

Swadesh wordlist of the Kiribati language, categorised by semantic field

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The Swadesh list, first developed by American linguist Morris Swadesh from approximately 1950-1970, is a compilation of basic words that are believed to be commonly used across multiple languages. The Swadesh list is usually translated into certain languages to show cross-linguistic interconnectivity and in ICUWPL5 it is used to provide a list of words and sentences that can be used to analyze or to obtain a better understanding of Kiribati.

Original table comes from:

Bowern, Claire (2007) *Linguistic Fieldwork: a Practical Guide*. Palgrave Macmillan.

1.	big	[pubura]	adjective
2.	long	[ana:nou]	adjective
3.	wide	[ra:pepe]	adjective
4.	thick	[mæteŋteŋ]	adjective
5.	heavy	[sɪnepu]	adjective
6.	small	[uare:reke]	adjective
7.	short	[kimototo]	adjective
8.	narrow	[wariki]	adjective
9.	thin	[kairariki]	adjective
10.	warm	[(h)a:pue]	adjective
11.	cold	[maitoro]	adjective
12.	full	[ondʰake] / [tɔ:rake]	adjective
13.	new	[po:u]	adjective
14.	old	[mene]	adjective
15.	good	[rɔiroi]	adjective
16.	bad	[pua:ɣaɣa]	adjective
17.	rotten	[pua:kʰakʰa] (~[pua:ɣaɣa])	adjective
18.	dirty	[perekʰa]	adjective
19.	straight	[kainesɪ] / [kaiesɪ]	adjective
20.	round	[rondon]	adjective
21.	sharp	[kakaŋ] / [kʰima] / [waikʰakʰaŋ]	adjective
22.	dull	[kapupu] / [kaposu]	adjective

23.	smooth	[po:roi]	adjective
24.	wet	[maimai]	adjective
25.	dry	[mau]	adjective
26.	correct	[esi]	adjective
27.	near	[ka:n]	adjective
28.	far	[raroa]	adjective
29.	right	[atai]	adjective
30.	left	[meiŋ]	adjective
31.	animal	[te meŋ]	animal
32.	fish	[te: ika]	animal
33.	bird	[te mennikipe]	animal
34.	dog	[te kiri]	animal
35.	louse	[te: usi]	animal
36.	snake	[te næ:ta]	animal
37.	worm	[te mata]	animal
38.	skin	[kuniŋ te meŋ] / [te kuŋ]	animal product
39.	meat	[te iriko ni meŋ] / [te iriko]	animal product
40.	blood	[raran te meŋ] / [te rara:]	animal product
41.	bone	[ri:n te meŋ] / [te ri:]	animal product
42.	fat (n.)	[mae teŋ te meŋ] / [te maete] / [te kiris]	animal product
43.	egg	[te punnimoa]	animal product
44.	horn	[koron te meŋ]	animal product

45.	tail	[pukin te meŋ]	animal product
46.	feather	[te purænimeŋ]	animal product
47.	hair	[te irannasu]	body part
48.	head	[te asu]	body part
49.	ear	[te taniŋa]	body part
50.	eye	[te meta]	body part
51.	nose	[te pairi]	body part
52.	mouth	[te wi:]	body part
53.	tooth	[te wi:]	body part
54.	tongue	[te neβe]	body part
55.	fingernail	[te ukinipei]	body part
56.	foot	[te wae]	body part
57.	leg	[te wae] / [te rana]	body part
58.	knee	[te bupua nu we]	body part
59.	hand	[te pei]	body part
60.	wing	[te pei ni kipe]	body part
61.	belly	[te pirotu]	body part
62.	guts	[te kanoannano]	body part
63.	neck	[te roroa]	body part
64.	back	[te nu:ka]	body part
65.	breast	[te mmeŋme]	body part
66.	heart	[te buro:]	body part

67.	liver	[te atto]	body part
68.	drink	[mo:i]	body verb
69.	eat	[amarake]	body verb
70.	bite	[tenaia]	body verb
71.	suck	[to:mmɛ]	body verb
72.	spit	[beware]	body verb
73.	vomit	[mumuta]	body verb
74.	blow	[uk ^h ia]	body verb
75.	breathe	[ikeike]	body verb
76.	laugh	[ŋareŋare]	body verb
77.	live	[mɛ:u]	body verb
78.	die	[mɛte]	body verb
79.	red	[uraura]	colour
80.	green	[kiri:n]	colour
81.	yellow	[pɛpopo:]	colour
82.	white	[mɛinaina]	colour
83.	black	[roro:]	colour
84.	with	[mɛ:]	conj
85.	and	[ao]	conj
86.	if	[ŋk ^h anna]	conj
87.	because	[ibukina]	conj
88.	tree	[te aroka]	environment

89.	forest	[te puakonikai]	environment
90.	stick	[te kai]	environment
91.	fruit	[uan te aroka] / [te wa:nikai]	environment
92.	seed	[te kora:] / [kora:n te aroka]	environment
93.	leaf	[pe:n te aroka] / [ti peannikai]	environment
94.	root	[waka:n ti aroka] / [te waka:]	environment
95.	bark	[kunin te kai]	environment
96.	flower	[te ue]	environment
97.	grass	[te uteute]	environment
98.	freeze	[tiki ni paniŋ] / [puro:ki]	environment
99.	sun	[ta:i]	environment
100.	moon	[namakaina]	environment
101.	star	[te itoi]	environment
102.	water	[te raŋ]	environment
103.	rain	[te karau]	environment
104.	river	[te kara:ŋa]	environment
105.	lake	[te nei]	environment
106.	sea	[ta:ri]	environment
107.	salt	[te taoro]	environment
108.	stone	[te asi:bu]	environment
109.	sand	[te tano]	environment
110.	dust	[te pubu] / [perekareka]	environment

111.	earth	[te ɔnnapɛ]	environment
112.	cloud	[te naŋ]	environment
113.	fog	[te mɛapupu]	environment
114.	sky	[karawa]	environment
115.	wind	[te aŋ]	environment
116.	snow	[te sɪno:]	environment
117.	ice	[te aisɪ]	environment
118.	smoke	[te bubu]	environment
119.	fire	[te ai]	environment
120.	ashes	[te mennəŋ]	environment
121.	burn	[pue]	environment
122.	road	[te kawai]	environment
123.	mountain	[te mɛuŋa]	environment
124.	woman	[te aine]	human
125.	man (adult male)	[te ma:ne]	human
126.	man (human being)	[te aomɛta]	human
127.	child	[te ate:i] / [te te:i]	human
128.	wife	[te ainenu:ma] / [pu:n te ma:ne]	human
129.	husband	[te ma:ne nu:ma] / [pu:n te aine]	human
130.	mother	[te sina]	human
131.	father	[te tame]	human
132.	name	[te ara]	human

133.	sing	[anene]	human verb
134.	play	[taka:karo]	human verb
135.	swell	[sibutau]	human verb
136.	kill	[siriŋŋa]	impact
137.	fight	[un]	impact
138.	hunt	[kaea] / [kakioa]	impact
139.	hit	[oreia]	impact
140.	cut	[koreia]	impact
141.	split	[kame:nakoa]	impact
142.	stab	[eβaria]	impact
143.	scratch	[te ka:raki] / [te nanana]	impact
144.	dig	[kenna]	impact
145.	at	[irarikiŋ] / [ikekei]	location
146.	in	[inanon]	location
147.	sew	[isu:a]	misc verb
148.	count	[wareki pa:i] / [warepai]	misc verb
149.	swim	[uaua]	motion
150.	fly (v.)	[kipe]	motion
151.	walk	[nakoŋako]	motion
152.	come	[roko]	motion
153.	lie	[βene]	motion
154.	sit	[tekateka]	motion

155.	stand	[tei]	motion
156.	turn	[tairaki]	motion
157.	fall	[paka]	motion
158.	float	[pesi]	motion
159.	flow	[ra:ŋa]	motion
160.	see	[no:ra]	perception verb
161.	hear	[oŋo]	perception verb
162.	know	[ataija]	perception verb
163.	think	[jaŋo]	perception verb
164.	smell	[arokia]	perception verb
165.	fear	[me:ku]	perception verb
166.	sleep	[mesu:]	perception verb
167.	say	[atoŋŋa] / [teakinna]	perception verb
168.	I	[i:] / [ŋai]	pro
169.	you (singular)	[ko:] / [ŋkoe]	pro
170.	he	[e:] / [ŋaia]	pro
171.	we	[si:] / [ŋaira]	pro
172.	you (plural)	[kam] / [ŋkami]	pro
173.	they	[a:] / [ŋai:a]	pro
174.	this	[aio]	pro
175.	that	[(h)arei]	pro
176.	here	[ikai]	pro

177.	there	[ikekei]	pro
178.	who	[(h)antai]	pro
179.	what	[tera:]	pro
180.	where	[eŋa:]	pro
181.	when	[niŋai]	pro
182.	how	[nikaŋa:]	pro
183.	not	[seki ni kapene]	quant
184.	all	[ni kapene]	quant
185.	many	[maisi]	quant
186.	some	[tateua] / [teutana] / [tapemεŋ] / [tapeai]	quant
187.	few	[karako] / [tateua]	quant
188.	other	[tapemεŋ]	quant
189.	one	[teuana]	quant
190.	two	[woua]	quant
191.	three	[tenu:a]	quant
192.	four	[aua]	quant
193.	five	[nimeua]	quant
194.	night	[te tairiki]	time
195.	day	[te ŋaina]	time
196.	year	[te ririkj]	time
197.	rope	[te ro:pɯ]	tool
198.	give	[aŋanna]	transfer

199.	hold	[taua]	transfer
200.	squeeze	[ko:nna]	transfer
201.	rub	[pupu:ja]	transfer
202.	wash	[te pokia] [wa:sj]	transfer
203.	wipe	[ko:ja]	transfer
204.	pull	[kʌsikia]	transfer
205.	push	[totokoia]	transfer
206.	throw	[kade]	transfer
207.	tie	[kapæja]	transfer