

Endangered languages listing: MUNKIP [mpv]

Number of speakers: 12 (2006).

Munkip (or Mungkip) is spoken only in the villages of Mungkip proper and Kasuka (regarded as a hamlet belonging to the main village). The two villages are located in the valley of the Erap River on the southern side of the Finisterre Range, Morobe province, Papua New Guinea. Reported populations for the two villages (2006) are 340 for Mungkip and 330 for Kasuka; however these figures differ considerably from the figures in the 2000 census: 109 and 54 respectively. The language was classified by McElhanon (1975) as a member of the Erap family within the Finisterre-Huon stock of the Trans-New Guinea phylum. The language is SOV in structure, with numbers and adjectives following head nouns.

An SIL survey in March 2006 (Retsema, Potter and Gray, forthcoming) found that the Munkip language is nearly extinct. Adults in the Munkip area have largely shifted to speaking Uri (a neighbouring language also of the Erap family), and most children speak only Tok Pisin. There were estimated to be only twelve speakers of the language.

Language Resources

Parallel wordlists for Munkip and 12 language varieties in the Erap family (140 entries): appended to Retsema, Potter and Gray, forthcoming.

References:

Ethnologue (15th edition). 2005. Ed. Raymond G. Gordon. Dallas: SIL International.
<http://www.ethnologue.com/>

McElhanon, Kenneth A. 1975. North eastern Trans-New Guinea phylum languages. In Stephen A. Wurm, ed. *Papuan languages and the New Guinea linguistic scene 1* (Pacific Linguistics C-38). 527-567. Canberra: Australian National University.

Papua New Guinea National Census (2000). 2002. Port Moresby: National Statistical Office.

Retsema, Thom, Margaret Potter and Rachel Gray. Forthcoming. The sociolinguistic situation of the Mungkip language. Ukarumpa: SIL.