

# **OGAM/IGBO VCV DICTIONARY - ARRANGED BY CONSONANTS**

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## **SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION**

The Catherine Acholonu Research Center (CARC) is the only organization on the African Continent that is engaged in Research on ancient African stone inscriptions and native Symbols as forms of linguistic expression. At the *Rock Arts and Pan African Renaissance Methodology Workshop* held in Kenya (May 23-24) in 2007 under the auspices of the Trust for African Rock Art (TARA) and the Center for Black and African Arts and African Civilizations (CBAAC), the Catherine Acholonu Research Center made the first ever scientific presentation on African Rock Art as a means of linguistic expression and historical documentation by the ancients, before a gathering of African and non-African stakeholders, archaeologists, historians and anthropologists. The Catherine Acholonu Research Center, through the submission made by its Director, Professor Catherine Acholonu, who is also the Country Ambassador of the UNCCD Forum of Arts and Culture, Nigeria, was able to place the Pre-historic stone inscriptions of Ikom in Cross River State, Nigeria (known as Ikom monoliths) in the *2008 World Monument Fund (WMF) Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites*. The WMF entry on Ikom monoliths emphasized that Ikom monoliths inscriptions represented "a lost form of writing before 2,000 B.C.". **By this the Catherine Acholonu Research Center has succeeded in putting it on global record that ancient Africans had an indigenous form of writing and that they wrote on stone before 2,000 B.C.** This is a great achievement of the Center and its Director, Prof. Catherine Acholonu who personally made the submission from scientific data gathered through her research.

Ogam is one of the forms of linguistic expression invented by ancient Africans. We know this because, even though Ogam has not been translated by any of the international scholars who have been researching and transcribing it since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, we have succeed, where others have failed, to translate Ogam into meaningful passages, wise sayings, proverbs and philosophical statements (see our numerous articles on the subject - some, posted on our website, some published on the Christine Pellech website and others also published by UNESCO Nigeria). Our 20 years of research on the contributions of ancient Africans to World Civilizations

(published in three full length publications totalling (1,600 pages of research findings) have provided conclusive evidence that a Prehistoric African world conqueror and civilizer, known in ancient mythologies of the world by the name of Kush had created a Pre-historic civilization in West Africa from where he and his armies, and ministers travelled all around the world, bringing the first knowledge of religion, astronomy, alchemy or magic and writing.

Kush had an empire in the African rain forest known in various mythologies by such names as Tilmun, Punt, Meluhha, Biafra, Western Ethiopia and Old Kingdom Egypt. Its capital city was excavated in the 1950s by British archaeologist Thurstan Shaw. But Shaw (for reasons known to him alone) hid the fact that he had discovered a lost city. His dating of 900 A.D. was of course false, since he was operating ab initio from a perspective of withholding vital information. Catherine Acholonu Research Center has done extensive research on this lost civilization of Kush and discovered that the writings they gave to the world included Ogam, and Ogam has been successfully translated into the native language of the people in whose land the lost city is located. That land and its people and language are called IGBO/IBO – the city itself was known in ancient Egypt as Yebu or Heliopolis. It is located in West Africa, Nigeria to be precise. Its old name was Igbo and its new name since colonial times is Igbo Ukwu.

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#### **THE OGAM/IGBO DICTIONARY OF VCV WORDS**

This dictionary will help in simple and short expressions, but for very long and complicated ones, a comprehensive Dictionary of Igbo Language will be needed. The CARC will be glad to assist in these more difficult translations if contacted. Our website is [www.carcafriculture.org](http://www.carcafriculture.org). email: [ikomgram@yahoo.com](mailto:ikomgram@yahoo.com)).

#### **Important Pronouns:**

##### **(Subjective)**

*m* – I/me/my/mine; *a ...m* as in *A ga m* - I will; *A na m* – I am (present continuous tense)

*i* – you

*o* – he/she

*a* – impersonal pronoun/one (when the consonant is followed by open vowels e.g. *a gaa*, *a lia*);

*e* – impersonal pronoun/one (when the consonant is followed by open vowels e, i, e, o, e.g. *e mee*, *e loo*)

Examples of open vowels are Igbo /i/ as in English 'meat'; closed vowel as in Igbo /i/ (English 'kit'; Igbo sound /o/ as in English 'mutton' is closed, while /o/ as in English 'mould' is open.

**anyi** – we  
**unu** – you (pl)  
**ha/wa/wo** – they  
**ndi** – those who

**(Objective)**

**m/mu** – me, to me  
**gi** – you/to you  
**ya** – him/her/to him/her  
**mmadu** – one/someone (impersonal)

**anyi** – us/to us  
**unu** – you (pl)/to you  
**ha** – them/to them  
**ndi mmadu** – people (impersonal, pl).

A change of tone changes the same sentence into an affirmative statement (*I si* – You say. You said) a conditional statement (*I si* - If you say.), or a question (*I si?* - Did you say?). The word 'na' is very important because it is an all purpose gerund. It stands for 'and' (*mu na gi* – me and you); 'continuous tense' (*I na aga* – You are going); 'that' (*I si na* – You say that); 'but' – *ma na* (e.g. but you are going – *ma-na i na-aga*); 'with' (He is going with you – *Ya na gi na-aga*).

**B**

1. A ba a - When one enters ... (transitive)
2. Aba - Not to enter into...; also name of a town in Igbo-land
3. A bia – When one comes...; name of a State in Igbo land (*o bia* – when he comes)
4. Abu - Song
5. Ebe – Where; Oracle; flying
6. Ebi – Dwelling
7. Ebo – Mound; when one is accused of...

8. Ebu – Hornet; getting fat
9. Iba – Fever; the process of entering
10. Ibe – Patrilineage; paternal relatives
11. Ibi – Swelling of the scrotum
12. Ibo – (Another spelling for 'Igbo'), accusing falsely, placing (a load) on...
13. Ibu – Fat; the process of carrying
14. Oba - Barn
15. Obe - Cross
16. Obi – Heart; main hall of a man's homestead
17. Obo - Scabbard
18. Obu – Ibis bird
19. Uba – Riches
20. Ube – Native pear; cry; lance
21. Ubi – Farm land
22. Ubo – Scabbard
23. Ubu – Scramble

C

24. Acha – Name of a grain grown in Northern Nigeria associated with famine
25. A cho (o) – When one finds/looks for...r; (*na- acho* – is looking for)
26. Achi – A seed for soup-making; name of a town
27. Achu - Pursuing
28. Eche -Trimming a tree by cutting; thinking , meditating
29. Echi – Tomorrow (*Echichi* – Initiation; *Echi echichi* – taking an initiation)
30. Echu – Become bad; collecting (water)
31. Icha – Yellowing; passing (some on) by
32. Iche – The Process of guarding; thinking (When a verb is preceded by the letter i, it implies a process or the second person pronoun.)
33. Ichi – Taking an initiation or coronation
34. Icho – Looking for (a missing item)
35. Ichu – Scaring away (something or someone)
36. Oche – Seat/chair

- 37. Ochi - Rectum
- 38. Ocho – He who seeks
- 39. Ochu - He who seeks
- 40. Uche – Thought; mind
- 41. Uchu – Curse; attention

**D**

- 42. Ada – Daughter, fall, infant vomit
- 43. Adi – Not being (in a state of...)
- 44. Ado – Protecting; (*ado o* - when one plants)
- 45. Adu – Seed yam
- 46. Ede – Cocoyam; writing
- 47. Edi – Hyana
- 48. Edo – Yellow; raining
- 49. Edu – Guiding (*O na edu* – he is guiding; *i na edu* – you are guiding)
- 50. Ida - Falling
- 51. Ide - Writing
- 52. Idi – Being in a state of...
- 53. Ido – Keeping; contesting for
- 54. Idu – Leading; guiding
- 55. Oda – He who falls
- 56. Ode – He who writes
- 57. Odi – It is (*o di mma* – It is good)
- 58. Odo - He who insists on having
- 59. Odu – Tail; elephant tusk as a symbol of initiation
- 60. Uda – A kind of spice; loud sound
- 61. Ude – Loud sound; fame
- 62. Udi – Name of a place; type
- 63. Udo – Peace; Rope
- 64. Udu – Calabash pot; wine pot/jar

**F**

- 65. Afa – Name; oracle; (*afaa* – when one squeezes... )

- 66. Afe - Dress
- 67. A fi (ko) – When ... is crumbled
- 68. Afo – Belly/ Stomach; year – Orlu dialect
- 69. A fu – When one sees (transitive)...
- 70. Efe – Flying; dress; spare time
- 71. Efi – Cow (migrant Igbo dialect)
- 72. Efo – Dawning; *Chi efo* – The day is dawning.
- 73. Efu – Baseless; getting lost
- 74. Ifa - Squeezing
- 75. Ife – Flying; Worshipping
- 76. Ifi – *Maka ifi* - Due to; because of
- 77. Ifo –Folktale; pulling out (by the root)
- 78. Ifu – Getting lost
- 79. Ofa – (Ofaa) If he squeezes
- 80. Ofe – Native soup; across
- 81. Ofo – If it remains; Piece of wood used to invoke divine power
- 82. Ofu - One
- 83. Ufe – Flight; swindle; lies
- 84. Ufo – Inner room of a titled man
- 85. Ufu – Fox

## G

- 86. Aga - Childless, Will it be...? (e.g *Aga asi na ...?* – Will it be said that...?)
- 87. Ago - Defence
- 88. Agu – Lion, a powerful person; *Aguu/Aguru* - hunger
- 89. Ege - Listening
- 90. Ego – Money; a girl's common name
- 91. Egu – A kind of edible caterpillar
- 92. Iga – Going; snatch (from)

- 93. Ige - Listening
- 94. Igo – Buying; offering to , propitiating (a god)
- 95. Igu – Counting; palm frond
- 96. Oga – It will, he will, she will
- 97. Oge – Time; when
- 98. Ogo – In-law; kindness; gracious
- 99. Ogu – Fight; battle; stick; Divine Justice
- 100. Uga – Name of place; passing of time
- 101. Uge - Dregs of the palm-wine bottle (a nourishing drink)
- 102. Ugo – Falcon; eagle
- 103. Ugu – A legume for cooking native soup

H

- 104. Aha – Name (*ahaa* – to let go of)
- 105. Ahi - Squeezing
- 106. Aho – Choosing; year - Orsu dialect; a kind of dish
- 107. Ahu – Body; one sees; shaking
- 108. Ehe – Underbelly; (*ehee/ehepu* – removing excrement)
- 109. Ehi – Cow in the autochthon dialect
- 110. Ehuo – Bowing in reverence (*Ehuo-ro* - bowing in reverence for)
- 111. Ehu – bending down
- 112. Iha/Ira – To spare (a culprit, something cut in a net)
- 113. Ihe /Ife– A thing; Light; to pull in ( the stomach through breathing in)
- 114. Ihi/ifi – Cause (*maka ihi/ifi* – because of)
- 115. Iho/ifo – Folktale

- 116. Ihu/iru - Face
- 117. Oha – People; masses
- 118. Ohe – Ohere (space)
- 119. Ohu – Slave; twenty
- 120. Uha – A legume for cooking native soup

**J**

- 121. Aja – Sand; offering made to a god
- 122. Aji – Hair; a kind of Big tree
- 123. Ajo – Evil (adjective),
- 124. A ju – When one refuses (transitive) ...
- 125. Eje – Going
- 126. Eji – Holding on to
- 127. Eju - Snail
- 128. Ija – To Hide
- 129. Ije – To go; walk; gait
- 130. Iji – To hold; you are holding
- 131. Ijo – To be ugly
- 132. Iju – To be plentiful; you are full of
- 133. Oja - Flute
- 134. Oje – He who goes...
- 135. Oji – Kola-nut; Staff of spiritual authority; black; dark; tree with large trunk
- 136. Ojoo - Ugly
- 137. Oju – Broken piece of earthenware pot
- 138. Uja – Dog’s bark; shouting

139. Ujo - Fear  
140. Uju – Bounty; plentiful

K

141. Aka – Hand; A specie of snakes  
142. Aki – Oil palm nut/nut  
143. Ako - Wisdom; Prudence  
144. Aku – Termites; Cocoa nut; Oil palm nut; (*akuo* – when one plants...)  
145. Eke – Python; a name of one of the four Igbo market days; creation  
146. Eko - Swelling  
147. Eku – Wooden spoon; spooning, shovelling  
148. Ika – To be greater than; to speak forth  
149. Ike – Strength; to divide; to tie  
150. Iko – To tell; cup  
151. Iku – To carry (a baby)  
152. Oka – Maize; carver  
153. Oke – Rat; mouse; share  
154. Okiri - Ram  
155. Oko – Skin scratching  
156. Oku – Fire; hot  
157. Uka – Word; religion; church  
158. Uke - Destiny  
159. Uko – Dearth

L

160. Ala – Earth; ground

161. Ali - Ground
162. Alo – Placenta; Priest King's sacred Staff
163. Alu – Abomination; Fighting
164. Ele – Deer; God - El; Consummate Shaman
165. Elo – Counsel; swallowing
166. Elu – High; heights
167. Ila – To barb (hair); to go home
168. Ile – To look at, to sell (also ire)
169. Ili/ini – To bury
170. Ilo/ino – To swallow
171. Ilu - Bitter
172. Ola - Ring
173. Ole – How many
174. Olili – Burying
175. Olu – Neck; voice
176. Ula – Escape, disappearance
177. Ule - Examination
178. Uli – Name of a place; tough rope clinging to a thing

**M**

179. Ama - Compound; Original Divine Mother; open square.
180. Ami - Slippery
181. A muo - When birth is given...; When one learns...
182. Amu – Male genitals;
183. Eme - Happening

184. Emi – Deep (*imi emi*); *omimi* - mystery
185. Emu – Gossip
186. Ima – To know (*i ma* – you know; *i ma mma* – to be beautiful, good)
187. Ime – To do (*N’ime* – inside of)
188. Imi – Nose; nasal fluid
189. Imo – Name of the longest river in Igbo land
190. Imu – To give birth to (*omumu* – many children from a single woman)
191. Oma – Mother Goddess of the Igbo
192. Ome –Tender shoot
193. Omi – Well; cistern
194. Omu – Tender shoot of a palm tree
195. Omu-mu -Genealogy
196. Ume – A caste; breath (*iku ume* – to take a breath)
197. Umu - Children of

N

198. Ana – Earth; ground
199. Ani - earth; ground
200. Ano - Four
201. Anu – Meat; that cannot be heard
202. Ene – Looking at
203. Eni - Burying
204. Eno - Swallowing
205. Enu – High; heights (migrant Igbo dialect)
206. Ina – To ask for; to tale from (*ila/ina* – to go home)

207. Ine/ile – To look at  
208. Ini – To bury  
209. Ino – The stay; to return  
210. Inu - To hear; to marry (*ilu*); bitter  
211. Ona – A kind of native potato/yam  
212. One – How many  
213. Onini - Burying  
214. Ono-na - He who is in ...  
215. Onu - Mouth  
216. Una – Going home  
217. Uno - House  
218. Unu – You (plural)

NY

219. Anya - Eye  
220. Anyi – We; heavy  
221. Anyu – Melon pod  
222. Enyi – Friend  
223. Enye – When one is given  
224. Enyo – Peeping  
225. Inya – To drive  
226. I nye - If you give  
227. Inyo – To peep  
228. Inyu – To excrete  
229. Onya – One who drives

230. Onye – One/a person who ...

231. Onyu – One who excretes

232. Unyi – Dirt

P

233. Apa – Being lifted

234. Api – Being sharpened

235. Apu – Silk cotton Tree (Igbo Ukwu dialect); being dragged along

236. Epu – Germinating

237. Ipa/ibu – To carry

238. Ipe – To break (firewood)

239. Ipi – To sharpen (a knife); to squeeze out;

240. Ipu – To germinate; to leave/step out (a room, a place)

241. Opa – Round; moon-shaped

242. Opi – Flute

KP

243. Akpa – bag;

244. Akpi – Bed Bug

245. Akpo - Calling

246. Akpu – Fufu; cassava starch meal

247. Ekpe – A secret cult (*iri ekpe* – to inherit a dead person's property)

248. Ekpu – Wearing (a hat)

249. Ikpa – Waste land; to keep (domestic animals)

250. Ikpe – Case (in court)

251. Ikpo – To call; to call; to dry up

- 252. Ikpu - Vagina
- 253. Okpi – Heavy stick
- 254. Okpo – cat fish
- 255. Okpu – Hat; cap; eternal
- 256. Ukpa – Longish basket; a native nut, highly priced
- 257. Ukpo – A native spice for soup-making, highly price

Q/KW

- 258. Akwa – Cloth; Wrapper; egg; sewing
- 259. Akwo – Crushing, with stone or with blender
- 260. Akwu – Silk Cotton Tree (Orlu dialect)
- 261. Ekwe – Drum (*ekwe ekwe* – Stubborn)
- 262. Ekwo – Being noisy
- 263. Ekwu - Talking
- 264. Ikwa – To sew; to push; to give burial rites (to)
- 265. Ikwe – To agree; to sing a song – *ikwe ukwe*; mortar for pounding
- 266. Ikwo – To crush in a mortar/grind on stone
- 267. Ikwu – To say (*ikwu udo/ima udo* – to hang oneself on a rope/commit suicide)
- 268. Okwa – Bush fowl; wooden saucer
- 269. Okwe – Table games that use seeds or nuts; rubber tree/seeds
- 270. Okwo – He/she who carries on his back ...
- 271. Okwu – Word; talk; speech
- 272. Ukwa – A native bean, delicacy, highly priced
- 273. Ukwe - Song
- 274. Ukwo – Popularity, fame, widespread noise

275. Ukwu – Leg; waist; bundle

R

276. Ara – Madness;

277. Ari – Climbing (*ariri* – Suffering)

278. Aro – Year (Anambra dialect)

279. Aru – Abomination; body – Anambra dialect

280. Ere – Selling; rotting

281. 123.Eri – God-man (thought to be the Egyptian god of letters Thoth)

282. 124.Eroo – Mushroom; if ... pulled out

283. 125.Eru - Gathering (of a storm)

284. Ira – To lick; to have sexual intercourse with a woman

285. Ire – Tongue; to sell; to rot; to pronounce as from a god

286. Iro – To choose (*iho*); to pull by the roots (*ifo*)

287. Iru – Face; gathering of a storm

288. Ora – Folk; people; a legume

289. Ore – A place name

290. Ori – He/she who eats; eczema

291. Oro – He/she who plots

292. Oru – Work; slave; across the river inhabitants

293. Ura – Sleep; overnight food

294. Ure – Rot; making faces

295. Uri – Body painting, tattoo; the paint

296. Uro – Clay

297. Asa – Eel; very beautiful woman

- 298. Asi – Lies; *asi na...* – had it been that...
- 299. Aso - Holy
- 300. Asu – Shrivelling; pounding
- 301. Uru – Gain, cheat

S

- 302. Ese - Quarrelling
- 303. Esi - Smelling
- 304. Eso - Following
- 305. Esu – Millipede
- 306. Isa – To wash; to pass by
- 307. Ise – Five; to quarrel; to pull
- 308. Isi – Head; leader (*isii* – six); *isisi* (topmost head)
- 309. Iso – To follow (*i so* – you follow)
- 310. Isu – A clan name of the autochthons
- 311. Osa – Squirrel; Light colour
- 312. Ose - Pepper
- 313. Oso - Running
- 314. Osu – Belonging to the Osu caste
- 315. Usa - Gluttony
- 316. Uso – Sweetness (*Nso* – Holy, set apart, divine)
- 317. Usu – Bat

T

- 318. Ata – Chewing; drying up ( as in 'water is drying' – *miri na-ata*)
- 319. Ato – Three; (*ato uto* – sweet)

320.     Atu – Divine Word; Sore, bad wound (*atumatu* – idea)
321.     Ete – Palm tree climbing rope
322.     Eti – Crushing (palm nut with stone)
323.     Eto – Growing (*O na eto* – He is growing; *i na eto* - you are growing)
324.     Etu - How to; method
325.     Ita – To chew; to blame
326.     Ite – Pot; pottery; earthenware; to rub
327.     Iti - To beat; a fool
328.     Ito – To be older than; to praise
329.     Itu – To point (*itu aka* – to point the hand)
330.     Ota – He/she who eats
331.     Ote – He who paints/rubs, etc)
332.     Oto – A native dish
333.     Otu - Vagina
334.     Uta – Bow; blame
335.     Ute - Mat
336.     Uto - Sweetness
337.     Utu – Penis

V

338.     Ava/Afa – Name; Oracle (*ava* – the name of goddess)
339.     Avu -Song
340.     Evu - Carrying (*I ga evu* – You will carry; will you carry?)
341.     Ivu/Ibu – Fat
342.     Ovu – He carries

## W

- 343. Awa a – When one cuts...
- 344. Awo – Frog
- 345. A wii – When one pours...
- 346. Awu – One is ...
- 347. Ewe – Taking
- 348. Ewi – Rabbit
- 349. Ewu – Goat, reigning, in vogue
- 350. Iwa – To cut (*iwa ji* – to cut the yam; *Iwa Ji* - New Yam Festival)
- 351. Iwe - Anger; to take
- 352. Iwi – To fall (hair fall)
- 353. Iwu – Law
- 354. Owa – Twinkling light; dawning
- 355. Owu – Mermaid; water goddess
- 356. Uwa - World
- 357. Uwe – Dress

## Y

- 358. A yi - Befriending
- 359. Eyi – Wearing (a dress); not to resemble
- 360. Iyi – To resemble
- 361. Oyi – Friend; sickness
- 362. Oyo – Musical Instrument

## Z

- 363. Aza – One answers (to a call)

364. Azo – Struggling for
365. Azu – Fish, buying
366. Eze – King, tooth, teeth
367. Ezi – Outside; good
368. Ezu – Stealing; being complete
369. Iza – To sweep; to sieve
370. Ize – To avoid; to crash down (as in land slide)
371. Izi – To show
372. Izo – To save, to contest
373. Izu – Week, to be complete
374. Oze – That crashes
375. Ozo – Cult of Leaders and Princes; Initiate of the cult; again; gorilla;
376. Ozu – Dead body
377. Uzi – A tree with large trunk
378. Uzo – Way, road, door
379. Uzu - Noise
380. Akpu – Fufu; cassava start meal.

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