

Glossary

<i>ansa bele</i>	a practice regulating pregnancies out of wedlock by which a man accepts full social and financial responsibility for a pregnancy
<i>ataya bes</i>	a coffee place for men serving <i>ataya</i> tea, which is believed to provide energy; mostly young people gather there to drink and discuss politics and daily events
<i>bambrus</i> or <i>bambrusing</i>	treating someone or something roughly; can also be used to describe rough sex limited to penetration; can also indicate rape
<i>bod ose</i>	a wooden house
<i>bossing</i>	consensual sex where the man is dominant
<i>cher am</i>	to tear, to rip apart; here it is describing men's sexual conquest of attractive women
<i>cober lappas</i>	minors, 'girl lovers'
<i>contract relationships</i>	cohabiting partners who are not exclusive but may not bring other lovers home
<i>cut</i>	male orgasm
<i>cut and play</i>	sex that considers male and female pleasure
<i>fala-fala</i>	someone who loves to escort another person; here a love potion that leads a person to follow another person wherever they go; <i>fala</i> can also mean to have sex
<i>faray</i>	an addicted smoker; also used to describe a woman who is embedded in street life and who smokes but who does not engage in sex work

<i>financiers or providers</i>	middle-aged men/elders who enjoy the (sexual) company of women and girls in exchange for financial support, often in the form of school/university fees or rent
<i>fine boy</i>	pretty boy; a physically attractive or sexually skilled person without the financial resources desired of a main partner
<i>gbagba</i>	black magic that prevents someone from urinating or going to the toilet; this spell is said to be often used against ‘passers-by’ (q.v.)
<i>get bele</i>	to be pregnant
<i>get-to geda</i> or <i>chillin</i>	outing organised by social clubs in Freetown for club members and friends
<i>ifohn</i> or <i>swear medicines</i>	traditional medicines used in oath ceremonies as truth-determining devices in theft cases
<i>keɗi masta</i>	someone who runs a brothel or gambling place and who takes a commission for services provided in exchange for a place, security, or introduction to customers; brothels are often run by women
<i>ketch</i>	to catch; also the name a female sex worker may use for a customer or a man to describe a new sexual partner
<i>kongosa</i>	gossip, backbiting
<i>lek-lek</i>	love potion mixed in substances, food, or ointments; used against a partner to prevent them from loving someone else; used against a stranger to make them fall hopelessly in love and surrender all control; the charmed person’s free will is taken away
<i>mami kɔs</i>	calling someone’s children bastards, thereby cursing someone’s mother
<i>mami kwin</i> or <i>mammie queen</i>	female leader
<i>mas am</i>	to step on someone; also used to describe men or boys sexually penetrating women or girls, yet not necessarily in a violent way
<i>na mi bɔs am</i>	I am the one responsible for taking her virginity

<i>nak am</i>	means to hit someone, but is also a slang term for having sex; for example, <i>Ar wan nak am</i> means I want to have sex with her
<i>nɔr lɛf mi so</i>	do not leave me like that
<i>pan bɔdi</i>	corrugated-iron house; zinc house
<i>passer-by</i>	a man who makes empty promises to a woman or who only takes when having sex and does not give the woman pleasure
<i>pikin biznes</i>	child's play; also used to indicate a physical relationship that involves kissing and touching but does not lead to sex
<i>plaba</i>	palaver, to quarrel or fight
<i>play</i>	female orgasm
<i>playing in her garden</i>	a man sexually pleasuring a woman; a man giving oral sex to a woman
<i>pul di bele</i> or <i>pɔwel di bele</i>	to have an abortion; to perform an abortion
<i>pul na do</i>	the naming ceremony for Muslim babies
<i>put mɔt pan di fet</i> or <i>putting mouth into the fight</i>	involving oneself in someone else's argument; talking to people while they are fighting
<i>rare gal</i>	female sex worker deeply involved in street life and sometimes in gangs
<i>I nɔr ansa di bele</i>	to deny having caused a pregnancy
<i>rɔb- rɔb</i>	ointments that are believed to be magical and that people rub on their bodies either for protection from magic that could be used against them or as a charm to use against others for personal desires
<i>sexing</i>	consensual sexual act
<i>show face</i>	the father of a baby introduces himself to the family of the woman he impregnated, to confirm that the baby has a father without taking social or economic responsibility for the child or the mother
<i>side-chick</i>	a woman who is very attractive or sexually skilled but who is believed not to possess the qualities of a main partner and is therefore an intimate partner among others
<i>snatching</i>	stealing someone's partner

<i>sugar daddies</i>	middle-aged men/elders, who enjoy the (sexual) company of girls and young women in exchange for money, mobile phone credit, clothes, or hair
<i>sẁallow</i>	apologise ritually at the end of informal community and household mediations and acknowledge that all issues have now been attended to
<i>sẁear</i> (n.)	an oath
<i>tabulay</i> (n.) or <i>tabule</i> (v.)	a drum or to drum; can also be a nickname for male or female sexual organs
<i>tap to mi</i>	cohabiting without being engaged or married
<i>tay-tay</i>	(mostly ropes) that are believed to be magical that people tie on their bodies, for example on the waist, ankle, wrist, or neck; this is done either for protection from magic used against them, or as a charm to use against others for personal desires
<i>tēdi bōi</i>	a gang member or young man engaged in the illicit economy who asks his girlfriend to make money for him (often through sex work and associated trickery)
<i>tīt en tōŋ mōs jam</i> or <i>teeth and tongue jammed together</i>	the quarrels that necessarily occur between people who are close (e.g. kin, lovers, or friends); it is used to describe the relationship between men and women
<i>toma</i>	namesake (i.e. someone with whom you share the same first name); a term especially used by the Mende people
<i>wahala</i>	conflict, trouble, or problem

