

Tebul Ure, a language of the Dogon group in Northern Mali and its affinities



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This printout: July 8, 2012

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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Tebul Ure language, part of the Dogon group, spoken in northern Mali. The wordlist was collected from a group of villagers in Uluban from the 28th of February to the 4th of March 2005. 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 observations¹. This document is being circulated to scholars for comment.

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

The Tebul Ure language is spoken by people who call themselves Tebul U. This appears to be the same language referred to in previous documents as Oru yille and Tew tegu (Calame-Griaule 1956:67). However, the settlement data is highly inaccurate so there are some uncertainties in identifying this population. The term ‘Oru Yille’, first used by (Calame-Griaule 1956:67) and subsequently repeated in the literature, is entirely erroneous. It appears to mean ‘two words’ in the Tebul Ure language, although no-one could explain how this error came about.

2.2 Location and settlements

Calame-Griaule (1956:67) says,

Ce dialecte (appelé tew tegu en dyamsay et bede so en Toro) est parlé dans les villages de Bamba-du-Haut (ceux de Bamba-du-Bas parlent le dyamsay bama tegu).

Hochstetler et al. (2004) say ‘Oru yille is spoken in three tiny villages of Bamba du Haut. In addition to the xenonyms mentioned in Calame-Griaule (1956), Yanda-dom speakers call it “Teb1.” They give the population from the 1987 census as 400. This seems surprisingly inaccurate; the Tebul U live in twenty villages plus the recently-founded Dasalam [=Dar es Salaam]. The villages are mostly in the hill areas above Bamba and are often no more than hamlets. There are probably 3-4000 speakers. Table 1 shows the villages recorded by the survey and the locations of three that are listed in the 1987 census. The villages are sub-classified as follows;

Table 1. Tebul U villages

Group	Wards	Pop. 1987	N	W
Tebul Tembe	endε gando			
	Zan Σεεε			
	Zan Dεηεε			
	Bende	129	14:41:30	3:06:15
	Mandε	110	14:41:25	3:06:25
	Bεdi			
	Tombogε	207	14:41:35	3:06:55
DaÄa	endεlgo			
	Pεdema			
	Toon			
	Kumbulu			
Bεje	Dul			
	Gyel			
	Na			
	Didim			
	Tabade			

¹ The author is grateful to Eric Huysecom and the Swiss Ethno-archaeological project for providing funding for this survey.

Table 1. Tebul U villages

Sããra	Sããra Diine Sããra Põndu Bamba Tende
Uluban	ɔnkanda Ulu kanda Seŋe DotaÄa Tabaŋɔ

2.3 Language status

The Tebul Ure language is presently being transmitted to the children. The second language of Tebul Ure speakers is Jamsay Tegu and many also know Yanda. Fulfulde, a dominant language in the zone, is not very well known and there is a limited amount of French spoken, usually by migrant workers or students. In addition to the spoken language, a sign language exists in Uluban and related hamlets, which is used to communicate with a small number of deaf individuals. Almost all the inhabitants seem to have some fluency in this sign language and videos were made of a number of narratives with ‘translation’ into Tebul Ure and French.

2.4 Tebul U culture and history

Nothing is known of Tebul U history, but today all villages are strongly Islamised.

2.5 The classification of Tebul Ure

Calame-Griaule (1956:67) says,

il ne s'agit nullement d'un sous-dialecte du dyamsay, mais d'un dialecte très particulier qui n'a d'analogie qu'avec celui de Yanda. Il est parlé par environ 2.000 Dogon qui doivent employer le dyamsay pour se faire comprendre de leurs congénères.

Calame-Griaule’s observation appears to be quite false. Yanda is the closest relative of Tebul Ure as the comparisons in the data table show. Despite the cognacy of many items, the degree of erosion in many words would make intercomprehension impossible and these are undoubtedly separate languages.

3. Phonology

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

3.1 Vowels

Tebul Ure probably has seven phonemic vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Close-Mid	e		o
Open-Mid	E		ɔ
Open		a	

Tebul Ure 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.

Tebul Ure and other Dogon languages permit sequences of tone-bearing vowels without any consonants. These can be in contrast with sequences of vowel plus semi-vowel.

3.2 Consonants

Tebul Ure consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Alveopalatal	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b	t d			k g		
Nasal	m	n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill		r					
Fricative		s z	[ʃ] [ʒ]		ɣ		h
Affricate				tʃ dʒ			
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 /S/ can be produced in parallel especially in initial position, perhaps reflecting perceptions of sentence context. However, in some words, /S/ can be strongly palatalised, possibly a remnant of a lost syllable.

3.3 Tones

Tebul Ure has two tones, High and Low, and few glides. For example;

éŋgyé	roselle
èŋgyè	chicken

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Plurals of nouns in Tebul Ure are typically formed by the suffix –mbɔ. This can typically assimilate to the stem in a variety of ways. Thus;

cow	na pl. nambo
goat	ine pl. inbo
sheep	pæde pl. pædumbo
pig	tole pl. tolmbo
horse	some pl. sombo
mare	someya pl. someyambo
donkey	zamdule pl. zamdulumbo
dog	ŋgye pl. ŋgyembɔ
cat	balma pl. balmabɔ

Tebul Ure also has some irregular plurals;

human being	<i>ɲɛ pl.</i> numbafu
axe small	<i>segye pl.</i> se
knife	<i>polgo pl.</i> pole

Many nouns, such as body parts, have no plurals. It is notable that the nearest relative of Tebul Ure, Yanda, has a quite different plural suffix.

5. Tebul Ure wordlist

The wordlist was elicited via French and Fulfulde. This is not entirely satisfactory as pervasive multilingualism 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/.

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
tree	arbre	tima	cf. Teɲu Kan time
leaf	feuille	kula	cf. Yanda kula
root	racine	dini	? cf. Yanda dilu
branch	branche	numaye	
bark	écorce	kɔbogo	cf. Tɔɔ Sɔɔ kobu
thorn	épine	doo	cf. Jamsay dudo
grass	herbe	ywa	cf. Yanda ɔ́á
mushroom	champignon		
seed/stone/pip	semence/graine	ye	cf. Yanda é
charcoal	charbon	jeme	cf. Yanda jɛmne
dust	poussière	kɔŋgu	
ashes	cendres	due	cf. Yanda dwē
mud, clay	boue, argile	fɔndo	cf. Yanda pɔndo
dew	rosée	ele	cf. Yanda eɛl
stone	Pierre	kinu	
pebble	cailloux	narabɔŋ giye	
sand	sable	sɔlma	
smoke	fumée	kumbɔ	
fire	feu	guu	
water	eau	ŋgye	
rain	pluie	ana	
cloud	nuage	kuruba	
lightning	éclair	giregiramo	
rainy season	saison des pluies	zine	
dry season	saison sèche	udubana	
year	année	anagudu	
today	aujourd'hui	yɔɔ	
yesterday	hier	yɛŋge	
tomorrow	demain	ɛɛŋ	
morning	matin	odogun	
evening	soir	dendawdu	
day	jour	leege	
night	nuit	dende	
moon	lune	swa piligɔ	
sun	soleil	udugu	
star	étoile	tɔndo	
wind	vent	ida	
sky	ciel	ɔŋgo	
god	dieu	amba	

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
world	monde	adunɔ	
ground	sol	gina	
river	fleuve	gondo	
stream	rivière	koyga	
pond, lake	marigot	taya	
forest	forêt	andasu	
hill	colline	kɔŋgo	
bush	brousse	anda samso	
field	champ	yuwulgo	
market	marché	ɛbɛ	
house	maison	ulo	
room	chambre	dɛbugɔ	
wall	mur	ulo kulugo	
roof	toit	dɛmba	
shelter	abri, hangar	togo	
stone shelter	hangar en pierre		
granary	grenier	gwa	
well	puits	yaba	
road, path	route, sentier	ɔduba	
path	sentier	sogo	
village	village	damba	
public place	place		
human being	personne	ɲɛ <i>pl.</i> numbafu	
man	homme	arã	
woman	femme	ya	
child	enfant	ɛdɛ	
husband	mari	ɔŋgɔ	
wife	épouse	usa	
co-wife	co-épouse		
father	père	ba	
mother	mère	na	
father's brother	frère de la père	ubaseɛ	
mother's sister	soeur de la mère		
older brother	grand-frère		
younger brother	petit-frère	mindɔ	
sister	soeur	misa	
son	fil	ɛdɛvɛ	
daughter	fil	ɛda	
old man	vieil homme	ɲipe	
old woman	vieille femme	yape	
friend	ami	wyɔŋge	
stranger	étranger		
chief	chef	amburu	
hunter	chasseur	danda	
weaver	tisserand	ɛdɛtɛ	
thief	voleur	guɲɛ	
doctor	guérisseur	mɔdɛ	
witch	sorcière	duge	
corpse	cadavre	tibɛ	
blacksmith	forgeron	zɛmbɛ, irɛ	
potter	potier	ɛdugumay	
slave	esclave	sansane	
twin	jumeau	zɛgambɔ	

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
prophecy	prophétie		
shame	honte		
fear/fright	peur		
bravery/courage	courage		
laughter	rires		
wisdom	sagesse		
guilt	culpabilité		
anger	colère		
race/running	course		
sleep	sommeil		
circumcision	circoncision		
death	mort		
name	nom		
grave	tombe		
song	chanson	nùá	
proverb	proverbe		
story	histoire	tin ure	
word	mot		
lie	mensonge		
news	nouvelles		
hunger	faim		
horn	corne	kila	
tail	queue	duló	
egg	oeuf	tale	
wing	aile	taĀara	
feather	plume	taĀara kula	‘wing hair’
anthill	termitière/fourmilière		
hole, pit	trou	tudó	
hole in tree	trou dans arbre		
poison	poison		
load	fardeau, charge		
firewood	bois de feu	tine	
stick	bâton	be	
work	travail	bira	
war	guerre	zεεε	
fighting	combat		
medicine	médicament	oy	
money	argent	budu	
shadow	ombre	cikinde	
thing	chose	kyε	
land/country	pays	adunó	also ‘world’. < F.
sickness/disease	maladie	dóro	
stomach pains		bera zimgo	
headache		kûwól	
earache		sunó zimgo	
arthritis	arthrite	ambe	
catarrh		kine bōmbó	
Guinea-worm		nōndó	
constipation		bera mayge	
joint pains		sure	
chicken-pox	roussole	dege	
bilharzia		mōgō	
leprosy		neme	

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
eczema		kundu	
smallpox	variole	balen kondo	
diarrhoea	diarrhée, écoulement du ventre	salgo	
goitre	goitre		
fever	fièvre	gudu omgo	
boil	furoncle		
sore/wound	plaie	barma	
scar	cicatrice	kara sungo	
brain	cervelle	bõndu	
head	tête	kugõ, dara	
eye	oeil	gire	
face	visage	gire numgo	
cheek	joue	panda	
forehead	front	dimbe	
nose	nez	kinε	
ear	oreille	sunõ	
mouth	bouche	mbugõ	
lip	lèvre	mbukõgõ	
tooth	dent	in	
tongue	langue	nende	
throat	gorge	õduga	
neck	cou	kwa	
jaw	mâchoire	anga	
chin	menton	bya	
shoulder	épaule	guba	
armpit	aisselle	kàrà	
fist	poing	makumu	
arm	bras	nùmá	
hand	main	nùmá kende	
elbow	coude	nùmá tãdõŋ	
finger	doigt	nùmá ye	
leg	jambe	la	
foot	ped	la teme	
thigh	cuisse	kara	
knee	genou	kundugõ	
nail	ongle	kõbiliye	
breast (female)	sein	εne	
stomach	ventre	bera	
navel	nombril	bõngõ	
back	dos		
buttocks	fesses	dumbe	
penis	pénis		
vagina	vagin		
clitoris	clitoris		
skin	peau	gudugo	
bone	os	kina	
rib	côte	vele	
vein	veine	gyenge zobangõ	
blood	sang	gyenge	
breath	souffle	nindilgo	
tear	larme	giringε	'eye-water'
saliva	salive	nendenge	'mouth-water'

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
bone marrow	moelle		
sweat	sueur	udu	
urine	urine	endile	
faeces	merde		
hair	cheveux	kungula	'head-hair'
beard	barbe	byakula	'chin-hair'
liver	foie	kende	
heart	coeur	kende duga	
intestines	intestins	dendaye	
lung	poumon	puḍubadu	
body	corps	gɔdugɔ	
meat	viande	nama	
animal	animal	anda ga ese gambɔ	probably incorrect
camel	chameau	ɔgɔ ɲuŋɔ	
cow	vache	na pl. nambɔ	
bull	taureau	nan zaŋge	
goat	chèvre	ine pl. inbɔ	
he-goat		in zaŋge	
sheep	mouton	pede pl. pedumbɔ	
ram		pede zaŋge	
pig	cochon	tole pl. tolmbɔ	
horse	cheval	some pl. sombo	
mare	jument	someya pl. someyambo	
donkey	âne	zamdule pl. zamdulumbo	
dog	chien	ŋgye pl. ŋgyembɔ	
cat	chat	balma pl. balmabɔ	
elephant	éléphant	demya	
buffalo	buffle	wilye	
lion	lion		
leopard	tigre/panthère	duyera	
hyena	hyène	ta	
civet	civette		
genet	genette	anda balmɔ	
jackal	chacal		
fox	renard		
wart-hog	phacochère		
antelope I	antilope		
antelope II	antilope		
antelope III	antilope		
duiker	duiker	vile	
porcupine	porc-épic	ciniya	
vervet monkey	singe		
patas monkey	singe rouge	omo bane	'monkey-red'
baboon	babouin		
galago	galago	bile	
squirrel	écureuil		
zorilla	zorille		
hedgehog	hérisson	ɔŋgɔ pede	identification doubtful
mongoose	mangouste	sanaganda	identification doubtful
dassie	daman des rochers	kɔndɔ	
hare	lièvre	zomo	

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
bush rat	rat de brousse		
shrew	musaraigne	weshindo	
mouse	souris	oy	
aardvark	oryctérope	ambara	
house-bat	chauve-souris	ɔbde	
fruit-bat	roussette		
crocodile	crocodile, caïman	ɔɲa	
chameleon	caméléon	bamzinde	
agama lizard	margouillat	zampendu	
gecko	gecko, salamandre		
monitor lizard	iguane, varan		
toad	crapaud	ɔŋgɔ	
frog	grenouille	ɔŋgɔ de	
tortoise	tortue	ɔŋgɔŋ guru	
snake	serpent	nɔndo	
cobra	cobre	nɔndo zumɔ	
python	python		
snake sp. I		kɔkɔde	
snake sp. I		ɔŋsara	
snake sp. I		kɔndum daane	
snake sp. I		aba	
snake sp. I		zumɔ	
crab	crabe	in kobra kadu	
fish	poisson	ide	
bird	oiseau	ade	
chicken	poule	ɛŋgya	
cock	coq	ɛŋgya ana	
duck	canard	taga yeri	
pigeon	pigeon	kagada	
dove	tourterelle	pɛrɛgɛrɛ	
guinea-fowl	pintade	bandɛŋ	
vulture	vautour	tebe duba	
cattle-egret		amba pipir	
hawk	épervier	tebe	
owl	hibou	duɲa	
bush-fowl	perdrix	anda ɛŋgyɛ	
swallow	hirondelle	cigibe	
pie crow	corbeau	yakaɲa	
scorpion	scorpion	mɔmpo	
butterfly	papillon	pipir	
dragonfly	libellule		
mosquito	moustique	sane	
house-spider	araignée de la maison	kubasoy	
spider	araignée	sɔm bɛlam	
mason-wasp	guêpe-maçonne		
bee	abeille	ame	
housefly	mouche	gene	
louse	pou	karanka	
cockroach	cafard	idumbu ule	
termite	termite/fourmi blanche	dundo	
flying ant	fourmi volante	mele	
grasshopper	sauterelle	pɛrɛgɛrɛ esa kinde	
mantis	mante religieuse		

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
firefly	mouche de feu		
worm	ver de terre	andukəɔ	
oil	huile	nunə	
fat	graisse	sie	
salt	sel	nəmi	
soup/sauce	sauce	uyile	
food	nourriture/ <i>to</i>	nɛŋɛ	
beer	bière	kwəndə	
handle	manche d'outil	kudugə	
peelings		kwədə	
sickle	faucille	kərə	
grass sickle	faucille	kərə gayiŋo	
fruit harvester	hameçon de fruit	yɛpɛm kegedoo	
firewood knife	couteau de bois de feu		
harvesting knife	couteau de moisson	gəndu	
cutlass	machette	pəlgəŋo -no pl.	
iron	fer	indɛ	
axe big	hache grande	gulaa no pl.	for splitting logs
axe small	hache petite	segye pl. se	
adze	herminette		
sowing hoe	semieur	səgə	
hoe I	houe I	daba kərə	women's hoe, straight-handled
hoe II	houe II	anawa daba	men's hoe, curved handle
hoe III	houe III	zɛgɛyɛ	small hoe
knife	couteau	pəlgə pl. pole	
mat-knife	couteau pour nattes		
razor	rasoir	silbe no pl.	
anvil	enclume	dɛŋɛ	
hammer	marteau	sɛn	
pincers	pinces	ɛgɛ	
awl	alène	kɛmɡə	
chisel	burin	kɛdungə	
tweezers	tire l'épine	ɛmbugə	
bellows	soufflet	uduba	
cooling bowl	bol d'eau	təŋɡa	
broom	balaie	idilungə	
bag	sac	bərə	
fireplace	foyer	ɛŋɛ	
shoe	chaussure	tay	
hat	chapeau	kəbə	
clothing	vêtement	dungə	
necklace	collier	dugayɛ	
ring	bague		
bracelet	bracelet		
mortar	mortier	tiŋɡo	
pestle	pilon	tiliyɛ	
pot	pot	ɛdugə	
pot I	canari I	ɛdupəgə	very large
pot II	canari II	ɛduduga	small water-pot
pot III	canari III	pɛrɛ	small pot
pot IV	canari IV	tɛgɛ	large-mouth pot
head-pad	coussinet	dəŋɡə	
basket	panier	tya	

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
winnowing tray	tamis	yigene	
mat	natte	ninge	
needle	aiguille	mendene	
spear	lance	wara	
bow	arc	kombɔ	kombɔ kyemgɔ 'bow and arrow'
arrow	flèche	kyemye	
quiver	carquois	bɔre	'container'
rope	corde	sungo	
stool	tabouret	tunɔgurgɔ	
door	porte	kaŋga	
door-step	seuil	kaŋga papa	
lintel	linteau	kaŋga zunɔgu	
bed	lit	tɛendu	
fence	clôture	kɔkɔl	
forked stick		tidiŋgo	forked stick for holding together thorn enclosures
ladder	échelle	tiŋgu ladde luŋgu	doubtful
canoe	pirogue	sɔgɔ koro	
paddle	pagaie	pɔŋgo	
bee-hive	ruche	luga	
Music	Instruments de musique		
drum I	tambour-sablier	bɔn so	
drum II	tambour	dokaŋgam	2-headed cylindrical drum tied at the waist
drum III	tambour	bɔn yarba	2-headed barrel drum hung from shoulder
drum IV	tambour	bɔŋgo	generic name for drum ensemble
hollow logs	blocs de bois	kɔrɔ	
kora	kora		
lute	luth	jiŋgur	
flute	flûte traversière	kere	
whistle	sifflet		
rattle I	hochet calebasse	magaa emgp	
rattle II	hochet		
gourd shaker		sagara	half-calabash with cowries attached to leather strings on the outside, rattled
transverse horn I	corne	pululu	
transverse horn II	corne		
iron bell	clochette de fer	sande	
iron slit bell	clochette de fer à fente	gindugɔ	
sistrum	sistre des initiés		
clarinet	clarinette	suda	
Numbers	Nombres		
one	un	turgɔ	
two	deux	yile	
three	trois	yitaandu	
four	quatre	kede	
five	cinq	yinum	
six	six	yikule	
seven	sept	yisɔ	
eight	huit	yigagara	
nine	neuf	yigagaraba	

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
ten	dix	yipɛl	
eleven	onze	pɛnɛ tursaga	
twelve	douze	pɛnɛ lesaga	
thirteen	treize	pɛnɛ taansaga	
twenty	vingt	pɛɔ̃ale	
thirty	trente	pɛtaandu	
forty	quarante	pɛkɛdɛ	
fifty	cinquante	taganum	
sixty	soixante	pɛkule	
seventy	soixante-dix	tagasɔ	
eighty	quatre-vingt	sunɣu	
ninety	quatre-vingt-dix	sunɣu yi pɛl	
one hundred	cent	sunɣu pɛ gale	
white	blanc		
black	noir		
red	rouge		
green	vert		
yellow	jaune		
other colour	autres couleurs		
heavy	lourd	duɬu	
light	léger	ɛnri	
large	grand	dɛŋgɛ	
small	petit	sɛgɛtɛ	
many	beaucoup/nombreux	mɛmu	
few	peu	dagamu	
all	tout	puu	
thick		dɛŋbɛ	
thin		mɛzɛ	
wide	large	waygɛ	
narrow	étroit	kɛlu	
hard	dur	manru	
soft	doux/tendre	ɛlu	
sweet	doux/sucré	ɛlu	
bitter	amer	galu	
sour	acide	danru	
deep	profond	touu	
shallow		damu	
long	long	paaw	
short	court	gɔy	
good	bon	ɛzu	
bad	mauvais	sanmu	
dirty	sale	nimu	
fat	gros	binu	
thin	maigre	kenbɛ	
near	proche/près	beru	
far	loin/lointain	waga	
beautiful	beau	ɛtɛ	
ugly	laid, vilain	mɔzu	
hot	chaud	ɔmu	
cold	froid, frais	kiyɛlu	
strong	fort	paŋga	
weak	faible	paŋga sɔndɔɔ	
ripe	mûr	ile	

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
unripe	cru/vert	koo	
full	plein		
empty	vide	ndɔŋɔ	
Verbs	Verbes		
accept	accepter		
accompany	accompagner	nindu	
add to	ajouter	bar	
agree	être d'accord	abi	
allow	laisser faire	otuba	
announce	annoncer	bodan	
answer	répondre	sanmi	
apply (ointment)	oindre/huiler	pari	
arrive	arriver	dɔɔ	
ask for	demander	ɔduru	
be bent		gulun	
be born	naître	lalu	
beat	battre	bundu	
begin	commencer	tɔɔle	
bite	mordre	kɛru	
blow (mouth)	souffler (la bouche)	pubi	
blow (wind)	souffler (vent) I	pɛpɛ	
blow (wind)	souffler (vent) II	bankɔɔ	
boil	bouillir	zande	
borrow	emprunter	yori	
braid	tresser	ɛru	
break	casser	pɛndigi	
breathe	respirer	nidi	
bring	apporter	zɛɛ	
build	construire, bâtir	ɔndule	
burn	brûler	dudi	
bury human	enterrer	bede	
bury object	enterrer	bigi	
buy	acheter	ɛbɛ	
call	appeler	bɔn	
care for	soigner	zɔŋi	
carry	porter	di	
carry on back	porter sur le dos	banbe	
carry on head	porter sur la tête	di	
chew	mâcher	togola	
choose	choisir		
chop down	abattre	dɛŋɛ	
chop/slice	trancher		
close	fermer	tinbi	
comb	se peigner		
come	venir	wɔɔ	
cook	cuisiner		
count	compter	lugo	
cover	couvrir	daye	
crawl	ramper		
cross	traverser	kete taŋu	
cry out	crier	kege	
cut	couper	kete	
dance	danser	ge	

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
die	mourir	tibi	
dig	creuser/labourer	wa	
divide	diviser		
do	faire		
draw water	puiser	kəbu	
dream	rêver		
drink	boire	ɲɛ	
drive away	chasser/éloigner/repousser		
drop	laisser tomber		
dry up	sécher		
eat	manger	ɲa	
enter	entrer	nui	
extinguish	éteindre	jaw	
fall	tomber	yagay	
fear	craindre	iri	
fill	remplir	bandi	
find	trouver	tənde	
finish	terminer	dumay	
fly (v.)	voler (oiseaux/avion)	kili	
fold	plier	məde	
follow	suivre	dinbi	
forbid	interdire	kanu malu	
forge		dubu	
forget	oublier	iri	
gather	réunir	mədi	
give	donner	indi	
give birth	accoucher		
go	aller	yay	
go down	descendre	sugu	
go out	sortir	go	
go up	monter	il	
greet	saluer	pooru	
grill	griller		
grind	broyer		
grow/increase	grandir, croître	bundu	
hear	entendre	nə	
help	aider	baru	
hide	caler	bangiri	
hold	tenir		
insult	insulter	də	
jump	sauter	tənbu	
kill	tuer	ge	
know	savoir	zugu	
lack	manquer		
laugh	rire	mənu	
learn	étudier/apprendre	were	
leave	laisser	dəgu	
lend	prêter	yori	
lick	lécher	dəgu	
lie	mentir	kakalu	
lift onto head	soulever	ɲaw	
light	allumer	taandu	
like/love	aimer	ibii	

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
limp	boiter		
listen	écouter	nudi	
look for	chercher	zɔɔ	
lose	perdre	naar	
make a mistake	se tromper	ligidi	
marry	épouser		
measure	mesurer		
milk	traire	enmu	
mix	mélanger		
nurse	téter	aru	
open	ouvrir	timir	
pay	payer	tɔdu	
peel	éplucher		
pick up	ramasser	baa	
pierce	percer		
plaster	crépir	tar	
play	jouer	kemnekemni	
pound	piler	too	
pour	verser	tandi	
pull	tirer	badi	
push	pousser	danbu	
put	poser/placer	dūin	
put away	remiser/ranger	tendu	
rain	pleuvoir	minu	
read	lire	zaŋu	< F.
refuse	refuser	kɔɔdu	
remember	se souvenir		
repair	réparer	kendu	
resemble	ressembler		
rest	se reposer	sumu	
return	revenir		
ride	monter un animal		
rub	frotter		
run	courir	zɔbu	
sacrifice		sagago	
say	dire	tagu	
scratch	gratter		
see	voir	yi	
sell	vendre	dɔnra	
send	envoyer	tia	
sew	coudre	pei	
shake	secouer	zigibe	
sharpen	aiguiser		
shave	se raser	kaa	
shoot	tirer		
show	montrer	taga	
sing	chanter		
sit down	s'asseoir/être assis	obugo	
sleep	dormir	girenige	
smell	sentir	zindu	
smoke (tobacco)	fumer (tabac)	tabu dugo jaw	
sneeze	éternuer		
snore	ronfler		

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
soak	faire tremper		
sow	semer	təŋgo tɔwa	
spit	cracher	yoŋɔ tɔwa	
stay	rester	uŋgɔbe	
steal	voler	gɔŋaw	
stick onto	coller		
sting	piquer	sɔba	
stroll	se promener	yale	
suck	sucer/téter	ɔndo	
swallow	avalier	miran	
sweep	balayer	sɛnbi	
swell	gonfler	pire	
swim	nager	abandu	
take	prendre	naan	
take off	ôter		
talk		ziru	
taste	goûter	laygɛra	
teach	enseigner	zəŋguma	< F.
tear	déchirer	kadiya	
tear off	arracher	ay	
tell	raconter	oru pɛjɛ	
think	penser	maandugo	
throw	jeter	gite	
tie	nouer/attacher	kɔnbe	
touch	toucher, palper		
tremble	trembler		
try	essayer		
turn over	se retourner	mii	
twist	tordre		
undress	se déshabiller	dungɔ gonlo	
unfold	déplier	mɛde	
untie	dénouer/détacher	kɔnbɔ	
urinate	uriner	indi	
vomit	vomir	gula	
wait	attendre	gɔɔin	
walk	marcher	yada	
want/need	vouloir/avoir besoin		
wash s.t.	laver q.c.	injedi	
wash self	se laver	mɔga	
weave	tisser	tɛya	
weed	sarcler/arracher les herbes		
weep	pleurer	yanga	
whisper	chuchoter		
whistle	siffler	pobiya	
wipe (nose)	se moucher		
write	écrire	təŋgu	
yawn	bâiller		
Q words	Questions		
where?	où	andi	
when?	quand	arā	
how?	comment	aĩ	
how many?	combien	aŋgaa	
why?	pourquoi	ŋyee dugɔ	

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
who?	qui	anmu	
what?	quoi	ngyee	
Others	Autres		
here	ici	ungo	
there	là	manga	
left	à gauche	banda bari	
right	à droite	neŋe bari	
up		tenbe bari	
down		dugo bari	
north	nord	dubari	
south	sud	tengule bari	
east	est	tunbemgo bari	
west	ouest	pilemgo bari	
I, me	je, moi	mi	
you	toi	u	
he, she, it	lui, elle	om	
we, us	nous	í	
we two		ílè	
all of us	nous tous	ípù	
you	vous	bi	
they, them	ils	bu	

Plants

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
Cassava ²	manioc	balankun	
Sweet potato ³	patate douce	balankun bumba	
Wild yam	igname de brousse		
cereals		ene	
Sorghum ⁴	grand mil	embe	varieties: embe dumbɔ, embe gado, dijire, pɛlkuma, dimbil male. embe girima kāy
Bulrush millet ⁵	petit mil	yɔ	varieties: yudo, yudobere, yuje
Fonio ⁶	fonio	pɔ̃	
Maize* ⁷	mais	sa nembe	
Rice* ⁸	riz	ára	
Cowpea ⁹	nyebe	nime	

² (Manihot esculenta)

³ (Ipomoea batatas)

⁴ (Sorghum bicolor)

⁵ (Pennisetum spp.)

⁶ (Digitaria exilis)

⁷ (Zea mays)

⁸ (Oryza sativa/ glaberrima)

⁹ (Vigna unguiculata)

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
Bambara groundnut ¹⁰	pois de terre	εγε γεμε	
Groundnut ¹¹	arachide	εγε банε	'red groundnut'
Tiger-nut ¹²	souche à manger	г᠔	
Perfume sedge	souche à parfum	г᠔ ana	
Garden egg ¹³	aubergine	kɛlba	
Okra ¹⁴	gombo	pɔro	
Sorrel/roselle ¹⁵	oseille	ɛŋgyɛ	
Kenaf ¹⁶	kenaf	kulere	
Birdseye chili* ¹⁷	piment	saperɛnde	
Onion	oignon	gaw	
Garlic ¹⁸	ail	lay	< Fr.
Tomato ¹⁹	tomate	tamatu	< Fr.
Melon (other) ²⁰	courge	zɔgɔ	
Edible squash ²¹	potiron		
Sesame ²²	sesam	pɔle	
Pawpaw* ²³		papay	< Fr.
Gourd (Generic)	calebasse	ndugɔ	
Gourd-bottle ²⁴	bouteille	njirdinde	
Gourd (spherical) ²⁵	calebasse ronde	undu kundugɔ	
gourd spoon	louche	njir bɔŋɔ	
other gourds I	autres calabasses	gogo	for watering gardens
other gourds II	autres calabasses	gogo sabogo	for drinking water

¹⁰ (*Vigna subterranea*)

¹¹ (*Arachis hypogaea*)

¹² (*Cyperus esculentus*)

¹³ (*Solanum melongena*)

¹⁴ (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)

¹⁵ (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)

¹⁶ (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)

¹⁷ (*Capsicum annum*)

¹⁸ (*Allium sativum*)

¹⁹ (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)

²⁰ (*Cucumis* spp)

²¹ (*Cucurbita pepo*)

²² (*Sesamum indicum*)

²³ (*Carica papaya*)

²⁴ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)

²⁵ (*Cucurbita maxima*)

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
Cotton	coton		
Cola	cola	wulo	
Fan-palm ²⁶	rônier	shim	
Dum palm	doumier		
Baobab ²⁷	arbre de pain	ɔra	
Shea tree ²⁸	karité	nunḡo	F. karehi
Locust tree ²⁹	néré	yulgo	F. narehi
Locust fruit			
Locust-bean cakes			
<i>Guiera senegalensis</i>			F. njeloki
<i>Anogeissus leiocarpus</i>	kojoli		
<i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i>	geleje, alale		
<i>Piliostigma reticulatum</i>			F. barki
<i>Cassia tora</i>			F. ulo
<i>Acacia albida</i>	balanzan		F. ceeki
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>			
Tamarind ³⁰	tamarinier	umbulee	
Sodom apple ³¹			
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	shidi bela	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	jeŋa	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	bale	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	neneme	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	ugulemgo	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	popolom	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	agul	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	ɔr	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kura	

²⁶ (*Borassus aethiopum*)²⁷ (*Adansonia digitata*)²⁸ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)²⁹ (*Parkia biglobosa*)³⁰ (*Tamarindus indica*)³¹ (*Calotropis procera*)

English	Français	Tebul Ure	Commentary
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kambe	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kuniya	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	pɔyɔ	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	pupungɔ	
neem	neem	gɔji	
tree sp. I	arbre sp. I	kumbugɔ	
water lettuce		ŋge silbe	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>
<i>Mariscus</i> spp.		sar kɔmbɔ	

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