

Introduction

The Fur are an ethnic group from western Sudan, principally inhabiting the region of Darfur where they are the largest community. The Fur language is a Nilo-Saharan language spoken in the Darfur and in some other parts of Sudan.

Types and use of questions in the Fur language

This paper represents types and use of questions in the Fur language. There are a number of ways and reasons for asking questions. These questions are divided into two main categories, interrogative and declarative questions. And the declarative questions are divided into six subsections, informational, confirmational, expectational, counter-expectational or for condition and interjection.

i. Interrogative words

These words can form a question by themselves (aál, naán, kaán, níín, kíín, kiin, ay, ây and kây)

1) Aál janni?

Where going

Where are you going?

2) Naán Jéla?

When came

When did you come?

3) Kutiŋa níín kábé?

Chairs how many took

How many chairs did they take?

4) Kaán jío?

Why went

Why did you go?

5) Kííj ge?

Whose are

Whose are they?

6) Kííj gé?

Who are

Who are they?

7) Kii ii?

Who is

Who is he/she?

8) Kaa ii?

What is

What is it?

10) Kaa gé?

What are

What are they?

11) Ây dąŋo ii?

Which one is

Which one is it?

12) Kây kwan gé?

Which one are

Which one are they?

ii. Declarative words

Yes-No questions are question that can be answered with yes or no. They act like English auxiliary verbs. They always invite the listener to choose between only two possible answers.

(a) Informational questions

Informational questions, are asked for getting a knowledge about something that should happened at that moment.

1) Nɛŋ jámi lá?

Food eat auxiliary?

Did you eat food?

2) Pǎy kárí la?

Room enter question-word? Did you enter the room?

3) Leel sí dǎy kaníe lâŋ?

Donkey obj marker grass gave auxiliary?

Did they give the donkey a grass?

4) Rǎy koo láŋ?

Farme go auxiliary?

Shall we go to the farme?

5) Tamar sí joomé sa?

Name of a Person obj marker reach auxiliary?

Did you reach Tamar?

6) Moo kwě bawa sá?

Name of Person child took question word?

Did Moo take the child?

7) Tôma sí mânnga kaníe sâŋ?

Name of Person obj marker mango gave auxiliary?

Did they give a mango to Toma?

8) Tolla sí joo sáŋ?

Name of person obj marker marry auxiliary?

Will you marry Tolla?

9) Têrre á nyaŋá báa?

Name of Person not went auxiliary?

Did not Terre go?

- 10) Mađila kwě -sí ás bawa baa?
Name of Person baby obj marker not took auxiliary?
Madila did not take the baby?

- 11) Kátire kí yeeŋ arrá áŋ koo baa?
Person with them together not go auxiliary?
Will not Katire go together with us?

(b) Confirmational questions

Confirmational questions, are asked to make sure that something has happened or still.

Table1

sasá	Sasáŋ	Sasâŋ
kasá	Kasáŋ	Kasâŋ
masá	Masáŋ	Masâŋ
wasá	Wasáŋ	Wasâŋ
Asaŋ	Ásáŋ	Ásâŋ

- 1) Mása burro?
Question word mixed?
Did you mix it?
- 2) Kasá káwlíe?
Question word opened?
Did they opened it?
- 3) Wasá á bélaba?
Question word not brought to?

Did not you bring it to him/her?

- 4) Sasâŋ kâlɩl?
Question word washed?
Will they wash him/her?

- 5) Bâsâŋ koomíal?
Question reached?
Will they reach him/her?

- 6) Mâsâŋ íríní álán íní?
Question word refused to give?
Did he/she refuse to give him/her?

- 8) Tíbó ye sí Sasâŋ kwă?
Name of person him/her obj marker question word told?
Did Tibo told him/her?

(c) Expectational question

Expectational questions are used for asking questions, about the somethings that you like to happen past or expect to happen future.

Table2

Săl	Salá	Salâŋ	Salâŋ
Măl/măŋ	Kalá	Kalâŋ	Kalâŋ
kăl	Malá	Malâŋ	Málâŋ
ăl	alá	Álâŋ	Álâŋ

1) Tilla Săl tónj pínjí?
Name of Person question-word home returned?
Did Tilla return home?

2) Bí kǎl nɛŋ bámi?
You question word food ate?
Did you eat food?

3) Kalá gí íní?
Question word obj marker gave?
Did he/she give you?

4) Díŋj belé Salá jwa?
Your word question-word said?
Did not you say your word?

5) Burtú Salánj wáíŋa?
Name of person question word returned?
Did burtu return?

6) Kalánj taga jísiŋo?
Question word able talk?
Will you be able to talk?

7) Sasá ɛɛ bwa?
Question word word said?
Did you call him/her?

8) Jí in sá jwa álánj dáári jee?
You that question-word told to garden go?
Did you tell him/her to go to the garden?

9) Mǎŋ á júra ba?
Question word not touched to?
Did not you touch it?

10) Walá tarí ás báa ba?
Question word call not do to?

Did you not call to him/her?

11) Malá á átíní ba?

Question word not rubbed to?

Did not you rub to him/her?

12) Masá á jawi ba?

Question word not killed to?

Did not you kill to him/her?

13) Kalán déen arrá ráan?

Question word its meaning get?

Will he/she get its meaning?

(d) Counter-expectational questions

Counter-expectational questions are used for asking questions, about the somethings that you did not like to happen, and you are not sure whether they have happened or not.

Table 3

Completive	Completive	Incompletive	Incompletive
bâl	bála	Bálán	Bálân
mâl(mân)	mála	Málán	Málân
Kân	kalá	Kalán	Kalân

1) Bâl buri?

auxiliary brok?

Did you break it?

2) Ye sí mân íní álán amí?

Him/her obj marker question word gave to eat?

Did he/she give him/her to eat?

3) Mál gí pié dɔŋo basa?
auxiliary participant reference lie one considered?

Have you considered me a liar?

4) Bâl k̩ari búlo?
Question word behind followed?

Did you follow him/her?

5) Iláŋ ɯáŋ bálán taan?
That Because question word beat?

Did he/she beat him/her because of that?

(e) Interjectional questions

These are the questions, which are asked in surprising way, because of what has happened is unbelievable

1) Námán la jáŋa?
Quickly auxiliary returned?

How quickly did they return?

2) Ámmán la koro báí?
Quickly auxiliary water drank?

How quickly did they drink the water?

(f) Conditional questions

Conditional questions are used for asking about something that you have a doubt to happen, and you are asking other person to tell you more about it.

1) Annaŋ/anniŋ jó seret á gíŋ íní báa?
If went pen not reference give to?

If I go, will he/she give me a pen?

2) Ata/Ati si ɯ kwa áŋ êl báa?
If obj marker word tell not come will?

If I tell him/her, will he/she not come?

3) Atiŋ/Alaŋ nyaná áŋ búló báa?

If go not find will?

If he/she go, will he/she find him/her?

4) Abá/abán yío kwă gí sán?

If go tell participant reference question word?

If I go, will he/she tell me?

5) Ammán/Ammín si 𐌸𐌹 jwa eer lá?

If obj marker word tell fight question-word?

If ask him/her, will he/she fight?

Summay

This paper descussed types and use of questions in the Fur language. And the ways and reasons for their using. They are divided into two main categories, interrogative and declarative questions. And the declaratives are divided into six sub-types, informational, confirmational, expectational, counter-expectational or conditional and interjectional questions. But there are more than these types (interrogative and declarative) and sub-types of questions, that I have mentioned them in this abstract.