

## 1. Introduction

The Kaki Ae language is spoken by approximately 300 people living along the south coast of Papua New Guinea in six villages southeast of Kerema Gulf Province of Papua New Guinea. There is minimal variation between the different villages. Brown (1973) refers to the language by the Toaripi designation Raepa Tati, or 'Hill Tati'. The people have no generally recognised name for their language, but many dislike the designation Tati since they feel it refers to 'bush people' in Toaripi. In fact, the phone [t] is nonexistent in Kaki Ae. The concensus of the speakers I worked with was that the language should be called Kaki Ae, from *kaki*, a modified form of [tati], and *ae* 'language'.<sup>1</sup>

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