Consonant Frequency in Fadicca Nubian

Dr. Ahmed – Sokarno Abdel-Hafiz

Abstract

This paper deals with the frequency of occurrence for each class of Fadicca consonants. It also looks into the word position (e.g. initial etc.) that has the highest number of consonants and the class of consonants that is most frequent in initial, medial and final word position. The study also handles the overall occurrence of consonant phonemes and their rank across the board and in word positions.

1. Introduction

Fadicca, which belongs to the Nubian language group, is spoken in Southern Egypt. There is another dialect which is mutually intelligible with Fadicca: Mahas. These dialects constitute a single language which has received different names: Fadicca-Mahas (Trigger 1966) and Nobiin (Bell 1973, 1974; Werner 1987). Although we have several studies on Mahas (Bell 1973; Ayoub 1968; Werner 1987), Fadicca is relatively understudied. However, I conducted fieldwork in the Fadicca area in 1998-1999 and was able to compile most of its basic vocabulary (cf. Abdel-Hafiz 1999).

Although consonant frequency has been studied in several languages (e.g. English (Trnka 1968, cited in Sobkowiak 1996)), Arabic (Alkhuli 1990; Amayreh et al.1999), the consonant frequency of Fadicca has not drawn the attention of Nubianists. In fact, the author was unable to pinpoint any previous studies on the consonant frequency of any Nubian dialect. This study, which is an attempt to fill this gap, deals with the consonant frequency in Fadicca; the study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What class of sounds has the highest frequency of occurrence? It should be noted that Fadicca consonants are, for the purposes of this study, classified according to place of articulation and manner of articulation.

2. In what position of the word does the highest number of consonants occur?

3. What class of sounds has the highest frequency of occurrence in initial, medial and final position?

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4. What is the overall frequency and rank order of each consonant phoneme?
5. What is the frequency and rank order of each consonant phoneme in the initial, medial and final position of words?

This study can be of help to those who work with aphasiacs (cf. Critchley 1970:37) and those who suffer from such disturbances as (1) aphonemia where patients “lose certain phonemes” and (2) dysphonemia “where phonemes are confused from loss of knowledge of the differentiating function and value between a pair of phonemes”. By identifying the relative frequency of each consonant, the speech trainer can set up his or her priorities concerning what sounds to teach first.

Methodology

Studies on frequency of phoneme occurrences usually depend on a large corpus; for example, Tomiche (1964) based his study of Cairene Arabic phonemes on 10,010 phoneme occurrences; Onsa (1984)’s sample consisted of 1000 words of a Sudanese dialect; Alkuli (1990)’s sample of 46,029 phoneme tokens. Amayreh et al. (1999)’s study of consonant frequency in Arabic depended on 106,495 phoneme tokens. The description given here is vocabulary-oriented rather than text-oriented (written or oral). Put differently, in this study, I have relied on the Fadicca basic vocabulary compiled in Abdel-Hafiz (1999). Since this dialect is greatly influenced by Arabic, I attempted to exclude all Arabic loan-words. The corpus of the sample turned out to be 967 tokens of phoneme occurrences. The fact that the sample is small in size should not have any impact on the results we obtain from this study. Comparable studies have proven that the distribution of sounds is language specific (cf. Fowler 1951) and is not affected by differences in the sample size and the source and nature of style (Amayreh et al. 1999:218). Amayreh et al. (1999:218) have discovered that the findings of their study (which relied on a large corpus) were no different from those of the three studies (i.e. Tomiche 1964; Onsa 1984; Alkhuli 1990) conducted on Arabic phonemes. However, this study can be supplemented by further research that is more representative in sample size; the corpus can also be based on a stretch of running Fadicca texts.

I verified the articulation of each word in the list by seeking the help of native speakers other than my principal informant. Then, I phonemically transcribed each word with the purpose of isolating Fadicca consonants (18
consonants) and classified them (according to place and manner of articulation) into groups. I then counted the overall occurrence of each class; attention was also focused on the occurrence of each class in initial, medial and final position of words. I also counted the overall frequency and rank order of each consonant phoneme and the frequency and rank order of each phoneme in initial, medial and final position of words.

**Consonant Frequency in Fadicca**

As pointed out earlier, Fadicca has 18 consonants. Of these, six consonants are alveolar, five palatal, three bilabial, two velar, one labiodental and one glottal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bilabial</th>
<th>labiodent</th>
<th>Alv</th>
<th>palat</th>
<th>vel</th>
<th>glot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>k</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td></td>
<td>d</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w</td>
<td></td>
<td>s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>l</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>r</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (1): Fadicca consonants according to place

But as table 2 shows, the alveolars have the highest frequency of occurrence (53.62%). The velars are the second most frequently occurring sounds (20.60%), followed by the bilabials (11.50%) and palatals (10.25%). The labiodental sounds (3.93%) rank 5 in the order, with the glottal sound being the least occurring sound (0.10%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>rank</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>alveolar</td>
<td>53.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>velar</td>
<td>20.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bilabial</td>
<td>11.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>palatal</td>
<td>10.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>labiodental</td>
<td>3.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glottal</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (2): consonants in each place of articulation
Fadicca consonants are classified into 6 groups according to manner of articulation (cf. table 3): stop, fricative, nasal, affricate, liquid, and glide. The stop constitutes the largest group, with 5 members. The fricatives, with 4 consonants, constitute the next largest group, and the nasal group, with 3 consonants, is next in order. The affricate, the liquid and the glide comprise the smallest groups, with each having 2 members. It seems that the stops (cf. table 4) have the highest frequency of occurrence (39.09 %). The nasals come next (19.24 %), followed by liquids (15.93 %). Affricates (5.58 %) and glides (5.58 %) are the least occurring sounds in Fadicca. If we examine table 3 and table 4, one might note that there is a correlation between the number of sounds a class has and the frequency rate; for example, the affricate and the glide, which have two members each, have the least frequency of occurrence. But this cannot be taken as a rule for although the liquid has less members than the fricative, it is far better in terms of frequency of occurrence (15.93 %).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manner of Articulation</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>39.09 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fricative</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19.24 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.93 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affricate</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.58 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glide</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.58 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (3): Fadicca consonants according to manner of articulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manner of Articulation</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stops</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39.09 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasals</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19.24 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquids</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.93 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fricatives</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14.58 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affricates</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.58 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glides</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.58 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (4): consonants in each manner of articulation
This study has so far dealt with the overall frequency occurrences of classes of sounds. It has been shown that alveolars and stops are the most frequently occurring sound classes in Fadicca. We are now in a position to examine the occurrence of consonants in the initial, medial and final position. As table (5) shows, the medial position of words is the most preferable for consonants in Fadicca: 62.2% of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonants</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in medial position</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in initial position</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in final position</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (5): position of consonants in Faddica words

consonants occur in the medial position while 24.5% of consonants prefer the initial position. The final position is the least preferable position for consonants (13.3%).

The phonemes as classified according to place of articulation differ as to the word position in which they occur most often (cf. table 6). The alveolars are the most frequent sounds in the initial (39.66%), medial (56.40%) and final positions (65.89%). The next most frequent sounds in the initial and medial position are the velars. It is

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alveolar</td>
<td>39.66</td>
<td>56.40</td>
<td>65.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>velar</td>
<td>25.74</td>
<td>20.80</td>
<td>10.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bilabial</td>
<td>14.77</td>
<td>9.98</td>
<td>12.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>palatal</td>
<td>10.97</td>
<td>9.82</td>
<td>11.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>labiodental</td>
<td>8.44</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glottal</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (6): consonant classes (according to place) in word positions
the bilabial sounds that are the next most frequently occurring sounds in the final position (12.40 %). Labiodental and glottal sounds do not occur in the final position. The glottal is shown to be the least occurring sound in the initial position (0.42)

The phonemes, as classified according to manner, seem to prefer particular positions in the word (cf. table 7). Thus stops are the most frequent sounds in the initial position (52.32 %) and the medial position (36.77 %). The liquid is the most frequently occurring class in the final position of words (31.78 %). Interestingly,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stops</td>
<td>52.32</td>
<td>36.77</td>
<td>25.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fricative</td>
<td>18.99</td>
<td>14.14</td>
<td>8.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nas</td>
<td>13.92</td>
<td>21.63</td>
<td>17.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affric</td>
<td>9.28</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>5.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liq</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>18.80</td>
<td>31.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glides</td>
<td>5.49</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>10.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (7): consonant classes (according to manner in word positions)

liquids do not occur in the initial position (cf. table 7). The glide as a class seems to be the least frequent in initial (5.94 %) and medial (4.5 %) word positions.

The overall frequency occurrences and rank order of consonants in Faddica is given in table (8). The nasal sound [n] seems to be the most frequent phoneme (13.25 %). [k] is the next most occurring sound (10.59 %), followed by [r] (9.42%) and [d] (9.11 %). [h] is the least occurring sound (0.10). Table (8) also illustrates the frequency and rank order of each phoneme in word initial, medial, and final position. The voiceless velar stop is the most frequent sound in the initial position (19.83 %); hence, it is ranked 1. It is followed by the voiced alveolar stop [d] (13.50 %), the voiceless alveolar stop [t] (9.70 %), the voiced palatal stop [j] (9.28 %), and [f] (8.44 %). [s] and [h] have a very low frequency (1.69 % and 0.42 %), respectively.
In the medial position, the alveolar nasal [n] turns out to be the most frequent consonant (15.47 %), and its overall rank is 1. It is followed by [r] (10.81 %), [t] (9.32 %), [g] (9.15 %), [s] (9.15 %), and [k] (8.98 %). The palatal stop [j] is the least frequent sound in this position (1.16 %). In the final position, the approximant [r] is the most frequently occurring sound (20.16 %). It is followed by [d] (13.95 %), [n] (12.40 %), and [l] (11.63 %). The least frequent sounds in the final position are the velars [k] and [s] (0.77 %).

| rank | Initial |  |  | Medial |  |  | Final |  |  | rank |  |  | rank |  |  | rank |  |  | rank |
|------|---------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| n    | 1       | 13.25| 8.02 | 6      | 15.47| 1    | 12.40| 3    |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| k    | 2       | 10.56| 19.83| 1      | 8.99 | 5    | 0.77 | 12   |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| r    | 3       | 9.42 | --   | --     | 10.81| 2    | 20.16| 1    |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| d    | 4       | 9.11 | 13.50| 2      | 6.32 | 7    | 13.95| 2    |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| s    | 5       | 8.80 | 8.44 | 5      | 9.15 | 4    | 7.75 | 6    |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| g    | 6       | 8.38 | 5.91 | 7      | 9.15 | 4    | 9.30 | 5    |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| t    | 7       | 8.18 | 9.70 | 3      | 9.32 | 3    |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| l    | 8       | 6.52 | --   | --     | 7.99 | 6    | 11.63| 4    |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| m    | 9       | 4.97 | 5.91 | 7      | 4.49 | 8    | 5.43 | 7    |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| f    | 10      | 3.93 | 8.44 | 5      | 3.00 | 9    |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| w    | 11      | 3.62 | 5.49 | 8      | 2.49 | 11   | 5.43 | 7    |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| j    | 12      | 3.31 | 9.28 | 4      | 1.16 | 14   | 2.33 | 10   |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| b    | 13      | 2.90 | 3.38 | 9      | 3.00 | 9    | 1.55 | 11   |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| c    | 14      | 2.78 | --   | --     | 3.00 | 9    | 3.10 | 9    |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| y    | 15      | 1.86 | --   | --     | 2.00 | 12   | 5.43 | 7    |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| s    | 16      | 1.76 | 1.69 | 10     | 2.00 | 12   | 0.77 | 12   |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| i    | 18      | 1.06 | 1.66 | 13     |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| h    | 17      | 0.10 | 0.42 | 11     |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |

Table (8): consonant overall frequency and rank orders

Some sounds figure with the same rank order: [s] and [f] are ranked 5 in the initial position. Also, [g] and [m] have the same rank order: they rank 7 in the initial position. In the medial position, [y] and [s] rank 12 and [f], [b], [c] have the same rank in the medial position: they are all ranked 9. In the final position, [m] and [w] rank 7 whereas [k] and [s] are ranked 12.
There seems to be a correlation between the overall rank of a phoneme and its occurrence in initial, medial and final position. Thus the velar stop [k] is ranked 1 in the initial position and 2 in the overall rank order. The alveolar nasal [n] is ranked 1 in the medial position and 1 in the overall rank. The liquid [r] is ranked 1 in the final position, 2 in the medial position and 3 in the overall rank. The alveolar stop [d] is ranked 2 in the initial and final position. The alveolar fricative [s] ranks 5 in initial and overall rank. [t] ranks 3 in initial and medial position. [w] is ranked 11 in the medial position and overall rank.

As table (8) indicates, some sounds do not occur in certain word positions. The alveolar approximant [r], of which the overall rank is 3, does not occur in the initial position. Similarly, the alveolar lateral [l] is restricted to medial and final word position. Also, the palatal sounds ([c], [y], and [n] cannot occur in the initial position. The voiceless alveolar stop is not attested in final position. The glottal fricative [h] seems to be a dying sound in Fadicca: it is rare (>10 %) in the initial position. It is nonexistent in medial or final position. This can be explained by reference to cross-linguistic facts about [h]: [h] is cross-linguistically prone to loss (Lass 1984:179).

Discussion and Interpretation

The study reveals that alveolars are the most frequently occurring sounds in Fadicca. They constitute 53.62 % of the total consonants. The question is: why do alveolars exceed all other sound types in terms of occurrence? One might claim that alveolars require less muscular effort. Evidence for this comes from language acquisition facts: children usually acquire consonants that require less effort at an early age, whereas consonants requiring greater effort are acquired later (Hyman 1975:2). Thus children acquire front consonants such as [t] before back consonants such as [k]. As Hyman (1975:2) points out, front consonants are predominant in the common forms for ‘mother’ and ‘father’ in child language. The statistical bias in favor of front consonants in the terms for ‘mother’ and ‘father’ is presumably due to the fact that labial and dental/alveolar consonants are learned before velar consonants (ibid.). Thus numerous studies in child language have reported children replacing velars by dental/alveolar consonants. Stampe (1960:446), for instance, reports a child saying [ta] instead of car [kar], and [tat] instead of cat [kat] (cf. Hyman 1975:17).
However, the argument involving ease of articulation is not reliable in all cases. Alkhuli (1990:145) argues that there is a correlation between higher frequency and ease of articulation. He claims that some consonants occur more frequently than others because they are easier to articulate. According to Alkhuli (1990:146), the Arabic voiceless alveolar stop [t] is easier, and more frequent, than its voiced counterpart [d]. Similarly, the Arabic lateral approximant [l] is easier than [r] because the former sound only requires that the tip of tongue be in touch with the alveolar ridge; hence, it has more occurrences than [r] (ibid.p.145). The lateral approximant [l] is also reported to be one of the early sounds acquired by Arab children (cf. Amayreh and Dyson 1998). Such claims are not adequate to adopt as a cross-linguistic phenomenon. Trnka (1968) points out that in English the lateral approximant [l] occurs 6.9 % of the time in the lexicon whereas [r] occurs 4.4 % of the time (cited in Sobkowiak 1996:289-290); yet, [l] seems to be a difficult sound for English children to produce. Stampe (1973:3) reports an English child saying [zab] instead of ‘lamb’ [lam], [zuf] instead of ‘leaf’. If [l] were an easy sound to articulate, the child would not replace it by another sound.

There is another reason to reject the claim that sounds such as [l] and [t] in Arabic are more frequent than [r] and [d], respectively because they are easier to articulate. If this claim were true, we would expect the former sounds to be more frequent than the latter ones in all languages of the world. Table (8) of the Fadicca sounds shows that [r] is ranked higher than [l], its overall rank being 3. The overall rank of [l] is 8. Similarly, the voiced alveolar stop [d] in Fadicca (cf. table 8) is ranked higher than its voiceless counterpart [t]: [d] is 4 in the overall rank while [t] is 7. These facts clearly indicate that what seems to be a difficult sound in one language turns out to be an easy sound in another.

It has been pointed out (cf. table 5) that the final position is the least preferable position for consonants; only 13.3 % of the Fadicca consonants occur in this position. This is not surprising if we know that the final position is “a position which is especially subject to change. Most of the changes that affect it are of a weakening or loss variety” (Hock 1986:80). Thus consonants at this position are subject to lenition or loss, a fact that explains the poverty of this position in the retention of consonants.
Conclusion

This study, which dealt with consonant frequency in a Nubian dialect, has revealed that alveolars have the highest frequency of occurrence (53.62 %), followed by the velars (20.60 %). The glottal is the least frequent consonant (0.10 %). The study also shows that the stops are the most frequent sound class (39.09 %), followed by the nasals (19.24 %) and liquids (15.93 %). Affricates and glides occur the least (5.58 %). It has also been shown that the medial position is the most favorable position for consonants: 62.2 % of the total number of consonants occur in the medial position, the final position being the least favorable position (13.3 %). The frequency and rank order of individual sounds indicate that [n] is the most frequent phoneme (13.25 %); its overall rank is 1. [k], which receives an overall rank 2, is the next most frequent sound (10.56 %), followed by [r] and [d] (cf. table 8). The least occurring sounds include [y], [s], [n], and [h]. The analysis of the rank of individual sounds in specific word position has indicated that [k] is the most frequent sound word initially (19.83 %) whereas [h] is the least occurring sound in this position. While [n] is the most frequently occurring sound in the medial position (12.81 %), [r] is the least frequent in this position. Interestingly, [r] is the most frequently occurring sound in the final position (20.15 %), whereas [s] and [k] are the least frequent in this position.

تردد الأصوات الصامتة في اللغة الفلايكية

ملخص

يتناول البحث تردد مجموعات الصوائم في اللغة الفلايكية وأكثرها شيوعاً في كلمات هذه اللغة. ولما كانت الكلمة لها ثلاثة مواقع: الافتتاحي والمتوسط والأخير، فإن الدراسة تسعى لتحديد أكثر المواقع التي تحتوى على الصوائم. كما توضح الدراسة أكثر الأصوات الفردية شيوعاً بالنسبة للأصوات الأخرى وأيها أكثر انتشاراً في مواقع الكلمة الثلاثة.
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Appendix

Attested representative sample of Fadicca

aba dower
abonenga uncle
abonenganassi uncle's daughter
abonenganto uncle's son
acci bite
addi hayena
agar place
aguffi blow
a:gedi marry
a:gfa pick up
a:gfa throw
a:gfanni to be hungry
a:gmidikki fill
a:gsongin wash clothes
a:gsuri praise
a:gte give
ajaw sweet
ajenni carry
ajo:ri forget
ajo:ri urinate
akaddi throw away
akekki to tear
ake:ri sing
\*akki wean
akuttiki wake up
allali:b inner part of the stomach (animals)
aman water
ambor rain
angare bed
anjar bowl
anna mine
annass  my daughter
anna:w  my grandmother
anne:nbes  my ante
anne:n  mother
annenga  brother
annenganass  brother's daughter
annenganto  brother's son
anni  drink
aragi  dance
aragi:d  dance
aricc  meat
arkki  mud
arnni/tsinni  sneeze
asa:sir  dawn
asi  beautiful
asle
assi  grandchild
assar  child
assari  children
attir  Nubian bread
awir  wing
ayikka  heart
awantu  midnight
bale  wedding
bina:ti  scarf
bariski:d  vomit
barsi  twin
baskal  tweezers
bissi  snatch
burukki  mouse/rat
dacci  lick
dafoo  lose
deg  tie
deme  ten
demmi  crawl
derrij  to be lame
derre:j  a lame person
dessi  green
dessi  uncooked
dette  fuel
detti  pick up
de:gi  to water
de:gi  splitter
de:wno:g  kitchen
di  die
dir  shoes
dirbad  chicken
dirbannondi  rooster
di:s  blood
dog  kiss
dogor  ghost
dolgid  love (n.)
dolli  deep
donni  bring up
dorri  crawl
dogi  ride
dimadij  fifteen
dinni  fight (n)
dinni  fight (v)
dolle  love (v.)
dungii  blind
duwwi  old
ecco  send
eddi  hand
edinkeffa  balm of hand
aged  sheep
agednondi  male sheep
eli  today
eli:n  today
elle:niani  now
erre  urine
es  noon
ewwey  plant
fa  dismiss
fag  divide
fajani  buy
fajani  sell
fanni  hunger
farassi  a weighing can
fa:g  divide
fay  write
feddi  beg
fenti  dates
fe:ri  be satisfied
fe:se  a jug
filli  side of the body
file  onion
fi  sleep
findi  dig
filli  twisted
firgi  want
fogir  pour
fogon  summer
fottir  cut down
fo:kid  destroy
fo:s  Monday
fo:snog  Tuesday
fosnogtande  Wednesday
galanni  tonsils
ga:g  tell a tale
ge :l  red
ginde  thorn
gisir  bone
gitti  heavy
goj  slaughter
go:s  throat
go:ffi  close
go:tte  village chief
gurondi  bull
gutti a large vessel for water
gu:bi kneel
hango donkey
I owner
id man
ide:n woman
imi:d salt
in take
indo here
(in)talle needle
irbe know
irki the homeland
iskale instrument for lifting water
isse flour
issi louse
iskinti guest
iski:d dust
izbi bind
iyye neck
i:g fire
i:w wheat
jakki tread
jawwi to cry as a show of happiness
jawwid a cry of happiness
ja:be massage
ja:g fear (n)
ja:gar coward
ja:gi fear (v)
jelew tale
jelewin wash
jigcci laugh
jilli remember
jitti ornament
jokki bite food
jonti give birth
juge burn
jugi  hot
julle  tree
jumu:d  saliva
jumossi  saliva
ju:kkii  lick
kabi:s  cat
kaddi  throw away
kag  first-born child
kaj  monkey
kam  camel
kamis  The day before yesterday
kandi  knife
karkar  laugh
karum  a drink
kawarti  chicken
ka:si  stir
ka:sir  turban
kekki  cut meat
keme  neighbor
kerra:y  dower
kerri  barn
ke:rka  song
ke:nti  barn
kiecci  sea during winter
kid  stone
kindi  drown kore
kinni  to be tired
kirage  Sunday
kirri  baggage
kitti  cloth
koffare  hina
kogorosi  yellow
kokki  knock
kolod  seven
kombo  egg
kombo  fat
kon  face
konol  mirror
kore   feast
korje  break
korra:y feast
koy    wood
ko:se  go sour
ko:g   raven
ko:y   face
kunne  bury
kurked young man
kurungad cloud
kusme  wipe
kussa:d rotten
kusse  stale
kussi  to go rotten
kurse  open
kutti  flies
kutti  stand up
malta  turkey
man    that
marki  steal
marki  thief
masa   good
masa   sun
ma:lkayinna lap
ma:nessi tears
misar  young ewe
misse  fasting
mittar well
mogor  big ewe
mo:l   near
mug    dog
murti  horse
naccinaman rain
neddi  fall
nar    tongue
| nassi  | tall |
| natti  | heaven |
| nawa   | skin |
| na:ba  | locust |
| na:fe  | hide |
| na:fi  | hide |
| neyya:d| pimp |
| ne:cc  | deaf |
| ne:r   | sleep |
| nicci  | palm leaves |
| no:g   | house |
| no:y   | fat |
| nur:r  | shadow |
| nulwa  | white |
| oddi   | sick |
| og     | chest |
| olla:wr| rope for hanging clothes |
| olle   | hung |
| olli:d | light (not heavy) |
| ondi   | male |
| orki   | cold |
| orki   | soft/moist |
| oro    | south |
| orod   | illness |
| orom   | cold (winter) |
| orom   | cold |
| ose    | beat |
| ossa:r | slave |
| ossi   | slaves |
| o:me   | count |
| o: orod| cold |
| o:wo   | two |
| sama   | dry |
| samitte| Saturday |
| sa:me  | beard |
| seged  | scorpion |
| sekki  | crawl |
senek  hiccups
serin  oat
seyyi breed
siddo where
sigir  boat
simatti sweat
si:w  sand
si:w  to be numb
sokki  lift
soron  nose
soronow  noses
soronamin  mucus
so:r  one-eyed
su  milk
sunni  smell
suwutti  bite by hand
saddi  malt
sinirti hear (n)
songir  money
sugmi  rinse
sundi  lips
tacci  in labor
tafficci  console
tallo  where
taniss  name	
tanno  walk
tar  this
tarki:n  smoked fish
tawro  under
taccìi  call
ta:r  drum
terkò  alone	
tige  cover
tinno  west	
tirìb  sickle

tissì  thread