Organised Phonology Data

Huli Language [HUI]
Southern Highlands Province

**Trans New Guinea Phylum; East New Guinea Highlands Stock; West-Central (Engan) Family; Huli Subfamily**

Population census: 70,000 (1981)

Major villages:

Linguistic work done by:

Data checked by: (Information has been checked Jan. 1992 by an expatriate speaker of Huli)

**Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory**

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<th>Bilab</th>
<th>LabDen</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Alveo</th>
<th>Postalv</th>
<th>Retro</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Uvular</th>
<th>Pharyn</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
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</table>

/w/ voiced labial-velar approximant

/b̪/ prenasalized bilabial plosive

/d̪/ prenasalized alveolar plosive

/g̪/ prenasalized velar plosive

p pola 'sow'
-  
b bala 'drill'
babe 'hit!, he will hit'
mb mbola 'frog'
hambu 'lips'

m magu 'vomit'
damene 'relative'

w wayali 'winner'
dawa 'cook'

r dere 'sore, wound'

l leombo 'anger'
tele 'top'

k ke 'you are standing'
erekui 'tired'

g ge 'leg'
nogo 'pig'
nigi 'nettle'

lj nge 'you've placed it'
dangi 'kunai grass'

j yari 'cassowary'
ayu 'today'

h hale 'ear'
wahe 'old'

**Vowels**

i u

e o

ɑ

There is a set of five nasalized vowels: / ā ɛ ī ū ū /

i ira 'tree, wood'
lamiya 'he told'
pini 'root'
hai 'banana'
u umi 'owl'
gula 'bend over'
nunu 'down there'

lamiya 'let us speak'
hai ha 'smear on'

e ega 'bird'
hela 'leave it stand'
ke 'you are standing'

lamiya 'let us speak'
ha 'smear on'

a agi 'what'
gabia 'chop'
dagala 'count'

ê hela 'push'
ke 'tell a lie'

o ola 'call'
dola 'whistle'
to ha 'swell up'

ō ga la 'shout out'

dola 'swim'
țola 'fill up'
Huli OPD

Printed: August 23, 2004

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Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Tone is phonemic. There is a contrast between high falling [], mid level, and low rising [ ] pattern. The functional load of contrastive tone is not very high.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Syllable</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'you sg.'</td>
<td>hále 'ear'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'I, me'</td>
<td>hale 'tree spec.'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>hâle 'torch'</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Conventions: Phonological

/p t k/ are pronounced aspirated [ pʰ tʰ kʰ ].

/b/ is pronounced voiceless word initially and becomes fricative [ β ] between the vowels [ i-i, i-e, i-a, a-a, a-e, o-e ].

/d/ is pronounced voiceless word initially, fronted between vowels and palatalized between [i] and word final [a].
/g/ is pronounced voiceless word initially and velar fricative [ɣ] between vowels [a-a, a-o, a-e, e-a, o-o, o-e, o-a].

/j/ is pronounced with friction between most vowels.

/r/ occurs word medially only.

/ɑ/ is pronounced fronted [æ] in certain non-stressed syllables before [r] and [j].

**Conventions: Orthographic**

<s> was introduced to the orthography because of loanwords. It is also used to represent /t/ at the beginning of words before [i], since many speakers pronounce it [s] in this position.

Tone is marked only on some words, like i ‘you’ to separate it from i ‘I’.

**Transcription of a recorded passage**

< Ngodehanda wali agali bihende gubalini timbuniore howa ibu igini mbira hangu henego ngini. Ibuhondo mini mbiraorewi karu ti dinini koha napole haabo holene yu ka.>

**Bibliography**

