

Hubian

Hubian was a Papuan language spoken in the south of the Kaupelanese island of Kiwangan many centuries before the arrival of the first Malayo-Polynesian populations. Despite the language is not spoken since the sixteenth century, 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 *Hubian* origin. Furthermore, many names and surnames, and most toponyms of Kiwangan came from this language. Despite its oral tradition, *Hubian* was studied based on two written documents, the so-called *Manuscript of Arakkiri*, found in 1951 and estimated to be from 13th century, written in Kiwangan script in *lontar* leaves, using a language heavily influenced by *Hubian*, and the book of Father Pero Correa, *Os Falares Ilhéus*, of 1579, describing the languages spoken in the south of Kiwangan.

Considering some grammatical similarities with other non-Austronesian languages, such as *Suduk*, *Hakerehe* and *Atawodo*, *Hubian* is classified as belonging to Trans-New Guinea phylum, West Trans-New Guinea linkage, Banda-Arafuran family, Central and Hubic 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
HU	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'
-eilə	'to flow'
-ə	Present
-i	Imperfective
-a	Perfective
-sei	Durative
-ana	Repetitive
-umə	Augmentative
-ut-	edible/plant object
-əmb-	inanimate object
-ol-	animate object
a-	agent/instrument

Pronouns

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

Examples of Kaupelanese words from Hubian

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

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

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

mekeng – food: HU *mb-ek-k-ē-nkə* (eat-stative-3s.POSS.IN-food-little) 'little food to be eaten'

yudami – exorcism: from HU *iuu dame* ‘negotiate with the devil’; based on the ancient ritual of exorcism done by witchdoctors.

yambak – ancestral spirit: from HU *ia mbakə* ‘protector spirit’.

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

yukewi – mythological witch: HU *iuu k-eue* ‘blood of the devil’

watera – sun: HU *uat t-ēra* ‘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: HU *k-amlā-nkə* (3s.POS.IN-house-DIM) ‘his/her little house’

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

Some Phrases

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

kata-nə mbārka ki-bes-mē-a
man-DEM tree 3s.A-cut-not-PERF
‘that man hasn’t cut the tree’

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

A

-afe - from; come
ae - you (sing)
aolə - hollow
-au - adjective suffix
ai- - v. open
akoon- - v. sit
akkē - palm tree
akisuk - n. dream
ale - you (plur)
alumə - n. smoke
amlu - n. well
ankar - bay
ant- - v. change (tr.); become (intr.)
anu- - v. smell; n. smell
apau - gift, dowry
arak - v. dig; make empty
at- - v. send
ata - old
ataru - uncle
atei - oldman
atii - rain
attai- - v. free, release
au- - v. build
aua - magic
aunkə - good
ausi - sea

B

ban- - v. command, order
bī, mbī - clear
bide - white
bo- - v. speak

D

-da - inside, in
da- - v. may, be possible
damba - girl
damə - boy

damru - pair
dana - cinnamon
daoti - soft
dap- - v. exchange
dei, de - colour, ink
dim- - v. care
dip- - v. turn
dir- - v. scrape; scrub
diu- - v. be the same
dūe - flower
dur- - v. mix

E

eire, are - empty
eit- - cook
ək- - v. bring
əkei - ball
əkila - ring
əkinə - drop of water
əkise - hook
əku- - v. jump
enē - still
əs-ane - what
əs-iok - who
əs-ue - where

F

fādimə - shepherd
faa, fā - animal
fāile - bird
fāmut- - v. hunt
fado - sandalwood
fa- - finish
fane - thing
faua - sago
feru - n. fish
fet- - v. crook
fibi - here
firau - friend
finek - n. sap

fit- - v. see
fu- - v. stop
fuorət - calm, meek, mild
fur - lake
funa - hunger
furənə - morning; early

I

ia - spirit; air
ia kūru - land of spirits
ia mbakə - protector spirit
iabīde - dawn
ieinkə - sky
ībe - full
ību - all
ībuənə - entire, complete
ifa - scream
ike - they
ilat- - v. to lick; to taste
impe - insect, bug
inde - dog
iok - person
isə - dry
itamb- - v. track
iuul - evil spirit
iuul mala - sickness

K

k- - v. dwell, live
k-ālə - root
k-abur - weight
k-adamə - son
k-aeueilə - vein
k-afa - nest
kaolə - bamboo
k-akimə - finger
k-ale - bone
k-alur - cousin
kalut - boat
k-amba - wife
k-ambo - load
k-amla - house
k-anə - body, trunk
k-ane - belonging
k-aniru - aunt

k-aot - plant; small tree
k-apa - father
-kapə - around; go around
k-arak - king, chief
k-asei - n. life
kasinə - crab
k-ātət - grandfather
kata - man
k-atamba - grandmother
k-aum - claw; fingernail
k-auru - horn; antler
kaurufāile - cassowary (horned bird)
kəalat - snake
k-eak - bladder, bubble, ball
k-ē - food
kē mau - hot food
kē ual - cold food
k-EEK - foot
k-efete - semen, sperm
k-efea - basket
kel- - v. go up
kelaau - high
-kelə - over
k-enke - meat
k-ənu - nose
kerē - deer
kese - sign
k-eni - throat
k-eue - blood
kəunkə - bamboo flute
k-ife - body hair
k-ii - power
kīlunə - time
kī - stick, pole
kītiar - spear
kītke - thorn
kīuīt - torch
k-ile - wing
kilile - fly (n)
k-imat - muscle
kin- - allow, permit
k-inə - grain, seed
kinmə - forbidden, taboo, not allowed
k-inut - penis
k-ipak - tooth
kisemə - acid
kitok - some
k-onə - egg
k-onkə - luck
k-orok - heart

k-udur - way
k-uenea - presence
k-ue - place
k-ulat - courage
k-umə - tail
k-urakə - respect
k-ūnə - anus
k-ūnsəul - poisoned sting
k-urea - gut, entrails, viscera
k-ūru - land, island
kūru impe - ant
kūru munkə - swamp
kūru sukə - earthquake

L

la- - v. run
labe - because
laumə - wax
lasit - mood
lat- - v. do, make
ləakə - mass
ləakkālə - sweet potato
ləakmpo - hard mass
lēua - problem, difficult
lek- - v. think
leit - other
lem- - v. stay
likə - arrow
limba - stone
luu - kernel, brain

M

mādanə - long
maa - mark
maau - hot
maf- - v. remember
makka - shell, bark
mala - knowledge; mastery
malə - powder
mam - valley
marumə - simple
mateat - against, toward
mbā - woman
mb-aauk - shoulder
mbārka - tree

mbafa - front
mb-ai - tale
mb-ahe - kiss
mbak- - v. protect
mbake - wall
mbal- - v. bear, carry
mb-amia - mother
mb-anke - sibling opposite sex
mbanu - song
mb-arfe - sibling same sex
mb-atal - husband
mbauna - seasoning
mbeinə - word
mb-eite - elder sibling; adult
mbekə - rotten
mbela - water
mbelala - storm
mbelanut - waterfall
mbelē - sweet
mberamə - violence
mbere - angry
mb-erū - younger sibling; youngster
mb-erukə - urine
mbes- - v. cutə
mb-il- - v. drink
mb-iu - ear
mb-oi - speech; language
mb-uakə - manure; excrement
mb-ukkē - shoulder
mb-uu - head
mb/p-ilat - tongue
mb-uumakə - headdress
mb-uru - name
mb-ut- - v. eat
mə, ma, mē, mti - no, not, without
mənē - not yet
məfeite - blind
məiok - nobody
meit - big
məkilu - never
melanə - beach
mənka - no more
mer- - v. love
mfane - nothing
mīt- - v. reach
mise - salt
mok- - v. block, clog, stick
mp- - v. give
mpal- - v. say
mpale - clean

mpalei - speech
mpalima - village
mpar- - v. go down
mparau - low
mparau - low
-mparə - under
mpasae - dance
mpen- - v. arrive
mper- - v. leak; out
mperukə - fart
mpil- - v. wash
mpiu- - v. hear
mpiunə - sound
mpo - hard
mpuf- - v. smoke
mpul- - v. put down
mpulukə - mosquito
mpuranə - river
mpusu - trap
mu- - want
mūkə - banana
mukkala - noon
munkə - wet
mutkatal - hunter

N

-na - to, go
nar- - v. start
nau- - v. plant
nause - n. plant; sow
nə - that (dem)
ni - grass; herb
nidanə - able
nikə - this
nimb- - v. close
nin- - v. doubt
nk- - v. part
nka - already
nkak - fear
nkalek - cloud
nkalumə - enemy
nkamə - about
nkanə, san - through
nkar- - v. fish
nkə - little
nkei- - v. spend
nkī - in (time)
nkī mbafa - before

nkī sakə - after
nkonta - cloth
nkul- - v. bath
nokə - dirt
nsumbut - cave
nsūtu - forest
ntaa - new
ntau - leaf
nte - one
n-te-nke - one part
n-te-raunkə - middle of one; centre
ntu- - v. help
nut- - v. hang

O

one - I

R

ram- - v attack
rambat - roof
rankə - together, with, and
ras- - v. come back
ratak, tiak - mountain
rauen- - v. possess, be with
raunkə - middle
reinə - lizard, crocodile
rinkə - loud
rono - pig
rukə - bad
ru-nke - two parts; half
runkor - bat
ru-raunkə - middle of two; between
rute, ru - two
rū, ruahu - small

S

safamə - oyster
safamə ia - pearl, oyster's spirit
sau - dark; shadow
saude - black, night
sakə - back
sakkimat - back (body)
sal- - v. choose

sambe - peace
sampar - shape
sanar - brook, stream
sankī - during
sanka - sex
sankə - cloth, textile
sar- - v. please
sasau (sasə ruau) - mouse
sasə - rat
sat- - v. fry
sə - liquid
sə aua - potion
səila - honey
səila impe - bee
sei- - live
sene - spider
senə - feather
səu, səudor - poison
səulikə - poisoned arrow
sī - he, she, it
sik- - v. take, grab, catch, seize
sink- - v. get; reap
sū- - v. wait for
suk- - v. shake
sūm - wind
sūm uale - cold wind
sut- - v. believe
sutau - faith

T

t-ala - breast
t-ala-eue - fruit dove (red breast)
t-amka - skin
t-arare - face
tarə, tiar - war
t-asae - clan
t-ait - mouth
t-ea - fruit
teafat - plain
t-ea-mbakə - nut, nutmeg
t-eankə - arm
t-ēra - eye
təl- - v. generate
tələkə - v. be born
tempuk - silence
tetēmə - n. work
t-etemə - hair

teuē - pepper
ti- - v. die
tid- - v. cross
t-ii - side
tinə - bow
tinkinə - rainbow
tirar- - laugh
tisemə - time
t-isik - hand
titkei - but
t-udu - leg; thigh
t-uite - vagina
tuk, tuau - strong
t-ulute - belly

U

uad- - v. walk
uai - fire
uai nok - ashes; fire dirt
uai- - v. bake
uakē - monkey
uale - cold
uan - three, many
uanak - generous
ūanə - deep
uan fane - many thing
uan-nke - many parts, v. share; divide
uan-raunkə - middle of many; among
uas- - v. store
uat - day
uat tēra - sun; eye of the day
uede - red
uen- - be together
uīsek - star
uīt - light
uik- - v. know
uin- - v. ask
uinə - turtle
uire - we
unt- - v. put
uonek, uone - for
uonenə - moon
uoru - fermentation
up- - v. bend
upu - joint
ur- - v. feel