Is there a unique category of transnumeral nouns in Foodo (Guang)?

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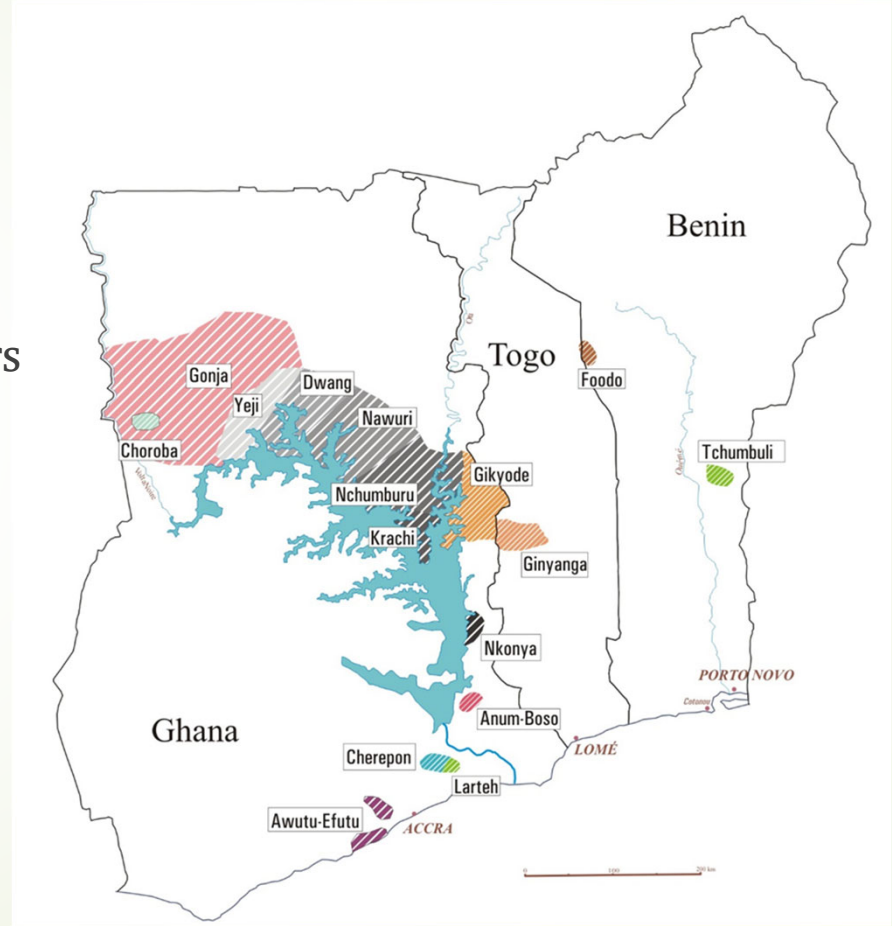
Aim of the talk

- analysis of the morphological features of transnumeral nouns, esp. mass nouns, in Foodo (Niger-Congo, Guang)
- their distribution over genders
- morphosyntactic behavior of TN nouns in Foodo
- possible repercussions for the diachronic assessment of the Niger-Congo gender system
  - part of the former DFG funded project (project number: 338110259) on “Noun classification in Niger-Congo between gender and deriflection”, PI Tom Güldemann, 2017-2023

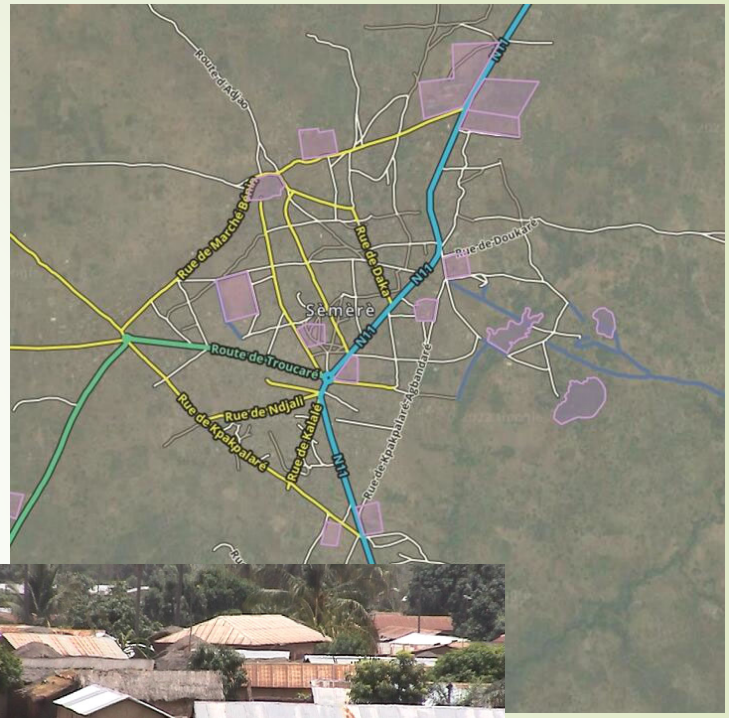
Introduction - Foodo

- Niger-Congo, Benue-Kwa, Potou-Tano, Guang
- altogether around 20-25.000 speakers (Plunkett 2009)
- linguistic island inbetween different Gur languages (Kabiye, Lokpa and Tem) and Hausa
- spoken in a relatively small area in Northwest Benin, in the province of Donga near the border to Togo
- migration there appr. 300 years ago



Introduction - Foodo

- nearly exclusively spoken in the town of Semere
- Semere > sàmíl^{u}éé / ɪ- ‘porcupine’
- Zech (1899: 139):
  “Semere ist von einer Lehmmauer und einer dichten Dornenhecke umgeben, …”



Typological profile

- basic word order: SVO
- head-initial in NP (except genitive)
- tone language with two distinct phonological tones having mainly lexical, but also grammatical function
- productive gender system
  - overt adnominal marking achieved by circumfixation (deriflection)
  - agreement with adjectives, determiners, pronouns, numerals
  - gender cumulative with number
  - semantic and morphological gender assignment

Typological profile

- Foodo has a very productive, elaborated system of nominal classification
  - 10 nominal form classes and
  - 10 agreement classes
  - nearly perfect match of NF classes on AGR classes, cf. (1.a)
  - except for NF N-.-SFX whose nouns either agree with cl. 8 or cl. 9, cf. (1.b)

(1)a. Alliterative morphology

dí-gbá-**lɪ**	**dɔ̀**-ńlɛ́-**lɪ**	**dɔ̀**-kú	‘a big market’
á-gbá-**à**	**à**-ŋ́lɛ́-**ɛ̀**	**à**-kú	‘some big markets’

b. Deviation

ŋ-kɔ́lˈɔ̀-**sɛ́-ɛ̀**	**ǹ**-ńlɛ́-**ɛ̀**	**sɔ̀**-kú	‘some big rivers’
ǹ-cɔ́-**ḿ**	**ǹ**-ńlɛ́-**ɛ̀**	**bɔ̀**-kú	‘big water’ (Fiedler, f.n.)

What about TN nouns?

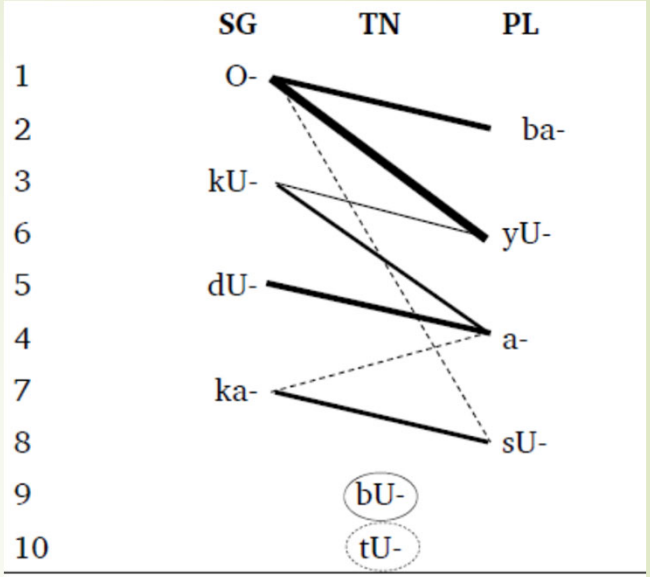


Figure 2: Gender system of Foodo (after Plunkett 2009: 116)

- Foodo has a very productive, elaborated system of nominal classification
  - 10 nominal form classes and
  - 10 agreement classes
  - nearly perfect match of NF classes on AGR classes
  - except for NF N-.-SFX whose nouns either agree with cl. 8 or cl. 9
- Plunkett (2009) only acknowledges AGR class 9 as including mass nouns and abstract nouns, class 10 for abstract items
  - see also similar views in Williamson (1989) for Proto-Niger-Congo
  - but Snider (1988) indicates for Proto-Guang 3 single class genders, similarly Manessy (1987) – classes 9, 4 and 6
- will be shown that transnumeral nouns can be found in all classes, even though with different regularity

Definition – transnumeral nouns

- transnumeral nouns are nouns that are insensitive to number, i.e. they do not enter a singular-plural opposition

„Als nicht-diskrete Ganzheiten konzeptualisierte nominale Inhalte sind transnumeral, d.h. sie sind gegenüber der Opposition Singular vs. Plural mit der Bedeutung ‚Einheit vs. diskrete Vielheit' indifferent. (Biermann 1982: 229)

„In vielen Sprachen werden bestimmte Nomina transnumeral verwendet, d. h. numerus-indifferent; […] Die Neutralisierung aller Oppositionen bestimmt den Zustand der Nichtindividuiertheit des Nomens." (Iturrioz-Leza and Skopeteas 2004: 1054)

"… is a number-neutral or transnumeral noun that cannot enter into a direct construction with a cardinal numeral." (Rijkhoff 2023: 344)

- term TN nouns applied here exclusively in a formal sense, referring to nouns that only occur in single-class genders

Semantics of transnumeral nouns

- definitions refer also to some semantic context of these TN nouns:
  - indifferent wrt. ‚Einheit vs. diskrete Vielheit‘
  - Nichtindividuiertheit des Nomens
  - cannot occur with cardinal numerals
- point to distinction between count and non-count nouns referring to items in the physical world
  - count noun = one that identifies a unit that can be counted (dog, table) – concrete physical objects that are “characterized by a perceptual spatial boundary (i.e. they have a shape) and consist of connected parts (i.e. they have an internal structure) that stay together when the object is moved”
  - mass noun = one that names an entity that comes in mass form and therefore cannot inherently be separated into countable units, at least not without a change in meaning (air, rice) lack a definite spatial outline and are homogeneous entities, i.e. they typically consist of non-individuated units or portions (rather than connected parts) that are all of the same kind, e.g. drops of a liquid or slices of a substance.”

(Ghomeshi & Massam 2012: 1-3, Rijkhoff 2023: 343)

Semantics of transnumeral nouns

- different criteria cited in literature for the distinction between countable and non-countable nouns:
  - shape – quality of an item to have a (concrete) spatial outline/border
  - homogeneity - the quality of consisting of parts or people that are similar to each other or are of the same type
  - divisibility – mass nouns can be divided without loss of integrity
  - cumulativity – mass nouns can be accumulated without essential change
  - plurality – count nouns can be pluralized, mass nouns not
  - granularity - the state or quality of being composed of many individual pieces or elements
  - viscosity - quality that some liquids have of being thick and sticky
  - individuation

- the grammatical number feature “transnumeral” is mostly found with non-countable nouns

Semantics of transnumeral nouns

Definition of the four basic classes of nouns (Grimm 2018: 547)

- substances: "nouns describing entities without any perceptible minimal units"
- granular aggregates (rice, sand): "Nouns describing entities with perceptible units, but which are low-ranking on the other factors such as more consistent shape, but not typically separated from one another and not typically involved in interactions with individual units, …"
- collective aggregates (ants, cherries): "nouns describing entities with perceptible units and mid-level rankings for the other factors, such as being separated from one another but still connected in some fashion, whether spatially near or functionally united, …"
- individuals: "Nouns describing entities whose elements are independent from one another, not connected in a regular manner to other elements of the same class, …"

→ Scale of individuation

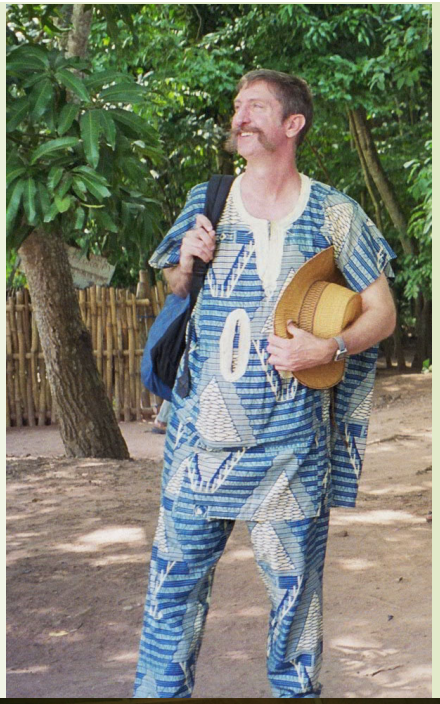
Semantics of transnumeral nouns

additional semantic domains included – abstract nouns

- religious/ philosophical terms
- abstract qualities / characteristics (e.g. beauty)
- feelings, smell
- object/ process/result/instrument nominalization
- events
- propositions or poissible facts (belief, opinion; cf. Rijkhoff 2023)
- temporal descriptions

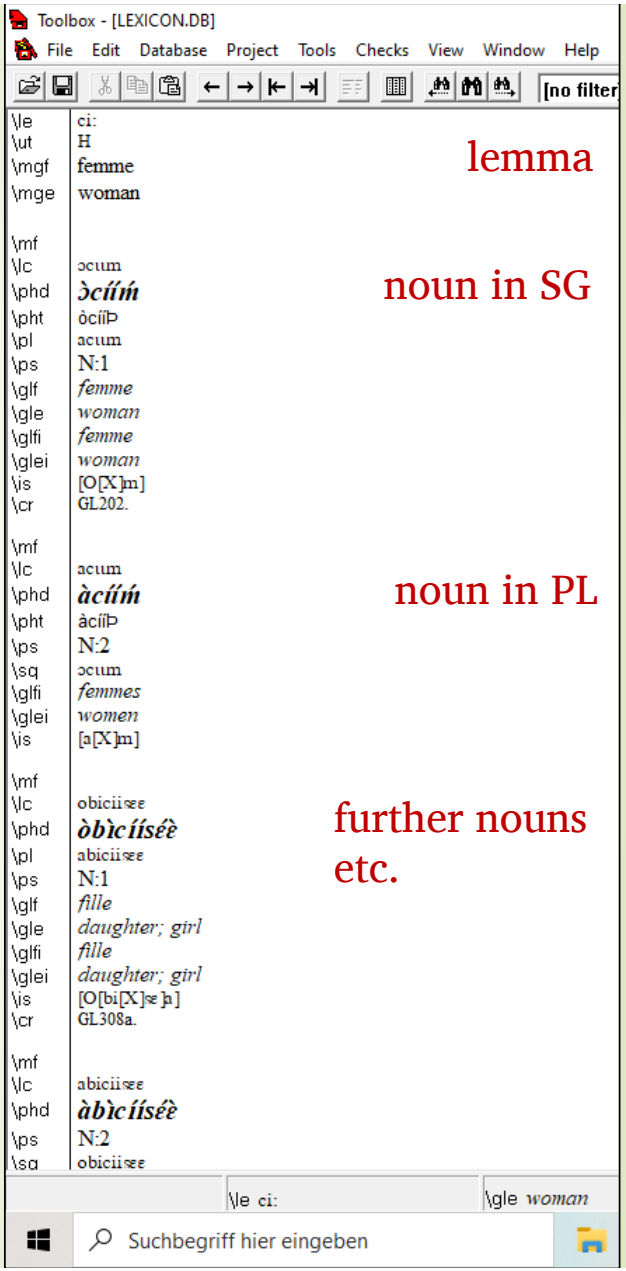
Methodology

- investigation based on the lexical database compiled by Gray Plunkett (SIL, Semere) from 1994 to 2007 – I am very grateful for his generosity
- completed by own fieldwork data (2005, 2007)
- thanks also to:
  Iliassou Yaya
  Idrissou Zacari
  Salifou Imolou
  and all Foodo speakers



Methodology

- contains 1.460 lemmata (incl. nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, etc.) that refer to multiple forms
- the English glosses count up to 2.653 - as my analysis basically draws around the English translation, I take this number as basic for my analysis
- from the 2.653 English entries, 1.502 are marked as nouns, and taken here as basis for analysis



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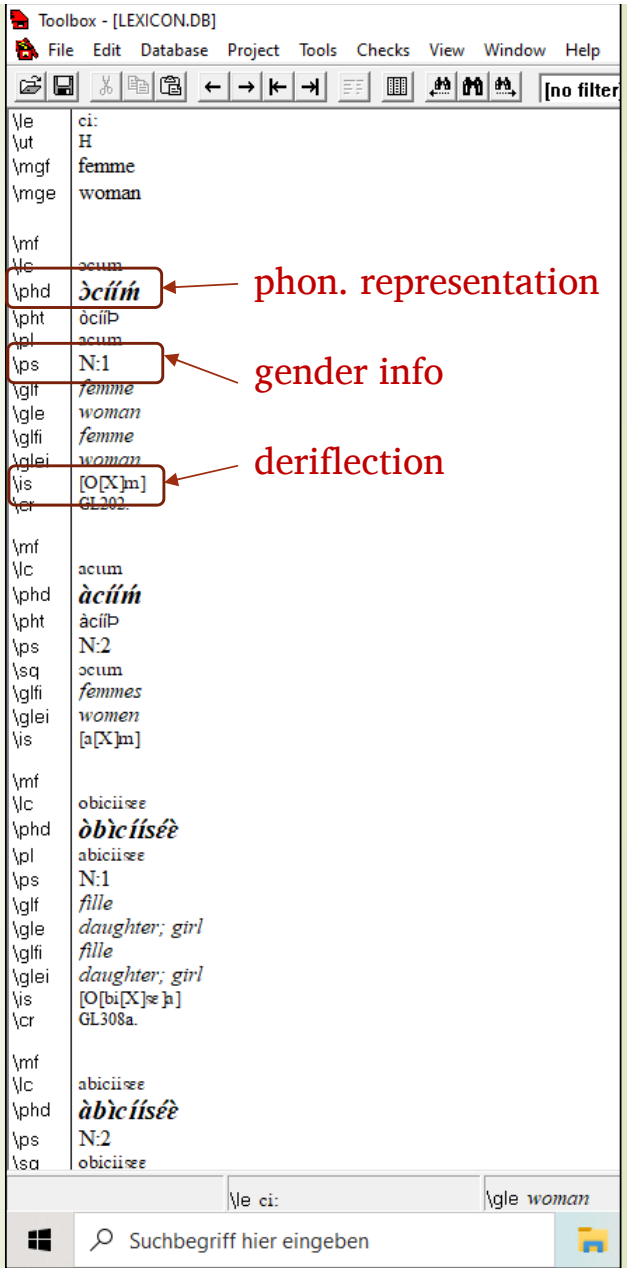
- from the 2.653 English entries, 1.502 are marked as nouns, and taken here as basis for analysis
- mass nouns extracted from dictionary on basis of their number-insensitivity – this is indicated in database by \ps N:class_x, or by indicating that there is no plural, or by “?”
- followed by a reordering of the nouns according to gender and semantics

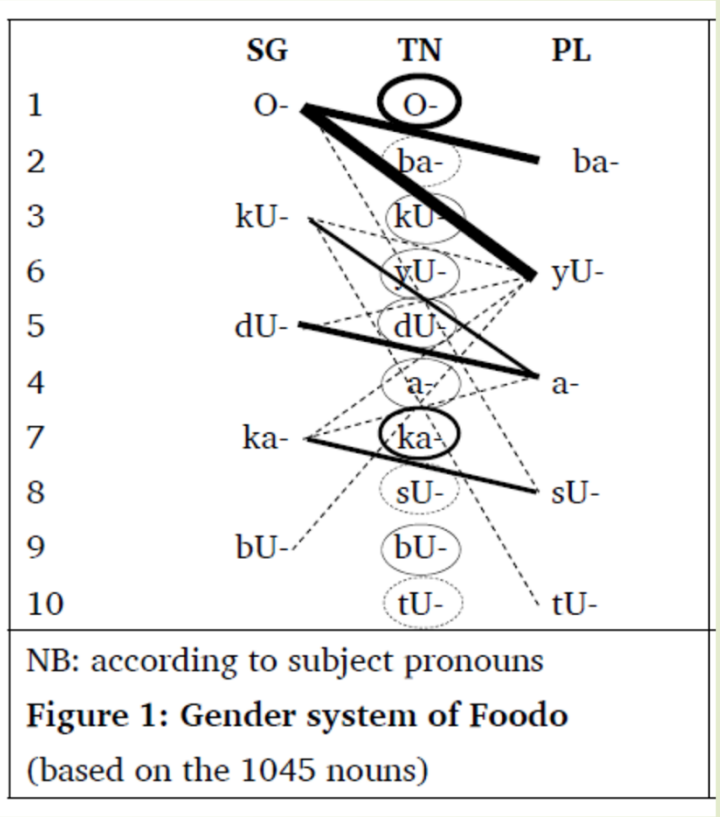


Distribution of nouns over genders

Kind of gender	Total number	% of all nouns in database	% of only relevant nouns in database
paired genders:	815	54,26 %	77,99 %
single class genders (TN nouns):	230	15,31 %	22,01 %
gerunds:	435	28,96 %	--
unclassified:	22	1,46 %	--
Sum:	1.502	100%	(1.045)

Distribution of nouns over genders

- 5 major (thick line) and 7 minor paired genders (dotted lines)
- all 10 agreement classes in Foodo function also as single class genders (to different degrees)

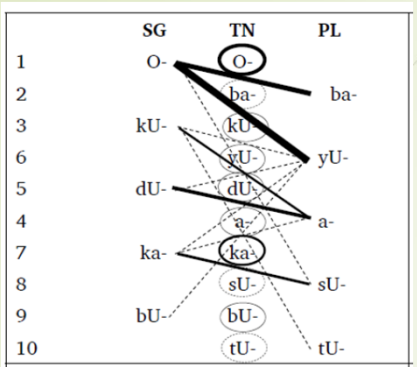


NB: according to subject pronouns

Figure 1: Gender system of Foodo

(based on the 1045 nouns)

Distribution of nouns over genders



NB: according to subject pronouns

Figure 1: Gender system of Foodo (based on the 1045 nouns)

Gender	Total number	% of all analyzed nouns in database, 100% =1045	% of all paired genders in database 100% = 815
1/6	308	29,47 %	37,79 %
1/2	200	19,14 %	24,54 %
5/4	145	13,88 %	17,79 %
7/8	92	8,80 %	11,29 %
3/4	45	4,31 %	5,52 %
3/6	7	0,67 %	0,86 %
1/8	6	0,57 %	0,74 %
7/4	5	0,48 %	0,61 %
5/6	2	0,19 %	0,25 %
7/6	2	0,19 %	0,25 %
9/6	2	0,19 %	0,25 %
3/10	1	0,1 %	0,12 %
~~unclass.~~	~~22~~		
	815		

Gender	Total number	% of all analyzed nouns in database, 100% =1045	% of all single class genders in database 100% = 230
~~9 gerunds~~	~~435~~		
1	73	6,99 %	31,74 %
7	31	2,97 %	13,48 %
4	24	2,30 %	10,43 %
3	23	2,20 %	10,00 %
5	22	2,11 %	9,57 %
9	22	2,11 %	9,57 %
6	19	1,82 %	8,26 %
10	7	0,67 %	3,04 %
8	6	0,57 %	2,61 %
2	3	0,29 %	1,02 %

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

Class 1:O- nouns (73)

- NF marking: Ø-.-Ø/SFX
  O-.-SFX (only 7)
- very divers semantics: 2 liquids, 2 substances, 3 vegetation, abstract entities, incl. temporal and locational expressions, humans, proper names (many loan words)
- morphologically driven assignment of nouns

(2) cíjáà ‘hot water’

ásálà ‘tobacco, marihuana’

bùsùlù-wɔ́-ɔ̀ ‘dust’

ò-yúl-ó ‘cold, coolness, shadow’ (>yúúlî ‘become cold‘)

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

Class 7:KA- nouns (31)

- NF marking: kA-.-A
- 3 substances, 2 granular aggregates (?), 10 abstract nouns derived of persons, 6 object nominalizations, 7 abstract temporal nouns, other

(3) kà-púpù ‘powder of dried leaves for sauce’

ká-sá-à ‘dowry’

kà-càǹná-á ‘friendship ’, cf. ɔ̀-càǹná-á / à-càǹná-á ‘friend/s’

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

Class 4:A- nouns (24)

- NF marking: A-.-SFX
- no clear semantics: 7 substances, 2 vegetation, 1 group of small animals (collective), 12 abstract terms, 2 other

(4) à-pɔ̀ɔ̀díí$^{\downarrow}$-ḿ ‘mud’
à-dá-á ‘blood’
á-bú-nɔ̀ ‘thorny grass’
à-cáŋ́gbél-ò ‘flock of guinea fowls’

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

Class 3:KU- nouns (23)

- NF marking: KU-.-U
- no clear semantics: 4 substances, 15 abstract terms, incl. temporal descriptions, 4 object/process nominalizations

(5) kú-súsùlù-ú ‘sweat’

kù-nyíŋ ‘semen, strength’

kù-sɔ̀ŋɔ́-ó ‘heat’

kù-pùná-ú ‘swelling’

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

Class 5:DU- nouns (22)

- NF marking: DI-.-LI
- no clear semantics: 1 collective aggregate, 1 vegetation, 1 instrument, 6 abstract qualities, 9 object/process nominalizations (incl. scabies), 4 different abstract items

(6)	đì-dá-lì	‘mane (not of horse)’
	dí-tíń-đì	‘couch grass’
	dú-kúlíí	‘childbirth’ > kúlìì ‘to give birth’
	dì-bí-dí	‘darkness’
	díc$^{\downarrow}$ó-ó	‘sieve’ (AGR 1 or AGR 5)

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

Class 9:BU- nouns (22)

- NF marking: N-.-SFX (19)
  BI-.-A (3)
- only mass nouns: 9 liquids, 9 substances, 1 + 1 food stuff, 1 + 1 abstract

(7)	ǹ-cɔ́-ḿ	'water'
	ḿ-tá-à	'alcoholic drink'
	ǹ-nyʊ́fɔ́-ɔ̀	'flour'
	bí-dɛ́-ɛ̀	'paste (of food)'

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

Class 9:BU- nouns – gerunds (435)

(8)	bʊ̀-kɔ́-nɔ́	‘grinding’
	bí-já-à	‘chasing’
	bí-lʊ́ʊ́-m̀ḿ	‘going out’

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

Class 6:I- nouns (19)

- NF marking: I-.-SFX
- no clear semantics: 7 substances~collective aggregates, 2 food stuff, 1 abstract quality, 2 feelings, 7 object/process nominalizations

(9)	ì-nú-ḿ	'meat'
	ì-ŋmá-ḿ	'hair'
	ì-pɔ́-ɔ́	'sauce'
	ì-sʊ́lɔ́	'running, speed' < sílì 'to run'

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

Class 10:TU- nouns (7)

- innovation, all abstract derivations with -tɔ-
- religious terms, qualities

(10)	cèfèlî-tˈɔ́-ɔ́	‘animism’	<	*Ø-cèfèlí*	‘animist’ (cf. Arab. *kufr* ‘godlessness’)
	Ø-òkùtú-tɔ́-ɔ́	‘boisterousness’	<	*òkùtú*	‘boisterous’
	à-yáḿbù-tɔ̀-ɔ́	‘foolishness’	<	*ɔ̀-yáḿbɔ́-ɔ́*	‘fool’

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

Class 8:SU- (6)

- deriflection N-.-SFX (substances/collectives, insect, abstract items)

(11) m̀-bɔ́-ḿ ‘money’

ŋ̀-kèèlî-pˡó-ó ‘kapok’

Class 2:BA- (3)

- deriflection A-.-A (2 humans: twins, people; sorghum of the muslim)

(12) à-nyɔ́-ánà ‘twins (lit.: two-PL)’

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	O	BA	KU	A	DI	YU	KA	SU	BU	TU
Liquids	(x)								x	
Substances	(x)		(x)	x	(x)	x	(x)	(x)	x	
Food stuff		(x)				(x)			(x)	
Granular aggregates							(x)			
Vegetation/cereals/fruits	(x)			(x)	(x)					
Insects						(x)		(x)		
Small animals				(x)						
Body parts				(x)						
Animals										
Humans	(x)	(x)								
Artefactual entities	(x)				(x)					
Locations	x									
Abstract entities	x		x	x	x	x	x	(x)	(x)	x
Gerunds									x	

Distribution of TN nouns over genders

- attested in every AGR class of the language - known also from other languages, e.g. Swahili (Contini-Morava 2000, Crisma et al. 2011: 253), but very often overlooked

  cl. 1: most semantic fields - morphologically motivated

  cl. 9: gerunds, liquids and substances – semantically motivated

  all others: mostly abstract entities – unclear motivation

- semantic distribution

liquids, gerunds	restricted to class 9
substances	attested in classes 4, 6 and 9
abstract entities	attested in 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10

Distribution of mass nouns over gender

- we can infer a scale of entity types in Foodo (adapted from Grimm 2018: 543, cf. (13.a)) - with emphasis on TN nouns (13.b)

(13)a. liquids < foodstuffs < granular aggregates < vegetation/cereals/fruits ≤ insects < small animals < paired/grouped body parts ≤ middle-sized animals < types of people < individuals
→ reflects the accessibility of a unit interpretation

b. liquids/gerunds < substances > food/granular a. < abstracts < countable nouns
vegetation/insects

cl. 9	cl. 9, 4, 5	unclear	not in 2,8,9	all, except 9, 10

- cf. Grimm's scale of individuation (2018: 547), where "Individuation refers to the propensity for an entity to be construed as an independent individual." (2018: 528)

(14) four basic classes:

liquids/substances < granular aggregates < collective aggregates < individuals

Distribution of mass nouns over gender

- Foodo nouns basically follow this scale of individuation by sorting liquids and substances into single class genders, i.e. treating them as transnumeral/non-countable nouns
- but between the two entity types there is still variation, seen in the propensity to be assigned to certain genders (single – three –nearly all)
- this morphological feature might be related to the scale of individuation, by assuming that the higher freedom to be assigned to a certain gender reflects more individuation properties of this group of entities
- type of granular and collective aggregates difficult to locate on the scale for Foodo

Morphosyntactic behavior of TN nouns: Count vs. non-count nouns

- morphosyntactic difference between TN (non-countable) and countable nouns:
  - SG/PL pairing
  - combination with cardinal numbers (two dogs) vs. packagers (a glass of water)
  - combination with quantifiers (many vs. much)
  - combination with adjectival modifiers that presuppose individuals, like ‘big’ (Grimm 2018: 537, fn. 7)
- only limited data on morphosyntactic behavior of noun
- difference to other studies: in gender systems of the Niger-Congo type, nearly all nouns are morphologically marked

Count vs. non-count nouns – SG/PL

- some apparent mass nouns occur as singular/plural pairing
- interpretation unclear
- pairings 3/6 and 9/6 are minor classes in Foodo – contains unusual pairings

(15) kù-fá-ù / í-fá-à	‘grass’ (SG rarely used)	3/6
dù-gbɔ́ɔ́-lí / à-gbɔ́ɔ́-ḿ	‘fog’	5/4
bìlìjá-à / ì-bìlìjá-à	‘dough’	9/6
sík^{l}ílî / ì-sík^{l}ílî	‘sugar’	1/6
ɔ́-já-à / ì-já-à	‘fire’	1/6

Count vs. non-count nouns - countability

- countable nouns can occur with cardinal numbers

(16) à-fɔ́l-ɔ́ á-nyɔ̄ ŋ nɛ́ɛ́ sʊ̄là ka-jankúliŋ-á
2-boy-2 2-two FOC PROG carry 7-stem-7
'two boys are carrying a stem'

(17) fʊ̀ wáŋla sík$^{\downarrow}$íl̂ì à-nyɔ́ àlàà à-sá
2SG want sugar.1 2-two or 2-three
'Do you want two or three pieces of sugar?'

Count vs. non-count nouns - countability

- no instance of a mass noun with a numeral in my data, but packager possible?
- packaging use regarded as not possible in Dagaare (Grimm 2018: 538)

(18) ɔ̀-bílɛ́-ɛ́ à nû ǹ-cɔ́-m là kɔ́ɔ́pè
1-old_man-SFX PFV drink 9-water-SFX with glass.1
'The old man drank water with a glass, … intended: one glass of water

nî đì-fɔ́-lí ŋá nû ń-tá-à
CNJ 5-boy-5 3SG.EMPH drink 9-local_beer-SFX
and the young man, he drank beer.'

Count vs. non-count nouns - countability

- unitization by gender shift - change of individuation type of nouns liquid/substance > countable noun

(19)	à-nɔ̀ǹcɔ́lɔ́	‘saliva’	TN, PL (cl. 4)
	kὺ-nɔ̀ǹcɔ́lɔ́-ɔ́	‘saliva (sg)’	use questioned by Plunkett (cl. 3)
	dὶ-nɔ̀ǹcɔ́lɔ́.bí-lí	‘drop of saliva’	SGV (5/4)
(20)	ì-ŋmá-m	‘hair’	TN (cl. 6)
	dὶ-ŋmáḿ.bí-lḯ /	‘single hair /	individuation: SGV (5/4)
	à-ŋmáḿ.bé-é	single hairs’	countable plural

Count vs. non-count nouns - countability

- unitization by gender shift is possible within/because of the whole system of nominal classification in Foodo

(21)	kɛ̀ɛ́lɛ́	‘kapok’	stem
	kʊ̀-kɛ̀ɛ̀lʊ́-ʊ̀ / à-kɛ̀ɛ̀lɛ́-ɛ̀	‘kapok tree’	3/4
	ɖì-kɛ̀ɛ̀lɛ́l-ì / à-kɛ̀ɛ̀lɛ́-ɛ̀	‘kapok (pod)’ (fruit)	5/4
	ŋ̀-kɛ̀ɛ̀lí-pˡó-ó	‘kapok’ (fibers)	9
	kɛ̀ɛ̀líi̋-fˡú / ì̋-kɛ̀ɛ̀líi̋-fˡú	‘leaf of kapok’	1/6

Count vs. non-count nouns - modification

- unitization by modifying adjective – change of individuation type > gender shift
  collective noun > count noun

(22) cɔ̀tì à-tɔ̀-kɛ́ɛ́.
wash.IMP 4-clothes
'Wash the clothes!'

(23)	à-tɔ̀-kɛ́ɛ́	'clothing'	TN
	kù-tɔ́-fúùlù-ú	'white cloth'	SG/PL with modifier
	/ à-tɔ̀-fúˈúl-ó		

Count vs. non-count nouns - modification

- combination with adjectival modifiers that presuppose individuals, like ‘big’ not possible with TN nouns (Grimm 2018)
- but see this example in Foodo - unitization by modifying adjective without gender shift, but change in interpretation

(24) ǹ-tʃɔ́-ḿ ŋ-nlɛ́-ɛ bʊ̀-kʊ́ à dá Jámāɪsɛɛ.
9-water-SFX 9-big-SFX 9-INDEF PFV hit Germany
‘A big flood has happened in Germany.’

Count vs. non-count nouns - quantification

- no difference in quantificational marking – here via indefinite marking

(25) ɔ́-tʃíǐ-m à wî á-tʃɛ́-ɛ́ à-kʊ́
1-woman-SFX PFV eat 4-beans-SFX 4-INDEF
'The woman ate few beans.'

cf. kàdíyà bà-kʊ́
people.2 2-INDEF
'some people'

Count vs. non-count nouns - quantification

- no difference in quantificational marking – here via indifferent quanificational adverb

(26) kùtʃɔ́ nì ɔ̀ wî
many FOC 1.PRO eat
'She ate many (beans).'

(27) ní ɪ nyándà kàdìyà kʊtʃáŋ ì-píyɛ́-ɛ.
and 6.PRO destroy people.2 many 6-house-SFX
'Many people have lost their houses.' (lit.: It (the flood) has destroyed the houses of many people.)

Conclusion

- Do transnumeral nouns present a unique category in Foodo?

  No, but we find some tendencies!

1. Morphological distribution
   - class 9 gender is restricted to mass nouns, already in Proto-Guang
   - class 4 and 6 genders are allowed to host also substances, also in Proto-Guang (otherwise plural meaning)
   - DI-.-LI does not host mass nouns > class for individuated and collective items (similarly in Supyire (Carlson 2024) and some Bantu languages (Nurmio et al. 2024)
   - but that the other single class genders only host abstract nouns for unclear semantic reasons, this might be a later development – derivational function of genders
   - this might allow repercussions for the original semantics of the classes in Proto-Guang, possibly also in Proto-Niger-Congo?

Conclusion

- comparison of the semantics of paired genders with single class genders also did not bring clear results
  - 1/2 humans, 1/6 default for prefixless nouns → cl. 1 mainly for prefixless nouns
  - 3/4 trees as part of core semantics (also in Gur) → cl. 3: no relation to vegetation, cl. 4 with unclear semantics
  - 5/6 singulatives / collectives → cl. 5 no liquids and substances, cl. 6 with unclear semantics
  - 7/8 part-whole relations, offspring, diminutive → cl. 7 no relation

→ more fine-grained analysis needed

→ in some cases, morphology might override semantic motivation

Conclusion

- adnominal affixes of single classes in Proto-Niger-Congo (Williamson 1985: 38f.):

	*Benue-Congo	*Bantu	*GTM	*Gur	*Atlantic	Foodo (*Guang)	Semantics
class 6A	ma-	ma-	N-	-ma	a-ma-	N-	liquids
class 6B	a-	ma-	N-	-mu	--	N-	mass nouns
class 14	bu-	bu-	bu-	-bu	--	bu-	abstracts, verbal nouns
class 15	ku-	ku-	--	--	--	--	infinitives

- support of class 14 as single-class gender for verbals nouns / gerunds
- classes 6A/B –innovation in Guang (and GTM) for NF, in Foodo merger of 2 AGR classes > BU-

Conclusion

- Do transnumeral nouns present a unique category in Foodo?

  No, but we find some tendencies!

2. Morphosyntactic features
   - no clear picture possible, due to lack of data
   - two of the assumed tests for determining count vs- non-count nouns cannot be applied to nouns in Foodo
   - combination with cardinal numbers only possible with count nouns
   - SG/PL pairing most clear indication
   - important: language-specific characteristics of TN nouns!
   - further fieldwork/tests necessary!

Conclusion

- Do transnumeral nouns present a unique category in Foodo?

  No, but we find some tendencies!

3. Individuation scale
   - applies well to Foodo nouns
   - but scale of entities provides more problems
   - here again, more data needed

Thank you for your attention!

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https://foodoabee.com/en/home

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