

# Organised Phonology Data

## Yagaria [Mowe dialect] Language [YGR] Lufa, Okapa, Labogai – Eastern Highlands Province

**Trans New Guinea Phylum;** *East New Guinea Highlands Stock;* East-Central (Gorokan) Family

Population census: 21,200 (1980)

Major villages:

Linguistic work done by: G.L. Renck

Data checked by:

### Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

a æ ao ε ei i o ou u b d f g h k l m n p s t v j ?  
 A Ae Ao E Ei I O Ou U B D F G H K L M N P S T V Y

### Consonants

	Bilab	LabDen	Dental	Alveo	Postalv	Retro	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyn	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d					k g			ʔ
Nasal	m		n								
Trill											
Tap/Flap											
Fricative		f v		s							h
Lateral Fricative											
Approx							j				
Lateral Approx								l			
Ejective Stop											
Implos											

p	panita nipi'	'their hands' 'in the water'				v	ve yava	'man' 'tree'
b	ba aba'	'sweet potato' 'woman (subj)'				t	tupa ata	'piece' 'waterfall'
m	malo' nama	' here' 'bird'				d	dote'na bade	'food' 'boy'
f	feva efena	'pitpit' 'white cockatoo'				n	nina luna dote'na	'water' 'axe' 'food'

s	samo desava	'cooking pot' 'cordyline'	ʔ	- dami'o yopi' dote'na	'give dl me!' 'in the house' 'food'
j	yava hoya yu'yuna	'tree' 'garden' 'fruit tree sp.'	h	ha dahapeio	'mushroom' 'tell me!'
k	- sokona -	'good'	ɮ	luna hali	'axe' 'fire'
g	ge yaga	'word' 'animal'			

### Vowels

i		u			
		o			
ɛ					
		ɑ			
i	itene gina hali afilidie	'old woman' 'path' 'fire' 'he did not die'	ei	eigava feipa gei	'new' 'bad' 'moon'
ɛ	eve henaga yege	'sugarcane' 'later' 'sun'	ɑɛ	aepa haedae hae	'beginning' 'they shot him' 'he shoots'
u	ulinana guna havu	'shade' 'netbag' 'bow'	ɑo	aodie haona gao	'he stepped' 'kidney' 'cook!'
o	oliva gona eno notoloa hapeio	'flying fox' 'bamboo' 'come!' 'I am throwing it away' 'tell me!'	ou	ouse houna hou	'flower' 'liver' 'dry'
ɑ	ana bakisave yava dagaea	'woman' 'snake' 'tree' 'I'			

/ei/

/ɑɛ/    ɑo/

/ou/

### Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

Three tones may be observed in Yagaria, low, mid, and high. But only two minimal word pairs have been discovered which contrast by mid and low tones, so that the existence of two tonemes may be stated:

/<sup>ˈ</sup>vɛ/ [ˈvɛ̃] 'man'      /hɑ<sup>ˈ</sup>Li/ [hɑ̃<sup>ˈ</sup>Li ] 'fire'

/<sup>ˈ</sup>vɛ/ [ˈvɛ̃] 'spirit'      /hɑ<sup>ˈ</sup>Li/ [hɑ̃<sup>ˈ</sup>Li ] 'arrow'

But this basis is too narrow to establish Yagaria as a tone language. In all other cases where the occurrence of minimal pairs depends on suprasegmentals, stress is the decisive factor, and the occurring tone is closely linked with stress.

'havu 'root'                      'galena 'line'  
ha'vu 'bow'                      ga'lena 'penis'

### Syllable Patterns

V	a.ta 'waterfall'	ve.a.le 'married'	a.gae.a 'he'
	ou.se 'flower'		
VC	a' 'female'		
CV	ve 'man'	ha.li 'fire'	i.te.ne 'old woman'
	gei 'moon'	hou.na 'liver'	a.sei.o 'do not hang it up!'
CVC	yo' 'house'	yu'.yu.na 'tree sp.'	do.te'.na 'food'
			yo.pi' 'in the house'

### Conventions: Phonological

The plosives /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/ have a preglottalized allophone occurring in word medial position and fluctuating with [p].

/k/ can be pronounced lengthened in word medial position. /g/ is pronounced [k] word initially, [ɣ] word medially with either [ɑ] or [o] preceding and at the same time either of the two vowels following. Also word initial /k/ can be pronounced [ɣ] utterance medially in the same environment.

/g/ is pronounced [g] in other word medial positions.

/f/ and /v/ can be pronounced either bilabial [ɸ β] or labio-dental [f v].

/y/ can be pronounced either [y], [ɹ] or [dɹ] in all positions.

/æ/ can be pronounced either [æ̃] or [ɑ̃] in all positions, and can also be pronounced [æ] in word final position.

/ao/ is pronounced [ au ~ ao] in all positions, and can also be pronounced [ɔ] in word final position.

### Conventions: Orthographic

#### Transcription of a recorded passage

(phonemic transcription - stress missing)

/ abade juvamagi jaovinaga heida | ha fusu eligida | gupivi? eida | hali haleleda | ge age hida | emida eda | hali beleleda | gupi seida | beleleda | ha elidama? hamo akoupa hida beimato? | poubibi? higani | legepa abade bogo pagaveina heima? abademo ou? haegapi | legi? a?ilo? pou? hedae /

< Abade yuvamagi yaovinaga heida, ha fusu eligida, gupivi' eida, hali haleleda, ge age hida, emida eda, hali beleleda, gupi seida, beleleda, ha elidama' hamo akoupa hida beimato', poubibi' higani, legepa abade bogo pagaveina heima' abademo ou' haegapi, legi' a'ilo' pou' hedae. >

'The girls went up into the forest, collected fusu mushrooms and put them into their netbags, then they broke up firewood, talked, and came down, and put down the firewood, took their netbags off and put them down, and

while they were sorting out the mushrooms they had collected, they became tired, and the one big girl which had taken them up, fell asleep, and so they all slept at that place.'

### **Bibliography**

Renck, G.L. 1967. 'A tentative statement of the phonemes of Yagaria.' *Pacific Linguistics* A 12.

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