Glossary

ansa bɛlɛ	a practice regulating pregnancies out of wedlock by which a man accepts full social and financial responsibility for a pregnancy
ataya bes	a coffee place for men serving *ataya* tea, which is believed to provide energy; mostly young people gather there to drink and discuss politics and daily events
bambrus or *bambrusing*	treating someone or something roughly; can also be used to describe rough sex limited to penetration; can also indicate rape
bod ose	a wooden house
bossing	consensual sex where the man is dominant
chɛr am	to tear, to rip apart; here it is describing men's sexual conquest of attractive women
cober lappas	minors, 'girl lovers'
contract relationships	cohabiting partners who are not exclusive but may not bring other lovers home
cut	male orgasm
cut and play	sex that considers male and female pleasure
fala-fala	someone who loves to escort another person; here a love potion that leads a person to follow another person wherever they go; *fala* can also mean to have sex
faray	an addicted smoker; also used to describe a woman who is embedded in street life and who smokes but who does not engage in sex work

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financiers or providers	middle-aged men/elders who enjoy the (sexual) company of women and girls in exchange for financial support, often in the form of school/university fees or rent
fine boy	pretty boy; a physically attractive or sexually skilled person without the financial resources desired of a main partner
gbagba	black magic that prevents someone from urinating or going to the toilet; this spell is said to be often used against 'passers-by' (q.v.)
gɛt bɛlɛ	to be pregnant
gɛt-to gɛda or *chillin*	outing organised by social clubs in Freetown for club members and friends
ifohn or *swear medicines*	traditional medicines used in oath ceremonies as truth-determining devices in theft cases
kedi masta	someone who runs a brothel or gambling place and who takes a commission for services provided in exchange for a place, security, or introduction to customers; brothels are often run by women
ketch	to catch; also the name a female sex worker may use for a customer or a man to describe a new sexual partner
kongosa	gossip, backbiting
lɛk-lɛk	love potion mixed in substances, food, or ointments; used against a partner to prevent them from loving someone else; used against a stranger to make them fall hopelessly in love and surrender all control; the charmed person's free will is taken away
mami kɔs	calling someone's children bastards, thereby cursing someone's mother
mami kwin or mammie queen	female leader
mas am	to step on someone; also used to describe men or boys sexually penetrating women or girls, yet not necessarily in a violent way
na mi bɔs am	I am the one responsible for taking her virginity

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nak am	means to hit someone, but is also a slang term for having sex; for example, *Ar wan nak am* means I want to have sex with her
nɔr lɛf mi so	do not leave me like that
pan bɔdi	corrugated-iron house; zinc house
passer-by	a man who makes empty promises to a woman or who only takes when having sex and does not give the woman pleasure
pikin biznɛs	child's play; also used to indicate a physical relationship that involves kissing and touching but does not lead to sex
plaba	palaver, to quarrel or fight
play	female orgasm
playing in her garden	a man sexually pleasuring a woman; a man giving oral sex to a woman
pul di bɛlɛ or *pwɛl di bɛlɛ*	to have an abortion; to perform an abortion
pul na do	the naming ceremony for Muslim babies
put mɔt pan di fɛt or putting mouth into the fight	involving oneself in someone else's argument; talking to people while they are fighting
rare gal	female sex worker deeply involved in street life and sometimes in gangs
I nɔr ansa di bɛlɛ	to deny having caused a pregnancy
rɔb- rɔb	ointments that are believed to be magical and that people rub on their bodies either for protection from magic that could be used against them or as a charm to use against others for personal desires
sexing	consensual sexual act
show face	the father of a baby introduces himself to the family of the woman he impregnated, to confirm that the baby has a father without taking social or economic responsibility for the child or the mother
side-chick	a woman who is very attractive or sexually skilled but who is believed not to possess the qualities of a main partner and is therefore an intimate partner among others
snatching	stealing someone's partner

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sugar daddies	middle-aged men/elders, who enjoy the (sexual) company of girls and young women in exchange for money, mobile phone credit, clothes, or hair
swallow	apologise ritually at the end of informal community and household mediations and acknowledge that all issues have now been attended to
swear (n.)	an oath
tabulay (n.) or *tabule* (v.)	a drum or to drum; can also be a nickname for male or female sexual organs
tap to mi	cohabiting without being engaged or married
tay-tay	(mostly ropes) that are believed to be magical that people tie on their bodies, for example on the waist, ankle, wrist, or neck; this is done either for protection from magic used against them, or as a charm to use against others for personal desires
tɛdi bɔi	a gang member or young man engaged in the illicit economy who asks his girlfriend to make money for him (often through sex work and associated trickery)
tit ɛn tɔŋ mɔs jam or teeth and tongue jammed together	the quarrels that necessarily occur between people who are close (e.g. kin, lovers, or friends); it is used to describe the relationship between men and women
toma	namesake (i.e. someone with whom you share the same first name); a term especially used by the Mende people
wahala	conflict, trouble, or problem

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