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Palauan Revised

ORTHOGRAPHY MANUAL

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LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
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INTRODUCTION

This Palauan New Orthography Manual was written mainly for the teachers to refer to when they have problems with Palauan spelling. The information contained in this manual were taken from the book called Palauan Reference Grammar which was written by Lewis S. Joseph with the assistance of Masa-Aki Emesiochl, Masaharu A. Tmodrang and Helen Wilson.

The informations were picked out from different parts and pages of the book, summarized and arranged in such manner, so that we could comprehend it better. If you find that the informations contained in this manual are not clear enough, you may refer to the Palauan Reference Grammar Book for more detailed information.

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SOUNDS AND SPELLING OF PALAUAN

LANGUAGE

Every language of the world uses its own set of sound to construct words. No two languages have precisely the same set of sounds or the same number of sounds. The speakers of different languages actually uses only relatively small number of such possible sounds when communicating in speech. The Hawaiian for example, uses only 13 distinctive sounds, perhaps the smallest number among the world languages. Palauan uses 17 when borrowed words from other languages are not being used. If the Palauan speaker communicate in pure Palauan language, he/she would use only 11 consonants and 6 vowels in his/her speech.

PALAUAN CONSONANTS

Points of Articulation

Manner of Articulation	bilabial	dental	alveolar	velar	glottal
Voiceless		t		d	ch
Stops					
Voiced	b	d			
Fricative			s		
Nasal	m			ng	
Liquid		r,l			

The five terms along the top represent the different points of articulation at which consonants are produced, while the four terms at the left describe different manners (or ways) of articulation.

PALAUAN VOWELS

Tongue Advancement

Tongue Height	font	central	back
High	i		u
Mid	e	e	o
Low		a	

The Palauan vowels distinguish three degrees of tongue height- high, mid and low. High vowels are pronounced with tongue raised high in the mouth and very close to the palate; low vowels are articulated with the tongue low in the mouth, relatively distant from the palate; and mid vowels are pronounced somewhere in between. Try to pronounce the vowel sequence **i,e,a**; you would be able to recognize three different positions of vowel height as your jaw moves progressively lower.

The mid central vowel **e** and mid front vowel **e** are quiet different in pronunciation: The mid central vowel **e** sounds something like the English words "about" and "again", while mid front vowel **e** sounds like the vowel in English "bed". The phonetic symbols for the mid central vowel **e** is [ɛ] and mid front vowel **e** is [e].

NON-CONTRASTIVE SOUNDS OF PALAUAN

In Palauan language, there are four letters or consonants which have their own non-contrastive sounds or allophones. The four letters or consonants are **b,d,t** and **ng**. Each of these four letters represent two or more sounds which are closely similar. Now let's look at the different allophones of each letter.

LETTER **B**

The two sounds represented by letter **b** are [b] and [p]. The sound of **b** and **p** can be identified depending on the location of the letter **b** in a word. For example, when letter **b** is immediately followed or proceeded by other consonant (except **l**) that **b** is pronounced [p]. But when the letter **b** occurs at the beginning of a word before a vowel or between two vowel letters, then letter **b** is pronounced [b]. We can say therefore that [b] and [p] are allophones of letter **b**.

LETTER **D**

The letter **d** has four possible pronunciations depending on the environment in which it is occurs. To illustrate these different pronunciation it will be necessary to introduce two new phonetic symbols. They are [θ], which sounds like the first sound of the English word "thin" and [ð] which sounds like the first sound of the English word "then". They are the allophones of the phoneme **d**.

The distribution of the four possible pronunciation of **d** may be summarized as follows:

a. Word initially before a vowel, the pronunciation **d** range from [d] to [ð]; in this environment, [d] tends to appear in rapid casual speech. While [ð] is heard in more careful controlled speech.

Example:	*dub [ðʊb]*	*debar [ðɒɒk]*
	deel [ðee/]	*deb [ðɛb]*
	demok [ðemok]	*dait [ðaɪt]*

b. Word initially before a consonant, the pronunciation of **d** varies between [t] and [ɵ]. The allophone [t] tends to appear before **b** and **m** in rapid speech in general, while [ɵ] occurs before **k** and **ng** and in careful pronunciation.

Example: *dmak [tmak]* *dngod [ɵŋod]*
dbak [tbak]

c. When letter **d** occurs between vowels or at the end of a word, it is pronounced with allopone [ð].

Example: *medal [ð]* *bad [ð]*
kekedeb [ð] *kid [ð]*

LETTER **NG**

The letter **ng** has two principle allophones. One is represented by phonetic One is represented by phonetic symbol [ŋ] and the other is [ᵑ].

a. When **ng** proceeds **t,d,s** and **r**, it is pronounced as [n].

Example: *iungs* *ngriil* *osongd*
sengsongd *merangd* *kngtil*

b. The [ᵑ] pronunciation of **ng** is produced when it is at the end of a word and before consonants other than **t,d,s** and **r**.

Example: *ngau* *ngas* *sang*
ngalek *bung* *tang*
nglim *bong*

LETTER **T**

The letter **t** has two different pronunciation. When **t** occurs at the end of a word, it is released quite strongly with an audible puff of air (aspirated) [tʰ] and the other pronunciation of **t** involves no aspiration [t]. This allophone of **t** (unaspirated) occurs at the beginning of a word when either consonant or vowel follows or when it is proceeded or proceeds by another consonant and followed by a vowel. We can therefore say that Palauan phoneme **t** has two allophones whose distribution is predictable as specified below:

[tʰ] (aspirated - word final)
[t] (unaspirated - word initial and word internally)

Example: *rrat [tʰ]* *tuu [t]*
mesikt [tʰ] *metengel [t]*
berikt [tʰ] *tmoched [t]*
bat [tʰ] *ktekudel [t]*

WORD-FINAL **NG**

Rules for spelling a word that have **ng** at the end is very simple to remember; if a word-final **ng** is pronounced and heard then **ng** should be spelled. But if, however, no **ng** is pronounced or heard then **ng** is omitted from the spelling. In general, if a word ends with **ng** when it is in the sentence, **ng** usually is not pronounced: but when it is at the end of a sentence it is always pronounced. However, when a word-final **ng** is spoken in isolation it is always pronounced and spelled in the writing.

MID VOWELS **E** AND **ɛ**

The mid central vowel **e** (shwa) and the middle front vowel **e** are quite different in pronunciation: **e** (shwa) sounds like English word "again" and "about", while **e** (middle front vowel) sounds like the vowel in English word "bed". The phonetic symbol for mid central vowel is [ə] (commonly referred as shwa), and that for the mid front vowel **e** is [ɛ].

The Palauan **e** has a very restricted distribution, because it occurs only in unstressed syllable while the mid vowel is in stressed syllable. Every Palauan word of two or more syllables has just one stressed syllable, with remaining syllables unstressed. To identify the stressed syllable, a stressed syllable is marked [ˊ] and it should be placed over the vowel which is found in it; this stress mark, however, is not used in the Palauan spelling system.

Example:	*delék*	*bikél [bikel]*
	medecherécher	*bikel [bikel]*
	meláuch	*oménged [omenged]*
	melekói	*omengéd [omenged]*
	ngelekél	

VOWEL CLUSTER **EI**

We must give attention to the problem of how and when not to spell a word with a final vowel cluster **ei**. A good number of Palauan words which end in **e** when pronounced within a sentence take a word final **i** when spoken isolation or at the end of a sentence. The rule for spelling is that, if word-final **i** is pronounced and heard, then, it is also spelled; if, on the other hand, no **i** is pronounced or heard, it is not included in spelling.

FURTHER RULES FOR PALAUAN SPELLING

CONNECTING WORDS **ME** AND **E**

Palauan complex sentences are formed by joinning two simple sentences with the words **me** and (so) or **e** and (then). These words are called connecting words because they connect two simple sentences into one and relate the ideas which they represent.

Example: (1) a. *A bechik a mle smecher.*
b. *Ng dimlak lebo er a party.*
(2) a. *A bechik a mle smecher me ng dimlak lebo er a party.*

The word **me** can also be used to join two independent clauses which are parallel in structure and which present information of more or less equal significance. In such case, **me** simply loose connection between events, states, etc., designates by the independent clause and therefore corresponds to English **and** rather than **so** or **and so**.

Example: *Ak meriik er a blai me a Toki a meriik er a mekesong me bo er a blim me bo bad.*

The word **e** is used in a conditional sentence to intorduce consequential clause.

Exmaple: (1) *Ak mo luchesii a babier e mo odureklii er a klukuk.*
(2) *Ng diles a ngikel e chemilt er a sar.*

RELATIONAL WORDS **ER** AND THE WORD **A**

The relational word **er** which has a wide range of English word equivalents such as **in, at, to, from, out of, because of,** and etc., is always spelled as separate word. If the proceeding word is vowel-final the **e** of **er** is dropped.

Example: ***Mo er a*** *is pronounced (mora).*

The word **a** which proceeds all verbs and nouns (but not pronouns or demonstratives) should be spelled as a separate word. The function of **a** simply introduces certain parts of speech.

Example:
* *Ak mo er a school.*
* *A Sabo a remurt el mo er a blil.*
* *Ak merael er a klukuk.*
* *A Tani a sebechel milil.*
* *Ng hong er a Dedaes.*
* *A Maria a omes er a ngelekel.*

PREFIX **RE**

In order to show that a noun refers to more than one human being, we attached **re** to the beginning of a noun or a word number.

Example:	**chad*	*-rechad*	**tedei*	*-retedei*
	**ngalek*	*-rengalek*	**teim*	*-reteim*
	**buik*	*-rebuik*	**telolem*	*-retelolem*

STATE VERB WITH PLURAL SUBJECT

Several simple words which refer to sizes or dimensions must take the prefix **me** if their subject is plural. This **me** is probably an instance of the verb marker prefix, but one which has the unique function of indicating the plurality of the subject.

Example:	*Root word*	*State Verb*
	klou	*meklou*
	kekerei	*mekekerei*
	kedelebuu	*mekedelebuu*
	kekemanget	*mekemanget*
	kekedeb	*mekekedeb*

WORD **EL**

The word **el** is used in many kinds of constructions to relate one word to another. Some of the most common usages are:

1. With demonstratives, which are used to point out people or things.

   Example: *Tia el klalo* *tirka el chad*
   se el hong *aika el charm*

2. With numbers, which occur in many different series, depending on what is being counted.

   Example: *ta el chad* *euid el klok*
   teluo el oluches

3. With various kinds of modifiers, which describe or quote some other words.

   Example: *chelecha el sils* *ungil el chad*
   mekelekolt el ralm *bek el tutau*

DEMONSTRATIVES

Palauan has a special group of words which speakers uses when they wish to point out or draw attention to a particular person, animal, or thing.

Example:	*tiang*	*tilechang*
	aikang	*aikei*
	ngikang / ngkang	*ngikei*
	tirkang	*tirkei*
	tiei	*sei*

These demonstratives are never proceeded by the word **a** which introduces most other Palauan nouns and phrases.

Example: *Ak mle medengelii tia el tekoi er a Siabal.*
Ng mle metitur aika el tekoi er a Merikel.
Te mle sorir ngika el chad er a ngebard.
Ng soak el melai er sie el bung.
Aika a kelem el rokui.
Tirke el chad te mekerang.
Tirka el chad a mo er a omerael.
Tie el blai a mla meseseb.

PALAUAN PRONOUNS

EMPHATIC AND NON-EMPHATIC PRONOUNS

Some Palauan pronouns are spelled as separate words, while others are spelled as part of another word. We shall look at the two sets of independent pronouns which can occur in the position of sentence subject. One is called non-emphatic pronoun and the other is emphatic pronoun.

	Non Emphatic Pronouns	Emphatic Pronouns
1st. pers. sg.	ak	ngak
2nd. pers. sg.	ke	kau
3rd. pers. sg.	ng	ngii
1st. pers. pl. incl.	kede	kid
1st. pers. pl. excl.	aki	kemam
2nd. pers. pl.	kom	kemiu
3rd. pers. pl.	te	tir

We can see some similarities (especially in consonants) between corresponding non-emphatic and emphatic form, however, there is no predictable way of deriving one set from the other. While the emphatic pronouns are always stressed and are pronounced as they are spelled, the non-emphatic ones are never stressed and sometimes show a slight varriation in pronunciation.

For example, when **ke, kede** and **te** appears before vowel-initial verbs, their final **e** is lost in the pronunciation, as in **ke ulemes** (kulemes), **kede ousbech** (kedousbech) and **te omengur** (tomengur).

These variations of the pronunciation of non-emphatic pronouns are true to all the Palauan words that begins with **e** or end with **e**, when it proceeds or followed by a vowel, the **e** will always be silent or not pronounced.

Example: *Ke imis el kedelebuu! [kimis]*
Ak mo er a skuul. [mora]

PALAUAN PRONOUN **AK**

The Palauan pronoun **ak** when it followed by a verb that begins with an **o**, the **o** will be read as **u** sound.

Example:	*Ak omes er kau.*	*Akumes er kau.*
	Ak ounglaek.	*Akuungalek*
	Ak omdasu.	*akumdasu*

HYPOTHETICAL PRONOUNS

Palauan has a special set of pronouns which appear as prefixes on verbs in a large variety of complicated grammatical constructions. Because, many of these constructions express hypothetical events or situations, for example, ones which are not real, but which are supposed, assumed, or imagined - the term hypothetical has come to be used as the identifying label for the pronoun prefixes as well as the verb form to which they are attached.

Example: *A kusuub e ak mo pass er a test.*
A chomorael e ke mo ungil er a skuul.
A lolim a kar e ng mo mesisiich.

Hypothetical form of **melim** and **mesuub**.

melim	mesuub
kulim	kusuub
chomolim	chomosuub
lolim	losuub
dolim	dosuub
kimolim	kimosuub

SUMMARY OF HYPOTHETICAL PRONOUNS

This list below summarizes the many variant forms of the hypothetical pronouns.

1st. pers. sg.	ku-, ke-, k-
2nd.pers. sg.	chomo-, mo-, chomu-, mu-, cho-, chom-, me-
3rd. pers. sg./pl.	lo-, lu-, le-, l-
1st. pers. pl. incl.	do-, du-, de-
1st. pers. pl. excl.	kimo-, kimu-, ki-

Example:	*bong*	*mei*	*melim*	*smecher*
	kbong	*kmei*	*kulim*	*ksmecher*
	mbong	*mmei*	*molim*	*msecher*
	chobong	*chomei*	*chomolim*	*chomsecher*
	lebong	*lemei*	*lolim*	*lsecher*
	debong	*demei*	*dolim*	*desecher*
	kibong	*kimei*	*kimolim*	*kimsecher*

OBJECTIVE PRONOUNS AND PERFECTIVE VERBS

Palauan has a set of affix pronouns which appear as suffixes on verbs. Since these pronouns always identify the object of the verb i.e., the person or thing affected by the action which the verb designates - they will be called **object pronouns.**

Example:

	Object Pronouns	*Emphatic Pronouns*
1st. pers. sg.	*-ak*	*ngak*
2nd. pers. sg.	*-au*	*kau*
3rd. pers. sg.	*-ii*	*ngii*
1st. pers. pl. incl.	*-id*	*kid*
1st. pers. pl. excl.	*-emam*	*kemam*
2nd. pers. pl. excl.	*-emiu*	*kemiu*
3rd. pers. pl.	*-terir*	*tir*

As you can see, object pronouns and emphatic pronouns are very closely related in forms: Except for the third person (human) plural. All of the object pronouns can be derive from the corresponding emphatic pronoun by removing the initial consonant (ng or k).

Example:	*mesebek*	*mengelebed*
	sobekak	*olebedak*
	sobekau	*olebedau*
	sobekii	*olebedii*
	sobekid	*olebedid*
	sobekemam	*olebedemam*
	sobekemiu	*olebedemiu*
	sobeketerir	*olebedeterir*

PALAUAN VERBS

THE VERB MARKER PREFIXES

The sole function of the Palauan Verb Marker is to identify certain words (or class of words) as verb. Let us examine the distributional characteristics of the verb marker.

The most commonly - occuring variant of the verb marker is the prefix **me**. Less frequently, the verb marker occurs as the prefix **o-**, which appears to be an alternate form of **me-** and **o-** are found in many types of verb.

Example:	*Rootword*	*Verb Marker **me***
	rael	*merael*
	saul	*mesaul*
	tengel	*metengel*
	dekekl	*merdekekl*
	kerrasem	*mekerasem*
	chitechut	*mechitechut*

The verb marker prefix always appears as **o-** if the following verb stem begins with **b**. Lets look at the basic structure of a word like **boes** and add **me** the verb marker **me + boes**. Notice that **me + boes** contains two bilabial; bilabial consonants **-m** which is bilabial nasal and **b** which is bilabial stop. There seems to be a rule in the sound system of Palauan that prevent **m** of the verb marker from being too close to another bilabial consonant; thus, in the basic structure **me + boes**, the **m** dissimulates from the following consonant **b** and becomes the vowel **o**.

Example:	*boes*	*oboes*
	moes	*omoes*
	bar	*obar*
	mart	*omart*
	bart	*obart*
	bedikl	*obedikl*
	medikl	*omedikl*
	bikel	*obikel*
	mikel	*omikel*

There are some Palauan verbs, however, in which the verb marker is **o** even though no bilabial consonant follows:

Example:	*oker*	*ker*
	oklukl	*klukl*
	osiik	*siik*
	ocherechur	*chur*
	osus	*sus*
	okoad	*koad*
	oldak	*dak*
	oltuu	*tuu*

THE PREFIX **OU-**

There are many Palauan verbs which are formed by adding the prefix **ou-** to some other word, usually, a noun. This prefix appears to be a combination of the **o-** and some other elements, but its structure is not clear. Verbs formed with **ou-** often designate ownership of or control over whatever the stem noun refers to.

Example:	*oubail*	*ousibai*
	ousidosia	*ouskuul*
	oustoang	*oukita*
	oucharm	*oureng*
	oumerang	*ousekool*

The past tense forms of verbs containing the verb marker prefix **o-** are derived simply by replacing this **o** with **ul** (e)-. The past tense forms of verbs beginning in **ou-** are derived in exactly the same way.

Example:	*ouskuul*	*uluskuul*
	oubech	*ulusbech*
	oubail	*ulubail*

THE INFIXED VERB MARKER

There are many intransitive (action or state) verbs that contain the verb marker in the form of an <u>infix</u> which appears after the initial consonant of the verb stem. This infix has three variants -(e) **m-**, **-u-** and **-o-**. In the example below, the -(e) **m-**, variant occurs; notice that the **em** is insert if the initial consonant of the stem is **r** or **ch**.

Examples:

(m)	*(em)*	*(u)*	*(o)*
ngmasech-ngasech	*remenges-renges*	*suebek-sebek*	*songerenger*
smecher-secher	*remurt-rurt*	*ruebet-rebet*	*sengerenger*
kmeed-keed	*chemat-chat*	*tuobed-tobed*	*soiseb-siseb*
lmuut-luut	*chemaus-chaus*	*kuimd-kimd*	
lmangel-langel	*chemiis-chiis*	*sueseb-seseb*	
tmorech-torech			

THE NEGATION VERB **DIAK**

The sentences of Palauan, like those of every language, can be classified into affirmative and negative types. While an affirmative sentence asserts (or affirms) the occurence of some action, event, state, condition, etc., a negative sentence denies such occurance.

A sentence that a verb or a noun diretly following the negative verb must be prefixed with a hypothetical pronoun.

Example: *A ngelekel a diak lsecher.*
A Sabo a dimlak loluchel.
Ng diak kurael er a klukuk.
Ng diak lsoal el omengur.
A Nina a mla mo diak lsengsei.
A lak ksengsei e ng diak kngar er tiang.

VERB WITH **MLE** AND **-IL-** IN PAST TENSE

A small number of Palauan verbs have two past tense forms, one with auxiliary word **mle** and the other with the infix past tense marker **-il-**. The two different ways of deriving the past tense characterize state verbs vs. action verbs.

Example: Mechesimer - milchesimer - mle chelsimer - mla mechesimer

PAST TENSE OF ACTION VERBS AND STATE VERBS

Palauan past tense verb forms always describe an event or state which was in progress in the past, at some point in time proceeding the time of utterance.

Action verbs and state verbs "behave" differently in at least two important ways. First of all, the past tense form of action verbs and state verbs derived differently. The past tense forms of action verbs involve addition of an affix of some kind. Affixes are morpheme which cannot occur as independent words. They are prefixes and suffixes which are added to the beginning or end of a word respectively. The third type of affix are infixes. Infixes are morphemes which are inserted into a word. The verbs with verb marker prefix **me-**, the past tense is derived by infixing the past tense marker **-il-**, or **-l-** after **m** of the verb marker.

Example: <u>Action Verb (present)</u>	<u>Past tense</u>
mengang	*milngang-mlengang*
mengelebed	*milngelebed-mlechelebed*
melim	*milngim-mlengim*
mengedub	*milngedub-mlengedub*

Since action verbs which begin with the verb marker prefix **me-** or **m-** take the infix **-il-** or **-l-** for the past tense, those which begin with verb marker prefix **o-** derive the past tense by replacing this initial **o-** with **ul-** or **ule-**.

Example:		
	omes	*ulemes*
	oker	*uleker*
	osiik	*ulsiik*
	obes	*ulebes*
	oureor	*uluroer*

We have seen above, the past tense of action verbs that are derived by using an infix or a prefix. By contrast, the past tense forms of state verbs are derived with auxillary word **mle**. This auxillary word is simply placed directly before the state verb.

Example:	*Present Tense*	*Past Tense*
	medakt	*mle medakt*
	mekngit	*mle mekngit*
	ungil	*mle ungil*
	medengei	*mle medengei*
	beches	*mle beches*

AUXILIARY VERBS

There are three auxiliary verbs; **mle, mla** and **mo** and its past tense **mlo**. However, **mo** and its past tense **mlo** are sometimes used as action verbs. The auxiliary verbs are also called helping verbs.

Example:	
	Ak mo er a movie.
	Ak mlo er a movie.
	Ng mo merael er a klukuk.
	Ng mlo kiei el di ngii el tang.

There are many action verbs which do not begin with the verb marker **me-** but instead, contain an infixed verb marker of the form -(e) **m-** or **-u-**. To derive the past tense forms of such verbs, we simply replace the infixed verb marker with the past tense marker **-il-** or **ir**.

Example:	*Present Tense*	*Past Tense*
	lmuut	*lilluut*
	suebek	*silebek*
	tuobed	*tilobed*
	chemiis	*chiliis*
	ruebet	*rirebet*
	remos	*riros*
	remurt	*rirurt*

We still have another past tense forms of action verb in which the verb marker prefix **me-** is followed by a verb stem which begins with **r**. This kinds of action verbs form its past tense by simply replace infix verb merker with pst tense marker **-ir-**.

Example:	*Present Tense*	*Past Tense*
	merasm	*mirrasm*
	merael	*mirrael*
	meruul	*mirruul*
	meriik	*mirriik*
	meradel	*mirradel*
	meremet	*mirremet*
	merberebek	*mirreberebek*

MORE INFORMATION ON PALAUAN WORD **A**

In a preliminary and much oversimplified discussion of the Palauan word **a**, we said that the major function of this word is merely to "introduce" certain Palauan part of speech, especially, nouns and verbs but actually, the word **a** does more than that. It also introduces noun phrases which are groups of associated words and other groups of associated words called verb phrases.

Example:	Subject Noun Phrase	Verb Phrase	Object Noun
	a. A ngalek	*a silsebii*	*a blai.*
	b. A ngelekel a Mey	*a mla sosebii*	*a blai.*

PALAUAN NOUN

HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN NOUNS

Palauan concrete nouns can be divided into two categories; human and non human.

Human Noun	Animals	Living	Non-Living
chad	bilis	bung	bad
sengsei	ngikel	kerrekar	boes
chedil	malk	chudel	oluches
Doroteo	katuu	dait	babier

ABSTRACT NOUNS

Abstract nouns refers to many different kinds of concepts, ideas, or emotions which can "exist" only in our mind.

Example:	*dakt*	*'fear'*
	reng	*'heart'*
	blekeu	*'bravery'*
	klemerang	*'truth'*

POSSESSOR SUFFIXES AND POSSESSED NOUNS

Let us pay more attention to the internal structure of nouns---that is, to the way certain parts or units are put together to form words which function as noun. Most of the nouns consist of only one meaning--bearing unit (or morpheme) in other words, noun like **ngalek, bilis,** etc., cannot be broken down into two or more parts which individually have meaning.

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The plural words like **rengalek** or **rebuik** consist of more than one meaning-bearing unit; for example, the single word **rengalek** is form from **re**, which means 'plural', and the noun stem **ngalek** 'child'. We use the term stem to refer to a noun when it appear in combination with something else--in this case, the plural prefix **re-**.

Noun also fudntion as stems in words like **sersek** and **chimal**. In these two words the noun **sers** and **chim** are followed by **-ek** and **-al** which identify the person who owns or possesses the noun in question. The ending **-ek** and **-al** are called suffixes. We also call endings like **-ek, -ak,** etc., possessor suffixes, since they follow the noun stem and designate the possessor. Any noun which consist of a noun stem followed by a possessor suffix will be called possessed noun.

FOUR SETS OF POSSESSOR SUFFIXES

Possessor Suffix:	a set: char	e set: charm	i set: buch	u set: reng
1st. pers. sg.	cherak	chermek	bechik	renguk
2nd. pers. sg.	cheram	chermam	bechim	rengum
3rd pers. sg.	cheral	chermel	bechil	rengul
1st. pers. pl. incl.	cherad	chermed	bechid	rengud
1st. pers. pl. excl.	cheremam	cheremàm	bechemam	rengmam
2nd. pers. pl.	chermiu	chermiu	bechemiu	rengriu
3rd. pers. pl.	cherrir	chermir	becherir	rengrir

POSSESSED NOUN WITH **NG**

Certain Palauan nouns required an **ng** as a "buffer" between the noun stem and the possessor suffix. This **ng** has no meaning and its appearance is not predictable. It is always followed by **e set** of possessor suffixes. Often, **e** appears between the **ng** and proceeding consonant.

Example:	*Independent Noun*	*Possessed Form*
	bas	*besngel*
	kerreker	*kerrekerngel*
	billum	*billemengel*
	bechos	*bechesengel*
	katuu	*katungel*
	deleb	*delbengel*
	btuch	*btechengel*

ALTERNATION BETWEEN **NG** AND **EL** OR **L**

There are very rew small number of Palauan nouns exhibit an alternation between word-final **ng** in independent form and **el** or **l** in the possessed forms; for example, **olekang-** olekol**el**. Some of these also add **ng** before the possessor suffixes, as in **diokang-** diokel**ngel** and **biskang-** biskel**ngel**.

Example:	*biskang*	*biskelngel*
	diokang	*diokelngel*
	kamang	*kamelngel*
	oles	*olsengel*

OBLIGATORILY POSSESSED NOUNS

There are quite a rew Palauan nouns which are impossible to compare the possessed form with an independent (or upossessed) form simply because the word must always occur with one of the possessors suffixes. Such nouns are called obligatorily possessed nouns; they contrast with optionally possessed nouns, which have both independent and possessed forms. In the example bellow you will see some of more commonly used obligatorily possessed nouns of Palau.

Example:	*bedul*	*bkul*
	ulul	*llel*
	ulkel	*uchul*
	obekul	*rsel*
	tkul	*kekul*

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Astract noun - a noun which identifies a concept, idea, quality, or emotion - i.e., something which lacks any discernible physical attributes and therefore cannot be perceived by any of the five senses.

Action noun - a noun which designates an action or activity as an abstract concept. Action nouns are derived by prefixing **o-** to transitive or intransitive action verbs.

action verb - a verb which describes an action, activity, or event.

affix - a morpheme which cannot occur as an independent word but which must be attached to, or inserted into, another word. The three types of affixes are prefixes, suffixes, and infixes.

affix pronoun - a pronoun which does not occur as a separate word but which must be attached to another word as a prefix or suffix.

agent - the doer of an action; the person who performs, carries out, or cause an action.

allophones - the non-contractive predictable phonetic varieties of a particular phoneme. The allophones of a given phoneme never provide us with minimal pairs.

alveolar - a consonantal sound involving the alveolar ridge.

alveolar ridge - the hard ridge behind the upper teeth which serves as a point of articulation for the Palauan consonants **s**, **r**, and **l**.

articulator - a speech organ (or part of a speech organ) which moves and touches some other speech organ during the production of a speech sound.

aspiration - an audible puff of air accompanying the pronunciation of certain Palauan stop consonants.

assimilation - a process by which the pronunciation of a given sound is changed so as to become similar or identical to that of an adjacent or neighboring sound.

auxiliary word - a helping word such as **mo** 'go' or **mle** 'was, were' which accompanies a verb and shows the tense of the verb or some other information.

basic stem - an abstract representation of a noun or verb stem which does not occur in actual pronunciation or writing but which allows us to predict the correct pronunciation of the various forms in which it occurs.

basic structure - a formula which shows all of the elements (morphemes) which compose a particular noun or verb form. The elements in the basic structure of a form must often be modified considerably in order to obtain the actually-spoken form.

bilabial - a consonantal sound produced with the two lips.

causative marker **bek** - a morpheme with causative meaning which is part of the causative prefix **omek-**.

causative prefix - a prefix of the form **ome** (k)- or **ol** (e)- which is added to a verb stem to derive a causative verb.

central vowel - a vowel pronounced in the center of the mouth with the tongue in "neutral" position - i.e., neither advanced (as for front vowels) nor retracted (as for back vowels).

concrete noun - a noun which edentifies something that has discenible physical attributes and can therefore be perceived by one or more of the five senses - i.e., something we can see, hear, taste, touch, or smell.

connecting words **me** and **e** - words which connect two simple sentences into one and relate the ideas which they represent.

consonant - a sound produced by partial or complete interruption of the outward air flow.

consonant cluster - a series of two adjacent consonant in the same syllable.

consonant-fianl (word or stem) - a word or stem ending in a consonant.

consonant-initial (word, stem or suffix) - a word, stem, or suffix beginning with a consonant.

context - the broad environment of a word, phrase, or sentence; the words or sentences which surround a particular word or sentence and have bearing on its meaning.

contrastive sounds - sounds which sontrast with each other (phonemes) in otherwise indentical environments. The sounds represented by Palauan **t** and **d** are contrastive because they occur in the environment **-ub** and therefore differentiate **tub** 'spit' from **dub** 'dynamite'. See also phonemes, significant sounds.

derived state verb - a state verb which is derived by adding one or more affixes to a verb stem or a noun stem.

directional verb - a special type of instransitive action verb which indicates movement in a particular direction.

dissimilation - a process in which the pronunciation of a given sound is changed so as to become different from that of an adjacent or neighboring sound.

emphatic pronoun - a type of independent pronoun which, when used as sentence subject, makes exclusive reference to a person or persons and implies a contrast with other persons who might be (but are not) associated with the action or state in question. Emphatic pronouns also occurs after the relational word **er** or the specifying word **er**, but without any sense of exclusive reference or contrast.

full vowels - the non-neutral vowels **i, u, e, o,** and **a**, which are pronounced with full vowel quality or "color".

glottal - a consonantal sound (usually a stop) involving the glottis (or vocal cords).

hypthetical pronoun - a type of affix pronoun which is prefixed to verbs in a large variety of complex grammatical constructions which involve hypothetical (i.e., unreal) events or situations.

infix - any morpheme which is inserted into a word.

morpheme - meaning-bearing units which combine with each other in the formation of words; minimal units of meaning.

morphology - the study of how different morphemes combine with each other in the formation of words.

nasal sound - a consonant pronounced with air flowing freely through the nose but not the mouth.

object pronoun - a type of affix pronoun which is suffixed to perfective verb forms and which identifies the person or persons affected by the action of the verb.

obligatorily possessed noun - a noun which has no independent from and must therefore always occurs with a possessor suffix.

past tense marker --- **il-** or-**l-** --- a morpheme indication the past tense which is infixed after the initial consonant of a verb.

phonemes of a language - units of sound which contrast with each other and serve to differentiate words from each other. See also contrast sounds, significant sounds.

phonetic symbol - a symbol written in square brackets and used to identify the actual pronunciation of a sound --- e.g. b-[p], d-[ ], d-[t], etc. The phonetic symbol for a sound may not necessarily correspond to the letters used in Palauan spelling e.g. [?] for **ch**. See also contrastive sounds, significant sounds.

possessed noun - any noun consisting of a noun stem followed by a possessor suffix.

possessor suffix - a suffix which is added to a noun stem to designate the possessor.

prefix - any bound morpheme wich is attached to the beginning of a word or morpheme.

pronoun - a short word refering to persons such as 'I', 'you', 'he', etc.; a word which subtitutes for a noun or nounphrase in the proper context.

schwa - a mid central vowel occurring only in Palauan unstressed syllables; transcribed phonetically as [ ] and spelled as **e** in this text.

state verb - a verb which dexcribes a state, condition, or quality which temporarily or permanetly characterizes a person, animal, or thing.

unaspirated - not involving apiration--- i.e. not accompanied by an audible puff of air.

voiceless sound - a sound pronounced without any simultaneous vibration of the vocal cords.

vowel - a sound produced by holding the tongue in various positions in the mouth without any contact or friction.

vowel cluster - a series of two adjacent vowels in the same syllable, as in **oach** 'leg' and **ngau** 'fire'. Usually, one of the vowel in a vowel cluster is stressed.

vowel deletion - the loss of a vowel under certain circumstances (usually in unstressed syllables).

vowel-fianl (word or stem) - a word or stem ending in a vowel.