

XVII. Introduction

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Gadsup is spoken near Kainantu by over seven thousand people. The three major branches of this subfamily include the Agarabi, the Oyana, and the Gadsup. The location of the Gadsup relative to the other members of the Eastern Family of the East New Guinea Highland Stock is depicted in Map 2.

The following five chapters cover Gadsup phonology, noun morphology, verb morphology, and syntax, and Agarabi phonology and general notes from textual analysis. The original publishers are noted in the first footnote of each chapter. The Agarabi textual analysis gives an overview of that language. The chapter on phonology by Bee *et al.* presents an important interpretation of nasal vowels not found in the other languages. The interpretation of a five vowel system is the same as for Usarufa, and could be made for the other languages (except Awa). The Gadsup texts which follow the Agarabi textual analysis by Goddard extend the linguistics information on this segment of the study languages.

The phonologies of Gadsup and Agarabi are very close. Where the Frantzes have postulated *b* but not *w* for the former, Goddard has *w*, which has allophones of both stop and fricative varieties for the latter. She does not cite a *b* phoneme. Both speech communities have *y*. In Agarabi the phoneme has alveolar stop and fricative palatal varieties. Both have another alveolar obstruent given as *d* in Gadsup with a flap vibrant [r] as an allophone and *r* in Agarabi without notable variation from the norm. Thus the total consonant inventory is the same in number: *p, t, k, q, b, d, y, m, n* for Gadsup; and *p, t, k, q, w, r, y, m, n* for Agarabi.

The vowel inventories for the two are also the same: *i, a, u, e, aa, o*. The tone systems, however, seem to differ. Goddard indicates two degrees of tone: high marked by the acute accent, and low left unmarked. The Frantzes indicate four for Gadsup: high, low, up-glide, and down-glide.

of tone: high marked by the acute accent, and low left unmarked. The Frantzes indicate four for Gadsup: high, low, up-glide, and down-glide. The last two are analyzed only with nouns, since they occur infrequently with the verbs. The two word classes of nouns and verbs are contrasted by opposing tonal characteristics, and unusual phonological feature for a tone language. The Gadsup people use their tone system for a special communicative device in whistle talk. Much can be conveyed since they use the tone and also articulations of the segmental phones in the whistling.

When first published, the articles by the Frantzes on nouns and verbs utilized an orthography with schwa and *a* to indicate the central mid to low vowel and the low front vowel. Here we use *a* for the first, and *aa* for the second to parallel Auyana and Tairora.

Nouns and verbs are characterized by complicated morphologies. Gadsup nouns have five classes instead of the three or two of the other groups. Frantz describes some fifty suffixes occurring with nouns. Not all of these are exclusively used with nouns. The usual number with a base has been found to be two or three at a time, never more than six. The Agarabi texts illustrate only eight suffixes used with nouns (some also with verbs). I suspect that this is not because Agarabi has far fewer than Gadsup, but that the affixes are used to be explicit, specifying what can be indicated by other means. The noun affixes are not at all obligatory, nouns often occurring in texts without affixation.

The verb morphology indicates person (four subject and three benefactor suffixes, and three object prefixes); aspect (five suffixes), and mode (four suffixes). Up to nine suffixes may follow a Gadsup verb, but the only affix that is obligatory to the complex is the subject marker suffix.

Agarabi verbs also permit various affixes. However, there is not enough information to work out correspondences or to identify morpheme for morpheme. Subject markers for Agarabi are similar to those of Gadsup, as are some of the mode markers. However, the aspect system of Gadsup seems to differ markedly from that of Agarabi, which has more of a tense system than aspect or kind of action.

The morphophonemics of the systems are complicated. Individual morphemes are identifiable, but often change almost beyond the point of recognition. The individual morpheme of Gadsup versus the fusions of Tairora are of interest. Perhaps the changes in the morphophonemics will someday move Gadsup toward fusions.

Sentences may contain dependent or independent clauses. As in the other languages, the difference is indicated by a final set of affixes with verbs of independent sentences or clauses, and a nonfinal set of affixes with verbs in the dependent clauses or sentences. Multiclausal sentences are more frequent than single clause sentences. Usually independent clauses are preceded by

the dependent, there being the possibility of a number of dependent clauses in the sentence.

Gadsup texts follow the Agarabi descriptive materials in the text analysis by Goddard. The texts cited for Gadsup have more 'native reaction' in them than the texts for other languages, since many of them are the work of a Gadsup school teacher. These Gadsup texts will afford the opportunity to compare some items with the Agarabi texts, and also to further the sentence and paragraph analysis of the Gadsup-Agarabi.

The Languages of the Eastern Family of the East New Guinea Highland Stock

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