

49. Adzera

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1. Introduction

The Adzera language is spoken by approximately 20,650 people living in the valley of the Markham River, and in the valleys of its tributaries to the north and south, in Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea. Within Adzera there are several different varieties spoken. These are:

1. Central dialect chain, comprising 23 villages in the central part of the Markham Valley. This variety includes the villages of the Onga⁷ group, on the south bank of the Markham River, and has approximately 9,950 speakers.
2. Amari dialect, spoken in 14 villages from the Umi River to the Markham-Ramu Divide, with 5,300 speakers.
3. Ngarowapum dialect, spoken in four villages on the northern side of the Markham Valley between Umi and Mangiang Rivers, with 1,200 speakers.
4. Yarus dialect, which is found in ten villages in the mountains to the north of Ngarowapum, and in the valleys of the Mangiang, Mami and Yafats Rivers. These people number 2,200.
5. Guruf dialect, spoken in six villages on the south side of the Markham River, between the Waffa River and the village of Idzingants. This dialect also includes Ngariawang village, which is several kilometres up into the Leron River valley, on the opposite side of the Markham Valley to Guruf. Total population is 1,550.
6. Tsumanggorun village, which has its own variety of Adzera. This village is on the northern side of the Markham Valley, near the Iroap River. Its population is 400.

Previous work has been done on Adzera by K.G. Holzkecht (n.d., 1973a, 1973b, 1973c), Hooley (1971, 1976) and S.C. Holzkecht (1986, 1989).

The research on which the present wordlist is based was carried out between 1976 and 1987. This has been supplemented by data from K.G. Holzknecht's unpublished dictionary of Adzera (K.G. Holzknecht, n.d.).

Holzknecht, Susanne C. 1995. *Adzera*. In: Darrel T. Tryon (ed.) *Comparative Austronesian Dictionary*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.