

## 0. Introduction

### 0.1 Language Classification

Nend (Angaua) is a member of the Atan family, Wanang stock, Adelbert Range superstock, Madang-Adelbert Range subphylum, Trans-New Guinea phylum (Z'graggen 1975). Atemple, the other member of the Atan family, borders Nend on the south.

### 0.2 The Angaua People

The Nend language is spoken by the Angaua people of the Madang Province of Papua New Guinea. There are between 1500 and 1800 Nend speakers. The area occupied by the Angaua people is bounded on the north by the Sogeram River and on the south by the Ramu River. Between these two rivers, the land is crisscrossed by ridges rising to an elevation of up to 300 meters. The valleys formed by these ridges tend to be swampy areas in which sago readily grows.

Because of the presence of both arable land and swamp, the Angaua people are able to depend both on extensive gardening and on sago for their food supply. Their main food crops include yams, taro, sweet potatoes, bananas, and to a lesser extent, corn, beans, melons, and other more recently introduced crops. For protein, the people rely mainly on hunting, the rivers being too distant to make them a practical source of fish.

The traditional living pattern is for people to settle in small hamlets of between 10 and 40 people. The people tend to move around fairly regularly, abandoning one hamlet site for another. During the Australian colonial administration the traditional pattern was disrupted as the government forced people to group into larger villages. The last few years since independence have seen a gradual return to the more traditional settlement pattern.

By making the construction of roads into the area difficult, the two major rivers that form the boundaries of the language group have been major impediments to economic development. To date, there are no significant cash crops being grown by the Angaua people. Most of their present per capita income comes from relatives working in the cities.

Several attempts have been made to establish schools in the area but none have remained for more than a few years. At present there is no school close enough to have an impact on the literacy of the Angaua people. This will be changed in the near future by the planned establishment of a Government school in the village of Pasinkap, located near the geographical centre of the language group.

Religiously, the traditional belief system continues to dominate. The Catholic church has had a work in the area since before World War II but its impact has been limited. Recently other groups have attempted to make inroads into the language group, but again with limited results. At the invitation of the people, Pioneer Bible Translators started a work among the Angaua in 1985.

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