A STANDARD ORTHOGRAPHY
and
LIST OF SUGGESTED SPELLINGS
for
NEO-MELANESIAN

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1. Introduction: Principles of Orthographical Systems. As is well known, human language consists of spoken sounds and their meaningful combinations. The function of writing is to symbolise language as it is spoken. Alphabetic systems, such as we use in the Western world, provide representation for sounds, on one of two levels: the phonetic or the phonemic.

1.1. Phonetic Transcriptions represent sounds as such, with a single symbol (often a letter of peculiar shape) standing for a single sound, no matter whether it has the function of distinguishing one word from another or not. A purely phonetic transcription, like the International Phonetic Alphabet, is useful for scientific analysis, but it is naive to clutter up a practical orthography by symbolising sounds that have no function in the language.

1.2. Phonemic Transcriptions represent, not the raw material of sounds, but the functional units or phonemes into which the sounds of each language group themselves. For instance, a narrowly phonetic transcription would represent the slight puff of breath that normally follows the p in English pit; a phonemic transcription would omit it, since it makes no difference in the meaning of the word.

In general, a practical orthography should have a phonemic, rather than phonetic, basis. Whereas a narrow phonetic transcription customarily uses all kinds of special letters, a phonemically based spelling need not do so, and combinations of familiar letters (such as ei, sh, ng, etc.) are perfectly acceptable, as long as they are used consistently.

1.3. The Need for Consistency is paramount in devising and using a system of spelling. An orthography in which each phoneme has one, and only one, representation is easily learned and applied even by the most naive beginner. On the other hand, a spelling such as that of English, with its manifold inconsistencies, has many stumbling-blocks for even the advanced user. This is why all the irregularities of English spelling should be avoided in writing Neo-Melanesian, despite all the pressures in their favour that are likely to be caused by the social and intellectual prestige of English.

2. The Standard Orthography involves the use of the following symbols, in the following values:

2.1. Vowel Letters have their "Italian" or "Continental European" values:
a as in father: e.g., papa "father".

e as in bet: e.g., hed "head".

i as in hit: e.g., pitnit "sugar-cane".

o as in hot: e.g., hotfela "hot".

u as in put: e.g., putim "put".

The letter a may also be used for the vowel sound of English come (which in many speakers' usage coincides with that of father): e.g., kam "come".

There are three other vowel sounds which are not always distinguished from a, e and o as defined above, but for which, if it is desired, the following alternative spellings may be used:

- a or â for the vowel sound of man: e.g., man, mân "man".
- e or ei for the vowel sound of name: e.g., nem, neim "name".
- o or ou for the vowel sound of go: e.g., go, gou "go".

2.2. Diphthongs are as follows:

- ai for the vowel sound of find: e.g., fainim "seek".
- au for the vowel sound of mouth: e.g., maus "mouth".

2.3. Consonant Letters and Digraphs:

- b as in English: e.g., baimbai "soon".
- ch as in English, but often replaced, by Melanesian speakers, with the sounds s or sh: e.g., kichim "to get", often pronounced kisim or kishim.
- d as in English: e.g., dai "cease, stop".
- f as in English: e.g., faul "bird". Often pronounced by Melanesians as p, or with a sound made with both lips instead of with upper teeth and lower lips: paul.
- g always with the "hard" sound as in get: e.g., givim "give".
- h as in English: e.g., haus "house". Often not pronounced by Melanesians, and often inserted where it is not found in English: e.g., hai "eye".
\( \text{i as in English: e.g. pisin "bird". Often pronounced by Melanesians as } \text{g, sh, or dz: pisin, pishin, pipzin.} \)

\( \text{k as in English: e.g. kam "come". (The use of the letter c in this value is to be avoided, as it is extremely confusing.)} \)

\( \text{l as in English: e.g. long "in, at".} \)

\( \text{m as in English: e.g. mishla "we, us".} \)

\( \text{n as in English: e.g. nau "now".} \)

\( \text{ng as in English sing, singer: e.g. bringim "bring"; ngong "defe- mute". The two sounds written ng in English finger are to be written ngg: e.g. fingger "finger".} \)

\( \text{p as in English: e.g. paip "pipe".} \)

\( \text{r as in English: e.g. ran "run". Often pronounced as a flap of} \)

\( \text{the tongue-tip against upper teeth or gum-ridge.} \)

\( \text{s as in English: e.g. susu "milk, breast, udder".} \)

\( \text{sh as in English: e.g. shutim "shoot". Often replaced by s in} \)

\( \text{Melanesians' pronunciation: sutim.} \)

\( \text{t as in English: e.g. tu "also"; tit "tooth, teeth".} \)

\( \text{v as in English: e.g. hevi "heavy". Often replaced by h or by a} \)

\( \text{sound pronounced with both lips instead of upper teeth and lower} \)

\( \text{lips: hebi.} \)

\( \text{w as in English: waitfela "white"; winim "surpass".} \)

The resultant orthography is very close to that exemplified in the publications of the Alexishafen Mission.

3. Some Possible Difficulties may arise in connection with the following points:

3.1. Anglicisms in orthography, if allowed to creep in, will cause great and needless trouble to natives who know no English. In particular, the English letters c, qu and x are useless even in English spelling; their presence is a defect of our spelling system, and their introduction does nothing but render that of Neo-Melanesian inconsistent and confusing. To write such a word as "council", use the spelling kounsel; for "quiet", write kwaiet; for "axe", Neo-Melanesian uses gksis.

If it is necessary to give English spellings, for example to enable readers to recognise words on labels or signs, give first the consistent
spelling in terms of Neo-Melanesian orthography, and then the English spelling in parentheses: e.g. kidni (kidney); bensin (benzine).

One is often tempted to believe that the wholesale introduction of English spellings into Neo-Melanesian orthography will facilitate the later learning of English, or bring Neo-Melanesian closer to English. In fact, however, they serve only to disorient the speaker of Neo-Melanesian; the complexities of English orthography should be left until the learner already has some acquaintance with English as it is spoken. Much of the difficulty of our present-day English spelling was caused by Renaissance scholars who introduced Latinising fashions of writing words, under the delusion that they were "ennobling" the language.

3.2. Variations in Pronunciation are apt to induce some variations in spelling, as follows:

1. Many Melanesians have difficulty pronouncing groups of consonant sounds, especially at the beginning of words, as in st-, sp-, sk-, pr-, hr-, fr-, tr-, dr-, kr-, gr-, pl-, bl-, fl-, kl-, gl-. In pronunciation, they often sound like sitap or satap; flai "fly" like filai, pilai, etc., and will often spell the words accordingly. Such spellings are not to be recommended, however, for three reasons: (a) this extra vowel is not phonemically significant, since its presence or absence makes no difference to the meaning of the word involved; (b) it is not constant, varying from i to a according to the region and the speaker; (c) an increasing number of speakers are learning to pronounce the consonant combinations without the extra vowel. To write the vowel under these circumstances is to use a naive phonetic transcription rather than a sound phonemically-based orthography. We will therefore write st:ip, flai, etc.

2. In many Melanesian languages, the sounds b, d and g have their onset strongly nasalised, making them sound to European ears like mb, nd, and ngg; thus buk "book" may be pronounced like mbuk; dei "cease, stop" like ndei; or go "go" like nggo. In some words, especially in the interior of the word between vowels, the pronunciation mb, nd, and ngg has become permanent in the usage of both Melanesians and Europeans, and we will write it as such: e.g. tambu "prohibition; forbidden". In other instances, especially at the beginning of words, usage varies and the constant element is the b-, d- or g-sound; hence we will not mark the pre-nasalisation in writing.

3.3. Alternations of Phonemes found especially in the presence or absence of r in different forms of the same word; in this respect, Neo-Melanesian follows the pattern of British and Australian English. In these languages, r is normally preserved only before vowels. In other positions, it is replaced as follows:

1. With the vowel sound classified as "mid-central" (that of ou or the second vowel of sofa), r merges to form a single vowel sound, that
customarily heard in merge, heard, father.

2. After "ah", it is replaced by a lengthening of the vowel, as in Southern British or Australian hard, far.

3. After other vowels, it is replaced by a vowel sound, "uh", that of the second syllable of sofa: as in clear, fire.

A naive phoneticism tempts us in such instances to write, in Neo-Melanesian, hadnela "hard", sita "star", klia "clear", namba "number" or fia "fire". However, there are several reasons for not doing so, and for writing the r instead:

a. In the case of a followed by r, the lengthening of the vowel is a substitute for the r, and has the same function in the economy of language. If we represent vowel length by :, we find that the word for "carry" is to be written kātimg, differing by reason of its vowel length from kātim "cut". But there is no need to use the special symbol :, since it is a variant of r anyhow; we will therefore write kātim, and similarly whenever we hear a long a.

b. The same argument holds for the vowel sound a occurring after another vowel, since it is simply taking the place of r: we will therefore write, not klia "clear" or moa "more", but kliv, mor. This view is confirmed by the fact that, when a suffix beginning with a vowel is added, the r reappears: e.g. klirim "to clear".

c. Likewise, with words ending in -a (from Eng. -er), such as namba "number", or resa "razor", the r reappears on the addition of a following vowel: e.g. nambarim "to number", resarim "to shave". We will therefore do well to write nambar, resar, thus providing what is known as a morphophonemic spelling.

3.4. Word-Boundaries. We are often tempted to write Neo-Melanesian words separately or together in accordance with our spelling of the related words in English: e.g. kam ap "arrive" (Eng. come up), big folo "big" (Eng. big fellow) or bring im "bring (transitive)" (Eng. bring him). Such a procedure imposes on Neo-Melanesian the structure of an alien language and fails to take into account the way that Neo-Melanesian itself functions. In Neo-Melanesian, the division between words is determined by stress, each new word having a fresh stress on its first syllable (phonemically speaking, and disregarding the extra inserted vowels in consonant clusters, discussed in section 3.2 above). We will therefore write as one word all syllables following a stressed syllable: kamap, bigfela, bringim

An exception to the principle just stated is found in the unstressed syllable i, which occurs before predicates, normally after all subjects except mi "I", mifela "we", yu "you", yufela "you (pl.)" and yum "you and
I"; i also occurs in subjectless sentences. For instance: disfela man i-go "this man goes"; em i-go "he goes"; disfela haus i-bigfela "this house is large"; mi trifela i-kamap "the three of us arrive"; i-ren "it rains". This syllable, though unstressed, belongs with the elements following it; its grammatical function is that of a "predicate-marker", telling the hearer that what follows is the predicate of the clause. (It is in no wise equivalent to the English pronoun he!). We will, therefore, as in the preceding examples, write this element i connected by a hyphen to the immediately following word. It is acceptable to write it without a hyphen: disfela man i go, em i go, mi trifela i kamap, i ren. However, such spellings as emi go "he goes" or oli go "they go", with the i attached to the preceding pronoun, show a fundamental misunderstanding of the grammatical function of i (there are no such pronoun forms as emi or oli!) and are therefore to be avoided.
LIST OF SUGGESTED SPELLINGS FOR NEO-MELANESIAN

to accompany "A Standard Orthography for Neo-Melanesian"

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Introductory Note: This list is intended only to exemplify the type of spelling suggested in the accompanying discussion. It is not intended to be complete either in number of words given or in the definitions (which are only for the purpose of identifying the words), and does not replace a vocabulary or dictionary.

abrús -im "dodge"
abús "meat"
abúsím "mix"
abartaim "at another time"
abadwe(i) "the other way"
abadwe "elsewhere"
abadwim "road"
abadwe, abdwe "address"
abtärnnun "afternoon"
abtumora "day after tomorrow"
agei "an exclamation"
ai "eye"
ain "New Guinea apple"
ain "iodine"
ain "iron"
ain "a kind of shrub"
ainono "I don't know...'s mind"
aîlin "island"
ainánga "whitebait"
aísa "ice"
aísi "I understand"
aísamalang "passive sodomist"
aítink "probably"
akaás "acacia"
skaís, ákis "axe"
alívim "help, relieve"
annamos "joy; rejoice"
amát "raw"
ambrélia "umbrella"
ambúsa "porpoise"
an, án "and"
anás "pineapple"
anámit "underneath"
andék "on deck"
andew(i) "at any rate"
andararm "to arms"
anian "onion"
anís "ant(s)" aslo ániś
angkar, ånkar -im "anchor"
apim "above, up"
ap "up"
apim "lift up"
aran, arang "a kind of pandanus"
arāra "edge"
ar "arm"
aróvar -im "steer around"
arúut "starch, arrowroot"
arút "bottom, cause, source"
adsé(i), ãsáde(i) "yesterday"
ask "full, rich"
asawë(i) ãsaw(i) "that's the way"
askim, ãskim "ask"
askit "chin"
âspirín "aspiring"
atap "leaf of sago palm"
ôtsënsan "attention"
atun "tuna fish"
August "(month of) August" (if pronounced as in Eng., then Ogas)
âsupa "native spinach"
au "hour"
aa "out"
aútásaid "outside"
aven "oven"

bag, bág "bag"
bagarap "be spoiled"
bagarimapim "spoil, ruin, wreck"
bai "in order that"
baibái "a kind of palm-like tree"
baiim "buy, pay"
báik "bicycle"
báimbai "soon"
bainat "bayonet, sword"
bák, bák "back"
bákim, bákim "give, send back"
bakét "bucket"
bakláin, báklaín "rigging"
báksaid, bákseid "reverse, back"
bakship, bâkship "stay (naut.)"
bálasisim "splice, split"
bálas "ballast"
bálus "pigeon; aeroplane"
bána "banana"
bânís bániś -im "bandage"
bank, bank, bank
bank "bench"
bear "a kind of vegetable"
bear, báral "barrel"
bearat "crack; ditch"
basis "base"
basket, bësket "basket"
bastard, bëstard "bastard"
bat "button"
bat "butter"
batarflai "butterfly"
batari, bëtari "battery"
baut "bend; out of line"
bed "bed"
be(i)kan "bacon"
be(i)kpaudar "baking powder"
beira "iron"
"a kind of vegetable"
be "be" 
be(i) "kan" "button"
be(i) "kpaudar "baking powder"
beira-im "bury"
be(i) "kan" "button"
be(i) "kpaudar "baking powder"
beira-im "bury"
be(i) "kan" "button"
brat "broad"
brandi, brándi "brandy"
bras, brás "brass"
brasbel, brásbel "haversack"
brou -fela "brown"
bred "broad"
brekuas "breakfast"
bra(i)esis "braces, suspenders"
brij "bridge"
brik "brick"
bringim "bring"
bringimap "begin, start"
brod -fela "broad"
brodkas, brodkás "broadcast"
bros -im "brush"
bruk "(be) broken"
brum -im "broom"
brus "leaf tobacco; chest"
buk "book"
buka "kind of crow; Buka native"
bukal "buckle"
bulit -im "glue"
bulmakau "bovine animal"
bum "boom"
bumbum "torch"
bomsiks "capsizing of boat"
bun "bone, skeleton"
bung "come together, meet"
bungim "bring together"
bunim "(of wind) blow in from sea"
buris "a kind of fish"
bush "jungle, bush"
bushkanaka "bush native"
bushmaif "bush-knife"

butoma "navel"
bwoi "betel-nut, betel-palm"

Chains "China, Chinese"
Chainaman, -mán, "Chinese"
Chainis "Chinese"
ch(i)n "chain"
ch(i)njim "change"
cher "chair"
cheris "a fruit like cherries"
chiki "insolent"
chip "cheap"
chis "cheese"
chok "chalk"
chokolat "chocolate"
dadap "a kind of tree"
daí "cease, die"
daímán, daimán "cead person"
daíman "diamond"
daímaíit "dynamite"
daíse "dice"
daívar "diver"
daika "pepper vine; its fruit"
damaím "tomtom"
dan "cocked; done (of meat)"
dangil "mackerel"
dasán "dozen"
das(t) "dust"
daun "down(ward)"
daunbilo "below"
daunim "put down"
daut -im "doubt"
de(i) "day"
dek "deck"
dewel "spirit, soul, shadow"
Deeseman "December"
didiman "Agriculture Dept. or agent"
dilim "give out, dish out, distribute"
dinaír "debt, obligation"
dip "dipping halyard"
dir "dear, expensive"
disfela "this, these"
diskain "this kind of..."
dissaid "(on) this side"
distaím "this time"
dokrok "frog"
doktar "doctor"
doktarboi "native medical assistant"
donki "donkey"
dor "door"
dori "lorry, truck"
dorti "dirty"
drai "ripe coconut"
drai -fela "dry"
draidok "drydock"
dram "drum" (NOT drum, unless u is like "o" in "boat")
drif "drift"
driman "dream"
drink "drink"
drop "drop"
du -im "incite, tempt; attack"
e(i)la "a kind of fruit"
e(i)pa "stingray"
e(i)sel "donkey"
e(i)sik "vinegar"
eleven "eleven"
em (NOT emil) "he, she, it" en "it"
enjin "engine"
enjinir "engineer"
envelop "envelope"
Epril "April"
erima "a kind of tree"
erimaut -im "let out, emit" et -fela "eight" (NOT ait!)
em "he, she, it"
enj "it!
enjin "engine"
enjinir "engineer"
envelop "envelope"
Epril "April"
erima "a kind of tree"
erimaut -im "let out, emit" et -fela "eight" (NOT ait!)
evri "every"
fadam "fathom"
fail -im "file"
fain -im "seek for"
fair "fire"
fairap "explode"
fairim "fire, discharge,"
fairman, -mân "fireman"
fairwud "firewood"
fait "fight"
faitim "strike"
aiv -fela "five"
aivde(i) "Friday"
aivkorn "a 5-cornered fruit"
fakim "inseminate"
fakimars "active homosexual"
famil, famili "family"
farslain "the first group; first" farsta'im "first"
fas, fês "firm[ly]; be held firm"
fashin, fâshin, "manner, way"
fat, fêt "fat"
faul "fowl"
Februeri "February"
fe(i)sa "face, brow; anger" fe(i)sim "be angry at"
fender "fender"
fewin "fair wind"
fifti "fifty"
fifitin "fifteen"
fikus "rubber tree"
filim "feel"
finggar "finger"
finish -im "finish" finieheim "who has finished his term of indentured service"
fish "fish"
fishlain "fish-line"
fius "fuse; roll of money"
fivar "flower"
flag, flâg "flag"
flai "fly"
flauer "flower, flour"
florim "flor" flut "flute"
foldeun "fall down"
for -fela "four"
forde "Thursday"
ford "for-head"
forfa "pr-s near; pass by, miss" forget -im "forget"
fork "fork"
forlair "form a line"
forman "leader"
formanim "join"
forti "forty"
folkograf -im "photograph"
fraiide "Friday"
frailim "fry"
frapen, -pân "frying-pan"
Franis, Frânis "French, France"
fre(i)d "afraid"; "be afraid" fres(i)dim "fear"
frén "friend"
frog "frog"
frogwin "a kind of wooden dish"
frut "fruit"
ful "fool"
fulap "be full"
ful(im)ap -im "fill"
fut "foot"
gabel "fork"
galimbong "sheath containing coconut blossoms"
galip "nut-tree; the nuts thereof"
gaman, gãmen "deceit; deceive"
gamanim, gdamanim "trick, deceive" gan "gun"
gard "guard"
garden "garden"
gat "have"
gavment "government"
gen "again"
ges(t) "guest"
gewer "weapon"
girigiri "small cowrie shell"
gitar "guitar"
givim "give"
glas "glass, mirror, spy-glass"
glasim "look at with a glass"
go "go"
goan "go on!"
goap "go up, mount"
goked "go ahead!"
gowe "go away"
gol "gold; goal"
golip "mother-of-pearl shell"
golmejar "sergeant-major"
gong "gong"
gorgor "a kind of plant"
gos(t) "spirit"
grana "coral and shell fragments"
gras "grass; hair"
grasop "grasshopper"
graun "ground; earth"
graulim "put ground around"
gra(vi) "gravy"
grili "ringworm"
grin -fela "green"
gris -im "grease; flattely(y)
griskat "greetings!"
hipap -im "pile up"
guava "guava"
gud -fela "good"
gudbai "good-bye"
gudfashin, -fashin "moral(s)"
gudivning "good evening!"
gudmorning "good morning"
gudnait "good night"
gudne(i)m "reputation"
gudtain "calm; good weather"
guma "snail"
gumi "rubber"
guria "tremble"

hachis, hachis "hatch(way)"
haf, haf, "half; piece"
hafhaft -im, hafhaf -im "divide in two parts; do incompletely"
hafkas, hafkals "one with two tribal affiliations"
hafmark, hafmark "sixpence"
hafman, hafman "half-moon"
hafsaid, hafsaid "side"
hai "high, up"
haid -im "hide"
hais(im)ap -im "hoist up"
haiwatar "high tide"
halyas, halyas "halyard(s)"
hamag "pride, boasting"
hamar -im, hamar -im "hammer"
han, han "hand, arm, branch"
handard "hundred"
hangimap -im, hangimap -im "hang"
handaf, handaf "handcuff"
hangri "hungry"
hand -fela "hand"
hardwok "work hard"
harap -im "hurry up"
harim "hear, understand"
hart "heart"
hat, hat "hat"
haumas "how much"
haumeni "how many"
haus "house, room"
hausat "why?"
hebsen "peas"
hed "head"
headman, -man "headman"
heawin "head wind"
he "hello!"
heioim "greet"
heipim "help"
hip "pile"
hipap -im "pile up"
hevi "heavy"
hipare(i) "cheer, acclamation"
hir "here"
hirim "hear"
hivap -im "heave up"
hobel -im "plane"
hol "hole"
holan "wait!"
holde "the whole day"
holide(i) "holiday"
holim "hold"
honi "honey"
hopso "I think so"
hors "horse"
hot -fela "hot"
hotgris "poulticine"
hotim "heat"
hotwatar "sago gruel; water for heating"
huk -im "hook"
hum "a kind of tree"
hure "hurray; to shout"
husat, husat "who? whom?"

i- predicate-marker (NOT "he" or ": "she" or "it" or "is")
inaf "sufficient; able"
inafim "satisfy"
Inglish "English"
ink "ink"
insaid "inside"
ir "ear"
iritu "a kind of tree"
is(t) "East"
isi "easy, soft, smooth"
ivning "evening"
jag "jug"
jaj "judge"
jak, jåk "jack (for auto)"
jaket, jåket "jacket"
jam, jåm "jam"
Januari, Jånuari "January"
Jarmen (NOT German) "German"
Julai "July"
Jun "June"
kabij, kàbij "cabbage"
kabin, kåbin "cabin"
kålai "eat; food"
kåkaimi "bite"
kail "wedge"
kain "kind"
kais "left; left-handed"
kaisar "emperor"
kak "flying fish"
kakadu "cockatoo"
kakalak "cockroach"
kakang "barbed wire"
kakeu "coca"
kaki "khaki"
kål "a kind of bird"
kålåbash "calabash, gourd"
kålåbus, kålåbus -im "jail"
kålång "ear-ring"
kålånar "parrot"
kålåp "enter (upon)"
kålåpa "expression of sympathy"
kålånder, kålånder "calendar"
kåliko, kålico"
kålåkalap "dance, jump"
kålåfilum "a kind of tree"
kålåop "pillow-like support"
kam "come"
kamån "come on!"
kamångoro "a kind of tree"
kåmåpim "discover, invent"
kamåut "come out"
kåmbang, kåmbång "lime"
kanda "carpenter"
kåndaun "come down"
kamereri "a kind of tree"
kastans "Customs"
katanot "naked"
katar "cutter"
katan "cotton"
katim "cut"
katrij "cartridge"
katu "hermit crab"
kaukau "sweet potato"
kaunail "council"
kaunt -im "count"
kaur "a kind of bamboo"
ka" ""men's hair ornament"
ka" "sheath of palm leaf"
ka"rap "envelope"
ka"warwer "ginger"
ka"wi "hawk"
ke(i)k "cake"
ke(i)la "bare-, baldheaded"
ke(s) "case, box cage"
kele "trowel"
ker "care"
kerasim "kerosene"
ki "key"
kiap "patrol officer"
kiayu "egg; light bulb"
kik -im "kick"
kikbag "canvas swag"
kikbol "soccer football"
kil "keel; ridge; ridgepole"
kina "clam, a kind of mussel"
kindam "prawn; kind of crab"
king "king"
kinin "quinine"
kipap "tack close to the wind"
kiper "keeper"
kipas, kipas "drift; not anchor"
kira"tim "get out"
kisim "take"
kit -im "putty"
kivung "meeting"
kiwi "shoe-polish"
kib "club (in cards)"
kik "clock; heart"
kilmar "clamp"
kibambu "mosquito-net"
kib(m(shel), kl"m(shel) "clam"
klaud "cloid"
klaubruk "cloudburst"
klin -fela "clean"
klin -im "clean"
kli" -im "clear; make clear"
kli"aut "clear out!"
kliy "jib-boom"
klos "clothes"
klosap "almost"
klostu "near"
kmiti "committee"
kofi "coffee"
kok "penis"
kokeru "rooster; clitoris"
koki "cockatoo; cook"
koko "cooca"
kokomo "hornbill"
kokonat -s "coconut"
kol "coal"
kol -fela "sole"
kolim, designate"
kolsis "a kind of tree"
koltar, "coal tar, creosote"
kolwin "sea breeze"
kom -im "comb"
koniak "cognac; kava plant and drink"
kongkong "Chinese"
kontrak "contract"
kopra "copra"
koria "a kind of pigeon"
kork -im "cork"
korks"ru "corkscrew"
korn "corn"
kornar "corner"
korrael "corporal"
kort -im "court; take to court"
korvo "stringray"
kotkot "crow; raven"
ko(u)t "coat"
krai "cry, weep"
kraide "crib"
kraj "chalk"
kra"kon "rope from a kind of vine"
krani "Malay trader"
kranki, kr"anki "clumsy, incorrect"
krib "crib"
krismas "Christmas; feast, party"
Kristen "Christian"
kro "crow"
krobar "crowbar"
krofish "rayfish"
lros "angry; anger; be angry"
kru "sprout; mushroom; brain"
krum "crooked"
krungut -im "be, make crooked"
krutan, -mân "recruit"
kuk -im "cook, burn"
kuka "crab"
kukamber "cucumber"
kukboi "native cook"
kuken "small cake"
kuki "cook"
kukurai "headman, chief"
kukau "green coconut"
kumul "bird of paradise"
kunai "a kind of grass"
kunda "native drum"
(k)urita "octopus"
kus "cough"
kuskus "clerk"
walia "small shell"
wik (be) "quick"
wiktam "quickly"
kwil "ironwood"
ladar, lâdar "ladder"
laf, läf "laugh"
lafap "luff up"
lail "lie, tell falsehood"
lot "lot; the whole thing"
lisf "life"
laik -im "like, want"
laim -im "glue"
lain "line"
lainim "teach"
laisens "license"
lait -im "light"
lait "light"
laka? "understand?"
lala "a kind of fish"
lalai "trockus shell"
lam(p), lâm(p) "lamp"
lang "fly"
langsam "slow(ly)"
langur "a kind of fish"
lanis "towbeat"
lans-, lânskorpral "lance cpl."
lâlap, lâplâp "loin-cloth"
lâpun, lâpun "old person"
larim, lârim "leave alone"
lat, lât "lath"
lau la "New Guinea apple"
laup "a kind of tree"; laus "flea"
ledar "leather"; ledarhed "leatherhead bird"

lofhan, -mân "left hand"
leg "leg"
lego -im "let go"
leman "lemon"
leman(i)d "lemonade"
lepra "leprosy, leper"
le(i)s "be tired, weary, lazy"
lejar "letter (of alphabet)"
letim "let, allow"
levelim "make level"
lever "lever"
lef "leaf"
lifimap -im "lift up"
lik "leak"
liklik "little"
llilhibit "a little"
limbum "a kind of palm"
limbun "bird of paradise"
limbu "a kind of palm"
limbu "vacation"
lindaun "bend"
links "left"
liver "liver"
livim "leave"
lo "law"
lo(u) "low (not high)"
lok -im "lock"
lok -im, lok(im)ap -im "lock up"
loko "Ma'ily-apple tree"
lot "lot; the whole thing"
lombo "chillies, red pepper"
long "to, at" (preposition)
longcher "easy chair, deck chair"
long -fela "long; tall"
longlong "crazy"
longtair "(for) a long time"
lori "lorry, truck"
lo(u)ri "a kind of parrot"
lotu "worship"
luk "lock, glance"
lukaut -im "watch, look out (for)"
luksave "recognize"
luluai "village headman or chief"
lus -im "lose, forget"
machis, mâchis "matches"
Mai "May"
mail "mile"
mais "corn, maize"
maisel "chisel"
maitbi "perhaps, maybe"
makas "a kind of tree"
makau "a kind of fish"
mal "bark loin covering"
malar "(be) ashamed"
malaria "malaria"
malmuh "herring"
maleo "eel"
mala "love-spell"
malisa "sea-pike"
malolo "rest"
malumalu "soft"
mama "mother"
mambu "bamboo; tube; flute"
mami "(be) a kind of yam"
man, mān "man; male"
mangunadi "sea eagle"
man- mānowar "a kind of bird"
Mande(i) "Monday"
mandor "native overseer"
mang "a kind of small animal"
mangal "im (be) a kind of tree"
manggas "be silent"
manggas "a kind of tree"
mang- māngroo(s) "mangrove"
mānīk "manioc"
manki "boy"
mārak "a kind of fish"
maramal "jacaranda"
March "March"
marimari "take pity, have mercy"
marip "a kind of parrot"
marita "a kind of tree"
marit "spouse" (also mārit)
marit, mārit "im "marry"
mark "shilling"
markim "mark, write"
markmarked "of various colors"
markmar "marmite"
marsalai "demon, devil, ogre"
mās "must, should"
masket "gun, rifle"
maksi "it's a matter of indifference"
mam "bug"
mās(t), mās(t) "must"
mastard "mustard"
mastar, māstar "European"
māt, māt, "met"
mātmat, mātmat "cemetery"
mātu "a kind of fish"
māu "ripe"
māulfish "a kind of fish"
māuenten "mountain, hill"
māus "mouth"
māusfas, -fās "mute"
me(i)ns(e(i)) "main sail"
me(i)nsihta "mainsheet"
me(i)t "mate"
mekim "do (NOT make!)
meknos "rattle, shake"
mēlan "melon"
melk "semen"
mēme "goat; pith; dregs"
mēri "female; (native)woman, wife"
mēter "meter (39 inches)"
mī "I, me"
mifela "we, us (not including you)"
miks immigrants "mix"
mīlin "a kind of vegetable"
mīlis "coconut milk"
mīlisim "mix with coconut milk"
mīning "meaning"
mīnit "minute"
mishin "mission"
misherih "missionary"
mīsis "(European) woman, lady, wife"
mīsis "clan; clan brother"
mīt "flesh"
mīting "meeting"
momut "marmot"
mōn "high-prowed canoe without outrigger"
mong "a kind of tree"
mōni "money"
mor "more; very"
moran "python"
morata "thatch"
morning "morning"
morningtīim "(in the) morning"
morso "a kind of reef fish"
mokito "mosquito"
moseong "fine hair"
motokar "automobile"
mukmuk "sago roasted in open fire"
mul "lemon"
mumutim "go around stealing...""mumutim "go around stealing..."
mumut "large rat; scavenger"
mum "moon; month; scavenger"
muruk "cassowary"
musik "music; mouth organ"
pauch "bag"
powd "powder"

paun(d) "pound"
pe(i) -im "pay"
pe(i) "pain"
pe(i)nt -im "paint"
pe(i)par "paper"
pe(i)p "page"
pekpek "excrement" "excrete"
pen "pen"
peni "penny"
pensil "pencil"
pep "sheath of sago leaf"
pi "pea(s)"
pig "pig"
pijin "bird; Pidgin"
pik "pick, pickaxe"
pikchar "picture"
pikinini "offspring, child; fruit"
pile "play"
pilo "pillow"
pipal "people"
pipi "turkey"
pipa "rubbish, trash, refuse"
pispis "urine; urinate"
pitpit "sugar cane"
pleiram "hoop iron"
plangis "hatchet"
plank, plank "board, plank"
plant-plant(e)iashin "plantation"
plant, plant -im "plant; bury"
playas "pliers"
ple(i)n "be level, even"
ple(i)t "plate, dish"
plenti "many"
plis "police"
plisboi "native constable"
plismaiestar "European police officer or a
poba itu "rifle cleaning flannel"
poin(t) "point"
pos "point"
poison "poison; magic; sorcery"
poket "pocket"
polish -im "polish"
pomat "potassium permanganate"
popi "Roman Catholic"
popo "pawpaw"
por "canoe without outrigger"
porij "porridge"

poses "post"
potato "potato"
prauwin "following wind"
print -im "print"
pris(t) - "priest"
puding "pudding"
pui "naked"
puinga "break wind"
pukupuk "crocodile"
pul "car; wing; fin"
pulbot "rowboat"
pulim "pull; seduce; rape"
punpun "a kind of tree"
purpur "flower; grass skirt"
pus "sash; scarf"
pushpush "sexual intercourse"
pusi "cat"
putim, place"

rab -im "rub"
rabish "of no account; poor"
rabun "ridgelpole"
rai "wind from south-east"
railal "rifled"
rais "rice"
rait "right"
rait -im "right, write"
raithan "right hand"
ran "run"
rances "run around"
ranse "run away"
rat, rat" ran "round"
raun "round"
raunbait "around"
raunwetar "lake"
raunwin "whirlwind"
raus "out"
raus "out"
cadet rausim "put out, get rid of"
red -fela "red"
redi "ready"
redim "make ready, prepare"
redio "radio"
re(i)l "rail"
re(i)n "rain"
re(i)nbo "rainbow"
re(i)ar "razor"
re(i)arim "shave"
re(i)ais "hasten"
rid -im "read"
rif "reef"  
rif(a)l "reefsail"  
rings "ring"  
rivars "river"  
rods "rod"  
rolars "roller"  
rong "wrong"  
rope "roe"  
rupim "string up"  
ros "horse"  
rust "rust"  
rot "rotten"  
rutang "rattan"  
rular "ruler (for measuring)"  
rum "room"  
ruru "meditate"  
sadals, sådal -im "saddle"  
saidan "sergeant"  
saidlam(p), -lâm(p) "sidelights"  
sakim, säkim "push back"  
saksak "sago palm; sago"  
salad, sålad "salad"  
salamons "ceremonial rattles"  
salaps "nettles"  
samans "outrigger"  
sambah, såmbah "stand by; wait"  
samfela "some"  
samtaim "some time"  
samting "thing"  
san "sun"  
sanap, sånap -im "stand up"  
sandauns "sundown; the west"  
sande "Sunday; day off; week"  
san- sâne(par) "sandpaper"  
sang "a kind of timber"  
sangana "groin"  
sangana "groin"  
sang "pliers"  
sanggumas "sorcery; sorcerer"  
sankam "sunrise; east"  
santa, sânta "scent, perfume"  
sarip, sânta "scent, perfume"  
sarjen(t) "sergeant"  
satarde(i) "Saturday"  
saur "sour"  
saursap "soursop"  
sautila "southeast"  
saye "know; be in the habit of"  
sayor "vegetables"  
se(i)lar "sailor; to get easily"  
seim "senti"  
seiwa "range target"  
seilam "tent; piece of canvas"  
september "September"  
seremony "ceremony"  
seven(s) "Seventh Day Adventists"  
seventy "seventy"  
seventyte "seventeen"  
shaft "shaft"  
shakel, shakel "part of anchor chain"  
sharap -im "shut up"  
sharbar "adze"  
shar -im "sharp, sharpen"  
shavel -im "shovel"  
shokhan, -shin "shake hands"  
shell "shell"  
shem -im "shame"  
shiling "shilling"  
ship "ship"  
shipship "sheep"  
shit "remainder"  
shoim "show"  
shoim "show"  
shol(dar) "shoulder"  
shor "shore"  
short "shirt"  
short -fela "short"  
shortwin "(be) out of breath"  
shrank "cupboard, closet, chest"  
shubim "shove, push"  
shutboi "gunboy, native beater"  
shutlam(p), -lâm(p) "torchlight"  
si "sea"  
sigar "cigar"  
sigaret "cigarette"  
sigau "wallaby"  
sik "sick, sickness"  
sikis -fela "six"  
siksti "sixty"  
silika "silk"  
siment "cement"  
sinamar "cinnamon"  
sindauns "sit; be located"  
singau -im "call"  
singlis "singlet"  
singsing "song; native ceremonial"  
sipra "arrow"  
sirap "cheer up"  
sisa "sibling of opposite sex"  
sisik "seasick"
sisis "scissors"
sistar "sister (nun, nurse)"
siti "city"
siv -im "sieve"
ske(i)l "scale"
ske(i)im "weigh"
skin "skin, body"
skol "squall"
skol "squall"
skor "scone"
skre(i)pim "scrape"
skru -im "screw"
skuj "sieve"
ske(i)lim "soak"
skin "skin, body"
skol "squall"
skol "squall"
skor "scone"
skre(i)pim "scrape"
skru -im "screw"
skuj "sieve"
ske(i)lim "soak"

spos (NOT suppose!) "if"
spring "spring"
spun "spoon"
stap "be, be located, continue"
star "star"
starn "stern"
start -im "start"
stephin "oast; farm; barracks"
stik "stick"
stil -im "steal"
stilman, -män "thief"
stimar "steamer"
stingri "stingray"
stink "decay, be odoriferous"

stir -im "steer"
ston "stone"
stor -im "store"
stri "story, tale"
stocker "stove"
strafe "punishment"
strai "chevron"
str(i)tim "right, straight, true"
string "string"
strong "strong"

strongim "strengthen"
sumatin "schooboy, -girl"
sup "soup"
supsup "arrow"
suruk, surik "back"
surukim, surikim "pull back"
susa "sibling of opposite sex"
susap "Jew's hare"
susu "breast; milk"
swain "swine" (as coos-word)
swelap "swell up"
swet "sweat"
swim "swim"
swimim "find by diving"
switmul "orange"
swit -fela "sweet"
switpoteto "sweet potato"

tabak "tobacco"
taid "tide"
taim "time; when"
tais "pond; swamp"
tait "tight"
taitim "tighten"
takis, takis "tax"
talai "sardines"
talatala "Protestant"
talabug "pearl shell; snail shell"
taleo "wind from northwest"
talis "a kind of tree and nut"
tamburan, tämaran "sacred ceremonial object(s)"; spirits of the dead
tambirua "corn (on foot); yaws"
tambuim "forbidden; prohibition"
tamiok "axe"
tandok "sign"
tang "tongue"
tangir "kingfish"
tank, tänk "tank"
tankim tänkim "tank"
tanyu, täncyu "thank you"
tankan "a kind of palm leaf; chit, message; rendezvous"
tapiok "tapioca"
tarangau "fish-hawk"
tarangu "poor fellow!"
tarar "a kind of shellfish"
tarn "turn"
tarn bang "reverse side"
taro "taro"
tarpulit "tarpaulin"
tarti "thirty"
tartin "thirteen"
tasol, täsol "only; but"
taual "towel"
tauka "cuttle fish"
taul "conch-shell horn"
taum "town"
taumim "mosquito-net"
tausand "thousand"
te(i)bal (NOT taibal!) "table"
te(i)kwe(i) "take away"
te(i)l "tail"
telkon "telephone"
telimaut "telephone"
telit "im "tell, reveal"
tematan "heathen"
ten "fela "ten"
tent "tent"
teritori "Territory"
ti "tea"
tiang "forked post or beam"
tich "im "teach"
ticharboi "native teacher"
tiktik "kind of wild sugar cane"
tin "tin can"
tinmit "canned meat"
tinktink "think; thought, opinion"
tinte "ink"
tipot "teapot"
tit "tooth, teeth"
tok "speak"
tokim "speak to"
toknogudim "insult, revile"
toktok "speech"
tolo, toro "southeast wind"
tomato "tomato"
ton "a kind of tree"
tono "corn (on foot)"
tor "ironwood"
tos(t) "toast"
towan "a kind of tree"
trabal "difficulty, wrongdoing"
trai "im "try"
trak "truck"
traktar, traktar "tractor"
trayu "turtle"
trem "thread"
tre(i)l (NOT tral) "tray"
tral "three" "try"
tride "Wednesday"
tride "Wednesday"
trmattas(t), -mattas(t) "three-master"
trip "sprout, germ, young fruit"
traitaim "thrice"
troubu "vomit"
troumwe "im "throw away"
tru "truly; indeed"
tu "also"
tudark "darkness, night"
tude "today; Tuesday"
tudir "expensive"
tufela "two"
tuhot "very hot; perspiration"
tulait "light, daytime"
tulip "kind of shrub; kind of loin cloth"
tultul "Government interpreter"
tumas "very, very much"
tumas(t), tumas(t) "two-master"
tumbun "wooden mask"
tumbuna "ancestor; descendant"
tumeni "very many"
tumora "tomorrow"
tupis "a pair"
tuptup "lid, cork, cover"
widthing "biplane"
twine "twine"
twelve "twelve"
ula "a kind of fish"
umben "net bag; net"
urau "heave to"
utun "a kind of tree"
vilaj "village"
vinegar "vinegar"
virgo "virgin"
vin "death by violence, homicide"
vud "a kind of poisonous plant"
wachm "watch, guard"
wachman, "watchman"
waill "wild"
waidog "wild dog"
waidpig "wild pig"
wain "wine"
wa1 "wire"
wailman "savage"
wairles "wireless; gossip"
wailisim "spread (news)"
wait -fela "white"
waitman, "European"
waitlan "sand"
waitskin "white man"
wanfela "one; same; a certain"
waisi "one-eyed"
wabed "from the same clan"
wabut "blood relative"
wande(i) "Monday"
wande(i)s "same"
wanka1n "similar, of the same kind; one kind of..."
wanka1n "of the same group"
wanne(i)m "having same name"
wankipin "of same tribe"
wankip(i)s "from same place"
wankrod "on same road"
wantaim "together; with"
wantok "compatriot, friend"
wantu "suddenly"
wanwing "monoplane"
wasamara "what's up? how come?"
washim "wash"
wash "wash (oneself)"
wa "water"
wa "rocking movement"
we(i)it "wait"
we(i)tim "wait"
we(i)kort "one awaiting trial"
we(l)im "oil"
we(l)iver "lung"
wik "wick; week"
wilkar "wheelbarrow"
wilwil "wheel; bicycle; grinder"
wilwilim "keep turning; grind"
win "wind; win"
winim "beat, surpass"
woindo "window"
wing "wing"
winis "winch"
winisim "raise by a winch: kick up"
winshort "short of breath; pant"
wen "whip"
wishiis "likes, desires, habits"
wisil "whistle"
wisnas "whiskers"
wok "work"
wokabut "walk, travel, go"
wokboi "native indentured laborer"
wokin "make, construct, prepare"
wokmeri "female worker"
wokurei "hold a conference, debate"
wol "wall"
wo(t)for "why?"
wo(t)nam "what?"
wotaim "when?"
wustar "oyster"
yakabor "rough, cruel person"
yam, yâm "yam"
yambo "guava fruit"
yang -fela "young"
yar "year; ear; casuarina"
yard "yard"
yarfas, -fás "deaf"
yati "teakwood"
yela "yellow"
yerima "a kind of tree"
yes "yes"
yesar "yes, sir"
yest "yet, still"
yis(t) "yeast"
yod "iodine"
yu "you (sg.)"
yufela "you (pl.)"
yumí "we, us (you and me)"
yusim "use"