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Nyima Dorjee, Camille Simon

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108 Onomatopoeias in Tibetan

Nyima Dorjee (Collège de France, Institut d'études tibétaines) & Camille Simon (Université de Picardie Jules Verne, CERCLL & LACITO)

NB: This list of onomatopoeia has been collected as primary data for a paper published as part of the project “Onomatopoeia - what is in the name?” led by Livia Körvélyessy (<http://www.skase.sk/onomatoproject/Home.html>). The data have been collected from one single Tibetan native speaker, Nyima Dorjee, hence, they reflect his own dialect/idiolect, while many dialectal differences may be expected on this topic. Onomatopoeia are transcribed in IPA. The lines above or under vowels indicate tones.

	Onomatopoeia	Meaning
1	/bəl [˩] up~bəl [˩] up/	Water quietly spouting from a spring
2	/fāk~fāk~fāk/	Waterfall, water flowing over a mill wheel
3	/bəl [˩] uk~bəl [˩] uk/	Water flowing through a canal (e.g. around fields)
4	/tʃ ^h ör/	Liquid strongly flowing downwards (e.g. peeing, rainwater flowing through gutters, milk squirting into the bucket when milking)
5	/tʃ ^h āfak~tʃ ^h āfak~tʃ ^h āfak	Rain
6	/bəl [˩] ok~bəl [˩] ok/	Boiling water
7	/tʃ ^h āfak/	Water thrown away
8	/t ^h ɪk~t ^h ɪk~t ^h ɪk/	Drop
9	/t ^h ulum/	Something massive falling into a lake or pond
10	/tʃ ^h āk/	Something flat falling into a lake or a pond
11	/k ^h otok~k ^h otok/	hail
12	/ur/	Wind, storm
13	/sīr/	Wind blowing through a small opening
14	/ʃök~ʃök/	Wind blowing through tree leaves
15	/dir/	Thunder
16	/ts ^h āfak/	Sudden impact or crack (e.g. breaking branch, lightning cf. also slapping someone).
17	/t ^h ōfok/	Stone hitting a rock
18	/ʃöt ^h ok~ʃöt ^h ok~ʃöt ^h ok/	Animal walking on pebbles
19	/ts ^h āk~ts ^h āk~ts ^h āk/	Dry branches burning
20	/tsīu~tsīu~tsīu/	Mouse
21	/mjāo/	Cat (mewing)
22	/k ^h or~k ^h or/	Cat (purring) (cf. snoring)
23	/awu~awu/	Dog barking
24	/xar~xar/	Yak (male)
25	/ɲur~ɲur/	Yak (female)
26	/ō:/	Cow calling her calf
27	/lē:/	Calf
28	/bø:~bø:/	Bull
28	/bā:/	Sheep
29	/ihaha/ (Literary Tibetan : <‘ts ^h er>)	horse
30	/āu:/	Wolf
31	/tʃīu~tʃīu/	Small bird

32	/kā:~kā:/	Raven
33	/kūku~kūku/	Cuckoo
34	/kōtø:~kō/	Hen
35	/t̥ei~t̥ei~t̥ei/	Tibetan snowcock
36	/p ^h ūk~p ^h ūk ʃʃʃ/	Hoopoe fasciae
37	/pīŋfulu/	Eagle
38	/oŋ ʔū:/	Owl
39	/ŋaŋ~ŋaŋ~ŋaŋ/	Duck
40	/kwā:~kwā:/	Frog
41	/bəlu bəlu/	Fish
42	/wa:ŋ/	Bee
43	/tsēr~tsēr/	Locust
44	/dir dir/	Lucanidae
45	/yīr~yīr~yīr/	Cicadicae
46	/ʃāpʃup/	Whispering
47	/tōlo molo/	Speaking in low, indistinct voices
48	/kīhihi/	Howling (positive emotions only)
49	/āru:~āru:/	Moaning
50	/lek~lek~lek tsēk~tsēk~tsēk/ or /tsēo~tsēo~tsēo/	Bitching and grumbling
51	/k ^h or/	Snoring (cf. cat purring)
52	/ø ^h ø [?] ~ø ^h ø [?] /	Coughing
53	/hā~hā~hā/ or /hī~hī~hī/ or /hū~hū~hū/	Laugh
54	/hē~hē/	Mocking laugh
55	/hən/	Contemptuous laugh, or indicating that you disagree
56	/sīk~sīk/	humming (when you are happy)
57	/k ^h oŋ [?] ~t̥ ^h o~t̥ ^h o/	Gurgling
58	/t̥ā~t̥ā~t̥ā~t̥ā/	Teeth grinding
59	/hāptʃi/	Sneezing
60	/ts ^h ōr~ts ^h ōr/	Breathing with a blocked nose
61	/t̥ ^h āk~t̥ ^h āk/	Chewing
62	/k ^h ōrop~k ^h ōrop/	Chewing with the gums
63	/ts ^h ōrop~ts ^h ōrop/	Crunching
64	/hūp/	Gulping
65	/xəlu~xəlu/	Slurping
66	/hhh/	Sighing
67	/dīkdīk~dīkdīk/	Heartbeat
68	/t ^h op~t ^h op/	Cracking joints
69	/hē:~hē:/	Panting
70	/īk~īk/	Hiccupping
71	/ts ^h āʃak/ or /ts ^h āk/	Slapping someone
72	/dīk~dīk~dīk/ or /dak~dak~dak/	(Heavy) footsteps
73	/k ^h oto [?] ~k ^h oto [?] /	Stumbling
74	/t ^h ə[ø]~t ^h ə[ø]/	Walking with dragging feet
75	/ts ^h ōrop~ts ^h ōrop~ts ^h ōrop/	Walking on snow
76	/diri [?] /	Jumping

77	/t̥iŋ~t̥iŋ/	Small bell
78	/ʂəlāŋ~ʂəlāŋ/	Big bell
79	/s̥iḱ~s̥iḱ~s̥iḱ/	Small, closed bell (sleigh bell)
80	/tāŋ gətāŋ t̄āŋ gətāŋ/	Tibetan lute (<i>sgra snyan</i>)
81	/dəlēŋ~dəlēŋ/	Tibetan trumpet (<i>rgya gling</i>)
82	/d̄aŋ~d̄aŋ/	Drum
83	/tsʰāŋ~tsʰāŋ/	Cymbal
84	/tsēt̥s̄ē/	Harmonica
85	/b̄y:/	Conch
86	/b̄ak~b̄ak/	Motorbike
87	/byf: t̄f̄ək~t̄f̄ək~t̄f̄ək~t̄f̄ək/	Train (probably highly variable since there was no train in Tibet before 2006)
88	/dz̄ē:/	Car
89	/tʰōsʰo/	Car-crash (or two heaving things hitting each other)
90	/tʰok~tʰok~tʰok~tʰok/	Small tractor
91	/j̄irik~j̄irik/	Skeaky cart wheel
92	/tōloŋ~tōloŋ/ or /tʰalaŋ~tʰalaŋ/	Making noise with the pots etc. (while cooking or washing the dishes)
93	/tōf̄o/	Making noise with things (other circumstances)
94	/tʰāk~tʰāk~tʰāk/	Weaving loom
95	/rodok~rodok/	Millstone grinding grain
96	/d̄zop~d̄zop/	Flailing
97	ʂōk~ʂōk~ʂōk	Winnowing
98	/sar~sar~sar/	Sawing
99	/tʰōŋ~tʰōŋ/	Hammer hit on an empty object (e.g. a pot)
100	/d̄ou~d̄ou/	Hammer hit on a door or a wall
101	/tʰik~tʰik/	Hammer used to forge something
102	/tsʰādak/	Lighting a lighter
103	/tsāk/ or /tsʰōf̄øʰ/	Lighting a match
104	/tʰōsʰø/	rifle
105	/tʰi[kuŋ/	pistol
106	/t̄ir/	Ringing (alarm clock, phone or doorbell)
107	/tʰōk~tʰōk~tʰōk/	Knocking on the door
108	/t̄ø: t̄ø:/	Klaxon