

A COMPARISON OF THE PIDGINS OF SOLOMON ISLANDS AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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0. INTRODUCTION

Although the pidgin languages used today in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea have a common origin in the last century, they have since developed in their own characteristic ways. This paper compares the little known and sparsely documented Solomon Islands pidgin with the well known and well documented Papua New Guinea pidgin. The approach is to highlight some of the differences – orthographic, phonological, lexical, and grammatical – between the two languages. The similarities between the languages are more numerous than the differences, but here I seek only to point out the differences. Most areas omitted from the discussion are assumed to be areas where the languages are more similar than they are different. It is hoped that this paper may assist persons who know one of the languages and wish to learn the other.

At the present time (1980) there has been very little material published either in or about Solomon Islands pidgin. The few existing works dealing with the language include two linguistic papers by Robert Hall (1945, 1955); a brief spelling list (1973); *A directory of Solomons Pidgin idioms* by Hugh Young (1976); *Pijin blong yumi: a guide to Solomon Islands Pijin* by Linda Simons and Hugh Young (1978); and a set of four books produced by the Peace Corps for teaching Pijin to their workers, *Solomon Islands Pijin*, Peace Corps languages Handbook Series (1979). As for publications in the language, the government has printed 'Fact Sheets' (informational bulletins) in both English and Pijin since 1975 and the *Gospel of Mark* was published in 1976. A Pijin Literacy Project sponsored by the Solomon Islands Christian Association began in mid 1979. Solomon Islands pidgin has not yet gained recognition as an official language in the country.

On the other hand, the pidgin of Papua New Guinea has enjoyed extensive research by various scholars for many years and has official status within the country. As a result many publications exist both about and in the language. Some notable publications are *The Jacaranda dictionary and grammar of Melanesian Pidgin* by Francis Mihalic (1971); the *Nupela Testamen* (1969); *Tok Pisin i go we?* edited by Kenneth McElhanon (1975); and the *Wantok* newspaper.

In this paper, the languages are referred to by the names which their speakers give them: 'Pijin' in Solomon Islands, and 'Tok Pisin' in Papua New Guinea. The following abbreviations are used:

SI	-	Solomon Islands (Pijin)
PNG	-	Papua New Guinea (Tok Pisin)
ENG	-	English

The data for Pijin comes from *Pijin blong yumi* (Simons and Young 1978). The data for Tok Pisin comes mainly from *The Jacaranda dictionary and grammar of Melanesian Pidgin* (Mihalic 1971). In addition, I have relied on my own experience in learning and speaking both languages.

The paper results from field work done in Papua New Guinea in 1976 and Solomon Islands in 1977 and 1980 under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. While in Solomon Islands the work was also sponsored by the Solomon Islands Christian Association. During 1976-1977, this research was part of the Cornell University project 'Language Variation and Limits to Communication', carried out with the partial support of grant BNS76-06031 from the National Science Foundation. I am grateful to Peter Lincoln, Gillian Sankoff, and Gary Simons for their helpful comments on an earlier version of this paper which appeared in 1977 as Number 4 in Working Papers for the Language Variation and Limits to Communication Project. Any errors that remain are my own responsibility.

1. ORTHOGRAPHIC AND PHONOLOGICAL COMPARISONS

It is difficult to talk about the phonologies of Pijin and Tok Pisin when we consider the wide dialectal variations in both languages. The orthographies for both languages are compromises, at best, in order to satisfy the need for standardisation in literature. In this section I compare the standardised orthographies used for the two languages. Often these differences are purely orthographic, but in some cases (such as the Pijin vowel harmony noted in 1.1.5 and 1.3) there are true phonological processes underlying the orthographic differences.

1.1 Regular orthographic differences

1.1.1 p and f

When the English source word contains an f, it is represented by f in Pijin. In Tok Pisin, however, sometimes this sound is represented by p and sometimes by f, though in the first edition of Mihalic's dictionary (1957) most of these were represented by f. The f used in Pijin is representative of the sound used by the majority of Pijin speakers.

SI	PNG	ENG
faea	paia	<i>fire</i>
faet	pait	<i>fight</i>
fas	pas	<i>fast, firm, firmly</i>
faol	paul	<i>fowl</i>
finis	pinis	<i>finish</i>
-fala	-pela	<i>fellow</i> (adjectival suffix)
naef	naip	<i>knife</i>
laef	laip	<i>life</i>

1.1.2 Final voiced consonants

When the English source word ends in a voiced stop, Pijin has final voiced consonant while Tok Pisin has a final voiceless consonant.

SI	PNG	ENG
pig, pigpig	pik	<i>pig</i>
dog	dok	<i>dog</i>
saed	sait	<i>side</i>
leg	lek	<i>leg</i>
bigfala	bikpela	<i>big</i>
gudfala	gutpela	<i>good</i>

1.1.3 Diphthongs

Pijin uses the diphthongs ae, ao, and oe while Tok Pisin uses the diphthongs ai, au, and oi. It should also be noted here that the diphthongs ai and au contrast with ae and ao in the vernacular languages of the Solomons, and this contrast is preserved in Pijin. The diphthongs ai and au are used in Pijin words which are derived from Oceanic languages, for example, *kaikai eat*, *kaibia tapioca* and *araikwao white man*.

SI	PNG	ENG
taem	taim	<i>time</i>
saed	sait	<i>side</i>
haos	haus	<i>house</i>
nao	nau	<i>now</i>
noes	nois	<i>noise</i>
boe	boi	<i>boy</i>

1.1.4 Nasal plus stop

When the English source word has a nasal followed by a homorganic voiceless stop, Pijin uses a nasal plus a voiced stop while Tok Pisin uses a nasal followed by a voiceless stop.

SI	PNG	ENG
angga	anka	<i>anchor</i>
kandere	kantri	<i>country</i>
kambani	kampani	<i>company</i>
maonden	maunten	<i>mountain</i>

1.1.5 Transitive suffix

In Pijin, the vowel of the transitive suffix is determined by a phonological process of vowel harmony with the vowel in the verb stem. With stems containing i or u, -im is used. With stems containing e, a, or o, -em is used. In Tok Pisin, the transitive suffix for all verbs is -im.

SI	PNG	ENG
kikim	kikim	<i>to kick</i>
lusim	lusim	<i>to lose</i>
mekem	mekim	<i>to make, to do</i>
makem	makim	<i>to mark</i>
komem	komim	<i>to comb</i>

When a verb stem ends in a which is derived from English r, Pijin forms the transitive ending by simply adding -rem to the stem. Tok Pisin has two ways of forming the transitive suffix, either by adding -im or by dropping the a and adding -rim (except in ovarim the a is retained).

stem	SI	PNG	ENG
stia	stia ^{rem}	stiaim, stirim	<i>to steer</i>
kli ^a	kli ^a rem	kli ^a im, klirim	<i>to clear</i>
ova	ovare ^m	ovaim, ovarim	<i>to turn over</i>

1.2 CV pattern

In general, the Solomons vernacular languages have only open syllables. When an English source word ends in a closed syllable, the Pijin equivalent often is pronounced with an added final vowel. However, the quality and duration of these added vowels varies from speaker to speaker, making it difficult to agree on a standard. Therefore, they are generally not written in the orthography. However, there are some cases where a specific final vowel is consistently added and therefore used and written, and other cases where a specified vowel is optionally used and written. The corresponding forms in Tok Pisin are with closed syllables. Parentheses indicate that the corresponding Tok Pisin words have a different source.

SI	PNG	ENG
rasta	ros	<i>rust</i>
banga	(bam)	<i>to bang, to collide</i>
bosta	(pairap)	<i>to burst, to explode</i>
draeva	draiv	<i>to drive</i>
sote	siot	<i>shirt</i>
bel, bele	bel	<i>belly</i>
wak, waka	wok	<i>work</i>
nil, nila	nil	<i>nail</i>
sel, sela	sel	<i>shell</i>

1.3 Representation of English final y

When the English source word ends in y, Pijin uses both final i and final e while Tok Pisin uses only final i. This may be a further manifestation of the phenomenon of vowel harmony in Pijin, though it is not consistent.

SI	PNG	ENG
doti	doti	<i>dirty</i>
pati	pati	<i>party</i>
bebi	bebi	<i>baby</i>
lake	laki	<i>lucky</i>
kandere	kantri	<i>country</i>

SI	PNG	ENG
plande	planti	<i>plenty</i>
mere	meri	<i>woman</i> (from Mary)
sore	sori	<i>sorry</i>

1.4 The phonology of reduplication

There is a process of reduplication of verbs in both languages with approximately the same meaning. Reduplication serves to mark the action as intense or repeated. Although there is this similarity in function, the phonology of the reduplication differs. In Pijin the reduplicated verb is formed by repeating only the first consonant and vowel of the stem. In Tok Pisin the reduplicated verb is formed by repeating the entire stem. The following Tok Pisin examples are from Mühlhäusler (1975).

SI	PNG	ENG
fafaetem	paipaitim	<i>to fight, to beat</i>
tatanem	tantanim	<i>to turn repeatedly</i>
lulus	luslus	<i>to be lost</i>
sasave	save save	<i>to know for sure</i>

1.5 Different pronunciations of the same word

There are a number of words in both Pijin and Tok Pisin which derive from the same English source word and have basically the same meaning, but are pronounced and spelled differently. These differences are not accounted for by any of the above generalisations.

SI	PNG	ENG
-fala	-pela	<i>fellow</i> (adjectival suffix)
aeon	ain	<i>iron</i>
aftanun	apinun	<i>afternoon</i>
astade	asde	<i>yesterday</i>
bol	bal	<i>ball</i>
fens	banis	<i>fence</i>
baek	bak	<i>back</i>
blong	bilong	<i>belong</i>
bifoa	bipo	<i>before</i>
brekem	brukim	<i>to break</i>
bon	bun	<i>bone</i>
desfala	dispela	<i>this</i>
doa	dua	<i>door</i>
hem	em	<i>him</i>
garem	gat	<i>got</i>
herem	harim	<i>to hear</i>
hapi	hepi	<i>happy</i>
hol	hul	<i>hole</i>
kapenda	kamda	<i>carpenter</i>
kasem	kisim	<i>to catch</i>
kolsap	klosap	<i>close, near</i>
lanem	lainim	<i>to learn, to teach</i>
moabeta	mobeta	<i>better</i>

SI	PNG	ENG
mone	moning	<i>morning</i>
niufala	nupela	<i>new</i>
nos	nus	<i>nose</i>
oel	wel	<i>oil</i>
openem	opim	<i>to open</i>
paenapol	painap	<i>pineapple</i>
faendem	painim	<i>to look for</i>
plei	pilai	<i>to play</i>
floa	plua	<i>floor</i>
sendem	salim	<i>to send</i>
sapenem	sapim	<i>to sharpen</i>
sea	sia	<i>chair</i>
solda	sol	<i>shoulder</i>
soa	sua	<i>shore, sore</i>
sista	susa	<i>sister</i>
toro aot	traut	<i>to vomit</i>
torowe	tromoi	<i>to throw away</i>
wata	wara	<i>water</i>
wea	we	<i>where</i>
wei		<i>way</i>

2. LEXICAL COMPARISONS

Even a brief examination of the lexicons of Pijin and Tok Pisin shows that the influence of English has been much greater in the Solomons than in Papua New Guinea. In Tok Pisin there is a much higher percentage of non-English roots in the total vocabulary including a wealth of plant and animal names. These are sparse in Pijin. For example, Mihalic (1971) lists at least 90 non-English plant and animal names in his summary lists on pages 350-356 for Tok Pisin while Simons and Young (1978) list about 20 for Pijin.

The vocabulary of Tok Pisin also could be described as being more generic in nature than that of Pijin because a single lexical item often has a greater number of meanings in Tok Pisin than in Pijin. The following sections show a number of different ways in which the lexicons of the two languages differ.

2.1 Pijin words derived from non-English sources

The following list includes most of the Pijin words I have found thus far which are derived from non-English sources. Some of them have equivalents in Tok Pisin and others do not or I am not aware of them. A large number of these examples come from the vernaculars spoken on Malaita, where a large percentage of the population of the Solomons lives.

Source	SI	PNG	ENG
Malaita	alite	talis	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>
Malaita	araikwao (waetman, masta)	waitaman, masta	<i>European person</i>
Malaita	gagem	tanim	<i>to stir</i>
Malaita	kaibia	maniok	<i>manioc</i>
Malaita	kokosu	katu	<i>hermit crab</i>

Source	SI	PNG	ENG
Malaita	kiokio		<i>kingfisher bird</i>
Malaita	korongis	mumu	<i>stone oven</i>
Malaita	melu	haus drai	<i>copra drier</i>
Malaita	mamula		<i>fish species</i>
Malaita	buma		<i>fish species</i>
Malaita	mam		<i>fish bait</i>
Malaita	ura	kindam	<i>crayfish</i>
Malaita	katukatu		<i>fish species</i>
Malaita	nali nat	galip	<i>Tahitian chesnut,</i> <i>Canarium indicum</i>
Malaita	kasusu		<i>coconut crab</i>
Malaita	kabilato	laplap	<i>loincloth</i>
Malaita	liu	limlimbur	<i>to wander around</i>
Malaita	osos	grisim	<i>to flatter</i>
Malaita	mamana	fran	<i>front, top, in front</i>
Malaita	pana	mami	<i>prickly yam,</i> <i>Dioscorea esculenta</i>
Oceanic	ara	rai	<i>south-east wind</i>
Oceanic	komburu	taleo	<i>north-west monsoon</i>
Oceanic	mama	pris	<i>priest, father</i>
Oceanic	mimi	pispis	<i>urine</i>
Western SI	motu	mumu	<i>stone oven</i>
Western SI	neka		<i>species of edible greens</i>
Maori	kumara	kaukau	<i>sweet potato</i>
Guadalcanal	kakake		<i>swamp taro</i>
Fijian	sulu	laplap	<i>tailored wrap around</i> <i>skirt</i>
Unknown	kandora	kapul	<i>opossum</i>
Unknown	kurukuru	balus	<i>dove</i>
Unknown	bakua	grile	<i>ringworm</i>
Unknown	boten		<i>eating house</i>
Unknown	kura		<i>a card game</i>

There is a small set of words which are the same in both Pijin and Tok Pisin and are derived from the same non-English source.

Source	SI	PNG	ENG
Oceanic	susu	susu	<i>breast</i>
Oceanic	tambu	tambu	<i>taboo</i>
Polynesian	kaikai	kaikai	<i>food, eat</i>
Polynesian	lotu	lotu	<i>worship</i>
Portuguese	save	save	know
Portuguese	pikinini	pikinini	<i>child</i>

2.2 Tok Pisin words derived from non-English sources

The following list of Tok Pisin words derived from non-English roots includes only those which have equivalent terms in Pijin and also words which are fairly common. Therefore, most nature terms have been omitted. Lines indicate where two Pijin words are equivalent to one Tok Pisin word. These are examples of the more generic nature of the Tok Pisin lexicon.

SI	PNG	ENG
kaliko	laplap	<i>cloth, clothing</i>
fadem		
joen	bung	<i>join, unite</i>
hipap		
plen, eaplen	balus	<i>aeroplane</i>
kurukuru		
eg	kiau	<i>egg</i>
sid		
hapi	amamas	<i>happy</i>
mit, miti	abus	<i>meat</i>
bitalnat	buai	<i>betel nut</i>
prea	beten	<i>pray</i>
blad	blut	<i>blood</i>
kaon	dinau	<i>loan, debt</i>
raba	gumi	<i>rubber</i>
seksek	guria	<i>earthquake</i>
laen, laem	kambang	<i>lime</i>
bredfrut	kapiak	<i>breadfruit</i>
loeaken	kanda	<i>rattan</i>
krangge	longlong	<i>crazy, insane</i>
spel	malolo, spel	<i>to rest</i>
laeman	muli	<i>lemon, citrus</i>
moskito	natnat	<i>mosquito</i>
sit	pekpek	<i>feces, to defecate</i>
grandadi, granmami	tumbuna	<i>grandparents</i>
sof	malomalo	<i>soft</i>
gras	kunai	<i>grass</i>
krokodael	pukpuk	<i>crocodile</i>
smol	liklik	<i>small</i>

2.3 Pijin words with unobvious English derivations

The following list of Pijin words are derived from English but their meanings or derivations are not immediately obvious. Tok Pisin equivalents are given where possible.

Source	SI	PNG	ENG
porpoise fish	pofis	bulmakau bilong solwata	<i>porpoise</i>
burst	bosta	pairap, bruk	<i>to explode</i>
proper	barava	tru	<i>real, really</i>
scrub	sikarap	bus	<i>bush, forest</i>
spear line	spia laen	lain	<i>boundary</i>
eel fish	ilfis	maleo	<i>eel</i>
tra-la-la	tralala	singsing	<i>a dance</i>
fathom	fadem	laplap	<i>wrap around skirt</i>
stack of	staka	plenti	<i>a lot of, many</i>
middle one	melewan	namel	<i>middle, between</i>
action	akson	pilai	<i>skit, drama games</i>
that's the way,	dastawe	olsem na,	<i>so, therefore</i>
that's why		bilong dispela	

Source	SI	PNG	ENG
flash	flas	nais	<i>smart, stylish</i>
new chum	nusam	kanaka	<i>an unlearned person, newcomer</i>
wash	was	pul	<i>canoe paddle</i>
bubble (?)	babule	gat bel	<i>pregnant</i>

The following are brand names which have acquired a generic meaning in Pijin.

Source	SI	PNG	ENG
Seagull	sigal	moto	<i>small outboard motor</i>
Johnson	jonsen	moto	<i>large outboard motor</i>
Singer	singa	masin bilong samap	<i>sewing machine</i>
Farm-all	famol	trakta	<i>tractor</i>
Colgate	kolget		<i>toothpaste</i>
Taiyo	taeo	atun	<i>tinned tuna</i>
Biro	baero, biro	ingpen	<i>ball point pen</i>

2.4. Generic - specific

The following list gives further examples of words which are more generic in Tok Pisin than in Pijin. The lines indicate that for each Tok Pisin word there are two or more equivalents in Pijin. (See also the examples in section 2.2).

SI	PNG	ENG
susu	susu	<i>breast</i>
milk		<i>milk</i>
bele	bel	<i>belly</i>
hat		<i>heart, emotions</i>
daon	daun	<i>down</i>
lou		<i>low</i>
sendem	salim	<i>to send</i>
salem		<i>to sell</i>
gras	gras	<i>grass</i>
hea		<i>hair</i>
smol	liklik	<i>small</i>
lelebet		<i>a little</i>
holem	holim	<i>to hold</i>
kipim		<i>to keep</i>
inaf	inap	<i>enough</i>
fit (-im)		<i>to be able to</i>
lusim	lusim	<i>to lose, to leave behind</i>
fogetem	(fogetim)	<i>to forget</i>
bambu	mambu	<i>bamboo</i>
paep		<i>pipe, tube</i>
singsing	singsing	<i>to sing, a song</i>
dans	(danis)	<i>dance</i>
faet	pait	<i>fight</i>
saoa		<i>sour, bitter</i>
wasem	wasim	<i>to wash</i>
baptaesem		<i>to baptise</i>

SI	PNG	ENG
wande	laik (-im)	<i>to want to do</i>
laekem		<i>to like something</i>
kolsap	(klostu)	<i>on the verge of, be about to</i>
bloem	winim	<i>to blow</i>
winim		<i>to surpass</i>
nao	nau	<i>tense marker; then, next</i>
destaem		<i>now, the present time</i>
si	solwara	<i>ocean</i>
solwata		<i>salt water (as for cooking)</i>
havem	pasim	<i>to wear (clothes)</i>
stopem		<i>to block, to delay</i>
mekem	mekim	<i>to cause</i>
duim		<i>to do</i>

2.5 Same form with different meanings

The following is a list of examples of lexical items which have the same pronunciations in the two languages, but have completely different meanings.

SI	PNG	ENG
----- salat	salat (anian)	<i>stinging nettle</i> <i>shallot, spring onion</i>
(rong) krange	kranki (longlong)	<i>incorrect</i> <i>insane, crazy</i>
(kras) sikarap	sikrap, skrap (bus)	<i>to scrape, to scratch</i> <i>the bush</i>
(taem ap) pasem	pasim -----	<i>to fasten</i> <i>to pass a test, pass a ball</i>
(getem) kisim	kisim (givim kis)	<i>to get, to obtain</i> <i>to kiss</i>
----- kandere	kandere (kantri)	<i>relatives on mother's side</i> <i>country</i>
(evriwan, evribet) olketa	olgeta (ol)	<i>all</i> <i>they, the (plural)</i>
(hatem) krosem	krosim (brukim)	<i>to scold</i> <i>to cross over, to interrupt</i>

2.6 Same meaning with different forms

The following list gives examples of commonly used words which are different in the two languages. These words have the same meanings but are derived from different English source words.

SI	PNG	ENG
dadi	papa	<i>father</i>
mami	mama	<i>mother</i>
nomoa	nogat	<i>no, answering a question</i>
presen, jel, kalabus	kalabus	<i>prison, gaol</i>
was, padol	pul	<i>a paddle</i>
langwis	tokples	<i>a vernacular language</i>
joenem	skruim	<i>to join</i>
woman, mere	meri	<i>woman, female</i>
waef	meri bilong en	<i>wife</i>
nel finga	kapa bilong pinga	<i>finger nail</i>
drang	spak	<i>drunk</i>
kilim	paitim	<i>to hit</i>
olobaot	nabaut	<i>around, about</i>
saed blong yu	samting bilong yu	<i>it's up to you</i>
weitim	wantaim	<i>with</i>
switim, grisim	grisim	<i>to flatter</i>
leta	pas	<i>letter</i>
roten, sting	sting	<i>rotten</i>
bonem	karim	<i>to bear a child</i>
mektu	namba tu, mekim tu	<i>second</i>
mektri	namba tri, mekim tri	<i>third</i>
olketa	ol	<i>they; third person plural</i>
ansarem	bekim	<i>to answer</i>
neks tumora	hap tumora	<i>day after tomorrow</i>
las astade	hap asde	<i>day before yesterday</i>
talem	tokim	<i>to tell</i>
saed	hap	<i>side</i>
eiti	etpela ten	<i>eighty</i>
eitin	wanpela ten et	<i>eighteen</i>
pi	pisipis	<i>to urinate, urine</i>
swim	waswas	<i>to bathe</i>
Wenesde	Trinde	<i>Wednesday</i>
Tosde	Ponde	<i>Thursday</i>

3. GRAMMATICAL COMPARISONS

The following brief list of differences between the grammars of Pijin and Tok Pisin assumes that the reader is familiar with at least one of the languages. It is in no way an explanation of either language's grammar, only a listing of places where they differ. For a grammar sketch of Pijin see Simons and Young (1978); for Tok Pisin see Mihalic (1971).

3.1 Pronouns

Besides the regular difference between *-fala* and *-pela*, there are two differences in the pronoun sets between the two languages, both in third person.

SI	PNG	ENG
hem	em, en	third person singular
olketa	ol	third person plural

3.2 Reflexives

Reflexive pronouns are expressed in Pijin by pronoun plus *seleva*, whereas in Tok Pisin they are expressed as pronoun plus *yet*.

SI	PNG	ENG
mi seleva	mi yet	<i>I myself</i>

3.3 Interrogatives

To form a question in Tok Pisin, the interrogative word comes in the same place in the question as does the answer in the corresponding statement. Questions in Pijin can be formed in this same way, but more often the interrogative word is fronted and followed by *nao*.

SI	PNG	ENG
Yu duim wanem? Wanem nao yu duim?	Yu mekim wanem?	<i>What are you doing?</i>
Deswan blong hu? Hu nao blong deswan?	Dispela samting bilong husat?	<i>Whose is this?</i>
Yu go wea? Wea nao yu go long hem?	Yu go we?	<i>Where are you going?</i>

Here is a list of the question words in both languages. Note there are minor differences in nearly every case.

SI	PNG	ENG
wanem?	wanem?	<i>what?</i>
blong hu?	bilong husat?	<i>whose?</i>
hu?	husat?	<i>who?</i>
wea?	we?, long wanem hap?	<i>where?</i>
hao?	olsem wanem?	<i>how?</i>
waswe?	bilong wanem? watpo?	<i>why?</i>
wataem?	long wanem taem? wataim?	<i>when?</i>
watkaen?	wanem kain?	<i>what kind of?</i>
haomas?	hamas?	<i>how much?</i>
haomeni?		<i>how many?</i>

3.4 Yes and no

Both Pijin and Tok Pisin answer negative questions with respect to the mode of the question rather than the mode of the answer. Questions which specifically indicate that a yes or no answer is expected are formed differently in the two languages. Pijin begins the question with *waswe?* while Tok Pisin ends it with *o nogat?*

SI	PNG	ENG
Waswe? Yu wande go?	Yu laik go o nogat?	<i>Do you want to go?</i>

'Yes' and 'no' are as follows in the two languages.

SI	PNG	ENG
yes, ya	yes, yesa	<i>yes</i>
nomoa	nogat	<i>no</i>

3.5 Negation

Both Pijin and Tok Pisin use *no* before the verb to make a negative statement. In addition, Pijin can form an emphatic negative by replacing *no* with *nating* to give the force of *not at all*, *never*.

SI	PNG	ENG
Mi no save.	Mi no save.	<i>I don't know.</i>
Mi nating save.		<i>I don't know at all.</i>
Mi no lukim.	Mi no lukim.	<i>I didn't see it.</i>
Mi nating lukim.		<i>I never saw it.</i>

3.6 Third person subject pronouns

Following a third person singular subject phrase, Pijin almost always uses the pronoun *hem*, whereas in Tok Pisin, the pronoun *em* is not used unless the subject phrase is lengthy.

SI	PNG	ENG
Jon hem i go	Jon i go.	<i>John went.</i>
Wanfala man blong Wewak hem i stap.	Wanpela man bilong Wewak i stap.	<i>A man from Wewak is here.</i>
	or Wanpela man bilong Wewak em i stap.	

Following a third person plural subject phrase, Pijin uses either *olketa* or *hem* (even though *hem* is singular), whereas Tok Pisin uses *ol*.

SI	PNG	ENG
Plande man olketa i go.	Planti man ol i go	<i>Many men went.</i>
Plande man hem i go	Planti man i go	

3.7 Transitive compound verbs

The general rule for forming a transitive compound verb in Tok Pisin is to affix the transitive marker *-im* to the directional particle, making the *-im* the final morpheme in the word. A few verbs in Pijin are formed the same way.

SI	PNG	ENG
lukaotem	lukautim	<i>to look after</i>
singaotem	singautim	<i>to call</i>

In Pijin the general rule for forming a transitive compound verb is to affix the transitive marker -im or -em (see section 1.1.5) to the root morpheme and then add the directional particle usually written as a separate word.

SI	PNG	ENG
hipim ap	(bungim)	<i>to gather together</i>
fulim ap	pulapim	<i>to fill</i>
bagarem ap	bagarapim	<i>to ruin</i>

There is a limited set of transitive compound verbs in Tok Pisin which add the transitive marker twice, once to the root and once to the directional particle. In all corresponding cases in Pijin, the transitive marker occurs only on the root.

SI	PNG	ENG
tekem aot	tekimautim	<i>to take out</i>
leftem ap	litimapim	<i>to lift up</i>
talem aot	telimautim	<i>to divulge</i>
soem ap	samapim	<i>to sew</i>

3.8 Auxiliary verbs

The English *can, be able to* is expressed in Pijin by the auxiliary verb *save* while in Tok Pisin *save* and *ken* are both used. Both languages also have a special idiom to express this meaning in the form of a main verb, *fitim* in Pijin and *inap* in Tok Pisin. In Pijin, *fitim* takes the impersonal subject *hem* with a personal object and is followed by a *fo* phrase. In Tok Pisin, *inap* takes a personal subject and is followed by a long phrase.

SI	PNG	ENG
Mi save go.	Mi save go.	<i>I can go.</i>
	Mi ken go.	
Hem fitim mi fo go.	Mi inap long go.	

The negative of this, 'cannot, not able to' is expressed in the following ways. Note that the Pijin derivative of English 'can' occurs only in the negative, in terms derived from 'cannot' and 'can't'.

SI	PNG	ENG
Mi no save go.	Mi no save go.	
Hem no fitim mi fo go.	Mi no inap long go.	<i>I cannot go.</i>
Mi kanot go.	Mi no ken go.	
Mi kanduit fo go.		
Mi kanduim go.		

The English 'want to' is expressed as follows:

SI	PNG	ENG
Mi laek (fo) go.	Mi laik go.	<i>I want to go.</i>
Mi wande go.		

The English 'begin to' is expressed as follows:

SI	PNG	ENG
Mi stat fo go.	Nau mi go.	<i>I am beginning to go.</i>

3.9 Predicate marker

The use of the predicate marker *i* is basically the same in the two languages with a few notable exceptions. The *i* is optionally used in Tok Pisin following *mipela*, *mitupela*, and *yutupela*, while in Pijin it is not used following these pronouns (Young 1976:9).

SI	PNG	ENG
Mifala go.	Mipela i go.	<i>We are going.</i>

In Pijin the predicate marker is often omitted in an equative sentence, while usually inserted in Tok Pisin.

SI	PNG	ENG
Hem brata blong mi.	Em i brata bilong mi.	<i>He is my brother</i>

Both Pijin and Tok Pisin use *go* and *kam* as directionals, their only difference being that Pijin does not use the predicate marker with these, while Tok Pisin uses it.

SI	PNG	ENG
wokabaot go	wokabout i go	<i>to walk away</i>
saed kam	hap i kam	<i>this side of</i>

3.10 Comparison of adjectives

The comparative degree in both languages can be formed by placing *moa* before the adjective. Both languages also form the comparative using the verb *winim*, but Tok Pisin also uses *long* and *olsem*.

SI	PNG	ENG
moa bigfala	moa bikpela	<i>bigger</i>
Hem i big winim mi.	Em i bik winim mi.	<i>He is bigger than I.</i>
	Em i bik long mi.	
	Em i moa bik olsem mi.	

The superlative degree in Pijin is formed by placing *fo gud*, or *tumas* after the adjective. In Tok Pisin, *tumas*, *moa*, or *tru* come after the adjective.

SI	PNG	ENG
bigfala tumas	bikpela tumas	<i>very big</i>
bigfala fo gud	bikpela moa	<i>very big</i>
	bikpela tru	

3.11 Miscellaneous grammatical function words

The following is a rather miscellaneous list of grammatical function words. Basically, they are used in the same grammatical way in both Pijin and Tok Pisin. The lines and brackets indicate if more than one word corresponds to one word in the other language.

SI	PNG	ENG
bat	tasol	<i>but</i>
nomoa		<i>only, just</i>

SI	PNG	ENG
blong fo	bilong	<i>possession to, in order to, characterised by</i>
dastawe	{ olsem na bilong dispela	<i>Therefore, so, and that's why</i>
nomata (olsem)	maski	<i>although, in spite of, nevertheless, it doesn't matter</i>
an ating, maet	na ating, nating	<i>and possibly, probably might, perhaps</i>
bikos } from }	{ bikos long wanem long	<i>because</i>
evriwan enikaen	olgeta olkain	<i>all, everyone any kind of</i>

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