

Introduction to the Cicipu dictionary

Stuart McGill, 14th November 2017

This trilingual dictionary is the first of any kind for the Cicipu language. It is intended for people who want to learn to read, write, or speak the Cicipu language and who already read English or Hausa well. These might be native speakers of Cicipu, or others who are learning it as a second language. A second reason for producing the dictionary is to ensure that future generations of Acipu have a written record of their language. Finally, we hope the dictionary will also be of some interest to linguists, and so this introduction provides basic sociolinguistic, phonological and grammatical information. For more detailed information see McGill (2009).

Cicipu (the ‘c’ is pronounced like *ch* in ‘church’ i.e. [tʃitʃipù]) is spoken in northwest Nigeria, with the main language area straddling the boundary between Kebbi and Niger States (Figure 1).

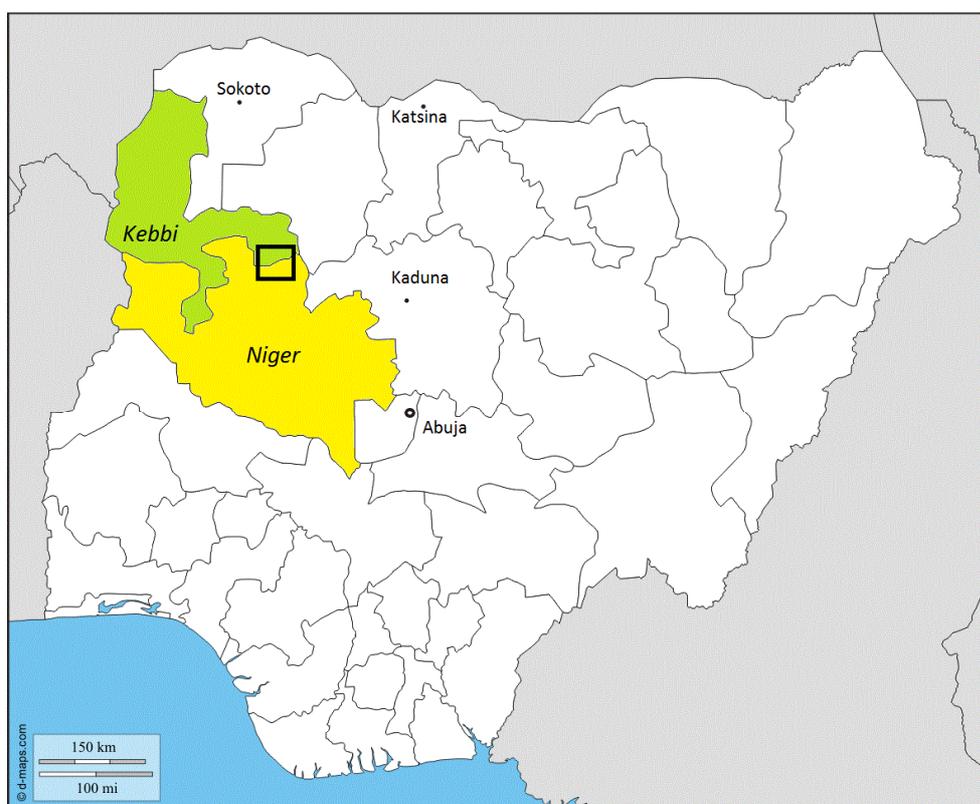


Figure 1: Cicipu language area within Nigeria¹

The language is a member of the Kainji subgroup of Benue-Congo. Native speakers identify seven dialects (Table 1), the approximate locations of which can be seen in Figure 2.

¹ http://d-maps.com/carte.php?num_car=4864&lang=en

Table 1: Cicipu dialects/settlements and their Hausa names

Dialect autonym	Cicipu settlement	Hausa name of settlement
Tìrisìnôo	Kòrìsìnôo	<i>Karishen</i>
Tìdìpó	Kòdìpó	<i>Kadonho</i>
Tìzòoríyò	Kòzòoríyò	<i>Mazarko</i>
Tìdódìmòò	Kòdódìmòò	<i>Kadedan</i>
Tìkúmbásí	Ùkúmbásí	<i>Kumbashi</i>
Tìkúlà	Ùkúlà	<i>Maburya</i>
Tìcúhùu	Kwècúhùu	<i>Kakihum</i>

Unless otherwise stated the words and examples in this dictionary are from Tirisino, the most prestigious and probably most robust dialect of Cicipu. The Orisino have maintained their language, and children in every village I visited spoke Cicipu as their mother tongue. Nevertheless younger speakers are heavily influenced by Hausa, which has spread into sociolinguistic domains such as casual conversation which were previously the preserve of the vernacular. The speech of young men and children (particularly boys) is markedly different to that of old men, with a higher incidence of Hausa loanwords and calqued constructions. The number system is a linguistic subdomain which, although very simple, is falling out of use: some young Orisino struggle to count past 5. Similarly many of the words in this dictionary will be unknown to the younger generation.

In contrast, Tikula is possibly the most endangered of the dialects, with only a small number of children learning Cicipu. The Tikumbasi dialect may be similarly endangered, and others likely fall between these two extremes. A few words from other dialects (especially Tikula) are included in the dictionary and clearly marked as such, but no systematic research has been attempted on any dialect other than Tirisino.

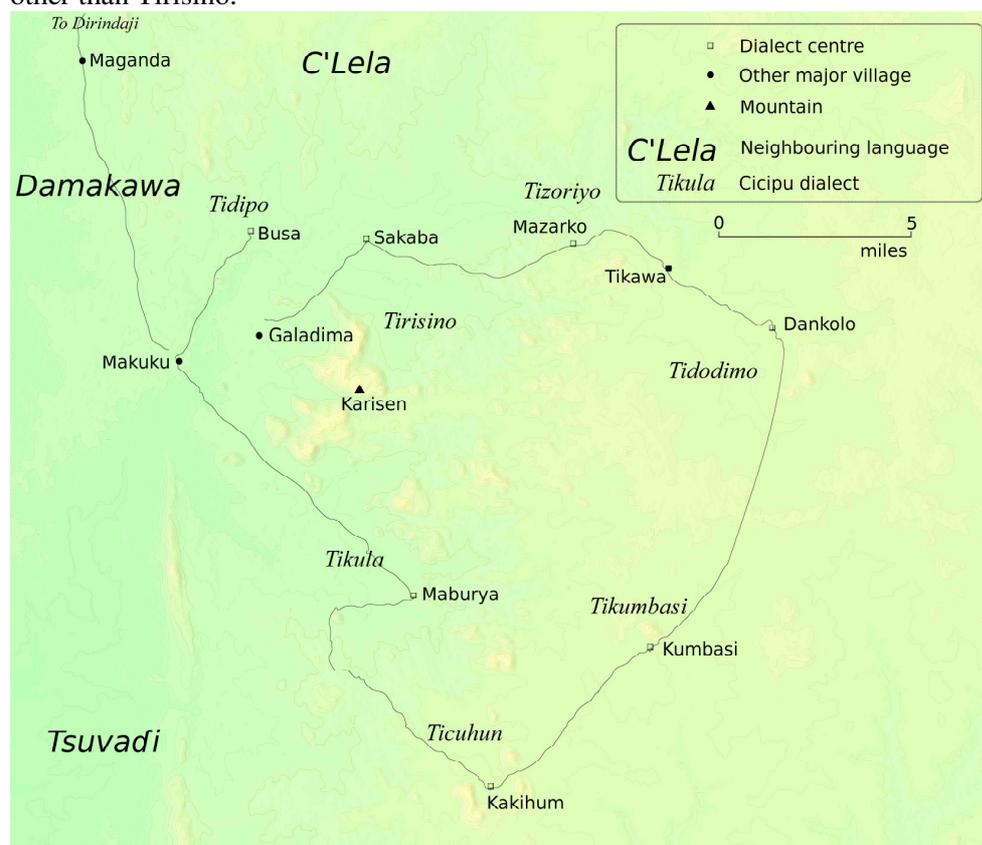


Figure 2: Cicipu dialects (see Figure 1 for the wider geographical context)

This dictionary is part of a broader effort to document the Cicipu language which has been ongoing since 2006, funded mainly by the Hans Rausing Endangered Language Project (<http://www.hrelp.org>).

So far the focus has been on spoken language, resulting in a substantial corpus of texts from various genres (available from the Endangered Languages Archive at SOAS: elar.soas.ac.uk) but very little in the way of lexical documentation. This dictionary serves to improve the balance.

The lexical database on which the dictionary is based has been built up gradually since Stuart McGill's initial linguistic fieldwork in 2006. From 2010-2012 native speaker Markus Yabani was responsible for recording the example sentences together with their Hausa translations. It is his voice that can be heard in the recordings. In 2015 a LexiquePro version of this dictionary was put online, and then in 2017 this was replaced by the current, more mobile-friendly version. The photographs included in this dictionary were taken variously by Markus Yabani, Stuart McGill, and Roger Blench.

The editors are very happy to receive feedback on the dictionary (<http://cicipu.org/dict/Email/FeedbackForm>) or discuss any aspects of the Cicipu language.

Acknowledgments

Many people have helped make this dictionary possible, especially the Wòmø of Karishen, the Sarkinkasa in Sakaba, the Mai Unguwa of Inguwar Rogo, and Mohammed Mallam. Other important contributors have been Mohammed Musa, Musa Mai Unguwa, Ibrahim Mai Unguwa, Ayuba Sani, Ishiaku Ibrahim, Amos Bako, Israel and Omonor Wade, David Heath, and David Crozier. *Tugweede ggēi!*

We are especially grateful to the Kay Williamson Educational Foundation (<http://www.rogerblench.info/KWEF/KWEF/KWEFOP.htm>) for a grant towards the production of this dictionary, and especially to Roger Blench for his encouragement throughout the project.

Navigation

There are two main ways to navigate the dictionary, as well as two minor ones. Firstly, the sidebar on the left allows the user to browse alphabetically by clicking on one of the letters in the Cicipu alphabet. This displays a list of all the words beginning with that letter. Due to the noun class system the initial letters of words are not evenly distributed; for example almost a third of the words in the dictionary begin with **k**.

Secondly, the sidebar also contains a search box. This can be used to search in any of the three languages. All search hits are displayed in a single list (for example searching for 'mar' would return **maringi** 'claperless bell', Hausa *maraba* 'welcome', and English 'marsh'). When typing in Cicipu on a PC or Android device it is recommended that the relevant Cicipu keyboard is installed.

As an additional feature, each entry also contains 'previous' and 'next' arrow buttons  which allow the user to move from word-to-word. For technical reasons it has been easier to order this list alphabetically by lexical root rather than word (this is not considered a serious flaw since anyone seeking a list ordered by word can simply use the alphabetic links on the sidebar).

Finally, the home page contains a randomly-chosen 'sample word' with a link to the full lexical entry.

Throughout the dictionary text in Cicipu appears in bold (e.g. **cinda**), English in plain font (e.g. wait), and Hausa in purple italics (e.g. *jira*). Nouns are listed by the citation form (i.e. with the noun class prefix), usually in the singular; however some nouns (e.g. **áayà** 'beans') are almost always used in the singular, and so the plural is given as the main entry, with just a cross-reference provided under the singular (e.g. **káayà** 'bean'). Noun roots are not listed separately but can easily be derived from the singular and plural forms.

When trying to look up a word in Cicipu, bear in mind that some words begin with long consonants (e.g. **zzá** 'person' appears after **zūwā** 'roast') and that others contain long vowels (e.g. **kàdānā** 'large brown hawk' appears before **kādámá** 'word'). Words that begin with a phonemic glottal stop e.g. **'isanu** 'stand up' are listed at the end of the alphabet under '.

Entry details

The format of the dictionary entries is best described through a series of examples. Consider the following entry for the verb **cinda** 'give' (Figure 3).

1. cinda
2. zza kkucinda

[tʃinda]
verb

1. wait ; *jira*

Vuucinda sū? —

Will you wait?

Za ka jira ko?

2. look after ; *jira*

Wòmò yūu zza k-kucinda úcinduwivi itangi, zza k-kucinda naha ɔ̀bɔ̀wɔ̀ itangi yilleeni-

▶
0:00 / 0:09🔊
⏴
⏵

The chief tasked the caretaker to look after his things, the caretaker let those things be stolen.

Sarki ya sa mutum mai jiran masa kaya, mutum mai jiran ya bari an sace kayan nan.

▶
0:00 / 0:08🔊
⏴
⏵

Markus Yabani

Figure 3: Entry for **cinda** ‘wait’

The headword **cinda** is written orthographically and is followed by a phonetic representation ([tʃinda]) and then the part of speech. A full list of Cicipu parts of speech and affixes are given in Table 2 and Table 3 below.

Table 2: Parts of speech

Part of speech
adjective
adverb
article
associative plural
auxiliary verb
counterfactual
conjunction
copula
demonstrative
exclamation
existential predicate
greeting
honorific
ideophone
interjection
locative
noun
negator
numeral
numerical adjective

object clitic
particle (discourse)
possessive pronoun
preposition
presentative
pronoun
prohibitive
quantifier
question word
relativiser
reportative evidential
verb

Table 3: Affixes

Affixes
anticausative
applicative
aspect marker
causative
habitual
imperative
iterative
locativiser
nominaliser
pluractional
resultative
tense marker
ventive

If the word has multiple senses of meaning then these are indicated with numbers i.e. 1. wait, 2. look after, and so on; if there is only one sense then the number is omitted. For each sense glosses are given in English (wait) and Hausa (*jira*).

One or more example sentences may appear after the glosses, together with encyclopaedic information and notes on usage if relevant. If the examples have audio then a playbar will be displayed below the relevant example. Most examples have audio for the Hausa translation as well as the Cicipu. A link to the contributor of the example (in this case Markus Yabani) appears underneath the example.

The following screenshot shows a noun **ɗɗo** ‘horse’ (Figure 4). Each noun entry includes both a gender/noun class pairing (8/3) and, where appropriate, the plural form (**idɗo**).

1. **dɗo** 2. dɗo ccillu

[d:ʒ:]
noun (8/3)
Plural: **idɗo**

horse; *doki*

Wɓmɓ kumba dɗo uudukwa 'asi ruuma. —

▶ 0:00 / 0:03 — 🔊 — ⬇️

The chief rode a horse to war.

Sarki ya hau doki zuwa wurin yaki.

▶ 0:00 / 0:03 — 🔊 — ⬇️

Markus Yabani

Figure 4: Entry for **dɗo** 'horse'

1. **dɗo** 2. dɗo ccillu

noun

1. bone at the back of the neck; *dokin wuya*
See also **cillu** 'neck'

2. nape; *dokin wuya*

Figure 5: Entry for **dɗo ccillu** 'bone at the back of the neck'

Figure 5 shows a subentry of the headword **dɗo ccillu** as well as a cross-reference to another headword (See also **cillu** 'neck').

For identifiable loan words such as **kaduniya** 'world' (Figure 6) the source of the loan is given at the end of the entry (e.g. **Borrowed** from Arabic *duniya* via Hausa).

kaduniya [kàdùníjà]
 noun (1/2)
 Plural: **aduniya**

1. the world; *duniya*

2. the people of the world; *duniya*

Ubanana kaduniya ggèi. —
He invited the whole world.

Markus Yabani

↳ Borrowed from Arabic *duniya* via Hausa

Figure 6: Entry for **kaduniya** ‘world’

Idiolectal or dialectal variants (e.g. **hyáǎá** ‘teardrop’, Figure 7) have concise entries, but with a link to the main entry. A similar approach is taken for verbal nouns (e.g. **cidópi** ‘sewing’ appears in the dictionary as a minor entry cross-referenced to the main entry **dopo** ‘sew’).

hyáǎá [h'áǎá]
 noun

See main entry **yyáǎá** ‘tear’

teardrop; *hawaye*

Figure 7: Entry for **hyáǎá** ‘teardrop’

Audio files

The audio recordings in this dictionary were recorded by Markus Yabani. Some of these sound files cover two examples, in which case you may have to wait a few seconds to get to the start of the example you want to hear. It should be possible even for beginners to identify the relevant portion.

The sound quality of the audio recordings is variable. Our original intention was to use them purely as an aid to transcription but we decided that they were too valuable a resource not to publish along with the dictionary. In particular native speakers may find them useful for checking their understanding of the accompanying written Cicipu.

Writing system

The writing system (orthography) used for the Cicipu words and examples in this dictionary was provisionally agreed by representatives of the Cicipu community at a workshop held in Sakaba in April 2010.

A subsequent workshop was held in Tungan Kadè in April 2016 and this led to the formulation of a number of further provisional orthographic principles. However these have not yet been tested in the language community – once this has been done, it is hoped that a revised version of this dictionary will be forthcoming.

For further details of these workshops see <http://cicipu.org/orthography.html>.

Consonants and vowels

There are 27 consonants and 6 vowels as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Consonants and vowels

	Phonological	Orthographic	Gloss
a	tâ:	taa	<i>food</i>
ã	kàtâ:	katãa	<i>sandal</i>
b	kàbára	kabara	<i>old man</i>
ɓ	kɔ̀ɓɔ̀:	kɔ̀ɓɔ̀m	<i>axe</i>
c	kùtʃígà	kuciga	<i>cockerel</i>
d	kàdábá	kadaba	<i>bush</i>
ɗ	ùɗáŋà	udanga	<i>tree</i>
e	mèpésé	mepese	<i>twin</i>
ẽ	sě?ě	sě'ě	<i>carve</i>
g	kògínó	kogino	<i>groundnut</i>
gw	màg ^w á:wá	magwãawã	<i>deaf/mute</i>
h	kàhú	kahũ	<i>nose</i>
hw	h ^w á?à	hwã'yã	<i>day before yesterday</i>
hy	h ^w á?ù	hyã'ũ	<i>yesterday</i>
i	màtʃi:jí:	macijji	<i>calabash</i>
ĩ	tʃi:jí:	ccii	<i>python</i>
j	ɗz:évé	jjeve	<i>roan antelope</i>
k	k:á:	kkaa	<i>woman</i>
kw	ùk ^w á:	ukwãa	<i>skin</i>
l	ùléndzí	ulenji	<i>sun</i>
m	màn:ù	mannu	<i>bird</i>
n	n:á:	nnaa	<i>cow</i>
o	kodó	kodó	<i>tap</i>
õ	mòtô:	motõo	<i>saliva</i>
ø	kɔ̀ɗɔ̀	kɔ̀ɗɔ̀	<i>cut</i>
ø̃	kòhó:	køhøø	<i>black kite</i>
p	ùpépi	upepi	<i>wind</i>
r	ùréi	urēi	<i>town</i>
s	sama	sama	<i>rot</i>
t	t:ótò	ttøtø	<i>in-law</i>
u	ùkútù	ukutu	<i>shaft</i>
ũ	kùjùjù:	kuyũyũ	<i>sand</i>
v	v:ó:tò	vvooto	<i>goat</i>
w	wómó	wømø	<i>chief</i>
y	j:írì	yyiri	<i>witch</i>
z	z:á	zza	<i>person</i>
'	?ásù	'asu	<i>place</i>
'w	tʃù?wá:	cu'wãa	<i>tomorrow</i>
'y	mò?á?á	mø'yø'yø	<i>fish</i>

Note particularly the use of **ø** to represent the /ɔ/ vowel.

There are four diphthongs: /**ai**/, /**au**/, /**ei**/, and /**eu**/.

Some words ending with /**ãu**/, /**õ**/ and /**ɔ**/ are pronounced with an [m] when they occur utterance-finally e.g. kɔ̀ɓɔ̀: [kɔ̀ɓɔ̀m] 'axe'. Native speakers consistently prefer to write the **m** in all contexts, and so this practice is followed in this dictionary.

All consonants and vowels can be lengthened, in which case they are written doubly e.g. **zza** ‘person’, **kataari** ‘stone’. All vowels have nasalised counterparts, written with a tilde (~) e.g. **sěě** ‘carve’.

Subject prefixes

Verbs take prefixes agreeing with their subjects, either in person or gender. For example in the phrase **kàràkú mí kádúk wà** ‘the camel went’ the **ká-** prefix on the verb **dukwa** agrees in gender with **kàràkú mí** ‘camel’. Various phonological and morphosyntactic properties show that these are tightly bound to the verb stem. In the orthography they are written together with the verb, without any space or hyphen, for example **kadukwa**.

Object markers

Object markers follow the verb and are used instead of full noun phrases. Unlike the subject prefixes their tone is independent of the verb and their vowels do not harmonise with those of the verb. They are written as separate words in the orthography (e.g. **ùmátà rè** ‘she gave birth to them’ is written **umata re**).

The third person singular object marker **vì** causes the final vowel of the verb to change to **i**. So for example **ùmátà + vì** ‘she gave birth to him’ → **ùmátì vì**. This is written as it sounds (e.g. **umati vì**).

In some environments (especially before the negator **cé**) the singular object markers appear in compressed form. Compare Table 5 and Table 6 below:

Table 5: Object clitics

Object	Phonological	Orthographical	Translation
1S	wĩndà mù	Winda mu.	He saw me.
2S	wĩndà vù	Winda vu.	He saw you (s.).
3S	wĩndì vì	Windi vi.	He saw him.

Table 6: Reduced object clitics (negated clauses)

Object	Phonological	Orthographical	Translation
n/a	wĩndà cé	Winda ce.	He didn't see.
1S	wĩndàn cé	Winda ce.	He didn't see me.
2S	wĩndà ccé	Winda cce.	He didn't see you (s.).
3S	wĩndì ccé	Windi cce.	He didn't see him.

Other clitics

The associative proclitic is used to express possession and various other relationships between two noun phrases, for example **kàgíwá kó = ↓móní** ‘hippo’, literally ‘elephant of-water’. In this dictionary the clitic is placed directly in front of the second noun phrase (e.g. **kagiiwa komoni**).

The conjunction **in** ‘and/with’ is realised as a proclitic **n-** before vowel-initial words, for example **n-ùlénjí** ‘in the afternoon’, literally ‘with-sun’. This proclitic is written with a hyphen in the dictionary (e.g. **n-ulenji**).

The locative proclitic **á-** (**á = ↓kákáasùwà** ‘in the market’) is also written with a hyphen (**a-kakaasuwa**). If the word to which the clitic attaches begins with a vowel then the first vowel lengthens (e.g. **á- + ùtáarí** ‘at the stony place’ → **úu.↓táarí**). In this case no hyphen is used (e.g. **uutaari**).

The negator **cé** is also arguably an enclitic but is always written as a separate word e.g. **udukwa ce** ‘he didn't go’.

Tone

Cicpu has two tones H and L as well as a falling tone HL. Two words may differ only by tone and yet have completely different meanings, for example **káayà** ‘bean’ vs. **káayá** ‘hut’. Tonal ‘minimal pairs’ like this are actually very rare in Cicpu, and so lexical tone is not generally marked in the

orthography. For this reason tone marks have been omitted from the headwords and examples in this dictionary. Language learners who want to know how to pronounce the word can use the tones in the phonetic field (which are actually *phonological* indicators) as a guide.

Although lexical tone has a low functional load, *grammatical* tone is very important in Cicipu and is sometimes the only indicator of important grammatical categories. Therefore in two cases tone-marking is used to distinguish between potentially ambiguous constructions.

Firstly, for most person/number combinations the realis verb form differs only by tone from the irrealis form (compare **ùdúkwa** ‘he went’ vs. **údúkwa** ‘he should go’). In the writing system the realis forms are left unmarked e.g. **udukwa** ‘he went’, **waaya** ‘he came’, while the irrealis forms are represented with an acute accent above the first vowel e.g. **údukwa** ‘he should go’, **wáaya** ‘he should come’.

Secondly, the plural imperative suffix **-nà** is distinguished only by tone from the ventive suffix **-na**. The plural imperative suffix is always low tone, while the ventive suffix takes its tone from the overall verbal melody. So in the imperative there is a tonal contrast between **kàbàná** ‘bring!’ and **kàbànà** ‘you (pl.) take’. The plural imperative suffix is always written orthographically with a grave accent e.g. **kabanà** ‘you (pl.) take’.

Grammatical overview

Cicipu grammar has much in common with the well-known Bantu subgroup of Benue-Congo. There is a robust noun class system with agreement on a large number of targets, as well as a productive system of verbal extensions.

Like most Benue-Congo languages, Cicipu is head-initial at clause and phrase level, and mainly head-marking. According to the traditional terminology it is highly agglutinative. Subject referents are frequently expressed just by an agreement prefix, and objects are often omitted altogether (even when specific). Unlike Bantu there is no object agreement.

Prefixes and suffixes occur on both nouns and verbs, with prefixes predominant on nouns. Suprasegmental modification (realis vs. irrealis) and infixation (**-is-** ‘causative’, **-il-** ‘pluractional’) are also found. Reduplication is common and found in several word classes, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, demonstratives, and ideophones. Stem modification other than by tonal change is very rare in nouns, but certain verbal categories are consistently expressed by changing the final vowel. Morphological processes in Cicipu are in general highly regular, and suppletion is unattested.

There are formally-identifiable open classes of nouns and verbs, and a small closed (but still formally-distinct) class of adjectives. As for constituent order, Cicipu is a configurational SVO language, with unusual NP-internal syntax.

If one only looks at the ‘core’ of Cicipu grammar (e.g. verbal morphology and the noun class system) then, as mentioned above, the language resembles many other Benue-Congo languages typologically, albeit with a richer-than-usual morphology. However on another level much of the grammar is influenced by the *lingua franca* Hausa, spoken fluently by virtually all Cicipu speakers. Likely contact effects can be seen in many areas of the grammar, including reflexives, existential clauses, clausal negation, yes-no questions, clause co-ordination and subordination, adverbs, nominal co-ordination, prepositions, reduplication, quantifiers and numerals. Readers of this dictionary with a knowledge of Hausa grammar will recognise many of the linguistic structures shown in the example sentences. For further details on this and other areas of Cicipu grammar see McGill (2009). A brief outline of some of the major word classes is given below.

Nouns

Noun words in Cicipu can be split into a noun class prefix and stem (e.g. **kà-táarí** ‘stone’). Nouns are divided into different genders (noun class pairings) according to which prefixes they occur with in the singular and plural. For example **kà-táarí/à-táarí** ‘stone/stones’ belongs to the KA-/A- gender (also called the 1/2 gender), while **mà-kántú/in-kántú** ‘knife/knives’ belongs to the MA-/IN- (or 4/5) gender. There are nine different classes in Cicipu, as illustrated in Table 7:

Table 7: Noun classes

Class	Prefix	Example	Gloss
1	ka-	kà-bàrá	old man
2	a-	à-bàrá	old men
3a	i-	ì-námà	meat
3b	ri-	rì-pízi	altar
4	ma-	mà-díyá	hare
5	in-	ìn-díyá	hares
6	ci-	cì-lúu	leopard
7	u-	ù-dángà	tree
8	C/Ø/v-	z-zá Ø-wómó v-ómò	person chief monkey
9	ku-	kùcígà	cockerel

The most common genders (pairings) are 1/2, 4/5, 8/3a, 9/2, 7/8, 8/2, and 6/5.

Mass and abstract nouns belong to single class genders e.g. **mò-ní** ‘water’ (4), **ù-sídí** ‘heat’ (7).

All nouns in the dictionary are listed with their gender.

Noun modifiers usually take a gender agreement prefix and almost always follow the noun head. For example **kùcígà kúmpà** ‘this cockerel’, **kùcígà kùrúmonò** ‘black cockerel’.

Verbs

The basic distinction in the Cicipu verb system is one of mood: realis vs. irrealis vs. imperative. These moods are expressed by means of mutually-excluding tone patterns (Table 8). As discussed above, the distinction between realis and irrealis is marked in the writing system using an acute accent.

Table 8: Moods

Mood	Tone	Tone-marked	Orthographic	Translation
Realis	L H L	ùdúkwa	Udukwa.	<i>He went.</i>
Irrealis	H L	údúkwa	Údukwa.	<i>He should go.</i>
Imperative	L H	dúkwa	Dukwa!	<i>Go!</i>

In addition to the subject prefixes discussed above, various other prefixes, suffixes and infixes may attach to the verb stem resulting in a change of meaning. The more productive affixes are shown in Table 9.

Table 9: Verbal affixes and examples

Affix	Gloss	Orthographic	Translation
-nà	Plural imperative	dukwanà!	<i>you (pl.) go!</i>
-na	Perfective	ana udukwana...	<i>when he went...</i>
u-	Future	muudukwa	<i>I will go</i>
si-	Habitual	usidukwa	<i>he goes (habitually)</i>
-is-	Causative	kulliso (from kullo ‘burn’)	<i>burn (transitive)</i>
-il-	Pluractional	dempile (from dempe ‘punch’)	<i>pummel</i>
-wa	Applicative	damuwa (from dama ‘speak’)	<i>tell</i>
-na	Ventive	kabana (from kaba ‘take’)	<i>bring</i>
-nu	Resultative	yuwonu (from yuwo ‘fall’)	<i>fall in</i>
-wa	Anticausative	siduwa (from sidu ‘heat’)	<i>become heated</i>

Other verbal categories are expressed phrasally. One of the most important is the CONTINUOUS aspect, expressed using the auxiliary verb **yo** ‘be’ followed by the locative proclitic **á** and then the infinitive/gerundial form of the verb, as in example (1).

- (1) Uyo uubølø mohĩĩ. (orthographic)
 ù-yó á↓ = ú-bóló mðhĩĩ (phonological)
 3PS-be LOC=NC7-see blood
 It was looking for blood

Uyo uubølø mohĩĩ ‘it was looking for blood’ (literally *it-be in-searching blood*). In normal fast speech (and in most of the dictionary examples) the **o** and the **u** coalesce e.g. **Uyuu bølø mohĩĩ**.

The PERFECT aspect is expressed by adding the distal demonstrative adverb **ũ** to the end of the clause (e.g. **udukwa ũ** ‘he has gone’). COMPLETIVE aspect is expressed using an identical construction but with the near-hearer demonstrative adverb **lêe**.

Adjectives

Cicipu adjectives share properties of both nouns and verbs. They are lexically-specified for tone like nouns, yet like verbs take agreement prefixes instead of noun class prefixes (compare **káayá kàsáavínà** ‘new hut’ and **mèttégù màsáavínà** ‘new shirt’). The full list of adjectives in the dictionary is given in Table 10.

Table 10: Cicipu adjectives

Tone-marked	Orthographic	Gloss
-dénêu	-deneu	<i>small</i>
-hwáarà	-hwaara	<i>first</i>
-kúnó	-kuno	<i>old</i>
-nínñî	-ninnii	<i>alone</i>
-ppénêu	-ppeneu	<i>large</i>
-rúmónò	-rumono	<i>dark</i>
-sáavínà	-saavina	<i>new</i>
-sílánà	-silana	<i>red</i>
-wíinâa	-wiinaa	<i>evil</i>
-'étéi	-'etēi	<i>fine, beautiful</i>
-'úyónò	-'uyono	<i>light (coloured)</i>

Numerals

The cardinal numbers are listed in Table 11.

Table 11: Cardinal numbers

	Tone-marked	Orthographical
1	tôo	too
2	yápù	yapu
3	tâatù	taatu
4	nósì	nosi
5	tâu	tāu
6	tóríhǐ	torihǐ
7	tíndàyà	tindaya
8	kùrìllò	kurillo
9	kùtítí	kutitti
10	ùkúppá	ukuppa
11	ùkúppá ìn vîtò	ukuppa in vito
12	ùkúppá ìn vîyápù	ukuppa in viyapu
20	ùkúppá wùyápù	ukuppa wuyapu
21	ùkúppá wùyápù ìn vîtò	ukuppa wuyapu in vito
22	ùkúppá wùyápù ìn vîyápù	ukuppa wuyapu in viyapu
30	ùkúppá wùtâatù	ukuppa wutaatu
40	ùkúppá wùnósì	ukuppa wunosi
50	ùkúppá wùtâu	ukuppa wutāu
60	ùkúppá wùtórihǐ	ukuppa wutorihǐ
70	ùkúppá wùtíndàyà	ukuppa wutindaya
80	ùkúppá wùkùrìllò	ukuppa wukurillo
90	ùkúppá wùkùtítí	ukuppa wukutitti
100	mándá	manda 'calabash' <i>or:</i>
	ùkúppá sò kúppá	ukuppa so kuppa

In general, the Cicipu numbers are being replaced by the Hausa numbers, and younger speakers often have difficulty with the numbers above 5. Even adults may not know these numbers, and they often count in Hausa instead, even when the rest of the conversation is being conducted in Cicipu.

Numerals can be used as modifiers, in which case they agree in gender with the noun e.g. **wóotò wùyápù** 'two months'.

Ordinal numerals are expressed using the associative construction e.g. **wóòtò wú,yyápù** ‘the second month’ (literally *month of-two*). Note the difference in tone and consonant length between this and the attributive numeral example given in the previous paragraph.

Articles

The same word **-nà** functions as both (anaphoric-) definite and (specific-) indefinite article, depending on whether it comes before or after the noun. In both cases the article agrees with the head noun. For example **kàràkúmí kánà** means ‘the (aforementioned) camel’, and would be used anaphorically to refer back to a camel which has already been mentioned in the previous discourse. On the other hand **kánà kàràkúmí** means ‘a certain camel’, or even ‘some camels (and not others)’. The indefinite article must agree in either gender (as in **kana karakumi**) or in person (**wuna zza** ‘a certain person’). With the definite article there is no choice: it must agree in gender.

Hausa translations

An attempt has been made to translate every word and every example sentence into Hausa as well as English. This is problematic due to the lack of a written standard for the particular dialect of Hausa spoken by the Acipu. This variety is a form of the ‘Western Hausa’ dialect centred on Sokoto (Newman 2000:1). It is also my impression – based on comparing Yabani’s Hausa translations with the dialectal forms given in Bargery (1934) – that in terms of vocabulary there is (or at least has been) strong influence from Katsina too. But the Hausa spoken by the Cicipu diverges in other ways too, and no-one who has spent all their life in Cicipuland would be able to pass themselves off as a native Hausa speaker – an obvious example is that almost all nouns are assigned to the masculine gender, the exceptions being when the referent is actually female. There are also phonological differences such as the use of epenthetic vowels (e.g. *fuska* ‘face’ is pronounced [hús^hkà]) and the simplification of phonemes: the Hausa ejectives *ts* [s^h] and *k* are pronounced [s] or [tʃ] and [k] respectively. Hausa *sh* [tʃ] is also often pronounced [s]. Cicipu vowel harmony also has a significant effect on the way native speakers pronounce Hausa (e.g. [gú:ná:] for *gona* ‘farm’). When revising Yabani’s initial Hausa transcriptions we have tended to retain grammatical differences, but abstract away from phonological differences in an effort to make the identification of the Hausa words easier. Bargery (1934) has been followed for Sokoto Hausa spelling. Yabani’s original unedited transcriptions are available from the ELAR Cicipu deposit.²

Although officially part of the Hausa orthography, in practice the hooked letters ɓ, ɗ, and ƙ are often written as b, d, and k respectively. In this dictionary we follow the standard Hausa orthography.

Abbreviations

In addition to the parts of speech listed above, the following abbreviations are used:

esp	especially
k.o.	kind of
lit	literally
pl	plural
sg	singular
s.o.	someone
sp	species
s.t.	something
viz	namely

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² <https://elar.soas.ac.uk/Collection/MPI97667>.

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