

# Organised Phonology Data

## Lou Language [LOJ] Lako – Manus Province

**Oceanic; Admiralties Cluster; East Admiralties Chain; South-East Admiralty Group**

Population census: 1200 (1981)

Major villages: Solang, Rei, Lako, Baun

Linguistic work done by: SIL

Data checked by: V. Stutzman (September 1992)

### Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

a	ε	i	ɪ	k	k <sup>w</sup>	l	m	m <sup>w</sup>	n	ŋ	o	p	p <sup>w</sup>	r	s	t	u	ʊ	w
a	e	i	ɛ	k	kw	l	m	mw	n	ng	o	p	pw	r	s	t	u	ö	w
A	E	I	È	K	Kw	L	M	Mw	N	Ng	O	P	Pw	R	S	T	U	Ö	W

### Consonants

	Bilab	LabDen	Dental	Alveo	Postalv	Retro	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyn	Glottal
Plosive	p			t				k			
Nasal	m			n				ŋ			
Trill				r							
Tap/Flap											
Fricative					s						
Lateral Fricative											
Approx											
Lateral Approx				l							
Ejective Stop											
Implos											

/w/ voiced labial-velar approximant

/p<sup>w</sup>/ voiceless labialized bilabial plosive

/m<sup>w</sup>/ voiceless labialized bilabial nasal

/k<sup>w</sup>/ voiceless labialized velar plosive

p	pulun	'forehead'	p <sup>w</sup>	pwak	'explosion'
	papëun	'new'		apwean	'wake'
	tip	'a bush'		-	
	tepto	'to hit'		-	
	pulpul	'to pat baby'		pwitpwit	'dark cloud'

m	minan	'hand'	r	rinan	'get even'
	samar	'soak'		rurut	'falling'
	polum	'new'		samar	'soak'
	kumkum	'bite'		porko	'bent'
	tëkmut	'to cut'		pokrek	'unexpected'
<b>m<sup>w</sup></b>	<b>mwitin</b>	<b>'broken'</b>	<b>l</b>	<b>lisan</b>	<b>'louse egg'</b>
	<b>kumwën</b>	<b>'branch end'</b>		<b>lilian</b>	<b>'mountain range'</b>
-				<b>tolul</b>	<b>'to stand'</b>
<b>w</b>	<b>wesa</b>	<b>'fish sp.'</b>		<b>polsek</b>	<b>'to tie around'</b>
	<b>wewe</b>	<b>'wobbley'</b>		<b>tuklan</b>	<b>'tree top'</b>
-			<b>k</b>	<b>kim</b>	<b>'dive'</b>
<b>t</b>	<b>tip</b>	<b>'a bush'</b>		<b>pokat</b>	<b>'gun'</b>
	<b>ateno</b>	<b>'dislike'</b>		<b>panak</b>	<b>'stealing'</b>
	<b>esit</b>	<b>'steady wind'</b>		<b>tuklan</b>	<b>'tree top'</b>
	<b>pëtpët</b>	<b>'cough'</b>		<b>kilkil</b>	<b>'complain'</b>
	<b>kaltut</b>	<b>'dark'</b>	<b>k<sup>w</sup></b>	<b>kwal</b>	<b>'bamboo organ'</b>
-				-	
<b>s</b>	<b>sik</b>	<b>'sting'</b>	<b>ŋ</b>	<b>ngim</b>	<b>'cockroach'</b>
	<b>sisim</b>	<b>'swollen'</b>		<b>pisingek</b>	<b>'look after'</b>
-				<b>mosang</b>	<b>'divide'</b>
-				<b>singrek</b>	<b>'bad smell'</b>
	<b>simsim</b>	<b>'shiwer'</b>		<b>pokngan</b>	<b>'pop in'</b>
<b>n</b>	<b>nik</b>	<b>'fish'</b>			
	<b>ponot</b>	<b>'bird net'</b>			
	<b>kunan</b>	<b>'skin'</b>			
	<b>penpenin</b>	<b>'wing'</b>			
	<b>niknik</b>	<b>'to sharpen stick'</b>			

## Vowels

i		u			
I	ø	o			
	θ				
ɛ		ɔ			
		a			
i	ili	'do again'	ɛ	esit	'steady wind'
	pisingek	'look after'		elelek	'teach'
	sali	'to wash'		solpe	'wall'
	pian	'good'		peënpwam	'butterfly'
I	ëp	'we all'	u	ululup	'vomiting'
	ëlëwën	'long'		talue	'three'
	malë	'hurry'		kosu	'smoke'
	pwëö	'to delay'		puan	'flower'

u	öm	'to cut'	ii	pëëksek	'bloody diarrhea'
	tök	'to sit'		këtëär	'rung'
	kasö	'married'			
	apöa	'it's here'	oo	koo	'small bush'
				tipoop	'long ago'
o	okto	'grab'	ou	oumatan	'grow good'
	pokat	'gun'		ponout	'unskiled'
	ateno	'dislike'			
	poloek	'everywhere'	ui	söia	'stop talking'
a	amsek	'don't repeat'	uu	köölut	'poison'
	panak	'stealing'		pötöör	'fish sp.'
	posa	'dry'			
	lapaak	'fish sp.'	vu	töu	'fishing place'
				söösün	'some news'
ei	weinsamil	'metal spear'	ai	maiun	'spoiled food'
	tatei	'his'		main	'don't know'
ee	rereek	'avoid sickness'	aa	taangan	'scrape out'
	ngeek	'ouch!'		lapaak	'fish sp.'
ii	pëinsala	'old woman'	au	aut	'leave'
	unëi	'everywhere'		sangaul	'ten'
				lau	'build on posts'
u	sëlëuk	'half'			
	läut	'shore'			

/ii/

/i/

/iu/

/ee/

/ɛi/

/ai/

/aa/

/au/

/oo/ /ou/

/ui/

/uu/ /vu/

## Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Stress is composed of the features of intensity and high pitch. Stress is predictable. The heaviest syllable in the word attracts stress.

## Syllable Patterns

V	i 'he'	i.li 'do again'	a.lë.o.la 'that's it'	ai.ë 'shouting'
VV		ou.ma.tan 'grow good'	pu.öü 'oil container'	
VC	öm 'cut'	am.sek 'don't repeat'	pi.an 'good'	
VVC	aut 'leave'			
CV	wa 'clothes'	ke.a 'swim' tök.rí.öt 'break'		tal.ki 'anchor line'

CVV	<b>tōu</b> 'fishing place'	<b>sou.</b> ka 'bird sp.'	<b>tē.tēi.te</b> 'tale bearer'	ta. <b>tei</b> 'his'
CVC	<b>ngim</b> 'cockroach'	<b>sing.</b> rek 'bad smell'		sa. <b>mar</b> 'soak'
CVVC	<b>main</b> 'don't know'	<b>pēin.</b> sa.la 'old woman'	re. <b>tein</b> 'substitute'	

## Conventions: Phonological

The voiceless plosives /p t k/ are aspirated word initially.

The bilabial plosives /p pʷ/ weaken to fricative [β βʷ] between vowels. The plosive /t/ weakens to a voiced flapped [ɾ] between vowels. These rules apply within words and across word boundaries within the verb phrase. This feature also affects pronouns in the object noun phrase: *me tang* [me rai] 'come to me', *to pwēn* [to βwin] 'not yours'.

## Conventions: Orthographic

/pʷ/, /kʷ/, and /mʷ/ are written as the sequence <pw>, <kw>, and <mw>. The decision to use <w> instead of <u> has been made because contrasts exists between /pu/ and /p/: *pwak* 'pit', *puakul* 'ant'; *wa* 'clothes', *ua* 'high tide'.

The phonemes /i/ and /u/ are written as <ë> and <ö> since these symbols have already been in use in all four Lou villages since about 1975 in translated hymns and written Lou words compiled by Mr. Solok Pwaka.

## Transcription of a recorded passage

/  
pokaran pani rik pak sara me tanj || i pa | mʷriān notun pīn som tōk palsi || ip not mʷamʷaru tu raijan t  
ei || som i lak a i lī pa pʷm tei || som i lak lili a i lī pa pʷm tei || i lī pa pʷm talap tamuna || molok a ko  
lponu la mʷilmʷili a i pī lak || notun pīn topu i pī raijan tei || a asoon i totak || ngka pī suŋum la tei || k  
olponu a notun pīn topu uru pī aa || uru ka la ponu tē kolponu || kolponu pī rēkpisek i la patan kōt sip  
|| katēn notun pīn topu i pī itit a pī suŋ || u kolponu i sap oŋ || i a ramat pʷm /

< Pokaran Pani rēk pak sara me tang. I pa, mwēian notun pēin som tök palsi. Ip not mwamwarö tö tangrang tei. Som i lak a i lē pa pwēn tei. Som i lak lili a i lē pa pwēn tei. I lē pa pwēn talap tamuna. Molok a kolponu la mwēlmwēlē a i pē lak. Notun pēin töpö i pē rangrang tei. A asoong i totak. Ngka pē söngum la tei. Kolponu a notun pēn töpö uru pē aa. Uru ka la ponu tē kolponu. Kolponu pē rēkpisek i la patan kööt sip. Katēn notun pēin töpö i pē étet a i pē söng. Ö kolponu i sap ong. I a ramat pwēn. >

'Pokaran Pani told me one story. He said, Long ago there was a beautiful young woman. All the young men were liking her. One went to her and she did not like him. Another went and she did not like him. She did not like any of them. Later a snake decorated himself and went to her. The young woman liked him. Ah, he is my husband. I will marry him. The snake and that young woman went. The two of them might go to the home of the snake. The snake curled himself around a bamboo trunk. The young woman was afraid and she ran away. Oh, the snake deceived me. He is not a person.'

## Bibliography

Stutzman, Robert, and Verna Stutzman. 1992. 'Organized phonology data of the Lou language.' Manuscript. SIL, Ukarumpa.