

Sougb is spoken by approximately 12,000 speakers, living between the Anggi lakes in the north and the Bintuni Bay as the southern border. Their western neighbours are the speakers of Moskona, a dialect of Meyah. To the east, along the Cenderawasih Bay, the Austronesian language Wamesa (dialect of Wandamen) borders on the Sougb.

In earlier publications, the language is known by the exonyms *Mantion*, the dialect variant near Bintuni, and *Manikion*, the variant near the Anggi lakes (Cowan 1953:10-11; see also Voorhoeve 1975: 50 and Silzer and Heikkinen 1991:62). The western lake is called *Anggi giji* and the eastern *Anggi gida*. The forms *giji* and *gida* are Sougb for 'male' and 'female' respectively. No specific meaning for *Anggi* is known. A short grammar sketch is given in Reesink (2000). Three major dialects are distinguished: *Sougb misen*, roughly equivalent to what used to be called *Manikion*, *Bohon*, spoken along the coast, south of Oransbari, and *Lou*, equivalent to what was known as *Mantion*. Differences between these three dialects are claimed to be minor. A fourth, rather divergent, dialect is *Sre* or *cicir*, spoken by a small group of people near the mouth of the Tembuni river.

Some anthropological data, including Sougb migration patterns, are given in Pouwer (1958), Pans (1960) and Haenen (1998). In 1996 a New Testament was published in the *Sougb misen* dialect by the Indonesian Bible Society.

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