Languages of Indonesia (Maluku)

See language map.


Living languages

Alune [alp] 17,243 (2000 WCD). 5 villages in Seram Barat District, and 22 villages in Kairatu and Taniwel districts, west Seram, central Maluku. 27 villages total. Alternate names: Sapalewa, Pataisiwa Alfoeren. Dialects: Kairatu, Central West Alune (Niniari-Piru-Riring-Lumoli), South Alune (Rambatu-Manussa-Rumberu), North Coastal Alune (Nikulkan-Murnaten-Wakolo), Central East Alune (Buriah-Weth-Laturake). Rambatu dialect is reported to be prestigious. Kawe may be a dialect. Related to Naka'ela and Lisabata-Nuniali. Lexical similarity 77% to 91% among dialects, 64% with Lisabata-Nuniali, 63% with Hulung and Naka'ela. Classification: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Three Rivers, Amalumute, Northwest Seram, Ulat Inai

Amahai [amq] 50 (1987 SIL). Central Maluku, southwest Seram, 4 villages near Masohi. Alternate names: Amahei. Dialects: Makariki, Rutah, Soahuku. Language cluster with Iha and Kaibobo. Also related to Elapaputih and Nusa Laut. Lexical similarity 87% between the villages of Makariki and Rutah; probably two languages, 59% to 69% with Saparua, 59% with Kamarian, 58% with Kaibobo, 52% with Piru, Luhu, and Hulung, 50% with Alune, 49% with Naka'ela, 47% with Lisabata-Nuniali and South Wemale, 45% with North Wemale and Nuaulu, 44% with Buano and Saleman. Classification: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram,
Nunusaku, Piru Bay, East, Seram Straits, Uliase, Hatuhaha, Elpaputi  Nearly extinct.
More information.

More information.

More information.

Asilulu  [asl] 8,756 (1987 SIL). Asilulu, Ureng, Negeri Lima villages, northwest Ambon Island, and some families in villages on the south coast of the Hoamoal Peninsula in West Seram. Spoken as second language in northwest Ambon, north and west Seram, Manipa, Boano, Kelang islands. Dialects: Asilulu, Ureng, Negeri Lima (Lima, Henalima). Lexical similarity 88% between Asilulu and Negeri Lima, 78% to 82% with Hila-Kaitetu, 72% to 73% with the Wakal dialect of Hitu, 67% to 72% with Larik-Wakasihu, 71% to 73% with Luhu on Seram. Classification: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Piru Bay, West, Asilulu
More information.

More information.
Babar, Southeast
More information.

Banda
[bnd] 3,000 (1987 SIL). West and northeastern side of Kei Besar Island in Kei Islands, villages of Banda-Eli and Banda-Elat, south Maluku. There may be a third village. The people originally came from the Banda Islands, but the language is no longer spoken there. Dialects: Eli, Elat. Different from other languages of south Maluku. Classification: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Banda-Geser
More information.

Barakai
More information.

Bati
More information.

Batuley
More information.
Benggoi [bgy] 350 (1989 SIL). North coast, Werinama and Bula districts, east Seram, central Maluku, 3 villages (Benggoi, Balakeo, Lesa). Alternate names: Bengoi, Kobi-Benggoi, Uhei-Kaclakin, Uhei Kachlakan, Uhei-Kahlakim, Isal. Dialects: Lesa, Benggoi, Balakeo. Lexical similarity 70% among ‘dialects’; 54% to 66% with Liana-Seti, 46% to 50% with Salas Gunung, 32% to 46% with Manusela. Classification: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Manusela-Seti


Wae Sama (Waesama), Central Buru (Rana, Wae Geren, Wae Kabo), Fogi (Li Emteban, Tomahu). Li Garan is a special taboo dialect spoken by the Rana people (3,000 to 5,000 users). Fogi dialect 500 ethnic population, but no speakers. Lexical similarity 90% between Masarete and Wae Sama, 88% between Masarete and Rana, 80% between Wae Sama and Rana, 68% between Li Enyorot (Lisela) and Masarete, 48% between Liliali and Masarete, 45% between Kayeli and Masarete, 44% between Ambelau and Masarete, 27% to 33% between Buru and the languages of Sula.

Classification: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, Buru

More information.

Dai
[dij] 808 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). South, Dai and Babar islands. Dai is 15 miles north of Babar. 3 villages. Dialects: No dialect variation. Lexical similarity 72% with Dawera-Daweloor (closest), 71% with Nakarahamto, 49% with Masela-South Babar, 48% with Tepa (Luang). Classification: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Babar, North

More information.

Damar, East

More information.

Damar, West

More information.

dialect differences. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Babar, North

More information.

**Dobel**

[kvo] 8,000 (2000 SIL). Population includes 6,500 plus 1,000 outside the area; 2,700 in Northern Dobel, 1,800 in Straits Dobel, 1,400 in Southeast Dobel. Aru Islands, along the whole east coast of Kobror Island, one village in southeast Wokam Island, 4 villages on both sides of the eastern half of Barakai Strait (on both Kobror Islands and Koba Island), and 2 villages in central Kobror Island. 18 villages. Southeast Maluku. Also in Dobo and Ambon. **Alternate names:** Doibel, Sersifar Tannin, Kobro‘or, Kobroor. **Dialects:** Northern Dobel, Straits Dobel, Southeast Dobel. At least three dialects. Related to Lola and Lorang. Lexical similarity 78% to 86% with Koba. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Aru

More information.

**Elpaputi**

[elp] 424 (2000 WCD). West Seram, central Maluku. **Alternate names:** Elpaputi. **Dialects:** Closest to Nusalaut, Amahai. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Piru Bay, East, Seram Straits, Uliase, Hatuhaha, Elpaputi

More information.

**Emplawas**

[emw] 250 (1989 SIL). Emplawas village, southwest Babar Island, south Maluku. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Babar, South, Southwest Babar

More information.

**Fordata**

[frd] 50,000. Population includes 25,000 in the language area and 25,000 elsewhere (2000 C. Marshall). Southeast Maluku, northern Tanimbar Islands of the Fordata, Larat, the Molu-Maru group, a few villages on the northwest part of Yamdena, and on Seira off the west coast of Yamdena. 30 villages. Also in Saumlaki, Ambon, Tual, Sorong, Hayapura, Jakarta. **Alternate names:** Larat, Vai Tnebar, Vaidida, Vai Fordata. **Dialects:** Fordata-Larat I, Fordata-Larat II, Molo (Molo-Maru), Sera
Seira. Sera is the most divergent dialect. Lexical similarity 68% with Kei. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Southeast Maluku, Kei-Tanimbar, Kei-Fordata

More information.

**Galela**

[gbi] 79,000 (1990 SIL). Population includes 41,000 Kadai, 10,000 Kadina, 24,000 Morotai, and 4,000 Sopi. North Maluku, Galela Bay, and north of Tobelo to the northern tip of Halmahera, Morotai Island except southeast quadrant, islands of Gunage and Moari near Kayoa, Bacan, Obi, scattered along the southwest coast of Halmahera. **Dialects:** Kadai, Kadina, Morotai, Sopi. Laba may be a dialect. Speakers have 65% intelligibility of Loloda, Loloda 85% of Galela. **Classification:** West Papuan, North Halmahera, North, Galela-Loloda

More information.

**Gamkonora**

[gak] 1,500 (1987 Voorhoeve and Visser). North Halmahera, a few villages along the coast to the south of the Ibu area, north Maluku. **Dialects:** Lexical similarity 81% with Waioli. **Classification:** West Papuan, North Halmahera, North, Sahu

More information.

**Gane**

[gzn] 2,900 (1982 Teljeur). North Maluku, Halmahera Island, south part of southern peninsula. **Alternate names:** Gani, Giman. **Dialects:** Close to East Makian and Kayoa. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, South Halmahera-West New Guinea, South Halmahera, East Makian-Gane

More information.

**Gebe**

[gei] 2,651 (2000 WCD). North Maluku, Gebe, Yo'iumiyal, and Gag islands between southern Halmahera and Waigeo Island (Papua), 4 villages. **Alternate names:** Gebi. **Dialects:** Umera. Lexical similarity 44% with Patani. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, South Halmahera-West New Guinea, West New Guinea, Cenderawasih Bay, Raja Ampat

More information.

**Geser-Gorom**

[ges] 36,500 (1989 SIL). Eastern end of Seram, and the Gorom Islands. **Alternate names:** 
Geser, Gesa, Gorom, Goram, Goran, Gorong, Seram, Seran, Seran Laut. **Dialects:** Goram Laut, Mina Mina Gorong, Kelimuri. Lexical similarity 73% to 93% among dialects, 51% to 61% with Watubela. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Banda-Geser, Geser-Gorom [More information.]

**Gorap**

[gqq] 1,000 (1992 SIL). North Maluku, Morotai Island, Pilowo and Waringin villages; Central Halmahera, Bobane and Igo villages. **Dialects:** Reported to be a mixed language, including Ternate and Malay words, with different word order from other languages of north Halmahera or the Austronesian languages. Lexical similarity 85% with Indonesian, but comprehension is limited. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Unclassified [More information.]

**Haruku**

[hrk] 18,219 (1989 SIL). Haruku Island, Lease Islands, central Maluku. **Dialects:** Hulaliu, Pelauw, Kailolo, Rohomoni. Each village is a separate dialect. Lexical similarity 81% to 92% among dialects. Lexical similarity 74% to 76% with Tulehu, 67% to 71% with Saparua. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Piru Bay [More information.]

**Hitu**

[htu] 15,965 (1987 SIL). 5 villages: Wakal, Hitu, Mamala, Morela, and Hila; Hitu Peninsula, Ambon Island. **Dialects:** Wakal, Morela, Mamala, Hitu, Hila. Lexical similarity 67% to 82% with Sei-Taitenu, 74% to 82% with Tulehu. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Piru Bay, East, Seram Straits, Ambon [More information.]

**Horuru**

[hr] 4,242 (2000 WCD). Seram, central Maluku. **Dialects:** Hulung may be related. This may be an alternate name for another language. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Three Rivers, Amalumute,
Northwest Seram

More information.

Hoti  

*Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, East Seram  
*Nearly extinct.*  

More information.

Huauulu  

*Alternate names:* Alakamat, Bahasa Asli.  
*Dialects:* Lexical similarity 64% to 72% with Manusela dialects.  
*Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Manusela-Seti  

More information.

Hukumina  

[huw] 1 (1989 SIL). Formerly spoken in Hukumina, Palumata, and Tomahu districts of northwest Buru Island. The present speaker is from the former village of Hukumina that used to be located behind the present village of Masarete, near the fort at Kayeli in northeast Buru.  
*Alternate names:* Bambaa.  
*Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Unclassified  
*Nearly extinct.*  

More information.

Hulung  

*Dialects:* Lexical similarity 67% with Lisabata-Nuniali, 66% with Naka'ela and South Wemale, 63% with Alune, 59% with North Wemale.  
*Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Three Rivers, Amalumute, Northwest Seram, Hulung  
*Nearly extinct.*  

More information.

Ibu  

*Dialects:* May be inherently intelligible with Sahu.  
*Classification:* West Papuan, North Halmahera, North, Sahu  
*Nearly extinct.*  

More information.

Ili’uun  

[ilu] 1,400 (1990 SIL). Wetar Island coast,
villages of Telemar, Karbubu, Klishatu, Ilmaumau, Erai (Eray), Nabar, and Esulit on the west end of Wetar, and Istutun village on Lirang Island off the southwest tip of Wetar, southwest Maluku. *Alternate names:* Iliun, Hahutau, Hahutan, Limera, Ilmaumau, Eray. *Dialects:* Telemar, Karbubu, Ustutun, Klishatu, Ilmaumau, Eray, Nabar, Esulit. All speakers now speak the Ili'uun dialect. Lexical similarity 93% to 97% among dialects. Lexical similarity 73% with Tugun, 69% with Aputai, 67% with Perai, 51% with Talur. *Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Timor, Southwest Maluku, Wetar

*Imroing*  

*Kadai*  

*Kaibobo*  

*Kamarian*  
Alternate names: Kamariang, Seruawan.
Dialects: Lexical similarity 75% with Kaibobo, 67% with Saparua, 60% with Lisabata-Nuniali, 59% with Amahai, Piru, Naka'ela, and Hulung. Classification: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Piru Bay, East, Seram Straits, Uliase, Kamarian Nearly extinct.
More information.

Kao [kax] 403 (2000 WCD). North Maluku, interior North Halmahera, around the town of Kao, near the mouth of the Kao River. Alternate names: Kau, Ka'u. Dialects: Could be a marginal dialect of Pagu, but relates uniquely to other languages in the Kao River subbranch. Classification: West Papuan, North Halmahera, North, Kao River
More information.

More information.

More information.

Kei [kei] 85,000 (2000 Ed Travis). 4,500 monolinguals. Kei Kecil, Kei Besar, and surrounding islands, except the villages of Banda Eli and Banda Elat on Kei Besar, and the Kur Islands, where Kei is used as a lingua franca. About 207 villages in the major part of 10 islands. Southeast Maluku. Alternate names: Veveu Evav, Kai. Dialects: Kei Kecil, Kei Besar, Tayando, Tanimbar Kei (Atnebar), Ta'am. Kei Kecil is the city dialect that has prestige. Kei Besar people usually know the Kei

More information.
Kecil dialect, but not vice versa. Kei Besar is closer to Fordata than the other Kei dialects. Tanimbar Kei is spoken in only one village. Lexical similarity 60% with Fordata.

**Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Southeast Maluku, Kei-Tanimbar, Kei-Fordata

More information.

**Kisar**

[kje] 20,000 (1995 SIL). Kisar Island northeast of Timor Island, 19 villages, villages of Hila and Likagraha (Solath) on Roma Island, 3 villages on Wetar Island (Amau, Naumatan, Hi’ai), and several hundred in Ambon city, Dili, and Kupang. Used as a second language by a handful of Oirata speakers on Kisar. South Maluku. **Alternate names:** Meher, Yotowawa. **Dialects:** Not related to Oirata, which has sometimes been called a dialect. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Timor, Southwest Maluku, Kisar-Roma

More information.

**Koba**

[kpd] 600 (2000 J. Hughes). Aru Islands, southeast Maluku, 3 villages on Baun and Fukarel islands bordering Dobel. The islands where Koba is spoken are to the southeast of Kobror Island, at the mouth of the Barakai Strait. **Dialects:** Southeast Koba. Low comprehension of Dobel. Lexical similarity 78% to 86% with Dobel. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Aru

More information.

**Kola**

[kvv] 7,700 (1995 SIL). North Aru Islands, all around the coast of Kola Island and adjacent islands, south Maluku. 22 villages. **Alternate names:** Warilau, Kulaha, Marlasi. **Dialects:** Intelligibility testing showed Marlasi is intelligible to Kompane speakers, but with some possible adaptation of literature needed. Lexical similarity 77% with Kompane, 70% with Ujir. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Aru

More information.

**Kompane**


islands, south Maluku. Alternate names: Komfana, Kongampani. Dialects: Close to Kola, linguistically between Kola and Batuley. Intelligibility of Kola is good, but some adaptation of literature may be needed. Classification: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Aru
More information.

Kur [kuv] 3,181 (2000 WCD). Kur Island and nearby islands, western Kei Kecil District, south Maluku. Dialects: Separate language from Kei. Survey needed to determine boundaries of intelligibility of dialects to the north and the central dialect, and of Teor. Lexical similarity 47% to 50% with Kei, 71% to 83% with Teor, 41% with Watubela, 38% with Geser. Classification: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Teor-Kur
More information.

Laba [lau] 2,000 (1991 SIL). North Maluku, 4 villages to the interior of the south end of Loloda District. Alternate names: South Loloda, Kedi. Dialects: Phonology like Galela, 70% intelligibility, 75% of Loloda. Lexical similarity 75% with Galela, 78% with Loloda. Classification: West Papuan, North Halmahera, North, Galela-Loloda
More information.

More information.

68% to 71% with Asilulu, 67% to 72% with Negeri Lima. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Piru Bay, West, Hoamoal, East


**Leti** [lti] 7,500 (1995 SIL). Leti Island. *Dialects*: Marginal intelligibility of Luang. They have difficulty with written Luang. Lexical similarity 89% with Luang. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Timor, Southwest Maluku, Luang

**Liana-Seti** [ste] 3,000 (1989 SIL). Eastern Teluti Bay to the north coast, districts of Seram, Bula, Werinama, and Tehoru, central Maluku, 8 villages. *Alternate names*: Liana, Lianan, Uhei Kaclakin, Uhei Kachlakan, Uhei Kahlakim, Teula, Liambata-Kobi. *Dialects*: "Seti", Wahakaim, Kobi. Lexical similarity 66% to 74% between Seti (westernmost and interior) and Wahakaim (near coast), 69% to 78% between Kobi and Seti, 70% between Kobi and Wahakaim, 42% to 61% between Kobi and Manusela, 54% to 66% between Kobi and Benggoi, 48% to 58% between Kobi and Salas Gunung. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Manusela-Seti

**Lisabata-Nuniali** [lcs] 1,830 (1982). Spread across the north coast of West and North Seram, 5 villages, central Maluku. *Alternate names*: Lisabata, Nuniali, Noniali. *Dialects*: Lisabata-Timur, Nuniali, Sukaraja, Kawa. Lexical similarity between Kawa (far western) and Lisabata Timur (far eastern) is 85%, 72% with Nak'a'ela, 67% with Hulung, 63% with Alune.
Lisela


Lola


Loloda


Lorang


Loun

Northwest Seram, Loun  Nearly extinct.
More information.

More information.

More information.

More information.

More information.

Makian, West  [mqs] 12,000 (1977 Voegelin and Voegelin). Population includes 7,000 on Makian Island,
5,000 on Kayoa Islands. Western Makian Island, some of the Kayoa Islands, areas along the west coast of southern Halmahera, north Maluku. *Alternate names:* Makian Barat, Makian Luar. *Dialects:* Language isolate within north Halmahera. Formerly classified as Austronesian. *Classification:* West Papuan, North Halmahera, North, West Makian

**Malay, Ambonese**


**Malay, Bacanese**

[btj] 2,500 (1991 H. Shelden SIL). Over 1,000 in Labuha (1987 J. Collins). North Maluku, Bacan Island west of southern Halmahera. Centered around the site of the former palace in Labuha, 1 village within about 5 km walking distance from Labuha, another hour by dugout (Indomut), and half the population of Waya and Lele villages on Mandioli Island. *Alternate names:* Bacan, Batjan. *Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayic, Malayan, Local Malay

**Malay, Banda**


**Malay, North Moluccan**

[max] 700,000 (2001 R. Whisler). 100,000 monolinguals. North Maluku, Halmahera, Sula, and Obi islands. First-language speakers in one neighborhood of Labuha (Christian), and some other families with parents of different ethnic origins. *Alternate names:* Ternate Malay. *Dialects:* Different meaning of particles from Manado Malay. Closer to Manado Malay than to Ambonese Malay. *Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayic, Malayan, Local Malay
[More information.]

Manipa [mqp] 1,500 (1983 Collins and Voorhoeve). Manipa Island west of Seram, central Maluku, 4 villages. *Alternate names*: Soow Huhelia. *Dialects*: Lexical similarity 72% with Luhu, 64% with Piru, 60% to 62% with Hitu, 60% to 61% with Tulehu and Asilulu, 58% to 61% with Hila-Kaitetu, 55% to 60% with Larike-Wakasihu, 56% with Boano and Kaibobo. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East
[More information.]

Manombai [woo] 7,475 (1995 J. Hughes). West coast of Wokam Island, from Wokam village southwards, in 21 villages along both sides of Manombai Strait (Sungai) as far as Wakua, and in Benjina on Kobror Island, and Gardakau on Maikor Island at the western end of Barakai Strait, and small village of Kobamar on east coast of Wokam Island. It may be no longer spoken on Wamar Island. Aru Islands, Southeast Maluku. *Alternate names*: Manobai, Wokam, Wamar. *Dialects*: Not inherently intelligible with Dobel. Lexical similarity 76% with Lorang. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East
[More information.]

Manusela [wha] 7,000 (1989 SIL). 30 villages, Manusela mountains of north Seram and along Teluti Bay in south Seram, central Maluku. *Alternate names*: Wahai, Wahinama. *Dialects*: Kanikeh, Hatuolu, Maneo, South Manusela. Kanikeh has 66% to 74% lexical similarity with other varieties, Hatuolo 67% to 75%, Maneo 64% to 86%, Maneoratu 66% to 86%, South Manusela 67% to 80%, dialects have 64% to 72% with Huaulu, 42% to 61% with Liana, 45% with Saleman. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Manusela-Seti
[More information.]


Masiwang [bnf] 1,000 (1989 SIL). Seram Island, Waru Bay area, Bula District, central Maluku. *Alternate names:* Bonfia. *Dialects:* Lexical similarity 44% with Bobot, 43% with Salas Gunung, 39% with Sepa and Teluti, 36% with Liana and Atamanu. *Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Masiwang

Naka’ela [nae] 5 (1985 SIL). Kairatu village, northwest Seram, central Maluku. **Dialects:** Lexical similarity 71% with Lisabata-Nuniali, 66% with Hulung, 63% with Alune. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Three Rivers, Amalumute, Northwest Seram, Ulat Inai. **Nearly extinct.** More information.


Nuaulu, North [nni] 500 (1990 SIL). Two villages on the north coast of central Seram Island, central Maluku. **Alternate names:** Nuaulu, Patakai, Fatakai. **Dialects:** Lexical similarity 67% with South Nuaulu, 64% with Saleman. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Sawai-Nuaulu More information.

Nuaulu, South [nxl] 1,500 (1995 SIL). 6 villages on the south coast and interior of Amahai District, Seram Island, central Maluku. **Alternate names:** Nuaulu, Patakai, Fatakai. **Dialects:** Lexical similarity 67% with North Nuaulu, 50% with South Wemale, Hulung, and Naka’ela, 48% with Saleman. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Sawai-Nuaulu More information.


Oirata


Pagu


Patani


Paulohi


Perai

Southwest Maluku, Wetar
More information.

More information.

More information.

More information.

More information.

More information.

and Tomalehu villages on Seram Island, Lease Islands, central Maluku. Also spoken by hundreds of Latu people in Kairatu village. **Dialects:** Kulur, Iha-Saparua, Iha-Seram, Siri-Sori. Each village is a dialect. Lexical similarity 86% to 89% among dialects; 82% to 84% with Latu, 69% with Amahai, 67% with Kamarian, 68% to 71% with Haruku, 65% with Kaibobo, 62% to 66% with Tulehu, 54% to 62% with Luhu, 49% with Piru, 54% with Naka'ela. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Piru Bay, East, Seram Straits, Uliase, Hatuhaha, Saparua

More information.

**Sawai**

[szw] 12,000 (2000 R. Whisler). Few monolinguals. North Maluku, Gane Timur and Weda districts, coastal area between southern and southeastern peninsulas of Halmahera. 13 villages (Mafa, Foya, Weda, Kobe Tanjung, Kobe Gunung, Kobi Peplis, Lelilef Sawai, Lelilef Woebulan, Gemaf, Sagea, Wale, Messa, Dote). A few families dispersed in 4 or 5 cities in Indonesia. **Alternate names:** Weda, Were, Weda-Sawai. **Dialects:** Weda, Sawai, Kobe, Faya-Mafa, Messa-Dote. Lexical similarity 64% with North Nuaulu. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, South Halmahera-West New Guinea, South Halmahera, Southeast

More information.

**Seit-Kaitetu**

[hik] 10,171 (1987 SIL). Seit (Seith) and Kaitetu villages, north coast of Ambon Island, central Maluku. **Alternate names:** Hila-Kaitetu. **Dialects:** Seit (Seith), Kaitetu. Lexical similarity 85% between Kaitetu and Seit. Lexical similarity 78% to 82% with Asilulu, 67% to 74% with Tulehu. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Piru Bay, West, Asilulu

More information.

**Selaru**

[slu] 8,000 (2001 SIL). Tanimbar, six of seven villages on Selaru Island, half of the village of Latdalam on Yamdena Island, and Lingada village on Nus-Wotar Island off the west coast of Yamdena. 8 villages. South Maluku. Sizeable communities in Saumlake and

More information.


More information.


More information.


More information.


More information.

Sula [szn] 20,000 (1983 SIL). North Maluku, Sula Islands, Sulabesi Island, and scattered communities on the eastern and western ends and north coast of Mangole Island, and
northeast coast of Buru Island. **Alternate names:** Sanana. **Dialects:** Fagudu, Falahu, Facei (Facé). Close to Mangole. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, Sula

Tabaru  
[tby] 15,000 (1991 SIL). North Maluku, Ibu, Jailolo, and Oba districts. **Alternate names:** Tobaru. **Dialects:** Adu, Nyeku. The northern dialect is the main one. The two dialects are inherently intelligible with each other. **Classification:** West Papuan, North Halmahera, North, Tobaru

Taliabu  
[tlv] 4,518 (2000 WCD). Population includes 500 to 1,500 in Mangei. North Maluku, Taliabu Island, northwestern Mangole, Sula Islands. **Alternate names:** Taliabo. **Dialects:** Padang (Samada), Mananga, Mangei (Mange’e, Mange, Mang, Soboyo, Sobojo). Dialects share lexical similarities in the upper 90% range. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, Sula, Taliabo

Talur  
[ilw] 675 (1990 SIL). Hiay, Ilputih (a), and Ilwaki villages in south central Wetar Island, 60 km north of East Timor, in southwest Maluku. **Alternate names:** Ilwaki, Iliwaki, Galoleng, Lir Talo, Ilmedu. **Dialects:** Ilputih, Ilwaki (Iliwaki), Hiay. Lexical similarity 94% to 98% between dialects. Lexical similarity 86% with Galoli in East Timor, 57% with Aputai, 52% with Tugun, 51% with Perai and Illi’uun. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Timor, Southwest Maluku, Wetar

Tarangan, East  
[tre] 3,784 (1987 Maluku Dalam Angka). East coast of Tarangan Island, south Ara Islands, and villages in Maikor Strait (Sungai Maikor), 13 villages. South Maluku. **Alternate names:** East Trangan, Tarangan Timur. **Dialects:** Lexical similarity 71% with West Tarangan. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Aru
Tarangan, West
More information.

Tela-Masbuar
More information.

Teluti
More information.

Teor
More information.

Ternate
More information.

Te’un
[tve] 1,200 (1990 SIL). Transmigration area in
south central Seram Island, central Maluku. 4 villages. Originally Teun Island in south central Maluku. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Timor, Southwest Maluku, Teun-Nila-Serua, Teun

**More information.**

**Tidore**
[tvo] 26,000 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). North Maluku, islands of Tidore, Maitara, Mare, northern half of Moti, and some areas of west coast of Halmahera. **Dialects:** Close to Ternate. **Classification:** West Papuan, North Halmahera

**More information.**

**Tobelo**
[tlb] 27,720 (2000 WCD). North Maluku, north Halmahera Island, Tobelo, Kao, and Jailolo districts, and Maba and Wasile districts, Halmahera Tengah; northern half of Morotai, all coastal areas of Kao Bay and inland, Patani, Weda, Gane, Bacan, Obi, Ambon, Raja Ampat islands of Papua, Sorong, Papua. **Dialects:** Dodinga, Boëng, Tobelo (Heleworuru). **Classification:** West Papuan, North Halmahera, North, Tobelo

**More information.**

**Tugun**
[tzn] 1,200 (1990 SIL). 1% monolinguals. Wetar Island, north of Timor, southwest Maluku; Mahuan, Masapun, Tomliapat, Ilpokil, Kahailin, Ilway, Arwala villages, on the southeast end of Wetar. **Alternate names:** Tutunohan, Mahuan. **Dialects:** Mahuan, Masapua, Tomliapat, Ilpokil, Kahailin Ilway, Arwala. Lexical similarity 92% to 97% among dialects, 76% with Perai, 74% with Aputai, 73% with Ili’uun, 52% with Talur. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Timor, Southwest Maluku, Wetar

**More information.**

**Tugutil**
[tuj] 2,588 (2000 WCD). North Maluku, north Halmahera Island, inland around Kusuri, inland in Kecamatan Tobelo, around Taboulamo in Kecamatan Kao, in the pass between Lolobata and Buli in Kecamatan Wasilei, along the Dodaga and Tutuling rivers, and along the Akelamo and Mabulan rivers in Kecamatan Maba, Tanjung Lili, villages of Mif, Bebseli, and Marasibno. A few along the Lili, Waisango, and Afu rivers, and reports of other places. **Dialects:** Teluk Lili, Kusuri. Possibly several dialects separated by large distances.
Intelligibility of Tobelo dialects is inadequate. 

*Classification:* West Papuan, North Halmahera, North, Tobelo

*Alternate names:* Northeast Ambon. 
*Diects:* Tulehu, Liang, Tengah-Tengah, Tial. Each dialect is in a separate village. Eastern end of Ambon dialect chain. Lexical similarity 84% to 90% among dialects, 74% to 82% with Hitu, 72% to 76% with Haruku. 

*Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Piru Bay, East, Seram Straits, Ambon

*Alternate names:* Ujir. 
*Diects:* Lexical similarity 75% with Kola in north Aru, and slightly less with Kulaha on the west coast of Kola Island. 

*Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Aru

*Alternate names:* Wajoli, Wayoli. 
*Diects:* Lexical similarity 81% with Gamkonora. 

*Classification:* West Papuan, North Halmahera, North, Sahu

*Alternate names:* Snabi Watubela, Kasiui, Kesui, Kasui, Wesi, Esiriun, Matabello. 
*Diects:* Tamher Timur, Sulmelang. Lexical similarity 77% between dialects, 51% to 61% with Geser-Gorom, 41% with Teor and Kur, 37% with Bobot, 34% with Masiwang. 

*Classification:* Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Banda-Geser, Geser-Gorom

[Wemale, North] 4,929 (1982). Spread along the north coast of Taniwel District, east of Taniwel, and in the westernmost part of East Seram District, 24
villages. **Dialects:** Horale, Kasieh, Uwenpantai. 
Kawe may be a dialect. Lexical similarity between east and central dialects is 80%, 72% with South Wemale, 59% with Hulung. 
**Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Three Rivers, Wemale

**More information.**

**Wemale, South**  
[tlw] 3,726 (1987 SIL). Central Maluku, west Seram, 15 villages; 13 in Kairatu, mainly in the interior, and two westernmost coastal villages of Amahai District. **Alternate names:** Tala, Honitetu. **Dialects:** Dialect chain between Horale, Kasieh, Uwenpantai, and Honitetu. 
Kawe may be a dialect. Lexical similarity between Horale and Kasieh, and between Uwenpantai and Honitetu is 80%, 72% with North Wemale, 66% with Hulung, 47% with Atamanu. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Three Rivers, Wemale

**More information.**

**Yalahatan**  
[jal] 1,700 (2004 SIL). Population includes approximately 850 in each village. West Seram, villages of Yalahatan and Haruru, central Maluku. **Alternate names:** Atamanu, Jahalatan, Jahalatane, Awaiya. **Dialects:** Slight dialect differences reported between the two villages. Lexical similarity 50% to 52% with Sepa, 49% to 50% with Teluti. **Classification:** Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Central Malayo-Polynesian, Central Maluku, East, Seram, Nunusaku, Three Rivers

**More information.**

**Yamdena**  
[jmd] 25,000 (1991 SIL). Ethnic population: 35,000 to 40,000 (1991 SIL). Southeast Maluku, eastern coast of Yamdena, Adaut village on northern tip of Selaru, and one of the two languages spoken in Latdalam village, southwest Yamdena. 35 villages. **Alternate names:** Jamdena, Jamden. **Dialects:** North Yamdena, South Yamdena. Dialect chaining from north to south, but with considerable morphological and phonological differences. The southern dialect is more prestigious. Lexical similarity 90% between the north and south dialects, 47% with Fordata.
Extinct languages


Ternateño [tmg] Extinct. North Maluku, Ternate Island, west of Halmahera Island. Varieties of Portuguese creole were also spoken in Banda and Ambon. Alternate names: Ternatenyo. Dialects: Spanish reflexification. Historical relationship with Chavacano and dialects, which are still spoken in the Philippines. Classification: Creole, Portuguese based