

# **Dogul Dom, a language of the Dogon group**

## **in Northern Mali and its affinities**

**[DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT -NOT FOR CITATION WITHOUT REFERENCE TO  
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## TABLES

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## 1. Introduction

This is a short wordlist of the Dogul Dom language, part of the Dogon group, spoken in northern Mali. The wordlist was collected from a group of villagers in Bangel Tupe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2005. I would like to thank them for their patience.

The wordlist was collected as a ‘one-shot’ exercise and the transcription must therefore be regarded as preliminary. This analysis was prepared by Roger Blench, who added the comparative observations<sup>1</sup>. This document is being circulated to scholars for comment.

## 2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

### 2.1 Nomenclature

The elders at Bangel Tupe gave the name of the language as Dogul Dom.

### 2.2 Location and settlements

The other Dogul villages given were;

Dongosori, Kangyalam, Irigili, Dyamongolo [the Dogul ward is Tuguru], Madina, Duro, Pelemi, Somoli, Ken Taba Sigang, Ken Taba Dana, Kòmòni Sigang, Kòmòni Dana, Mènèmènè, Bengeli, Bòrò, Binu, Girikòmbò

### 2.3 Language status

The Dogul Dom language is presently being transmitted to the children. The second language of Dogul Dom speakers is Fulfulde, the dominant language in the zone. There is a limited amount of French spoken, usually by migrant workers or students. Hochstetler et al. (2004) give the population from the 1987 census as 12,200.

### 2.4 Dogul Dom culture and history

### 2.5 The classification of Dogul Dom

Calame-Griaule (1956:67) says;

Dogul dom

*Il est parlé par 3.000 personnes environ; son aire comprend quelques villages des cantons de Kambari-Bandiagara, Oussabari-Ouroli et Saré, ainsi que le canton de Nandoli en entier.*

## 3. Phonology

The phonology of Dogul Dom is based on rapid observations and should therefore be regarded as tentative at this stage.

### 3.1 Vowels

Dogul Dom probably has seven phonemic vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
<b>Close</b>	i		u
<b>Close-Mid</b>	e		o
<b>Open-Mid</b>	ɛ		ɔ
<b>Open</b>		a	

Dogul Dom permits all vowels to be long or short and all short vowels can be nasalised. Examples of nasalised long vowels are not so far recorded, but certainly exist in other Dogon lects.

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<sup>1</sup> The authors are grateful to Eric Huysecom and the Swiss Ethno-archaeological project for providing funding for this survey.

### 3.2 Consonants

Dogul Dom consonants are as follows:

	<b>Bilabial</b>	<b>Alveolar</b>	<b>Alveopalatal</b>	<b>Palatal</b>	<b>Velar</b>	<b>Labial-velar</b>	<b>Glottal</b>
Plosive	p b	t d		[j]	k g		
Nasal	m	n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill		r					
Fricative		s z	[ʃ] [ʒ]				h
Approximant				y		w	
Lateral Approximant		l					

There appears to be certain amount of allophonic or free variation between voiced and voiceless alveolars and velars especially in medials. Thus a single elicitation session two speakers may produce the same word with k/g/, t/d. The same is true of the palatal forms of alveolar fricatives; these seem to be in free variation with non-palatal forms. [ʃ] and [ʒ] are may not be distinct phonemes and /s/ and /ʃ/ can be produced in parallel especially in initial position, perhaps reflecting perceptions of sentence context. However, in some words, /ʃ/ can be strongly palatalised, possibly a remnant of a lost syllable.

### 3.3 Tones

Dogul Dom has two tones, High and Low.

## 4. Morphology

### 4.1 Nouns

Plurals of nouns in Dogul Dom are typically formed by the suffix –. Thus;

<b>Gloss</b>	<b>sg.</b>	<b>pl.</b>
<hr/>		

## 5. Dogul Dom wordlist

The wordlist was elicited via French and Fulfulde. This is not entirely satisfactory as pervasive multi-lingualism among the Dogon means that speakers could well be influenced by the phonology or lexis of the second language. The most likely uncertainties in transcription are vowel length, nasalisation versus syllable-final nasals and the distinction between /e/ and /ɛ/ and /o/ and /ɔ/.

Very incomplete!

English	French	Dogul Dom
tree	arbre	
leaf	feuille	
root	racine	
branch	branche	
bark	écorce	
thorn	épine	
fruit	fruit	
grass	herbe	
mushroom	champignon	
seed/stone/pip	semence/graine	
charcoal	charbon	
dust	poussière	
ashes	cendres	
rubbish heap	tas des ordures	
mud	boue	
clay	argile	
dew	rosée	
stone	Pierre	
pebble	cailloux	
sand	sable	sonɔ
smoke	fumée	
fire	feu	
water	eau	inyə
rain	pluie	
cloud	nuage	
lightning	éclair	
rainy season	saison des pluies	
dry season	saison sèche	
year	année	
today	aujourd'hui	
yesterday	hier	
tomorrow	demain	
morning	matin	
evening	soir	
day	jour	
night	nuit	
moon	lune	
sun	soleil	
star	étoile	
wind	vent	
sky	ciel	
god	dieu	amba
world	monde	
ground	sol	
river	fleuve	dibo
stream	rivière	gunu

pond, lake	étang	
forest	forêt	
hill	colline	
bush	brousse	
field	champ	
market	marché	ɛba
house	maison	mbuŋ
room	chambre	
wall	mur	kɛnu
roof	toit	
ceiling	plafond	
granary	grenier	gwa
well	puits	tɛnɛ
road	route	ɔsugu
path	sentier	
village	village	pɔrɔ
riverbank	bord du fleuve	
place	place	
human being	personne	nuɔ pl. nùwé
man	homme	ana
woman	femme	yaa
child	enfant	ɛgu
husband	mari	
wife	épouse	
co-wife	co-épouse	
father	père	
mother	mère	
father's brother	frère du père	
father's sister	soeur du père	
mother's brother	frère de la mère	
mother's sister	soeur de la mère	
brother	frère	
sister	soeur	
son	fil	
daughter	fille	
old man	vieil homme	
old woman	vieille femme	
friend	ami	mbwɔmɔ
guest	hôte	
chief	chef	dorobaya
hunter	chasseur	dane
weaver	tisserand	
thief	voleur	gunyɔgunyi
doctor	guérisseur	ɔŋɔɔɔɔɔ
witch	sorcière	
corpse	cadavre	
blacksmith	forgeron	ir
potter	potier	
slave	esclave	gunɔ
twin	jumeau	
prophesy		
shame		
fear/fright		
bravery/courage		
laughter		
wisdom		

guilt		
anger		
race/running		
sleep	sommeil	
circumcision	circoncision	
death	mort	
name	nom	inuunŋ
grave	tombe	
song		
proverb		
story		
word		
lie		
news		
hunger	faim	
horn	corne	kelo
tail	queue	dulo
egg	œuf	polo
wing	aile	
nest	nid d'oiseau	
feather	plume	
gum/glue	colle	
anthill	fourmilière	
hole, pit	trou	enu
hole in tree	trou dans arbre	
poison	poison	
load	fardeau, charge	
firewood	bois de feu	
stick	bâton	
work	travail	wal
war	guerre	jalgu
fighting	combat	
medicine	médicament	
divination	divination	
money	argent	keele
shadow	ombre	
thing	chose	
land/country	pays	
sickness/disease	maladie	
smallpox	variole	
diarrhoea	diarrhée	
eczema	eczème	
goitre	goitre	
fever	fièvre	
boil	furoncle	
sore/wound	plaie	
scar	cicatrice	
skull	crâne	
brain	cervelle	
head	tête	kigu
eye	oeil	giregu <i>pl.</i> giro
face	visage	
cheek	joue	inu
forehead	front	kimu
nose	nez	kingyo
ear	oreille	sununu

mouth	bouche	kənu
lip	lèvre	kənu sigan
tooth	dent	inu
tongue	langue	nənda
throat	gorge	gəlɔnju
neck	cou	mɔɔgu
jaw	mâchoire	
chin	menton	ɔsɔ
shoulder	épaule	pərpərə
armpit	aisselle	karkara
fist	poing	
arm	bras	numɔ
hand	main	lumɔ
elbow	coude	
finger	doigt	
leg	jambe	naagu
foot	pied	naataga
heel	talon	
thigh	cuisse	paga
knee	genou	kuunjum
nail	ongle	kɔbuluŋ
breast (female)	sein	iŋgyu
stomach	ventre	
navel	nombriil	bɔŋgɔ
back	dos	ndɔŋ
buttocks	fesses	dumu kabu
penis	pénis	
vagina	vagin	
clitoris	clitoris	
skin	peau	gusuku
bone	os	kinɛŋ
rib	côte	
vein	veine	
blood	sang	gyɛŋgɛnɛ
breath	souffle	
tear	larme	
saliva	salive	
bone marrow	moelle	
sweat	sueur	
urine	urine	
faeces	merde	
hair	cheveux	kiŋgile
beard	barbe	bɛ check!
liver	foie	
heart	coeur	
intestines	intestins	
lung	poumon	
body	corps	gwɔsuku
meat	viande	
animal	animal	ogunuŋ nama
camel	chameau	
cow	vache	naagu pl. naakubɔ
bull	taureau	naag ana
goat	chèvre	ina
he-goat	bouc	
sheep	mouton	pɛsɛgu

ram	bélier	
pig	cochon	
horse	cheval	som
mare	jument	
donkey	âne	dulu
dog	chien	ɲgwɔŋ
cat	chat	gaan
elephant	éléphant	gwuunɔ
buffalo	buffle	ugunu naag
lion	lion	yára
leopard	léopard/panthère	tara sɔgɔla
hyena	hyène	tawa
civet		
genet		
jackal	chacal	
fox	renard	
wart-hog	phacochère	
antelope I	antilope	
antelope II	antilope	
antelope III	antilope	
antelope IV	antilope	
porcupine	porc-épic	
vervet monkey	singe	
patas monkey	singe rouge	
baboon	babouin	
squirrel	écureuil	
hedgehog	hérisson	
hare	lièvre	
bush rat	rat de brousse	
mouse	souris	
cane-rat	rat palmiste	
house-bat	chauve-souris	
fruit-bat	roussette	
crocodile	crocodile	
chameleon	caméléon	
agama lizard	lézard âgama	
gecko		
monitor lizard	iguane	
toad	crapaud	
frog	grenouille	
tortoise	tortue	
snake	serpent	nɛmɛ sigə
cobra	cobre	
python	python	
crab	crabe	
fish	poisson	
bird	oiseau	negegu
chicken	poule	ɔlɔ
cock	coq	
duck	canard	
pigeon	pigeon	
guinea-fowl	pintade	aguma
vulture	vautour	
cattle-egret		
hawk	épervier	
owl	hibou	

bush-fowl	perdrix	
swallow	hirondelle	
pied crow	corbeau	
scorpion	scorpion	
butterfly	papillon	
dragonfly	libellule	
mosquito	moustique	
house-spider	araignée de la maison	
spider	araignée	
mason-wasp		
bee	abeille	
housefly	mouche	
louse	pou	
cockroach	cafard	
termite	termite/fourmi blanche	
flying ant	fourmi volante	
grasshopper	sauterelle	
mantis		
firefly		
worm	ver de terre	
oil	huile	
fat	graisse	
salt	sel	
soup/sauce	bouillon	
food	nourriture	
beer	bière	
peelings	épluchements	
handle	manche d'outil	
sickle	faucille	
harvesting knife	couteau de moisson	beegu
cutlass		
iron	fer	inaŋ
axe	hache	sɛɛŋgu
adze		
hoe I	houe I	damaŋ
hoe II	houe II	
knife	couteau	
anvil	enclume	
hammer	marteau	
pincers	pinces	
awl	alène	
chisel	burin	
tweezers		
bellows		
cooling bowl	bol d'eau	
broom		
bag	sac	
fireplace	foyer	
shoe	chaussure	
hat	chapeau	
clothing	vêtement	
necklace	collier	
mortar	mortier	kunuŋ
pestle	pilon	kuneegu
pot	pot	dɔŋɔn
pot I	canari I	

pot II	canari II	
head-pad		
basket	panier	
winnowing tray		
mat	natte	
needle	aiguille	
spear	lance	wàrá
bow	arc	taanj
arrow	flèche	taanj egu
quiver	carquois	
rope	corde	siinu
stool	tabouret	
door	porte	dolo
door-frame	seuil	
bed	lit	
fence	clôture	
ladder	échelle	
canoe	pirogue	
paddle	pagaie	
bee-hive	ruche	
	Instruments de musique	
drum I	tambour	ganjan
drum II	tambour	gɔbumbu
drum III	tambour	
kora/luth	kora	
flute		
whistle	sifflet	
rattle	hochet	
transverse horn	corne	tululu
iron bell	clochette de fer	sangine
iron slit bell	clochette de fer à fente	
clarinet	clarinette	kɛninu
one	un	tɔomɔ
two	deux	neege
three	trois	taandu
four	quatre	keeso
five	cinq	nnɔ
six	six	kule
seven	sept	sooy
eight	huit	seele
nine	neuf	tuwɔ
ten	dix	pɛɛl
eleven	onze	
twelve	douze	
twenty	vingt	peneege
twenty-one	vingt et un	
thirty	trente	peerandu
forty	quarante	dɛɛ
fifty	cinquante	pɛn nɔ
sixty	soixante	pɛn kule
seventy	soixante-dix	pɛn sooy
eighty	quatre-vingt	siŋ
ninety	quatre-vingt-dix	siŋ yɔ pɛl
one hundred	cent	siŋ yɔ peneege

white	blanc
black	noir
red	rouge
green	vert
heavy	lourd
light	léger
large	grand
small	petit
many	beaucoup/nombreux
few	peu
all	tout
thick	épais
thin	mince
wide	large
narrow	étroit
hard	dur
soft	doux/tendre
sweet	doux/sucré
bitter	amer
sour	aigre
deep	profond
shallow	peu profond
long	long
short	court
good	bon
bad	mauvais
dirty	sale
fat	gros
thin	maigre
near	proche/près
far	loin/lointain
beautiful	beau
ugly	laid
hot	chaud
cold	froid
strong	fort
weak	faible
ripe	mûr
unripe	cru/vert
empty	vide

<b>Verbs</b>	<b>Verbes</b>
accompany	accompagner
add to	ajouter
agree	être d'accord
allow	permettre
announce	annoncer
answer	répondre
applause	applaudir
apply (ointment)	oindre/huiler
arrive	arriver
ask for	demander
be bent	être courbé
be born	naître
be quiet	se taire
beat	battre

begin	commencer
bend/bow	incliner/courber
bite	mordre
blow (mouth)	souffler (la bouche)
blow (wind)	souffler (vent) I
blow (wind)	souffler (vent) II
boil	bouillir
borrow	emprunter
braid	tresser
break	casser
breathe	respirer
bring	apporter
build	bâtir
burn	brûler
bury	enterrer
buy	acheter
call	appeler
care for	soigner
carry	porter
carry in arms	porter dans les bras
carry on back	porter sur le dos
carry on head	porter sur la tête
carry on shoulder	porter sur l'épaule
chew	mâcher
choose	choisir
chop down	abattre
chop/slice	trancher
close	fermer
comb	se peigner
come	venir
cook	cuisiner
count	compter
cover	couvrir
crawl	ramper
cross	traverser
cry out	crier
cut	couper
dance	danser
defecate	déféquer
desire	désirer
die	mourir
dig	creuser/labourer
divide	diviser
do	faire
draw water	puiser
dream	rêver
drink	boire
drive away	chasser/éloigner/repousser
drop	laisser tomber
dry up	sécher
eat	manger
enter	entrer
extinguish	éteindre
fall	tomber
fear	craindre
fill	remplir

find	trouver
finish	finir
fly (v.)	voler (oiseaux/avion)
fold	plier
follow	suivre
forbid	interdire
forge (metal)	forger
forget	oublier
gather	réunir
give	donner
give back	rendre
give birth	accoucher
go	aller
go down	descendre
go out	sortir
go up	monter
greet	saluer
grind	broyer
grow/increase	croître
hate	haïr
hear	entendre
help	aider
hide	cache
hit	frapper
increase	augmenter
insult	insulter
join	joindre
jump	sauter
kill	tuer
know	savoir
lack	manquer de
laugh	rire
learn	étudier/apprendre
leave	laisser
lend	prêter
lick	lécher
lie down	être étendu
lift	soulever
light	allumer
like/love	aimer
limp	boiter
listen	écouter
look	regarder
look for	chercher
lose	perdre
make a mistake	se tromper
marry	épouser
measure	mesurer
melt	fondre
milk	traire
mix	mélanger
moan	gémir
nurse	téter
open	ouvrir
pass	passer
pay	payer

peel	éplucher
perch	percher
pick up	ramasser
pierce	percer
plaster	crépir
play	jouer
pound	piler
pour	verser
pull	tirer
push	pousser
put	poser/placer
put away	remiser/ranger
put down	déposer
rain	pleuvoir
read	lire
receive/accept	recevoir/accepter
refuse	refuser
remember	se souvenir
repair	réparer
resemble	ressembler
rest	se reposer
return	retourner
ride	monter un animal
rinse	rincer
roast	rôtir
rub	frotter
run	courir
sacrifice	sacrifier
say	dire
scratch	gratter
see	voir
seize	saisir/tenir
sell	vendre
send	envoyer
sew	coudre
shake	secouer
sharpen	aiguiser
shave	se raser
shoot	tirer
show	montrer
sing	chanter
sit down	s'asseoir/être assis
sleep	dormir
smell	sentir
smoke (tobacco)	fumer (tabac)
sneeze	éternuer
snore	ronfler
soak	faire tremper
sow	semer
spit	cracher
stay	rester
steal	voler
stick onto	coller
sting	piquer
stroll	se promener
suck	sucer/téter

suffice	suffire
surpass	surpasser
swallow	avaler
sweep	balayer
swell	gonfler
swim	nager
take	prendre
take off	ôter
talk	discuter
taste	goûter
teach	enseigner
tear	déchirer
tear off	arracher
tell	raconter
tell a lie	mentir à
think	penser
threaten	menacer
throw	jeter
tie	nouer/attacher
touch	toucher, palper
tremble	trembler
try	essayer
turn over	se retourner
twist	tordre/tresser
undress	se déshabiller
unfold	déplier
untie	dénouer/détacher
urinate	uriner
vomit	vomir
wait	attendre
walk	marcher
want/need	vouloir/avoir besoin
wash self	se laver
wash s.t.	laver q.c.
weave	tisser
weed	sarcler/arracher les herbes
whisper	chuchoter
whistle	siffler
wipe (nose)	se moucher
wipe/dry (dish)	essuyer (vaisselle)
write	écrire
yawn	bâiller
<b>Q words</b>	
where	où
when	quand
how	comment
how many	combien
why	pourquoi
who	qui
what	quoi
here	ici
there	là
left	à gauche
right	à droite
north	nord
south	sud

east	est
west	ouest
I, me	je, moi
you	toi
he, she, it	lui, elle
we, us	nous
you	vous
they, them	ils

**Plants**

Aerial yam<sup>2</sup>  
 Taro (Old cocoyam)<sup>3</sup>  
 Cassava\*<sup>4</sup>  
 Sweet potato\*<sup>5</sup>  
 Wild yam I  
 Wild yam II  
 Sorghum<sup>6</sup>  
 Bulrush millet<sup>7</sup>  
 Fonio<sup>8</sup>  
 Maize\*<sup>9</sup>  
 Rice\*<sup>10</sup>  
 Cowpea<sup>11</sup>  
 Other beans III  
 Bambara groundnut<sup>12</sup>  
 Groundnut<sup>13</sup>  
 Tiger-nut<sup>14</sup>  
 Garden egg<sup>15</sup>  
 Okra<sup>16</sup>  
 Chili pepper<sup>17</sup>  
 Birdseye chili\*<sup>18</sup>  
 Onion (*Allium cepa*)  
 Garlic<sup>19</sup>  
 Tomato<sup>20</sup>  
 Melon (other)<sup>21</sup>  
 Edible squash<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)

<sup>3</sup> (*Colocasia esculenta*)

<sup>4</sup> (*Manihot esculenta*)

<sup>5</sup> (*Ipomoea batatas*)

<sup>6</sup> (*Sorghum bicolor*)

<sup>7</sup> (*Pennisetum* spp.)

<sup>8</sup> (*Digitaria exilis*)

<sup>9</sup> (*Zea mays*)

<sup>10</sup> (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)

<sup>11</sup> (*Vigna unguiculata*)

<sup>12</sup> (*Vigna subterranea*)

<sup>13</sup> (*Arachis hypogaea*)

<sup>14</sup> (*Cyperus esculentus*)

<sup>15</sup> (*Solanum melongena*)

<sup>16</sup> (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)

<sup>17</sup> (*Capsicum frutescens*)

<sup>18</sup> (*Capsicum annuum*)

<sup>19</sup> (*Allium sativum*)

<sup>20</sup> (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)

<sup>21</sup> (*Cucumis* spp)

Sorrel/roselle <sup>23</sup>	
Jews' mallow <sup>24</sup>	
Kenaf <sup>25</sup>	
Sesame seeds <sup>26</sup>	
Bitterleaf <sup>27</sup>	
Banana	
Bamboo	
Pawpaw* <sup>28</sup>	
Gourd (Generic)	kunɔ
Gourd-bottle <sup>29</sup>	
Gourd (spherical) <sup>30</sup>	
Other gourds	
Cotton	
Tobacco*	
Sugar-cane*	
Loofah <sup>31</sup> (H. <i>soso</i> )	
Cola	
Raphia palm <sup>32</sup>	
Fan-palm <sup>33</sup>	
Monkey-guava <sup>34</sup>	
Wild date-palm <sup>35</sup>	
Baobab <sup>36</sup>	ɔɔ
locust	
fan palm	
Silk-cotton tree <sup>37</sup>	
Shea tree <sup>38</sup>	munjugu
Shea-fruit	
Locust tree <sup>39</sup>	pɔɔɔɔ
Locust fruit	
Locust-bean cakes	
Tamarind <sup>40</sup>	
Sodom apple <sup>41</sup>	

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<sup>22</sup> (*Cucurbita pepo*)

<sup>23</sup> (H. *yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)

<sup>24</sup> (H. *lalo*) (*Corchorus olitorius*)

<sup>25</sup> (H. *rama*) (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)

<sup>26</sup> (H. *Riɗi*) (*Sesamum indicum*)

<sup>27</sup> *Vernonia amygdalina*

<sup>28</sup> (*Carica papaya*)

<sup>29</sup> (*Lagenaria siceraria*)

<sup>30</sup> (*Cucurbita maxima*)

<sup>31</sup> (*Luffa cylindrica*)

<sup>32</sup> (*Raphia* spp.)

<sup>33</sup> (*Borassus aethiopum*)

<sup>34</sup> (*Diospyros mespiliformis*)

<sup>35</sup> (*Phoenix reclinata*)

<sup>36</sup> (*Adansonia digitata*)

<sup>37</sup> (*Ceiba pentandra*)

<sup>38</sup> (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)

<sup>39</sup> (*Parkia biglobosa*)

<sup>40</sup> (*Tamarindus indica*)

<sup>41</sup> (*Calotropis procera* H. tumfafiya)