

EIPO-MEK

(EIPO)

[Map] (cf S&C)
Bareikje --- EIPOMEK
Betäl -- EIPOMEK
Dingerkon -- EIPOMEK
Dubogon -- EIPOMEK
Eipomek -- EIPOMEK
Firwa -- EIPOMEK
Gererima -- EIPOMEK
Imde -- EIPOMEK
Mairala -- EIPOMEK
Malingdan -- EIPOMEK
Marikla -- EIPOMEK
Moknerkon -- EIPOMEK
Munggona-Kwarelala -- EIPOMEK
Sisime -- EIPOMEK
Talim -- EIPOMEK
Wimdama -- EIPOMEK
- Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976:148.

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... language of Eipomek, lik yupe, ... 140°; 4° 28' ...
- Heeschen 1978:7.

To my knowledge Eipomek is the only region where ... three well defined dialects are spoken, namely Eipo, Tanime, and Larye.
...
- Heeschen 1978:15.

[Eipo = EIPOMEK]
- Heeschen 1992:466 (map).

... in the centre, Eipo, Una (spoken around Langda and Larye), and the dialect spoken in the Tanime valley ...
- Heeschen 1992:467.

There are two reasons against mapping language boundaries, firstly the phenomenon of dialect-chaining, ... secondly the smallness of the settled areas.
- Heeschen 1998:18.

The territory of the Eipo, for example, stretches for a maximum of 15 km along the Eipo river, in the east-west direction the farthest distance is 2.5 km. The extent of Kosarek, Nipsan, Tanime and Bime is about the same, Nalca and Larye are slightly larger ... Between the inhabited areas there are immense stretches of uninhabited country ... Language or dialect boundaries would fake a structure that does not exist.
- Heeschen 1998:18.

In addition to that, it happens time and again that speakers of one language settle in another language or dialect area, either because of marriage relations or trading partnerships or because of banishment from their own community or conflicts with their clan members. ... Language and dialect boundaries become irrelevant in everyday interaction and communication or they are built up consciously, ...

- Heeschen 1998:18.

Instead of mapping boundaries I shall present the following diagram. A plus sign (+) means that the speakers still understand each other, so that their languages, according to the definition, must be regarded as dialects. A minus sign (-) signifies that the speakers do not understand each other, so that they are members of different language groups. A question mark means that either the speakers were not sure of their judgement or that I could not verify the relationship of the dialects or languages. Two question-marks signify that it took the speakers several days to get used to the language in order to be able to understand it. The results of the lexicostatistic calculations of 1978 have also been taken into account. ...

- Heeschen 1998:18.

[Y = Yale
 Ni = Nibsán [sic]
 Ko = Konae
 Na = Nalca
 E = Eipo-mek
 T = Tanime
 B = Bime
 Ka = Kamume
 O = Omban
 Op = Okbap
 Kp = Korapun
 S = Sela
 U = Una
 Ki = Kinome]

	Y	Ni	Ko	Na	E	T	B	Ka	O	Op	Kp	S	U	Ki
Y		+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-
Ni	+		+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-
Ko	+	+		+	??	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-
Na	-	-	+		-	-	-	-	-	-	??	?	-	-
E	-	-	??			+	??	??	-	-	-	-	+	+
T	-	-	-		+		+	+	+	??	-	-	+	+
B	-	-	-		??	+		+	+	+	-	-	+	+
Ka	-	-	-		??	+	+		+	+	-	-	+	+
O	-	-	-		-	+	+	+		+	-	-	?	?
Op	-	-	-		-	??	+	+	[+]		-	-	+	-
Kp	-	-	-	??	-	-	-	-	-	-		+	-	-

S	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
U	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	?	+	-	-	+
Ki	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	?	-	-	-	+

In the table above three clearly defined language areas can be made out without much difficulty.

1. The entire East including the Southeast with Kinome; in this area only the relationship between the Okbab [sic] language and the ware language is uncertain. According to the criterion of mutual understanding they are different languages, according to the criterion of shared basic vocabulary (85%) they are merely dialects. This problem will be treated further below. [i.e., Kinome, Kamume, Omban, ?Okbap]

2. The Northwest from Konae up to the Yalenang. i.e., Konae, Nipsan]

3. The Southwest with Sela and Korapun. [i.e., Sela, Korapun]

- Heeschen 1998:19.

Even today the outer borders of the Mek languages can only be marked correctly in parts. The eastern border is probably formed by the ranges between Kloof and Sobger, between Okbab and Ok Bi and the Juliana mountains. The western borders are the lower Yaholi, the ranges between Kosarek and Yaholi respectively between Obahak and the upper Yaholi. ... In the North and South the borders are lost in the far less densely populated flat land.

...

- Heeschen 1998:21.

... The Eipo speakers claim to be unable to understand the more adjacent Nalca language, but to have no difficulty understanding the Konae language spoken further to the west. In my opinion the reason is that intonation and accentuation in Nalca are quite different. On the whole, it is not the amount of shared vocabulary which decides whether a language or dialect is understood or not, but rather suprasegmental characteristics, different particles connecting clauses and inflexional morphemes of verbs which are pronounced differently, but are etymologically related. This is the case especially for the relation of Eipo and Bime as well as of Eipo and Nalca, because, according to the logic of lexicostatistics, Bime-Eipo-Nalca would have to form one language area. On the other hand, the same factors that prevent understanding here do not set up a barrier between Eipo, Tanime, and Larye. ...

- Heeschen 1998:19.

... Eipo, Larye (Una), and Tanime form one language area according to the criterion of mutual understanding as well as that of the percentage of shared cognates. But what is still more important is the fact that the inhabitants of the three valleys communicate with each other. There are many trading-

partnerships and marriage relationships. In all of the three valleys the three "dialects" are spoken. Many of the children in Eipomek have mothers from Tanime or Larye, learn their mother's dialect and also learn the Eipo language in the communication with their fathers and Eipo-speaking age-mates. The rhythm of acquisition of the first dialect from one generation to the next should follow that of marriage relationships; however, this has never been documented.

- Heeschen 1998:20.

With some caution a fourth language area can be singled out in addition to the three already mentioned, namely that of the Eipo language. Here one must always bear in mind, firstly, that the demarcation to the west (Nalca) and to the east (Bime) holds good under the assumption of a missing network of communication, of different suprasegmental characteristics, and of different connectives and inflexional morphemes of verbs, but less on account of the criterion of shared cognates, and, secondly, that in the language area of Eipo-Una-Tanime we indeed find a high percentage of shared cognates and a network of communication, but that especially this centre of the Mek language area reveals phonological and grammatical differences making the assumption of language boundaries more likely than that of a dialect area. [i.e., Nalca, Eipomek, Una, Tanime, Bime; + ??Diduemna]

In the western as well as in the eastern Mek area there are relatively large and homogeneous dialect areas, the centre of diversity, however, is situated in the more closely limited area between Larye, Eipomek, Tanime, and perhaps also Nalca. According to the rules of dialect geography the west and the entire east must be supposed to have been the scene of relatively recent migrations, proceeding from the centre as their starting-point.

- Heeschen 1998:20.

According to Schiefenhövel (1988:73) the total population of six hamlets in the upper Eipomek valley (Munggona, Kwarelala, Dingerkon, Imarin, Mummyerumde and Kabcedama) was approximately 440 (in August 1975). In Dingerkon, where I lived and worked, I counted 52 inhabitants, excluding babies and infants in April 1975 (Schiefenhövel: 60). The hamlets of Moknerkon with about 50 and of Talim with about 120 inhabitants must be added, so that there is a total number of about 600. Of these at best two thirds spoke the Eipo dialect, the others either spoke the Larye dialect (una) or that of Tanime / (ware). ... After very careful calculation, instead of 400 Eipo speakers (two thirds of the population), only 300 (half of the population, when proceeding from the situation in Dingerkon) remain. If, however, the Eipo speaking women in Larye or Tanime, their children, and the inhabitants of the tiny hamlets in the lower Eipomek valley, Simsimwe and Kererimna are included, one again reaches the figure of approximately 400.

- Heeschen 1998:22-23.

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(EIPOMEK)

Eipomek

POP: +/- 3,000

LOC: Eastern Highlands area, east of Naltya

- Silzer & Heikkinen 1984:50.

3,000

LOC: Eastern Highlands area. east of Nalca

- Silzer & Clouse 1991:48.

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... Eipomek. Before 1974 the latter was known only as X-valley, a name given to it by pilots of the MAF, the "missionary Aviation Fellowship". ..

- Simon 1986:442.

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Identification. The Eipo and their neighbors live in the Daerah Jayawijaya of the Indonesian Province of Irian Jaya. The Eipo usually refer to themselves as "Eipodumanang," which means "the ones living on the banks of the Eipo River," but the term "Eipo" is sometimes extended to include the inhabitants of adjacent valleys. The term "Mek" (meaning water, or river) has been introduced by linguists and anthropologists to designate the fairly uniform languages and cultural traditions in this area.

Location. The Eipo inhabit approximately 150 square kilometers of land in the southernmost (upper) section of the Eipomek Valley, at approximately 4°25'-4°27' S, 140°00'-140°05' E. ... / ...

Demography. The Eipo numbered close to 800 people in 1980

...

Linguistic Affiliation. Eipo, of which there are three dialects, is a member of the Mek Family of Non-Austronesian languages, clearly separate from the Ok languages to the east, the Yali and Dani languages to the west, and languages spoken to the north and south. Local people traditionally understand -- and, to a lesser extent, speak -- one or two dialects or languages other than their own. Children usually learn their speech from their mothers (who, due to rules of exogamy, often come from different valleys) and often do not adopt the dialect spoken by the majority in a particular village. ..

- Schiefenhövel 1991:55-56.

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Eipomek: 3,000 speakers reported in 1987, in the eastern highlands area, Irian Jaya. Also called Eipo or T-Valley.

- Comrie 1992z:414.

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Eastern highlands area, Eipo River, east of Nalca. ...
- Grimes 1992:572.

EIPOMEK (EIPO, T-VALLEY) ... 3,000 (1987 SIL). Eastern
highlands area, Eipo River, east of Nalca. ... 80% lexical
similarity with Una.
- Grimes 1996.

EIPOMEK (EIPO, T-VALLEY) ... 3,000 (1987 SIL). Eastern
highlands area, Eipo River, east of Nalca. Linguistic
affiliation: Trans-New Guinea, Mek, Eastern. 80% lexical
similarity with Una.
- Grimes 2000.

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EIPO	Mek (Heeschen 1978)
EIPO = EIPOMEK	Heeschen 1992; Comrie 1992zz;
EIPO	400 Mek (Heeschen 1998)
EIPO-MEK	3,000 Mek (Wurm & Hattori 1981;
	Wurm 1982, 1994)
EIPOMEK	3,000 Mek (Goliath) (Silzer &
	1996, 2000)
EIPO-MEK	800 Mek (Schiefenhövel 1991)
EIPOMEK	3,000 (1987) Mek (Comrie 1992z)
T-VALLEY = EIPOMEK	Comrie 1992zz; Grimes 1992, 1996,
X-VALLEY = EIPO-MEK	Simon 1986
EIPO -- d of EIPO	Heeschen 1978
EIPO -- d of EIPO-MEK	Wurm & Hattori 1981, Wurm 1982,
EIPO -- d of "EIPO"	Heeschen 1998
Bareikje --- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Betal -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Dingerkon -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Dingerkon -- EIPO	Heeschen 1998
Dubogon -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Eipomek -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976, Louwerse
FA (FA-MEK) -- d of EIPO-MEK	Wurm & Hattori 1981
FA -- d of EIPO-MEK	Wurm 1982
FA-MEK = FA d of EIPO-MEK	Wurm 1982
Firwa -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Imarin -- EIPO	Heeschen 1998
Imde -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Kabcedama -- EIPO	Heeschen 1998
Gererima -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Kererimna -- EIPO	Heeschen 1998
KERIRIMNA -- d of EIPO-MEK	Wurm & Hattori 1981, Wurm 1982
Kwarelala -- EIPO	Heeschen 1998
LARYE -- d of "EIPO"	Heeschen 1998
Mairala -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976

Malingdan -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Marikla -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Moknerkon -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Moknerkon -- EIPO	Heeschen 1998
Mumyerumde -- EIPO	Heeschen 1998
Munggona -- EIPO	Heeschen 1998
Munggona-Kwarelala -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
NALCA -- "EIPO"	Heeschen 1998
Simsimwe -- EIPO	Heeschen 1998
Sisime -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
Talim -- EIPOMEK	Eibl-Eibesfeldt 1976
TANIME -- d of EIPO	Heeschen 1978
TANIME -- d of EIPOMEK	Heeschen 1992
TANIME -- d of "EIPO"	Heeschen 1998
UNA -- d of EIPOMEK	Heeschen 1992
UNA = LARYE d of "EIPO"	Heeschen 1998
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