

Organised Phonology Data

Rapoisi (Kunua, Konua) Language [KYX]

Kunua – North Solomons Province

East Papuan Phylum; East Bougainville Stock; Kunua Family-Level Isolate

Population census: 2300 (1990)

Major villages: Keakara, Kosipai, Sisiapai, Mapisi, Totoki

Linguistic work done by: SIL

Data checked by: Kim Blewett (September 1992)

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

ɑ β e γ h i k o p r s t u ʔ
 a b e g h i k o p r s t u '
 A B E G H I K O P R S T U

Consonants

	Bilab	LabDen	Dental	Alveo	Postalv	Retro	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyn	Glottal
Plosive	p		t					k			ʔ
Nasal											
Trill											
Tap/Flap				r							
Fricative	β			s				ɣ			h
Lateral Fricative											
Approx											
Lateral Approx											
Ejective Stop											
Implos											

p pita 'when (rel)'
 aripua 'it's good'

s sii'eiruu 'hurry!'
 bo'apasu 'stone'

β bapi'iita 'river'
 bobogi 'night'

k keibeea 'cry (pr)'
 kirako'oa 'my mother'

t tuutuusi'eruu 'teach!'
 boreeto 'custom'

ɣ -
 bobogi 'night'

r rahobaa 'get (pr)'
 bohiruato 'medicine'

ʔ -
 bo'ai'o 'food'

Vowels

i		u			
e		o			
		a			
i	iru	'we (excl)'	o	opaitabaa	'my son'
	heribaa	'find-pr'		rahobaa	'get-pr'
	bouhi	'fire'		boato	'house'
	ioka	'we (excl- Agent)'		oira	'she'
	iisio	'thusly'		roo'obe	'this one'
	koikoi	'por thing'		iisio	'thusly'
e	ereteo	'the-2-f'	a	aga	'I'
	boresiura	'four'		utaha'a	'perhaps'
	bopuure	'feast'		pita	'when-rel'
	eipa'oo	'what?'		raira	'mother'
	boreeto	'custom'		baari	'over there'
	haeruu	'talk!'		areabaa	'I put inside'
u	ubararuu	'listen!'			
	aputeai	'my in-law'			
	bo'apasu	'stone'			
	ruiia	'come-pr'			
	suupara	'mosquito'			
	ibarau	'on-it-m'			

No diphthongs, vowel sequences are analysed almost always as separate syllables.

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Stress is usually predictable occurring on the antepenultimate syllable, except:

- 1. if the antepenultimate vowel is a high or mid V preceded by a lower vowel or the same roundness, stress moves backwards to the lower vowel, pu'aebaa [pu.ʔá.e.βa.a] 'she walks'
- 2. if the antepenultimate vowel is the first vowel in the word and is high and is followed by a lower vowel, the stress advances to the lower vowel, boato [βó.a.to] 'house'

Nasalization is a predictable (but optionally occurring) prosodic feature in Rapoisi. (See: Phonological conventions)

Syllable Patterns

V	a.ba.hu.e 'let's go'	bo.o.ku.u 'children'	pa.ra.u.a 'flour'
CV	sa 'so that'	bo.u.hi 'fire'	bo.ri.a.ri 'woman' bo.o.hi.ta 'coconut'

Conventions: Phonological

/p/ is occasionally pronounced as [ɸ], especially word-initially.

/t/ never occurs before /i/.

/β γ r/ have several allophones each. Utterance initially they can be pronounced [b g d~l] respectively, although [d] is uncommon. /γ/ does not seem to occur word initially. /r/ can occur both initially and between vowels as a trill or as a retroflex approximant. Intervocally [l] is less frequent than [r].

Nasal allophones [m n ŋ] of the voiced consonants /β r γ/ occur optionally in utterance-initial (post-pause) position. When a nasal C occurs, nasalization spreads to succeeding vowels, and can spread over voiced segments until it is blocked by the occurrence of a voiceless C.

The sequence /si/ can coalesce into a syllabic [ʃ], in unstressed syllables, word-finally and before /p t k/.

Conventions: Orthographic

Glottal plosive is written < ' > following other languages in Bougainville.

The main orthographic problem is long words. Testing is in process as to whether compound forms and other long strings should be split or not, or whether to use hyphen < - > in some cases to break a long word.

Transcription of a recorded passage

/
 apata'iita | tokoruhukusii roγa'a || βoikiro βoβeriβeri airariraβa || haia uka atukarareetosii | uka a
 tukarahaesii || ruhukitakitasii haia airari rekorekosii ||
 βoikiro sa boatororiarei abahaarohe | βo'hioko'i bisio | o kekereβaa oitaa βoreeto'oro | sa ro riir
 iiβo ||
 hioko'i sa ro kitaiβo | o pioiβo oripaire oriari ro ruupe pite /

< Apata'iita, tokoruhukusii roγa'a. Boikiro boberiberi airariraba. Haia uka atukarareetosii, uka atukarahaesii. Ruhukitakitasii haia airari rekorekosii.

Boikiro sa boatororiarei abahaarohe, bo'ai'ore pio pite haia airariraba tabeo pite, boikiro. Oru boato'oro roga'a ua abaroehara, oirare pio pite bo'ai'o hioko'i sa poreroe haia baire bo'apatai.

Hioko'i bisio, o kekerebaa oitaa boreeto'oro sa ro riiriibo.

Hioko'i sa ro kitaibo, o pioibo o ripaire oriari ro ruupe pite. >

'The initiate - he is a serious one altogether. Not to play with others. And not one who follows bad ways, not one who speaks badly. A generous one, and one who cares for others.

He will not go into other's houses, to find some food and with others to carouse, no way. His own house only, there will he go, to look for food then, that he might return again to the initiates.

Now then, the men see his ways, that they like him.

Then they give him - they find him some female - a woman to marry him'

Bibliography

Blewett, Kim. 1992. 'Organized phonology data of Rapoisi.' Manuscript. SIL, Ukarumpa.