Appendix K. Glossary of Arabic Terms

9asiida - a thick porridge made from millet or sorghum; mainstay of the rural diet.

9ish - a cereal grain; in the El Obeid area, the term more commonly refers to millet than to sorghum.

9ushuur - a 15% ad valorem tax assessed on cash crops; a major revenue source for rural councils.

baladi - "local"; the common local variety of a crop; late-maturing.

barbatee - the local variety of groundnut (i.e. Barbiton).

buuda - striga, witchweed.

buur - fallow land.

daHwa - morning work period, approximately from sunrise to midday.

damaan - "guarantee"; the procedure in livestock marketing where a professional witness testifies that the animals being sold are the lawful property of the seller.

darat - the harvest period at the end of the rainy season and beginning of the dry season; a time of plenty.

dimbi - the common long-maturing millet; same as dukhan baladi.

dukhun - millet.

dugundi - cash rent for the use of an area of land during one season (e.g. 2,000 L.S./makhammas).

fuutra - rent charged on use of land for one season amounting to 10% of the yield.

fuul - groundnuts.

gibaana - market use tax on cash crops; tax rate is 0.150 L. S./kantar of produce that is sold.

gifaar - village land held in reserve by the shaikh (headman); the shaikh has the discretion to make gifts of land to people settling in the village.

ghafiir - a guard or watchman.

guwaal - a work arrangement where the laborer receives a lump sum payment for completing a given task (e.g. cutting a field of millet).