (down).”

**rho**<sup>2</sup> [řòó] *vb.* to rain: amè rhoore node — “It rained yesterday.”

**rhu**<sup>1</sup> [řú] *vb.* 1. to cover over something (e.g. with a larger object): O si ukpon rhu aro — “He pulled the cloth (to cover) over his face.”; 2. to cast a shade over (something): Erhan rhu gue ère — “A tree has cast a shade over it.”; 3. to wear a hat: O rhu erhu — “He wore a hat.”; 4. (of plants) — to have a full foliage; to be covered with leaves.; 5. (of eyes) to be blind: Te aro ore rhuu —

“His eyes are blind.”

**rhu**<sup>2</sup> [řú] *vb.* to light a lamp or a fire; to set ablaze: O rhu erhen ye owa — “He set fire to the house.”

**rhua** [řùá] *vb.* to soak (something) in liquid: O rhua igari ye amè — “She soaked some garri in water.” (also rhuarhua).

**rhuan** [řwá] *vb.* 1. to wrap a piece of cloth around the body; to tie a wrapper; 2. to dress up (e.g. in full regalia).

**rhuan** [řwá] *vb.* to shed skin (e.g. of snakes); to peel.

**rhuarhua**<sup>1</sup> [řwàřwá] *vb.* cf. rhua.

**rhuarhua**<sup>2</sup> [řwàřwá] *vb.* to look fatter and healthier, esp. after an illness; to put on a little more flesh esp. by a lean person.

**rhue**<sup>1</sup> [řùé] *vb.* to circumcize.

**rhue**<sup>2</sup> [řùé] *vb.* (of fats and oil): to coagulate; to congeal.

**rhue**<sup>3</sup> [řùé] *vb.* (of a trap): to set a trap. O rhue ifi kheè ofen — “He set a trap for the rats.”

**rhugbama** [řùgbámá] *vb.* to assemble; to come together.

**rhule** [řùlé] *vb.* (< rhié — ule) 1. “to take a race”: to run: O setin rhule — “He can run.”; 2. (in combination with another vb.): to make haste; to hurry: O rhule ru ère — “He made haste to do it: he did it hastily.”

**rhunmwunda** [řùmùdá] *adv.* because (of); on account of: O kpaò rhunmwunda emwin ne iran ru ère — “He left because of what they did to him.”



**rhuo** [řùó] *vb.* to peel off the skin (used mainly of boiled yam): *Ọ rhuo iyan ye ọre odo* – “He peeled yam into the mortar for him (to pound)”.

**rhuo** [řwó] *vb.* to boast; to brag.

**rhurhe** [řùřé] *vb.* 1. to pour away; to spill: *ame rhurhe kua vbe ọgọ* –

“Water poured out of the bottle.”; 2. to break out with; to develop (usually of a skin condition): *Ikponi rhurhe kue ọre* – “He broke out into goose-bumps.”

**rhurhu** [řùřú] *vb.* to crowd together; to move in swamps: *Iran rhurhu lega ere* – “They crowded around it.”

## RR

**rraa**<sup>1</sup> [ràá] *vb.* 1. to dab (something) on; to smear with a cream or some solution: (e.g. paint): *Ọ ya orhue rraa uhunmwun* – “He dabbed chalk on his head.”; 2. to caress esp. (with the palm); to rub back and forth: *Ọ gha ya obo rraa ere egbe* – “She is caressing him with her hand.”

**rraa**<sup>2</sup> [ràá] *vb.* (usually in combination with *fian* – to cut): to cross: *Ọ fian ukpo rraa* – “He cut across the road: he crossed the road.”

**rraa**<sup>3</sup> [ràá] *vb.* to catch something that was thrown into the air: *Ọ rraa ibolu ne a fi gięe* – “He caught the ball that was thrown to him.”

**rraa**<sup>4</sup> [ràá] *vb.* to commit a breach (of the law); to fail in the application of a rule: *Ọ rra uhi* – “He broke the law.”

**rraa**<sup>5</sup> [ràá] *vb.* (with *ikpowo* – porridge) to prepare (porridge), to cook (it): *Ọ ma ren vbe a rraa ikpowo heę* – “He did not know how to prepare porridge.”

**rraan** [ràá] *vb.* 1. to heat up (e.g. cold soup); 2. (of *egbe* – body): to be well, sound: *Egbe ma rraan*

*mwęn* – “Body is not sound for me: I am not well; I am ill.”; 3. (of weather) to be crisp and nice: *ehe hia rraanren* – “Everywhere is crisp and bright”.

**rrabo** [ràbó] *vb.* (< *rraa*<sup>1</sup> – *obo*) “to rub hands”: to rub palms together in a gesture expressive of supplication, respect or praise.

**rre** [ré] *vb.* 1. to be located at: *Iran rre ughugha nii* – “They are in that room.”; 2. to be available at: *Egbe ọna vbe rre evbo ima* – “This variety is also found in our town” (when there is no direct locative complement, or when a prep. occurs before the locative, the form used is *rrọ*): *Eso vbe rrọ vbe ughugha nii* – “There are also some in that room.”

**rre** [rée] *vb.* 1. to arrive: *Node ere ọ rre* – “Yesterday was when he arrived” (with this sense, it usually does not take a locative complement); 2. to come (when there is a locative complement it becomes *rri*): *I rre, sokpan i ma mię omwan rhokpa vbe owa* – “I came but I did not find anybody at home”; *I rri emwan, sokpan . . .* “I came here, but . . . . (with this sense, *rre* is replaced by *dee* in the



progressive aspect: I dee – “I am coming” (when there is a locative complement, dee becomes di): I di owa rue – “I am coming to your house.”

**rree** [rèé] *vb.* to be distant; to be remote (in both time and space): Eko rree vbe Edo – “Lagos is far from Benin”; O rreere ne a ghi ru ere – “It is a long time ago that it was done.”

**rri**<sup>1</sup> [rí] *vb.* 1. to tie a knot; to fasten: Rri ere mu aberhan ne o ghe le fua – “Fasten it to a branch so that it may not run away.”; 2. (with mu): to tangle; to get stuck: O mu rri – “It has tangled.”

**rri**<sup>2</sup> [rí] *vb.* 1. to tread upon; to trample: o ya owe rri mwèn ukpon mu otò – “She trampled over my cloth.” (cf. rriilo).

**rri**<sup>3</sup> [rí] *vb.* the transitive form of re (1, 2 & 3): O rri ize – “He ate rice.”

**rria**<sup>1</sup> [riá] *vb.* to rinse out: O rria ukpon he ye oven – “She rinsed clothes and put them out in the sun.”

**rria**<sup>2</sup> [riá] *vb.* to extrapolate; to interpret into more familiar terms (e.g. of a configuration in an oracle).

**rriabe** [ryàbé] *vb.* (< re<sup>3</sup> – abe) to be guilty (in a case).

**rriakhi** [ryàixí] *vb.* to avenge; to take revenge.

**rriara** [ryà[á] *vb.* to be bitter, unpleasant, sour.

**rriarria** [ryàryá] *vb.* to hover around (a person) with a craving for a share of his/her food: O gha rriarria ye

ore evbare – “She is hovering around with a craving for his food.”

**rriase** [riàsé] *vb.* (< re<sup>3</sup> – ase) to be innocent (in a case).

**rrie** [rié] *vb.* 1. to retreat; to go away: O gha ru ere fo ne, o rrie – “When he has completed it, he will go away.”; 2. to be in the process of going (to a place); to be on the way to: O rrie uhunmwun ne a gie ere – “He is on his way on the errand which he was sent.” O rrie owa – “He is on his way home.”

**rrierrie** [ryèryé] *vb.* (of something cooking over an open fire) to turn over or around; to adjust over the fire (so that it doesn't burn).

**rrievbare** [ryèvàré] *vb.* (< re<sup>1</sup> – evbare) “to eat food” – generally means “to eat” when nothing specific is indicated.

**rrie** [ryé] *vb.* to be smooth: Gie ere rrie – “Let it be smooth.”

**rrie** [rié] *vb.* to make smooth; to cause to be smooth: Ya okuta rrie ore – “Smoothen it with a stone.”

**rrierrie** [ryèryé] *vb.* 1. to loiter; 2. to frequent a place – O rrierrie vbe owa ore – “He visits her house frequently.”

**rrierrie** [ryèryé] *adv.* (of colour): pale: O baa rrierrie – “It is pale red (i.e. pink); 2. (of temp.) mild, lukewarm: O ton rrierrie – “It is mildly hot: it is lukewarm.” (also reghereghe).

**rrii** [rii] *vb.* to keep domestic animals (not as pets, but as livestock): O rrii ewe – “She keeps goats.”

**rriilo** [riló] *vb.* 1. the plural or reiterative sense of rri 1. and 2.: O rriilo iran



mu erhan – “He tied them to trees.”  
 Ọ ya owẹ rriilo mwẹn ukpon – “She trampled over my clothes.”; 2. to massage: Ọ ya amerhen rriilo ẹre egbe – “She massaged his body with hot water.”

**rriokode** [ryòkódè] *vb.* (< re<sup>2</sup> – okode) “to acquire what one was entrusted with” – to embezzle.

**rriosa** [ryòsá] *vb.* (< re<sup>3</sup> – osa) “to incur debt”: to be in debt; to owe (usually money): Ọ rri Ozo osa – “She owes Ozo money.”

**rriovan** [ryòvǎ] *vb.* (< re<sup>2</sup> – ovan) “to acquire a nickname” – to bear as a nickname: Ọ ya Ọsa rriovan – “He has “Ọsa” as a nickname.”

**rrioya** [ryóyà] *vb.* (< re<sup>3</sup> – oya) “to incur insult”: to suffer.

**rriukhu** [ryùxú] *vb.* (< re<sup>2</sup> – ukhu) “to acquire inheritance” – to inherit.

**rroo<sup>1</sup>** [ròó] *vb.* to process by heating (e.g. of pepper or okro).

**rroo<sup>2</sup>** [ròó] *vb.* to be strong and indelicate (e.g. of pottery).

**rrọọ** [róò] *vb.* to exist; to be: Igho ye rrọọ – “Money still exists: There is still money”; Emwan eso rrọọ ne ẹi gua tie ebe – “There are some people who cannot read.”

**rrọọ<sup>1</sup>** [ròó] *vb.* 1. to endure; to bear: Egbe mwẹn i-rrọọ ẹmwẹn ọnrẹn – “My body cannot endure his matter i.e. I am not able to undertake responsibility for him”; 2. to accommodate; to have capacity for (in terms of volume): Ọgọ na i-rrọọ ehia – “This bottle cannot accommodate all” (also gua).

**rrọọ<sup>2</sup>** [ròó] *vb.* 1. to stir, to turn over (e.g. of soup) Rrọọ uwọnmwẹn nń ne ẹi ghe giẹn – “Stir that soup so it may not burn.”

**rrua** [rùá] *vb.* 1. to push; to shove: Ọ rrua mwẹn gboto – “He pushed me down.”; 2. (usually of limbs) to bump; to knock (against something): Ọ rrua owẹ – “He bumped his foot.”

**rruan** [rũǎ] *vb.* to afflict: Ẹbe rruan rẹn – “Adversity has afflicted him.”

**rruorruo** [rwòrwó] *vb.* to talk incoherently; to babble.

## S

**sa<sup>1</sup>** [sá] *vb.* 1. (of water) to draw, to collect: Ọ sa amẹ vuon akhe hia – “She drew water into all the pots”; 2. (of liquids, generally): to scoop; to collect with a hollow container: Sa uwọnmwẹn ye okpan mẹ – “Scoop some soup into the plate for me.”

**sa<sup>2</sup>** [sá] *vb.* to cast (in brass or bronze): Iran sa ẹre ye ama – “They cast a

figure of him.”

**sa<sup>3</sup>** [sá] *vb.* 1. to sting; to bite: Ẹyẹn sa mwẹn vbe oha – “A snake bit me in the bush.”; 2. to shoot (with a weapon): Ọ ya uhanbo sa ẹre – “He shot it with a bow.”

**saa<sup>1</sup>** [sàá] *vb.* to burst; to break open explosively: Ọmọ-okpagma saare –



“The cassia-pod has burst open.”  
(cf. salọ).

**saa**<sup>2</sup> [sàá] *vb.* 1. to weave or braid hair (by hand); 2. to weave generally: Ozo gua saa ẹbo – “Ozo knows how to weave a sack.”

**saa** [sàà] *int.* “shoo!” an exclamation used to chase out domestic animals.

**saan** [sǎǎ] *vb.* to jump: Ọ saan ogba gberra – “He jumped over the fence.”

**saba** [sàbá] *modal* 1. to be able; to be capable: Ọ saba winna – “He is able to work: He works well.”; 2. to be permitted; may: U saba kpaọ – “You may go”; 3. to be possible; can, could, might, etc.: Ọ saba lẹ deghe u ma gbaro soto vbe egbe ẹre – “He could escape if you do not watch him diligently.”

**sahẹ** [sáhè] *vb.* to faint; to lose consciousness.

**salọ**<sup>1</sup> [sàlọ] *vb.* 1. Plural or reiterative sense of sa (“to sting”): Ehihi salọ mwen egbe hia – “Ants have bitten me all over my body”; 2. Plural or reiterative sense of saa<sup>1</sup>: Ọmọ okpagha hia salọ vuon oto – “Cassia pods have burst and are all over the ground.”

**salọ**<sup>2</sup> [sàlọ] *vb.* to comb (hair): Ọ ma salọ eto ẹre – “He did not comb his hair.”

**sakaan** [sàkǎǎ] *vb.* to be spoiled; to be over-indulged (usually of children). Transitive sense = sakan: Ọ sakan omọ na – “she spoiled this child”.

**sakon**<sup>1</sup> [sákǒ] *vb.* (< se – akon) “to chip teeth”: to have one’s teeth filed (for cosmetic effect).

**sakon**<sup>2</sup> [sákǒ] *vb.* (< se<sup>1</sup> – akon) “to sew teeth”: to grip (something) with the teeth: Ọ sakon mu ẹnren – “She gripped it with her teeth.”

**sakpareghodin** [sákpáɾɛyòdí] *n.* cf. esakpareghodin.

**same** [sámè] *vb.* (< sa<sup>1</sup> – amẹ) (in the Christian sense) to baptize; to be baptized: I same vbe ẹghẹ ne i na ye kherhe – “I was baptized when I was very small.”

**sanmwẹn** [sǎmɛ̃] *vb.* (of specks or small drops of liquid). 1. to splash on: amẹ sanmwẹn kuọ nwen – “Water splashed on me.”; 2. to snatch: Ọ sanmwẹn onren vbe obọ mwen – “He snatched it from me.”; 3. to shake out (to release excess water, dust, dirt, etc.). sanmwẹn onren u ke taen – “Shake it out before you spread it.”

**sata** [sátà] *n.* 1. to charter (a lorry): Ọ sata imoto gha dee – “He chartered a lorry to come.”; 2. to buy wholesale: Ọ sata alimoi nii vbe obọ enogude – “She bought those oranges wholesale from the seller.”

**se**<sup>1</sup> [sé] *vb.* to sew – Ọ se ukpon ẹse – “She sews (cloth) well.”

**se**<sup>2</sup> [sé] *vb.* to break open a shell; to husk: Ivin ma se vbe odọ sin – “We have since been husking palm kernels over there.”; 2. (with ivin) to have multiple births: Ọ se ivin eva – “She gave birth to twins.”

**sekhae** [séxàe] *vb.* to march.

**se**<sup>1</sup> [sé] *vb.* 1. to reach; to be up to: (applicable to time and space): Ọ se uki eha ne ọ ghi kpaọ – “It has reached three months since he left.” Ọ se ibiriki isen ne ima he la – “It is up to five miles that we have



walked.”; 2. to be adequate; to be enough: Igho na i se mwèn ya de ore – “This money (amount) will not be enough for me to buy it.”; 3. to arrive (at a location). De ede ne o se emwan yi? “When did he arrive here?”; 4. to visit; to come or go: O ma he se owa mwèn ke ne o ya se evbo na – “He has not visited my house since he arrived in this town.”; 5. to come to be; to come true: Emwèn obo see – “The word of the oracler has come to be.”

**se<sup>2</sup>** [sé] *vb.* to chip: Eho akhe na se fua – “The tip of this pot has chipped off.”

**se<sup>3</sup>** [sé] *vb.* (of ose – witness) to testify as witness (usually combines with its generic object, ose as a single word – sose – when they are not discontinuous O sose gbe iran – “She testified against them.” Ose ohoghoe ere o see gbe iran – It was false testimony that she gave against them.

**see** [sèé] *vb.* 1. to surpass; to be superior to: Etin enren see oghue – “His strength is superior to yours.”; 2. (in a comparative sense): to be more or greater than: Ona kpolo see onii – “This is bigger than that.”

**sekeseke** [sèkèsèkè] *adj.* describes an untidy and irritating object or sight: Ukpon ren ye sekeseke – “Her cloth is filthy.” (also seleke).

**seleke** [sèlèkè] *adj.* 1. describes a dirty or filthy obj. or sight.; 2. (of ovbiogue – poor person) the level of complete destitution.

**serae** [séràé] *vb.* (< se – rae) to leave behind; to leave alone.: O se ovbi ere rae ye owa – “She left her child behind at home.”

**serhienrhien** [sèrǎǎrǎé] *vb.* to revoke a curse; to absolve (a person) from the effect of a curse: I serhienrhien ruen ihen ne i tie nuen – “I absolve you from the effect of the curse I had pronounced on you.”

**serriò** [sérió] *adv.* (< se<sup>1</sup> – eriò) “up to that”: such that; so much so.: O dae serriò o na gha vie – “It was so severe that she was crying.” (also seerberriò).

**sesese** [sèsèsè] *adv.; adj.* describes something that is either very clean or very white: Ewu ere fua sesese: “Her dress was sparkling white.”

**setin** [sètín] *vb.* (< se<sup>1</sup> – etin) “to be able” to be strong enough (to do something); to be capable of (doing something). (also saba, metin).

**seerberriò** [sèvériò] *adv.* cf. serriò.

**si<sup>1</sup>** [sí] *vb.* 1. to cause; to bring about: O si amè gbe iran – “He caused rain on them.” Ren ere o si ere ighe o wu – “He was the one that caused it that she died: He brought about her death.”

**si<sup>2</sup>** [si] *vb.* 1. to pull (something); to drag (something): O si ukpon gue egbe – “He pulled the cloth to cover his body: He pulled the cloth over his body.”; 2. to shift (something): Si ere hin ode rre – “Shift it out of the way.”; 3. to move; to change location: Iran si kpaò gha rrie evbo ovbehe – “They moved away to go to another town” (cf. si-ke; si-mama; si-koko etc.); 4. (of baby): to crawl: Ei he si – “She is not crawling yet.”

**si<sup>3</sup>** [sí] *vb.* to reduce; to grow less (in size, intensity, or capacity): Amè ne o te ro vuon ukpo si ne – “The water that had flooded the road has



reduced. (cf. siame).

**si**<sup>4</sup> [sí] *vb.* to smoke (i.e. cigarette or pipe): Ọ si esiga — “He smokes cigarettes.”

**si-kaen** [sikãẽ] *vb.* (< si<sup>2</sup> — kaen) to be or become sound and strong.

**si-keę** [sikèé] *vb.* (< si<sup>2</sup> — keę) to be close to.

**si-koko** [sikòkó] *vb.* (< si<sup>2</sup> — koko) to assemble.

**si-kuen** [sikwẽ] *vb.* (< si<sup>2</sup> — kuen) to crouch; to fold over; to bend.

**si-khua** [sixwá] *vb.* (< si<sup>2</sup> — khua) to hinge (something); to hold in place.

**si-mama** [simámá] *vb.* (< si<sup>2</sup> — mama) to crowd together; to become jammed together.

**si-yo** [siyó] *vb.* (< si<sup>2</sup> — yo) to move away, move off.

**siame**<sup>1</sup> [syámẽ] *vb.* (< si<sup>3</sup> — ame) to emaciate.

**siame**<sup>2</sup> [syámè] *vb.* (< si<sup>1</sup> — ame) to cause rain to fall (usually by magical means).

**sie**<sup>1</sup> [sié] *vb.* to be dark (in shade or complexion). Ovbi ere sie se mwen — “Her child is darker than me.” (also siere).

**sie**<sup>2</sup> [sié] *vb.* to lower (something) down (e.g. a load carried on the head, or a pot on the fire). Ọ sie ihę ne ọ mu — “She put down the load that she was carrying.”

**siere** [siěřě] *vb.* to be black: Ọvbokhan na siere — “This child is black in complexion.” (also sie<sup>1</sup>).

**sięn**<sup>1</sup> [ɛvẽ] *vb.* to deny.

**sięn**<sup>2</sup> [syẽ] *vb.* 1. to drain: Sięn ame ọnręn kua -- “Drain out the water.”; 2. to flow steadily; to drip: Ameve sięn kua vbe aro ọre — “Tears are streaming from her eyes”; 3. to be drenched: Egbe ere sięn ne ọfo — “His body is drenched with sweat.”

**sięn**<sup>3</sup> [siẽ] *vb.* 1. (of structure) to collapse: Eken sięn rhu ere — “The walls collapsed on him.”; 2. (of a crowd): to pour from all sides: Iran sięn rhu ere — “They crowded on him.”

**sięnręnręn**<sup>1</sup> [siẽřẽřẽ] *adv.; adj.* 1. describes clarity of light or flame: Ọ baa sięnręnręn — “It is shining brightly and clearly.”; 2. (with ye) describes something very clean and spotless.

**sięnręnręn**<sup>2</sup> [siẽřẽřẽ] *adv.; adj.* (of water): clean and pure: ame na hianręn sięnręnręn — “This water is extremely clean and clear.”

**sięnsięn** [siẽsiẽ] *adj.* describes things that are thin and long (e.g. thin fingers or thin and long plantains).

**sięnsięnsięn** [syěsyẽěsyẽ] *int.* (used as part of the introduction of a tale or a story): implies that the story is very interesting: Okha ọkpa sięnsięnsięn na doo rre . . . ! “Once came a very interesting story . . . !”

**sięnsięn** [sięsię] *adj.* describes something or someone very lean.

**sihuan** [sihũã] *vb.* (< so — ihuan) “to sing a song”: to sing.

**sikan** [sikã] *vb.* 1. to struggle (with somebody or thing): Ọ sikan leleę — “He kept up the struggle with him (in a fight); 2. to gum to something;



to be stuck to: ukpon onren sikaen mu aga – “His cloth stuck to the chair”; 3. to be tough; hard to chew (of meat).

**sikansikan** [sikãsikã] *adv.; adj.* describes something tough (i.e. to cut or separate) or stringy.

**silasila** [silàsilà] *adv.; adj.* describes something untidy and disorderly. (also silosilo).

**silo** [siló] *vb.* plural or reiterative sense of si<sup>2</sup>: O silo emwin enren hia kpaɔ – “He moved all his things away.” O silo ehia khian – “He is dragging all along.”

**sin<sup>1</sup>** [sí] *vb.* to miss (e.g. in a game); to fail to perform according to the rules (such as dropping a dice, etc.). It usually means that the player loses points and also his turn.

**sin<sup>2</sup>** [sí] *vb.* (usually occurs as a second vb.) – to rub on; to smear: O ya iruen sin mwɛn ukpon – “She used dirt to rub on my cloth: She soiled my cloth with dirt.”

**sin<sup>3</sup>** [sí] *adv.* for a long time; for long: O kheɛ ruɛ sin – “He has been waiting for you for a long time.”

**sin-aro** [sĩáɾò] *vb.* to make faces (usually associated with brides); to put on a haughty look.

**sin-ero** [syɛɾo] *vb.* (with ero) to be diligent; to be perceptive (same as wero).

**sinmwin<sup>1</sup>** [sĩmjĩ] *vb.* to struggle (with somebody else) to obtain something; to obtain by force: O sinmwin enren emiowo rhie – “He obtained the piece of meat from him by force.”

**sinmwin<sup>2</sup>** [sĩmjĩ] *vb.* 1. to cure; to heal with medication: O sinmwin enren vbe emiamwɛn ne o khuonmwin – “He cured him of his illness.”; 2. to save; to protect: Osanobua sinmwin ima vbe obo ebee – “God saved us from danger.”

**sinmwin<sup>3</sup>** [sĩmjĩ] *vb.* to have as a younger sibling: Ozo ɛre Atiti sinmwin kegbe – “Ozo is the person Atiti has as her immediate younger sibling.”

**sioi** [síóí] *adv.; adj.* describes something that's solitary and gracelessly erect: O mudia vba sioi – “It stood there, alone and awkward.”

**siosa** [syòsá] *vb.* (< si<sup>2</sup> – osa) “to draw a debt”: to demand payment of a debt.

**sira** [sĩɾà] *adv.* in the presence of: O sira mwɛn gbɛɛ – “He, in my presence, beat her: He beat her in front of me.” (also sirra).

**sire** [sĩɾé] *pre-vb.* “Is it true that . . . ?” “Is it the case that?”: occurs in an interrogative clause to indicate that special confirmation is desired regarding the action or state expressed in the verb: O sire ma? Is it “really” good? (somewhat like “gele” – “really”, “truly”).

**sirra** [sĩɾà] *adv.* cf. sira.

**siwu** [síwù] *vb.* to make the tribal tattoo-marks.

**so<sup>1</sup>** [só] *vb.* 1. to prick; to pierce slightly: Igban so mwɛn owɛ – “a thorn has pricked my foot”; 2. to jab (with a pointed object, such as a nail, or with a fist): O so ekpa ye ɔre ekoo – “He jabbed her on the stomach with his fist.”; 3. to tap fluid (e.g. from a boil, or the trunk of a



- tree).
- so<sup>2</sup>** [só] *vb.* 1. (with obo (hand) as obj.) to touch in hand-shake (usually occurs as one word with its direct obj., obo when they are not discontinuous): Iran ghi sobo ne, iran na tota — “After they had shaken hands, they sat down.” cf.: O so mwən obo — “He shook hands with me”.; 2. to grip (usually with the hands): O so obo ye ore ukpon — “He gripped her cloth (with her hands)”.
- so<sup>3</sup>** [só] *vb.* to shout; to make a loud cry or vocal sound: O so dee vbe umodia — “She shouts as she approaches in the distance.”
- so<sup>4</sup>** [só] *vb.* (with ihuan as obj.) to sing; to utter musically (usually occurs with its generic object, ihuan, as one word): O sihuan esese — “She sings songs very well: She sings very well.”; 2. (of asukpe): to have the hiccups: Asukpe so mwən — “I have the hiccups.”
- so<sup>5</sup>** [só] *vb.* 1. (with ebiebi “darkness” as subj.): to fall; to occur: Ebiebi ma he so — “Darkness has not fallen.”; 2. to effect; to hatch; to make: so uma — “to make a conspiracy”.
- sobo** [sòbó] *vb.* cf. so<sup>2</sup>.
- sogho<sup>1</sup>** [sòǵó] *vb.* to rinse (container, mouth, etc.) by filling with water or other liquid, shaking and emptying; to cleanse from impurities by rinsing: Sogho akhe nii u ke same yo — “Rinse that pot before you store water in it.”
- sogho<sup>2</sup>** [sòyó] *vb.* to cause something to rattle; to cause a rattling noise by shaking something: Ghe ghi sogho emwin yo mwən ehọ — “Stop rattling things in my ears.”

- sogho<sup>3</sup>** [sòyó] *vb.* same as logho.
- soghosogho<sup>1</sup>** [sóyósóyó] *n.* cf. esoghosogho.
- soghosogho<sup>2</sup>** [sóyósóyó] *adv.* 1. describes a rattling noise; 2. same as loghologho.
- sokpan<sup>1</sup>** [sòkpá] *conj.* 1. but: O yee mwən, sokpan ígho mwən i gba re — “I like it, but my money is not enough to buy it.”; 2. unless: Eì yo sókpan u gbẹe — “She will not go unless you beat her.”
- sokpan<sup>2</sup>** [sòkpá] *vb.* to make an exception of: Gbe enena ne u sokpan enikere — “Beat these (ones) and exempt the rest.”
- solo<sup>1</sup>** [sòló] *vb.* 1. plural or reiterative sense of so<sup>1</sup> and so<sup>3</sup>: Emwin solo iran owe — “Things pricked their feet.” Ibieka nii gha solo — “Those children are shouting.”
- solo<sup>2</sup>** [sòló] *vb.* to pick one by one with a pointed obj. (e.g. of birds eating grain).
- sose** [sósè] *vb.* cf. se<sup>3</sup>.
- soto** [sótò] *vb.* (< se — oto) “to reach the ground”: to be imminent; soon to happen: Emwiunkpo soto ne — “The New-Year is at hand.”
- soguọ** [sògwó] *adj.* soft, tender, and immature: Ovbokhan soguọ he no — “He is yet a tender and immature child. (also soguọsoguọ).
- soguọsoguọ** [sòguòsòguò] *adj.* describes things soft, tender and delicate on account of being yet young.
- son<sup>1</sup>** [sǒ] *vb.* 1. to sprout; 2. to grow high or bushy (used of grass and hair).



**son**<sup>2</sup> [sɔ̃] *vb.* to take or consume time and or energy (usually occurs in neg. clauses). Eì son iran ruẹe foo – “It will not take time before they complete it.”

**sonno** [sɔ̃nɔ̃] *vb.* 1. to irritate; to aggravate: Emwin ne ọ ru sonno mwẹn gbe – “What she does irritates me a lot.”; 2. to feel resentful toward; to feel aversion toward: Eì sonno ọmwan rhokpa – “She does not resent anybody.”

**sopo** [sɔ̀ɔ] *vb.* 1. to tear or be torn; to rip (e.g. of cloth or paper); 2. to split into pieces (e.g. of wood with an axe): Ọ ya ughamwan sopo erhan nii – “He split the wood into pieces with an axe.”

**sososo** [sɔ̀sɔ̀sɔ̀] *adv.* 1. excessively foamy (e.g. soapy water): Evbakhue na hu sososo – “This soap foams very much.”; 2. describes the intensity of grave anger: Ohu mu ẹnren sososo – “He is extremely angry.”

**sote** [sɔ̀tɛ] *vb.* 1. to defy; to rebel against.

**soyemwẹn** [sɔ̀yɛ̃mɛ̃] *vb.* to rejoice; to make merriment.

**su**<sup>1</sup> [sú] *vb.* 1. to guide; to lead; to direct.; 2. to escort: su mwẹn se umodia vbodo – “Escort me to the lane over there.”; 3. to tend livestock: ọsuohuan – “shepherd.”

**su**<sup>2</sup> [sú] *vb.* to pay as interest on money borrowed or in forbearance of debt: Ikpọn eheha ẹre ọ hae vbe uki ne ọ ya su igho ne ọ mọmọe rre – “He pays three pounds a month as interest on the money he borrowed.”

**sua** [sùá] *vb.* cf. to push, to shove: Ọ sua mwẹn gbotọ – “He pushed me

down.” (cf. rrua).

**suakpa** [swákpá] *vb.* to make a click with the thumb and middle finger as part of the gesture of denouncement or disgust.

**suẹn** [sũɛ̃] *vb.* to begin, to initiate: Ọ suẹn okhian ne – “He has started to walk.”

**suku** [sùkú] *vb.* (with aro as obj.): squeeze; to wrinkle: Ọ suku aro – “He squeezed his face: he frowned.”

**sukusuku** [sùkùsùkù] *adv.; adj.* unpleasantly twisted, such as a frown or a grimace: Ọ ru aro sukusuku: “He made a grimace.”

**sukpe** [sùkpé] *vb.* (with owe as obj.) to limp: Ọ sukpe owe dee – “He is approaching with a limp.”

**sulele** [súlèlé] *adv.* (with mu) to carry – usually a person across the shoulder with legs straddled around the neck.

**suma** [súmǎ] *vb.* (< se<sup>1</sup> – uma) “to make a conspiracy” to conspire: Iran suma gbẹe – “They conspired and killed him.”

**sun**<sup>1</sup> [sũ] *vb.* 1. to move slowly; to be slow: Ọ sun gbe – “He is very slow.” to crawl.

**sun**<sup>2</sup> [sũ] *vb.* to be sticky or glutinous. Ọ sun vbe ọdan – “It is sticky like gum.”

**sun**<sup>3</sup> [sũ] *vb.* to have a smooth consistency; to be free of granular or other solid contents (e.g. of well-pounded yam): Ema na ma sun; ikpe vuọẹn – “This pounded-yam is not smooth; it is full of lumps.”

**sunno** [sũnɔ̃] *vb.* pl. or reiterative sense



of sun<sup>1</sup>: Iran sunṅo gbe – “They are very slow.” Egile hia sunṅo kua – “All the snails have crawled away.”

**sunṅosunṅo** [sũṅṅsũṅṅ] *vb.* describes a very slow, lifeless gait.

**sunsun** [sũsũ] *vb.* to be blurred; to be dim (of perception): Ehia sunsun yṅ mwēn aro – “They have all become blurred in my eyes. (I am confused about them).”

**sunu** [sũṅũ] *vb.* to happen; to occur. Node ẹre ọ sunu – “It was yesterday that it happened.”

**suo** [sũó] *vb.* to collapse; to cave in (e.g. of walls or the ground).

**suuun** [sũũũ] *adv.* with a fixed gaze, or prolonged silence.

**suse** [susε] *vb.* to be in poverty; to suffer.

## T

**ta** [tá] *vb.* 1. to say, to state: Ọ tae vbene o ya de – “He stated how it happened.” ta-ma – “to tell, to report to, (cf. khaa). talṅ plural or reiterative sense of ta: to talk continuously; to narrate; to prattle; to chat.; 2. (with ise) to play the ise game Ise Edo loḡḡo gbe ne a ta – “Ise Edo is very difficult to play”; 3. (with ile) to make a bet.

**taa** [tàá] *vb.* 1. to imitate; to mimick: Ọ guḡ vbe a taa ọmwān – “He is good at imitating people.”; 2. to compare: Ai ya Edo taa igue – “You cannot compare Benin with a village.”

**tafia** [tàfyá] *vb.* to be nosy; to meddle; to interfere; to be forward. Eṅ re iren a tiere; te ọ tafia lele iran – “It was not him they called, he merely forwardly tagged along with them.”

**taintain** [tãitãĩ] *adv.* 1. describes the taste of being over-salted: Uwṅmwēn na fian taintain – “This soup tastes heavily over-salted.”; 2. describes the pungent whiff of urine: Úkpo na fian taintain ne ahiṅ – “This bed stinks of urine.”

**takhirhi** [táxĩrĩ] *vb.* to perform a single or multiple somersaults in the air.

**talṅ** [táló] *vb.* 1. pl. or reit. sense of ta<sup>1</sup>: Iran gha talṅ – “They are talking.”; 2. To grumble; to complain: Ọ gha talṅ ighe i ma doo tuḡ iran – “He is complaining that I did not come to visit them.” talṅ kue – “to upbraid; to insult”: Iran hia talṅ kue ọre rhunmwunda emwin daan ne ọ ru – “They all upbraided him for the bad things that he did”. talṅ maa – “to report to; to lay a complaint with.” Iran doo talṅ emwēn ọnrēn maa erhae – “They came to report him to his father.”; 3. (idiom) to be mentally deranged or unstable: Ọ talṅ – “He is mentally unstable.”

**tamaa** [tàməã] *vb.* to tell (also khamaa).

**tan<sup>1</sup>** [tã] *vb.* 1. to be tall (of human beings): Ọvbokhan na gha tan – “This child will be tall.”; 2. to be long (applies to both time and objects): Eḡhe ne ọ gbe vbe Edo ẹre ọ tan seḡ ne ọ khian gbe vbe Eko – “The period he spent in Benin is



longer than what he will spend in Lagos." Erhan na ma tan se vbane ima ho – "This stick is not long enough as we want": This stick is not as long as we would want."

**tan**<sup>2</sup> [tã] *vb.* 1. to spread out: Iran tan ukpon ye oven – "They spread out clothes in the sun."; 2. to hang or tie across (e.g. a rope): O tan irri ye ode – "He tied a rope across the road."

**tantanantan** [tãtããtã] *adv.; adj.* describes something that is erect; straight and stiff: O ni egbe rua tantanantan – "He stretched his body out straight and erect."

**te**<sup>1</sup> [té] *aux* 1. almost: O te de – "He almost fell."; 2. before: Ozo te kpa, o keghi tu iran – "Before Ozo left, he greeted them."

**te**<sup>2</sup> [té] *aux.* 1. (with psychic st. vbs, such as hoo – "like", "want"; roo – "think"; etc.): implies that the state expressed in the verb was not attained: O te hoo ne i wu – "He had wanted me to die."; 2. (with over vbs.): implies that the state or action described in the vb., though attained or accomplished, is still lacking in truth-value or effect, in some respect, and so the clause is usually followed by another clause introduced by sokpan (but): O te see, sokpan o ma gua mwèn egbe – "He sewed it alright, but it did not fit me."

**te**<sup>3</sup> [té] *aux* It occurs optionally at sentence initial position to indicate affirmation with a general meaning that may be glossed as: "It is the case that . . ." Te o ye mwèn – "It is the case that I like it" (i.e. I do like it). When it occurs in a sentence ending with the question particle "ra", te is usually the focus of the

question: Te o ye rue ra? "Is it the case that you like it? (i.e. Do you like it?) If the answer to such a question is affirmative, then "te" introduces the sentence: Eèn, te o ye mwèn – "Yes, I like it." If for any reason it is deleted, the high tone on its vowel replaces the low tone of the pronoun: O ye mwèn – "It is the case that I like it."

**tee** [tèé] *vb.* to decorate, to ornament: O ya efoto tee ughugha ere – "He decorated his room with pictures."

**teitei** [téitéi] *adv.* describes the fast beat of the pulses in a state of fear or anxiety: Udu ere gha kpee teitei – "His heart is beating very fast."

**tengbemu** [tègbémù] *vb.* (< ton – egbe – mu) "to lift body" to be haughty; proud; arrogant.

**tete** [tèté] *vb.* to economize, to use sparingly: O ma ren vbe a tete ígho hee – "He does not know how to spend money economically."

**te**<sup>1</sup> [té] *vb.* to fall out of favour with; to fall out of grace: O te ne vbe aro mwèn; ma vbe ore i ghi ku – "She has fallen out of favour with me; she and I are no longer close."

**te** [tèé] *int.* an address term, expressive of speaker's favourable disposition toward the person addressed while at the same time disavouring a third person: Lare, te – "Come ("good person", etc.)"

**te**<sup>1</sup> [tèé] *vb.* to be related to; to have as a blood relative: Ma vbe ore te

**te**<sup>2</sup> [tèé] *vb.* to file up; to display in a file: Avbe oleghan te







Ukhunmwun na to gbe – “This medicine is very effective.”

**toba** [tòbá] *vb.* to stick to; to adhere to – Ebae toba mu ọkpan – “Eba has stuck to the plate.”

**tobatoba** [tòbàtóbá] *n.* cf. etobatoba.

**tobọ-ọmwan** [tòbómǎ] *adv.* by oneself; the set of reflexive pronouns are formed by replacing the second-part of the compound; “ọmwan” with the possessive form of the respective pronoun forms: tobọ-mwẹn – “by myself.” tobọ-ruẹ – “by yourself”; tobọ-ọre – “by himself/herself/itself”; etc.: Iran tobọ-iran kie urho – “They opened the door by themselves.”

**tohan** [tòhǎ] *vb.* to be compassionate toward; to be kind to; to pity: Ọ tohan Ozo rhie ígho ne – “He compassionately gave Ozo some money.”

**tohio** [tòhió] *int.* Introductory formula used by a story-teller to invite an audience to listen to his story:

Story-teller: Tohio.

Audience: Hia hia kpoo.

Story-teller: I ra ta okha ọkpa ma uwa – (“I am going to tell you a certain story”).

Audience: tae tao ighe ma danmwẹnho – (“Go on and tell it for we are listening”). And then the story begins.

**tohoghe** [tòhóyè] *vb.* (< ta – ohoghe) “to tell a lie”; to lie: Ọ tohoghe gbe – “He is fond of lying.”

**tokha** [tóxà] *int.* an exclamation indicating surprise, and requesting for confirmation of what had been said. May be interpreted by expressions such as “Really?”; “Is that so?”, etc.

**tota** [tótàá] *vb.* to sit down; to sit.

**toto** [tòtó] *vb.* to revive; to fill out (usually of an emaciated person). Egbe ẹre fẹko toto dee ne – “Her body is gradually filling out again.”

**tọ** [tó] *vb.* to live long: Emiamwẹn i khian giẹ tọ – “Sickness will not let him live long.”

**tọlọ<sup>1</sup>** [tòlọ] *vb.* 1. to itch: Egbe hia tọlọ mwẹn – “All my body is itching me: I am itching all over.”; 2. to scratch: Ọ tọlọ eke ne imue na rriọe – “He scratched where the mosquito bit him.”

**tọlọ<sup>2</sup>** [tòlọ] *vb.* (with ohuẹn) to suffer from cough; to cough – Ohuẹn tọlọ mwẹn – “Cough afflicts me: I have cough.”

**tọn<sup>1</sup>** [tǒ] *vb.* 1. to be hot (i.e. of high temp.) Ya ukpon muẹn ighe ọ tọn – “Carry it with a piece of cloth for it is hot.”

**tọn<sup>2</sup>** [tǒ] *vb.* to roast (over open fire): Ọ tọn ọghẹde ne ima re – “She roasted plantain for us to eat.”

**tọn<sup>3</sup>** [tǒ] *vb.* to fell (a tree); to cut down (usually a tree): Ọ ma tọn erhan ne i rre evba ọ kẹ gha kọ emwin yọ – “He did not fell the trees there before he started to grow things in it.”

**tọn<sup>4</sup>** [tǒ] *vb.* to bury (something) in the ground: Ọ tọn ígho ẹre hia ye uwoto – “He buried all his money in the ground.”

**tọn<sup>5</sup>** [tǒ] *vb.* (with mu) to lift; to carry: Ọ tọn ihẹ mu yan uhunmwun aga – “He lifted the load onto the top of the chair.”



**tonno** [tõnõ] *vb.* 1. pl. or iter. sense of ton<sup>2</sup>; ton<sup>3</sup>; ton<sup>4</sup> and ton<sup>5</sup>: Iran tonno iyan re – “They roasted yam and ate”; Iran tonno erhan nii hia kua – “They fell all those trees”; Iran tonno ígho iran hia ye uwoto – “They buried all their money in the ground”; Iran tonno ihe mu yan uhunmwun – “They lifted the loads onto their heads.”

**tonton** [tõtõ] *vb.* cf. toto.

**tu**<sup>1</sup> [tú] *vb.* 1. to cry: O kpere ne ɔvbokhan na ke tu sin – “It is a long time since this child has been crying.”; 2. to shout: Iran tu ne oghoghò vbe iran mioen – “They shouted for joy when they saw him.”

**tu**<sup>2</sup> [tú] *vb.* (of egogo) to strike: Inu egogo o he tu yi? “How many clocks have struck? i.e. what time is it?”

**tu**<sup>3</sup> [tú] *vb.* (with asen) to emit (spit).

**tua** [tùá] *vb.* 1. to tighten; to make firm: Tua irri ne u ya gba iran ne iran ghe kharha kua – “Tighten the rope with which you tied them so that they may not drop out.”; 2. to intensify (e.g. effort) Wa tua yo ne a rherhe ruèe foo – “Intensify your effort so that we may complete it in good time.” (also tuabò); 3. to be overly-demanding; to impose excessive pressure: Iwinna ren tua gbe – “His work is too demanding.”

**tuabò** [twàbò] *vb.* (< tua – obò) “to tighten hand”: to intensify effort (in doing something). (also zabò).

**tuakpe** [twàkpé] *vb.* (< tua – ukpe) “to intensify lip”: to shout; to talk loudly. O tuakpe gbe – “He shouts too much.”

**tuassen** [tuásẽ] *vb.* (< tu<sup>3</sup> – asen)

“to emit spit”: to spit.

**tuantantuan** [tũãtũãtũã] *adv.* describes blinking fast: O gha bunno aro tuantantuan – “He is blinking fast.”

**tuantantuan** [tũwãtũwãtũwã] *adv.* describes a constant gaze: O gha ghe mwen tuantantuan – “She is gazing at me continuously.”

**tue**<sup>1</sup> [tùé] *vb.* 1. to pour out (from a container): O tue ayon ye ukpu – “He poured wine into a cup (from a bottle)”; 2. to spill: amè tue kue oto – “Water spilled onto the ground”; 3. to leak out; to ooze: Owè ne ogo fian mwèn re ye tue esagièn – “My foot which was cut by a piece of bottle is still oozing blood.”

**tue**<sup>2</sup> [tùé] *vb.* (of eto) to comb or brush out and leave unstyled or unplaited: “Okhuo na tue eto ye uhunmwun gha rrie ore – “This woman brushed out her hair and went out like that i.e. She went out with her hair brushed out unstyled and unplaited.”

**tue** [twé] *vb.* 1. to greet; to salute. O ma tue omwan rhokpa vbe o laq owa – “He did not greet anybody when he came into the house.”; 2. to pay a visit (to a person): O ya tue ose ore ne o da biè – “She went to visit her friend who had just had a baby.”

**tuein** [tũéĩ] *adv.; adj.* describes something very small (also tueintuein for pl. or iter. ref.) Ehia ye tueintuein – “They are all very tiny.”

**tueintuein** [tũéĩtũéĩ] *vb.* cf. tuein.

**tueyi** [twèyí] *vb.* to announce the presence of a person; to seek audience



for a person: *Ọ kperè ne i ghi rre sin; i ma miẹ enọ tuẹyi mwẹn* – “It is a long time since I arrived; I did not find anybody to announce my presence.”

**tughu** [tùyú] *vb.* cf. lughu.

**tuke** [tùkék] *vb.* to be small, tiny. *Iyan na tuke gbe* – “These yams are too small.”

**tuketuke** [tùkétúkék] *adv.; adj.* describes very tiny things or a manner

of doing things in small bits: *Ọ manọ iran tuketuke* – “He moulded them in little bits.”

**tule** [tùlé] *vb.* 1. to run (same as *rhule*); 2. *tulemu*: to pick up a race; to take off; to start running.

**tuo** [twó] *vb.* 1. to hang low: *Ọbọtuo na tuo* – “These eaves are low-hanging; 2. (of a garment) to droop low; to be long: *Gi abọ ewu na tuo* – “Let the edge of this cloth droop low.”

## U

**u** [ù] *pron.* a form of the 2nd pers. sing. that occurs as subject of a clause: *U rre nodẹ* – “You came yesterday.”

**ube** [úbè] *n.* a variety of native drum beaten by women mainly in palace festivals.

**ubi** [úbì] *n.* a slap: *Ọ fi ẹre ubi* – “She gave him a slap.”

**ubidon** [ùbìdõ] *n.* cheetah.

**ubiemwẹn** [ùbyémĕ] *n.* delivery; childbirth.

**ubo** [ùbó] *n.* a variety of creeper with large edible fruit.

**ubomwẹn** [ùbómĕ] *n.* (< u – bọ – mwẹn) the act of predicting through oracle.

**udahae** [ùdàhàè] *n.* a string of coral beads worn across the forehead (as part of a ceremonial dress) by the *Oba* and some senior chiefs.

**Udazi** [údazì] *n.* one of the praise titles for the Supreme Being which refers to his identity as the “Giver of life”: “*Osa n’Udazi.*”

**úde** [údè] *n.* a sickness that commonly afflicts infants, caused by the enlargement of the spleen.

**ùde** [ùdè] *n.* advice, counsel: *Ọvbokhan na i họn ude* – “This child does not heed advice.”

**udefiagbon** [ùdéfyagbõ] *n.* (< u – de – fi – agbon) “one who dropped into the world: an orphan; one without friends or relatives.

**udeguoghọ** [ùdéguòghò] *n.* (< u – de – guoghọ) “falling and breaking”: a term for a long string of coral beads worn to hang down around the neck.

**udemwunrri** [ùdèmũrì] *adv.* suddenly; without warning: *Ọ ladian udemwunrri* – “He appeared suddenly.” (also *udomwunrri*).



**uderhu** [údèřú] *n.* (< u – de – rhu)  
“falling upon”: the name of a variety  
of hawk.

**uden** [údĕ] *n.* a liquid preparation made  
from palm kernels and used as body-  
oil.

**udian** [ùdyǎ] *n.* tsetse-fly.

**udienni** [ùdyĕnì] *n.* (< udian – eni)  
“elephant tsetse-fly”: a variety of  
fly, larger than udian, (hence the  
name) and found mainly in the bush.  
Its sting is very painful.

**udin** [ùdí] *n.* the oil palm tree.

**udinmwèn** [ùdíṃĕ] *n.* 1. being cou-  
rageous; 2. courage, bravery.

**udinmwinnmwèn** [ùdíṃíṃĕ] *n.* 1.  
depth; 2. being deep.

**uḍonmwèn** [ùḍṓṃĕ] *n.* 1. being lean;  
2. leanness.

**udu** [ùdù] *n.* 1. heart; 2. udu n' ẹko –  
“heart of the stomach”: liver; 3.  
udu n' ohogha – “the empty heart”:  
lungs (spleen).

**ududu** [ùdùdù] *n.* a lump; a piece of  
compact mass (e.g. of chalk, clay,  
dough, etc.): ududu-ugbe – “a lump  
of earth thrown as a missile.”

**ufemwèn** [ùféṃĕ] *n.* 1. being rich; 2.  
freedom; release from obligation or  
bondage; 3. recovery from illness.

**ufomwèn** [ùfómĕ] *n.* 1. end; ending.

**ufua** [ùfwá] *n.* a variety of yam which  
may be pounded even though it is  
white.

**ugamwèn** [ùgámĕ] *n.* 1. Christian  
church service: ugamwèn owię:

“morning service”; ugamwèn ota –  
“evening service”; 2. the act of  
serving.

**ugan** [ùgǎ] *n.* the poles in a yam  
stack to which the yams are tied.

**ugie** [ùgyé] *num.* twenty.

**ugie** [ùgyè] *n.* 1. a general term for  
palace ceremonies, (such as iguę;  
aguę; ugiama; ikhurę; etc.); 2. a  
celebration.

**ugionmwini** [ùgyṓṃìbì] *n.* charcoal.

**ugo** [ùgó] *n.* wild yam-plant.

**ugogon** [ùgṓgṓ] *n.* 1. the sharp edge  
of something: Ọ ya ugogon-obo fi  
ere emwin – “He used the edge of  
his hand to strike him”: He struck  
him with the edge of his hand”; 2.  
ugogon-iyeye – “the spine.”

**uguakpata** [ùgwákpátá] *n.* a special  
hair-cut worn only by the Ọba and  
chiefs in which all the hair is shaved  
except a curved strip at the top of  
the head around the face.

**ugue** [ùgwé] *n.* cover; lid: Ọ ya ugue  
ere gue ere – “He covered it with  
its lid.”

**uguowe** [ùgwówè] *n.* a very narrow  
path.

**uguu** [ùgúù] *n.* vulture.

**ugba** [ùgbà] *n.* a kind of dance usually  
performed at second burial cere-  
monies.

**ugbadiye** [ùgbàdiyè] *n.* (< u – gbe –  
adiye) “that which kills chickens”  
a fatal disease of chickens.

**ugbaro** [ùgbáɾò] *n.* 1. forehead; 2.



face.

**ugbe** [úǵbé] *n.* missile; stone e.g. pebble used as a missile.

**ugbefen** [ùǵbèfɛ́] *n.* 1. side of the body; 2. a flat side of anything other than the top surface: Ọ mwanmwaen avbe iyan nii lele ugbefen ẹkpetin: "He arranged those yams along the side of the box."

**ugbemwen**<sup>1</sup> [ùǵbéṃɛ̀] *n.* (< u – gbe – mwen) 1. dancing; 2. dance.

**ugbemwen**<sup>2</sup> [ùǵbéṃɛ̀] *n.* (< u – gbe – mwen) 1. flogging; 2. beating.

**ugbeto** [ùǵbètò] *n.* scissors (also alumagazi and etuheru).

**ugbekun** [ùǵbèkũ] *n.* belt.

**Ugbekun** [ùǵbèkũ] *n.* the name of a village.

**ugben** [ùǵbɛ̀] *n.* period; time: De ugben ne u ya rre – "What time that you use to come?: When did you come?"; (ugben-eso) (cf. ugbenso).

**ugbenso** [ùǵbɛ̀sò] *adv.* (< ugben – eso) 1. sometimes; occasionally: Ọ se emwan ugbenso – "He comes here occasionally; 2. perhaps; maybe: Nọọ onren ghe, ugbenso ọ gha ren onren – "Ask him and see, perhaps he will know it."

**ugberherhe** [ùǵbèřèřè] *n.* a sickness of infants – a condition clinically known as "displaced fontanel" (the fontanel is the membranous space in an infant's head at adjacent angles of the parietal bones.").

**ugbidian** [ùǵbìdyǎ] *n.* fly-whisk (also ugbudian).

**ugbihan** [ùǵbìhǎ] *n.* the blind side; a position in which one is unguarded: Ọ la ugbihan miẹ mwen re – "He came from my blind side to take it away from me."

**ugbo** [úǵbó] *n.* farm: Ọ mu ugbo vbe igue – "He has a farm in the village."

**ugbogiorinmwin** [úǵbógyóɾìṃì] *n.* a mythical monstrosity believed to reside in the erinmwin; he is said to be very ugly and frightful; hence 2. a nickname for a deformed or very ugly person.

**ugbogbogan** [ùǵbógbógǎ] *n.* a term for a person who is very difficult to work or live with.

**ugboghodo** [ùǵbòyòdò] *n.* a depression on the ground; a shallow pit.

**ugboloko** [ùǵbòlòkò] *n.* bone; skeleton.

**ugborre** [ùǵbóre] *n.* shea butter.

**ugbudian** [ùǵbùdyǎ] *n.* cf. ugbidian.

**ugbugbe** [ùǵbúǵbè] *n.* 1. cross (in the Christian sense).

**ugbugbé** [ùǵbúǵbè] *adv.* 1. horizontally: Ọ mwanmwan erhan nii ugbugbe ye iba – "He arranged the wood horizontally on the slab."; 2. crosswise.

**ugbugbèhia** [ùǵbúǵbèhià] *adv.* always; regularly; often: Ọ se òwa mwen ugbugbèhia – "He visits my house regularly."

**ugha** [ùyà] *n.* 1. a special section of the palace (in the form of a quadrangle) where the Ọba is buried and his shrine installed.; 2. room.

**ughaen** [ùyǎɛ̀] *n.* 1. of a different



- sort: Ughaen oghomwen khin – “Mine is of a different kind.”
- ughanmwan** [ùɣã mǎ] *n.* axe.
- ughanmwɛn**<sup>1</sup> [ùɣǎ mɛ̃] *n.* (< u – ghaan – mwɛn) being expensive.
- ughanmwɛn**<sup>2</sup> [ùɣǎ mɛ̃] *n.* (< u – ghan – mwɛn) arrogance; haughtiness.
- úghe** [ùɣé] *n.* 1. a show; a performance (e.g. of dances or acrobatic display); 2. look; gaze; stare: Ughe ne ọ ghe mwɛn re ma yeḡ mwɛn – “The way that she looked at me did not please me.”
- úghe** [úɣè] *n.* the entrance into a village.
- ughegbe** [ùɣègbè] *n.* mirror; 2. any object of glass: ughēgbe-aro – “eye-glasses; spectacles.”
- ugheḡe** [ùɣèḡè] *n.* sun-glasses.
- ugho** [ùɣò] *n.* a kind of dance.
- ughoton** [úɣòtɔ̃] *n.* the name of an Edo coastal village which served as the port for the first European visitors to Benin. It is also known as Gwatto.
- ughu** [úɣù] *n.* 1. boundary line.; 2. line of demarcation between two properties: Ọ kọ ivin ye ughu – “He planted a coconut tree along the boundary line.” (cf. uwu).
- ughugha** [úɣúɣà] *n.* room; bedroom.
- ughughan** [ùɣúɣǎ] *n.* different types or kinds: Emwin ughughan ẹre ọ viọ gie ima – “Different kinds of things were what he brought us.”
- ughughon** [úɣúɣɔ̃] *n.* empty snail-shell.
- ughunghunmwun** [ùɣũɣũmũ] *n.* 1. roots of large trees that appear as stumps above the surface of the ground; 2. tree stump.
- uhae** [úhàe] *n.* well: Amẹ ne ọ rre uhae na hian gbe – “The water in this well is very clear.”
- uhaeso** [úháesò] *n.* a bird; swallow.
- uhanbo** [úhǎbò] *n.* bow (for shooting with an arrow – ifɛnmwɛn).
- uharo** [úháɾò] *n.* forehead (also ẹhae; ugbaro).
- uhe** [ùhé] *n.* 1. vagina; vulva; 2. anus; 3. the lower end of an object (esp. that with a normal vertical stance).
- uhe** [úhè] *n.* the Edo name for Ifẹ.
- uhi** [ùhì] *n.* 1. law: Ọ rra uhi – “He committed a breach of the law.; 2. custom. (cf. iyi).
- uhiamwɛn** [ùhá mɛ̃] *n.* struggling (coping with problems or difficulties); keeping up appearances.
- uhiri** [úhìrì] *n.* a variety of large ape; a baboon.
- uhobo** [ùhòbò] *n.* the Edo name for the Urhobo people and their language.
- uhoro** [úhóɾò] *n.* pawpaw.
- uhukpa** [úhukpa] *adv.* (also urukpa) 1. once: Uhukpa ẹre ọ sẹ emwan – “He came here only once; 2. instantly; at once: Ọ na wa sa eve rua uhukpa – “She simply broke into tears instantly. (usually with “nii” in this second sense).
- uhuanmwɛn** [ùhwǎ mɛ̃] *n.* 1. cleanliness; neatness; 2. being clean.



**uhunmwonva** [ùhũmǒvǎ] *n.* illness; sickness (usually serious).

**uhunmwun**<sup>1</sup> [ùhũmũ] *n.* 1. head: Ọ mu ihẹ yan uhunmwun – “She carried a load on her head; 2. the top of; the upper end of an object: Ọ tota ye uhunmwun eteburu – “She sat on top of the table.; 3. the important part of an issue: uhunmwun ẹmwen – “an important point.”

**uhunmwun**<sup>2</sup> [ùhũmũ] *n.* errand; message: Ọ gie mwen uhunmwun – “He sent me on an errand.”

**uhunrun** [ùhũrũ] *n.* the last day of a period of 9 days; the 9th day. Ọ khin uhunrun i ke ghi vbe miọon – “It will be nine days’ time before I see you again.”

**ukata** [ùkàtǎ] *n.* a straw hat with broad rims.

**uké** [ùké] *n.* a pad used as filler in special hair styles (such as okuku) to give the hair a fuller look.

**ukè**<sup>1</sup> [ùkè] *n.* a kind of merry dance which entails short quick steps and stamping of the feet.

**ukè**<sup>2</sup> [ùkè] *n.* a cripple.

**ukegbe** [ùkégbè] *n.* lap: Ọ mu ọmọ yan ukegbe – “She carried the child on her laps.”

**ukeke** [ùkéké] *n.* 1. a piece of stick; a peg; 2. a pen.

**uken** [ùkɛ́] *n.* kinky hair.

**uki** [ùkì] *n.* 1. moon; 2. month.

**ukionfon** [ùkyǒfǒ] *n.* (also ukhionfon) 1. scarf; 2. handkerchief.

**uko** [úkó] *n.* calabash (usually used as containers for various household items: ukame ( $<$  uko – ame): “calabash of water”; ukedọlọ – ( $<$  uko – edọlọ) “calabash used for holding the muddy solution used for rubbing the walls and floors of the house; a calabash dish used for holding various liquids; etc.”

**ukodo** [ùkòdò] *n.* a deep pot used for cooking soups and porridge.

**ukohunmwun** [ùkòhũmũ] *n.* pillow.

**ukòko**<sup>1</sup> [úkòkò] *n.* pipe.

**ukòko**<sup>2</sup> [úkókó] *n.* 1. joint, angle: ukoko-abọ – “elbow”; ukoko owẹ – “ankle.”

**ukokogho** [úkokóγò] *n.* 1. a small calabash used for storing medicine.; 2. a casual term for the young breasts of an adolescent.

**ukoni** [ùkòni] *n.* kitchen.

**ukorobozo** [ùkòròbòzò] *n.* a variety of wild-fowl.

**ukotin** [ùkótí] *n.* a straight hair-pin used by hair-plaiters for parting hair.

**uko**<sup>1</sup> [úkò] *n.* 1. messenger, delegate: Avbe uko ne iran gie ire nakhin – “These are the delegates that they sent down.”; 2. (in contemporary use): Commissioners or Ministers of government: Uko ne ọ gbaro ghe ẹmwen ígho – “The Commissioner in-charge of Finance.”

**uko**<sup>2</sup> [úkò] *n.* blame; query: Ọ kan mwen uko ígho ne i ma miẹ rhiẹ neẹ – “He blamed me for the money I did not have to give him.”

**ukonghonoron** [ùkòγǒrǒ] *n.* a formid-



able task or difficult assignment; a stalemate: Iwinna onren khin ukonghonron — “His case has become a stalemate.”

**ukonmwɛn** [ùkɔ̃mɛ̃] *n.* foolishness; stupidity.

**Uku** [úkú] *n.* one of the praise-names for the Oba: “Uku-Akpọ̀lọ̀kpọ̀lọ̀”.

**ukugba** [ùkùgbà] *n.* 1. belt.; 2. disease: inflammation of the groin glands.

**ukugbakẹ̀ghẹ̀rẹ̀** [ùkùgbakẹ̀ɣɛ̃rẹ̀] *adv.*  
1. always; all the time; at all times: Ukugbakẹ̀ghẹ̀rẹ̀ ẹ̀rẹ̀ ọ̀ ya viẹ̀ — “He cries all the time.”

**ukuoki** [úkwoi] *n.* a pad used for wedging a load on the head.

**ukuse** [úkúsè] *n.* a musical instrument in the form of a round calabash rattle, played mainly by women.

**ukhionfon** [ùxyɔ̃fɔ̃] *n.* cf. ukionfon.

**ukhionmwɛn** [ùxyɔ̃mɛ̃] *n.* 1. half; 2. portion of; part, rather than whole: Ukhionmwɛn ẹ̀rẹ̀ ọ̀ ru iwinna nii re — “He only did a portion of that work.”

**ukhon** [ùxɔ̃] *n.* navel.

**ukhú<sup>1</sup>** [ùxú] *n.* gag.

**ukhú<sup>2</sup>** [ùxú] *n.* the sprouting tip of a germinating seed.

**ukhù** [ùxù] *n.* inheritance (also arevbu-khu).

**úkhuerhe** [úxwèrè] *n.* sugar-cane.

**ùkhuerhe** [ùxwéřé] *n.* a low stool.

**ukhuegbe** [ùxwégbè] *n.* skin.

**ukhuen** [ùxwɛ̃] *n.* the fibrous remains of the oil palm fruit after the oil has been extracted and the kernels shelled and removed. It is often used as fire-kindler or in the preparation of native soap.

**ukhukhu** [úxuxù] *n.* the thick dried-out bark of trees, usually gathered and used for kindling fire.

**ukhukhu** [úxùxù] *adj.* individual varieties; different kinds (of things): Ukhùkhu ehan ẹ̀rẹ̀ ọ̀ viẹ̀ rre — “Six different kinds were what he brought”.

**ukhùnmwun<sup>1</sup>** [ùxũmũ] *n.* sky (also odukhunmwun; iso); 2. up: Ọ̀ hin ukhùnmwun bu ẹ̀rẹ̀ — “He climbed up to meet him.”

**ukhùnmwun<sup>2</sup>** [ùxũmũ] *n.* 1. medicine; drug; medication: Ọ̀ kpogho ukhùnmwun neẹ̀ wọ̀n — “He mixed some medicine for him to drink”; 2. magic charm: Ọ̀ ru ukhùnmwun osisi neẹ̀ — “He made a charm against guns for him.”

**ukhùnmwun** [ùxũmũ] *n.* 1. famine; the period of two months before harvesting season.

**ukhurhe** [ùxùřè] *n.* a carved staff which constitutes part of ancestral shrines.

**ukpa** [úkpa] *n.* 1. lamp; lantern; 2. any artificial source of light, such as the electric bulb or a car light: Ọ̀ rhu ukpa yọ̀ mwɛn aro — “He beamed his lights (car-lights) into my eyes.”

**ukpabo** [ùkpàbò] *n.* a wash-basin.

**ukpafen** [ùkpàfè] *n.* the floor drain or gutter in the quadrangle of traditional Edo houses.

**ukpakon** [úkpãkɔ̃] *n.* chewing stick.



**ukparanmwèn** [ùk̂páráǎm̂ɛ̂] *n.* (also ukparo) a disease which is often described as “coated tongue”; symptoms include lack of appetite, fever, and constipation.

**úkpewèn** [úk̂péwɛ̂] *n.* a disease: palpitation.

**ùkpewèn** [ùk̂péwɛ̂] *n.* tip of the breast; teat; nipple.

**ukpe** [úk̂pé] *n.* 1. point; tip: *Ọ ya ukpe-olode so ẹre* — “He jabbed it with the tip of a needle.”; 2. beak; lips: *ukpe-ahianmwèn* — “the beak of a bird.”

**ùkpo** [ùk̂pó] *n.* 1. year; *ùkpo noḡberra* — “last year.”

**úkpo<sup>1</sup>** [úk̂pò] *n.* 1. bed; couch.

**úkpo<sup>2</sup>** [úk̂pò] *n.* 1. paved road; 2. street.

**úkpo<sup>3</sup>** [úk̂pò] *n.* position, rank: *Úkpo noḡhua ọ ye vbe eke ne ọ na winna* — “He is in a high position where he works.”

**ukpogie** [ùk̂pógyè] *n.* rank order: *ukpogieva* — “second”; *ukpogieha* — “third”; *ukpogigbe* — “tenth”; etc.

**ukpogho** [ùk̂póyó] *n.* 1. cowrie; 2. a disease of the eye in which the eyeball is partially or wholly covered by a white blotch and thereby resulting in partial or total impairment of vision; cataract.

**úkpokpo** [úk̂pòk̂pò] *n.* a staff; a walking stick.

**ùkpokpo** [ùk̂pòk̂pò] *n.* trouble; harassment; nuisance.

**ukpomobie** [ùk̂pómóbyè] *n.* the name

for the different varieties of sunbirds.

**ukpobian** [ùk̂póbyá] *n.* a small variety of squirrel.

**ukpokhokho** [ùk̂pókókò] *n.* “the beak of a chicken”: the name of a special hair style worn by the *Ọba*’s wives.

**ukpolomwèn** [ùk̂pólómɛ̂] *n.* 1. fatness; being large-sized: *Vbe ukpolomwèn onrèn a sẹ heẹ?* “How big is it?”

**ukpon** [ùk̂põ] *n.* 1. cloth; 2. women’s wrapper: *ukpenhe* (< *ukpon* — *ehe*): the dressing used for menstruation.

**ukpu** [úk̂pù] *n.* 1. cup; drinking glass; 2. measuring cup (esp. for selling rice, grain, garri, etc.): *mwaan ukpu eva yọ* — “Measure two cups into it.”

**ukpukpe** [úk̂púk̂pè] *n.* 1. a kind of brisk dance in which dancers jog up and down to a fast-beat song and music. It is usually performed during second-burial processions, and thanksgiving processions by chiefs; 2. (fig.) an ordeal of going back and forth for a cause that seems endless: *Ke ne ọ ya gha khuonmwín gha dee, ukpukpe asokito ẹre i gbe* — “Since he became sick till now, I have been going back and forth to the hospital.”

**ulakpa** [ùlák̂pá] *n.* red laterite soil considered good for house-building, but not for farming; “*ulakpa n’ ogieken*” — a euphemism for “the grave.”

**ule** [úlé] *n.* a state of excitement, possibly generated by alcohol or other intoxicants.

**ulelefe** [ùlèlèfè] *n.* ant-hill.

**ule** [úlé] *n.* 1. race; *Rèn ẹre ọ bai*



- mwen vbe ulẹ ne ima rhiere — “He was the one who finished first in the race that we held.”; 2. flight (fleeing): Ule ẹre o ya kpaọ vbe ẹvbo nii — “He went away in flight from that town.”
- uloko** [ùlókò] *n.* Iroko tree.
- uloka** [ùlòkà] *n.* a kind of corn-cake eaten as a snack.
- ulomwan** [ùlómwā] *n.* an order restricting the public from coming near certain locations where secret ceremonies are being performed.
- uma** [ùmà] *n.* 1. a secret meeting set up to plot against someone, or to decide on issues disapproved of by speaker: Iran ya so uma nasọn — “They held a secret meeting last night.”
- umamwen** [ùmámwè] *n.* being good or beneficial; progress: Umamwen ẹvbo na ẹre ima gualọ — “It is the good of this town that we seek.”
- umaranmwen** [ùmárámwè] *n.* a fable; a story about animals.
- ume** [ùmé] *n.* the red dye obtained from the camwood tree.
- umewaen** [ùméwǎè] *n.* a wise person; an intelligent person.
- umian** [ùmíyǎ] *n.* hallucination; illusion.
- Umogun** [úmògú] *n.* the royal family of Benin; their sib greeting is “Lamogun.”
- umozo** [ùmòzò] *n.* sword.
- umobie** [úmòbyè] *n.* a woman who gives birth to many children; a very fertile woman.
- umọbo** [ùmòbò] *n.* 1. a foster child; 2. any foster-relation (used with the term of the relative): umọberha — “foster father.” umọbiye — “foster mother”; etc.
- umọdia** [úmòdià] *n.* the stretch of visible distance: O dee vbe umọdia — “He is approaching in the distance.”
- umomo** [ùmómò] *n.* hammer.
- umuadiye** [ùmwǎdiyè] *n.* (also um-uokhokho) tiger-cat (also translated as “fox” by Melzian).
- umuokhokho** [ùmwòxòxò] *n.* cf. um-uadiye.
- umwan** [ùmwǎ] *n.* 1. scale.; 2. a measuring instrument.
- umwen** [ùmwè] *n.* salt.
- umwọnmwen** [úmwọmwè] *n.* equality; being equal: Umwọnmwen ẹre iran ye — “They are equal.”
- unie** [únyè] *n.* a kind of hot spice, used in medicinal sauces.
- uniere** [únyèrè] *n.* four days hence.
- unu** [ùnǔ] *n.* 1. mouth; 2. generally entrance (esp. a narrow one) or access route into an enclosed area: unu-ode — “gate-way: the entrance.”
- unuehen** [únwèhè] *n.* (also uruẹhen) a deep soup spoon used for scooping soup.
- uremwen** [ùrémwè] *n.* burial.
- uri** [ùrí] *num.* two hundred.
- uro** [úrò] *n.* line; ordered fashion: O ya iran ye uro: 1. “He placed them into line: He made them orderly.”



**urode** [úɾódè] *n.* 1. passage way; 2. the middle of the road: Ghe mudia ye urode – “Don’t stand in the middle of the road.”

**urorame** [úɾòɾámè] *n.* a narrow drain; a gutter.

**uru** [ùrù] *n.* a big bulging narrow-necked bottle, usually cased in wicker, and used for storing or selling palm-wine.

**uruki** [úrukì] *n.* a magical or spiritual force that acts on people and thereby causes them to act in a contrary manner.

**uruvba** [úrùvábá] *n.* boil.

**urhe** [úřèé] *n.* a kind of snail.

**urho** [ùřò] *n.* 1. gate; entrance; 2. door: o kie urho la owa – “He opened the door and entered the house.”

**urhomwen** [ùřómǽ] *n.* adulation; worship.

**Urhonigbe** [`uròn ígbè] *n.* the name of an Edo town.

**urhu** [ùřù] *n.* 1. neck; O se ivie ye urhu – “He wears a coral necklace around his neck.”; 2. voice: Urhu ere la gbe – “His voice is too loud.”

**urhuabo** [ùřwábò] *n.* (< urhu – abo): “neck of the hand”: wrist.

**urhuaro** [ùřwàɾò] *n.* (< u – rhu – aro) “that which blinds the eye”: a variety of cactus whose sap is believed to cause blindness.

**urhuawe** [ùřwáwè] *n.* (< urhu – owe) “neck of the leg”: ankle.

**urhukpa** [ùřùkṽpà] *n.* 1. lantern; lamp.

**urria** [úryà] *n.* far distance: Urria o ke dee – “It is from a far distance that he is coming.”

**urrise** [ùrísè] *n.* (< urro – ise) “the tray of ise”: the portions of the wooden frame of the ise game in which seeds gained in the course of a game are kept. (also ogi-urrise).

**urro** [ùrò] *n.* a flat wooden tray with a rim used as a kitchen implement. Soup ingredients are ground on it by means of a wooden dumb-bell: ovbi-urunmwun.

**Usama** [úsámá] *n.* a site at the Oloṭon quarter used for some of the ceremonies of the Oba’s coronation.

**usana** [ùsáná] *n.* matches.

**use** [ùsé] *n.* assistance (mainly in the form of physical labour) which used to be rendered reciprocally and mutually among neighbours.

**Use** [ùsè] *n.* the name of an Edo village.

**Uselu** [ùselú] *n.* the quarter of Benin where the Edaiken has his court.

**use** [ùsé] *n.* 1. poverty; destitution: O kperere ne use ke soe – “It is a long time since he has been stricken by poverty”; 2. general want: use-igho – “want for money”; use-omo – “want for children”; etc.

**usen** [ùsé] *n.* a period of five days: usienre (usen-ere): “five days hence.”

**usi** [ùsì] *n.* fame; renown.

**usi** [ùsí] *n.* starch; carbohydrate.



**usie** [ùsyé] *n.* a nickname for a very dark complexioned person.

**usimwongben** [úsimᵒᵒgbᵘ] *adj.* numerous; very many: Usimwongben evbo ere o rre: "The people who came were numerous."

**usun** [ùsũ] *n.* 1. things or people arranged in a file or row: Iran ya usun dee – "They are coming in files"; 2. some, from among a crowd; a portion (of a large number of people or things). Usun vbo maa; enikere i maa – "Some of them are good, the others are not."

**usunbunmwendin** [úsũbũᵒᵘᵘᵘ] *n.* the remains of the oil-palm bunch after the fruits have been removed.

**usunsen** [ùsũsᵘ] *adv.* (< usen – usen) every five days.

**utete** [útètè] *n.* a low hill.

**utianmwen** [ùtĩᵘᵘ] *n.* praise; commendation.

**utomwen** [ùtóᵒᵘ] *n.* longevity.

**utonyoto** [ùtᵒyòtò] *n.* (< u – ton – ye – oto) "what is dug in the ground": a big drinking-pot buried to the rim in the ground in order to keep the water cool.

**utukpumwenrhan** [útúkpúᵒᵘᵘᵘ] *n.* a low tree stump.

**utumwen** [ùtúᵒᵘ] *n.* 1. crying; 2. shouting.

**utun** [ùtũ] *n.* mushroom.

**uve** [ùvè] *n.* marrow bone.

**uvianmwen** [ùvyᵘᵘ] *n.* 1. complaints and regrets (usually about what one

lacks or needs); (also ovian); the act of making such complaints.

**uvien** [úvyᵘ] *n.* line, file; row: O mwanmwan ibieka nii ye uvien – "He arranged the children in a line."

**uviemwen** [ùvyᵘᵘ] *n.* 1. crying; 2. lamentation (e.g. for the dead). (also eve).

**uvun** [ùvũ] *n.* a hole; uvun-ehọ – "ear passage": the pierced hole on the ear-lobe for ear-rings; uvun-ihue – "nostril."

**uvbemwen** [ùvéᵒᵘ] *n.* scarcity; limited supply.

**uvbi** [ùvĩ] *n.* 1. a girl or woman of royal birth.; 2. a young woman: miss (also ovbokhan-uvbi).

**uwa**<sup>1</sup> [ùwà] *pron.* a form of the 2nd pers. pl. pronoun.: you pl.

**uwa**<sup>2</sup> [ùwà] *n.* prosperity; well-being; affluence.

**uwanmwen** [ùwᵘᵘ] *n.* brightness; uwanmwen-ede – "day-light"; "the brightness of the day."; 2. growing; development; 3. wisdom.

**uwawa** [ùwàwà] *n.* cooking clay-pot (usually used for making soups).

**uwaya** [úwáyà] *n.* 1. wire; 2. telegraph.

**uwe** [ùwè] *pron.* a form of the 2nd pers. sgl. pronoun: you.

**uwerhien** [úwᵘᵘ] *n.* cane; whip.

**uwerhiontan** [úwᵘᵘᵘᵘ] *n.* (< uwerhien – otan) "squirrel's whip": a plant: *Glyphaea laterifolia*.

**uwoha** [úwóhà] *n.* (< uwu – oha) in



the thick of the jungle; inside the bush.

**uwowà** [úwówà] *n.* (< *uwu* – *owa*) within the house; indoors (as against outside). *Ọ* la uwowa – “He went indoors.”

**uwowá** [úwówá] *n.* (< *uwu* – *owa*) within the shed: *Ọ* rre uwowa – “It is inside the shed.”

**uwonmwẹn** [ùwõmǽ] *n.* native soup, used for eating meals like *ema*, *ẹbae*, *akasan*, etc.

**ùwu**<sup>1</sup> [ùwú] *n.* death.

**úwu**<sup>2</sup> [úwù] *n.* cf. *ughu*.

**uwú**<sup>3</sup> [úwú] *n.* 1. the inside of a thing (esp. a container or vessel); 2. within.

**uye** [ùyè] *n.* a ditch; a pit.

**uyengbe** [ùyǽgbè] *n.* tray; *uyengbe-emuẹn* – “ash-tray.”

**uyenghẹn** [úyǽyǽ] *n.* a variety of brown rat with white stripes down its back.

**uyi** [úyì] *n.* honour; prestige: *Iran rhie uyi ẹre neẹn* – “They accorded him the honour that was due to him.”

**uyinmwẹn** [ùyímǽ] *n.* 1. behaviour;

conduct; manner: *Uyinmwẹn onrẹn i ma* – “Her conduct is not good.”; 2. custom; tradition: *uyinmwẹn Edo*: “Edo custom.”

**uyunmwun** [ùyũmũ] *n.* dry season – from December to early April.

**uza** [ùzà] *n.* destructive mischief; damage.

**Uzama** [ùzámà] *n.* the council of seven chiefs made up of: *Oliha*, *Edohẹn*, *Ezomọ*; *Ẹro*; *Eholọ n’Irre*, *Ọlọton* and *Edaiken*.

**uze** [ùzé] *n.* handle.

**uzekhae** [ùzèxàe] *n.* a sandy heap; a sandy play-ground (for children).

**uzẹbu**<sup>1</sup> [ùzèbú] *n.* (of *ígho*) counterfeit money.

**Uzẹbu**<sup>2</sup> [ùzèbú] *n.* the quarter in Benin where the court of Chief *Ezomọ* is.

**uzemwẹn** [ùzémǽ] *n.* arrogance; conceit.

**uzo** [úzò] *n.* antelope.

**uzola** [úzòlá] *n.* week (cf. *izola*).

**uzuanmwẹn** [ùzwǽmǽ] *n.* displaying (often brazenly) the desire for other people’s food.

## V

**va**<sup>1</sup> [vá] *v.b.* 1. (of animal) to dissect; to cut up; 2. to break into parts along natural lines of partitioning (e.g. the parts of a kola-nut): *Va evbee na ne a rriọe* – “Break this

kola that we may eat it”; 3. (of plantain) to peel; to split and remove the peel: *Ọ va oghede ye erhẹn*: “She peeled a plantain (and put it) in the fire (to roast).”



**va**<sup>2</sup> [vá] *vb.* (of sickness): to be afflicted by illness (usually has “uhunmwun” as its subject): Uhunmwun va mwən — “I am sick; I am not well.”

**vaa** [vää] *vb.* to split into two parts (they need not be equal). to break or crack: O ya erhan vaa re uhunmwun — “He broke her head with a stick.”

**vaan** [vää̃] *vb.* to call at a place, (by way of digression from the main destination); to make a side-call at a place. O vaan owa mwən vbe o ke eki dee — “She called at my house on her way from the market.”

**van** [vã] *vb.* to shout: O van mu iran — “He shouted on them.”

**vabo** [vábó] *vb.* 1. to branch off; to develop a branch: Erhan na vabo gbaa ehe hia — “This tree has branched all over.”; 2. to depart from a main track; to digress; to change course. (cf. vaan).

**vanbo** [vãbó] *vb.* 1. to cease (from doing something); to desist; to stop: O vanbo vbe ayon ne a da — “He has stopped drinking alcohol.”

**ve** [vé] *vb.* to price something; to bargain for: Ei gua ve emwin — “He does not know how to bargain for something.”

**ve**<sup>1</sup> [vé] *vb.* (of a secret; scheme) to become exposed; to come to the open: Ero ne iran ru vee gbe iran — “The trick or secret scheme that they made got exposed on them.”; 2. to expose: Gha vee ero na? — “Who exposed this scheme?”

**ve**<sup>2</sup> [vé] *vb.* 1. (of a sore) to deteriorate; to break out: Ghe gi ete na ve se ona — “Don’t let this sore deteriorate more

than this.”; 2. to disperse (of a crowd) — Iran vee kpaọ — “They all dispersed.”; 3. to spill, to pour out: Igarri vee kua vbe ebo — “The garri poured out of the sack.”

**vee** [vèé] *vb.* to disperse a crowd; to chase away a large group of people or animals in different directions: O vee avbe ewe nii kua — “He chased away the goats in different directions.”

**ven**<sup>1</sup> [vè] *vb.* to wrestle.

**ven**<sup>2</sup> [vè] *vb.* 1. (of a fire) to catch; to break into flames: Hie erhen na ne o ven — “Blow this fire so that it may catch.”; 2. to spark off; to erupt; to break out: Ezo ven ne iran vbe odo — “A quarrel has broken out among them over there.”

**ven**<sup>3</sup> [vè] *vb.* to swear (usually by something deemed powerful or potent, such as God or a special deity, etc.).

**vian** [viã] *vb.* to grumble; to complain (about misfortune or lacks.).

**vie** [vyé] *vb.* 1. to cry; to weep.; 2. to crow (of a rooster).

**viên** [vỹé] *vb.* 1. to ripen (used mainly of palm fruits); 2. (of eyes) to wear a look expressive of a longing for, (a strong desire for): Aro ere vien ye omwən evbare — “His eyes are set on my food: He longs for my food.”

**vienvienrenvien** [vyévyé[évyé] *adj.*; *adv.* describes something extremely small.

**vin**<sup>1</sup> [vĩ] *vb.* to dart; to start very rapidly in some direction: O vin gberra mwən — “He darted past me.”; 2. vin rraa — “to jump over.”

**vin**<sup>2</sup> [vĩ] *vb.* to cut with a sharp object



(e.g. in vaccination); 2. to mark (something): *Ọ vin emwin ye egbeken* – “He marked something on the wall.”

**vinhen** [vĩhẽ] *vb.* (< *ven* – *ihen*) “to swear an oath”: to swear (cf. *ven*<sup>3</sup>).

**vinno** [vĩnõ] *vb.* pl. and iter. sense of *vin* 1 and 2.: 1. *Iran vinno kua* – “They darted away”; 2. *Ọ ya abee vinno onren uhunmwun* – “He used a pen-knife to cut marks on his head.”

**viọ** [viò] *vb.* 1. pl. sense of *rhie* (i.e. implies that many objects (people or things) are taken; or that many people are performing the taking; or both.): *Iran viọ iran kpao* – “He took them away”; *Iran viọ eso kpao* – “They took some away.” etc.

**vo** [vó] *vb.* (of yams) to rot internally (usually from excessive heat): *Iyan na ne u de rre voo* – “This yam that you bought home has rotted.” *Ghe gie iyan na vo* – “Don’t

let this yam rot.”

**vu** [vú] *vb.* 1. to root out; to dig up: *Ọ vu inian erhan nii hin otoe rre* – “He dug up the roots of that tree out of the ground.”

**vulo** [vùló] *vb.* pl. and iter. sense of *vu*: *Iran vulo igari ke ugbo rre* – “They dug up some garri roots from the farm.”

**vuan** [vũã] *vb.* to slip and fall from a height: *Ọ vuan vbe aga* – “He slipped and fell from the chair.”

**vuon**<sup>1</sup> [vũõ] *vb.* to be full – *Akhe na vuon ne amẹ* – “This pot is full of water.”

**vùon**<sup>2</sup> [vũõ] *vb.* to fill – *Ọ sa amẹ vuon akhe* – “He fetched water to fill the pot.”

**vuuun** [vũũũ] *adv.; adj.* describes something very deep.

## VB

**vba** [vá] *vb.* 1. (of liquids and powdery mass) to spill as a result of heaving motion; to overflow from the heaving force: *Amẹ ke ekpamaku vba kue oto* – “Water spilled onto the floor from the basin.”; 2. to heave: *Amẹ gha vba yo vbarre vbe ekpamaku* – “The water is heaving back and forth in the basin.”

**vbaa** [vää] *vb.* 1. to meet; to join with; to catch up with: *Ọ ya vbaa ore vbe ugbo* – “He went to meet him in the farm.”; 2. (idiomatic): (usually in construction with “vbe

*owa*”): to be a virgin: *A vbaa ore vbe owa* – “She was met at home: She was a virgin.”; 3. to affect (e.g. a curse). *Ihen onren i vbaa mwẹn* – “His curse will not affect me.”; 4. to land on; to hit (as a target): *Ugbe vbaa ore uhunmwun* – “A missile hit her on the head.” (also *vbaọ*).

**vbavba** [vává] *n.* an address term for “father”, used mainly in prayers, or in contexts when the person addressed is very old, and extra deference is intended: *Domọ, vbavba!* – “Greetings, old father!” (cf. *evbavba*).







– obo – vbe – obo) “at hand, at hand”: right now; instantly: O sanmwən ɔnɾən rhie vbobovbobo – “He snatched it instantly.”

**vbokho** [vòxó] *vb.* 1. to bend; to twist: O vbokho ɛre obo ghe iyeke – “He twisted her arm to the back.”; 2. to be flexible; be capable of bending: Erhan na i-vbokho – “This piece of stick is not flexible.”

**vboo**<sup>1</sup> [vòó] *vb.* 1. to ripen; to be ripe: Eɗin-ebo na vbooro ne – “This pineapple has ripened.”; 2. (of eyes) to redden (with expectation): Aro ɔre vbooro ye ode – “Her eyes have reddened on the road: Her eyes are fixed on the road (with expectation).”

**vboo**<sup>2</sup> [vòó] *inter.; part.* (occurs at the end of the sentence): location question particle: (to be) where? Owa ruɛ vboo? – “Where is your house?”

**vbovbo** [vòvó] *vb.* 1. to carry (usually a child) on the back: O mu ɔmɔ vbovbo – “She backed a child”; 2. to be carried on the back: O wɛ iɾən i vbovbo – “He said he will not be carried on the back.”

**vbo**<sup>1</sup> [vó] *vb.* 1. to spring; to leap: O vboɛ hin uhunmwun erhan – “He

leapt up on the tree”; 2. to pull out, to extract: Iran vbo mwən akon vbe asokito – “They extracted my tooth at the hospital.”

**vbo**<sup>2</sup> [vó] *adv.* (compressed from vbe – vbo) “from it”; “in it”: ɔ ma miɛ ɔghee vbo – “He did not find his own in it.”

**vboɔ** [vòló] *vb.* 1. pl. and iter. sense of vbo: Iran vboɔ akon – “They had their teeth extracted.” Iran vboɔ kpao – “They leapt away.”

**vbu** [vú] *vb.* to borrow: O doo vbu ukpon vbe obo mwən – “He came to borrow some cloth from me.”

**vbuaro** [vwáɾò] *vb.* to be stranded; to be in a helpless state.

**vbuovbuo** [vwòwó] *vb.* 1. to heat (native pear) in hot ashes or hot water to soften the pulp.; 2. to deteriorate; to go bad. (of perishable foods, esp. fruit, vegetable, and meat).

**vbuyɛ** [vùyé] *vb.* to be lazy; weak.

**vbuyɛvbuyɛ** [vùyèvùyè] 1. *adv.* indolently; weakly.; 2. *adj.* weak; lazy; indolent.

## W

**wa** [wà] *pron.* a form of the 2nd pers. pl. pron.: you.: Wa ghe gui – “You (pl.) don’t be angry: Don’t be angry.”

**waa**<sup>1</sup> [wàá] *vb.* 1. to lay out; to display; to spread out: O waa emwin ne ɔ khiɛn ye atetɛ – “She displayed what she was selling on a straw tray.”;

2. to divide into parts or groups: O waa iran ye ihi-eha – “She divided them into three parts.”

**waa**<sup>2</sup> [wàá] *vb.* to castrate (e.g. goat or dog).

**waa**<sup>3</sup> [wàá] *vb.* (in wabo) “to ex-



terminate" (the branches or offspring):  
A wabọ ọre — "His lineage has been  
exterminated." A gha wabuaa (a  
common curse) "May your lineage  
be exterminated."

**waan<sup>1</sup>** [wǎǎ́] *vb.* 1. to grow up; to  
mature: Ọ ma he waan — "She is  
not yet matured."

**waan<sup>2</sup>** [wǎǎ́] *vb.* to be wise; to be  
intelligent: Ọvbokhan na waan gbe —  
"This child is very intelligent."

**waan<sup>3</sup>** [wǎǎ́] *vb.* (of the day) to dawn;  
to grow light: Ede waan ne — "The  
day has dawned."

**wagha** [wàǎ́] *vb.* to disintegrate; to  
crumble: Ukpudu umwen ne ọ mu  
mwẹn wagha ye ọre obo — "The  
lump of salt that she was holding  
has crumbled in her hands."

**waghawagha** [wàǎ́wàǎ́] *adj.* crumbly.

**wanme** [wǎmǎ́] *vb.* (< wọn — ame)  
to drink water.

**wannawanna** [wǎǎ́wǎǎ́] *adj.; adv.*  
describes anything with a sheen;  
flashy: Ọ fi wannawanna — "It is  
shining brightly". Ọ ye wannawanna —  
"It is flashy".

**wannie** [wǎnyǎ́] *vb.* 1. to respond; to  
reply.; 2. to argue with: Ohan i gi  
a wannie ọnren emwen — "One does  
not argue with him for fear."

**wanno** [wǎnǎ́] *vb.* to isolate; to se-  
parate: Ọ wanno iran — "He separated  
them."

**wanwan** [wǎwǎ́] *adv.* right now (cf.  
wanwanna).

**wanwanna** [wǎwǎ́ǎǎ́] *adv.* just now;  
right now: Wanwanna ọ kpaọ — "He

left only just now." (also wanwan).

**wanwanwan** [wǎwǎ́wǎ́] *adj.; adv.* cf.  
wannawanna.

**we** [wé] *vb.* to order (something); to  
send for something from the market:  
Ọ we mwẹn ize — "She ordered for  
rice through me."

**wee<sup>1</sup>** [wèé] *vb.* 1. to open by lifting  
the lid; to uncover: Ọ wee okpan  
ne ọ ghe emwin ne ọ roọ — "He  
opened the dish to see what is in it.";  
2. (of hat) to lift off (from the head);  
3. (of book) to open.

**wee<sup>2</sup>** [wèé] *vb.* 1. (of a crowd) to  
shout in applause; to shout in unison.;  
2. to shout upon in contempt (e.g.  
a thief or criminal); to boo at: Iran  
gha wee oyi nii khian — "They are  
booing the thief along."

**wegbe** [wègbé] *vb.* to be strong; to  
be energetic.

**werriegbe** [wèriègbé] *vb.* to turn back;  
to go back; to return: Ọ werriegbe  
gha rrie evbo ere — "He went back  
to his country"; (with another verb  
in a serial construction, it usually  
has the adverbial meaning of "again").

**werrie** [wèrié] *vb.* to roll; to turn over:  
Ọ werrie fi uvun — "He rolled into  
a hole."

**wẹ** [wétè] *vb.* to say (usually doesn't  
require a complementizer): ọ wẹ ọ  
foo ne — "He said (that) it is finished."

**wẹiwe** [wéiwéi] *adv.; adj.* 1. (of a  
walk): briskly; with agility; 2. de-  
scribes tiny or under-sized objects.

**wenren** [wèrén] *vb.* thin, narrow, lean.

**wero** [wétò] *vb.* to be resourceful;



sensible.

**wewẹ** [wèwé] *vb.* to drizzle.

**wewerhe** [wéwéřé] *adj.* wide and shallow.

**wewewẹ** [wéwéwé] *adj.* (of speech or talk) whispered; ọta-wewewẹ – “gossip.”

**wia** [wiá] *vb.* to smell: ehe hia wia – “Everywhere is smelling.”

**wie** [wié] *vb.* to collapse; to fall in a heap: Eken wie rhu iran – “The wall collapsed on them.”

**wien** [wĩé] *vb.* 1. to wear out something (to use roughly); 2. to be worn (e.g. from friction, or from being rubbed against something else); 3. to be rumpled: Ukpon mwẹn hia wienrẹn vbe ekpetin – “All my clothes are rumpled in the box.”

**wii** [wií] *vb.* to get lost; to be missing: Igho mwẹn wiiri – “My money is missing.”

**wika** [wikà] *vb.* 1. to struggle along; to make a great effort: Ọ wika lele iran – “He struggled to keep up with them.”; 2. to be hardened; to be tough: Ọ wika gbe – “He is very tough.”

**winhin** [wĩhĩ] *vb.* to scent; to give off a pleasant smell (e.g. of food). Uwọnmwẹn ne ọ le wa winhin se ediran – “The soup she is cooking has scented this far.”

**winna** [wĩná] *vb.* to work; to labour: Ọ winna gbe – “He works very hard.”

**wio** [wió] *vb.* 1. to slip out (e.g. of beads on a string); to drop from a string: Emiegbe mwẹn wioro – “My

beads have dropped from the string.” (also used of things tied together.)

**wiolo** [wyòló] *vb.* pl. or iter. sense of wio: Owẹe hia wioloo kua vbe irri – “All the broomsticks have slipped off from the rope.”

**wo** [wó] *vb.* 1. to be strong; to be tough: Erhan na ma wo – “This wood is not strong”; 2. to be difficult; to be hard: Iwinna na ghá wo – “This work will be hard.”; 3. (of certain fruit, e.g. plantain, coconut) to be mature; to be ready to pick: Ọghẹde na ghá kpeẹ ọ ke wo – “This plantain will take a while to become mature.”

**wogho** [wòyó] *vb.* (of a crowd) to make noise – “Iran gha wogho yọ mwan ehọ – “They are making noise in one’s ears.”

**wooo** [wòòò] *adv.* 1. describes a continuous dull but intense (e.g. from pepper) pain – Ọ balọ wooo – “It hurts persistently”; 2. describes the glow of red-hot logs: Ọ baa wooo – “It glows warmly.”

**worua** [wòrùá] *vb.* to become cool; to cool down. (cf. furre).

**wowowo** [wòwòwò] *adv.* describes 1. brightly-burning fire; or 2. the taste of a peppery-hot soup. (cf. wooo).

**wọn** [wǒ] *vb.* to drink: Ọ wọn ukhunmwun – “He drank medicine.” (cf. wanme).

**wọnwọnwọn** [wǒwǒwǒ] *adv.; adj.* describes a greasy look.

**wọọ** [wòó] *vb.* to tire, to be fatigued; Egbe wọọ mwẹn – “Body has fatigued me: I am tired.”

**wọọrọ** [wòòrò] *adj.; vb.* long; extend-



ed; tall.

**wu** [wú] *vb.* 1. to die: Amwèn onrèn wuru – “His wife died.”; 2. to break (e.g. of glass, china, mirror, bottle, etc.) Ogo-ame wuru – “The water-bottle broke.”

**wua** [wùá] *vb.* to forbid; to be

tabooed. Ma wua egile – “We forbid (the eating of) snails.”

**wulo** [wùló] *vb.* pl. and iter. sense of wu: Iran hia wulo – “They all died.”

**wuo** [wùó] *vb.* to rub on: O ya ori wuo egbe – “She rubbed her body with cream.”

## Y

**ya**<sup>1</sup> [yá] *vb.* lit. = to use (occurs only in construction with other verbs, and has as its object nouns or noun phrases that semantically express a wide range of relationships with the second and main verb of the sentence) such as, *instrumental*: O ya ero fian iyan – “He used a knife for cutting the yam”. *temporal*: O ya awa eha dolo ere yi – “It took him three hours to repair it.” *manner*: O ya ogogie mie ere – “She laughingly took it from him or she took it from him by laughing”; *reason*: O ya ezuro rhia ere rua – “He spoilt it out of stupidity.” etc.

**ya**<sup>2</sup> [yá] *vb.* (occurs only in construction with another *vb.*): to cause: O ya evbare khian aghaghan vbe evbo naa – “He caused food to become very expensive in this town.”

**ya**<sup>3</sup> [yá] *vb.* to spend (time); to last (for a certain length of time): O ya uki eha o ke rhia – “It lasted three months before it became spoiled.”

**ya**<sup>4</sup> [yá] *vb.* (usually followed by a prep. na or ne): 1. to present with a gift: O ya ígho ne ibieka eso – “He presented some children with

money.”; 2. (with omo) to betroth: Iran ya omo nee – “They betrothed a girl to him.”

**ya**<sup>5</sup> [yá] *vb.* (occurs only in construction with a second verb which serves as the main verb of the sentence): to proceed (to do something): O ya lovie – “He went to lie down”; O ya gu ere winna – “He went to help him to work.”

**ya**<sup>6</sup> [yá] *vb.* (with ama) to make (a mark) on: O ya ama ye emwin enren hia – “He made a mark on all his property.”

**ya-baa** [yàbàá] *vb.* 1. to join with; to combine with: Iran yabaa enikere – “They joined with the rest.”; 2. (in Xtian sense) to bless: Osanobua yabaa ore – 1. God blessed him; 2. God was with him.

**ya-gba** [yàgbá] *idiom.; vb.* to become stuck; develop a stalemate: Emwèn nii yagba – “A stalemate has developed over that matter.”

**ya-ghae** [yàyàé] *vb.* to distribute; to give away: O ya efe ere hia ghae – “He gave away all his wealth.”



**ya-leekhue** [yàlèéxwè] *idiom.; vb.*

(also ya-neekhue) (< ya - ne - ekhue) "to give to shyness": to relent (on account of somebody, or for consideration of somebody). Ọ ya emwin hia ne Ozo ru ere lekhue erhae - "He relented on all the things Ozo had done to him on account of his father."

**ya-maa** [yàmàá] *idiom.; vb.* 1. to forgive (someone): Ọ ya emwin hia ne ọ ru maa ren - "He forgave her all the things she had done."; 2. to expose (esp. the faults of a person): Ọ ya egbe ere maa vbe eke ne ọ yoo - "He exposed his bad ways where he went."

**ya-wee** [yàwèé] *idiom.; vb.* to bequeath to; to authorize to own: Ọ ya efe ere hia wee iran - "He bequeathed all his wealth to them."

**ya-yi** [yàyí] *idiom.; vb.* to believe; to have faith in: Ọ ya emwen ne u khama ren yi - "He believed what you told him."; 2. (in the religious sense) to be a Christian: Ọ ma yayi - "He is not a Christian."

**yaan<sup>1</sup>** [yãã] *vb.* to own; to possess: Ren ọ yaaen owa ne ima ye - "He is the one who owns the house in which we live."

**yaan<sup>2</sup>** [yãã] *vb.* to pledge; to promise: Ọ yaanren ighe ren gha setin haa osa nii - "He pledged that he will be able to pay up that debt."

**yalo** [yàló] *vb.* 1. (used of jelly-like substance or other soft masses) to scoop (a usually large bulk of): Ọ yalo obuẹ hin oto rre - "He scooped off the clay from the ground."; 2. (of a large or amorphous mass) to move clumsily (e.g. of a very fat person): Ọ yalo khian - "He is moving clumsily along." (Also: ọ yalegbe

khian).

**yan<sup>1</sup>** [yã] *vb.* 1. to tear off; to sever; to disjoin: Abo ẹkpo na yan fua - "The strap of this bag has torn off"; 2. to ply open; to open wide: Ọ yan ẹkhu yoto - "He opened the door wide. (or He left the door wide open)."

**yan<sup>2</sup>** [yã] *vb.* (of the limbs) to be fatigued; to be weary after exertion; to be exhausted: Owe yan mwen - "My legs are fatigued."

**yan<sup>3</sup>** [yã] *vb.* (of fire) to be ablaze: Erhen ne ọ hierie yan kua - "The fire he made is in full blaze."

**yan<sup>4</sup>** [yã] *vb.* (e.g. of a child) to make a lot of fuss; to demand a lot of attention by crying frequently and behaving hard-to-please: Ọvbokhan na gha yan ma iyee - "This child is making a lot of fuss to his mother."

**yangbe** [yãgbé] *vb.* to ignore; to discountenance: Ọ yangbe emwin dan hia ne ọ ru - "She ignored all the bad things that he does."

**yanghan** [yãyã] *vb.* to tear to pieces; to mangle; to tear roughly so as to disfigure: Uwaya yanghan mwen ukpon rua - "The wire has torn my cloth to pieces."

**yanghananghan** [yãyãyãyã] *adj.; adv.* describes something that is disfigured or ragged.

**yankan** [yãká] *vb.* to walk abnormally (usually with legs spread apart): Ọ yankan dee vbe egui - "He is approaching with an abnormal walk like that of a tortoise."

**yanrre** [yãré] *vb.* to be left over; to remain: Emwin ne ọ khien gbae, ọ



**yanre** – “The things she is selling are complete and with some left over.”

**yanyan** [yãyã] *vb.* 1. to yawn; 2. (of lightning) to flash.

**ye<sup>1</sup>** [yé] *vb.* to be like; to seem: (Does not take clausal complements): *Ọ ye mosemose* – “It has the quality of being beautiful: It is beautiful.”

**ye<sup>2</sup>** [yé] *vb.* (as in *yerhen*) to make or set ( a fire): *Akhue ere iran khian yerhen ye iku na* – “It is tomorrow that they will set fire to this rubbish heap.”

**yè** [yè] *prep.* expresses location: on, at, in (depending on the noun that occurs with it): *yè owa* – “at home”; *yè aga* – “on the chair”; *yè uvun* – “in the hole”; etc. (when it occurs at the end of a sentence, or after its complement, its form is *yi*): *Owa ere ọ rhie ere yi*. Vs. *Ọ rhie yè owa*; 2. when it occurs before the object pron: *mwen* or *mwan*, it becomes *yọ*: *Ọ tota yọ mwen owa* – “He resides at my house.”

**yee<sup>1</sup>** [yèé] *vb.* to recall; to remember: *Ọ yee emwen ne i khama onren* – “He recalled the words that I told him.”

**yee<sup>2</sup>** [yèé] *adv.* expresses the adverbial meaning of “still”: *Ọ yee mose* – “She is still beautiful.”

**yee-rre** [yèré] *vb.* 1. same as *yee<sup>1</sup>*; 2. to remind: *Ọ yee mwen emwen onren rre* – “He reminded me of her.”

**yegbe** [yègbé] *vb.* to be cautious; to be mindful of self: *U ghu yegbe vbe ehe ne u rrie na* – “You should be cautious where you are going.”

**yenho** [yèhó] *vb.* (< *yin* – *eho*) 1. to be deaf; to be hard of hearing; 2. to be stubborn; to be disobedient. (cf. *yin*).

**yee** [yèé] *vb.* to please; to appeal to; to delight: *Emwen onren yee mwen* – “Her matter appeals to me”: I like her.”

**yevbe** [yéve] *vb.* to be like; to seem: *Ọ yevbe ne ọ vbie* – “He seems to be sleeping.” (cf. *ye*).

**yeen** [yèé] *vb.* to press upon (usually with something heavy): *Ọ ya olo yen onren* – “He pressed it by means of a grinding-stone.” *yeen muoto* – “to press down.”

**yeen-egbe** [yèégbé] *vb.* to exert the physiological pressure necessary to eject something from the body through any of the posterior openings, e.g. in childbirth; or during defecation.

**yenken** [yèkè] *vb.* same as *yankan*.

**yenken** [yèkè] *adj.* very big (e.g. a large-sized human head).

**yi<sup>1</sup>** [yí] *vb.* 1. to create: *A ma yi ere ese* – “He was not created right; 2. (with *uhi*) to make ( a law) to institute (a decree): *Arioba yi uhi yọ* – “The government has instituted a law about it.”

**yi<sup>2</sup>** [yí] *prep.* cf. *ye*.

**yi<sup>3</sup>** [yí] *adv.* expresses the adverbial meaning of before (in the temporal sense): *Ọ ma ka miọe yi* – “He had never seen it before.” (The clause usually has the aux *ka* (previously) as well).

**yi<sup>4</sup>** [yí] *vb.* (as in *yi-ero*): to take note of; to be aware of: *Ọ yi emwin*



ero gbe – “She is very observant of things.”

**yighe** [yìyḗ] *vb.* to be weak; to be frail: Ona yighe gbe – “This is too weak.”

**yiin** [yīī] *vb.* 1. to behave: Ei yiin ese – “He does not behave well”; 2. to inhabit; to dwell in: Idunmwun okpa ma kagha yiin ma ke kpao gha di ediran – “We inhabited the same street before we left to come this way”. yiin ke – “to live next to; to be neighbours with.”

**yilo** [yìló] *vb.* 1. (usually of flowing liquid) or drawing substance): to collect together and drain off; to mop up: O yilo uwonmwun hin okpan ire – “She drained off the soup from the plate.”; 2. (with kua) to drip off; to slide off.

**yin**<sup>1</sup> [yīí] *vb.* 1. to be blocked; Eho ore yiin – “His ears are blocked: He cannot hear (well).”; 2. to be dense; to be tightly packed (e.g. of weed).

**yin**<sup>2</sup> [yīí] *vb.* (as in yin-ehien) to pinch. (with the finger nails).

**yo**<sup>1</sup> [yó] *vb.* 1. to go; I yo owa ore node – “I went to his house yesterday.”; 2. to attend: O yo esosi ima – “He attends our church.” (In the

progressive aspect, rrie is used instead of yo): O rrie esosi – 1. He is going to the church.

**yo**<sup>2</sup> [yó] *vb.* 1. to be high (e.g. of a wall): Eken na yo – “This wall is high.”; 2. esteemed; high (e.g. of a position or post). Ukpo ere yo vbe ehe ne o na winna – “His post is high or senior in his place of work.”

**yọ** [yó] *vb.* to wear (a garment): O yọ ewu nomose – “She is wearing a lovely dress.”

**yọọ** [yòó] *vb.* 1. to arrange one after the other (usually in a file or row): O yọọ iran ye uviēn – “He arranged them in a line.”; 2. (of a crowd): to move uniformly; to troop: Iran yọọ dee – “They are trooping in this direction.”

**yunmwun** [yũmũ] *vb.* 1. to shine (of the sun): Oven ma yunmwun ere – “The sun did not shine today.”; 2. (of aro) to frown; to wear an unhappy or unpleasant countenance: O yunmwun aro rua ye uhunmwun – “He is wearing a frown.”

**yunnu** [yũnũ] *vb.* (< yan – unu) “to open mouth”; to surprise; to amaze: O yan mwun unu – “It amazed me.”

**yuo** [yùó] *vb.* same as wio.

## Z

**zaan** [zãã] *vb.* 1. to criticize; to find fault with; to condemn: Iran zaan ren ye emwin ne o ruu – “They criticized him for what he did.”

**zabo** [zàbó] *vb.* expresses the adv.

meaning of “quickly”: O zabo kpao – “He quickly left.”

**zaro** [záɾò] *vb.* to reprimand; to scold: O zaro mu enren vbe o vie – “He reprimanded her when she was



- crying.”
- zagadabu** [zàgàdàbù] *vb.*; *idiom.* to have fun; to play around.
- zagha** [zàǵá] *vb.* to scatter; to fall out of place in various directions; to be in disarray: Eho ho zagha ebe mwen hia kue otò – “The wind has scattered all my books to the floor.”
- zaghazagha** [zàǵàzàǵà] *adv.*; *adj.* describes things that are disorderly and unkempt.
- zaizai** [zàizài] *adv.* 1. quickly; briskly: O ruee zaizai – “He did it quickly.”
- zama** [zà má] *vb.* to show deference to; to show courteous regard to: O zama omwan gbe – “She always treats her elders with deference.”
- ze** [zé] *vb.* to be stiff or hard: Eken na zee ne – “This wall has hardened.”  
ze-vbe-udu – “to be hard-hearted”: “stubborn.”
- zedu** [zèdú] *vb.* (< ze<sup>4</sup> – edu) to interpret; to translate: O ma mié ene o gha zedu nen – “He did not find anyone to interpret for him.”
- zenunu** [zènúnù] *idiom.* (< ze<sup>4</sup> – ene – unu) “speak that of the mouth: to state one’s case (in a dispute): Iran we ne o zenunu enren – “They asked her to state her case.”
- ze**<sup>1</sup> [zé] *vb.* 1. to select; to choose: O ze ewu ne o ye ore – “She chose the dress that she liked.”; 2. to delegate (a person): Ozo ere iran zee gha khian – “Ozo was the person they delegated to go.”; 3. (of solid mass nouns) to take a portion of: O ze ize mu gie iran – “She took some rice to carry to them.” ze hin – “to remove some portion of”;
- ze baa – “to add a portion to”; ze kua – “to pour a portion away etc.”
- ze**<sup>2</sup> [zé] *vb.* to be responsible for (an action); to cause a situation: Iran ere o zee ighe ma mié ode la – “They were responsible for our being able to find a way to pass.”
- ze**<sup>3</sup> [zé] *vb.* to rank; to occupy a certain position relative to: Ren o ze lele mwen – “He is the one who ranks after me.”
- ze**<sup>4</sup> [zé] *vb.* to speak a language: O gua ze Ebo – “He can speak English.”
- ze**<sup>5</sup> [zé] *vb.* to spend (money); to pay a levy or fine: O ze ighe-emitin – “He contributed his society levy.”
- ze**<sup>6</sup> [zé] *vb.* to be arrogant; to behave overbearingly – O ze vbe omwan esi – “He is behaving overbearingly as though he were a better person.”
- ze**<sup>7</sup> [zé] *adv.* indicates that the action in the main verb has been going on for a length of time – O ghi ze totaa, o na kpaegbe – “After sitting for a while, he stood up.”
- ze-baa** [zèbàá] *idiom.* to tell lies against: O zebaa re – “It was a lie that he told against her.”
- ze-ta** [zètá] *idiom.* to fabricate; to make up something: O ze emwen nii ta – “He made that information up.”
- ze-yi** [zèyí] *idiom.* to mind; to pay attention to: O ma ze-yo mwen emwen – “He did not mind my words.”
- zebi** [zèbí] *vb.* to be guilty: Ozo o zebi vbe ezo na – “Ozo is the guilty party in this case.”



**zede** [zèdɛ́] *adv.* 1. expresses the adverbial meaning of “at all” when it occurs in a negative clause: *Ei zede ma* – “It is not good at all”; 2. in non-negative clauses, it may be translated as “at least”: *Ona zede ma; nokere i zede gi a ghe* – “This one is at least good; the other one can’t be tolerated at all.”

**zedia** [zédyá] *adv.* expresses the adverbial meaning, of “occasionally”; “sometimes”: *O zedia rhie igho rre* – “He occasionally brings money.”

**zee** [zɛ́ɛ́] *adv.* cf. *zere*.

**zegiegie** [zègyégyé] *adv.* expresses the adv. meaning of “quickly”; “hurriedly”: *O zegiegie bu erhae* – “He hastily went to his father.”

**zegbele** [zègbèlé] *idiom.* to commit suicide by hanging (also “*rhie uko rroo*” – “hang up the calabash”).

**zetin** [zètí] *vb.* (< *ze* – *etin*) to be rebellious; to be defiant; to contradict: *Ne o gha ya ru vbene a gie ere, o gha zetin obo ore* – “Instead of doing as he was commissioned, he is being defiant.”

**zidase** [zídásé] *idiom.* to play pranks; to behave naughtily.

**zien** [zyɛ́] *vb.* 1. to plant (something thin or pointed); to insert: *O zien erhan yoto* – “He stuck a piece of stick into the ground.”; 2. (with *aro*) to fix (eyes) on; to scrutinize: *O zien aro mu enren* – “He fixed his gaze on it.”; 3. to get stuck; (e.g. of a vehicle’s wheels in a muddy terrain): *Imoto ere zien ye uwu orho* – “His vehicle got stuck in the mud.”

**zienzien** [zyɛzyɛ́] *vb.* to squeeze into; to force into; to penetrate by force:

*O zienzien egbe la owa* – “He squeezed to get into the house.”

**ziga** [zìgá] *vb.* to struggle; to cope; to make an effort; *O feko ziga vbe iwinna ne iran mu neen* – “He is trying to cope gradually with the work they gave him.”

**zighi** [zìyí] *vb.* 1. to become confused; to be disorderly: *Ughugha ere his zighi ne ukpon* – “His entire room is disorderly with clothes.”; 2. to make disorderly; to disrupt: *O zighi iran iko rua* – “He disrupted their meeting.”

**zighó<sup>1</sup>** [zìyó] *vb.* (< *ze* – *igho*) to cut milk-teeth.

**zighó<sup>2</sup>** [zìyó] *vb.* (< *ze*<sup>5</sup> – *igho*) 1. to spend money; 2. to pay a fine.

**zighò** [zìyò] *vb.* (< *zoo* – *igho*) to grow horns.

**zihin** [zìhí] *vb.* (< *ze* – *ihiin*) to blow the nose.

**ziin** [zìí] *vb.* to endure; to bear: *O ziin oya nobun* – “He endured a lot of insults”; 2. *ziengbe* (< *ziin egbe*): “endure self”; to be patient; to persevere.

**zobo** [zòbó] *idiom.; vb.* 1. to cease from doing; to stop (doing) to give up on.: *O zobo vbe iwinna ne o ka gha ru* – “He has stopped doing his previous work.”; 2. to come to an end; to close: *Ma zobo ne vbe esuku* – “We have closed at school.”; 3. to leave; to release: *O ze iran obo* – “He released them.”

**zogie** [zògyé] *vb.* (< *ze-ogie*) “to cause laughter”; to be funny.: *Emwen onren zogie gbe* – “His words are very funny.”



**zokeke** [zòkékè] *idiom.* (< zẹ - okeke) to pretend; to make false pretences.

**zowe** [zówè] *vb.* (< zẹ - owe) to take a step; to move: Ghe zowe kpaọ vbe evba - "Don't step away from there."

**zozo** [zòzó] *vb.* to wander; to perambulate: O zozo gbe - "He wanders too much."

**zokan** [zèkǎ] *vb.* to shout angrily; to speak harshly: O zokan mu enren - "He shouted angrily at him."

**zolo** [zòlól] *vb.* the pl. or reit. sense of zọọ<sup>2</sup>: Iran zolo iyan foo vbe akhe - "They picked out all the yam pieces from the pot."

**zọọ<sup>1</sup>** [zòól] *vb.* 1. to germinate; to sprout: Oka ne ọ kọe zọọ ne - "The corn that she planted has sprouted."

**zọọ<sup>2</sup>** [zòól] *vb.* 1. to extract; to pick out: O zọọ igban hin ere owe rre - "He extracted a thorn from his foot."

**zọọ<sup>3</sup>** [zòól] *vb.* (with ese) 1. to per-

form a sacrifice (usually determined by the oracle as a means of atoning for some previous wrongdoing, or of ensuring the goodwill of some powerful forces, etc.).

**zọọ<sup>4</sup>** [zòól] *vb.* (of ọmọ) to perform the naming ceremony of a new-born infant (usually on the seventh day of birth).

**zuan** [zũǎ] *vb.* to indicate or express undisguised desire for somebody's food (e.g. by hovering around them with a yearning gaze at the food, etc.).

**zughu** [zùyú] *vb.* 1. to roll around on the ground in grief or distress.; 2. to struggle against efforts to restrain one (e.g. in a fight).

**zunu** [zùnũ] *vb.* (< zẹ - unu) "to choose mouth" to be choosy about food; to be fastidious about what one eats.

**zuro** [zùról] *vb.* to be stupid; to be foolish: O zuro gbe - "He is very foolish."

**zuwu** [zùwú] *vb.* to commit suicide.











## AN EDO-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

This is the first and only modern dictionary of Edo Language. It reflects Edo contemporary usage, with particular relevance to the complex sociolinguistic environment in which the Language is being used today. In this respect, it anticipates the special reference needs of the student of Edo, as well as those of the average Edo speaker, for whom the necessity to acquire bilingual competence in both Edo and English has become a pressing reality. This fact is clearly reflected in both the selection of entries for the dictionary, as well as the quality and range of information provided for each entry.

The dictionary also provides both phonological and grammatical information for each of the entries in anticipation of the specialized needs of the language researcher and others interested in linguistic information on Edo.

The author is not only a trained and practicing linguist, but also a native-speaker of Edo. The dictionary therefore has benefited from the unique combination of her scholarly expertise and intuitive knowledge of her language.



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