

APPENDIX A

A vocabulary of Old Calabar

Barbot included in his English account, a vocabulary of a "few words of the Old Calabar language" (1732, 383). Barbot had never been to Old Calabar (modern Calabar on the Cross River), nor had his brother during his visit to New Calabar in 1699, but Barbot had collected some information about trading there from English acquaintances. The vocabulary may have been supplied to him by an acquaintance aboard a ship called the 'Dragon' which visited Old Calabar in 1698.

The wordlist - it hardly deserves to be termed a vocabulary - bears no comparison in correctness and value with the vocabularies he collected himself. It includes misprints, misreadings, gross mis-hearings, and clumsy transliterations. It almost certainly represents no single African language, although it contains items apparently of Efik, the indigenous language of Old Calabar, although the items are corrupt and mangled. However, since a few of the terms are found in earlier sources, and since some appear to derive from other coastal languages than Efik, it must be more than one collector's incompetent list. Instead it may have represented, at least to some extent, a trading vocabulary of the Gulf of Guinea, that is, a limited number of corrupt but accepted terms, the terms developed over time and used for communication between European and African traders, not only at Calabar but also along the coasts of Cameroons and Gabon. Doubts have, however, been expressed about the existence of such a 'trade language': see Edwin Ardener, 'Documentary and linguistic evidence for the rise of the trading polities between Rio del Rey and Cameroons, 1500-1650', in I.M. Lewis, ed., *History and social anthropology* (London, 1968), 81-126, on 101.

Barbot's vocabulary was first examined in M.D.W. Jeffreys, *Old Calabar, and notes on the Ibibio language* (Calabar, 1935), 34, which claimed that it contained little Efik. The Efik terms suggested in the tentative identifications below are from Hugh Goldie, *Dictionary of the Efik language* (Edinburgh, 1874, reprint Farnborough 1964). The apparently related terms appearing in a vocabulary in Leers 1665 (see 'Works cited in the Notes to the List' above), 319, were examined in Ardener, 119-122, and Hair, 'The earliest vocabularies of Cameroons Bantu' (note 4 above); and also by Jeffreys in *African Studies* 29 (1970), 55-56.

Other sources cited below are Koelle 1854 (see 'Works cited ...' above) and De Marees (see note 6 above).

Yo "Give me" (?? **nō** 'to give', Efik)

Tata, bobab "Speak" (? **da** 'I say!', or **te** 'to say', **būp** 'to ask', ?? **m̄bufū ōbūp** 'you plural ask', Efik)

Singome "Shew me" (**singo** repeated below; cf. **singa** 'komt' = 'come' language of Cameroons and Rio del Rey, Leers 1665; ? **sim** 'to reach to, come to', **ke** 'at/to', **ni** 'me', perhaps confused with **sōk ni** 'bring me' Efik)

Fay-fay "To truck" (?? **na fei** 'I sell' Mbe, a Cameroons language, Koelle 1854)

Yong-yong "Good and fair" (? **ofōn** 'good' Efik)

Qua-qua "Linen" (? , but note **ñqua** 'bead' Efik, a term listed below, perhaps confused with **ñkune** 'European cloth' Efik)

Basin "basons" (note that **bou-ūt** 'basin' Efik, is from English 'bowl')

Yallo "Beads" (? **u-yā** 'a bunch, as of beads' + ? Efik)

Labouche "A woman" (cf. **lobbosje** 'een vrou' = 'a woman' language of Cameroons and Rio del Rey, Leers 1665; ?)

Negro "A Black" (Portuguese)

Cokeriko "Chickens" (an onomatopoeic term, cf. French **coquerico**, 'cockadoodledo', with analogies in many African languages, e.g. variants of **koko/kuku**, 'hen' in many Bantu languages, but not in Efik)

Cakedeko "Tomorrow" (? **okut oko** 'a few days hence', **ke okut oko** 'in a few days hence', Efik)

Cakedeko fingo "After tomorrow" (+ ?)

Machinche "Yesterday" (? **mkprōñ** 'yesterday', Efik)

Singo me Crizake "Shew me the like" (? **kpa suk** 'the same' Efik)

Singo me miombo "Give me some strong liquor" (cf. **wynba**, probably a misprint for **mynba** 'wyn' = 'wine', language of Cameroons and Rio del Rey, Leers 1665; ? **■-imba** 'palm-wine' Bakweri, a coastal language of the Cameroons, Ardener)

Kinde nongue-nongue "Go sleep" (cf. **quando** 'gaet en wech' = 'go away', Cape Lopez language, De Marees, 123v; **kende** 'gaat' = 'go', **nanga** 'slapen' = 'to sleep', language of Cameroons and Rio del Rey, Leers 1665; ? **kéndé** 'go' Isubu, Ardener; **nanga** 'to lie down, sleep', Duala, Ardener)

Chap-chap "Eat" (**chop** 'food, eat', global English pidgin)

Foretap "All" (**ofuri** 'all', ?? **tep** 'many', Efik)

Meraba "Water" (cf. **mareba** 'water', Leers 1665; **madiba** 'water' Duala, Ardener, and forms close to this are found in other coastal Bantu languages of Cameroons and Gabon, but not in Efik).

APPENDIX B

An alleged Barbot vocabulary

Fodor in 1975 discussed at length a vocabulary of Manding he attributed to Barbot (Fodor, *Pallas* ... (see note 19 above), 80, Table VIII). Barbot's four vocabularies were reprinted in Astley's 1745 *New General Collection of Voyages*, vol. 2, 291-3, and the English editor included after them a Manding vocabulary from another source. When the English collection was translated into German, as the 1748 *Allgemeine Historie der Reisen* ..., the German editor mistakenly enlarged the attribution of the four vocabularies to Barbot to include the fifth (vol.3, 268-270). Fodor, who appears to have studied the Barbot vocabularies solely from the 1748 German work, was misled. I discuss the matter at greater length and identify the correct source of the Manding vocabulary in a note, 'John Barbot's alleged Manding vocabulary', *Africana Marburgensia* 20 (1987), 49-51.