

## Lesson 8:

# Terminology in Ìgbò Studies

by

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There is much controversy concerning the vocabulary of Ìgbò. Terms exist at different quarters for nearly everything, but most of these terms are ad hoc, inconsistent or fail to describe the particular phenomenon in question.

In order not to add to the confusion, I prefer to present only the terms that appear widely accepted in the literature. We will add more to the list as we go along. More importantly, we have the opportunity to make suggestions.

Please note that we shall not be concerned with tone-marking in this lesson for now.

### Some Grammatical Terms

Ahìrìokwu	(sentence / clause)
Nkebiokwu	(phrase)
Okwu	(word)
Mkpọaha	(noun)
Ngwaa	(verb)
Nkọwa	(adjective)
Nnọchịaha	(pronoun)
Njịkọ	(conjunction)
Mbụzọ	(preposition)
Nyemaka ngwaa	(auxiliary verb)
Ụdaume	(vowel)
Ndakọrịta ụdaume	(vowel harmony)
Mgbochiume	(consonant)
Myiriụdaume	(approximant or semivowel)
Abịdị	(alphabet)
Mkpurụ abịdị	(letter of the alphabet)
Mkpurụ edemede	(letter of the alphabet)
Ụdaolu	(tone)
Akara ụdaolu	(tone mark)
Ụdaolu elu	(high tone)
Ụdaolu ala	(low tone)
Ụdaolu etiti	(step tone)

## Punctuatuion

Kpọm	(full stop (period))
Kpọmkpọm	(colon)
Rịkọm	(coma)
Kpọmrikọm	(semi-colon)
Ntụpọ	(dot)
akara uhie	(dash)

## Literary Terms

Agụmagụ	(literature)
Agụmagụ ọnụ	(oral literature)
Agumagụ ederede	(written literature)
Agụmagụ ọdịnala	(traditional literature (same as oral literature))
Agụmagụ ugbu a	(modern literature (same as written literature))
Iduuazi	(novel)
Ejije	(drama / play)
Abụ	(poetry)
Odee	(writer)
Odeiduuazi	(novelist)
Odeejije	(playwright)
Odeabụ	(poet)
Agwa	(character (in a play or novel))
(Onye)isiagwa	(protagonist)
Agwa ntọọchi	(comic character)
Ọdachi	(tragedy)
Ntọọchi	(comedy)
Njemegwu	(adventure)
Njembiri	(migration)

As mentioned earlier, we will add to this list as well go along. This lecture is open for discussion and since this is a touchy area, we will take all the time we need at least for this one.