Annotated Swadesh wordlists for the Oko group (Benue-Congo family).

Languages included: Oko [oko-oko].

DATA SOURCES


NOTES

1. General.

The Oko (Oko) language, also known as Oko-Eni-Okoyen, is spoken by approximately 40,000 speakers in Nigeria’s Kogi State (around the towns of Ogori and Magongo). According to [Atoyebi 2009], there are only two dialects of the language (Oko/Ogori and Osanyen/Magongo), and the differences between them are mainly phonetic. In terms of classification, Oko is typically grouped together with Nupoid and Idomoid languages within Benue-Congo, without, however, forming part of either. For this reason, the language is formally treated as an isolate for now.

The most recent and accurate source on Oko is a reference grammar by J. D. Atoyebi [2009]; however, lexical data has to be elicited from grammatical illustrations and sample texts rather than glossaries, which inevitably results in numerous gaps. Because of this, the resulting wordlist has to be put together from two different sources, the other one being an older wordlist collected by H. Jungraithmayr. The two sources show occasional phonetic discrepancies, but only two principal discrepancies in basic lexicon
have been noticed ('bite' and 'tree'), so on the whole, the data remain compatible.

2. Transliteration.

Atoyebi’s data are transcribed in regular IPA, requiring only the usual cosmetic adaptations to UTS (\(t\text{ʃ}; d\text{ʒ} > \ddot{e}; \ddot{z}; j > y\)). Jungraihmayr’s transcription is slightly more obscure (no separate phonological table is adduced in the paper); for instance, he differentiates between \(r\) and \(\dot{r}\), without explaining whether they are phonetic variants or even what the precise phonetic value of the latter is. Since the two are not distinguished in Atoyebi’s transcription at all, we ignore this difference when transliterating Jungraihmayr.

Database compiled and annotated by: G. Starostin (last update: March 2018).
1. ALL
Oko fejjan (1).

References and notes:

2. ASHES
Oko ẹ=vwūrū (1).

References and notes:

3. BARK

References and notes:
Oko: Not attested.

4. BELLY
Oko ẹ=pūrū (1).

References and notes:

5. BIG
Oko gbōdī (1).

References and notes:
Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 205. Qualitative verbal stem. Alternate synonym: ọ-k'kāi 'great / big' [Atoyebi 2009: 203]. This latter word, however, is not encountered in any textual examples.

6. BIRD
Oko ọ=nēnē (1).
References and notes:


7. BITE
Oko tambûm (1).

References and notes:


8. BLACK
Oko à=rì=rì (1).

References and notes:


9. BLOOD
Oko ë=ù (1).

References and notes:


10. BONE
Oko ã=fù (1).

References and notes:


11. BREAST
Oko ë=gbà (1).

References and notes:

12. BURN TR.
Oko kënë (1).

References and notes:

13. CLAW(NAIL)
Oko i=gbôgbô (1).

References and notes:

14. CLOUD
Oko ṣ=sòsì # (1).

References and notes:

15. COLD
Oko ṣù (1).

References and notes:

16. COME
Oko çá ~ šá (1).

References and notes:

17. DIE
Oko fo (1).

References and notes:

18. DOG
Oko ú=vwó (1).

References and notes:

19. DRINK
Oko wá (1).

References and notes:

20. DRY
Oko yéyi (1).

References and notes:

21. EAR
Oko Ƣ=ʃ (1).

References and notes:

22. EARTH
Oko ʋ=ʋe (1).

References and notes:

23. EAT
Oko ʒɛ́ (1).

References and notes:

24. EGG
Oko ɛ=ʒí́ (1).

References and notes:

25. EYE
Oko ںɛ́ (1).

References and notes:

26. FAT N.
Oko ɛ=m (1).

References and notes:
Oko: Jungraithmayr 1973: 61. Meaning glossed as 'grease'. Not attested in [Atoyebi: 2009], where only the form ә=ңɛ́ 'oil' is recorded instead [Atoyebi 2009: 26].

27. FEATHER
Oko ݟɛ́ (1).

References and notes:

28. FIRE
Oko ɛ=rά́ (1).

References and notes:
29. FISH
Oko ã=ýérè (1).

References and notes:

30. FLY V.
Oko pírí (1).

References and notes:

31. FOOT
Oko ʒ=̂q̣è ~ ʒ=̂ṣ̌è (1).

References and notes:

32. FULL
Oko fé (1).

References and notes:

33. GIVE
Oko vá (1).

References and notes:

34. GOOD
Oko rímdúrò (1).
References and notes:


35. GREEN
Oko kākṣrā # (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Jungraithmayr 1973: 64. Not attested in [Atoyebi 2009]. Jungraithmayr also lists ō=jī ḍraw’ under the same entry (as a partial synonym).

36. HAIR
Oko ē=pḗ (1).

References and notes:


37. HAND
Oko ú=bā (1).

References and notes:


38. HEAD
Oko ē=pū́ (1).

References and notes:


39. HEAR
Oko wɔ́ (1).

References and notes:

40. HEART

References and notes:

Oko: Not attested.

41. HORN
Oko ḍ=kpànè (1).

References and notes:


42. I
Oko à=mè (1).

References and notes:


43. KILL
Oko nwá (1).

References and notes:


44. KNEE
Oko i=kwí # (1).

References and notes:


45. KNOW
Oko dì (1).
References and notes:


46. LEAF
Oko ě=mũmũ (1).

References and notes:


47. LIE
Oko bwē # (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 46. Meaning glossed as 'sleep'. However, in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 62, 63] this word is glossed as the equivalent to both 'sleep' and 'lie (down)'. Dubious, but it is perfectly possible that the two meanings are not lexically distinguished.

48. LIVER
Oko ě=yē (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 332; Jungraithmayr 1973: 62. Polysemy: 'liver / seat of emotions' (attested in an idiomatic expression that corresponds to English 'give one’s heart to smbd.’).

49. LONG
Oko l̃rē (1).

References and notes:


50. LOUSE
Oko ọ=tí # (1).

References and notes:

51. MAN
Oko ź=fôrô (1).

References and notes:
Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 103, 109. According to Atoyebi, the primary meaning is 'male'. Plural: i=fôrô. Quoted as i=fôrô in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 60] (this seems to actually be the plural form).

52. MANY
Oko ź=y=borah (1).

References and notes:

53. MEAT
Oko ź=nê (1).

References and notes:

54. MOON
Oko ź=ôšê ~ ź=ôšê (1).

References and notes:

55. MOUNTAIN
Oko ź=rê (1).

References and notes:

56. MOUTH
Oko ő=wó (1).

References and notes:

57. NAME
Oko ɨ=húrù (1).

References and notes:

58. NECK
Oko ɛ̃=gérɛ́ (1).

References and notes:

59. NEW
Oko ő=wô=wô (1).

References and notes:

60. NIGHT
Oko ū=zó (1).

References and notes:
Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 300. Somewhat dubious (only attested in locative functions, e.g. 'at night', etc.).

61. NOSE
Oko ǯ=mǯdʒrɛ̀ (1).

References and notes:
62. NOT
Oko =mè- ~ =mà- (1) / =è- ~ =à- (2).

References and notes:
Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 146. Negative prefix, usually positioned between the subject pronouns and the verbal root. Encountered with repetitive, habitual, habilitative, and obligative verbal forms; also with imperative forms, but with different tone (=mè- ~ =mà-).

Atoyebi 2009: 147. Negative prefix, usually positioned between the subject pronouns and the verbal root. Encountered with continuous and inceptive forms.

63. ONE
Oko =yèrè ~ =èrè (1).

References and notes:

64. PERSON
Oko ø=ro-kòrò (1).

References and notes:
Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 88. Plural: è=ro-kòrò. Tonally distinct from the pronominal form óroko 'anyone'. Quoted as ø=rokò in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 60]. The form is a compound; the first root is also attested on its own as sg. ø=rò, pl. ørò 'person' in [Atoyebi 2009: 109].

65. RAIN
Oko ø=sì (1).

References and notes:

66. RED
Oko ø=ňàñà (1).

References and notes:
Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 35. Quoted as ø=ňañà in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 64].
67. ROAD
Oko ì=rikpókpó (1).

References and notes:

68. ROOT
Oko è=ììè # (1).

References and notes:

69. ROUND
Oko kòorò # (1).

References and notes:

70. SAND
Oko ì=çìçì (1).

References and notes:
Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 241. Quoted as ï=šéš in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 63]. Additionally, the word ì=t ‘sand’ is attested in [Atoyebi 2009: 87]

71. SAY
Oko gá (1).

References and notes:
Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 86.

72. SEE
Oko gbá (1).

References and notes:


73. SEED
Oko i=birè (1).

References and notes:


74. SIT
Oko má (1).

References and notes:


75. SKIN
Oko i=wúkpé (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 395. Quoted as i=wúkpé in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 61], where it is also said to be distinct from é=kpó 'hide'.

76. SLEEP
Oko buwé (1).

References and notes:


77. SMALL
Oko dé=ké=ké (1).

References and notes:
78. SMOKE
Oko ̀ọː=ọ̀ọ̀ (1).

References and notes:

Okọ: Atoyebi 2009: 45. Quoted as ̀ọː=ọ̀ọ̀ in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 63].

79. STAND
Oko ̀ọ́mọ́ (1).

References and notes:

Okọ: Atoyebi 2009: 386. This verb is usually attested as a semi-grammaticalized static verb, but is alwyas glossed directly as 'stand'. In [Jungraithmayr 1973: 63], the equivalent for 'stand!' (imperative) is listed as ̀furá = fura 'to do away' [Atoyebi 2009: 133], also glossed as 'up' and sometimes 'stand (up)' in different contexts. Clearly, fura is a verb with occasional adverbial functions indicating (typically) movement upwards, i.e. 'stand up' rather than 'stand' proper.

80. STAR
Oko ̀ẹsẹ̀kpẹ̀ne # (1).

References and notes:


81. STONE
Oko ̀ẹsẹ̀tārɛ (1).

References and notes:


82. SUN
Oko ̀ẹ=ọ́ọ̀ (1).

References and notes:

83. SWIM
Oko bòrí (1).

References and notes:

84. TAIL
Oko ọ=či ~ ọ=šl (1).

References and notes:

85. THAT
Oko ọ=nɛ=bɛ (1).

References and notes:
Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 197. Plural: ọ=nɛ=bɛ. Formally constructed as an expanded form of 'this' q.v. plus an additional morpheme indicating distal deixis.

86. THIS
Oko ọ=nɛ (1).

References and notes:

87. THOU
Oko à=wɔ̄ (1).

References and notes:

88. TONGUE
Oko ɛ=làáré # (1).
References and notes:


89. TOOTH
Oko i=rú (1).

References and notes:


90. TREE
Oko ó=tí (1).

References and notes:


91. TWO
Oko ē=bɔrɛ (1).

References and notes:


92. WALK (GO)
Oko yó (1).

References and notes:


93. WARM (HOT)
Oko fi (1).

References and notes:

94. WATER
Oko é=bí (1).

References and notes:

95. WE
Oko à=tɔ (1).

References and notes:

96. WHAT
Oko è=ná (1).

References and notes:

97. WHITE
Oko ò=kù=kùrù (1).

References and notes:

98. WHO
Oko è=râ (1).

References and notes:

99. WOMAN
Oko ḕyā-rō (1).
References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 103. According to Atoyebi, the primary meaning is ‘female’; the word is derived from íyá ‘mother’ (also meaning ‘woman’ by itself in certain bound / idiomatic contexts). Quoted as íyá-rú in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 60].

100. YELLOW

References and notes:

Oko: Not attested. Atoyebi indicates that the word for ‘yellow’ is the same as the word for ‘red’; Jungraithmayr leaves a blank space in the wordlist.

101. FAR

Oko fò (1).

References and notes:


102. HEAVY

References and notes:

Oko: Not attested.

103. NEAR

References and notes:

Oko: Not attested.

104. SALT

Oko ò=bú (1).

References and notes:

105. SHORT
Oko kērē (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 205. Qualitative verbal stem. Same word as 'thin' q.v.

106. SNAKE
Oko ẹ=pén-ọ-dùdù (1).

References and notes:


107. THIN
Oko kērē (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 205. Qualitative verbal stem. Same word as 'short' q.v.

108. WIND
Oko ẹ=kpērī (1).

References and notes:


109. WORM

References and notes:

Oko: Not attested.

110. YEAR
Oko ẹ=mē (1).
References and notes: