

SURI - ENGLISH BASIC VOCABULARY

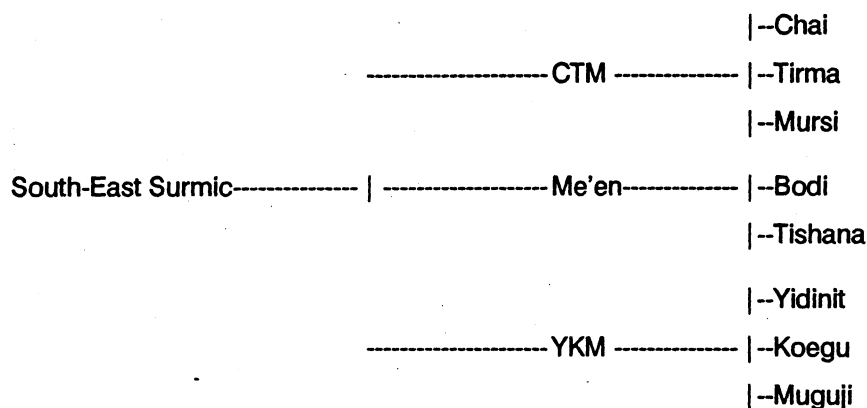
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1. Introduction

'Suri' is a language belonging to the South-East Surmic (SES) group, representatives of which are found in the southern Ethio-Sudan border area. It is spoken by the Suri people (ca. 38,000) in Southwest Ethiopia, and is probably the least known language within SES, a grouping within the Eastern Sudanic family of Nilo-Saharan. SES comprises seven languages.¹ My classification of SES (based on Unseth 1988, but with some modifications, derived from recent field-data gathered in Ethiopia²) is as follows:



The Suri (also known as 'Surma') are an agro-pastoralist group, living in a fairly inaccessible, semi-arid lowland area (below 1000 metres) of the Kafa Administrative Region in Ethiopia. Cattle-herding is their main occupation, but they also cultivate (sorghum and maize, and some garden crops) and practise hunting and gathering. The Suri ethnic group consists of two subgroups, calling themselves Tirma and Chai (the latter called 'T'id' in the old travellers' literature). They live in the Käfa Region, mostly in the Maji *awraja* (district).

'Suri' is a general ethnic and especially linguistic self-name of Tirma and Chai, but also of the Balé (or Baléthi) people in the Sudan-Ethiopian border-area, west of the town of Jeba. However, the Balé language differs significantly from Tirma-Chai, perhaps being a South-West Surmic language, related to (or heavily influenced by) Murle. Thus, in this paper, 'Suri' exclusively relates to Tirma-Chai. The Balé language is best called 'Balé', not Suri.

Suri seems to be closely related to the Mursi language (for a grammatical sketch of this language, see Turton & Bender 1976, and Turton 1981). But so far, few data (including *vocabulary* material) have been published. This makes it difficult to fully assess their relationship. The grammar of both languages, however, shows many basic similarities. Suri is a tone language (with three tones), but analyses of tone in either Suri or Mursi are not yet available (apart from some notes in Turton 1981).

This Suri vocabulary is a preliminary one and is offered to facilitate and stimulate the much-needed comparative study of the relatively unknown SES languages. The present vocabulary is based on two existing word-lists used in the area of SES field-research: first, the 200-wordlist of the Institute of Language Studies of Addis Ababa University, and second, on the 500-wordlist of M.L. Bender (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, USA), one of the major contributors in the field of Nilo-Saharan language studies. Both lists are not published, but have been in use among linguists in the area for several years. In addition, important cultural key concepts of the Suri have been included.

A word marked with an asterisk (*) is present in Bender's 500-wordlist (There are words from this list missing here, because they were not found in Suri. Among them: 'dwarf', 'circumcize', 'freeze', 'servant', 'rich', 'poor', 'virgin', 'onion', 'island', 'afternoon', 'tribe/nation'). When pressed for such a word, the informants often gave an (adapted) Amharic word, a simile, or a laborious description of the concept.³ For example, for 'poor', the informants usually gave something like: 'dog', or 'person without any cattle'.

The data were collected in December 1991 - June 1992 and in October 1992, as part of a larger ethnological research-project on Surmic groups in Southwestern Ethiopia. The main location of research was Makara, one of the largest Chai-Suri villages in Maji-awraja. I am very grateful to Bahoyne Wolesirba, my main language assistant among the Suri, to Wolekio Wara, and to the elders Londosa (Dolei), Barmali, Wolebuseni and Barkari.

2. Notes on the special characters and signs used

The following signs and characters have been used in the transcription:

- à, ô, è, etc.: falling, low tone
- á, ó, é, etc.: rising, high tone
- unmarked vowel: 'middle level tone'
- d = implosive d
- b = implosive b
- g = implosive g
- ? = glottal stop
- : = gemination

Most words ending with a vowel do not end in a 'glide' but are pronounced with the glottal stop; whether it is a really a phoneme or a specific Suri pronunciation is not clear yet).

Suri does not have elective consonants, like k, t, c. Of the various SES languages only Me'en is known to have electives, probably acquired under the influence of Dizi and Benchu-speaking communities which have mingled with the Me'en for four to five generations.

- it = transitive verb
- l = intransitive verb

Of the verb forms, the root is given, based on the form of the third person singular perfect. Usually this form was preceded by the prefix /wa-/, which in Mursi (Turton & Bender 1976: 550) refers to a 'remote past tense'. E.g., 'wa-te-nyá', 'he carried. I give here the forms without the /wa-/ prefix. It has to be noted here that the vowel /a/ in this prefix is usually assimilated to the first vowel in the root-form when it is word-initial. Examples: 'we?erra' = he died; 'wo?ogga' (→ 'wogga') = he went.

Sometimes the informants also added an (apparent) suffix /-ba/ to the verb, e.g., as in 'wa-túyú-ba' (= he counted). Its status or meaning is not yet clear. For reasons of space, sentence examples of verb-forms and word are not given here.

Some Suri forms followed by a question mark (?) are doubtful (because of the different answers by different informants). Finally, for some forms, a synonym or an alternative pronunciation is given (e.g., té?orda / té?ušta, or: methi / mezi).

3. The vocabulary

Suri

English

abará	A	to rise*, to get up
abánna		to fly*
aggé		we*
ánpa		things, load, luggage, possessions, etc.
ánpa		to suck*
aleagushury		kind of mushroom
ale-hale		later, afterwards*
allipai		house type (with a left-side entrance)
alothéa		to cough*
am-g"ó (ájl-g"ó)		to burn (tr.)
amise		food (in general)
aná		other*
ancho		dum-palm (Hyphaene thebaica)
andónó		there*
angitá		to bite*
angnyéba?		to run*
añi		l*
(anná) kabare?chaga		blind*, not seeing
anyane (?)		to fear*
ányo		to give*
anyoga		to shut*, to close
aránji		white foreigner
ar(i)		ox
árrà		to see
arro		hippopotamus*
asandáy		rainy season (Aprl-September)
awba?		to fall*
áwreni		hot*, warm
aya?usa		to rest*
aybua		to receive
áyu		meat

	B
bà?	earth, place*
bà: kúmúlo	the Earth, the world
baga	to live, to reside
bagáy	wooden milk container
ba?/bá	to hold*, to grasp
bá:ka	to eat*
balál	1. bile 2. malaria
bállogi	leaf*
bánduy	tree sp. (<i>Juniperus procera</i>)
bangadi	termitte hill
bangka	machete
barábaráy	small red/green peppers (<i>Capsicum</i> sp.)
baragadúy	owl*
baragaráy	enemy (Amharic loan)
barakandi	tree sp. (Wood used for cleaning teeth)
barárl	'hot', forceful, dangerous (Said of certain people, plants and 'sacred objects')
bárbu	defassa waterbuck
bárchá	finger millet (<i>Elausine coracana</i>)
ba:ri	yesterday*
bá:ro	night*
bartan	a shelter built for a deceased person (before burial)
bartúy	tree sp.
baura	cassava (<i>Manihot esculenta</i> cranta)
báyá	Acacia sp.
be?	stone*
bééy	ax*
begga	to guard
be:kay	friend, patron, companion
beia	to spill* (e.g., wood)
bele?	bald*
bénén	kindred, relatives
ber	spear*
bere-kingl	before, a long time ago*
bergu	moon-month period, 'lunation' (28 days)
bi?	cattle, cow*
bi joné	cow with calves, giving milk

bi	leguminous plant species (<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L., subsp. <i>africanus</i> Verde)
biá	white sorghum variety
bióú	snake-bite healer
bika	to break*
biéy	iron cow-bell
bily	'yellow', a cattle coat colour
bininfinoy	swamp, marsh*
binjlogi	quartz stone
bir?	(wooden) stick*
birni	thorn (of tree/bush)
bir? (pl. birinyá)	money (loan from Amharic 'bir')
bó?	outside
bóga	to dig*
boge?	pond
bogone	tree sp. (<i>Ficus</i> sp.)
bógúm	plant sp. (<i>Rhamnus prinoides</i>)
bokay	whitish/yellow resin from certain trees
bókionu	everywhere
bolagicha	empty corn-cob
bolakommol	big ivory trumpet, made of elephant's teeth (a ritual object possessed only by a <i>komoriv</i>)
bolóngul	cover, lid
bolosh/boloy	circle*
bolubotúy	tree sp. (with big orange-like tough fruits, used as play-things by children; eaten only by baboons)
bolul	voice*
bongáy	young bull
bongil	white bird sp. (now extinct in Suri area)
bongórá	small black beans
bonó	temporary divorce of man and wife after a fight
bo:ri-kabaré:	fig*
borogé:	rainbow*
borógl	tree sp.
bóroo	morning*
bortcio	to jump*
buá:su	dry season
bu:	big*
búgá?	hyena*
búgòree	fat (n.)*

buguy	back (n.)*
buhógi	witch, magician
bukoy	tree sp. (<i>Terminalia brownii</i>)
bull	'warrior'
buna	coffee* (Amharic loan)
būr	ashes*
buran	territorial unit, village agglomeration
būrā?	1. eggs 2. testicles
būri / būre:	smoke
burs	to become swollen
buta kingi	at that time; then (in the past)
būtto	to lick*
buttoḡi	lie (n.)
(roso) buyo	(the dog) barked

C

cháchá?	give back, to return; to revenge
chaga, or: chaghola	blue
cha:gi	new, fresh; also: wet
chāl	big lowland tree sp.
chailá (pl. ch'aallanya)	beads, used for bead-belts
cháll?	good*, beautiful, clean, clear, right, well*
chámnoḡ	grass sp.
chamochi	tree sp. (<i>Ficus</i> sp.)
chamun	beard*
changááy	plant sp. (<i>Portulacca</i> cf. <i>quadrifida</i> L.)
chár	leopard
charatáni	porcupine*
chárgi	wet*
chébba	to tie*
chegga	to sew*
chiban	cold*
chikto	happy*
chíñi	small*, little, thin*
chiriñi (syn.: kologishú)	sparrow-hawk
cho(a)ia?	trouble
choba?	warthog*, wild pig (<i>Poramochoerus hassana</i>)

chocho

choga
choloi
chomaráy
chónggi
chó:ré
choró
choro
chóy
churfo

D

dadabakethui	plant fungus sp.
dága-zéi	to swim
dákká?	to hit*
dále	stupid, dumb*
damáy	edible leaves of the horse-bean plant
dámbu	tobacco
dá:na	sorghum or maize porridge/bread
dándill	wild plant sp., used as vegetable for cabbage stew
dárcba (pl. dárcbo)	decorative leather ankle-band of young men (a bigger version is used as shin protection in a <i>sagline</i>)
damáy	plant sp. (<i>Aloe plicatè</i> or <i>macrocarpa</i>)
dé:be	lip-plate (wood or clay), inserted by women
débi	blessing ritual, smearing black earth mixed with water on persons by the Suri <i>konoḡu</i>
deredei	a call-trumpet for the <i>sagine</i> -fights (long wood, covered with leather, and cattle horn at the end)
derre	bead-belt
dé:shiba	to sneeze*
didiñi	heavy*
digri	black earth used in the <i>débi</i> ritual
didingiñi	hard*
dinye	full*
dira?	to clean, to wipe*
dirám	ritual ('Blessing of the warriors')
dri?	sweat*
dirmá?	tree sp.

dirshimáy	plant sp. (<i>Asparagus</i> sp.)
dí'ya	to finish*, to end
dobi	white tree-bark used for blanket or clothing (of males), made from bark of <i>Terminalia</i> tree
dobboi / dubboi	stones, seeds in fruits
dóggo	public meeting or gathering place
dogoli (pl. d'ogolia)	adlescent girl
dokéy	tree sp. (<i>Harrisonia abyssinica</i>)
dokol	seval cat
dokoliló	type of gourd for drinking
dokkoy	bone-marrow
doldu?	type of gourd
doléf?	big earthenware pot*
dolé:	anus
dolétí	tortoise
dolme	small hand-shield made of <i>anjó</i> -grass (for <i>sagine</i> - duelling).
dolmé	frog
dóliú	black glue-like substance, won from tree resin.
dómay	tree sp.
dóne: / koná?	one*
donga	stick of <i>kailochi</i> -wood, used in stick-duelling
d'onga (p. d'ongui)	bird sp.
dór	mud*
dorá:	small fox species
dór?	house, hut
dór-tútuk	house-door
dór-jagare	house-wall
dórni	penis
dorobul-ke'ba	garden (near house)
dórósi / dóróka	dry*
doun	zebra
doyái	leave it!
(l'ogo doyái)	leave the matter!
du?	cattle pasture
dingi	epidemic cattle disease
dingu?	seed
du(g)úy	kind of black 'square' beetle, ca. 1.5-2 cm.
díhu	burial, funeral
duku'za	umbrella

dum	hill
dúmbuli	blunt, dull*
dúnga / dúngka	deaf*
dunyágl	finished, extinct
durá-shóre	bladder (cattle or goat bladder used as play-thing by boys).
duri	celebration, 'ceremony' (at weddings, but also at a burial for old people)
duriyeye / tirayndo	to dance*
dúru?	(gourd-)pipe
dura?	to spill
dutiwa (?)	to be drunk*

eibekto	to blow up, swell
é:chiá	to shoot*
ééééi	yes!*
edene	bad, rotten*
égérchoga	bedbug*
ekkenyá	fight* (n.)
el dori doné	'nuclear' family unit, i.e. 'in one house.'
énéf?	how?
ihl éné?	how much?
ércha	bed, sleeping place (in the house)
erra	to die*
eri	baby*, small kid
er?	(human) skin
erije	small arrow (used for cattle-bleeding)
érrí	to drink*
erri	tree sp. (<i>Acacia seyal</i>)
e.séta	to think*

gál	wait!
gá'á?	to return*
gaba	market
gádl (pl. gága)	bridge*
gái	t'eff (Eragrostis tef)
gá-lo'gò	wise* (= 'knows the word, the matter')
gamme	marriage

gándi	trypanosomiasis (cattle disease)
gángu	way, road*
gàrà	a foot-cover band made of sisal-fibre (worn in sagine fights)
gáráte	monkey*
gársán	salty mineral earth eaten by cattle
gása	collective working party with beer payment
gashsha	shield (Amharic loan)
gati	moon shadow
gáysl	hoe*
gelegenjáy	bat (the animal)
geleyá	house, hut (all types)
ger	oribi (Ourebia ourebia)
gersi / gerthi	bad*, ugly*, wrong*
gesay	mountains, highland (see also kuttu)
geso	local beer made of sorghum and/or maize bone*
gi(g)éy (pl. giga)	an onion-like plant (sweet, inedible)
gillatáy	honey mead
gimáy	ritual spear of komoru, not used for killing.
gina	to ask*
ginyá?	to forget*
ginya-kayndu / ginja kayn sábba	wild olive tree
girár?	nose*
gíróng	bird sp.
godol	small lizard, coloured- green head, orange-tip tail, ca. 16 cm.
gólé	red* (cattle colour)
golori	lower grinding stone
gólú?	cattle disease
gomnotái	boat*
góngul (pl. gongulo)	tree-bark
gónguy	maize
gora?	Amaranthus sp.
gorbólil	very, truly, completely
gorí	tree sp.
goróki	fire*
g ^w ó?	fire-place/stones
g ^w ó-kabarée	path, road*
goró?	

gosso	barley (Amharic loan)
gógóleni	kidney*
g ^w oyne	brother*
goyto	medicne (esp. antihelmic)
gu?	field*
gul	arena for stick-duelling
guidú	navel*
guilemay	storage-room for grain
guisa	'subchief', responsible person
gunchi	cattle disease (rinderpest)
gundi	duiker-antelope (Sylvicapra grimmia abyssinica)
gunyélý	to see*
gurdángi	kind of lizard, orange head and tail, dark body
gúrúto (?)	to pull
gushúr	hyena; but also applied to other big predatory animals
gusi	small gourd container
gúsúsà	ant species
gútuma	sorghum-flour
-g ^w e, or -n ^w e	at*
guyáyá?a	to bring*
g ^w uyó	rain*
g ^w uyó-bátto / /uma bátto	lightning*
g ^w uyó-rúcto / g ^w uyó-uyto	thunder*

H

hárra	to vomit*
hárró	wax
hárré:	1. donkey, 2. horse
háwwu	cattle lung disease
háýá	cattle-skin for sleeping or sitting
háý(e)na	five*
hetto	to have diarrhoea
hído	right, correct*
híni	1. to want 2. to desire
híra-ngóllá	heart*
hífi	lame person
hífi-d-one	man, husband*
hífi-ko:n	someone/anyone*
	twenty*

hóhu	lung
hóí	white*
hónggɔ	to breathe*
hossɔ / hɔzzo	hunger
hole-holi	light, easy, not heavy*
hóló	'music' (song & dance)
holólý	tobacco-container
hóngo	(life-)breath
hór	a board game
horúy	jaw
hoyí	wild forest hog
húíendɔ (?)	to harvest
húnnɛy	valley*
huwa	to suckle*
huya, or chobbosa	to kiss
I	
i:ɔ̀ / i:bulíndɔ	to be caught* (I)
ibáysiba	to cure*, recover
iddírtɛi	house type (like a wigwam)
ídip	straight*
i:do	fog*
igbé:	you (pl.)*
igíngé	the grave after it has been closed; the grave-site
igí?u	to cook*
ilá?	near
i:holɔ	empty*
íkergerɛnɔ	(in the) center*
ilá?ási	sick*
ilagaba	to be sick*
ilíe	six*
imɔkto	plant, prob.: Asplenium sp.
indé	if*
inʔe	you/ye*
ingàrɛn	I'm not sure, I don't know
iniga / inika	eyebrow, eyelash
i:ɛnɔ	which?*
írriɔ	to give birth*
issábɛy	seven*

isɛ:	eight*
i:she:	all right
J	
jálò	bird sp. (Black-blue shiny, with orange-rimmed eyes)
landáy	kind of beer
já:rí / jágáí	1. leg* 2. foot*
jeʔoyya	to find
jò?	(human) faeces*
jogonʔé	strips of leather with aluminium and beads used as decoration on arms of young men
joné	mother*
joré	the small bells tied on ankle or neck or foot as personal decoration
jɔrk	onyx (horn)
jɔ?	(earthenware cooking-) pot*
K	
kabaré:	1. eye* 2. fruit*
kabí	patrilineal line, clan line
káboʔí / kábogi	bark of tree
kágadau	to remember*
kakta	to boil (tr.)
kaláíe:	epilepsy
ka:le:	day
kalebáy	Sömmerings gazelle (Gazella Soemmeringi erlangeri)
kall-kall	always*
kállaguyɛn	grass sp.
kallɔchi	tree sp. (Grewia mollis Juss.)
kálugey	armpt*
kamán	battle(-field)
kámma	bag
kandarakó	kind of partridge
kánggál	baboon*
kanglɛn	left*
karáktɔ	to rain
káráɛm	Gureza monkey (Colobus abyssinicus)
karamóchi	plant sp. (Bridelia cf. micrantha)
karang-laali	ritually established bond-friendship, after fitting each-other with a goat-skin (for males or females)

káráne:	under
kári	with*
karomó	decorative leather head-band for cattle.
kárré	down*
káruyo	to scratch*
katila	amaranth, a grain sp. (<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i> L.)
kásay	sand*
k'áto?oda	to kill, murder
kay	diviner
káyo	tongue*
kechifido	drawing decorative geometrical patterns on cattle-skins used for female clothing
kedem	bowl*, split gourd calabash for drinking
keeni	square shell of a fish found in the Kibish river
kege (pl. keginjá)	animal*
kegeyndo / kellesindo	ugly*, bad, repulsive
kejiga	decorative cut marks on woman's arms or belly
kelebeté:	shoulder-blade*
keilé	grass sp. (very fine-leaved)
k'engo	belly, stomach*
ké	tree*
kemo?	1. branch(es) 2. 'clans'
kerker	piece of dark cow-horn used by kids as decoration on the ankle
kerre (pl. kerrena)	horn
keshó	plant sp. (<i>Agave sisalana</i> or a <i>Sansevieria</i> sp.), used for rope.
kettle:	green string beans
ki-	because*
kidi-kari	together*
kido?	river*
kido-tarndo	river-bank*
kidóng	drum
kigta	to send
kil?indo	to call*
kill	to call*
kill	rabbit
kilóngà	song and dance during initiation ritual
kima?	plant sp. (<i>Catha edulis</i> (Vahl) Forsk. ex Endlicher)
k'indo	1. to cut
	2. to give/take a decision

kiniengio	perhaps*
kinyáng	crocodile
kinyinyà	flae*
kirā: rassa	to bury*
kirfn	giraffe
kirgetha (?)	to climb*
kirgi	fly* (n.)
kirit'a	to be born*
kishipio	cleaning fresh cattle-skin with a <i>geys'</i>
kisngi	fire-place (in hut)
klyo	scorpion*
kéyáy / kéyáy	tree/shrub sp. (a <i>Rhus</i> sp.)
kobákobay	beans
kóbá	to follow*
kóbi (pl. kóbinya)	chicken*
kabokto	to dig*
koðóng	iron cattle-bell
koga	to come*
kogonyi	ribs*, side of the body
koha	work
koisani	main 'referees' in the <i>sagine</i> -fights
kokó	grandparent
kokóng	ancestors
kóle:	spider*
kólogól	young big (castrated) ox
kokowóy	horse-beans
kiokta	to be angry*
kóilo	charcoal*
konf	knee*
komani	guest, visitor, stranger*
komorú	ritual mediator/ chief
kónen	affines
kónkomà	to kneel
kóno?	snake*
ko?ose	to plough
kórbóto	belt (Amharic loan?)
korni	fishhook
kóro	big, collective song-gathering
kórò	black*, darkness

korrong	throat
korú	chisel
korú	lowland
kó:shi	woods*, forest
kosin	decoration on arm, made of leather and cow-tail hair, worn during the saghe-duais
katogí bho	bridewealth, lit.: 'he gives cattle'
kuchumne?o	levirate: inheriting of wife of a deceased brother
kuddi	ensete (<i>Erssete ventricosum</i>)
kúddir	beehive
kudúru-wólielu	marriage celebration, wedding (with the songs)
kúddiri	the hat of <i>ari/ó</i> -grass used in saghe
kúgúla	hall*
kúle:ni	flower*
kúlegúla	rat*
(á) kullé:	(it is) forbidden, taboo
kúllúgo	tear, hole (in cloth)
kulugul / à tu	round*
kúnni	bottle gourd plant (<i>Lagenaria vulgaris</i> or <i>L. siceraria</i>)
kúnnin	senior adults, aged people (esp. males)
kúnnúla	all*
kúna	dream*
kungkachi	(edible) pumpkin pits
kúngení	thick cylinder-like wooden container
kúro	tail*
kúrrí	antelope (<i>Tragelaphus scriptus ducula</i>)
kúruyo	worm*
kututí	mountain*

L

láláng	metal bracelet
lá:il	friendship based on a common characteristic, e.g. the same name
lailindo	to cool off, become colder
lailini	cool (opposite of <i>barai</i>)
lá:ó	antelope sp.
lanneyo	1. to want*
lang	2. to look for
lángaré	friend
	wooden spatula to stir sorghum porridge

lango	song-dance of young males
lányi	grass (<i>Hyparrhenia</i> sp.)
laun / laun	bow* (of bow and arrow)
lé:báy	branch*
lélu	traditional male cow-skin dress (now abandoned)
léogá?	mosquito*
leshi	sharp*
lésshui	clitoris
lé:thu	to dislike, to hate
libá	<i>Sorghum vulgare</i>
ligin	'compensation': reconciliation (ceremony), e.g. after homicide
logó	1. word 2. matter, case
lók	grave (the open hole)
lökkör	elbow*
lolú	mad person
lombu	flashlight
lómmbógé	tree sp. (<i>Syzygium guineense</i> Willd.)
lomasai	tree sp., with edible fruits
lomay	tree sp.
lómbe	banana-fruit
lóngáy	tree sp.
lo?o	hole
loyagashia	to answer*
lúduiri	tree sp. (<i>Grewia velutina</i> Forsk., or <i>G. flavescens</i>)
lúgú	well* (waterhole)
luguru	period of the second sorghum harvest
lúkúri	friend
lúluini / lúluino	(light-)brown
lúshán	stone-sling
lúsi (pl. lúsa)	boy*
lúslimo	youth*, lit.: boyhood
lúya	fox*

M

má?	water
má(g)ái	mineral (soda-)salt, chewed with tobacco, to squeeze*
machiya	

mállá?	leg bracelets for women
mállúi	collective singing and dancing of youths in a circle
marad'ogí	kind of locust
marchan	antelope (lesser kudu)
maré?	immediately*
marshári	termite*
meddere (pl. medderena)	sheep*
meddere-hoy/ne	lamb*
mé?í	upper grinding stone
menenge	spirit
mé?í	many
methí / mezi	serious public debate
métu	baboon-hair head-decoration, used in wedding dances by women
mé:yá	now*
mlachi (see also: nyómáy)	razor-blade (Amharic loan)
mlná?	when?*
mlgarí / mlmari	1. Carissa edulis Forsk. 2. Acocanthera schimperi (DC) Benth.
mlró	branding marks on cattle
mlrçgi	enemy, 'opposite group'
moá:na	playful stick-fighting by boys, not in the context of an organized sagíne
modá?	spit* (n.)
mod'osi	smooth*, soft*
mógl	field, plain
móka	to gather
mokáy / mukáy	claw (e.g. of lion of leopard)
mólúy	scar*
mór	small female calf
mo:rí	1. bamboo* (?) or the tough bark of another kind of tree, called Barogí 2. the long flute made of the tree's bark
mormorà	old-time iron razor (no longer produced)
mósal	rope, made of plant fibre
moshúi	fire-making ritual
múchugí (also: chínyí)	few*
múchúkàr	bitter*
múddà	small iron hand-pick
mújusi	rotten*

mukònyí	short*
mukia	to be gathered
múlé?í	rhinoceros
múmo	face*, forehead*
munyági	'cannibal'
munyinyí (pl. munyunyá)	stars
munyú	to be annoyed*, to be irritated
murte	reddish-orange sorghum variety
mu:zi	banana*

N

ná:ressa	dead*
na?irigane	to help, to assist
nakakuy (?)	thirsty*
ne:	who?* (Mostly used in 'á-me:' = 'who is it')
ne:bi	buffaloe
Ne:gi	Suri name for the Kibish river
ngá?	here*
ngacía	they*
ngagiyé:nu	they (used when it refers to 'people far away or dead, or from the past')
ngakaldá	today*
ngakaldá baro	tonight
ngakanáy	whitish-grey sorghum variety
ngáimná	to yawn*
nganda	that* (dem. pr.)
ngandono? / no?	he/she/it
nganganí	grass sp.
nganlhé	alive*
nganyúr	cat*
ngatúi	lion*
ngáyo	no*, not
ngelegemáy	chir*
ngibá	to flee*
ngo:	neck*
ngo:chú	narrow*
ngoldo	lane*
ngóllái	operation to remove the two lower incisors
ngóna (or: bá korro)	dark*

ngó:né	sister*
ngoméy	butter
ngomngore	plant sp. (<i>Maytenus senegalensis</i> Lam.)
ngórc (pl. ngórená)	elephant*
ngórc kédc	ivory
ngarct	carrier
ngóy	smearing cattle with mud or dung
ngóyò	wind*
nige (pl. négéáy)	tooth*
nínggè	there is not; absent
nítha	killing/sacrifice
níyá / lokóyndo	to be angry*
nyàbà	blood*
nyábi	ear*
nyábi-là:teni	ear-lobe
nyágasi	old*
(hira-nyagasá	old man)
nyakachóli	(small wooden) stool*
nyánc	pregnant*
nyangí	vulva
nyeggasé	elder (m. and f.)
nyomáy	razor-blade

O

ocholokki	plant-fungus sp.
ógéyá	to take*
og(w)oi	go!
^w ole	bull
ólll	sugar-cane
óne:?	open*
ong? / a?ang?	what?*
ongná?	smell* (n.)
or	village*.
òh	where?*
órrè	two-bladed Suri wrist-knife
óyó (pl. oynya)	year

R

ra?	hot mineral spring
rádi	tree sp. (thorny)
ragál	tree sp. (<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.)
rákúí	bird sp. (raven)
ramán	two*
ramáy	long
rángang	self*
ra:th	kind of mineral earth, chewed with tobacco (see also mágál)
re?	earthenware roasting plate
re:ba	to cross
ré:	body*
regge	'orange' (cattle coat-colour)
réná?	fat*
renjá	a wasp-like water insect
resso	dead person, corpse*
rete	honey*
ri:	shadow*
ríben	fat* (adj.)
rído	tattoo made on arm when a Suri has killed a member of an enemy group
róhi	plant sp. (tuber, inedible)
róm	ostrich*
rongoofí	crooked/bent*
ro?no? / rgonó?	tomorrow*
rí:	mourning cries/songs
rday	feather*
run(-inyá)	1. cotton (plant)
	2. clothes
rutogi	scout (in enemy territory)

S

sábba?	head
ságine	ceremonial stick-duelling between youngsters
sai	1. fresh animal skin/hide
	2. the women's leather clothing made of hide
sakai	nine*
sárá?	name*
sárl	fence*

sedí	girl
segén	again*
segera	cowrie-shell
sela	bird sp.
setten	right* (direction)
séyá	to say*
shacha	to change*
shalu	sorghum or maize gruel (water mixed with flour; not alcoholic)
shámanlín	hunt (?)
sh ^w al (pl. sh ^w a)	1. bird* 2. twins
sh ^w ay-bala	bird sp.
shigín	Swayne's hartebeest
shika	to hear*, to understand
shillá	1. to stand, to halt 2. to bring a charge
shitta	cabbage (Brassica) sp.
shodligál	full moon
shogone	father*
siglro	mule
siggá	arm bracelet, e.g. of ivory
sínday	root*
síʔo-goro	wrist*
síra	girls' iron 'olincloth'
sirá	cutting marks in the ear of favourite cattle
siróʔ	big antelope sp. ('eland')
sisaʔ	bee*
sí:yo	hand*
sizzí	three*
shórré	urine
so	only, alone
sugum	buttocks, hips
su	highland agriculturalists (esp. Dizi people)
sú	sun
suné	harvest*
suyáʔ	big locust

táájí	kind of beer
táʔán	flood
táʔaná	to flood*
tábà	wing
tabár (?)	deep*
tággá	to know*
tágl	moon*
táhy	round support cushion made of plant-material, used by women when carrying heavy loads on their heads
tákkarí	tree sp. (Gardenia ternifolia subsp. Jovis-tonantis)
tála	to buy*
tanggakol	protective knee-cover made of sisal (for sagine)
taráʔ	liver*
tárà	to taste*
te:ba	to remain*
te-bayí	sit down (lit. 'sit on the ground')
tény	age-set
téʔordal / téʔusha	(that's) enough!
tényéyda	to create*, to make
teri	wife*, woman*
té:yá	to sit down
tílnyoy	ankle*
tíllà	food (refers usually to <i>darra</i>)
tílmá(-ilbaun)	boiled (sorghum-) grains
tiráyna	to play*
tiri	dust*
tirit	claw*, finger* (see also: mokáy)
tishu	fresh
tóbbe:	star* (Amharic loan)
tgadda	to stab*
tógósha	to pour*
togóshi	plant sp. (Ptilostigma thonningii (Schum.) Miln-Redh.)
tóhóy	tree sp. (thorny lowland species, with tough brown fruit)
tóley	tree sp. (lowlands)
tologonyí	weak*
tomnógl, or: síglí	iron*

tonnon	ten*
tongo (pl. tenc)	goat*
tónya	to wash (tr.)
torong	iron spear tip esp. of the small spear for cattle neck-bleeding
tugga	to plant
tugo	1. language 2. mouth 3. lips
tukan	cow with dead calf
tuko / tuna	over, above*
tumo	sky
Tumu	God, Sky-power
tu	cattle compound
tungá	to sleep*
túngol	sleep!
tuno	up*
tuntunu	(imported) plastic water-container
túnigú (?)	to enter*
túnkè-kàri	equal*
túré	wooden flute
tureya	to be milked
turgi	Solanum incanum L.
túrá	to cry*, to weep*
tuyí	in(side)*
túyú	to count*

U

uddusa	to boil
ugguno	to push*
ugúmbé	pumpkin
úhho	tobacco salt (kind of mineral soft stone)
újókà	to throw*
ulmay (pl. ulmen)	big grain-basket or container
ulugenyó	to hide, to conceal
úngú	sleep* (n.)
únjáy (pl. únj)ó	louse*
urá / uró	milk
urá chagga	fresh milk
urá lissó	yoghurt
úrjúsi	fish

uri

úríáng

wá:bu

wá:ilò?

wanggáy

wara

Warr

wa-túngú-she?

wáy

way-tugó

wéygrá

wó:chúwónyó

wóhólo

wo:gga

wogódá

wojesaa

wolokoyndo

wongál

woylenyo (?)

wóywa

wúnye?o

wúrto

wúsh

wúsúsà

wúyne

yáino

yáíye:

Yang

yé:ilay

yé:áy

yído?

yí:na

yínay

yí:ritsi

W

blacksmith

python*

the green content of a cattle's or goat's stomach
(often used in ritual)

why?*

stagnant fog

knife*

Orno River

hello ('have you slept well?')

female breast*

nipple

floor*

to forbid*

naked*

to go

to turn (over)*

to put in, insert*

to be angry

come!

to be able to

to get*, to receive

to wash*

behind* (adv.)

four*

ant

to bless*

Y

evening

mediation or settlement of disputes

kind of beer

plant sp. (Physalis peruviana)

pigeon sp.*

cloud*

blood vessel

cattle disease (anthrax)

lake*

yro?
yuha

arm
to tell

Z

zanga
zibú
zinggu
zugo
zugo-háyna?
zugo-kúmúlo

sorghum variety for cultivation in the highlands
medicine
toil, hard work
people*
hundred
crowd* (litt. 'all people')

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NOTES

1. For Me'en, see: Will 1989a and b; for Koegu, see: Hieda 1991.
2. The CTM and Me'en nodes could still be termed 'Pastoral', as Unseth has done, to distinguish them in terms of historical evolution from the YKM node, but this is less important at this stage.
3. When it is suspected that the word given is a loan from Amharic, this is indicated in brackets.