

The Patep language is one of the six language groups in the Mumeng dialect chain within the Buang family.<sup>1</sup> Patep and four of the other groups in the chain are closely enough related to be considered as dialects, but a thorough comparison of the dialects remains to be done.

The Patep language is spoken by approximately 1,200 people, many of whom live in five main villages in proximity to the road from Lae to Wau in the Morobe District. The villages are scattered from about 13 km north of Mumeng to one located in the hills to the east of Bulolo.

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