

TIGAK LANGUAGE LEARNING LESSONS

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1. INTRODUCTION

Tigak is the language spoken adjacent to the Lavongai language (see map, p.xi). The languages are closely related according to lexicostatistics (66% - Beaumont 1976:388) and are both members of the Northern New Ireland Subgroup. The lessons have been included here so that comparisons can be made between the two languages which as can easily be seen are not particularly close grammatically. It is also possible to compare both with Tolai, the language with the most speakers in the larger New Ireland-Tolai Group to which all three belong.

The first four lessons like those for the Lavongai language are based on Lessons F and 1 to 3 in the *Tolai language course* (Franklin, Kerr and Beaumont 1974). Lessons 5 to 10 are based on Lessons 4 to 9, Lessons 11 and 12 on Lessons 11 and 12 and Lesson 13 on Lesson 14.

The lessons were first written down in 1969. My informants were Enok Tamasegai, Natanaiel Makeo and William Watlugan, all of Kaselok Village. Enok Tamasegai was earlier from Nusa Island near Kavieng. The Tolai renderings were mainly used in eliciting the lessons. Pidgin was also used during the informant sessions. My later study of the language has been used in revising some of the spelling. I would like to thank the men who helped me and also the Tigak people with whom I used the phrases. For further information on the language including phonology, grammar and wordlists see Beaumont 1979.

2. PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

As these lessons have not been recorded on tape the following guide will give some indication of the pronunciation.

2.1 Vowels

- a is pronounced like a in 'father'
- e is pronounced like e in 'egg'
- i is pronounced like i in 'hit'
- o is pronounced like o in 'for'
- u is pronounced like u in 'put'

In vowel combinations each vowel retains its own sound.

2.2 Consonants

g is pronounced like g in 'good' but it is pronounced further back in the throat

k is pronounced like k in 'kill' but it is pronounced further back in the throat

l is pronounced like l in 'little' but with some friction

m is pronounced like m in 'mat'

n is pronounced like n in 'no'

ng is pronounced like ng in 'sing'

p is pronounced like p in 'put'

r is pronounced like r in 'rat' but with the tongue striking the palate

s is pronounced like s in 'soup'

t is pronounced like t in 'tap'

v is pronounced like v in 'even' but with both lips together

3. LESSONS

3.1 Lesson 1: Everyday conversation

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| 1. So tara? | <i>What is that?</i> |
| 2. Pisingi alu. | <i>Say it again.</i> |
| 3. Etok ananap. | <i>Speak slowly.</i> |
| 4. Pisingi alu lo etok siva. | <i>Say it again in Tigak.</i> |
| 5. Ga nanos? OR Ga nanos kak pispising? | <i>Did I say it correctly?</i> |
| 6. Nuk kalapang etok tatanik? | <i>Do you understand my language?</i> |
| 7. Naga vagai. | <i>I don't speak your language.</i> |
| 8. Ga takteak eul. | <i>It is very hard.</i> |
| 9. Ga so kam etok ga takteak? | <i>Is your language hard?</i> |
| 10. Vo nak kalapang vakang aimuk. | <i>I will be able to speak it later.</i> |
| 11. Aimuk nak kalapang eul. | <i>Later I will really understand.</i> |
| 12. Nak kalapang a lakliak. | <i>I understand a little.</i> |
| 13. Nuk etok papais eul. | <i>You speak too fast.</i> |
| 14. Naga po lamalua. | <i>I have forgotten.</i> |
| 15. Rik pising asoso ani tang etok 'pig' tana etok Tigak? | <i>How do you say 'pig' in Tigak?</i> |
| 16. Nuk etok pana so? | <i>What are you saying?</i> |
| 17. Nuk akalkalit au pana kam etok. | <i>You must teach me your language.</i> |
| 18. Kus au pana ta kuskus. | <i>Tell me a story.</i> |
| 19. Giminang tang etok Pisin. | <i>Don't speak Pidgin.</i> |
| 20. Nuk palong-anau. | <i>Listen to me.</i> |
| 21. Nuk etok malan tana teteng ina. | <i>You speak very fluently.</i> |
| 22. Nak vuvok kus uam pana sakai ot. | <i>I want to tell you something.</i> |
| 23. Nak vuvok kus uam pana ta kematan ot. | <i>I want to tell you several things.</i> |

3.2 Lesson 2: Greetings and location phrases

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| 1. Lo maua (ro). | <i>Good morning.</i> |
| 2. Gi ro. | <i>Thank you.</i> |
| 3. Lo maua (ro). Nuk lak lo lui. | <i>Good morning. Come in.</i> |
| 4. Nuk sinuk egeng. | <i>Sit down here.</i> |
| 5. Nak sinuk eve? | <i>Where shall I sit?</i> |
| 6. Nuk sinuk lo sinsinuk gara. | <i>Sit down on this chair.</i> |
| 7. Nuk vuvok so? | <i>What do you (sg.) want?</i> |
| 8. Kak ve mani ga po mun. | <i>I lost some money.</i> |
| 9. Ga po mun eve? | <i>Where did you lose it?</i> |
| 10. Inak, gaveak nak kalapang. | <i>Ah, I don't know.</i> |
| 11. Gasigai, ve ga po mun lo masut? | <i>Did you lose it in the bush?</i> |
| 12. Ong, ga po mun lo masut. | <i>Yes, I lost it in the bush.</i> |
| 13. Nak tapuok gara. | <i>I am going home now.</i> |
| 14. Le gi ro. | <i>Goodbye.</i> |

3.3 Lesson 3: Time

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| 1. Lo ge ro. | <i>Good afternoon, brother.</i> |
| 2. Lo ge. Nuga sang loso? | <i>Afternoon. When did you (sg.) arrive?</i> |
| 3. Naga ima nenogo. | <i>I came yesterday.</i> |
| 4. Nuga sang lo vung? | <i>Did you arrive in the night?</i> |
| 5. Ong, ga po vung. | <i>Yes, it was night.</i> |
| 6. Nuga mo matai eve? | <i>Where did you sleep?</i> |
| 7. Naga mon matai lo lui tatanik. | <i>I slept at my house.</i> |
| 8. Nuga tapuok lo so ta gan? | <i>When did you return?</i> |
| 9. Nak tapuok amaua. | <i>I will return tomorrow.</i> |
| 10. Nuk minang sakai a gan? | <i>Will you stay one day?</i> |
| 11. Gaveak, nak minang pauak a gan. | <i>No, I will stay two days.</i> |
| 12. Nuga po sang egeng aino? | <i>Were you here before?</i> |
| 13. Ong, nak veak lo minang a mangon. | <i>Yes, for a short time.</i> |
| 14. Le gi ro. | <i>Goodbye.</i> |

3.4 Lesson 4: Question and equation

1. Lo vung ro.
2. So gara?
3. So tara?
4. Tang vogo.
5. Tang manui tara.
6. Tang iai.
7. Tang ruruh salik.
8. Tang vata.
9. So gara?
10. Tang piu.
11. Nuk etok aso?
12. Tang piu.
13. 'Piu' - ga nanos (kak pispising)?
14. Ong, ga nanos.
15. So tara?
16. Tang piu lavu.
17. Tang piu evang? (OR eve)
18. Piu lakliak gara.

Good evening.

What is that? (very close)

What is that? (further away)

That is a pig. (lit. A pig)

That is a bird.

A tree.

A river.

It is a cloud.

What is this?

It is a dog.

What did you say?

A dog.

'Dog', did I say it right?

Yes, that is right.

What is that?

A big dog.

Where is the dog?

The little dog is here.

3.5 Lesson 5: Question and negation

1. Lo maua ro. Miga pon ima ul eve?
2. Mema sang ule Putput.
3. Putput eve?
4. Putput tara etang.
5. Kam siva eve (OR evang)?
6. Mem veak lo pe minang evang gara.
7. Mik po minang eve gara?
8. Mem minang e Kaselok.
9. Mik inang eve gara?
10. Mem inang e Kavieng.
11. Nak veak lo inang e Kavieng.
12. Vo nak tarai om alu.

Good morning. Where did you(pl.) come from?

We(pl.) came from Putput.

Where is Putput?

Putput is over there.

Do you(pl.) live there? (lit. Where is your village?)

We don't live there now.

Where do you(pl.) live now?

We live at Kaselok.

Where are you(pl.) going now?

We(pl.incl.) are going to Kavieng.

I am not going to Kavieng.

I will see you(sg.) later.

3.6 Lesson 6: Village scene

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| 1. Pisingi asan ina siva gara? | <i>What is the name of this village?</i> |
| 2. Na Kaselok. | <i>It is called Kaselok.</i> |
| 3. Poisan a lui gara egeng? | <i>How many houses are there here?</i> |
| 4. A sangaulung a lui. | <i>There are ten houses.</i> |
| 5. A poisan a vap rik minang egeng? | <i>How many people stay here?</i> |
| 6. A vap akurul. | <i>Plenty of people.</i> |
| 7. Kam lui eve? | <i>Where is your(sg.) house?</i> |
| 8. Gura tang lui lavu. | <i>It is the big house.</i> |
| 9. Tesi gura tang lui? | <i>Whose is that house?</i> |
| 10. A lui gura tana maimai. | <i>It is the house of the chief.</i> |
| 11. A maimai eve? | <i>Where is the chief?</i> |
| 12. A maimai ga po inang e Kavieng. | <i>The chief has gone to Kavieng.</i> |
| 13. Angisan gi tapuok? | <i>When will he come back?</i> |
| 14. Vo vakan. | <i>Later.</i> |
| 15. Vo gi tapuok angina, la? | <i>Will he return today?</i> |
| 16. Naga vagai. OR Gaveak nak kalapang.
OR Nak veak lo kalapang. | <i>I don't know.</i> |
| 17. Aso ta ot gura? | <i>What is that?</i> |
| 18. A manui gura. | <i>It is a bird.</i> |
| 19. Tang mamana manui gura. OR Ta
kematan manui gura. | <i>Those are birds.</i> |
| 20. Gara a lui tatanik. | <i>That is my house.</i> |
| 21. Gara a piu tatanik. | <i>That is my dog.</i> |
| 22. Gara ri kasingak. | <i>This is my wife.</i> |
| 23. Gara lakeak tesuguk. | <i>This is my child.</i> |
| 24. Gara na tamak. | <i>This is my father.</i> |
| 25. Gara lui tatam? | <i>Is that your(sg.) house?</i> |
| 26. Gara lui tesuna? | <i>Is that his house?</i> |
| 27. Gaveak. | <i>No.</i> |
| 28. Kana lui eve? | <i>Where is his house?</i> |
| 29. Kana lui tara. | <i>His house is over there.</i> |
| 30. Nak inang lava. OR Nak pasal lava. | <i>I'm going now.</i> |

3.7 Lesson 7: Location and indirect object

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| 1. Nak lasnugi a kau eve? | <i>Where shall I put the kaukau?</i> |
| 2. Nuk lasnugi lo lui lavu. | <i>Put it in the big house.</i> |
| 3. Nuk pata lasnugi lo lui lakliak. | <i>Don't put it in the little house.</i> |
| 4. Nuk soka iai. | <i>Bring me the wood.</i> |
| 5. Gaveak, nuk pata soka iai kokolai. | <i>No, don't bring me the crooked wood.</i> |
| 6. Nuk sok lisani a iai nanos suguk. | <i>Bring me the straight wood.</i> |
| 7. So gura nuk vuvoki? OR Aso nuk vuvoki? | <i>What do you(sg.) want?</i> |
| 8. Nak vuvoki a tapega lavu. | <i>I want a big pawpaw.</i> |
| 9. Naga togon ta kematan tapega lakliak lakos. | <i>I have only little pawpaws.</i> |
| 10. Nuk e vuvokani kas? | <i>Do you(sg.) want them?</i> |
| 11. Gaveak, nak veak ko vuvoki. | <i>No, I don't.</i> |
| 12. Nuk tavai au pana tapega mirmir-angun. | <i>Give me a sweet pawpaw.</i> |
| 13. Giso angan lavu gara gi etong (OR kaskas)? | <i>Here. Is this big enough?</i> |
| 14. Nak vuvokani ta potul a kau vuru. | <i>Give me three potatoes too.</i> |
| 15. Poisan a marmarai ina? OR Poisan a pulpul ina? | <i>How much is that?</i> |
| 16. Ga potul a mani. | <i>That is three shillings.</i> |

3.8 Lesson 8: Review

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| 1. A manui gi po lelang asan ve gi po sinuk lo masut. | <i>The bird has landed in the bush.</i> |
| 2. Lo so ga sang evang? | <i>When did it land there?</i> |
| 3. Gaveak lo kavai. | <i>Just a little while ago.</i> |
| 4. Nuk kaskas tarai angina? | <i>Can you(sg.) see it now?</i> |
| 5. Ong, nak kaskas. | <i>Yes, I can.</i> |
| 6. Nane va eve? | <i>Where is it?</i> |
| 7. Kula iai lavu. | <i>On that big tree.</i> |
| 8. Tavai au pana vut ve nak gava punuki. | <i>Bring me a spear and I will kill it.</i> |
| 9. Kola nuk pata punuki. Ga tap. | <i>Don't shoot it. It's illegal.</i> |
| 10. Aso potona? | <i>Why not?</i> |
| 11. Ga taktogon tapega? | <i>Do you have any pawpaw?</i> |
| 12. Ong, nuk vuvokani a poisan? | <i>Yes, how many would you like?</i> |

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| 13. Nak vuvokani ta palmit sakai. | <i>Give me six please.</i> |
| 14. Nak lasinuk ri eve? | <i>Where shall I put them?</i> |
| 15. Nuk lasinuk ri kula kak kar. | <i>Put them in my car.</i> |
| 16. Kula kar lavu tara? | <i>In that big car?</i> |
| 17. Gaveak, kula kar lakliak gura. | <i>No, the little car.</i> |
| 18. Nak veak ko utok kalapang tana kam etok. | <i>I didn't understand you.</i> |
| 19. Na ot pana kar lakliak. | <i>I said the little car.</i> |
| 20. Nuk etok ananap. | <i>Please speak slowly.</i> |
| 21. Naga po veak ta mani. Naga po lamuni. | <i>I have no money. I lost it.</i> |

3.9 Lesson 9: Adjectives

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| 1. Tang liang tiptip eve? | <i>Where is a heavy stone?</i> |
| 2. Nasi tang anu takteak? OR Tang anu takteak nasi? | <i>Who is a strong man?</i> |
| 3. Lo so nuga tarai (OR kalumi) tang vul ga put atakteak? | <i>When did you see the fast canoe?</i> |
| 4. Asoso gura tang lakliak teteng ga po sang? | <i>Did the clever boy come?</i> |
| 5. Gura tang vavalang (OR valang) ina anu ga vuvoki so ta ot? | <i>What did the stupid man want?</i> |
| 6. Naga pon mosongani tang saman ga masmasang leo. | <i>I smelled the sweet flower.</i> |
| 7. Eve tang ur lavu? OR Tang ur lavu eve? | <i>Where is the big banana?</i> |
| 8. Muga pon luga vosopi tang rurum salik mamailei. | <i>You(2) found a beautiful river.</i> |
| 9. Gura tang iai kokolai (OR lolokai). | <i>That is a crooked stick.</i> |
| 10. Nuk vili tatanik ta vul kalkalong. | <i>Make me a light canoe.</i> |
| 11. So, ritula pon vosopi ta laman kasui lavu? | <i>Did they(3) reach the big sea?</i> |
| 12. Gura tang muli ga tuktuk. | <i>This is a bitter lemon.</i> |
| 13. Naga pon gagat lo kono ga marmaragan. | <i>I walked along the beautiful beach.</i> |
| 14. Nari akamus riga po lak kula tang put katu ga ras. | <i>They all climbed the steep hill.</i> |
| 15. Namem akamus mema pon tarai (OR kalumi) tang kusia koi. | <i>We(pl.excl.) all saw the black rat.</i> |
| 16. Karaga pon pasal lo tang salan ga nanos. | <i>We(incl.2) walked along the straight road.</i> |

3.10 Lesson 10: Transformations

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| 1. Gura tang lui ga tap. | <i>That house is sacred.</i> |
| 2. A lui tap. | <i>It is a sacred house.</i> |
| 3. A lakeak leakul e Baining. | <i>The boy is from the Bainings.</i> |
| 4. A lakeak Baining. | <i>He is a Baining boy.</i> |
| 5. Tang ot ga tap. | <i>The thing is sacred.</i> |
| 6. Tang ot tap. | <i>It is a sacred thing.</i> |
| 7. Tang lakeak ga teteng. | <i>The boy is clever.</i> |
| 8. Tang lakeak teteng. | <i>He is a clever boy.</i> |

3.11 Lesson 11: Adverbial forms

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| 1. Nak put.
<i>I run.</i> | 1. Nak papais.
<i>I am quick.</i> | 1. Nak put papais.
<i>I run quickly.</i> |
| 2. Mek etok.
<i>We(excl.2) talk.</i> | 2. Mek maralai.
<i>We are angry.</i> | 2. Mek etok pana maralai.
<i>We talk angrily.</i> |
| 3. Riga po mat.
<i>They(pl.) died.</i> | 3. Riga viakon.
<i>They were afraid.</i> | 3. Riga mat tana viakon.
<i>They died fearfully.</i> |
| 4. Ga kup.
<i>He shouted.</i> | 4. Ga nangas.
<i>He is joyful.</i> | 4. Ga kup nangas.
<i>He shouted joyfully.</i> |
| 5. Vo muk aisok.
<i>You(2) will work.</i> | 5. Muga ro.
<i>You are good.</i> | 5. Muk aisok aro.
<i>You work well.</i> |
| 6. Karatul kakas.
<i>We(incl.3) swim.</i> | 6. Karatul palavien.
<i>We are bad.</i> | 6. Karatul kakas apalavien.
<i>We swim badly.</i> |
| 7. Nuga po etok.
<i>You(sg.) talked.</i> | 7. Nuga vavalang.
<i>You are foolish.</i> | 7. Nuga po etok malan tana vavalang.
<i>You talked foolishly.</i> |
| 8. Gi pasal.
<i>He walks.</i> | 8. Gi ananap.
<i>He is slow.</i> | 8. Gi pasal ananap.
<i>He walks slowly.</i> |
| 9. Ga put asiak epakal.
<i>He ran down (the hill).</i> | 9. Gi papais.
<i>He is quick.</i> | 9. Ga put asiak papais epakal.
<i>He ran quickly down the hill.</i> |
| 10. Ga po visi anu.
<i>He fought the man.</i> | 10. Ga takteak.
<i>He is strong.</i> | 10. Ga po vis ataktare anu.
<i>He fought the man strongly.</i> |

3.12 Lesson 12: Negatives

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| <p>1. A vap vo rik pasal.
<i>The people will go.</i></p> <p>2. Tang anu gi los.
<i>The man is laughing.</i></p> <p>3. Nak vili.
<i>I am going to do it.</i></p> <p>4. Vo nak vili.
<i>I shall do it.</i></p> <p>5. Gara a lui tatanik.
<i>This is my house.</i></p> <p>6. Vili gura, gi ro.
<i>Do that, it is good.</i></p> <p>7. Nuk voresi a ot.
<i>You steal something.</i></p> <p>8. Anu gura.
<i>That is a man.</i></p> <p>9. Ta kematan rik ottauni a manmanuk.
<i>Some love the animals.</i></p> <p>10. Kari lui gura.
<i>That is their(pl.) house.</i></p> <p>11. Gi inang. OR Nane gi inang.
<i>He (or she) is going.</i></p> <p>12. Mitula po ngan.
<i>You(3) have eaten.</i></p> <p>13. Naga po sang.
<i>I came.</i></p> <p>14. Katula po etok.
<i>We(incl.3) have spoken.</i></p> <p>15. Mega po ngan.
<i>We(excl.2) ate.</i></p> <p>16. Nuk ima egeng.
<i>You(sg.) come here.</i></p> <p>17. Kara po kail.
<i>We(pl.incl.) called.</i></p> | <p>1. A vap vo rik veak lo pasal.
<i>The people will not go.</i></p> <p>2. Tang anu gi veak lo los.
<i>The man is not laughing.</i></p> <p>3. Nak veak lo vili. OR Gaveak nak vili.
<i>I am not going to do it.</i></p> <p>4. Vo nak veak lo vili.
<i>I shall not do it.</i></p> <p>5. Gara gaveak a lui tatanik.
<i>This is not my house.</i></p> <p>6. Pan ta vili gura, ga veak lo ro.
<i>Don't do that, it is not good.</i></p> <p>7. Nuk pan ta voresi a ot.
<i>Don't steal anything.</i></p> <p>8. Gaveak lo anu gura.
<i>That is not a man.</i></p> <p>9. Gaveak ta anu gi ottauni a manmanuk.
<i>No one loves the animals.</i></p> <p>10. Gaveak kari lui gura. OR Gaveak ta lui tatari gura.
<i>That is not their(pl.) house.</i></p> <p>11. Ga veak lo inang.
<i>He is not going.</i></p> <p>12. Mitula veak lo utok ngan.
<i>You(3) have not eaten.</i></p> <p>13. Naga veak lo sang.
<i>I did not come.</i></p> <p>14. Gaveak katul utok etok.
<i>We have not yet spoken.</i></p> <p>15. Mega veak lo ngan longunai.
<i>We have not yet eaten.</i></p> <p>16. Nuk pan ta ima egeng. OR Pan ta ima egeng.
<i>Don't (you) come here.</i></p> <p>17. Kara veak lo utok kail.
<i>We did not call. (lit. We have not yet called.)</i></p> |
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3.13 Lesson 13: Possessive pronoun forms

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| 1. Anu gara lavak tesuguk. | <i>That man is my uncle (on mother's side).</i> |
| 2. Anu gara tigana i tamak tesuguk. | <i>That man is my uncle (on father's side).</i> |
| 3. Lakeak tigari tesuna. | <i>This child is his son.</i> |
| 4. Lakeak kapul tesugum. | <i>This girl is your(sg.) daughter.</i> |
| 5. Anu gara na tamak. | <i>That man is my father.</i> |
| 6. Kapul tara ri nam. | <i>This woman is your mother.</i> |
| 7. Kapul pakik tara ri vasana. | <i>That girl (teenage) is his sister.</i> |
| 8. Gara patuk. | <i>This is my head.</i> |
| 9. Gara mitim. | <i>This is your arm.</i> |
| 10. Tara kar tesuna. | <i>That is his car.</i> |
| 11. Tara pura tesuguk. | <i>That is my chicken.</i> |
| 12. Gara un tesugum. | <i>This is your(sg.) turtle.</i> |
| 13. Gara katiluk tesuna. | <i>That is his egg.</i> |
| 14. Takteak tesuguk ga lavu. | <i>My strength is great.</i> |
| 15. Kam vivilai ga ro. | <i>Your(sg.) character is straight.</i> |
| 16. Lingina ga gogos. | <i>His voice is hoarse.</i> |
| 17. Kak nonol ga paga. | <i>My thoughts are clear.</i> |
| 18. Patumuk ga lavu. | <i>Your(2) heads are big.</i> |
| 19. Mitirek. Mitiritul. Mitiri. | <i>Their(2) hands. Their(3) hands.
Their(pl.) hands.</i> |
| 20. Lavarak egeng. | <i>Our(incl.2) uncle is here.</i> |
| 21. Tamarak ve ri narak nari egeng. | <i>Our(incl.2) parents are here.</i> |
| 22. Lisi ien suritul. | <i>Bring me their fish.</i> |