

GLOSSARY OF TIBETAN TERMS

achi	a phyi	grandmother (Tsang dialect)
achung	a chung	youngest father, younger brother
ajok	a jo	second eldest father, elder brother
akhu	a khu	paternal uncle
ama	a ma	mother
ani	a ne	nun/father's sister
ashang	a shang	maternal uncle
bangsöl	bang gsol	birth celebration ritual
bar thog	bar thog	middle floor
baru		corpse-cutter, Tsang dialect
bu	bu	son
bümé	bud med	woman
butsap	bu tshab	adoption
chak zowa	lcags bzo ba	blacksmith, 'iron maker'
chang	chang	barley beer
changdrok	chang grogs	drinking buddy, 'beer friend'
changsa gyak	chang sa rgyag	to marry
	pa	
changsa réré	chang sa re re	monogamy, 'one-to-one marriage'
chenpo	chen po	big, great
chigo	phyi sgo	gate, 'outer door'
chikhang	spyi khang	public house
chilé	spyi las	public work
chökhang	mchod khang	shrine room
chörten	mchod rten	stupa
chösi zungdrel	chos srid zung	the union of religion and politics
	'brel	
chuba	phyu pa	Tibetan robe, dress
chu lha	chu lha	god of the water
dadar	mda' dar	ceremonial twigs or arrows with ribbons
dak	bdag	owner

datsen	zla mtshan	female reproductive substances, menstruation
dikpa	sdig pa	moral wrongdoing
döndré	gdon 'dre	demon, negative force
dranak	sbra nag	nomad tent, 'black tent'
drangpo	drang po	fair, just, honest
dranyen	sgra snyan	Tibetan lute
drip	grib	pollution – dirt
driptsok	grib btsog	pollution – dirt
drokpo	grogs po	friend
drong	grong	hamlet, village
drongchen	drong chen	'big house', i.e. corporate named house
drongchung	grong chung	'small house', i.e. satellite unnamed household
drongpa	grong pa	household/house
dü	bdud	evil spirit
düchung	dud chung	landless farmers (small smoke)
dütsang	dud tshang	household
dzo	mdzo	cross-breed of cow and yak
gabo chewa	dga' bo bye pa	to make somebody like oneself (attract)
gang	sgang	up/above
ganyé (abbr. gabo nyebo)	dga' po nye bo	the 'near and dear'
gara	mgar ba	blacksmith (derogatory)
gen	rgan	elder
genpo	rgan po	representative of taxpayers, 'the elder'
genshö	rgan shos	the eldest (brother)
gentsang lamluk	'gan gtsang lam lugs	Household Responsibility System
gyaling	rgya gling	woodwind, oboe-like Tibetan instrument
gyelpo	rgyal po	spirit of deceased ordained relative
gyü	rgyud	lineage
Gyüzhi	rgyud bzhis	The Four Medical Treatises
imi	i mis	grandfather (Tsang dialect)
ja mar thuk	ja mar thug	tea – offerings to the <i>namo</i>
jikten	'jig rten	the (phenomenal) world
jindak	sbyin bdag	patron
ka	ka	pillar (of a house)
kak	bkag	to hinder, block
karto	dkar tho	'white books', recording the assistance received in weddings and birth cleansings

kartsi	dkar rtsi	white drawings on the wall
khambu	kham bu	apricot, offering to namo
khang	khang pa	house
khangchen	khang chen	'big house', i.e. corporate named house
khangchung	khang chung	'small house', i.e. satellite unnamed household
khangming	khang ming	house name
khatak	kha btags	white ceremonial scarfs
khathukpa	kha thug pa	'to come together', meaning couple-initiated marriage
khong	khong	he/she
khyimchen	khyim chen	large household/house
khyimtsang	khyim tshang	household/ house
kora khor	skor ra 'khor ba	'going around in circles', distribution of sexual access
khuwa	khu ba	semen/regenerative fluids
kyé lha	skyes lha	natal deity
kyéme	skye dman/ skye sman	woman, low birth/birth medicine
kyéme phala	skye dman gyi pa lags	wife's husband, father-in-law
kyen ngen	rkyen ngan	misfortune
kyiduk ngalak	skyid sdug snga lag	'happy bad', network of mutual assistance
la	bla	life force
labrang	bla brang	corporation of a lama
langchang	lang chang	bringing the bride
lé	las	karma
lérok	las rogs	work exchange
lha	lha	god, deity
lhakhang	lha khang	'house for deities', temple
lham	lham	traditional boots
lhapa	lha pa	spirit medium
longkhen	slong mkhan	beggar
loré tsok chung	lo re chogs chung	'team period'
losar	lo gsar	the New Year
lu	klu	serpentine spirit
lukhang	klu khang	'house of <i>lu</i> ', shrine of <i>lumo</i>
lumo	klu mo	(female) serpentine spirit
lunglo	rlung log pa	change of sex during birth
lungta	rlung rta	'wind horse' inscribed on flags

makpa	mag pa	in-marrying husband
ma pün	ma spun	matrilateral kin
me	smad / dman pa	lower
mendrong	sman grong	medical house
menrik	smad rigs	people of low rank, 'low kind'
mépa jé	med pa byas	to disintegrate, annihilate
milak	mi lag	hired labour
mi tsokpa	mi btsog pa	people of low rank, 'unclean people'
mo	mo	divination
mopa	mo pa	diviner
mu	mu	surface measure: 0.0667 hectares
nakto	nag tho	'black book' for recording assistance received during mortuary rituals
nama	mna' ma	in-married wife
nama tang	mna' ma bthang	send a <i>nama</i> (marry off a daughter)
namo		household protector, Tsang dialect
nang	nang	inside, inner
nang-go	nang sgo	(inner) door
namgma	nang ma	female household head, nightclub
namgmi	nang mi	'insiders', family
né	nas	barley, grain
néri	gnas ri	sacred mountain ('mountain of pilgrimage')
ngakpa	sngags pa	lineage of lay tantric practitioner
ngotsa	ngo tsha	shyness, embarrassment
nö chü	snod bcud	'natural world' (container-content)
nöpa	gnod pa	harm
nöpa kak (ya)	gnod pa bkag	harm stopper, talisman
nöpa yong	gnod pa yong	the arrival of harm
nor	nor	cattle, wealth, property
norkhang	nor khang	the house of the wealth
norlha	nor lha	'god of the wealth', household protector
nyebo	nye bo	near
nyelu	nyal bu	illegitimate child
ok	'og	underneath, below
ok khang	'og khang	basement
Panam	pa nams	Panam
pa pün	pha spun	patrilateral kin
pachik machik	pha gcig ma gcig	'one father one mother', siblings of same father and mother

pecha	dpe cha	religious text
pala	pa lags	father
pho lha	pho lha	protector of the patrilineage
pho yul lha	pho yul lha	the <i>yul lha</i> of Sharlung
pumba	pum ba	container used for offerings
pün	spun	relatives
pun nyebo	spun nye ba	near relatives
ralug	ra lug	goats and sheep
rik	rigs	kind, category, hereditary social status
rik ngen	rigs ngan	people of low rank, ‘bad kind’
rik tsokpa	rigs btsog pa	unclean ‘kind’
rokpa	rog pa	helpers/friend
rü	rus	bones
rü chikpa	rus gcig pa	‘same bones’, agnates
rü gyü	rus rgyud	patrilineage
rüpa	rus pa	‘people of the same bones’, agnates
rüpa lé	rus pa klad	bones and brain
sa	sa	earth/soil
sa chok	sa chog	site ritual
sa chü	sa bcud	fertility
sadak	sa bdag	lord of the earth
samadrok	sa ma ‘brog	semi-pastoralist
sang	bsangs	incense offering
sa sum	sa gsum	three realms
sayön	sa yon	household leader
semgyü	sems rgyud	personality, stream of mind
ser sungpa	ser srung pa	hail protector
sha	sha	flesh
shar	shar	east
sha gyü	sha rgyud	‘lineage of flesh’, matrilineal kin
shak	shag	residence
sha khok	sha khog	slaughtered sheep brought in wedding preparations, carcass
shenba	bshan ba	butcher
sinmo	srin mo	demonness
sonam	bsod nams	merit
söndréma	gson ‘dre ma	aggressive and jealous woman
Takrab	rtag rabs	group of eternity (house name)
tamdzing	‘thab ‘dzing	struggle sessions during the Cultural Revolution
tap	thab	stove, hearth

tapchang	thab chang	celebration marking the move of the stove to a new house
tap chik	thab gcig	one hearth
taplha	thab lha	god of the stove
tap nyi	thab gnyis	two hearths
taptsang	thab tshang	kitchen
temdrel	rten 'brel	interdependence
tenjur	bstan 'gyur	commentaries of Buddhist teachings
thang	btang ba	to send
thempa	them pa	household
tö	stod	upper
tok	thog	upper floor, roof
tokchang	thog chang	celebration marking the completion of the roof of a new house
trak	khrag	blood
trashī tendrel	bkra shis rten 'grel	to bring luck
treipa	khral pa	taxpayer
trulku	sprul sku	reincarnate lama
tsa	rtsa	veins
tsala	tsa la	traditional stove
tsampa	rtsam pa	roasted barley flour
tsé	tshe	lifespan
tsen	bcan	spirit (of deceased non-ordained relative)
tsokpa	btsog pa	dirt, uncleanness
uri pangden	uri spang gdan	gift to the bride's mother upon marriage
wu shing	dbu shing	twigs used for ritual purposes
xiang (Ch.)	shang	township
yang	g.yang	prosperity
yang kak	g.yang bkag	to stop prosperity
yangkhang	g.yang khang	room for prosperity, treasure
yangkhuk	g.yang khug	pouch for auspicious objects (prosperity)
yang len	g.yang len	to receive prosperity
yokpo	g.yog po	serf, landless farmer
yul chik	yul gcig	of same place
yul lha	yul lha	god of the place
zasum	bza' gsum	polyandry
zhung gyukpa	gzhung rgyugs pa	government serfs
zur khang	zur khang	'corner house', meaning adjunct house