

Old Hubian

Old Hubian was a Papuan language spoken in the south of the Kaupelanese island of Kiwanger many centuries before the arrival of the first Malayo-Polynesian populations. Despite the language is not spoken since the sixteenth century and the absence of written records, its strong phonological and lexical influence on Kaupelanese allowed scholars to infer its phonology, vocabulary and morphology. Around 40% of Kaupelanese basic vocabulary is of *Old Hubian* origin. Furthermore, many names and surnames, and most toponyms of Kiwanger came from this language.

Considering some grammatical similarities with other non-Austronesian languages spoken in the archipelago of Kaupelan, such as *Suduk*, *Hakereh* and *Atawodo*, *Old Hubian* is classified as belonging to Trans-New Guinea family, West Trans-New Guinea, Timor-Alor-Pantar and Alifuro subgroups.

Some Grammatical Features

List of Glosses

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1s | first person singular |
| 1pe | first person plural (exclusive) |
| 1pi | first person plural (inclusive) |
| 2s | second person singular |
| 2p | second person plural |
| 3s | third person singular |
| 3p | third person plural |
| A | agentive verbal prefix |
| DEM | demonstrative |
| DIM | diminutive |
| IMP | imperfective |
| LOC | locative |
| OH | Old Hubian |
| P | patientive |
| PERF | perfective |
| POS.AL | possessive (alienable) |
| POS.IN | possessive (inalienable) |
| STAT | stative |

Locative/Directional Suffixes

| suffixes | Meaning |
|----------|--------------------|
| -afe | from, come |
| -da | in, inside |
| -rankə | close to, together |
| -na | to, go |

Verbal Affixes

| affixes | Meaning |
|---------|---------------------|
| -akə | reflexive |
| -ekə | stative, 'to be' |
| -i | Imperfective |
| -a | Perfective |
| -sei | Durative |
| -ana | Repetitive |
| -umə | Augmentative |
| -ut- | edible/plant object |
| -mb- | inanimate object |
| -ol- | animate object |

Pronouns

| Glosses | Possessive/ Patientive (Free) | Possessive (inal.) Prefixes | | | Agentive Verbal Prefixes | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------------|----------|------------|
| | | k-case | mb-case | t-case | normal | volitive | imperative |
| 1s | one | n- | m- | d- | no- | ne- | nu- |
| 2s | ahe | ei- | em- | i- | a- | e- | fu- |
| 3s | si | k- | mb- | t- | ki- | ke- | ku- |
| 1pe | ine | in- | im- | in- | ni- | nei- | nu- |
| 1pi | uire | u- | u- | h- | ui- | ue- | u- |
| 2p | ale | l- | l- | l- | la- | e- | fu- |
| 3p | ike | ik- | iu- | it- | i- | ie- | o- |

Examples of Kaupelanese words from Old Hubian

kumu – compelled, due, obliged: OH *ku-mu* (3s.A-want) 'he/she/it have to'

humai – do not (imperative): OH *fu-mei* (2s.A-not) 'you must not'

kena – particle of future: OH *ke-na* (3s.A-go) 'he/she/it wants to go'

yudami – exorcism: from OH *iul dame* 'negotiate with the devil'; based on the ancient ritual of exorcism done by witchdoctors.

yambak – ancestral spirit: from OH *ia mbakə* 'protector spirit'.

-ahi – suffix used in surnames, such as **Sumbahi**: OH *nsumb-afe* ‘from the cave’, **Palimahi**: OH *mpalim-afe* ‘from the village’, or **Watimahi**: OH *uatim-afe* ‘from a place called Uatim’.

yukewi – mythological witch: OH *iul k-eue* ‘blood of the devil’

watera – sun: OH *uat t-eera* ‘eye of the day’. It’s similar to some Austronesian languages such as Malay where *matahari* comes from *mata* ‘eye’ and *hari* ‘day’.

kalang – hut, bungalow: OH *k-amlā-nkə* (3s.POS.IN-house-DIM) ‘his/her little house’

walani – home, go home: OH *u-amlā-nə* (1pi.POS.IN-house-DEM) ‘our house’

Some Phrases

katal one inde ki-ti-a
man 1s.POS.AL dog 3s.A-die-PERF
‘the man has killed my dog’

katal-nə mbaarka ki-bes-a
man-DEM tree 3s.A-cut-PERF
‘that man has cut the tree’

katal-nə ka mbaarka i-bes-a
man-DEM 3s.POS.AL tree 3p.A-cut-PERF
‘they have cut the tree of that man’

ake t-ea-nikə no-sink-i, si no-ai
palm 3s.POS.INAL-fruit-DEM 1s.A-pick-PERF, 3s.P 1s.A-open
‘I picked up a coconut, I will open it’

mam-nə-rankə one təl-ek-i
valley-DEM-LOC 1s.P generate-STAT-PERF
‘I was born close to that valley’

nsuutu ka mbaarka-nə-da ata iul uan k-i
forest 3s.POS.AL tree-DEM-LOC old devil many dwell-IMP
‘evil spirits dwelt in that old tree of the forest’

mpalima-na ahe uadə?
village-LOC 2s.P walk
‘do you walk to the village?’

Vocabulary

A

-afe - from; come
ahe - you (sing)
aholə - hollow
-ahu - adjective suffix
ai- - v. open
akahun- - v. sit
ake - palm tree
akisuk – n. dream
ale - you (plur)
alumə - n. smoke
amlu - n. well
ankar - bay
apahu - gift, dowry
at- - v. arrive
ata - old
ataru - uncle
atei - oldman
auha - magic
aunkə - good
ausi - sea

B

ban- - v. command, order
bii - clear
bide - white

D

-da - inside, in
da- - v. may, be possible
dahude - yellow
damba - girl
damə - boy
damru - pair
dana - cinnamon
dap - exchange
dei, de - colour

dim- - v. care
duuhee - flower

E

eire - empty
eit- - cook
ək- - v. bring
əkei - ball
əkinə - drop of water
əku- - v. jump
enee - still
əs-ane - what
əs-io - who
əs-uhe - where

F

faadimə - shepherd
faaha, faa - animal
faaile - bird
faamut- - v. hunt
fado - sandalwood
fahe - finish
fane - thing
fauha - sago
feru - n. fish
fit- - v. see
ful - lake
funa - hunger
furənə - morning

I

ia - spirit; air
ia kuuru - land of spirits
ia mbakə - protector spirit
iabiide - dawn
iahenkə - blue

ieinde - blue
ieinkə - sky
iibe - full
iibu - all
iibuhanə - entire, complete
ike - they
impe - insect, bug
inde - dog
io - person
isə - dry
itamb- - track
iul - evil spirit
iul mala – sickness

K

k- - v. dwell, live
k-aalə - root
k-abur - weight
k-adamə - son
k-afa - nest
kahulə - bamboo
k-akimə - finger
k-ale - bone
k-alur - cousin
kalut - boat
k-amba - wife
k-amia - mother
k-amla - house
k-ane - belonging
k-aniru - aunt
k-apa - father
k-arak - king, chief
k-asei - n. life
kasinə - crab
k-ata - grandfather
katal - man
k-atamba - grandmother
kəalat - snake
k-ee - food
kee mahu - hot food
kee ual - cold food
k-efee - basket
k-ehe - foot
kel- - v. go up
kelahu - high
k-enke - meat
keree - deer
kese - sign

k-eue - blood
k-ife - body hair
k-ihī - power
kihilunə - time
kii - stick, pole
kiitiar - spear
kiitke - thorn
kiiuhiit - torch
k-ile - wing
kilile - fly (n)
k-imat - muscle
k-inə - grain, seed
k-inut - penis
k-ipak - tooth
kisemə - acid
kitok - some
k-onə - egg
k-onkə - luck
k-orok - heart
k-udak - organ
k-udur - way
k-uhe - place
k-ulat - courage
k-umə - tail
k-urakə - respect
k-uunə - anus
k-uunsəul - poisoned sting
k-uuru - land, island
kuuru impe - ant
kuuru munkə - swamp
kuuru sukə - earthquake

L

labe - because
lasit - mood
lat- - v. do, make
ləakə - mass
ləakkaalə - sweet potato
ləakmpo - hard mass
leeuha - problem
lek- - v. think
lem- - v. stay
leuha - difficult
liikə - arrow
limba - stone
luhu - kernel, brain

M

maadanə - long
maaha - mark
maahu - hot
maf- - v. remember
makka - shell, bark
maktibot - shark
mala - knowledge
malə - powder
mam - valley
marumə - simple
mbaa - woman
mbaarka - tree
mbafa - front
mbahe - kiss
mbak- - v. protect
mbake - wall
mb-anke - sibling
mbanu - song
mb-atal - husband
mbauna - seasoning
mbeinə - word
mbekə - rotten
mbela - water
mbelala - storm
mbelanut - waterfall
mbelee - sweet
mbere - angry
mbes- - v. cut
mb-il- - v. drink
mb-uhu - head
mb-uhumakə - headdress
mb-uru - name
mb-ut- - v. eat
mbuuhakə - manure
mə, ma, mti - no, not, without
məenee - not yet
məfeite - blind
məio - nobody
meit - big
məkilu - never
melanə - beach
mənka - no more
mfane - nothing
miitor - arrival
mise - salt
mp- - give
mpale - clean
mpalei - speech

mpalima - village
mpar- - v. go down
mparahu - low
mpasahe - dance
mpil- - v. wash
mpiu- - v. hear
mpiunə - sound
mpo - hard
mpuf- - v. smoke
mpul- - v. put down
mpulukə - mosquito
mpuranə - river
mu- - want
mukkala - noon
munkə - wet
mutkatal - hunter

N

-na - to, go
nar- - v. start
nau- - v. plant
nause - n. plant
nə - that (dem)
nidanə - able
nikə - this
nimb- - v. close
nin- - v. doubt
nk- - v. spend
nka - already
nkalek - cloud
nkalumə - enemy
nkār- - v. fish
nkə - little
nkii - in (time)
nkii mbafa - before
nkii sakə - after
nkonta - cloth
nkul- - v. bath
nsumbut - cave
nsuutu - forest
ntahu - leaf
nte - one
nterau - centre
ntu- - v. help
nut- - v. hang

O

one - I

R

rambat - roof
rankə - together, with, and
ras- - v. come back
ratak, tiak – mountain
raunkə - among
reinə - lizard, crocodile
ronol - pig
ruka - bad
rukiodə - ten
runk- - v. split
runkor - bat
rute, ru - two
rutiu - four
ruu, ruahu - small

S

safamə - oyster
safamə ia - pearl, oyster's spirit
sahu - dark
sahude - black, night
sakə - back
sakkimat - back (body)
sal- - v. choose
sambe - peace
sampar - shape
sanka - sex
sar- - v. please
sat- - v. fry
sə - liquid
sə auha - potion
səhila - honey
səhila impe - bee
sei- - live
sene - spider
senə - feather
səul - poison
səuliikə - poisoned arrow
si - he, she, it
sink- - v. get
suk- - shake

suum - wind
suum uhale - cold wind

T

t-ala - breast
t-amka - skin
t-arare - face
tarə, tiar - war
t-asahe - clan
t-atkal - ear
t-auit - mouth
t-ea – fruit
t-eera - eye
təl- - v. generate
tələk - v. be born
tempuk - silence
teteemə - n. work
t-etemə - hair
teuhee - pepper
ti- - v. die
t-ii - side
tinə - bow
tinkinə - rainbow
tiode - five
tirar- - laugh
tisemə - time
t-isik - hand
titkei - but
t-udu - leg
t-uite - vagina
tuk, tuahu - strong
t-ulute - belly

U

uad- - v. walk
uah- - v. speak
uahi - fire
uai- - v. bake
uakee - monkey
uale - cold
uan - three, many
uan fane - many thing
uanak - generous
uank- - v. divide, share
uas- - v. store

uat - day
uat teera - sun
uede - red
uhiit - light
uik- - v. know
uin- - v. ask
uinə - turtle
uire - we
unt- - v. put
uodonə - six
uodoua - eight
uonek - for
uonenə - moon
uoru - fermentation
uorut - seven
uorutiu - nine
up- - v. bend
uuanə - deep