

CHAPTER 1  
INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL DETAILS CONCERNING ROVIANA

Roviana is an Austronesian language, a member of the New Georgia group of Oceanic languages spoken on the island of New Georgia, Solomon Islands, and in surrounding areas within the Solomon Islands (Ross 1988:216-217). According to the 1976 census of the Solomon Islands, there were then 5,365 native speakers, and a further 16,000 speakers of Roviana as a second language. Previously used as a lingua franca, especially for church purposes, Roviana is being displaced in this role by Solomon Islands Pijin.

1.2 PHONOLOGY AND ORTHOGRAPHY

The phonological inventory of Roviana is given in Tables 1.1 and 1.2.

TABLE 1.1: THE CONSONANTS OF ROVIANA

	Bi-labial	Dental	Velar	Glottal
Voiceless stop	<i>p</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>k</i>	
Voiced stop	<i>b</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>g</i>	
Voiceless fricative		<i>s</i>		<i>h</i>
Voiced fricative	<i>β</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>ɣ</i>	
Nasal	<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>ŋ</i>	
Lateral		<i>l</i>		
Flap		<i>r</i>		

TABLE 1.2: THE VOWELS OF ROVIANA

	Front		Central		Back
High	<i>i</i>				<i>u</i>
Mid		<i>e</i>		<i>o</i>	
Low			<i>a</i>		