

Notation

< > denotes a location in which a grammatical particle can be inserted. Particles include o.p. = object pronoun; c. = classifier. Stress falls on the penultimate syllable unless otherwise indicated with accent above stressed vowel.

Accent between letters indicates glottal stop.

Fields

pos = part of speech.

Nouns

There are three categories of nouns (n1, n2, n3) denoting degrees of possession.

Nouns of type n1 are inalienably possessed. These refer to body parts, behavioral characteristics such as voice, one's shadow, abstractions such as one's childhood and inheritance, most classes of kin, and certain objects that are very closely associated with the self such as a woman's skirt. Possessives are formed by appending the appropriate pronoun to the noun, e.g. 'kaikegu' my leg. In a few cases, the o.p is an infix rather than a suffix, e.g. 'lu<o.p>ta' opposite sex sibling. N2 nouns are transitionally possessed. These refer to consummables, body wastes, and objects that are intimately associated with the body. Possessives are formed '(k)a'<o.p.> noun, e.g. 'agu wewa!' my mango! or 'kala bagi' her necklace. Nouns of type n3 are distally possessed. These mostly refer to ordinary objects. Possessives are formed <o.p> noun, e.g. 'ulo waga', my canoe. Interestingly, spouses are also distally possessed, e.g. 'ulo kwava' my wife.

Most of the nouns in the dictionary are labeled with a simple n. These are the same as the members of the n3 class. As we learned more about the language, we found that some semantic work can be done by the syntactical forms of the possessive. A stick of sugarcane that a kid is using as a spear is "la to'u" (n3), while the same piece of sugarcane when being eating is "kala to'u" (n2).

Verbs

There are three categories of verbs (v1, v2, v3) denoting transitivity. v1 verbs are intransitive. v2 verbs take inanimate objects. v3 verbs are transitive and take animate (human) objects.

adj

Adjectives are formed by prefixing a classifier particle to the adjectival form, e.g. tovyeka = to (human male) + vyeka (big), thus a big man.

adv

Adverbs

pron pronouns

personal pronouns yegu, yakida, yakidasi, yakama, yakamesa, yokwa, yokwami, matona, minana, matosina.
possessive pronouns: distal(n3): ulo, da, dasi, ma, masi, m, la, si.
transitional(n2): 'agu, kada, kama, kam, kala, kasi
inalienable(n1): gu, da, ma, m, la, si

c classifier particles appear in the construction of numerals, adjectives, demonstratives

ant = antonym

* indicates an additional part of speech for an entry, for example when a word can be both an verb and a noun

gl = gloss

xgl = extended gloss

samp = a sample of speech in which the entry was observed

freetrans = a free translation of a sample

note = a note on meaning, usage, source, etc.

syn = synonym

ant = antonym

rel = related term

c = the classifier(s) to be used with noun entries

cont = continuous aspect (imperfective aspect)

pl.suff. = plural suffix

loc.prep = locative preposition to be used with the entry (depends on phonological constraints)

md = morphemic decomposition

usedfor = class or attribute foregrounded by a classifier

dep = dependability of the entry, our confidence in the entry

source = source, inf (informant); SLOS, Sexual Life of Savages; CG, Coral Gardens and the Magic; Argo, Argonauts of the Western Pacific; Twomey, word list compiled by Twomey; Lawton, word list compiled by Ralph Lawton.

Double quote marks surround samples of Trobriand language. Single quote marks surround translations.

nbx:y item found in Hutchins' field notebook x page y.

arch - archaic

SLOS - Sexual Lives of Savages

CGv1 - Coral Gardens and their Magic, vol 1

CGv2 - Coral Gardens and their Magic, vol 2

Argo - Argonauts of the Western Pacific

Weiner WVMR - Annette Weiner Women of Value Men of Renown