

Explanation of the working draft of the Nalik-English and English-Nalik dictionary

Please note that this dictionary is very much a working draft. It is still incomplete and has not been proofread for typos or errors. It has been placed here for comments and perusal by potential users and collaborators. Comments, suggestions, and additions are most welcome, particularly by members of the Nalik-speaking community, who are encouraged to share these PDF files widely.

Maluvio,
Craig Alan Volker
craig.volker@JCU.edu.au

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THE ENGLISH-NALIK DICTIONARY

While the Nalik to English section of the dictionary attempts to give a complete description of the grammatical use and meaning of Nalik words, including examples, the English to Nalik section is a finder list. This means that instead of giving a complete description of the English word with examples, it is simply a list of English equivalents that have been used as translations of the Nalik words. It is not a complete English to Nalik dictionary, so to understand better how to use the Nalik equivalents of these English words, the user should look at the relevant word in the Nalik to English section

GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES

The following grammatical terms have been used to describe Nalik entries:

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| Adjectival verb | A word that may appear after a noun or after a subject marker. |
| Adverb | A word that may appear either at the very beginning or the very end of a sentence that is not part of the noun or verb phrase. |
| Affix | A syllable that is added to another word. |
| Alienable possessive | A syllable that can be added to a word like <i>vaal</i> or <i>yaai</i> . |
| Article | <i>a, na, ta</i> |
| Conjunction | <i>Na, o, adu, and taamon</i> , as well as their equivalents that come from Tok Pisin or English. |
| Demonstrative | <i>Aangkare</i> and words that may take the place of <i>aangkare</i> . |
| Focus marker | <i>Ang</i> and related words. |
| Inalienable possessive | A syllable that can be added to a word like <i>nana</i> or <i>das</i> . |
| Interjection | A word of surprise or strong emotion that is not a normal part of a sentence. |
| Interrogative | A question word such as <i>dare</i> or <i>aze</i> . |
| intransitive | A verb that does not need to be followed by <i>a</i> , a noun, or <i>naan</i> . |
| Marker | A syllable that appears before a noun or verb that gives information about the grammatical use of the main word that follows. |
| Non-singular | More than one. |
| Noun | A word that may be preceded by <i>a</i> and followed by an alienable possessor, such as <i>surago</i> or <i>sina</i> . |
| -num / inalienable | A word that may be preceded by <i>a</i> and followed by an inalienable possessor, such as <i>-num</i> or <i>-nago</i> . |
| Numeral | A counting word such as <i>azaxei</i> or <i>orol</i> . |
| Particle | A short word that has no meaning except giving grammatical information. |
| Plural noun | A word that may be preceded by <i>a</i> , cannot be preceded by <i>mun</i> , and is referred to using <i>di</i> and not <i>ka</i> . |
| Postnominal | A word that may follow a noun. |
| Prefix | A syllable added to the beginning of a word. |
| Prenominal | A word that may follow <i>a</i> and precede a noun. |

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| Preposition | <i>Pa(n), ku(n), l-, feraxei, si(n)</i> , and words that are formed from these words. |
| Pronoun | A word that precedes a subject marker and cannot be preceded by <i>a</i> . |
| Reduplicated | A new word that is formed by repeated the first one or two syllables of another word. |
| Subject marker | <i>Gu, ga, ka, madi, di(a)</i> , and <i>naga</i> . |
| Suffix | A syllable added to the end of a word. |
| Transitive | A verb that must normally be followed by <i>a</i> and a noun or <i>naan</i> . |
| Uncountable noun | A word that may be, but does not have to be, preceded by <i>a</i> , cannot be preceded by <i>mun</i> , and is referred to using <i>ka</i> and not <i>di</i> . |
| Verb | A word that can be preceded by <i>ka</i> or <i>di</i> . |

SOURCES

Most of the words in this dictionary were recorded in everyday speech or in formal spoken or sung presentations. The following written sources were also used:

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| HW | Bahá'u'lláh, <i>A Ling i la Bangbaang sin Bahá'u'lláh</i> [<i>Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh from the Arabic / Kalimát-i-Maknúnih</i>] translated by Craig Alan Volker & Michael a Xomerang. Port Moresby: National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Papua New Guinea. 2004. |
| Volker 1998 grammar | Volker, Craig. <i>The Nalik Language of New Ireland, Papua New Guinea</i> . Berkeley Models of Grammars Series 4. New York: Peter Lang Publishing. 1998. |
| Xom | from the unpublished manuscripts and notes of Michael a Xomerang. |

OTHER TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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| ?? | These words have not been described or entered yet. |
| < | Comes from (for example, "< TP (i)nap 'can' < ENG enough" means that this word comes from Tok Pisin <i>inap</i> or <i>nap</i> , which comes from English <i>enough</i>) |
| * | This is a proto form, which means linguists have reconstructed this as the original form of a word, but it has not been actually recorded in speech or writing. |
| TP | Tok Pisin |