Organised Phonology Data

**Gumawana (Gumasi) Language [GVS]**
**Esa'ala – Milne Bay Province**

**Oceanic; Papuan Tip Cluster; Peripheral Papuan Tip; Kilivila Chain**


Major villages: Islands: Gumawana, Nubogeta, Kotoita, Omea, Bituma

Linguistic work done by: SIL

Data checked by: Cliff Olson (September 1992)

### Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a</th>
<th>e</th>
<th>i</th>
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<th>u</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>d</th>
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<th>p</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>β</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a,e,o</td>
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<td>i,y</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>u,w</td>
<td>b,bw</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>g,gw</td>
<td>k,kw</td>
<td>l,m</td>
<td>m,mw</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>p,pw</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>t,s</td>
<td>v,w</td>
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### Consonants

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<th></th>
<th>Bilab</th>
<th>LabDen</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Alveo</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Retro</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Uvular</th>
<th>Pharyn</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
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- **Plosive**
  - b
  - t
  - d
  - p
  - k
  - g

- **Nasal**
  - m
  - n

- **Trill**
  - l

- **Tap/Flap**
  - s

- **Fricative**
  - β

- **Approx**
  - j

- **Lateral Approx**
  - l

- **Ejective Stop**
  - m

- **Implos**
  - t

**Examples:**
- *Plosive*:
  - b: 'break wind'
  - t: 'height'
  - d: 'clap'
  - p: 'to cut'
  - k: 'pull'
  - g: 'caulking'
  - β: 'word'

- **Nasal**:
  - m: 'braid'
  - n: 'we (incl.) come'
  - mw: 'ginger'
  - mt: 'to cook on rocks'
  - m: 'insides of fish'
  - sab: 'you walk around'

- **Implos**:
  - t: 'year'
  - mata: 'die'
  - ab: 'I paddled it'
d dala 'clan'
   neda 'lice eggs'
   neta 'if'
   vana 'skin disease'
   sas a 'mad'
   bosima 'platform'
   lava 'time'
   sela 'dig'

k kaga 'what?'
    ikabi 'he gets it'
    kwewke 'frog'
    isikwana 'he ties'
    gulewa 'stone'
    niga 'afterwards'
    gwava 'guava'
    negwasa 'ocean'

Vowels
i    u
   e    o
   a
    i    ite 'vine sp.'
         sikwana 'knot'
         mwadi 'ginger'
         yeu 'fire'
         niyala 'sun'
         biu 'pull'
    o    oloku 'in-law'
         potu 'sore'
         tabo 'sprout'
         abobodi 'I cut them'
    ei    bei 'realis marker'
         ikayaodeid 'he fills them'
    e    ebulu 'pandanus'
         vesi 'song'
         bwae 'water'
         yeo 'dive'
    a    apola 'I deceived'
         patu 'encolse'
         mata 'die'
         ikaika 'blood'
    o    abobodi 'I dig them'
         ayatoidi 'I set '
    ai    ikaika 'he eats'
         paisewaina 'its work'
    o    uligova 'crocodile'
         pusa 'to swell'
         nunu 'breast'
         wasale 'basket'
         tuwo 'enough'
         uina 'her vagina'

/ei/
/ai/
/oi/

Diphthongs are derived in a very limited environment. Only when a word is affixed with a suffix beginning with the vowel /i/.
Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Length: Stressed syllables are lengthened to indicate intensity: *niyala* [ni:i:la] 'sun', *niyalana* [ni:i:la:n] 'very hot sun'.

Vowel lengthening in the penultimate syllable from the stressed syllable is used to indicate imperfective aspect in verbs and in derived adjectives: *atusobu* 'I sat, sit down', *aatutobu* 'I am sitting', *maavadaina* 'pure'.

Syllable Patterns

| Prefix | Stressed Syllable | Penultimate Syllable | Imperfective Aspect
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>o 'or'</td>
<td>i.ka 'meal'</td>
<td>ko.ro.i.ta 'bush hen'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV</td>
<td>be 'and'</td>
<td>bl.u 'pull'</td>
<td>a.me.ko 'here'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVV</td>
<td></td>
<td>to.wo 'ugly'</td>
<td>mwa.di 'ginger'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a.si.koi.di 'I tie them'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
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<td>sa.bam.go 'night'</td>
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Conventions: Phonological

/k/ weakens to [x] between a non-high vowel /e o a/ or initial word boundary, and a non-high, back vowel /o a/.  
/l/ is realized as [s] before /i/.  
/β/ is realized as [w] before front vowels, [β] elsewhere.  
The lateral /l/ is in free fluctuation with the flap [r].  
/a/ is realized as [o] in unstressed syllables.  
Labialized plosives /p b k g/ and nasal /m/ are considered as allophones of simple /p b k g m/, because the number of words in which these segments occur is limited. For example, [g] only occurs in two words.

Conventions: Orthographic

The Gumawana people prefer an orthography that shows a one to one correspondence between sound and symbol.  
The allophones of /t/, /t/ and /s/ are written <t> and <s> respectively.  
The allophones of /β/, /β/ and /w/, are written <v> and <w> respectively.  
The vowels /i / and /u/ are written <y> and <w> when linked to a consonant and pronounced [j] and [w] (word initially, in labialization, etc.). Transitional [j] and [w] are written word internally but not over morpheme boundaries: *ietune* [i j'e'tune] 'he sent it', *kuetune* [ku'we'tune] 'you sent it'.  
The allophones of /a/ are written as follows: the schwa is written <a> but the allophones pronounced [e] or [o] are written <e > and <o > respectively.  
The vowel /u/ is deleted after /m/ except when the syllable pattern is /mumu/. The people do not want the deleted /u/ to be written: *mtula* 'destruction'  

Transcription of a recorded passage

/  
e ame aʃatetala || aʃatetala samuakupa anaoduquna manuna || samuakupa mainao takaibobobo || takaib obobo ikaʃaʃa e ieu tadinili takalipolepole || mainao pououdi takalipoledi. takalipoledi ikaʃaʃa |
'I will tell this story. I will tell about making plastic necklaces. First we cut the plastic. When we finish cutting it, we heat a steel rod in the fire and then drill holes in the plastic. First we drill the white ones. When those are finished, later we do the red ones. We mix together some of the red ones and white ones. When we finish mixing, we rub. When we finish rubbing them, all of it is smooth. Later we mix and cut some more. When we finish cutting, we rub them until they are smooth. We get some black seeds and drill holes in them. When we finish drilling, we get some vine and tie up. When we finish tying it, it's all done. We adorn ourselves. That's the end.'

Bibliography


___. 1986. 'Tentative phonology for Gumawana Trial Orthography.' Manuscript. SIL Ukarumpa.
___. 1988. 'Gumawana grammar essentials.' Manuscript. SIL Ukarumpa.