

A TENTATIVE PHONOLOGY OF BAINING (KAKAT DIALECT)

Jim and Diana Parker

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Baining family of languages extends across the Gazelle Peninsula of New Britain. The particular dialect described in this paper is known as Kakat.

The Kakat dialect commences at the Vudal River, some 30 miles west of Rabaul and is bounded by the Toriu River on the western coast of the Gazelle Peninsula. It is not at all related to Kuanua, the language spoken by the neighbouring Tolai tribe.

The population is approximately 5,000, distributed between about 23 villages which are widely scattered over an area of 625 square miles. Ten villages are coastal and the remainder are situated in the fertile valleys of the mountain range.

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