

Gambian Studies No.5

MEDICAL MANDINKA

(Useful phrases and vocabulary)

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GAMBIAN STUDIES- MANDINKA LANGUAGE

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Gambian Studies

- No.3 MANDINKA DILEMMA STORIES, PUZZLES, RIDDLES & PROVERBS.
28 pp.
- No.4 ACCOUNTS OF SUPERNATURAL BEINGS, SPIRITS, WITCHES, WEREWOLVES, NINKINANKO, ETC. FROM THE MANDINKA NEWSPAPER, KIBARO.
11 pp.
- No.5 MEDICAL MANDINKA.
5 pp.
- No.6 MANDINKA STORIES FROM BOOKS PUBLISHED PRIOR TO 1960.
28 pp.
- No.7 MANDINKA TALES FROM THE NEWSPAPER 'KIBARO': 1951-1955. 49 pp.
- No.8 MANDINKA STORIES- DICTATED, WRITTEN OR RECORDED.
39 pp.
- No.9 A MANDINKA NARRATIVE- "MANDING KUNO" by A.K.Rahman.
16 pp.

It should be noted that the material is all in the old Mandinka script. In modern writing vowel length is shown by doubling the vowel - aa, ee, ii, oo, uu. In the 1950s the assumption was made that those who spoke Mandinka would have little trouble in dealing with vowel length.

In the old style	ny	was used where	\tilde{n}	is used now.
	ng	" " "	ŋ	" " "
	ch	" " "	c	" " "

The sounds	ai	are now written	ayi
	ei		eyi
	oi		oyi
	ui		uwi etc.

The first version of this was prepared in December 1954.
I have been unable to find any extant copies of this version.

A revised version was prepared in April 1958.

na jang	come here
i to ndi ?	what is your name ?
i kontongo ?	your surname ?
i bota minto ?	where do you come from ?
i sanji jelu soto ?	how many years have you ?
a ye kari " "	" " months has he/she ?
lokung " "	" " weeks " "
lo	stand up
si jang	sit down here
jimi	bend down
i ko di n na	give me your back = turn round
i ko yitandi n na	show me your back
la jang	lie here
wuli	get up
i la dondiko wura)	take off your shirt/dress
i la dondiko bo)	
munne be i la ?	what is the matter with you ?
munne mu nyin ti ?	what is this ?
n ko le ka n dimi(ng)	my back pains me
kungo	head
siso	chest
kono	stomach
singo	foot/leg
bulo	hand/arm
a man kendia	he/she is not well
a sasata	he/she is sick (has a cold)
sasa be n nungo to	I have a cold in the nose
a kuranta	he/she is ill
a singo katita	his leg was (is) broken
a janita je	he was burnt there
a singo kubita	his ankle is sprained
bambo y'a king	a crocodile bit him
patamo y'a king	a shark bit him.
niji bake	breathe deeply
nying fo- kiling,fula,saba	say this - one, two,three (as effective as "say ninety-nine")
i da yele	open your mouth
i nengo bondi	put out your tongue
i nya yele	open your eyes
i nya biti	cover your eyes
i nya taung	close your eyes
i singo wulindi	raise your leg
i bulo tilindi	stretch out your arm

nying ke i diming bang ?
 a be podi la
 a jata
 a)meta kuranding ?
 i)
 tili kiling
 lokung fula
 kari saba
 biring serung
 biring sama kono
 biring tilikando

a man ta lopitan ?
 a tata
 a man ta
 a mam boro soto je ?
 y'a penku le

a ka toto
 a ka yelo toto ?
 a ka nganya
 yelo ka bo
 fio ka bo

n so boro la
 n so bori-jio
 n so bori-keso
 n lafita penkuro la)
 penko la)

nying boro mosi je
 lung-o-lung
 nying bori keso ta
 ye kiling domo
 fula kunung
 saba nyimi

y'a di a la

somanda
 tilibulo
 wuraro
 suto
 suto dutala
 salifana
 alansara
 fitiro

tili fula nyatonto
 saba
 nani
 lulu
 woro
 worowula
 sei
 kononto
 tang

does this pain you ?
 it is throbbing
 it is paralysed
 is he/she long sick ?
 are you
 one day
 two weeks
 three months
 since last year
 since the rainy season
 since the dry season

did he not go to the dispensary ?
 he went
 he did not go
 did he not get medicine there ?
 they injected him

he coughs
 does he cough blood ?
 it itches
 it bleeds
 pus comes out

give me medicine
 give me liquid medicine
 give me a pill (pills)
 I want injection

rub this medicine there
 every day
 take these pills
 eat one
 swallow two
 chew three

give it to him

in the morning
 daytime
 evening
 night
 midnight
 two o'clock
 four o'clock
 sunset

two days ahead
 three
 four
 five
 six
 seven
 eight
 nine
 ten

i si na kotenke	you should come again
-teneng lungo	Monday
talata lungo	Tuesday
araba lungo	Wednesday
aramisa lungo	Thursday
arjuma lungo	Friday
sibiti lungo	Saturday
i kono bambanta ?	are you constipated ?
i kono ka bai ?	are you suffering from diarrhoea
a sumaiata	it is better (of pain). lit.cool.
a fisiata	it is better
a fisiata domanding	it is a little better

(The patient will never say that his condition is worse. If his/her condition is stationary or deteriorating, he or she is apt to say "a fisiata domanding" in an unconvincing voice.)

a banta	it is finished
do ye na	let another come

VOCABULARY

Terms in use often vary from one part of the country to another.

Ny = Nyomi Ba= Baddibu Ki= Kiang Ko=Kombo

MI = McCarthy Island UR= Upper River

bala-jawo	leprosy
bala kando	fever (lit. hot body)
banga yito (Ny)= kanano	boil under the arm
baramo	wound
bero (kan-to bero)	trypanosomiasis (refers to swollen neck glands)
bulu jaro	paralysed hand
also a bulo sata (Ba)	his hand is paralysed
a bulo fata (MI)	" " " "
buuso	bruise
chako (UR)	a disease with a rash
changaio	rheumatism
choko	joint
chuputo (Ba)	
chuputeo(UR)	pimple
daino	a. affects joints, ankles, knees, hips; pus comes out (Ny)
 	b. leaves people with twisted feet (raised heel) (MI)
 	c. sore on hips (Ba)
dauto	humpbacked
ferentengo	infective warts

fimfo	flatulence
fito (Ki), fiteo (UR)	ringworm
fio	pus
fonyo	breeze (often used for pneumonia)
funo	swelling
futo (MI)	a disease with a rash (measles ? chicken pox ?)
furunto	rash
fusi ba	measles
funyeo (MI)	an insect found in navel; believed to weaken child causing it to waste
harando	tonsillitis
jarala	tetanus (lit. shaker)
jambalo (Ny), njambalo (MI)	smallpox
jarajara	shiver
kabo (UR)	leucoderma
kalia	worms (intestinal); sometimes: hernia
kalia dajio	urticaria
kam-fuko	goitre
kando	heat = fever
kanano (Ba)	boil in armpit
kato	scabies
kaya, kayo	hernia (an impolite term)
kaiyoyo	sores in the mouth
kajeo, Fula kajeo	malarial fever
kalanding faila	a spirit said to cause a sore on the leg
kedo-kedo	whooping cough
ke-la-karo	blood in urine (of men)-schistosomiasis
kereng-kerengo)	bubo
kereng-kereng yito)	
ketu	to faint
kiri-kiro	fever
kitimbango, kitimbongo	elephantiasis
kono-baio	diarrhoea
kono-dimo	pain in the belly
kono-fa-jankaro	dropsy
kono-nya	pregnancy
a kono bota)	she has had an abortion
a mang kende wulu)	
kono-karakato	dysentery
kono-ja	constipation
kongo	large scar; cheloid
konongo (Ki)(Ba)	yaws
kun-dimo	pain in the head
kulufetengo	pain in the bones; often believed to be due to yaws
kuntango	tetanus (lit: name of an antelope. The child quivers like an antelope)
kubo	sprain
lufu-lufu (UR)	blister
marko (UR)	vaccination mark
madingo, madimo, madimingo	sore, ulcer
mading-no	scar
mbunyango, bunyango (Ny)	a fungus infection between the toes
mo	wart

murunteo	person with hands and feet off (=advanced leprosy)
musu kurango	venereal disease
nunto sasa	cold in the nose
nya diming jaro	painful eyes
nya miningo	dizziness
palipalo	blister
sanjo (Ny)	nose eaten away
saladimo	hydrocephalic
sansang-barango	a skin fungus, especially on chest (like freckles)
sepuro	vaccination
sisi dimo	pain in the chest =pneumonia
sokoyaio (Ki)	a scalp infection, found especially in children
sopiso (Ba)- a Wolof term	gonorrhoea
subundingo (Ja)	tetanus (lit. little antelope)
tankango	callous on the hand
tara, tara kulo	prickly heat
tetefeo (UR), totofeo (Ki)	a sore on the foot
totifeo (Ko)	
telo	ulcer
teneng-tenengo (MI)	=sansang-barango
tisoro	nose bleeding
ton-balango (Ny)	meningitis
ton-ja	"
tongo	nape of neck
toto	cough
toto jaro	dry cough
toto jawo	T.B. (lit. wicked cough)
tubabo (UR)	yaws
tubab fiteo (UR)	yaws
tubab keso (UR)	a sore on the foot. crab yaws ?
waio	epilepsy
warasita	scratched
yito	a boil