

# **Pijin**

## **A Grammar of Solomon Islands Pidgin**

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**Brata Jack, disfala waka nao hemi olsem memori fo mekem mi tingim yu olowe.**

## **Abstract**

Solomon Islands Pidgin (Pijin), spoken by at least 420,000 people, is a variety of Melanesian Pidgin that has not been studied in depth by more than a handful of scholars. This grammar introduces the historical development of Pijin, reviews the current sociolinguistic scene (in particular some hard to access sociolinguistic research), examines some relevant statistics, and briefly touches on the phonology of Pijin. With this background in mind, I set out the grammar of Pijin beginning with the word classes and associated morphological processes.

The following Pijin word classes are described: nouns (including noun formation), determinatives, quantifiers (including numerals and ordinal numeral formation), adjectives (including the debate concerning whether Pijin has adjectives or not), pronouns, various nominal modifiers, prepositions (including adverbs that function as prepositions), verbs and their morphology (including the transitive suffix and reduplication), adverbs and various pre-verbal markers, interrogative pro-forms, relative clause markers, complementisers, coordinators and subordinators, connective adverbs and interjections.

The description then turns to the noun phrase and its constituents. Of note here is that I posit a Nominal that is a constituent intermediate between the noun and the noun phrase. Other phrases such as the verb phrase (including serial verb constructions), adjective phrase, and prepositional phrase are then described, as is word and phrase coordination.

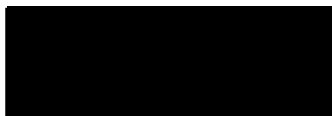
The account then progresses to the phrase type that I label the Predicate. The Predicate functions as the head of a sentence. In itself it may be headed by any of the phrase types so far described. It is composed of a subject referencing pronoun, a variety of pre-head markers and adverbs, the head itself and various post head adverbs and prepositional phrases.

Together with a noun phrase subject, the Predicate forms a simple sentence. Simple sentences of various types are then described. Those sentences that contain more than one predicate are treated as complex sentences. The account of the grammar of Pijin concludes with these and a brief look at some discourse particles that are used to link sentences.

Finally, several appendices provide some historical documents, various tables of lexical items relevant to the description, some examples of narratives, and a lexicon.

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not currently being submitted for any other degree or qualification.

I certify that any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.

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Signature

## Abbreviations

1SG	first person singular	INC	inclusive
2SG	second person singular	MP	Melanesian Pidgin
3SG	third person singular	N	noun
1DL	first person dual	NEG	negative
2DL	second person dual	NOM	nominal
3DL	third person dual	NP	noun phrase
1TRL	first person trial	PL	plural
2TRL	second person trial	POSS	possessive
3TRL	third person trial	PM	postnominal modifier
1PL	first person plural	PP	prepositional phrase
2PL	second person plural	PREP	preposition
3PL	third person plural	PST	past
ABIL	abilitative	Q	quantifier
Adj	adjective	QN	question marker
AdjP	adjective phrase	RC	relative clause
Adv	adverb	RDEM	recognitional demonstrative
COMP	complementiser	REDUP	reduplication
D	determiner	REL	relative clause marker
DEC	declarative	SG	singular
DEM	demonstrative	SRP	subject referencing pronoun
DISC	discourse marker	SVC	serial verb construction
EMPH	emphasis marker	TMA	tense, mood, aspect
EXC	exclusive	TRS	transitive suffix
FOC	focus marker	V	verb
FUT	future	VP	verb phrase
HAB	habitual		

## Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	ii
Abstract.....	iii
Abbreviations.....	v
Table of Contents.....	vi
Chapter 1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Solomon Islands.....	1
1.2 Previous Studies of Pijin.....	2
1.3 Language Data.....	3
1.4 Scope.....	7
1.5 Theoretical Background.....	7
Chapter 2 Historical Development.....	11
2.1 Nineteenth Century.....	11
2.1.1 Clark.....	11
2.1.2 Keesing.....	13
2.1.3 Baker.....	13
2.1.4 Tryon & Charpentier.....	15
2.1.5 An Expanded Pidgin.....	16
2.2 Twentieth Century.....	16
2.2.1 Solomon Islands Plantations.....	17
2.2.2 Christian Settlements.....	18
2.2.3 Missionaries.....	18
2.2.4 World War 2 and Beyond.....	19
2.2.5 Colonial Attitudes.....	20
Chapter 3 The Contemporary Situation.....	23
3.1 Early's study of Language use and intelligibility in the Central Islands of the Western province.....	23
3.2 Morgan's study of Language Usage in the Solomon Islands.....	24
3.3 Pijin Literature and Other Media.....	25

3.4	“Sapos Iumi Mitim Iumi” .....	27
3.5	National Language and Literacy Survey.....	28
3.6	Vernacular Education in the South Pacific .....	30
3.7	Current Pijin language use .....	31
3.7.1	Variation .....	31
3.7.2	Decreolisation .....	32
3.7.3	Code-switching .....	34
3.8	Vital Statistics .....	35
3.8.1	Age profile of Pijin speakers.....	36
3.8.2	Distribution of Pijin .....	40
3.8.3	Pijin and endangered languages.....	43
3.8.4	First language Pijin Speakers.....	44
3.9	Current Phonology .....	46
3.9.1	Segmental Phonemes .....	46
3.9.1.1	Consonants.....	47
3.9.1.2	Consonantal Phoneme Distribution .....	47
3.9.1.3	Consonants in the Orthography .....	48
3.9.1.4	Consonant Variation .....	48
3.9.1.5	Vowels .....	50
3.9.1.6	Diphthongs.....	52
3.9.1.7	Semivowels.....	53
3.9.2	Syllables, Stress, and Intonation .....	54
3.9.2.1	Syllable Structure.....	54
3.9.2.2	Stress .....	55
3.9.2.3	Focus particle Intonation.....	56
Chapter 4	Word Classes and Morphological Processes .....	57
4.1	Nouns .....	57
4.1.1	Noun subclasses .....	58
4.1.1.1	Count and non-count nouns .....	58
4.1.1.2	Proper nouns .....	60
4.1.2	Noun word formation.....	60

4.1.2.1	Compounds .....	60
4.1.2.2	Reduplication .....	63
4.1.3	Noun morphology .....	64
4.1.3.1	Derivation .....	65
4.1.3.2	English derived plural marking.....	66
4.2	Determinatives .....	69
4.3	Quantifiers.....	69
4.3.1	Numerals .....	70
4.3.1.1	Numeral cooccurrence constraints .....	71
4.3.1.2	Composite Numerals.....	71
4.3.1.3	Cardinal Numerals .....	72
4.3.1.4	Cardinal numeral <i>-fala</i> constraints.....	73
4.3.1.5	<i>Wanfala</i> as Determiner .....	75
4.3.1.6	Numeral-Determiner Collocation Constraints .....	75
4.3.1.7	Ordinal Numerals.....	76
4.4	Adjectives .....	77
4.4.1	Adjectives as Nouns.....	78
4.4.2	Morphological characteristics of Adjectives .....	79
4.4.2.1	<i>-wan</i> .....	79
4.4.2.2	Adjectives containing <i>fala</i> .....	80
4.4.2.3	<i>-fala</i> : a form without function.....	81
4.4.2.4	Non-suffix taking adjectives .....	85
4.4.2.5	Syntactic and Morphological summary .....	85
4.4.3	Adjectives or stative verbs? .....	85
4.5	Pronouns .....	92
4.5.1	Personal Pronouns.....	92
4.5.1.1	Phonetic variation of personal pronouns.....	93
4.5.1.2	Do personal pronouns have morphemic elements? .....	93
4.5.2	Non-personal Pronouns.....	94
4.5.2.1	Demonstrative Pronouns .....	95
4.5.2.2	Indefinite Pronouns .....	95



4.5.2.3	Quantity Pronouns .....	97
4.5.3	Subject Referencing Pronouns .....	98
4.6	Postnominal Modifiers .....	98
4.6.1	Postnominal modifiers .....	98
4.7	Prepositions .....	99
4.7.1	Simple Prepositions, <i>long</i> , <i>blong</i> and <i>fo</i> .....	99
4.7.1.1	<i>Long</i> .....	99
4.7.1.2	<i>Blong</i> .....	100
4.7.1.3	<i>Fo</i> .....	101
4.7.2	Adverbs functioning as prepositions .....	101
4.7.3	Complex Prepositions .....	102
4.7.4	Verbal Prepositions .....	103
4.7.4.1	<i>From</i> and <i>olsem</i> .....	104
4.8	Verbs .....	105
4.8.1	Intransitive verbs .....	106
4.8.1.1	Obligatorily Intransitive verbs .....	106
4.8.1.2	Compound Intransitive verbs .....	107
4.8.2	Motion verbs .....	110
4.8.2.1	Motion verbs as directional markers, serial verbs or verb compound? ....	110
4.8.2.2	Motion Verb Compounds .....	111
4.8.3	Transitive Verbs .....	113
4.8.3.1	Transitive Verb Morphology .....	113
4.8.3.2	Transitive verbs with bound roots .....	114
4.8.3.3	Compound transitives .....	115
4.8.3.4	Double suffixation .....	116
4.8.3.5	Causative transitives .....	116
4.8.3.6	Unmarked transitive verbs .....	117
4.8.3.7	Verbs with the suffix <i>-se</i> .....	118
4.8.4	Verb Reduplication .....	119
4.8.4.1	Full Reduplication .....	120
4.8.4.2	Partial Reduplication .....	121

4.8.4.3	Crowley on Reduplication in Melanesian Pidgin .....	122
4.9	Verb modifiers .....	124
4.9.1	Adverbs .....	124
4.9.2	<i>Bae</i> .....	126
4.9.2.1	Is <i>bae</i> an irrealis marker? .....	130
4.9.2.2	The future without <i>bae</i> .....	132
4.9.3	Preverbal Markers .....	133
4.10	Interrogative Pro-forms .....	133
4.11	Coordinators and Subordinators .....	134
4.11.1	Relative Clause Markers .....	134
4.11.2	Complement markers .....	134
4.11.3	Coordinators .....	135
4.11.4	Subordinators .....	135
4.12	Connective Adverbs .....	135
4.13	Interjections and Vocatives .....	136
Chapter 5	The Noun Phrase and Its Constituents .....	137
5.1	Overview .....	137
5.2	Simple NPs .....	138
5.2.1	Bare Nouns as NPs .....	138
5.2.2	NP Determiner and Determinatives .....	139
5.2.2.1	Pre-Noun pronouns that are not determiners .....	140
5.2.2.2	Determiner Co-occurrence Constraints .....	144
5.2.2.3	Interpreting <i>olketa</i> .....	145
5.2.3	NP Quantifier .....	147
5.2.4	Adjectives .....	149
5.2.4.1	Adjective modification .....	149
5.2.4.2	Disjunctive adjective modification .....	150
5.2.4.3	Multiple Adjectives .....	150
5.2.4.4	Adjective Order .....	151
5.2.5	Pre-head Noun Modifier .....	153
5.2.6	Postnominal Modifiers .....	155

5.2.6.1	Post-head Attributive Modifiers .....	155
5.2.6.2	Post-head Focusing Modifiers .....	156
5.2.6.3	Post-head Discourse Markers .....	157
5.2.6.4	Particles or clitics? .....	161
5.3	Complex NPs .....	163
5.3.1	Post-head Prepositional Phrase .....	165
5.3.2	Post-head Complement Nominal .....	167
5.3.2.1	Quantification of Non-count Nouns.....	167
5.3.2.2	Subclassification .....	171
5.3.3	Relative Clauses as NP Modifiers.....	175
5.3.4	Justification of the Nominal as a category.....	175
5.4	Noun Phrases headed by Pronouns .....	177
5.4.1	Pronominal.....	177
5.4.2	Pronoun Headed NPs and Discourse Markers .....	178
Chapter 6	Other Phrases .....	179
6.1	Verb Phrase .....	179
6.1.1	Verbal Heads and Direct Object Arguments .....	180
6.1.1.1	Bare VP Head .....	180
6.1.1.2	Intransitive VP Head.....	181
6.1.1.3	Transitive VP Head.....	181
6.1.1.4	Complex Verb heads.....	182
6.1.1.5	Verb Phrases with two direct object NPs.....	183
6.1.2	Verbal Heads and Oblique Constituents .....	184
6.1.2.1	Semantic Roles of Oblique PPs .....	185
6.1.2.2	Prepositional Phrases and the so-called Pseudo-transitive .....	186
6.1.3	Directional Verb.....	189
6.1.3.1	Serial verbs or grammaticalized directional markers?.....	191
6.1.3.2	SVCs in Tok Pisin and Bislama.....	195
6.1.4	Adverbs within the Verb Phrase .....	197
6.1.4.1	Adverbs and the Object NP.....	199
6.1.4.2	Multiple Adverbs .....	200

6.2	Adjective Phrase .....	200
6.2.1	Adverbs within the Adjective Phrase.....	201
6.3	Prepositional Phrases .....	203
6.3.1	Simple Prepositional Phrases .....	203
6.3.1.1	Simple prepositions.....	203
6.3.1.2	Clausal Objects of Simple Preposition .....	204
6.3.2	Adverbs and Complex Prepositional Phrases .....	204
6.3.2.1	Adverbs Functioning as Prepositions.....	204
6.3.2.2	Complex Prepositional Phrases.....	205
6.3.2.3	<i>Long</i> + Adverb Functioning as a Preposition .....	211
6.3.3	Verbal Prepositional Phrases .....	212
6.4	Word and Phrase Coordination.....	214
6.4.1	Coordinated Nouns .....	214
6.4.2	Coordinated Numerals .....	214
6.4.3	Coordinated Adjectives.....	215
6.4.4	Coordinated Nominals .....	215
6.4.5	Coordinated PPs.....	216
6.4.6	Coordinated Verbs and Verb Phrases .....	217
Chapter 7	The Predicate and its Constituents.....	218
7.1	Overview.....	218
7.2	Subject Referencing Pronoun .....	219
7.3	Pre-Head Markers .....	220
7.3.1	Deontic Markers.....	220
7.3.1.1	<i>mas</i> .....	220
7.3.1.2	<i>sud</i> .....	220
7.3.2	Negative Marker .....	221
7.3.2.1	<i>no</i> .....	221
7.3.2.2	<i>nating</i> .....	221
7.3.3	TMA Markers .....	222
7.3.3.1	<i>jes</i> .....	222
7.3.3.2	<i>bin</i> .....	223

7.3.3.3	<i>save</i> .....	224
7.3.3.4	<i>kan, kanduit, and kanot</i> .....	226
7.3.4	Pre-head Adverbs .....	226
7.3.4.1	<i>barava, rili</i> .....	227
7.3.4.2	<i>kolsap</i> .....	227
7.4	Heads .....	228
7.4.1	Predicates with Verb Phrase Heads .....	228
7.4.2	Predicates with Adjective Phrase Heads .....	228
7.4.3	Predicates with Noun Phrase Heads .....	229
7.4.4	Predicates with Preposition Phrase Heads .....	230
7.5	Emphasis Markers .....	231
7.5.1	<i>Nao</i> .....	231
7.5.1.1	Other views of <i>nao</i> .....	232
7.5.2	<i>ya</i> .....	234
7.6	Time and Location Adverbs and Prepositional Phrases .....	235
7.7	Subject Referencing Pronoun in detail .....	236
7.7.1	<i>i</i> .....	238
7.7.2	Optionality of the Subject Referencing Pronoun .....	238
7.7.3	Specific Subject Referencing Pronouns .....	239
7.7.4	Subject Referencing Pronouns and Focus .....	241
7.7.5	Subject Referencing Pronouns not modified .....	241
7.7.6	Restrictions on the Subject Referencing Pronoun <i>i</i> .....	241
7.7.7	Subject Referencing Pronouns following personal pronouns .....	242
7.7.8	Subject Referencing Pronouns and unspecified subjects .....	244
7.7.9	What sort of pronouns are Subject Referencing Pronouns? .....	244
7.7.10	The “Predicate Marker” in other varieties of Melanesian Pidgin .....	245
7.7.10.1	<i>i</i> in Tok Pisin .....	245
7.7.10.2	Predicate marking in Bislama .....	247
Chapter 8	Sentences .....	249
8.1	Simple Sentences .....	249
8.1.1	Declarative sentences .....	250

8.1.2	Imperative sentences .....	250
8.1.3	Simple Interrogative sentences .....	251
8.1.3.1	Yes – no questions .....	251
8.1.3.2	Information questions with no <i>wh</i> -movement .....	253
8.1.4	Negative sentences .....	253
8.1.5	Movement of sentence constituents .....	254
8.1.5.1	Focus .....	254
8.1.5.2	Interrogative sentences.....	255
8.1.5.3	Adverbial elements in the sentence.....	258
8.2	Complex Sentences – Coordination.....	259
8.3	Complex Sentences – Complements.....	261
8.3.1	Verbal Complements .....	261
8.3.1.1	<i>gohed</i> + Verbal Complement .....	263
8.3.1.2	<i>stat</i> + Verbal Complement .....	264
8.3.1.3	<i>laek</i> + Verbal Complement, <i>wande</i> + Verbal Complement.....	265
8.3.1.4	<i>laekem</i> + Verbal Complement, <i>wandem</i> + Verbal Complement .....	266
8.3.1.5	<i>mekem</i> + Verbal Complement.....	267
8.3.1.6	<i>trae</i> + Verbal Complement, <i>traehad</i> + Verbal Complement .....	267
8.3.1.7	<i>traem</i> + Verbal Complement .....	268
8.3.1.8	Other verbs + Verbal Complement .....	269
8.3.1.9	Concatenation .....	269
8.3.1.10	<i>stap</i> and the Verbal Complement.....	269
8.3.2	Complements of communication and thought .....	271
8.3.2.1	Complementisers <i>wea</i> and <i>dat</i> .....	272
8.3.2.2	Complements marked by <i>olsem</i> .....	272
8.3.2.3	Unmarked Complements of speech and thought .....	274
8.3.3	Prepositional Complements .....	274
8.4	Complex Sentences – Adverbial Clauses .....	275
8.4.1	Sentence Initial or Final Adverbial Clauses.....	276
8.4.2	Sentence Final Adverbial Clauses .....	277
8.4.2.1	Adverbial clause in PP headed by <i>olsem</i> .....	278

8.5	Complex Sentences – Relative Clauses .....	279
8.5.1	Relative Clauses marked by <i>wea</i> and <i>hu</i> .....	279
8.5.2	Unmarked relative clauses .....	283
8.5.3	Multiple restricting clauses .....	285
8.5.4	Relativised Time Adverbials.....	285
8.6	Coordination and subordination interact.....	285
8.6.1	Coordination of subordinate clauses .....	286
8.6.2	Complex sentences and wh-movement.....	287
8.7	Discourse Elements.....	288
Chapter 9	.....	290
9.1	Conclusion .....	290
9.2	The End? .....	291
References	.....	292
Appendix 1	Historical Documents.....	300
Appendix 2	Lexical lists .....	347
Appendix 3	Three texts.....	356
Appendix 4	Lexicon.....	359