

NOTES ON ETULO

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The Etulo (ètùlò) are a small group who live mainly at Katsina Ala, wholly surrounded by Tiv, who call them Utur, which has become the official name. The Hausa call them Turu or Turumawa. I visited the district briefly in 1952 and wrote a note about them for *PEOPLES OF THE NIGER-BENUE CONFLUENCE*.¹ The following notes on the Etulo language were made at that time and are impressionistic and tentative; but they may suffice to give an indication of the place of the language, and to interest others in studying it more deeply.

The following phonology is implicit in my notes and may be taken as a working hypothesis:

CONSONANTS

	bilabial	labio-dental	alveolar		palatal		velar		labialized			labio-velar	
plosive	b		t	d	ky	gy	k	g	bw	kw	gw	kp	gb
fricative		f	s	z	ʃ						ɣw		
affricate			ts	dz									
roll				r									
lateral				l									
nasal	m		n		ɲ		ŋ			ɲw		ŋm	
semi-vowel	w												

The nasal series, except ɲw, can all appear as consonants or as syllabics. My notes seem to me possibly inconsistent at points, but I leave them as they stand.

VOWELS

i		u	ĩ
e		o	
	ə		
ɛ	ɔ		ẽ
a			ã

The vowels and syllabics (including r) occur on three tone levels, marked ' high, ` low, and ¯ mid, respectively, although mid tone is usually left unmarked.

It remains to be said that over sixty per cent of the forms given here are fairly obvious reflexes of words in Central Idoma (Oturkpo). Etulo would seem to be one of the easternmost of the Kwa languages.

Greeting to a chief ógábáídù!

special greeting òḡgélá

good morning! òtówà!

yam áḡgwó [ŋ syllabic?]

one oḡí one yam aḡgwɔḡí 20 òlɔlɔ

two ɛfà two yams aḡgwɛɛfà 21 òlɔlɔ dɔḡíí

¹ D. Forde, P. Brown and R. G. Armstrong, (*Ethnographic Survey of Africa*, ed. by Daryll Forde, *Western Africa, Part VII*), London: International African Institute, 1955, pp. 134-5.

three	èta	three yams	ḅḅwèta	30	òlòlò diḅwò
four	ènè	four yams	ḅḅwènè	400	wḅḅzènè
five	èda	five yams	ḅḅwèda		
six	ègyī	six yams	ḅḅwègyī		
seven	ègyafà	seven yams	ḅḅwègyafà		
eight	ègyata	eight yams	ḅḅwègyata		
nine	ègyanè	nine yams	ḅḅwègyanè		
ten	iywo	ten yams	ḅḅwiḅwo		

I eat ḅḅ gyé Perfective with pre-posed object,
 'I have eaten . . .', 'I took and ate . . .'

I ate yam	m gyanḅwo	ḅḅ kyáḅḅwo gyè
you (s.) ate yam	o gyanḅwo	o kyáḅḅwo gyè
he ate yam	ó gyanḅwo	ó kyáḅḅwo gyè
we ate yam	éi gyanḅwo	éi kyáḅḅwo gyè
you ate yam	émá gyanḅwo	émá kyáḅḅwo gyè
they ate yam	ámá gyanḅwo	ámá kyáḅḅwo gyè

Independent Pronouns:

I	ánìì	it is I	làánìì
thou	ábuù	it is thou	làábuù
he	óḅwú	it is he	loḅwú
we	eíì	it is we	lèíì
you	emáà	it is you	lemáà
they	ámá	it is they	lamá

Possessives and object pronouns:

my yam	ḅḅwo ḅḅmáníì	father	òtsè
thy yam	ḅḅwo ḅḅḅḅbábúù	my father	òtsèḅḅ
his yam	ḅḅwo ḅḅḅḅḅḅwú	thy father	òtsòò
our yam	ḅḅwo ḅḅḅḅḅḅyíì	his father	òtsòòḅḅ
your yam	ḅḅwo ḅḅḅḅemáà	our father	òtsèìì
their yam	ḅḅwo ḅḅḅḅbama	he sees his father	ó dótsòò
I see	ḅḅ dí	my father's father	òtsòtsèḅḅ
I see it	m dí		=òtsíkyè
I see you	m díù	mother	ene
you see me	o daníì	my mother	onèḅḅ
he sees me	ó daníì=ó díì	thy mother	onòò
he sees us	ó deíì	his mother	onòòḅḅ
I see you (pl.)	m demáà		
you see me	ema díì		
they see me	ámá díì		
they see him	ámá dí		

Various partial paradigms:

drink	ḅḅwa
I drink water	m ḅḅwenì
you (s.) drink w.	o ḅḅwenì
he drinks water	ó ḅḅwenì
I drank water	ḅḅ kyèní ḅḅwa

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I did not drink water	m γwenì loò=m γwenì ba	I come	m ba
you did not drink water	o γwenì loò=o γwenì ba	you come	o ba
he did not drink water	ó γwenì loò	he comes	ó ba
we did not drink water	éí γwenì loò	ground-nuts	ìnàkà
you (pl.) did not drink w.	émá γwenì ba	oil	ènggye=ènggyèóoma
they did not drink water	ámá γwenì ba	red	oma
Come!	kwa!	cow	ndà
Have you come?	o ba waàà?	bull	ndàùngyùlò
Have you eaten yam?	o gyanḡwɔ waàà?	cow	ndáúngyaà
chief	ùtò=ótsé	rain	m̄bwo
Chief of Etulo	otsétrù=otsétùlò	it rains	m̄bwo kyáà
market chief	ḡgìziduù=ótsúḡwíduù	God	ḡm̄bàfò
market	idù	up, above	èfò
lion	ógábá	land	èse
leopard	m̄gbè	snake	ifà
I hunt	m tsé	compound	ùde
hunter	ḡgyisùḡtse	forest	ivù
person	ḡgyisè	a dream	éíelá
woman, female	òḡgya, pl. èḡgya	ear	àdò
male	òḡgyùlò, pl. èḡgyùlò	farm	òkwò
wife	òwò. my wife, òwèèè	I farmed	m fòkwò
child	oḡwe, pl. eḡwe	I have farmed	m̄ kyókwo fì
meat	m̄bwe	grass	òfè
I eat meat	ḡm gyḡbwe	he went to bush	ò kòòfè
I ate meat	ḡ kyḡbwé gye	he went to Etulo	ó kéètùlò
'fufu', pounded		he migrated to	
yam	m̄na	Etulo	ó léètùlò
banana	àgbògbò	I give thanks,	
I say	m gbòò	thank you! Beg	
he says	ó gbòò	pardon	m táḡgba=ḡm̄gba!
mouth, language	ònduù [n syllabic?]	work	idò
arm, hand	àbòò	I work	m kido
leg	àfòò	fire	òla
belly	ifu	water	ènì
head	ikyé	fish	m̄bwenì ('water animal')
tree	èkwò	body	èwoò
walking-stick	àgìdà	skin	òkpéwoò=ikpéwóò
goat	ndò	leather	òkpaà
sheep	m̄màlàà	shoe	òkpafoò ('leather of the foot')
dog	òbwè		
palm-tree	àdeè		
beer	èbye		
guinea-corn	èkù		
millet	àḡgyà		
maize, corn	ìkinakpà		
Hausa	bèrnu		
Hausa language	òndu b̄rnu		

stream	ògbe	penis	íngbíṣò
Katsina Ala		vulva	iywè
River	èkyoò	arse	òwàbí
Benue River	èkyoòkwò	thigh	itaà
finger nail	ífoò	knee	àkwafò
finger(s)	òṅwufáboò ('children of hand')	tongue	ideè
yes	èè	nose	èbì
no	éi	eye	ineè
breast, teat	àbeè	blood	èii
chicken	òìgbi	a locally-made woman's waist-	
egg	àkyi	towel	ágwála
chest	ìgègè	house	òdzuù
heart	ítúkúú	goodbye!	kèdódòò
navel	ṅgyékwo		

A FEW MORE WORDS OF ELOYI

The following data are additional to those presented in THE JOURNAL OF WEST AFRICAN LANGUAGES, 1, 1, pp. 5-12. The Eloyi are among the most artistically gifted peoples of Nigeria and continue to live in formidable cultural isolation. The following words were given to me by a Mr. Ekute, from ósààrì, which is a part of the Eloyi Mbeci section. There may therefore be a dialect difference between these words and those published by Mr. Mackay. The contact language was Pidgin English, badly fractured on both sides. The number system is duodecimal, which is unusual so far south.

Eloyi (name of the language)	èllì
yam	lúsú, pl. ísú [cp. Yoruba isu, Idoma, isi]
water-yam	òbònú, pl. ìbùnù [cp. Idoma òbùnà]
beans	kònzè, pl. ènzè [cp. Idoma èjè, Yoruba erèé]
guinea-corn	ùkpāàkpà
maize	òvòṅ-ṅmò, pl. òváémà
cassava	kòrógwò, pl. òrógwò

one	ṅgònzé	thirteen	ṅwúsówànzé
two	ṅgòpò	fourteen	ṅwúsóṅgòpò
three	ṅgòlā	fifteen	ṅwúsóṅgòlā
four	ṅgòndō	sixteen	ṅwúsóṅgòndō
five	ṅgòllò	seventeen	ṅwúsóṅgòllò
six	ṅgòrèjí	eighteen	ṅwúsóṅgòrèjí
seven	ṅgòlòwò	nineteen	ṅwúsóṅgòlòwò
eight	ṅgòràndá	twenty	ṅwúsóṅgòràndá
nine	ṅgòròndō	twenty-one	ṅwúsóṅgòròndō
ten	ṅgwúwó	twenty-two	ṅwúsóṅwó
eleven	ṅwòrèjí	twenty-three	ṅwúsóṅwòrèjí
twelve	ṅwúsò	twenty-four	ṅwúséékpépò