

Organised Phonology Data

Buin (Telei, Terei) Language [BUO] Buin – North Solomons Province

East Papuan Phylum; *East Bougainville Stock*; Buin Family

Population census: 25-30,000 (1990)

Major villages: There were about 109 villages in 1963. Now these have split and grown in population and the exact number is unknown.

Linguistic work done by: SIL (began in 1964), early Roman Catholic priests

Data checked by: Margie Griffin (June 1996)

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

a e g i k m n ŋ o p r t u
 a e g i k m n ŋ,n,m o p r,l t,s u
 A E I K M N Ŋ,N,M O P L T,S U

Consonants

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

The syllabic nasal /ŋ/; actually functions as a vowel. Examples:

aŋapaku 'he is going'

kookoŋ 'woven basket'

ŋkomma 'mine'

iŋgon 'land slipped'

Also other nasals can function as syllabic:

mma 'here' take it'

ntuka 'taro sp.'

ompa 'yam tuber'

inna 'blood'

		mummuro 'crazy person'			utenre 'flying ant'
		anka 'pottery shard'			
p	puumo	'his father'	n	nuu	'a beetle'
	toupo	'dam'		ana	'my mother'
	kumpa	'fern sp.'		nekeronj	'he manoeuvres through congested place'
m	muu	'day'		nigotui	'he moves it'
	ama	'very'		noke	'one, some'
	omitonj	'it is finished'			
t	tamu	'food'	k	kuge	'chest'
	ete	'sore'		okou	'largest drum'
	toko	'sugar cane'		katu	'bald head'
	ntu, nutu	'breast'		ŋkui	'he saw'
	kunsi	'tree sp.'		akonko	'with him'
r	laga	'opossum'	g	age	'fish net'
	ara	'ginger sp.'		agu	'unripe fruit'
		-		ogou	'bridge'
	lanrapa	'to move about'		igi	'thigh bone of pig; knife made of that bone'
	lenreku	'he is touching it'		ŋgui	'he saw it there'
	lekui	'he touched it'		koronjo	'ridge pole'
	lito	'west'		ege	'here'
	lei	'it became'		agapa	'ashes after fire dead'
	lure	'news'			
	lorogupa	'empty one'			

Vowels

i	u
e	o

ɑ

All 5 ordinary vowels may be lengthened to 2 or 4 length, syllable beats. e, a, and u may also occur lengthened to 3 syllable beats.

The syllabic nasal / ŋ / functions as a vowel.

i	ite	'child'	u	upo	'lime'
	sigā	'part of taro root'		kusi	'taboo'
	tugi	'tree sp'		paru	'feather, lower'
	iimare	'sawdust'		uuguu	'hornbill'
	inakia	'rat'		utui	'he broke it'
e	ete	'sore'	o	opo	'house, building'
	meragu	'good'		kosi	'garden'
	loikene	'people'		paaro	'cloth'
	eekio	'moon'		onoono	'law'
	apakea	'you do it'		uopa	'seed, egg'

a	aga	'man (vocative)'	a.a.a.a	āatui	'he was sleeping'
	katua	'bark of tree' ('skin' in some dialects)			
	kunna	'black ant'	u	upo	'lime'
	aagu	'spider's web'	u.u	uupon	'he washed'
	aukapa	'crow'	u.u.u.u	ūupon	'he was washing'
examples of length:					
			u.u	ituu	'he stood (distant past)'
i	iru	'my husband'	u.u.u	itūu	'it was sweet to him (dist. past)'
i.i	iiru	'splinter'			
i.i.i.i	īi	oui 'he has a fever'	o	logu	'he's about to get it'
e	tete	'paraket'	o.o	loogu	'your mother'
e.e. eete		'my grandmother'	o.o.o	looguu	'to/ near you'
e.e.e	teēgo	'those also'	o.o.o.o	oogon	'water was dripping, leaking'
e.e.e.e	ēerui	'he is doing/making ...'			
a	atai	'a fishing net'			
a.a	aatai	'a firefly'			
	aatui	'he slept'			

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Stress is predictable. In two and three syllable words stress occurs on the first syllable. In four and five syllable words primary stress occurs on the second syllable. On long verbs there are layers of stress.

Vowel length is an important feature in Buin, but is not interpreted as phonemic but as sequences of single vowels. All vowels can be lengthened 2-4 times.

Syllable Patterns

V	ŋ.ga	'leg'	o.m.pa	'yam'	u. ŋ	'village'
V	a.ga	'man'	ku.u.a.u	'fowl'	a.a	'ditch'
CV	ku. ŋ.ku. ŋ	'arrow shaft'	mo.ru.ko	'eagle'	i.n.na	'blood'

Conventions: Phonological

/p/ can be pronounced either [p] or [b]. [b] or [β] tends to be in variation with [p] word medially.

/t/ was pronounced [ts] before /i/ but now most people pronounce it [s].

/g/ occurs only word medially between vowels or following /ŋ/.

Nasal /ŋ/ is only syllabic. It is pronounced [m̩] before bilabial /p/, /m/ and [ŋ̩] before alveolars /t n s r /.

/r/ can also be pronounced [l] by some speakers.

Conventions: Orthographic

The syllabic /ŋ/ is written < ŋ > before /k/ and /g/, word final, and between standard vowels. Its allophones [ŋ] and [m̩] are written < n > and < m > respectively.

/r/ is written < l > word initially, and < r > elsewhere.

/t/ is written < s > before /i/, < t > elsewhere.

Triple length and quadruple vowels are written with a bar on top of the double vowels : /looogo/ <looogo> 'to you' ; /eeego/ <eēgo> 'these too'.

Transcription of a recorded passage

/

egu toi miginoroti nee || tiapanigere ree turipoiruge tikuurugere nunnunguo || nunnunmo kaŋgue minno || kaŋgue minno iko paarutu amanoko ŋkogino || paarutu | tiipi | amanoko torouaraare magugaaro uŋurugu o || egu touno ŋkogino egu omorogino || omorogino tee turipoiru urogono murumonno /

< Egu toi miginoroti nee? Siapanigere lee Turipoiruge sikuurugere nunnunguo. Nunnunmo Kaŋgue minno. Kaŋgue minno iko paarutu amanoko ŋkogino. Paarutu, siipi, amanoko torouaraare magugaaro uŋurugu. Egu touno ŋkogino egu omorogino. Omorogino tee Turipoiru urogono murumonno.

'Shall I tell you both now? During the Japanese invasion we were living at school in Turiboiru. When we were there we went to Kangu . When we went to Kangu we saw a great number of planes. The sea was full of ships and there were many planes. We didn't look, we ran away. We ran away back to Turiboiru again.'

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