

### 2.14.3. EAST BIRD'S HEAD, GEELVINK BAY PHYLA

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#### 2.14.3.1. THE EAST BIRD'S HEAD PHYLUM-LEVEL STOCK

2.14.3.1.0. The East Bird's Head Stock extends over the whole eastern part of the Bird's Head except for a wedge-shaped area in the east occupied by the Borai-Hattam Family (see 2.10.2.4.) and a small area north of Manokwari in which an Austronesian language is spoken. The stock consists of the Meax Family and the Mantion family-level Isolate (see the Family Map in 2.6.2.1. in this volume). They share an average of 25% cognates. The total number of speakers of languages of the stock is about 16,000.

#### 2.14.3.1.1. THE MEAX FAMILY

The family has two member languages: Meax in the north, and Meningo in the Steenkool area in the south. They share about 65% cognates. The two languages are separated by a large tract of rough mountain country, and it is possible that other languages belonging to the family are spoken in this area. The total number of speakers is about 4,000.

Meax, in earlier publications called Mansibaber, became first known through a word list and some grammatical notes published by Wirz (1923). Cowan, in his 1953 survey, discussed Wirz' notes; a few vocabulary items in Meax can be found in his survey and in his later comparative work (1958, 1960). A short word list is given in Galis 1955.

For Meningo the only data available is an unpublished word list.

Meax has free personal pronouns in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person sg., dl. and pl. and an inclusive - exclusive distinction in the 1st p.dl. and pl. The Meningo data looks incomplete and may contain errors; the pronouns in the two languages are presented in the chart below.

|           | 1 p.  |          | 2 p. |                | 3 p. |        |
|-----------|-------|----------|------|----------------|------|--------|
|           | Meax  | Men.     | Meax | Men.           | Meax | Men.   |
| s.        | didif | dedef    | buba | bua            | ofo  | of     |
| dl. incl. | maef  | ?        | iga  | ?              | koa  | ?      |
| excl.     | naef  | ?        |      |                |      |        |
| pl. incl. | memif | amofa    |      |                |      |        |
| excl.     | memef | mofromra | iwa  | mere-<br>neteb | rura | bihire |

The corresponding possessive pronouns in Meax are, according to Wirz:

|           | 1      | 2     | 3      |
|-----------|--------|-------|--------|
|           | dedin  | bebin | efew   |
| dl. incl. | mafman | yegen | kerken |
| excl.     | nafan  |       |        |
| pl.       | mafman | yein  | rerin  |

and they follow the noun: *mes dedin my dog*. In Cowan's opinion this could be a special construction, involving an absolute possessive pronoun: *the dog is mine*. That this could indeed be the case is shown by the related Mantion language in which the possessive pronouns precede (or perhaps are prefixed to) the noun: *tanin(-)sira my hand*.

A notable feature of the Meax nouns in Wirz' list is that so many of them have an initial *m*. Many of these nouns are names of body parts, and Cowan advances the opinion that the *m* could be a possessive prefix paralleling the possessive prefix *m-* in Mantion. The new lexical data now available seem to confirm Cowan's opinion, witness the following nouns from different lists in Meax, Meningo, and Mantion: *tooth* mufon, rufon, dufon, bufon (Meax), ifon (Meningo); *skin* mofos, ofos (Meax); *breast* mink, rink (Meax); *foot* maki, aki, mukueda (Meax), mohora, abohora, mamohora (Mantion).

This should not lead one to assume that all initial m's in Meax nouns are prefixes, as was done by Greenberg (1971) - even if it allows one to postulate a few extra etyma (see 2.6.2.3.1.3.). There is no evidence to support this assumption.

Verbs in Meax take prefixed subject markers, a typological feature they have in common with the languages of the West Papuan Phylum. Wirz gives the following paradigm of the verb *to sleep*:

|        |       |         |             |         |       |
|--------|-------|---------|-------------|---------|-------|
| 1 p.s. | t-axč | 1 p.dl. | incl. m-axč | 1 p.pl. | m-axč |
|        |       |         | excl. n-axč |         |       |
| 2 p.s. | b-axč | 2 p.dl. | g-axč       | 2 p.pl. | y-axč |
| 3 p.s. | axč   | 3 p.dl. | r-axč       | 3 p.pl. | r-axč |

Tense and aspect are expressed by free markers, following the verb: *didif ditmar fog I shall eat*; *buba bitmar oisovo you have eaten*.

Word order in the sentence seems to be of the Austronesian type, and prepositions are used instead of postpositions: *durk esič di ɓirfa carry on the head* (*durk carry, di on, ɓirfa head*; the meaning of *esič* is unknown); *didif teker Kwawi I live at Kwawi*; *ax mei in the water*; *skid mei above the water*. The examples are from Wirz.

#### 2.14.3.1.2. THE MANTION FAMILY-LEVEL ISOLATE

Manton, from earlier publications also known as Manikion-Manton or vice versa, occupies the south-eastern part of the Bird's Head, and has at least 12,000 speakers. There are two major dialects, a northern (Manikion) and a southern (Manton). Cowan (1953) notes that Manton and Manikion are names given by coastal settlers to the native population. Manikion is a Numfor word, Manton a Wandamen word; both mean *indigene, native*.

Some notes on Manton can be found in Cowan 1953; a few further lexical data in Galis 1955 and Cowan 1958, 1960. The present writer had at his disposal some unpublished notes on Manikion collected by A. Capell. At present the language is being studied by the Protestant Mission in the area. Manton appears to be a tonal language.<sup>1</sup>

With the personal pronouns, three persons are distinguished in singular, dual and plural, with an inclusive-exclusive distinction in the 1st p.dl. and pl., as in Meax. They are given below for both dialects, but the Manton data are incomplete.

|          | Manikion dialect | Mantion dialect |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 s.     | tani             | tani            |
| dl.incl. | nanan            | ?               |
| excl.    | aman             | ?               |
| pl.incl. | maman            | mamani          |
| excl.    | emen             | ?               |
| 2 s.     | pani             | ban             |
| dl.      | yan              | ?               |
| pl.      | yeni             | yeni            |
| 3 s.     | eni              | eni             |
| dl.      | lan              | ?               |
| pl.      | leni             | renkaho         |

Possessive pronouns are prefixed to the noun; some examples: -sira *hand*, taninsira *my hand*, paninsira *your hand*, enmesira *his hand*, mamesira *our hands*.

Verbs take prefixed subject markers: tand-eye pan *I saw you*; pamb-eye tan *you saw me*; em-eya *we saw it*; le-čičuk *they returned*.

Word order in the verbal sentence is of the Austronesian type (SVO) and prepositions are used instead of postpositions:

le-na      le-sa      hose koji      *those men speared (a) big fish*  
*those-men they-speared fish big*

tand-eč tou pani      *I give it to you*

le-čičuk se Lei      *they returned to Lae*

#### 2.14.3.1.3. CLASSIFICATION

The East Bird's Head Stock coincides with Cowan's 'Eastern Group' of the Bird's Head languages. This group he found difficult to place; at first he rejected the possibility that it belonged to his West Papuan Phylum (1958) but later he found evidence which pointed to a very distant relationship between the languages of the 'Eastern Group' and those of his West Papuan Phylum (1960) and he added the 'Eastern Group' to it.

The fate of Cowan's West Papuan Phylum (WPP) seems to be that it has to be split up over several phyla<sup>2</sup> although the grouping may retain an ultimate validity on the macro-phylum level.<sup>3</sup> Thus his 'Eastern Group' seems to constitute a phylum by itself; cognation percentages with the other languages in the Bird's Head fall generally below the phylum-level threshold and only between adjacent languages, where borrowing is most

likely to have occurred, do they exceed it. The following chart shows the numbers of cognates (in a 100 item basic word list) shared between Meax, Meningo, Mantion, and the WPP languages in the Bird's Head (see 2.10.2.). The number of verbs found among the cognates is given between brackets.

|              | Meax  | Meningo | Mantion |
|--------------|-------|---------|---------|
| Borai        | 4 (-) | 6 (2)   | 7 (-)   |
| Hattam       | 8 (-) | 6 (-)   | 7 (-)   |
| Amberbaken   | 7 (2) | 5 (2)   | 4 (2)   |
| Karon Dori   | 6 (2) | 6 (2)   | 4 (2)   |
| Brat         | 7 (1) | 7 (1)   | 5 (1)   |
| Karon Pantai | 4 (-) | 3 (-)   | 3 (-)   |
| Madik        | 5 (-) | 5 (-)   | 3 (-)   |
| Moraid       | 2 (-) | 2 (-)   | 2 (-)   |
| Moi          | 4 (1) | 4 (1)   | 4 (1)   |
| Seget        | 5 (1) | 5 (1)   | 6 (1)   |
| Kalabra      | 4 (1) | 3 (1)   | 3 (1)   |
| Tehit        | 5 (1) | 4 (1)   | 5 (1)   |

The verbs are: *give, see* (with Borai); *come, eat* (with Amberbaken); *sit, eat* (with Karon Dori) and *eat* (the remainder).

The total number of separate cognates shared with languages of the West Papuan Phylum is thirty-three, but there is very little overlap between cognates shared with the languages of the Bird's Head Super-Stock, with Amberbaken, with Borai, and with Hattam.

#### 2.14.3.2. THE GEELVINK BAY PHYLUM

2.14.3.2.0. The Geelvink Bay Phylum is a tentative grouping set up to accommodate a number of languages which have at least phylum-level relationships with each other and are difficult to include in any of the other three phyla in Irian Jaya, viz. the Trans-New Guinea Phylum, the West Papuan Phylum, and the East Bird's Head phylum-level Stock, (see chapters 2.5. - especially 2.5.3.3.2. -, 2.6., part 2.10., and 2.14.3.1. above).

The phylum stretches over a considerable part of the hinterland of the East Geelvink Bay - along the coast the Austronesian Waropen language is spoken - and also takes in the central part of Yapen Island. It

consists of the East Geelvink Bay stock-level Family and the Yava stock-level Isolate (see the Family Map in 2.6.2.1. in this volume). The total number of speakers in the phylum is not known, but may well be about 8,000.

#### 2.14.3.2.1. THE EAST GEELVINK BAY STOCK-LEVEL FAMILY

The family as presently known consists of three member languages: Tarungare, Baropasi, and Bauri. Tarungare and Bauri share approximately 50% cognates, Tarungare and Baropasi 40% and Bauri and Baropasi about 35%. There is no earlier published information on these languages except for a short word list of Tarungare in Galis 1955; the present survey is based on unpublished word lists in Tarungare and Baropasi from Anceaux' notebooks<sup>4</sup> and on a list in Bauri kindly supplied to the writer by Myron Bromley.

Tarungare is spoken near the township of Nabire at the bottom of the Geelvink Bay; Baropasi is located about 200 km north-west of Nabire, and Bauri is spoken near Lake Holmes in the mountains south-east of Baropasi. The exact areas covered by them, and their numbers of speakers are not known, and it is possible that there are still other languages belonging to the same family in the same general area - the figure of 3,000 speakers or so may perhaps be not too far from the mark.

The verb forms in the lists reveal very little of the verb structure; some forms suggest the presence of a suffix, e.g. Tarungare *uaure*, Bauri *voü swim* (this *-re* is found in several verb forms in the Tarungare list). Bauri *emua give it to me* contains the verb stem *ua give* and the personal pronoun *em I* but it is not clear whether this is a pronominal prefix or a free pronoun.

The personal pronouns contained in the lists are:

|         | Tarungare | Bauri      | Baropasi |
|---------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 1 p.s.  | ei        | em         | emi      |
| 1 p.pl. | i         | omti, emti | ime      |
| 2 p.s.  | ei, oi    | ?ome       | oba      |
| 2 p.pl. | wi        | -          | umi      |
| 3 p.s.  | dia (AN)  | -          | aba      |
|         | oi        |            |          |
| 3 p.pl. | ui        | -          | aiba     |

## 2.14.3.2.2. THE YAVA STOCK-LEVEL ISOLATE

The Yava language, locally also known as Yapanani or Mora, is spoken in the middle section of Yapen island; in the west and east it borders on Austronesian languages, which take up the remainder of the island. The most detailed published source on Yava is Anceaux' survey of, amongst others, the languages of Yapen (Anceaux 1961) in which he gives detailed information on the language area, dialects and the villages where they are spoken, and on the available sources, published and unpublished. To this he added some observations on the grammatical structure of the language, which supplement the few grammatical notes on Yava made by Cowan in his survey of 1953. A very short wordlist in Yava (called Turu) can be found in Galis' survey of 1955. The present classification of Yava was assisted by unpublished wordlists in several dialects of Yava, kindly made available to the writer by J.C. Anceaux. Yava is spoken by more than 4,500 people; there are 15 dialects, some of them spoken in one village only.

Pronouns: there are pronouns in the first, second, and third person singular and plural, with an additional inclusive-exclusive distinction in the 1st p.pl. and a masculine-feminine distinction in the 3rd p.s..

The following chart shows the pronoun sets in three Yava dialects: Ambaidiru in the mountainous interior, Mantembu just north of the township of Serui on the south coast, and Saweru, spoken on a small island about 10 km south-east of Serui.

|                 | Ambaidiru | Mantembu     | Saweru        |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| <i>I</i>        | ri, nei   | rei, nei     | nei           |
| <i>we incl.</i> | uam       | reiami, wamo | hamain, amain |
| <i>excl.</i>    | uaiap     | reia, reamo  |               |
| <i>you s.</i>   | uein      | uein         | uein          |
| <i>you pl.</i>  | wea       | wea          | wea           |
| <i>he</i>       | wep       | ue, wep, po  | afi           |
| <i>she</i>      | wem       | wem          | ami           |
| <i>they</i>     | reama     | awama        | enawe         |

The gender distinction manifests itself also in nouns; these take suffixes which mark singular and plural number and within singular, also number and gender. Anceaux gives the following examples in the Saweru dialect: *paitanepie old man*; *sapedaepie bicycle*; *a:nanemie old woman*; *kamenawie men*; *ruamenawie women*.

Verbs, Anceaux notes, have a complicated conjugation, but he does not give any examples. A few can be found in Cowan, whose data are in the Mantembu dialect. Verbs take prefixes as well as suffixes; the prefixes found in the examples are subject markers and markers of the gender of the object; the function of the suffixes is not clear. In some examples, however, the verb has no subject marker but the subject is indicated by a free pronoun.

Examples: -aje *go down*: ris-aje *I am going down*, wis-aje *you s. are going down*, wep-aje *he is going down*, but:

po oramane ra-mago *he stone it-threw* = *he threw the stone*.

batan kawasae w-ayau-be *people many they-talk-...* = *many people were talking*.

The gender distinction already found in pronouns and nouns manifests itself also in the third person singular of the verb. Anceaux gives the example: *de he comes*, *more she comes*.

The word order in a verbal sentence is Papuan: subject-object-verb, as can be seen in the above examples.

#### 2.14.3.2.3. CLASSIFICATION

The present position of Yava as a member of the Geelvink Bay Phylum is not without problems. In earlier publications, the relationships between Yava and the languages in the Bird's Head received all the attention. Cowan (1955) suggested that Yava could be related to the Bird's Head languages; Anceaux later voiced the same opinion (1961) at about the same time that Cowan added the language to his West Papuan Phylum (1960). Cowan's evidence however was weak, and some of his equations now appear untenable.<sup>5</sup>

The newly available lexical data reveal an interesting situation. Yava has phylum-level relationships with a few languages in both the Trans-New Guinea Phylum (TNGP) and the West Papuan Phylum (WPP). These are, in the TNGP the Demta, Tanah Merah, and Sentani languages of the Sentani Stock, and the Kwerba language of the Dani Stock (see 2.6.2.2.14. and 2.6.2.2.8.1.) and in the West Papuan phylum the Amberbaken, Boraí, and Hattam languages (see 2.10.2.3. and 2.10.2.4.). The remainder of the lexical relationships between Yava and languages of the two phyla seem to fall below the phylum level. With the almost total absence of structural information on the languages in question (the only exception being Sentani) it is difficult to assess the weight of the lexical evidence; the sporadic cases of phylum-level relationships with languages of the TGNP and WPP seem in themselves not enough to posit either TGNP or WPP membership for Yava, nor to unite

the two phyla into one. The bulk of the lexical evidence does not support any of these solutions. For this reason, Yava has been united into a separate phylum with the languages of the East Geelvink Bay Family. These at least, in addition to having phylum-level relationships with Yava, share with it the characteristic of not belonging clearly to either the TGNP or the WPP.

The lexical correspondences between Yava and one or more of its phylum-level partners on the mainland are given below<sup>6</sup>; to these have been added the correspondences between these languages which do not involve Yava. They show a number of quite close correspondences between Kwerba and Hattam, but this is a lead which can only be followed up when more is known of the languages in north Irian Jaya.

The lexical correspondences are between Amberbaken (AMB), Borai (BOR), Hattam (HAT), Yava (YAV), Tarungare (TAR), Kwerba (KWE), Demta (DEM), and Sentani (SEN). The Yava data are in the Mantembu dialect, except where indicated otherwise: a = Ambaidiru, c = Ariepl, e = Tarau, k = Turu, l = Konti-Unai, m = Wadapi-Darat, o = Saweru.<sup>7</sup>

#### A. Correspondences involving Yava.

|                 |                                                                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>belly</i>    | - BOR nəpur, YAV nanebon, DEM nimbu                                         |
| <i>breast</i>   | - HAT ik-dob, YAV uka                                                       |
| <i>burn</i>     | - HAT nenjen, YAV - (a: nen; e: monindi; k: ninigyo)                        |
| <i>come</i>     | - YAV nde, re; TAR nere                                                     |
| <i>eat</i>      | - YAV rai(s), TAR ghayo                                                     |
| <i>eye</i>      | - AMB yam, YAV (n)ami                                                       |
| <i>fly (v)</i>  | - AMB bubwar, BOR pra, YAV bariri, TAR bunana,<br>DEM fru                   |
| <i>foot</i>     | - YAV najo, TAR nal (Baropasi: naro)                                        |
| <i>give</i>     | - BOR eri, YAV -ra, TAR nore                                                |
| <i>green</i>    | - YAV keke, DEM keker                                                       |
| <i>hair</i>     | - AMB bur, YAV bwin                                                         |
| <i>I</i>        | - AMB in, BOR, HAT dani; YAV nei, rei; TAR ei,<br>KWE ema, DEM də, SEN dəyə |
| <i>leaf</i>     | - AMB bwa, YAV ba, bau                                                      |
| <i>lie down</i> | - YAV -naki, -neki; KWE nukuam, ndokwain                                    |
| <i>long</i>     | - BOR wai, kwar; YAV waiawan (a: gwarawain)                                 |
| <i>long</i>     | - HAT nə-jei, YAV c: sojai                                                  |
| <i>louse</i>    | - AMB iim, BOR emem, HAT mem, YAV eme, DEM ami,<br>SEN mi                   |
| <i>man</i>      | - YAV aña, KWE ana                                                          |
| <i>meat</i>     | - YAV - (e.k,l: sine), KWE tin                                              |

|                |                                                               |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>mouth</i>   | - YAV awa, KWE mawe, SEN wa                                   |
| <i>sit</i>     | - YAV tunu (o: nunu), SEN nuə-                                |
| <i>skin</i>    | - BOR, HAT ŋkek; YAV kea                                      |
| <i>small</i>   | - YAV mamau, KWE mamo-čera                                    |
| <i>stand</i>   | - HAT ahyen, sayen; YAV seontet (m: neseylene,<br>k: nasiate) |
| <i>star</i>    | - AMB tom, HAT simura, YAV tum, KWE<br>KWE čimuta, čumuta     |
| <i>sun</i>     | - YAV uma, DEM omar                                           |
| <i>tail</i>    | - YAV ateva, TAR otapara                                      |
| <i>tree</i>    | - YAV ño, SEN no                                              |
| <i>two</i>     | - BOR nyan, HAT čan, YAV jiru,<br>KWE nini-čaro, nini-čiro    |
| <i>warm</i>    | - YAV mamooan, DEM namu, SEN naume                            |
| <i>water</i>   | - AMB war, HAT ŋwar, YAV karu ( <i>moisture</i> ), TAR waro   |
| <i>wind</i>    | - YAV obar, TAR bwa                                           |
| <i>you s.</i>  | - YAV uein, TAR ei, DEM we, SEN weye                          |
| <i>you pl.</i> | - YAV wea, TAR wi, DEM me, we; SEN meya                       |

B. Correspondences not involving Yava.

|                 |                                                            |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>blood</i>    | - AMB far, DEM owar                                        |
| <i>drink</i>    | - AMB a kuret, TAR ugure                                   |
| <i>dry</i>      | - AMB kalle, DEM kekere (Kwesten, Tor Fam. has<br>karkara) |
| <i>he</i>       | - BOR ne, HAT no, SENT nəyə                                |
| <i>housefly</i> | - BOR ŋwaram, KWE akunam, agworem                          |
| <i>knee</i>     | - BOR abrau, TAR para                                      |
| <i>near</i>     | - HAT dədew, DEM yotow                                     |
| <i>nose</i>     | - BOR muhab, HAT uhwab, KWE okwə                           |
| <i>red</i>      | - BOR nuŋwar, HAT nŋwoi, DEM nuŋgu                         |
| <i>sun</i>      | - HAT mpau, TAR wapao                                      |
| <i>three</i>    | - HAT nəŋal, DEM nauŋwai                                   |
| <i>tooth</i>    | - HAT kway, KWE kwan                                       |
| <i>tree</i>     | - HAT incem, KWE ičə                                       |
| <i>what</i>     | - BOR ame, SEN eme                                         |
| <i>white</i>    | - BOR pow, TAR pau, SEN paumbwan                           |

N O T E S

1. Personal communication by Dr. Myron Bromley.
2. Lexicostatistically defined as groups of genetically related languages sharing a minimum of between 6-12% cognates in a basic word list of 100 items. (see 2.6.2.1. note 2).
3. See 2.6.2.3., 2.10.2.1. and 2.14.3.2.
4. See 2.6.2.1. for further details.
5. Cowan gives three correspondences with Moi (Waipu dialect), this being the highest number of cognates found by him between any of the Bird's Head languages and Yava. One of these, *leaf* Mantembu bara: Moi malas is invalid; Anceaux' Yava lists all have ba or bau and the corresponding morpheme in Moi (and other languages of the West Bird's Head Family) is -las which is not cognate with ba(u). The equation of Mantembu -amo (in wamo, reamo) with Brat amo *we* is tenuous, and Cowan's conclusion that the characteristic consonant of the 1st person plural in Mantembu is m constitutes an error in the light of the new data.
6. To economize on the size of the list, four languages have not been included. They are Baropasi and Bauri of the East Geelvink Bay Stock-level Family, and Tanah Merah and Nafri of the Sentani Family in the Sentani Stock. The relationships between Yava and the languages of these families are made sufficiently clear by the inclusion of only one of their members, viz. Tarungare and Sentani.
7. For the locations of these dialects the reader is referred to the map in Anceaux 1961.

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PART 2.15.

ISOLATES

