

A PHONOLOGICAL SKETCH OF URUANGNIRIN, AN ENDANGERED AUSTRONESIAN LANGUAGE OF EASTERN INDONESIA

Eline Visser and Artúr Stickl
Uppsala University
eline.visser@lingfil.uu.se

Abstract

This paper presents a phonological sketch on Uruangnirin, an underdescribed Austronesian language spoken in Indonesia. A word list with more than 1400 entries is found in the appendix.

Keywords: Austronesian, Indonesia, phonology

ISO 639-3 codes: urn

1 Introduction

Uruangnirin is an Austronesian language spoken in eastern Indonesia. It has around 400 speakers. Uruangnirin is spoken in the villages Tarak, Tuburuasa,¹ Faur and Kiaba on the Karas Islands. The location of the Karas Islands and the names of the villages can be found in Figure 1.

The language is mostly called Rwangnirin or Wangnirin(g) by its speakers. The version with initial /r/ seems to be used by older and/or more conservative speakers, and the version with final /ŋ/ by younger and/or less conservative speakers. Uruangnirin (the variant that is known in the word list literature since Anceaux 1958) is probably a variant used by some speakers of the Tuberwasak/Tarak dialect. We have heard it used once by a speaker from Tuberwasak. *Uruang/ruang/wang* means ‘village’, and *nirin(g)* is ‘voice’ or ‘language’.

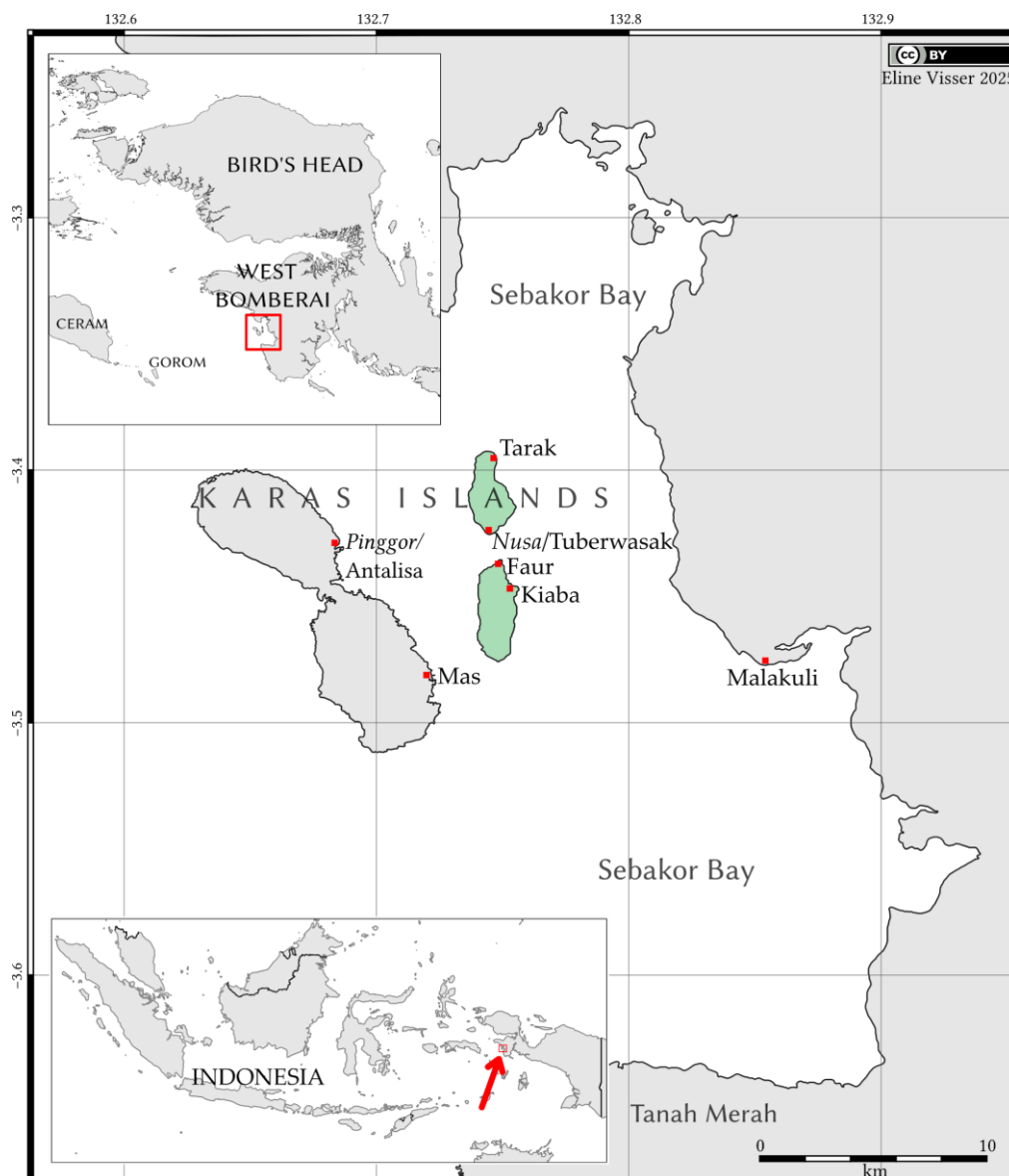
The other language of the Karas Islands is Kalamang, a Papuan language of the Greater West Bomberai family (Usher and Schapper, 2022). The Karas Islands lie just off the coast of Bomberai Peninsula, which is home to 16 languages. Figure 2 is a map of the languages spoken on and around the Bomberai Peninsula (sometimes called *Semenanjung Onin* ‘Onin Peninsula’ in Indonesian). Language boundaries are based on SIL’s 2003 *Peta bahasa Papua* ‘Map of Papuan languages’.² The Austronesian languages are all of the Seram-Tanimbar-Bomberai subgroup (Grimes and Edwards, forthcoming): Onin, Sekar and Uruangnirin (Bomberai Tip), Arguni, Mbaruan (aka Bedoanas), Yarikman (aka Erokwanas) and Irarutu (East Bomberai, but see Holmström, 2025, for an alternative analysis, and see Milano, 2025, for comments on mutual intelligibility of Arguni, Mbaruan and Yarikman). There are three languages of the Greater West Bomberai family: Kalamang, Iha and Mbaham. The other Papuan languages are Mor (isolate), Kemberano (South Bird’s Head), Tanahmerah a.k.a. Sumuri (isolate) and Buruwai, North Kamrau and South Kamrau (Asmat-Kamoro).³ The closest language to the west (not on the map), 150 kilometres west-southwest of Mas, is Geser-Gorom, an Austronesian language of the East Central Maluku group spoken on the island Gorom (alternatively spelled Gorong) and adjacent areas. We cannot vouch for the accuracy of the area on the map marked as uninhabited, but there is at least one village there, Malakuli, as indicated on the map in Figure 1. It was built several decades ago by the Indonesian government as an easily accessible administrative centre for Karas District and houses at least Kalamang, Uruangnirin and Buruwai speakers.

1 In official and unofficial publications, other spellings for Tuberwasak are Tumberwasak, Tuburuasa and Tubirwasak.

2 This map seems to be an unpublished draft but is for example used in Kamholz (2014).

3 (Sub)grouping in this sentence following Glottolog (Hammarström et al., 2024).

Figure 1: Location of Karas, with the names of the six villages on the Karas Islands. Where Uruangnirin names differ from Indonesian names, they are given in italics. The Uruangnirin-speaking islands are green.



Uruangnirin is part of the Tanimbar-Bomberai subgroup (Grimes and Edwards, forthcoming). The map in Figure 3 shows the locations of the Tanimbar-Bomberai languages.

On Ethnologue (Eberhard et al., 2020), Uruangnirin is classified as a 6b (Threatened) language on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons, 2010). This would mean that some of the child-bearing generations are transmitting the language to their children. To my knowledge, however, no one born after 2000 is a fluent speaker of Uruangnirin. We therefore classify Uruangnirin as a 7 (Shifting), and therefore Definitely Endangered on UNESCO's scale.

A language shift from Uruangnirin to Papuan Malay is currently happening, with a sharp cline for speakers born roughly between 1990 and 2000. Most people born before 1990 are fluent in Uruangnirin. They use it on a daily basis with other speakers in all kinds of settings. All Uruangnirin speakers are bilingual in Papuan Malay, and some also in Bahasa Indonesia, the standardized national variety of Malay. Papuan Malay is used in those instances where a non-Uruangnirin speaker joins the conversation. Naturally, these situations include, for example, village gatherings and wedding speeches; but Uruangnirin is by no means avoided at such events for conversations in smaller groups or for the performance of rituals. Papuan Malay is also used towards most people born after around 2000. Older speakers have reported not to have learned Papuan Malay or Indonesian before entering school.

Figure 2: Languages spoken on and around Karas.



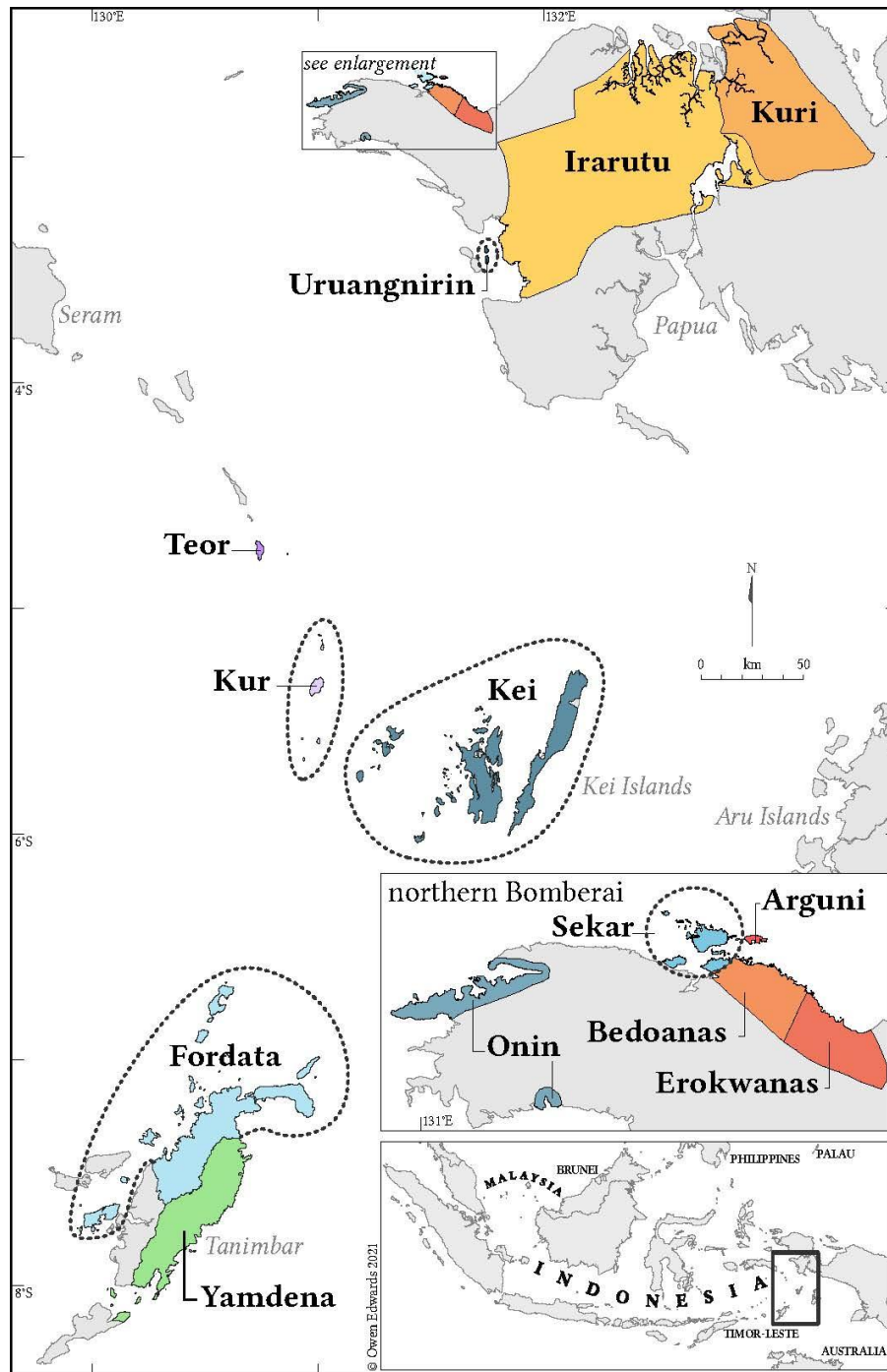
Besides Papuan Malay, there is a high command of Geser-Gorom amongst the people in Kiaba, the village where most of the fieldwork was carried out. Another language spoken by many is Kalamang, as many inhabitants of Kiaba have family in Mas, a Kalamang-speaking village. None of the languages besides Papuan Malay are transmitted to children. The language of communication between spouses in mixed marriages is Papuan Malay or Uruangnirin.

Uruangnirin has no written tradition and is not used as an administrative language. When asked, people readily write Uruangnirin words and texts without problems, using Indonesian orthography, which fits Uruangnirin phonology well. Now, with the spread of cheap smartphones and internet connections, some Uruangnirin may be found on social media such as Facebook.

The fieldwork on which this sketch is based was carried out in Kiaba village during two field trips by the first author. The first trip took place in the winter of 2022/2023 and lasted 3.5 months. The second trip took place in early 2024 and lasted nearly two months. All data is archived with the Endangered Languages Archive (Visser et al., 2023). A word list with English translations and IPA transcriptions is included at the end of this paper. The Fieldworks file with audio files for these words and hundreds of other lexemes for which no recording and IPA transcription is available can be downloaded from the archive.

This paper is structured as followed. Section 2 is the phonological sketch, and covers the phoneme inventory, syllable structure, phonotactics, stress assignment, morphophonological processes. Sociolinguistic variation is presented in section 3. In section 4 we compare Uruangnirin with other (eastern Indonesian) Austronesian languages. The appendix contains a word list with 1,400 entries.

Figure 3: The Tanimbar-Bomberai languages.



2 The phonology of Uruangnirin

This section describes the properties and realisation of Uruangnirin phoneme inventory, including syllable structure and phonotactics, stress assignment and morphophonological processes.

2.1 Consonants

There are 18 consonant phonemes: /p b t d c j k g m n ŋ r f s h w j l/. The consonant phoneme inventory of Uruangnirin is given in Table 1. Phonemes that are spelled in our data with (a) grapheme(s) are indicated in the table as well. This spelling follows standard Indonesian orthography.

Table 1: Consonant phonemes

	bilabial	labiodental	alveolar	palatal	velar	glottal
plosive	p b		t d	c ɟ <j>		k g
nasal	m		n			ŋ <ng>
trill			r			
fricative		f	s			h
approx.	w			j <y>		w
lateral			l			

There are four pairs of voiced/voiceless plosives: bilabial /p/ and /b/, alveolar /t/ and /d/, palatal /c/ and /ɟ/, and velar /k/ and /g/. About half of the occurrences of /c/ are in loan words, and /ɟ/ only occurs in loan words. Their pronunciation varies slightly: between [c] and [tʃ] for the unvoiced stop, and between [dʒ] and [dʒ] for the voiced stop. The voiced stops and /c/ do not occur syllable-finally. There are three nasals: bilabial /m/, alveolar /n/ and velar /ŋ/. The latter does not occur syllable-initially. There is one trill: alveolar /r/. The fricatives are alveolar /s/, labiodental /f/ and glottal /h/, the latter only in loan words. The language has two approximants: bilabial/velar /w/ and palatal /j/. Finally, there is a lateral /l/, also with alveolar place of articulation.

The phonemes /c/, /ɟ/, /h/ and /j/ are very infrequent. They each have less than 100 occurrences in the word list (counted July 2024). The next least frequent phoneme is /d/ with 270 occurrences. /c/ is infrequent because it mainly occurs in loan words and a few indigenous words, like the quantifier for tens *puca*, *can* ‘widower’ and *pacul* ‘hoe; to hoe’ (the latter being a loan from Indonesian/Papuan Malay). /ɟ/ is infrequent because it is restricted to loan words such as *jam* ‘hour’ (from Indonesian/Papuan Malay). /h/ is found in loan words, in interjections (like *yoh* ‘yeah’ and *eh* ‘right’), and in a few variants of words with /f/ and/or /k/ (*afuna* ~ *ahuna* ‘to do’, *ahutir* ~ *afutir* ‘to search’, *kurma* ~ *furma* ~ *hurma*). /j/ mainly occurs in loan words and words Uruangnirin has in common with Kalamang, like *yakop* ‘cockatoo’ and *sayang* ‘nutmeg’.

Minimal and near-minimal sets are given in (1) to (14). We try to provide the sounds word-initially. Where that was not possible, the sounds are given in medial position.

- (1) bilabials: /p – b – m – w/
perperi ‘new; first’ [pɛr.ˈpɛr.i]
ber ‘smoke-dry place’ [bɛr]
mek ‘goat’ [mɛk]
wer ‘water’ [wɛr]
- (2) alveolars: /t – d – s – n – r – l/
ti ‘go’ [ti]
di ‘1SG.REL’ [di]
sika ‘cat’ [ˈsi.ka]
ni ‘3SG.POSS’ [ni]
riri ‘kunai grass’ [ˈri.ri]
li ‘1SG’ [li]
- (3) palatals: /c – ɟ – j/ (predominantly in loans)
suci ‘holy’ [ˈsu.ci] (PM loan)
janji ‘promise’ [ˈjan.ji] (PM loan)
manyanyi ‘sing’ [man.ˈjan.ji] (PM loan)
- (4) velars and glottal: /k – g – w – h/ (/ŋ/ does not occur word-initially)
kai kala ‘k.o. tree’ [kai ˈka.la]
gala ‘spear’ [ˈga.la]
wala ‘throw a stick’ [ˈwa.la]
halar ‘marry’ [ˈha.lar]

- (5) voiceless stops: /p – t – c – k/
apar ‘to pay’ [a.ˈpar]
atara ‘to cut’ [a.ˈtara]
acara ‘feast’ [a.ˈcara] (PM loan)
akarakaf ‘to be itchy’ [a.ˈka.ra.kaf]
- (6) voiced stops: /b – d – j – g/
bi ‘or’ [bi]
di ‘1SG.REL’ [di]
janji ‘promise’ [ˈjan.ji] (PM loan)
awanggi ‘to give’ [a.ˈwaŋ.gi]
- (7) bilabial stops: /p – b/
puak ‘open’ [ˈpuak̚]
buak ‘betel’ [ˈbuak]
- (8) alveolar stops: /t – d/
ta ‘1PL.INCL’ [ta]
da ‘REL’ [da]
- (9) palatal stops: /c – j/
cat ‘paint’ [cat̚] (PM loan)
hajat ‘feast’ [ˈha.jat̚] (PM loan)
- (10) velar stops: /k – g/
karangan ‘near’ [ka.ˈraŋ.an]
garang ‘name’ [ˈga.raŋ]
- (11) nasals: /m – n – ŋ/
 initial *masi* ‘smoke’ [ˈma.si]
 nasi ‘sugar’ [ˈna.si]
 piŋan ‘plate’ [ˈpi.ŋan]
 final *nem* ‘six’ [nem]
 nen ‘load’ [nen]
- (12) liquids: /l – r/
 initial *rau* ‘canoe’ [rau]
 lau ‘1SG’ [lau]
 final *Tetar* ‘Tetar’ [ˈte.tar] (place name)
 tetal ‘cut finely’ [ˈte.tal]
- (13) fricatives: f – s – h
fari ‘ray’ [ˈfa.ri]
sarit ‘cut off’ [ˈsa.rit̚]
hari ‘day’ [ˈha.ri] (PM loan)
- (14) glides: /w – j/
wang ‘village’ [waŋ]
rupayang ‘wave’ [ru.ˈpa.jaŋ]

2.2 Vowels

There are five vowel phonemes /i e a ɔ u/, see also Table 2. Except allophonic variation for the mid front vowel /e/, the realisation of the vowels seems unaffected by syllable structure, stress, or surrounding sounds. There is some variation in the realisation of back vowel /ɔ/ between [ɔ] and [o], with the former being much more

common. Similarly, front vowel /i/ is sometimes pronounced as near-close [ɪ], although realisation as close [i] is much more common. We have not been able to detect clear patterns in this variation.

Table 2: Vowel phonemes

i	u
e	o
a	

Mid front vowel /e/ can be lowered to [ɛ], but the circumstances under which this happens are not entirely clear. We auditorily analysed the /e/ sounds of one speaker, the female speaker whose recordings illustrate the word list. In monosyllabic words, regardless of whether the syllable is open or closed, /e/ is realized as [ɛ], illustrated in (15). For longer words, we only analysed open syllables, as we have very little data for closed syllables with /e/. The stressed syllable in disyllabic words tends to be [e] after labial and coronal consonants (see example 16), while it tends to be [ɛ] after those pronounced further back. That is, the position of articulation of the consonant colours the vowel. However, there is some variation for some items with both front and back consonants, given in (17). The other speaker for whom we have recordings, a male speaker, has [e] in all these items. For the back consonants, what little data we have for the female speaker points at [ɛ], given in (18). However, the male speaker has [e] in those items. When the stress falls on the last syllable, which is not the default position for stress in Uruangnirin (§3.4), the realisation of /e/ is unpredictable, as given in (19). The male speaker even varies his pronunciation of *akes* ‘to break off’ between [a'kes] and [a'kɛs]. Words with more than two syllables with regular penultimate stress seem to invariably have [e]. This is illustrated in (20). We have no data for such long words with stress on another syllable. Finally, unstressed syllables have unpredictable pronunciation, see (21).

The examples include loan words from Indonesian/Papuan Malay and a few words with inflection (e.g. third person subject marker *a-*, which was used to elicit all verbs). To our knowledge, these do not have any influence on the realization of /e/.

- (15) Monosyllabic words: [ɛ]
- a. [mɛk] ‘goat’
 - b. [nɛm] ‘six’
 - c. [rɛp] ‘shoal’
 - d. [bɛ] ‘where’
 - e. [sɛ] ‘who’
- (16) Disyllabic words, stressed syllable, stress on penult, following front consonant: [e]
- a. ['lepɪr] ‘roof rafter’
 - b. ['mɛtɪr] ‘all’
 - c. ['wɛgɪm] ‘rust’
- (17) Disyllabic words, stressed syllable, stress on penult, variable items
- a. ['kɛtɛl] ‘kettle’ ~ ['kɛkɛn] ‘chin’
 - b. ['rɛgɪl] ‘kind of beam’ ~ [a'rɛkar] ‘to cry’
 - c. ['ɛraf] ‘centipede’ ~ ['ɛrɪk] ‘seed’
- (18) Disyllabic words, stressed syllable, stress on penult, following back consonant: [ɛ]
- a. ['gɛrɪm] ‘bitter’
 - b. ['hɛrɪn] ‘be surprised’
- (19) Disyllabic words, stressed syllable, stress on last syllable: variable
- a. [a'kɛs] ‘to break off’
 - b. [sa'rɛk] ‘kind of lorikeet’ ~ [a'rɛt] ‘tie’

- (20) Words with more than two syllables, stressed syllable, stress on penult: [e]
- a. [a'keri] 'to scratch'
 - b. [ku'tena] 'papaya'
 - c. [apən'peni] 'to play'
 - d. [af'genak] 'alone; separated'
 - e. [ata'feda] 'to throw away'
- (21) Unstressed syllables in words of any length: variable
- a. ['wortɛl] 'carrot'
 - b. [dɛm'totir] 'everyone'
 - c. ['kawɛr] 'land; earth; soil'
 - d. ['nokɛn] 'net bag'
 - e. [a'pele] 'to block'
 - f. [pɛm'peni] 'play'
 - g. [pɛt'petin] 'white'
 - h. [sɛ'bur] 'recite'
 - i. [sɛ'mɛn] 'concrete'
 - j. [tɛ'man] 'friend'
 - k. [atɛ'pei] 'to kick'

2.3 Syllable structure

An Uruangnirin syllable consists minimally of a vowel, and maximally of a vowel preceded by one or two consonants and followed by one consonant. Disyllabic roots are most common, followed by monosyllabic ones. The most common root type in the entire corpus is CVCVC. Vowel-initial roots are uncommon in general. Roots of different sizes and shapes are given in (22) to (25).

- (22)
- | | |
|------|-------------------|
| V | [o] '2SG' |
| VC | [ur] 'to help' |
| CV | [sɛ] 'who' |
| CVC | [can] 'widower' |
| CCV | [fno] 'to order' |
| CCVC | [ŋgor] 'to break' |
- (23)
- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| V.CV | ['u.ni] 'rudder' |
| V.CVC | ['i.naŋ] 'sago' |
| VC.CV | [af.'ka] 'like that' |
| VC.CVC | ['iŋ.gar] 'to float' |
| CV.CV | ['su.ni] 'spoon' |
| CV.CVC | ['go.rif] 'k.o. fish' |
| CVC.CVC | [min.'lɛn] 'woman' |
| CVC.CV | [pin.'ca] 'side' |
| CCVC.CV | ['snaŋ.ga] 'to find; to get' |
| CCVC.CVC | ['friŋ.gat] 'to carry on one's back' |
| CCV.CV | ['fre.ka] 'to remember' |
- (24)
- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| V.CV.CV | [a.'mi.na] 'at' |
| VC.CV.CV | [ir.'fo.si] 'k.o. trevally (a fish)' |
| CV.CV.CV | [ku.'te.na] 'papaya' |
| CV.CV.CVC | [ta.ra.'mus] 'fairytale' |
- (25)
- | | |
|--------------|---|
| CV.CV.CV.CV | [ma.ka.'ni.ni] 'citrus fruit' |
| CV.CV.VC.CVC | [ka.na.'ba.raf] 'Kanabaraf' (a placename and common surname in Kiaba) |

2.4 Phonotactics

All consonants are found in onset position, except for /ŋ/, which is only found in words with an /ŋg/ onset. The pronunciation of these words is sociolinguistically determined: they are pronounced with a /g/ onset by younger and less conservative speakers. Likely, /ŋ/ is not a phoneme word-initially, but just prenasalisation. The only unvoiced stop that can't occur in coda position is /c/. The other unvoiced stops (/p/, /t/ and /k/) are unreleased in final position. Voiced stops (/b/, /d/, /j/ and /g/) don't occur in coda position. Finally, /h/ cannot occur in coda position in words other than interjections. This phoneme is otherwise only used in loan words. Final /h/ is dropped in words that are borrowed from for example Indonesian (such that *sekolah* is *sekola* ~ *sikola* ~ *sakola* ~ *skola*, just like in the local Papuan Malay).

While CC-onsets are allowed (as illustrated in 23), they are mostly found in verb stems and typically avoided (word-initially) in one of two ways. First, this can be done by adding a vowel-final subject index prefix (e.g. *ftobir* 'search' ~ *ta-ftobir* 'we search'). CC-initial verbs without subject index are found in the corpus but are exceedingly rare. Second, words with CC-onsets seem to be the result of vowel deletion, and usually have a variant with a vowel (e.g. *ftobir* ~ *fatobir* 'search'). For more examples and information, see section 2.6.3 on vowel deletion and prothesis. (26) illustrates all consonant combinations that are found in onsets in the Uruangnirin corpus. Each combination is given with the morphemes it occurs in. We also add notes on subject indexing and other relevant information from the context these morphemes occur in, as well as variants.

(26)

- a. /pl/ *plan* 'kind of plank', PM loan
- b. /bl/ *isin blarang* 'fever', lit. 'body hot', variants *ablarang* and *balarang*
- c. /tʃ/ *ta-tfeda* '1PL.INCL-throw away', stem variant *tafeda*
- d. /tn/ *tno* 'go seawards', *tna* 'go landwards', *tnabak* 'soak', only found with index, e.g. 3rd person *a-tno*, *a-tna* and *a-tnabak* – latter also has a variant *tanabak*
- e. /tr/ *trus* 'continue', PM loan, fast speech variant of *terus*
- f. /gr/ *gruain(tuni)* 'morning', fast speech variant of *rugain*
- g. /mp/ *a-mpeni* '3-play'
- h. /mt/ *m(ton)tonang* 'sit', only found with index, e.g. *ta-mtontonang* '1PL.INCL-sit'
- i. /md/ *mdufak* 'forget', only found with index, e.g. *i-mdufak* '1SG-forget', stem variant *madufak*
- j. /mn/ *mno* 'come seawards' and *mna*, only found with index, e.g. 1PL.EXCL *ma-mno* and *ma-mna*
- k. /mr/ *mriri* 'stand', only found with index, e.g. *li-mriri* '1SG-stand', stem variant *mariri*
- l. /nd/ *nde* ~ *ndei* ~ *ndeh*, an interjection expressing contempt
- m. /fp/ *fpen(d)ik* 'sell' and *fpotik* 'sprout', only found with index, e.g. 3rd person *a-fpendik* and *a-fpotik*
- n. /fn/ *fnggarak* 'smell' (variant *fanggarak*), *fngga* 'find' (variants *fanangga* and *sngga*), *fnaka* 'run' (variant *fanaka*), *fno* 'order' and *fnonak* 'put away' (variant *fanonak*), only found with index, e.g. 3rd person *a-fnggarak*, *a-fngga*, *a-fnaka*, *a-fno* and *a-fnonak*
- o. /fr/ *frifa* 'blow' (variant *farifa*), *fringgat* 'carry', *fririk* 'stand (transitive)', *fresi* 'fight', *freka* 'remember' (variant *fareka*), *fracfar* 'call out', *frawak* 'weed' (variant *farawak*), *frusa* 'gather' (variant *farusa*), *froba* 'evening' (variant *faroba*), verbs mostly found with index
- p. /fs/ *fsawa* 'be married', usually as *a-fasawa* '3-be.married', variant *fasawa*
- q. /fl/ *flari* 'search', only found with index, e.g. *ta-flari* '1PL.INCL-search'
- r. /fk/ *fkain* 'cook', only found with index, e.g. *mi-fkain* '2SG-cook', stem variant *fakain*
- s. /fg/ *fgesak* 'cut', only found with index, e.g. *i-fgesak* '1SG-cut', stem variant *fagesak*
- t. /sp/ *spurik* 'spread', variant of *sipurik*, one occurrence as *pora spurik* 'PROH spread'
- u. /st/ *stengamati* 'tiring', lit. 'half dead', PM loan, fast speech variant of *isetenggamati*
- v. /sn/ *sngga* 'find', variant of *fngga* (see above), only found with index, e.g. *mi-sngga* '2SG-find'
- w. /sk/ *skokir* 'mix', variant of *sikokir*

Vowels may occur in any position. Vowel sequences are common, and there seem few restrictions, though frequencies vary a lot. They are given in Table 3, with examples in (27). Notice that vowel sequences, especially those ending in glides, may also be pronounced as diphthongs, e.g. : /tai/ [ta.i] ~ [taj] and /rau/ [ra.u] ~ [raw]. We have chosen to analyse all these as underlyingly vowel sequences rather than combinations of

vowel + glide because it seems the simplest analysis based on our current knowledge of Uruangnirin. Firstly, we did this so as not to introduce an extra phoneme category in the syllable structure (next to C and V). Secondly, there are no minimal pairs of the VV type /ra.u/ vs. VC /raw/. However, this is a topic that should be investigated in future work, for example by measuring the length of the vocalic elements in connected speech, the effects of reduplication, and native speaker intuition. A few hints on the last two are given below.

Table 3: Vowel sequences

	a	e	i	o	u
a	-	-	142	-	36
e	-	-	67	1	1
i	48	-	-	1	-
o	1	-	23	-	3
u	157	6	-	-	-

(27)

- a. ai ['ta.i] 'no; not'
- b. au ['ra.u] 'canoe'
- c. ei [i.'de.i] 'beach'
- d. eo ['ge.or] 'beetle'
- e. eu [ne.'ne.ur] 'ironwood'
- f. ia [man.'ci.a] 'people'
- g. io ['i.o] 'yes' (spelling variant of *iy*)
- h. oa ['do.a] 'prayer'
- i. oi ['ŋga.la mo.'i.mo.i] 'spider'
- j. ou ['to.ur] 'threaten'
- k. ua [pa.'tu.an] 'stomach'
- l. ue [ku.'e.rin] 'tongue'
- m. ui [ki.si.'wu.i] 'Kisiwui' (placename)

Semivowels are fairly consistently used in spelling in the current Uruangnirin corpus. In most cases, VV-initial words where the first V is /i/ or /u/ are spelled with the glide symbols <y> or <w>. The same goes for /i/ and /u/ in between other vowels. Hence, [u.'o.u.a] 'father's sister' is spelled *wowa*, and [i.'a.u.at] 'rat' is spelled *yawat*. Three exceptions are *guaintuni* [gu.a.in.'tu.ni] 'morning', *suair* [su.'a.i.r] 'poison balls' and *suai* [su.'a.i] 'what'. These are consistently spelled by my three transcription assistants with VVV-sequences, probably because a CC onset is highly uncommon. Note also that [gu.a.i.n.'tu.ni] is reduplicated as [gu.gu.a.i.n.'tu.ni]. Another exception is *fauar* [fa.'u.ar] 'news'. Lastly, there is variation in the of spelling [rua]-sequences: assistants use both *marwana* and *maruana* for [mar.u.'a.na] 'man', and for [ru.aŋ] 'village', both *rwang* and *ruang* are common spellings. We are not sure what causes this variation and preserved it in the Fieldworks project.⁴ In this paper, we spell *Uruangnirin* and *ruang* with <ua>.

2.5 Stress assignment

Stress is typically on the penultimate syllable, regardless of the number of syllables in the root, as could be seen in (2)–(4) above. Examples of roots with stress on the last syllable are e.g. *a'bi* 'sour', *maŋ'go* 'banana', *bibi'toŋ* 'butterfly' and *am'gor* 'shout'. See also *min'len* 'woman', *pin'ca* 'side' and *tara'mus* 'fairytale', introduced in (2) and (3). Some of the words with root-final stress appear to be loans from Kalamang. This neighbouring Papuan language has unpredictable stress but has a slight preference for the right edge (Visser, 2022, 74). Examples are *ta'par* 'k.o. kangaroo' and *sa'noŋ* 'thatched roof', which have the same meaning and stress pattern in Kalamang. There are also words that are the same in Uruangnirin and Kalamang except for the stress: *lusi* 'eagle' is an example. In Uruangnirin, it is pronounced 'lusi, in Kalamang *lu'si*.

4 Archived at <http://hdl.handle.net/2196/d618c786-6627-4ff6-944f-6c2276c03d99>.

2.6 Morphophonological processes

There are very few morphophonological processes in Uruangnirin, and they are quite limited in scope. Vowel harmony occurs on some verbs and is only practiced by older or more conservative speakers (section 2.6.1). Vowel deletion and prothesis is found mainly on verbs with reflexes of the proto-Austronesian morphemes causative **pa-* and stative **ma-*, and is described in sections 2.6.2 and 2.6.3.

2.6.1 Vowel harmony

Vowel harmony occurs on some verbs with an onset consisting of /p/ /t/ or /k/, followed by /a/ and a consonant. In those verbs, when inflected with a subject index, the first /a/ of the stem is replaced by /i/ if the subject index contains /i/. This is illustrated with the verb *kapunin* ‘hide’ in Table 4.

Table 4: Inflection of the verb *kapunin* ‘hide’ using vowel harmony

	prefix	true root	altered root with affix
1SG	<i>lai-/li-/i-</i>	<i>kapunin</i>	<i>laikipunin</i>
2SG	<i>mi-</i>	<i>kapunin</i>	<i>mikipunin</i>
3SG	<i>a-</i>	<i>kapunin</i>	<i>akapunin</i>
1PL.EX	<i>ama-/am-/ma-</i>	<i>kapunin</i>	<i>amakapunin</i>
	<i>mi-</i>	<i>kapunin</i>	<i>mikipunin</i>
1PL.IN	<i>ta-</i>	<i>kapunin</i>	<i>takapunin</i>
2PL	<i>mi-</i>	<i>kapunin</i>	<i>mikipunin</i>
3PL	<i>a-</i>	<i>kapunin</i>	<i>akapunin</i>

The following verbs have been attested to show vowel harmony: *kabai* ‘defecate’, *kabom* ‘be wet’, *kaluar* ‘exit’, *kamimi* ‘urinate’, *kanal* ‘know’, *kanusi* ‘take off’, *kapara* ‘carry on shoulders’, *kapasi* ‘sneeze’, *kapitik* ‘jump’ and *katof* ‘shoot’, *pare* ‘know’, *tafeda* ‘throw (away)’, *talapis* ‘layer’, *talinggir* ‘make slope or slant’, *targupak* ‘turn upside down’, *tarpani* ‘return; turn around’. The fact that vowel harmony occurs also on some loans from Papuan Malay (*kanal* ‘know’ and *kaluar* ‘exit’) proves that it was a productive process until quite recently. A number of verbs with the same onset pattern (plosive + /a/ + consonant) was tested for vowel harmony during fieldwork in 2024.⁶ Some examples of verbs that did not seem to allow vowel harmony are: *katam* ‘pinch’, *kafar* ‘spread out’, *kanata* ‘carry a child’, *papat* ‘weave’, *patar* ‘stay up late’, *taba* ‘skewer’, *tapin* ‘burn’, *tarima* ‘receive’. Vowel harmony is only practiced by more conservative speakers.

2.6.2 Plosive devoicing

Plosive devoicing is limited to a handful of verbs, where plosives are devoiced when they end up in front of another consonant because of CVC reduplication. This is illustrated in (28).

(28)

- a. *pidir* ‘piece; little’ → *wai pitpidir* ‘clothes; things’
- b. *ftigin* ‘chase’ → *fatiktigin* ‘chase each other’

2.6.3 Vowel deletion and prothesis

At least 50 lexemes show vowel deletion and prothesis in the first syllable. It occurs mainly on verbs, and mainly involving the consonants /f/ and /m/ and the vowel /a/. Many words with these phonemes in the first syllable show alternations (for example between *am-* and *ma-*), or they allow only a CV-form (for example *ma-*) or only a VC-form (for example *am-*). Many of these words seem to carry more or less fossilised remnants of proto-Austronesian **ma-* ‘stative’ and **pa-* ‘causative’ (forms and functions from Blust, 2013, 371). In addition to the 50-or-so lexemes, the first person plural exclusive and second person plural subject indexes can also undergo vowel deletion and prothesis. The variation appears to be without function. As an illustration of the data, consider the lexemes in (29) to (31) and the number of times they occur in the database.

- (29) /m/
 a. felled: *amrepa* 46, *marepa* 8
 b. old; ripe: *amtua* 19, *matua* 11
 c. correct; straight: *amnonan(g)* 0, *manonan(g)* 48
- (30) /f/
 a. sell: *afpen(d)ik* 47, *fapen(d)ik* 5
 b. cook: *afkain* 40, *fakain* 34
 c. middle: *afruar* 0, *faruar* 75
- (31) other
 a. hot: *(a)blaran(g)* 46, *balaran(g)* 2
 b. 1PL.EXCL: *am-* 158, *(a)ma-* 526 (on C-initial verb stems)

Our hypothesis is that the CV-forms are the original ones, and that the VC-forms have undergone vowel deletion and then, to avoid a CC-onset, prothesis of a vowel.

The question remains why some verbs can undergo vowel deletion and prothesis, while others don't, and then why the ones that don't are not fossilised in the same way (either CV or VC). A part of the answer might be that these processes are common with reflexes of **ma-* and **pa-* because the most common trisyllables are words with these (historic) prefixes. Words in Austronesian languages are typically disyllabic, and words larger than this are often historically polymorphemic (Brandstetter 1901:1, Chrétien 1965, Haudricourt 1968, 162–182, Blust 2007:1–36, Edwards 2020:143, Tamelan 2021:35).

3 Sociolinguistic variation

There is some sociolinguistic variation in Uruangnirin, most of which has to do with phonology and morphology. All variation can be split in two: one group contains the older and/or more conservative speakers, and the other the younger and/or more progressive speakers. We have not encountered conservative speakers in the youngest age group (roughly born after 1990), and we know at least one speaker born in the late sixties who is a progressive speaker, but on average, the conservative speakers are older than the progressive speakers.

First, in many words, progressive speakers use final /ŋ/ where conservative ones use /n/. For example, while progressive speakers say *diring* 'wind', *nawang* 'liver' and *suang* 'plant', conservative speakers use *dirin*, *nawan* and *suan*. There are /ŋ/-final words that are used as such by all speakers, e.g. *bibitong* 'butterfly', and there are /n/-final words that are used as such by all speakers, e.g. *fian* 'good'.

Second, /ŋg/ onsets are only used by conservative speakers. Progressive speakers use /g/ onsets in these words. So, while progressive speakers use *garak* 'year' and *geram* 'bitter', older speakers say *nggarak* and *nggaram*. There seem to be fewer conservative speakers that use /ŋg/ onsets than /n/ codas. /ŋg/ onsets may be the last instance of prenasalisation on plosives that is used in Uruangnirin.

Third, conservative speakers use an irregular verb paradigm with the third person prefix *n-*, while progressive speakers have reanalysed this *n-* as belonging to the verb stem and inflect such verbs with the regular third person prefix *a-*. For example, conservative speakers say *n-osir* '3SG-say', while progressive speakers say *a-nosir* '3SG-say'.

Fourth, the vowel harmony described in §2.5.1 is only practiced by conservative speakers. While they might inflect *kapitik* 'jump' in the first-person singular as *li-kipitik* 'I jump', progressive speakers typically say *li-kapitik* 'I jump'.

4 Comparison with Eastern Indonesian Austronesian languages

By way of closing off this sketch, we make a brief comparison between Uruangnirin and other Austronesian languages, focusing on those spoken in eastern Indonesia and specifically the three closest relatives with good descriptive data: Yamdena, Kei and Iraputu.

The phonology of Uruangnirin shares both similarities and differences with other (eastern Indonesian) Austronesian languages. Austronesian languages, particularly those in Central and Eastern Indonesia, tend to have relatively simple phonologies. The phoneme inventories are typically smaller than the world average, usually containing three to five vowels and 16–20 consonants, with only a few fricatives and a limited number

of nasals. The most frequent syllable structures are (C)V and (C)VC, with a common preference for disyllabic roots and a tendency toward reduced forms in longer words (Adelaar and Himmelmann 2005: 115; Blust 2013: 169). Uruangnirin fits this general pattern, with 5 vowels and 18 consonants. However, unlike many eastern Indonesian languages, Uruangnirin does not exhibit restrictions on consonants in coda position or on consonant clusters across syllable boundaries (see section 2.4). This is in contrast to other languages in the region, where syllables typically avoid complex codas, and consonant clusters across syllable boundaries are often restricted. Similarly to other Austronesian languages, stress occurs typically on the penultimate syllable in Uruangnirin, although there is a fair number of examples with stress on the final syllable as well (section 2.5). Diphthongs are present in Uruangnirin and can appear in any position within a word (section 2.4), which is consistent with many eastern Indonesian languages that display diphthongs in various phonological environments (Adelaar and Himmelmann 2005:116).

When compared with what Klamer (2002) describes as the three typical phonological features in eastern Indonesian languages – prenasalized consonants, CVCV roots, and metathesis – Uruangnirin’s features seem to be rather different:

1. Although prenasalized consonants are present, they are very rare (only with /g/) and not phonemic. In contrast, eastern Indonesian languages often feature prenasalization more prominently (Klamer 2002:367).
2. CVCV (253 single word entries) roots are common, however the most common roots are of the shape CVCVC (545 single word entries). This trend, though much less strong, is upheld in longer words too (CVCVCV 118 entries, CVCVCVC 126 entries). This is in line with the more general preference for disyllabic roots observed in Austronesian languages (Adelaar and Himmelmann 2005:115). There seems to be no dispreference for CC clusters across syllable boundaries (but word-initially they are rare, and see also the next point), or for closed syllables. As both root-final consonants and consonant clusters are allowed, paragogic vowel addition and the dropping of a root-final consonant do not occur in Uruangnirin.
3. Metathesis is not found, but something similar is going on with reflexes of the proto-Austronesian verbal prefixes **ma-* ‘stative’ and **pa-* ‘causative’. This is analysed as vowel deletion followed by prothesis and is discussed in section 2.6.3.

We will compare these features briefly to the three closest relatives of Uruangnirin for which good data is available: Yamdena, Kei and Irarutu (ISO 639-3 codes *jmd*, *kei* and *irh* respectively). These are all languages of the Tanimbar-Bomberai subgroup (Grimes and Edwards forthcoming).

Yamdena, unlike Uruangnirin, has phonetic prenasalisation of /b/ and /d/, vowel insertion and metathesis. Like in Uruangnirin, root-final consonants are common (all data presented in Visser 2023, see also Mettler and Mettler 1997). Prenasalization of these stops may have been present in Uruangnirin too, and might be visible in variant pronunciations of words like *wamar* ~ *wambar* ‘hornbill’ and *itanena* ~ *itanenda* ‘our’.

Like Uruangnirin, Kei has no prenasalisation (Villa Rikkers 2014) and consonant-final morphemes seem abundant (there are for example consonant-only suffixes, Van Engelenhoven 2021). We could not find any mention of vowel insertion. Unlike Uruangnirin, Kei has metathesis (Geurtjens 1921, also some mention in Villa Rikkers 2014 and Van Engelenhoven 2021).

Irarutu has phonetic prenasalisation of all voiced stops in one dialect. It has vowel epenthesis word-finally, but at the same time there is reduction of vowels in disyllabic and some trisyllabic words, reducing them by one syllable. So, Irarutu disprefers C-codas but has no dispreference for CC-clusters. Irarutu has some metathesis, but it seems to involve only consonants (all data from Jackson 2014).

Summarizing, we can say that none of the four discussed languages of the Tanimbar-Bomberai subgroup fits perfectly in Klamer’s (2002) typology, they also do not completely deviate from the phonological trends observed in eastern Indonesian languages.

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Appendix

This word list contains the words for which an IPA transcription is available: more than 1400 out of 3300 words. For most words with an IPA transcription, there is also a recording available. The transcription is based on the recording and therefore reflects the pronunciation of the person recorded. The recordings are mainly of one speaker: Nur Ain Kanabaraf, female, born in 1977. A few additional recordings were added of Badarudin Kanabaraf, male, born 1982. Both speakers were asked to read aloud the word list, saying every word twice, during fieldwork in 2024. The recordings are not ideal: the speakers are not used to reading aloud and often hesitate or make small mistakes. Most items have list intonation and final stops are sometimes released. We only selected files with good audio quality, and without pronunciation mistakes. All files are accessible in the Uruangnirin corpus (Visser et al. 2023). The Fieldworks file with the linked audio recordings is accessible via the handle <http://hdl.handle.net/2196/d618c786-6627-4ff6-944f-6c2276c03d99>, and the audio recordings via <http://hdl.handle.net/2196/8a98e2cd-a706-4fb5-9e8f-39c7f6a7bde7>. The Fieldworks file also gives access to the full dictionary with all 3300 lexemes, parts of speech, definitions, examples, scientific names pictures and notes.

A a

abaca [a' baca] to read
abalai [aba' lai] to wither; to wilt
abalajar [aba' lajar] to learn
abana [a' bana] to go; to walk
abana niman [a' bana 'niman] to walk
abantu [a' bantu] to help
abaras [aba' ras] to scrub (something that has been soaked first)
abi [a' bi] sour
abingung [a' biɲuŋ] to be confused; to confuse
abit [a' bit] to have wrinkly hands from being wet a long time
ablarang [ab' larang] hot
abobar [a' bobar] to startle
aboka [a' boka] to spill; to pour
abor [a' bɔr] to drill
abubir [a' bubir] to fall
abubit [a' bubit] to rise
abula [a' bula] round
abulbula [bul' bula] to roll
abulis [a' bulis] round
abur [a' bur] to hit the stem of a tree so that its fruits fall out
abusang [' busaŋ], [' busan] to be dirty
abusil [a' busil] to pass
acempang [a' tʃempaŋ] to kick with the inside of the foot
acotin [a' tʃotil] to move
adamo [a' damɔ] to believe; to think
adedak [a' dedak] all; completely
adesil [a' desil] to plane
ado [' ado] oh no
afading [a' fadiŋ] to go around
afafat [a' fafaʔ] to slap
afair [a' fair] to sail; to leave; to travel
afakan [a' fakan] to serve food
afakat [a' fakat] to chisel
afakur [a' fakur] to scrape
afanggara [afaŋ' gara] quickly
afanggarak [afaŋ' garak] to kiss; to smell; to feel with the mouth
afanggenak [afaŋ' genak] to separate; to split
afanggus [a' faŋgus] to whistle

afarakwai [afara'kwai] to talk; to speak; to tell a story
afarifa [afa'rifa] to blow
afarusa [afa'rusa] to gather
afasa [a'fasa] to buy
afasar [a'fasar] to dry in the sun
afata [a'fata] to snap; to break
afatobir [fa'tobir] to send
afbe [af'be] why; how
afdua [af'dua] bark
afeda [a'feda] to throw
afenang [a'fenaŋ] to extinguish; to turn off
aferak [a'ferak] to squeeze
afesan [a'fesan] to kill
afgenak [af'genak] alone; separated
afgesak [af'gesak] to cut in big pieces
afika [a'fika] to see
afini [a'fini] to choose; pick; collect
afisak [a'fisak] to push
afka [af'ka] like that
afkain [af'kain] to cook
afkat [af'kat] avocado
afke [af'ke] like this
afko [af'ko] like that
aflari [af'lari] to search for leftovers (e.g. fruits)
afmasik [af'masik] smoke-dry; smoke-cook
afnaka [af'naka] to run; to sail; to hunt
afno [af'no] to order
afnonak [af'nɔnak] to put away things; to tidy up; to bring in order
afonak [a'fɔnak] to put; to store
afosan [a'fɔsan] to perform ritual
afpotik [af'pɔtik] to sprout; to bud
afrafar [af'rafar] to call out
afrawak [af'rawak] to weed, typically in the nutmeg plantation, by using a machete
afreka [af'reka] to remember; to think about
afresi [af'resi] to fight
afririk [af'ririk] tall; steep
afririk [af'ririk] to wake
afroba [af'roba] night
afroba us [af'roba us] middle of night
afrusa [af'rusa] to gather
afsawa [af'sawa] be married
aftakut [af'takut] to scare
aftara [af'tara] angry
aftigin [af'tigin] to chase
aftobir [af'tɔbir] to send
aftok [af'tɔk] be silent
aftok [af'tɔk] to stay (still); to remain
aftonang [af'tɔnaŋ] to make sit
afun mifi [a'fun 'mifi] to dream
afun nirin [a'fun 'nirin] to make a sound
afuna [a'funa] to do; to make
afutir [a'futir] to search for
agaris [a'garis] to draw a line
agepi [a'gepi] to clamp

agigit [a'gigit̃] to peel
agogo [a'gogo] fine silk-like threads in different colors used to make fish lures
agot [a'got̃] 1. to replant 2. to make a ditch
agunting [a'guntinj] to cut with scissors
aguri [a'guri] to cut marks
ahalar [a'halar] to marry someone; to be married
ahunirin [ahu'nirin] to call
ai ['ai] tree; wood
ai dekdekar [ai dek'dekar] dead wood
ai lebleba [ai ,leb'leba] burden stick
ai patang [ai 'patanj], [ai 'patan] tree stem
ai tawan [ai 'tawan] gum tree; eucalyptus
ai tukar ['ai 'tukar] tree stump
ain [ain] tree; plant
ainggar [a'inggar] to float
air ['air] to shave
airit [a'irit̃] fto all
aitik [a'itik] to scoop
ajaga [a'jaga] to guard
akabai [aka'bai] defecate
akabar [a'kabar] to cramp
akabom [aka'bom] wet
akabong [aka'bɔŋ]
akabus [a'kabus] blunt
akafar [a'kafar] to spread out
akafi [a'kafi] to fly
akafisan [aka'fisan] weak
akaiar [a'kaiar] to curse
akait [a'kait̃] to snatch; to hook; to pull; to harvest with a hook
akaluar [aka'luar] to go out; to leave
akanal [aka'nal] to know
akanata [ka'nata] to carry a child
akani [a'kani] to dig
akanusi [aka'nusi] to take off clothes (children); to be taken off
akapanik [aka'panik̃] to turn upside down
akapara [aka'para] to carry on shoulders
akapasi [aka'pasi] to sneeze
akapitik [aka'pitik] to jump
akapunin [aka'punin] to hide
akarakaf [aka'rakaf] to be itchy
akaruk ['karuk̃] to mix (up); to touch
akatam [aka'tam] to pinch
akatof [aka'tɔf] to shoot
akatok [aka'tɔk] to open
akatubak [aka'tubak] to close
akebak [a'kebak] to sow
akedir [a'kedir] to kill lice by pressing them against a piece of wood or between fingernails
akei [a'kei] to pull or drag something heavy (a canoe, wood) landwards
akelat [a'kelat̃] to know
akeri [a'keri] to scatch
akerja [ker'ja], [kar'ja] to work
akes [a'kes] to break a part off a bigger whole
aketa [a'keta] to pick up (a person)
akifir [a'kifir] to sweep

akikir [a'kikir] to sharpen (of saw, spear, snatch hook); to grate
akobaf [a'kobaf] rotten (root vegetables)
akobas [a'kɔbas] to skin a rotten fruit, or to push a nut or fruit out of its skin after soaking it in (hot) water
akorat [a'kɔrat̚] to block; to be blocked
akori [a'kɔri] light
akuabar [a'kwabar] to squeeze hard
akubung [a'kubun] to waft incense on the koran after praying, or waft fumes onto someone to drive away evil spirits
akubur [a'kubur] to bury
akupan [a'kupan] to cover; to be covered
akutar [a'kutar] to tie up one's hair in a bun or ponytail
alafa [a'lafa] to wait
alakas [a'lakas] bent, coiled
alalaf [a'lalaf] to return
alewat [a'lewat] to pass
alimar [a'limar] to sharpen
alipa [a'lipa] to fold
aloka [a'lɔka] to shake
alolik [a'lɔlik] to lie
ama [ma] come
amalaf [a'malaf] to yawn
amama [a'mama] to chew
amami [a'mami] 1PL.EX.POSS
amanif [ˈmanif] to laugh
amanyanyi [amaˈnani] to sing
amarak [a'marak] dry
amasalau [amasa'lau] 1SG alone
amasami [ama'sami] 1PL.EX alone
amata [a'mata] dead; die
amau [a'mau] to want
amdekar [am'dekar] dry
amdidid [am'didi] boiling
amdirin [am'dirin] cold
amduar [am'duar] to float filled with water (like a half-sunken canoe)
amdufak [am'dufak] to forget
amengerti [ˈamɛŋgɛr'ti] to understand
amges [am'gɛs] to be enough; to reach; to fit
amgor [am'gɔr] to shout
ami [ˈami] 1PL.EX
amian [a'mian] 1. to live; to stay 2. exist
amifi [a'mifi] to dream
amina [a'mina] at; to be at
amindike [a,mindi'ke] here
amke [am'ke] here
amnangga [am'nanga] to steal
amnipis [am'nipis] thin
amois [a'mois] is cut; is broken
amorat [a'morat] narrow
ampuan [am'puan] place; area
amrepa [am'repa] to be felled; to be collapsed
amrera [am'rera] scattered; scattered around
amris [am'ris] is ripped
amrok [am'rɔk] to scatter
amsasak [am'sasak] cooked

amsupin [am'supin] pierced; with a hole
amtauk [am'tauk] to be scared; to be afraid; to fear
amtaut [am'taut] to be scared (of); to be afraid (of); to fear
amtonang [am'tɔnɑŋ] sit
amtua [am'tua] old; ripe
amusi [a'musi] to kiss
amuta [a'muta] to vomit
amutin [a'mutin] to be burnt
anarat [a'narat] to bite
anawak [a'nawak] to dive
anedin [a'nedin] to pluck
anefa [a'nefa] to fathom
anesik [a'nesik] to unplug; to take something out or from around of a narrow space (cap of a pen, two stacked glasses, plug, contact)
anggait [aŋ'gait] to reach; until
anggara [aŋ'gara] basket
anggarori [aŋga'rori] blaze; shine
anggomit [aŋ'gomit] rotten (wood, cloth)
anggor [aŋ'gor] to break
angguret [aŋgu'ret] stranded
anum [a'num] to swallow
anunggi [a'nunɡi] 1sg.poss
anunin [a'nunin] to fold
anunin [a'nunin] to wake someone
apakas [a'pakas] to explode; to break
apaku [a'paku] to nail
apangga [a'paŋga] to hit
apaning [a'paniŋ] to turn oneself
apapan [a'papan] to catch fish with poison, by adding poisonous tree sap to the water
apara [a'para] swell
aparang [a'paraŋ] hot (weather)
apare [apa're] to know
apasang [a'pasɑŋ] to install; to put
apatar [a'patar] to stay up late
apawa [a'pawa] to split; to break
apeik [a'peik] to spit out
apele [a'pele] to block
apenik [a'penik] to sell
apenpeni [apen'peni] to play
apesa [a'pesa] travel by boat
apias [a'pias] to break or cut something from a bigger whole, like cutting the rough shape of a canoe, or breaking off the edge of a cookie
apinjam [a'pinjam] to borrow
apona [a'pona] as; like
apoti [a'pɔti] to go downhill; to come out of a building (almost all buildings have few steps down to the ground)
apuak [a'puak] to open; to turn something's face or front up or forward; to turn one's face
apuka [a'puka] to fell
apupis [a'pupis] to open
apura [a'pura] to flee; to run; to get away
apurak [a'purak] to shoo
apuri [a'puri] to wash
apurik [a'purik] rotten
aputi [a'puti] to gather

arafi [a'rafi] straight(ened)
aragaji [ara'gaji]
aragaji [ara'gaji] saw
arain [a'rain] a lot
aranggit [a'rangit] much
aranggit [a'rangit] to wrap tightly
arapis [a'rapis] to roll; to tie with thread
arara [a'rara] to carry
arekar [a'rekar] cry
areking [a'rekiŋ] to count
arera [a'rera] to splash
aresi [a'resi] to exceed
aret [a'ret] to tie
ari ['ari] person
arikat [a'rikat] to join; to follow
aris [a'ris] to rip
arok ['arok] to beat
arorat [a'rorat] to slice
arorobir [arə'rɔbir] slave
arota [a'rɔta] to get down/out
aruna [a'runa] to let something down on a rope
arupir [a'rupir] to boil
aruri [a'ruri] swim
arut [a'rut̃] to hug
arut [a'rut̃] to catch
arwa [ar'wa] to sleep
arwawa [arwa'wa] sleep
asa [a'sa] ascend
asalik [a'salik] to circumcise; to be circumcised
asambung [a'sambuŋ] to connect
asanak [a'sanak] to open; to take off
asandar [a'sandar] to dock
asandar [a'sandar] to lean
asapan [a'sapan] to cut through (forest)
asapin [a'sapin] to pass over something
asapit [a'sapit̃] to sharpen (of wood or bamboo); to make pointy
asar ['asar] asr (the afternoon prayer)
asarit [a'sarit̃] to cut off wood
asei [a'sei] to throw
asei [a'sei] to flow
aseik [a'seik] to fill
aseka [a'seka] hasa
asekseka [asek'seka] hugging the coast
aserin [a'serin] to change clothing
asibur [a'sibur] to poke
asikokir [asi'kɔkir] to disturb; to mix
asinggar [a'siŋgar] to sharpen (of knives, axes, machetes)
asinggat [a'siŋgat̃] to plug
asinggaut [asiŋ'gaut̃] to caught; tangled
asinggonggar [asiŋ'gɔŋgar] to struggle; to squirm
asipit [a'sipit̃] to unfasten
asirarit [asi'rarit̃] to slide; to slip
asirera [asi'rera] to feel in the dark
asiri [a'siri] to buy on credit

asiruri [asi' ruri] to dry in the fire
askap ['askap̃] to plane
asobang [a' sɔbaŋ] to send; to order
asofa [a' sɔfa] to bathe
asoin [a' soin] to push; to enter something
asomut [a' sɔmut̃] to boil
asonggat [a' sɔŋgat̃] to smoke; to suck
asor [a' sɔr] to sew; to weave
asosa [a' sɔsa] to whittle or chop something cylindrical, like a pen; also, to clean e.g. a branch or tikal leaf of its thorns, get rid of sharp edges
asua [a' sua] to go backwards; to return
asuan [a' suan] to plant (a plant, stick or pole)
asuarik [asu' arik̃] to scatter
asuban [asu' ban] to fish with a rod
asuban [a' suban] to curse someone
asula [a' sula] to dance (traditionally)
asuni [a' suni] to spoon
asuni [a' suni] to search for lobster
asupin [a' supiñ] to pierce
asurat [a' surat̃] to talk angrily
asusi [a' susi] to give birth
asusun [a' susun] to heap
ataba [a' taba] to skewer
atabrak [a' tabrak] to crash into
atada [a' tada] to collect water
atafeda [ata' feda] to throw (away)
atagaris [ata' garis] scratched
atalapis [ata' lapis] to pres
atalinggir [ata' liŋgir] to make slope/slant
atalipa [ata' lipa] folded
atanam [a' tanam] to hear; to listen
atang ['atɑŋ]
atapar [a' tapar] to fish with a fishing line
atapin [a' tapin] to burn
atapin uma [a' tapin 'uma] to burn land
atapuak [ata' puak] be opened
atara [a' tara] to cut; to chop
atarbugan [atar' bugan] blunt
atarbuka [atar' buka] spilled
atargupak [atar' gupak] to turn upside down
atari [a' tari] to bring
atarkes [atar' kes] split
atarpani [atar' pani] to return; to turn around
atarpanik [atar' panik̃] to turn
atarpupis [atar' pupis̃] opened
atarsanak [atar' sanak] opened
atarsinggat [atar' singgat̃] plugged
atarsipit [atar' sipit̃] unfastened
atarsumbat [atar' sumbat̃] plugged
ataatak [a' tatak̃] to leave be
atawar ['tawar] to give water when someone is ill (perhaps: medicinate)
atei [a' tei] to step on
atei [a' tei] to weave
atein [a' tein] to cut; to prune

atemar [a'temar] to drown
atepak [a'tepak] to stab
atepei [ate'pei] to kick with the footsole straight ahead
ater ['ater] to cough
aterik [a'terik] to rest
atetal [a'tetal] to cut finely
atewa [a'tewa] to hit with fist
atipak [a'tipak] to be full
atipan [a'tipan] to cover
atnabak [at'nabak] to soak
atno [at'nɔ] go seawards
ato [a'tɔ] descend
atobat [a'tobat] to repent
atolas [a'tolas] to fast
atoma [a'toma] to sail against the wind
atonggar [a'tɔŋgar] to pull; to lead
atopi [a'topi] to wash
atua [a'tua] to fish with sinkers
atubak [a'tubak] to touch; to reach
atubi [a'tubi] 1. to pound 2. to grow
atuka [a'tuka] to peck
atukar [a'tukar] to swap
atulis [a'tulis] to write
atuni [a'tuni] 1. to cook 2. to shoot
atur ['atur] to pierce
aturan [a'turan] to ride with the waves
atuti [a'tuti] to pound; to bump into
aula ['aula] god
aular [a'ular] to bathe (tr.)
aum ['aum] a kind of fish
aur [a'ura] to help
ausak [a'usak] to wipe; to rub
ausir [a'usir] to chase away
aut [a'ut] to pull out; to weed (by pulling out, not by cutting)
awaka [a'waka] to erect; to build
awala [a'wala] to throw a stick to get fruit from a tree
awanang [a'wanan] to fell
awanggi [a'wan̄gi] to give
awapar [a'wapar] ripe
awara [a'wara] to go uphill; to enter a building (almost all buildings are raised a few steps from the ground)
awatak [a'watak] to take care of
awetik [a'wetik] to chop
awewak [a'wewak] to linefish

B b

baba ['baba] father
babair [ba'bair] before
babair [ba'bair] first
babarak [ba'barak] fried
baf [baf] a kind of grouper
bagi ['bagi] to divide; to share
bahala [ba'hala] disaster
bak [bak] water container
baku ['baku] reciprocal

- Baladan** [ba'ladan] The Netherlands
balak ['balak] balok
balakan [ba'lakan] behind
balarang [ba'laraŋ] hot (variant of **ablarang**)
barbarak [bar'barak] fried
baru ['baru] and
Batirari [bati'rari] Batirari
batorin [ba'torin] thick
batun ['batun] parrotfish
bawang petpetin ['bawaŋ pet'petin] garlic
be [bɛ] 1. where 2. which 3. indefinite marker
bebak ['bebak] duck
bebar ['bebar] to be hungry
bebin ['bebin] skin of fruit; shell of mollusc or nut
beda [be'da] machete
bedengan [be'dɛŋgan] seed bed
ber [bɛr] place to smoke-dry
bersi [bɛr'si] to clean
bi [bi] or
biar ['biar] even if
biasa [bi'asa] normal(ly); to be used to
bibitong [bibi'toŋ] butterfly
bil [bil] axe
binatang [bi'nataŋ] animal
bintang ['bintaŋ] tub
birbirun [bir'birun] blue
bisa ['bisa] can
bo [bɔ] 1. but 2. and
bobar ['bobar] 1. to be fast 2. to shake
boda ['boda] 1. stupid 2. very
boit ['boit] yet; still
bola ['bola] ball
bom [bɔm] wasp
Bomborai [bom'borai] Bomberai, officially the peninsula that "embraces" the Karas Islands. Local speakers usually intend the northern part of the peninsula, where the village Bomberai is situated.
botal ['bɔtal] bottle
buak ['buak] betel
buak patin [buok'patin] betel nut; areca
buka ['buka] monitor lizard; goanna
buku ['buku] book
bulai langit ['bulai 'laŋit] a kind of coastal plant
bumi ['bumi] earth
bunbunin [bun'bunin] body hair
bunbunin [bun'bunin] feather
bunga ['buŋa] flower
bunga bibitong ['buŋa bibi'toŋ] bastard valerian
bunin ['bunin] feather
bur [bur] to be strong (wind/rain)
busir ['busir] salawaku
- C c**
can [ʃan] widower
cangga ['ʃaŋga] bird of paradise
capi ceran ['ʃapi 'ʃeran] sweet potato

Capmatan [ʃap'matan] Capmatan, the name of a cape close to the village Kiaba. Also called Kiapmatan or Kiaba Matan.

cat [ʃat] to paint

cengke [ʃeŋkɛ] cloves

cicaf [ci'caf] alone; one

cor [cɔr] to cast

D d

da [da] 1. relativizer 2. then 3. so

daging ['dagiŋ] flesh; meat

daka [da'ka] that; there

daldala [dal'dala] a kind of shell

damalelat [dama'lelat] a kind of tree

damat [da'mat] 1. a kind of tree 2. garfish; longtom

dapur ['dapur] kitchen

dari ['dari] general term for fishing net with some kind of enclosure

dedar ['dedar] a kind of tree

defa ['defa] yellow taro

dekdekar [dɛk'dekar] dry

demtötir [dem'tötir] all

di [di] 1SG.REL

di ke [di'ke] this; here

dika ['dika]

dikir ['dikir] Mawlid (festival commemorating the birthday of Muhammad)

dim [dim] a kind of big earring, used as part of bride price. Still worn by the Buruwai.

dinding ['dindiŋ] wall

dirang ['diraŋ] sereh

dirin ['dirin] wind

do ko [do'ko] that

doa [doʃa] prayer

dododak [dɔ'dɔdak] food without its usual accompaniments, e.g. tea without a sweet, rice without fish or vegetables

doko ['dɔkɔ] that; there

dokter ['dokter] doctor

doman ['dɔman] shell

duang ['duaŋ] parrotfish

dudin ['dudin] 1. thunder 2. cockroach

dudin atara ['dudin a'tara] earthquake

dum [dum] 1. many 2. amount

dupan ['dupan] 1. seat in canoe; place to hang things onto in a canoe 2. "chest" of the canoe, a stage in the making of a canoe, this chest is cut off

duran ['duran] durian

duran bali ['duran 'bali] sirsak

E e

efi ['ɛfi] 1. not yet 2. still

eh [ɛ] 1. interjection of confirmation 2. hey

eis [eis] unfortunately

embir ['ɛmbir] bucket

eraf ['eraf] centipede

eraf nifanua ['eraf ,nifa'nua] a kind of centipede

eran ['eran] can

erik ['erik] seed

et ['ɛt] anchor

etam [ˈetam] parent or child in law

F f

fafan [ˈfafan] plank

Fafuran [faˈfuran] Fafuran, placename on the east side of the south-eastern Karas island

fakat [ˈfakat] chisel

fakein [faˈkein] well

fakurat [fakuˈrat] to destroy

fam [fam] clan

fan [fan] bait

fangfanggus [fanˈfanɡus] flute

fanggat [ˈfanɡat] 1. handspan 2. to measure handspans

fanono [faˈnɔnɔ] order

fara [ˈfara] ironwood; merbau

fara pakpakas nifan [ˈfara pakˈpakas ˈnifan] a kind of tree

fari [ˈfari] ray

fari mana [ˈfari ˈmana] a kind of ray

faruar [faˈruar] middle

fasa [ˈfasa] rice (husked; cooked; uncooked)

fasfasa [fasˈfasa] buying

fat [fat] four

fateter [fateˈter] slow

fatfatar [fatˈfatar] raised platform

fatobibir [fatɔbˈtobir] parcel; package; something one sends

fauar [faˈuar] news

Faur [ˈfaur] Faur, name of the northern village on the southeastern Karas island

fayoi [faˈjoi] good; well

ferekreka [ferekˈreka] to think

fes [fɛs] grass; brush

fesfes [fɛsˈfɛs] weed

fian [ˈfian] be good

fira [ˈfira] how much/many

fisik [ˈfisik] 1. short 2. part 3. some

fodan [ˈfodan] tikal leaf plant

fodan wakar [ˈfodan ˈwakar] tikal root

fodanwatan [fodanˈwatan] a kind of tikal leaf plant

fosfosan [fosˈfosan] ritual

fum [fum] vagina

fusal [ˈfusal] navel

futar [ˈfutar] 1. to turn 2. to play (song)

futfutir [futˈfutir] searching

G g

gafafi [gaˈfafi]

gain [ˈgain] 1. hill 2. stalk

gala [ˈgala] spear

gala momoi [ˈgala moˈmoi] a kind of grasshopper; spider

galang [gaˈlan] armband

galas [gaˈlas] glass

gama [ˈgama] good smell

gamaing [gaˈmain] spirit

gambus [ˈgambus] a kind of round guitar made from wood, with 4 or 5 strings

garai [gaˈrai] scabies

garang [ˈgaran] name

gargaji [gar'gaji] to saw
garis ['garis] lighter
genggeng [gɛŋ'gɛŋ] skinny; fruitless tree
geram ['geram] bitter
gergerin [gɛr'gɛrin] flank
gergerin taban [gɛrgerin 'taban] rib
giawas [gi'awas] a kind of tree
gigira [gigi'ra] yesterday
gigirasa [gigira'sa] day before yesterday
gigiwang [gi'giwaŋ] earrings
giras ['giras] a kind of wood
go [gɔ] approximately
gogit ['gɔgit̚] a kind of tree
gonggong ['gɔŋgɔŋ] to bark
goni ['goni] sack
Goran ['goran] Gorom
gorif ['gorif] a kind of fish
got [gɔt] ditch
guaban ['gwaban] shoulder
guabir ['gwabir] a kind of fish
guaintuni [gwan'tuni] morning
guam ['guam] sea weed
guama kikit ['guama 'kikit̚] a kind of fish
gudang ['gudaŋ] barn; shed
gugir ['gugir] to make noise
gulasi [gu'lasi] lengkuas, a kind of galangal
gunting ['guntiŋ] scissor
gunting ['guntiŋ] a kind of beam
guranggain [guraŋ'gain] neck
gureri [gu'reri] squirrelfish; soldierfish
guru ['guru] teacher
gusi ['gusi] vase

H h

hajat ['hajət̚] feast
halus ['halus] smooth
harap ['harap̚] to hope
hari ['hari] day
hatam ['hatam] a curse
hatib [ha'tib] preacher
haus ['haus] to be thirsty
hawatil [ha'watir] to fear; to worry
he [hɛ] right; confirmation-seeking interjection
heran ['heran] to be surprised
hes [se], [hes], [u'seh] interjection for shooing away an animal
hijo ['hiʝɔ] green
hukat ['hukat̚] net
hurma [hur'ma] star

I i

iblis ['iblis] evil ghost
Ibos ['ibɔs] Ibos, name of a beach on the east coast of the southeastern Karas island
idei [i'dei] beach; sand
ideinasing [idei'nasin] beach

Ideipurin [idei'purin] Ideipurin, a beach close to Malakuli
idif ['idif] needle
ifora [i'fora] dog
ih [ɪ] interjection of surprise (negative?); yech
imi ['imi] 2pl
imimi [i'mimi] 2pl.poss
imisia [imi'sia] 3sg alone; self
imisimi [imi'simi] you (pl.) alone
inang ['inaŋ] sago
Inggrisnirin [iŋgrɪs'nirin] English (language)
ini ['ini] 3sg.poss
irfosi [ir'fosi] a kind of trevally
irok [i'rək] shark
is [is] my god
isawan [i'sawan] skipjack tuna
isin ['isin] body
isin minak tai ['isin minak tai] don't feel good
isin unit ['isin 'unit] skin
isir ['isir] to ask
isis [i'sis] a kind of ray
istenga mati [is'teŋa 'mati] difficult; cumbersome; tiring
istigafar [istiŋa'far] istighfar, an Islamic word used as interjection of surprise
ita ['ita] 1PL.IN
ita masita [itama'sita] 1PL.IN alone
itanena [ita'neŋa] 1PL.IN.POSS
itanua [ita'nua] 1DU.EX
itar ['itar] bristletooth; surgeonfish
itar birbirun ['itar bir'birun] a kind of bristletooth or surgeonfish
iya ['ija] yes
iyo ['ijo] yes

J j

jabul ['jabul] to be lazy; to not feel like doing something
jadi ['dʒadi] 1. so; then 2. to become
jam [jam] hour
jandela [jan'dela] window
janji ['janʒi] 1. promise; agreement 2. to promise
jarutu [ja'rutu] 1. light sinker 2. to fish with a light sinker such as feathers or coconut leaf with a stone, such that the hook "swims" through the water
jati ['jati] a kind of tree
jawab ['jawab] to answer
jembatan [jembatan] dock
jendela [dʒɛn'dela]
joget ['dʒogət] dance
jualan [ju'alan] food to sell
juta ['dʒuta] million

K k

ka [ka] dist
kaba ['kaba] a kind of tree, its bark is used for poisoning fish
kabak ['kabak] sail; sailcloth
kabas ['kabas] thread
kabeka [ka'beka] left
kaberan [ka'beraŋ]

kaberang [ka'beraŋ] spit
kabil ['kabil] cable
kabinin [ka'binin] piggy bank
kabisak [ka'bisak] mud
kacang ['kacaŋ] bean
kadera [ka'dera] chair
kafusin [ka'fusin] to flower; to bloom
kafusing [ka'fusiŋ] flower
kai ['kai] medicine
kai dokdoka ['kai dok'doka] a kind of shell
kai kala ['kai 'kala] West Indian pea
kai kapas ['kai 'kapaŋ] cotton
kai manis [,kai'manis] cinnamon
kai modar ['kai 'modar] daun gedī
kai nasi ['kai 'nasi] pineapple
Kaimana [kai'mana] Kaimana, a city in southern West Papua province
kakait [ka'kait] hook
kakawa [ka'kawa] grasshopper
kalar ['kalar] 1. ready 2. to make ready
kalifan ['kalifan] mat, coarsely woven
kalolan [ka'lolan] plumb rule
kalomlomin [kalom'lomin] unripe
kamang [ka'maŋ] medicine
Kambala [kam'bala] Kambala, a place on the mainland
kame ['kame] dist
kamese [ka'mese] dist
kamimi [ka'mimi] 1. urine 2. to urinate
kamung [ka'muŋ] steel
kan [kan] yknow
Kanabaraf [kana'baraŋ] Kanabaraf, a place above Wamartupin, where Kiaba people have gardens
kanambo [kanam'bɔ] after that
kananggiar [kanaŋ'giar] a kind of bamboo, used among other things for making party tents
kananoning [kana'nɔniŋ] betel nut leaf
kanari [ka'nari] pili nut *Canarium ovatum*
kanasa [ka'nasa] bulana
kanawa [ka'nawa] a kind of tree
kancil ['kancil] mouse deer
kanus [ka'nus] ancestor
kapal ['kapal] ship
kapala [ka'pala] house
kapatar [ka'pataŋ] 1. a kind of insect 2. larvae (from flies)
kapatpatar [kapat'pataŋ] giant trevally
kapepe [kape'pe] cardinalfish
kaperat [ka'perat] heavy
kapuak [ka'puak] mung beans
kapuak bali [ka'puak 'bali] a kind of legume
kapuak narnaran [ka'puak nar'naran] a kind of legume, similar to kidney beans
kapuk ['kapuk] kapok, a tree with cotton-like fluff
kapuni [ka'puni] 1. a small kind of bamboo 2. arrow shaft
karakaf [ka'rakaŋ] crab
karakaf aum [ka'rakaŋ a'um] lobster
karangan [ka'raŋaŋ] near
Karas ['karaŋ] Karas, name of three islands in Sebakor Bay
karawaka [kara'waka] Tahitian chestnut

kariapeng [ˌkariˈapɛŋ] dust; fine earth; ash
karja [karˈja] work
karkaran [karˈkaran] bamboo floor
karna [ˈkarna] because
kasabita [kasaˈbita] squash
kasar [ˈkasar] rough
kasian [kaˈsian] poor thing; what a shame
kasowari [ˌkasoˈwari; kasaˈwari] cassowary
kastela [kasˈtɛla] corn; maize
kasuk [kaˈsuk̃] (older and/or respected) man; husband
kasuk kamang [kaˈsuk̃ kaˈmaŋ] medicine man
katatawak [kataˈtawak] a kind of fish
katkataf [katˈkataf] pieces of wood to pin down thatched roof (i.e. on top of the leaves)
katof [kaˈtɔf] arrow
kator [kaˈtor] hermit crab
katua [kaˈtua] cockatoo
katuak [kaˈtuak] to be full of weed
katuki [kaˈtuki] a kind of shell
kawat [ˈkawat] wire
kawer [ˈkawer] land; earth; soil
kawer narnaran [kaˈwɛr narˈnaran] clay
kayakat [kaˈjakat] bamboo wall
ke [kɛ] proximal
kedukedu [akɛduˈkɛdu] to use a certain fishing technique
keka [ˈkɛka] child
keken [ˈkɛkɪn] chin
kelat [ˈkɛlat] mark
kena [ˈkɛna] grandfather
kerang [ˈkɛraŋ] turtle
ketel [ˈkɛtɛl; ˈkɛtal] kettle
Kiaba [ˈkɪaba] Kiaba, name of a village on the south-eastern Karas island
kiar [ˈkiar] mat, finely woven
kibakar [kiˈbakar] beams on an outrigger canoe parallel to the boat, in between the boat and the float, to strengthen the construction
kibi [ˈkibi] sea cucumber
kibi asas nenang [ˈkibi ˈasas ˈnɛnaŋ] a kind of sea cucumber
kibi buka [kibi ˈbuka] a kind of sea cucumber
kibi kur narnaran [kibi kur narˈnaran] a kind of sea cucumber
kibi laflafan [kibi lafˈlafan] a kind of sea cucumber
kibi sansanam [kibi sanˈsanam] a kind of sea cucumber
kibi songgarati [kibi soŋgaˈrati] a kind of sea cucumber
kibi songgarati narnaran [ˈkibi soŋgaˈrati narˈnaran] a kind of sea cucumber
kibi tuni [kibi ˈtuni] a kind of sea cucumber
kifin [ˈkifin] mosquito
kifkifir wain [kifˈkifir wain] broom
kilo [ˈkilo] kilo
Kilo [ˈkilo] nickname for district capital
kiribunit [kiriˈbunit] scoop (for emptying canoe)
kis [kis] jambu
Kisiwui [kisiˈui] Kisiwui, a placename in Maluku
ko [kɔ] that; distal
kodaf [ˈkodaf] betel container, or a plate with offerings like betel, lime, oil, coins
kodaf [ˈkodaf] to offer smoke or betel nut
kofat [ˈkofat] Mallee fowl

kofir ['kofir] coffee
kofkofat [kof'kɔfat] grouper
koin ['koin] older; eldest (sibling, child)
koir ['koir] a kind of bird
kokam ['kokam] whale
Kokas ['kɔkas] Kokas
koker ['koker; 'kɔkir] 1. seedling bag 2. to put in seedling bag
kokok [kɔ'kɔk] chicken
koma ['koma] dark
komanian [koma'nian] incense
komkoma [kom'kɔma] black
komkomur [kom'kɔmur] cucumber
korkor [kor'kɔr] a kind of fish
korkor nan [korkɔr'nɔn] kind of fish
korkor neti [korkɔr'neti] sweetlips, a kind of fish
korkori [kor'kori] light
kortas [kɔr'tas] paper
kosar ['kosar] mace
kotor ['kotor] dirty
kr kokok [kr: kokok] interjection used for calling chickens
kuaman [ku'aman] bream or emperor, a kind of fish
kuaman nan [ku'aman nɔn] kind of bream or emperor, a kind of fish
kuaman neti [kuama'neti] kind of bream or emperor, a kind of fish
kubur ['kubur] grave
kuda ['kuda] horse
kudakuda [kuda'kuda] a plank in the back of a canoe, where the motor is attached
kudedir [ku'dedir] a kind of plant
kuerin [ku'erin] tongue
kukis ['kukis] cake; cookies
kukuada [ku'kwada] small shrimp
kukuser [kuku'ser] parrot
kulaba [ku'laba] a kind of ray
kumar ['kumar] sachet
kuning ['kuniŋ] yellow
kur [kur] resin
kuraf ['kuraf] dolphin
kurungkurung [kuruŋ'kuruŋ] fish container
kutena [ku'tena] papaya
kutkutar [kut'kutar] bun (hair)

L I

labang ['labɔŋ] to visit
labat ['labat] wounded
lablabat [lab'labat] 1. wound 2. wounded
ladan ['ladan] shirt
laf [laf] just; only
lafan ['lafan] fishing line
lafi ['lafi] fire
lafi koma ['lafi 'koma] ash
lafi nanak ['lafi nanak] burnt
lafi wain ['lafi 'wain] fireplace
lafur ['lafur] lime
lagergera [lager'gera] coral rock; coral reef
lagu ['lagu] song

lakar ['lakar] to weave
lakir ['lakir] to crawl
lalak ['lalak] small
laman koin ['laman 'koin] uncle, father's elder brother
laman lalak ['laman 'lalak] uncle, father's younger brother
lamari [la'mari] closet
lampu ['lampu] lamp; electricity
lampur ['lampur] lamp
langit ['lan̩it̩] sky
lanlana [lan'lan̩a] bubara
lanunggi [la'nun̩gi] 1SG.POSS
lar [lar] garden fence
lasi ['lasi] dog
lasin ['lasin] butt
latan ['latan] lungs
lau ['lau] 1sg
leba ['leba] imam
lebai [le'bai] it's better if
lepir ['lepir] roof rafter
leplepa [lepa'lepa] wooden canoe
les [les] a plank in the bow of a canoe
les plan [les'plan] board to close off roof
lilin ['lilin] candle
linggis ['linggis] dibble stick
lirang ['liran̩] a kind of beam used in house construction
litir ['litir] litre
loh̩ar ['loh̩ar] dhuhr (midday) prayer
lolak ['lolak] lola, a kind of shell that at times is harvested to sell
luas ['luas] wide
lufain [lu'fain] traditional fireplace; traditional oven
lurus ['lurus] straight
lusi ['lusi] eagle; kite (typically used for Brahmini kite, the most common type in the area)
lusi namnamin ['lusi nam'namin] a kind of plant

M m

mada ['mada] bat
magarip ['magrip̩] maghrib
magaruk [ma'garuk̩] scratched
magawait [maga'wait̩] donation (e.g. to help people organize a party)
mahar ['mahar] dowry
makam ['makam] (be in?) shadow
makani [maka'nini] citrus fruit
makes [ma'kes] a kind of fish
makmak [mak'mak̩] fruit fly
makof [ma'kof̩] leech
malakat [mala'kat̩] a lot
Malakuli [mala'kuli] Malakuli, name of the district capital of Karas
malu ['malu] shy; ashamed
mamin ['mamin] a kind of fish
manado [ma'nado] taro
Manamban [ma'naman̩] Manamban, placename on the east side of the southeastern Kiaba island
manawas [ma'nawas] long
mancia [man'cia] person; people
mancia sopsobang [man'cia sop'soban̩] servant

manenggal [ma'neŋgal] to be quiet; to be deserted
mangadap [ma'ŋadap̄] to face
mangan ['maŋan] sharp
mangan tai ['maŋan tai] blunt; dull
mangarat [ma'ŋarat̄] a kind of tokay that likes to crawl in the leaves
manggo [maŋ'gɔ] banana
manggo fafan [maŋgɔ 'fafan] a kind of banana
manggo ner putifat [maŋgo ner puti'fat] a kind of banana
manggo salen [maŋgo sa'len] a kind of banana
manggo sarafua [maŋ'gɔ sara'fua] a kind of banana
manik ['manik̄] bird
manikmanik [,manik'manik̄] beads
maniktapuri [ma,nikta'puri] crown pigeon
manonaf [ma'nɔnaf] a kind of ray
manonan [ma'nɔnan] to be correct; to be straight
mantega [man'tega] butter; margarine
mapata [ma'pata] woman
marabot [mara'bɔt̄] janitor
marawan [ma'rawan] to clean; to clear; to be cleared (of land)
maresan [ma'resan] chilli
maresresar [mares'resar] very hard
 Maret [ma'ret] much; many
marwana [mar'wana] man
marwanas [mar'wanas] men
Mas [mas] Mas, a village on the biggest Karas island
masi ['masi] smoke
masikit [ma'sikit̄] mosque
masing ['masiŋ] to be salty
maskut [mas'kut̄] sweat
masos [ma'sɔs] (of the soil) to slide; landslide
masuk ['masuk] to enter
masupin [ma'supin] hole
matabulang [mata'bulaŋ] a kind of shell
matafasi [mata'fasi] women
matan ['matan] 1. edge 2. time 3. cape
matananam [mata'nanam] face
matapuan [mata'puan] eye
matapuan buti [mata'puan 'buti] to be blind
matmatak [mat'matak] uncooked; raw
matmatawanas [matmata'wanas] people that have been dead for more than 10-15 years
matontonang [matɔn'tɔnaŋ] sitting
mayor [ma'jɔr] custom leader
me [mɛ], [mek] interjection used for calling goats
meing [meiŋ] oil; fuel; benzine
meing tuni [meiŋ 'tuni] frying oil; coconut oil
meja ['medʒa] table
mek [mek̄] goat
mengan ['meŋan] a little more
metar ['metar] all (modifying quantities)
meti abubit ['meti a'bubit] high tide; rising tide
meti amarak anggaros [meti a'marak aŋga'ros] very low tide
meti pus ['meti pus] tide about to rise
meti ruaf sinei ['meti 'ruaf sin'ei] very high tide
meti tapin akabom [met 'tapin aka'bom] tide about to go down

mimbar [ˈmimbar] podium in mosque
min [min] louse; flea
minak [ˈminak] 1. sweet 2. fat
minlen [minˈlɛn] elder woman; wife
minminak [minˈminak] a kind of green tokay
mobil [ˈmɔbil] car
mojim [ˈmɔdʒim] muezzin
molamola [molaˈmola] a kind of trevally
mop [mɔp] joke
mosim [ˈmosim] season
muan [ˈmuan] to eat
muk [muk] to whisper
munin [ˈmunin] the wind-exposed side of an island
musu [ˈmusu] enemy

N n

nadar [ˈnadar] give a gift at the mosque as a way of praying for something you wish for
nalam [ˈnalam] a kind of dark-colored trevally
naman [ˈnaman] deep
namat [aˈnamat] to hold; to grasp; to bring
namnamin [namˈnamin] 1. to eat 2. food
nan [nan] to eat
nana [ˈnana] 1. landside; mainland 2. to get
nanak [ˈnanak] to burn
nanam [ˈnanam] inside; also the safe, non-windy side of an island
napas [ˈnapas] breathe
nar [nar] widow
nara [ˈnara] blood
naran [ˈnaran] red
nasa [ˈnasa] top; up
nasar [ˈnasar] kantung kemaluan
nasar patin [nasarˈpatin] testicles
nasi [ˈnasi] sugar
nasing [ˈnasiŋ] top; on top of; above
nat [nat] 1. sister-in-law or brother-in-law 2. seam
nat rau [natˈrau] seam of canoe
nati [ˈnati] king
nawan [ˈnawan] liver
nawan abur [ˈnawan aˈbur] to be angry
nawar [ˈnawar] 1. light; shine; to be turned on 2. day after tomorrow
nedat [ˈnedat] to ask
nefa [ˈnefa] fathom
nem [nɛm] six
nemin [ˈnemin] to drink
neña [ˈneña] mother
neña koin [ˈneña ˈkoin] aunt, mother's elder sister
neña lalak [ˈneña ˈlalak] aunt, mother's younger sister
nenang [ˈnenan] mother
nengnenggar [neŋˈneŋgar] a kind of tree
nenmatan [nenˈmatan] 1. forehead 2. way
nenno [ˈnenno] oh lord; wow
ner dike [ner diˈke] today
nera [ˈnera] 1. day 2. sun
nera asung [ˈnera ˈasun] sunrise

neran [ˈneran] stairs
neti [ˈneti] the deep sea, where the land mass steps down (past the reef edge is there is one)
nggosik [ˈŋɡosik] to cut throat
ngguekngguek [ŋguekˈŋguek] kind of grasshopper
ni [ni] future marker
niawa [niˈawa] heart
nifan [ˈnifan] 1. teeth 2. away; outside of the village
nika [ˈnika] 1. fishing line 2. to marry
nika ai [ˈnika ai] holder for fishing line
nika toba [ˈnika ˈtoba] holder for fishing line
nima [ˈnima] five
niman [ˈniman] leg; foot
niman pukpukin [ˈniman pukˈpukin] knee
niman tapin [ˈniman ˈtapin] heel; sole
niri [ˈniri] stick; pole
niri kapala [niri kaˈpala] one of the main posts in a house
niring [ˈniriŋ] voice; language
niringgain [niriŋˈgain] nose
niringgain masupin [niriŋˈgain maˈsupin] nostril
nisa [ˈnisa] louse eggs
nois [noˈis], [ˈnois] to break; to snap; to cut
noken [ˈnoken] net bag; woven bag
nomba [ˈnomba] first
non [nɔn] sea; seaside; direction of the sea
nonin [ˈnɔnin] leaf
nor nawar [nɔr ˈnawar] the next day
nora [ˈnɔra] with; and
nora patuan [ˈnɔra paˈtuan] pregnant
nosir [ˈnosir] to say
not [nɔt] sarong
nua [ˈnua] two
numakmengan [numakˈmeŋan] later
numit [ˈnumit] algae
numnumit [numˈnumit] fungus
nurin [ˈnurin] back
nurin sinei [ˈnurin sinei] the whole back
nuring [ˈnuriŋ] back
nurnur [nurˈnur] a kind of fruit or root
nurnurin [nuˈnurin] bones
nusa [ˈnusa] mainland
nusa matan [nusaˈmatan] edge of cape
nusapuan [nusaˈpuan] island
nusnenang [nusˈnenan] mainland (from Fakfak to Kaimana)

O o

o [ɔ] 1. 2SG 2. interjection 3. quotative

odak [ˈɔdak] all
oi [ɔi] hey
oke [ˈoke] ok
olat [ˈɔlat] far
omaso [omaˈsɔ]
omu [ˈɔmu] 2sg.poss
ongkos [ˈɔŋkɔs] expenses

opar [ˈɔpar] a kind of root vegetable

otin [ˈɔtin] continue(d); past

ou [ˈɔu] oh; wow; hey

P p

pacul [ˈpaʔful] 1. hoe 2. to hoe

padi [ˈpadi] rice plant

pakas [ˈpakas] banana "branch"

paki [ˈpaki] to use

pakiang [paˈkiaŋ] clothes

paku [ˈpaku] nail

pang [paŋ] cliff

panggala [paŋˈgala] cassava

panik [ˈpanik] 1. also; again 2. other

paning [ˈpaniŋ] part; side

papa [ˈpapa] under(side)

papan [ˈpapan] 1. bottom; underside 2. mouth

papari [paˈpəri] papari tree

papi [ˈpapi] pig

parat [paˈrat] west

parenta [paˈrenta] to rule

paruarang [parˈwaraŋ] a kind of bamboo, used in old days to store water

pas [pas] exactly when

pasar [ˈpasar] market

patang [ˈpataŋ] batang

pati [ˈpati] stone

pati matan [ˈpatiˈmatan] chest

patialus [patiˈalus] gravel

patin [ˈpatin] 1. seed 2. egg

patpatak [patˈpatak] wall

patuan [paˈtuan] stomach; belly

pemuda [peˈmuda] youth

pena [ˈpena] pen

pening [ˈpeniŋ] price

perlu [perˈlu] to need

perperi [perˈperi] new; first

pes lafan [pesˈlafan] to linefish

pesa [ˈpesa] paddle

peta [ˈpeta] anaphoric demonstrative

peti [ˈpeti] box

petpetin [petˈpetin] white

pidir [ˈpidir] piece

pikiran [piˈkiran] thoughts

pingan [ˈpiŋgan] plate

Pinggor [piŋˈgɔr] Antalisa

pinsa [ˈpinsa] side

pinsil [ˈpinsil] pencil

pinyakit [piˈŋakit] illness

pisa [piˈsa] a little

pitis [ˈpitis] money

poning [ˈpɔniŋ] to smell bad

popa [ˈpopa] mother's brother

pora [ˈpora] cuscus

Posposak [posˈposak] Posposak, placename on the west side of the southeastern Karas island

puadi [pu'adi] bridal sofa on a podium where the couple greet guests
puala [pu'ala] crocodile
puan ['puan] 1. fruit 2. to bear fruit
puar ['puar] many (of trees)
puatin [pu'atin] head
puca [pu'ʃa] ten
pucaresin [puʃa'rɛsin] tens
puk [puk] hair
pukar ['pukar] slope
pukin ['pukin] knot
pukpukar [puk'pukar] to be sloped; to be steep
punan ['punan] 1. month 2. moon
punit ['punit̃] finished
punpunit [pun'punit̃] empty
puntilanak [punti'lanak] owl
pupuk ['pupuk] fertilizer
purak ['purak] sharpening stone
puri ['puri] anchovy
puring ['purinj] fin
pusir ['pusir] bow
***puti** ['puti] ten
putinima [puti'nima] fifty
putinua [puti'nua] twenty
putir ['putir] group (of living beings)

R r

raca [ra'ca] one hundred
raca putinua resin teni [ra'ʃa puti'nua'rɛsin'teni] 123
ramas ['ramas] turmeric
ranggas ['rangas] branch
ranjau ['ranjau] fishing technique using a long line with lots of hooks
ranti ['ranti] necklace
ranua [ra'nua] long ago
raruni [ra'runi] bow
rasa ['rasa] to feel
rata ['rata] flat
rateni [ra'teni] three hundred
***rati** ['rati] hundred
rau ['rau] canoe
rau waraman ['rau wa'raman] outrigger canoe
rawain [ra'wain] room
regil ['rɛgil] horizontal beam in wall
rein ['rɛin] too
rejeki [rɛdʒɛ'ki] good luck
rep [rɛp] shoal
resan ['resan] hammer
resin ['resin] other
ripi ['ripi] thousand
ripi raca ['ripi ra'ʃa] one hundred thousand
ripuca [ripu'ʃa] ten thousand
***riputi** [ri'puti] thousand ten
riputi nua [ri'puti'nua] twenty thousand
riri ['riri] kunai grass
ririk ['ririk] to stand (tr.)

ririn ['ririn] tall
roran ['rɔran] again
roti ['rɔti] bread
ruaf ['ruaf] pen
rufafar [ru'fafar] fly
rugi ['rugi] to lose
ruguain [rugu'ain] morning
ruki ['ruki] to make a fist
rupapang [ru'papan] pool; space under a horizontally closed platform, like a sitting platform or a house on stilts
rupayang [ru'pajan] wave
rusa ['rusa] deer
rusing ['rusiŋ] mortar

S s

sa [sa] one
sabua [sa'buə] party tent
sagum [sa'gum] a kind of tree
sair ['sair] tune
sakafin [sa'kafin] wing
sala ['sala] to be wrong
sama ['sama] same
samar ['samar] north (wind)
sampe ['sampe] until
sanang [sa'nan] to like; to feel good
sangaji [sa'ŋaji] big man
sanong [sa'non] roof (thatched)
sapopan [sa'popan] coconut shell
saputi [sa'puti] nine
sarek [sa'rek] a kind of lorikeet
sari ['sari] shoal
sasalik [sa'salik] circumcision
sasat [sa'sat] just now
sawan ['sawan] fog
sayang ['sajan] nutmeg
sayang patin ['sajan 'patin] nutmeg
se [sɛ] who
sebenarnya [sɛbɛ'naŋna] actually
sebur [sɛ'bur] to recite
sedangkan [sɛ'daŋkan] while
sedi ['sedi] sad
sehingga [sɛ'hiŋga] so that
sei ['sei] to sew (roof)
seir [seir] fish
seisei [sei'sei] to throw *Iseisei pati ato tasik*. I'm throwing stones in the sea.
sejara [se'dʒara] history
sekarang [se'karaŋ] now
sekola [se'kola] to go to school
semanka [se'manka] watermelon
semen [se'men] concrete
sendal [sen'dal] slippers
senen [se'nɛn] Monday
seng [sɛŋ] corrugated iron sheet
sensor ['sensor] chainsaw

sepseban [sep'seban] damsels, demoiselles and other kinds of small fishes
Serser [ser'ser] Serser, name of a beach on the west side of the south-eastern Karas island
sese ['sese] chase away cat
setan ['setan] devil
sigit ['sigit̃] 1. horn 2. to horn
sika ['sika] cat
sileng ['silɛŋ] 1. taboo place, guarded by a ghost 2. ghost that inhabits a snake (lives between Mas and Antalisa)
simisina [simi'sina] 3PL.alone
sina ['sina] 3PL
sinei [si'nei] big
singgoli [siŋ'gɔli] sago pancake
singonggar [siŋ'gɔŋgar] to have convulsions
singsingat [siŋ'siŋat] a kind of small ant
sinina [si'nina] 3PL.POSS
sinua [si'nua] they two
sipsipat [sip'sipat̃] spatula
sira ['sira] 1. salt 2. to salt
siram ['siram] sailfish
sirang ['sirɑŋ] to pour
siret ['siret̃] drawing room
sirurat [si'rurat̃] words; language
sisir ['sisir] 1. comb 2. to comb
sisira [si'sira] salted
sobas ['sɔbas] twilight; dawn
soka ['sɔka] snake
sokar ['sɔkar] to be sick; to hurt
soksoka [sok'soka] squid
soksoka tein [sok'soka tein] squid ink
som [sɔm] iamitive
sonang ['sɔnɑŋ] bako
sonat ['sɔnat̃] gap
songga ['sɔŋga] to plumb rule
songgi ['sɔŋgi] triggerfish; leatherjacket
sonsonang [sɔn'sɔnɑŋ] two-pointed spear
sontor ['sɔntɔr] example; type
Sorong ['sɔrɔŋ] Sorong
suai [su'ai] what
suai [su'ai] placeholder
suair [su'air] poison balls
suang ['suaŋ] digging stick
suar ['suar] 1. bamboo comb 2. to comb
subunman [subun'man] earthworm
suci ['sufi] holy
sudaka [suda'ka] alms; (small) money gift to organisers of a celebration
suka ['suka] to like
sukit ['sukit som] start of evening
sukmatan [suk'matan] door
suman ['suman] 1. mouth 2. cap
sumanua [suma'nua] a kind of ray
sumbat ['sumbat̃] to plug
sungsunnga [suŋ'suŋga] pants
sunsuni [sun'suni] spoon
susa ['susa] difficult
susi ['susi] 1. milk 2. breast

susuan [su'suan] for planting

T t

tabaki [ta'baki] tobacco; cigarette

tabalaki [ˌtaba'laki] tamarind

taban [ˈtaban] thorn

taberak [ta'berak] jackfruit

tabiri [ta'biri] mucus

tagiri [ta'giri] mackerel

tai [ˈtai] no; not

tai da [ˈtai da] but; so; if not

tain [ˈtain] sea urchin

taker [ta'ker] tree kangaroo

talalu [ta'lalu] too much

taliwat [ta'liwat̃] very; too

tamatil [ta'matil] tomato

tangan [ˈtaŋan] arm and hand

tanganonggaf [taŋa'noŋgaf] fingernail

tangkarek [taŋka'rek] finger

tangtangga [taŋ'taŋga] ring

taningan [ta'niŋan] ear

taningan atok [ta'niŋan a'tok̃] to be deaf

tanisa [ta'nisa] tropical almond

tanisnisa [tanis'nisa] a kind of fish

tapaning [ta'paniŋ] to be flipped

tapar [ˈtapar] a kind of kangaroo

tapare [tapa're] I don't know

tapin [ta'pin] bottom of container

tapin [ta'pin] last

taptaban [tap'taban] thorn

tapuri [ta'puri] a kind of shell

Tarak [ˈtarak̃] Tarak, a village on the north-eastern Karas island

taram [ˈtaram] frigatebird

taramus [tara'mus] fairytale

taransa [taran'sa] seven

tarapa [ta'rapa] oyster

tarian [ta'rian] dance

tas [tas] bag

tasik [ˈtasik] sea; sea water

tatakanus [tataka'nus] ancestor

tatakena [tata'kena] old man

tatan [ˈtatan] 1. grandparent 2. grandchild

tatanina [tata'nina] grandmother

tawanang [ta'wanan] side

tehel [ˈtehel] tile

tei [tei] excrement

teman [te'man] friend

tena [ˈtena] keel

teni [ˈteni] three

tepi [ˈtepi] sugarcane

ter [tɛr] tea

terinua [teri'nua] eight

ternyata [ter'nata] apparently
terteran [ter'teran] in a line or on a string; e.g. sharks, a fish line with many hooks, flowers, fruits
terus [tɛ'rus] 1. then 2. to continue
tetar ['tetar] low tide so that (coral) stones are uncovered
Tetar ['tetar] Tetar, a place in Tonggarai (Bomberai mainland)
tetetas [tɛ'tetas] kind of drum
tiba ['tiba] a kind of bamboo; generic name for bamboo
tiba tuni [tiba'tuni] a kind of bamboo
tibyabin [tib'jabin], [tib'jabin] bad
tigarang [ti'garaŋ] a kind of fish
timurak [ti'murak] sinker
tinggal ['tiŋgal] what remains is
tinolas [ti'nolas] ramadan
tipan ['tipan] drum
tiperperi [tiper'peri] youth; youngster
tipupuar [tipu'puar] buah gelombang
tirak ['tirak] a kind of bamboo
to [tɔ] right, tag question marker
toba ['toba] a kind of buoy
tof [tɔf] anthias, a kind of fish
toi ['toi] a kind of grouper
tokan ['tɔkan] punt pole
toktoki [tok'toki] gecko
tomang ['tɔmaŋ] net bag; woven bag
tompat ['tɔmpat] place; container
tonggar ['tɔŋgar] mangrove
tongka ['tɔŋka] to hand-measure
topi ['tɔpi] hat
torak ['tɔrak] scad; pilot fish
torong ['tɔrɔŋ] eggplant
torung ['tɔruŋ] a kind of tree
toto ['tɔtɔ] descent
tuari [tu'ari] 1. to take long time 2. old
tuburesa [,tubu'resa] earthworm
tukir ['tukir] a kind of bamboo
tuktukar [tuk'tukar] shallow
tumin ['tumin] watermelon
tunangan [tu'naŋaŋ] engagement
tuni ['tuni] 1. right; real (in the sense of original) 2. very
tunik ['tunik] knife
tupa ['tupa] poisonous root
tupin ['tupin] tip
tutu ['tutu] really; true

U u

ukir ['ukir] 1. a kind of bamboo 2. a kind of tree
uma ['uma] garden
unaba [u'naba] ikan lompā
unanang [u'naŋaŋ] forest; mountain
unang ['unaŋ] rain
unang matapuan ['unaŋ ,mata'puan] rainbow
uncar ['uncar] a kind of plant
undangan [un'daŋaŋ] guest; invitee
unggu ['uŋgu] purple

unin ['unin] head
unit ['unit] skin
uran ['uran] different sex sibling
urat ['urat] vein
uri ['uri] breadfruit
uri watan [uri'watan] wild breadfruit
urumas [uru'mas] a kind of fish
utaf ['utaf] tomorrow
utin ['utin] penis
Utun ['utun] Buton

W w

wabwaban [wab'waban] a kind of fish
wai ['wai] 1. thing 2. cloth
wai bibi [wai'bibi] sour sambal or dip to eat with fish
wai kutin [wai'kutin]
wain ['wain] or what
wain ['wain] place
wainisin [wai'nisin] fishing hook
waipidpidir [waipid'pidir] clothes; things
wais ['wais] root vegetable
waisi [wai'si] eagle
waisuk [wai'suk] dove
wakar ['wakar] root
wakar buka [wakar'buka] a kind of tree
Wakatuti [waka'tuti] Wakatuti, a place on the mainland in Sebakor Bay
wamar ['wamar] hornbill
Wamartupin [wamar'tupin] Wamartupin, placename on the east side of the south-eastern Kiaba island
wana ['wana] friend; sibling
wang [waŋ] village; place
wanggin ['waŋgin] cheeks
Wangnirin [waŋ'nirin] Wangnirin language, lit. village language
Wanim ['wanim] Wanim, placename on the south side of the south-eastern Karas island
waraburis [wara'buris] beard
waras ['waras] rope
waras tuni ['waras'tuni] rattan
warin ['warin] 1. sibling (same-sex) 2. friend
warin mapata ['warin ma'pata] sister
warin marwana ['warin mar'wana] brother
warna ['warna] colour
wasir ['wasir] joint
wat [wat] coconut
wat madekdekar [wat madek'dekar] dry coconut
wat mesang [wat'mesaŋ] coconut grounds
wat pating [wat'patiŋ] coconut leaf ribs
wat sunsuni [wat sun'suni] green, fresh coconut
wat tarobas [wata'robas] the brown part of the coconut skin
watwatak [wat'watak] foster (child)
wawa ['wawa] mango
wegam ['wegam] to rust
welawela [wela'wela] 1. wedding rite 2. money gift
wele [we'le] vegetable
wenawena [wena'wena] bee
wer [wer] water

wer nanam [wer 'nanam] river; stream
wer nemnemin [wer nem 'nemin] drinking water
wer sinei [wer si 'nei] lake
Wertofar [wer 'tofar] Wertofar, a placename
werwer [wer 'wer] garfish
wewar ['wewar] axe
wigin ['wigin] 1. base (tree) 2. classifier for plants
wikir ['wikir] tail
wiris ['wiris] string
wirwiris [wir 'wiris] stringy
wortel ['wortel] carrot
wowa ['wowa] father's sister; aunt

Y y

yabar ['jabar] transportation wood
yakop ['jakop̚] cockatoo
yawat ['jawat] rat; mouse
yawat duri ['jawat 'duri] porcupine
yawat kawer ['jawat ka 'wer] bandicoot