

Organised Phonology Data

Amele Language [AMI] Madang – Madang Province

Trans New Guinea Phylum; *Madang Adelberg Range Subphylum*; Mabuso Stock; Gum Family

Population census: 5300 (1980)

Major villages: Danben, Hilu, Jelso, Ohu, Moilsehu, Dalam, Amele, Sah, Omuru, Aguru, Ohuru, Banub, Wagug, Bahor, Cumuin

Linguistic work done by: Lutheran Church, SIL (1977-1999)

Data checked by: John Roberts (1992), revised 1998

Phonemic and Orthographic Inventory

æ b ʔ d ɛ f g h i j k l m n ɔ ɡb̥ s t u w
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o q s t u w
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O Q S T U W

Consonants

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

/w/ voiced labial-velar approximant

/ɡb̥/ voiced labio-velar plosive

b	bam	'bark cloth'	s	su	'mother's milk'
	eben	'his hand'		sosog	'narrow'
	bolob	'trap'		cus	'wild'
	houbmi	'if he had come'		cisdoc	'to think'
	deelben	'judgement day'			
gb	qam	'ironwood tree'	l	lalo	'animal fat'
	waqa	'hen's egg'		aluh	'mountain'
	-	-		musul	'sweat'
	-	-		sisildoc	'to ask'
	ihocqee	'unable'		iwallec	'to teach us two'
m	mala	'chicken'	k	kel	'coconut scraper'
	ami	'my eye'		kakan	'fishing net'
	am	'heap'		-	-
	guambe	'decorative shell'		-	-
	sulmeuh	'nose ornament'		-	-
f	fan	'piece'	g	gel	'fence'
	cefac	'flying fox'		waga	'crocodile'
	cuf	'female animal'		wag	'house bearer'
	afdoc	'to squeeze'		malagbaija	'tree sp.'
	hugianfi	'if he comes'		langato	'to limp'
w	wa	'water'	ʔ	cain	'don't!'
	wewes	'black ant'		cocowai	'praying mantis'
	siw	'breath'		wac	'thornless sago'
	cinigwe	'seems like'		taicdoc	'to chew'
				amegca	'with his eye'
d	du	'his neck (nape)'	h	haun	'new / again'
	dodoc	'himself'		nahin	'itch'
	ud	'household possessions'		gah	'a fly'
	fuluhdoc	'to multiply'		bubuhbo	'echo'
t	tu	'stick / handle'	j	ja	'five'
	totoc	'dew'		caja	'woman'
	cut	'sagowood'		wij	'widow'
	duantena	'I am cold'			
n	nu	'for, because'			
	anin	'your (sg) mother'			
	can	'footprint'			
	olohonca	'bad tempered'			
	jobonna	'to the village'			

Vowels

i		u		
	ɛ	ɔ		
	æ			
i	isi dih mi bilial nui	'later' 'just' 'louse' 'he sat' 'island'	eu eul meul humeu	'leaf sp.' 'new garden' 'we two came and..'
			æi aid dain sasail	'female' 'pain' 'spirit being'
ɛ	ene mel me fea daen	'here' 'boy' 'good' 'he saw' 'it's cold'	oi oitina foic momoi	'he gets me' 'pandanus fruit' 'my wife's mother'
æ	alog nag wa daec biah	'raven' 'small' 'water' 'cold' 'his mouth'	ou ou houm holou	'that (distal)' 'I would have come' 'we two used to come'
			æu autoc haun wadau	'banana sp.' 'again, more' 'uninhabited place'
u	ugug dunuh fufu nuen asiulig	'New Guinea eagle' 'inside' 'wind' 'he went' 'grass sp.'	ii iilalee diia tilii	'to waiver' 'he swelled up' 'while it was still...'
ɔ	oqona gob ho hoia fiog	'we are getting' 'knee' 'pig' 'he came' 'Moluccas friar bird'	ɛɛ eeta meel abaleen	'what' 'weeds' 'as he searched'
			ææ aadeb qaanec	'when' 'to groan'
ɛi	ein feia catei	'they said' 'he saw' 'store room'	ɔɔ oodon mool doodool	'as he did' 'coconut oil' 'throat'

uu uum utec 'to give generously'
 nuuga 'you go'
 uu 'while he got...'

/ɛi/ /ɛu/

/æi/ /æu/

/ɔi/ /ɔu/

Long vowels:

/ii/ /ɛɛ/ /ææ/ /ɔɔ/ /uu/

Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)

In two or three syllable words stress is on the first closed syllable. If there is no closed syllable stress is on the first syllable. In longer words primary stress is on the penultimate syllable with a strong secondary stress on the first syllable.

Syllable Patterns

V	i 'this'	a.mu.lic 'his tears'	gi.a.ni 'my armpit' du.e 'song'
VC	if 'string' stallk'	is.doc 'to avoid'	gu.am.be 'dec. shell' nu.en 'he went'
CV	mi 'louse'	gi.lem 'slit gong'	se.he.lec 'slippery' um.ca 'obese'
CVC	dan 'fig' cloth'	gam.bad 'ridge pole'	i.wal.doc 'his teacher' ja.mel 'loin'
VV	eu 'that' du.du. eu 'as we pounded them' (dl) sing'	ai.de.ni 'my wife'	fal.aa.di 'as he'
VVC	ail 'which (pl)'	aig.ca 'sharp' bi.aim 'your mouth'	u.du.ail.doc 'to make a battle cry'
CVV	mei 'my father'	bei.la.mi 'my tongue'	lac.bai.ja 'scorpion' co.co.wai 'praying mantis'
CVVC	haun 'new, again'	caub.doc 'to be white'	u.laul.doc 'to warn' be.beig 'root'

Conventions: Phonological

The voiced obstruent /b/ is phonetically voiceless [p] word finally, except in mono-syllabic words.

The voiced obstruent /g/ is voiceless [k] word finally except in mono-syllabic words.

The phoneme /k/ occurs only word initially and is not very common.

/gb/ and /b/ are neutralized in word final position and are both realized by the phone [p] in this position.

/j/ is phonetically [ɟ] word initially, word finally following the high front vowel [i] and intervocally preceding the high front vowel [i]. It is [j] intervocally in syllable initial position preceding the vowels [æ], [ɛ] and [ɔ].

/w/ is phonetically [ʋ] (labio-dental approximant) preceding the front vowels [i] and [ɛ] and word finally following the high front vowel [i].

Conventions: Orthographic

see article 'Orthography Reform in Amele' (Roberts, 1991c)

Transcription of a recorded passage

/ijæ jeh sæg boʔnu | bæɫ sæigen || dænæ æge wele | hæiden sæennæ ɔdi ɔdoɪn || mæhæ
hewimeig | ʔæbiɔg bægænnu gædæʔ mihedumeig | ʔæjæ sigin unæni ædɔloig || ʔæjæ
sigin ʔunug gæbændoʔɔbil | dænæ meʔæ | ug bæ bældoʔ | ug bæ g bæsil wælægdædænen |
ʔæjimeɪ sigin ʔunug unænɔloɪ || ug bæ ɔdi unænen || ijæ bulig tibud | ijæ mim tibud |
ijænnæ || wij ʔæjæ | wænæm ʔæjæ | gæle ʔæjæ | susum ʔæjæ | tæulæ ʔæjæ | meɛ g bu
gæbænædi meɛ megæ ɔsol mi | sigin ebenegænæ miginæ || æge gɔlænægæ | silileʔeb | ʔæbi
liʔdoʔɔb | æge ʔæbi ɔg bægæn | jehæg bægæn || g bæen | læʔbæjæ | mæn sɔnɔneʔ |
hofæjæl | g bælig bɛɛʔ | æig mumusi | wæidugun nuijæ || mim tibud | bulig tibud | ug bæ
ijænnæ || æge ehædi | gæbælæʔnæ mæmædi | ʔæbi suli | æge ebenægænæ miædiginæ ||
gɔlænægæ silil eʔeb | /æbi ehinui g bæe mudug bægæn || meɛ /

< Ija jeh saqocnu, bal saigen. Dana age wele, haiden saenna odi odoin. Maha hewimeig, cabi oqagannu gadac mihedumeig, caja sigin unani adoloig. Caja sigin cunug gabandocobil, dana meca, uqa baldoc, uqa qasil walagdadanen, cajimeɪ sigin cunug unanoloi. Uqa odi unanen. 'Ija Bulik tibud, ija mim tibud, ijanna. Wij caja, wanam caja, gale caja, susum caja, taula caja, mede qu gabanadi mede mega osol mi, sigin ebenegana migina. Age golanaga, silileceb, cabi licdocob, age cabi oqagan, jehaqagan. Queen, lacbaja, man sononec, hofajal, qali qetec, aig mumusi, waidugun nuija. Mim tibud, Bulik tibud, uqa ijanna. Age ehadi, gabalacna mamadi, cabi suli, age ebenagana miadigina. Golanaga silileceb, cabi ehinui qee muduqagan. Mele. >

'I will tell about the prayer (that was made before) we go to the bush. Before, when all were heathens, they did it like this. They used to take hold of the ground to be worked and mark it, and give a stone to the women to sharpen their knives. All the women used to bring their knives together, the headman, he knew how to pray, in the morning before sunrise he used to get up and sharpen all the knives. He sharpened them like this, 'I am Bulik, I am earthquake, this is my name. Widow women, strong women, young women, young girls, married women, all put their noses together, they put their noses as one. A knife is put into the hand of them all. The blood of all, it comes up, like a flood it surges up to do the work, to cut the bush. Centipede, scorpion, snake, black ant, red ant, the teeth of them all are put down and turned away, they go. Earthquake, Bulik, this is his name. All of you bring (the work) and put it on

your shoulder, lift up the work and put it in your hand. The blood of all it comes up and the work will begin and go and it will finish. True.'

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