

Mato Organised Phonology Data

Mato [NIU] (Nenaya, Nengaya, Nineia) Language Wasu – Morobe Province

Oceanic; *North New Guinea Cluster*; Vitiaz Chain

Population census: 580 (1998)

Major villages: Baximanamuya, Baxuya, Bobua, Bualu, Buxaringine, Gambulanglune

Linguistic work done by: SIL

Data checked by: Scot Stober (2005)

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

/ a b d e g h i k l m n ŋ o p r s t u w x j /
 < a b d e g h i k l m n ng o p r s t u w x y >
 < A B D E G H I K L M N Ng O P R S T U W X Y >

Consonants

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b	t d		k g	
Nasal	m	n		ŋ	
Trill		r			
Fricative		s		x	h
Approx			j		
Lateral Approx		l			

/w/ voiced labio-velar approximant

p	pabo	['pa.bo]	'banana species'
	lipux	[li.'puʔ]	'man'
	baxup	[ba.'yup]	'banana'
b	buxu	['bu.yu]	'pig'
	axaiba	[a.'yai.ba]	'betel pepper'
	-		
m	mang	['maŋ]	'bird'
	lamux	[la.'muʔ]	'grass skirt'
	bandim	[ban.'dim]	'fruit bat'

w	wagu	[¹ wa.gu]	‘hand drum’
	niwa	[¹ ni.wa]	‘spotted cuscus’
	-		
t	tuki	[¹ tu.ki]	‘stick’
	mutum	[mu. ¹ tum]	‘rat’
	-		
d	damak	[¹ da.mak]	‘toucan’
	haidanga	[hai. ¹ da.ŋa]	‘flower’
	-		
n	numa	[¹ nu.ma]	‘house’
	mina	[¹ mi.na]	‘plate’
	-		
r	ruang	[ru. ¹ aŋ]	‘bow’
	tuturi	[tu. ¹ tu.ri]	‘heart’
	-		
s	suam	[su. ¹ am]	‘cassowary’
	asaxa	[a. ¹ sa.ɣa]	‘animal’
	-		
l	lang	[¹ laŋ]	‘water’
	ulangulang	[u. ¹ la.ŋu. ¹ laŋ]	‘sand’
	-		
j	yang	[¹ jaŋ]	‘wind’
	kuya	[¹ ku.ja]	‘rain’
	-		
k	kangkong	[kaŋ. ¹ koŋ]	‘mosquito’
	sikokop	[si.ko. ¹ kop]	‘vine species’
	sobak	[¹ so.bak]	‘moon’
g	guix	[gu. ¹ iʔ]	‘yam’
	hugai	[hu. ¹ gai]	‘crocodile’
	-		
ŋ	ngeng	[¹ ŋeŋ]	‘insect species’
	tanga	[¹ ta.ŋa]	‘bilum’
	bang	[¹ baŋ]	‘taro’
x	xaidap	[xai. ¹ dap]	‘sun’
	waxang	[wa. ¹ ɣaŋ]	‘knife’
	xalux	[xa. ¹ luʔ]	‘door’

h	hita	['hi.ta]	‘sago’
	unihi	[u.'ni.hi]	‘pandanus species’

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Vowels

i	u
e	o

a

i	iriap	[i.ri.'ap]	‘bark blanket’
	toxi	['to.ɣi]	‘conch shell’
e	emalax	[e. ma.'laʔ]	‘ginger’
	mesa	['me.sa]	‘arise’
	wane	['wa.ne]	‘yes’
u	unam	[u.'nam]	‘stone axe’
	tup	['tup]	‘sugarcane’
	buxu	['bu.ɣu]	‘pig’
o	ongana	[o.'ŋa.na]	‘jungle’
	moxa	['mo.ɣa]	‘snake’
	gaxamo	[ga.'ɣa.mo]	‘black palm’
a	angaxi	[a.'ŋa.ɣi]	‘pili nut tree’
	baxup	[ba.'ɣup]	‘banana’
	bowa	['bo.wa]	‘bamboo’
ai	-		
	axaiba	[a.'ɣai.ba]	‘betel pepper’
	wawai	[wa.'wai]	‘mango’
au	-		
	gauta	['gau.ta]	‘pig teeth ornament’
	sau	['sau]	‘garfish’

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Stress is predictable and usually falls on the penultimate syllable. Exceptions occur when heavy syllables attract word-final stress.

Syllable Patterns

V	[i.'baʔ]	‘leech’	[du.'a.ŋa]	‘old man’	['ri.a]	‘friend’
VC	[in.'dak]	‘plant species’	[ku.ʌŋ.'gɛp]	‘worm species’	[e.nu.'am]	‘vine species’
CV	['bo.wa]	‘bamboo’	[a.'sa.ɣa]	‘animal’	['hi.ta]	‘sago’
CVC	[kaŋ.'koŋ]	‘mosquito’	[ga.man.'riŋ]	‘tongs’	[bun.'tuk]	‘eagle’
CVV	['bau.wa]	‘mother’	[a.'xai.ba]	‘betel pepper’	[deŋ.'mau]	‘cicada’
CVVC	['haiŋ]	‘woman’	-		[ha.'jaʊŋ]	‘hungry’

Conventions: Phonological

Plosives are neutralized in word final position, becoming voiceless.

In the Tabares dialect, the velar fricative /x/ is realized as [x] word initially and [ɣ] (voiced) intervocalically, except when followed by the high front vowel /i/, where it is also retroflexed [ɣ̣]. Word final, /x/ is pronounced [ʔ], but only in isolated speech. Speakers of the Ramuk dialect pronounce /x/ as [ʔ] in all environments. Moreover, in the morphophonemics, /x/ allows feature spreading to the adjacent vowels across morpheme boundaries. When prefixed with /u-/ ‘2s subject’, and /x/ is followed by /a/ or /o/, both vowels become /o/. This process does not occur with /h/. However, with the underspecified prefix /dV-/ ‘3p subject’, both /x/ and /h/ allow the /V/ to totally harmonize with the following vowel.

The front mid vowel /e/ is usually pronounced [ɛ] in word-final heavy syllables, [e] elsewhere.

The back mid vowel /o/ is pronounced [ɔ] in closed syllables in just a few words, [o] elsewhere.

The diphthong /ai/ is usually pronounced [e] in rapid speech, and the diphthong /au/ is usually pronounced [o] in rapid speech.

Conventions: Orthographic

An initial orthography was developed by Urs Wegmann, the SIL linguist that worked among the Yaö, after a weeklong visit to the area. In this orthography, the velar fricative /x/ was represented as <ch>. It is now written with <x>. In the word final position, it is only written on noun roots as /x/ has the potential to surface there in the morphophonemics.

The trigraph <ngg>, presumably for /ŋg/ (no evidence has been found of prenasalization), also showed up as part of the aforementioned initial orthography. However, it was judged to be superfluous, with <ng> and <g> already being part of the orthography, and thus removed.

The velar nasal /ŋ/ is written <ng> and the approximant /j/ is written <y>, as in the neighboring language Arop-Lokep and national languages Tok Pisin and English.

Sample Text

/ŋabo ŋanaxuja nulana || ŋabo ŋanaxuja nulana mande ba || metil tam gala ha samasiŋia ||
 baiŋ ŋala ba ŋatuix barotia mari muga biŋ ŋala ŋasok xai namuja sai naga ŋata
 kenakaijua mua saiŋ ŋaxap waxaŋa ba ŋataxiti waxudi bu ŋatuix ŋaiti waxaŋa baiŋ
 ŋabagu moxa tela janoa duxu ba | muxum || ŋaria toxonoa bila ɛm || ŋa ba ŋaria | jeeee ||
 baiŋ ŋasui ubugia mala muli kimuja ŋalulu laiŋ saŋa tauna ŋala ŋaxap waxaŋ muli || baiŋ
 ŋaxap waxaŋa ma ŋataxiti xai tela ba ŋatahax moxa mati || ŋatahax mati laiŋ sup
 ŋakimaŋ || ŋakimaŋ mari baiŋ ŋatuix barotia mari || ŋatuix mari laiŋ sup ŋala xahia raŋwa
 mugarion || ŋaruŋ mua ne ŋaragu metil sanaijaŋ taŋ dima baiŋ am gama numiauba ||
 naxujaŋa gamoita ma xuŋ la/

< Ngabo nganaxuya nulana. Ngabo nganaxuya nulana Mande ba.

Metil tam gala ha Samasiŋia. Baiŋ ngala ba ngatui barotia mari, muga biŋ ngala ŋasok
 xai namuya sai'naga, ngata kenakaiyua mua saing ngaxap waxaŋa ba ngataxiti waxudi bu
 ngatui, ngaiti waxaŋa baiŋ ngabagu moxa tela yanoa duxu ba, 'Muxum'. Ngaria, toxonoa
 bila 'M'. Nga ba ngaria, "Ye-ee!" Baiŋ ŋasui ubugia mala muli kimuya, ngalulu laiŋ
 saŋa, tauna ngala ngaxap waxaŋ muli. Baiŋ ngaxap waxaŋa ma, ngataxiti xai tela ba
 ngataha moxa mati. Ngataha mati laiŋ sup, ngakimaŋ. Ngakimaŋ mari baiŋ ngatui
 barotia mari. Ngatui mari laiŋ sup, ngala xahia rangua Mugariong. Ngarung mua ne ngaragu
 Metil, Sanaiyang tang dima baiŋ am gama numiauba.

Naxuyanga gamoita ma xung la.>

'I want to tell what happened in the near past. I want to tell about last Monday.

'Metil and I went down to Samasiŋia. So I went and first I cut down (wood for) studs, then I
 went to the tree trunk. And it is done, I put the axe to it for awhile and I got my knife and cut
 vines so I could chop (the tree again). I raised the knife and I saw a snake they call
 "Muxum". I hollered – its head was shaped like an "M". And me, I hollered, "Ye-ee!" And I
 backed away again behind (me). I trembled until I was ok. All right I went and got the knife
 again. And I brought the knife, I cut a stick and I beat the snake to death. I beat it to death
 completely and I buried it. I buried it down (in the ground) and I cut (wood for) studs down. I
 cut (them) down until done and I went to the lean-to with Mugariong. I sat for awhile and I
 waited for Metil and Sanaiyang to come and we started coming to the house.

'The short story ends here.'