

GLOSSARY OF TERMS IN ETHIOPIAN LANGUAGES

This glossary contains all terms in Ethiopian languages mentioned in the chapters, following the spelling of the respective authors. Alternatives ways of spelling are mentioned only in so far as they appear in the publication. If no language is mentioned in the explanation, the original language is Amharic.

abaddo, wife of *oddobaddo*, Bayso ritual expert

abbagabr, community elder in Rayya Qobbo highland, also holds religious positions and litigates are conflict in some Muslim communities

adbar, ancestral spirits believed to be protector of the community and invoked during zar cult

afaan Oromo, Oromo language

alama, Manjo expression for goal, aim, objective, intent or concern, also ‘another world view’ or ‘different way of life’

alamo, mediums in Kafa

andannat, union

annasa, ‘minority group’ under the Derg regime

aqabit, post-menopausal female custodian or guardian of a church who prepares grain for the Holy Communion

ayle, term used for slave descendants in Ganta and Wolayta

bakka, literally ‘half’, referring to proportion of sharing in animal sharing arrangement in Dawro

balabat (or *balabbat*), regional governor within the former semi/feudal system, also nobles in Rayya Qobbo area claiming to be descendants of the Solomonic dynasty and original settlers of the community

balezar, knowledgeable individual of the *zar* cult

bajje, hereditary status group in Bashada and Hamar, performing central rituals for majority group

barya, term for slaves and slave descendants in Rayya Qobbo highland area

Beta Israel, Ethiopian Jewish Community, also: *falasha*

biisbo, Manjo term for untying, translating, interpreting

chakuchakwa, fourth flute of Kumpal’s *fifi* instrument

chefe, freshly cut grass

- cheqa-shum*, also *čəka šum*, Ethiopian military title, also administrative position during the imperial government and during Italian occupation; intermediary between the state and the local communities
- cherfanna*, ritual staff of *wonno*, Bayso ritual leader
- ciico*, Manjo term for advising
- ciigabeete*, feeling of disgust of Kafa towards Manjo minority group
- dada*, sky/thunder god in Dawro
- diiro*, Manjo term for blessing
- diggiyo*, Manjo term for greeting
- daguwa*, big work party in Dawro
- darazuri/bend*, seventh and biggest flute of Kumpal's *fifi* instrument
- degella*, (or *degella*), tanners in Ganta and Dawro
- deji*, rituals performed for spirits in Kafa
- dere*, small, territorially discrete and politically autonomous units in Gamo
- dubio*, Kafa-owned land after incorporation of Kafa into Ethiopian empire at end of 19th century
- dulla komo*, Komo people's war/campaign
- duuro*, Manjo term for simple
- ejebel*, term for blacksmiths in Rayya Qobbo area
- ensete* (*ensete ventricosum*), 'false banana', important root crop in Ethiopia
- ego*, diviners of spirits in Kafa
- etanta*, dominant farming majority in Konso, also: *edenta*
- fakis*, Muslim scholars
- fanno*, patriots
- faqi*, term for tanners in Rayya Qobbo area
- fifi*, musical instrument and important ritual among the Kumpal, during which they commemorate their oppression and rise of a generational curse
- fuga*, term for craftworkers/former hunters in Gurage, Kambatta and some other groups
- fuld'o*, traders (and craftworkers) association in Konso
- gacha*, forty hectares of land in Kafa
- gafo*, hamlets in Kafa kingdom
- gasha halafi*, administrative official of a village during Haile Selassie's regime under the *mislene* (district headman)
- gaydi*, literally 'oxen/cows', derogative term used by slave masters for his slaves in Ganta
- gedo ts'ossa*, lineage god(s) in Dawro
- geppe taatoo*, ritual chief in Kafa
- geyeda manjatuwa*, literally 'purified Manja', used for Manja in Dawro who converted to Protestant Christianity
- giidoona qoppbo*, Manjo term for giving instructions that are to be obeyed
- goggiyo*, Manjo term for comforting in times of mourning
- gomaro*, dominant farming majority in Kaffa

- guudo*, provinces or clan territories within traditional Kaffa districts
- g^wəlt*, land which was owned by the Amhara royal family and nobles
- haco*, Manjo term for clever
- hadicho*, craftworkers among the Sidama
- hawi'a* (or *xauda*, *hauda*), craftworkers in Konso
- haallikko*, deity of Gollango
- haromaga*, (also: *maga*), Haro ritual leader
- hezthua*, literally 'third', referring to proportion of sharing in animal sharing arrangement in Dawro
- bit'itee*, traditional breathing instrument made of bamboo of 1.2 to 2 meters length played by the Dawro Manja during dominant farmers weddings and funerals
- boxabeete*, non-appreciation and denial of respect by Kaffa towards Manjo minority
- idir*, burial association
- injera*, a flat, thin, soft kind of pancake made of *t'eff*
- insanti*, fifth flute of Kumpal's *fifi* instrument
- iqub*, traditional savings association
- jenub*, (also: *jenubi*), expression used by Gwama people for early Anya-Nya 'southern' rebel movement and to Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M)
- jerka*, two shortest flutes of Kumpal's *fifi* instrument, literal meaning 'children', referring to children crying during Kumpal exodus
- jekasiwtsa*, second flute of Kumpal's *fifi* instrument
- kaaro*, Manjo term for quarrelling
- k'adda s'alabiya*, god of fortune in Dawro
- kafi noono*, language of the Kaffa
- kafi showo*, Kaffa kingdom
- kafi taatoo*, Kaffa king
- katama*, administrative towns in the south
- kati*, hereditary king in Ganta
- kawo*, hereditary king in Gamo
- kayo*, Manjo term for playing, i.e. relaxing talk
- kefu menfes*, evil spirits called upon by the *zar* cult
- kurela*, literally 'donkey', derogative term used for female slaves in Rayya Qobbo area
- kemo*, Manjo term for prophesizing, telling past, present and future
- kebele*, smallest administrative unit under *woreda* (district)
- ketema rasbo*, chief councillor of Kaffa king
- killil, region
- kotsa*, arrangement of share-cropping and share-rearing of animals in Dawro
- lathi*, slave master in Ganta
- lazantha*, mediator in purification ritual for slave descendants in Ganta
- madbet*, Amhara royal family and nobles living in Kaffa after incorporation into Ethiopian Empire under Menelik II

- madde shuuno*, labour provided by tenants (Kaffa, Manno and Manjo) to Kaffa land-owners during Italian occupation
- maga*, assistant of ritual leader in Gamo
- maganencho*, wife of *woycha*, assistant of Bayso ritual leader
- mala*, (or *malla*), free-born, dominant farming community among the Ganta, also in Dawro
- mana*, craftworkers among the Ganta/Gamo highlands; also: specific term for potters in Ganta and Dawro; also: specific term for potters and blacksmiths in Oyda, also: *manna* and *manni* among several Ometo groups
- manna-chinasha*, craftworkers among the Wolayta
- manno*, tanners among Kaffa
- mando*, Haro diviner/magician
- Manja*, marginalized group of former hunters living among Dawro
- Manjo guudo*, Manjo representative in Kaffa province in Kaffa kingdom, also: land owned by the Manjo, which was forbidden for Kaffa people to enter
- Manjo rasbo*, Manjo district heads in Kaffa kingdom
- Manjo taatoo*, Manjo king in Kaffa kingdom
- mälkänniya*, administrative staff in Kaffa during Italian occupation
- me'da ts'ossa*, the god of creator in Dawro
- mikkerecho*, councillor of Kaffa king
- mislene*, district headman during the reign of Haile Selassie I
- missa*, literally 'quarter', referring to proportion of sharing in animal sharing arrangement in Dawro
- monuma*, concepts of purity among Bayso
- mooti*, king/chief of western Oromo
- naggo*, Manjo term for insulting
- neftegna*, (or *näft'änniya*), Abyssinian soldiers, conquerors in the south
- oddobaddo*, Bayso ritual experts responsible for women's rituals
- oriwonno*, wife of *wonno*, Bayso ritual leader
- ooniyo*, Manjo term for gossiping
- pente*, a shortened and corrupted version of Pentecostal, and generic name for all Evangelical Christians in Ethiopia
- qegn-azmatch*, Ethiopian military title, also administrative position during the imperial government; intermediary between the state and the local communities
- qolle*, ancestral spirits invoked during *zar* cult
- qeshabeete*, exclusion of Manjo minority from Kaffa majority group justified by the Manjo's alleged impurity
- qollo*, Manjo term for begging/praying, also Kaffa term for spirits
- qocho*, staple food made from ensete in Kaffa
- rist*, oldest and most common form of land tenure in northern Ethiopia
- sambata*, god of holiday in Dawro

- saraqqa*, third flute of Kumpal's *fifi* instrument
- sassa ts'ossa*, powerful god or fast spirit in Dawro
- shankilla*, derogative term used in the past for indigenous 'black' population from the south, southwest and western Ethiopia
- shenecha*, religious ritual of benediction and prayer performed by men in the Rayya Qobbo highlands
- sherechwa*, ritual or spiritual leader in Dawro
- shuniyo*, Manjo term for reconciling
- s'illo ts'ossa*, righteous god in Dawro
- sit shwala*, literally 'black people', term of self-reference by Koman Mao living in Oromia
- songonn*, Bayso public meeting place
- sumomaydo*, assistant of *haromaga*, Haro ritual leader
- swal Gwama*, literally 'the house of the Gwama', Mao ritual place
- taggo*, Manjo term for debating in a reconciliation process in the presence of a mediator
- teleq sawach*, elders, also powerful people and nobles
- teyb*, term for occupational groups (craftworkers) in Rayya Qobbo area
- tocho tochabe*, literally 'telling *tocho* stories', Manjo expression for story telling situations
- toola fuld'o*, literally '*fuld'o* family', traders (and craftworkers) association in Konso
- ts'alaben*, Bayso spirit, delegate of Waa (Bayso highest spiritual being)
- tsoma*, non-citizens in Gamo, also craftworkers
- tsosi'indo*, wife of *haromaga*, Haro ritual leader, and wife of *sumomaydo*, assistant of Haro ritual leader
- tumtu*, term for weavers, potters, smiths, tailors, tanners in Wollega
- tune*, Bayso concept of impurity
- tuna*, Dawro concept of impurity
- uppo*, Manjo term for cursing
- Waa*, Bayso highest spiritual being
- watawit*, noble class dominating frontier region between Sudan and Ethiopia, controlling large parts of the indigenous population, including the Berta, Gwama and Komo
- welaga*, tree found in Rayya Qobbo highlands, representing slaves during *shenecha* ritual
- weyera*, plant (*olea europaea* subsp *Africana*) found in Rayya Qobbo highlands, representing nobles during *shenecha* ritual
- wogache*, blacksmiths in Dawro
- wonno*, Bayso ritual leader
- wonto*, Haro higher spiritual being
- worafo*, traditional districts of Kaffa kingdom
- woreda*, district
- woreda gaži*, director general of district in Kaffa during Italian occupation
- woycha*, assistant of *wonno*, Bayso ritual leader

wozzo, purification ritual for slave descendants in Ganta

wude, reciprocal cattle herding group in Ganta

xisanti, sixth flute of Kumpal's *fifi* instrument

xuggo, smallest administrative unit in Kaffa kingdom

yaaddo, Manjo term for bidding defiance

yeero, Kaffa and Manjo god

zamacha, 'development through cooperation campaign' under the Derg, during which young people were sent to the countryside to teach local communities about modernization

zar, spirit possession cult widely spread in the Horn of Africa and some countries in the Middle East

zawiy, small work party in Dawro

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