

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	
ńdá	ńtódá	<i>father</i>	rímẽ	tíritúmẽ	<i>inside</i>
bísí	túbítísí	<i>poison</i>	mőn̩	tőmőtőn̩	<i>oil</i>
đyđ	đtiyđ	<i>amicable gesture</i>	íbèrè	ítùbètìrè	<i>belch</i>
m̩bóřô	ńtóbóřóřò	<i>dream</i>	áyâ	átíyâ	<i>eye</i>
đt̩ř	đtíř	<i>leg</i>	ón̩	ótn̩	<i>mouth</i>
đtú	đtútú	<i>to look for</i>	m̩yđ	tőmőtřyđ	<i>urine</i>
m̩ní	tímitíni	<i>water</i>	ňgàdâ	ňtògàtđdâ	<i>chair</i>
wěrû	tùwětùrû	<i>to have</i>	óm̩rímâ	ótn̩mítírtírtòmâ	<i>meat, flesh</i>
ëbó	ëtóbó	<i>two</i>	àgìrìgò	àtìgìtìrìtògò	<i>defiance</i>
àwâ	àtòwà	<i>to break</i>	wéñé	túwéñé	<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. rótô *chewing-stick*
2. rëwđ *deity*
3. bíkó *please*
4. jnyé rìyâ *female*
5. békʷđ *fire*
6. ríyòřô *charcoal*
7. hʷògâ *go out!*

⚠ Ikwerre belongs to the Igboid 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 ' , ` and ^ indicate high, low, and falling tone, respectively. ñ = ng in *hang*; n ≈ ny in *canyon*; y = y in *yay!*; tʃ = ch in *church*. kʷ and hʷ are pronounced as k and h respectively, but with the lips rounded. ε, i, o and u respectively, but with the root of the tongue further back in the mouth.

—Liam McKnight (consultant: Maureen Abel)