Glossary of Nuakatan Terms

Glottal stops are common in Alina Nu‘ata. Vowel pronunciation is as follows: a—as in car, e—as in met, i—as in machine, o—as in ought, ai—as in aisle ei—as in vein, au—as in loud, ou—as in loud, oa—sound the o and a but almost together.

There are eighteen letters in the Alina Nu‘ata alphabet. English letters not found are c, f, j, k, q, r, x, and z. Regarding the accent, each syllable receives equal stress. Unlike other Milne Bay languages, the k phoneme does not exist in Alina Nu‘ata. Glottal a (‘a) is used instead.

aba’eno  Sleeping place
abanatu  Child’s place, womb
abanuwatuwu’avin  Place of remembrance
abi  Build
abilau  Start, begin to make
abimamole  Create
abita’alawahi  Joke
abiyemasele  Make clear, make visible
abiyemodi’ini  Make angry, become angry
abiyenamwanamwa  Make good, right, proper
abiyetowolo  Make stand up
abiye’wahuro  Make strong
adi  Their (semialienable possessive pronoun)
agu  My (semialienable possessive pronoun)
agu yaiyewa  Spouse’s cross-sex sibling
ahoni  Gossip, to talk about someone and make them ill
ai’abi  Cat’s cradle, (lit.) building, making in process
aiay  Food
ai’auhi  Contraception
aibika  Seed yams
aibale  Old woman/female
ainai  In or on
aiwa  Wood, tree, fire
aiwa tanitaniwagani  Tree fairies
ala  To open
ala'ala'wowowoli  Hot, heat
alamiya bwadana  Fish sickness
alawai  Witch
Alina Nu’ata  Language of Nua’ata, dialect of Auhelawa
alo  Bay
Alogau  (1) Hamlet on the north-northwest side of Nua’ata
        (2) United Church on the north-northwest side of Nua’ata
alu’aluwa  Spirit
am’oleyaya  Spiritual appearance
amwaha  (1) Path, stairs, and entrance to dwelling
        (2) Person’s unique ways
anayaliyaliyamane  Celebratory performance at mortuary feast
ao’ao  Crow
apali  Sexual intercourse
Asailo  (1) Hamlet on the southwest side of Nua’ata
        (2) United Church on the southwest side of Nua’ata
asawe  Mango
asiyebwa  (1) Sickness
          (2) Respectful term for someone recently deceased
ate  (1) Heart
     (2) Liver
     (3) Center of emotions and feelings
atemuyamuya  Liver/feeling paining, embodied feelings
atehawawali  (1) Reddish liver, rash, or skin disease that occurs when someone is fearful
            (2) Embodied feeling of fear and/or anxiety
atovi  Palm leaves
au’aubabada  Story
auhelawa  Language of Kurada (South Normanby Island) and Nua’ata
avala  Carry or bear children or things
avalai  Give birth
bada  Already
baditutula  Type of presentation of yams
bailowolowo  Flying witches
bilai  Mortuary feast
balau  Sorcerers
bilibili  External walls of house
boda  People or ancestors from same clan
bo’e  Black crane, black crane clan
boha  Bags for carrying garden produce
Boirama  Uninhabited island belonging to Nua’ata on the southeast side of Nua’ata
Bolime  (1) Southeast side of Nua’ata
        (2) Southeast wind
Bomatu  
(1) North side of Nua’ata  
(2) North wind

bubuli 
Mortuary taboos

Bulelala 
Legendary spirit woman who carries the spirits of the yams

bwabwale 
Mortuary feast

bwasiyagu 
Father-in-law

bwasumo 
Bird(s)

bwau 
Two

Bwauli  
(1) Northwest side of Nua’ata  
(2) Northwest wind

Daiwali 
Inhabited island belonging to Nua’ata, located southwest of Nua’ata

dalava 
Hamlet/village

dalavai 
Hamlet, to it

dimdim 
White person

dobi 
To go down, toward the sea

dova dimdim 
Like a white person

edewa 
Dog

ehebo 
One

ekelisiya 
Church members

elepa 
Bush knife

elolo 
Bird clan, type of bird unknown

Gaimanugini 
Hamlet on northwest side of Nua’ata

galiyauna 
Men responsible for burial of the dead

gama 
Child

gamahine 
Young girl

ggimi 
Handle

ginauli 
Wood already used as timber

(1) Things

(2) Plants used to heal

godu 
Break or snap

godugodu  
(1) Large clamshell

(2) Womb

goduyoi  
(1) Abortion

(2) Miscarriage

goha 
To cut when felling a tree

Gohiya 
Hamlet on the southwest side of Nua’ata

guyau 
Final feast of the mortuary sequence

Hana Kuba Kuba 
Uninhabited island belonging to Nua’ata

hanapui 
Know; knowledge that is certain; knowing/knowledge that is inherited or offered as a gift

Halewa’una 
Name of a bay on the north-northwest side of Nua’ata

Hapela’awa’awa 
Hamlet on the north-northwest side of Nua’ata
hae
To go up a mountain (used only when sun is rising or risen)

hauga
Time, weather, lifetime

hauga ‘i’ovi
Time is over (used when someone has died)

heda
Child (male or female)

hedaheda
Children

heda yana’aba’eno
Womb

hesi
But

heva
Floorboards

hevali
Young man, youth

hina
Mother

hinagu
My mother

hinagu habaluna
My small mother

hinagu mwala’ina
My big mother

hinevela
Women who marry into a susu

hiuma
Pregnant, pregnancy

hubu
Another word for susu, maternal family group

Labama
Small uninhabited island belonging to East Cape

ilalauputeiwa
Unsuitable, incompatible

ita
To see

ita’avivini
To care for

iamoibanane
True, correct, real

kakaleku
The call of a chicken

kastams
Customs

kundu
Wooden drum

labahi
To birth

labalaba
Transformative time of birth

labavai
The taking of a child’s spirit by an ancestor

laga
To go up inland, away from the sea

lagahi
Conception

lau
To go, to move

lau gagaiyo
Rule, law

lili’o
Parrot, parrot clan

logidi
House stumps

loheya
Man, men

loheyana
Its manliness, male

lomwau
Type of presentation of yams

lougu
Sibling of different sex

lougu tabigu
Younger sibling of different sex

lougu tuwagu
Older sibling of different sex

-ma
Verb suffix that signals that the action of the verb is in the direction of the speaker

mahalava
Arrive, happen, occur, become present, materialize in a place

mahaya
Pig

mahul
Sign
manihubu  Eagle, eagle clan
Maramatana  Local council to which Nua'ata belongs
masele  Bring into the open, become visible
mata  Today; will (intent to act)
mehe  Eyes
mehena  His/hers/its eyes
meimeituwu  Eternal spiritual beings
misinali  Junior pastor, missionary
miya  To sit, stay, remain, dwell
modi'ini  Angry
mugai  Go before, go in front
mulamula  Medicine, magic
molo  Semen
mulolo  Love, gift, good will
muli  Offering or gift made in mortuary feast
mulina  Marriage payment
mwala'ina  Big, large
mwalowoi  Death, dead
mwanegu  Spouse
na  And
nabwanabwau  Type of presentation of yams
namwanamwana  Good
natugu  My child
nibai  Brother/sister (cousin), e.g., mother’s brother’s child
niu  Coconut
nuwa  (1) The place where thinking-feeling arises
       (2) Inside the body
       (3) Want, wish, desire
nuwamasele  Understand, attitude, opinion, meaning
nuwapwanopwanowei  To forget
nuwanuwa  Gable roof
nuwatatuwu  Thinking-feeling
nuwatatuwuine  Thinking-feeling it, the thinking-feeling
nuwatuuwadawani  Thinking-feeling hidden from elders
nuwa’epo  Chest
nuwamagi  Kidney
nuwavitai  Heavyhearted, depressed
nuwadaumwali  Calm heart, peaceful
nuwamomohi  Squeeze thinking-feeling, remember, memory
nuwanuwpuyo  Virginity, chastity
nuwadobi  Humble
nuwapotapota  Stubborn
oba  Magic words, spells
omiu  You (pl.)
owa  You (sing.)
oya  Garden
Pahilele Inhabited island belonging to East Cape
pauhova Work, do, enact, make
pauhovai Work it, make it, use it, do it
patubwau Twins, two seeds
pehipehi Umbilical cord, navel
pilipilo Frangipani
poi Pluck, or rip off flowers, to tear open
politiki Politicking
puboma Traditional saddle-back house
pulipuli Floor joists
pwane’ahu Type of yam
pwanoli (1) Mistake
(2) Adultery
sabaliya Type of presentation of yams
sagesageni Bleeding
sailau Sailing canoe
salana Teeth
Silopan Custodial spirit of Nua’ata’s central mountain, Mount Tanalabwa
sinebada Respectful term for white woman
sinelantegege Good spiritual woman
sinemuyamuyalele Bad spiritual woman
subu Double-hulled canoe
susu Family, particularly maternal
tahigu Susu brother/sister (cousin), i.e., mother’s sister’s child
ta’i’ita Who knows
tama Father
tamagu My father
tamagu ‘agutaulabalaba My birth father
tamagu babaluna My small father
tamagu mwala’ina My big father
tamahina (1) (lit.) father, mother
(2) food for a journey
tamumu Placenta
Tanalabwa Central mountain on Nua’ata
tau (1) Body
(2) The one who
tau’ala’alahi Resurrection or transformation feast
taubada Older, respected man
taudiwo Their bodies
taugu My body
taubanpui Knowledgeable person
tauumudulele Spirit-man
tauumvalowoi Dead body
tau’oba’oba Sorcerers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tautaubada</td>
<td>Very old and respected man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tauwe'ita</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tenem</td>
<td>That</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tevula</td>
<td>Language of East Cape, Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tom</td>
<td>To cut with axe or bush knife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tomowa</td>
<td>Group of people, humankind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tonitonibwa'wa</td>
<td>Spirit people who live on the ground or under rocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to'wato'wai</td>
<td>Dwarfs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tubu</td>
<td>Grandparent, grandchild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tubui</td>
<td>Restored to health</td>
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<tr>
<td>umulitaedi</td>
<td>Ways or customs to be followed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>usilake</td>
<td>Accident, injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uto</td>
<td>Brain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uwe'ahiyedi</td>
<td>You respect them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uwe</td>
<td>Vines used for building houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vada</td>
<td>House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vahala</td>
<td>Young woman/female</td>
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<td>vai</td>
<td>To get</td>
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<tr>
<td>-wa</td>
<td>Verb suffix signaling that the action of the verb is directed away from the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wahiala</td>
<td>Strength, energy, vitality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waiena bwadana</td>
<td>Menstrual blood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waihiu</td>
<td>Girl, woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waihiuna</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waiwaihiu</td>
<td>Girls, women</td>
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<tr>
<td>walata</td>
<td>Pot</td>
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<td>waligeha</td>
<td>Namesake</td>
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<tr>
<td>waliwali</td>
<td>Singing</td>
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<td>wapina</td>
<td>Blood</td>
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<tr>
<td>walonane</td>
<td>Words</td>
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<tr>
<td>wawa</td>
<td>Dance traditionally performed at mortuary feasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wettubu</td>
<td>Vines used in building houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wo'e</td>
<td>Cry out, grieve for, deceased loved one</td>
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<tr>
<td>wohiwa</td>
<td>Man who marries into a susu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>woiyawanane</td>
<td>Poison</td>
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<tr>
<td>wonu bwadana</td>
<td>Turtle sickness</td>
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<tr>
<td>wuuuna</td>
<td>Because</td>
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<tr>
<td>ya</td>
<td>I</td>
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<tr>
<td>yababana</td>
<td>Bad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yabom</td>
<td>I alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yagu</td>
<td>My (alienable possessive pronoun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yagulauwa</td>
<td>Mother-in-law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yaguv'iva</td>
<td>Spouse’s same-sex sibling</td>
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<tr>
<td>yaipoine</td>
<td>Sterility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yalasi</td>
<td>(1) Southwest side of Nua'ata</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(2) Southwest wind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yana</td>
<td>Its, hers, his (alienable possessive pronoun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yawahi</td>
<td>Breath, life force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaubada</td>
<td>God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| yauwedo | (1) Greeting  
(2) Thank you |
| yemedi | Believe, to rely upon |
| zagaya | Final feast in the traditional mortuary sequence |