Glavda

Glavda is a small language of around 20,000 speakers located in NE Nigeria at approximately 11º07´N and 13º46´E. Most of its speakers live in one of nine villages, Ngoshe, the largest Glavda-speaking settlement, ßoko, Amuuda, Arboko, Attagara, Agapalawa, Aganjara, Juburli and Zamga. This area lies to the East of the Mandara hills, and spreads towards the Cameroon border, the village of Zamga actually being in Cameroon. Directly to the West of the Mandara hills on the main road running from Maiduguri to Yola lies Gwoza, with Pulka slightly to the North.

Glavda is a Central Chadic (Biu-Mandara) language, classifed in group A4. Glavda lies in an extremely heterogeneous area linguistically. To the North and East of the Glavda area Mandara is spoken, and to the South, Dghwed'e, to the West Lamang. In addition, the villages of Gava, at the western foothills of the Mandara hills about one kilometer from Ngoshe, and Cikid'e, lying between Cinene and Arboko, are Guduf-speaking villages on the same eastern side of the Mandara hills as Glavda, while Cinene, lying between Cikid'e and Amuda, is an independent language of the A4 group.

The project aims to document the language by providing a corpus of around 100,000 words, all texts transcribed and translated and provided partially with interlinear glosses. Additionally, special attention will be given to providing texts from Maiduguri, the largest city in the area of Ngoshe, which has a large population of Glavda origin, particularly in the area of Lain Ngoshe, behind the University of Maiduguri teaching hospital on Bama Road.

The project is sponsored by the Hans Rausing Endangered Language Programme, centered at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University.

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Glossing Conventions

Glosses necessarily presuppose a detailed and coherent grammar. To date, the grammar of Glavda is only partly written. However, enough is known about it that a fairly coherent set of glossing conventions can be offered here, bearing in mind that they are subject to later amendment.

Reference:

2007. Buba, Bello and J. Owens. "Glavda Morphology". In Alan Kaye (ed.). *Morphologies of Asia and Africa*. Winona Lake In.: Eisenbrauns, 641-676.

Please bear in mind that the editing of the texts and analysis of Glavda grammar is an ongoing activity, whose final stage has not yet been reached.

Where there is a transparent one-to-one relation with an English morpheme, the English morpheme is used in the glosses, rather than a formal morphological decomposition. For instance, in the personal verb, the affix *–an* suffixed after the verb stem always and exclusively means "I", and so is glossed as "I", rather than as 1SG.

Abbreviations, Symbols and Conventions

(0.0, minutes.seconds) time stamp (as rendered in AudioAudition) (whole number (X) = time stamp on analog tape)
boldface   word of Hausa origin
(…) in glosses, gives a literal meaning, e.g.

dərməka, dərmək də-ɣəra
100, 100 with-head
100, 100 plus (100 with head; numeral + də-ɣəra = X plus)

[ ] in glosses, adds background information or information not readily deducible from the text to the free translation, e g .

gwi-ɣa-y dagal da taaki kwax wa-n dagal ŋay da βag-aan-aan-i
return-you-NEG come that that TP-I go I to do-GAN-it-NEG
didn't you return thinking (saying), I will go to do something (that)
[something different from his teaching]
For the casual reader, it is not clear that doing something means something other than the person's teaching.

{…} in glosses, adds ellipted or implicit meaning, e,g,

βaɣ-ɣa mər-i
did-you where-Q
Where did you do {them}
"Them" is not expressed with an overt lexeme.

/ … / false start, mistake etc.
[/] translation of false start, mistake, etc.

(Unmarked Pro)   Pronoun from the subject series (*ín* "I', *kəm* "we.EX" etc.)
are glossed directly in English, "I", "you", "we.EX" etc.)

"you" = 2SG as opposed to 2.PL = second person plural

(?) unclear in some respect (word, meaning, interpretation)

2.   Dual (speaker + addressee)

ABS   abstract nominal derivational marker

AltQ   alternative question marker *xi*

dm   discourse marker

EmP   pronoun from emphasizer series (ks + pro)

        etc.

EX   exclusive (first person plural)

EXT   verbal extension

FcQ   focus question marker *xa*

FT   future

G   -g verbal noun stem

GAN   g-aan/g-an verbal noun stem (segmented as –gaan, even if it is bimorphemic, g-aan)

g-an   In verb stems ending in -g or -gw (like *tag* "say"), the segmentation is indicated after the final *g* or *gw* of the stem, e.g. *tag-aan* "saying"

ID   ideophone

IN   inclusive (first person plural)

InP   pronoun from independent series (k + pro)

NOM   nominative

OBJ   object

PER   perfect marker

PL   plural, or in the cases of verb stems, 'pluractional'

PS   pausal morpheme

- The pausal morpheme is realized as –ŋ before pause. It has a number of "allomorphs", combining regularly with the subject, object and certain prepositions. Typical allomorphs are as follows:

    kəŋ = objPS (obj marker + PS)

    nəŋ = nomPS (nominative marker + PS)

    təŋ = onPS

    kəŋ = PS (unmarked)

PSPSSD   possesssed pausal form (= -ŋ)

PSSD possessed morpheme

PSSDST   possessed verb stem

PSSR possessor morpheme

PSPSSR   pausal possessor

PSV   passive

Q   question

R   reduplicated stem

SbjP   pronoun from independent subject series (n + pro)

SPC   specifier

SQT   sequential tense

Conventions and special issues

Bound forms are indicated by a hyphen. No distinction is made between affixes and clitics, both indicated by a hyphen.

A number of high frequency expressions are glossed in reduced, conventionalized form, in order to save space. These include the following.

n-uud "person" (composed of NOM-person), effectively used as a passive, e.g.
ya-ka vaakwan n-uud
bore you here person, for NOM-person,
Lit. a person bore you here = you were born here
me ľay "no longer" < may ľa or may ľaβ-i "not also-NEG"
-i   NEG; when the negative cliticized, it is glossed as "NEG", otherwise as "not"

By convention, usually the morpheme boundary is placed after an epenthetic vowel insertion.

čaga k-agǝra "he plucks beans"
čaga kǝ-xiya "he plucks guinea corn"

The object marker is *k-*. In the first example before a vowel no epenthesis occurs. In the second an epenthetic vowel (underlined) is inserted after *k* and before *x*, with the morpheme boundary indicated after the first consonant.

= indicates re-syllabification across word boundaries:
kwan =ǝksǝ-γa = [kwa nǝk-sǝ-γa]
now   you

Certain high-frequency morphemes have well-profiled meanings in some contexts, but ostensibly unrelated meanings in others. It is a matter for linguistic analysis to determine 'how many' meanings they have. For present purposes, the convention is adopted to give different glosses to formally identical morphemes, when they have different meanings in different contexts. For instance, the morpheme k- most frequently marks a direct object. K- also occurs in other contexts, e.g. after the question word *kwar* "which" + complement, kwar k-ǝ-γwalva "which man?" In the first distribution it is glossed "OBJ", and in the second, lacking a simple one-to-one English equivalent or, at this point at least, lacking a unitary grammatical interpretation, simply as k-.

In the glosses, ideophones are identified by themselves, beginning with a capital letter, e.g.

ma bǝ-γ-a-bǝgǝ-n k-albasar ñukw ñukw baďďǝma,
if insert-you-EXT-R-n OBJ-onions Nukwa all
once you've inserted the onion {seedlings} Nyukw Nyukw all {of them}

ñukw is an ideophones describing the act of inserting a thin object into the ground.

Second person pronouns translated as "you" are singular. The second person plural is marked PL.

If the gloss "we" is not furthered specified, it is default first person plural exclusive. First person plural inclusive, and dual is always glossed.

In the free translations, an attempt is made to steer a middle ground between full idiomatic English translations, and wholly literal renditions. For instance, in the following:

kay γwalvə-na sagaw ba də-ni náa-k-wa-naag kiyava βá-a wuray amaa-n, (22.37)
kay this boy is serious (comes with serious) *he wants me for marriage* she says

The italicized "he wants me for marriage" could have been translated as "he wants to marry me". A morpheme by morpheme translation would be closer to "he wants me in order for making marriage". Using the preposition "for" stays within the realms of idiomatic English, and captures the use of the preposition *kiyava* "because of, for".

There are a number of question markers beyond those already glossed above, whose differentiation requires greater study: and whose description lies within the realm of grammar.
-m   Q
ni   Q
-i   Q (variant of ni)
-r   Q
ɗa   Q

There are three specifier morphemes:
SPC   -n
SPC   -iin
SPC   -i

The line-by-line transcription has tried to follow the phonological and clausal boundaries. Ideally, a pausal unit corresponds to a simple clause. Where this is not the case, where the pausal unit is sub-clausal, or where more than one clause falls within a pausal unit, the line division is based on where it is deemed most appropriate in grammatical terms. In general an effort is made to keep the lines short, though this is not always possible.

Symbols are IPA except for the following:
ß = implosive bilabial, ɓ

ɗ' = implosive, ɗ

ľ = voiced lateral fricative, ɮ

ÿ = voiced palatal fricative, ʝ

j = voiced palatal stop, ɟ

ǧ = voiced alveopalatal stop, ʤ

€ = high toned central vowel (vs. ə low toned)

Tone is not yet consistently marked. It will be added later. Only high tone is marked.

However, the passages that have interlinear glosses are 95 correctly tone-marked.