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## **TAMALELE PHONEMICS**

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**December 1970**

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## IAMALELE PHONEMICS

### 2. Introduction

The Iamalele language is a Melanesian language of the Dobu language family. There are approximately 2,000 speakers inhabiting much of the western half of Fergusson Island in the D'Entrecasteaux group in the Milne Bay District of Papua. Although Dobu is the official church language, and a lingua franca for the D'Entrecasteaux Islands, Bwaidega (Goodenough Is.) is far more widely used it being closer cognate to Iamalele than Dobu.

A good number of people are literate in Dobu and Bwaidega, and these have made the transition to Iamalele. There is a printed Bible and hymns in Dobu, and hymns in Bwaidega. The village pastors teach the local children in Iamalele or Bwaidega whichever is their first language.

The data for this paper was collected during twelve months residence in Naie village. from December '68 to October '70 including four separate periods. A variety of informants of all ages, and both sexes was used mostly from the area immediately associated with Naie.

## TAMALELE PHONEMICS

### 3. Outline of Phonemes

#### 3.1. Chart of Phonemes

##### Consonants

		Labial	Alveolar	Velar	Gleittal
Stops	v1		t	k k <sup>w</sup>	χ χ <sup>w</sup>
	v'd	b b <sup>w</sup>	d		
Fricatives	v1	f f <sup>w</sup>	s		
	v'd	v		g	
Nasals	m	m <sup>w</sup>	n		
Lateral			l		
Semi-voceoids	w		y		

##### Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Low	e	a	ə

(The symbols /f/, /v/, /y/, /g/, /t/, /e/, /a/ and /u/ are not the true phonetic norms, but are used for simplification throughout this paper. See 5.1.2., and 5.2.2. for phonetic descriptions)

### 3.2. Contrastive Features

Consonants contrast as to manner of articulation between voiced and voiceless stops and fricatives; nasals; a lateral; and semi-vowels. There is labialisation of labial, velar and glottal stops; voiceless labial fricative; and labial nasal. Contrast as to place of articulation occurs, in voiceless stops at alveolar, velar and glottal positions; in voiced stops, voiceless fricatives, nasals and semi-vowels at labial and alveolar positions; in voiced fricatives at labial and velar positions.

Vowels contrast vertically as to high and low tongue positions. The high vowels contrast as to front and back tongue positions. The low vowels contrast as to front, central and back tongue positions.

4. Interpretation

4.1. The status of items which may be either consonant or vowel

The high voiceoids /i/ and /u/ are interpreted as vowels when they carry the peak of syllabacity in the syllable in which they occur.

/'ivi/	[i'vi]	'mat'
/dinigala/	[dinigala]	'centipede'
/tutulina/	[tutulina]	'payback'
/'itu/	[i'tu]	'revenge'
/'uloga/	[i'loga]	'eel'

They are interpreted as consonants when they occur in consonant positions in the syllable, i.e. between vowels, or initially before vowels, and do not carry the peak of syllabacity. (as a consonant, /y/ has a pronounced fricative quality. see 5.1.2. description of consonants).

/'ayaneye/	[ayəneye]	'underneath'
/i'ioyo/	[i'leyo]	'he swings'
/yayu/	[yayu]	'casuarina tree'
/kiayovana/	[kiayəvana]	'bend'
/waka/	[waka]	'boat'
/bave/	[bäve]	'pig'
/'aiwabu/	[i'ivabu]	'chief'
/sosowana/	[sosəwana]	'happy'

4.2. Status of items which may be either sequence or unit

4.2.1. Labialised consonants are interpreted as a unit C for the following reasons.

- (1) Interpretation as CCV sequence would introduce consonant clusters and there are none others in the language.
- (2) Interpretation as CuV would introduce downglides /ua/ and /ue/ which would be extremely limited in their distribution, of low functional value when glides are not a feature of the language.
- (3) There is contrast between CV<sup>W</sup> and CV<sup>L</sup>, as in:

/tab<sup>W</sup>ana/ [tabwana] 'top'

/tubuaka/ [tubukaka] 'sterehouse'

/m<sup>W</sup>ali/ [miali] 'arale'

/muala/ [miala] 'baby's vomit'

/k<sup>W</sup>ala/ [kwala] 'type of tabu'

/kuala/ [kuala] 'break open'

/'wa'wa'wa/ ['wa'wa'wa] 'species of ant'

/yai'ua'ua/ [yai'ua'ua] 'tangle'

/talaf<sup>W</sup>ea/ [talafwea] 'cut yam into small pieces'

/fuedi/ [fuedi] 'many'

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(4) These are the equivalent of the five labialised consonants which occur in the Debu, Kiriwina, and Miyuw languages, where they have been proven phonemically to be single unit phonemes.

4.2.2. Vowel sequences are interpreted as separate syllables for the following reasons.

(1) There are no single syllable words, therefore:

/'ai/	[ 'ai ]	"fire"
/to.a/	[ tða ]	"wash"
/mu.i/	[ mhi ]	"weevil"
/di.u/	[ ðhu ]	"fork"
/i.e.u/	[ ieu ]	"goodbye"
/de.u/	[ ðeu ]	"raft"
/va.o.a/	[ vðoa ]	"cloud"
/wa.i.e.u/	[ wðieu ]	"casuarina tree"

(2) There is potential stress placement on all vowel positions, and stress is predictable, therefore non-phonemic. (see 5.3.)

/'wala.uta/	[ 'walaðuta ]	"bush fowl"
/'asi.a.u/	[ 'asiamu ]	"today"
/vu.agá/	[ vuðaga ]	"fruit"
/vu.agina/	[ vuðagina ]	"its fruit"

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/ivesi.a.i/	[ivesiai]	"lessen"
/tibu.a.una/	[tibuðuna]	"young man"
/ki.a.egala/	[kiæðgala]	"break"

- (3) All vowels take peak of syllabacity, and equal length, so are not interpreted as glides or units.

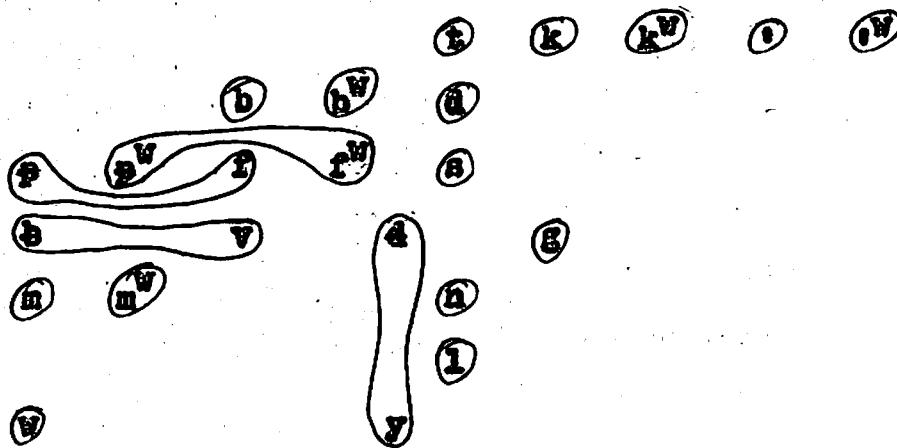
/i.eva.i/	[iɛvai]	"carry"
/te.af <sup>v</sup> a.i/	[teðfai]	"explodes"
/buse.umatana/	[buseumðtana]	"ankle"
/i'anifu.afu.a.i/	[i'anifuafiai]	"it dissolves"
/tu.atu.a.ina/	[tuðtuaina]	"old"
/dagi.egi.e.u/	[dagiegleu]	"species of ant"
/ya.i.a.ima/	[yaiðaina]	"bush spirit"
/'wa.i.o.u/	['waieu]	"species of tree"

## LAMALELE PHONEMICS

### 5. Description of phonemes.

#### 5.1. Consonants.

##### 5.1.1. Work chart.



#### 5.1.2. Description

/t/ voiceless alveolar stop occurs word initially and medially. It is never followed by /i/ or /e/.

/taitauya/ [taitəuya] "let us leave"

/'aseta/ ['asetə] "understanding"

/tomotoga/ [təmətəga] "persons"

/tuatuaina/ [tuatuāina] "old"

/k/ voiceless velar stop occurs word initially and medially.

/'akonadi/ ['akənadi] "already"

/kamoku/ [kāmoku] "my stomach"

/maki/ [maki] "betel nut"

/kebu/ [kēbu] "no"

/kʷ/ labialised voiceless velar stop occurs word initially and medially, before vowels /e/ and /a/.

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/k <sup>w</sup> agek <sup>w</sup> age/	[kwagèkwage]	"screech"
/k <sup>w</sup> eli/	[kwèli]	"song"
/luk <sup>w</sup> esisi/	[lukwèsisi]	"kiss"
/k <sup>w</sup> aitu/	[kwàitu]	"sugar cane"

// Glottal stop occurs word initially and medially. Its occurrence initially fluctuates within and between speakers for some words; in these cases it contrasts with words where it must occur, and so is not symbolised.

/'ani'ie/	[ 'ani'ie]	"distant"
/labu'eta/	[labù'eta]	"crab"
/bani'edi/	[bani'edi]	"like"

/'/<sup>w</sup> Labialised rounded glottal stop occurs word initially and medially, before /a/ and /e/.

/'w <sup>w</sup> eɪ/	[ 'wèɪ]	"rain"
/ilè'w <sup>w</sup> a/	[ilè'wa]	"he arrived"
/'w <sup>w</sup> aududu/	[ 'wàududu]	"end of roof"
/'w <sup>w</sup> e'w <sup>w</sup> ela/	[ 'wè'wela]	"cry"

/b/ Voiced bilabial stop occurs word initially and medially.

/bebewa/	[bebewa]	"butterfly"
/anibaiā/	[ 'anibàia]	"break and fall"
/vèbonu/	[vèbonu]	"make sore"
/labia/	[labbia]	"sage"

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/b<sup>w</sup>/ Labialised rounded voiced bilabial stop occurs word initially and medially before /a/ and /e/.

/b <sup>w</sup> 'ayeb <sup>w</sup> ayo/	[bwaydbwayo]	"crow"
/b <sup>w</sup> 'eb <sup>w</sup> eala/	[buebwala]	"crab"
/ib <sup>w</sup> au/	[ibwau]	"he screams"
/b <sup>w</sup> 'eka/	[bweka]	"pierce"

/d/ Voiced alveolar stop occurs word initially and medially.

/dudubala/	[dudubala]	"darkness"
/'eda/	[ 'eda]	"path"
/ilaudivu/	[ilaudivu]	"he sweeps"
/'udodogi/	[ 'udodogi]	"you put inside"

/f/ [g] [f] Voiceless bilabial and labio-dental fricatives occur word initially and medially - in non-contrastive free variation.

/ivefue/	[ivɛfue]	[ivɛpuə]	"it increases"
/founa/	[fðuna]	[gðuna]	"its egg"
/file/	[fɪlə]	[pɪlə]	"spell"
/faifaina/	[faifaina]	[paipaina]	"reason"

/ɸʷ/ (ɸʷ) (fʷ) labialised rounded voiceless bilabial and labio-dental fricatives occur word initially and medially before /a/ and /e/, in non-contrastive free variation.

/ɸʷayafʷaya/	[ɸwayɸwaya] [ɸwayɸpwaya]	'ground'
/talafʷea/	[talafwea] [talafpwea]	'yam cut small'
/teafʷai/	[teafwai] [teapwai]	'explodes'
/lufʷa/	[lufwa] [luɸwa]	'smoke'

/s/ voiceless alveolar fricative occurs word initially and medially.

/i'iseni/	[i'iseni]	'he sees it'
/'asian/	[ 'asiəu]	'today'
/mesomoso/	[mesəməso]	'grass'
/susu/	[s̩usu]	'clan'

/v/ (b) (β) voiced bilabial and labio-dental fricatives occur word initially and medially in non-contrastive free variation.

/vanuga/	[vənuga]	'house'
/'ivi/	[ 'ivi]	'sleeping mat'
/'uveawai/	[ 'uveawai]	'you rest'
/ivona/	[ivona]	'he says'

/g/ (g) voiced velar fricative occurs word initially and medially, but is never followed by /u/.

/gavia/	[gəvia]	'fight'
/vanuga/	[vənuga]	'house'

/ivegole/	[ivɛgole]	'he calls out'
/giuna/	[giuna]	'its tail'

/v/ voiced bilabial nasal occurs word initially, and medially  
(and finally where /u/ is dropped as final letter  
see Sec. 7.e.)

/meana/	[mɛana]	'tongue'
/k <sup>w</sup> amana/	[kw̬amana]	'child'
/'omi, 'om(u)/	[ 'ɔmi, 'ɔm]	'you (pl.) you (sing)'

/m<sup>w</sup>/ labialised rounded voiced bilabial nasal occurs word initially and medially after any vowel and before /a/ or /e/.

/lulum <sup>w</sup> ea/	[lulumwɛa]	'weak'
/kim <sup>w</sup> ane/	[kimwane]	'buy'
/m <sup>w</sup> aim <sup>w</sup> ai/	[mediimwai]	'hidden'
/dum <sup>w</sup> e/	[dumwe]	'back'

/n/ voiced alveolar nasal occurs initially and medially.

/'waineye/	[ 'waineye]	'at'
/nimana/	[nimana]	'hand'
/i'eno/	[i'əno]	'he sleeps'
/lukuna/	[lukuna]	'leaf'

/l/ voiced alveolar lateral occurs initially and medially.

/k <sup>w</sup> eli/	[kw̬eli]	'song'
/lilivana/	[lilivana]	'beside'
/levana/	[levana]	'night'

/ulekoə/ [ulèkəə] 'you wash'

/w/ voiced high close back rounded non-syllabic vowel  
occurs word initially and medially except contiguous  
to /u/.

/weyagata/ [weyágata] 'name'

/tawou/ [tåwou] 'wallaby'

/lawif<sup>w</sup>a/ [läwifwa] 'knot'

/y/ (g) and (d) voiced dental high close front unrounded  
non-syllabic vowel, and voiced dental fricative occur  
word initially and medially except before /i/, in  
non-contrastive free variation.

/yalua/ [yáluə][dáluə] 'spirit'

/oyeye/ [øyeye][ðedede] 'at the mountains'

/iyuvei/ [iyüvei][iäüvei] 'he blew'

5.1.3. Contrasts

/t/ and /d/ contrast word initially and medially except before /i/ and /e/.

/tutula/	[tütula]	'pay'
/dudubala/	[dudübala]	'darkness'
/tamana/	[tämana]	'his father'
/damana/	[dämana]	'across'
/'asavotega/	[ 'asawötoga]	'right now'
/'edona/	[ 'ëdona]	'his neck'
/'asetä/	[ 'äsetä]	'knowledge'
/kʷeda/	[kʷëda]	'garden house'
/taina/	[täina]	'his younger brother'
/daila/	[däila]	'pitpit'

/h/ and non-glottal contrast word initially and medially.

/mʷa'una/	[mwä'una]	'valley'
/mʷauna/	[mwänua]	'heavy'
/'ani'ie/	[ 'ani'ie]	'distant'
/ava'ai/	[avä'ai]	'what'
/anita'i/	[anitä'i]	'fall'
/asetai/	[asëtai]	'understand'
/ni'uni'u/	[ni'üni'u]	'mosquito'
/siusiu/	[süßsiu]	'species of fruit'

/'ulega/	[ 'üləga]	'end"yabbie"
/uvega/	[ üvega]	'top of tare'
/k/, /kʷ/, /t/ and /tʷ/ contrast word initially and medially before /a/ and /e/.		
/kakala/	[käkala]	'abortion'
/kʷakʷama/	[kwäkʷama]	'children'
/'ani'ie/	[ 'ani'ie]	'distant'
/'wa'wa'wa/	[ 'wə'wa'wa]	'ant'
/'enekekela/	[ 'enekəkela]	'slanting'
/inakʷelola/	[inakʷəlola]	'he will tickle'
/ine'e'ela/	[ine'e'ela]	'maiden'
/ina'wə'wela/	[ina'wə'wela]	'he will cry'
/lakama/	[lákama]	'come up'
/lakʷani/	[lákwanı]	'exchange'
/a'ani/	[a'əni]	'I eat'
/a'ʷava/	[a'ʷava]	'I play'
/wakeye/	[wākeye]	'at the boat'
/akʷeli/	[akʷəli]	'I sing'
/'ai'edi/	[ 'ai'edi]	'suppose'
/a'weli/	[a'wəli]	'I grate'
/bikana/	[bíkana]	'pliable'
/ikʷage/	[ikʷäge]	'it screeches'
/i'ani/	[i'əni]	'he ate'
/bi'ʷa/	[bi'ʷa]	'taro'

/k/ and /g/ contrast word initially and medially.

/kolelo/	[kɔ̄lolo]	'fear'
/gelana/	[gɔ̄lana]	'bitter'
/maki/	[maki]	'arecanut'
/nagi/	[nagi]	'marry'
/bikana/	[bikana]	'pliable'
/igana/	[igana]	'fish'
/bekila/	[bɔ̄kila]	'later'
/maibogi/	[maibogi]	'opossum'
/voke/	[vɔ̄ke]	'maybe'
/begeboge/	[begeboge]	'bandicoot'

/b/ and /bʷ/ contrast word initially and medially before

/a/ and /e/

/bau/	[bavu]	'ignorant'
/bʷavu/	[bʷavu]	'shoots'
/bebewa/	[bebewa]	'butterfly'
/bʷebʷeala/	[bʷebʷeala]	'crab'
/abama/	[abama]	'sky'
/tabʷana/	[tabʷana]	'top'
/'etebala/	[etebala]	'horizontal'
/ebʷala/	[ebʷala]	'garden magic'
/bega/	[bega]	'therefore'
/bʷeka/	[bʷeka]	'pierce'

/t/ and /s/ contrast word initially and medially except before /i/ and /e/.

/tutuya/	[tütuya]	'time'
/isusuya/	[isüsuya]	'nurses'
/taitauya/	[taitäuya]	'let us leave'
/saiboda/	[säibeda]	'deer'
/'Walaauta/	['waläuta]	'bush hen'
/f <sup>W</sup> ausa/	[fwdusa]	'proud'
/tovetago/	[tovëtage]	'cock'
/segieni/	[segieni]	'to chase'
/'atamana/	['atämana]	'outside'
/'asa'aiana/	['asa'ääiana]	'enough'

/f/ and /f<sup>W</sup>/ contrast word initially and medially before /a/ and /e/.

/fayona/	[føyona]	'cold'
/f <sup>W</sup> ayaaf <sup>W</sup> aya/	[fwayäfwaya]	'ground'
/ufa/	[üfa]	'water'
/luf <sup>W</sup> a/	[lüfwa]	'smoke'
/fuedi/	[füedi]	'many'
/talaf <sup>W</sup> ea/	[taläfwea]	'yam pieces'
/faifaina/	[faifäina]	'because'
/'if <sup>W</sup> ai/	['ifwai]	'some'
/ufaufana/	[ufäufana]	'soft, mushy'
/f <sup>W</sup> ausa/	[fwdusa]	'proud'

/f/, /v/, /b/, and /w/ contrast word initially and medially.

/yafana/	[yàfana]	'fat'
/ava'ai/	[avà'ai]	'what'
/abama/	[àbama]	'sky'
/'awa'awai/	['awa'àwai.]	'tomorrow'
/fogena/	[føgena]	'corner'
/vöke/	[vøke]	'maybe'
/bokila/	[bøkila]	'later'
/'asawotoga/	['asawøtoga.]	'right now'
/nifuna/	[nífuna]	'armlet'
/novuna/	[nòvuna]	'opposite sex sibling'
/ibuta/	[ibùta]	'wet'
/yuvefelagi/	[yuvefèlagi]	'blow dust'
/veviga/	[vèviga]	'pain'
/bebewa/	[bèbewa]	'butterfly'
/itaweni/	[itàveni]	'he threw'
/fisiwa/	[fìsiwa]	'net'
/vavine/	[vàvine]	'woman'
/labia/	[làbia]	'sago'
/lawif <sup>w</sup> a/	[làwifwa]	'knot'

/s/ and /y/ contrast word initially and medially except before /i/.

/sesewana/	[sesəwana]	'happy'
/yoyoyo/	[yðyoyo]	'earth tremor'
/sese/	[səse]	'ridge'
/'eyeye/	[ 'øyeye]	'at the mountains'
/'asa'aiana/	[ 'asa'åiana]	'enough'
/'ayana/	[ 'åyana]	'underneath'
/susu/	[sùsu]	'milk'
/yuve/	[yûve]	'to blow'
/sauluva/	[sæuluva]	'customs'
/yauyauta/	[yasyauta]	'hot'

/n/ and /m/ contrast word initially, and medially before /a/ and /e/.

/maufana/	[møufana]	'soft'
/m <sup>V</sup> auna/	[mwåuna.]	'heavy'
/mali'uta/	[mali'uta]	'blackpalm'
/m <sup>V</sup> aliliga/	[mwäliliga]	'boundary'
/meana/	[møana]	'tongue'
/lulum <sup>V</sup> ea/	[lulûmwea]	'weak'
/kumeta/	[kümeta]	'lead'
/dum <sup>V</sup> e'ai/	[dumwë'ai]	'lazy'
/miamaimaiga/	[miamaimäiga]	'idle'
/vaim <sup>V</sup> aim <sup>V</sup> a/	[vaimwämwa]	'to creep'

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/w/, /'w/, /k<sup>w</sup>/, /b<sup>w</sup>/, /f<sup>w</sup>/, and /m<sup>w</sup>/ contrast word initially and medially, before /a/ and /e/.

/fisiwa/	[fisiwa]	"net"
/bi' <sup>w</sup> a/	[bi'wa]	"tare"
/lik <sup>w</sup> a/	[likwa]	"rattle"
/sisib <sup>w</sup> a/	[sisibwa]	"lizard"
/lawif <sup>w</sup> a/	[lawifwa]	"knot"
/vaim <sup>w</sup> aim <sup>w</sup> a/	[vaimwaimwa]	"creep"
/wautogana/	[wautogana]	"walking stick"
/'waududu/	['wàuduðuðu]	"end of house"
/k <sup>w</sup> au/	[kwàu]	"raincloud"
/b <sup>w</sup> au/	[bwàu]	"call out"
/f <sup>w</sup> ausa/	[fwàusa]	"proud"
/m <sup>w</sup> auna/	[mwàuna]	"heavy"
/waifei/	[wàifei]	"seed"
/'wai' <sup>w</sup> ai/	['wài'wai]	"frog"
/dik <sup>w</sup> ai/	[dikwai]	"cricket"
/b <sup>w</sup> aib <sup>w</sup> ai/	[bwàibwai]	"eagle"
/'if <sup>w</sup> ai/	['ifwai]	"some"
/m <sup>w</sup> aim <sup>w</sup> ai/	[mwàimwai]	"hidden"
/weyagata/	[weyàgata]	"flood"
/'wéabu/	['wèabu]	"accompany"
/k <sup>w</sup> eda/	[kwèda]	"garden house"
/b <sup>w</sup> eb <sup>w</sup> eala/	[bwebwèala]	"crab"
/talaf <sup>w</sup> ea/	[talàwfwea]	"yam pieces"
/lulum <sup>w</sup> ea/	[lulùmwéa]	"weak"
/wana/	[wàna]	"steps"
/'wava/	['wàva]	"play"
/k <sup>w</sup> age/	[kwàge]	"screech"
/b <sup>w</sup> adi/	[bwàdi]	"patch"
/f <sup>w</sup> a'u/	[fwà'u]	"be bitter"
/m <sup>w</sup> ali/	[mwàli]	"armlet"

## IAMALELE PHONEMICS

5.2. Vowels5.2.1. Worksheet5.2.2. Description

/i/ [i] Voiced high open front unrounded vowel occurs word initially, medially and finally, but never follows /t/ or /y/.

/'ivi/	[i'vi]	"sleeping mat"
/ieval/	[iəvai]	"he carries on shoulder"
/siaina/	[siäina]	"small"

/e/ [e] Voiced mid open front unrounded vowel occurs word initially, medially and finally, but never follows /t/.

/ivefue/	[ivəfue]	"it multiplies"
/'eaka/	[i'ëaka]	"spoon"
/emave/	[ëmave]	"our friends"

/a/ [a] Voiced low, open central unrounded vowel occurs word initially, medially and finally.

/abama/	[åbama]	"sky"
/'aisena/	[i'ëisena]	"by itself"
/yaoga/	[yåoga]	"smell"
/tubuauna/	[tubuåuna]	"youth"

[æ] Voiced low open front unrounded vowel occurs word initially and medially preceding /w/, except when following /u/ or /w/.

/'auvea/	[äuvea]	"old man"
/taumata/	[thäumata]	"grave"

/ə/ [ə] Voiced mid close back rounded bocoid occurs word initially, medially and finally.

/əb'wala/	[əbwala]	"garden magic"
/'ə'ele/	[ 'ə'ele]	"snake"
/səuyeni/	[səuyeni]	"come out"

/u/ [u] Voiced high open back rounded bocoid occurs word initially, medially and finally, but never follows /g/.

/lukuna/	[lukuna]	"leaf"
/ulatau/	[ulatəu]	"visitor"
/'uloga/	[ 'uloga.]	"yabbie"

## IAMAULE PHONEMICS

5.2.3. Contrasts

/i/ and /e/ contrast word initially, medially and finally.

/igana/	[igana]	"fish"
/enavo/	[ènavo]	"his friends"
/iviga/	[iviga]	"pubic leaf"
/ivega/	[ivega]	"fresh air"
/bi <sup>W</sup> a/	[bi <sup>W</sup> wa]	"tare"
/le <sup>W</sup> a/	[le <sup>W</sup> wa]	"arrive"
/malaveseli/	[malavèseli]	"sea floor"
/lilivaneye/	[lilivangeye]	"at the edge"
/doki/	[dòki]	"skirt"
/yoke/	[yòke]	"dirty"

/e/ and /a/ contrast word initially, medially and finally.

/seuseuya/	[seusèuya]	"drain"
/yauyauta/	[yauyàuta]	"het"
/vevine/	[vèvine]	"females"
/vavine/	[vàvine]	"female"
/'eli/	['<èli]	"left hand"
/'ali'ali/	[' <alì'aìl]< td=""><td>"species of frog"</td></alì'aìl]<>	"species of frog"
/edave/	[èdave]	"their friends"
/abama/	[àbama]	"sky"
/vuka/	[vùka]	"breathe"
/kuda/	[kùda]	"chew"

## IAMAULELE PHONEMICS

/ə/ and /e/ contrast word initially, medially and finally.

/abama/	[əbama]	"sky"
/əbu/	[əbu]	"descent"
/'avalə/	[ 'əvalə]	"shoulder"
/'evalə/	[ 'əvalə]	"vomit"
/tafalele/	[tafəlele]	"church"
/vatoneva/	[vatənova]	"try"
/gadala/	[gədala]	"axe handle"
/kolole/	[kəlelo]	"fear"
/taumata/	[təumata]	"grave"
/scouyen/	[səuyen]	"come out"

/ə/ and /u/ contrast initially, medially and finally.

/əbu/	[əbu]	"descent"
/ufa/	[ufa]	"water"
/yevoyeve/	[yevəyeve]	"gull"
/devudevu/	[devildevu]	"canoe"
/'aitenu/	[ 'əitenu]	"three"
/'aitunu/	[ 'əitunu]	"to be burning"
/'aivoe/	[ 'əivoe]	"bowl"
/vefue/	[vəfue]	"multiply"
/'utəa/	[ 'utəa]	"you wash"
/kukua/	[kukua]	"goods"

## IAMALELE PHONEMICS

The following five-way contrasts occur:

/maki/	[mäki]	"areca nut"
/b <sup>V</sup> aka/	[bwa:kä]	"agore"
/laka/	[lä:ka]	"ascend"
/sako/	[sä:ko]	"bad"
/yaku/	[yä:ku]	"my"
/idina/	[ïdina]	"flower"
/edavo/	[ëdavo]	"their friends"
/abama/	[äbama]	"sky"
/ob <sup>V</sup> ala/	[öbwala]	"garden magic"
/uvega/	[üvega]	"top of taro"
/ivivai/	[ivivai]	"he does"
/veviga/	[vëviga]	"sickness"
/vavine/	[vä:vine]	"female"
/vovona/	[vëvona]	"speak of self"
/vuvuga/	[vuvuga]	"borers"

/i/ and /y/ contrast word initially, and medially between vowels.

/iaku/	[iaku]	"my friend"
/yaku/	[yä:ku]	"my, (poss)"
/veiana/	[vëiana]	"make friends"
/eyaga/	[ëyaga]	"salt"
/'aieva/	[ä'ieva]	"to bite"
/' <sup>V</sup> ayo'o/	[' <sup>V</sup> ayo'o]	"crocodile"
/iadago/	[iä:daga]	"it is full"
/iyatoi/	[iyä:toi]	"he put it"
/'aiuli/	[ä'iuli]	"stick for poking"
/ayuve/	[ayüve]	"I blow"

## LAMABLE PHONEMICS

### 5.3 Suprasegmental Items

5.3.1. High pitch, length and stress are non-phonemic.

They are closely linked in that the stressed syllable usually takes high pitch. High pitch always occurs on the anti-penultimate syllable. Length only occurs on the stressed syllable. (See Section 6)

### 5.3.2. Contrasts

Stress is predictable.

(1) It occurs on the anti-penultimate syllable of words with 3 or more syllables.

(2) Two exceptions are found.

A. The person prefix of verbs does not take stress.

/inŋe/	[ɪndgə]	"he goes"
/atœa/	[atðə]	"I wash"

B. In a low-high sequence of vowels, the high vowel in anti-penultimate position never takes the stress. It is always taken by the low vowel, preceding it.

/'asa'aiana/	[ˈasa'âiana]	"enough"
/tuatuaina/	[tuatuâina]	"old"

/ilaudivu/	[ilâudivu]	"she sweeps"
/taitauya/	[taitâuya]	"let us go"

(3) Secondary stress occurs on the first syllable of the stem of words of 5 or more syllables.

/manamanawena/	[mânâmâñâwena]	"long way"
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## IAMALELE PHONEMICS

### 5.3.3. Intonation

Interrogative and final pause contrast in the pitch patterns in that the difference between high and low pitch is greater in the interrogative patterns, with three distinct pitches, to the two of final pause.

/unahago/

"Will you go?"

/annahago/

"I will go"

Final pause also contrasts with an answer statement that invites further comment.

/e'e ani'le/

"Yes, a long way" (implying close of discussion)

/e'e ani'le/

"Yes, a long way" (inviting further questions)

Tentative pause contrasts with final pause and interrogative, in that the final pitch remains high.

/'wei ina'avana, tananago ufeaya./

"When the rain stops we will go to the river"

/ufa tanatavuni, 'aisaya tanayaubani./

"We will dry the river up and catch yabbies"

## IAMALELE PHONEMICS

### 6. Non-contrastive features.

Some speakers lengthen the stressed syllable. This feature is used often for emphasis, e.g.

/manamanawena/ [manamanawena] "a long, long way"

## IAMALELE PHONEMICS

### 7. Controversial or unsolved issues.

Phonetically, there appear to be pre-nasalised consonants, or consonant clusters involving /m/ and /n/.

In comparing this phenomenon with surrounding languages, (Dobu) and Kiriwinan), it appears that /u/ is being dropped following /m/ before voiced stop, velar stops, voiced continuants, and word finally, (not when /m/ is word initial).

/lutamubeda/	[lutəmbeda]	"defend"
/dimidimu/	[dɪmdim]	"beads, or white men"
/kamukamu/	[kəmukam]	"chicken"
/'amu'amu/	[əm'amu]	"your (sing) food"
/lamuna/	[ləmna]	"base"
/samula/	[səmla]	"guess"
/tami/	[təm]	"another"
/yemuyem/	[yəmyem]	"drink"

Similarly, /i/ is dropped following /n/ before alveolar stops.

/anidaba/	[əndaba]	"to break"
/anita'i/	[anta'i]	"to fall"

In slew utterance, the vowel may be put in. However this may only be a filler after the fashion of the English A.B.C. fashion. Ralph Lawton (Kiriwina) states that a number of the languages are changing, and forming consonant clusters, and that the trend can be followed through the D'Entrecasteaux Islands.

## IAMALELE PHONEMICS

The Iamalele speakers are not consistent with each other when writing. Some put in the missing vowels, and again it may only be the result of schooling, or it may just as well be that they recognise that the vowels are only omitted in speech, but the language structure demands their presence in writing.

## 6. Distribution

### 6.1. General Distribution

A syllable in Iamalele consists of a nucleus of one vowel, and optional consonant onset.

Words of 2-10 have been found.

Examples of various combinations of syllables follow:

#### 6.1.1. Two syllable words

V.V	/ə.i/	[ə.i]	'wood'
V.CV	/ili/	[ili]	'bud'
CV.CV	/kali/	[kali]	'fence'
CV.V	/təs/	[təs]	'wash'

#### 6.1.2. Three syllable words

All possible combinations of CV and V syllables have been found.

V.V.CV	/i.akū/	[iaku]	'friend'
CV.CV.V	/b <sup>V</sup> ato.a/	[bwatoa]	'breadfruit'
CV.V.CV	/ya.oga/	[yoga]	'smell'
V.CV.V	/ima.i/	[imai]	'he came'
V.V.V	/i.e.u/	[ieu]	'goodbye'

#### 6.1.3. Four to ten syllable words

CV.V.CV.CV	/ve.ataña/	[vəatana]	'feur'
V.CV.V.CV.CV	/ula.ufana/	[uləufana]	'brackish'
CV.CV.CV.CV.CV.CV	/manamanawena/	[manamanawena]	'long way'
V.CV.CV.V.CV.CV.CV.CV.CV	/inaki.avesesewanidi/	[inakiavesesewānidi]	'he will make them happy'

## 8.2. Specific Distribution

8.2.1. Vowels All vowels occur in V slot of V and CV syllables. However, /u/ never fills a V slot between two Vs. Within the syllable, /i/ and /e/ never follow /t/, /i/ never follows /y/ and /u/ never follows /g/ or /w/.

Only /a/ and /e/ follow labialised consonants.

## 8.2.2. Sequences of Vowels Across Syllable Boundaries

### Two vowels

All possible combinations of two vowel sequences have been found. /e/ does not occur word initially in a V.V sequence. /e/ only occurs initially in a V.V sequence when followed by /a/.

Medially, only /u.i/ and /o.e/ have not been found, but further data will probably fill in this gap.

/e/ only occurs as a V final syllable following /i/.

But all other sequences are found finally.

### Three vowels

Fifteen combinations of three vowel sequences have been found. All vowels can take any place in the sequence with the exception of /u/ which cannot fill the central V slot.

### Four vowels

Two combinations have been found. /a.i.a.i/, /a.i.o.u/.

9. Orthography

9.1.	/t/	[t]	t
	/k/	[k]	k
	/kʷ/	[kʷ]	kʷ
	/t'/	[t']	t'
	/tʷ/	[tʷ]	tʷ
	/b/	[b]	b
	/bʷ/	[bʷ]	bʷ
	/d/	[d]	d
	/f/	[ɸ], [f]	f
	/fʷ/	[ɸʷ], [fʷ]	fʷ
	/s/	[s]	s
	/v/	[β], [v]	v
	/g/	[g]	g
	/m/	[m]	m
	/mʷ/	[mʷ]	mʷ
	/n/	[n]	n
	/l/	[l]	l
	/w/	[v]	w
	/y/	[a], [ <sup>g</sup> y]	y
	/i/	[i]	i
	/e/	[e]	e
	/ə/	[æ], [a]	a
	/ə/	[ɔ]	o
	/u/	[u]	u

/v/ will not be written initially, as there are no minimal contrasts in this position, and there is a fair degree of fluctuation in its occurrence.

9.2. There has been no previous orthography for the Iamalele language, but those who have become literate in Dobi, Bwaidega, and English have used the above symbols.

9.3. English words as spoken by Iamalele speakers

<u>English</u>	<u>Iamalele</u>
tin	tini
book	buki
pineapple	fainaba
tea	ti
salt	solu
soap	sofu
rice	laisi
knife	naifi
calice	kaleko
paper	fefe
August	'egasi
hat	'ati
nail	neli
fly	falai
picture	fikisi
cat (pussy)	kati, sifu
grass	galasi
pipe	faibu
missionary	misinale
Abraham	'ebelam

9.4. Sample Text

Phonetic transcription	gùiau	'ð'ole	'unaobu
Proposed orthography	guiau	ð'ole	unaobu
Free translation	chief	snake	you go down

basènadi vavine mo'ame'aidi iebu ufeye adiufa ikèi

basenadi vavine mo'ame'aidi iebu ufeye adiufa ikei

Long ago an old woman went down to the river to fetch water

wàta adimese iyàubani. Ufayega imimai 'ð'ole fòuna

wata adimese iyaubani. Ufayega imimai ð'ole feuna

and collect greens. She was bringing water when she saw

i'iseni makavuvula 'wàineye. Founina i'ewai imai i'ania.

i'iseni makavuvula waineye. Founina i'ewai imai i'ania.

snake eggs in a plant. She took the eggs and ate them.

'ð'ole ivilai fòuna i'isa àvai bega imai tomotoga

o'ole ivilai founa i'isa avai bega imai tomotoga

The snake returned, saw his eggs were gone, so came to the

'wàidie ivelutoli fòuna faifaina. Tomotoga fuedi iv'ewa

waidie ivelutoli found faifaina. Tomotoga fuedi i've'ewa

People to ask about the eggs. Everybody denied it

w̄'e m̄'ai 'wāidie magdina iydegi b̄ga ilāka agēdie ififini.  
 we'e mo'ai waidie magaina iyaegi bega ilaka agedie ififini.  
 but he sniffed the old woman's smell and coiled around her legs.

'ō'ele imiamia m̄'ai 'agēdie 'aiata 'āitonu. 'aiata 'āitonu  
 o'ele imiamia mo'ai agedie aiata aitonu. aiata aitonu  
 The snake stayed on her legs for three days. For three days  
 nagedie m̄'ai muanuadi inadega siwe k̄bu adifata fai  
 nagedie mo'ai muanuadi inadega siwe kebu adifata fai  
 the old woman wanted to run away, but couldn't because of the

'ō'ele agēdie i'enē'ene. tam'aiata m̄'ai inogai guiau imai  
 o'ele agedie i'eno'ene. tam aiata mo'ai inogai guiau imai  
 snake sleeping on her legs. One day she heard the chief had come  
 m̄yana wāka ēnave ifwai tāiadi. b̄ga m̄'ai 'ō'ele ivōnsenī  
 mayana waka enave ifwai taiadi. bega mo'ai e'ele ivonenī  
 by boat with some of his friends. Then the woman said to the  
 īve 'āivee 'waineye 'unāobu. ikekaliēni īve b̄la īnala  
 ivo aivee waineye unaobu. ikekaliēni īve bela īnala  
 snake "go down to the bowl." Lying, she said, "later at

'ðya tabwaneye anavilama. we'e tovanina iðbu tenðvidi inðgo  
eya tabwaneye anavilama. we'e tovanina iðbu tonovidi inage  
sunset we will come back. But when she went down, she went straight  
  
balebaleye gálaši 'waineye. inala iðbu 'ðya tabwaneye  
balebaleye guiau waineye. inala iðbu eya tabwaneye  
to the beach, to the chief. The sun went down over the mountains;  
  
mð'ai kebu idaviladi.  
no'ai kebu idaviladi.  
the woman didn't return.