

## Glossary of echo phrases/words in tekna

This list outlines words and phrases usually found at the end of each sentence line in tekna. They are described as ‘echo’ words, and generally sung by the echo singers (daha aleng nyabe). Some phrases and words do not sometime carry any meaning except to provide rhyme or to echo the end words in each sentence in the tekna song.

This list is based on tekna songs recorded in Long Panai, Baram, Sarawak in 2019.

No	Echo word/phrases	Near English translation	Meaning in context of <i>tekna</i>
1	Ikeng kalung jale	Very fine native design / tattoo	Something refine, good news
2	Ni'yoï sepoi	Poetic phrases	This phrase is used when referring to the ancestors sepoi – ancestors sepoi ke' - grandfather sepoi doh - grandmother
3	Lusan taman tame'	Poetic phrases	Used when making reference to parents
4	Tedin panyin	Generation of 'commoners'	'Panyin' are Kayan commoners. <i>Tedin panyin</i> refers to the large population of commoners.
5	Kalung tukung	Artful writing	Something beautiful like design of fine art
6	Belepu lura	Spit saliva	When a commoner is cursed and became ill, a <i>hipun uma</i> (noble/aristocrat) must spit on the commoner in order to free him of the curse and cure him.
7	Hulung lenjo	Tiger pet	To refer to men, or action by young men although usually used as echo words.
8	Lenjo kalung	(like) Tiger	Also, usually used to refer to men/echo words.
9	Benliko/beliko	-	Rhyme/echo word that do not have any meaning except as echo.
10	(Tukung) lali	Curse	'tukung' – a word to rhyme with the word 'lali' (curse)
11	Panyin	Commoners	Common people, villagers who are not from the aristocrat/noble family
12	Nyelalang awi usan	Rain that does not fall to the ground/not on mark	An act that is inappropriate/unwise
13	Usang u'e	Respond to	A response to what is said/advice
14	Usang tira, usang jutan	advice	<i>Usang tira, usang jutan</i> are two phrases that are used together in a tekna to mean 'advice given'
15	Ali puyok	My child, my dear	Use to describe tenderness, in reference to someone dear, a beloved child
16	Pusung tuva	-	Rhyme phrase

17	Te' ngahang	Cut short	To explain something has been cut short. In tekna Jok Ngo, Peleken bulak 2, he laments the fact that his tekna was interrupted.
18	Kenliman	-	A figurative word that refers to rivers.
19	Ju jutan	-	A phrase to refer to the style of tekna
20	Jemoh	To proceed	To proceed with something
21	(Kendi) bana	-	Rhyme phrase
22	Penjo palo	-	Rhyme phrase
23	Te tatah	As example	Something to use as example
24	Nunan tira	Advice	This is what they advise
25	Lakin hipun uma	Aristocrat	Someone from the aristocrat (hipun uma) who is seen as a great leader
26	Nyepalo	To apologise	To apologise, to ask for forgiveness
27	Hulo te dalo lenjo	-	Rhyme phrase
28	Kuleh ukenliman	-	Reference for rivers; most times used as rhyme phrase
29	Lenjo luvo	-	Rhyme phrase
30	Ida ledu pusu ate'	Under your heart	My dearest, my heart
31	Bangu kapan	A lot, numerous	Reference to a big population of Kayan
32	Lebet bangu	Numerous	Also, in reference to big population
33	Kawah leko	Worry	<i>Kawah</i> – worry. <i>Leko</i> is echo word used as rhyme phrase
34	So so supo	Grandchildren	Grandchildren many generations over
35	Nyi'oi sempoi	-	Phrase used to refer to ancestors
35	Seng jala	-	Rhyme phrase
36	Juman jukan	-	Rhyme phrase
37	Bulan ngenban	From Malay 'bulan' – moon	Reference for a woman
38	Nilung bera	-	Rhyme phrase
39	Puli mate'	<i>Mate'</i> – die <i>Puli</i> -Curse	A phrase used to say one is cursed to die. Sometimes used as rhyme phrase.

40	Lendi masi	<i>Masi</i> – pity	Phrase used as rhyme phrase to say something sad/to take pity. <i>Lendi</i> is an echo word.
41	Tatah lusan taman	See also item 3	Rhyme phrase to describe ancestors
42	Nyi'oh kenliman	Going down river	Rhyme phrase to describe going down the river
43	Lusan taman	See item 3, 41	Rhyme phrase for ancestors
44	Utap te utak te usu kirap	-	Phrases to describe feathers worn when dancing/ready to dance for joy
45	Ja'e	-	Rhyme word
46	Nyapayin ug'e	To float	Phrase that describes something that float by the edge of the river
47	Nenju	-	Rhyme word
48	Tuman duken	-	Rhyme phrase
49	Awi najok te batung bene' pare'	Stick like paddy seeds	Phrases that describe something that stick out like paddy seeds – straight and strong
50	Pusung tuva pusung lenjo	-	Rhyme phrase
51	Labang tingang	-	Rhyme phrase that figuratively refers to the hornbill bird. In <i>tekna</i> , it is used to refer to men.
52	Mudik hunge'	Upriver	Migration upriver
53	Tudu lentoh	Sleep	<i>Tudu</i> – sleep. The phrase <i>tudu lentoh</i> conjures peace, or someone who is deep in sleep.
54	Urip baya	Future life	Life in the future, future generation
55	Ku'hek	Small	Something small, someone who is young
56	Magan tuvung	Beat drum	To beat the drum
57	Usun Apo	Up in the heartland	Place where the Kayan originate from in Kalimantan, Indonesia
58	Kayo puli	-	Rhyme phrase
59	Lenkah pano	Start walk	To begin their migration
60	Men aring	From beginning	At the start of their migration
61	Panyin	-	Kayan from the lower social strata
62	Hipun uma	-	Kayan from the upper social strata
63	Jun jutan	-	Rhyme phrase
64	Menuna	In the past	Sometime in the distant past
65	Lenjo dune'	-	Rhyme phrase
66	Un hunge'	End of the river	Used in reference to something far
67	Juk dahuk	Start conversation	This is how I start my story, conversation

68	Tengaran	Conversation, to talk	The word 'tengaran' can refer to talk, conversation, story, advice, narrative or story telling (leken)
69	Jeleng usan	Near to rain	Rhyme phrase
70	Murip jaya	Good life	A life that is lived in abundance
71	Tingang madang	-	Tingang (hornbill bird) – like the hornbill bird that flies
72	Manuk madang	Bird flying	Like the bird that flies
73	Tenga telo murip jaya	-	Our lives will be exceptional, prosperous
74	Len uma	Houses	To build many more longhouses
75	Tula nyineng usun tana	-	Known throughout the world; to see the world as it unfolds
76	Ne nira	To tell	To tell you a story
77	Leken	Poetry	Poetic rendition, narration, story telling
78	Peleken	-	To tell you a poetic rendition, narration, to tell a story
79	Lake' lakin	-	A warrior, usually from among the <i>hipun uma</i>
80	Dune' layok	-	Rhyme phrase
81	Nyateng nyineng luveng lunang	-	Poetic phrase to give imagery to the longhouse
82	Dune' layok jenlivan	-	Imagery phrase to refer to young generation
83	Hida liling ate'	Under my heart	In my heart
84	Metuk aran	To give name	To give someone a name
85	Anak lu'ong, anak batung	Child	Own child, child of my bosom
86	Su, su garu	Far away	A place that is very far away
86	Su, su garu ha un hunge'	-	A place that is very far away, a distant place at the river end
87	Lung hunge'	River mouth	A place that is near (to the longhouse)
88	Putung puten	-	Rhyme phrase
89	Ida kelengha	-	Rhyme phrase
90	Maren lan	glorious	How glorious (you are); how esteemed
91	Mentak huwe'	Cut the rattan	Something cut short, a story that is short
92	Do baya	Future day	In the future

**Note:**

While the translation of a few of the Kayan words and phrases here follows somewhat the Kayan-English dictionary (C. Hudson Southwell, 1990), readers should take note that the literal translation of the words and phrases here are to be understood in the context of the tekna song itself.