This study identifies and describes ideophones used in Babanki (henceforth Kejom as the people prefer to call themselves and their language), a Centre Ring Grassfields Bantu language of Northwest Cameroon. The study of ideophones or marked words that depict sensory imagery (Dingemanse 2011) in Africa has expanded in recent years (Blench 2010) but our knowledge of this class of words in Grassfields Bantu languages is restricted with only a limited reference to ideophones in the literature on these languages (Blench (2010) on Yamba and Limbum, Tamanji (2009) on Bafut and Akumbu & Fogwe (2012) on Babanki). The properties of Kejom ideophones are examined in this paper and it is concluded that they are marked due to their divergent phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. It is realized that the ideophones vividly depict one or more sensory events, ranging from sight to emotion.

Keywords: Ideophone, Kejom, Reduplication, Sensory, Vowel Lengthening

1. Identification of Kejom

Kejom is spoken in Kejom Keku (Big Babanki) and Kejom Ketinguh (Babanki Tungo) in Tubah Subdivision, Mezam Division, Northwest Region of Cameroon. The two villages have a total population of 39,000 people (Ethnologue 2015). Viʔə kəjəm ‘the people of Kejom’ speak gəʔə kəjəm ‘the language of Kejom’. Others call them “Babanki”, a designation the people themselves recognize and accept. When speaking with English speakers, they refer to themselves as “Babanki” which is actually the administrative and linguistic name given to them. Ethnologue (2015) lists Babanki with the code ISO 693-3 [bbk] and classifies it as a central Ring language of the wide Grassfields subgroup of Bantoid within Benue-Congo. Other central ring languages are Kom, Oku, Bum, Mmen, Kuk, and Kung. Some aspects of the grammar of Kejom that are relevant to the discussion in this paper are presented next.

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1 I would like to sincerely thank the anonymous CLN reviewer who made very useful comments that have helped me to improve significantly on this paper.
1.1. Core Phonology

The 25 phonemic consonants of Kejom are /b, t, d, k, g, m, n, ɲ, ʃ, v, s, z, ɬ, ɠ, ɲ, pf, bv, ts, dz, tj, dʒ, l, w, and j/. The 8 vowels are /i, i, u, u, e, o, a, and a/. The six coda consonants are /m, n, ɾ, f, s, and k/. In this position, /k/ is realized as a glottal stop [ʔ]. Vowel length is not contrastive in this language. There are a few restrictions on the vowels that contrast before each of the six coda consonants as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>m</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>ɲ</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>k [ʔ]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>ɗfwín 'leg'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ɗ-bis ‘to scatter’</td>
<td></td>
<td>ɗbiʔ ‘hit’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>ɓèm ‘belly’</td>
<td>ɗbén ‘dance’</td>
<td></td>
<td>kɔfɛf ‘thickness’</td>
<td>ɗchɛs ‘pour’</td>
<td>ɓbɛʔ ‘seize’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>ɓam ‘heat’</td>
<td>ɓàn ‘hate’</td>
<td>ɓan ‘scrape’</td>
<td>ɗwaf ‘frighten’</td>
<td>ɓbâs ‘cut open’</td>
<td>ɓbɛʔ ‘take off’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>ɗdɔm ‘to grunt’</td>
<td>ɗlyɔn ‘slide’</td>
<td>ɗlyɔŋ ‘bamboo’</td>
<td>ɗdyaf ‘be long’</td>
<td></td>
<td>ɓkɔʔ ‘face’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>lim ‘husband’</td>
<td>jin ‘hunger’</td>
<td></td>
<td>ɗlif ‘to hurry’</td>
<td></td>
<td>ɗlîʔ ‘poison’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>kɔtûm ‘odour’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>kɔntuf ‘stomach’</td>
<td>ɗdûs ‘to emit’</td>
<td>ɓlûʔ ‘spoon’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>ɗkɔm ‘to clean’</td>
<td>ntɔm ‘pot’</td>
<td>ɗtɔŋ ‘navel’</td>
<td>ɗfwaf ‘wind’</td>
<td>ɗfwɔs ‘to fart’</td>
<td>ɓbɔʔ ‘to open’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>ɗwûm ‘egg’</td>
<td>wûn ‘tatto’</td>
<td>ɗbùŋ ‘to melt’</td>
<td>ɗguf ‘to drive’</td>
<td>ɗluʔ ‘to be blunt’</td>
<td>ɗkûʔ ‘ladder’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kejom VC Rimes

1.2. Core Morphology

Several kinds of affixes can be added to the roots of major word classes (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) in Kejom. For example, in the nominal system, noun classes are marked either by prefixes or a suffix. In the verb system both prefixes and suffixes can be added to the root to mark different forms such as the infinitive or the imperative.

2. Identification of Ideophones

Studies on ideophones are widespread in the world's languages but quite rare on Grassfields Bantu languages. Several authors working on ideophones in African languages (e.g. Samarin 1971, Childs (1988), Voeltz and Kilian-Hatz 2001) recognise that Doke (1935) coined the term “ideophone” which he defined as:

A vivid representation of an idea in sound. A word, often onomatopoeic, which describes a predicate, qualifying or adverb in respect to manner, colour, sound, smell, action, state or intensity. The ideophone is in Bantu a special part of speech, resembling to a certain extent in function the adverb.

(Doke 1935: 118 quoted by Childs 1988).
In a narrower but more helpful view, Blench (2011:1) defines ideophones “as expressives, characterising sounds, sensations, textures and feelings, usually, but not always, through morphological patterning.” He further states that “In many languages, ideophones have distinctive phonotactics, but they always have highly specific applications to the sensory world and describe visual, aural and emotional experiences in ways hardly paralleled elsewhere in the lexicon.” Dingemanse (2011:3) describes ideophones simply as “marked words that depict sensory imagery”. He further explains as stated by Franck (2014) that:

...ideophones stand apart from the rest of the grammar and are conventionalized words that most if not all speakers would understand. Due to their iconic nature, ideophones also invite people to view a particular image instead of simply describing the event, and these images are made up from perceptual knowledge of such things as taste, sight, smell, kinesthesia, mouth feel, texture, and internal emotion.

Exploring the meaning and use of ideophones can give insights into the culture of the Kejom people, as well as help in the categorization and definition of this special class of words in the rest of the Grassfields languages.

In this regard, the data for the study have been taken mainly from texts since ideophones are normally abundant in natural and heightened speech, but rare in elicited data because as Blench (2011) puts it “they can be difficult to elicit since their existence is unpredictable and speakers have no natural ‘hook’ to recall them.” This study is based on a corpus of 112 ideophones. I found 82 of them in 6 narrative, 4 descriptive and 4 procedural texts collected within the framework of two language documentation projects\(^2\). As more were needed for the analysis I invited 4 other native speakers (Vivian Ba'ah, 36 years old; Sherra Tita, 21; Vechese Dieudonne, 23; Mbigeh Tigweh, 24)\(^3\) to join me and, together, we spent two evenings (2 and 3 hours respectively) thinking of and saying constructions with other ideophones. If we didn't know an ideophone someone used in an utterance we checked among the 5 of us whether it was actually used in the language. If we found fault with any, we took note and have not included it in the appendix. This way we ended up with 40 ideophones. The data have revealed that Kejom ideophones have several peculiarities that single them out from the rest of the other word classes in the language.

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\(^2\) The first project is the \textit{Multimedia Documentation of Babanki Ritual Speech} (January 2014 - December 2014) supported by the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP) and the second is the ongoing \textit{Multimedia Documentation of Babanki Oral Literature} (December 2014 - November 2015) with funds from the Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research.

\(^3\) I would like to sincerely thank all of them for making their knowledge on the language available and useful for the work done in this paper.
3. Kejom Ideophones

Kejom ideophones stand out as a separate class of words in the language because of the phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic as well as pragmatic characteristics which are peculiar to them. Each of these are discussed in turn in order to illustrate that there is a class of words in the language called ideophones.

3.1 Phonology

Kejom ideophones contain phonological patterns that are not found in the rest of the language. (Güldemann 2008) has observed that ideophones “are set apart by grammatical and phonological devices.” One of the phonological patterns that is widespread in ideophones in this language is vowel lengthening, illustrated by the following words:

(1)  bəːʔ ‘sound of belching’
     bí: ‘be white’
     bùːŋ ‘be red’
     bwàː ‘sound of farting’
     dzɛːʔ ‘be bright/beautiful’
     fɛː ‘gently/slowly/gradually’
     fjíː ‘sound of farting’
     páːŋ ‘immediately’
     tũːm ‘sound of object falling down’
     wɔːŋ ‘be clean/clear/bright’

While the vowel can be lengthened as indicated above it is possible to extend it for as long as the speaker needs to convey the intended meaning. Vowel lengthening is one aspect of the phonology of Kejom which is found only in ideophones, making this class distinct and unique from the rest of the word classes in the language.

Another peculiarity of the phonology of Kejom ideophones is the presence of sounds that are not part of the phonemic inventory of the language. The two sounds that are not found elsewhere in the language but occur only in ideophones are the voiceless bilabial stop [p] and the voiceless glottal stop [h]:

(2)  a.  pé pé pé  ‘sound of movement’
     wàp wàp wàp  ‘sound of flapping of chicken's wings’

     b.  héi  ‘warning/requesting attention’
     hják hják hják  ‘noise of laughter’

Of interest is also the occurrence of [b] and [k] as coda consonants in ideophones. I have mentioned above that /k/ is realized as [ʔ] in coda position. In ideophones, however, both [k] and [ʔ] occur. Examples of [b] and [k] in coda position of ideophones are given in (3):
(3) a. bjib  ‘cover completely’
   fīb fīb fīb  ‘swiftly’

   b. tjīk  ‘be very bitter’
   hjāk hjāk  ‘sound of laughter’

It has been observed that “languages typically exploit sounds not part of the regular phonemic inventory for expressive purposes” (Sapir 1927 quoted by Childs 1988). In other words, the use of [p, h] in the expressions in (2) but nowhere else in the language as well as the occurrence of [b, k] in coda position in (3) confirm that ideophones have a unique behavior and form a distinct class in Kejom.

Diphthongs are extremely rare in the language but not in ideophones where sequences of different vowels are common and it is also possible to have the same vowel with a tonal change as shown in the following data.

(4) wūò wūò  ‘sound of dog barking’
    pāí?  ‘sound of a slap’
    wēmēi  ‘expression of shock’
    pūūŋ  ‘sound of a fart’
    nèéʔò  ‘noise of (baby) crying’
    mɔɔʔò  ‘noise of cattle’

This way of combining sounds in the language is peculiar to ideophones thereby making them stand out as a class of its own.

It has also been noted that -im is not possible as a VC rime elsewhere in the language, but it is found in ideophones as in (5):

(5) bjìm  ‘sound of falling’
    pímpím  'sound of a car horn'

Finally, while the use of consonant phonemes that are not part of the inventory of the language and the unexpected use of diphthongs have been noted, it is also possible that some phonemes are not used in ideophones at all. The bilabial affricates [pf and bv] are the two phonemes of Kejom that do not occur in all the 112 ideophones collected so far.

3.2 Morphology

Apart from reduplication, ideophones in this language do not take any inflection. An ideophone has only the root without any prefix or suffix. This is unlike nouns which can take either prefixes or a suffix to mark their noun class, adjectives which can take agreement markers, or verbs which can take the infinitive marker, imperative marker, etc. The examples in (6) show reduplication in ideophones:
Reduplication in ideophones can be both partial and complete with the latter being more frequent. In the texts collected so far, it has been observed that some ideophones can be reduplicated once, others twice and yet some as many times as the speaker deems it necessary to stress the point they are making.

This possibility of reduplicating morphemes several times is unique to ideophones. This is seen clearly when compared with the single reduplication of nouns and verbs shown in (7):

(7) Noun Verb
kònsánsáŋ ‘sugarcane’ kúʔtákúʔtò ‘shift upward’
móbóbó ‘kites’ tʃòsàtʃòsò ‘pass on’
fàŋkáʔóŋkáʔò ‘cycle’ kùmlàkùmlò ‘by touching’

Noun and verb roots are reduplicated only once. Nominal prefixes (kò, mò, fà) are not reduplicated whereas the verbal suffixes (tò, sò, lò) can be reduplicated. This scenario is distinct from the facts of reduplication in ideophones which can occur repeatedly.

3.3 Syntax

Kejom ideophones occur clause or sentence finally in declarative sentences. In questions and negative constructions the ideophone occurs in penultimate position just before the question or negation marker. The examples in (8) show ideophones in sentence final position:

(8) a. ɗí ɗ 3wà lá tsòːŋ
places SM be cold PART IDEO
‘Places are quite cold.’

b. kòmbò kò wèn kò fifò lá bí:
bag AM 3s SM be white PART IDEO
‘His bag is very white.’
c. ɣò sò  tsínŋ  ó  lá  lɔ?  lɔ?  lɔ? 3s then  shiver  PROG  PART  IDEO
   ‘She was shivering seriously.’

d. ɣò bwáʔ  ó  nù  múʔù  lá  gwèʔ  gwèʔ  gwèʔ  3s tire  CONJ  drink  water  PART  IDEO
   ‘He got tired and gulped water.’

If these statements are questioned the question marker occupies the final position of the sentence as follows.

(9) a. əʃí  ó  ɔwù  ó  lá  tsɔːŋ  à
   places  SM  be cold  PROG  PART  IDEO  QUES
   ‘Places are quite cold?’

b. kômbò  ká  wén  kó  fīfō  lá  bi:  à
   bag  AM  3s  SM  be white  PART  IDEO  QUES
   ‘His bag is very white?’

c. ɣò sò  tsínŋ  lá  lɔ?  lɔ?  lɔ?  à
   3s PROG  shiver  PART  IDEO  QUES
   ‘She was shivering seriously?’

d. ɣò bwáʔ  ó  nù  múʔù  lá  gwèʔ  gwèʔ  gwèʔ  à
   3s tire  CONJ  drink  water  PART  IDEO  QUES
   ‘He got tired and gulped water?’

The negation marker is a discontinuous morpheme and the first part occurs before the verb root while the second part occupies the final position after the ideophone as follows:

(10) a. əʃí  ó  kó  ɔwù  ó  lá  tsɔːŋ  bwēn
   places  SM  NEG  be cold  PROG  PART  IDEO  NEG
   ‘Places are not quite cold?’

b. kômbò  ká  wén  kó  fīfō  lá  bi:  bwēn
   bag  AM  3s  SM  NEG  be white  PART  IDEO  NEG
   ‘His bag is not very white?’

c. ɣò  ó  kó  tsínŋ  lá  lɔ?  lɔ?  lɔ?  bwēn
   3s SM  NEG  shiver  PART  IDEO  NEG
   ‘She is not shivering seriously?’
d. ɣò bwáʔ ɣò ó kò jù múʔ ú lá gwèʔ gwèʔ bwen
3s tire 3s SM NEG drink water PART IDEO NEG

‘He got tired and did not gulp water?’

An important feature of these constructions is the occurrence of the particle, lá. Ideophones that co-occur with verbs are normally introduced by this particle which comes after the verb and immediately before the ideophone. Its function is to announce that the speaker will now tell the specific manner in which the action described by the verb is realized.

In a few instances the ideophones can be introduced by tá. It is not yet clear when exactly this happens. Interestingly it is possible for the two particles to occur together. Whatever the case the particle that is closest to the ideophone must have a high tone as the following examples show:

(11) a. ɣò tʃíʔ tá kùʔ / ɣò tʃíʔ tá lá kùʔ
3s be silent PART IDEO / 3s be silent PART PART IDEO
‘She remained very silent.’

b. kò ji tʃò tá fèː / kò ji tʃò tá lá fèː
3s P2 pass PART IDEO / 3s P2 pass PART PART IDEO
‘It went well/smoothly.’

A further syntactic feature of Kejom ideophones is the fact that most of them occur only with specific verbs and strictly speaking, not with others as can be seen in the following examples.

(12) a. kèmbò kò wèn kò fǐfò lá biː
bag AM 3s SM be white PART IDEO
‘His bag is very white.’

b. kèmbò kò wèn kò bòː lá bùːŋ
bag AM 3s SM be red PART IDEO
‘His bag is very red.’

c. kèmbò kò wèn kò pimò lá lèːm
bag AM 3s SM be green PART IDEO
‘His bag is very green.’

d. wùwì ájì tʃòʔ lá hjihjihji...
woman DEM laugh PART IDEO
‘The woman laughed.’
e. mbàsò ó kú? ó lá bwà? bwà? bwà?...
   vegetable SM grow PROG PART IDEO
   ‘The vegetable is growing fast/fresh.’

Nevertheless, it is possible for several ideophones to occur with a single verb depending on the subject of the sentence.

(13) a. wi? fẹŋ lá bjìm
   person fall PART IDEO
   ‘Someone fell down.’

b. ñkwáñkwáŋ fẹŋ lá kwáŋ kwáŋ kwáŋ
   metal container fall PART IDEO
   ‘A metal container fell down.’

c. wájn ó di ó lá ñéé?ò
   child SM cry PROG PART IDEO
   ‘A child is crying.’

d. bjí ó di ó lá mèé?ò
   goat SM cry PROG PART IDEO
   ‘A goat is bleating.’

3.4 Semantics

Kejom ideophones penetrate the sensory world of the users of the language and vividly describe either experience (14a), smell (b), taste (c), image (d), or sensation (e):

(14) a. òfí ó 3wù á lá tsò:ŋ
   places SM be cold PROG PART IDEO
   ‘Places are quite cold.’

b. wi? pfè ñàm yò lômò lá ṭjū:
   person cook meat 3s smell PART IDEO
   ‘Someone cooked smelling meat.’

c. mà ʒì kòʒíŋ kò lwí lá ṭʃí:k
   Is eat bitterleaf SM be bitter PART IDEO
   ‘I ate very bitter bitterleaf.’

d. mbàsò ó kú? ó lá bwà? bwà? bwà?...
   vegetable SM grow PROG PART IDEO
   ‘The vegetable is growing fast/fresh.’
Many ideophones display sound symbolism which Hinton et al (1994:12) define as “the direct linkage between sound and meaning”. This is the case, for example, with the ideophones that imitate sounds of a tree breaking (15a), a fart (b), a cow mooing (c), and of a gunshot (d):

(15) a. ʧàkɔʔ fɔ kwàʔmà lá姆wàʔɔ
     tree SM break PART IDEO
     ‘The tree got broken.’

b. wìʔ fwɔs lá puʔŋ
     person fart PART IDEO
     ‘A person farted.’

c. ɲàm bè di lá mɔsɔʔɔ
     cow again cry PART IDEO
     ‘A cow again mooed.’

d. ɣɔ mɔ tɔm ðʒiʔ lá bù:m
     3s then shoot gun FOC IDEO
     ‘He then shot the gun.

As mentioned earlier reduplication is used to emphasize or intensify the manner or nature of the action and an ideophone can be repeated as many times as the speaker deems it necessary. At best therefore the meaning that can be given to those ideophones that co-occur with verbs is ‘very verb’.

Many ideophones are used in place of adverbs when the latter cannot sufficiently express the intended intensity.

(16) a. ʧiʃ fɔʔ naŋtɔ/ ʧiʃ lá bì:
     be white really much/ be white PART IDEO
     ‘very white’

b. bɔː nɔʔɔ naŋtɔ/ bóó lá bùːŋ
     be red really much/ be red PART IDEO
     ‘very red’

c. bji di nɔʔɔ nɔmwin/ bji di lá mɛɛʔɔ
     goat cry really seriously/ goat cry PART IDEO
     ‘A goat cried (bleated) seriously.’

\[\text{e. } \gamma\dota \text{ vi } \acute{\text{è}} \dou{\text{jen}} \ \wù\text{wi } \gamma\dota \text{ só } \acute{\text{ò}} \dou{l} \text{á } \text{dzé:ʔ} \]
\[3s \text{ come CONJ see woman } 3s \text{ be bright PROG PART IDEO} \]
\[\text{‘He came and saw a very beautiful woman.’} \]


d.  fend nɔʔɔ nɔmwin/ fend lá bjim
    ‘fall really seriously/ fall PART IDEO

3.4 Pragmatics

Kejom ideophones are found mainly in descriptive, narrative, and procedural texts. Each speaker uses them according to their psychological state and generally the ideophones are accompanied by some facial expression. When tfik ‘bitterness’ was used to describe the bitterleaf the speaker twisted his face, bent his head to the left and then smiled. When another speaker used bu:ŋ ‘redness’ to describe a bag he smiled and then laughed.

Some of them can also be accompanied by gestures. For example, in a narration the speaker used the ideophone pàʔ pàʔ pàʔ ‘sound of beating’ while also using his hand to illustrate how the beating is done.

Like in many other languages, “these expressive phenomena are more recurrent in oral and non-formal situations than in written and formal contexts in conformity with what happens in many other languages in Africa and elsewhere.” (Bodomo 2006:212).

Furthermore, Kejom ideophones perform an aesthetic function and allow the speaker who uses them to display his/her emotions and keep the attention of their listener(s). As observed in many other languages such as Ewe, Kejom ideophones are:

literary devices used to heighten dramatic tension, to accentuate certain actions and to draw attention to certain images and deemphasise others...
Ideophones are in effect an enormously affective and efficient tool performers have at their disposal to develop the privileged relationship shared between narrator and audience in a culturally defined context.”

(17) tfwèʔ
    ‘sound of a sigh’

    tfwèʔ tfwèʔ tfwèʔ
    ‘chewing like a pig’

tswí tswí tswí
    ‘noise of a bird’

tfwí?:
    ‘sound of a whistle’

tù:m
    ‘sound of object falling down’

tùm
    ‘sound of football’
tùm  ‘sound of a gunshot’
wà:ìʔ  ‘sound of a shout’
wàp wàp wàp  ‘sound of flapping of chicken's wings’

The data illustrate that some Kejom ideophones imitate sounds that are produced by natural activities and conditions, which is something that is less frequent in other word classes in the language.

4. Conclusion

It has been shown in this paper that ideophones in Kejom behave in a different manner than other word classes in the language. This is seen in the peculiarity of their phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. It has been demonstrated that vowel lengthening and reduplication are saliently utilized in the formation of ideophones. Ideophones do not take any affixes and they always occur in clause or sentence final position in declarative sentences. The fact that they are used mostly in speech rather than in writing also makes this class of words stand out separately in Kejom. It has also been established that the use of ideophones in Kejom is generally accompanied by facial expressions and/or gestures.

The discussion of ideophones in this paper sheds more light on some aspects of the grammar of Kejom. In the phonology for example, it has been shown that [p and h] which were not considered phonemic in the language are commonly used in ideophones. It has also been observed that diphthongs are widespread in ideophones but uncommon elsewhere in the language.

This paper lays the foundation for the study of ideophones in Centre Ring Grassfields languages in particular and Grassfields languages in general in order to have a better understanding and categorization of this class of words in the world's language.

References


Appendix: Some Kejom Ideophones

áːʔ 'expression of pain'
bàb bàb 'sound of wing'
bəʔ 'sound of belching'
bəm 'be hot'
bi 'be white'
bjib 'covering completely'
bjim 'sound of falling down'
bùŋ 'be red'
bùm 'sound of a gunshot'
bwà: 'sound of farting'
bwàʔ 'sound of breaking e.g sugarcane'
bwàʔ bwàʔ bwàʔ 'growing fresh'
dzàʔ 'expression of pain'
dʒàb dʒàb dʒàb 'sound of rain falling'
dʒàp 'sound of hoe in the soil'
dʒwà? 'noise of rattle/ tree breaking'
đöm 'noise of pain'
đöm đöm đöm đöm 'describing pressure'
đöm đöm đöm 'sound of beating'
fè: 'gently/slowly/gradually'
fiː fiː fiː 'swiftly'
fi:j 'sound of farting'
yá: 'grabbing'
yá: 'attacking'
ýáp 'speedily'
ýáʔ ýáʔ ýáʔ 'movement of legs'
gù: 'hardness/firmness'
gwè? 'sound of swallowing'
gwè? gwè? gwè? 'sound of gulping water'
hjì hjì hjì 'sound of laughter'

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hjàk hjàk hjàk 'sound of laughter'
kò kò kò 'noise of hen'
kjì kjì kjì 'sound of laughter'
kékólìkò 'sound of cock crowing'
kù: 'be tasteless'
kù? 'be quiet'
kwàlàlì 'skipping and landing'
kwàŋkáŋ 'sound of a metal object falling down'
kwàŋkwàŋkwàŋ 'sound of a metal object falling down'
kwá 'empty/without'
kwás 'swiftly'
kwés 'easily'
kwá?kwá?kwá? 'noise of knocking at door to enter'
kwé kwé kwé 'descending movement'
lè:mb 'be dark'
là:n 'be green'
ljìp 'swallow food'
ljò? 'frightened'
lò? lò? lò? 'shivering'
lwàŋ 'fire flames'
lwè? 'swallow food/slippery'
mòsò? 'noise of cattle'
mèé?ò 'noise of sheep/goat'
mpáŋ 'immediately'
mpjìk 'noise of a sigh'
mpwäta 'swiftly'
npà? 'be muddy'
npèé?ò 'noise of (baby) crying'
ntèbé? 'be warned'
ntè? 'lightly'
njìfwaŋ 'tasteful'
ŋwàŋ 'flash'
pà:n 'immediately'
pà:n? 'sound of a slap'
pà? 'suddenly/abruptly'
pà? pà? pà? 'sound of beating'
pè pè pè 'sound of movement'
pè pè pè 'sound of movement'
pìm 'suddenly'
pìmpìm 'sound of a car horn'
ppá? 'sound of a slap'
ppè? 'sound of a sigh'
pjì? 'sound of a fart'
puúŋ 'sound of a fart'
fi: 'be quiet'
fi:p 'be quiet'
fwà? 'noise of pulling something'
fwà? fwà? fwà? 'noise of dress when person moves'
tè? tè? 'lightly'
tì 'sound of a falling object such as avocado'
tjù tjù tjù 'noise of an engine'
tjà? tjà? tjà? 'sound of rain falling continuously'
tsò:n 'be cold'
tjài? 'expression surprise/shock'
tjì:k 'be bitter'
tfù: 'smell'
tfù:m 'sound of object falling in water'
tfù:w 'sound of a sigh'
tfwè? tfwè? 'chewing like a pig'
tswì tswì tswì 'noise of a bird'
tfwi? 'sound of a whistle'
tù:m 'sound of object falling down'
tùm 'sound of a gunshot'
vùm 'sound of a gunshot'
vùn 'be clean/clear/bright'
wàʔ 'abrupt/unexpected'
wàʔ 'noise of wind'
wàlala 'scattering'
wàp 'grip'
wàp wàp wàp 'sound of flapping of chicken's wings'
weg 'expression of shock'
wémé 'expression of shock'
wò:n 'be clean/clear/bright'
wù:wù 'sound of dog barking'
wù:n 'emptiness'
wùs 'plentiful'
wù:s 'large quantities'
wúlúlúd 'sound of screaming'
wùʔ  'be soft'
ʒwàʔ  'sound of frying in oil'

záʔ  'sound of speed'

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