

ON PAPUA NEW GUINEA LANGUAGES

Vol No 34

A TEACHING GRAMMAR OF THE MANAM LANGUAGE

by

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illustrated by

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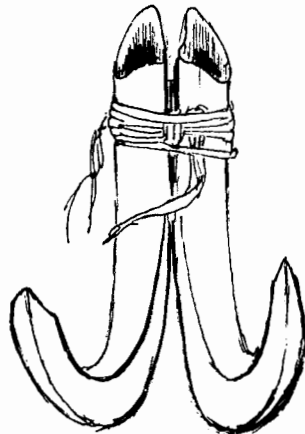
MANAM GRAMMAR



PREFACE

This little book is for everybody. It is a teaching grammar of the Manam Language, primarily intended for use in Manam schools and adult education classes. The simplified grammar of Manam presented here can be used as a reference in teaching Manam to children and adults. It will also be useful for people learning Manam as a second language and for those who want to study linguistic aspects of the language. It is based on the work of Karl Bohm, SVD (1975) and Frantisek Lichtenberk (1980), University of Hawaii, as well as my observations of the language from 1978-1980 while living in Kuluguma village. This work is not intended, however, to be a complete linguistic analysis of Manam, but rather to be an aid to Manam teachers in understanding how language works and to be a help in teaching others to read and write properly. I believe that if students can understand their own Manam grammar, and read and write the language well, then learning English will be much easier than if they had not had this training. Where I have taken material from Lichtenberk (1980), I have checked his examples and conclusions and have changed the presentation from a technical to a teaching style.

I would like to thank Ray Johnston and Eileen Gasaway of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, and Barnabas Manabung of The Bible Translation Association of PNG who read this grammar and provided valuable comments--also Raphael Ongkau, Bill Sagem, and Jerry Soagili who checked the language examples, and not least of all, my late wife Pat, who typed the initial draft and provided useful technical input.





HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Manam is a very interesting language with many grammatical rules to learn about. The knowledge you gain from studying Manam grammar will help you to understand English and other languages better. Look at the CONTENTS section at the beginning of this book to see how it is organized. For each topic a page number is listed. If you are interested in finding information on a certain subject then look the subject up in the INDEX at the back of this book. Subjects are listed in alphabetical order and give the page number where they can be found.

Of course native speakers of Manam already have all the grammatical rules locked deep inside their brains. They should pay particular attention to the SPELLING RULES section at the back so they will know how to write their language consistently.

This grammar is not complete. There may be things in it which are wrong, and other things which are left out. Also, there may be better ways of presenting the ideas. Any mistakes are entirely my fault and are not the responsibility of those who helped me or those who have done work before me. However, you can help make this book better by sending your ideas to me at Ukarumpa. Then I can add them to later editions of this book.

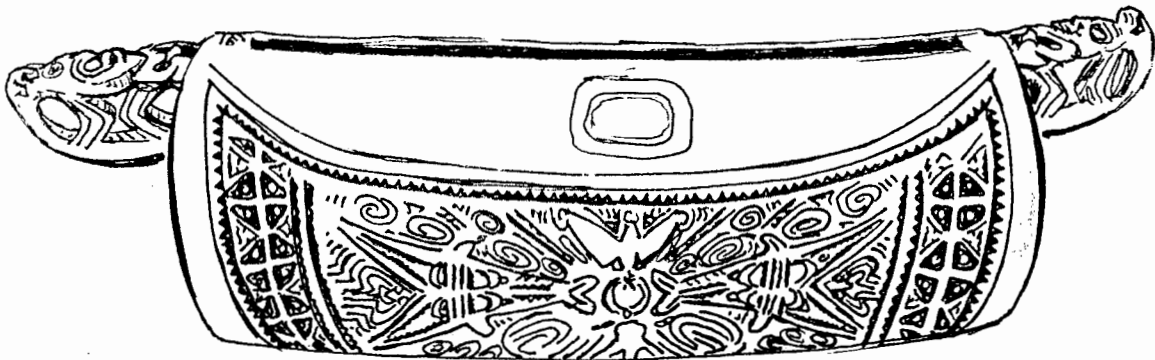
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MANAM GRAMMAR

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations will be used in the grammar sketches in this volume:

ben = benefactor
bf = buffer
dem = demonstrative
exc = exclusive
foc = focus
fut = future
inc = inclusive
indef = indefinite
inst = instrument
int = interjection
intent = intention
interrupt = interrupting aspect
lim = limiter
nom = noun marker
persist = persisting aspect
pl = plural
poss = possessive
prog = progressing aspect
pw = pointer word
rd = reduplication
rec = reciprocal
rep = repeated action
seq = sequence
sg = singular
spec = specifier
tc = transitive consonant
trans = transitive marker



Language data will be presented according to the following scheme:

First, the word or phrase in Manam, underlined and with all morpheme breaks indicated by hyphens, except for reduplications, which are indicated by (=);

Syllable breaks, when marked, are indicated by (ʔ);

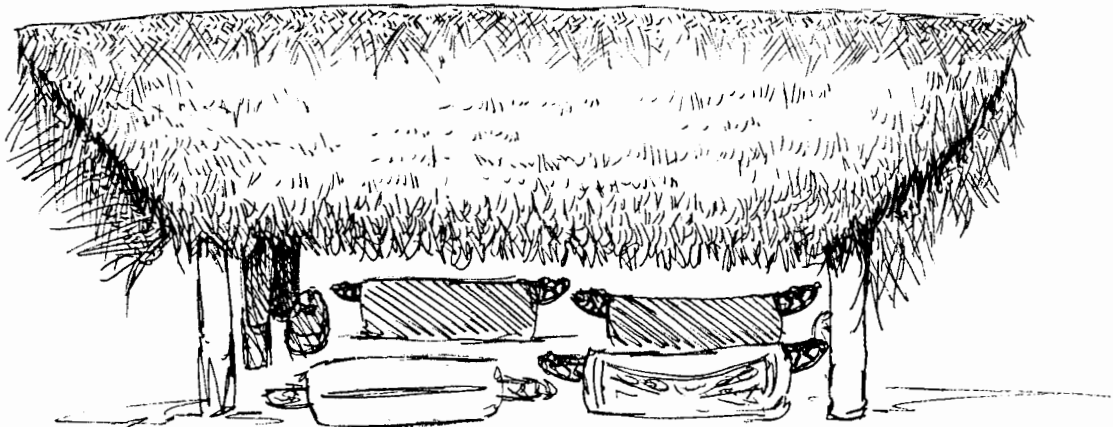
Stress is marked by (/) over the stressed vowel.
(Note that stress is WRITTEN in Manam by underlining (_) the vowel in the stressed syllable.)

(*) before a word indicates that it is an ungrammatical form.

Second, morpheme-by-morpheme glosses, with corresponding hyphens; and

Third, in quotes, a free translation

Occasionally, for instructional purposes, words or phrases in Manam are presented exactly as they would be written in the orthography, without underlining or hyphenating.



THE MANAM LANGUAGE

1. THE MANAM LANGUAGE

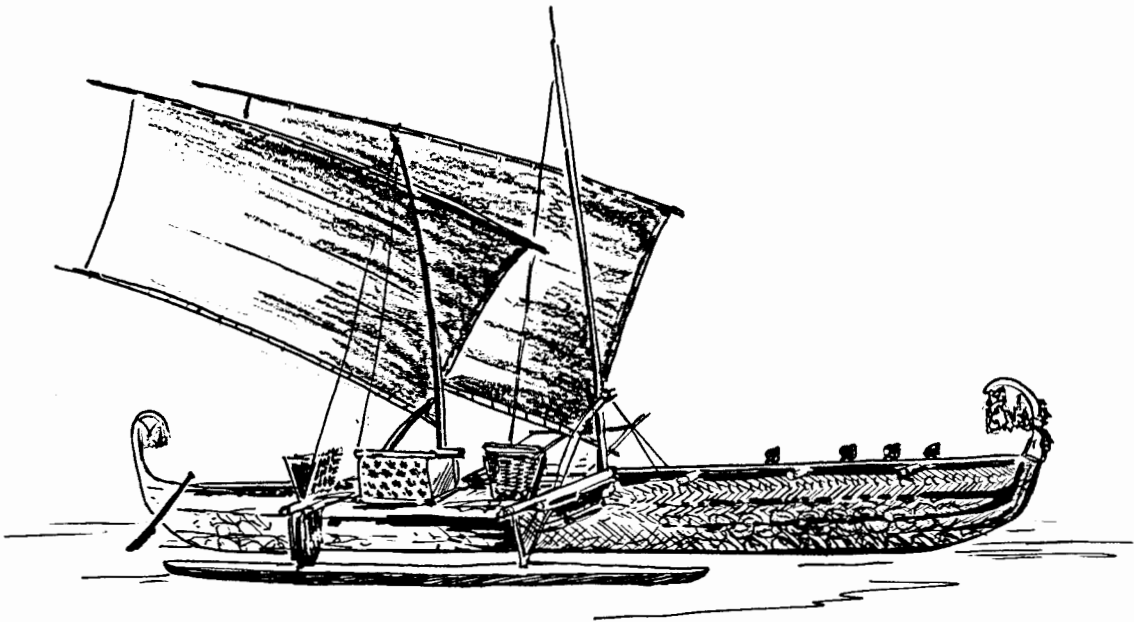
1.1. The Austronesian migrations

Manam is an Austronesian Language spoken by about 6000 people on Manam Island, 10 miles off the coast of Bogia in Madang Province, Papua New Guinea. Languages, just like people, can be grouped together into families. Languages with similar words and grammars would be part of a single family. Laycock (1977) says that there is an Austronesian Language family, which includes certain related languages stretching all the way from Madagascar, a large island off the coast of Africa, to Easter Island, a tiny island in the Eastern Pacific. This is an area covering more than half the world. In fact there are almost 800 separate Austronesian languages--more than any other language family on earth. Manam is a member of this great family of languages.

How did all these similar languages get so wide spread? In the past there must have been only one Ancestral Austronesian Language. Archaeological evidence gives some clues as to how this language spread all over the Pacific. From the Indonesian area, one group in ancient times went westward to Madagascar. Other groups went eastward to settle Irian Jaya and similar islands along the way. From here they sailed in their ocean-going canoes and started settlements along the north coast of Papua New Guinea, including Manam and the other Schouten Islands, Karkar, the Admiralty Islands, the Bismarck Archipelago, and the island chains down through the Solomons to New Caledonia and Vanuatu. One group headed northward and settled the islands of Micronesia. Another group seems to have doubled back through the Solomons to settle the South coast of Papua New Guinea. Wherever they went, they settled empty stretches of coastline and uninhabited islands. The New Guinea mainland was populated by other peoples (Non-Austronesians or Papuans) a long time before the Austronesians arrived. The Austronesians, however, stuck to the coastlines, while their non-Austronesian enemies preferred the bush and the mountains. Even today there are no Austronesian settlements high in the mountains or more than 50 kilometers inland.

From Vanuatu more Austronesians set out eastward to settle in Polynesia. They settled on islands like Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, and Tahiti. They sailed as far east as Easter Island, as far north as Hawaii, which is now part of the USA, and as far south as New Zealand. They were indeed the true discoverers of the Pacific, having sailed long before the European explorers. All speakers of Austronesian languages should be aware of this heritage.

THE MANAM LANGUAGE



Map 1: THE AUSTRONESIAN MIGRATIONS



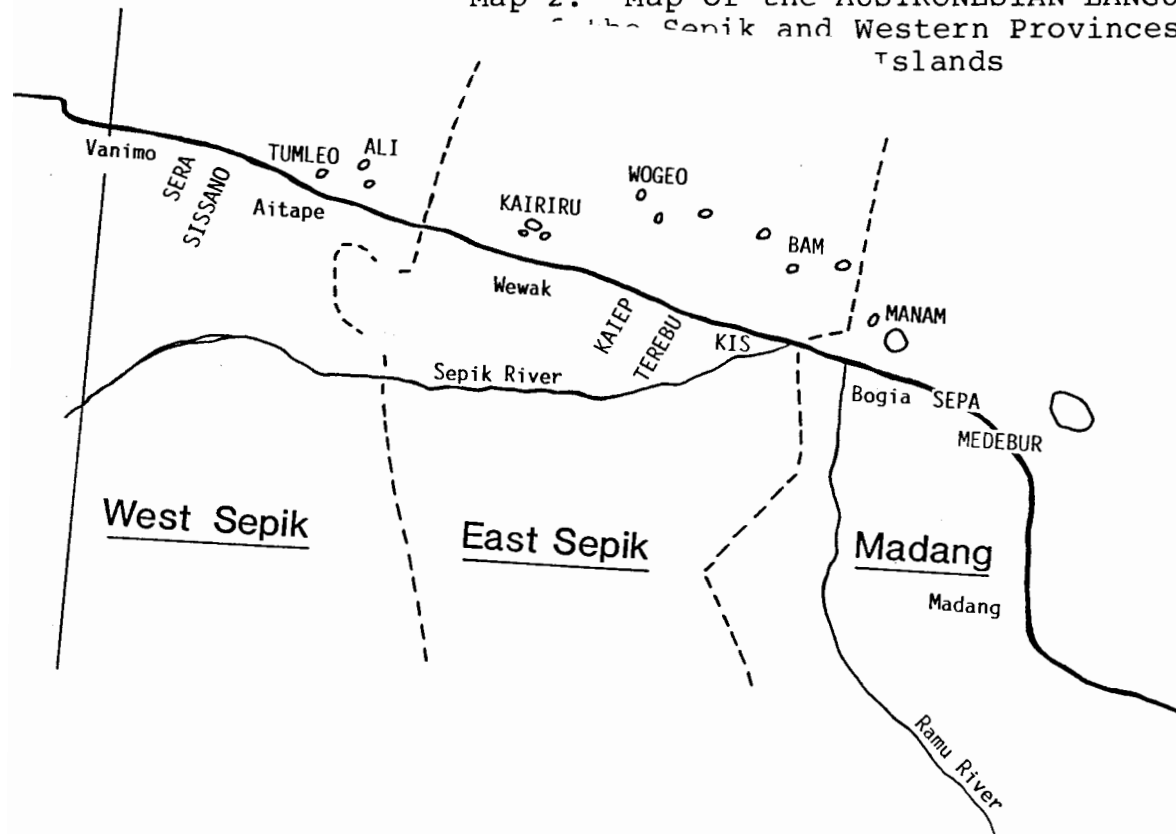
THE MANAM LANGUAGE

1.2. The Schouten Islands Language Family

Ross (1977) lists some of the Austronesian Languages of the Sepik and Madang Provinces. The ones most closely related to Manam are given below.

Sera, Sissano, Tumleo, Ali, Ulau-Suain, Kairiru, Kaiep, Terebu, Kis, Uogeo, Biem, Manam, Sepa, Medebur
(Wogeo) (Bam)

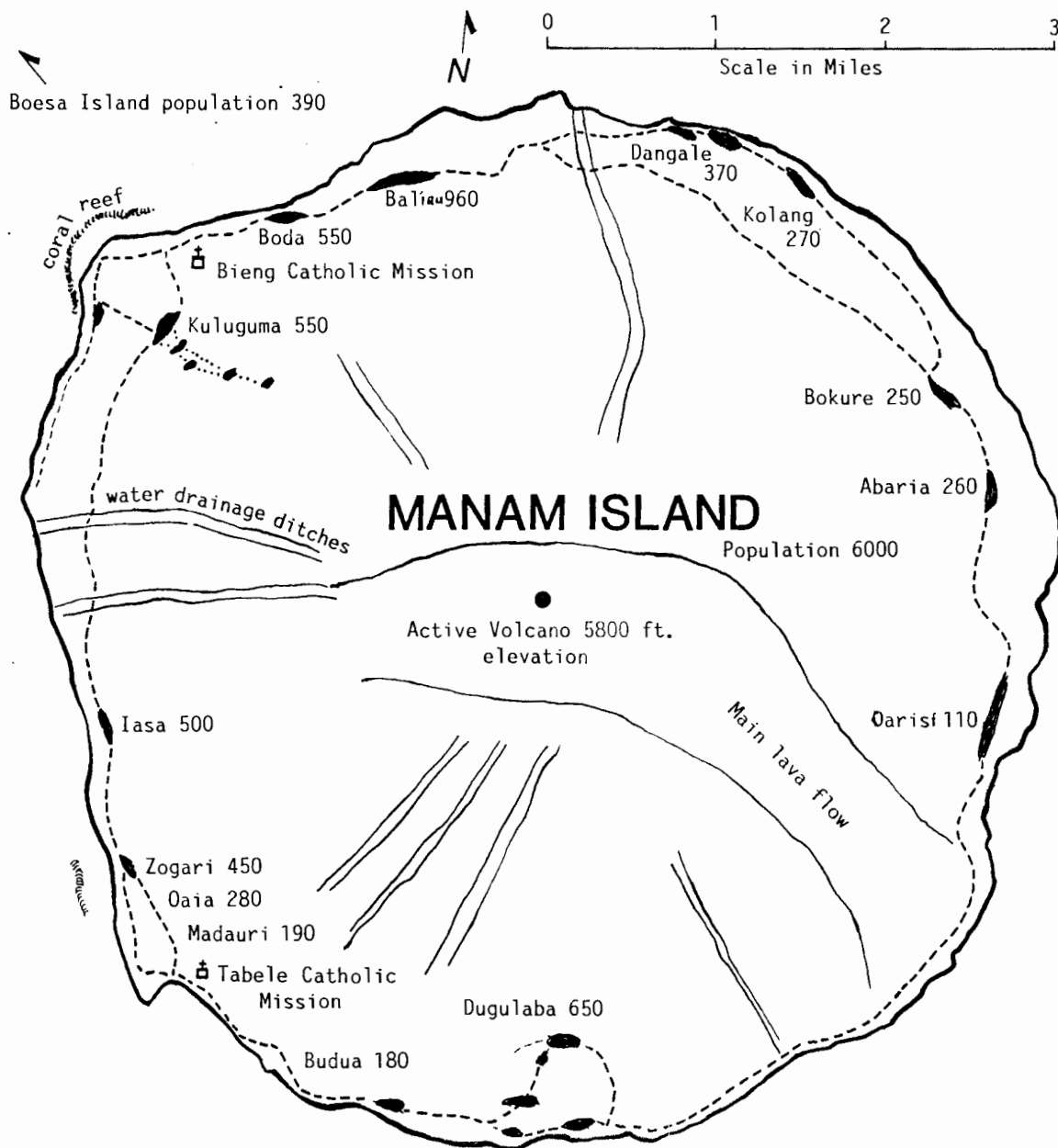
Map 2: Map of the AUSTRONESIAN LANGUAGES
of the Sepik and Western Provinces,
Islands



THE MANAM LANGUAGE

1.3. Manam Island

Map of MANAM ISLAND



2. LETTERS AND SYLLABLES

In this section you will find out how sounds are made in the mouth, how they fit together into words, and what letters are used to write these sounds. You will see that the Manam Alphabet is not the same as the English Alphabet.

2.1. Letters and Sounds

Letters represent sounds. Each separate sound you make when you talk can be written with a letter. Just as you put different sounds together to say a word, you can put different letters together to write that word.

Sounds are made in different ways and in different parts of the mouth. Say the word bebe 'to be unable.' Notice that your lips come together twice. Now say the word tete 'ladder' and notice that your tongue touches the front roof of your mouth twice. Now say the word gege 'a type of plant' and notice that your tongue touches the back roof of your mouth twice. Now try something else. Say the word susu 'spatula.' Your tongue gets ready to make a t but it doesn't quite touch the roof of your mouth and stop the air from flowing. It makes a hissing sound instead. This hissing sound is called a fricative. When the air is completely stopped, as with a b, t, or g, it is called a stop. Now say susu again, then say zuzu 'backbone.' What is the difference? Say sssssss then zzzzzzz. Put your hand on your throat and make the sounds again. Do you feel the vibration with the zzzzzzz sound? This vibration is your vocal cords vibrating. Your vocal cords don't vibrate when you say sssssss. When you whisper you are talking without vibrating your vocal cords. Try it. A letter that does not vibrate the vocal cords is called voiceless. In the example of susu and zuzu, the s and z are both made on the front roof of the mouth and are both hissing noises, that is 'fricatives.' The only difference is that the s is voiceless and the z is voiced.

Other sounds are made by closing the mouth and humming through the nose. Naturally these sounds are called 'nasals.' There are three nasals in Manam and each is made by closing a different part of the mouth. m is made by closing the lips as in the word mai 'to come.' n is made by closing the mouth with the tongue against the front roof of the mouth as in the word naita 'who.' Notice that the lips are open. ng, a single sound written with two letters in English, is made by closing the mouth with the back of the tongue against the back roof of the mouth as in the word ngai 'he.'

LETTERS AND SYLLABLES



Now you are ready to look at charts of the sounds of Manam. They are grouped according to how and where the sounds are made in the mouth. There are two basic kinds of sounds, consonants and vowels. Consonants restrict the flow of air through the mouth, while in vowels, the mouth is more open.

LETTERS AND SYLLABLES

2.1.1. The Consonants

THE MANAM CONSONANTS

HOW THE SOUNDS ARE MADE	* * * *****	WHERE THE SOUNDS ARE MADE			
		front roof	back roof	throat	neck
Stops	voiceless * * * *****	p	t	k	(q)
	voiced * * * *****	b	d	g	
Fricatives	voiceless * * * *****		s		
	voiced * * * *****		z		
Nasals	* * * *****	m	n	ng	
Tongue sides	* * * *****		l		
Tongue flap	* * * *****		r		

Note that older people in the Northeast part of Manam still make the k sound in the back part of their throats, (q). This sound is slowly being replaced by a stop made in the neck written like this: `?.' This is called a `glottal stop.' When we write, we will write all three sounds k, q, and ? with the letter k and everybody will understand what we mean.

Some people also use the sound dz for z and ts for s, but we will still write them with the letters z and s and they will know what we mean.

The r in Manam is made by flapping the tongue against the front roof of the mouth. This is why it is called a tongue flap. Some people `trill' their r's and make them sound like a motor. We will still write this sound with r.

LETTERS AND SYLLABLES

2.1.2. The Vowels

Vowels are made with the mouth more open than consonants. You can tell one vowel from another by the tongue position in the mouth. The tongue can be 'high' near the roof of the mouth, or 'low' near the floor of the mouth or 'mid,' in between. It can be 'front' near the teeth, or 'back' near the throat, or 'central' in between. Here are the 5 vowels in Manam.

THE MANAM VOWELS

TONGUE HEIGHT	*	TONGUE POSITION		
	*	Front	Central	Back
High	* * *	i		u
Mid	* * *	e		o
Low	* * *		a	

[Paul Nalukang]

LETTERS AND SYLLABLES

2.2. Syllables

Language is like music because it has rhythm. When we say a sentence we can hear a beat, just like we can keep time to music. Let's do it in both Manam and English. Say these sentences and tap your finger every time you say a syllable.

 / / / / / / / / / / / = 11 syllables
Ngau Kulugumalo ulakolako.

 / / / / / / / / / = 9 syllables
 `I am going to Kuluguma.`

Each beat you hear is a syllable. Say the following words, count the beats, and then divide them up into syllables.

			<u>Number of Syllables</u>
`a village`	<u>Baliau</u>	<u>Ba/li/au</u>	3
`house`	<u>pera</u>	<u>pe/ra</u>	2
`chicken`	<u>mang</u>	<u>mang</u>	1
`he sleeps`	<u>ieno</u>	<u>ie/no</u>	2
`man`	<u>tamoata</u>	<u>ta/moa/ta</u>	3
`betel nut`	<u>bua</u>	<u>bu/a</u>	2
`sit down`	<u>gosoakiria</u>	<u>go/soa/ki/ri/a</u>	5
`flute`	<u>embeki</u>	<u>em/be/ki</u>	3
`I will speak`	<u>mpile</u>	<u>m/pi/le</u>	3
`he`	<u>ngai</u>	<u>ngai</u>	1
`good`	<u>iauia</u>	<u>iau/ia</u>	2
`star`	<u>goai</u>	<u>goai</u>	1
`evergreen tree`	<u>boainai</u>	<u>boai/nai</u>	2
`I am wandering`	<u>ugonggong</u>	<u>u/gong/gong</u>	3
`your bone`	<u>tapoam</u>	<u>ta/poam</u>	2

LETTERS AND SYLLABLES

Now let's define the syllable in Manam. There are two kinds. The first kind is the 'nasal syllable' which consists of a single consonant, the nasal letter, m. It is possible that this m was once followed by a vowel which has been deleted or not pronounced for some reason in modern speech. For example:

m/pi/le 'I will speak'

The second kind of syllable is the 'vowel syllable' which must contain at least one vowel. It might also have a consonant or two in it. Here is the 'vowel syllable' in diagram form:

(C1) (V1) V (V1) (C2)

where:

- C1 = any consonant
- V1 = any vowel except a
- V = any vowel (If V is surrounded by other vowels, then V must be an a)
- C2 = any nasal

To demonstrate how this works, we will write some one-syllable words as they would fit under the general formula.

Words	(C1)	(V1)	V	(V1)	(C2)	Meanings
be	b		e			'and'
u			u			'fish trap'
ong			o		ng	'ocean wood boring worm'
dang	d		a		ng	'water'
ae			a	e		'leg'
iao		i	a	o		'he laughs'
ngai	ng		a	i		'he'
boang	b	o	a		ng	'insane'
aem			a	e	m	'your leg'
goai	g	o	a	i		'star'
boaum	b	o	a	u	m	'your smell'
kuo	k		u	o		'exclamation'
tou	t		o	u		'sugar'

2.3. Sound Changes

Sometimes letters change their pronunciation slightly when they come next to certain other letters. I'm sure you would talk differently to your chief, tanepoa labalaba, than to a baby boy. It's the same way with some vowels. Turn back to page 18 and look at the vowel chart. Notice that the high and mid vowels are i, e, u and o. These are the vowels that are forced to change their pronunciation slightly when they come next to another vowel in the same syllable. The 'higher' the vowel, the weaker it is, and the more likely it is to change. For example if a u and an o happen to come together in a syllable, then the u will change because it is higher according to the chart. The 'front' vowels, i and e change to sound like an English 'y' and the back vowels, u and o change to sound like an English 'w.' Of course Manams can usually tell the difference between i and e when they sound like 'y' and between u and o when they sound like 'w,' but some students of English in school are tempted to write Manam with 'y's' and 'w's' because they hear these sounds.

for <u>eo</u>	they write <u>ew</u>	'fire'
for <u>mo</u>	they write <u>mw</u>	'snake'
for <u>oa</u>	they write <u>wa</u>	'wind'
for <u>ku</u>	they write <u>kw</u>	'exclamation'
for <u>ie</u>	they write <u>ye</u>	'he sleeps'
for <u>ia</u>	they write <u>ya</u>	'a village'

But w and y are unnecessary letters in Manam. The language can do perfectly well with its 5 vowels a, e, i, o and u. There is no need to copy English just because some Manam vowels change their pronunciations slightly when they come in contact with another stronger vowel in the same syllable. It might be interesting to note that in most cases u is the first vowel to change, it being the 'weakest,' then comes i, then o, then e. a, being the strongest never changes. Here is an example. u changes before o, so kuo sounds like kw not *kuw, and to sounds like tw not *tu. Similarly, boabui sounds like bwabwi and ieno sounds like ye. Manams can also tell the difference between these two words:

<u>ngai</u>	'he'
<u>ngae</u>	'this'

even though the i in ngai and the e in ngae both sound something like and English 'y.' This is why we don't write 'y' and 'w' in Manam.

VERBS

As you can see, the verb nucleus is based on the verb root which we already know about. Did you know that it is possible to repeat all or part of this verb root in order to change the meaning slightly? Let's look at this more closely.



LETTERS AND SYLLABLES

2.4. Stress or Accent

We automatically say some syllables of a word louder than the others. This louder syllable is called the 'stressed' or 'accented' syllable. The stressed syllable in Manam is either the last syllable of a word, or the next-to-last, or the syllable before the next-to-last. In other words, the stressed syllable has to be one of the last three syllables of the word. The stress usually falls on the next-to-last syllable. Here are some examples. We will mark stress with a / mark.

te/ke `one`

pe/ra `house`

na/tu `child`

ma/li/pi `work`

ga/ba/ga/ba `elbow`

ga/ba/ga/ba/gu `my elbow`

Words of one syllable are of course, stressed on their only syllable:

e `yes`

be `and`

bang `taro`

goai `star`

Now if the word ends in a consonant, then the last syllable is stressed.

gaba/ga/bam `your elbow`

natum `your child`

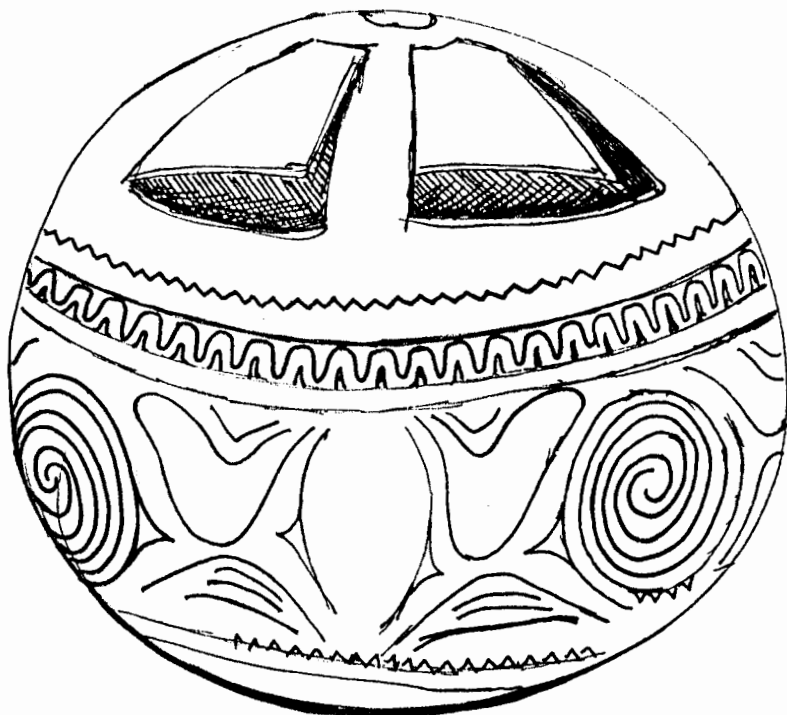
bureng `coconut oil`

The few one-syllable intransitive verbs are always stressed on their roots.

iro `it flew`

ito `he learned`

ipi `he is exerting force`



LETTERS AND SYLLABLES

Several suffixes (but not all of them), when they come at the end of a word, require that the stress fall on the syllable before the next-to-last. If the next-to-last syllable, however, ends in a consonant, then it will be stressed instead. Here are some examples using the suffixes -la and -lo.

 / syllable before the next-to-last is stressed
siŋga/ba-lo `in the bush`

 / syllable before the next-to-last is stressed
te/ke-na-la `only one`

 / syllable before the next-to-last is stressed
ma/ta-gu-lo `in my eye`

 / syllable ending in a consonant is stressed
ma/tam-lo `in your eye`

Stress on a few words in Manam is unpredictable and must be marked in the Manam dictionary.

 / stress on the next-to-last syllable
sara `a type of palm tree`

This is a normal word with stress on the next-to-last syllable. But look at:

 / stress on the last syllable
sara `seagull`

Here the stress is on the last syllable, but otherwise the word is spelled exactly the same. You may be able to think of other examples like this one. When writing Manam, to make the meaning clear, if you want you may underline the vowel in the stressed syllable like this:

sara `a type of palm tree`

sara `seagull`

Underlining is also used to mark the stressed syllable in some plural words. See the chapter on Manam spelling rules for some examples.



Finally, there are a few suffixes that are always stressed no matter where they occur in a word. They will be discussed in later sections. Here is one example.

di-e-taga-i pronounced di/e/ta/gai
 they-rec-follow-rep
 'they followed each other'

LETTERS AND SYLLABLES

2.5. The Alphabet

The Manam Alphabet has 17 letters. The English alphabet has more because some sounds in English are written with more than one letter and there are more sounds in English. The Manam language doesn't need these extra letters, so we don't write them. Here is the Manam Alphabet:

SMALL LETTERS: a b d e g i k l m n o p r s t u z

CAPITAL LETTERS: A B D E G I K L M N O P R S T U Z

The sound ng as in ngau and nge is a single sound but we will use two letters to write it: ng.

There are 12 consonants: B D G K L M N P R S T and Z

There are 5 vowels: A E I O U

3. WORDS

The word is the smallest unit of writing that can stand by itself. Words do work for us. When you want to talk, you group words into sentences to make statements, give orders, or ask questions. Each word has a definite purpose in your sentences. Just as there are many types of fish, there are many types of words. These word types are called parts of speech. Here are some parts of speech with examples:

Verb	<u>unoku</u>	'I jump'
Noun	<u>pera</u>	'house'
Pronoun	<u>kaiko</u>	'you'
Adjective	<u>biabia</u>	'big'
Adverb	<u>oakiki</u>	'quickly'
Question word	<u>naita</u>	'who'
Pointer word	<u>nge</u>	'this'
Number word	<u>lima</u>	'five'
Relator word	<u>zaiza</u>	'with'
Interjection	<u>kuo</u>	'oh'
Connector word	<u>be</u>	'and'

Don't worry about the definitions of all these words now. We will study each one in turn.

Words are often made up of parts, and each part has a specific meaning. These word parts are called 'morphemes.' This is just like the human body. The body is made up of parts and each part has a specific job to do. The heart pumps blood, the stomach digests food, the eyes see, the legs walk, etc. These parts cannot live by themselves outside the body. If a pig's heart is taken out, the pig dies. It's just the same with words. Word parts would 'die' if they were taken out of their words. Only complete words can stand alone. But what exactly are these word parts? Well, the main part of the word is called the root (labu in Manam). The root is the base of the word. As you know, we can add letters or groups of letters to either the beginning or the ending of some roots. These word parts which are added are called 'affixes,' and each affix has a specific meaning or job to do. Affixes can never stand alone. There are two kinds of affixes in Manam. Those which come before the root are called 'prefixes,' and those which come after the root are called 'suffixes.'

WORDS

Here is an interesting thing. Did you know that some suffixes in Manam have **no** letters in them? It's true! These suffixes follow their word roots and have specific meaning just like other suffixes, but they are invisible! Here is an example.

mata-gu
eye-my
'my eye'

mata means 'eye' and -gu means 'my'

mata-m
eye-your
'your eye'

mata means 'eye' and -m means 'your'

But now look at this:

mata-∅
eye-his
'his eye'

The zero (∅) means that there is a suffix present but it doesn't have any letters in it. It is called a 'zero suffix.' As you can see it has meaning. It means 'his.' So we would write 'his eye' as:

mata

and know that there is an invisible zero suffix on it.

3.1 Verbs

Verbs are words which describe actions or states of being. Here is an outline of the section on verbs.

3.1 Verbs

3.1.1 The Verb Nucleus

3.1.1.1 Verb root reduplication

3.1.1.2 The nuclear prefixes

3.1.1.3. The nuclear suffixes

3.1.1.4. How the nucleus functions

3.1.2. The outside prefixes

3.1.3. The outside suffixes

3.1.4. Overall picture of the Manam verb

As stated above, a verb is a word which describes an action or state of being. For example:

ulako `I went`

ueno `I slept`

A verb is often made up of parts and each part has a specific meaning. The verb base itself is called the `verb root.` Here are some examples of verb roots:

lako `to go`

eno `to sleep`

As you know we can add prefixes and suffixes to verb roots to make words. For example:

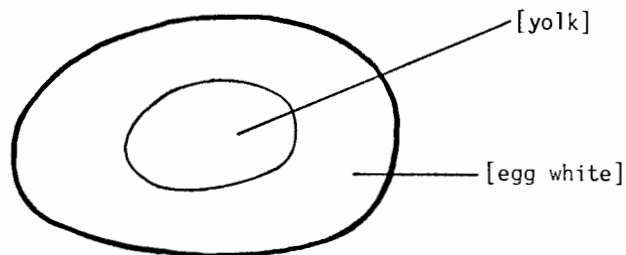
ta-lako-to
 let's-go-three
 prefix-root-suffix
 `let's us three go`

VERBS

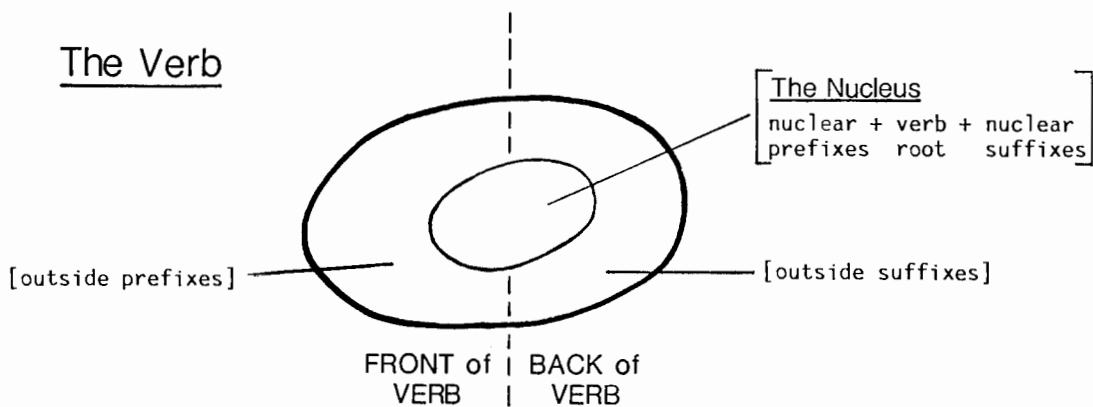
3.1.1 The verb nucleus

Now that we know about roots and affixes, let's learn about the verb nucleus. You might have learned in school that in the atom there is a center, called the 'nucleus.' It is the middle of the atom. It is just like the middle of an egg, which is called the yolk. The yolk is the nucleus of the egg. In the verb this yolk, or nucleus, consists of the root plus some 'nuclear prefixes' and 'nuclear suffixes.' Let's look at two pictures and compare them.

The Egg



The Verb



VERBS

3.1.1.1. Verb root reduplication

The verb can be wholly or partially repeated. This repeating is called 'reduplication,' abbreviated 'rd.' In verbs this is done when an event is ongoing and continuing. The action may always be in progress or it may be recurring; that is, it stops and then starts again. Reduplication is also used to describe things we do out of habit. This is also called the 'continuing aspect.' Examples:

lako
to go

lako=lako
go=rd
'going'

zem
to chew
betelnut

zem=zem
chew=rd
'chewing betelnuts' or 'the
habit of chewing betelnuts'

To use this in a complete sentence we could write:

Bua tago uzemzem.
betelnut not I-chew=rd
'I am not chewing betelnuts.' or
'I do not chew betelnuts.'