

-LWA or -NWANA

This is an ancient verb, as suggested by Bantoid and Ubangian attestations, that was inherited into proto-Bantu. Attestations in the western and southern branches and the central zone of the Kongo language cluster follow the variant form *-dòan- (BLR3 1151; Guthrie CS 675a) of the more widespread, older form *-dò- (BLR3 1150; see also Guthrie CS 675, Lisimba 1982:451, 507; Schoenbrun 1998:111). Kongolese and other coastal languages of west central Africa borrowed forms of *-dò- from the interior, usually in relation to the expansion of warfare, raiding, and violence associated with the Atlantic slave trade, as their shifting meanings suggest. A near homophone, *-dúad- ‘be ill, hurt, wounded’ (BLR3 1153, Guthrie CS 677), yields in Kongolese languages a verbal form easily mistaken with regional, non-Kongolese attestations of *-dò- (see Kisikongo attestations).

ATTESTATIONS

KONGO LANGUAGE CLUSTER

North Kongo

H16F CHILAADI

Jacquot 1982: lò battant, battu (194)

West Kongo

B42 ISANGU

Ondo-Mebiame 2000: úlwánè se batter (41); lwánè Bats-toi! (49); múlwáni soldat (141);

H16B KIYOMBE

De Grauwe 2009: nwaána se batter (88)

Bittremieux 1922: Nuana ww. Vechten, worstelen. Fr. Se batter. – vita: oorlog voeren (536)

H16 KAKONGO (later KIZOBE)

Anon. 1772 [cited from Drieghe 2014 transcription]: se battre. nuana. nuêné (12)

Carrie 1888: nuana se batter (18)

South Kongo

H16A KISOLONGO

Visseque 1890: nuana, pas. Nuene: se disputer, se chicaner, se querelien (155); nuana: combattre, attaquer ou se defender (155); nouana: jouter, faire des joutes (155); nouani, sign. N, pl. a : querelleur; assailant, combatant; antagoniste, adversaire (155); nouanissa, pas. Nouanissi, va., assailer, attaquer, quereller (155); nouanou, art. O, lou, pl. sign. Tou: querelle, tracasserie, dispute, contestation, combat, attaque, assaut, antagonism (155)

H16a KISIKONGO

Van Gheel 1652 [BantUGent ms]: certo. pelear: ...Cunuana pr. Nnuene (25). See also: casus, ser herido: culuala pr. nduele; herir a otro: culueca pr. nduequele; cosa herida: quialuala” (24).

Bentley 1887: nwana to fight; ndwana, 2, fighter; fight against nwana ye... (82)

Central Kongo Contact Zone

H16 KIMANYANA

Laman 1964 [1936]: nwàna, lutter, combattre, se batter; quereller, disputer avec vigueur; s’efforcer, faire des efforts énergiques... (809); nwàni, pl. bi- de mwàna, Guerrier, lutteur, soldat; adversaire (809)

Kongo Kituba (Late Vehicular)

Swartenbroeckx 1973: Lúa, Lúwa mu-, ba-, ki-: peupl. Près Feshi.¹ V. mulwá, milóa, anciens pirates lúwa, lúnda, yáka ou Loandais (252); Milóa, Milwá pirates ou nègriers (Lúwa ou Yáka? Lunda? Loandais?) pillant le Kwango vers 1700. Syn. Badwá: tueurs, brigands. Sg. Mulwá, sobriquet jadis pour designer l'Européen inconscient du sens de ce mot (343); ndwàna combat, lute, bataille; vive querelle, rixe... (412)

OTHER BANTU

A22: BAKUERI

Kagaya 1992: -laná to fight (125)

A44: TUNEN

Dugast 1967: -nò lutter (147; see also Guthrie CS 675).

B76 TEKE

Muluwa and Bostoen 2015: ójwána guerre (105)

B77b TEKE

Calloc'h 1911: djwana se battre (141; see also Guthrie CS 675a)

B85 YANS

Muluwa and Bostoen 2015: -lwa homme blanc (syn. mundel; 108)

B85d NSONG

Muluwa and Bostoen 2015: móluw homme blanc (syn. móndel; 108)

C32 MOBENGE

Bureau and Reding 1912: due frapper (18) lutter (23);

C35 NTOMBA

Mamet 1955: lua se battre (dialecte des Yéli) (169)

F21 SUKUMA

Mann 1967: -lų- fight, quarrel (55)

H21 MBUNDU

Nascimento 1903: -lua guerrear; -lua ita fazer guerra (55)

Assis Junior 1948: kûlua guerrear; kûlua ita conquistar, duvidar, apostar; kurilua estar em guerra com (207)

H41 MBALA

Muluwa and Bostoen 2015: muluwa homme blanc (cognate to mundedi 108)

J42 NANDE

Kambale 1978: -lu- se disputer; se battre; se bagarrer (74)

J53 SHI

Polak-Bynon 1978: óokulwaa se battre, combattre, lutter (28); óokulwiira combattre pour (29)

J62 RUNDI

Rodegem 1970: kurwana se battre, en venir aux mains; lutter, se mesurer à; combattre, Batailler, livrer bataille (379).

K11 COKWE

Barbosa 1989: -lwa tomar de assalto, invadir, apoderar-se de (uma aldeia, território, etc.); dizimar, matar ou destruir muitos, levar cativos (muitos); lutar, combater com, frazer frente; Ier sorte, ser bem sucedido, surtir, resultar (pesca, caça ou negócio) (297)

¹ On the Kwenge River upstream from the confluence with the Kwilu, southsouthwest of Kikwit.

K21 LOZI

Jalla 1936: lwa to fight; lwana to fight, to dispute; lwanela to fight for, to side with; lwanisa to fight, to be adverse (138)

K333: MBUKUSHU

Wynne 1980: kúrwa fight, strive in battle or combat; -rwera fight on behalf of another; kukurwera fight one's own battles; -rwerera content with another for (219); yirwa fight, strife, combat, battle (220)

L11 PENDE

Gusimana 1972: lua vi. Lutter, se battre, combattre (92)

L13: KWEZO

Forges 1983: gû-lwà se battre (30)

L23 SONGE

Samain 1923: kulua, kulua ngoshi se battre (46)

L31 LUBA

Declercq 1903: -lua se battre (235)

L31a TSHILIBA

De Clercq 1936/1960: -lua se battre; kulua mvite, faire la guerre; lutter (136)

L31b BULUBA

Morrison 1906: luangana v. to fight, quarrel, resist, wage war, engage in war. Generally followed by nvite ['war'] (358)

L33: KILUBA

Jenniges 1909: kulwa, kulwila se battre (25)

L53 RUUND

Nash 1991: -rà to fight, struggle; -riil (also -riidin) to fight over; riish to fight; -rishish (also -riishikish) to attack, to provoke a fight (with) (32)

M63 ILA

Fowler 2000: lwa, ku. v.t. to fight (383)

M64 TONGA

Mukanzubo 2011: -lwa break out, as a fight; -lwana fight among one another; -lwanina flight over or for (325) (see also Torrend 1931)

N31 NYANJA

Scott and Hetherwick 1965: dwa or duwa (with a quickly pronounced u) beating or hitting on the head with the fist or a stick (112); dwana, ku to quarrel; dwa, ku to be vexed, troubled, afflicted, 'undone' (112)

R11 UMBUNDU

Le Guennec 1972: -lwa guerrear (312)

R21 KWANYAMA

Tobias and Turvey 1962: -lua fight; oluodi battle, affray; eluo act of fighting (68)

Turvey 1977: -lwa(lu) fight, plunder, rob, steal; -lwa na- encounter in hostile sense, fight with; lwifa(a) attack beset, oppose, fight, assault, resist, combat, withstand (59)

R22 NDONGA

Tirronen 1986: lwa rob, plunder, loot; omalwá difficulties, troubles ??? (199)

NON-BANTU

Ubangian

E. UBANGIAN: MONDO

Vallaeys 1991: lò frapper, tirer, strike (141)

Bantoid

LIMBUM

Wepngong-Ndi 2015: dù' pl. bdù. n. 1/2 fist used to box (72)

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(for all four rootwords)

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