

Organised Phonology Data

Wuvulu-Aua Language [WUV] Manus Province

Western Melanesian Oceanic; Admiralties Cluster; West Admiralties Chain

Population census: 1,500

Major villages:

Linguistic work done by: SIL

Data checked by:

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

a e i o u b d f h j l ð^j m n p s t w x ?
 a e i o u b d f h y l lh m n p s t w r,g '
 A E I O U B D F H Y L Lh M N P S T W R,G

Consonants

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

/w/ voiced labio-velar approximant

/ð^j/ voiced lateralized dental fricative

p	papa	'to the side of'		f	fainaroa	'eight'
	fipui	'together'			lhofu	'brother of male'
b	baubara	'male adolescent'		w	wagieni	'today'
	alaba	'turtle'			welhowelho	'spin'
m	maremare	'cough'		t	tau	'papaya'
	humu	'house'			atona	'monday'

d	diai badu	'again' 'a child'	x	ranu lhoralhora	'fresh water' 'sore'
n	nadi hanuna	'all right' 'meaning'	ʔ	o'odu du'ua	. 'we (inclusive)' 'food'
ð ^j	lhomi olhoroa	'no (negation)' 'six'	h	hawihawi punehafi	'sharktooth weapon (sword)' 'coral stove'
s	sivisivi fesu	'decive' 'wash (clothes)'	j	yau piye	'1 sg nom.' 'beach'
l	lalho pa'ale	'in, inside' 'dolphin'			

Vowels

i		u			
e		o			
		a			
i	inau gigei nadi nia fipui	' ' 'door' 'all right' 'fish' 'together'	ei	fei gigei	'the' 'door'
e	eni nene piye wagieni	'this' 'behind, later' 'samd' 'today'	ai	aipoi fainaroa diai baibai	'yesterday' 'eight' 'again' 'mosquito'
a	alaba nadi parara fainaroa	'turtle' 'alright, okay' 'a black bird sp.' 'eight'	ao	bao baodi fa'ofao	'hungry' ' ' 'Thursday'
o	olhoroa lhomi mafufuo fainaroa	'six' 'no (neg)' 'morning' 'eight'	au	maunu na'aunudiai yau	. 'rain' ' ' '1 sg nom.'
u	unanomai fuda humu du'ua	' ' 'taro' 'home' 'food'	oi	poi	'good night'

/ei/

/ai/ /ao/ /au/

/oi/

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Stress is nearly always penultimate for words of less than four syllables. For two-syllable words that are reduplicated, stress occurs penultimate within each of the two-syllable parts of the word.

Syllable Patterns

V	a.to.na 'monday'		wa.gi.e.ni 'today'		fi.pu.i 'together'
	ai.poi 'yesterday'				di.ai 'again'
CV	fu.da 'taro'	ni.a 'fish'	pa.'a.le 'dolphin'		pi.ye 'beach'
	mau.nu 'rain'				ma.fu.fuo 'morning'

Conventions: Phonological

/e/ is sometimes relaxed to [ɛ] in rapid speech.

/s/ is in free variation with [tʃ] in all environments.

/d/ is pronounced [l] by speakers of the Auna village dialect (Wuvulu Island).

/f/ intervocalic can become voiced in rapid speech. A final high, front vowel can sometimes be dropped in speech. For example, aipani 'five' will sometimes become aipan. At this point, we don't have sufficient data to define the conditions for when the final vowel is dropped. This will be researched in the future.

/x/ has allophones within the dialects of Wuvulu-Aua. [x] and [g] on Wuvulu Island, and [r] on the island of Aua. The allophones [x] and [g] are in complementary distribution so that [g] always occurs immediately preceded or followed by a close vowel [i] or [u], and [g] never occurs in this position.

The allophone [r] appears to be the original pronunciation of /x/ which over time has changed to [x] or [g] on Wuvulu Island. This is confirmed by the fact that the older people of Wuvulu still use the allophone [r], and by the comments of many Wuvulu people who say that the people of Aua speak the oldest form of the language.

Conventions: Orthographic

Although the sounds [r], [x] and [g] appear to be underlyingly the same phoneme we have decided to overdifferentiate the orthography and to use <r> for [r] and [x], and <g> for [g]. The decision for overdifferentiation is strictly intuitive. We plan thoroughly village-test this using the single grapheme <r> versus using both <r> and <g>.

The glottal plosive <'> is not written word initially since it contrasts with the voiceless glottal fricative <h> which will be written word initially. The glottal plosive never contrasts with its absence in word-initial position.

Transcription of a recorded passage

/

axau wawa || waxieni awaxea eni tatalai jau ei badui || ei badui xixi?au na mafufuo na?asi?a a?a
 amau ma inau nadi na pije || exe xaxaxapa wawani?o bixi?a ena pele naxau tamanu ena naxau jau na?a
 pa?ia ||

mau axaxaxapa baodi | unanomai | dinami a?a amau ma inau || nawaxe | unabao jau || efaxani laxuna
 faxawani amau ma inau || fani anau || nodimai axewa?ei | na?aunudiai || eixe xaxapadiiai || nodimai n
 abao nawaxe a?a amau ma inau nabao jau || ahhh ?'omi du?ua tamanu dixi?amu oaxe xaxaxapa ua jei
 || ma oaxe bao bao ua mai ||

si?ei | na siba jau amau || xuta || na xuta fað'oð'o?ai?i || jau waxe amau | pedu faibixi?amu ale?ena ||
 omina xaxaxapa watauda || xuta famadumu ixufu o?odu || tamanu ei manumanu aixua napa?i | joi on
 apa?i || ma oaxaxaxapa watauda | ma?ida du?ua aixua napa?i || joi ?'omi anamu || napedu /

< Arau Wawa. Wagieni awarea eni tatalai yau ei badui. Ei badui gigi'au na mafufuo na'asi'a a'a amau ma inau
 nadi na piye. Ege rararapa wawani'o bigi'a ena pele narau tamanu ena narau yau na'apa'ia.

Mau arararapa, baodi, unanomai, dinami a'a amau ma inau. Naware, " unabao yau." Efarani laguna farawani
 amau ma inau. Fani anau. Nodimai arewa'ei, na'aunudiai. Eige rarapadiiai. Nodimai nabao naware a'a amau ma
 inau: "Nabao yau" . "Ahhh! Lhomi du'ua! Tamanu digi'amu? Oare rararapa ua yei. Ma oare bao bao ua mai?"

Si'ei, na siba yau amau. Guta. Na guta falholho'ai'i. Yau ware amau, "Pedu faibigi'amu ale'ena. Omina rararapa
 watauda. Guta famadumu igufu o'odu. Tamanu ei manumanu aigua napa'i, yoi onapa'i. Ma oarararapa
 watauda, ma'ida du'ua aigua napa'i. yoi lhomi anamu." Napedu. >

'My name is Wawa. Today I'll talk about how I would play as child. When I was a child I would get up in the
 morning with my father and mother, and then go to the beach. I would wander around playing and doing
 whatever I thought about doing.

When I wandered around I would get hungry and would come back to my father and mother. I'd say. "I'm
 hungry." Sometimes the two of them were good to me; they'd give me food. Another day would come and I
 would go out again. It would be time to wander around again. Then I would come back again and say to my
 father and mother, "I'm hungry." "Ahhh! There's no food! What work do you do? You only wander around.
 And you come back hungry."

So, my father was cross. I sat there sorry. My father said to me, "Stop this practice of yours. You're always
 running around. Stay quietly at our home. Whatever we two have you can have. But if you're always running
 around, we two will have a small amount of food and you won't have any." The end.

Bibliography

Hafford, James and Lois Hafford. 1996. Orthography and Phonology Description for the Language of Wuvulu-
 Aua. Manuscript. SIL, Ukarumpa, Papua-New-Guinea

