

Fasu (Námo Mē) – English Dictionary

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Fasu (Námo Mē)
English

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Table of Contents

English Preface	5
Vernacular Preface	5
Introduction	7
Fasu (Námo Mĕ) - English	9
English - Fasu (Námo Mĕ)	277
Appendices	
Animals	394
Bamboo	395
Birds	396
Body Parts	398
Building	402
Ceremonial	404
Colour	406
Counting	407
Dress	408
Equipment	410
Fish	413
Food - Meat	414
Food - Plants	417
Insects	419
Kinship Terms	421
Land and Villages	424
Loanwords - English	426
Loanwords - Motu	428

Loanwords - Tok Pisin	430
Medical	431
Mountains	434
Palms	435
Pandanus	436
People	437
Possoms	438
Reptiles	439
Rivers	440
Sounds	441
Supernatural	442
Vines	443

Preface

ENGLISH

The Fasu language is spoken by approximately 850 people living in the Nipa Sub Province of the Southern Highlands Province to the west of Lake Kutubu and generally to the northeast of the Kikori River. There is another group of approximately 150-200 living near the junction of the Turama and Kanau Rivers in the Western Province. The people themselves call the language Namo Me. Fasu (more accurately pronounced Faso), is the name of one clan.

The authors, working under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, collected material for this dictionary during various periods of field work from 1961 to 1976. People from the village of Kaipu have given valuable help on this project.

This dictionary has been useful to the authors in gaining a knowledge of Namo Me and also in the preparation of literacy materials. We hope it will help those few Fasu young people who have been to school to see how shades of meaning in their language correlate with English.

VERNAQULAR

Sape meta Ikirisi me popasapo. Sape meta Namo me popasapo. Teta popasane kepo hakasa yiyapo. Sawi omo reaki Ikirisi me tariakosapo.

Introduction

The following sounds occur in Fasu and are listed with their nearest English equivalent:

a as in father

o as in port

e as in able

i as in keep

u as in boot

p as in sport

k as in skate

t as in stop

m as in man

n as in never

r word initially as in ladder

r word medially as in Adam

s before i, e and a as in say

s before o and u as in short

h as in hold

f as in farm

w as in water

y as in yes

- on single syllable words as downglide
- on syllables prior to last syllable as level high going to straight low on last syllable
- on last syllable as downglide

- on single syllable words as upglide
- on syllables prior to last syllable as level low going to a downglide on last syllable
- on last syllable as upglide
- L nasalized vowel

Grammatical categories have been written after the entries. A description of the grammar is given in "General Grammar of Fasu (Namo Me)" by Eunice Loeweke and Jean May and is included in Workpapers in Papua New Guinea Languages Volume 27, published by the Summer Institute of Linguistics at Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea.

There are two dialects of Fasu (Namo Me). Where the word (dialect) is written after an entry, this word is spoken in villages south of the Aiyo River. Words unmarked as to dialect are spoken in villages north of the Aiyo River, around the Waro airstrip, and in the Kaipu - Sisipia area.

Tone has been written in vernacular entries where it is known.

The part called Explanation after an entry is given to help explain how the meaning of this word is used in English.