

Glossary of Fijian words

<u>Bai Tabua</u>	'sacred fence of whales' teeth', secret society of <u>Tuka</u> adherents
<u>bose</u>	council
<u>Buli</u>	official title of government district chief
<u>burua</u>	mourning feast and ceremonies
<u>dalo</u>	taro, staple Fijian tuber
<u>draunikau</u>	sorcery
<u>galala</u>	'free' farmer legally exempted from communal obligations; in current usage a man living apart from the village
<u>gauna</u>	time, era
<u>isevu</u>	first fruits offering
<u>itaukei</u>	the (original) owners of the land; often, by extension, the term used by Fijians to refer to themselves as against other races
<u>kai</u>	inhabitant of, man of
<u>kaisi</u>	commoner, low-born (pejorative)
<u>kai vale</u>	chief's household servants
<u>kerekere</u>	the practice of 'requesting' goods of a friend or relative
<u>koro</u>	village
<u>lala</u>	chief's conscription of goods and services
<u>lali</u>	wooden drum
<u>lotu</u>	church
<u>luveniwai</u>	spirit-'children of the water'

<u>magiti</u>	feast
<u>mana</u>	supernatural power
<u>masi</u>	cloth made from bark of the paper mulberry tree
<u>mata</u>	envoy
<u>matanitū</u>	political confederation of <u>vanua</u> ; the government
<u>matanivanua</u>	spokesman for the chiefs
<u>mataqali</u>	social unit of second order of inclusiveness; legally a patrilineal descent group and the proprietary unit of most Fijian land
<u>meke</u>	a song integrated with dance movements
<u>noi</u>	dialectal variant of <u>kai</u>
<u>oco</u>	food given in return for work, especially housebuilding
<u>ovisa</u>	officer
<u>papālagi</u>	country of the white man
<u>gali</u>	tribute-paying, or dependent social group
<u>galivakabau</u>	dependants of Bau in Lomaiviti and elsewhere
<u>Roko Tui</u>	government title of heads of provinces - in some areas also a hereditary title
<u>sōlevu</u>	a large ceremonial exchange of food and goods between two sides
<u>sulu</u>	length of cotton print wrapped round the loins (<u>lava lava</u>)
<u>tabu</u>	taboo

<u>tabua</u>	sperm whale's tooth
<u>Talai</u>	Fijian title for the variously styled officer in charge of the Fijian Administration, since 1944 the Secretary for Fijian Affairs
<u>tama</u>	a muted shout of respect in unison on the first approach of a chief, as e.g. <u>duo!</u> <u>o!</u>
<u>taralalā</u>	dancing European-style with body contact
<u>tikina</u>	government district
<u>Tui</u>	leading chief of a <u>vanua</u>
<u>Tuka</u>	an immortality cult
<u>tūraga</u>	chief (general word)
<u>tūraga ni koro</u>	government chief of the village
<u>vakamisioneri,</u>	an annual Wesleyan collection for support of the church
<u>vakarorogo</u>	'go to', acknowledge allegiance to
<u>vakatūraga</u>	in a chiefly fashion
<u>vakavanua</u>	pertaining to the land, customary, traditional
<u>vakaveiwekani</u>	in the manner of relatives
<u>vakaviti</u>	Fiji-style - often used pejoratively by local Europeans
<u>vanua</u>	land, small polity, local chiefdom of several villages of <u>yavusa</u>
<u>vata</u>	raised sleeping-shelf or platform
<u>Viti Cauravou</u>	Young Fiji Society
<u>vulagi</u>	visitor, outsider

- Vuniduvu high priest of Tuka cult; inspired author of meke
- vunivalu best-known title of dominant chief of Bau; often in other places the executive chief's title, as distinguished from a sacred titleholder
- yaqona kava, liquid from the pounded or masticated root of Piper methysticum strained through water
- yavusa social unit of third order of inclusiveness; legally a group of ranked mataqali with kinship ties fictionalized as descent from a common ancestor

This text is taken from *The Fijian Colonial Experience: A study of the neotraditional order under British colonial rule prior to World War II*, by Timothy J. MacNaught, published 2016 by ANU eView, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.