

Using Grammatical Data to Determine Language Relationships in Fergusson and Normanby Island Languages of the Papuan Tip Cluster

David Lithgow
Summer Institute of Linguistics

1. Introduction

In a recent paper (Lithgow n.d.) I have shown how the languages of Fergusson and Normanby Islands of Milne Bay Province of Papua New Guinea have changed in the last 25 years, due to the influence of the local *lingua franca*, Dobu. In my earlier surveys, in 1965 and 1976, I grouped the languages into families using vocabulary similarity plus similarity of elementary grammatical data (Lithgow 1976:447). Later I found that these groupings did not all accord with what the people said about the relationships of their languages, so during 1989 and 1990 I did a comparison of detailed grammatical data, the results of which are listed below. The results of this study confirmed what the people said about their own languages, notably that Bunama and the Duau dialects, though some vocabulary cognates are as low as 59%, are actually one linguistic unit, and that Molima, Salakahadi, Fagululu and Bosalewa are one linguistic unit.

The Somwadina and Meudana dialects of Duau share only 59% of vocabulary cognates, but they share 63% of grammatically similar forms. For geographical reasons Meudana has been strongly influenced by Dobu, and Somwadina has been strongly influenced by Tubetube. Vocabulary borrowing occurs more rapidly than grammatical borrowing, hence the retention of grammatical similarity after the vocabularies of the two dialects have diverged considerably from each other.

In 1976 (Lithgow 1976:460-61) I grouped Fagululu with the Bwaidoka family, and Bosalewa and Molima with the Dobu family. On reviewing the data I had then, I find this was a reasonable decision, partly because the Molima data which I used was from Ailuluwai dialect, which had been very strongly influenced by Dobu. Comparison of the more detailed grammatical data, however, shows that Bosalewa, Fagululu, Salakahadi and Molima are in fact one linguistic unit, separate from the Bwaidoka and Dobu families.

The vocabulary cognates and grammatical similarity counts of Bosalewa show the superiority of grammatical data in determining relationships.

	Dobu	Molima	Galeya
Bos (vocab)	58	56	61
Bos (grammar)	30	57	28

From vocabulary cognate counts Bosalewa seems equally close to Dobu, Molima and Galeya, with Molima seeming a little more distant in relationship than the others. However the grammatical data shows that Molima is much more closely related to Bosalewa than the others are.

Ross (1988:192-212) and Chowning (1989:113-40) have written about the grouping of these languages. I hope that the publication of these data will help to clarify the picture.

2. Method

Daphne Lithgow (1974) in a Dobu Language Learning Course had progressively introduced all of the important grammatical structures and clause types. From this data I constructed 29 clauses which produced 85 contrastive features, which were used for comparison counting.

Features which were identical for all languages were ignored. This made for lower comparison counts, and exaggerated the differences.

Words and affixes which were phonemically different but still cognate were counted as different. The results are actually a measure of how different the dialects and languages are from each other now. For instance, languages which lack a third person subject verbal prefix are grouped together as being cognate; those which have the prefix *'i-* are grouped as being cognate; and Bwaidoka which has *gi-* is separated off as being different, even though *'i-* and *gi-* are phonetically cognate with each other. Where there is nonphonemic variation, however, I counted the words and affixes as the same. For instance, there is fluctuation in the languages between [ð], [j], and [ʒ], although the local people represent this sound with the symbol <y>. Words or affixes differing only in these sounds were counted the same, although I transcribed each utterance according to whatever sound seemed to be predominant in that utterance.

I will include the similarity percentages obtained, and then the actual data from which I obtained them, which other researchers may use to determine their own results. I give full morpheme breakdowns for the Dobu data. The other languages are sufficiently similar for the morphemes and their meanings to be deduced with a fairly high level of accuracy. As I do not know the other languages in detail I have not listed the morphemes with glosses, lest it appear that I am confident of the accuracy of them all.

3. Results

The first table which follows includes the Fergusson Island languages plus Bwaidoka, Sewa and Bunama. The second table includes the languages of Normanby Island, excluding Sewa, and including also Tubetube and Suau.¹

BUN														
49	SEW													
38	52	G-SE												
41	49	76	G-BA											
—	—	36	32	Y-MA										
36	36	28	28	26	BOS									
—	—	27	29	28	64	SAL								
—	—	38	35	43	34	37	YAM							
29	27	30	31	42	31	28	38	KAL						
21	19	14	16	23	24	26	31	35	BWA					
—	—	26	26	27	59	64	33	33	24	FAG				
12	9	16	16	22	29	30	28	22	26	28	MIN			
40	33	27	28	26	57	76	31	27	21	61	28	M-TO		
—	—	40	38	28	45	65	31	24	18	44	14	61	M-AI	
51	67	55	50	27	30	38	30	29	23	27	14	35	56	DOB
SUA														
34	TUB													
23	29	KUR												
21	27	33	DOB											
12	22	18	56	LOB										
—	—	37	82	66	MWA									
—	28	45	59	50	61	D-ME								
—	—	—	—	—	—	67	D-LO							
—	25	33	40	40	40	65	77	D-SI						
—	—	—	—	51	—	—	—	75	D-MW					
—	33	37	36	46	—	63	—	73	85	D-SO				
19	26	34	51	—	—	—	—	—	—	62	D-GU			
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63	69	69	76	D-KU		
—	33	41	51	51	49	80	72	60	64	73	73	95	D-KA	
—	29	44	51	44	54	89	61	56	61	66	68	81	87	BUN

¹The following abbreviations are used for language names.

DOB	Dobu	Y-MA	Yamalele Maiodom	D-MWA	Duau Mwalakwasiya
M-AI	Molima Ailuluwai	G-BA	Galeya Basima	D-SIG	Duau Sigasiga
M-TO	Molima Toagesi	G-SE	Galeya Sebutuya	D-LOM	Duau Lomitawa
MIN	Minaveha (Kukuya)	SEW	Sewa Bay	D-MEU	Duau Meudana
FAG	Fagululu	BUN	Bunama	MWA	Mwatebu
BWA	Bwaidoka	D-KAS	Duau Kasikasi	LOB	Loboda
KAL	Kalokalo	D-KUM	Duau Kumwalau	KUR	Kurada (Auhelawa)
YAM	Yamalele	D-GUL	Duau Guleguleu	TUB	Tubetube
SAL	Salakahadi	D-SOM	Duau Somwadina	SUA	Suau
BOS	Bosalewa				

4. Data

The following clauses and sentences were used in the Fergusson Island survey, with the function words for 'if' and 'because' listed at the end. The Yamalele data was elicited first in the Masimasi dialect on the north coast of Fergusson Island. This was later checked with a speaker from the central dialect, further south, and where his response was different I have included it also in brackets. Beneath each set of clauses I have indicated what grammatical morpheme or structure was examined in that clause. When a particular morpheme or structure occurs in more than one clause, it is indicated only in its first occurrence unless its distribution is different in another clause.²

ENG	Their house is good.
DOB	'idi anuwa bobo'a-na 3p.POS house good-3s
M-AI	'edi vada bobo'a-na
M-TO	'edi vanuwe bobo'a-na
MIN	jai manua ayia yi-na
FAG	'edi vanuwe ayia yi-na
BWA	yadi manuwa iwaka-na
KAL	yadi manuwa giamai-na
YAM	gadi vanuya atumai-na
SAL	'edi vanuwe haghagi-na
BOS	'idi vanuwe sedai-na
Y-MA	di vanuya giamai-na
G-BA	'adi welai ginabwe-na
G-SE	di 'aha kauhale-na
SEW	di anuwa gitamu-na
BUN	'idi hada bwebwe'a-na

3p distant possessive pronoun³

²The following abbreviations are used for grammatical categories.

1s	1st person singular	1px	1st person plural (exclusive)	PL	plural
2s	2nd person singular	2p	2nd person plural	CONT	continuous
3s	3rd person singular	3p	3rd person plural	FUT	future
1pn	1st person plural (inclusive)	POS	possessive		

³I am using the terms 'intimate', 'intermediate' and 'distant' to refer to the three possession classes.

ENG	Yesterday that man hit my child.
DOB	<i>boga tai ni-na natu-gu 'i-unu-na</i> yesterday man that-3s child-1s.POS 3s-hit-3s(PAST)
M-AI	<i>goluwana-ya 'olotona-ina natu-gu 'i-unu-ya</i>
M-TO	<i>goluwana-ya 'olotona natu-gu 'i-unu-vi-ya</i>
MIN	<i>navinavi onotona natu vunu-i</i>
FAG	<i>gugo-ja no'i tomoɣina liliva-gu vunuyi-ya</i>
BWA	<i>boi kaliva-nai natu-ku gi-munu-na</i>
KAL	<i>bwagina-i tomo na-na natu-gi 'i-nige-ya</i>
YAM	<i>nuwabune tomogo ni-na natu-gu 'i-nige-i</i> (<i>tomogo ni-na bogi natu-ku 'i-nike-i</i>)
SAL	<i>goluwana-ya 'oloto na-na natu-gu wunuyi-ya</i>
BOS	<i>gogonana tomoɣa na-na natu-gu wunu-ɣi-ya</i>
Y-MA	<i>bogi tomogo ni-na natu-gu 'i-nige-i</i>
G-BA	<i>boi tomotau ne-na natu-gu 'i-lau</i>
G-SE	<i>aibam tai ne-na natu-gu 'i-lau</i>
SEW	<i>nabonimo tau ni-na natu-gu i-unui-ya-na</i>
BUN	<i>boi loheya-ina natu-gu 'i-hunu-ya</i>

morpheme for 'yesterday'; demonstrative 'that'; 1s intimate possessive suffix; 3s subject prefix; transitive suffix *vi - ɣi - Ø*; past (completed) suffix *na - ya - Ø*

ENG	What! Did you hit him?
DOB	<i>mwa 'adega 'u-unu-na-ya</i> what! 2s-hit-3s(PAST)-EMPHATIC
M-AI	<i>ma 'oda 'u-unu-ya-ya</i>
M-TO	<i>ma 'oda 'u-unu-vi-ya</i>
MIN	<i>medeina 'e-vunu-i</i>
FAG	<i>ma 'eba 'u-gunu-gi-ya</i>
BWA	<i>gaveiyamu u-munu-na</i>
KAL	<i>vakaniko ku-nige-ya</i>
YAM	<i>ava paipai-na 'u-nige-ya</i> (<i>bani'ode umunega 'unike-i</i>)
SAL	<i>ma 'oda 'u-wunu-ɣi-ya</i>
BOS	<i>ma 'iɸadi 'u-wunu-vi-ya</i>
Y-MA	<i>banikodi ku-nige-i</i>
G-BA	<i>madiwesige 'u-lau</i>
G-SE	<i>tapi'iga 'u-lau</i>
SEW	<i>sidoi u-uni-ya-na</i>
BUN	<i>togidega 'u-hunu-ya</i>

exclamatory 'what'; 2s subject prefix; emphatic suffix

ENG	You (pl) are just burning them.
DOB	<i>wa-gabu-gabu-di tuga</i> 2p-CONT-burn-3p just/only
M-AI	<i>libi 'o-gabu-gabu-i-di-mo</i>
M-TO	<i>libi 'o-gabu-gabu-di-mo</i>
MIN	<i>cu-dcwa-dewa ataina</i>
FAG	<i>'o-gabu-gabu-di-mo</i>
BWA	<i>wa-kabu-kabu-mwc-di</i>
KAL	<i>kwa-gabu-gabu-di-mo</i>
YAM	<i>wa-gabu-gabu-ni-di-mo</i>
SAL	<i>'o-gabu-gabu-di-mo</i>
BOS	<i>'o-gabu-gabu-di vine</i>
Y-MA	<i>kwa-gabu-gabu-di-mo</i>
G-BA	<i>wa-gabu-gabu-di naga</i>
G-SE	<i>wa-gabu-gabu-di kwenaga</i>
SEW	<i>a-gabu-gabu-di tuwa</i>
BUN	<i>wa-gabu-gabu-di-mo</i>

2p subject prefix; transitive suffix *i - ni - Ø*; morpheme for 'just/only'

ENG	When did you go to Salamo?
DOB	<i>to-tuta 'u-tauya salamo</i> what-time 2s-go Salamo
M-AI	<i>to-tuta-ya 'u-tauya-ya salamo</i>
M-TO	<i>avi tuta e-nei salamo</i>
MIN	—
FAG	<i>ai tute i-na salamo</i>
BWA	<i>gava-tova u-na salamo</i>
KAL	<i>vaka-tovaga ku-nago salamo</i>
YAM	<i>ma aviya 'u-nago salamo</i>
SAL	<i>to-tuta 'u-tauya salamo</i>
BOS	<i>a'i bogi-ya 'u-nago salamo</i>
Y-MA	<i>vaka-kayata ku-na yo salamo</i>
G-BA	<i>eto tuta 'u-to salamo</i>
G-SE	<i>eto tuta 'u-to salamo</i>
SEW	<i>to-tuta-i u-tauya-na salamo</i>
BUN	<i>to-tuta 'u-tauya salamo</i>

interrogative 'when'; locative suffix on 'time'

ENG	Here is my food to eat so I will get strong.
DOB	'a-gu gcte ya-'ai be 'eneqa ya-c-waiwai food-1s.POS this 1s-eat and(FUT) then 1s-become-strong
M-AI	'a-gu ba'e ya-'a-'ai be 'ineqa ya-ve-waiwai
M-TO	'agu 'abwaga ba'e ya-'aini-ya be 'ena ve-waiwai
MIN	auma tcina am aiwadayina a-bagibagi
FAG	hagu obai ena'a be 'cna ve-waiwai
BWA	a-kuya taidci ya-na-kani a-da-yautoyogina
KAL	ka-gu mcina ya-na-kani be ya-na-c-wagiwagi
YAM	'agu 'agu de 'c-i 'a-na-'ani bega 'a-na-ve-toketoke (de 'c 'aku 'aku 'a-'ani-'ani-ya bega 'a-na-ve-toketoke)
SAL	'agu 'abwaga ba'e 'c-na-'ai 'ineqa 'c-na-ve-waiwai
BOS	'agu kinalc 'ainana 'a-'ai-ya be 'a-ve-paisu
Y-MA	ka-gu deda 'ai-kan ma tautau 'ai-ve-waiwai
G-BA	'agu kame hae'a be hae-c-waiwai
G-SE	'agu kame ha 'cya be hae-c-waiwa
SEW	'agu bebai nai ya-iyai be deincega ya-c-waiwai
BUN	'a-gu bewa ya-'ai ma 'oincega ya-hc-waiwai

1s intermediate possessive suffix; demonstrative 'this'; 1s subject prefix; purpose conjunction; 'then'; causative 'become'

ENG	There (near you) is your food to eat.
DOB	'a-mu nate 'u-'ai food-2s.POS there(near.you) 2s-eat
M-AI	'a-u bena'e 'u-'ai
M-TO	'au 'abwaga ba'e 'u-na-'ai
MIN	am-ma taina c-na-m
FAG	'au 'obai be 'i 'u-na-'a
BWA	tainci aga u-na-kani
KAL	ka-m neina ku-na-kani
YAM	'am 'am siwc 'u-na-'a-ni (we'e 'am 'am 'u-na-'a-ni-ya)
SAL	'au 'abwaga bena'e 'u-'ai
BOS	'au kinalc mc'inana 'u-'ai-ya
Y-MA	ka-m wedc ku-kan
G-BA	'a-m ko 'u-'e-'a
G-SE	'a-m ko 'u-'e-'a
SEW	name o bebai u-ai
BUN	'a-u beno 'u-'ai

2s intermediate possessive suffix; demonstrative 'there (near you)'; future prefix *na-*

ENG	There is their food to eat.
DOB	<i>'a-di gote si-'ai</i> food-3p.POS there 3p-eat
M-AI	<i>'a-di 'omo'e si-'ai</i>
M-TO	<i>'adi 'abwaga 'omo'e 'i-na-'ai</i>
MIN	<i>ai-ma tanoi in-na-m</i>
FAG	<i>'adi 'obai no'i 'i-na-'aya</i>
BWA	<i>badi 'adiya tayuwa i-na-kani</i>
KAL	<i>ka-di bweina i-na-kani</i>
YAM	<i>'adi 'adi no'o 'i-na-'a-ni</i>
SAL	<i>'adi 'abwaga 'omo'e 'i-na-'ai</i>
BOS	<i>'adi kinale no'inana 'i-'ai-ya</i>
Y-MA	<i>ka-di noko na-ka-ni</i>
G-BA	<i>'a-di kanoi si-'a</i>
G-SE	<i>'a-di kano hi-'a</i>
SEW	<i>adi bebai mei si-ai-ai</i>
BUN	<i>'a-di nage si-'ai</i>

3p intermediate possessive suffix; demonstrative 'there'; 3p subject prefix

ENG	I want only water.
DOB	<i>nuwanuwa-gu bwasi na-mo</i> desire-1s.POS water 3s-only
M-AI	<i>nuwanuwa-gu go'ila na-mo</i>
M-TO	<i>'egu nuwanuwa go'ili na-mo</i>
MIN	<i>nuwanuwa-u daudau ana yeta</i>
FAG	<i>nuwanuwa-gu duda na-mo</i>
BWA	<i>nuwanuwa-ku gufa yaya</i>
KAL	<i>nuwanuwa-gu ufa kavakava</i>
YAM	<i>nuwanuwa-ku upa 'anadem</i> (<i>nuwanuwa-ku ufa 'ava</i>)
SAL	<i>nuwanuwa-gu goili na-mo</i>
BOS	<i>nuwanuwa-gu duda naya</i>
Y-MA	<i>nuwanuwa-gu kaiya bwasiya</i>
G-BA	<i>nuwanuwa-gu bwasi daisi-na</i>
G-SE	<i>nuwanuwa-gu bwahi 'a 'a</i>
SEW	<i>nuwanuwa-gu bwasi na-mo</i>
BUN	<i>nuwanuwa-gu we'aha-mo</i>

'only'

ENG	Perhaps he won't come.
DOB	<i>nai nigeya 'i-ma-ma</i> perhaps not 3s-FUT-come
M-AI	<i>nai geya 'abo 'i-mai-mai</i>
M-TO	<i>nage geya na-mai</i>
MIN	<i>kadi eya ta-o-moi</i>
FAG	<i>'ana 'isa gebu na-ma</i>
BWA	<i>kai keke gi-na-ela</i>
KAL	<i>kanuwa gege i-na-nagoma</i>
YAM	<i>gebu 'i-da-mai</i> (<i>voke kebu 'i-na-maiya</i>)
SAL	<i>'ana 'ita gebu na-mai</i>
BOS	<i>nai gebu na-mai</i>
Y-MA	<i>'oye ge i-na-mai-ya</i>
G-BA	<i>nai ge sawene 'i-ma</i>
G-SE	<i>nai gebua 'i-da-ma</i>
SEW	<i>nai nigeya i-tau-tauya-ma</i>
BUN	<i>nuwana geya 'i-tauya-ma</i>

adverbial 'perhaps'; negative 'not'; presence or absence of subject agreement prefix *i-*; future negative (reduplication or future/subjunctive prefix); final *-ma* vs *-mai*; simple or compound verb stem

ENG	Later he will go to you (sg).
DOB	<i>ma'ctamo 'i-wa-wai 'emu-ya</i> later 3s-FUT-go.to.you 2s-at
M-AI	<i>nawale 'i-wa-wai 'iu-ya</i>
M-TO	<i>nawale na-wai 'iu-ya</i>
MIN	<i>aɸaina na-o-moi wajagi-m</i>
FAG	<i>'iba 'igo na-waga 'iu-ja</i>
BWA	<i>eimoina gi-na-ilai wagaini-ya</i>
KAL	<i>bolava i-na-nagowa waya-mu-ya</i>
YAM	<i>bola 'i-na-wai waimuɸe</i> (<i>bola 'i-na-wai maimuje</i>)
SAL	<i>nawale na-wai 'iu-ya</i>
BOS	<i>'iba 'igo na-waya 'iu-ɸa</i>
Y-MA	<i>ka i-na-wai waimuc</i>
G-BA	<i>tadi lawa yawa 'cnemo</i>
G-SE	<i>ma'ctam 'i-we-wewa 'encm</i>
SEW	<i>maetamo i-tauya-wa deinamoi</i>
BUN	<i>'abwa 'i-tauya-wa 'oiu-wa</i>

adverbial 'later'; 2s postpositional locative

ENG	Tomorrow Dobu men will visit you (sg) and get a pig.
DOB	<i>gibwa 'i me-dobu si-a-yausi-yo be si-lo-bawe</i> tomorrow people-Dobu 3p-by.foot-visit-2s(FUT) and 3p-action-pig
M-AI	<i>'ibe mc-dobu si-vai-yausi-u be si-lo-bawe</i>
M-TO	<i>'ibe mc-dobu 'i-na-'ite-u be 'i-na-lo-bawe</i>
MIN	<i>maputua mc-dobu i-na-uvitau-m i-pono-vunua</i>
FAG	<i>'atebe dobu tomotau 'i-na-va-ḏausi-ju bau weayina</i>
BWA	<i>malabutu mc-dobu i-na-maduboda-ni ke i-na-lu-bawe</i>
KAL	<i>kamaidi mc-dobu i-na-maduboda-mu be i-na-lou-bawe</i>
YAM	<i>'awa 'awai mc-dobu 'i-na-vai'ali-m 'i-na-lu-bawe</i> (<i>'awa 'awai mc-dobu 'i-na-mai 'i-na-'isc-m 'i-na-lu-bawe</i>)
SAL	<i>'ibe mc-dobu 'i-na-va-yausi-u 'i-na-lu-bawe</i>
BOS	<i>'ibaigonana mi-dobu 'i-na-va-lausi-u be 'i-na-lu-bawe</i>
Y-MA	<i>kawaiye mc-dobu na-ḏa-vusi-mu na-lo-bawe</i>
G-BA	<i>tabega mc-dobu si-lauhi-mo be si-lo-bawe</i>
G-SE	<i>gibwa 'i mc-dobu hi-jauhi-m be hi-lo-bawe</i>
SEW	<i>nabwa mc-dobu gibwai si-a-yausi-yo be si-lo-bawe</i>
BUN	<i>gona mc-dobu si-gita-go ma si-lo-bawe</i>

adverbial 'tomorrow'; noun compound 'Dobu men'; 3p subject prefix; verbal prefix 'by foot'; 2s object suffix; conjunction 'and'; verbal prefix 'action'

ENG	A man hit a child and killed it.
DOB	<i>tai gwama 'i-unu-na ga 'i-lo-e-mwawasi-na</i> man child 3s-hit-3s(PAST) and 3s-action-become-die-3s(PAST)
M-AI	<i>'oloto gwama 'i-unu-ya-ya ta 'i-lo-ve-'aligi-ya-ya</i>
M-TO	<i>'oloto gwama wunu-vi-ya ta lu-ve-'aligi-ya</i>
MIN	<i>onoto tevana vunu na-u-vi-anigi</i>
FAG	<i>tomoga gwama-na vunu-ʔi-ya ta lu-ve-'aligi-ya</i>
BWA	<i>kaliva kwama-na gi-munu-na 'ada gi-lu-ve-alika-na</i>
KAL	<i>tomo gwama-na i-nige-ya be i-lo-e-kaliga-ya</i>
YAM	<i>tomo gwama-na 'i-nige-i 'i-lu-ve-wafa-i</i>
SAL	<i>'oloto gwama 'i-vunu-ʔi-ya ta lu-ve-'aligi-ya</i>
BOS	<i>tomoya gwama-na wunuʔi-ya ta lu-ve-'aini-ya</i>
Y-MA	<i>tomoyo gwama-na 'i-nige-i wa i-lu-ve-waḑa-i</i>
G-BA	<i>tomotau memeja 'i-lau to 'i-tunaimate</i>
G-SE	<i>tai gwana 'i-ʔau to 'i-lo-e-mwawahi</i>
SEW	<i>tau yaya i-unui-ya-na to i-lo-e-mwasi-ya-na</i>
BUN	<i>loheya gwama 'i-hunu-ya 'i-lo-hc-'amasi-ya</i>

presence or absence of *-na* suffix on 'child'; conjunction 'and'; verbal prefix sequence 'action-become'

ENG	You (sg) go with me.
DOB	'oyo ma-'iya-gu ta-tauya 2s with-companion-1s.POS 1pn-go
M-AI	'o'a ma-'cya-gu ka-ta-tauya
M-TO	'o'a ma-ya-gu ka-na-tauya
MIN	wamke akainuwa ka-na-nac
FAG	waðu ja'a ka-na-nau-wa
BWA	onodi ka-na-nau
KAL	kamke yauke ta-na-nago
YAM	'om tayauda ta-i-nayo ('om tayadi ta-na-nago)
SAL	'o'a ma-hega ka-na-tauya
BOS	wa'a ma-'egadi ka-na-na-ya
Y-MA	kam ta yau te-i-tauga
G-BA	'om 'egida ta-to
G-SE	'om tolawa ta-to
SEW	you be yau ta-taya
BUN	'owa ma-hete-gu ta-tau

2s pronoun; accompaniment 'with'; 'my companion'; suffix *-da - -di*; 1pn subject prefix; future *ta - na - Ø*

ENG	He went with us (excl).
DOB	tauna ma-'e-mai 'a-tauya 3s with-companion-1px.POS 1px-go
M-AI	tauna ma-sega 'a-tauya-ya
M-TO	tauna ma-egadi 'a-tauya
MIN	tauna nuwi a-na-nac
FAG	tanana 'acya 'a-nawa
BWA	banai imenodi a-nau
KAL	kadike ma-kedi kaigabu ka-nago
YAM	tauna ma-yaku 'ai-nawa (kumanina tayadi 'a-na-nago)
SAL	tauna ma-hega 'a-na-tauya
BOS	tauna ma-'egadi 'a-na-ya
Y-MA	taunina teyau ka-na-yo
G-BA	ko teawa 'a-to
G-SE	tonina tolawa 'a-to
SEW	tauna ma-yamai a-tauyana
BUN	tauna ma-hete-mai 'a-tau

3s pronoun; 'our (excl) companion'; 1px subject prefix

ENG	Are their houses good?
DOB	<i>mwa'adega 'idi anuwa-o bobo'a-di</i> how 3p.POS house-PL good-3p
M-AI	<i>mwa'oda 'edi vada bobo'a-di</i>
M-TO	<i>ma'oda 'edi vanuwa bobo'a-di</i>
MIN	<i>medcina jae manuwa ayia yi</i>
FAG	<i>nage 'edi vanuwe ayia yi-na</i>
BWA	<i>gaveyamu yadi manuwa iwaka-di</i>
KAL	<i>vakaniko yadi manuwa giamai-di</i>
YAM	<i>beni'odila yadi vanuwa 'atumai-di</i>
SAL	<i>ma'odi 'edi vanuwe hayihayi-na</i>
BOS	<i>ma'ipadi 'idi vanuwe-lavo sedai-di</i>
Y-MA	<i>bankodiya di vanuya giamai-na</i>
G-BA	<i>madiwe sige 'adi welai kausale-di</i>
G-SE	<i>tapi'iga di 'aha kauhale-na</i>
SEW	<i>sidoi di anuwa gitamu-di</i>
BUN	<i>togidega 'idi hada bwebwe'a-di</i>

interrogative 'how'; plural suffix on noun

ENG	Tomorrow you (pl) embark to travel.
DOB	<i>gibwa'i wa-ge-gelu sabi 'adau</i> tomorrow 2p-FUT-embark to travel
M-AI	<i>'ibe 'o-ge-gelu sabi 'adau</i>
M-TO	<i>'ibe 'o-na-gelu sabi 'adau</i>
MIN	<i>maputuwa u-na-genu am-bwanibwani</i>
FAG	<i>'atebe 'o-na-gelu 'o-na-na 'o-na-ve-wagawaga</i>
BWA	<i>malabutu wa-na-yage awakawaka faina</i>
KAL	<i>kamaidi kwa-na-yage e-wagawaga faina</i>
YAM	<i>'awa'awai wai-gelu wai-nago sabi daba</i> (<i>'awa'awai wa-na-dodoga ve-wakawaka faifaina</i>)
SAL	<i>'ibi 'o-na-gela sabi 'adau</i>
BOS	<i>'ibaigonana 'o-na-gelu sabi 'adau</i>
Y-MA	<i>kawaiye kwai-dodoga kwai-nago kwai-sasana</i>
G-BA	<i>tebega wa-gelu-gelu sabi 'adau</i>
G-SE	<i>gibwa'i wa-gelu sabi 'adau</i>
SEW	<i>nabwa a-gelu sabi adau</i>
BUN	<i>gona wa-gelu-gelu sabi 'adau</i>

future (reduplication or not); infinitival 'to'

ENG	If it rains we (incl) will go to the garden.
DOB	' <i>eguma 'i-'usana ta-ta-tauya bagula-ya</i> if 3s-rain 1pn-FUT-go garden-to
M-AI	' <i>eguma 'i-'usana ka-ta-tauya bagula-ya</i>
M-TO	' <i>eguma na-'uana ka-na-tauya talava-ya</i>
MIN	<i>aitugu wei na-atuna ka-na-nae baguna</i>
FAG	' <i>eguma wei na-obu ka-na-na talage</i>
BWA	<i>kai gi-ulugaga ka-na-nau bakule-ya</i>
KAL	<i>kanuwa i-na-kwei ta-na-nago bagule</i>
YAM	' <i>ai'cdi 'i-na-'wei tci-na-go bagulc</i> (' <i>ai'cdi 'i-na-'weiga ta-na-nago bakule</i>)
SAL	' <i>eguma na-huana ka-na-tauya vahova-ya</i>
BOS	' <i>eguma wei ka-na-naga bagule-ya</i>
Y-MA	<i>kana kwaiga tai-nago bagulc</i>
G-BA	' <i>eguma 'i-uana ta-tola balata</i>
G-SE	' <i>eguma 'i-uhana ta-lo bagulc</i>
SEW	' <i>eguma 'i-use ta-taya alowa-i</i>
BUN	' <i>eguma 'i-'wesu ta-tau tanoha</i>

conjunction 'if'; presence or absence of 3s subject prefix and/or future prefix on 'rain'; postposition 'to'

ENG	He gave me a banana.
DOB	<i>udi 'i-'ebwa'e-gu</i> banana 3s-give-1s
M-AI	<i>wudi 'i-'ebwac-gu-ya</i>
M-TO	<i>wudi nai-gu</i>
MIN	<i>moc venc-u</i>
FAG	<i>mo'a yai-gu</i>
BWA	<i>bobe gi-velc-ku</i>
KAL	<i>moke i-vele-gu</i>
YAM	<i>mo'e 'i-vele-ku</i>
SAL	<i>vudi nehi-gu</i>
BOS	<i>mo'a yei-gu</i>
Y-MA	<i>moke i-vele-gu</i>
G-BA	<i>bwai'i'i 'i-nai-gu</i>
G-SE	<i>bwai'i 'i'ebwac-gu</i>
SEW	<i>yapwai i-bwaye-gu-na</i>
BUN	<i>hudi 'i-'ebwac-gau-wa</i>

1s object suffix; presence or absence of completion suffix

ENG	He gave you (sg) a pig.
DOB	<i>bawe 'i-'ebwa 'e-mu</i> pig 3s-give-2s(PAST)
M-AI	<i>bawe 'i-'ebwaye-yu-ya</i>
M-TO	<i>bawe nai-u</i>
MIN	<i>pono vene-m</i>
FAG	<i>bau yai-ju</i>
BWA	<i>bawe gi-vele-ni</i>
KAL	<i>bawe i-vele-mu</i>
YAM	<i>bawe 'i-vele-m</i>
SAL	<i>bawe nehi-u</i>
BOS	<i>bau yci-u</i>
Y-MA	<i>bawe 'i-vele-m</i>
G-BA	<i>bawe 'i-nai-mu</i>
G-SE	<i>bawe 'i-'ebwae-m</i>
SEW	<i>bawe i-bwaye-mu-na</i>
BUN	<i>maheya 'i-'ebwae-go-wa</i>

2s (PAST) object suffix

ENG	A man gave his brother a dog.
DOB	<i>tai tasi-na kedewa 'i-'ebwa 'e-na</i> man brother-3s.POS dog 3s-give-3s(PAST)
M-AI	<i>'oloto tasi-na kedewa 'i-'ebwae-ya-ya</i>
M-TO	<i>'oloto tai-na kedewa nai-ya</i>
MIN	<i>onoto vanci-na kedewa vene-i</i>
FAG	<i>tomoya kedewa tuwa-na yci-ya</i>
BWA	<i>kaliva galuweta tubwiya-na gi-velc-na</i>
KAL	<i>tomo koukou yanadi i-vele-ya</i>
YAM	<i>tomoya 'edewa 'iya-na 'i-vele-na</i> (<i>tomogo tai-na 'ou'ou 'i-vele-na</i>)
SAL	<i>'oloto kedewa tahi-na nchi-ya</i>
BOS	<i>tomoya kedewa tai-na yci-ya</i>
Y-MA	<i>tomoyo kokou tai-na 'i-vele-ni</i>
G-BA	<i>tomotau kedewa wese-na 'i-nci</i>
G-SE	<i>tai kedewa hiya-na 'i-'ebwae</i>
SEW	<i>tau kedewa tasi-na i-bwaye-na-ya</i>
BUN	<i>loheya kedewa tasi-na 'i-'ebwae-ya</i>

3s (PAST) object suffix

ENG	I am sitting in my house.
DOB	<i>ya-miyatowa 'igu anuwa-ya</i> 1s-sit 1s.POS house-at
M-AI	<i>ya-miyatowa 'egu vada-ya</i>
M-TO	<i>ya-towa 'egu vada-i</i>
MIN	<i>a-manuwena jau manua-a</i>
FAG	<i>'egu vanuwc-ya e-towatowa</i>
BWA	<i>ga-wetoga yaku manuw-ja</i>
KAL	<i>ya-claumiyane-gu yagu manuwa</i>
YAM	<i>'a-miyabui yagu vanuyc</i>
SAL	<i>ya-towabuhi 'egu vanuwc-ya</i>
BOS	<i>'a-tuluya 'igu vanuwc-ya</i>
Y-MA	<i>'a-tawaigo 'igu vanuwe</i>
G-BA	<i>ʒa-iseba 'agu welai 'enc</i>
G-SE	<i>ya-mihobu gu 'aha 'enc</i>
SEW	<i>ya-towa gu anuwa-i</i>
BUN	<i>ya-miyatoi 'igu hada</i>

1s distant possessive pronoun

ENG	He went from his garden to his house.
DOB	<i>'ina bagule-ga 'i-tauya 'ina anuwa-ya</i> 3s.POS garden-from 3s-go 3s.POS house-to
M-AI	<i>'ena bagule-ga 'i-tauya 'ena vada-i</i>
M-TO	<i>'ana talave-ga tauya 'ena vanuwe-ya</i>
MIN	<i>ja-baguna i-ne ja-manuwa</i>
FAG	<i>talaye-ya 'civi 'ena vanuwe-ya</i>
BWA	<i>yana bakule-ya gi-nau yana manuw-ya</i>
KAL	<i>yana bagule-ga i-nago yana manuw</i>
YAM	<i>ðana bakula-ðeya 'i-nago jana vanuyc</i>
SAL	<i>'ena vahoye-ya tauya 'ena vanuwe-ya</i>
BOS	<i>'ina bagula-cga 'i-naya 'ina vanuwe-ya</i>
Y-MA	<i>na tano-ye 'i-nayo 'ina vanuyc</i>
G-BA	<i>'ana bagule-ga 'i-to welai</i>
G-SE	<i>na bagule-ga 'i-to na'ahē</i>
SEW	<i>na lowe-ga i-tauya-na na anuwa-i</i>
BUN	<i>'ina tonohē-ga 'i-tauya 'ina hada</i>

3s distant possessive pronoun; suffix 'from'

ENG	Don't take it from me.
DOB	<i>geya 'abo 'cgu-yega 'u-'ewa-'ewa</i> don't 1s-from 2s-CONT-take
M-AI	<i>geya 'abo 'igu-yega 'u-'ewa-'ewa</i>
M-TO	<i>gebu 'igu-yega 'u-na-'ewe-i</i>
MIN	<i>ega waða-giuwa cnepci</i>
FAG	<i>ge 'igu-jeya 'u-na-'cwe</i>
BWA	<i>kcke wagai-ku-ya u-na-vai-vai</i>
KAL	<i>gege waya-gu-yega ku-na-kewa-kewa</i>
YAM	<i>gebu wai-gu-ðega 'u-na-'ewa-i</i>
SAL	<i>gebu 'igu-yega 'u-na-'cwa</i>
BOS	<i>gebu 'igu-ðega 'u-na-'cwe-'cwe</i>
Y-MA	<i>ge wai-gu-we ki-kewa</i>
G-BA	<i>ge sawene 'cne-gu 'u-'cwa</i>
G-SE	<i>gi huwena 'we-gu-wega 'u-'cwa</i>
SEW	<i>sacbana dcinu-gu-wega u-ewa-cwa-i</i>
BUN	<i>geya 'abwa 'oigu-wega 'u-'cwa-'cwa</i>

prohibitive; construction 'from me'; presence or absence of reduplication; presence or absence of 3s object suffix *-i*

ENG	I want to go to Samarai to shop/buy.
DOB	<i>nuwanuwa-gu ya-ta-tauya samarai be 'aene ya-gimwane</i> desire-1s.POS 1s-FUT-go Samarai and(FUT) so/that 1s-buy
M-AI	<i>nuwanuwa-gu ya-ta-tauya samarai be ya-gimwane</i>
M-TO	<i>'cgu nuwanuwa 'c-na-tauya samarai be 'c-na-gimwane</i>
MIN	<i>nuwanuwa-u a-na-nae samarai ee a-na-mwane</i>
FAG	<i>'cgu nuwanuwa 'c-na-nawa samarai 'inega 'c-na-gimwane</i>
BWA	<i>nuwanuwa-ku ga-na-nau samarai 'ada ga-na-lufalufali</i>
KAL	<i>nuwanuwa-gu ya-na-nago samarai be ya-na-gimwane</i>
YAM	<i>yagu nuwanuwa 'a-na-naŋo samarai bega 'a-na-gimwane</i>
SAL	<i>nuwanuwa-gu 'e-na-tauya samarai be wona 'c-na-gimwane</i>
BOS	<i>nuwanuwa-gu 'a-na-naŋa samarai be wona 'a-na-gimwane</i>
Y-MA	<i>nuwanuwa-gu 'ai-naŋo samarai nigodi 'ai-da-gimwane</i>
G-BA	<i>nuwanuwa-gu ya-to samarai be ya-gimwane</i>
G-SE	<i>nuwanuwa-gu ʃa-to samarai be ʃa-gimwane</i>
SEW	<i>nuwanuwa-gu ya-taya samarai be edcto ya-gimwane</i>
BUN	<i>nuwanuwa-gu ya-tau samarai 'abehga ya-gimwane</i>

1s intimate possessive suffix vs pre-posed morpheme; purpose word

ENG	I can do it.	
DOB	<i>sawesawe-gu-ya ya-guinuwa</i>	ability-1s.POS-at 1s-do
M-AI	<i>sawesawe-gu-ya ya-guinuwa</i>	
M-TO	<i>sawesawe-gu 'e-na-paisewa</i>	
MIN	<i>au-pata a-dewe-i</i>	
FAG	<i>sawesawe-na 'e-na-viegilya</i>	
BWA	<i>aku-faiweya ga-na-gana</i>	
KAL	<i>kagu-fata ya-na-foloviya</i>	
YAM	<i>'agu-fata 'a-na-'idewa-i</i>	
SAL	<i>'ana-φata 'e-na-viyava</i>	
BOS	<i>sawesawe-gu-ya 'a-na-guinuveya</i>	
Y-MA	<i>kagu-sala 'ai-malabubu-ni</i>	
G-BA	<i>sawesawe-gu ŋa-guinuwa</i>	
G-SE	<i>hahawe-gu ŋa-guinuwe</i>	
SEW	<i>sawesawe-gu-wai ya-guinuwa-i</i>	
BUN	<i>sowasowa-gu ya-paihowa</i>	
pre-posed morpheme or suffix on stem 'ability'; 1s vs 3s possessive morpheme; suffix 'ai'		
ENG	Those two will go with us (incl).	
DOB	<i>laudi si-te-luwa ni-di ma-'cda-o ta-tauya</i>	3p 3p-people-two that-3p with-1pn-PL 1pn-go
M-AI	<i>laudi luwa-di ma-scga-di ka-ta-tauya</i>	
M-TO	<i>laudi luwa-di ma-'cga-di ka-na-tauya</i>	
MIN	<i>tau-uw'i 'ainuwa nuwi ka-na-nac</i>	
FAG	<i>no 'i-luwa-di 'aega ka-na-nawa</i>	
BWA	<i>badi adi-seli dina nodiko ka-na-nau</i>	
KAL	<i>kadi-kewodi kadi-kabwewu kaigabu ta-na-nago</i>	
YAM	<i>tau-ni-di 'adi 'ailuya (ayau-da ta-na-nago</i>	
(<i>'adi 'ailuga-ni-di taya-di ta-na-nago)</i>	
SAL	<i>laudi luwa-di-na ma-hcga ka-na-tauya</i>	
BOS	<i>laudi 'adi 'umalawana ma-'cga-di ka-na-naya</i>	
Y-MA	<i>tau-ni-di kadi kailuga ni-di taya (ai-nago</i>	
G-BA	<i>io-ni-di ni-to-luwa (cyawa ta-to</i>	
G-SE	<i>io-ni-di hi-te-luwa-di-di toyawa ta-to</i>	
SEW	<i>laudi si-te-luwa ni-di ma-yada-o ta-taya</i>	
BUN	<i>laudi si-te-luwa-cdi ma-hcda-o ta-tauya</i>	
3p pronoun; dual form of 'people'; construction of demonstrative 'that' + 3p suffix; 1pn accompanitive pronoun		

ENG	He has finished cooking.
DOB	<i>ni'atu 'i-'e-'ule</i> finished 3s-act-cooking.pot
M-AI	<i>ni'au 'i-bude-ya</i>
M-TO	<i>ni'a bude-ya</i>
MIN	<i>avaya yamitava</i>
FAG	<i>to'o 'i-budabuda</i>
BWA	<i>badmowa gi-ve-tavoga</i>
KAL	<i>kamena i-ye-tagova</i>
YAM	<i>'agodi 'i-ve-togo</i> (<i>'akonadi 'i-ve-togo</i>)
SAL	<i>ta 'iwa 'e-bude</i>
BOS	<i>ni'a budaya</i>
Y-MA	<i>ganabei i-ve-tago</i>
G-BA	<i>naitu tai 'e-bude</i>
G-SE	<i>naitu tai 'e-bude</i>
SEW	<i>tulina i-te-bude</i>
BUN	<i>'i-'e-'ule pwaiya</i>

construction for completion

ENG	I can't see it.
DOB	<i>nigeya ya-da-'ite-na</i> not 1s-SUBJUNCTIVE-see-3s(PAST)
M-AI	<i>ge ya-da-'ita-ya-ya</i>
M-TO	<i>ge 'e-da-'ite-ya</i>
MIN	<i>ega a-ta-duwe-je</i>
FAG	<i>ge da-'ise-ya</i>
BWA	<i>keke ga-da-'ita</i>
KAL	<i>gege ya-da-kisc</i>
YAM	<i>gebu 'a-da-'ise-ni-ga</i>
SAL	<i>ge 'e-da-'ite-ya</i>
BOS	<i>gebu 'a-da-'ogale-ya</i>
Y-MA	<i>ge 'a-da-kise-ni-ya</i>
G-BA	<i>kakai ha-da-'ita</i>
G-SE	<i>gebu'a ja-da-do'a</i>
SEW	<i>nigeya ya-da-ita-ya-na</i>
BUN	<i>geya ya-da-'ite-ya</i>

negative; subjunctive

ENG	if	because
DOB	' <i>cguma</i> /' <i>abo</i>	<i>manuna</i>
M-AI	' <i>cguma</i>	<i>weyaina</i>
M-TO	' <i>cguma</i>	<i>weyavina</i>
MIN	<i>aituyu</i>	<i>waðagina</i>
FAG	' <i>cguma</i>	<i>wc jagina</i>
BWA	<i>kai</i>	<i>faina</i>
KAL	<i>kanuwa</i>	<i>faina</i>
YAM	' <i>am'edi</i> /' <i>ai'edi</i>	<i>φaiφaina</i>
SAL	' <i>cguma</i>	<i>weya yina</i>
BOS	' <i>cguma</i>	<i>weya yina</i>
Y-MA	<i>ka</i>	<i>waga yina</i>
G-BA	' <i>cguma</i>	<i>weyaina</i>
G-SE	' <i>cguma</i>	<i>manu</i>
SEW	' <i>cguma</i>	<i>sabina</i>
BUN	' <i>cguma</i>	<i>weyahina</i>

5. Conclusion

In languages which are changing through contact with each other, vocabulary changes more rapidly than grammatical structures. For the languages and dialects of Fergusson and Normanby Islands I have determined percentages of similar grammatical features, which give a clearer picture of similarity between languages and dialects as they are now. Reasons for similarities and differences may be investigated according to the various theories of language development and historical reconstruction. The data for the Fergusson Island comparisons is included, so that other investigators may use it for their own research. For some small languages and dialects this may be the only linguistic data, apart from word lists, which may be available for some time.

References

- Chowning, Ann. 1989. The 'Papuan Tip' languages reconsidered. *VICAL 1 - Oceanic languages*. Auckland: Linguistic Society of New Zealand.
- Lithgow, Daphne. 1974. Dobu language learning course. Dobu. ms with tape.
- Lithgow, David. 1976. Austronesian languages of Milne Bay and adjacent islands. In *New Guinea area languages and language study*, vol. 2 *Austronesian languages*, ed. S. A. Wurm, 441-523. Pacific Linguistics C-39. Canberra: Australian National University.

- _____. n.d. Language change on Normanby and Fergusson Islands. *Pacific Linguistics*. Forthcoming.
- Lithgow, David, and Philip Staalsen. 1965. *Languages of the D'Entrecasteaux Islands*. Port Moresby: Department of Information and Extension Services.
- Ross, M. D. 1988. *Proto Oceanic and the Austronesian languages of Western Melanesia*. Pacific Linguistics C-98. Canberra: Australian National University.

Received 8 October 1991
Revised 21 October 1992

SIL, Box 70
Ukarumpa via Lae
PAPUA NEW GUINEA