



Dictionary of Netwar

Dominik Maximilián Ramík

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Participants on the dictionary

Sylvano Kapalu (*Ipai*), Noël Yeru (*Lowanatom*), Josephine Pesai (*Lowaneai*), Gilain Pesai (*Lowaneai*), Marie-Rose Nako (*Lowanatom*), Celine Nako (*Lowanatom*), Nalaké Nalin (*Lowkupas*), Eddy Willy (*Imailone*), Simon Iawilu (*Lowkweria*), Iawilu Naumusapen (*Lowkweria*), Nausien (*Lamlu*), Pascal Nipo (*Ituga*), Louis Kapalu (*Ipai*), Clément Kapalu (*Lowanatom*), Jérémy Nako (*Lowanatom*), Sera Ialitan (*Lowanatom*), Mary Aupan (*Lowlipag*), Kasékasé (*Imapul*), Pierre Chanel Iamai (*Lownipaku*), Jimmy Napip (*Ikumbala*), Lomai Tain (*Ielkes*), chief Bernard Iaukélo (*Lowanatom*), Pierrot Nako Yaru (*Lowanatom*), Iako Kapalu (*Ipai*), Christian Niluan (*Lowanatom*), Timothe Kauia (*Lowanatom*), Vincent Nako (*Lowanatom*), Jack Iawia (*Lowkweria*), Sylvie Kiko (*Lowanatom*), Joe Natuman (*Lowkweria*), Nasak (*Lontaliko*), Kuwaw (*Lontaliko*), Joe Nasak (*Lontaliko*), Alain Iawulé (*Ituga*), Jimmy Noawit (*Lownaburu*), Camille Nalao (*Lowanatom*)

References

Webpages

[Ethnologue.com \(tnl\)](https://ethnologue.com/tnl/)
[Capell - Lenakel verb structure](#)

Books

Kenneth Nehrbass: A Comprehensive Comparison of Lexemes in the Major Languages of Tanna, Vanuatu (2012)
British and Foreign Bible Society: Gospel translation to Netwar (1902)
John Lynch: Lenakel Dictionary (1977)

Statistics

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Pronunciation

The following is not a scientific work, but merely a fruit of my personal study of the language while living in Tanna. Although much effort has been spent to maintain its correctness, still it is likely to contain errors of different kinds. Netwar (also known as the "Lénakel language") does not have any officially standardized writing form. If written by the natives, a phonetic-like system is used following French or English, depending on whether the person is speaking French or English. Recently a book [A Comprehensive Comparison of Lexemes in the Major Languages of Tanna, Vanuatu](#) has been published, suggesting a unified Tanna-wide system of writing. While being phonetically accurate, it might be confusing for a non-expert and it uses accentuation not commonly found on English and French keyboards. Moreover words presented in it for the Netwar language come from a different dialect than those found in the following dictionary. That is why I do not follow this system. Instead, I use conventions presented in the following table. Letters not found in the table have their usual value following [IPA](#). Vowels *e* and less often *a*, *i* have frontal and central forms. For the sake of simplicity, the text makes difference only of the *e* / *ə* pair. The purpose here is not an exact rendering of pronunciation, but the simplicity and comprehensibility for non-experts and for local people, to whom the work is destined too. Please refer to recordings for a clearer image about the pronunciation. It is worth of mentioning, that Netwar has many dialects. Words presented below belong mainly to the one spoken around Lowanatom, Lowaneai, Ipai and Lokweria. Usually the second, rarely the third, vowel from the end is stressed.

i before a vowel ~ [j], ex: *iélu* ~ /jelu/
y ~ [y], like the French "u" or the German "ü", ex: *kéy* ~ /ky/
e ~ [ə], ex: *nem* ~ /nəm/
é ~ [e], ex: *neté* ~ /nəte/
g ~ [ŋ], nasal, ex: *nauga* ~ /nauŋa/
h ~ [h], somehow voiceless, ex: *nihin* ~ /niʰin/
r ~ [r], like in Spanish, ex: *naru* ~ /naru/
w ~ [w], ex: *kasawar* ~ /kasawar/

English

- 0 *num* reka
1 *num* karéna
2 *num* kiu
3 *num* kesel
4 *num* kywer
5 *num* katilum
6 *num* katilum ma karéna
7 *num* katilum ma kiu
8 *num* katilum ma kesel
9 *num* katilum ma kywer
10 *num* katilum ma katilum

A

a *art* **kér** indefinite article, follows the name. *Ex.*: Aupan ramlafena nepen kér tonio. ~ He gave me a banana before.

abort *v* **ataken** a child. *Ex.*: Ramataken naren. ~ She aborted her child.

about *adv* **iwoket to** approximation. *Ex.*: Naramim Ituga narafa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

accident *v* **las peken** have an. *Ex.*: Ramlas peken apa la téhé. ~ He had an accident in the sea.

accompany *v* **ir** *Ex.*: Tanekir io kiawen apa Ituga? ~ Will you follow me to Ituga?

action *n* **nolan**

afraid *v* **agen** be, in transitive form followed by suff. '-IN'. *Ex.*: Iamagenin kuri. ~ I am afraid of dogs.

after *conj* **awotiseg**

aibika *n* **nuwha apen** (*Abelmoschus manibot*) leaves are consumed cooked. • *n* **nuwha** (*Abelmoschus manibot*) leaves are cooked then consumed.

aircraft (from Bislama) *n* **plén**

airplane (from Bislama) *n* **plén**

Alfa Centauri *n prop* **Karatéi**

alga *n* **lemes** edible species of green algae with curly leaves. • *n* **niawer** edible species of green algae, resembles grape clusters and has a bitter taste.

all *adv* **patem**

- **all the time** *adv* **lilen**

alliance *expr* **suatu apam** e.g. political, figurative speech.

already *adv* **ita** *Ex.*: Inaugan ita. ~ I have already eaten.

also *adv* **men** *Ex.*: Io men. ~ Me too.

always *adv* **lilen**

ancient *adj* **awas**

and *conj* **kani** conjunction in sentences. • *conj* **né** connecting nouns, short form of 'MENÉ'. • *conj* **mené** connecting nouns.

Aneityum *n prop* **Ikiamu** ancient term of the island. • *n prop* **Ienatem** island.

angel's trumpet *n* **krok** (*Brugmansia*) an ornamental plant but toxic in nature. To counteract fish poisoning, its leaves are crushed and a very small quantity of its juice is drank.

Aniwa *n prop* **Imer** island.

annoy *v* **ol kalwas** with noise or bad behavior, stronger term than 'AUSIT'. *Ex.*: Kamaipel, kani Iaris ramapus mierpa, mamol kalwas. ~ We were already sleeping, when Iaris went out, got drunk and was making a lot of noise.

ant (generic term) *n* **maiaimaia**

anus (inalienable) *n* **napag nekutu-**

approximately *adv* **iwoket to** *Ex.*: Naramim Ituga narafa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

arm (inalienable) *n* **nalem-** body part.

- **arm band** *n* **kaukasé** worn on upper arm along with 'NUMA LE NESÉ' leaves during customary celebrations.

arrow *n* **nowanparam** arrow for hunting birds. • *n* **nowahga** ordinary. cf. 'NOWANPARAM'.

ash (generic term) *n* **nemrau** from fire. • *n* **laén** made from 'NEKOWISEL', applied to hair in the morning and then washed with lemon juice in the evening to make them long, or from 'NUL META', applied to make the hair red. • *n* **nesihiaw** volcanic.

ask *v* **arhapek** *Ex.*: Ramarhapek to nategam. ~ He is asking for your name.

ass (inalienable) *n* **napag nekutu-**

asthma *n* **namesan taha kahau**

at place of somebody (inalienable) *n* **ima- (iken)** where somebody lives. *Ex.*: at my place, at your place ~ imak iken, imam

avocado (from English: butter) *n* **pwata** fruit. • (from English: butter) *n* **pwata** (*Persea americana*) tree.

B

baby *n* **kowa** • *expr* **kowa meta** beautiful. Ancient expression used for newborn children who are very beautiful. cf. 'META'. • *n* **napek** boy, fig.

back *n* **nemata** human body.

bad *adj* **rtat** lit. "it is bad". • *v* **tat** be. *Ex.*: Taham nolan rtat. ~ Your behavior is not good.

bald *adj* **rapwa** • *v* **apwa** be. *Ex.*: Renapwa. ~ He is bald-headed.

bamboo (generic term) *n* **nau** • *n* **nau kamaregen** incorrect name sometimes given to 'NAU MANETÉ' because its stems are used as traditional "cooking pots" called 'KAMAREGEN'. • *n* **nau ikinuhum** species with strong stems often used for buildings. • *n* **nau nahwal** species with thin stems, used to make fishing rods and a local kind of pan flutes. Sharp pieces are used as knives during boys circumcision and girls coming to age ceremony 'NUIG KELÉL'. • *n* **kamaregen** stem of bamboo 'NAU MANETÉ' used for cooking on fire as a kind of pot. Food is filled inside and leaves are used as a tap. It can also serve to keep food for several days. • *n* **nau maneté** stems are used in house construction and as a traditional "cooking pots" and for keeping meat for several days.

ban on fishing *expr* **kamareg la téhé** way of preserving fish population or a part of magical rituals, when a part of the sea is "closed" and the beach is marked by sticks with grass tussocks.

banana *n* **nepen** fruit.

- **banana tree** (generic term) *n* **nepen** (*Musa sp.*) • (generic term) *n* **nemew** family of several species of banana tree. Leaves called 'NUMANEMEW' are used to wrap laplap. • *n* **natik** (*Musa sp.*) "wild" species, but consumed anyways. • *n* **nepen ituga** (*Musa sp.*) lit. "foreign banana". Asian species not used for cooking but eaten only when ripe. • *n* **nemew apen** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage. • *n* **nemew tuan** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage. • *n* **nemew togoa** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage. Probably from Tongoa. • *n* **suwit** (*Musa sp.*) species from abroad. • *n* **saina** (*Musa sp.*) species from China. • *n* **kamer** species from the 'NEMEW' family with the same use. • *n* **fiétnam** (*Musa sp.*) species from Vietnam. • *n* **iawan karéna karéna** (*Musa sp.*) species giving big fruits, but in small numbers. • *n* **iwai** (*Musa sp.*) species used for cooking and for making laplap. • *n* **nepen ituga areparep** (*Musa sp.*) species with edible fruit. • *n* **nakaiu** (*Musa sp.*) species with short and round fruit. • *n* **kaseken té Newao** (*Musa sp.*) species, lit. "stick of demon

Newao". • *n nariram* (*Musa sp.*) species, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n iowanarep* (*Musa sp.*) species, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n ipanhageneres* (*Musa sp.*) species, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n nariram afwil* (*Musa sp.*) species, similar to 'NARIRAM', but with light colored spots, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n nowanégen* (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n iwaiaiwileg* (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n ketegeten* (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n wulupwé* (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n nuwnuw* (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n iusneka* (*Musa sp.*) species.

banded sea krait *n tagalua* (*Laticauda colubrina*) • *n tagalua* (*Laticauda laticaudata*)

banded snake eel *n nekariag* (*Myrichthys colubrinus*)

banyan *n kalwas* considered to be the female banyan and the wife of 'NAMKENEN'. Its flexible aerial roots are used as ropes and the stronger ones are used as beams in house construction. • *n napek* species determining the place of customary nakamals. Its aerial roots are used as ropes. • *n napek pwia* species of 'NAPEK'. It has no aerial roots and it does not grow as large as the 'NAPEK'. • *n nalwily* (*Ficus obliqua*) species with small red fruit. Inedible. • *n naswaio* (*Ficus sp.*) species. • *n namkenen* species. Considered to be the "male" or "husband" of the 'KALWAS' banyan. It has no strong aerial roots. • *n nasas* (*Ficus massa*) species. Its roots are used to make the belts 'KATAWUT' worn by men during the 'NEKOWIAR' ceremony and nets 'NAKEPEN'. • *n nasunan* (*Ficus glandifera*) the shape of the fruit resembles the male sexual organ. It is believed that the number of branches a man gives his wife to chew during her pregnancy will also be the number of male children the wife will bear.

barn owl *n imhir* (*Tyto alba*) in local culture considered a bad omen.

barracuda *n tapatu* (*Sphyraena sp.*)

bar-tailed godwit *n itawar* (*Limosa lapponica*)

basket *n karem* from pandanus fibers. • *n kemélu* made of coconut leaves.

• **basket for a song** *expr karem taha napuk* name of a custom where a man offers a woven basket with certain leaves to a song-maker as a traditional payment for a song to be composed.

bat *n wutowuto* darkly colored, without visible tail. • *n misekmisek* lightly colored, with visible tail.

batfish *n kel* (*Platax sp.*)

be not *v ka* *Ex.*: there is no water ~ nu reka • *v neka* anymore, 'KA' with perfective pref. *Ex.*: there is no more water ~ nu reneka

beach cabbage *n nesé rep tuan* (*Scaevola taccada*) species used to treat cough. Four young branches are chewed, the juice swallowed and sea water is drank afterwards. • *n nesé rep* (*Scaevola taccada*) species used to treat cough. Four young branches should be chewed, the juice swallowed and sea water should be drunk right after that.

beam *n tuhu* main construction element of the roof ridge. • (from English: rafter) *n nowarafta* wooden. • *n kamaloawin* wooden.

beard *n numa min nulek*

because *conj mero*

before *n aupan* in time, abbr. 'AUPANIKEN'. • *n aupaniken* in time.

behavior *n nolan* *Ex.*: Taham nolan rtat. ~ Your behavior is not good.

belly *n natepa-*

beloved *adj kéikéi*

belt *n katawut* made of vegetal material, worn by men during the 'NEKOWIAR' ceremony.

• **belt of shells** *n nowapelpel* worn by boys on the final ceremony of 'KAUR'.

Bengal almond *n tel* (*Terminalia catappa*) hard wood, used for constructions. Fruits give edible nuts.

better *adj rawyt epek* • *v apita* be. *Ex.*: Neté rawyt mapita nepen. ~ Taro is better than yam.

beware *v amap* pay attention. *Ex.*: Amap nekava! ~ Beware of the kava!

big *adj iaghin* • *adj asul* • *v ipar* be. *Ex.*: Io ik ipar lam. ~ I am older, than you.

• **big sage** *n santana* (*Lantana camara*) its crushed leaves are used to treat wounds and sores. The smell of the leaf relieves headaches and blocked nose. The juice from its crushed leaves is put on the wound after the castration of pigs to diminish the pain.

bird (generic term) *n ménék* equal or bigger than a pigeon.

cf. 'KLÉPLÉPEN'. • *n kléplépen* songbird. Smaller than a pigeon. cf. 'MÉNEK'.

bite *v kes* *Ex.*: bite him! ~ kes in!

black *adj apen* *Ex.*: black rooster ~ ménék rapen • *adj apen* part of plant names for varieties with red or dark-colored leaves. *Ex.*: black iakestil ~ iakestil apen

blenny *n wikwik*

bless *v aru* traditional "blessing" given by 'IERAMARA' in nakamal. *Ex.*: blessing of new yams ~ kamaru nuw

blissing of yams *n naruan nuw* traditional order allowing consummation of yams at the beginning of the harvest.

blowfish *n peruaperua* (*Tetraodontidae*)

blue (ancient term) *adj amimera aken*

• **blue porterweed** *n nek té katanek* (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) lit. "tree of Katanek" (female name). Often by ignorance of its true name, it is mistakenly called 'IAKESTIL'. Branches that grow from a common stem is used for a game called 'IAKESTIL'. It is used to treat diarrhea in children. A small branch is chewed to release its juices. The juice is then put into the babies mouth. • *n nateris* (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) species, its more correct name is 'NEK TÉ KATANEK'.

• **blue-faced parrotfinch** *n kamnhamena* (*Erythrura trichroa*)

• **blue-lipped sea krait** *n tagalua* (*Laticauda laticaudata*)

bluespine unicornfish *n iapek* (*Naso unicornis*)

bluespotted cornetfish *n nepakau* (*Fistularia commersonii*)

boil *v win* *Ex.*: Peran an rakawin nuw. ~ This woman is boiling yams.

boiled *adj kawin*

boom *n nowanekiatsu* connecting the canoe and the outrigger.

bottom (inalienable) *n nemanesi-* of a man.

bouillon *n nihin kurimatau* from beef.

bow *n nemanahga*

bowl *n nuwig katil* made of coconut which was just grated. Can be broken into parts and used as a spoon. cf. 'NUWIG KUWEL'. • *n nuwig kuwel* made of coconut.

boxfish (generic term) *n kawawigen* (*Ostraciidae*)

boy *n kuku* term of endearment. Used mostly inside a family towards a child.

branch *n nowatek* • *n nowanek* wooden.

branching *n sapag* of branches of plants, in form of "Y". • *n sapag* wooden branch in form of "Y". Used in nakamal to hold 'NIGES' when brewing kava.

bread (from English: bread) *n prét*

breadfruit *n nem* its fruit. • *n noukaren nem* its trunk. • (generic term) *n nem* (*Artocarpus altilis*) wood resistant to decay. Canoes carved out of its trunk are appreciated for its long lifespan.

• **breadfruit tree** *n nuwau* (*Artocarpus sp.*) species giving big and oblong fruit. • *n kun* (*Artocarpus sp.*) species giving big and round fruit. • *n kunkun* (*Artocarpus sp.*) species giving small and round fruit. Easy to cook.

break *v raker* *Ex.*: Nalemak ramraker. ~ I have broken my arm. • *v arkel* by hitting or bending. *Ex.*: Iamarkel nek mer to nekam. ~ I am breaking dry wood for fire. • *v ataken* something. *Ex.*:

Iamataken tahak nemanahga. ~ I have broken my bow.

• **break the branches of kava and shed blood** *expr* **merekhel nalemen nekava makawi neta** expression describing customary way of performing sacrifices in nakamal.

• **break the wings of fowl** *expr* **merekhel mének** expression describing traditional sacrifice in nakamal by 'NAOTUPUNUS'. cf.'MEREKHEL NALEMEN NEKAVA MAKAWI NETA'.

breast (inalienable) *n* **naha-**

breastfeed *v* **amha** be, used of children. *Ex.*: Kowa ramamha la tahan mama natepun renasis. ~ The child drinks milk of his mother and his belly is well rounded.

breath *v* **amig** *Ex.*: Ieram ramamig. ~ An asthmatic person.

breathless *v* **amigamig** be. *Ex.*: Iamamigamig. ~ I am breathless.

bright *v* **meta** be. *Ex.*: Lopen rameta, mahau ripar. ~ The night is bright and there is a lot of stars.

brother (inalienable) *n* **nawine-** of a woman. *Ex.*: my brother (if a woman is speaking) ~ nawinek • (inalienable) *n* **pia-** younger or elder, if the speaker is a man. • (inalienable) *n* **nohra-** younger, if the speaker is a man.

• **brother-in-law** (inalienable) *n* **tahakiél** if the speaker is a man. • *n* **niél** of a man.

Brothers of the Sacred Heart *n prop* **Frère min taha Nowanénau Awsim** religious congregation.

brown (ancient term) *adj* **apen mérek**

• **brown goshawk** *n* **kweria Ienatem** (*Accipiter fasciatus*)

bud *n* **nameren** of a plant other than vine. cf.'NUWIAN'.

buff-banded rail *n* **kasawar** (*Gallirallus philippensis*)

burn *v* **uwow** *Ex.*: Nekam rakauwow. ~ Burning fire. • *v* **ahu akry** of food made directly in fire. *Ex.*: Neté ramahu akry. ~ The taro is burnt.

burnt *v* **ahu atin** of food prepared in a saucepan. *Ex.*: Rais ramahu atin. ~ The rice is burnt.

burying of foreskin *n* **khauatín lé nién** a tradition of burying the foreskin of a circumcised boy at the evening of the 'NASES' celebration. A young coconut tree is planted on the same place to make the boy grow well.

bush (generic term) *n* **nek** whatever kind excluding bamboos, grasses and vines. • *n* **numanesé** (*Euodia hortensis*) cf.'NUMA LE NESÉ'. • *n* **nuahwa** decorative, known also as 'KAWHAW TÉ LÉGA'. • *n* **niapur** generic term for several species of bushes with colorful leaves, it is often planted around graves and as a live fence. The colorful leaves are used to make necklaces. • *n* **nemaaur maur** (*Amaranthus viridis*) leaves change their color to red by the time of yam harvest. Used with 'NUMANPWILPAS' to decorate the first yams presented during 'KAMARU NUW'. Boiled leaves are eaten. • *n* **numa le Nesé** (*Euodia hortensis*) plant with fragrant leaves worn by men and women during ceremonies. Its name reminds of 'NESÉ', a young woman from a local legend. • *n* **numanséi** (*Euodia hortensis*) shortened and badly pronounced name of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. The term is however used by some nowadays. • *n* **niapur ieni napuk** species of 'NIAPUR', used by special men who compose local songs as after chewing its leaves they can hear melodies and lyrics in natural noises and birdsongs. • *n* **napaguw** species toxic for the fish. It is used for fishing in tide pools, where the branches are rubbed against the rocks in the water to release the toxin. • *n* **sapru ata** species with edible fruit. • *n* **nawitalegen luw** species, lit. "the ear of the 'LUW' fish". • *n* **naiauw amimera** species, used to treat furuncles. The furuncle is cut open, it is covered with the leaf of this plant and the leaf is struck with its petiole in order to let the blood and the pus come out. • *n* **naknau léwléw** (*Acalypha* sp. (?)) species. • *n* **nekeki tapatapa** species. • *n* **nepleg awhia** (*Polyscias* sp.) species. • *n* **nekus iawin** species. • *n* **nyo lakelak** species. • *n* **nekolaug nek afwil** species. • *n* **namelamel** species. • *n* **kléplépen tuan** species. • *n* **numatalegen amer** species. In ancient times the leaves were worn as earrings. Petioles are inserted into the ears. • *n* **nauhwil** species. Its crushed leaves are

used as soap when one takes his bath in the sea. In family with 'NAMULAT'. • *n* **nepleg akhar** (*Polyscias scutellaria*) species. Its leaves are cooked and given every day to babies who have delayed speech development to stimulate them to talk. • *n* **nekoumas** species. Its leaves are used to decorate yams during the ceremony of 'NIÉL'. • *n* **nekolaug nek** species. Using its branch with many fruits hanging on it the vines of cucumbers and pumpkins are pierced so that their crop is plentiful. • *n* **naiauw afwil** species. When a cat or a dog miscarries often, the juice of its leaves is added to their food to prevent further miscarriage. It is also used to treat furuncles. The furuncle is cut open, it is covered with the leaf of this plant and the leaf is struck with its petiole in order to let the blood and the pus come out. • *n* **natkig** species. Young branches are chewed and the juice is swallowed in cases of food poisoning. • *n* **nepleg afwil** (*Polyscias guilfoylei*) species. Young leaves are boiled and consumed. • *n* **numanesé Ienatem** (*Euodia hortensis*) variant from Anatom. • *n* **numawin** (*Euodia hortensis*) variant of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. • *n* **nekelkeki nam** (*Euodia hortensis*) variant of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. The shape of the leaves are similar to the shape of a fish 'NAM'. • *n* **nowait** (*Polyscias fruticosa*) young leaves are cooked and incorporated in soups.

• **bush nut** *n* **nawigen** (*Barringtonia edulis*) fruits are edible.

but *conj* **mero**

butterfly *n* **papawuk**

butterflyfish *n* **malwia**

buy *v* **os** *Ex.*: Iamamos nu kér. ~ I have bought a yam.

by two *expr* **kiu kiu**

C

Caledonian mitten lobster *n* **tapatapa** (*Parribacus caledonicus*)

call *v* **akoako** fowl when feeding them. *Ex.*: Ramakoako in mének min. ~ He is calling the hens to feed them. • *n* **nakoakoan** the fowl when feeding them.

canoe (generic term) *n* **niko** outrigger, indigenous term.

cf.'KENU'. • *n* **niko** a small canoe in which a 'KAWAR' is held. • (from English: canoe) *n* **kenu** outrigger. • *n* **nowaniko** the hull itself of an outrigger canoe.

cap *n* **kawhaw**

car *n* **loto**

cardinal myzomela *n* **pesit** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) in local custom a bird which reunites "red" and "black" families. cf.'KOWIAMÉTA' and 'NEMRUKÉN'. • *n* **kowiamétaméta** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) name only used for males of the species. cf.'KOWIAPILÉGEN'. • *n* **kowiapilégen** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) name used only for females. cf.'KOWIAMÉTAMÉTA'. • *n* **nemrukén** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) name used only for females. cf.'KOWIAMÉTAMÉTA'.

carry *v* **las** *Ex.*: Las kupas tahak mwa iken ek. ~ Carry my pig here.

cassava *n* **nemaiaiko** (*Manihot esculenta*)

castrate *v* **atau** *Ex.*: Iawilu taratau tahan kupas. ~ Iawilu will castrate his pig.

castration *n* **natauan**

cat (from English: pussy cat) *n* **usi**

catastrophe (from English: disaster) *n* **tisasta** natural.

caterpillar *n* **mim**

cave *n* **napagkopwiél**

cavity *n* **napag** • *n* **kual**

centipede *n* **napilas**

chance *n* **peken** a random event.

change skin *v* **owiak** of crabs, snakes etc. *Ex.*: Iager ramowiak. ~ The crab is changing its skin.

chestnut eyelash-blenny *n* **ilak** (*Cirripectes castaneus*)

chew *v* **emai** food, kava, etc. *Ex.*: Io iamemai nekava tawék. ~ It is me who chews the kava today.

chicken (generic term) *n* **mének** • *n* **iukenet** frizzle breed, only on wings. • *n* **kaseseres** frizzle breed. • *n* **makemak** low breed with "short legs". • *n* **ragi** speckled.

chief *n* **ieniniko** of a village. lit. "voice of the tribe". From root 'ENI'. cf.'IERAMARA' and 'NAOTUPUNUS'.

child (in singular) *n* **naren** • (inalienable, in singular) *n* **nare-children** (inalienable, in plural) *n* **narare-** • (in plural) *n* **koko min** • (in plural) *n* **nararen**

church *n* **nima awhak** building.

cicada *n* **urian** species heard in the evening with short tinkling sound. • *n* **iawitaleg** species that sings (cf.'KIT') especially during the time when shoots of newly planted yams start to appear. cf.'IAWITALEG MIN KAMAILIS NUWIAN NUW'. • *n* **keno** species that sings especially during the time when yams are planted. It is consumed cooked on fire. • *n* **kapenkapen** species.

cicadae iawitaleg carry shoots of yams *expr* **iawitaleg min kamailis nuwian nuw** expression used for the part of the year, when cicadae 'IAWITALEG' start to sing. It is said, that those cicadae carry on their backs the young shoots of newly planted yams out of the ground.

cinder *n* **nourasekam** smoldering.

cinnamon clownfish *n* **mamau la kaléleg** (*Amphiprion melanopus*)

circumcision (generic term) *n* **kaur** term for circumcision and, figuratively, for the entire time from the circumcision itself to the 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR' ceremony. • *expr* **iarames ramol kaur** done not by men, but by 'IARAMES'. Sometimes a boy at age of circumcision is found by his family to be instantaneously, often overnight, circumcised and the wound healed by a 'IARAMES', in which case the family does not follow the usual 'KAUR' ceremony. Sometimes such family is glad and says, that the 'IARAMES' helped them as the 'KAUR'-making expenses are considerable. cf.'KAUR'. • *n* **iakmen** special manner of circumcision reserved to boys from village chief families. Consists in cutting only the upper part of foreskin.

clamp *n* **pal** small edible species.

clan (generic term) *n* **niko** also used for the land owned by a clan.

clean *v* **maké** potatoes, vegetables etc. *Ex.*: Iamaké nuw. ~ I am cleaning a yam.

clear *adj* **rahlél** e.g. water, sky.

clearing *n* **nekaugan** a large place, where there are few trees, only grass grows there. cf.'LÉNKAUGAN'.

closed *v* **areg** *Ex.*: Kamareg la nima. ~ The house is closed.

clothes *n* **napen**

cloud *n* **napwua** • *n* **napinapan** dark, before rain. *Ex.*: Ramapinap le nihin. ~ The rain clouds come.

coast sheoak *n* **niél** (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) hard wood. Serves to make large clubs used for killing pigs during traditional ceremonies.

cobweb *n* **liélia**

coconut (generic term) *n* **nién** • *n* **napekak** germinating. • *n* **nién mera** green. • *n* **nién nepum** not yet germinating but already developing oil inside. Between 'NIÉN ULEK' and 'NAPEKAK'. • *n* **nauselu** ready for drinking, but still without flesh. • *n* **nién ulek** ready for drinking, with flesh already formed. • *n* **nowatahwa** young, without flesh.

- **coconut crab** *n* **iager** (*Birgus latro*)

- **coconut husk** *n* **napeka** piece of dry fibrous husk used for general cleaning other than kava roots. cf.'KASESEN'. • *n* **kasesen** piece of dry fibrous husk used to clean kava roots. cf.'NAPEKA'. *Ex.*: Lasipa kasisen iaké nukenekava. ~ Give me a piece of coconut husk to clean the kava.

- **coconut leaves** *n* **numa sia** • *n* **numa sia mer** dry.

- **coconut milk** *n* **nihin nién**

- **coconut tree** (generic term) *n* **nién** (*Cocos nucifera*) • *n* **slu** (*Cocos nucifera*) "twins", two palms sprouting from one coconut. • *n* **pamimera** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with green skin. • *n* **tuan** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with light yellow skin. • *n* **ianam léwléw** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with reddish or violet husk and orange skin. Its water is used to wash young boys immediately after the circumcision. cf.'KAUR'. • *n* **pometa** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with yellow-orange skin. • *n* **rik** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing only small inflorescences and its nuts are easy to pick. • *n* **gep** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing small and tender nuts. The husk of young nuts is eaten. • *n* **paha** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing small greenish yellow nuts. • *n* **iéru** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing very large nuts, used for fabrication of kava shells.

coffee (from English: coffee) *n* **kofi** drink. • (from English: coffee) *n* **kofi** (*Coffea arabica*) plant. Cultivated as cashcrop.

cofferfish (generic term) *n* **kawawigen** (*Ostraciidae*)

coincidence *n* **peken** an unplanned event.

cold *adj* **arap** *Ex.*: Kamarap. ~ It is cold. • *v* **nesinahga-ramai** have. *Ex.*: Nesinahgak ramai. ~ I have cold.

collared kingfisher *n* **kawhité** (*Todiramphus chloris*) in local culture hearing its cry from the right is a good omen, but from the left a bad one. Associated with rainy weather.

collecting of shellfish *n* **timha** in tidal pools. Usually done by women.

color (from English: color) *n* **kala**

colubrine sea krait *n* **tagalua** (*Laticauda colubrina*)

come back *v* **léleg** *Ex.*: Sepléleg talauk. ~ I will come back tomorrow.

commercial top shell *n* **taknu** (*Tectus niloticus*)

common myna *n* **kaul** (*Acridotheres tristis*)

conch *n* **naiu** often used as an abbreviation for triton's trumpet. cf.'NAIU PWIA'. • *n* **naiu nowanawias** (*Bursidae* (?) similar to Charonia tritonis.

constellation *n prop* **Kasulia apam** "long 'KASULIA'", three stars of the Orion's belt. • *n prop* **Kasulia reparep** "short 'KASULIA'", three stars of the sword of Orion. • *n prop* **Kou** five stars of head of Taurus, in form of 'KOU'. • *n prop* **Kahau** four stars on the end of the Scorpions' tail. • *n prop* **Kilil** seven main stars of the Orion. • *n prop* **Suatu kywer** southern cross, lit. "four ways", in allusion to the four customary exchange roads running from each 'IMAIM'.

container *part* **nuwig** classifier of containers (cups, baskets, bags, ...). *Ex.*: coconut bowl ~ nuwig kuwel

convict tang *n ty* (*Acanthurus triostegus*)

cook *n* **ahu** *Ex.*: Iamahu nar wyt kér. ~ I am cooking something good. • *v* **wan** on fire. *Ex.*: Iakawan kelaka mero rasmatakan. ~ I am cooking a kelaka yam in fire, but it is still raw.

cooked *adj* **matak** • *adj* **kawan** on fire.

cooking *n* **nahuan** act of preparing food.

cooperation *expr* **suatu apam** figurative speech.

copulation *n* **nawisan** of animals.

coral *n* **pesiapesia** kind that builds "branches".

- **coral wood** *n* **metu** (*Adenanthera pavonina*) hard wood. Used in constructions and to make canoe paddles 'NIWÉIA'.

corosol *n* **sapsap** (*Annona muricata*) fruit is edible. Infusion of leaves is used as treatment to wash children with measles.

cough *n* **atagel** have a. *Ex.*: Kowa ramatagel mero rakamus. ~ The baby coughs as it is sick.

country *n* **ten**

cousin (inalienable) *n* **pia-** female, younger or elder, if the speaker is a woman. • (inalienable) *n* **pia-** male, younger or elder, if the speaker is a man.

cow (ancient term, generic term) *n* **kurimatau** ancient term, lit. "dog with hooks". cf. 'NOWAN MATAU'. Today 'PULUK' is used instead. • (from English: bullock) *n* **puluk** for the indigenous term cf. 'KURIMATAU'. • *n* **puluk katkhatek** with spotted skin.

cowfish (generic term) *n* **kawawigen** (*Ostraciidae*)

cross *n* **nekaloawin** in faith.

crow *v* **winen** Ex.: Mének rakawinen. ~ The rooster is crowing.

crown *n* **kawhau** of flowers or decorative leaves, worn on head, original meaning of this word.

crowned scythe *n* **ialinaio** (*Zanclus cornutus*)

cry *v* **asak** Ex.: Taham kowa ramasak. ~ Your child is crying.

custom (ancient term, generic term) *n* **nolan awas**

cf. 'NOLAWASAN'. • (ancient term, generic term) *n* **nolawasan** from 'OL' - do, and 'AWAS' - old, related to ancestors. A word describing the way of life and identity of the people, today by ignorance of the true term often replaced by the Bislama equivalent 'KASTOM'. • *n* **nases** ceremony performed the night before the final circumcision ceremony 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR', during which on one side the men do a special dance in the nakamal 'NOWANMANAGA' and burn the barriers that were hiding the boys since the beginning of their circumcision, and on the other side the women do a special dance in the village around a burning symbolic 'NASES' tree. • *n* **niél** important ceremony consisting in offering a large number of yams and pigs. After some time the beneficiary does a 'NIÉL' of the same size for the donor. An important custom fostering relations between individuals and communities. • *n* **kaur** important ceremony, which begins with the circumcision of young boys and ends after about three months by their ceremonial presentation to the village during 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR'. • *n* **nekowiar** important festival on which the majority of population is participating. Organized irregularly every several years. During the celebration several dances proper to 'NEKOWIAR' only are performed in a fixed order. Their names are 'NUHUPUKA', 'NAPENAPEN', 'TOKA', 'NAU', 'NASAL', 'KASASIWO' and 'NEMAWIO'. • *n* **kamaru nuw** special festival at the beginning of yam harvest, when 'NAOTUPUNUS' in charge of yams presents first yams to the 'IERAMARA'. cf. 'NARUAN NUW'. • (from English: custom) *n* **kastom** the true term in local language is 'NOLAWASAN'. • *n* **kamir iataw kaur** very important ceremony organized at the end of the circumcision 'KAUR', during which the circumcised boys are finally presented to their mothers and the entire village after the time they spent hidden in 'NOWANMANAGA'.

cut *v* **arai** Ex.: Iamarai nek. ~ I was cutting the wood.

cuttlefish *n* **iapwis**

cyclone *n* **nematag asul**

D

damsel fish *n* **mamau** (*Pomacentridae*)

dance (generic term) *n* **napuk** • *v* **ol napuk** Ex.: Talauk iakol napuk apa Lowkweria. ~ Tomorrow I will go to dance to Lowkweria. • *n* **kéisa** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'. • *n* **kopwiélkopwiél** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'. • *n* **namilo** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'. Danced only during the celebration of 'KAMARU NUW'. At the end of the dance, the dancers make a movement like throwing a stone, by which, in a symbolic manner, they throw the 'KAWAR TAHA NUW' down to the villages on the seashore and thus they allow them to eat yams at the beginning of the harvest. • *n* **nowanarwiu** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'. Danced only during the time, when eating yam is taboo. • *n* **naléwa** family of traditional dances containing, as an important choreographic element, fast movements of the dancers from one side to another. • *n* **nemawio** family of traditional dances, during which the participants turn around in a circle. • *n* **siosio** kind of customary dance. • *n* **nasal** kind of

important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The fifth in the order of dances, danced in the morning. • *n* **nuhupuka** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The first in the order of dances. lit. "leg of a pig". • *n* **nau** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The fourth in the order of dances, danced during the sunrise. • *n* **napenapen** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The second in the order of dances, danced during the night. • *n* **nemawio** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The seventh and the last in the order of dances, danced early in the afternoon. Follows the ceremonial killing of pigs. • *n* **kasasiwo** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The sixth in the order of dances, danced around the noon. • *n* **toka** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The third in the order of dances, danced in the time, when 'FÉTUKAI' appears on the morning sky. • *n* **nima taha niéré** kind of legendary dance performed by living stones in times when human dance did not yet exist. Its rhythm and figures are different to those found in human dances. • *n* **nowanaloumaga** kind originating from the Létakeren zone. Said to be the first ever human dance.

dark *adj* **apinap**

dawn *v* **renakak** coming.

day *n* **nian** today used nearly solely in this sense, but its original meaning is far larger and it meant time or moment. Today this sense of the word is abandoned and is commonly expressed by "taem" from Bislama.

• **day after tomorrow** *adv* **tonhin**

• **day before yesterday** *adv* **nihin**

daylight *v* **renakak** when it comes in the morning.

dead *expr* **ieram ramemes** man.

deaf *v* **alu** be. Ex.: Iakalu. ~ I am deaf.

dear *adj* **kéikéi**

death *n* **nemesan**

deed *n* **nolan**

deity (generic term) *n* **wughin**

diarrhea *v* **ai** have. Ex.: Ramai to nian kywer. ~ He is having diarrhea for last four days.

die *v* **mes** if conjugated with infix '-AM-'. Ex.: Tahak kaha ramemes. ~ My grandfather is dead.

dig out *v* **éku** Ex.: Perawen raméku nowanuman. ~ The woman is opening an earth oven. • *v* **il** yams etc. Ex.: Nian taha nilan nuw. ~ It is time to dig out yams.

disaster (from English: disaster) *n* **tisasta**

discussion *n* **nakharan**

distribute *v* **awra** Ex.: Iamawra prêt to piak. ~ I am sharing bread with my brother. • *v* **hoti** Ex.: Ieram asul ramhoti nauganan lé suatu min. ~ The chief distributes the food to the roads. during traditional ceremonies the people come to the nakamal from its surroundings by the four customary ways from four different directions. Speaking about a group coming from a particular road, it is usually referred simply as the "road". When the time comes after a customary ceremony to distribute the food, it is then not said to be distributed to the "people", but to the "roads".

disturb *v* **ol kalwas** with noise. Ex.: Kamaipel, kani Iaris ramapus mierpa, mamol kalwas. ~ We were already sleeping, when Iaris went out, got drunk and was making a lot of noise.

ditch *n* **napag rokrok** protecting gardens against pigs.

divide *v* **atkel** things or people. Ex.: Iamatkel nowanima tahak piak tarawa mapel iken. ~ I am dividing my house to make place for my brother.

do *v* **ol** Ex.: I will do, I was doing ~ sekol, iamamol • (from English: work) *v* **ol wok** something. Ex.: Dokta ramol wok lak. ~

The doctor is treating me. lit. "working on me". • *adv* **taratawol** what, question concerning an action extending to future. lit. "what will he do". *Ex.*: Sylvano rewén taratawol apa imaim? ~ Why is Sylvano gone to nakamal? • *v* **atawol** what, question concerning an action. *Ex.*: Namatawol? ~ What are you doing?

dog *n* **kuri**

door *n* **tapen**

dove (generic term) *n* **penoha** young people and children do not eat it, as it represents a legendary girl from 'LAPNUMAN'. If it sings during night, it predicts somebody's death.

down *adv* **lahau** *Ex.*: Lowanatom in apa lahou, mero Lowkweria in apa iles. ~ Lowanatom is down, while Lowkweria is up in the hills.

dragonfly *n* **piétpié**

draw *v* **wi** e.g. water. *Ex.*: Inwipen ita nu. ~ I have already gotten water.

dream (generic term) *n* **naripai wyt** ordinary, good. cf.'NARIPAI'. • *n* **naripai tat** bad. cf.'NARIPAI'. • *n* **naripai** in which one has a vision or a revelation. cf.'IPAI'.

drink *v* **amnum** *Ex.*: Nakamnum nién mero rawyt? ~ Is the coco, that you are drinking, good?

drug *n* **méresen** medication.

drunk *v* **apus** be, feel the effects of kava or alcohol. If used in context of kava, the word has usually no negative meaning and is often used as a "polite" question, when asking a person if he did feel well the effects of his kava. *Ex.*: Namapus lenaw apa imaim o kapa. ~ Did you feel the kava effects yesterday at nakamal, or not? • *v* **apus kaur riér** be, heavily. lit. "be so drunk that one loses his nambas". An anachronism used sometimes today to make jokes of others. *Ex.*: Us an ramapus kaur riér lenaw lénhaiu. ~ Yesterday, that buddy got badly drunk. lit. "he was so drunk that he had lost his nambas". An anachronism used sometimes today to make jokes of others.

dry *v* **ausek** be. *Ex.*: Napen renausek. ~ Clothes are already dry. • *n* **mer** plant. *Ex.*: dry coconut ~ nién mer

• **dry coconut** *n* **nién mer**

dumb (inalienable) *v* **neki- reka** voiceless. *Ex.*: Kowa ramakhar apam kani nekin reka. ~ The kid shouted so much that he lost his voice.

dusk falling *v* **renapinap**

dust *n* **nemauiul**

dwarf *n* **ieramiman** small man, impolite term.

E

ear (inalienable) *n* **nema taleg-**

earth *n* **ten** • *n* **nemopten**

• **earth oven** *n* **nowanuman**

east *n* **pat** also means the inland part of the island. cf.'IKPAT'.

eastern reef-egret *n* **pan** (*Egretta sacra*)

eastwards *aff* **-pat** suffix of verbs.

easy *adj* **merek** *Ex.*: Ani merek am! ~ Speak slowly!

eat *v* **augan** *Ex.*: Renaugan ita. ~ He has already eaten. • *v* **ken** *Ex.*: Iamken nam né nuw. ~ I ate a fish with a yam. • *v* **asepién** something together with coconut. *Ex.*: Iamasepién nepen. ~ I am eating a banana with a coconut.

eddy *n* **siosio** wind.

educate *v* **atukun** *Ex.*: Ramatukun kokomin apa lawanu. ~ He is taking care of a good education of village kids.

education *n* **natukunan**

eel *n* **nam lahou** • *n* **win** marine, edible.

egg *n* **nowanhalenméne** of hen.

either ... or ... (ancient term) *conj* **ua ... ua ...**

elongated *adj* **apamapam**

ember *n* **nourasekam**

emerald dove *n* **mak** (*Chalcophaps indica*) • *n* **mak pelpel** (*Chalcophaps indica*) "species" distinguished by the language, with white spots on feathers.

emperor angelfish *n* **malwia ituga** (*Pomacanthus imperator*)

empty *adj* **nuigen** • *n* **nekaugan** space, figurative. lit. "place with few trees".

end *n* **naonin**

• **end of the day** *expr* **naonin nian**

• **end of the year** *expr* **naonin nu**

enjoy *v* **agién** e.g. a party. *Ex.*: Sakagién. ~ I am going to enjoy myself.

enough *v* **awker** be. *Ex.*: Renawker. ~ It is enough. • *v* **renauker** be. • *v* **rawker** it is.

epiphyte *n* **numankuku** any species with short, grass-like leaves, lit. "leaves of small boys". According to a legend, in ancient times a group of small boys was watching from a hidden place the stones performing their 'NEKOWIAR' while the grey fantail or 'TEKISKISEK' performed a dance. At one point, the 'TEKISKISEK' did a wrong movement. This scared the stones and made them run away. The young boys were frightened of being discovered so they climbed up the trees and were transformed into 'NUMANKUKU'.

evening *n* **lénhaiu**

• **evening star** *n prop* **Kéwita**

every day *expr* **nian min patem**

everybody *adv* **patem**

everything *adv* **patem**

exist *expr* **apa iken**

eye (inalienable) *n* **nowanaramera-**

F

face paint *n* **nesipen** pigment used for 'NAHWÉLAN'. • *n* **nahwélan** traditional decoration of faces. For women on cheeks and more elaborated, for men a simple line on front. Originally only black and red natural pigments were used.

facial hair *n* **numa min nulek**

fall *v* **ep** of rain. *Ex.*: it rains ~ ramep

family of plants *n* **nuiu** distinguished by long leaves growing in a rosette pattern around a central point similar to the pineapple or pandanus. Some of its members are 'NOWANIU', 'NUIU ROU' and 'NEMANKIU'.

fan *n* **kilil**

far away *adv* **isau** but possibly still in sight. cf.'EPEN'. • *adv* **epen** very, much further than 'ISAU'.

fart *n* **nalepesan** • *v* **éu nar** especially while making noise. *Ex.*: In raméu nar. ~ It was him, who farted. • *v* **alepes** without making noise. *Ex.*: Salepesan! ~ Don't fart!

fast *adv* **ihwé**

fat *n* **nalepa**

father (inalienable) *n* **rem-**

feather (inalienable, generic term) *n* **numamwi-** *Ex.*:

Numamwimak ratol? ~ What color is the plumage of common emerald dove? • *n* **kweria apam** an object made of raptor (and possibly fowl) feathers, worn on special occasions such as 'NEKOWIAR' by men of high social status. • *n* **naio** colored, worn in hair by men and women during customary celebrations. • *n* **naio** from roosters' tail. Worn on head during customary ceremonies.

feel *v* **ero** effects of kava, lit. "hear". *Ex.*: Iamero nekava. ~ I feel the kava.

feelings (inalienable) *v* **neki- reka** have towards somebody or concerning something. *Ex.*: Nekik reka la peran an. ~ I do not feel anything towards this girl.

fence *n* **nowankelu** around a village. • *n* **neparepar** both normal and live.

fern *n* **nawitag** family of several fern species. Women place these leaves in their baskets and hit them with their hands during the 'NAPENAPEN' dance. • *n* **nuto** family of tree ferns. • *n* **nupen** large species. • *n* **napinu apam** large species. • *n* **nanep** medium sized species, approximately about one meter high. Belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'. • *n* **iélken apen** name of several fern species. Sometimes this name is used also for 'NARUATO', which belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'. lit. "black leg". • *n* **iélken apen** small species with dark green leaves. It belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'. In ancient times, its crushed leaves were wiped over the eyes of elderly people who were suffering from excessive lacrimation said to be caused by pigs hair entering their eyes. • *n* **siksik** small species. • *n* **iélken apen** small species. Belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'. • *n* **nawitag aswas** species from the 'Nawitag' family. • *n* **iawra** species from the 'IÉLKEN APEN' family with edible leaves. lit. "sharing". • *n* **neméi** species from the 'IÉLKEN APEN' family. • *n* **nawitag apen** species. • *n* **siksik** species. • *n* **nawitag merek** species. • *n* **kowag** species. • *n* **nawitag mélekem** species. • *n* **nawitag rausekausek** species. • *n* **nekawkaw mének** species. • *n* **katihwata té iagnamea** species. A leaf from this plant is sent from the nakamal to the women in the village during one of the circumcision 'TEMAHWA' to hang on their 'NASES' tree. • *n* **nawirek** species. It is used in the same way as the 'KATIHWATA TÉ IAGNAMEA' during circumcision. Tips of its branches are chewed to relieve stomachaches. • *n* **nasal** species. Men and women use this to make crowns to be worn during the 'TOKA' dance. • *n* **kelema** (*Cyathea lunulata* (?) species. The spiny petiole is used to grate ingredients when making laplap. • *n* **nawitag** species. Used in the same manner as the 'KATIHWATA TÉ IAGNAMEA' during circumcision. Before the existence of human beings, its roots were eaten by the stones. • *n* **nuto** tree fern species similar to 'KELEMA', but without spiny petiole. • *n* **nakel** tree fern species with edible leaves. This plant gave the name to the village of 'LÉNAKEL'. • *n* **naruato** very large species. The skin of its petioles is used to make arm bands 'KAUKASÉ'. Member of fern family 'IÉLKEN APEN'.

fever *v* **araparap** have. *Ex.*: Iamaraparap. ~ I have a fever.

fifth *num ol* **katilum**

fight *expr* **kamiaru ilau min** among several people, with fists.

filefish *n* **numanahapitag**

film *n* **nahlelan** on water, caused by oily substances. *Ex.*: Nahlelan taha nién. ~ A film on water caused by coconut oil.

filter *n* **niges** made of coconut leaf sheath or artificial, used to filter kava.

finish *v* **nol naunin** an action. *Ex.*: Io inol naunin lé namnumnemak nekava. ~ I have finished drinking my kava.

finished *adj* **ita**

fire *n* **nekam**

firewood *n* **nek mer**

first *num ol* **karéna**

• **first kava** *n* **kamnum** ceremony, during which a man receives from his father his first kava to drink in the nakamal. Usually the maternal uncle of the man is invited and the family offers him a small customary gift, like a laplap or a kava. In some place an ancient way of drinking the first kava is still perpetuated, where the father or the uncle offers the kava in a bowl made from a banana leaf. The kava is drank by the man leaning forward and after finishing it, he eats a small piece of cooked pig grease which is drown in the kava, which is supposed to protect him against food poisoning. • *v* **ol kamnum** do the ceremony of first kava. cf. 'KAMNUM'. *Ex.*: Ta lenhaiu apa imaim kamol kamnum taha

Iaruél. ~ This evening in the nakamal there will be the first kava made for Iaruél.

• **first-born** *adj* **iaghin** *Ex.*: Io iaghin la tahak famili. ~ I am the first-born of my family.

fish (generic term) *n* **nam** • *v* **wi** *Ex.*: Iakawi nam tawék. ~ Today, I am fishing. • *n* **umé** generic term for fishes with a hump on the head. *Ex.*: green humphead parrotfish ~ makam umé • *n* **kotéa** poisonous species. • *n* **kulap** species of a large marine fish with large eyes. • *n* **metu** species of deep sea. • *n* **iahak** species probably feeding on coral. Man who eats a lot of it will lose his teeth. Children must not eat it at all. cf. 'IHI'.

fisherman *n* **iaraa** from 'IERAM PAHA' - "man of the seashore". Somebody greatly experienced in fishing and seafaring.

cf. 'IARAPAT'. *Ex.*: Naramim Ituga naraa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

fistfight *expr* **kamiaru ilau min** among several people.

flambeau *n* **nesia**

flamboyant *n* **numalupen** (*Delonix regia*) introduced species which took its name from a local species with similar leaves.

flame *n* **namnamen nekam**

flash of lightning *n* **ramawlekam**

floater *n* **remel** of an outrigger canoe.

flower (inalienable, generic term) *n* **nauge-** • *n* **nekowisel** branches of coconut tree inflorescence, sometimes used as a broom or to make 'LAÉN'. • *v* **augen** of any tree except banana tree. cf. 'IUK'. *Ex.*: Magko renaugen. ~ The mango tree is already flowering. • *v* **iuk** only about bananas. cf. 'AUGEN'. *Ex.*: Nepen ramiuk. ~ The banana tree is flowering. • (generic term) *n* **naugenepen** the flower itself at the end of the inflorescence stem.

• **flower of banana tree** *n* **nuan** curved part of the stem of the inflorescence. • *n* **neprisin (nepen)** part of the banana bunch where the fruit is already ripe. Hand of bananas. • *n* **nesinepen** part of the banana bunch where the fruit is not matured and ripe. • *n* **nuahun** straight part of the stem of the inflorescence.

fly *n* **kiag** insect. • *n* **manman** very small flies or winged ants.

flying fish *n* **wénes**

flying fox *n* **kel** (*Pteropus sp.*) • *n* **narekel** its offspring, from "nararen kel".

follow *v* **awotiseq** *Ex.*: Awotiseq in io! ~ Follow me! • *v* **ir** somebody. *Ex.*: Tanekir io kiawen apa Ituga? ~ Will you follow me to Ituga?

• **follow something that has no sense** *v* **rou nalmelan** lit. "follow foolish things". *Ex.*: Namerou nalmelan. ~ Your effort is without any sense. • *v* **rou nesega** lit. "follow the intestine". *Ex.*: Namerou nesega. ~ Your effort is without any sense.

following *expr* **kér men**

food *n* **naunganan**

fool *n* **ialmel**

foot (inalienable) *n* **nalek-**

for (inalienable) *aff* **taha-** benefactive pref. *Ex.*: stone for good harvest of bananas ~ kawar tahanepen

forbidden *v* **aniaw** be. *Ex.*: Naramim kamainiaw kama to nosan nek mer. ~ The people have forbidden us to collect firewood.

foreign *adj* **ituga**

forest *n* **nekinamera**

fourth *num ol* **kywer**

fragrance *n* **pién**

frangipani *n* **kapwia** (*Plumeria sp.*) its name was taken from *Argusia argentea* because of similarity of leaves.

friend *n* **niél**

frigatebird *n* **mének cfa** (*Fregata sp.*) • *n* **lenkai** (*Fregata sp.*)

from *conj* **la**

fruit *aff* **nowa-** pref.

full *adj* **ramat** • *adj* **renateahu** • (inalienable) *adj* **natepa- renasis** of stomach, lit. "swollen stomach". Term often used, but not very correct. In good speech 'NÉPES' is used instead. *Ex.*: Iamken nepen matak ripar menépes. ~ I ate plenty ripe bananas and my stomach is full. • *adj* **népes** of stomach. A better term than 'NATEPA- RENASIS'.

Futuna *n prop* **Iwrona** island.

G

game (generic term) *n* **nawakelan** • *n* **kemal** a game played by girls with a string, similar to the "cradle". • *n* **numanmahmapau** an old game where one tries to find an edible fruit which is the very last one (after the season) or the very first one (before the season) and envelopes it in many different leaves and fastens it with several kinds of vines until the pack is very large, then brings it to a nakamal. Other players are supposed to unwrap one by one the leaves and the vines and tell their names until they get to the fruit. The aim of the game is to learn plant names. • *n* **nekrun** during which participants are trying to guess name of a plant from its leaves or roots. It is also the name used for whatever game where the players are trying to guess something or they pull the short stick and so on ... • *n* **karu areparep** each of the players draws around him a circle on the ground. The game starts with a small dialogue between two of the players, after which all become silent and try to make laugh each other by making funny faces. The one, who laughs first or who scratches himself or spits must defend his circle against the other players, who try to step into it. The one who steps into the defenders' circle without being touched by him can stretch his arm and grab another player outside the circle, so the defender cannot touch that player too. If the defender manages to touch a player, it is the touched one, who has on his turn defend his circle. During the game ridiculing songs are sung about the player who is actually defending his circle. • *n* **tapatapaialo** game to entertain little children. One of the players puts his hands one on the other. Another player hits them with his own hand while singing "Tapatapaialo, tapatapaialo, neken nowanién fé ik?" - "Tapatapaialo, whose coconut you ate?" The first one replies a name of a person and then hides his hand under his arm. They repeat the little song and hide the second hand too. Then, while saying "Kamamék, silapo, silapo, wa ..." the first player pulls forward his hands, opens wide his eyes and pulls his eyelids with his fingers to make a funny face. • *n* **karuita** game to entertain little children. One player shows his fists. The others hit them with their fists and shout "karuita!", after which the player hides his hands behind his back. The others ask him "When you went far away to see the world, what did you bring back?" The player says something that he likes (sweets, fruit, toys, ...). The others ask "Show us!" When the player opens his hands in front of them as if to show them what he came with, the others come fast and act like if they were eating fast all the thighs so that nothing is left for the player. And everybody laughs. • *n* **pikokai** game to entertain little children. The players stand together in circle. One of them makes of his hand a fist with his index finger straight and pointing towards the sky. His neighbor grabs his finger with his own fist, letting his own index finger straight, and so on until all hold their fingers in this way. Then the first player with his free hand index finger touches from left and right the finger of the last player and all sing the "Pikokai" song. After then the first player grabs with his free hand the ear of his neighbor, who does the same until all are holding their ears with one hand and their fingers with the other. Then they rock from side to side and sing the song of 'IARAMES' called 'SEKU' (q.v.) and at the end all fall to the ground. • *n* **nuai neparepa** it is played at time of cleaning gardens of weeds ("kasiperper") after having planted yams. The game has two variants. In the first one, the players hold their hands to form a long vine 'NEPAREPA'. Then they roll

around ("kasiperper") one of its ends until all the players are tightly enrolled around. Then they unroll again. In the second variant, players are aligned in couples holding their hands to form "doors". The last couple then, still holding their hands, tries to go through the series of "doors" until the end of the line of the players, where they stand up again to make a "door" and now the last couple goes through again. During the game this song is sung "Nuai neparepa, nuai neparepa, kasiperper kasiperper, ". • *n* **misekmisk** may be played also in the night. One of the players, the 'MISEKMISEK', is sitting several meters away from other players, not looking at them. Other players come one by one and touch the 'MISEKMISEK', who must then say, which of them touched him. During the game, the following song is sung, with its last phrase meaning "Who touched you?" - "Misekmisk / iahal pelpel / iamlé iamlé / iamus saré saré twa / kunai wé / ke kopinare kona. / Fwé riap ik?". • *n* **lélu** of tag. A local variant of the game. • *n* **iakestil** participants hold in hands each one of the branches of 'NEK TÉ KATANÉK' growing from the same stem and by pulling abruptly they try to rip them off. The one, who ends up with the central stem attached to his branch starts chasing the others and tries to bite ('KES', which is the root of the name of the game) their hand. • *n* **mamau** played during night, when two groups hide food in the forest and then search for each other's food. Is played at time of planting yams. • *n* **arupa la taluta** players jump on one leg around small wooden sticks following the beat of the song "Arupa la taluta" and try to pick up one by one all the sticks. The winner is the one, who manages to pick up all of them without falling or without one slipping out of his hands. • *n* **pulumpa** players sit down in circle facing the center, each of them having in left hand about twenty little wooden sticks. They take one of the sticks with their right hand and raise it above the head. Another player jumps around the circle on one leg, collects the wooden sticks and throws them into the circle until he falls (and loses) or collects all the sticks (and wins). During the game a song of the same name is sung. • *n* **sayé** players throw reed stems 'NULNUL' as spears in a way that they bounce when touching ground. The one who sends his reed the furthest, wins. The game is played when the vines of newly planted yams start to grow (cf. 'IAWITALEG MIN KAMAILIS NUWIAN NUW') and when their supporting constructions 'KAMO SIT' and 'KAMÉ PIAGEN' are built using 'NULNUL' reed stems. Throwing the 'NULNUL' far in this game symbolizes the vine of yam growing long, which ensures large yams. In this sense the game is played to ensure plentiful crop. • *n* **tow tow inio** sand cake game with coconut shells. As children knock on the shell, the sing 'TOW TOW INIO'. • *n* **numakesem** similar to looking for four leaf clovers. It consists in finding as many fruits of 'NUMAKASEM' as possible whose fruits are forked at the end, instead of the usual single tip shape.

garden *n* **nasuman** • *n* **nemai** slash-and-burn ground in the forest prepared to become a garden. • (generic term) *n* **naotupunus** person in charge of a 'KAWAR' and of good crop. cf. 'IERAMARA' and 'IENINIKO'.

• **garden magician** *n* **tupunus** cf. 'NAOTUPUNUS'. • *n* **ramaru nuw** 'NAOTUPUNUS' who is preparing first yams for the 'IERAMARA' during the celebration of 'KAMARU NUW' at the beginning of the harvest.

• **garden of yams** *n* **tow** mound of earth made when planting long species of yams. • *n* **khopen** place where small species of yams are planted. cf. 'TOW'.

gecko *n* **iuwau** (*Hemidactylus sp.*)

get dark *v* **renapinap** of evening.

giant *n prop* **Tramsemas** name of a giant from local legends. He was killed by 'MWATIKTIK'.

• **giant clam** *n* **iarou** (*Tridacna gigas*)

girl *n* **peraswas** • *n* **koko** term of endearment. Used mostly inside a family towards a child.

give *v* **las** must take directional suff. such as '-PA', '-PENA' etc. *Ex.*: Ramlasipa nepen. ~ He is giving me a banana.

• **give birth** *v* **émak** *Ex.*: Tahak perawen ramémak tawek. ~ My wife is delivering right now.

glad (inalienable) *v* **neki- ragién** be. *Ex.*: Nekik ragién epek. ~ I am very happy.

glossy swiftlet *n* **wukelekel** (*Collocalia esculenta*)

glowering *adj* **napinap** *Ex.*: Narameren renapinap. ~ His eyes are glowering.

go *v* **wén** away from the speaker. *Ex.*: Iakawén apa lawanu. ~ I go home. • *v* **an** only with infix "-ak-". *Ex.*: Iakan apa Ituga, apa imaim asul. ~ I go to Ituga, to the principal nakamal. • *v* **ier** out, away. *Ex.*: Io iamier apa la sekul mwa iken ek. ~ I went out from school and I came here. • *v* **ir** together with somebody. *Ex.*: Tanekir io kiawen apa Ituga? ~ Will you follow me to Ituga? • *v* **wa** towards the speaker. *Ex.*: Wa iken ek! ~ Come here!

goat (from English: nanny goat) *n* **nani**

god (generic term) *n* **wughin** • *n prop* **Mwatiktik** person from local mythology in charge of animals, plants and gardens. Dwells in 'LAPNUMAN'. • *n prop* **Korapanemen** supreme god dwelling on mount Tukosmera. • *n prop* **Kalpapen** the one, who brought to Tanna the kava, the black rooster, and who interrupted the endless day by bringing to the world the night, which since alternates with the day.

God (generic term) *n prop* **Wughin** of Christians. • *n prop* **Wughin Awsim** most holy.

godfather *n* **iausek** male relative, who takes care of a boy after his circumcision. He will still be an important person for the boy even when he will become adult.

godmother *n* **iausek** aunt from mother's side, who will during the first period of a girl do the 'NUIG KELÉL' scarification to her.

gold (from English: gold) *n* **kaul**

good *n* **nawytan** • *adj* **rawyt** • *v* **wyt** to be. *Ex.*: Rawyt lénhaiu to kamiar patem. ~ Good evening to you all.

• **good afternoon** *n* **rawyt lemankat**

• **good bye** *n* **imam**

• **good evening** *n* **rawyt lénhaiu**

• **good morning** *n* **rawyt lapnepen** • *n* **rawyt lakaplepen**

grab *v* **lasita** from ones hand, even by force. *Ex.*: Iamlasita nau to Nateman. ~ I seized a knife from Natemans' hand.

grandchild *n* **mipe-**

grandchildren *n* **namipe-** cf. 'MIPE-'.

grandfather *n* **kaha** (wyt) • (inalienable) *n* **repu-** very polite term.

grandmother *n* **kaha** (wyt) • (inalienable) *n* **repu-** very polite term.

grass (generic term) *n* **nyhal** a common term for a family of several species of grasses. • *n* **nyhal** introduced species. • (from English: mister Will) *n* **mista wil** introduced species. Said to be brought to Tanna by a certain Mr. Will. • *n* **nyhal awiwan** species. • *n* **nyhal iré** species. • *n* **nyhal nul kasek** species. • *n* **nyhal iaugenkiu** species.

• **grass skirt** *n* **niu** worn by women today usually only during customary ceremonies. On very few places on Tanna its daily wearing is still practiced.

grater *n* **kelema** made of spiny petiole of a kind of fern, used to grate ingredients when making laplap. • *n* **kamtuai** used for coconuts.

gravel *n* **numaklakel** of coral.

gray *adj* **ramrao** probably derived from 'NEMRAU'.

great-grandfather *n* **kaha tat**

great-grandmother *n* **kaha tat**

green *adj* **amimera** • *adj* **mera** fresh plant or raw fruit.

grey fantail *n* **tekiskisek** (*Rhipidura albiscapa*) mentioned in the legend of 'NUMANKUKU' and numerous others. He is said to be the chief of birds.

grilled *adj* **kawan**

grouper *n* **ialaken**

grow well *v* **ipar** lit. "give plenty", of plants in general. cf. 'KANAN'. *Ex.*: Nekava taripar epek. ~ The kava will grow well. • *v* **kanan** only of tubers. *Ex.*: Nuw tarakanan epek. ~ Yams will grow well.

guava tree (from English: guava) *n* **koapa** (*Psidium guajava*) its shoots are chewed and the juice swallowed to manage diarrhea and stomachaches.

H

hair (inalienable) *n* **numamwi-** both human and animal. • *n* **numamwi-** in armpit. • (inalienable) *n* **nauni-** in private parts. • (inalienable) *n* **nowanu-** on head.

hand (inalienable) *n* **nalem-** • (inalienable) *n* **nowanalem-** • **hand of bananas** *n* **neprisin** (nepen)

handshake *n* **kualofa**

happy *adj* **ragién** • (inalienable) *v* **neki- ragién** be. *Ex.*: Nekik ragién epek. ~ I am very happy.

hard *adj* **rausekausek** material, thing. • *adj* **rulek** material, thing. • *adv* **pekam** to do.

harpoon *v* **atek** to. *Ex.*: Namail am lé twiau né mamégasin iau tanakatek. ~ You are standing on a turtle, but you are searching one to spear. searching something which is just in front.

hat *n* **kawhau**

he *pron* **in**

head *n* **kahapa**

• **head of arrow** *n* **nowanparam** conic piece of wood inserted by its pointy end into a stem of reed 'NULNUL' to create the 'NOWANPARAM' arrow for hunting birds.

headache *n* **kahapa ramkes**

hear *v* **ero** *Ex.*: Iamero kléplépen kér. ~ I hear a bird.

heart *n* **nowanénau**

heaven *n* **lénéai** in religion.

heavy *adv* **pekam** of things, also of speech, "heavy" i.e. good, full of wise thoughts. *Ex.*: Nakharan taham in rapekam epek. ~ His speech is really good.

help *n* **nasituan** • *v* **asitu** to. *Ex.*: Ramasitu lak to ninatinan nakharan. ~ He helps me to learn the local language.

hen *n* **mének perawen**

her *pron* **tahan** • *pron* **to in** to, for.

herb (generic term) *n* **nek** whatever kind excluding bamboos, grasses and vines. • *n* **naugemet** lit. "flower of the sun". Its flowers close in the evening and opens in the morning. It is said to be the "clock" of people in ancient times. • *n* **kawhaw té Léga** an ornamental plant, lit. "crown of Léga" (female name). Its correct name is 'NUAHWA'. • *n* **naramohua** another name for 'NEK RAMOHUA'. • *n* **naugen tuan** another name for 'NAUGEPLÉN'. • *n* **nyawia apen** color variety of 'NYAWIA' with the same use. • *n* **karakut** decorative introduced species. • *n* **iarmatin** dry branches are used as a broom. • *n* **iarmatin tuan** dry branches used as a broom. • *n* **iarmatin apen** dry branches used as a broom. • *n* **hoici** generic term for several decorative flower species. • *n* **tilywalywa** indigenous species with smaller leaves. • *n* **karakut** indigenous species with yellow flowers. Its tubers are edible. • *n* **nalimala afwil** indigenous species. • *n* **nalimala** indigenous species. • *n* **nalimala apen** indigenous species. • *n* **kahau ratai** indigenous species. Its name is derived from a short story of a rat who one day, saw the fruits of this herb and hoping to eat them climbed to the top of the herb. Once on top, he was surprised because he could not find any of the fruits he just saw. This is because the herb covers its fruit with its leaves making it visible only from the bottom of the plant. • *n* **kahau ratai** (*Phyllanthus niruri*) introduced species which took its name from a similar local plant. • *n* **tilywalywa** introduced species with large leaves used as toilet paper. • *n*

nemaur ituga introduced species. • **naugeplén** invasive species, lit. "flower of airplane". Reportedly brought to the island by a white man who came by plane. • **nauganan neken hos** invasive species, lit. "horse food". • **numanpwilpas** (*Zingiberaceae* (?)) its fragrant leaves are gently rubbed between both hands and leis are made out of them. During traditional wedding ceremonies women will also hang them on their grass-skirts and men will wear them on their neck to perfume them. • **tuítui** its large leaves are used to cover the earth oven before earth is piled on top of it. • **numanuman** its leaves are boiled and consumed. The flower is used to decorate kava by the people of the Middle-bush during the ceremony of 'KAUR'. • **numanpiénpién** leaves are used as spice in soups. • **namtameta** sometimes confused with 'IAKESTIL'. Another name for 'NAMEWAMEW'. • **nalé** species from the family of 'NUMANAWAS', similar to it and to 'NUMANPWILPAS'. Used to make the leg decorations 'NAKEPEN' for dance. • **numakasem** species from the family of 'IARMATIN'. Used for a game of the same name. • **nowankapnaiuwa** species growing on the sand on beaches. • **nalíénalíén** species used in rain-summoning magic. Its name reminds of the raindrop 'NOWANALIAL'. • **nauseluauuselu** species with white flowers. • **netatan apen** species, lit. "black woe". Drinking the juice from its leaves treats heart disorders such as arrhythmia and angina. • **numatalegen kahau** species, lit. "ears of the mouse". • **narameren kamtiwan** species, lit. "eyes of 'KAMTIWAN'". 'KAMTIWAN' is a 'KOPWIÉL AWSIM' found in Lownapau in northern Tanna. • **nélkenéai** species, lit. "feet of the sky". It is used to summon good weather. It is also used to treat toothaches by chewing its leaves. The juice is spread on the teeth and gums and helps ease the pain. • **tansuksuk iarames** species, lit. "spear of the 'IARAMES' spirits". • **nalua kéikéi** species, arm bands 'KAUKASÉ' are made from its bark. • **kélekél** species, said to be indigenous. • **kélekél** species, said to be introduced. • **nowawu** species. • **sapsap** species. • **nenum** species. • **niayeriayer** species. • **kagkilipa** species. • **pelwit** species. • **ikinawag** species. • **nanumen neté** species. • **nesikuwow ikpat** species. • **nérgéreg** species. • **kyinuan** species. • **nek ramohua** species. • **nakik** species. • **napag rou** species. • **napateker ékuhia** species. • **kosio** species. • **nolu merek** (*Grewia crenata*) species. • **nesinani** species. lit. "goats' excrement". • **napilépilé** species. Believed to chase away the rain when burned. For example, while one is working in the garden and he sees an approaching rain, he can burn this herb to stop the rain from coming. • **ikinpagpag** species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves help ease stomachache. • **ioharir** species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves helps in febrile episodes. • **kasinaté** species. Fruits are edible. An infusion made from its leaves is drunk to treat high grade fevers. • **képiagen** species. In ancient times these are attached on the grass-skirts to decorate them. • **seli atipen** species. Its fruit is used as spice. • **seli** species. Its fruit is used as spice. • **nesikuwow iré** species. Its latex is put on small sores. • **nekarekar** species. Its leaves and fruits are edible. • **napilépilé** species. Its leaves are fed to wild young cattle to make them docile. • **numakaio tuan** species. Its leaves are made into a small grass-skirt which is worn as a slip under the regular grass-skirt. It is also used to wrap laplap. • **nepenepen** species. Its leaves are put on the 'KAWAR' of bananas to ensure a good harvest. • **nia** species. Its leaves are strung together and is used to cover ridges of the traditional roofs to protect them from the rain. • **menet** species. Its leaves are used as spice. • **namalinu** species. Its leaves are used to decorate kava during ceremonies. • **nalemenman** species. Its leaves are used to wrap freshly caught shrimps. • **nyawia** species. Often planted on tombs to prevent evil spirits. • **numanawas** species. Ornamental plant. When leaves are rubbed in between the hands, it emits a subtle fragrance. Leaves can also be made into a lei or garland or used to decorate kava. • **numanpwilpas afwil** (*Zingiberaceae* (?)) species. Same use as 'NUMANPWILPAS'. • **nakik léwléw** species. The juice from crushed leaves is drunk when one is having

fever. • **iakestil apen** species. The juice from its crushed leaves is drunk to treat urinary tract illness 'NAMITEKTEK'. • **namewamew** species. The juice from its crushed leaves is rubbed on erupted furuncles. Another name for 'NAMTAMETA'. • **nakik sun** species. The juice from its crushed leaves is used to treat the sores found in babies mouth. Intertrigos can be washed with the juice too. • **neketen** (*Ageratum conyzoides*) species. The juice from its leaves is drunk in case of fever and mixed with the juice of leaves of 'IOHARIR'. • **napakélu** species. The juice of its crushed leaves is rubbed on the skin of pigs that have scabies. • **iakestil** the juice from its crushed leaves is rubbed on closed boils. Drinking the juice cures urinary tract sickness called 'NAMITEKTEK'.

here *adv* **iken ek**

• **here he is** *expr* **in apa**

hibiscus (generic term) **nekalew** (*Hibiscus spp.*) used to treat constipation among babies. The juice from the leaves is given to them to drink and it is also added their bath water to wash them with. • **naugenekalew** flower. • **nekalew afwil** (*Hibiscus spp.*) species. Same use as 'NEKALEW'.

him *pron* **to in** to, for.

his *pron* **tahan**

hoe (ancient term) **kwates** traditional tool used for working in yam gardens.

hole **napag** • **kual** • **napagkopwiél** in a rock.

hollow **napag** *Ex.*: inside of a canoe ~ napag nowaniko

holy *adj* **awsim**

hook **nowan matau** for fishing. • **kakil** working instrument in the shape of "J" made of a branching piece of wood and used in work in gardens to clean the place of cut branches and grass.

horse (from English: horse) **hos**

hot *adj* **akapan** *Ex.*: hot water ~ nu akapan • *adj* **rawiér** taste.

house (generic term) **nima** • **nima awsim** of local sorcerers. • **nima la Ten** traditional of Tanna.

how *adv* **ratol**

• **how are you doing** *expr* **ratol**

• **how much** *adv* **ky** for counting and asking the price. *Ex.*: Taham nu ky? ~ How old are you?

hummingbird hawk-moth **karamaram**

hunger **naumus** *Ex.*: Naumus ramkes io. ~ I am hungry.

hungry *v* **amék** be. *Ex.*: Nasuman ramtat, naramim kamaimék. ~ The harvest was bad, people are hungry.

hunter of eagles **iapsagan iatkek** title of a man from Lowlipag area, who has the right to hunt eagles for their feathers used in fabrication of 'KWERIA APAM'.

hunting **naruan** fig.

husband **iaihgel** • **ieramim** respectful term. • **kuku** term of affection in a couple.

hut **nima imaim** inside of a nakamal. • **nima la Ten** kind built traditionally on Tanna.

I

idiot **ialmel**

if *adv* **tama**

ignore *v* **atektek** only exists in negative. *Ex.*: Iamatektek ma tarawa. ~ I did not know that he would come.

ill **nepen** be because of 'IANEPEN', or 'PERANEPEN'. *Ex.*: Us an ramanepen. ~ This man has peranenepen hallucinations.

illness (generic term) **nemesan** • **nemesan taha ménék** cf. 'MÉNEK RAMIWUK'. • **naumus** constant weakness and lack of stamina, said to be caused by lacking blood. Treated by drinking water from 'NEPAREPA' vine. • **iuwau ramol** large infected sores on legs, detaching pieces of skin and possibly toothaches. Said to be caused by the 'IUWAW' gecko. • **namteketek** of both men and

women, causes urinary pain. cf.'LIPAG'. • *n* **namitektek** of urinary tract. Its symptoms are pain during urination and difficult urination. • *n* **namesan taha kahau** respiratory-related, said to be caused by the rat 'KAHAU'. • *n* **mének ramiwuk** seizures, lit. "a bird stepped on you". An illness of children, during which the child shakes uncontrollably with eyes capsizing after having eaten a 'PENOA MES'. Another expression for it is 'NEMESAN TAHA MÉNEK'.

image (inalienable) *n* **nanema-** reflection in a mirror.

imago *n* **iawlul** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) imago stage, when 'IAPAU' undergoes metamorphosis into 'KELEPES', 5th stage. cf.'PRISIN'.

in three days *adv* **tonihikesel**

index finger *n* **kosasiwo**

inland *n* **pat** the inside of the island, on the east of the zone speaking 'NETWAR'.

insect *n* **kelepes** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) kind of, its large larvae live in dead wood, both the insect and its larvae are consumed by people, 6th stage. cf.'PRISIN'. • *n* **pulek** species whose maggots are found in roots of coconut tree. Inedible.

inside (inalienable) *n* **neki-**

• **inside of a tree** *n* **nekinek** Ex.: a tree rotten from inside ~ nekikék rtat

insult (generic term) *n* **nepawainan** • *n* **iakmen** lit. "prepuce". A frequently used offensive word and curse. • *n* **iwieren** a person who is unable to control himself on sexual matters. • *n* **iawis** a person who thinks only about sex.

intestine *n* **nesega**

introduced *adj* **ituga** part of name of some plants introduced to Tanna from abroad. Ex.: an imported species of banana tree ~ nepen ituga

invective (generic term) *n* **nepawainan**

island *n* **ten**

• **island lychee** *n* **natem** (*Pometia pinnata*) edible fruit.

it *pron* **in** • *pron* **ieram** when followed by an adverb of place. Ex.: this here, that over there ~ ieram ek, ieram a

• **it is all right** *expr* **tarasolan kér** in spite of an adversity.

• **it is him, who ...** *expr* **in a in ...**

• **it is not good that ...** *expr* **rtat ma ...** Ex.: Rtat ma tahak kahapa tarol am nuigen. Tanakwen makhar kam ieram asul min. ~ It is not good that my head stays empty. I will go speak with the elders.

• **it is not that ...** *expr* **rasolan mama ...** one of expressions used for forming negative phrases. Ex.: Rasolan mama io nases. ~ I am not poor. lit. "It is not that I am poor."

J

jack *n* **wuliwes apam** fish, larger species. • *n* **wuliwes** fish.

jellyfish *n* **nowanhaletéhé**

Jesus *n prop* **Iésu**

Job's tears *n* **kamen** (*Coix lacryma-jobi*) seeds used to make necklaces.

jotter *n* **naua**

juice *n* **nowanihin** of fruit.

jungle *n* **nekinamera**

just *adv* **am**

K

kava (generic term) *n* **nekava** (*Piper methysticum*) • *n* **malamala** (*Piper methysticum*) cf.'NEKAVA MALAMALA'. • *n* **nekava aramara** (*Piper methysticum*) cf.'TAPUGA'. • *n* **nekava pwia** (*Piper methysticum*) lit. "smooth", after texture of its stems. Species that has greyish-green stems with dark spots. • *n* **sumariag** (*Piper methysticum*) another name for 'TAPUGA'. • *n* **nekava iam iripar** (*Piper*

methysticum) cultivar similar to 'NEKAVA IAM' with thick stems. • *n* **nekava iam malamala** (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar similar to 'NEKAVA IAM' with thin stems. • *n* **nekava meta** (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar with beige stems. • *n* **nekava iaken** (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar with light green spotted stems. • *n* **nekava iam** (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar with light green stems with dark spots. • *n* **tapuga** (*Piper methysticum*) grown in a particular way and traditionally offered on special occasions such as 'KAUR'. • *n* **nukenekava** its root. cf.'NUK-'. • *n* **numa nakwuiam** leaves of a wild species. May be used to make a kind of "stretcher" able to support the weight of a small person. The leaves are "glued" by chewed leaves of 'NASES'. cf.'NAKWUIAM'. • *n* **nalemenekava** part of the plant. Its strong branches. lit. "arms of kava". • *n* **kamiaram nekava** part of the plant. Small "shoots" found on 'NÉLKENEKAVA'. They may grow enough to form a secondary plant of kava out of the mother plant. • *n* **nektupen nekava** part of the plant. Small thin roots. • *n* **tahan kahapa nekava** part of the plant. The thick central part of the root. lit. "head of kava". • *n* **nélkenekava** part of the plant. The thick central root. lit. "the leg of kava". • *n* **nousu lé nekava** part of the plant. Thicker roots. • *n* **nowanhalénékava** part of the plant. Young thin branches. lit. "eggs of kava". • *n* **nekava fila** (*Piper methysticum*) species originally from Éfaté. • *n* **nekava malamala** (*Piper methysticum*) term for s cultivar with thin stems. • *n* **nakwuiam** (*Macropiper latifolium*) wild species with dark-colored stems, not used for human consumption to brew kava. In a mix called "kaluk" its crushed leaves are mixed with grated coconut are used as a "soap" when bathing. According to a legend this kind of kava was drank by stones in ancient times before humans and the ordinary kava appeared. After that spirits 'IARAMES' appeared out of the stones and they drank the 'NAKWUIAM' kava. • *n* **nakwuiam aswas** (*Macropiper latifolium*) wild species, lit. "small 'NAKWUIAM'". Not used for human consumption.

kill *v* **oho** Ex.: Taroho kupas kiu to kaur. ~ He will kill two pigs on the kaur ceremony.

knife *n* **nau**

knock down *v* **el nem taha-** lit. "pick somebody's breadfruit". Ex.: Iamarou mének, iamlas nek kér, maho a in, mel nem tahan. ~ I was chasing a chicken, I grabbed a stick, I threw it on the chicken and I knocked it down. • *v* **aruita** by throwing a compact object, such as a stone. cf.'HOITA'. Ex.: Iamaruita magko kér la kopwiél. ~ I knocked down a mango from a branch with a stone. • *v* **hoita** by throwing a stick. cf.'ARUITA'. Ex.: Iamhoita nién. ~ I knocked down a coconut by throwing a stick. • *v* **aruita** somebody with ones' fist, but only from amidst of several people. Ex.: Iamaruita Iako lé nekin naman. ~ I knocked down Iako with my fist from amidst of other men.

know *v* **inatin** Ex.: Iasinatinan. ~ I do not know. • *v* **atektek** not, only exists in negative. Ex.: Iamatektek ma tarawa. ~ I did not know that he would come.

L

lack of knowledge *n* **natektekan**

lake *n* **nowanu**

language (generic term) *n* **nakharan** • *n* **nakharan taha Lénakel** lit. "language of Lénakel". Name sometimes given to 'NETWAR', derived from the name of the principal village of the zone where the language is used. • *n* **nakharan awas** kind of language and expressions used by the ancients in old times, as contrasted to the 'NETWAR' language used nowadays, when people are losing "proper" expressions and the language becomes poorer. Old traditional songs often employ words from 'NAKHARAN AWAS' that people nowadays do not understand, or only very little. • *n* **netwar** used in West Tanna. Sometimes called as 'NAKHARAN TAHA LÉNAKEL'.

laplap (generic term) *n* **naluwel** • *n* **nowanagén** dish based on yam, sometimes called as "simboro" from Bislama. • *n* **kakéwan** kind prepared on the skin of tree 'NEKFITU'. • *n* **nasoro** large species of l. packed in leaves and used as gift during local ceremonies. • *n* **salpat** of manioc, with coconut milk poured on. • *n* **kati** prepared with germinating coconut 'NAPEKAK'.

• **laplap leaves** *n* **numanemew** coming from a species of banana tree called 'NEMEW'.

Lapnuman *n prop* **Lapnuman** legendary land, from where certain plants and animals come. Its ruler is 'MWATIKTIK'.

lard *n* **nalepa**

last *adv* **naonin**

laugh *v* **aliél** *Ex.*: Ramaliél kam io. ~ He laughs at me.

leaf *n* **numa nar** of a plant, generic term.

leave *v* **wén** *Ex.*: Wén! ~ Leave! • *v* **apas** also in the sense of not doing something. *Ex.*: Iakapas nenian napuk. ~ I don't want to sing.

left *adj* **mul** side, hand etc.

leg (inalienable) *n* **nalek-**

• **leg decoration** *n* **nakepen** similar to 'KAUKASÉ', but worn around legs during the dances of 'NEKOWIAR' and during the 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR' ceremony. Often made of leaves of 'NALÉ'.

legend *n* **nagé** in the local culture, knowledge of a legend is a sign of making part of a particular clan. In consequence legends are not easily shared with the "outsiders".

lemon grass *n* **numanaruapién** (*Cymbopogon citratus*) its boiled leaves are drank as herbal tea.

Lénakel *n prop* **Lénakel** principal village of Tanna.

leopard flounder *n* **malawin** (*Bothus pantherinus*)

let *v* **pas** somebody do something. *Ex.*: Héta la tapen pas ikwéna mapel. ~ Open the door, so I can enter and sleep. a usual phrase used at times when one comes back late in the night and finds the door of the house, where he sleeps, closed.

lichen *n* **natgateg** common name for many different species found on trees and stones.

lie *v* **éiua** tell lies. *Ex.*: Naméiua! ~ You lie! • *n* **néiuaian** untruth.

life *n* **namiuian**

light *n* **nesia** e.g. of a torch. • *adj* **ralukaluk** of weight, or "light", i.e. not good, speech. *Ex.*: Ramol nakharan ralukaluk. ~ His speech has no value. • *adj* **aluk** of weight.

lightning *n* **nawelekaman**

like *v* **olkéikéi** *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi tahak mama. ~ I like my mom.

limpid *adj* **rahleh**

lined surgeonfish *n* **nam le kweria** (*Acanthurus lineatus*)

lionfish *n* **iarpwitag** (*Pterois sp.*)

liquid *n* **nihin** *Ex.*: coconut milk ~ nihin nién

listen *v* **ero** *Ex.*: Io iamero ik namakhar. ~ I am listening to what you are saying. • *expr* **kamai** word, by which a storyteller introduces habitually an old legend.

little finger *n* **pis aswas**

live *v* **arek** be alive. *Ex.*: Remen ramarek ena? ~ Your father is still living? • *v* **an** somewhere, only with infix '-AM-'. *Ex.*: Iaman la Ten. ~ I live on Tanna. • *v* **miu** to be alive. *Ex.*: Kupas ek rakamus epek, mero rakamui am. ~ The pig is very ill, but still alive.

liver *n* **nanmapen**

living creature *n* **narmiu** abbr. from 'NAR RAMIU'. • *expr* **nar ramiu** cf.'NARMIU'.

lobster *n* **ilaté** • *n* **ilaté kowakowa** big one.

locust *n* **pinek** species, more usually called 'PWIRU'. • *n* **pwiru** species, sometimes called 'PINEK'. • *n* **naulenapai** species. • *n* **kalaté** species.

long *adj* **apam**

• **long time** *adv* **ny** *Ex.*: Iasapan ik ny. ~ It has been a long time since I saw you the last time.

• **long time, ny** *adv* **tary** *Ex.*: Senia ma tary. ~ It is not a long time ago.

longhorn cowfish *n* **kawawigen** (*Lactoria cornuta*)

long-tailed triller *n* **wulawula** (*Lalage leucopyga*)

look *v* **ap** *Ex.*: Ap ru! ~ Look, please! • *interj* **uré** interjection used to attract attention. *Ex.*: Uré, in apa! ~ Look, there he is!

• **look for** *v* **égasin** *Ex.*: Iamégasin nam. ~ I am looking for a fish.

• **look for girls** *v* **rou nul** lit. "follow the vine". Used of boys who hang around looking for girls to date. *Ex.*: Ramerou nul. ~ He follows the vine. he is looking for girls, chasing girls.

lose *v* **atken** *Ex.*: Iamataken tahak nau. ~ I have lost my knife.

love *n* **nolkéikéian** • *v* **olkéikéi** cf.'NEKI- LA'. *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi epek ik. ~ I love you so much. • (inalienable) *v* **neki- la** somebody. cf.'OLKÉIKÉI'. *Ex.*: Nekin la perawen an. ~ He likes that woman.

lunar eclipse *n* **mawuk ramemes**

lungs *n* **tepalukaluk**

M

Mackinlay's cuckoo-dove *n* **mak apam** (*Macropygia mackinlayi*)

Magellanic Cloud *n prop* **Nowanuman** unsure whether Large or Small.

maggot *n* **prisin** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) kind of large larva living in dead wood, consumed by people, 3rd stage, cf.'KELEPES', 'PITAS', 'IAPAU' and 'PWIR'. • *n* **pwir** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) larger and more mature maggots of this species, which are still active, 2nd stage. cf.'PRISIN'. • *n* **iapau** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) larger and more mature maggots of this species, which do not move anymore and get ready for metamorphosis, 4th stage. cf.'PRISIN'. • *n* **matakaiam** larvae living only in kava roots. • *n* **pitas** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) smaller and younger maggots of this species, 1st stage. cf.'PRISIN'.

make love *v* **ol to** somehow more polite term, than 'NAWISAN'. *Ex.*: Ierman ramol to tahan perawen. ~ A man makes love with his woman.

Malay rose apple *n* **nekauk** (*Syzygium malaccense*)

male organ (inalienable) *n* **nakan-**

man (generic term) *n* **ierman** male. • *n* **naramim** human being, plural form of 'IERAM'. • *n* **ieram** human being. For plural, cf.'NARAMIM'. • *n* **naman** male, plural form of 'IERMAN'. • *n* **uswas** young. • *n* **tamalua** young.

• **man from the inland** *expr* **ieram pat** cf.'IARAPAT'.

• **man of the seashore** *expr* **ieram paha** cf.'IARAPA'.

mandarin *n* **nowanmel** fruit.

• **mandarin tree** *n* **nowanmel** (*Citrus reticulata*) its fruit is consumed, the leaves are used to make a herbal tea.

mango *n* **magko** fruit.

• **mango tree** (generic term) *n* **magko** (*Mangifera sp.*) • *n* **magko apen** (*Mangifera sp.*) species giving small red fruit. • *n* **magko ikpis** (*Mangifera sp.*) species planted often in Whitesand. • *n* **iamak magko** (*Mangifera sp.*) valued species imported from Australia by certain Iamak.

many *num* **ripar** • *v* **ipar** be. *Ex.*: Katar ripar. ~ We are many. • *adv* **min** mark of plural. *Ex.*: child - children ~ koko - koko min

market *n* **maket**

marks on skin (ancient term) *n* **nowatatal** traditional form of skin decoration, made by burning the skin with ends of coconut leave stems 'NOWATEK MA SIA' lit in the fire.

marriage *n* **nauganan lé perawen** customary, a ceremony with exchanging of goods.

marry *v* **merek** *Ex.*: Nawinek renmerek ita. ~ My sister is already married.

mason wasp *n* **purmat ituga**

mat *n* **talipapa** made of pandanus leaves. • *n* **kaliawen** woven with two coconut leaves facing one each other. Its pattern reminds of shark teeth, which gave it its name. It is sometimes used to cover the top of the roof of traditional houses.

maybe *adv* **taroltat**

me *pron* **io** • *pron* **tonio** to, for.

- **me alone** *expr* **io pesen am**

meat *n* **nauga**

medicine *n* **méresen**

Melanesian flycatcher *n* **rusrus** (*Myiagra caledonica*) if he sings in bad weather, nice days will come soon.

menstruation *n* **nametéan** • *v* **meta** have. *Ex.*: Perawen ramameta. ~ The woman has her menstruation.

metallic pigeon *n* **iélu iohnekam** (*Columba vitiensis*) often called simply 'IÉLU'. • *n* **iélu** (*Columba vitiensis*) sometimes called 'IÉLU IOHNEKAM'.

midday *n* **lemankat**

middle *adv* **ilukan** in the.

- **middle finger** *n* **iapnam**

Middle-bush *n prop* **ikpat** generic term for places up in hills of central Tanna. *Ex.*: Iakan apa ikpat. ~ I am going middle-bush. e.g. to Lamlu.

Milky Way *n prop* **Nemrau** • *n prop* **Nuafuganan** less common term.

millipede *n* **napilas**

miser *n* **iaumus**

mix *v* **ol pelpel** or mix up. *Ex.*: Ramolpelpel lé nakharan la Ten né pislama. ~ He is mixing the local language with Bislama.

mold *n* **neluganan** on food. *Ex.*: Nauganan ramlugan. ~ The food became moldy.

moldy *adj* **épién** only about food. cf.'HAL'. • *adj* **hal** only about food. cf.'ÉPIÉN'.

moment *n* **nian** of an event.

monarch butterfly *n* **papawuk apen** (*Danaus plexippus*) • *n* **papawuk léwlew** (*Danaus plexippus*)

money (from English: money) *n* **mani**

Moon (generic term) *n prop* **mawuk** • *n* **mawuk ramépép malwia** full, lit. "the Moon knocks on butterflyfish". • *n* **nati tawar** full. A more common term than 'MAWUK RAMÉPÉP MALWIA'. • *n* **nail ratuatu** in its first quarter. lit. "it stays straight", meaning that in the sky the Moon appears straight in the zenith in the evening. • *n* **numanmel** in its last quarter and especially as a waning crescent. • *n* **mawuk wi** when it appears as a waxing crescent on the sky.

Moorish idol *n* **ialinaio** (*Zanclus cornutus*)

moray eel *n* **peku** black species. • *n* **iélmou** species with black and white spots.

morning *n* **lapnépen**

- **morning star** *n prop* **Fétukai**

mosquito *n* **kemak**

moss *n* **natgateg** plant, common name.

mother (inalienable) *n* **in-**

mountain (generic term) *n* **tauar** • *n prop* **Tahgen** behind the village of Lamapruan. • *n prop* **Forépa** old name for the 'TUKOSMERA' mountain. • *n prop* **Tukosmera** the highest peak of Tanna, sacred place and dwelling place of god 'KALPAPEN'. • *n* **tanepes** whose ridge ends inside the island. cf.'TANITOU'. • *n* **tanitou** whose ridge goes all the way down to the seashore. cf.'TANEPES'.

mourning (ancient term) *n* **napkesu** ancient term for 'NALU'. • *n* **nalu** certain time after a decease, which can take up to one year and which ends with a large family reunion. During this time men will grow their beard and women will refrain from the social life of the village.

mouth (inalienable) *n* **nhul-**

mullet *n* **iarimiru** fish.

mushroom (generic term) *n* **kaléleg** name for any kind of mushroom, edible or not. • *n* **kaléleg lé nek** edible species that often grows on rotting mango tree trunks. • *n* **nepetué** edible species. Grows on the ground. It is said that one should stomp on the ground on places where these mushroom usually grows and call 'NEPETUÉ' for a plentiful harvest. • *n* **kaléleg mélekem** inedible species found on dead wood. • *n* **nepawen namihew** large species growing only on trunks of 'LIPAG' and 'NAMIHEW' trees. It is edible and appreciated for its taste.

must *v* **akaiké** *Ex.*: I will have to ~ sakaiké

my *pron* **tahak**

N

Nahunu *n prop* **Nahunu** the wife of the great spirit 'KALPAPEN'. Said to bring him a meal after his first kava. cf.'SAKALEMUS KLÉPLÉPEN EK MEKEN TO NAHUNU'.

nail *n* **pesiwel** on finger.

nakamal (generic term) *n* **imaim** cleared space, usually under a grown banyan tree, used by men to meet, discuss important affairs and drink kava, to perform all important ceremonies and traditional dances. It is the center of village life. • *n prop* **Lownanentuan** an important nakamal in Ipai. • *n prop* **Latun** an important nakamal near Ipai. • *n prop* **Laminu** major nakamal in Lénakel. • *n prop* **Lowiatkelniko** name of nakamal near Lowanatom, lit. "place where tribes broke up after a quarrel". cf.'ATKEL'. • *n* **nowanmanaga** special name given to a nakamal in which are living "hidden" young boys since their circumcision until they finally leave it during 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR' ceremony. It is surrounded by a fence of coconut leaves or bamboo to hide it from eyes of women, who are strictly forbidden to enter it at any moment of the day.

name (inalienable) *n* **natega-** *Ex.*: Nategam péhé? ~ What is your name?

namesake (inalienable) *n* **ianhina-** polite term by which people call those, who have the same name.

Napagnién *n prop* **Napagnién** lit. "coconut tree hollow". A place between Lowanéai and Lénus, appearing in the legend of 'KASAWAR' and 'MWATIKTIK'.

necessary *v* **akaiké** to be. *Ex.*: it is necessary that you ... ~ tanakaiké ...

neck (inalienable) *n* **ne-rou** has to be possessed with personal pronoun. *Ex.*: my neck, his neck ~ nekrou, nenrou

necklace *n* **nowanar**

needlefish *n* **lago** (*Belonideae sp.*)

nephew (inalienable) *n* **nawu-** if his aunt is speaking about him. • *n* **iowanién** if his uncle is speaking about him.

Nesé *n prop* **Nesé** female name mentioned in one of local legends and in the name of a shrub with fragrant leaves 'NUMA LE NESÉ'.

net (ancient term) *n* **nakeepen** traditional, made of aerial root of banyan 'NASAS'. It has a form of a basket with two long poles attached to it, using which the net is held in place through which fishes often swim.

new *adj* **wi**

New Guinea rosewood *n* **kowtuhwé** (*Pterocarpus indicus* (?)) hard wood. Its trunk is carved into canoes.

next one *expr* **kér men**

niece (inalienable) *n* **nawu-** if her aunt is speaking about her. • *n* **iowanién** if her uncle is speaking about her.

nightmare *n* **naripai tat** cf.'NARIPAI'.

no *adv* **kapa**

noble (generic term) *n* **ieramara** man. Title meaning the highest social status in local hierarchy. His "subordinates" are the 'NAOTUPUNUS' and 'IENINIKO', who both work for him and the

three together form the foundations of customary life and of the village social structure. • *expr* **ieramin aramara** men or women. • *n* **peran ramara** woman. Title meaning high social status in local hierarchy.

noise *n* **kalwas** cf.'OL KALWAS'. • *v* **ausit** make. cf.'OL KALWAS'. *Ex.*: Kowa ramakhar apam memausit. ~ The kid is shouting and showing off.

noisy *v* *ol* **kalwas** be, excessively. *Ex.*: Kamaipel, kani Iaris ramapus mierpa, mamol kalwas. ~ We were already sleeping, when Iaris went out, got drunk and was making a lot of noise.

noni *n* **nauias** (*Morinda citrifolia*) fruit used to treat many different illness. Its bark is believed to ward off evil spirits.

noon *n* **lemankat**

north *n* **hiu**

northwards *aff* **-hiu** suffix of verbs.

nose *n* **nepanagha-**

not well cooked *v* **rasmatakan**

notebook *n* **naua** for writing.

not-fisherman *n* **iarapat** from 'IERAM PAT' - "man from the inland". Somebody inexperienced on the sea. Often said of people from 'IKPAT' area. cf.'IARAPA'. *Ex.*: Naramim Ituga narafa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

nothing *n* **reka** • *n* **reneka** anymore.

now *adv* **tawék** • *adv* **ték** abbr. 'TAWÉK'.

O

octopus *n* **ihi** according to local beliefs it is one of the marine animals feeding on sand and whose excessive consumption may result to losing one's teeth. cf.'IAHAK'.

of *adv* **ni** genitive.

offspring (inalienable, in plural) *n* **narare-** of animals. • (inalienable, in singular) *n* **nare-** of human or animal.

oil *n* **nepeksi nién** of coconut. Term also used for the oily film found inside germinated coconut 'NAPEKAK'.

old *adj* **awas** of a thing. • *adj* **iawas** speaking of things.

• **old bat** *n* **iaihgel wutowuto** impolite term describing an old and shriveled man, supposedly drinking a lot of kava.

• **old man** *n* **iaihgel** impolite term. • *n* **ieram asul** polite term.

• **old woman** *n* **peran awas** impolite term. • *n* **peraiihgel** impolite term. • *n* **peraiihgel** not a very polite term. cf.'PERAN ASUL'. • *n* **peran asul** polite term.

on (inalienable) *prep* **la-** sign of an action performed on the object, which is given by the personal suff. added to 'LA-'. *Ex.*: Dokta ramol wok lak. ~ The doctor is treating me. lit. "working on me".

once *n* **aupaniken** • *n* **nian kér** lit. "one day". • *n* **aupan** abbr. 'AUPANIEN'.

one *num* **kér** meaning "anyone", when pointing to things. *Ex.*: Las nepen! Kér apa. ~ Have a banana! One is here.

• **one by one** *expr* **karéna karéna**

• **one cannot say, that ...** *expr* **senia ma ...** one of expressions used for forming negative phrases. *Ex.*: Senia ma io nases. ~ I am not poor. lit. "One cannot say I am poor."

• **one more** *expr* **kér men**

only *adv* **am**

open *v* **atalapag** a bag, a basket. *Ex.*: Atalapag taham karem melasipen nar kér. ~ Open your basket so I can put something in it. • *v* **héta** the door. *Ex.*: Héta la tapen pas ikwéna mapel. ~ Open the door, so I can enter and sleep. a usual phrase used at times when one comes back late in the night and finds the door of the house, where he sleeps, closed.

• **open mouth** *v* **kamoag** *Ex.*: Us ek rasapelan lenaw menapau

kani menamoag tat. ~ That man did not sleep last night, he is tired and yawns.

or *conj* **ua** • *conj* **o** *Ex.*: Imam iken nekava ripar o reka? ~ Is there kava in your place or not?

orange *n* **nowanmel**

• **orange tree** *n* **nowanmel** (*Citrus sinensis*)

orchid *n* **nuwmer** (*Corymborkis veratrifolia*) if touched during yam planting season, the yams will not grow well and will be small. • *n* **nuwnuw** species with decorative flowers.

outside *adv* **ilua**

P

Pacific golden plover *n* **itawar** (*Pluvialis fulva*)

Pacific imperial pigeon *n* **iawin** (*Ducula pacifica*)

Pacific robin *n* **wunwun** (*Petroica multicolor*) • *n* **pulegpuleg** (*Petroica multicolor*)

Pacific swallow *n* **wukelekel iawota** (*Hirundo tabitica*) lit.

"'WUKELEKEL' that sits down" by contrast to swiftlets

'WUKELEKEL', who never sits down. Today more common term, than 'IARPOAPEN'. • *n* **iarpoapen** (*Hirundo tabitica*) more ancient and precise term. cf.'WUKELEKEL IAWOTA'.

paddle *n* **niwéia** of outrigger canoes.

paint *v* **ahwél** ones face. cf.'NAHWÉLAN'. *Ex.*: Inen ramhwél kam tahan peraswas. ~ Mother is painting the face of her daughter.

palm (inalienable) *n* **nowanalem-** of hand.

• **palm tree** *n* **napuok** (*Veitchia arecina*) durable wood that is often used to make house floorings. It has edible fruits that is also said to be consumed by the spirits 'IARAMES'. • *n* **namul tuan** species.

pandanus *n* **nemankiu** (*Pandanus tectorius*) its leaves are used to weave mats and baskets. Its aerial roots are used as ropes to tie laplap. • *n* **nuui rou** species. Its roots are used to make the 'NASEKEL' traps used to catch the 'ILATÉ' lobsters. Inside the trap a 'KELKEL' is attached with a string from 'NUO' as a bait.

papaya *n* **kési** (*Carica papaya*) drinking an infusion made from its flowers helps treat fever.

paradise *n* **lénéai**

parrotfish (generic term) *n* **makem** (*Scaridae*)

passion fruit (from English: passion fruit) *n* **samprut** (*Passiflora edulis*) fruit is edible.

path (generic term) *n* **suatu**

pay *v* **arou** *Ex.*: Sakarou kurimatau kér apa Lénkaugan. ~ I will pay a cow in White-Grass.

Peace Corps *n* *prop* **piskop** used for organization as well as for individual volunteers. *Ex.*: Us a in piskop kér. ~ The man over there is a volunteer of the Peace Corps.

pegs *n* **nowateplepel** holding the outrigger on outrigger canoes.

pen (from English: pen) *n* **pén**

penalty *n* **nalepenan**

pencil (from English: pen) *n* **pén**

penis (inalienable) *n* **nakan-**

• **penis sheath** *n* **kaur** of adult men, made of vegetal fibers. • *n* **kaur** of newly circumcised boys, made from leaves.

peregrine falcon *n* **mélékem** (*Falco peregrinus*) • *n* **kweria aswas** (*Falco peregrinus*)

perfume *n* **pién**

period *n* **nametéan** of a woman.

phasmid *n* **iamimer** (*Phasmatodea*)

photo (inalienable) *n* **nanema-** • (from English: photo) *n* **foto**

photograph *v* **os foto** *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi mos foto taham. ~ I would like to take your picture.

pick *v* **el** fruit. *Ex.*: Ramel magko. ~ He is picking mangos.

piece *n* **noutakeren** small, of a thing.

pig (generic term) *n* **kupas** • *n* **kupas iéluk natuan** black, with white belly and sides. • *n* **kupas kamatau** castrated. • *n* **kupas pispis** kind of large pigs appreciated for their soft meat. • *n* **kupas meta** kind with clean and bright skin. • *n* **kupas iawanawanar** kind with outgrowths on its neck skin. • *n* **iowiaren** not castrated, kept for reproduction. • *n* **kupas kameta** of brown color. • *n* **kupas kalato** of grayish color. • *n* **kupas kapwia** special kind once used as offering to 'IERAMARA'. • *n* **kupas iawiét** with only one testicle visible. • *n* **kupas katkhatek** with spotted skin. • *n* **kupas kalai** with white and black spots.

pigeonberry *n* **nowanaléwléw** (*Rivina humilis*) lit. "red fruit". Species giving tiny red fruit used to color face and hands.

pillow *n* **kaluga** traditional. Small piece of wood used to support the head when sleeping. Men used it especially in order to protect their traditional hairstyle from being spoiled during the night.

pincers (ancient term) *n* **kou** used for taking hot stones out of the fire. cf.'KASARAWI'. • *n* **kasarawi** used for taking hot stones out of the fire. New expression used instead of the old term 'KOU'.

pineapple *n* **nowaniu** fruit. • *n* **nowaniu** (*Ananas comosus*) incorrect, but widely used way of spelling. cf.'NOWANUIU'. • *n* **nowaniu** (*Ananas comosus*) introduced species. Its common name comes from a family of plants called 'NUIU'. lit. "the fruit of 'NUIU'".

place *n* **iken**

placenta *n* **nima kowa**

plant (generic term) *n* **nek** whatever kind excluding bamboos, grasses and vines. • *v* **hau** generic term. cf.'SY'. Ex.: Iamhau paren. ~ I am planting a live fence. • *n* **nekesekes** parasitic species, grows on other trees. It is said to grow "without trunk and roots" and when the host tree dies, it dies with it. The name 'NEKESEKES' is also used figuratively to describe people who forgot their "roots" - the village and the traditional way of life. • *v* **atek** seeds or little plants. Ex.: Lenaw iamsipan pa lé nekin nasuman matek kapus. ~ Yesterday I went to the garden to plant cabbage. • *n* **iéleneka** species, parasite on trees, similar to 'NEKESEKES'. lit. "without leg". • *n* **ropian** species. Its leaves are placed between the beams and the roof in order to prevent the rain coming into the house. • *v* **sy** yams. Ex.: Naramim kamasy nuw apa lé nekin nasuman. ~ People are planting yams.

• **plant yams** *expr* **atek tow** way of planting yams into slopes of 'TOW'. • *expr* **namsy tow** way of planting yams into the top 'TOW'.
please *part* **ru** particle following verbs, transforming a direct order into a more polite request. Ex.: eat out! - would you please eat? ~ ken! - ken ru!

Pleiades *n* *prop* **Nowaswas Lapnuman** lit. "young boys of 'LAPNUMAN'". Alternative to the name 'NEPERAWEN LAPNUMAN'. • *n* *prop* **Neperawen Lapnuman** lit. "young girls of 'LAPNUMAN'". Alternative to the name 'NOWASWAS LAPNUMAN'.

plenty *expr* **nekin am** place, where there is much of something. Ex.: Nekin am nién. ~ There is a lot of coconuts here.

pluck *v* **alemus** deplume. Ex.: Sakalemus kléplépen ek meken to nahunu. ~ I will pluck this little bird and eat it as nahunu.

plump *adj* **mesemes**

poisoned *v* **akona** be. Ex.: Ramken kotéa mamakona. ~ He ate the kotéa fish and got poisoned.

poisonous *v* **akona** be. Ex.: Ramken kotéa mamakona. ~ He ate the kotéa fish and got poisoned.

Polynesian triller *n* **wulawula** (*Lalage maculosa*) bird often associated with sunny weather.

poor *adj* **nases** person without wealth, fig. sense, a child before the end of circumcision and burning of 'NASES' tree does not have any property.

porcupinefish *n* **pekepek** (*Diodontidae*)

possibly *adv* **taroltat**

pray *v* **awhak** Ex.: Sekawhak apa lé nima awhak. ~ I will go pray to the church.

prayer *n* **nawhakan** • *n* **temahwa** to local spirits and gods and today sometimes as syncretism to the Christian God, performed when spitting after having drunk kava by saying 'TEMAHWA' and adding ones wish or request. During the time of 'KAUR' it is customary to organize about four 'TEMAHWA' along with distribution of laplaps, to wish the circumcised boys good healing of their wounds.

praying mantis *n* **kuri** (*Mantidae*)

prepared *adj* **renmerua** of food.

prepuce *n* **iakmen** its small lower part, which is not cut off during circumcision.

prophecy *n* **namaliwok epen**

pull *v* **wi** Ex.: Nani rakawi hos. ~ A goat pulling a horse. expression applying to a person, who is hiding his real intention (a big thing, the "horse") behind an innocent excuse (a small thing, the "goat").

• **pull down** *v* **haipu** a traditional house. If the acting people are more than one. cf.'HAPU'. Ex.: Nima renawas, talauk khaipu. ~ The house is already old. Tomorrow we will pull it down. • *v* **hapu** a traditional house. If the acting person is one only. cf.'HAPU'. Ex.: Nima renawas, talauk khaipu. ~ The house is already old. Tomorrow I will pull it down.

• **pull out roots** *v* **éwin** when preparing a gardening ground. Ex.: Naman kamailu apa lé nasuman kani neperawen kamaréwin nar. ~ Men are spading the garden while the women are pulling out roots.

pumpkin (from English: pumpkin) *n* **kameken** edible fruit.

punishment *n* **nalepenan**

purification *expr* **awota apa le nu** lit. "sit down to water". Ritual everyday washing of young boys after circumcision during 'KAUR' in villages on the seashore, where boys would go washing themselves to the sea. cf.'AWOTA APA LAHAU'. • *expr* **awota apa lahau** lit. "sit down". Ritual everyday washing of young boys after circumcision during 'KAUR' in villages in hills, where boys would go down to the sea or rivers to wash themselves. cf.'AWOTA APA LE NU'.

purple swamphen *n* **iagnameta** (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

R

rabbitfish *n* **mihin** (*Siganus sp.*) • *n* **karai khatek** (*Siganus sp.*) little, not yet adult. cf.'MIHIN'.

rafter (from English: rafter) *n* **nowarafta** part of roof.

railings *n* **neparepar**

rain *n* **nihin**

rainbow *n* **maraimarai**

• **rainbow lorikeet** *n* **syl** (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)

raindrop *n* **nowanalial**

rat *n* **kahau**

rattle *n* **nowaneparepa** made of dry fruit of 'NEPAREPA' and attached around legs of dancers.

raw *adj* **rakapuka** of all fruit except of coconuts. cf.'NOWATAHWA'. • *adj* **nowatahwa** of coconut only, for other fruit 'RAKAPUKA' is used. • *adj* **mera** of fruit.

ray *n* **werau**

reach *v* **iapako** with ones hand over or behind an obstacle. Ex.: Ramiapako le nek un melas nau. ~ He reaches for the knife over a piece of wood.

ready *v* **marua** be. Ex.: Renmarua to nolan nar kér. ~ He is ready to do something. • *adj* **renmerua** of men - to do something.

real *adv* **aken**

really *adv* **parién** intensifying word.

red *adj* **léwlew**

• **red-bellied fruit-dove** (generic term) *n* **penoha lew** (*Ptilinopus greii*) • *n* **penoha mes** (*Ptilinopus greii*) juveniles only as their plumage is very different to adult doves. The last part of the name 'MES' meaning "dying", referring to its "sickly" voice. Sacred bird. If eaten by a child, it will get illness called 'MÉNEK RAMIWUK'. • *n* **penoha limlim** (*Ptilinopus greii*) juveniles only. It is said that 'PENOKA LIMLIM' comes to trees whose fruit is just getting ripe and test it day by day until it is ready, after he brings the elder 'PENOKA LEW' to that tree to feed.

reed (generic term) *n* **nuig** stems serve in many ways, e.g. to build 'KAMO SIT', 'KAMÉ PIAGEN', screens or arrows 'NOWANPARAM'. Newly harvested yams are wrapped in its leaves during 'KAMARU NUW'. Sometimes people would knot the leaves of the reed growing by the road in order to "catch" and stop the sun from setting when one is running late for an event. • *n* **nowanu koko min** lit. "hair of the boys". Leaves of reed used to towel the circumcise boys, and eventually suspended on 'NASES'. • *n* **nowatek nuig** its dry stems. • *n* **nulnul** the stem with leaves removed is used for the game 'SAYÉ' and for making of arrow shafts.

• **reed-made supporting construction** *n* **kamé piagen** for liana of long species of yams in 'TOW'.

reef *n* **nehma** coral. • *n* **tapuga** isolated and submerged stone in the sea.

• **reef triggerfish** *n* **nuwig nawuk** (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*) • *n* **iawati kopwiél** (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*)

remora *n* **tagitofa** (*Echeneidae*)

respiratory problems *n* **namesan taha kahau** illness.

return *v* **las** must take directional suff. such as '-PA', '-PENA' etc. *Ex.*: Ramlasipa nar ek. ~ Give it back to me.

reveal a secret *expr* **namaural nakharan**

ridge *n* **kahmo mének le nima** roof part, woven with two coconut leaves facing one each other. Used to cover the ridge of the roof of traditional houses.

• **ridge board** *n* **tuhu**

rifle *n* **kopwiél ituga** sometimes abbreviated to 'KOPWIÉL'.

right *adj* **matu** side, hand etc.

ring finger *n* **sasilmaga**

ripe *adj* **matak** • *v* **matak** *Ex.*: Ken nepen matak. ~ Eat the ripe bananas.

road (generic term) *n* **suatu** normal as well as the customary exchange road between nakamals. • *expr* **suatu apam** long. • *n* *prop* **Nukulua** name of one of the prominent customary roads going from Whitesand to Lénakel. • *n* *prop* **Tuhu** name of one of the prominent customary roads going in the north-south direction through western Tanna. • *n* *prop* **Karipen** one of customary exchange roads. It passes in the sea and follows the western coast of Tanna. Used during the time of wars to bypass conflict areas when going to one of the coastal villages.

roof *n* **nahgenima** of traditional houses. Its inner side.

rooster *n* **mének ierman**

root (inalienable) *n* **nuk-** *Ex.*: root of a tree, root of kava ~ nukenek, nukenekava

rope (generic term) *n* **nul** • *n* **namkénén** made of aerial roots of 'KALWAS'.

rose (from English: rose) *n* **ros** (*Rosa gen.*) flower.

rotten *adj* **épién** only about food. cf.'HAL'. • *adj* **hal** only about food. cf.'ÉPIÉN'.

rough *v* **wi** be, the sea. *Ex.*: Téhé rakawi. ~ The sea is rough.

• **rough humpback scorpionfish** *n* **luw** (*Scorpaenopsis macrochir*)

round *adj* **awotawota**

ruddy turnstone *n* **iagaig lasem** (*Arenaria interpres*) • *n* **itawar** (*Arenaria interpres*)

run *v* **ai** *Ex.*: Sakai mwén apa iré. ~ I will run to the seashore.

• **run away** *v* **akem** *Ex.*: Kowa ramataken nuwig kuwel kani makem. ~ The kid broke a mug and ran away.

S

sad (inalienable) *v* **neki- rtat** be, lit. "inside (of someone) is bad". *Ex.*: Nekik rtat to tahak kowa. ~ I am sad because of my child. • (inalienable) *v* **neki- ramahma** be. *Ex.*: Nekik ramahma epek to tahak perawen rakames. ~ I am really sad because of my wife, who is sick.

saint *adj* **awsim**

salt *n* **negél**

salty *adj* **rauté**

same *adj* **raukerauker**

sand *n* **numaklakel**

sandal *n* **nekses** (*Santalum spp.*) cultivated as cash-crop.

scabies *n* **kawierawier**

scarification *n* **nuig kelél** only for women. Series of short incisions on the back around the waist made during the first menstruation of the girl as a protection against pain during menstruations and pregnancy. Also a sign that the girl is ready to get married.

school *n* **sekol**

scorpionfish *n* **luw** (*Scorpaenopsis macrochir*)

scrape *v* **awai** *Ex.*: Téhé ramho io iakawai io la kopwiél. ~ The sea has thrown me and I have got scraped by a stone. lit. "the sea hit me".

scream *v* **asak** of birds. *Ex.*: Kléplépen ramasak. ~ Bird is screaming.

scrooge *n* **iaumus**

sea (generic term) *n* **téhé** • *n* **patpa** close to the reefs. • *n* **iré** shallow, near coast.

• **sea anemone** *n* **kaléleg**

• **sea dog** *n* **iarafa** *Ex.*: Naramim Ituga narafa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

• **sea hibiscus** *n* **nuo** (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) bast fibers are used for making grass-skirts 'NIU'.

• **sea urchin** *n* **iauto** with long dark spines. • *n* **mahaumahau** with short spines.

seashell (generic term) *n* **kepes** • *n* **werem** edible species from the family of 'HIUWAN'. • *n* **hiuwai sekau** edible species, similar to 'HIUWAN'. • *n* **hiuwan** edible species. • *n* **sis** edible species.

seashore *n* **paha** western.

second *num* **ol kiu**

see *v* **ap** *Ex.*: Sakap ik talauk. ~ I will see you tomorrow.

• **see you tomorrow** *expr* **talauk am**

seize *v* **lasita** from ones hand. *Ex.*: Iamlasita nau to Nateman. ~ I seized a knife from Natemans' hand.

seizures *n* **mének ramiwuk**

semen (inalienable) *n* **nihi-**

sensitive plant *n* **iapeliapel** (*Mimosa pudica*)

sex *n* **nawisan** activity, not a very polite term.

shadow (inalienable) *n* **nanema-**

shake hands (ancient term) *expr* **pas iakol ik** ancient and not well known expression by which one was inviting the other to shake hands together.

share *v* **awra** things. *Ex.*: Iamawra prêt to piak. ~ I am sharing bread with my brother.

shark *n* **kaliawen** shark meat has a certain smell. It is said that the shark got this smell when 'MWATIKTIK' once tasted its meat. He found it delicious and wanted keep it for himself only. To

discourage others from eating it, he urinated on the shark, giving it its smell.

shave *v* **akes** oneself. *Ex.*: Iamakes numa min nulek. ~ I am shaving myself.

shaving *n* **ramhapel narameren** small ceremony with kava offering and 'TEMAHWA' at the moment of first shaving of a boy. From this moment he can take a wife.

she *pron* **in**

sheer *adj* **rahllel**

shell *n* **nuwigen** of a snail.

shine *v* **asia** *Ex.*: Mawuk ramasia, kamap wyt am suatu. ~ The Moon is shining, so we see well the road.

shining bronze-cuckoo *n* **pelpel nawuk** (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*)

shiny *adj* **akak**

ship (generic term) *n* **niko**

shoot *v* **arwin** a bow, a rifle etc. *Ex.*: Iamarwin kopwiél ituga. ~ I am firing a rifle. • *n* **nameren** of a plant other than vine. cf.'NUWIAN'. • *n* **nuwian** of a vine. • *n* **nuwian nuw** of yam.

shooting *n* **naruan**

shop *n* **kamawra iken** lit. "place where they distribute things".

short *adj* **terparep**

• **short-tailed shearwater** *n* **tekerkhak** (*Ardenna tenuirostris*)

should not ... *expr* **rtat ma ...** *Ex.*: Rtat ma tahak kahapa tarol am nuigen. Tanakwen makhar kam ieram asul min. ~ It is not good that my head stays empty. I will go speak with the elders.

shout *v* **akhar apam** *Ex.*: Iata ramakhar apam iakaur. ~ I twitched when Iata shouted aloud. • *v* **winen** of men. *Ex.*: Ieramim kër rakawinen. ~ A man is shouting.

shouting *n* **newinenan**

show *v* **atukun** *Ex.*: Atukun ton io! ~ Show me!

• **show me** *aff* **wa**

• **show off** *v* **ausit** *Ex.*: Kowa ramakhar apam memausit. ~ The kid is shouting and showing off.

shrimp (generic term) *n* **man** freshwater. • *n* **man kalemen** big one. • *n* **man taha téhé** marine.

sibling (inalienable) *n* **pia-** younger or elder, of the same sex as the speaker. • (inalienable) *n* **nohra-** younger, of the same sex as the speaker.

sick *v* **mes** to be, if conjugated with verbal infix "-k-". *Ex.*: Iamakames. ~ I was sick.

side *n* **léwinpa** adjacent. • *n* **léwinpen** opposite.

silveryeye *n* **kapaiuwer** (*Zosterops lateralis*)

similar *adj* **raukerauker**

simple *adj* **aluk** e.g. a task.

sing *v* **eni napuk** *Ex.*: Naramim kamaeni napuk. ~ People are singing.

sister *n* **kaka** *Ex.*: younger sister ~ khaka iaswas • (inalienable) *n* **nawine-** of a man. *Ex.*: my sister (if a man is speaking) ~ nawinek • (inalienable) *n* **pia-** younger or elder, if the speaker is a woman. • (inalienable) *n* **nohra-** younger, if the speaker is a woman.

• **sister-in-law** *n* **iawugen** an old term, 'KUNI' is used nowadays. Respectful term employed by a woman when addressing to the wife of her brother. • *n* **kuni** respectful term employed by a woman when addressing to the wife of her brother. cf.'IAWUGEN'.
sit *v* **awota** *Ex.*: swallow that sits down ~ wukelekel iawata

skink *n* **iaru kaliawen** with green back. Appears in the legend of shark ('KALLAWEN'), in which it chases the shark from the jungle to the sea and hence it has gained its name.

sky *n* **lénéai**

sleep *n* **napelan** • *v* **apel** *Ex.*: Iamapel tat lenaw. ~ I slept badly yesterday.

• **sleep-talk** *v* **armik** *Ex.*: Tahak perawen ramarmik lapen

patem. ~ My wife speaks when asleep every night.

• **sleep-talking** *n* **iarmikan**

sleepy *expr* **napelan ramos** be, followed by a pronoun or a name. *Ex.*: Napelan ramos io. ~ I am sleepy.

• **sleepy plant** *n* **iapeliapel** (*Mimosa pudica*)

slippery *adj* **remakela** *Ex.*: Remakela! ~ It is slippery!

slowly *adj* **merek** *Ex.*: Ani merek am! ~ Speak slowly! • *adv* **mérék** in a manner easy to understand.

small *adj* **aswas** *Ex.*: small dog, puppy ~ kuri aswas

smell *v* **apién** *Ex.*: Rakapién wyt. ~ It smells good. • *v* **apién tat** bad. *Ex.*: Nauganan lenaw renépién tat. ~ The food from yesterday smells already bad. • *v* **apién wyt** good. *Ex.*: Rakapién wyt. ~ It smells good. • *n* **pién** nice.

smile *n* **naliélan**

smoke *n* **nahanekam**

smoldering branch *n* **nourasekam** carried by men in right hand after having drank kava on order to protect themselves against evil spirits.

smooth *adj* **pwia**

snack *n* **nahunu** small snack traditionally prepared by women for men going to drink kava in nakamal. Used to "wash mouth" to remove the bad aftertaste of kava.

snail *n* **nuwigen** • *n* **takiéw** • *n* **kelkel** species of small sea snail.

snore *v* **wi nowanhalél** *Ex.*: Tahak iaihgél rakawi nowanhalél epek. ~ My husband is snoring a lot.

soft *adj* **mesemes** • *adj* **merek**

soil *n* **nemopten** • *n* **ten**

soldierfish *n* **malaw**

somebody *n* **napela**

something *n* **nar kër**

somniloquous *v* **armik** be. *Ex.*: Tahak perawen ramarmik lapen patem. ~ My wife speaks when asleep every night.

somniloquy *n* **iarmikan**

sorcerer *n* **ieram ramol nemankat** specialized in summoning good weather. • *n* **ieram ramol nihin** specialized in summoning the rain.

sorry *expr* **iksiai epek ik** to one person.

south *n* **pis**

southwards *aff* **-pis** suffix of verbs.

spade *v* **alu** dig the earth. *Ex.*: Naman kamailu apa lé nasuman kani neperawen kamaréwin nar. ~ Men are spading the garden while the women are pulling out roots.

Spanish dancer *n* **usi la téhé** (*Hexabranchus sanguineus*) sea slug.

speak *v* **akhar** *Ex.*: you are speaking, he will speak ~ namakhar, tarapakhar • *v* **eni** *Ex.*: Eni mérék am. ~ Speak slowly.

spear *n* **newahga** • *n* **suk** • *v* **atek** to, a fish during fishing with a spear. *Ex.*: Namail am lé twiau né mamégasin iau tanakatek. ~ You are standing on a turtle, but you are searching one to spear. searching something which is just in front.

speech *n* **nanian** • *n* **newhagan** an important speech given in nakamal before drinking kava.

spider *n* **iahukarem**

• **spider web** *n* **liélia**

spike *n* **suwop** a strong spike fasten into ground pointy end upwards. Used to help removing the husk of dry coconuts. • *n* **kakel** working instrument. A long pointy wooden stick used in gardening to make holes when planting yams.

spin *v* **alalau** head. *Ex.*: Tahak kahapa ramalalau. ~ My head is spinning.

spirit (generic term) *n* **iarames** often malicious, term derived from 'IERAM RAMEMES' - dead man. • *n* **iapar** family of 'IARAMES', dwarves. • *n* **tiantian** family of 'IARAMES', dwarves. • *n* **maselo** family of 'IARAMES', dwarves. • *n* **léai** family of 'IARAMES'. • *n* **kalwas** family of 'IARAMES'. Sometimes making noise in the jungle

in the night. They join groups of people walking in the night to dance on customary celebrations. They can be persuaded to kill a man. Their dwelling place is in "Imakalwasmin" (lit. "home of many 'KALWAS'"). • *n* **peranepen** feminine form of 'IANEPEN'. • *n* **ianepen** malicious. If a man is lusting after a woman, this spirit will come in her form in the night to the man. After some time, the man will suffer loss of weight, weakness and various diseases. • *n* *prop* **Kiapako** name of one of 'IARAMES' with long arms. Mentioned in one legend. The root of the word is 'IAPAKO'. • *n* *prop* **Seku** name of one of 'IARAMES' with long ears. Mentioned in one legend and in the game 'PIKOKAI'. • *n* *prop* **Nowanuksuiu** name of one of 'IARAMES', dwelling in an 'IKAWSIM' close to the village of Lowtaliko. • *n* *prop* **Kapila** name of one of 'IARAMES'. Mentioned with 'KAMIRAURAU' in one legend. • *n* *prop* **Kamiraurau** name of one of 'IARAMES'. Mentioned with 'KAPILA' in one legend. • (inalienable) *n* **nanema-** of man.

spokesman *n* **ieni** from root 'ENI'. • *expr* **ieram la suatu** messenger charged of transmission of messages through customary roads between nakamals. lit. "man of the road".

spotted *adj* **afwil** of fruit and trees.

• **spotted worm sea cucumber**. *n* **iewiawi nowanhurek** (*Synapta maculata* (?)

sprout *n* **nameren** of a plant other than vine. cf. 'NUWIAN'. • *n* **nuwian** of a vine.

squash (from English: pumpkin) *n* **kameken** edible fruit.

squid *n* **iapwis**

squirrelfish *n* **malaw**

staff *n* **kasulia** for carrying objects over shoulder. • *n* **nowatahwa** made of a special wood and used for the 'TOKA' dance. • *n* **nowanek** wooden.

stand *v* **ail** *Ex.*: Namail am lé twiau né mamégasin iau tanakatek. ~ You are standing on a turtle, but you are searching one to spear. searching something which is just in front.

star (generic term) *n* **mahau** • *n* *prop* **Kapaumeta** a celestial body, unidentified so far, possibly Jupiter or Mars. • *n* *prop* **Mowaimawuk** name of an unidentified star, said to be close to the Moon or to rise close to it. • *n* *prop* **Iaiapom** name of an unidentified star, that rises before 'FÉTUKAI'. • *n* *prop* **Kwankaio** position unknown.

stare *v* **etai** at, for a long time. *Ex.*: Ieram a rametatai lak! ~ That man is staring at me.

stay *v* **arek** somewhere. *Ex.*: Iamarek iken ek. ~ I live here.

steal *v* **akela** thief. *Ex.*: Kokomin kamaikela in patem tahak nemének. ~ The kids have stolen all my fowl.

steephead parrotfish *n* **makem umé** (*Chlorurus microrhinos*)

stem *n* **nowatek**

stems from coconut tree leaves *n* **nowatek ma sia** used to make brooms.

stick *n* **nowanek** • *n* **kamo sit** simple reed or wooden stick supporting the liana of smaller species of yams. • *n* **nim** used to hunt birds.

• **stick insect** *n* **iamimer** (*Phasmatodea*)

• **stick into the ground** *v* **patkin** e.g. a pole or branches of plants to grow. It is not used to planting yams and other plants with vines. *Ex.*: Iamepatkin nalemén nemaiaiko. ~ I am planting manioc branches.

• **stick of stone** *n* **kasawasau** term describing clubs made of stone. According to the elders, these were once arms used in tribal wars.

sticks *n* **nowanek mil** used to manipulate chewed kava during its traditional brewing by those, who have not the right to touch it directly, e.g. men already married.

stomach *n* **tepéwa**

stone (generic term) *n* **kopwiél** • *n* **kopwiél taha natek** for black magic. • *n* **kawar taha nuw** for good harvest of yams, kept in the village of Lowkweria. • *n* **kawar** for good harvest. *Ex.*: stone for

good harvest of bananas ~ kawar taha nepen • *n* **kopwiél awsim** magic. • *n* *prop* **Kamtiwan** magic. Name of one, which is found in Lownapaiu in norther Tanna.

stop falling *v* **ahan** of rain. *Ex.*: the rain stopped ~ ramahan

store *n* **kamawra iken** lit. "place where they distribute things".

story *n* **nagé** customary.

straight *v* **atuatu** *Ex.*: good speech, lit. "straight speech" ~ nakharan ratuatu

strainer *n* **niges**

strike *v* **el nem taha-** to head. *Ex.*: Iamarou ménék, iamlas nek kér, maho a in, mel nem tahan. ~ I was chasing a chicken, I grabbed a stick, I threw it on the chicken and I knocked it down.

string (generic term) *n* **nul** • *n* **nowanuo** made of bast of the 'NUO' tree used as the basis for 'NIU' grass skirts.

strong *adj* **rasanen** • *v* **asanen** be, of a person, taste etc. *Ex.*: strong tobacco, strong man ~ takapa rasanen, ieram rasanen • *adj* **rausekausek** in its effects, concentrated, ex. kava. • *adj* **iaghin** man. • *adj* **rawiér** taste.

stubborn *adj* **ialmel**

sufficient *v* **renauker** be.

sugar cane (generic term) *n* **naru** (*Saccharum spp.*) • *n* **faifselén**

(*Saccharum sp.*) introduced species with slight green skin. • *n* **numnawa** (*Saccharum sp.*) red skin species. • *n* **naru nawanaug apen**

(*Saccharum sp.*) species very dark inside. • *n* **nemnawa apen**

(*Saccharum sp.*) species with dark red skin. • *n* **nawum** (*Saccharum*

sp.) species with grayish skin. • *n* **numataiakem** (*Saccharum sp.*)

species with grayish skin. • *n* **netékasua** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with

green and yellow skin. • *n* **nalām** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with green

skin, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n* **numamwikahau**

(*Saccharum sp.*) species with little "hair" on nodes. • *n* **nemnawa**

(*Saccharum sp.*) species with pinkish yellow skin. • *n* **nusua tuan**

(*Saccharum sp.*) species with red and yellow skin, appreciated for

customary exchange. • *n* **nusua apen** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with

red and yellow skin, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n* **nemnawa afwil** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red and yellow stripes

on skin. • *n* **nowanpapa** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red skin, often

cultivated in middle-bush. • *n* **nowanatepuwikwik** (*Saccharum sp.*)

species with red skin. • *n* **nalemilaté** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with

very bright skin. • *n* **nil** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with yellow and

green stripes on skin. • *n* **nemnarusyl** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with

yellow and red stripes on skin. • *n* **nemtalekam** (*Saccharum sp.*)

species with yellow-grayish skin. • *n* **naléw** (*Saccharum sp.*) species

with yellow-violet skin. • *n* **niénmera** (*Saccharum sp.*) species.

summer *n* **nian wi** hot part of the year when yams and other crop grow. lit. "new time". • *expr* **met ramérou nekaugan apam** part of the year where days are long, lit. "the sun passes through the great empty space".

sun *n* *prop* **met**

sunshine *n* **nemankat**

surgeonfish *n* **ty** (*Acanthurus triostegus*) • *n* **welek** kind of.

swag *n* **katipa** for carrying on one's back, usually when returning with the crop from the garden.

swamp harrier *n* **kweria asul** (*Circus approximans*)

sweet *expr* **nowanihin rawyt** • *adj* **rauté** • *adj* **nowanihiwyt** from 'NOWANIHIN RAWYT'.

• **sweet potato** *n* **koléi**

swell *v* **asis** *Ex.*: Nalemak ramasis. ~ My leg is swelling.

swelling *n* **nasisan**

swiftlet (generic term) *n* **wukelekel**

swim *v* **aik** *Ex.*: Ta lénhaiu sekaik apa iré. ~ In the evening I am going to swim in the sea.

swollen *adj* **nasis** *Ex.*: Natepak renasis. ~ I ate enough.

T

table *n* **numatiwhata** a small platform used in villages or nakamals to keep food out of reach of dogs and cats.

taboo place *n* **ikawsim** where magic stones are, from "iken rawsim".

Tahitian chestnut *n* **nawuk** (*Inocarpus fagifera*) edible fruits. Water infusion is given to women to make them give birth to a girl. cf.'NASUNAN'.

tail (inalienable) *n* **nepik-**

take *v* **os** Ex.: Sekos foto taham. ~ I will take your picture. • *v* **las** Ex.: Las taham! ~ Take it, it is yours!

• **take a photo** *v* **os foto** Ex.: Iakolkéikéi mos foto taham. ~ I would like to take your picture.

• **take a picture** *v* **os foto** Ex.: Iakolkéikéi mos foto taham. ~ I would like to take your picture.

talk *n* **nakharan**

Tanna *n* **prop** **Ten** island.

• **Tanna fruit-dove** *n* **wipek** (*Ptilinopus tannensis*)

taro *n* **kepia** (*Alocasia macrorrhizos*) t. of Fiji. • *n* **neté** (*Colocasia esculenta*) water t., t. of Samoa.

Tauaraken *n* **prop** **Tauaraken** lit. "True mountain". Name of hill close to Lénakel.

teach *v* **atukun** Ex.: Iamatakun kompiuta apa Lowanatom. ~ I am teaching computer classes at Lowanatom.

teacher *n* **iatukun**

tear *v* **hapu** if the people acting are more than one, 'HAIPU' is used instead. Ex.: Iamwén apa lé nekin nasuman kani mahapu tahak napen. ~ I went working to the garden and I tore my clothes. • *v* **hapu** only if the people acting are more than one. cf.'HAPU'. Ex.: Kamhapu numa sia la katar min. ~ We will split our leaf of coconut tree in two. leaves of coconut tree are easily split in the middle, for example when making 'KEMÉLU', and the proverb uses this image to speak about people, who are leaving each other. It is used in figurative speech when saying goodbye after meetings or when leaving each other after having walked together. Can be even used to speak about a divorce.

• **tear off** *v* **akes** with teeth, e.g. peel of fruit. Ex.: Akes nién paha! ~ Tear off the skin of paha coconut with your teeth.

tell *v* **eni** Ex.: Senia ma io nases. ~ I am not poor. lit. "One cannot say I am poor."

testicle *n* **nowier-**

text *n* **naraian**

thanks (from English: thank you) *n* **ténkiu** cf.'NAMEHWAU IO LÉ TWINEK NASES.'.

that *pron* **un** not far away. • *adv* **a** over there.

there *adv* **iken an** close to here.

• **there is** *expr* **apa iken** Ex.: Lawanu kér apa iken, iwoket am. ~ There is a village somewhere here, it is close.

• **there it is** *expr* **in apa**

they *pron* **ilar** all. • *pron* **ilél** three. • *pron* **ilau** two.

thief *n* **iakela**

thing *n* **nar**

think, that (inalienable) *v* **neki- rahmo ma** Ex.: Nekik rahmo ma iarames kér ramol namesan ek. ~ I think that this illness is because of a demon.

third *num* **ol kesel**

thirsty *v* **awawa** be. Ex.: Nu reneka apa lawanu, naramim kamaiwawa. ~ There is no water anymore in the village, people are thirsty.

this *pron* **ek** • *adv* **ek**

three days ago *adv* **nihikesel**

throw *v* **atkin** Ex.: Nakou ramatkin suk. ~ Nakou threw a spear on a bird. • *v* **aru** a compact object, such as a stone. cf.'HO'. Ex.:

Iamamaru kuri. ~ I threw a stone on a dog. • *v* **ho** a stick. cf.'ARU'. Ex.: Iamho nién la nek kér. ~ I threw a stick on a coconut.

thumb *n* **pis asul**

thunder *n* **kalwalwa**

Ti plant (generic term) *n* **numanarwiu** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) its leaves are used to wrap certain kinds of laplap. It is a general name for the many cultivars of *Cordyline fruticosa* distinguished in local language. Sometimes planted close to tombs as this long-living plant symbolizes the everlasting life. • *n* **nemrukén** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) dark purple color form. Used in local custom as a sign of the "black" families and to decorate their kava during customary ceremonies. • *n* **numanarwiu aswas** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) kind of 'NUMANARWIU' with narrow leaves are often found in the interior of the island. It is used for fabrication of 'NIU' grass skirts. • *n* **nalis kauhié** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) kind of 'NUMANARWIU'. Its leaves are put into the ground with 'KAUHIÉ' yams when planted in order to foster good growth. • *n* **nalis kelaka** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) kind of 'NUMANARWIU'. Its leaves are put into the ground with 'KELAKA' yams when planted in order to foster good growth. • *n* **kowiaméta** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) red color form. Used in local custom as a sign of the "red" families and to decorate their kava during customary ceremonies.

tick *n* **kur numanawitag** parasite.

tide *n* **renetam aken** at its maximum. • *n* **renahama mowas** at its minimum. • *n* **ranakahama** descending. • *n* **renakametam** rising.

tie beam *n* **kamaloawin**

time *n* **nian**

• **time of peace** *n* **neprou** legendary period of peace before the period of wars and division of the island to 'KOWIAMÉTA' end 'NEMRUKÉN' clans.

tired *v* **napau** to be. Ex.: Inapau. ~ I am tired.

titan triggerfish *n* **napau** (*Balistoides viridescens*)

to *part* **apa** locative. Ex.: Iakan apa Ituga, apa imaim asul. ~ I go to Ituga, to the principal nakamal.

tobacco *n* **takapa** (*Nicotiana sp.*) cultivated as cashcrop of minor importance.

today *adv* **tawék**

tomorrow *adv* **talauk**

tongue *n* **name-** body part.

too *adv* **men** also. Ex.: Io men. ~ Me too.

tooth (inalienable) *n* **naly-**

top (inalienable) *n* **twi-** Ex.: treetop ~ twinek • *adv* **iles** on the.

torch *n* **nesia**

touch *v* **iap** Ex.: Iamasiapan nar un! ~ I am not touching it!

toy *n* **nar kamawakelan** lit. "thing with which one plays".

tra-la-la *interj* **rélilé léilaho** meaningless syllables used in some local songs.

translate *v* **huaprai** Ex.: Iamhuaprai ipen to Tom. ~ I am translating for Tom.

trap *n* **nasekel** in form of a basket, to catch small birds or sea creatures.

tree (generic term) *n* **nek** • *n* **nek té iau** lit. "the turtle tree", soft wood. • *n* **nek mer** dead, dry. • *n* **nekariag** (*Cerbera odollam*) drinking tea made from the bark of this tree will induce diarrhea. • *n* **noumerek** (*Acalypha grandis*) drinking the juice of its crushed leaves eases stomachache. Its hard wood is used to make beams in construction of houses. Its fruit is used by kids as pellets for blowguns made from thin hollow bamboo stick. • *n* **nahal ket** (*Aidia graeffei*) edible fruit. Wood is naturally fire resistant. Before the use of metal, its curved branches were used to hang saucepans over the fire. • *n* **niér** (*Burckella obovata*) edible fruits. Its hard wood is used for constructions. • *n* **naknau** (*Acalypha sp.*) family of several species of shrubs. • *n* **kakil** family of several trees. Their leaves are applied on the circumcision wound during the first days

after a 'TEMAHWA'. Its branches are placed under the mats of the circumcised boys as a sort of 'KALUGA'. • *n nuahwa* (*Sterculia vitiensis*) fruits are edible. • *n nafa* (*Alphitonia zizyphoides*) hard wood species used for constructions. Its branches are fragrant. • *n nahal* (*Aidia graeffei*) hard wood. Branches are made into short pegs 'NOWATEPLEPEL' that holds the outriggers of traditional canoes. • *n nouhialag apen* imported species, which took its name from a local tree 'NOUHIALAG'. • *n numalupen* indigenous species. Its name was also given to the Christmas tree, which is an introduced species. • *n sita* (*Melia azedarach*) indigenous species. Shares the same name with the 'SITA' tree but is smaller in stature. It has white-blue flowers. An infusion made from its leaves is used palliatively for post stroke patients. Its flowering signals the time to catch the flying fish. • *n nalimala tuan* introduced species, which took its name from the indigenous 'NALIMALA' because of the similarity of their leaves. • *n napakalo* introduced species. • *n nowaig* introduced species. Children use its fruit to paint their faces. Probably from 'NOWA-' - fruit and "ink" - from English referring to its pigment. • *n makoni* introduced species. Hard wood used in construction of houses. • *n sita* introduced species. Its hard wood is used for construction. It has white flowers. • *n naknau awiwan* (*Acalypha* sp.) its leaves are put on the circumcision wound on the second day, cf.'KAUR'. The babies first stool is also wiped with this leaf. • *n naknau pwia* (*Acalypha* sp.) its leaves are put on the wound after circumcision. cf.'KAUR'. • *n nekiapen* (*Elattostachys falcata*) its wood is used to make bows. • *n nektuan* its wood is used to make bows. In family with 'TEKREKMÉNEK'. • *n nek mera* living, green. • *n nekelha* (*Breynia disticha*) planted near houses as a protection against black magic. • *n nik* (*Cordia dichotoma*) produces small sticky fruit often eaten by pigeons and flying foxes. Its bark is boiled or is infused in water and drank to ease headaches, stomachaches and diarrhea. • *n nim* (*Tabernaemontana* sp.) spec. with leaves eaten with coconut. • *n nalulu (irê)* (*Schefflera neobudica* (?) species found often in coastal areas. • *n nalulu (ikpat)* species found often in the hills of inland areas. • *n namulat* species giving small red fruit. The fruit skin is sticky on the inner surface and is used by girls to make facial decorations. • *n kaulapag* species of 'NIM'. The fruit is consumed with salt. Eating it is encouraged in pregnant women. However, women should avoid eating it after delivery and up until the baby is able to walk. • *n napek tuan* species of 'NAPEK' with yellow or whitish leaves. • *n nekatu* species of family 'NAWIGEN'. Its wood is used for constructions of houses. • *n nases* (*Ficus nassa*) species used during ceremony of 'KAUR' (circumcision) where men hang on its branches reed leaves which were used by the circumcised boys as towels after ritual baths. The tree is then burned at the end of the 'NASES' ceremony. Its bast is used as a tourniquet during circumcision. Its leaves can also be eaten raw with coconut meat. • *n keliakéi* (*Garcinia pseudoguttifera*) species with edible fruit. • *n nepam* species with edible fruit. • *n kakao* species with edible fruit. • *n nekalaka* (*Ponteria* sp.) species with edible fruit. • *n nakuka* (*Bischofia javanica*) species with hard wood used for construction of houses. • *n nel* species with hard wood used for construction of houses. • *n kataupeken* species with hard wood used for constructions. • *n nekpat* (*Syzygium* sp.) species with hard wood used for house construction. • *n nekpina* (*Diospyros ferrea*) species with hard wood. Pieces of its wood cut out from its trunk are chewed to make teeth strong. • *n nisap* species with hard wood. Traditionally hair combs are cut of its wood. • *n nekfitu* (*Elattostachys falcata*) species with hard wood. Used for constructions. Large chunks of its bark are used as plates to prepare and cook the 'KAKÉWAN' laplap. Its grated bast is added to pigs fodder so that they grow well. • *n kaulik* species with hard wood. Used to make handles of axes and 'KAKEL' for planting taro 'NETÉ'. • *n nekesa* species with seeds producing red pigment that is used for painting faces and hair. • *n namiahyl* species with soft wood. Used to make boards. • *n napuas* (*Fagraea ceilanica*) species with very durable wood, resisting to decay. Used for

construction of houses. • *n namel* (*Acacia spiriorbis*) species with very hard wood used for construction of houses. • *n nawan* (*Syzygium* sp.) species with very hard wood. • *n nesipuka* species, lit. "excrement of pig". When pigs make the village dirty with their excrements, the fruit of this tree is thrown at them in order to ward them off and make them defecate in the jungle. • *n kalwalwa* (*Meryta neobudica*) species, lit. "thunder". Used to create the thunder in rain-making. • *n nauru* species. • *n nawula aluk* (*Macaranga* sp.) species. • *n nawula apen* (*Macaranga* sp.) species. • *n nahua* species. • *n nekelha afwil* (*Breynia disticha* (?) species. • *n kastarapel apen* species. • *n nakaiu* (*Geissos denhamii*) species. • *n namak* (*Cordia subcordata*) species. • *n nareké* (*Dillenia biflora*) species. • *n kawytaregreg* species. • *n nekiau* species. • *n napateker nek* species. • *n namel keken* (*Acacia simplex*) species. • *n nesésé nawuk* species. • *n naiéw* (*Erythrina* sp.) species. • *n nakal* (*Dysoxylum bijugum*) species. • *n nawyl* (*Euodia* sp.) species. A plant that represents the people of Létakeren, who use it also to decorate the kava during ceremonies. • *n natuan* (*Dysoxylum rufum*) species. After circumcision when the boys are allowed to eat ordinary food again, the skin of this tree is mixed with dry coconut. The boys use this to wash themselves to deter evil spirits. Once done, the boys can eat regular food again. • *n nulagen* species. Circumcised boys strip off the leaves from its branches and use the branches to scratch their head as touching their head during a certain period after the circumcision is prohibited. • *n nepiaw tuan* (*Pisonia grandis*) species. Fish is wrapped with these leaves before cooking, then the two are cooked and eaten together. • *n tamormor* species. From its branches pipe-stems are made. • *n katen* species. Hard wood is carved into canoes. • *n neprou* species. Hard wood is used to carve canoes. • *n nigat* (*Ponteria* sp.) species. Hard wood used for construction. • *n natan* (*Myristica fatua*) species. Hard wood used for construction. It is also used to make the 'KALUGA' head rests. • *n namihewel* species. Hard wood used for making boards. • *n nawula pekam* (*Macaranga* sp.) species. Hard wood used in construction of all parts of house. • *n kako* (*Hernandia nymphaeifolia* (?) species. In order to make the hair grow well, its branches are crushed and rubbed into the hair before washing. • *n napkapek* (*Pisonia umbellifera*) species. It is used to summon rain. Its grated skin is added into the fodder of piglets to help them grow well. Its fruits contains a sticky liquid that is slathered in large quantities around plants like taro to protect them from fruit-eating birds as the birds get glued to the fruit. • *n tekrekmének* species. Its bark is toxic for fishes. It is grated and thrown into tide pools when fishing. Family of 'NEKTUAN'. • *n napé* (*Pseuderanthemum* sp.) species. Its branches are used as traditional sticks for the 'NASAL' dance. The plant has several medicinal uses. • *n namam* species. Its crushed leaves are applied on skin incisions made by the local healers as a way to heal certain diseases. • *n nagai* species. Its fruit is split and the nuts are consumed. • *n nuahwa tam* (*Sterculia banksiana*) species. Its fruits are consumed by pigeons 'IÉLU IOHNEKAM'. Worms 'PRISIN' live in its trunk. Its bark is used to make the 'KATAWUT' belts for the 'NEKOWIAR' ceremony. • *n nanemwién* (*Pipturus argenteus*) species. Its grated bark is applied on infected wounds especially those that came from animal bites. Its leaves are used to cover the fresh circumcision wound. cf.'KAUR'. • *n nanemwién apen* (*Pipturus argenteus* (?) species. Its grated bark is placed on infected wounds and on wounds from animal bites. • *n nanen* (*Ficus adenosperma*) species. Its grated bark is used to treat wounds. • *n namilo* (*Glochidico namilo*) species. Its hard wood is used for beams in construction of houses and to make fences for animals. • *n nawula pekam apen* (*Macaranga* sp.) species. Its hard wood is used to make roofs of houses. • *n tera* (*Excoecaria agallocha*) species. Its latex is put on sores and cuts from corals and sea urchins. • *n naluk* species. Its leaves are heated over the fire and placed on the joints and back of people who just recovered from a long period of being bedridden and still have difficulties with walking. • *n*

newirou species. Its leaves are stinging. Young leaves are used against mice in houses and are put on places where they commonly pass. It is said that the mouse will get their paws burned and will feel so much pain that it will chew them off and eventually die. • *n nauh* species. Its leaves are used to wrap freshly caught shrimps. The appearance of its flowers announces the time for planting sweet potatoes. • *n nareg* (*Ficus granatum*) species. Its leaves are used to wrap shark meat cooked in an earth oven. It adds flavor to the meat and preserves it for up to three or four days. • *n nihla* (*Semecarpus vitiensis*) species. Its sap is severely irritant to the skin and causes blisters. To prevent this from happening, one should face the tree and pronounce the name-changing phrase "io 'NIHLA', ik N" - "I am 'NIHLA', and you are N" (where N is the name of the person). Worms 'PRISIN' may be found in its trunk. Eating them may cause a skin reaction in certain people. • *n nywen* (*Guetarda speciosa*) species. Its skin is grated, mixed with coconut and fed to pigs so that they become fat. • *n nip* species. Its stem is cut open and the fiber inside is crushed. The liquid is then drained, strained and dried to get a starchy flour-like by-product. This is then mixed with sea water and made into a kind of laplap or pancakes. • *n kapuap* species. Its wood is excellent for making 'NOURASEKAM'. Its fruit is used by kids as pellets for blow guns made from thin bamboo stalks. • *n namiheuw* (*Melochia odorata*) species. Its wood is used to make a part of canoe called 'NOWANEKIATU'. The juice from its crushed leaves is drunk to cure fever. An edible mushroom called 'NEPAWEN NAMIHEW' grows on its trunk. • *n nawiétaur* (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*) species. Its wood is used to make arrowheads of 'NOWANPARAM'. • *n kawiétaut* species. Its wood is used to make arrowheads of 'NOWANPARAM'. • *n tel ket* species. Pigeons 'IÉLU' feed on its fruit. • *n iapel* (*Leucaena leucocephala*) species. Quality hard wood. Used for building every part of house and to make fences for animals. • *n naiéw imer* (*Erythrina fusca*) species. Said to come from Aniwa. • *n teklepwé* species. Soft wood used for some constructions. • *n neseke* species. Spears are made from its straight branches. • *n kakil apsépes* species. The arrowhead of the 'NOWANPARAM' is made from its wood. • *n namnak* species. The juice from its skin is added to the food of poisoned dogs. • *n nouhialag* (*Homalanthus ebracteatus*) species. The juice of its leaves is drunk in cases when one gets sick which is caused by the 'IARAMES' spirits because of walking outside during the night. • *n koupa* species. Wood is used to make fences for pigs and cattle. • *n napwer* species. Wood resistant to fire. Before metal was used, its curved branches were used to hang saucepans over the fire. • *n nepleg* (*Polyscias sp.*) species. Young leaves are cooked and eaten especially in times of famine after a cyclone. • *n niély* (*Pittosporum campbelli*) the entire plant is aromatic. During yam planting into 'TOW', its leaves are burnt inside the pit where yams are planted to ensure good crop. Yams are said to "like" the smell of the leave. Drinking an infusion of its boiled bark cures the 'NAMESAN TAHA KAHAU' sickness. • *n lipag* (*Ficus septica*) the inside of the apical stem is chewed and the juice is swallowed to treat 'NAMTEKETEK'. Infusion of its bark is also used to relieve stomachache. The branches are chewed and the juice spit out as protection against evil spirits. • *n nepina* (*Sarcomelicope simplicifolia sub-sp. neo-scotia*) the ripening of its fruit signals yam harvest season. Chewing its bark makes the teeth and gum strong. • *n nap* (*Enodia hortensis*) the wild form of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. Women hold its leafy branches during the 'NASES' dance. • *n nawiloawilo* (*Gyrocarpus americanus*) trunk is used for carving canoes. • *n nameliamel* (*Phyllanthus ciccoides*) wards off evil spirits. A small branch from this tree is worn secretly to protect its owner against black magic coming from other islands. • *n naté* white flowering. • *n nuwul* (*Pometia pinnata*) with small edible fruit, "nakatambol" in Bislama.

• **tree heloptrope** *n kapwia* (*Heloptropium foertherianum*) infusion made from leaves is used to cure poisoning by eating a poisonous fish.

tribe *n nemrukén* one of the 'NIKO', traditional tribes of Tanna. • *n kowiaméta* one of the 'NIKO', traditional tribes of Tanna.

triggerfish (generic term) *n nuwig nawuk* (*Balistoides sp.*)

triplet *n mwilmwil mhiél* three newborns.

triton's trumpet *n naiu* (*Charonia tritonis*) • *n naiu pwia* (*Charonia tritonis*)

tropical halfbeak *n iowanué* (*Hyporhamphus dussumieri*)

truck *n loto*

true *adj parién* • *adv aken*

• **true man** *n ieramim aken* grown up, adult.

truly *adv parién* intensifying word.

trunk (generic term) *n noukaren nién* of coconut tree. • *n noukaren magko* of mango tree. • *n noukaren* of tree.

truth *n napariénan*

try *v alkut* do something. *Ex.*: Iamalkut to nalhekaman. ~ I try to light the fire on.

tuna *n tiapen*

turmeric *n néamek* (*Curcuma longa*) plant, worked into powder 'NOWANÉAMEK'. • *n nowanéamek* spice.

turn *v hwin* *Ex.*: Hwin nepen lé nekam. ~ Turn those bananas that are in the fire. • *v iko* *Ex.*: Loto ramikopen la mul iken. ~ The car turned left.

turtle (generic term) *n iau* • *n nam aramara* lit. "royal fish", sometimes prepared for 'IERAMIN ARAMARA'.

tutor *n iatukun* • *v ahmut* *Ex.*: Perawen ek ramahmut tahak kowa. ~ This woman is tutoring my child.

twins *n mwilmwil*

twitch *v aur* when frightened. *Ex.*: Iata ramakhar apam iakaur. ~ I twitched when Iata shouted aloud.

two days ago *adv nihin*

U

unable to speak (inalienable) *v neki- reka* be, because of being sick or having shouted too much. *Ex.*: Kowa ramakhar apam kani nekin reka. ~ The kid shouted so much that he lost his voice.

uncle (inalienable) *n rem-* father's brother. • (inalienable) *n mera-* mother's brother.

underworld (ancient term) *n ipai* a place where go the spirits of the dead. • *n prop Iwrau* a place where go the spirits of the dead.

unhappy *v asolkéikéian ma* be, of something that is happening. lit. "not like something". *Ex.*: Iasolkéikéian ma nihin ramep. ~ I am sad that it is raining. lit. "I do not like that it is raining".

uniform swiftlet *n wukelekel* (*Aerodramus vanikorensis*)

up *n iles* generic term for places up in hills of western Tanna. cf. 'IKPAT'. *Ex.*: Iakan apa iles. ~ I am going up. e.g. to Ipai, Lowkweria etc.

V

valley *n naumus* dry, without a water stream on the bottom.

Vanuatu megapode *n wél* (*Megapodius layardi*)

Vanuatu white-eye *n kawhiakawhia* (*Zosterops flavifrons*)

venomous *v akona* be. *Ex.*: Ramken kotéa mamakona. ~ He ate the kotéa fish and got poisoned.

Venus *n prop Kéwita* on evening sky. • *n prop Fétukai* on morning sky.

village *n nowanapar* special term for parts of village closely surrounding a nakamal. • *n lawanu* with locative pref.

vine (generic term) *n tul* it refers more precisely to the stem of the vine. • (generic term) *n nul* refers more precisely to the stem of the vine. • *n nul awsim* (*Mikania micrantha*) another name for 'NUL IOWIAREN'. • *n nul arwow* family of several species. The stem is

used to join the arrowhead with a stem of reed when making 'NOWANPARAM' and also as a general-purpose string to attach things together. • *nul ifa* indigenous species. • *nul ifa* invasive species which took its name from the indigenous species of 'NUL IFA'. • *nul kasek* its petioles are chewed and the juice is spit on to the mouth of a dog to make it good in chasing pigs. The juice of the crushed leaves are also added to dog food to create the same effect. • *nul meta* its stem is heated over the fire to soften and used as ropes. It hardens after cooling down. • *talipasa* leaves used to cover the circumcision wound. The shape of the leaves looks similar to a kind of yam that bears the same name. The leaves of this vine are placed on the 'KAWAR' of yams to obtain good crop. • *neparem nuw* similar to 'NEPAREM', but its roots are softer and easier to eat. • *napwil kaik* species with the same usage as other species of 'NAPWIL'. • *néiwaiu* species. • *tul paha* species. • *nul pekam* species. • *nul éwéiu* species. • *nolu* species. • *soulél* species. • *iarunién* species. • *nausyl* species. • *nul akmének* species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves cleanses the stomach. • *nul lau* species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves helps ease headaches. • *nul iawiwier* species. Drinking the juice from its leaves helps relieve muscular pains. The juice can also be rubbed in areas where a person is suffering from muscular pain and cramps. • *nul mera* (*Vigna marina*) species. Drinking the juice of its crushed leaves helps relieve stomachaches and bloating. • *nowakeres* species. Fruit edible. • *tul pukulpukul* species. Its green fruit is edible. It is eaten together with the juice from its crushed leaves to treat cases of undescended testicle in young boys. • *tul kapwapwua* species. Its leaves are placed on the wound after circumcision. • *tul kawhik* species. Its leaves are used as fodder for pigs and cattle. It is first laid down in the earth oven before adding a layer of banana leaves on top. • *neparem* species. Its roots are baked or cooked and chewed in times of famine, such as after a cyclone. It tastes similar to a yam cooked over a fire. • *nawun* species. Its stem is heated over the fire to soften and make it more flexible for house construction use. The plant is poisonous for fishes. When fishing, the men would hit the tide pools with its crushed end and the toxins released kills the fishes. • *napwil merek* species. Its stem is heated over the fire to soften it and then used as ropes in construction of houses and to bind the sugarcane in the garden together to keep the wind from breaking them. • *noras* species. Its stems are used as ropes in construction of houses and also to clean pipe-stems. • *nul arwow apen* species. Same usage as 'NUL ARWOW'. • *nul arwow tuan* species. Same usage as 'NUL ARWOW'. • *tul aimwién* species. The bark of the stem is peeled off and pounded to free the bast. The bast is further pounded to release the sap. This is then rubbed onto the skin like a soap. It is also used for the hair as it has conditioning and detangling properties. • (from English: agriculture) *nul akrikaltsa* species. The entire plant is used to feed domestic animals. • *napwil* species. The string made from the peeled vines are used to tie the coconut leaves together during fabrication of traditional roofs. • *nul nekenpuluk* species. Used to feed pigs and cattle. • *tul aulihiau* species. Used traditionally as ropes to tie parts of a canoe together and for house constructions. • *neparepa* (*Entada phaseoloides*) the flexible parts are used as strings to attach yams to poles for transport during customary exchanges e.g. the 'KAUR' ceremony. The dried fruit is used to make rattling arm bands for dance. The water found inside the vine is drinkable and is used for treating back aches and for the 'NAUMUS' illness. Its skin is repeatedly hit with wooden stick until it peels off. Bands of the skin are then used as exceptionally strong ropes for house construction. • *nul iowiaren* (*Mikania micrantha*) the juice from crushed leaves is used to treat small wounds and stomachache. On contact the hair found on the vine stems may irritate the skin of the armpit and also in intimate areas. • *tul nawuknawuk* (*Pycnarrhena ozantha*) used as ropes for house constructions. • *tul kawkaw* used to make 'KEMÉLU'.

violet *adj* *amimera epek*

virgin *n* *nesé nowankelu* • *n* *perawen wi* lit. "new woman".

volcano *n* *hiaw*

volunteer *n* *piskop* white foreigner, humanitarian worker of organizations such as Peace Corps.

vomit *v* *éwa* *Ex.*: Iamamken nauganan hal méwa in. ~ I ate the food from yesterday, which was not good anymore, and now I am throwing up.

vortex *n* *siosio* wind.

vulva *n* *nua*

W

wader (generic term) *n* *itawar* term used for small birds found on the beach.

wait *v* *amatan* *Ex.*: Amatan in io! ~ Wait for me!

walk *n* *naliwokan*

• **walk about** *v* *aliwok* *Ex.*: Iamaliwok am. ~ I am just walking about.

walking stick *n* *kaseken*

wandering tattler *n* *kakak* (*Tringa incana*)

want *v* *olkéikéi* *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi ma seken nepen. ~ I would like to eat a banana.

war *n* *naluakenan*

warm *v* *még* up, reheat. *Ex.*: Iamég nalemak. ~ I am warming my hands.

wasp *n* *purmat*

watch *v* *arep* *Ex.*: Iamamarep lam. ~ I was watching you.

water *n* *nu*

waterfall *n* *nyia*

watermelon *n* *marén* (*Citrullus lanatus*) fruit is edible.

we *pron* *katar* all, with you. • *pron* *kamar* all, without you. • *pron* *kathel* three, with you. • *pron* *kamhel* three, without you. • *pron* *kalau* two, with you. • *pron* *kamlau* two, without you.

• **we are one** *expr* *katar karénéam* without difference, united.

weather *n* *nian*

web *v* *peteg* be. *Ex.*: Nihin ramep kani tahak napen rapeteg. ~ It is raining so my clothes got wet.

week *n* *nowakan* • *expr* *nowakan ek* this.

weight *n* *napekaman*

west *n* *paha* also meaning the western littoral of the island.

Sometimes pronounced as "fa" in composed words as 'IARAFa'.

westwards *aff* *-paha* suffix of verbs.

whale *n* *taulai*

what's up *expr* *ratol*

when *adv* *tama*

where *adv* *ia* *Ex.*: Ramarek ia? ~ Where does he live?

white *adj* *tuan* • *adj* *tuan* part of plant names for varieties with bright yellow-colored leaves. *Ex.*: white napek ~ napek tuan

White-Grass *n* *prop* *Lénkaugan*

whitespotted surgeonfish *n* *welag* (*Acanthurus guttatus*)

white-streaked grouper *n* *kulegen* (*Epinephelus ongus* (?))

who *pron interrog* *péhé* *Ex.*: Péhé an? ~ Who is that? • *pron interrog* *fé* *Ex.*: Ik fé? ~ Who are you?

why *adv* *to nata* *Ex.*: Sylvano rakan to nata? ~ Why is Sylvano gone? • *adv* *tarol nata* concerning an action. lit. "what will he do". *Ex.*: Sylvano ramakan tarol nata? ~ Sylvano is gone to do what?

wife *n* *koko* term of affection in a couple.

wild *adj* *iatipen* *Ex.*: wild pig ~ kupas tatipen • *adj* *rou* term describing a family of plants or used as a part of a plant name for species that do not give fruits or that are otherwise useless e.g.

'NUIU ROU' or "wild 'NUIU'" a species of pandanus with leaves not appropriate for weaving mats.

wind (generic term) *n* **nematag** the local culture knows 16 different names of winds. Today, this knowledge is kept only by few elders and the people specialized in weather magic - the 'IERAM RAMOL NIHIN' and 'IERAM RAMOL NEMANKAT'. Seven of the winds are associated with rain and with the collared kingfisher 'KAWHITÉ', the nine others are associated with dry weather and Polynesian triller 'WULAWULA'. • (ancient term) *n* **tokolau tu** from ENE, brings rain. • (ancient term) *n* **iawakeliawakel** from ESE. Comes from the direction of the volcano and may bring its ashes. • (ancient term) *n* **luatu amlai** from N, bringing rain, hot. According to the elders "feeds the ground" so it gives good harvest. • (ancient term) *n* **natoga** from NE, brings rain. • (ancient term) *n* **luat natoga** from NNE, brings rain. • (ancient term) *n* **nasemer** from NNW. Similar properties to 'LUATU AMLAI'. • (ancient term) *n* **luatu matua** from NW, brings heavy rain. • (ancient term) *n* **nepelap** from S, not bringing rain. It is cold and comes at time of cleaning of gardens before yams are planted. • (ancient term) *n* **nepelap arap** from SE. lit. "cold 'NEPELAP'". • (ancient term) *n* **nepelap laluan** from SSE. A cold wind. • (ancient term) *n* **nepelap imarég** from SSW. • (ancient term) *n* **iapu kopwiél** from SW. • (ancient term) *n* **nasemari pai** from W. • (ancient term) *n* **tokolau** from W. If it comes after the 'IAWAKELIAWAKEL', it means a rain is to be expected. • (ancient term) *n* **naruatu** from WSW, brings showers. • (ancient term) *n* **pai** from WSW. • *n* **siosio** spinning, eddy.

wing (inalienable) *n* **nalem-**

winter *n* **nian awas** cold part of the year when yams and other crop are consumed. lit. "old time". • *n* **nowanalulu** more precisely the part of year, when days are short. • *expr* **met ramerou nekaugan areparep** part of the year where days are short, lit. "the sun passes through the small empty space".

with *prep* **né** Ex.: Iamken nam né nuw. ~ I ate a fish with a yam.

woman (generic term) *n* **perawen** • *n* **peran wi** cf. 'PERAWEN WI'. • *n* **peran awas** first wife of a man, that remarried. Synonym of 'PERAN AUPAN' and 'PERAN AWOTISEG'. • *n* **peraihgel** generic term for married women of a family, e.g. wife, sister-in-law, ... • *n* **perawen wi** second wife after death of the first one or after a divorce. • *n* **peran awotiseg** synonym of 'PERAN AUPAN' and 'PERAN AWAS'. • *n* **peran aupan** synonym of 'PERAN AWAS' and 'PERAN AWOTISEG'. • *n* **perawen wi** young, not yet married. • *n* **peraswas** young.

wood *n* **nek mer** dry. • *n* **nek** material.

work (from English: work) *n* **wok** • (from English: work) *v* **ol wok** except for gardening. cf. 'ASUM'. Ex.: Dokta ramol wok lak. ~ The doctor is treating me. lit. "working on me". • *v* **asum** in garden. Ex.: Ramakan tarasum. ~ He went to work in garden.

worse *n* **rtat epek**

write *v* **arai** Ex.: Kowa ramarai tahan naua apa la sekul. ~ Child is writing to his notebook at school.

writing *n* **naraian**

Y

yam (generic term) *n* **nuw** (*Dioscorea sp.*) • *n* **nowanawug iatipen** (*Dioscorea sp.*) • *n* **nuw aswas** (*Dioscorea sp.*) "hairy" and small species. • *n* **nuw asul** (*Dioscorea sp.*) "hairy" species. • *n* **kataina** (*Dioscorea sp.*) "hairy", wide and not very long species. • *n* **nuw sua** (*Dioscorea sp.*) big species from middle-bush. • (from English: Africa) *n* **afreka** (*Dioscorea sp.*) imported small species, said to come from Africa. • (from Bislama) *n* **salamoni** (*Dioscorea sp.*) imported species. • *n* **togoa** (*Dioscorea sp.*) lo species imported from Tongoa. • *n* **nampi** (*Dioscorea sp.*) long and soft species. • (from English: long) *n* **log** (*Dioscorea sp.*) long imported species. • *n* **kuras** (*Dioscorea sp.*) long species similar to 'LÉWINUW'. • *n* **kauhié** (*Dioscorea sp.*) long species. • (from Bislama) *n* **wailu** (*Dioscorea sp.*)

mid-sized species. • *n* **tamoni** (*Dioscorea sp.*) mid-sized species. • *n* **nufi** (*Dioscorea sp.*) rose species. • (from English: rose) *n* **ros** (*Dioscorea sp.*) rose species. • *n* **nalakawug** (*Dioscorea sp.*) round species, wild and bitter. Its cultivated form is called 'NOWANAWUG'. These are soaked in seawater for several hours prior to cooking. • *n* **nowanem** (*Dioscorea sp.*) round species. • *n* **téniru** (*Dioscorea sp.*) round species. • *n* **kelaka** (*Dioscorea sp.*) small oblong species. • *n* **katipaténaug** (*Dioscorea sp.*) small species similar to 'KELAKA'. • *n* **nalemnuw** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'KAUHIÉ'. • *n* **nowanawug** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'NALAKAWUG', but cultivated and used for cooking. Exists in several cultivars. • *n* **nalak** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'KELAKA'. • *n* **marum** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'KELAKA'. • *n* **nawiaim** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species with long "hairy" tubers. Consumed. • *n* **saramatu** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species, a kind of 'NOWANAWUG'. • *n* **neksuka atoato** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **neksuka melamela** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **neksuka nalméta** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **léwinuw** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **nowanhurek** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **kasélag** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **neksuka tuan** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **namio** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **nowanihinmatak** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • (from English: Jack) *n* **tsék** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **talipasa** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **namwio** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **nuw wi** (*Dioscorea sp.*) term for non-traditional species on Tanna. cf. 'NUW ASWAS'. • *n* **nuw awas** (*Dioscorea sp.*) term for species traditionally grown on Tanna, including 'KAUHIÉ', 'MILU', 'NOWANHUREK' and 'KELAKA'. • *n* **narawénua** (*Dioscorea sp.*) very large species indigenous to Tanna. Its sacred stone 'KAWAR' is in Lowkweria, where this yam is considered to be the customary ancestor of the local people. • *n* **milu** (*Dioscorea sp.*) very long and soft species. • (from Bislama) *n* **autlou** (*Dioscorea sp.*) very long species with tiny roots, "hairy", originates from the Pentecost. • *n* **nowiaim** (*Dioscorea sp.*) wild species.

yawn *v* **kamoag tat** Ex.: Us ek rasapelan lenaw menapau kani menamoag tat. ~ That man did not sleep last night, he is tired and yawns.

year *n* **nuw** from the word for yam - 'NUW'. As the name for the year, the traditional names of months too are derived from the principal yam planting activities throughout the year.

yellow *adj* **awhia**

• **yellow-lipped sea krait** *n* **tagalua** (*Laticauda colubrina*)

yes *n* **awa**

yesterday *adv* **lenaw**

you *pron* **ik** • *pron* **kamiar** all. • *pron* **kamiél** three. • *pron* **tonik** to, for. • *pron* **kamilau** two.

• **you alone** *expr* **ik pesen am**

• **you took me down from the nases tree** (ancient term) *expr* **namehwau io le twinek nases** traditional phrase by which a person was receiving a gift. It is not in common use anymore. The 'NASES' tree symbolizes poverty and thus the sense of the phrase is, that the person receiving a gift is not poor anymore. As the language does not include any term for "thank you", this phrase is probably its closest equivalent.

youngster *n* **uswas**

your *pron* **taham**

Netwar

A

a *adv* **that** over there.

afreka (from English) *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) imported small species, said to come from Africa.

afwil *adj* **spotted** of fruit and trees.

agen *v* **afraid** be, in transitive form followed by suff. '-in'. *Ex.*: Iamagenin kuri. ~ I am afraid of dogs.

agién *v* **enjoy** e.g. a party. *Ex.*: Sakagién. ~ I am going to enjoy myself.

ahan *v* **stop falling** of rain. *Ex.*: ramahan ~ the rain stopped

ahmut *v* **tutor** *Ex.*: Perawen ek ramahmut tahak kowa. ~ This woman is tutoring my child.

ahu *v* **cook** *Ex.*: Iamahu nar wyt kér. ~ I am cooking something good.

- **ahu akry** *v* **burn** of food made directly in fire. *Ex.*: Neté ramahu akry. ~ The taro is burnt.

- **ahu atin** *v* **burnt** of food prepared in a saucepan. *Ex.*: Rais ramahu atin. ~ The rice is burnt.

ahwél *v* **paint** ones face. cf. 'NAHWÉLAN'. *Ex.*: Inen ramhwél kam tahan peraswas. ~ Mother is painting the face of her daughter.

ai *v* **run** *Ex.*: Sakai mwén apa iré. ~ I will run to the seashore. • *v* **diarrhea** have. *Ex.*: Ramai to nian kywer. ~ He is having diarrhea for last four days.

aik *v* **swim** *Ex.*: Ta lénhaiu sekaik apa iré. ~ In the evening I am going to swim in the sea.

ail *v* **stand** *Ex.*: Namail am lé twiau né mamégasin iau tanakatek. ~ You are standing on a turtle, but you are searching one to spear. searching something which is just in front.

akaiké *v* **must** *Ex.*: sakaiké ~ I will have to • *v* **necessary** to be. *Ex.*: tanakaiké ... ~ it is necessary that you ...

akak *adj* **shiny**

akapan *adj* **hot** *Ex.*: nu akapan ~ hot water

akela *v* **steal** thief. *Ex.*: Kokomin kamaikela in patem tahak nemének. ~ The kids have stolen all my fowl.

akem *v* **run away** *Ex.*: Kowa ramataken nuwig kuwel kani makem. ~ The kid broke a mug and ran away.

aken *adv* **real** • *adv* **true**

akes *v* **tear off** with teeth, e.g. peel of fruit. *Ex.*: Akes nién pahal ~ Tear off the skin of paha coconut with your teeth. • *v* **shave** oneself. *Ex.*: Iamakes numa min nukel. ~ I am shaving myself.

akhar *v* **speak** *Ex.*: namakhar, tarapakhar ~ you are speaking, he will speak

- **akhar apam** *v* **shout** *Ex.*: Iata ramakhar apam iakaur. ~ I twitched when Iata shouted aloud.

akoako *v* **call** fowl when feeding them. *Ex.*: Ramakoako in mének min. ~ He is calling the hens to feed them.

akona *v* **poisoned** be. • *v* **poisonous** be. • *v* **venomous** be. *Ex.*: Ramken kotéa mamakona. ~ He ate the kotéa fish and got poisoned.

alalau *v* **spin** head. *Ex.*: Tahak kahapa ramalalau. ~ My head is spinning.

alemus *v* **pluck** deplume. *Ex.*: Sakalemus kléplépen ek meken to nahunu. ~ I will pluck this little bird and eat it as nahunu.

alepes *v* **fart** without making noise. *Ex.*: Salepesan! ~ Don't fart!

aliél *v* **laugh** *Ex.*: Ramaliél kam io. ~ He laughs at me.

aliwok *v* **walk about** *Ex.*: Iamaliwok am. ~ I am just walking about.

alkut *v* **try** do something. *Ex.*: Iamalkut to nalhekaman. ~ I try to light the fire on.

alu *v* **spade** dig the earth. *Ex.*: Naman kamailu apa lé nasuman kani neperawen kamaréwin nar. ~ Men are spading the garden while the women are pulling out roots. • *v* **deaf** be. *Ex.*: Iakalu. ~ I am deaf.

aluk *adj* **light** of weight. • *adj* **simple** e.g. a task.

am *adv* **just** • *adv* **only**

-am- *aff* inf. of continuous tense. *Ex.*: Tawék iamarek apa Lowanatom, mero aupaniken iamamarek apa Lénakel. ~ Now I am living in Lowanatom, but before I was living in Lénakel.

-am(am)- *aff* infix marking continuous tense.

-amam- *aff* inf. of past tense, continuous. *Ex.*: Tawék iamarek apa Lowanatom, mero aupaniken iamamarek apa Lénakel. ~ Now I am living in Lowanatom, but before I was living in Lénakel.

amap *v* **beware** pay attention. *Ex.*: Amap nekava! ~ Beware of the kava!

amatan *v* **wait** *Ex.*: Amatan in io! ~ Wait for me!

amék *v* **hungry** be. *Ex.*: Nasuman ramtat, naramim kamaimék. ~ The harvest was bad, people are hungry.

amha *v* **breastfeed** be, used of children. *Ex.*: Kowa ramamha la tahan mama natepun renasis. ~ The child drinks milk of his mother and his belly is well rounded.

amig *v* **breath** *Ex.*: Ieram ramamig. ~ An asthmatic person.

amigamig *v* **breathless** be. *Ex.*: Iamamigamig. ~ I am breathless.

amimera *adj* **green**

- **amimera aken** (ancient term) *adj* **blue**

- **amimera epek** *adj* **violet**

amnum *v* **drink** *Ex.*: Nakamnum nién mero rawyt? ~ Is the coco, that you are drinking, good?

an *v* **go** only with infix "-ak-". *Ex.*: Iakan apa Ituga, apa imaim asul. ~ I go to Ituga, to the principal nakamal. • *v* **live** somewhere, only with infix '-AM-'. *Ex.*: Iaman la Ten. ~ I live on Tanna.

aniaw *v* **forbidden** be. *Ex.*: Naramim kamainiaw kama to nosan nek mer. ~ The people have forbidden us to collect firewood.

ap *v* **look** *Ex.*: Ap ru! ~ Look, please! • *v* **see** *Ex.*: Sakap ik talauk. ~ I will see you tomorrow.

-ap- *aff* infix of future tense (not near). *Ex.*: tarapakhar ~ he will speak

apa *part* **to** locative. *Ex.*: Iakan apa Ituga, apa imaim asul. ~ I go to Ituga, to the principal nakamal.

- **apa iken** *expr* **there is** *Ex.*: Lawanu kér apa iken, iwoket am. ~ There is a village somewhere here, it is close. • *expr* **exist**

apam *adj* **long**

-apam- *aff* infix of future tense (not near). *Ex.*: tarapamakhar ~ he will be speaking

apamapam *adj* **elongated**

apas *v* **leave** also in the sense of not doing something. *Ex.*: Iakapas nenian napuk. ~ I don't want to sing.

apel *v* **sleep** *Ex.*: Iamapel tat lenaw. ~ I slept badly yesterday.

apen *adj* **black** *Ex.*: mének rapen ~ black rooster • *adj* **black** part of plant names for varieties with red or dark-colored leaves. *Ex.*: iakestil apen ~ black iakestil

- **apen mérek** (ancient term) *adj* **brown**

apién *v* **smell** *Ex.*: Rakapién wyt. ~ It smells good.

- **apién tat** *v* **smell** bad. *Ex.*: Nauganan lenaw renépién tat. ~ The food from yesterday smells already bad.

- **apién wyt** *v* **smell** good. *Ex.*: Rakapién wyt. ~ It smells good.

apinap *adj* **dark**

apita *v* **better** be. *Ex.*: Neté rawyt mapita nepen. ~ Taro is better than yam.

apus *v* **drunk** be, feel the effects of kava or alcohol. If used in context of kava, the word has usually no negative meaning and is often used as a "polite" question, when asking a person if he did feel well the effects of his kava. *Ex.*: Namapus lenaw apa imaim o kapa. ~ Did you feel the kava effects yesterday at nakamal, or not?

- **apus kaur riér** *v* **drunk** be, heavily. lit. "be so drunk that one loses his nambas". An anachronism used sometimes today to make jokes of others. *Ex.*: Us an ramapus kaur riér lenaw lénhaiu. ~ Yesterday, that buddy got badly drunk. lit. "he was so drunk

that he had lost his nambas". An anachronism used sometimes today to make jokes of others.

apwa *v* **bald** be. *Ex.*: Renapwa. ~ He is bald-headed.

arai *v* **cut** *Ex.*: Iamarai nek. ~ I was cutting the wood. • *v* **write** *Ex.*: Kowa ramarai tahan naua apa la sekul. ~ Child is writing to his notebook at school.

arap *adj* **cold** *Ex.*: Kamarap. ~ It is cold.

araparap *v* **fever** have. *Ex.*: Iamaraparap. ~ I have a fever.

areg *v* **closed** *Ex.*: Kamareg la nima. ~ The house is closed.

arek *v* **live** be alive. *Ex.*: Remen ramarek ena? ~ Your father is still living? • *v* **stay** somewhere. *Ex.*: Iamarek iken ek. ~ I live here.

arep *v* **watch** *Ex.*: Iamamarep lam. ~ I was watching you.

arhapek *v* **ask** *Ex.*: Ramarhapek to nategam. ~ He is asking for your name.

arkel *v* **break** by hitting or bending. *Ex.*: Iamarkel nek mer to nekam. ~ I am breaking dry wood for fire.

armik *v* **sleep-talk** • *v* **somnoliquid** be. *Ex.*: Tahak perawen ramarmik lapen patem. ~ My wife speaks when asleep every night.

arou *v* **pay** *Ex.*: Sakarou kurimatau kér apa Lénkaugan. ~ I will pay a cow in White-Grass.

aru *v* **bless** traditional "blessing" given by 'IERAMARA' in nakamal. *Ex.*: kamaru nuw ~ blessing of new yams • *v* **throw** a compact object, such as a stone. cf.'HO'. *Ex.*: Iamamaru kuri. ~ I threw a stone on a dog.

aruaita *v* **knock down** by throwing a compact object, such as a stone. cf.'HOITA'. *Ex.*: Iamaruaita magko kér la kopwiél. ~ I knocked down a mango from a branch with a stone. • *v* **knock down** somebody with ones' fist, but only from amidst of several people. *Ex.*: Iamaruaita Iako lé nekin naman. ~ I knocked down Iako with my fist from amidst of other men.

arupa la taluta *n* **game** players jump on one leg around small wooden sticks following the beat of the song "Arupa la taluta" and try to pick up one by one all the sticks. The winner is the one, who manages to pick up all of them without falling or without one slipping out of his hands.

arwin *v* **shoot** a bow, a rifle etc. *Ex.*: Iamarwin kopwiél ituga. ~ I am firing a rifle.

as-...-an *aff* negative pref. and suff. *Ex.*: rasmatakan ~ not (well) cooked

as-...-anana *aff* negative pref. and suff. meaning "not yet". *Ex.*: Iasamnumanana. ~ I did not drink yet.

asak *v* **scream** of birds. *Ex.*: Kléplépen ramasak. ~ Bird is screaming. • *v* **cry** *Ex.*: Taham kowa ramasak. ~ Your child is crying.

asanen *v* **strong** be, of a person, taste etc. *Ex.*: takapa rasanen, ieram rasanen ~ strong tobacco, strong man

asepién *v* **eat** something together with coconut. *Ex.*: Iamasepién nepen. ~ I am eating a banana with a coconut.

asia *v* **shine** *Ex.*: Mawuk ramasia, kamap wyt am suatu. ~ The Moon is shining, so we see well the road.

asis *v* **swell** *Ex.*: Nalemak ramasis. ~ My leg is swelling.

asitu *v* **help** to. *Ex.*: Ramasitu lak to ninatinan nakharan. ~ He helps me to learn the local language.

asolkéikéian ma *v* **unhappy** be, of something that is happening. lit. "not like something". *Ex.*: Iasolkéikéian ma nihin ramep. ~ I am sad that it is raining. lit. "I do not like that it is raining".

asul *adj* **big**

asum *v* **work** in garden. *Ex.*: Ramakan tarasum. ~ He went to work in garden.

aswas *adj* **small** *Ex.*: kuri aswas ~ small dog, puppy

atagel *v* **cough** have a. *Ex.*: Kowa ramatagel mero rakamus. ~ The baby coughs as it is sick.

ataken *v* **break** something. *Ex.*: Iamataken tahak nemanahga. ~ I have broken my bow. • *v* **abort** a child. *Ex.*: Ramataken naren. ~ She aborted her child. • *v* **lose** *Ex.*: Iamataken tahak nau. ~ I have lost my knife.

atalapag *v* **open** a bag, a basket. *Ex.*: Atalapag taham karem melasipen nar kér. ~ Open your basket so I can put something in it.

atau *v* **castrate** *Ex.*: Iawilu taratau tahan kupas. ~ Iawilu will castrate his pig.

atawol *v* **do** what, question concerning an action. *Ex.*: Namatawol? ~ What are you doing?

atek *v* **plant** seeds or little plants. *Ex.*: Lenaw iamsipan pa lé nekin nasuman matek kapus. ~ Yesterday I went to the garden to plant cabbage. • *v* **harpoon** to. • *v* **spear** to, a fish during fishing with a spear. *Ex.*: Namail am lé twiau né mamégasin iau tanakatek. ~ You are standing on a turtle, but you are searching one to spear. searching something which is just in front.

• **atek tow** *expr* **plant yams** way of planting yams into slopes of 'TOW'.

atektek *v* **ignore** only exists in negative. • *v* **know** not, only exists in negative. *Ex.*: Iamatektek ma tarawa. ~ I did not know that he would come.

atkel *v* **divide** things or people. *Ex.*: Iamatkel nowanima tahak to piak tarawa mapel iken. ~ I am dividing my house to make place for my brother.

atkin *v* **throw** *Ex.*: Nakou ramatkin suk. ~ Nakou threw a spear on a bird.

atuatu *v* **straight** *Ex.*: nakharan ratuatu ~ good speech, lit. "straight speech"

atukun *v* **educate** *Ex.*: Ramatukun kokomin apa lawanu. ~ He is taking care of a good education of village kids. • *v* **show** *Ex.*: Atukun ton io! ~ Show me! • *v* **teach** *Ex.*: Iamatukun kompiuta apa Lowanatom. ~ I am teaching computer classes at Lowanatom.

augan *v* **eat** *Ex.*: Renaugan ita. ~ He has already eaten.

augen *v* **flower** of any tree except banana tree. cf.'IUK'. *Ex.*: Magko renaugen. ~ The mango tree is already flowering.

aupan *n* **before** in time, abbr. 'AUPANIKEN'. • *n* **once** abbr. 'AUPANIKEN'.

aupaniken *n* **before** in time. • *n* **once**

aur *v* **twitch** when frightened. *Ex.*: Iata ramakhar apam iakaur. ~ I twitched when Iata shouted aloud.

ausek *v* **dry** be. *Ex.*: Napen renausek. ~ Clothes are already dry.

ausit *v* **noise** make. cf.'OL KALWAS'. • *v* **show off** *Ex.*: Kowa ramakhar apam memausit. ~ The kid is shouting and showing off.

autlou (from Bislama) *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) very long species with tiny roots, "hairy", originates from the Pentecost.

awa *n* **yes**

awai *v* **scrape** *Ex.*: Téhé ramho io iakawai io la kopwiél. ~ The sea has thrown me and I have got scraped by a stone. lit. "the sea hit me".

awas *adj* **ancient** • *adj* **old** of a thing.

awawa *v* **thirsty** be. *Ex.*: Nu reneka apa lawanu, naramim kamaiwawa. ~ There is no water anymore in the village, people are thirsty.

awhak *v* **pray** *Ex.*: Sekawhak apa lé nima awhak. ~ I will go pray to the church.

awhia *adj* **yellow**

awker *v* **enough** be. *Ex.*: Renawker. ~ It is enough.

awota *v* **sit** *Ex.*: wukelekel iawata ~ swallow that sits down

• **awota apa lahou** *expr* **purification** lit. "sit down". Ritual everyday washing of young boys after circumcision during 'KAUR' in villages in hills, where boys would go down to the sea or rivers to wash themselves. cf.'AWOTA APA LE NU'.

• **awota apa le nu** *expr* **purification** lit. "sit down to water". Ritual everyday washing of young boys after circumcision during 'KAUR' in villages on the seashore, where boys would go washing themselves to the sea. cf.'AWOTA APA LAHAU'.

awotawota *adj* **round**

awotiseg *v* **follow** *Ex.*: Awotiseg in io! ~ Follow me! • *conj* **after**

awra *v* **distribute** • *v* **share** things. *Ex.*: Iamawra prêt to piak. ~ I am sharing bread with my brother.

awsim *adj* **holy** • *adj* **saint**

E

égasin *v* **look for** *Ex.*: Iamégasin nam. ~ I am looking for a fish.

éiua *v* **lie** tell lies. *Ex.*: Naméiua! ~ You lie!

ek *pron* **this** • *adv* **this**

éku *v* **dig out** *Ex.*: Perawen raméku nowanuman. ~ The woman is opening an earth oven.

el *v* **pick** fruit. *Ex.*: Ramel magko. ~ He is picking mangos.

• **el nem taha-** *v* **knock down** lit. "pick somebody's breadfruit". • *v* **strike** to head. *Ex.*: Iamarou mének, iamlas nek kér, maho a in, mel nem tahan. ~ I was chasing a chicken, I grabbed a stick, I threw it on the chicken and I knocked it down.

emai *v* **chew** food, kava, etc. *Ex.*: Io iamemai nekava tawék. ~ It is me who chews the kava today.

émak *v* **give birth** *Ex.*: Tahak perawen ramémak tawek. ~ My wife is delivering right now.

eni *v* **tell** *Ex.*: Senia ma io nases. ~ I am not poor. lit. "One cannot say I am poor." • *v* **speak** *Ex.*: Eni mérek am. ~ Speak slowly.

• **eni napuk** *v* **sing** *Ex.*: Naramim kamaeni napuk. ~ People are singing.

ep *v* **fall** of rain. *Ex.*: ramep ~ it rains

epek *part* comparative particle. *Ex.*: rawyt - rawyt epek ~ good - better

epen *adv* **far away** very, much further than 'ISAU'.

épién *adj* **moldy** only about food. cf.'HAL'. • *adj* **rotten** only about food. cf.'HAL'.

ero *v* **listen** *Ex.*: Io iamero ik namakhar. ~ I am listening to what you are saying. • *v* **hear** *Ex.*: Iamero kléplépen kér. ~ I hear a bird. • *v* **feel** effects of kava, lit. "hear". *Ex.*: Iamero nekava. ~ I feel the kava.

etai *v* **stare** at, for a long time. *Ex.*: Ieram a rametatai lak! ~ That man is staring at me.

éu nar *v* **fart** especially while making noise. *Ex.*: In raméu nar. ~ It was him, who farted.

éwa *v* **vomit** *Ex.*: Iamamken nauganan hal méwa in. ~ I ate the food from yesterday, which was not good anymore, and now I am throwing up.

éwin *v* **pull out roots** when preparing a gardening ground. *Ex.*: Naman kamailu apa lé nasuman kani neperawen kamaréwin nar. ~ Men are spading the garden while the women are pulling out roots.

F

faifselén *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) introduced species with slight green skin.

fé *pron interrog* **who** *Ex.*: Ik fé? ~ Who are you?

Fétukai *n prop* **morning star** • *n prop* **Venus** on morning sky.

fiétnam *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species from Vietnam.

Forépa *n prop* **mountain** old name for the 'TUKOSMERA' mountain.

foto (from English) *n* **photo**

Frère min taha Nowanénau Awsim *n prop* **Brothers of the Sacred Heart** religious congregation.

G

gep *n* **coconut tree** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing small and tender nuts. The husk of young nuts is eaten.

H

haipu *v* **tear** only if the people acting are more than one.

cf.'HAPU'. *Ex.*: Kamhaipu numa sia la katar min. ~ We will split our leaf of coconut tree in two. leaves of coconut tree are easily split in the middle, for example when making 'KEMÉLU', and the proverb uses this image to speak about people, who are leaving each other. It is used in figurative speech when saying goodbye after meetings or when leaving each other after having walked together. Can be even used to speak about a divorce. • *v* **pull down** a traditional house. If the acting people are more than one. cf.'HAPU'. *Ex.*: Nima renawas, talauk khaipu. ~ The house is already old. Tomorrow we will pull it down.

hal *adj* **moldy** only about food. cf.'ÉPIÉN'. • *adj* **rotten** only about food. cf.'ÉPIÉN'.

hapu *v* **pull down** a traditional house. If the acting person is one only. cf.'HAIPU'. *Ex.*: Nima renawas, talauk khaipu. ~ The house is already old. Tomorrow I will pull it down. • *v* **tear** if the people acting are more than one, 'HAIPU' is used instead. *Ex.*: Iamwén apa lé nekin nasuman kani mahapu tahak napen. ~ I went working to the garden and I tore my clothes.

hau *v* **plant** generic term. cf.'SY'. *Ex.*: Iamhau paren. ~ I am planting a live fence.

héta *v* **open** the door. *Ex.*: Héta la tapen pas ikwéna mapel. ~ Open the door, so I can enter and sleep. a usual phrase used at times when one comes back late in the night and finds the door of the house, where he sleeps, closed.

hiaw *n* **volcano**

hiu *n* **north**

-hiu *aff* **northwards** suffix of verbs.

hiuwai sekau *n* **seashell** edible species, similar to 'HIUWAN'.

hiuwan *n* **seashell** edible species.

ho *v* **throw** a stick. cf.'ARU'. *Ex.*: Iamho nién la nek kér. ~ I threw a stick on a coconut.

hoiei *n* **herb** generic term for several decorative flower species.

hoita *v* **knock down** by throwing a stick. cf.'ARUITA'. *Ex.*: Iamhoita nién. ~ I knocked down a coconut by throwing a stick.

hos (from English) *n* **horse**

hoti *v* **distribute** *Ex.*: Ieram asul ramhoti nauganan lé suatu min. ~ The chief distributes the food to the roads. during traditional ceremonies the people come to the nakamal from its surroundings by the four customary ways from four different directions. Speaking about a group coming from a particular road, it is usually referred simply as the "road". When the time comes after a customary ceremony to distribute the food, it is then not said to be distributed to the "people", but to the "roads".

huaprai *v* **translate** *Ex.*: Iamhuaprai ipen to Tom. ~ I am translating for Tom.

hwin *v* **turn** *Ex.*: Hwin nepen lé nekam. ~ Turn those bananas that are in the fire.

I

ia *adv* **where** *Ex.*: Ramarek ia? ~ Where does he live?

iagaig lasem *n* **ruddy turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*)

iager *n* **coconut crab** (*Birgus latro*)

iaghin *adj* **big** • *adj* **strong** man. • *adj* **first-born** *Ex.*: Io iaghin la tahak famili. ~ I am the first-born of my family.

iagnameta *n* **purple swamphen** (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

iahak *n* **fish** species probably feeding on coral. Man who eats a lot of it will lose his teeth. Children must not eat it at all. cf.'IHI'.

iahukarem *n* **spider**

Iaiapom *n prop* **star** name of an unidentified star, that rises before 'FÉTUKAI'.

iaihgel *n* **old man** impolite term. • *n* **husband**

• **iaihgel wutowuto** *n* **old bat** impolite term describing an old and shriveled man, supposedly drinking a lot of kava.

iakela *n* **thief**

iakestil *n* **game** participants hold in hands each one of the branches of 'NEK TÉ KATANÉK' growing from the same stem and by pulling abruptly they try to rip them off. The one, who ends up with the central stem attached to his branch starts chasing the others and tries to bite ('KES', which is the root of the name of the game) their hand. • *n* **herb** the juice from its crushed leaves is rubbed on closed boils. Drinking the juice cures urinary tract sickness called 'NAMITEKTEK'.

• **iakestil apen** *n* **herb** species. The juice from its crushed leaves is drank to treat urinary tract illness 'NAMITEKTEK'.

iakmen *n* **insult** lit. "prepuce". A frequently used offensive word and curse. • *n* **prepuce** its small lower part, which is not cut off during circumcision. • *n* **circumcision** special manner of circumcision reserved to boys from village chief families. Consists in cutting only the upper part of foreskin.

ialaken *n* **grouper**

ialinaio *n* **crowned scythe** (*Zanclus cornutus*) • *n* **Moorish idol** (*Zanclus cornutus*)

ialmel *n* **fool** • *n* **idiot** • *adj* **stubborn**

iamak magko *n* **mango tree** (*Mangifera sp.*) valued species imported from Australia by certain Iamak.

iamimer *n* **phasmid** (*Phasmatodea*) • *n* **stick insect** (*Phasmatodea*)

ianam léwléw *n* **coconut tree** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with reddish or violet husk and orange skin. Its water is used to wash young boys immediately after the circumcision. cf.'KAUR'.

ianepen *n* **spirit** malicious. If a man is lusting after a woman, this spirit will come in her form in the night to the man. After some time, the man will suffer loss of weight, weakness and various diseases.

ianhina- (inalienable) *n* **namesake** polite term by which people call those, who have the same name.

iap *v* **touch** Ex.: Iamasiapan nar un! ~ I am not touching it!

iapako *v* **reach** with ones hand over or behind an obstacle. Ex.: Ramiapako le nek un melas nau. ~ He reaches for the knife over a piece of wood.

iapar *n* **spirit** family of 'IARAMES', dwarves.

iapau *n* **maggot** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) larger and more mature maggots of this species, which do not move anymore and get ready for metamorphosis, 4th stage. cf.'PRISIN'.

iapek *n* **bluespine unicornfish** (*Naso unicornis*)

iapel *n* **tree** (*Leucaena leucocephala*) species. Quality hard wood. Used for building every part of house and to make fences for animals.

iapeliapel *n* **sensitive plant** (*Mimosa pudica*) • *n* **sleepy plant** (*Mimosa pudica*)

iapnam *n* **middle finger**

iapsagan iatkek *n* **hunter of eagles** title of a man from Lowlipag area, who has the right to hunt eagles for their feathers used in fabrication of 'KWERIA APAM'.

iapu kopwiél (ancient term) *n* **wind** from SW.

iapwis *n* **cuttlefish** • *n* **squid**

iarafa *n* **fisherman** from 'IERAM PAHA' - "man of the seashore". Somebody greatly experienced in fishing and seafaring. cf.'IARAPAT'. • *n* **sea dog** Ex.: Naramim Ituga narafa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

iarames (generic term) *n* **spirit** often malicious, term derived from 'IERAM RAMEMES' - dead man.

• **iarames ramol kaur** *expr* **circumcision** done not by men, but by 'IARAMES'. Sometimes a boy at age of circumcision is found by his family to be instantaneously, often overnight, circumcised and the wound healed by a 'IARAMES', in which case the family does

not follow the usual 'KAUR' ceremony. Sometimes such family is glad and says, that the 'IARAMES' helped them as the 'KAUR'-making expenses are considerable. cf.'KAUR'.

iaramiru *n* **mullet** fish.

iarapat *n* **not-fisherman** from 'IERAM PAT' - "man from the inland". Somebody unexperienced on the sea. Often said of people from 'IKPAT' area. cf.'IARAFAT'. Ex.: Naramim Ituga narafa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

iarlatin *n* **herb** dry branches are used as a broom.

• **iarlatin apen** *n* **herb** dry branches used as a broom.

• **iarlatin tuan** *n* **herb** dry branches used as a broom.

iarlukan *n* **sleep-talking** • *n* **somniloquy**

iarou *n* **giant clam** (*Tridacna gigas*)

iarpoapen *n* **Pacific swallow** (*Hirundo tabitica*) more ancient and precise term. cf.'WUKELEKEL IAWOTA'.

iarpwitag *n* **lionfish** (*Pterois sp.*)

iaru kaliawen *n* **skink** with green back. Appears in the legend of shark ('KALIAWEN'), in which it chases the shark from the jungle to the sea and hence it has gained its name.

iarunién *n* **vine** species.

iatipen *adj* **wild** Ex.: kupas tatipen ~ wild pig

iatukun *n* **teacher** • *n* **tutor**

iau (generic term) *n* **turtle**

iaumus *n* **miser** • *n* **scrooge**

iausek *n* **godmother** aunt from mother's side, who will during the first period of a girl do the 'NUIG KELÉL' scarification to her. • *n* **godfather** male relative, who takes care of a boy after his circumcision. He will still be an important person for the boy even when he will become adult.

iauto *n* **sea urchin** with long dark spines.

iawakeliawakel (ancient term) *n* **wind** from ESE. Comes from the direction of the volcano and may bring its ashes.

iawan karéna karéna *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species giving big fruits, but in small numbers.

iawas *adj* **old** speaking of things.

iawati kopwiél *n* **reef triggerfish** (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*)

iawin *n* **Pacific imperial pigeon** (*Ducula pacifica*)

iawis *n* **insult** a person who thinks only about sex.

iawitaleg *n* **cicada** species that sings (cf.'KIT') especially during the time when shoots of newly planted yams start to appear. cf.'IAWITALEG MIN KAMAILIS NUWIAN NUW'.

• **iawitaleg min kamailis nuwian nuw** *expr* **cicadae iawitaleg** carry shoots of yams expression used for the part of the year, when cicadae 'IAWITALEG' start to sing. It is said, that those cicadae carry on their backs the young shoots of newly planted yams out of the ground.

iawlul *n* **imago** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) imago stage, when 'IAPAU' undergoes metamorphosis into 'KELEPES', 5th stage. cf.'PRISIN'.

iawra *n* **fern** species from the 'IÉLKEN APEN' family with edible leaves. lit. "sharing".

iawugen *n* **sister-in-law** an old term, 'KUNI' is used nowadays. Respectful term employed by a woman when addressing to the wife of her brother.

iélsen apen *n* **fern** name of several fern species. Sometimes this name is used also for 'NARUATO', which belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'. lit. "black leg". • *n* **fern** small species with dark green leaves. It belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'. In ancient times, its crushed leaves were wiped over the eyes of elderly people who were suffering from excessive lacrimation said to be caused by pigs hair entering their eyes. • *n* **fern** small species. Belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'.

iélkeneka *n* **plant** species, parasite on trees, similar to 'NEKESEKES'. lit. "without leg".

iélmou *n* **moray eel** species with black and white spots.

iélu *n* **metallic pigeon** (*Columba vitiensis*) sometimes called 'IÉLU IOHNEKAM'.

• **iélu iohnekam** *n* **metallic pigeon** (*Columba vitiensis*) often called simply 'IÉLU'.

Ienatem *n prop* **Aneityum** island.

ieni *n* **spokesman** from root 'ENI'.

ieniniko *n* **chief** of a village. lit. "voice of the tribe". From root 'ENI'. cf.'IERAMARA' and 'NAOTUPUNUS'.

iér *v* **go** out, away. *Ex.*: Io iamiér apa la sekul mwa iken ek. ~ I went out from school and I came here.

ieram *n* **man** human being. For plural, cf.'NARAMIM'. • *pron* **it** when followed by an adverb of place. *Ex.*: ieram ek, ieram a ~ this here, that over there

• **ieram asul** *n* **old man** polite term.
• **ieram la suatu** *expr* **spokesman** messenger charged of transmission of messages through customary roads between nakamals. lit. "man of the road".

• **ieram paha** *expr* **man of the seashore** cf.'IARAPA'.

• **ieram pat** *expr* **man from the inland** cf.'IARAPAT'.

• **ieram ramemes** *expr* **dead** man.

• **ieram ramol nemankat** *n* **sorcerer** specialized in summoning good weather.

• **ieram ramol nihin** *n* **sorcerer** specialized in summoning the rain.

ieramara (generic term) *n* **noble** man. Title meaning the highest social status in local hierarchy. His "subordinates" are the 'NAOTUPUNUS' and 'IENINIKO', who both work for him and the three together form the foundations of customary life and of the village social structure.

ieramim *n* **husband** respectful term.

• **ieramim aken** *n* **true man** grown up, adult.

ieramiman *n* **dwarf** small man, impolite term.

ieramin *aramara* *expr* **noble** men or women.

ierman (generic term) *n* **man** male.

iéru *n* **coconut tree** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing very large nuts, used for fabrication of kava shells.

Iésu *n prop* **Jesus**

iewiawi nowanhurek *n* **spotted worm sea cucumber**. (*Synapta maculata* (?))

ihi *n* **octopus** according to local beliefs it is one of the marine animals feeding on sand and whose excessive consumption may result to losing one's teeth. cf.'IAHAK'.

ik *pron* **you**

• **ik pesen am** *expr* **you alone**

ikawsim *n* **taboo place** where magic stones are, from "iken rawsim".

iken *n* **place**

• **iken an** *adv* **there** close to here.

• **iken ek** *adv* **here**

Ikiamu *n prop* **Aneityum** ancient term of the island.

ikinawag *n* **herb** species.

ikinpagpag *n* **herb** species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves help ease stomachache.

iko *v* **turn** *Ex.*: Loto ramikopen la mul iken. ~ The car turned left.

ikpat *n prop* **Middle-bush** generic term for places up in hills of central Tanna. *Ex.*: Iakan apa ikpat. ~ I am going middle-bush. e.g. to Lamlu.

iksiai epek ik *expr* **sorry** to one person.

il *v* **dig out** yams etc. *Ex.*: Nian taha nilan nuw. ~ It is time to dig out yams.

ilak *n* **chestnut eyelash-blenny** (*Cirripectes castaneus*)

ilar *pron* **they** all.

ilaté *n* **lobster**

• **ilaté kowakowa** *n* **lobster** big one.

ilau *pron* **they** two.

ilél *pron* **they** three.

iles *n* **up** generic term for places up in hills of western Tanna. cf.'IKPAT'. *Ex.*: Iakan apa iles. ~ I am going up. e.g. to Ipai, Lowkweria etc. • *adv* **top** on the.

ilua *adv* **outside**

ilukan *adv* **middle** in the.

ima- (iken) (inalienable) *n* **at place of somebody** where somebody lives. *Ex.*: imak iken, imam ~ at my place, at your place

imaim (generic term) *n* **nakamal** cleared space, usually under a grown banyan tree, used by men to meet, discuss important affairs and drink kava, to perform all important ceremonies and traditional dances. It is the center of village life.

imam *n* **good** bye

Imer *n prop* **Aniwa** island.

imhir *n* **barn owl** (*Tyto alba*) in local culture considered a bad omen.

in *pron* **he** • *pron* **it** • *pron* **she**

in- (inalienable) *n* **mother**

-in *aff* suff. forming transitive verbs. *Ex.*: Namagnin kuri? Iasagninan! ~ Are you afraid of dogs? I am not afraid!

in a in ... *expr* **it is him, who ...**

in apa *expr* **here he is** • *expr* **there it is**

inatin *v* **know** *Ex.*: Iasinatinan. ~ I do not know.

io *pron* **me**

• **io pesen am** *expr* **me alone**

ioharir *n* **herb** species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves helps in febrile episodes.

iowanarep *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species, appreciated for customary exchange.

iowanién *n* **nephew** if his uncle is speaking about him. • *n* **niece** if her uncle is speaking about her.

iowanué *n* **tropical halfbeak** (*Hyporhamphus dussumieri*)

iowiaren *n* **pig** not castrated, kept for reproduction.

iowieren *n* **insult** a person who is unable to control himself on sexual matters.

ipai (ancient term) *n* **underworld** a place where go the spirits of the dead.

ipanhageneres *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species, appreciated for customary exchange.

ipar *v* **grow well** lit. "give plenty", of plants in general. cf.'KANAN'. *Ex.*: Nekava taripar epek. ~ The kava will grow well. • *v* **many** be. *Ex.*: Katar ripar. ~ We are many. • *v* **big** be. *Ex.*: Io ik ipar lam. ~ I am older, than you.

ir *v* **accompany** • *v* **follow** somebody. • *v* **go** together with somebody. *Ex.*: Tanekir io kiawen apa Ituga? ~ Will you follow me to Ituga?

iré *n* **sea** shallow, near coast.

isau *adv* **far away** but possibly still in sight. cf.'EPEN'.

ita *adj* **finished** • *adv* **already** *Ex.*: Inaugan ita. ~ I have already eaten.

itawar (generic term) *n* **wader** term used for small birds found on the beach. • *n* **Pacific golden plover** (*Pluvialis fulva*) • *n* **bar-tailed godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*) • *n* **ruddy turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*)

ituga *adj* **introduced** part of name of some plants introduced to Tanna from abroad. *Ex.*: nepen ituga ~ an imported species of banana tree • *adj* **foreign**

iuhwé *adv* fast

iuk *n* flower only about bananas. cf. 'AUGEN'. Ex.: Nepen ramiuk. ~ The banana tree is flowering.

iukenet *n* chicken frizzle breed, only on wings.

iusneka *n* banana tree (*Musa sp.*) species.

iuwau *n* gecko (*Hemidactylus sp.*)

• **iuwau ramol** *n* illness large infected sores on legs, detaching pieces of skin and possibly toothaches. Said to be caused by the 'IUWAU' gecko.

iwai *n* banana tree (*Musa sp.*) species used for cooking and for making laplap.

iwaiawileg *n* banana tree (*Musa sp.*) species.

iwoket *to adv* about approximation. • *adv* approximately Ex.: Naramim Ituga narafa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

Iwrau *n prop* underworld a place where go the spirits of the dead.

Iwrona *n prop* Futuna island.

K

ka *v* be not Ex.: nu reka ~ there is no water

kagkilipa *n* herb species.

kaha (wyt) *n* grandfather • *n* grandmother

kaha tat *n* great-grandfather • *n* great-grandmother

kahapa *n* head

• **kahapa ramkes** *n* headache

kahau *n* rat

Kahau *n prop* constellation four stars on the end of the Scorpions' tail.

kahau ratai *n* herb indigenous species. Its name is derived from a short story of a rat who one day, saw the fruits of this herb and hoping to eat them climbed to the top of the herb. Once on top, he was surprised because he could not find any of the fruits he just saw. This is because the herb covers its fruit with its leaves making it visible only from the bottom of the plant. • *n* herb (*Phyllanthus niruri*) introduced species which took its name from a similar local plant.

kahmo mének le nima *n* ridge roof part, woven with two coconut leaves facing one each other. Used to cover the ridge of the roof of traditional houses.

kaka *n* sister Ex.: khaka iaswas ~ younger sister

kakak *n* wandering tattler (*Tringa incana*)

kakao *n* tree species with edible fruit.

kakel *n* spike working instrument. A long pointy wooden stick used in gardening to make holes when planting yams.

kakéwan *n* laplap kind prepared on the skin of tree 'NEKFITU'.

kakil *n* tree family of several trees. Their leaves are applied on the circumcision wound during the first days after a 'TEMAHWA'. Its branches are placed under the mats of the circumcised boys as a sort of 'KALUGA'. • *n* hook working instrument in the shape of "J" made of a branching piece of wood and used in work in gardens to clean the place of cut branches and grass.

• **kakil apsépes** *n* tree species. The arrowhead of the 'NOWANPARAM' is made from its wood.

kako *n* tree (*Hernandia nymphaeifolia* (?) species. In order to make the hair grow well, its branches are crushed and rubbed into the hair before washing.

kala (from English) *n* color

kalaté *n* locust species.

kalau *pron* we two, with you.

kaléleg (generic term) *n* mushroom name for any kind of mushroom, edible or not. • *n* sea anemone

• **kaléleg lé nek** *n* mushroom edible species that often grows on rotting mango tree trunks.

• **kaléleg mélekem** *n* mushroom inedible species found on dead wood.

kaliawen *n* mat woven with two coconut leaves facing one each other. Its pattern reminds of shark teeth, which gave it its name. It is sometimes used to cover the top of the roof of traditional houses. • *n* shark shark meat has a certain smell. It is said that the shark got this smell when 'MWATIKTIK' once tasted its meat. He found it delicious and wanted keep it for himself only. To discourage others from eating it, he urinated on the shark, giving it its smell.

Kalpapen *n prop* god the one, who brought to Tanna the kava, the black rooster, and who interrupted the endless day by bringing to the world the night, which since alternates with the day.

kaluga *n* pillow traditional. Small piece of wood used to support the head when sleeping. Men used it especially in order to protect their traditional hairstyle from being spoiled during the night.

kalwalwa *n* tree (*Meryta neobudica*) species, lit. "thunder". Used to create the thunder in rain-making. • *n* thunder

kalwas *n* noise cf. 'OL KALWAS'. • *n* spirit family of 'IARAMES'. Sometimes making noise in the jungle in the night. They join groups of people walking in the night to dance on customary celebrations. They can be persuaded to kill a man. Their dwelling place is in "Imakalwasmin" (lit. "home of many 'KALWAS'"). • *n* banyan considered to be the female banyan and the wife of 'NAMKENEN'. Its flexible aerial roots are used as ropes and the stronger ones are used as beams in house construction.

kam *part* particle of action towards the object of the phrase. Ex.: Iamakhkar kam nararek. ~ I speak to my kids.

kamai *expr* listen word, by which a storyteller introduces habitually an old legend.

kamaloawin *n* beam wooden. • *n* tie beam

kamar *pron* we all, without you.

kamareg la téhé *expr* ban on fishing way of preserving fish population or a part of magical rituals, when a part of the sea is "closed" and the beach is marked by sticks with grass tussocks.

kamaregen *n* bamboo stem of bamboo 'NAU MANETÉ' used for cooking on fire as a kind of pot. Food is filled inside and leaves are used as a tap. It can also serve to keep food for several days.

kamaru nuw *n* custom special festival at the beginning of yam harvest, when 'NAOTUPUNUS' in charge of yams presents first yams to the 'IERAMARA'. cf. 'NARUAN NUW'.

kamawra iken *n* shop lit. "place where they distribute things". • *n* store lit. "place where they distribute things".

kamé piagen *n* reed-made supporting construction for liana of long species of yams in 'TOW'.

kameken (from English) *n* pumpkin edible fruit. • *n* squash edible fruit.

kamen *n* Job's tears (*Coix lacryma-jobi*) seeds used to make necklaces.

kamer *n* banana tree species from the 'NEMEW' family with the same use.

kamhel *pron* we three, without you.

kamiar *pron* you all.

kamiaram nekava *n* kava part of the plant. Small "shoots" found on 'NÉLKENEKAVA'. They may grow enough to form a secondary plant of kava out of the mother plant.

kamiaru ilau min *expr* fight among several people, with fists. • *expr* fistfight among several people.

kamiél *pron* you three.

kamilau *pron* you two.

kamir iataw kaur *n* custom very important ceremony organized at the end of the circumcision 'KAUR', during which the

circumcised boys are finally presented to their mothers and the entire village after the time they spent hidden in 'NOWANMANAGA'.

Kamiraurau *n prop* **spirit** name of one of 'IARAMES'. Mentioned with 'KAPILA' in one legend.

kamlau *pron* **we** two, without you.

kamnhamena *n* **blue-faced parrotfinch** (*Erythrura trichroa*)

kamnum *n* **first kava** ceremony, during which a man receives from his father his first kava to drink in the nakamal. Usually the maternal uncle of the man is invited and the family offers him a small customary gift, like a laplap or a kava. In some place an ancient way of drinking the first kava is still perpetuated, where the father or the uncle offers the kava in a bowl made from a banana leaf. The kava is drunk by the man leaning forward and after finishing it, he eats a small piece of cooked pig grease which is drown in the kava, which is supposed to protect him against food poisoning.

kamo sit *n* **stick** simple reed or wooden stick supporting the liana of smaller species of yams.

kamoag *v* **open mouth** *Ex.*: Us ek rasapelan lenaw menapau kani menamoag tat. ~ That man did not sleep last night, he is tired and yawns.

• **kamoag tat** *v* **yawn** *Ex.*: Us ek rasapelan lenaw menapau kani menamoag tat. ~ That man did not sleep last night, he is tired and yawns.

Kamtiwan *n prop* **stone** magic. Name of one, which is found in Lownapaiu in norther Tanna.

kamtuai *n* **grater** used for coconuts.

kanan *v* **grow well** only of tubers. *Ex.*: Nuw tarakanan epek. ~ Yams will grow well.

kani *conj* **and** conjunction in sentences.

kapa *adv* **no**

kapaiuwer *n* **silveryeye** (*Zosterops lateralis*)

Kapaumeta *n prop* **star** a celestial body, unidentified so far, possibly Jupiter or Mars.

kapenkapen *n* **cicada** species.

Kapila *n prop* **spirit** name of one of 'IARAMES'. Mentioned with 'KAMIRAU' in one legend.

kapuap *n* **tree** species. Its wood is excellent for making 'NOURASEKAM'. Its fruit is used by kids as pellets for blow guns made from thin bamboo stalks.

kapwia *n* **tree heloptrope** (*Heloptropium foertherianum*) infusion made from leaves is used to cure poisoning by eating a poisonous fish. • *n* **frangipani** (*Plumeria sp.*) its name was taken from Argusia argentea because of similarity of leaves.

karai khatek *n* **rabbitfish** (*Siganus sp.*) little, not yet adult. cf. 'MIHIN'.

karamaram *n* **hummingbird hawk-moth**

kararut *n* **herb** decorative introduced species. • *n* **herb** indigenous species with yellow flowers. Its tubers are edible.

Karatéi *n prop* **Alfa Centauri**

karem *n* **basket** from pandanus fibers.

• **karem taha napuk** *expr* **basket for a song** name of a custom where a man offers a woven basket with certain leaves to a song-maker as a traditional payment for a song to be composed.

karéna *num* 1

• **karéna karéna** *expr* **one by one**

kaseseres *n* **chicken** frizzle breed.

Karipen *n prop* **road** one of customary exchange roads. It passes in the sea and follows the western coast of Tanna. Used during the time of wars to bypass conflict areas when going to one of the coastal villages.

karu areparep *n* **game** each of the players draws around him a circle on the ground. The game starts with a small dialogue between two of the players, after which all become silent and try to make laugh each other by making funny faces. The one, who laughs first or who scratches himself or spits must defend his circle against the other players, who try to step into it. The one who steps into the defenders' circle without being touched by him can stretch his arm and grab another player outside the circle, so the defender cannot touch that player too. If the defender manages to touch a player, it is the touched one, who has on his turn defend his circle. During the game ridiculing songs are sung about the player who is actually defending his circle.

karuita *n* **game** game to entertain little children. One player shows his fists. The others hit them with their fists and shout "karuita!", after which the player hides his hands behind his back. The others ask him "When you went far away to see the world, what did you bring back?" The player says something that he likes (sweets, fruit, toys, ...). The others ask "Show us!" When the player opens his hands in front of them as if to show them what he came with, the others come fast and act like if they were eating fast all the thighs so that nothing is left for the player. And everybody laughs.

kasarawi *n* **pincers** used for taking hot stones out of the fire. New expression used instead of the old term 'KOU'.

kasasiwo *n* **dance** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The sixth in the order of dances, danced around the noon.

kasawar *n* **buff-banded rail** (*Gallirallus philippensis*)

kasawasau *n* **stick of stone** term describing clubs made of stone. According to the elders, these were once arms used in tribal wars.

kaseken *n* **walking stick**

• **kaseken té Newao** *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species, lit. "stick of demon Newao".

kasélag *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species.

kasesen *n* **coconut husk** piece of dry fibrous husk used to clean kava roots. cf. 'NAPEKA'. *Ex.*: Lasipa kasisen iaké nukenekava. ~ Give me a piece of coconut husk to clean the kava.

kasinaté *n* **herb** species. Fruits are edible. An infusion made from its leaves is drunk to treat high grade fevers.

kastarapel apen *n* **tree** species.

kastom (from English) *n* **custom** the true term in local language is 'NOLAWASAN'.

kasulia *n* **staff** for carrying objects over shoulder.

Kasulia apam *n prop* **constellation** "long 'KASULIA'", three stars of the Orion's belt.

Kasulia rerpaprep *n prop* **constellation** "short 'KASULIA'", three stars of the sword of Orion.

kataina *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) "hairy", wide and not very long species.

katar *pron* **we** all, with you.

• **katar karénéam** *expr* **we are one** without difference, united.

kataupeken *n* **tree** species with hard wood used for constructions.

katawut *n* **belt** made of vegetal material, worn by men during the 'NEKOWIAR' ceremony.

katen *n* **tree** species. Hard wood is carved into canoes.

kathel *pron* **we** three, with you.

kati *n* **laplap** prepared with germinating coconut 'NAPEKAK'.

katihwata té iagnameta *n* **fern** species. A leaf from this plant is sent from the nakamal to the women in the village during one of the circumcision 'TEMAHWA' to hang on their 'NASES' tree.

katilum *num* 5

• **katilum ma karéna** *num* 6

• **katilum ma katilum** *num* 10

- **katilum ma kesel** *num* 8
- **katilum ma kiu** *num* 7
- **katilum ma kywer** *num* 9

katipa *n* **swag** for carrying on one's back, usually when returning with the crop from the garden.

katipaténaug *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* *sp.*) small species similar to 'KELAKA'.

kauhié *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* *sp.*) long species.

kaukasé *n* **arm band** worn on upper arm along with 'NUMA LE NESÉ' leaves during customary celebrations.

kaul *n* **common myna** (*Acridotheres tristis*) • *n* **gold**

kaulapag *n* **tree** species of 'NIM'. The fruit is consumed with salt. Eating it is encouraged in pregnant women. However, women should avoid eating it after delivery and up until the baby is able to walk.

kaulik *n* **tree** species with hard wood. Used to make handles of axes and 'KAKEL' for planting taro 'NETÉ'.

kaur (generic term) *n* **circumcision** term for circumcision and, figuratively, for the entire time from the circumcision itself to the 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR' ceremony. • *n* **custom** important ceremony, which begins with the circumcision of young boys and ends after about three months by their ceremonial presentation to the village during 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR'. • *n* **penis sheath** of adult men, made of vegetal fibers. • *n* **penis sheath** of newly circumcised boys, made from leaves.

kawan *adj* **cooked** on fire. • *adj* **grilled**

kawar *n* **stone** for good harvest. *Ex.*: kawar taha nepen ~ stone for good harvest of bananas

• **kawar taha nuw** *n* **stone** for good harvest of yams, kept in the village of Lowkweria.

kawawigen (generic term) *n* **boxfish** (*Ostraciidae*) • *n* **cofferfish** (*Ostraciidae*) • *n* **cowfish** (*Ostraciidae*) • *n* **longhorn cowfish** (*Lactoria cornuta*)

kawhau *n* **cap** • *n* **hat** • *n* **crown** of flowers or decorative leaves, worn on head, original meaning of this word.

kawhaw té Léga *n* **herb** an ornamental plant, lit. "crown of Léga" (female name). Its correct name is 'NUAHWA'.

kawhiakawhia *n* **Vanuatu white-eye** (*Zosterops flavifrons*)

kawhité *n* **collared kingfisher** (*Todiramphus chloris*) in local culture hearing its cry from the right is a good omen, but from the left a bad one. Associated with rainy weather.

kawierawier *n* **scabies**

kawiétaut *n* **tree** species. Its wood is used to make arrowheads of 'NOWANPARAM'.

kawin *adj* **boiled**

kawytaregreg *n* **tree** species.

kéikéi *adj* **beloved** • *adj* **dear**

kéisa *n* **dance** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'.

kel *n* **flying fox** (*Pteropus* *sp.*) • *n* **batfish** (*Platax* *sp.*)

kelaka *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* *sp.*) small oblong species.

kélekél *n* **herb** species, said to be introduced. • *n* **herb** species, said to be indigenous.

kelema *n* **grater** made of spiny petiole of a kind of fern, used to grate ingredients when making laplap. • *n* **fern** (*Cyathea lunulata* (?) species. The spiny petiole is used to grate ingredients when making laplap.

kelepes *n* **insect** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) kind of, its large larvae live in dead wood, both the insect and its larvae are consumed by people, 6th stage. cf.'PRISIN'.

keliakéi *n* **tree** (*Garcinia pseudoguttifera*) species with edible fruit.

kelkel *n* **snail** species of small sea snail.

kemak *n* **mosquito**

kemal *n* **game** a game played by girls with a string, similar to the "cradle".

kemélu *n* **basket** made of coconut leaves.

ken *v* **eat** *Ex.*: Iamken nam né nuw. ~ I ate a fish with a yam.

keno *n* **cicada** species that sings especially during the time when yams are planted. It is consumed cooked on fire.

kenu (from English) *n* **canoe** outrigger.

kepes (generic term) *n* **seashell**

kepia *n* **taro** (*Alocasia macrorrhizos*) t. of Fiji.

képiagen *n* **herb** species. In ancient times these are attached on the grass-skirts to decorate them.

kér *art* **a** indefinite article, follows the name. *Ex.*: Aupan ramlafena nepen kér tonio. ~ He gave me a banana before. • *num* **one** meaning "anyone", when pointing to things. *Ex.*: Las nepen! Kér apa. ~ Have a banana! One is here.

• **kér men** *expr* **following** • *expr* **next one** • *expr* **one more**

kes *v* **bite** *Ex.*: kes in! ~ bite him!

kesel *num* 3

kési *n* **papaya** (*Carica papaya*) drinking an infusion made from its flowers helps treat fever.

ketegeten *n* **banana tree** (*Musa* *sp.*) species.

Kéwita *n* **prop** **evening star** • *n* **prop** **Venus** on evening sky.

khauatin lé nién *n* **burying of foreskin** a tradition of burying the foreskin of a circumcised boy at the evening of the 'NASES' celebration. A young coconut tree is planted on the same place to make the boy grow well.

khopen *n* **garden of yams** place where small species of yams are planted. cf.'TOW'.

kiag *n* **fly** insect.

Kiapako *n* **prop** **spirit** name of one of 'IARAMES' with long arms. Mentioned in one legend. The root of the word is 'IAPAKO'.

kilil *n* **fan**

Kilil *n* **prop** **constellation** seven main stars of the Orion.

kit *interj* word used when referring to the sound of 'IAWITALEG' cicadae.

kiu *num* 2

• **kiu kiu** *expr* **by two**

kléplépen *n* **bird** songbird. Smaller than a pigeon. cf.'MÉNEK'.

• **kléplépen tuan** *n* **bush** species.

koapa (from English) *n* **guava tree** (*Psidium guajava*) its shoots are chewed and the juice swallowed to manage diarrhea and stomachaches.

kofi (from English) *n* **coffee** (*Coffea arabica*) plant. Cultivated as cashcrop. • *n* **coffee** drink.

koko *n* **wife** term of affection in a couple. • *n* **girl** term of endearment. Used mostly inside a family towards a child.

• **koko min** (in plural) *n* **children**

koléi *n* **sweet potato**

kopwiél (generic term) *n* **stone**

• **kopwiél awsim** *n* **stone** magic.

• **kopwiél ituga** *n* **rifle** sometimes abbreviated to 'KOPWIÉL'.

• **kopwiél taha natek** *n* **stone** for black magic.

kopwiélkopwiél *n* **dance** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'.

Korapanemen *n* **prop** **god** supreme god dwelling on mount Tukosmera.

kosasiwo *n* **index finger**

kosio *n* **herb** species.

kotéa *n* **fish** poisonous species.

kou (ancient term) *n* **pincers** used for taking hot stones out of the fire. cf.'KASARAWI'.

Kou *n* **prop** **constellation** five stars of head of Taurus, in form of 'KOU'.

koupa *n* **tree** species. Wood is used to make fences for pigs and cattle.

kowa *n* **baby**

• **kowa meta** *expr* **baby** beautiful. Ancient expression used for newborn children who are very beautiful. cf.'META'.

kowag *n* **fern** species.

kowiaméta *n* **tribe** one of the 'NIKO', traditional tribes of Tanna. • *n* **Ti plant** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) red color form. Used in local custom as a sign of the "red" families and to decorate their kava during customary ceremonies.

kowiamétaméta *n* **cardinal myzomela** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) name only used for males of the species. cf.'KOWIAPILÉGEN'.

kowiapilégen *n* **cardinal myzomela** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) name used only for females. cf.'KOWIAMÉTAMÉTA'.

kowtuhwé *n* **New Guinea rosewood** (*Pterocarpus indicus* (?) hard wood. Its trunk is carved into canoes.

krok *n* **angel's trumpet** (*Brugmansia*) an ornamental plant but toxic in nature. To counteract fish poisoning, its leaves are crushed and a very small quantity of its juice is drank.

kual *n* **cavity** • *n* **hole**

kualofa *n* **handshake**

kugék *interj* word used when referring to the cry of flying foxes.

kuku *n* **boy** term of endearment. Used mostly inside a family towards a child. • *n* **husband** term of affection in a couple.

kulap *n* **fish** species of a large marine fish with large eyes.

kulegen *n* **white-streaked grouper** (*Epinephelus ongus* (?)

kun *n* **breadfruit tree** (*Artocarpus* sp.) species giving big and round fruit.

kuni *n* **sister-in-law** respectful term employed by a woman when addressing to the wife of her brother. cf.'IAWUGEN'.

kunkun *n* **breadfruit tree** (*Artocarpus* sp.) species giving small and round fruit. Easy to cook.

kupas (generic term) *n* **pig**

• **kupas iawanawanar** *n* **pig** kind with outgrowths on its neck skin.

- **kupas iawiét** *n* **pig** with only one testicle visible.
- **kupas iéluk natuan** *n* **pig** black, with white belly and sides.
- **kupas kalai** *n* **pig** with white and black spots.
- **kupas kalato** *n* **pig** of grayish color.
- **kupas kamatau** *n* **pig** castrated.
- **kupas kameta** *n* **pig** of brown color.
- **kupas kapwia** *n* **pig** special kind once used as offering to 'IERAMARA'.

- **kupas katkhatek** *n* **pig** with spotted skin.
- **kupas meta** *n* **pig** kind with clean and bright skin.
- **kupas pispis** *n* **pig** kind of large pigs appreciated for their soft meat.

kur numanawitag *n* **tick** parasite.

kuras *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* sp.) long species similar to 'LÉWINUW'.

kuri *n* **praying mantis** (*Mantidae*) • *n* **dog**

kurimatau (ancient term, generic term) *n* **cow** ancient term, lit. "dog with hooks". cf.'NOWAN MATAU'. Today 'PULUK' is used instead.

Kwankaio *n* **prop** **star** position unknown.

kwates (ancient term) *n* **hoe** traditional tool used for working in yam gardens.

kweria apam *n* **feather** an object made of raptor (and possibly fowl) feathers, worn on special occasions such as 'NEKOWIAR' by men of high social status.

kweria asul *n* **swamp harrier** (*Circus approximans*)

kweria aswas *n* **peregrine falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*)

kweria Ienatem *n* **brown goshawk** (*Accipiter fasciatus*)

ky *adv* **how much** for counting and asking the price. Ex.: 'Taham nu ky? ~ How old are you?

kyinuan *n* **herb** species.

kywer *num* 4

L

la *conj* **from**

la- (inalienable) *prep* **on** sign of an action performed on the object, which is given by the personal suff. added to 'LA-'. Ex.: 'Dokta ramol wok lak. ~ The doctor is treating me. lit. "working on me".

laén *n* **ash** made from 'NEKOWISEL', applied to hair in the morning and then washed with lemon juice in the evening to make them long, or from 'NUL META', applied to make the hair red.

lago *n* **needlefish** (*Belonidae* sp.)

lahau *adv* **down** Ex.: Lowanatom in apa lahou, mero Lowkweria in apa iles. ~ Lowanatom is down, while Lowkweria is up in the hills.

Laminu *n* **prop** **nakamal** major nakamal in Lénakel.

lapnépen *n* **morning**

Lapnuman *n* **prop** **Lapnuman** legendary land, from where certain plants and animals come. Its ruler is 'MWATIKTIK'.

las *v* **take** Ex.: Las taham! ~ Take it, it is yours! • *v* **carry** Ex.: Las kupas tahak mwa iken ek. ~ Carry my pig here. • *v* **return** must take directional suff. such as '-PA', '-PENA' etc. Ex.: Ramlasipa nar ek. ~ Give it back to me. • *v* **give** must take directional suff. such as '-PA', '-PENA' etc. Ex.: Ramlasipa nepen. ~ He is giving me a banana.

• **las peken** *v* **accident** have an. Ex.: Ramlas peken apa la téhé. ~ He had an accident in the sea.

lasita *v* **grab** from ones hand, even by force. • *v* **seize** from ones hand. Ex.: Iamlasita nau to Nateman. ~ I seized a knife from Natemans' hand.

Latun *n* **prop** **nakamal** an important nakamal near Ipai.

lawanu *n* **village** with locative pref.

lé *part* sign of locative or dative.

léai *n* **spirit** family of 'IARAMES'.

léleg *v* **come back** Ex.: Sepléleg talauk. ~ I will come back tomorrow.

lélu *n* **game** of tag. A local variant of the game.

lemankat *n* **midday** • *n* **noon**

lemes *n* **alga** edible species of green algae with curly leaves.

Lénakel *n* **prop** **Lénakel** principal village of Tanna.

lenaw *adv* **yesterday**

lénéai *n* **sky** • *n* **heaven** in religion. • *n* **paradise**

lénhaiu *n* **evening**

lenkai *n* **frigatebird** (*Fregata* sp.)

Lénkaugan *n* **prop** **White-Grass**

léwinpa *n* **side** adjacent.

léwinpen *n* **side** opposite.

léwinuw *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* sp.) species.

léwléw *adj* **red**

liélia *n* **cobweb** • *n* **spider web**

lilen *adv* **all the time** • *adv* **always**

lipag *n* **tree** (*Ficus septica*) the inside of the apical stem is chewed and the juice is swallowed to treat 'NAMTEKETEK'. Infusion of its bark is also used to relieve stomachache. The branches are chewed and the juice spit out as protection against evil spirits.

log (from English) *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* sp.) long imported species.

loto *n* **car** • *n* **truck**

low- *aff* "the place, where ...", locative often found in names of villages, e.g. Lowkweria - "the place of eagles", Lownapektuan - "the place of the white banyan", etc.

Lowiatkelniko *n prop* **nakamal** name of nakamal near Lowanatom, lit. "place where tribes broke up after a quarrel". cf. 'ATKEL'.

Lownanentuan *n prop* **nakamal** an important nakamal in Ipai.

luat natoga (ancient term) *n* **wind** from NNE, brings rain.

luatu amlai (ancient term) *n* **wind** from N, bringing rain, hot. According to the elders "feeds the ground" so it gives good harvest.

luatu matua (ancient term) *n* **wind** from NW, brings heavy rain.

luw *n* **rough humpback scorpionfish** (*Scorpaenopsis macrochir*) • *n* **scorpionfish** (*Scorpaenopsis macrochir*)

M

m- *aff* pref. of verbs indicating that the subject is the same as in the previous verb. *Ex.*: Tanakaiké molkéikéi taham perawen. ~ You have to love your wife.

magko (generic term) *n* **mango tree** (*Mangifera* sp.) • *n* **mango** fruit.
• **magko apen** *n* **mango tree** (*Mangifera* sp.) species giving small red fruit.

• **magko ikpis** *n* **mango tree** (*Mangifera* sp.) species planted often in Whitesand.

mahau (generic term) *n* **star**

mahaumahau *n* **sea urchin** with short spines.

maiaimaia (generic term) *n* **ant**

mak *n* **emerald dove** (*Chalcophaps indica*)

• **mak apam** *n* **Mackinlay's cuckoo-dove** (*Macropygia mackinlayi*)
• **mak pelpel** *n* **emerald dove** (*Chalcophaps indica*) "species" distinguished by the language, with white spots on feathers.

maké *v* **clean** potatoes, vegetables etc. *Ex.*: Iamaké nuw. ~ I am cleaning a yam.

makem (generic term) *n* **parrotfish** (*Scaridae*)

• **makem umé** *n* **steephead parrotfish** (*Chlorurus microrhinos*)

makemak *n* **chicken** low breed with "short legs".

maket *n* **market**

makoni *n* **tree** introduced species. Hard wood used in construction of houses.

malamala *n* **kava** (*Piper methysticum*) cf. 'NEKAVA MALAMALA'.

malaw *n* **soldierfish** • *n* **squirrelfish**

malawin *n* **leopard flounder** (*Bothus pantherinus*)

malwia *n* **butterflyfish**

• **malwia ituga** *n* **emperor angelfish** (*Pomacanthus imperator*)

mamau *n* **damselfish** (*Pomacentridae*) • *n* **game** played during night, when two groups hide food in the forest and then search for each other's food. Is played at time of planting yams.

• **mamau la kaléleg** *n* **cinnamon clownfish** (*Amphiprion melanopus*)

man (generic term) *n* **shrimp** freshwater.

• **man kalemen** *n* **shrimp** big one.
• **man taha téhé** *n* **shrimp** marine.

mani (from English) *n* **money**

manman *n* **fly** very small flies or winged ants.

mapita *v* follows a verb or an adjective in comparative phrases. *Ex.*: Neté rawyt mapita nepen. ~ Taro is better than yam.

mar- *aff* pref. of imperative or request towards a 3rd person. *Ex.*: Maramnum nekava. ~ He should come to drink the kava. tell him to come.

maraimarai *n* **rainbow**

marén *n* **watermelon** (*Citrullus lanatus*) fruit is edible.

marua *v* **ready** be. *Ex.*: Renmarua to nolan nar kér. ~ He is ready to do something.

marum *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* sp.) species similar to 'KELAKA'.

maselo *n* **spirit** family of 'IARAMES', dwarves.

matak *adj* **cooked** • *adj* **ripe** • *v* **ripe** *Ex.*: Ken nepen matak. ~ Eat the ripe bananas.

matakaiam *n* **maggot** larvae living only in kava roots.

matu *adj* **right** side, hand etc.

mawuk (generic term) *n prop* **Moon**

• **mawuk ramemes** *n* **lunar eclipse**

• **mawuk ramépép malwia** *n* **Moon** full, lit. "the Moon knocks on butterflyfish".

• **mawuk wi** *n* **Moon** when it appears as a waxing crescent on the sky.

még *v* **warm** up, reheat. *Ex.*: Iamég nalemak. ~ I am warming my hands.

mélékem *n* **peregrine falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*)

men *adv* **also** • *adv* **too** also. *Ex.*: Io men. ~ Me too.

mené *conj* **and** connecting nouns.

mének (generic term) *n* **bird** equal or bigger than a pigeon.

cf. 'KLÉPLÉPEN'. • (generic term) *n* **chicken**

• **mének efa** *n* **frigatebird** (*Fregata* sp.)

• **mének ierman** *n* **rooster**

• **mének perawen** *n* **hen**

• **mének ramiwuk** *n* **illness** seizures, lit. "a bird stepped on you". An illness of children, during which the child shakes uncontrollably with eyes capsizing after having eaten a 'PENOHAMES'. Another expression for it is 'NEMESAN TAHA MÉNEK'. • *n* **seizures**

menet *n* **herb** species. Its leaves are used as spice.

mer *n* **dry** plant. *Ex.*: nién mer ~ dry coconut

mera *adj* **green** fresh plant or raw fruit. • *adj* **raw** of fruit.

mera- (inalienable) *n* **uncle** mother's brother.

merek *adj* **soft** • *adj* **easy** • *adj* **slowly** *Ex.*: Ani merek am! ~ Speak slowly! • *v* **marry** *Ex.*: Nawinek renmerek ita. ~ My sister is already married.

mérék *adv* **slowly** in a manner easy to understand.

merekhel ménék *expr* **break the wings of fowl** expression describing traditional sacrifice in nakamal by 'NAOTUPUNUS'. cf. 'MEREKHEL NALEMEN NEKAVA MAKAWI NETA'.

merekhel nalemen nekava makawi neta *expr* **break the branches of kava and shed blood** expression describing customary way of performing sacrifices in nakamal.

méresen *n* **drug** medication. • *n* **medicine**

mero *conj* **because** • *conj* **but**

mes *v* **die** if conjugated with infix '-AM-'. *Ex.*: Tahak kaha ramemes. ~ My grandfather is dead. • *v* **sick** to be, if conjugated with verbal infix "-k-". *Ex.*: Iamakames. ~ I was sick.

mesemes *adj* **plump** • *adj* **soft**

met *n prop* **sun**

• **met ramerou nekaugan apam** *expr* **summer** part of the year where days are long, lit. "the sun passes through the great empty space".

• **met ramerou nekaugan areparep** *expr* **winter** part of the year where days are short, lit. "the sun passes through the small empty space".

meta *v* **menstruation** have. *Ex.*: Perawen ramameta. ~ The woman has her menstruation. • *v* **bright** be. *Ex.*: Lapen rameta, mahau ripar. ~ The night is bright and there is a lot of stars.

metu *n* **coral wood** (*Adenanthera pavonina*) hard wood. Used in constructions and to make canoe paddles 'NIWÉIA'. • *n* **fish** species of deep sea.

mihin *n* **rabbitfish** (*Siganus* sp.)

milu *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* sp.) very long and soft species.

mim *n* **caterpillar**

min *adv* **many** mark of plural. *Ex.*: koko - koko min ~ child - children

mipe- *n* **grandchild**

misekmisek *n* **game** may be played also in the night. One of the players, the 'MISEKMISEK', is sitting several meters away from other players, not looking at them. Other players come one by one and touch the 'MISEKMISEK', who must then say, which of them touched him. During the game, the following song is sung, with its last phrase meaning "Who touched you?" - "Misekmisek / iahal pelpel / iamlé iamlé / iamus saré saré twa / kunai wé / ke kopinare kona. / Fwé riap ik?". • *n* **bat** lightly colored, with visible tail.

mista wil (from English) *n* **grass** introduced species. Said to be brought to Tanna by a certain Mr. Will.

miu *v* **live** to be alive. *Ex.*: Kupas ek rakamus epek, mero rakamui am. ~ The pig is very ill, but still alive.

Mowaimawuk *n prop* **star** name of an unidentified star, said to be close to the Moon or to rise close to it.

mul *adj* **left** side, hand etc.

Mwatiktik *n prop* **god** person from local mythology in charge of animals, plants and gardens. Dwells in 'LAPNUMAN'.

mwilmwil *n* **twins**

- **mwilmwil mhiél** *n* **triplet** three newborns.

N

n- *aff* perfective pref. *Ex.*: Io inol naunin la wok. ~ I have finished the work.

n-...-an *aff* nominalizing pref. *Ex.*: olkéikéi - nolkéikéian ~ to love - love

nafa *n* **tree** (*Alphitonia zizyphoides*) hard wood species used for constructions. Its branches are fragrant.

nagai *n* **tree** species. Its fruit is split and the nuts are consumed.

nagé *n* **legend** in the local culture, knowledge of a legend is a sign of making part of a particular clan. In consequence legends are not easily shared with the "outsiders". • *n* **story** customary.

naha- (inalienable) *n* **breast**

nahal *n* **tree** (*Aidia graeffei*) hard wood. Branches are made into short pegs 'NOWATEPEPEL' that holds the outriggers of traditional canoes.

- **nahal ket** *n* **tree** (*Aidia graeffei*) edible fruit. Wood is naturally fire resistant. Before the use of metal, its curved branches were used to hang saucepans over the fire.

nahanekam *n* **smoke**

nahgenima *n* **roof** of traditional houses. Its inner side.

nahlelan *n* **film** on water, caused by oily substances. *Ex.*: Nahlelan taha nién. ~ A film on water caused by coconut oil.

nahua *n* **tree** species.

nahuan *n* **cooking** act of preparing food.

nahunu *n* **snack** small snack traditionally prepared by women for men going to drink kava in nakamal. Used to "wash mouth" to remove the bad aftertaste of kava.

Nahunu *n prop* **Nahunu** the wife of the great spirit 'KALPAPEN'. Said to bring him a meal after his first kava. cf.'SAKALEMUS KLÉPLÉPEN EK MEKEN TO NAHUNU'.

nahwélan *n* **face paint** traditional decoration of faces. For women on cheeks and more elaborated, for men a simple line on front. Originally only black and red natural pigments were used.

naiaw afwil *n* **bush** species. When a cat or a dog miscarries often, the juice of its leaves is added to their food to prevent further miscarriage. It is also used to treat furuncles. The furuncle is cut open, it is covered with the leaf of this plant and the leaf is struck with its petiole in order to let the blood and the pus come out.

naiaw amimera *n* **bush** species, used to treat furuncles. The furuncle is cut open, it is covered with the leaf of this plant and the leaf is struck with its petiole in order to let the blood and the pus come out.

naiéw *n* **tree** (*Erythrina sp.*) species.

- **naiéw imer** *n* **tree** (*Erythrina fusca*) species. Said to come from Aniwa.

nail ratuatu *n* **Moon** in its first quarter. lit. "it stays straight", meaning that in the sky the Moon appears straight in the zenith in the evening.

naio *n* **feather** colored, worn in hair by men and women during customary celebrations. • *n* **feather** from roosters' tail. Worn on head during customary ceremonies.

naiu *n* **triton's trumpet** (*Charonia tritonis*) • *n* **conch** often used as an abbreviation for triton's trumpet. cf.'NAIU PWIA'.

- **naiu nowanawias** *n* **conch** (*Bursidae* (?) similar to *Charonia tritonis*.

- **naiu pwia** *n* **triton's trumpet** (*Charonia tritonis*)

nakaiu *n* **tree** (*Geissois denhamii*) species. • *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species with short and round fruit.

nakal *n* **tree** (*Dysoxylum bijugum*) species.

nakan- (inalienable) *n* **male organ** • *n* **penis**

nakel *n* **fern** tree fern species with edible leaves. This plant gave the name to the village of 'LÉNAKEL'.

nakepen (ancient term) *n* **net** traditional, made of aerial root of banyan 'NASAS'. It has a form of a basket with two long poles attached to it, using which the net is held in place through which fishes often swim. • *n* **leg decoration** similar to 'KAUKASÉ', but worn around legs during the dances of 'NEKOWIAR' and during the 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR' ceremony. Often made of leaves of 'NALÉ'.

nakharan (generic term) *n* **language** • *n* **discussion** • *n* **talk**

- **nakharan awas** *n* **language** kind of language and expressions used by the ancients in old times, as contrasted to the 'NETWAR' language used nowadays, when people are losing "proper" expressions and the language becomes poorer. Old traditional songs often employ words from 'NAKHARAN AWAS' that people nowadays do not understand, or only very little.

- **nakharan taha Lénakel** *n* **language** lit. "language of Lénakel". Name sometimes given to 'NETWAR', derived from the name of the principal village of the zone where the language is used.

nakik *n* **herb** species.

- **nakik léwléw** *n* **herb** species. The juice from crushed leaves is drank when one is having fever.

- **nakik sun** *n* **herb** species. The juice from its crushed leaves is used to treat the sores found in babies mouth. Intertrigos can be washed with the juice too.

naknau *n* **tree** (*Acalypha sp.*) family of several species of shrubs.

- **naknau awiwan** *n* **tree** (*Acalypha sp.*) its leaves are put on the circumcision wound on the second day, cf.'KAUR'. The babies first stool is also wiped with this leaf.

- **naknau léwléw** *n* **bush** (*Acalypha sp.* (?) species.

- **naknau pwia** *n* **tree** (*Acalypha sp.*) its leaves are put on the wound after circumcision. cf.'KAUR'.

nakoakoan *n* **call** the fowl when feeding them.

nakuka *n* **tree** (*Bischofia javanica*) species with hard wood used for construction of houses.

nakwuam *n* **kava** (*Macropiper latifolium*) wild species with dark-colored stems, not used for human consumption to brew kava. In a mix called "kaluk" its crushed leaves are mixed with grated coconut are used as a "soap" when bathing. According to a legend this kind of kava was drank by stones in ancient times before humans and the ordinary kava appeared. After that spirits 'IARAMES' appeared out of the stones and they drank the

'NAKWUIAM' kava.

• **nakwuiam aswas** *n* **kava** (*Macropiper latifolium*) wild species, lit. "small 'NAKWUIAM'". Not used for human consumption.

nalak *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'KELAKA'.

nalakawug *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) round species, wild and bitter. Its cultivated form is called 'NOWANAWUG'. These are soaked in seawater for several hours prior to cooking.

nalam *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with green skin, appreciated for customary exchange.

nalé *n* **herb** species from the family of 'NUMANAWAS', similar to it and to 'NUMANPWILPAS'. Used to make the leg decorations 'NAKEPEN' for dance.

nalek- (inalienable) *n* **foot** • *n* **leg**

nalem- (inalienable) *n* **wing** • (inalienable) *n* **arm** body part. • *n* **hand**

nalemenekava *n* **kava** part of the plant. Its strong branches. lit. "arms of kava".

nalemenman *n* **herb** species. Its leaves are used to wrap freshly caught shrimps.

nalemilaté *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with very bright skin.

nalemnuw *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'KAUHIÉ'.

nalepa *n* **fat** • *n* **lard**

nalepenan *n* **penalty** • *n* **punishment**

nalepesan *n* **fart**

naléw *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with yellow-violet skin.

naléwa *n* **dance** family of traditional dances containing, as an important choreographic element, fast movements of the dancers from one side to another.

naliélan *n* **smile**

naliénalién *n* **herb** species used in rain-summoning magic. Its name reminds of the raindrop 'NOWANALIAL'.

nalimala *n* **herb** indigenous species.

- **nalimala afwil** *n* **herb** indigenous species.
- **nalimala apen** *n* **herb** indigenous species.
- **nalimala tuan** *n* **tree** introduced species, which took its name from the indigenous 'NALIMALA' because of the similarity of their leaves.

nalis kauhié *n* **Ti plant** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) kind of 'NUMANARWU'. Its leaves are put into the ground with 'KAUHIÉ' yams when planted in order to foster good growth.

nalis kelaka *n* **Ti plant** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) kind of 'NUMANARWU'. Its leaves are put into the ground with 'KELAKA' yams when planted in order to foster good growth.

naliwokan *n* **walk**

nalu *n* **mourning** certain time after a decease, which can take up to one year and which ends with a large family reunion. During this time men will grow their beard and women will refrain from the social life of the village.

nalua kéikéi *n* **herb** species, arm bands 'KAUKASÉ' are made from its bark.

naluakenan *n* **war**

naluk *n* **tree** species. Its leaves are heated over the fire and placed on the joints and back of people who just recovered from a long period of being bedridden and still have difficulties with walking.

nalulu (ikpat) *n* **tree** species found often in the hills of inland areas.

nalulu (iré) *n* **tree** (*Schefflera neoebudica* (?) species found often in coastal areas.

naluwel (generic term) *n* **laplap**

nalwily *n* **banyan** (*Ficus obliqua*) species with small red fruit. Inedible.

naly- (inalienable) *n* **tooth**

nam (generic term) *n* **fish**

• **nam aramara** *n* **turtle** lit. "royal fish", sometimes prepared for 'IERAMIN ARAMARA'.

• **nam lahou** *n* **eel**

• **nam le kweria** *n* **lined surgeonfish** (*Acanthurus lineatus*)

namak *n* **tree** (*Cordia subcordata*) species.

namalinu *n* **herb** species. Its leaves are used to decorate kava during ceremonies.

namaliwok epen *n* **prophecy**

namam *n* **tree** species. Its crushed leaves are applied on skin incisions made by the local healers as a way to heal certain diseases.

naman *n* **man** male, plural form of 'IERMAN'.

namaural nakharan *expr* **reveal a secret**

name- *n* **tongue** body part.

namehwau io le twinek nases (ancient term) *expr* **you took me down from the nases tree** traditional phrase by which a person was receiving a gift. It is not in common use anymore. The 'NASES' tree symbolizes poverty and thus the sense of the phrase is, that the person receiving a gift is not poor anymore. As the language does not include any term for "thank you", this phrase is probably its closest equivalent.

namel *n* **tree** (*Acacia spiriorbis*) species with very hard wood used for construction of houses.

• **namel keken** *n* **tree** (*Acacia simplex*) species.

namelamel *n* **bush** species.

nameliamel *n* **tree** (*Phyllanthus ciccoides*) wards off evil spirits. A small branch from this tree is worn secretly to protect its owner against black magic coming from other islands.

nameren *n* **bud** of a plant other than vine. cf.'NUWIAN'. • *n* **shoot** of a plant other than vine. cf.'NUWIAN'. • *n* **sprout** of a plant other than vine. cf.'NUWIAN'.

namesan taha kahau *n* **asthma** • *n* **illness** respiratory-related, said to be caused by the rat 'KAHAU'. • *n* **respiratory problems** illness.

nametéan *n* **menstruation** • *n* **period** of a woman.

namewamew *n* **herb** species. The juice from its crushed leaves is rubbed on erupted furuncles. Another name for 'NAMTAMETA'.

namiahyl *n* **tree** species with soft wood. Used to make boards.

namihehew *n* **tree** (*Melochia odorata*) species. Its wood is used to make a part of canoe called 'NOWANEKIATU'. The juice from its crushed leaves is drunk to cure fever. An edible mushroom called 'NEPAWEN NAMIHEW' grows on its trunk.

namihewel *n* **tree** species. Hard wood used for making boards.

namilo *n* **tree** (*Glochidico namilo*) species. Its hard wood is used for beams in construction of houses and to make fences for animals. • *n* **dance** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'. Danced only during the celebration of 'KAMARU NUW'. At the end of the dance, the dancers make a movement like throwing a stone, by which, in a symbolic manner, they throw the 'KAWAR TAHA NUW' down to the villages on the seashore and thus they allow them to eat yams at the beginning of the harvest.

namio *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species.

namipe- *n* **grandchildren** cf.'MIPE-'.

namitektek *n* **illness** of urinary tract. Its symptoms are pain during urination and difficult urination.

namiuhan *n* **life**

namkenen *n* **banyan** species. Considered to be the "male" or "husband" of the 'KALWAS' banyan. It has no strong aerial roots.

namkénén *n* **rope** made of aerial roots of 'KALWAS'.

namnak *n* **tree** species. The juice from its skin is added to the food of poisoned dogs.

namnamen nekam *n* **flame**

nampi *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) long and soft species.

namsy tow *expr* **plant yams** way of planting yams into the top 'TOW'.

namtameta *n* **herb** sometimes confused with 'IAKESTIL'. Another name for 'NAMEWAMEW'.

namteketek *n* **illness** of both men and women, causes urinary pain. cf.'LIPAG'.

namul tuan *n* **palm tree** species.

namulat *n* **tree** species giving small red fruit. The fruit skin is sticky on the inner surface and is used by girls to make facial decorations.

namwio *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species.

nanema- (inalienable) *n* **shadow** • *n* **spirit** of man. • (inalienable) *n* **image** reflection in a mirror. • *n* **photo**

nanemwién *n* **tree** (*Pipturus argenteus*) species. Its grated bark is applied on infected wounds especially those that came from animal bites. Its leaves are used to cover the fresh circumcision wound. cf.'KAUR'.

• **nanemwién apen** *n* **tree** (*Pipturus argenteus* (?) species. Its grated bark is placed on infected wounds and on wounds from animal bites.

nanen *n* **tree** (*Ficus adenosperma*) species. Its grated bark is used to treat wounds.

nanep *n* **fern** medium sized species, approximately about one meter high. Belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'.

nani (from English) *n* **goat**

nanian *n* **speech**

nanmapen *n* **liver**

nanumen neté *n* **herb** species.

naonin *n* **end** • *adv* **last**

• **naonin nian** *expr* **end of the day**

• **naonin nu** *expr* **end of the year**

naotupunus (generic term) *n* **garden magician** person in charge of a 'KAWAR' and of good crop. cf.'IERAMARA' and 'IENINIKO'.

nap *n* **tree** (*Euodia hortensis*) the wild form of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. Women hold its leafy branches during the 'NASES' dance.

napag *n* **hollow** *Ex.*: napag nowaniko ~ inside of a canoe • *n* **cavity** • *n* **hole**

• **napag nekutu-** (inalienable) *n* **anus** • *n* **ass**

• **napag rokrok** *n* **ditch** protecting gardens against pigs.

• **napag rou** *n* **herb** species.

napagkopwiél *n* **cave** • *n* **hole** in a rock.

Napagnién *n prop* **Napagnién** lit. "coconut tree hollow". A place between Lowanéai and Lénus, appearing in the legend of 'KASAWAR' and 'MWATIKTIK'.

napaguw *n* **bush** species toxic for the fish. It is used for fishing in tide pools, where the branches are rubbed against the rocks in the water to release the toxin.

napakalo *n* **tree** introduced species.

napakélu *n* **herb** species. The juice of its crushed leaves is rubbed on to the skin of pigs that have scabies.

napariénan *n* **truth**

napateker ékuhia *n* **herb** species.

napateker nek *n* **tree** species.

napau *n* **titan triggerfish** (*Balistoides viridescens*) • *v* **tired** to be. *Ex.*: Inapau. ~ I am tired.

napé *n* **tree** (*Pseuderanthemum sp.*) species. Its branches are used as traditional sticks for the 'NASAL' dance. The plant has several medicinal uses.

napek *n* **baby** boy, fig. • *n* **banyan** species determining the place of customary nakamals. Its aerial roots are used as ropes.

• **napek pwia** *n* **banyan** species of 'NAPEK'. It has no aerial roots and it does not grow as large as the 'NAPEK'.

• **napek tuan** *n* **tree** species of 'NAPEK' with yellow or whitish leaves.

napeka *n* **coconut husk** piece of dry fibrous husk used for general cleaning other than kava roots. cf.'KASESEN'.

napekak *n* **coconut** germinating.

napekaman *n* **weight**

napela *n* **somebody**

napelan *n* **sleep**

• **napelan ramos** *expr* **sleepy** be, followed by a pronoun or a name. *Ex.*: Napelan ramos io. ~ I am sleepy.

napen *n* **clothes**

napenapen *n* **dance** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The second in the order of dances, danced during the night.

napilas *n* **centipede** • *n* **millipede**

napilépilé *n* **herb** species. Believed to chase away the rain when burned. For example, while one is working in the garden and he sees an approaching rain, he can burn this herb to stop the rain from coming. • *n* **herb** species. Its leaves are fed to wild young cattle to make them docile.

napinap *adj* **glowering** *Ex.*: Narameren renapinap. ~ His eyes are glowering.

napinapan *n* **cloud** dark, before rain. *Ex.*: Ramapinap le nihin. ~ The rain clouds come.

napinu apam *n* **fern** large species.

napkapek *n* **tree** (*Pisonia umbellifera*) species. It is used to summon rain. Its grated skin is added into the fodder of piglets to help them grow well. Its fruits contains a sticky liquid that is slathered in large quantities around plants like taro to protect them from fruit-eating birds as the birds get glued to the fruit.

napkesu (ancient term) *n* **mourning** ancient term for 'NALU'.

napuas *n* **tree** (*Fagraea ceilanica*) species with very durable wood, resisting to decay. Used for construction of houses.

napuk (generic term) *n* **dance**

napuok *n* **palm tree** (*Veitchia arecina*) durable wood that is often used to make house floorings. It has edible fruits that is also said to be consumed by the spirits 'IARAMES'.

napwer *n* **tree** species. Wood resistant to fire. Before metal was used, its curbed branches were used to hang saucepans over the fire.

napwil *n* **vine** species. The string made from the peeled vines are used to tie the coconut leaves together during fabrication of traditional roofs.

• **napwil kaik** *n* **vine** species with the same usage as other species of 'NAPWIL'.

• **napwil merek** *n* **vine** species. Its stem is heated over the fire to soften it and then used as ropes in construction of houses and to bind the sugarcane in the garden together to keep the wind from breaking them.

napwua *n* **cloud**

nar *n* **thing**

• **nar kamawakelan** *n* **toy** lit. "thing with which one plays".

• **nar kér** *n* **something**

• **nar ramiu** *expr* **living creature** cf.'NARMIU'.

• **nar reka ma** *expr* expression used in a not very common and probably not indigenous style of counting in local language. *Ex.*: karéna nar reka ma kiu, kywer nar reka ma kywer ~ one (time ten) and two - twelve, four (times ten) and four - forty four

naraian *n* **text** • *n* **writing**

narameren kamtiwan *n* **herb** species, lit. "eyes of 'KAMTIWAN'". 'KAMTIWAN' is a 'KOPWIÉL AWSIM' found in Lownapaiu in northern Tanna.

naramim *n* **man** human being, plural form of 'IERAM'.

naramohua *n* **herb** another name for 'NEK RAMOHUA'.

narare- (inalienable, in plural) *n* **offspring** of animals. •

(inalienable, in plural) *n* **children**

nararen (in plural) *n* **children**

narawénua *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) very large species indigenous to Tanna. Its sacred stone 'KAWAR' is in Lowkweria, where this yam is considered to be the customary ancestor of the local people.

nare- (inalienable, in singular) *n* **child** • (inalienable, in singular) *n* **offspring** of human or animal.

nareg *n* **tree** (*Ficus granatum*) species. Its leaves are used to wrap shark meat cooked in an earth oven. It adds flavor to the meat and preserves it for up to three or four days.

nareké *n* **tree** (*Dillenia biflora*) species.

narekel *n* **flying fox** its offspring, from "nararen kel".

naren (in singular) *n* **child**

naripai *n* **dream** in which one has a vision or a revelation. cf.'IPAI'.

• **naripai tat** *n* **dream** bad. cf.'NARIPAI'. • *n* **nightmare** cf.'NARIPAI'.

• **naripai wyt** (generic term) *n* **dream** ordinary, good. cf.'NARIPAI'.

nariram *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species, appreciated for customary exchange.

• **nariram afwil** *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species, similar to 'NARIRAM', but with light colored spots, appreciated for customary exchange.

narmiu *n* **living creature** abbr. from 'NAR RAMIU'.

naru (generic term) *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum spp.*)

• **naru nawanaug apen** *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species very dark inside.

naruan *n* **hunting fig**. • *n* **shooting**

• **naruan nuw** *n* **blessing of yams** traditional order allowing consummation of yams at the beginning of the harvest.

naruato *n* **fern** very large species. The skin of its petioles is used to make arm bands 'KAUKASE'. Member of fern family 'IÉLKEN APEN'.

naruat (ancient term) *n* **wind** from WSW, brings showers.

nasal *n* **fern** species. Men and women use this to make crowns to be worn during the 'TOKA' dance. • *n* **dance** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The fifth in the order of dances, danced in the morning.

nasas *n* **banyan** (*Ficus massa*) species. Its roots are used to make the belts 'KATAWUT' worn by men during the 'NEKOWIAR' ceremony and nets 'NAKAPEN'.

nasekel *n* **trap** in form of a basket, to catch small birds or sea creatures.

nasemari pai (ancient term) *n* **wind** from W.

nasemeri (ancient term) *n* **wind** from NNW. Similar properties to 'LUATU AMLAI'.

nases *n* **custom** ceremony performed the night before the final circumcision ceremony 'KAMIR IATAW KAU', during which on one side the men do a special dance in the nakamal 'NOWANMANAGA' and burn the barriers that were hiding the boys since the beginning of their circumcision, and on the other side the women do a special dance in the village around a burning symbolic 'NASES' tree. • *n* **tree** (*Ficus massa*) species used during ceremony of 'KAUR' (circumcision) where men hang on its branches reed leaves which were used by the circumcised boys as towels after ritual baths. The tree is then burned at the end of the 'NASES' ceremony. Its bast is used as a tourniquet during circumcision. Its leaves can also be eaten raw with coconut meat. • *adj* **poor** person without wealth, fig. sense, a child before the end of circumcision and burning of 'NASES' tree does not have any property.

nasis *adj* **swollen** Ex.: Natepak renasis. ~ I ate enough.

nasisan *n* **swelling**

nasituan *n* **help**

nasoro *n* **laplap** large species of l. packed in leaves and used as gift during local ceremonies.

nasuman *n* **garden**

nasunan *n* **banyan** (*Ficus glandifera*) the shape of the fruit resembles the male sexual organ. It is believed that the number of branches a man gives his wife to chew during her pregnancy will also be the number of male children the wife will bear.

naswaio *n* **banyan** (*Ficus sp.*) species.

natan *n* **tree** (*Myristica fatua*) species. Hard wood used for construction. It is also used to make the 'KALUGA' head rests.

natauan *n* **castration**

naté *n* **tree** white flowering.

natega- (inalienable) *n* **name** Ex.: Nategam péhé? ~ What is your name?

natektekan *n* **lack of knowledge**

natem *n* **island lychee** (*Pometia pinnata*) edible fruit.

natepa- *n* **belly**

• **natepa- renasis** (inalienable) *adj* **full** of stomach, lit. "swollen stomach". Term often used, but not very correct. In good speech 'NÉPES' is used instead. Ex.: Iamken nepen matak ripar menépes. ~ I ate plenty ripe bananas and my stomach is full.

nateris *n* **blue porterweed** (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) species, its more correct name is 'NEK TÉ KATANEK'.

natgateg *n* **lichen** common name for many different species found on trees and stones. • *n* **moss** plant, common name.

nati tawar *n* **Moon** full. A more common term than 'MAWUK RAMÉPÉP MALWIA'.

natik *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) "wild" species, but consumed anyways.

natkig *n* **bush** species. Young branches are chewed and the juice is swallowed in cases of food poisoning.

natoga (ancient term) *n* **wind** from NE, brings rain.

natuan *n* **tree** (*Dysoxylum rufum*) species. After circumcision when the boys are allowed to eat ordinary food again, the skin of this tree is mixed with dry coconut. The boys use this to wash themselves to deter evil spirits. Once done, the boys can eat regular food again.

natukunan *n* **education**

nau (generic term) *n* **bamboo** • *n* **dance** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The fourth in the order of dances, danced during the sunrise. • *n* **knife**

• **nau ikinuhum** *n* **bamboo** species with strong stems often used for buildings.

• **nau kamaregen** *n* **bamboo** incorrect name sometimes given to 'NAU MANETÉ' because its stems are used as traditional "cooking pots" called 'KAMAREGEN'.

• **nau maneté** *n* **bamboo** stems are used in house construction and as a traditional "cooking pots" and for keeping meat for several days.

• **nau nahwal** *n* **bamboo** species with thin stems, used to make fishing rods and a local kind of pan flutes. Sharp pieces are used as knives during boys circumcision and girls coming to age ceremony 'NUIG KELÉL'.

naua *n* **jotter** • *n* **notebook** for writing.

nauga *n* **meat**

nauganan lé perawen *n* **marriage** customary, a ceremony with exchanging of goods.

nauganan neken hos *n* **herb** invasive species, lit. "horse food".

nauge- (inalienable, generic term) *n* **flower**

naugemet *n* **herb** lit. "flower of the sun". Its flowers close in the evening and opens in the morning. It is said to be the "clock" of people in ancient times.

naugen tuan *n* **herb** another name for 'NAUGEPLÉN'.

naugenekalew *n* **hibiscus** flower.

naugenepen (generic term) *n* **flower of banana tree** the flower itself at the end of the inflorescence stem.

naugeplén *n* **herb** invasive species, lit. "flower of airplane". Reportedly brought to the island by a white man who came by plane.

nauh *n* **tree** species. Its leaves are used to wrap freshly caught shrimps. The appearance of its flowers announces the time for planting sweet potatoes.

nauhwil *n* **bush** species. Its crushed leaves are used as soap when one takes his bath in the sea. In family with 'NAMULAT'.

nauias *n* **noni** (*Morinda citrifolia*) fruit used to treat many different illness. Its bark is believed to ward off evil spirits.

naulenapai *n* **locust** species.

naumus *n* **illness** constant weakness and lack of stamina, said to be caused by lacking blood. Treated by drinking water from 'NEPAREPA' vine. • *n* **hunger** Ex.: Naumus ramkes io. ~ I am hungry. • *n* **valley** dry, without a water stream on the bottom.

naunganan *n* **food**

nauni- (inalienable) *n* **hair** in private parts.

nauru *n* **tree** species.

nauselu *n* **coconut** ready for drinking, but still without flesh.

nauseluaukelu *n* **herb** species with white flowers.

nausyl *n* **vine** species.

nawakelan (generic term) *n* **game**

nawan *n* **tree** (*Syzygium* sp.) species with very hard wood.

nawelekaman *n* **lightning**

nawhakan *n* **prayer**

nawiaim *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* sp.) species with long "hairy" tubers. Consumed.

nawiétaur *n* **tree** (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*) species. Its wood is used to make arrowheads of 'NOWANPARAM'.

nawigen *n* **bush nut** (*Barringtonia edulis*) fruits are edible.

nawiloawilo *n* **tree** (*Gyrocarpus americanus*) trunk is used for carving canoes.

nawine- (inalienable) *n* **brother** of a woman. Ex.: nawinek ~ my brother (if a woman is speaking) • *n* **sister** of a man. Ex.: nawinek ~ my sister (if a man is speaking)

nawirek *n* **fern** species. It is used in the same way as the 'KATHIWATA TÉ IAGNAMETA' during circumcision. Tips of its branches are chewed to relieve stomachaches.

nawisan *n* **copulation** of animals. • *n* **sex** activity, not a very polite term.

nawitag *n* **fern** family of several fern species. Women place these leaves in their baskets and hit them with their hands during the 'NAPENAPEN' dance. • *n* **fern** species. Used in the same manner as the 'KATHIWATA TÉ IAGNAMETA' during circumcision. Before the existence of human beings, its roots were eaten by the stones.

- **nawitag apen** *n* **fern** species.
- **nawitag aswas** *n* **fern** species from the 'NAWITAG' family.
- **nawitag mélekem** *n* **fern** species.
- **nawitag merek** *n* **fern** species.
- **nawitag rausekausek** *n* **fern** species.

nawitalegen luw *n* **bush** species, lit. "the ear of the 'LUW' fish".

nawu- (inalienable) *n* **nephew** if his aunt is speaking about him. • *n* **niece** if her aunt is speaking about her.

nawuk *n* **Tahitian chestnut** (*Inocarpus fagifera*) edible fruits. Water infusion is given to women to make them give birth to a girl. cf.'NASUNAN'.

nawula aluk *n* **tree** (*Macaranga* sp.) species.

nawula apen *n* **tree** (*Macaranga* sp.) species.

nawula pekam *n* **tree** (*Macaranga* sp.) species. Hard wood used in construction of all parts of house.

• **nawula pekam apen** *n* **tree** (*Macaranga* sp.) species. Its hard wood is used to make roofs of houses.

nawum *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum* sp.) species with grayish skin.

nawun *n* **vine** species. Its stem is heated over the fire to soften and make it more flexible for house construction use. The plant is poisonous for fishes. When fishing, the men would hit the tide pools with its crushed end and the toxins released kills the fishes.

nawyl *n* **tree** (*Euodia* sp.) species. A plant that represents the people of Létakeren, who use it also to decorate the kava during ceremonies.

nawytan *n* **good**

né *prep* with Ex.: Iamken nam né nuw. ~ I ate a fish with a yam. • *conj* **and** connecting nouns, short form of 'MENÉ'.

ne-rou (inalienable) *n* **neck** has to be possessed with personal pronoun. Ex.: nekrou, nenrou ~ my neck, his neck

néamek *n* **turmeric** (*Curcuma longa*) plant, worked into powder 'NOWANÉAMEK'.

negél *n* **salt**

nehma *n* **reef coral**.

néuiaian *n* **lie** untruth.

néiwaiu *n* **vine** species.

nek (generic term) *n* **tree** • (generic term) *n* **bush** whatever kind excluding bamboos, grasses and vines. • *n* **herb** whatever kind excluding bamboos, grasses and vines. • *n* **plant** whatever kind excluding bamboos, grasses and vines. • *n* **wood** material.

• **nek mer** *n* **firewood** • *n* **wood** dry. • *n* **tree** dead, dry.

• **nek mera** *n* **tree** living, green.

• **nek ramohua** *n* **herb** species.

• **nek té iau** *n* **tree** lit. "the turtle tree", soft wood.

• **nek té katanek** *n* **blue porterweed** (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) lit. "tree of Katanek" (female name). Often by ignorance of its true name, it is mistakenly called 'IAKESTIL'. Branches that grow from a common stem is used for a game called 'IAKESTIL'. It is used to treat diarrhea in children. A small branch is chewed to release its juices. The juice is then put into the babies mouth.

neka *n* **be not** anymore, 'KA' with perfective pref. Ex.: nu reneka ~ there is no more water

nekalaka *n* **tree** (*Pouteria* sp.) species with edible fruit.

nekalew (generic term) *n* **hibiscus** (*Hibiscus* spp.) used to treat constipation among babies. The juice from the leaves is given to them to drink and it is also added their bath water to wash them with.

• **nekalew afwil** *n* **hibiscus** (*Hibiscus* spp.) species. Same use as 'NEKALEW'.

nekaloawin *n* **cross** in faith.

nekam *n* **fire**

nekarekar *n* **herb** species. Its leaves and fruits are edible.

nekariag *n* **banded snake eel** (*Myrichthys colubrinus*) • *n* **tree** (*Cerbera odollam*) drinking tea made from the bark of this tree will induce diarrhea.

nekatu *n* **tree** species of family 'NAWIGEN'. Its wood is used for constructions of houses.

nekaugan *n* **clearing** a large place, where there are few trees, only grass grows there. cf.'LÉNKAUGAN'. • *n* **empty** space, figurative. lit. "place with few trees".

nekauk *n* **Malay rose apple** (*Syzygium malaccense*)

nekava (generic term) *n* **kava** (*Piper methysticum*)

• **nekava aramara** *n* **kava** (*Piper methysticum*) cf.'TAPUGA'.

• **nekava fila** *n* **kava** (*Piper methysticum*) species originally from Éfaté.

- **nekava iaken** *n kava* (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar with light green spotted stems.
- **nekava iam** *n kava* (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar with light green stems with dark spots.
- **nekava iam iripar** *n kava* (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar similar to 'NEKAIA IAM' with thick stems.
- **nekava iam malamala** *n kava* (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar similar to 'NEKAIA IAM' with thin stems.
- **nekava malamala** *n kava* (*Piper methysticum*) term for a cultivar with thin stems.
- **nekava meta** *n kava* (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar with beige stems.
- **nekava pwia** *n kava* (*Piper methysticum*) lit. "smooth", after texture of its stems. Species that has greyish-green stems with dark spots.

nekawkaw ménék *n fern* species.

nekelha *n tree* (*Breynia disticha*) planted near houses as a protection against black magic.

- **nekelha afwil** *n tree* (*Breynia disticha* (?) species.

nekel tapatapa *n bush* species.

nekelkeli nam *n bush* (*Euodia hortensis*) variant of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. The shape of the leaves are similar to the shape of a fish 'NAM'.

nekesa *n tree* species with seeds producing red pigment that is used for painting faces and hair.

nekesekes *n plant* parasitic species, grows on other trees. It is said to grow "without trunk and roots" and when the host tree dies, it dies with it. The name 'NEKESEKES' is also used figuratively to describe people who forgot their "roots" - the village and the traditional way of life.

neketen *n herb* (*Ageratum conyzoides*) species. The juice from its leaves is drunk in case of fever and mixed with the juice of leaves of 'IOHARIR'.

nekitu *n tree* (*Elatostachys falcata*) species with hard wood. Used for constructions. Large chunks of its bark are used as plates to prepare and cook the 'KAKÉWAN' laplap. Its grated bast is added to pigs fodder so that they grow well.

neki- (inalienable) *n inside*

- **neki- la** (inalienable) *n love* somebody. cf. 'OLKÉIKÉI'. Ex.: Nekin la perawen an. ~ He likes that woman.
- **neki- ragién** (inalienable) *n glad* be. • *n happy* be. Ex.: Nekik ragién epek. ~ I am very happy.
- **neki- rahmo ma** (inalienable) *n think, that* Ex.: Nekik rahmo ma iarames kër ramol namesan ek. ~ I think that this illness is because of a demon.
- **neki- ramahma** (inalienable) *n sad* be. Ex.: Nekik ramahma epek to tahak perawen rakames. ~ I am really sad because of my wife, who is sick.
- **neki- reka** (inalienable) *n dumb* voiceless. • *n unable to speak* be, because of being sick or having shouted too much. Ex.: Kowa ramakhar apam kani nekin reka. ~ The kid shouted so much that he lost his voice. • (inalienable) *n feelings* have towards somebody or concerning something. Ex.: Nekik reka la peran an. ~ I do not feel anything towards this girl.
- **neki- rtat** (inalienable) *n sad* be, lit. "inside (of someone) is bad". Ex.: Nekik rtat to tahak kowa. ~ I am sad because of my child.

nekiapen *n tree* (*Elatostachys falcata*) its wood is used to make bows.

nekiu *n tree* species.

nekin am *expr plenty* place, where there is much of something. Ex.: Nekin am nién. ~ There is a lot of coconuts here.

nekinamera *n forest* • *n jungle*

nekinék *n inside of a tree* Ex.: nekikék rtat ~ a tree rotten from inside

nekolaug nek *n bush* species. Using its branch with many fruits hanging on it the vines of cucumbers and pumpkins are pierced so that their crop is plentiful.

- **nekolaug nek afwil** *n bush* species.

nekoumas *n bush* species. Its leaves are used to decorate yams during the ceremony of 'NIÉL'.

nekowiár *n custom* important festival on which the majority of population is participating. Organized irregularly every several years. During the celebration several dances proper to 'NEKOWIAR' only are performed in a fixed order. Their names are 'NUHUPUKA', 'NAPENAPEN', 'TOKA', 'NAU', 'NASAL', 'KASASIWO' and 'NEMAWIO'.

nekowisel *n flower* branches of coconut tree inflorescence, sometimes used as a broom or to make 'LAÉN'.

nekrat *n tree* (*Syzygium* sp.) species with hard wood used for house construction.

nekses *n sandal* (*Santalum* spp.) cultivated as cash-crop.

nekpínap *n tree* (*Diospyros ferrea*) species with hard wood. Pieces of its wood cut out from its trunk are chewed to make teeth strong.

nekrun *n game* during which participants are trying to guess name of a plant from its leaves or roots. It is also the name used for whatever game where the players are trying to guess something or they pull the short stick and so on ...

neksuka atoato *n yam* (*Dioscorea* sp.) species.

neksuka melamela *n yam* (*Dioscorea* sp.) species.

neksuka nalméta *n yam* (*Dioscorea* sp.) species.

neksuka tuan *n yam* (*Dioscorea* sp.) species.

nektuan *n tree* its wood is used to make bows. In family with 'TEKREKMÉNEK'.

nektupen nekava *n kava* part of the plant. Small thin roots.

nekus iawin *n bush* species.

nel *n tree* species with hard wood used for construction of houses.

nélkenéai *n herb* species, lit. "feet of the sky". It is used to summon good weather. It is also used to treat toothaches by chewing its leaves. The juice is spread on the teeth and gums and helps ease the pain.

nélkenekava *n kava* part of the plant. The thick central root. lit. "the leg of kava".

neluganan *n mold* on food. Ex.: Nauganan ramlugan. ~ The food became moldy.

nem (generic term) *n breadfruit tree* (*Artocarpus altilis*) wood resistant to decay. Canoes carved out of its trunk are appreciated for its long lifespan. • *n breadfruit* its fruit.

nema taleg- (inalienable) *n ear*

nemai *n garden* slash-and-burn ground in the forest prepared to become a garden.

nemaiako *n cassava* (*Manihot esculenta*)

nemanahga *n bow*

nemanesi- (inalienable) *n bottom* of a man.

nemankat *n sunshine*

nemankiu *n pandanus* (*Pandanus tectorius*) its leaves are used to weave mats and baskets. Its aerial roots are used as ropes to tie laplap.

nemata *n back* human body.

nematag (generic term) *n wind* the local culture knows 16 different names of winds. Today, this knowledge is kept only by few elders and the people specialized in weather magic - the 'IERAM RAMOL NIHIN' and 'IERAM RAMOL NEMANKAT'. Seven of the winds are associated with rain and with the collared kingfisher 'KAWHITE', the nine others are associated with dry weather and

Polynesian triller 'WULAWULA'.

- **nematag asul** *n* **cyclone**

nemaulul *n* **dust**

nemaur ituga *n* **herb** introduced species.

nemaur maur *n* **bush** (*Amaranthus viridis*) leaves change their color to red by the time of yam harvest. Used with 'NUMANPWILPAS' to decorate the first yams presented during 'KAMARU NUW'. Boiled leaves are eaten.

nemawio *n* **dance** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The seventh and the last in the order of dances, danced early in the afternoon. Follows the ceremonial killing of pigs. • *n* **dance** family of traditional dances, during which the participants turn around in a circle.

neméi *n* **fern** species from the 'IÉLKEN APEN' family.

nemesan (generic term) *n* **illness** • *n* **death**

- **nemesan taha mének** *n* **illness** cf. 'MÉNEK RAMIWUK'.

nemew (generic term) *n* **banana tree** family of several species of banana tree. Leaves called 'NUMANEMEW' are used to wrap laplap.

- **nemew apen** *n* **banana tree** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage.
- **nemew aswas** *n* **banana tree** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage.
- **nemew togoa** *n* **banana tree** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage. Probably from Tongoa.
- **nemew tuan** *n* **banana tree** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage.

nemnarusyl *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with yellow and red stripes on skin.

nemnawa *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with pinkish yellow skin.

- **nemnawa afwil** *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red and yellow stripes on skin.
- **nemnawa apen** *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with dark red skin.

nemopten *n* **earth** • *n* **soil**

nemrau (generic term) *n* **ash** from fire.

Nemrau *n* *prop* **Milky Way**

nemrukén *n* **Ti plant** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) dark purple color form. Used in local custom as a sign of the "black" families and to decorate their kava during customary ceremonies. • *n* **tribe** one of the 'NIKO', traditional tribes of Tanna. • *n* **cardinal myzomela** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) name used only for females. cf. 'KOWIAMÉTAMÉTA'.

nemtalekam *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with yellow-grayish skin.

nenum *n* **herb** species.

nepakau *n* **bluespotted cornetfish** (*Fistularia commersonii*)

nepam *n* **tree** species with edible fruit.

nepanagha- *n* **nose**

neparem *n* **vine** species. Its roots are baked or cooked and chewed in times of famine, such as after a cyclone. It tastes similar to a yam cooked over a fire.

- **neparem nuw** *n* **vine** similar to 'NEPAREM', but its roots are softer and easier to eat.

neparepa *n* **vine** (*Entada phaseoloides*) the flexible parts are used as strings to attach yams to poles for transport during customary exchanges e.g. the 'KAUR' ceremony. The dried fruit is used to make rattling arm bands for dance. The water found inside the vine is drinkable and is used for treating back aches and for the 'NAUMUS' illness. Its skin is repeatedly hit with wooden stick until it peels off. Bands of the skin are then used as exceptionally strong ropes for house construction.

neparepar *n* **fence** both normal and live. • *n* **railings**

nepawainan (generic term) *n* **insult** • *n* **invective**

nepawen namiheh *n* **mushroom** large species growing only on trunks of 'LIPAG' and 'NAMIHEW' trees. It is edible and appreciated for its taste.

nepeksi nién *n* **oil** of coconut. Term also used for the oily film found inside germinated coconut 'NAPEKAK'.

nepelap (ancient term) *n* **wind** from S, not bringing rain. It is cold and comes at time of cleaning of gardens before yams are planted.

- **nepelap arap** (ancient term) *n* **wind** from SE. lit. "cold 'NEPELAP'".

- **nepelap imaré** (ancient term) *n* **wind** from SSW.

- **nepelap laluan** (ancient term) *n* **wind** from SSE. A cold wind.

nepen (generic term) *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) • *n* **banana** fruit. • *v* **ill** be because of 'IANEPEN', or 'PERANEPEN'. Ex.: Us an ramanepen. ~ This man has peranepen hallucinations.

- **nepen ituga** *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) lit. "foreign banana".

Asian species not used for cooking but eaten only when ripe.

- **nepen ituga areparep** *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species with edible fruit.

nepenepen *n* **herb** species. Its leaves are put on the 'KAWAR' of bananas to ensure a good harvest.

Neperawen Lapnuman *n* *prop* **Pleiades** lit. "young girls of 'LAPNUMAN'". Alternative to the name 'NOWASWAS LAPNUMAN'.

népes *adj* **full** of stomach. A better term than 'NATEPA- RENASIS'.

nepetué *n* **mushroom** edible species. Grows on the ground. It is said that one should stomp on the ground on places where these mushroom usually grows and call 'NEPETUÉ' for a plentiful harvest.

nepiaw tuan *n* **tree** (*Pisonia grandis*) species. Fish is wrapped with these leaves before cooking, then the two are cooked and eaten together.

nepik- (inalienable) *n* **tail**

nepina *n* **tree** (*Sarcomelicope simplicifolia sub-sp. neo-scotia*) the ripening of its fruit signals yam harvest season. Chewing its bark makes the teeth and gum strong.

nepleg *n* **tree** (*Polyscias sp.*) species. Young leaves are cooked and eaten especially in times of famine after a cyclone.

- **nepleg afwil** *n* **bush** (*Polyscias guilfoylei*) species. Young leaves are boiled and consumed.

- **nepleg akhar** *n* **bush** (*Polyscias scutellaria*) species. Its leaves are cooked and given every day to babies who have delayed speech development to stimulate them to talk.

- **nepleg awhia** *n* **bush** (*Polyscias sp.*) species.

neprisin (nepen) *n* **flower of banana tree** part of the banana bunch where the fruit is already ripe. Hand of bananas. • *n* **hand of bananas**

neprou *n* **time of peace** legendary period of peace before the period of wars and division of the island to 'KOWIAMÉTA' end 'NEMRUKÉN' clans. • *n* **tree** species. Hard wood is used to carve canoes.

nérgéreg *n* **herb** species.

Nesé *n* *prop* **Nesé** female name mentioned in one of local legends and in the name of a shrub with fragrant leaves 'NUMA LE NESÉ'.

nesé nowankelu *n* **virgin**

nesé rep *n* **beach cabbage** (*Scaevola taccada*) species used to treat cough. Four young branches should be chewed, the juice swallowed and sea water should be drunk right after that.

- **nesé rep tuan** *n* **beach cabbage** (*Scaevola taccada*) species used to treat cough. Four young branches are chewed, the juice swallowed and sea water is drunk afterwards.

nesega *n* **intestine**

neseko *n* **tree** species. Spears are made from its straight branches.

nesésé nawuk *n* **tree** species.

nesia *n* **flambeau** • *n* **torch** • *n* **light** e.g. of a torch.

nesihiaw *n* **ash** volcanic.

nesikuwow ikpat *n* **herb** species.

nesikuwow iré *n* **herb** species. Its latex is put on small sores.

nesinahga-ramai *n* **cold** have. *Ex.*: Nesinahgak ramai. ~ I have cold.

nesinani *n* **herb** species. lit. "goats' excrement".

nesinepen *n* **flower of banana tree** part of the banana bunch where the fruit is not matured and ripe.

nesipen *n* **face paint** pigment used for 'NAHWÉLAN'.

nesipuka *n* **tree** species, lit. "excrement of pig". When pigs make the village dirty with their excrements, the fruit of this tree is thrown at them in order to ward them off and make them defecate in the jungle.

netatan apen *n* **herb** species, lit. "black woe". Drinking the juice from its leaves treats heart disorders such as arrhythmia and angina.

neté *n* **taro** (*Colocasia esculenta*) water t., t. of Samoa.

netékasua *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with green and yellow skin.

netwar *n* **language** used in West Tanna. Sometimes called as 'NAKHARAN TAHA LÉNAKEL'.

newahga *n* **spear**

newhagan *n* **speech** an important speech given in nakamal before drinking kava.

newinenan *n* **shouting**

newirou *n* **tree** species. Its leaves are stinging. Young leaves are used against mice in houses and are put on places where they commonly pass. It is said that the mouse will get their paws burned and will feel so much pain that it will chew them off and eventually die.

nhul- (inalienable) *n* **mouth**

ni *adv* of genitive.

nia *n* **herb** species. Its leaves are strung together and is used to cover ridges of the traditional roofs to protect them from the rain.

nian *n* **moment** of an event. • *n* **time** • *n* **day** today used nearly solely in this sense, but its original meaning is far larger and it meant time or moment. Today this sense of the word is abandoned and is commonly expressed by "taem" from Bislama. • *n* **weather**

- **nian awas** *n* **winter** cold part of the year when yams and other crop are consumed. lit. "old time".
- **nian kér** *n* **once** lit. "one day".
- **nian min patem** *expr* **every day**
- **nian wi** *n* **summer** hot part of the year when yams and other crop grow. lit. "new time".

niapur *n* **bush** generic term for several species of bushes with colorful leaves, it is often planted around graves and as a live fence. The colorful leaves are used to make necklaces.

• **niapur ieni napuk** *n* **bush** species of 'NIAPUR', used by special men who compose local songs as after chewing its leaves they can hear melodies and lyrics in natural noises and birdsongs.

niawer *n* **alga** edible species of green algae, resembles grape clusters and has a bitter taste.

niayeriayer *n* **herb** species.

niél *n* **custom** important ceremony consisting in offering a large number of yams and pigs. After some time the beneficiary does a 'NIÉL' of the same size for the donor. An important custom fostering relations between individuals and communities. • *n* **friend** • *n* **brother-in-law** of a man. • *n* **coast sheoak** (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) hard wood. Serves to make large clubs used for killing pigs during traditional ceremonies.

niély *n* **tree** (*Pittosporum campbellii*) the entire plant is aromatic. During yam planting into 'TOW', its leaves are burnt inside the pit

where yams are planted to ensure good crop. Yams are said to "like" the smell of the leave. Drinking an infusion of its boiled bark cures the 'NAMESAN TAHA KAHAU' sickness.

nién (generic term) *n* **coconut** • (generic term) *n* **coconut tree** (*Cocos nucifera*)

- **nién mer** *n* **dry coconut**
- **nién mera** *n* **coconut** green.
- **nién nepum** *n* **coconut** not yet germinating but already developing oil inside. Between 'NIÉN ULEK' and 'NAPEKAK'.
- **nién ulek** *n* **coconut** ready for drinking, with flesh already formed.

niénmera *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species.

niér *n* **tree** (*Burckella obovata*) edible fruits. Its hard wood is used for constructions.

ngat *n* **tree** (*Pouteria sp.*) species. Hard wood used for construction.

niges *n* **filter** made of coconut leaf sheath or artificial, used to filter kava. • *n* **strainer**

nihi- (inalienable) *n* **semen**

nihikesel *adv* **three days ago**

nihin *n* **rain** • *n* **liquid** *Ex.*: nihin nién ~ coconut milk • *adv* **day before yesterday** • *adv* **two days ago**

- **nihin kurimatau** *n* **bouillon** from beef.
- **nihin nién** *n* **coconut milk**

nihla *n* **tree** (*Semecarpus vitiensis*) species. Its sap is severely irritant to the skin and causes blisters. To prevent this from happening, one should face the tree and pronounce the name-changing phrase "io 'NIHLA', ik N" - "I am 'NIHLA', and you are N" (where N is the name of the person). Worms 'PRISIN' may be found in its trunk. Eating them may cause a skin reaction in certain people.

nik *n* **tree** (*Cordia dichotoma*) produces small sticky fruit often eaten by pigeons and flying foxes. Its bark is boiled or is infused in water and drunk to ease headaches, stomachaches and diarrhea.

niko (generic term) *n* **clan** also used for the land owned by a clan. • (generic term) *n* **canoe** outrigger, indigenous term. cf. 'KENU'. • *n* **ship** • *n* **canoe** a small canoe in which a 'KAWAR' is held.

nil *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with yellow and green stripes on skin.

nim *n* **tree** (*Tabernaemontana sp.*) spec. with leaves eaten with coconut. • *n* **stick** used to hunt birds.

nima (generic term) *n* **house**

- **nima awhak** *n* **church** building.
- **nima awsim** *n* **house** of local sorcerers.
- **nima imaim** *n* **hut** inside of a nakamal.
- **nima kowa** *n* **placenta**
- **nima la Ten** *n* **house** traditional of Tanna. • *n* **hut** kind built traditionally on Tanna.
- **nima taha niéré** *n* **dance** kind of legendary dance performed by living stones in times when human dance did not yet exist. Its rhythm and figures are different to those found in human dances.

nip *n* **tree** species. Its stem is cut open and the fiber inside is crushed. The liquid is then drained, strained and dried to get a starchy flour-like by-product. This is then mixed with sea water and made into a kind of laplap or pancakes.

nisap *n* **tree** species with hard wood. Traditionally hair combs are cut of its wood.

niu *n* **grass skirt** worn by women today usually only during customary ceremonies. On very few places on Tanna its daily wearing is still practiced.

niwéia *n* **paddle** of outrigger canoes.

nohra- (inalienable) *n* **brother** younger, if the speaker is a man. • *n* **sibling** younger, of the same sex as the speaker. • *n* **sister** younger, if the speaker is a woman.

nol naunin *v* **finish** an action. *Ex.*: Io inol naunin lé namnumnemak nekava. ~ I have finished drinking my kava.

nolan *n* **behavior** *Ex.*: Taham nolan rtat. ~ Your behavior is not good. • *n* **action** • *n* **deed**

- **nolan awas** (ancient term, generic term) *n* **custom** cf.'NOLAWASAN'.

nolawasan (ancient term, generic term) *n* **custom** from 'OL' - do, and 'AWAS' - old, related to ancestors. A word describing the way of life and identity of the people, today by ignorance of the true term often replaced by the Bislama equivalent 'KASTOM'.

nolkéikéian *n* **love**

nolu *n* **vine** species.

- **nolu merek** *n* **herb** (*Grewia crenata*) species.

noras *n* **vine** species. Its stems are used as ropes in construction of houses and also to clean pipe-stems.

nouhialag *n* **tree** (*Homalanthus ebracteatus*) species. The juice of its leaves is drank in cases when one gets sick which is caused by the 'IARAMES' spirits because of walking outside during the night.

- **nouhialag apen** *n* **tree** imported species, which took its name from a local tree 'NOUHIALAG'.

noukaren *n* **trunk** of tree.

- **noukaren magko** *n* **trunk** of mango tree.
- **noukaren nem** *n* **breadfruit** its trunk.
- **noukaren nién** (generic term) *n* **trunk** of coconut tree.

noumerek *n* **tree** (*Acalypha grandis*) drinking the juice of its crushed leaves eases stomachache. Its hard wood is used to make beams in construction of houses. Its fruit is used by kids as pellets for blowguns made from thin hollow bamboo stick.

nourasekam *n* **cinder** smoldering. • *n* **ember** • *n* **smoldering branch** carried by men in right hand after having drank kava on order to protect themselves against evil spirits.

nousu lé nekava *n* **kava** part of the plant. Thicker roots.

noutakeren *n* **piece** small, of a thing.

nowa- *aff* **fruit** pref.

nowahga *n* **arrow** ordinary. cf.'NOWANPARAM'.

nowaig *n* **tree** introduced species. Children use its fruit to paint their faces. Probably from 'NOWA-' - fruit and "ink" - from English referring to its pigment.

nowait *n* **bush** (*Polyscias fruticosa*) young leaves are cooked and incorporated in soups.

nowakan *n* **week**

- **nowakan ek** *expr* **week** this.

nowakeres *n* **vine** species. Fruit edible.

nowan matau *n* **hook** for fishing.

nowanagén *n* **laplap** dish based on yam, sometimes called as "simboro" from Bislama.

nowanalem- (inalienable) *n* **hand** • *n* **palm** of hand.

nowanaléwlew *n* **pigeonberry** (*Rivina humilis*) lit. "red fruit". Species giving tiny red fruit used to color face and hands.

nowanalial *n* **raindrop**

nowanaloumaga *n* **dance** kind originating from the Létakeren zone. Said to be the first ever human dance.

nowanalulu *n* **winter** more precisely the part of year, when days are short.

nowanapar *n* **village** special term for parts of village closely surrounding a nakamal.

nowanar *n* **necklace**

nowanaramera- (inalienable) *n* **eye**

nowanarwui *n* **dance** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'. Danced only during the time, when eating yam is taboo.

nowanatepuwikwik *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red skin.

nowanawug *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'NALAKAWUG', but cultivated and used for cooking. Exists in several cultivars.

- **nowanawug iatipen** *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*)

nowanéamek *n* **turmeric** spice.

nowanégen *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species.

nowanek *n* **branch** wooden. • *n* **staff** wooden. • *n* **stick**

- **nowanek mil** *n* **sticks** used to manipulate chewed kava during its traditional brewing by those, who have not the right to touch it directly, e.g. men already married.

nowanekiatu *n* **boom** connecting the canoe and the outrigger.

nowanem *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) round species.

nowanéneau *n* **heart**

nowaneparepa *n* **rattle** made of dry fruit of 'NEPAREPA' and attached around legs of dancers.

nowanhalénekava *n* **kava** part of the plant. Young thin branches. lit. "eggs of kava".

nowanhalenménék *n* **egg** of hen.

nowanhaletéhé *n* **jellyfish**

nowanhiwyt *adj* **sweet** from 'NOWANIHIN RAWYT'.

nowanhurek *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species.

nowanihin *n* **juice** of fruit.

- **nowanihin rawyt** *expr* **sweet**

nowanihinmatak *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species.

nowaniko *n* **canoe** the hull itself of an outrigger canoe.

nowaniu *n* **pineapple** fruit. • *n* **pineapple** (*Ananas comosus*) incorrect, but widely used way of spelling. cf.'NOWANUIU'.

nowankapnaiuwa *n* **herb** species growing on the sand on beaches.

nowankelu *n* **fence** around a village.

nowanmanaga *n* **nakamal** special name given to a nakamal in which are living "hidden" young boys since their circumcision until they finally leave it during 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR' ceremony. It is surrounded by a fence of coconut leaves or bamboo to hide it from eyes of women, who are strictly forbidden to enter it at any moment of the day.

nowanmel *n* **orange** • *n* **mandarin** fruit. • *n* **mandarin tree** (*Citrus reticulata*) its fruit is consumed, the leaves are used to make a herbal tea. • *n* **orange tree** (*Citrus sinensis*)

nowanpapa *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red skin, often cultivated in middle-bush.

nowanparam *n* **head of arrow** conic piece of wood inserted by its pointy end into a stem of reed 'NULNUL' to create the 'NOWANPARAM' arrow for hunting birds. • *n* **arrow** arrow for hunting birds.

nowanu *n* **lake**

nowanu- (inalienable) *n* **hair** on head.

nowanu koko min *n* **reed** lit. "hair of the boys". Leaves of reed used to towel the circumcise boys, and eventually suspended on 'NASES'.

nowanuiui *n* **pineapple** (*Ananas comosus*) introduced species. Its common name comes from a family of plants called 'NUIU'. lit. "the fruit of 'NUIU'".

Nowanuksuiui *n* *prop* **spirit** name of one of 'IARAMES', dwelling in an 'IKAWSIM' close to the village of Lowtaliko.

nowanuman *n* **earth oven**

Nowanuman *n* *prop* **Magellanic Cloud** unsure whether Large or Small.

nowanuo *n* **string** made of bast of the 'NUO' tree used as the basis for 'NIU' grass skirts.

nowapelpel *n* **belt of shells** worn by boys on the final ceremony of 'KAUR'.

nowarafta (from English) *n* **rafter** part of roof. • *n* **beam** wooden.

Nowaswas Lapnuman *n prop* **Pleiades** lit. "young boys of 'LAPNUMAN'". Alternative to the name 'NEPERAWEN LAPNUMAN'.

nowatahwa *n* **staff** made of a special wood and used for the 'TOKA' dance. • *n* **coconut** young, without flesh. • *adj* **raw** of coconut only, for other fruit 'RAKAPUKA' is used.

nowatatal (ancient term) *n* **marks on skin** traditional form of skin decoration, made by burning the skin with ends of coconut leave stems 'NOWATEK MA SIA' lit in the fire.

nowatek *n* **branch** • *n* **stem**

- **nowatek ma sia** *n* **stems from coconut tree leaves** used to make brooms.

- **nowatek nuig** *n* **reed** its dry stems.

nowateplepel *n* **pegs** holding the outrigger on outrigger canoes.

nowawu *n* **herb** species.

nowiaim *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* sp.) wild species.

nowier- *n* **testicle**

nu *n* **water**

nua *n* **vulva**

Nuafuganan *n prop* **Milky Way** less common term.

nuahun *n* **flower of banana tree** straight part of the stem of the inflorescence.

nuahwa *n* **tree** (*Sterculia vitiensis*) fruits are edible. • *n* **bush** decorative, known also as 'KAWHAW TÉ LÉGA'.

- **nuahwa tam** *n* **tree** (*Sterculia banksiana*) species. Its fruits are consumed by pigeons 'IÉLU IOHNEKAM'. Worms 'PRISIN' live in its trunk. Its bark is used to make the 'KATAWUT' belts for the 'NEKOWIAR' ceremony.

nuai neparepa *n* **game** it is played at time of cleaning gardens of weeds ("kasiperper") after having planted yams. The game has two variants. In the first one, the players hold their hands to form a long vine 'NEPAREPA'. Then they roll around ("kasiperper") one of its ends until all the players are tightly enrolled around. Then they unroll again. In the second variant, players are aligned in couples holding their hands to form "doors". The last couple then, still holding their hands, tries to go through the series of "doors" until the end of the line of the players, where they stand up again to make a "door" and now the last couple goes through again. During the game this song is sung "Nuai neparepa, nuai neparepa, kasiperper kasiperper, ".

nuan *n* **flower of banana tree** curved part of the stem of the inflorescence.

nufi *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* sp.) rose species.

nuhupuka *n* **dance** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The first in the order of dances. lit. "leg of a pig".

nuig (generic term) *n* **reed** stems serve in many ways, e.g. to build 'KAMO SIT', 'KAMÉ PIAGEN', screens or arrows 'NOWANPARAM'. Newly harvested yams are wrapped in its leaves during 'KAMARU NUW'. Sometimes people would knot the leaves of the reed growing by the road in order to "catch" and stop the sun from setting when one is running late for an event.

- **nuig kelél** *n* **scarification** only for women. Series of short incisions on the back around the waist made during the first menstruation of the girl as a protection against pain during menstruations and pregnancy. Also a sign that the girl is ready to get married.

nuigen *adj* **empty**

nuiu *n* **family of plants** distinguished by long leaves growing in a rosette pattern around a central point similar to the pineapple or pandanus. Some of its members are 'NOWANIU', 'NUIU ROU' and 'NEMANKIU'.

- **nuiu rou** *n* **pandanus** species. Its roots are used to make the

'NASEKEL' traps used to catch the 'ILATÉ' lobsters. Inside the trap a 'KELKEL' is attached with a string from 'NUO' as a bait.

nuk- (inalienable) *n* **root** Ex.: nukenek, nukenekava ~ root of a tree, root of kava

nukenekava *n* **kava** its root. cf. 'NUK-'.

Nukulua *n prop* **road** name of one of the prominent customary roads going from Whitesand to Lénakel.

nul (generic term) *n* **vine** refers more precisely to the stem of the vine. • (generic term) *n* **rope** • *n* **string**

- **nul akménék** *n* **vine** species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves cleanses the stomach.

- **nul akrikaltsa** *n* **vine** species. The entire plant is used to feed domestic animals.

- **nul arwow** *n* **vine** family of several species. The stem is used to join the arrowhead with a stem of reed when making 'NOWANPARAM' and also as a general-purpose string to attach things together.

- **nul arwow apen** *n* **vine** species. Same usage as 'NUL ARWOW'.

- **nul arwow tuan** *n* **vine** species. Same usage as 'NUL ARWOW'.

- **nul awsim** *n* **vine** (*Mikania micrantha*) another name for 'NUL IOWIAREN'.

- **nul éiwéiu** *n* **vine** species.

- **nul iawiwer** *n* **vine** species. Drinking the juice from its leaves helps relieve muscular pains. The juice can also be rubbed in areas where a person is suffering from muscular pain and cramps.

- **nul ifa** *n* **vine** indigenous species. • *n* **vine** invasive species which took its name from the indigenous species of 'NUL IFA'.

- **nul iowiaren** *n* **vine** (*Mikania micrantha*) the juice from crushed leaves is used to treat small wounds and stomachache. On contact the hair found on the vine stems may irritate the skin of the armpit and also in intimate areas.

- **nul kasek** *n* **vine** its petioles are chewed and the juice is spit on to the mouth of a dog to make it good in chasing pigs. The juice of the crushed leaves are also added to dog food to create the same effect.

- **nul lau** *n* **vine** species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves helps ease headaches.

- **nul mera** *n* **vine** (*Vigna marina*) species. Drinking the juice of its crushed leaves helps relieve stomachaches and bloating.

- **nul meta** *n* **vine** its stem is heated over the fire to soften and used as ropes. It hardens after cooling down.

- **nul nekenpuluk** *n* **vine** species. Used to feed pigs and cattle.

- **nul pekam** *n* **vine** species.

nulagen *n* **tree** species. Circumcised boys strip off the leaves from its branches and use the branches to scratch their head as touching their head during a certain period after the circumcision is prohibited.

nulnul *n* **reed** the stem with leaves removed is used for the game 'SAYÉ' and for making of arrow shafts.

numa- (inalienable) *pron* possessive pronoun used for drinks. Ex.: numak nekava ~ my kava (that I am drinking)

numa le Nesé *n* **bush** (*Euodia hortensis*) plant with fragrant leaves worn by men and women during ceremonies. Its name reminds of 'NESÉ', a young woman from a local legend.

numa min nulek *n* **beard** • *n* **facial hair**

numa nakwuiam *n* **kava** leaves of a wild species. May be used to make a kind of "stretcher" able to support the weight of a small person. The leaves are "glued" by chewed leaves of 'NASES'. cf. 'NAKWUIAM'.

numa nar *n* **leaf** of a plant, generic term.

numa sia *n* **coconut leaves**

- **numa sia mer** *n* **coconut leaves** dry.

numakaio tuan *n* **herb** species. Its leaves are made into a small grass-skirt which is worn as a slip under the regular grass-skirt. It is also used to wrap laplap.

numakasem *n* **herb** species from the family of 'IARMATIN'. Used for a game of the same name.

numakesem *n* **game** similar to looking for four leaf clovers. It consists in finding as many fruits of 'NUMAKASEM' as possible whose fruits are forked at the end, instead of the usual single tip shape.

numaklakel *n* **gravel** of coral. • *n* **sand**

numalupen *n* **flamboyant** (*Delonix regia*) introduced species which took its name from a local species with similar leaves. • *n* **tree** indigenous species. Its name was also given to the Christmas tree, which is an introduced species.

numamwi- (inalienable, generic term) *n* **feather** Ex.: Numamwimak ratol? ~ What color is the plumage of common emerald dove? • *n* **hair** in armpit. • (inalienable) *n* **hair** both human and animal.

numamwikahau *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with little "hair" on nodes.

numanahapitag *n* **filefish**

numanaruapién *n* **lemon grass** (*Cymbopogon citratus*) its boiled leaves are drank as herbal tea.

numanarwiu (generic term) *n* **Ti plant** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) its leaves are used to wrap certain kinds of laplap. It is a general name for the many cultivars of *Cordyline fruticosa* distinguished in local language. Sometimes planted close to tombs as this long-living plant symbolizes the everlasting life.

• **numanarwiu aswas** *n* **Ti plant** (*Cordyline fruticosa*) kind of 'NUMANARWIU' with narrow leaves are often found in the interior of the island. It is used for fabrication of 'NIU' grass skirts.

numanawas *n* **herb** species. Ornamental plant. When leaves are rubbed in between the hands, it emits a subtle fragrance. Leaves can also be made into a lei or garland or used to decorate kava.

numanemew *n* **laplap leaves** coming from a species of banana tree called 'NEMEW'.

numanesé *n* **bush** (*Euodia hortensis*) cf. 'NUMA LE NESÉ'.

• **numanesé Ienatem** *n* **bush** (*Euodia hortensis*) variant from Anatom.

numankuku *n* **epiphyte** any species with short, grass-like leaves, lit. "leaves of small boys". According to a legend, in ancient times a group of small boys was watching from a hidden place the stones performing their 'NEKOWIAR' while the grey fantail or 'TEKISKISEK' performed a dance. At one point, the 'TEKISKISEK' did a wrong movement. This scared the stones and made them run away. The young boys were frightened of being discovered so they climbed up the trees and were transformed into 'NUMANKUKU'.

numanmahmapau *n* **game** an old game where one tries to find an edible fruit which is the very last one (after the season) or the very first one (before the season) and envelopes it in many different leaves and fastens it with several kinds of vines until the pack is very large, then brings it to a nakamal. Other players are supposed to unwrap one by one the leaves and the vines and tell their names until they get to the fruit. The aim of the game is to learn plant names.

numanmel *n* **Moon** in its last quarter and especially as a waning crescent.

numanpiénpién *n* **herb** leaves are used as spice in soups.

numanpwilpas *n* **herb** (*Zingiberaceae* (?)) its fragrant leaves are gently rubbed between both hands and leis are made out of them. During traditional wedding ceremonies women will also hang them on their grass-skirts and men will wear them on their neck to perfume them.

• **numanpwilpas afwil** *n* **herb** (*Zingiberaceae* (?)) species. Same use as 'NUMANPWILPAS'.

numanséi *n* **bush** (*Euodia hortensis*) shortened and badly pronounced name of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. The term is however used by some nowadays.

numanuman *n* **herb** its leaves are boiled and consumed. The flower is used to decorate kava by the people of the Middle-bush during the ceremony of 'KAUR'.

numataiakem *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with grayish skin.

numatalegen amer *n* **bush** species. In ancient times the leaves were worn as earrings. Petioles are inserted into the ears.

numatalegen kahau *n* **herb** species, lit. "ears of the mouse".

numatiwhata *n* **table** a small platform used in villages or nakamals to keep food out of reach of dogs and cats.

numawin *n* **bush** (*Euodia hortensis*) variant of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'.

numnawa *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) red skin species.

nuo *n* **sea hibiscus** (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) bast fibers are used for making grass-skirts 'NIU'.

nupen *n* **fern** large species.

nusua apen *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red and yellow skin, appreciated for customary exchange.

nusua tuan *n* **sugar cane** (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red and yellow skin, appreciated for customary exchange.

nuto *n* **fern** family of tree ferns. • *n* **fern** tree fern species similar to 'KELEMA', but without spiny petiole.

nuw (generic term) *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) • *n* **year** from the word for yam - 'NUW'. As the name for the year, the traditional names of months too are derived from the principal yam planting activities throughout the year.

• **nuw asul** *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) "hairy" species.

• **nuw aswas** *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) "hairy" and small species.

• **nuw awas** *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) term for species traditionally grown on Tanna, including 'KAUHIE', 'MILU', 'NOWANHUREK' and 'KELAKA'.

• **nuw sua** *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) big species from middle-bush.

• **nuw wi** *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) term for non-traditional species on Tanna. cf. 'NUW ASWAS'.

nuwau *n* **breadfruit tree** (*Artocarpus sp.*) species giving big and oblong fruit.

nuwha *n* **aibika** (*Abelmoschus manibot*) leaves are cooked then consumed.

• **nuwha apen** *n* **aibika** (*Abelmoschus manibot*) leaves are consumed cooked.

nuwian *n* **shoot** of a vine. • *n* **sprout** of a vine.

• **nuwian nuw** *n* **shoot** of yam.

nuwig *part* **container** classifier of containers (cups, baskets, bags, ...). Ex.: nuwig kuwel ~ coconut bowl

• **nuwig katil** *n* **bowl** made of coconut which was just grated. Can be broken into parts and used as a spoon. cf. 'NUWIG KUWEL'.

• **nuwig kuwel** *n* **bowl** made of coconut. • (generic term) *n* **triggerfish** (*Balistoides sp.*)

• **nuwig nawuk** *n* **reef triggerfish** (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*)

nuwigen *n* **snail** • *n* **shell** of a snail.

nuwmer *n* **orchid** (*Corymborkis veratrifolia*) if touched during yam planting season, the yams will not grow well and will be small.

nuwnuw *n* **banana tree** (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n* **orchid** species with decorative flowers.

nuwul *n* **tree** (*Pometia pinnata*) with small edible fruit, "nakatambol" in Bislama.

ny *adv* **long time** Ex.: Iasapan ik ny. ~ It has been a long time since I saw you the last time.

nyawia *n* **herb** species. Often planted on tombs to prevent evil spirits.

• **nyawia apen** *n* **herb** color variety of 'NYAWIA' with the same use.

nyhal (generic term) *n* **grass** a common term for a family of several species of grasses. • *n* **grass** introduced species.

- **nyhal awiwan** *n* **grass** species.
- **nyhal iaugenkiu** *n* **grass** species.
- **nyhal iré** *n* **grass** species.
- **nyhal nul kasek** *n* **grass** species.

nyia *n* **waterfall**

nyo lakelak *n* **bush** species.

nywen *n* **tree** (*Guetardarda speciosa*) species. Its skin is grated, mixed with coconut and fed to pigs so that they become fat.

O

o *conj* **or** *Ex.*: Imam iken nekava ripar o reka? ~ Is there kava in your place or not?

oho *v* **kill** *Ex.*: Tarohe kupas kiu to kaur. ~ He will kill two pigs on the kaur ceremony.

ol *v* **do** *Ex.*: sekel, iamamol ~ I will do, I was doing

• **ol kalwas** *v* **annoy** with noise or bad behavior, stronger term than 'AUSIT'. • *v* **disturb** with noise. • *v* **noisy** be, excessively. *Ex.*: Kamaipel, kani Iaris ramapus mierpa, mamol kalwas. ~ We were already sleeping, when Iaris went out, got drunk and was making a lot of noise.

• **ol kamnum** *v* **first kava** do the ceremony of first kava. cf.'KAMNUM'. *Ex.*: Ta lenhaiu apa imaim kamol kamnum taha Iaruél. ~ This evening in the nakamal there will be the first kava made for Iaruél.

- **ol karéna** *num* **first**
- **ol katilum** *num* **fifth**
- **ol kesel** *num* **third**
- **ol kiu** *num* **second**
- **ol kywer** *num* **fourth**
- **ol napuk** *v* **dance** *Ex.*: Talauk iakol napuk apa Lowkweria. ~ Tomorrow I will go to dance to Lowkweria.
- **ol pelpel** *v* **mix** or mix up. *Ex.*: Ramolpelpel lé nakharan la Ten né pislama. ~ He is mixing the local language with Bislama.
- **ol to** *v* **make love** somehow more polite term, than 'NAWISAN'. *Ex.*: Ierman ramol to tahan perawen. ~ A man makes love with his woman.

• **ol wok** *v* **do** something. • *v* **work** except for gardening. cf.'ASUM'. *Ex.*: Dokta ramol wok lak. ~ The doctor is treating me. lit. "working on me".

olkéikéi *v* **love** cf.'NEKI- LA'. *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi epek ik. ~ I love you so much. • *v* **like** *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi tahak mama. ~ I like my mom. • *v* **want** *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi ma seken nepen. ~ I would like to eat a banana.

os *v* **take** *Ex.*: Sekos foto taham. ~ I will take your picture. • *v* **buy** *Ex.*: Iamamos nu kér. ~ I have bought a yam.

• **os foto** *v* **photograph** • *v* **take a photo** • *v* **take a picture** *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi mos foto taham. ~ I would like to take your picture. **owiak** *v* **change skin** of crabs, snakes etc. *Ex.*: Iager ramowiak. ~ The crab is changing its skin.

P

-pa *aff* suffix of verbs, towards the speaker.

paha *n* **coconut tree** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing small greenish yellow nuts. • *n* **west** also meaning the western littoral of the island. Sometimes pronounced as "fa" in composed words as 'IARAFA'. • *n* **seashore** western.

-paha *aff* **westwards** suffix of verbs.

pai (ancient term) *n* **wind** from WSW.

pal *n* **clamp** small edible species.

pamimera *n* **coconut tree** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with green skin.

pan *n* **eastern reef-egret** (*Egretta sacra*)

papawuk *n* **butterfly**

- **papawuk apen** *n* **monarch butterfly** (*Danaus plexippus*)
- **papawuk léwléw** *n* **monarch butterfly** (*Danaus plexippus*)

parién *adj* **true** • *adv* **really** intensifying word. • *adv* **truly** intensifying word.

pas *v* **let** somebody do something. *Ex.*: Héta la tapen pas ikwéna mapel. ~ Open the door, so I can enter and sleep. a usual phrase used at times when one comes back late in the night and finds the door of the house, where he sleeps, closed.

• **pas iakol ik** (ancient term) *expr* **shake hands** ancient and not well known expression by which one was inviting the other to shake hands together.

pat *n* **inland** the inside of the island, on the east of the zone speaking 'NETWAR'. • *n* **east** also means the inland part of the island. cf.'IKPAT'.

-pat *aff* **eastwards** suffix of verbs.

patem *adv* **all** • *adv* **everybody** • *adv* **everything**

patkin *v* **stick into the ground** e.g. a pole or branches of plants to grow. It is not used to planting yams and other plants with vines. *Ex.*: Iamepatkin nalemen nemaiaiko. ~ I am planting manioc branches.

patpa *n* **sea** close to the reefs.

péhé *pron interrog* **who** *Ex.*: Péhé an? ~ Who is that?

pekam *adv* **heavy** of things, also of speech, "heavy" i.e. good, full of wise thoughts. *Ex.*: Nakharan taham in rapekam epek. ~ His speech is really good. • *adv* **hard** to do.

peken *n* **coincidence** an unplanned event. • *n* **chance** a random event.

pekepek *n* **porcupinefish** (*Diodontidae*)

peku *n* **moray eel** black species.

pelpel nawuk *n* **shining bronze-cuckoo** (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*)

pelwit *n* **herb** species.

-pen *aff* suffix of verbs, towards a third person.

pén (from English) *n* **pen** • *n* **pencil**

-pena *aff* suffix of verbs, towards the addressee.

penoha (generic term) *n* **dove** young people and children do not eat it, as it represents a legendary girl from 'LAPNUMAN'. If it sings during night, it predicts somebody's death.

• **penoha lew** (generic term) *n* **red-bellied fruit-dove** (*Ptilinopus greii*)

• **penoha limlim** *n* **red-bellied fruit-dove** (*Ptilinopus greii*) juveniles only. It is said that 'PENOKA LIMLIM' comes to trees whose fruit is just getting ripe and test it day by day until it is ready, after he brings the elder 'PENOKA LEW' to that tree to feed.

• **penoha mes** *n* **red-bellied fruit-dove** (*Ptilinopus greii*) juveniles only as their plumage is very different to adult doves. The last part of the name 'MES' meaning "dying", referring to its "sickly" voice. Sacred bird. If eaten by a child, it will get illness called 'MÉNEK RAMIWUK'.

peraihgel *n* **woman** generic term for married women of a family, e.g. wife, sister-in-law, ... • *n* **old woman** not a very polite term. cf.'PERAN ASUL'. • *n* **old woman** impolite term.

peran asul *n* **old woman** polite term.

peran aupan *n* **woman** synonym of 'PERAN AWAS' and 'PERAN AWOTISEG'.

peran awas *n* **old woman** impolite term. • *n* **woman** first wife of a man, that remarried. Synonym of 'PERAN AUPAN' and 'PERAN AWOTISEG'.

peran awotiseg *n* **woman** synonym of 'PERAN AUPAN' and 'PERAN AWAS'.

peran ramara *n* **noble** woman. Title meaning high social status in local hierarchy.

peran wi *n* **woman** cf.'PERAWEN WI'.

peranepen *n* **spirit** feminine form of 'IANEPEN'.

peraswas *n* **girl** • *n* **woman** young.

perawen (generic term) *n* **woman**

• **perawen wi** *n* **virgin** lit. "new woman". • *n* **woman** second wife after death of the first one or after a divorce. • *n* **woman** young, not yet married.

peruaperua *n* **blowfish** (*Tetraodontidae*)

pesiapesia *n* **coral** kind that builds "branches".

pesit *n* **cardinal myzomela** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) in local custom a bird which reunites "red" and "black" families. cf.'KOWIAMÉTA' and 'NEMRUKÉN'.

pesiwel *n* **nail** on finger.

peteg *v* **web** be. Ex.: Nihin ramep kani tahak napen rapeteg. ~ It is raining so my clothes got wet.

pia- (inalienable) *n* **brother** younger or elder, if the speaker is a man. • *n* **cousin** male, younger or elder, if the speaker is a man. • *n* **cousin** female, younger or elder, if the speaker is a woman. • *n* **sibling** younger or elder, of the same sex as the speaker. • *n* **sister** younger or elder, if the speaker is a woman.

pién *n* **fragrance** • *n* **perfume** • *n* **smell** nice.

piétpiét *n* **dragonfly**

pikokai *n* **game** game to entertain little children. The players stand together in circle. One of them makes of his hand a fist with his index finger straight and pointing towards the sky. His neighbor grabs his finger with his own fist, letting his own index finger straight, and so on until all hold their fingers in this way. Then the first player with his free hand index finger touches from left and right the finger of the last player and all sing the "Pikokai" song. After then the first player grabs with his free hand the ear of his neighbor, who does the same until all are holding their ears with one hand and their fingers with the other. Then they rock from side to side and sing the song of 'IARAMES' called 'SEKU' (q.v.) and at the end all fall to the ground.

pinek *n* **locust** species, more usually called 'PWIRU'.

pis *n* **south**

-pis *aff* **southwards** suffix of verbs.

pis asul *n* **thumb**

pis aswas *n* **little finger**

piskop *n* **volunteer** white foreigner, humanitarian worker of organizations such as Peace Corps. • *n prop* **Peace Corps** used for organization as well as for individual volunteers. Ex.: Us a in piskop kér. ~ The man over there is a volunteer of the Peace Corps.

pitás *n* **maggot** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) smaller and younger maggots of this species, 1st stage. cf.'PRISIN'.

plén (from Bislama) *n* **aircraft** • *n* **airplane**

pometa *n* **coconut tree** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with yellow-orange skin.

prét (from English) *n* **bread**

prisin *n* **maggot** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) kind of large larva living in dead wood, consumed by people, 3rd stage, cf.'KELEPES', 'PITAS', 'IAPAU' and 'PWIRU'.

pulegpuleg *n* **Pacific robin** (*Petroica multicolor*)

pulek *n* **insect** species whose maggots are found in roots of coconut tree. Inedible.

puluk (from English) *n* **cow** for the indigenous term cf.'KURIMATAU'.

• **puluk katkhatek** *n* **cow** with spotted skin.

pulumpa *n* **game** players sit down in circle facing the center, each of them having in left hand about twenty little wooden sticks. They take one of the sticks with their right hand and raise it above the head. Another player jumps around the circle on one leg, collects the wooden sticks and throws them into the circle

until he falls (and loses) or collects all the sticks (and wins). During the game a song of the same name is sung.

purmat *n* **wasp**

• **purmat ituga** *n* **mason wasp**

pwata (from English) *n* **avocado** (*Persea americana*) tree. • *n* **avocado** fruit.

pwia *adj* **smooth**

pwir *n* **maggot** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) larger and more mature maggots of this species, which are still active, 2nd stage. cf.'PRISIN'.

pwiru *n* **locust** species, sometimes called 'PINEK'.

R

ragi *n* **chicken** speckled.

ragién *adj* **happy**

rahle *adj* **clear** e.g. water, sky. • *adj* **limpid** • *adj* **sheer**

rakapuka *adj* **raw** of all fruit except of coconuts. cf.'NOWATAHWA'.

raker *v* **break** Ex.: Nalemak ramraker. ~ I have broken my arm.

ralukaluk *adj* **light** of weight, or "light", i.e. not good, speech. Ex.: Ramol nakharan ralukaluk. ~ His speech has no value.

ramaru nuw *n* **garden magician** 'NAOTUPUNUS' who is preparing first yams for the 'TERAMARA' during the celebration of 'KAMARU NUW' at the beginning of the harvest.

ramat *adj* **full**

ramawlekam *n* **flash of lightning**

ramhapel narameren *n* **shaving** small ceremony with kava offering and 'TEMAHWA' at the moment of first shaving of a boy. From this moment he can take a wife.

ramrao *adj* **gray** probably derived from 'NEMRAU'.

ranakahama *n* **tide** descending.

rapwa *adj* **bald**

rasanen *adj* **strong**

rasmatakan *v* **not well cooked**

rasolan mama ... *expr* **it is not that ...** one of expressions used for forming negative phrases. Ex.: Rasolan mama io nases. ~ I am not poor. lit. "It is not that I am poor."

ratol *expr* **how are you doing** • *expr* **what's up** • *adv* **how**

raukerauker *adj* **similar** • *adj* **same**

rausekausek *adj* **hard** material, thing. • *adj* **strong** in its effects, concentrated, ex. kava.

rauté *adj* **salty** • *adj* **sweet**

rawiér *adj* **hot** taste. • *adj* **strong** taste.

rawker *v* **enough** it is.

rawyt *adj* **good**

• **rawyt epek** *adj* **better**

• **rawyt lakaplepen** *n* **good morning**

• **rawyt lapnepen** *n* **good morning**

• **rawyt lemankat** *n* **good afternoon**

• **rawyt lénhaiu** *n* **good evening**

réiléi léilaho *interj* **tra-la-la** meaningless syllables used in some local songs.

reka *n* **nothing** • *num* 0

rem- (inalienable) *n* **father** • *n* **uncle** father's brother.

remakela *adj* **slippery** Ex.: Remakela! ~ It is slippery!

remel *n* **floater** of an outrigger canoe.

renahama mowas *n* **tide** at its minimum.

renakak *v* **dawn** coming. • *v* **daylight** when it comes in the morning.

renakametam *n* **tide** rising.

renapinap *v* **dusk falling** • *v* **get dark** of evening.

renateahu *adj* full

renauker *v* enough be. • *v* sufficient be.

reneka *n* nothing anymore.

renetam aken *n* tide at its maximum.

renmerua *adj* prepared of food. • *adj* ready of men - to do something.

repu- (inalienable) *n* grandfather very polite term. • *n* grandmother very polite term.

rerparep *adj* short

rik *n* coconut tree (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing only small inflorescences and its nuts are easy to pick.

ripar *num* many

ropian *n* plant species. Its leaves are placed between the beams and the roof in order to prevent the rain coming into the house.

ros (from English) *n* yam (*Dioscorea sp.*) rose species. • *n* rose (*Rosa gen.*) flower.

rou *adj* wild term describing a family of plants or used as a part of a plant name for species that do not give fruits or that are otherwise useless e.g. 'NUIU ROU' or "wild 'NUIU'" a species of pandanus with leaves not appropriate for weaving mats.

- **rou nalmelan** *v* follow something that has no sense lit. "follow foolish things". Ex.: Namerou nalmelan. ~ Your effort is without any sense.

- **rou nesega** *v* follow something that has no sense lit. "follow the intestine". Ex.: Namerou nesega. ~ Your effort is without any sense.

- **rou nul** *v* look for girls lit. "follow the vine". Used of boys who hang around looking for girls to date. Ex.: Ramerou nul. ~ He follows the vine. he is looking for girls, chasing girls.

rtat *adj* bad lit. "it is bad".

- **rtat epek** *n* worse

- **rtat ma ...** *expr* it is not good that ... • *expr* should not ... Ex.: Rtat ma tahak kahapa tarol am nuigen. Tanakwen makhar kam ieram asul min. ~ It is not good that my head stays empty. I will go speak with the elders.

ru *part* please particle following verbs, transforming a direct order into a more polite request. Ex.: ken! - ken ru! ~ eat out! - would you please eat?

rulek *adj* hard material, thing.

rurian *n* cicada species heard in the evening with short tinkling sound.

rusrus *n* Melanesian flycatcher (*Myiagra caledonica*) if he sings in bad weather, nice days will come soon.

S

saina *n* banana tree (*Musa sp.*) species from China.

salamoni (from Bislama) *n* yam (*Dioscorea sp.*) imported species.

salpat *n* laplap of manioc, with coconut milk poured on.

samprut (from English) *n* passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis*) fruit is edible.

santana *n* big sage (*Lantana camara*) its crushed leaves are used to treat wounds and sores. The smell of the leaf relieves headaches and blocked nose. The juice from its crushed leaves is put on the wound after the castration of pigs to diminish the pain.

sapag *n* branching of branches of plants, in form of "Y". • *n* branching wooden branch in form of "Y". Used in nakamal to hold 'NIGES' when brewing kava.

sapru ata *n* bush species with edible fruit.

sapsap *n* herb species. • *n* corosol (*Annona muricata*) fruit is edible. Infusion of leaves is used as treatment to wash children with measles.

saramatu *n* yam (*Dioscorea sp.*) species, a kind of 'NOWANAWUG'.

sasilmaga *n* ring finger

sayé *n* game players throw reed stems 'NULNUL' as spears in a way that they bounce when touching ground. The one who sends his reed the furthest, wins. The game is played when the vines of newly planted yams start to grow (cf. 'IAWITALEG MIN KAMAILIS NUWIAN NUW') and when their supporting constructions 'KAMO SIT' and 'KAMÉ PIAGEN' are built using 'NULNUL' reed stems. 'Throwing the 'NULNUL' far in this game symbolizes the vine of yam growing long, which ensures large yams. In this sense the game is played to ensure plentiful crop.

Seku *n* prop spirit name of one of 'IARAMES' with long ears. Mentioned in one legend and in the game 'PIKOKAI'.

sekul *n* school

seli *n* herb species. Its fruit is used as spice.

- **seli atipen** *n* herb species. Its fruit is used as spice.

senia ma ... *expr* one cannot say, that ... one of expressions used for forming negative phrases. Ex.: Senia ma io nases. ~ I am not poor. lit. "One cannot say I am poor."

siksik *n* fern small species. • *n* fern species.

siosio *n* dance kind of customary dance. • *n* eddy wind. • *n* vortex wind. • *n* wind spinning, eddy.

sis *n* seashell edible species.

sita *n* tree introduced species. Its hard wood is used for construction. It has white flowers. • *n* tree (*Melia azedarach*) indigenous species. Shares the same name with the 'SITA' tree but is smaller in stature. It has white-blue flowers. An infusion made from its leaves is used palliatively for post stroke patients. Its flowering signals the time to catch the flying fish.

sliu *n* coconut tree (*Cocos nucifera*) "twins", two palms sprouting from one coconut.

soulél *n* vine species.

suatu (generic term) *n* path • *n* road normal as well as the customary exchange road between nakamals.

- **suatu apam** *expr* alliance e.g. political, figurative speech. • *expr* cooperation figurative speech. • *expr* road long.

Suatu kywer *n* prop constellation southern cross, lit. "four ways", in allusion to the four customary exchange roads running from each 'IMAIM'.

suk *n* spear

sumariag *n* kava (*Piper methysticum*) another name for 'TAPUGA'.

suwit *n* banana tree (*Musa sp.*) species from abroad.

suwop *n* spike a strong spike fasten into ground pointy end upwards. Used to help removing the husk of dry coconuts.

sy *v* plant yams. Ex.: Naramim kamasy nuw apa lé nekin nasuman. ~ People are planting yams.

syl *n* rainbow lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)

T

t- *aff* pref. of future tense.

tagalua *n* banded sea krait (*Laticauda colubrina*) • *n* colubrine sea krait (*Laticauda colubrina*) • *n* yellow-lipped sea krait (*Laticauda colubrina*) • *n* banded sea krait (*Laticauda laticaudata*) • *n* blue-lipped sea krait (*Laticauda laticaudata*)

tagitofa *n* remora (*Echeneidae*)

taha- (inalienable) *aff* for benefactive pref. Ex.: kawar tahanepen ~ stone for good harvest of bananas • (inalienable) *pron* possessive pronoun. Ex.: tahak nima ~ my house

tahak *pron* my

tahakiél (inalienable) *n* brother-in-law if the speaker is a man.

taham *pron* your

tahan *pron* her • *pron* his

- **tahan kahapa nekava** *n* kava part of the plant. The thick central part of the root. lit. "head of kava".

Tahgen *n* prop mountain behind the village of Lamapruan.

takapa *n* **tobacco** (*Nicotiana sp.*) cultivated as cashcrop of minor importance.

takiéw *n* **snail**

taknu *n* **commercial top shell** (*Tectus niloticus*)

talauk *adv* **tomorrow**

- **talauk am** *expr* **see you tomorrow**

talipapa *n* **mat** made of pandanus leaves.

talipasa *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n* **vine** leaves used to cover the circumcision wound. The shape of the leaves looks similar to a kind of yam that bears the same name. The leaves of this vine are placed on the 'KAWAR' of yams to obtain good crop.

tama *adv* **if** • *adv* **when**

tamalua *n* **man** young.

tamoni *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) mid-sized species.

tamormor *n* **tree** species. From its branches pipe-stems are made.

tanepes *n* **mountain** whose ridge ends inside the island. cf. 'TANITOU'.

tanitou *n* **mountain** whose ridge goes all the way down to the seashore. cf. 'TANEPE'.

tansuksuk iarames *n* **herb** species, lit. "spear of the 'IARAMES' spirits".

tapatapa *n* **Caledonian mitten lobster** (*Parribacus caledonicus*)

tapatapaialo *n* **game** game to entertain little children. One of the players puts his hands one on the other. Another player hits them with his own hand while singing "Tapatapaialo, tapatapaialo, neken nowanién fé ik?" - "Tapatapaialo, whose coconut you ate?" The first one replies a name of a person and then hides his hand under his arm. They repeat the little song and hide the second hand too. Then, while saying "Kamamék, silapo, silapo, wa ..." the first player pulls forward his hands, opens wide his eyes and pulls his eyelids with his fingers to make a funny face.

tapatu *n* **barracuda** (*Sphyraena sp.*)

tapen *n* **door**

tapuga *n* **kava** (*Piper methysticum*) grown in a particular way and traditionally offered on special occasions such as 'KAUR'. • *n* **reef** isolated and submerged stone in the sea.

tarasolan kër *expr* **it is all right** in spite of an adversity.

taratawol *adv* **do** what, question concerning an action extending to future. lit. "what will he do". Ex.: Sylvano rewén taratawol apa imaim? ~ Why is Sylvano gone to nakamal?

tarol nata *adv* **why** concerning an action. lit. "what will he do". Ex.: Sylvano ramakan tarol nata? ~ Sylvano is gone to do what?

taroltat *adv* **maybe** • *adv* **possibly**

tary *adv* **long time, ny** Ex.: Senia ma tary. ~ It is not a long time ago.

tat *v* **bad** be. Ex.: Taham nolan rtat. ~ Your behavior is not good.

tauar (generic term) *n* **mountain**

Tauaraken *n prop* **Tauaraken** lit. "True mountain". Name of hill close to Lénakel.

taulai *n* **whale**

tawék *adv* **now** • *adv* **today**

té (ancient term) *pron* possessive pronoun used in ancient times and now seen for example in names of plants like 'KAHAWA TÉ LÉGA' or 'NEK TÉ KATANÉK'. Today the term 'TAHA-' is used nearly uniquely.

téhé (generic term) *n* **sea**

ték *adv* **now** abbr. 'TAWÉK'.

tekerkhak *n* **short-tailed shearwater** (*Ardenna tenuirostris*)

tekiskisek *n* **grey fantail** (*Rhipidura albiscapa*) mentioned in the legend of 'NUMANKUKU' and numerous others. He is said to be the chief of birds.

teklepwé *n* **tree** species. Soft wood used for some constructions.

tekrekméne *n* **tree** species. Its bark is toxic for fishes. It is grated and thrown into tide pools when fishing. Family of 'NEKTUAN'.

tel *n* **Bengal almond** (*Terminalia catappa*) hard wood, used for constructions. Fruits give edible nuts.

- **tel ket** *n* **tree** species. Pigeons 'IÉLU' feed on its fruit.

temahwa *n* **prayer** to local spirits and gods and today sometimes as syncretism to the Christian God, performed when spitting after having drunk kava by saying 'TEMAHWA' and adding ones wish or request. During the time of 'KAUR' it is customary to organize about four 'TEMAHWA' along with distribution of laplaps, to wish the circumcised boys good healing of their wounds.

ten *n* **country** • *n* **earth** • *n* **island** • *n* **soil**

Ten *n prop* **Tanna** island.

téniru *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) round species.

ténkiu (from English) *n* **thanks** cf. 'NAMEHWAU IO LÉ TWINEK NASES'.

tepalukaluk *n* **lungs**

tepéwa *n* **stomach**

tera *n* **tree** (*Excoecaria agallocha*) species. Its latex is put on sores and cuts from corals and sea urchins.

tiantian *n* **spirit** family of 'IARAMES', dwarves.

tiapén *n* **tuna**

tilywalywa *n* **herb** indigenous species with smaller leaves. • *n* **herb** introduced species with large leaves used as toilet paper.

timha *n* **collecting of shellfish** in tidal pools. Usually done by women.

tisasta (from English) *n* **catastrophe** natural. • *n* **disaster**

to in *pron* **her** to, for. • *pron* **him** to, for.

to nata *adv* **why** Ex.: Sylvano rakan to nata? ~ Why is Sylvano gone?

togoa *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) lo species imported from Tongoa.

toka *n* **dance** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The third in the order of dances, danced in the time, when 'FÉTUKAI' appears on the morning sky.

tokolau (ancient term) *n* **wind** from W. If it comes after the 'IAWAKELIAWAKEL', it means a rain is to be expected.

- **tokolau tu** (ancient term) *n* **wind** from ENE, brings rain.

tonhin *adv* **day after tomorrow**

tonihikesel *adv* **in three days**

tonik *pron* **you** to, for.

tonio *pron* **me** to, for.

tow *n* **garden of yams** mound of earth made when planting long species of yams.

- **tow tow inio** *n* **game** sand cake game with coconut shells. As children knock on the shell, the sing 'TOW TOW INIO'.

Tramsemas *n prop* **giant** name of a giant from local legends. He was killed by 'MWATIKTIK'.

tsék (from English) *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea sp.*) species.

tuan *n* **coconut tree** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with light yellow skin. • *adj* **white** part of plant names for varieties with bright yellow-colored leaves. Ex.: napek tuan ~ white napek • *adj* **white**

tuhi *n* **beam** main construction element of the roof ridge. • *n* **ridge board**

Tuhi *n prop* **road** name of one of the prominent customary roads going in the north-south direction through western Tanna.

tuitui *n* **herb** its large leaves are used to cover the earth oven before earth is piled on top of it.

Tukosmera *n prop* **mountain** the highest peak of Tanna, sacred place and dwelling place of god 'KALPAPEN'.

tul (generic term) *n* **vine** it refers more precisely to the stem of the vine.

- **tul aimwién** *n* **vine** species. The bark of the stem is peeled off and pounded to free the bast. The bast is further pounded to release the sap. This is then rubbed onto the skin like a soap. It is also used for the hair as it has conditioning and detangling properties.

- **tul aulihiau** *n* **vine** species. Used traditionally as ropes to tie parts of a canoe together and for house constructions.

- **tul kapwapwua** *n* **vine** species. Its leaves are placed on the wound after circumcision.

- **tul kawhik** *n* **vine** species. Its leaves are used as fodder for pigs and cattle. It is first laid down in the earth oven before adding a layer of banana leaves on top.

- **tul kawkaw** *n* **vine** used to make 'KEMÉLU'.

- **tul nawuknawuk** *n* **vine** (*Pycnarrhena ozantha*) used as ropes for house constructions.

- **tul paha** *n* **vine** species.

- **tul pukulpukul** *n* **vine** species. Its green fruit is edible. It is eaten together with the juice from its crushed leaves to treat cases of undescended testicle in young boys.

tupunus *n* **garden magician** cf. 'NAOTUPUNUS'.

twi- (inalienable) *n* **top** Ex.: twinek ~ treetop

ty *n* **convict tang** (*Acanthurus triostegus*) • *n* **surgeonfish** (*Acanthurus triostegus*)

U

ua *conj* **or**

- **ua ... ua ...** (ancient term) *conj* **either ... or ...**

umé *n* **fish** generic term for fishes with a hump on the head. Ex.: makam umé ~ green humphead parrotfish

un *pron* **that** not far away.

uré *interj* **look** interjection used to attract attention. Ex.: Uré, in apa! ~ Look, there he is!

usi (from English) *n* **cat**

- **usi la téhé** *n* **Spanish dancer** (*Hexabranchus sanguineus*) sea slug.

uswas *n* **man** young. • *n* **youngster**

uwow *v* **burn** Ex.: Nekom rakauwow. ~ Burning fire.

W

wa *aff* **show me** • *v* **go** towards the speaker. Ex.: Wa iken ek! ~ Come here!

wailu (from Bislama) *n* **yam** (*Dioscorea* sp.) midsized species.

wan *v* **cook** on fire. Ex.: Iakawan kelaka mero rasmatakan. ~ I am cooking a kelaka yam in fire, but it is still raw.

wél *n* **Vanuatu megapode** (*Megapodius layardi*)

welag *n* **whitespotted surgeonfish** (*Acanthurus guttatus*)

welek *n* **surgeonfish** kind of.

wén *v* **go** away from the speaker. Ex.: Iakawén apa lawanu. ~ I go home. • *v* **leave** Ex.: Wén! ~ Leave!

wénes *n* **flying fish**

werau *n* **ray**

werem *n* **seashell** edible species from the family of 'HIUWAN'.

wi *adj* **new** • *v* **pull** Ex.: Nani rakawi hos. ~ A goat pulling a horse. expression applying to a person, who is hiding his real intention (a big thing, the "horse") behind an innocent excuse (a small thing, the "goat"). • *v* **rough** be, the sea. Ex.: Téhé rakawi. ~ The sea is rough. • *v* **fish** Ex.: Iakawi nam tawék. ~ Today, I am fishing. • *v* **draw** e.g. water. Ex.: Inwipen ita nu. ~ I have already gotten water.

- **wi nowanhalél** *v* **snore** Ex.: Tahak iaihgel rakawi nowanhalél epek. ~ My husband is snoring a lot.

wikwik *n* **blenny**

win *n* **eel** marine, edible. • *v* **boil** Ex.: Peran an rakawin nuw. ~ This woman is boiling yams.

winen *n* **shout** of men. Ex.: Ieramim kér rakawinen. ~ A man is shouting. • *v* **crow** Ex.: Mének rakawinen. ~ The rooster is crowing.

wipek *n* **Tanna fruit-dove** (*Ptilinopus tannensis*)

wok (from English) *n* **work**

wughin (generic term) *n* **deity** • *n* **god**

Wughin (generic term) *n* *prop* **God** of Christians.

- **Wughin Awsim** *n* *prop* **God** most holy.

wukelekel (generic term) *n* **swiftlet** • *n* **glossy swiftlet** (*Collocalia esculenta*) • *n* **uniform swiftlet** (*Aerodramus vanikorensis*)

- **wukelekel iawota** *n* **Pacific swallow** (*Hirundo tabitica*) lit.

"'WUKELEKEL' that sits down" by contrast to swiftlets

'WUKELEKEL', who never sits down. Today more common term, than 'IARPOAPEN'.

wulawula *n* **long-tailed triller** (*Lalage leucopyga*) • *n* **Polynesian triller** (*Lalage maculosa*) bird often associated with sunny weather.

wuliwes *n* **jack** fish.

- **wuliwes apam** *n* **jack** fish, larger species.

wulupwé *n* **banana tree** (*Musa* sp.) species.

wunwun *n* **Pacific robin** (*Petroica multicolor*)

wutowuto *n* **bat** darkly colored, without visible tail.

wyt *v* **good** to be. Ex.: Rawyt lénhau to kamiar patem. ~ Good evening to you all.

Thematic dictionary

Culture

arm band *n* **kaukasé** worn on upper arm along with 'NUMA LE NESÉ' leaves during customary celebrations.

ash *n* **laén** made from 'NEKOWISEL', applied to hair in the morning and then washed with lemon juice in the evening to make them long, or from 'NUL META', applied to make the hair red.

ban on fishing *expr* **kamareg la téhé** way of preserving fish population or a part of magical rituals, when a part of the sea is "closed" and the beach is marked by sticks with grass tussocks.

basket for a song *expr* **karem taha napuk** name of a custom where a man offers a woven basket with certain leaves to a song-maker as a traditional payment for a song to be composed.

belt *n* **katawut** made of vegetal material, worn by men during the 'NEKOWIAR' ceremony.

• **belt of shells** *n* **nowapelpel** worn by boys on the final ceremony of 'KAUR'.

blessing of yams *n* **naruan nuw** traditional order allowing consummation of yams at the beginning of the harvest.

branching *n* **sapag** wooden branch in form of "Y". Used in nakamal to hold 'NIGES' when brewing kava.

break the branches of kava and shed blood *expr* **merekhél nalemen nekava makawi neta** expression describing customary way of performing sacrifices in nakamal.

break the wings of fowl *expr* **merekhél ménék** expression describing traditional sacrifice in nakamal by 'NAOTUPUNUS'. cf.'MEREKHEL NALEMEN NEKAVA MAKAWI NETA'.

burying of foreskin *n* **khauatín lé nién** a tradition of burying the foreskin of a circumcised boy at the evening of the 'NASES' celebration. A young coconut tree is planted on the same place to make the boy grow well.

canoe *n* **niko** a small canoe in which a 'KAWAR' is held.

cicadae iawitaleg carry shoots of yams *expr* **iawitaleg min kamailis nuwian nuw** expression used for the part of the year, when cicadae 'IAWITALEG' start to sing. It is said, that those cicadae carry on their backs the young shoots of newly planted yams out of the ground.

circumcision (generic term) *n* **kaur** term for circumcision and, figuratively, for the entire time from the circumcision itself to the 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR' ceremony. • *expr* **iarames ramol kaur** done not by men, but by 'IARAMES'. Sometimes a boy at age of circumcision is found by his family to be instantaneously, often overnight, circumcised and the wound healed by a 'IARAMES', in which case the family does not follow the usual 'KAUR' ceremony. Sometimes such family is glad and says, that the 'IARAMES' helped them as the 'KAUR'-making expenses are considerable. cf.'KAUR'. • *n* **iakmen** special manner of circumcision reserved to boys from village chief families. Consists in cutting only the upper part of foreskin.

coconut husk *n* **napeka** piece of dry fibrous husk used for general cleaning other than kava roots. cf.'KASESEN'. • *n* **kasesen** piece of dry fibrous husk used to clean kava roots. cf.'NAPEKA'. Ex.: Lasipa kasisen iaké nukenekava. ~ Give me a piece of coconut husk to clean the kava.

custom (ancient term, generic term) *n* **nolan awas** cf.'NOLAWASAN'. • (ancient term, generic term) *n* **nolawasan** from 'OL' - do, and 'AWAS' - old, related to ancestors. A word describing the way of life and identity of the people, today by ignorance of the true term often replaced by the Bislama equivalent 'KASTOM'. • *n* **nases** ceremony performed the night before the final circumcision ceremony 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR', during which

on one side the men do a special dance in the nakamal 'NOWANMANAGA' and burn the barriers that were hiding the boys since the beginning of their circumcision, and on the other side the women do a special dance in the village around a burning symbolic 'NASES' tree. • *n* **niél** important ceremony consisting in offering a large number of yams and pigs. After some time the beneficiary does a 'NIÉL' of the same size for the donor. An important custom fostering relations between individuals and communities. • *n* **kaur** important ceremony, which begins with the circumcision of young boys and ends after about three months by their ceremonial presentation to the village during 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR'. • *n* **nekowiar** important festival on which the majority of population is participating. Organized irregularly every several years. During the celebration several dances proper to 'NEKOWIAR' only are performed in a fixed order. Their names are 'NUHUPUKA', 'NAPENAPEN', 'TOKA', 'NAU', 'NASAI', 'KASASIWO' and 'NEMAWIO'. • *n* **kamaru nuw** special festival at the beginning of yam harvest, when 'NAOTUPUNUS' in charge of yams presents first yams to the 'IERAMARA'. cf.'NARUAN NUW'. • (from English: custom) *n* **kastom** the true term in local language is 'NOLAWASAN'. • *n* **kamir iataw kaur** very important ceremony organized at the end of the circumcision 'KAUR', during which the circumcised boys are finally presented to their mothers and the entire village after the time they spent hidden in 'NOWANMANAGA'.

dance (generic term) *n* **napuk** • *n* **kopwiélkopwiél** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'. • *n* **kéisa** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'. • *n* **namilo** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'. Danced only during the celebration of 'KAMARU NUW'. At the end of the dance, the dancers make a movement like throwing a stone, by which, in a symbolic manner, they throw the 'KAWAR TAHA NUW' down to the villages on the seashore and thus they allow them to eat yams at the beginning of the harvest. • *n* **nowanarwiu** belonging to the family of 'NALÉWA'. Danced only during the time, when eating yam is taboo. • *n* **naléwa** family of traditional dances containing, as an important choreographic element, fast movements of the dancers from one side to another. • *n* **nemawio** family of traditional dances, during which the participants turn around in a circle. • *n* **siosio** kind of customary dance. • *n* **nasal** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The fifth in the order of dances, danced in the morning. • *n* **nuhupuka** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The first in the order of dances. lit. "leg of a pig". • *n* **nau** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The fourth in the order of dances, danced during the sunrise. • *n* **napenapen** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The second in the order of dances, danced during the night. • *n* **nemawio** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The seventh and the last in the order of dances, danced early in the afternoon. Follows the ceremonial killing of pigs. • *n* **kasasiwo** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The sixth in the order of dances, danced around the noon. • *n* **toka** kind of important dance performed during the celebration of 'NEKOWIAR'. The third in the order of dances, danced in the time, when 'FÉTUKAI' appears on the morning sky. • *n* **nima taha niéré** kind of legendary dance performed by living stones in times when human dance did not yet exist. Its rhythm and figures are different to those found in human dances. • *n* **nowanaloumaga** kind originating from the Létakeren zone. Said to be the first ever human dance.

dream *n* **naripai** in which one has a vision or a revelation. cf.'IPAI'.

face paint *n* **nesipen** pigment used for 'NAHWÉLAN'. • *n* **nahwélan** traditional decoration of faces. For women on cheeks and more elaborated, for men a simple line on front. Originally only black and red natural pigments were used.

feather *n* **kweria apam** an object made of raptor (and possibly fowl) feathers, worn on special occasions such as 'NEKOWIAR' by men of high social status. • *n* **naio** colored, worn in hair by men and women during customary celebrations.

filter *n* **niges** made of coconut leaf sheath or artificial, used to filter kava.

first kava *n* **kamnum** ceremony, during which a man receives from his father his first kava to drink in the nakamal. Usually the maternal uncle of the man is invited and the family offers him a small customary gift, like a laplap or a kava. In some place an ancient way of drinking the first kava is still perpetuated, where the father or the uncle offers the kava in a bowl made from a banana leaf. The kava is drank by the man leaning forward and after finishing it, he eats a small piece of cooked pig grease which is drown in the kava, which is supposed to protect him against food poisoning.

game (generic term) *n* **nawakelan**

garden magician (generic term) *n* **naotupunus** person in charge of a 'KAWAR' and of good crop. cf.'IERAMARA' and 'IENINIKO'. • *n* **tupunus** cf.'NAOTUPUNUS'. • *n* **ramaru nuw** 'NAOTUPUNUS' who is preparing first yams for the 'IERAMARA' during the celebration of 'KAMARU NUW' at the beginning of the harvest.

garden of yams *n* **tow** mound of earth made when planting long species of yams. • *n* **khopen** place where small species of yams are planted. cf.'TOW'.

giant *n prop* **Tramsemas** name of a giant from local legends. He was killed by 'MWATIKTIK'.

god *n prop* **Mwatiktik** person from local mythology in charge of animals, plants and gardens. Dwells in 'LAPNUMAN'. • *n prop* **Korapanemen** supreme god dwelling on mount Tukosmera. • *n prop* **Kalpapen** the one, who brought to Tanna the kava, the black rooster, and who interrupted the endless day by bringing to the world the night, which since alternates with the day.

house *n* **nima awsim** of local sorcerers.

hunter of eagles *n* **iapsagan iatkek** title of a man from Lowlipag area, who has the right to hunt eagles for their feathers used in fabrication of 'KWERIA APAM'.

language *n* **nakharan taha Lénakel** lit. "language of Lénakel". Name sometimes given to 'NETWAR', derived from the name of the principal village of the zone where the language is used. • *n* **nakharan awas** kind of language and expressions used by the ancients in old times, as contrasted to the 'NETWAR' language used nowadays, when people are losing "proper" expressions and the language becomes poorer. Old traditional songs often employ words from 'NAKHARAN AWAS' that people nowadays do not understand, or only very little. • *n* **netwar** used in West Tanna. Sometimes called as 'NAKHARAN TAHA LÉNAKEL'.

Lapnuman *n prop* **Lapnuman** legendary land, from where certain plants and animals come. Its ruler is 'MWATIKTIK'.

leg decoration *n* **nakepen** similar to 'KAUKASÉ', but worn around legs during the dances of 'NEKOWIAR' and during the 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR' ceremony. Often made of leaves of 'NALÉ'.

legend *n* **nagé** in the local culture, knowledge of a legend is a sign of making part of a particular clan. In consequence legends are not easily shared with the "outsiders".

listen *expr* **kamai** word, by which a storyteller introduces habitually an old legend.

marks on skin (ancient term) *n* **nowatatal** traditional form of skin decoration, made by burning the skin with ends of coconut leave stems 'NOWATEK MA SIA' lit in the fire.

marriage *n* **nauganan lé perawen** customary, a ceremony with exchanging of goods.

mourning (ancient term) *n* **napkesu** ancient term for 'NALU'. • *n* **nalu** certain time after a decease, which can take up to one year and which ends with a large family reunion. During this time men

will grow their beard and women will refrain from the social life of the village.

Nahunu *n prop* **Nahunu** the wife of the great spirit 'KALPAPEN'. Said to bring him a meal after his first kava. cf.'SAKALEMUS KLÉPLÉPEN EK MEKEN TO NAHUNU'.

nakamal *n prop* **Lownanentuan** an important nakamal in Ipai. • *n prop* **Latun** an important nakamal near Ipai. • *n prop* **Lowiatkelniko** name of nakamal near Lowanatom, lit. "place where tribes broke up after a quarrel". cf.'ATKEL'. • *n* **nowanmanaga** special name given to a nakamal in which are living "hidden" young boys since their circumcision until they finally leave it during 'KAMIR IATAW KAUR' ceremony. It is surrounded by a fence of coconut leaves or bamboo to hide it from eyes of women, who are strictly forbidden to enter it at any moment of the day.

prayer *n* **temahwa** to local spirits and gods and today sometimes as syncretism to the Christian God, performed when spitting after having drank kava by saying 'TEMAHWA' and adding ones wish or request. During the time of 'KAUR' it is customary to organize about four 'TEMAHWA' along with distribution of laplaps, to wish the circumcised boys good healing of their wounds.

prophecy *n* **namaliwok epen**

purification *expr* **awota apa le nu** lit. "sit down to water". Ritual everyday washing of young boys after circumcision during 'KAUR' in villages on the seashore, where boys would go washing themselves to the sea. cf.'AWOTA APA LAHAU'. • *expr* **awota apa lahau** lit. "sit down". Ritual everyday washing of young boys after circumcision during 'KAUR' in villages in hills, where boys would go down to the sea or rivers to wash themselves. cf.'AWOTA APA LE NU'.

rattle *n* **nowaneparepa** made of dry fruit of 'NEPAREPA' and attached around legs of dancers.

reed *n* **nowanu koko min** lit. "hair of the boys". Leaves of reed used to towel the circumcise boys, and eventually suspended on 'NASES'.

• **reed-made supporting construction** *n* **kamé piagen** for liana of long species of yams in 'TOW'.

reveal a secret *expr* **namaural nakharan**

road *n prop* **Nukulua** name of one of the prominent customary roads going from Whitesand to Lénakel. • *n prop* **Tuhu** name of one of the prominent customary roads going in the north-south direction through western Tanna. • *n prop* **Karipen** one of customary exchange roads. It passes in the sea and follows the western coast of Tanna. Used during the time of wars to bypass conflict areas when going to one of the coastal villages.

scarification *n* **nuig kelél** only for women. Series of short incisions on the back around the waist made during the first menstruation of the girl as a protection against pain during menstruations and pregnancy. Also a sign that the girl is ready to get married.

shake hands (ancient term) *expr* **pas iakol ik** ancient and not well known expression by which one was inviting the other to shake hands together.

shaving *n* **ramhapel narameren** small ceremony with kava offering and 'TEMAHWA' at the moment of first shaving of a boy. From this moment he can take a wife.

smoldering branch *n* **nourasekam** carried by men in right hand after having drank kava on order to protect themselves against evil spirits.

sorcerer *n* **ieram ramol nemankat** specialized in summoning good weather. • *n* **ieram ramol nihin** specialized in summoning the rain.

speech *n* **newhagan** an important speech given in nakamal before drinking kava.

spirit (generic term) *n* **iarames** often malicious, term derived from 'IERAM RAMEMES' - dead man. • *n* **maselo** family of 'IARAMES', dwarves. • *n* **tiantian** family of 'IARAMES', dwarves. • *n* **iapar** family

of 'IARAMES', dwarves. • *n* **léai** family of 'IARAMES'. • *n* **kalwas** family of 'IARAMES'. Sometimes making noise in the jungle in the night. They join groups of people walking in the night to dance on customary celebrations. They can be persuaded to kill a man. Their dwelling place is in "Imakalwasmin" (lit. "home of many 'KALWAS'"). • *n* **peranepen** feminine form of 'IANEPEN'. • *n* **ianepen** malicious. If a man is lusting after a woman, this spirit will come in her form in the night to the man. After some time, the man will suffer loss of weight, weakness and various diseases. • *n prop* **Kiapako** name of one of 'IARAMES' with long arms. Mentioned in one legend. The root of the word is 'IAPAKO'. • *n prop* **Seku** name of one of 'IARAMES' with long ears. Mentioned in one legend and in the game 'PIKOKAI'. • *n prop* **Nowanuksuiu** name of one of 'IARAMES', dwelling in an 'IKAWSIM' close to the village of Lowtaliko. • *n prop* **Kapila** name of one of 'IARAMES'. Mentioned with 'KAMIRAU' in one legend. • *n prop* **Kamiraurau** name of one of 'IARAMES'. Mentioned with 'KAPILA' in one legend.

spokesman *expr* **ieram la suatu** messenger charged of transmission of messages through customary roads between nakamals. lit. "man of the road".

staff *n* **nowatahwa** made of a special wood and used for the 'TOKA' dance.

stick *n* **kamo sit** simple reed or wooden stick supporting the liana of smaller species of yams.

- **stick of stone** *n* **kasawasau** term describing clubs made of stone. According to the elders, these were once arms used in tribal wars.

sticks *n* **nowanek mil** used to manipulate chewed kava during its traditional brewing by those, who have not the right to touch it directly, e.g. men already married.

stone *n* **kopwiél taha natek** for black magic. • *n* **kawar taha nuw** for good harvest of yams, kept in the village of Lowkweria. • *n* **kawar** for good harvest. *Ex.:* stone for good harvest of bananas ~ kawar taha nepen • *n* **kopwiél awsim** magic. • *n prop* **Kamitiwan** magic. Name of one, which is found in Lownapaiu in norther Tanna.

story *n* **nagé** customary.

string *n* **nowanuo** made of bast of the 'NUO' tree used as the basis for 'NIU' grass skirts.

taboo place *n* **ikawsim** where magic stones are, from "iken rawsim".

time of peace *n* **neprou** legendary period of peace before the period of wars and division of the island to 'KOWIAMÉTA' end 'NEMRUKÉN' clans.

toy *n* **nar kamawakelan** lit. "thing with which one plays".

tra-la-la *interj* **réiléi lélaho** meaningless syllables used in some local songs.

tribe *n* **kowiaméta** one of the 'NIKO', traditional tribes of Tanna. • *n* **nemrukén** one of the 'NIKO', traditional tribes of Tanna.

underworld *n prop* **Iwrau** a place where go the spirits of the dead. • (ancient term) *n* **ipai** a place where go the spirits of the dead.

you took me down from the nases tree (ancient term) *expr* **namehwau io le twinek nases** traditional phrase by which a person was receiving a gift. It is not in common use anymore. The 'NASES' tree symbolizes poverty and thus the sense of the phrase is, that the person receiving a gift is not poor anymore. As the language does not include any term for "thank you", this phrase is probably its closest equivalent.

Colors

black *adj* **apen** *Ex.:* black rooster ~ mének rapen

blue (ancient term) *adj* **amimera aken**

brown (ancient term) *adj* **apen mérek**

color (from English: color) *n* **kala**

gray *adj* **ramrao** probably derived from 'NEMRAU'.

green *adj* **amimera**

red *adj* **léwléw**

violet *adj* **amimera epek**

white *adj* **tuan**

yellow *adj* **awhia**

Faith

Brothers of the Sacred Heart *n prop* **Frére min taha Nowanénau** **Awsim** religious congregation.

church *n* **nima awhak** building.

cross *n* **nekaloawin** in faith.

deity (generic term) *n* **wughin**

god (generic term) *n* **wughin**

God (generic term) *n prop* **Wughin** of Christians. • *n prop* **Wughin** **Awsim** most holy.

heaven *n* **lénéai** in religion.

holy *adj* **awsim**

Jesus *n prop* **Iésu**

paradise *n* **lénéai**

prayer *n* **nawhakan**

saint *adj* **awsim**

Games and sport

game *n* **kemal** a game played by girls with a string, similar to the "cradle". • *n* **numanmahmapau** an old game where one tries to find an edible fruit which is the very last one (after the season) or the very first one (before the season) and envelopes it in many different leaves and fastens it with several kinds of vines until the pack is very large, then brings it to a nakamal. Other players are supposed to unwrap one by one the leaves and the vines and tell their names until they get to the fruit. The aim of the game is to learn plant names. • *n* **nekrun** during which participants are trying to guess name of a plant from its leaves or roots. It is also the name used for whatever game where the players are trying to guess something or they pull the short stick and so on ... • *n* **karu areparep** each of the players draws around him a circle on the ground. The game starts with a small dialogue between two of the players, after which all become silent and try to make laugh each other by making funny faces. The one, who laughs first or who scratches himself or spits must defend his circle against the other players, who try to step into it. The one who steps into the defenders' circle without being touched by him can stretch his arm and grab another player outside the circle, so the defender cannot touch that player too. If the defender manages to touch a player, it is the touched one, who has on his turn defend his circle. During the game ridiculing songs are sung about the player who is actually defending his circle. • *n* **tapatapaialo** game to entertain little children. One of the players puts his hands one on the other. Another player hits them with his own hand while singing "Tapatapaialo, tapatapaialo, neken nowanién fé ik?" - "Tapatapaialo, whose coconut you ate?" The first one replies a name of a person and then hides his hand under his arm. They repeat the little song and hide the second hand too. Then, while saying "Kamamék, silapo, silapo, wa ..." the first player pulls forward his hands, opens wide his eyes and pulls his eyelids with his fingers to make a funny face. • *n* **karuita** game to entertain little children. One player shows his fists. The others hit them with their fists and shout "karuita!", after which the player hides his hands behind his back. The others ask him "When you went far away to see the world, what did you bring back?" The player says something that he likes (sweets, fruit, toys, ...). The others ask "Show us!" When the player opens his hands in front of them as

if to show them what he came with, the others come fast and act like if they were eating fast all the thighs so that nothing is left for the player. And everybody laughs. • *n* **pikokai** game to entertain little children. The players stand together in circle. One of them makes of his hand a fist with his index finger straight and pointing towards the sky. His neighbor grabs his finger with his own fist, letting his own index finger straight, and so on until all hold their fingers in this way. Then the first player with his free hand index finger touches from left and right the finger of the last player and all sing the "Pikokai" song. After then the first player grabs with his free hand the ear of his neighbor, who does the same until all are holding their ears with one hand and their fingers with the other. Then they rock from side to side and sing the song of 'IARAMES' called 'SEKU' (q.v.) and at the end all fall to the ground. • *n* **nuai neparepa** it is played at time of cleaning gardens of weeds ("kasiperper") after having planted yams. The game has two variants. In the first one, the players hold their hands to form a long vine 'NEPAREPA'. Then they roll around ("kasiperper") one of its ends until all the players are tightly enrolled around. Then they unroll again. In the second variant, players are aligned in couples holding their hands to form "doors". The last couple then, still holding their hands, tries to go through the series of "doors" until the end of the line of the players, where they stand up again to make a "door" and now the last couple goes through again. During the game this song is sung "Nuai neparepa, nuai neparepa, kasiperper kasiperper, ". • *n* **misekmisek** may be played also in the night. One of the players, the 'MISEKMISEK', is sitting several meters away from other players, not looking at them. Other players come one by one and touch the 'MISEKMISEK', who must then say, which of them touched him. During the game, the following song is sung, with its last phrase meaning "Who touched you?" - "Misekmisek / iahal pelpel / iamlé iamlé / iamus saré saré twa / kunai wé / ke kopinare kona. / Fwé riap ik?". • *n* **lélu** of tag. A local variant of the game. • *n* **iakesitil** participants hold in hands each one of the branches of 'NEK TÉ KATANEK' growing from the same stem and by pulling abruptly they try to rip them off. The one, who ends up with the central stem attached to his branch starts chasing the others and tries to bite ('KES', which is the root of the name of the game) their hand. • *n* **mamau** played during night, when two groups hide food in the forest and then search for each other's food. Is played at time of planting yams. • *n* **arupa la taluta** players jump on one leg around small wooden sticks following the beat of the song "Arupa la taluta" and try to pick up one by one all the sticks. The winner is the one, who manages to pick up all of them without falling or without one slipping out of his hands. • *n* **pulumpa** players sit down in circle facing the center, each of them having in left hand about twenty little wooden sticks. They take one of the sticks with their right hand and raise it above the head. Another player jumps around the circle on one leg, collects the wooden sticks and throws them into the circle until he falls (and loses) or collects all the sticks (and wins). During the game a song of the same name is sung. • *n* **sayé** players throw reed stems 'NULNUL' as spears in a way that they bounce when touching ground. The one who sends his reed the furthest, wins. The game is played when the vines of newly planted yams start to grow (cf. 'IAWITALEG MIN KAMAILIS NUWIAN NUW') and when their supporting constructions 'KAMO SIT' and 'KAMÉ PIAGEN' are built using 'NULNUL' reed stems. Throwing the 'NULNUL' far in this game symbolizes the vine of yam growing long, which ensures large yams. In this sense the game is played to ensure plentiful crop. • *n* **tow tow inio** sand cake game with coconut shells. As children knock on the shell, the sing 'TOW TOW INIO'. • *n* **numakesem** similar to looking for four leaf clovers. It consists in finding as many fruits of 'NUMAKASEM' as possible whose fruits are forked at the end, instead of the usual single tip shape.

Greeting and Thanking

good afternoon *n* **rawyt lemankat**

good bye *n* **imam**

good evening *n* **rawyt lénhaiu**

good morning *n* **rawyt lakaplepen** • *n* **rawyt lapnepen**

handshake *n* **kualofa**

how are you doing *expr* **ratol**

see you tomorrow *expr* **talauk am**

sorry *expr* **iksiai epek ik** to one person.

thanks (from English: thank you) *n* **ténkiu** cf. 'NAMEHWAU IO LÉ TWINEK NASES.'.

what's up *expr* **ratol**

Politics, Organizations, Law

alliance *expr* **suatu apam** e.g. political, figurative speech.

chief *n* **ieniniko** of a village. lit. "voice of the tribe". From root 'ENI'. cf. 'IERAMARA' and 'NAOTUPUNUS'.

cooperation *expr* **suatu apam** figurative speech.

noble *expr* **ieramin aramara** men or women.

Peace Corps *n prop* **piskop** used for organization as well as for individual volunteers. *Ex.*: Us a in piskop kér. ~ The man over there is a volunteer of the Peace Corps.

penalty *n* **nalepenan**

punishment *n* **nalepenan**

volunteer *n* **piskop** white foreigner, humanitarian worker of organizations such as Peace Corps.

war *n* **naluakenan**

Grammar and Language

a *art* **kér** indefinite article, follows the name. *Ex.*: Aupan ramlafena nepen kér tonio. ~ He gave me a banana before.

for (inalienable) *aff* **taha-** benefactive pref. *Ex.*: stone for good harvest of bananas ~ kawar tahanepen

from *conj* **la**

her *pron* **tahan**

his *pron* **tahan**

it *pron* **ieram** when followed by an adverb of place. *Ex.*: this here, that over there ~ ieram ek, ieram a

• **it is not that ...** *expr* **rasolan mama ...** one of expressions used for forming negative phrases. *Ex.*: Rasolan mama io nases. ~ I am not poor. lit. "It is not that I am poor."

my *pron* **tahak**

on (inalienable) *prep* **la-** sign of an action performed on the object, which is given by the personal suff. added to 'LA-'. *Ex.*: Dokta ramol wok lak. ~ The doctor is treating me. lit. "working on me". **one** *num* **kér** meaning "anyone", when pointing to things. *Ex.*: Las nepen! Kér apa. ~ Have a banana! One is here.

• **one cannot say, that ...** *expr* **senia ma ...** one of expressions used for forming negative phrases. *Ex.*: Senia ma io nases. ~ I am not poor. lit. "One cannot say I am poor."

your *pron* **taham**

Numbers

0 *num* **reka**

1 *num* **karéna**

2 *num* **kiu**

3 *num* **kesel**

4 *num* **kywer**

5 *num* **katilum**

6 *num* **katilum ma karéna**

7 *num* **katilum ma kiu**

8 *num* **katilum ma kesel**

9 *num* katilum ma kywer
10 *num* katilum ma katilum

Personal pronouns

he *pron* in

it *pron* in

me *pron* io

she *pron* in

they *pron* ilar all. • *pron* ilél three. • *pron* ilau two.

we *pron* katar all, with you. • *pron* kamar all, without you. • *pron* kathel three, with you. • *pron* kamhel three, without you. • *pron* kalau two, with you. • *pron* kamlau two, without you.

you *pron* ik • *pron* kamiar all. • *pron* kamiél three. • *pron* kamilau two.

Places

east *n* pat also means the inland part of the island. cf.'IKPAT'.

eastwards *aff* -pat suffix of verbs.

far away *adv* isau but possibly still in sight. cf.'EPEN'. • *adv* open very, much further than 'ISAU'.

here *adv* iken ek

inland *n* pat the inside of the island, on the east of the zone speaking 'NETWAR'.

middle *adv* ilukan in the.

north *n* hiu

northwards *aff* -hiu suffix of verbs.

outside *adv* ilua

seashore *n* paha western.

side *n* léwinpa adjacent. • *n* léwinpen opposite.

south *n* pis

southwards *aff* -pis suffix of verbs.

that *adv* a over there.

there *adv* iken an close to here.

this *adv* ek

west *n* paha also meaning the western littoral of the island. Sometimes pronounced as "fa" in composed words as 'IARAFa'.

westwards *aff* -paha suffix of verbs.

where *adv* ia Ex.: Ramarek ia? ~ Where does he live?

Time

all the time *adv* lilen

already *adv* ita Ex.: Inaugan ita. ~ I have already eaten.

always *adv* lilen

ancient *adj* awas

before *n* aupan in time, abbr. 'AUPANIKEN'. • *n* aupaniken in time.

day *n* nian today used nearly solely in this sense, but its original meaning is far larger and it meant time or moment. Today this sense of the word is abandoned and is commonly expressed by "taem" from Bislama.

• day after tomorrow *adv* tonhin

• day before yesterday *adv* nihin

end of the day *expr* naonin nian

end of the year *expr* naonin nu

evening *n* lénhaiu

every day *expr* nian min patem

in three days *adv* tonihikesel

long time, ny *adv* tary Ex.: Senia ma tary. ~ It is not a long time ago.

midday *n* lemankat

moment *n* nian of an event.

morning *n* lapnépen

noon *n* lemankat

now *adv* tawék • *adv* ték abbr. 'TAWÉK'.

once *n* aupaniken • *n* nian kér lit. "one day". • *n* aupan abbr. 'AUPANIKEN'.

summer *n* nian wi hot part of the year when yams and other crop grow. lit. "new time".

three days ago *adv* nihikesel

time *n* nian

today *adv* tawék

tomorrow *adv* talauk

two days ago *adv* nihin

week *n* nowakan • *expr* nowakan ek this.

winter *n* nian awas cold part of the year when yams and other crop are consumed. lit. "old time". • *n* nowanalulu more precisely the part of year, when days are short.

year *n* nuw from the word for yam - 'NUW'. As the name for the year, the traditional names of months too are derived from the principal yam planting activities throughout the year.

yesterday *adv* lenaw

Verbal roots

abort *v* ataken a child. Ex.: Ramataken naren. ~ She aborted her child.

accident *v* las peken have an. Ex.: Ramlas peken apa la téhé. ~ He had an accident in the sea.

accompany *v* ir Ex.: Tanekir io kiawen apa Ituga? ~ Will you follow me to Ituga?

afraid *v* agen be, in transitive form followed by suff. '-IN'. Ex.: Iamagenin kuri. ~ I am afraid of dogs.

annoy *v* ol kalwas with noise or bad behavior, stronger term than 'AUSIT'. Ex.: Kamaipel, kani Iaris ramapus mierpa, mamol kalwas. ~ We were already sleeping, when Iaris went out, got drunk and was making a lot of noise.

ask *v* arhapek Ex.: Ramarhapek to nategam. ~ He is asking for your name.

bad *v* tat be. Ex.: Taham nolan rtat. ~ Your behavior is not good.

bald *v* apwa be. Ex.: Renapwa. ~ He is bald-headed.

be not *v* ka Ex.: there is no water ~ nu reka • *v* neka anymore, 'KA' with perfective pref. Ex.: there is no more water ~ nu reneka

better *v* apita be. Ex.: Neté rawyt mapita nepen. ~ Taro is better than yam.

beware *v* amap pay attention. Ex.: Amap nekava! ~ Beware of the kava!

big *v* ipar be. Ex.: Io ik ipar lam. ~ I am older, than you.

bite *v* kes Ex.: bite him! ~ kes in!

bless *v* aru traditional "blessing" given by 'IERAMARA' in nakamal. Ex.: blessing of new yams ~ kamaru nuw

boil *v* win Ex.: Peran an rakawin nuw. ~ This woman is boiling yams.

break *v* raker Ex.: Nalemak ramraker. ~ I have broken my arm. • *v* arkel by hitting or bending. Ex.: Iamarkel nek mer to nekam. ~ I am breaking dry wood for fire. • *v* ataken something. Ex.:

Iamataken tahak nemanahga. ~ I have broken my bow.

breastfeed *v* amha be, used of children. Ex.: Kowa ramamha la tahan mama natepun renasis. ~ The child drinks milk of his mother and his belly is well rounded.

breath *v* amig Ex.: Ieram ramamig. ~ An asthmatic person.

breathless *v* amigamig be. Ex.: Iamamigamig. ~ I am breathless.

bright *v* meta be. Ex.: Lapen rameta, mahau ripar. ~ The night is bright and there is a lot of stars.

burn *v* uwow Ex.: Nekam rakauwow. ~ Burning fire. • *v* ahu akry of food made directly in fire. Ex.: Neté ramahu akry. ~ The taro is burnt.

burnt *v* ahu atin of food prepared in a saucepan. Ex.: Rais ramahu atin. ~ The rice is burnt.

buy *v os* *Ex.*: Iamamos nu k  r. ~ I have bought a yam.
call *v akoako* fowl when feeding them. *Ex.*: Ramakoako in m  nek min. ~ He is calling the hens to feed them.
carry *v las* *Ex.*: Las kupas tahak mwa iken ek. ~ Carry my pig here.
castrate *v atau* *Ex.*: Iawilu taratau tahan kupas. ~ Iawilu will castrate his pig.
change skin *v owiak* of crabs, snakes etc. *Ex.*: Iager ramowiak. ~ The crab is changing its skin.
chew *v emai* food, kava, etc. *Ex.*: Io iamemai nekava taw  k. ~ It is me who chews the kava today.
clean *v mak  * potatoes, vegetables etc. *Ex.*: Iamak   nuw. ~ I am cleaning a yam.
closed *v areg* *Ex.*: Kamareg la nima. ~ The house is closed.
cold *v nesinahga- ramai* have. *Ex.*: Nesinahgak ramai. ~ I have cold.
come back *v l  leg* *Ex.*: Sepl  leg talauk. ~ I will come back tomorrow.
cook *v ahu* *Ex.*: Iamahu nar wyt k  r. ~ I am cooking something good. • *v wan* on fire. *Ex.*: Iakawan kelaka mero rasmatakan. ~ I am cooking a kelaka yam in fire, but it is still raw.
cough *v atagel* have a. *Ex.*: Kowa ramatagel mero rakamus. ~ The baby coughs as it is sick.
crow *v winen* *Ex.*: M  nek rakawinen. ~ The rooster is crowing.
cry *v asak* *Ex.*: Taham kowa ramasak. ~ Your child is crying.
cut *v arai* *Ex.*: Iamarai nek. ~ I was cutting the wood.
dance *v ol napuk* *Ex.*: Talauk iakol napuk apa Lowkweria. ~ Tomorrow I will go to dance to Lowkweria.
deaf *v alu* be. *Ex.*: Iakalu. ~ I am deaf.
diarrhea *v ai* have. *Ex.*: Ramai to nian kywer. ~ He is having diarrhea for last four days.
die *v mes* if conjugated with infix '-AM-'. *Ex.*: Tahak kaha ramemes. ~ My grandfather is dead.
dig out *v   ku* *Ex.*: Perawen ram  ku nowanuman. ~ The woman is opening an earth oven. • *v il* yams etc. *Ex.*: Nian taha nilan nuw. ~ It is time to dig out yams.
distribute *v hoti* *Ex.*: Ieram asul ramhoti nauganan l   suatu min. ~ The chief distributes the food to the roads. during traditional ceremonies the people come to the nakamal from its surroundings by the four customary ways from four different directions. Speaking about a group coming from a particular road, it is usually referred simply as the "road". When the time comes after a customary ceremony to distribute the food, it is then not said to be distributed to the "people", but to the "roads". • *v awra* *Ex.*: Iamawra pr  t to piak. ~ I am sharing bread with my brother.
disturb *v ol kalwas* with noise. *Ex.*: Kamaipel, kani Iaris ramapus mierpa, mamol kalwas. ~ We were already sleeping, when Iaris went out, got drunk and was making a lot of noise.
divide *v atkel* things or people. *Ex.*: Iamatkel nowanima tahak to piak tarawa mapel iken. ~ I am dividing my house to make place for my brother.
do *v ol* *Ex.*: I will do, I was doing ~ sekol, iamamol • (from English: work) *v ol wok* something. *Ex.*: Dokta ramol wok lak. ~ The doctor is treating me. lit. "working on me". • *v atawol* what, question concerning an action. *Ex.*: Namatawol? ~ What are you doing?
draw *v wi* e.g. water. *Ex.*: Inwipen ita nu. ~ I have already gotten water.
drink *v amnum* *Ex.*: Nakamnum ni  n mero rawyt? ~ Is the coco, that you are drinking, good?
drunk *v apus* be, feel the effects of kava or alcohol. If used in context of kava, the word has usually no negative meaning and is often used as a "polite" question, when asking a person if he did feel well the effects of his kava. *Ex.*: Namapus lenaw apa imaim o kapa. ~ Did you feel the kava effects yesterday at nakamal, or not? • *v apus kaur ri  r* be, heavily. lit. "be so drunk that one loses his nambas". An anachronism used sometimes today to make jokes of others. *Ex.*: Us an ramapus kaur ri  r lenaw l  nhaiu. ~

Yesterday, that buddy got badly drunk. lit. "he was so drunk that he had lost his nambas". An anachronism used sometimes today to make jokes of others.
dry *v ausek* be. *Ex.*: Napen renausek. ~ Clothes are already dry.
dumb (inalienable) *v neki- reka* voiceless. *Ex.*: Kowa ramakhar apam kani nekin reka. ~ The kid shouted so much that he lost his voice.
eat *v ken* *Ex.*: Iamken nam n   nuw. ~ I ate a fish with a yam. • *v augan* *Ex.*: Renaugan ita. ~ He has already eaten. • *v asepi  n* something together with coconut. *Ex.*: Iamasepi  n nepen. ~ I am eating a banana with a coconut.
educate *v atukun* *Ex.*: Ramatukun kokomin apa lawanu. ~ He is taking care of a good education of village kids.
enjoy *v agi  n* e.g. a party. *Ex.*: Sakagi  n. ~ I am going to enjoy myself.
enough *v awk  r* be. *Ex.*: Renawker. ~ It is enough.
fall *v ep* of rain. *Ex.*: it rains ~ ramep
fart *v   u nar* especially while making noise. *Ex.*: In ram  u nar. ~ It was him, who farted. • *v alepes* without making noise. *Ex.*: Salepesan! ~ Don't fart!
feel *v ero* effects of kava, lit. "hear". *Ex.*: Iamero nekava. ~ I feel the kava.
feelings (inalienable) *v neki- reka* have towards somebody or concerning something. *Ex.*: Nekik reka la peran an. ~ I do not feel anything towards this girl.
fever *v araparap* have. *Ex.*: Iamaraparap. ~ I have a fever.
finish *v nol naunin* an action. *Ex.*: Io inol naunin l   namnumnemak nekava. ~ I have finished drinking my kava.
first kava *v ol kamnum* do the ceremony of first kava. cf.'KAMNUM'. *Ex.*: Ta lenhaiu apa imaim kamol kamnum taha Iaru  l. ~ This evening in the nakamal there will be the first kava made for Iaru  l.
fish *v wi* *Ex.*: Iakawi nam taw  k. ~ Today, I am fishing.
flower *v augen* of any tree except banana tree. cf.'IUK'. *Ex.*: Magko renaugen. ~ The mango tree is already flowering. • *v iuk* only about bananas. cf.'AUGEN'. *Ex.*: Nepen ramiuk. ~ The banana tree is flowering.
follow *v awotiseg* *Ex.*: Awotiseg in io! ~ Follow me! • *v ir* somebody. *Ex.*: Tanekir io kiawen apa Ituga? ~ Will you follow me to Ituga?
• **follow something that has no sense** *v rou nalmelan* lit. "follow foolish things". *Ex.*: Namerou nalmelan. ~ Your effort is without any sense. • *v rou nesega* lit. "follow the intestine". *Ex.*: Namerou nesega. ~ Your effort is without any sense.
forbidden *v aniaw* be. *Ex.*: Naramim kamainiaw kama to nosan nek mer. ~ The people have forbidden us to collect firewood.
give *v las* must take directional suff. such as '-PA', '-PENA' etc. *Ex.*: Ramlasipa nepen. ~ He is giving me a banana.
• **give birth** *v   mak* *Ex.*: Tahak perawen ram  mak tawek. ~ My wife is delivering right now.
glad (inalienable) *v neki- ragi  n* be. *Ex.*: Nekik ragi  n epek. ~ I am very happy.
go *v w  n* away from the speaker. *Ex.*: Iakaw  n apa lawanu. ~ I go home. • *v an* only with infix "-ak-". *Ex.*: Iakan apa Ituga, apa imaim asul. ~ I go to Ituga, to the principal nakamal. • *v i  r* out, away. *Ex.*: Io iami  r apa la sekul mwa iken ek. ~ I went out from school and I came here. • *v ir* together with somebody. *Ex.*: Tanekir io kiawen apa Ituga? ~ Will you follow me to Ituga? • *v wa* towards the speaker. *Ex.*: Wa iken ek! ~ Come here!
good *v wyt* to be. *Ex.*: Rawyt l  nhaiu to kami  r patem. ~ Good evening to you all.
grab *v lasita* from ones hand, even by force. *Ex.*: Iamlasita nau to Nateman. ~ I seized a knife from Natemans' hand.
grow well *v ipar* lit. "give plenty", of plants in general. cf.'KANAN'. *Ex.*: Nekava taripar epek. ~ The kava will grow well. • *v kanan* only of tubers. *Ex.*: Nuw tarakanan epek. ~ Yams will grow well.
happy (inalienable) *v neki- ragi  n* be. *Ex.*: Nekik ragi  n epek. ~ I am very happy.

harpoon *v atek* to. *Ex.*: Namail am lé twiau né mamégasin iau tanakatek. ~ You are standing on a turtle, but you are searching one to spear. searching something which is just in front.

hear *v ero* *Ex.*: Iamero kléplépen kér. ~ I hear a bird.

help *v asitu* to. *Ex.*: Ramasitu lak to ninatinan nakharan. ~ He helps me to learn the local language.

hungry *v amék* be. *Ex.*: Nasuman ramtat, naramim kamaimék. ~ The harvest was bad, people are hungry.

ignore *v atektek* only exists in negative. *Ex.*: Iamatektek ma tarawa. ~ I did not know that he would come.

ill *v nepen* be because of 'IANEPEN', or 'PERANEPEN'. *Ex.*: Us an ramanepen. ~ This man has peraneppen hallucinations.

kill *v oho* *Ex.*: Taroho kupas kiu to kaur. ~ He will kill two pigs on the kaur ceremony.

knock down *v el nem taha-* lit. "pick somebody's breadfruit". *Ex.*: Iamarou ménék, iamlas nek kér, maho a in, mel nem tahan. ~ I was chasing a chicken, I grabbed a stick, I threw it on the chicken and I knocked it down. • *v aruita* by throwing a compact object, such as a stone. cf.'HOITA'. *Ex.*: Iamaruita magko kér la kopwiél. ~ I knocked down a mango from a branch with a stone. • *v hoita* by throwing a stick. cf.'ARUITA'. *Ex.*: Iamhoita nién. ~ I knocked down a coconut by throwing a stick. • *v aruita* somebody with ones' fist, but only from amidst of several people. *Ex.*: Iamaruita Iako lé nekin naman. ~ I knocked down Iako with my fist from amidst of other men.

know *v inatin* *Ex.*: Iasinatinan. ~ I do not know. • *v atektek* not, only exists in negative. *Ex.*: Iamatektek ma tarawa. ~ I did not know that he would come.

laugh *v aliél* *Ex.*: Ramaliél kam io. ~ He laughs at me.

leave *v wén* *Ex.*: Wén! ~ Leave! • *v apas* also in the sense of not doing something. *Ex.*: Iakapas nenian napuk. ~ I don't want to sing.

lie *v éiua* tell lies. *Ex.*: Naméiua! ~ You lie!

like *v olkéikéi* *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi tahak mama. ~ I like my mom.

listen *v ero* *Ex.*: Io iamero ik namakhar. ~ I am listening to what you are saying.

live *v arek* be alive. *Ex.*: Remen ramarek ena? ~ Your father is still living? • *v an* somewhere, only with infix '-AM-'. *Ex.*: Iaman la Ten. ~ I live on Tanna. • *v miu* to be alive. *Ex.*: Kupas ek rakamus epek, mero rakamui am. ~ The pig is very ill, but still alive.

look *v ap* *Ex.*: Ap ru! ~ Look, please!

- **look for** *v égasin* *Ex.*: Iamégasin nam. ~ I am looking for a fish.
- **look for girls** *v rou nul* lit. "follow the vine". Used of boys who hang around looking for girls to date. *Ex.*: Ramerou nul. ~ He follows the vine. he is looking for girls, chasing girls.

lose *v ataken* *Ex.*: Iamataken tahak nau. ~ I have lost my knife.

love *v olkéikéi* cf.'NEKI- LA'. *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi epek ik. ~ I love you so much. • (inalienable) *v neki- la* somebody. cf.'OLKÉIKÉI'. *Ex.*: Nekin la perawen an. ~ He likes that woman.

make love *v ol to* somehow more polite term, than 'NAWISAN'. *Ex.*: Ierman ramol to tahan perawen. ~ A man makes love with his woman.

many *v ipar* be. *Ex.*: Katar ripar. ~ We are many.

marry *v merek* *Ex.*: Nawinek renmerek ita. ~ My sister is already married.

menstruation *v meta* have. *Ex.*: Perawen ramameta. ~ The woman has her menstruation.

mix *v ol pelpel* or mix up. *Ex.*: Ramolpelpel lé nakharan la Ten né pislama. ~ He is mixing the local language with Bislama.

must *v akaiké* *Ex.*: I will have to ~ sakaiké

necessary *v akaiké* to be. *Ex.*: it is necessary that you ... ~ tanakaiké ...

noise *v ausit* make. cf.'OL KALWAS'. *Ex.*: Kowa ramakhar apam memausit. ~ The kid is shouting and showing off.

noisy *v ol kalwas* be, excessively. *Ex.*: Kamaipel, kani Iaris ramapus mierpa, mamol kalwas. ~ We were already sleeping, when Iaris went out, got drunk and was making a lot of noise.

open *v atalapag* a bag, a basket. *Ex.*: Atalapag taham karem melasipen nar kér. ~ Open your basket so I can put something in it. • *v héta* the door. *Ex.*: Héta la tapen pas ikwéna mapel. ~ Open the door, so I can enter and sleep. a usual phrase used at times when one comes back late in the night and finds the door of the house, where he sleeps, closed.

- **open mouth** *v kamoag* *Ex.*: Us ek rasapelan lenaw menapau kani menamoag tat. ~ That man did not sleep last night, he is tired and yawns.

paint *v ahwél* ones face. cf.'NAHWÉLAN'. *Ex.*: Inen ramhwél kam tahan peraswas. ~ Mother is painting the face of her daughter.

pay *v arou* *Ex.*: Sakarou kurimatau kér apa Lénkaugan. ~ I will pay a cow in White-Grass.

photograph *v os foto* *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi mos foto taham. ~ I would like to take your picture.

pick *v el* fruit. *Ex.*: Ramel magko. ~ He is picking mangos.

plant *v hau* generic term. cf.'SY'. *Ex.*: Iamhau paren. ~ I am planting a live fence. • *v atek* seeds or little plants. *Ex.*: Lenaw iamsipan pa lé nekin nasuman matek kapus. ~ Yesterday I went to the garden to plant cabbage. • *v sy* yams. *Ex.*: Naramim kamasy nuw apa lé nekin nasuman. ~ People are planting yams.

pluck *v alemus* deplume. *Ex.*: Sakalemus kléplépen ek meken to nahunu. ~ I will pluck this little bird and eat it as nahunu.

poisoned *v akona* be. *Ex.*: Ramken kotéa mamakona. ~ He ate the kotéa fish and got poisoned.

poisonous *v akona* be. *Ex.*: Ramken kotéa mamakona. ~ He ate the kotéa fish and got poisoned.

pray *v awhak* *Ex.*: Sekawhak apa lé nima awhak. ~ I will go pray to the church.

pull *v wi* *Ex.*: Nani rakawi hos. ~ A goat pulling a horse. expression applying to a person, who is hiding his real intention (a big thing, the "horse") behind an innocent excuse (a small thing, the "goat").

- **pull down** *v haipu* a traditional house. If the acting people are more than one. cf.'HAPU'. *Ex.*: Nima renawas, talauk khaihu. ~ The house is already old. Tomorrow we will pull it down. • *v hapu* a traditional house. If the acting person is one only. cf.'HAIPU'. *Ex.*: Nima renawas, talauk khaihu. ~ The house is already old. Tomorrow I will pull it down.
- **pull out roots** *v éwin* when preparing a gardening ground. *Ex.*: Naman kamailu apa lé nasuman kani neperawen kamaréwin nar. ~ Men are spading the garden while the women are pulling out roots.

reach *v iapako* with ones hand over or behind an obstacle. *Ex.*: Ramiapako le nek un melas nau. ~ He reaches for the knife over a piece of wood.

ready *v marua* be. *Ex.*: Renmarua to nolan nar kér. ~ He is ready to do something.

return *v las* must take directional suff. such as '-PA', '-PENA' etc. *Ex.*: Ramlasipa nar ek. ~ Give it back to me.

ripe *v matak* *Ex.*: Ken nepen matak. ~ Eat the ripe bananas.

rough *v wi* be, the sea. *Ex.*: Téhé rakawi. ~ The sea is rough.

run *v ai* *Ex.*: Sakai mwén apa iré. ~ I will run to the seashore.

- **run away** *v akem* *Ex.*: Kowa ramataken nuwig kuwel kani makem. ~ The kid broke a mug and ran away.

sad (inalienable) *v neki- rtat* be, lit. "inside (of someone) is bad". *Ex.*: Nekik rtat to tahak kowa. ~ I am sad because of my child. • (inalienable) *v neki- ramahma* be. *Ex.*: Nekik ramahma epek to tahak perawen rakames. ~ I am really sad because of my wife, who is sick.

scrape *v awai* *Ex.*: Téhé ramho io iakawai io la kopwiél. ~ The sea has thrown me and I have got scraped by a stone. lit. "the sea hit me".

scream *v asak* of birds. *Ex.*: Kléplépen ramasak. ~ Bird is screaming.

see *v* **ap** *Ex.*: Sakap ik talauk. ~ I will see you tomorrow.
seize *v* **lasita** from ones hand. *Ex.*: Iamlasita nau to Nateman. ~ I seized a knife from Natemans' hand.
share *v* **awra** things. *Ex.*: Iamawra prêt to piak. ~ I am sharing bread with my brother.
shave *v* **akes** oneself. *Ex.*: Iamakes numa min nulek. ~ I am shaving myself.
shine *v* **asia** *Ex.*: Mawuk ramasia, kamap wyt am suatu. ~ The Moon is shining, so we see well the road.
shoot *v* **arwin** a bow, a rifle etc. *Ex.*: Iamarwin kopwiél ituga. ~ I am firing a rifle.
shout *v* **akhar apam** *Ex.*: Iata ramakhar apam iakaur. ~ I twitched when Iata shouted aloud. • *v* **winen** of men. *Ex.*: Ieramim kër rakawinen. ~ A man is shouting.
show *v* **atukun** *Ex.*: Atukun ton io! ~ Show me!
• **show off** *v* **ausit** *Ex.*: Kowa ramakhar apam memausit. ~ The kid is shouting and showing off.
sick *v* **mes** to be, if conjugated with verbal infix "-k-". *Ex.*: Iamakames. ~ I was sick.
sing *v* **eni napuk** *Ex.*: Naramim kamaeni napuk. ~ People are singing.
sit *v* **awota** *Ex.*: swallow that sits down ~ wukelekel iawata
sleep *v* **apel** *Ex.*: Imapel tat lenaw. ~ I slept badly yesterday.
• **sleep-talk** *v* **armik** *Ex.*: Tahak perawen ramarmik lapen patem. ~ My wife speaks when asleep every night.
smell *v* **apién** *Ex.*: Rakapién wyt. ~ It smells good. • *v* **apién tat** bad. *Ex.*: Nauganan lenaw renépién tat. ~ The food from yesterday smells already bad. • *v* **apién wyt** good. *Ex.*: Rakapién wyt. ~ It smells good.
snore *v* **wi nowanhalél** *Ex.*: Tahak iaihgél rakawi nowanhalél epek. ~ My husband is snoring a lot.
somniloquous *v* **armik** be. *Ex.*: Tahak perawen ramarmik lapen patem. ~ My wife speaks when asleep every night.
spade *v* **alu** dig the earth. *Ex.*: Naman kamailu apa lé nasuman kani neperawen kamaréwin nar. ~ Men are spading the garden while the women are pulling out roots.
speak *v* **eni** *Ex.*: Eni mérek am. ~ Speak slowly. • *v* **akhar** *Ex.*: you are speaking, he will speak ~ namakhar, tarapakhar
spear *v* **atek** to, a fish during fishing with a spear. *Ex.*: Namail am lé twiau né mamégasin iau tanakatek. ~ You are standing on a turtle, but you are searching one to spear. searching something which is just in front.
spin *v* **alalau** head. *Ex.*: Tahak kahapa ramalalau. ~ My head is spinning.
stand *v* **ail** *Ex.*: Namail am lé twiau né mamégasin iau tanakatek. ~ You are standing on a turtle, but you are searching one to spear. searching something which is just in front.
stare *v* **etai** at, for a long time. *Ex.*: Ieram a rametatai lak! ~ That man is staring at me.
stay *v* **arek** somewhere. *Ex.*: Iamarek iken ek. ~ I live here.
steal *v* **akela** thief. *Ex.*: Kokomin kamaikela in patem tahak nemének. ~ The kids have stolen all my fowl.
stick into the ground *v* **patkin** e.g. a pole or branches of plants to grow. It is not used to planting yams and other plants with vines. *Ex.*: Iamepatkin nalemen nemaiaiko. ~ I am planting manioc branches.
stop falling *v* **ahan** of rain. *Ex.*: the rain stopped ~ ramahan
straight *v* **atuatu** *Ex.*: good speech, lit. "straight speech" ~ nakharan ratuatu
strike *v* **el nem taha-** to head. *Ex.*: Iamarou mének, iamlas nek kër, maho a in, mel nem tahan. ~ I was chasing a chicken, I grabbed a stick, I threw it on the chicken and I knocked it down.
strong *v* **asanen** be, of a person, taste etc. *Ex.*: strong tobacco, strong man ~ takapa rasanen, ieram rasanen
swell *v* **asis** *Ex.*: Nalemak ramasis. ~ My leg is swelling.
swim *v* **aik** *Ex.*: Ta lénhaiu sekaik apa iré. ~ In the evening I am going to swim in the sea.

take *v* **las** *Ex.*: Las taham! ~ Take it, it is yours! • *v* **os** *Ex.*: Sekos foto taham. ~ I will take your picture.
• **take a photo** *v* **os foto** *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi mos foto taham. ~ I would like to take your picture.
• **take a picture** *v* **os foto** *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi mos foto taham. ~ I would like to take your picture.
teach *v* **atukun** *Ex.*: Iamatukun kompiuta apa Lowanatom. ~ I am teaching computer classes at Lowanatom.
tear *v* **hapu** if the people acting are more than one, 'HAIPU' is used instead. *Ex.*: Iamwén apa lé nekin nasuman kani mahapu tahak napen. ~ I went working to the garden and I tore my clothes. • *v* **haipu** only if the people acting are more than one. cf.'HAIPU'. *Ex.*: Kamhaipu numa sia la katar min. ~ We will split our leaf of coconut tree in two. leaves of coconut tree are easily split in the middle, for example when making 'KEMÉLU', and the proverb uses this image to speak about people, who are leaving each other. It is used in figurative speech when saying goodbye after meetings or when leaving each other after having walked together. Can be even used to speak about a divorce.
• **tear off** *v* **akes** with teeth, e.g. peel of fruit. *Ex.*: Akes nién paha! ~ Tear off the skin of paha coconut with your teeth.
tell *v* **eni** *Ex.*: Senia ma io nases. ~ I am not poor. lit. "One cannot say I am poor."
think, that (inalienable) *v* **neki- rahmo ma** *Ex.*: Nekik rahmo ma iarames kër ramol namesan ek. ~ I think that this illness is because of a demon.
thirsty *v* **awawa** be. *Ex.*: Nu reneka apa lawanu, naramim kamaiwawa. ~ There is no water anymore in the village, people are thirsty.
throw *v* **atkin** *Ex.*: Nakou ramatkin suk. ~ Nakou threw a spear on a bird. • *v* **aru** a compact object, such as a stone. cf.'HO'. *Ex.*: Iamamaru kuri. ~ I threw a stone on a dog. • *v* **ho** a stick. cf.'ARU'. *Ex.*: Iamho nién la nek kër. ~ I threw a stick on a coconut.
tired *v* **napau** to be. *Ex.*: Inapau. ~ I am tired.
touch *v* **iap** *Ex.*: Iamasiapan nar un! ~ I am not touching it!
translate *v* **huaprai** *Ex.*: Iamhuaprai ipen to Tom. ~ I am translating for Tom.
try *v* **alkut** do something. *Ex.*: Iamalkut to nalhekaman. ~ I try to light the fire on.
turn *v* **iko** *Ex.*: Loto ramikopen la mul iken. ~ The car turned left. • *v* **hwin** *Ex.*: Hwin nepen lé nekam. ~ Turn those bananas that are in the fire.
tutor *v* **ahmut** *Ex.*: Perawen ek ramahmut tahak kowa. ~ This woman is tutoring my child.
twitch *v* **aur** when frightened. *Ex.*: Iata ramakhar apam iakaur. ~ I twitched when Iata shouted aloud.
unable to speak (inalienable) *v* **neki- reka** be, because of being sick or having shouted too much. *Ex.*: Kowa ramakhar apam kani nekin reka. ~ The kid shouted so much that he lost his voice.
unhappy *v* **asolkéikéian ma** be, of something that is happening. lit. "not like something". *Ex.*: Iasolkéikéian ma nihin ramep. ~ I am sad that it is raining. lit. "I do not like that it is raining".
venomous *v* **akona** be. *Ex.*: Ramken kotéa mamakona. ~ He ate the kotéa fish and got poisoned.
vomit *v* **éwa** *Ex.*: Iamamken nauganan hal méwa in. ~ I ate the food from yesterday, which was not good anymore, and now I am throwing up.
wait *v* **amatan** *Ex.*: Amatan in io! ~ Wait for me!
walk about *v* **aliwok** *Ex.*: Iamaliwok am. ~ I am just walking about.
want *v* **olkéikéi** *Ex.*: Iakolkéikéi ma seken nepen. ~ I would like to eat a banana.
warm *v* **még** up, reheat. *Ex.*: Iamég nalemak. ~ I am warming my hands.
watch *v* **arep** *Ex.*: Iamamarep lam. ~ I was watching you.
web *v* **peteg** be. *Ex.*: Nihin ramep kani tahak napen rapeteg. ~ It is raining so my clothes got wet.

work (from English: work) *v* **ol wok** except for gardening. cf.'ASUM'. *Ex.*: Dokta ramol wok lak. ~ The doctor is treating me. lit. "working on me". • *v* **asum** in garden. *Ex.*: Ramakan tarasum. ~ He went to work in garden.

write *v* **arai** *Ex.*: Kowa ramarai tahan naua apa la sekul. ~ Child is writing to his notebook at school.

yawn *v* **kamoag tat** *Ex.*: Us ek rasapelan lenaw menapau kani menamoag tat. ~ That man did not sleep last night, he is tired and yawns.

Human

dwarf *n* **ieramiman** small man, impolite term.

fisherman *n* **iarafa** from 'IERAM PAHA' - "man of the seashore". Somebody greatly experienced in fishing and seafaring. cf.'IARAPAT'. *Ex.*: Naramim Ituga narafa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

fool *n* **ialmel**

idiot *n* **ialmel**

man *n* **naramim** human being, plural form of 'IERAM'. • *n* **ieram** human being. For plural, cf.'NARAMIM'. • *n* **naman** male, plural form of 'IERMAN'.

miser *n* **iaumus**

noble (generic term) *n* **ieramara** man. Title meaning the highest social status in local hierarchy. His "subordinates" are the 'NAOTUPUNUS' and 'IENINIKO', who both work for him and the three together form the foundations of customary life and of the village social structure. • *n* **peran ramara** woman. Title meaning high social status in local hierarchy.

not-fisherman *n* **iarapat** from 'IERAM PAT' - "man from the inland". Somebody unexperienced on the sea. Often said of people from 'IKPAT' area. cf.'IARAFa'. *Ex.*: Naramim Ituga narafa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

old bat *n* **iaihgel wutowuto** impolite term describing an old and shriveled man, supposedly drinking a lot of kava.

scrooge *n* **iaumus**

sea dog *n* **iarafa** *Ex.*: Naramim Ituga narafa aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat. ~ People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea.

spokesman *n* **ieni** from root 'ENI'.

stubborn *adj* **ialmel**

thief *n* **iakela**

triplet *n* **mwilmwil mhiél** three newborns.

twins *n* **mwilmwil**

Body

anus (inalienable) *n* **napag nekutu-**

arm (inalienable) *n* **nalem-** body part.

ass (inalienable) *n* **napag nekutu-**

back *n* **nemata** human body.

bald *adj* **rapwa**

beard *n* **numa min nulek**

belly *n* **natepa-**

bottom (inalienable) *n* **nemanesi-** of a man.

breast (inalienable) *n* **naha-**

ear (inalienable) *n* **nema taleg-**

eye (inalienable) *n* **nowanaramera-**

facial hair *n* **numa min nulek**

foot (inalienable) *n* **nalek-**

hair (inalienable) *n* **numamwi-** both human and animal. • *n* **numamwi-** in armpit. • (inalienable) *n* **nauni-** in private parts. • (inalienable) *n* **nowanu-** on head.

hand (inalienable) *n* **nowanalem-** • (inalienable) *n* **nalem-**

head *n* **kahapa**

heart *n* **nowanéna**

index finger *n* **kosasiwo**

intestine *n* **nesega**

leg (inalienable) *n* **nalek-**

little finger *n* **pis aswas**

liver *n* **nanmapen**

lungs *n* **tepalukaluk**

male organ (inalienable) *n* **nakan-**

menstruation *n* **nametéan**

middle finger *n* **iapnam**

mouth (inalienable) *n* **nhul-**

nail *n* **pesiwel** on finger.

neck (inalienable) *n* **ne- rou** has to be possessed with personal pronoun. *Ex.*: my neck, his neck ~ nekrou, nenrou

nose *n* **nepanagha-**

palm (inalienable) *n* **nowanalem-** of hand.

penis (inalienable) *n* **nakan-**

period *n* **nametéan** of a woman.

placenta *n* **nima kowa**

prepuce *n* **iakmen** its small lower part, which is not cut off during circumcision.

ring finger *n* **sasilmaga**

semen (inalienable) *n* **nihi-**

stomach *n* **tepéwa**

testicle *n* **nowier-**

thumb *n* **pis asul**

tongue *n* **name-** body part.

tooth (inalienable) *n* **naly-**

vulva *n* **nua**

Clothes

cap *n* **kawhau**

clothes *n* **napen**

crown *n* **kawhau** of flowers or decorative leaves, worn on head, original meaning of this word.

grass skirt *n* **niu** worn by women today usually only during customary ceremonies. On very few places on Tanna its daily wearing is still practiced.

hat *n* **kawhau**

necklace *n* **nowanar**

penis sheath *n* **kaur** of adult men, made of vegetal fibers. • *n* **kaur** of newly circumcised boys, made from leaves.

Family and Relations

baby *n* **kowa** • *expr* **kowa meta** beautiful. Ancient expression used for newborn children who are very beautiful. cf.'META'. • *n* **napek** boy, fig.

beloved *adj* **kéikéi**

boy *n* **kuku** term of endearment. Used mostly inside a family towards a child.

brother (inalienable) *n* **nawine-** of a woman. *Ex.*: my brother (if a woman is speaking) ~ nawinek • (inalienable) *n* **pia-** younger or elder, if the speaker is a man. • (inalienable) *n* **nohra-** younger, if the speaker is a man.

- **brother-in-law** (inalienable) *n* **tahakiél** if the speaker is a man. • *n* **niél** of a man.
- child** (inalienable, in singular) *n* **nare-** • (in singular) *n* **naren**
- children** (in plural) *n* **nararen** • (in plural) *n* **koko min** • (inalienable, in plural) *n* **narare-**
- clan** (generic term) *n* **niko** also used for the land owned by a clan.
- cousin** (inalienable) *n* **pia-** female, younger or elder, if the speaker is a woman. • (inalienable) *n* **pia-** male, younger or elder, if the speaker is a man.
- dear** *adj* **kéikéi**
- father** (inalienable) *n* **rem-**
- friend** *n* **niél**
- girl** *n* **peraswas** • *n* **koko** term of endearment. Used mostly inside a family towards a child.
- godfather** *n* **iausek** male relative, who takes care of a boy after his circumcision. He will still be an important person for the boy even when he will become adult.
- godmother** *n* **iausek** aunt from mother's side, who will during the first period of a girl do the 'NUIG KELÉL' scarification to her.
- grandchild** *n* **mipe-**
- grandchildren** *n* **namipe-** cf.'MIPE-'.
grandfather *n* **kaha (wyt)** • (inalienable) *n* **repu-** very polite term.
- grandmother** *n* **kaha (wyt)** • (inalienable) *n* **repu-** very polite term.
- great-grandfather** *n* **kaha tat**
- great-grandmother** *n* **kaha tat**
- husband** *n* **iaihgel** • *n* **ieramim** respectful term. • *n* **kuku** term of affection in a couple.
- love** *n* **nolkéikéian**
- man** (generic term) *n* **ierman** male. • *n* **tamalua** young. • *n* **uswas** young.
- mother** (inalienable) *n* **in-**
- namesake** (inalienable) *n* **ianhina-** polite term by which people call those, who have the same name.
- nephew** (inalienable) *n* **nawu-** if his aunt is speaking about him. • *n* **iowanién** if his uncle is speaking about him.
- niece** (inalienable) *n* **nawu-** if her aunt is speaking about her. • *n* **iowanién** if her uncle is speaking about her.
- old man** *n* **iaihgel** impolite term. • *n* **ieram asul** polite term.
- old woman** *n* **peraihgél** impolite term. • *n* **peran awas** impolite term. • *n* **peraihgél** not a very polite term. cf.'PERAN ASUL'. • *n* **peran asul** polite term.
- sibling** (inalienable) *n* **pia-** younger or elder, of the same sex as the speaker. • (inalienable) *n* **nohra-** younger, of the same sex as the speaker.
- sister** *n* **kaka** Ex.: younger sister ~ khaka iaswas • (inalienable) *n* **nawine-** of a man. Ex.: my sister (if a man is speaking) ~ nawinek • (inalienable) *n* **pia-** younger or elder, if the speaker is a woman. • (inalienable) *n* **nohra-** younger, if the speaker is a woman.
 - **sister-in-law** *n* **iawugen** an old term, 'KUNI' is used nowadays. Respectful term employed by a woman when addressing to the wife of her brother. • *n* **kuni** respectful term employed by a woman when addressing to the wife of her brother. cf.'IAWUGEN'.
- true man** *n* **ieramim aken** grown up, adult.
- uncle** (inalienable) *n* **rem-** father's brother. • (inalienable) *n* **mera-** mother's brother.
- virgin** *n* **nesé nowankelu** • *n* **perawen wi** lit. "new woman".
- wife** *n* **koko** term of affection in a couple.
- woman** (generic term) *n* **perawen** • *n* **peran wi** cf.'PERAWEN WI'. • *n* **peran awas** first wife of a man, that remarried. Synonym of 'PERAN AUPAN' and 'PERAN AWOTISEG'. • *n* **peraihgél** generic term for married women of a family, e.g. wife, sister-in-law, ... • *n*

perawen wi second wife after death of the first one or after a divorce. • *n* **peran awotiseg** synonym of 'PERAN AUPAN' and 'PERAN AWAS'. • *n* **peran aupan** synonym of 'PERAN AWAS' and 'PERAN AWOTISEG'. • *n* **perawen wi** young, not yet married. • *n* **peraswas** young.

youngster *n* **uswas**

Food

bamboo *n* **kamaregen** stem of bamboo 'NAU MANETÉ' used for cooking on fire as a kind of pot. Food is filled inside and leaves are used as a tap. It can also serve to keep food for several days.

boiled *adj* **kawin**

bouillon *n* **nihin kurimatau** from beef.

bread (from English: bread) *n* **prét**

coconut milk *n* **nihin nién**

coffee (from English: coffee) *n* **kofi** drink.

cooked *adj* **matak** • *adj* **kawan** on fire.

cooking *n* **nahuan** act of preparing food.

fat *n* **nalepa**

food *n* **naunganan**

full (inalienable) *adj* **natepa- renasis** of stomach, lit. "swollen stomach". Term often used, but not very correct. In good speech 'NÉPES' is used instead. Ex.: lamken nepen matak ripar menépes. ~ I ate plenty ripe bananas and my stomach is full. • *adj* **népes** of stomach. A better term than 'NATEPA- RENASIS'.

grilled *adj* **kawan**

juice *n* **nowanihin** of fruit.

laplap (generic term) *n* **naluwel** • *n* **nowanagén** dish based on yam, sometimes called as "simboro" from Bislama. • *n* **kakéwan** kind prepared on the skin of tree 'NEKFITU'. • *n* **nasoro** large species of l. packed in leaves and used as gift during local ceremonies. • *n* **salpat** of manioc, with coconut milk poured on. • *n* **kati** prepared with germinating coconut 'NAPEKAK'.

lard *n* **nalepa**

liquid *n* **nihin** Ex.: coconut milk ~ nihin nién

meat *n* **nauga**

moldy *adj* **épién** only about food. cf.'HAL'. • *adj* **hal** only about food. cf.'ÉPIÉN'.

ripe *adj* **matak**

rotten *adj* **épién** only about food. cf.'HAL'. • *adj* **hal** only about food. cf.'ÉPIÉN'.

salt *n* **negél**

snack *n* **nahunu** small snack traditionally prepared by women for men going to drink kava in nakamal. Used to "wash mouth" to remove the bad aftertaste of kava.

sweet *expr* **nowanihin rawyt** • *adj* **nowanhiwyt** from 'NOWANIHIN RAWYT'.

turmeric *n* **nowanéamek** spice.

water *n* **nu**

Health

asthma *n* **namesan taha kahau**

dream (generic term) *n* **naripai wyt** ordinary, good. cf.'NARIPAI'. • *n* **naripai tat** bad. cf.'NARIPAI'.

drug *n* **méresen** medication.

headache *n* **kahapa ramkes**

illness (generic term) *n* **nemesan** • *n* **nemesan taha ménék** cf.'MÉNEK RAMIWUK'. • *n* **naumus** constant weakness and lack of stamina, said to be caused by lacking blood. Treated by drinking water from 'NEPAREPA' vine. • *n* **iuwau ramol** large infected sores on legs, detaching pieces of skin and possibly toothaches. Said to be caused by the 'IUWAWU' gecko. • *n* **namteketek** of both men and

women, causes urinary pain. cf.'LIPAG'. • *n* **namitektek** of urinary tract. Its symptoms are pain during urination and difficult urination. • *n* **namesan taha kahau** respiratory-related, said to be caused by the rat 'KAHAU'. • *n* **mének ramiwuk** seizures, lit. "a bird stepped on you". An illness of children, during which the child shakes uncontrollably with eyes capsizing after having eaten a 'PENOA MES'. Another expression for it is 'NEMESAN TAHA MÉNEK'.

medicine *n* **méresen**

nightmare *n* **naripai tat** cf.'NARIPAI'.

respiratory problems *n* **namesan taha kahau** illness.

scabies *n* **kawierawier**

seizures *n* **mének ramiwuk**

sleep-talking *n* **iararikan**

somniloquy *n* **iararikan**

swelling *n* **nasisan**

Life

City and Village

ditch *n* **napag rokok** protecting gardens against pigs.

fence *n* **nowankelu** around a village.

garden *n* **nasuman**

hut *n* **nima imaim** inside of a nakamal.

market *n* **maket**

nakamal (generic term) *n* **imaim** cleared space, usually under a grown banyan tree, used by men to meet, discuss important affairs and drink kava, to perform all important ceremonies and traditional dances. It is the center of village life. • *n* **prop Laminu** major nakamal in Lénakel.

shop *n* **kamawra iken** lit. "place where they distribute things".

store *n* **kamawra iken** lit. "place where they distribute things".

village *n* **nowanapar** special term for parts of village closely surrounding a nakamal. • *n* **lawanu** with locative pref.

House

arrow *n* **nowanparam** arrow for hunting birds. • *n* **nowahga** ordinary. cf.'NOWANPARAM'.

basket *n* **karem** from pandanus fibers. • *n* **kemélu** made of coconut leaves.

beam *n* **tuhu** main construction element of the roof ridge. • *n* **kamaloawin** wooden. • (from English: rafter) *n* **nowarafta** wooden.

bow *n* **nemanahga**

bowl *n* **nuwig katil** made of coconut which was just grated. Can be broken into parts and used as a spoon. cf.'NUWIG KUWEL'. • *n* **nuwig kuwel** made of coconut.

cinder *n* **nourasekam** smoldering.

container *part* **nuwig** classifier of containers (cups, baskets, bags, ...). Ex.: coconut bowl ~ nuwig kuwel

earth oven *n* **nowanuman**

ember *n* **nourasekam**

fan *n* **kilil**

fence *n* **neparepar** both normal and live.

fire *n* **nekam**

flambeau *n* **nesia**

garden *n* **nemai** slash-and-burn ground in the forest prepared to become a garden.

grater *n* **kelema** made of spiny petiole of a kind of fern, used to grate ingredients when making laplap. • *n* **kamtuai** used for coconuts.

head of arrow *n* **nowanparam** conic piece of wood inserted by its pointy end into a stem of reed 'NULNUL' to create the 'NOWANPARAM' arrow for hunting birds.

hoe (ancient term) *n* **kwates** traditional tool used for working in yam gardens.

hook *n* **nowan matau** for fishing. • *n* **kakil** working instrument in the shape of "J" made of a branching piece of wood and used in work in gardens to clean the place of cut branches and grass.

house (generic term) *n* **nima** • *n* **nima la Ten** traditional of Tanna.

hut *n* **nima la Ten** kind built traditionally on Tanna.

knife *n* **nau**

mat *n* **talipapa** made of pandanus leaves. • *n* **kaliawen** woven with two coconut leaves facing one each other. Its pattern reminds of shark teeth, which gave it its name. It is sometimes used to cover the top of the roof of traditional houses.

net (ancient term) *n* **nakepen** traditional, made of aerial root of banyan 'NASAS'. It has a form of a basket with two long poles attached to it, using which the net is held in place through which fishes often swim.

pincers (ancient term) *n* **kou** used for taking hot stones out of the fire. cf.'KASARAWI'. • *n* **kasarawi** used for taking hot stones out of the fire. New expression used instead of the old term 'KOU'.

rafter (from English: rafter) *n* **nowarafta** part of roof.

railings *n* **neparepar**

ridge *n* **kahmo ménék le nima** roof part, woven with two coconut leaves facing one each other. Used to cover the ridge of the roof of traditional houses.

• **ridge board** *n* **tuhu**

rifle *n* **kopwiel ituga** sometimes abbreviated to 'KOPWIEL'.

roof *n* **nahgenima** of traditional houses. Its inner side.

rope (generic term) *n* **nul** • *n* **namkénén** made of aerial roots of 'KALWAS'.

spear *n* **suk** • *n* **newahga**

spike *n* **suwop** a strong spike fasten into ground pointy end upwards. Used to help removing the husk of dry coconuts. • *n* **kakel** working instrument. A long pointy wooden stick used in gardening to make holes when planting yams.

staff *n* **kasulia** for carrying objects over shoulder. • *n* **nowanek** wooden.

stems from coconut tree leaves *n* **nowatek ma sia** used to make brooms.

stick *n* **nowanek** • *n* **nim** used to hunt birds.

strainer *n* **niges**

string (generic term) *n* **nul**

swag *n* **katipa** for carrying on one's back, usually when returning with the crop from the garden.

table *n* **numatiwhata** a small platform used in villages or nakamals to keep food out of reach of dogs and cats.

tie beam *n* **kamaloawin**

torch *n* **nesia**

trap *n* **nasekel** in form of a basket, to catch small birds or sea creatures.

walking stick *n* **kaseken**

Transport and traveling

aircraft (from Bislama) *n* **plén**

airplane (from Bislama) *n* **plén**

boom *n* **nowanekiatsu** connecting the canoe and the outrigger.

canoe (generic term) *n* **niko** outrigger, indigenous term. cf.'KENU'. • (from English: canoe) *n* **kenu** outrigger.

car *n* **loto**

path (generic term) *n* **suatu**

road (generic term) *n* **suatu** normal as well as the customary exchange road between nakamals. • *expr* **suatu apam** long.

ship (generic term) *n* **niko**

truck *n* **loto**

Work, money, possession

collecting of shellfish *n* **timha** in tidal pools. Usually done by women.

money (from English: money) *n* **mani**

poor *adj* **nases** person without wealth, fig. sense, a child before the end of circumcision and burning of 'NASES' tree does not have any property.

work (from English: work) *n* **wok**

Nature

catastrophe (from English: disaster) *n* **tisasta** natural.

disaster (from English: disaster) *n* **tisasta**

rainbow *n* **maraimarai**

sky *n* **lénéai**

tide *n* **renetam aken** at its maximum. • *n* **renahama mowas** at its minimum. • *n* **ranakahama** descending. • *n* **renakametam** rising.

Animals

living creature *n* **narmiu** abbr. from 'NAR RAMIU'. • *expr* **nar ramiu** cf.'NARMIU'.

offspring (inalienable, in plural) *n* **narare-** of animals. • (inalienable, in singular) *n* **nare-** of human or animal.

wild *adj* **iatipen** Ex.: wild pig ~ kupas tatipen

Animal-related expression

feather (inalienable, generic term) *n* **numamwi-** Ex.:

Numamwimak ratol? ~ What color is the plumage of common emerald dove? • *n* **naio** from roosters' tail. Worn on head during customary ceremonies.

tail (inalienable) *n* **nepik-**

Birds

barn owl *n* **imhir** (*Tyto alba*) in local culture considered a bad omen.

bar-tailed godwit *n* **itawar** (*Limosa lapponica*)

bird (generic term) *n* **mének** equal or bigger than a pigeon. cf.'KLÉPLÉPEN'. • *n* **kléplépen** songbird. Smaller than a pigeon. cf.'MÉNEK'.

blue-faced parrotfinch *n* **kamnhamena** (*Erythrura trichroa*)

brown goshawk *n* **kweria Ienatem** (*Accipiter fasciatus*)

buff-banded rail *n* **kasawar** (*Gallirallus philippensis*)

cardinal myzomela *n* **pesit** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) in local custom a bird which reunites "red" and "black" families. cf.'KOWIAMÉTA' and 'NEMRUKÉN'. • *n* **kowiamétaméta** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) name only used for males of the species. cf.'KOWIAPILÉGEN'. • *n* **nemrukén** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) name used only for females. cf.'KOWIAMÉTAMÉTA'. • *n* **kowiapilégen** (*Myzomela cardinalis*) name used only for females. cf.'KOWIAMÉTAMÉTA'.

chicken (generic term) *n* **mének** • *n* **iukenet** frizzle breed, only on wings. • *n* **kareseres** frizzle breed. • *n* **makemak** low breed with "short legs". • *n* **ragi** speckled.

collared kingfisher *n* **kawhité** (*Todiramphus chloris*) in local culture hearing its cry from the right is a good omen, but from the left a bad one. Associated with rainy weather.

common myna *n* **kaul** (*Acridotheres tristis*)

dove (generic term) *n* **penoha** young people and children do not eat it, as it represents a legendary girl from 'LAPNUMAN'. If it sings during night, it predicts somebody's death.

eastern reef-egret *n* **pan** (*Egretta sacra*)

egg *n* **nowanhalenmének** of hen.

emerald dove *n* **mak** (*Chalcophaps indica*) • *n* **mak pelpel** (*Chalcophaps indica*) "species" distinguished by the language, with white spots on feathers.

frigatebird *n* **lenkai** (*Fregata sp.*) • *n* **mének efa** (*Fregata sp.*)

glossy swiftlet *n* **wukelekel** (*Collocalia esculenta*)

grey fantail *n* **tekiskisek** (*Rhipidura albiscapa*) mentioned in the legend of 'NUMANKUKU' and numerous others. He is said to be the chief of birds.

hen *n* **mének perawen**

long-tailed triller *n* **wulawula** (*Lalage leucopyga*)

Mackinlay's cuckoo-dove *n* **mak apam** (*Macropygia mackinlayi*)

Melanesian flycatcher *n* **rusrus** (*Myiagra caledonica*) if he sings in bad weather, nice days will come soon.

metallic pigeon *n* **iélu iohnekam** (*Columba vitiensis*) often called simply 'IÉLU'. • *n* **iélu** (*Columba vitiensis*) sometimes called 'IÉLU IOHNEKAM'.

Pacific golden plover *n* **itawar** (*Pluvialis fulva*)

Pacific imperial pigeon *n* **iawin** (*Ducula pacifica*)

Pacific robin *n* **pulegpuleg** (*Petroica multicolor*) • *n* **wunwun** (*Petroica multicolor*)

Pacific swallow *n* **wukelekel iawota** (*Hirundo tabitica*) lit.

"'WUKELEKEL' that sits down" by contrast to swiftlets

'WUKELEKEL', who never sits down. Today more common term, than 'IARPOAPEN'. • *n* **iarpoapen** (*Hirundo tabitica*) more ancient and precise term. cf.'WUKELEKEL IAWOTA'.

peregrine falcon *n* **kweria aswas** (*Falco peregrinus*) • *n* **mélékem** (*Falco peregrinus*)

Polynesian triller *n* **wulawula** (*Lalage maculosa*) bird often associated with sunny weather.

purple swamphen *n* **iagnameta** (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

rainbow lorikeet *n* **syl** (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)

red-bellied fruit-dove (generic term) *n* **penoha lew** (*Ptilinopus greii*) • *n* **penoha mes** (*Ptilinopus greii*) juveniles only as their plumage is very different to adult doves. The last part of the name 'MES' meaning "dying", referring to its "sickly" voice. Sacred bird. If eaten by a child, it will get illness called 'MÉNEK RAMIWUK'. • *n* **penoha limlim** (*Ptilinopus greii*) juveniles only. It is said that 'PENOA LIMLIM' comes to trees whose fruit is just getting ripe and test it day by day until it is ready, after he brings the elder 'PENOA LEW' to that tree to feed.

rooster *n* **mének ierman**

ruddy turnstone *n* **itawar** (*Arenaria interpres*) • *n* **iagaig lasem** (*Arenaria interpres*)

shining bronze-cuckoo *n* **pelpel nawuk** (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*)

short-tailed shearwater *n* **tekerkhak** (*Ardenna tenuirostris*)

silveryeye *n* **kapaiuer** (*Zosterops lateralis*)

swamp harrier *n* **kweria asul** (*Circus approximans*)

swiftlet (generic term) *n* **wukelekel**

Tanna fruit-dove *n* **wipek** (*Ptilinopus tannensis*)

uniform swiftlet *n* **wukelekel** (*Aerodramus vanikorensis*)

Vanuatu megapode *n* **wél** (*Megapodius layardi*)

Vanuatu white-eye *n* **kawhiakawhia** (*Zosterops flavifrons*)

wader (generic term) *n* **itawar** term used for small birds found on the beach.

wandering tattler *n* **kakak** (*Tringa incana*)

wing (inalienable) *n* **nalem-**

Fishes

banded snake eel *n* **nekariag** (*Myrichthys colubrinus*)
barracuda *n* **tapatu** (*Sphyræna sp.*)
batfish *n* **kel** (*Platax sp.*)
blenny *n* **wikwik**
blowfish *n* **peruaperua** (*Tetraodontidae*)
bluespine unicornfish *n* **iapek** (*Naso unicornis*)
bluespotted cornetfish *n* **nepakau** (*Fistularia commersonii*)
boxfish (generic term) *n* **kawawigen** (*Ostraciidae*)
butterflyfish *n* **malwia**
chestnut eyelash-blenny *n* **ilak** (*Cirripectes castaneus*)
cinnamon clownfish *n* **mamau la kaléleg** (*Amphiprion melanopus*)
cofferfish (generic term) *n* **kawawigen** (*Ostraciidae*)
convict tang *n* **ty** (*Acanthurus triostegus*)
cowfish (generic term) *n* **kawawigen** (*Ostraciidae*)
crowned scythe *n* **ialinaio** (*Zanclus cornutus*)
damsel fish *n* **mamau** (*Pomacentridae*)
eel *n* **nam lahou** • *n* **win** marine, edible.
emperor angelfish *n* **malwia ituga** (*Pomacanthus imperator*)
filefish *n* **numanahapitag**
fish (generic term) *n* **nam** • *n* **umé** generic term for fishes with a hump on the head. Ex.: green humphead parrotfish ~ makam umé • *n* **kotéa** poisonous species. • *n* **kulap** species of a large marine fish with large eyes. • *n* **metu** species of deep sea. • *n* **iahak** species probably feeding on coral. Man who eats a lot of it will lose his teeth. Children must not eat it at all. cf.'IH'I'.
flying fish *n* **wénes**
grouper *n* **ialaken**
jack *n* **wuliwes apam** fish, larger species. • *n* **wuliwes** fish.
leopard flounder *n* **malawin** (*Bothus pantherinus*)
lined surgeonfish *n* **nam le kwéria** (*Acanthurus lineatus*)
lionfish *n* **iarpwitag** (*Pterois sp.*)
longhorn cowfish *n* **kawawigen** (*Lactoria cornuta*)
Moorish idol *n* **ialinaio** (*Zanclus cornutus*)
moray eel *n* **peku** black species. • *n* **iélmou** species with black and white spots.
mullet *n* **iarimiru** fish.
needlefish *n* **lago** (*Belontiidae sp.*)
parrotfish (generic term) *n* **makem** (*Scaridae*)
porcupinefish *n* **pekepek** (*Diodontidae*)
rabbitfish *n* **mihin** (*Siganus sp.*) • *n* **karai khatek** (*Siganus sp.*) little, not yet adult. cf.'MIHIN'.
ray *n* **werau**
reef triggerfish *n* **iawati kopwiél** (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*) • *n* **nuwig nawuk** (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*)
remora *n* **tagitofa** (*Echeneidae*)
rough humpback scorpionfish *n* **luw** (*Scorpaenopsis macrochir*)
scorpionfish *n* **luw** (*Scorpaenopsis macrochir*)
shark *n* **kaliawen** shark meat has a certain smell. It is said that the shark got this smell when 'MWATIKTIK' once tasted its meat. He found it delicious and wanted keep it for himself only. To discourage others from eating it, he urinated on the shark, giving it its smell.
soldierfish *n* **malaw**
squirrelfish *n* **malaw**
steephead parrotfish *n* **makem umé** (*Chlorurus microrhinos*)
surgeonfish *n* **ty** (*Acanthurus triostegus*) • *n* **welek** kind of.
titan triggerfish *n* **napau** (*Balistoides viridescens*)
triggerfish (generic term) *n* **nuwig nawuk** (*Balistoides sp.*)
tropical halfbeak *n* **iowanué** (*Hyporhamphus dussumieri*)

tuna *n* **tiapén**

whitespotted surgeonfish *n* **welag** (*Acanthurus guttatus*)

white-streaked grouper *n* **kulegen** (*Epinephelus ongus* (?))

Insect and Arachnids

ant (generic term) *n* **maiaamaia**

butterfly *n* **papawuk**

centipede *n* **napilas**

cicada *n* **urian** species heard in the evening with short tinkling sound. • *n* **iawitaleg** species that sings (cf.'KIT') especially during the time when shoots of newly planted yams start to appear. cf.'IAWITALEG MIN KAMAILIS NUWIAN NUW'. • *n* **keno** species that sings especially during the time when yams are planted. It is consumed cooked on fire. • *n* **kapenkapen** species.

cobweb *n* **liélia**

dragonfly *n* **piétpiét**

fly *n* **kiag** insect. • *n* **manman** very small flies or winged ants.

hummingbird hawk-moth *n* **karamaram**

imago *n* **iawlul** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) imago stage, when 'IAPAU' undergoes metamorphosis into 'KELEPES', 5th stage. cf.'PRISIN'.

insect *n* **kelepes** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) kind of, its large larvae live in dead wood, both the insect and its larvae are consumed by people, 6th stage. cf.'PRISIN'. • *n* **pulek** species whose maggots are found in roots of coconut tree. Inedible.

locust *n* **pinek** species, more usually called 'PWIRU'. • *n* **pwiru** species, sometimes called 'PINEK'. • *n* **kalaté** species. • *n* **naulenapai** species.

maggot *n* **prisin** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) kind of large larva living in dead wood, consumed by people, 3rd stage, cf.'KELEPES', 'PITAS', 'IAPAU' and 'PWIR'. • *n* **pwir** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) larger and more mature maggots of this species, which are still active, 2nd stage. cf.'PRISIN'. • *n* **iapau** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) larger and more mature maggots of this species, which do not move anymore and get ready for metamorphosis, 4th stage. cf.'PRISIN'. • *n* **matakaiam** larvae living only in kava roots. • *n* **pitas** (*Agrianome fairmairei*) smaller and younger maggots of this species, 1st stage. cf.'PRISIN'.

mason wasp *n* **purmat ituga**

millipede *n* **napilas**

monarch butterfly *n* **papawuk léwléw** (*Danaus plexippus*) • *n*

papawuk apen (*Danaus plexippus*)

mosquito *n* **kemak**

phasmid *n* **iamimer** (*Phasmatodea*)

praying mantis *n* **kuri** (*Mantidae*)

spider *n* **iahukarem**

• **spider web** *n* **liélia**

stick insect *n* **iamimer** (*Phasmatodea*)

tick *n* **kur numanawitag** parasite.

wasp *n* **purmat**

Invertebrates

Caledonian mitten lobster *n* **tapatapa** (*Parribacus caledonicus*)

caterpillar *n* **mim**

clamp *n* **pal** small edible species.

coconut crab *n* **iager** (*Birgus latro*)

commercial top shell *n* **taknu** (*Tectus niloticus*)

conch *n* **naiu** often used as an abbreviation for triton's trumpet. cf.'NAIU PWIA'. • *n* **naiu nowanawias** (*Bursidae* (?)) similar to Charonia tritonis.

coral *n* **pesiapesia** kind that builds "branches".

cuttlefish *n* **iapwis**

giant clam *n* **iarou** (*Tridacna gigas*)

jellyfish *n* **nowanhaletéhé**

lobster *n* **ilaté** • *n* **ilaté kowakowa** big one.

octopus *n* **ihi** according to local beliefs it is one of the marine animals feeding on sand and whose excessive consumption may result to losing one's teeth. cf.'IAHAK'.

sea anemone *n* **kaléleg**

sea urchin *n* **iauto** with long dark spines. • *n* **mahaumahau** with short spines.

seashell (generic term) *n* **kepes** • *n* **werem** edible species from the family of 'HIUWAN'. • *n* **hiuwai sekau** edible species, similar to 'HIUWAN'. • *n* **sis** edible species. • *n* **hiuwan** edible species.

shell *n* **nuwigen** of a snail.

shrimp (generic term) *n* **man** freshwater. • *n* **man kalemen** big one. • *n* **man taha téhé** marine.

snail *n* **takiéw** • *n* **nuwigen** • *n* **kelkel** species of small sea snail.

Spanish dancer *n* **usi la téhé** (*Hexabranchus sanguineus*) sea slug.

spotted worm sea cucumber. *n* **iewiawi nowanhurek** (*Synapta maculata* (?))

squid *n* **iapwis**

triton's trumpet *n* **naiu pwia** (*Charonia tritonis*) • *n* **naiu** (*Charonia tritonis*)

Mammals

bat *n* **wutowuto** darkly colored, without visible tail. • *n*

misekmisek lightly colored, with visible tail.

cat (from English: pussy cat) *n* **usi**

cow (ancient term, generic term) *n* **kurimatau** ancient term, lit. "dog with hooks". cf.'NOWAN MATAU'. Today 'PULUK' is used instead. • (from English: bullock) *n* **puluk** for the indigenous term cf.'KURIMATAU'. • *n* **puluk katkhatek** with spotted skin.

dog *n* **kuri**

flying fox *n* **kel** (*Pteropus sp.*) • *n* **narekel** its offspring, from "nararen kel".

goat (from English: nanny goat) *n* **nani**

horse (from English: horse) *n* **hos**

pig (generic term) *n* **kupas** • *n* **kupas iéluk natuan** black, with white belly and sides. • *n* **kupas kamatau** castrated. • *n* **kupas pispis** kind of large pigs appreciated for their soft meat. • *n* **kupas meta** kind with clean and bright skin. • *n* **kupas iawanawanar** kind with outgrowths on its neck skin. • *n* **iowiaren** not castrated, kept for reproduction. • *n* **kupas kameta** of brown color. • *n* **kupas kalato** of grayish color. • *n* **kupas kapwia** special kind once used as offering to 'IERAMARA'. • *n* **kupas iawiét** with only one testicle visible. • *n* **kupas katkhatek** with spotted skin. • *n* **kupas kalai** with white and black spots.

rat *n* **kahau**

whale *n* **taulai**

Reptiles and Amphibians

banded sea krait *n* **tagalua** (*Laticauda laticaudata*) • *n* **tagalua** (*Laticauda colubrina*)

blue-lipped sea krait *n* **tagalua** (*Laticauda laticaudata*)

colubrine sea krait *n* **tagalua** (*Laticauda colubrina*)

gecko *n* **iuwau** (*Hemidactylus sp.*)

skink *n* **iaru kaliawen** with green back. Appears in the legend of shark ('KALLAWEN'), in which it chases the shark from the jungle to the sea and hence it has gained its name.

turtle (generic term) *n* **iau** • *n* **nam aramara** lit. "royal fish", sometimes prepared for 'IERAMIN ARAMARA'.

yellow-lipped sea krait *n* **tagalua** (*Laticauda colubrina*)

Landscape and geography

Aneityum *n prop* **Ikiamu** ancient term of the island. • *n prop* **Ienatem** island.

Aniwa *n prop* **Imer** island.

ash *n* **nesihaw** volcanic.

cave *n* **napagkopwiél**

clearing *n* **nekaugan** a large place, where there are few trees, only grass grows there. cf.'LÉNKAUGAN'.

country *n* **ten**

earth *n* **nemopten** • *n* **ten**

empty *n* **nekaugan** space, figurative. lit. "place with few trees".

forest *n* **nekinamera**

Futuna *n prop* **Iwrona** island.

gravel *n* **numaklaket** of coral.

hole *n* **napagkopwiél** in a rock.

island *n* **ten**

jungle *n* **nekinamera**

lake *n* **nowanu**

Lénakel *n prop* **Lénakel** principal village of Tanna.

Middle-bush *n prop* **ikpat** generic term for places up in hills of central Tanna. Ex.: Iakan apa ikpat. ~ I am going middle-bush. e.g. to Lamlu.

mountain (generic term) *n* **tauar** • *n prop* **Tahgen** behind the village of Lamapruan. • *n prop* **Forépa** old name for the 'TUKOSMERA' mountain. • *n prop* **Tukosmera** the highest peak of Tanna, sacred place and dwelling place of god 'KALPAPEN'. • *n* **tanepes** whose ridge ends inside the island. cf.'TANITOU'. • *n* **tanitou** whose ridge goes all the way down to the seashore. cf.'TANEPES'.

Napagnién *n prop* **Napagnién** lit. "coconut tree hollow". A place between Lowanéai and Lénus, appearing in the legend of 'KASAWAR' and 'MWATIKTIK'.

reef *n* **nehma** coral. • *n* **tapuga** isolated and submerged stone in the sea.

sand *n* **numaklaket**

sea (generic term) *n* **téhé** • *n* **patpa** close to the reefs. • *n* **iré** shallow, near coast.

soil *n* **ten** • *n* **nemopten**

stone (generic term) *n* **kopwiél**

Tanna *n prop* **Ten** island.

Tauaraken *n prop* **Tauaraken** lit. "True mountain". Name of hill close to Lénakel.

up *n* **iles** generic term for places up in hills of western Tanna. cf.'IKPAT'. Ex.: Iakan apa iles. ~ I am going up. e.g. to Ipai, Lowkweria etc.

valley *n* **naumus** dry, without a water stream on the bottom.

volcano *n* **hiaw**

waterfall *n* **nyia**

White-Grass *n prop* **Lénkaugan**

Plants

family of plants *n* **nuiu** distinguished by long leaves growing in a rosette pattern around a central point similar to the pineapple or pandanus. Some of its members are 'NOWANIU', 'NUIU ROU' and 'NEMANKIU'.

plant *n* **nekesekes** parasitic species, grows on other trees. It is said to grow "without trunk and roots" and when the host tree dies, it dies with it. The name 'NEKESEKES' is also used figuratively to describe people who forgot their "roots" - the village and the traditional way of life. • *n* **iélkeneka** species, parasite on trees, similar to 'NEKESEKES'. lit. "without leg". • *n* **ropian** species. Its leaves are placed between the beams and the roof in order to prevent the rain coming into the house.

Fruit

avocado (from English: butter) *n* **pwata** fruit.

banana *n* **nepen** fruit.

breadfruit *n* **nem** its fruit.

coconut (generic term) *n* **nién** • *n* **napetak** germinating. • *n* **nién mera** green. • *n* **nién nepum** not yet germinating but already developing oil inside. Between 'NIÉN ULEK' and 'NAPEKAK'. • *n* **nauselu** ready for drinking, but still without flesh. • *n* **nién ulek** ready for drinking, with flesh already formed. • *n* **nowatahwa** young, without flesh.

dry coconut *n* **nién mer**

mandarin *n* **nowanmel** fruit.

mango *n* **magko** fruit.

orange *n* **nowanmel**

pineapple *n* **nowaniu** fruit.

Herbs, bushes, vines

aibika *n* **nuwha apen** (*Abelmoschus manihot*) leaves are consumed cooked. • *n* **nuwha** (*Abelmoschus manihot*) leaves are cooked then consumed.

angel's trumpet *n* **krok** (*Brugmansia*) an ornamental plant but toxic in nature. To counteract fish poisoning, its leaves are crushed and a very small quantity of its juice is drank.

bamboo (generic term) *n* **nau** • *n* **nau kamaregen** incorrect name sometimes given to 'NAU MANETÉ' because its stems are used as traditional "cooking pots" called 'KAMAREGEN'. • *n* **nau ikinuhum** species with strong stems often used for buildings. • *n* **nau nahwal** species with thin stems, used to make fishing rods and a local kind of pan flutes. Sharp pieces are used as knives during boys circumcision and girls coming to age ceremony 'NUIG KELÉL'. • *n* **nau maneté** stems are used in house construction and as a traditional "cooking pots" and for keeping meat for several days.

banana tree (generic term) *n* **nepen** (*Musa sp.*) • (generic term) *n* **nemew** family of several species of banana tree. Leaves called 'NUMANEME' are used to wrap laplap. • *n* **natik** (*Musa sp.*) "wild" species, but consumed anyways. • *n* **nepen ituga** (*Musa sp.*) lit. "foreign banana". Asian species not used for cooking but eaten only when ripe. • *n* **nemew tuan** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage. • *n* **nemew apen** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage. • *n* **nemew togoa** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage. Probably from Tongoa. • *n* **suwit** (*Musa sp.*) species from abroad. • *n* **saina** (*Musa sp.*) species from China. • *n* **kamer** species from the 'NEMEW' family with the same use. • *n* **fiétnam** (*Musa sp.*) species from Vietnam. • *n* **iawan karéna karéna** (*Musa sp.*) species giving big fruits, but in small numbers. • *n* **iwai** (*Musa sp.*) species used for cooking and for making laplap. • *n* **nepen ituga areparep** (*Musa sp.*) species with edible fruit. • *n* **nakaiu** (*Musa sp.*) species with short and round fruit. • *n* **kaseken té Newao** (*Musa sp.*) species, lit. "stick of demon Newao". • *n* **ipanhageneres** (*Musa sp.*) species, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n* **iowanarep** (*Musa sp.*) species, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n* **nariram** (*Musa sp.*) species, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n* **nariram afwil** (*Musa sp.*) species, similar to 'NARIRAM', but with light colored spots, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n* **wulupwé** (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n* **nuwnuw** (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n* **iusneka** (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n* **nowanégen** (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n* **iwaiawileg** (*Musa sp.*) species. • *n* **ketegeten** (*Musa sp.*) species.

big sage *n* **santana** (*Lantana camara*) its crushed leaves are used to treat wounds and sores. The smell of the leaf relieves headaches and blocked nose. The juice from its crushed leaves is put on the wound after the castration of pigs to diminish the pain.

blue porterweed *n* **nek té katanek** (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) lit. "tree of Katanek" (female name). Often by ignorance of its true name, it is mistakenly called 'IAKESTIL'. Branches that grow from a common stem is used for a game called 'IAKESTIL'. It is used to

treat diarrhea in children. A small branch is chewed to release its juices. The juice is then put into the babies mouth. • *n* **nateris** (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) species, its more correct name is 'NEK TÉ KATANEK'.

bush *n* **numanesé** (*Euodia hortensis*) cf. 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. • *n* **nuahwa** decorative, known also as 'KAWHAW TÉ LÉGA'. • *n* **niapur** generic term for several species of bushes with colorful leaves, it is often planted around graves and as a live fence. The colorful leaves are used to make necklaces. • *n* **nemaur maur** (*Amaranthus viridis*) leaves change their color to red by the time of yam harvest. Used with 'NUMANPWILPAS' to decorate the first yams presented during 'KAMARU NUW'. Boiled leaves are eaten. • *n* **numa le Nesé** (*Euodia hortensis*) plant with fragrant leaves worn by men and women during ceremonies. Its name reminds of 'NESÉ', a young woman from a local legend. • *n* **numanséi** (*Euodia hortensis*) shortened and badly pronounced name of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. The term is however used by some nowadays. • *n* **niapur ieni napuk** species of 'NIAPUR', used by special men who compose local songs as after chewing its leaves they can hear melodies and lyrics in natural noises and birdsongs. • *n* **napaguw** species toxic for the fish. It is used for fishing in tide pools, where the branches are rubbed against the rocks in the water to release the toxin. • *n* **sapru ata** species with edible fruit. • *n* **nawitalegen luw** species, lit. "the ear of the 'LUW' fish". • *n* **naiaw amimera** species, used to treat furuncles. The furuncle is cut open, it is covered with the leaf of this plant and the pus come out. • *n* **nekolaug nek afwil** species. • *n* **nyo lakelak** species. • *n* **kléplépen tuan** species. • *n* **namelamel** species. • *n* **nekel tapatapa** species. • *n* **naknau léwléw** (*Acalypha sp.* (?) species. • *n* **nekus iawin** species. • *n* **nepleg awhia** (*Polyscias sp.*) species. • *n* **numatalegen amer** species. In ancient times the leaves were worn as earrings. Petioles are inserted into the ears. • *n* **nauhwil** species. Its crushed leaves are used as soap when one takes his bath in the sea. In family with 'NAMULAT'. • *n* **nepleg akhar** (*Polyscias scutellaria*) species. Its leaves are cooked and given every day to babies who have delayed speech development to stimulate them to talk. • *n* **nekoumas** species. Its leaves are used to decorate yams during the ceremony of 'NIÉL'. • *n* **nekolaug nek** species. Using its branch with many fruits hanging on it the vines of cucumbers and pumpkins are pierced so that their crop is plentiful. • *n* **naiaw afwil** species. When a cat or a dog miscarries often, the juice of its leaves is added to their food to prevent further miscarriage. It is also used to treat furuncles. The furuncle is cut open, it is covered with the leaf of this plant and the leaf is struck with its petiole in order to let the blood and the pus come out. • *n* **natkig** species. Young branches are chewed and the juice is swallowed in cases of food poisoning. • *n* **nepleg afwil** (*Polyscias guilfoylei*) species. Young leaves are boiled and consumed. • *n* **numanesé Ienatem** (*Euodia hortensis*) variant from Anatom. • *n* **numawin** (*Euodia hortensis*) variant of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. • *n* **nekelkeli nam** (*Euodia hortensis*) variant of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. The shape of the leaves are similar to the shape of a fish 'NAM'. • *n* **nowait** (*Polyscias fruticosa*) young leaves are cooked and incorporated in soups.

cassava *n* **nemaiaiko** (*Manihot esculenta*)

coffee (from English: coffee) *n* **kofi** (*Coffea arabica*) plant. Cultivated as cashcrop.

epiphyte *n* **numankuku** any species with short, grass-like leaves, lit. "leaves of small boys". According to a legend, in ancient times a group of small boys was watching from a hidden place the stones performing their 'NEKOWIAR' while the grey fantail or 'TEKISKISEK' performed a dance. At one point, the 'TEKISKISEK' did a wrong movement. This scared the stones and made them run away. The young boys were frightened of being discovered so they climbed up the trees and were transformed into 'NUMANKUKU'.

fern *n* **nawitag** family of several fern species. Women place these leaves in their baskets and hit them with their hands during the 'NAPENAPEN' dance. • *n* **nuto** family of tree ferns. • *n* **napinu apam** large species. • *n* **nupen** large species. • *n* **nanep** medium sized species, approximately about one meter high. Belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'. • *n* **iélken apen** name of several fern species. Sometimes this name is used also for 'NARUATO', which belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'. lit. "black leg". • *n* **iélken apen** small species with dark green leaves. It belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'. In ancient times, its crushed leaves were wiped over the eyes of elderly people who were suffering from excessive lacrimation said to be caused by pigs hair entering their eyes. • *n* **siksik** small species. • *n* **iélken apen** small species. Belongs to the family of 'IÉLKEN APEN'. • *n* **nawitag aswas** species from the 'NAWITAG' family. • *n* **iawra** species from the 'IÉLKEN APEN' family with edible leaves. lit. "sharing". • *n* **neméi** species from the 'IÉLKEN APEN' family. • *n* **nawitag mélekem** species. • *n* **nawitag rausekausek** species. • *n* **nekawkaw mének** species. • *n* **kowag** species. • *n* **nawitag apen** species. • *n* **siksik** species. • *n* **nawitag merek** species. • *n* **katihwata té iagnameta** species. A leaf from this plant is sent from the nakamal to the women in the village during one of the circumcision 'TEMAHWA' to hang on their 'NASES' tree. • *n* **nawirek** species. It is used in the same way as the 'KATIHWATA TÉ IAGNAMETA' during circumcision. Tips of its branches are chewed to relieve stomachaches. • *n* **nasal** species. Men and women use this to make crowns to be worn during the 'TOKA' dance. • *n* **kelema** (*Cyathea lunulata* (?) species. The spiny petiole is used to grate ingredients when making laplap. • *n* **nawitag** species. Used in the same manner as the 'KATIHWATA TÉ IAGNAMETA' during circumcision. Before the existence of human beings, its roots were eaten by the stones. • *n* **nuto** tree fern species similar to 'KELEMA', but without spiny petiole. • *n* **nakel** tree fern species with edible leaves. This plant gave the name to the village of 'LÉNAKEL'. • *n* **naruato** very large species. The skin of its petioles is used to make arm bands 'KAUKASÉ'. Member of fern family 'IÉLKEN APEN'.

grass (generic term) *n* **nyhal** a common term for a family of several species of grasses. • *n* **nyhal** introduced species. • (from English: mister Will) *n* **mista wil** introduced species. Said to be brought to Tanna by a certain Mr. Will. • *n* **nyhal nul kasek** species. • *n* **nyhal iaugenkiu** species. • *n* **nyhal awiwan** species. • *n* **nyhal iré** species.

herb *n* **naugemet** lit. "flower of the sun". Its flowers close in the evening and opens in the morning. It is said to be the "clock" of people in ancient times. • *n* **kawhaw té Léga** an ornamental plant, lit. "crown of Léga" (female name). Its correct name is 'NUAHWA'. • *n* **naramohua** another name for 'NEK RAMOHUA'. • *n* **naugen tuan** another name for 'NAUGEPLÉN'. • *n* **nyawia apen** color variety of 'NYAWIA' with the same use. • *n* **kararut** decorative introduced species. • *n* **iarmatin** dry branches are used as a broom. • *n* **iarmatin apen** dry branches used as a broom. • *n* **iarmatin tuan** dry branches used as a broom. • *n* **hoieci** generic term for several decorative flower species. • *n* **tilywalywa** indigenous species with smaller leaves. • *n* **kararut** indigenous species with yellow flowers. Its tubers are edible. • *n* **nalimala apen** indigenous species. • *n* **nalimala** indigenous species. • *n* **nalimala afwil** indigenous species. • *n* **kahau ratai** indigenous species. Its name is derived from a short story of a rat who one day, saw the fruits of this herb and hoping to eat them climbed to the top of the herb. Once on top, he was surprised because he could not find any of the fruits he just saw. This is because the herb covers its fruit with its leaves making it visible only from the bottom of the plant. • *n* **kahau ratai** (*Phyllanthus niruri*) introduced species which took its name from a similar local plant. • *n* **tilywalywa** introduced species with large leaves used as toilet paper. • *n* **nemaur ituga** introduced species. • *n* **naugeplén** invasive species, lit. "flower of airplane". Reportedly brought to the island by a white man who came by plane. • *n* **nauganan neken hos** invasive species, lit. "horse food". •

n **numanpwilpas** (*Zingiberaceae* (?) its fragrant leaves are gently rubbed between both hands and leis are made out of them. During traditional wedding ceremonies women will also hang them on their grass-skirts and men will wear them on their neck to perfume them. • *n* **tuitui** its large leaves are used to cover the earth oven before earth is piled on top of it. • *n* **numanuman** its leaves are boiled and consumed. The flower is used to decorate kava by the people of the Middle-bush during the ceremony of 'KAUR'. • *n* **numanpiénpién** leaves are used as spice in soups. • *n* **namtameta** sometimes confused with 'IAKESTIL'. Another name for 'NAMEWAMEW'. • *n* **nalé** species from the family of 'NUMANAWAS', similar to it and to 'NUMANPWILPAS'. Used to make the leg decorations 'NAKEPEN' for dance. • *n* **numakasem** species from the family of 'IARMATIN'. Used for a game of the same name. • *n* **nowankapnaiuwa** species growing on the sand on beaches. • *n* **naliénalién** species used in rain-summoning magic. Its name reminds of the raindrop 'NOWANALIAL'. • *n* **nauseluau selu** species with white flowers. • *n* **netatan apen** species, lit. "black woe". Drinking the juice from its leaves treats heart disorders such as arrhythmia and angina. • *n* **numatalegen kahau** species, lit. "ears of the mouse". • *n* **narameren kamtiwan** species, lit. "eyes of 'KAMTIWAN'". 'KAMTIWAN' is a 'KOPWIÉL AWSIM' found in Lownapau in northern Tanna. • *n* **nélkenéai** species, lit. "feet of the sky". It is used to summon good weather. It is also used to treat toothaches by chewing its leaves. The juice is spread on the teeth and gums and helps ease the pain. • *n* **tansuksuk iarames** species, lit. "spear of the 'IARAMES' spirits". • *n* **nalua kéikéi** species, arm bands 'KAUKASÉ' are made from its bark. • *n* **kélekél** species, said to be indigenous. • *n* **kélekél** species, said to be introduced. • *n* **nek ramohua** species. • *n* **nakik** species. • *n* **nérgéreg** species. • *n* **kyinuan** species. • *n* **kosio** species. • *n* **nolu merek** (*Grewia crenata*) species. • *n* **napag rou** species. • *n* **napateker ékuhia** species. • *n* **nesikuwow ikpat** species. • *n* **nenum** species. • *n* **niayeriayer** species. • *n* **nowawu** species. • *n* **sapsap** species. • *n* **ikinawag** species. • *n* **nanumen neté** species. • *n* **kagkilipa** species. • *n* **pelwit** species. • *n* **nesinani** species. lit. "goats' excrement". • *n* **napilépilé** species. Believed to chase away the rain when burned. For example, while one is working in the garden and he sees an approaching rain, he can burn this herb to stop the rain from coming. • *n* **ikinapagpag** species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves help ease stomachache. • *n* **ioharir** species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves helps in febrile episodes. • *n* **kasinaté** species. Fruits are edible. An infusion made from its leaves is drank to treat high grade fevers. • *n* **képiagen** species. In ancient times these are attached on the grass-skirts to decorate them. • *n* **seli** species. Its fruit is used as spice. • *n* **seli atipen** species. Its fruit is used as spice. • *n* **nesikuwow iré** species. Its latex is put on small sores. • *n* **nekarekar** species. Its leaves and fruits are edible. • *n* **napilépilé** species. Its leaves are fed to wild young cattle to make them docile. • *n* **numakaio tuan** species. Its leaves are made into a small grass-skirt which is worn as a slip under the regular grass-skirt. It is also used to wrap laplap. • *n* **nepenepepe** species. Its leaves are put on the 'KAWAR' of bananas to ensure a good harvest. • *n* **nia** species. Its leaves are strung together and is used to cover ridges of the traditional roofs to protect them from the rain. • *n* **menet** species. Its leaves are used as spice. • *n* **namalinu** species. Its leaves are used to decorate kava during ceremonies. • *n* **nalemenman** species. Its leaves are used to wrap freshly caught shrimps. • *n* **nyawia** species. Often planted on tombs to prevent evil spirits. • *n* **numanawas** species. Ornamental plant. When leaves are rubbed in between the hands, it emits a subtle fragrance. Leaves can also be made into a lei or garland or used to decorate kava. • *n* **numanpwilpas afwil** (*Zingiberaceae* (?) species. Same use as 'NUMANPWILPAS'. • *n* **nakik léwlew** species. The juice from crushed leaves is drank when one is having fever. • *n* **iakestil apen** species. The juice from its crushed leaves is drank to treat urinary tract illness 'NAMITEKTEK'. • *n* **namewamew** species. The juice from its crushed leaves is rubbed on erupted

furuncles. Another name for 'NAMTAMETA'. • *n nakik sun* species. The juice from its crushed leaves is used to treat the sores found in babies mouth. Intertrigos can be washed with the juice too. • *n neketen* (*Ageratum conyzoides*) species. The juice from its leaves is drank in case of fever and mixed with the juice of leaves of 'IOHARIR'. • *n napakélu* species. The juice of its crushed leaves is rubbed on to the skin of pigs that have scabies. • *n iakestil* the juice from its crushed leaves is rubbed on closed boils. Drinking the juice cures urinary tract sickness called 'NAMITEKTEK'.

hibiscus (generic term) *n nekalew* (*Hibiscus spp.*) used to treat constipation among babies. The juice from the leaves is given to them to drink and it is also added their bath water to wash them with. • *n nekalew afwil* (*Hibiscus spp.*) species. Same use as 'NEKALEW'.

Job's tears *n kamen* (*Coix lacryma-jobi*) seeds used to make necklaces.

kava (generic term) *n nekava* (*Piper methysticum*) • *n malamala* (*Piper methysticum*) cf. 'NEKAVA MALAMALA'. • *n nekava aramara* (*Piper methysticum*) cf. 'TAPUGA'. • *n nekava pwia* (*Piper methysticum*) lit. "smooth", after texture of its stems. Species that has greyish-green stems with dark spots. • *n sumariag* (*Piper methysticum*) another name for 'TAPUGA'. • *n nekava iam iripar* (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar similar to 'NEKAVA IAM' with thick stems. • *n nekava iam malamala* (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar similar to 'NEKAVA IAM' with thin stems. • *n nekava meta* (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar with beige stems. • *n nekava iaken* (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar with light green spotted stems. • *n nekava iam* (*Piper methysticum*) cultivar with light green stems with dark spots. • *n tapuga* (*Piper methysticum*) grown in a particular way and traditionally offered on special occasions such as 'KAUR'. • *n nekava fila* (*Piper methysticum*) species originally from Éfaté. • *n nekava malamala* (*Piper methysticum*) term for s cultivar with thin stems. • *n nakwuiam* (*Macropiper latifolium*) wild species with dark-colored stems, not used for human consumption to brew kava. In a mix called "kaluk" its crushed leaves are mixed with grated coconut are used as a "soap" when bathing. According to a legend this kind of kava was drank by stones in ancient times before humans and the ordinary kava appeared. After that spirits 'IARAMES' appeared out of the stones and they drank the 'NAKWUIAM' kava. • *n nakwuiam aswas* (*Macropiper latifolium*) wild species, lit. "small 'NAKWUIAM'". Not used for human consumption.

lemon grass *n numanaruapién* (*Cymbopogon citratus*) its boiled leaves are drank as herbal tea.

orchid *n nuwmer* (*Corymborkis veratrifolia*) if touched during yam planting season, the yams will not grow well and will be small. • *n nuwnuw* species with decorative flowers.

passion fruit (from English: passion fruit) *n samprut* (*Passiflora edulis*) fruit is edible.

pigeonberry *n nowanaléwléw* (*Rivina humilis*) lit. "red fruit". Species giving tiny red fruit used to color face and hands.

pineapple *n nowaniu* (*Ananas comosus*) incorrect, but widely used way of spelling. cf. 'NOWANUIU'. • *n nowanuiiu* (*Ananas comosus*) introduced species. Its common name comes from a family of plants called 'NUIU'. lit. "the fruit of 'NUIU'".

pumpkin (from English: pumpkin) *n kameken* edible fruit.

reed (generic term) *n nuig* stems serve in many ways, e.g. to build 'KAMO SIT', 'KAMÉ PIAGEN', screens or arrows 'NOWANPARAM'. Newly harvested yams are wrapped in its leaves during 'KAMARU NUW'. Sometimes people would knot the leaves of the reed growing by the road in order to "catch" and stop the sun from setting when one is running late for an event.

rose (from English: rose) *n ros* (*Rosa gen.*) flower.

sensitive plant *n iapeliapel* (*Mimosa pudica*)

sleepy plant *n iapeliapel* (*Mimosa pudica*)

squash (from English: pumpkin) *n kameken* edible fruit.

sugar cane (generic term) *n naru* (*Saccharum spp.*) • *n faifselén* (*Saccharum sp.*) introduced species with slight green skin. • *n numnawa* (*Saccharum sp.*) red skin species. • *n naru nawanaug apen* (*Saccharum sp.*) species very dark inside. • *n nemnawa apen* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with dark red skin. • *n numataiakem* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with grayish skin. • *n nawum* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with grayish skin. • *n netékasua* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with green and yellow skin. • *n nalam* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with green skin, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n numamwikahau* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with little "hair" on nodes. • *n nemnawa* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with pinkish yellow skin. • *n nusua apen* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red and yellow skin, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n nusua tuan* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red and yellow skin, appreciated for customary exchange. • *n nemnawa afwil* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red and yellow stripes on skin. • *n nowanpapa* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red skin, often cultivated in middle-bush. • *n nowanatepuwikwik* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with red skin. • *n nalemilaté* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with very bright skin. • *n nil* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with yellow and green stripes on skin. • *n nemnarusyl* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with yellow and red stripes on skin. • *n nemtalekam* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with yellow-grayish skin. • *n naléw* (*Saccharum sp.*) species with yellow-violet skin. • *n niénmera* (*Saccharum sp.*) species.

sweet potato *n koléi*

taro *n kepia* (*Alocasia macrorrhizos*) t. of Fiji. • *n neté* (*Colocasia esculenta*) water t., t. of Samoa.

Ti plant (generic term) *n numanarwiu* (*Cordyline fruticosa*) its leaves are used to wrap certain kinds of laplap. It is a general name for the many cultivars of *Cordyline fruticosa* distinguished in local language. Sometimes planted close to tombs as this long-living plant symbolizes the everlasting life. • *n nemrukén* (*Cordyline fruticosa*) dark purple color form. Used in local custom as a sign of the "black" families and to decorate their kava during customary ceremonies. • *n numanarwiu aswas* (*Cordyline fruticosa*) kind of 'NUMANARWIU' with narrow leaves are often found in the interior of the island. It is used for fabrication of 'NIU' grass skirts. • *n nalis kauhié* (*Cordyline fruticosa*) kind of 'NUMANARWIU'. Its leaves are put into the ground with 'KAUHIÉ' yams when planted in order to foster good growth. • *n nalis kelaka* (*Cordyline fruticosa*) kind of 'NUMANARWIU'. Its leaves are put into the ground with 'KELAKA' yams when planted in order to foster good growth. • *n kowiaméta* (*Cordyline fruticosa*) red color form. Used in local custom as a sign of the "red" families and to decorate their kava during customary ceremonies.

tobacco *n takapa* (*Nicotiana sp.*) cultivated as cashcrop of minor importance.

turmeric *n néamek* (*Curcuma longa*) plant, worked into powder 'NOWANÉAMEK'.

vine (generic term) *n tul* it refers more precisely to the stem of the vine. • (generic term) *n nul* refers more precisely to the stem of the vine. • *n nul awsim* (*Mikania micrantha*) another name for 'NUL IOWIAREN'. • *n nul arwow* family of several species. The stem is used to join the arrowhead with a stem of reed when making 'NOWANPARAM' and also as a general-purpose string to attach things together. • *n nul ifa* indigenous species. • *n nul ifa* invasive species which took its name from the indigenous species of 'NUL IFA'. • *n nul kasek* its petioles are chewed and the juice is spit on to the mouth of a dog to make it good in chasing pigs. The juice of the crushed leaves are also added to dog food to create the same effect. • *n nul meta* its stem is heated over the fire to soften and used as ropes. It hardens after cooling down. • *n talipasa* leaves used to cover the circumcision wound. The shape of the leaves looks similar to a kind of yam that bears the same name. The leaves of this vine are placed on the 'KAWAR' of yams to obtain good crop. • *n neparem nuw* similar to 'NEPAREM', but its roots are softer and easier to eat. • *n napwil kaik* species with the

same usage as other species of 'NAPWIL'. • *n soulél* species. • *n nolu* species. • *n nausyl* species. • *n iarunién* species. • *n tul paha* species. • *n néiwaiu* species. • *n nul éiwéiu* species. • *n nul pekam* species. • *n nul akmének* species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves cleanses the stomach. • *n nul lau* species. Drinking the juice from its crushed leaves helps ease headaches. • *n nul iawiwier* species. Drinking the juice from its leaves helps relieve muscular pains. The juice can also be rubbed in areas where a person is suffering from muscular pain and cramps. • *n nul mera* (*Vigna marina*) species. Drinking the juice of its crushed leaves helps relieve stomachaches and bloating. • *n nowakeres* species. Fruit edible. • *n tul pukulpukul* species. Its green fruit is edible. It is eaten together with the juice from its crushed leaves to treat cases of undescended testicle in young boys. • *n tul kapwapwua* species. Its leaves are placed on the wound after circumcision. • *n tul kawhik* species. Its leaves are used as fodder for pigs and cattle. It is first laid down in the earth oven before adding a layer of banana leaves on top. • *n nepareu* species. Its roots are baked or cooked and chewed in times of famine, such as after a cyclone. It tastes similar to a yam cooked over a fire. • *n nawun* species. Its stem is heated over the fire to soften and make it more flexible for house construction use. The plant is poisonous for fishes. When fishing, the men would hit the tide pools with its crushed end and the toxins released kills the fishes. • *n napwil merek* species. Its stem is heated over the fire to soften it and then used as ropes in construction of houses and to bind the sugarcane in the garden together to keep the wind from breaking them. • *n noras* species. Its stems are used as ropes in construction of houses and also to clean pipe-stems. • *n nul arwow tuan* species. Same usage as 'NUL ARWOW'. • *n nul arwow apen* species. Same usage as 'NUL ARWOW'. • *n tul aimwién* species. The bark of the stem is peeled off and pounded to free the bast. The bast is further pounded to release the sap. This is then rubbed onto the skin like a soap. It is also used for the hair as it has conditioning and detangling properties. • (from English: agriculture) *n nul akrikaltsa* species. The entire plant is used to feed domestic animals. • *n napwil* species. The string made from the peeled vines are used to tie the coconut leaves together during fabrication of traditional roofs. • *n nul nekenpuluk* species. Used to feed pigs and cattle. • *n tul aulihiau* species. Used traditionally as ropes to tie parts of a canoe together and for house constructions. • *n neparepa* (*Entada phaseoloides*) the flexible parts are used as strings to attach yams to poles for transport during customary exchanges e.g. the 'KAUR' ceremony. The dried fruit is used to make rattling arm bands for dance. The water found inside the vine is drinkable and is used for treating back aches and for the 'NAUMUS' illness. Its skin is repeatedly hit with wooden stick until it peels off. Bands of the skin are then used as exceptionally strong ropes for house construction. • *n nul iowiaren* (*Mikania micrantha*) the juice from crushed leaves is used to treat small wounds and stomachache. On contact the hair found on the vine stems may irritate the skin of the armpit and also in intimate areas. • *n tul nawuknawuk* (*Pycnarrhena ozantha*) used as ropes for house constructions. • *n tul kawkaw* used to make 'KEMÉLU'.

watermelon *n marén* (*Citrullus lanatus*) fruit is edible.

yam (generic term) *n nuw* (*Dioscorea sp.*) • *n nowanawug iatipen* (*Dioscorea sp.*) • *n nuw aswas* (*Dioscorea sp.*) "hairy" and small species. • *n nuw asul* (*Dioscorea sp.*) "hairy" species. • *n kataina* (*Dioscorea sp.*) "hairy", wide and not very long species. • *n nuw sua* (*Dioscorea sp.*) big species from middle-bush. • (from English: Africa) *n afreka* (*Dioscorea sp.*) imported small species, said to come from Africa. • (from Bislama) *n salamoni* (*Dioscorea sp.*) imported species. • *n togoa* (*Dioscorea sp.*) lo species imported from Tonga. • *n nampi* (*Dioscorea sp.*) long and soft species. • (from English: long) *n log* (*Dioscorea sp.*) long imported species. • *n kuras* (*Dioscorea sp.*) long species similar to 'LÉWINUW'. • *n kauhié* (*Dioscorea sp.*) long species. • *n tamoni* (*Dioscorea sp.*) mid-sized species. • (from Bislama) *n wailu* (*Dioscorea sp.*) mid-sized species. •

(from English: rose) *n ros* (*Dioscorea sp.*) rose species. • *n nufi* (*Dioscorea sp.*) rose species. • *n nalakawug* (*Dioscorea sp.*) round species, wild and bitter. Its cultivated form is called 'NOWANAWUG'. These are soaked in seawater for several hours prior to cooking. • *n téniru* (*Dioscorea sp.*) round species. • *n nowanem* (*Dioscorea sp.*) round species. • *n kelaka* (*Dioscorea sp.*) small oblong species. • *n katipaténaug* (*Dioscorea sp.*) small species similar to 'KELAKA'. • *n nalemnuw* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'KAUHIÉ'. • *n nowanawug* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'NALAKAWUG', but cultivated and used for cooking. Exists in several cultivars. • *n marum* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'KELAKA'. • *n nalak* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species similar to 'KELAKA'. • *n nawiaim* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species with long "hairy" tubers. Consumed. • *n saramatu* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species, a kind of 'NOWANAWUG'. • *n nowanihinmatak* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n namio* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n neksuka tuan* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n namwio* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n talipasa* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • (from English: Jack) *n tsék* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n neksuka nalméta* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n neksuka melamela* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n neksuka atoato* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n kasélag* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n nowanhurek* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n léwinuw* (*Dioscorea sp.*) species. • *n nuw wi* (*Dioscorea sp.*) term for non-traditional species on Tanna. cf. 'NUW ASWAS'. • *n nuw awas* (*Dioscorea sp.*) term for species traditionally grown on Tanna, including 'KAUHIÉ', 'MILU', 'NOWANHUREK' and 'KELAKA'. • *n narawénua* (*Dioscorea sp.*) very large species indigenous to Tanna. Its sacred stone 'KAWAR' is in Lowkweria, where this yam is considered to be the customary ancestor of the local people. • *n milu* (*Dioscorea sp.*) very long and soft species. • (from Bislama) *n autlou* (*Dioscorea sp.*) very long species with tiny roots, "hairy", originates from the Pentecost. • *n nowiaim* (*Dioscorea sp.*) wild species.

Mushrooms, algae and other lower plants

alga *n lemes* edible species of green algae with curly leaves. • *n niawer* edible species of green algae, resembles grape clusters and has a bitter taste.

lichen *n natgateg* common name for many different species found on trees and stones.

mold *n neluganan* on food. Ex.: Nauganan ramlugan. ~ The food became moldy.

moss *n natgateg* plant, common name.

mushroom (generic term) *n kaléleg* name for any kind of mushroom, edible or not. • *n kaléleg lé nek* edible species that often grows on rotting mango tree trunks. • *n nepetué* edible species. Grows on the ground. It is said that one should stomp on the ground on places where these mushroom usually grows and call 'NEPETUÉ' for a plentiful harvest. • *n kaléleg mélekem* inedible species found on dead wood. • *n nepawen namiheh* large species growing only on trunks of 'LIPAG' and 'NAMIHEW' trees. It is edible and appreciated for its taste.

Plant-related expression

black *adj apen* part of plant names for varieties with red or dark-colored leaves. Ex.: black iakestil ~ iakestil apen

branch *n nowatek* • *n nowanek* wooden.

branching *n sapag* of branches of plants, in form of "Y".

breadfruit *n noukaren nem* its trunk.

bud *n nameren* of a plant other than vine. cf. 'NUWIAN'.

bush (generic term) *n nek* whatever kind excluding bamboos, grasses and vines.

coconut leaves *n numa sia* • *n numa sia mer* dry.

firewood *n nek mer*

flower (inalienable, generic term) *n nauge-* • *n nekowisel* branches of coconut tree inflorescence, sometimes used as a broom or to

make 'LAÉN'. • (generic term) *n* **naugenepen** the flower itself at the end of the inflorescence stem.

• **flower of banana tree** *n* **nuan** curved part of the stem of the inflorescence. • *n* **neprisin** (**nepen**) part of the banana bunch where the fruit is already ripe. Hand of bananas. • *n* **nesinepen** part of the banana bunch where the fruit is not matured and ripe. • *n* **nuahun** straight part of the stem of the inflorescence.

fruit *aff* **nowa-** pref.

green *adj* **mera** fresh plant or raw fruit.

hand of bananas *n* **neprisin** (**nepen**)

herb (generic term) *n* **nek** whatever kind excluding bamboos, grasses and vines.

hibiscus *n* **naugenekalew** flower.

introduced *adj* **ituga** part of name of some plants introduced to Tanna from abroad. *Ex.*: an imported species of banana tree ~ **nepen ituga**

kava *n* **nukenekava** its root. cf.'NUK-'. • *n* **numa nakwuiam** leaves of a wild species. May be used to make a kind of "stretcher" able to support the weight of a small person. The leaves are "glued" by chewed leaves of 'NASES'. cf.'NAKWUIAM'. • *n* **nalemenekava** part of the plant. Its strong branches. lit. "arms of kava". • *n* **kamiaram nekava** part of the plant. Small "shoots" found on 'NÉLKENEKAVA'. They may grow enough to form a secondary plant of kava out of the mother plant. • *n* **nektupen nekava** part of the plant. Small thin roots. • *n* **tahan kahapa nekava** part of the plant. The thick central part of the root. lit. "head of kava". • *n* **nélkenekava** part of the plant. The thick central root. lit. "the leg of kava". • *n* **nousu lé nekava** part of the plant. Thicker roots. • *n* **nowanhalénekava** part of the plant. Young thin branches. lit. "eggs of kava".

laplap leaves *n* **numanemew** coming from a species of banana tree called 'NEMEW'.

leaf *n* **numa nar** of a plant, generic term.

oil *n* **nepeksi nién** of coconut. Term also used for the oily film found inside germinated coconut 'NAPEKAK'.

plant (generic term) *n* **nek** whatever kind excluding bamboos, grasses and vines.

• **plant yams** *expr* **atek tow** way of planting yams into slopes of 'TOW'. • *expr* **namsy tow** way of planting yams into the top 'TOW'.

raw *adj* **rakapuka** of all fruit except of coconuts.

cf.'NOWATAHWA'. • *adj* **nowatahwa** of coconut only, for other fruit 'RAKAPUKA' is used. • *adj* **mera** of fruit.

reed *n* **nowatek nuig** its dry stems. • *n* **nulnul** the stem with leaves removed is used for the game 'SAYÉ' and for making of arrow shafts.

root (inalienable) *n* **nuk-** *Ex.*: root of a tree, root of kava ~ **nukenek**, **nukenekava**

shoot *n* **nameren** of a plant other than vine. cf.'NUWIAN'. • *n* **nuwian** of a vine. • *n* **nuwian nuw** of yam.

spotted *adj* **afwil** of fruit and trees.

sprout *n* **nameren** of a plant other than vine. cf.'NUWIAN'. • *n* **nuwian** of a vine.

stem *n* **nowatek**

tree (generic term) *n* **nek** • *n* **nek mer** dead, dry. • *n* **nek mera** living, green.

trunk (generic term) *n* **noukaren nién** of coconut tree. • *n* **noukaren magko** of mango tree. • *n* **noukaren** of tree.

white *adj* **tuan** part of plant names for varieties with bright yellow-colored leaves. *Ex.*: white **napek** ~ **napek tuan**

wild *adj* **rou** term describing a family of plants or used as a part of a plant name for species that do not give fruits or that are otherwise useless e.g. 'NUIU ROU' or "wild 'NUIU'" a species of pandanus with leaves not appropriate for weaving mats.

wood *n* **nek mer** dry. • *n* **nek** material.

Trees

avocado (from English: butter) *n* **pwata** (*Persea americana*) tree.

banana tree *n* **nemew aswas** kind of 'NEMEW' with same usage.

banyan *n* **kalwas** considered to be the female banyan and the wife of 'NAMKENEN'. Its flexible aerial roots are used as ropes and the stronger ones are used as beams in house construction. • *n* **napek** species determining the place of customary nakamals. Its aerial roots are used as ropes. • *n* **napek pwia** species of 'NAPEK'. It has no aerial roots and it does not grow as large as the 'NAPEK'. • *n* **nalwily** (*Ficus obliqua*) species with small red fruit. Inedible. • *n* **naswaio** (*Ficus sp.*) species. • *n* **namkenen** species. Considered to be the "male" or "husband" of the 'KALWAS' banyan. It has no strong aerial roots. • *n* **nasas** (*Ficus wassa*) species. Its roots are used to make the belts 'KATAWUT' worn by men during the 'NEKOWIAR' ceremony and nets 'NAKEPEN'. • *n* **nasunan** (*Ficus glandifera*) the shape of the fruit resembles the male sexual organ. It is believed that the number of branches a man gives his wife to chew during her pregnancy will also be the number of male children the wife will bear.

beach cabbage *n* **nesé rep tuan** (*Scaevola taccada*) species used to treat cough. Four young branches are chewed, the juice swallowed and sea water is drank afterwards. • *n* **nesé rep** (*Scaevola taccada*) species used to treat cough. Four young branches should be chewed, the juice swallowed and sea water should be trunk right after that.

Bengal almond *n* **tel** (*Terminalia catappa*) hard wood, used for constructions. Fruits give edible nuts.

breadfruit tree (generic term) *n* **nem** (*Artocarpus altilis*) wood resistant to decay. Canoes carved out of its trunk are appreciated for its long lifespan. • *n* **nuwau** (*Artocarpus sp.*) species giving big and oblong fruit. • *n* **kun** (*Artocarpus sp.*) species giving big and round fruit. • *n* **kunkun** (*Artocarpus sp.*) species giving small and round fruit. Easy to cook.

bush nut *n* **nawigen** (*Barringtonia edulis*) fruits are edible.

coast sheoak *n* **niél** (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) hard wood. Serves to make large clubs used for killing pigs during traditional ceremonies.

coconut tree (generic term) *n* **nién** (*Cocos nucifera*) • *n* **sliu** (*Cocos nucifera*) "twins", two palms sprouting from one coconut. • *n* **pamimera** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with green skin. • *n* **tuan** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with light yellow skin. • *n* **ianam léwléw** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with reddish or violet husk and orange skin. Its water is used to wash young boys immediately after the circumcision. cf.'KAUR'. • *n* **pometa** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing nuts with yellow-orange skin. • *n* **rik** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing only small inflorescences and its nuts are easy to pick. • *n* **gep** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing small and tender nuts. The husk of young nuts is eaten. • *n* **paha** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing small greenish yellow nuts. • *n* **iéru** (*Cocos nucifera*) species producing very large nuts, used for fabrication of kava shells.

coral wood *n* **metu** (*Adenanthera pavonina*) hard wood. Used in constructions and to make canoe paddles 'NIWÉIA'.

corosol *n* **sapsap** (*Annona muricata*) fruit is edible. Infusion of leaves is used as treatment to wash children with measles.

flamboyant *n* **numalupen** (*Delonix regia*) introduced species which took its name from a local species with similar leaves.

frangipani *n* **kapwia** (*Plumeria sp.*) its name was taken from *Argusia argentea* because of similarity of leaves.

guava tree (from English: guava) *n* **koapa** (*Psidium guajava*) its shoots are chewed and the juice swallowed to manage diarrhea and stomachaches.

island lychee *n* **natem** (*Pometia pinnata*) edible fruit.

Malay rose apple *n* **nekauk** (*Syzygium malaccense*)

mandarin tree *n* **nowanmel** (*Citrus reticulata*) its fruit is consumed, the leaves are used to make a herbal tea.

mango tree (generic term) *n* **magko** (*Mangifera sp.*) • *n* **magko apen** (*Mangifera sp.*) species giving small red fruit. • *n* **magko ikpis** (*Mangifera sp.*) species planted often in Whitesand. • *n* **iamak magko** (*Mangifera sp.*) valued species imported from Australia by certain Iamak.

New Guinea rosewood *n* **kowtuhwé** (*Pterocarpus indicus* (?)) hard wood. Its trunk is carved into canoes.

noni *n* **nauias** (*Morinda citrifolia*) fruit used to treat many different illness. Its bark is believed to ward off evil spirits.

orange tree *n* **nowanmel** (*Citrus sinensis*)

palm tree *n* **napuok** (*Veitchia arecina*) durable wood that is often used to make house floorings. It has edible fruits that is also said to be consumed by the spirits 'IARAMES'. • *n* **namul tuan** species.

pandanus *n* **nemankiu** (*Pandanus tectorius*) its leaves are used to weave mats and baskets. Its aerial roots are used as ropes to tie laplap. • *n* **nuiu rou** species. Its roots are used to make the 'NASEKEL' traps used to catch the 'ILATÉ' lobsters. Inside the trap a 'KELKEL' is attached with a string from 'NUO' as a bait.

papaya *n* **kési** (*Carica papaya*) drinking an infusion made from its flowers helps treat fever.

sandal *n* **nekpes** (*Santalum spp.*) cultivated as cash-crop.

sea hibiscus *n* **nuo** (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) bast fibers are used for making grass-skirts 'NIU'.

Tahitian chestnut *n* **nawuk** (*Inocarpus fagifer*) edible fruits. Water infusion is given to women to make them give birth to a girl. cf. 'NASUNAN'.

tree *n* **nek té iau** lit. "the turtle tree", soft wood. • *n* **nekariag** (*Cerbera odollam*) drinking tea made from the bark of this tree will induce diarrhea. • *n* **noumerek** (*Acalypha grandis*) drinking the juice of its crushed leaves eases stomachache. Its hard wood is used to make beams in construction of houses. Its fruit is used by kids as pellets for blowguns made from thin hollow bamboo stick. • *n* **nahal ket** (*Aidia graeffei*) edible fruit. Wood is naturally fire resistant. Before the use of metal, its curved branches were used to hang saucepans over the fire. • *n* **niér** (*Burckella obovata*) edible fruits. Its hard wood is used for constructions. • *n* **naknau** (*Acalypha sp.*) family of several species of shrubs. • *n* **kakil** family of several trees. Their leaves are applied on the circumcision wound during the first days after a 'TEMAHWA'. Its branches are placed under the mats of the circumcised boys as a sort of 'KALUGA'. • *n* **nuahwa** (*Sterculia vitiensis*) fruits are edible. • *n* **nafa** (*Alphitonia zizyphoides*) hard wood species used for constructions. Its branches are fragrant. • *n* **nahal** (*Aidia graeffei*) hard wood. Branches are made into short pegs 'NOWATEPLEPEL' that holds the outriggers of traditional canoes. • *n* **nouhialag apen** imported species, which took its name from a local tree 'NOUHIALAG'. • *n* **numalupen** indigenous species. Its name was also given to the Christmas tree, which is an introduced species. • *n* **sita** (*Melia azedarach*) indigenous species. Shares the same name with the 'SITA' tree but is smaller in stature. It has white-blue flowers. An infusion made from its leaves is used palliatively for post stroke patients. Its flowering signals the time to catch the flying fish. • *n* **nalimala tuan** introduced species, which took its name from the indigenous 'NALIMALA' because of the similarity of their leaves. • *n* **napakalo** introduced species. • *n* **nowaig** introduced species. Children use its fruit to paint their faces. Probably from 'NOWA'- fruit and "ink" - from English referring to its pigment. • *n* **makoni** introduced species. Hard wood used in construction of houses. • *n* **sita** introduced species. Its hard wood is used for construction. It has white flowers. • *n* **naknau awiwan** (*Acalypha sp.*) its leaves are put on the circumcision wound on the second day, cf. 'KAUR'. The babies first stool is also wiped with this leaf. • *n* **naknau pwia** (*Acalypha sp.*) its leaves are put on the wound after circumcision. cf. 'KAUR'. • *n* **nekiapen** (*Elattostachys falcata*) its wood is used to

make bows. • *n* **nektuan** its wood is used to make bows. In family with 'TEKREKMÉNEK'. • *n* **nekelha** (*Breynia disticha*) planted near houses as a protection against black magic. • *n* **nik** (*Cordia dichotoma*) produces small sticky fruit often eaten by pigeons and flying foxes. Its bark is boiled or is infused in water and drank to ease headaches, stomachaches and diarrhea. • *n* **nim** (*Tabernaemontana sp.*) spec. with leaves eaten with coconut. • *n* **nalulu (iré)** (*Schefflera neoeudica* (?)) species found often in coastal areas. • *n* **nalulu (ikpat)** species found often in the hills of inland areas. • *n* **namulat** species giving small red fruit. The fruit skin is sticky on the inner surface and is used by girls to make facial decorations. • *n* **kaulapag** species of 'NIM'. The fruit is consumed with salt. Eating it is encouraged in pregnant women. However, women should avoid eating it after delivery and up until the baby is able to walk. • *n* **napek tuan** species of 'NAPEK' with yellow or whitish leaves. • *n* **nekatu** species of family 'NAWIGEN'. Its wood is used for constructions of houses. • *n* **nases** (*Ficus wassa*) species used during ceremony of 'KAUR' (circumcision) where men hang on its branches reed leaves which were used by the circumcised boys as towels after ritual baths. The tree is then burned at the end of the 'NASES' ceremony. Its bast is used as a tourniquet during circumcision. Its leaves can also be eaten raw with coconut meat. • *n* **kakao** species with edible fruit. • *n* **nekalaka** (*Pouteria sp.*) species with edible fruit. • *n* **keliakéi** (*Garcinia pseudoguttifera*) species with edible fruit. • *n* **nepam** species with edible fruit. • *n* **nel** species with hard wood used for construction of houses. • *n* **nakuka** (*Bischofia javanica*) species with hard wood used for construction of houses. • *n* **kataupeken** species with hard wood used for constructions. • *n* **nekipat** (*Syzygium sp.*) species with hard wood used for house construction. • *n* **nekipinap** (*Diospyros ferrea*) species with hard wood. Pieces of its wood cut out from its trunk are chewed to make teeth strong. • *n* **nisap** species with hard wood. Traditionally hair combs are cut of its wood. • *n* **nekitu** (*Elattostachys falcata*) species with hard wood. Used for constructions. Large chunks of its bark are used as plates to prepare and cook the 'KAKÉWAN' laplap. Its grated bast is added to pigs fodder so that they grow well. • *n* **kaulik** species with hard wood. Used to make handles of axes and 'KAKEL' for planting taro 'NETÉ'. • *n* **nekesa** species with seeds producing red pigment that is used for painting faces and hair. • *n* **namiahyl** species with soft wood. Used to make boards. • *n* **napuas** (*Fagraea ceilanica*) species with very durable wood, resisting to decay. Used for construction of houses. • *n* **namel** (*Acacia spiriorbis*) species with very hard wood used for construction of houses. • *n* **nawan** (*Syzygium sp.*) species with very hard wood. • *n* **nesipuka** species, lit. "excrement of pig". When pigs make the village dirty with their excrements, the fruit of this tree is thrown at them in order to ward them off and make them defecate in the jungle. • *n* **kalwalwa** (*Meryta neoeudica*) species, lit. "thunder". Used to create the thunder in rain-making. • *n* **nekiâu** species. • *n* **napateker nek** species. • *n* **nareké** (*Dillenia biflora*) species. • *n* **kawytaregreg** species. • *n* **naieú** (*Erythrina sp.*) species. • *n* **nakal** (*Dysoxylum bijugum*) species. • *n* **namel keen** (*Acacia simplex*) species. • *n* **nesése nawuk** species. • *n* **nawula apen** (*Macaranga sp.*) species. • *n* **nahua** species. • *n* **nauru** species. • *n* **nawula aluk** (*Macaranga sp.*) species. • *n* **nakaui** (*Geissois denhamii*) species. • *n* **namak** (*Cordia subcordata*) species. • *n* **nekelha afwil** (*Breynia disticha* (?)) species. • *n* **kastarapel apen** species. • *n* **nawyl** (*Euodia sp.*) species. A plant that represents the people of Létakeren, who use it also to decorate the kava during ceremonies. • *n* **natuan** (*Dysoxylum rufum*) species. After circumcision when the boys are allowed to eat ordinary food again, the skin of this tree is mixed with dry coconut. The boys use this to wash themselves to deter evil spirits. Once done, the boys can eat regular food again. • *n* **nulagen** species. Circumcised boys strip off the leaves from its branches and use the branches to scratch their head as touching their head during a certain period after the circumcision is prohibited. • *n* **nepiaw tuan** (*Pisonia grandis*) species. Fish is wrapped with these leaves before

cooking, then the two are cooked and eaten together. • *n tamormor* species. From its branches pipe-stems are made. • *n katen* species. Hard wood is carved into canoes. • *n neprou* species. Hard wood is used to carve canoes. • *n nigat* (*Pouteria sp.*) species. Hard wood used for construction. • *n natan* (*Myristica fatua*) species. Hard wood used for construction. It is also used to make the 'KALUGA' head rests. • *n namihowel* species. Hard wood used for making boards. • *n nawula pekam* (*Macaranga sp.*) species. Hard wood used in construction of all parts of house. • *n kako* (*Hernandia nymphaeifolia* (?) species. In order to make the hair grow well, its branches are crushed and rubbed into the hair before washing. • *n napkapek* (*Pisonia umbellifera*) species. It is used to summon rain. Its grated skin is added into the fodder of piglets to help them grow well. Its fruits contains a sticky liquid that is slathered in large quantities around plants like taro to protect them from fruit-eating birds as the birds get glued to the fruit. • *n tekrekmenek* species. Its bark is toxic for fishes. It is grated and thrown into tide pools when fishing. Family of 'NEKTUAN'. • *n napé* (*Pseuderanthemum sp.*) species. Its branches are used as traditional sticks for the 'NASAL' dance. The plant has several medicinal uses. • *n namam* species. Its crushed leaves are applied on skin incisions made by the local healers as a way to heal certain diseases. • *n nagai* species. Its fruit is split and the nuts are consumed. • *n nuahwa tam* (*Sterculia banksiana*) species. Its fruits are consumed by pigeons 'IÉLU IOHNEKAM'. Worms 'PRISIN' live in its trunk. Its bark is used to make the 'KATAWUT' belts for the 'NEKOWIAR' ceremony. • *n nanemwién* (*Pipturus argenteus*) species. Its grated bark is applied on infected wounds especially those that came from animal bites. Its leaves are used to cover the fresh circumcision wound. cf.'KAUR'. • *n nanemwién apen* (*Pipturus argenteus* (?) species. Its grated bark is placed on infected wounds and on wounds from animal bites. • *n nanen* (*Ficus adenosperma*) species. Its grated bark is used to treat wounds. • *n namilo* (*Glochidido namilo*) species. Its hard wood is used for beams in construction of houses and to make fences for animals. • *n nawula pekam apen* (*Macaranga sp.*) species. Its hard wood is used to make roofs of houses. • *n tera* (*Excoecaria agallocha*) species. Its latex is put on sores and cuts from corals and sea urchins. • *n naluk* species. Its leaves are heated over the fire and placed on the joints and back of people who just recovered from a long period of being bedridden and still have difficulties with walking. • *n newirou* species. Its leaves are stinging. Young leaves are used against mice in houses and are put on places where they commonly pass. It is said that the mouse will get their paws burned and will feel so much pain that it will chew them off and eventually die. • *n nauh* species. Its leaves are used to wrap freshly caught shrimps. The appearance of its flowers announces the time for planting sweet potatoes. • *n nareg* (*Ficus granatum*) species. Its leaves are used to wrap shark meat cooked in an earth oven. It adds flavor to the meat and preserves it for up to three or four days. • *n nihla* (*Semecarpus vitiensis*) species. Its sap is severely irritant to the skin and causes blisters. To prevent this from happening, one should face the tree and pronounce the name-changing phrase "io 'NIHLA', ik N" - "I am 'NIHLA', and you are N" (where N is the name of the person). Worms 'PRISIN' may be found in its trunk. Eating them may cause a skin reaction in certain people. • *n nywen* (*Gneltarda speciosa*) species. Its skin is grated, mixed with coconut and fed to pigs so that they become fat. • *n nip* species. Its stem is cut open and the fiber inside is crushed. The liquid is then drained, strained and dried to get a starchy flour-like by-product. This is then mixed with sea water and made into a kind of laplap or pancakes. • *n kapuap* species. Its wood is excellent for making 'NOURASEKAM'. Its fruit is used by kids as pellets for blow guns made from thin bamboo stalks. • *n namihowel* (*Melochia odorata*) species. Its wood is used to make a part of canoe called 'NOWANEKIATU'. The juice from its crushed leaves is drank to cure fever. An edible mushroom called 'NEPAWEN NAMIHEW' grows on its trunk. • *n kawiétau* species. Its

wood is used to make arrowheads of 'NOWANPARAM'. • *n nawiétau* (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*) species. Its wood is used to make arrowheads of 'NOWANPARAM'. • *n tel ket* species. Pigeons 'IÉLU' feed on its fruit. • *n iapel* (*Leucaena leucocephala*) species. Quality hard wood. Used for building every part of house and to make fences for animals. • *n naiéw imer* (*Erythrina fusca*) species. Said to come from Aniwa. • *n teklepwe* species. Soft wood used for some constructions. • *n neseke* species. Spears are made from its straight branches. • *n kakil apsépes* species. The arrowhead of the 'NOWANPARAM' is made from its wood. • *n namnak* species. The juice from its skin is added to the food of poisoned dogs. • *n nouhialag* (*Homalanthus ebracteatus*) species. The juice of its leaves is drank in cases when one gets sick which is caused by the 'IARAMES' spirits because of walking outside during the night. • *n koupa* species. Wood is used to make fences for pigs and cattle. • *n napwer* species. Wood resistant to fire. Before metal was used, its curbed branches were used to hang saucepans over the fire. • *n nepleg* (*Polyscias sp.*) species. Young leaves are cooked and eaten especially in times of famine after a cyclone. • *n niély* (*Pittosporum campbelli*) the entire plant is aromatic. During yam planting into 'TOW', its leaves are burnt inside the pit where yams are planted to ensure good crop. Yams are said to "like" the smell of the leave. Drinking an infusion of its boiled bark cures the 'NAMESAN TAHA KAHAU' sickness. • *n lipag* (*Ficus septica*) the inside of the apical stem is chewed and the juice is swallowed to treat 'NAMTEKETEK'. Infusion of its bark is also used to relieve stomachache. The branches are chewed and the juice spit out as protection against evil spirits. • *n nepina* (*Sarcomelicope simplicifolia sub-sp. neo-scotia*) the ripening of its fruit signals yam harvest season. Chewing its bark makes the teeth and gum strong. • *n nap* (*Euodia hortensis*) the wild form of 'NUMA LE NESÉ'. Women hold its leafy branches during the 'NASES' dance. • *n nawiloawilo* (*Gyrocarpus americanus*) trunk is used for carving canoes. • *n nameliamel* (*Phyllanthus ciccoides*) wards off evil spirits. A small branch from this tree is worn secretly to protect its owner against black magic coming from other islands. • *n naté* white flowering. • *n nuwul* (*Pometia pinnata*) with small edible fruit, "nakatambol" in Bislama.

• *tree heloptrope* *n kapwia* (*Heliotropium foertherianum*) infusion made from leaves is used to cure poisoning by eating a poisonous fish.

Space

Alfa Centauri *n prop* **Karatéi**

constellation *n prop* **Kasulia apam** "long 'KASULIA'", three stars of the Orion's belt. • *n prop* **Kasulia rerpaprep** "short 'KASULIA'", three stars of the sword of Orion. • *n prop* **Kou** five stars of head of Taurus, in form of 'KOU'. • *n prop* **Kahau** four stars on the end of the Scorpions' tail. • *n prop* **Kilil** seven main stars of the Orion. • *n prop* **Suatu kywer** southern cross, lit. "four ways", in allusion to the four customary exchange roads running from each 'IMAIM'.

evening star *n prop* **Kéwita**

lunar eclipse *n prop* **mawuk ramemes**

Magellanic Cloud *n prop* **Nowanuman** unsure whether Large or Small.

Milky Way *n prop* **Nemrau** • *n prop* **Nuafuganan** less common term.

Moon (generic term) *n prop* **mawuk** • *n prop* **mawuk ramépép malwia** full, lit. "the Moon knocks on butterflyfish". • *n nati tawar* full. A more common term than 'MAWUK RAMÉPÉP MALWIA'. • *n nail ratuatu* in its first quarter. lit. "it stays straight", meaning that in the sky the Moon appears straight in the zenith in the evening. • *n numanmel* in its last quarter and especially as a waning crescent. • *n mawuk wi* when it appears as a waxing crescent on the sky.

morning star *n prop* **Fétukai**

Pleiades *n prop* **Nowaswas Lapnuman** lit. "young boys of 'LAPNUMAN'". Alternative to the name 'NEPERAWEN

LAPNUMAN'. • *n prop* **Neperawen Lapnuman** lit. "young girls of 'LAPNUMAN'". Alternative to the name 'NOWASWAS LAPNUMAN'.

star (generic term) *n* **mahau** • *n prop* **Kapaumeta** a celestial body, unidentified so far, possibly Jupiter or Mars. • *n prop* **Mowaimawuk** name of an unidentified star, said to be close to the Moon or to rise close to it. • *n prop* **Iaiapom** name of an unidentified star, that rises before 'FÉTUKAI'. • *n prop* **Kwankaio** position unknown.

summer *expr* **met ramerou nekaugan apam** part of the year where days are long, lit. "the sun passes through the great empty space".

sun *n prop* **met**

Venus *n prop* **Kéwita** on evening sky. • *n prop* **Fétukai** on morning sky.

winter *expr* **met ramerou nekaugan areparep** part of the year where days are short, lit. "the sun passes through the small empty space".

Weather

cloud *n* **napwua** • *n* **napinapan** dark, before rain. *Ex.*: Ramapinap le nihin. ~ The rain clouds come.

cyclone *n* **nematag asul**

dawn *v* **renakak** coming.

daylight *v* **renakak** when it comes in the morning.

dusk falling *v* **renapinap**

eddy *n* **siosio** wind.

flash of lightning *n* **ramawlekam**

get dark *v* **renapinap** of evening.

lightning *n* **nawelekaman**

rain *n* **nihin**

raindrop *n* **nowanalial**

sunshine *n* **nemankat**

thunder *n* **kalwalwa**

vortex *n* **siosio** wind.

weather *n* **nian**

wind (generic term) *n* **nematag** the local culture knows 16 different names of winds. Today, this knowledge is kept only by few elders and the people specialized in weather magic - the 'IERAM RAMOL NIHIN' and 'IERAM RAMOL NEMANKAT'. Seven of the winds are associated with rain and with the collared kingfisher 'KAWHITE', the nine others are associated with dry weather and Polynesian triller 'WULAWULA'. • (ancient term) *n* **luatu amlai** from N, bringing rain, hot. According to the elders "feeds the ground" so it gives good harvest. • (ancient term) *n* **luatu matua** from NW, brings heavy rain. • (ancient term) *n* **nepelap** from S, not bringing rain. It is cold and comes at time of cleaning of gardens before yams are planted. • (ancient term) *n* **nepelap imarég** from SSW. • (ancient term) *n* **iapu kopwiél** from SW. • (ancient term) *n* **tokolau** from W. If it comes after the 'IAWAKELIAWAKEL', it means a rain is to be expected. • (ancient term) *n* **pai** from WSW. • *n* **siosio** spinning, eddy.

Science

Science and Education

education *n* **natukunan**

jotter *n* **naua**

notebook *n* **naua** for writing.

pen (from English: pen) *n* **pén**

pencil (from English: pen) *n* **pén**

school *n* **sekul**

teacher *n* **iatukun**

tutor *n* **iatukun**

Chemistry

gold (from English: gold) *n* **kaul**

Phrases

A film on water caused by coconut oil. [Nahlelan taha nién.](#)

A man is shouting. [Ieramim kër rakawinen.](#)

Are you afraid of dogs? I am not afraid! [Namagnin kuri?](#)
[Iasagninan!](#)

Beware of the kava! [Amap nekava!](#)

Burning fire. [Nekam rakauwow.](#)

Come to sit down. [Wa mawota.](#)

Dog, bite him! [Kuri, kes in!](#)

Don't fart! [Salepesan!](#)

Give it back to me. [Ramlasipa nar ek.](#)

Give me ... [Lasipa tonio ...](#)

Go outside! [Wén ilua!](#)

He gave me a banana before. [Aupan ramlafena nepen kër tonio.](#)

He is bald-headed. [Renapwa.](#)

He is ready to do something. [Renmarua to nolan nar kër.](#)

He reaches for the knife over a piece of wood. [Ramiapako le nek un melas nau.](#)

He sat down. [In rakawota.](#)

I am firing a rifle. [Iamarwin kopwiél ituga.](#)

I am listening to what you are saying. [Io iamero ik namakhar.](#)

I am not afraid. [Iasagenan.](#)

I am not touching it! [Iamasiapan nar un!](#)

I am sleepy. [Napelan ramos io.](#) • [Nekik renuwén ma sakapel.](#) lit. "My inside goes sleep".

I am warming my hands. [Iamég nalemak.](#)

I don't want to sing. [Iakapas nenian napuk.](#)

I gave him something. [Iamlasipen nar kër to in.](#)

I have broken my bow. [Iamataken tahak nemanahga.](#)

I hear a bird. [Iamero kléplépen kër.](#)

I knocked down a coconut by throwing a stick. [Iamhoita nién.](#)

I knocked down a mango from a branch with a stone. [Iamaruita magko kër la kopwiél.](#)

I knocked down Iako with my fist from amidst of other men. [Iamaruita Iako lé nekin naman.](#)

I seized a knife from Natemans' hand. [Iamlasita nau to Nateman.](#)

I threw a stick on a coconut. [Iamho nién la nek kër.](#)

I threw a stone on a dog. [Iamamaru kuri.](#)

I twitched when Iata shouted aloud. [Iata ramakhar apam iakaur.](#)

I was chasing a chicken, I grabbed a stick, I threw it on the chicken and I knocked it down. [Iamarou mének, iamlas nek kër, maho a in, mel nem tahan.](#)

I will give him something. [Seklasipen nar kër to in.](#)

I will speak of one thing. [Sakakhar in nar kër.](#)

I will speak of that. [Sakakhar lan.](#)

It is enough. [Renawker.](#)

It is slippery! [Remakela!](#)

It smells good. [Rakapién wyt.](#)

It was him, who farted. [In raméu nar.](#)

Leave! [Wén!](#)

Look, please! [Ap ru!](#)

Look, there he is! [Uré, in apa!](#)

Me too. [Io men.](#)

[Nakou threw a spear on a bird.](#) [Nakou ramatkin suk.](#)

[Open the door, so I can enter and sleep.](#) [Héta la tapen pas ikwéna mapel.](#) a usual phrase used at times when one comes back late in the night and finds the door of the house, where he sleeps, closed.

[That is enough!](#) [Rawker!](#)

[That man is staring at me.](#) [Ieram a rametatai lak!](#)

[The hen is calling its chicks.](#) [Mének ramakoako in nararen.](#)

[The kid broke a mug and ran away.](#) [Kowa ramataken nuwig kuwel kani makem.](#)

[The rooster is crowing.](#) [Mének rakawinen.](#)

[The weight of this kava root is about five kilos.](#) [Napekaman taha nukenekava ek in iwoket to kilo katilum.](#)

[We were already sleeping, when Iaris went out, got drunk and was making a lot of noise.](#) [Kamaipel, kani Iaris ramapus mierpa, mamol kalwas.](#)

[Why is Sylvano gone to nakamal?](#) [Sylvano rewén taratawol apa imaim?](#)

[Why is Sylvano gone?](#) [Sylvano rakan to nata?](#)

[You sleep like a dead man.](#) [Namapel ma ieram ramemes né.](#)

[Your behavior is not good.](#) [Taham nolan rtat.](#)

[Your effort is without any sense.](#) [Namerou nalmelan.](#) • [Namerou nesega.](#)

[Your good.](#) [Nawytan taham.](#)

Culture

[Cicadae iawitaleg carry shoots of yams.](#) [Iawitaleg min kamailis nuwian nuw.](#) expression used for the part of the year, when cicadae 'IAWITALEG' start to sing. It is said, that those cicadae carry on their backs the young shoots of newly planted yams out of the ground (but in south-west Tanna this is said about the 'KENO' cicada).

[He will kill two pigs on the kaur ceremony.](#) [Taroho kupas kiu to kaur.](#)

[His speech has no value.](#) [Ramol nakharan ralukaluk.](#)

[His speech is really good.](#) [Nakharan taham in rapekam epek.](#)

[It is me who chews the kava today.](#) [Io iamemai nekava tawék.](#)

[It is not good that my head stays empty. I will go speak with the elders.](#) [Rtat ma tahak kahapa tarol am nuigen.](#) [Tanakwen makhar kam ieram asul min.](#)

[Mother is painting the face of her daughter.](#) [Inen ramhwél kam tahan peraswas.](#)

[People are singing.](#) [Naramim kamaeni napuk.](#)

[The chief distributes the food to the roads.](#) [Ieram asul ramhoti nauganan lé suatu min.](#) during traditional ceremonies the people come to the nakamal from its surroundings by the four customary ways from four different directions. Speaking about a group coming from a particular road, it is usually referred simply as the "road". When the time comes after a customary ceremony to distribute the food, it is then not said to be distributed to the "people", but to the "roads".

[The sea must not enter inside the canoe.](#) [Téhé tarasuwenan le napag nowaniko.](#) symbolic phrase expressing the idea, that as it is dangerous, when the sea enters into the canoe ('NIKO'), it is as well dangerous, when a person in the nakamal (where people from the same tribe - 'NIKO' are gathering) says words that divide, instead of uniting.

[This evening in the nakamal there will be the first kava made for Iaruél.](#) [Ta lenhau apa imaim kamol kamnum taha Iaruél.](#)

[Tomorrow I will go to dance to Lowkweria.](#) [Talaug iakol napuk apa Lowkweria.](#)

You took me down from the noses tree. (ancient term)
Namehwau io lé twinek noses. traditional phrase by which a person was receiving a gift. It is not in common use anymore. The 'NASES' tree symbolizes poverty and thus the sense of the phrase is, that the person receiving a gift is not poor anymore. As the language does not include any term for "thank you", this phrase is probably its closest equivalent.

Your word is good. **Taham nakharan ratuatu.** lit. "straight". Respectful phrase to express appreciation after ones speech in nakamal.

Basic Expressions

Come here! **Wa iken ek!**

Do not touch! **Siapan!**

Follow me! **Awotiseq in io!**

He is asking for your name. **Ramarhapek to nategam.**

Help me! **Asitu lak!**

How much does it cost? **Nata mani?**

How old are you? **Taham nu ky?**

I am searching Sylvano. **Iamarhapkin Sylvano.**

I do not know. **Iasinatinan.**

I go home. **Iakawén apa lawanu.**

It is as you say. **Nameni farién.**

Show me! **Atukun ton io!**

Speak slowly! **Ani merek am!**

Speak slowly. **Eni mérek am.**

Take it, it is yours! **Las taham!**

This is ... **In ek ...**

This is my house. **Nima ek tahak.**

Wait for me! **Amatan in io!**

What are you saying? **Nameni nata?**

What is that? **Nata ia?**

What is the name of this thing? **Nata ik nategan nar ek?**

What is this? **Nata ek?**

What you say is truth. **Nameni farién.**

Where is your father? **Remam ia?**

Who are you? **Ik fê?**

Who is that? **Péhé an?**

You lie! **Naméiua!**

Faith

I think that my late grandmother is in heaven. **Nekik rahmo ma tahak kaha ramemes in apa iles lénéai.**

I think that this illness is because of a demon. **Nekik rahmo ma iarames kér ramol namesan ek.**

I will go pray to the church. **Sekawhak apa lé nima awhak.**

I will pray. **Sekawhak.**

Pray for me! **Awhak tahak!**

Greeting and Thanking

Good afternoon. **Rawyt lemankat.**

Good bye to you two. **Imam ilao.**

Good bye. **Imam.**

Good evening to you all. **Rawyt lénhaiu to kamiari patem.**

Good evening. **Rawyt lénhaiu.**

Good morning to you. **Rawyt lakaplepen tonik.**

Good morning. **Rawyt lakaplepen. • Rawyt laplépen.**

How are you doing? **Ratol?**

How are you? **Rawyt o rtat?**

I will see you tomorrow. **Sakap ik talauk.**

See you soon. **Sematu men.**

See you tomorrow. **Talauk am.**

Thank you for the good things. **Ténkiu asul ton nar wyt min.**

Thank you for this nice discussion. **Ténkiu asul to nakharan rawyt.**

Thank you so much. **Ténkiu asul.**

What is his name? **Nategan péhé?**

What is your name? **Nategam péhé?**

Where are you coming from? **Namsipen ia?** usual question after greeting.

You are welcome. **Rawyt am.**

Proverbs

A goat pulling a horse. **Nani rakawi hos.** expression applying to a person, who is hiding his real intention (a big thing, the "horse") behind an innocent excuse (a small thing, the "goat").

A large fish and the remora. **Namasul né tagitofa.** the same meaning as 'PAPAWUK NÉ WUKELEKEL.'.

Dogs' tail. **Nepikekuri.** the same meaning as 'PAPAWUK NÉ WUKELEKEL.'.

He follows the vine. **Ramerou nul.** he is looking for girls, chasing girls.

He harvests the fruit of what he planted. **Ramel nowanek ramhau.** used both in positive and negative sense.

I am just hitting the water. **Iamol am téhé.** during fishing people would often hit the surface of the sea just to scare the fish out of their hideaways. It is used when one says to somebody something untrue just to scare that person.

I am just making noise. **Iamesel am.** said after an already known information being said in the sense of "I am just reminding it to you."

I planted nyawia flowers for him. **Iamhaupen nyawia lan.** "I cut with him." "I don't want to have anything with him anymore." Following a legend, when "Tagalua" was killed, people buried him and on his tomb they planted the 'NYAWIA' flower, so that his spirit cannot come back to the village and disturb them.

I will take something of you, and then you can take something of me. **Seklas taham, neklas meg tahak.** used in situations. When one person asks often favors, but never shares back. "Give, and you will receive".

Porcupinefish is happy about the hiuwan shellfish. **Pekepek ramagién to hiuwan.** it is said that the porcupinefish feeds on 'HIUWAN' shellfish, but when it finds one, instead of eating it at once, the fish swims on and thinks about coming back later, but then the low tide comes and the shellfish is not in reach anymore. It is said about people who lose an opportunity or miss an event just because they thought of going elsewhere while waiting to the event to happen.

Red clouds on sunset, weather will change. **Napwua raléwlew, nian tarhwin.**

The syl parrot will fly to die in Imana. **Syl taremes Imana.** it is said that the 'SYL' parrots, when getting old, will fly to a village in south-west of Tanna called Imana to die there. The phrase is used to express that even after traveling far away people will eventually return home. "Home sweet home."

The butterfly and the swallow. **Papawuk né wukelekel.** it is said that the butterflies and the swallows follow each other. It is said of people who keep following each other, of couples in love and so on.

The cow has already defecated. **Puluk renawiét.** the thing is already done. We cannot return back.

The flying fox has grabbed a chestnut but still cries. *Kel ramlas pau nawuk mamasak*. said of people who already have enough but are still are not satisfied.

The inside of the roof in the house is already black.

Nahgenima renapen. because of the smoke from the fire. It is said to express that it has been very long time since the event in question.

The rat jumped over the owl. *Kahau ramiwuk lé imhir*. it is said that a dying owl will sit down on ground, and so a rat could jump over it without being eaten. It is used to speak about things like projects, which started maybe big, but which with time died out without being finished.

They collected werem, and sis took their place. *Kel werem, sis remawinam*. 'WEREM' is a kind of large edible shell of family of 'HIUWAN', which is collected as food, 'SIS' is a smaller shell. The proverb is used in situations, where a person leaves their place for a moment and when returned, sees that their place was taken by another person.

We will split our leaf of coconut tree in two. *Kamhaipu numa sia la katar min*. leaves of coconut tree are easily split in the middle, for example when making 'KEMÉLU', and the proverb uses this image to speak about people, who are leaving each other. It is used in figurative speech when saying goodbye after meetings or when leaving each other after having walked together. Can be even used to speak about a divorce.

Yesterday, that buddy got badly drunk. *Us an ramapus kaur riér lenaw lénhaiu*. lit. "he was so drunk that he had lost his nambas". An anachronism used sometimes today to make jokes of others.

You are standing on a turtle, but you are searching one to spear. *Namail am lé twiau né mamégasin iau tanakatek*. searching something which is just in front.

You should not force the crab, when it changes its skin.

Tarasowiakan kam kawles. one should not force anybody to do something, if the person is not feeling ready to it, if its time did not come yet.

Grammar and Language

Time

For how many days? *To nian ky?*

How long? *To nian ky?* in time.

I am having a rest today. *Iamamin tawék*.

In the evening I am going to swim in the sea. *Ta lénhaiu sekaik apa iré*.

It has been a long time since I saw you the last time. *Iasapan ik ny*.

It is not a long time ago. *Senia ma tary*.

Human

I am shaving myself. *Iamakes numa min nulek*.

People from Ituga are greatly experienced fishermen, but people from Lamlu have no idea of the sea. *Naramim Ituga narafta aken, mero naramim Lamlu narapat*.

Clothes

Clothes are already dry. *Napen renausek*.

I went working to the garden and I tore my clothes. *Iamwén apa lé nekin nasuman kani mahapu tahak napen*.

Family and Relations

A man makes love with his woman. *Ierman ramol to tahan perawen*.

Big man. *Ieram asul*. old, respected.

He is afraid of you. *Ramagenin ik*.

He is taking care of a good education of village kids.

Ramatukun kokomin apa lawanu.

He laughs at me. *Ramaliél kam io*.

He likes that woman. *Nekin la perawen an*.

His eyes are glowering. *Narameren renapinap*.

How many are you? We have three. *Kamiar ky? Kamhel kesel*.

I am older, than you. *Io ik ipar lam*.

I am sad because of my child. *Nekik rtat to tahak kowa*.

I am very happy. *Nekik ragién epek*.

I do not feel anything towards this girl. *Nekik reka la peran an*.

I like my mom. *Iakolkéikéi tahak mama*.

I love my wife. *Iakolkéikéi tahak perawen*.

I love so much my mom. *Iakolkéikéi epek tahak mama*.

I love you so much. *Iakolkéikéi epek ik*.

I speak to my kids. *Iamakhar kam nararek*.

I was watching you. *Iamamarep lam*.

My grandfather is dead. *Tahak kaha ramemes*.

My sister is already married. *Nawinek renmerek ita*.

Nobody is there anymore. *Naramim kenareka patem*.

The kid is shouting and showing off. *Kowa ramakhar apam memausit*.

This woman is tutoring my child. *Perawen ek ramahmut tahak kowa*.

We are many. *Katar ripar*.

Who are you looking for? *Namégasin péhé?*

You have to love your wife. *Tanakaikéi molkéikéi taham perawen*.

Your child is crying. *Taham kowa ramasak*.

Your father is still living? *Remen ramarek ena?*

Food

Did you feel the kava effects yesterday at nakamal, or not?

Namapus lenaw apa imaim o kapa.

Do you have some juice? *Nowanihin uiken?*

Eat the ripe bananas. *Ken nepen matak*.

Give me a banana! *Lasipa nepen!*

Give me a piece of coconut husk to clean the kava. *Lasipa kasisen iaké nukenekava*.

Have a banana! One is here. *Las nepen! Kér apa*.

He has already eaten. *Renaugan ita*.

He is giving me a banana. *Ramlasipa nepen*.

He is picking mangos. *Ramel magko*.

He should come to drink the kava. *Maramnum nekava*. tell him to come.

I am chewing kava. *Iamemai nekava*.

I am cleaning a yam. *Iamaké nuw*.

I am cooking a kelaka yam in fire, but it is still raw. *Iakawan kelaka mero rasmatakan*.

I am cooking something good. *Iamahu nar wyt kér*.

I am cooking. *Iamol naunganan*.

I am eating a banana with a coconut. *Iamasepién nepen*.

I am helping my mother to cook. *Iamasitu la tahak mama to nahuan*.

I am hungry. *Inamék*. • Naumus ramkes io.

I am looking for a fish. *Iamégasin nam*.

I am not hungry. *Iasamékan*.

I am the first-born of my family. *Io iaghin la tahak famili.*
 I am thirsty. *Inawawa.*
 I ate a fish with a yam. *Iamken nam né nuw.*
 I ate enough. *Natepak renasis.*
 I ate plenty ripe bananas and my stomach is full. *Iamken nepen matak ripar menépes.*
 I did not drink yet. *Iasamnumanana.*
 I drink kava all the time. *Iamamnum lilen nekava.*
 I feel the kava. *Iamero nekava.*
 I gave him a yam. *Iamlasipen nuw kér to in.* • *Iamlafen nuw kér to in.*
 I have already eaten. *Inaugan ita.*
 I have already gotten water. *Inwipen ita nu.*
 I have finished drinking my kava. *Io inol naunin lé namnumnemak nekava.*
 I like to chase Pacific imperial pigeon. *Iakolkéikéi naruan iawin.*
 I will drink water. *Sakamnum nu.*
 I will give you a banana. *Sekelasipena nepen.*
 I will pluck this little bird and eat it as nahunu. *Sakalemus kléplépen ek meken to nahunu.*
 I would like to eat a banana. *Iakolkéikéi ma seken nepen.*
 I would like to have a banana. *Iamarhapek to nepen ma seken.* to eat.
 Is the coco, that you are drinking, good? *Nakamnum nién mero rawyt?*
 Mother breastfeeds her baby. *Mama ramlasipen naha kam tahan kowa.* lit. "mother gives her breast to her baby".
 My stomach is full. *Natepak renasis.*
 Taro is better than yam. *Neté rawyt mapita nepen.*
 Tear off the skin of paha coconut with your teeth. *Akes nién paha!*
 The child drinks milk of his mother and his belly is well rounded. *Kowa ramamha la tahan mama natepun renasis.*
 The child drinks milk. *Kowa ramamha.*
 The food became moldy. *Nauganan ramlugan.*
 The food from yesterday smells already bad. *Nauganan lenaw renépién tat.*
 The harvest was bad, people are hungry. *Nasuman ramtat, naramim kamaimék.*
 The rice is burnt. *Rais ramahu atin.*
 The soup you prepare is always good. *Taham sup rawyt nian min patem.* lit. "every day".
 The taro is burnt. *Neté ramahu akry.*
 The woman is opening an earth oven. *Perawen raméku nowanuman.*
 There is no water anymore in the village, people are thirsty. *Nu reneka apa lawanu, naramim kamaiwawa.*
 This woman is boiling yams. *Peran an rakawin nuw.*
 Today they are sharing in the nakamal the rice from disaster food help. *Kamawra in rais taha tisasta apa imaim tawék.*
 Turn those bananas that are in the fire. *Hwin nepen lé nekam.*
 Will you follow me to Ituga? *Tanekir io kiawen apa Ituga?*
 Women do not drink kava. *Perawen rasamnumam nekava.*
 Yams will grow well. *Nuw tarakanan epek.*

Health

An asthmatic person. *Ieram ramamig.*
 Breathe deeply! *Amig epek!*

He ate the kotéa fish and got poisoned. *Ramken kotéa mamakona.*
 He had an accident in the sea. *Ramlas peken apa la téhé.*
 He is a strong man. *In ieram rasanen.*
 He is having diarrhea for last four days. *Ramai to nian kywer.*
 I am deaf. *Iakalu.*
 I am really sad because of my wife, who is sick. *Nekik ramahma epek to tahak perawen rakames.*
 I am tired. *Inapau.*
 I ate the food from yesterday, which was not good anymore, and now I am throwing up. *Iamamken nauganan hal méwa in.*
 I have a fever. *Iamaraparap.*
 I have broken my arm. *Nalemak ramraker.*
 I have cold. *Nesinahgak ramai.*
 I have got scraped while swimming in the sea. *Iamawai apa iré.*
 I slept badly yesterday. *Iamapel tat lenaw.*
 I was sick. *Iamakames.*
 If you have pain, take a medication. *Tama ramahma, nakamnum méresen kér.*
 My head is spinning. *Tahak kahapa ramalalau.*
 My husband is snoring a lot. *Tahak iaihgél rakawi nowanhalél epek.*
 My leg is swelling. *Nalemak ramasis.*
 My wife is delivering right now. *Tahak perawen ramémak tawek.*
 My wife speaks when asleep every night. *Tahak perawen ramarmik lapen patem.*
 She aborted her child. *Ramataken naren.*
 That man did not sleep last night, he is tired and yawns. *Us ek rasapelan lenaw menapau kani menamoag tat.*
 The baby coughs as it is sick. *Kowa ramatagel mero rakamus.*
 The doctor is treating me. *Dokta ramol wok lak.* lit. "working on me".
 The gun went off by accident and killed a man. *Kopwiél ituga ramaru peken iaramim kér méruap nin.*
 The kid shouted so much that he lost his voice. *Kowa ramakhar apam kani nekin reka.*
 The pig is very ill, but still alive. *Kupas ek rakamus epek, mero rakamiu am.*
 The sea has thrown me and I have got scraped by a stone. *Téhé ramho io iakawai io la kopwiél.* lit. "the sea hit me".
 The woman has her menstruation. *Perawen ramameta.*
 This man has peranepen hallucinations. *Us an ramanepen.*

Life

House

He lives far away. *In ramarek isau.*
 He lives there. *In ramarek iken an.*
 I am at home. *Io apa lé nima.*
 I am dividing my house to make place for my brother. *Iamatkel nowanima tahak to piak tarawa mapel iken.*
 I am inside. *Io apa ima.*
 I am not at home. *Io ikeka apa lawanu.*
 I go home. *Sekuwén apa lawanu.*
 I have lost my knife. *Iamataken tahak nau.*
 I live here. *Iamarek iken ek.*
 I live on Tanna. *Iaman la Ten.*
 I live there. *Iamarek a iken an.*

I try to light the fire on. [Iamalkut to nalhekaman.](#)
 Iawilu will castrate his pig. [Iawilu taratau tahan kupas.](#)
 Now I am living in Lowanatom, but before I was living in Czech republic. [Tawék iamarek apa Lowanatom, mero aupaniken iamarek apa République tchèque.](#)
 Now I am living in Lowanatom, but before I was living in Lénakel. [Tawék iamarek apa Lowanatom, mero aupaniken iamamarek apa Lénakel.](#)
 The house is already old. Tomorrow I will pull it down. [Nima renawas, talauk khaipu.](#)
 The house is already old. Tomorrow we will pull it down. [Nima renawas, talauk khaipu.](#)
 The house is closed. [Kamareg la nima.](#)
 Where are you from? [Imam ia?](#)
 Where does he live? [Ramarek ia?](#)
 Where does your grandmother live? [Taham kaha ramarek ia?](#)
 You live there? [Ik namarek a iken an?](#)

Transport and traveling

I am going middle-bush. [Iakan apa ikpat.](#) e.g. to Lamlu.
 I am going to enjoy myself. [Sakagién.](#)
 I am going to market. [Sekuwén la maket.](#)
 I am going up. [Iakan apa iles.](#) e.g. to Ipai, Lowkweria etc.
 I am just walking about. [Iamaliwok am.](#)
 I am translating for Tom. [Iamhuaprai ipen to Tom.](#)
 I did not know that he would come. [Iamatektek ma tarawa.](#)
 I go to church. [Iakan apa le nima awhak.](#) • [Sekuwén apa lé nima awhak.](#)
 I go to Ituga, to the principal nakamal. [Iakan apa Ituga, apa imaim asul.](#)

I am sharing bread with my brother. [Iamawra prêt to piak.](#)
 I have bought a yam. [Iamamos nu kér.](#)
 I have finished the work. [Io inol naunin la wok.](#)
 I have several chickens. [Tahak nararen mének ripar.](#)
 I was cutting the wood. [Iamarai nek.](#)
 I will build a henhouse. [Sekol nima taha mének.](#)
 I will pay a cow in White-Grass. [Sakarou kurimatau kér apa Lénkaugan.](#)
 It is time to dig out yams. [Nian taha nilan nuw.](#)
 Men are spading the garden while the women are pulling out roots. [Naman kamailu apa lé nasuman kani neperawen kamaréwin nar.](#)
 My father is working in the garden. [Remek apa lé nasuman.](#)
 Open your basket so I can put something in it. [Atalapag taham karem melasipen nar kér.](#)
 People are planting yams. [Naramim kamasy nuw apa lé nekin nasuman.](#)
 Sylvano is gone to do what? [Sylvano ramakan tarol nata?](#)
 The kids have stolen all my fowl. [Kokomin kamaikela in patem tahak nemének.](#)
 The man over there is a volunteer of the Peace Corps. [Us a in piskop kér.](#)
 The people have forbidden us to collect firewood. [Naramim kamainiaw kama to nosan nek mer.](#)
 Today, I am fishing. [Iakawi nam tawék.](#)
 What are you doing? [Namatawol?](#) • [Namol nata?](#) • [Namatawol un?](#)
 Yesterday I went to the garden to plant cabbage. [Lenaw iamsipan pa lé nekin nasuman matek kapus.](#)

I will come back tomorrow. [Sepléleg talauk.](#)
 I will go to the market with brother Anicet. [Sekuwén apa la maket kamlau frère Anicet.](#)
 I will run to the seashore. [Sakai mwén apa iré.](#)
 I will take your picture. [Sekos foto taham.](#)
 I would like to take your picture. [Iakolkéikéi mos foto taham.](#)
 The car turned left. [Loto ramikopen la mul iken.](#)
 There is a village somewhere here, it is close. [Lawanu kér apa iken, iwoket am.](#)
 Where are you going? [Namatuwén?](#) • [Nakan ia?](#)
 You want to go to the sea? [Nakolkéikéi ma tanekuwén apa iré?](#)

Work, money, possession

A thief has taken it. [Iakela kér ramlas.](#)
 Carry my pig here. [Las kupas tahak mwa iken ek.](#)
 He is calling the hens to feed them. [Ramakoako in mének min.](#)
 He went to work in garden. [Ramakan tarasum.](#)
 How much cost those ripe bananas? [Ky lé nepen matak?](#)
 I am breaking dry wood for fire. [Iamarkel nek mer to nekam.](#)
 I am breathless. [Iamamigamig.](#)
 I am building a fence. [Iamol paren.](#) e.g. from metal, not a live fence.
 I am not poor. [Rasolan mama io nases.](#) lit. "It is not that I am poor." • [Senia ma io nases.](#) lit. "One cannot say I am poor."
 I am planting a live fence. [Iamhau paren.](#)
 I am planting manioc branches. [Iamepatkin nalemen nemaiaiko.](#)

Nature

Animals

A black rooster. [Mének apen.](#)
 Bird is screaming. [Kléplépen ramasak.](#)
 Birds are singing. [Nemének min kameni napuk.](#)
 I am afraid of dogs. [Iamagenin kuri.](#)
 I am not afraid of dogs. [Iasageninan kaliawen.](#)
 I am watching birds. [Iamarep lé mének min.](#)
 The bird is singing. [Mének rameni napuk.](#)
 The crab is changing its skin. [Iager ramowiak.](#)
 What color is the plumage of common emerald dove? [Numamwimak ratol?](#)

Landscape and geography

Lowanatom is down, while Lowkweria is up in the hills.
[Lowanatom in apa lahau, mero Lowkweria in apa iles.](#)

Plants

Is there kava in your place or not? [Imam iken nekava ripar o reka?](#)
 The banana tree is flowering. [Nepen ramiuk.](#)
 The kava will grow well. [Nekava taripar epek.](#)
 The mango tree is already flowering. [Magko renaugen.](#)
 There is a lot of coconuts here. [Nekin am nién.](#)

Weather

I am sad that it is raining. [Iasolkéikéian ma nihin ramep.](#) lit. "I do not like that it is raining".

It is cold. Kamarap.

It is hot. Kamakapan.

It is raining so my clothes got wet. Nihin ramep kani tahak napen rapeteg.

It is raining very much. Nihin ramep epek.

It is raining. Nihin ramep.

The Moon is shining, so we see well the road. Mawuk ramasia, kamap wyt am suatu.

The night is bright and there is a lot of stars. Lapen rameta, mahau ripar.

The rain clouds come. Ramapinap le nihin.

The sea is rough. Téhé rakawi.

Science and Education

Child is writing to his notebook at school. Kowa ramarai tahan naua apa la sekul.

He helps me to learn the local language. Ramasitu lak to ninatinan nakharan.

He is mixing the local language with Bislama. Ramolpelpel lé nakharan la Ten né pislama.

I am teaching computer classes at Lowanatom. Iamatukun kompiuta apa Lowanatom.

I went out from school and I came here. Io iamiér apa la sekul mwa iken ek.