Sursurunga Counting Systems

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COUNTING SYSTEMS

- 1. Sursurunga
- 2. 1. tikäi 2. ru 3. tul 4. hat 5. lim
 - 6. won 7. hit 8. wal 9. siu 10. sängul

Each of the above words simply means the number it is listed with. The numbers 10-20 are combinations of 10 plus the other numbers -- like 10 and 1 = 11.

- 11. sängul mai marm a-kes (tikäi is only for '1'

 10 and attributive-%1 when counting -- otherwise, kes is used for '1')
- 12. sangul mai xxxxx a-ru 13. sangul mai xxxx a-tul
- 14. sängul mai a-hat 15. sängul mai a-lim
- 16. sängul mai a-won 17. sängul mai a-hit
- 18. sängul mai a-wal 19. sängul mai a-siu
- 20. a-ru i sängul attributive-2 relater 10 = 2 10's
- 3. The number does not change for counting different things.
- This is a decimal system

 They make use of their fingers to count, beginning with the thumb and turning down each finger as they count with the opposite hand. On the second hand, they begin with the thumb again. If they count higher than 10, they continue to use the fingers; the toes are not used. I think they generally begin with the right hand, but I'm not sure.
- 6. The number precedes the name of the thing being counted.
- 7. Numbers higher than 20 follow the same pattern as the teens.

20 and 6 = 26 a-ru i sangul mai a-won

30 = 3 10's a-tul i sängul

This continues for all the decades except for the hundreds. The word for 'hundred' is mar (a Tolai word). This is prefixed like the decades are --- 300 = 3 100's a-tul i mar For thousand, they use the Pidgin tausen, but I don't think it has much meaning for them.

As an example of higher k number combinations,

564 = a-lim i mar mai a-won i sängul mai a-hat
5 100 and 6 10 and 4

COUNTING SYSTEMS (Sursurunga)

- 8. The people can readily put numbers together up to 999. This is because they use them in announcing hymn numbers in church every Sunday (or at least up to 500 or so). Beyond that, they wouldn't have much use for higher numbers. A few of the people own cars and would have dealt in 4000 or 5000, but not many.
- 9. 'many' = markin mar-an

100-adjective marker

The word 'some' te is used sometimes to mean 'few'. Other ways to say 'few' is te sar 'some only' or kapte ngo maran 'not many'.

10. 1st mulän 2nd härwän 3rd ätuil
4th atatin 5th älimän 6th awonon
7th hititun 8th awalon 9th asiwon
10th sängulon

after 10th, they just use the regular cardinal numbers.

We have never heard ordinal numbers used above 3rd or 4th.

11. Ordinal numbers do not change for different things.

Hope this helps some. It was a good opportunity for us to get down on paper some facts about the counting system here. Have fun www with your project!

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