MAGAZINES AND BANANAS

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Category: Kouya

One of my most memorable experiences working Â with the Kouya people in central Ivory Coast came early on while we were trying to learn the language. I wasnâ€™t at all prepared for the answer I got to what seemed to be a simple question. All I wanted to know was the Kouya word for â€˜bananaâ€™, but I ended up with a list of seventeen different words. Apparently, even a young Kouya child could distinguish different types of banana, but to me they all just looked like bananas!

But if the Kouya had a rich banana vocabulary, when it came to ships and shipping, their store of words was decidedly lacking. When we worked on Acts 27, Paulâ€™s shipwreck, we found ourselves really struggling to get the meaning across. For example, Kouya doesnâ€™t have a word for â€˜anchorâ€™, ...

This is the introduction for an article which I wrote for the latest Wycliffe 'Words of Life' magazine. You can read the full piece and lots more good stuff here.