

## A Reclassification of Some West Papua Languages

A first classification of the little known languages of northeast West Papua was done by Voorhoeve (1971), based on data from the 50s furnished by Galis (1956). No new data appeared and the classification was followed with some minor reviewing by Ross (2005). However, the publication of Smits and Voorhoeve (1994) made available the 50s wordlists in extenso and recently new data has been collected in (as yet unpublished) surveys by SIL Indonesia. The data (for each of the languages below) consists of wordlists of about 250 words and some 15 sentences. While we are nowhere near an extensive description for any of the languages in question, there is sufficient data to sharpen the classification status.

We will review the basis of the previous classification and provide evidence for the following updates<sup>1</sup>:

Language	15th Ed.	Prev. Clas- sific.	Proposed Change	Reason
Murkim	rmh	Not known/uncl.	Isolate	Affinities with no other language in the region.
Yetfa/Biksi	yet	Sepik-Biksi	Isolate	No correspondence with Sepik as of Foley (2005) nor with Kimki.
Kimki	sbt	Sepik-Biksi	Isolate	No correspondence with Sepik as of Foley (2005) nor with Yetfa/Biksi.
Elseng [= Morwap]	mrf	TNG	Isolate	No correspondence with TNG (in Pronouns or anything else) as of Pawley (1998)
Afra [= Usku]	ulf	TNG	Isolate	Little correspondence with TNG (in Pronouns or anything else) as of Pawley (1998)
Poule [= Molof]	mls	TNG	Isolate	Little correspondence with TNG (in Pronouns or anything else) as of Pawley (1998)
Tofanma	tlg	TNG	Namla-Tofanma standalone family	Little correspondence with TNG (in Pronouns or anything else) as of Pawley (1998). Promising lower numerals (but not higher) and pronoun cognates.
Namla	-	Not known	Namla-Tofanma standalone family	Little correspondence with TNG (in Pronouns or anything else) as of Pawley (1998). Promising lower numerals (but not higher) and pronoun cognates.
Zorop [= Yafi]	wfg	TNG-E Pauwasi	E Pauwasi standalone	Little correspondence with TNG (in Pronouns or anything else) as of Pawley (1998). Promising lower numerals (but not higher) and pronoun cognates. Correspondences with W Pauwasi inconclusive.
Emem [= Emumu]	enr	TNG-E Pauwasi	E Pauwasi standalone	Little correspondence with TNG (in Pronouns or anything else) as of Pawley (1998). Promising lower numerals (but not higher) and pronoun cognates. Correspondences with W Pauwasi inconclusive.

## References

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<sup>1</sup>In this presentation, we restrict ourselves are only concerned with a number of languages in the Pegunungan Bintang . There is every reason to update the classification of a large number of other West Papua languages, and this will be the topic of further papers.

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