

## APPENDICES

### 1. Things to Know About the Yareba Language

#### GRAMMAR

This description of the word classes in Yareba will help anyone wanting to learn the language. As you look through the dictionary you will find different kinds of words. In this section we will try to show how to use these kinds of words.

Yareba word classes are much the same as the word classes which we have in English. In Yareba, the verbs are much more important than any of the other word classes. For example one verb can often be a complete sentence in itself; like *isinu* 'he ate' or even *i* 'he ate'.

Because the verbs are the most important words in the language we will describe them first. There are three kinds of verbs: primary, secondary and tertiary.

#### VERBS

Primary verbs are the ones in the predicate position of dependent and independent clauses. They may have affixes on them showing tense, aspect, number, person and mood.

*u-i* 'he did' (far past tense)  
stem-person

This word may then be expanded as follows:

*u-s-i-nu* 'he did' (near past tense)  
stem-class.marker-tense-person

*u-t-a-su* 'he is doing' (present tense)  
stem-class.marker-tense-person

*u-f-i-su* 'he will do it' (future tense)  
stem-tense-number-person

*u-t-edibei-b-i-su* 'he will do it' (habitually and  
stem-class.marker-mood-tense-number-person continually)

On pages 493 to 501 you will find conjugations of two regular verbs, 'to do' and 'to take'; and two irregular verbs, 'to say' and 'to put'. This will give you an idea of how verbs look in all their forms.

Secondary verbs are made up of a stem, with a class marker (where one occurs) and the affixes -ebe or -eda. The affix -ebe shows action that goes on and on.

*manebe* 'going up and up and then...'

The affix -eda shows action that happens at the same time as another action occurs.

*maneda* 'while going up...'

Tertiary verbs are composed of a stem with a class marker (where one occurs) and the affix -e. This verb is seen as part of the same action as the following verb.

*are ea* 'come and see'  
coming you.see

There are five tenses in Yareba. They tell about the time of the action: far past, past, past complete, present and future.

*mure* 'I took' (far past)  
*mune* 'I took' (past)  
*munaine* 'I have taken' (past complete)  
*munatane* 'I am taking' (present)  
*mumau* 'I will take' (future)

All verb stems may have this affix, -eta, which makes a verb into a noun.

*i-eta* 'food'  
eat-nominalizer

*yau-r-eta* 'chair'  
sit-class.marker-nominalizer

Complex verbs or verb phrases are made up of two words. Although you will see such words as *witua*, *esiro*, *beari* and *durami* listed separately, these words must be followed by a primary verb to complete their meaning.

<i>witua usinu</i>	'he spit'
spit he.did	
<i>esiro urinu</i>	'he sneezed'
sneeze he.hit	
<i>beari muninu</i>	'he yawned'
yawn he.took	
<i>yo wenu</i>	'he laughed'
laugh he.talked	

## PRONOUNS

The personal pronouns are these free words:

<i>na</i>	'I'	<i>wa</i>	'we two'	<i>ya</i>	'we' (plural)
<i>a</i>	'you'	<i>ya</i>	'you two'	<i>ya</i>	'you' (plural)
<i>dawa</i>	'he'	<i>ema</i>	'they two'	<i>ema</i>	'they' (plural)

Demonstrative pronouns are limited to four.

<i>i</i>	'the'	<i>etei</i>	'that/those'
<i>ewa</i>	'this/these'	<i>abo</i>	'which'

Interrogative pronouns are also a small class and we list them all here:

<i>ane</i>	'what'	<i>ana</i>	'who'
<i>anene</i>	'how'	<i>abododo</i>	'when'
<i>ananu</i>	'whose'	<i>aboabo</i>	'how many'
<i>anaiya</i>	'who is it'	<i>anama</i>	'who'
<i>aneba</i>	'why'		

## NOUNS

There are five sub-classes of nouns.

General nouns are a large sub-class of words and in this sub-class are words like:

<i>amara</i>	'male'	<i>oi</i>	'money/bush'
<i>maidani</i>	'mountain'	<i>dubena</i>	'back'
<i>su</i>	'house'	<i>egi</i>	'wild game'

Kinship nouns are very important as they tell the listener what is the relationship of the one being spoken about. The

following are only some of this fairly large sub-class. (On pages 512 and 513 you will find a kinship chart of terms.)

<i>baya</i> 'my/our mother'	<i>baba</i> 'my/our father'
<i>danua</i> 'his mother'	<i>damama</i> 'his father'
<i>anua</i> 'your mother'	<i>amama</i> 'your father'

Place nouns point out positions.

<i>abana</i> 'middle'	<i>etua</i> 'there'
<i>oto</i> 'top'	<i>tutubu</i> 'under the house'
<i>emina</i> 'below'	<i>etara</i> 'there'

Time nouns talk about time either specific or vague.

<i>awona</i> 'now/today'	<i>arena</i> 'yesterday'
<i>duburo</i> 'later'	<i>waidumu</i> 'tomorrow'
<i>nono</i> 'again'	<i>bodere</i> 'long ago'

Derived nouns are the ones made from verbs. They have been described in the verb section as a verb stem with a class marker plus the nominalizer -eta.

*ma-eta* 'gift'  
stem.of.give-nominalizer

*ou-eta* 'stove'  
stem.of.cook-nominalizer

## ADJECTIVES

There are three sub-classes of adjectives. (They show the amount of the thing.)

Sub-class A<sub>1</sub> are quantifiers.

*moana* 'some'    *botai* 'first'    *mui* 'another'

Sub-class A<sub>2</sub> are limiters and include all numbers and some exclamatory words.

<i>demurai</i> 'one'	<i>fefera</i> 'very many'
<i>sadei</i> 'two'	<i>nabana</i> 'very big'

Sub-class A<sub>3</sub> are descriptive. (They show what the thing is like.) As free words they are in front of the word they modify and when they have intensifiers for affixes they follow the

*dera* 'big'  
*derawere* 'very big'

*kiki* 'small'  
*kikiratu* 'very small'

#### ADVERBS

These words are modifiers of verbs.

*sau* 'quickly'            *eno* 'like this'  
*kekerama* 'slowly'      *ido* 'so then'

#### INTENSIFIERS

These are bound words when they immediately follow an adjective, and are free words when they immediately follow a noun.

*were* (*derawere*) 'very' ('very big')  
*amara were* / *dera amara were* 'what a man!'  
*ratu* (*kikiratu*) 'little' ('very little')  
*su ratu* / *kiki su ratu* 'little house'

#### SYNTAX

We have already said that the verb is the most important word in the language and most clauses are predicate clauses. In other words, most clauses have a verb in them. However, there is also a clause which does not have a verb at all. This is called a stative clause.

Predicate clauses can appear as a single word or several words:

*usinu* 'he did'  
*I amarama usinu* 'the man did'

A stative clause is still a complete and meaningful construction even though it does not have a verb in the construction.

*dawa yafawere* 'he is very tall'  
he tall.very  
*etei suna nanu su* 'that is my house'  
that house.is my house

Sentences in Yareba can be very short, even one word; or they can be very long. The long sentences are joined together by four main joining affixes or clitics:

- ba 'because'
- na 'if/when/so'
- te 'and' (same subject following)
- ro 'and' (different subject following)

*ieta dawabai imane anete yaunero iga ieta masinuba  
da imaro kobere ieta mafisuna ido imau.*

'I wanted to eat food with him so I went and sat but he gave me dirty food which I will not eat and if he will give me some good food then I will eat.'

*Weimer, Harry and Natalia Weimer, compilers. 1974. Yareba language. Dictionaries of Papua New Guinea, 2. Ukarumpa: Summer Institute of Linguistics. 524 p.*