Organised Phonology Data

Weri Language [WER]
Wau – Morobe Province

Trans New Guinea Phylum; *Central and Southeastern Stock*; Goilalan Family

Population census: 4300 (1981)

Major villages: Same as dialect names.

Linguistic work done by: SIL

Data checked by: Maurice Boxwell (December 1992)

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

ɑ	ɛ	ɪ	i	k	l	m	n	ŋ	o	ʊ	p	ɭ	s	t	u	w	j
a	e	ë	i	k	l	m	n	ng	o	ö	p	r	s	t	u	w	y
A	E	Ë	I	K	L	M	N	Ng	O	Ö	P	R	S	T	U	W	Y

Consonants

	Bilab	LabDen	Dental	Alveo	Postalv	Retro	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyn	Glottal
Plosive	p			t				k			
Nasal	m			n				ŋ			
Trill											
Tap/Flap											
Fricative				s							
Lateral Fricative											
Approx							j				
Lateral Approx				l							
Ejective Stop											
Implos											

/w/   voiced labial-velar approximant

/ ɭ/   alveolar flapped lateral

p	pak	'wind,roll'		m	man	'give him!'
	yepel	'rains'			imer	'water'
	kaup	'tree type'			sum	'you go'
	ompnamp	'man'			kontnamp	'girl'
	sëplaap	'lizard'			ompöp	'man'
	ulpëënëp	'shirt'			kaöpment	'tree sp.'

w	wak	'having taken'
	yewat	'I make'
	-	

t	të	'take out!'	k	kol	'dry'
	wetak	'having carried'		kakaati	'inside the house'
	wat	'carry!'		yaak	'garden'
	int	'bird'		kaëngk	'miss'
	omnantring	'with he things'		umkeknges	'large box'
	kontat	'hooks'		kelkaa	'armpit'

n	nan	'give me!'	ŋ	ngaan	'before'
	iner	'axe'		inges	'leg'
	pan	'very'		pang	'betel nut'
	kent	'wind'		yemengk	'I give him'
	kointe	'grass area'		pangk	'correct'
	yokotnamp	'boy'		kasngaël	'behind'

ɭ	rë	'break!'	j	yang	'round'
	werak	'having sliced'		mayaap	'peace'
	war	'sharpening stone'		-	
				ityaangk	'sees'

l	lengi	'stop!'
	wali	'long'
	wal	'hang on line!'
	kelka	'armpit'
	sëplaap	'lizard'

s	së	'go!'
	pasö	'roof bearer'
	wais	'come!'
	sëskorö	"Doria's hawk"

Vowels

```
  i                    u
     ɪ            ʊ
                      o

     ɛ

              ɑ
```

i	iner	'axe'	u	upësö	'navel'
	nin	'give to us'		kuk	'sound'
	wi	'put!'		ku	'yes'
	iit	'blood'		kuupö	'conchshell'

ɪ	ëmö	'fence'	ʊ	öm	'stay!'
	nën	'you all eat!'		köt	'decay'
	wë	'get!'		tö	'pick!'
	këët	'two teeth'		kööm	'hot'

ɛ	e	'here'	o	oper	'frog type'
	kentëp	'dog'		kont	'hook'
	re	'and'		ko	'black'
	ngeep	'egg'		ngoonöp	'moon'

ɑ	apër	'come up!'		na	'he ate'
	kant	'bite'		ngaap	'blunt'

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Stress is non-phonemic, occurring on the final syllable of a word.

Weri has two phonemic tones, high [ə] and low [].

wapët (´v. v) 'road juncture'　　　*öngöt* (´v.´v) 'them'

yapët (v.´v) 'sugar'　　　　　　*öngöp* (´v.v) 'wife'

Syllable Patterns

V	**a** 'speak!'	**i**.ner 'axe'	u.**a**.mö 'joint in plant'	mö.**a** 'he hit'
VC	**om** 'only'	**ul**.pë.ë.nëp 'shirt'	ka.**öp**.ment 'tree type'	sa.**ut** 'I went'
VCC	**int** 'bird'	**omp**.re 'man and'	ka.**ömp**.mes 'sweet potato'	ka.**ëngk** 'miss'
CV	**ne** 'I, me'	**te**.nëp 'we two'	i.**lo**.lö 'waterfall'　ko.in.**te** 'grass area'	
CVC	**kan** 'road'	**kel**.te 'blanket'	pi.a.**rëp**.ta 'they two also'	koon.**töp** 'girls'
CVCC	**kent** 'wind'		om.**namp**.ta 'the person also'	ye.**mengk** 'I give him'

Conventions: Phonological

/p/, /t/ and /k/ tend to be voiced intervocalically.

/s/ tends to be voiced intervocalically, and sometimes affricate [ts] in any position.

/l/ is retroflexed [] following back vowels.

Conventions: Orthographic

Tone is not written.

Transcription of a recorded passage

14. Yesu pi së Pita pim kaata kakaati ilëak itaangkën pim öng lëlamöp yauman koröp es nga kaö nent yeem ka ureëa.

15. Pël ëën Yesu pi pim moresi mor moön yauman koröp es nga pöt won sëën pi wal ëak kaömp ar ë mena.

16. Wiap kan koö olapënëak yaëën omën naröak yauman omën kësang pan pitëm lupötë urmerarö ilëak wëa pörö pim ngësë wak sa. Pël ëën pi urmeraröen nga mëak pitëm lupötëaan waö ë momëak yauman yaaurö ompyaö mowesa.

17. Pël ëa pötak tektek ngön yaaö omën Aisaia pöpë ngön epël ëa pöt kë oröa. "Pi tiarim yauman won nuwesak këlangön pöt kama wak sa."

14. When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.

15. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

16. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

17. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

Bibliography

Boxwell, Maurice. 1967. 'Weri Pronoun System.' *Linguistics 29.*

___. 1980. 'Identification and movement of participants in Weri narrative discourse.' *Pacific Linguistics* A 56:1-34.

Boxwell, Maurice, and Helen Boxwell. 1962-1980. Manuscripts. SIL, Ukarumpa.