

**Problem 4 (20 points).** Agbirigba is a cant, or secret language, used by around 30 speakers of the Ogbakiri dialect of the Ikwerre language. Here are some words in the Ogbakiri dialect, along with their Agbirigba forms and translations:

Ogbakiri	Agbirigba		Ogbakiri	Agbirigba	
ńdǎ	ńtǒdǎ	<i>father</i>	rímě	tírítúmě	<i>inside</i>
bísí	túbítísí	<i>poison</i>	mǒnǎ	tǒmǎtǒnǎ	<i>oil</i>
ǎyǎ	ǎtǐyǎ	<i>amicable gesture</i>	íbèrè	ítùbètìrè	<i>belch</i>
ńbórǎ	ńtóbótǒrǎ	<i>dream</i>	áyâ	átíyâ	<i>eye</i>
ǎǧǧí	ǎtǐǧǧí	<i>leg</i>	ǎnǎ	ǎtǒnǎ	<i>mouth</i>
ǎtú	ǎtútú	<i>to look for</i>	mǎyǎ	tǒmǎtǐyǎ	<i>urine</i>
mǐnǐ	tǐmǐtǐnǐ	<i>water</i>	ǧǧǎdǎ	ńtǒǧǧǎtǒdǎ	<i>chair</i>
wèrǔ	tǔwètǔrǔ	<i>to have</i>	ǎmǐrǐmǎ	ǎtǒmǐtǐrǐtǒmǎ	<i>meat, flesh</i>
èbǎ	ètóbǎ	<i>two</i>	ǎǧǐrǐǧǎ	ǎtǐǧǐtǐrǐtǒǧǎ	<i>defiance</i>
ǎwâ	ǎtǒwâ	<i>to break</i>	wěné	túwétíné	<i>siblinghood</i>

- (a) One of the Agbirigba words above is an exception. Its form is not determined by the same rules which determine the rest of the Agbirigba words. Which is it? What would its form be if it were determined by the same rules?
- (b) Give the Agbirigba forms of the following Ogbakiri words:

1. rǒtǎ *chewing-stick*
2. rǎwǎ *deity*
3. bǐkǎ *please*
4. ǧyě rǐyǎ *female*
5. békʷǎ *fire*
6. rǐyǎrǎ *charcoal*
7. hʷǎǧǎ *go out!*

⚠ Ikwerre belongs to the Igboïd group of the Atlantic-Congo family. It is spoken by approx. 200,000 people in Rivers State, Nigeria.

The words are given in a simplified transcription. The mark ~ indicates the nasal pronunciation of the vowel. The marks ˊ, ˋ and ˆ indicate high, low, and falling tone, respectively. ɲ = *ng* in *hang*; ɲ ≈ *ny* in *canyon*; y = *y* in *yay!*; ʧ = *ch* in *church*. kʷ and hʷ are pronounced as k and h respectively, but with the lips rounded. ɛ, ɪ, ɔ and ʊ are pronounced as e, i, o and u respectively, but with the root of the tongue further back in the mouth.

—Liam McKnight (consultant: Maureen Abel)