

# **Nteng, an undocumented Chadic language of Central Nigeria**

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## ABSTRACT

This is an introduction and basic phonology, orthography proposal and a short dictionary of Nteng, a previously undocumented language in southwestern Plateau State, Nigeria. Nteng is part of West Chadic, A3, and the paper presents evidence for its affiliation within the A3 group. The Nteng are linguistically closest to the PAN (Kofyar cluster). They also show some lexical influence from Mushere, immediately to the north. The paper argues that Nteng should be identified as a distinct language and thus assigned an ISO code.

Keywords: Nteng; Chadic; phonology; wordlist; orthography

## 1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Nteng language, spoken in Nteng village, Qua'an Pan Local Government Area, Plateau State, Nigeria. The Nteng language is mentioned in Hon *et al.* (2014) but no data was collected. The name Nteng has been recorded as a dialect of Kofyar. The village of Nteng was visited by the first author and Raymond Dawum on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, 2017, and a basic 500 word list was elicited. We are grateful to Mr. Clement Marmut, assisted by a group of villagers, for recording the material (Photo 1). The wordlist was collected as a 'one-shot' exercise and the transcription must therefore be regarded as preliminary. The transcriptions were made by Michael Bulkaam and Roger Blench and the analysis was prepared by Roger Blench. The wordlist in §4. also presents items in a tentative orthography resembling regional languages such as Mwaghavul in the event of further initiatives towards development. An Android dictionary version of the wordlist accompanies this paper.

Photo 1. Nteng speakers, 2017



Source: Author photo

## 2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

### 2.1 Nomenclature

Nteng is the name of the language, the people and the main settlement.

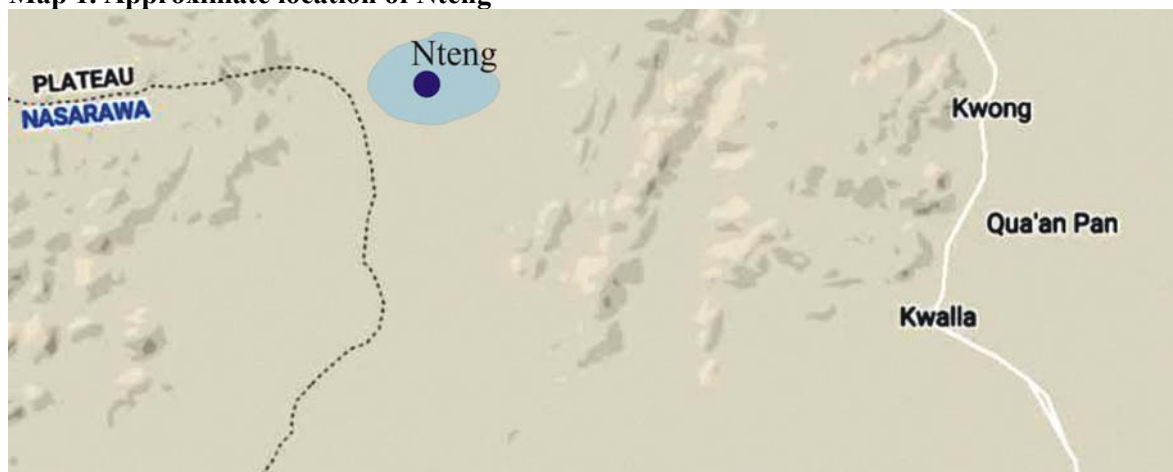
### 2.2 Location and settlements

Nteng is spoken in a group of eight villages, west of Gorom (Map 1). These villages are Nteng itself, Gyeer, Doop, Kelaghan, Loon, Kwakii, Zhep Morop and Gorom (though this is predominantly Bwal-speaking) (Table 1). None of these villages except Gorom are identified in any cartographic source.

Table 1. Nteng villages

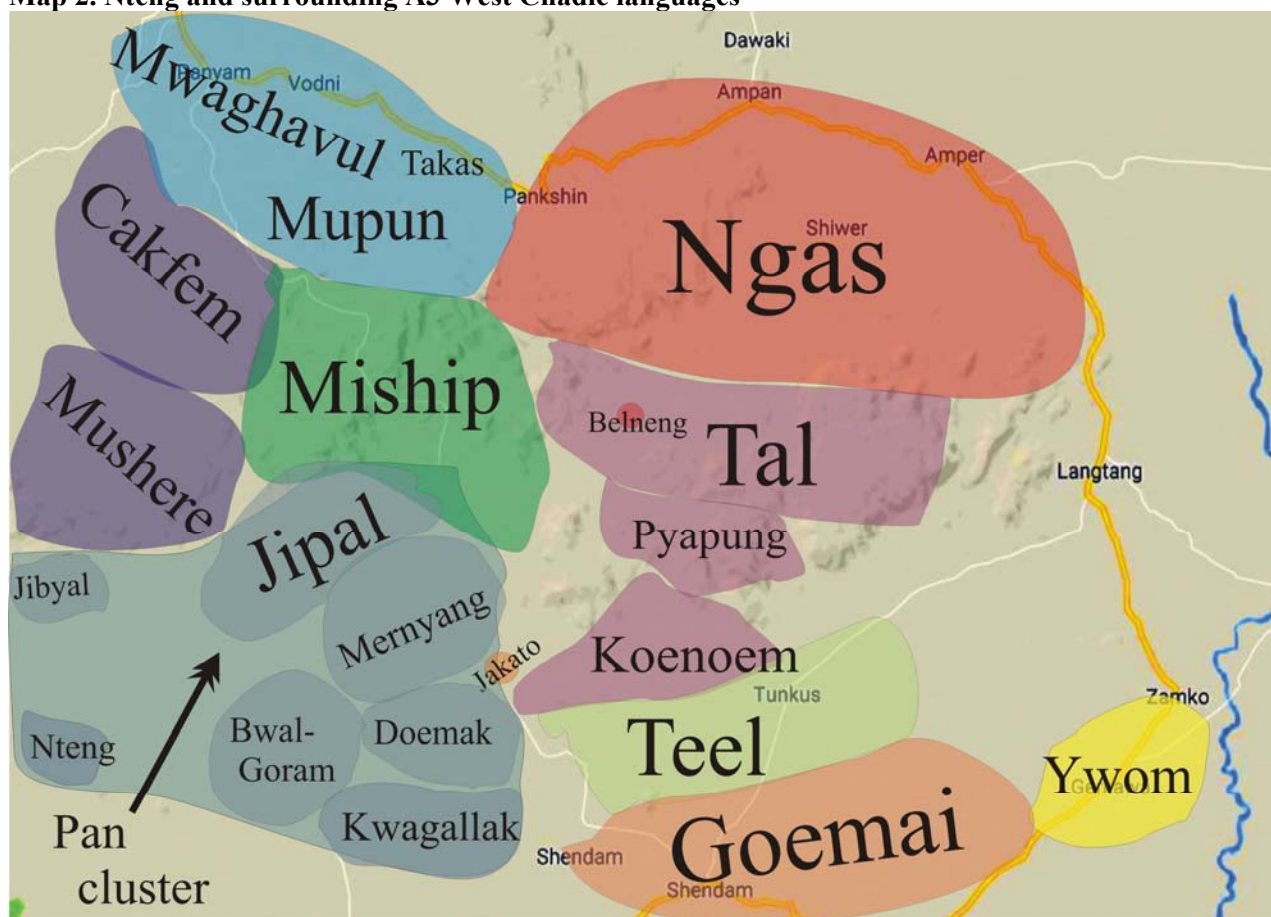
| Name       | IPA       |
|------------|-----------|
| Doop       | dɔ́ɔp     |
| Gorom      | ɡórɔm     |
| Gyeer      | ɡʲɛ́ɛr    |
| Kelaghan   | kəlāyān   |
| Kwakii     | kʷā:kī:   |
| Loon       | lɔ:n      |
| Zhep morop | ʒɛpmɔ́rɔp |

**Map 1. Approximate location of Nteng**



Map 2 shows the location of Nteng in the context of surrounding A3 West Chadic languages

**Map 2. Nteng and surrounding A3 West Chadic languages**



Source: Updated from Blench (2018)

### 2.3 Language status

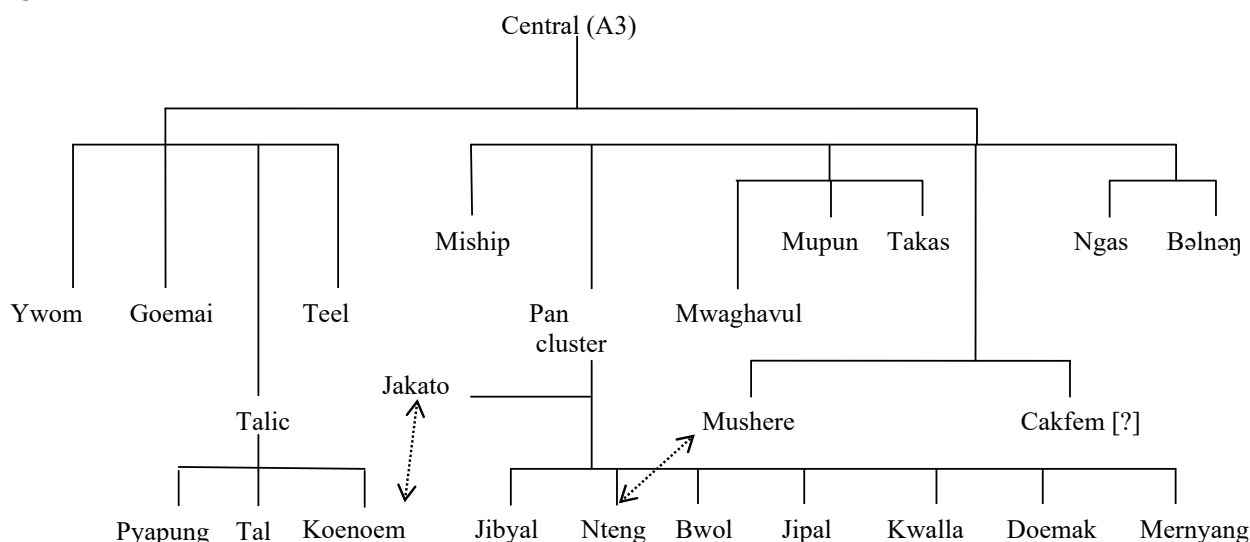
There may be as many as two thousand speakers. As far as could be gathered, the Nteng language remains vigorous and is still spoken by children on a regular basis.

### 2.4 The classification of Nteng

Nteng 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. Nteng 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. 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.

**Figure 1. Tentative ‘tree’ of Chadic A3 languages**



§4. is a wordlist on which the present analysis is based. §5. discusses this classification in more detail. As the tree suggests, Nteng is closest to the PAN cluster but has also been influenced by proximity to Mushere.

### 3. Phonology

The phonology of Nteng should be regarded as tentative.

#### 3.1 Vowels

Nteng probably has six phonemic vowels;

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

All of these have clear long/short distinctions and with a longer wordlist, minimal pairs may be discovered for all vowels. Table 2 presents examples of Nteng long/short vowel contrast;

**Table 2. Illustrations of Nteng long/short vowel contrast**

| Nteng | Gloss      | Nteng       | Gloss         |
|-------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| tát   | to shoot   | tāāt        | to shake      |
| dēl   | to swallow | dēēr        | scorpion      |
| ēf    | faeces     | ēēf         | sand          |
| vər   | to weed    | yāōr        | breast        |
| kì    | to go      | kīn         | salt          |
| gōrōó | crow       | gōōr        | vegetable sp. |
| kōm   | ear        | kōōm        | grass         |
| kūm   | corpse     | kū:m mūkà:m | ancestor      |

### 3.2 Consonants

#### 3.2.1 Unmodified series

Nteng consonants are as follows:

|             | Bilabial | Labio-dental | Alveolar | Alveo-palatal | Palatal | Velar | Labial-velar | Glottal |
|-------------|----------|--------------|----------|---------------|---------|-------|--------------|---------|
| Plosive     | p b      |              | t d      |               | [c] j   | k g   |              |         |
| Nasal       | m        |              | n        |               |         | ŋ     |              |         |
| Trill       |          |              | [r]      |               |         |       |              |         |
| Fricative   |          | f v          | s z      | ʃ ʒ           |         | ɣ     |              | h       |
| Approximant |          |              |          |               | y       |       | w            |         |
| Lateral     |          |              | l        |               |         |       |              |         |
| Approximant |          |              |          |               |         |       |              |         |
| Implosive   | ɓ        |              | ɗ        |               |         |       |              |         |

#### 3.2.2 Palatalised series

Nteng has the following palatalised consonants, /ɓʲ/, /pʲ/, /ɗʲ/, /kʲ/, /tʲ/, /nʲ/. Examples are given in Table 3;

**Table 3. Nteng palatalised consonants**

| Nteng | Gloss       |
|-------|-------------|
| ɓiāŋ  | to pierce   |
| pāā   | to be white |
| ɗiik  | to build    |
| kiāŋ  | small hoe   |
| fēēl  | to be light |
| ɲi    | him/her     |

#### 3.2.3 Labialised series

Nteng has the following palatalised consonants, /bʷ/, /ɓʷ/, /tʷ/, /fʷ/, /kʷ/, /gʷ/, /ʃʷ/, /ʒʷ/, /mʷ/, /lʷ/. Examples are shown in Table 4;

**Table 4. Nteng labialised consonants**

| Nteng  | Gloss            |
|--------|------------------|
| bwāk   | tiger-nut        |
| ɓʷāf   | locust-bean cake |
| tifwùr | he-goat          |
| kùkʷàt | hunter           |
| gʷāyāl | milk             |
| ʃʷā:   | to drink         |
| ʒʷār   | to laugh         |
| mʷàn   | to walk          |
| lwāā   | meat             |

### 3.3 Tones

Like the other A3 languages, Nteng 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 Nteng. However, High tones are almost never found in isolation, only as the second element of Mid-High in sequences of two identical vowels. This is also found in other languages of the PAN cluster, such as Jibyal,

and suggests that the underlying tone system has only two heights, and that the high tone is a phonetic consequence of rising.

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| High            | ˈ  |
| Mid             | ˊ  |
| Low             | ˋ  |
| Rising Mid-High | ˊ˥ |

Table 5 illustrates typical contrastive tone patterns in Nteng, showing the opposition between Mid-High, Mid and Low. No direct contrast with a high tone is found.

**Table 5. Nteng contrastive tone patterns**

| Nteng | Gloss         | Nteng | Gloss         |
|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|
| kāá   | head          | tʰɔ́k | neck          |
| kāār  | vervet monkey | tɔ́k  | vegetable sp. |
| kàà   | to climb      | tòk   | to tell       |

#### 4. Nteng wordlist

##### A a

|                                                   |                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>aap</b> [ā:p] v. to yawn                       | <b>ang</b> [àŋ] v. to set trap                                   |
| <b>aar</b> [ā:r] v. to rub; to scrape             | <b>arap</b> [ārāp] v. to bite (pl.)                              |
| <b>aash</b> [āáj] n. egg                          | <b>ash</b> [āj] n. dog                                           |
| <b>alade</b> [àládè] n. pig                       | <b>ash pang</b> [āj pāj] n. civet cat <i>Civettictis civetta</i> |
| <b>am1</b> [àm] n. water                          | <b>at</b> [āt] v. to bite (sg.)                                  |
| <b>am2</b> [ām] v. to carve                       | <b>atghot</b> [ātȝɔt] n. ulcer; sore; abscess                    |
| <b>am d̥er</b> [ām d̥ɛr] n. lake; pond; pool; dam | <b>awe</b> [awè] int. who                                        |
| <b>ame</b> [āmè] int. what                        | <b>ayaba</b> [àjàbà] n. banana <i>Musa spp.</i>                  |
| <b>ane</b> [ānè] int. where                       |                                                                  |

##### B b

|                                            |                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>bang</b> [bāj] n. quiver                | <b>bulkyeer</b> [būlkjè:r] n. pigeon sp.                  |
| <b>bānder</b> [bāndēr] n. buttocks         | <b>bwak</b> [bʷāk] n. tiger-nut <i>Cyperus esculentus</i> |
| <b>bəsəŋ kung</b> [bəsəŋ kūŋ] n. drum type |                                                           |

##### B ɓ

|                                                       |                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ɓaan</b> [ɓà:n] s.v. to be hot                     | <b>ɓak</b> [ɓāk] v. to hatch                                    |
| <b>ɓang</b> [ɓāj] s.v. to be red                      | <b>ɓok</b> [ɓɔk] n. mud                                         |
| <b>ɓee</b> [ɓē:] v. to split into two                 | <b>ɓom</b> [ɓɔm] v. to touch                                    |
| <b>ɓee yit</b> [ɓè: jít] v.p. to divide               | <b>ɓow</b> [ɓɔw] n. bow                                         |
| <b>ɓel caan</b> [ɓèl tʃā:n] n. flute type             | <b>ɓut</b> [ɓūt] n. stomach                                     |
| <b>ɓel kəsh</b> [ɓèl kəʃ] n. flute type               | <b>ɓut lu</b> [ɓūt lū] n. wall                                  |
| <b>ɓel waap</b> [ɓèl wāáp] n. flute made of cornstalk | <b>ɓwaar</b> [ɓʷà:r] n. bush yam <i>Dioscorea spp.</i>          |
| <b>ɓel wen</b> [ɓèl wēn] n. flute made from clay      | <b>ɓwaghat</b> [ɓʷàȝàt] n. bundle                               |
| <b>ɓəlang</b> [ɓəlàŋ] n. work                         | <b>ɓwash</b> [ɓʷāʃ] n. locust bean cake used as soup ingredient |
| <b>ɓəlem</b> [ɓəléŋ] v. to lick                       | <b>ɓyang</b> [ɓiāj] v. to pierce                                |
| <b>ɓit</b> [ɓít] n. day                               |                                                                 |

##### C c

|                                                       |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>caa</b> [tʃā:] n. gourd rattle                     | <b>car</b> [tʃār] v. to throw (pl.)                  |
| <b>caan</b> [tʃāán] n. large hoe used for cultivation | <b>ceet</b> [tʃéét] n. adze                          |
| <b>caap</b> [tʃāáp] n. wing                           | <b>cek</b> [tʃék] n. basket                          |
| <b>caghal</b> [tʃāȝál] n. jaw                         | <b>cem</b> [tʃém] n. dassie; rock rabbit; rock hyrax |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Procvavia capensis</i></p> <p><b>cer</b> [tʃɛr] <b>pl. car</b> v. to throw (sg)</p> <p><b>cerem</b> [tʃɛrɛm] <i>n.</i> beniseed; sesame <i>Sesamum spp.</i></p> <p><b>cet</b> [tʃɛt] v. to cook</p> <p><b>cet lu</b> [tʃɛt lɔ] <i>n.</i> roof</p> <p><b>cigən</b> [tʃigən] <i>n.</i> fingernail</p> <p><b>cighul</b> [tʃiɣul] <i>n.</i> pot</p> <p><b>cighul am</b> [tʃiɣul ɔm] <i>n.</i> water pot</p> <p><b>cighul moosh</b> [tʃiɣul mòːʃ] <i>n.</i> pot used for preparing local beer</p> <p><b>cighul shii</b> [tʃiɣul ʃii] <i>n.</i> pot type</p> <p><b>cii</b> [tʃiː] <i>n.</i> thigh</p> <p><b>cií</b> [tʃií] v. to refuse; to reject</p> <p><b>cii am</b> [tʃiː ɔm] <i>n.</i> canoe; boat</p> <p><b>ciin</b> [tʃiin] <i>n.</i> handle</p> <p><b>ciit</b> [tʃiːt] v. to scatter</p> <p><b>cik</b> [tʃik] <i>n.</i> knife</p> <p><b>cikum</b> [tʃikũm] <i>n.</i> flying termite; flying ant</p> | <p><b>cim</b> [tʃim] <i>n.</i> sheep</p> <p><b>cimbaan</b> [tʃɛmbàːn] <i>n.</i> monitor lizard (land) <i>Varanus exanthematicus</i></p> <p><b>cin</b> [tʃin] v. to do</p> <p><b>cinyi</b> [tʃini] <i>n.</i> today</p> <p><b>cip</b> [tʃip] s.v. to be black</p> <p><b>cirep</b> [tʃirɛp] <i>n.</i> fish</p> <p><b>cirim</b> [tʃirim] <i>n.</i> red-flanked duiker <i>Cephalophus rufilatus</i></p> <p><b>cizhii</b> [tʃizɪː] <i>n.</i> house-fly; fly <i>Musca domestica</i></p> <p><b>cong</b> [tʃɔŋ] <i>n.</i> millet sp.</p> <p><b>coop caap</b> [tʃɔːp tʃáap] <i>n.</i> feather</p> <p><b>cu1</b> [tʃù] v. to kill</p> <p><b>cu2</b> [tʃù] v. to pound</p> <p><b>cul</b> [tʃúl] v. to gather</p> <p><b>cung</b> [tʃuŋ] v. to stir</p> <p><b>cungucit</b> [tʃuŋúʔit] v. to draw (like water)</p> <p><b>cush</b> [tʃũ] v. to push</p> |
| <b>D d</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>dep</b> [dɛp] <i>n.</i> black plum <i>Vitex doniana</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>dol koo</b> [dɔl kɔ́] <i>n.</i> cock; rooster                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>D d</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>daar</b> [dāːr] <i>n.</i> tomorrow</p> <p><b>daghar</b> [dāɣār] <i>n.</i> star</p> <p><b>đang1</b> [dāŋ] <i>n.</i> Nile monitor lizard <i>Varanus niloticus</i></p> <p><b>đang2</b> [dāŋ] v. to beg; to request; to plead</p> <p><b>deer</b> [dɛér] <i>n.</i> scorpion</p> <p><b>del</b> [dɛl] v. to swallow</p> <p><b>dengmaar</b> [dɛŋmāːr] <i>n.</i> young man</p> <p><b>đaghəl</b> [dɔɣəl] <i>n.</i> smoke</p> <p><b>đerəp</b> [dɛrəp] <i>a.</i> many and all [?]</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>dik</b> [dɪk] <i>n.</i> stone</p> <p><b>dom</b> [dɔm] v. to want; to like</p> <p><b>dong</b> [dɔŋ] s.v. to be good</p> <p><b>doot</b> [dɔ́t] s.v. to be bitter</p> <p><b>du</b> [dũ] v. to smell</p> <p><b>dughul</b> [dũɣul] <i>n.</i> hunting</p> <p><b>dyik</b> [dɪk] v. to build</p> <p><b>Doop</b> [dɔ́p] <i>n.</i> village name</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>E e</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>eep</b> [ɛːp] v. unclear</p> <p><b>eesh1</b> [ɛːʃ] <i>n.</i> sand</p> <p><b>eesh2</b> [ɛːʃ] v. to grind; to crush</p> <p><b>eməreep</b> [ɛmərəːp] <i>n.</i> young woman; girl; maiden</p> <p><b>em'esh</b> [ɛmʔɛʃ] <i>n.</i> pestle</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><b>en muut</b> [ɛn mùːt] v. to forget</p> <p><b>er</b> [ɛr] <i>n.</i> thorn</p> <p><b>erem</b> [ɛrɛm] <i>n.</i> beans; cowpea <i>Vigna unguiculata</i></p> <p><b>esh</b> [ɛʃ] <i>n.</i> faeces</p> <p><b>eshput</b> [ɛʃpūt] <i>n.</i> dysentery; diarrhoea</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Ə ə</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>əgəsh</b> [əɣəʃ] <i>n.</i> bone</p> <p><b>əgəsh koghor</b> [əɣəʃ kɔɣər] <i>n.</i> rib</p> <p><b>əghən</b> [əɣən] <i>n.</i> medicine</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><b>əghən kubish</b> [əɣən kũbɪʃ] <i>n.</i> poison</p> <p><b>əghər</b> [əɣər] <i>n.</i> pumpkin</p> <p><b>əwom</b> [əwɔm] <i>n.</i> word</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>F f</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>f'oor</b> [fɔ́r] <i>num.</i> four</p> <p><b>faghat</b> [fāɣāt] v. to vomit; to retch; to barf</p> <p><b>fet</b> [fɛt] v. to sweep</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>fəlfəl</b> [fəlfəl] <i>n.</i> butterfly</p> <p><b>fil</b> [fil] v. to boil</p> <p><b>fyeel</b> [fɛél] s.v. to be light</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>G g</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>gərəm</b> [gɛrɛm] <i>a.</i> round</p> <p><b>goor</b> [gɔ́r] <i>n.</i> vegetable sp.</p> <p><b>Gorom</b> [gɔ́rɔm] <i>n.</i> village name</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>goroo</b> [gɔ́rɔ́] <i>n.</i> pied crow <i>Corvus albus</i></p> <p><b>gudək boon</b> [gùdək bɔ́ːn] <i>n.</i> doctor; herbalist</p> <p><b>gwaghal</b> [gʷāɣāl] <i>n.</i> milk</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



**Gyeer** [gʲe̞ér] *n.* village name

**H h**

**haap** [hā:p] *n.* armpit

**haghash** [hàɣàʃ] *n.* tooth

**hak** [hàk] *n.* ground squirrel *Xeropus erythraicus*

**ham kucip** [hàm kùtʃip] *n.* water

**han** [hǎn] *pron.* I

**Ḥ ḥ**

**ḥaan** [hà:n] *v.* to search; to look for; to seek

**ḥeen** [hē:n] *n.* pot type

**J j**

**jeem** [d͡ʒe̞ém] *n.* sickle

**jiwul** [d͡ʒiɰwúl] *v.* to arrive

**K k**

**kaa1** [kā́á] *n.* head

**kaa2** [kà:] *v.* to climb

**kaar** [kā:r] *n.* black monkey *Cercopithecus tantalus*

**kaghal** [kāɣǎ] *n.* crab

**kang** [kàŋ] *n.* fan palm; deleb palm; palmyra palm  
*Borassus aethiopium*

**kangkop** [kàŋkôp] *n.* bat sp.

**kapaa** [kàpáá] *n.* rice *Oryza sativa*

**kat** [kàt] *v.* to find; to get

**kəbən** [kəbən] *n.* buffalo; bush-cow *Syncerus caffer*

**kəlaap** [kə́lǎá] *n.* compound

**Kəlaghan** [kə́lǎɣǎn] *n.* village name

**kəlogho** [kə́lɔɣò] *n.* back

**kəpar** [kəpʰǎr] *n.* night

**kəpəŋ** [kəpʰəŋ] *n.* hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*

**kəram** [kə́rǎm] *n.* mat

**kətər** [kə́tǎr] *n.* grave

**kəyil** [kə́jil] *n.* world

**ki** [kì] *v.* to go

**kiin** [kī:n] *n.* salt

**kiir** [kī:r] *n.* silk-cotton; kapok tree *Ceiba pentandra*

**kiish** [kī:ʃ] *n.* headpad

**kikənder** [kìkə̀ndē] *v.* to follow; to pursue

**koghor** [kɔɣòr] *v.* to quarrel

**kom** [kôm] *n.* ear

**kóm** [kôm] *n.* groundnut; peanut *Arachis hypogaea*

**kom kwoo** [kôm kʷó] *n.* Bambara nut *Vigna subterranea*

**kom yim** [kôm jìm] *n.* leaf

**koo** [kó] *n.* chicken; hen; fowl

**koo pang** [kō: pǎŋ] *n.* bush fowl; francolin

**koo pyaa** [kò: píà:] *n.* cattle egret *Ardeola ibis*

**koom** [kō:m] *n.* grass

**koor** [kō:r] *v.* to pour

**kop** [kôp] *n.* spear

**kopdee** [kôpde:] *v.* to remain

**kosh shəghən** [kôʃ ʃəɣən] *v.* to cough

**kuḥaan** [kūḥà:n] *a.* hot

**kuḥang** [kūḥǎŋ] *a.* red

**kuḥərak** [kūḥə̀ràk] *a.* wet

**kuḥit** [kūḥít] *n.* morning

**kucip** [kùtʃip] *a.* black

**kucut** [kùtʃūt] *n.* winnowing tray woven of straw,  
used for blowing out chaff from grains

**kudong** [kūdōŋ] *a.* good

**kudoot** [kūdóót] *a.* bitter

**kufeel** [kūfḗl] *n.* goitre

**kufyeel** [kūfḗl] *a.* light

**kuk** [kúk] *v.* to fold

**kuka** [kúkà] *n.* baobab *Adansonia digitata* [< H.]

**kukəp** [kūkəp] *a.* short

**kukun** [kūkūn] *a.* long

**kukwash** [kūkʷǎʃ] *a.* old

**kukwat** [kúkʷàt] *n.* hunter

**kul** [kúl] *n.* stick; staff

**kulee** [kūlē:] *a.* small

**kum1** [kūm] *n.* navel

**kum2** [kūm] *n.* corpse

**kumat** [kúmāt] *a.* big; large; huge

**kumbang** [kùmbāŋ] *n.* swallow (bird)

**kumee** [kūmḗ] *num.* one

**kumwan** [kùmʷǎn] *n.* friend

**kun** [kùn] *v.* to count

**kung** [kūŋ] *n.* leopard *Panthera pardus*

**kungwak** [kūŋgʷǎk] *n.* hill

**kuni** [kùnī] *v.* to have; to possess

**kupəshəghən** [kùpʰəʃəɣən] *n.* evening

**kupish** [kūpīʃ] *a.* bad

**kupoo** [kūpōó] *a.* new

**kupyaa** [kūpíá] *a.* white

**kuram** [kūrām] *n.* slave; servant

**kurok** [kūrōk] *a.* sweet

**kuruk** [kùrùk] *n.* bag

**kurum** [kúrūm] *v.* to kneel

**kush pee** [kúʃ pē:] *v.* to bark

**kushum** [kúʃũm] *n.* blacksmith  
**kut1** [ku̯t̪] *n.* crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*  
**kut2** [ku̯t̪] *a.* cold  
**kutəghən** [kūtəy̯ən] *a.* heavy  
**kuul** [kūúl] *n.* garden egg; aubergine *Solanum incanum*  
**kuum mukaam** [kū:m mùkà:m] *n.* ancestor  
**kuviit** [kūvī:t̪] *a.* dry; arid; desiccated  
**kwaan** [kʷà:n] *n.* proverb; saying  
**kwak** [kʷāk] *n.* leg

**Kwakii** [kʷā:kī:] *n.* village name  
**kwakwaa** [kʷákà:] *n.* coconut *Cocos nucifera*  
**kwakwaan** [kʷākʷà:n] *n.* maize; corn *Zea mays*  
**kwan** [kʷān] *v.* to mix (liquid)  
**kwash1** [kʷāʃ] *s.v.* to be old  
**kwash2** [kʷāʃ] *v.* to grow  
**kyang** [kʷāŋ] *n.* small hoe used for weeding  
**kyek** [kʷɛk] *n.* porcupine *Hystrix cristata*  
**kyel** [kʷɛl] *v.* 1) to feel s.t. 2) to hear

## K k

**kukul** [kùkúl] *n.* bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*  
**kun** [kũn] *num.* three  
**kung** [kũŋ] *n.* pegged drum

**kuul bish** [kū:l bɪʃ] *n.* charcoal  
**kwak** [kʷāk] *n.* catfish *Synodontis spp.*  
**kwat laa** [kʷāt là:] *n.* snail sp.

## L l

**laa** [lāá] *n.* wound  
**làà** [là:] *v.* to give birth  
**laa nəŋ** [lā: nəŋ] *n.* calf  
**laa sar** [là: sʰər] *n.* finger  
**lagham** [làyàm] *v.* to get lost  
**lang** [làŋ] *v.* to ride (e.g. horse or bicycle)  
**lang am** [làŋ àm] *v.p.* to swim  
**lang kom** [làŋ kōm] *v.* to listen  
**lap** [láp] *v.* to receive; to collect  
**lap mat** [láp māt] *v.* to marry wife  
**lap wom** [láp wóm] *v.* to answer  
**lapshak** [lápʃák] *v.* to resemble; to look alike  
**lat** [lāt] *v.* to finish; to complete; to end  
**leesh** [lɛ́ʃ] *n.* tongue  
**lek** [lɛk] *v.* to fight  
**lek dyel** [lɛk dʲɛl] *n.* war; strife; combat; battle  
**leng** [lɛŋ] *v.* to open  
**lerkung** [lɛrkũŋ] *n.* butterfly

**ləkaa** [lákāá] *v.* to add  
**ləkuni** [lɛkūnī] *v.* to continue  
**ləmci** [lɛmʃɪ] *n.* bitterleaf *Vernonia amygdalina*  
**lɛt** [lɛt̪] *n.* lion *Panthera leo*  
**likook** [likō:k] *n.* horn type  
**long** [lɔŋ] *n.* chief; king; ruler  
**loo** [lɔ́] *n.* load  
**Loon** [lɔ:n] *n.* village name  
**loot** [lɔ́t̪] *n.* fence  
**lop** [lɔp] *v.* to send  
**lu** [lũ] *n.* room  
**lu tɛram** [lù tɛrām] *n.* ant hill  
**lucuk** [lùtʃúk] *n.* market  
**lughun** [lũyũn] *n.* dry season  
**lughut** [lũyūt] *v.* to fear  
**lwaa** [lʷā:] *n.* meat  
**lwaa shit** [lʷā: ʃit] *n.* wild animal

## M m

**maa** [māá] *v.* to surpass  
**maar** [mā:r] *n.* millet *Pennisetum americanum*  
**maash** [mā:ʃ] *n.* kenaf *Hibiscus cannabinus*  
**maghat** [māyāt] *v.* to beat  
**man** [mān] *v.* to know  
**mang** [māŋ] *v.* to carry; to take  
**mang mee** [māŋ mɛ́] *v.p.* to choose  
**mang zoo** [māŋ zɔ́] *v.p.* to sing song  
**mar** [mār] *n.* farm  
**mar zhim** [mār zīm] *n.* yam heap; yam mound  
**marang** [mārāŋ] *n.* palm tree  
**mat** [māt] *n.* woman  
**matkaa** [mātkāá] *n.* widow  
**mbang** [m̥bāŋ] *n.* drum  
**mbat** [m̥bāt] *n.* eagle sp.

**mbəgər** [m̥bɛgər] *n.* hedgehog *Atelerix albiventris*  
**mbələ** [m̥bəlɛ] *n.* cat  
**mbəsəŋ** [m̥bəsɔŋ] *n.* horse  
**mbii** [m̥bīi] *n.* thing  
**meenang** [mé:nāŋ] *int.* which  
**meesh** [mɛ́:ʃ] *n.* locust bean tree *Parkia biglobosa*  
**mesh** [mɛ́ʃ] *n.* locust bean *Parkia biglobosa*  
**met** [mɛ́t̪] *v.* to jump  
**me'em** [ɛ́mʔɛm] *n.* boy; son  
**məghər** [m̥əy̯ər] *v.* to twist  
**məndap** [m̥əndáp] *n.* pot type  
**mər** [m̥ər] *n.* rock python *Python sebae*  
**məsep** [m̥əsɛp] *n.* visitor  
**mii ngurum** [mì: ŋgūrũm] *v.p.* to wake up s.o.  
**mish** [mīʃ] *n.* man

**mish nəng** [mĩʃ nəŋ] *n.* bull  
**mok** [mòk] *v.* to speak; to say  
**moloo yang** [mòlò: jǎŋ] *n.* lute  
**moon** [mò:n] *n.* bee  
**moosh** [mò:ʃ] *n.* beer  
**mop** [mòp] *pron.* they  
**mughur1** [mũyũr] *n.* thief

**mughur2** [mũyũr] *v.* to steal  
**mugur** [mùgùr] *n.* fat; grease  
**mun** [mũn] *pron.* we  
**muut** [mũ:t] *n.* death  
**mùut** [mù:t] *v.* to die  
**mwan** [mʷǎn] *v.n.* walking  
**mwàn** [mʷàn] *v.* to walk; to stroll

**N n**

**naa1** [nà:] *n.* mother  
**naa2** [nā:] *v.* to see  
**naa kukwash** [nā: kúkʷǎʃ] *n.* elder brother  
**naa kusop** [nā: kúsòp] *n.* younger brother  
**naan** [nā:n] *n.* spider  
**Naan** [nā:n] *n.* God  
**naan mələp vaan** [nā:n mələp vā:n] *n.* lightening  
**naan p'agham** [nā:n pāyām] *n.* cockroach  
*Periplaneta americana*  
**naandam** [nā:ndām] *n.* sweet potato *Ipomoea batatas*  
**nalii** [nālī:] *n.* needle  
**nang** [nāŋ] *v.* to call  
**nangkaam** [nāŋkām] *n.* grandmother  
**naru** [nārù] *n.* eczema  
**nasəghən** [nàsəyən] *n.* white-toothed shrew  
*Crocidura spp.*  
**nash** [nàʃ] *v.* to flog; to beat; to hit  
**ncoon** [nʰtʃò:n] *n.* aerial yam *Dioscorea bulbifera*  
**ndang** [ndāŋ] *n.* tail  
**ndəghən** [ndəyən] *n.* yesterday  
**ndəlang** [ndələŋ] *n.* heart  
**nəmwat** [nəmʷát] *n.* toad  
**nənək** [nənək] *n.* electric catfish *Malapterurus electricus*  
**nəng** [nəŋ] *n.* cow  
**nəngosh** [nəŋgòʃ] *n.* agama lizard *Agama agama*  
**nga** [ŋgā] *pron.* you  
**ngaam** [ŋgām] *n.* ram  
**ngala** [ŋgàlǎ] *n.* chameleon  
**ngam** [ŋgām] *v.* to fill  
**ngap** [ŋgáp] *v.* to cut; to slaughter  
**ngban** [ŋgbàn] *n.* cocoyam; taro *Colocasia esculenta*  
**ngin** [ŋgĩn] *n.* cheek  
**ngoghot** [ŋgòyòt] *n.* cave  
**ngok** [ŋgòk] *n.* disease; sickness; illness; malady

**ngoo** [ŋgò:] *n.* cutlass  
**nguk** [ŋgùk] *n.* shoulder  
**ngun** [ŋgũn] *pron.* you (pl.)  
**ngurum** [ŋgũrũm] *n.* person  
**ngurum mop** [ŋgũrũm mòp] *n.* people  
**nguu** [ŋgù:] *n.* cactus *Euphorbia spp.*  
**ngwakrak** [ŋgʷàkràk] *n.* throat  
**nikyaa** [nĩkiǎá] *n.* vulture *Neophron monachus*  
**nishim** [nĩʃĩm] *n.* millipede *Iule spp.*  
**njagham** [ndʒǎyām] *n.* chin  
**njaghat** [ndʒǎyāt] *n.* wetland; marsh; swamp;  
 fadama; bog; morass  
**njəgən** [ndʒəgən] *n.* village weaver bird *Ploceus cucullatus*  
**nji** [ndʒĩ] *v.* to come  
**njoop** [ndʒò:p] *n.* ankle rattle  
**nok** [nòk] *n.* breath  
**noor** [nò:r] *n.* vagina  
**nshem** [nʃēm] *n.* louse *Pediculus spp.*  
**nshoghor** [nʃòyòr] *n.* duck  
**nughal** [nũyāl] *s.v.* to be bent  
**nuwee** [nũwē:] *n.* earthworm; worm  
**nyang** [nǎŋ] *v.* to play  
**nyi** [nĩ] *pron.* him; her  
**nyii** [nĩĩ] *n.* elephant *Loxodonta africana*  
**nyoop** [nò:p] *n.* gum; glue  
**nzheer** [nzēér] *n.* bee sp.  
**nzheleng** [nzēlēŋ] *n.* mason wasp *Belenogaster griseus*  
**nzhəghən** [nzəyən] *n.* ant sp.  
**nzhigəsh** [nzīgəʃ] *n.* mole-cricket *Gryllotalpa spp.*  
**nzhim1** [nzĩm] *n.* skin  
**nzhim2** [nzĩm] *n.* yam *Dioscorea spp.*  
**nzhool** [nzò:l] *n.* saliva; spittle  
**nzhoor** [nzò:r] *n.* skink  
**nzhup** [nzúp] *n.* penis

**O o**

**oghot** [òyòt] *v.* to cover  
**orong** [òròŋ] *n.* dust

**ot** [òt] *v.* to close

**P p**

**paar** [pʰà:r] *n.* vein

**paat** [pāát] *n.* avocado

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <p><b>pàat</b> [pʰà:t] <i>num.</i> five</p> <p><b>pal</b> [pāl] <i>v.</i> to fall</p> <p><b>parnang</b> [pārnan̩] <i>int.</i> when</p> <p><b>pash</b> [pāʃ] <i>n.</i> arrow</p> <p><b>pàsh</b> [pʰàʃ] <i>n.</i> rainy season</p> <p><b>pat</b> [pʰàt] <i>n.</i> African olive <i>Canarium schweinfurthii</i></p> <p><b>pebaan</b> [pʰèbà:n] <i>n.</i> sweat; perspiration</p> <p><b>pee</b> [pē:] <i>n.</i> place</p> <p><b>peem</b> [pē:m] <i>n.</i> wild date palm <i>Phoenix reclinata</i></p> <p><b>peeme</b> [pʰē:mé] <i>num.</i> six</p> <p><b>peer</b> [pē:r] <i>v.</i> to dry s.t.</p> <p><b>peet</b> [pēét] <i>v.</i> to call</p> <p><b>pə</b> [pə] <i>v.</i> to give</p> <p><b>pəkaam</b> [pəkā:m] <i>n.</i> grandfather</p> <p><b>pəp</b> [pʰəp] <i>n.</i> beard</p> <p><b>pighən</b> [pìyən] <i>n.</i> father</p> <p><b>piin</b> [pì:n] <i>v.</i> to smash; to break</p> <p><b>piip</b> [pī:p] <i>n.</i> wind; breeze</p> <p><b>piip waap</b> [pʰī:p wāp] <i>n.</i> harmattan</p> <p><b>pin but</b> [pʰin bût] <i>n.</i> intestine; gut</p> <p><b>pinfet</b> [pīnfēt] <i>n.</i> broom</p> <p><b>pinkaa</b> [pīnkāá] <i>n.</i> stew; soup</p> | <p><b>pish</b> [pīʃ] <i>s.v.</i> to be bad</p> <p><b>pít1</b> [pʰit] <i>n.</i> patas monkey <i>Erythrocebus patas</i></p> <p><b>pít2</b> [pīt] <i>v.</i> to put out; to quench</p> <p><b>pogo f'aar</b> [pʰògò fā:r] <i>num.</i> nine</p> <p><b>pogo kun</b> [pʰògò kũn] <i>num.</i> eight</p> <p><b>pogo vəl</b> [pʰò: vəl] <i>num.</i> seven</p> <p><b>poo</b> [pōó] <i>s.v.</i> to be new</p> <p><b>poosh</b> [pō:ʃ] <i>v.</i> to wipe; clean</p> <p><b>pucung</b> [pʰùtʃũŋ] <i>n.</i> rubbish dump; trash heap; garbage dump</p> <p><b>pukong</b> [pùkōŋ] <i>n.</i> shore; river-bank</p> <p><b>pukulok</b> [pùkùlòk] <i>n.</i> sky</p> <p><b>pukyeen</b> [pʰùkʲē:n] <i>n.</i> forehead</p> <p><b>pulu</b> [pūlu] <i>n.</i> door</p> <p><b>pun</b> [pūn] <i>v.</i> to sharpen</p> <p><b>push</b> [pùʃ] <i>v.</i> to spit</p> <p><b>put</b> [pūt] <i>v.</i> to come out</p> <p><b>puu</b> [pʰūú] <i>n.</i> mouth</p> <p><b>puunzhung</b> [pʰù:zũŋ] <i>n.</i> chest</p> <p><b>puush</b> [pū:ʃ] <i>n.</i> sun</p> <p><b>pyaa</b> [pīáá] <i>s.v.</i> to be white</p> |
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## R r

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| <p><b>raa</b> [rāá] <i>v.</i> to weave</p> <p><b>reen</b> [rē:n] <i>n.</i> shadow; shade</p> <p><b>rəye</b> [rəjē] <i>v.</i> to remember</p> | <p><b>rogoo</b> [rògòó] <i>n.</i> cassava <i>Manihot esculenta</i></p> <p><b>ru</b> [rū] <i>v.</i> to enter; to go in</p> <p><b>rughup</b> [rūyũp] <i>n.</i> mountain</p> |
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## S s

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <p><b>s'ar</b> [sàr] <i>num.</i> ten</p> <p><b>s'arkaa kume</b> [sarkà: kúmē:] <i>num.</i> eleven</p> <p><b>s'arkaa vəl</b> [sarkà: vəl] <i>n.</i> twelve</p> <p><b>saam1</b> [sà:m] <i>n.</i> sleep</p> <p><b>saam2</b> [sā:m] <i>v.</i> to sleep</p> <p><b>saktəŋ</b> [sāktəŋ] <i>n.</i> woodpecker sp. <i>Picidae</i></p> <p><b>sar</b> [sʰār] <i>n.</i> hand; arm</p> <p><b>saramkin</b> [sàràkĩn] <i>n.</i> gecko; wall gecko <i>Gekkonidae</i></p> <p><b>seet</b> [sēét] <i>v.</i> to buy</p> <p><b>seet kuni</b> [sé:t kúnī] <i>v.</i> to sell</p> <p><b>ser</b> [sēr] <i>n.</i> melon sp. <i>Citrullus lanatus</i></p> <p><b>ser pat</b> [sēr pʰàt] <i>n.</i> root (of tree)</p> <p><b>sə</b> [sè] <i>v.</i> to eat</p> <p><b>səboghól</b> [səbòyól] <i>n.</i> ant sp.</p> <p><b>səghəp ta am</b> [səyəp tà ám] <i>n.p.</i> bridge</p> <p><b>səghəp yaar</b> [səyəp jāár] <i>n.</i> ladder</p> <p><b>səng pat</b> [səŋ pʰàt] <i>n.</i> branch</p> <p><b>səsaat</b> [səsā:t] <i>n.</i> comb</p> <p><b>shak</b> [ʃāk] <i>v.</i> to share; to divide</p> <p><b>shang</b> [ʃāŋ] <i>v.</i> to pull out; to extract</p> <p><b>shangwar</b> [ʃāŋwār] <i>v.</i> to flow</p> | <p><b>shee</b> [ʃē:] <i>v.</i> to begin</p> <p><b>shée</b> [ʃēē] <i>v.</i> to learn</p> <p><b>sheem</b> [ʃē:m] <i>n.</i> horn</p> <p><b>shel</b> [ʃēl] <i>v.</i> to put on; to wear</p> <p><b>shigər</b> [ʃigər] <i>n.</i> dew</p> <p><b>shii</b> [ʃī] <i>n.</i> porridge</p> <p><b>shimbiin</b> [ʃimbí:n] <i>n.</i> rat <i>Rattus rattus</i></p> <p><b>shing</b> [ʃĩŋ] <i>n.</i> nose</p> <p><b>shir pat</b> [ʃir pʰàt] <i>n.</i> bark of tree</p> <p><b>shirip</b> [ʃiríp] <i>n.</i> tamarind <i>Tamarindus indicus</i></p> <p><b>shishing</b> [ʃiʃĩŋ] <i>n.</i> urine</p> <p><b>shishirep</b> [ʃiʃirèp] <i>n.</i> ant sp.</p> <p><b>shit</b> [ʃit] <i>n.</i> bush</p> <p><b>shitaa</b> [ʃitāá] <i>n.</i> pepper; chili</p> <p><b>shoop kaa</b> [ʃò:p kāá] <i>n.</i> hair</p> <p><b>shoopshik</b> [ʃò:pʃík] <i>n.</i> body</p> <p><b>shughun</b> [ʃũyũn] <i>v.</i> to dream</p> <p><b>shùghùn</b> [ʃùyùn] <i>n.</i> dream</p> <p><b>shughur</b> [ʃùyùr] <i>v.</i> to fry</p> <p><b>shuk</b> [ʃũk] <i>n.</i> acha; fonio <i>Digitaria exilis</i></p> <p><b>shum</b> [ʃũm] <i>n.</i> name</p> <p><b>shùm</b> [ʃùm] <i>n.</i> hunger; famine; starvation</p> |
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**shwaa** [ʃwā:] v. to drink  
**shwaá** [ʃwā́] n. guinea-corn; sorghum *Sorghum*  
*bicolor*

**shwaa yəər** [ʃwā: jə:r] v.p. to suck breast  
**soghot** [sɔ̃yɔ̃t] n. witch  
**suu** [sù:] v. to marry

**T t**

**taa** [tà:] v. to blow; to play (musical instruments)  
**taa mbang** [tà: m̃bāŋ] v.p. to play drum  
**taadil** [tʰà:dīl] n. firefly *Lampyridae*  
**taakur** [tʰā:kūr] n. tortoise (Bell's hinged) *Kinixys*  
*belliana belliana*  
**taan** [tā:n] v. to sew  
**taat** [tā:t] v. to shake; to vibrate  
**taghal** [tàyàl] v. to chew  
**tagham** [tàyàm] n. stool; chair; seat  
**taghar bənder** [tàyàr bəndēr] n. hips  
**talcaan** [tʰāl̥tʰāán] n. frog  
**tam** [tām] v. to dance  
**tamtish** [tāmtiʃ] n. story; folktale; fable  
**tang** [tàn] v. to plant  
**tar** [tār] n. moon  
**tash** [tʰāʃ] n. mushroom; fungus  
**tat** [tát] v. to shoot; to fire  
**tee** [tēé] v. to tear  
**teem** [tʰēém] n. guinea-fowl *Numida meleagris*  
**teen** [tēén] n. mahogany *Khaya senegalensis*  
**tel** [tēl] v. to pull; to drag  
**teng** [tēŋ] n. rope; cord; twine

**teng zaghal** [tēŋ zàɣàl] n. chain  
**tep** [tèp] v. to break  
**tep kaa** [tèp kāá] v.p. to plait  
**ter** [tēr] v. to lie down  
**təgəm** [tʰəgəm] n. blood  
**təghəsh** [təɣəʃ] n. snail sp.  
**təkot** [təkɔ̃t] a. half  
**təm** [tʰəm] n. bush rat sp. (lives in grass)  
**təmuu** [tʰəmú:] n. hyena *Hyaena hyaena*  
**təng** [tʰəŋ] n. tree  
**təngok** [tʰəŋgók] n. grasshopper  
**təram** [tʰərárm] n. ant  
**tifwur/tərang?** [tífwùr] n. he-goat  
**tivan** [tʰivān] n. hare; rabbit *Lepus spp.*  
**tok1** [tʰók] n. neck  
**tok2** [tók] v. to tell  
**tok3** [tók] n. vegetable sp.  
**toklaa** [tòklà:] n. okra *Abelmoschus esculentus*  
**tong** [tòŋ] v. to sit  
**tukush** [tʰùkùʃ] n. warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*  
**tung** [tʰūŋ] n. oyster shell  
**tuup** [tʰū:p] n. liver

**V v**

**vaan** [vā:n] n. rain  
**vang** [vāŋ] v. to wash  
**vat1** [vāt] n. ashes  
**vat2** [vāt] v. to dig  
**veer1** [vē:r] n. animal sp.  
**veer2** [vē:r] n. horn used for dancing when blown  
in groups  
**vəl** [vəl] num. two  
**vər** [vər] v. to weed  
**vərəm** [vērēm] n. knee  
**vət** [vət] n. mosquito *Anopheles spp.*

**vii** [vì:] s.v. to become dry; to dry up  
**viin** [vī:n] n. grinding stone; quern stone  
**viit** [vī:t] n. tilapia *Tilapia spp.*  
**voghor** [vɔ̃yɔ̃r] n. river  
**voghor kulee** [vɔ̃yɔ̃r kùlē:] n. small river; stream;  
brook; rivulet  
**voon** [vɔ:n] v. to untie  
**vung** [vũŋ] n. hole  
**vu** [vù:] n. rizga, an edible tuber *Plectranthus*  
*esculentus*

**W w**

**war** [wār] n. road  
**war kulee** [wār kùlē:] n. path  
**wawul** [wāwul] v. to return; to come back  
**wel** [wēl] v. to weep; to cry  
**wen** [wēn] n. clay  
**wèn** [wèn] n. black-necked spitting cobra *Naja*  
*nigricollis nigricollis*  
**wom** [wòm] s.v. to be rotten  
**wong** [wòŋ] v. to whistle  
**woo** [wò:] n. snake

**wul** [wul] v. to swell  
**wum1** [wúm] n. forest  
**wum2** [wúm] v. to bury  
**wum nang** [wúm nàŋ] v. to ask question  
**wup** [wūp] n. giant rat; pouched rat *Cricetomys*  
*gambianus*  
**wurnga** [wūrŋā:] n. donkey  
**wurwum** [wùrwúm] n. whirlwind; cyclone  
**wush** [wūʃ] n. fire  
**wùsh** [wùʃ] v. to roast; to grill

**wush caan** [wūʃ tʃā:n] *v.p.* to be burnt by fire  
**wush lap** [wūʃ láp] *v.p.* to burn up

**wut** [wút] *n.* custard apple *Annona senegalensis*

**Y y**

**yaa** [jà:] *v.* to catch  
**yaa ngurum** [jà: ˈgùrúm] *num.* twenty  
**yaa ngurum f'oor** [jà: ˈgùrùm fɔ́ɔ] *num.* eighty  
**yaa ngurum f'oor shipu paat** [jà: ˈgùrùm f'oor  
 ʃipʰù pʰà:t] *num.* ninety  
**yaa ngurum kun** [jà: ˈgùrùm kùn] *num.* sixty  
**yaa ngurum kun shipu paat** [jà: ˈgùrùm kun ʃipʰù  
 pʰà:t] *num.* seventy  
**yaa ngurum paat** [jà: ˈgùrùm pʰà:t] *num.* hundred  
**yaa ngurum shipu paat** [jà: ˈgùrùm ʃipʰù pʰà:t]  
*num.* thirty  
**yaa ngurum vəl** [jà: ˈgùrùm vəl] *num.* forty  
**yaa ngurum vəl shipu paat** [jà: ˈgùrùm vəl ʃipʰù  
 pʰà:t] *num.* fifty

**yaar** [jāár] *n.* granary; barn; silo  
**yaghal1** [jàyàl] *v.* to fly  
**yaghal2** [jāyāl] *v.* to stand up  
**yal** [jāl] *v.* to tie  
**yer** [jēr] *n.* bird  
**yəər** [jē:r] *n.* breast; tit  
**yighəy** [jīyǝj] *n.* goat  
**yii** [jīi] *n.* year  
**yikətərək** [jikətərək] *n.* fireplace; hearth  
**yil** [jil] *n.* ground  
**yit1** [jit] *n.* eye  
**yit2** [jit] *v.* to drop; to leave  
**yit mwaa** [jit mʷà:] *n.* tear  
**iyii** [ijji] *n.* owl

**Z z**

**zaghal** [zàɣàl] *n.* **1)** iron; metal **2)** money  
**zaghal bəp caan** [zàɣàl bəp tʃāán] *n.* hammer  
**zap mar** [zāp mār] *v.p.* to farm; to till; to cultivate  
**zep** [zèp] *n.* axe  
**Zhep morop** [zèp mɔ̀rɔ̀p] *n.* village name  
**zhing** [ʒín] *n.* mortar  
**zhizhip** [ʒizip] *n.* fruit bat *Rousettus aegyptiacus*  
**zhu** [ʒù] *v.* to run  
**zhwaa** [ʒʷà:] *v.* unclear  
**zhwar** [ʒʷār] *v.* to laugh  
**zoo** [zɔ́ɔ] *n.* song

## A a

abscess *n.* atghot  
acha *n.* shuk  
add, to *v.* ləkaa  
adze *n.* ceet  
aerial yam *n.* ncoon  
African olive *n.* pat  
agama lizard *n.* nəngosh  
ancestor *n.* kuum mukaam  
animal sp. *n.* veer1  
ankle rattle *n.* njoop  
answer, to *v.* lap wom

ant *n.* taram  
ant hill *n.* lu taram  
ant sp. *n.* nzhəghən; səboghəl; shishirep  
arid *a.* kuviit  
arm *n.* sar  
armpit *n.* haap  
arrive, to *v.* jiwul  
arrow *n.* pash  
ashes *n.* vat1  
ask question, to *v.* wum nang  
aubergine *n.* kuul  
avocado *n.* paat  
axe *n.* zep

## B b

back *n.* kəlogho  
bad *a.* kupish  
bag *n.* kuruk  
Bambara nut *n.* kom kwoo  
banana *n.* ayaba  
baobab *n.* kuka  
barf, to *v.* faghat  
bark *n.* shir pat  
bark, to *v.* kush pee  
barn *n.* yaar  
basket *n.* cek  
bat sp. *n.* kangkop  
battle *n.* lek dʏel  
be bad, to *s.v.* pish  
be bent, to *s.v.* nughal  
be bitter, to *s.v.* dʊot  
be black, to *s.v.* cip  
be burnt by fire, to *v.p.* wush caan  
be good, to *s.v.* dʊong  
be hot, to *s.v.* baan  
be light, to *s.v.* fyeeel  
be new, to *s.v.* poo  
be old, to *s.v.* kwash1  
be red, to *s.v.* ɸang  
be rotten, to *s.v.* wom  
be white, to *s.v.* pyaa  
beans *n.* erem  
beard *n.* pəp  
beat, to *v.* maghat  
beat, to *v.* nash  
become dry, to *s.v.* vii  
bee *n.* moon  
bee sp. *n.* nzheer  
beer *n.* moosh  
beg, to *v.* dʌng2

begin, to *v.* shee  
beniseed *n.* cerem  
big *a.* kumat  
bird *n.* yer  
bird sp. *n.* goroo  
bite (pl.), to *v.* arap  
bite (sg.), to *v.* at  
bitter *a.* kudʊot  
bitterleaf *n.* ləmci  
black *a.* kucip  
black monkey *n.* kaar  
black plum *n.* dep  
black-necked spitting cobra *n.* wən  
blacksmith *n.* kushum  
blood *n.* təgəm  
blow, to, to *v.* taa  
boat *n.* cii am  
body *n.* shoopshik  
bog *n.* njaghat  
boil, to *v.* fil  
bone *n.* əgəsh  
bow *n.* ɸow  
boy *n.* me'em  
branch *n.* səng pat  
break, to *v.* tep  
break, to, to *v.* piin  
breast *n.* yəər  
breath *n.* nok  
breeze *n.* piip  
bridge *n.p.* səghəp ta am  
brook *n.* voghor kulee  
broom *n.* pinfet  
buffalo *n.* kəbən  
build, to *v.* dʏik  
bull *n.* mish nəng

|                                            |                                           |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>bundle</b> <i>n.</i> ɸwaghat            | <b>bush yam</b> <i>n.</i> ɸwaar           |
| <b>burn up, to</b> <i>v.p.</i> wush lap    | <b>bushbuck</b> <i>n.</i> ɸukul           |
| <b>bury, to</b> <i>v.</i> wum <sup>2</sup> | <b>bush-cow</b> <i>n.</i> kəbən           |
| <b>bush</b> <i>n.</i> shit                 | <b>butterfly</b> <i>n.</i> ɸəɸəl; lerkung |
| <b>bush fowl</b> <i>n.</i> koo pang        | <b>buttocks</b> <i>n.</i> bənder          |
| <b>bush rat</b> <i>sp. n.</i> təm          | <b>buy, to</b> <i>v.</i> seet             |

C c

|                                             |                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>cactus</b> <i>n.</i> ngu                 | <b>coconut</b> <i>n.</i> kwakwaa             |
| <b>calf</b> <i>n.</i> laa nəŋ               | <b>cocoyam</b> <i>n.</i> ngban               |
| <b>call, to</b> <i>v.</i> nang; peet        | <b>cold</b> <i>a.</i> kut <sup>2</sup>       |
| <b>canoe</b> <i>n.</i> cii am               | <b>collect, to</b> <i>v.</i> lap             |
| <b>carry, to</b> <i>v.</i> mang             | <b>comb</b> <i>n.</i> səsaat                 |
| <b>carve, to</b> <i>v.</i> am <sup>2</sup>  | <b>combat</b> <i>n.</i> lek ɸyel             |
| <b>cassava</b> <i>n.</i> rogoo              | <b>come back, to</b> <i>v.</i> wawul         |
| <b>cat</b> <i>n.</i> mbələ                  | <b>come out, to</b> <i>v.</i> put            |
| <b>catch, to</b> <i>v.</i> yaa              | <b>come, to</b> <i>v.</i> nji                |
| <b>catfish</b> <i>n.</i> kwak               | <b>complete, to</b> <i>v.</i> lat            |
| <b>cattle egret</b> <i>n.</i> koo pyaa      | <b>compound</b> <i>n.</i> kəlaap             |
| <b>cave</b> <i>n.</i> ngoghot               | <b>continue, to</b> <i>v.</i> ləkuni         |
| <b>chain</b> <i>n.</i> teng zaghal          | <b>cook, to</b> <i>v.</i> cet                |
| <b>chair</b> <i>n.</i> tagham               | <b>cord</b> <i>n.</i> teng                   |
| <b>chameleon</b> <i>n.</i> ngala            | <b>corn</b> <i>n.</i> kwakwaan               |
| <b>charcoal</b> <i>n.</i> ɸuul ɸish         | <b>corpse</b> <i>n.</i> kum <sup>2</sup>     |
| <b>cheek</b> <i>n.</i> ngin                 | <b>cough, to</b> <i>v.</i> kosh shəghən      |
| <b>chest</b> <i>n.</i> puunzhung            | <b>count, to</b> <i>v.</i> kun               |
| <b>chew, to</b> <i>v.</i> taghal            | <b>cover, to</b> <i>v.</i> oghot             |
| <b>chicken</b> <i>n.</i> koo                | <b>cow</b> <i>n.</i> nəŋ                     |
| <b>chief</b> <i>n.</i> long                 | <b>cowpea</b> <i>n.</i> erem                 |
| <b>chili</b> <i>n.</i> shita                | <b>crab</b> <i>n.</i> kaghal                 |
| <b>chin</b> <i>n.</i> njagham               | <b>crocodile</b> <i>n.</i> kut <sup>1</sup>  |
| <b>choose, to</b> <i>v.p.</i> mang mee      | <b>crow</b> <i>n.</i> goroo                  |
| <b>civet cat</b> <i>n.</i> ash pang         | <b>crush, to</b> <i>v.</i> eesh <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>clay</b> <i>n.</i> wen                   | <b>cry, to</b> <i>v.</i> wel                 |
| <b>clean, to</b> <i>v.</i> poosh            | <b>cultivate, to, to</b> <i>v.p.</i> zap mar |
| <b>climb, to</b> <i>v.</i> kaa <sup>2</sup> | <b>custard apple</b> <i>n.</i> wut           |
| <b>close, to</b> <i>v.</i> ot               | <b>cut, to</b> <i>v.</i> ngap                |
| <b>cobra</b> <i>n.</i> wən                  | <b>cutlass</b> <i>n.</i> ngoo                |
| <b>cock</b> <i>n.</i> dol koo               | <b>cyclone</b> <i>n.</i> wurwum              |
| <b>cockroach</b> <i>n.</i> naan p'agham     |                                              |

D d

|                                    |                                           |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>dam</b> <i>n.</i> am ɸer        | <b>die, to</b> <i>v.</i> mùt              |
| <b>dance, to</b> <i>v.</i> tam     | <b>dig, to</b> <i>v.</i> vat <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>dassie</b> <i>n.</i> cem        | <b>disease</b> <i>n.</i> ngok             |
| <b>day</b> <i>n.</i> ɸit           | <b>divide, to</b> <i>v.p.</i> ɸee yit     |
| <b>death</b> <i>n.</i> muut        | <b>divide, to, to</b> <i>v.</i> shak      |
| <b>deleb palm</b> <i>n.</i> kang   | <b>do, to</b> <i>v.</i> cin               |
| <b>desiccated</b> <i>a.</i> kuviit | <b>doctor</b> <i>n.</i> gudak boon        |
| <b>dew</b> <i>n.</i> shigər        | <b>dog</b> <i>n.</i> ash                  |
| <b>diarrhoea</b> <i>n.</i> eshput  | <b>donkey</b> <i>n.</i> wurnga            |



door *n.* pulu  
 drag, to *v.* tel  
 draw (like water), to *v.* cungucit  
 dream *n.* shùghùn  
 dream, to *v.* shughun  
 drink, to *v.* shwaa  
 drop, to *v.* yit2  
 drum *n.* mbang

drum type *n.* bəsəng kung  
 dry *a.* kuviit  
 dry s.t., to *v.* peer  
 dry season *n.* lughun  
 dry up, to *s.v.* vii  
 duck *n.* nshoghor  
 dust *n.* orong  
 dysentery *n.* eshput

E e

eagle sp. *n.* mbat  
 ear *n.* kom  
 earthworm *n.* nuwee  
 eat, to *v.* sə  
 eczema *n.* naru  
 egg *n.* aash  
 eight *num.* pogo kun  
 eighty *num.* yaa ngurum f'oor  
 elder brother *n.* naa kukwash

electric catfish *n.* nənək  
 elephant *n.* nyii  
 eleven *num.* s'arkaa kume  
 end, to *v.* lat  
 enter, to *v.* ru  
 evening *n.* kupəshəghən  
 extract, to *v.* shang  
 eye *n.* yit1

F f

fable *n.* tamtish  
 fadama *n.* njaghat  
 faeces *n.* esh  
 fall, to *v.* pal  
 famine *n.* shùm  
 fan palm *n.* kang  
 farm *n.* mar; *v.p.* zap mar  
 fat *n.* mugur  
 father *n.* pighən  
 fear, to *v.* lughut  
 feather *n.* coop caap  
 feel s.t., to *v.* kyel 1  
 fence *n.* loot  
 fifty *num.* yaa ngurum vəl shipu paat  
 fight, to *v.* lek  
 fill, to *v.* ngam  
 find, to *v.* kat  
 finger *n.* laa sar  
 fingernail *n.* cigən  
 finish, to *v.* lat  
 fire *n.* wush  
 fire, to *v.* tat  
 firefly *n.* taadil  
 fireplace *n.* yikətərək  
 fish *n.* cirep  
 five *num.* pààt

flog, to *v.* nash  
 flow, to *v.* shangwar  
 flute made from clay *n.* bel wen  
 flute made of cornstalk *n.* bel waap  
 flute type *n.* bel caan; bel kəsh  
 fly *n.* cizhii  
 fly, to *v.* yaghal1  
 flying ant *n.* cikum  
 flying termite *n.* cikum  
 fold, to *v.* kuk  
 folktale *n.* tamtish  
 follow, to *v.* kikənder  
 fonio *n.* shuk  
 forehead *n.* pukyeen  
 forest *n.* wum1  
 forget, to *v.* en muut  
 forty *num.* yaa ngurum vəl  
 four *num.* f'oor  
 fowl *n.* koo  
 francolin *n.* koo pang  
 friend *n.* kumwan  
 frog *n.* talcaan  
 fruit bat *n.* zhizhip  
 fry, to *v.* shughur  
 fungus *n.* tash

G g

garbage dump *n.* pucung  
 garden egg *n.* kuul  
 gather, to *v.* cul

gecko *n.* saramkin  
 get lost, to *v.* lagham  
 get, to *v.* kat

giant rat *n.* wup  
 girl *n.* eməreep  
 give birth, to *v.* làà  
 give, to *v.* pə  
 glue *n.* nyoop  
 go in, to *v.* ru  
 go, to *v.* ki  
 goat *n.* yighəy  
 God *n.* Naan  
 goitre *n.* kufeel  
 good *a.* kuḏong  
 gourd rattle *n.* caa  
 granary *n.* yaar  
 grandfather *n.* pəkaam  
 grandmother *n.* nangkaam

grass *n.* koom  
 grasshopper *n.* təngok  
 grave *n.* kətər  
 grease *n.* mugur  
 grill, to *v.* wùsh  
 grind, to *v.* eesh<sup>2</sup>  
 grinding stone *n.* viin  
 ground *n.* yil  
 ground squirrel *n.* hak  
 groundnut *n.* kóm  
 grow, to *v.* kwash<sup>2</sup>  
 guinea-corn *n.* shwaá  
 guinea-fowl *n.* teem  
 gum *n.* nyoop  
 gut *n.* pin but

## H h

hair *n.* shoop kaa  
 half *a.* təkot  
 hammer *n.* zaghal bəp caan  
 hand *n.* sar  
 handle *n.* ciin  
 hare *n.* tivan  
 harmattan *n.* piip waap  
 hatch, to *v.* fak  
 have, to *v.* kuni  
 head *n.* kaa<sup>1</sup>  
 headpad *n.* kiish  
 hear, to *v.* kyel<sup>2</sup>  
 heart *n.* ndəlang  
 hearth *n.* yikətərək  
 heavy *a.* kutəghən  
 hedgehog *n.* mbəgər  
 he-goat *n.* tifwur/tərang?  
 hen *n.* koo  
 her *pron.* nyi

herbalist *n.* gudak boon  
 hill *n.* kungwak  
 him *pron.* nyi  
 hippopotamus *n.* kəpəng  
 hips *n.* taghar bənder  
 hit, to *v.* nash  
 hoe *n.* caan; kyang  
 hole *n.* vung  
 horn *n.* sheem; veer<sup>2</sup>  
 horn type *n.* likook  
 horse *n.* mbəsəng  
 hot *a.* kuḃaan  
 house-fly *n.* cizhii  
 huge *a.* kumat  
 hundred *num.* yaa ngurum paat  
 hunger *n.* shùm  
 hunter *n.* kukwat  
 hunting *n.* ḏughul  
 hyena *n.* təmuu

## I i

I *pron.* han  
 illness *n.* ngok  
 insect *sp. n.* naan p'agham; nzhiğəsh

intestine *n.* pin but  
 iron *n.* zaghal 1

## J j

jaw *n.* caghal

jump, to *v.* met

## K k

kapok tree *n.* kiir  
 kenaf *n.* maash  
 kill, to *v.* cu<sup>1</sup>  
 king *n.* long

knee *n.* vərəm  
 kneel, to *v.* kurum  
 knife *n.* cik  
 know, to *v.* man

## L l

ladder *n.* səghəp yaar

lake *n.* am ḏər

large *a.* kumat  
 laugh, to *v.* zhwar  
 leaf *n.* kom yim  
 learn, to *v.* shée  
 leave, to, to *v.* yit2  
 leg *n.* kwak  
 leopard *n.* kung  
 lick, to *v.* ɓəlem  
 lie down, to *v.* ter  
 light *a.* kufyeel  
 lightning *n.* naan mələp vaan  
 like, to *v.* ɗom

lion *n.* lət  
 listen, to *v.* lang kom  
 liver *n.* tuup  
 load *n.* loo  
 locust bean *n.* mesh  
 locust bean cake *n.* ɓwash  
 locust bean tree *n.* meesh  
 long *a.* kukun  
 look alike, to *v.* lapshak  
 look for, to *v.* faan  
 louse *n.* nshem  
 lute *n.* moloo yang

**M m**

mahogany *n.* teen  
 maiden *n.* eməreep  
 maize *n.* kwakwaan  
 malady *n.* ngok  
 mammal *sp. n.* cem; kyek  
 man *n.* mish  
 many and all *a.* ɗərəp  
 market *n.* lucuk  
 marry wife, to *v.* lap mat  
 marry, to *v.* suu  
 marsh *n.* njaghat  
 mason wasp *n.* nzheleng  
 mat *n.* kəram  
 meat *n.* lwaa  
 medicine *n.* əghən  
 melon *sp. n.* ser  
 metal *n.* zaghal 1  
 milk *n.* gwaghal

millet *n.* maar  
 millet *sp. n.* cong  
 millipede *n.* nishim  
 mix (liquid), to *v.* kwan  
 mole-cricket *n.* nzhigəsh  
 money *n.* zaghal 2  
 monitor lizard (land) *n.* cimbaan  
 moon *n.* tar  
 morass *n.* njaghat  
 morning *n.* kubit  
 mortar *n.* zhing  
 mosquito *n.* vət  
 mother *n.* naa1  
 mountain *n.* rughup  
 mouth *n.* puu  
 mud *n.* ɓok  
 mushroom *n.* tash

**N n**

name *n.* shum  
 navel *n.* kum1  
 neck *n.* tok1  
 needle *n.* nalii  
 new *a.* kupoo

night *n.* kəpar  
 Nile monitor lizard *n.* ɗang1  
 nine *num.* pogo f'ar  
 ninety *num.* yaa ngurum f'oor shipu paat  
 nose *n.* shing

**O o**

okra *n.* toklaa  
 old *a.* kukwash  
 one *num.* kumee

open, to *v.* leng  
 owl *n.* yiyii  
 oyster shell *n.* tung

**P p**

palm tree *n.* marang  
 palmyra palm *n.* kang  
 patas monkey *n.* pit1  
 path *n.* war kulee  
 peanut *n.* kóm  
 pegged drum *n.* kung

penis *n.* nzhup  
 people *n.* ngurum mop  
 pepper *n.* shita  
 person *n.* ngurum  
 perspiration *n.* pebaan  
 pestle *n.* em'esh

|                                            |                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>pied crow</b> <i>n.</i> goroo           | <b>possess, to</b> <i>v.</i> kuni                   |
| <b>pierce, to</b> <i>v.</i> byang          | <b>pot</b> <i>n.</i> cighul moosh; cighul           |
| <b>pig</b> <i>n.</i> alade                 | <b>pot type</b> <i>n.</i> cighul shii; feen; mǝndap |
| <b>pigeon sp.</b> <i>n.</i> bulkyeer       | <b>pouched rat</b> <i>n.</i> wup                    |
| <b>place</b> <i>n.</i> pee                 | <b>pound, to</b> <i>v.</i> cu2                      |
| <b>plait, to</b> <i>v.p.</i> tep kaa       | <b>pour, to</b> <i>v.</i> koor                      |
| <b>plant, to</b> <i>v.</i> tang            | <b>proverb</b> <i>n.</i> kwaan                      |
| <b>play drum, to</b> <i>v.p.</i> taa mbang | <b>pull out, to</b> <i>v.</i> shang                 |
| <b>play, to</b> <i>v.</i> nyang; taa       | <b>pull, to</b> <i>v.</i> tel                       |
| <b>plead, to</b> <i>v.</i> dǝng2           | <b>pumpkin</b> <i>n.</i> ǝghǝr                      |
| <b>poison</b> <i>n.</i> ǝghǝn kubish       | <b>pursue, to</b> <i>v.</i> kikǝnder                |
| <b>pond</b> <i>n.</i> am dǝr               | <b>push, to</b> <i>v.</i> cush                      |
| <b>pool</b> <i>n.</i> am dǝr               | <b>put on, to</b> <i>v.</i> shel                    |
| <b>porcupine</b> <i>n.</i> kyek            | <b>put out, to, to</b> <i>v.</i> pit2               |
| <b>porridge</b> <i>n.</i> shii             |                                                     |

**Q q**

|                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>quarrel, to</b> <i>v.</i> koghor | <b>quern stone</b> <i>n.</i> viin |
| <b>quench, to</b> <i>v.</i> pit2    | <b>quiver</b> <i>n.</i> bang      |

**R r**

|                                           |                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>rabbit</b> <i>n.</i> tivan             | <b>river</b> <i>n.</i> voghor         |
| <b>rain</b> <i>n.</i> vaan                | <b>river-bank</b> <i>n.</i> pukong    |
| <b>rainy season</b> <i>n.</i> pǝsh        | <b>rivulet</b> <i>n.</i> voghor kulee |
| <b>ram</b> <i>n.</i> ngaam                | <b>rizga</b> <i>n.</i> vuu            |
| <b>rat</b> <i>n.</i> shimbiin             | <b>road</b> <i>n.</i> war             |
| <b>recieve, to</b> <i>v.</i> lap          | <b>roast, to</b> <i>v.</i> wǝsh       |
| <b>red</b> <i>a.</i> kuǝang               | <b>rock hyrax</b> <i>n.</i> cem       |
| <b>red-flanked duiker</b> <i>n.</i> cirim | <b>rock python</b> <i>n.</i> mǝr      |
| <b>refuse, to</b> <i>v.</i> ciǝ           | <b>rock rabbit</b> <i>n.</i> cem      |
| <b>reject, to</b> <i>v.</i> ciǝ           | <b>roof</b> <i>n.</i> cet lu          |
| <b>remain, to</b> <i>v.</i> kopǝe         | <b>room</b> <i>n.</i> lu              |
| <b>remember, to</b> <i>v.</i> rǝye        | <b>rooster</b> <i>n.</i> dol koo      |
| <b>reptile sp.</b> <i>n.</i> kut1         | <b>root</b> <i>n.</i> ser pat         |
| <b>request, to</b> <i>v.</i> dǝng2        | <b>rope</b> <i>n.</i> teng            |
| <b>resemble, to</b> <i>v.</i> lapshak     | <b>round</b> <i>a.</i> gǝrǝm          |
| <b>retch, to</b> <i>v.</i> faghat         | <b>rub, to</b> <i>v.</i> aar          |
| <b>return, to</b> <i>v.</i> wawul         | <b>rubbish dump</b> <i>n.</i> pucung  |
| <b>rib</b> <i>n.</i> ǝgǝsh koghor         | <b>ruler</b> <i>n.</i> long           |
| <b>rice</b> <i>n.</i> kapaa               | <b>run, to</b> <i>v.</i> zhu          |
| <b>ride, to</b> <i>v.</i> lang            |                                       |

**S s**

|                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>saliva</b> <i>n.</i> nzhool    | <b>seat</b> <i>n.</i> tagham        |
| <b>salt</b> <i>n.</i> kiin        | <b>see, to</b> <i>v.</i> naa2       |
| <b>sand</b> <i>n.</i> eesh1       | <b>seek, to</b> <i>v.</i> fiaan     |
| <b>say, to</b> <i>v.</i> mok      | <b>sell, to</b> <i>v.</i> seet kuni |
| <b>saying</b> <i>n.</i> kwaan     | <b>send, to</b> <i>v.</i> lop       |
| <b>scatter, to</b> <i>v.</i> ciit | <b>servant</b> <i>n.</i> kuram      |
| <b>scorpion</b> <i>n.</i> deer    | <b>sesame</b> <i>n.</i> cerem       |
| <b>scrape, to</b> <i>v.</i> aar   | <b>set trap, to</b> <i>v.</i> ang   |
| <b>search, to</b> <i>v.</i> fiaan | <b>seven</b> <i>num.</i> pogo vǝl   |

|                                               |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| seventy <i>num.</i> yaa ngurum kun shipu paat | sore <i>n.</i> atghot                      |
| sew, to <i>v.</i> taan                        | sorghum <i>n.</i> shwaá                    |
| shade <i>n.</i> reen                          | soup <i>n.</i> pinkaa                      |
| shadow <i>n.</i> reen                         | speak, to <i>v.</i> mok                    |
| shake, to <i>v.</i> taat                      | spear <i>n.</i> kop                        |
| share, to <i>v.</i> shak                      | spider <i>n.</i> naan                      |
| sharpen, to <i>v.</i> pun                     | spit, to <i>v.</i> push                    |
| sheep <i>n.</i> cim                           | spittle <i>n.</i> nzhool                   |
| shoot, to <i>v.</i> tat                       | split in two, to <i>v.</i> bee             |
| shore <i>n.</i> pukong                        | staff <i>n.</i> kul                        |
| short <i>a.</i> kukəp                         | stand up, to <i>v.</i> yaghal <sup>2</sup> |
| shoulder <i>n.</i> nguk                       | star <i>n.</i> daghar                      |
| sickle <i>n.</i> jeem                         | starvation <i>n.</i> shùm                  |
| sickness <i>n.</i> ngok                       | steal, to <i>v.</i> mughur <sup>2</sup>    |
| silk-cotton <i>n.</i> kiir                    | stew <i>n.</i> pinkaa                      |
| silo <i>n.</i> yaar                           | stick <i>n.</i> kul                        |
| sing song, to <i>v.p.</i> mang zoo            | stir, to <i>v.</i> cung                    |
| sit, to <i>v.</i> tong                        | stomach <i>n.</i> but                      |
| six <i>num.</i> peeme                         | stone <i>n.</i> dik                        |
| sixty <i>num.</i> yaa ngurum kun              | stool <i>n.</i> tagham                     |
| skin <i>n.</i> nzhim <sup>1</sup>             | story <i>n.</i> tamtish                    |
| skink <i>n.</i> nzhoor                        | stream <i>n.</i> voghor kulee              |
| sky <i>n.</i> pukulok                         | strife <i>n.</i> lek dyel                  |
| slaughter, to, to <i>v.</i> ngap              | stroll, to <i>v.</i> mwàn                  |
| slave <i>n.</i> kuram                         | suck breast, to <i>v.p.</i> shwaa yəər     |
| sleep <i>n.</i> saam <sup>1</sup>             | sun <i>n.</i> puush                        |
| sleep, to <i>v.</i> saam <sup>2</sup>         | surpass, to <i>v.</i> maa                  |
| small <i>a.</i> kulee                         | swallow (bird) <i>n.</i> kumbang           |
| small river <i>n.</i> voghor kulee            | swallow, to <i>v.</i> del                  |
| smash, to <i>v.</i> piin                      | swamp <i>n.</i> njaghat                    |
| smell, to <i>v.</i> du                        | sweat <i>n.</i> pebaan                     |
| smoke <i>n.</i> daghəl                        | sweep, to <i>v.</i> fet                    |
| snail sp. <i>n.</i> kwat laa; taghəsh         | sweet <i>a.</i> kurok                      |
| snake <i>n.</i> woo                           | sweet potato <i>n.</i> naandam             |
| snake sp. <i>n.</i> wèn                       | swell, to <i>v.</i> wul                    |
| son <i>n.</i> me'em                           | swim, to <i>v.p.</i> lang am               |
| song <i>n.</i> zoo                            |                                            |

T t

|                                     |                                          |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| tail <i>n.</i> ndang                | thing <i>n.</i> mbii                     |
| take, to <i>v.</i> mang             | thirty <i>num.</i> yaa ngurum shipu paat |
| tamarind <i>n.</i> shirip           | thorn <i>n.</i> er                       |
| taro <i>n.</i> ngban                | three <i>num.</i> kun                    |
| tear <i>n.</i> yit mwaa             | throat <i>n.</i> ngwakrak                |
| tear, to <i>v.</i> tee              | throw (pl.), to <i>v.</i> car            |
| tell, to <i>v.</i> tok <sup>2</sup> | throw (sg), to <i>v.</i> cer             |
| ten <i>num.</i> s'ar                | tie, to <i>v.</i> yal                    |
| they <i>pron.</i> mop               | tiger-nut <i>n.</i> bwak                 |
| thief <i>n.</i> mughur <sup>1</sup> | tilapia <i>n.</i> viit                   |
| thigh <i>n.</i> cii                 | till <i>v.p.</i> zap mar                 |

|                                         |                                             |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>tit</b> <i>n.</i> <b>yäär</b>        | <b>trash heap</b> <i>n.</i> <b>pucung</b>   |
| <b>toad</b> <i>n.</i> <b>nəmwat</b>     | <b>tree</b> <i>n.</i> <b>təng</b>           |
| <b>today</b> <i>n.</i> <b>cinyi</b>     | <b>tree sp.</b> <i>n.</i> <b>wut</b>        |
| <b>tomorrow</b> <i>n.</i> <b>daar</b>   | <b>twelve</b> <i>n.</i> <b>s'arkaa vəl</b>  |
| <b>tongue</b> <i>n.</i> <b>leesh</b>    | <b>twenty</b> <i>num.</i> <b>yaa ngurum</b> |
| <b>tooth</b> <i>n.</i> <b>haghash</b>   | <b>twine</b> <i>n.</i> <b>teng</b>          |
| <b>tortoise</b> <i>n.</i> <b>taakur</b> | <b>twist, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>məghər</b>    |
| <b>touch, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>ḃom</b>   | <b>two</b> <i>num.</i> <b>vəl</b>           |

**U u**

|                                        |                                        |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>ulcer</b> <i>n.</i> <b>atghot</b>   | <b>urine</b> <i>n.</i> <b>shishing</b> |
| <b>untie, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>voon</b> |                                        |

**V v**

|                                                                    |                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>vagina</b> <i>n.</i> <b>noor</b>                                | <b>Kwakii; Loon; Zhep morop</b>                    |
| <b>vegetable sp.</b> <i>n.</i> <b>goor; tok3</b>                   | <b>village weaver bird</b> <i>n.</i> <b>njəgən</b> |
| <b>vein</b> <i>n.</i> <b>paar</b>                                  | <b>visitor</b> <i>n.</i> <b>məsep</b>              |
| <b>vibrate, to, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>taat</b>                       | <b>vomit, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>faghat</b>           |
| <b>village name</b> <i>n.</i> <b>Doop; Gorom; Gyeer; Kəlaghan;</b> | <b>vulture</b> <i>n.</i> <b>nikyaa</b>             |

**W w**

|                                                       |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>wake up s.o., to</b> <i>v.p.</i> <b>mii ngurum</b> | <b>which</b> <i>int.</i> <b>meenang</b>              |
| <b>walk, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>mwàn</b>                 | <b>whirlwind</b> <i>n.</i> <b>wurwum</b>             |
| <b>walking</b> <i>v.n.</i> <b>mwan</b>                | <b>whistle, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>wong</b>             |
| <b>wall</b> <i>n.</i> <b>ḃut lu</b>                   | <b>white</b> <i>a.</i> <b>kupyaa</b>                 |
| <b>wall gecko</b> <i>n.</i> <b>saramkin</b>           | <b>white-toothed shrew</b> <i>n.</i> <b>nasəghən</b> |
| <b>want, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>ḃom</b>                  | <b>who</b> <i>int.</i> <b>awe</b>                    |
| <b>war</b> <i>n.</i> <b>lek dyel</b>                  | <b>widow</b> <i>n.</i> <b>matkaa</b>                 |
| <b>warthog</b> <i>n.</i> <b>tukush</b>                | <b>wild animal</b> <i>n.</i> <b>lwaa shit</b>        |
| <b>wash, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>vang</b>                 | <b>wild date palm</b> <i>n.</i> <b>peem</b>          |
| <b>water</b> <i>n.</i> <b>am1; ham kucip</b>          | <b>wind</b> <i>n.</i> <b>piip</b>                    |
| <b>water pot</b> <i>n.</i> <b>cighul am</b>           | <b>wing</b> <i>n.</i> <b>caap</b>                    |
| <b>we</b> <i>pron.</i> <b>mun</b>                     | <b>winnowing tray</b> <i>n.</i> <b>kucut</b>         |
| <b>wear, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>shel</b>                 | <b>wipe, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>poosh</b>               |
| <b>weave, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>raa</b>                 | <b>witch</b> <i>n.</i> <b>soghot</b>                 |
| <b>weed, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>vər</b>                  | <b>woman</b> <i>n.</i> <b>mat</b>                    |
| <b>weep, to</b> <i>v.</i> <b>wel</b>                  | <b>woodpecker sp.</b> <i>n.</i> <b>saktəng</b>       |
| <b>wet</b> <i>a.</i> <b>kubərak</b>                   | <b>word</b> <i>n.</i> <b>əwom</b>                    |
| <b>wetland</b> <i>n.</i> <b>njaghat</b>               | <b>work</b> <i>n.</i> <b>ḃəlang</b>                  |
| <b>what</b> <i>int.</i> <b>ame</b>                    | <b>world</b> <i>n.</i> <b>kəyil</b>                  |
| <b>when</b> <i>int.</i> <b>parnang</b>                | <b>worm</b> <i>n.</i> <b>nuwee</b>                   |
| <b>where</b> <i>int.</i> <b>ane</b>                   | <b>wound</b> <i>n.</i> <b>laa</b>                    |

**Y y**

yam *n.* nzhim<sup>2</sup>yam heap *n.* mar zhimyam mound *n.* mar zhimyawn, to *v.* aapyear *n.* yiiyesterday *n.* ndəghənyou *pron.* ngayou (pl.) *pron.* ngunyoung man *n.* dengmaaryoung woman *n.* eməreepyounger brother *n.* naa kusop

## 5. Lexical comparison and the classification of Nteng

On the basis of lexical evidence, Nteng is closest to the languages of the PAN cluster (Kofyar). Table 6 shows a series of lexical items innovated in the PAN cluster which Nteng also shares. Nteng shares many other isoglosses, but since these are attested elsewhere in A3 they do not constitute evidence for this specific affiliation.

**Table 6. Nteng isoglosses with lexical items innovated in the PAN cluster**

| Language  | Sweat   | Hedgehog | Honeybee | Fat   | Wind | Mountain |
|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-------|------|----------|
| Jibyal    | pébé:n  | kābāyār  |          |       |      | rúúp     |
| Jipal     |         |          | mō:n     | mìgìr |      |          |
| Kwagallak |         |          |          |       | pī:p |          |
| Nteng     | pʰèbà:n | ᵐbāgār   | mō:n     | mùgùr | pī:p | rūyūp    |

A distinctive aspect of Nteng phonology is  $f \rightarrow v$ , where \*f can be reconstructed for proto-A3. Table 7 shows a series of correspondences with Jibyal, another PAN cluster language, which illustrates this voicing shift.

**Table 7. Evidence for a sound change  $f \rightarrow v$  between Nteng and Jibyal**

| Language | Knee  | Mosquito | Rain | River |
|----------|-------|----------|------|-------|
| Jibyal   | férén | mḥēt     | fḥān | fḥyār |
| Nteng    | vārēm | vèt      | vā:n | vōyār |

A distinctive change which characterises A3 languages which are part of the PAN cluster is metathesis of CVCVC structures. Table 8 shows the words for ‘hedgehog’ which have the underlying structure of k/g+ə+b+e+r in Mwaghavul and Goemai, whereas in PAN cluster languages, the velar and the bilabial are metathesised, producing b+ə+g+e+r.

**Table 8. A3 words for ‘hedgehog’**

| Language  | Gloss   |
|-----------|---------|
| Mwaghavul | kíbéér  |
| Goemai    | gábóór  |
| Jibyal    | kābāyār |
| Nteng     | ᵐbāgār  |
| Jakato    | kābāyār |

Nteng speakers live not far from the Mushere, whose territory is somewhat further north. Evidently the two groups have been in interaction, since Nteng appears to share some distinctive lexical items with Mushere rather than PAN cluster languages. Table 9 shows a sample of words where Nteng and Mushere correspond and the typical PAN cluster language, in this case Kwagallak, has a different or related but distinct item.

**Table 9. Nteng isoglosses with Mushere**

| Language  | Wing  | Morning | Night               | Broom  |
|-----------|-------|---------|---------------------|--------|
| Mushere   | ɣyááp | (kú)ḃít | kàbar               | finfēt |
| Nteng     | ɣāáp  | kùḃít   | kàp <sup>h</sup> ār | pīnfēt |
| Kwagallak | gágāp | gibit   | līpār               | yimpēt |

Lexical analysis suggests that Nteng is affiliated to the languages of the PAN cluster but that at some point it has come under the influence of Mushere as evidenced by some probably borrowings.

## 6. The position of Nteng

Nteng is clearly an independent language, most closely linked to the PAN (Kofyar) cluster, but not identified with them. Nteng has only a very few speakers and is in principle endangered and thus is a clear candidate for more in-depth research. It should also be put forward as a candidate for an ISO three-letter code.

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