

## **Endangered place names in Dilling**

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*This paper focuses on place names in the Dilling language as a matter of historical documentation.*

*Dilling belongs to the Ajang language group which belongs to the Nubian language group.*

*Many Dilling place names remind Dilling people of their old temporary settlements on route to their Ajang kingdom in Kordofan (where the place names are still in Dilling) and then to their current settlement in the Nuba mountains over many centuries.*

*Most of the place names in the Dilling language area have been changed into Arabic or arabized and some were translated into Arabic, while some other place names use both forms. Since Dilling is an endangered language and the generations that know the place names may die out, then we may lose an important part of the cultural and linguistic heritage, as well as the strong evidence for claiming the right to an ancestral homeland.*