

A REVIEW OF PLURAL FORMATION ON FULFULDE NOUNS

Mustapha Abubakar & Salihu Hammandikko

Fulfulde Department

School of Secondary Education languages Program

Federal College of Education, Yola,

Adamawa State

E-mail: mustybako@gmail.com

shammandikko@gmail.com

Abstract

Fulfulde belongs to Atlantic Congo sub-family under the Niger-Congo family, of the Niger-Kordofanian Phylum. The language is non-tonal but stress with rich nominal class and is gender less. This article focuses on how Fulfulde form its plurals of nouns. The article also discusses briefly on the history of the Fulbe, Fulfulde nominal class suffixes and initial consonant alternation. The article further highlights how plurals and singulars are formed in Fulfulde and also observes the classes of singulars and plurals of noun classes, with examples in Fulfulde, twenty one (21) singular classes and four (4) plurals classes with relevant examples from personal, diminutive, argumentative, and non-personal classes. Some singular and plural of nouns change from the initial position of the words and the remaining changes came from the suffixes of the words. Observations were made that no plural classes of (dam) and (kal) because they belong to the classes of liquid and uncountable nouns.

Keywords: Fulbe, Fulfulde, Plural and Singular formations, Nominal Class, Consonant Alternation, Fulfulde Nouns, suffixes

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Fulbe

The Fulbe are severally known and referred to as Fula in Gambia and Sierra Leone; the French called them Peuls, where as in English, the Hausa word Fulani is often used. Fulfulde is the language of Fulbe; the speakers of this language call themselves Fulbe (pl), Pullo (sg) Morphologically, the word Fulbe is made up of two morphemes: the stem "ful"-and the suffix-"be." "Be" is a plural class marker of the singular nominal class "O" as in pull-"O". However, the underlying form of the singular class suffix is-"O",Daudu (2005). The two aspects of these words (Fulbe and Pullo) is the alternation of the initial consonants: /F/ and /P/ of the stems. Daudu (2005) claims that the word pullo is most likely to have originated from the synonyms Fulfulde (the language of the Fulbe) and Pulaaku (the code of ethics of the Fulbe). The terms Pullo and Pulaaku take initial consonant /p/ because of the class markers of the words suffixes (o and ngu); otherwise, the word have an underlying stem ful, since reduplication is a morphological process in the language, the word Fulfulde is an example. It seems the stem ful or pul is like any primary noun in the language in which no meaning can be attached to it unless a class is suffixed to it.

Moreover, among some Fulbe Pulaaku and Fulfulde are inter changeably used to mean the same thing. To say for instance, ‘o walaa Pulaaku’ is the same as saying, ‘o walaa Fulfulde’ meaning ‘he is not mannered’ (to a Pullo’s standard). Therefore, we can conclude that Pulaaku and Pullo, has yet no straight forward answer to the origin of the Fulbe, the origin is described as that of a mystery. Arnott (1970) refers to them as people of unknown origins. Greenberg (1963) considers them as Judaco-Syrians from Cyrenaica who entered Africa about 200 A.D. Daudu (2005) states Fulbe that are found today in almost all countries of West Africa and beyond, originated from an area to the east of Senegal valley called Fuuta-tooro.

1.2 Fulfulde

Fulfulde is spoken as the first language of most settlers in Yola and some local government areas in Adamawa state. Iya Ahmed (1994) explains that, Fulfulde is one of the widely spoken languages in Africa numbering not less than fifteen million speakers, it is spoken as a lingua-franca to both the Fulbe and non-Fulbe in countries like Cameroon, Niger, Senegal, and Mali. In Nigeria, it is spoken as a lingua franca in states like Adamawa, Gombe and in some parts of Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Sokoto states. Muhammad (1987) also observes that Fulfulde is a lingua franca amongst the non Fulbe population in Adamawa and in northern Cameroon.

Typologically Fulfulde is an inflectional language, words are formed in the language by adding affixes specifically suffixes to nominal stems or verbal roots. Example, the word Fulbe is made of two morphemes: the stem “ful” and the suffix-“be” which is a plural class marker of the singular nominal class “o” as in pull-o. Daudu (2005) stated Fulfulde has a closely linguistic affinity with those languages that formed the West Atlantic subdivision, within the Niger Congo family, the languages compares closely with Serer lexically and grammatically. Specifically Fulfulde, Wolof, Serer and Joola are classified in the West Atlantic languages of Niger-Congo family by Greenberg (1963). However, recent studies have indicated that Fulfulde is an African language belonging to the Atlantic-Congo sub-family in the Niger Congo family of the Niger Kordofanian phylum (Samuel 1986).

Mukoshy (1991: c) categorically states that, Fulfulde is a language which comprises of several dialects with a very high mutual intelligibility among the speakers.

1.3 The Six Main Dialect Areas

Arnott (1970) identifies six main dialect areas which are as follows;

- 1.3.1** Futa Toro (Senegal)
- 1.3.2** Futa Toro (Senegal)
- 1.3.3** Futa Toro (Senegal)
- 1.3.4** Futa Toro (Senegal)
- 1.3.5** Futa Jalo (Guinea)
- 1.3.6** Masina (Mali)
- 1.3.7** Sokoto and Western Niger
- 1.3.8** Central Northern Nigeria (roughly Katsina, Kano, Zaria, Bauchi Plateau and Borno provinces and eastern Niger.
- 1.3.9** Adamawa and Northern Cameroon

Adamawa dialect is one of the six major dialects of Fulfulde identified by Arnott (1970). The dialect is spoken in Adamawa and Taraba states in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and beyond.

2.0 Fulfulde Nominal Class System

Fula or Fulfulde is based on verb or-nominal roots, from which verb, noun and modifier words are derived, it uses suffixes (sometimes inaccurately called infixes, as they come between the root and the inflectional ending) to modify meaning, these suffixes often serve the same purposes in Fula as prepositions do in English. It is also important to notice that, the language could possibly have a Semitic (namely Arabic) origin as well, due to its similarities in the formation of plurals, whereby words can completely change from singular to plural through suffixes.

Arnott (1970) observed that, the class to which a noun belongs is essentially a grammatical festive, so affixing full form of the nominal class is group into four grouped labeled a, b, c, and d. a particular nominal system can be associated with different nominal class depending on the meaning. Muhammad (1987) states that, Fulfulde has somewhat complicated, but linguistically interesting system, where each lexical items, especially nouns, native or borrowed, has to belong to a specific nominal class. What makes the system complicated and especially difficult and unwieldy to the non-native speaker, is the close affinity that exists between the nominal class, the definite article and the demonstrative pronoun.

Mukoshy (1990) argues that gender does not exist in Fulfulde but this does not mean that Fulbe does not distinguish sex. Gender is a grammatical marker that distinguish masculine from feminine which are not necessarily the same as male and female. However, gender and sex are always compatible; Male is always masculine and Female is feminine. In the case of Fulfulde there is a sex distinction as in Nagge/Ngaari, Mbaala/Njawdiri and Gerogal or Gerogal/Asugumri or Ndontoori for Cow/Bull, Ewe/Ram and Hen/Rooster or cock respectively. Mukoshy (1991) observes that classes realized by scholars amount to twenty five (25) classes. With such a range of classes the problem of ambiguity caused by the use of pronouns in some languages is somewhat reduced to its minimum in Fulfulde.

Iya Ahmed (1994) Fulfulde has been classified as an inflectional language; nouns and verbs are forms by inflecting the noun stem and verbal roots respectively. It is hard to get a word in Fulfulde that can stand alone. Every noun is associated with one of the noun classes in the language. Thus, the meaning of a derived word depends on the meaning associated with the class.

The table below illustrates the class name, the semantic property associated with class membership, and examples of a noun with its class marker. Classes 1 and 2 can be described as Personal Classes, classes 3-6 as Diminutive Classes, classes 7-8 as Augmentative Classes, and classes 9-25 as Neutral Classes. It is formed on the basis of Mcintosh's (1984) in Girei (2009) description of **Kaceccereere** Fulfulde, which the author describes as "essentially the same" as Arnott's (1970) description of the noun classes of the Gombe Dialect of Fula. Thus, certain examples from Arnott also informed in this table.

2.1 Class Name and the Semantic Properties

Class Name	Meaning	Examples	English
O	Person Singular	Laam- <i>o</i>	Chief
Be	Person Plural	Laam- <i>be</i>	Chiefs'
Ngel	Diminutive Singular	Loo- <i>ngel</i>	Little Pot
Kal	Diminutive Quantities	Kon- <i>al</i>	Small Quantity of Flour
Ngum/kum	Diminutive Pejorative	Laam- <i>ngum/Laam-kum</i>	Worthless Little Chief
Kon/Koy	Diminutive Plural	Ullu- <i>kon/ullu-koy</i>	Small Cats/Kittens
Nde	VariousTobular Objects Places Times	Loo- <i>nde</i>	Storage
Ndi	Various uncountable Nouns	Com- <i>ri</i>	Tiredness
Ndu	Various names of small animal	Ullu- <i>ndu</i>	Cat
Nga	Names of large animals	Nood- <i>a</i>	Crocodile
Nge	Mainly for Cow Sun Hunger	Nagg- <i>e</i>	Cow
Ngo	Parts of body and Things	Juu- <i>ngo</i>	Hand
Ngu	Small thing like animals	Bow- <i>ngu</i>	Mosquito
Ngal	Augmentative Singular	Dem- <i>ngal</i>	Tongue
Ngol	Name of long things	Bog- <i>gol</i>	Rope
Ngii/ngil	Augmentative Singular	Bog- <i>gii/bog-gii</i>	Big Rope
Ka	Name of things	Laan- <i>a</i>	Boat
Ki	Name of a tree	Lek- <i>ki</i>	Tree
Ko	Soup and Liquid names	Haak- <i>o</i>	Soup
Kol	Calf, Western tupe of School	Yaa- <i>lol</i>	Calf, School
Dam	Mainly Liquids	Lab- <i>dām</i>	Water
Dum	Neutral	Maw- <i>dum</i>	Big thing
De	Non -Human Plural	Juu- <i>dē</i>	Hands
Di	Non -Human Plural Form	Na' <i>i</i>	Cows
Man	All Classes	Nagge Man, Na' <i>I</i> Man	Cows

The above classes perform multiple functions in the language such as definite articles, anaphoric pronouns as well as demonstratives. Other functions of the classes includes: agreement between the nominal and noun related grammatical features e.g. Adjectives, Pronouns, 3rd Person subject, and object, possessive, independent and demonstrative pronouns (Arnott, 1970).

3.0 Initial Consonant Alternation or Consonant Mutation

Another feature of the language is initial consonant mutation between singular and plural forms of nouns and of verbs. The initial consonant alternation system is the most important Morpho-phonemics or Morpho-phonological operation in Fulfulde. The initial consonant alternation is a system in which most Fulfulde consonants, occurring in word initial position of noun, verbs and adjectives, alternated. For example, in some environments, noun beginnings with /w/ change to /g/ e.g. Wawru – Gaawi ‘well, while verbs beginning with the same letter change to /ŋ/. E.g. Wamarde – Gamarle ‘dancing’ in other environments nouns beginning with /w/ change to /b/ e.g. Waandu - Baadi ‘monkeys’ while verbs change to /mb/, e.g. Mbaanga ‘big Monkey’. In all these cases, it is the process of Pluralization that triggers the changes.

3.1 A simplified Schema is as follows:

- w ↔ b ↔ mb
- r ↔ d ↔ nd
- y ↔ j ↔ nj
- w ↔ g ↔ ng
- f ↔ p
- s ↔ c
- h ↔ k

3.2 Justification

The consonants in the above table are referred to as fricative series, plosive series and the pre-nasal series respectively Arnott (1970) and Breedveld (1995). Each of the vertical rows in the above series of consonants represents a series of alternating sets of consonants. The above series of alternating consonants have been referred to elsewhere in the literature as the continuant series, the Plosive series and the Prenasalized series. For example in forming plurals, the *initial consonant* (in some words) systematically change to a different consonant. In the words *debb-o* “woman” and *rew-be* “women” two changes occurred simultaneously. First, is the change in the suffix; thus the nominal class marker **O** to **be**, and the second is the alternation of the initial consonant /d/ to /r/.

4.0 Pluralisation of Fulfulde Nouns

Fulfulde is not like English, Hausa, Kanuri and other Languages where plurals are forms by only one or two (2) suffixes, example in English singular nouns form plurals by adding ‘S’ some (ending in ‘Sh, Ch, X, S’, or in ‘O’) add ‘Es’ to form its plural, some (ending in ‘f’ or ‘fe’) change to ‘ves’ and also some (ending in ‘y’) change to ‘ies’.

In Hausa singular nouns form their plurals by adding some suffixes as Abubakar (2000) identified twenty two (22) plural classes, from which twenty one classes are predictable, while the other one is the exception. They are as follows:

4.1 Singular Nouns Form their Plural by Suffixes

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. una suffix | 2. uka suffix | 3. Ku suffix | 4. Oc 2i suffix |
| 5. Aye suffix | 6. ace suffix | 7. ac v suffix | 8. I suffix |
| 9. a suffix | 10. u suffix | 11. Ai suffix | 12. Uc 2uwa suffix |
| 13 wa suffix | 14 ca suffix | 15 c2ai suffix | 16. Nni suffix |

17. a..ai suffix 18. C4a suffix 19. e..ni suffix 20. Uc a suffix
 21. reduplication class 22. anomalous class.

But in Fulfulde, singular and plurals are formed through nominal class suffixes, the paper look on 25 classes, out of it only four classes are plurals and the remaining twenty one (21) classes are singulars. The followings are the singulars and plurals classes of nouns.

4.2 In Fulfulde Plurals are Form through Nominal Class

Mohammad (1987) stated that, system of Pluralization can be divided into two (2): one for native words and the other for the borrowed ones. For example if we take the case the ‘O’ class, we find that such native words as **balee-jo** ‘a black person’ when pluralized will be **baleebe** ‘black people’, whereas a loan-word belonging to a same class such as **soojaa-jo** ‘a soldier’ when pluralized becomes **sooja-en**. In the case of native words, the singular morpheme **-jo** is replaced by the plural morpheme **-be** while the same singular morpheme becomes **-en**. In the case of the borrowed words, however, it must not be supposed that the plural morpheme **-en** has only been invented for use with borrowed lexical items.

Therefore, as a matter of fact, most of those native words which have **-be** as their plural morpheme, can also have **-en** as a variant plural morpheme. For example, **balee-jo** can be pluralized as either **baleebe** or **balee-en**. in essence, this means that whereas more native words belonging to this class can have two (2) forms of plural, borrowed words are restricted to having only **-en** in all cases.

4.2.1 Native

	Singular	Plural
4.2.1.1	Meeree-djo ‘a lazy person’	Meereebe / Meere-en ‘lazy people’
4.2.1.2	Muukaa-djo ‘a Deaf person’	Muukaabe / Muuka-en ‘Deaf people’
4.2.1.2	Daneedjo ‘a white person’	Daneebe / Ranee-en ‘white people’

4.2.2 Borrowed

	Singular	Gloss	Plural	Gloss
4.2.2.1	Baduukuu-jo	‘Leather worker’	baduuku’en’	Leather Workers
4.2.2.2	Dan sandaa-jo	‘Police Man’	Dan Sandaa-en	‘Police Men’
4.2.2.3	Borgoo-re	‘Blanket’	Borgoo-je	‘Blankets’
4.2.2.4	Bentee-re	‘Loincloth’	Bentee-je	‘Loincloth’
4.2.2.5	Buhuu-re	‘Sack’	Buhuu-je	‘Sacks’
4.2.2.6	Akootii-ru	‘Box,’	Akootii-ji	‘Boxes’
4.2.2.7	Bindigaa-ru	‘Gun’	Bindigaa-ji	‘Guns’
4.2.2.8	Jawleeru	‘Entrance	Jawleeji	‘Entrance Huts’

Justification

The role **-jo** as a singular personal morpheme in native Fulfulde words is a very limited one. It is limited in the sense that only nouns derived from adjectives have it. For example, **balee-jo** consists of **balee-** ‘black and **-jo** a personal morpheme. Similarly, **muukaa-djo** consists of **muuka** – ‘deaf’ and **-jo**.

There are a few exceptions to this general rule, there are: **gujjo** ‘a thief’ **bajjo** ‘an only child’, which are not derived from adjectives.

In Fulfulde all the plural and singular forms through nominal class suffixes and initial consonant alternation, in forming plurals, the *initial consonant* (in some words) systematically change to a different consonant. Let’s consider the following example.

4.3 Examples of Singular and Plural Nouns Classes in Fulfulde

Singular Class of (O)

	Names	Gloss
4.3.1	Gorko	‘Man’
4.3.2	Debbo	‘Woman’
4.3.3	Neddō	‘Person’
4.3.4	Lamdō	‘Chief’
4.3.5	Bumdō	‘Blind’

(Be) is a Plural class of (O)

	Names	Gloss
	Worbe	‘Men’
	Rewbe	‘Women’
	Himbe	‘People’
	Lambe	‘Chief’s
	Bumbe	‘Blinds’

The Singular Class of (nde)

4.3.6	Fallere	‘Place’
4.3.7	Hoore	‘Head’
4.3.8	Hayre	‘Stone’
4.3.9	Tobbere	‘Rain’
4.3.10	Yulbere	‘Piece of Charcoal’

(de) is a Plural Class of (nde)

	Pelle	‘Place’
	Ko’a	‘Heads’
	Kaa’e	‘Stones’
	Iyeende	‘Rains’
	Yulbe	‘Charcoals’

The Singular Class (ndi) Gloss (di/de) is a Plural Class of (ndi)Gloss

4.3.11	Njawdiri	‘Ram’	Jawdi	‘Rams’
4.3.12	Gawri	‘Corn’	Gawe	‘Corns’
4.3.13	Lesdi	‘Country’	Lesde	‘Country’
4.3.14	Ngaari	‘Bull’	Ga’i	‘Bulls’
4.3.15	Cardi	‘Silver’	Cardi	‘Sivers’

The Singular Class (ndu)

4.3.16	Lewru	‘Month’
4.3.17	Suudu	‘Room’
4.3.18	Reedu	‘Belly’
4.3.19	Bunndu	‘Well’
4.3.20	Enndu	‘Breast’

(di) is a Plural Class of (ndu)

	Lebbi	‘Months’
	Cuudi	‘Rooms’
	Deedi	‘Bellys’
	Bulli	‘Wells’
	Endi	‘Breasts’

Singular Class of (dam)

4.3.21	Ndiyam	‘Water’
4.3.22	Kosam	‘Milk’
4.3.23	Yii’am	‘Blood’
4.3.24	Nebbam	‘Chees/Butter/Oil’
4.3.25	Ngurndam	‘Life’

No Plural Class of (dam)

Singular Class of (ngal)

4.3.26	Leggal	‘Wood’
4.3.27	Teegal	‘Marriage’
4.3.28	Luwal	‘Hone’
4.3.29	Yi’al	‘Bone’
4.3.30	Munyal	‘Patience’

(de) is a Plural Class of (ngal)

	Ledde	‘Woods’
	Teele	‘Marriages’
	Luwe	‘Hones’
	Yi’e	‘Bones’
	Muybe	‘Patiences’

Singular Class of (nge)

- 4.3.31 Nagge 'Cow'
 4.3.32 Naange 'Sun'
 4.3.33 Hiite 'Fire'

(di) is a the Plural Class of (nge)

- Na'i 'Cows'

 Giite 'Fires'

Singular Class of (ngo)

- 4.3.34 Leeso 'Bed'
 4.3.35 Junngo 'Hand'
 4.3.36 Daago 'Mat'
 4.3.37 Sekko 'Matting'

(de) is a Plural Class of (ngo)

- Leece 'Beds'
 Juude 'Hands'
 Daage 'Mats'
 Cekke 'Mattings'

Singular Class of (ngu)

- 4.3.38 Mbaalu 'Sheep'
 4.3.39 Puccu 'Horse'
 4.3.40 Lingu 'Fish'
 4.3.41 Mbuumbu 'Fly'
 4.3.42 Mbaggu 'Drum'

(di) is a Plural Class of (ngu)

- Baali 'Sheeps'
 Pucci 'Horses'
 Liddi 'Fishes'
 Buubi 'Flyers'
 Bawdi 'Drums'

Singular Class of (nga)

- 4.3.43 Lewa 'Gazelle'
 4.3.44 Nyiiwa 'Elephant'
 4.3.45 Mbeewa 'Goat'
 4.3.46 Mbaala 'Sheep'
 4.3.47 Hoseere 'Mountain'

(di) is a Plural Class of (nga)

- Lelli 'Gazelles'
 Nyiibi 'Elephants'
 Be'i 'Goats'
 Baali 'Sheep's'
 Kooseeje 'Mountains'

Singular Class of (ngel)

- 4.3.48 Kusel 'Meat'
 4.3.49 Label (Small) Knife'
 4.3.50 Binnigel (Small) Boy'
 4.3.51 Korel (Small) Calabash Spoon'
 4.3.52 Kaabel (Small) Cow

(kon) is a Plural Class of (ngel)

- Kuson 'Meats'
 Labon '(Small) Knives'
 Bikkon 'Boys'
 Kore '(Small) Calabash Spoons'
 Kaabe '(Small) Cows'

Singular Class of (ngol)

- 4.3.53 Loosol 'Twig'
 4.3.54 Konngol 'Word'
 4.3.55 Boggol 'Rope'
 4.3.56 Kudol 'A Stick'
 4.3.57 Lenyol 'Clan'

(di) is a Plural Class of (ngol)

- Loci 'Twigs'
 Konnguli 'Words'
 Boggi 'Ropes'
 Kudl 'A Sticks'
 Le'i 'Clans'

Singular Class of (ngum)

- 4.3.58 Binnungum 'A Diminutive Child'
 4.3.59 Baangum 'A Tiny House'

(kon) is a Class of (ngum)

- Bikkon 'Children'
 Baalon 'Tiny Houses'

Singular Class of (ka)

- 4.3.60 Sarla 'Trouser'
 4.3.61 Ngaska 'Hole'
 4.3.62 Gaasol 'Hair'
 4.3.63 Sira 'Tobacco'
 4.3.64 Haala 'Talk'

(di/de) is a Class of (ka)

- Sarlaaji 'Trousers'
 Gasde 'Holes'
 Gaasa 'Hairs'
 Sirle 'Tobaccos'
 Kale 'Talks'

Singular Class of (kal)

No Plural Class of (kal)

4.3.65	Nehal	‘Little Oil’	_____
4.3.66	Dihal	‘Little Water	_____
4.3.67	eykal	‘Little Bit of Oil	_____
4.3.68	yiirihal	‘Little Bit of Food	_____
4.3.69	Kosal	‘Little Bit of Milk	_____

Singular Class of (ki)

4.3.70	Lekki	‘Tree’
4.3.71	Laβi	‘Knife’
4.3.72	anki	‘Hangar’
4.3.73	aafahi	‘Sword’
4.3.74	Nguli	‘Heat’

(de) is a Plural Class of (ki)

Ledde	‘Trees’
Laβe	Kknives’
Dande	‘Hangers’
Kaafahiige	‘Swords’
Nguleeli	‘Heats’

Singular Class of (ko)

4.3.75	Hudo	‘Hay’
4.3.76	Hunnduko	‘Mouth’
4.3.77	Haako	‘Leaves’
4.3.78	Bokko	‘Baobab Leave
4.3.79	Nguufo	‘Foam’

(de) is a Plural Class of (ko)

Kundude	‘Mouths’
_____	_____
_____	_____
Nguufi	‘Forms’

Justification

The above examples are the classes of singulars and plurals of noun classes in Fulfulde where the researcher selected twenty one (21) singular classes and four (4) plurals classes, with relevant examples from each of personal, diminutive, argumentative, and non -personal classes.

There are some changes from the initial lexical items and the remaining ones that came from the suffixes.

The Singular class of (nde)

4.3.80	Fallere	‘Place’
4.3.81	Hoore	‘Head’
4.3.82	Hayre	‘Stone’
4.3.83	Tobbere	‘Rain’

(de) is a Plural Class of (nde)

Pelle	‘Place’ /f/ → /p/
Ko’a	‘Heads’ /h/ → /k/
Kaa’e	‘Stones’ /h/ → /k/
Iyeende	‘Rains’ /t/ → /i/

Example of last suffixes of the words like classes of (ngel) and (kon)

Singular Class of (ngel)

4.3.84	Kusel	‘Meat’
4.3.85	Label	(Small) Knife’
4.3.86	Binngel	(Small) Boy’
4.3.87	Korel	(Small) Calabash Spoon’
4.3.88	Kaabel	(Small) Cow

(kon) is a Plural Class of (ngel)

Kuson	‘Meats’
Labon	‘(Small) Knives’
Bikkon	‘Boys’
Kore	‘(Small) Calabash Spoons’
Kaabe	‘(Small) Cows’.

5.0 Conclusion

In this article reviewed related and relevant literature on Nominal class suffixes and Initial consonant alternation, in Fulfulde and concluded that plurals are formed through Nominal class suffixes and initial consonant alternation. In forming plurals the *initial consonant* (in some words) systematically change to a different consonant. The twenty one (21) singular classes and four (4) plurals classes were observed, some words changed from the initial lexical items of words and some change from the suffixes, no

plural classes of (dám) and (kal) because the words belong to the classes of liquid and uncountable nouns.

Reference

- Abubaka A. (2001) *An Introductory Hausa Morphology*: Published by Faculty of Arts, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria.
- Arnott, D. W. (1970) *Nominal and Verbal System of Fula*: London: Oxford University Press.
- Breedveld, J. O. (1995) *Morphological Study of Maasinankooore*: Leiden: Research school CNWS
- Crystal, D. (2008) *Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*: Sixth Edition, Blackweel Publishing Ltd.
- Daudu K.G. (2008) *The Fulfulde Structure*. Phd Thesis submitted to University of Maiduguri.
- Girei, A. U. (2009), *A Survey of Selected Nigerian Fulfulde Dialects*: Ph.d Thesis submitted to the Department of Languages and Linguistics University of Maiduguri.
- Iya Ahmed, A. (1994) *Indirect Object Constructions in Adamawa Fulfulde*: M. A. Dissertation, University of Maiduguri.
- Greenberg, J. (1970) *The Languages of Africa*. Don Haag: Mouton, the entire plurals of nouns in Fulfulde are best on Nominal Class Suffixes.
- Muhammad, A. B. (1987) *A Linguistics Study of the Notavization of English Loanwords in Gombe Fulfulde*: Unpublished Ph.d Thesis, Bayero University, Kano.
- Mukoshy, I. A. (1990) *Review of Fulfulde Nominal Grades*: Studies in Fulfulde Language Literature and Culture proceeding of the 1-4 International Conferences on Fulfulde Language Literature and Culture C.S.N.I Kano.
- _____ (1991: b) *A Review of the Fulfulde Class*: Studies in Fulfulde Language Literature and Culture proceeding of the International Conferences on Fulfulde Language Literature and Culture C.S.N.I Kano.
- _____ (1991: c) *A Fulfulde English Dictionary: Edited by I. A. Mukoshy*.
- Samuel, B. (1986) *The Niger Congo Languages*: University Press of America Lanham.