faliilal- composed of faliib- 'to work, to do work in the garden' and ab- 'to do'; -ye- another form of -yura.

bulamnamyak from buk- 'to sit, stay, rest'; the 3rd person plural of the deliberative can be translated with 'one, you, somebody'.

niinye elii   Firwe asiik -dam yalyura,   mem   ken
man   father Firwe hamlet=near come=while,tabooed pandanus
boblyura,   mem   ken   amca   bomlya,
give=while, tabooed pandanus young plant give-perfective=while
kwarang bonmalye,   beialyura,   niinye amca,
fig tree give=ma-infix=while bring=while, man   young plant,
niinye wik abik-cak   yok lebuka-ab
man   many make=pl-3-far past=and then bone uncover=after=and
beialyura,   niinye tub   deibuka-ab-arye,   deimabmalye,
bring=while, man   flesh put=after=and=because, put=live=ma-
                     bereklyura, nai gekelamin-bida,
infix=sg-3-present=while, dawn-while, well listen=make=me=at-an
      bereklyura, deimabmalyine,
-end, dawn=while put=live=ma-infix=sg-3-present=while=and,
Barikye asiik yangalamle.
Barikye hamlet come=do=perfective=sg-3-present.

Men's father coming near the hamlet of Firwe, giving the tabooed pandanus fruit, having given the young plant of the pandanus fruit, he is giving the fig tree, and bringing, men's young plant, they made many men,bringing the bare bones, and because (he) had put the flesh also, he is founding, in the morning, well listen to me up to the end, in the morning, he was really founding, he was making his way to the hamlet of Barikye.

In this text the form of -yura is -lyura.

bomlya from bob- 'to give', -am-, and -lya instead of -ye in everyday language.

-cak from de 'and' and -ak.

-ab another form for 'and'.

gekelamin from gekeb- 'to listen, understand', with stem final -l-, perfective -am-, and -min.

deimab- from deib- 'to put, give birth to, die' and mab- 'to sleep, rest, live'.

-yine composite form of -de 'and' and an emphasizing particle.

yangal- from yan- 'to come' and ab- 'make'. I have no explanation for stem final -ng-.

Appendix

I will give here three wordlists of the Mek languages, one of the western group (Kosarek), one of the eastern group (Bime), and one of the Eipo language in the center of the Mek language area. I will add a wordlist of the Kosare language, which, so far, was not known. The transcription for Eipo and Bime is phonemic, that for Kosarek is broad, and that for Kosare is somewhat narrower.

I have modelled my wordlist after that of Bromley (1966: 305-6), which itself is an adaptation of the Swadesh wordlist for the use of Irian Jaya linguists. However, I have changed several items (which are underlined in the English list) for several reasons, e.g. drink and eat, round and moon, skin and bark, man and people are the same items in the Mek languages; thus I have dropped the first item of these pairs and replaced it by another one. leaf was difficult to elicit, because the informants gave the proper name of the tree or specified the state of the leaf (rotten, hairy, etc.) For similar reasons mouth and red were dropped. The verb forms are not always in the imperative. I have tried to elicit a minimum of information concerning the tense-aspect infixes and the tense-person affixes.

English	Eipo	Bime	Kosarek	Kosare
all	nirya	ayuma	nĩsɛmbɛ	namọ'tali
ashes	akumá	agoma	au	sãká
bark	bol	bol	kun	kí
belly	mun	mundo	mɔn	ang
big	wik	wik	mɛikɔngɔ	auβi
bird	make	ma	winang	o
let us bite	karuknab	garubkameb	telamna	kɛ'rɛnɛ 'pota
black	meriin	merin	merin	'tomo, sɩhe

English	Eipo	Bime	Kosarek	Kosare
blood	ining	yabye	ining	ñã
bone	yoke	yo	you	'kákò
breast	taram	taram	saram	kó kakò
let us burn	seknab	fabkameb	uk talamɛng	sa.'bɛinɛ?
claw	sii kankanya	singananyo	wa'bá	ɔbɔ'kakò
cloud	doa	doba	doa	'dɛiɸá
cold	aruukna	baibungna	walɛ'kɛn	tíɔ
come!	yalyam yamin	yakarum	yai	kɛgu'mɛri
died	deibuk	deibu	tebal	kɛ'janɔ
dog	kam	kam	kam	sé
word, language	yupe	oupu	yɔ'bʊ	-
drink	-	-	-	miɛ'mɛnɛ
dry	asim, dou	dou, asim	hɛng tebal	sa.pí?
ear	amol	amol	amalé	'kɔro
earth, ground	tokwe	tokwe	sɔró, sou	kɔré
he is eating	dibmal	jibmar	el dilamla	kɛnɛ
egg	duk	do	winang wangká	ho'sɛri
eye	asing	asorue	hʊng	ĩsɛrit
fat	meta	meta	sí	masɔfá
later	amenyan	amenyan	amík	mʊnɛrí
fire	uukwe	ukwe	ouk̃	sá
flying	fol bil	fol bir	imdoman balamla	ho kɛi isibɔrɛ
foot	yan	yan	yan	tipɛ.pá
full	lang dible	langnebre	dɔwal	so.ka
give me	arebnilyam	karebnerum	na ṭatne	no tamɔkɔ
good	teleb	teleb	walí	'sɛngɛ
green, unripe	imbik maka	imbik meka	kalgon	usu 'jɛbɔr
hair	fotong	potong	hong	potɔi
hand	taruk, taruk tatang	burye burutan	sasang	wɛ
head	kiisok	giso	heiyɔ́	potɔ́
I heard	gekebmase	gekebmasi	na wammun	na pikʊnɛβiɛ
heart	talema	talema	waná	kirɛ'tinɛ
I	na	ne	na	nõ
kill!	oblyam	pobrum	-	-
I killed	-	-	nari omno	na o'rɛka
knee	kutam	gotam	yabu	aimó
I know	bikman	bikman	na el	no to'wai
I catch	talebman	talebman	nari selbano	na mɔro
liver	yaica	yeko	wana	ikuiminɛ
long (way)	fera	pera	inauwɛ́	djubõ
louse	amnye	amnye	amí	mi
child	me	mapwe	mɛ	sᵇra
short	dam	burum	bumangnɛ́	soɛ
meat	toubne	tub	mɛsá	pou
moon	wale	ware	wal	paka

English	Eipo	Bime	Kosarek	Kosare
mountain	motokwe	motokwe	yim	kõ
shoulder	takunya	takunyo	sau	tsu
name	sii	si	si	morɔ
back	balye	balye, amnyatara	udong	kirʊng 'kako
new	winirjuk	okoripwe	siwɛn'dɔknɛ	-
night	luukenyan	lukenyan	imbal	tomo
nose	uu	u	uryam	moro 'kakò
not	gum	men	gɔm	e'hɛ̃
one	ton	tegen	se'lek	kora'ɸɛ
people	niinye	nimi	kabuni	nʊmʊrɛka
rain	mok	mo	mak	soa'si
ripe	eng	eng	yolameng	pɛ̃
road, path	biisiik	bisi	bi	kɛmɔrɔ
root	ateng	aten	kal waná	pᵇ'rʊsi
flat	luu	ban bisi	as	'ɸanᵇja
sand	(mek) dala (mek) wininga	me wininga	kirikanger	rʊ'ti
I say	winyabman	pebman	nari lemnun	na siɛ
I see	diibrenman diinman	diwerenman	na dipna	na nɛ'ka
seed	yukwe	youkwa	nina	'tiwije
I sit	bukman	bukman	na bukɔmnun	na ruido
rope	tape	tabkwe	-	po
we two will sleep	mabnanam	mabkanim	nun mabokap	-
I sleep	-	-	-	no kɛlrio
small, little	metek	metek	ɔlɔk	-
smoke	tulum	tolum	mɔhɔng	sa.wi
I stand	tekman	tekman	na seknun	no kɛ'truidɔrɛ
star	kurye	guri, kurye	ʊmbʊdea	ɛmɛ
stone	kedige	gil	kirik	'naka
sun	ketinge	getane	hɛng	ɛnɛ?
tail	amwe	amngwe	amú	uijé
tongue	sii tang	lyemngwe	selemú	pɛrɛ́
tooth	sii	tsi	si	pɛki
tree	yo	co	kal	tĩⁿdi
two	betinye	bitini	pɛndɛ	tau
I am going	binman	binman	na binnun	no kɛdo
warm	boupe, tin	boupe	bopo	pɔ'bu
water, river	mek	me	mak	biɛ
we(all)	nun	nun	nu	wɛnɛ
thou	an	kan	an	ɛnɛ́
what	yate(ro)	waredaro	anɛsa	kosarɛ́
white	kurun	korun	kororupne	kɛrɛ́
who	yate anya	waring	anɛikne	kɔrɔ́

English	Eipo	Bime	Kosarek	Kosare
woman	kilape	nerape	kəlabo	dˌmɔ'kasia
bad	malye	mali	mali	nˌmɛ·'si
headwaters	fuu	pu	lu	-
river	(see	water	)	biɛnɛntu
not know	walewal	walewal	ni'kɔn	-
navel	num	num	mɔn	'ãkrəkri
air, sky	iim	im	im	nubɵ
net (bag)	aleng	alen	ak	ta
pig	basam	besam	pam	pi

Notes

[1] Publication No. 14, Man, Culture, and Environment in the Central Highlands of Irian Jaya. Research Project of the German Research Society.

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   Linguistic fieldwork by the present writer was done in Eipomek in July 1974, December 1974 - March 1975, March 1976 - July 1976, and in Bime in June 1974 and October - November 1974.

[2] For other maps see Schiefenhövel (1976:264) and Voorhoeve (1975a:69).

[3] In the light of my notes of the surrounding dialects I have found only two mistakes: mal-ye is 'not bad' instead of 'stone axe' and kwa-ning is 'sweet potato' instead of 'to eat'. Doubtful items are ate 'hand' and da-boe-ning 'cassowary', the first meaning probably 'this here', the second 'what belongs to the north', that is the area where cassowaries are still living.

[4] The calculation is based on my own material except for Goliath (de Kock 1912) and Korapun and Nipsan (Voorhoeve 1975a:116-7).

[5] For formation of other interrogative pronouns see Section 2.2.7. The form una is from Louwerse & van der Wilden. The form I elicited in Eipomek is ono [ɔnoˀ] .

[6] Data of the Ok languages are from Voorhoeve (1975a:97-8) and Healey (1965a and b).

[7] For the sake of readability I will use only the following abbreviations: sg (singular), pl (plural), 1 (first person), 2 (second person), 3 (third person).

   The first translation follows the Eipo text word by word. = indicates a new morpheme within a word. Explanations and indications connected by - all refer to one morpheme. Thus English (he) sings would be rendered as sing=sg-3-present, where = indicates the presence of two morphemes, namely sing and -s, and the indications connected by - all refer to the morpheme -s. In brackets or with the help of / alternative translations, remarks or additional explanations are given. In charts and formulas brackets ( ) indicate that the element is optional. Elements without any bracket are obligatory. Elements written one below the other and included in { } exclude one another. In some later translations not all grammatical indications are given.

[8] Text recorded by W. Schiefenhövel.

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