

ASANTE - FANTE
DICTIONARY



DICTIONARY
OF THE
ASANTE AND FANTE
LANGUAGE
CALLED TSHI (TWI)

BY
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SECOND EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED



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Preface to Second Edition.

The first edition of the present work — commonly called 'The Tshi Dictionary' — published in 1881, has for a number of years been out of print. As the book was much in demand by both Europeans and educated natives, it was decided that a new edition should be issued. Unfortunately, financial difficulties, the uncertainty concerning a new script, and an accident which befell the editor, delayed its appearance.

The Dictionary is based on the Akuapem dialect, which was reduced to writing about 1838, and became afterwards the literary form.

The material consists, for the most part, of the contents of the former edition. To these have been added numerous words, meanings, and phrases gathered from the printed Tshi literature and from manuscripts; also contributions sent in by Rev. A. Jehle, and the Editor's linguistic collection which he brought home with him from the Gold Coast. The greater part of this material as well as the original work has been revised here with the assistance of Rev. D. E. Akwa. — In order to keep price and size of the book within moderate limits, not all the material available has been inserted. For the same reason some of the Appendices also have been omitted.

Of the Akuapem dialect not many words will be found wanting; which cannot, however, be said of the other dialects. Regarding this deficiency, and in other respects as well, there is still room left for improvement.

The different dialects have, as far as possible within the limits, found consideration. Words more or less local and not yet in general use, have, as a rule, been marked as such by indicating the dialect to which they belong (i. e. by placing initials after the words).

A word or expression styled obsolete in one district may be still in use in another.

The use of the words in sentences is illustrated by definitions, expressions from daily life, proverbs &c. Being contributed by natives, all these examples are idiomatic, presenting the genuine manner of expressing thoughts. For further illustration the collection of proverbs and other books (p. XI seq.) are frequently referred to.

Foreign words adopted in Tshi have been marked as such by indicating in brackets the languages from which they are taken. — New words derived

from words already existing in the language, are marked by a dagger (†); a certain number of modern terms have not been admitted, because not as yet sufficiently approved.

The *orthography* employed is that proposed by the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures, and approved by the Gold Coast Government in 1927.

The alphabet:

a b d dw ε E e f g h hy i k m n ŋ D ɔ Ɔ o p r s t tw u w y; cf. pp. XVI seq.

Nasalization of vowels is indicated by the nasal mark ~ (e. g. sã), *lengthening* by doubling the letter (e. g. daa).

The letters ɸ ɛ ɔ ǃ (= wy) ǎ ǎ &c. are only used for exact distinction.

The heavy-type leading words are usually provided with *tone* marks; sometimes, however, the tones are indicated only in the added phrases. Where the accents are wanting, it is from uncertainty. — Cf. pp. XXVIII seq.

A *hyphen* placed after prefixes (e. g. o-su, e-ti, a-yefadeɛ) denotes that they are dropped in certain cases.

As to the *arrangement*, the words follow each other in the alphabetical order of their initial consonants, disregarding the prefixes. Cf. p. XXI and XXXI seq. Words either similar or related to each other are placed together. Thus e. g. **su**, **sũ** are followed by nouns with prefixes: **o-sũ** (joined to **sũ**, from which it is derived); **e-su**; **nsu**, **osu**, **asu**; then **sua**, **sũa**, **sũa** and **nsua**, **o-sũa**, **o-sũã**, **o-suaa** follow; then the various compounds of all these, intermixed with derivations by suffixes and new verbs, according to the alphabetical sequence of the letters, as **sũa-bise**... **sũafo**,... **nsu-akyi**, **sũaŋ**,... **sũaw**, **su-baŋ** &c. — Of *compounds* the constituents are marked out by a hyphen, or the primitives are added in brackets. — Of nouns formed by the suffixes **fo** or **ni**, **wa** (**ba**) or **mã** (p. XXI, II), and of those compounded with **-de** and **-sem** (= **ade**, **asem**), both kinds being almost inexhaustible, only a limited number has been admitted; the meaning of such words may be easily found by referring to the simple words. — Of *verbs* the primitive sense is given first, and the figurative and free senses follow.

Directions for the use of the Dictionary are given on p. XXXI seq.

In the orthography both the *full* and the *shortened writing* (p. XIX, c) have found consideration. — The forms in Fante and Akem, different from those in our literature, have been added in many instances; in other cases analogy will guide those who are particularly interested in these dialects.

Synonyms have been added wherever they seem to be required.

The *derivation* of many words is given within brackets.

The *Appendices*: The Table of Gold Weights may require rectifications for the Fante and Akem districts. — To save space, some Appendices have been

omitted; among these the Geographical Appendix, which contains many names that could no more be identified.

To save space, frequent use has been made of *abbreviations*; on which see pp. VIII seq. — All words not marked by *v.*, *a.*, *adv.*, *conj.*, *interj.* are usually *nouns*. Nouns are marked by *n.* only in a few cases to distinguish them from other classes of words. Verbal nouns derived by the palatal suffix (e, i) are marked by *v. n.*; many simple or compound nouns marked by *inf.* are likewise verbal nouns. — Of *verbs* the transitive and intransitive are rarely marked by *tr.* & *intr.*, because most of them are used in both ways. Part of verbs have occasionally *contin.*, *pret.*, *perf.*, &c., added to them. — On *con.* = connected form, s. p. XXIX seq.

The Editor herewith expresses his hearty thanks for assistance obtained: to Rev. A. Jehle for his contributions and the reading of the second proofs; to Dr. E. Rapp for the preparation of Appendix F; to Rev. D. E. Akwa for his help in revising the Tshi text; to Revs. E. Nothwang and W. Stamm for the verification and correction of rare vernacular expressions; and last not least, to Mrs. J. Stachelin, who kindly perused most of the English part of the manuscript.

He concludes with the wish that also the New Edition may prove a means for a thorough acquisition and understanding of the Tshi language.

Basel, June 1933.

J. Schweizer.

List of Abbreviations.

Cf. p. VII.

a. Grammatical terms &c.

<i>a. or adj.</i>	adjective.	<i>fr.</i>	from.
<i>abt.</i>	about.	<i>frq.</i>	frequentative.
<i>adv.</i>	adverb.	<i>fut.</i>	future tense.
<i>affirm.</i>	affirmative.	<i>gener.</i>	generally.
<i>App.</i>	Appendix.	<i>Gr.</i>	Grammar.
<i>attrib. adj.</i>	attributive adjective.	<i>ib. ibid. ibidem</i>	in the same place.
<i>aux. v.</i>	auxiliary verb. Gr. § 106 ff.	<i>id. idem</i>	the same.
<i>bef.</i>	before.	<i>imit.</i>	imitative (<i>adv.</i>)
<i>bel.</i>	below.	<i>imp.</i>	imperative.
<i>caus.</i>	causatively. Gr. 208, 3.4.	<i>inf.</i>	infinitive, verbal noun.
<i>cf. confer</i>	compare.	<i>int. interj.</i>	interjection.
<i>com.</i>	common language.	<i>interrog.</i>	interrogative.
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction.	<i>intr.</i>	intransitive.
<i>con.</i>	connected form. Gr. § 47. 49.	<i>Introd.</i>	Introduction, Introductory.
<i>consec.</i>	consecutive form. Gr. § 91.	<i>l.</i>	line.
<i>contin.</i>	continuative form. Gr. § 91.	<i>lang.</i>	language.
<i>contr.</i>	contracted, contraction.	<i>lit.</i>	literally.
<i>co-ord.</i>	co-ordinate (sentence).	<i>n.</i>	noun.
<i>cpd(s).</i>	compound(s).	<i>neg.</i>	negative.
<i>d.</i>	penny, pence.	<i>num.</i>	numeral.
<i>dec.</i>	decent language.	<i>obsc.</i>	obscene.
<i>deriv.</i>	derivative(s).	<i>obs.</i>	obsolete.
<i>descr.</i>	descriptive (<i>a. or adv.</i>)	<i>Observ.</i>	Observation.
<i>diff.</i>	different.	<i>opp.</i>	opposed (to).
<i>dim.</i>	diminutive.	<i>orig.</i>	originally.
<i>e. g. exempli gratia</i>	for example.	<i>p., pp.</i>	page, pages.
<i>emph.</i>	emphatically.	<i>part.</i>	particle.
<i>esp. espec.</i>	especially.	<i>perf.</i>	perfect tense.
<i>etc.</i>	and so forth.	<i>perh.</i>	perhaps.
<i>euph.</i>	euphemistically.	<i>pers.</i>	person.
<i>Europ.</i>	European.	<i>Phr.</i>	Phrase(s).
<i>except.</i>	excepting.	<i>pl.</i>	plural.
<i>expr.</i>	expressed, expressing.	<i>poet.</i>	poetical.
<i>fact.</i>	factitively.	<i>poss.</i>	possessive.
<i>f. i.</i>	for instance.	<i>pr.</i>	proverb.
<i>fig.</i>	figuratively.	<i>pref.</i>	prefix.
<i>f. foll.</i>	following.	<i>pr. n.</i>	proper noun, proper name.

<i>prep. prepp.</i>	preposition, prepositions.	<i>s. b.</i>	somebody.
<i>pret.</i>	preterite tense.	<i>scil. scilicet</i>	to wit; namely; being under-
<i>princ.</i>	principal (verb, sentence).	<i>sent.</i>	sentence, [stood.
<i>prob.</i>	probably.	<i>seq. sequens</i>	the following.
<i>progr.</i>	progressive form.	<i>sign.</i>	signifies.
<i>pron.</i>	pronoun.	<i>sing.</i>	singular.
<i>prop.</i>	properly.	<i>s. th.</i>	something.
<i>qualif.</i>	qualifying (adv.) Gr. § 133f.	<i>subord.</i>	subordinate (sentence).
<i>q. v. quod or quae vide</i>	which see.	<i>ymb.</i>	symbolically.
<i>red.</i>	reduplicated, reduplication.	<i>syn.</i>	synonymous, synonym(s).
<i>refl.</i>	reflexive.	<i>tr.</i>	transitive.
<i>rel.</i>	relative (particle).	<i>usu.</i>	usually.
<i>Rem.</i>	Remark(s).	<i>v. (v.v.)</i>	verb (verbs).
<i>retrosp.</i>	retrospective.	<i>v. n.</i>	verbal noun.
<i>r. u.</i>	rarely used.	<i>viz. videlicet</i>	namely, to wit.
<i>s.</i>	see; shilling.	<i>vulg.</i>	vulgar (word, expression).

b. Names of Places, Districts, Languages, Dialects.

Ab. Aburi. — *Ak. Akan;* *cf.* *Introd. § 1f.* — *Akp. Akuapem.* — *Akr. Akropong*
Akw. Akwamu. — *Aky. Akyem.* — *Ar. Arabic.* — *As. Asante.* — *Dan. Danish.*
 — *D. Dutch.* — *Eng. English.* — *Europ. European.* — *F. Fante.* — *Fr. French.*
 — *G. Gã.* — *G. C. Gold Coast.* — *Ger. German.* — *Gr. Greek.* — *Gy. Gyadam.*
 — *Heb. Hebrew.* — *It. Italian.* — *Kuk. Kukurantumi.* — *Ky. Kyebi.* — *Lat. Latin.*
 — *Mf. Mfante = Fante.* — *Og. Oguaa, Cape Coast.* — *Okw. Okwawu.* — *On. Onomabo.*
 — *Port. Portuguese.* — *Skr. Sanskrit.* — *Span. Spanish.* — *Tw. Twi.*

c. Tshi Words.

a. ana. — *a. s. anase.* — *ε. s. enese.* — *etod. eto-dabi-a.* — *n. a. nè ade.* — *n. s. ne*
se. — (*nh. nhīnaa*). — *nt. ntaku.* — *ny. nyinaa.* — *Nyankp. Nyanköpõɔɔ.* — *Ony.*
Onyame. — *Onyank. Onyk., Onyanköpõɔɔ.* — *s. eb., se eb., se ebia, as for example.*
 — *tet. tetefo (kasa).*

d. References to Books or Persons.

Bd. Bowdich, s. Dict. p. 600. — *Chr. Christaller.* — *D. As. David Asante.* — *Geog.*
Geography. — *Gram. Grammar.* — *Hist. History.* — *K. Kurtz.* — *Mf. Gr. Mfantse*
Grammar. — *P. Ket. Paul Keteku.* — *pr. proverb (3600 Tshi Proverbs).* — *Prk.*
Parker. — *Ra. Rattray.* — *R. Riis.* — *Rem. Remark(s).* — *Scr. Scriptures.* —
St. Statutes of the Basel Evangelical Mission Churches on the G. C. 1902. — *Voc.*
Vocabulary. — *Zim. Zimmermann's Accra Grammar or Vocabulary.*

e. Various Marks or Signs.

& and. — *&c. et cetera*, and so on, and the like.

.. between two parts of a verbal phrase indicate the place of an object to the *v.* or of an attributive *n.* or *pron.*; e. g. so .. *mu*, to *help* (as in òso no mú); or, to *lay hold of* (as in òso nó mù).

... stand for three or more omitted letters, syllables or words.

= *equal to*.

> *more or larger*, i. e. of a wider sense, *than* ...

< *less*, i. e. of a narrower sense *than* (the following word).

† dagger, indicates newly coined words, see Preface p. VI.

§ paragraph, section. — ∴ repeat.

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Introduction.

§ 1. Name and Territory of the Language.

Tshi, or **Twi**, is the language prevalent in the Gold Coast countries between the rivers Asini and Tanno on the W. and the Volta on the E., and extends even beyond this river; its southern boundary is the sea-coast, while the upper course of the Volta, and the Kong mountains are its northern limits. That is, roughly, the area of the old Asante empire when it had its greatest extension. Formerly Guang dialects were spoken throughout the Gold Coast, but in the course of time they were, in most places, superseded by Tshi. — The number of people who speak Tshi may be estimated at about 2 millions; and the language is steadily gaining ground.

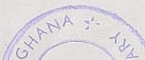
Twi, rarely **Etwi** or **Otwi**, is the form used in the vernacular. It is pronounced like '*Chwee*', ch and w being uttered simultaneously. The vowel i has a rising and falling tone, thus: *î* or *ii*. **Twi** probably denotes '*polished, refined*'; from *twi*, to *ruô*, *polish*. The form '**Tshi**', (a modification of the older spellings *Tyi*, *Oji*, *Otyi*), is, as a rule, employed in English. — Another name of the language is **Akán** or **Akánj**, probably meaning '*foremost; genuine*'; from *kaŋ*, *first*; e.g. *ɔye* *Ōkanni*, *he is a born or genuine Tshi man*. '**Akan**' is used in a wider sense (*a*) for the dialects of Akem, Asante, Adanse &c. (s. § 2), and (*b*) in a narrower for those of Akem and Asante only.

The name '**Twi**' being used not only by the natives themselves, but also by the Accras and tribes to the east of the Volta, (in the form '**Otshui**'), it has been retained as the generic appellation of the language. — On the names **Amina**, **Fante**, **Akan**, see Gr. p. XVI.

§ 2. Dialects.

The dialects which have found consideration in the Dictionary, may be comprehended under the following three names: 1. **Akan**, 2. **Brõŋ** or **Kāmānā**, 3. **Fante**.

1. The **Akan** dialect is considered to be spoken purest (*a*) in **Akem**; but by its "dainty and affected mode of expression" (e. g. the frequent *ɛɛ* & *oɔ*, where most other dialects have simply *ɛ* & *o*, as, *adeɛ*, *aseɛ*, *koreɛ*, *oboɔ*, *soɔ*, = *ade*, *ase*, *kœ*, *obo*, *so*), it appears less suited to become the common dialect of all Tshi tribes. — (*b*) The dialect of **Asante** agrees in all essentials with that of **Akem**, only the pronunciation is "broad and hard (*tetërɛɛ denneennɛŋ*)", e. g. people say "kêre" instead of "kyerɛ", - whilst in **Akem** it is "soft and delicate (*bøkœɔ frɛŋkyemm*)". — The other districts in which **Akan** is spoken are **Adanse**, **Asen**, **Daŋkira**, **Twiforo** or **Twuforo**, **Akwam**, (**Wasa**) - all these with little deviations from **Akem** and **Asante**, and **Akuapem**. — (*c*) The dialect of **Akuapem**, derived from **Akem** and **Akwam** (an **Akan** dialect of old standing) and having points of contact with **Brõŋ** and **Fante**, became about 1842 the literary form intelligible to all the other



tribes. It has ever since been enriched by words and grammatical forms from the other dialects. See Gr. p. XIX.

2. The *Brõj* or *Kāmānā* dialects are spoken in the districts N. & N. E. of the Akan districts, viz. *Kāmānā*, *Ōkwawu*, *Ōkorānsā*, *Brõj* &c., also in Pae (E. of the Volta), and do not differ much. These dialects seem to be genuine Tshi, but are deemed inferior to Akan, probably on account of archaisms or admixture of foreign elements. *Brõj* is also spoken or understood beyond the territories of the genuine Tshi people by tribes which had or still have a separate language of their own, as Gyaman and the tribes E. of the Volta speaking *Guang*, viz. *Ntwu(m)uru*, *Kārakye*, *Worawora* or *Boem*, *Ōkonyā*. — *Brõj* is the name applied by the Asantes to this group of dialects; but as it is the name of a district (also written *Abrono*) which speaks that Tshi dialect and has also a language of its own (a *Guang* dialect), the designation *Kāmānā* used by other tribes would be preferable.

3. The *Fante* dialects, spoken by several maritime tribes in the South, have not followed the other dialects in changing the initial sounds *kw*, *gw*, *hw*, before palatal vowels, into *tw*, *dw*, *fw*, and in occasionally softening *b* (esp. in diminutives, Gr. § 37) into *w* &c., but have deviated from them by changing *t*, *d*, *n*, before (e), *e*, *i*, into *ts*, *dz*, *ny*, (which change had not yet taken place in 1764, when Ch. Protten published a short *Fante* Grammar at Copenhagen), and by curtailing many terminations by cutting off their final vowels. They seem to differ more from all the above dialects and among themselves than the *Brõj* dialects do from Akan. The *Fante* dialects are a branch of the Akan language, but are not acknowledged as pure by the Akans. As regards the number of people who speak *Fante* and the territory where it is spoken, it is far surpassed by Akan. —

As already observed, there are many differences (in sounds, forms, and expressions) within the three groups of dialects, but they are not so great as to prevent people of the one group from understanding readily those of the other. —

Cf. Gram. pp. XVIII seq. & § 292f., where also the claims of both the Akan and *Fante* dialects and the intermediate literary dialect are discussed. — On the '*Western Tshi dialects*', see M. Delafosse, *Essai de Manuel de la Langue Agni*. Paris 1900; also his *Vocabulaires Comparatifs de plus de 60 Langues ou Dialectes parlés à la Côte d'Ivoire et dans les régions limitrophes*. Paris 1904. *Westsudansische Studien I*, by D. Westermann. Berlin 1925.

§ 3. The Position of Tshi among other West African Languages

and a short Survey of the latter.

Tshi is one of the Sudanic languages prevailing in the area between Senegal and Eastern Nigeria. These languages may be divided into the following groups: —

1. The so-called *Kwa* group, spoken in a broad coastal tract from the middle of Liberia to the lower Niger. Its subdivisions and languages (or dialects) are: *a*) The *Ewe-Tshi* subgroup, viz. *Ewe* (including the *Dahomey* dialect), spoken in the south-eastern corner of the Gold Coast east of the lower Volta, and in the southern half of Togo and Dahomey; and *Tshi*, i. e. the *Akan-Fante* dialects. Other members: *Nzema* (in Apollonia) and *Doma* (north-west of Asante); *Anyi*, *Baule* and *Afema* (Ivory Coast); *Anufõ* (Northern Togo). The *Gã* or *Accra* language, a comparatively young dialect, and the cognate and older dialects of *Adangme* and *Krõbo*, W. of

the lower Volta and in some parts E. of it. The Guang dialects, spoken on the Gold Coast and in Togo. — *b*) The Lagoon (or Kwakwa) languages, on the lagoons of the Ivory Coast. — *c*) The Kru subgroup, on the western Ivory Coast and the coast of Liberia. — *d*) The Yoruba subgroup, in Nigeria. — *e*) The Nupe subgroup, in Northern Nigeria. — *f*) The Ibo subgroup, on both sides of the lower Niger. — *g*) The Edo or Bini subgroup, in Southern Nigeria. — 2. The Benue & Cross River group. To this belong e. g. Efik-Ibibio and Okoyong. — 3. The Central Togo group, e. g. Adele, Akposo, Kebu. — 4. The Gur group, approximately between 5° E. & 5° W. long., and 8° & 14° N. lat. Some of the subdivisions and languages are: *a*) The Mosi Dagomba subgroup comprising e. g. Mosi, Dagomba (Dagbane), Mamprusi, Gbanyang (Gondja). — *b*) The Grusi (Gurunsi) subgroup, between the White and the Black Volta: Awuna (Atyulo), Sisala, Kanjaga. — *c*) The Tem (Hausa: Kotokoli) subgroup, in eastern Togo. — *d*) The Bargu or Borgu (Barba), in northern Dahomey and Togo. — *e*) The Senufo (Siena) subgroup, on the northern Ivory Coast. — 5. The West Atlantic group, south of Senegal, with two subgroups, including e. g. Temne, Bulom, Gola; Wolof, Serer. — 6. The Mandingo or Mande languages, spoken in western Sudan, between the two last-named groups, and north of the western parts of the Kwa group. They may be subdivided into *a*) Mande tan, comprising e. g. Bambara, Malinke, Dyula, Vai-Konno; and *b*) Mande fu, including Soso, Mende, Kpelle.

For full details concerning the above languages, see 'A Study of the Ewe Language', and 'Die westlichen Sudansprachen und ihre Beziehungen zum Bantu'; where also the close relationship between Sudanic and Bantu languages is set forth.

§ 4. Characteristic Features of the Tshi Language.

The great majority of Tshi words are monosyllables, consisting of one consonant and one vowel, the latter sometimes enlarged by the addition of a nasal consonant or a 'w'. There are, however, also a considerable number of polysyllables which cannot be reduced to monosyllabic stems.

Tshi has three classes of words only, viz. nouns, pronouns and verbs. But even these, when without affix, are not always distinguishable by their form. Part of the adjectives, adverbs and conjunctions are derived from nouns or verbs. Instead of English prepositions, either nouns of place or various verbs are used as postpositions. The passive voice and participles are wanting. There is no inflexion in the strict sense of the term. Cases are distinguished by their position in a sentence or expressed by verbs or postpositions. The plural of nouns is formed by affixes or indicated by a verb. The grammatical gender is wanting; natural sex is in some cases expressed by particular words, or by composition with such, or by the female diminutive suffix. For the tenses and other modifications of the verb prefixes (partly recognised as verbs) are used, in two cases the suffix *e* or *i*.

There is only a scanty number of particles to indicate the relation of sentences, or clauses, to one another. In many cases the sentences are placed together without a conjunction; (co-ordination being more frequent than subordination). In a similar manner, two or several verbs may follow each other, where the English language uses a single verb or adjective, participle, adverb, or preposition. The natives analyse every action or occurrence into its component parts, and express each of them by a special verb. Another peculiarity is the use of subordinate

sentences defined by the definite article 'no', or the demonstrative 'yi'; whereby they are indicated to be equivalents of a single noun representing one idea.

There is to be found a large number of onomatopoeics, of which most are used as descriptive adverbs, several also as nouns.

The vowel-harmony (i.e. assimilation of vowels to neighbouring vowel sounds) provides against too great or too small dissimilarities of vowels in successive syllables.

The nouns have prefixes, which do not form such distinct classes of nouns as are found in Bantu languages, but still convey some classification of persons as opposed to things, and of single or individual as opposed to plural or collective existence.

Of great importance for the understanding of the language is its intonation. Every syllable of every word has its own relative tone or tones, equal with or different from the neighbouring syllables, being either high, or low, or middle. Besides this intonation, inherent in the original formation of words, there are also 'grammatical' tones, by means of which different tenses are denoted.

§ 5. Grammatical Details.

I. The Sounds.

a) Vowels.

a sounds like *a* in *Shah*.

ā is narrow as in *hat*; in Fante as in *gay*.

e is an open *e* as in *let*; French *è*.

e (full) sounds like *e* in *prey*.

ē (narrow) is between *e* & *i*; in some Fante dialects approaching to *i* in *pit*.

i is like *i* in *believe* or *ravine*.

o has the sound of *o* in *not*.

o (full) sounds like *o* in *November*; French *mot*.

ō (narrow) is between *o* & *u*; in some F. dialects approaching to *u* in *put*.

u is sounded like *u* in *rule*.

Rem. The pronunciation of the vowels given above is only approximate. — The vowels are uttered without the diphthongal sounds frequently heard in English.

1. The vowels are as a rule short; lengthening is indicated by doubling the letter (e. g. *daa*); extreme shortness occasionally by the breve; e. g. *bĕre*.

2. All vowels, except full *e* & *o*, can be nasalized; e. g. *sō*, *fāā*; *ē* & *ō*, however, are nearly always pure. Of two or three (different) nasal vowels only the first, or if this be very short, the second, bears the nasal sign; e. g. *tēz*, *ohūāe*. The sign *~* is omitted on vowels before or after *m*, *n* or *ŋ*, if distinction from other words is not required; e. g. *kum*, *nam*; *mā*, *to give*. — Many syllables terminate in *m*, *n* or *ŋ* with either pure or nasal vowels before them. Pure vowels are sometimes indicated by italics, e. g. *pam*.

3. **Assimilation of vowels.** The open vowels *a*, *ē*, *ō*, requiring the widest opening of the mouth, are changed into the *half-open* vowels *a*, full *e* & *o*, when followed by one of the *close* vowels *i*, *u*, or by *gya*, *nyā*, *twa* or *dwa*; but remain unchanged before the *half-close* (or *narrow*) vowels *e*, *o*. Under the same conditions, *ē* & *ō* either are changed into *i* or *u*, or remain as they are. In compounds these modifications are seldom followed in writing.

The ordinary literature omits the dots under *a*, *e*, *o*. Nevertheless we may distinguish the unmarked narrow *a* or *e* & *o* with the help of the following rules:

a) whenever **a** is followed by one of the close sounds or by *gya, nyā, twa, dwa*, it is narrow; e. g. *ayi, agya*; b) when **e** or **o** are preceded by an open vowel, they are likewise narrow; e. g. *ékó, obéré*.

Narrow *e* & *o* are original sounds, more frequent than full *e* & *o*, which occur seldom as independent vowels, but often as modified *ɛ* & *ɔ*. Full *e* & *o* are for the most part found in prefixes, very rarely in verbal roots.

4. Diphthongs and Triphthongs:

a) *ae āe ai; ee ei; oe ōe oi; ui ūi; — aii!*

b) *aw āw au; ew ew (əw) iw; ow ow (ow) uw; — ao!*

c) *ia iā iaw; ēā ēaa; ūa ūaw; ūaa ūāā ūae ūāe; ūō.*

5. Disyllabic combinations of vowels:

a) *ia iā iē ie io; ea ēa ee ēe; ea;*

b) *ua ūa ūe ue uo; oa ōa oe ōe oo; oa;*

c) *iae iei eae; uae uei oae oee eaw eəw.*

Rem. a) In *ūa* the *u* is similar to French *u*; e. g. *dua, aduan*; Fante *duā, abusūa*. — b) Almost every vowel can occur with every other as a diphthong. — c) In some Fante dialects there are not so many diphthongs as stated above under 4 & 5; e. g. for *ae, ee, ua, uae*, we find *aa, ee, wa* or *uya, we* &c. — Gr. § 1ff. 17.

b) Consonants.

	Plosives		Fricatives		Affricates		Semi-vowels	
	voiceless	voiced	voiceless	voiced	voiceless	voiced	nasal	pure
Velar	k	g	(hy)	h			ŋ	
Palatal	ky	gy	hy				ny	y
Dental	t	d	s		ts	dz	n	r (l)
Alveolar	t	d						
Denti-labial			f					
Bilabial	p	b					m	w
Labio-velar	kw	gw		hw			ŋw	
	kū	gū		hū			ŋū	
Palato-labial	tw	dw	hw=fw				ŋw̃	w̃

Obs. There are dialectical and local differences in the pronunciation of the above letters. —

k is like English *k*. It occurs before *a, ɔ, o, u*; before *ɛ, e, i* only when the next syllable of the same word begins with *s* or *t*, and when *e* is shortened from *a*. **K** interchanges with *g* or *h*.

g is always hard, as in English *go, get*, and is found before *o* & *u*. It interchanges with *k*.

h resembles English *h*. It sounds strong before pure, and weak before nasal, vowels. Before the former it is by some persons pronounced like *ch* in Scottish *loch* or in German *ach*. **H** interchanges with *k, s, hw (=fw), w* & *y*.

ŋ is sounded like *ng* in *sing*; and interchanges with *m* & *n*. It does not begin any root. As initial consonant it is either a transformation of *g* or *dw* (e. g. *ŋgo, ŋwo = ŋ-go, ŋ-dwo*), or it serves as nasalization of *w* & *w̃*. As final consonant it is more frequent in Akp. than in the other dialects. In Akan we usually find *ane, ene, ene, &c.* in its place, in some Fante dialects simply *n*.

ky occurs before palatal vowels, and both constituent letters are sounded; *y*, however, weaker before *e*, *ē*, *i*, *ī*. In Akem the pronunciation of *ky* slightly approaches to that of 'ch' in church, whereas in Fante it is nearly like *ch*. In Asante the *y* is sounded less distinctly, especially before *r*; e. g. *kēre* = *kyere*.

gy is softer than *ky*, and appears before (*a*), *e*, *ī*; before *ē*, *i*, *ī* the *y* sounds weak. In certain Fante dialects *gy* is pronounced like English *j*.

hy represents the *ch*-sound in Scottish *nicht* or in German *ich*. In some Fante dialects it is like English *sh*.

n as in English. It interchanges with *d*, *r*, *m*, *ŋ*. When united with nasal vowels, it is an original sound; when followed by pure vowels, it is a transformation of *d*. Before dentals, *n* is dental, before palatals it is palatal.

y as in English *yet*. It occurs before *a*, *e*, *i*, (*o*); before nasal vowels and in some Fante words '*ny*' takes its place. It interchanges with *ny*, *w*, *ŵ*, *hy*, *h*.

ny, a palatalized (unsyllabic) *n*, resembles *ni* in companion or *ñ* in *cañon*. *Ny* is an original sound before *ā*, *ē*, *ī*; before pure *a*, *e*, *i*, it is a transformation of original *gy*.

t is nearly like English *t*, and occurs before pure and nasal vowels. It interchanges with *s*. In dialects, dental and alveolar *t*'s are found; in Fante also the retroflex *t*.

d is alveolar in Akuapem and Asante; dental in Fante (& Akem?); retroflex with tribes whose mother-tongue is Guang, but who speak Tshi besides. *D* occurs before pure and nasal vowels; before the latter, however, only when they are followed by *m*, *n* or *ŋ*. It is changed into *n* by an *m* (*n*, *ŋ*) before it, and into *n* or *r* by negligent pronunciation.

ts & **dz** are found in Fante dialects before (*ε*), *e* & *i*, where other dialects have only *t* & *d* respectively. *Ts* sounds almost like *ts* in *hats*; whereas *dz* is the corresponding soft and voiced sound. *Dz* interchanges with *s*.

s is sharp as in English *sun*, and occurs before pure and nasal vowels. Before *ūa* & *īa* it is palatal (slightly approaching to the sound of *sh*); the pronunciation varies, however, locally. It interchanges e. g. with *h*, *t*, *hw* (= *fw*), but seldom. — In Fante we sometimes find *d* or *dz* for *s*.

r is the rolled or trilled Scottish *r*: It does not begin any genuine Tshi word or root, but only secondary syllables (*pra*, *frε* = *pāra*, *fērε*). In the prefix *re-*, also in *ara* and *nnera*, it was originally *d*. Before nasal vowels *r* interchanges with *n*; e. g. *trā*, *tēnā*. In foreign words *r* is used instead of *l*.

f is sounded as in English. It occurs before pure and nasal vowels, and interchanges (seldom) with *hw* (= *fw*), *h*, *p*, *s*.

p is sounded as in English. It is found before pure and nasal vowels, and interchanges with *f* & *w*.

b is pronounced as in English. It occurs before pure vowels and *āā* in *bāā*; and is changed into *m*, *w*; (*o*), *u* (adibane: *aduane*); pp. XIX and XXIII, III. Gr. § 18ff. 37.

m is pronounced as in English. When original, it is united with nasal vowels; when followed by pure vowels, it is a transformation of *b*, caused by a preceding *m* (or orig. *n*, *ŋ*). It interchanges with *b*, *w*, *n*, *ŋ*. — *M* before *f* is by some persons not formed with both lips, but with the lower lip only; e. g. *ahenfó*; usual form: *ahemfó*.

ś, nearly like *sh*, is used in foreign words only.

w, a bilabial semi-vowel, is pronounced with the lips more contracted and less protruded than in the English *w*; it has a soft sound before *o* & *u*. It is found only before the pure vowels *a*, *o*, *o*, *o*, *u*. As a final sound, *w* forms diphthongs, which are, however, usually avoided in Akan. *W* interchanges with *b*, *p*, *h*.

kw, gw, hw, ηw; kũ, gũ, hũ, ηũ, e. g. in *okwáj*, Akwam', Okwamni; & Akua-pém, Okuapénni, egúá, ogúáj. The difference in spelling is justified by the fact that one form of the words has open prefixes, which require the writing kw; whereas the other form has close prefixes (a, full e & o), which change can only be due to the influence of a succeeding u. The labio-velar combinations kw, gũ &c. occur frequently before a; in F. dialects also before ε, e, i. In F., kw is found also before a, o, u, where the other dialects have simple k.

ŵ, a palato-labial vowel, sounds like wy pronounced simultaneously. It is found before the pure vowels ε, e, i; in some cases also before o, o, u when standing for original ε, e, i.

tw, dw, fw are palato-labial sounds, in most cases transformed from labio-velar kw, gw, hw, as they still sound in some parts of Fante. — As to *tw* & *dw*, this transformation originally took place before ε, e, i; but when followed by a final m or w, these vowels have usually been changed into o, o, u, and have retained this form also when the final w was dropped. *Twa* is originally *kwza*, or *kwea*, or *kwia*. The older forms e. g. of *twa*, *twē*, *twɛj*, are in F. *kwia*, *kwē*, *kwej*; those of *dwej*, *adwe*, *adwini*, are *gwej*, *agwe*, *egwini*. — In Ak., the combination *gũ* or *gw* (F.) also has been transformed into *dwa* or even into *jũ*.

tw sounds like 'chw', ch & w being pronounced simultaneously, without protruding the lips. These are compressed from the outset, at the same time at which the tongue is applied to the palate, and are opened simultaneously with the withdrawal of the tongue.

dw sounds like *dy* simultaneously pronounced with w (without protruding the lips). In *dwe*, *dwe*, *dwi*, the w seems prevalent, in *dwo* the y. In dialects of Asante Proper the sound of *dy* passes into that of English *j*; e. g. *jo* = *dwo*, *ajwa* or *ajũ* = *adwá*.

fw = bilabial *fŵ*. For the pronunciation of these letters the mouth is formed as for whistling, the round aperture of the lips being a little larger. By the forming (i. e. contraction) of the lips and the simultaneous raising of the tongue for *ŵ*, the original h has become f uttered with both lips. In the pronunciation of *fw* the h is no longer heard, the place for narrowing the passage of the breath having been shifted by the influence of the following w, and being now more between the lips than in the velar region. This is not so much the case in certain F. dialects. — It is to be observed that in the present script *fw* is no more used; accordingly *hw* represents both the labio-velar and palato-velar sounds *hw* & *fŵ*.

The sounds **kp, gb, tf** (=ch in church), **ɣ** (a voiced velar fricative), **l, v, z** occur in Western Tshi dialects, **l** also in Fante. — Gr. § 8ff.

✓ Assimilation of Consonants. Gr. § 18.

m stands before	p, f, m;	mb become	mm;
n „ „	t, s, n;	nd „	nn;
	tw, ny, y;	ngy „	nny;
ŋ „ „	k, kw, ky, h, hw, hy, ηw;	ŋg „	ŋŋ;
	w, hw (=fŵ), ηŵ, ŵ.	ŋdw „	ŋŋw = ŋŋŵ.

c) Spelling.

The spelling used in the Tshi literature and also in this Diet., is mainly etymological. Each word is given in the form it has when standing by itself, without the modifications caused in fluent speech by preceding or succeeding sounds. E. g. *mma yi*, *these children*; *wöhwe mu*, *they look inside*; *yej wura*, *our master*,

(pronounced *m̄ma yi, wəhwe mu, yej wura*). — To avoid ambiguity, the letter *w̄* is used; e. g. *awowa, a pledge; aḡowa, a brass basin; ɲɲwo, fr. wo, to beget; ɲɲwo, fr. dwo, to cool, or wo, to dry up*. — Sometimes simple *m* or *n* is put instead of *mm* or *nn*, = *mb, nd*; e. g. *m* = *mb* in terminations (as *nneema, ntrama*), or at the beginning of words (e. g. *mogya, muka* = *bogya, bukyia; ne, nera; F. nde, ndeda, fr. edá*). — Very *short vowels* before a syllable beginning with *r* are frequently omitted, especially after strong consonants (*p, t, k, f, s*) and open vowels, or before syllables made weighty by a long vowel or final *m* or *ɲ* (or *w*); e. g. *pra, sra, bra, fre, pram, kroɲ, prɔw &c.*, instead of *pāra, fēre, pāram, kōroɲ &c.* The *full writing* is generally employed after weak consonants and when the vowels are *e, i, o, u*; e. g. *hāra, bēra (imp. of ba), bere, biri, boro, buru, tiri, kuru &c.* Provision has been made in the Dict. that a word can be found whether sought for in the full or shortened writing.

The postposition *mu* is often used in the shortened form *m* or *m'*; e. g. *anim, asōm'*; *twam', to pass by; bom', bom', to cry out*.

II. The Formation of Words.

A. IN GENERAL.

I. Simple Stems.

Most word-stems are monosyllabic, consisting of one consonant, simple or compound, and one vowel or diphthong. The simple stems are in many cases not distinguished by their form; e. g. *wo, honey, thou, to beget; mo, rice, to wrap round, well done! yɛɲ, ship, we, to nurse*.

2. Stems enlarged by Affixes.

a) by the Prefixes *a, ε, e, o, o; m, n, ɲ*; & *am, an, aɲ*, a combination of the preceding vocalic and nasal forms. On the functions of these prefixes, see below, B. 1, & III. 1. b.

b) by Suffixes (causing in many cases a change of meaning); (1) by adding a vowel. E. g. *bù, to bend; buá, to cover; bué, to uncover; pà, to strike, paé, id.; si, to stand; sié, to place; beá, place; beaé, id.; bà, to come; baé, the coming; tù, to brush, tui, a brush; dò, to love, adóé, loving-kindness; — afù, afùo, afùw. farm; esié, esiw, ant-hill; te, tèw, to tear*. — (2) by adding a (syllabic) consonantal suffix. E. g. *mā, in adwumā, work; mfrāmā, wind; — ɲ: tò, to buy; tɔɲ, to sell*. — Further: *bá, ní, fó, nóm; cf. 'Noun', a & b, p. XXIII seq.*

c) by infixing *r* (or *n*, when the vowel is nasal). E. g. *wa, wàre, to be long; kyé, kyere, to last; kō, koro, one; pà, to take off superficially, prá, pàrá, to sweep; bà, to come, brá, bārà, to come (i. e. be born) again into this world; bà, to come, Imper. bēra; kò, to go, Pret. kóé, Ak.: kórè. — esé, a small pillar, òséré, the thigh*. — The vowel after 'r' is often to be considered as the original, and that before 'r' only as an auxiliary vowel, when the latter is very short. Gr. § 22.

3. Reduplicated Stems.

a) Repetition of the whole stem:

pá, pápa
tiá, tiátia

fé, fefé
sié, siésie

pò, popò
tèé, tētée.

b) Repetition with phonetic changes:

dà, dèda	pà, popá	paé, paápáe
dùru, dudúru	hòro, hohóro	sòre, sosóre. — Gr. § 29.

B. SOME CLASSES OF WORDS.

I. The Noun.

Many nouns are monosyllables; but the majority are disyllables and polysyllables, including a good number of reduplicated forms. Of many nouns the derivation is unknown.

I. Most Tshi nouns have one of the *prefixes* stated above (II. A. 2). **ɔ**, **o** chiefly denotes a) living beings: obàrimá, *a man*; onuá, *brother*; osebó, *leopard*; opètè, *vulture*; b) seldom things: obó, *stone*; osú, *rain*; c) abstract ideas: akóm, *hunger*; ohíá, *poverty*. — **a**, **á** indicates a) living beings: akoá, *slave*; agyá, *father*; akurá, *mouse*; b) inanimate things and parts of the body: akyené, *drum*; asó, *ear*; c) abstract ideas: ábóro, *injury*. — The nasal prefix **m** is found in nouns denoting a) materials: nkyéne, *salt*; nsú, *water*; n̄n̄ó, *oil*; b) single things viewed collectively: mfótè, *termite(s)*; n̄hwí, *hair*; c) things consisting of several parts: nsá, *the hand*; nsàñá, *a pair of scales*; d) abstract ideas: nséw, *curse*; ntám, *oath*. — **ɛ**, **e**, indicating no decided class, appears before simple stems: esé, *tooth*; ekó, *buffalo*; edij, *name*. — **am**, a variety of 'a', occurs in a few words: ámpàn', *a bat*; antwerí, (F. etwer), *a ladder*.

Of the prefixes, **a**, **á**, **ɔ**, **o** & **m** are largely used in forming (1) nouns fr. verbs; e. g. asáw, *a dance*, fr. sáw, *to dance*; akó, *fight*, fr. kó; mpám, *an alliance*, fr. pám; nná (F. ndá), *sleep*, fr. dá; antwerí, *ladder*, fr. twèri. — **a**, **á**, **ɔ**, **o** in forming (2) substantives from adjectives; e. g. kètewa, *small*: akètewa, *a little person*; kesé, *great*: akésé, *greatness*; *a great man*. — **ɔ**, **o** in forming (3) personal names; e. g. osikaní, *a rich man*, fr. siká, *gold*; oquadini, *a trader*, fr. di guá, *to trade*. The feminine birth-names A'fúa &c. have an **a** prefix. — **a**, **á** & **m** in forming (4) the plural of nouns.

Rem. The prefixes vary in different dialects; e. g. odán, *house*, in a F. dialect: edán. — **ɛ**, **e** & **ɔ**, **o** are usually dropped when preceded by a word ending in a vowel narrower than themselves. — The pronouns **me**, **ne** (in the poss. case) always drop their vowel before a noun with the pref. **a**; e. g. m'ani, n'asó; whereas **mo** & **wo** are written in full; e. g. mo anim, *your face* (m'anim, *my f.*), wo ano. Gr. § 35.

II. In the formation of nouns *Suffixes* also are employed. a) the palatal suffix **e** or **i** (with or without prefixes) forms nouns fr. verbs; e. g. opraé, *a broom*, fr. prá, *to sweep*; tuí, *a brush*, fr. tù, *to brush*; mfrafraé, *mixture*, fr. fra, *to mix*; adidií, *'eating-place'*, fr. didi, *to eat*. — b) **ba** (=bá, *child*), often changed into wa, ma or aa, forms diminutives; e. g. abóawa, abóaa, *a small animal*, fr. abóa, *animal*. (It denotes also female gender). — c) **ní**, *person*, forms personal nouns; e. g. ohíáni, *a poor man*, fr. ohíá, *poverty*. — d) **fó**, *person(s)*, forms personal nouns; e. g. otámfo, *enemy*, fr. taŋ, *to hate*. — e) **nóm**, *party of men*, is used to form the plural of personal nouns. — p. XXIII seq.: III. 1. b. Gr. § 36-38.

III. Of the great variety of *compounds* may be mentioned those consisting a) of a noun with an adjective or a noun in apposition: ade-boné, *'bad thing'*, i. e. *an evil*; aba-húhuni, *a worthless fellow*.

- b) of a noun with an attributive noun in the possessive before it: ahem-fi, 'the king's house', *palace*; atú-boa, 'flying animal', *bird, bat*, fr. tù, *to fly* & àbóa, *animal*.
- c) of a verbal noun and its subject: ani-wu, 'eye-dying', *shame*; adesâé, *evening, night*, fr. adé sâ, 'things come to an end'.
- d) of a verbal noun and its object: dwón-tó, *singing*, fr. tò dwóm, *to sing*.
- e) of two verbal nouns: só-hwé, *examination, temptation*.
- f) of a sentence (in which the subject or another member is wanting) contracted to a noun: á-ŋkô-nam, 'who walks alone', *a lone traveller*; n-tò-dii, '(things) bought (and) eaten', *expenses*; ɔ-bó-àdée, 'who creates things', *creator*; a-hùn-ani-ŋká-nsa, '(it) lets the eye see (sc. what is in a house, but) the hand not reach', i. e. *lattice-window, Venetian-blind, jealousy*. Gr. § 39.

2. The Adjective.

Adjectives have the character of nouns; prefixes, however, are not frequently used, and only few adjectives take a special form for the plural. Certain adjectives occur only in one form, viz. either simple or reduplicated. Some are simple or reduplicated nouns, e. g. nsó, *ash-coloured* (lit. 'ashes'); abo-abó, *stony* (lit. 'stones-stones'); others, formed from verbs by adding the palatal suffix, are compounded with nouns; as du-wúí (= duá à éwui) *a dead tree*. Gr. § 67ff.

3. The Verb.

The verb denotes an *action*: gòru, *to play*; a *condition*: gyina, *to stand*; a *quality*: sò, *to be large*. — Many verbs may be used either *transitively* or *intransitively*. — About half of the Tshi verbs are monosyllabic; the majority of the remainder disyllabic, some polysyllabic.

Most verbs may be *reduplicated*, whereby the monosyllables become disyllabic, the disyllables tetrasyllabic or trisyllabic; a few of the trisyllables obtain 5 syllables, as patipátiw, or (losing a final syllable), 4 syllables, as tafótáfo (fr. táfóro). By repeated reduplication fá & báre become fofáfófa, bobábóbare. Of several verbs the simple form no longer exists. There are also verbs which appear as compounded of two monosyllables (e. g. hata, watiriw), but whose components do not exist separately. The reduplicated forms may denote:

- a) *plurality* or *repetition* of action; or *plurality* of either subject or object; as bò, *to strike*: bobó, *to strike often or repeatedly*; wù, *to die* (one or several persons): wuwú, *to die in numbers*; bú, *to bend, break*: bubú, *to break many things; to bend or break a thing in many places*.
- b) Sometimes the simple form is *trans.*, whereas the red. form is *intr.*; a. g. di (akutú), *to eat* (an orange); didí, *to eat, be at meal*.
- c) Frequently the original meaning is altered; as hwé, *to look*: hwéhé, *to search for*.

Conjugation. The stem (apart fr. reduplication) remains unchanged. The *personal pronouns*, indicating person & number, are prefixed to the stem; cf. p. XXIV seq. — In the 3rd person sing. & pl., the pronominal prefix is omitted when the subject is expressed by a noun or absolute pronoun.

For the *Tenses* prefixes (partly recognised as verbs), and the suffix *e* or *i* are used. The *Present (Aorist)* shows the bare form of the stem.

The *Continuative* is distinguished from the Present by its different tone, and occasionally (esp. in reduplication) by the suffix *e* if the (final) vowel of the verb is open, *i* if it is narrow.