

40. Nyindrou

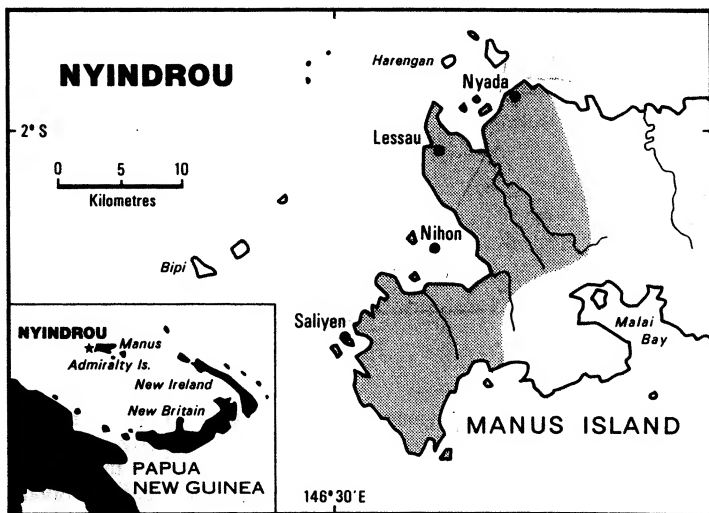
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1. Introduction

The Nyindrou language (also known as Lindrou and Lindau) is spoken by about 2,550 people who live on the western end of Manus Island in Papua New Guinea. The main villages where Nyindrou is spoken are: Nyada, Jowan No.1, and Jowan No.2 on the north coast; Lessau, Nihon, Kalei and Saliyen on the west coast; and Bundrahi-Sapondralis, Likum and Korojih in the Malai Bay area of the south coast (see map). The villages in the Malai Bay area speak a mutually intelligible dialect of Nyindrou called "Babon". Probably another 2,000 people speak or understand Nyindrou as a second language in the neighbouring language areas of Bipi, Sori-Harengan and Levei-Tulu.



Map 40. Nyindrou language area

Before 1980 very little linguistic description was undertaken in the Nyindrou language, other than brief word lists and samplings of grammatical features for purposes of comparative linguistic studies by such scholars as W.E. Smythe (1970) and R.A. Blust (1979). In 1980 the Summer Institute of Linguistics in cooperation with the Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association conducted a sociolinguistic survey of Manus Province which included the Nyindrou language area. Since 1981 the author and his wife (Lenore Martin) have worked intermittently in the language area, residing at Lessau village, and working as advisors and consultants to Nyindrou national translators and literacy workers.¹

Martin, Bill. 1995. Nyindrou. In Tryon, Darrell T. (ed.)
Comparative Austronesian Dictionary. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.