

Organised Phonology Data

Kiriwina [Biga galavala variety] (Kilivili) Language [KIJ] Milne Bay Province

Oceanic; *Papuan Tip Cluster*; Peripheral Papuan Tip; Kilivila Chain

Population census: 15,000 (1981)

Major villages: Islands, Kiriwina, Kuia, Munuwata, Simsim, Kaileuna

Linguistic work done by: UC, G.Senft

Data checked by:

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

α b b^w d ε g g^w i j k k^w l m m^w n ə p p^w r s t u v w ?
 a b bw d e g gw i y k kw l m mw n o p pw r s t u v w
 A B Bw D E G Gw I Y K Kw L M Mw N O P Pw R S T U V W

Consonants

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

/w / voiced labial-velar approximant

/p^w/ voiceless labialised bilabial plosive

/b^w/ voiced labialised bilabial plosive

/m^w/ labialised bilabial nasal

/k^w/ voiceless labialised velar plosive

/g^w/ voiced labialised velar plosive

p	paka	'feast'	p ^w	pwaka	'lime'
	popu	'excrement'		mapwana	'that (filth)'
	m'pana	'this (piece)'			

b	bala	'I will go'	l	lubegu	'my friend'
	bobu	'cut'		kalaga	'snack'
	nubyeya	'tomorrow'		mlopu	'cave'
	ambe	'where'		numla	'dew'
b ^w	bwala	'house'	s	sisi	'blossom'
	gubwa	'group of four'		paisewa	'work'
				msamsa	'rubbish, snack'
				simsim	'painful'
m	masawa	'canoe'	k	kala	'his (food)'
	tamagu	'my father'		avaka	'what'
	tam	'yams'		mku	'tobacco'
	mtumtu	'rubbing'		pilimka	'film'
	kumla	'earth oven'			
m ^w	mwasawa	'fun, game'	k ^w	kwau	'shark'
	alamwau	'his grief'		kaukwa	'morning (casual)'
	tommwaya	'old men'		kamkwam	'meal'
v	vala	'handle'	g	gadi	'bite'
	uligova	'crocodile'		bogi	'night'
w	wala	'only'	g ^w	gwadi	'child'
	masawa	'canoe'		nigwa	'nest'
				ilumgwa	'villagers'
t	tau	'man'	ʔ	uula	'reason, root'
	tetu	'yams'		ka'ukwa	'dog'
	mtomota	'dumb'			
d	dau	'call, shout'	j	yegila	'name'
	inada	'your mother (dual)'		aguyena	'my fish'
	imdidi	'little finger'		nubyeya	'tomorrow'
r	rusa	'gun'			
	karaga	'parrot spec.'			
n	nukwali	'to know'			
	inagu	'my mother'			
	mukwau	'flying witch'			

Vowels

i u

ε ɔ

ɑ

i	inagu	'my mother'	ei	keisigi	'shank'
	minana	'she'		peim	'for you (archaic)'
	imdididi	'little finger'		gei	'forked stick'
	isisiasi	'they stay (in a place)'			
	dubuyuyui	'termite'	eu	-	
				peulokai-	'to endure'
				-	
ε	ekugwa	'first'			
	keli	'crayfish'			
	e	'and'	ai	aisi	'oh no!'
	mse'u	'smoke'		paisewa	'work'
				avelai	'which one (person)'
ɑ	avaka	'what, which?'			
	dadana	'edge'	au	kaukwa	'morning'
	tola	'true'		bitomalaula	'corner pillar'
	ka'ukwa	'dog'		bwagau	'sorcerer'
	totuana	'fish-bone'			
u	uli	'taro'	oi	boituva	'white heron'
	bubuna	'manners'		koila	'joke'
	bosu	'cassowary'		kukatupoi	'you ask'
	uuna	'reason, root'			
	to'uvata	'company'	ou	toula	'really'
				tou	'sugarcane'
o	olola	'long ago'			
	yokwa	'you'			
	o	'to'			
	doa	'door'			
	bogeokwa	'finished, ready'			

/ei/ /eu/

/ai/ /au/

/oi/ /ou/

diphthongs are interpreted as phonemes

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Stress is usually on the penultimate syllable of the word. When the final syllable either has the syllable pattern CVC or has a diphthongal nucleus, then stress is on the final syllable.

Syllable Patterns

V	o 'in, into'	u.li 'taro'	ka.'u.kwa 'dog'	m.se.'u 'smoke'
VC	am 'your'	am.gwa 'where'		
C		m.ku 'tobacco'	m.sa.m.sa 'dirt'	
CV	mwa 'boy'	nu.ya 'coconut'	bu.lu.kwa 'pig'	lu.bwau 'soup'
CVC	kam 'your'	kam.kwam 'meal'		ka.bi.tam 'wisdom'

/m/ is the only consonant that can close the syllable, it can also be syllabic.

This analysis interprets diphthongs functioning as phonemes.

Conventions: Phonological

/k/ can be pronounced either [k] or [x].

/r/ can be pronounced either [r], [ɹ] or [ɻ]. [ɹ] occurs mostly in the environment preceding [i].

/s/ is sometimes pronounced [ʃ].

/m/ can be syllabic.

/i/ is pronounced [i] in stressed syllables, and [i̯] elsewhere.

Conventions: Orthographic

Glottal [ʔ] is not written. The apostrophe <'> is used to distinguish between a sequence of vowels and diphthongs: *kaukwa* 'morning', *ka'ukwa* 'dog'. Sometimes it is also used to indicate the deletion of sound within a word: *nanam'sa*.

<h> occurs in loanwords, *hors* 'horse'.

Transcription of a recorded passage

< Kevasaki kokeva deli Kilivila waga.

Besatuta yakidasi tommotala Tauwema. Tauwema kwekekita valu o bomatu kabulula Kaile'una simla oluvalela milaveta e deli yakidasi kesisakaula dawagasi e deli yakidasi minupwalova waga. Lova kakeyakusi oluvalela davalusi kalivonasi bakalosi kapolasi va simla Tuma. Sena budubadu yena. Kidamwago tammayasi ilolosi ibinibanisi beya beya tuta tokunabogwa. E besatuta kakatubayasasi gugua pela guguvela pola. Besatuta bakaito'ulasi o valu bila okwadeva. Makesina mawagasi. Bakaselasi vania bakaleyasi bila va waga bila va pitapatila. O pitapatila naya katubayasa bila olakeva oluvalela bwalita.>

An imaginary trip with a Trobriand canoe. Here we are, the people of Tauwema. Tauwema is a small village on the northern tip of Kaile'una Island in the middle of the Solomon Sea - and we are famous for our fast canoes and for being excellent sailors. Yesterday we had meeting in the middle of our village, and we decided to go on a fishing expedition to Tuma Island. Usually there are a lot of fish. Even our ancestors used to go fishing there - and this was a long time ago. Well - today we have prepared everything for our trip. Now we start to go from the village down to the beach. Here are our canoes. We put up the mast and tie it to the canoe and to the outrigger-platform. On the outrigger-platform there is the sail ready to be set as soon as we are in the open sea.

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