

Jibyal, an undocumented language of Central Nigeria



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ABSTRACT

This is an introduction and basic phonology and wordlist of Jibyal, a previously undocumented language in eastern Nasarawa State, Nigeria. It is part of West Chadic, A3, and is probably most closely related to the Pan cluster, Kofyar etc. However, it shows some phonological features of the ‘Southern’ languages such as Tal, including an aspirate series. The paper presents a tentative phonology and a wordlist, as well as evidence for affiliation with the Pan cluster.

Keywords: Jibyal; Chadic; phonology; wordlist

1. Introduction

A previously unreported language, Jibyal, was first identified on the 9th of December, 2017. A wordlist was recorded by the chief, Musa Delwar (Photo 1) to whom our considerable thanks. Jibyal is spoken south of Mushere, west of the Panyam-Shendam road (Map 2). All of these are in Nasarawa State, as the border with Plateau State runs across this area. The wordlist was collected as a ‘one-shot’ exercise and the transcription must therefore be regarded as preliminary. The transcriptions are by Michael Bulkaam and Roger Blench and the analysis was prepared by Roger Blench.

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

The name for the language and people, according to the chief, is Ankwei [àŋkwéy]. This is curious, since this is the former name for the Goemai people, now out of use. Perhaps it has been adopted by speakers of Jibyal as a prestige name.

2.2 Location and settlements

Jibyal has a single main village and several outlying hamlets (**Table 1**);

Table 1. Jibyal settlements
Villages and hamlets

Jibyal
Monkwat, Lamalang, Shimər and Dalu

Map 1 shows the approximate location of Jibyal in Nassarawa State.

Map 1. Location of Jibyal village in Nassarawa State



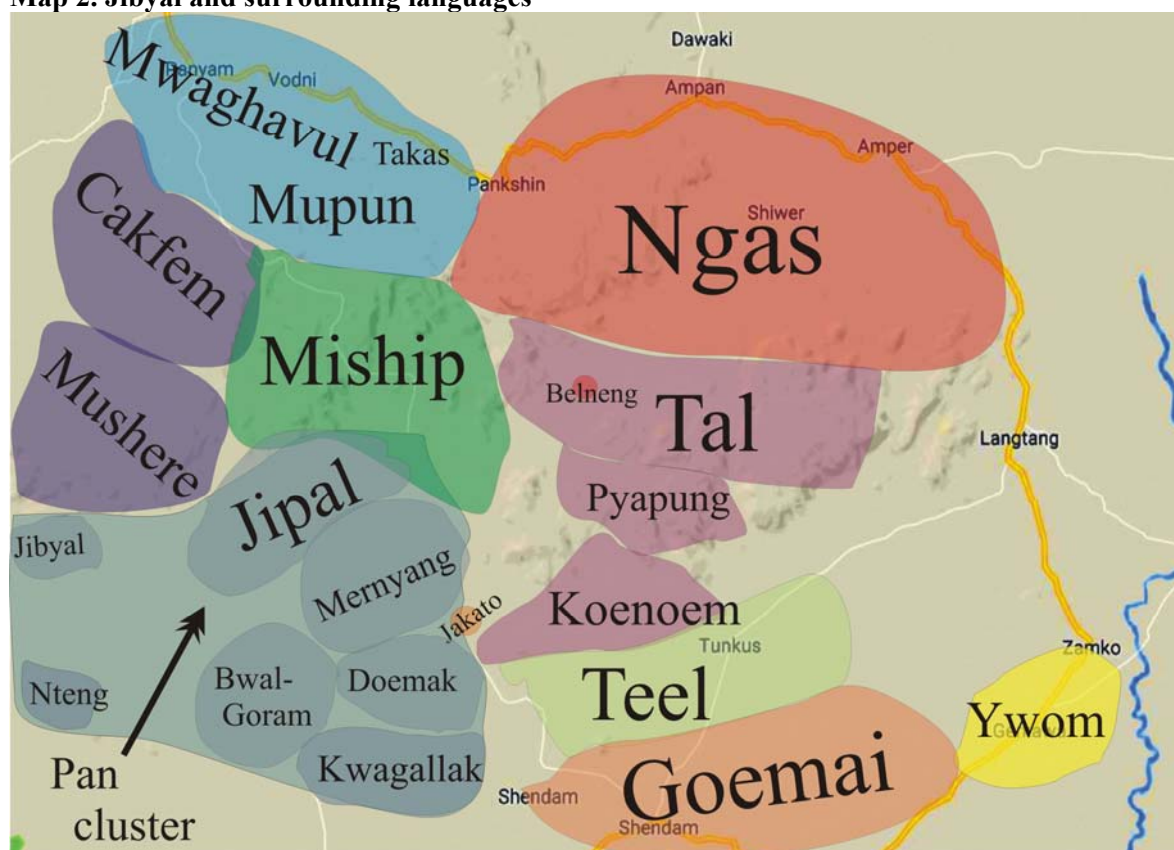
Map 2 shows the approximate relationship of Jibyal to neighbouring A3 languages.

Photo 1. Jibyal speakers, 2017



Source: Author photo

Map 2. Jibyal and surrounding languages



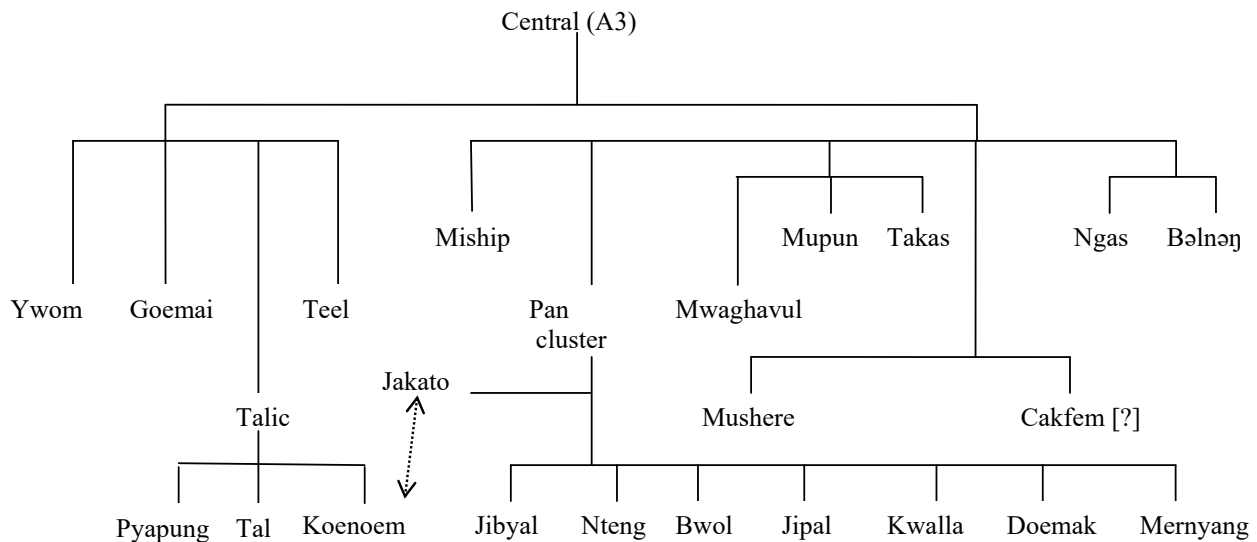
2.3 Language status

Jibyal language is apparently flourishing and it was easy to hear children speaking the language. Nonetheless, given the small number of villages, it is unlikely there are more than 2-3000 speakers. To this extent, Jibyal is undoubtedly a threatened language. Although a simplified Hausa is used for communication in the area, many Jibyal also speak and understand neighbouring languages. As this paper apparently presents the first data ever recorded on Jibyal, there has clearly been no attempt to develop an orthography.

2.4 The classification of Jibyal

Jibyal is part of the West Chadic, which includes Hausa, the Ron languages, Bole-Tangale and the A3 group which includes, Ngas, Mwaghavul and Goemai. This is listed as ‘Angas proper’ in the Ethnologue and as ‘Unclassified Goemaic’ in the Glottolog. As far I know there is no published or even circulated evidence for this, and Takacs (2004) does not cite any. There are increasing difficulties in naming linguistic families for individual languages, and I propose to drop the ‘Ngas’ label in favour of West Chadic: Central. The current internal classification is highly unsatisfactory and Figure 1 shows an improved proposal based on fresh data. Jibyal is placed in parallel with the other Pan languages. §5 discusses this classification in more detail.

Figure 1. The Central West Chadic languages



3. Phonology

The phonology of Jibyal is preliminary.

3.1 Vowels

Jibyal has six phonemic vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i	i	u
Close-Mid	e		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 2 illustrates Jibyal long/short vowel contrasts;

Table 2. Jibyal long/short vowel contrasts

Jibyal	Gloss	Jibyal	Gloss
sàr	ten	sáár	hand
sém	name	sē:n	root
nānók	electric fish	bə̀lkə̀:r	pigeon
mīs	man	mīr	python
kōŋ	stream	kṓ	chicken
wúl	to arrive	yū́r	breast

3.2 Consonants

3.2.1 Unmodified consonants

Jibyal consonants are as follows:

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

/g/ and /ɣ/ are probably allophones, with /g/ realised as /ɣ/ in intervocalic position. There is one example of /kɓ/ in the data but this is probably an error. Geminate /ll/ occurs in the village name Gällõ, but this may not be a feature of Jibyal overall. [tʃ] is extremely rare. Labialisation and palatalisation are common. Note the contrast between /s^h/ and /ʃ/.

s^hẽp to divide
ʃẽẽ to begin

3.2.2 Palatalised consonants

Jibyal has the following palatalised consonants, /bʲ/, /p^hʲ/, /dʲ/, /t^hʲ/, /vʲ/, /kʲ/, /mʲ/ and /rʲ/ (Table 3).

Table 3. Jibyal palatalised consonants

Jibyal	Gloss
ɓiãɣār	scorpion
p ^h iāk	to burn
ɗiẽl	smoke
f ^h jẽl	to boil
vãŋ	termite
kĩkĩẽn	thorn
kõmjim	leaf
rĩãŋ tãŋ	forest

3.2.3 Labialised consonants

Jibyal has fewer labialised consonants, including /k^w/, /s^w/, /ʃ^w/ and /l^w/ (Table 4).

Table 4. Jibyal labialised consonants

Jibyal	Gloss
k ^w õm	francolin
lãs ^w ààl	young man
ʃ ^w àà	to drink
lwāā	meat

3.3 Tones

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

High	ˈ
Mid	ˊ
Low	ˋ
Rising Mid-High	ˊ˥

The following words illustrate three tone heights in a single word;

dɛlkɔ́ɔ́ cock
gòrɔ́ɔ́ crow

The Mid-High tone occurs in words such as the following;

nɔ́ŋ water
fʰɔ́yɔ́r river
hāk squirrel

Words which contain a Mid-High sequence on two identical vowels illustrate the likely origin of this tone.

nīí elephant
dāmūú hyena
gāám ram

4. Jibyal Wordlist

A tentative orthographic form is given as the headword, and a strict IPA rendering follows in square brackets.

A a

Angkwey [àŋkʷéj] <i>n.</i> Jibyal people	at [āt] <i>v.</i> to bite
as [ās] <i>n.</i> dog	

B b

bap [bāp] <i>n.</i> hawk <i>Haliaetus vocifer</i>	bisəŋ [bìsəŋ] <i>n.</i> horse
bəlkəər [bəlkə̀:ɾ] <i>n.</i> pigeon	

B ɓ

ɓet [ɓēt] <i>n.</i> stomach; belly	ɓit [bít] <i>n.</i> today
ɓet lə [ɓēt lə] <i>n.p</i> wall	ɓook [ɓɔ́ɔ́k] <i>n.</i> mud
ɓəlang [ɓə̀làng] <i>n.</i> work	ɓuruk [ɓūrūk] <i>n.</i> ash
ɓiip [bí:p] <i>n.</i> grasscutter, cane-rat <i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	ɓuun [bú:n] <i>n.</i> waist
ɓis [bís] <i>n.</i> charcoal	ɓyaghar [b̥āyār] <i>n.</i> scorpion

C c

cem [t͡ɕēm] <i>n.</i> dassie, rock rabbit, rock hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
--	--------------------------

D d

dafur [dàfùr] <i>n.</i> he-goat	dang [dāŋ] <i>n.</i> tail
dakur [dàkūr] <i>n.</i> tortoise (Bell's hinged) <i>Kinixys belliana belliana</i>	dangkong [dàŋkɔ́ŋ] <i>n.</i> back
	dawup [dàwūp] <i>n.</i> pouched rat, giant rat <i>Cricetomys</i>

<i>gambianus</i>	dəghəs [dəyəs] <i>n.</i> mole cricket <i>Gryllotalpa</i> spp.
delkoo [dèlkōó] <i>n.</i> cock	dəmuu [dēmūú] <i>n.</i> hyena <i>Hyaena hyaena</i>
dep [dép] <i>n.</i> penis	dəpaar [dəp ^h ā:r] <i>n.</i> night
dədən [dədēn] <i>n.</i> yesterday	dəsək [dəsək] <i>n.</i> fruit bat <i>Rousettus aegyptiacus</i>
dəfan [dəf ^h ān] <i>n.</i> rabbit, hare	
dəghəm [dəyóm] <i>n.</i> weaver bird <i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	

Ḑ ḑ

ḑang [ḑāŋ] <i>n.</i> Nile monitor lizard <i>Varanus niloticus</i>	ḑik [ḑík] <i>v.</i> to build
ḑaŋg [ḑāŋ] <i>v.</i> to beg; to plead	ḑyel [ḑēl] <i>n.</i> smoke
ḑən lə [ḑēn lə] <i>n.</i> inside of a room	

E e

es [ès] *n.* faeces

Ə ə

əghə [əyā] <i>n.</i> goat	əs [əs] <i>n.</i> bone
----------------------------------	-------------------------------

F f

f'eer [fē:r] <i>num.</i> four	foghop təŋ [fōyōp tən] <i>n.</i> bark of tree
fan [f ^h ān] <i>n.</i> rain	foghor [f ^h ōyōr] <i>n.</i> river
feer [fē:r] <i>n.</i> reedbuck <i>Redunca redunca</i>	fuk [f ^h úk] <i>v.</i> to blow
fərən [fērən] <i>n.</i> knee	fyel [f ^h jēl] <i>v.</i> to boil

G g

gaam [gāám] <i>n.</i> ram	goot [gò:t] <i>n.</i> cave
gaghashim [gàyāmʃim] <i>n.</i> skin	goroo [gòrōó] <i>n.</i> pied crow <i>Corvus albus</i>
Gallo [gallō] <i>p.n.</i> village name	guboghon [gùbóyón] <i>n.</i> doctor; herbalist
gang səghən [gàn sēŋ] <i>n.</i> evening	guk [gùk] <i>n.</i> shoulder
gap [gáp] <i>v.</i> to cut	gukəlom [gùkəlōm] <i>n.</i> blacksmith
gen [gén] <i>n.</i> cheek	gurum [gùrùm] <i>n.</i> person
gəmi [gèmi:] <i>n.</i> relation	gurum mop [gùrùm móp] <i>n.</i> people
goktaa [góktá:] <i>n.</i> black-necked spitting cobra <i>Naja nigricollis nigricollis</i>	gutung [g ^h ùt ^h ùŋ] <i>n.</i> rubbish heap
gong [gōŋ] <i>n.</i> nose	

H h

haas [hāás] <i>n.</i> egg	ham [hám] <i>v.</i> to carve
haghap [háýáp] <i>n.</i> armpit	hees [hē:s] <i>n.</i> sand
haghas [hàýàs] <i>n.</i> tooth	hoghot [hōyót] <i>v.</i> to close; to shut
hak [hāk] <i>n.</i> ground squirrel <i>Xerus erythropus</i>	

J j

jaghat [džāyāt] <i>n.</i> swamp; bog; marsh; morass; fadama	juwen [džúwēn] <i>n.</i> skink
jekəbon [džèkəbón] <i>n.</i> jackal <i>Canis adustus</i>	

K k

kaap [kà:p] <i>n.</i> baboon <i>Papio anubis</i>	kaar [kā:r] <i>n.</i> black monkey; monkey <i>Cercopithecus</i>
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tantalus
kanjaghal [kàndʒāyāl] *n.* jaw
kəbəl [kəbəl] *n.* crab
kəbən [kəbən] *num.* hundred
kəbulung [kəbùlùŋ] *n.* morning
kəbən [kəbən] *n.* hyena *Hyaena hyaena*
kəlaap [kəlàáp] *n.* house
kəme [kəmé] *num.* one
kəpəng [kəpən] *n.* hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*
kəshaar [kəʃā:r] *n.* friend; mate companion
kəzagham [kəzáyám] *n.* chin
kəzem [kəzēm] *n.* rat *Rattus rattus*
kəzəng [kəzən] *n.* urine
kikyen [kíkēn] *n.* thorn
kis [kís] *n.* snail
koghom [kōyōm] *n.* grass, bush
komyim [kōmjìim] *n.* leaf

kong [kōŋ] *n.* stream; brook; rivulet
koo [kōō] *n.* chicken; hen; fowl
koo pang [kō: pāŋ] *n.* common quail *Coturnix coturnix*
koo pya [kō: piá] *n.* cattle egret *Ardeola ibis*
kukuk [kùkúk] *n.* owl
kukul [kúkúl] *n.* bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*
kum [kúm] *n.* corpse; carcass; cadaver
kumbang [kūmbāŋ] *n.* swallow *Apus affinis* or *Cypsiurus parvus*
kun [kūn] *v.* to count
kún [kún] *num.* three
kung [kūŋ] *n.* leopard *Panthera pardus*
kuur nong [kū:r nōŋ] *n.* lake; pond; pool; dam
kwom [kʷōm] *n.* francolin; bush-fowl *Francolinus spp.*

K k

kaa [ká:] *n.* head
kəbəghər [kəbəyǝr] *n.* hedgehog *Atelerix albiventris*
kəom [kōm] *n.* ear
kəpak [kəpāk] *n.* fish sp.
kum [kūm] *n.* navel

kurem [kúréim] *n.* slave
kut1 [kút] *n.* crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*
kut2 [kút] *n.* cold; chilly

L l

lala [làlà] *n.* child; baby; infant
lala nəng [làlà nəŋ] *n.* calf
lala saar [làlà sā:r] *n.* finger
lang [láng] *v.* to climb; to mount; to ascend
larep [làrēp] *n.* young woman
lashwaal [lāsʷà:l] *n.* young man
lede [lédè] *n.* pig [< H.]
lə [lə] *n.* room

liis [līs] *n.* tongue
lilūt [lilí:t] *n.* whirlwind
lit [lít] *n.* lion *Panthera leo*
long [lōŋ] *n.* chief; king; ruler
lughun [lūyūn] *n.* dry season
lwaa [lʷā:] *n.* meat
lwaa koghom [lʷà: kōy:m] *n.* wild animal
lyak dyel [lāk dýél] *n.* war; battle; combat

M m

maghat [máýát] *v.* to beat; to strike; to hit
mang [màn] *v.* to carry
Mangkwaat [mànkwāt] *p.n.* village name
mat [māt] *n.* woman
mbəlaa [mbə̀lā:] *n.* cat
mee [mè:] *n.* granary
məzap [məzàp] *n.* visitor; stranger

mfet [mfēt] *n.* mosquito *Anopheles spp.*
mii [mì:] *v.* to wake up
miir [mī:r] *n.* python *Python sebae*
mis [mīs] *n.* man
mis nəng [mìs nəŋ] *n.* bull
mut [mùt] *v.* to die
muzul [mùzūl] *n.* heart

N n

naa [nà:] *n.* mother
naame [ná:mē] *v.* to choose; to select
naan [nā:n] *n.* spider
Naan [nā:n] *n.* God
naanpagham [nā:n-pāyām] *n.* cockroach

naar [nā:r] *loc.* inside
nakəə [nàkə:] *n.* ancestor
nanək [nānək] *n.* electric fish *Malapterurus electricus*
nang [nāŋ] *v.* to ask question

nanghoos [nāŋyō:s] *n.* agama lizard *Agama agama*
nasəghən [nāsəyōn] *n.* white-toothed shrew *Crocidura spp.*
nashit [nāʃit] *n.* Senegal coucal *Centropus senegalensis*
ndaa [n̄dā:] *n.* father
ndaar [n̄dā:r] *n.* tomorrow
neer [nē:r] *n.* vagina
nəŋ [nəŋ] *n.* cow
ngakrak [ŋgàkràk] *n.* chameleon
ngok [ŋgòk] *n.* grasshopper
ngukwat [ŋgùkwàt] *n.* hunter
nii [nīi] *n.* elephant *Loxodonta africana*
nimot [nīmót] *n.* toad

njeleng [n̄dʒēlēŋ] *n.* mason wasp *Belenogaster griseus*
njwaar [n̄dʒwā:r] *n.* frog
nkyaa [ŋkíá:] *n.* vulture *Neophron monachus*
nong [nōŋ] *n.* water
nook [nò:k] *n.* breath
nsərep [nsə̀rèp] *n.* ant sp.
nshang [n̄ʃàŋ] *n.* ant sp. brown in color and tiny
nshem [n̄ʃēm] *n.* louse *Pediculus spp.*
nshii [n̄ʃi:] *n.* 1) bee 2) housefly
nvoghor [ŋvōyō] *n.* bee sp.
nweek [n̄wē:k] *n.* earthworm
nzam [n̄zām] *n.* farm

O o

orong [ōrōŋ] *n.* dust

P p

p'et [pēt] *v.* to come out
paat [pà:t] *num.* five
pambet [pàmbēt] *n.* intestine; gut
pang [pán] *n.* stone; rock
pas [pʰàs] *n.* rainy season
pebaan [pébá:n] *n.* sweat; perspiration
pee [pʰē:] *n.* place
peeme [pē:mé] *num.* six
pəfeel [pə̀fē:l] *n.* throat
pəgətəŋ [pʰə̀gətəŋ] *n.* sky
pəken [pə̀kēn] *n.* forehead
pəpel [pə̀pēl] *n.* butterfly; moth

pəyit [pə̀jīt] *n.* face
piip [pʰi:p] *n.* wind; breeze
pīt [pīt] *n.* patas monkey *Erythrocebus patas*
poofaar [pò:fā:r] *num.* nine
pookun [pò:kún] *num.* eight
poovel [pò:vēl] *num.* seven
pu [pù] *n.* mouth
pukong [pʰùkōŋ] *n.* bank of a river
pus [pʰūs] *n.* sun; day
puzung [pùzùŋ] *n.* chest
pyak [pʰjāk] *v.* to burn

R r

ramsa [ràmsʰā] *n.* star
ruup [rú:p] *n.* hill

ryang təŋ [r̄āŋ tən] *n.p* forest

S s

s'at lə [sāt lá] *n.p* roof
s'een [sē:n] *n.* root
s'eet [sé:t] *v.* to buy
s'ə [sə] *v.* to eat
saar [sá:r] *n.* hand
sagham [sáyàm] *n.* guinea-fowl *Numida meleagris*
saktəŋ [sàktəŋ] *n.* woodpecker sp. *Picidae*
sar [sàr] *num.* ten
sar kakun [sàr kàkún] *num.* thirteen
sar kame [sàr kàmé] *num.* eleven
sar kavel [sàr kávēl] *num.* twelve
sem [sēm] *n.* land monitor lizard *Varanus exanthematicus*
sém [sém] *n.* name

sep [shēp] *v.* to divide
səgən [sə̀gən sū:r] *n.* finger nail
səghəm [sə̀yəm] *n.* cough
səghər [sə̀yər] *n.* dew
səp naar [shə̀p nā:r] *v.p.* to share; to divide into two
səren [shə̀rən] *n.* seed; grain
sərpəkən [sə̀rə̀pkən] *n.* wall gecko *Gekkonidae*
shaat [ʃá:t] *n.* wing
shak [ʃák] *n.* porcupine *Hystrix cristata*
shee [ʃē:] *v.* to begin; to start; to commence
shii [ʃi:] *n.* leg
shii [ʃi:] *n.* thigh
shil wus [ʃil wus] *n.* firefly *Lampyridae*
Shimer [ʃimər] *p.n.* village name

shirim [ʃirīm] *n.* red-flanked duiker *Cephalophus rufilatus*
shoghor [ʃɔ̃ɔ̃r] *n.* duck
shwaa [ʃwà:] *v.* to drink
sirep [sirēp] *n.* fish (generic)
soghom [sɔ̃ɔ̃m] *n.* horn
soghot [sɔ̃ɔ̃t] *n.* witch

song täng [shɔ̃ɔ̃ täng] *n.* branch of tree
sop [sɔ̃p] *n.* hair
sop kaa [sɔ̃p ká:] *n.* hair of the head
sop shik [sɔ̃p ʃik] *n.* body hair
sop zagham [sɔ̃p záɣám] *n.* beard

T t

t'aar [tā:r] *n.* moon; month
taa [tʰà:] *v.* to play; to blow
taghal [tʰàɣàl] *v.* to chew
talap'ak [tālápāk] *n.* grasshopper sp.
talashim [tālášim] *n.* millipede *Iule spp.*
tam [tʰám] *v.* to dance
tambel [támbé] *n.* agama lizard *Agama agama*
tem [tēm] *n.* sheep
təghəm [təɣəm] *n.* blood
täng [täng] *n.* tree (generic)
toghos [tɔ̃ɔ̃s] *n.* warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*
tok feer [tók fē:r] *num.* forty

tok kun [tók kún] *num.* thirty
tok paat [tók pà:t] *num.* fifty
tok peeme [tók pē:mé] *num.* sixty
tok poofaar [tók pò:fá:r] *num.* ninety
tok pookun [tók pò:kún] *num.* eighty
tok poovel [tók pò:vē] *num.* seventy
tok vel [tók vē] *num.* twenty
tughun nong [tùɣùn nóŋ] *n.p.* well
tughup [tūɣup] *n.* liver
tughur [túɣúr] *n.* rib
tupsaa [tʰùpsʰà:] *v.* to bark

V v

veel [vè:l] *n.* vein
vel [vē] *num.* two

vyang [vʰàng] *n.* termite

W w

wan [wān] *n.* clay
wat [wát] *n.* thief
woo [wò:] *n.* snake
wukaam [wúkā:m] *n.* road

wul [wúl] *v.* to arrive; to come; to reach
wum [wūm] *v.* to bury; to inter
wus [wūs] *n.* fire; light

Y y

yaa [jāá] *v.* to catch
yer [jēr] *n.* bird (generic)
yii [jīi] *n.* year
yil [jíl] *n.* world; ground; land

yit [jit] *n.* eye
yit mwaa [jit mʷà:] *n.* tears
yong [jɔ̃ɔ̃] *v.* to call
yuur [jū:r] *n.* breast

Z z

Zamala [zàmàlà] *p.n.* village name
zangki [záŋkí] *n.* donkey [< H.]
zeel [zē:l] *n.* saliva; spittle

A a

agama lizard *n.* **nanghoos**; **tambel**
 ancestor *n.* **nakəə**
 ant sp. *n.* **nsərep**
 ant sp. brown in color and tiny *n.* **nshang**

armpit *n.* **haghap**
 arrive, to *v.* **wul**
 ascend, to *v.* **lang**
 ash *n.* **buruk**
 ask question, to *v.* **nang**

B b

baboon *n.* **kaap**
 baby *n.* **lala**
 back *n.* **dangkong**
 bank of a river *n.* **pukong**
 bark of tree *n.* **foghop təng**
 bark, to *v.* **tupsaa**
 battle *n.* **lyak dʲel**
 beard *n.* **sop zaghām**
 beat, to *v.* **maghat**
 bee *n.* **nshii 1**
 bee sp. *n.* **nvoghor**
 beg, to *v.* **dāng**
 begin, to *v.* **shee**
 belly *n.* **bet**
 bird (generic) *n.* **yer**
 bird sp. *n.* **bap**; **bəlkəər**; **dəghām**; **saktəng**
 bite, to *v.* **at**
 black monkey *n.* **kaar**
 blacksmith *n.* **gukəlom**
 blood *n.* **təghām**

blow, to *v.* **fuk**; **taa**
 body hair *n.* **sop shik**
 bog *n.* **jaghat**
 boil, to *v.* **fyel**
 bone *n.* **əs**
 branch of tree *n.* **song təng**
 breast *n.* **yuur**
 breath *n.* **nook**
 breeze *n.* **piip**
 brook *n.* **kong**
 build, to *v.* **dik**
 bull *n.* **mis nəng**
 burn, to *v.* **pyak**
 bury, to *v.* **wum**
 bush *n.* **koghom**
 bushbuck *n.* **kukul**
 bush-fowl *n.* **kwom**
 butterfly *n.* **pəpel**
 buy, to *v.* **s'eet**

C c

cadaver *n.* **kum**
 calf *n.* **lala nəng**
 call, to *v.* **yong**
 cane-rat *n.* **fiip**
 carcass *n.* **kum**
 carry, to *v.* **mang**
 carve, to *v.* **ham**
 cat *n.* **mbəlaa**
 catch, to *v.* **yaa**
 cattle egret *n.* **koo pya**
 cave *n.* **goot**
 chameleon *n.* **ngakrak**
 charcoal *n.* **bis**
 cheek *n.* **gen**
 chest *n.* **puzung**
 chew, to *v.* **taghal**
 chicken *n.* **koo**
 chief *n.* **long**
 child *n.* **lala**
 chilly *n.* **kut2**
 chin *n.* **kəzagham**
 choose, to *v.* **naame**

clay *n.* **wan**
 climb, to *v.* **lang**
 close, to *v.* **hoghot**
 cobra *n.* **goktaa**
 cock *n.* **delkoo**
 cockroach *n.* **naanpagham**
 cold *n.* **kut2**
 combat *n.* **lyak dʲel**
 come out, to *v.* **p'et**
 come, to *v.* **wul**
 commence, to *v.* **shee**
 companion *n.* **kəshaar**
 corpse *n.* **kum**
 cough *n.* **səghām**
 count, to *v.* **kun**
 cow *n.* **nəng**
 crab *n.* **kəbəl**
 crocodile *n.* **kut1**
 crow *n.* **goroo**
 cut, to *v.* **gap**

D d

dam *n.* **kuur nong**
 dance, to *v.* **tam**
 dassie, rock rabbit, rock hyrax *n.* **cem**
 day *n.* **pus**
 dew *n.* **səghər**
 die, to *v.* **mut**
 divide into two, to *v.p.* **səp naar**
 divide, to *v.* **sep**

doctor *n.* **guboghon**
 dog *n.* **as**
 donkey *n.* **zangki**
 drink, to *v.* **shwaa**
 dry season *n.* **lughun**
 duck *n.* **shoghor**
 dung *n.* **es**
 dust *n.* **orong**

E e

ear *n.* **kom**
 earthworm *n.* **nweek**
 eat, to *v.* **s'ə**
 egg *n.* **haas**
 eight *num.* **pookun**
 eighty *num.* **tok pookun**

electric fish *n.* **nanək**
 elephant *n.* **nii**
 eleven *num.* **sar kame**
 evening *n.* **gang səghən**
 excrement *n.* **es**
 eye *n.* **yit**

F f

face *n.* **pəyit**
 fadama *n.* **jaghat**
 faeces *n.* **es**
 farm *n.* **nzam**
 father *n.* **ndaa**
 fifty *num.* **tok paat**
 finger *n.* **lala saar**
 finger nail *n.* **səghən**
 fire *n.* **wus**
 firefly *n.* **shil wus**
 fish (generic) *n.* **sirep**

fish sp. *n.* **kpak**
 five *num.* **paat**
 forehead *n.* **pəken**
 forest *n.p* **ryang təng**
 forty *num.* **tok feer**
 four *num.* **f'eer**
 fowl *n.* **koo**
 francolin *n.* **kwom**
 friend *n.* **kəshaar**
 frog *n.* **njwaar**
 fruit bat *n.* **dəsək**

G g

gecko *n.* **sərəpkən**
 giant rat *n.* **dawup**
 girl *n.* **larep**
 goat *n.* **əghə**
 God *n.* **Naan**
 grain *n.* **səren**
 granary *n.* **mee**

grass *n.* **koghom**
 grasscutter *n.* **biip**
 grasshopper *n.* **ngok**
 grasshopper sp. *n.* **talap'ak**
 ground *n.* **yil**
 guinea-fowl *n.* **sagham**
 gut *n.* **pambet**

H h

hair *n.* **sop**
 hair of the head *n.* **sop kaa**
 hand *n.* **saar**
 hare *n.* **dəfan**
 hawk *n.* **bap**
 head *n.* **kaa**
 heart *n.* **muzul**
 hedgehog *n.* **kəbəghər**
 he-goat *n.* **dafur**

hen *n.* **koo**
 herbalist *n.* **guboghon**
 hill *n.* **ruup**
 hippopotamus *n.* **kəpəng**
 hit, to *v.* **maghat**
 horn *n.* **soghom**
 horse *n.* **bisəng**
 house *n.* **kəlaap**
 housefly *n.* **nshii 2**

hundred <i>num.</i> kəbən	hyena <i>n.</i> dəmuu; kəbən
hunter <i>n.</i> ngukwat	

I i

infant <i>n.</i> lala	inter, to <i>v.</i> wum
inside <i>loc.</i> naar	intestine <i>n.</i> pambet
inside of a room <i>n.</i> dən lə	

J j

jackal <i>n.</i> jekəbon	Jibyal people <i>n.</i> Angkwey
jaw <i>n.</i> kanjaghal	

K k

king <i>n.</i> long	knee <i>n.</i> fərən
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L l

lake <i>n.</i> kuur nong	light <i>n.</i> wus
land <i>n.</i> yil	lion <i>n.</i> lit
leaf <i>n.</i> komyim	liver <i>n.</i> tughup
leg <i>n.</i> shii	louse <i>n.</i> nshem
leopard <i>n.</i> kung	

M m

maiden <i>n.</i> larep	month <i>n.</i> t'aar
man <i>n.</i> mis	moon <i>n.</i> t'aar
manure <i>n.</i> es	morass <i>n.</i> jaghat
marsh <i>n.</i> jaghat	morning <i>n.</i> kəbulung
mason wasp <i>n.</i> njeleng	mosquito <i>n.</i> mfet
mate <i>n.</i> kəshaar	moth <i>n.</i> pəpel
meat <i>n.</i> lwaa	mother <i>n.</i> naa
millipede <i>n.</i> talashim	mount, to <i>v.</i> lang
mole cricket <i>n.</i> dəghəs	mouth <i>n.</i> pu
monitor lizard <i>n.</i> dfang; sem	mud <i>n.</i> fook
monkey <i>n.</i> kaar	

N n

name <i>n.</i> sém	nine <i>num.</i> poofaar
navel <i>n.</i> kum	ninety <i>num.</i> tok poofaar
night <i>n.</i> dəpaar	nose <i>n.</i> gong

O o

one <i>num.</i> kəme	owl <i>n.</i> kukuk
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P p

patas monkey <i>n.</i> pit	pig <i>n.</i> lede
penis <i>n.</i> dep	pigeon <i>n.</i> bəlkəər
people <i>n.</i> gurum mop	place <i>n.</i> pee
person <i>n.</i> gurum	play, to <i>v.</i> taa
perspiration <i>n.</i> pebaan	plead, to <i>v.</i> dfang

pond *n.* **kuur nong**
pool *n.* **kuur nong**
porcupine *n.* **shak**

pouched rat *n.* **dawup**
python *n.* **miir**

Q q

quail *n.* **koo pang**

R r

rabbit *n.* **dəfan**
rain *n.* **fan**
rainy season *n.* **pas**
ram *n.* **gaam**
rat *n.* **kəzem**
reach, to *v.* **wul**
red-flanked duiker *n.* **shirim**
reedbuck *n.* **feer**
relation *n.* **gəmi**
reptile sp. *n.* **goktaa**

rib *n.* **tughur**
river *n.* **foghor**
rivulet *n.* **kong**
road *n.* **wukaam**
rock *n.* **pang**
roof *n.p* **s'at lə**
room *n.* **lə**
root *n.* **s'een**
rubbish heap *n.* **gutung**
ruler *n.* **long**

S s

saliva *n.* **zeel**
sand *n.* **hees**
scorpion *n.* **byaghar**
seed *n.* **səren**
select, to *v.* **naame**
Senegal coucal *n.* **nashit**
seven *num.* **poovel**
seventy *num.* **tok poovel**
share, to *v.p.* **səp naar**
sheep *n.* **tem**
shit *n.* **es**
shoulder *n.* **guk**
shrew *n.* **nasəghən**
shut, to *v.* **hoghot**
six *num.* **peeme**
sixty *num.* **tok peeme**
skin *n.* **gaghashim**
skink *n.* **juwen**
sky *n.* **pəgətəng**

slave *n.* **kurem**
smoke *n.* **dyel**
snail *n.* **kis**
snake *n.* **woo**
snake sp. *n.* **goktaa**
spider *n.* **naan**
spittle *n.* **zeel**
squirrel *n.* **hak**
star *n.* **ramsa**
start, to *v.* **shee**
stomach *n.* **fet**
stone *n.* **pang**
stranger *n.* **məzap**
stream *n.* **kong**
strike, to *v.* **maghat**
sun *n.* **pus**
swallow *n.* **kumbang**
swamp *n.* **jaghat**
sweat *n.* **pebaan**

T t

tail *n.* **dang**
tears *n.* **yit mwaa**
ten *num.* **sar**
termite *n.* **vyang**
thief *n.* **wat**
thigh *n.* **shii**
thirteen *num.* **sar kakun**
thirty *num.* **tok kun**
thorn *n.* **kikyen**
three *num.* **kún**

throat *n.* **pəfeel**
toad *n.* **nimot**
today *n.* **bit**
tomorrow *n.* **ndaar**
tongue *n.* **liis**
tooth *n.* **haghas**
tortoise *n.* **dakur**
tree (generic) *n.* **təng**
twelve *num.* **sar kavel**
twenty *num.* **tok vel**

two *num.* **vel**

U u

urine *n.* **kəzəŋ**

V v

vagina *n.* **neer**

vein *n.* **veel**

village name *p.n.* **Shimer**

village name *p.n.* **Gallo; Mangkwat; Zamala**

visitor *n.* **məzap**

vulture *n.* **nkyaa**

W w

waist *n.* **buun**

wake up, to *v.* **mii**

wall *n.p* **bet lə**

war *n.* **lyak dyel**

warthog *n.* **toghos**

water *n.* **nong**

weaver bird *n.* **dəghəm**

well *n.p* **tughun nong**

whirlwind *n.* **liliit**

wild animal *n.* **lwaa koghom**

wind *n.* **piip**

wing *n.* **shaat**

witch *n.* **soghot**

woman *n.* **mat**

woodpecker *n.* **saktəŋ**

work *n.* **bəlang**

world *n.* **yil**

Y y

year *n.* **yii**

yesterday *n.* **dədən**

young man *n.* **lashwaal**

young woman *n.* **larep**

5. Lexical comparison and the classification of Jibyal

The discussion in the community at the time of data collection suggested that Jibyal has most in common with Cakfem and Mushere. Documentation on these languages is somewhat fragmentary, but for Mushere there is Jungrathmayr & Diyakal (2008, 2013) while for Chakfem there is the unpublished Chakfem Language and Translation Project (2017). However, the other hypothesis is that Jibyal is closer to the Pan languages. Data on these is limited to Netting (1967) and Hon et al. (2014). The following short tables compare Mushere, Jibyal and a language of the Pan cluster. In almost every case, Jibyal patterns with Pan, against Mushere.

	Nose	Mouth	Sweat
Mushere	giziŋ	pòò	wùn
Jibyal	gōŋ	pù	péḃá:n
Bwol	gôŋ	pû:	pēbān

	Leg	Knee	Body
Mushere	síkí	fūr	ʃimʃik
Jibyal	ʃí	fārən	sòpʃik
Kwagallak	ʃii	fīrīm	swòpʃik

	Chest	Rib	Father
Mushere	tukur	ékés	pikín
Jibyal	pùzùŋ	túyúr	ndàà
Kofyar	fùzùŋ	tugur	nda

As a consequence, Jibyal can be considered a lect related to the Pan cluster, and not part of Chakfem-Mushere. It appears to be sufficiently distinct to be considered for language status, although considerably more reliably transcribed evidence from the Pan cluster would be desirable for this to be confirmed.

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