

## KOROWAI

[area marked "MAPI R?" {i.e., AWYU-DUMUT}]

- Wurm & Hattori 1981, Map 4.

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### **Korowai**

POP: +/- 2,000

LOC: South coast area, north of ZGK station of Boma, northeast of Senggo

- Silzer & Heikkinen 1984:73/

2,000 /

LOC: South coast area, north of Boma, northeast of Senggo

- Silzer & Clouse 1991:58-59.

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**Korowai:** 2,000 speakers reported in 1987, in the south coast area, Irian Jaya.

- Comrie 1992e:238.

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South coast area, north of Boma, east of Senggo. ...

- Grimes 1992:575.

**KOROWAI** ... 2,000 (1987 SIL). South coast area, north of Boma, east of Senggo. ... Awyu-Dumut, Unclassified. ...

- Grimes 1996.

**KOROWAI** ... 700 (1998 M. Donohue). South coast area, north of Boma, east of Senggo. Linguistic affiliation: Trans-New Guinea, Main Section, Central and Western, Central and South New Guinea-Kutubuan, Central and South New Guinea, Awyu-Dumut, Unclassified. ...

- Grimes 2000.

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[Map]

Yaniruma -- KOROWAI

- de Vries 1993:x.

Korowai is a member of the Awyu-family. ... Korowai is spoken by about 4000 persons. The location of the language is in the Kouh district of the Kabupaten Merauke, in the area between the upper / Becking and Eilanden Rivers. Korowai villages are Manggél, Férman, and Mabül. In Yaniruma and Faufla both Korowai and Kombai are spoken. ...

- van Enk & de Vries 1993:91-92.

Korowai (De Vries and Van Enk 1993a and 1993b) is spoken in the area between the upper Becking and Elilanden rivers. The dialect described here is that of the clans living on the western

banks of the Becking River, in the proximity of Yaniruma. Yaniruma, a village with a mixed Kombai and Korowai population, was opened up in 1980 by the first missionary in this area ...

- de Vries 1994:545.

Korowai is a Papuan language of the Awyu family spoken in the district Merauke of southern Irian Jaya, Indonesia, in the area ... between the upper Becking and Eilanden rivers and east of the headwaters of the Becking river ...

Korowai speakers number about 4000. Korowai has Kombai ... as its southern neighbour. To the east Tsakwambo is spoken, like Kombai and Korowai an Awyu language. North of the Korowai, the linguistic situation is not yet entirely clear. Most probably, the Korowai language borders there on the Kopka language which could very well be a Lowland Ok family language ... To the west, Citak, of the Asmat family ... is spoken.

- de Vries 1995:178.

[map]  
Mabul

- de Vries 1997:[xiii].

... Yaniruma, a village with a mixed Kombai and Korowai population, was opened in 1980 by the first missionary in this area ... Other Korowai villages are Manggél (1986), Yafufla (1987), and Mabül (1989).

- van Enk & de Vries 1997:v.

The Korowai are a Papuan people living in the Kecamatan (subdistrict) Kouh of the district Merauke of the Indonesian province Irian Jaya, in the area between the upper Becking and Eilanden rivers .. and east of the headwaters of the Becking River.

The Korowai people call their language koluf-aup 'Korowai language'. The noun aup means 'voice; word; story; language'. The origin of the name kolufo and its Indonesian version, Korowai, is not known. There are around 4,000 speakers of the Korowai language.

- Enk & de Vries 1997:3.

... the Awyu-Ndumut family, to which Korowai belongs. The Awyu-Ndumut family of southeast Irian Jaya is spoken between the Eilanden and Digul rivers; it is surrounded by the Asmat, Ok, Marind, and Mek families ... Other languages of the Awyu family are Wambon ..., Mandobo ..., Awyu, Aghu, and Jair ..., Kombai ..., Tsawkwambo, Sawi, and Pisa ..., and Sjiagha-Yenimu ...

- Enk & de Vries 1997:9.

Korowai has the Awyu language Kombai as its southern neighbour. Korowai and Kombai share a long border, and the Korowai and Kombai people in the border area have marriage alliances. ... Yet the lexical correspondence between Kombai and Korowai, as

reflected in the cognation percentage of basic lexical items, is only 22% ...

To the east, Tsawkwambo is spoken, an Awyu language. The missionary Versteeg (1983:21) estimated the number of speakers of Tsawkwambo to be around 500, living in and around the village Waliburu. ...

The northern boundary of the Korowai language is not clear. It could be that it borders with the Kopka language, which according to the survey of Kroneman and Peckham (1988) could very well be a Lowland Ok family language. But there could / also be unknown groups living between the Korowai and the Kopka people. ... The Kopka language is spoken in the foothills of the central ranges in and around the village of Seradela..., located south of the Una language, a Mek language spoken in the mountain villages Sumtamon, Bomela, and Langda. East of Kopka, the Samboka language is spoken, a member of the Somahai family. The initial survey by Kroneman and Peckham indicates that a small corridor of Lowland Ok languages extends from the border with Papua New Guinea into Irian Jaya, separating the Awyu languages from the Mek and Mountain Ok languages spoken in the southern slopes of the ranges. This Lowland Ok corridor ends where the Somahai family begins.

To the southwest, Citak, of the Asmat-Kamoro family ... is spoken ... To the northwest, Ulakhin is spoken, a totally unknown language.

... The great majority of the Korowai are monolingual, with only people living in the border river villages having some knowledge of local (pidginised) varieties of Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia, ...

- Enk & de Vries 1997:9-10.

Korowai people from the border area with the Citak moved into the two smaller villages Mu and Jaim and the bigger village Mbasman in the beginning of the 1980s. These three villages have mixed Korowai and Citak populations. ...

- van Enk & de Vries 1997:25.

ETHNONYMS: Kolufo (-yanop), yanop ("person")

...  
**Identification and Location.** The term Kolufo refers to a people who share one language rather than to a tribal unit, with the patriclan being the relevant unit for self-identification. These Papuan people of the subdistrict of Kouh in the Merauke district in the Indonesian province Irian Jaya live between the Eilanden and Upper Becking rivers, east of the Becking headwaters, ...

**Demography.** Based on helicopter surveys from 1986 through 1990, a tentative estimation was made of approximately four thousand native Korowai speakers. Over 70 percent of the population still live on their original territories, with less than 30 percent having moved to a more or less regular village life in eight settlements. Approximately fifty clan territories are registered by name, and

another fifty are thought to exist.

**Linguistic Affiliation.** The Kolufo language belongs to the Awyu-Ndumut family of southeastern Irian Jaya, part of the Trans-New Guinea phylum. The Korowai distinguish the dialect of the Lower Becking and Eilanden banks from the Ilol-Kolufo-aup ("Stone-Korowai") spoken in the upriver regions. There is no significant linguistic relationship with the neighboring Kombai and Citak languages.

- van Enk 2002:183.

... after [1978] ... dozens of younger people moved into Yaniruma village and, after 1987, into the villages of Manggél, Yafufla, and Mabül. Influenced by their kin who remain in the forests, they stayed in the village only temporarily. ...

- van Enk 2002:183.

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Figure 1.2: Southwestern Korowai Lands

[villages shown:

Manggal

Yafufla

Yaniruma

- Stasch 2001a:6.

... Speakers of Korowai dialects number a few thousand and live dispersed across several hundred square miles of dense lowland forest, between ten and forty miles south of New Guinea's central cordillera, between fifty and ninety miles west of the ... border that divides New Guinea ...

- Stasch 2001b:35.

... Many southwestern Korowai families now maintain houses in one of the multiethnic villages [initiated by Zendings Gereformeerde Kerken] of Mbasman, Yaniruma, Manggal, and Yafufla (all located along a twenty-mile stretch of the Ndeiram Kabur River), ...

- Stasch 2001b:35.

Speakers of Korowai dialects number a few thousand and live dispersed in one- and two-household clearings across several hundred square miles of lowland forest between ten and forty miles south of New Guinea's central cordillera, between fifty and ninety miles west of the troubled border that divides the New Guinea land mass into Indonesian and Papua New Guinean halves, and more than a hundred miles inland from the Arafura Sea to the southwest. ...

- Stasch 2002:337.

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KOROWAI	2,000	Awyu-Dumut (?) (Silzer & Heikkinen 1984; Silzer & Clouse 1991; Grimes 1992, 1996)
KOROWAI	2,000 (1987)	Comrie 1992e
KOROWAI	4,000	Awyu-Dumut (deVries 1995, van Enk & deVries 1997)
KOROWAI (Indonesian version of KOLUFO)		van Enk & deVries 1997
KOROWAY		Louwerse 1988
KOROWAI	700	Awyu-Dumut (Grimes 2000)
KOROWAI		Stasch 2001a
KOROWAI		"few thousand" Stasch 2001b
KOROWAI	4,000	Awyu-Ndumut (van Enk
KOLUF-AUP (KOROWAI name for own language)		van Enk & deVries 1997
KOLUFO = KOROWAI		van Enk 2002
Mbasman -- CITAK/KOROWAI		van Enk & deVries 1997
Mbasman -- KOROWAI +		Stasch 2001b
Faufla -- KOMBAI & KOROWAI		van Enk & deVries 1993
Férman -- KOROWAI		van Enk & deVries 1993
Yafufla -- KOROWAI		van Enk & deVries 1997, Stasch
Yafufla -- KOROWAI +		Stasch 2001b
Jaim -- CITAK/KOROWAI		van Enk & deVries 1997
Yaniruma -- KOROWAI		Silzer & Clouse 1991; deVries
Yaniruma -- KOMBAI/KOROWAI		van Enk & deVries 1993, 1997
Yaniruma -- KOROWAI +		Stasch 2001b
Mabül -- KOROWAI		van Enk & deVries 1993, 1997; van
Mabul -- KOROWAI		de Vries 1997
Manggél -- KOROWAI		van Enk & deVries 1993, 1997; van
Manggal -- KOROWAI		Stasch 2001a
Manggal -- KOROWAI +		Stasch 2001b
Mu -- CITAK/KOROWAI		van Enk & deVries 1997
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