

Organised Phonology Data

Awa Language [AWB] Obura – Eastern Highlands Province

Trans New Guinea Phylum; *East New Guinea Highlands Stock;* Eastern (Kainantu) Family

Population census: 1800 (1981)

Major villages: Tauna, Ilakia, Iyona, Amoraba, Mobuta, TainorabsaTainoraba, Taunsuna, AyuraTainoraba, Taunsuna, Agura

Linguistic work done by: SIL (worked from 1959-1997)

Data checked by: Richard Loving (Jan. 1992)

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

ə a b e æ g i k m n o p ʔ r t͡s t u w j
 a ah b e eh g i k m n o p q r s t u w y
 A Ah E Eh I K M N O P S T U W

Consonants

	Bilab	LabDen	Dental	Alveo	Postalv	Retro	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyn	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t					k g			ʔ
Nasal	m		n								
Trill			r								
Tap/Flap											
Fricative											
Lateral Fricative											
Approx							j				
Lateral Approx											
Ejective Stop											
Implos											

/w/ voiced labial-velar approximant

/t͡s/ voiceless dental affricate

p	párétah	'plate'	m	marakó	'ground'
	ópeq	'rainy season'		ómi	'all'
	-			-	
	kampi	'point'		kampi	'point'
b	-		w	wah	'possum'
	ebeh	'war'		uwahiq	'it's growing well'
	-			-	
				-	

t	tárí ate - tontonah	'dew' 'woman' 'gray hair'	k	kía míéhq poki q - mónkakáq	'she is pregnant' 'he is going' 'again'
r	- áhre -	'fear'	g	- ogekiq -	'he runs away'
n	nah pane hq - awanká	'house' 'he tastes' 'tree'	ʔ	- maqawiq ogahq kúqnu	'adopts away' 'short' 'a hawk'
tʂ	sosiq paseh - munsinsi	'type of tree' 'a fish' 'sweat'	j	- wehyoq -	'stars'

Vowels

i		u			
e		o			
	ə				
	æ				
		ɑ			
i	irobibi píri tinti kariaiq	'noise' 'heart' 'bat' 'slippery'	o	osu poki q ponto póeráhq	'garden trash' 'he leaves' 'harp' 'pig'
e	ebeh peraré wehe koweo	'war' 'banana' 'death adder' 'go bring!'	ɑ	ahkí ayahra nah iwíáhiq	'yams' 'hair' 'house' 'he thinks'
æ	eheq nehq apogéh	'where?' 'he eats' 'roof'	ə	ano náwe mata paioq	'juice' 'weeds' 'pit' 'he married'
u	umoq mukahq úku	'rat' 'tobacco' 'fish hook'			

In vowel sequences each vowel is analyzed as belonging to separate syllables.

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Stress is conditioned by the occurrence of the tonemes.

Awa tonemes include high [˥], falling [˥˩], rising [˩˥] and low [˩]. The high tone is written. Examples:

ná 'breast' *nàh* 'house'
ahré 'ear' *ahrè* 'another'

Syllable Patterns

V	á .ú 'smoke'	weh. e 'death adder'	eh. i .a 'silent'
VC	aq .nu 'tear'	e. uq 'steam'	
CV	po .ki 'pitpit'	e. ba 'stone'	ka. ba .ra 'bird'
CVC	tin .ti 'bat'	tun. kiq 'he threads'	mun. sin .si 'sweat'

Conventions: Phonological

/p/ and /k/ are pronounced [β] and [ɣ] intervocalically following mid and back vowels.

/t/ has a voiced flap variant [r] occurring intervocalically following mid and back vowels.

/r/ is pronounced [d] following front vowels [i], and is [r] elsewhere.

/t͡s/ is pronounced voiced [dz] after a nasal.

/j/ fluctuates with [z] for some speakers..

The phonemes /b/ , /g/, /r/, /// and /j/ do not occur word initial. The glottal /ʔ/ is the only consonant occurring word final.

Conventions: Orthographic

High tone is written high; falling tone is also written as high word initially and following high tone because it begins on high phonetically.

/ə/ is written < a >, /ɑ/ is written < ah >, and the low front /æ/ is written < eh >.

Transcription of a recorded passage

14. Sísaga Pítane nahtapeq kibekúwana Pítane ahranawa osoréh áwáhrééna máhrita q miowana tagówe.

15. Sísaga mi ininé ayahnkara táhtorowana wene awahre kaweragúwana irigéna táhutahuq tíwe náwuwe.

16. Tupekinaútaq wehekeqká owainawanka subiqmaq subiqmarú ke meriqmera Sísaba mórítówe. Mórítówana Sísaga ehweh iraréna owainawamári kaqsuwena moke awahre ke kaweraritowe.

17. Manikáne ehweh irarú ani wenáwíq Aiseaga Manikáne púkuipéq naho sehiranue mahraréna, wega moke itene mareqmareragorahi naneqkakáq itene iuwahreakáq meyéhre ire. Sísaga miraúнка mi ehwéh aiq pútaragúwe.

14. When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.

15. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

16. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

17. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities, and carried our diseases."

Bibliography

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