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NOTES ON THE NATIVES OF THE KWILU, CONGO FREE STATE

By E. Torday

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The principal inhabitants of the Kwilu are: Bayanzi, Bahuana (Bahoni), and Bambala. These peoples speak amongst themselves a bastard Kikongo, which bears a considerable resemblance to Swahili, or rather to *Kingwana*, the corrupt Swahili of the Congo. In spite of this resemblance, however, certain remarkable differences exist between the three dialects spoken by the above-named peoples, and that, too, in the most elementary words; for it is more natural that the names of utensils and certain verbs should have been borrowed from *Kikongo* than words expressing number and relationship. *Kikongo* must be considered a hybrid speech, which has grown up from the intercourse between tribe and tribe. Thus we find that the term for "iron" in the three dialects mentioned above is very similar – Ndoni (*Bayanzi*), Dondu (*Bambala*), N'don (*Bahuana*); but the terms for "stone," which would naturally be older, are quite different, viz., Eyiri (*Bayanzi*), Amani (*Bambala*), and Matarr (*Bahuana*). "Bow," again, is similar – Ota, Uda, and Buta; but the words for "star" are similar only among the *Bambala* and *Bahuana*, Apededi, and Bamwetede; the Bayanzi use the term M'Biel. More surprising is the difference existing in dialects spoken by different villages of the same tribe. Below, for example, I give a few words used in Luano and Lundu, two villages situated only a score of miles apart, the inhabitants of which claim positively to belong to the same tribe, the Bahuana.

I will first detail the methods of counting on the fingers practised by the Bayanzi and Bahuana.

Bayanzi

1. L. hand open, 4th finger flexed; R. hand closed except 4th finger, which rests on 4th finger of L. hand.
2. L. hand open, 1st and 4th fingers flexed, former held in position by thumb.
3. L. hand 3rd finger open, 1st and 2nd fingers flexed and held by thumb.
4. L. hand thumb open.
5. L. hand closed; R. hand 1st finger on thumb.
6. L. hand closed; R. hand open, except 2nd finger, which is flexed and held by thumb.

Bahuana

1. L. hand thumb open.

2. L. hand thumb and forefinger open.
3. L. hand, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd fingers open.
4. L. hand, 1st, 2nd, 3rd fingers, and thumb open.
5. L. hand open.
6. L. hand, and thumb of R. hand open.
7. L. hand open, thumb held by thumb and 1st finger of R. hand, the other fingers flexed.
8. L. hand open, R. hand as in 7, but 2nd finger open also.
9. L. hand open, R. hand as in 8, but 3rd finger open also.
10. Both hands open, palm resting against palm.



BAYANZI



BAMBALA



BAHUANA

FIG. 1.—MANNER OF FILING
THE TEETH, KWILU RIVER,
CONGO FREE STATE.

English.	Bayanzi.	Bambala.	Bahuana (Bahoni).	
			Lundu.	Luano.
One	m'bei	mosh	moss	momo
Two	m'bue	mbali	zole	bili
Three	atala	satu	tatu	matutu
Four	ano	swana	ia	wanna
Five	atien	tanu	tanu	watan
Six	ashom	sambanu	sambanu	wasianna
Seven	tzamwan	samboeli	tsamwar	n'tsema
Eight	nan	kinana	nana	nan
Nine	v'va	libwoa	voa	uwa
Ten	kwim	gumi	kwim	kum
Eleven	kwimbei	gumi na mush	kwim na moss	kum na nomo
Twelve	kwim na bue	gumi na mbali	kwim na zole	kum na bili
Twenty	makum bue	mogumali	makumole	—
Father	atar	da	tat	ta
Mother	moa	ma	man	ma

English.	Bayanzi.	Bambala.	Bahuana (Bahoni).	
			Lundu.	Luano.
Brother	iyam	iya	iyei	iya
Sister	mokaram	pangim	pangim	—
Father's sister	*moa chicheri	kakem	—	—
Father's brother	lame	n'gwass	†tat	—
Mother's brother	nga	n'gwass	n'gwass	—
Mother's sister	*moa chicheri	*ma gazigazigi	kaka	—
Niece	mabiema	ya	yaya	iya
Nephew	mabiema	ya	yaya	iya
Grandfather	m'bai	tate kalenge	tat, or tat na tat	—
Sun	†tong	dangu	tang	—
Sky	onoye	yulu	zulu	ngi
No	logami	n'ge-n'ge	lo	lo
Small	chicheri	gazigazigi	atchichi	moshut
Big	onen	monene	yamonene	monene
Good	lonkoro	pimbi	wapim	m'pim
Bad	obi	pimbolo	pimlo	—
Earth	m'men	man	matoto	man
Moon	n'gon	gonde	n'gon	gond
Star	m'biel	ampededi	bamwetedede	m'bir
Fire	m'buri	tsua	mba	—
River	n'kwak	gwak	kwak	—
Water	anza	mem	mass	madya
Village	boa	m'bu	matt	bodla
Man	bar	mutu	mut	—
Men	bar	batu	bat	—
Goat	n'taba	komb	kom	tab
Pig	n'gul	n'gulu	n'gul	—
Dog	m'boa	m'boa	m'boa	—
Banana	n'dom	makondo diz	makon	monko
Iron	n'dony	dondu	n'don	—
Copper	m'mia	minengwa	milun	—
Stone	eyiri	amani	matarr	mankul
Bow	ota	uda	buta	boata
Arrow	atom	itutwi	bitut	—
Tree	onti	mitondo	miti	—
Wood	inshia	ndo	kun	—
Beard	keleth	§gileff	§gileff	kelel
Hair	n'tchi	dub	bonzo	m'fuss
Eye	mish	mess	mess	matshi
Nose	mbom	mozulu	m'bum	—

* *ch* as in *chicken*; moa chicheri = small mother; † To distinguish between *father* and *uncle* they say "father who begot me" and "small father."

‡ Pronounced like French long. § *g* hard as in *girl*.

English.	Bayanzi.	Bambala	Bahwana (Bahoni).	
			Lundu.	Luano.
Mouth	mun	gan	*pikop	—
Teeth	madj	mass	men	—
Hand	kekandje	n'dembo	kikansi	kikes
Leg	kul	gul	{ kul (upper half)	{ —
Foot	kekanch	kgazu	{ mokom (lower half)	
To come	tehe	zza	kikanze	makul
To go	yaya	dagwe	zza	iya
To eat	biedya	kulya	n'da	kwe
To drink	kunya	kunya	dia	yakledja
Hunger	n'djal	n'dzala	n'nua	noadya
To hit	kubul	kubula	n'dzala	—
To kill	kukwa	gufua	kubet	kutscha
To break	kobol	gufoa	fa	kupfa
To see	kommon	kobogole	kobogol	—
Woman	mokan	gutala	kumon	—
To work	kikiri	mokosuni	baket	mokat
To wash	makawob	kusal	kussal	assal
To speak	kubal	gof	kukwal	eul
White	m'pio	kohossa	kufun	amo
Black	wapiri	pemb	pez	mpes
Pretty	kobong	ubumbele	kuhit	bondun
Finger	kekange	pim	pim	m'pipi
True	kibiri	dembu	milem	molim
Shadow	—	kikiri	kwakirik	n'djim
I	men	—	kizwiz	—
Thou	n'ji	—	n in	—
He	n'gi	—	n'ge	—
We	bin	—	yan	—
You	bin	—	ben	—
They	n'gi	—	bet	—
			yan	—

* This is the general term; pikop-monwa = the whole mouth; pikop = the under lip; moniva = the tongue.

E. TORDAY.