

# Linguistic Survey of Nigerian Languages: A Preliminary Report of the Languages of the North East Geopolitical Zone

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## Abstract

This paper presents the linguistic situation in the North East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. There are six States in the Zone: Adamawa, Bauchi, Boronu, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. However, this paper covers four of the States: Bauchi, Bornu, Gombe and Yobe States. In Bauchi State, there are twenty Local Government Areas with twenty-two linguistic varieties. Hausa and Fulani are the dominant varieties, although Zul is undergoing revitalization. In Borno State, there are forty-four linguistic varieties across the twenty-seven Local Government Areas, although Biu has a religious/political situation where two varieties of Barbu/Bura are spoken depending on the religious/political affiliation of the speaker. Politically, Gombe State is made up of eleven Local Government Areas and twenty linguistic varieties with Bolewa and Karai-Karai being the dominant varieties. Yobe, which was created from the former Borno State with initial seventeen Local Government Areas, has twelve linguistic varieties. Bade is the dominant linguistic variety in the State

## 1.1 Introduction

Different linguists at different times and even others in fields that are related to linguistics – anthropology, sociology, geography, have at one point or the other proposed different number of languages for Nigeria. The different range of speculations by writers in the field is between 250 and 550. However, stipulating a particular number of languages for Nigeria at this time of our linguistic development may be a dangerous speculation since it is obvious that the actual number of indigenous languages spoken in the country is yet to be ascertained. The inability to authoritatively state the actual number of languages spoken

in the country stems from several factors, the most important which is the lack of proper documentation and data management.

The language survey project when it matures should be able to provide the country with a near authentic figure that will help in re-drawing the linguistic map of Nigeria. This work is a preliminary report of the languages of the north-eastern Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. There are six States in the region out of which four were covered at the time of the confirmatory trip and are hereby reported. The States that were visited to confirm some of the initial information are: Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Yobe.

However, Adamawa and Taraba States could not be visited for the confirmatory work before the Boko Haram insurgency in the north-eastern States. It is hoped that when the security situation in the region improves, the remaining two States will be visited to ascertain the actual number of languages spoken and/or available there and reported in a later work. Also, there may be the need to revisit even the four States earlier visited.

## **2.1 General Background**

This is a preliminary confirmatory investigation report into the languages of the North East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. Final year students of the Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages of the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State in the 2001/2002 academic session collected the initial data during the course LIN 422 (The Problems of a Multilingual Nation). A confirmatory visit to the States of the zone was necessary, which culminated into the report herein presented. The initial report on the languages of Bauchi State was prepared by Ekaete Udoekpo, the languages of Borno State was handled by Rachael Effiong. The initial research on the languages of Gombe State was done by Sunny Ume while Aniema Umoren prepared the preliminary work on the languages of Yobe State.

Borno State posed two major problems: the hilly nature of Gwoza and the political/religious situation in Biu. This partly manifested in the upsurge of the Boko Haram insurgency which made a revisit to the state impossible at least for the time being. In Gombe State, government officials were too strict with information thus making it difficult to even ascertain statistics earlier presented. Adamawa and Taraba States, which are in the zone, were not visited during the confirmatory research trip. Trips are therefore mandatory to these two States. The essence of the confirmatory language research trip was to conduct language research based on facts not speculation. Data in this report are based on languages of Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Yobe States.

This work relied on the population figure of the 2006 census figures of the National Population Commission. This is because the initial figures for 1991 excluded some Local Government Areas in the States involved in this work. For Bauchi State, the Local Government Areas without population figures then are Bogoro, Damban, Gamawa, Giade, Kirfi, Misau, Shira, Tafawa-Balewa, Warji and Zaki. In Borno State the Local Government Areas are: Askira/Uba, Bayo, Chibok, Guzamala, Jere, Kala/Balge, Konduga, Kukawa, Kwaya Kusar, Maiduguri, Mobbar and Ngala. In Gombe State, the affected local

government areas are: Funakaye, Gombe, Kaltungo, Nafada, Shomgom and Yamaltu/Deba. In Yobe state, Damaturu, Gujba, Gulani, Karasuwa, Nangere, Nguru, Portiskum, Tarmua and Yusufari local government areas had no population figures for 1991.

### 3.1 Bauchi State

Bauchi State was first created on February 3, 1976 by the administration of General Murtala Ramat Muhammad when North-Eastern State was split into three States along with Borno and former Gongola States out of the former Borno State with Lt-Col. Muhammad Bello Kaliel as its first governor. In 1996, Gombe was carved out of it. Bauchi had initial 12 local government areas. Presently, the State is made up of 20 LGAs. The State has experienced four local government creations – 1976 (12), 1989 (13), 1992 (15) and 1996 (20). The State is predominantly a Hausa and Fulani Muslim State. Historically, Bauchi State comprises of six independent powerful emirates. These are Bauchi, Katagum, Ningi and Dass. Kanam and Duguri earlier given as emirates were not confirmed. Rather, Misau, Jamma’are, which were not in the original listing were confirmed.

### 3.2 Political Classification and Linguistic Affiliation in Bauchi State

This sub-section takes a look at the different linguistic varieties of Bauchi State according to the individual local government areas that make up the state. Bauchi state is made up of 20 local government areas with Bauchi as its capital. The headquarters of Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area was initially at Tafawa Balewa. However, it was later changed to Bununu which is used for the present work. The State is predominantly Hausa-Fulani with a population of about 4million people. Apart from Hausa which is the dominant language, there are other languages, some of which are concentrated in the Local Government Areas. However, the dominant indigenous languages of the State are: Gerawa, Fulani, Jarawa, Gere, Sayawa (Zaar), Kir-balar, Zumbun, Karai-karai, Boyawa (Ayah).

Below is a table showing the representation of the linguistic affiliations of Bauchi State according to the 20 local government areas.

S/N	L.G.A	Headquarters	Population	Ethnic Group	Languages
1	Alkaleri	Alkaleri	328,284	Hausa Fulani Dugurawa Bajamawa Beri-Beri	Hausa Fulani Jarawa Kanuri
2	Bauchi	Bauchi	493,730	Hausa Fulani Gerewa	Hausa Fulani Gerewa
3	Darazo	Darazo	249,946	Hausa Fulani	Hausa Fulani

					Karai-Karai
4	Dass	Dass	90,114	Hausa Fulani Barawa	Jarawa Bankalawa
5	Gamawa	Gamawa	284,411		Larawa Hausa Fulani Karai-Karai
6	Ganjuwa	Kafin Madaki	278,471	Hausa Gerawa Sayawa Miyawa Siyawa	Hausa Fulani Sirawa Miyawa Garawa Faawa
7	Itas/Gadau	Itas	228,527		Hausa Fulani Karai-Karai
8	Jama'are	Jama'are	117,482		Hausa Fulani
9	Katagum	Azare	293,020	Hausa Fulani	Hausa Fulani Guddirawa
10	Ningi	Ningi	385,997		Hausa Fulani Faawa Sirawa Diryawa
11	Misau	Misau	261,410		Hausa Fulani Karai-Karai Fulata-Borno
12	Shira	Yana	233,999		Hausa Fulani
13	Tafawa Balewa	Bununu	221,310		Sayawa Hausa Fulani
14	Toro	Toro	346,000		Jarawa Ribina
15	Zaki	Katagum	189,703		Hausa Fulani Karai-Karai
16	Bogoro	Bogoro	83,809	Sayawa	Sayawa

					Jarawa Angas
17	Warji	Warji	114,983		Warjawa Badingaa Hausa
18	Dambam	Dambam	150,212	Hausa Fulani Kare-Kare	Hausa Fulani Karai-Karai
19	Kirfi	Kirfi	145,636		Hausa Fulani
20	Giade	Giade	156,022		Hausa Fulani

### 3.3 The Linguistic Situation in Bauchi State

Additional information on Zul, one of the languages of Bauchi is reported in Blench (2014). He states that based on available evidence, 20% of the language (the language which has 4,000 speakers) is under threat.

On the number of speakers, "Zul was reported in older sources to be dying out and to have very few speakers. However, this appears to be wrong. There are both more speakers and the language is more lively than previously thought. The number of speakers varies considerably from one source to another, but is probably about 4000."

In terms of vitality, it was earlier reported that [Zul] was declining. However, it seems to be thriving instead. Zul is being used alongside Hausa language. However, there is, obviously, an issue with younger speakers switching to Hausa, but the language seems to be surprisingly free of Hausa loanwords."

Zul is spoken in some 15 villages in Bauchi and Toro Local Government Areas of Bauchi State. They are: Zul, Zulgami, Dafasu, Nasira, Tudun Wada Baraya, Vum, Kadage, Nahuda Tintin, Tintin, Unguwar Rogo, Hakayashi, Bimiya, Balkeri, Kobonka, Ungwan Wombai.

### 4.1 Borno State

Borno (Bornu or better written Burnu) is anglicized form of Burnu – *Bur* meaning water and *nu* meaning death or disappearance thus disappearance of water. It was founded by the Sao people – Teda (Tibesti), Kanuri and Kanembu who occupied the lake and rivers of the Chad Basin area.

Most of the languages in the State are Chadic, some are Saharan, few are Semitic while only Fulfulde (Fulani) is Atlantic (Niger Congo). The State was created in 1976 out of the former Northeastern state (1967) from a province (1907). The state has three emirate

councils – Borno, Dikwa and Biu and four chiefdoms – Shani, Askira, Uba and Gwoza. However, some sources may have seven emirates for the state: Borno, Dikwa, Biu, Shani, Gwoza, Askira and Uba.

#### 4.2 Political Classification and Linguistic Affiliations in Borno State

Below is a table showing the linguistic affiliations in Borno State according to the political structure of the State. According to political structure, the State has 27 local government areas as represented in the table with corresponding linguistic varieties also as can be seen in the table.

S/N	L.G.A	Headquarters	Population	Languages	Major Towns
1	Askira/Uba	Askira	143,313	Marghi Kibaku Barbu/Bura Fulani Gude	Askira Uba Lassa Dille Chud Wamdeo Hussara Musa Uda
2	Bama	Bama	270,119	Kanuri Shuwa Fulani Hausa Gamargu	Bama Banki Kumshe Glumba Walasa Gurosoye
3	Biu	Bui	175,760	Barbu/Bura Fulani	Bui Miringa Buratai Mandara- Girau Gunda Garubila Tungur Yamar Kumi
4	Damboia	Damboia	233,200	Fulani Marghi- Kopchi Marghi-Putai Shuwa Fulani	Damboia Korade Komboa Sabon Gari Mafa Kopchi

				Kibaku	Bumsiri Shawa Yazza Izge Bale Kopchi- Muluguwe Azir Mischakurbutu
5	Chibok	Chibok	66,333	Kibaku (Chibok) Kanuri Babur/Bura Marghi	Chibok Mbalala Kuburmnula Kaukufari Gatamwarwa Yimirmakza Bomsir Kwaranglim Paga Yesu
6	Dikwa	Dikwa	105,042	Kanuri Shuwa Hausa Fulani	Dikwa
7	Gubio	Gubio	151,286	Gubio Kanuri Hausa Fulani	Badawi
8	Gwoza	Gwoza	276,568	Gwoza (Lamang) Guduf Jahode Glavda Madara Gavva Waha Ngose Ndaha Margi Liwankara Chikide Chinene Hausa Kanuri Fulani	Gwoza Ngoshe Parawa Kirawa Izege Pulka Wiza Ashigashiya Liman Kara Walla

				Shuwa Ville Matakam Zahilva	
9	Hawul	Azare	120,733	Babur/Bura Fulani	Azare Fulani Marama Sarawa Shaffa Kwajjafa Tarhar-Alade Yimirshika Kida Pama Mbula Tawiwi Dunkwa Hana Ngwa Huma Whitambaya
10	Kaga	Benisheikh	89,996	Kanuri Kwayam Hausa Badawi	Benisheikh Mainok Ngamdu
11	Konduga	Konduga	157,322	Kanuri Kwayam Marghi Shuwa Fulani Gamargu	Konduga Auno Jakanda Chabbal Sabon Gari Dalori Malaria
12	Kukawa	Kukawa	203,343	Kanuri Shuwa Hausa Fulani Buduma	Kukawa Baga Cross Kawa
13	Guzamala	Gudumbali	95,991	Kanuri Badawi	Gudumbali
14	Kwaya Kusar	Kwaya	56,704	Babur/Bura Fulani Tera	Kwaya Midda Wamdali Bula



					Gumsi Peta Wanda Daya Gwadzang
15	Bayo	Briyel	79,078	Babur/Bura Fulani Tera	Briyel Fikahyel Wuyo Telli Mafa
16	Mafa	Mafa	103,600	Kanuri Shuwa Kwayam Badawi Gamargu	Mafa
17	Magumeri	Magumeri	140,257	Kwayam Kanuri Shuwa	Magumeri Bornoyesi Chinguwa Ardoran
18	Maiduguri Metropolitan	Maiduguri	540,016	Kanuri Shuwa Kanuri Marghi Babur/Bura Mandara Minchika Kilba Kibaku Fulani Badawi Banana Kwayam Igala	Maiduguri
19	Jere	Khaddamari	209,107	Shuwa Hausa Kanuri Fulani Marghi Gamargu	Khaddamari Maiduguri Galtamari Fori
20	Marte	Marte	129,409	Kanuri Shuwa Hausa	Marte Old Marte New Marte

				Fulani Kwayam	Krinawa
21	Mobbar	Damasak	116,633	Kanuri Kwayam Hausa	Damasak Dara Jamal Ajari Ajzkura
22	Abadam	Mallam Fatori	100,065	Kanumbu Hausa Fulani Kanuri Buduma (Yedina)	Mallam Fatori
23	Monguno	Monguno	109,834	Kanuri Shuwa Hausa Fulani	Monguno Mintar
24	Ngala	Ngala	236,498	Hausa Kanuri Shuwa Banana Afade	Ngala Gamboru Wulga
25	Kala/Balge	Rann	60,834	Shuwa Kanuri Kwayam	Rann
26	Nganzai	Gajiram	99,074	Kanuri	Gajiram
27	Shani	Shani	100,989	Dera Babur/Bura Kanakuru Fulani	Shani

#### 4.3.1 The Linguistic Situation in Borno State

Gamargu language is endangered. It is spoken in Bama, Mafa and Konduga local government areas as well as Maiduguri district of Jere LGA. This language is gradually being absorbed by Kanuri as speakers of the language prefer to be referred to as Kanuri or Mandara instead of Gamargu.

Both political and religious situations exist in Biu. Babur/Bura is a dialect cluster. It belongs to the Bura group of the Central Chadic branch. Religiously, Babur speakers are predominantly Muslims while the Bura speakers are predominantly Christians who imbibed the Christian religion through their contact with the Church of the Brethren missionaries (CBM). There is a Bura dictionary written by the Seventh Day Adventist missionaries in the 1950s while Prof. Russell Schuh compiled the Bura word list with tones

in the 1970s. Politically, speakers of Babur and Bura claim to be speakers of two distinct languages. However, linguists consider them to be two dialects of the same language (Bulakarima 2001) records the cluster as Bura/Babur others prefer to use Bura-Pabir. However, the Pabir and the Bura are ethnically different though they speak the same Bura language. They are the dominant group in Biu and Shani LGAs. They speak other languages such as Hausa, Kibaku and Marghi while a few speak Fulfulde.

Chibok is both a place name and a name for the people who inhabit Chibok Local Government Area of Borno state but their language is Kibaku. Most classifications refer to both the people and their language as Chibok (cf. Bulakarima 2001). The language is also severally referred to by some linguists as Cibak, Chibuk, Chibok, Chibak, Chibbuk, Chibbak, Kyibaku, Kibbaku, Kikuk (cf Crozier and Blench 1992). They also document the language as being spoken only in Damboa Local Government Area. However, the language is spoken in Askira/Uba, Damboa and Chibok Local Government Areas as well as Maiduguri Metropolitan.

Gwoza Local Government Area has by far the highest concentration of languages in the state (over 20). The hilly nature of Gwoza scares researchers and makes the actual number of languages in the area difficult.

Arabic is spoken by the Shuwa Arabs while Fulfulde is spoken by the Fulani nomads. It is classified as an Arabic language of considerable antiquity. Fulani is sometimes uses for both the people and their language.

Hausa is a political language and the language of wider communication and is spoken in most of the Local Government Areas in the state. Lamang and Gwoza are referred to as the same language.

Yorùbá, Ìgbò and Igala are spoken in Maiduguri Metropolitan City though they are not indigenous languages of Borno State.

There were initial conflicts in the official population figures of Kaga, Konduga, Mobbar and Shani Local Government Areas. However, this work adopts the official population figure of 2006 census.

There were no official population figures for Chibok, Guzamala, Baya, Jere, Abadam and Kala/Balge Local Government Areas in the 1991 census figure. However, the 2006 population exercise captured these LGAs and is presented in this work.

Study is inconclusive as a second visit is required to ascertain the data on the villages ceded to Cameroon by the administration of the former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Marghi language spoken in Askira/Uba LGA (Uba Emirate) is grouped into two dialectal variations of Northern Marghi and Southern Marghi. Also Marghi language spoken in Damboa LGA is grouped into Marghi-Kopchi and Marghi-Putai

The dominant language in the state which has by far the widest coverage is Kanuri. By dominant is meant the language of the majority used for commerce, religion, literature and governance.

Bura-Pubir, Nggwahyi, Wandala/Malgwa, Dera, Ga'anda, Jara, Lagwan, Cikide (Chikide), Cineni (Chineni), Dghwede, Gevoko, Lamang, Mafa, Waja, Xedi, Yorùbá, Ìgbò and Igala are languages documented by Uwe Seibert of the Department of Languages and Linguistics, University of Jos and posted on the Borno State web page on 24/04/2000. Seibert documents Putai as a separate linguistic variety in Damboa not as a dialect of Marghi. Jilde in Seibert's documentation is spoken in Jilbe town on the boarder of Cameroon across from Dabanga. Tedaga according to Seibert's documentation is spoken in a few unspecified villages of the N/E LGAs. Mkpade, documented as one of the linguistic varieties in Borno State by Seibert was not ascribed to any LGA in the State. Buduma which is documented as one of the languages of Borno State by Seibert according to him is spoken in the islands of Lake Chad. This language is spoken in Abadam LGA as Yedina.

Fulfulde is spoken in all the LGAs except Guzamala, Mafa, Magumeri, Mobbar, Ngala and Kala/Balge. Kanuri is second largest in all LGAs except in Guzamala, Mafa, Magumeri, Ngala and Kala/Balge where it is the dominant variety. However, it is not spoken in Askira/Uba, Biu, Hawul, Kwaya-Kusar and Bayo LGAs. Apart from Hawul and Guzamala, all other LGAs have at least three linguistic varieties represented in them.

### 5.1 Gombe State

Gombe State was created on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1996 from old Bauchi State by the administration of the former military Head of State, the late General Sani Abacha. Historically, Gombe State corresponds to the Gombe Emirate, which was made up of five kingdoms and headed by the Emir of Gombe. The State currently has eleven (11) Local Government Areas. The major subgroups of languages in Gombe State are Wasa and Bikwin both of which belong to the Adamawa Ubangi group of languages.

### 5.2 Political Classification and Linguistic Affiliations in Gombe State

The major ethnic group in Gombe State is Fulani. However, there are other minor groups like Tula and Cham. Interestingly, Hausa though the language of wider communication is not a dominant/major language in the state.

S/N	L.G.A	Headquarters	Population	Languages	Major Towns
1	Billiri	Billiri	202,680	Fulani Tal Todi	Billiri
2	Nafada	Nafada	140,185	Fulani Bolewa Karai-Karai	Nafada

3	Funakaye	Bajoga	237,687	Fulani Bolewa Karai-Karai Tera	Bajoga
4	Dukku	Dukku	207,658	Fulani Bolewa Karai-Karai	Kuku Malala Jamari
5	Kwami	Mallam Sidi	193,995	Bolewa Fulani Tera Comflata	Kwame Malamsidi Bojude
6	Gombe	Gombe	266,844	All languages in the State are represented in the State's capital	Gombe
7	Yamaltu/Deba	Deba Habe	255,726	Tera Jara Waja Fulani Hausa	Deba Dadinkowa Zambuk Kuri Kwadan
8	Akko	Kumo	337,435	Tangale Fulani Jukun	Kumu Pindiga Kalsingi Kalshere Tumu
9	Kaltungo	Kaltungo	160,392	Fulani Kamo Awak Tula Beri-Beri	Kaltungo Tula Awak
10	Shongom	Boh	150,948	Fulani Pero Gwandum Bangunji Jukun	Boh Lalaipido Filia Gwandu Lapan
11	Balanga	Tallase	211,490	Waja Dadia Cham	Tallase Bambam Cham

				Lunguda Pireh Fulani Hausa	Nyuwar
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### 5.3 The Linguistic Situation in Gombe State

Like other states in the northeast Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, Gombe State is a heterogeneous state. There are 23 linguistic varieties represented in Gombe state. Apart from Fulani which is the dominant language spoken in ten (10) out of the 11 LGAs of the state, other languages are localized in single LGAs each except Bolewa spoken in four LGAs, Karai-Karai and Tera are spoken in three LGAs each while Hausa, Waja, and Jukun are spoken in two LGAs each.

### 6.1 Yobe State

Yobe State was created on August 27, 1991 with Damaturu as its capital. It was carved out the old Borno State by the then military administration of Gen. Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida. The major ethnic groups in Yobe State are Kanuri, Manga, Fulani, Karai-Karai, Bolewa, Ngizim, Bade, Ngamo, Babur, Magha, Hausa, Shuwa. Yobe state is made up of 13 emirates councils from the original four – Fika, Bade, Damaturu and Machina – (these are those recognized as having stool). The others are Nguru, Gazargumo, Tikau, Jajere, Ngelzarma, Gujba, Yusufari, Fune, Potiskum and Gudi. Ngirim and Nangere earlier given are not emirates in the state.

Yobe state has 17 local government areas as recognized by the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The administration of Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim created 23 more LGAs making the total number of LGAs in the State as 40. However, in this report, we use the constitutionally recognized 17 LGA structure.

### 7.2 Political Classification and Linguistic Affiliations in Yobe State

S/N	L.G.A	Headquarters	Population	Languages	Some Major Towns
1	Bade	Gashua	139,804	Bade <sup>6</sup> Manga Kanuri Ngizim Hausa Fulani	Gashua Tagai Sugum Garin Alkali Dagona Bizi

				Babur/Bura Duwai	
2	Jakusko	Jakusko	232,458	Bade Manga Kanuri Ngizim Hausa Fulani Babur/Bura Duwai	Jakusko Anshi Gorgaram Dacia Girgir Karage Dagona
3	Damaturu	Damaturu	87,706	Kanuri Fulani Hausa Karai-Karai <sup>7</sup>	Damaturu Kukareta Maisandari Murfakalam Gambari Gabai
4	Bursari	Dapchi	109,692	Kanuri Bade Ngizim Hausa Fulani	Bursari Dapchi Masoba Kaliari Juluri Balle Kaelluri Bayamari Dumburi
5	Tarmuwa	Babban-Gida	77,667	Fulani	Babban-Gida

				Kanuri Hausa	Jumbam Churokusko Mandadawa Koriyel Mafa Muri
6	Fune	Damagum	301,954	Fulani Karai-Karai Ngizim Ngamo Kanuri Hausa	Damagum Ngelzama Mashie Jajare Kollere Daura Dogonkuka
7	Fika	Fika	136,736	Bolewa Ngamo Hausa Fulani Karai-Karai Ngizim	Fika Gadaka Godowole Ngalda Dumbuluwa Maluri Gashaka Daya Chana
8	Geidam	Geidam	155,740	Kanuri Hausa Fulani Manga	Geidam Gumsa Kachallari Mairari Fitmiram



9	Gujba	Buni-Yadi	129,797	Kanuri Manga Babur/Bura Fulani Karai-Karai Hausa	Buni-Yadi Gujba Buni Gari Katarku Bumsa Mutai Wager Guneru
10	Gulani	Bara	103,516	Manga Babur/Bura Fulani Karai-Karai Hausa Kanuri Bolewa	Bara Gulani Bulurafa Garintuo Dokshi Njibulwa Kukawa
11	Karasuwa	Jajimaji	105,514	Bade Kanuri Fulani Hausa	Jajimaji Bukarti Karasuwa-Galu Karasuwa-Garin Guna Wachakal Gasma
12	Yusufari	Yusufari	110,739	Bade Kanuri Fulani Hausa	Yusufari Kumagannam Moyori Sumbar

				Manga	Kaska Tulo-Tulowa Kachalari
13	Machina	Machina	60,994	Bade Kanuri Fulani Hausa Manga	Machina Bogo Dole-Machina Falimaram
14	Nangere	Sabon-Garin	87,517	Karai-Karai Ngizim Bolewa Fulani Hausa Larai Ngamo	Sabon-Garin Nangere Old Nangere Kukuri Dawasa Chikuriwa Dazigau Tarajim Garin-Gada Chilariye
15	Potiskum	Potiskum	204,866	Bolewa Karai-Karai Ngizim Hausa Fulani Kanuri	Potiskum Mamudo Bula Alaraba Dakasku Danchuwa Jumma'a Garin Maje

16	Nguru	Nguru	150,699	Manga Kanuri Hausa Bade	Nguru Bamburi Bulanguwa Kakuri
17	Yunusari	Kanamma	125,940	Kanuri Fulani Hausa Manga	Kanamma Yunusari Ilala Toshya Dekwa Digaltera Mairari Yaro Bultuwa

### 7.3 The Linguistic Situation in Yobe State

The linguistic situation in Yobe State is akin to that of Borno State from where it was created. The dominant languages of Yobe State are Kanuri, Hausa and Fulani. However, other indigenous languages exist and which are dominant in the different local government areas of the state. These include: Manga spoken in nine LGAs; Bade, Karai-Karai and Ngizim are spoken in seven LGAs each; Babur/Bura spoken in four LGAs; Bolewa and Ngamo spoken in three LGAs, while Duwai and Larai are spoken in two LGAs and one LGA respectively.

#### 8.1 State-by-State Summary of the Languages of Northeast Geopolitical Zone

S/N	State	Capital	Number of LGAs	Population	Number of Languages	Dominant Languages
1	Bauchi	Bauchi	20	4,676,465	22	Hausa Fulani Karai-Karai
2	Borno	Maiduguri	27	4,151,193	44	Hausa Fulani Kanuri Babur-Bura

						Shuwa Marghi
3	Gombe	Gombe	11	2,353,879	20	Fulani Bolewa Karai-Karai Tangale Tera(wa) Waja
4	Yobe	Damaturu	17	2,321,591	12	Bolewa Bade Kanuri Hausa Fulani

### 8.1 Conclusion

All the States in the North East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, especially the four States covered during the preliminary confirmatory trip and which are reported in this work, are linguistically heterogeneous. However, Hausa is both a political language as well as the language of wider communication across the region though each state has its dominant indigenous languages. The dominant languages in Bauchi State are Fulani and Karai-Karai; the dominant languages in Borno State are Kanuri and Fulani; the dominant languages in Gombe State are Fulani and Bolewa while the dominant languages in Yobe State are Kanuri and Fulani. Fulani therefore seems to be a constant dominant language across the four local government areas apparently because of the nomadic nature of her speakers.

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