

Western Oti-Volta Lexinote No.2

Coming and Going

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0. In English idiom, complete confusion is in the state of one who ‘doesn’t know whether he is coming or going’. We might well imagine that a similar fate might overtake one who held the Rattray (1932) theory that the languages of Northern Ghana, or at least ‘Mole-Dagbane’, are interchangeable dialects of a single language.

1. A quick glance at survey-type samples of vocabulary from the major or more-accessible languages of the group might suggest to the person envisaged above the simple generalization that all the languages have a verb which one might summarize as *KE(N), where the first consonant ranges from [k] via [ky] and [tʃ] to [tʰ], and the vowel from [ə] through [ɛ] to [ɪ], and which means “go, walk” and, with the addition of a final **na**, “come”. Thus we have **ka** in DB¹ (**kana** “came”) **ken** in KLA, **kyenni** MP (“walking”, **kyena** “came”), **cen** in NR/BR(J), **tin** in KLT, and **ta** in HG.

The above is fine until you ask, e.g. in MP, for :-

“where are you going?” – “I am going to market.”

and get :-

Ya ni ka i wa? – **N wa la daa.**
where to that you going – *I going [assert.] market*

(alongside **Kyema!** – “Go!” and **Kyem na!** – “Come!”) – It transpires that in a number of these languages “going” in the present (‘continuous’ or ‘progressive’) must be realized by a different root from that used in the past, future, imperative and infinitive (in some other O/V languages, for instance Kokomba and Nawdm, the same occurs with “come”, thus giving four distinct roots “go”, “be going”, “come”, “be coming”). The basic verb means both “go” and “walk” but in the present continuous it is unambiguously “walking” – cf. MP **U kyenni ni**. “He is walking.” (usually heard in reference to a child’s stage of development – i.e. habitual imperfective rather than progressive), while perfective **U kyanniya**. can mean “He went.” or “He walked.” (to emphasise the latter, add “(his) feet.” – Naden, Tony Lexinote #12 forthc.).

Then after some years in Mampruli I heard **N ti la ---**. for “I went to ---.” and **I ti la ya ni?** “Where did you go/are you going?”, showing that in at least one language the *TI root is used alongside the *KEN, proving them to be distinct. Several languages also have **ti** and/or **ta** as a

particle or auxiliary indicating purpose (/intention/achievement) and/or change of scene between verbs in a series (see Wilson 1972 II, Ch. 50).

Further research in the group throws up at least three other roots *TA, *GA and *WE ; this last one would expect to be the origin of both the MP **wa** above and the FR **ye'** by the semivowel-harmonizing tendency noted in Naden, Tony 1983 Lexinote #3, (“sun” *WEN → **wun, yen**), but FR has both **ye'** “going” and **wa'(an(na))** for “come” so for the moment we will keep **wV** and **yV** separate. These various roots mix 'n' match in a complex way in the various languages; the vocabulary in Table 1 (pp. 3 ff. below) attempts to set this out in two dimensions.

2. There are also a number of verbs of motion with more specific content – “go in”, &c. – which I usually gloss with a single word (“enter”, “exit”) where possible to avoid congestion in the “go” section of the dictionary. We may define these verbs of motion as those which take the complement of destination (or, for “exit”, of origin – &c.) without an intervening “go” verb, in contrast with verbs of manner of locomotion such as “run” – you can say “entered (into) the room” but not “*ran to the room” which would have to be “ran, went to the room”: this distinction is clearly set out in Wilson, *op.cit.*, ch. 21.

The “hither” particle of the “come” verb (not in HG or the North-western group) can also be used with these words to contrast “come in” with “go in” (within “enter”), and so on. This is obligatory if the motion is towards the speaker, so that if you are speaking of someone falling from a tree, for instance, you have to say “He fell hither.” – i.e. coming to the ground where the speaker is located. In fact the verb need not be one of motion: – one can speak of “buying something hither” meaning to go somewhere and buy it and bring it here. A common way of saying “Bring it!” or “Hand it over!” is (as is just possible in English) ‘Have it here!’ – in MP **Mari ka na!**, FR **Tare ka na!**.

As in many languages the axis by which the ‘hither’ is determined is the speaker’s present location, or his location at the time (past or future) of the motion concerned, or his normal or expected location; the scope of ‘location’ depends on the distance of travel – someone from outside the village “comes” to Gbeduuri (any part thereof), while someone from the village only “comes” to my house (or where I am, or was, or will be...). If anything, the use of **na** is even broader than Eng. “come”; in a narrative it is often used if the next event takes place where the motion arrived at. These topics may be followed up in : Fillmore, 1966 ; Kuiper/Merrifield, 1975; Pickett, 1976; Speck/Pickett, 1977; Casad/Groth, 1977; Foris, 1978; Hoopert/Warkentin, 1977.

A further dimension is added by the possibility of making a causative derivative : “go in” → “put in” : in MP, at least, this is almost certainly a productive process, suffix **-si** . The same is found sporadically (possibly universally, the sporadic nature belonging to our sources of data) in most of these languages – forms marked ‘*’ in the lists below.

NOTE :- In these languages there is a variation **s/h** with various conditions. In DB **h** is obligatory following a short vowel, in MP before a consonant; in FR and its neighbours ***s** before a front vowel is **h**. In most of the languages any non-initial **g** can come out as **h** in fast or informal speech. It should also be noted that **h** often nasalizes adjacent vowels – the effect is particularly clear in DB and FR

<p><i>KEN</i></p>	<p>DB chaŋ/chema/chendi MP kyaŋŋi/kyema!/ KR(N) cema! HG chaŋŋi/ chaŋina¹ KLA keŋ²/kenne KLT(N) kiŋ,cin NB keŋ/kem!/keenya TL keŋ,kyaŋi/ kyema!/kyenya FR kiŋ(e)/kene/kena!/kene NK(N) seŋa/seni MR(J,P) kyεŋe MR(H,N) kende MR(O) ke^ng/ke^nda DR(J) ciŋ ; DG kye LB(R) ceŋ/ceri NR(J) cen; BR(J) cen SF(J) cini BLcheŋ, chaŋ (K); (ga)/kyeena/cheŋ</p>	<p>DB ka/kani/kama!/kandi,...na MP kye/kyem/kyenni,...na HG chena ("be coming") KLA keŋ...na KL(R) kyem NB^B ki...na,(R) kyim TL(J) kyεŋ...na TL(R) kyim TL(A) kam...na TL(N^B) kyem...na FR^C kena...na BL(P)ja/jam!/jaya (see *TA above) BL(Gray) chee...na KM keŋ...ge, keenini/kenye</p>	<p>DB as "go" MP as "go" HG chaŋŋi/ chaŋina KL as "go" NB(N) keŋ NB(R) kim FR as "go" MR as "go" NT cangi/cangto DR ceŋ/cεŋε/ceŋε LB cene WL cheŋ/chene BR cin; SF ciŋ BL ceŋ,cə ŋ KM chuŋ/chuma/ cumma!</p>		<p><i>*KEN</i></p>
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¹ HG **chaŋŋi** is not given as anything but "walk" in wordlists, but in context may mean "come" or "go" with no specific "...on foot" connotations (including "the 'coming' year!").

² KLA **keŋ** has the full-form (in certain junctural contexts) **keŋŋi / kenn** (= [kɛ̃n]), **kenne / kemi!** / [v.n.] **keŋ [kɛ̃]**

FORM	“GO”	“COME”	“WALK”	“BE GOING”	(PURPOSE)	FORM
<i>*TI</i>	MP/SF ti	KLT tin...na		MP ti	DB/HG/KR/MP ti	<i>*TI</i>
<i>*TA</i> [cf. “REACH”, “SEND”(iii)]	BL ta (?tua?)	HG ta/tani NB ^A /KR/TL(N ^A) ta...na ?? BL jam ??		? BL tuagi ?	FR/MP/WL ta	<i>*TA</i>
<i>*WE</i>	HG ^A /KR(N) we KR(Hunt) waya	FR ^A wa'an...na, wa'ana/wa'ane...na MR wa/wat/waoongo DR/BR/LB/NR/SF wa WL wa/waana ; NT waare		HG/KR(N) wara MP wa/wara KLA wa'e/wa'ana KLT we'e		<i>*WE</i>
<i>*YE</i>		FR ^B ye'a...na/ye...na		FR ye'/ye'a NB ye'e TL yeaa/yaa		<i>*YE</i>
<i>*GA</i> [cf. “PASS”]	HG ^B gaa/gaari KR(P) gaate! KR(P,N) gaariya DR(K) ga/gere DR(E.Hall) gaa WL gaa/gara BL ga/gai/ gari/gara; KM ga/gara/gama! /gana			DR gere KR(P) gaate WL gara(la)		<i>*GA</i>

Vocabulary : # 1

“ASCEND”^{1 2}: DB **du, duhi *** ; HG **du /duura** ; MP **du /duuri, duusi *** ; KLA **du /dut** ;
 KLT **doo** ; NB(R) **do** ; TL(R) **do, (A) du**; FR^A **doe /dɔɔra** ; MR^A(R) **du, (H) dou** ;
 DR^A **du, do /duoro** ; LB(R)^A **do** ; WL **do /duoro, duoho *** ;
 FR^B **zom /zona** ; MR^B(R) **zom** ; DR^B(R) **zɔm** ; LB(R)^B **zɔm** ;
 BL(P) **gyeule, (R) dyur, (Kröger) jue** ; KM **juali**

(in the Northwestern group the *ZOM items are probably the preferred equivalent for
 “ascend”)

Vocabulary : # 2

“DESCEND” DB **sigi, sigsi *** ; HG **sigi/sigira** ; MP **sigi /sigri, sigsi ***; KR -/ **sigsiri**
 /**sigsiya*** ; KL **sig, sie *, sigis *** ; NB(R) **sige** ; TL(F) **sig, (R) sige, (A) sik** ;
 FR **sige /sigire, sigera, sigehe, sirehe sigi, siki *** ; DR **sigi** ; LB **sige** ;
 WL **sigi, sigihi *** ; BL (R) **sig, (P) siŋi** ; KM **suŋ**

Vocabulary : # 3

“ENTER” DB **kpe, kpɛhi *** ; HG **kpe /kpeera** ; MP **kpe /kpeeri, kpeesi *** ;
 KLA **kpen', kpen'es *** ; TL/NB(R) **kpen** ; TL (A,F) **kpe** ; FR **ken' /kɛn'enra,**
kɛn'enhe * ; NK(R) **kye** ; LB **kpe** ; MR **kē, kēēs ***, (R) **kye, (H) ke, kese *** ;
 DR **kye(n), kpɛ(n)** ; NT **kwen /kwiyanto /kwenyo** ; WL **kpe /kpiɛra** ; BL(R)
dyo, (P) gyo ; KM **dzu** ;

Vocabulary : # 4

“EXIT” DB **yi, yihi** * ; HG **yi/yiira** ; KR **yi** ; MP **yi/yiiri, yiisi** * (“take out, choose”);

KL **yi, yiis** * ; NB(R) **yim** (?imperat.?) ; TL **yi** ; FR **ye, yehe /yehera, — /yehere** * ;

MR **yi(i)/yit(a),yiimi**, (R) **yi**, (H) **woude, yi, yiis*** ; NT **yi /yitɔ /yirɔ** ; DR **yi**

/yie ; LB(R) **yi** ;

HG **nyisi** (“choose”); BL **nyin** ; KM **nyiŋ/nyimma!/nyinna**

3. All the languages have a verb for “to go home”. This is common, amongst other usages, as a farewell spoken by a parting guest: – ‘I have gone home.’ (proleptic perfective – “I am just about to go home.”). It, and/or its causative, may be used for “to marry”, with the woman as subject (the man often ‘eats’ his wife) and/or “give in marriage”.

Vocabulary : # 5

“GO HOME” DB **kuli, kulsi** * ; HG **kuli /kunna, kulisi** (“marry”) ; KR **kuli** ; MP **kuli**

/kunni /kulima!, kulsi (* and “marry”) ; KL **kul** ; TL **kuli, kulh***³ ; FR **kule /kula** ;

NK(N) **kuli** ; MR **kouli, kwili, kuili,kuilis*** (also “marry”); DR **kule** ; KM **kuli**

/kulimi /kuliya ; BL **kuli**

4. The separate lexeme glossed “return” then means to go back somewhere other than home (or in the collocation ‘return, go-home’ – “to go back home”), or to go backwards (specifically ‘return his (&c.) back’), or to do (something) again. The causative, besides “take/send back”, often also means “to answer” a question.

Vocabulary : # 6

“RETURN” DB **lebi, labi: labsi** * ; KR **labsi** * (“vomit”) ; KLA **leb, lebis** * ; MP **labi**

/labri /labma! /lappu, labsi (also “answer”); MR **lebe, lebse** * ;

FR **lebe/lebera,lebere/, lebehe*** (also “answer”, “divorce (man subject)”); DR **læe** ;

WL **leu,leuhi***;

KM^A **keeri** ; BL **keem, ŋmane** ;

KM^B **yiŋi** ;

HG **pori /potira**

5. We have noted above that some verbs, ‘means (or ‘modes’) of locomotion’ like “run”, “jump”, need one of the ‘verbs of motion’ discussed in this note to indicate the goal or origin of motion (“jumped in” = ‘jumped, entered’ ; “ran to town” = ‘ran, went town’). Even the verbs of motion, however, do not assert the attainment of the goal: – there is yet another lexeme which signifies arrival, and to show that the runner actually reached town one may need to say ‘ran, went, reached town’. This verb, glossed “reach, arrive” is in most of these languages something like the MP **paai** (MR and DR alone, not here supported by FR or KL, have a reflex of the *TA which Manessy (1979) sets up as a ‘common central Voltaic’ proto-form – V.C.1 : see also the *TA forms in the Table 1). This is the applicative derivational form⁴ from *PA, with the ‘weak g’ which is usually lost in the vowel, but may surface – especially in DB (Wilson, *op.cit.*, 6.2) – before a vowel-initial pronoun (DB **paag’o** “reach him” from **paai**). MP has the base verb **pa** – “to be immediately on top, to be an immediate successor (e.g. specifically come second in a race, or be the ‘next-born’ in a family)”, derivative **paai** which not only means “to arrive at the goal of motion” but also “to arrive” of a particular time and “to reach, be enough” in quantity, and further the causative **paasi** both for the first sense of **paai** – farewell greeting **Naawunni paasi ya!** – “God will cause you to arrive (sc. safely)!” – and in the last sense – “cause to reach/be sufficient”, this being the normal term for “add”; this **m-paasi** (serial infinitive ‘to add’) is often found after other verbs in a series with the quasi-adverbial meaning of “additionally”. Whether **paali** “fill” and **paam** “plait are also derived from the same base is less decidable.

Vocabulary : # 7

“REACH, arrive” DB **paai (paag’)**/ **paama /paabu**, **pahi *** ; HG **paa (paag’)** ; KR **paa** ;

MP **paai (paag’**, but rare)/ **paari**⁵/**paama**, **paasi *** ; KLT **paa** ; KLA **paae /paad**,

paas * ; NB(R) **pa** ; TL **paa**, **pa’a** (N), **paa** (F,R); FR **pa**e /**paare** ;

MR **ta**, **tall**, **tase *** ; DR **ta** ; LB(R) **ta** ; [WL **pa(g-)** ”meet”]; BL **pa**e (R)/ **paare**

/**paaya** (P) ; KM **tugi**

6. “To cross” is less commonly represented in the sources, and the vocabulary below may represent several distinct lexemes:- the *YAK items, for instance, may be specifically to cross over the top of (cf. the common MP collocation **yikki n-yakki** – “jump/fly over”), while *LO(N) may perhaps be “pass through” (? cf. MP **lɔŋɔ** “throat” which is also “interior cavity”).

Vocabulary : # 8

“CROSS” DB **yagi** ; MP^A **yakki** ; FR^A **yake /yakere** ; (HG^A **yagi** ”come of”)

HG^B **loo** ; MP^B **looi, ləkki, ləŋŋi** ; KL **lo'oŋ** ; DB **looi** ; MR^A **loog** (“go past”);

FR^B **doe** (cf. ”ascend”); MR^B **doage** ; DB **duui (duli*)** ;

MR^C **piouge , piuug** ; MR **budga** ; BL **tam** ; HG^C **pulli**

7. Most of the languages have a verb, or perhaps two verbs, “to surround” and “go round”. “Surround” may be positional (“we are surrounded by the enemy”) or motional (“send a task force to surround that town”), while “go round” may imply a circumnavigation (“he went right round the house and come back to us at the gateway”) or a detour (“there was a puddle on the path so I went round it”). The sources are not usually clear enough to attribute these various senses to the respective items. In MP **n-gyili** is “to go round” (including “to wander around aimlessly” – see 9 below) and **n-gyiligi** “to surround” (Na Gyeringna built a wall **n-gyiligi Nalerigu** “around Nalerigu (town)”).

Vocabulary : # 9

“ROUND”(go -, be -) DB,WL **gili** ; MP **gyili /gyinni, gyilgi** ; HG **jili, giligi** ; KL **gilig** ;

FR^A **gilige /giligera** ; MR^A **gilige** ; DR **gɔl** ;

BL **kia, kiage** ; MR^B **kae/kaara** ;

MR^C **saaga, gubig, gubga** (+adv. **gilli**)

Wordlists more often have adjective or adverb “round” which is *GIL /GBIL/KPIL/KIL...) in

DR,BL,HG,FR,KL,KR,KM,MP,MR,NB,SF,TL.

8. Our next verb is “to pass”, which may mean to go past a fixed spot, or to overtake someone travelling on the same route as oneself. It is also used, in MP at least, for “Come/Go on!” – urging a child or companion not to dawdle, or someone not to hang about but to continue on their journey. This verb also (? from the “overtake” sense ?) means “to surpass” and is used in comparisons; the most obvious form is where it follows a descriptive verb :-

U veela n-gaari i. “S/he is prettier than you.”

Vocabulary : # 10

“PASS” DB **gari/gatti/garima!** ; HG^A **gali/gani, gaari** (“surpass”) ; KR **gaari** ;

MP **gaari/gaatti/gaarima!** ; KL **gaad/gat, gaas** ; NB **gaare** ; TL(R) **gari, (A)**

gaad, (F) gaat ; FR^A **gaŋ/gane** ; DR^A **gaŋ** ; WL **ga** ; BL^A (R) **gan, (P)**

gam (“surpass” only, ct. BL^B below);

FR^B **tole/tɔla** ; DR **tɔg** ; BL^B (R) **ta, (P) tam** ;

KM **tiaŋ**;

MR **yida** (see also “CROSS”) ; HG^B **saa**

NOTE: The majority of forms are derived by various thematic consonants (l, n, r, – all frequent in this function) from a base *GA which we may reasonably identify with the item in Table 1. Do BL, ?KM, ??FR,DR derive similarly from *TA therein? The KR forms in the table imply **gaar-** for “go” there.

9. These language also have a verb meaning “to travel, journey, roam, wander”. As this gloss suggests, this can be used for just “going for a walk” (“I don’t have any business, I’m just roaming.” – cf. on MP “go round”, 7. above). It can also mean to take a specific journey; the MP welcome is **Ni i goorim !** – ‘with your travelling’ (Naden 1986.b): and the verb can also indicate travelling in general, the same MP greeting being appropriate to greet someone passing (e.g. on a bicycle) whose start and end points and destination are unknown, and a welcome may include a greeting for the **goorim-dima** – the people you met on your travels.

Vocabulary : # 11

“TRAVEL” DB **gɔ/gɔri/gɔya, (n.) gɔrim** ; HG **go/goora** ; KR **go** ; MP **gɔ/goori**

/gɔya, (n.) goorim ; KLA^A **guann/goon** ; TL **gɔma** (F, ? impat.?) ; MR^A **go, gō(ōd)** ;

KLA^B **eed** ; FR **eere/ɛɛra** ; MR^B **yeebe** ; BL (G,P) **nyeem,(N.,D) cɛrim**

KM (n.) **diisi**

10. In section 1., on basic “go, come”, we did not discuss causative derivatives. In fact morphological derivatives of these bases do not seem to be found except for the link with “pass” (note to vocabulary in 8. above, *GA,TA) and with “send” (below “SEND” iii, *TA). There are separate lexemes for “send”; in fact local English has a number of different ‘send’s :-

- a) Two of these are “to send, or ‘message’”, the contrast between the two being that although in both cases the Agent, the sender, entrusts an errand or message to the person sent, in one case he is “sending” someone who otherwise would have no reason to go, while in the other he entrusts his errand to someone who is going anyway on his own business:.

Vocabulary : # 12

- i) “SEND (on an errand)” DB **tim** ; HG **tumi /tumina** ; KL **tum** ;

BL **tom** ; MP **tum /tumni /tumma! /tumpu** ; FR **tom /tone** ;

MR **toum,tum** ⁶

- ii) “SEND (message with sb.)” HG **tolimi** ; MP **tɔlim** ; MR **tole** ;

KLA **tolisi** ;

- b) In local Eng. “send” is also used for the situation where the Agent actually transports or travels with the person ‘sent’ :- “I had to go to Nalerigu in my lorry to send the Chief to Hospital.” The only sure examples I have of this are derivatives of the *TA base of “go”.

- iii) “ ‘SEND’ (take sb. to..)” DB **tahi** ; HG/MP **taasi** ; TL **ta'ah** ; KL **ta'as**

; MR **tall** ; (? BL **ta**)

- c) There are two further verbs involving two people travelling together. One is usually translated “follow”, but basically means rather ‘to accompany in a subordinate or secondary position’ – thus we have the local English “If you are going to Tamale in your lorry, may I follow you?” meaning “Will you give me a lift?” not “May I drive along behind?”. This is therefore rather “be a follower of”; to get the usual meaning of the Eng. “follow sb.” you have to say ‘follow sb.’s back’. There are also collocations of “follow” with a path or placename in the sense of “go via ...”. The other sort of ‘accompanying’ implies that the ‘follower’ is the more important – “lead” is sometimes used in local Eng. – and it is particularly used in “Take me to your leader! “-type situations : – the subject of the verb “escorts” someone to show him the way, introduce him to the person to be visited. or just to provide a guard of honour to add dignity to his progress. Untypically KLA can use this item for a superior or focal character ‘following’, i.e. bringing along with him/her, a less important person.

Vocabulary : # 13

- i) “ACCOMPANY, ‘follow’ ” DB **doli /dɔla /dɔla!** ; MP **dɔli /dɔla /dɔla!** ; HG^A **doli** ; KLA **dol /dol, dolne /dolim!** ; KLT **dul** ; TL^A (F) **dɔli** ; FR^A **dole /dɔla** ; TL^B **duh** (vocab. 3, note); FR^B **doohē** ; MR^A **toun,tuñn, tuu,tule**; MR^B **pogele,pugla** ; DR **beere** (cf. /ct. ii) below) ; BL **saje** ; KM^A **suñun** / ; KM^{B2} **/dii/diia** ; HG^B **pa...zu** (normal way of expressing this sense; cf. “REACH” (**zu** is “head, on”))
- ii) “ESCORT, ‘lead’ ” DB **bieli** ; HG **beeli /beena** ; KLA^A **biel** ; MP **beeli /beenni /beelima!** ; FR **beele** ; DR **biel, beele** ; TL^A **beeh** ; BL **bane** ; MP^B **kɔ'ali** (“give a lift on bike, horse”); TL^B (F) **kogal** ; KLA^B **pi'e** ; MR **nyage** ; KM **suñun** (see i) above, q.v.)

11. Our final verb of motion is “to be near” which itself or in a derivative may also be “to get near, approach”. In MP there is a syntactic distinction between the predication types, the process (“come near”) has the possibility of occurring in the imperfective with the verb-assertive particle **ni** – **U pɔtti ni**. – “He is approaching.” – or in the absolutive (verb is final in the clause) perfect with **ya** – **U pɔriya**. – “He has approached.” (these are the normal active verb frames) ; the stative frame appropriate to “be near” allows the verb stem followed by both the perfective and the assertive markers (this is impossible for action verbs) – **U pɔriya ni** – “He is.near.”

Vocabulary : # 14

“NEAR” (be-, get-) (* is “get near, approach”) DB(R) **miri**, (Okraku Dict.) **mire**, (N)

muri, (O) **miri** /**mirti** MP^A **miri** /**mitti** (rare) ;

MP^B **p̄ri** /**p̄tti** /**p̄rima!** (* also); KLA^A **ponri** ; NB(R) **pore** ; TL(N) **p̄ri**, (F,A)

p̄riga (?*); FR^A **p̄nre** ; NK(R)^A **p̄re** ; MR^A **peya** ; SF **peel** ; WL^A **pieli** ;

NK(R)^B/MR^B **kolege** ; KLA^B **kpi'e** /**kpi'ene** ; DR ***kpiele** ; BL ***kpane** ;

HG **leeli** /**leelina** ; KLA^C **li'el** /**li'elne** or **li'en** ; FR^B **lem** ;

BL^A **gela** ; KM **gbəgi** ;

BL^B **m̄ota** (caus. **m̄otte** “bring sth. near”) ;

WL^B **t̄hi**

The inverse “be far” does not, to my knowledge, have a “go far, *s'éloigner*” sense in any of these languages⁷. “Be far” is usually a descriptive verb “be long, tall, far”, basic form ***WOG**, with various adjectival and adverbial derivatives.

Western Oti/Volta Lexinotes : Sources

Abbreviations (Languages and sources):

(J) Lists in JWAL article, Swadesh et al. 1966

(R) Lists in Rattray, 1932

(N) Naden, personal research

(C)/(Cansdale) G.S. Cansdale n/d, GILLBT archives

(FRI) Irvine, 1961

“Printed sources” include New Testament in Dagbani, Hanga, Frafra, Kusaal (A), Moore, Waali (may be marked NT)

The following two-letter codes, developed from those of Swadesh (et al. 1966), are used to refer to the languages discussed :-

KR - KaMara: Bouna dialect Prost, 1974.a (P); Ghana dialect (N 1978, N2 - 1994); Geoffrey Hunt p.c. (H)

YR - Yare (Kantoontiri): (A) James Agalik; Paul/Jennifer Schaefer survey (PS) 1996;

**Ulrich Kleinewillinghöfer survey (UK) 1997

HG - Hanga: printed sources (Hunt/Hunt), (H) p.c. Geoffrey Hunt

MP - Mampruli: personal research

DB - Dagbani: printed sources, (FS) Fisch, 1913; (N); (OP) Oppong, 1973 ; (O) Okraku, 1917 ; Wilson/Bendor-Samuel (BS/W); KO Knut Olawsky electronic dictionary (KO); Roger Blench (RB); Wilson 1972 ((WAA)W); (IM) Ibrahim Mahama 2004

NN - Nanun: (N); Skalnik, 1983 (SK)

KLA - Kusaal, Agole (Eastern) dialect: printed sources; (N)

KLT - Kusaal, Tɔɔndi (Western) dialect: notes by David/Nancy Spratt (S)/(DS) - dialect survey; (N)

TL - Talni: Fortes 1945, 1949 (F); (N); written list by Abraham Manga for Naden (A); (GG) two lady informants recorded by Naden

NB - Nabit: (N), (N.A.) Alambatiŋa; (R); (J); Nicholas Na'am (to Naden) (NN)

FR - Frafra: written sources, p.c. Bob/Nancy Schaefer (Sch.); Rapp 1966 (ELR); Manessy 1968/71 (M); Roger Blench (RB) 1997; Gurenɛ (Dakubu/Atintono)

GN - Gurenne: (J) - origin unrecorded

NK - Nankan: (N); (R) (may not be same dialect)

NKB - Burkina Faso Ninkāre used in publications: SIL, 1996

MR - Moore: printed sources, Hall n/d (1948), (H); Canu,1968/71; Tiendrebeogo/Pagéard, 1975; Prost 1974.b (P); Nikiema/Kinda 1997

NT - Nootre: Prost, 1971, Prost, 1974.b, Prost, 1975

DG - Dagara: Burkina Faso (J); Pénou-Achille, 1982 (PA); (B) Banasik (see DR); Kuupole, 1994 (DDK); Manessy 1968/71 (M)

DR - Dagaari: (J); Ed Hall notes/files (EH); (K) Kennedy 1966; (B) survey lists from Sandy Banasik, 1975 ; written lists from dialect reps via A..Ring 1992; Durand, 1953 (JBD); (3) Trilingual Dictionary by Bodomo 2004

LW - LoWiili: (G) Goody - 1956/61 (SOL) , 1972 (MBG) Myth of the Bagre

NR - Nura (Dagaari of Lawra): (J); Kennedy, 1966 (K or P), Archive notes (K)

LB - Lobiri(? = NR): (R)

BR - Birifor: (J) ; L.Kuch electronic dictionary (K); A.Warren (electronic dictionary (AW)

WL - Waali: GILLBT files

SF - Safalaba: (J); (N)

BL - Buli: Franz Kröger, p.c. (FK), 1982 (AW), 1992 (D); GILLBT files (Ian Gray, Todd Poulter, Paul Dancy); (N); Melançon/Prost, 1972 (P); (A) James Agalik (p.c.)

KM - Kɔnni: (N), Naden 1986

BM - Bimoba: published sources (Jacobs, Pike/Jacobs); Norman Price p.c.; GILLBT files (Gill Jacobs, Sonia Hine)

Also some abbreviations for groups of languages :-

Oti/Volta (O/V)

Gurma (GRM) : BM ...

Western (W.O/V)

Northwestern (NW) : MR, NT, FR, DR, DG, WL, LW, BR

Southeastern (SE) : DB, NN, HG, KR, YR, MP, TL (KL, NB)

Buli/Kɔnni (BL/K) : BL, KM

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* Earlier revised version is appended to Naden, 1993: this is the latest version up-dated and up-data-ed April 2006

¹ The Western (and other) Oti/Volta languages are referred to here by the standard two-letter codes (Swadesh et al. 1966, Naden 1989) :

DB	-	Dagbani	FR	-	Frafra
HG	-	Hanga	GN	-	Gurenne (J) ²
KR	-	KaMara	MR	-	Moore
MP	-	Mampruli	NT	-	Nootre
KL	-	Kusaal	LB	-	'Lobiri' (R ²)
KLA	-	" " Agole (West)	DG	-	Dagara (B. Faso)
KLT	-	" " Toonde (East)	DR	-	Dagaari
TL	-	Talni	NR	-	Nura
NB	-	Nabit	BR	-	Birifor
			SF	-	Safalaba
BL	-	Buli (O/V Buli)	WL	-	Wali
KM	-	Kɔnni (O/V Buli)			

² Other abbreviations: -

/ separates paradigm co-forms singular/plural (Noun),
neutral/imperfective(/imperative/verbal noun) (Verb)

A, B (partial) synonyms or different sources for the same language :-
 (A) – written data from Abraham Manga (TL)
 (F) – data from Fortes, 1949 and other writings) (TL)
 (H) – data from J.Hall, 1948 (MR)
 (J) – data from JWAL article – Swadesh et al., 1966
 (K) – data from J.Kennedy (DR)
 (N) – data from Tony Naden field research
 (O) – orthographic form from published material
 (P) – data from Prost (various publications, N.B. Melançon / Prost, 1972 (BL))
 (R) – data from Rattray, 1932

³ TL distinguishes reflexes of *-SI and *-FU as a final **-h** with spread and rounded lips respectively

⁴ cf. MP **te** “spread (self)” – **teaai** “straighten, stretch out sth.”
ze “blow (wind)” – **zeaai** “blow something (away)”

This structural type of derivative may also be inersive in sense:-

ye “put on (shirt,&c.)” – **yeaai** “take off (...)”
yo “open” – **yoaai** “close”

and singulative :-

gba “catch” – **gbaai** “catch (one only)”

⁵ Far-west dialect imperfective **paagri**.

⁶ TL(F) **tumh** (* causative, see NOTE in 2. above) “follow through kinship links” .

⁷ MR does have **zèra** “être loin” vs. **zèage** “éloigner” (move something to a distance); cf. FR **zaam** “be deep”