

Jörg Adelberger and
Ulrich Kleinewillinghöfer

A Kulung Vocabulary
compiled by the
missionary Ira McBride

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Jörg Adelberger and Ulrich Kleinewillinghöfer: A Kulung vocabulary compiled by the missionary Ira McBride

Abstract

Kulung is classified as a Jarawan Bantu language, part of the Benue-Congo language family, a branch of the Niger-Congo phylum. The extensive vocabulary, enriched with numerous phrases, presented here was compiled by Dr. Ira E. McBride, who served from 1923 to 1962 as a missionary of the Sudan United Mission (S.U.M.) in Bambur, Taraba State, Northern Nigeria. His compilation of the vocabulary and efforts towards reducing Kulung to writing were part of the missionaries' endeavours to offer and provide Christianity and its scriptures to the Kulung people in their mother tongue. Even though the transcription of Kulung does not conform to current linguistic standards, their work should, nevertheless, be publicly accessible. On the one hand we currently know of no other sizable compilation of lexical items of Kulung, and on the other hand, a vocabulary dating back to the 1930s ought to be relevant to modern academic interest and studies of the history of the Kulung language alike.

We deemed it essential that this linguistic document be presented in its historical-geographical context. Accordingly, the vocabulary is preceded by a comprehensive introduction, which contains biographical data about Ira McBride, outlines the activities of the missionaries of the S.U.M. in Bambur and the wider region, and presents ethnographic data about the Kulung people. The text is illustrated with historic photos.

Zusammenfassung

Das Kulung zählt zu den Jarawan Bantu Sprachen, einer Untergruppe der Benue-Congo Sprachfamilie, einem Zweig des Niger-Congo. Die umfangreiche Wortliste mit vielen Beispielsätzen, die wir hier vorstellen, stammt aus der Feder von Dr. Ira E. McBride, einem Missionar der Sudan United Mission (S.U.M.), der von 1923 bis 1962 in Bambur, Taraba State, in Nord-Nigeria tätig war. Die Zusammenstellung des Vokabulars und damit verbunden die Verschriftlichung des Kulung waren wesentlicher Bestandteil der Bemühungen der Missionare, das Christentum und seine Schriften den Kulung in deren Muttersprache näher zu bringen. Auch wenn die Aufzeichnungen McBrides modernen linguistischen Standards nicht ganz genügen, so sollten sie dennoch allgemein zugänglich sein. Zum einen steht bis dato noch kein ähnlich umfangreiches Vokabular für das Kulung zur Verfügung, zum anderen dürften McBrides lexikalische Aufzeichnungen aus den 30er Jahren des vorigen Jahrhunderts allein schon wegen ihres Alters für zeitgenössische Studien zum Kulung und seiner Sprachgeschichte von Interesse sein. Es war uns ein wesentliches Anliegen, die sprachlichen Aufzeichnungen zum Kulung und seinen Autor in ihrem historisch-geographischen und kulturellen Kontext zu präsentieren. Die detaillierte Einleitung enthält dementsprechend biographische Angaben zu Ira McBride, dokumentiert in einer Übersicht die missionarischen Aktivitäten der S.U.M. in der Region, und erläutert mit ethnographischen Angaben zu den Kulung den kulturellen Hintergrund. Historische Fotos ergänzen den Text.

Die Autoren

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Ulrich Kleinewillingshöfer studied African Languages at the Universities of Marburg and Frankfurt and received his Ph.D. in 1990. He conducted linguistic research in Nigeria and other West African countries as a member of several research projects at the Universities of Frankfurt, Bayreuth, Berlin and Mainz. Presently, he is a member of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies, Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz.

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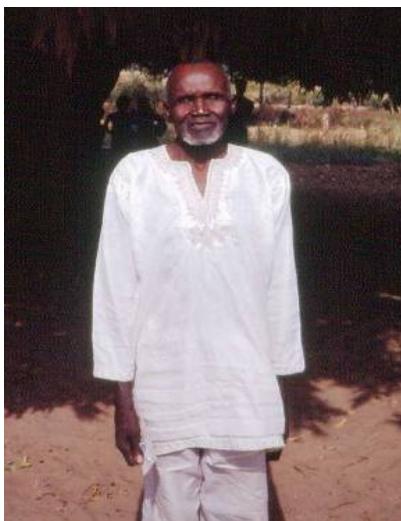


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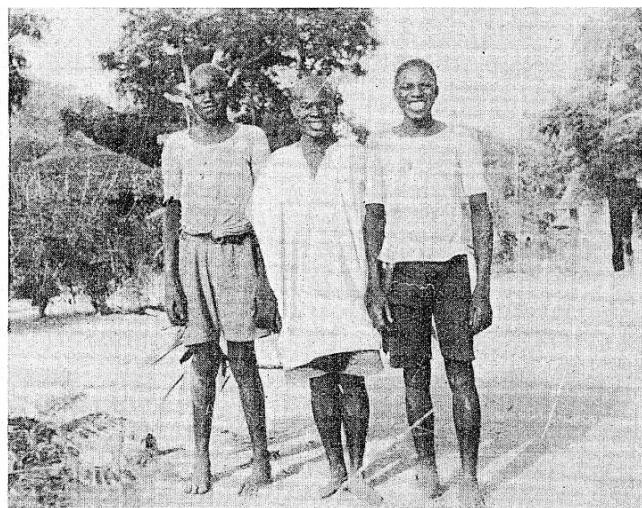
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Introduction

The vocabulary presented here is a copy of what was originally compiled by Dr. Ira E. McBride, a missionary of the Sudan United Mission (S.U.M.), who had served from 1923 to 1962 in Bambur, Taraba State, Northern Nigeria. The original is written down in a voluminous farmer's diary which was apparently used as a substitute for a notebook due to the lack of other writing material.¹



Stephan Taylor Baraya (photo by Jörg Adelberger).



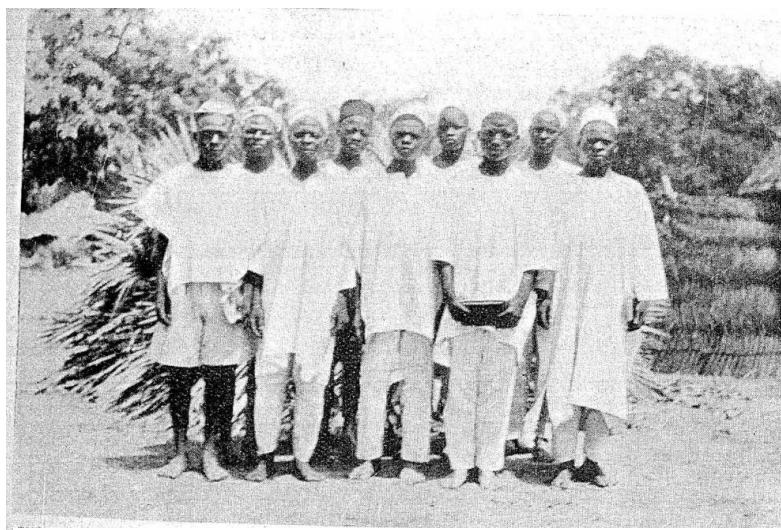
First Christian converts at Bambur, Stephan Taylor Baraya is among them (Source: *The Lightbearer* 23 (4), 1927, p. 76).

This farmer's diary is in the possession of Stephan Taylor Baraya of Bambur, one of the converts of McBride.² Stephan Taylor Baraya was only too willing to show it to us during one of our stays at Bambur in 1990 while we were engaged in a joint research project established between the Universities of Frankfurt and of Maiduguri. At the time we did not have a notebook-computer with us in the field, and therefore could not copy the data. Thus we asked Stephan Taylor to grant us permission to take the volume back to Germany in order to make a photocopy of it. However, as it turned out, the book was both too bulky and oversized and the pages too fragile for photocopying and it would have been damaged in the process. Consequently, Ulrich Kleinewilligenhöfer himself dutifully undertook the laborious task of typing the wordlist in his spare time into a word processor. In 1991 the book was safely returned to Stephan Taylor Baraya at Bambur.

¹ This publication is dedicated to the memories of the late Gideon Tonga and Bello Mamman. Our thanks go to Aliya Baraya and Stephan Taylor Baraya for providing us with the original wordlist, to Rev. Sylvester Gakya and many other members of the Kulung community for sharing their knowledge, to Ilse Bertsch, Jim Keach and Else Mamman of the Women's Training Centre for providing hospitality while at Bambur/Bangai, to Gertraud Gripentrog for providing material from the archives of the Evangelical Methodist Church, to Rüdiger Seesemann of Northwestern University for providing us with a copy of McBride's thesis, to Tim Binkley and the staff at United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, for providing copies of rare pamphlets by Ira McBride, and to Gassia Armenian of the Fowler Museum for some copies of articles from *The Lightbearer*. Further we extend our thanks to Gerald Faust for historical photos shot by his parents, to Doug McBride for copies of Ira McBride's publications, to Patrice McBride King and Joan Zoeller for information regarding the biography of Ira McBride and his heritage, and to Heidi Kuglin for providing us with unpublished documents from and about her parents. Last, but not least, we are grateful to Pete Eccles for correcting and amending our English.

² "Yesterday, February 2nd [1930] we had the great pleasure of baptizing the first Wurkum Christian. This is Kura who has taken the new name of Stephan." (McBride 1930: 34). See Dong 2000: 39ff. for the names of the first converts in Bambur and other settlements.

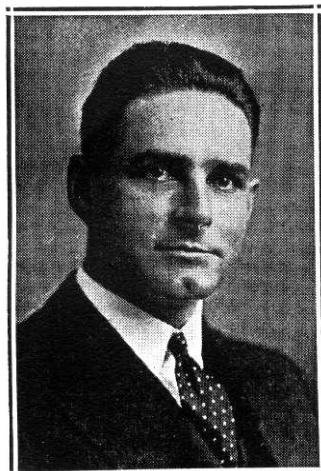
Although the vocabulary may not accede to modern linguistic standards, for instance by lacking tone markings, we decided to publish it because no comparably extensive wordlist of Kulung is available and it is a historic document representing Kulung words and phrases from nearly 100 years ago. We would also hope that the publication may stimulate further research into the Kulung language.



First Christian converts at Bambur (Source: *The Lightbearer* 25 (5), 1929, p. 97).

ethnographic and historical data on the Kulung people.

Biography of Ira McBride and the Founding of Bambur Mission Station



DR. IRA E. MCBRIDE

Superintendent, Africa Mission

Dr. Ira E. McBride (Source: Eller 1942).

Ira E. McBride was born 22nd April, 1899 on a farm near Gibbon, Nebraska. In 1921 he graduated from Western Union College in Le Mars, Iowa, with a B.A. Subsequently he attended Biblical Seminary in New York City from 1921 to 1923. On 20th June, 1923 he and his first wife, Ruth, married. Following his appointment by the Board of Mission of the Evangelical Church, Ira McBride, together with his wife Ruth, Reverend Clarence W. Guinter from Pennsylvania and Karl Kumm, the pioneer of Evangelical missionary work in Sudanic Africa and founder and secretary of the American Branch of Sudan United Mission, sailed, via Liverpool, to Nigeria (see McBride 1993: II-III, Richart 1983: 10 ff.).

Kumm's idea was to establish mission stations throughout Sudanic Africa as a bulwark against the expansion of Islam. In 1921 there were the following stations in Nigeria: Ibi, Langtang, Du, Forum, the Freed Slaves' Home at Rumasha and Pil out-station (run by the British branch of the S.U.M.); Wukari, Donga, Lupwe, Kona, and out-stations Takum and Lissam (run by the American Branch); Keana and Randa (run by the South African Branch); Numan, Shillem (Shellen), Lamurde, and out-stations Mbula and Ranjeram (run by the Danish Branch) (N.N. 1922: 103).

Guinter had first come to Nigeria in 1906 and had worked among the Chamba and Jukun at Wukari and Ibi, and founded a missionary station at Kona. Later he became Superintendent of missionary activities of the S.U.M. From 1933 McBride became Superintendent and Secretary of the S.U.M. until Arthur Faust took over in 1955.³

³ McBride 1993: 36. For a history of the mission at Bambur see Dong 2000 and Richart 1983. A history of the Sudan United Mission can be found in Maxwell 1954.



Clarence Guinter (Source: *Sudan United Mission Annual Report and Review 1908*).



Laura Guinter (Source: *The Lightbearer 7 (1), 1911*).

Kirim, Angule, Gwana, Pitiko, Kwonci, Zoo and Bambuka (Guinter 1923). In a later interview McBride related that the chief of Bambur had been the only chief in the area who had invited Guinter to stay with him, obviously in the hope of gaining an advantage over the other chiefs through the white men (EMK-Transcript).



Ruth and Ira E. McBride (photo courtesy of Doug McBride).

The small party, consisting of the McBrides and Guinter, arrived at Bambur on 20th December, 1923 and founded the first mission station. Having taken an alternative route, Kumm visited Bambur on Christmas Eve 1923.

Permission to establish a mission station in Wurkun area had been granted by the Colonial Administration in 1921 (N.N. 1922: 104). Guinter had already staked out the mission plot in the Worom quarter in Bambur in January 1923, after touring through Wurkun District and visiting the settlements of Bambur,

The McBrides and Guinter started with the construction of houses and places of worship. Kirim, a Kulung settlement west of Bambur, and other places in the western and eastern parts of the district such as Jen and Bambuka (both to the east), were visited in February 1924. Laura, the wife of Guinter arrived at the end of 1924. In the same year, the McBrides opened a school for boys

and girls, teaching them reading, writing, arithmetic and Bible studies. Later the Hausa language was added as a subject. The missionaries engaged in medical work, and for 1924 the number of treatments provided is given as 2,685 (Richart 1983: 32). The Bashama area to the northeast of Bambur where mainly Piya people were living, was toured in 1924/1925 (Guinter 1925c). Iterations in other areas followed until the whole district had been covered by 1926 (Guinter 1925d, McBride 1926b, N.N. 1926). In February 1926, Guinter and McBride explored the country of the Pero with the aim of establishing a mission station (Guinter 1926a, 1927b).

Also in 1926, two other missionary couples, John and D'Alta Armold and Mr. and Mrs. Walter, arrived at Bambur. A mission station was established at Kirim in the same year; this was run by the Armolds, and in 1927 a station at Filiya among the Pero was opened, run by the Walters. The Walters eventually left Nigeria in 1937 (N.N. 1937). In 1929, C. W. Guinter was forced to return to the United States, together with his wife, due to his failing health. He died on 12th February 1941 at Wrightsville, Pennsylvania, USA (N.N. 1941a).



REV. V. E. WALTER.



MRS. WALTER.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter (Source: *The Lightbearer* 13 (1), 1927, p. 3).



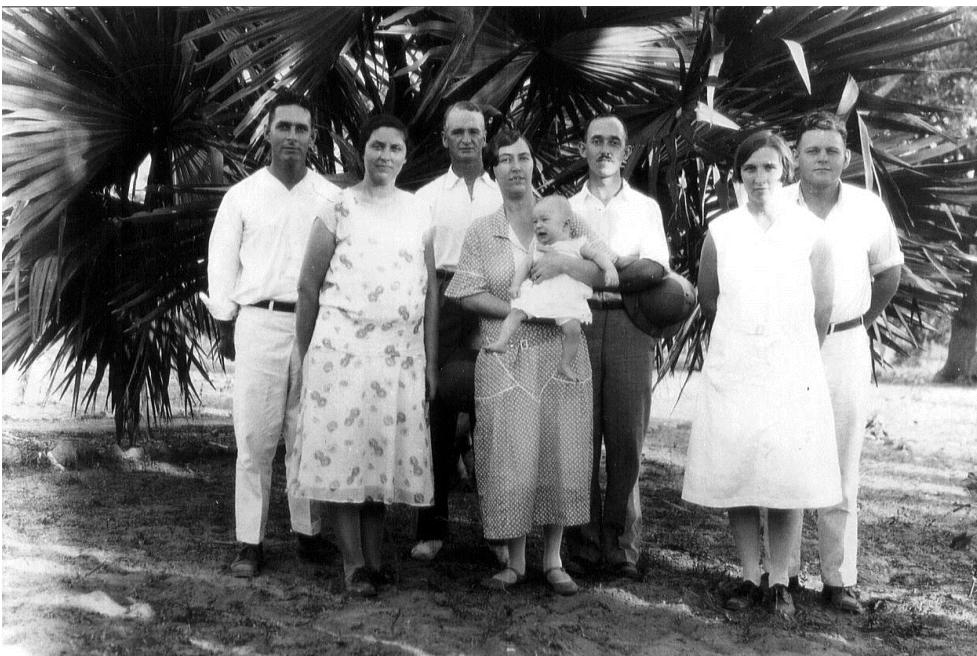
REV. J. J. ARMOLD.



MRS. ARMOLD.

John and D'Alta Armold (Source: *The Lightbearer* 13 (1), 1927, p. 3).

headquarters of the mission were moved from Bambur to Jalingo in 1965 (Richart 1983: 67-68). In 1971 the McBride Secondary School at Jalingo was opened, funded by "Brot für die Welt" (Richart 1983: 75).



Left to right: Ira and Ruth McBride, H.G. Farrant, D'Alta and John Armold, Aletha and Arthur Faust (photo courtesy of Gerald Faust).

Schools were opened at Filiya in 1929, at Kirim in 1932 and at Banyam and Gbwere in 1933. Arthur and Aletha Faust took over the Pero station in 1930. In 1938, a Christian Kulung man, Kasala Bambur, together with his wife Tebe, was stationed at Bambuka as the first indigenous missionary, until Karl and Thekla Kuglin took over in 1942 (Kuglin 1942b, Richart 1983: 37). In 1944 a dispensary and a Bible school were founded in Kirim; the latter was moved to Banyam in 1947 and is now the Banyam Theological Seminary. Permission to build the Guinter Memorial Hospital in Bambur was granted in 1948. In 1950 the building of dispensaries in Jen, Filiya and other settlements commenced. Chosen peoples from these settlements were sent to Bambur for training as dispensary attendants (Dong 2000: 35-36, 41, 101).

In later years, Kirim station was closed and Jen became the central mission station for the eastern district. The

In February 1934, McBride's first wife Ruth died of an extended illness after the birth of her son Robert.⁴ In 1937 McBride married his second wife Elizabeth, née Conboy, whom he had met whilst teaching at Gindiri. In 1939 they returned to the USA on furlough and he completed his theological training at the Evangelical

⁴ This follows the account in Ira McBride's Memoirs (McBride 1993); according to the obituary in *The Lightbearer* (N.N. 1933) Ruth died on 10th October 1933 at Vom Hospital.

Theological Seminary in Naperville, Illinois. In 1940 McBride completed a thesis on "Some problems connected with the translation of the New Testament into the Kulung language". In the thesis he describes the problems he encountered with the orthography, tones, grammar and vocabulary of the Kulung language. In May 1940 he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Western Union College.

The couple returned to Africa, but Elizabeth fell sick from spinal meningitis and died on 26th March,



1941 at Vom Hospital (N.N. 1941b).

For some time, Ira McBride was the only missionary in the area, as his fellow missionaries had left during the turmoil of the Second World War. The years from 1946 onwards he spent together in Bambur with his third wife

An exciting day! Choosing the site for the mission station in Kassa.

Missionaries from left: Ira McBride, Walter Eberle, Arthur Faust, and Woody Macke. Photogragh by Dean Olewiler.

Left to right: Ira McBride, Walter Erbele, Arthur Faust, Woody Macke (Source: Faust n.d., p. 135).

Kathleen until he retired from Mission service and left Nigeria in 1962. Ira McBride and his son Donald made a trip to Nigeria in 1980 to see the changes that had taken place.

Kathleen passed away on 18th June, 1987, and Ira McBride died on 18th March, 1998, at the age of 98. His funeral took place in Kearney, Nebraska.

The Karim Lamido Incident 1954

On 13th July, 1954 an incident occurred at Karim Lamido that led to the eviction of the missionary couple Karl and Thekla Kuglin.⁵ The office of District Head of Wukun District had become vacant when the former District Head, a Fulani, took up the position of Emir of Muri. The son of the former District Head was appointed as the successor to his post. This led to opposition from various parts of the population, and an objection to the Resident at Yola was put forward but rejected.

⁵ The following account is based on the report by D.O. Muri Division W. D. Wilson (Public Records Office CO 554/1235, file number WAF 177/164/04 in the private collection of Heidi Kuglin) and notes and letters by Thekla and Karl Kuglin (Notes and letters by Thekla and Karl Kuglin, private collection of Heidi Kuglin). The incident is also mentioned by Crampton 1976: 78-79 and Kastfelt 1994: 96.



Arthur Faust during service at Gbwere (photo courtesy of Gerald Faust).

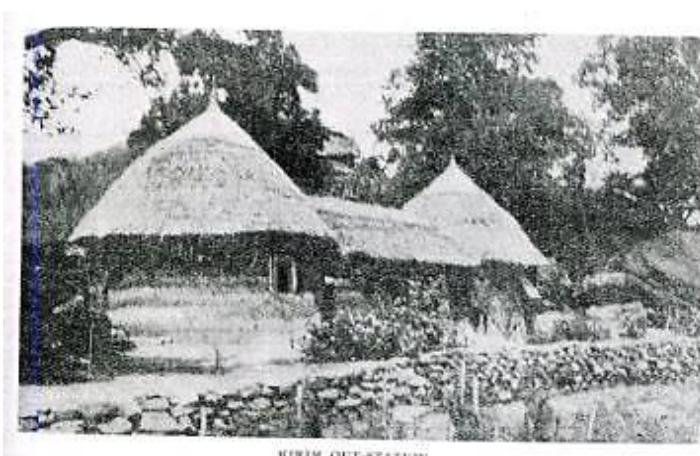
On 13th July several hundred people, (about 300 people according to the report by the administration, about 600 according to Kuglin), met with the District Officer W. D. Wilson at Karim Lamido. When he tried to arrest the leaders, the situation got out of control and police officers fired three shots into the crowd, killing one man and injuring

either one or two others. The administration blamed the mission for having incited a riot by spreading insurgent ideas and subsequently the Kuglins had to leave the country.

On 3rd September Ira McBride, as Superintendent, was summoned by the administration and told that the mission had to take the blame for the riot and the Kuglins had to leave.

McBride pointed out that the peoples resentment against the Moslems was boiling 30 years ago that the corruption and graft had grown only worse and that in recent years the government had continued to send pamphlets of literature on the Atlantic Charter, Tour Freedoms, free elections, self government to be distributed in the Mission schools and that all this enlightenment literature only left the people all the more dissatisfied. (Letter by Karl Kuglin, 14th Oct., 1954).

The Fulani emirates of Muri and Adamawa had never exercised full control over the Wurkun and other peoples living in the Muri Mountains. In precolonial times the various ethnic groups had repeatedly defended themselves successfully against the raids carried out by the forces of the Fulani emirates (for more details see Adelberger 2009).



Mission station at Kirim (Source: *The Lightbearer* 22 (3), 1926, p. 43).

With the advent of colonial administration there were initial developments which inspired the expectation among the Kulung that the Fulani hegemony was about to be terminated.

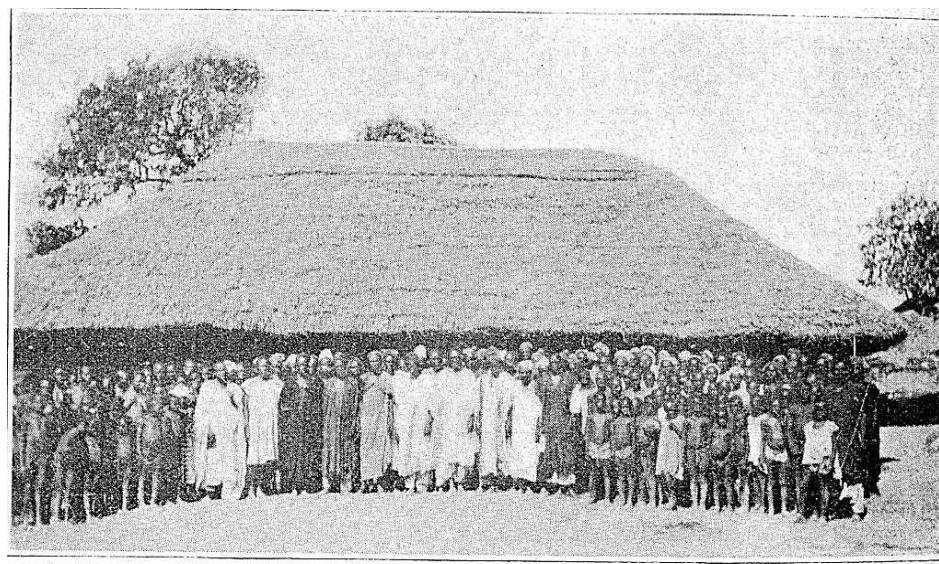
In 1902 two Kulung men had been appointed chiefs of Western and South-Eastern Wurkun District respectively by the then Resident W. P. Hewby:

On the 29th inst. I held a meeting of Wurkum chiefs at Dobeli near Lau. Of some twenty five chiefs summoned only three important men arrived; and these accordingly as a preliminary measure I have appointed as the only chiefs in the Wurkum district recognised for the present by Government, viz: - Bambur of the S.E.; Kirum of the W.; and Bashima of the N.E. quarters. These are the most enlightened and peaceably-disposed of the Wurkum clans. (NAK SNP 15-No. Acc. 30)

Oral evidence collected from various Kulung sources shows that subsequently the Kulung were out-manoeuvred by the political intrigues of the Fulani. Against this background it becomes evident that the hope of the local ethnic groups to dispose of Fulani domination and gain local political self-control in an era when political independence was dawning was frustrated.

Linguistic Work of the Missionaries

One of the proclaimed aims of their mission among the Kulung was to "...learn the language and reduce it to writing" (Eller 1942: 274).



WURKUM CONGREGATION AT DEDICATION OF NEW CHAPEL, KIRIM.

Chapel at Kirim (Source: *The Lightbearer* 22 (5), 1926, p. 92).

Learning the Kulung language, as well as other languages spoken in the area,⁶ was essential and "each missionary was expected to spend five hours daily, five days a week in study and conversation". (Richart 1983: 28). Guinter (1927a: 12) describes their initial linguistic endeavours:

"With a note book in hand and a pencil we sallied forth to gather

our first vocabulary. The people soon gathered to see what we were doing. (...) Then, pointing to different objects we listened as the native spoke their names, and we wrote down phonetically what we thought he said. (...) When we returned to the house we asked one of the natives to go over the vocabulary with us. He repeated each word and we repeated it after him. (...) We then made an effort to commit the words learned each day. After a few days the ear began to recognise some of the new sounds. Short sentences were written and committed. Thus week after week we plodded on."

During the first months after their arrival in 1923, Garaba, the son of the Bambur chief, acted as interpreter. On his first visit to Bambur, Guinter had persuaded the chief to send Garaba to school at Wukari, where he learned Hausa, and thus could translate from Hausa to Kulung. Ira McBride was allocated the initial task of learning the Kulung language (McBride 1993: 2).

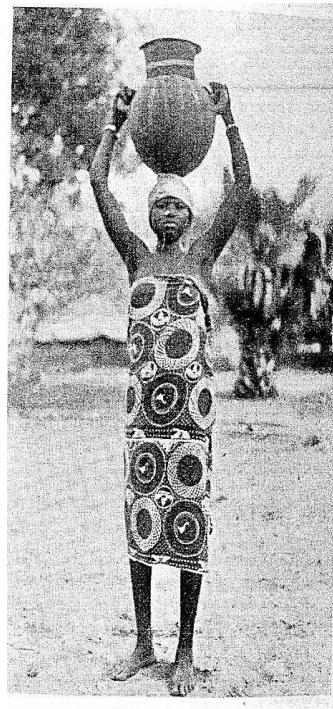
⁶ "In order to reach all the tribes and locations in the vernacular, the mission would have to learn no less than seventeen dialects" (Richart 1983: 28). What are here called dialects are mostly languages in their own right.

Two years later, in 1925 the first Kulung primer was printed (Eller 1942: 277). Obviously the vocabulary compiled by McBride – and presented here – was an important step in this process and it is most probably the vocabulary referred to in the history of United Methodist Church in Nigeria (Dong 2000: 29). McBride had had linguistic training under Dr. Thomas Cummings in New York. Guinter, the McBrides and the Armolds translated chapters of the Bible into the Kulung language (EMK-Transcript).⁷



MEN OF BAMBUR DISTRICT.

Two Kulung men (Source: *The Lightbearer* 22 (3), 1926, p. 40).



SIBI OF BAMBUR.

Sibi, one of the first female converts at Bambur (Source: *The Lightbearer* 30 (5), 1934, p. 98).

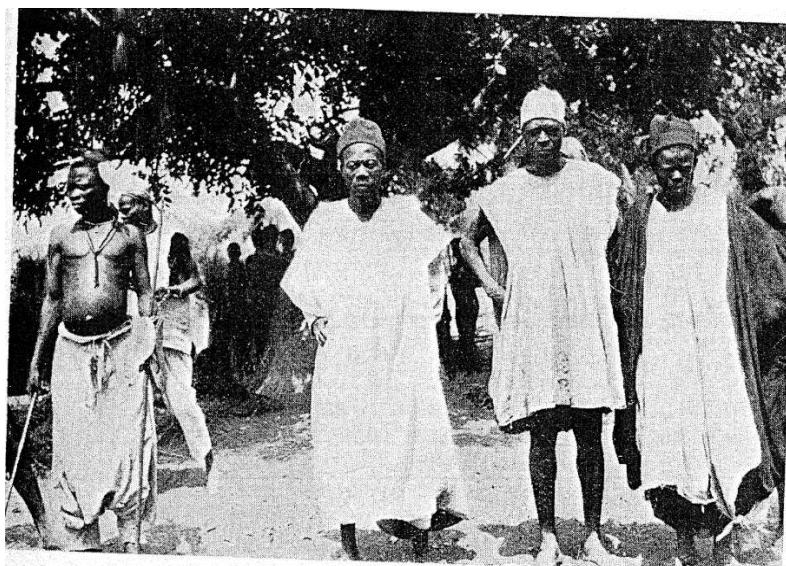
Publications by McBride

Ira McBride travelled widely in the Wurkun area and was keen to reach even the remotest settlement, whether it be by trekking on foot, riding on horseback or on motorcycle. First he visited the neighbouring areas of the Kwonci and the various sections of the Piya people, in February 1925 Pero land and in 1926 he visited the area of the Nyam people (McBride 1993: 4 ff., Guinter 1925a). Specifically in 1929 he and Guinter toured the settlements of the ethnic groups in the eastern part of Wurkun District, i.e. Munga, Zoo, Panya, Gomu, Bambuka, Jen and Bandawa; at Gomu "Mr. McBride climbed the peak to take some observations for the completion of his map of the district" (Guinter 1929: 96). Thus he acquired a profound knowledge of the languages, cultures and history of the different peoples inhabiting the area. However, his immense knowledge hardly found its way into publications.⁸ As far as we could determine, the only substantial work published is the booklet "Stories of long ago Kulung history", which falls into the category of so-called grey

⁷ We found the following references to Bible translations: Guinter 1924 "Kuni Kulū 1", Guinter 1925 "Kuni Kulū 2", Guinter 1926 "Bawuri Yamba", Guinter 1927 "Bawuri mi Mana", Guinter et al. 1932, Armold 1950.

⁸ McBride was approached by members of his church to write down its history in Kulung territory, but he declined the offer (Dong 2000: 7).

literature, printed by a mission press and distributed in mission circles only.⁹ It contains a history of the Kulung and their different sections based on historical traditions.



CHIEF OF FILIYA, PERO-LAND.

Chief of Filiya and followers (Source: *The Lightbearer* 27 (2), 1931, p. 27).

Guinter 1926b) of the Kulung, or on the *dambang* festival of the Pero (Walter 1928).

In the journal *The Lightbearer*, several notes by McBride relating experiences from his missionary work, mostly with a rather anecdotal bent or portraying outstanding characters he had met, were printed (MacBride 1924, 1926a, 1926b, 1929, 1931, 1934, 1951); "Black Medicine" (McBride 1927a) deals with local beliefs and witchcraft and "The Pikitos [sic], one of our Waiting Tribes" (McBride 1926b) relates his experiences during a trip to the Pitiko section of the Piya people living to the northeast of Bambur.

In the booklet "*Adventures on African Trails*" McBride (1936) gives an introduction to the missionary endeavours at Bambur and recounts some of his experiences.¹⁰ Adelberger (1990) found a typed manuscript by McBride in the archive of the International African Institute in London, consisting of accounts of the origin of various groups of the region and observations on customs. Whether this was a compilation intended to serve as input to one of the volumes of the Ethnographic Survey of Africa or an attempt by McBride to get an article published remains unknown.

In 1993, an autobiographical account of Ira McBride's experiences in Africa was published privately by his son Robert (McBride 1993).

Dr. Ira McBride's papers and memorabilia are now deposited at the archive of the United Theological Seminary at Trotwood, Ohio.

It would seem, however, that Ira McBride's extensive knowledge of the cultural and religious matters of the Kulung was exploited by Charles Meek for his article on Kulung religious beliefs (Meek 1934). Meek did some research in Wurkun district in 1929 or 1930 (NAK SNP 17-21577) but the material gathered by him personally was embellished with notes collected by McBride. In a

The newsletter of the Sudan United Mission, *The Lightbearer*, was first published bi-monthly, then quarterly and in the years 1923-1932 appeared alternating with another journal called *The News-Letter of the Sudan United Mission*. *The Lightbearer* was the major outlet for news on mission activities and articles by missionaries, often illustrated with photos. Here one can find unique ethnographic observations, often on cult activities and ideas, for example on the cults of *eku* (Armold 1929, Kuglin 1941) or *mam* (Guinter 1924d) or unnamed rituals (Guinter 1925b, Guinter 1926b)

⁹ We are grateful to Adamu Biyam for having provided us with a copy during our stay at Bambur.

¹⁰ Several parts of the text are reprinted in McBride 1993.

personal letter to Jörg Adelberger, McBride related that Meek had asked him to hand over his notes on the Kulung. However, Meek completely fails to acknowledge this contribution.

Ethnographic Profile of Kulung

The Kulung may currently total approximately 40,000 people (cf. Ethnologue.com), and they live mainly in the southwest Muri Mountains. Their main neighbours to the north are the Piya, to the

east the Kwonci, to the west the Nyam and the Jarawa-Ligri. After leaving their mountain settlements during the colonial era the Kulung settled at the foot of the mountains and spread over the plains on the northern banks of the river Benue.

Economically, the Kulung depend on hoe farming, cultivating varieties of millet, guinea corn, maize, beans and groundnuts, and growing rice in the marshy areas of the Benue lowlands. Other crops are yams, cassava, beniseed and various fruits and vegetables such as bitter tomato, melons and okra. Fruits such as mango, pawpaw, oranges and bananas can also be cultivated. Usually a household also keeps chickens, goats, sheep and sometimes cattle. Fields on the mountain slopes are partially terraced.

A feature of Kulung material culture which they share with other groups of the Wurkun cluster, are wooden ritual objects such as the so called yoke masks, huge wooden structures carried by a male person on his head and rituals. These masks are highly significant religious

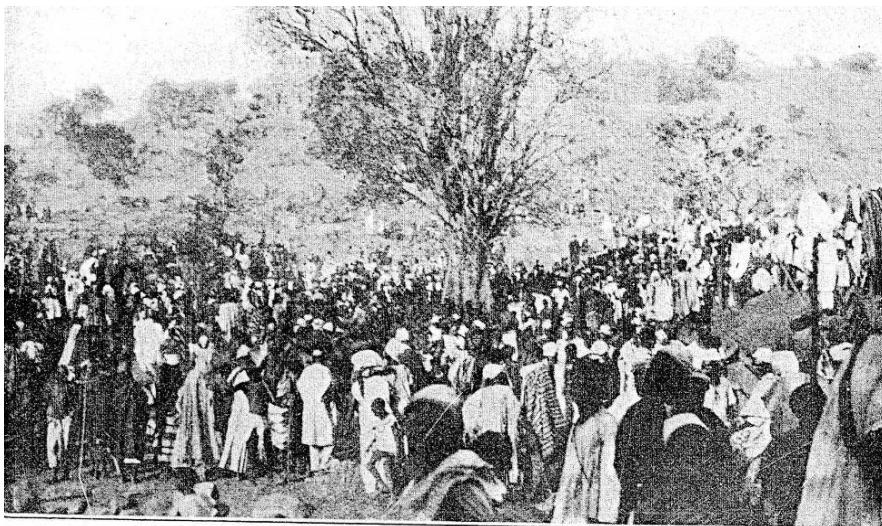
CHIEF GWOMU, BAMBUR STATION, NIGERIA.
Chief of Gomu and followers (Source: *The Lightbearer* 23 (4), 1927, p. 58).

or shoulders during traditional festivals and rituals. These masks are highly significant religious objects and nowadays handled only in great secrecy (see Adelberger 1995: 23, Adelberger 2011). Despite the Christian missionary efforts and a continuing process of Islamisation, still today there are adherents of the traditional religion as described by Meek (1934).

In the relevant literature, the Kulung are often called Wurkum or Wurkun. The name is derived from the Jukun language meaning "people of the hills". We prefer to use Wurkun instead of Wurkum on the grounds that this is the form the people concerned prefer themselves. Wurkun is a generic term applied to the different peoples inhabiting the area of the old Wurkun district, i.e. Kulung, Piya, Kwonci and others and may be a relic of an ancient subdivision existing in the former Kwararafa Confederacy¹¹. The Kulung had close interactions with the Chadic speaking Piya and Kwonci in the course of their history and they share common cultural traits (see Adelberger 1992).

The Kulung are subdivided into the main regional sections of Bambur, Balassa and Bamingun, each of which again consists of various patrilineal clans and lineages. The regional centre of the Balassa section is a mountain with the same name, that of the Bambur is located to the east of the Balassa and the Bamingun people occupy land further east in the borderland with the Kwonci group. Their main settlements are Bambur, Balassa, Banyam and Kirim, located along the southern range of the

¹¹ "With the imperial capital at Biepi, the confederate Kingdoms [of Kwararafa] included Pindiga and Kamu, Misau and Kam, Kona and Warji, Kwana and Shira. Pindiga expanded more than any other of the satellite chiefdoms having Tangale, Tera, Bolewa, Tula and Wurkum sub-chiefs." (Webster 1993: 7).



LEOPARD DANCE, BAMBUR.

People attending a local dance at Bambur (Source: *The Lightbearer* 23 (5), 1927, p. 89).

western Muri Mountains. In their traditions they claim to have historical connections with the Jukun of Gwana on the northern side of the Muri Mountains and the Jukun of Kona on the southern banks of the river Benue. Several clans indicate hills in or around the Muri Mountains as their point of origin. Some groups claim to have migrated from Mbula, a Jarawan Bantu group located to the east where the Gongola River joins the Benue.

The Kulung language is classified as Jarawan Bantu, a sub-group of the Benue-Congo language family, a branch of the Niger-Congo phylum. It is generally assumed that the Jarawan Bantu migrated to the north from somewhere in Southern Cameroon, yet their closest relatives are not certain and their position within the Benue-Congo language group is far from being resolved (cf. e.g. Gerhardt 1982, see Blench 2006 for a discussion).

Eldridge Mohammadou (2002) who undertook a comparative study of the various Jarawan Bantu groups in Northern Nigeria and Cameroon, comes to the conclusion that due to droughts in the early 18th century, a series of migrations took place which caused Jarawan Bantu speakers to shift from the Upper Benue Basin (in modern Cameroon) downstream along the Benue River to Mbula, (where the river Gongola empties into the Benue), and further down to the Muri Mountains. The western Muri Mountains (or so called Wurkun hills), are considered to be the area from where the Jarawan Bantu (such as the Jarawa or Mbaru speakers) in modern Bauchi State dispersed further afield (Ballard 1971: 299-300).

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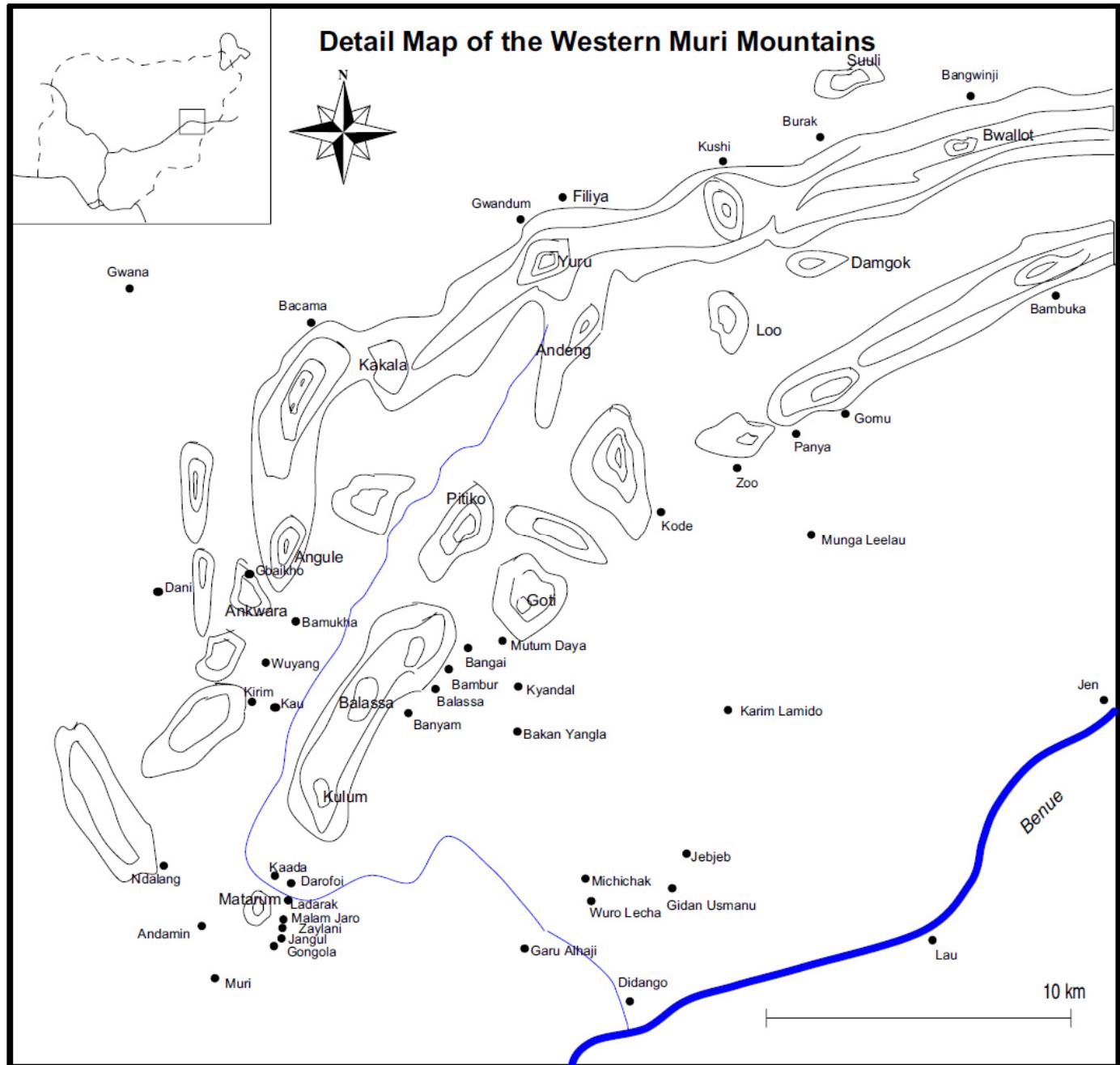
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Notes and letters by Thekla and Karl Kuglin

Map of Muri Mountains, Northern Nigeria



Kulung Vocabulary

compiled by Ira E. McBride

This vocabulary is retyped from a handwritten English-Kulung wordlist in a voluminous and oversized Farmer's Diary. The vocabulary is kept as much as possible in its original format; however, adjustments have been made to the alphabetical order of the entries. Kulung nouns in general have no plural forms. This is also known from other Jarawan Bantu languages.

The orthography McBride used to reduce Kulung to the written word primarily caters for a Kulung speaking audience; vowel length and tone are not marked. The content of the dictionary reflects to some extent the requirements of an intended bible translation. We thus find items like 'law', 'might', 'sin', 'disciple', 'vinegar', while items like: mortar, leg, liver, lungs, monkey, monitor, mountain are not included.

Unfortunately not all words could be clearly deciphered. Where single graphs were not clear, |#| is substituted. In addition a few words were not clearly readable, they are marked with: (?). McBride noted a few words with a capital |B| and |D|, possibly representing implosive stops [b] and [d] respectively. Both sounds occur in Kulung. The marking of implosives stops is, however, not consistent. McBride also used two diacritics which he placed over vowels. One, " ~ ", most likely represents nasalisation of the respective vowel. Unclear, however, is the phonetic value of the second " ' ", which he placed over vowels |e|, |o|, and |a|.

Examples are:	këlë	hawk	(cf. kele	black kite)
	gi morö (mörä, märä)	abscsess	(cf. mara	swelling)
	podä; päda	barren		

In numerous words wordfinal and intervocalic /l/ and /r/ appear to be free variants.

Examples are:	kar kun = kal kun	announce
	ba woli = ba wori	bride

The writing of lexems with regard to |gh| and |kh| is inconsistent. One of the numerous examples is 'hand' which appears as *bugh* and *bukh*.

Abbreviations :

(K.) and (B.)	Kerim (= Kirim) and Bambur varieties of Kulung
(H.) and (F.)	loanwords from Hausa and Fulfulde. [Note: Not all loans from Hausa and Fulfulde are indicated.]

abandon	nin	i ninje tola he left the load
abate	ge	kuni gun ge the wind abates
	pwol	kuni gun pwole the wind abates
	pwon	mbulo pwone the storm abates
abattoir	ba gbwal gi	
abdicate	nin muri nyali	
	nin tala	
	puri	
abdomen	bum	

abhor (H. reni)	kyebsi	kyebsi ban (gi) abhor a man (a thing)
abide (dwell)	dob	a dob a yen? where do you abide (as a guest)?
	noŋ	a noŋ a yen? where do you abide?
abide (dwell)	tusi	m tusam a la mindi I have put down my load at this house
ability	shakhle (= knowledge)	Yamba ya kham wo shakhle God has ability
	iko (H.)	Yamba ni ba iko God is a powerful (mighty) one
able	mam	mamam pakh mindi I am able to do this
able	shakhle	m shakhlam tol mindi ba I am not able to carry this
able	wawu (F.)	n wawam pakh mindi I am able to do this
ablution	dusu mul	m dusam mul I have bathed; dusi bathing at end of marriage; a dusi yo re? have they bathed you
abode	la	
abolish	kwagh kuni	kwagh kuni karikun abolish an order
abolish, wipe out	lisi	
	male	mal kuni teb wipe out a sin
abominable	bib	
	pin	
abomination	gi mi bib	
	gi pina	
abortion	suge bum	
abound (v.)	pagh buna	
	pagh gulla	
about	ke	a tighi ke me about where did you put it
	tebe	m nambi tebo I told him (about)
about (concerning)		ni teb muri concerning you
abreast (in line)	tanja	tan ni tanja single file, in line
	ŋala	ŋala ni ŋala side by side
abroad (outside of)	pasi	
	anza	(= far away)
abrogate (cancel)	pili kuni	pili kuni kyene cancel the going
abrupt	gwar (adj.)	gware tali steep rock, cliff
	kaŋa (v.)	gwar kaŋa ni kaŋa decends suddenly
abscess	gi morö (mörä, märä)	morö wusu swollen body; ŋar gi morö lance a boil

abrupt	kabri (adv.)	kabri si pura gwar right away we came to a precipice; m liam gi, kabri nyala gbwal minam I ate immediately I felt hunger
absent	bilagham	
absorb	takarda yiri .. murpina	
abstain	bagha	
	ninj	
abstain (from)	magha	ka magh ngibi you stop stealing
absurd	mudo ni bilagham	(= that is absurd)
abundance	buna	bun teb
abuse	sā	sā ban
		sā a mushi to one's face
abuse	sher	sher ban always behind one's back
acacia tree	ndel	
accede	yeda; yera	i mindi mi nu ni bo, si yeda
accept	yagha	yagham mondulo
accept	yer	yeram teb mindi I accept that
acceptable	ke balam	mini ke balam this is acceptable
acceptable	ke musam	a-a, ke musam ba. mami mi a musam. mam mi a musam ba.
		bugam dare, cup njare
accident	dare (bugh)	gi kwor yonjam, m kpa; ni dare yon
accident	dare (yon)	pagha ni n#eshō ba not done on purpose
acclamation	gbwal wala	
accompany	kal kun (/kar kuu)	kar kuu pur a buni tella
	tikhi takhi	bwa mini tigham a njere; tikh takhi;
accomplish	mal	m kya tikh tahki ban a malo re?; ba m bam foa mini; tig yua ba ana
		pakh non kuni mindi
according as, like	non kuni	mbulo na, ni teb mindi si kyen kam ba
accordingly (because of)	teb	pagha poso bal gi render an account
account (n.)	bal gi	na bawuri give account of (= on account of); si dob ana tebe mbulo
account, hold of no ~	tebe (prep.)	
account, hold of no ~	mari ba	
accoutrements	fwali ba	
accumulate	tola lua	
accurate	kam, kama	kam kaghli; kam mondulō
	sagh sagh	baghare njere tele sagh sagh; kwar tamtam mi tela sagh sagh

accurate	sadada	tela nanda wuro sadada stand up straightly
accursed	sulugh sulugh	
accusation	ba bore dua (/dwa)	
accusation	gi kyen wala	
accuse	gi kyen kpani	
accustom	ram kun	yo, a ram kunam false against me
accustom	kyen kpani	si kyen kpani bwa mini
accustom	kyen wala	ba kpani, ba wala accuser
accustom	noŋ na	a noŋ na yu ana ri; pakha la noŋ na yu ana
accustom	pakha	pakha ya yu na na (ri)
accustom	shakhale wuru	pul shakhale wo bamburum; gi mini shakhale wuram ba
accustom	ninje bila	
ache (head-)	ba paghi bila	
ache (head-)	ŋara muru	
acid (sour)	ŋanja, ŋanje, ŋanjna	momam ŋara muru
acknowledge, confess	puri teb	muram ŋara muram sakhra
acknowledge, confess	sher teb	mul ŋanjna i.e: vinegar
acquaint	shere	bo nguri kwana dā, la i puri teb;
acquainted with	shakale	puri teb sugarsum confess our sins?;
acquiesce (v.)	yere; yere teb	m kuri na nguri ma ki ba na
acquit	ke musam	
acquit	ke balam	
acquit	makh bukh	
across	wub bukh	yua shere ban bawuri lawun (= accustom)
across	danele	
act (n.)	gi pagha	
actually	dā dā	
add	ni kuli	
add to, collect	magh muri	
add, count	lope muri	mini mam ba, magh muri mondulō
addicted	bala	
adept	shakle wuru (?)	
adhere (v.)	shakhale	
	bamba	tol takarda bari, ki bamdi ni wuru
	bwol	
	lala	lali myē a wuri

adieu, to give an	na teb a kun	(greetings of adieu)
adjoin	pili bini teb	
adjoin, join to	pagha tu	
adjure	lopo wuri	
	lopi (luapa)	m lopam yo wo Yamba, ka yakh kunam; m luapam yo wo Yamba I adjure by God
admit, bring in	ninji nyinli	niŋjam yi nyimli
admit, confess	puri teb	
adopt	dobe muni	
adorn	paghe munam	
adulterer	baghri wuru	i baghri wuri wo gi myel
adultery	ba gya; ba dum gya	
adultery, commit	gya	
advance (n.)	dam gya	
advantage	pagha dua	
	kyा dua	
	taike; taikye	taike dobo ni man?; taike ya ye re?; m kum taik(y)e ba
adversary	ba mini	
advice	ta gaba	
advisable	kyigha bum	
advisable	ndika (F.)	
advise (v.)	seghre	ni seghre manā it is advisable
advocate, helper	pagha kyigha bum	
adze	ba yagh kun	
afar	ba yō ban	
affair, thing	kwatula (K.)	
affright	pasina; pasi	
afoot	gi	
afraid (v.)	wubo	
	a nyon; ni nyon	i kyen a nyon
	ban wubo	i ban minam he is afraid of me; i ban wubo a wuram; wubo yakham a wuram I am afraid
afraid, make	pagha wubo	
after	pagha wuba	
afternoon (early)	annzum	i kyen annzumi sum
afternoon (late)	pile missa	
afternoon, near sundown	bune missa	
afterwards	kubra	
again	yal missa	
	anzumi mindi	anzumi noŋ mindi
	sa	i pagha sa

against (prep.)	a wuri	m nona a wuri la lean against the house
aged	yakhe; yakha na ban boe buna	
agent	ba-	ba-tul gi; ba-foa
agree (v.)	ke musam ke balam	
agree, concede	yera	
agree, consent	yer ; yere	i yere he agreed
agreeable, sweet, pleasant	nungu na	
ahead	dua	kya dua; ya dua sum
aid (n.)	yakh kun	wa yu aba yakh kunam
ail (v.)	man kumo yo?	man pakha yo? what ails you
ailment	kwano	
aimless (at work)	poro ka mana	
alarm	pakha wubo	
algaita (H.)	agaitu	
alien	mbirum	
alight (v.)	dobo	munyibi dob ana
alike, all	dom mogha	
alive	ni musi	i ya ni musi he is alive/awake
	ya na musi	
	ya wo bali	
all	dom	sum dom we all
	gbā	
	pit	
allay	pwola	kwano yira pwola i.e. is cooled
allow	ninje	
allure	doko	nin doko mamam, di yu na
almost	tutu	
	pagha tutu	
alms	kungu	
alone	na muri	m kyen ni muram
	kire yi kam	(= he alone)
	se	se(/kiri) mini re only this
alongside	a gaghe	
already	amala	
already	bugh	m tumam a ba bugh I am already sent;
		m nambi a ba bugh dā(/bobra)
also	wul	i kye, m yera kye wul
also	wur ma	ki nabam mini wur ma
also, again	wul	Yuam yun, yuam lela wul (/sa)
alter (v.)	pile	
	foa	

although	Bo da	
always	kpakpai	
amazed, be	pagha mamaki	
amazement; expr. of	gi nnzumnza babà; babá bã terlã balã ba lasum	
amidst	a kiri	
amulet	jelakiri	jelakiri la a town
ancestor	sola nnyemi gi laya (H.)	
and	ba dua	
and, also	ba kpa dua	
angel	wo	a yera minam wo yo (used esp. at Kerum)
anger	ko	
angry person	wul	
angry, be	malaika	
anguish (n.)	mun tume Yamba	
animal	lulo	lulo ya gham dã!
ankle	ba lulo	
anoint	pagha lulo	
anoint, rub over	logha lulo	
announce	lile bali	
annoy	kwana	
another	nyeme	
answer	ba nyõ	(domestic)
ant sp.	wonjshe	
	kpaghala	(outside of)
	musi n#õ	(inside of)
anoint	bigha	
anoint, rub over	lala	
announce	kar kun; kal kun	
annoy	tigh kuni	da tigh kune nwoankaghali ba
another	bikyã; ba bikyã	
	bakyã	
	mi mokha	
	pide	
answer	yere; paghe yere	
	yere teb (n.)	
ant sp.	bimbim	(small black)
	bulbul	(small white)
	darikwalã	(red or black, travelling)
	nadu	(black head white tail)
	pyepe	(large black)
	dolõ-dolõ	(large red)

ant sp.	shima	(small red)
	yoayoa	(red)
ant-hill	jajā; janjā	
antelope, cobus cob	ngaiya	
antelope, roan	baŋa	
antelope, western hartebeest	kwarā	
antelope, water buck	dul	
antelope sp.	penem	
antelope, duiker	njika	
antelope, red duiker	kwi	
antelope, harnessed ~	dō	
anticipate	kpadua shaghle	
antimony	kwalli (H.)	
	pinari (F.)	
anvil	ba ntuli	
any-	Bodi [bodi?]	Bodi [bodi?] be anywhere; Bodi [bodi?] yin anyone; Bodi [bodi?] gi man anything; Bodi [bodi?] man anyhow
apparatus	gi bugh	
	kaya (H.)	
appease	Doko [doko?]	m na gili bi muni, m doki yi
appeased, to be	more	muni yagha gi, ki more
appetite	dalagh	bonja pagh dalagh nyeme; bwa mini pagh dalagh mondulō
appoint	wub	bamburum buna yagham, m wub mogha
appoint a chief	tigha tella	
appoint, select	kyake	
approach	yu tu	
approve of	yera	
apron (breechcloth)	gi tagh	
are (to be)	ni	ni yi it is she
	ya (pl.)	bamburum yana men are here
aright	manā	kay mam bi njere manā direct him
	sagh sagh	right
arise	logha	
arm	kabi	
	bugh	(= arm, hand)
armlet	gi mura kabi	
armpit	bugh soba	(= armhole)
around, go or make	bile anzumi	
arouse	soghsí	
arrange	baghre manā	
arrange, put, place	tigha	

arrive	tue	i tue la arrive at the house
arrive, come at	yu	i yue la came to the house
arrow	tue ban	
arrow barbs	ntau	
arrow head	kiri ntau	
arrow notch for string	tegha wurin ntau	
arrow point	muri ntau	
arrow poisons	kuni ntau	
	mankaŋi	(from a flour)
	mwē	
arrow sp.	lagho	(made of plants)
arrow, reed for making	yogha mbilimm	
as	yogha n#umbul	(from snakes)
ascend	ntau bau	(flat barbed head)
ash	ntau gaka	(many barbs straight)
ashamed, to be	ntau myerle	(twisted shaft)
	ntau ngile nyena	
	mogha	
	noŋ kuni	
	wuni	pasina noŋ kuni Karim as far as
	yebe	Karim
	lula	
	shemte	
	wuri baŋi	
aside, turn	kyanja	
ask (question)	yuglu; yugli	m kyanja njere
	yubli	yuglu kuni
	tughulu; tugli	
ask, beseech	tona; ton̄ gi	
ass	mbā	
assemble	ram; rama	ram bamburum
assent, give	yera	express grateful/sympathetic assent
assent, to nod	yer teb ni muru	
assist	yagh kuni	
assuredly	mateb missa	
	mate kila	
	pagh mamaki	
astonished, be	gi nnzumnza	(= thing of the world!)
astonishment, expression	ba lasum	(= our people!)
of	ba terla	
	shige	
astray, go	a	a banko; a na; a la
at		
attack (assault)	kwaghe lua	

attain, become	pagha	i paghe/mam bamburum attained
attempt, try	mam	manhood
attendant of king	kangi	ni n kangana yi I will attempt it
attendant of sick	bwom ba	ki bwom ba logha he tries to rise
attention	mun mi adue tella	
attention, give	ba pagh kwana	
attention, give	kyigha; kyika; kigha	
augment	tigh kyigha	wa tigh kyigha a muri teb
aunt	magh muri	
authority	ngyam mi nyen̄e	
avarice	ngyam mi ser̄e	
avaricious person	teb; njere teb	ba bulgi mini pagh bōa
avenge	bonja	
avoid	ba mbiba; ba bibe	
avoid, dodge	ba mi na gi ba	
await	wub kile (/kire)	ni n wub kile a muri nyimbam
awake	saghla	i saghla minam a njere
awake, be	nyanla	nyanlam tali ri
away, get	yele	mera, yel minam
axe (gen.)	sagh musu; musi sagha	
axe sp.	ya na musi	
	lude	
	banji	
	mbyu	
	jawa	(tomahawk)
	kibi	(long protruding shaft)
	ada	(matchet)
	baranjā	
baboon	barum	
baby	gyana	
bachelor	mun gyana	
back	ba bāghara	
back of head	anyum; anyumi	
backbite	takh kwosa	
backbone	li anyumi	
	sher anyumi	
	mumu myel	
	mumu anyum	
	mumu bunu	
backward, walk	kyen ni musu anyum	
bad	ma ba	ma kam ba not good
bad, evil	bib na	
bad, spoiled	gyemi	(meat)
	rumi	(wood); teni rumi dā very bad odor

bag (sp.)	luruk	(skin carried on shoulder)
	barbani mugha	(salt sack)
	barbani nderum	(of tukurawa palm fibre)
	nyanli	(of braide rope / tukurawa palm fibre)
baggage	gi tola	
bagpipe	algaita	
bake in heated pot (as bread)	para para	
bake on open fire or coals	tona	(as meat, corn, etc.)
balance (n.)	gi migha gi	
balance (v.)	dobe ni ganda ganda	
bald (adj.)	bapwole muru	
bald (shaved head)	ba kpalum	
bamboo	tomtom	
bamboo pole	kpaghā n tomtom	
banana	ayaba	
band, assembly	rama; ba rama	
bandage	dasangi	
	duguragi (K.)?	
bandit	ba paiki	
	ba noŋ a njere	
bandy-legged	gale yō	
	y#ō yira gala	
bank of stream	kuni mul	
	dangele	
bank of stream	gwal; gwar	(= steep bank)
baobab-tree	ngun mora	
barbarian	balala	
barber	bwa moa muru	
barbs (of spear, etc.)	kiri	
bare (of a tree)	gbarā	
bare, naked	putum	
	sulum	
	bulum	
bargain (n.)	kula gulo dā	
bargain (v.)	kulo	
bark (of tree)	gwondale (ngun)	
	gwondale (nyuku)	
bark of dog	y#ol; y#ol y#ola	
barley	kabe nyemi	
barn (of goats)	da mbilim	
barn (of sheep)	de nyul	
barn, granary	bagha	
barren	podä; pädä	ba podä barren person (m. or f.)
	tele bil ban	
barricade	garu	kwo garu build a barricade around

barrier	gi dā njere	
barter	kulo	
base, foundation	pagh ciniki	
base, worthless	y#hini	tali y#hini la
bashful	ka mana	poro ka mana cheap work
	shente	
	bā wuru	
		ki pul anza ba tebe wuri bani she did not come out because she was bashful
basket sp.	bara kanga	(crude, square bottomed, of palm leaf)
	bire	(strong)
	pu; po (K.)	(of grass, for carrying peanuts)
	ngubo; ngho (K.)	(large wicker basket for carrying)
	kanga ngubo	(palm basket lining above)
	mun luruk ngubo	(fancy of palm leaves)
	kwasak	(small finely woven for straining beer)
bastard	mun bila la	
bat	loengi	
bat, fruit-bat	jonli	
bathe	dusu mul	
	lagh musu	(= bathe face)
battle, draw up in line of	ram wuru lua	
bawl (v.)	gbwa kun	
be, to be	ni	ni minam Yamba first command; ni yin de? - ni minam
	ya	tiro ya ye re? - ya mi gi; yagham, yana, yado, yaku, etc.
bead	gi myel	
beak, bill	kuni munyili	
beam (in house)	gao	
beans (sp.)	kindī	(common runner beans)
	nganshi	(red beans)
	gbam	(marble like, underground)
bear (child)	bili	bili mun
beard	nyō kun	ba ter nyō kun beardless
beat (with hand, stick)	bugi	
beat a mud floor	da; da mi gi	
beat drum	nya gañgā	
beat in war	kwagh lua	
beat or win in a game	hema	
beat out grain	dā; dā gi	
beautiful	ma; manā	
because (of)	tebe	m kyen ba tebe mbulo; ba ni teb man de? why not?; ni teb mindi in consequence of this

beckon to come	yuglu bugh	
beckon with hand	pagh bugh	
beckon with hand to stay away	para bugh	
become, befit	yagha	gata mini yagha ni yo
become, come to be	doba	bama mini dob mami
become, come to be	pagha	i ywogh babira, i pagha bangyema
bed	gi nonja	gi ba wuro bed covering
bee (sp.)	pyanli	(small bee in stumps, pots, etc.)
bee (sp.), sweat fly	ngosogh nyi	
bee-house	ŋa ŋa	
beer of corn	ngwori; ngwari nyi	(= pot for bee hive)
bees-wax	kari	
beetle	miyā nyi	
befall	kunja	
before	kum	kwana kumi yo
beg; ask for	kpa dua	
	dua; adua	
	ton gi	
	tō; tō musu	
beget	tigh mun	
beggar	ba tō gi; ba tō musu	
begin	magh y#hini	magh y#hini ana
beguile	Doko	
behave, do	pagha	m yera pagha manā
behaviour	kyigha	
behead	kwar muru	
	keb muru	
behind	anzum	anzumam behind me
behold	gab	
	pyene	
belabour	bugh	
belated, to be	yanja	a yanja you are belated - late
belch	la lala; lala (n.)	
belief, credence	gi mate'kuli	
belief, creed	gi woba	
believe	ŋa mate'kuli	m ŋa mate'kuli ba I don't believe
believe	ŋa matebwissa ??	
bell	mboŋlō mboŋlō	
bellows	ngwari n tuli	
belly (external)	bum; mi bum	
belly (external);	tagh kere	(lower part of)
belong	dob	mini dob nyam
	ye	pul ye talla
belongings	tola	
	luruk	

beloved	ba yeri	
below	ghini	
below, place further down	luguru	a luguru ado down there
belt; girdle	gi kur we gi foa	
bend	lū gi	lū na bent; lū nyal bugh; bwol ngun a luŋo; gi ti ya na luŋi; njere mini lūŋa
	wusa	wusa muri
benevolence, an act of	kunju	
beniseed	gi ɳja kamana	
Benue	sari	
benumbed, be	nige	
beside	nyerlā	
besides	sala gagham	bwa mini doba sala gagham
best	a muri	kulo gi dom, wo mini a muri
best	manā	mindi manā dā?
betray	tere	tasa mini ma, tera ya dom
between	ngare tighi	
bewail	lelakiri	lelakiri la between the houses
beware of	bwakun	yi bwakun (particip. n.)
	pagha kyigha	pagha kyigha a wuro; tigh kyigha a muri ngun, ti ra kpa
beyond, further on	bugha kyengam	magha muri a bugha kyengam
beyond, surpassing	yaghla	
biceps	nyem kabø	
bid (v.)	kebi	a yete ba kebi monduloŋi re?
bifurcate (of path)	gahi bugh; gapi bugh	njere gahi bugh; saghri bugh
	guli	bamburum gula
big; large; great	lule bali (bari)	
bile	dam na	dam na ngure a kabø
bind	kuro	i kur bugham nzumam; kuro ngun (particip. n.)
bind grass for roofing	ta yo	
bird	mun nyili	
bird (sp)	ngwori	(small black always around bee tree)
birth	bila	bil mun bā kam ba untimely birth
	suge bum	
bit	nyanje kuni pul	
bitch	nvoa ma	
	mi ma	

bite	numi	
bitter	kwar	
black	lula	
blacken	pina; pin	ba pina black man
blacksmith	pagha ba pina	
bladder	ba tuli; ba tulgi	
blade of knife	da y#asagh	
blade of plant	nyanje (bau)	
blame (n.)	bughi	
blameless	sugi	na teb sugi (v.)
blanket	sugi bila	
bleat of sheep	birko; burgo (H.)	
bleed	gi ba wuru	
blemish	gbwa kun	
bless	kila (/kira) sughle	
blessed	pula kila	
blind	sugi	
blind in one eye	pagha manā	
blind, make	ba mom nunge	
blink	tabi; ba tabi	
blink, wink one eye	ba ndoili; ba ndwoili	
blister	ŋari musi	musi ŋari he is blind
block of wood	kame musi	
blood	weli musi	
bloody	tali	
blossom	pali ngun	
blow (n.)	kila; kira	
blow (of wind)	yagham wo kila	
blow (with mouth)	ya wo kila	
blow bellows	poshi	
blow horn	bubi	
blue	kwab	m kwab ni yi I struck him a blow
boast	kwagha	ngū kwagha dugu dugu dom
boat (canoe)	peb	peb bisa; peb kushi; peb tim blow the nose
		y#uku ngwari
body	y#uku	
boil (up)	tō; tō njhemē	pagha pina make blue
boil, pustule (n.)	pina	ba tena kun
	tena kun	waru bisa;
	waru	waru nyanje steam boat;
		ba waru
wuru; wuru ban		
wuli		
gi mora		

bone	mumu	
bone marrow	mure mumu	
boot, long boot	kura sabna	
booth, shelter	peghe	
	kara peghe	
booty	gi pwona	(= things carried away)
border, division	njere	
border of cloth	tum kuni	
bore (v.)	wuti	wuta hole
borrow, recover a loan	yagh taŋma	bwa mi li taŋma borrower
bosom	kubali	
both	bari	a bari both of you; dom ni bari
bottle gourd	kobi; kwobi	
bottom	zhini	
	kutighi	(= buttocks)
bough	gamsi bugh	
bound	giti	
	ta	
	kure	
boundary, end	kuni nzali	
bow (weapon)	ngun ntau	
bow down	wusu ni wusu	wusu muri incline the head
bow-legged	zō ɳana	
bowels	tori	
bowman	ba ta ntau	
bowstring	ngure ntau (K.)	
boy; son	bamun	
boyishness	bali bamum	
braid	dubudubu	
braid hair	dal muru	
brain	lubtubo (? tubtubo)	
branch (n.)	gamsi bugh	
branch out	saghre bugh	
brave	bali lul	
	bali tena	
bray (intr. v.)	bwa kun	
bread	gumbam	
break (stick)	bune	
break a horse	pagha pul	
break a law	peke kpani ni zō	
	lute kpani	
break a promise	keb teb	
break of day	ban tari	
break; smash (pot)	ɳara	

breast (female)	kubali	
	kyubule	(of mother)
breathe	ŋa we	
breed	bil mun	
bribe	gi gir kuni	
bride	ba woli; ba wori	
bridegroom	bira mi gwagh ma	
bridge	ngun muri mul	
	njere muri mul	
	kadarko (H.)	
bridle	nyanje kuni pul	
bright	nyelem nyelem	
brim of hat	kuni gata	
brim, filled to the	bal [bul]	
bring	yu ni	ki yu ni mondulō
	yu wo	ki yu wo ni mondulō
bring back	foa ni	ka foa ni mondulō
bring out (forth)	puli	
brink	kuni	kuni mul
broad	wanjna	
	wā	
broadcast	misce	
broil (v.)	kā ni kana	(= cooking over fire without oil or water)
	saghra	
broken	tenderle ngubu	
brood (of chicks)	bere; bere a muri	
brood (v.)	kyala mul	
brook (n.)	gi lisi ban	
broom; besom	gi lisi tali	(= small broom for cleaning off grinding stone)
	ny#a	
broth, gravy	dani	
brother-in-law	nyimbi mi ser̃	
brother; elder	nyimbi mi nyeñe	
brother; younger	kudua	
brow (n.)	kene	
bruise (n.)	lise	lise a muri pul
brush	nyeme mi bira	
buck	nyem bira	
	bwomi (n.)	bwomi missa
bud	bwomi (v.)	
	ny#umo	
buffalo	zisigi; sisigi	
bug	kudi kara	
bug sp., bed bug		

build (house)	bagha; baghra	bagha la; baghra la (used for the whole house); ba bagha la; baghra njere clearing a road
building mud (earth)	tekhe	
bull	ndagha bira nyem bira ndagha gare ndagha (F.)	
bullet	nyuile gi bisa (gubisa) alsashi (H.)	
bundle	topi muri	
burden	tola	
burial	limsi ban	
burial place	ba limsi ban	
burn (tr.)	pi ton	pi gili scorch, burn black bisa ton minam
burnt	pie	
burrow (v.)	tum kila	
burst	tare	Bo [bo] bwa li gili dimi, la bumi tari
burst (of vessel, dish)	nare	
burst of laughing	dare kuni wal walo	
bury	limsi	
bush	mi bono	
bush cow (buffalo)	nzumo	
bushbuck	dō	
business	teb	
	poro	
	kulo	(= trade)
but	la	ki puli bamburum la ki ni bamburum ba
	amma (H.)	
but, except	se	gi bila gham se kwanä shindō
butcher	ba ñar mbonji nyeme ba gbwel nyeme	
butcher (v.)	sa nyeme ñar boñi nyeme	
butt (v.)	sägh (säk)	muru ni wuru mbilim bari a sägh muri
butter-churn	kwabe	(= large calabash used by Fulani)
butterfly	laba-laba	
buttock	tembel tagh	
	kutugi	
button	lunguma	
	gi bwol soba	
buy	kulo	
by ?	bari-bari lum-lum	

by	ni	ki ta minam ni ntau
bye and bye	kyomi	
cackle, crow	bwa kun	
	tā ki	(duckling while searching for nest)
cactus (euphorbia)	ngun gaghum	
cake	dele shemu	(peanut butter with rice or corn or millet, boiled until hard)
cake	gumbam	(peanuts + corn or maize, baked on pot)
calabash (gen.)	kumbu	
calabash sp.	mun ku mul	(small, for oil, etc.)
calamity	nyala	
calculate	ter (F.)	
caldron (n.)	bal; balgi	
calf	ngwari	
calf of leg	mun ndagha	
call (summon)	galanji ndagha	(with horns)
	ndambwal	
	yuguli; yukuli	
	luguli	
calm	ga zhip	
	ban ge zhip	(no wind, no sound)
calotte of Muslims	bangum bañna	
camel	pyelam	
camp (n.)	ba noña	(in bush as in hunting)
can, be able	shaghle	a shaghlo tola mini re?
	wawu (F.)	
cannibal	ba li ban	
canoe	waru	
	waru ngun	
canoe cover	peghe waru	
canoe rudder	gi bwol waru	
cap	bangum	
	dokwal (K.)	
captain (leader in battle)	ba kpa dua lua	
capture	bwola	
caracal, lynx	nvoakaghli	
carcass	dañsanji nyeme	
care (n.)	teb	
care for	yagha	yagha mun
	kā	kā muni;
		kā pul
careful	yagham wo kyigha	
careful, be	pagha kyigha a wuro	
	pagha manā	

careless	ba lala	
	bore kyigha	i pagha wo bore kyigha
	musu ter	i tigh musi a tebi pore ba
caress	tuki	
	pagh a bugh a wuru	
carpenter	ba bwa ngun	
carrier	ba tola	
	lebira	
carry (load)	tola	(one object)
	pona; pwona	
carry many	pona; pwona	pon nyali
carry, bear	tola	tol akwati
case, state, condition	doba	dobo le lin?
cassava	mbula	
	mbai (F.)	
cast down	ba	
cast out	kwagh	
cast up, vomit	turgi	
cast; mould	wa	wa tali
castigate	laghi	
castrated	setina	
cat	kushe	
catch	bwola	bwol bamburum, kur ni nguri
catch fire	bisa bwoli	
cataract of eye	devere	
caterpillar	ngwasagh	
catfish	kwösökh bukh	(electric)
	waibu	
cattle	ndagha (buna)	
cause	gi mi pakhe yi	(= the thing that did/caused it)
cause	teb; teb gi	
cause (v.)	pagha	ki paghi minam gi bibna
cause (v.)	ŋa	m ŋambi wala I caused him to laugh; i ŋebam wubo
causeless	ni musi	i pagh ni musi (as of sores, sickness etc.)
	m kyen ka man	(= no stated reason)
caution	kyigha	
caution, have, be careful	tigh kyigha a wuru	
	daŋa muru	daŋ muro a wuram be careful with me
cautious	wo kyigha	
cave	kyuna	
	sagha tali (K.)	(= cleft in rock)
cease, leave (off)	ninje	
cease, stop, break off	kasi; kashi	

cemetery	ba limsi ban
centre	ba muri kila
centipede	a kiri
certain one	tela kiri
certain, be certain; certainly	mabunu bwara ni kuli
	a nyumo muro ni kuli? are you certain?
	ni kuli, ni kuli, m na ni bo
chafe	pabila
chaff	kpa
chain	nzair
chair, stool	bughulu; bughlu buglo
chamber pot	mbosagh zasagh
chameleon	kunđi
chance, by	paghi; gi paghi
change	pile
	bamburum pile gano; kunđi pile mi pina
change (money) (n.)	singi
change, make(money)	pagh singi ŋar ŋara
changing	ya na pili ni pili
character	gi wuri bali
charcoal	kala
	(made from ngun kala) kalei kala coals of charcoal
charge, command (v.)	mur
charm	sol nzhemē gi laya (H.)
chase	kwagh
chat	pagh dama
cheap	pagh tadi (H.)
	kulo kwan ba kulo manā ten ba
cheat	nyem; pagha nyem
check	mbikiri
chest	dā bali
chew	shaghe
chicken	ngubu
chief	tella; tela
child of animal	mun nyeme
childishness	kyigha bamun
chill	pwoli
chin	ndekalum

chin (double chin)	mbwali	
chisel	kwatula (k)	
choke (v.)	pagha mbā	
choose	kyaka	
Christian	ba tighi Yesu	
Christianity	tikhi Yesu	
church	ekklesiya	
churn, shake (v.)	zhigire	
cicatrices, decoration	nyonjlō	
collection	rame bun	
cinder (coals or sparks?)	kele bisa (/biza)	
	debere bisa	
circle	ere	baghare la ere
circuit, make the	pagha bile	
circumcise	keb tā tanj (v.)	
cistern	gi tele mul	
	kuni mul	
	mbyekhe	
citizen	mun la	
city	ngyela	
civet cat	lelikeri la	
civet cats sp.	nyem luruk	
	duluk	(large, dark grey)
	sarwai	(long spotted, yellow)
	nyaba	
claim, seek	bwom	
clamour (n.)	wala	
clan?	sombo	somba gha ni be? ka lauve
	somba la	
clap hands	kpa kabla; kpa kabra	
clap the hands	nya bugh	
	gbwol bugh	
clasp (hands)	magh bugh	(as in greeting)
	bwol bugh	
	kamde bugh	
claw	nyali (bukh)	nyale kushe;
		kushe nyal minam
clay	däbägh	(for pots)
	tyeghe; tyeke	(building mud)
	teghe; tekhe	(red clay)
clean	kiris	
	kiwā	
	lagh	
	fagh	
	kyoba	
clear (adj.)	musi foana	musi murpina foana (of water);

		musi borõ foana (of sky)
clear road	baghra njere	
clear, make clear	tara ba musi	m wogh manã ba, tara bam musi
clearly	kiwã	
cleave to	bwola	
cleave, cut with a blow	kwor	
cleverness	kyigha bum	
climb, climb up	yebe	i yeb ngun he climbed up into the tree
cling to, embrace	wum bam	
close	gire	gir njekunda close door (bargain)
close by	tutu	tutu ni la; tutu wo la
close eyes	kam musi	
	bir musi	
close fist	kamda bugh; kamdi bukh	
cloth	gutulagi	gutulagi ye nassara English cloth
	gutula keke	(cloth with coloured stripes)
	gutula saki	(cloth with small check design)
cloth strips, woven	gbalgham	(native weave, in narrow stripes)
cloth, head	gi pom muro	
cloth, man's	gi ba wuro	
cloth, woman's	gi loaloa	
cloth-measure	gbela; gbala	(elbow to fingertips)
clothe (v.)	magha soba	
	ba gutulagi	
clothes	luruk	
cloud (gen.)	limba	
cloven	saghra na gõ	
	gõ ma bari	
club	gara	(weapon and for beating rope and clothes)
coarse sand; gravel	gashi	
coat	soba	
coaxing	doki	
cobra	yokha mbilim	
cobweb	lala	
cock	ngubu gwõ	
coconut palm	kwakwa (H.)	
cogitate	mam ban	
coiffure (n.)	par muru	
coil	kara	
cold	mbyu	mbyu a wuram; mbyu ya gham
	pwala	
cold, a	kwaghal	
	pwali	(= fever)

collar	mele soba	
collect, gather in one place	ram muri	
colt	mun pul	
comb (n.)	gi sati muru	
come	yu	
come back	foa	m foa lasum
	pile	m pile lasum
come down	sughlu	
come in	nyinle	
come out	pulo	
come up, climb	yebe	
comfort (n.)	nun <u>gu</u> wuru	(of body)
	nunge bali	momam nunge bali dā
comfort (v.)	bā bali	a bā bi bali
comforted, be	bali pwala	
coming (particle. n.)	yue	ami yuam mudo
command	mur	tella mur bam teb mindi
	karkun	
commandment	karkun	karkune Yamba
commence	magh zhini	
commit adultery	dum gya	
commit, do	pagha	i pagha ngibi he committed theft
common	mi dom	
	mi nashiri	
company	rama	
compare	mam na wuri	
compassion	bini ya kwan	bino ya kwan minam
compel	paghe mi tene	
complain (v.)	na nyangyulō	
complete (adj.)	mami	
complete of a number	kyap	sum kyap; mal mogha kyap dā dā
complete, finish (v.)	masi tighi	
compliment, praise	bonsi ban	
comprehend	wogha	
	bwol muri	
compulsion	gi mi paghe ni tene	i kya poro, a paghi ni tene he went to work under compulsion
compute	bal gi	
conceal	lata	i lata mondulō; i lata muri; ba lata place of concealment; ba lata one who conceals
conceive	tol kila	
	a wo kila	

concern	mara	i mara teb yua adua'a ba; ba kul gi mar kiri teb mondulō
concerning	teb; teb muri; a muri teb	a bal kpani a muri teb mindi
condemn	ŋa sug teb	ŋa sug teb bi tella teb nyimbam
coney (rock)	ngwoba	
confess	ŋar tagh	
confidence	teshe	
confidence, have	teshe a wuru	mondulō ya gham amma m teshe a wuro
confine (n.)	njere	kuni mul mini ni njere Kulū wo Pia
confined, be (of woman)	bila ban	
confined, be ; narrow	kedi kedi	
	wō ba; won̄ ba	
conflagration	bissa	bissa kpa muri nda; bissa kpa la
conflict	lua	
conflict (v.)	ŋar; ŋar muru	
	magh muru	
confounded, be	wuri shige	
	tebe pagha ba nashiri	
	ebe pagha ka mana	
confuse	zugere	ban zugere yi he is confused; njere buna zugere yi many roads confuse him
congeal	noŋa	ka lam mure ndagha kasali i noŋa
congratulate	magh kun	magh kun a muri muni
congregate	rama	
conquer	kwagh; kwagh lua	
	ŋar la	
consciousness	kyigha	
consent	yera	
consider	mam	m mamam I consider; a mamo re? have you considered?
console	pwol bali	Bo [bo?] muno wu, la m yera yu pwol
	ban bal	(/bā) balo
	bwol bugh	
	tunda musu	
conspire	tigh kun mogha	
	pagh kun mogha	
constantly, continually	noŋna; nōna	tella noŋna yu aba magh bam kun
	kpakpai	
constrain, compel	paghe	
construct	baghari; baghri	baghre la; baghre njere
consult	pagha	
	yughlu a kun	m yera yughli teb mini a kuno

consult, confer	bal kun tebi kur teb	baserẽ bal kun tebi ga
consume	li	bissa li bono
contain	kyen	bagha kyen misa shiga re? contains how many
contaminate	pagha bibna	
contemplate	mam bali	
contempt, have	kyepti	m kpalam amma la kyepti ni kyepte ba I refused, but do not have contempt for
content	bali mogha	
content, not	bali bari bari	
contention	ber mona	
contents	gi mi; gi mi-mi	
	gi mi bumi	
continue	magh muri	
	pagha sa	
contract (n.)	kur teb	
contract a disease	ŋar wo kwäna	
	kwäna bwolminam	
contract of bodies of aged	wuru lama	
	wuru shure	
contract the face	kam musu	
	sū musu	(in anger)
contradiction	tenta kiri	
contrivance	gi kyigha bum	
	teb kyigha bum	
convalescent, be	pwäla	
	kulo	
conversation	dama	
	bal kun	
converse, chat	bal kun	
	pagh dama	
convert	pile	
convicted	kpani gbwali	
convince	pagha ni kuli	
cook	lama	
	kanja	(without water)
cook (n.)	ba lam gili	
cooking-pot	ngwori	
cool (v.) + (adj.)	pwola	
copper	nyene gwasagh	
	nyene baŋne	
copy, imitate	mada kun	
cord	nguri	ngure shila cord for trousers
	yilo	

coriander	sali	
corn, guinea-corn	miza	
corn, maize	mikim; miskim (K.)	
corner	bongwal	
cornstalk	kaghli miza/mikim	
corpse	lo	
correct	laghsagh	
	lele	(of level)
correct, punish	lagha	
costly	kulo tena	
cotton	yelo	
cough, a cold	kwaghal	
counsel (v.)	pagh kyigha bum	
count	bal gi	
countenance	muro musu	
country (region)	nzali	
	kalle	
courage	bali lul	yagham wo bali lul has courage
court	ba bal kpani	
court members (of kings)	da m kpani	
cousin, relative	ba be tella	
	nyimbi	
cover (a pot)	keni	
cover (of book) (n.)	gir kuni	
cover of dish (n.)	gi wuri	
covering	gi gir kuni	
covet (v.)	gi ba wuru	
	tigh balo	
cow	shem muri	
cow fly	ndagha	
cow Fulani	sefu	
cow hide	ba ndagha	
coward	lare ndagha	
cowardice	ba-wubo	
	wubo	wubo yagham a wuri he has cowardice or fear
cowry	mondulō	
crab	ngala	
crack	saghe; saghe ban (n.)	
cracking of skin under toes	nzhekeni; zhekeni	
crackling, sound of	njerekeni	
	gyeñi lugso gi	
	lugso (v.)	
	luguro	
cram	naba	
cramp	nyalā	

crawl, creep	kunndo	
create	pule	Yamba pule nzumza
	baghre	
credit	tanjma	ba ḥja tanjma
creep stealthily (like cat)	pada	pada ni pada; pada nyeme
	därä	därä ni därä; därä nyeme
crested crane	mbulak	
cricket	sherewaki	
crier	ba karikun	
crime	ba kila	
criminal	ba ba kila	
crocodile	ngano; gano	
crooked	lunjé	
crop (bird)	nda missa	
cross	baghre lapsā	
	bugh	(= cross a stream)
	lapsā; lapsā ngun	
	gande ngun	
crossing	ba bugho	
cross-legged, sit ~	kpetili zō	
	kar zō	
crossroads	gamsam njere	
crosswise	gande ni ganda	
crow	yaraū	
crow (of cock)	bwa (kun)	bwa/bwe ngubu
crowd	rama; rame (v.)	
cruel	nyangin; ba nyangin	
crumbs	kure	
crush	peke	
cry	bwa kun	
	gbwal wala	
	wala (n.)	
cry aloud, clamour	gbwal wala	
cubit	gbwela; gbwala	
cultivate	liga	
cultivate in grown corn,	kwom	(= weed)
cured	bile	
curl of hair (v.)	myere	
	daba	
curl of snake (v.)	kara	
	kure	
curse	sā kun	
curse behind one's back	sher ban	
custom (n.)	gi wuri	
	gi kaki	
cut	keb	

cut grass	wum	wum wumti cut roofing grass
cut up in pieces	sa	sa nyeme cut meat
	li	ban li bugham
cut with spear	kwar	kwar ni kwɔŋa
cut, divide	kebi	
cut, slit open	ŋar	ŋar bonji cut the throat
dagger	bau	
daily	missa missa	Bo [bo?] di missa me
damp	pwolä	
damp, moist, cool	pwala	bandi pwala; pwali ya gham
	(mbyu)	
damsel	ban sari	
dance	ta sona	
dance (gen.)	sona	
dance sp.	ta sona muru	(at killing of a leopard or man)
dancer	ba n sona	
dandruff	loghi mi muru	
danger	gi wuru	
daring	bali lul	
dark	dugu	kiri dugu middle of sleep
dark	suŋna	ban suŋni it is dark
dart	mun kwoŋa	
	minyau	(for fish)
dash together	ŋar muru	
	ŋar wuru	
date	bile ngun myeghel	
	kare myeghel	
daub (v.)	lala	
daughter	mun ma	
dawdle	pwola wuru	da yu ni pwola wuru ba
	pagh pwola wuru (v.)	
dawn	tagh limlim ban	
	ban tare	
day	misa	
dazzle	missa pwon musu	
dead	loe	
deaf	kpala kiri	
deaf and dumb	bebe	
death	lo	
debt	tanŋma	ba yagh tanŋma
deceit	gi Doko [doko?] ban	
	ba Doko [doko?] ban	
decide	bal muri teb	
declare	na teb	

	shere teb	
decline of sun	bune	missa bune the sun is shining
	pile	missa pile the sun is shining
decorous, becoming	yagha	gata mini yagha ni yo
decrease (intr.)	kyebe	
deep	limna	
	pasina	
defend	yō	da bā ba, m yira yō yo
defer (v.)	lig	si lig ba kya gab kila lele; da yu ba, lig wuru
defile	pagh bibna	
	sug	
defraud	li ban	ku kul tena, ki li minam
dejected	bali sugi	
	bali lie	
delay	pagh salla	
	sal(l)a	
deliberately	nyeshā; ni nyeshā	I paghi ni nyeshā
delight (n.)	zhaghre	
	pagh zhaghre	
deliver ransom	ŋar muri	
deliver, give over	ŋa	
demon	limbi (?)	
denial	ten takiri	ten takiro ma ba your denial is bad
deny	ten takiri	a ten takiri ni teb mande
depart, go out	puro	
depart, leave	sogha	
deposit	tigh	i tigh mondulō a bugham he deposited money in my hand
deranged person	ba limbi	pagh ba limbi
descend	sughlo	
desert (n.)	mi bono	
	ba mbabi	(= without water)
desert (v.)	nine	mamam gabe/ninje gwagh lam
	gabe	i gabe la wo Sanda he broke
	pure tighi	friendship with Sanda
deserve	tue	mamam pure tigham
		poro ya tue mondulō buna;
desire	yere (n.)	poro nyam lute sisi
	yera (v.)	gi yere
	dalagh	(= appetite)
desist	ninje	ninje poro mini leave off this work
desolation	gwoti; gwoti la	
despise	kyepta	kyeptam yo ni kyepta
destitute	ter (F.)	ya na ter

destroy, despoil	duru bau	ba mösä duru ban (said of war, fire, unfaithful wife)
detain	kete	da kete minam ba, dagha yagha u wuram;
detect	gire	kai! ka kete minam mi hyena m giram bangibiri I detected the chief
devastate	duru ban	kai! bisa duru wumo mi manā; duṇdu duru bandi dom
devil	shaitan	i kyena wo soba bila;
devoid of, without	wo ... bila	wo gi bila a bughi duke tim drop of dew
dew	tim	
diarrhoea	kwana nya	
die	wu; we; wai; wo; wulo	
differ	na ... kam	a na yo kam, m na yom kam
difference	ya na mogha mogha	
	minam kam mudo kam	
different, distinct	kam kam	kunam kam
	mogha mogha	kunasum mogha mogha
difficult	kwana	poro mini kwana dā; ni kwanä difficulty
dig	tum	tum kila dig a hole
diligence	pile wuru	pile wuru yagham a wuro
dim, be	lalala	
dip in	nyiti	
	mur bugha a mul	dip the hand into the water
direct (adj.)	njere	
	mogha	
	sadada	
	sagh sagh	(of path)
directly	dā dā	
	susam dā dā	
dirt	pina	
dirty	pinā	
disagree, deny	lentakiri	si lentakiri tebe mondulō we disagree over money
disagreement	lentakiri	lentakiri a wun your disagreement
disappear	taba	lema yam tabe my umbrella disappeared
disappointed, be	li bali	balam le dā I was disappointed
discern	wogh	m wogham balo
	shagla	m shaghlam balo
discharge	ja (?) ~ ta (?)	ja (~ ta?) gi bisa
	ηar	ηar gi bisa

disciple	ba tighi	
disclose	ŋar tagh	
discomfort	wamragh	wamri wuru; ba ngibi dob ni wamri wuru (of conscience)
discord	bugh mona	
	pughum	
discourage, dishearten	sugi bali	
discover	kum	
discuss	pagha shere	
	jen wur	
disdain	kyebsi	
disease (gen.)	kwanö	
dish	kumbu	(= calabash)
dislike	mini	i min yi
	i yera yi ba	
dislocate a bone	mumu logha	
dismay (n.)	wubo	
dismount	sughlo	bwa sughlo pul
disobedient	wogh teb ba	i mari teb ba he is disobedient
disperse (intr.)	misi	
disregard	kyali	
	kyebsi	
dissent	zhigri muru	
dissolve	dobta	
distance	pasi	m pyena yi pasi I saw him from afar
distant	pasina	
distress	ter	i ter dã
distribute	gab bugham	gab bam bugha give me my share; gab bi ya bugham distribute to them ŋar bi bugham give his share
	ŋar bugham	
dive	lim mul	
divide	gabi	
	gab bugham	
divide in half	ŋar bugham	
dividing part of two roads	gab a telakiri	
division of town	gamsam njere	
division, boundary	kabla	
divorce	njere	njere a sum wo pia
do	gab gwoghlä	
doctor	pagh	pagh mali it is done
	ba pagha wuru	
doctor, a quack	ba bori (/bwoli)	
	ba sun bori	

dog	nvoa; nvoa para	nvoa pia, nvoa nyäl (B.) mad dog; nvoa ya na gangaranj big dog (= wild dog)
donkey	nyaba	
door	mbā	
door of box	zekunda	
doorpost	kuni	
doorway	ngun kuni la	
double	kunda	
doubt (n.)	lopa muri bari	ku bari two times
	bali; bari (n.)	
	kyuru bari (v.)	da kyuru bali a muru gi bira ba nothing doubting
dove (tame and wild)	mabughlu	
dove, rock sp.	gbaikyul	
	mbaikyul	
down	a nzali	tighi a nzali put it down
drag (v.)	sunju	
dragon fly	dungale	
drake (n.)	myeghel bira	
draw a line	sosi bandi	
dream	lora (n.)	
	lol lora (v.)	
dregs of native drink	zHEME	
dress	soba (n.)	
	magh (v.)	
dress hair	par muru	(men)
	zuk muru	(women)
dress meat	sa nyeme	
dress, put on cloth	läl gi	(woman's cloth)
	kur gitagh	(breechcloth)
	kur kunā	(leather band)
	kir gimel	(beads on body)
	foa mbughu	(leaves)
	gar kiri	(ear plug)
dress, put on shirt	magh soba	
	magh gimel	beads (on neck)
	ber gata	(hat)
	kwagh shila	(trousers)
	mur shila	(trousers)
	mur kura	(shoes)
	mur kaghli a lulu	(nose plug)
	bā metilo	(head cloth)
	ba gi ba wuru	(blanket, large cloth)
dresser of leather	ba boŋsa lara	
drink	nu	
drink (n.)	gi nu	

drive	kwogh	
driver-ant	darikwalā	
drop	duko	yi ri duko it is dropping
	duke mul	
	duke tim	
drop, let fall	kpa lugham	
	wub lugham	
drum (gen.)	ganganj	
drum (hour glass)	tukhtukh	
drum (long sp.)	döndö	
drum (large stationary)	gwam	
drum (v.)	nya	yi ri nya ganganj drumming
drummer (sp.)	ba nya ganganj	
dry	nyumo	
	gughum	(= very dry)
dry season	bo; bou	bo kwari (at end of rains)
dry/hot season	kuni ban ya bikhe (bige)	(hottest part just before the rain)
dry/hot season	muru misa	(hot month at end of rains)
dry up (in sun)	ŋasa ni ŋasa	
dry up (well)	mutti nyume	
duck	myekhel	
dumb (mute)	kuni bila	
dust	kushi	
dwarf	ba kebe	
dwell	doba	
	noŋa	m noŋa a Kerum I dwell at Kerum
dye	pin gi	
dysentery	kwanä nya	
eagle	garjanj	
ear	kiri	
ear of corn	mi kim	mi kim tarum 3 eares of corn
early	bari	ni bari bari very early
	sakha ni sakha	(= very early)
ears wax	myen kiri	
earth	nzumza	
easily	kwan ba	
east	takh	
eat	li	gi li anything to eat
echo, answering sound	yere gyinj	
eclipse of moon	misa bwol zuŋa	
	misa mel zuŋa	
edge	kuni	kuni teb sharp edge; kuni mul edge of stream; kuni gutalagi edge of cloth; kuni bau edge of knife

educate	mana	
eel	warkyubila	
egg	ki	ki ngubu chicken egg
egg shell	kakhli ki; kakhli n ki	
egg white	mure n ki mi pubua	
egg yolk	mure n ki mi baŋna	
Egypt	Masar	
elder	sereŋ	
elephant	nzugu	
else, other	pide	
emaciated	lohka yona	
emancipate	wube bukh	i wub bukh a wuru he released him
embark	nyinli waru	
	lokha	
embrace	wum ban; wumo	
empty	gi bila mi	
encamped (v.)	tusu	ba tuso encampment
encampment	ba tusu	
encompass	lumda	
encounter, meet another	ŋar muru	
end	teshi (n.)	ba teshe; ba teshi kuni
	mali (v.)	
endeavour	kangi	
enemy	la gaba	
enjoy	mom mungu bali	mungu bali enjoyment
enlarge	makh muri	i makh muri soba he enlarged the shirt
		gili Yam mami I have enough food
enough	mami	
enquire	yukhli kuni	
enslave	makh guro	m makham guro I have been enslaved
enter	nyinli	
entice	tam	ki tamam he entices me; lara yi ri tam ngi the spider is enticing the fly
entire (adj.)	dom	
	gbanj	
	pit	
entrails	tori	
entrance	kunda; kuni	
entrap	bwol	
entreat	ton	
	dukisum	(word of entreaty)
entrust	tikh a bukh	
enumerate	bala	

envy	musu nonje tikh bali	musam nonje yakham I have envy da tikh bali a muri le bwa mir tutu wo yo ba 10. commandment
enwrap	kara	
equal	lan mogh mam wuru	mam a wun wuru you are of equal strength mini mami mudo
erase	mami	
erect	zugro	
errand	lisi	
error	kwoma	
escape	sakh sakh	lel sakh sakh stand erect
escort	tumo	
establish	sug teb fari tikhi ban (v.) kana bambe	ba tikh ban (n.) si bambe na ge kaisum we have established the things of our forefathers
esteem	ŋa gulo	
estrangement	gaba	gaba ya kham a telakirasum there is indifference between us
eternal	ba teshi bila	
eunuch	satina	
euphorbia	gakham	
European	ba banja	
even (adv.)	baturi Bodi [bodi?]	Bodi [bodi?] dā di even now; Bodi [bodi?] minam wul even I also
evening	ni kubra bau bwole	(= ca. 7 o'clock)
everlasting	dobi kpakpai	
every	dom	
everyone	Bodi [bodi?] yen	
evil	bib; bibna; gi bibna	ba bibna evil person
ewe	nzul ma	
exalt	lokhsı	
examine	gule	
example	pyeni	
exchange (goods)	non kuni ŋar	ŋar gatasum exchange hate; ŋar mondulonji exchange money
excitement	ŋar ban	
exclamation	kai ya!	

	ban!	
excuse (n.)	sala	pakh sala make an excuse
except, save	se	
	kireni	
exist	ya kham	
	ya na wo	
expel	kwokh	
expensive	kur tena	
explain	tare bi musi	
explanation	teb tare musu	
extent (n.)	kuni	
	njere	
extinguish (tr.)	lim	
extract	ruub	
	tola	
eye	musu	
fable	nzishi	na nzishi tell a fable
face	muru musu	
face (v.)	pili muru musu	
fade	mure pule	
fail, fall short of	shinđe	gutalagi shinđe soba the cloth falls short of a shirt
faint	kyikha tola wuri	
fair	manaq	
	shaŋnu	
faith	ŋa matebkuli	ba ŋa matebkuli faithful person
fall	kpa (n.)	
false	bore matebkuli	
	matebmissa ba	
falsify	na tan	
fame	gulo	I kume gulo he got fame
familiarity		si shakhasum wuru wo yi (Idiom)
family	ba nyimbi	(those who are brothers)
	ba la sum	
famine	nzala	
fan	gi pigri pibam (musu)	
fan	pigri gū	
far	pasi; pasina	
farewell, bid	na teb a kuni	
	se nzumi	
	se pilam	
	se missa mogha	
farm	foa	
farm labourer	ba liga	

farrows on the cheeks	musi syure
farrow, draw a	musi läme
fashion, mode, custom	nar kyala mul
fast (n.)	gi wuri
fasten	ge kakasum
fat	gilkun
fat person	kan
father	bwola
father-in-law	kuro
fatigue	nene
	muru
fault	ba nena
favour	tiri
fear	tiram my father
fear	kili
feast (gen.)	gana
feather	gan (v.)
feed	a gano are you tired? ŋa gano rest yourself; ganjam I am tired; ki gaŋ minam he tires me ni sugo it was your fault
feel	sugi
feel a hurt	yerban
feel hunger	bã wubo
feel with hand	pakh wubo
fell, cut down	wubo
fellow, partner	wi
female	mbule
female a.	tikh gili a kun
female	ŋa gili kanga kaŋa
female a.	mom
female	mom kwana
female	mom nzala
feel with hand	mom bana bukh
fell, cut down	kwor
fellow, partner	ba mam wuru
fetch	ma; bama
fetters	nyem ma
fever, have a	gola
few	yu ni
fibre for making rope	nyeŋe zoŋ
fibre of palm tree	wuru baŋ bisa
fierce, be	shiga
fig	bun ba
fight, a	zarŋ
	ndelum; nderum
	lulo
	luŋmi
	mona

fighting, battle	pagh wuru	
fill	lumsi	
find	bwom tikhi	
find, come by	kum	
fine sand, harmattan	nzazala	
finger	nyale bukh; nyali	
finish	male (n.)	
	mali (v.)	
fire	bisa	
fire a gun	la gi bisa	
fire-place	ba pep bisa	
firewood	ngun peb bisa	
first	mi dua	
first; be first to come	kpa dua	ki yu ni kpa dua
fish	bwol nzhi	si kya ba bwol nzhi we go to fish
fish (gen.)	nzhi	
fish bones	mumu nzhi	
fish sp.	noni	(fish oil is obtained from)
	nzhi n sari	(with red tail)
	ngwam dugu	(belly like a frog)
	nzhi pul	(mormyr)
fish trap	kala keb mul	
fisherman	ba bwol nzhi	
fishing hook	ngalo	
fishing net	lakha	
	kangi	
	basukhli	
fist	bukhi ya ni kamde	
fix, fasten	kan	
flag	tuta (H.)	
flame	bwole bisa	
flat	bar kum	(he fell flat, drinking from big vessel or open water)
flat place without trees	damban	
flavour	nunge	
flay	pulo	
	kpala	
	f�	
flea	pipi	
flee	banja	ba bana place to which to flee
flesh	nyeme	
flight	barja	
flint	tali gw�r	
float	ya a muri mul	
	noj a muri mul	
flock	t�nd�re	

flog	bukh (ban)	
flood	mul ḷari	
floor	bambaram; bambalam	
florin	pataka (H.)	
flour	mugu	
flour mixed with water	pwine	
flourishing person	ba pina	
flow	kyala	
flower	poshe	
flute (gen.)	algëte	
	njeme takh	
	danjle	
fly	bal kabe	
fly	ngi	
foal	mun	
foam	fafa	
	pagh fafa	
	fafa pur a kun (v.)	
foetus	ya wo n kila	
	kila kpa wuru	
fog	gurokh	
	gurokh ya klam	
fog, harmattan	gurok; gurakh	
fold	bakhra bukham	
fold (n.)	nda ngul	
folding of anus	kur bukh a wuru	
	mur bukh a takh kabam	
	kur bukh a daŋ bali	
follagge	mbugkhgi ngun	
follow	tikhi; kya tikhi	
	bwol njere	
followers	ba tikhi	
fond, be fond of	yer dā	
fondling, act of	mom bukh	
	mom ban	
food	gili	
fool, foolish trifler	ba limbi	
	balkun mi ya wuni ba limbi foolish talking	
foolish	awena	
foot	zoŋ	
foot man	ba bwol kuni ngure pul	
foot rings (for dancing)	kema	
footprint	ba zoŋ	
footstool	gi tikhi zoŋ	
for	tebe	
	teb muri	
	(= because)	
forbid	daŋ daŋa	
	gila	

force	mur	
ford	ba bukho	
	bukho (v.)	
fore noon	bukh kara	ki nyingle makaranta bo bukh kara kpai se misa teli
forearm	bukhi	
	kabi	
	garibugh	
forefathers	tirisum	
forefinger	nyali bukh mi kpa tikhi	
	mi seren	
forehead	kudua	
foreign	gye a wun	
	gye ya sum	
foreign speech	kun a wun	
	kun a sum	
foresight	kyikha	
foreskin	lara n ton	
forever, ceaselessly	ba teshi bila	
	kuni kuni	tela yira yu aba magh bi sum kun kuni kuni
forgive	wub bukh	
former times, in	bara bara	
fowl	ngubu	
fox	berum	
fracture	sakhri ni sakha	
fragment	bwone	
	gya kyukhe	
fragment of broken pot	kakhle kumbu	
fraud, deceit	doko ban	
frenzy	lala	
	limbi	
fresh	piwe	
Friday	Jumma'a (H.)	
fried	kanj na kaja	
friend	la	lam my friend
fright	wubo	banj wubo
fringe	ngwia kuni	
	nguru kuni	
	zane	
fro, going to and	ga	
frog	dolokh	
from	a	a mi from within; a pasi from afar
	bukh bili	
front	dua musi	

front; in front	a dua	lula a dua go in front; a due in front of
front, to front	pili musu	
frontier	teshe	
froth	fäfä	fäfä pur a kuni froth at the mouth
frown	kur musu	
	lul musu	
fruit	bili ngun	
fry (with fat or oil)	karja	
fuel	ba; banja	
Fulfulde language	kuni kulata	
Fulah	kulata	
fulfil	lumsi	
fulfil a promise	lumsi kurteb	
full	lumse	
full to the brim	lumse gbal	
fungus on ant hill	gi muri gyangyanj	
fungus on tree	bugle dolokh	
funnel	gi sob gi	
furrow in fields	kyala mul	
further, move distant	yakhli na ni pasi	
future	dungu	
gadfly	sefu	
gag	gi panja; panja gi	panj mbonjam gags me
gag between teeth	nvolanj	
gain	gi muri (n.)	
	kum gi muri (v.)	
gain a victory	ŋar la	
gall	lule	
gallop	mere	
gamble	pakh lua sasa	
gambler	ba ta mondulonj	
	ba kwokh n takh	
	ba lua nzugu	
gambling	ta mondulonj	
	kwokh n takh	
	lua nzugu	
game	ten musu (? len musu)	
	nyeme mi bono	
	num muru	
game of chance	caca (H.)	
gap between mats	sokhe kwana	
gape	ŋa nge kun	
	nge kun (n.)	
garden	foa	ba muri foa gardener

gargling	gakh	gakh takh mboŋ	gargling throat
garment, old	soba mi yakha ni		
	yakha ni soba		
garner, place for storing	bakha		
grains			
garnish	bakhra		
gasp for breath	ŋawe räb räb		
gasping in surprise	lokha lëk		
gate	kunda		
	njekunda		
gather	rama		
	rame bun (n.)		
gaze (n.)	gaba		
gaze at	par musu		
gazelle (gen.)	ngairja		
genitive particle	ye; -e		
gently	kadaŋ kadaŋ (H.)		
genuine money	nyiŋli mondulon		
	kire mondulon		
Germany	Jamus (H.)		
gesture	bwa n fim		
expressing disapproval	zhikhri muru		
	mora kuno		
get	kum		
get out	kyeni		
ghost	limbi ba lo		
giant	gyolon; ngyolon		
giddiness	kaŋa musu		
gift	kunŋu		
	gi makh kun		
gimlet	boni		
	gi wuti gi		
	nyeŋe wuti gi		(needle-like, to perforate calabash to mend it)
ginger	sibi		
giraffe	pyelum (mi bono)		
gird (v.)	kur		
girdle	gi foa		
girl	ba ma		
girth	gi gakhi pul		
give, bestow, confer	ŋa	ba na gi	giver
gizzard	tali gi		
glad, be	pakh nunŋe bali		
	pakh zhekhere		
gladden (v.)	ŋa zhekhere		
gladness	pahk bala		
glass	gi gab musu		

glean	bwom	
gleanings	bwom nzum misa (K.)	
glove	nzum kakhli	
glue	kura bukh	
gluttonous	myenj	
gnash	toro	ba toro glutton
gnaw	sakh minu	
go (to)	num minu	
go at night	kakha	
go before	kyene	
go forth	kyeni dugu	
go on with what you are doing	luta dua	
go to meet	puro	
go with a person	nonji pakha	
goat	kasi kuni ban	
God	kya takh wuro	
God fearing person	mbilim	
gold	Yamba	
good	ba bañ Yamba	
goods	nyeñe bañna	
goose	nyeñe gosokh	
gore (n.)	manã; ma	gi mi manã s.th. good
gore (v.)	gi bora	
gorgeous	shañme	gi mi shañme s.th. good
gospels, the	luruk	
gossip	myekhal	
gourd	kila	
gourd long necked	sokh ban	
gourd sp., water vessel	ba manañ	
gourd sp., (a measure)	soba bala	(= gorgeous robe)
gourd sp., oil gourd	bawuri mi manañ	
govern	balkun	
gown, robe	kumbu	
grace	kumbu tã	
grain	mbasagh gubra	
grand, important	mbosokh	
	mun kumul (kunmul)	
	gou muru	
	noj talla a muri	ba noj talla a muri governor
	soba	
	gi manan	i pakh bi sum manañ he showed grace to us
	nyinli gi	
	nin gi	
	(ba) gula	ninj nzali

granddaughter	kaka ma; kakha ma	
grandfather	kakha; kaka	
grandmother	kakha; kaka	
grandson	kaka bira; kakha bira	
grapes	anab	
grasp	wum	wum ban grasping with arms
grasping, greedy	bwol	
grass	li ban	ba li ban
grass sp.	bono	
	bono binaj	(swamp grass)
	kasi	(used to make boys arrows)
	kauwa	(white roofing grass)
	labakh	(for weaving grass baskets)
	läkhä	(grass with red top)
	mambal	(grass with red top)
	metil	
	mukha	(used to make boys arrows)
	ndeshi	(used in making mats)
	pwole bono	(green)
	sönsöñ	(like flag grass (small))
grass sp.	wanañ	(tall wide grass)
	wumo	(red roofing grass)
	yokha	(sharp-edged grass)
grasshopper	ndon; ndounj	
grass hut	nda	
	la ma mokha	
grass shelter	pekhe	
gratitude	kyikha	
gratuitous	ka mana	
grave (tomb)	mur kila	
gravel	gashe	
gravel, small stone	gashi	
grease	muru	
great	gula	
	buna	(in number)
greater	mi yakha ni gulo	
greatness	gulo	
greed	toro	
greedy	ya kham wo toro	
greedy of meat	wo dalaghe	
green	mbukhu bukhu	
greet	makh kun	makh kun a bukh
grey	noñ bukhu	
grief	sugi bali	
grimace	dunjsu kun	
grind	gwokh	

grind thoroughly	mar nzumi gi	
	bar nzumi gi	
gripe	pili bum	tebi mi bum
gristle (n.)	kibi	
groan, grunt (of pig)	gim gime	
groom	wori; woli	
	bira gwokh	
groe	mom bukh	
ground	nzali	
groundnut	nzugu	
grouse	na nyangylon	
grow	gula	gul gula
grow fat	pakha nene	
growl	nyire	
gruel	mutgitaba	
gruel of misa	mul getöbökh	
grumble	na nyangyulon	
guard, heed, care for	yel	ba yeli
guest	birum	
guide	ba mam njere	
	ba ta musi njere	
guile (n.)	nyengi	
guilt	suggi; sug teb	
guinea corn; sorghum	misa	
guinea-corn sp.	ba mul	(liga nzumda) very red
	bakhra	(liga nzumda)
	karuwa	(red and white)
	menaŋ	
	misa jibu	(roast it like new corn)
	misa muru	(dark husk)
	misa pubna	(white)
guinea-fowl	ganya	
guinea-fowl, cry of	chukan̄ chukan̄	
guinea-worm	loie	
guitar	molo (H.)	
gullet	mbor̄	
gully	dun̄ ban	
	voi ban	
gums of mouth	girigum; girgum	
gun	gi bisa	
gush out (v.)	puro	
habit (n.)	gi wuru (gi kaka)	
habitation	ba dobä	
habituated, be	shakhe wuru	
	shakhe kun	

hail	gashe mbulo; gashi mbulo	
hair	nyoŋ	nyoŋ muru hair on head; nyoŋ wuru hair on body; nyoŋ kun beard
hair dressing stick	gi par muru	
hairdresser	ba pagh muru	
	ba par muru	
hall, entrance	lakam	
	tako	
halt between two opinions	bali bari	
halt for night	tuso	
halt, lame (intr.)	gête	
halt, stand	tela	
halter	ngure pul	
halting place	ba tuso	
halve (v.)	gab	gab a talakiri
hamlet	kabla	
hammer	doli; ndoli; ndori	
hammock	kanu	(made of bamboo)
	laga	
hand	bukh	bukh li right hand
	bukh mesu	(= left hand); ba mesu lefthanded
handkerchief	gi muru	(for womens hair)
handle	gi bwol gi	
	bukh	
handle of axe	muri mbyu	
handle, touch	tuke	
	pakh bukh	
hang down	gira	
happen	gi pakhi	man pakha re what has happened?
happen, come to pass	gi paghe	
happiness (satisfaction)	nungu na	
	nungu bali	
	wuru nungu	
happy, feel	pakha bala	
hard	jena	
	kwana	(= difficult of accomplishment)
hard-headed	ba nüme muru (B.)	
harden	lokha ten	
hardness of heard	teni bali	
hare	sugri	
harlot	ba ga gwokhe la	
harmattan	guŋ	
harmattan, fog	gurok; gurakh	

hartebeest	kwörön	
harvest (n.)	kasi gi	
harvest, cut down	kwora	
haste (n.)	dakha	gyen ni dakha go in haste; pakh dakha make haste
hasten	kyen yon yon	
hastily	diri diri	
hat	gata	
hatch (v.)	sakha	
hatchet	mun mbyu	muri mbyu handle of
haughtiness	wonj bali	
	gule bali	
have	yä kham	
haversack	luruk	
hawk	këlë	
he	yi	
he-goat	lunj	
head	muru	wusu muru ni wusu hang the head
headache	ŋara muru	
headdress (for men)	baŋka muru	
headdress (for women)	bwol ku muru	
headlong, fall	kpa ni muru	
headman	ba pyeni a muri tola	
heal	bili	bile healed
healed	kure pyanje kpe	
heap	timi	
heap of branches	kere ngun	
heap up	lam muri	lam nzali heap up earth
	kama (? rama)	
hear	wokh	
heart	zumbule	
heat	wokha na	
	subi	
heat of sun	yele misa	
heave a sight	makh bali	
heaven	boronj	
heaven	la lo	(= the afterworld, heaven – hell)
hedgehog	jibri	
heed what is said	gaŋ kiri	
heed, take	tikh kyikha a wuri	
heel	ndugada giri	
heifer (f. or m.)	lokhe ndakha	
heir	ba kurandi mamburu	
held	bwol	
hell	ba-bisa	
help	yakh kuni	ba yakh kuni helper

hem	gwäm kuni	
	tum kuni	
hen	ngubu ma (/bama)	
	nda ngubu	(= crop)
henna	gi banj bukh	
herb	mbukhe	
herd n.)	tendëli; tendëri	
herdsman	ba dur ndakha	
	ba kwokh kuni	
	ba li ndakha	
here	a bandi	a shakhlo njere kasi bandi do you know the way from here
	a niri	(= right here)
	ana	
here to fore	kpai mela ri	
heron	gar; gal	
hide (intr.)	leta	ba leta hiding-place lata be hid
hide (n.)	lara	
hiding-place	ba leta	
higgle	tentakiri	
high	gi mi sab na	(= in the highest)
	= abe yakhle bo	
hill	mun kwana	
	ba-yeb na	
hinder	daŋ	
	nya nzumi (adj.)	
hipbone	mumu bunu	
hippopotamus	ndurnye	
	jib jib (?)	
hiss (v.)	pakha lulu	
hit	kwöb ni kwöba	
hither	bandi	
ho (interjection)	Bo [bo?]	
hoard	lam muri	
	lopi muri gi	
hobble	gi bwol zonji pul	
hoe (v.)	liga	
hoe (gen.)	sörö	
hog	timbilim	
hoist (v.)	lokhsa boronj	
hold (s.th.); hold back	bwol	bwola yi lay hold on
hold a door	tikh gi a jekunda	
hold at arm's length	nandi bukh kpai	
hold the breath	a tola kyikha a wuru	

hole	kila	
	wuti	
	tari	(= hole in cloth)
homage	nan gullo	
home	la	
	a migi	(= at home)
honest	ni kuli	
honest man, an	ba matebmissa	
honey	nyi	
honey comb	karige nyi	
	karakhe nyi; kalakhe nyi	
honour	bonjsi (n.)	
	bonjsi yi (v.)	
hook	ngalo	
hook on	giri	
hop	gête; gête ni gête	
horn	njeme	
horn (instrument), trumpet	njeme takh	
horned	ya kham wo njeme	
hornet	desum boli; desum bori	desum boli/bori nzumo black sp.; desum bori kwöröm = desum boli kwölöm red sp.
	desum boli/bori ngi	
horse	pul	pul bama female horse; mun pul colt
horse radish tree	makam; makham;	
	mankam	
horseback	a muri pul	
hospitality, show	pakh manaj bi mbirum	
host	ba tuso	
hot	ban bisa	mul bisa hot water
hot	misa lule	misa ban nzali it is hot
hot tempered	ba lulu	
	ba sanj ban	
hour	sa'a (H.)	
house	la	i ya mi la he is in the house
house fly	ngi väm	
householder	bwami la	
	bwami muri la	(= head of house)
hovering (of bird)	bera muri	
how		a shakhli le len how do you know; da pakh pakh ma len how are you going to manage dimin ki ramali how long will it be before you are finished
how long	bukh mi dimin	
	kpai dimin	

how many	shiga	
however	kira pakha len	
howl	ko le len	
	bwakun	
	zola (? zoea)	
huckster (retailer)	ga kuro	
	ba kuro gi	
hum (n.)	bwa	
humble person	ba gulu muru ba	ba gulu muru wuru ba
	ba bwom gulo ba	
hump	poi	
humpbacked	kwöbö	
hunch (of a cow)	poi	
hunchback	kwöbö	
hunger	nzala	ya wo nzala; nzala bwoli to suffer hunger; nzala nyinli bali
hunt	kyा ga	
hunt, chase (n.)	ga	
	para (K.)	
hunter	ba ga	
hurry	pili wuri	
	kyen kyeni yon yon	
hurry (v.)	ni dakha	kyen ni dakha be in hurry; pakh ni dacha he is in a hurry
hurt (v.)	kwana	
husband	nyimi	
husk (n.)	kpa	(of guinea corn)
	mbule	(of corn)
husk (v.)	sonlı	(guinea corn)
	sani	(corn)
hut	nda	
	la ma mokha	
hyena	nyi (B.)	
	deba (K.)	
hypocrisy	leb kun	ba pakh teb kun a hypocrite
hyrax	kubo ngun	
idiot	ba tum	
idle	dob kamana	ba dob kamana idle person
	pakh gi ba	
if	bo	
ignorant	bori ba shakhli	ba bori shakhli ignorant person
ignorant	bila kham wo shakhli	
iguana	babar	

ill	kwanä	pakh kwanä to be sick; yi ya wo kwanä (= misfortune, loss)
ill	tor bib	(= bad)
illegitimate child	mun tola a la mun bila la	
illiberal (stingy)	bukhi tena	
illiberal person	ba bibi	
	ba ḡa gi ba	
illicit	gila	danji ni gila
illuminate	te ban	ban tari breaking of day
image (likeness)	pulu wuru	ngun polo graven image, idol
imagination	kiri pakh tan	
imagine	kiri wokh ban	
imbibe (absorb)	wokh ban	
imitate	kangi kuni (B.) mangi kuni (K.)	
immediately	danj danj di	
immediately	kabri; kabli	
	danj danj	
immerse	mur kham (ka wubo)	
immerse, souse	lip	
immigrant	ba ga giri	
impasse	bwoli	
	giri	njere giri the end of the road
	kalaŋ (n.)	
impatient person	ba bore dakha	I bila wo bore dakha
impede	danji	mul nar danji njere (an overgrown road)
impediment	njere giri	
	gi danji	
	bambebe	(= one with impediment in speech)
impertinence	kyal	ba nkyal
(meddlesome)	pärpär	ba pärpär
	kanjla musu	ba kanjla musu
important	gula	teb mi gula important business
impossible, be	wawu ba	
improper	nungu ba	
	na yi danj ba	
improve	bakhra	
improve in health	wuri basi	
	mom teni	
improve in health	pwola	
impurity of water	mul pökhli	
in ability	shirjde	
in as much	noj kuni mi	
in order that	tebe	

in; at	a mi	a bandi in this place; a boron in the sky
incantation	doko ban	
incense	gi mi teni nunju ba	
incessant	kuni kuni	
	noŋ na	
incomplete	mal ba	
	teli	
increase (intr.)	yi ra gula	
incredulity (interjections)	bo!	
	a git!	
incurable	kwana mi ya mal ba	
indebted to	tanŋma yo ya kham a	
	muram	
indecent	bila wo banja wuru	
indeed	ni kuli	
indemnify	moa kuni	
indicate	ta bukha	
indifference	ba sug ni	
	ba lala	
indigo	karma	(used among old man)
	shuni (H.)	
indistinct (v.)	ya na limbi limbi	
industrious	ba poro	
infant	gyana	
	mun gyana	
infidel	ba bore matebmisa	
	arne (H.)	
infirmity	ba pöbö	
inflict	gbwal	
	bugo	
inflict in punishment	lakha na	
influence (authority)	bwamuri	
inform (v.)	yu ni bawuri	ba yu ni bawuri
	ba na teb	
information	bawuri	
ingrate (n.)	ba boŋsi ban ba	
inhabitant	ba doba	
inherit	li gi mbru aslo kwandi	
inheritance	kwandö mambru	
	gi mbru	ba li gi mbru inheritor
injure, damage	sugi	
inn	ba tuso	ba tuso innkeeper
innocent	sugi bila	
innumerable	yakhli bali	

inquire	yukhli kuni	yukhli kuni ban
insane	yukhli tup	
insect sp., small stink bug	ba limbi	
inside	kunja	kunja mi wuti tomtom
insight	mi; a mimi	mi gi in the house
insipid	bwol teb a bali	
insolence	nunju ba	
inspire	pakh teb ni tena wuru	
instance, example	ηawē	
instantly	mama	
instead of	daŋ daŋ di	
instruct	nar kuni	
instrument, musical	mama	
insufficient, be	gi toŋa	
integrity, honesty	mam ba	
intelligence	mateb kuli	
	kyikha	ya wo kyikha
	mi bum	
intend	na la Bo [bo] ni kyen	
	kyeni	
intention, purpose	teb ya musu	
intentionally	nyeshan̄	
intercede	ton̄	ba ton̄ musu
intercession	gab mono	
interest	ku zoŋ	(on money)
	gi a muri	
interfere	pörpör	bamun pakh pörpör interfere with what does not concern one
	mur kuni	
	kyäl	
interloper	nyinle gye ni musi	
intermarry	kyakha wuru	
intermingle	kera a muru wuru	
interpret	pili tup	ba pili tup
interrupt	kwokh bini teb	
	bal teb a kun	
intersection	gamsa njere	(division in a road)
intertwine	dab a wuri	
	kar a wuri	
intervals, at	luto luto	
intestines	toro	
	bomgule	
into	a mi	I kpe a mi mul he fell into the water
intoxicant	kari	kari gbwali yi intoxicated
introduction (letter of)	takarda poro	
invalid	ba kulo	

invent	bakhra
investigate	ba pyeni
invisibility	ba wokha shiga musu shiga a mi limba limba sukhle
invocation	tonja
invoke	tonj
invulnerable	mun mi lamna
iron (metal)	nyene
irregular	sobna wo ketum sobna wo patum
irrigate	nal njere mul
irritated	teri bali lule bali
is (subst.)	ya; ni
island	dereban
isolate (v.)	tikhi ni musi
itch	guta
itch (v.)	wakha
itching sore on toes	babibna
ivory	mini nzugu
jackal	mbari
jail; prison	nda ngosokh ba yel kunda prison
jam (v.)	peke; pekye
jar (n.)	kwalaba (H.)
jaw	njanjan
jaw; jaw bones	gakhlum
jealous, be	pakh puhum
jealousy	puhum
jeer at	wala
Jerusalem	Urushalima
Jesus	Yesu
jet-black	ba pin na pin nekhe nekhe
Jew	Ba-Yahude
jog (of donkey)	saba
join	lopa; lopa muri
joint	wanjse
jostle	pekye wuru sokh wuru

journey	kyenu	
joy	nunȝe bali	pakh nunȝe bali rejoice; gi nunȝe bali a cause for joy
judge (n.)	ba-bal muri kpani ba-bal kpani ba-gbwal muri teb	
judge; pass a sentence	bal kpani	
jug	talaŋ	
juggling	doki baŋ	
juicy	murikhe	
juju house	nda ba sali	(enclosure and hut)
jujube tree	nvoi ye ȝangum	
jump	ta tum	ta langale mudo jump over (of fish)
jumping	ta tel, ta tel	
just (adj.)	matebkuli	
justice	kpani	
justified	ba-bou suge	
justify, declare in the right	na matebkuli	ŋa ki matebkuli he was justified
jute, bastard	zaŋ iyo	
jute; sour sour	zaŋ bele	
kapok	lugulukh	
kapok (silk cotton)	lug lug	
keen, intelligent	ba ya wo kyikha	
keen, sharp edged	teb na	
keep (n.)	bwol	
keep a promise	bwol teb	
keep on doing a thing	noŋ na pakha	
kernel	nyinle	
kettle	ngwori nyene	
key	julde nyene	
	makbli	
	gi wub junda	
kick (n.)	ta ni zoŋ	
kid	mun mbilim	
kidney	domdomi	
kill	gbwal	ba-gbwal bau one who kills
kind (n.)	bele	
kindle	peb bisa	
kindness	mi manar	pakh gi mi manar do an act of kindness; a pakha bam manar they did me an act of kindness
kindness, act of	kungu	

kindred	bele	
	kabla	
	ba nyimbi	
king	talla	
king, deposed	yakh ni talla	
	talla mi dua	
kingdom	murinzali	
	la talla	
kitchen	nda kañalañ	
kite, black kite	kele	
knead	yokha bukham	
knee	kuluñ	sakhi ni kuluñ pushing with knee
kneel down	wuso	
knickerbockers	mun shila	
knife	bau	bau kuni mokha one edge; bau kuni bari two edge; bau bukh wrist knife; muri bau handle of knife
knock with back of hand	kwatä	
knock with palm of hand	mata	
knock, strike	gbwala	
knot	kpasi gi	
know (s.th.)	shakle	
	na bawuri	(= make known)
knuckle	woñsi nyala bukh	
kolanut	goro (H.)	
Koran	litafe (H.)	
labour (v.)	pakh poro	ba-poro labourer
lack	bora	a ya kham wo bori mondulon they lack money; ba bori kyikha one without (/lacking) sense
lad	bamun	
ladder	ngun bakha	
laden (participial adj.)	tin na	
ladle	adon	(half gourd with handle)
lair	kyuna	
	kila	
lake (pond)	talakh	
lamb	mun ngul	
lame	kulo	ba-kulo person with useless legs (= be lame)
lame person	pakh kulo (v.)	
lament	ba-gete	
	bwakun	

lamp	pitila (H.)	ngure pitila lamp wick; i mösi pitila he lit the lamp; si pakh poro wo n pitila working by light
lance	kwoŋa	
land	nzali	
landing place	ba tuso	
landlord	ba muri nzali	
landslip	gëse nzali	
language, speech	bal kun; kun	
lapwing	lopa mbaskarbi	
large	gula	
larynx	mborŋ	
later in the day, late in afternoon	bela	
laugh at, deride	wal; wal ban	yi ri wal yo
law	attaurat (H.)	(the books of the law in O.T.)
lazy	ndokham (n.)	ba-ndokham one who is lazy
lead, conduct	kyeni	kyen bamun a la
leader	ba-dua	ba-kpa dua lua leader of a fight
leaf (gen.)	mbukhgí	
leaning head on hand	bwol bukha kyëkha	
leave (off)	ninje	
left side	bukh mesu	ba mesu lefthanded
lemon	lemu	
leopard	mimburum	
leprosy	dakali	ba-dakali leper
less	nyiti	yiniŋ nyiti bari 4 less 2
	bila	suli kobo bila 1 shilling less a penny
lest, in order that	tebe ... da	m kyen ba tebe da bwol minam; pagha manaj tebe da sugi lest it spoil; tebe da kpa lest it fall
letter	wasika (H.)	
	takarda (H.)	
light	tebam	
light (a lamp, torch) (v.)	mose (pitila, lusu)	
light a fire	peb bisa	
like	noŋ kuni	mindi ni noŋ kuni mudo this is like that
	wuni	
lilac	kurnan nasare (H.)	
lime	lemu (H.)	
line, form a	tanj ni tanje	
line, in a	a tanji	
lion	nyim	

listen, give attention	ga kiri	
little	gul ba	
	shindonj	mera shindonj wait a little
live, living	i ya ni mushi	
lizard (gen.)	mbabri	
lizard (sp.)	ambule	(small shiny)
loan	tanjma	
loan, make a	ŋa tanjma	
lock, padlock	kwado (H.)	
	kubli (H.)	
lodge, to	tuso	ba tusu lodging place
log of wood	gereneŋ ngun	
look at	ka gaba	
	a sun do	(= look at this!)
look attentively	gab manã	
Lord	bwa mi muri	
Lord (Christ)	Ubangiji (H.)	
lose the way, deviate	lugu ban	
maize	mikim	
male	babira	
Mallam	mallam (H.)	
man	babira	
mango	mangoro	
mankind	bamburum	
manure (n.)	kibi	
many	buna	
	shiga re	(= how many?)
mare	pul mima	
market	kasuwa (H.)	sasikin kasuwa president of the market
marvel, wonder	mamaki (H.)	
master	bwamimuri	
	ubangiji	
mat used at door	kala gir kunda	
match(es)	ashana (H.)	kwor ashana strike a match
mattress (cloth)	katifa (H.)	
meaning	nyinle	(of word)
	aghini	(of a matter)
meat	nyeme	
medicine	bwori; bwoli	
Mediterranean Sea	bahar Ilmal (H.)	
meek person	ba-gule muru ye ba	
	ba-gule muri wuri ba	
meet	ŋar muru	
meeting	taruwa (H.)	

melon	ghiri (?)	
Messiah	almasihu (H.)	
midday	tele misa; misa tele	
middle	tala kiri	
midnight	tala kiri dugu	
	kiri dugu	
might	iko (H.)	ba-iko a mighty one
milk (v.)	kam mul kyuba	
milk	mul kyuba	
	madara (H.)	
mirror	madubi (H.)	
miss fire (of gun)	lige	
 Mohammed	Muhammadu,	
	Muhammad, Ahamadu,	
	Ahamadu, Dan Amina	
Monday	Litini (H.)	
money	mondulon	
morning, early	ni bari	
	sakhani sakha	(= 4 - 5 a.m.)
	palaŋ	(= 8 a.m.)
morrow; tomorrow	libi	se libi till tomorrow
mosquito	mbukhu	
mother	ngye	ngyam my mother
mouse	mbau	
mouth	kun	a kun at the mouth of; a kun mul at the mouth/edge of the water
 much	wane	
	gula	
	shakh	(= to much food)
mud (in road)	debwä	
mudfish	wakyubira	
muzzle (for goat, donkey)	takunkumi (H.)	
 nail	nyali (bukh/zonj)	
nail (iron)	kusa (H.)	kan kusa to nail
name	lili	lilo ni mande what is your name? lili ni mande what is his name?
 near	a muru wuri tutu	
necessary	dole; doile (F.)	
neck	mel	
needle case	nda nyili	
nerves	yara	
nest	le munyiligi	
net	kyere	

net (any)	lakha
new	piwe
no	o-o
none	bila kham
	gi bila
noon	tele misa
nose	luli
nosebleed	dubduba pula lulu
nostrils	kyala lulu
not	ba
nothing	gi bila; gi bira
nothing but; pure	kire ni -
now	mele
number	lisafi (H.)
occasion	muru bukh
occupation	poro pakha
oil	muru
okra	daŋe
old woman; aunt	langyo
on	a; a muri
onion	eram
openly	a dambaram ban
	a muso misa
opportunity	dama (H.)
ornament (gen.)	gi bala
orphan	mun kyakha
ostrich	jimina (H.)
outside	anza; anzum
over there	a dodo
owl	nyi
owner	bwamimuri
owner of a farm	bwa foa
ox	ndakha bira
oyster	kwölokhökh
paddle	palau
pagan	arne (H.); pl. asna; arna
pain	kono
painful	kwanna
pair	mabari
palm of hand	bali bukh
palm tree	ngun lebi
palm, wine palm	giginya (H.)
paper	tukuruwa (H.)
	takarda (H.)
	tabaal takarda sheet of

parable	misali (H.)	
pardon	gafara (H.)	
parents	ba-bili	
	nzugu yam	(= my parents)
partner	laporo	
pass (by)	lute	
patience	gbal gbal	
	hankuri; kakuri (H.)	
pawpaw	kapushe (H.)	
pay (for)	moa	moa taŋma pay wages
pay back a loan	moa taŋma	
peace	pwolla bali	
peace, calm	pwola; pwola bali	
peace-maker	ba bwol mi la	
peanut	nzuku	den nzuku peanut butter
peanut-oil	murunzugu	
peddle	ga kuro	
people	ba-buna	
prepare	bakhri	
pepper	shimama	
peradventure	mono mono	
perforce (adv.)	tilas (H.)	
person (homo)	ba-	
perspiration	piban	
pick	wasi	(fruit)
	tu	(leaves)
picture	foto	
pierce	wuti	
pig	timbilim	
pigeon	kutul	
pillow	gi tikh muri	
pincers	ngala	
pipe	gwotanj	
place	bandi	ba-poro place of work ba tuso place of putting down loads
place, at the place	a ba	
place (v.)	tikh	
place where fowls are kept	nda ngubu	
place, give	ŋa ban	
plantain	ayaba (H.)	
planter	ba-bel gi	
play	tikh wola	
	wargi (H.)	
play music	nya	
please	ma minam	(= it pleases me)

please! (if you please!)	na!	
plough	garma (H.)	
pocket	gyibi	
point out	kuni (n.)	
	ta bi	(= point out to him)
point, snap fingers	ta bugh	
pompous, big	ba gule muru	
porch with double entrance	zaure (H.)	
porridge of guinea corn	kwokh	
post-haste	daŋ di; daŋ daŋ di	
posterior (time /space)	anzum	
	kutugi	(of an animal)
pour (in)	sob	(water into dish)
	lumsu bel	(= pour full)
pour out	kutu	(= pour sand, nuts)
	dara	
	kyara	(water on grass)
	misi	(= scatter water)
poverty	tel; ter	
power	iko (H.)	ba-iko powerful one
praise (v.)	ŋa gullo	
pray	ton	
	pakh addu'a	
prayer	addu'a	
preach	pakh wa'azi	
pregnant	bume gulle	i ya wo bume she is with stomach (= she is carrying a baby)
present	i tola mun	
press	kyauta (H.)	
press, stamp on	pekyi	
previous	peke	
prison	bobra	
proclaim	nda ngosokh	
procrastinate	kar kun	
produce (young/fruit)	salla	ka salla poro mini kpakpai
produce witness	bile	
profit	na kini kun	
promise	li bau	(= eating people)
proof, evidence	kur teb	
	ta	
	shaida (H.)	
property (goods, riches)	luruk	ba-luruk man of property
protect	lekhe	
provisions for journey	bwom mugu	
prudence	hankali (H.)	
Psalms	Zabura (H.)	

pumpkin	bogi	
punish	lakh	
punishment	lakh bau	
pupil	ba-makaranta	
pupil of eye	ba-tikh tikhi	(= followers)
pure/clean one	nyin musi	
put	ba-fana	
put to flight	tikh	
	tikh wubo	
puzzle	ŋa wubo	
	dab	i dab minam it puzzles me
	dame	dama yo re does it puzzle you?
python	yokha ngun	
quarrel (v.)	fen	
quarter	rubu'i (H.)	
quench (put out a fire)	lim (biza)	
question	gi yugli kuni bau	
quick	yon	
quickly	kaŋli	
quickly, not long in progress	yon	
quiet	more	(= cessation from speech or cries)
quiet, be	zhu	
quite (in truth)	ni kuli	
quiver	basagh ntau	
	mbosagh ntau	
rabble, mob, low class of men	ba-nashiri	
race	baŋ mere takh wuru	
rag	dansangi	
rain	mbulo	mbula na it rained
	mbulo ya kuto	(gentle rain, east rain)
	mbulo daran	(rain from the west, coming in Aug. or Sept.)
	mbone	(= the rain stopped)
rainbow	bongo bongo	
raise	lokhsı	
ram	gam	
ramble	ga giri	
ravine with water in it	kyala mul	
raw, uncooked	mbishiñe	
razor	kyam	
reach	nandi	(= extend a hand)
	tu	(= arrive at)

reach	shin da	
read	kyeb da	(= not to be sufficient)
ready	bala	
reality	ya ni bakhsı	(= it is prepared)
	matekuli	ko ni tan ko matekuli n shakhli ba if this is reality or falsehood I don't know
		(= it is really so)
reason	ni yi ni kuli	(= for this reason)
recall	ni teb nindi	(= I recalled it)
receive	i kpe balam	
receptacle	yakh	
	nda	nda ashana match box; nda bau knife sheath; nda ngosokh prison; nda nonja bedroom
recognise	wokh	
	gab	
reconcile	numlo	
red	bañna	ba-bañna white (/red) person
refrain from, don't do	ba ... da	da na tau ba don't speak a lie; da wola ba don't laugh
refuse	mini	i mini gili he refused food; n minam gili I refused food
refuse, decline	mbiya; mbiwa (K.)	kpal mbiya refuse to give; m kpal yo ni biya I refused to give to you
reign as a chief	nor talla	
rejoinder, answer	amsa (H.)	
rekindle	bakhri kuna bisa	
relatives, connections	nyimbi	
	keni	
religion	addini (H.)	adinin gaskiya (H.) true religion
remainder, rest	tikhi	
remains of food	tikhi lige	
	ninj tikhi	
remote (distant in place)	pasi	
remote (distant in time)	yanj	
	dungu	(future)
	bara bara	(past)
render, translate	pili teb	
repent	sob nzali	
resemble	puli; puri	i puli tiri he resembles his father; mun di puri tiri the baby resembles his father
return	foa	
rice	kaba	

rich (person)	ba-kpara	
	ba-luruk	
ride	kwokh pul	ba-kokh pul rider
ridge (n.)	magongong	
right!	yake yi;ya yi	
	daidai!	ya na daidai
right, proper	manan̄	
right side	bukh li	
rinse out	kyoba	
rise, rise up	lokh	i lokhe a boron̄ he rose up into the sky
	yeb	
road	njere	i ya a njere he is on the road; a shakhlo njere mindi re? do you know this road?; njere mi woŋ na a wide road
roan	boŋa	
roar (of a lion) (n.)	nyire	
roast	tona	
	bissa	
roast (without fat)	ton	ton nyeme
rob	yib	
robe	sobo	makh sobo put on a robe
rock	tali	
rock salt	kaŋwa (H.)	
roll	gunduro	
	kar	(= fold round on itself)
roll into balls	lal	(as building clay)
roof	muri nda	
room	nda	nda noŋa sleeping room
room, chamber	mi gi	
	mi la	
rooster	ngubu gwō	
roots used for medicine	maro	
rope (gen.)	nguri	
rot, go bad	rume	
row (a boat)	kwokh waru	
row, form a	tanja	
	lare tali	
rub	bikhe	
rub off	moru lara	(= rub hair off a hide, skin)
rubber	myen̄	
	daŋko (H.)	
rug	gi ba nzali	(= thing to throw on the ground)
ruin (of a building)	duri	(= to fall as a house)
run	baŋ mere	ba baŋ mere; ba mere

rust	pepe	
Sabbath	misa ḥa wuro misa ḥa gane Lahadi (H.)	
sack	luruk	
sacred grove with juju house	lam ma sali	
saddle	sirdi (H.)	
Sahara	Hamada (H.)	
salt	mukha	bila wo mukha saltless
saltpetre	kanwa (H.)	
salutation	makh kun	n makh bi kun I saluted him
salvation	sanu, salam (H.)	
same	sorban	
	ya dom mokha	(= they are the same)
	ni yi	(= it is he (the same))
	a ya takh wuru	(= together at the same time or place)
sand	nzali	
sand bur	bana bana	
sand fly	nyem	
sandal	kura	
Satan	sheitan (H.)	
satisfactory	ni yi	
satisfied	i dimi	(= he is satisfied)
Saturday	Asabar (H.)	
save	pur	ba-pure deliverer
save (of money)	tikh ni tikhi	
save, rescue	sor	
saw	zarto (H.)	
say: "..."	na	a na ma len what did you say; i na ma len de what did he say; i na bi ya I said to them; na sa say it again (= weighing apparatus)
scales	gi maki gi	
scatter (intr.)	misi	
scent, sweet odour	teni	
scheme	wayo; wayau (H.)	
scholar (teacher)	malam (H.)	
school	ba balgi	
scissors	makaranta (H.)	
scorpion	almakashi (H.)	
scrape	gyanja	
scrape, clean teeth	kwoma	
scratch	kwona	
	zare	

scribe	nyonlegi	
sea	ngye mul	
search	bwom	
seasons (gen.)	muru bukh	(= usual, proper time)
seat	ba doba	
see	gab	ka gaba! look at that! n gabam yi I saw her; i gabe yis he saw him
	pyene	
seed	nying bele	(of plants)
	bele; bale	(of man and creatures)
seek	bwom	
seize, snatch	voari	
selfishness	yer muru	
sell	kur	
send (s.o. to do s.th.)	tum	ba-tumo one sent; ba-tume Yamba; ba-tume Yesu
send away, discharge	kwogh	
sense	kyikhe	
	hankali (H.)	
sense, meaning	nyinli	
	aghini	
sensible	kyikhe yakham	(= he is sensible)
sentinel, sentry	ba-yele	(= one who waits)
separate (adj.)	kem	kem wo muku different/separate from that
	gab mi	
serious	nge teb	(= the matter has become serious)
sermon	wa'azi (H.)	
set of the sun	misa sugli	
	kya ku tali	(= go to the edge of the rock)
set, place	tikh	
seventh	mi tisabari	(= one seventh)
	subu'i (H.)	
sew	sol	
shade	mbyu	
	takh ngun	
shadow	limlim	
shake	makh	makh bukh shake hands
shame	bange wuru	
sharp	teb	
sharpen	bal kuni	(blade of knife)
	sheti kuni	(end of pencil)
shave	moa	
shea-nut	kpangali	
sheath	nda	nda bau sheath of knife

shed	pekhe	
	takh mbiu	
	rumpa (H.)	
sheep	nzur	
sheet of paper	taba'al takarda	
shell (peel)	gi	gye nzugu peanut shell; gye ngubu egg shell
shell peanuts (v.)	foa nzugu	
shepherd	ba-kwokh kuni nzur	
shield	lonjō	
shin (bone)	gekhlum	
shine (beam)	ta	
shirt	sobo	sobo ye = sobe his shirt
shiver, tremble, shudder	BoBe [bobe?] wuru	
shoe	kura	mur kura put on shoes
shoot	ta	ta gi shooting
short (of stick)	sab ba	ba-kyeb na short person
short of time	yan ba	
	yonj	
short, come ~	i kyebi	(= not enough)
	i shinjda	
shout	ŋar ban (n.)	
shrink (from cold)	kara	
shrive, contract	sunji	I sunji kun
shut; close	gir	gir kunda shut the door
sick person	ba-kwano	
sickness, complaint	kwana	
side	gakhe	(of body)
	kuni	(of river)
sieve for flour	gwassa	
sift	kwöse gi	
sight	gab ban	i kune gab ban he found sight; ba gab ya munjunaj the sight of them (to see them) is good
silence	dob zhiu	
	kashi bal kun	(= silence (/cease) the talking)
silent	more	i more kuni he was silent
silk cotton tree	ngun mumu	
silk cotton tree; red	mumu	
sin	gi bibna	pakh gi bibna commit sin
since, after	anzumi	
since, because	tebe	
sing	tu	tu ngyel sing songs
single	ma mokho	
singly	mokha mokha	
sister; elder ~	nyimbi mi ma	

sit (down)	dob	
size, large in	gula	gule become large in size
skin	lara	
sky	boronj	
slaughter meat	san nyeme	
slave	gure; guro	
sleep	noŋ tulo (v.)	ba noŋ tulo sleeping-place
sleep	tulo	tulo ya musi sleep is in her eyes
sleeping room	nda noŋa	
sling for carrying child on back	kambi	
slippery	shemblu	bandi shembli na the place is slippery
small	gul ba	(= not big)
small quantity	shindonj	
small	mi nyenen	(= which is small)
small clay pot for frying	kyanje	
small tree	mun ngun	
smell	mom	
	wokh	
	lum	
smell	teni	
smoke	yele bisa	
smoke (tobacco)	sur tanj	
smooth the floor	känli	känli ni migi smooth the floor
snail	ngala	
snail shell	ntö	
snake (gen.)	yokha	
snake charmer	ba magha yogha	
sneeze	bwa ashi	
	ashi (n.)	
soap	toka	(traditional)
	sabulu (H.)	
soft, not hard	ten ba	
soil	nzali	
sole of foot	balë zonj	
some	pide	
	bikyanj	
some time	misa mokha	
son	mun bira	
song	ngyel	tu ngyel sing a song; teki ngyel compose a song
	kyomi	kyomi shindon
soon	kyoki	
soon	kabri	(= so soon!)
sore	pyeŋe	

sorry, I am ~	balam sug
sort, kind	bele
soul	bali
sound in health	rai (H.)
sound, voice	tena lafiya (H.)
sour, spoiled	gyinji
south	ŋarban
sow (seeds in holes)	(= confused sound)
speak	sug
spear	lugru
spear (v.)	durj
spear for fishing	bele
species	ba-bele sower
speech	bal kun
speech of (dialect	na
speech, to	kwona
spider	tum
spike, iron	moni
spinach, leaves	bele
spirit (gen.)	bal kun; kuni
spirit, evil	kuni Kerum kuni Bambur
spirit	pakh teb
spleen, disease of	lara
split	kusa
split, divide	mbukhgí
spoil	limlim
spoil, ruin	limbi
spoon	ba-limbi person possessed by evil spirit
spread out in sun to dry	pugre; pukhre
sprinkle	tali bum
spy (n.)	saghre
squash with the food	saghri
squat, kneel	sug
squeeze with hands	sugi
stalk (n.)	chokali (H.)
stall	madebi (H.)
stamp (with foot)	(for measuring) ŋasa misi ba-gam la pekyi wusu kama; kamda kakhli aba bere ta

stamp down a floor	dab migi	
	bal	bal wo ngun (with sticks); bal wo bukh (with hands)
stand	tel	tel zhu stand still
standing on head	tum muru	
	tum ni joŋli	
star	debre	
stare	pakh kallo	
steal	yib	yib ngibi
steam-boat	waru biza	
	jirgin wuta (H.)	
stick together	bambi wuri	
stick, pierce	wuti	
sting (bee; ant; scorpion)	ta	
stone	tali	
stop, make/cause to stand still	tele	
stout, fat, thick	nen	(of person)
	dundu	(of things)
stove	madafi	
	murufu (H.)	
straight	sadada	
	sumumu	
straight	yeder; yedel	
	yer	
strain, clarify	suro	
stranger	mbirum	
strike a match	kwor ashana	
strike fire with a flint	kap gwör	
string	nguri	
string instrument	kunan ntau	
strip off bark	kpale	
strive, attempt, try	kangi	
strong	ten	
sty in the eye	musi-ngubu	
suck	nisi	
sugar	kantu	
sugar cane	miza shaghe	
	rake (H.)	
sun	misa	
Sunday	Lahadi; Ladi (H.)	
surpass	yakhla	
surprise	leke ni leke	takarda si leki ya ni leke the letter surprised them
surprise, expressions of	ashe!; awo!	
swallow	mel	

swallow, devour	meli gi	mel kwogh
sweet	ŋunga	ŋunga wane sweetness
swelling, excrescence	mara	
tail	ngile	
tailor	ba-sol gi	
take back	foa ni	
take the road	bwol njere	
take, go with	kyen ni	
take, pick up	tol	
talk	bal kun	bal kun kamana talk nonsense
tall	sab; sabna	
talon, bird's	nyali	
tax	mondulon murinzali	
teach	mam	ba-mam gi
tear (tr.)	tare	
tease	tikh kuni	
tell, inform of	na	
tend, keep	kaŋ	kaŋ ndakha ... tend, watch cattle
tend, watch cattle	kwokh kune	
tender, not tough	dur ndakha	
termite	li ndakha	
termites	lam ba	
testimony	nzakhe	
thank	nyakaye	(small white)
thatch (v.)	gagagaju	(large white)
thatch, grass used for	kini kun	
the	boŋsi	
there	kar la	
these	wumo	kya wum wumo get grass for thatching
thick (fat), heavy	ri; di; ti	
thief	yado; ado	adodo over there
thigh	bandi	
thin	dundu	
thing	ba-ngibi	
think	sasi	
third day	yoan	yoana become thin
thirst	gi	
this	mom bali	
thorn	na na	
those	li mokha bukh bari	
	nzala mul	nzala mul pakhe yi he was thirsty
	mindi	
	nvoe	
	ba do	

thread	yelo	
thread, small string	yilo	
throw (gen.)	wa	i wa tali he threw stones
throw (in wrestling)	ba	i ba yi a nzali he threw him to the ground
throw spear	tum	i tum kwoŋa he threw a spear
thunder	le mbulo	
Thursday	Alhamis (H.)	
tick	kudi	
tie (with rope)	kur	i ya ni kure it is tied (grass in thatching)
tie a knot; knot	kpasi kuni nguri	
Timbuctoo	Tumbutu	
time	muru bukh	
time, at what time	dimin	
times	takh	yiniŋ takh bari 4 times 2
times, as five times	ku tununun	ku shige re how many times?
tin (metal)	kuza (H.)	
tiredness	gan	i gane he was tired
tithe, tenth part	ushuri (H.)	
to	zakka; zaka	(for religious purposes)
tobacco	bi	
	a	
	tan	sun̄ tan̄ smoke tobacco gwo tan̄ tobacco pipe
today	lela	
toe	nyali zoŋ	
together	takh wuru	si kyen takh wuru we went together
toil	poro	
tomb	mur kila	
tomorrow	libi	se libi till tomorrow li bukh bari
tomorrow, day after	li mokha	li mokha bukh bari day after -; li mokha bukh tarum three days hence
tongue	lasa	
too	wur; wurima	
tooth	mini	
top	muri	
tortoise	kuluŋ	
touch	tuki	
trample, e.g. under foot	pekyi; peke	
transgress, commit sin	pakh gi bibna	
translate	pili teb	
travel	kyen kyena	
tremble, quake	bwobe	

trial	kpani	
trom bone	kakaki (H.)	
trouble	wahala (H.)	
trumpet	kafo (H.)	
	kakaki (H.)	
tsetse fly	tsando (H.)	
	aworo	
Tuesday	Talata (H.)	
turn (round)	pili	
turtle dove	kutul	
	kulo	
twice, two times	ku bari	
twin	pasa	
twist	mere	
unclean	pörökh	wuri ya na pörökh; kuni ya na pörökh
uncountable	ba bala bila	
understand	wokh	
	bwol muri	
unfaithful person	ba-gbwal kun	
unless, until	se	se libi until tomorrow; se bala ni kubra until evening; se melari until now
unnatural growth	poi	
unprofitable	ba bore ma	
upon	a muri	
urinate	pakh nzazakh	
urine	nzazakh	
usage, custom	nor na	
	pakh na	
use, utility, advantage, profit	take	take bila kham of no use take ni mande? what is the use of that
useless	kamana	poro kamana useless work
various	kem kem	
veranda	pari ban	
verily	ni kuli	
very	wane	
	dej	
vessel for cooking	ngwori	
victuals	gili	
village	kauye (H.)	
vinegar	mul ḷaṇna	
visitor, guest, stranger	mbirum	

voice	gyin	
wages	gi ku zonj	
wait	mera	mera shindonj; mera da wait a little;
	yel	i yele minam a njere he waited for me on the road
wake up, cease to sleep	lokh a tulo	
walk	kyा	kya nu gunj go in the open (lit: go drink wind)
walk (n.)	ga giri	
walking stick	njere	
wall (of house)	bel a gi; bal a gi	
wanting, lacking	bele	(= woman's walking stick)
	bum nda	
	bore	i bore ba it is not lacking; ba-bore shakhle/kyikhe one who lacks sense
war	lua; lua lua	
ward	kabla; kebla	
ward off	gi ban mbulo	(= thing to ward off rain)
warm (o.s.) up	war biza	
wash (face)	lakh musi	
wash (pots, dishes)	lagh; lag(h) gi	
wash clothes	fagh; fag(h) gi	
wasp	dusumbori	
water	mul	mul biza hot water; mul pwole cool water
water buck	ndul	
water carrying pot	telenj	
water storage pot	mbyekhe	
waterfall	kyala mul	
way, road	njere	
weapons	gi tola lua	
wear (clothes)	makh	makh sobo put on shirt
	mur	mur kura put on shoes
	ta	ta kala weave a mat
weave		
Wednesday	Laraba (H.)	(a week (7 days) from today)
week	kure tisabari	maki dunde measure the weight;
weigh	maki	gi maki gi thing used for weighing
weight	dunde	mom dunde feel the weight of
	dundu	(= heavy)
welcome	yu ma ma	
	maraba (H.)	

well, deep hole	kila	tum kila dig a well; kila mi sabna deep well
well, in good health	tene wuru	i foa la ni tene wuru he returned home in good health
	lafiya (H.)	
west	takh da	
western hartebeest	kwarā	
wet	pwole	
wet season, rainy season	byeŋ	
what?	man	lili ni man de? what is his name?
	me	mindi ni bele me re? what kind is this?
wheat	alkama (H.)	
wheel	zonj	
when	misa mi	
	ki mi	
when?	dimin	da kyen dimin? when will you go?
whence	ayen	
where?	yen de?; yai?	
	a ke me?	
whip	gbanjaj	
whirling dust storm	kiri kiri	
whirlwind	kiri kiri	
whiskers	nyoŋ kuni	
whisper	bal sö sö	
white	pubna	pub wane very white
white man	bature (H.)	
who?	yen	
why	le len de?	(= how is that?)
	ni teb man de?	(= what is the reason?)
wick	ngure	
wicked	bib; bibna	ba-bibna wicked person
wide	wonj	
wife	mami	
wild cat	kushe mi bono	
wild cat sp.	duluk	(large civet cat)
	sarwai	(small, long civet cat)
	tunmi	(spotted as leopard)
	ngagha	(dark grey)
	kaiyo	(yellow, whitish tail)
wild dog	nyaba	
wind	gunj	
window	sökha	
wing	mbarkabi	
wipe	lisi	
wisdom	kyikhe	

	hankali (H.)	
with	wo	
	ni	
wither (adj.)	nyume	
within	amimi	
without, devoid of	bila	
	anza	(= not within)
witness, testimony	kinikun	
woman	bama; ma	
woman, old woman	langyo	
wood	ngun	
word	teb	
work	(pakh) poro	bwol poro start work; kashe poro stop work; mini poro refuse work; ba poro workshop
worker	ba-poro	
world	nzumza	
worm (gen.)	ngosokh	
worship	wob	
worth	kun	kya kur mukha kun kobo go buy salt worth a penny
wrestle	war shere	
write	nyonli	
yam (gen.)	biyu	
yawn	ŋa ge kun	
yaws	shakh shakha	
yes	i; n	
yesterday	yun	yun ni kubra yesterday evening
yesterday, day before	kure bari lela	
	babra	
yet	wasom	wasom i baŋ kham ba he has not yet gone; wasom n kumam yi ba I haven't yet found it
yonder	ako; muko	
young girl	ban sari	
young lad	ban sono	
young, new, fresh	mun	mun bira young boy; mun ma young girl; mun mbilim young goats (used with inanimates)
	piwe	
youngest	mi mase takye	

Pronouns

I	m	yam	my, mine	bam	to me	
me	minam	yeminam	mine			minam ni musam
you (thou)	yo	yo	your	bo	to you	myself, I myself
he, she, it	yi	ye	her, his	bi; a bini		yo ni muso yourself
				to her, to him, to it		yi ni musi himself
we	sum; si	yasum	our	bi sum	to us	
you (pl.)	wun	yawun	your	bun	to you	wun ni musuwun
they	ya, a, ka	yikha, yakha	their	bi ya	to them	yourselves
		ya	them			

Greetings

[Editorial note: the translations were not given]

nine kya kwata
 nyu aba pili bo bini
 se ka pili bam teb
 bo bwara ya kya kerum
 se i na bam teb a kun
 se missa mogha; se kyome
 se libi, se anyumi, se bala
 se m pilam; se m foam; se pakha

Numbers

1	mokha	
2	bari	
3	tarum	ku tarum thrice
4	yiniŋ	
5	tuŋunuŋ	
6	tisa mokha	tisa mokha tisa mokha by sixes;
	sudusi (H.)	(= one sixth)
7	tisabari	ku tisabari seven times
		tisabari tisabari by sevens
8	yininin	
9	musu mokha lum	mi musu mokho lum
10	lum; ushuri (H.) (tenth)	
11	lum kpa mokha	
12	lum sa bari	
13	lum sa tarum	
14	lum sa yiniŋ	
15	lum sa tuŋunuŋ	
17	lum sa tisabari	
18	lum sa yiniriŋ	
19	lum sa musu mokha lum	
20	mal mokha	
30	mal mokha pu lum	
40	mal bari	
60	mal tarum	
70	mal tarum pu lum	
80	mal yiniŋ	
90	mal yiniŋ kpa lum	
100	mul tuŋunuŋ	
200	mal lum	
1000	mal lum takh tuŋunuŋ zambar (H.)	mal tuŋunuŋ takh lum
2000	mal lum takh lum	
5000	mal lum takh tuŋunuŋ takh tuŋunuŋ	

Appendix: Basic Wordlist of Kulung

This wordlist (based on a Swadesh first hundred list) was recorded 1991 at Bambur. We include it here as supplemental information on Kulung.

all	dóm	leaf	mbúgì
ash	lúllá	lie (v.)	nón nónjó
bark	ngwóndéré ngùn; ngondòr	liver	baalì
belly	búm`	long	sábna
big	gúllá	louse	nyílí
big	badiné	man	ßààbèrà
bird	mún yílì	many	búnná
bite	númó	moon	zunjà
black	pínná	mountain	kónoŋ
blood	kilâ	mouth	kún
bone	múmú	name	lili, liili
breast	kyubra, kyubla	neck	mel
burn	tón	new	píwé
claw	nyáálí	night	dúgú
cloud	limba	nose	lúlú
cold	pwolla	not	ßəlá, bérá
come	yu	path	njéré
die	túló wéè	person	ßwarí
dog	mváà	people	ßáámbùrùm
drink	nú	rain	múr bùlò
dry	nyúmné	red	ßájná
ear	kírí	root	máráñje ngùn
earth	nzaali	round	kéré
eat (tuwo)	lí (nkög)	sand	sasála
eat meat	lí nýèmè	sand	zazála
egg	kìi	say	ná
eye	músú	see	gaba
feather	mbûr, mbûl, mbûn	seed	nyiŋ ßełe`
fire	béza	sit (down)	dob ní dòbò
fish	nshi, nji	skin	lárá
flesh	nyemé, nyeme	sleep	túló
fly	logá ßorøŋ	small	minyenáŋ
foot	zøŋ	small, tiny	shíndøŋ
full	lúmséná	smoke	yele
give	ŋaa	stand	tel lígìri
good	máánáŋ	star	dëbré`
grease	múrúk	stone	taali
green	mbugúm mbugú	sun	mísá
hair	nyônj	swim	wɔb mür

hand	búg	tail	nghila
head	muru	tongue	lásá
hear	wóggó	tooth	míínú
heart	sumbulé	tree	ngún
horn	njémé`	walk	kyén kéné`
hot	wógnyá, wógná	water	mul, mur pínàñ
husband, my~	nyimí	what?	némmán
kill	gbálá	white	púbná
knee	kúlúnj	who?	nii yén
know (s.th.)	shagəli (g̊î)	woman	bámmá
kwaya	nyínjì	yellow	muré kíí ngùbù
		that	múkó

I	mminám, minám	we	súm
you	yóó	you (pl.)	wún
he, she, it	yí	they	yá

1	móggó	11	lúm kpá mɔgɔ
2	baarí	12	lúm sá báári
3	táárúm		
4	yíínínj		
5	túñnúnj	15	lúm sáá túñnúnj
6	té sám mɔɔ`		
7	té sáb báári		
8	yínénínj		
9	músú móggó lúm		
10	lúm		
20	mál móggó		
100	deri móggó	(H. <i>dari</i>)	
100	mál tuñnuñ	(= 20 x 5)	
200	mál lúm	(= 20 x 10)	