

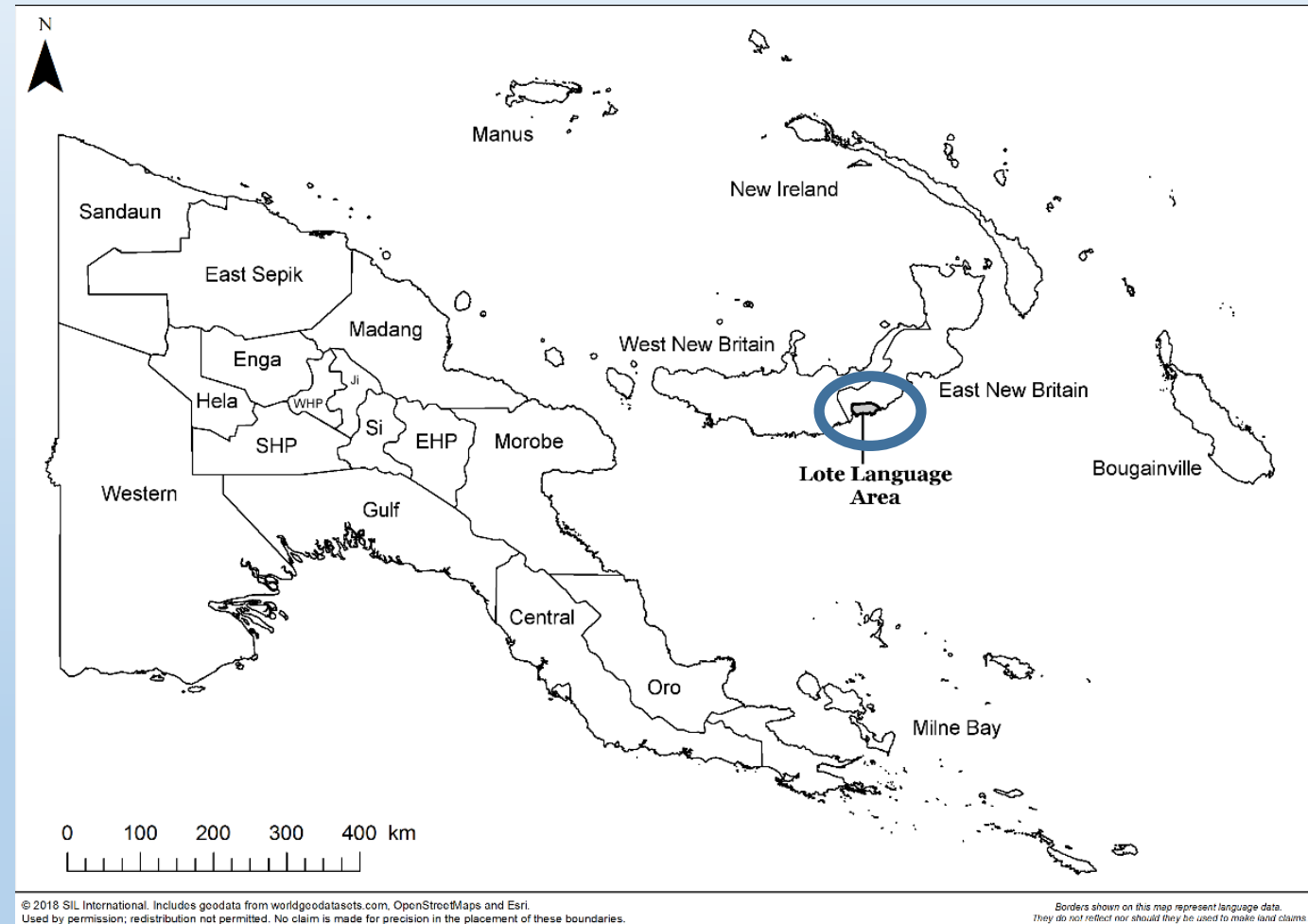
Polite Plurals in
LOTE
an Oceanic language of
Papua New Guinea

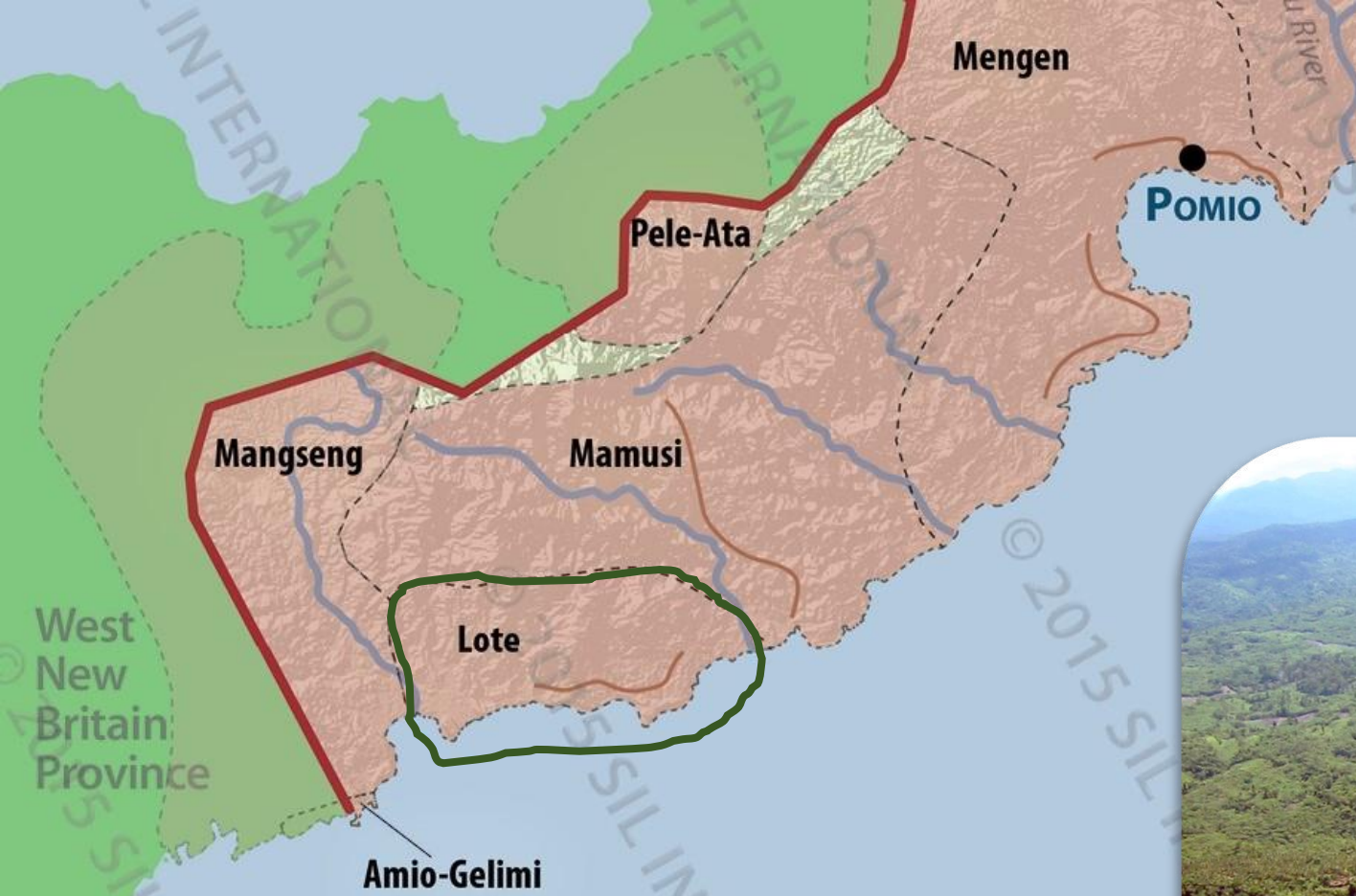
Mary Pearson
SIL Papua New Guinea
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- **Introduction**
- **Background / Culture**
- **Moiety and Kinship**
- **Polite Plurals – how they work**
- **Examples**
- **Two Special Kinship Dyads**
- **Summary**

- **Location:** South coast of East New Britain near the border of West New Britain
- **Speakers:** 6,000 -7,000
- **Classification:** Oceanic / Austronesian / Mengen Family

May be called Uvol in some writings. ISO 639-3





2017







Kin relationships and roles determine how a person performs in every situation of life.







SIPA

PAELE

CLAN MEMBERSHIP from mother
creates the framework for all kin ties

+

MARRIAGE establishes
additional networks of relations

= Sets of typical and honorific relationships

Directly Possessed Kin Terms

English Equivalent	Used for	1s	2s	3s	1p ex	1p in	2p	3p
Mother	M, MZ, FBW	<i>he-ta-k (ata)</i>	<i>ta-m</i>	<i>ta-na</i>	<i>ta-mem</i>	<i>ta-ra</i>	<i>ta-mo</i>	<i>ta-ria</i>
Father	F, FB	<i>teme-k (apa)</i>	<i>teme-m</i>	<i>teme-ne</i>	<i>teme-mem</i>	<i>teme-re</i>	<i>teme-mo</i>	<i>teme-ria</i>
Parent-In-Law (reciprocal)	DH, WM, WF	<i>ue-k</i>	<i>ue-m</i>	<i>ue-ne</i>	<i>ue-mem</i>	<i>ue-re</i>	<i>ue-mo</i>	<i>ue-ria</i>
Sibling, same gender	MS, MD, MZS, MZD	<i>ti-k</i>	<i>ti-m</i>	<i>ti-na</i>	<i>ti-mem</i>	<i>ti-ra</i>	<i>ti-mo</i>	<i>ti-ria</i>
Sibling, opposite gender	MS, MD, MZS, MZD	<i>liu-k</i>	<i>liu-m</i>	<i>liu-na</i>	<i>liu-mem</i>	<i>liu-ra</i>	<i>liu-mo</i>	<i>liu-ria</i>
Son or Daughter (offspring)	S,D	<i>tu-k</i>	<i>tu-m</i>	<i>tu-na</i>	<i>tu-mem</i>	<i>tu-ra</i>	<i>tu-mo</i>	<i>tu-ria</i>

Indirectly Possessed Kin Terms

English Equivalent	Used for	1s	2s	3s	1p ex	1p in	2p	3p*
Wife	W	<i>le-k hei</i>	<i>le-m hei</i>	<i>na hei</i>	<i>le-mem hei</i>	<i>ra hei</i>	<i>le-mo hei</i>	<i>ria hehei</i>
Female's Sister-In-Law; reciprocal	HZ, HBW	<i>le-k melei</i>	<i>le-m melei</i>	<i>na melei</i>	<i>le-mem melei</i>	<i>ra melei</i>	<i>le-mo melei</i>	<i>ria melei</i>
Female's Brother-In-Law	HB, ZH	<i>e-k palau</i>	<i>e-m palau</i>	<i>e-ne palau</i>	<i>e-mem palau</i>	<i>e-re palau</i>	<i>e-mo palau</i>	<i>eria palau</i>
Grandparent-grandchild or ancestor and Female's parents in-law; reciprocal	MM, MF, FF, FM, HF, HM, SW	<i>le-k te (tete)</i>	<i>le-m te</i>	<i>na te</i>	<i>le-mem te</i>	<i>re te</i>	<i>le-mo te</i>	<i>ria te</i>
Male's Sister-In-Law	BW, WZ	<i>e-k tana</i>	<i>e-m tana</i>	<i>e-ne tana</i>	<i>e-mem tana</i>	<i>ra tana</i>	<i>e-mo tana</i>	<i>e-ria tana</i>

STANDARD/TYPICAL RELATIONSHIPS
(brothers/sisters/parents/grandparents)

HONORIFIC RELATIONSHIPS
(brother-sister-parent-in-laws)

Standard
conversation

singular or plural as
appropriate

Honorific
conversation

must use
plural forms

mur
“group of”

(1) *kaone* *mur*
dog PLUR
dogs

(2) *aina* *mur*
children PLUR
group of children

FEATURE 1: *mur*

- (3) *Uach.*
morning
Good morning.
- (4) *Uach* ***mur.***
morning PLUR
- (5) *Uach* *ti-k.*
morning same.sex.sibling-1s
Morning to you sister/brother.
- (6) *Uach* *toto ie-k* ***mur.***
morning very brother.in.law-1s PLUR
Good morning to you brother-in-law. (lit. 'group of my brother-in-law')

Pronominal Sets

		Independent	Subject prefix	Possessive suffix	
singular	1	<i>iau</i>	<i>e-</i>	<i>-k</i>	person to person standard
	2	<i>iong</i>	<i>o-</i>	<i>-m</i>	
	3	<i>i</i>	\emptyset	<i>-na</i>	
plural	1 ex	<i>imem</i>	<i>mo-</i>	<i>-mem</i>	person to person honorific
	1 in	<i>ita</i>	<i>ta-</i>	<i>-ra</i>	
	2	<i>imo</i>	<i>a-</i>	<i>-mo</i>	
	3	<i>iri</i>	<i>te-</i>	<i>-ria</i>	

(Pearson and van den Berg 2008: 24)

FEATURE 2: Subject Prefix Slot

(Same Clan)

(7) *Ti-k*
same.sex.sibling-1s
Brother/sister, time to eat.

o-ngau
2s-eat

ol.
now

}
second
person

(Across Clans)

(8) *le-k* **mur**
bother.in.law-1s PLUR
Brother-in-law, time to eat. (lit. 'group of my brothers-in-law')

a-ngau
2p-eat

ol.
now

(Same Clan)

(9) **Naka** *la* *nge* *ngae?*
N. go LOC:PN where
Where did Naka go?

}
third person

(Across Clans)

(10) **Te-la** *nge* *Kapu.*
3p go LOC:PN K.
They went Kapu.

FEATURE 3:

Possessive Suffixes – inalienable nouns

(11)	<i>Ti-k</i> same.sex.sibling-1s Brother/sister, do you have a headache?		<i>rama-m</i> forehead-2s	<i>inin?</i> pain	}	second person
(12)	<i>le-k</i> brother.in.law-1s Brother-in-law, do you have a headache?	<i>mur</i> PLUR	<i>rama-mo</i> forehead-2s	<i>inin?</i> pain		
(13)	<i>Tik</i> same.sex.sibling-1s Does my brother have a headache?		<i>rama-na</i> forehead-3s	<i>inin?</i> pain	}	third person
(14)	<i>le-k</i> brother.in.law-1s Does my brother-in-law have a headache?	<i>mur</i> PLUR	<i>rama-ria</i> forehead-3p	<i>inin?</i> pain		

POSSESSIVE CLASSIFIERS (ALIENABLE NOUN POSSESSION)

		<i>a-</i>	<i>le-</i>
		PCF (edible)	PC (inedible)
singular	1	<i>a-k</i>	<i>le-k</i>
	2	<i>a-m</i>	<i>le-m</i>
	3	<i>a-na</i>	<i>ne-na (na)</i>
plural	1 ex	<i>a-mem</i>	<i>le-mem</i>
	1 in	<i>a-ra</i>	<i>re-ra (ra)</i>
	2	<i>a-mo</i>	<i>le-mo</i>
	3	<i>a-ria</i>	<i>re-ria (ria)</i>

person to person
standard

person to person
honorific

Variants which are common in spoken language are shown in brackets.

(Pearson and van den Berg 2008:43)

FEATURE 4: Possessive Suffixes – alienable nouns

(15)	<i>Ti-k</i> same.sex.sibling-1s Brother/sister, is this your house (or not)?	<i>le-m</i> PC-2s	<i>pele</i> house	<i>ma?</i> or	}	second person
(16)	<i>le-k</i> brother.in.law-1s Brother-in-law, is this your house (or not)?	<i>mur</i> PLUR	<i>le-mo</i> PC-2p	<i>pele</i> house		
(17)	<i>Tik</i> same.sex.sibling-1s Is this my brother's house (or not)?	<i>ne-na</i> PC-3s	<i>pele</i> house	<i>ma?</i> or	}	third person
(18)	<i>le-k</i> brother.in.law-1s Is this my brother-in-law's house (or not)?	<i>mur</i> PLUR	<i>re-ria</i> PC-3p	<i>pele</i> house		

FEATURE 5: Independent Pronouns

(19)	<i>Ti-k,</i> same.sex.sibling-1s Brother/sister, your turn to eat.	<i>iong</i> 2s	<i>o-ngau</i> 2s-eat	<i>ol.</i> now	} second person
(20)	<i>le-k</i> brother.in.law-1s Brother-in-law, your turn to eat.	<i>mur,</i> PLUR	<i>imo</i> 2p	<i>a-ngau</i> 2p-eat	
(21)	<i>Maria</i> M. Maria already ate.	∅ 3s	<i>ngau</i> eat	<i>lo.</i> COMP	} second person
(22)	They already ate.	<i>lri</i> 3p	<i>te-ngau</i> 3p-eat	<i>lo.</i> COMP	

Second person

(23) *le-k* *mur, imo a-la* *nga le-mo pele ol?*
brother.in.law-1s PLUR 2p 2p-go LOC PC-2p house now
Brother-in-law, are you going home now?

Third person

(24) *le-k* *mur, iri te-la* *nga ria pele lo?*
brother.in.law-1s PLUR 3p 3p-go LOC 3p house COMP
Did my brother-in-law already go home?

FEATURE 1: plural marker *mur*

FEATURE 2: Subject Prefix Slot

FEATURE 3: Possessive Suffixes – **inalienable** nouns

FEATURE 4: Possessive Suffixes – **alienable** nouns

FEATURE 5: Independent Pronouns

Mother-in-law/Son-in-law (**across clan** boundaries)

- reciprocal term *ue-k (mur)*
away-1s
- complete avoidance
- sharing relationship
- honorific plurals required

Maternal Uncle and Niece/Nephew (members of **same clan**)

- reciprocal term *sipu-k* -- niece [**direct** possession]
uncle-1s
maternal.uncle.of.female
- reciprocal term *le-k achung* -- nephew [**indirect** possession]
PC-1s uncle
maternal.uncle.of.male
- involved in special ceremonies such as circumcision, initiation, marriage
- helps financially with school fees
- honorific plurals required



Kinship is like a language passed through the mother that is absorbed from birth. Clan membership and marriage form definitive sets of both **typical** and **honorific** relationships. These relationships regulate behavior and speech.

A Lote person must first know how they are related to another in order to use polite plurals appropriately. Honorific relationships require switches to plural forms in five elements of Lote speech.

