MAKA WORDLIST

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Maka—also referred to as Maaka, Maha, Magha, or Maga—is a West Chadic language spoken in Gulani Local Authority in the southeast corner of Yobe State, Nigeria. More specifically, it is a member of the Bole-Tangale subgroup of West Chadic. A preliminary estimate suggests that within Bole-Tangale, it is most closely related to Bole, but it is distinct language, differing in many respects from other languages in the Bole-Tangale group, and it not mutually intellible with any of them.

The only published data on Maka is a 100-word list in Paul Newman, "A brief note on the Maha language," *Journal of West African Languages* 2(1):57-58, 1965. It is listed as "Maaka" in D.H. Crozier and R.M. Blench (eds.), *An Index of Nigerian Languages* 2nd edition, Dallas TX: Summer Institute of Linguistics, 1992, and Newman (1965) cites a reference to "Maga" in O. Temple, *Notes on the Tribes, Provinces, Emirates and States of the Northern Provinces of Nigeria*, Lagos, 1922.

New data presented here was collected in conjunction with a US National Science Foundation funded research project, "Lexicon, Linguistic Structure, and Verbal Arts in Chadic Languages of Northeastern Nigeria (DBP, KAI, NBH)" (award #BCS-0553222, Russell G. Schuh, Principal Investigator). The project has as its purpose to document six Chadic languages indigenous to Yobe State—Bade, Bole, Duwai, Karekare, Ngamo, and Ngizim. When designing the "Yobe languages project", I believed these languages to be the only languages spoken today that are indigenouns to Yobe State (the other major languages spoken in the state being Kanuri, Hausa, and Fulfulde, all of which have spread from areas outside present-day Yobe State). It turns out, however, that Maka is a seventh language meeting this description. Time and resources have not permitted, and probably will not permit the the full-scale inclusion of Maka in the project, but because it falls under the rubric of a Chadic language indigenous to Yobe State, I felt that I should attempt to do at least a little documentation in order to give the language a place in the overall picture and perhaps to set the stage for further research and documentation.

Documentation here represents just one afternoon's work, but it more than doubles the amount of data previously available. On August 6, 2007, I traveled from Potiskum, Yobe State to Damaturu, the capital of Yobe State to meet Musa Bamai, a speaker of Maka who is a civil servant in Gulani Local Government and a native of Bara town in the Maka-speaking area. We met in the home of Muhammad Muhammad Bara, who is also a speaker of Maka and who participated in the data collection session. Many thanks to him and his family for hosting our session and providing food and drink. Also I would like to thank Madu Bah of our project team for arranging the session and for generally being indefatigable in his participation in the project. Finally, thanks to my constant colleague in the Yobe language project, Dr. Alhaji Maina Gimba, who not only runs the project in Nigeria but who is unfailingly accurate in correcting my phonological misjudgments.

Because of the limited amount of time for our work on Maka, I focused on just a few things. First, I collected around 150 words from a list of words especially selected for Chadic language research in order to provide some benchmarks for comparing Maka to other Chadic languages. Next, I worked on a few constructions designed to test for gender and basic noun phrase syntax (genitives and constructions with determiners) and a few verbal contructions in the completive/perfective aspect, which tends to reveal a number of diagnostics for verb classification and verbal extensions. Finally, in order to provide a little documentation of the oral language, I videotaped Malam Musa counting

from 1-10, exchange some typical greetings with Malam Muhammad, and narrating a cartoon strip that I have used with all the other Chadic languages of Yobe State.

The wordlist here includes all the words collected during our session. Also included as separate entries are all the words in Newman (1965). These are marked "[Newman]". In a few cases, Newman's entries show differences from those provided by Malam Musa. In particular, a number of words with medial *–h-* in Newman's list have medial *–k-* in Malam Musa's speech, e.g. Newman *aho* 'stomach' vs. *ako*, and the name of the language itself, *Maha* vs. *Maka*. This may represent a dialect difference or it may represent a generational difference. The latter seems unlikely, however. Even though Neman collected his list over forty years ago, both the speakers in the present study are mature individuals who acquired Maka as children from speakers of the generation of Newman's speaker. In most cases of overlap between Newman's and my lists, the words are identical except that Newman did not attempt to mark tone and vowel length. Almost all the entries from our session are marked for tone and vowel length (macron (ā) = long vowel, grave accent (à) = low tone, circumflex accent (â) = falling tone, no accent (a) = high tone). The exception are a few words marked "[from text]" that come from the cartoon narration but which were not checked independently for tone, vowel length, or, in the case of verbs, for affixal morphology.

The verb entries are the verbs in the completive/perfective aspect with a 3rd person singular subject, e.g. the entry *àdô* 'bite' was elicited as 'he bit'. It is not clear what the citation form of Newman's verbal entries are—some look to be verbal nouns, other imperatives. The verb classification here is a slightly elaborated version of a system developed for Bole by Johannes Lukas: A1 = CVC- roots with a short vowel, A2b = CVCC- roots, D = Ca roots in their completive/perfective form. A2a verbs have CV̄C- roots, but no such roots came up in the Maka data. Bole and other Bole-Tangale languages have a class B, viz. CVC*a* roots with an *–a* stem vowel. I tried a few verbs that canonically belong to this class in Bole-Tangale languages, but Maka either used a different root verb or the verb seems to have fallen together with A1 verbs, e.g. *bòsô* 'shoot', which in Bole is *bàsā̀-wò̀-yi*.

Newman (1965) states that "Maha is the only West Chadic language which has lateral fricatives". It is true that Maka/Maha does have lateral fricatives, several examples of which appear in this word list, e.g. Newmna *butlo*, the present list *bùtltò* 'ashes' (*tl* = voiceless lateral fricative, *dl* = voiced). We know now that Newman's claim about lateral fricatives in West Chadic was wrong: many West Chadic languages have lateral fricatives inherited from proto-Chadic, including virtually all the languages of Newman's (1977) West Chadic "B" subgroup (all Bade-Ngizim languages, all North Bauchi languages, and all South Bauchi languages). Maka is unusual, however, among Bole-Tangale languages. A shared innovation linking the Bole-Tangale languages is the loss of lateral fricatives that would have been inherited from proto-Chadic. Maka is one of only two Bole-Tangale languages known to have lateral fricatives, the other being Karekare. Karekare has introduced lateral fricatives through contact with Ngizim—most Karekare words with lateral fricatives are obvious loanwords from Ngizim. The source for lateral fricatives in Maka is not so obvious, however. The best candidate is Pabur/Bura, which neighbors Maka on the east, but at least two words with lateral fricatives in the list here look to be native Bole-Tangle words, viz. the word for 'ashes' cited above and *ɓortlò* 'break a stick (cf. Bole *ɓàltu* with the same meaning). A clearer idea for the source of lateral fricatives in Maka must await more research.

A

àdà *n.* (*pl.* **àdànshe**) dog
ada *n.* [Newman] dog
adayo *v.* (*v.n.* **adayo**) [Newman] bite
àdô *v.A1* (*v.n.* **àdì**) bite
aho *n.* [Newman] belly, stomach
àko *n.* stomach
àmma *n.* water
amma *n.* [Newman] water
andi *existential* [from text] there is..., there are... *ex* **andì làtu laka...** there was a certain person...; **à sì moi karìnì andì ɓa** he saw that his things were not there
anim [anəm] *n., adv.loc.* south
anim [anəm] *n.* top grinding stone
ầ shìrau = bầ shiri *n.* [from text] thief
asirkina *stat.* [Newman] dry
àushi *n.* (*pl.* **àushinè**) goat
au *n.* river
aytu *v.* [Newman] come

B

bầ *num.card.* five
ba *num.card.* [Newman] five
baha *n.* [Newman] arm
bàngum *n.* baboon
bemba *num.card.* [Newman] ten
bìmba *num.card.* ten
bìnkinù *num.card.* six
binkunu *num.card.* [Newman] six
bòɗì *n.* night
boɗi *n.* [Newman] night
bogjito *n.* [Newman] breast
boho *n.* [Newman] mouth
boinin *conj.* [from text] after *ex* **boinìn shìrō karàinì...** after he had stolen his things...
bòkò *n.* mouth
boko *v.* (*v.n.* **boko**) [Newman] burn
bòllu *num.card.* two
bolu *num.card.* [Newman] two
bo moji *n.* [Newman] man
bomozì *n.* (*pl.* **bomozáŋ**) man, male human
bầ shiri = ầ shìrau *n.* [from text] thief
bòsô *v.A1* (*v.n.* **bòsî**) shoot
boy *n.* [Newman] back
būbì *n.* beard
bùni *n.* grinding stone
bùrùm *n.* knee
burum *n.* [Newman] knee
butlo *n.* [Newman] ashes

bùtltò *n.* ashes
buto *n.* [Newman] salt

Ɓ

ɓa *adv.* see **wà**
ɓèllèm *n.* (*pl.* **ɓèllenshè**) cat
ɓelem *n.* [Newman] horn
ɓòlò *v.A1* break (intransitive), of a stick, etc. *ex* **zàure ɓòlò** the stick broke
ɓortlò *v.A2b* break stick, etc. (transitive) *ex* **sì ɓortli zàure** he broke a stick; **sì ɓortlò** he broke (it)

C

cacap *quant.* [Newman] all

D

dàɗak *num.card.* hundred
dài *adj.* red
dàmầtò *n.* broom
dāndê *n.pl.* children
daso *n.* [Newman] rain
dey *adj.* [Newman] red
dimbi *n.* [Newman] skin
dirì *num.card.* marker of units in number 11-99 *ex* **dirì mōɗì** eleven; **kò bòllu dirì mōɗì** twenty-one
dlito *v.* (*v.n.* **dlito**) [Newman] fly (verb)
dòm *n.* blood
dom *n.* [Newman] blood
domi *n.* (*pl.* **no plural**) zabo
dore *n.* [Newman] path, road
dừde *n.* fly (insect)
duhayo *v.* (*v.n.* **duhayo**) [Newman] kill
dùwo *n.* (*pl.* **dùwồlai**) horse

Ɗ

ɗàr *n., adv.loc.* east
ɗau- *v.A1* [from text] follow *ex* **à sù ɗau shiràu yâ** he went after the thief
ɗele *n.* [Newman] foot
ɗena *v.* (*v.n.* **ɗena**) [Newman] sit
ɗeri *v.* (*v.n.* **ɗeri**) [Newman] stand
ɗese *adj.* [Newman] small
ɗìlis *n.* tongue

ɗilis *n.* [Newman] tongue
ɗìnkò *v.A2b* cook *ex* **tằnà ɗìnkò** the tuwo is cooked; **tà ɗìnkùtô** she cooked (it)
ɗìnshi *n.* egg
ɗinshi *n.* [Newman] egg

E

ècci *n.* sand

G

gằ *prep.* [from text] place of, at *ex* **à sù gèjjė sòtô gằ lâ modù laka** he bought bean cakes
    from a certain girl
gàɗa *n.* calabash
gaɗe *adv.loc.* [Newman] left (side)
gằlì *adv.loc.* on the ground, down
gàm *n.* (*pl.* **gàmshinè**) ram
gandi *v.* (*v.n.* **gandi**) [Newman] lie down
gàndùk *n.* giant rat, bandicoot
gejjìtô *v.A2c* (*v.n.* **gèjjènti**) sell
gèjjò *v.A2bg* (*v.n.* **gèjjô**) buy
girgir *adj.* [Newman] hot
gò boi *n.* back
gòrku *n.* town
gòtok *n.* rooster
gòzò *n.* monkey
guji *n.* [Newman] stone

H

haŋ *quant.* [Newman] many

I

ìdà *n.* eye
ida *n.* [Newman] eye
ìnà *pro.1 sg.* me, I (independent pronoun)
ìndò *v.A2b* [from text] arise, get up *ex* **sì ìndò kò monsôm** he arose from sleep

J

jankar *n.* [Newman] louse
jìlai *num.card.* eight

jiley *num.card.* [Newman] eight
jito *n.* [Newman] heart

K

kali *v.* (*v.n.* **kali**) [Newman] see
karai *n.* [from text] stuff, things, goods
kè *pro.2 sg.m.* you (singular masculine independent pronoun)
kerwo *n.* fish
kerwo *n.* [Newman] fish
kò *num.card.* marks tens in numbers 20-90 *ex* **kò bòllu** twenty; **kò bòllu dirì mōɗì**
    twenty-one
kò *n.* head
kò *prep.* [from text] from *ex* **sì ìndò kò monsôm** he arose from sleep
ko *n.* [Newman] head
kòdàm *n.* crocodile
kokkò *n.* sky
kòm *n.* (*pl.* **kòmshinè**) cow
korkornikina *stat.* [Newman] round
kōro *n.* (*pl.* **kōrōrai**) donkey
kù *pro.2 pl.* you (plural independent pronoun)
kùjàm *n.* thirst
kuma *n.* ear
kuma *n.* [Newman] ear
kūnù *num.card.* three
kunu *num.card.* [Newman] three
kùròl *n.* viper
kùshi *n.* baobab (*Adansonia digitata*)
kùtà *pro.3 pl.* they, them (independent pronoun)
kùzùm *n.* hunger
kwàlak *num.card.* nine
kwalak *num.card.* [Newman] nine

L

là *n.* (*pl.* **dāndê**) child, boy, girl *ex* **là modù** girl; **là bomozì** boy
lai *interr.pro.* who? *ex* **lai à ngerka tòmshìyà?** who tied the sheep?
laka *det.indef.* a, a certain, some *ex* **tòmshì laka** a certain ewe; **gâm laka** a certain ram;
    tàmshine laka some sheep
làtû *n.* (*pl.* **mò**) person
latu *n.* [Newman] person
ley *interr.pro.* [Newman] who
lo *n.* meat
lo *n.* [Newman] meat
lòwô *v.A1* (*v.n.* **lòwi**) give birth, bear
luway *interr.pro.* [Newman] what

M

mằkùnju *n.* puff adder
mìɗi *n.* python
mìnè *pro.1 pl.* we, us (independent pronoun)
mò *n.pl.* people
mòdi *n.* (perhaps used only in possessed form) wife *ex* **mồdinì** his wife
mòdù *n.* (*pl.* **mòndè**) woman
modu *n.* [Newman] woman
mōɗì *num.card.* one
moɗi *num.card.* [Newman] one
monay *adv.loc.* [Newman] right (side)
mòndè *n.pl.* women
monsom *n.* [from text] sleep, sleeping
monsom *n.* [Newman] sleep, sleeping
moŋ- *v.A1* [from text] take, take hold of *ex* **ằ monsom moŋnì** sleep overcame him
mòr *n.* oil
mor *n.* [Newman] oil
moi- *v.A1* [from text] see *ex* **ǎ sì moi karìnì andì ɓa** then he saw that his things were not there
mòzì *n.* (perhaps used only in possessed form) husband *ex* **mòzìto** her husband
mùtô *v.A1* (*v.n.* **mùto**) die
muto *v.* (*v.n.* **muto**) [Newman] die

N

nằje *n.* rat
nam *det.dem.* [Newman] that
nàmā *det.dem.* this, these *ex* **nàmā tòmshi** this ewe (seen); **tòmshi nàmā** this ewe (known from context); **nàmā gâm** this ram (seen); **gâm nàmā** this ram (known from context); **nàmā tòmshine** these sheep (seen); **tòmshine nàmā** these sheep (known from context)
nashi *det.dem.* [Newman] this
nder- *v.A1* [from text] run, run away *ex* **à shiràu yā nderè̀ ằ poknì** the thief ran away and left him behind
ndo- *v.C* [from text] go, come *ex* **à sù ndòko à sù gèjjê sồtô** he came and bought some bean cakes; **ằ sì ndìnnì òtè njiwì laka** he went under a tree; **bô shiri ndīwo ằ shirti karàinì** the thief came and stole his things
ngaɗaŋ *adj.* [Newman] long
ngano *num.card.* [Newman] seven
ngằnù *num.card.* seven
ngàrnò *n.* belch
ngemkina *stat.* [Newman] full
ngèmô *v.A1* be satisfied, have enough to eat
ngèrô *v.A1* (*v.n.* **ngèrāyò**) tie
njìwì *n.* tree
njiwi *n.* [Newman] tree
njulur *adj.* [Newman] cold
nonayo *v.* (*v.n.* **nonayo**) [Newman] sani

nyànyàla *n.* brains

O

òdi *n.* knife
oho *n.* [Newman] hill
òllok *n.* smoke
olok *n.* [Newman] smoke
on-tò *v.A1* (*v.n.* **ònōyò**) give
oni *v.* (*v.n.* **oni**) [Newman] give
òsi *n.* fire
òsok *n.* bone
osok *n.* [Newman] bone
ote *n., prep.* [from text] under *ex* **òtè njiwì laka** under a certain tree
òtìn *n.* nose

P

paɗɗu *num.card.* four
paɗu *num.card.* [Newman] four
pata *n.* [Newman] tail
pè *adj.* white
pe *adj.* [Newman] white
pē-tò *v.D* close, cover
pok- *v.A1* [from text] leave behind *ex* **à shiràu yā nderè̀ à̀ poknì** the thief ran off and
    left him behind
pori *v.* [Newman] say
pò̃ti *n.* sun
poti *n.* [Newman] sun
poyo *adj.* [Newman] new

R

ra-kkò *v.D* (*v.n.* **rài**) enter, go in

S

sa-kkô *v.D* (*v.n.* **sài**) drink
sara *n.* [Newman] hand
sē *n.* foot
se *n.* [Newman] foot
se *v.* (*v.n.* **se**) [Newman] drink
shì *pro.2 sg.f.* you (singular feminine independent pronoun)
shidom *n.* [Newman] seed

shir- *v.A1* [from text] steal *ex* **bȍ shiri ndīwo ȁ shirti karàinì** the thief came and stole his things; **boinìn shìrō karàinì...** after he had stolen his things...
shiri *n.* [from text] theft, stealing
shòrò *n.* root
shȍshi *n.* hair
sì *pro.3 sg.m.* he, him (independent pronoun)
sòkkùrè *n.* (*pl.* **sòkkùrancè**) in-law
sol- *v.A1* [from text] feel *ex* **su kò sòl kuzùm** he was feeling hungry
soli *v.* (*v.n.* **soli**) [Newman] hear
soro *adj.* [Newman] big
sorom *n.* [Newman] root
soshi *n.* [Newman] hair
sòtô *n.* bean cakes
sum name
sum *n.* [Newman] name
sùrô *v.A1* (*v.n.* **sùrāyò**) fry

T

tà *pro.3 sg.f.* she, her (independent pronoun)
tà-kkò *v.D* (*v.n.* **tài**) eat (tuwo)
taɓɓô *v.A2bg* (*v.n.* **taɓɓô**) go out, exit
tȁnà *n.* tuwo (staple food made of corn or rice)
tȁni *n.* hard stone used to roughen grinding stone
tàrya *n.* moon, month
tarya *n.* [Newman] moon
teɗȉ *n.* hiccough, hiccup
tèɗô *v.A1* (*v.n.* **tèɗayò**) beat, strike, hit
tendreshi *n.* [Newman] star
tèzem *n.* vein, tendon
ti *v.* (*v.n.* **ti**) [Newman] eat
tiŋ *adj.* black
tiŋ *adj.* [Newman] black
tòmshi *n.* (*pl.* **tòmshìrai**) sheep

U

ùdo *n.* tooth
udo *n.* [Newman] tooth

W

wà *n.* neck
wà...ɓa *adv.* not--general negative construction, with negated item bracketed by the two markers *ex* **ni wà ngèrô ɓa** I didn't tie it; **su wà ngernā ɓa** he didn't tie me
wah *n.* [Newman] neck
we *v.* (*v.n.* **we**) [Newman] see [sic]

wìɗî *n.* bird
wiɗi *n.* [Newman] bird
wìnàu *n.* spitting cobra
wishi *n.* [Newman] snake
woɗi *n.* [Newman] milk
wòɗo *v.A1* (*v.n.* **wòɗāyò**) eat (meat)
woshi *n.* [Newman] fire
wotiŋ *n.* [Newman] nose

Y

ya *det.def.* [from text] the, the one mentioned *ex* **à shiràu ya** the thief
yàlà *n., adv.loc.* north
yàwi *n.* chicken, hen
yòkno *n.* elephant

Z

zàure *n.* stick
zèni *n., adv.loc.* west
zinaŋ *adj.* [Newman] good
zòkò *n.* body
zùto *n.* heart
zùwwà musk shrew