

(a)

ሃሳብ፣ዓሳብ	bàlákàwúli	unexpectedness; sandgrouse (a kind of bird)
ሳታህሌ	játùrú	hyena
ሃሃዓዓ	kòlijí	washing water
ሳፂ	wàlá	slate
ተሃባሌ	kúmayira	advertising
ሃተገሌፍ፣ፎፍ	tùbabumóri	Christian priest
ጋተኝዓሳብ	?	uncircumcised boy
ሳህሌ	?	match-seller
?	kòrikóri	rust
?	báwò	because

(b)

ἸἶσιῖἈ	márajàba	hail!
ἰἰἰἰἰἰἰ	jílasama	hippopotamus
Υἰἰἰἰἰἰἰ	kòrɔkarasí	gerontocracy
ἰἰἰ	kàna	may it be that
ἈἈἈἸἰἸἸ	bàsitéme	wide-meshed sieve
ἡἡἡἡἡἡἡἡ	nàmátòrokó	hyena
ῬῬῬῬῬ	?	rainbow
ἈἸἈἸ	?	light (of a lamp)
ἡἡἡἡἡἡ	?	a kind of midges; honey from such midges
?	jàmanaké	the joys, pleasures of youth
?	létεε	letter, missive
?	bìlakóro	uncircumcised boy

⚠ The N’Ko script was invented in 1949 by the Guinean enlightener Souleymane Kanté.

The Bamana and Maninka languages belong to the Manding group of the Mande language family. They are spoken in Mali, Guinea and other countries in West Africa. These languages are very close to one another; the distinction between them is of no consequence to the problem.

—*Ivan Derzhanski*