

Glossary of Kru Language Terms

<i>Bo, Boviowah or Gbo</i>	Secret society practiced by the Kru.
<i>Bodio</i>	An officer in Bo secret society. The <i>bodio</i> kept fetishes and was a high priest.
<i>Borh</i>	Soldiers.
<i>Claho</i>	Possible ancestors of the Kru who migrated hundreds of kilometers from the West African interior before settling in the region that eventually became known as the Kru Coast.
<i>Dako</i>	A territorial unit composed of various <i>pantons</i> sharing political officers based on a collective historical tradition. The six coastal <i>dako</i> consisted of Kabor, Jloh, Gbeta, Sasstown (or Pahn), Grand Cess (or Siklio), and Proper Kru or “Five Tribes.” The interior <i>dako</i> consisted of Matro, Bolo, Nanke, and Bwa.
<i>Dea</i>	Village.
<i>Deyâbo</i>	Doctors in Bo secret society.
<i>Fishmen</i>	People living in the same vicinity as the Kru along the Kru Coast. They were distinguished from the Kru as subsistence fishermen, as compared with the Kru who were traders with Europeans. The Kru and Fishmen frequently engaged in confrontation according to sources.
<i>Gbaubi or gbo bi</i>	A figure known as the “father of the army” who held nearly equal authority as the <i>krogba</i> .
<i>Gbau</i>	The warrior class in Bo secret society.
<i>Giwon</i>	Meaning “leopard’s mouth,” a building housing fetishes, war trophies, and objects important to the <i>dako</i> .
<i>Gnekbade</i>	Elders in Bo secret society.
<i>Ibadio</i>	Function of council to the dual leadership of the War King and the Peace King. An officer in the Sedibo whose equivalent figure is the Tibawah.
<i>Kafah</i>	Scouts.
<i>Kedibo</i>	The young men in Bo society.
<i>Klao</i>	The origins of the name Kru are believed to have been derived from Klao or Krao according to oral traditions.
<i>Kofa</i>	Age-set composed of young adolescent boys.
<i>Krogba</i>	The highest officer in a <i>dako</i> was known as the “father of the town” who was democratically selected by a group of <i>panton nyefue</i> .
<i>Kru</i>	A term denoting the peoples who live on the Kru Coast of Liberia between the Cestos River and Cape Palmas. In the nineteenth century, the term was applied to peoples living between Cape Mesurado in Liberia and the Bandama River in Côte d’Ivoire. Alternative and interchangeable names include Carou, Carow, Croo, Crewmen, Crou, Croumen, Kharoo, Klao, Krao, Krau, Krewmen, Kroo, Krooboy, Kroomen, Krou, Kroumen.
<i>Kwi</i>	Poro bush spirit honored by wearing a mask. Also known as Nyessoa.
<i>Nyaswa</i>	The most revered Poro bush spirit honored by wearing a mask.
<i>Panton</i>	The name given to a patrilineage in Kru society.

<i>Panton Nyefue</i>	The head of the <i>panton</i> who was the eldest member deemed physically and mentally fit to hold the position.
<i>Sedibo</i>	The soldier class composed of middle-aged men in Bo secret society.
<i>Tibawah</i>	Function of council to the dual leadership of the War King and the Peace King. An officer in the Sedibo whose equivalent figure is the Ibadio.
<i>Torh</i>	War.
<i>Worabanh</i>	Served as the military leader in times of war.