

# Organised Phonology Data

## Kombio (Endangen) Language [KOK] Dreikikir – East Sepik Province

**Torricelli Phylum;** *Kombio Stock*; Kombio Family

Population census: 2500 (1980)

Major villages: (33 villages) Yawareng, Waim, Yalengel, Muyem, Makupmanip, Serpmel, Yamark, Yetnimum

Linguistic work done by: SIL

Data checked by: Joan Henry (August 1992)

### Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

ɑ ɑ<sup>j</sup> ɛ ɛ<sup>j</sup> ɸ i ɪ i k l m n ŋ p r s t u w j  
 a ai e ei f i i i k l m n n p r s t u u,w i,y  
 A Ai E Ei F I K L M N P R S T U U,W I,Y

### Consonants

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

/w/ voiced labial-velar approximant

/h/ There is only one example of /h/: *kohork* 'to cough deeply' ( a loanword)

p	pinke	'wall'	m	mini	'who'
	epekn	'bamboo water tube'		amu	'come down'
	lukop	'sour'		kuaimantum	'star'
	pmomp	'back'		mua	'rope'
	spmu	'painful'		por mlaik	'lightning'
	apmon	'go'		ampu	'try'
	ampu	'try'		wunomp	'night'
	kitapm	'ground'		aipm	'bird'
	wusilmp	'frog sp.'			

∅	feik	'far'	r	ra	'give birth'
	tufurik	'thigh'		yiru	'pig arrow'
	-			ar	'stative -R'
	fualkepm	'wooden spoon'		sri	'sweep'
	flaknim	'dried up, healed'		arkuos	'carry on shoulder'
	alfiknin	'flying fox'		marpm	'clay pot'
	-				
			k	kuko	'crazy'
w	wien	'moon'		atiker	'explode'
	luwu	'sago'		weik	'day after tomorrow'
	-			knuamp	'village'
	pua	'forehead'		skorel	'banana type'
	aikuol	'hang up'		ikriempel	'lizard sp.'
				nialkno	'kinship term'
t	tikir	'scratch'		nimukn	'lice'
	atik	'when'		kark	'afraid'
	antit	'break'			
	trum	'banana type'	ŋ	-	
	krak	'trash'		wankinkepmel	'weakened'
	wutnin	'flea'		walenk	'a sprout'
	nipmanklo	'bird sp.'		sankuork	'jump'
	atn	'walk'		sknenk	'fern'
	polnk	'sago type'		sukn	'big'
n	nimpliekn	'mud'	j	yapm	'lungs, front'
	anu	'courtyard'		kiyir	'break off'
	pmin	'inside'		-	
	tnimpoiel	'new'		kierk	'run away'
	wompitne	'birth place'		wulienk	'tusk'
	mantiek	'mother'		wutnin	'flea' (/ny/ written /n/ only)
	ant	'we'			
	atn	'walk'			
			l	la	'go east'
s	sakal	'bush knife'		wule	'skin, body'
	misenk	'tree sp.'		al	'eat (realis)'
	kis	'sit'		mlot	'center branch'
	srop	'funnel'		alfiknin	'flying fox'
	sunsu	'flower'		wolpm	'wind'
	taskokel	'lizard sp.'			

## Vowels

i	i	u
ɪ		o
ɛ		
	ɑ	
i	-	
	atik	'when'
	muati	'image'
	mion	'cockatoo'

ɪ	iki	'lift up'
	pmin	'inside'
	-	
	-	

i	irpm	'pluralizer'	ɑ	alopm	'vine for weaving'
	mintaink	'waterhole, creek'		tawu	'a sore'
	nyangi	'corner'		ma	'to cry out'
				maiak	'ashamed'
ε	epekn	'bamboo water tube'	ei	eipm	'to hear, smell, taste'
	sesekn	'older sibling'		seiseikn	'slowly, carefully'
	wompitne	'birthplace'		akei	'to use'
	waiek	'father'		keieiel	'this'
u	utnie	'rain' (Yanimoi dialect)	ai	aipm	'bird'
	wurmp	'men's toilet'		kaik	'leg'
	wunu	'snake sp.'		maiek	'cucumber'
	muanmuin	'firefly'		timai	'bow'
	moule	'person'			
o	opmueipm	'listen and understand'	oi	tnimpoiel	'new'
	yuwolmp	'egg'		apmoi	'go?'
	kuko	'crazy'			
	moel	'taro type'	au	kiaukiau	'banana type' (the only example)

The diphthongs /ei/ and /ai/ are interpreted as phonemic units. The status of /oi/ and /au/ is unclear and they are rare.

### Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Stress is probably not phonemic (no minimal pairs). It is difficult to determine because pitch and length and (or) intensity do not function together. There is a strong tendency to stress the last syllable in any word and in words of more than two syllables there may be one or two secondary stressed syllables. The vowel /a/ and heavy syllables seem to draw the stress. Reduplicated words tend to be stressed equally.

There is no phonemic tone. Natural speech tends to have a rising intonation pattern which drops sharply at the end of the utterance.

### Syllable Patterns

V	<b>ei</b> 'to plant'	<b>a.ko</b> 'small'		
VC	<b>as</b> 'roast'	<b>ut.nu</b> 'chicken'		<b>pi.en</b> 'cassowary'
VCC	<b>ant</b> 'we'			<b>tin.kli.emp</b> 'hot'
CV	<b>ra</b> 'give birth'	<b>ka.kak</b> 'grandparent'	<b>tas.ko.kel</b> 'lizard sp.'	<b>wun.tu</b> 'die, faint'
CCV	<b>tri</b> 'put on'	<b>sko.rel</b> 'banana type'	<b>tin.kli.emp</b> 'hot'	
CVC	<b>per</b> 'put'	<b>tas.kuk</b> 'we are pushing'	<b>nip.man.klo</b> 'bird sp.'	<b>a.pul</b> 'do'
CCVC	<b>krak</b> 'trash'	<b>plul.plul</b> 'soft'		
CVCC	<b>kark</b> 'afraid'			<b>wi.nink</b> 'limbum'
CVCCC	<b>polnk</b> 'sago type'		<b>a.wulmp</b> 'to cover'	

### Conventions: Phonological

/p t k/ are aspirated word finally, although /p/ shows free variation between [p] and [f] except when after /m/. They have slight voiceless nasal release before homorganic nasals. They are pronounced voiced /b d g/ after nasals and are prenasalized word-initially (with a few exceptions among words starting with /k/).

/p/ is pronounced [p<sup>w</sup>] before /o/.

/ɸ/ has limited distribution; usually there is free variation [p] ~ [ɸ]. The pronounced [ɸ] is therefore usually written with < p > except word initially.

/m n ŋ/ are voiceless word finally following homorganic plosives.

### Conventions: Orthographic

/i/ and /ɪ/ are both written < i >. Also /i/ is now written < i > after testing the both graphemes < ^ > and < i >.

All word initial occurrences of /i/ and /u/ are written < yi > and < wu > respectively.

/w/ is written < u > with the modified consonants: *pua* [p<sup>w</sup>u] 'forehead'.

/j/ is written < i > with the modified consonants: *kierk* [k<sup>j</sup>erk] 'run away'.

/ŋ/ is written < n > when immediately preceding or following /k/: this in order to avoid the heavy appearance of too many consonants in a row.

The sequences /ny/ and /ni/ are both written < ni >.

The sequence /ns/ will be written simply as < s >. Some literates hear it as a different sound and would like to write it < z >.

The hyphen < - > is used in some multiple-morpheme words to indicate a non-phonemic transitional [w] ~ [β] between a vowel-final and vowel-initial morpheme (usually -el).

### Transcription of a recorded passage

/  
 kumpue'p kumpue'p el a'p'm pulmjen ampue'p pjen tiwie karokŋ nukuap napol el || ar anin'kel kilpe tiwie  
 napmok | antie rokn jetn kitapm sop likeknel || ikŋ a la ke'p'm el apm a mila kitapm || tiwie nak nak epe  
 a'p'm pulmjen kilpe nakipm pjen | et ikŋ ampu ikimp no sil lo tikŋaŋk jer ke'p'm iser lo tikŋaŋk jitip ikŋ ar  
 okŋ || kil kilpe akimp no sil ke'p'm || kil jukukurp jukukurp msil lo tikŋaŋk aser lo tikŋaŋk atip kil | et i  
 kŋ jo kitapm || apm ampu ikimp no sil lo tikŋaŋk ser lo tikŋaŋk itip apm arokn || kil kilpe akimp no sil ke  
 'p'm kil sil lo tikŋaŋk el || kil jukukurp jukukurp aser lo tikŋaŋk rokŋ atip kil || i pjen nakimp a'p'm pulmj  
 en | et ikŋ ikimp mila ke'p'm | apm a mila kitapm || i pjen kilpe an aser jok wie wankilel ar el || kil ka a i  
 kimp la ke'p'm aser ka wus wankepm ar kil || et kil kilpe mila kitapm || et a'p'm pulmjen kilpe aki  
 mp mila ke'p'm || ka kilpe | saŋk purmpor apmel ka minjatim /

< Kumpueip kumpueip el aipm pulmien ampueip pien tuwie karokn nukuap napol el. Ar aninkel kilpe tiwie  
 napmok, "Antie rokn yetn kitapm sop likeknel. Yikn a la keipm el apm a mila kitapm." Tuwie nak nak epe  
 aipm pulmien kilpe nakipm pien, "Et yikn ampu ikimp no sil lo tiknank yer keipm iser lo tiknank yitip yikn  
 arokn." Kil kilpe akimp no sil keipm. Kil yukukurp yukukurp insil lo tiknank aser lo tiknank atip kil. "Et yikn  
 yo kitapm. Apm ampu ikimp no sil lo tiknank ser lo tiknank yitip apm arokn." Kil kilpe akimp no sil keipm kil  
 sil lo tiknank el. Kil yukukurp yukukurp aser lo tiknank rokn atip kil. I pien nakimp aipm pulmien, "Et yikn  
 ikimp mila keipm, apm a mila kitapm." I pien kilpe an aser yok wie wankilel ar el. Kil ka a ikimp la keipm aser  
 ka wus wankepm ar kil. Et kil kilpe mila kitapm. Et aipm pulmien kilpe akimp mila keipm. Ka kilpe, sank  
 purmpor apmel ka miniatim. >

'A very long time ago, the crowned pigeon and the cassowary did not argue and fight. After a while (at that  
 particular time), the two of them had a discussion. "We two don't walk the same. You like to go high and I like  
 to stay on the ground." They talked and talked like that and the pigeon said to the cassowary, "Perhaps you  
 should try to fly up onto the tree branch up high and see if the branch breaks under your weight or not." He flew  
 up on top. He jumped up and down on the tree branch but the branch broke under his weight. "Perhaps you  
 should come down to the ground. I'll try to fly up onto the branch and see if it breaks under me or not." He  
 jumped up and down but the branch did not break under him. And the cassowary said to the pigeon, "Perhaps  
 you should fly and go up high, I'll go on the ground." And so on the cassowary we see two little wings. He  
 wanted to go up high but his body was too heavy. So he moves along on the ground. And the pigeon flies up  
 high. That's all, my legend is finished.'

## **Bibliography**

Henry, Joan. 1990. 'Organized phonology data for Kombio.' Manuscripts. SIL, Ukarumpa.