

Internal subgrouping of Dogon languages
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tentative genetic subgrouping of Dogon languages
 (numerical codes concocted for this paper only--not official "Guthrie numbers")
parentheses indicate limited grammatical data, not used in this talk

E[astern] division, from north to south

- E1 Toro Tegu
- E2
 - E2a Ben Tey (Beni village)
 - E2b Nanga
 - E2c Bankan Tey* (Walo village)
- E3
 - E3a Jamsay (mainstream dialects)
 - E3b Jamsay (isolated montane dialects)*
 - E3c Gourou*
- E4
 - E4a Tommo So
 - E4b Donno So
- E5 "Toro So"
 - E5a Yorno So
 - E5b Ibi So*
 - E5c Sangha So*
(and several others)
- E6 "southeastern"
 - E6a Togo Kan
 - E6b Tengou Kan*
(and three others)
- E7 Tomo Kan

W[estern] division including NW and SW, the latter likely a sister subgroup of NW1ff.

- NW1 Yanda Dom
- NW2 Tebul Ure
- NW3
 - NW3a Najamba
 - NW3b Kindigué*
 - NW3c Bondu (Borko area)*
- NW4 Tiranige
- NW5 Dogul Dom
- SW1 Bunoge
- SW2 Penange
- SW3 Mombo (aka "Kolu")
- SW4 *Ampari*

Proto-Dogon reconstructions are ideally based on both E and W attestations

$E\infty$ ($W\infty$) = all or majority of E (W) languages

1. verb-stem final-vowel mutations (bisyllabic examples)

core function:

bare stem:	CɔCɔ	CoCo	CɛCɛ	CeCe	nonfinal in verb chains (E2a-b,3a)
I/U-stem	CɔCi/u	CoCi/u	CɛCi/y	CeCi/u	nominalization “chaining form” (E1,4b,5a)
E-stem:	CɔCɛ̃	CoCɛ̃	CɛCɛ̃	CeCẽ	Sg/3Sg perfective positive (E2b,6a, NW1) perfective positive except 3Pl ($W\infty$, E4a,7) absent (E2a,3a,5a) overall unmarked stem (E4b)
A/O-stem:	CɔC <u>a</u>	CoCo	CɛC <u>a</u>	CeC <u>o</u>	imperative (E2a,2b,7, $W\infty$) Pl/3Pl perfective positive (E2b,6a, NW2,3a) overall unmarked stem

2. split between FHV (final-high-vowel) and F-nonHV (final-nonhigh-vowel) verb classes

usually with **heavy stems FHV** (3+ vocalic moras), most **light stems FnonHV**

e.g. FHN CɔCuC-i versus FnonHV CɔCɔ (E4a-b,5a,6a, NW2,4, SW1-2)

3. **perfective negative *-li** (verbal suffix), cf. also stative negative *-la(:) ~ *-lo(:)

Vb-lí ~ Vb-rí	with L-toned stem ($E\infty$)
	with HL-toned stem (E7)
Vb-li	usually L- or lexically-toned stem ($W\infty$)

4. nominal classes

Hum/Anim Sg	Hum/Anim Pl	nonHum/Inan
*-nV ($E\infty$)	*-m ($E\infty$)	-w (E2a, adjectives/participles)
Ø ($W\infty$)	*-mbo (NW1,2,3a)	*-(ŋ)go ($W\infty$), *-(C)o (NW3)
	*-ge (NW4, $SW\infty$)	*-(ŋ)ge ($W\infty$), *-(C)e (NW2,3)

(for $E\infty$ *-nV compare *nu- ($E\infty$), *no- ($W\infty$) ‘person’, $E\infty$ singular *nu-nV)

4bis. NW3 Swahili-like agreement classes (on multiple words in NPs)

	E/O (“animate”)		O/E (inanimate)		E/E (inanimate)	
	Sg	Pl	Sg	Pl	Sg	Pl
nouns/adjective, participles						
mutating	-e:	-o:	-o:	-e:	-e:	-e:
suffixing	Ø	-mbo	-(ŋ)go	Ø	-(ŋ)ge	Ø

(-e: and -o: here represent various front and back vowels, respectively)

3 possibilities for inanimate nouns:

O/E (default inanimate class)

E/E some topographic features including *kéŋgé* ‘place’
holes
constructions: ‘house’, ‘granary’
‘body’, ‘soul’, ‘name’, some parts (‘head’, ‘nose’, ‘chest’, ‘back’)
liquids including *ínge* ‘water’

E/O (pseudo-animate, in addition to humans and animals)

implements with blades, points, or hooks; firearms
some garments (trousers, shoes)
vehicles
ritually powerful objects
musical instruments
stones
fans
apiaries

NW3 determiners E2b

NW3 classes	E/O (“animate”)		O/E (inanimate)		E/E (inanimate)	
	Sg	Pl	Sg	Pl	Sg	Pl
NW3 definite markers	(mó)	(bé)	kó	yé	ké	yé
NW3 possessive classifiers	yè	bò	gò	yè	gò	yè

compare E2b (across E/W split) possessive classifiers: InanSg gô, InanPl and An (Sgl) yê

nouns	‘thing’ (inanimate)		‘critter’ (animal)	
	Sg	Pl	Sg	Pl
NW3	kóŋgò	yèpà:bé	kóŋgò	bómbò
E2b	kó(ŋ)	yé	(yè-búmbà ‘snake’)	

Proto-Dogon *kO ‘thing’, suppletive plural *yE, homophonous to *yE ‘critter’

5. example of a pronominal system

	1Sg	1Pl	2Sg	2Pl	3Sg	3Pl	Inan	Logo	function	tone
E3a	Vb-m	Vb-y	Vb-w	Vb-bè	Vb-Ø	Vb-bà	Vb-Ø	Vb-Ø	subject (main)	—
	mí	émé	ú	é	wó	bé	kó	èné	independent	H
	<u>má</u> N	émé N	<u>á</u> N	é N	wó N	bé N	kó N	èné mà N	poss alienable	H
	mì Vb	èmè Vb	ù Vb	è Vb	wò Vb	bè Vb	kò Vb	èné Vb	subject (rel cl)	L
	mì N	èmè N	ù N	è N	wò N	bè N	kò N	èné mà N	poss inalienable	L

6. unfocalized pronominal subjects (major patterns), note that 3Sg may = zero

a) E_∞

...	Vb-Pron	main clause
... Pron=	Vb(-Ppl)	relative clause

[E3a also 3Sg and 3Pl enclitics in imperfective positive]

b) E1

Pron	...	Vb	main clause (1st/2nd person)
	...	Vb =Pron	main clause (3Sg and 3Pl)
...	Pron=	Vb(-Ppl)	relative clause

c) E6a,7

Pron	...	Vb-Pl	main clause (Pl or 3Pl)
Pron	...	Vb	main clause (other, including all Sg)
...	Pron=	Vb(-Ppl)	relative clause

[E6a,7 also 3Sg and 3Pl enclitics in imperfective positive]

d) SW_∞

...	Pron=	Vb	main clause (1st/2nd)
...		Vb-Pron	main clause (3Pl)
...	Pron=	Vb(-Ppl)	relative clause

e) NW4

...		Vb-Pron	main clause (1Sg, 2Sg, 3Pl)
...	Pron=	Vb	main clause (1Pl, 2Pl)
...	Pron=	Vb(-Ppl)	relative clause (all categories)

possible diachronic sequence

- reconstructed system roughly like (d):
 - optional topical/focal clause-initial independent pronouns (main clauses)
 - include 1Sg *mí, 2Sg *ú, 2Pl *é
 - 3Pl suffix *-ya
 - 3Sg zero (no overt marker)
 - 1st/2nd person subject proclitics (reduced forms of independent pronouns)
- suffix/enclitic inventory in main clauses expands based on model of 3Pl
 - imperfective positive 3Sg = wo likely reinterpreted < aux *bu/bo 'be' (a,b,c)
 - 1st/2nd person suffixes reduced from independent pronouns (a,e)
- sonorant-coda suffixes (*-N, *-w, *-y) are eroded, leaving residual Pl suffixes
 - forces repair in the form of increased use of clause-initial independent pronouns (c)