

**GRAMMAR AND
VOCABULARY OF
LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY
MOTU TRIBE (NEW GUINEA)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649463824

Grammar and Vocabulary of Language Spoken by Motu Tribe (New Guinea) by W. G. Lawes

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

W. G. LAWES

**GRAMMAR AND
VOCABULARY OF
LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY
MOTU TRIBE (NEW GUINEA)**

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

THE following pages represent the first attempt to classify and reduce to a written form the grammar and vocabulary of the language spoken by the Motu tribe of New Guinea. As a first attempt it is necessarily imperfect, but I need make no apology for its publication. The first step towards accuracy and correctness is only taken when the result of observation and study is put into print.

The vocabulary in both parts would have been more full if I had been able, while in New Guinea, fully to prepare it for the Press. When I came to Sydney three months ago, I brought with me in MS. the material for the following pages, but had no intention of printing it. The ready promise of the Hon. A. Stuart, on behalf of the New South Wales Government Press, and the kindly offer of the Rev. G. Pratt to arrange the work and prepare it for the printer, induced me to give to the public that which would have been better for another year's research and preparation.

But for Mr. Pratt's experienced pen and unwearied patience the work would not have been half so good or complete as it is.

My knowledge of the language has been acquired during seven years' residence among the people who speak it.

My colleague, Mr. Chalmers, has contributed largely both to grammar and vocabulary, but must not be held responsible for anything I have published, as there has been no opportunity of submitting the work to him for revision before going to press.

In carrying out the provisions of the Protectorate, which has been proclaimed over part of New Guinea, it will be of the first importance that all who have to do with the natives in an official capacity should be able to

speak to the people in their own language. This little work will, I hope, be of some use to those who may be located in the Port Moresby district. From the knowledge we have of the dialects spoken in the Hood Bay and South Cape districts, there is every reason to believe that the grammar of the language of the S.E. Coast, from Maiva to the East Cape, is practically the same, the only difference being in the vocabulary. The consonantal changes in the different dialects are remarkable; consonants of different classes taking the place of each other, as, for instance, *t* being exchanged for *l* or *r*.

In the Motu dialect the sibilant never occurs before an *a*, *o*, or *u*, but at South Cape we meet with the *s* before all vowels, and find the Samoan words—*isu*, nose, and *susu*, breast.

On my return I hope to be able to prepare something like a comparative grammar and specimen vocabulary of the different dialects spoken in the districts where we have mission stations established. I have to ask all using the following pages kindly to supply me with any additions or corrections they may discover, so that the next edition may be a much nearer approach to accuracy and completeness.

W. G. LAWES.

Sydney, 24th March, 1885.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

THE present edition has been revised, corrected, and enlarged. A good many new words have been added, and a few pages of phrases likely to be of use to beginners or visitors.

The comparative vocabulary will be of interest to philologists. It comprises 400 words in seven dialects of the South-east Coast, and illustrates the difference which exists, as well as the changes which a word passes through by dropping or changing its consonants.

The New South Wales Government, through the Hon. J. Burns, have kindly consented to print the following pages, and so enabled me to share with others the results of my study and research.

W. G. LAWES.

Sydney, 15th February, 1888.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial matters. The text notes that without clear documentation, it becomes difficult to track expenses, revenues, and other critical data points.

2. The second section addresses the challenges associated with data management and storage. It highlights the need for secure and scalable solutions to handle large volumes of information. The document suggests that investing in robust IT infrastructure can help mitigate risks related to data loss and unauthorized access. Additionally, it stresses the importance of regular backups and disaster recovery plans to ensure business continuity.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in streamlining operations. It explores how automation and digital tools can improve efficiency and reduce manual errors. The text mentions that integrating various systems can provide a more unified view of the organization's performance, enabling better decision-making. It also touches upon the importance of training staff to effectively utilize these technologies.

4. The final section discusses the importance of compliance and regulatory requirements. It notes that organizations must stay up-to-date with changing laws and standards to avoid penalties and legal issues. The document suggests that implementing strong internal controls and conducting regular audits can help ensure adherence to all applicable regulations. It also mentions the value of consulting with legal and financial experts to navigate complex regulatory environments.

PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION.

THIS third edition of Motu grammar and vocabulary has been brought up to present knowledge of the language. More than a thousand words have been added to the vocabulary, and the grammar has been almost entirely rewritten.

In the comparative vocabulary, at the end, the Rev. A. Pearse has kindly revised the Keapara and Galoma lists of words, the Rev. C. W. Abel has done the same for the South Cape dialect, and the Rev. J. H. Holmes has corrected that of Toaripi.

I have again to express my thanks to the New South Wales Government, who, through the courtesy of the Honorable the Premier and Colonial Treasurer, G. H. Reid, Esq., have readily consented to print this new edition. New Guinea and all students of philology are under obligation to them.

W. G. LAWES.

Sydney, 16th June, 1896.

INTRODUCTION.

By REV. G. PRATT.

In the grammar of the Motu dialect of New Guinea one peculiarity is in the use of letters so much alike as to be scarcely distinguishable, e.g., the letters b and p, *keboka* or *kepoka*; d and t, *bāda* or *bāta*; g and k, *gadara* or *kadara*; r and l, *ara* and *ala*.

The pronunciation of t before e and i as ts is also a recent introduction to Niue or Savage Island. When we first went there we found the young people generally using it, whilst the old men, especially on public occasions, pronounced the t. In the same way, the Tahitians have changed b into p, the Sandwich Islanders have changed t into k, and the Samoans are endeavouring to do the same. As these islands had little or no communication with one another, how is it that these changes, as if by common consent, have been made?

The Motuan language seems to be a strange mixture of Papuan and Eastern Polynesian. The grammar is Papuan; the dictionary is Eastern Polynesian. The suffixed pronoun and the method of counting by two threes for six, and two fours for eight, is Papuan. Very peculiar is the declension of the noun by means of pronouns; also, the use of both the separate and the suffix pronoun with the noun, *Lau aegu*, my leg, mine.

Suffix pronoun.	Duke of York Island.
gu, I	g
mu, your	m
na, his	n

These are evidently Papuan roots, made to conform to Eastern Polynesian by adding a vowel to the termination.

Many of the words seem to have Papuan roots, but all take the form of Eastern Polynesian.

The formation of the noun by adding *na* to the verb is like the Samoan *ga*, used in the same way. The use of *a*, in relation to food, *adia* for edis, corresponds with the Samoan *lau* for lou.