

Syllable profile and glide formation in Sob [urw]

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Overview

Background

- Sob language location and vital signs.
- State of the research.

Phonological inventory and mechanics

- Consonant and vowel contrastive inventory.
- Syllable profile of Sob and supporting data.
- Revision of the Urton (2006) OPD--3 new consonants.

Glide formation in Sob

- How to explain the phonemic and allophonic distribution of glides in Sob?

An introduction to Sob [urw]

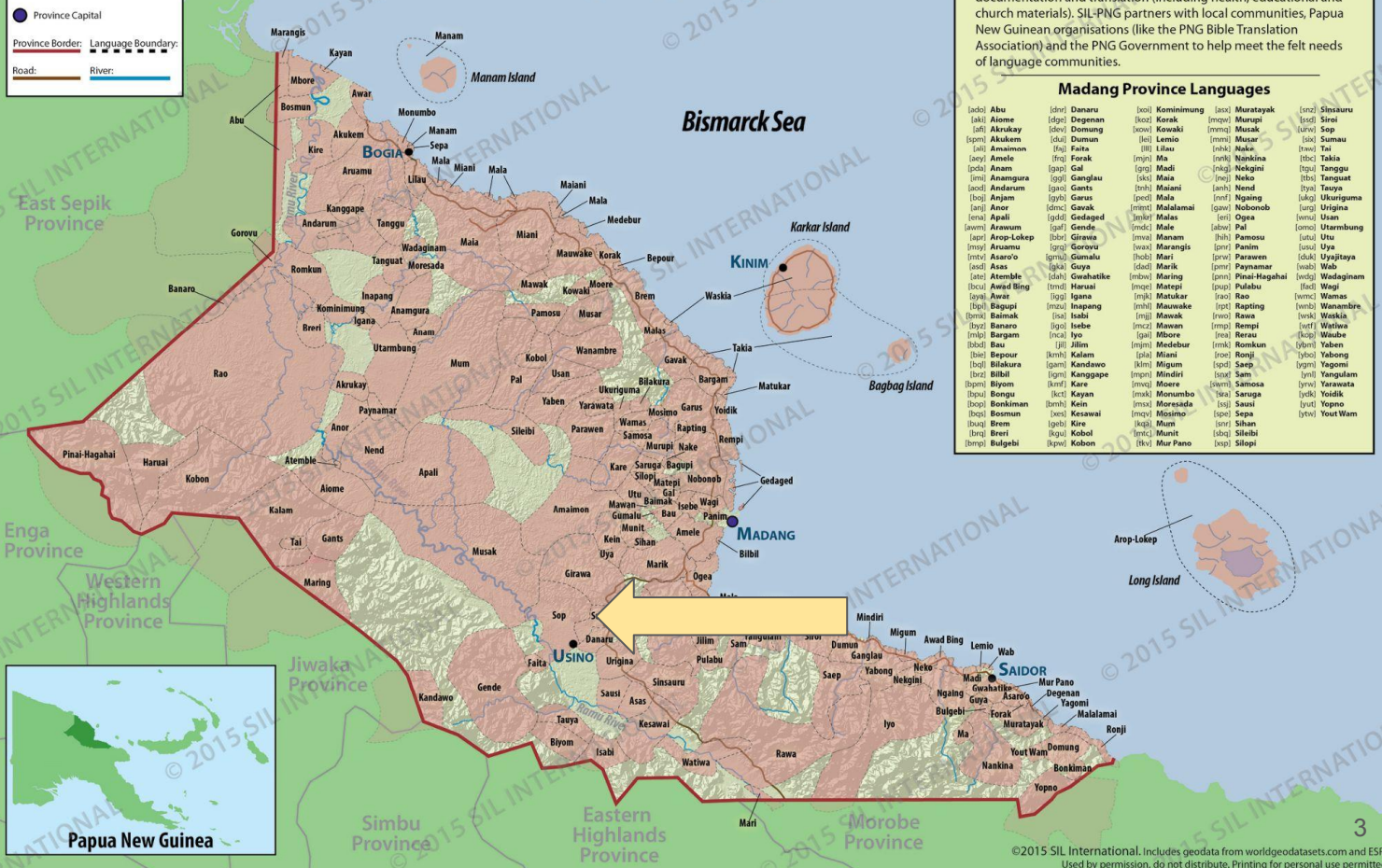
Legend

● Town
● Province Capital

Province Border: Language Boundary:
Road: River:



Madang Province Language Map



SIL & BTA in Papua New Guinea

SIL-PNG is a nonprofit organisation that works with indigenous languages in literacy, language development, language documentation and translation (including health, educational and church materials). SIL-PNG partners with local communities, Papua New Guinean organisations (like the PNG Bible Translation Association) and the PNG Government to help meet the felt needs of language communities.

Madang Province Languages

[adol] Abu	[dnr] Danaru	[kmi] Kominiung	[lax] Muratayak	[snz] Sinsauru
[aki] Aiome	[dgl] Degenan	[koz] Korak	[mru] Murupi	[sri] Siroi
[akl] Akukay	[dgm] Domung	[kwo] Kowaki	[msk] Musak	[sop] Sop
[akl] Akukem	[dun] Dunan	[lcn] Lemio	[msr] Masar	[sso] Sumau
[ali] Amalmon	[fai] Faia	[lil] Lilau	[nki] Nake	[taw] Taki
[ame] Amele	[for] Forak	[mga] Ma	[nkn] Nankina	[tbc] Taki
[ane] Anem	[gal] Gal	[mgi] Madi	[nkg] Nekigi	[tng] Tanggu
[ang] Anangura	[ggl] Ganglau	[lks] Mala	[nko] Neko	[tng] Tangut
[and] Andanam	[gnt] Gants	[brh] Malani	[lnt] Nend	[tya] Taaya
[anj] Anjan	[gcs] Gaus	[mli] Mala	[nqg] Nqaing	[ukg] Ukragima
[anr] Anor	[gdc] Gawk	[mlm] Malalamai	[nrb] Norobob	[urj] Urigina
[avn] Arewam	[gdd] Gedaged	[mla] Malas	[eri] Ogea	[uan] Uan
[arp] Arop-Lokep	[gaf] Gaf	[mde] Male	[law] Pai	[utb] Utarabung
[asg] Asama	[gir] Girawa	[mna] Manam	[ihi] Pamosu	[utu] Utu
[asa] Asaro	[gor] Gorovu	[mrg] Marangis	[lpa] Panim	[uya] Uya
[asd] Asas	[guy] Guya	[mri] Mari	[paw] Parawan	[uyt] Uyt
[ate] Ateahide	[gwa] Gwahatike	[gka] Guya	[mar] Marik	[wab] Wab
[bcu] Awaj Bing	[gum] Gumala	[dad] Marik	[mri] Marangis	[wag] Wadaginam
[yav] Awat	[igp] Igana	[mte] Mategi	[mri] Marangis	[waj] Waj
[bap] Bagupi	[inp] Inapang	[mki] Maturak	[rao] Rao	[wnc] Wanas
[bat] Batmak	[isb] Isabi	[maw] Mauwake	[rpt] Raping	[wbs] Wansambre
[byz] Banaro	[ise] Isobe	[mre] Mure	[raw] Rawa	[wsk] Waskia
[mbl] Bangam	[iyo] Iyo	[mzw] Mawan	[rmp] Rempi	[wtw] Watwa
[bdb] Bau	[jil] Jilim	[mbr] Mbore	[rur] Ruru	[wub] Wub
[bep] Bepour	[kai] Kalam	[mde] Medebur	[rmk] Romkun	[yab] Yaben
[bil] Bilikara	[kan] Kandawo	[mli] Migum	[roe] Ronji	[ybo] Yabong
[brz] Bilbil	[gng] Kanggape	[mnd] Mindiri	[sae] Saep	[ygm] Yegomi
[bpi] Biyom	[kwr] Kware	[moa] Moere	[sai] Sam	[yng] Yangulum
[bpu] Bopu	[kay] Kayan	[mso] Mosino	[saw] Saruga	[yza] Yarawata
[bos] Bossum	[kes] Kesawal	[msh] Moresida	[sai] Sausi	[yok] Yokik
[buq] Bwem	[kne] Kine	[mst] Mosit	[sop] Sopa	[yut] Yut
[brt] Breri	[kwb] Kobol	[mum] Mum	[sps] Sepa	[ywt] Yout Wan
[btp] Bulgebi	[kpw] Kobon	[muc] Mur	[sib] Silebi	
		[mup] Mur Pano	[silo] Silopi	

An introduction to Sob [urw].

- Spoken in Madang Province.
- About 4000 speakers.
- At least three dialects. Transition zones especially with Somau Garia [six].
- This presentation focuses on Igoi dialect phonology.
- Our project since 2020.

Previous research

- Claassen, Oren. Usino Sop Wordlist (1969).
- Priestly, Carol. Usino Wordlist (1978).
- Gasaway, OPD Sob, (1994).
- Sob OPD, Urton (2006).

Typologically significant works

- MacDonald, Lorna. 1990. *A grammar of Tauya*. New York: De Gruyter Mouton.
- Gasaway, Eileen, et al. 1992. *Girawa grammar*. Ukarumpa: SIL PNG.

Sob segmental phoneme inventory: consonants

	Bilabial	LabDen	Dental	Alveo	Postalv	Palatal	Velar	labial-velar
Plosive	p b			t d			k g	k^w
Nasal	m			n				
Tap/Flap				r				
Fricative		f		s				
Approx						j		w

Sob segmental phoneme inventory: vowels

i		ɯ, u	[-high] main	ai	au
e		o		oi	ou
	a		[+high] main	ui	--
				wi	--

- Six vowel system, asymmetric alignment with a rounded and unrounded pair in the close back position.
- Diphthongs always move to [+high].
- /w/ is represented in the orthography by <ü>.

Sob syllable profile

Sob has a (C)V(C) syllable profile.

- CV is the least marked syllable shape in Sob.
- V is marked, and usually creates vowel hiatus.
- VC is marked and uncommon.
 - VC syllables often create vowel hiatus which I address in a moment.

Sob syllable profile, (C)V(C)

	Single syllable	#__ \$	\$__ \$	\$__ #
V	e 'or'	e.ge 'eye'	fu.gi.a.ga 'light from fire'	fi.o 'cloud, fog'
CV	mi 'louse'	ta.ba 'head'	u.di.ge 'sand'	su.be 'mouth'
CVC	nur 'nose'	keb.kai 'water snake'	a.büs.kai 'old woman'	si.bim 'stomach'
VC	am 'what'	ag.fe.re.a.ga 'he leads'	***	gi.tu.ar 'dusk'

My revisions to the 2006 OPD

- Added /j, w/ as phonemes.
 - This removed triphthongs from the Urton OPD.
- Added /k^w/ as a phoneme.
- These changes were brought about by analysis of the syllable profile of Sob.

[kw] residue

All data in my corpus matches (C)V(C), but what to do with the following significant residue?

- [kwai.da] ‘chicken’
- [kwai.gi.a.ga] ‘he removes the skin’
- [kwai.ja] ‘plant sprout’
- [kwan] ‘bow and arrow’
- [kwa.ri.a.mag] ‘housefly’

/k^w/ as phoneme

The syllable profile caused me to posit the single segment /k^w/ as a phoneme of the language.

- /k^waɪda/ ‘chicken’
- /k^waɪgiaga/ ‘he removes the skin’
- /k^waɪja/ ‘plant sprout’
- /k^wan/ ‘bow and arrow’
- /k^wariamag/ ‘housefly’

/k^w/ as phoneme

- This requires no orthographic change. The provisional orthography already uses <j, w, k, w>.
- The syllable profile of the language remains below the conscious level of native speakers.

/k^w/ as phoneme

Adjusting the syllable profile to (C)(C)V(C) was another option, but it would have been too powerful. This profile **generates complex onsets that simply aren't attested.**

- pr, br, sr, tr, dr, kr, gr, tw, dw, sw, etc.
- All of these examples assume the language would follow the sonority sequencing principle.
- This principle would likely require a few more liquids in the phonemic inventory if complex onsets were allowed.

Syllable profile and glides in Sob

- The syllable profile has helped me pull apart consonantal glides and diphthongs.
- Glides and high vowel diphthongs are difficult to distinguish phonetically, but the syllable profile helps with phonological analysis and decisions.

Syllable profile and glides in Sob

For example:

[joi] or [joj] ‘elephant grass, kunai’

[jai] or [jaj] ‘water’

[sorowai] or [sorowaj] or [soroai] or [soroaj] ‘beetlenut’

When is it a vowel? When is it a glide?

/i.o/ 'yes' → [j**o**] in fast speech

/ki.mi.gi.a.ga/ '3sg fears' → [ki.mi.gi.**ja**.ga] in fast speech

/fi.o/ 'cloud' → [fi.**j**o]

/e.di.na pi.ru.i.a.ga/ 'the moon is changing [phase]' → [e.di.na pi.ru.**wi**.**ja**.ga]

When is it a vowel? When is it a glide?

I propose the following rule:

$V_{[+high]} / _ V \rightarrow [-\text{syllabic}, +\text{high}]$

A high vowel preceding another vowel will form a glide consonant to resolve vowel hiatus.

Example: /fi.o/ 'cloud' → [fi.jo]

Vowel hiatus resolution in Sob

- I have found no evidence of vowel hiatus resolution using vowel coalescence or elision.
- All my data points to vowel hiatus resolution using only semivowel insertion.

Questions?

ba

DEM.DEIC

fanam

small

‘That’s all.’ (lit. ‘It’s little.’)