

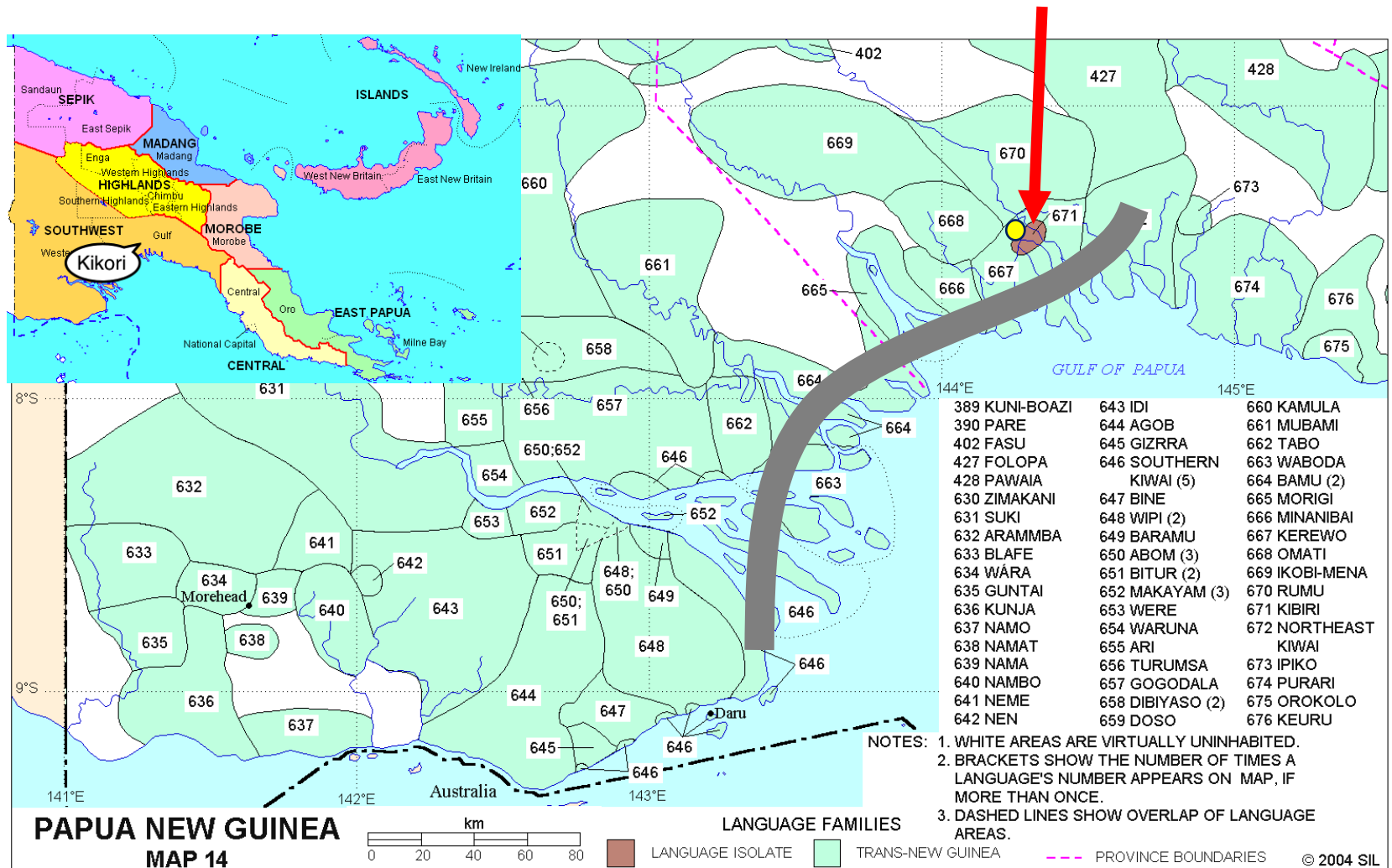
Interesting Features of Porome

An Isolate Language of PNG

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1. Location of Porome [pri]



2. Aird Hills



3. Ero, pop. 1,000



4. Ero Landing



5. Sounds - 5 vowels + 9 consonants

- Vowels:

a e i o u

- Consonants:

p b v / t d r / k~g~ɣ
m / n
(s)

Glottals

- Languages around:

- Baimuru – 5 vowels, 7 consonants
- Rumu – 7 vowels, 8 consonants
- Kope – 5 vowels, 10 consonants
- Urama – 5 vowels, 12 consonants
- Kerewo – 5 vowels, 13 consonants

[redacted], /ʔ/
/h/, [redacted]
/h/, /ʔ/
/h/, /ʔ/
/h/, /ʔ/

6. Tones - 5 word tone patterns

Example	It is a	It is not a
• High-level: /kóí/ ‘cloth’	[kóí bá]	[kóí véí-bà].
• Low-level: /kòì/ ‘selfish’	[kóí bà]/ [kòì↓bà]	[kòì véí-bà]
• Rising: /mèrí/ ‘road’	[mèrí bá]	[mèrí véí-bà]
• Falling: /mèrì/ ‘pandanus’	[mèrì bà]	[mèrì véí-bà]
• Peaking: /pàkúmì/ ‘feather’	[pàkúmī bà]	[pàkúmì véíbà]
• All other neighbouring languages also tonal (except Baimuru)		

7. Pronouns

1s I	<i>i</i>	1p we	<i>ni</i>
2s thou	<i>u</i>	2p you	<i>ni</i>
3s s/he	*(y) <i>u</i>	3p they	* <i>i</i>

	Porome	Urama	Rumu	Ipiko	Folopa	Baimuru
1s	á		i/á	o	e	a
2s			iki/á	vo [<< o]	á	ni
3s	da	nu		te/itu/eto		
1p			ame	i	da	e e
2p	a	rjo	ame	ho	dja	noro
3p	abo	ni	ame	i	atima	oro

	Porome	Kerewo	Rumu	Ipiko	Folopa	Baimuru
Duals	-kai	-iti	-ti		-amo	-reʔe































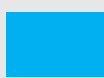



Some resemblance



n- g- V

— Plural with /i/

8. Vocab – sample for comparison

	Porome	Urama	Rumu	Ipiko	Folopa	Baimuru
head	kikimi/kikima	epu	wotu	abe	topo	uku
eye	ipiri /ipiro	idomai		 no	kele	inamu
house	mapi /mapiro	moto	mi/ 	aho		marea
village	kuri /kuro		yo/ 			paʔiri
place	dabu /dabo					paʔiri
tree	kubi /kubo	nuʔa		de		
fire	erei / 			tae		iʔau
dog	kumi /k 				haɔ	oroko
bird	kumi /kumo	kikio	ka	tipemu	ba	nako
water	ubi /  ro			ogo	wɛi	ere
earth	ei /ero		pɛkɛ/ 	goʔeto		
base	makiri/makiro	mabu	mate	kama	baale	ʔaia
sago	i /iro		kei		o	pu











9. Case (clitic after the noun)

Function	Porome	Urama (Kiwaiian)	Meaning
Subject	<i>eitā=romi</i>	<i>abea=ro</i>	Father (did it)
Manner	<i>kēnini=ki</i>	<i>hio=ha</i>	quickly
Location	<i>kūrī=i</i>	<i>go'ota=i</i>	to the village
“with”	<i>eitā=ra</i>	<i>abea=ra</i>	with Father
Interrogative	<i>māina=ro</i>	<i>meaha=ra</i>	All right?
Declarative	<i>māina=ba</i>	<i>meaha=ka</i>	All right!

10. Verbs – person marking

- Porome pe "go" Urama odau "go"
 - pee "went" odau "going/went"
 - 1s pee -me n- odau
 - 2s pee -ke (v-) odau
 - 3s pee -ba (v-) odau
 - 1p pete -ke n- odau -mo
 - 2p pete -ka (v-) odau -mo
 - 3p pete -ba (v-) odau -mo
- s = singular p = plural 1 = I/we 2 = you 3 = he/she/they

11. Verbs – tense

	Porome "3s go"		Urama "2/3s go"	
• Far Fut	pe		-ba	odau  ka
• Near Fut	pe		-ba	odau-  ka
• Pres	pe		-ba	odau ka
• Near Pst	pe		-b 	odau  ka
• Yest Pst	pe		-ba	odau 
• Far Pst	pe		-b 	 odau

12. Nouns – two forms

	1	/	2
head	kikimi	/	kikima
eye	ipiri	/	ipiro
house	mapi	/	mapiro
village	kuri	/	kuro
place	dabu	/	dabo
tree	kubi	/	kubo
fire	erei	/	eria
dog	kumi	/	kumo
bird	kumi	/	kumo
water	ubi	/	uburo
earth	ei	/	ero
base		/	
sago		/	

• Form 1

• Form 2

12. Nouns – two forms

	1	/	2
head	kikimi	/	kikima
eye	ipiri	/	ipiro
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place	dabu	/	dabo
tree	kubi	/	kubo
fire	erei	/	eria
dog	kumi	/	kumo
bird	kumi	/	kumo
water	ubi	/	uburo
earth	ei	/	ero
base		/	
sago		/	

- Form 1 (ends in /i/ or /u/ mostly)


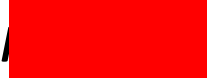
- first or only word in a NP

e.g.  *ba* "it is a sago palm"

 *ba* "it is the base"

- Form 2 (ends in /a/ or /o/ mostly)

- second or later word in NP

e.g.   *ba* "it's the base of a sago palm"

  *ba* "it's your sago"

13. "Construct state/form"

- Martin Steer (p.c.)
- Denis Creissels: "Construct forms of nouns in typological perspective".
- Modified (e.g. Possessed) nouns get special marking. Modifier (e.g. Possessor) nouns may be unmarked.

e.g.  
sago base-CSTR "base of the sago"

 
medicine house-CTSR "clinic"

14. Possession Constructions

- ENGLISH - possessor is marked (genitive case or PP)
- The [**country**-'s] queen (genitive case)
- The queen [of-the-**country**] (Prep Phrase)

- Re-group the morphemes
- The [] []
- The [] the []

- Head noun is now marked with a marker that signals that it is possessed by something. This marker is the "Construct" form. Possessor noun forms are "Absolute".

15. Possession Constructions -

Hebrew

- malkah / [redacted] "queen"
- medinah / [redacted] "country"
- HEBREW – possessed thing is marked (construct state)

[redacted] ha-[blue]
queen-CSTR the-country
"The queen-of the country"

Example from Creissels


- [redacted] [blue] "The country of Israel"

Example from Wikipedia @ Israel

- Possessed noun comes first in phrase, and is marked by Construct (typically /-t/ for feminine nouns).
- Possessor comes last, and is "absolute" form.

16. Possession Constructions - Porome

- ENGLISH - possessor is marked (genitive case or PP)
- [**God**-'s] word (genitive case)
- The word [**of**-**God**] (Preposition)
- Porome – possessed thing is marked (construct state)

 God
 word-CSTR
"God 's word"

daru / dara "word"
Eitaua / Eitaua "God"

- Possessed noun comes *last* in phrase, and is marked by Construct (typically /-a/ or /-o/)
- Possessor comes *first*, and is "absolute" form.

17. Qualifying NP Constructions

- ENGLISH - qualifier is marked
- A wall lamp (N+N:Modifier-Head)
- A wall-type [of lamp] (using "type"/"kind of")
- A lamp [for a wall] (using Prep Phrase)

- Re-group the morphemes
- A [] []
- A [] a w []

- Qualified noun is now marked with a marker that signals that it is qualified by something. This marker is the "Construct" form.

18. Qualifying Noun Phrases - Hebrew

- ENGLISH - qualifying noun
- A [**wall**] lamp (precedes)
- A [**wall**-type] lamp (marked as qualifier)
- A lamp [for-a-**wall**] (PP)

- HEBREW – modified thing is marked (construct state)

 
lamp-CSTR wall
"a wall lamp"
"a lamp-for a wall"

minorah / minora-t	"lamp"
kir / kir	"wall"

- Qualified noun comes earlier in phrase, Construct form
- Qualifying noun comes last, Absolute form.

19. Qualifying Noun Phrases - Porome

- ENGLISH - modifying noun
- A [**tree**] fruit (precedes)
- A [**tree-type**] fruit (marked as qualifier)
- A fruit [from a **tree**] (PP)

- HEBREW – qualified thing is marked (construct state)



tree



fruit

"a tree fruit (a tree-type fruit)"

karei / kara "fruit/seed"

kubi / kubo "tree"

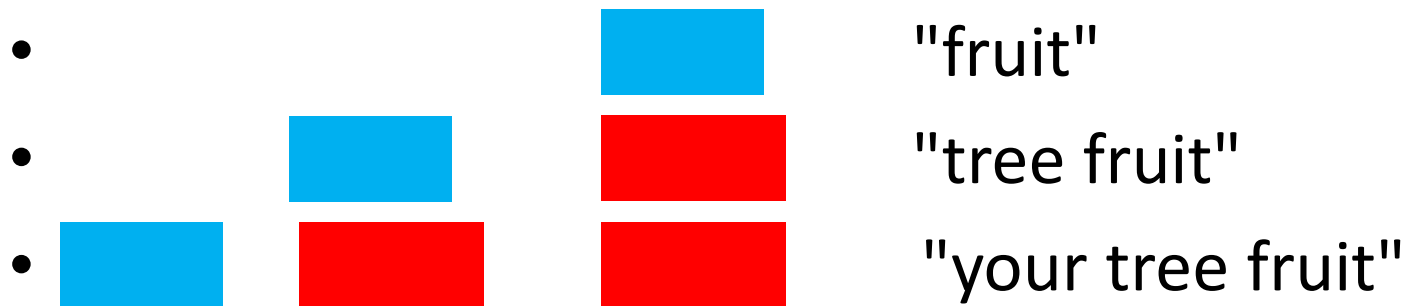
- Reverse order from Hebrew
- Qualified noun comes after, Construct form

20. Longer noun phrases

- "Construct chains"
- Hebrew: C C C ... A
- Porome: A C C C ...

21. Longer Noun Phrases – Example 1







- karei/kara "fruit/seed"
- kubi/kara "tree"
- do "you"



- Only first word in phrase is Absolute –
all other nouns are Construct

22. Longer Noun Phrases – Example 2

- naku/nak-a "excreta, dung"
- ubi/ubu-ro "water"
- keiviri/keivir-o "sickness"

-  "excreta"
 -   "diarrhea (substance)"
 -    "diarrhea (sickness)"
- excreta water sickness

23. Other points for Porome

- Heads of relative clauses are in Construct form

viki ka-i kub-o
paddle.ABS make-PRES tree-CSTR
"a tree for making paddles"

- Articles go with Absolute forms, not Construct forms

bobi da peiavo
pig.ABS the small.CSTR
"the small pig"

bateri nai tero
white.ABS a male.CSTR
"a white man"

24. Creissels – essential characteristics of construct marking

1. "it is obligatory if the noun fulfills the role of head in a given type of noun–modifier construction;"
2. "it does not cross-reference features of the modifier that conditions its use."

Very difficult to understand!!

25. Creissels – essential characteristics of construct marking - *paraphrased*

1. "it is obligatory if the noun fulfills the role of head in a given type of noun-modifier construction;

Construct marking on a noun is obligatory if that noun is the head of certain types of modifier-noun (or noun-modifier) construction [i.e. the modified noun].

E.g. kubi_{Mod} kar-a_{Head} "tree-type fruit"]

2. "it does not cross-reference features of the modifier that conditions its use."

Construct marking on that [modified] head noun does not cross-reference the person/gender/number (etc) of the modifier noun. (E.g. possessor person marking on possessed noun does not count as construct marking.)

26. Distribution around world

- Under name "Construct" in Semitic, Nilotic, and Oceanic languages
- Under other names in languages of sub-Saharan and East Africa, Hungarian, Karbi (Tibeto-Burman), Martuthenira (Australian).
- Creissels has no examples listed for Papuan (non-Austronesian New Guinea) languages.

27. Question – *Is this feature found in any other Papuan languages?*

- Other possible names for "construct form":
"genitive linker", "antigenitive", "general possessive marker", "appertentive", "pertensive", "modified noun form", and "modified"
(but beware – check they meet Creissels' 2 criteria).
- Forms like:
 - children 's-mother
(but not: children their-mother)
 - medicine type-of-house
(but not: medicin-al house)

28. References

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