

MUSOM, AN ENDANGERED LANGUAGE IN NORTHEASTERN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Austronesian Musom (or Misatik) language of the Markham Valley, north-eastern Papua New Guinea, which has about 219 multilingual speakers, is endangered because of its low number of speakers, the relatively high incidence of intermarriage of Musom speakers with speakers of other languages, and the very high level of bi- and multilingualism, especially in *lingue franche* whose influence can be observed in Musom in some grammatical structures and vocabulary items.

This morphology and grammar sketch of the Musom language by Dr Susanne Holzkecht of the Australian National University, with a text with interlinear and free translation and a separate extensive vocabulary of Musom, provides a good insight into, and a permanent record of, the Musom language in a state in which it is still very much in its traditional form.

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