

Organised Phonology Data

Maisin Language [MBQ] Oro Province

Unclassified (mixed Austronesian and Papuan)

Population census: 1,800

Major villages: Marua, Uyaku

Linguistic work done by: M. Ross

Data checked by:

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

a b d e ɸ ɸ^w g i j k m n o r s t u β w j k^w ŋ
a b d e f fw g i j k m n o r s t u v w y kw ŋ
A B D E F Fw G I J K M N O R S T U V W Y Kw -

(the surface segments [ŋ] and [ɲ] can be derived from /n/ and /m/ and [k^w] as sequence of /k/ + rounded vowel.)

Consonants

	Bilab	LabDen	Dental	Alveo	Postalv	Retro	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyn	Glottal
Plosive	b		t d					k g			
Nasal	m		n					ŋ			
Trill											
Tap/Flap			ɾ								
Fricative	ɸ β			s			j				
Lateral Fricative											
Approx							j				
Lateral Approx											
Ejective Stop											
Implos											

/w/ voiced labial-velar approximant

/ɸ^w/ voiceless labialized bilabial fricative

/k^w/ voiceless labialized velar plosive

b	begaati	'garden'	m	meeta	'day after tomorrow'
	gaboo	'yellow'		tamataa	'man'
-			-		
	ivabbavii	'he is boiling them'		ammatan	'our eyes'
	tambuŋ	'moon'		gambuubi	'black'

ϕ	fii	'bird'	r	raasi	'tomorrow'
	faafi	'husband'		roro	'yesterday'
	-			-	
	maraffa	'wide'		forrogi	'cloud'
	foinfe	'tonight'		kanruang	'food'
ϕ ^w	fwee	'white'	j	jameŋ	'son'
	funafwee	'whiteskin'		iraabujejeŋ	'he tore it'
	-			-	
				munju	'egg'
β	vaa	'house'		bejji	'big'
	ivaa	'fishnet'			
	-		k	kaa	'tree'
				sauki	'woman'
				-	
w	waunŋ	'new'		ekko	'he shot'
	wowo	'topside'			
	-				
t	tuŋ	'louse'	g	gaboo	'yellow'
	matau	'my eye'		begate	'in the garden'
	-			-	
	itattarii	'he is chopping them'		itaruwuggurii	'he is hitting them'
				gumuungi	'Tahitian chestnut'
d	damana	'star'	k ^w	kweefi	'you spoke'
	raduu	'wet'		-	
	-				
	iroddotii	'he is tying them'	ŋ	-	
	sandei	'two'		aŋgoo	'fishtrap'
				ikaŋkaŋ	'he is eating'
n	nennaŋ	'that one'		yuŋ	'water'
	sinati	'three'			
	tivaasin	'they walking..'			
	innaŋ	'this one'	j	yaabi	'father'
	munju	'egg'		yaayesi	'nephew'
				-	
				inyovere	'on this side of it'
s	suusi	'breast'			
	neusa	'squid'			
	-				
	tassaa	'sea'			
	woyanse	'on the mountain'			

Vowels

i

u

e

o

a

i	isaa	'when?'
	variŋ	'this house'
	viisi	'how many?'

e	ekko	'he shot them'
	bejji	'big'
	roise	'sisters'

a	avan matau maraffa	'what?' 'my eye' 'wide'	ai	airong yain	'old' 'intestines'
o	- sokun yo	'narrow' 'mother'	aa	raasi tamaati waunaa	'tomorrow' 'man' 'new ones'
u	- tufaa tawu	'short' 'Triton shell'	au	sauki kavau waun	'woman' 'my mouth' 'new'
ii	viisi fii	'how many?' 'bird'	oi	foing koise	'night' 'you walked'
ia	sia	'string'	oo	woo gaboo	'fire' 'yellow'
ei	eise weisi sande	'he walked' 'day before yesterday' 'two'	ou	tou	'sugarcane'
ee	meeta bureeji mossee	'day after tomorrow' 'eel' 'long'	ua	rua	'hear'
eu	neusa	'squid'	uu	suusi gambuubi raduu	'breast' 'black (sg)' 'wet'

/ii/ /ia/
 /ei/ /ee/ /eu/
 /ai/ /aa/ /au/
 /oi/ /oo/ /ou/
 /ua/ /uu/

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Syllable Patterns

V		i.vei.ve 'he held'	a.u.ki 'I descend'	au.e 'it's me'
VV	ai 'so'	ai.re 'it's him'	i.ru.aa.na 'he will hear'	fwee.aa 'white ones'
VC	aŋ 'our'	ek.ko 'he shot them'		fii.iŋ 'this bird'
CV	yo 'mother'	ro.ro 'yesterday'	i.kak.ka.ri 'he is scratching'	mun.ju 'egg'
CVV	tou 'sugarcane'	roi.se 'sisters'	bu.ree.ji 'eel'	ma.tau 'my eye'
CVC	yun 'water'	tam.bun 'moon'	i.kan.kan 'he is eating'	ai.ron 'old'
CVVC	wan 'new'	foin.fe 'tonight'	ma.raan.di 'pandanus'	kan.ruan 'food'

Conventions: Phonological

The vowels /u/ and /o/ never occur word initially. The most natural phonological explanation of this is that in underlying forms all five vowels occur word initially, but that /o u / become surface [wo wu].

The consonant /v/ never occurs before [o] or [u].

Transcription of a recorded passage

/ saukika kaiϕetina isuŋ iraana atti.

jaujaabi jeiŋaabi eiϕonaka taβe tareeregetana.

mataa teisen jooge tiβaasin tira.

aijamemmomoribika isaa jeeβia aϕuŋϕe wataasirara suusi matare kora tinanna | ruama maŋke kuβe kokaro teana /

< Saukika kaifetina isuŋ iraana atti.

Yauyaabi yeiyaabi eifonaka tave tareeregetana.

Mataa teisen yooge tivaasin tira.

Aijamemmomoribika isaa yeevia aϕuŋϕe wataasirara suusi matare kora tinanna, ruama maŋke kuve kokaroteana? >

'I saw the woman who was carrying a basket.'

'We should accept the advice of our parents and elders.'

'Leading the way, they came up the ladders'

'When your sons and daughters are not easily able to manage the nipple later, where will you get food to feed them?'

Bibliography

Malcolm, Ross. 1984. Maisin: A Preliminary Sketch.