Glossary of Tibetan Words

Bot, Bod, or Bod-yul – Tibet.
Chakta – Matchbox
Chak-tak – Chain.
Cham – How many; madam.
Chamba or Champa – Maitreya.
Cham-kushok – Madam or mem-sahiba.
Champa – Sattu or parched barley powder.
Chema – Sand.
Chema-kara – Sugar.
Chema-nenga – Five-coloured sands of manasarovar.
Chen-khang – A small image-hall where pujas are performed regularly, daily morning and evening.
Chenreisig or Chenrezig – Avalokiteshvara.
Chhagna-dorje-gang or Changja-gang – A place, wherefrom prostration-salutation is made to any holy place.
Chham – Solitary confinement for a fixed period for doing meditation and pujas.
Chhang – A kind of light beer made by fermenting barley.
Chhang-rin – Present or bakshish (literally price of chhang).
Chhasu – Tax-collector.
Chheme – Butter lamp.
Chhen, or Chhe – Big.
Ch’hen – Night.
Ch’herba – Rain.
Chhongra – Mart or mandi.
Chhopa – Images made of sattu and butter used in tantrik rites.
Chhorten – A sort of monument, stupa, or chaitya.
Chhu – Water, river, rivulet, or stream.
Chuu-mar – Ghee or clarified butter.
Chhura – Cheese.
Cho – Tibetan great antelope (Pantholops Antelope).
Chomo – Nun.
Chong – Onion; any commodity for sale.
Cho-nga – Full moon day.
Chung – Small.
Daba – Ordinary sadhu or monk.
Dalai Lama – Ocean Guru, the Sovereign political head of Tibet, believed to be the incarnation of Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara.
Dama – A sort of thorny juniper bush, which is used as fuel and which burns even when green, Tibetan furze.
Dang – Yesterday.
Dazang – The managing body of a monastery.
De – Rice.
Demchhok or Demchhog – The presiding deity of Kailas.
Demo – Tibetan cow.
Dhak – Nepales Rupee.
Diring – Today.
Do – Stone.
Dok-pa – Dweller of a black tent or a shepherd.
Dong – A back tent of a shephered.
Donkhang – Dharmashala or a free rest house.
Dorje – Vajra or diamond.
Dorje-Phagmo – Vajra-Varahi.

Du – Barley.

Duk – Yes or there is.

Duk – Bhutan Stare.

Duk-pa – A person belonging to Bhutan State.

Dum – Chinese brick-tea.

Du-vang – General image-hall.

Gangri – Glacier or Kailas.

Gar-pon – Officer of Gar or Gartok, Viceroy of Western Tibet.

Go – Head.

Goa – Tibetan gazelle.

Gokpa – garlic.

Gompa or Gonpa – Buddhist monastery or lamasery.

Gopa or Goba – Village headman.

Gormo – Indian Rupee.

Gutang – Nepalese Mohar.

Gya-gar – White plain or India.

Gya-nak – Black plain or China.

Gyalpo – Raja, Chief, or King.

Hun or Hundesh (Bh.) – Tibet.

Ja – Tea

Jamb-yang – Manju-ghosha.

Ja-nil – A ball of Chinese tea.

Jav – Half a Tanga.

Jhabbu – Crossbreed of a Tibetan bull and an Indian cow.

Jilab – Prasad, something taken as a memento either form a holy person or place.
**Jinbu or Jimbu** – Tibetan onion leaves.

**Joo** – Salutation or thanks.

**Kang-ri** – Snow-mountain, glacier, or Kailas.

**Kangri Karchhak** – Kailas Purana.

**Kang Rinpoche** – Jewel of Snows or Holy Kailas.

**Kanjur** – Translation of Buddha’s sayings and teachings in 108 volumes.

**Kara** – Sugar-candy.

**Khamjam** – Salutation.

**Khampa** – A Tibetan domiciled in India or a native of Kham (a province in Eastern Tibet).

**Khangba** – House.

**Khar** – Fort.

**Khatak** – Loosely woven gauze-like white linen used as a garland in Tibet, a ceremonial scarf.

**Khi** – Dog.

**Khir** – Bring.

**Kiyang or Kyang** – Wild horse or ass.

**Kong** – High, up, or senior; rate.

**Kor** – Circumambulation.

**Korlo** – Prayer-cylinder or prayer-mill.

**Kunchhok-sum** – by God; an oath.

**Kur** – Tent.

**Kushok** – Mister, shreeman, or saheb.

**La** – Pass.

**Labrang** – General Managing Body of a monastery, usually deputed by a bigger monastery in Central or Eastern Tibet to its branch in Western Tibet.
Labu – Turnip.
Lam – Path.
Lama – Buddhist monk of higher order, Guru or high priest, or spiritual teacher.
Langak Tso – Raksha Tal.
Langehen Khambab – The river coming out of the mouth of an elephant – Sutlej.
Laotche – A heap of stones generally raised at the top of mountains, at the end of ascents, wherefrom some holy place is seen conspicuously, or at the top of passes, or on the way to any holy place representing the deity of that place, all amounting to clear the way of stones. Streamers are hung on them.
Lha – Devata or deity.
Lha-khang – Deity-house or image-hall.
Lham – Tibetan boots coming up to the knees.
Lharchi or Lharche – Musk.
Le – Camping ground with walled enclosures.
Lo – Belt of a horse.
Luk – Sheep.
Lung – Wind.
Lung, Lungba, Lungma, or Lungva – Valley.
Mak-pon or Magpon – Military Officer or Patwari.
Mandal – Cairn or stones piled one over another like a pillar; a yantra.
Mani – The mantra Om mani padme hum, or jewel.
Mani-cyliner – Cylinder in which slips of mani-mantra are kept.
Mani-stone – Stone on which mani is inscribed or embossed.
Mani-wall – Wall on which mani-stones are kept.
Mapeha Khambab - the river coming out of month of a peacock – Karnali.
Map chhu – Karnali.
Mapham – The Unconquerable Manasarovar.
Mar – Butter.
Marku – Oil.
Mathova – Manasarovar.
Mavang – Manasarovar.
Mayur – Crevasse or fissure.
Me – Fire; no.
Men – Medicine.
Mi – Man.
Mi-duk – No or there is not.
Naktang – Tanga.
Namkang – New moon day.
Naning – Last year.
Naza – Disease.
Nechen – Place of pilgrimage or a tirtha.
Nerpa or Nerba – Steward or secretary.
Ngangba – Swan.
Ngari – Western Tibet.
Ngato – Tomorrow.
Ngima – Day or sun.
Ngyul – Silver or money.
Nirbishi (K.) – A variety of aconite.
Nirvana (S.) – Salvation.
Num-nak – Mustard oil.
Nya – Fish.
Nyakor – Pilgrim.
Nyān – Great Tibetan sheep (Ovis Ammon).
Nyima – Day, sun, or sunlight.
Odayar (K.) – Cave.
Oma – Milk.
Pa – Wala.
Pačṭuk – Chinese brick-tea.
Pa’den – Shree.
Pačchen Lama or Penchhen Lama – Spiritual head of Tibet, believed to be the incarnation of the Bodhisattva Amitabha Buddha.
Par – Photo.
Phagbe – Wheat flour.
Phing – Tibetan vermicelli made of pea flour.
Phuk – Cave.
Phuldo – Crude Tibetan soda or baked serutsa.
Po – Incense.
Po or Poyul – Tibet.
Poṃbo – Officer.
Poṭo – Woman; female; daughter.
Puram – Gur or jaggery.
Ra – Goat.
Re – Cotton cloth; ‘yes sir’,
Ri – Mountain.
Rirγ – Price.
Rirpočhe – Jewel; holy; holiness.
Sa or Za – Day of the week.
Sakya-Thubba – Sakya-Muni or Buddha.
Sangpo or Sampo – Brahmaputra.
Sapta – Map.
Senge Khambab – The river coming out of the month of a lion – Indus.
Ser – Gold or yellow.
Seru-tsa – A kind of crude soda (unbaked).
Shapje – Footprint.
Shing – Tree; fuel; wood; stick.
Shok – Come on.
Shyngehhong – Government Trader.
Shya – Meat.
Shyo – Charcoal.
Sola – Charcoal.
Sug – Pain.
Ta – Horse.
Ta-lo – Horse-year; this year.
Tamchok Khambab – The river coming out of the mouth of a horse – Brahmaputra.
Tamo – Cold.
Tanjur – Translation of all shastras.
Tanga or Tanka – Tibetan silver coin, equivalent to four annas.
Tara – Buttermilk.
Tarchema – Chook or a sour fruit.
Tarchok – Flags and festoons especially of five colours: white, red, green, yellow, and blue.
Tasam or Tarzam – Transport or Post stage Officer.
Tasam – Highroad.
Te – Mule.
Thanga – Plateau or maidan.
Thanka – A Tibetan banner – painting especially of Buddhistic deities, saints, yantras, etc.
Thukpa – A semi-liquid dish made of sattu, cheese, and meat.
Thu – A preparation made of mixing cheese with gur and butter.
Thuma – An aphrodesiac or rejuvenating herbal root.
Tirna – Cream.
Tisi – Kailas.
To – Stone.
Trama – Pea.
Tsa – Salt.
Tsabo – Hot.
Tsampa or tsamba – Sattu.
Tsangpo – Big river; commonly used for the Brahmaputra in Central Tibet.
Tso – Lake.
Tuchhe-chhe – Thanks.
Tugu – Son; boy.
Tuiku – Avatar or incarnation.
Taiku-lama – lucarnation-lama.
Tumo – Heat.
Urko Kong – Viceroy Senior.
Urko Yok – Viceroy Junior.
Yak – Tibetan bull.
Yambu – Nepal.
Yanakti (Bh.) – River.
Yok – Lower or junior.
Yu’ – Village.
Yung-chhong – Government Trader or State Merchant.