

English-Sakun lexicon

Note: 1. Sakun forms in square brackets are from Snatenchuk and South's 1995 unpublished study of Sakun phonetics, and represent their readings of words recorded in 1992-93.

a long time ago	bigi	
a very long time ago	bigibigi	
abuse, to	ya'b	
accompany, to	dë	
across at or to Kulësëgëy	vëra Kulësëgëy	i.e. across a valley
across at, to, or from Dunggum	dara Dunggum	i.e. on the flat ?. -ra may also indicate a process of some duration
across, at or to, or from	vëra	i.e. across a valley
adze	ro-jigilda	lit. child (of) ax
aeroplane	girgi, girki	
affine	humay	of opposite sex, same generation
affine, co-wife	mandën	
affine, daughter-in-law	mbërmay	
affine, female	gan	W of F and kin of F's generation
affine, male	madzuwa	male speaking, same generation
affine, son in law	mugus	also F in law, M in law
afternoon	vak	extending into evening
again	mba	Repeat that word - mba dlaha gëma ta
age	harrën	<i>madlihë mu harrën</i> men in age, i.e, elders
all	pat	Fulfulde?
altar	suku	usually a pot
amulet pouch	lay	
and, with	në	
animal, domesticated	gënow	
ankle	dagulamay [dagulamaj]	
ant	'bet' [bɪt]	?white ant or termite
ant, kind of	manguratatan	about 8mm long, black or brown
ant, shiny brown	ngwalay	moves in narrow column; eggs small, white and many - see in cast
antelope	mày	horn used to make <i>cerak</i> flute; perhaps <i>Redunca redunca</i>
antelope, kind of	jigër	goat sized, skin used for furnace bellows
antelope, kind of	zegan	gazelle?
apron, pubic	bajiga	short, made of baobab fibre, worn by small girls
apron, pubic	dzar [zɛr]	of leather strips
apron, pubic	dzar kusar	wide, of short leather strips, made only by smiths
apron, pubic	dzar mashel	of long leather strips, for married women
apron, pubic, of chains	zhi'da	worn by married women
area in Sukur	Madafuk	
argue, to	v(ë)retl	verbal and/or violent
arm, hand	ri	
armlet, brass	dabala mbëzë	

armlet, narrow, brass	zawi	
armpit	tlëf [tɬuf]	
arrive, to	pyang	
arrow	và	
ashes	swá	
ash-ore-slag mixture	vizu ku	from base of furnace, see ND5:18
ask, to	nas(ma) [nas]	
at, on	pë	
awl	dzër	for hair dressing, decorating calabashes, etc.
axe blade	ganafow [ganafu]	large, for logging
axe blade	jigëdla [dʒigilda]	medium sized, general purpose
baboon	b(ë)lam [blam]	
baby, newborn	sha'da [ʃedʔa]	
back (body part)	jax	
backwards	ngë jax	
bad, ugly, spoiled	bëz	as in "më bëzun", it's no good
bag	tá'bà [taʔbaʔ]	of bean fibre or baobab root
banana	kwandang	?Hausa, Fulfulde
barbecue, to	pëna	to 'roast'
barren woman	cir	also <i>zawar</i> , which may be Margi
basalt	mukulevin	
basin for ore	duguruk	of daub, in furnace enclosure
basket, chicken	gwacakwar [gadʒakwar]	for transporting chickens
basket, kind of	megissa	
basket, small	tungsha	made for children
basket, very large	ghwan	for light bulky loads, e.g. charcoal
basketry tray	mëkuf	made of spear grass, ogival with flat base
bastard; mother of	zalaghrwa	
bastard		
bat, fruit	mazaghrar	
bat, small	kunay	
bathe, to	banëvë	
bathing area	ir banuvë [rbanvœ]	
be more than enough, to	shik	esp. of millet
be responsible for, to	tsë	
be tired, to	toey	
be, be seated, be established, to	inza	also to remain
bead, iron	majejiya	barrel-shaped, short
bead, iron, tubular	mudledë	long and thin
bead, pellet	zhizhi'd	includes clay pellet decoration on pots
beads, loops of, apron of	yambayamba	worn by married women
bean leaves, cooked and dried	mu'du	
bean, cowpea	ghën [əxun]	W: ghaxën; <i>Vigna unguiculata</i>
bean, red	ghën mëghuwun	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>

bean, white	ghën mëtlyan	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>
beard	ghëmay	
beat, crush, to	dlyi	<i>yim dlyi cini</i> stone for beaking open mahogany seeds
beat, to	dzëdzë	
beautiful, good	'boe	as in më 'boen, very good
bed, man's	pas	wood (slab, +/- legs), daub
bed, woman's	panay vay	made of millet stalks
bedroom, wife's	ir vay	
beer	m(ë)padlë [mpazɛ]	Hausa 'burukutu', excludes zuwa (Hausa 'pito')
beer mash (perhaps also foam)	mongurbëtl	after first fermentation, also a weak, foolish person
beer of asking	zuwa nas gëma	a marriage prestation
beer of hearth	zuwa futë pë ruts	a marriage prestation
beer, brown	zuwa	'pito'
before	këya	meaning dubious
begin, to	ghan(ë)ma [ahanma]	
bell, brass	kingging	worn by initiates late in ceremony
belly	ghu'd	
below, from below, down	ha	often as suffix
belt around basket	dadlay [daldai]	
bench, daub	da'bara	in entrance room or <i>sukuruk</i>
bench, raised, of mud	dabara	often with chickens kept underneath
better, it is	boshan	
big	ndey	
bile	irë iruk	
bird	yak	general term
bird, Abdim's stork	ngadawa	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>
bird, bishop	dër [jakdir]	the [jak] is our'yak - bird
bird, black kite	matsavay	
bird, black-headed heron	zhiwa dlan	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
bird, bulbul	tamtakulak	common garden <i>Pycnotus barbatus</i>
bird, cattle egret	takur dlë	<i>Ardeola ibis</i>
bird, chanting goshawk	nzavnzavci [nzansavtʃi]	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
bird, cliff chat, white-crowned	yak gudlëv	<i>Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris</i>
bird, common sandpiper	yak gamak	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>
bird, francolin	takwosha [takwasa]	<i>Francolinus sp.</i>
bird, grey plantain eater	kukuluk	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>
bird, ground hornbill	zulúm	
bird, hammerkop	dagerak	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
bird, hornbill	talipak	grey (<i>Tockus</i>) and red-beaked (<i>T. erythrorynchus</i>)
bird, nightjar	pa'dak' daway	standard wing, <i>Macrodipteryx longipennis</i>
bird, owl, spotted eagle	bizum	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
bird, pied crow	ghramak	
bird, pintailed whydah	kwaya'dya'di	

bird, quail	takur yim	<i>Citurnix sp.</i>
bird, sunbird spp.	yak day	also includes Lesser wood hoopoe
bird, swallow	bikbiki	<i>H. rustica lucida</i>
bird, weaver	zangulo	
bite, to	kir	
bitter	elak	
black	mingërën	
bladder	dlya mis	
blind	gudlëng	
blood	mumbuss	
blow at something, to	vus-ma	as at a fire to produce a flame
blow into something, to	vu'd	
body	vë'd	?homonym with night or perhaps with a low tone infection
boil, a	cici'di	
boil, to	boey	
bone	tatl [taɫ]	
boulder	mudzuku	
boundary wall	rak	
bow	ray	
bowl, wooden	gërum fwoy	
boy, young	degü	before initiation
bracelet	tasa	
bracelet, aluminium	tasa kwakor	
bracelet, kind of	ghwoma	wide, brass, decorated
brass	mbëzë	
break up, smash, to	pëtla	used also metaphorically
break, to	'bava	
break, to, as of a stick	mbara	
breast	'wa [ʔwa]	also milk
breath of life	sàf	
bride's confinement	dzaghrë da ir	before marriage
bride's male escort	madlay tul zër	who comes on behalf of H to ask for bride
brine, filtered	t(u)wiy	prepared from ashes of sheep or goat dung, millet, maize st
bring for me!	tlan kë	
broom	së'bëk	
brother	naf [naf]	
build, to	ba	
bull	jir dlë	
bull ceremony	Hëndlë	biennial in dry season (Feb.-Mar.)
bull feast, a man's first	law maray	
bull feast, a man's second	mba gwaram	lit. repeat acacia
bull over six years of age	t(u)rë dlum	
burn, to	dim	
bury, to	ghrë	may be variant of <i>rum</i>
bury, to	rum [rundux]	rundux is probably <i>ru ndu(x)</i> i.e. bury someone
bush, kind of	gulvë	stems with curved underground parts make walking sticks
bush, kind of	kënë	poisonous fruit, branches used for basket belts
bush, kind of	lihwa'd	bark gives mucilage for plaster

bush, kind of	vinuk'	used for staffs, basket struts
bush, kind of	yowmani	used for basket struts
bushcat	meri'd	small (often described as a 'fox')
bushpig	vëguz gamba	?warthog
but?	na(ka)	perhaps one of several ways of forming this conjunctive
butterfly	mudlëpërpër	
buttock	'daf munda	
buy, to	dlëmá	
buy, to	dlëmara	
calabash	tappi	
calabash plant	ma'yawak	
calabash, chicken	gëdlum mbëla	for transport of chickens
calabash, fruit of	gís	
calf of leg	mutsu	
calf, <i>Bos</i>	pesha'd	
call, to	'ba'ba [βaβa]	
cap	darà	
cape, rain	zulùm	of woven spear grass
caraway	dami'd	
carry, take, to	tla-ma	
cassava, manioc	mbay	Hausa or Ful
castor plant	gutlgudlë	<i>Ricinus communis</i>
cat	patu	Fulfulde
catch in water as a group, to	tum	as in <i>Tum kirif</i> , a fishing festival
catch, to	tsër	as in hunting, or of a bull
caterpillar, kind of	toray	eats crops
ceiling	piniy	of adzed planks, removable
centre, ceremonial	Patla	
ceremony, a	Dzava da Fa	lit. going to Fa
ceremony, a	tëka is	
ceremony, a	Yama pë Patla	
ceremony, a	Yawal	
ceremony, a	zëra 'do ghríy	
ceremony, fire	dë ku	chasing out of evil spirits with fire, etc., part of Zoku
chains, musical	makokwoy	of iron rings, played with calabash fragment
chameleon	mahëlatanggaw	
chameleon, imaginary	mabwotak	it turns into a mouse with big eyes
charcoal	vin	
charcoal powder	shun	
charm, kind of	ghwuda manda	relates to infertility
charm, kind of	jigën	dug into path
charm, kind of	mu'uf	protects fields
charm, placed on path	da pë civi	lit. thing on path
chase out, depose, to	gudla	
cheek	ghulum	
chest	ghadë	
chicken	takur	hen = <i>maka takur</i>
chickenpox	damara kum	lit. smallpox mouse
chicks	shakw	
chief	xidi	

child	ruwi	freq. abbreviated <i>row-</i> in compound forms
child of a deceased father	muzëtë	
child of questionable paternity	ruwi'do'da	
child, kind of	ruwi 'dowa 'dowa	lit. child eat eat; brought up by later H of mother
child, unexpected	mëcëkum	specifically, born of a non-menstruating mother
children	vërishin	irreg pl. of ruwi
chili pepper	karmasa	
chin	cakam	
circular	tëkulkul	
circumcised	bung	
civet cat	borak	white and black, nocturnal, regularly deecates in same spot
clan	së'd	
clan section	të dlagam	of Dur, lit. of treed path
clan section	tëka	of Dur, the 'lower' or 'separated' Dur
clan section	Zagwam	of Kulësëgëy
clan section, name of	Lihwa'd	named after the bush
clan, name of	Bakyang	
clan, name of	Bëgëda	a Damay clan, ? = <i>bi Gudul</i> children of Gudur
clan, name of	'Berdlëng	or is it praisename of clan 'Medu' ?
clan, name of	Dëmsa	
clan, name of	Dur	present chiefly dynasty
clan, name of	Gadë	
clan, name of	Ghumtuva	Habga Ghumtuva clan
clan, name of	Habga, Habëga	
clan, name of	Ka-mariya	
clan, name of	Ka-ozha	
clan, name of	Këmavu'd	
clan, name of	Kigi	
clan, name of	Kulësëgëy	
clan, name of	Kwabala	
clan, name of	Kwasha	
clan, name of	Kwazhuwa	
clan, name of	Manggu	a Damay clan
clan, name of	Rëvay	named after jujube tree
clan, name of	Shagwam	
clan, name of	Tuva	
clan, name of	Xwatlë	or Hwatlë
clan, name of	Yena	
clan, name of	Zoghi	or Zwoghoey
clansman	rowda	lit, child father
clay, black, riverine	dë'b	
clay, daub	bëtl	
clear, as of a view	njalala	
clear, as of water	lyangë	
client of a diviner	nday ikyuk' [ndaikyuk]	
cloak, short, of skin	to-jax	lit. skin back; typically goat, with hair
close!	dlyama [jama]	
closed	mëdlyan	
cloud	bà	

club, war, wooden cobra	taktakum mëkuf	homophone with basketry tray, ? named after shape of cobra head
cobra, spitting	lyung	
cold	nyàlák	
cold, flu	mishibi, mishibë	
collect, to	pëka	perhaps same as <i>puka</i>
collect, to	puka	perhaps same as <i>pëka</i>
colon	tumbi	Hausa?; or large intestine
come down!	ya ha	
come!	yaw	
come, to	ya	
confinement, end of	tsa'd zër	end of mother's confinement following birth
cook, to	dë	
cook, to	du	
cool	nyálák	cf. cold
cool	[ʔæfæʔæfækæ]	
coop, chicken	dlyikw	a hole or usually a largepot built into a daub bench
coop, chicken, of basketry	tsëkak	
copulate, to	gam	
cord, bean fibre	te'bax zër	
corpse	nda mutsun	
council room	buk	
counsellors of chief	ndahay mëtë xidi	lit. persons under chief
counsellors of chief	ndahay pë kë mburum	lit. persons on/at head land
court of justice, traditional	kiyuk' [k'ik ^w]	
courtyard, central, of house	tëbë ghríy	
courtyard, wife's	limba	covered
cow (having calved)	ma ka dlë	
cow, general term for cattle	dlë	
cow, small 'muturu' variety	nggi	a Kapsiki word
cowrie	gadzapa	and items, e.g. belts, decorated with cowries
crab, diviner's	dlyá	
crab, of a diferent species	hohulenga	
cricket, kind of	ngguditl	very large, yellowish, burrowing
crocodile	këlum	
crops, rent	da pë ghur	crops on a piece of land, or the rent paid for the piece
cross, go across, to	nde'd(e)-va	e.g., a river
cross, to	dzëgey	as of legs
curse	nga'd	in form of a prediction of a bad thing
custom, tradition	da jukw	lit. thing patriline
cut, to	dlë	
cutlass	ngalyawu [ga ^l aw]	also dance sickle/throwing knife
cutting thin strips of	la tlyuwi	

meat		
Damay village	Damay	
dance	dzú	
dance for coming out of twins	dzú huli	
darkness	kuratl	
daub plaster	cub ir	
daughter	dëm	and, more generally, female
daughters, girls	dëgwam [dug ^w an]	irreg. plural
day after tomorrow	mbëzhetay	
day before yesterday	hutsa	also 'some days ago'
daytime, in the	piya	
dead, the	njam	irreg. pl. of <i>ngus</i>
decoration	fëgë	in sense of showing off fine things
defecate, to	tëkë vu	
despise, look down upon, to	dle-ra	takes pronoun infixes
despondent, "sitting miserably"	bëbëghëdum	whence the word for Margi
dew	minyukw	
die, to	ngus	also a dead person, death
difficult	dlax	
dig, harvest by digging, to	rë	
dirt, dirty	rë'da	also in sense of pollution
disease, cholera-like symptoms	kwoma	
disease, kind of	da bëbëgë	skins breaks out in pustules
disease, wasting	ghuriya'b	as a baby whose mother lacks milk
divide, to	tëka(-va)	seemingly in a vertical dimension
divination	kyikun	in phrase ya pë kyikun - someone who has come from divination
divination	lëbvën	in phrase ya më lëbvën - someone who has come from divination
divination using crab	dlyá ki'd	lit. divination (with) bowl
divination using stones	dlyá 'bëtay	
divination, kind of	kwatëkë	using arm and ant lion, not a serious kind
divination, kind of	kwokusa	by magicaly (ventriloqually) speaking bird
divination, using grass straws	vëtë	as for finding a thief or witch
divination, using spear	mbëghaz lëng	
divination. kind of	xyar	by 'day using water in calabash to escry murderer and kill by striking image
diviner	tu dlyá	lit. person crab
do, to	'bën	
doctor, herbalist	tu nyiwun	
dog	k(ë)ra	
dome over room	huruk	
donkey	zungwa	
door	da dlya ir	lit. thing close room

doorway	ngwu ir	
dove	marabuk	
down at or to Mifir	ha Mefir	thus North
down below	ha tëka	
dragonfly	bizërajik	
drain hole	dlyaw	at base of wall
dream, to	dlabë	
dregs	san	
drink, to	së	also to know
drop, to	përa	homonym with to sell
drum	dang	general term
drum, cylindrical	ma ka dang	two membranes, large, beaten with curved stick
drum, kind of	kyim	or <i>tim</i> ; ovaloid, single membrane
drum, kind of	tim	or <i>kyim</i> ; ovaloid, single membrane
drum, squeeze	ruwi dang	Kalangu type
drum, tall	nggu [ngu]	made of tree trunk, mainly associated with Damay
drunk, to be	kúw, kouw	
dry season	ghëran [ɔran]	
dry, to	kwar	She dried the leaves - <i>a kwar va ka vwax</i>
drying rack	ir ku	for firewood over a hearth
duck	ghëda	
dull, blunt	mudusën	as of a knife
dust	ligëduk [ligidik]	W: rigidëk
dwarf	detl	
eagle, kind of	matakw	or hawk, brown, a chicken thief
ear	dlëmay	
earth	ha'd	and 'the Earth'
earthpea	indang mburum	<i>Voandzeia subterranea</i>
earthworm	munzër'de'dum	
eat, to	'dumë	
eaten by insects	ghuf	
egg	ndangadlay	
eight	tëkëz	
elbow	fëlëgum	
elephant	juwan	
elephant shrew	zherara	ND1:74; has long nose, stinks and eats eggs
<i>Eleusine corocana</i>	bërda	
eleven	wang tang këmbë	
emissary	caama	of chief
energy	ngërë'd	how differs from ngër ?
enmity, social rivalry	ga'bë	specifically a state existing between two men who have slept with the same woman
enough!	wur	in the sense of 'That's it!'
enough, to be satisfied	dzoek	in the sense of, "No thanks"
enter, to	ghraghë	
entrance courtyard	ngwuca	
entrance room, small	cam juhwoy	entered before the <i>cam</i> proper
entry room	cam	
escort of bride, an	zëray tul zër	woman who comes to 'beg' for the bride
escort of bride, female	zëray dë zër	
evening around	pakwa	and thus west

sunset		
ever	ghana	
eye	is	
eyes half closed, with	shuwshuwu [ʃuʃuwu]	
face	këma	
faeces	vu	
faeces, pile of	vu tetekë	
fall, flow, to	jiha	flow in sense of rivers
farm	ghër	
farmland	herur	
fart	vu'de'de	
father	da	
father	fa	
fear, to	ghadlë	she is afraid of baboons - <i>më zëda ka ghadlë a balam</i>
feel, to	zë'da	
fever	idan	
field	dëv	also a flat open area
field, plot	ghur	of cultivated land
fight, war	vur	
fill, to	nëghma	
find, to	ndara	meaning very uncertain
fine, to	purda	money, clothes ...
finger	kwátá rì [kwateri]	
finger	kwatya'd	dubious, error likely
finger nail	pëlak	
finish, to	kë'd	also 'It's finished, complete, over'
fire	ku	
fire ceremony	kì ku më ir	lit. light fire in room - part of marriage
fireplace, hearth	kësuhu	Kapsiki; especially in entrance room, with bench built around
fish	kirif	
fishing net	litak	small, of grass, fixed in streams
five	dlam	
flake of stone	hëlim	
flake, of stone	hilim	or thin slab
flame	ghranay ku	
flat, open area; plain	dëv [duv]	also a field
flavouring, a	issuwa	made with baobab or sorrel seed or <i>dlangeli</i>
flea	mapishapisha	or <i>mapishpishya</i>
flour, millet	powa [pwa]	dry or mixed with water as thin gruel
flute, battle	tëghatëgha	of wood, played to announce battle
flute, Higi type	shilla	blown from side of mouth
flute, of bark	kwatarzha	of mahogany bark, now of plastic
flute, sorghum stalk	li'dku	
flute, two hole	mbuuli	acc to ND1992, 2:62
flute, war	cerak	antelope horn, one hole at back
flute, wood, 1 note	manggaray	
fly	juwi	homophone with 'fodder'
flywhisk	zhuwa'd	
fodder	juwi	homophone with 'fly'
follow, find, to	zar	
fontanelle, anterior	mëbëdufbëduf	

food, porage (stiff)	'daf	the staple food of sorghum and/or pearl millet
foolish, retarded	gazhi	also used of the deaf
foot, sole of	ghu'd nas	
foot, upper part of	jax nas [dʒaxnas]	lit. back foot
footwear, shoe	kimbak	
for	ngë	as in ngë ta vak - for you the day
foreskin	shilëm	
foreskin	zumbulum	Hausa
forest	gudlëv [gudluv]	
forge	dlyà 'day	lit. furnace/forge smith-potter
forget, to	zëka	
forked	dlegaw	
form, to, of pots	tswa	
formerly	ghalay, ghalayuna	
four	fwa'd	
fox	këra fwoy	
Friday	suku Madagali	
Friday	suku Madagali	
friend or lad, my	miya [mja]	inter male term of address
friend, close, my	giya	
fringe, leather	zal	often coloured red
frog	vwanja	?Margi
from (a place on the flat)	dara	
fruit	shuku'd	general term
fruit of <i>ururum</i>	owa	used to make bird lime
fruit of <i>ururum</i>	wá	used for making bird lime
fruit, green plum-like	timmi	in loose bunches, reddens as ripens, ca 2 cm long
fry, to	sura	to cook meat, egg, groundnuts in pot with or without oil, but water
Ful, Fulbe	p(ë)lasar	
Fulbe, Fulani	Pëlasar	
funeral ceremony	riin	held some time after burial
funeral entourage	brakokwa	consisting of <i>mugus</i> and their gifts
funeral, first evening	ta riin	precedes <i>riin</i> proper
furnace	dlyà mbilim	lit. furnace/forge farmer
furnace chargehole	ngwu dlyay ma tëkë	
furnace knob	shin dlyà	
furnace master	fa ka dlyà	
furnace platform	ran dlyà	where ore and charcoal kept and charged
furnace shaft opening	ngwu dlyay ha tëkë	
furnace shield	hëlëlum	also këkëlum
furnace shield	këkëlum	also hëhëlum
furnace, forge firebox	dlyà	
furnace, iron smelting	dlyà mbilim [òlyambilim]	worked by both <i>mbilim</i> and ' <i>day</i>
future, in the	damba	adverb
gall bladder	iruk	
garden egg	v(w)anja	
gateway, house, of	maparam [maparam]	

stone		
germinate, to	cir	
get down, to	ra-ha	to be confirmed
gin. local	shokanday	Engl. shock and die
girl, unmarried	dëgëli	
give birth, to	yii-ha	also to produce young, fruit
give, to	má	
go across, to	dza-ra	
go away!	dlë hayi	<i>dlë hayer këra</i> = go away dogs
go away, to	rotë	
go down, to	dza-ha	
go down, to	ra-ha	
go out, to	ra-va	
go up, to	ra-ma	
go!, go on!	kudi	
go, to	dza	with various suffixes to indicate manner
goat	iyuk'	
goat, billy	zhifa	
goat, castrated	bisar	
God	Zhigila	also sky
gown, kind of	bërmus	
grain, poor quality	sak'	poorly formed or diseased millet heads
granary cap, stiff	titlyim	covers opening
grass		
granary cover	lëbët	of thatching, open top
granary in loft	mbëdli	general purpose
granary over <i>gur</i>	sulum	general purpose
granary, man's	kinduk	for sorghum and millet only
granary, small	rowmbëdli [rɔmbəði}	lit. child granary
grandfather	jikwu	
grandmother	jiji, ji	
grass cord	mabuk	three strands plaited
grass cord	mabuk ji'dukw	worn by children of dead man at his funeral
grass cord	milli	two strands, twisted
grass, kind of	gharamdë	from stream banks, used for keeping crabs
grass, kind of	swaram	for zana matting
grass, kind of	tur këra	
grass, speargrass	hiduk'	used in basketry
grass, stiff	së'bëk	used for brooms, potters' 'combs'
grass, thatching	ju ghriy	
grasshopper, kind of	vagwan	large, pale brown
grave superstructure	dëgi kulë	lit. wall grave
grave, tomb	kullë	
gravel	'bëtay	
grind, to	tá	
grinding hollow	tson	several types, may be used as altars
grinding table	ban	
grindstone, lower	ma ka ban	
grindstone, upper	rowban	
grog	batúk	sherd temper
ground	gha'd	the dead - ndahay më gha'd

groundnut	indang kulukwaci [ndan]	<i>Arachis hypogea</i>
group in one place	ir më kili	we are living as ... - <i>më inza nyi pë ir më kili</i>
group, closely cooperating	bwota	of people, e.g. friends
gruel, thick	mugwoey	as beer that has been boiled without adding water
Gudur	Mpsakali	also Mpasakali, Cakiri, Gudur, Gudul
guineafowl	zabën [zabun]	helmeted, <i>Numida meleagris</i>
haft	gavay	
hair	shumbut	
hairlock	vwa'd	presumably extension of primary meaning
hairstyle	boja	worn by mothers at 'Bër, lines of small tufts
hammer, bar, of iron	dëvër [ndovr]	
hammer, stone	yim dzë	
hand	ri	hand and arm
happy	dlama	
hare	vël(i)ya	
harmattan	kusë	
harmattan, wind and conditions	kusë	
harp, three stringed	ngulëng	
harvest	bats	
hat, boy's	mbulari	of grass coils sewn together
Hausa	hausä	
hay	mëzëmay	
he	ca	
head	kë	
head ring	gudë	for carrying
headache	pëtla kë	lit. smash into pieces head - ?homonym with Lord
healthy, well	lingling	
hear, to	tlyam	
heart	mëndëv [munduf]	She took out the heart - a 'dedava ka mëndëv mbë
hearth	ruts	
heat liquid, to	fowa	
heated, warm	mufwan	as of beer
heavy	'dëm'dëm	
hedgehog	dikdikë	
heel	vu nas	
heifer, yearling	mbukul	
heifer, yearling	tux va ka	
hemp	ngabay	<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i>
hen	ma ka takur	
her (accusative)	kam	
her (possessive)	ka	
herd of domestic animals	biri	
herd of wild animals	dukul	
Hide of Tur/Tourou	Gra	
hide, goat or sheep	karabi	not worn, (?) fresh or dried
Higi	Ghumshi	

hill, boulder strewn	dlyang [ðlam]	
hill, name of	Midlyirux	
him	cam	
hippopotamus?	dlë yam	lit. cow+water, described as with cow-like head, hair, and tail like a fish!
his	të	
hit, to	'dar	
hoe	ngu'dum	
hoe, socketed	ngu'dum kut	
hoe, tanged	ngu'dum dabi	<i>dabi</i> is said to be Kanuri also in compound forms
hole	vu'd, vwu'd	
honey	mam	
honeycomb	kufsëlëng mam	the structure rather than the honey
horizon	mënda mburum	
horn, antelope	tom may	also instrument, blown transversely
horn, cow	tom dlë	also instrument, blown transversely
horn, instrument	mbuli	cow horn, held vertically four holes
horse	duk	
hot, fevered	katskats	but not red hoit or boiling
hot, red or white hot	'batlyak	
house cluster	tugiwa	often referring to the inhabitants of, i.e., near neighbors
house, abandoned	fiy	
house, compound	ghríy	
house, in+house+of	va	comparable to French 'chez'
household head (male)	fa ka ghríy	
how many? how much?	tana .. wa?	
how?	bahawa?	
hug, embrace, to	gyeb	
hump, of cow	jigu'd	
hundred	wasëk	
hunger	máy	
hunt, communal, to	iyalla	
hunt, to	iygh	
hunter	nday iygh	
husband	madla ghuli	the 'real', first husband of a woman
hyena	duguvu	
hyrax	suba	
I	ni	
I myself	kenaykay	and various other forms
in	më	<i>më kili</i> - in a group of one
in the old days	parang	i.e. in living memory
incisions, medicinal, fine line	tatata	on a part of the body affected by aches
inherit a house, to	do(wa) ghríy	used only in this sense
inherit, to	'dowa	<i>dowa ghriy</i> = to inherit a house/family, i.e., levirate
initiate, male	mbudlëv	
initiates, male	mbadlavay	
initiates, unmarried	dëgwi	irreg. pl. of degu
initiation	'Bër	biennial ceremony (August)

initiation partner	miya degu	a younger boy
inside	mbë	?from inside
intestine	hali'd	perhaps specifically the small intestine
iron	cukuri	
iron bar, currency bar	dëbul	
iron bloom	dëmbetl	
iron bloom, horns of	tom cukuri	projections rising from bloom body
iron ore	vizu	
iron pellet	makokwoy dlër	in rattle
iron slag	tas	
iron staff	jif kingir	
iron, cast iron droplets	ngwalay	named for likeness to the ant
itching	fow	
jealousy	sërëk	
join, plastered	dibitl	between wall and dome or rafters
joint, of body	mudla	
joint, of body	mudlë	
Kanuri	Vuwa	and other northerners
kidney	ghulëshishi	
kill or beat, to	dzë, dzëdzë [zizu or dzi]	
kin through women	humtë	a broader term than <i>manamat</i>
kin through women	manamat	direct kinship, the group within which being a witch may descend
kingfisher, Senegal	këkëlum	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
kinsperson, junior	rowdëm	of opposite gender, has role in ceremonies
kitchen	ir dë'daf	lit. room cook+food?
knee	kërum	
knife	kë'b	
knife, for calabashes	mëhërrë	curved for cleaning calabashes
knife, long, man's	patala	
knife, throwing	ngarapa	ceremonial
know, I don't	saanu	<i>së+n+u</i>
know, understand, to	së	also to drink
Kurang village	Kurang	
labour, to be in	iyiy	
ladder, notched and forked trunk	fwoy mbëdli [fwɔj mbdli]	lit. tree granary
lan, name of	Mëdlëng	
land, place	mburum	
land, uncultivated; 'bush'	gamba	and specifically the land of Sukur, thus 'native'
language, speech, word	gëma	
latrine area	buutuk	
latrine, dug	vu'd vu	
laugh, to	'biis	or is it 'iis
lazy	mi'd	
lazy, inactive	'bulukw	
leaf; fibre	vwax	
leave, to	tlë	

left (hand)	ri dlabay	
leg	nas [nas]	
leopard	dëgwavak	
lie down. to	iviy	
lie, to	put	and deceive by lying
life	saf	
light, in weight	këfkëf	
light, to, of fires	kì	
lightning	mbërëm më wu'd	?thunder and lightning
lightning	wu'd	?more generally brightly shining
like (adverb)	ha	
like, want, to	mà	
lion	revarri	foreign, ? Wandala
lip	tu'bungu	
lip pin	da'dum	bone, iron or wood
listen to, to	xyetë	
little, a small amount, bit	juwjejuw	
liver	m(ë)na [mna]	
lizard	dëgël [dəgul]	general term
lizard, agama	mahulhëlë [mahalhalì]	
lizard, gekko	zëhër [zihur]	
lizard, monitor	lëtsë	
loinskin	towa	
long ago	para parang	or <i>parang parang</i>
long, tall, look!	zëbur	
look, to	ira	
Lord	i'ir	
louse	Pëtla kë	term used by Christians - ?homonym with headache
luck, lucky person	janngar [dʒaŋgar]	
lump, small	nuba	Margi ?
lying, in lying position	vwa'd	e.g. of porage
Mabas, Vemgo people	ivun	
Mafa	Duvun	
magically inserted	Dlang	and perhaps related groups
	muvë	<i>dla da muvë</i> remove (take out) thing magically inserted in the body
maize	tlyabër	Zea mays
mallet, wooden	goetkuna	from branch, carved down to produce cylindrical handle
man	madlax	
many	king	
Margi	bëbëghëdum	
Margi	Bëhëdum	or <i>Pa</i>
Margi	Pa	pejorative
market	suku	homophone with altar
marks, tribal	garmasha	cicatrizations on back
marks, tribal	nyax	cicatrizations on belly and shoulders
marriage, formal	laylay	
marriage, informal form of	tla tla	informally celebrated

marry (a wife), to	tla (zër)	
mat structure, ceremonial	tsaga	built on courtyard roof (mëdlëba) by celebrant of bull feast
mat, kind of	mëtlëbëts	used as stiffener over rafters and under thatch
mat, sleeping	këri	also hung in doors
mat, zana	dla-va	lit. until (next) year
may	a	as in 'a Zhigila vay mara' = may God night all+of+us, i.e. pro us
meadow, grassy area	tëdoey	
measles	shàshà	
meat	tluwiy [ɓ ^w i]	W:ihjwi
meat fat	mbëza mëtlyan	lit. fat/grease white
meat preserve	mbëza kwanday	blood pudding
meat preserve, kind of	madambrishi	
meat preserve, with skin	mbëza tu'b	that includes (parts of) bull's hide
meat, flyblown, rotten	nghwuf	
medicine	nyiwun	
medicine, kind of	da'wa	ball from bull's stomach, worn against mastitis
medicine, plant	da nassara	lit. thing european; crushed on wounds, stings like iodine
medicine, plant	hanzay	<i>Liliaceae</i>
medicine, plant	mandzaf	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i>
medicine, plant	mundernder	root of a vine, mashed, taken for stomach pain
medicine, smelting	dagashwi	a bush, fruits eaten
medicine, smelting	nyiwun dlyà	lit. medicine furnace
medicine, smelting	nyiwun gabë	against danger arising from gabë - the <i>gis ir</i> plant
medicine. smelting	nyiwun ngwalay	to obtain cast iron
meet, to	goey	
men, elders	matlyihë	irreg plural of <i>madlax</i>
menstruate, to	pëka rë'da	lit. collect dirty
mentor at initiation	mubwota	
midden	gëzoek	
midwife, old woman	zërajik	
milk	'wà	also breast, but applies to cow's milk
millet stalk	panay	
millet, diseased	riwa'd këra	doesn't produce cob, perhaps also weed varieties
millet, pearl	riwa'd [riwɛ]	<i>P. glaucum (=typhoideum, = americanum)</i>
millet, sprouted	zën	for beer making
mist	mukulkundung	
mist	së	possible confusion with <i>kusë</i>
Monday	suku Sakun	
Monday	suku Sakun	
mongoose, slender	vëvelik'	
monkey	shwi	
monkey, patas	shumuuvun	lit. monkey red
monkey, vervet	shumingirin	lit. monkey black
month (lunar), moon	tiya	
month of conception	dzë kamvë tiya	
moon, month (lunar)	t(i)ya	
morning, early around	mashin	and thus East

sunrise		
mortar, wooden	yim zër	
mosquito	vindzëng	
mother	ma, mama	
mother's	këni	
brother/sister's son		
mountain	ngwa [ŋ ^w a]	
mouse	kum	
mouth	ngwu	
Muduvu settlement	Muduvu	
mumps	mbëlakën	
murderer	tuharam	by a variety of means including magic
muscle	tlyuwivë	
my	nga	
myself	kenana	
naked	mucun	
name	'bà	
name of person	Wutsiy	not the same as Watsë
natron	bilim	"potash"
navel	mbus	
neck	'òy	
necklace, kind of	kwadëgulë	long, with several strands twisted
necklace. long	zambarkaka	example seen had old pennies on it
needle, thatching	këkëluk	
ne'er-do-well	maskwalay	useless person (or domestic animal), wastrel
next year	shashá	
nice tasting	zëd	
night	vay	in sense of a night's sleep?
night	vë'd	
nine	mitli	
ninety	mitli pësëk	
non-relative	ndaydlë	lit. person bull
non-smith	mbilim	member of the farmer caste
nose	shin	
not	ka	
not	-u	as in <i>saanu</i> , I don't know; always at end of phrase
now	bayi	
nozzle, bellow's	is dlya [is ^l ia]	lit. eye (of) furnace
nut, physic	dadahornuk	or is it bitter leaf spinach? (a later note)
oath	sáf	
ocher, red	mësuk	
offer falsely, to	mbax	to offer something and then not give it
offering	bahëlinga	to deceased parents at Zoku
oil	miir	
okra	ngadla'oy	<i>H. esculentus</i>
old	har	
one	kili	person or thing, in answer to question
one each, one by one	kilkili	
one out of many	zung	
one, when counting	toy	

only	day	
open	mëgunën	in a state of openness'?
open, to	de'dama	
open, to	gun	open! <i>guna!</i>
opening for feeding	ngwu tson	between entrance room and bull stall
bull		
ordeal poison	gara	Margi; given to suspected witches, kills them if they are witch
ornament, dance	dam tendetl	with iron beads
ornament, dance	jidda	with brass rings
ornament, hooklike	laba [ǝlaβa]	brass, worn by women
ornament, iron 'bell'	dalenga	worn on <i>makokwoy</i>
ornament, kind of	da mbus	brass, on baby's hip, to reduce navel hernia
our (excl.)	nyi	
outstanding	zagwam	after the sorghum variety
Pabir	bablr	
palm, borassus	dlyidlyim	and headband worn for twins made of palm frond
pardon?	miwa	in sense of 'please say again'
particle	ka	as in 'I want to ...'
particle	ké	meaning unclear
particle	-të	added to verb root, gives sense of "accustomed to ..."
particle = comma	na	between clauses in sentence
particle indicating the	biska	see phrase 96:9
conditional		
particle, suffix	va	associated with processes, meaning unclear
passage, low	dlyaw mambegha	connecting two rooms
past tense marker	a	past and/or completed; (almost) always at start of phrase
path, tree-lined	dlagam	usually with <i>Euphorbia</i> and <i>Erythrina</i>
patience!	'ba mëndëv	lit: cool?? heart
patriline	juk'	
paved, set flat	munggan	set flat, either horizontally or vertically, thus <i>civi mungan</i> = w paved
		may be same as përa to sell
pay, to	për	
pebbles	'bëtay	
pelvis	dlyong	
pendant, iron	mambazay [bambaʒa]	worn as element of pubic apron, on wrist, on belt
penis	sor	
people	ndahay	
perhaps	ma nyi na	lit. want/hope we; particle
person	nda, ndu	pl. ndahay
person who succeeds	katsala	performer of a difficult task
pestle, club, of wood	gëtkuna	
pestle, wooden	jif yim zër	
pick	cúl	
pick, long type	jannga	
pick, to	dëk'	as of beans, fruit
pig, domestic	vëguz ghríy	
pipe, tobacco	kula	
pit, threshing floor	kënu	for grain
placenta	daydey [dedi]	
plant, kind of	zwa'ek	teasel/bergamot like heads, favoured by sunbirds

plant, kind of creeper	damoey elakëng	grown on house roofs, bitter leaf eaten in sauce
plant, parasitic	ururum [urərum]	flowers like honeysuckle, fruit used to make 'bird lime'
plaster, furnace	ghanzang	of clay from Deghul, used for shaft interior
plaster, smooth	'du ir	final coat in room, with <i>lihwa'd</i> bark for mucilage
platter, wooden	garax	multi-purpose
play, to (as in games)	wun [wun]	
pledging of land	jingina	?Hausa
point at, to	ti'd	
poison to kill someone	dazundu	probably <i>da dzë ndu</i> = thing kill someone
pole, centre	shírùk	e.g. in entrance and men's room (also forge?)
pole, three forked	mititil	for holding pots
policeman, auxiliary	ndanbanga	Hausa; appointed by police or village head
policeman, Native Authority	dansanda	Hausa
policeman, Native Authority	dogari	
polluted, dirty	rë'da	
pony (?)	duk Makka	lit. horse Mecca; horse of a kind that used to be bred in Suku
poor	kyikën	
poor person	të kyikën	
porcupine	jimëk	
post, ceremonial	gikiir mëri'd	raised when celebrating Hëndlë
pot	dow, duw	
pot before firing, greenware	ghëne	
pot, to	tswa duw	
pot, type of	badlawa [badlawa]	largest form of beer (<i>zuwa</i>) jug
pot, type of	bungzëng [bunʒun]	neckless pot for preserved meat products
pot, type of	dë'ba	beer vat for fermentation and cooling
pot, type of	do 'daf	large cooking pot for ' <i>daf</i>
pot, type of	do dlën	very large cooking pot, taken to fields
pot, type of	do powa	narrow necked, used for keeping flour
pot, type of	duguzuwa [duguzwa]	large pot for brewing (cooking) beer
pot, type of	dzughum	large narrow-necked pot for cooking bull's food
pot, type of	gërum mbëdli	bowl with very wide everted rim used to cover granary mouth
pot, type of	gratotoy	the upper, larger, bowl used in filtering salt
pot, type of	gyagyak	large bowl, used for watering animals and as potter's turntable
pot, type of	hurumyam	water storage pot
pot, type of	hurumzuwa [xurumz ^w a]	beer jug, large
pot, type of	jilum	small cooking pot
pot, type of	ki'd [kiʔ]	small bowl
pot, type of	ki'd dlyá [kitla]	large bowl used in crab divination
pot, type of	ki'd dlyà [kiʔilja]	bowl made for use as part of bellows
pot, type of	kiliga	lower, smaller bowl used in filtering
pot, type of	melleleyo	small jug, for offerings
pot, type of	mutluwiy	used for placenta burial
pot, type of	nëk baldawa	large beer jug
pot, type of	paprangay	necked vessel for transport and sale of beer
pot, type of	ruwi hurumzuwa	beer jug, smaller than <i>hurumzuwa</i>
pot, type of	shiga nas	tripod cooking pot

pot, type of	shiga tlyuwi	medium cooking pot for (meat) sauce
pot, type of	sororam	narrow-necked cooking pot
pot, type of	teyaprēteya	a smaller <i>duguzuwa</i>
pot, unfired	ghrēne [əɣunə]	
potato	daako nassara [ðakunasara]	also <i>kompeter</i>
potato	kompeter	from French via Kapsiki
potato, sweet	daako	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>
potsherd	gērum	
potter's 'comb'	sē'bēk	of stiff grass
potter's concave anvil	dadugum	of wood
potter's tamper	ndati	of clay
pour into, to	bēgē-ha	of grain, not liquids
pour out, to	bēgē-va [bəgura]	of grain, not liquids
pour out, to	zu'da-va	of liquids
power	ngēr	
praisename	fwal	of clan
praisename, a	Garu	of clan Kigi
praisename, a	Gēdēm	of Dur and allied clans, males only
praisename, a	Zwadē	of women of Dur and allied clans
praisename, clan	Mbadla	for women of Bēgēda and other Damay clans
prefix, meaning person	tu-	
pregnant	tla ghu'd	lit. carry belly
present tense marker	mē	present and uncompleted; at start of phrase
prestation	bēgē zēr	the carrying of goods from WF house to that of her H
proscription, tabu	bēbēlē	
pull, to	dē'dama	
pumpkin fruit and plant	mēbetl	<i>vuwa</i> (green) and <i>sakun</i> (whitish) varieties
pumpkin leaves	matlax'	used for sauce
pumpkin, spiny	mēbetl dēgul	
puppy	vid kēra	
pus	mēru [mʌru]	
put down, place, to	'bēgē	of things, and thus 'Bēgē, the throne room on Patla
put down, to	fē	(to be confirmed)
python	'bi	
python, kind of	mitukh	lives in houses, eats mice
quartz	tsakka	
quickly	mamash [mamaʃ]	
quiver	wadzi	
quiver, with leather fringe	wadzi zal	ceremonial
race	litak	
rain, water	yam	
rainbow	mafar [maθar]	
rainy season	vi	
rat, large	mudwan	
rattle, anklet	cēcawa	of Borassus palm fiber with pellets
razor	pidoekw	
readiness	shiri	

red, reddish	ghuw, ghow	or <i>mëghuwun</i>
reddish	mëghuwun	see <i>ghuw</i>
refuse, to	kar	
relative	mana [mana]	general term
remember, to	'dën-ma	I remember him - <i>më 'dën ca man</i> ; <i>ben-ma</i> alternative form?
remove, take out, to	dedava	
repeat, to	mbaldë-ha	<i>?mbadlëha</i>
request, 'beg', to	tul	
respect	sëlliy	
respect, to	huwi sëlliy	
return, to	baavë [mbəvΛ]	
rhinoceros	fën	hide used for shields
rice	maroori	Fulfulde
rich person	galpi	
ridge, stony	sëd yim	
right (hand)	ri ghu'd	lit. hand belly
ring of stones	yim 'but	separating daub walls and thatched roof
ring, finger	kwokur	
ring, head	gu'dë	of fiber, used for carrying
rival, enemy	madla zër	lit. man wife; i.e. the man who took my wife
river, stream	dlän	
roast, to	pëna	
roof	kë ir	
roof cap	makwada	on top of roof
roof cap, granary	tiitldim	fits over <i>lebut</i>
roof cap, granary, lower part	lebut	open, closed with <i>tiitldim</i>
roof extension	dlëmtëm	over door to keep off rain
roof frame	jik	of basketry, lasts up to 30 years, especially for old women
roof over courtyard	mëdlëba	specif. of central (head's) courtyard
room with daub walls	ir betl	
room with stone and daub walls	ir yim	built in alternate courses
room with thatched roof	ir jikjik	
room, grinding	doduwa [dodwa]	lit. building Kapsiki; entered through bedroom
room, hut	ir	
room, 'hut'	ir	and more generally a place <i>for</i> something
room, man's	gur	
room, man's	sukuruk	outside house wall, often old man's
room, storage	lindo	may also be used for brewing
room, wife's	ir zër	
root	tli [tʰi]	
root vegetable	vaw	small, black-skinned, <i>?Plectranthus esculentus</i>
rope, thick	ndal	of baobab fibre, e.g., for cattle
roulette	zhibi	potter's tool
roulette, twisted string	zhibi tebakh	
roulette, twisted strip	zhibi dlyidlyim	and/or knotted strip roulette?
Roumzou (people of)	Duwa	and more generally Kapsiki
round	tëkulkul	

rub on body, to	kë'dëvë	
rub, to	tëku'd	
rum, locally distilled	gogoro	
run, to	huwi	
Runkulu	Ghonkule	settlement near Kamale
sack of waters (organ)	kwa pë kë	lit. thing?+push+head
sacrifice, bull	tsakalaw	formal slaughter of bull in central courtyard
sacrifice, make offering, to	zëv	
saliva	nzuga	in the sense of mouth watering
salt	nyerga	
salt cone	nyerga dëbulum [dabrum]	
sand	shawshawa	
sand, coarse	dëghul	granitic Grüs
satisfied, to be	ngatl	
Saturday	suku Wanday	
Saturday	suku Wuro Dole/Wanday	
sauce, kind of	ghadlë	bean (and meat) sauce prepared for ceremonies
sauce, soup	uwiy	
say, tell, to	ac-na	accepts infixed pronouns as in <i>ac-ca-na</i> he says
scorpion	mbërdäy	
scratch, to	ghur-da	
scrotum	gwaray	
scum, kind of	mëtlëbëts	forms when boiling mahogany oil; homonym with mat
season, early dry	kë tsëfë	time of harvest, Nov.-Dec.
season, first rains	jimun	
season, main rains	mëdzëvën	
season, rainy	vi	
see, to	këë	
seed of <i>Erythrina</i>	ditl	
seed of fruit	hya	
seed of tree, ? <i>Sterculia</i>	dlangëli	<i>tsëngu'</i> tree
seed, seed grain	së'd	whence clan
sell, to	përa	homonym with to drop
semen	da madlax	lit. thing man
send, to	nzowa	
senior, of a person	ndaydey	
serves your right!	dzuk	opposite of <i>issë</i>
sesame	mbëritliy [brəçɪ]	
seven	ma'daf	
shade, spirit	zhik	also <i>zhik</i>
shadow, spirit	mëzhik	for graves only (?)
shaft, wooden, of digging stick	dëlang	
shake hands, to	dlawà	shake my hand - dzë ngar dlawà or manga dlawà
sharp	deghun	
sharp (as of knife)	zëm	
she	ka	

sheath, leather	hwaf [h ^w af]	
sheep	gamak	
shelf	tala	
shelter, field	ghëlim	a small hut built on a farm in the bush
shield	lëkë	
shin	njilang	
shiny smooth	she'dak	as of snakeskin or a newborn
shoulder	tapatl [takaɫ]	
show, to	ganë-va [gændava]	<i>a gan ca van jigëdla - I showed him the axe</i>
shrew	mabuli	
shrub, a	gís ìr	from which nyun gabë is made
sickle	vi'd [vid]	
sickle, ceremonial, men's	parpar	short, wide blade
sickle, dance, women's	vi'd ri	
sickness, child's	finedi	vomiting and 'tightening' of the belly
sickness, disease	vë'dkë	
sickness, wasting	ware'b	a wasting away as of a baby denied milk
sideways	dlangël	
sign, division	gwat	a twofold division of society depending on sex of first child
silent	tikkë	
sing, to	'basëmay	
sister	dlán	
sit, to	nza	
six	mukwa	
skin	tu'b	
skin, carrying	rëvwax	for babies
skink	ma'o'o	
sky	zhigila	also God
slab, large, of stone	kër'ba	large, outcropping
slaughter, to	dlëda	applies also to sacrifice - dlëda kmu ngwa= s. to a mountain spirit
slave	vay	
sleep, to	iviy, evey	in sense of sleeping with
sleep, to	mësëvay [safaj]	? be in state of sleep
sleep, to	sëvay	?to drink the night
slime, snot, mucilage	ngëb	
slimy, mucilaginous	ngurabak	e.g., snot, water mixed with okra
sling (weapon)	mafindu	
slothful person	dangur'da	?Hausa: one who cannot get things finished
slowly	samë	
small	jëwu, ju	also juwi, jëhwoy; limited in space, time, <i>nday ju</i> a small pers
smallpox	damara	
smelling, nasty	meya'dakën	as snake, wet dog, Higi smith
smelling, pleasant	ghëlëvuk	of fresh meat, scent, new leather, sauce
smelling, rotten	shirúk	of faeces, dead animal, rotten fruit
smelling, strong	mbut	whether nice or nasty
smelter, master	fa ka dlyá	lit. father of furnace
smith	'day	a male member of the caste

smith/potter caste, woman of	zëra'day	
smith-potters	iiyi	polite term for a group of smith-potters
smoke	in	
snail	num	
snailshell	kwoceri	
snake	shishi	
snake, imaginary	shishi mbúrbúr	flies at night, eats black ants, killed by placing razor blade in hill
snake, river	xim	cobra-like
snakeskin, shed	kutlaf	
snore, to	ghër	
snuff box of horn	twom	
socket for femur	kuling	acetabulum
socket, of tool	kut	
some	hanyi	
some time ago	warakë	commonly in the sense of 'early in the morning'
some time in the future	mbëzhetay dugu vu	
something	nyida	
son	ruwi madlax	lit. child male
son of (the house of)	nday-va	
song, to sing	sëmay	
soon	bëgh	
sorghum	ghëy	general term for sorghum (= guineacorn)
sorghum stalk	kwandalli	
segment		
sorghum store	ndëllë	unroofed room outside house for unthreshed millets, storage
sorghum, kind of	dadasëla	perhaps the 'original' Sukur race
sorghum, kind of	gallikumbë	very sweet, white, can be eaten raw
sorghum, kind of	huxwi	erect, loose headed, for beer
sorghum, kind of	jiga	early red variety
sorghum, kind of	kwarpë	white, needs very wet places, used for 'daf
sorghum, kind of	kwiitax	yellow, light coloured glumes, the main crop
sorghum, kind of	maakëpësuk	lit. 30; grown for its sweet stalk
sorghum, kind of	mahoratlya	
sorghum, kind of	mukurak	red, loose head, for 'daf = Margi <i>yerambuli</i>
sorghum, kind of	zagwam	very tall, yellow, dark glumes, gwon only by chief
sorrel, red or roselle	ruwatl	<i>H. sabdariffa</i>
sorry!	issë	
sound, to	dzë	homonym with to kill
space, men's	ma të ir	between men's rooms and upper wall of house
space, women's	ha të ir	between women's rooms and lower wall of house
spark	mat ku	
speak, tell, to	dla [ðla]	<i>ca dla Sakun</i> - he speaks Sakun
spear	mbëghaz	
spear, barbed	mahira kaka	
spear, kind of	borjam	very long blade, three fingers wide
spear, kind of	mbëghaz lëng	used in divination and oath taking
spear, kind of	mbëghaz masheri	used in war, funerals, see JS1992, 2:21
spear, kind of	mbëghaz yayam	short blade, two fingers wide

spear, kind of spider(web?)	tur bikibiki	lit. tail swallow; barbs at base of blade
spinach	zamba	
spinach, kind of spirit, ghost	'bà	
spirit, kind of spirit, kind of spirits of the dead	alehu	<i>Hausa?</i> ; <i>Amaranthus</i> sp. ?
spittle	mambèlum	its curse much feared
spoil, to sponsor for initiation, to	gèkili [gukili]	live underground, madden people
spoon, calabash	h(è)rriy	associated with a particular place, e.g. a water point
squirrel, ground stall, bull's stall, goat stall, sheep stand, to	madlambar	chased out during Zoku ceremony
star, planet	nyax	homonym with tribal marks
staring	bèz, bëzan	
steal, to	'bera-ra	accepts pronoun infixes
stick, branched stick, staff, digging stick	ku'dumzhani	
stone for crushing bones	magan	
stone uprights on grave	dlèma dlè	
stone, polishing stone, rock	dlèma iyukw	
stone, rock	dlèma gamak	
stone, upright stool, wooden straight ahead	ndas	
stranger, guest	gumdla [gumðla]	
stream	ghèrkè	because frightened or surprised
stretcher	kèr	
string	ghu'da	carried by 'Bèr initiates
sty (infection)	jif	
suffix	yim tli mbeza	often takes form of bedrock mortar
suffix indicating a process of some duration	malma	projecting from superstructure
sugarcane	biz	for smoothing floors, plaster
Sukur	yim	
sun	yim	
Sunday	gyanga	natural or artificial
Sunday	dungguz	for women
support, special sweat; very hot	tuurè	
	mutèboey	
	mimil [mimil]	
	legaw [ligaw]	
	zhi'bi [ʒiʔbi]	also potter's roulette, TGR and TPR
	kinkinduk	also <i>mat kèra</i> lit. witch dog, caused by disturbing granary
	-y	specifying a particular person or thing
	-ra	
	dzegën	
	Sakun	own name for place, people and language
	pis [piθ or bis]	and thus day
	suku Dowa	at Rhoumzou
	suku Duwa	
	zuuwa mèdlèba	removed from courtyard roof by person inheriting house
	vus	as in April

weather		
sweep, to	tša'd	
sweet	ghënuuk [əxunuk]	
swelling	mbëlakën	includes mumps
swelling in groin	mbëlakën duvun	
swelling of calf of leg	mbëlakën duvun	
swollen	hëtl	of live things
swollen	mbùr	of dead things
sword (or sickle), kind of	kafay [kafaj]	long, curved, shining, also magical, stops rain; from Ful <i>kafa</i>
sword, kind of	biyadaka	sabre
sword, kind of	jangtom	short, wide
tail	tur	
take care of, to	tsuf	
take in marriage	tla-ma	accepts pronoun infixes
take, carry, pick up, catch, to	tla-ma OR -va	also to take
talent, expertise	mëciciyu	e.g. in dancing, building
talk, to	mëmun	
tanged, e.g., of a hoe	mijirvi [mdʒurvi]	
tassel	kwásübë	of untwisted baobab root fibres, worn by women behind
tassel, dance	kwatsakwatsa	bead and cowrie tassel, worn over buttocks
tassel, long	ghuli tëda [əyulitada]	of twisted baobab fibre
tassel, rear women's apron	ghuli	
tassel, short	dugutsë'd	of twisted baobab or bean fibre, worn as rear apron by young woman
tassle, short, worn behind	vwax	lit. leaves, in fact of untwisted baobab (and perhaps other) fibres
tax	budë	
tear off, to	bulra	
ten	wang	
ten thousand	wang wasëk wasëk	9,999 = mitli wang wasëk, mitli wasëk, mitli pësuk, shi mitli kumbë
tendon	bulejiy	
tense marker, future	da	
termite (edible)	vighum	
terrace, large	rëma	as of a platform supporting a house
terrace, small	ghëradlay	as on farms
testicle	tlya gwaray	lit. seed scrotum
thank	mbëldëv	<i>m. kwa</i> or <i>m. ki</i>
thatch	ju ir	
thatch overhanging a wall	manda ju ir	
their	ta	
them	tam	as in I hear them
there	ayciy	of something specified
there is something for	accú a ...	a formula used when making offerings to
...		
they	tá	

thief	mèkèr	
thigh	pèsar	
thing	da	
thing	dey	
thirst	ngélay	
thirteen	wang maakèn kèmbè	and so on to 19
thirty	maakèn pèsèk	and so on to 90
this one	hayu	
thorn	jik	
thorny weed	jikzungwa	? kram-kram
thousand	wang wasèk	2018 = du wang wasèk shi tèkuz kumbè
thread, cotton	pa'wa	
three	maakèn	
three hundred	maaken wasèk	
thresh, to	dlyiy	
threshing floor	ghran	
throat	nggulum	
throne room	'Bègè	megalithic, on Patla
throughout	hala	as in <i>hala vay</i> throughout the night
throw, to	dluw-ma	
thunder	mbèrèm	
Thursday	suku Ruwa	
Thusday	suku Ruwa	Ruwa=Wula
tiger nut	dèbèr	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>
time ago, a short	njika	
title	Jirduk	lit. stallion, male horse
title holder	Birima	a junior "chamberlain"
title holder	Dala	door keeper/guard of Xidi house
title holder	Dalatè	representative of the former Kulèsègèy dynasty
title holder	'Day kèr'ba	the smith whose main duty is to bury the chief
title holder	Dzarma	chief's 'herald'
title holder	Fa tè xidi	chief's privileged advisor
title holder	Makarma	
title holder	Makarma bin ghu'd	
title holder	Mbèsèfwoy	sacrificer
title holder	Midala	ritual war leader
title holder	Row(a)nza	second in command of initiates, a temporary title
title holder	Rowxidi	formerly heir to chief and his deputy, now only 'chief' of initia
title holder	Tlagama	
title holder	Tlamburum	a Kigi, the chief's "ear" in upper Sukur
title holder	Tlègèm	
title holder	Tlèmuzi	
title holder	Tlèsuku	chief's 'chaplain'
title holder	Wakili	chief's deputy
title holders, privileged	pishili	privileged to enter chief's house at any time
toad	gwombak	
tobacco	taba	
tobacco pipe	kula	
tobacco, loaf of	yim zèr taba	
today	bèna	
toe	ruwi nas	

together with	xe	of people, not sure of other things
tomato	tomatër	Engl.
tomb building	pëtla kulë	day of building superstructure - is <i>pëtla</i> homonym (breaking stones)?
tomorrow	zhama	
tomorrow, day after	mbuzhatay	
tongs, smith's	mëgats	
tongue	ghanay [ɣenaj]	
tooth	dlyin	
tortoise	kil(ë)pu	
tradition	da juk'	lit. thing of patriline
tradition	gargajiya	Hausa
tradition, ceremony	dzëghiy	
trap	ngga	
tree	fwoy	general term also means 'wooden'
tree, 2 kinds	taangul	one assoc gëkili; one thorny, hard purple fruit used as plugs wounds
tree, <i>Acacia albida</i>	sissu	
tree, <i>Acacia sieberiana</i>	ghrusgu [huzgu]	
tree, <i>Acacia sp.</i>	gwaram	
tree, <i>Acacia sp.</i>	vër	used for charcoal
tree, baobab	mbutë [mbuta]	
tree, black plum	zëga	<i>Vitex doniana</i>
tree, desert date	baxëlë	<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>
tree, <i>Erythrina</i>	njinjitl	
tree, <i>Euphorbia sp.</i>	huruw	<i>E. kamerunica</i>
tree, fig, kind of	balbalay [balbalaj]	resinous sap
tree, fig, kind of	cakatlaw	soft white wood, reddish bark
tree, fig, kind of	dzu	house posts sprout, polled to produce lumber
tree, fig, kind of	mandak	edible lanceolate leaves, small green-yellow fruit
tree, fig, kind of	vamay	grows in wet places
tree, hackberry	muhuric	<i>Celtis integrifolia</i>
tree, hollow	dlumbur	from which people are said to emerge
tree, jujube	rëvay [iruvaj]	<i>Zizyphus mauritiaca</i>
tree, jujube	rëvay duguvu	<i>Z. spinachristi</i> , lit. jujube tree hyena
tree, kind of	ciicu	Hausa <i>arrarrabi</i>
tree, kind of	ek'	used for charcoal
tree, kind of	hurumgë	fibres used to make bags
tree, kind of	ku'dan	? <i>Mitragyna inermis</i> , found in wet places, and smelting medicine from it
tree, kind of	madlakwala	used for charcoal
tree, kind of	maladay [maladaj]	grown along paths, may be <i>Erythrina</i>
tree, kind of	mapas	like <i>Adenia obesum</i> but with pale, greenish flowers
tree, kind of	mbizhu	Hausa <i>durmi</i>
tree, kind of	misum	used for charcoal
tree, kind of	tsëngu'b	khaki fruit, black seeds, grey flaky bark, ?? <i>Sterculia setigera</i>
tree, kind of	vyeka	bark, whitish, bleeds red; of ceremonial significance, for charcoal
tree, locust bean	rëgwan	

tree, mahogany	cini	<i>Khaya senegalensis</i>
tree, Nigerian ebony	hawun	
tree, <i>Piliostigma</i>	sagwan	<i>P. thonningii</i>
tree, sausage	magow	<i>Kigelia africana</i>
tree, shea	vëma	
tree, tamarind	mbëlëm	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>
trousers, wide	shelwa	
true	gaaga	as in 'that's true'
Tuesday	suku Mefir	
Tuesday	suku Mefir	
turban, bandage	mugapa	a piece of cloth wound around some thing or body
turn around or over, to	bávà	
turn sideways, to	bama	
tuyere	dzuv	
tuyere armature	njak' [ndzaku]	the pottery tube over which the tuyere is formed
twelve	wang duk kumbë	
twenty	sarasëk	
twenty one	sarasëk tan kumbë	
twenty two	sarasëk duk këmbë	
twin	huli	
twin, first, name of	po, pu	
twin, second, name of	mara	
twins advisors	nday tsuf huli	who instruct new parents of twins
twins ceremony	mba huli	final ceremony following birth of twins
twist, to	terara	as in ropemaking
two	bak	
two hundred	du wasëk	
two thousand	du wang wasëk	2108 = du wang wasëk, wasëk shi tëkuz
two year old	bak va ka	a two year old animal or girl 'two year she'
two year old	bak va të	a two year old animal or boy 'two year he'
ululation	elalay	
umbilical cord	muzapë'd	
under	shitë	see also mëtë
under, subordinate to	mëtë	in hierarchical sense
unfortunately	pam	a "sad" word
unless	dlatsey	
until	dlà	<i>dla tsiy ya</i> - until he ...
until	nagh	of a past event
until	Nda ... bëgh	of a future event see phrase 96:98
until a bit later	dla shenjuwu	see you later
up above	ma tëka	
up here	dzahayi	
up, at, or to Duwa	ma Duwa	when speaking in Sakun, thus South
up, up above, from above	ma	
upper (higher) half (of Sukur)	jira	as opposed to lower <i>tëka</i>
urinate, to	ta mis	
urine	mis	
us (accus.)	ma	
useless person	këra vu	lit. dog shit

uselessly, to no purpose	tauk' [tauk ^w]	also: intentionally but knowing it to be wrong
valley	dlyaw	
vein	bëliji	
veranda	zhalliy	
verandah, covered area	dadëga	over all or part of a courtyard, may be decorated with stones
vestibule	mëpëkë	thatched extension to a room
vibraphone	li'dku	of sorghum stalk
violin, Higi type	ghraraghrariya	
vulture	mukudëk	
vulva	ngoeri	
Waga people	Waga	
wait!	toma	
walk, to	dzowa	
wall between rooms	dadu	on lower, female side of house
wall footing	munda ir	
wall of room	zëbur ir	
wall, between rooms	dlala	on upper, male side of house
wall, of stone	deggoey [dugi]	
wander about, to	mbambavë	
want, to	mà	
ward head	bulama	from Kanuri ? <i>bulama</i> , older words include <i>fa ka giwa</i> and <i>tlamburum</i>
ward, quarter of village	giwa	
warm	ufëk [ufuk]	
warm, to	fwa	of liquids
wasp, 2 kinds	mbürzhing	black and red, make collective grey, papery nests in trees
water, rain	iyam [ijam]	
way, path or road	civi	also used metaphorically as in English
we (excl.)	nyi	
we (incl.)	mën	
weakling	mäteni	specif. child of a mother who got pregnant soon after its birth
Wednesday	suku Gulak	
Wednesday	suku Gulak	
weed, kind of	zhonzhona	common, bushy, used for blue-black dye; ? <i>Indigofera arrecta</i>
weed, soft-stemmed	kurokudë	'water weed' and smelting medicine from it
weed, to	zova	
weep, to	riin	hence funeral celebration
well done!	hanu	also congratulations, thank you
well, dug	b(ë)lagaji	?Hausa
well, water point	mbëzhir [mbuzir]	traditional well, spring
went, to (to have gone)	ray	
west, evening	pakwa	
what?	ma ... wa?	What is your name? - <i>Ma 'ba ta wa?</i>
what?	miwa?	in sense of 'please say again'
when	mahu	
when?	huwu ... wa?	
where	tù	as in <i>Dza kwa tù ma</i> - where are you going mother?

where?	ngëna ... wa?	
which ... ?	nayi .. wa?	
which, that	koey	<i>Ndeyi ka penni koey ma kwa</i> - This is the pen which+past yo like
whip, of hide	kurup	
whirlwind	belim	
whistle, to	vu'd pilikw	
white	mëtlyan	
white person	Nassara	Hausa lit. Nazarene
who (demonstr.)	toey	
who?	wiy [uwij]	only as in 'Zygmunt who?'
who?	wunday ... wa?	
why?	shimii	
wife, favourite	kwajuniy	lit. you small ??
wife, first/senior	ma ka ghríy	direct transl. from Hausa
wife, first/senior	zëray ndey	
wife, unloved	kwazërma	
wild beast (<i>not</i> buffalo)	kilkindzëng	a dangerous wild animal, form unknown, possibly mythical
wind	mí'd	
witch	mat	
witch grass	lalavë	purple flowers
with	ba	
with	shi	
with, and	në	
woman, barren	cër	also <i>zawar</i>
woman, barren	zawar	
woman, older; midwife	zërajik	
woman, wife	zër	
women	zhiri	irreg. pl. of zër
work	dlën	
work group	xidi soji	young men's cooperative work group, usually from a ward often hosted, e.g., by man whose field is being weeded
work party	zozowa	
work, to	'bën dlën	
wound	wà	
wrestling	goe	
Wula	Ruwa	
yam (bush)	fi'd	general term for yam and perhaps other root crops incl. <i>Xanthosoma sagittifolia</i>
year	và	
year, last	dlay	
yesterday	dlawa	
you (pl. accus.)	kiyam	as in 'I hear you'
you (pl. accus.)	kiyar	as in 'I hit you'
you (plural nominative)	kí	
you (sing. accus.)	kwam	as in 'I hear you'
you (sing. accus.)	kwar	as in 'I hit you'
you (sing., nom.)	kwa	
your (pl.)	tuku	
your (sing.)	tà	