

## 0 INTRODUCTION

The Washkuk language is spoken by about 3000 people living in the Washkuk and Ambunti hills and the swampland to the northwest of Ambunti in the East Sepik District of Papua New Guinea. There are two main dialects of Washkuk: Kwoma, spoken by those inhabiting the hills; and Nukuma, spoken by those living in the swampy areas further to the north and west. Ambunti, the sub-district administrative centre, is the furthest community of any size to the east of the language area, with all the other villages situated from five to twenty five air miles in a general northwest direction. Kwoma, with slight variation between some villages, is spoken by the people of Ambunti, Madiwai, Bangwis, Dokapa, Teyam, Beklam, Mino, Warambachi, Dangasham, some people of Yelagu, and Yakareway, a hamlet to the east of Ambunti about a mile. Nukuma is spoken by those of Kowaka, Wayuwas, Nakari, Amaki, and Ablatak.

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