

The Nubian Language / Dialect Group

Disasters:

- Mahdist wars, 1880s
- The First Civil War 1965-72,
- The Second Civil War, 1983 to present, Darfûr Conflict, from 2001/2002/2003 onwards.
- 1983/1984 a horrid famine, with nearly 100,000 Darfûris left dead
- Aswân Dam, after 1900
- High Dam, after 1960

It is hard to tell what is the present situation of all those tiny groups of speakers of various languages in the area: extinction, displacement, decimation, enslavement.

The pre-war situation was like this:



Hill Nubian

G h u l f â n : 16,000 speakers (1984 R. C. Stevenson). Northern Sudan, K o r d o f a n , in two hill ranges 25 to 30 miles south of Dilling: Ghulfan Kurgul and Ghulfan Morung.

K a d a r u : 12,360 speakers (2000 "WCD"). Northern Sudan, K o r d o f a n Province, Nuba mountains, Kadaru Hills between Dilling and Delami.

D i l l i n g : 5,295 speakers (1984 R. C. Stevenson). Northern Sudan, Southern K o r d o f a n , town of Dilling and surrounding hills, including Kudr.

D â i r : 1,000 speakers (1978 "GR"). Northern Sudan, west and south parts of Jebel Dair, K o r d o f a n .

E l - H u g e i r â t : 200 speakers (2000 Brenzinger). Northern Sudan, West K o r d o f a n on El Hugerat Hills.

K a r k o : 12,986 speakers (1984 R. C. Stevenson). Northern Sudan, K o r d o f a n , in Karko Hills 20 miles west of Dilling, including Dulman. May also be spoken on Abu Jinik to the west (1,000) and El Tabaq southwest of Katla (800).

W â l i : 487 speakers (1977 Voegelin and Voegelin). Northern Sudan, in the Wali Hills, K o r d o f a n , south of Karko Hills.

M e i d o b : 50,000 speakers (1993 R. Werner). Northern Sudan, D â r F û r Province, Jebel Midob, and settled communities in Omdurman and Gezira Aba. The center is Malha.

B i r k e d : extinct. Northern Sudan, north D â r F û r , north and east of Daju and Baygo, east of Jebel Marra between Jebel Harayt and the Rizaykat (Arab) country. Also north of Nyala. A few in north Kordofan south of El Obeid.

Valley Nubian

(The situation before the 1960s):

K e n z i or **K e n û z i** (Kunûzi): From Aswân to Wâdi el-Sebû' (north of Egyptian Nubia)

N o b i i n , a new term to comprise

Fadicca, Fiyadikka in the South of Egyptian Nubia

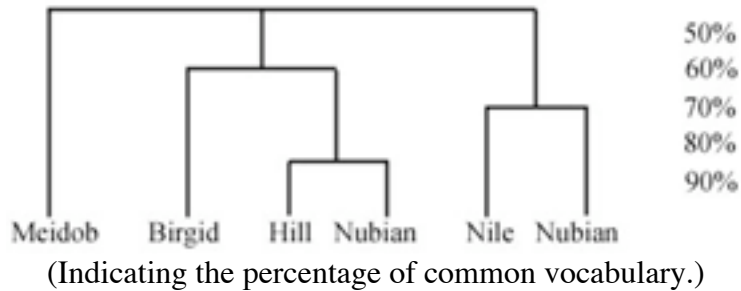
Mahâs (Mahâsi) in the North of Sudanese Nubia, near 2nd Cataract

D o n g o l â w i (Dunqulâwi), south of Mahâsi, Dongola area

Linguistic Classification

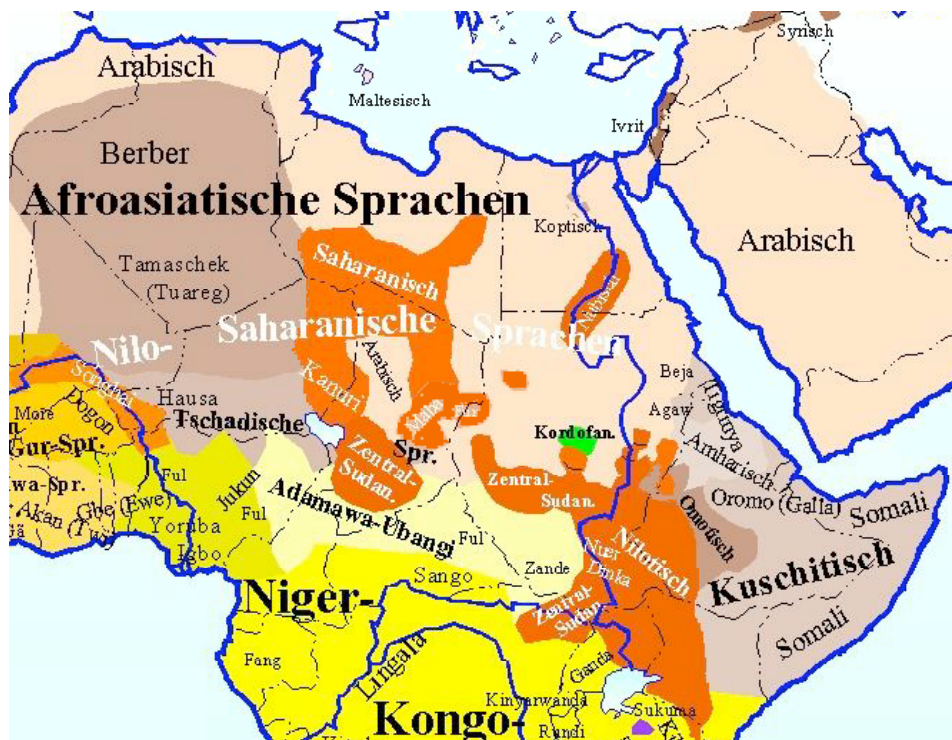
Controversial.

Theilwall:



Ethnolog:

Nubian				
Northern	Central			Western
Nobiin	†Birked (Darfûr)	Kenûzi-Dongolâwi	Hill Nubian (Kordofan)	
			Kadaru-Ghulfan	Unclassified
Old Nubian Nobiin Lexical similarity 67% with Kenûzi-Dongolâwi.	Lexical similarity 60% with Kadaru; 51% with Meidob (closest).	Dongolâwi Lexical similarity 67% with Nobiin, 56% with Debrî (=Dilling). Kenûzi	Ghulfân Kadaru Lexical similarity 93% with Dilling, 92% to 87% with Debrî, 60% with Birked.	Dilling Lexical similarity 94% with Debrî, 93% with Kadaru. Dâir, El-Hugeirât, Karko, Wâli
				Meidob (Darfûr) Lexical similarity 51% with Birgid (closest).



Nubian – a Nilo-Saharan Language

RUHLEN:

3 Nilo-Saharan

I Songhai (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger)

II Saharan Kanuri, Kanembu; Tubu (Niger, Chad, Nigeria, Sudan)

III Maban (mainly Chad)

IV Fur (Chad, Sudan)

V Eastern Sudanic

A Eastern

1 **Nubian**: (Sudan, Egypt)

Western: Meidob

Central: Birgid, Debri, Dongolawi [+ Kunûzi]

Northern: Mahas [+Fadidja=Nobiin], [† Old Nubian]

2 Surmic: ... Mursi (Sudan, Ethiopia)

3 Nara: ... (Eritrea)

4 Eastern Jebel: ... (Sudan)

B Western (Sudan)

C Nilotic (Sudan)

1 Western

a i Shilluk, ...; b i Nuer; bii Dinka

2 Eastern Maasai; Turkana, ...

3 Southern Kalenjin, ...

VI Central Sudanic Kresh; Bongo; Bagirmi; Logbara; Mangbetu ...

(mainly Dem. Rep. Congo, Central African Rep., Uganda, Sudan,)

VII Berta (Ethiopia)

VIII Kunama (Eritrea)

IX Komuz (Ethiopia, Sudan)



Nilo-Saharan Languages

Typological characteristics:

SOV: **eit-il sak-ka pes-na** *man (nom.) word (acc.) says* “The man says the word”genitival nouns preceding; postpositions: **mare'ot-in kisse-la** *Marotis-of church-in* “in the church of Mareote”

no noun classes, no grammatical gender (exception: W. Nilotic), but numerous case forms; etc.

Lexicon: no great resemblances.

For example: numbers 1–10 in various Nubian idioms and in some other NS languages.¹

Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Eastern,										
Nubian, Central:										
†Birgid (Dar Fur)	meirtu	ullu	tizzit	keimzi	tishi	korshi	koldi	ittu	ijmoldi	timmur
Dongolawi	wera	on-u	toshk-u	kams-u	dig-u	gurg-u	ko:lla-du	i-du	isko-du	dimini
Jebel Dair (Kordof.) ²	ber	óra	tóduñ	kéñu	tíśu, díśu	kuárśu (kérśu)	kuálád, kuálát	édu	u ^w íd, u ^w ht	būré
Debri (Dilling; Kordof.)	ber	orro	toJJi	keñu	ticcu	kwarcu	kwalada	eddu	weddu	bre
Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Eastern,										
Nubian, Northern:										
†Old Nubian	ouer-	ouo-	tousko-	kemso-	dij-	gode-	kolot-	idouei	askotta-	dimed-
Mahas (Nobiin)	waira	out-wo	tou'sko	kemso	dige'a	gorge'o	koloda	id-wo	oskoda	dimé
Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Eastern,										
Nubian, Western:										
Meidob (Dar Fur)	parc	°ddi	tasi	eeji	téccí	kórci	ólotti	ídi	úkkúdí	tmmiji
Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Eastern,										
Surmic, South, Southeast, Pastoral, Suri:										
Mursi (SSud.)	d`ò:nè	ràmàn	thìzzi	uwì	há:nán	ìllè	ìtha:bài	iththè	thàkàl	tomon
Murle (SSud.)	codoi	ram	iyu	wec	tuur	torkonom	torgerem	turge	torkoc	amoto
Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Eastern,										
Surmic, North, Majang										
Majang	om-ong	pee	jii	angan	tuul	tuula?om	tuulapee	tuulajiit	tuulangan	bapif
Nilo-Saharan,										
Unclassified: Shabo (Shako, "Mekeyer", "Mikeyir", "Mikair")										
Shabo (Eth.)	ingki	bap	jiiita	angan	tuul	tulu	tulikakingki	tunajiita	tulaangan	bapif
Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Eastern,										
Surmic, South, Southwest, Kacipo-Balesi: Bale(si)										
Bale	óód`e:	rámámá	íyyó	wé	túr	to:rkóno:	tu:rgére:	tu:rge:	tórgógo:	o:mo:dhó
Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Eastern,										
Surmic, South, Southeast:										
Kwegu (Eth.)	kium	d`aa	jien	ahur	cun	la	ts'oba	lonkai	sal	tomon

¹ <http://www.zompist.com/numbers.shtml>.² Junker, H. – Czermak, W.: Kordofän-Texte im Dialekt von Gebel Dair. Sb KAW Wien, ph.-h.-Kl. 174/3, Wien 1913.

Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic,										
Western										
Shilluk	ákyèl	áryùu	ád ^è k	ángwèn	ábìch	ábìkyèl	ábryùu	ábíd ^è k	ábìngwèn	pyà:rò
Nuer	kel	reu	dyok	nguan	dhyec	bakel	baro	badak	bangwan	wal
Dinka	tok	ru	dyak	'nguan	wdyech	wdetem	wderóu	bêt	wde-nguan	wtyer
Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic,										
Eastern										
Maasai (Kenya, Tans.)	obo	aare	okuni	oonguan	imiet	Ile	oopi- shana	isiet	oondo	tomon
Turkana (Kenya)	a-pey`	nga-arey`	nga-uni`	nga-omwon`	nga-ka:ni	nga- kanl- ka-pey	nga- kanl-ka-arey	nga- kanl-ka-uni	nga- kanl-ka-omwon	nga-tòmón
Nilo-Saharan, Central Sudanic, West,										
Bongo-Bagirmi										
Bongo	kootu	ngori	mta	heu	mi	do-kotu	do-ngor	do-mta	do-heu	kii
Nilo-Saharan, Saharan, Western:										
Kanuri (Niger)	tilo	ndi	yakk ^e	deg ^e	uwu	arask ^e	tulur	wusku	l'gar	mewu
Nilo-Saharan, Songhai, Western:										
Songhai (Mali, ...)	fo	hinka	hinja	taaci	gu	iddu	iyye	yaaha	yagga	woy

Nubian preserved Egyptian words in the vocalization of the New Kingdom (ca. 1550-1075 B.C.)

	New Kingdom Later 2nd mill.	Late Period Mid-1st mill.	Coptic From 3rd cent. AD	Old Nubian From 6th cent. AD
<i>irp</i> "wine"	*'ūrāp	*'ērēp	HPĪ 'ērēp	OPΠ(Δ)- <i>orp(a)</i> -
<i>nb(w)</i> "gold"	*nāb(ě?)	*nōb	NOYB <i>nūb</i>	ΓΔΠΕ <i>ṅap</i>

Loaned directly from Egyptian – in the 2nd millennium BC ? Or *via* Meroitic ?