

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.

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| <i>aba'eno</i> | Sleeping place |
| <i>abanatu</i> | Child's place, womb |
| <i>abanuwatuwu'avivin</i> | Place of remembrance |
| <i>abi</i> | Build |
| <i>abilau</i> | Start, begin to make |
| <i>abimamole</i> | Create |
| <i>abita'alawahi</i> | Joke |
| <i>abiyemasele</i> | Make clear, make visible |
| <i>abiyemodi'ini</i> | Make angry, become angry |
| <i>abiyenamwanamwa</i> | Make good, right, proper |
| <i>abiyetowolo</i> | Make stand up |
| <i>abiye'wahiuyo</i> | Make strong |
| <i>adi</i> | Their (semialienable possessive pronoun) |
| <i>agu</i> | My (semialienable possessive pronoun) |
| <i>agu yayiyewa</i> | Spouse's cross-sex sibling |
| <i>ahoni</i> | Gossip, to talk about someone and make them ill |
| <i>ai'abi</i> | Cat's cradle, (lit.) building, making in process |
| <i>aiai</i> | Food |
| <i>ai'auhi</i> | Contraception |
| <i>aibika</i> | Seed yams |
| <i>aihale</i> | Old woman/female |
| <i>ainai</i> | In or on |
| <i>aiwa</i> | Wood, tree, fire |
| <i>aiwa tanitaniwagani</i> | Tree fairies |
| <i>ala</i> | To open |

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| <i>ala'ala'wowowoli</i> | Hot, heat |
| <i>alamiya bwadana</i> | Fish sickness |
| <i>alawai</i> | Witch |
| <i>Alina Nu'ata</i> | Language of Nua'ata, dialect of Auhelawa |
| <i>alo</i> | Bay |
| <i>Alogau</i> | (1) Hamlet on the north-northwest side of Nua'ata (2) United Church on the north-northwest side of Nua'ata |
| <i>alu'aluwa</i> | Spirit |
| <i>am'oleya</i> | Spiritual appearance |
| <i>amwaha</i> | (1) Path, stairs, and entrance to dwelling (2) Person's unique ways |
| <i>anayaliyaliyamane</i> | Celebratory performance at mortuary feast |
| <i>ao'ao</i> | Crow |
| <i>apali</i> | Sexual intercourse |
| <i>Asailo</i> | (1) Hamlet on the southwest side of Nua'ata (2) United Church on the southwest side of Nua'ata |
| <i>asawe</i> | Mango |
| <i>asiyebwa</i> | (1) Sickness (2) Respectful term for someone recently deceased |
| <i>ate</i> | (1) Heart (2) Liver (3) Center of emotions and feelings |
| <i>atemuyamuya</i> | Liver/feeling paining, embodied feelings |
| <i>atehawawali</i> | (1) Reddish liver, rash, or skin disease that occurs when someone is fearful (2) Embodied feeling of fear and/or anxiety |
| <i>atovi</i> | Palm leaves |
| <i>au'aubabada</i> | Story |
| <i>aubelawa</i> | Language of Kurada (South Normanby Island) and Nua'ata |
| <i>avala</i> | Carry or bear children or things |
| <i>avalai</i> | Give birth |
| <i>bada</i> | Already |
| <i>baditutula</i> | Type of presentation of yams |
| <i>bailowolowo</i> | Flying witches |
| <i>bilai</i> | Mortuary feast |
| <i>balau</i> | Sorcerers |
| <i>bilibili</i> | External walls of house |
| <i>boda</i> | People or ancestors from same clan |
| <i>bo'e</i> | Black crane, black crane clan |
| <i>boha</i> | Bags for carrying garden produce |
| <i>Boirama</i> | Uninhabited island belonging to Nua'ata on the southeast side of Nua'ata |
| <i>Bolime</i> | (1) Southeast side of Nua'ata (2) Southeast wind |

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| <i>Bomatu</i> | (1) North side of Nua'ata (2) North wind |
| <i>bubuli</i> | Mortuary taboos |
| <i>Bulelala</i> | Legendary spirit woman who carries the spirits of the yams |
| <i>bwabwale</i> | Mortuary feast |
| <i>bwasiyagu</i> | Father-in-law |
| <i>bwasumo</i> | Bird(s) |
| <i>bwau</i> | Two |
| <i>Bwauli</i> | (1) Northwest side of Nua'ata (2) Northwest wind |
| <i>Daiwali</i> | Inhabited island belonging to Nua'ata, located southwest of Nua'ata Nua'ata |
| <i>dalava</i> | Hamlet/village |
| <i>dalavai</i> | Hamlet, to it |
| <i>dimdim</i> | White person |
| <i>dobi</i> | To go down, toward the sea |
| <i>dova dimdim</i> | Like a white person |
| <i>edewa</i> | Dog |
| <i>ebebo</i> | One |
| <i>ekelisiya</i> | Church members |
| <i>elepa</i> | Bush knife |
| <i>elolo</i> | Bird clan, type of bird unknown |
| <i>Gaimanugini</i> | Hamlet on northwest side of Nua'ata |
| <i>galiyauna</i> | Men responsible for burial of the dead |
| <i>gama</i> | Child |
| <i>gamahine</i> | Young girl |
| <i>gigini</i> | Handle |
| <i>ginaginauli</i> | Wood already used as timber |
| <i>ginauli</i> | (1) Things (2) Plants used to heal |
| <i>godu</i> | Break or snap |
| <i>godugodu</i> | (1) Large clamshell (2) Womb |
| <i>goduyoi</i> | (1) Abortion (2) Miscarriage |
| <i>goba</i> | To cut when felling a tree |
| <i>Gohiya</i> | Hamlet on the southwest side of Nua'ata |
| <i>guyau</i> | Final feast of the mortuary sequence |
| <i>Hana Kuba Kuba</i> | Uninhabited island belonging to Nua'ata |
| <i>hanapui</i> | Know; knowledge that is certain; knowing/ knowledge that is inherited or offered as a gift |
| <i>Halewa'una</i> | Name of a bay on the north-northwest side of Nua'ata |
| <i>Hapela'awa'awa</i> | Hamlet on the north-northwest side of Nua'ata |

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| <i>hae</i> | To go up a mountain (used only when sun is rising or risen) |
| <i>hauga</i> | Time, weather, lifetime |
| <i>hauga 'i'ovi</i> | Time is over (used when someone has died) |
| <i>heda</i> | Child (male or female) |
| <i>hedaheda</i> | Children |
| <i>heda yana'aba'eno</i> | Womb |
| <i>hesi</i> | But |
| <i>heva</i> | Floorboards |
| <i>hevali</i> | Young man, youth |
| <i>hina</i> | Mother |
| <i>hinagu</i> | My mother |
| <i>hinagu habaluna</i> | My small mother |
| <i>hinagu mwala'ina</i> | My big mother |
| <i>hinevela</i> | Women who marry into a <i>susu</i> |
| <i>hiuma</i> | Pregnant, pregnancy |
| <i>hubu</i> | Another word for <i>susu</i> , maternal family group |
| <i>Iabama</i> | Small uninhabited island belonging to East Cape |
| <i>ilalauputeiwa</i> | Unsuitable, incompatible |
| <i>ita</i> | To see |
| <i>ita'avivini</i> | To care for |
| <i>iamoihanane</i> | True, correct, real |
| <i>kakaleku</i> | The call of a chicken |
| <i>kastams</i> | Customs |
| <i>kundu</i> | Wooden drum |
| <i>labahi</i> | To birth |
| <i>labalaba</i> | Transformative time of birth |
| <i>labavai</i> | The taking of a child's spirit by an ancestor |
| <i>laga</i> | To go up inland, away from the sea |
| <i>lagabi</i> | Conception |
| <i>lau</i> | To go, to move |
| <i>laugagaiyo</i> | Rule, law |
| <i>lili'o</i> | Parrot, parrot clan |
| <i>logidi</i> | House stumps |
| <i>loheya</i> | Man, men |
| <i>loheyana</i> | Its manliness, male |
| <i>lomwau</i> | Type of presentation of yams |
| <i>lougu</i> | Sibling of different sex |
| <i>lougu tahigu</i> | Younger sibling of different sex |
| <i>lougu tuwagu</i> | Older sibling of different sex |
| <i>-ma</i> | Verb suffix that signals that the action of the verb is in the direction of the speaker |
| <i>mahalava</i> | Arrive, happen, occur, become present, materialize in a place |
| <i>maheya</i> | Pig |
| <i>mahul</i> | Sign |

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| <i>manihubu</i> | Eagle, eagle clan |
| <i>Maramatana</i> | Local council to which Nua'ata belongs |
| <i>masele</i> | Bring into the open, become visible |
| <i>mata</i> | Today; will (intent to act) |
| <i>mehe</i> | Eyes |
| <i>mehena</i> | His/hers/its eyes |
| <i>meimeituwu</i> | Eternal spiritual beings |
| <i>misinali</i> | Junior pastor, missionary |
| <i>miya</i> | To sit, stay, remain, dwell |
| <i>modi'ini</i> | Angry |
| <i>mugai</i> | Go before, go in front |
| <i>mulamula</i> | Medicine, magic |
| <i>molo</i> | Semen |
| <i>mulolo</i> | Love, gift, good will |
| <i>muli</i> | Offering or gift made in mortuary feast |
| <i>mulina</i> | Marriage payment |
| <i>mwala'ina</i> | Big, large |
| <i>mwalowoi</i> | Death, dead |
| <i>mwanegu</i> | Spouse |
| <i>na</i> | And |
| <i>nabwanabwau</i> | Type of presentation of yams |
| <i>namwanamwana</i> | Good |
| <i>natugu</i> | My child |
| <i>nibai</i> | Brother/sister (cousin), e.g., mother's brother's child |
| <i>niu</i> | Coconut |
| <i>nuwa</i> | (1) The place where thinking-feeling arises (2) Inside the body (3) Want, wish, desire |
| <i>nuwamasele</i> | Understand, attitude, opinion, meaning |
| <i>nuwapwanopwanowei</i> | To forget |
| <i>nuwanuwa</i> | Gable roof |
| <i>nuwatuwu</i> | Thinking-feeling |
| <i>nuwatuwuine</i> | Thinking-feeling it, the thinking-feeling |
| <i>nuwatuwudawani</i> | Thinking-feeling hidden from elders |
| <i>nuwa'epo</i> | Chest |
| <i>nuwamagi</i> | Kidney |
| <i>nuwavitai</i> | Heavyhearted, depressed |
| <i>nuwadaumwali</i> | Calm heart, peaceful |
| <i>nuwamomobi</i> | Squeeze thinking-feeling, remember, memory |
| <i>nuwanuwupuyo</i> | Virginity, chastity |
| <i>nuwadobi</i> | Humble |
| <i>nuwapotapota</i> | Stubborn |
| <i>oba</i> | Magic words, spells |
| <i>omiu</i> | You (pl.) |
| <i>owa</i> | You (sing.) |
| <i>oya</i> | Garden |

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| <i>Pabilele</i> | Inhabited island belonging to East Cape |
| <i>paihowa</i> | Work, do, enact, make |
| <i>paihowai</i> | Work it, make it, use it, do it |
| <i>patubwau</i> | Twins, two seeds |
| <i>pehipēhi</i> | Umbilical cord, navel |
| <i>pilopilo</i> | Frangipani |
| <i>poi</i> | Pluck, or rip off flowers, to tear open |
| <i>politiki</i> | Politicking |
| <i>puhoma</i> | Traditional saddle-back house |
| <i>pulipuli</i> | Floor joists |
| <i>pwane'ahu</i> | Type of yam |
| <i>pwanoli</i> | (1) Mistake (2) Adultery |
| <i>sabaliya</i> | Type of presentation of yams |
| <i>sagesagena</i> | Bleeding |
| <i>sailau</i> | Sailing canoe |
| <i>salana</i> | Teeth |
| <i>Silopan</i> | Custodial spirit of Nua'ata's central mountain, Mount Tanalabwa |
| <i>sinebada</i> | Respectful term for white woman |
| <i>sinelautegege</i> | Good spiritual woman |
| <i>sinemuyamuyalele</i> | Bad spiritual woman |
| <i>subu</i> | Double-hulled canoe |
| <i>susu</i> | Family, particularly maternal |
| <i>tahigu</i> | <i>Susu</i> brother/sister (cousin), i.e., mother's sister's child |
| <i>ta'i'ita</i> | Who knows |
| <i>tama</i> | Father |
| <i>tamagu</i> | My father |
| <i>tamagu 'agutaulabalaba</i> | My birth father |
| <i>tamagu habaluna</i> | My small father |
| <i>tamagu mwala'ina</i> | My big father |
| <i>tamahina</i> | (1) (lit.) father, mother (2) food for a journey |
| <i>tamumu</i> | Placenta |
| <i>Tanalabwa</i> | Central mountain on Nua'ata |
| <i>tau</i> | (1) Body (2) The one who |
| <i>tau'ala'alabi</i> | Resurrection or transformation feast |
| <i>taubada</i> | Older, respected man |
| <i>taudiwo</i> | Their bodies |
| <i>taugu</i> | My body |
| <i>tauhanpui</i> | Knowledgeable person |
| <i>taumudulele</i> | Spirit-man |
| <i>taumwalowoi</i> | Dead body |
| <i>tau'oba'oba</i> | Sorcerers |

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| <i>tautaubada</i> | Very old and respected man |
| <i>tauve'ita</i> | Teacher |
| <i>tenem</i> | That |
| <i>tewala</i> | Language of East Cape, Papua New Guinea |
| <i>tom</i> | To cut with axe or bush knife |
| <i>tomowa</i> | Group of people, humankind |
| <i>tonitonibwa'wa</i> | Spirit people who live on the ground or under rocks |
| <i>to'wato'wai</i> | Dwarfs |
| <i>tubu</i> | Grandparent, grandchild |
| <i>tubui</i> | Restored to health |
| <i>umulitaedi</i> | Ways or customs to be followed |
| <i>usilaha</i> | Accident, injury |
| <i>uto</i> | Brain |
| <i>uve'ahibiyedi</i> | You respect them |
| <i>uwe</i> | Vines used for building houses |
| <i>vada</i> | House |
| <i>vahala</i> | Young woman/female |
| <i>vai</i> | To get |
| <i>-wa</i> | Verb suffix signaling that the action of the verb is directed away from the speaker |
| <i>wahiala</i> | Strength, energy, vitality |
| <i>waiena bwadana</i> | Menstrual blood |
| <i>waihiu</i> | Girl, woman |
| <i>waihiuna</i> | Female |
| <i>waiwaihiu</i> | Girls, women |
| <i>walata</i> | Pot |
| <i>waligeha</i> | Namesake |
| <i>waliwali</i> | Singing |
| <i>wapina</i> | Blood |
| <i>walonane</i> | Words |
| <i>wawa</i> | Dance traditionally performed at mortuary feasts |
| <i>wetuhu</i> | Vines used in building houses |
| <i>wo'e</i> | Cry out, grieve for, deceased loved one |
| <i>wohiwa</i> | Man who marries into a <i>susu</i> |
| <i>woiyawanane</i> | Poison |
| <i>wonu bwadana</i> | Turtle sickness |
| <i>wuwuna</i> | Because |
| <i>ya</i> | I |
| <i>yababana</i> | Bad |
| <i>yabom</i> | I alone |
| <i>yagu</i> | My (alienable possessive pronoun) |
| <i>yagulauwa</i> | Mother-in-law |
| <i>yagu'iva</i> | Spouse's same-sex sibling |
| <i>yaipoine</i> | Sterility |
| <i>Yalasi</i> | (1) Southwest side of Nua'ata (2) Southwest wind |

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| <i>Yana</i> | Its, hers, his (alienable possessive pronoun) |
| <i>yawahi</i> | Breath, life force |
| <i>Yaubada</i> | God |
| <i>yauwedo</i> | (1) Greeting (2) Thank you |
| <i>yemedi</i> | Believe, to rely upon |
| <i>zagaya</i> | Final feast in the traditional mortuary sequence |