

Jakato, an undocumented language of Central Nigeria

[DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT -NOT FOR CITATION WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE
AUTHORS]

Roger Blench
McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research

Michael Bulkaam
Kay Williamson Educational
Foundation

University of Cambridge
Department of History, University of Jos
Kay Williamson Educational Foundation
8, Guest Road
Cambridge CB1 2AL
United Kingdom
Voice/ Ans (00-44)-(0)7847-495590
Mobile worldwide (00-44)-(0)7967-696804
E-mail rogerblench@yahoo.co.uk
<http://www.rogerblench.info/RBOP.htm>

This printout: Jos, October 19, 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation	1
2.1 Nomenclature.....	1
2.2 Location and settlements	1
2.3 Language status	1
2.4 The classification of Jakato	1
3. Phonology	3
3.1 Vowels.....	3
3.2 Consonants.....	3
3.2.1 Unmodified series	3
3.2.2 Palatalised series.....	4
3.2.3 Labialised series	4
3.3 Tones.....	4
4. Jakato Wordlist	5
5. Lexical comparison and the classification of Jakato	19
References	19

TABLES

Table 1. Jakato long/short vowel contrasts	3
Table 2. Jakato palatalised consonants.....	4
Table 3. Jakato labialised consonants	4
Table 4. Jakato Mid-High sequences	5

MAPS

Map 1. Jakato and surrounding languages	2
---	---

ABSTRACT

This is an introduction and basic phonology, orthography proposal and a short dictionary of Jakato, a previously undocumented language in southern Plateau State, Nigeria. Jakato is part of West Chadic, A3, and the paper presents evidence for its affiliation within the A3 group. Although the Jakato claim cultural links with the Goemai, linguistically, they are closest to the PAN (Kofyar cluster). They also show some lexical influence from Koenoem, a Talic language, immediately to the west. However, the phonology is simplified, with secondary stop and fricative series, like north languages such as Mwaghavul. The paper argues that Jakato should be identified as a distinct language and thus assigned an ISO code.

Keywords: Jakato; Chadic; phonology; wordlist; orthography

1. Introduction

The Jakato language, spoken in southern Plateau State, Nigeria, has not previously been documented. As part of a survey to document the languages of the West Chadic A3 group, a study was undertaken in October 2016¹. **Photo 1** shows the session participants who took part in an intensive recording session in Dokan Tofa, and the results from this exercise are analysed in the present paper. The transcriptions were made by Michael Bulkaam and Roger Blench and the analysis was prepared by Roger Blench.

Photo 1. Jakato speakers, 2016



Source: Author photo

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

The name of the language and people is Jakato [ʒàkàtò], Blench (2018) discusses whether this could be the same as the mysterious ‘Jorto’ who are recorded in Ames (1934). The data do not entirely match, and the population figures seem to be excessive compared with the Jakato². Without an early linguistic record, this cannot be entirely resolved, but no-one we spoke to was willing to admit to the name ‘Jorto’.

2.2 Location and settlements

The Jakato people are centred on the market town of Dokan Tofa, some 50 km north of Shendam in southern Plateau state. **Map 1** shows the approximate relationship of Jakato to neighbouring A3 languages. **Map 2** shows the location of Dokan Tofa in relation to Shendam, and also the neighbouring speech communities.

2.3 Language status

Despite its mixed urban context, Jakato is apparently still commonly spoken, but it is hard to assess how many speakers there are. Based on the size of the village, there could be as few as 500.

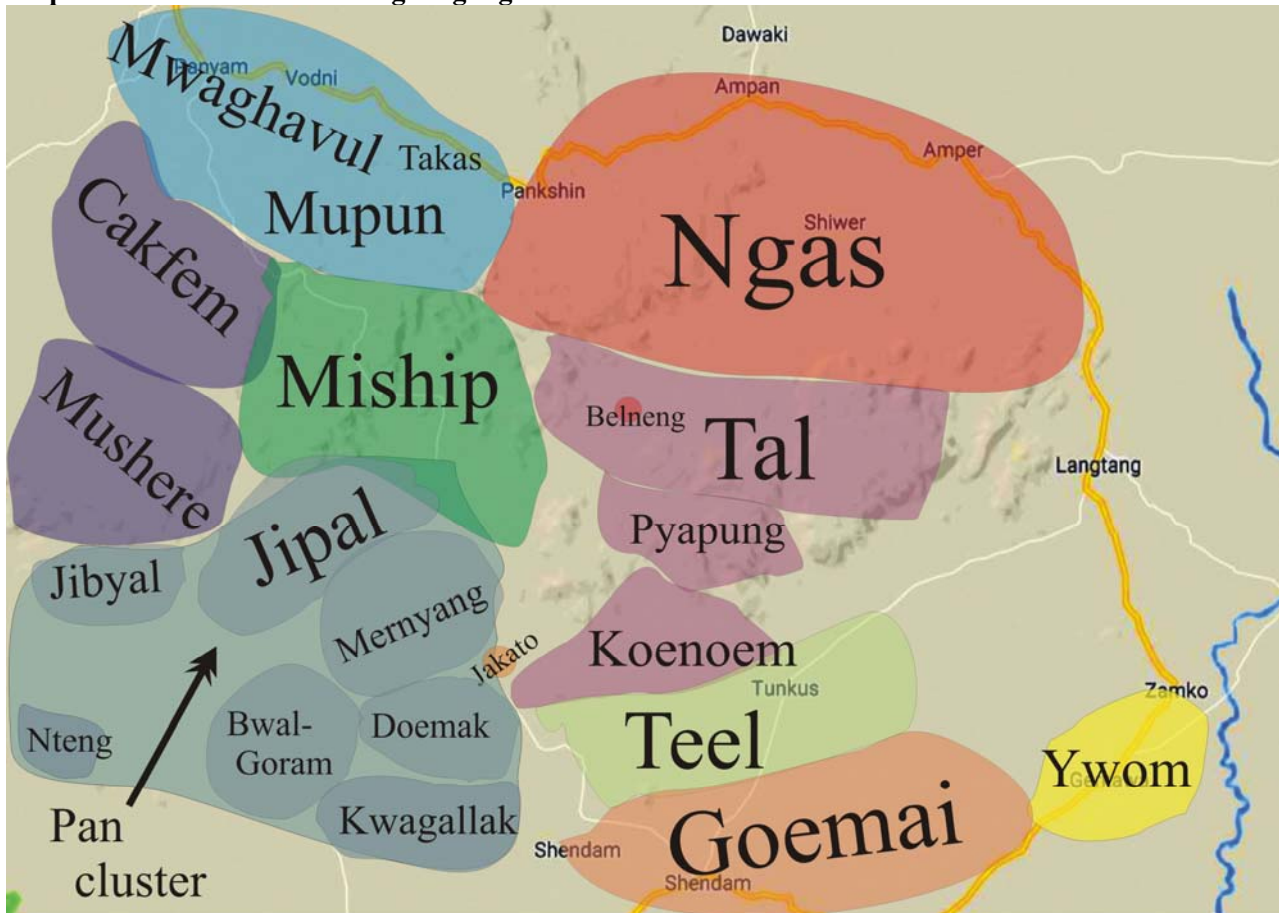
2.4 The classification of Jakato

Jakato is part of the West Chadic A3 group which also has Ngas, Mwaghavul and Goemai as members. West Chadic also includes Hausa, the Ron languages, Bole-Tangale. A3 is listed as ‘Angas proper’ in the Ethnologue and as ‘Unclassified Goemaic’ in the Glottolog. Jakato is placed on the same continuum with Chakfem and Mushere. The only overview of the subgroup, Tákačs (2004) calls this group ‘Angas-Sura’, neatly combining two outmoded spellings, even at the time of publication. §5. discusses this classification in more detail. I have provisionally named the A3 languages Central West Chadic, pending acceptance of a consensus name. Figure 1 shows a family tree of the A3 languages, based on present evidence.

¹ The authors would like to thank Sarkin Dokan Tofa, who kindly assisted us in assembling a group of Jakato speakers.

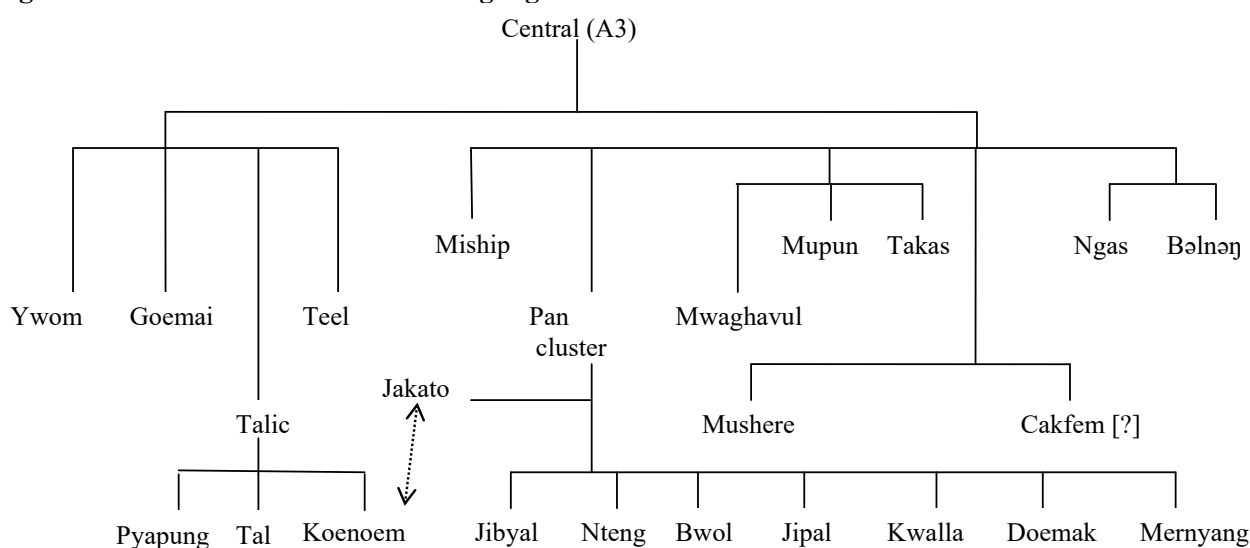
² Incidentally, a population figure of ca. 5000 has been cited in successive editions of the Ethnologue, with no justification from field results.

Map 1. Jakato and surrounding languages



Map 2. Location of Dokan Tofa



Figure 1. The Central West Chadic languages


3. Phonology

The phonology of Jakato is preliminary. The extended wordlist in §4. presents a possible orthographic solution, based on well-established systems such as Mwaghavul. Simultaneously with this paper, an Android phone version of the lexicon is being released.

3.1 Vowels

Jakato has six phonemic vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Close-Mid	e	ə	o
Open		a	

Some of these have clear long/short distinctions and with a longer wordlist, contrasts will probably appear for all of them. Table 1 illustrates Jakato long/short vowel contrasts;

Table 1. Jakato long/short vowel contrasts

Jakato	Gloss	Jakato	Gloss
ŋà̀n	cobra	nā̀n	God
è̀s	faeces	è̀s	to grind
kṑn	salt	kṑs	headpad
nī̀	he/she	nī̀	elephant
lṑŋ	chief	lṑt	wet land
mū̀n	porridge	mū̀t	death

It is evident that some of these are only recorded where there is a sequence of two identical vowels with a tone change, so these might not be analysed as underlying long vowels. Further lexical data would be required to resolve this issue.

3.2 Consonants

3.2.1 Unmodified series

Jakato consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial		Labio-dental		Alveolar	Post-alveolar		Palatal	Velar		Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p	b			t	d			k	g		ʔ
Implosive		ɓ				ɗ			ɠ			
Nasal		m				n		ɲ		ŋ		
Fricative			f	v		s	z	ʃ	ʒ	[ɣ]		h
Affricate								tʃ	dʒ			
Trill						r						
Lateral						l						
Approximant								y			w	

/g/ and /ɣ/ are probably allophones, with /g/ realised as /ɣ/ in intervocalic position.

3.2.2 Palatalised series

Jakato has the following palatalised consonants, /dʲ/, /kʲ/, /ŋʲ/, /pʲ/, /rʲ/. Examples are shown in Table 2;

Table 2. Jakato palatalised consonants

Jakato	Gloss
dʲēl	smoke
kyàk	to split
kyāp	to fight
pyān	to smash
ryāā	to weave

3.2.3 Labialised series

Jakato has the following palatalised consonants, /bʷ/, /fʷ/, /kʷ/, /ŋʷ/, /sʷ/. Examples are shown in Table 3;

Table 3. Jakato labialised consonants

Jakato	Gloss
ḃwāp	to beat
fwēn	rain
kwák	fish sp.
ḡwáp	to cut
swàr	laughter

3.3 Tones

Like the other A3 languages, Jakato has three phonetic tones, marked Low, Mid and High. There is also a Mid-High tone which plausibly originates from Mid-High vowel sequences, which are common in Jakato.

High	ˈ
Mid	ˉ
Low	ˋ
Rising Low-High	ˊ
Rising Mid-High	ˊ̃

However, unlike some neighbouring languages, Jakato does not seem to have clear three-way contrast on monosyllables. This suggests it is underlyingly a two-tone language, and the High tone is a phonetic consequence of Rising and Low-Mid sequences. Table 4 illustrates examples of a Mi-High tone on a single vowel, and similar words where a sequence of identical vowels has a Mid-High sequence. It is likely that the glide tone arises from reduction of doubled vowels.

Table 4. Jakato Mid-High sequences

Jakato	Gloss	Jakato	Gloss
gǒŋ	nose	fěér	four
gǒn	cheek	dǎás	men
ěs	bone	ǎíp	cane-rat
dǎl	to swallow	zǎákí	donkey

4. Jakato Wordlist

The following wordlist notes forms with minimal tone-marking, in the style of other languages of the cluster, in the event of orthography development. In brackets a strict IPA transcription is given.

A a

aap [ā:p] v. to yawn
àap [à:p] v.n. yawning
aghap [àḡàp] n. armpit
aghas [àḡàs] n. tooth
am [ám] v. to carve
àm [àm] n. water; liquid

an [àn] pron. I; me
arang [ārāṅ] n. ashes; cinders
as [ās] n. dog
às [às] n. egg
at [āt] v. to bite

B b

bagā kong [bàgà kōṅ] n. river
bandar [bàndár] n. basket
bang [bāṅ] n. drum two-headed, cylindrical
ber [bèr] v. to scatter; to spread; to disseminate
bəkaam [bəkā:m] n. ancestor; grandparent; elder
bəken [bəkēn] n. forehead

bəzəṅ [bázəṅ] n. horse
bəzəṅ naan [bəzəṅ nā:n] n. praying mantis
Sphodromantis phyllocrana
bi kaalə [bì kà:lə] n. ladder
bishin [bìʃin] n. poison; toxin; venom

B 6

ḡaan [ḡá:n] v. to want s.t.
ḡaas [ḡāás] n. calf of leg
ḡal [ḡál] n. flute made of a cornstalk or clay
ḡalzəwam [ḡálzəwām] n. jackal *Canis adustus*
ḡang [ḡāṅ] s.v. to be red
ḡaw [ḡāw] n. arrow
ḡeer [ḡè:r] n. fish sp.
ḡələm [ḡəlēm] v. to lick
ḡiip [ḡiíp] n. grasscutter, cane-rat *Thryonomys*

swinderianus
ḡis [ḡís] n. charcoal
ḡom [ḡōm] v. to touch
ḡook [ḡō:k] n. mud
ḡop [ḡōp] n. fish sp.
ḡughat [ḡūḡāt] v. to tie; to bind
ḡut [ḡūt] n. stomach; belly
ḡwap [ḡwāp] v. to beat; to strike; to hit
ḡyang [ḡ'āṅ] v. to pierce; to stab

D d

da'aak [dàʔà:k] n. ground squirrel *Xeropus erythraicus*
daas [dāás] n. men
dafan [dàfān] n. hare; rabbit
dagok [dàḡòk] n. grasshopper
dakur [dàkūr] n. tortoise (Bell's hinged) *Kinixys belliana belliana*
dakəghəl [dàkəḡəl] n. crab
dang [dāṅ] n. tail
dangkong [dāṅkōṅ] n. back
dashim [dāʃim] n. water monitor lizard *Varanus exanthematicus*
dawup [dàwūp] n. giant rat; pouched rat
Cricetomys gambianus
dee [dè:] n. fish sp.
del [dèl] v. to pull; to drag
delkoo [dèlkò:] n. cock; rooster
dəfiip [dəfì:p] v. to whistle
dəghəm [dəḡəm] n. village weaver bird *Ploceus*

cucullatus
dəghəs [dəḡəs] n. giant cricket; mole-cricket
Gryllotalpa spp.
dəghət [dəḡət] n. thigh
dəlong [dəlōṅ] n. bow
dəndən [dəndən] adv. yesterday
dəṅ [dəṅ] n. body
dəp [dəp] n. penis
dəpat [dəpàt] n. cockroach *Periplaneta americana*
dəramtis [dəràmtis] n. story; folktale; fable; narrative
dəsək [dəsək] n. house bat *Scotophilus spp.*
dip [dìp] a. all
dughul [dùḡùl] n. stick
dugun [dùḡùm] v. to kneel down
dugung [dùḡũṅ] n. he-goat
dung am [dùṅ àm] n. well
duul es/sar shing [dù:l ès] n. pestle

D d'

dəghar [dəḡār] n. scorpion
dəl [dál] v. to swallow
dəṅḡ1 [dəṅḡ] n. Nile monitor lizard *Varanus*

niloticus
dəṅḡ2 [dəṅḡ] v. to beg; to plead
dən [dēn] v. to drop

də [də] *v.* to smell
dədaar [dədəa:r] *adv.* tomorrow
dəghən pin [dəyən pɪn] *n.* room
dək [dək] *v.* to pour
dək nkwa [dək ŋkʷá:] *v.p.* to add

dik [dik] *v.* to filter; to sieve; to strain
dik [dik] *v.* to build; to mould pot
dip [dip] *n.* feather
dyel [dʲel] *n.* smoke

E e

eel [ɛ:l] *n.* fish sp.
ees1 [ɛ:s] *n.* sand
ees2 [ɛ:s] *v.* to grind
eet [ɛ:t] *v.* to swim
en [ɛn] *n.* medicine

en men [ɛn mɛn] *v.p.* to forget
ep [ɛp] *v.* to open
es [ɛs] *n.* bone
ès [ɛs] *n.* faeces; excrement; dung; manure; shit
estur [ɛstúr] *n.* rib

ə ə

əə [əə] *n.* goat

F f

fu [fù:] *v.* to play
fan [fān] *n.* rain
feer [fɛér] *num.* four
fəlok [fəlɔk] *n.* liver
fəram [fəram] *n.* knee
fii [fi:] *v.* to dry up; to evaporate

fiin [fi:n] *n.* grinding stone; quern stone
fiit [fi:t] *n.* fish sp.
fung [fùŋ] *n.* hole; cave
fuut [fʰuút] *v.* to vomit; to retch; to barf
fwen sam [fʷɛn sám] *v.* to rain
fyal [fʲal] *v.* to boil

G g

gaghas [gàɣàs] *n.* jaw
gak [gàk] *n.* thatched roof
gam [gām] *v.* to fill
gang'aar [gàŋʔà:r] *n.* fish sp.
gap [gàp] *v.* to cut down; to fell
gə [gə] *pron.* you (m)
gən [gɛn] *n.* cheek
gəshak [gəʃák] *n.* basket
gəshin [gəʃín] *v.* to continue; to persist
gətəng [gətəŋ] *n.* sky

gok [gòk] *n.* disease; sickness; illness; malady
gong [gɔŋ] *n.* nose
guk pee [gúl pɛ:] *v.* to bark
gun [gún] *pron.* you (pl.)
gurum [gùrùm] *n.* person
gurum mwop [gùrùm mʷɔp] *n.* people
gwagharak [gʷáɣáràk] *n.* throat
gyaa [gʲáá] *n.* song
gyaraa [gʲārāá] *n.* eagle sp.; African fish eagle
Haliaetus vocifer

J j

jaaki [ɟáákí] *n.* donkey [< H.]
jagham [ɟáɣám] *n.* chin
Jakato [ɟàkàtò] *p.n.* Jakato people
jeeje [ɟɛ:ɟɛ] *n.* ankle rattle

jem [ɟɛm] *n.* sickle
jep mwop [ɟɛp mʷɔp] *n.* children
ji [ɟí] *v.* to come

K k

kaa [kāá] *n.* head
kàà [kà:] *v.* to climb; to mount
kaar [kā:r] *n.* black monkey *Cercopithecus tantalus*
kaat nəng [kà:t nəŋ] *n.* young female cow; heifer
kaghas [kāɣás] *n.* fish sp.
kansəghən [kànsəɣən] *adv.* evening
karam [kāram] *n.* mat
karamshim [kàramʃim] *n.* skin
kashakashak [káʃákáʃák] *n.* gourd rattle
kəbən [kəbən] *n.* buffalo; bush cow *Syncerus caffer*
kədəghər [kədəɣər] *n.* hill

kəəs [kə:s] *n.* headpad
kəət [kə:t] *n.* adze used for carving wood
kəkong təng [kəkòŋ tɛŋ] *n.* bark of tree
kələng [kəlɛŋ] *v.* 1) to hear 2) to listen
kən [kən] *n.* salt
kərək [kəɾək] *v.* to remember; to recall
kəsher [kəʃɛr] *n.* grave; tomb
kətet [kətɛt] *n.* winnowing tray made of straw
kəyil [kəjɪl] *n.* world
kəzəm [kəzəm] *n.* rat *Rattus rattus*
kəzəng [kəzəŋ] *n.* urine; piss

kikyen [kik'ēn] *n.* thorn
koghom [kòɣòm] *n.* harmattan
koghom/ koop [kòɣòm] *n.* wind
koghop [kòɣòp] *n.* shoes
kom1 [kòm] *n.* ear
kom2 [kòm] *v.* to throw; to stone
kom tɛng [kòm tɛŋ] *n.* leaf
kong [kɔŋ] *n.* river; stream
koo [kò:] *n.* chicken; hen; fowl
kop [kòp] *n.* spear
kum1 [kúm] *n.* navel
kum2 [kúm] *n.* corpse; carcass; cadaver
kum3 [kúm] *v.* to sweep
kumuu [kùmù:] *n.* hyena *Hyaena hyaena*
kun [kùn] *v.* to count

kung [kūŋ] *n.* leopard *Panthera pardus*
kup am [kùp àm] *n.* lake
kur [kùr] *n.* handle of either hoe or axe
kuram [kūrám] *n.* slave
kut [kút] *n.* crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*
kuut [kù:t] *v.* to say; to speak
kwák [k'ák] *n.* fish sp.
kwàk [k'ák] *n.* leg
kwat [k'át] *v.n.* hunting
kwoom [k'wòm] *n.* bush fowl; francolin
Francolinus spp.
kyak [k'ák] *v.* to split
kyang [k'āŋ] *n.* small hoe used for weeding
kyeek [k'ēék] *n.* porcupine *Hystrix cristata*

K k

kāa [kà:] *v.* to ride (horse or bicycle)
kāap [kà:p] *n.* baboon *Papio anubis*
kāt [kāt] *v.* to have
kābāghər [kābāɣər] *n.* hedgehog *Atelerix albiventris*

kun [kún] *num.* three
kuur1 [kūr:] *n.* soot
kuur2 [kūr:] *v.* to burn
kwap [k'áp] *v.* to cut; to slash
kyap [k'āp] *v.* to fight

L l

laa1 [lā:] *n.* child
laa2 [lā:] *v.* to give birth
lap [láp] *v.* to receive
lap mat [láp māt] *v.p.* to marry a wife
lapshak [lápʃák] *v.* to resemble
lasar [lāsár] *n.* finger
lat [lāt] *v.* to finish; to end
law [lāw] *n.* bag made of animal skin
ledēe [lédè:] *n.* pig [*< H.*]
lee [lēé] *n.* load; burden
lə [lə] *n.* compound
lə yer [lə jēr] *n.* nest
ləghət [ləɣət] *n.* forest
lɛtuk [lètúk] *n.* market

libin [libīn] *n.* cloud
liis [līís] *n.* tongue
liit [līt] *n.* lion *Panthera leo*
long [lɔŋ] *n.* chief; king; ruler
loot [lɔ́t] *n.* swamp; morass; bog; marsh; fadama; wetland
lughun [lūɣún] *n.* dry season
lughut [lùɣùt] *v.* to fear
luu [lū:] *n.* meat; animal
luu nshit [lù: ʃit] *n.* wild animal
lyak [l'ák] *v.* to fight
lyak dyel [l'ák d'él] *n.* war; combat; struggle; fight; fracas

M m

maa [mā:] *v.* to be more than, to surpass
man [mān] *v.* to know
màn [màn] *v.n.* knowledge
mang [māŋ] *v.* to carry; to take
mang tam [māŋ tām] *v.* to sing
mar [mār] *n.* farm
mār [mār] *v.* to cultivate, to farm; to till
marap [māràp] *v.* to dance
mat [māt] *n.* woman
mbit [m'bit] *adv.* morning
mee [mé:] *num.* one
mèè [mè:] *n.* granary; silo; barn
məghər [məɣər] *n.* fat

məzep [məzèp] *n.* guest; stranger; visitor
mis [mīs] *n.* man; male
mis nəŋ [mīs nəŋ] *n.* bull
moor [mò:r] *n.* oil
mos [mòs] *n.* locally brewed wine, beer
mpat [m'pāt] *n.* broom
mpuus [m'pūs:] *n.* afternoon
mun1 [mún] *pron.* we
mun2 [mūn] *n.* porridge, tuwo
muur [mūr:] *n.* fat
muus [mús:] *n.* cat [*< H.*]
muut [mū:t] *n.* death
mùùt [mù:t] *v.* to die

mwan [m^wān] v. to go; to follow; to walk
myaa [m^jā:] n. relation

myaghar [m^jāyār] v. to twist
myelap [m^jēlāp] n. lightening

N n

naa [nāá] v. to see
Naan [nā:n] n. God
naguu [nàgú:] n. cattle egret *Ardeola ibis*
narii [nàrí:] n. transverse clarinet; musical instrument
naso [násò] v. to run
ndaa [n^dā:] n. father
ndamshing [n^dāmshɪŋ] n. millipede *Iule spp.*
ndengdeng [n^dēŋdēŋ] n. raft-zither
ndunuu [n^dūnūú] n. skink
ndiin [n^dī:n] n. fruit bat *Rousettus aegyptiacus*
neen [nē:n] n. hunger
nəər [nə:r] n. vagina
nəmwet [nəm^wét] n. toad
nəng [nəŋ] n. cow
nəngkaam [nəŋkām] n. grandmother
nfət [n^fət] n. mosquito *Anopheles spp.*
ngaam [ŋgām] n. ram
ngagharap [ŋgāyārāp] n. chameleon
ngalong [ŋgālŋ] n. fish sp.
ngəzəŋ [ŋgəzəŋ] n. drum type
nggan [ŋgān] n. black-necked spitting cobra *Naja nigricollis nigricollis*
ngong [ŋgōŋ] adv. night

ngoroo [ŋgōrō:] n. pied crow *Corvus albus*
ngum [ŋgūm] n. insect sp.
ngwam [ŋg^wām] n. cutlass
ni [nī] pron. he; she
nii [nīí] n. elephant *Loxodonta africana*
njaa [n^jā:] n. termite
njeleng [n^jēlèŋ] n. mason wasp *Belenogaster griseus*
nkyaa [n^kāá] n. vulture *Neophron monachus*
nnaa [nⁿā:] n. mother
nnik [nⁿìk] n. fish sp.
nook [nò:k] n. breath; respiration
nsham [n^ʃām] n. louse *Pediculus spp.*
nshee [n^ʃē:] v. to start; to begin; to commence
nshii [n^ʃī:] n. bee; housefly
nveeku [n^vē:kù] n. large transverse clarinet; musical instrument
nvoor [n^vō:r] n. honeybee sp.
nvyang [n^vyāŋ] n. flying ant; termite
nweel [n^wē:l] n. earthworm; worm
nwoo [n^wō:] n. snake
nyang [nāŋ] v. to refuse; to reject
nyər [n^jār] n. needle
nzəghər [n^zəyār] n. fish sp.

O o

oghot [òyòt] v. to cover
ok [òk] v. to dig

òk [òk] v. to dig out (e.g. yam)

P p

paan [pā:n] n. fish sp.
paap [pā:p] n. antelope; red-flanked duiker *Cephalophus rufilatus*
paar1 [pā:r] v. to jump
paar2 [pā:r] v. to send
pààr [pā:r] v.n. message; information; news
paat [pā:t] num. five
pal [pāl] v. to fall
pang [pāŋ] n. 1) flat rock 2) stone
pang fiin [pāŋ fiin] n. grinding stone
pas [pās] n. rainy season
pee [pē:] n. place
peeban [pē:bān] n. sweat; perspiration
pəfaar [pəfāár] num. nine
pələ [pəlā] n. door
pəmə [pəmə] num. six
pəpəl [pəpəl] n. butterfly

pəvel [pəvēl] num. seven
pəzung [pəzùŋ] n. chest
pin [pìn] n. house
pit1 [pìt] n. patas monkey *Erythrocebus patas*
pit2 [pìt] v. to extinguish; to quench
pok veel [pók vē:l] v. to spit
poo [pò:] n. mouth
pukong [pùkōŋ] n. river bank
pukun [pùkūn] num. eight
put [pūt] v. to come out; to exit
puus [pūs:] n. sun
pyaa [p^jāá] n. white
pyaghar [p^jāyār] v. to dry out
pyan [p^jān] v. to smash
pyenkaram [p^jēnkārām] n. fish sp.
pyep [p^jèp] n. beard

R r

rə [rə] v. to enter; to come in

riin [rī:n] n. shade; shadow

ro [rò] v. to arrive
ruun [rù:n] v. to wear s.t.

ryaa [r'āá] v. to weave

S s

s'ar [sàr] *num.* ten
s'ar shika kamee [sàr ʃikákāmé:] *num.* eleven
s'ar shika vel [sàr ʃiká vɛl] *num.* twelve
sagham [sāyām] v. to cough
sam [sàm] v. to flow
sàm [sám] v. to sharpen
sar [sár] *n.* hand; arm
sar täng [sàr tǎŋ] *n.* branch of tree
seen täng [sɛ:n tǎŋ] *n.* root
seet [sɛét] v. **1)** to sell **2)** to buy
sep [sèp] *n.* axe
sə [sə] v. to eat
səghəp [səyǝp] *n.* hammer used by blacksmith for beating iron
səghər [səyǝr] *n.* dew
səm [sóm] *n.* name
shaan [ʃāán] *n.* hoe
shaar [ʃā:r] *n.* friend; mate; companion
shaat₁ [ʃāát] *n.* wing
shaat₂ [ʃāt] *n.* porridge; 'tuwo'
shaghal [ʃàɣàl] *n.* **1)** iron; metal **2)** money; cash; currency
shagham [ʃàɣàm] *n.* guinea fowl *Numida meleagris*
shak [ʃák] v. to choose; to select
shang [ʃàŋ] *n.* bag
shangshaar [ʃāŋʃá:r] *n.* swift sp. *Apus affinis* or *Cypsiurus parvus*
shee [ʃɛ:] v. to learn
sheptaw [ʃèptàw] *n.* quiver

sherem [ʃèrɛm] *n.* seed
sherep [ʃɛrɛp] *n.* fish
shet [ʃèt] v. to cook
shighən [ʃiyən] *n.* fingernail
shighət [ʃiyət] v. to fold
shiit [ʃi:t] *n.* work
shiit [ʃi:t] v. to work
shil [ʃil] *n.* oyster shell
shilimkən [ʃilimkən] *n.* gecko *Gekkonidae*
shin [ʃin] v. to give
shin [ʃin] v. to do
shing [ʃin] *n.* mortar
shini [ʃini] *adv.* today
shit₁ [ʃit] *n.* grass
shit₂ [ʃit] v. to heat
shoghot [ʃɔyɔt] *n.* witch
shol [ʃɔl] *n.* iron
shom [ʃòm] *n.* dassie; rock rabbit; rock hyrax
Procavia capensis
shopkaa [ʃɔp kāá] *n.* hair of the head
shuk [ʃùk] *n.* knife
shuu [ʃù:] v. to drink
soghom [sɔyɔm] *n.* horn
som bi [sóm bí] *n.* horn for music
sughun [sūyūn] v. to dream
sùghùn [sùyùn] *n.* dream
swar [sʷār] v. to laugh
swàr [sʷār] *v.n.* laughter
swoop [sʷɔp] *n.* women

T t

t'ambul [tāmbúl] *n.* agama lizard *Agama agama*
t'ung [tún] v. to fry
taan [tā:n] v. to sew
taghal [tàyàl] v. to chew
tagham [tàyàm] *n.* chair; stool; seat
taghamdang [tàyàmdāŋ] *n.* buttocks
taghas [tàyàs] *n.* smell
tal [tāl] v. to ask
tan [tán] *n.* mahogany *Khaya senegalensis*
tang [tàn] v. to look for; to search for; to seek
tangbap [tāŋbàp] *n.* shoulder
tanghəlap [tāŋyàlɛp] *n.* nightjar *Caprimulgus spp.*
tangræk/ taræk [tāŋræk] *n.* fireplace; hearth
tar [tár] *n.* moon; month
tas [tás] *n.* mushroom
tat [tát] v. to shoot; to fire

tee [tɛ:] v. to tear; to rip
teer [tʰɛ:r] v. to lie down
tel [tél] v. to gather
teng [tɛŋ] *n.* rope
tep [tɛp] v. to break; to smash
tə [tə] v. to kill
təgər [təyǝr] v. to rub
təghəm [təyǝm] *n.* blood
təghər [təyǝr] v. to wipe; to press
təm [təm] *n.* sheep
təng [tǎŋ] *n.* tree
təp [təp] *s.v.* to be black
tiis [tì:s] *n.* Senegal coucal *Centropus senegalensis*
til wus [tíl wūs] *n.* firefly *Lampyridae*
tis [tís] *n.* snail
toghos [tòyòs] *n.* warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*

tok [tók] *n.* neck
tòk [tòk] *n.* soup
tong [tòŋ] *v.* to sit down

tughun [tūyún] *v.* to push
tung [tʰún] *v.* 1) to mix up 2) to stir
tuup [tū:p] *n.* heart

V v

vang [vāŋ] *v.* to wash
vee [vēé] *n.* owl
veel [vè:l] *n.* vein

vel [vél] *num.* two
vilip naan [vílíp nā:n] *n.* cobweb
vivit [vívít] *n.* whirlwind; dust-devil; tornado

W w

waar [wá:r] *n.* gruel; kunu
wagəji [wāgəʒí] *v.* to return; to come back
wal [wál] *v.* to cry
wan [wān] *n.* clay
wang [wǎŋ] *n.* pot; pitcher; vessel; jar
war [wàr] *v.* to plait; to braid
wat [wát] *v.* to steal
wudak [wùdǎk] *n.* traditional doctor
wukəp [wùkəp] *a.* short
wukun [wùkūn] *a.* tall
wulee1 [wùlē:] *n.* younger brother
wulee2 [wùlē:] *n.* small
wum1 [wūm] *v.* to bury

wum2 [wūm] *v.* to sow seed; to plant
wunaw [wùnāw] *n.* hunter
wup [wùp] *v.* to swell up; to inflate
wupuu [wùpūú] *a.* new
wurwum [wúrwūm] *n.* dust
wus [wūs] *n.* fire
wùs [wùs] *v.* to roast; to grill
wusughum [wùsūyūm] *n.* blacksmith; smith; metalworker
wut [wūt] *v.* to untie
wuwat [wùwát] *n.* thief; robber; burglar
wuyon1 [wùjōn] *n.* elder
wuyon2 [wùjōn] *a.* big; large; huge; vast

Y y

yaa [jà:] *v.* to catch
yaghal [jāyāl] *v.* 1) to wake up 2) to fly
yagurum [jàgùrùm] *num.* twenty
yagurum fer [jàgùrùm fér] *num.* eighty
yagurum fer kəshika sar [jàgùrùm fér kəʃíká sàr] *num.* ninety
yagurum kun [jàgùrùm kún] *num.* sixty
yagurum kun kəshika sar [jàgùrùm kún kəʃíká sàr] *num.* seventy
yagurum paat [jàgùrùm pà:t] *num.* hundred
yagurum shika sar [jàgùrùm ʃíká sàr] *num.* thirty
yagurum vel [jàgùrùm vél] *num.* forty
yagurum vel kəshika sar [jàgùrùm vél kəʃíká sàr] *num.* fifty
yarkaam [járkā:m] *n.* road; path; track; trail

yer [jēr] *n.* bird
yertəŋ [jèrtəŋ] *n.* woodpecker *Picidae*
yi [jì] *pron.* you (f)
yii [jìí] *adv.* year
yil [jìl] *n.* ground
yimbut [jìmbūt] *n.* intestine
yimpet [jìmpět] *n.* broom made of palm leaves
yin [jín] *v.* to loose; to untie
yit [jìt] *n.* eye
yitfel [jìtfél] *n.* fish sp.
yitmwa [jìtm^wà:] *n.* tear
yoghon [jōyōn] *v.* to shake; to vibrate; to quiver; to tremble
yong1 [jōŋ] *v.* to blow
yong2 [jōŋ] *v.* to call
yughur [jūyūr] *n.* breast; bosom

Z z

zar [zàr] *n.* star
zay [zàj] *n.* fence
zeel [zē:l] *n.* saliva; spittle
zoghəp [zōyōp] *v.* to pound
zughum [zūyūm] *a.* cold
zungtung [zūŋtūŋ] *n.* rubbish dump; garbage dump; trash heap

A a

add, to v.p. **dək nkwa**

adze *n.* **kəət**

African fish eagle *n.* **gyaraa**

afternoon *n.* **mpuus**

agama lizard *n.* **t'ambul**

all *a.* **dip**

ancestor *n.* **bəkaam**

animal *n.* **luu**

ankle rattle *n.* **jeeje**

antelope *n.* **paap**

arm *n.* **sar**

armpit *n.* **aghap**

arrive, to v. **ro**

arrow *n.* **ḡaw**

ashes *n.* **arang**

ask, to v. **tal**

axe *n.* **sep**

B b

baboon *n.* **kaap**

back *n.* **dangkong**

bag *n.* **law**; *n.* **shang**

barf, to v. **fuut**

bark of tree *n.* **kəkong təng**

bark, to v. **guk pee**

barn *n.* **mèè**

basket *n.* **bandar**; *n.* **gəshak**

be black, to s.v. **təp**

be more than, to v. **maa**

be red, to s.v. **ḡang**

beard *n.* **pyep**

beat, to v. **ḡwap**

bee *n.* **nshii**

beg, to v. **dang2**

begin, to v. **nshee**

belly *n.* **ḡut**

big *a.* **wuyon2**

bind, to v. **ḡughat**

bird *n.* **yer**

bite, to v. **at**

black monkey *n.* **kaar**

black-necked spitting cobra *n.* **nggan**

blacksmith *n.* **wusughum**

blood *n.* **təghəm**

blow, to v. **yong1**

body *n.* **dəng**

bog *n.* **loot**

boil, to v. **fyal**

bone *n.* **es**

bosom *n.* **yughur**

bow *n.* **dəlong**

braid, to v. **war**

branch of tree *n.* **sar təng**

break, to v. **tep**

breast *n.* **yughur**

breath *n.* **nook**

broom *n.* **mpat**; *n.* **yimpat**

buffalo *n.* **kəbən**

build, to v. **dik**

bull *n.* **mis nəng**

burden *n.* **lee**

burglar *n.* **wuwat**

burn, to v. **kuur2**

bury, to v. **wum1**

bush cow *n.* **kəbən**

bush fowl *n.* **kwoom**

butterfly *n.* **pəpəl**

buttocks *n.* **taghamdang**

buy, to v. **seet 2**

C c

cadaver *n.* **kum2**

calf of leg *n.* **ḡaas**

call, to v. **yong2**

carcass *n.* **kum2**

carry, to v. **mang**

carve, to v. **am**

cash *n.* **shaghal 2**

cat *n.* **muus**

catch, to v. **yaa**

cattle egret *n.* **naguu**

cave *n.* **fung**

chair *n.* **tagham**

chameleon *n.* **ngagharap**

charcoal *n.* **ḡis**

cheek *n.* **gən**

chest *n.* **pəzung**

chew, to v. **taghal**

chicken *n.* **koo**

chief *n.* **long**

child *n.* **laa1**

children *n.* **jep mwop**

chin *n.* **jagham**

choose, to v. **shak**

cinders *n.* **arang**

clay *n.* **wan**

climb, to v. **kàà**

cloud *n.* **libin**

cobweb *n.* **vilip naan**

cock *n.* **delkoo**
 cockroach *n.* **dəpat**
 cold *a.* **zughum**
 combat *n.* **lyak d̥yel**
 come back, to *v.* **wagəji**
 come in, to *v.* **rə**
 come out, to *v.* **put**
 come, to *v.* **ji**
 commence, to *v.* **nshee**
 companion *n.* **shaar**
 compound *n.* **lə**
 continue, to *v.* **gəshin**
 cook, to *v.* **shet**

corpse *n.* **kum2**
 cough, to *v.* **sagham**
 count, to *v.* **kun**
 cover, to *v.* **oghot**
 cow *n.* **nəng**
 crab *n.* **daʔəghəl**
 crocodile *n.* **kut**
 cry, to *v.* **wal**
 cultivate, to *v.* **màr**
 currency *n.* **shaghal 2**
 cut down, to *v.* **gap**
 cut, to *v.* **fwap**
 cutlass *n.* **ngwam**

D d

dance, to *v.* **marap**
 dassie *n.* **shom**
 death *n.* **muut**
 dew *n.* **səghər**
 die, to *v.* **mùùt**
 dig out, to *v.* **òk**
 dig, to *v.* **ok**
 disease *n.* **gok**
 disseminate, to *v.* **ber**
 do, to *v.* **shìn**
 dog *n.* **as**
 donkey *n.* **jaaki**
 door *n.* **pələ**

drag, to *v.* **del**
 dream *n.* **sùghùn**
 dream, to *v.* **sughun**
 drink, to *v.* **shuu**
 drop, to *v.* **đen**
 drum *n.* **bang**
 drum type *n.* **ngəzəng**
 dry out, to *v.* **pyaghar**
 dry season *n.* **lughun**
 dry up, to *v.* **fii**
 dung *n.* **ès**
 dust *n.* **wurwum**
 dust-devil *n.* **vivit**

E e

eagle sp. *n.* **gyaraa**
 ear *n.* **kom1**
 earthworm *n.* **nweel**
 eat, to *v.* **sə**
 egg *n.* **às**
 eight *num.* **pukun**
 eighty *num.* **yagurum fer**
 elder *n.* **bəkaam**; *n.* **wuyon1**
 elephant *n.* **nii**

eleven *num.* **s'ar shika kəmee**
 end, to *v.* **lat**
 enter, to *v.* **rə**
 evaporate, to *v.* **fii**
 evening *adv.* **kansəghən**
 excrement *n.* **ès**
 exit, to *v.* **put**
 extinguish, to *v.* **pit2**
 eye *n.* **yit**

F f

fable *n.* **dəramtis**
 fadama *n.* **loot**
 faeces *n.* **ès**
 fall, to *v.* **pal**
 farm *n.* **mar**
 farm, to *v.* **màr**
 fat *n.* **məghər**; *n.* **muur**
 father *n.* **ndaa**
 fear, to *v.* **lughut**
 feather *n.* **d̥ip**
 fell, to *v.* **gap**
 fence *n.* **zay**

fifty *num.* **yagurum vel kəshika sar**
 fight *n.* **lyak d̥yel**
 fight, to *v.* **kyap**; *v.* **lyak**
 fill, to *v.* **gam**
 filter, to *v.* **d̥ik**
 finger *n.* **lasar**
 fingernail *n.* **shighən**
 finish, to *v.* **lat**
 fire *n.* **wus**
 fire, to *v.* **tat**
 firefly *n.* **til wus**
 fireplace *n.* **tangrək/ tarək**

fish <i>n.</i> sherep	follow, to <i>v.</i> mwan
fish sp. <i>n.</i> beer ; <i>n.</i> ɓop ; <i>n.</i> dee ; <i>n.</i> eel ; <i>n.</i> fiit ; <i>n.</i> gang'aar ; <i>n.</i> kaghas ; <i>n.</i> kwák ; <i>n.</i> ngalong ; <i>n.</i> nnik ; <i>n.</i> nzəghər ; <i>n.</i> paan ; <i>n.</i> pyenkaram ; <i>n.</i> yitfel	forehead <i>n.</i> bəken
five <i>num.</i> paat	forest <i>n.</i> ləghət
flat rock <i>n.</i> pang 1	forget, to <i>v.p.</i> en men
flow, to <i>v.</i> sam	forty <i>num.</i> yagurum vel
flute <i>n.</i> ɓal	four <i>num.</i> feer
fly, to <i>v.</i> yaghal 2	fowl <i>n.</i> koo
flying ant <i>n.</i> nvyang	fracas <i>n.</i> lyak dyel
fold, to <i>v.</i> shighət	francolin <i>n.</i> kwoom
folktale <i>n.</i> dəramtis	friend <i>n.</i> shaar
	fruit bat <i>n.</i> ndiin
	fry, to <i>v.</i> t'ung

G g

garbage dump <i>n.</i> zungtung	grandparent <i>n.</i> bəkaam
gather, to <i>v.</i> tel	grass <i>n.</i> shit1
gecko <i>n.</i> shilimkən	grasscutter, cane-rat <i>n.</i> ɓiip
giant cricket <i>n.</i> dəghəs	grasshopper <i>n.</i> dagok
giant rat <i>n.</i> dawup	grave <i>n.</i> kəsher
give birth, to <i>v.</i> laa2	grill, to <i>v.</i> wùs
give, to <i>v.</i> shin	grind, to <i>v.</i> ees2
go, to <i>v.</i> mwan	grinding stone <i>n.</i> fiin ; <i>n.</i> pang fiin
goat <i>n.</i> əə	ground <i>n.</i> yil
God <i>n.</i> Naan	ground squirrel <i>n.</i> da'aak
gourd rattle <i>n.</i> kashakashak	gruel <i>n.</i> waar
granary <i>n.</i> mèè	guest <i>n.</i> məzep
grandmother <i>n.</i> nəngkaam	guinea fowl <i>n.</i> shagham

H h

hair of the head <i>n.</i> shopkaa	hill <i>n.</i> kədfəghər
hammer <i>n.</i> səghəp	hit, to <i>v.</i> ɓwap
hand <i>n.</i> sar	hoe <i>n.</i> shaan
handle <i>n.</i> kur	hole <i>n.</i> fung
hare <i>n.</i> dafan	honeybee sp. <i>n.</i> nvoor
harmattan <i>n.</i> koghom	horn <i>n.</i> soghom
have, to <i>v.</i> kat	horn for music <i>n.</i> som bi
he <i>pron.</i> ni	horse <i>n.</i> bəzəng
head <i>n.</i> kaa	house <i>n.</i> pin
headpad <i>n.</i> kəəs	house bat <i>n.</i> dəsək
hear, to <i>v.</i> kələng 1	housefly <i>n.</i> nshii
heart <i>n.</i> tuup	huge <i>a.</i> wuyon2
hearth <i>n.</i> tangrək/ tarək	hundred <i>num.</i> yagurum paat
heat, to <i>v.</i> shit2	hunger <i>n.</i> neen
hedgheg <i>n.</i> kəbəghər	hunter <i>n.</i> wunaw
he-goat <i>n.</i> dugung	hunting <i>v.n.</i> kwat
heifer <i>n.</i> kaat nəng	hyena <i>n.</i> kumuu
hen <i>n.</i> koo	

I i

I <i>pron.</i> an	information <i>v.n.</i> pààr
illness <i>n.</i> gok	insect sp. <i>n.</i> ngum
inflate, to <i>v.</i> wup	intestine <i>n.</i> yimbut

iron *n.* **shaghal 1**; *n.* **shol****J j**jackal *n.* **ḡalzwam**
Jakato people *p.n.* **Jakato**
jar *n.* **wang**jaw *n.* **gaghas**
jump, to *v.* **paar1****K k**kill, to *v.* **tə**
king *n.* **long**
knee *n.* **fərəm**
kneel down, to *v.* **dugun**knife *n.* **shuk**
know, to *v.* **man**
knowledge *v.n.* **màn**
kunu *n.* **waar****L l**ladder *n.* **bi kaalə**
lake *n.* **kup am**
large *a.* **wuyon2**
large transverse clarinet *n.* **nveeku**
laugh, to *v.* **swar**
laughter *v.n.* **swàr**
leaf *n.* **kom tēng**
learn, to *v.* **shee**
leg *n.* **kwàk**
leopard *n.* **kung**
lick, to *v.* **ḡələm**lie down, to *v.* **teer**
lightening *n.* **myelap**
lion *n.* **liit**
liquid *n.* **àm**
listen, to *v.* **kələng 2**
liver *n.* **fəlok**
load *n.* **lee**
locally brewed wine, beer *n.* **mos**
look for, to *v.* **tang**
loose, to *v.* **yin**
louse *n.* **nsham****M m**mahogany *n.* **tan**
malady *n.* **gok**
male *n.* **mis**
man *n.* **mis**
manure *n.* **ès**
market *n.* **lètuk**
marry a wife, to *v.p.* **lap mat**
marsh *n.* **loot**
mason wasp *n.* **njeleng**
mat *n.* **karam**
mate *n.* **shaar**
me *pron.* **an**
meat *n.* **luu**
medicine *n.* **en**
men *n.* **daas**
message *v.n.* **pààr**
metal *n.* **shaghal 1**
metalworker *n.* **wusugum**millipede *n.* **ndamshing**
mix up, to *v.* **tung 1**
mole-cricket *n.* **dəghəs**
money *n.* **shaghal 2**
month *n.* **tar**
moon *n.* **tar**
morass *n.* **loot**
morning *adv.* **mḡit**
mortar *n.* **shing**
mosquito *n.* **nfət**
mother *n.* **nnaa**
mould pot, to *v.* **ḡik**
mount, to *v.* **kàà**
mouth *n.* **poo**
mud *n.* **ḡook**
mushroom *n.* **tas**
musical instrument *n.* **narii**; *n.* **nveeku****N n**name *n.* **səm**
narrative *n.* **dəramtis**
navel *n.* **kum1**
neck *n.* **tok**
needle *n.* **nyər**
nest *n.* **lə yer**new *a.* **wupuu**
news *v.n.* **pààr**
night *adv.* **ngong**
nightjar *n.* **tanghəlap**
Nile monitor lizard *n.* **ḡang1**
nine *num.* **pəfaar**

ninety *num.* **yagurum fer kəshika sar**

nose *n.* **gong**

O o

oil *n.* **moor**

one *num.* **mee**

open, to *v.* **ep**

owl *n.* **vee**

oyster shell *n.* **shil**

P p

patas monkey *n.* **pit1**

path *n.* **yarkaam**

penis *n.* **dəp**

people *n.* **gurum mwop**

persist, to *v.* **gəshin**

person *n.* **gurum**

perspiration *n.* **peeβan**

pestle *n.* **duul es/sar shing**

pied crow *n.* **ngoroo**

pierce, to *v.* **βyang**

pig *n.* **ledee**

piss *n.* **kəzəŋ**

pitcher *n.* **wang**

place *n.* **pee**

plait, to *v.* **war**

plant, to *v.* **wum2**

play, to *v.* **fuu**

plead, to *v.* **dəŋg2**

poison *n.* **bishin**

porcupine *n.* **kyeek**

porridge *n.* **shaat2**

porridge, tuwo *n.* **mun2**

pot *n.* **wang**

pouched rat *n.* **dawup**

pound, to *v.* **zoghōp**

pour, to *v.* **dək**

praying mantis *n.* **bəzəŋ naan**

press, to *v.* **təghər**

pull, to *v.* **del**

push, to *v.* **tughun**

Q q

quench, to *v.* **pit2**

quern stone *n.* **fiin**

quiver *n.* **sheptaw**

quiver, to *v.* **yoghon**

R r

rabbit *n.* **dafan**

raft-zither *n.* **ndengdeng**

rain *n.* **fan**

rain, to *v.* **fwen sam**

rainy season *n.* **pas**

ram *n.* **ngaam**

rat *n.* **kəzəm**

recall, to *v.* **kərək**

recieve, to *v.* **lap**

red-flanked duiker *n.* **paap**

refuse, to *v.* **nyang**

reject, to *v.* **nyang**

relation *n.* **myaa**

remember, to *v.* **kərək**

resemble, to *v.* **lapshak**

respiration *n.* **nook**

retch, to *v.* **fuut**

return, to *v.* **wagəji**

rib *n.* **estur**

ride, to *v.* **kaa**

rip, to *v.* **tee**

river *n.* **baga kong; n. kong**

river bank *n.* **pukong**

road *n.* **yarkaam**

roast, to *v.* **wùs**

robber *n.* **wuwat**

rock hyrax *n.* **shom**

rock rabbit *n.* **shom**

room *n.* **dəghən pin**

rooster *n.* **delkoo**

root *n.* **seen təŋ**

rope *n.* **teng**

rub, to *v.* **təgər**

rubbish dump *n.* **zungtung**

ruler *n.* **long**

run, to *v.* **nasō**

S s

saliva *n.* **zeel**

salt *n.* **kən**

sand *n.* **ees1**

say, to *v.* **kuut**

scatter, to *v.* **ber**

scorpion *n.* **dəghar**

search for, to *v.* **tang**

seat *n.* **tagham**

see, to v. **naa**
 seed *n.* **sherem**
 seek, to v. **tang**
 select, to v. **shak**
 sell, to v. **seet 1**
 send, to v. **paar2**
 Senegal coucal *n.* **tiis**
 seven *num.* **pəvel**
 seventy *num.* **yagurum kun kəshika sar**
 sew, to v. **taan**
 shade *n.* **riin**
 shadow *n.* **riin**
 shake, to v. **yoghon**
 sharpen, to v. **səm**
 she *pron.* **ni**
 sheep *n.* **təm**
 shit *n.* **ès**
 shoes *n.* **koghop**
 shoot, to v. **tat**
 short *a.* **wukəp**
 shoulder *n.* **tangbap**
 sickle *n.* **jem**
 sickness *n.* **gok**
 sieve, to v. **ɖik**
 silo *n.* **mèè**
 sing, to v. **mang tam**
 sit down, to v. **tong**
 six *num.* **pəmə**
 sixty *num.* **yagurum kun**
 skin *n.* **karamshim**
 skink *n.* **ndunuu**
 sky *n.* **gətəng**
 slash, to v. **kwap**
 slave *n.* **kuram**
 small *n.* **wulee2**
 small hoe *n.* **kyang**
 smash, to v. **pyan**; v. **tep**
 smell *n.* **taghas**
 smell, to v. **ɖə**

smith *n.* **wusughum**
 smoke *n.* **ɖyel**
 snail *n.* **tis**
 snake *n.* **nwoo**
 song *n.* **gyaa**
 soot *n.* **kuur1**
 soup *n.* **tòk**
 sow seed, to v. **wum2**
 speak, to v. **kuut**
 spear *n.* **kop**
 spit, to v. **pok veel**
 spittle *n.* **zeel**
 split, to v. **kyak**
 spread, to v. **ber**
 stab, to v. **ɓyang**
 star *n.* **zar**
 start, to v. **nshee**
 steal, to v. **wat**
 stick *n.* **dughul**
 stir, to v. **tung 2**
 stomach *n.* **ɓut**
 stone *n.* **pang 2**
 stone, to v. **kom2**
 stool *n.* **tagham**
 story *n.* **dəramtis**
 strain, to v. **ɖik**
 stranger *n.* **məzep**
 stream *n.* **kong**
 strike, to v. **ɓwap**
 struggle *n.* **lyak ɖyel**
 sun *n.* **puus**
 surpass, to v. **maa**
 swallow, to v. **ɖal**
 swamp *n.* **loot**
 sweat *n.* **peeɓan**
 sweep, to v. **kum3**
 swell up, to v. **wup**
 swift sp. *n.* **shangshaar**
 swim, to v. **eet**

T t

tail *n.* **dang**
 take, to v. **mang**
 tall *a.* **wukun**
 tear *n.* **yitmwa**
 tear, to v. **tee**
 ten *num.* **s'ar**
 termite *n.* **njaa**; *n.* **nvyang**
 thatched roof *n.* **gak**
 thief *n.* **wuwat**
 thigh *n.* **dəghət**

thirty *num.* **yagurum shika sar**
 thorn *n.* **kikyen**
 three *num.* **kun**
 throat *n.* **gwagharak**
 throw, to v. **kom2**
 tie, to v. **ɓughat**
 till, to v. **màr**
 toad *n.* **nəmwet**
 today *adv.* **shini**
 tomb *n.* **kəsher**

tomorrow *adv.* **dəḏaär**
tongue *n.* **liis**
tooth *n.* **aghas**
tornado *n.* **vivit**
tortoise (Bell's hinged) *n.* **dakur**
touch, to *v.* **ḡom**
toxin *n.* **bishin**

track *n.* **yarkaam**
traditional doctor *n.* **wudak**
trail *n.* **yarkaam**
transverse clarinet *n.* **narii**
trash heap *n.* **zungtung**
tree *n.* **təng**
tremble, to *v.* **yoghon**

'tuwo' *n.* **shaat2**

T t

twelve *num.* **s'ar shika vel**
twenty *num.* **yagurum**

twist, to *v.* **myaghar**
two *num.* **vel**

U u

untie, to *v.* **wut**; *v.* **yin**

urine *n.* **kəzəng**

V v

vagina *n.* **nəər**
vast *a.* **wuyon2**
vein *n.* **veel**
venom *n.* **bishin**
vessel *n.* **wang**

vibrate, to *v.* **yoghon**
village weaver bird *n.* **dəghəm**
visitor *n.* **məzep**
vomit, to *v.* **fuut**
vulture *n.* **nkyaa**

W w

wake up, to *v.* **yaghal 1**
walk, to *v.* **mwan**
want s.t., to *v.* **ḡaan**
war *n.* **lyak ḑyel**
warthog *n.* **toghos**
wash, to *v.* **vang**
water *n.* **àm**
water monitor lizard *n.* **dashim**
we *pron.* **mun1**
wear s.t., to *v.* **ruun**
weave, to *v.* **ryaa**
well *n.* **dung am**
wetland *n.* **loot**
whirlwind *n.* **vivit**
whistle, to *v.* **dəfiip**

white *n.* **pyaa**
wild animal *n.* **luu nshit**
wind *n.* **koghom/ koop**
wing *n.* **shaat1**
winnowing tray *n.* **kətet**
wipe, to *v.* **təghər**
witch *n.* **shoghot**
woman *n.* **mat**
women *n.* **swoop**
woodpecker *n.* **yertəng**
work *n.* **shiit**
work, to *v.* **shìit**
world *n.* **kəyil**
worm *n.* **nweel**

Y y

yawn, to v. **aap**
 yawning v.n. **ààp**
 year adv. **yii**
 yesterday adv. **dəndən**
 you (f) pron. **yi**
 you (m) pron. **gə**
 you (pl.) pron. **gun**
 young female cow n. **kaat nəng**
 younger brother n. **wulee1**

5. Lexical comparison and the classification of Jakato

Oral traditions of the Jakato make much of their links with the Goemai. However, this is not confirmed by linguistic analysis. Jakato entirely lacks the secondary stop series which characterises Goemai and the Talic languages. Rather the links seem to be with the Pan (=Kofyar cluster) as Table 5 suggests.

Table 5. Jakato/Kofyar cognates contrasting with Goemai

Language	Tooth	Chin	Fingernail	Breast	Body	Bone	Blood
Kofyar	àgàs	dʒágám	ŋígen	yūgūr	dəŋ	és	tàgàm
Goemai	hòòs	zóm	ʃóón	yér	sʰát	ʔwəs	kʰyèm
Jakato	àyàs	zāyám	ʃígeŋ	yūyūr	dəŋ	és	tэгèm

Another aspect of Jakato is the similarity of some lexical items to those of its immediate neighbour to the west, the Koenom (Table 6).

Table 6. Jakato/Koenom cognates contrasting with Goemai

Language	Giant rat	Intestines	Vervet monkey	House-bat	Star	Fence
Koenom	dàwūp	yímbét	kāāy	dààsék	zàr	zày
Goemai	wák	pʰənʔét	ŋáj	m̀bóʃʰàt	səm ʃʰaar	lyón
Jakato	dàwūp	yim büt	kāār	dəsək	zàr	zày

However, Jakato is clearly not a Talic language, as this cluster consists of Tal, Pyanpung and Koenom, and is marked by the secondary articulation of stops and fricatives, in common with Goemai.

6. The position of Jakato

Jakato is clearly an independent language, most closely linked to the PAN (Kofyar) cluster, but no identified with them. The cultural links are claimed with Goemai, but this is not confirmed by linguistics. Whether Jakato and the mysterious Jorto are the same will remain uncertain. Jakato is a very small language and is in principle endangered and thus is a clear candidate for more in-depth research.

References

- Abraham, R.C. 1962. *Dictionary of the Hausa language*. London: University of London Press.
 Ames, C.G. 1934. *Gazetteer of the Plateau Province*. Jos: Government Printer.
 Blench, R.M. 2018. Current research on the A3 West Chadic languages. In: *Selected papers from the VIIIth BICCL*. Henry Tourneux & Yvonne Treis eds. 1-27. Köln: Rudiger Köppe.
 CAPRO Research Office 2004. *A harvest of peace*. Jos: CAPRO Media Services.
 Crozier, D. and Blench, R.M. 1992. *Index of Nigerian Languages (edition 2)*. SIL, Dallas.
 Hellwig, Birgit 2011 *A Grammar of Goemai* (Mouton Grammar Library 51). Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
 Jungraithmayr, H. and Dymitr Ibrizimow 1995. *Chadic lexical roots*. [2 vols.] Berlin: Reimer.
 Kraft, C. 1981. *Chadic Wordlists, Volume I*. Marburger Studien Zur Afrika und Asienkunde, Serie A: Africa.
 Newman, R.M. 1997. *An English-Hausa dictionary*. Lagos: Longman.
 Takács, Gábor 2004. *Comparative dictionary of the Angas-Sura languages*. (Sprache und Oralität in Afrika (SOA) 23). Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag.