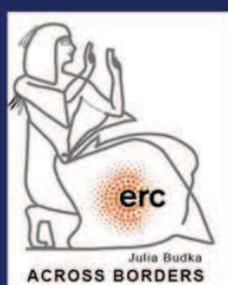
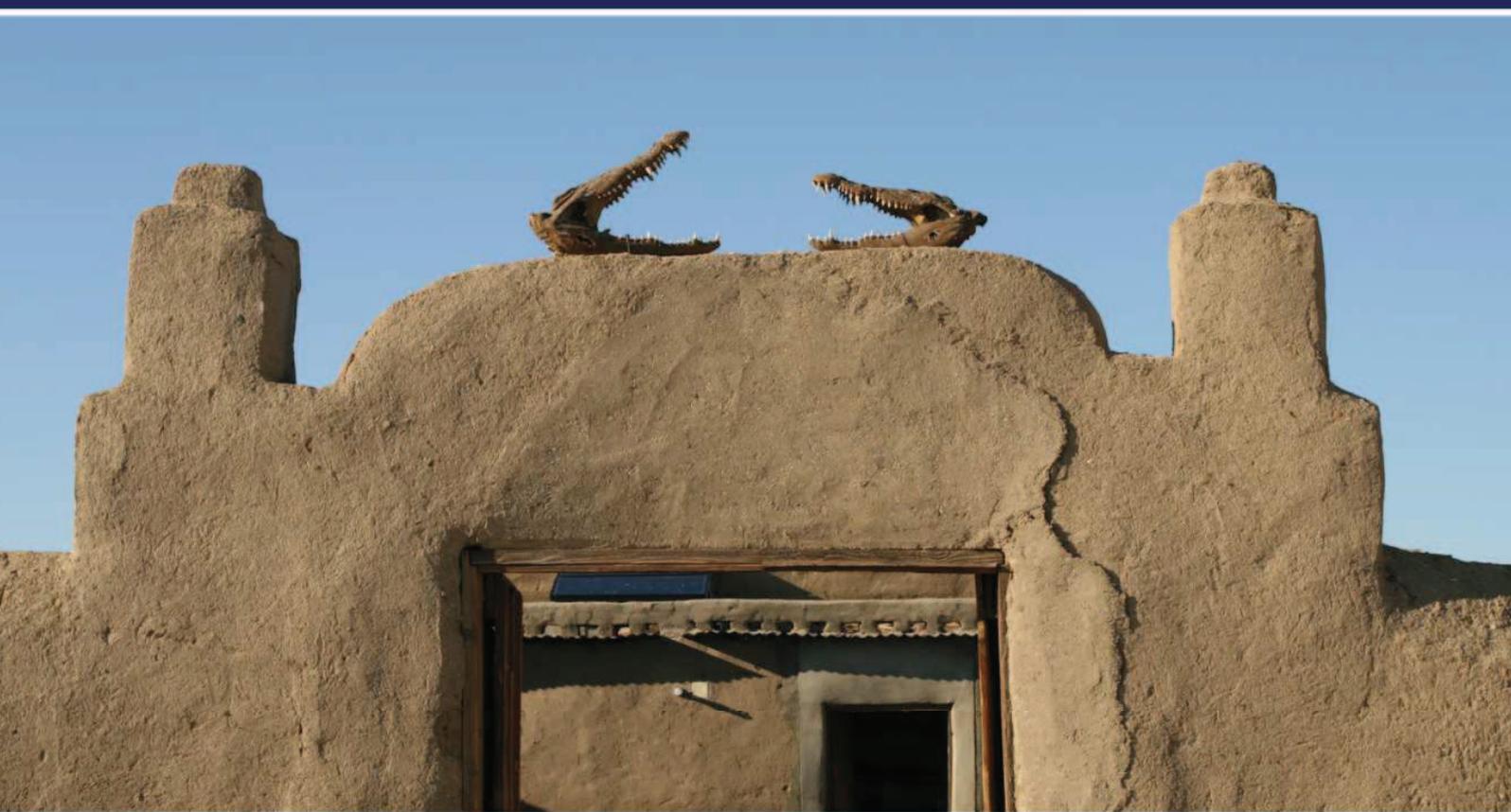


Short Archaeological Wordlist in English, Sudani Arabic and Nobiin

Compiled by Helmut Satzinger
With a foreword by Julia Budka



Vienna/Munich 2018

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Foreword

Every archaeologist working in northern Sudan has experienced this: puzzled looks by Nubian workmen addressed with some obviously un-comprehensive instructions and, vice-versa, confusion because the workmen are speaking something very difficult to understand... well – in the Land of the Mahas people, Nobiin is of course frequently found at archaeological excavations! This may therefore cause quite some problems, especially for excavators used to learn the colloquial language ‘on site’ in various regions, e.g. in Upper Egypt.

With my background of excavating in Egypt since 1997 and starting work on Sai Island in 2011, I quickly noted down as my personal wish to assimilate new vocabulary necessary for the work in northern Sudan. Back in my first season, I even had problems with such basics as addressing my beloved and numerous pottery sherds for the workmen because *fukhār* was not understandable for all. To support a better mutual understanding, I was thinking about how useful a swift vocabulary list could be for checking basic archaeological terms needed in fieldwork, not only in the local Sudani Arabic, but also in Nobiin. During the European

Research Council AcrossBorders project and its field seasons on Sai Island from 2013 to 2017, this wish for such a wordlist became eventually more structured and received some outlines.

Similar to existing wordlists for Arabic, I wanted this list to be basic, practical and understandable – of use not only for people interested in the divers and complex topic of Nubian languages, but also for pure field archaeologists who want to increase their own capacity of ‘field’ language and the respective vocabulary in northern Sudan. *Agréeskatti!* has already such a positive sound, however it is still highly useful to understand that workmen are not making fun of oneself, but are actually congratulating because of the latest finding in the square.

Despite of these outlines, the idea of an Arabic-Nobiin archaeological wordlist remained literally on my desk with little priority in direct comparison to our excavations. This changed dramatically in summer 2016: during a relaxed meeting with my dear friend and colleague Helmut Satzinger back home in Vienna, he mentioned that he would love to travel once again, after so many decades, to Sudan. Knowing

that Helmut had done some recent research on Old Nubian, I very quickly asked him whether he would be willing to work on a small dictionary project I have in mind for Nobiin – and his positive reply was the starting point for the present publication.

Within the framework of the AcrossBorders project, hosted by the Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, Helmut Satzinger joined the fieldwork in January to February 2017. In these weeks, he compiled the following wordlist which is hopefully of use for all coming to the beautiful region of Mahas Nubia. As it will be obvious from the start, not all terms used in the archaeological field or the related camp find correlates in Nobiin. Nevertheless, I believe that this short collection of useful terms helps to deepen one's understanding of the region. Non-existing words in Nobiin are as much related to the history of Mahas and its language/culture as are the Nobiin terms and the cases when Arabic expressions are used.

The excellent work by Helmut Satzinger for which I am very grateful would not have been possible without the support of our Sudanese house staff under the direction of Sidahmed and our workmen supervised by Hassan Dawd. Their openness for this subproject, besides the regular fieldwork, their support of our distinguished linguist, their kindness and patience in explaining – all of this nicely sums up to my deep gratitude for marvellous seven years working on Sai Island!

Thanks are furthermore due to Huda Magzoub, our NCAM representative from 2013 to 2017 who also became a close friend; Huda helped this project tremendously and contributed a lot to the list of Sudani Arabic terms.

Last but definitely not least, this project would not have been possible without two local inhabitants from Sai Island – Hassan Seed Mahmoud and Hussein Mohammed Marof shared their knowledge of Nobiin and once more overwhelmed us because of their kindness so typical for Mahas Nubian people.

Furthermore, Veronica Hinterhuber deserves loads of thanks for the layout of the present format.

I think “*nimiti*” cannot be a Mahas word – these dreadful small flies are nowhere as bad as on Sai Island – to put up with these was a challenge during archaeological fieldwork, during the process of the survey and interviews for this wordlist, but it is a sheer unbelievable task the inhabitants of Sai have to fulfil for large parts of each year. In the name of the AcrossBorders project and with my deepest thanks, I would like to dedicate this Short Archaeological Wordlist in English, Sudani Arabic and Nobiin compiled by Helmut Satzinger to the people living on Sai Island – being not only neighbours to us, much appreciated workmen in the field and the dig house, but also highly respected friends who cordially welcomed our research on their cultural legacy, including the Nobiin language.

Julia Budka, Munich 2018

Introduction

In Sudan, excavations concentrate on the areas which were either administered by Pharaonic Egypt for some time span, or which were in contact with it. This is approximately the area that is traditionally inhabited by Nubians, an ethnicity of long-standing tradition. Often enough, the local personnel of excavations does not speak and understand English, not to mention other European languages. But Nubians often have a greater or lesser practice in Colloquial Arabic. Therefore it is advisable for excavators to acquire at least a basic vocabulary of this language. But you will also wish to have an idea of the Nubian language. Not all Nubians have a sufficient knowledge of Arabic.

It would need a much greater effort to learn either of the two languages properly. Both Arabic and Nubian have elaborate paradigms of verb forms, like Latin. Moreover, Nubian accidentally has little typological affinities to the more common European languages, it does not conform with the grammar and syntax of languages like English, French and German. With the following wordlist we want to provide excavators with a selection of the basic vocabulary of their job in both Sudani Arabic and Nobiin, or Central Nubian.

Nubian / Nobiin

Nobiin is one of several Nubian languages, and it has been traditionally spoken along the Nile, between Korosko in Egypt (north of the Second Cataract), and a point south of Kerma (near the Third Cataract) in the Sudan. Since the erection of the High Dam of

Aswan in the 1960ies, all Nubians settling north of Wadi Halfa and in the Wadi Halfa area had to leave their homeland: those from the Egyptian side were settled in the area of Kom Ombo in Upper Egypt, whereas those on the Sudanese side were mainly moved to Khashm el-Girba on river 'Aṭbara, in the South East.

North of the Nobiin speaking area, that is north of Korosko, is the land of the Kunûz or Kenzi Nubians; the adjacent area in the South is inhabited by the Dongolâwi speakers. These two Nubian idioms are nearly identical, since the Kunûz speakers came originally from Dongola. Apart from these Nubian idioms spoken along River Nile, there are Nubian languages to be found in the mountain regions in the South West in Kordofan and Darfur, far from the Nile.

Early speakers of Nobiin have presumably been present at the shores of the Nile since about 1500 BC, or probably longer: some Nubian words that were loaned from Ancient Egyptian, like *nâb* "gold" or *dâab* "adobe brick(wall)", have preserved the vowel qualities of that time (approximately **nâbe* and **tâbe*'), namely the New Kingdom, whereas Egyptian vowels developed differently in later times (cf. Coptic *nûb* and *tôbe*). However, it was only before the Turn of the Eras that the ethnonym "Nubian" (which has nothing to do with Coptic *nûb* "gold") appeared for the first time, in Meroitic and Greek texts (as *Noba* or *Nuba*). And it was only around 350 AD, in the post-Meroitic, or X-Group Period, that the Nubians or Nobatians formed independent kingdoms. After they had

accepted the Christian religion around 500 AD, the kingdoms of Nobatia, Makuria and Alodia first used the Greek and Coptic languages and scripts for writing, but later began to write their own language, in the Old Nubian script developed from the Greek script by incorporating a few Coptic and Meroitic signs. The Nubians tenaciously resisted the attacks of the Muslims (who conquered Egypt in 644 AD) and defended independence and religion. It was only many centuries later that the country at last became Islamic. Since then, the Nubian language has not been used in writing. Modern attempts have been

made by European researchers to write it in Latin script with some diacritic signs, following the conventions of Near Eastern studies. The Nubians themselves, being for the most part bilingual with Arabic, use the Arabic script when writing their language at all: this is, however, quite inefficient, as Arabic has no good means to render vowels with precision, both in respect to quality and to quantity, not to mention the tones, a feature of Nubian that was only discovered some 50 years ago. Some learned Nubians found another solution: they now write their language in the Old Nubian script of the Middle Ages.

Example of Old Nubian text

(Mt 2:2, after G. M. Browne, Griffith's Old Nubian Lectionary (Rom/Barcelona 1982), 48:

Ā̄λO ΠINΔ İOYΔΔIOCFOYN OYPOYOY OYNNOYTΔKOλ

islo pina yudaiosgun uru-u unnutakol

“Where is the king of the Jews who has been born?”

TΔN OYEIΨSIKΔ MΔΩΔΔOCKIλO EΔCĀ̄ KΔCCOCIN TΔKKΔ ΔOYKOYNOYĀ̄

tan winjika mašaloskilo ḡasin kassosin takka dukunua

“For seeing his star in the East, we came to worship him.”

When trying to translate into Nubian one will encounter many gaps in idiomatics and lexicon. Nubian is a language of the everyday life of farmers, and it does not have all those European conventions that have become global. Thus, you don't say, “Good morning!” in Nubian, but rather, “Did you sleep well?” (*maska fiionáà*: *maska* well; *fi-* sleep, *-ónáà* ending of 2nd person singular of the past in a *yes-or-no* question). This should account for several gaps in the wordlist below.

Conventions used here: diacritics are avoided. Since the tones are noted here (see below), it was advisable to indicate vowel length by doubling the letter, rather than using the dash, to avoid an accumulation of diacritics: we write long high-tone A as *áa*, rather than as *ā̄*.

Length is indicated by doubling: vowels – *saantee* instead of *sāntē*; consonants – *fisseddin*.

Vowel values are as in Italian (*a* is “ah”, not “ey”; *i* is “eeh”, not “I”, etc.).

sh for *š*; long articulation:
ssh instead of *šš*.

nj is intermediate between [ɲ] and [nj]; long articulation: *nnj* instead of *nn*, etc.

ng for *ŋ* (as in English *sing*);
long articulation: *nng* instead of *nn*.

j stands for a sound that is similar to the English; however, when articulating it, the upper side of the tongue touches the palate. Compare *t + y* in *what you do*. It is very much like the *đ* of Croatian, *ђ* of Serbian, if this helps you ;-). However, there is not much harm done if you just pronounce it like English *j* in *juice*.

Nobiin does not have a marked accent, yet it has tones. Its tone system is simple: there are high and low tones, rarely falling tones. Here, we mark high tones with an acute accent (e.g., *á*), low tones with a grave accent (e.g., *è*), and falling tones with the circumflex accent (*ô*; long vowel: *óò*). A low-tone vowel at the beginning of a word (this is most frequently the case) will not be marked at all: *dukki* “hill”. This means that an unmarked vowel in the first syllable is to be pronounced low, and so all the following, unless bearing the acute accent sign. Of double vowels, only the first receives an accent. Any following vowel of the same word has the same tone, unless marked differently:

áarti “island” has a long *a* with a high tone, and a short *i*, with the same high tone.

toorée “hoe-axe” has a long low-tone *o* and a long high-tone *e*. However, its plural form *tooreenjii* has three long low-tone vowels, *o*, *e*, and *i*.

aa long *a*, low tone (unless following on a high-tone vowel)

áa long *a*, high tone

áà long *a*, falling tone

a short *a*, low tone (unless following on a high-tone vowel)

á short *a*, high tone

â short *a*, falling tone

Nobiin is not a standardized language: there are regional differences, in particular in vocabulary. Its lexicography is somewhat underdeveloped. The provisional lexicon of 1996, originating in the Bonn PhD thesis of Mokhtar M. Khalil, is a brave attempt; yet it is rather academic: whereas it even records words that were noted in the 19th century by European researchers (Almkvist, Reinisch, etc.), it does not always reflect the present reality of the language. As its scope is largely an etymological one, it mostly omits the numerous Arabic words that are in current use. Using historical resources, Khalil’s *Wörterbuch* had to refrain from noting the tones (first observed in the 1960ies); one will look in vain for their indications. The standard grammar of 1987 by R. Werner, with its elementary appraisal and representation of the tones of Nobiin, gives only a few pages of vocabulary. Often the only way to ascertain the tones of a word is therefore to listen to native speakers. This may explain why the presentation of the tones is not perfect in the following list.

It is perhaps no great harm if you neglect the tones, at least as long as you keep in mind to avoid a strong accentuation, as the Nubian accent is rather level. And listen to the Nubians.

Arabic

Dialectal Arabic is a huge bundle of local idioms, in a gigantic area, from Morocco to Iraq, and beyond. They are of different statuses, like capital towns dialects with wide radiation (e.g., Cairo, Damascus) and rural idioms. Dialectal Arabic should not be confounded with Modern Literary Arabic, the form of Classical Arabic that is adapted to modern times; it is the form of Arabic that is used in writing, whereas dialectal Arabic is only spoken, except for special purposes.

Sudani Arabic is the language spoken mostly in the Republic of Sudan, in particular in the capital Khartoum. Basically, it is related to Hijâzi Arabic of Saudi Arabia, though it was secondarily influenced by Cairene Arabic and Upper Egyptian Arabic. Like all other dialects, it is written by its speakers, if at all, in the Arabic script. For linguistic purposes and for tuition to foreigners, special systems of transcription in Latin script should be used. Here, we will avoid diacritic signs as much as possible.

sh is self-explanatory. *kh* is the Scottish CH sound, *gh* is the same, though voiced (a bit like a French *r*). Sudanese *g* (it represents the uvular sound *q* of literary Arabic) has a tendency to sound similar to *gh*, though slightly more backward (uvular articulation, rather than velar).

h is never mute. *ḥ* is a strongly articulated H sound, properly at the larynx. This is also where the ʿ (“ayn”)

is formed (but a marked glottal stop may also do for you as a compromise). The so-called emphatic sounds *ṣ*, *ẓ*, *ṭ*, and *ḍ* combine the respective alveolar sound with a slight compression of the throat, plus raising of the upper surface of the tongue. Try to articulate them as far backward as possible. An important feature is the dark colouring of any surrounding vowel. Whereas *a* is normally rather open, as in English *bad*, it will be closed and dark, as in *dark*, if preceded or followed by one of the emphatics; e.g. *ṭayyib* “good” almost like English *tawny*.

Basically, Arabic distinguishes only three vocalic phonemes, namely *a*, *i*, and *u*. But in pronunciation each phoneme has a great range of articulation. Short *i* and *u* tend towards [e] and [o], respectively.

Neighbouring “emphatics” have an influence on the articulation also of *i* and *u*, not only *a*. The vowels *ê* and *ô* of modern Arabic go back to the diphthongs *ay* and *aw*, respectively, of Classical Arabic.

The accent of Sudani Arabic is less marked than that of Cairene Arabic. There are tones, but this phenomenon needs further studies. Thus the negation *mâ* “not” has a distinct high tone. Cairene Arabic pronounces words like *ḥabl* “cord” or *furn* “oven” exactly the way they are written (one syllable each only), Sudani Arabic however inserts a neutral vowel, like *ḥabel* and *furun* (similar in Syria and Lebanon).

Short Archaeological Wordlist in English, Sudani Arabic and Nobiin

Singular and plural forms are separated by a slash: *bēt / buyūt* “house / houses”

<i>Greetings & Salutations</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
General greeting formula, addressing one or several persons, on arrival or departure:	<i>is-salām</i> ^ʿ <i>alēkum</i> “peace be on you”	(Same.)
▶ response:	<i>wi-ʿalēkum is-salām</i> “and on you be peace”	(Same.)
Good morning	<i>ṣabāḥ il-khēr</i> “a morning in well-being”	<i>maska fiónàà</i> (addressing one person),
▶ response:	<i>ṣabāḥ in-nūr</i> “a morning in light”	<i>maska fiisshóò</i> (addressing several persons), both: “did you sleep well?”
Good evening	<i>masa il-khēr</i> “an evening in well-being”	
▶ response:	<i>masa il-nūr</i> “an evening in light”	
Good night	<i>tisbaḥ</i> ^ʿ <i>ala khēr</i> (to male) / <i>tisbaḥi</i> ... (to female) / <i>tisbaḥu</i> ... (to several) “wake up in well-being”	
▶ response:	<i>w-inta min ahl in-nūr</i> (to male) / <i>w-inti</i> ... (to female) / <i>w-intu</i> ... (to several) “and you may be one of those who are in light”	
Good night	<i>tisbaḥ</i> ^ʿ <i>ala n-nūr</i> (to male) / <i>tisbaḥi</i> ... (to female) / <i>tisbaḥu</i> ... (to several) “wake up in well-being”	
▶ response:	<i>w-inta min ahl il-khēr</i> (to male) / <i>w-inti</i> ... (to female) / <i>w-intu</i> ... (to several) “and you may be one of those who are well”	
Good-bye (said to person leaving)	<i>maʿa s-salāma</i> “(go) with peace”	<i>ir nóogàfi</i> “are you (really) going?”

*Greetings & Salutations**English*

▶ response:

Sudan Arabic

allāh yisállimak (to male) /
yisállimik (to female) /
yisallímkum (to several)

Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)

ay issáaka nóogàfiil
 “I’ll now go”

Allow me to go

(said by person leaving)

ʿ*an iznak* (to male) /
 ʿ*an iznik* (to female) /
 ʿ*an iznükum* (to several)

Welcome

▶ response:

ahlan wa-sahlan
ahlan bīk (to male) /
 ... *bīki* (to female) /
 ... *bīkum* (to several),
 “welcome to you”

It is good to have

you with us (as visitor)

aníst u-sharāfi (to male) /
anisti u-sharafti (to female) /
anistu u-sharaftu (to several)
 “you brought amiability and honour”
anístina (to male) /
anistīna (to female) /
anistūna (to several)
 “you have brought us amiability ”

▶ response:

shukran “thanks”
Allāh yiʿánsak (to male) /
 ... *yiʿánsik* (to female) /
 ... *yiʿániskum* (to several)
 “may God give you amiability ”

Congratulations!

▶ response:

mabrūk
 “blessed (situation or sim.)”
Allāh yibārik fīk (to male) /
Allāh yibārik fīki (to female) /
Allāh yibārik fīkum (to several)
 “may God bless you”

agréeskatti

Best wishes (at all
 festive occasions,
 especially birthdays
 and anniversaries)

▶ response:

kulli-sana w-inta tayyib (to male) /
 ... *w-inti tayyiba* (to female) /
 ... *w-intu tayyibīn* (to several)
 “may you be fine every year (again)”
w-inta (to male) /
w-inti (to female) /
w-intu (to several) *b-khēr*
 “and you too may you be fine”

<i>Greetings & Salutations</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
Please	<i>law samáht</i> (to male) / <i>samáhti</i> (to female) / <i>samáhtu</i> (to several) “if you please”	
Please	<i>min faḍlak</i> (to male) / <i>min faḍlik</i> (to female) / <i>min fáḍlukum</i> (to several) “from your favour!”	
Please, I implore you	<i>wi-hyātak</i> (to male) / <i>wi-hyātik</i> (to female) / <i>wi-hyátkum</i> (to several) “by your life!”	
Please help yourself	<i>itfáḍḍal</i> (to male), <i>itfáḍḍali</i> (to female), <i>itfáḍḍalu</i> (to several)	<i>attakó, attaká</i>
Thank you	<i>shukran</i>	<i>órosee</i>
Many thanks	<i>alāf shukur</i> “thousand thanks”	
► response:	<i>ʿafwan</i> (in Egypt also: <i>il-ʿafu</i>)	
God willing ! (used whenever talking of the future)	<i>in shā ʿAllāh</i> “if God wishes (it)”	
It does not matter	<i>ma-ʿalēsh</i> (also “forget it!” or even “sorry!”)	<i>wéeka áaymu</i>

<i>Personal Pronouns</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
I	<i>ana</i>	<i>ay</i>
you (male)	<i>inta</i>	<i>ir</i>
you (female)	<i>inti</i>	
he	<i>huwa</i>	<i>tar</i>
she	<i>hiya</i>	
we	<i>iḥna</i>	<i>uu</i>
you (plural)	<i>intu</i>	<i>úr</i>
they	<i>huma</i>	<i>tér</i>

<i>Archaeology</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
excavations	<i>ḥafriyāt</i>	
director	<i>mudīr, fem. mudīra</i>	<i>dawwi</i> “great one”
foreman	<i>rayyis</i>	<i>ur</i> “head”
worker	<i>ʿāmil / ʿummāl</i>	<i>jelli / jellikú</i>
guard	<i>ghafīr / ghúfara; ḥāris / ḥarsīn</i>	
photographer	<i>muṣawwarāti / muṣawwaratīya; muṣawwir / muṣawwirīn</i>	
inspector	<i>mufattish / mufattishīn, fem. mufattisha / mufattishāt</i>	<i>wáahingi / waahingiku</i>
cemetery, necropolis	<i>magābir; madāfin (plur. of magbara and madfan, respectively, “tomb”)</i>	<i>shiláng, shiráng</i> “Tomb”
mound (hill)	<i>tall / tilāl</i>	<i>dukki / dukkigú</i>
square	<i>murabba^s / murabba^{ʿāt}</i>	<i>tusúuka</i>
layer	<i>ṭabaga / ṭabagāt</i>	(<i>toron-kóji</i> “upper layer”)
corridor	<i>mamárr / mamarrāt; baranda</i>	<i>búllu / bullunjii</i>
antechamber	<i>berenda</i>	
wall	<i>ḥēṭ / ḥētān; sūr / aswār</i>	<i>daab / daabii</i> “brick wall”
floor	<i>arḍiyya / arḍiyyāt</i>	<i>guddo</i>
brick	<i>ṭūba / ṭūb</i>	<i>tuub / tuubii</i>
pottery sherd	<i>fukhāra / fukhār</i>	<i>káayee, káawee / kaayeenjii, kaaweenjii, kaaweegu</i>
bone	<i>ʿaḍma / ʿaḍm</i>	<i>gisir / gisirkúu</i>
papyrus	<i>bardi</i>	
ostrakon	<i>fukhāra maktūba</i>	
inscription	<i>kitāba / kitābāt</i>	
relief	<i>nagsh</i>	<i>kódafii</i>
shaft (well)	<i>bīr / abyār; ḥafīr</i>	<i>mittár / mittarii</i>

<i>Archaeology</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
adze	<i>gadūm / gawadīm</i>	<i>alád / aladii</i> “tool”
basin	<i>ṭusht / ṭishūt;</i> <i>ghāira</i>	
basket	<i>guffa / gufaf</i> (in Egypt <i>sanbīl</i>)	
basket (straw)	<i>sabat / subāta</i>	<i>shībīr / shibirii</i>
broom	<i>maknasa / makānis</i>	<i>kossír / kossirii</i>
brush	<i>fursha / furash</i>	
bucket	<i>jardal / jarādīl</i>	<i>sákki</i> (in pottery)
cart	<i>‘arabīya / ‘arabiyāt</i>	
cord	<i>ḥabel / ḥibāl</i>	<i>álli / allii</i>
hammer	<i>shakūsh / shawakīsh</i>	<i>barja-mindú;</i> <i>tingil</i>
hoe-axe	<i>fās / fūs;</i> <i>ṭurīya / ṭawāri</i>	<i>toorée, tóorii / tooreenjii</i>
knife	<i>sikkīna / sakakīn</i>	<i>kāndi / kandii</i>
scissors	<i>magasṣ / magasṣāt</i>	<i>kisooriin / kisooriinii</i>
mat	<i>ḥaṣṣira / ḥaṣṣayir</i>	<i>nibd / nibdii</i>
match box	<i>‘ilbit kabrīt / ‘ilab kabrīt</i>	
matches	<i>kabrīt</i>	
nail	<i>musmār / masamīr</i>	<i>koyyír</i>
notebook	<i>daḥṣar / daḥṣāṭir;</i> <i>kurāsa / kurasāt</i>	<i>sóor / soorii</i>
paper	<i>warag / awrāg</i>	
pencil, pen	<i>galam / aglām</i>	<i>súnti</i> (also “fingernail”)
pickaxe	<i>azma / azam</i>	
picket (pointed stake)	<i>khabūr / khawabūr</i>	
post (stake)	<i>witid / awtād</i>	<i>findée, findi / findigú</i>
ruler	<i>maṣṣṣāra / maṣṣṣātir</i>	<i>miisír</i>
shovel	<i>jarūf / jawarīf</i>	
sieve	<i>ghurbāl / gharabāl</i>	

<i>Archaeology</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
string	<i>khēt / khuyūt</i>	<i>jissi</i>
plumb line	<i>mizān khēt</i>	
tape	<i>sharīt / sharāyiṭ</i>	
scotch tape	<i>lazzāg</i>	<i>nyabikirée</i>
tape measure	<i>mitər / amtār</i> (from French <i>mètre</i>)	
trowel	<i>maṣṭarīn / maṣṭarināt</i>	
magazin	<i>maghzan / maghāzin</i>	<i>shooná / shoonanjii</i>
lock	<i>gīfāl / agfāl</i>	<i>shuru / shuru-jii</i> (properly a bolt)
key	<i>muftāḥ / mafatīḥ</i>	<i>tére / tereenjii;</i> <i>kúshar / kusharii</i>
register book	<i>daftar it-tasjīl</i>	

<i>Materials</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
mud, clay	<i>tīn</i>	<i>árki</i>
limestone	<i>jīr</i>	<i>kid-nulu</i> ("white stone")
sandstone	<i>ramli</i>	<i>sóomee</i>
granite	<i>ḥagar ṣuwān;</i> <i>gəranīt</i>	<i>kid-ulum</i> ("black stone")
mortar	<i>mūna / muwan</i>	(traditional building is in clay!)
plaster	<i>jībəs</i>	
metal	<i>maʿdan</i>	
iron	<i>ḥadīd</i>	<i>tiríssi</i>
plomb	<i>ruṣāṣ</i>	<i>mírtiin</i>
wood	<i>ḥashab / aḥshāb</i>	<i>kóy / koyrii</i>
brick	<i>tūba / tūb</i>	<i>tuub / tuubii</i>
stone	<i>ḥajar / hijāra;</i> <i>aḥjār</i>	<i>kid, kit / kittú</i>

<i>Materials</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
pebble	<i>ḥaṣḥāṣ</i>	<i>kadá / kadanjii</i>
sand	<i>ramla</i>	<i>síiw</i>
tar, pitch	<i>zift</i>	

<i>Colours</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
black	<i>aswad</i> , fem. <i>sōda</i> (in Egypt: <i>iswid</i>)	<i>úrum</i>
blue	<i>azrag</i> , fem. <i>zarga</i>	<i>déssi</i> (also: green)
brown	<i>asmar</i> , fem. <i>samra</i> ; <i>bunni</i>	<i>mállí</i> (also: gray?)
green	<i>aḥḍar</i> , fem. <i>ḥaḍra</i>	<i>déssi</i> (also: blue)
gray	<i>rumādi</i>	<i>mállí</i> (also: brown?)
red	<i>aḥmar</i> , fem. <i>ḥamra</i>	<i>géel</i>
white	<i>abyaḍ</i> , fem. <i>bēḍa</i>	<i>nulu</i>
yellow	<i>asmar</i> , fem. <i>samra</i>	<i>barúm</i> ; <i>gindár</i> (properly “yolk”)

<i>Architecture</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
house	<i>bēt / biyūt</i>	<i>nóog / noogii</i>
building	<i>mabna / mabāni</i>	
castle	<i>gaṣar / guṣur</i>	<i>duwaani / duwaanigú</i>
temple	<i>maʿbid / maʿābid</i> (Egypt: also <i>birba</i>)	<i>birbée</i>
basin	<i>ḥōḍ / aḥwāḍ</i>	
court	<i>ḥōsh / aḥwāsh</i>	<i>sam / samgú</i>
fence	<i>sūr / aswār</i>	
entrance	<i>madḥal / madāḥil</i>	= <i>kobid / kobittú</i> “door”
exit	<i>makhraj / makhārij</i>	
column	<i>ʿamūd / ʿimdān</i>	<i>ussu / ussunjii</i> ; <i>sumbut / sumbutii</i>
ruins	<i>kharāb, kharāyib</i>	<i>ubukaad</i>

<i>Architecture</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
height	<i>irtifāʿ</i>	
diameter	<i>quṭr / aqtār</i>	
thickness	<i>sumk / asmāk</i>	
breadth, width	<i>ʿarḍ / aʿrāḍi</i>	
length	<i>ṭūl / aṭwāl</i>	
surface	<i>masāḥa / misahāt</i>	
paving	<i>balāṭ / balatāt</i>	<i>kikkafii; sooy (mud)</i>
stairway; ladder	<i>sillim / salālim</i>	
foundation	<i>asās / asasāt</i>	<i>sumbut</i>
row, line	<i>ṣaff / ṣufūf</i>	<i>kikka / kikkafijin</i>
vault	<i>gabw / gabwāt</i>	
scaffolding	<i>sigāla / sigalāt</i>	
generating station	<i>dīnamu; mākinet káhraba</i>	
crane	<i>winsh / awnāš</i>	
pump	<i>ṭurumba / āt</i>	<i>baabúur</i>
trailer	<i>magṭūra / magāṭir</i>	
tractor	<i>jarrād / jarradāt</i>	
bolt	<i>musmār shamūla</i>	<i>debba / debbanjii; shúru / shurunjii</i>
screw	<i>musmār qalawūz</i>	
concrete	<i>kharasān</i>	
cement	<i>asmant</i>	
iron	<i>ḥadīd</i>	
steel	<i>ṣúlub</i>	
asfalt	<i>asfalt</i>	
wrench	<i>muftāḥ (= key) / mafatīḥ</i>	
grease, lubricant	<i>shaḥm / shuhūm</i>	<i>nóoy</i>
oil	<i>zēt / ziyūt</i>	(all kinds of fat and oil)
pincers, pliers, tongs	<i>binsa / binas</i>	

<i>Architecture</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
screw-driver	<i>mafakk / mafakkāt</i>	
saw	<i>munshār / manashūr</i>	

<i>At the camp</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
camp	<i>mu^ʿaskar / mu^ʿaskarāt</i>	
tent	<i>khēma / khiyam</i>	<i>kerri / kerrigúu</i>
workshop	<i>warsha / wirash</i>	
dining room	<i>hujrit iṣ-ṣufra</i>	
kitchen	<i>maṭbakh / maṭābikh</i>	<i>gushámbee / gushambeegú</i>
storeroom	<i>makhzin / makhāzin</i>	<i>shooná / shoonanjii</i>
laboratory	<i>ma^ʿmil / ma^ʿāmīl</i>	
room	<i>ōḍa / uwaḍ</i>	
work room	<i>oḍt ish-shughl</i>	
bedroom	<i>oḍt in-nōm / uwaḍ in-nōm</i>	
bathroom, douch	<i>ḥammām / ḥammamāt</i>	<i>fisseddin kid, fissarin kid</i>
blanket	<i>baṭṭanīya / baṭṭaṭīn</i>	<i>huráam / huraamii</i>
door	<i>bāb / bibān</i>	<i>kobid / kobittú;</i> <i>shaa / shaakú (gate)</i>
window	<i>shibbāk / shababīk</i>	<i>wassi / wassii</i>
chair	<i>kursi / karāsi</i>	<i>kursi</i>
table	<i>ṭarabēza / ṭarabezāt</i>	
bed	<i>sirīr / sarāyir;</i> <i>angarēb / anagrēb</i>	<i>angarée</i>
cook	<i>ṭabbākh / ṭabbakhīn</i>	
washerwoman	<i>ghassāl / ghassalīn,</i> <i>fem. ghassāla / ghassalāt</i>	<i>shuuká</i>

<i>Kitchen</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
plate	<i>saḥn / suḥūn</i>	<i>sínngoojii; silaam (of copper)</i>

<i>Kitchen</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
fork	<i>shōka / shuwak</i>	
knife	<i>sikkīna / sakakīn</i>	<i>kantí</i>
spoon	<i>ma^ʿlaga / ma^ʿālig</i>	(<i>kaashír</i> : for stirring)
glass	<i>kubbāya / kabābi</i>	<i>shobbi</i>
cup (coffee)	<i>finjāl / fanaǰīl</i>	<i>benníur</i>

<i>Food, Meals</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
tea-pot	<i>barrād shāy / bararīd</i>	
breakfast	<i>fītār</i> (Egypt: <i>fuṭūr</i>) / <i>faṭāyir</i>	<i>kokkáad</i>
egg	<i>bēda / bēḍ</i>	<i>kúmbuu / kumbuunjii</i>
butter	<i>zibda</i>	<i>singii; silee / sileegíu</i> (fat); <i>furú</i> (cream); <i>nóoy</i> (all kinds of fat and oil)
bread	<i>raghīf; ʿēsh</i>	<i>kába(r)</i> (also food, or meal)
cheese	<i>jibna</i>	<i>mishi</i>
juice	<i>ʿašīr; sharbāt</i>	
beans	<i>fūl</i>	
yoghurt	<i>zabādi</i>	cf. <i>su niyo</i> “sour milk”
milk	<i>laban</i>	<i>su</i>
coffee	<i>jábana</i> (in Egypt: <i>ahwa</i> [Cairo], <i>gahwa</i>)	
water	<i>moya</i>	<i>áman; éssi</i>
lunch	<i>ghada</i>	<i>kába(r)</i> (also bread, or food)
dinner	<i>ʿasha</i>	
meat	<i>lahma</i>	<i>arij</i>
chicken	<i>jidāda / jidād</i>	<i>dirbādi / dirbadii</i>
rice	<i>ruzz</i>	

<i>Food, Meals</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
vegetables	<i>kuḥḍār</i>	<i>itir-déssi</i>
pasta	<i>makarōna</i>	
potatoes	<i>baṭāṭis</i>	
fish	<i>samak / asmāk</i>	<i>angíssi</i>
oil	<i>zēt / ziyūt</i>	<i>nóoy</i> (all kinds of fat and oil)
salt	<i>malḥ</i>	<i>imiid, emiid</i>
pepper	<i>filfil</i>	
chili	<i>shaṭṭa</i>	

<i>Cardinal Points</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
east	<i>shareg</i>	<i>mátto</i>
west	<i>ghareb</i>	<i>tíno</i>
north	<i>baḥari</i>	<i>kálo</i>
south	<i>gubli</i>	<i>óro</i>

<i>Geography</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
mountain	<i>jabal / jibāl</i>	<i>mulée / muleenjii</i>
hill (mound)	<i>tall / tilāl</i>	<i>dukkí / dukkigúu</i>
canal	<i>tur^ʿa / tura^ʿ</i>	<i>márti / martii</i>
damm	<i>sadd / sudūd</i>	<i>féseee</i>
cavern	<i>maghāra / magharāt, maghāyir; nafag / anfāg</i>	<i>úffi / uffii</i>
field	<i>ḥagil / ḥugūl; mazrā^ʿa / mazāri^ʿ</i>	<i>baráudi / baraudigú</i>
desert	<i>ṣaḥara / ṣaḥāri</i>	<i>najjí / najjii</i>
valley	<i>wādi / widyān</i>	<i>farkí / farkigú</i>
oasis	<i>wāḥa / waḥāt</i>	
river Nile	<i>in-Nīl</i>	<i>Nīl</i>
island	<i>jizīra / juzur</i>	<i>áarti / aartigúu</i>

<i>Right – Left</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
on the right	<i>bi l-yamīn</i>	<i>ényòn</i>
on the left	<i>bi sh-shimāl</i>	<i>kóndon</i>

<i>Time Expressions</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabics</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
Sunday	<i>(yōm) il-ḥadd</i>	<i>kilagéé;</i> <i>ahadí</i>
Monday	<i>(yōm) l-itnēn</i>	<i>bush, fush;</i> <i>itnéen</i>
Tuesday	<i>(yōm) it-talāta</i>	<i>nogún;</i> <i>fush-n ugu;</i> <i>taláata</i>
Wednesday	<i>(yōm) l-arbaʿa (arbaḥa)</i>	<i>muso;</i> <i>fush-n ondi;</i> <i>arbáa</i>
Thursday	<i>(yōm) il-khamīs</i>	<i>mus(o)n ug;</i> <i>hamíisi</i>
Friday	<i>(yōm) ij-jumʿa</i>	<i>misée;</i> <i>júma</i>
Saturday	<i>(yōm) is-sabt</i>	<i>saantée;</i> <i>sábtí</i>
What day is today?	<i>aiy yōm shinū?</i>	<i>eli minné?</i>
Today is Sunday	<i>il-lēla l-ḥadd</i>	<i>eli kilagéé</i>
When are you coming back?	<i>inta taji rājiʿ mitēn?</i> (Egypt: <i>ḥa-tirjaʿ imta?</i>)	<i>ir fa hisóon wíidakìi?</i>
on Saturday	<i>yōm is-sabt</i>	<i>saantée li</i>
dawn	<i>fajur</i>	<i>fajira; shayeeg</i>
morning	<i>sabāḥ</i>	
forenoon	<i>gabl eḍ-ḍuḥur</i>	<i>kakkaaree</i>
noon	<i>ḍuḥur</i>	<i>eesi, eesitu</i>
afternoon	<i>baʿd iḍ-ḍuḥur</i>	<i>nuwaad</i>
evening, night	<i>lēl / layāli</i>	<i>awa / awanjii</i>

<i>Time Expressions</i>		
<i>English</i>	<i>Sudan Arabic</i>	<i>Nobiin (Mahasi-Nubian)</i>
daytime	<i>nahār / naharāt</i>	<i>ugrées</i>
every day	<i>kull yōm</i>	
now	<i>dil-wagit</i>	<i>issáaka;</i> <i>taak</i>
today	<i>il-yōm</i>	<i>eli, elin</i>
tomorrow	<i>bukra</i>	<i>wallo</i>
yesterday	<i>imbāriḥ</i>	<i>wiil</i>
this week / month	<i>il-usbū^s da, ish-shahir da</i>	
next week / month	<i>il-usbū^s il-jāy, ish-shahir il-jāy</i>	
this year	<i>is-sana diya</i>	<i>engem</i>
last week / month	<i>il-usbū^s il fāt, ish-shahir il fāt</i>	
next year	<i>is-sana l-jayya</i>	<i>aagno;</i> <i>gem yáafi</i>
last year	<i>is-sana l fātīt</i>	<i>nii;</i> <i>gem-nogo</i>