

O. INTRODUCTION

Urii is a language spoken by an estimated 2,000 - 2,500 speakers in the area bordering the rivers Erap and Irumu near their entrance to the Markham River valley. The area is within the Morobe District of Papua New Guinea. The language is non-Melanesian and belongs to the Erap family which also includes the Wain languages of the Boana area.

The corpus of data, including a dictionary of 1,500 words, was gathered in the village of Siarra during nine months residence from September 1965 to October 1967. The main informant has been a 19 year old boy, Sorok, who is semi-literate in Pidgin English. Use also was made of data gathered by Doris Bjorkman and Jean Christie of S.I.L. during an earlier residence of six months at Siarra.

Slight dialect differences are noted in word lists from three of the most eastern villages.