

Organised Phonology Data

Orokolo (Vailala) Language [ORO] Kerema – Gulf Province

Trans New Guinea Phylum; *Eleman Subphylum;* Eleman Family

Population census: 13,000 (1981)

Major villages:

Linguistic work done by:

Data checked by:

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

ɑ æ ɔ e h i k l m o p t u
 a a a e h i k l,r,n,d m,v,b o p t u
 A A A E H I K L,R,N,D M,V,B O P T U

Consonants

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

p	pipi	'butterfly'				l	lara	'eat'
	kapare	'grease'					rare	'name'
							naoae	'at random'
m	meve	'mango'					lorilori	'to snatch'
	biae	'rainbow'					dedehi	'unmarried'
	vavava	'to witness'						
	have	'stone'				k	kaita	'paddle'
							uki	'bone'
t	tapua	'mulberry'				h	here	'betelnut'
	atiha	'sneeze'					hohoa	'breathe'

Vowels

i		u			
e		o			
		ɔ			
	æ				
		ɑ			
i	ihape	'foolish'	ɔ	©re	'voice, call'
	hivi	'song'			
	iviri	'net'	o	oki	'path'
				kora	'tree'
e	ekae	'snake type'		korokoro	'leaves'
	keveka	'to enter'			
	elave	'our,ours'	u	uki	'bone'
				hua	'pigeon'
æ	maheare	'naked'		maku	'branch'
ɑ	ara	'sore'			
	namai	'porpoise'			
	mavia	'bandicoot'			

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

The stress is normally on the penultimate syllable. There are some exceptions, where the stress is phonemic:

áre 'new' aré 'he,she'

Syllable Patterns

Conventions: Phonological

/t/ occurs only with /i/ and /a/.

The voiced bilabial /m/ has several allophones. Word initially it is pronounced [m], (sometimes also [ᵐb]?). Word medially it is pronounced [β].

/l/ has two allophones: word initially and with back vowels it tends to be pronounced [l]. Some speakers tend to nasalize it. Word medially it is pronounced [r].

Conventions: Orthographic

< s > is used in some loanwords

[ɔ] is represented usually by plain <a>, but sometimes by <ā> or <ū>.

/m/ is represented by < m >, < v > or < b > according to the pronunciation

/l/ is represented usually by < l > or < r >, sometimes also by < n > and < d >.

Sometimes phonemic stress is marked, like in *áre* ['are] 'new'.

Transcription of a recorded passage

< Pipi Korovu akore va Kari Marupu haela. Are va Kari-ipi haela, Kari Marupi haela ve lalava. Are aeaveape ita Auma, Vailala mai ape ve. Hare oaria Pipi Korou are hare la hoailape la hoa ve, ovohae ahea ukaki le la epavilape eavilape hoa mea-uru hiki, are mari ape, Oie! ore ka laia haela hela apealula la. Hare oaria are Auma ve la have akea pekai pavi, ahea ve la mea-uru la eavilape. Areve kekela mari laia haela apearoape la. hare la hoailape hoa mea lalou mekaka le eavilape la hoa ve are va iki kekela. Ooa! mea hela-ka le aeave. Ara hare ae veavea, la ita hela la eavakilai. Kahara are ahea ve la mea lalou la eavilape, ikihuru lei lari aeape.>

Pipi, Korovu's son, was a Kari Marupi man. He belonged to the Kari-ipi clan, and was of the lineage of Kari Marupi. The place where he lived was Auma, at the mouth of the Vailala River. Every day when the sun was going down he would stand looking out over the sea. As he watched the clouds he would say, 'Oh! would that I knew! Perhaps lovely people are living over there.' Every day he would climb to the top of the rock at Auma, and there he would stand looking at those clouds across the sea. He had this in mind that maybe people were living there. When the sun was going down he would see the lovely cumulus clouds and would think, 'Oh! such a lovely land lies over there! One day I'll travel and have a look at that place.' So that is how he used to gaze at those banks of clouds across the sea, and there he was with his yearning.

Bibliography

- Herbert A. Brown. 1986. 'A Comparative dictionary of Orokolo, Gulf of Papua.' *Pacific Linguistics* C 84.
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