

## Reconstructing the Igbo Cluster

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### **1.0 General Information on the family**

#### **1.1 Geography, Population, Neighbour**

The Igbo language is spoken homogenously in five south-eastern states of Nigeria, namely: Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo. Igbo speakers are also found in parts of Rivers and Delta States in the south-south zone of Nigeria. Neighbours of the Igbo include the Igala, Tiv and Idoma to the north; the Anaang, Ibibio, Efik, to the south-east; the Urhobo, Isoko, Edo to the south-west and the Ijaw and Ogoni to the south-south delta areas. Wikipedia (2012) gives 27 million as the number of Igbo speakers.

#### **1.2 (Pre) historic migrations and language contacts**

Many Igbos believe that they are of Hebrew origin, being one of the lost tribes of Israel. Afigbo (2000:12) however says that the Igbo are a negro people, originating in Africa, somewhere south of the latitude of Arselam and Khartoum. They later spread along the Niger-Benue confluence area with other groups.

#### **1.3 History of scholarship**

Following her discovery that speech varieties hitherto referred to as Igbo were more diverse than had formally been realized, Williamson (1973) embarked upon a first reconstruction of these speech varieties into what she termed Proto-Lower Niger. In 1984 Prof. Kay Williamson invited her Ph.D student, Chinyere Ohiri-Aniche to join in the reconstruction of what came to be known as **Comparative Igboid**. Unfortunately, the Comparative Igboid work could not quite be finished and published before the demise of Prof. Kay Williamson in 2005. One of the main reasons is the great diversity in the numerous speech varieties, whereby new data often necessitated a return to the drawing board.

#### **1.4 External classification**

Williamson (1989:261-2) classified Igboid (Lower Niger) as one of the coordinate branches of (New) Benue-Congo while Williamson and Blench (2000:31) classified Igboid under West Benue-Congo.

#### **1.5 Internal classification, lexicostatistics and glottochronology**

Williamson proposed the first internal classification of what she now termed 'Lower-Niger' languages based on lexicostatistics. The 1973 work saw a split of Igbo into the following languages. Èkpèyè, Ikwere, Ogbà, Igbo, Ukwuani, Ika and Izii. Lower-Niger was criticized by some scholars such as Onwuejeogwu (1977) as historically and phonologically superficial. Manfredi (1982:175-195) suggested the term 'Igboid' for 'those speech forms proximate to an Igbo centre'. Manfredi (1989) used phonological innovations to arrive at sub-grouping of Igboid. The term 'Igboid', in turn, has been criticised in many quarters, such as Emenanjo (2001:37) who sees it as continued attempt to bulkanize the Igbo language. Egbokhare et al. (2000:40) described the Igbo speech forms as belonging to an Igbo cluster. Ohiri-Aniche (2011:439) used the

modified Swadesh (1955) 100 word list to compare Ọ̀nịcha and Owere, two undisputedly Igbo dialects with Ẹkpẹyẹ, Ikwere, Ụkwụ̀nị and Izii, which are speech forms in controversy. Cognation scores recorded were Ọ̀nịcha/Ẹkpẹyẹ 76.34 percent; Ọ̀nịcha/Ikwere 81.63 percent; Ọ̀nịcha/Owere 97 percent; Ọ̀nịcha/Izii 94 percent and Ọ̀nịcha/Ụkwụ̀nị 91.91 percent. She then observed that these results were clearly within the 70% to 80% range of cognacy suggested both in Hansford et al. (1976:115-124) for recognition of language and dialect clusters respectively. This informed the title of this work as 'Reconstructing the Igbo Cluster'

No internal glottochronology analysis has been carried out on the Igbo speech varieties. Armstrong (1967:12), however, used glottochronological findings to suggest that the Igbo language has separated from its sister languages such as Yoruba and Ẹ̀do for between 4000-6000 years.

## 2.0 Proto-language phonology reconstruction

Discussion of the phonology of the Igbo cluster will be based mainly on the following lects, each of which has distinct phonological properties: Ẹkpẹyẹ, Ọ̀gbàkị̀rị (Ìkwéré), Ọ̀wèrè, Ọ̀nịchà, Ụkwụ̀nị, and Ìzhíí. Other lects will be brought into the discussion as necessary.

### 2.1 Phonetic inventory

Synchronically, up to seventy-five consonants and twenty-four vowels are heard across the Igbo cluster lects. The consonants include plosives, implosives, affricates, fricatives, nasals, laterals and approximants. In some lects such as Owere and Ọ̀nụ̀nụ̀, some of the consonants occur aspirated or breathy-voiced having developed from nasal syllables. A strong influence on Igbo consonants is double vowels; the environment – IV often results in palatalization and spirantisation, while – UV results in labialisation. The distinction between lenis and non-lenis consonants reported in Elugbe (1989) for some Edoid languages is not attested in any lect of the Igbo cluster. After careful comparisons of reflexes of the array of sounds across Igbo cluster lects, twenty-two proto consonant phonemes and ten vowel phonemes are reconstructed for the cluster.

#### 2.1.1 Proto consonants of the Igbo cluster

##### Table 1

Six classes of consonants at five places of articulation have been reconstructed. The consonants and their reflexes are discussed below (correspondence sets (CS) 1-22); the lexical items exemplifying the reconstructions are indicated in parenthesis and fully laid out in the Appendix.

2.1.1.1 Plosives	*p	*b	*t	*d	*c	*j	*k	*g	*kp	*gb
CS 1	*p>p, f (horn)									
CS 2	*b>b, v, ɸ̃ (two, blood)									
CS 3	*t>tʃ, ts, tʃ, s, (head, five)									
CS 4	*d>d, dz, dʒ, z, dv, v (tail, tooth, steal)									
CS 5	*c>c, t<y, tʃ, s (white, look for/desire)									
CS 6	*j>j, dʃ, dʒ, z, y (walk/go, sand, full)									
CS 7	*k>k, tʃ, kʷ, hʷ, kf, pf, (gather, hand, leg)									
CS 8	*g>g, dʒ, gʷ>gv, bv, v, y (housefly, tall, thorn)									
CS 9	*kp>kp, p<, kʰ, pʰ, K <sup>B</sup> , kf, p (bone, close/cover, seed)									

CS 10 \* gb > gb, ɓ, g<sup>wh</sup>, b<sup>h</sup>, G<sup>B</sup>, gv (jaw, kill)

#### 2.1.1.2 Implosives \*ɓ, \*t < \*d

CS 11 \* ɓ > ɓ, b, v, w, η<sup>w</sup> (lay egg, be angry, they)

CS 12 \* t < > t <, t, tʃ, ts, t<sup>h</sup> (three, ear, ashes)

C.S 13 \* d > d, r, l, n (eat, tongue, bite)

#### 2.1.1.3 Sonorants: \*m, \*ηm, \*n, \*ŋ

CS 14 \* m > m (I/me, water)

CS 15 \* ηm > ηm > m (know, give birth)

CS 16 \* n > n > ɲ y > l (give, four, bird)

CS 17 \* ŋ > l > n > ɲ, y, (bury, ground/earth)

#### 2.1.1.4 Fricatives: \*f, \*s, \*x

CS 18 \* f > f, ɸ, β, v, h, hy, hw, y, w, kw (twist, fly, belly)

CS 19 \* s > s, rh, r, l, j, ʒ, z, ɸ, h<sup>w</sup>, h, k<sup>w</sup> (theft, face, year, roast)

CS 20 \* x > g, x, w, y, η, ɲ, w (yawn, grey hair, goat, drink, bathe, sun)

#### 2.1.1.5 Approximant \*y, \*w

CS 21 \* y > y > ɲ (cold, he/she, we/us)

CS 22 \* w > w > η<sup>w</sup> (break/split, jump)

### 2.1.2 Proto vowels of the Igbo cluster

#### Table 2

All lects of the Igbo cluster have the following eight vowel phonemes /i, ī, e, a, o, ɔ, ɔ̃, u/ which fall into two harmony sets of the type  $\pm$  ATR. Each of these vowels can appear both in prefix position and in noun and verb roots i.e. V-, and -CV. Some lects such as Izii, Ẹkpẹyẹ, Nenwe and Ọhaọzara have a ninth vowel /ɛ/, which is used mainly in prefix position, corresponding to /a/ in other lects. However, in a few lects, /ɛ/ also brings about distinction in roots. Examples in Ọhaọzara are yé 'fry' and yé 'he/she', méé 'blood', méé 'wine and máá 'spirit'. In some northern lects such as Nsuka and Udi, some unrounded central vowels [ɤ] and [ɥ] as well as a sound similar to the central vowel or schwa [ə] in English are also heard. This schwa sound' a tenth vowel, is accepted as a phoneme in Udi and Nsuka since it distinguishes minimal pairs. Examples in Nsuka are nɛ 'give' and nɛ 'hear! Nasality, which is a feature of the syllable is also distinctive in some Igbo lects. In such lects, nasality usually spreads from the vowel to the consonant of the syllable. Examples in Owere are sɛ 'pound' and sɛ 'clear bush!

The existence of contrasting oral and nasalised roots with the nasality located on the vowel in some lects leads to the postulation that the proto-language had oral and nasalised vowels. Altogether, therefore, ten oral and ten nasalised vowels have been reconstructed for the Igbo cluster.

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**Table 1:**

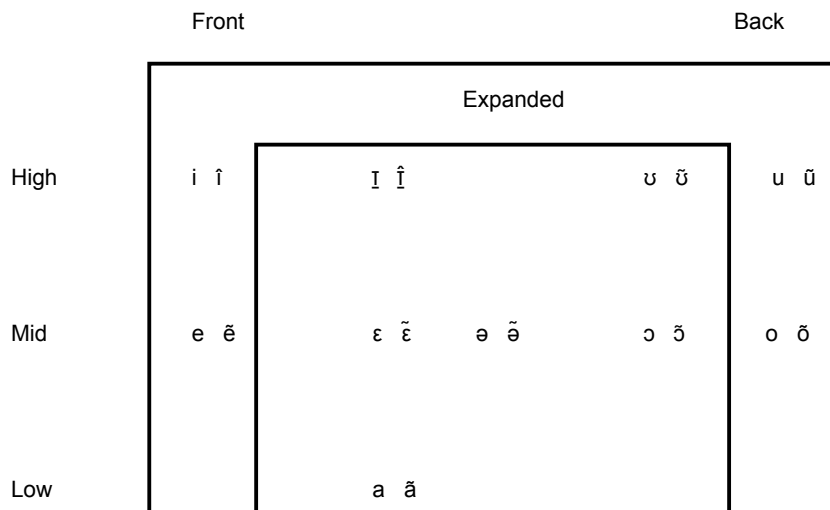
**Phonemic Consonant Chart of the Igbo Cluster**

	<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Labial-Velar</u>
<b>STOP</b>					
PLOSIVE	p    b	t    d	c    ɟ	k    g	kp    gb
IMPLOSIVE		ɓ    t̚	ɗ		
NASAL		m	n		ŋm

FRICATIVE	f	s		ʃ
LATERAL			l̥	
APPROXIMANT			y	w

**Table 2:**

**Phonemic Vowel Chart of the Igbo Cluster**



### APPENDIX

	<b>Horn</b>	<b>Two</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Head</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*ùpè	*bī̀bùá	*òbàdà	*dí́tí
Ekpeye	ùpè	Ḃí́bó	òbàlà/(étéké)	íḡí
Ogbakiri	m̀fù	èbò	òbàrà	risî
Owere	m̀pì	àbù́s	òb`àrà	íḡí
Onicha	m̀pì	Ìbùá	(m̀meē)/òbàlà	ísí
Ukwuanj	m̀pì	èbù́s	(édékèè)	íḡí
Izhii	m̀pù	èbó	(mèé)	íḡí
Other Igbo Lects	Ndele m̀fù/m̀fù Ogba mpè/mfè	Ndele èvó	Ndele òfàrà Ohaḡia m̀gbé!í	Ogidi itsi Oba íḡí/ísí
Outside Cognates	B – pémbé B – poka	PLC * i-bà PE * i-və PB bàdi PWS –gi, - bà	Urh. ɔ-bala Egene a-burá Ife Togo àm-bara Anaang ìḡiḡ/òbàrà	B* - túi 'head' PE - * U-chiəmhi, A- P.lj. tḡḡ PWS – gi-, -gui- -li-, lu, - tí Ikakumo ìḡfú

	<b>Five</b>	<b>Tail</b>	<b>Tooth</b>	<b>Steal</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*Ḃí́tíé	*ódù	*ídúé	*dúí
Ekpeye	Ḃísé\Ḃísè	(èwòlò\ìwùlù)	í!zé	zú
Ogbakiri	ìsè	ódù	í!zé	vú
Owere	ìsé	ód`ù(d`ù)	é!zé	zũ
Onicha	ìsé	ódù	é!zé	zú
Ukwuanj	ìsé	ódùdù/ndùdù	ézéè	zú
Izhii	ìsé	ódzù	ézé	zítá

Other Igbo Lects	Ogidi ìtsé Okwele ìtǎ	Ọhaọzara ódzù/ódzù Akụ ódvù	Ogidi é!dzé Obolo Afo ízé	Ogidi – dzú (+ órhí) Ndele – sú (+ vúúsú)
Outside Cognates	PE * ii-‘chiNənhi PLC * ìtìòñ PP twon PJ ton (i-) PB – táánò,- táánù - cááño,-cáánu Akunnu ifoũ P.Ij. sɔŋɔrɔ	PE * U-thiəmhi, A- Ayere un – du PP dum Plj. ò-tùma Ikakumo òrũm/i-	PLC * é-dèt/a- Efai Édjè Obolo (LC) édzéd	PYIG * jí PE * do Arigidi – de Epie – dō PWS – ɡl,ɡia,ɡiu ‘stetlen’ PLC * ɸip B * - jíb – ‘steal’
	<b>White</b>	<b>Look for/Desire</b>	<b>Walk/Go</b>	<b>Sand</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*dǐcá	*có	*jé	*dǐjá
Èkpèyè	ùsá	(wuddigá)	zé ízè	ù!zá
Ọgbakiri	rǐtǎ	tǐ	zé	rǐ!zá
Owere	ùtǎ	tǐ	dzé	á!dzá
Ọnicha	òtǎ	tǐ	dzé	á!dzá
Ụkwụanị	òtǎ	tǐ	dzé	édzàà
Nenwe	òcá/òt <sup>&lt;yá</sup>	có/t <sup>&lt;yó</sup>	jé	éjá
Izhii	òtǎ/òtǎ	tǐ	dzé	édzá
Other Igbo Lects	Ọhaọzara - òcá Isnu - òcá Ndele - rùsá	Obolo tǐ	Agbanị - jé Èbiriba - gé Igbo Etiti - vé	Ọhaọzara - éjá Ndele - rùsá Isnu - á!já
Outside Cognates		B * - càk- ‘desire, search for’	PE – khīNa Arigidi – dzè PWS – kia PS – ɡiaɸ B * gènd-, jend PLC - saɲa	B * - càngà Emh (NWE) È-žàžani Arigidi nèpè/ítǎ Ikakumo - òtǎ Obolo (LC) átǐán/ntítaak

	<b>Full</b>	<b>Gather, Carry in hand</b>	<b>Hand</b>	<b>Leg</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*jǐ	*kǐ	*éká	*ókúí
Èkpèyè	yúlú	(mùdǐ)	éká	(úkó)
Ọgbakiri	dǐ	tǐ	áká	òtǐ
Owere	dǐ	tǐ	áká	ùk <sup>w</sup> ù
Ọnicha	dǐ	tǐ	áká	ùk <sup>w</sup> ù
Ika	dǐ	tǐ/kǐ	éká	ùk <sup>w</sup> ù
Nenwe	jǐ	tǐ	éká	(ókpa)
Izhii	dǐ	tǐtá	éká	ùpǐ
Other Igbo Lects	Ọhaọzara – jǐ Igbo Etiti – dzu			Ọkọcha m̀pǐtǐ/ókpa
Outside Cognates	PLC * jǐk Ahan – à-ɲkò Ayere – ɲgɔ CB – yúj- = become full	B * -kǐ- Gather (fruit)	Ehụeun a-ka – arm P.Ijoid *káa Syb ì-ka = Finger B * -kàcà ‘hand’ Ahan ñgùkà	PYIG * -kū ‘knee’ Ehụeun ù-kò Ikakumo ùkàì/à- Bamoun kút PLC * ù-kód/a-



	Housefly	Long/Tall	Thorn	Bone
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*ógĩ	*ógó	*ógūú	*ókprú
Ekpeye	ódzídí	(ókà)	ú!g <sup>w</sup> ú	ú!kpró
Ogbakiri	rú!vó	ógólógó	í!gú	ókprókpró
Owere	ídzĩ/ízi	ógólógó/(ák <sup>h</sup> á)	ó!g <sup>wh</sup> ú	óp<úp<ú
Onicha	ídzídí	ógónógó	ó!gwú	óp<úp<ú
Ukwuani	ézi	ógónógó	ógúù	ókprókpró
Izhii	ídzídí	ógólógó	óbvú	ókpró
Other Igbo Lects	Ndele rú!zó	Nsuka úgólódú	Agbaní ó!vú Ebiriba ó!gvú	Ọhaọzara óókpró
Outside Cognates	PE *A-khīNa, ī- PLC * usòñ/n- PYIG * V-cīcī Arìgìdi itftfì PP tiuñ PJ - kyin (ki-/i-) PB - gì, gìnḡ	Urh o-grogro Ondo go Èdo ógólógó = a very tall man Deg. Ogodo/ Ogodogodo = tall, long	PLC úkúkúm/ñ- B * -gùḡà	PE * Kua PJ kup (ku-/a-) PB - kúpà PWS - kú, -kúp, - kúá PLC * Ó-kpró Arigidi é!kprí

	Close/Cover	Seed	Jaw	Kill
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*kpù	*úkpúđú	*àgbà	*gbú
Ekpeye	kpùté	úkpú!lú	àgbà	gbú
Ogbakiri	kpùsnĩ	ínkpú!rú	àbà	gbú
Owere	p<ùt <sup>h</sup> í/k <sup>wh</sup> ùfí	ínp<ú!rú	àb <sup>h</sup> à/àg <sup>wh</sup> à	ǒú
Onicha	p<ù	ínkpú!lú	àbà	ǒú
Ukwuani	kpùtí	ínkpú!lú	àgbà	gbú
Izhii	kpùtí	ákprú!rú	àgbà	gbú
Other Igbo Lects	Ọkọcha pùtí Ebiriba kfùtí	Ọhaọzara m!K <sup>B</sup> ú	Echie àg <sup>wh</sup> à	Ọhaọzara - G <sup>B</sup> ú
Outside Cognates	B * -kúnik- 'cover'	Èdo ì-kpè Ègèḡ Èkpúrò Auchi úkpa'mi B-pek-e	PYIG * à-gbà PE * A-gbhamhī P.Ij. àgbā Ahan àmgbà PLC m-báñ B * -báḡgá	PE * gbeGi PWS - gue 'töten' PS - kú 'sterben' PLC * gwòd B* - búđ - 'kill'

	Lay Egg	Be Angry	They	Three
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*bí	*bé	*bē	*bīt<íó
Ekpeye	bí	Béni (+égbà)	bé!é	Bītó
Ogbakiri	bí	wé+í!wé	bé	étó
Owere	yí (+àk <sup>wh</sup> à)	wé+íwé	ñḡ <sup>w</sup> ó/(h <sup>h</sup> á)	àt<ó
Onicha	yí	wé+íwé	(fá)	ìtó
Ukwuani	yí	wé+íwé	wá/wé	étó
Izhii		íwé = wickedness	(èpfhe) (èfè)	étó
Other Igbo Lects			Èḡbo wo Ọhaọzara (hé)	Ọkwelle àtíó Obolo àtíó
Outside Cognates	Syb yé/yi Isoko yē		Deg b <sup>h</sup> áú Syb à - wō	PYIG * è-ta PJ tat (i-)

	Deg ɓie 'give birth' PB – b́ád- 'give birth'		Iṣẹkiri à – ɲā PB – bó PWS – ba-	Ikakumọ taarh PLC itá TIV tál PUC ttan PE * ɪ̄-chaGĩ PB – tátù Plj – tá(á)ru
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	<b>Ear</b>	<b>Ashes</b>	<b>Eat</b>	<b>Tongue</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*ɛ̄tĩ	*dít<ɔ̄	*dí	dídé
Ekpeye	été	(éwé/tjĩ)	dī (+ Bídí)	ídô
Ogbakiri	ńsĩ	rétʃ	rí (+ wírí)	lúlô
Owere	ńt̄hĩ	ńt̄hʃ	ri' (+ńrí)	íré
Ọnicha	ńt̄i	ńt̄ú	lí	ílé
Ụkwuani	ńt̄ii	ńt̄ú	lí	ílé
Izhii	ńt̄jĩ	ńt̄ú	rí	íré
Other Igbo Lects	Achi ńtsĩ Ndele ńjĩ	Isiala Mbanọ ńt̄h̄ɔ̄ Agbanị - ńt̄eì/n- t̄i/n̄eì	Agbanị ghí/rí Igwuruta ńdí = food Ọsumenyi ńdí = food	Ndele rírô Ọbio ńrúrô
Outside Cognates	PYIG * e-tĩ Ahan endi PLC * u-t̄ɔ̄ɲ/a- PE * ghU- chɔGĩ, A- PBC – túɲi (ku-/a-)	Ahan – endūdū Oyin - ɔ̄n-dó PUC – t̄ɔ̄ɲ (kò) PLC * ń-t̄ɔ̄ɲ PJ – tón (u-li) PB – tó, túé B * -túé	PLC * líá PE * 'dhĩ PYIG * Jε Cama: lí/d̄i/ PJ d̄yi i PB di Arìgidi d̄ze	PE. * U-dhamhĩ, A- Akunnu indá PJ dema (ri-/a-) PBC – lem (li-/a-) PB – díme, -dími PLC * é – léme, a-
	<b>Bite</b>	<b>I/Me</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Know</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*t<á+déɔ̄	*m̄é	*míd í	*ɲmá
Ekpeye	t̄á+én̄ɔ̄	m̄/m̄é	mí!ní	mád̄ʒĩ
Ogbakiri	t̄á+rén̄ɔ̄	m̄é	mí!ní	márʃ
Owere	t<à+árʃ	m̄í/m̄m̄ú/m̄m̄í	m̄m̄í!rĩ	má
Ọnicha	t̄á+ál̄ɔ̄	m̄ú	m̄m̄í!lí	má
Ụkwuani	t̄á+él̄ɔ̄	m̄ú/mm̄é	m̄m̄í!fĩ	má
Izhii	t̄á+ér̄ɔ̄	m̄ú	mí!ní	má
Other Igbo Lects	Ndele t̄á + rén̄ɔ̄		Agbanị - m̄ú!rĩ/m̄ú!ɔ̄lĩ	Amaigbo ɲmá
Outside Cognates	PLC * lóm B * - dúm-'bite' Auchi – ta Syb – ta Isoko ɔ̄ũ Igala ló Arìgidi – r̄ɔ̄/tá	PE * m̄e m̄h̄e PYIG * ò-m̄i, ɪ̄ Arigidi ame PLC * àmi PP mí PB mí PWS m̄i 'ich'	PE * A-m̄iN, ɪ̄- PYIG * o-m̄i PJ – mbyed Plj. * ɓēdĩ PLC * - m̄óɲ Ahan – o-mi	PYIG * mā Ahan mà PB - màn- - m̄ani-

	<b>Give Birth</b>	<b>Give</b>	<b>Four</b>	<b>Bird</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*ɲm̄é	*níé	*ɓ̄ ɪ̄ ɪ̄ ɪ̄ ɪ̄ ɔ̄	*én̄è
Ekpeye	m̄ú (ú!ɲwó)	n̄é/ɲè	ɓ̄ɪ̄ɔ̄	ún̄ò

Ogbakiri	mú	ṅě	èṅô	òṅòṅò
Owere	mú	ṅé	àṅó/ṅṅó	ínòṅò
Onicha	mú	ṅé	ìṅó	ínòṅò
Ukwuani	mú	yé	èṅó	ínòṅò
Nenwe	mú	ṅé	èló	ínòṅò
Izhii	ḡʷú	yétá éká/(hÉ)	èṅó	èṅò
Other Igbo Lects	Ọkọcha – ḡʷú Amaigbo – ḡmú	Ọgbah – nĭ Nsuka – nĕ	Egbema ìlós	Egbema ínòṅò Ohaozara únòṅò
Outside Cognates	PLC * m̀àn – Tiv – màl C. Kambari m̀à (tsā) = bear child, fruit PE * m̀w ‘bear fruit	PLC * ǹò/ ñì PE * na Èdo – nĕ Syb – nĭ Arigidi – gb̀àṅó Erusu – ṅã PB – nínk-	PE * niə PYIG * è-rĭ/è'lĭ/ PJ ndin (i,-a-) Plj ì-nóṅí PLC * ìniàṅ PB – ne,-mè Gt -nì Gt PWS – na,-nan-ni	PLC * i-nùṅén B * -nunĭ 'bird' Gt Uda (LC) únùṅù/n-
	<b>Bury</b>	<b>Ground/Earth</b>	<b>Twist</b>	<b>Fly</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*lĭ	*èlĭə	*fĭ	*fé
Èkpèyè	lĭ	èlĕ	(pĭmá)	wé
Ogbakiri	lĭ	èlĭ	hyĭ	hwé
Owere	lì	àlà	hyĭ	fé
Onicha	ni	ànĭ	fĭ	fé
Ukwuani	ni	ànĭ	fĭ	fé
Nenwe	ni	àlĭ	vyó	vé
Izhii	lì	àlĭ	swĭ	φé
Other Igbo Lects		Egbema – àlĭ Nrobo – àṅĭ	Ohaozara φyĭ	Oka βé Agbanĭ çwé/φé/fé
Outside Cognates	PLC * ù-lì = grave PYIG * d'ì = bury an object Arigidi – lyū/lü PJ – ndip PS – nĭi Plj – dĭbi	PYIG * V-lĕ PWS – là 'erde, unten' Ahan - alè	Èdo xĭĕ Auchi 'ki B pĭat make rope by twisting	Èḡeṅ – fiàni PYIS * fò 'fly, jump' PS pi 'fliegen'

	<b>Belly</b>	<b>Theft</b>	<b>Face</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*dĭfóó	*d̥úsĭ	*dĭsúí	*ásúá
Èkpèyè	úwó	(ògbù)	(ùpĭ)	àlà
Ogbakiri	rúhʷó	ósĭ	rúhʷú/rúhú	áhʷà
Owere	áfó	ó!fĭ/ó!hyĭ	ihwú/ihú	áfò
Onicha	áfó/ávó	ó!rĭ	írú	árò
Ukwuani	éfó	ófĭ	ísú	ásúà
Nenwe	évó	ó!zĭ	ihú	áhò
Izhii	éφó		íφú	áφà
Other Igbo Lects	Nsuka éhó Ọkọcha ékʷó Ọka áβó	Ogidi ólrhí Ndele vú!sú	Ọkọcha íkwú Ogidi írhú Nrobo ífú	Ọkọcha àákʷà
Outside Cognates	PE * dhĭ-phaNĭ, A- PYIG * ì-fū	B * -cŭmá = thief	PLC * í-só éḡem B * -cĭó	

	Intestine, 'guts' PCJ pu (ri-/a-) *B – pù 'stomach' PS pụnị 'Bauch'		-cífú	
	<b>Roast</b>	<b>Yawn</b>	<b>Grey Hair</b>	<b>Goat</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*sú	*χέ	*dúχó	*έΧά
Ekpeye	nó/(dújǐ)	wă úwâ	ú!wó	(ágéléǝǐ)
Ogbakiri	h <sup>w</sup> ú/(rú)	χă + óχàrà	rúwó	ówù
Owere	h <sup>w</sup> ú/hú	χέ/yé	áwó	éwú/έΧú
Onicha	rú	χέ úχélé	áwó	éwú
Ukwuanị	súmé	χέ úχélé	éwóò	éwú
Udi	hḙ/φú	χέ	éwó	έΧú/έΧḙ
Izhii	húbé	χέ	éwó	έΧú
Other Igbo Lects	Nsúka hḙ Ogidi rhú Nrobo fúyǐ	Ehugbo gé ùgéré Ohaozara yé úyé!ré	Ehugbo éǝǝ Ogba éΧó	Ehugbo éwú
Outside Cognates	PYIG * sū PJ tón-à 'burn' B * tumb-roast PWS tùà, (tò) rösten	PYIG * na/yá Edo naṅa Epie ye (bele) Egeṅe wúra (awo) Ibibio ṅwàṅáde PJ yam P.Ij. awūā	Bantu – búì = white hair P.Ij. iBūlu	PE *E-bhūī, ī- PLC*é-bód/i- PYIG*e-'bó 'she goat' PBC – bwon (i-/i-) PB – búḍì Kana (Ogoni) péé P-Ij. óbórí

	<b>Drink</b>	<b>Bathe</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Cold</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*χó	*χά	*άχóǐ	*óyí
Ekpeye	ṅwú/ṅú	h <sup>w</sup> úyá	é!á!ṅwú	úka!yǐ
Ogbakiri	ṅwó	hyá	(éhá!m)	íyí
Owere	ṅú	(sá)/χú	á!ṅwú	ó!yí
Onicha	(lá)/ṅú/ṅwú	wú	áṅá!ṅwú	ó!yí
Ukwuanị	(lá)	wú	áṅwúú/(áṅúú)	óyí
Udi	χḙ	χḙ éhḙ	éyá!wú	ó!yí
Izhii	ṅú	wú	áṅwú	óyí
Other Igbo Lects	Nsúka ṅǐ/ṅwú!tá	Ebiriba – hú/wú Ehugbo – wú	Ogba – á!ṅǐ Agwa – á!ṅú	
Outside Cognates	PE * yonō PYIG * ṅmū Uro (Akokoid) ṅḡ PJ ṅgwam PLC * ṅwóṅ Ikakumo - w ú	PE * khue PYIG * gwé/guḙ Syb – wé PB – kóo 'wash' PWS – gua, gual- 'waschen'	PS – χui 'sonne' Gestirn Ibilo - ô-ḥò Akunnu – éwú Arigidi – ūhò	Iyede (Isoko) o-jeje Urh – ò-ǝǝrò

	<b>He/She</b>	<b>We/Us</b>	<b>Break/Split</b>	<b>Jump</b>
<b>Proto Igbo</b>	*yé	*éyǐ	*wá	*wù
Ekpeye	yá/á	yéé	wá!í	(má/pé)/wú
Ogbakiri		àyǐ	túwá	(gbú) éhwúrú
Owere	yá	àṅǐ	wá	wú/mú
Onicha	yá	àṅǐ	wá	wú
Ukwuanị	éyá	àṅǐ	wá	wú/ṅwúǐǐ/(kpóntú)
Izhii	yá	àṅǐ	wá	(pfú)

Other Igbo Lects	Ọhaọzara yé	Nrobo àá!nǐ		Ọgba - wò Nsuka - wòǐ
Outside Cognates	Ibibio àpé Bantu *yé = he/him/she/her	Ibibio òpìn PLC * àjít Işekiri ɛ-nɛ /elɛ Degema eni Urh (au)añi	Bantu -bàa - split	Igala - wì Ibilo - 'bɔ Auchi - u-uô Aviele - ú-wô Obolo (LC) wùlù