

GRAMMAR OF THE AULUA LANGUAGE

1. Alphabet

1. VOWELS: a, e, i, o, u.

CONSONANTS: w; r, l; c, k, h, g, gc, gk; j; t, d, n; p, b, m, mw (mu); f, v; s.

2. SOUNDS. Vowels as in Italian.

Consonantal sounds: h is the Melanesian g, c as g in 'go,' g as ng in 'sing,' gc as ng in 'finger,' gk as nk in 'sink'; j as tch in 'fetch.'

Several consonants are nasalised, apparently at the choice

¹ Pangkumu *narog*.

of the speaker, and especially in reduplication. These are written *nt*, *nd*, *mp*, *mb*, *nr*. The nasal *m* formerly written *mw* is printed *mu* in the translations.

The compound consonant is found as *bw* in Rev. T. W. Leggatt's notes, but I have not found it in the translation.

2. Article

3. The demonstrative article is *na*. This becomes *ne* or *ni* before *e* or *i* in the following syllable, and *n* before a vowel: *nakula*, coconut; *nambor*, club; *nembela*, lightning; *nemin*, bird; *niel*, sun; *nika*, fish; *nusa*, rain.

4. Common nouns denoting persons prefix the article *a*: *atisina*, his brother; *asono*, his wife; *asamagk*, man; *asilim*, thy neighbour.

3. Nouns

5. There are two classes of nouns. The nouns of the first name parts of the body and relationships, and are used with suffixed personal pronoun. The nouns of the second class are used with a separate possessive word.

Nouns of the first class sometimes appear independently of the genitive relation. They then take a suffix *hte*, *nta* or *nt*:

Nerambanta, the body: *nerambigk*, my body; *nerambim*, thy body.

Metent, an eye: *metegk*, my eyes; *metamuntul*, your eyes.

6. FORM. A noun may be formed from the same word-base as a verb, the difference being marked by the article or verbal particle: *n-usa tiusa*, the rain rained; *nelap i lap*, the flood flooded.

Verbal nouns are formed by the suffix *en*: *nentagien*, mourning (*tagi*, weep); *nemeurien*, life.

A personal noun is shown by the noun *asamagk*, person, preceding: *asamagk tele*, adversary; *asamagk sisicene*, judge.

The words *nakepospose*, a chisel, from *apose*, to chip, and *nahagco*, scissors, from *agcusa*, to cut, show an instrumental prefix *ke* or *he*.

7. NUMBER. The plural is shown by the pronoun *hera*, they, following the noun: *nimua hera*, houses; *atisina hera*, his brothers; *asamagk hera*, men.

The word *bisogk*, many, is also used to indicate a plural: *nesah bisogk*, things many; *asamagk bisogk*, many men.

Totality is shown by *butia*, all, or *kaskasia*, every. *Butia* with the singular noun means 'the whole.' *Narambim butia*, thy whole body; *nevenua hera butia*, all lands; *asamagk kaskasia*, every man; *kaskasia tahamuntul*, every one of you.

8. Gender is usually only indicated by separate words. But a few words are compounded with the words *teta*, male, and *tambaluk*, female: *netugk*, my son; *netugk tambaluk*, my daughter; *mbui*, a boar; *balambal*, a sow; *tetoman*, a cock; *nevinimbar* or *netor*, a hen. A 'chicken' is *netuhto*.

9. The common nouns *atemen*, father, *ansen*, mother, become *tita!* father! and *nina!* mother! when speaking of, or addressing one's own parents.

4. Pronouns

10. PERSONAL. The full forms of the personal pronouns are:

Sing. 1. <i>anu</i> .	Plur. 1 incl. <i>antil</i> .	Dual 1 incl. <i>anturua</i> .
2. <i>egco</i> .	1 excl. <i>amintil</i> .	1 excl. <i>amarua</i> .
3. <i>hena</i> .	2. <i>amuntul</i> .	2. <i>amurua</i> .
	3. <i>hera</i> .	3. <i>arua</i> .

In the dual *rua* is the numeral 'two.' In the plural *til*, *tul* is the numeral 'three,' but if the trial number is required in the pronoun, the numeral must be repeated: 1. *antil til*, *amintil til*, etc.

11. Short pronouns used as subjects of verb:

Sing. 1. <i>ne</i> .	Plur. 1 incl. <i>til</i> .	Dual 1 incl. <i>tur</i> .
2. <i>u</i> .	1 excl. <i>mil</i> .	1 excl. <i>mar</i> .
3. <i>i</i> .	2. <i>mul</i> .	2. <i>mur</i> .
	3. <i>ar</i> , <i>ara</i> .	3. <i>ur</i> .

Short forms used in the objective after verbs and some prepositions:

Sing. 1. <i>nu</i> , <i>eiu</i> .	Plur. 1 incl. <i>antil</i> .	
2. <i>gko</i> .	1 excl. <i>mintil</i> .	
3. <i>a</i> .	2. <i>muntul</i> .	
	3. <i>ra</i> , <i>r</i> , <i>era</i> .	Dual 3. <i>rua</i> .

Hasi tembesegko? who smote thee? *tembesia*, smote him; *golia*, buy it; *ahanamintil*, to us; *tambabarua*, with them two.

12. Short forms suffixed to nouns, possessive words and some prepositions:

Sing. 1. <i>gk</i> .	Plur. 1 incl. <i>ntil</i> .	Dual 1 incl. <i>ntarua</i> .
2. <i>m</i> .	1 excl. <i>mintil</i> .	1 excl. <i>marua</i> .
3. <i>na</i> , <i>n</i> .	2. <i>muntul</i> .	2. <i>murua</i> .
	3. <i>ra</i> , <i>ar</i> .	3. <i>rua</i> .

There is sometimes a change of vowel before the suffix: *metegk*, my eye, *metim*, thy eye, *meten*, his eye; *atemem*, thy father, *atemen*, his father, *atementil*, our father, *atemamuntul*, your father, *atemer*, their father, *atemerua*, father of them two.

13. EMPHATIC. The word *sumba* is used for 'self.' When in the objective following a verb or pronoun it takes the suffixed pronouns. When nominative it follows the pronoun in the form *sumban*, and the suffixes are omitted, probably to avoid repetition: *u mucu egco sumban ti meur*, heal thyself; *rien amuntul sumbamuntul*, to yourselves; *antil sumban til rogesua*, we ourselves have heard.

Sumban following a possessive is 'own': *nemeurien taken sumban*, his own life; *rien nuta taken sumban*, in his own country.

14. DEMONSTRATIVE. *Navil*, *iakal*, *amukal*, this; *ho*, *namigk*, *amuko*, *namugk*, *navagi*, that. The article shows these to be really nouns, but they are used as adjectives or rather in apposition. The true adjective forms are *kal*, *vil*, *avagi*, *mugk*: *iakal anetugk*, this (is) my son; *nesah iakal*, this thing; *nesah navil hera*, these things; *nesah namigk* (or *namugk*), that thing; *nuta namugk*, *nuta avagi*, that place; *asamagk avagi*, that man. Cf. §§ 24, 43.

15. INTERROGATIVE. *Hasi?* who? *nepah?* what? *Hasi iakal?* who (is) this? *hasi semberiu?* who touched me? *mil gcania nepah?* what shall we eat?

The question, 'What is thy name?' is *Nahsem nepah?* contrary to the usual expression with the interrogative 'who?'

16. INDEFINITE. *Sinde*, some, any; *enruakis*, few; *bisogk*, many, much; *imu*, more; *butia*, all; *kaskasia*, the whole.

5. The Genitive

17. When two nouns are in juxtaposition the second qualifies the first: *naki vanahte*, fruit tree; *naki neluam*, thy footstool; *nemin nemal*, birds (of the) air; *nepole batamuntul*, hair (of) your head; *naciscis molina*, hem (of) a garment; *legcele havila*, way-side.

18. Nouns of the first class take the suffix *na*, *n* in the singular and *r* in the plural when governing another noun in the genitive: *anetina Devid*, son of David; *verar asamagk*, hands of men; *nenrien Sakaria*, the blood of Sakaria.

Sometimes *no* is found for *na*: *nehono tita*, face of my father; *ansen asono Piter*, mother of the wife of Peter; *nentilono asamagk*, voice of a man.

19. When a noun of the first class governs a pronoun in the genitive, it takes a possessive suffix. For examples see § 12.

20. When nouns of the second class govern another noun in the genitive the word *ta* comes between: *nimua ta Piter*, Peter's house; *nemeurien ta asamagk*, men's lives; *namal ta nimua* (also *namal nimua*), master of the house.

21. When the genitive is a pronoun governed by a noun of the second class the word *ta* is used with suffixed pronouns. The following forms are given:

Sing. 1. <i>tukunu</i> .	Plur. 1 incl. <i>tahantil</i> .
2. <i>tahegko</i> .	1 excl. <i>tahamintil</i> .
3. <i>tahen</i> .	2. <i>tahamuntul</i> .
	3. <i>taher</i> .

Nimua tukunu, my house; *nimua tahegko*, thy house; *nimua tahen*, his house; *nemeurien tahamuntul*, your life; *tita tahamintil*, our father; *nimua taher*, their houses.

22. There is great inconsistency in the various ways the genitive is expressed in the translations. A word which is sometimes used with the suffixed pronoun is also found with the separate possessive. Sometimes the possessive suffix is used as well as the separate possessive:

(1) *Nahsem*, thy name; *nahsen*, his name; *nahsa tukunu*, my name.

(2) *Neverna tahen*, his hands; *netina ta Devid*, son of David; *nepol batina tahen*, hair of her head; *anetina hera ta atemamuntul*, children of your father.

6. Adjectives

23. A few adjectival word-bases appear. They are usually found with the formative *e*: *embu*, good; *esamp*, bad; *embusa*, white.

The formative *me* appears in *merans*, heavy, *memer*, light, *mepila*, cracked, *mokot*, broken.

A formative *ta* occurs in *taramp*, grown up, *temnis*, far.

24. The adjective follows its noun: *asamaḡk gceke*, strong man; *nesah embu hera*, good things; *nemav miel*, red sky.

Adjectives may be used with the verbal particles: *molina taken embusa* or *molina taken ara busa*, his clothes were white.

The word *naha* is prefixed to adjectives with the sense of 'that is, that are': *naki sagcal nahagarah*, seats that are chief (*garah*, to go up).

The demonstratives *nahaho* and *naho* are similarly used: *nahaho mitesu*, those that were wise; *atisim navil naho i mis*, *i meur imu*, thy brother that (was) dead, lives again.

7. Verbs

25. FORM. A substantive WB may be used as a verb by prefixing a verbal sign: *nusa ti usa*, rain rains; *nemier*, light; *ti mier*, to shine.

26. TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE. The transitive is formed from the intransitive by the suffix *i*. This causes the final consonant of original IN words to appear: *tag*, to weep, *tagsi*, to bewail (IN *tangis*, weep). Mr Leggatt also gave *urah*, to fall, transitive *urahse*, and *iapiap*, to deceive, transitive *niapsegco*, I deceive you.

In the translation transitive verbs appear sometimes with, sometimes without the *i*.

27. CAUSATIVE. The causative prefix *baka* is only used with numerals. With verbs, the auxiliary verb *muci*, to do or make, serves as a causative: *muci kukuri*, make ready, prepare; *muci mentement*, make straight, straighten.

28. RECIPROCAL AND REFLEXIVE. I find no examples in the translations. Mr Leggatt wrote *ur mamaps arua*, they (two) love one another, *ur lislis arua*, they (two) see one another, using only the simple forms, lit. they two love (or see) them two.

The reflexive is expressed in the same form, with the addition of the word *sumba*, self, which takes the suffixed pronouns.

29. PASSIVE. There is no passive. An active form is used either definitely or indefinitely: *meten taharua ara lele*, their eyes were opened (lit. their eyes opened).

The particle *a* before a verb has the appearance of a passive: *nesah ho a mucu*, the thing that was done; *bokol a levia tuacani*, one is taken away; *hen a ulul sua*, it is written.

30. REDUPLICATION. This indicates repetition or continued action: *bene*, to go or come; *beneven*, to walk.

31. CONJUGATION. The verb is conjugated by means of the shortened pronouns. They may be used with or without the fuller forms and have no temporal significance.

The moods and tenses are indicated by auxiliary words.

INDICATIVE MOOD. The short pronouns alone are used in an indefinite way past or present. A definite past is indicated by *esu* or *sua* after the verb: *i beteni*, he says or said; *amintil mil gcan sua*, we have eaten; *atisim i bene sua*, thy brother has come.

The future is shown by *bur* before the verb: *anu ni bur temarah*, I will arise; *i bur levi navolukte sake egco*, he will give a reward to thee.

32. NEGATIVE. The negative particle is *se*: *i se rogobosia*, he does not understand; *ar se rogera*, they did not hear them.

33. INTERROGATIVE. This is shown by the interrogative pronouns or adverbs, or by the tone of voice: *amintil mil bilisira ahane nelimp?* shall we smite them with the sword? *navil i se bi karpenter anetina?* is not this the carpenter's son?

34. MOOD. IMPERATIVE. This is shown only by the short pronouns before the verb: *u ven!* go (to one)! *mur ven!* go (ye two)! *mul temarah!* stand up (ye)!

The negative has the particle *se* introduced: *mul se metah ahanera!* be not afraid (ye) of them! *u se benoke!* do not (thou) steal!

35. CONDITIONAL. The conditional 'if' is *tenako*: *tenako egco iakal, u beten ahanu ni bene buku tipsogk*, if it be thou, tell me (that) I come out to thee.

36. SUBJUNCTIVE. A dependent sentence is introduced by the demonstrative *ho*, that: *ara lisembosia ho hena i mis sua*, they knew that she was dead already; *hena i beten ahanera ho hera ara se beten nesah ho a mucu*, he told them that they (should) not tell the thing that was done.

Purpose is shown by the word *ana*: *mil bene ana lotucini hena*, we come to worship him; *i mucu amintil ana bapag*, he makes us wonder.

The particle *ti* is used to denote a consequence in the future, especially after the demonstratives *naho*, *amuko*: *mul se rania*

anu ni bene ti bulagkia, do not think I come to destroy; *hena i ligi nusa ti usa*, he allows the rain to rain; *u se meserakania nepolna bokol ti busa je ti miet*, thou canst not (make) one hair white or black.

37. OPTATIVE. The word *mahapsi* means 'to wish,' *dam, damuceni*, 'to be willing': *anu ni levia saki hena ho anu ni mahapsi*, I give it to him that I wish; *i se mahapsi*, he did not wish; *nenanta i mehapsia*, the spirit is willing; *anu ni dam*, I am willing; *tenako egko u damuceni*, if thou be willing.

38. POTENTIAL. Ability to perform an action is indicated by the verb *meserakani* used adverbially. Inability is shown by the adverb *tictih*. *Amarua mar mucia meserakania*, we two (are) able to do it; *asamagk bokol i uma tictih rien namal enrua*, one man cannot work for two masters.

39. COPULA. The word *bi* is used as a substantive verb: *mierahamp ta nerambanta i bi metent*, light of the body is the eye; *i bi asamagk burugk*, he was a short man.

'To be in' or 'with' is expressed by *tok*, to stay: *anu ni tok tipsamuntul nambog kaskasia*, I was with you every day.

8. Adverbs

40. DIRECTIVE. These are not clearly made out and are apparently affixed to the verb: *sarah*, down, *sumbul sarah*, come down, *tok sarah*, sit down; *temarah*, rise up, *garah*, go up; *terbisahani*, roll away, *tuacani*, take away.

41. INTERROGATIVE. *Negesa?* when? (apparently past and future): *negesa amintil mil lisi egco nemeragkasegko?* when did we see thee hungry? *nesah navil hera ara bur bene negesa?* these things they shall come when?

Ambe? where? *Hena i bene ambe?* where did he come from?

Mevah? how? *Mevah egco u vene?* how did you come?

Sembi? how? *Hena i bi netina taken sembi?* how is he his son?

Mevah? why? *Mevah amuntul mul se telemi nentilono taken?* why did you not believe his words?

42. TIME. *Abakal, avakal*, now, to-day; *laplapsu*, in the morning; *namebko*, to-morrow; *weisa*, day after to-morrow; *bitah*, afterwards; *nambog namugk*, then (that day); *esu*, already; *morkon*, soon; *tui*, of old, formerly; *tumbasar*, always; *len len*

tiho, while; *entimp*, still, yet; *tambabea*, also; *imu*, again; *bil-bilta*, immediately.

In *nutan rabirabi*, *nuta meligco*, evening, *nuta* is 'place,' *meligco*, 'dark.'

43. PLACE. *Vil*, *navil*, here; *mugk*, *namugk*, *ieia*, there; *temnis*, *temnisembar*, afar; *tuacani*, away; *morkon*, near; *abub*, outside; *tilvahte namugkene*, on the other side.

44. MANNER. *Lahase*, like, so, as, thus; *pagase*, truly; *lumbon* very; *lumbonugkas*, exceedingly; *ugi*, only; *kamis*, in vain (lit. to waste).

45. CAUSE, ETC. *Bi batihite*, because; *eko*, therefore. Yes, I; no, *ao!* These are really exclamations.

9. Prepositions

46. SIMPLE. It seems that there are no simple prepositions in Aulua. The words so used are either nouns or verbs, though the distinction is often not very clear or consistent.

47. NOUNS. The locative is *re* or *rien*, in, at, by, or on: *re netis*, in the sea. But usually before nouns *rien* is used: *rien tavugan*, on his neck. With pronouns: *rien*, on him, by him; *rien anu*, on me; *riem*, *rien egko*, on thee; *rien amintil*, on us; *riaru*, on them two.

'In, inside,' is expressed by *le* or *lele* prefixed to the noun: *lele cimua*, inside the house; *lemeligco*, in the dark; *nelera*, in their hearts.

48. VERBS. Verbs which appear as equivalents to prepositions are the following:

Ahane, to, by (instrumental), against (direction): *i beten ahane asamagk*, he said to the men; *ahanu*, to me; *ahanegko*, *ahane egko*, to thee; *anu ni beten ahanamuntul*, I say to you; *ahane Piter*, to Peter; *ahane hena*, *ahania*, to him; *ahanera*, to them; *mis ahane nelimp*, die by the sword; *ahane verar*, with these hands.

Sake, to (dative): *hen i levi sake asamagk bokol talent lima*, he gave one man five talents; *sakeiu*, to me; *sake egko*, to thee; *sake hena*, to him; *saker*, to them.

Sare, for (dative): *sare asamagk tetembembui ugi*, for priests only; *uma saria*, work for him; *sare anu*, for me; *sare egko*, for thee; *sare amuntul*, for you, etc.

Entene, from: *entene nuta namugk*, from that place; *entenu*, from me; *entenegko*, from thee; *entenia*, *entene hena*, from him; *entenera*, from them, etc.

Ta, of: this is apparently the same as the genitive sign.

Tipse, concerning, about, towards: *i tu tipse sip*, he stands for the sheep (i.e. a shepherd); *tipseiu*, *tipse anu*, concerning me.

Tambabe, with, along with: *ansen tambabe atisina*, his mother with his brother; *tambabeiu*, *tambabe anu*, with me; *tambabe egko*, with thee; *tambabe hena*, with him; *tambabera*, with them.

Gcore, against, round about: *ara bur gcilia nambul gcore egko*, they shall dig a trench against thee; *i betegcore ne lag*, he spoke against (rebuked) the wind; *i sin egcorera*, it shone round about them; *gcamps egcorea*, wrapped round him.

Suri, to follow, is used as a preposition 'after': *i balu suri amintil*, he cries after us.

49. COMPOUND. Certain nouns of position prefix the prepositions *le*, *re*, *rien*, to form compound prepositions. These are *honu*, before (lit. face), *vahte*, *vevi*, the under part, *gcele*, the side: *rehono Atua*, before God; *rien hono asamagk*, *rehon asamagk*, before men; *re honukte* or *rien nehono taken*, before him, before his face; *levahte*, under; *levevigk*, under me; *legcele havila*, beside the road; *regcelectis*, by the sea side.

Similar expressions apparently compounded also with the word *ahane*, are: *luvukahanera*, in the midst of them; *luvekahanantil*, in the midst of us; *luvukahane doktor her*, in the midst of the doctors; *ara tok luvukahania*, they are in the midst of it.

Bimo, first, and *bitah*, last, are also found in compounds, the first with *honu*, the second with *ahane*: *bimohone nehonim* or *bimohoni nehono tahegko*, before thy face; *bitah ahane hena* or *bitahania*, after him; *e bene bitahanu*, he comes after me.

10. Conjunctions

50. There is no copulative conjunction. The word *tambabe*, with, is used to connect nouns: *Peter tambabe Andru atisina*, Peter and Andrew his brother.

51. ADVERSATIVE. *Bila*, but, also used of sequence 'then.'

52. DISJUNCTIVE. *Je*, or: *ti busa je ti miet*, white or black.

53. ILLATIVE AND DECLARATIVE. *Ho*: *mul gcolagkalu ho hera ara se iaps amuntul*, take (ye) care that they do not deceive you.

54. CAUSE. *Bi batihte: u ven tuacahanu, bi batihte anu ni bi asamagk esamp*, go away from me for I am a bad man.

55. Till, until, *beneven* (lit. going): *beneven nemav tambabe neten ur misika*, till sky and earth pass away.

11. Numerals

56. CARDINAL. The first five cardinal numbers appear with the verbal particle *e*, those from five to nine have the prefix *ro* with *k* inserted for euphony: *bokol*, one; *enrua*, two; *entil*, three; *embis*, four; *elima*, five; *robokol*, six; *rokurua*, seven; *roktil*, eight; *rokbis*, nine; *sagavul*, ten¹.

The unit above ten is *nentemukte*: *sagavul nentemukte bokol*, eleven; *sagavul bokol nentimukte enrua*, twelve, etc.

Gavul names the tens above the first and these are counted: *gavul entil*, thirty; *gavul elima*, fifty; *gavul rokbis nentimukte rokbis*, ninety-nine.

Got is used for a 'hundred': *got bakabokol*, one hundred (lit. a hundred once); *got elima*, five hundred.

57. ORDINAL. These are formed by prefixing *naki* and suffixing *kte* or *hte*, sometimes *ene*: *nakiruahte*, second; *nakitulakte* or *entilene*, or *nakitilene*, third; *nambog nakiroktilene*, the eighth day; *rien ambisia nakirobokolene*, in the sixth month.

'The first' is *bimo*, as an adjective *nahabimo*; 'the last' *bitah* or *nahabitah*: *re nambog nahabimo*, on the first day; *entene nahambimoene*, from the first.

58. MULTIPLICATIVE. These are formed by the causative prefix *baka*, which is apparently an introduction: *bakabokol*, once; *bakarua*, twice; *bakatil*, thrice, etc.

59. INTERROGATIVE. The interrogative is *bisa* used verbally as *imbisa*: *nambog imbisa?* how many days? how long? The corresponding multiplicative is *bakabisa?* how many times? how often?

12. Exclamations

60. Exclamations of astonishment are *weklu!* *weh!* of great astonishment *gurahi!* There is also a habit of clucking when examining a new or strange thing.

¹ These differ considerably from Aulua numerals given elsewhere: *saagk*, one; *eru*, two; *etul*, three; *evets*, four; *lim*, five; *jos*, six; *joru*, seven; *jotil*, eight; *jovas*, nine; *sanavul*, ten. Cf. *Science of Man*, v. 1902, p. 129.

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