

## **How to find your way in the Tima corpus**

The Tima team cordially welcomes you to the DoBeS Tima online archive! To not let you alone when trying to cruise around in the Tima corpus, we would like to provide you with some helpful notes. After introducing ourselves (1.), we present some general information on the corpus (2.), before we go into its detailed structure (3.).

1.) Since 2009, the Tima team (Prof. Dr. Gerrit Dimmendaal, Dr. Meike Meerpohl, Dr. Gertrud Schneider-Blum, and Nico Nassenstein) work in the prolonged documentation project of the Tima language and culture under the name "A linguistic and anthropological documentation of Tima". Tima is a language spoken in the Nuba Mountains area of Sudan. In this second phase of the project (<http://www.mpi.nl/DOBES/projects/tima>), sponsored by the Volkswagen foundation program on endangered languages, the main interest – besides a deepening documentation of the language and completing the multimedia dictionary of Tima – is to gain an ethnographic overview of Tima traditions, the social system, the general economic system and their history.

2.) The DoBeS archive on Tima provides a data corpus compiled during several field research trips into the Tima region since 2006. This includes audio recordings that have been collected and photographs that illustrate e.g. plants and material culture and others that have been taken in order to prompt statements made by Tima speakers. Video data, e.g. on traditional events like feasts and the recording of dances, are part of the archive as well. The main purpose of the internet archive is to provide a pool of data that scholars of different disciplines can access from all over the world and use for their own end. These introductory notes within the Tima folder of the IMDI browser are meant to help interested users to find their way easily through the archive.

3.) Apart from the introductory notes in the information file, you will find at the same structure level two main folders in the IMDI browser's menu bar of the Tima data: "Data" and "Studies". All primary data are in the folder called "Data". You will find analytical studies in the folder called "Studies". Both folders are divided into "linguistic" and "non-linguistic" sections.

In "Studies", you will, e.g., find the differentiation of parts of speech in the "linguistic" subsection (Tima → Studies → linguistic → word classes), while treatises on the kinship system or on the classification on plants are placed in the "non-linguistic" subsection of "Studies".

If you click on the node called “Data” (Tima Data), you will find this section again divided into “linguistic” and “non-linguistic” parts, all containing primary data such as videos, audio-files and photographs.

The “linguistic” data are made up of “elicited” and “prompted” folders that each have several subnodes (= subfolders) again. The corpus of “elicited” data comprises three different categorizations of “word lists”, one of which is classified as a collection of “grammatical” domains, one contains data on different “paradigms”, and the last one is a list of “semantic” domains.

If you click on the subnode containing grammatical domains (Tima → Data → linguistic → elicited → word lists → grammatical), you will see a list of grammatical parts of speech like “adjectives” or “nouns”, but you also find a folder called “questions”, e.g. Each folder contains the relevant bits of audio data and – at the very end of each list – a pdf-file that provides an overview over the trailed files. In the pdf-file you will not only find the transcription of the audio-file, but also the English gloss and the assignment to the respective semantic domain. The hyperlinks in the pdf-document refer to the original audio data once again, and, if available, to the respective photograph or video-recording.

The same applies to the “semantic” categorization of the words that are assigned to several semantic domains such as “man’s physical being” or “animals”: Each subfolder contains the relevant audio data and again a pdf-file with a list of all elements uploaded into the particular folder including transcription and English gloss and – here – the respective part of speech. Again, you may also find hyperlinks referring to photographs of the respective items, if available.

Finally, the subnode “paradigms” contains two main folders, the first one is named “TAM” with primary data on tense, aspect and mode and the second one is called “pronominal” with particular audio data on pronouns.

In contrast to the “elicited” linguistic data, the corpus of “prompted” linguistic data contains the subnode “descriptions” featuring e.g. data on clans, feasts and dances, as well as the subnodes “procedural” (how to make ...), “narratives” (i.e. myths), and “songs”, each of them testimonies of linguistic diversity as well as ethnological richness. The subnode “diverse” consists of a limited number of video data that could not easily be classified under a specific name.

In the folder “photo stimulation” (Tima → Data → linguistic → prompted → photo stimulation) you find recordings of small sentences that were prompted by showing photographs that had been taken in the area during previous visits to the Tima people. In the attached pdf-file, you will find links to the respective audiofiles as well as the photographs (i.e. the stimulus). Of course, you will find the transcription as well as the English gloss in the pdf-file again.

If you close the subnode on linguistic data and open the folder “non-linguistic” (Tima → Data → non-linguistic), you will find all “audio-files” sorted according to the day of recording. A list of audio-files and their speakers is added. If you are looking explicitly for audio data spoken by a specific consultant, you should take this list into consideration that provides you with detailed information about the consultants the Tima team worked with during the recording session (you will be transferred to the list immediately by clicking >here). Again, you may get access to several “maps” showing the Tima region and to the videos that have been recorded during the research trip.

We very much hope that, with this small introduction, we provided an easy access to our archived data for you. Please, keep in mind that we are dealing here with working material and that this work is still in progress.

The access to the Tima archive is open to everybody who is interested. If you are looking for more information concerning the Tima project and work, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Tima team