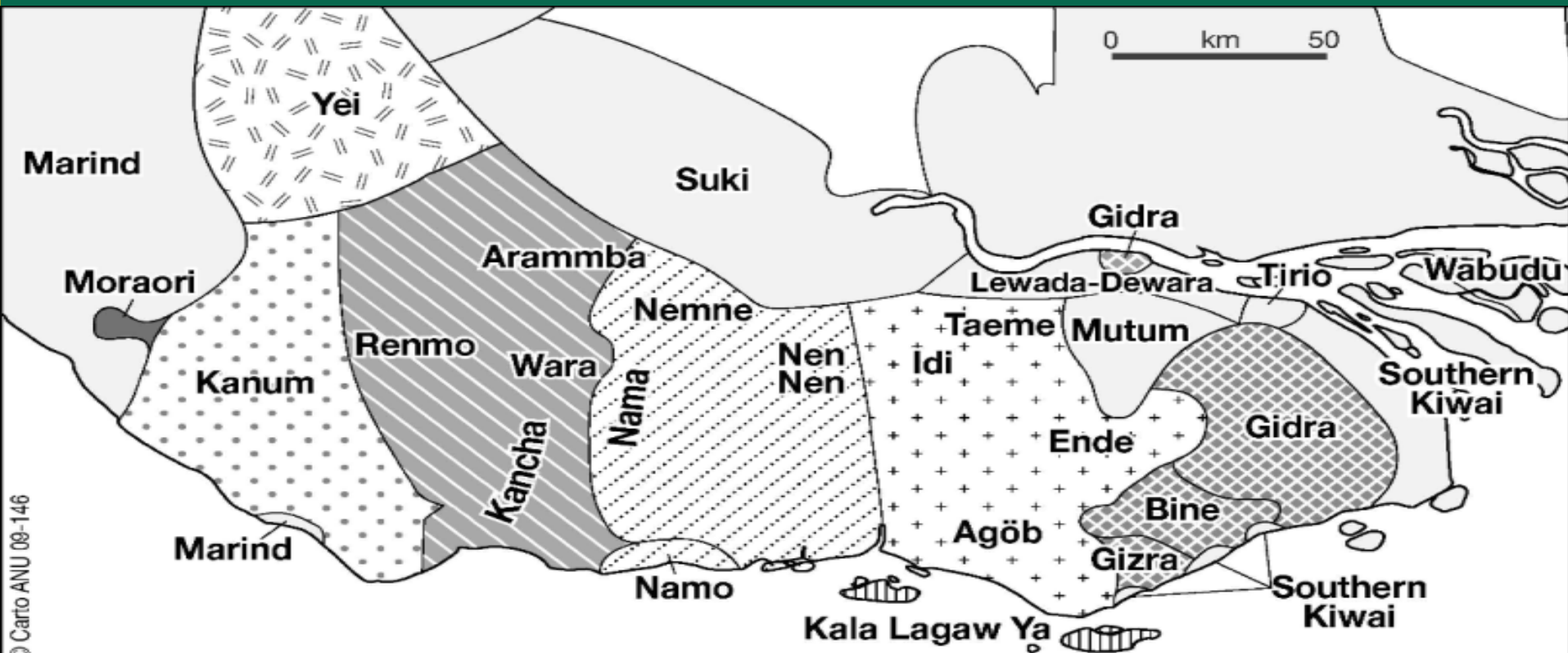




Pronominal System in Taeme – Free Pronouns

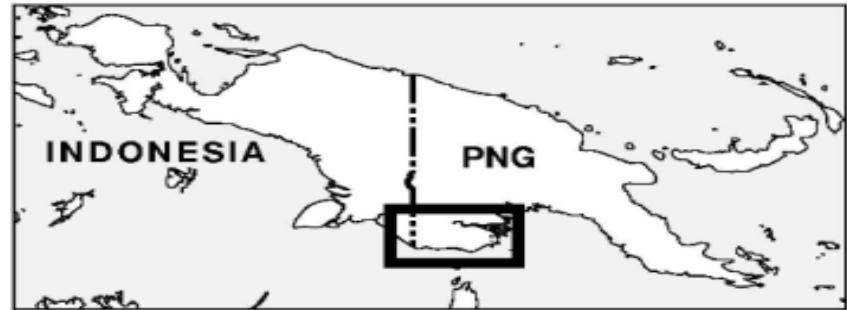
Presenter: Philip Tama
Language & Literature Division.

Map of SNG languages Region



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| Language Group | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| | Moraori |
| | South-Central Papuan |
| | Nambu |
| | Tonda |
| | Yei |
| | Pahoturi River |
| | Eastern Trans Fly |
| | Trans-New Guinea |
| | Australian |



language groups: 9 languages: 35 working on: 8 languages

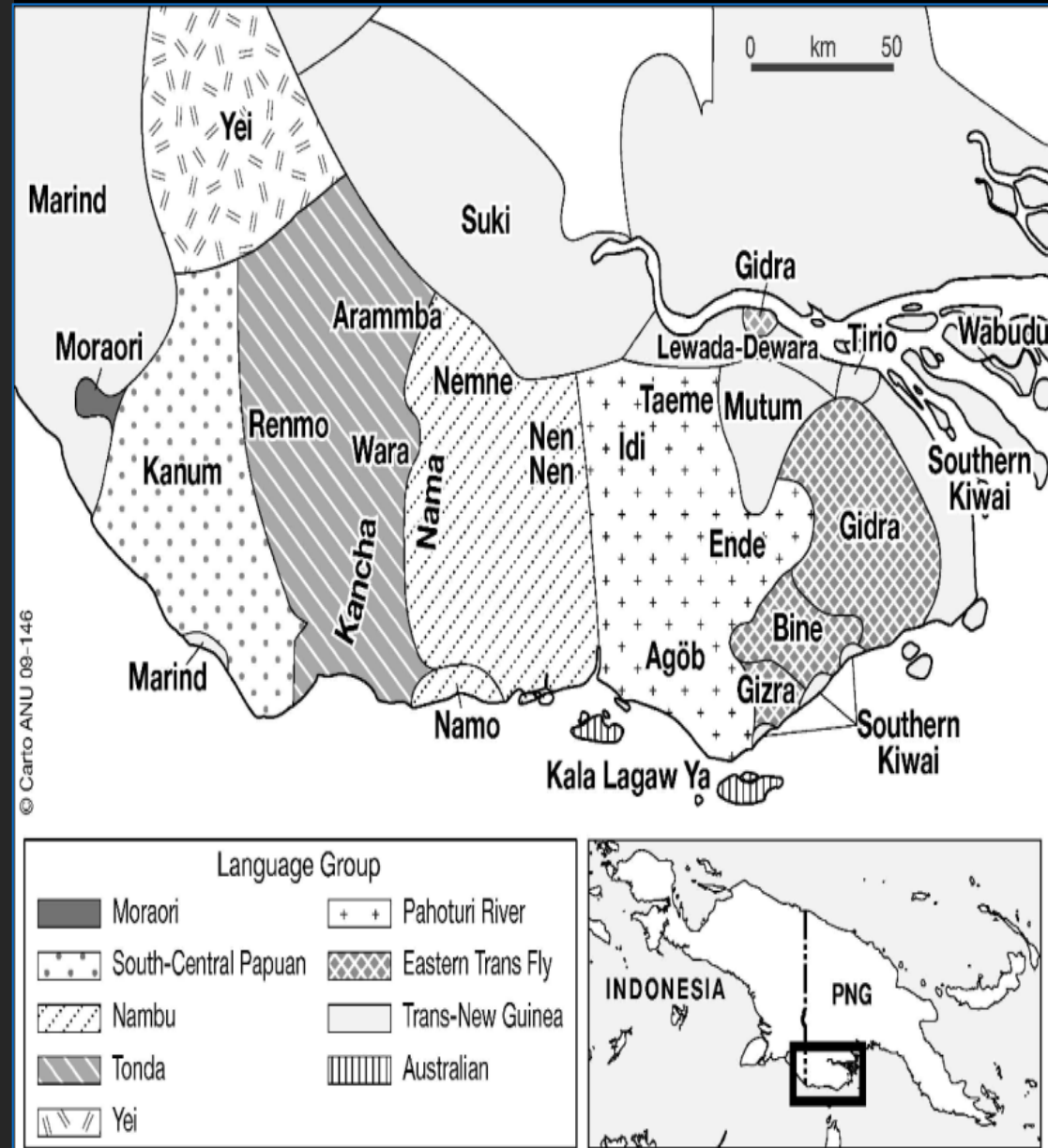
Background

1) Taeme

- language
- settlements
- land use
- counting system
- marriage system

1) Taeme language:

- Taeme [tæmɛ] means 'confused'
- has about 1500 speakers in 4 villages (Bok, Kwiwang, Kinkin & Kondobol)
- phonemic (distinctive) sounds; 21 consonants and 7 vowels
- nominative-accusative language
- SOV structure



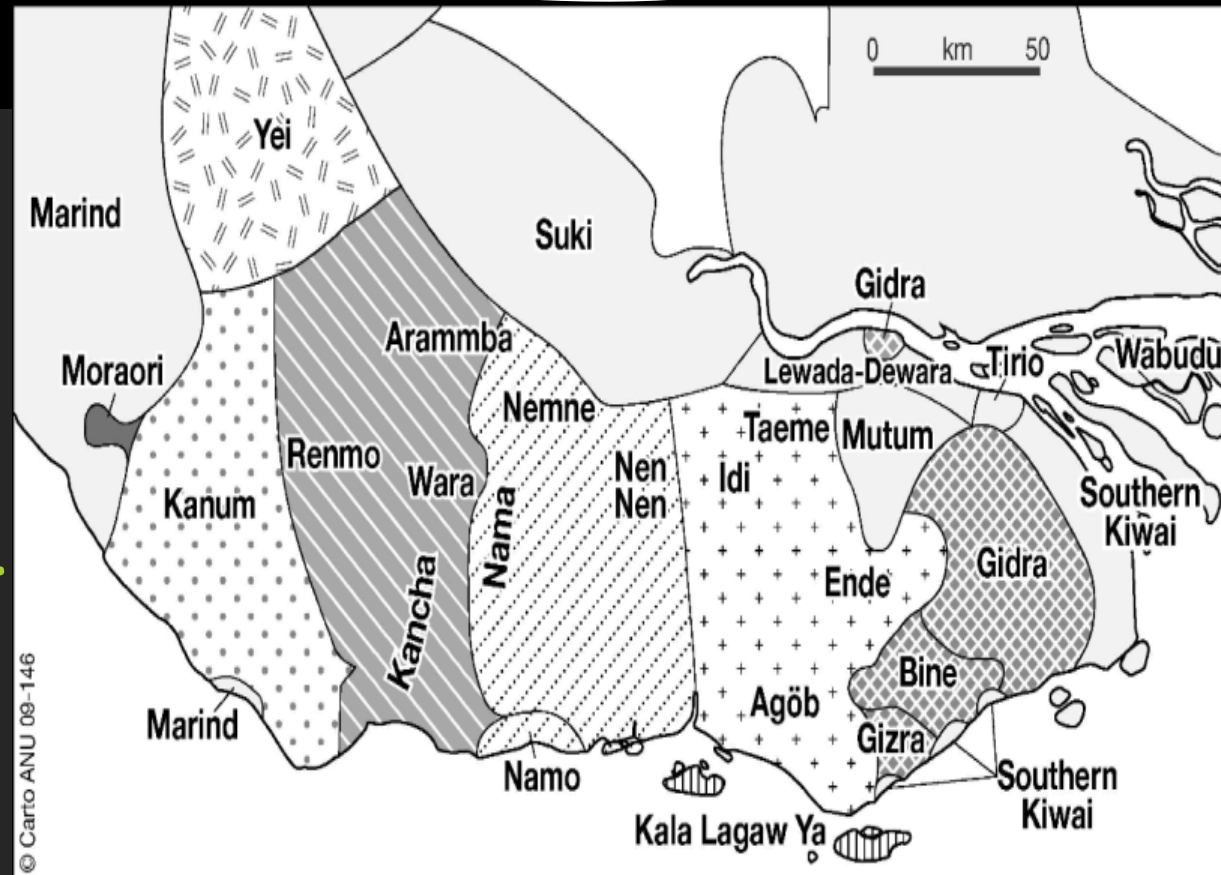
2) Taeme Settlement:

a) movements

- migratory movement

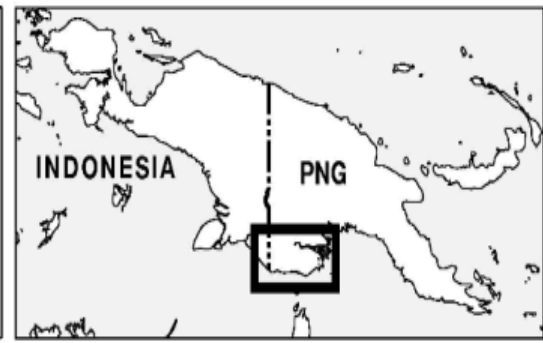
- movement due to fear of sorcery

- movement due to land-usage suitability



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| Yei | |



2) Taeme Settlement:

b) houses

- built on high posts or stilts

- for ventilation

- for fear of poisonous snakes

- for fear of mythical spirits



3. Land use



New garden settlement at Tor



Yam Garden

- follow seasons (wet & dry)
- horticultural gardening
- swidden agriculture (slash-&-burn)
- yam counting system
- marriage system

Senary power terms for counting yams

Power (value)

6 to the power of 1
(6)

6 to the power of 2
(36)

6 to the power of 3
(216)

6 to the power of 4
(1,296)

6 to the power of 5
(7,776)

Taeme

put

préta

taromba

daméno

waramakai

Agöb

put

purta

tarumba

damuno

waramakai

Nen

pus

prta

taromba

damno

wärämaka

Arammba

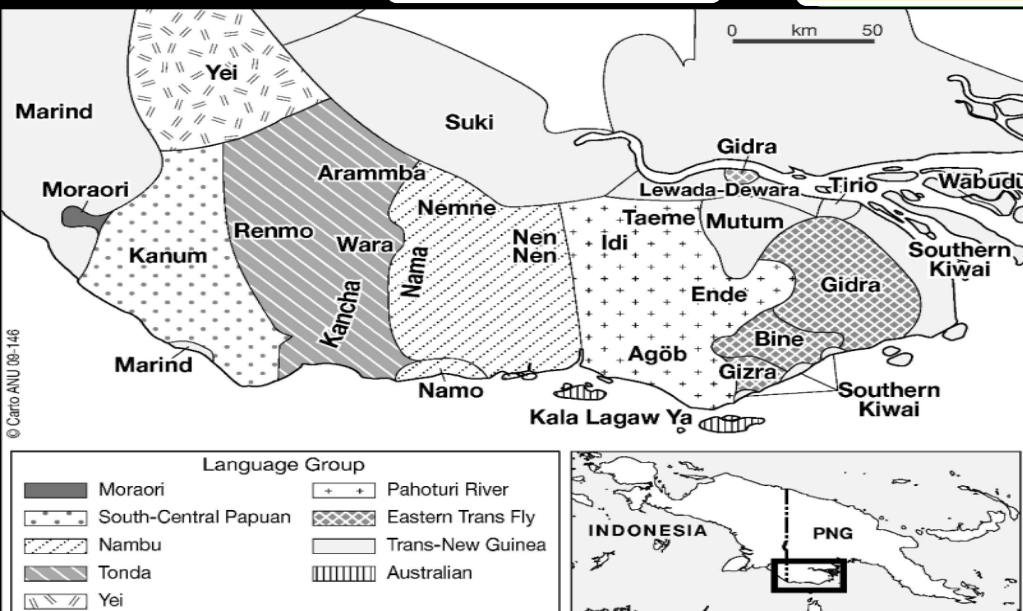
nimbo

feté

tarumba

ndamno

wermeke

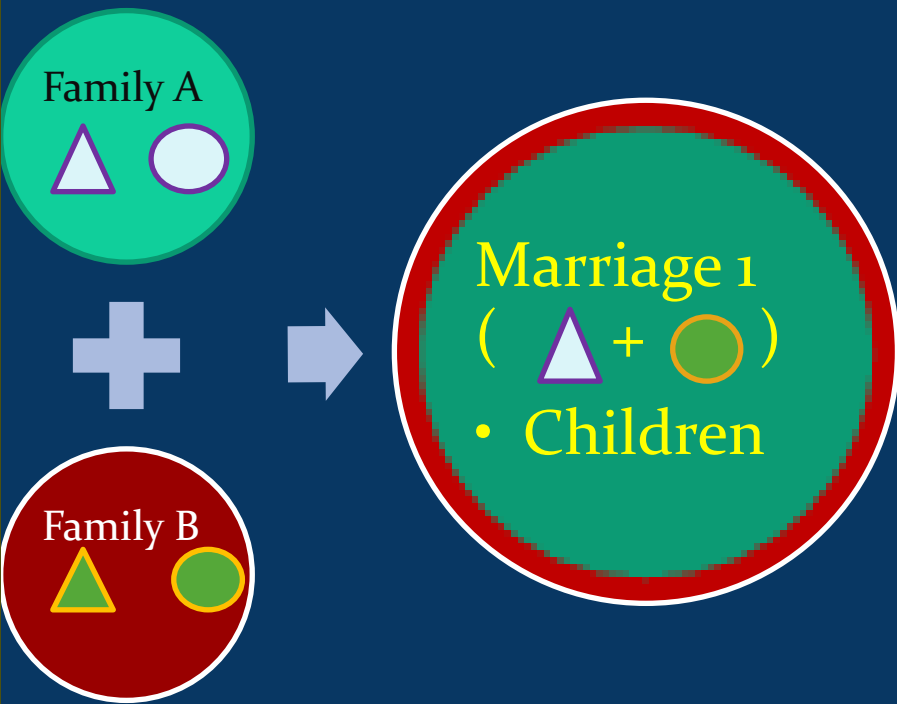


Counting system data above on Agöb, Nen, and Arammba are taken from Evans, 2011

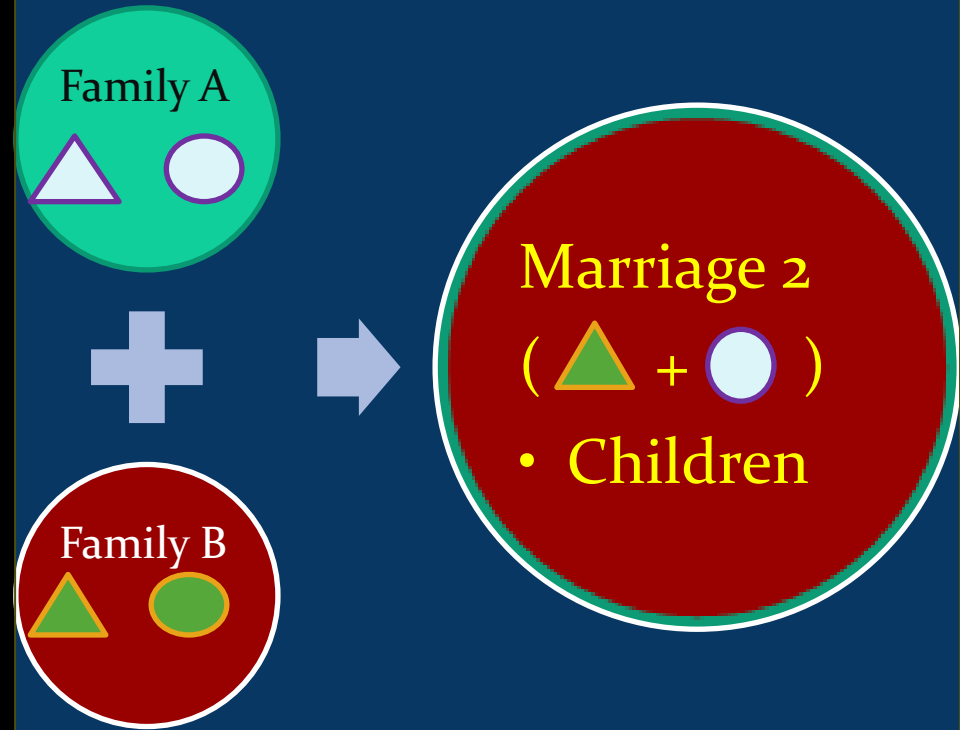
Social value is determined by the accumulation of yam through gardening.

Yam counting-ceremonies are based on the powers of six. Highlighted on the map are yam counting language groups.

Sister-exchange marriage system











Family A's son marries
Family B's Daughter



Family B's son marries
Family A's Daughter

Phonology

Consonant inventory (Proposed graphemes are in <angle brackets>)

| Manner/Place | Bilabial | Alveo- dental | Retroflex | Lamino- palatal | Velar | Labio- velar |
|---------------------|----------|------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Voiced Stop | b | d <d> | ɖ <ɖɖ>  | | g <g> | gʷ <gʷ>  |
| Voiceless Stop | p <p> | t <t> | ʈ <ʈʈ>  | | k <k> | kʷ <kʷ>  |
| Nasal | m <m> | n <n> | | ɲ <ɲy>  | ŋ <ŋg>  | |
| Affricate/Fricative | | | | | z ~ dʒ <z>  | |
| Voiceless Fricative | | s <s> | | | | |
| Rhotic | | r <r> | | | | |
| Lateral | | l <l> | | ɭ <ɭy>  | | |
| Continuant | w <w> | | | j <y> | | |

Phonology

Vowels (phonetic sounds are in square brackets)

i <i>

u <u>



gi [gi] 'grease'

ɛ <e>

ə <é>



lu [lu] 'tree'

o <o>



bo [bo] '3rd person'



méla [məla] 'woman'

æ <ä>



memeng [mɛmɛŋ] 'red'



äg [æg] 'morning'

a <a>



kak [kak] 'spit'

Free Pronouns are unique pronoun forms that stand alone as words or morphemes in Taeme. Free Pronouns are distinguished from nouns.

Syntactically when a pronoun serves as the head of a noun phrase it may not be modified by any of the modifiers that precede the noun heads in noun phrases. Morphologically, pronouns are not inflected for case but take a different case forms depending on what case they are in. Pronouns in Taeme form a closed class and they can be categorized into the following pronoun form sets **nominative, accusative, possessive, reciprocal, reflexive, dative** and **passive**.

Free Pronouns: Nominative-Accusative

| Person/ Number | Nominative | Accusative |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1sg | ngén | ngénem |
| 1pl (excl) | ngémi | ngémim |
| 1pl (incl) | yébi | yébirim |
| 2sg | bä | babom |
| 2pl | bä | bibim |
| 3sg | bo | obom ~ wobom |
| 3pl | bo/wébi | wébirim |

In Taeme, first, second and third person free pronouns inflect in a nominative-accusative pattern, where the root of the nominative free pronoun form is used for subject/agent functions and the accusative pronoun form is inflected for patient (object) function.

Nominative –Accusative Pronouns

Nominative pronouns are used in both intransitive and transitive subject.

Nominative pronoun as intransitive subject.

ngén **gwa-ténge-n**
1sgNOM RemPst-laugh-1sgA
'I laughed.'

Accusative pronouns are used in transitive clauses or sentences.

Accusative pronoun with direct objects.

ngén **obom** **yékép-e** =nagén
1sgNOM 3sgACC eye-VB
TR.AUX:1sg
'I saw **him**.' (Lit: I eyed him)

Pronouns

Person/Number

Distinction between 1st person plural **exclusive** and **inclusive** pronouns can be made in the **Nominative, Accusative, Possessive, Dative** and **Reciprocal** pronoun.

ngémi **bé-téngwe-ba**
1nsgNOM Pres-laugh-1plA
'We (exclusive) laugh.'

yébi **bé-téngwe-ba**
1plNOM Pres-laugh-1plA
'We (inclusive) laugh.'

| Person/ number | Nominative |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1sg | ngémo |
| 1pl (excl) | ngén |
| 1pl (incl) | yébi |
| 2sg | bä |
| 2pl | bä |
| 3sg | bo |
| 3pl | bo/wébi |

There are 7 person / number pronouns.

Possessive Pronoun

| Person/ number | Possessive |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1sg | ngémo |
| 1pl (excl) | ngéma |
| 1pl (incl) | yéba |
| 2sg | béne |
| 2pl | béna |
| 3sg | obo |
| 3pl | oba |

Possessive pronouns may include pronoun like mine, yours, hers/his, our, theirs, etc

Bo **ngémo** **da-n**
3sgNOM 1sgPOSS COP Pres-sgA

‘He/She is **mine**.’

Possessive is used:

- i) with inalienable and alienable possession for animate possessors
- ii) in conjunction with postpositions such as animate spatial cases and comitative case
- iii) In reflexive/ reciprocal pronouns.

(Lindsey,2019)

Reflexive Pronoun (by reduplication)

Possessive pronoun employs invariant **Reflective** word form *ddägane* to produce *Reflexive pronoun*

For example:

obo + *ddägane* = ‘himself/herself’
3sgPOSS REFL

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>ngén</i> | <i>ngémo</i> | <i>ddägane</i> | <i>gwa-térépen-en</i> |
| 1sgNOM | 1sgPOSS | REFL | RR: NPst-cut-1sgA |

“I cut **myself**.”

Reciprocal Pronoun

| Person/ number | Reciprocal |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1sg | ngémo ngémo |
| 1pl (excl) | ngéma ngéma |
| 1pl (incl) | yéba yéba |
| 2sg | béne béne |
| 2pl | béna béna |
| 3sg | obo obo |
| 3pl | oba oba |

Reciprocal pronouns can be built by reduplication of possessive pronouns.

bo **oba oba** **gwa-térépen-eyo**
3NOM 3plPOSS Redup Rem Pst-cut-3plA
‘They cut **each other**.’

Morphologically, reduplication of word derives a different or new morpheme. Reduplication of possessive pronoun triggers morphological change in pronouns. For example *oba* ‘theirs’ a possessive pronoun changes to a reciprocal pronoun *oba oba* ‘himself/herself’ through the reduplication process.

Dative Pronoun.

| Person/ number | Dative |
|-------------------|---------|
| 1sg | ngémlä |
| 1pl (excl) | ngémlyi |
| 1pl (incl) | yéblyi |
| 2sg | bable |
| 2pl | bibilyi |
| 3sg | woble |
| 3pl | wéblyi |

Dative set of pronouns appear to span not only dative but also benefactive and purposive functions. Dative set answers the question ‘TO whom or FOR whom?’ Only an example on benefactive.

bo **bibilyi** **bé-térépen-eyo**
 3NOM 3plDAT Pres-cut-3nsgA
 ‘They cut them **for them.**’

Ngèmlä *klope kèp-e* *nèdde.*
 1sg .DAT cherry fruit-TH.P COP.A
 ‘Knock (some) cherries for me.’

Passive Pronoun.

| Person/ number | Reciprocal |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1sg | ngénya |
| 1pl (excl) | ngémi |
| 1pl (incl) | yébi |
| 2sg | bongo |
| 2pl | bibi |
| 3sg | boaya |
| 3pl | wébi |

Babom nya ngémi d(é)-ekol=nea
2ACCPass MOD 1nsgNOM 2nsg Pst-scratch=PassA
'You were scratched by us.'

The accusative form **babom** (you) expresses the patient and **ngémi** (we) expresses the agent of the verb.

Thank you for your time.
Debbie!

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Evans, Nicholas. 2009. Two *pus* one makes thirteen: senary numerals in the Morehead–Maro region. *Linguistic Typology* 13.2:319-333.

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