Organised Phonology Data

**Nasioi** [government spelling] (Naasioi [language spelling]) Language [NAS]  
Kieta – North Solomons Province

East Papuan Phylum; East Bougainville Stock; Nasioi Family

Population census: 17,000 (1981)

Major villages: Kokoree', Murumai, Ka'marove', Mankouna', Piruneu', Naasioi, Darutue, Bakatoong, Poopoko', Ankanai', Pooma, Pakia, Kapikave', Daare'naï, Da'pera, Oramii, Koopeï, Muau

Linguistic work done by: SIL

Data checked by: Conrad Hurd (April 1992)

**Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory**

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Vowels

i  u

e  o

a

Long vowels are interpreted as sequences of two vowels.

i  iriri  'fuzz, skin irritant'
   sinang  'seed, fruit'
   mari  'clan sister'
   iioo'  'flower'
   naniaing  'you will go'

e  enang  'now'
   bireng  'finger'
   mare  'cliff'
   tee'  'thus'
   teu'  'the tree'

u  unang  'again'
   boku'  'dull'
   karu  'blood vessel'
   uurung  'a torch'
   aatuung  'he slept'

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Where intonation allows it, stress occurs on the first syllable of two syllable words and the second syllable of longer words.

Syllable Patterns

V  a  'woops!'  i.o  'first'
   VC  o'.no.u  'I was'
   VC  ka  'burst into flames'
   CVC  te'  'there'
   N  n.ton  'water'

k  kara  'talk'
   beeka  'to poke fun at'
   nkoven  'you'll make it'
   bee'ka  'they themselves'

n  ninka  'with'
   naning  'person'
   boong  'underneath'
   nnaang  'my wife'
   nkanaa  'mine'
   kansi  'disembowel, operate'
   pi'na'  'gun'

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Conventions: Phonological

/ʃ/ has several allophones; [t] word initially and medially except before /i/, [s] word initially and medially before /i/, [ts] in free variation with [s] word initially and medially before /i/.

/b/ weakens to [β] word medially except following [?].

/d/ has several allophones; [d] word initially and following glottal plosive, [r] word medially following vowels, [r] in very slow speech word medially and sometimes initially in free variation with [d] and [r], and [l] word initially before /i/ in free variation with [d].

Syllabic nasals occur word initially; [m] before /m/ and /p/, [n] before /n/ and /t/, [ŋ] before /k/.

/n/ has also other allophones: non-syllabic [ŋ] occurring word medially preceding /k/, and word finally except when following /ai/, /ei/ and /oi/. In this position /n/ is pronounced [n'].

Conventions: Orthographic

The sounds [r] and [v] are only intervocalic and never capitalized except in proper names (rarely) where custom prevails over the regular orthography.

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

The allophones of /t/, [t] and [s’ ts’] are written < t > and < s > respectively.

The allophones of /d/, [d] and [ r ’ r ], are written < d > and < r > respectively.

The allophones of /n/, [n] and [ŋ n’] are written < n > and < ng > respectively.

In foreign names only the letters < j 1 v > are also used.

Transcription of a recorded passage

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Our people, the old timers, used to all make one garden. As they made the garden they would subdivide it and each family would plant its own section. They used to make gardens like this long ago. Around the sides of the garden they used to build fences, all talking at once. Now people don't do that. Now the families all make a garden each. One family will have a garden to itself, and another will have one to itself. This is all because knives and axes have been introduced and they all have them. Thus it is that the families make a garden each nowadays.
Bibliography

Hurd, Conrad and Phyllis Hurd. 1966. 'Nasioi Language Course.' Department of Information and Extension Services, Port Moresby, xi, 283 pp. + tapes.


___ 1979. 'Nasioi projectives.' *Oceanic Linguistics* 16 (2): 111-178