

Glossary

For all names of persons and places in Indonesia we use the modern spelling of the Indonesian language according to the standard dictionary (*Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*, 2002). Some frequently used technical terms are as follows:

<i>adat (hada)</i>	Customary law in Indonesia, originally incorporating the whole cosmos of a specific tribe or clan, including the primal religion
<i>adu</i>	Image (idol), usually from wood or stone, used to call upon the spirits in ceremonies; the <i>adu</i> symbolises the primal religion of the Ono Niha
<i>adu zatua</i>	An image of the forefathers; a special, often artistically sculptured <i>adu</i> , representing the ancestors; also known as <i>sangehowu</i> (the source of blessing)
<i>aetu noso</i>	A euphemism for death that is used in Nias was amputation of the soul
<i>afdeeling</i>	Section or administrative region
<i>afo</i>	Betel nut quid, consisting of five elements
<i>Afökha</i>	According to some myths, Afökha was an evil spirit born along with Lowalangi and Laturedanö from the upper branch of the <i>tora 'a</i> ; in translating the Bible, the missionaries used the term <i>afökha</i> for the devil or Satan
<i>afore</i>	A measuring staff
<i>amaedola</i>	Parables and proverbs
<i>amakhoita</i>	Formerly the order of the ancestors; later church discipline
<i>ame'ela</i>	Offering or sacrifice
<i>amonita</i>	Taboo; holy; cf. <i>famoni</i>
<i>ana 'a</i>	Gold
<i>atua guli danö</i>	The Niasan concept of the end of the world
<i>baya</i>	The root; cf. <i>sibaya</i>
<i>Bahasa Indonesia</i>	The Indonesian national language, similar to Malay
<i>balö zi'ulu</i>	Ruling hereditary chief from South Nias
<i>balugu</i>	Highest, non-hereditary rank of nobility attainable through an <i>owasa</i>
<i>banua</i>	Village; community; sky; heaven
<i>bekhu</i>	Spirits
<i>bawa gawuwukha</i>	'The mouth of the ocean' (hell)
<i>bekhu gatua</i>	Spirits of the jungle
<i>bekhu dalu mbamua</i>	Spirits of the air
<i>bela</i>	Spirits of the trees, who are the owners of all wild animals in the forest
<i>Bhineka Tunggal Ika</i>	Unity in diversity

<i>böwö</i>	Dowry, hospitality or helpfulness
<i>börö nadu</i>	Feast of reconciliation in Nias tradition
<i>böröwösi</i>	A high priest associated with the <i>fösi</i> -tree
<i>controleur</i>	Dutch colonial officials
<i>daludalu ni fahede</i>	Traditional medicine
<i>duku</i>	Medicine man or shaman; in the earlier days of the mission often used for Muslim traditional healers; derived from Malay 'dukun'
<i>eheha</i>	Spirit; honour
<i>Eheha Ni'amoni'ö</i>	Holy Spirit
<i>elemu</i>	Black magic
<i>enoni</i>	Servant
<i>enoni Lowalangi</i>	Servant of God
<i>enoni Gaföcha</i>	Servant of the devil
<i>ephorus</i>	Chairperson of the synod board (bishop; <i>pastor pastorum</i>)
<i>ere</i>	Priest or priestess of the primal religion of the Ono Niha; <i>ere</i> can also refer to a specialist of a traditional art or craft
<i>ere börö nadu</i>	The highest priest and lawmaker
<i>fa'asia'a</i>	Maturity, seniority or <i>primus inter pares</i>
<i>Fa'awösa</i>	The community-movement on Nias
<i>fali'era</i>	A scale, as well as seeds for plants, animals, jewellery
<i>falöwa</i>	The wedding day
<i>famagobi högö</i>	The heads of the bride and bridegroom would be gently knocked against each other, as a symbol that the wedding had been conducted well
<i>fame'e laeduru</i>	Giving of the ring; 'engagement'. In South Nias it is known as <i>ana'a wamatuasa</i> (fiancé's ring)
<i>famoni / amonita</i>	Taboo; holy
<i>famoto</i>	Genital incision
<i>fangorifi</i>	Salvation
<i>fangesa dödü sebua</i>	The Great Awakening on Nias
<i>fangöhözi or famofo</i>	Smoothing down of the teeth
<i>fa'ogömigömi dödü</i>	Darkness of the heart
<i>fa'onekhe</i>	Intelligence
<i>fo khö</i>	Wealthy
<i>fondrakö</i>	A traditional ceremony, in which the law was resolved, renewed and authorized
<i>fondrahi</i>	The hand-drum, beaten by the priest (<i>ere</i>) in his shaman rituals
<i>fösi</i>	The sacred tree, cf. <i>tora'a</i>
<i>glossolalia</i>	Speaking in tongues
<i>guru</i>	Literally 'teacher', until World War II used for a combined or dual ministry of school teacher and assistant pastor or catechist (teacher-preacher); as of 1943, the church function of the <i>guru</i> was effectively taken over by the <i>sinenge</i>

<i>hiwö</i>	Dance symbolizing a snake
<i>hoho</i>	Litany; sung rhymes
<i>howuhowu</i>	Blessing
<i>huku fōna</i>	The 'old law' of the primal religion and the <i>adat</i> of the Ono Niha
<i>huku Lowalangi</i>	The 'new law' of God as taught by Christianity
<i>hulö zi tenga niha</i>	Inhumane brutes or inhumane way; cf. <i>Urmenschen</i>
<i>Insulinde</i>	A moderate political party in colonial times
<i>khoikhoi Lowalangi</i>	The traditional law of God
<i>lakhömi</i>	Honour; glory (<i>molakhömi</i> = having authority or charisma)
<i>laoya</i>	Brass
<i>lauru</i>	A rice measure
<i>Li Nono Niha</i>	Niasan language
<i>lumölumö</i>	Shadow
<i>mado</i>	Niasan clan
<i>maena</i>	Traditional dance of Nias
<i>mala'ika zatua</i>	Spirit of the ancestor(s)
<i>mantri</i>	Paramedic trained in Western medicine and nursing
<i>Matiana</i>	The spirit of a woman who died in childbirth, which then disturbs other women who are about to give birth
<i>öri</i>	Loose federation of villages
<i>omo / omo hada</i>	House / Niasan traditional house
<i>onderafdeeling</i>	Sub-section (cf. <i>afdeeling</i>)
<i>Ono Niha</i>	Literally 'child of human'; the term by which the original inhabitants of Nias and the Batu Islands call themselves. Equivalent to 'Niasan(s)'
<i>Ono Niha Keriso</i>	Ono Niha who confess the Christian creed
<i>osali</i>	A sacred place for the <i>adu</i> and gatherings; later used for the church building
<i>owasa</i>	Pork-banquet / grand feast for achieving a high rank in society
<i>Pancasila</i>	The Indonesian state ideology based on five principles
<i>pandita</i>	Ordained minister / indigenous pastor (from the Sanskrit: 'pandit', a wise and learned human beings). BI: <i>pendeta</i>
<i>pandita Niha</i>	Indigenous, Niasan minister; cf. <i>pandita</i>
<i>posthouder</i>	Government administrator
<i>penasihat</i>	Advisor
<i>rapatgebied</i>	Area under Dutch colonial jurisdiction
<i>religiöse Gefühle</i>	Religious feelings
<i>resident</i>	Leading Dutch colonial administrator
<i>residentie</i>	Administrative region headed by a <i>resident</i>
<i>resor</i>	Church-circuit
<i>rodi</i>	Forced labour
<i>salawa</i>	Chief
<i>salöfö</i>	A spirit of a person who is predator and all evil spirits living in caves, big trees and rivers

<i>samatörö</i>	Ruler
<i>sambua mbanua, sambua mbuabua</i>	'In different places, there are different traditions'
<i>sanguhuku</i>	Judge
<i>satua Niha Keriso</i>	Local church elder
<i>sibaya</i>	Uncle; cf. <i>baya</i>
<i>sifatewu</i>	Stranger
<i>Silewe Nazarata</i>	A goddess often associated with the high priest
<i>simalapari</i>	Spirits of the river mouths
<i>simo</i>	Tin
<i>sinenge</i>	Literally means 'messenger'; as of 1914, a trained evangelist; as of 1943, a local teacher-preachers chosen from among the elders
<i>si'o</i>	Literally means 'stick'; a mediator or go-between in wedding procedures
<i>si'ulu</i>	Hereditary nobles from South Nias
<i>sokhö</i>	Owner
<i>somböi</i>	Creator
<i>sotanö</i>	Land owners
<i>sotöra</i>	Silk
<i>sowanua</i>	Villager
<i>Teteholi Ana'a</i>	The primeval kingdom or (golden) upper world
<i>Tanö Niha</i>	Niasan name for Nias
<i>tanömö niha</i>	The seed of humankind
<i>tora'a</i>	World tree or tree of life
<i>tuhenöri</i>	Paramount chief on Nias
<i>turia / toeria</i>	Message or news
<i>Unmenschen</i>	Inhumane brutes or inhumane way; cf. <i>hulö zi tenga niha</i>
<i>ulö sesolo</i>	A giant dragon-snake
<i>zendingsgesprek</i>	Mission-chat
<i>zihi</i>	Spirit(s) of the sea