

Organised Phonology Data

Tairora [Northern] Language [TBG] Kainantu, Obura – Eastern Highlands Province

Trans New Guinea Phylum; *East New Guinea Highlands Stock*; Eastern (Kainantu) Family; Tairora Subfamily

Population census: 13,500 (1981)

Major villages: Bantura, Barabuna, Bonta, Barabundora; Arokara, Matona, Mamora, Nompia, Suwaira, Obura, To'ukena; Konkompira, Baira, Meauna, Pinata, Motokara

Linguistic work done by: SIL

Data checked by: Alex and Lois Vincent (1992 and 1994)

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

a a: e h i k m ^mp n ⁿt ^ʷk o p ʔ r t u β
 a aa e h i k m mp n nt nk o p q r t u v
 A Aa E H I K M Mp N Nt Nk O P Q R T U V

Consonants

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

^mp/ prenasalised bilabial plosive

ⁿt/ prenasalised dental plosive

^ʷk/ prenasalised velar plosive

p pahi 'corn husk'
kupaapa 'bundle'

β vahi 'possum'
ova 'yam'

^mp mpora 'bee'
kempuka 'strong'

t tavave 'who?'
rate 'cry'

m mati 'flesh'
naama 'breast'

ⁿt ntiro 'he does'
aunta 'throat'

n	numa kuna	'head lice' 'python'	ʰk	nkaqaana hanka	'bite it!' 'a chip'
r	rupi rori reka viri	'to sweep' 'axe' 'tree' 'face'	ʔ	qamaa nuqa	'sweet potato' 'sand'
k	kara kakakimake	'taro' 'lost'	h	haaru ihu	'before' 'betel nut'

Vowels

i	u
e	o

ɑ

long open back vowel /ɑ:/

i	iqara mimira mati kiara mpui	'cold wind' 'chest' 'flesh' 'grass skirt' 'lick'	o	ora konta	'ditch' 'old woman'
e	evehi kekai kante teunara	'thatch' 'small eel' 'run' 'mine'	ɑ:	aara kaara kaataa	'road' 'branch' 'elbow'
ɑ	ari kaka iha ihiake	'hit' 'frog type' 'fire' 'pour it out!'	ɑi	aimu hainaira	'salt' 'bird sp.'
u	uviri pukaa naruvu quara ihauru	'bird' 'tobacco' 'mushroom' 'pig' 'ember'	ɑu	auha kauqu aakau	'belly' 'hand' 'wild'

/ɑi/

/ɑu/

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Stress is often, but not always, connected with the high tone.

High tone is phonemic.

Syllable Patterns

V		i.re.ro 'ask'	a.qu.a.ka 'lightning'	vi.ra.e 'are you going?'
VV	eo 'yes'	ai.mu 'salt'		
CV	no 'mouth'	ti.ri 'forehead'	i.ra.ra 'legband'	ka.ra 'taro'
CVV	vua 'go!'	kai.ke 'shield'	hai.nai.ra 'bird sp.'	e.hai 'bamboo knife'

Conventions: Phonological

/p/ sometimes weakens to [ɸ] word initially and medially.

/β / can have an allophone, lenis [b], word initially.

/h/ [s] and [h] vary in a limited number of words.

/r/ has two allophones: [l] occurs word initially before back vowels [o, ɑ, u], and [r] occurs elsewhere.

Conventions: Orthographic

This is the orthography for Northern Tairora only.

The two allophones of /r/ ([r] and [l]) are written < r >.

The phoneme /h/ is written as <h> in all Tairora words and <s> in some loanwords.

The two allophones of /β /, [β] and [b] are written < v >.

The two allophones of /p/, [p] and [ɸ] are written < p >.

Tone or stress is not written.

Transcription of a recorded passage

< 14. Ihuva Pitaara naavuqi oru vaiharo tavovaro Pitaara aintaantava hiqiri vauvaro vira vaata iha ite vauvaro

15. Ihuva oru vira kauqu utuvarovaro vira rovaravano taiqa vuvaro vi nahentiva himpiro vira kara unta amitareva auti vaura.

16. Ihuva mini vauvaro entumanta vi vatanaaka vaanavano avutaqi vauka ntita vare Ihuva vunaini vuru kovaro Ihuva uvaqohairo vaana ho vaura.

17. Ihuva mintiaqiro vuvaro Aisaiava paropeti vaiintivano vetanto entaqaa vaiharo tivato uvava vivauma vaura. Aisaiava Ihura okarara mintima tiro: Vi vaiintiva tinavu rovava taiqa timitaanarove. Viva tinavu aiha vina haikara koqema timitaanarove tura. >

14. When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.

15. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

16. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

17. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

Bibliography

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