

# **An introduction to Zul**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Zul is spoken in some fifteen villages in Bauchi State, Bauchi and Toro LGAs. It has been reported as severely threatened but appears to be vigorous, with an evolving literacy programme. The Zul language is part of the Polci cluster, which in turn is West Chadic B, Zaar subgroup and its closest relatives are probably Luri and Polci. The paper presents a wordlist, basic phonology sketch and some aspects of the morphosyntax, focusing on the pronominal system which is at the heart of the TAM system. Zul has a relatively simple system of two tone-heights with occasional downstep appearing in longer words. However, tonal distinctions play an important role in the verbal system. A surprising development in the Zul sound system is the appearance of nasal vowels, atypical for Chadic languages. Zul morphology appears to be heavily eroded, with no gender-marking, no system of nominal plurals and almost no verbal auxiliaries.

## 1. Introduction

The Zul language is part of the Polci cluster, which in turn is West Chadic B, Zaar subgroup. It is said to be the same as (m)Barma or Mbaram in older sources, but Mbaram is probably a related dialect. However, the Zul word for ‘person’ is *m̀b̀r̀m̀è*, which is undoubtedly the origin of this word and suggests the name ‘Zul’ is an innovation. Zul is spoken in some fifteen villages in Bauchi State, Bauchi and Toro LGAs. These are shown in Table 1;

**Table 1. Zul villages**

Zul	Vum	Hakayashi
Zulgami	Kadage	Bimiya
Dafasu	Nahuda Tintin	Balkeri
Nasira	Tintin	Kobonka
Tudun Wada Baraya	Ungwar Rogo	Ungwan Wombai

As can be seen, the village names are quite mixed, with either all or some Hausa elements. It is possible some villages have older Zul names which might be recovered with further fieldwork. Fieldwork in the Zul area is fairly difficult due to the proximity to Bauchi town, where attacks on communities are quite prevalent.

The Zul language is called Bi Zule, one person Nya Zule pl. Man Zule. Zul was reported in older sources to be dying out and to have very few speakers. However, this appears to be wrong. There are both more speakers and the language more lively than previously thought. The number of speakers varies considerably from one source to another, but is probably about 4000. The Zul are split between Christian and Muslim affiliation, and so far only the Christians have shown interest in literacy. Zul has recently undergone a remarkable recovery, with a community-based reading and writing book produced (2006) and preliminary Bible translation underway. There is, obviously, an issue with younger speakers switching to Hausa, but the language seems to be surprisingly free of Hausa loanwords.

There is practically no existing work on Zul except wordlists. Shimizu (1978) first defined the South Bauchi languages and placed Zul in a Barawa group and Cosper (1999) has published a ‘Barawa lexicon’, a comparative wordlist of eight South Bauchi languages including Zul, a work given an extremely negative review by Caron (2002a). Zul genitive reconstructions are mentioned briefly in Cosper & Gital (2004). Data on the related Polci language can be found in Kraft (1981) and Cosper (1998). Blench (2007) has published a brief study of the Dyarim language and Bernard Caron (2002b, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2013, 2014) a variety of studies of South Bauchi languages.

The material in the present paper was collected with the help of Dangana Adamu and colleagues in Jos, on the 24-26<sup>th</sup> April, 2012. The main source was an extended wordlist, originally transcribed as part of the Luke Partnership workshops. The pronouns were first recorded in the draft reading and writing book. All this has been retranscribed and the tones marked. Work on Zul will continue when the security situation improves. The presentation of phonemes in the main text is in IPA to ensure a clear understanding of the phonology. However, the wordlist, which is also for local use, makes use of orthographic conventions, notably;

ʔ ’ ɓ dl ʃ sh  
 ə i y gh ɫ tl  
 ŋ ng ʒ zh

The wordlist retains /θ/ and /ɲ/ for lack of an agreed orthographic solution. /ɲ/ is usually represented ‘ny’ but this would give a word such as

̀ǹg̀à̀lé̀ỳn whiteness

an unusual appearance.

## 2. Zul phonology

### 2.1 Consonants

The basic consonant phonemes of Zul are shown in Table 2;

**Table 2. Zul consonant phonemes**

	Bilabial	Dental	Alve- olar	Post- Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d			k g	ʔ
Implosive		ɓ		ɗ			
Nasal		m		n	ɲ	ŋ	
Tap				r			
Fricative		[θ]	s z	ʃ ʒ	tʃ dʒ	ɣ	h
Lateral fricative			ɬ ɮ				
Lateral				l			
Approximant	w				y		

The most unusual phoneme is /θ/ not typical of Chadic, although sometimes found in Jukunoid languages in the general region. It occurs in;

kòrθə́	mátli	old woman
kúrbi	ká gə̀θi	lip, lower
máθè		salt
ngèθé		chest
páθgàmi		tree sp.

It is conceivably an allophone of /ʃ/ although the pronunciation of speakers is quite consistent on the recordings.

The glottal stop only ever occurs in intervocalic position, and is usually followed by a front vowel. For example;

dáʔá	not, no
ɓùláʔi	river
cáʔi	thatching needle
gùgùʔí	<i>Euphorbia</i> sp.
gùʔé	awl ?
hòʔí	to wash

Zul allows both labialised and palatalised consonants, but apparently only in initial position and almost always where the following vowel is the low central vowel /a/. Zul permits the following contrastive labialised consonants;

gw, kw, ɣw

Examples;

gw	gwàgà mí	ours
but		
	ng <sup>w</sup> òtí	to break
kw	kwálè	shell
	kwani	admire
ɣw	ɣwánùm	nine
	ɣwà	last year
	ɣwàtérà	temper
	ùɣwíná	tree sp.
but		
	ɣ <sup>w</sup> ùndírí	to hide

where /ɣ/ is followed by a back vowel, labialisation is phonetic, and no contrastive pairs can be identified.

Palatalisation is rare, but the following consonants can be palatalised;

ɓy, gy, ky, mby, my, wy

Examples;

ɓy	ɓyǎri	brothers	or ɓiári
gy	gyǎlí	to laugh	
ky	kyárè	moon	
mby	mbyéʔi	boring	
my	myákán	three	or miákàn
wy	háwyè	ten in compounds	

The palatalized alveolar nasal is treated as a single phoneme /ɲ/. This is most common in word-initial position;

ɲàʔi	to break in pieces, smash
ɲámètli	daughter, girl
ɲáshi	wood

and only in word-medial position in occasional examples;

ɓàɲitèné	tiredness
lèríɲá	baby

Unusually /ɲ/ appears in word-final position, both following –y- and as a syllable coda.

kàkáyɲ	<i>Aloe vera</i>
kéɲ	hawk
kèɲkéɲ	iron gong
ngèléyɲ	whiteness
dúɲ	black

Homorganic prenasalisation before nasals is permitted. In initial position, the nasal appears to bear a distinct tone, whereas word-medially no tone is heard.

mb

/mb/ occurs primarily in word-initial position and can be followed by any vowel. Examples;

m̀bápi	to walk
m̀bátli	heart
m̀bàlési	swift, swallow
m̀bàlí	to increase
m̀bíti	frog sp.
m̀bíyàti	to kick
m̀bíʔi	finger nail
m̀bóri	lion
m̀búdèrè	ashes
m̀búrɸi	okra

/mb/ is more rarely found word-medially.

bómbò	cocoyam
cémbèri	drongo
gùmbá	mat

There is a single example of an –mp- sequence.

kòmpó Tuesday

A tone-bearing syllabic alveolar nasal can precede most stem-initial consonants;

̀nda	to fall
̀ngási	to bite
̀njàwí	tree sp.
̀nnòyí	to ripen

Similar /mb/ sequences, in word-medial position, the initial n- does not bear a tone. Where a velar follows, the alveolar nasal becomes a velar nasal.

̀bòndí	mist, fog
cénkùlè	crowned hornbill
dánzì	finger-millet
d́ngàri	tree sp.
dlàntèné	fighting
ḿnɸìni	native doctor

In a few words, it seems a coda – is not homorganic with the following consonant, and this is probably because these are recent compounds. The word for ‘cassava’ looks like a compound meaning ‘Hausa yam’.

hám̀tèni	to wilt
mám̀kíní	cassava

Resonants such as /r/ can be tone-bearing on occasions. External cognates suggest this arose from the deletion of an intervening vowel.

k̀rì	tail	cf. Guus <i>kiir</i> , Zaranda <i>kil</i>
p̀sì	horse	

## 2.2 Vowels

Zul has a fairly standard six-vowel system;

**Table 3. Zul Vowels**

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ɨ	u
Mid	e		o
Low		a	

In some contexts /i/ and /ɨ/ are apparently in conditioned variation (see Table 11).

Puzzling, and highly unusual for a Chadic language, are a small set of words with nasalised vowels.

dàrzí	zana mat	
gàzǎ	charcoal	
gùě	king, chief	cf. Zaranda <i>guu</i> ,
hǐhǐ	owl	? cf. Guus <i>ʒiʒiŋ</i>
hǐri	ground hornbill	
kí rùṅà	mahogany	
ǔè	war	
páy	adjoining wall	
zhǐzhǐ kìnì	forest	

No clear examples of contrast with CVN have been established and the assumption is that a nasal segment has disappeared, nasalising the vowel. However, these words have few external cognates and they do not unambiguously support this idea.

Words with final /ŋ/ can be in free variation with a nasalised vowel. Both the following are heard;

gàbǎy, gəbǎŋ fig tree sp. H. *gamji*

Zul has a very few examples of vowel length contrast, mostly with /o/ (Table 4);

**Table 4. Illustrations of Zul vowel length contrast**

Zul	Gloss	Zul	Gloss
dòmí	to gather together	dòòmí	honey
kòní	to admire	kòòní	to dry up
wòlí	leaf	wòòní	who?

Examples with other vowels always show tonal change and are best treated as doubled vowels.

cètí	to pluck
céètè	to play
káŋ	raptor
kàán	then

It seems most likely that Zul has no underlying vowel-length contrast and all surface instances are the result of vowel-doubling.

Zul permits rare final -ay and -aw sequences;



páy	adjoining wall
ḡay	to fix
tlay	to press
káráwkáráw	tree squirrel

The interrogative *ráù* ‘how’ can either be treated as having an exceptional falling tone, i.e. *râw*, or as a sequence of two vowels with high and low. This latter is preferred as Zul does not otherwise have glide tones.

### 2.3 Tones

Zul has two basic tones, H & L. Examples of lexical contrast purely through tone are extremely rare. A few examples are;

bì	to give	bí	language, mouth
mì	1 pl. Obj PRON	mí	1 sg. Obj PRON

and;

ḡáli	cowpeas	ḡálí	to tie
kóri	hen	kòrí	to hoe

In a few cases, the presence of palatals and labials produces phonetic rising and falling tones. These are treated as sequences of vowels to avoid expanding the toneme inventory.

ḡyǎri	brothers	or ḡiári
myákàn	three	or miákàn
râw	how?	or ráù

In a small number of tri- and quadrisyllabic words where the last two syllables are high, the second tone is lowered, a downstep is heard.

jímín'á	ostrich
wòbàlgám'í	tree sp.
wùtór'í	to fry

This might be treated as automatic tone-lowering, but it does not occur in all lexical items with this tonal formula.

## 3. Grammar

### 3.1 Subject pronouns/ TAM marking

#### 3.1.1 Overview

Zul appears to have no overt TAM marking the verb, like many Plateau languages. TA is usually marked on the pronoun, but not in every case, and tense may be inferred from adverbs. The present continuous has an independent auxiliary marking tense, but other verb tenses are only marked with pronouns. Two important features of Zul pronouns are characteristic the system. Number is marked by a consistent tonal profile, thus singular pronouns always bear the same tone. In both categories of present/imperfective singular pronouns are high, while the corresponding plural is low. Zul has a neutral pronoun à which can be either singular or plural. The tone of the pronoun seems to spread rightwards to the auxiliary and even to the adverbial complement.

#### 3.1.2 Completed action

Completed action or perfective is marked with the default pronoun set as in Table 5;

**Table 5. Zul subject pronouns, perfective**

Person	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup>	à	mì
2 <sup>nd</sup>	kì	kìn
3 <sup>rd</sup>	tì	wù

Examples of these pronouns in use;

à        dír    sèkìni  
 1 sg. PF   come   today  
 I came today  
 wù        dír    sèkìni  
 3 pl. PF   come   today  
 They came today

kì    shín   tì  
 you   see   him  
 you saw him

### 3.1.3 Present Continuous

The present continuous is accomplished by framing the verb with **den... tìnè**. **den** is underspecified for tone, copying the pronoun. Zul pronouns are as follows;

**Table 6. Zul present continuous pronouns**

Person	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup>	ámì	mìn
2 <sup>nd</sup>	kí	kìn
3 <sup>rd</sup> he/she	tí	wì
3 <sup>rd</sup> it	à	

The examples show how the tone on **den** copies the singular plural distinction in the preceding pronoun.

ám(i)    dén    dír    tìnè  
 I        IMPF   come   IMPF  
 I'm coming  
 but  
 wì        dèn    dír    tìnè  
 they    IMPF   come   IMPF  
 They are coming

### 3.1.4 Present/Imperfective

The present or imperfective in Zul uses a similar to the present continuous, except that the front and central vowels in the singular reverse between second and third person

**Table 7. Zul present/imperfective pronouns**

Person	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup>	ám(i)	mì
2 <sup>nd</sup>	kí	kì
3 <sup>rd</sup> he/she	tí	wì
3 <sup>rd</sup> it	à	

The examples show that the tone on the adverb/complement also changes, and is the reverse of the copula.

ám(i) rá dĕ  
 I COP here  
 I'm here  
 But  
 kî rà dĕ  
 you pl. COP here  
 you pl. are here

The neutral pronoun uses the plural tone pattern;

à rà dĕ  
 it COP here  
 it is here

### 3.1.5 Future

Future is marked in Zul for the singular by lengthening the pronoun and creating a rising tone, whereas the plural pronouns are the same as the imperfective set with the low raised to high. Table 8 shows the pronominal set for future;

**Table 8. Zul subject pronouns, future**

Person	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup>	àá	mí
2 <sup>nd</sup>	kíí	kí
3 <sup>rd</sup>	tíí	wí

Examples;

àá dír g̀nì  
 1 sg. FUT come tomorrow  
 I will come tomorrow

kíí shín tí  
 you sg. FUT see him  
 you will see him

mí dír g̀nì  
 we FUT come tomorrow  
 we will come tomorrow

### 3.2 Object Pronouns

Table 9 shows the Zul object pronouns;

**Table 9. Zul object pronouns**

Person	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup>	mí	mì
2 <sup>nd</sup>	kí	kìnè
3 <sup>rd</sup>	tí	wùrì

Examples;

à shín kì	à shín kìnè
I see you sg.	I see you pl.
I saw you	I saw you

### 3.3 Possessive Pronouns

Possession in Zul uses a genitive marker *gi/gì* and a unique pronoun set (Table 10). The second person singular is treated as a default and is unmarked.

**Table 10. Zul possessive pronouns**

Gloss	Zul
my	nì
your	default
his/her/its	sì
our	mì
your	[gì] nì
their	zìnì

In context, the second person genitive is *gi(i)*;

**Table 11. Examples of Zul possessive pronouns**

Gloss	Zul
my stool	kòblán gì nì
your stool	kòblán gì
his/her/its stool	kòblán gì sì
our chair	kòblán gì mì
your stool	kòblán gì nì
their chair	kòblán gì zìnì

### 3.4 Demonstrative adjectives

The Zul demonstratives are relatively straightforward (Table 12);

**Table 12. Zul demonstratives**

bòm tú	this house	bòm jú	these houses
bòm tá	that house	bòm já	those houses

### 3.5 Numerals

Table 13 shows the ordinary Zul numerals. I have compared them with Luri, which is the closest set and more broadly with other South Bauchi languages.

**Table 13. Zul numerals in comparative perspective**

English	Zul	Luri	Comment
one	nám	nâm	Typical of South Bauchi, not found elsewhere unless <i>mən</i> forms are cognate
two	róp	róp	Scattered throughout West Chadic
three	miákàn	míígón	Scattered through West and Central Chadic
four	wùpsé	wùpsé	Typical of South Bauchi in this form. J & I relate this to widespread Chadic p/f-d- roots.
five	nántám	nántám	Typical of South Bauchi, not found elsewhere
six	mùkà	máágà	Typical of South Bauchi, e.g. Dot <i>mààmàk</i>
seven	jéndì	jíñé	But cf. Dot <i>wúsúr-mààkà</i>
eight	wùzùpsè	wúsáséé	Typical of South Bauchi, e.g. Dot <i>wúsùpsi</i>
nine	ywánùm	ʔánáén	But cf. Dot <i>nàtárápsi</i>
ten	kúł	zùp	Also in Geji, but not otherwise South Bauchi. ? related to Ron forms.
eleven	kúł cét nèm	zùp tètè nèm	Typical of South Bauchi, e.g. Dot <i>sùp-cèdīi-nèm</i>
twenty	háwyé nèm	?	
hundred	zàṅgúnù, háwyé nán tám	?	

#### 4. Conclusions

Zul is a lively language of the South Bauchi group of Chadic, with close affinities to Luri and Polci. Despite earlier reports that it was declining, it seems to be thriving. This paper represents a first report on the phonology and lexicon, with additional grammar notes. Work is continuing in the language and a more in-depth study of the grammar should be possible in the coming years.

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**Appendix. Zul wordlist**

The following wordlist of Zul was recorded with the help of Dangana Adamu and colleagues in Jos, on 24/4/12. The Hausa needs to be retranscribed correctly and scientific identifications of plants and animals included. Some of the Hausa appears to be non-standard and may be local to the Bauchi area. This list is a basis for rechecking with the Zul community and has the usual faults of preliminary lists, most importantly some verbs may have incorporated morphology. Some adjectives may well be stative verbs.

**Zul-English wordlist**

Zul	English
à	I (Perfective)
àá	I (Future)
ádà	sword
àgwàgwá	duck
àkòní	where?
ámè	hand
ámì	I (Imperfective)
árèwà	north
àsábàr	Saturday
àtlí	ground
bá bishàrèmi	answer
bá'ì	to fix
báásè	father
bàdàré	seed
bágàlà	ram
bágùbì	Senegal galago
bágùnzhi	he-goat
bàhúm	swallow-wort
bàngàní	sweat
bànyitèné	tiredness
bàr òulé'í	lake
bàr ici'é	python
bàr ká jíp làpè	wild animal
bàr kàmé	donkey
bàr kùshé	stomach
bàr pàté	market
bàr tlértí	Achilles heel
bàrí	thing
bàrkùnù	chili pepper
bàrnámí	roan antelope
bàrtá	there

Zul	English
bàsi	urine
bàstòní	fatness
báyùrù	hearth
bèdlábèni	door
bèlòmé	baobab
bèní	town
bèrání	blood
bèrí	patas monkey
bèrké	to rub
bèrún	friend
bètlí	to shoot
bí	language, mouth
bì	to give
bì mári	goat house
bì òkàrí	storeroom
bìbàkó	wing
bìbì àlá	shoulder
bìsìiti	evening
bò'í	to roast
Bò'ì tátí	Thursday
bómbò	cocoyam
bòmí	house
òndí	mist, fog
bòrí	to dig
òrí	pumpkin
bùbá	father
bùbùlí	tree sp.
bùrúgàli	soup stirrer
bùrzíngìni	tree sp.
bútókèli	frog sp.
bùwàré	rock hyrax
bwátlè	bird sp.
bwátlè	green fruit-pigeon
gáli	cowpeas
gáli	to tie
gáshè	tree sp.
gátlí	to pay
gè	to hit
gè gám kí yámi	to thunder
gè gàngàṅ	drumming
giári	brothers
gíndì	granary, external
gòtèné	beating
òulé'ì	river
gúli	to open
gúti	to wait for
gùtùm gùri	tree sp.
cá'ì	thatching needle
cáṅ	monitor lizard
céètè	to play

Zul	English	Zul	English
cémbòrì	drongo	dāmí	to pick
cèní	to break, snap	dāsí	bitterness
cénkùlè	crowned hornbill	dě	here
cèpé	tree sp.	dèbòrì	playground
cètàrí	navel	dīlì	to exit, go out
cètí	to pluck	dīrì	to bring, come
cí	to eat	dūrè	to pour
cí bə̀ kì yámi	lightning	dūʔè	beer
cìcípí	tree sp.	dlábə̀nì	parlour
cídlì	sickness	dlàntə̀né	fighting
cígə̀nì	morning	dláre	to dance
cíncìn	fruit-bat	dlát	correct
círtə̀nì	light	dlè	war
dābtì	flour	dləmónì	guinea-fowl
dálà	shin	dlə̀ngàrì	fig tree sp.
dàlbájya	tree sp.	dlèrkámì	sugar-cane
dàlé	to chew	dlimí	to count
dámi	to remember	dlimí	to sew
dám̀tə̀nè	to think	dlinshímì	stick to support cooking
dándì	bed		pot
dánzì	finger-millet	dlò	walking stick
dàʔá	not	dlómì	between, middle
də̀kàrì	monitor lizard	èrəm mótli	sister
dəlì	to pull	èrəm mónì	brother
dəmónì	darkness	éshè	tamarind
də̀mí	to sit	fə̀ránì	grass sp.
dèn	on	fìṅgálì	food
dèn gámi	on top	fùldiyátli	fig tree sp.
də̀ntì	theft	gábəs	east
də̀nzì	warthog	gàl mwín zhèʔè	sternum
də̀nzì gì málè	hippo	gàlì	calabash
də̀ṅgàrì	tree sp.	gàm gère	eyebrow
də̀rà'è	shelf	gàmí	head
də̀rží	zana mat	gàn ghúrumì	knee
dəsí	to mix with feet	gàre	tantalus monkey
dəsí	to pound	gàsì	night
dəsì gólà	blacksmithing	gə̀báṅ	tree sp.
dèʔé	pestle	gə̀bdí	crocodile
dò'ómì	fig-tree sp.	gə̀bzínè	tree sp.
dòmí	to gather together	gèdə̀rgédər	bird sp.
dòòmí	honey	gə̀gálè	whitethorn
dòtí	dirt	gə̀gàrí	soot
dúkú	fly (insect)	gəkétárí	lower abdomen
dùlá	pot, large	gə̀lá	iron
dújṅ	black	gə̀nì	tomorrow
dùn írè	blackthorn	gə̀ṅgólì	tree sp.
dùn yámi	cloud	gér tàkwálà	ankle bone
dùṅgá	termite	gère	eye
dālbásì	gall-bladder	gə̀rì	to give birth
dāmənè	upper grindstone	gəs ṅgər ṅgòshì	back of knee



Zul	English	Zul	English
gàs ñgódlàr	elbow	gùn tèpé	road
gàsé	buttock	gùrkí	wild yam sp.
gèshé	spear	gùsí	old
gàsí	under	gùzúm málè	thirst
gàskàbá	chin	gù?é	awl ?
gàskàmé	cheek	gwa + pronoun	own
gàsmór	abdomen	gwàgè mí	our own
gàzhé	charcoal	gwáñ	my own
gé?è	tree sp.	gwàsí	his own
ghàráti	crow	gwàzìní	theirs
ghòl wólí	tree sp.	gwébà	guava
ghólí	white	gyàtlí	to laugh
ghómí	baboon	hámè	yawning
ghónè	rain	hám tènì	to wilt
ghóp	manure	hàràdù	storm
ghúdùrù	dove sp.	hàráti	pieb crow
ghùlí	rizga, Sudan potato	háwyè miákèn	sixty
ghù mí	to cover	háwyè miákèn nà	seventy
ghùndírí	to hide	kùtl	
ghùní	grindstone	háwyè nèm	twenty
ghùréní	mosquito	háwyè nèm nà kùtl	thirty
ghùrí	to mix, dilute	háwyè nèm nà	twenty-one
ghùrí	yesterday	nèm	
ghwà	last year	háwyè nèm nà ùfè	twenty-four
ghwánùm	nine	háwyè ròp	forty
ghwàngér	water-snake sp.	háwyè ròp nà kùtl	fifty
ghwàtérà	temper	háwyè úfè	eighty
gìbàrí	heaviness	háwyè úfè nà kùtl	ninety
gìgási	when?	hèlí	small
gíp àmè	palm	hìhì	owl
gíp àsèmè	sole	hìrì	Abyssinian
gíp tù?è	inner stomach		hornbill
gìpì	inside	hóbì	truth
gìsí	dry season	hòrí	to blow
gì?í	to moisten	hò?í	to wash
gò	bushbuck	hùhù	lungs
gòdé	to show	hùlí	to boil
gòlàn yàré	throat	hùntùrù	harmattan
gòlimè	acacia sp.	hútè	tree sp.
gòmbílí	giant rat	ìciné	nose
gòs gámí	load	ìcí?è	snake, general
gòshí	forehead	ìdá?ì	coldness
gòshù	African grey hornbill	ìdlàré	cough
gòsí	shadow	ìdrí	soapberry tree
gùé	king, chief	ìlémí	tree sp.
gùgú?í	<i>Euphorbia</i> sp.	ìmá	armpit
gùjá	groundnut	ìmbrí	tree sp.
gùl ñgétlè	ribs	ìmnú	how?
gùlé	bone	ìndrì	scorpion
gùmbá	mat	ìrà	sesame

Zul	English	Zul	English
írè	thorn	kòtərə́	to run
írímì	leopard	kèʔi	to support
ishé	excrement, faeces	kí rùngà, rùngá	mahogany
ishmímírì	fruit tree sp.	kìni	tree, generic
itári	wind	kítè	duiker
ítlà	Bambara groundnut	kítè	red-flanked duiker
jábùrè	black plum	kíti	garden egg
jèlí	ebony tree	kòblán	small stool
jèní	others	kókìni	woodpecker
jèwéwè	small bird sp.	kòm pó	Tuesday
jílá	tree sp.	kòní	to admire
jìmín'á	ostrich	kóŋgè	cobra
jìŋgèlí	wall-hanger	kòòní	to dry up
jìr bíndí	granary roof	kópì	to follow
jìr bébinè	thatched roof	kòpílìpè	hunting
jìrì	grass, generic	kóri	hen
káán	then	kòrí	to hoe
kábútl	pawpaw	kórmálè	hammerkop, <i>Scopus umbretta</i>
kácínà	Friday	kòrθə́ mətli	old woman
kádākù	chameleon	kòrθə́ mónì	old man
kákáni	before	kósák	near
kálánkálán	spider	kósè	fish, generic
kàló	black kite	kòtlí	to pluck
káŋ	raptor	kírì	tail
kànárí	canary	kúbùr bigàwà	bronze-nape pigeon
kándər̀kùmi	frog sp.	kúbùr zhéré	namaqua dove
kánsì	speargrass	kúbúri	dove, generic
kàr ásəmì	foot	kúbúru bigàwà	dove sp.
kár, kàrí	to drive away	kùcímì	to fold
káráwkàràw	tree squirrel	kúdù	south
kàrèndí	viper	kúdùkù	sweet potato
kári	back of body	kúkùlù	cuckoo
kàrí	message	kùlcí	to learn
kàrí	outside	kùlú	to cry
kàshú	cashew	kùmé	buffalo
kàtí	to bury	kùmí	to hear
kə́ [past], ki	you sg.	kúnù	smoke
[future]		kùŋgəlínjì kàt	canoe
kəkáyŋ	<i>Aloe vera</i>	màlè	
kəmè	ear	kùŋgù	silk-cotton tree, <i>Ceiba pentandra</i>
kéŋ	hawk	kúp	all
kə̀n	you pl.	kúrbi	tortoise
kə̀né	farm	kúrbi kə́ gámi	lip, upper
kə̀ŋkə̀ŋ	iron gong	kúrbi kə́ gə̀θì	lip, lower
kə̀r bəri	millet, <i>gero</i>	kùsh biʔíli	stomach, upper
kə̀r gərə́	millet, <i>maiwa</i>	kùshí	room
kér ishè	bird sp.	kúshkà	dust
kér ishè	small bird sp.	kútə̀nùʔ	snake sp.
kèrə̀ngéshì	tree sp.		
kèrí	burn		

Zul	English	Zul	English
kùtòrí	quiver	lùlùrí	dress, cloth
kútl	ten	lùrpí	beginning of rainy season
kútl cét hwá nèm	nineteen	málè	water
kútl cét myá kèn	thirteen	màlwólí	green
kútl cét nèm	eleven	mámálè	hyena
kútl cét ròp	twelve	mámè	yam
kútl cét wùzùpsè	eighteen	màmkiní	cassava
kútlùmè	rat	màní	to surpass
kwátlè	shell	márí	goat
kyáàrè	moon	màtí	sourness
lá	to put	máθè	salt
lábga	frog sp.	màθé	to squeeze
lábì	to put in mouth	m̀bápí	to walk
làdbóri	tree sp.	m̀bátli	heart
làhábi	Sunday	m̀bátli	liver
làmbóri	tree sp.	m̀bátli	life
lámì	greed	m̀bàlési	swift, swallow
làngèmlàngè	thin	m̀bàlí	to increase
lára	tree sp.	m̀bàrà mè	person
lárè	algae	m̀bítí	frog sp.
lárè	lie	m̀bìyàti	to kick
lási	place	m̀bí?í	finger nail
látènbì	to call	m̀bóri	lion
látèntèfè	to accompany	m̀bùdèrè	ashes
làtí	hardness	m̀bùlési	bird sp.
là?ì	to fill	m̀bùrtlé	egg
là?ìgèsì	to begin	m̀bùrtli	okra
lè	to close	m̀bùrtli?ìni	tuber sp., wild
lè	to rear an animal	m̀bwà?è	custard apple
lèèti	soup-pot	m̀byé?ì	boring
lógàndì	agama lizard	mé	beer-pot, small
léli	penis	mè, mì	we
lèngát	cheapness	m̀ándá sè gèlà	blacksmith
lèpé	bush	m̀ándiki	guest
lèrínýá	baby	m̀àné	how many?
lè?ìlèkà	to taste	m̀ànkéni	this
lè?ìtùtùl	to dress	m̀ànshìni	native doctor
li	to spoil	m̀àntá	that
liámè	large bush rat	m̀áshì	to die
líbì	tree sp.	m̀àshí	carcase
licá	grass sp.	m̀àshítíní	death
lítè	stork	m̀àsíní	to forget
litèní	Monday	m̀ótlómi	locust tree
liyè	elephant	m̀ótlómi	yellow
lòjí	sickle	m̀ótlì	woman
lókòcì	time	mí	me (object)
lón lèpè	bush-cat	mì	we (object)
lónè	cat	m̀iákàn	three
lúbgè	Wednesday	m̀íírì	oil
lúkù	back of head	m̀isì	thigh

Zul	English	Zul	English
mómè	both	ñjá? àsni	soup-pot, three-legged
móni	man	ñjèti	sweetness
mò?ómi	saliva	ñjìbi	tree sp.
mùáj	opened	ñnòyí	to ripen
mùká	six	jà?í	to break in pieces, smash
mùkú	bamboo palm	jàmètli	daughter, girl
mùràtli	to lie down	jàmòòni	boy, son
mùrdè	to fit	jàshì	wood
mùrè	thief	jàndì	seven
nágèrè	wife	jànè	fruit sp.
nám zhèrè	bush duiker	jàtì	constipation
nàmbùní	good	jàbà	cane rat
námí	duiker	jànè	gum in mouth
námí	remnant	jàní	breast
námzhèrè	gazelle	jàntà	milk
nántàm	five	jà	horn
nántí	with him	ò	guinea-corn
nàrí	big	òkùdù	maize
nàwàmtí	many	òró	soup
ndá	to fall	òtlá	guinea-corn, wild
ndáí	axe	páí, páltùnè	to return
ndámè	granary, small	páy	adjoining wall
ndásèlè	to think	pà?í	to finish
ndàkázhi	ground squirrel	páθgàmi	tree sp.
ndàpki	tree sp.	péètè	calabash food dipper
ndèrà	to go away, travel	péli	new
ndértini	strength	pètè	sun
ndètènè	falling	pètlí	to untie
ndiyá	jumblebeads	pí	to do
ndiyá hiyári	tree sp.	pómè	tree sp.
ndòmítli	gecko	p̀rsí	horse
ndúcikàri	shortness	p̀sè	arrow
né	to put	rágón mázà	Senegal coucal
né ámbrà	to help	ràkùmí	camel
né àtli	to put down	ràmi	anthill, termite mound
nám	one	ràmi	termite
nàmí	to hold, seize	ràndà málè	water-snake sp.
nàná	mother	ràni	pot, big
ngáàni	to plant	ràù	how
ngásí	to bite	réémí	Senegal parrot
ngé	to fetch	rókà	yonder, over there
ngé	to refuse	rémi	parrot sp.
ngələyɲ	whiteness	rí	to go
ngəli	shea tree	riŋgé	to pinch
ngèní	thick	rí?è	to kill
ngèthé	chest	róní	slim, lean
ngórè	tree sp.	róp	two
ng <sup>w</sup> òtí	to break	sàri	stinginess
ním	neem tree	sàri	to sweep
ñjàwí	tree sp.	sè	vagina

Zul	English	Zul	English
sóbòrì	knife	tárhìlì	plant sp.
ségòlì	till tomorrow	tàtábàrà	pigeon
sèkàní	today	tátè	stone
sépà	pancreas	táti	pot
sétànè	deceit	tàtlí	to divide
shámbri	gruel	tázhikà	weaver bird
shámè	shame	tàʔí	hair
shàpálè	jackal	tà, tì	he, she, it
shàri	basket	tàmé	sheep
shèngápà	rice	tàmí	to enjoy
shétùhònè	year	tàmpá	hoe
shíkà	wild yam sp.	tétìngípì	to enter
shímì	porridge	tìlì	genet
shímli	right	tínì	he is
shímtá gàsè	buttock	tlà	cow
shínè	tooth	tlà, tlè	to drink
shíni	to see, look	tlámi	to stand up
shírì	porridge stick	tlàrí	long
shìriyé	to arrange	tlàrí	to carve
shìshírè	dew	tlárùmpè	tree sp.
shù	hole	tlátànè	to compress
shù gàsè	anus	tlàtí	to tear
shù ícínè	inner nose, nostril	tlàʔí	congested, crowded
shù kàmé	inner ear	tlàndórè	mountain
shúkù	to rest	tlàrkàmi	tree sp.
shìngèsì	sand	tlàrtì	to be vain
sùdá	lark	tlò	to be dawn, to break (day)
sùká	inside	tlòmbàri	harvesting period
sùmè	tree sp.	tlónè	to dream
sùnsítì	small bird sp.	tlórà	pride
súṅè	name	tlòyí	to cut
tá gèrè	eyelid	tlù	meat
tá ìcínè	nose hair	tlùká	fan palm
tá imà	armpit hair	tó	to climb
tá ṅgèṭhè	chest hair	tòlótòlò	turkey
tàbé	to touch	tùkòrí	francolin
tábi	beard	tùlì	to pierce
tábi	blindman	tùmcírì	tree sp.
tàbó	mud	tùrékà	to push
tácùm bàʔè	hedgehog	tùrí	to cook
tád gùtù málè	water-pot, large	tùrùmè	fig tree sp.
tád málè	water-pot, small	tùtùlgùsè	woman's cloth
tád shimì	cooking pot	tùváj	bird sp.
tágàmi	hair on head	túzgà	tree sp.
tàkòrkótò	louse	túʔè	stomach
támbè	to ask	tùʔé	to build
támésh-támèsh	small bird sp.	túθì, túθkòrí	cock
támtàm	standard-wing nightjar	tùθítùtùl	to undress
tàpótà	fruit tree sp.	ùghùnì	to pester, disturb
tàré	to braid, plait, weave		

Zul	English	Zul	English
ùghùrè	porcupine	zápè	rope
ùghwíná	tree sp.	zàsí	locust
ùhúdùrù	olive pigeon	zàtí	leave him!
wárè	festival	zàʔári	linsang
wátlànè	rainy season	zénɡlè	fruit bat
wédàrwè	quail	zhánɡèrtà	heron
wí ùtùdli	fever	zhèní	to deceive
wì, wúri	they	zhérè	slave
wòbèlɡám'í	tree sp.	zhíkì	knoll
wòlí	leaf	zhímáli	swollen limb
wólwòli	snake sp., green	zhímbà	toad
wómldli	arm	zhímbàrè	worm
wónzi	puff-adder	zhíndi	animal sp.
wòóni	who?	zhíndú	lemon
wóti	intestine	zhìngé	to swallow
wòtlí	to chop	zhipti	vulture
wùbàrí	bark	zhizhán	drum, small, hourglass
wúkì	cow-itch	zhìzhí kìnì	forest
wùl	to say	zhùtí	imbalance
wùlí	plant sp.	zìlí	red
wùpsé	four	zì má	tree sp.
wúri	to buy	zìngèsì	star
wúrikà	to sell	zìngèzómè	snake sp.
wúrpi	money	zómè	hare
wùtér'í	to fry	zùlúmbìrì	fruit sp.
wùzúpsè	eight	zùpí	to cover
yáàkà	to break in pieces	zùrùmbàránì	kidney
yàdlàri	grass sp.		
yáli	left		
yámì	God, sky		
yámí	far		
yámmà	west		
yár àmè	forearm		
yár àsèmè	calf of leg		
yár bàdlè bòmì	bird sp.		
yàrà	he is around		
yàrè	neck, voice		
yàri	to be wet		
yàri	to speak		
yàti	pounded, uncooked grain		
yátl bà dè bòmì	sparrow		
yátlì	bird, generic		
yáwtè	bird sp.		
yèmí	to collect		
yérè	dog		
yóbitàtè	pygmy mouse		
yóòni	keep quiet!		
yòryór wòti	intestine, small		
zámí	to find, get, obtain		
zànɡúnù	hundred		

  

English-Zul wordlist			
English			Zul
abdomen			gèsmór
Abyssinian	ground		hírì
hornbill			
acacia sp.			gólìmè
Achilles heel			bàr tlàrtí
adjoining wall			páy
African grey hornbill			góshù
agama lizard			légàndì
algae			lárè
all			kúp
<i>Aloe vera</i>			kàkáyɲ
animal sp.			dènzí
animal sp.			zàʔári
animal sp.			zhíndi
ankle bone			gér tàkwálà
answer			bá bishàrèmi
antelope sp.			gò
anthill			rámì

English	Zul	English	Zul
anus	shùgàsé	both	mómè
arm	wómdli	boy	ńámóòni
armpit	ì má	breast	ńíni
armpit hair	tá ì má	bronze-nape pigeon	kúbùr bìgàwà
arrow	pùsé	brother	èrèm móni
ashes	mbùdèrè	brothers	fiári
axe	ndá lí	buffalo	kùmé
awl ?	gù?é	burn	kèrí
baboon	ghómí	bury	kàtí
baby	lèrín yá	bush	lèpé
back of body	ká rí	bush duiker	ńám zhèrè
back of head	lúkù	bushbuck	gò
back of knee	gès ñgár ñgòshì	bush-cat	lón lèpé
Bambara groundnut	ítlà	buttock	gèsé
bamboo palm	mùkú	buttock	shímtá gèsé
baobab	bèlámé	calabash food dipper	péètè
bark	wùbá rí	calabash	gá lí
basket	shá rí	calf of leg	yár à sè mè
beard	tá bì	camel	ràkùmí
beating	bòt à né	canary	kà nà rí
bed	dá ndì	cane rat	ńí bà
beer	dù?è	canoe	kù ñgèlínjì kàt màlè
beer-pot, small	mé	carcase	màshí
before	kàkà nì	cashew	kàshú
beginning of rainy season	lùr pí	cassava	màmkínì
between	dlómì	cat	lónè
big	nà rí	chameleon	ká dākù
bird sp.	bwátlè	charcoal	gàzè
bird sp.	gèdàrgédà r	cheapness	lè ñgát
bird sp.	kér ishè	cheek	gèskè mè
bird sp.	kúkùlù	chest	ñgèthé
bird sp.	mbùlésì	chest hair	tá ñgèthé
bird sp.	tùváj	chili pepper	bàrkùnù
bird sp.	yár bàdlè bòmì	chin	gèskèbá
bird sp.	yáwtè	cloud	dùn yá mì
bird sp., small	sùdá	cobra	kóngè
bird sp., small	sùnsítì	cock	túθì, túθkòrì
bird, generic	yátlì	cocoyam	bómbò
bitterness	dā sì	coldness	ìdà?ì
black	dúj	congested	tlà?ì
black kite	kàlò	constipation	ñètí
black plum	já bùrè	cooking pot	tád shì mì
blacksmith	màndá sè gèlà	correct	dlát
blacksmithing	dè sì gálà	cough	ìdlèrè
blackthorn	dùn írè	counting	dlì mì
blindman	tá bì	cow	tlà
blood	bàrání	cow-itch	wúkì
bone	gùlé	cowpeas	bá lí
boring	mbyé?ì	crocodile	gèbdí
		crow	ghàrátì

English	Zul	English	Zul
crowded	tlàʔi	fatness	bàstòní
crowned hornbill	cénkùlè	festival	wàré
cuckoo	kúkùlù	fever	wí ùtùdli
custard apple	mbwàʔè	fifty	háwyè ròp nà kùtl
darkness	dàmóní	fig tree sp.	dlóngàri
daughter	námètli	fig tree sp.	fùldiyátli
death	màshíní	fig tree sp.	túrùmè
deceit	sètènè	fighting	dlàntènè
dew	shishíré	fig-tree sp.	dò'ómì
dirt	dòtí	finger-millet	dánzi
dog	yéré	fingernail	mbíʔi
donkey	bàr kàmé	fish, generic	kósè
door	bèdlábèni	five	nántàm
dove, generic	kúbúri	flour	dǎbti
dove sp.	ghúdùrù	fly (insect)	dùkú
dove sp.	kùbúr zhéré	food	fiṅgáli
dove sp.	kùbúru bigàwà	foot	kàr ásèmi
dream	tlónè	forearm	yár àmè
dress, cloth	lùlùri	forehead	gòshí
drongo	cémbèri	forest	zhìzhíkìni
drum, small, hourglass	zhìzhàṅ	forty	háwyè ròp
drumming	bé gāṅgāṅ	four	wùpsé
dry season	gisí	francolin	tùkóri
duck	àgwàgwá	Friday	kácínà
duiker	kítè	friend	bèrún
duiker	námí	frog sp.	bútákèli
dust	kúshkà	frog sp.	lábga
ear	kàmé	frog sp.	mbítí
east	gábès	frog sp.	kándèrkùmì
ebony	jèlí	fruit sp.	jenè
egg	mbùrtlé	fruit sp.	zùlumbìri
eight	wùzùpsè	fruit tree sp.	ishmímírì
eighteen	kùtl cét wùzùpsè	fruit tree sp.	tàpótà
eighty	háwyè úfè	fruit-bat	cíncin
elbow	gès ṅgòdlàr	fruit bat	zèṅglè
elephant	láyè	gall-bladder	dǎlbásí
eleven	kùtl cét nèm	garden egg	kítì
Euphorbia sp.	gùgúʔi	gazelle	námzhèrè
evening	bìsítì	gecko	ndòmítli
excrement	ishé	genet	tíli
eye	gère	giant rat	gòmbílì
eyebrow	gàm gère	girl	námètli
eyelid	tá gère	goat	mári
faeces	ishé	goat house	bì mári
falling	ndétànè	God	yámì
fan palm	tlùkà	good	nàmbùnì
far	yámì	granary roof	jìr òndì
farm	kènè	granary, external	òndì
father	báásè	granary, small	ndámè
father	bùbá	grass sp.	fèránì



English	Zul	English	Zul
grass sp.	licá	hundred	zàngúnù, hàwyè nán tàm
grass sp.	yàdlári	hunting	kòpìlipè
grass, generic	jìrí	hyena	mámálè
greed	lámì	I, me	àmí (Imperfective), à (Perfective), àà (Future)
green	màlwólí	imbalance	zhùtí
green fruit-pigeon	bwátlè	inner ear	shù kàmé
grindstone	ghùní	inner nose, nostril	shù ícínè
ground squirrel	ndèkázhi	inner stomach	gíp tùʔè
ground	àtlí	inside	gípì
groundnut	gùjá	inside	sùká
gruel	shámbrì	intestine	wóti
guava	gwébà	intestine, small	yòryór wòti
guinea-corn	ò	iron gong	kèŋkèŋ
guinea-corn, wild	òtlá	iron	gàlá
guinea-fowl	dlèmóní	jackal	shàpálè
gum in mouth	nínè	jumblebeads	ndiyá
guest	méndiki	keep quiet!	yòòni
hair	tàʔi	kidney	zùrumbèrání
hair on head	tágàmi	king, chief	gùé
hammerkop	kórmálè	knee	gàn ghúrúmi
hand	ámè	knife	sóbàri
hardness	làtí	knoll	zhíkì
hare	zómè	lake	bàr bùlé'í
harmattan	hùntúrù	language	bí
harvesting period	tlòmbàri	large bush rat	liámè
hawk	kèŋ	lark	sùdá
he is around	yàrà	last year	ghwà
he is	tínì	leaf	wólí
he, she, it	tè, tì	leave him!	zàtí
head	gámí	left	yáli
heart	m̀bátli	lemon	zhìndú
hearth	báyùrù	leopard	ìrimì
heaviness	gìb̀b̀ri	lie	lárè
hedgheg	tácùm bàʔè	life	m̀bátli
he-goat	bágùnzhi	light	círtèni
hen	kóri	lightning	cí bà kì yámi
here	dè	linsang	zàʔári
heron	lítè	lion	m̀bòri
heron	zhán̄gàrtà	lip, lower	kúrbì ká gèθi
hippo	dènzì gì málè	lip, upper	kúrbì kè gámì
his own	gwàsí	liver	m̀bátli
hoe	tèmpá	load	gòs gámí
hole	shù	locust tree	m̀átlámì
honey	dòòmí	locust	zàsí
horn	nò	long	tlàrí
horse	p̀r̀sí	louse	tàkòrkòtò
house	bòmí	lower abdomen	g̀èkètári
how many?	m̀ènè		
how?	ìmnú		
how	ráu		

English	Zul	English	Zul
lungs	hùhú	on top	dèn gámì
mahogany	kí rùngà, rùngá	one	nóm
maize	òkúdù	opened	mùáj
man	mónì	ostrich	jìmín'á
manure	ghóp	others	jèní
many	nàwàmtí	our own	gwàgàmí
market	bàr pètè	outside	kàrí
mat	gùmbá	owl	híhì
meat	tlù	own	gwa + pronoun
message	kàrí	palm	gíp àmè
middle	dlómi	pancreas	sépa
millet, gero	kár bàrì	parlour	dlàbàní
millet, maiwa	kár gàrè	parrot sp.	rémì
milk	ńíntà	patas monkey	bàrí
mist, fog	bòndí	pawpaw	kábútl
Monday	litèní	penis	léli
money	wúrpi	person	m̀b̀òr̀m̀è
monitor lizard	d̀àk̀òr̀ì	pestle	d̀èʔé
monitor lizard	cáj	pie crow	hàráti
moon	kyàrè	pigeon	tátàbàrà
morning	cígàni	place	lási
mosquito	ghùrénì	plant sp.	tàrzhili
mother	nóná	plant sp.	wùlí
mountain	tlàndórè	playground	d̀èb̀òr̀ì
mouth	bí	porcupine	ùghùrè
mud	tábó	porridge	shímì
my own	gwáj	porridge stick	shírì
namaqua dove	kúbúr zhèrè	pot	táti
name	sújè	pot, big	rání
native doctor	mánshìni	pot, large	dùlá
navel	cètèrí	pounded, uncooked	yáti
near	kósàk	grain	
neck	yàrè	pride	tlórà
neem tree	ním	puff-adder	wónzi
new	péli	pumpkin	bòrí
night	gásì	pygmy mouse	yóbitàtè
nine	ghwánèm	python	bàr ici'è
nineteen	kútl cét hwá nèm	quail	wédàrwè
ninety	háwyè úfè nà kùtl	quiver	kùtèrí
north	árèwà	rain	ghónè
nose	iciné	rainy season	wátlènè
nose hair	tá icinè	ram	bágàlà
not	dàʔá	raptor	káj
oil	míírì	rat	kútlùmè
okra	m̀b̀úrt̀l̀ì	red	zilí
old	gùsì	red-flanked duiker	kítè
old man	kòr̀ò̀è m̀ò̀ǹì	remnant	námì
old woman	kòr̀ò̀è m̀á̀t̀l̀ì	ribs	gùl ñgétlè
olive pigeon	ùhúdùrù	rice	shèngápà
on	dèn	right	shímli

English	Zul	English	Zul
river	ùlè`ì	sole	gíp àsòmè
rizga, Sudan potato	ghùlí	son	ńámóòni
road	gùn tèpè	soot	gègárí
roan antelope	bàrnámí	soup stirrer	búrúgàli
rock hyrax	bùwàrè	soup	òró
room	kùshí	soup-pot	léèti
rope	zápè	soup-pot, three-legged	ńjá? àsni
saliva	mò?ómi	sourness	màtí
salt	máthè	south	kúdù
sand	síngèsì	sparrow	yátl bə dè bòmì
Saturday	àsábàr	spear	gèshé
scorpion	índrì	speargrass	kánsì
seed	bàdèré	spider	kàlájkalàj
Senegal coucal	rágón mázá	standard-wing nightjar	támàm
Senegal galago	bágùbi	star	zínghèsi
Senegal parrot	réémi	sternum	gàl mwín zhè?è
sesame	írà	stick to support	dlinshímí
seven	ńéndi	cooking pot	
seventy	háwyè miákèn nà	stinginess	sári
	kùtl	stomach	bàr kùshé
shadow	gòsí	stomach	tú?è
shame	shámè	stomach, upper	kùsh bi?íli
shea tree	ngòlí	stone	tátè
sheep	támé	store room	bi ñkàri
shelf	dàrà`é	stork	lítè
shell	kwátlè	storm	hàradù
shin	dàlá	strength	ndértini
short	ndúcikári	sugar-cane	dlerkàmi
shoulder	bibi àlá	sun	pèté
sickle	lòjí	Sunday	làhàbi
sickness	cídlì	swallow-wort	bàhúm
silk-cotton tree	kúngù	sweat	bàngàní
sister	èrè mátli	sweet potato	kúdukù
six	mùká	sweetness	ńjèti
sixty	háwyè miákèn	swift, swallow	m̀b̀èl̀èsi
sky	yámi	swollen limb	zhimáli
slave	zhèrè	sword	ádà
slim, lean	ròní	tail	kíí
small bird sp.	jèwéwè	tamarind	éshè
small bird sp.	kér ishè	tantalus monkey	gàrè
small bird sp.	sùnsítì	temper	ghwàtára
small bird sp.	tàmáshtàmèsh-	ten	kùtl
small stool	kòblán	termite	dùngá
small	hèlí	termite	ràmi
smoke	kúnù	termite mound	ràmi
snake sp.	kútènù?	that	m̀èntá
snake sp.	zínghèzómè	thatched roof	jìrbébinè
snake sp., green	wólwòli	thatching needle	ca`ì
snake, general	ící?è	theft	dóntì
soapberry tree	ìdrì	theirs	gwàziní

English	Zul	English	Zul
then	kàán	to cook	tùrí
there	bàrtá	to count	dlimí
they are	wí nì	to cover	ghùmí
they	wì, wúrí	to cover	zùpí
thick	ngèní	to cry	kùlú
thief	mùrè	to cut	tlòyí
thigh	mísì	to dance	dlàrè
thin	lángèmlángàm	to deceive	zhèní
thing	bàrí	to die	mèshì
thirst	gùzúm malé	to dig	bòrí
thirteen	kútl cét myá kèn	to divide	tàtlí
thirty	háwyé nèm nà kùtl	to do	pí
this	mànkéni	to dress	lè?ítùtùl
thorn	írè	to drink	tlà, tlè
three	miákàn	to drive away	kár, kàrí
throat	gòlàn yàré	to dry up	kòóní
Thursday	Bò`i tátí	to eat	cí
till tomorrow	ségàli	to enjoy	tàmí
time	lókòci	to enter	tétingípì
tiredness	bànyitànè	to exit, go out	díli
to	róp	to fall	ndá
to accompany	látèntàfè	to fetch	ngé
to admire	kòní	to fill	lá?i
to arrange	shiriyé	to find	zámí
to ask	támbe	to finish	pà?í
to be dawn	tlò	to fit	múrdè
to be vain	tlárti	to fix	bá`i
to be wet	yári	to fold	kùcímì
to begin	là?igàsi	to follow	kòpì
to bite	ngàsi	to forget	mèsíní
to blow	hòrí	to fry	wùtár`í
to boil	hùlí	to gather together	dòmí
to braid	tàré	to get	zámí
to break	ng`òtí	to give	bì
to break (day)	tlò	to give birth	gàrí
to break in pieces	jà?í	to go	rí
to break in pieces	yáàkà	to go away, travel	ndèrà
to break, snap	cèní	to hear	kùmí
to bring	díri	to help	nè àbrà
to build	tù?é	to hide	ghùndírí
to buy	wúrí	to hit	bé
to call	látènbì	to hoe	kòrí
to carve	tlàrí	to hold	nèmí
to chew	dàlé	to increase	m̀b̀lì
to chop	wòtlí	to kick	m̀bíyàtì
to climb	tó	to kill	rí?è
to close	lè	to laugh	gyàtlí
to collect	yèmí	to learn	kùlcí
to come	díri	to lie down	m̀r̀ràtli
to compress	tlátànè	to look	shínì

English	Zul	English	Zul
to mix with feet	dèsí	to tear	tlàtí
to mix, dilute	ghùrí	to think	dámtànè
to moisten	gìʔí	to think	ndásèlè
to obtain	zámí	to thunder	bé gám kì yámi
to open	búli	to tie	bàlí
to pay	bátli	to touch	tàbé
to pester, disturb	ùghùni	to undress	tùθítùtùl
to pick	dāmí	to untie	pètlí
to pierce	tùlí	to wait for	búti
to pinch	rìngé	to walk	m̀bápi
to plait	tàré	to wash	hòʔí
to plant	ngáàni	to weave	tàré
to play	céètè	to wilt	hámtèni
to pluck	kòtlí	toad	zhimbà
to pluck	cèti	today	sèkóni
to pound	dèsí	tomorrow	gèni
to pour	dùrè	tooth	shínè
to pull	dàlí	tortoise	kúrbì
to push	tùrékà	town	bèni
to put	lá	tree, generic	kini
to put	né	tree sp.	tùmcíri
to put down	né àtli	tree sp.	báshè
to put in mouth	lábì	tree sp.	bùbúli
to rear an animal	lè	tree sp.	búrzingini
to refuse	ngé	tree sp.	bùtùm búri
to remember	dámì	tree sp.	cèpé
to rest	shúkù	tree sp.	cicípí
to return	pàlí, páltùnè	tree sp.	dàlbájià
to ripen	nnòyí	tree sp.	dàngàri
to roast	bò'í	tree sp.	gə̀báɲ
to rub	bə̀rké	tree sp.	gə̀bzínè
to run	kə̀tərə	tree sp.	gə̀ngə̀lí
to say	wùl	tree sp.	gə̀ʔè
to see	shíni	tree sp.	ghòl wólí
to seize	nəmí	tree sp.	hútè
to sell	wúrikà	tree sp.	ilémí
to sew	dlimí	tree sp.	imbrí
to shoot	bə̀tlí	tree sp.	jilá
to show	gòdé	tree sp.	kèrə̀ngéshi
to sit	dəmí	tree sp.	làdbəri
to smash	ɲàʔí	tree sp.	làmbəri
to speak	yári	tree sp.	lára
to spoil	li	tree sp.	líbi
to squeeze	màθé	tree sp.	ndə̀pki
to stand up	tlámi	tree sp.	ndiyá hiyári
to support	kə̀ʔí	tree sp.	ngóre
to surpass	màní	tree sp.	ɲjàwí
to swallow	zhìngé	tree sp.	ɲjìbi
to sweep	sàrí	tree sp.	páθgami
to taste	lèʔiləkà	tree sp.	pómè

English	Zul	English	Zul
tree sp.	súmè	woman's cloth	tùtùlgùsè
tree sp.	tlárùmpè	wood	ṅáshì
tree sp.	tlárkàmì	woodpecker	kókinì
tree sp.	túzgà	worm	zhímbàrè
tree sp.	ùghwíná	yam	mámè
tree sp.	wòbèlgám'í	yawning	hámè
tree sp.	zímá	year	shétùhónè
tree squirrel	káráwkáráw	yellow	métlámì
truth	hóbì	yesterday	ghùrí
tuber sp., wild	m̀b̀urtl?ínì	yonder, over there	rákà
Tuesday	kòmpó	you pl.	kàn
turkey	tòlótòlò	you sg.	kè [past], kì [future]
twelve	kútl cét ròp	zana mat	dèrzi
twenty	háwyè nèm		
twenty-four	háwyè nèm nà ùfè		
twenty-one	háwyè nèm nà nèm		
under	gèsí		
upper grindstone	ḍámàné		
urine	bási		
vagina	sè		
viper	kàrèndí		
voice	yárè		
vulture	zhíptì		
walking stick	dlò		
wall-hanger	jìngéli		
war	dlè		
warthog	dènzí		
water	málè		
water-pot, large	tád gùtù málè		
water-pot, small	tád málè		
water-snake sp.	ràndà málè		
water-snake sp.	ghwàngár		
we	mè, mì		
weaver bird	tázhikà		
Wednesday	lúbgè		
west	yámmà		
when?	gìgási		
where?	àkòní		
white	ghóli		
whiteness	ngèléyn		
whitethorn	gègálè		
who?	wòóní		
wife	nágèrè		
wild animal	bàr kó jíp lèpè		
wild yam sp.	gùrkí		
wild yam sp.	shíkà		
wind	itári		
wing	bibákó		
with him	nàntí		
woman	métli		