

[Text version of database, created 10/05/2018].

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

Languages included: Oko [oko-oko].

DATA SOURCES

Atoyebi 2009 = Atoyebi, Joseph Dele. *A Reference Grammar of Oko*. PhD Thesis: Leipzig University. // *A detailed description of the phonology and grammar of Oko, well illustrated by lexical, syntactic, and textual examples, but without any accompanying glossaries.*

Jungraithmayr 1973 = Jungraithmayr, Hermann. 1973. *Eine Wortliste des Oko, der Sprache von Ogori (Nigeria)*. *Africana marburgensia* 6(2): 58-66. // *A 110-item Swadesh-type wordlist for Oko, collected by the author himself. First ever publication on this language.*

NOTES

1. General.

The Oko (Ọkọ) language, also known as Oko-Eni-Osayan, 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_f , $d_3 > \phi$, \mathfrak{z} ; $j > y$). Jungraithmayr's transcription is slightly more obscure (no separate phonological table is adduced in the paper); for instance, he differentiates between r and \mathfrak{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 Jungraithmayr.

Database compiled and annotated by: G. Starostin (last update: March 2018).

1. ALL

Oko *fɛɲan* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 198.

2. ASHES

Oko *ē=wùrú* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 43. Quoted as *é=wùrú* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 63].

3. BARK

References and notes:

Oko: Not attested.

4. BELLY

Oko *é=púrú* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 44. Quoted as *é=púrú* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 62].

5. BIG

Oko *gbōdī* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 205. Qualitative verbal stem. Alternate synonym: *ḡ=kèkā* 'great / big' [Atoyebi 2009: 203]. This latter word, however, is not encountered in any textual examples.

6. BIRD

Oko *ó=nénē* # (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Jungrathmayr 1973: 60. Not attested in [Atoyebi 2009].

7. BITE

Okò *tàmírúm* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 357. Differently in [Jungrathmayr 1973: 62]: *kurû*.

8. BLACK

Okò $\grave{o}=r\acute{i}=r\bar{i}$ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 35. Reduplicated stem. Quoted as $o=r\acute{i}=r\bar{i}$ in [Jungrathmayr 1973: 64].

9. BLOOD

Okò $\acute{e}=r\acute{i}$ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 46; Jungrathmayr 1973: 61.

10. BONE

Okò $\acute{o}=f\acute{u}$ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 99; Jungrathmayr 1973: 61.

11. BREAST

Okò $\acute{e}=gb\acute{a}$ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 53. Quoted as $\acute{e}=gb\acute{a}$ '(heart) chest' in [Jungrathmayr 1973: 62]. Distinct from $\acute{e}=b\acute{a}$ '(female) breast' [Atoyebi 2009: 39], quoted as $\acute{e}=b\acute{a}$ in [Jungrathmayr 1973: 62].

12. BURN TR.

Okó *kēnē* (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 158. Transitive. Quoted as *kēnē* in [Jungraihtmayr 1973: 63].

13. CLAW(NAIL)

Okó *í=gbògbò* (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 388. Quoted as *í=gbògbò* in [Jungraihtmayr 1973: 61].

14. CLOUD

Okó *ò=sòsì* # (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Jungraihtmayr 1973: 63. Not found in [Atoyebi 1973].

15. COLD

Okó *fú* (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 205. Qualitative verbal stem. Quoted as *fú* 'cold', *ó=fú-fú* 'cold (noun)' in [Jungraihtmayr 1973: 64].

16. COME

Okó *ǵá ~ šá* (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 41. Quoted as *kē=šá* in [Jungraihtmayr 1973: 62].

17. DIE

Okó *fó* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 37; Jungraithmayr 1973: 62.

18. DOG

Oko *ú=wó* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 52; Jungraithmayr 1973: 60.

19. DRINK

Oko *wá* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 37; Jungraithmayr 1973: 62.

20. DRY

Oko *yēyī* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 431. Quoted as *yéyí* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 64].

21. EAR

Oko *ǰ=tǰ* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 26, 54; Jungraithmayr 1973: 61. Has the shape *=tǰm* in connected speech.

22. EARTH

Oko *í=zè* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 310. Quoted as *ī=zè* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 63].

23. EAT

Okó ẓé (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 41; Jungraiithmayr 1973: 62.

24. EGG

Okó é=ẓí (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 41; Jungraiithmayr 1973: 61.

25. EYE

Okó á=ṛḗ (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 54. Quoted as á=ṛḗ in [Jungraiithmayr 1973: 61].

26. FAT N.

Okó ḗ=ṛḓ # (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Jungraiithmayr 1973: 61. Meaning glossed as 'grease'. Not attested in [Atoyebi: 2009], where only the form á=mḓ 'oil' is recorded instead [Atoyebi 2009: 26].

27. FEATHER

Okó ā=ḡḗḡḗ (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 35. Quoted as á=sḗsḗ in [Jungraiithmayr 1973: 61].

28. FIRE

Okó é=rá (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 42; Jungraithmayr 1973: 63.

29. FISH

Oko *á=yééré* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 94; Jungraithmayr 1973: 60.

30. FLY V.

Oko *pírí* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 133. Quoted as *pirí* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 62].

31. FOOT

Oko *ǰ=ǰé̃ ~ ǰ=šé̃* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 41, 110. Quoted as *=šé̃* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 61]. Polysemy: 'foot / leg'. Plural: *é=ǰé̃*.

32. FULL

Oko *fě* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 419. Quoted as *fě* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 64].

33. GIVE

Oko *vá* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 26; Jungraithmayr 1973: 63.

34. GOOD

Oko *rómúrō* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 205. Qualitative verbal stem. Quoted as *rómürò* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 64].

35. GREEN

Okò *kākār̄* # (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Jungraithmayr 1973: 64. Not attested in [Atoyebi 2009]. Jungraithmayr also lists *ó=ɔ́ɔ̀è* 'raw' under the same entry (as a partial synonym).

36. HAIR

Okò *é=pé̃* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 39; Jungraithmayr 1973: 61.

37. HAND

Okò *ú=bá* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 110. Plural: *é=bá*.

38. HEAD

Okò *é=pá̃* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 99. Quoted as *é=páj* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 61].

39. HEAR

Okò *wó* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 37. Quoted as *wɔ* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 62].

40. HEART

References and notes:

Okò: Not attested.

41. HORN

Okò è=kpànè (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 333; Jungraithmayr 1973: 61.

42. I

Okò à=mē (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 171. Independent pronoun. Cf. the bound pronouns: *ì-* / *è-* (subject set A), *mè-* / *mà-* (subject set B), *-mu* / *-mɔ* (object), *mV-* (possessive).

43. KILL

Okò nwá (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 54. Quoted as *ηwáηà* (imperative) in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 62].

44. KNEE

Okò í=kwí # (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Jungraithmayr 1973: 61. Not attested in [Atoyebi 2009].

45. KNOW

Okò dī (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 132. Quoted as *dí* in [Jungrathmayr 1973: 62].

46. LEAF

Okó *ē=mūmū* (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 38. Quoted as *é=mú mú* in [Jungrathmayr 1973: 60].

47. LIE

Okó *bwē* # (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 46. Meaning glossed as 'sleep'. However, in [Jungrathmayr 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

Okó *é=yé* (1).

References and notes:

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

49. LONG

Okó *l̄rē* (1).

References and notes:

Okó: Atoyebi 2009: 205. Qualitative verbal stem.

50. LOUSE

Okó *ó=tí* # (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Jungrathmayr 1973: 60. Not attested in [Atoyebi 2009].

51. MAN

Okò $\bar{o}=f\bar{o}r\bar{o}$ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 103, 109. According to Atoyebi, the primary meaning is 'male'. Plural: $\bar{i}=f\bar{o}r\bar{o}$. Quoted as $\bar{i}=f\bar{o}r\bar{o}$ in [Jungrathmayr 1973: 60] (this seems to actually be the plural form).

52. MANY

Okò $\bar{y}=y\bar{y}=y\bar{y}$ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 199. Reduplicated stem.

53. MEAT

Okò $\acute{s}=n\acute{e}$ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 26. Quoted as $\acute{s}=n\acute{e}$ in [Jungrathmayr 1973: 61].

54. MOON

Okò $\acute{s}=\acute{\epsilon}\acute{\epsilon} \sim \acute{s}=\acute{\epsilon}\acute{\epsilon}$ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 41. Polysemy: 'moon / month'; also completely homonymous with 'foot' q.v. Quoted as $=\acute{\epsilon}\acute{\epsilon}$ in [Jungrathmayr 1973: 63].

55. MOUNTAIN

Okò $\acute{s}=r\acute{e}$ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 91; Jungrathmayr 1973: 63.

56. MOUTH

Oko $\acute{o}=w\acute{o}$ (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 112; Jungraithmayr 1973: 61.

57. NAME

Oko $\acute{i}=h\acute{u}r\grave{u}$ (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 41. Quoted as $\acute{i}=w\acute{u}r\grave{u}$ in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 64].

58. NECK

Oko $\acute{e}=g\acute{e}r\acute{e}$ (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 45; Jungraithmayr 1973: 62.

59. NEW

Oko $\bar{o}=w\bar{o}=w\bar{o}$ (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 143. Reduplicated stem. Quoted as $\acute{o}=w\acute{o}=w\acute{o}$ in [Atoyebi 2009: 64].

60. NIGHT

Oko $\acute{u}=\grave{z}\acute{o}$ (1).

References and notes:

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

61. NOSE

Oko $\acute{j}=m\acute{o}d\acute{r}\grave{e}$ (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 255. Quoted as $=m\acute{d}\acute{r}\grave{e}$ in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 61].

62. NOT

Okò =mè- ~ =mà- (1) / =è- ~ =à- (2).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 146. Negative prefix, usually positioned between the subject pronouns and the verbal root. Encountered with repetitive, habitual, habitative, and obligative verbal forms; also with imperative forms, but with different tone (=mè- ~ =má-). Atoyebi 2009: 147. Negative prefix, usually positioned between the subject pronouns and the verbal root. Encountered with continuative and inceptive forms.

63. ONE

Okò ò=yérē ~ ò=órē (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 198. Quoted as ò=rē in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 65].

64. PERSON

Okò ò=rò-kòrò (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 88. Plural: ò=rò-kòrò. Tonally distinct from the pronominal form órókòrò 'anyone'. Quoted as ò=ròkòrò in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 60]. The form is a compound; the first root is also attested on its own as sg. ó=ró, pl. é=ró 'person' in [Atoyebi 2009: 109].

65. RAIN

Okò ò=sì (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 125; Jungraithmayr 1973: 63.

66. RED

Okò ò=ńǎńǎ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 35. Quoted as ó=ńǎńǎ in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 64].

67. ROAD

Okò ɔ̄=ríkṑṑkṑṑ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 211. Quoted as =rìkṑṑkṑṑ in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 63]. Meaning glossed either as 'road' or 'path', depending on the context.

68. ROOT

Okò ɛ́=ṑɛ́ # (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Jungraithmayr 1973: 60. Alternate synonym: *úkúrúkpé* id. Not attested in [Atoyebi 2009].

69. ROUND

Okò kṑṑrṑ # (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Jungraithmayr 1973: 64. Not attested in [Atoyebi 2009].

70. SAND

Okò ā=ṑṑṑ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 241. Quoted as á=ṑṑṑ in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 63]. Additionally, the word *a=t* 'sand' is attested in [Atoyebi 2009: 87]

71. SAY

Okò gá (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 86.

72. SEE

Oko *gbá* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 262. Incorrectly glossed as *balé* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 62]; this verb really means 'to look, watch, examine', glossed as *bálé* in [Atoyebi 2009: 133].

73. SEED

Oko *í=bírè* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Jungraithmayr 1973: 60. Not attested in [Atoyebi 2009].

74. SIT

Oko *má* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 132. Polysemy: 'to sit / to live'. Quoted as *má* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 63].

75. SKIN

Oko *í=wùkpè* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 395. Quoted as *í=wùkpè* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 61], where it is also said to be distinct from *è=kpò* 'hide'.

76. SLEEP

Oko *bwè* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 46. Quoted as *bue* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 62].

77. SMALL

Oko *ò=ké=ké* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 203. Reduplicated adjectival stem.

78. SMOKE

Okò à:rǎ́ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 45. Quoted as $\hat{a}\hat{a}=r\hat{a}$ in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 63].

79. STAND

Okò ẓóm̄ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 386. This verb is usually attested as a semi-grammaticalized static verb, but is always 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

Okò ε=šékpéné # (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Jungraithmayr 1973: 63. Not attested in [Atoyebi 2009], therefore quite dubious.

81. STONE

Okò ǎ=tārē (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 96. Quoted as $\hat{s}\hat{t}\hat{a}\hat{r}\hat{e}$ in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 63].

82. SUN

Okò é=yí (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 278; Jungraithmayr 1973: 63.

83. SWIM

Oko *bòrí* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 260. Quoted as *bori* in [Jungrauthmayr 1973: 62].

84. TAIL

Oko $o=\check{\phi}\check{i} \sim o=\check{s}\check{i}$ (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 41. Quoted as $o=\check{s}\check{i}$ in [Jungrauthmayr 1973: 61].

85. THAT

Oko $\grave{\delta}=n\acute{e}=b\acute{e}$ (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 197. Plural: $\acute{e}=n\acute{a}=b\acute{e}$. Formally constructed as an expanded form of 'this' q.v. plus an additional morpheme indicating distal deixis.

86. THIS

Oko $\grave{\delta}=n\bar{e}$ (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 196. Plural: $\acute{e}n\acute{a}=n\acute{e}$.

87. THOU

Oko $\grave{a}=w\bar{o}$ (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 171. Independent pronoun. Cf. the bound pronouns: \grave{u} - / $\grave{\delta}$ - (subject set A), $w\grave{e}$ - / $w\grave{a}$ - (subject set B), $-wu$ / $-w\bar{o}$ (object), wV - (possessive).

88. TONGUE

Oko $\acute{e}=\grave{l}\acute{a}\acute{r}\acute{e}$ # (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Jungraithmayr 1973: 61. Not attested in [Atoyebi 2009].

89. TOOTH

Okò *í=rú* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 46. Quoted as *í=rú* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 61].

90. TREE

Okò *ó=tí* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 39. Polysemy: 'tree / stick'. Differently in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 60]: *ē=sámā* 'tree' (not attested in [Atoyebi 2009]).

91. TWO

Okò *ē=bàrè* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 198. Quoted as *ē=bàrè* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 65].

92. WALK (GO)

Okò *yó* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 132. Distinct from *zézè* 'to walk' [Atoyebi 2009: 134].

93. WARM (HOT)

Okò *fí* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 205. Qualitative verbal stem. Cf. *ē=fí* 'hot', *ó=fí-fí* 'heat' in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 64].

94. WATER

Okò é=bí (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 44; Jungraithmayr 1973: 63.

95. WE

Okò à=t̄̄ (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 171. Independent pronoun. Cf. the bound pronouns: *t̄-* / *t̄-* (subject set A), *t̄-* / *t̄-* (subject set B), *-tu* / *-t̄* (object), *t̄V-* (possessive).

96. WHAT

Okò è=ná (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 187.

97. WHITE

Okò ò=kù=kùrù (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 203. Reduplicated stem. Quoted as *ò=kù=kùrù* in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 64].

98. WHO

Okò è=rá (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 187.

99. WOMAN

Okò ìyā-rō (1).

References and notes:

Okò: 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 [Jungrathmayr 1973: 60].

100. YELLOW

References and notes:

Okò: Not attested. Atoyebi indicates that the word for 'yellow' is the same as the word for 'red'; Jungrathmayr leaves a blank space in the wordlist.

101. FAR

Okò *fò* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 46. Verbal stem: 'be far'.

102. HEAVY

References and notes:

Okò: Not attested.

103. NEAR

References and notes:

Okò: Not attested.

104. SALT

Okò *ò=bú* (1).

References and notes:

Okò: Atoyebi 2009: 39.

105. SHORT

Oko *kēre* (1).

References and notes:

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

106. SNAKE

Oko *é=pen-ó-dùdù* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 101. Periphrastic expression, literally 'thing-evil'.

107. THIN

Oko *kēre* (1).

References and notes:

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

108. WIND

Oko *è=kpèrì* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 402.

109. WORM

References and notes:

Oko: Not attested.

110. YEAR

Oko *é=nié* (1).

References and notes:

Oko: Atoyebi 2009: 125. Quoted as $\acute{e}=\mu\acute{e}$ in [Jungraithmayr 1973: 64].