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Adages Of Bade Towns And Villages

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ABSTRACT
Since societies started to live in organized settlement as towns, villages and hamlets, they have also given names to their settlements. The names people give to their towns and villages also go with adages and praises which often symbolize their bravery, wisdom, beliefs and artistry. Adages as part of peoples' linguistics development, have not been given attention in academic studies. In the case of languages like Bade, the adages of their towns and villages have not been investigated, studied or documented. This study intends to undertake the investigation and documentation of adage of Bade towns and villages which will add to the corpus on Bade language and stimulate further research into adages as part of society's cultural, linguistic, sociological and literary studies.
Keywords: Adage, Bade, Towns and Villages

INTRODUCTION

Adages, like other speech and language forms and styles, are very important in conveying meaning and messages in human expression and communication. Since humans evolved language and communicate through it, various speech styles are used to bring out the meaning of human communication and the beauty of language itself. Through speech act like proverbs, adages and other linguistic and literary devices, people express their inner thoughts which they could not otherwise use or reveal in normal day-to-day speech and communication.

African languages are very rich in proverbs, wise sayings, adages and many other linguistic and literary devices which reveal the beauty and richness of the African languages and cultures. Since oral expression was the foundation of African languages, the linguistic and literary forms function in many different ways which the early European explorers, ethnographers, missionaries and colonial administrators could not comprehend. They thus thought African language and cultures were barbaric and primitive. When later European linguists and ethnographers realized the richness of African languages and oral literary forms, they devoted their times to study African languages, cultures and oral art forms. In so doing, names of African peoples, names of their towns and villages were documented though thought with many mistakes of spellings and sometimes even changes in meaning. Even so, adages and sayings about African places and towns and villages remain elusive as not much attention was paid to their study and documentation.

Understanding of African cultures are enmeshed in their language and cultural or traditional values and norms. The collective body of African arts have been variously described as folklore, folktales, verbal art or literature. These inclusive also the adages of towns and villages and of places or communities which express the history origin, bravery and wisdom of the tribe, ethnic group.

The town, village and its people generally. In Nigeria, in all tribes and cultures, people use adage to extol, praise, hail and recall the origin, history and foundation of their societies, towns or villages or clans. Such adages, mostly undocumented or only written by European in their languages, nevertheless, carry

meaning in the ethnic language of its people and originators, through which others get to know them. This study concerns the adage of Bade towns and villages.

An 'adage' according to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2015), 9th Edition, is "a well known phrase expressing general truth about people or the world". Thus an 'adage' is not a lie, it is a fact about people and their places. It is not a 'gratuitous claim' or assertion, but a fact drawn from the people's culture. And, since culture is the custodian of people's tradition and synonymous to the identity of the people and the symbol of self identity of a cultural / ethnic group (Adamu, 2019); adage is a cultural fact which tell us who a people are. The Adage of Bade towns and villages, which is the crux of this study, thus tell us more about Bade people and their culture and tradition.

The Bade People and Land

Bade people live in Yobe, Bauchi and Jigawa States of northern Nigeria, but they are predominantly found in Bade and Jakusko Local Government Areas of Yobe State. The 2006 census data though does not provide for ethnic estimation, put the population of the areas where Bade is spoken to a figure well over 600,000. Linguistically, Bade is one of the B group of West Chadic language family and they are closely related to Ngizim and Ngazar tribes. Greenberg (1963) says that there are three language groups in the Bade family: Bade, Duwai and Ngizim. While Bade and Duwai are geographically contiguous, with Duwai lying to the East of Bade; Ngizim is separated from the two, lying some 160kms to the South in the area of Potiskum. Schuh (1977) observes that although Ngizim is geographically outside Bade area, it is more closely related to Bade than is to Duwai. Bade is the most prominent of all the three languages spoken in the area. Bade is also dialectically diverse. It has three dialects – western, southern and northern or (Gashua) dialects.

Balakarima (1986) posits that Bade is a member of the Chadic tribes referred to as the "Sau' or 'So' who inhabited the Lake Chad region prior to the rise of the Kanem – Borno Empire in the 12th century. The Bade migrated to the west and occupied the mashy forests along Kumodugu Yobe River from Dadigar around Geidam, to Abunabo – Kadira – Musari – Guri area in Hadejia and Shira. By the 13th century, they were able to establish their independent Kingdom, first with headquarters at Gokaram (Gogaram) and later, on the recommendations of the British Colonial administrators, to Gashua. Bade people live in organized communities or towns and villages with administrative structures even before the conquest of northern Nigeria in 1902.

Bade towns and villages number up to about 104 (Murima and Ago, 2022). Each of them has its adage, showing its history, origin or bravery, or even vocation or doggedness against attackers and war mongers in periods of inter and intra tribal wars. This study investigates the adages of some select Bade towns and villages with the view to bring to limelight the importance of adages in one of Nigeria's ethnic groups whose language, literature and culture have not been fully studied or researched into. The study will largely employ the method of interview and visitation to the towns and villages and collect information from elderly persons who know the history of their communities.

DISCUSSION

It would be relevant to start by explaining the key words or terms involved in this study. These terms are: Adage, Bade and towns and villages. As mentioned elsewhere in this paper, an 'Adage' as defined by the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 9th Edition (2015), is "a well known phrase expressing a general truth about people the world", it is "a fact about people and their places. It is not a 'gratuitous claim' or 'assertion', but a fact drawn from the people's culture. An Adage is closely similar to proverb, idiom or aphorism. Thus, the adage of Bade towns and villages state or tell facts about the origin, existence and bravery of Bade communities as each town or village got its adage from how or what its founders are known for or excel in doing.

The word 'Bade' itself today, is applied to mean a Local Government, a language, an ethnic group and an emirate. In the context of this study, it refers to the Bade people or ethnic group living in towns and villages that number up to 104 spread in seven local governments in three states – Yobe, Bauchi and Jigawa. The adage of some twenty (20) towns and villages selected for the study was drawn from across

Bade communities in their areas. A town is defined as 'a place with many houses, shops, stores etc. where people live and work. It is larger than a village but smaller than a city. A village is simply a small settlement with fewer people than a town.

In northern Nigeria, various towns, cities and villages across different communities have their adages or praises. For example, the following towns/cities have their adages in Hausa language as:

	Town/City	***Adage***	***Meaning/Translation***
1.	Kano	Ta dabo timbin Giwa	The city of Dabo the Elephant belly
2.	Jos	Kwata ta yamma da Bauchi	The Headquarters city/town west of Bauchi
3.	Sokoto	Birnin Shehu	The Sheikh's city (in apparent reference to Sheikh Usman bn Fodio)
4.	Damaturu	Zangon Borno	The stop over town to Borno
5.	Nguru	Autar Dandi	The last town of Adventure

It would not have been possible due to factor, limited resources and lack of verified information in the case of some of the towns and villages, to include all the 104 towns and villages in this study. Therefore the study selected and considered 20 towns and villages for the study. These are:

1. Tarbutu
2. Gokaram (Gogaram)
3. Gwayo
4. Murza
5. Kunu
6. Matakudkum
7. Dala
8. Dumbari
9. Bida
10. Alagarno
11. Gasamu
12. Adiya
13. Dagilwa
14. Dadigar
15. Guzumbana
16. Kathlako
17. Karage (Kalayee)
18. Gashua (Gasiiwa, Gaseewa)
19. Kazir
20. Tazga

These Bade towns/Villages are known by their adages as;

S/N	Town / Village	Adage	Meaning / Translation
1.	Tarbutu	Tarbak iimzamcin	Tarbutu, the hunters' path
2.	Gokaram (Gogaram)	Bla bultu be	Gokaram, the city of hyenas (in apparent refence to the bravery of Bade rulers)
3.	Gwayo	Gazara duk kadgam, mapendayok bazara	Gwayo, the twon of the ferce, the warriors of Bazara
4.	Murza (makza)	Gudkwau laki, kathluwara gawa	Murza, the small pot with plenty food
5.	Kunu	Kazara gaftak Bade, gudkwau laki kathluwara riba	Kunu, the side village of Bade the small pot with profitable food
6.	Matakudkum	Sakag gachavaran, ga sakwtana da ti gi	Matakudkum, the nest of the stinging bee, if you touch it, it will attack you
7.	Dala	Bragamu dak zada	Dala, the big river, town of zada
8.	Dumbari	Dambak Bade, Damak Vaya	Dumbari, the pool of Bade, pool of wealth
9.	Bida	Zayik-kukwau, ambamag da	Bida, the boabob rope that could not be cut off.
10.	Alagarno	Alagarnok – Tavi chakwakwa	Alagarno, the town of Tavi chakwakwa
11.	Gasamu	Kulu ugzavanak Badai	Gasamu, (the town that) refused to be enslaved other Bades
12.	Adiya	Adiyak Sakoro, Sakumbutu	Adiya (the place) of Sakoro and Sakumbutu
13.	Dailwa	Dak Basada	Dagilwa, the town of Basada the warrior king
14.	Dadigar	Dataram Bade	Dadigar the (first) stop over of Bades
15.	Guzumbana	Guzumbana Karaga duso	Guzumbana, the thick forest place
16.	Kathlako	Kathlako Gumuwa	Kathlako (of the) mashy white thorned tree
17.	Karage (Kalayee)	Kalayeek sak patu, dak vanakon, vanakon	Kalayee of sak patu, the town of fish
18.	Gashua (Gasiiwa, Gaseem) als (Kathluwa)	Gashua, Gasiwa, Gaseewa, Kathluwa, Birnik Badai	Gashua, the chief city of Bade
19.	Kazir	Mabadunon wai giri, dak mada kakuk sadabu	Kazir, of wai giri, the town of mada kaku (son) of Sadabu
20.	Tazga	Tazgak Zawe	Tazga, the town of Zawe

According to some of the informants/interviewees contacted for this study, some of the terms are not easy to explain and may not necessarily fit into an English explanation. In such instances, the researcher chooses to either leave the terms as they are or translate them according to the understanding of the informant. Names of some of the towns are also given as in the natives. Pronunciation and also how they are written books and text etc.

CONCLUSION

The paper tried to discuss the adages of Bade people as they are applied to their towns and villages. However, the paper selected some 20 towns and villages from the 104 Bade towns and villages for their study. From the foregoing, it could be appreciated that Bade towns and villages have very beautiful and meaningful adages that tell the origin, history and bravery of their towns. From the study, a number of Bade words and terms could also be identified which would add to the corpus on Bade vocabulary. Importantly, the study on Bade adages would give fresh input to Bade literary artistic and aesthetic studies, in addition to the fact that minority languages like Bade have not had their languages and folklore studied into fully. Hence, the study would stimulate further interest and research into more Bade towns and villages and their adages and also stimulate studies into the adages of other Yobeans Chadic languages like Ngizim, Kare-Kare and Bole.

List of Informants / Interviewees

S/N	Name	Sex	Age	Town / Village
1.	Kaku Kori	M	68	Matakudum
2.	Gapaju Mzam	M	66	Gwayo
3.	Hassan Kaku	M	66	Karage
4.	Mzam Chutiya	M	59	Dumbari
5.	Alawuse Adayo	M	76	Kazir
6.	Maina Garba	M	72	Gashua
7.	Alh. Idi Kabaju	M	76	Gashua
8.	Zaziya Kachi	F	82	Dagilwa
9.	Lawan Bukar	M	61	Bida
10.	Lawan Bukar	M	61	Murza
11.	Kakawo Ali Mzam	M	66	Adiya
12.	Waciri Ago	M	64	Dadigar
13.	Alhaji A. Abba	M	61	Dadigar
14.	Sakpatuma	F	80	Alagarno
15.	Jaji Gasamu	M	55	Gasamu
16.	Jajami Jawi	M	60	Tarbutu
17.	Alhaji Musa	M	63	Dala
18.	Kaku Zaci B.	M	63	Tazga
19.	Lalu Kabomzam	F	68	Kathlako
20.	Malum Buba	M	63	Kunu

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