

# Organised Phonology Data

## Kapau (Hamday, Hamtai, Watut, Kamia) Language [HMT] Gulf Province

Trans New Guinea Phylum; Central and South New Guinea Stock; Angan Stock-Level Family

Population census: 40,000 (1981)

Major villages:

Linguistic work done by: SIL, NTM

Data checked by:

### Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

ø a e h i i k q m n ŋ o p t u β w j ?  
 a ä e h i k q m n ng o p t u v w y '  
 A Ä E H I K Q M N O P T U W Y

### Consonants

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

/w/ voiced labial-velar approximant

p	pate'a	'anger'	β	-	
	hope'a	'kaukau'		hive'ä	'dog'
	-			fi	'some,another'
	yapa	'jealous'		quyv'a	'bad'
	wampä	'shame'		tätwanga	'heavily'
m	mänga	'teeth'	w	wä	'light'
	ime'ä	'child'		tuwa	'behind'
	tam	'in there'		-	
	wamnga	'garden'		whina	'you two will go'
				watänwa	'sore'

t	ta	'firewood'	ŋ	-	
	ita	'cooked food'		hingo	'eye'
	-			-	
	atäta	'falsehood'		qämngä	'moon'
	qamta	'do wrong'			
n	ni	'me'	h	hauka	'fruit'
	pane'a	'talk'		-	
	noeäpn	'you coming down'		qhekänga	'smooth'
	hanki'ya	'medicine'		ti'hina	'you must say'
	fa'na	'trail, road'			
j	yanga	'leg, foot'	q	qata	'ear'
	iya	'tree'		aqo	'he'
	-			-	
	se'ä	'happiness'		qhoä	'talk'
	hiwi'yamqa	'hail'		nanqa	'banana'
k	kuntu	'drum'	ʔ	-	
	haka	'bamboo'		qofe'a	'foot'
	-			-	
	mhaknga	'lower'		qu'wa	'leaf'
	ipka	'hitting'		hiyamta	'cassowary'

## Vowels

i	i	u			
e		o			
	ɐ				
	ɑ				
i	ipka	'stick'	u	uyawa	'plant'
	hinko	'thunder'		qu'wa	'leaf'
	qui'i	'badly'		hampu	'come!'
	imaima	'sprinkle'		tauntä	'from here'
	-				
	tpe'a	'laughter'	o	qova	'kunai'
	-			kngo	'cry'
e	e'ä	'water'		qoä	'ground'
	hempa	'hand, arm'			
	yeä	'dry'	ɑ	äpa	'singsing'
ɐ	amä'ä	'man, person'		qanäni	'older sister'
	nanga	'banana'		ime'ä	'child'
	yäwa	'rib'		qhoä	'talk'
	hauka	'fruit'			

## Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Phonemic stress occurs.

'mta 'hungry'

m'ta 'hair'

**Syllable Patterns**

V	i.ta 'cooked food'		i.ma.i.ma 'sprinkle'	gho.ä 'talk'
VC		ip.ka 'stick'		
VCC				no.e.äpm 'you coming down'
CV	ta 'firewood'	qo.va 'kunai-grass'	pa.te.'a 'anger'	hem.pa 'arm, hand'
CVC		wam.nga 'garden'	wa.tän.wa 'sore'	
CCV	mta 'hungry'	gho.ä 'talk'		
CCVC		mhak.nga 'lower'		

**Conventions: Phonological**

The voiceless plosives /p t k/ became voiced [b d g] between vowels or following nasals.

Aspirated plosives have been interpreted as two phonemes, plosive plus /h/.

The phonemes /ŋ/ /β/ only occur word medially.

The sequence /vh/ is phonetically [v̥], and the sequence /wh/ is phonetically a voiceless [w].

The phoneme /j/ is often pronounced [z], when occurring word initially.

Syllabic nasals are common.

The sequence /eaa/ is phonetically [æ].

The low vowel /a/ is usually slightly longer than /ə/.

The central vowel /i/ is rare and does not occur word finally.

**Conventions: Orthographic**

In earlier orthographic suggestions, the phoneme /i/ was written <ü> but it is left unwritten in the 'Kapau Pedagogical Grammar'.

/q/ was written < k > in an earlier orthography, and < q > was used to represent the glottal stop /ʔ/. A glottal following /p t k/ is not written.

In some orthographies /ŋ/ was written < ŋ > instead of < ng >, and /ə/ was written < â >

In some more recent linguistic papers [ə] is written < a > and [ɑ] < aa >.

The combination /kw/ is written either < ko > (Oates 1968) or < kw > (earlier orthographies).

Glottal stop has also been written < c > in past.

**Transcription of a recorded passage**

Ma, qatä'ä qi hetängoti anuwa iya natotm qonä'ä awa qima. Awa qimangmta hengoti awa qimanga qana ntata ti.

Ita pata hetängoti inä mä'ä qätma. Ni muti mäma qamtanga. Ma, qhui tame'än. Ita ta täni'in?

Fa'na awäka qhäimanga ti. Fa'na awäka ghäimanga hetä'ma muæwa imna. Nti wamnga qoä awa hetä'na ti'in.

The grass can stay. I'm going to cut down timber and work a fence. If I've worked well, he'll say, 'You did well'.

When the food is cooked, I'll call you. I'd like to take some lemons. Yes, you can take some. Would you like to eat this food? The road is always wet. Because the road is always wet I won't go. Is it good ground where your garden is?

### **Bibliography**

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