

A WORD LIST OF KOFYAR

by

Robert Netting

Department of Anthropology,

University of Pennsylvania.

Introduction

The Kofyar Language

The language which I call here Kofyar is spoken by some 70,000 people in Lowland and Pankshin Divisions of Plateau Province, Northern Nigeria. It characterizes the village areas of Dokan Kasuwa, Koeper, Kofyar, Kwa, Kwang, Dimmuk, Bwal, and Kwalla. Kofyar territory includes about 200 square miles between the Shemankar and Li rivers northwest of Shendam. In recent years, Kofyar have opened bush farms as far south as Kwande and Namu. There are minor dialectal differences among villages, but the people distinguish their own speech, lifwo lu mu (the tongue of our house), from the closely related languages of the Sura and Angas to the north and the Goemai (Ankwe) to the south. Most of the following word list was collected in the village of Bong in the Kofyar hills. Variants used in the Merniang (Mirriam) areas of Kwa, Kwang, and the adjoining hill settlements are designated (Mer.). The Kofyar had traditionally no unified political organization, but they share a set of distinctive cultural characteristics such as intensive agriculture, dispersed settlement patterns, and nuclear family households as well as a common myth of origin.

The word list was collected in the course of ethnological field research, 1960-62, under a grant from the Ford Foundation Foreign Area Studies Program. I used the Kofyar language myself and checked the entries with bilingual informants, but I have no doubt that this vocabulary contains many errors, especially in the recording of tone.

Note on Orthography

The phonemes of Sura which is obviously closely related to Kofyar have been summarized by Jungraithmayr (1964), and Wolff (1954) has proposed orthographies for the neighbouring Sura, Angas, and Ankwe languages. For purposes of convenience in typing and agreement with the local usage of the administration and literate Kofyar, I have represented Kofyar phonemes in transliteration by the following symbols:

Vowels

i = i

e = e

a = a

o = o

u = u

ə = oe

Tones

low

mid

high

Length

indicated by

doubling vowel symbol

Consonants

p = p

t = t

č = c

k = k

b = b

d = d

j = j

g = g

ɓ = ɓ

ɗ = ɗ

f = f

s = s

š = sh

v = v

z = z

ž = zh

m = m

n = n

ŋ = ng

w = w

r = r

l = l

y = y

KOFYAR VOCABULARY

- A. aás; drink made of meal and water
aas; egg
aás ko - egg of chicken
ádange; how much, how many
àgàs; sharp, teeth
agas; to abuse someone
agas pe - to ridicule someone's physical peculiarities
àgàr; to creep
akáu; (H.) clerk
akongdè; how many, akondá (Mern.)
alabása; (H.) onion
am; water
am; to carve
as; dog
- B. baa; to return, to do again
baàbát; round
bágá; very big
baàgaà; very very big
bàb; shoulders, horizontal part
bàkwa; Hausa
balaa; kwado (H.), large red beans
bàn; for no reason
bang; drum
bar; to return to life
bàràk; wet, green, unripe
baàtuu; cat
bèlèp; thing, occurrence
bèlèp tá - something happen
bèlèp wubià - the thing is bad
beng; salt container
bi; the thing

- B. bifunká - comb
 bishè - school
 dàbi - that thing
 moèbi - something
 biná - visible

bindigà (H.) gun, also pindigà
bis; ugly, bad
bit; stone circle, corral
biyang; to prick, to stab, to put on (hat, shoes).
biyaàt; cloth
bòemì (H.) palm wine, mboem (Kof.)
boerhoer; quickly
boèrsóena; prison
bòt; half

B. ɓàgàn; shoulders, upper arm
 ɓálák; hunger
 ɓàlàng; work
 ɓàlòk; bottom, anus
 ɓál; hard, strong
 chan ɓál - the price is high
 ɓam; to stick to, to adhere
 ɓàn; not
 ɓán; to menstruate
 ɓáng; red
 ɓáu; bow
 ɓé; to bear (children), to procreate
 namat ɓè - woman is of bearing age
 namat ɓé - the woman has born (children)
 ɓè noe ɓòe, if not ... then
 ɓel; whistle
 ɓereng; to season, to shake muut ɓereng - epilepsy
 ɓiín; bed
 ɓiriíng; to roll around, to roll over (as a man or stone)

Kofyar Vocabulary: 3

- B. 6fs; soot
6ft; day
6ftlung; morning
6fiyák; to worry, to bother
loela 6fiyák pé - the child bothers everyone
6fiyé1; to kindle a fire
6fiyé1; month to plant beans - April
6óe; then, (future tense)
6ògò1; club, stick with head
6oém; (Mern.) mountain, 6úm, (Kof.)
6oeshé; before
6oot; (Mern.) to know
a 6óot - I am able to do it; I know how to do it
6ubwàt; spring, natural
6ut; belly, side
But lú - wall of house
But kóng - river bank, dry streambed
doóng But noe - it pleases me
But biè - angry, cruel, mean
6uu; reeds
6úm; to touch, to sample
6wàr; one who stays away from home
dàgwó 6war - the man is useless
6war; to be useless
a 6war mwos - I hang around at the place of beer
6wàr; bush yam
6wàp; wind
6wér; many, plenty of (Ganguk)
6wàgàt; something tied
6wogat; to tie
dyan (plural object)
6wón; hip, upper part of animal's hindquarter

B. 6wóne; it is you I mean

6wót; to leave it, to stop

6iyál; brave, angry

C. cá; calabash rattle, dance in which it is used

cá; to like, to enjoy

caán; hoe

caàn; to scorch

cagár; string beans

cagáp; well

goe yagal chagap ba? Are you well?

cagáp; sweetheart

cák; to gather, to collect

cam; to touch, to taste

cam mwos - to sample beer

cám; to refuse a request for something

càn; price

càn; an abusive song, to abuse in song

cànyang; stalk of g. corn; name for month (Oct.)

cen; to drive away, to exile

cèrèm; seed for planting

cerep; fish

cét; to thatch, to cover the roof of a house

à cet lunoè ang kwánù - I cover my house with
galvanized iron

cét; to cook

cét; to copulate

ci; boat

cí; to stop, to dispute, to deny

cì; thigh, leg

cigen; nail

chigen sar - finger nail

ciget; to wrap around

cigir; sad

cìls; kago (H.) a bird

Kofyar Vocabulary: 5

- C. cís; snail
cik; grand child
cim; volcanic ash found as pitted rocks and boulders
paṅg chim - stone used for magical purposes
cin; to do, to happen
cin bàlaṅ - to do work
cin dóegóel - to play
cin gòk - to cure
cin lòe - to repair
cinshík; clean
cínwan; deserted house
cinyì; today
cìsvòen; ragged
cùk; knife
cut; to hit
cwàt; to hit repeatedly, to beat
- D. dádín; bat
dàfan; rabbit
dagal; praying mantis
dagwár; this man
dágòlòṅ; crooked
dak; calabash (eating)
dàkábál; fresh water crab which Kofyar will not eat
dákùl; left hand
dakur; tortoise
daal; to tread, as in mixing mud
daṅg; to hinder, to forbid, to prevent
fan dang mār - the rain prevents farming
sogot dang jéb - The witch forbids children (to be born)
dang; tail
dàpít; monkey
dasóe; right hand (direction)
dàt; alone, only
a àn dāt - I am alone
mwán dāt - just go (salutation on departing)

D. dáyì; owl

degeneng; wicked

dèlko; rooster, also used for good men with witchlike powers
who protect others instead of harming them

dendoeden; yesterday

den sat nì - last year

den máyí - 2 years ago

doebáp; bag

doebàt; leaf envelop, also called Koekar.

doebel; lizard

doebót; half

doegúng; castrated male goat

doekú; potato (sweet)

dóekóek; calf of leg

doel; to stretch, to pull, to lead

doèlàng; bald (abusive)

doeng; body

dóeng; an indivisible portion remains after sharing

doesáat; comb

doesóek; hiccough

dóevùgùr; brain

dògol; much, many

dògol yòn - too much, too many

dók; indicator of past tense from yesterday to one year ago

dok dóe dok - day before yesterday

dok dóé dok wufwón - day before day before yesterday

dórkò; bridge

dùgùl; club, stick for hunting, pestle

dùgùrí; policeman, from (H.) dogari

dùgur, dwàgar; (repeated action) to lock

kòm dwàgar - to be deaf (ears locked)

à dùgur fùlu - I lock door

dùk; near, now

dùkdùk - very close

Kofyar Vocabulary: 7

D. dum; to go

dum dik - to marry (for woman)

dung; lake, pool, spring

dwam; to die of sickness, to perish (pl. obj.), sing. muut

D. da; calabash

daán; roof

dagál; to shout, to speak loudly, a noise, language (Mern.)

dàgar; star

eremá - no liver

ràpmòezùk - women carrying manure

shagaldangkop - metal counterweight of spear

} names
} of con-
} stellations

dágát; slowly

dál; to swallow

dam; to tremble, to shiver

dáng; before, first

a mwan dāng - I go first (before returning), this is
commonly said before departing and is
equivalent to goodbye

moè mwán dāng - we go first

goè goè swa dāng - you are to drink first

dāng; to beg

dār; to stay, to stand

dyaram (pl.)

dě; remained, also particle introducing question

dě lé - after a short time

dě voél - day after tomorrow

dě kòedoèr - to remain behind, be late

děngan - stay in the direction of

dě kúme - once more

dě mán gòe ná? - did you ever see?

dèèt; bitter

d'egen; to pick out foreign bodies

d'egen kot súwa - pick out husk of g. corn

d'egen shít n mòs - pick out grass in beer

- D. dēm; long grass
- dēm; to love, to like, to want
- dēm; to have desire for meat
- dēn; to put; to place
- dēn ṇdōègoèn - to put inside
- dīk; different
- dīn; wear, to tie around
- namat dīn yīm - the woman wears leaves
- lāreb dīn yīm - the girl wears leaves (and is therefore grown up).
- dīn wandō - to put on pants
- dīn; indication of past tense recent, event happened previously today
- (.mɔm) dīn a mwan lutuk - I went to the market earlier today
- dīk; marry (for women) also dum dīk
- yī ádaṅ yī mwán dīk ye? - how many years have you been married (for woman)?
- dīk; to build, to shape a pot dyāk (plural object)
- dīp; feather, wing
- doegoel; game, play
- oīn doégóel - to play
- doègoèm; sick
- doègoem goea? - are you sick?
- doegoem; to be ignorant of something
- lāreb doegoem tām - the girl doesn't know how to dance
- doègoèm; to bend over
- doek (pl. obj.) to put, to pour
- doek kās n aṇ - to put millet in water (to sprout)
- doèwāl; anklet
- dok; quiet, to be silent
- dòr; honey
- dù; to stink
- dūgun, dwagan (repeated action); to copulate
- dulèng; to walk with hips swinging

D. dwák; to beg, entreat

dok Damùlak dwák an - previously Damulak begged me

dúwán; nubile, girl, virgin, never married before

duwan; thick

duwat; to mash, squeeze

dwo; to look for, to get

dwó shàgàl, gòe poen ah - get money and give me

mwàn koè dwo mangóro - he went to look for mangoes

dyàn; bundles, to tie up (pl. obj.)

dyas; to suck out (blood, pus, mucous)

dye; to light, light

wus dye pe - fire lights the place

dye; to think

dyel; smoke

dyél; war

lek dyél - to fight war

dyér; to be skillful in crafts

dyíng; to show

dyír; to be in centre

E. en; medicine

en tu gurum - poison (medicine which kills people)

en; mind

lang en noe; I like it (lit. hangs in my mind)

eep; to pursue, to drive out

eép; to open

er; pus

eer; times

eer kún - three times

erém; liver

erep; charcoal

ès; excrement

és; bone, pit

es páat - pit of itile fruit (canarium)

eskogop; north (or) south

E. èès; to grind

èès fín - flour, meal

eés; sand

F. fát; ashes

faat; to vomit

fán; rain

féel; goiter

féer; four

feer; musical horn made of antelope horn extended to desired
length with cow horn

fet; penis sheath

fét; to cut

fì; to dry

fi; to winnow

fín; grinding stone, metate

foefong; south wind

fóen; to deceive, to fool

foèp; dirty

fogop; empty

fogor; narrow

fók; large animal

fú; to scatter, to sow

fuboem; dumb

fùgùl; predatory bird, hawk

fuk; to blow, to operate bellows

fukyen; forehead

fun; to pick out, to clean out

mwó fun fyu - they picked and cleaned cotton

fuñg; hole, cave

fuñg lú - window

fúr; to weed (with small hoe), all hoeing called fur in Mern.

furapsár; fingers

fùrùm; knee

Kofyar Vocabulary: 11

F. fuus; sun

fus koénar - noon

fus nép - afternoon

fus rú - sunset

fuus; to pierce

a fuus lúá shi kòp - I spear the game with a spear

moe fuusmoeér - we deep-hoe the compound farm

fút; to go out, a shoot fwat (pl. obj.)

fúut; to vomit

But goe fuuta? - your stomach is nauseated?

fúzuñg; chest

fwán; to be more than

am fwán an máng - the water is more than I can carry

fwas; to wipe off, to clean

fwò; mouth

fwóol; 4th day of brewing, also a stinging red ant

fyá; to ache (used with stomach)

fyal; to boil, to froth or bubble

fyél; light of (weight), swift

fyel shí - swift footed

fyer; tall

fyu; cotton

G. gágàl; expensive

gàgàpshìm; hide, skin

gàgar; fallow

gàgàrák; chameleon

gagarak; throat

gák; much

gàk; men's house

gam; full, pregnant, garang; to be pregnant repeatedly

gàndé; in the other direction

gáp; to cut

gap bí; to set the date for an event, to come prematurely

kà noè gap piyà - my head is prematurely white

- G. gǎán; to carry something heavy
gaar; white cactus
godè (H.); thanks
gòdò; blanket
goel; to cut repeatedly, slash
goen; cheek
goèzoeng; nose
gògor; dadawan bisa, a condiment of hibiscus seeds
gogót; (pl.); piece
gògòt; hill
gòk; sickness, a sick person
goon; bush, uninhabited land
goòn; curved, bent
gùgùr; high
guk; to bark (as dog barks)
guk; upper back
gúm; naked
guèguègòetuut; ant lion
guru; snare
gùrùm; people gùrùm wùrét - good people.
gúrút; all, whole
gùrùt; fast
gwa; a different area
à wa n gwa - I come from a distant place
gwagé; 1 string fiddle
gwàk; iron trap
gwam; to deceive, to flirt without wishing to marry
gwaán; to tie on loincloth
gwàn; coco yam
gwang; hump on cow, lump
gwàr; he, she, it - 3rd person sing. P.N. in indirect quotation
gwét; many
gwom; tuwo, porridge

Kofyar Vocabulary: 13

- G. gwôr; bachelor
gwagalká; kokom biri, tree with thick skinned round green fruit
- H. hoŋg; welcome, hello, (always used with personal pronoun, as hong goe, hello you (masc.))
- J. jagám; jaw
jagap; to tickle
jáŋg; calabach (drinking)
jém; sickle
jèt; the back of head, also indicator of past tense, over a year in the past
jèt jèt - a long time ago.
jì; to come
wá goe jì - you come
jì dèl - to pass
jì kòe ni - bring it
jiŋggan; town
jeb; children, youngsters
jeb kwák - toes
jebján - twins
jebswál - young men, samari (H.)
jikoeu; shoulder bag
jong; far, deep
- K. káa; head, top, to go up, to climb, to transplant
kaam; wide
kaáp; baboon
kaar; to grind coarsely
káat; loan, what is borrowed
kagál; to taste, to eat first fruits
kagal; scab
kàgàl; phlegm
kagam; well, alive, healthy
kàgàt; woven bag for drinking
kàkdoer; to remember
kam; stick

K. kam mwan - walking stick

kamfyu - spindle

kamfwoon - spoon

kam cak - fly whisk

kām; to measure, to weigh

kām pē mār goèzuk - measure field of acha

kamkàar; loose grained guinea corn

kàn; so

káng; to guard

kang; to discuss

à mán kang mô - I don't know about it

kànsoegoen; evening

kāanter; chiroma, an official

kap; large pot for cooking beer

kápá; rice

kápit; stomach of grazing animals

kár; to advise

karang; mat

kàs; dauro millet, late or pearl millet

kàs; to serve, to take porridge from pot and put it in
eating dishes

kát; to meet, to get, to find

kat; small, little

koe; with, to be with

koeſit - early

koe pē - same size as

kòeboèn; buffalo (kòegòen - Mern.)

koeboéu; madaiki; second to chief

kòecher; many

koechèr; last funeral ceremony at which grave mound is
made, grave mound

kòedet; now

koèdoer; behind, following

à dé koedoer - I am late

Kofyar Vocabulary: 15

K. kóefe; his, hers, its 3rd person sing. poss. p.n.

kóefwò; lip

koegwáng; stool

koekàr; tall plant growing in damp places, leaves used
in weaving, ribs for beds

koeloek; immature

lareb gam koeloek - the girl conceives while too young

(same word when woman conceives before previous
child old enough)

koèloeng; hawk

koeloeng; to hear, to understand

koeloeng lóefwò kóefe - to obey him, lit. to hear his
speech

koedáp; on top of

koègoèt; to finish a task

koetoéng; sky

yér yagal fu koetoéng - the bird flies up

koenáar; in the middle of

koeng; the edge

koenòk; after, back of human

koèn; mother's brother (or) sister's child

koen ès; to defecate

koeoen; salt

koep; short

koepàng; homestead, compound

kóer; straight

koèroèm; brave

koeroem áyít; eye brows

kóesehng; strainer

kóetut; winnowing tray

kóetuñg; tamba (H.) eleusine, finger millet

kòeyít; boundary

koèyíl; village

kóezúm; rat

kòezùm; hunger for extended period

koezum ya an - hunger catches me

K. koèzoèng; urine

di koezoeng - to urinate

kògòm; harmattan

kogon; to scratch

kogop; shoes

kôl; unhappy

kolok; quiet, not moving

tohng kolok - staying in one place, sitting quietly

kom; ear

kom dwágár - deaf

kóm; groundnuts

kompe; leaf

komzúgít; gurjiya, Bambara ground nut

kon; to spill

kongógól; elbow

kong; river

koor; large male goat (castrated)

kop; the place of something which is gone, to plant seeds

kop Damút - the place where Damut used to live

pe kop yitmút - scar, place of the old wound

yi kop shíká? - are you (ill) as you were?

kòp; spear

koos; do divination

koos pá - to divine with strings or seeds

kóos; roughness

korom; to drink beer together, mouth to mouth

koróm; slave

kùgùl; the first cast or first set in divination

kùgul; to tie

kùgur; burning coal

kúl; gauta (H.), tomato-like vegetable

kúm; umbilicus

kúm; dead person

kùm; charm for field against thief

- K. kum̃ or - the spirit which shouts at night, taboo to women
 kum̃ bis - bad luck
 kum̃ piyà - good luck
 swa kum̃ - judicial ordeal in which medicine is drunk
kúm; to sweep
kún; to count
kún; three
kùn; long in length
kung; leopard, also a ceremonial drum
kúni; still
 jerab kúni le - the girls are still small
kurum; to kneel
kút; crocodile
kwá; well, good, implying good wishes
 mwán dat kwá - go well
kwa; name of town
kwagál; to celebrate the killing of big game
 wu kwagal; successful hunter
kwák; to knock
kwak; leg (including foot)
kwál; to quarrel
kwalbá; bottle
kwan; to count, to number
 kwan sum jéb ni - counted the names of his sons
kwánu; pan or plate of metal
kwanyók; chain for keys
kwasóe; old person
kwàt; to hunt, to look for
kwat shík; fine, a penalty
 kwat wáp - to pay tax
 kwat - to pay
kwò; dark
 pà kwo; the place is dark
kwom; bush fowl

K. kwoòt; to rumble

fan kwoot - thunder

kyang; hoe (small)

kyang kyáng; shelter, grass house

kyék; hedge hog

paskyék; quill of hedge hog

kyèm; useless

kyèr; to care for, to feed

L. là; to say, to tell

la pé - to talk secretly

ni là gwe - he already said it

nàmat la - the woman says

loèlà là - the child says

la žie - to tell stories

lâ; painful

là; boy

là, 6e (pl. obj.) to give birth

nàmat la loèlà - the woman bears a son

namat 6e jeb - the women bears children.

lafwó; difficult

loèfwò lugu lafwo poè yòng - your language is difficult
to speak

lâlèp; servant

lalép; refusing to go on errands

lamshat; yams, long variety

lah; to lose

laugh, loeng (repeated action); to hang, to follow, to stop

loeng am - to swim

lani; little

lap; spleen

láp; to receive, to take, to answer

lap mát - to marry (for a male)

lap nòok - to rest

laap kwak; sole (of the foot)

Kofyar Vocabulary: 19

L. laap sár; palm of hand

laréb; girl

lat; to end, to be finished

lat dák - last

lat kóedét - now it is over

lèé; scars for decoration of the face and body

lé; load

le; slow

leen; soft

leen ás - flour, meal

leget; remains, a single item left over

lek; to fight

lem; beniseed, sesame

lèmu (H.); citrus

lep; to send

a mwán lep - I go on an errand

lésù; mat of reeds

libin; clouds

líis; tongue

lìgít; virgin forest, sacred grove

loèfwò; speaking, language

loèpar; night

lógóm; lazy, tiredness

logom tú an - I am tired

lógóm; to hate

dagwo logom an - I don't like the man

logom; to be almost dry, to have swelling decreased

logom; leper

logot; to be mastered

mar logot ni - farming has been mastered by him, he
knows how to farm well

lóot; stream

loeká; orphan

loèlà; boy

L. lók; damp, to put in water, 1st part of wet season

a lok mwos - I put brewing grain to cook

long: chief

long koenår - middle finger

lông; rich

bilang - possessions, property

ni long - he is rich

dagwǝ lǝng - the man is rich

long; uselessly; a tổng lòng - I sit uselessly

look; to peel

lú: house

lushép; court house

lu tấp; house for guarding field

lú kǒefe; its container

lugum; wrinkled

lugun; dry season

lugun gang - the beginning of the dry season

lugut; to fear, to be cowardly

luk; to pull out

luwa; meat

luwa goon - wild beasts

lwás; to seal with mud

liyán; tree planted as fence

liyan; to mix ground grain with water

lyap; to look for

lyu; mist

M. måan: mine

máfan: raincoat

māk; yours (masc.)

mak; enough

mak an - it is enough for me

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makuli:  key
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man; to know

mǎng, kok (repeated action); to take, to grasp, to lift,
to choose

M. mán; never

(man we wul duk ba; he's never come back yet)

mángòrò; mango

máar; early millet (gero)

mé; one

me; what

mèlèng; woman sleeping place

mèlèp; lightning

yít mèlèp - eyes lightning, sign of anger

méñdé; which

mès; dorowa (H.), locust bean tree

mét; to enter, to exceed; moerep (repeated)

ní mèt góe - he is taller than you

larep met ñ lu - the girl goes into the house

méet; without direction, aimlessly

mì; to wake up

mík; yours (fem.)

mì; relative

míl; molo, plucked reed instrument

mís; husband

wumís - male

miskágám, daskágám (pl.); chief

moe bí; something

moe bi má; none

moègoer; raised scar

moègwo; somebody

mòekà; month of eating yams

moéngkoèm; buttocks

moèn; then (used for past time)

moen; we (Mern.)

moeník; age mates, female

moenók; age mates, male

moèwong; fairies, spirit

mòewòng moègwo - the reincarnated spirit of someone

mòegoèr; to be shiny (as with oil)

M. mòezèp; foreigner, stranger, guest

moèzoeleng; driver ant

mogór; to suck

músù; cat

mwà; mothers milk

mwagálak; chiwa (H.); edible fruit

mwàgàl; fat

mulak; magic, curative rites

mùlam; smooth

muk; to drink, to peck (pl. obj. mwak)

mundoe; to forget

muup; his, hers, its

mus; kitten, cat

mwak; to suck the seeds of fruit

mwán; to go

mwól; lineage, jebfub

mwon; bee

dòr mwon - honey of bees

mwòr; oil

mwor; mosquito

myál; happy

N. nà; my mother

ná; to see

naan; ringworm

naan; god

naan tòeng; thunder clap, gun

naansel; spider

nàr; skin apron for males

naàt; red, ripe

nadóng; mirror

nadong ayít - spectacles

nàmat; mature woman

nàmwà; tears

nàmwàr; bride

náng; your mother

- N. nàng; to ask
nàpa; that woman, fem. of dagwar
nàs; to whip, to hit many times (cut = to hit once)
nàsara; white man
náu; all, both
názùgum; ant
ḥchát; half way
ḥchugur; duck
ḥda; father
ḥdòègoèn; inside
ḥdwáng; small pox
nèèn; large pot for brewing beer, to want to be relieved
 es neen an - I have to defecate
neèr; vagina
ḥgum; beetle
ḥkiyá; vulture
nòe (also noen); if
 noe a mwan - if I go
 noen mwan - if he goes
 noe ... boe - if ... then
noegoen; mother
 noegoen sar - thumb
 noegoen am - big water, lake
 noegoenkó; hen
ndemùlùng; ghost
noeng; cow
 noéng naan - dwarf cow, muturu (H.)
 noeng mandá - Fulani cow
ḥjik; elephantiasis
nook; to stop
noòk; to breathe, soul
 a lap nòok - I take breath (i.e., rest)
nóòt; perhaps
nùgùl; to bend
nùgus; to rub in order to free acha seed from stems

N. nùng; cooked, ripe, finished

nung; to belong

(a wul koe nung tam - I reach the very place of dancing

nùng; to beat, to strike once

hwe; earthworm

nyàgàr; tease (also danyagar)

nyàgàr shik kôe lárep; to tease a girl

nyali; needle

nyang; to prohibit, to refuse

nyegén; woven strips

nyi; elephant

nyí; he, she, or it

nyígès; leaf used for meat

O. oegoel; to swell, to be full of food

oek; goat

oèk; grain, threshed and ready for use

oép; to switch, as when one drives away flies with Kamchak,
or wumulak for curing drives away evil spirits from
house.

oèroèm; beans, cowpeas

ogot, ágát (pl. obj.); to close, to build up with stones
(unroofed structure)

ogotlú; to close the house

ogot àyít - close eyes

mòe ogot bìt - we build the corral

ók; to spit, to blow out

ok lá piip - to blow the nose

ok zéél - to spit

ok; to dig down

orong; dust

P. paál; wooden bed of palm ribs

paáp; red duiker

paar; to jump

paàr; tendon

paas; to comb

Kofyar Vocabulary: 25

- P. paát; itile tree, canarium
paát; five
págar; to dry in the sun
pak; your father
pák; some, also
 pakdê; to be left
 pak kúnyi - some is still here
 pak gùrùm; some people
pál; to fall
pal; to wash brewing grain
pan; clan
pán; to bring along
pang; variety of snake
páng; stone, rock, the hills
pàng; land between 2 walls, set of divination
pàngkò; stone basin for watering animals
pàngkóp; to remain
pàr; indicator of future tense, some time
 pàr mòe bit wúde - some other time
 pàr dé - when
pár; to be in labor
pàs; rainy season
pas; awl used in basket making
pè; place
 pè serep lé - store
pél; new, first
pel; flower
peng; to branch
 kà peng lu góe - I will branch to your house
pèmoe; six
pèt, pèrèp (pl. subj.); to starve
pìgar; to bore a hole
píl; sword grass
pip; to whistle

- P. pin suút; intestine
pínchìm; hand strainer
pin lúgút; back harness for baby
piring, pìràng (repeated action); to change, to trade
pìrpiyu; good to drink
pit, pìyàt (pl. obj.); to put out (the fire), to blink
pitó; Ankwe beer (strong)
piyá; poor, white
pin or piyan, pìram (repeated action); to break
píyán; price, cost
 pyan dógól - expensive
 à wa koe piyan - I came back with the money
pòedoem; bird without feather
pòedoer; below, under, buttocks
poel pòel; butterfly
poen; to give
 poendańg - to loan
 poen doer - to return, to give back
 poen gók - to wound
 poen wála - to punish, cause to suffer
 poen yón - to honor
pògòfár - nine
pògòvoel - seven
pògòkun - eight
pok; to sink in, to be depressed
póot; for a short time
poòt; for a long time
pyèp; beard
 pyèp kòefwò - mustache
R. rá; to bind grass for roofing
ra; to make excuses
ráa; to swell up, said of belly
ráap; women, to fetch repeatedly
raga; nets (H.)
ran; to make a line, marked, to write

R. ráp; to mount or ride; to sew

ràp; dirty

reng; idle conversation

mun a fu reng dat, mun afu kwal mo - we are just talking
not quarreling

res; thin, slim of body

rét; good

reèp; slaughter

riin; shadow

pè riin - shady place

maṅg riin - to magically bring back a woman's shadow

rìp; the husk of grain

roop (to mix); to combine grain of different kinds

roòp - mixed

roegoet; to make happy

tám sòe roegoet ni yón - this dance made him very happy

rógò (H.); cassava

ròk; sweet

rup; to itch

rwà és; to wrestle

S. sá; to burn, to sting

sáá; to pile up

sáá yil koeché - to pile up earth on a grave

saà maar - to hill millet

sáá maar; hill millet (imperative)

saam; to sleep sáám (imperative) sleep

sáam-tu ǎn - I am sleepy

san; myself

sak; yourself

sàk dam - your (masc.) body shivers

sun; ourselves

sut; themselves

sák; to weave

sak

sár; arm, hand

8. sàr; ten

sàr kákúme - 11

sàr kávoel - 12

ya moe gwo - 20

sàr kóe pògòfar - 19

sàas; small of back

sat; to say

sèé; to sing

sèen; roots, ancestors

sèen toeng - medicine

séét, serep (repeated action); to buy, sell

seng; to strain (with sieve)

sén sèn; truth

sèp; axe

shá; jar with narrow neck for beer or water

sháal; lukewarm

sháal; to taste bad, as to sick person

shák; to dry and be lost, as beans

shagal; iron, money

shaan; rough (used of skin of man or animal)

sháng; to taste good, to be pleasant, to untie, to undress

shap; to divide, share out

shap pè voèl; to divide in two

shaar; friend

she; to teach, to learn, to begin

shekùk; to begin at the ground

sheel; magic for woman

shén; to give

shéep; to give judgment as in court

shép; wood, timber

shèp gòdò - loom

shìbit shibìt; daily

shídùk; truth

shít; to do (always with work)

shìká; different

- S. shim; yam
shim; hide, skin also gagapshim
shimwòs; week
shishì; fly
shishì; six pence
shishí; hornet
shishik; human skin
shing; mortar
ship; to destroy, to break down
shit; roofing straw
shítá; pepper
soè; here
sóe; there, food, to eat, to win
 sóe nòok - to hold breath
 soe báak - down there
 soe dóng - up there
 soe tagan - over there across a valley
 soe fwón - in the distance
 sóe fuús - midday meal
 sóe kánsogoen - evening meal
soègòem; to cough
sók; to hide, to conceal
sogom; horn
sogot; witch
sóon; clever
sú; to run - swá (repeated action)
sùgul; tough but pliable, as cloth
sùgùp; to bathe, sugàp (repeated)
sum; name
 sum moebí - word
súm; to eat hard substance, maize or corn kernels
sunguul; seed bed
súl; to make a hole, súlang (repeated)
 sul pe gurut - to fill up
sup; to turn over

S. tugul sùp - overturned pot used in baking tubers

swapas; maize

swòep; hair

swòep ayit; eyebrow

swoèp ká; hair of head

swóp; to be ashamed

swá; to drink; guinea corn

swal; pain, difficulty

swal; long (length)

swan; fetch water, dip up liquid; to confess

swar; to laugh, to smile

T. tá; to play (an instrument)

tá, toek (repeated action); to cross, to go over, to begin
to go out as a witch

tañyil - to fall down

tà; to gather creatures together, to round up

táán; to sew

tába; tobacco

tagán; heavy

tagal; to chew

tàgàm; blood, ahead, in front of

tàgas; smell

à kat tàgàs soe - I smell food

tagat; to pull out many, to weed

ták; to dress, to put on cloth, to throw, (repeated action)

zwam

a ták biyat - I put on cloth

tal; to visit, to greet

tál; to pick (fruit), toeloeng (repeated) to loose, to free
the afterbirth

tàm; dance

gòe tám - you dance (imperative).

tàm moèfán - a dance for men and women

tàng; to be good (of grass)

táng; look for something which is lost, to seek

Kofyar Vocabulary: 31

- T. tǎng; to knit, to weave (basket)
tǎngkop; want
tǎngyím; green
táp; to guard, to shepherd
tar; month, moon
tás; fungus, mushroom
tat; to shoot, to spin cotton
 tat bǎu - to shoot an arrow
tǎyít; twist 2 threads together
tee; to tear, to cut up meat
tègèn; handle
tèget; to lean up against
teleng; level place, plain
 teleng lǘ - floor
 teleng kòm - covered passage way
 teleng koepang - court yard
tén; tree with fine grain, small leaf
tén; to break down g. corn
téng; rope
 teng bwón - waist band
tén; to push (object gives but does not move)
tep, terep (repeated action); to break, to braid (hair, grass)
 for roof), to make pap or beer
ter, turáp (repeated action); to lie down, to spend the night
 pe ter - sleeping place
toegoer; ant hill
toegoer; fish poison
toègoer; to rub
toègoèroèng; stone tripod for cooking
tòelogom; leper
toém; to be righteous, untainted by witchcraft
tòes; best, only
 shar wutòes - best friend
togol; shoulder
 láng kòe togol - to put arm around shoulders

- T. togot; finish what remains
- toéng; tree
- toèng gàng - giginya palm
- toèng lú - a neighborhood, ward
- tok; soup
- tòklà; kubewa; okra
- tóok; neck
- tòkmáng; pumpkin
- tóng, twagat (repeated action); to sit, to live in a place
- tú; to pound in mortar, to kill
- saàm tú àn - I am sleepy
- tú; calabash bottle
- tubuli; mud brick
- tugul; wide mouthed cooking pot
- tugulpé; deep valley
- tugun; to move, to push
- tùgùn; tomb
- tugun; to pinch
- tugur; rib case, thorax
- tul; to gather together, to collect
- tum; sheep
- tung; to fry
- tungfwo; to chew
- tuup; lungs
- tuupfil; angry
- twòn; women's wrapper
- V. vang; to wash
- veet; a long time
- vét; owl
- viling; to turn
- àyít viling - to be drunk, dizzy
- vìvigir; month of drying dorowa, March
- vìvit; whirlwind
- vìyap; pawpaw (H. gwanda), in Bong, là viyap (Kof.)

Kofyar Vocabulary: 33

V. viyap; hanging holder for calabash

voel; two, second

vùgul; to be unripe, not yet dry (said only of beans)

vùgul bèrdem - beans not yet dry

vùgul iwò; to rinse out the mouth

vùk; short grass, bushes in the field

vul; dove

vwàk; meeting for worship

vwèm; ugly

W. wa, wak (repeated action); to come back, to return home

waar; to be forbidden

à waar lèk - I prohibit fighting

waàr; necklace

waar; gas

lòelà koèn waar - the child farts

wáar; pap, cooked gruel

à swa wáar - I drink pap

wààr; to be menstruating

wáap; to strain with a sieve

wal; to cry, to weep, to scream

feer wal mó - the horn doesn't sound

wála; to suffer

wàl wàl; yellow

wàm; rotten

wan; mud for building

wáng; bush farm, pipe

wàp; meat broth

wáp; to share the cost, tax

wár; road

mòe fut wár - we take the road to go

wás; to sneeze

wás; custom, property

a wás mup a sǎng - its property is to be red

wát; thief, to steal

W. waatká; to be ashamed

waatká nœ - I am ashamed

weél; thin

wèek; swollen scrotum

dàgwò koe week - man with filaria

won; to be absent, lost

wùdák; only

wu; particle meaning who, which, that, the one who is

wubis - the bad or ugly one

wudang - beggar

wùfwo - new

wùjigoer - family

wukas - enemy

wùkœboèl - cripple

wùtoes - best, most

wùvùgùm - blind person

wùwagar - shout with hand to mouth

wùlé; less, small, the younger

wùntagam; leader

wùpá; diviner

wùpinlú; matter

wul; to reach, to come

wul kœdoer; to come late

wul duk; to approach

wum; to bury

wùn; to sweat, to be wet

wò; snake

wur; to pour using funnel

wis; to roast

wus; fire, a light or lantern

wus lap lú nœ - fire burns my house

biyel wus - kindle (lit. blow) a fire

wut; to return to a past condition, to untie

wút; a bush variety

wúk; exchange labor group; to cry for the dead

- Y. yà; indicator of future tense
recent, event to take place same day
ya a sam; I will come down
yáa, yák (pl. obj.) to catch, to hold
yá mat - to catch a wife
yà mat - to look after a wife well
ya doèr; to overtake
ya vílìng; to go round in a circle
yà koe tògòl; to embrace
yák dang; to explain
yágál, yígòel (repeated action) to leave, to arise, to stand up
namát yagal - the woman ran away from her husband
yágál goe tòeng - stand up
yàgùrùm; 20
yakgurum voel - twenty
yakgurum sàr - 200
yáal; flute
yáng; guinea corn stalk
yer; mad
yèr; bird
yi; year
yì; you - 2nd sig. p.n. for females
sum yí à mè? - what is your name?
yì kot ànè?; where are you?
yìl; to write (pl. obj.) sing. ran
yíl; soil, earth, country
yìm; cut grass
yìmpet; broom
yit; face
yit múut; wound
yit melep; angry
yit; correct, right
yògom; wood for fire
yògòn; to move
yogor; fool

Y. yogór; wild cat, bush cat

yòk; to loosen

moe yók (Mern.) - we part

yon; enough, large

yer wuyòn - large bird

yon àn - I've had enough

yòng; to say, to call, to tell

à yong jeb - I call the children

yugur; breasts

Z. zák; again

záng; jar for separating itile oil

zang; sterile

zara; medicine bag

zel; saliva

zeet; maybe, perhaps

zené; story

zogop; crushing

zùgum; cold

zùk; composted manure (foep - Mern. manure)

zwàm; to throw repeatedly

zuwan; to comfort

zuwan; hook

žang; wedding dance