

Gùngáwá People and Language.

Gùngáwá is an adopted name for the Bàrèshe people by their Hausa neighbors which means Island dwellers because of their nearest to rivers and lakes.

The people call themselves Bàrèshe, Tsureja or Yáúráwa but officially called Gùngáwá. The names of the language are Gùngáwá, Gùngací.

The Gùngáwá people are mostly found in Northern part of Kebbi State, and around Islands in extreme Sokoto State few of them were also in Niger State especially Kontangora area and Borgu Local Government Area and a recent funding in Kaiama Local Government Area of Kwara State.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Table of Contents	vi-viii

## CHAPTER ONE

### GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 General Background	1
1.3 Historical Background	1
1.4 Sociocultural profile of the Gunganwa People	4
1.5 Genetic Classification of Gunganci Language	9
1.6 Scope and Organisations of Study	11
1.7 Theoretical Framework	11
1.8 Data Collection and Data Analysis	12
1.9 Brief Review of the Chosen Framework	13

## CHAPTER TWO

### BASIC PHONOLOGICAL AND MORPHOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

2.1 Introduction	14
2.2. Aspects of Gunganci Phonology	14
2.2.1. Sound Inventory in Gunganci Language	14
2.2.2. Consonant Sounds	15
2.2.3. Gunganci Consonant Chart	15
2.2.4. Vowel Sounds	23
2.2.5. Gunganci Vowel Chart	24
2.2.6. Gunganci Nasal Vowels	25
2.3 Tone Inventory of Gunganci Language	29
2.4. Syllable Structure of Gunganci Language	30
2.5. Basic Morphological Concepts	30
2.5.1 Morpheme	31
2.5.2 Types of Morpheme	32
2.5.3. Tree Morpheme	32
2.5.4. Lexical Morpheme	33
2.5.5. Functional Morpheme	34
2.5.5.1. Conjunction	34
2.5.5.2. Preposition	34
2.5.5.3. Pronouns	34
2.5.6 Bound Morpheme	35
2.5.7. Derivational Morpheme	35
2.5.8. Inflectional Morpheme	36
2.5.8.1 Noun	36
2.5.8.2 Adjective	36

2.5.8.3 BaseForms	37
2.5.8.4. ComparativeForms	37
2.5.8.5. SuperlativeForms	37
2.6. StructuralPosition of Morpheme	37
2.7 Allomorphs	38
2.8. LanguageTypology	39
2.8.1. IsolatingLanguage	39
2.8.2. AgglutinatingLanguage	39
2.8.3. Fusional orInflecting Language	40
2.9. SententialClassification of Morphemes in Gunganci Language	40

## CHAPTER THREE

### THE MORPHOLOGY OF GUNGANCI LANGUAGE

3.1 Introduction	42
3.2 LexicalCategory	42
3.2.1. Noun	42
3.2.2. BisyllabicNouns	43
3.2.3 Trisyllabic	43
3.2.4. PolysyllabicNouns	43
3.2.4. Nouns in Gunganci Language	43
3.2.5 AnimateNouns	43
3.2.6. InanimateNouns	44
3.2.7. ProperNouns	44
3.2.8. CommonNouns	44
3.2.9. AbstractNoun	45
3.2.10 Countable Noun	45
3.2.11 UncountableNouns	45
3.2.12 Function of Nouns in Gunganci Language	46
3.2.13. Nouns as a Subject	46
3.2.14. Noun as an Object.	46
3.3 Pronouns	47
3.4. Adjective	48
3.4.1. Function of Adjective in Gunganci Language	48
3.5. Preposition	48
3.5.1. Function of Adjective in Gunganci Lanaguage	49
3.6. Verb	49
3.6.1. TransitiveVerb	49
3.6.2 IntransitiveVerb	50
3.7. Adverb	51
3.8 Conjunction	51
3.9. Interjection	52

## CHAPTER FOUR

### MORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSES IN GUNGANCI LANGUAGE

4.1 Introduction	53
4.2 MorphologicalProcesses	53
4.3. LexicalBorrowing	53
4.4. Compounding	55
4.5.Reduplication	55
4.6.Refashioning	56
4.7. Clipping	57
4.8. Affixation	57

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction	58
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5.2. Summary	58
5.3. Conclusion	59
References	60

#### Historical Background

The tribe Gùngáwá or Bàrèshe can be found in the Northern part of Nigeria in Southern Kebbi State (Yàúrí Local Government) few of them are also in Borgu Local Government Area and North of Borgu in Niger State.

The Gùngáwá are mostly concentrated in Kebbi State in Yàúrí Local Government. The Gùngáwá people are the original inhabitants of Yàúrí according to Muazu Bagudu a native of the town.

A source had that the Gùngáwá were descendants of 17th century warrior called Kisira or Kachin who allied himself with the Hausa Soldiers to gain territory in the extreme North who eventually settled with his co-fighters in present Yàúrí town.

Another source told us of their trace to a songay warrior who came from Mali to seek territorial control and their eventual settlement (with his supporters) in Yàúrí and parts of Lopa and Laru (Gùngáwá neighboring areas).

According to Apollos Aagamalafiya, a native of Gùngáwá from Rèkúblarea in Yàúrí belief that the Gùngáwá people came from Kabuwa that they are hunters from Katsina State.

He (Apollos) explained further that some say they are from Shagana, Kambari, Kabbawa or Sarkawa. These are mixed up tribes that constitute the Yàúrí emirate.

As regard these histories, the actual place of origin is not clear, and it remains debatable among Gùngáwá people. Although, the Gùnganci language is closely related with that of the Lopa and Laru people in terms of lexical items and Noun Affixes. No matter how related these people might be with the Gùngáwá tribe; however, they (Gùngáwá) still remain divergent in historical root.

## ASPECTS OF GUNGANCI MORPHOLOGY

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