

Organised Phonology Data

Huli Language [HUI] Southern Highlands Province

Trans New Guinea Phylum; *East New Guinea Highlands Stock;* West-Central (Engan) Family; Huli Subfamily

Population census: 70,000 (1981)

Major villages:

Linguistic work done by:

Data checked by: (Information has been checked Jan. 1992 by an expatriate speaker of Huli)

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

a ã b ^mb d ⁿd e ě g ^ŋg h i ĩ k l m n o õ p r t
 a a b mb d nd e e g ng h i i k l m n o o p r t
 A A B Mb D Nd E E G Ng H I I K L M N O O P T,S

 u ù w j
 u u w y
 U U W Y

Consonants

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

/w/ voiced labial-velar approximant

/^mb/ prenasalized bilabial plosive

/ⁿd/ prenasalized alveolar plosive

/^ŋg/ prenasalized velar plosive

p pola 'sow'
 -

b bola 'drill'
 babe 'hit! , he will hit'

^m b	mbola hambu	'frog' 'lips'	r	- dere	'sore,wound'
m	magu damene	'vomit' 'relative'	l	lembo tele	'anger' 'top'
w	wayali dawa	'winner' 'cook'	k	ke erekui	'you are standing' 'tired'
t	te -	'story'	g	ge nogo nigi	'leg' 'pig' 'nettle'
d	de tede	'eye' 'flea'	ŋ	nge dangi	'you've placed it' 'kunai grass'
ⁿ d	nde dendebi	'and then' 'delicious'	j	yari áyu	'cassowary' 'today'
n	na kuni	'eat' 'bone'	h	hale wahe	'ear' 'old'

Vowels

i	u
e	o

a

There is a set of five nasalixed vowels: / ã ĕ ĩ õ ũ /

i	ira lamiya pini hai	'tree, wood' 'he told' 'root' 'banana'	u	umi gula nunu	'owl' 'bend over' 'down there'
e	ega hela ke	'bird' 'leave it stand' 'you are standing'	ĩ	ĩ lamiya - haj ha	'I, me' 'let us speak' - 'smear on'
a	agi gabia dagala	'what' 'chop' 'count'	ẽ	hẽla kẽla	'push' 'tell a lie'
o	ola dola to ha	'call' 'whistle' 'swell up'	ã	ga la	'shout out'
			õ	dola toła	'swim' 'fill up'

ũ	nunula g <u>u</u> la	'kiss' 'squeal'	au aulai kaubi tau	'plant spec.' 'bitter' 'male'
ia	biango tia	'dog' 'cuscus'	oe ngoe	'worm'
ea	eanogoda hea	'hang oneself' 'was hanging'	oa noaba goa bia	'want to eat' 'hollow out'
ai	aiya taibia wai	'mother' 'look for' 'plants'	ui kuikui bia ngui	'Huli court' 'nose'
ae	- aea -	'great grandchild'	ue due la ua duare	'retch' 'bad'

/ia/

/ea/

/ai/

/ae/

/au/

/oe/

/oa/

/ui/

/ue/

/ua/

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Tone is phonemic. There is a contrast between high falling [ə], mid level, and low rising [] pattern. The functional load of contrastive tone is not very high.

í 'you sg.'	hále 'ear'	ma 'taro'
ì 'I, me'	hale 'tree spec.'	mà 'neck'
	hàle 'torch'	mà 'lets go (pl)'

Syllable Patterns

V	í 'you'	a.yu 'today'	wae.a la 'echo'
VV	au 'in this manner'	au.he 'dim'	
CV	ge 'leg'	nde.la 'betray'	da.ngi 'kunai grass'
CVV	hai 'banana'	kau.ndia 'far'	a.ba.hai 'maternal uncle'

Sequences of VV are always one syllable if they take a single tone pattern.

Conventions: Phonological

/p t k/ are pronounced aspirated [p^h t^h k^h].

/b/ is pronounced voiceless word initially and becomes fricative [β] between the vowels [i-i, i-e, i-a, a-a, a-e, o-e].

/d/ is pronounced voiceless word initially, fronted between vowels and palatalized between [i] and word final [a].

/g/ is pronounced voiceless word initially and velar fricative [ɣ] between vowels [a-a, a-o, a-e, e-a, o-o, o-e, o-a].

/j/ is pronounced with friction between most vowels.

/r/ occurs word medially only.

/ɑ/ is pronounced fronted [æ] in certain non-stressed syllables before [r] and [j].

Conventions: Orthographic

< s > was introduced to the orthography because of loanwords. It is also used to represent /t/ at the beginning of words before [i], since many speakers pronounce it [s] in this position.

Tone is marked only on some words, like *í* 'you' to separate it from *i* 'I'.

Transcription of a recorded passage

< Ngodehanda wali agali bihende gubalini timbuniore howa ibu igini mbira hangu henego ngini. Ibhondo mini mbiraorewi karu ti dinini koha napole haabo holene yu ka.>

Bibliography

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Goldman, Lawrence. 1983. Talk never dies: The language of Huli disputes.