

Muyun Noun Classes

by

D and D Lithgow.

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David and Daphne Lithgow

Summer Institute of Linguistics

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MUYUW¹. NOUN CLASSES

by David and Daphne Lithgow

1. Introduction
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1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Muyuw is an Austronesian language spoken on Woodlark Island of south-eastern Papua. It is closely related to the Kiriwina language of the Trobriand Islands to the west. It shows a decreasing relationship with the Dobu language family, with Panayati of Alcester (Tokunu) and Misima Islands, and with Tagula of Sud-Est Island.² Capell's work on the languages of this area touches on all of the features which are dealt with in this paper.³

Like Dobu,⁴ and Kuanua (Tolai)⁵ and Bariai⁵ of New Britain, Muyuw has three basic sets of possession affixes. Mota⁵ of Banks Island north of the New Hebrides has nouns divided into five classes by different possessive forms, as well as an Intimate Class which takes a possession suffix only. In Tangoa⁶ of the New Hebrides there is an Intimate Class including basically relationship terms and body-parts, and four pre-posed possessive forms classified as trading

things, garden things, eating things and drinking things. Capell⁷ refers to morphologically similar possession forms in Polynesian languages, both suffixes and pre-posed forms, arguing that these forms are basically different from those in Austronesian languages. Cowan⁸ however produces evidence to refute his arguments.

Fortune⁹ has shown that in the Dobu language the nouns which take the three sets of affixes form three classes according to the degree of intimacy of the possessive relationship. For the first person singular, the Dobu Intimate Class has the suffix -gu, the Intermediate Class has the prefix agu- and the Distant Class has the prefix igu-. Muyuw has the same three classes with almost identical affixes but the contents of the classes show considerable variation. For example, "grass-skirt" is Intimate in Muyuw but Distant in Dobu, while the words for "spouse" are Intimate in Dobu but Distant in Muyuw.

Muyuw shows similarity to the Kiriwina language¹⁰ in having pronominal classifiers which are characteristically used with numerals. They are independent of, and show no relationship to the possession classes. This feature has been noted in other languages around the Solomon Sea; e.g., Tagula (Sud-Est Island) and Buin (Bougainville Island.)¹²

Capell shows evidence that the non-Austronesian language of Rossel Island possibly has classifiers, and suggests that this is a primitive linguistic feature of the area.¹³ He also notes that noun classifiers extend from Palauan in Indonesia to the Gilbert Islands in Micronesia.¹⁴

In comparing person-number morpheme combinations in Ponape (Micronesia) with similar forms in Polynesia, Capell¹⁴ uses illustrations which are paralleled in the concluding pages of this paper.

1.1. MUYUW PHONOLOGY

In this paper we represent the Muyuw phonemes as follows: p t k b d g s l n m mw pw bw kw gw v w y i e e a a o o u and ^ (stress). The voiceless stops carry non-contrastive aspiration, l represents a voiced alveolar flap which is usually released laterally, and the w of mw pw kw bw and gw represents labialisation. All final syllables are lengthened.

1.2. MORPHOPHONEMICS

1.2.1. Prefixes with the vowel u

Cu- and VCu- prefixes (where C and V represent any consonant or vowel respectively) cause initial velar consonants

of the stem to become labialised if they are followed by the vowels a ɛ or o, even if the u of the prefix is elided as in the example under 2.3.

nu-	+	kɛd	=	nuwɛd
your (sg.)		road		your road
Λnu-	+	gʌnag	=	Λnɔwʌnag
your (sg.)		people		your people

1.2.2. Stress

Except in the limited circumstances described in 2.5, stress is rather variable in nouns.

POSSESSION AFFIXES

	Distant	Intermediate	Intimate	Free Form Pronoun
First Person Singular	guna-/gun-	agu-	-gw	yey/yegw
Second Person Singular	mu-/imu-	amu-	-m/-mw	yákom
Third Person Singular	na-/ina-	ana-	-n	classifier- wen
First Person Dual Incl.	da-/ida-	ada-	-d	yákid
First Person Plural Incl.	da- -s / ida- -s	ada- -s	-ds	yákids
First Person Plural Excl.	ma-/ima-	ama-	-m	yakaméy
Second Person Plural	mi-/imi-	ami-	-miy	yakamíy
Third Person Plural	si-/isi-	asi-	-s	classifier- siyas

2. POSSESSION CLASSES

The possession affixes listed in Chart 1 indicate possession of the noun stem. Possession is always optional. A noun can be used with different sets of affixes to indicate different semantic categories.

viníyón-gw	flesh	viníyón-na-gw	my flesh
		flesh-my(intimate)	
		^gu-viníyón	my meat
		my(to eat)-flesh	
g^mag	person	^gu-gw^mag	my relative
		my(intermediate)-person	
		gun-g^mag	my employee
		my(distant)-person	

2.1. General Comments

In Chart 1 the possession affixes are divided into three person-number sub-groups:

- (a) first, second and third persons singular
- (b) first person inclusive dual, and first person inclusive plural
- (c) first person exclusive plural, and second and third persons plural.

In the Intimate Possession Class a regular change of stress occurs in sub-group (c) together with certain stem-vowel changes.

In the first person plural inclusive, the suffix -s denotes persons additional to the speaker and hearer. This is the pronoun which is invariably given for "all." The morpheme -s is lost by assimilation when a stem ends with s.

^gu-bóbs

my-spider

^d^bóbs

our(incl.dl.or pl.) spider/s

There is no morpheme which constantly indicates plurality of things possessed in the Intermediate or Distant Classes. The suffix -s may be added to stems which do not end in s in non-inclusive possession to denote plurality of the thing possessed. For first person inclusive possession it is never used (its use would obliterate the contrast between dual and plural possessor), and for other persons its use is very rare, ambiguity being resolved by context. The exceptions in the Distant Class are the words for "husband" and "wife" in which plurality is indicated by a constant stress change which will be described later.

2.2. Distant Class

This is a semantically diverse group including dwellings, most furnishings, certain persons, some physiological conditions, implements and inedible plants and animals.

First person singular gunA- is used:

- (a) with single-syllable nouns of CVC type, and
 (b) with vowel-initial nouns, in which case the initial vowel is replaced by the final vowel of the possessive prefix:

ses	knife	anyow	grass
gun^ses	my knife	gun^anyow	my grass
muses	your(sg.)knife	manyow	your (sg.) grass
n^ses	his knife	n^anyow	his grass
d^ses	our(inc.dl.)knife	d^anyow	our(inc.dl.)grass
d^ses	our(inc.pl.)knife	d^anyows	our(inc.pl.)grass
m^ses	our(excl.) knife	m^anyow	our(excl.) grass
mises	your knife	miwuyow	your grass
sises	their knife	siwuyow	their grass

First person singular gun- is used preceding initial y of a cluster of two consonants: ¹⁵

wligv	crocodile	wliyog	things
gunwligv	my crocodile	gunwliyog	my things
mwligv	your(sg) crocodile	mwliyog	your(sg.) things
n^wligv	his crocodile	n^wliyog	his things

All remaining nouns of the Distant Class are divided into two sub-classes - those which usually take gunA- and those which usually take gun- :

kwav	wife	kʌkɔl	post
ɡʌkwav	my wife	ɡʌkʌkɔl	my post
mʌkwav	your(sg.) wife	mʌkʌkɔl	your(sg.) post
nʌkwav	his wife	nʌkʌkɔl	his post

Similarly:

ɡʌkɪs	my sole	ɡʌbʌnʌtʌm	my house
ɡʌnʌstɛt	my work	ɡʌntʌwtɔn	my strength
ɡʌkʌkɛynad	my basket	ɡʌntʌlʌl	my axe

2.3. Intermediate Class

The nouns of this class include edible foods and animals, most physiological states and conditions, things which are worn, certain persons, and other miscellaneous nouns.

Contractions and Modifications:

(a) The final vowel of the second person singular prefix ʌnu- is lost preceding all nouns with the pattern CVC, except those with initial voiced continuant.

nuy	coconut	dak	thirst
ʌɡʌnuy	my coconut	ʌɡʌdak	I am thirsty (my thirst)
ʌmʌnuy	your(sg.) coconut	ʌmdak	you(sg.) are thirsty
ʌnʌnuy	his coconut	ʌndak	he is thirsty

^d^my our(inc.dl.) coconut

^d^mys our(inc.pl.) coconut

^m^my our(excl.) coconut

^mimy your coconut

^simy their coconut

^d^dak we two are thirsty

^d^daks we all are thirsty

^m^dak we, but not you, are thirsty

^midak you are thirsty

^sidak they are thirsty

(b) The final vowel in both second and third person singular prefixes amu- and ana- is lost preceding all nouns of more than one syllable, except those with initial y or mu

mymy heat

^gumymy I am hot (my heat)

^namymy you(sg.) are hot

^namymy he is hot

kulikul skin-disease

^gukulikul my skin-disease

^mkulikul your(sg.) skin-disease

^nkulikul his skin-disease

(c) The third person singular prefix an-/ana- becomes ani- preceding polysyllabic nouns with initial y or initial wC where C represents any consonant.

wi^taw

crew

^gumi^taw

my crew

^mumi^taw

your(sg.) crew

^niwi^taw

his crew

(d) The first person dual or plural inclusive prefix ada- becomes adi- preceding initial y of polysyllabic nouns.

y ^h biy	sago
^guy ^h biy	my sago
^muy ^h biy	your (sg.) sago
^niy ^h biy	his sago
^diy ^h biy	our (inc. dl.) sago
^diy ^h biys	our (inc. pl.) sago
^muy ^h biy	our (excl.) sago
^niy ^h biy	your sago
^siy ^h biy	their sago

2.4. Intimate Class

The nouns of this class include body-parts, family relations and close friends, skirt, wages, song (language), head-louse, and some abstract concepts such as reason and desire. The relationship section of this class will be dealt with in greater detail under 2.5. featuring plurality of stems.

In this class there is a shift of stress to the stem-final syllable (which takes the affix) for all non-inclusive plurals. This feature can be seen in the examples showing stem-vowel change below.

The final vowel of the stem is lost when it is unpossessed unless the noun is used as an exclamation in which case the final vowel is sounded and shortened. The vowels of CVC

stems except for e, are neutralised to a when they are possessed.

nim	hand	n [^] ma-gw	my hand	
tam	father	t [^] ma-gw	my father	tam [^] ! Father!
sus	breast	s [^] su-gw	my breast	
d-b	skirt	d [^] be-gw	my skirt	
kεb	bed	k [^] ba-gw	my bed	

Vowel neutralisation does not occur in this way for stems which after loss of the final vowel are still polysyllabic:

buyav	blood	buyavi-gw	my blood
ikuyak	kidney	ikuyaku-gw	my kidney

Other stem vowel changes occur as follows:

(a) Affixed stems of the type CACV- and CeCV- become CⁱCV- before all non-inclusive plurals, except sub-group (b) below.

s [^] sugw	my breast
s [^] sum	your(sg.) breast
s [^] sun	his/her breast
s [^] sud	our(inc.dl.) breasts
s [^] suds	our(inc.pl.) breasts
s ⁱ sum	our(excl.) breasts
s ⁱ sumiy	your breasts
s ⁱ sus	their breasts

[see also (f) below]

(b) When the final stem vowel is an open mid vocoid (e or o) it becomes close (e or o) except for third person singular and first person exclusive plural. This makes a point of clear contrast between the second person singular and the first person exclusive plural.

dʌbegw	my grass-skirt	wogw	my body
dʌbem	your(sg.) skirt	won	your(sg.) body
dʌben	her skirt	won	his body
dʌbed	our(inc.dl.)skirts	wod	our(inc.dl.)bodies
dʌbeds	our(inc.pl.)skirts	wods	our(inc.pl.)bodies
dibém	our(excl.)skirts	won	our(excl.)bodies
dibemiy	your skirts	womiy	your bodies
dibes	their skirts	wos	their bodies

(The unpossessed form of "body" is won which contrasts with the third person singular possessed form because of the open vowel of the latter.)

(c) Stems of the type CACV- where the initial C is y or a labialised consonant, becomes CuCV- before non-inclusive plurals and initial labialisation is lost.

wʌdon	your(sg.) mouth	pwʌson	your(sg.) navel
wudon	our(excl.)mouths	puson	our(excl.)navels

(d) Stems of the type ACACV- become ACiCV- before third person plural suffix

an^hgigw my fruit

anigis their fruit

ag^hdugw my heel

agidus their heels

(e) Stem-final vowel a becomes ə for first person exclusive and third person plurals, remains a for second person plural, and becomes ə elsewhere:

sivinagw	I want (literally "my need")
sivina ^m	you (sg.) want
sivina ⁿ	he wants
sivina ^d	we (inc. dl.) want
sivina ^{ds}	we (inc. pl.) want
sivina ^{em}	we (excl.) want
sivina ^{ni^h}	you want
sivina ^s	they want

(f) In stems of the type CeCV- e remains unchanged except in non-inclusive plurals when it becomes i.

penagw	for me (literally "my benefit")
pena ^m	for you (sg.)
pena ⁿ	for him/it
pena ^d	for us (inc. dl.)
pena ^{ds}	for us (inc. pl.)

piném	for us (excl.)
pin ^{andy}	for you
pinés	for them

(g) Stems of the type aCV-, eCV- and eCV- become ACV- before non-inclusive plurals.

égagw	my song, language
Λgém	our(excl.) song, language

2.5. Relationship nouns with singular and plural stems

With possessed nouns generally, there is no way of knowing apart from context if the stem is singular or plural. The rare use of -s suffix to pluralise a stem has been mentioned under 2.1. In relationship terms of the Intimate Class and kway "wife" and mwan "husband" of the Distant Class however, plurality of the stem is indicated.

2.5.1. Change of stress placement

The shift of stress placement to stem-final position which was noted for Intimate non-inclusive plural possession also applies for relationship expressed by affixation when the stem is plural. This may be the only point of contrast between singular and plural stems.

túwagw	my older sibling of the same sex
tuwágw	my older siblings of the same sex

The words for "spouse" from the Distant Possession Class illustrate features which are basic in plural-stem formation.

gun^mwán	my husband	gun^mwán	my husbands
múmwán	your (sg.) husband	múmwán	your (sg.) husbands
n^mwán	her husband	n^mwán	her husbands
d^mwán(s)	our (incl.) husband	d^mwánas	our (incl.) husbands
m^mwán	our (excl.) husband	m^mwánas	our (excl.) husbands
mímwán	your husband	mímwánas	your husbands
simwán	their husband	simwánas	their husbands

It will be noted that -s here indicates plural possession of plural stem (stem final vowel a being lost when there is no suffix.)

In the following example there is a change of vowel for stem pluralisation, from a to é for singular and first person exclusive plural possession, and to ^ elsewhere, in which cases of plural possession the suffix -s is also used.

gun^kwav	my wife	gun^kwé^v	my wives
múkwav	your (sg.) wife	múkwé^v	your (sg.) wives
n^kwav	his wife	n^kwé^v	his wives

dakwav(s)	our(incl.) wife	dakwavas	our(incl.) wives
makwav	our(excl.) wife	makwévas	our(excl.) wives
nikwav	your wife	nikwavas	your wives
sikwav	their wife	sikwavas/skwavas	their wives

2.5.2. Personal relationship terms without plural stem change

Before passing to the Intimate Class it will be noted that other personal nouns in the Distant Class and those in the Intermediate Class do not have plural-stem formation (apart from the rare use of -s.)

gungmag	my person/people
agubwawal	my guest/guests

2.5.3. Final singular stem-vowel a (which does not change to é)

This group includes three nouns which are otherwise subject to the rules of possession for the Intimate Class.

ada-	mother's brother, sister's offspring (reciprocal term)
twawa-	older sibling of same sex
bwada-	younger sibling of same sex

Singular Stem	Plural Stem	Singular Stem	Plural Stem	Possessor
ádagw	^dagw	bw^dagw	budágw	1st sing.
ádam	^dam	bw^dam	budám	2nd sing.
ádan	^dan	bw^dan	budán	3rd sing.
ádad(s)	^d^déyas	bw^dad(s)	bud^déyas	1st incl.
^dam	^d^méyas	budám	bud^méyas	1st excl.
^damiy	^d^míyas	budamiy	bud^míyas	2nd pl.
^das	^d^síyas	budas	bud^síyas	3rd pl.

These paradigms show a becoming ^ when unstressed; -aya- for first person plurals and -iya- for third person plural as allomorphic additions to the -s suffix of the plural stems; stress moves to the penultimate syllable; and stem-final a becomes i for second person plural possession of the plural stem.

2.5.4. Relationship Nouns with Constant Stem-final Vowel

These are:

t^bu-	grandparent, grandchild, father's sister, brother's child
n^tu-	offspring
nube-	cross-cousin
nubo-	man's brother-in-law

Singular Stem	Plural Stem	Singular Stem	Plural Stem	Possessor
t ^h bugw	tibugw	nubegw	nubégw	1st sing.
t ^h bum	tibum	nubem	nubém	2nd sing.
t ^h bun	tibun	nuben	nubén	3rd sing.
t ^h bud(s)	tibudéyas/ tibuds	nubed(s)	nubedéyas	1st incl.
tibum	tibuméyas	nubem	nebéméyas	1st excl.
tibumiy	tibumíyas	nubemiy	nubemíyas	2nd pl.
tibus	tibusíyas	nubés	nubesíyas	3rd pl.

While the final stem-vowel is constant, the non-final vowel a changes according to the rule 2.4.(a), and plural stems are as in 2.5.3.

2.5.5. Relationship Nouns with Final Plural Stem-Vowel Change

These include parents and parents-in-law:

t ^h m ^h	father, father's brother
i ^h m ^h	mother, mother's sister
y ^h w ^h	parent-in-law, child-in-law (reciprocal term)

For singular stems the final stem-vowel follows the rule of 2.4.(e). For plural stems the final stem-vowel a becomes:

ə for first and second person singular possession
ɛ for third person singular possession
and is elided for plural possession, except between
identical consonants, when it is i.

Singular Stem	Plural Stem	Singular Stem	Plural Stem	Possessor
t ^h magw	tim ^h gw	y ^h wagw	yiw ^h gw	1st sing.
t ^h nam	tim ^h m	y ^h wam	yiw ^h m	2nd sing.
t ^h nan	tim ^h n	y ^h wan	yiw ^h n	3rd sing.
t ^h nad(s)	tim ^h ɛyas	y ^h wad(s)	yiw ^h ɛyas	1st incl.
tim ^h m	timim ^h ɛyas	yiw ^h m	yiwm ^h ɛyas	1st excl.
tim ^h miy	timimi ^h ɛyas	yiw ^h miy	yiwmi ^h ɛyas	2nd pl.
tim ^h ɛs	timsi ^h ɛyas	yiw ^h ɛs	yiws ^h ɛyas	3rd pl.

2.5.6. Accompaniment

sə-/ so-/ si-/ se- is used to translate the English word "with":

sogw	my single company	sigw ^h ɛy(as)	my plural company
som	your(sing.) single company	simw ^h ɛy(as)	your(sing.) plural company
son	his/its single company	sin ^h ɛy(as) / sen	his/its plural company
sod(s)	our(incl.) single company	sid ^h ɛyas	our(incl.) plural company

siméy	our(excl.) single company	siméyas	our(excl.) plural company
simiy	your single company	simiyas	your plural company
		sisiy(as)	their plural company

Where as has been suffixed in brackets it is optional, and does not seem to alter the meaning, except perhaps to emphasise plurality of the stem. There is no word for "their single company."

Interesting combinations are the compounds of mwan (husband) and vin (female) with this root, appropriately possessed in singular and plural forms. The following examples show how the typical pattern is followed:

mwan/sogw	husband with me (the man who shares the same woman with me)
mwan/sogw	husbands with me (men who share the same woman with me)
vin/sogw	woman with me (the woman who shares the same man with me)
vinsogw	women with me (women who share the same man with me)
mwan/ses	husband with them (the man who shares the same woman with them)
mwan/siyas	husbands with them (men who share the same women with them)

2.5.7. Intimate Possession Infix

Two noun-stems in this class take possession infixes.

They are:

n/-	-t	sibling of opposite sex
yeUA-	-t	woman's sister-in-law

The infixes illustrated with the former stem are as follows:

	Singular Stem	Plural Stem	Possessor
-gu-	nágut	nigút	1st sing.
-mu-	námut	nimút	2nd sing.
-ne-	númet	numét	3rd sing.
-de-	nádet(s)	nida'téyas	1st incl.
-me-	nimét	nimt'éyas	1st excl.
-ni-	nimit	nimtiyas	2nd pl.
-si-	nusit	nistiyas	3rd pl.

The first part of the stem na- has an allomorph nu- which occurs with third person possession; otherwise the a changes to i for non-inclusive possession of singular stem according to rule 2.4.(a). Further vowel modification and elision occurs with plural stem. The phonological modifications of the various parts of yévagut are even more extensive, and having no further application are omitted.

2.6. Double Possession

Double possession is found with the stem mwa- -t
"self alone."

$\wedge gu-mw \wedge -n \varepsilon -t$	myself alone	(my its self alone)
$\wedge n-mw \wedge -n \varepsilon -t$	yourself(sing.) alone	(thy its self alone)
$\wedge n-mw \wedge -n \varepsilon -t$	himself alone	(his its self alone)

The corresponding stem and infix in Gawa dialect of Muyuw and in the Kiriwina language is $mw \wedge -gu-t \wedge$ "myself alone":

$\wedge gu-mw \wedge -gu-t \wedge$	myself alone	(my myself alone)
$\wedge n-mw \wedge -gu-t \wedge$	yourself(sing.) alone	(thy myself alone)
$\wedge n-mw \wedge -gu-t \wedge$	himself alone	(his myself alone)

3. PRONOMINAL CLASSIFIERS

Pronominal classifiers take obligatory modifier suffixes of demonstration, number, colour, quality, shape or size, in both singular and plural forms.

These classifiers form a basis of classification of all nouns. Ideally when any noun is modified it is followed by the appropriate pronominal classifier with the desired modifying affix. In everyday speech common classifiers tend to be used instead of the more precise ones which are available. The classifier plus affix can stand alone in place of a noun.

3.1. Examples of Modifiers

The following are examples of modifiers with pronominal classifier bunA- "building":

bwan bunA-wen	that house	(house building-that)
bwan bun-siyas	those houses	(house building-those)
bwan bunA-kA'dit	a small house	(house building-small)
bwan bunA-kékelA	small houses	(house building-small pl.)
bwan bunA-mnAbwen	a good house	(house building-good)
bwan bunA-mnAbwen-s	good houses	(house building-good-pl.)

bwan b ^u n ^Λ -bwabw ^ε l	a red house	(house-building-red)
bwan b ^u n ^Λ -bwabw ^ε l-s	red houses	(house building-red-pl.)
bwan b ^u n ⁱ -lb ^Λ εb	a bad house	(house building-bad)
bwan b ^u n ⁱ -lb ^Λ εb-s	bad houses	(house building-bad-pl.)
bwan b ^u n ^Λ -tan	one house	(house building-one)
bwan b ^u n ^ε -y	two houses	(house building-two)
bwan b ^u n ^Λ -ton	three houses	(house building-three)
bwan b ^u n ^Λ -vas	four houses	(house building-four)
bwan b ^u n ^Λ -nia	five houses	(house building-five)
bwan b ^u n ^Λ -nim b ^u n ^Λ -tan	six houses	(house building-five building-one)

The final vowel Λ of the classifier bunΛ- is elided preceding ε, becomes i preceding l, and ε preceding y. Similarly with other classifier stems, minor vowel modification occurs.

Plural modifiers may be separate morphemes, as "those" and "small(pl.)" or are formed by -s suffix plus shift of stress to the penultimate syllable. If the vowel of this syllable is Λ it becomes a when stressed. For examples of this see "good," "red" and "bad" above.

3.2. Classifier Prefixes

Two prefixes can be used with the singular demonstrative to produce further shades of meaning:

m-bun^--wen	that particular building	(particular one- building-that)
^m-bun^--wen	whichever building/which building?	(which/whichever- building-that)

3.3. Classifier Usage

When a noun has several modifiers, the same classifier may be repeated with each modifier, or different classifiers may be used according to different shades of meaning in the utterance.

Bun-siyas bwan bun^--ten buni-lbalab-s.
building-those house building-three building-bad-pl
Those three houses are bad.

To--wen bwan bun^--kakit.
thing-that house building-small
That thing is a small house.

Bun^--vaken m-pal^--wen.
building-big particular one-opposite-that
The big house is the one on the opposite side.

3.4. Other Roles of Descriptive Modifiers

Descriptive modifiers, like stems in general, take possession affixes or verbal subject prefixes, and thus function as nouns or verbs.

-vaken	big	(big-its)
vaken-an	its size	(big-its)
i-vaken	it becomes big	(3rd sing. subj.- big)

3.5. List of Classifiers

The following is a representative list, including most of the known pronominal classifiers with numeral affix -ton "three."

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. kwe-ton | three common objects |
| 2. te-ton | three men |
| 3. na-ton | three women |
| 4. mw [^] n [^] -ton | three animals |
| 5. ke-ton/ [^] ki-ton | three wooden things |
| 6. w [^] li-ton | three cords |
| 7. p [^] l [^] -ton | three sides |
| 8. sigini-ton | three mats |
| 9. mwen [^] -ton | three layers (cloth, paper, leaves, etc.) |
| 10. k [^] din [^] -ton | three baskets |
| 11. l [^] w [^] -ton | three clusters each containing four sago packages |
| 12. yule-ton | three bunches each containing four coconuts |
| 13. siy [^] -ton | three garlands |
| 14. k [^] wy [^] -ton | three woven bags |
| 15. k [^] li-ton | three rows |
| 16. k [^] liy [^] -ton | three spears |
| 17. kw [^] vi-ton | three cups |
| 18. kw [^] vgi-ton | three cupfuls |

19. k ^h p ^h l ^h -ton	three packages of betel-pepper
20. kun ^h -ton	three cooking-pots
21. pin ^h -ton	three names
22. sa-ton	three bunches
23. sib ^h li-ton	three hands of fruit, e.g. bananas
24. kum ^h i-ton	three earth-ovens
25. bun ^h -ton	three buildings
26. l ^h l ^h -ton	three flowers
27. awu-ton	three grass-skirts
28. yigini-ton	three winds
29. v ^h -ton	three lengths from finger-tip to finger-tip
30. uno-ton	three villages
31. ^h anku-ton	three compartments (in food-house)
32. bugi-ton	three days from now
33. t ^h k ^h an ^h -ton	three days
34. siv ^h -ton	three occasions
35. k ^h l ^h gu-ton	three heaps
36. wod ^h -ton	three forests
37. k ^h vi-ton	three implements
38. k ^h v ^h -ton	three fires
39. bul ^h -ton	three pigs
40. k ^h d ^h -ton	three paths
41. wuy ^h -ton	three streams
42. sin ^h w ^h -ton	three tens, i.e. thirty
43. l ^h k ^h tu-ton	three hundreds, i.e. three hundred

The first classifier listed is kwe-, which with the singular demonstrative affix is kwe-wɛn, which is used to demonstrate articles which are either unclassified or which do not need to be specifically classified in the context, in the Wamwan dialect of central Woodlark. In Muyuw proper, the demonstrative used for things not specifically classified is tɔwɛn, which appears to be a variant of tɛ-wɛn "that man." However in Muyuw kwe- is always used for numerals when counting articles which are not specifically classified.

A single item may take the suffix -ɔk "just/only," with elision of the final vowel of the classifier-stem, and shortening of the vowel of the numeral affix:

awukw mwan-tɔk just one dog (dog animal-one-just)

3.6. Affixed Pronominal Classifiers as Noun and Verb Stems

(a) Verbal subject prefix:

sivɔk just one time

i-sivɔk-s they do it just once

3rd person subject-just one time-plural subject

(b) Possession affix:

pɔlatan one side

mɔ-pɔlatan our(excl.) side

1st person exclusive plural possessor-one side

The Intermediate first person inclusive prefix is modified to adi- in this case, and the vowel i is elided of the third person plural prefix asi-.

Person	Dual with meaning	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons
1st incl.	^ditéy you and I	^ditétón	^ditévas	^diténim
1st excl.	^mátéy we two, but not you	^mátétón	^mátévas	^máténim
2nd pl.	^mitéy you two	^mitétón	^mitévas	^miténim
3rd pl.	^stéy they two	^stétón	^stévas	^sténim

For describing the component sections of a total group, the possessed accompanitive noun so- / sɔ- / si- / se- is combined with the words listed above.

plural company-my their-people-two we(excl.)-work our(excl.)-
people-three

My plural companions are those two; we three (but not you) are working.

Free translation, "These two people are working with me."

1. Muyuw, the eastern dialect of Woodlark Island, is phonetically [moyuw] with [muyuw] as a variant form. This language has three back vocoids, ɔ, o, and u, with o as close to u as it is to ɔ. Thus we have chosen Muyuw as a practical orthographic spelling.

Previous linguistic and anthropological works have tended to regard Woodlark Island as a linguistic and geographic entity called Murua.

The three dialects of the island, Muyuw in the east, Wamwan in the centre, and Nawayem in the west are different only in the pronunciation of certain words (notably the inclusion of k in many words in the other dialects where it is absent in Muyuw) and in vocabulary preferences. The dialect variations in Gawa and other islands of the Marshall-Bennetts to the west are more extensive, having l substituting for most of the occurrences of n in Muyuw, a different CV pattern, and vocabulary differences.

Material for this study was gathered during two years spent in Wabunun village of the Muyuw dialect, and a period of seven weeks in the Wamwan area. The work was done under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. The authors give grateful thanks to their

colleague Dr. Alan Healey for guidance and many helpful suggestions while writing this paper.

2. Lithgow, D. and Staalsen P., 1965, Languages of the D'Entrecasteaux Islands, The Department of Information and Extension Services, Port Moresby.

Additional word-lists obtained in the course of this survey indicate the following percentages of shared cognates:

Muyuw - Kiriwina	70%
Muyuw - Dobu	38%
Muyuw - Panayati	34%
Muyuw - Tagula	22%

3. Capell, A., 1943, The Linguistic Position of South-Eastern Papua, Australasian Medical Publishing Co., Sydney.
4. Arnold, J.K., 1931, A Grammar of the Language of Edugaura (Dobu), Government Printer, Port Moresby.
5. Capell, A., 1940, "Language Study for New Guinea Students" The Oceania Monographs, No.5, p.27, and Oceania, Vol.XI, No.I, p.63.
6. Camden, W., personal communication.

7. Capell, A., 1962, "Oceanic Linguistics Today" Current Anthropology, Vol. 3, No. 4, p.390.
8. Cowan, H. K. J., 1962, Current Anthropology, Vol. 3, No. 4, p.399.
9. Fortune, R. F., 1963, The Sorcerers of Dobu, E. P. Dutton and Co., New York, p. 67.
10. Lawton, R., of Losuia in a personal communication spoke of at least seventy classifiers known to him in the Kiriwina language.
11. Ray, Sidney H., "The Languages of the Eastern and South-Eastern Divisions of Papua" The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Vol. 68, pp.153-208.
Twenty-one classifiers with numeral affixes are listed for Tagula.
12. Griffin, M. and Cooper, P. of the Summer Institute of Linguistics New Guinea Branch have found about forty numeral classes in studies of the Buin language. This is a non-Austronesian language and its numerals appear to be more complex than a simple classifier plus affix.
13. Capell, A., 1943, The Linguistic Position of South-Eastern Papua, Australasian Medical Publishing Co., Sydney, p. 226.

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Footnotes

14. Capell, A., 1962, "Oceanic Linguistics Today" Current Anthropology, Vol.3, No.4, p.385.
15. The only cluster with which this has been observed to date is wl- although other clusters, e.g. wn- occur in the language.