MELPA PHONOLOGY

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with

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1. INTRODUCTION

There are approximately 120,000 speakers of the Melpa language. This language occupies an area of about 4000 kilometers square. The people live in the Wahgi valley of the Western Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea. They live all around Mt. Hagen to the Baiyer River in the north, to the Nebulyer in the south, to the mountains in the west and to the Tuman River in the east. The Melpa language is a member of the Hagen language family.

We are located in the center of the language area in the Central dialect. We allocated there after Al Stucky and Andy Woodland did a language survey in 1986. Since Melpa has about 5 different dialects, we calculated that the Central dialect around Hagen town area is the one that all the other dialects can understand. This has been confirmed to us by our checking Committee. We live in a little hamlet about 3 miles from Hagen where the Steering Committee from the 4 different churches arranged for us to live and work out from.

Most of the Melpa people live in small hamlets scattered through out the area, although the Lutheran church has encouraged the people to live in villages. There are several very large villages – one has approximately 1000 people.

We as facilatators of the Melpa translation are training translators to do the translation of the Scriptures. We also hope to train literacy workers and teachers to teach the people to read Melpa.

We have been seconded from SIL to the Melpa Translation Assoc. Our work is mainly to train, encourage the translators and work with the exegesis and checking of the Scriptures as well as editing and preparing the books for printing.

John Ruby, the Secretary of MTA from the village of Kingalrui, in the central dialect was our main assistant for this paper.

Symbolization

Parentheses [ ] represents the phonetic writing.
Brackets / / represents the phonemic writing.
Underline (_) is used to symbolize dental position.
The dot (.) is used to symbolize velar position.
The plus (+) symbolizes fricativeness.
The line through (-) is used to symbolize voicelessness.

We are using Pike's Phonemic/Phonetic symbolization.

PHONEME CHART

CONSONANTS

	BILABIAL	DENTAL	ALVEOLAR	VELAR
Oral	/p/	/t̪/	/t/	/k/
	[p]	[t̪]	[t]	[k]
Prenasal	/mb/	/n̪d/	/nd/	/ŋg/
	[mp mb]	[n̪t n̪d]	[nt nd]	[ŋk ŋg]

Release /&/

	BILABIAL	DENTAL	ALVEOLAR	VELAR
NASALS	/m/	/n̪/	/n/	/ŋ/
	[m]	[n̪]	[n]	[ŋ]

	BILABIAL	Semi Vowels	ALVEOLAR	VELAR
	/w/		/y/	
	[w]		[y]	

LIQUIDS

	/r/
	[ř r̃]

/l/	/ld/	/ɫ/
[l l̪] + +	[ld lt l̪t]	[ɫ l̩] + +

VOWELS

		Front Unr. R	Central Unr. R	Back Unr. R
High	cl	/i/	/ɨ/	/u/
		[i]	[ɨ, ï]	[u]
	op	/ɪ/		/ʊ/
		[ɪ]		[ʊ]
Mid	cl	/e/		/o/
		[e, ɛ]		[ɔ, o]
Low	op		/a/	
			[a, ə, ʌ]	

2. INTERPRETATION

2. 1. THE STATUS OF ITEMS WHICH MAY BE EITHER CONSONANT OR VOWEL:

Syllabic high front and high back vocoids /i/ and /u/ are interpreted as vowels, as they occur as the nucleus of the syllable. The non-syllabic high front and back semi-vocoids /y/ and /w/ are interpreted as consonants as they occur in syllable onset slots.

/owa/	[owá]	'dog'
/wu/	[wǔ]	'man'
/ndʋlwu/	[ndʋ̠lwú]	'stick'
/ya/	[ya]	'here'
/puiyo/	[pḯiyo]	'you all go!'
/yand/	[yantᴿ̃]	'come back'
/kiya/	[kiyá]	'light'

2.2. THE STATUS OF ITEMS WHICH MAY BE EITHER SEQUENCE OR UNITS:

Non-suspect clusters of two consonants may occur word final, and medial across syllable boundries. The voiced prenasalized obstruents /mb/, /nd/, /ŋg/ have been interpreted as single units occuring word initial and between vowels because:

1. They never occur as a oral sound.
2. They occur in the slot of a single consonant
3. They can't be divided by a syllable boundry.

These prenasalized obstruents occuring word finally are voiceless - [mp], [nt], and [ŋk]

There are some suspect consonant clusters word initial [pr] and [kr] but since there seems to be a very short transitional vowel between the two consonants, we are writing it to assist reading.

Consonant clusters of two consonants may occur between vowels but are divided by syllable breaks. There is also a class of verbs in certain aspects which have a consonant cluster finally, and there are also pre-nasalized stop clusters, all of which are considered as one phoneme.

/ul.ki/	[úl̪. ki]	'kind of kapule'
/on.mbʉ/	[on. mbʉ́]	'we 2 are coming'
/mond. ru ŋgi l/	[mond. rʋ. ŋgí̯l]	'you 2 had it before'
/kʉi pər. ka/	[kǐi pəř. kʌ]	'Bird of Paradise'
/molk/	[mol̪kʰ]	'they stayed before'
/nond/	[nont̃ʀ]	'I am eating'
/krai.pa/	[kə̌řai. pʌ]	'lightning'
/pruŋ/	[pə̌řʋŋ]	'they went'
/krou/	[kə̌řóu]	'unoccupied/empty'
/pra pra/	[pə̌řa pə̌řa]	'wiggle'
/a. mbʉ .la/	[á. mbʉ. l̪ʌ]	'girl'
/wu. lduŋ/	[wʋ́. lduŋ]	'near by west'
/amb/	[ampʰ]	'woman'
/aŋk/	[aŋkʰ]	'thankyou'
/a. ŋge/	[á. ŋgɛ]	'thankyou'
/ki ʉld/	[ki ǐlt̃ʀ]	'finger nails'
/yand/	[yant̃ʀ]	'come back'
/kond/	[kon̪t̪ʰ]	'new'

Vocoid Clusters (ei), (əi), (oi), (ui), (ou), and (ʉi) have been interpreted as complex syllable nuclei for the following reasons:

Each of the clusters forms the nucleus of a syllable of 1 mora timing, carrying one contrastive (either high or rising) pitch and stress occurs over the whole cluster. Wherever sequences of vocoids occur as the nuclei of two syllables there are two contrastive pitches. Stress falls on only one nucleus and a semi-vowel is articulated between the vowel nuclei. Because neither vowels of the cluster is generally more dominant than the other, either level or gliding tone may occur. So new phonemes do not need to be set up, as this interpretation has been followed rather than that of setting up glided phonemes.

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/oi.enim/	[oi.ɛ́nim]	'to laugh'
/goimba/	[goimbá]	'grasshopper'
/nde.ei/	[ndɛ.ei]	'this wood'
/wʉiya/	[wĩ́iya]	'you all come!'
/ui/	[ui]	'time'
/puiyo/	[puíyo]	'all the people'
/uiyo/	[uíyo]	'you come!'
/ʉi/	[ĩi]	'tail'
/pʉiyo/	[pĩíyo]	'you all go!'
/ai/	[ai]	'used in 'exclamation'
/kaimb/	[kaimpʰ]	'to be sorry for'
/ou/	[ou]	'big'
/pou/	[pou]	'wing'

3.2. DESCRIPTION OF CONTRASTIVE FEATURES

The main contrastive features of the consonants of the Melpa language are pre-nasalization versus non pre-nasalization and dental versus non-dental. There is contrast between obstruents, nasals, laterals, and semi vowels in these 2 main features.

/pin/	[pin]	'you sleep'
/mbin/	[mbin]	'beans'
/ṉɩm/	[ṉɩm]	'you'
/nam/	[nam]	'whose'
/eṉ/	[ɛṉ]	'you are doing'
/eṉd/	[ɛṉt̪ʰ]	'I am doing'
/ond/	[ontR̃]	'I am coming'
/on/	[on]	'You are coming'
/kała/	[káła]	'You cook!'
/ngał/	[ngał]	'needle'
/ṉɩḷ/	[ṉɩḷ]	'where'
/pelo/	[pɛ́ḷo]	'You two go!'
/pʉiyo/	[pĩíyo]	'You all go!'

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| /nᵾla/ | [nǐḻa] | 'You two eat!' |
| /nᵾiya/ | [nǐiya] | 'You all eat!' |

There is also contrast between bilabial and dental, alveolar and velar. Voicing versus non-voicing is also significant.

/kᴜm/	[kᴜm]	'ear'
/kᴜn̲/	[kᴜn̲]	'straight'
/po/	[po]	'sugar cane'
/mbo/	[mbo]	'seed'
/kan/	[kan]	'rope'
/kan̲/	[kan̲]	'you are seeing'
/rᵾn/	[rĩŋ]	'food'
/kᵾn/	[kĩn]	'skin'
/tᵾn̲/	[tĩn̲]	'we'
/tᵾn/	[tĩn]	'I am getting'
/ol/	[ol̲]	'spit'
/oł/	[oł]	'stomach'
/enmɩn/	[énmɩn]	'they are doing'
/en̲ɩm/	[ɛ́n̲ɩm]	'he is doing'
/oka/	[oká]	'sweet potato'
/oła/	[ołá]	'name of mountain'
/rond/	[ŕontR̃]	'I am hitting'
/kon̲d/	[kɔn̲tʰ]	'new'
/ᴜr/	[ũr̃]	'sleep'
/ukᵾ/	[ukĩ]	'yesterday'
/me/	[mɛ]	'taro'
/nde/	[ndɛ]	'tree'
/ngu/	[ŋgu]	'teeth'
/ku/	[ku]	'stone'
/kᴜn/	[kᴜn]	'straight

/ŋʊn/	[ŋʊn]	'you are giving'
/nʉnd/	[nĩnt^h]	'I am talking'
/nʉnd/	[nĩntR̃]	'I am giving'
/nʊnd/	[nʊntR̃]	'I was eating'

The vowels contrast in placement of the tongue in front, central and backed position with rounding and unrounding in central placement only.

Also they contrast in positioning. High, mid and low being either in open or close position.

/wi/	[wi]	'sing out'
/wʊ/	[wʊ]	'man'
/ni/	[ni]	'that one (emphasise)
/no/	[no]	'you eat!'
/and/	[ant^h]	'sun'
/end/	[ɛnt^h]	'I am doing'
/nde/	[ndɛ]	'firewood'
/nda/	[nda]	'I wonder'
/kaŋ/	[kaŋ]	'boy'
/kʉŋ/	[kĩŋ]	'skin'
/kʉn/	[kĩn]	'purple'
/keŋ/	[kɛŋ]	'cheek'
/ku/	[ku]	'stone'
/ko/	[ko]	'I think-maybe'
/pɪn/	[pɪn]	'you heard'
/ʊr pin/	[ʊř pin]	'you slept'
/ʊr pem/	[ʊř pɛm]	'he slept'
/pʉn/	[pĩn]	'you are hearing'
/pʊn/	[pʊn]	'you are going'
/pon/	[pon]	'a name'
/pʉnd/	[pĩntR̃]	'I hear'

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/pɪnd/	[pʊntR̃]	'to go'
/pɪnd/	[pint̪ʰ]	'I was sleeping'
/ʊr pend/	[ʊf pɛnt̪ʰ]	'I am sleeping'
/pat̪/	[pat̪ʰ]	'ass beans'
/kʊmb/	[kʊmpʰ)	'young'
/kʉmb/	[kɪmpʰ)	'foot'

4. DESCRIPTION OF PHONEMES AND ALLOPHONES

4.1. CONSONANTS

The stops that occur finally in Melpa are released in different ways. We would like to combine these facts into a single phoneme-like symbol which we will call Release, /&/. By combining the release from the stops, it simplifies the phonemic description for all the stops.

/&/	[R̃]	A voiceless trilled alveolar liquid occurs word finally following an alveolar stop.
	[h]	Voiceless aspiration occurs word finally following a non-alveolar stop.
	[ə]	The transition mid-central vocoid occurs word finally in fluctuation with [h] and [R̃] in closely related word combinations.

/nd̪ɪp&/	[nd̪ɪpʰ]	'fire'
/pip& ro/	[pipʰ řo~pipᵊ řo]	'put on lid'
/pamb&/	[pampʰ]	'I want to go'
/amb& raɬ/	[ampʰ raɬ~ampᵊ řaɬ]	'two women'
/end̪&/	[ɛnt̪ʰ]	'I am doing'
/mend̪& pa/	[mɛnt̪ʰ pa~mɛnt̪ᵊ pa]	'go/turn back to front'
/ʉɬ&/	[ĩt̪ʰ]	'cold'
/met̪& pa/	[mɛt̪ʰ pa~mɛt̪ᵊ pa]	'go south'

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/mondund&/	[móndʊntR̃]	'I'm feeling it'
/yand& pa/	[yantR̃ pa]	'to go back'
/nond&/	[nontR̃]	'I am eating'
/rok/	[řokʰ]	'tobacco'
/pek& ro/	[pɛkʰ řo ~ pɛkə̌ řo]	'you peel!'
/aŋg&/	[aŋkʰ]	'thank you
/maŋg&/	[maŋkʰ řom ~ maŋkə̌ řom] insect eaten sweet potato'	
/nde mbᵾld&/	[ndɛ mbiltR̃]	'tanget'
/mbeld& kᵾn/	[mbɛltə̌ kᵾn~mbɛltR̃]	'to read'
/ambᵾlk&/	[ámbĩkʰ]	'they are holding'

Note: For the rest of the paper the symbol /&/ will not be written in the phonemic form.

Phonemes **Allophones**

/p/   **[p]**   Voiceless bilabial stop occurs word initial ͵and between vowels.
                         and final

/ʊr piyo/	[ʊř píyo]	'you sleep!'
/peŋ/	[pɛŋ]	'head'
/pɪlma/	[pɪ́lmʌ]	'bee'
/kupa/	[kupá]	'cloud'
/kanapa/	[kənápʌ]	'corn'
/ndɪp/	[ndɪpʰ]	'fire'
/op/	[opʰ]	'yam'
/pip/	[pipʰ]	'lid'
/pip ro/	[pipʰ řo]	'put on lid'
/ndɪp kaɬa/	[ndɪpʰ káɬa]	'you light fire'

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Phonemes	Allophones			
/mb/	[mb]	Voiced prenasalized bilabial stop occurs word initial and between vowels.		
	[mp]	Voiceless prenasalized bilabial stop occurs word finally		

	/mbo/	[mbo]	'seed'
	/mbʉ/	[mb̈ɪ]	'some'
	/mbin/	[mbin]	'beans'
	/wimbʉ/	[wímbɪ̈]	'snake'
	/rimbɩl/	[ř̃imbʉ̣]	'we 2 will hit'
	/kʉŋ kʉmba ro/	[kĩŋ kʊmbá řo]	'peelbark!'
	/pamb/	[pampʰ]	'I want to go'
	/kuimb/	[kuimpʰ)	'nose'
	/amb raɬ/	[ampʰ řaɬ]	'2 women'
	/kʉp ronɩm/	[kʊpʰ řónɩm]	'it's hailing'

Phonemes	Allophones			
/nd/	[nd]	Voiced prenasalized dental stop occurs word initially and intervocalically. It tends to sound like an nt		
	[nt]	Voiceless prenasalized dental stop occurs word finally.		

	/ndi/	[ndi]	'hair'
	/ndɩp/	[ndɩpʰ)	'fire'
	/nditɩŋ/	[ndítɩŋ]	'drum'
	/nɩndɩŋ/	[nɩndíŋ]	'they talked about him'
	/ɛndɩtʉŋ/	[ɛndɩtʉ́ŋ]	'they did it for him'

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		/tɛnda/	[tɛndá]	'one'
		/end/	[ɛnd̪ʰ]	'I am doing'
		/nʉnd/	[nind̪ʰ]	'I am saying'
		/and/	[and̪ʰ)	'sun'
/t̪/	[t̪]	Voiceless dental stops occur word initial, and between vowels		

and final

/t̪ɩn/	[t̪ɩn]	'you took it'
/t̪ɛt̪ɩm/	[t̪ɛt̪ɩm]	'he is staying'
/t̪ʉn/	[t̪ïn]	'we'
/ket̪a/	[kɛt̪á]	'mouth'
/kat̪/	[kat̪ʰ]	'some'
/ʉt̪/	[ɩt̪ʰ]	'cold'
/koŋʉn et̪/	[kɔŋʉn ɛt̪ʰ]	'I do work'
/kona kut̪/	[koná kut̪ʰ]	'hole'
/pit̪/	[pit̪ʰ]	'I think I heard'
/met̪ pa/	[mɛt̪ʰ pa]	'go south'

/t/	[t]	Voiceless alveolar stop occurs word initial, and between vowels.		

and final

/towa/	[towá]	'big emphasize'
/pʉł ti/	[pʉł ti]	'plenty'
/wʊta/	[wʊtá]	'father'
/utɩma/	[utɩmá]	'tomorrow'
/roŋʊt pʊrʊm/	[ŕoŋgʊt̃ʳ pʊ́ŕʊm]	'go to the other side'
/ɛkɩt omba/	[ɛkɩt̃ʳ ombá]	'he will come outside'

/nd/	[nd]	Voiced prenasalized alveolar stop occurs word initial and between vowels.
	[nt]	Voiceless prenasalized alveolar stop occurs only word final

/nduɪwʋ/	[ndúɪ̰wʋ]	'stick in men's nose'
/nde/	[ndɛ]	'tree'
/nda/	[nda]	'I wonder'
/Kendəɪ/	[Kɛndə̰ɪ́]	'place name'
/nonda/	[nondá]	'mushroom'
/ind pa/	[intR̃ pa]	'go back'
/yand pa/	[yantR̃ pa]	'go back(long ways).'
/mondunt/	[mónduntR̃]	'I'm feeling it'
/nond/	[nontR̃]	'I am eating'
/pund/	[puntR̃]	'I am going'
/mbuld/	[mbultR̃]	'kind of tree'

Phonemes   **Allophones**

/k/	[k]	Voiceless velar stop occurs word initial and between vowels. and final

/kʉpkʉ/	[kḯpkï]	'wind'
/kai/	[kai]	'good'
/ka/	[ka]	'to cry'
/oka/	[oká]	'sweet potato'
/mukʋr/	[múkʋ̃r]	'inside the house'
/rukʋr/	[ŕukʋ̃r]	'inside'
/raldɪka/	[ŕaɪ́tɪka]	'three'
/rok/	[ř̌okʰ]	'tobacco'
/murʋk/	[mǔřʋkʰ]	'inside'
/por kak/	[por̃ kakʰ]	'bark belt'

| /kʉl mek/ | [kⁱl mɛkʰ] | 'Bird of Paradise' |
| /pek ro/ | [pɛkʰ ɫo] | 'you peel' |

| **Phonemes** | **Allophones** | | | |

/ŋg/ **[ŋg]** Voiced prenasalized velar stop occurs word initial and medial following another /ŋ/.

[ŋk] Voiceless prenasalized aspirated velar stop occurs word finally.

/ŋgoimba/	[ŋgoimbá]	'grasshopper'
/ŋgoɫ/	[ŋgoɫ]	'needle'
/ŋgu/	[ŋgu]	'teeth'
/nɪŋgɪl/	[nɪŋgɪɫ]	'they will talk'
/muɫaŋga/	[muɫáŋga]	'he must stay'
/aŋge/	[aŋgé]	'thankyou'
/aŋg/	[aŋkʰ]	'thankyou'
/maŋg/	[maŋkʰ]	'worm eaten sweet potato'
/aŋg nɪnɪm/	[aŋkʰ nɪnɪm]	'he said thankyou'
/maŋg rom/	[maŋkʰ řom]	'insect eaten kaukau'

| **Phonemes** | **Allophones** |

/m/ **[m]** Voiced bilabial nasal occurs word initial, between vowels and finally.

/me/	[mɛ]	'taro'
/mam/	[mam]	'his mother'
/mem/	[mɛm]	'blood'
/mema/	[mɛmá]	'blood'
/koma/	[komá]	'cool'
/nema/	[nɛmá]	'louse'
/n̪ɪm/	[n̪ɪm]	'you'
/nam/	[nam]	'who'

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/n̪/ medially and between vowels	[n̪]	Voiced dental nasal occurs word initially, finally.	
	/n̪ɪl/	[n̪ɪl̪~n̪ĩl̪]	'where'
	/n̪ɪm/	[n̪ɪm~n̪ĩm]	'you'
	/nan̪ɪm/	[nán̪ɪm]	'myself'
	/en̪ɪm/	[ɛ́n̪ɪm]	'they'
	/pʉnmʉn̪/	[pĩn̪əmin̪]	'they are hearing'
	/mʊn̪ kan̪/	[mʊn̪ kan̪]	'friendly'
	/tʉn̪/	[tĩn̪]	'we'
	/kʉn̪/	[kĩn̪]	'and'

Phonemes	Allophones		
/n/	/n/	Voiced alveolar nasal occurs word initially, between vowels and finally.	
	/nuim/	[nuim]	'important person'
	/nam/	[nam]	'whose'
	/na/	[na]	'I'
	/mana/	[mána]	'down'
	/kanapa/	[kənápʌ]	'corn'
	/nuim kan/	[nuim kan]	'throat'
	/mʊn kɪnan/	[mʊn kɪnán]	'church songs'

Phonemes	Allophones		
/ŋ/	/ŋ/	Voiced velar nasal occurs word initial, between vowels and final.	
	/ŋa/	[ŋa]	'possessive marker'
	/ŋə/	[ŋə]	'give 'Imp.'
	/koŋʊn/	[kɔ́ŋʊn]	'work'
	/teŋin/	[tɛ́ŋɪn]	'ground pidgin'
	/peŋ/	[pɛŋ]	'head'
	/kaŋ/	[kaŋ]	'boy'

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| /r/ | [ř] | Voiced alveolar flapped liquid occurs word initially and between vowels. |

| | [r̃] | Voiced alveolar trilled liquid occurs word final only. |

	/rɐŋ/	[r̃ĩŋ]	'food'
	/rui/	[řui]	'axe'
	/romba/	[r̃ombá]	'he will hit'
	/rurʋm/	[r̃uřʋm]	'he hit FP'
	/tɪkɪra/	[tɪkɪřá]	'quickly'
	/rʋr/	[r̃ʋr̃]	'I hit FP'
	/pʋr/	[pʋr̃]	'I went FP'

| /l/ | [ļ] | Voiced dental lateral fricative occurs initial, intervocalically and in fluctuation with [ļ̥] finally. |

| | [ļ̥] | Voiceless dental lateral fricative occurs finally. This however fluctuates with the voiced [ļ] |

	/ik lal/	[ik ļaļ̥]	'nonsense talk'
	/ka lala/	[ka ļáļa]	'someone who cries easily'
	/kalɪmb/	[káļɪmpʰ]	'moon'
	/kɪlɪp/	[kɪļɪpʰ]	'peanut'
	/mel/	[mɛļ̥/mɛḻ]	'like'
	/kel/	[kɛḻ/kɛḻ]	'small'
	/pipɪl/	[pipɪḻ]	'shame'

Phonemes	Allophones	
/ld/	[ld]	Voiced alveolar flapped vibrant non-vocoid cluster occurs initially and intervocalically.
	[lt]	Voiceless alveolar flapped vibrant non vocoid cluster occurs word final.
	[l̲t̲]	Voiceless dental non-vocoid cluster occurs intervocalically word final and word initial in only one word fluctuating with /ld/

/ídapa/	[ídápa]~[ítápa]	'banana leaf tears'
/mbʊldʊŋ/	[mbʊ́ldʊŋ]	'back'
/wʊldʊŋ/	[wʊ́ldʊŋ]	'west close to'
/aɪdɪŋ/	[áɪdɪŋ]	'east close to'
/mbeɪd kʊn̪/	[mbɛɪtR̃ kʊn̪]	'to divide'
/ombʊld kʊn̪/	[ómbʊɪtR̃ kʊn̪]	'to break it'
/raɪdɪka/	[r̃áɪdɪka]	'three'
/aɪd/	[aɪt̪ʰ]	'east'
/waɪdʊk/	[wáɪdʊkʰ]	'all ask'
/aɪdpa/	[aɪdᵊpa]	'again'
/kɪld/	[kɪɪt̪ʰ]	'kind of tree'
/ki.ʉld/	[ki.ïltR̃]	'finger nail'
/mbʉld/	[mbiltR̃]	'kind of tree'
/mbeld/	[mbɛɪtR̃]	'to read'

*Even though [ld] and [lt] occur in similar environments, there is no real contrast between them and we will analyze them under the same phoneme.

Phonemes	Allophones	
/ł/	[ḽ̟]	Voiced velar lateral fricative occur initially and intervocalically.
	[ḽ̟̊]	Voiceless velar lateral fricative occurs word finally.

/ława/	[ḽ̟áwa]	'wrong'
/łɪmb/	[ḽ̟ɪmpʰ]	'pig rope'
/łumʉi/	[ḽ̟umíï]	'to wash'
/mułʉiyo/	[muḽ̟íïyo]	'you all stay'
/ambʊła/	[ambʊḽ̟a]	'girl'
/rołʊł/	[r̃oḽ̟ʊḽ̟]	'long way'

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/muɬ/	[muɬ̩]	'egg'
/mbuɬ/	[mbʊɬ̩]	'backbone'
/ronduɬ/	[ŕóndʊɬ̩]	'strong'

Phonemes   **Allophones**

/w/   /w/   Voiced bilabial high closed rounded semi vocoid occurs word initially and between vowels.

/wamp/	[wampʰ]	'people'
/wu/	[wʊ]	'man'
/wi/	[wi]	'to call'
/ruwa/	[ŕuwá]	'banana'
/owa/	[owá]	'dog'

/y/   [y]   Voiced high close front unrounded semi vocoid occurs initial and bvetween vowels.

/ya/	[ya]	'here'
/yand/	[yantR̃]	'to come back'
/uiyo/	[uíyo]	'you come!'
/puiyo/	[píiyo]	'you all go!'
/piyamb/	[piyámpʰ]	'let me sleep'

4.2. Vowels

Vowels differ in inherent basic length according to tongue position. The low central vowel /a/ and high front vowel /i/ tend to be the longest, while the high vowels /u/, /u/ and /ɩ/ tend to be the shortest. Vowels in stressed position seem to be longer than elsewhere in words of the same number of syllables.

Phonemes   **Allophones**

/i/   [i]   Voiced high closed front unrounded vocoid occurs word initially, between consonants and finally.

/ip/	[ipʰ]	'salt'

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/ik/	[ikʰ]	'talk'
/namba iti/	[námba íti]	'how much'
/kit̪/	[kit̪ʰ]	'bad'
/rimp/	[řimpʰ]	'soft'
/kit̪ʊm/	[kít̪ʊm]	'intestine'
/ki/	[ki]	'hand'
/wi/	[wi]	'to call'

Phonemes	Allophones	
/ɪ/	[ɪ]	Voiced high open front unrounded vocoid occurs between consonants only.

/kɪnan/	[kɪnán]	'song'
/kɪm/	[kɪm]	'greens'
/enɪmb/	[ɛn̪ɪmpʰ]	'lazy'
/n̪d̪ɪp/	[n̪d̪ɪpʰ]	'fire'
/pipʊ/	[pipɪ̞]	'shame'
/pɪlma/	[pɪ́l̪mʌ]	'bees'

Phonemes	Allophones	
/e/	[e]	Voiced mid close front unrounded vocoid occurs as first member of complex nuclei.
	[ɛ]	Voiced mid open front unrounded vocoid occurs in every *other* position.

/wei/	[weí]	'very'
/ei/	[eí]	'this'
/elɪm/	[ɛ́l̞ɪm]	'he/she'
/elpa/	[ɛl̞pá]	'different'
/el/	[ɛl̞]	'arrows'
/epɪndama/	[ɛpɪndámʌ]	'afternoon'
/peŋ/	[pɛŋ]	'head'
/petʊm/	[pɛ́tʊm]	'it's staying'

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/tenda/	[tɛndá]	'this'

Phonemes	Allophones	
/a/	[a]	Voiced low open central unrounded vocoid occurs in stressed syllables
	[A]	Voiced mid open central unrounded vocoid occurs word finally in unstressed syllables.
	[ə]	Voiced mid close central unrounded vocoid occurs in unstressed syllables in multi-syllable words. It also occurs fluctuating with aspiration between words. that are closely associated semantically. and [R̃]

/and/	[antʰ]	'sun'
/amb/	[ampʰ]	'woman'
/apara/	[ápər̃ʌ]	'to forget/pick it'
/ral/	[řal̦]	'two'
/kanapa/	[kənápʌ]	'corn'
/namba/	[námba]	'what?'
/aiya/	[aiyá]	'sister/brother'
/kaimb/	[kaimpʰ]	'sorry'
/nonmun/	[nonəmún]	'we are eating'
/mormun/	[mořəmun]	'we are staying'
/punmun/	[punəmún]	'we 2 are going
/met pa/	[mɛtʰ pa]	'Go south!'
/ald pa/	[altʰ pa]	'Go east!'
/pek ro/	[pɛkʰ řo]	'You peel!'
/ind pa/	[intR̃ pa]	'You go back!'

/u/	[u]	Voiced high close back round vocoid, occurs initially, between consonants and finally.

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/ʊ/	[ʊ]	Voiced high open back rounded vocoid occurs initially and between consonants.

/upʊɬ/	[úpʊɬ]	'digging stick'
/utʊma/	[utʊmá]	'tomorrow'
/kumb/	[kumpʰ]	'young'
/puɬi/	[púɬi]	'plenty'
/ku/	[ku]	'stones'
/oʊndpa/	[oʊndəpá]	'plenty'
/ʊnd/	[ʊntʰ]	'before'
/wʊta/	[wʊtá]	'father'
/tʉmbaɬ/	[timbaɬ]	'Jew's harp'
/muɬmɪn/	[muɬəmɪn]	'We will stay'
/kʊɬmɪn/	[kʊɬəmɪn]	'We'll cook'

Phonemes	Allophones	
/ʉ/	[ɨ]	Voiced high, close back unrounded vocoid- occurs word initial, between consonants and final.
	[ɨ]	Voiced, high, open, front, unrounded vocoid - occurs in fluctuation with /ʉ/ between consonants.

/ʉrɪma/	[ɨrɪmá]	'soot'
/ʉt enim/	[ɨtʰ ɛnim]	'it's cold'
/ʉm/	[ɨm]	'koroka nuts'
/tʉn/	[tɨn/tɨn]	'we'
/kʉn/	[kɨn]	'and'
/mʉra/	[mɨrá]	'good smell'
/kʉi/	[kɨi]	'bird'
/pʉiya/	[pɨiyá]	'you all go!'
/kʉpkʉ/	[kɨpkɨ]	'wind'
/mbʉ/	[mbɨ]	'plural'
/kʉŋ/	[kɨn/kɨŋ]	'skin'
/kʉmb/	[kɨmpʰ]	'count'

/tɯl/   [tĩḷ/tɨḷ]   'we 2'

Phonemes	Allophones
/o/	[o] Voiced mid, close back, rounded vocoid occurs word initial, medial and final and the first member of a complex nuclei - /ou/ and /oi/.

[ɔ] Voiced, mid, open back, rounded vocoid occurs between consonants

/ok/	[okʰ]	'they came'
/oka/	[oká]	'sweet potato'
/owa/	[owá]	'dog'
/mon/	[mon]	'fruit'
/rok/	[rokʰ]	'tobacco'
/mon/	[mon]	'no'
/no/	[no]	'you eat!'
/mbo/	[mbo]	'seed'
/koŋun/	[kɔ́ŋʋn]	'work'
/koŋʋnd/	[kɔ́ŋʋntʰ]	'to bite'
/kond/	[kɔntʰ]	'new'
/ou/	[ou]	'big'
/pou/	[pou]	'wing'
/oi enɪm/	[oi ɛ́nʋm]	'to laugh'
/boi nɪnɪm/	[boi nɪ́nɪm]	'something falls down'

5. CONTRASTS OF PHONEMES

5.1. CONSONANTS

/p/ /mb/ /m/ /w/

/pa/	[pa]	'you go!'
/mba/	[mba]	'he will go'
/ma/	[ma]	'mother'
/wa/	[wa]	'come!'

/puɫ/	[puɫ↓]	'trunk'	
/mbuɫ/	[mbuɫ↓]	'back'	
/muɫ/	[muɫ↓]	'sky'	
/wɛl/	[wɛl̩↓]	'west'	

/opa/	[opá]	'name'
/omba/	[ombá]	'he will come'
/oma/	[omá]	'fish'
/owa/	[owá]	'yes'

/kupa/	[kupá]	'cloud'
/kumba/	[kumbá]	'door'
/koma/	[komá]	'cool'
/kowa ngena/	[kowá ngɛná]	'kind of bamboo'

/op/	[opʰ]	'yam'
/omb/	[ompʰ]	'sugar cane'
/om/	[om]	'he is coming'
/ap/	[apʰ]	'name'
/amb/	[ampʰ]	'woman'
/um/	[ĩm]	'Koroka nuts'

/t̪/   /n̪d/   /n̪/   /r/

/t̪ʊk/	[t̪ĩkʰ]	'they got'
/n̪duk/	[n̪dukʰ]	'finishing'
/n̪ʊk/	[n̪ĩkʰ]	'they talked'
/rʊk/	[řʊkʰ]	'inside'
/n̪di/	[n̪di]	'hair'
/t̪i/	[t̪i]	'one'
/n̪i/	[n̪i]	'and'

/rui/	[řui]	'axe'

/mata/	[máta]	'banana'
/manda/	[mànda]	'close to'
/mana/	[mána]	'down'
/mara/	[mářa]	'name of tree'
/etɪm/	[ɛt́ɪm]	'he is doing'
/endɪm/	[ɛ́ndɪm]	'it's cooked'
/enɪm/	[ɛ́nɪm]	'they'

/kʉŋ kut/	[kĩŋ kutʰ]	'tatoo'
/ik kund/	[ik.kuntʰ]	'persuade'
/kʉn/	[kĩn]	'and'
/kʊr/	[kʊ̃ř]	'spirit'

/ʉt/	[ĩtʰ]	'cold'
/und/	[untʰ]	'before'
/un/	[un]	'you are coming'
/ʊr petim/	[ʊ̃ř pétim]	'he's sleeping'

/t/ /nd/ /n/ /r/ /y/

/tamb/	[tampʰ]	'let me get it'
/ndamb/	[ndampʰ]	'finishing'
/namb/	[nampʰ]	'let me eat it'
/ramb/	[řampʰ]	'let me hit it'
/yand/	[yantR̃]	'come back'

/ta/	[ta]	'father'

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/na/	[na]	'I'
/nda/	[nda]	'I wonder'
/ya/	[ya]	'here'

/wuta/	[wutá]	'father'
/anda/	[ánda]	'old'
/ana/	[ána]	'brother'
/ara/	[ářa]	'name'
/wuiya/	[wíiya]	'you all come'

/ekɪt omba/[ɛkɪtʰ ombá] 'he will come outside'

/end/	[ɛntR̃]	'I did'
/en/	[ɛn]	'you are doing'

/k/ /n/ /ng/

/kaŋ/	[kaŋ]	'boy'
/ŋgu/	[ŋgu]	'teeth'
/ŋʊn/	[ŋʊn]	'gave'

/kała/	[káła]	'you cook!'
/ŋgała/	[ŋgáła]	'pain in the hips'
/nała/	[náła]	'name of bananas'

/paka/	[páka]	'posts'
/paŋga/	[páŋga]	'inside of pandanus'
/mana/	[mána]	'house'

/rukʊr/	[řukʊř]	'inside'
/ruŋʊr/	[řúŋʊř]	'I cut the pig'

/kŋ mak/	[kŋ makʰ]	'pig with big ears'
/ maŋ/	[maŋ]	'house'
/ maŋg/	[maŋkʰ]	'insect ruined sweet potatoe'

/ak/	[akʰ]	'person's name'
/aŋ/	[aŋ]	'to stand'
/aŋg/	[aŋkʰ]	'thank you'

/m/ /n̠/ /n/ /ŋ/

/mun maŋa/	[mun máŋa]	'worship house'
/n̠ʉnd/	[n̠ïntR̃]	'I talked'
/nʊn/	[nʊn]	'you ate'
/ŋʊn/	[ŋʊn]	'you gave'

/manɪm/	[mánɪm]	'my mother'
/n̠ʉmɪn/	[n̠ïmɪ́n]	'we will talk'
/nʉmɪn	[nïmɪ́n]	'we will eat'
/ŋʉmɪn/	[ŋïmɪ́n]	'we will give'

/namɪn/	[námɪn]	'my'
/kan̠ɪm/	[kán̠ɪm]	'he is seeing'
/kanɪm/	[kánɪm]	'he is cooking'
/kaŋɪm/	[káŋum]	'son'

/nʉmʉnd/	[nïmïhtR̃]	'I did not stay'
/n̠ʉnʊnd/	[n̠ïn̠ʊntR̃]	'I did not talk'
/nʉnʊnd/	[nïnʊntR̃]	'I did not eat'

/ŋɨnɨnd/	[ŋ̃ínĩntR̃]	'I did not give'
/kum/	/kʊm/	'name of river'
/kɨn/	/kïn/	'and'
/kʊn/	/kʊn/	'straight'
/kɨŋ/	/kïŋ/	'skin'
/kɪm/	[kɪm]	'greens'
/kin/	[kin]	'stare'
/kɪn/	[kɪn]	'dog scratches'
/keŋ/	[kɛŋ]	'cheek'

/l/ /ḷ/ /ld/ /r/

/ɬawa/	[ɬáwa]	'wrong'
/lala/	[ḷáḷa]	'to sob'
/ldapa/	[ldápa]	'torn'
/rapa/	[řápa]	'men's house'
/paḷa/	[páḷa]	'fence'
/pɨla/	[piḷá]	'you 2 go'
/ɨldɨ/	[ïldï]	'other side'
/ ora/	[orá]	'to show'
/waḷum/	[wáḷʊm]	'him only'
/waḷɪŋa/	[wáḷɪŋa]	'to swing hands'
/waldɪp/	[wáldɪpʰ]	'to ask'
/wʊrʊp/	[wʊřʊpʰ]	'name of place'
/muɬ/	[muɬ]	'egg'

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/mɪl/	[mɪl̪]	'trap'
/muld/	[mĩltR̃]	'to singsing dance'
/mur/	[muř]	'cave'

5.2. CONTRASTS OF VOWELS

/a/ /e/ /i/ /o/ /u/ /ʉ/ /ɪ/ /ʌ/

/kand/	[kantR̃]	'I'm cooking'
/kend/	[kɛntR̃]	'spring/well'
/kond/	[kontʰ]	'new/alive'
/kɪnd/	[kɪntR̃]	'bow'
/kund/	[kuntR̃]	'red'
/kʉnd/	[kĩntʰ]	'cicada'

/ma/	[ma]	'mother'
/me/	[mɛ]	'taro'
/mo/	[mo]	'hide'
/mi/	[mi]	'promise'
/mu/	[mu]	'gather food'
/mbʉ/	[mbĩ]	'some'

/mba/	[mba]	'he will go'
/mbo/	[mbo]	'seed'
/mbi/	[mbi]	'name'
/mbe/	[mbɛ]	'kind of banana'
/mbʉ/	[mbĩ]	'some'
/mbu/	[mbu]	'some'

/kan/	[kan]	'he saw'
/ken/	[kɛn]	'kina shell'

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/kin/	[kin]	'dog scratches'
/kɪn/	[kɪn]	'to stare'
/kon kon/	[kon kon]	'thunder clap'
/kun/	[kun]	'straight'
/kʉn/	[kĩn]	'and'

/kaɬa/	[káɭa]	'you cook!'
/keɬ/	[kɛɭ]	'small'
/koɬ/	[koɭ]	'flat place'
/kɪɬ/	[kɪɭ]	'little pig path'
/uɬ/	[uɭ]	'fashion'
/kʉɬ/	[kĩɭ]	'some'

/nand/	[nantʰ]	'where'
/end/	[ɛntR̃]	'I'm doing'
/n̠ɪnt/	[n̠ɪntR̃]	'I talked'
/nond/	[nontR̃]	'I'm eating'
/nʊnd/	[nʊntR̃]	'I ate'
/nʉnd/	[nĩntR̃]	'I'm talking'

/ai/	[ai]	'exlaimation'
/ei/	[ei]	'this'
/oi/	[oi]	'to laugh'
/ui/	[ui]	'time'
/ʉi/	[ĩi]	'tail'

6. DISTRIBUTION OF PHONEMES

6.1. CONSONANTS

All single consonants may occur in all consonant positions of the word with the following limitations.

    a. The dental lateral /l/ and the velar lateral /ɫ/ occur in all positions of the word, however they both occur infrequently word initial.

    b. The flapped alveolar vibrant /ld/ occurs only between vowels in words.

    c. Both semi-vowels /w/ and /y/ occur word initial and between vowels - never word final.

    d. All pre-nasalized stops, /mb/, /nd/, /ŋg/; and laterals - dental /l/ and velar /ɫ/ occur word initial and between vowels with voicing, however these all occur word final with out voicing as [mp], [nt], [ŋk], [l], and [ɫ].

6.2. VOWELS

All vowels may occur in all vowel positions except /ʟ/ only occurs between consonants.

/and/	[antʰ]	'sun'
/kan/	[kan]	'rope'
/oka/	[oká]	'sweet potato'
/nond/	[nontR̃]	'I am eating'
/po/	[po]	'sugar cane'
/em/	[ɛm]	'taro'
/pem/	[pɛm]	'he slept'
/nde/	[ndɛ]	'wood'
/ik/	[ikʰ]	'talk'
/pin/	[pin]	'you will sleep'
/ki/	[ki]	'hands'
/upuɫ/	[upʋɫ]	'digging stick'
/kupa/	[kupá]	'cloud'
/ku/	[ku]	'stone'
/ nd/	[untR̃]	'before'
/puruŋ/	[pʋřúŋ]	'they went'

/wʊ/	[wʊ]	'man'
/utʃenim/	[ît ɛ́nim]	'it's cold'
/tʉn/	[tîn]	'we all'
/mbʉ/	[mbî]	'plural'
/mɪn/	[mɪn]	'soul'
/n̠ɪm/	[n̠ɪm]	'you'

Vowel clusters of two vowels may occur in all CVV, VV, or VVC syllables of the word

/oi.e. nɪm/	[oi ɛ́nɪm]	'to laugh'
/koi.ya/	[koi.yá]	'knife'
/ai/	[ai]	'exclamation'
/aim/	[aim]	'milk'
/kaimp/	[kaimpʰ]	'to be sorry'
/ei/	[ei]	'this'
/wei/	[wei]	'very'
/ui/	[ui]	'season'
/ui.yo/	[uî.yo]	'Good day to you!'
/kui/	[kui]	'rat'
/ʉi/	[îi]	'tail'
/kʉi/	[kîi]	'bird'
/ou/	[ou]	'big'
/pou/	[pou]	'wing'

7. THE SYLLABLE

The syllable comprises a nucleus of one or two vowels which may be preceded or followed by a consonant. Each syllable nucleus is a unit of potential stress placement. Vowel clusters /ai/, /ei/, /oi/, /ou/, /ʉi/, /ui/, comprise the complex nucleus of the syllable having one stress.

Mono-syllable Patterns

VV	/ei/	[ei]	'this'

VVC	/aim/	[aim]	'milk'
CVV	/kai/	[kai]	'good'
CVVC	/koip/	[koipʰ]	'obedient'
CV	/ku/	[ku]	'stone'
VC	/op/	[opʰ]	'yam'
CVC	/kun/	[kʌn]	'straight'
V	/i/	[i]	'like this'
CC	/kŋ/	[kŋ]	'pig' *

*It is one of a kind-most important cultural word- No vowel. Probably a mid vowel which has dropped out.

Two Syllable Patterns

VC.CV	/ul.ki/	[úl̩.ki]	'kind of kapule'
V.CV	/i.ti/	[í.ti]	'you do it'
CV.CVV	/mu.ɨi/	[mu.ɟ̣ïi]	'you all stay'
CV.CV	/ka.nda/	[ká.nda]	'all right/o.k.'
CVC.CV	/kɨp.kɨ/	[kíp.kɨ]	'wind'
CVV.CV	/pɨi.yo/	[pɨ́i.yo]	'you all go'
CV.CVC	/nɨ.kɨɨ/	[nɨ̈.kíɨ̣]	'they 2 said'
CV.CVVC	/rɨ.ɨaip/	[r̈.ɟ̣aipʰ]	'line of people'
V.CVV	/e.tɨi/	[ɛ.tïi]	'you all do it'

More than two Syllable Patterns

V. CV. CVC	/e. ndʉ .tɨŋ/	[ɛ.ndʉ.tĩŋ]	'they did it for me'
CV. CV. CV	/mu. ɨa .ŋga/	[mu.ɟ̣á.ŋga]	'let him stay'
CV. CVC. CVC	/ko. ŋgʉl. mɨn/	[kɔ.ŋgʉḷ.mɨ́n]	'we will bite'
V. CV. CV	/a. ŋgʉ. ɨa/	[á.ŋgʉ.ɟ̣a]	'stand up'
V. CV. CV. CV	/o. ɨʉ. ŋge. na/	[o.ɟ̣ʉ.ŋg .ná]	'they came and I will not stay'

CV. CV. CVC	/nʉ. mbʊ. ʉmb/	[n̄ĭ. mbʊ.]ʌ́mbʰ]	'I will not stay'
CV. CVV. CV	/mu. ʉi. yo/	[mu. n̄í. yo]	'You all stay'
CV. CV. CV. CV.	/nʉ. pʉ. la. ŋga/	[n̄ĭ. pi. lá. ŋga]	'don't let him hear it'
V. CV. CV. CV. CV	/e. ndɪ. lɪ. ŋe. na/	[ɛ.ndɪ.lɪ ŋe. ná]	'they did it for me'

8. The Phonological Word

The phonological word in Melpa consists of one to five syllables with one primary stress (a composite of higher pitch and intensity which tends to be longer than normal).

In the verbs, the stress falls on the final syllable of words of two or more syllables in the future tenses and the Dual and Plural person number of the Present, Past and Far Past Tenses..

[akɪmbá]	'he will dig'	[orʊmbʉ́]	'we 2 are coming'
[kɪnámpʰ]	'let me see'	[pɪlɪmbʉ́]	'they 2 heard'
[kanɪmbʉ́]	'they 2 are seeing'		
[itəmɪ́n]	'we will do it'	[ɛnɪmɪ́n]	'were doing it'
[nɪmbɪ́]	'we 2 will talk'	[moɭíŋ]	'they stayed'
[r̄iɭɪ́ŋ]	'they will plant'	[tǐtíŋ]	'they put it FP'
[kur̄mʊ́n]	'they died'		

The stress falls on the first /a/ or first syllable of singular person number of the Present, Past and Far Past tense verbs.

[ákɪnɪm]	'he is digging'	[pɪ́lɪm]	'he heard'
[ákʊntʰ]	'I'm digging'	[íkʊntʰ]	'he dug'
[píntʰ]	'I heard'	[káɭʊm]	'he cooked'
[tɛ́kɪr̄ʊntʰ]	'I'm running'	[ápar̄ʊm]	'he picked up'
[mór̄ʊm]	'he's staying'	[r̄imʊ́ntR̄]	'I sewed'
[ítɪm]	'he did FP'	[pʊ́r̄ʊm]	'he went FP'

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[muŕʊm]	'he stayed FP'	[íŋgîtʰ]	'I stood FP'
[ʎ́kîr̃]	'I built FP'	[muḷáŋgʌ]	'let him stay'

The Stress falls on the 1st vowel of the Singular person of the Imperative Aspect, and on the 1st vowel of the Dual person affix [-îḷə], and on the dipthong of plural person affixes [-îiyə].

[ɛ́tə]	'do it'	[kîḷîḷə]	'you 2 cook'
[ə́kə]	'dig it'	[muḷîḷə]	'you 2 stay'
[tιkιŕə]	'run'	[pîḷə]	'you 2 go'
[itîiyə]	'you all do it'	[piḷîiyə]	'you all hear'
[wîiyə]	'you all come'		

When the verb includes the negative prefix /na/ or /ni/, then a seconary stress /‐/ occurs. When the final syllable is a future suffix, then the primary stress /´/ falls on it, and the secondary stress /‐/ falls on the negative prefix. In all other cases the negative prefix receives the primary stress /´/.

[íti nítuntʰ]	'I didn't do it'	[ni námbʊḷ]	'we 2 aren't talking'
[íti n̄ītímpʰ]	'I will not do it'	[rui nár̃ınmυn]	'we aren't hitting'
[ur̆ pi n̄īpímpʰ]	'I will not sleep'	[ti nátʈnmbʊ ḷ]	'we 2 aren't getting'
[pi nápʊnt̃R]	'I'm not going'	[pi nápĭnmʊn]	'we aren't going'
[kʎni nəkʎntʰ]	'I'm not seeing'	[nui nánʊmʊn]	'we aren't eating'
[ui nʎwʊmbá]	'he will not come'		

In the Imperative tense, the dipthongs /ʉi/, /ou/, /oi/, /ui/, /ei/, /ai/, or the /a/ when present, takes the stress.

When the verbs are neggated, the negative /na-/ or /ni-/ prefix usually takes the stress.

In all other words, the stress falls on the 1st /a/ or dipthongs or 1st syllable in that preferential order. We are only writing stress when it is unpredictable.

[ámə]	'very'	[aiyə]	'sister'
[ámbʊḷʌ]	'girl'	[n̄ḷaipʰ]	'line of people'

[máŋa]   'house'   [ɭumǐi]   'wash'

[ɛpɩndámə] 'afternoon'   [kɩnán]   'song'

[əparʌ]   'to forget'   [kaipʌ]   'cassarina'

[námbʌ]   'what'   [ɛnɩmpʰ]   'lazy'

[ndʊɭwʊ]   'stick'   [kʊmbə]   'door'

MONO-SYLLABLES

/kui/   [kuí]   'rat'

/kui/   [kuí]   'sick'

/kʉi/   [kĩí]   'bird'

/uimb/   [uimpʰ]   'Let me come'

/wimb/   [wímpʰ]   'name'

/muɬ/   [múɭ]   'egg'

/muɬ/   [múɭ]   'sky'

TWO-SYLLABLES

/a. ldɩŋ/   [a. ldɩŋ]   'east-close by'

/pi. pɩɬ/   [pi. pɩɭ]   'shame'

/tʊ. mbaɬ/   [tʊ. mbáɭ]   'Jews Harp'

/ka. lɩmb/   [ka. lɩmpʰ]   'moon'

/koi. yə/   [koi. yá]   'knife'

/te. nda/   [tɛ. ndá]   'one'

/ndi. tɩŋ/   [ndí. tɩŋ]   'drum'

/pɩl. ma/   [pɩɭ. mʌ]   'bee'

/ku. ɬi/   [ku. ɭi]   'to die'

/ku. ɬi/   [ku. ɭi]   'to draw water'

/ku. pa. nda/	[ku. pá. nda]	'spear'
/ko. kɛ.la/	[ko. kɛ.lá]	'not yet ready'
/koi. pu. ka/	[koi. pu. ká]	'Clan name'
/ki. ya. pu. ɬa/	[ki. yá. pu. ḷa]	'kind of mushroom'
/mo. ŋe. ndamp/	[mo. ŋɛ. ndámpʰ]	'caterpillar'
/a. nd .ŋgil/	[a. ndɛ. ŋgɛ ḷ]	h'they 2 are walking'
/kɛ. ra. pɛl/	[kɛ. řá. pɛḷ]	'ant'

9. INTONATION

When making a statement, a falling intonation pattern occurs over the later part of the statement. It is noted that when asking a question, the question words or markers and time words have a sharp raise in intonation. The following intonation patterns have been observed. Later on, a paper on intonation and stress may be written.

1. Na ŋa maŋ kona punt.
   I   my house place am going.
   'I'm going to my house.'

2. Ruŋ nop puluŋ kundup kuŋ. akup maŋ kona mbi ent.
   food eating stomach putting and now house place go/1st fut.
                                                    I am doing.

   I having eaten food, now I'm going home'

3. Na Melpa ik rulaip rop kunkmp.
   I Melpa talk village hitting let me see
   'I want to learn to talk Melpa

10. MORPHOPHONEMICS

There are 3 different verb classes which are shown according to the morphophonemic changes in the verb stems. Present tense stem vowel stays the same in all person numbers.
Completive, Near Completive and Near Future stem vowel changes as follows:

Class 1 - HIGH BACK VOWELS
VERBS

Class 1 basic stem vowel **/o/**   **/u/**   in Completive, Near Completive and Future.

<u>no--nt</u>	<u>nu--r</u>
eat-1st Pres.	eat-1st N. Comp.
'I'm eating'	'I ate a week ago'

<u>ro--nt</u>	<u>ru--nt</u>
hit-1st Pres.	hit-1st Comp.
'I am hitting'	'I hit (it).'

Basic stem **/o/** constitutes the complete stem. It is replaced by **/w/** when followed by initial **/a/** in the Imed. Future and Non Final Different Subject aspects.

<u>o--amp</u>	<u>w--amp</u>
come-1st I.Fut.	'Let me come'

The Basic Stem final vowel **/o/** is lost preceding the suffix initial **/a/** in the Immediate Future aspect.

<u>no-amp</u>	<u>n--amp</u>
eat- 1st I Fut.	'Let me eat (it)'

<u>ro--amp</u>	<u>r--amp</u>
hit-1st I.Fut.	'Let me hit (it).

Class II - FRONT VOWEL CLASS

The Class II stem vowel **/e/**   **/i/**   in the Near Completive, Future and Completive Aspects.

<u>e--nt</u>	<u>i--nt</u>
do-1st Pres.	do-1st Comp.
I'm doing it'	'I did it'

<u>ur pe--nt</u>
sleep-1st Pres.
'I am sleeping'

<u>ur pi--nt</u>
sleep-1st Comp.
'I slept'

<u>me--nt</u>
carry-1st Pres.
'I am carrying'

<u>mi--nt</u>
carry-1st Comp.
'I carried'

Class III - CENTRAL VOWEL CLASS

The first stem vowel **/a/** **/ʉ/** in the Completive, Future and N. Completive aspects of the verb.

<u>akʉ--nt</u>
dig-1st Pres.
'I am digging'

<u>ʉkʉ--nt</u>
dig- 1st Comp.
'I dug (it)'

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Proposed Orthography

PHONEME	LUTHERAN	PREVIOUS	PROPOSED
/i/	ee	i	i
/ɪ/	i	i	i
/e/	e	e	e
/u/	u	u	u
/ʊ/	u	u	u
/ʉ/	ä	ʉ	ʉ
/o/	o	o	o
/a/	ə	ə	ə
/p/	p	p	p
/mb/	b-mp-mp	b-mb-mb	mb-mb-mp
/t/	t	t	t
/t̲/	t	t	t
/nd/	nt-nt-nt	d-nd-nd	nd-nd-nt
/n̲d̲/	nd	nd	nd
/k/	k	k	k
/ng/	nk	g-ngg-ngk	g-ngg-ngk
/n̲t̲/	nt	nj	nt
/m/	m	m	m
/n̲/	n	n	n
/n/	m	n	n
/n/	n	n	n
/r/	r	r	r
/l/	l	l	l
/ł/	gl	ł	ł
/ld/	rl	ld-ld-lt	ld-ld-lt
/w/	w	w	w
/y/	y	y	y

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*Note – The Lutheran Orthography has been used for many years and has the New Testament in it.

The previous Orthography, is the one we suggested when we came. The 4 fellows we had in for NTC, wrote stories in this orthography and we published the Easter and Christmas story in it. The Committee didn't like our symbols for pre-nasalized stops so they decided on how they wanted us to write them. They said they wanted to see it in print before finally deciding on the Orthography, so so we have published a number of books. We have asked the committee about having a meeting on deciding the orthography and they said they don't need one as they are happy with it and it doesn't take long for peope to learn to read it.

II. Orthography Issues

1. Word Divisions –

Word divisions are determined by the following:

a. There is only one composite primary stress with intensity and length in a word.

b. Any word ending in a prenaselized stop becomes voiceless whereas initially or medially it is voiced.

c. Certain combinations don't come together so therefore, one knows where the word breaks.

2. Treatment of Loanwords by the language –

Since Tok Pisin and English are widely used in Melpa, we are using the letters /j/ and /s/ in loan words. Many Melpa people have names using these letters such as Joseph, Jacop, Jon, Simon and etc. In the olden days, the people in at least the Catholic and Lutheran churches used the terms **Yesu** or **Yesus** for Jesus but now the Committee decided to just use the term **Jisas**. If these churches want to still use these terms, thats fine but for the New Testament, they want to use **Jisas**.

We have included these two symbols in the Transfer Primers as well as the Alphabet book. In transliterating other words, we use /r/ or /t/ instead of /nd/, /p/ instead of /mb/ and etc. making the word as close as possible to the Tok Pisin or English using the Melpa symbols.

3. Dialect Situation –

There are 5 dialects in Melpa. The Central dialect is said to be understood by all others. There are some vocabulary differences such as in the Central Dialect the one ending of the verb is the affix /k/ whereas the Dei Kaunsel area or far east dialect has /ŋgk/. So you have /ok/ instead of /oŋgk/ and /nʉk/ instead of

/neŋgk/. The translators recognize these and just make adjustments when they are committee checking.

In the far dialects to the east and west, both use many more of the 6th vowel /u/, have a different word for the subject marker and have some differences in vocabulary. In the Central dialect – /ndi/is used and /ent/ is used in the east and west dialects. In the other dialects it is mainly the vowels that change and they seem to fluctuate freely.

Ama unt kor nga kang wu kat amp kinan ning pilik purung. Puk amp kinan manga ila morung. Puk molk kun amp kinan nutung. Kinan nuk, motina al kona ei ya nondpa rangmba pilpa itim. I elinga kun, kang wu mbu enimp rotunga kun, mana manga rukina mbila elpa elpa ur petung.

Kang wu mat amp kinan nuk morung I elingina Rotim Pundi ni wamp ei ya, omba ambuta ti nga wur ila motpa, amp ei ya kinan nitim. I elinga elim mbo kang wu mel ratpa kun, kinan nimba murum. Kang wu ti ndi kur ei ya kandpa mbi Ndupa kun nimba mel, "Nim ila nambut itin un?" nitim. Kur ei ya nimba mel, "Na amp kinan nimp nump unt, ei ka!" Wote mbo kang wu ei ya ndi nimba mel, "Nim manda kel kun pi," nitim. Rotim Pundi ni wamp ei ya omba mba etpa mel ambuta ti ropa kondpa tepa purum. Ei ya mel manda.

Long time ago some men from my village went in order to turn head with some girls. They turning head until midnight kept staying. Keeping on staying and the women turning head sang. Singing, some men were still half asleep on the floor. But some of them kept on turning head with some girls. Right at that time, a devil named Pundi was there sitting near a girl and started to turn head with her. They did not know it was a devil because he pretended to be a real man and stayed. There was one man who watching him realized who he was, and said to him, "Why did you come here?" The spirit then said, "I came to turn head with those girls." So the real man told Rotim Pundi that he could leave now. So he got up and came outside and he killed one girl and then went away. Thats the story.