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SAMBERIGI (SAU) AND KEWA

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INTRODUCTION

The Samberigi people (also called Sau) and the South Kewa people (SK, also called Pole) speak languages that are located, respectively, at the borders of the Gulf and Southern Highland Provinces. The former has had government contact and reports for over a century, but SK is known mainly through the publications of Rule (1971) and my own (1968).

L.A. Flint headed up an expedition by the Papuan government into the Gulf in 1922 and his account appeared in the 1921-1922 Annual Report.¹ The expedition had extensive contact with Samberigi villages, as well as those in other language areas. The vocabularies collected by Flint and published in later Annual Reports were first examined by me in 1968, allowing me to propose additional language groups to the south and east of the Samberigi (Franklin 1973).

The Papuan Annual Reports give names of the locations, dates of collection, and wordlists, with contact information, including the following areas:

- The Tugi Valley, NW of Samberigi Valley and north of Mt. Murray, including the villages of Niai, Hamtagi, Ferimi, Pori, Keniogu, Ru, Purawari, Tiabrigi, Mogoluvu. The February 1922 Annual Report included 69 words and they appear to be a mixture of some Samberigi, but mainly South Kewa (Pole), with several transcription errors.
- The Northern side of Mt. Murray, the Samberigi Valley District and a north by west direction from the Kikori base camp. The report listed the villages of Gigiha, Donuga, Foragari, Keremabu, Hagibarigi, languri, Samberigi, Bisaburu, Mogorigi, Fori, Sau, landa, Feworu, Haburigi, Masigi, Kerabi, Hosumi, langianda, Kuruwi, Tagibu, and Tiri. The February 1922 report included 123 Samberigi words, with many transcription errors.

My (1968) list of Samberigi villages includes most of those noted in the Annual Reports, although some villages were clearly populated by SK (Pole) speakers and a few were from the

¹ Called "Report on the Patrol through the Samberigi Valley, Mount Murry District, Delta Division," it includes a daily log and a few linguistic phrases and words as well as many anthropological notes. There is a summary of the villages visited, the number of men's houses, including the names of the tribes and groups comprising the villages, as well as a summary of the populations.

Polopa or (even) Wiru languages—both to the east of Samberigi.² However, because village names are sometimes clan names, they are more difficult to position precisely.

SAMBERIGI NOTES

The government officers on patrols most often tried to obtain a census in each village, recording how many houses and *dubus* (men's houses) there were as well. The patrols, contrasted with that of Hides, were peaceful.

The Papuan Government Annual Report of 1922 contains two vocabularies taken at Kikori station, Delta Division in February of that year. The lists were compiled by W.M. Strong, with 69 words and 123 words each.

The first list is from speakers from the Tugi Valley, “across low foothills to N.W. of Samberigi Valley, north of Mt. Murray,” and the interpreters were Poriba of Bara, a village far to the south of the area and not Samberigi or Pole; and Kenaga and A.G. Pugini of Sirebi. The words appear to be Pole and I identify 40 examples that are familiar to me from East Kewa. There are also a few entries that appear to be Samberigi: ‘ashes,’ ‘face,’ ‘ear,’ ‘neck,’ ‘belly,’ ‘egg,’ and ‘thou.’ which have the Samberigi suffix *-gi*, which does not occur in Pole (SK). The entry for ‘thou,’ *hambi-gi*, is incorrect for Pole, which does not have an /h/ or a long form. The 2nd singular form should be *ne*.

The second list is from the ‘tribe’ of Samberigi or Orani, with 22 villages listed. The area is said to be on the “Northern side Mt. Murray, Samberigi Valley District, and in a N. by W. direction from Kirkori base camp.”

Of the 123 words in the second list, I postulate 42-45 Samberigi words that are cognate with Pole. Many of the words that were elicited seem to be individual kinds or varieties, and not a generic word: for example, snake, fish, tree, food, yam, sweet potato, taro, club, spear, arrow, shield, bag, wood, and so on. The standard Samberigi *-gi* suffix occurs with most body parts (including those used for counting), pronouns, numbers and with items clearly ‘possessed by someone,’ such as an egg, cockatoo (feathers), paddle and bow and arrow.

The following section shows the close affinity of the two languages (Sau and Kewa) by providing information on their sound correspondences, in particular. First, however, a summary of the phonologies:

SAMBERIGI PHONOLOGY:

² I collected a wordlist from a Polopa man who was in jail in Erave and later I visited the Polopa area. The language family was first described by George MacDonald in Franklin, ed. (1973). Wiru, an Engan Family isolate, is described by Kerr (1975) and in his extensive website at: <https://wutumowituda.wordpress.com>.

Consonants

P t k h
 b d g (all prenasalized)
 m n
 l
 r /tr/ word initially
 s
 w y

Vowels (all may be nasalized)

ɪ u
 e a (central before velars)
 ae o (lowered before /k/

POLE PHONOLOGY:

Consonants:

p t k
 b d g (all prenasalized)
 m n
 l
 r
 s
 w y

Vowels (all may be nasalized)

ɪ u
 e a o

COMPARATIVE WORD LISTS

During my research of Kewa dialects in 1967 I visited the Samberigi area for a week. The language had been studied briefly by members of the (then) Unevangelized Fields Mission.

While living in Papua New Guinea and, especially when in the Southern Highlands, I elicited several word lists from speakers of the Samberigi language. I also interviewed Samberigi students from the Aiyura National High School, which is near the SIL Ukarumpa center.

The principal missionaries for the Sau were Don Mosely and his wife. Mr. Mosely allowed me to see his notes and work on the alphabet that Murray Rule had done. I appreciate and acknowledge the work of these pioneers.

The following list represents not only cognates, but all of the Samberigi words that I have collected. Words that are not considered cognates have the English gloss starred. Verb stems that are completed with a suffix have a dash (-) at the end of the stem.

English Gloss	Samberigi (Sau)	Kewa (dialect)	Comments
1. Adze	*momaka	rai	(S)au='pearl shell'?
2. All	payao	rayo	
3. Another	maendae	mendaa	
4. Ant	tondaekae	rondea (kind)	
5. *Anus	i te-ke	imaa	S=anus base
6. Armband	topae	ropa	
7. Ashes	lankae	taga	
8. Ashes	pete	pere	when cold
9. *Axe handle, wood	yanko	nde	
10. Back of head	to-ke	to	K=body
11. Bad language	keke pi	koikoi (EK)	S=Nas 1 st syll
12. *Bad ways	hoke hau	waea	EK=koikoi
13. Bamboo knife	sinki	rigi	
14. Banana	dei	ai	
15. Banana	pou	pore	ripe
16. Bang/explode	tuku la-	rupi ta	
17. Base	te-ke	re	
18. *Beads	bele-ke	kulumbu	S=Perhaps 'kind of'
19. Beads	munduku	mundupa (kind)	
20. *Bind	howa pank-	rogaa	
21. *Bird of Paradise	bowe	bula (kind)	S=perhaps 'kind of'
22. Bitter	teto paelaeme	rero pia	
23. Black	busu paelaeme	busu	pig
24. Blister	tukula	rota	
25. Blow	po-la	po la	
26. Body/skin	lo-ke	to	
27. Boil sore	opi	upi	
28. Boil sore core	opi le-ke	upi ini/le	
29. Bow & arrow	aendaeli	yandane	
30. Bowl/canoe	kawaso	kawaso	
31. Break	tondaep-	rondopea	
32. Bridge	ti to-ko	ro	
33. Bring	mea epa	mea	Nas /e/ in mea
34. Brother	hame-ke	ame	
35. Brow	popo le-ke	pombolo	
36. Burial platform	hali lapae	lapa	
37. *Bury	hoy	rogaa	
38. But	pate	pare	

39. Butterfly	kasi mudi	kasapari	
40. Cabbage	tani	raani	edible greens
41. Call	wil-	wila	
42. Cassowary	yeti	yari	
43. Catch	tambae mimi	ramba mina	
44. Chase	teli-	ralu	
45. Cheek	pake	pae	K loss of /-k-/
46. Chin	yanka-ke	yaga	
47. Chop and fall	poko lopa	poa lopaa	
48. Chop down	pok-	poa	
49. Cicada	nole	nele	S=Nasal vowels
50. Close	tekepaetae	repara	
51. Coals	ti lanka-ke	taga	ashes
52. Cockatoo	yako	yaako	
53. *Cockroach	holesete	korea	
54. Cold (water)	honkete-ke	kogorea	
55. Compensate	yanki	yako pi	
56. Cook in stones	yaw-	yawa	
57. Corn	koni	konape	
58. Count	dimini	dimina	
59. Cousin	kai	ai	S=Nasal vowels
60. Cowrie shell	pooi	pokai/poi	K=small shell
61. Crayfish	botae	parai	K=minnow
62. Crazy	keae	keaa	
63. Cricket	maendae	maita	
64. Dance type	ndupale	rupale	
65. Daughter, his	wane-ke	wane	
66. Daughter, my	wandi ki	wane	
67. Day after tomorrow	tune-ke	rundani	EK
68. *Day before yest.	numane-ke	ambane	possible
69. Decorate	au la	au la	
70. Different	taetae	rera (IK)	
71. Dig	awae	awa	
72. Digging stick	tanu	ranu	SW area
73. Ditch	hombo	kumba	
74. Do	pi-	pa	EK pea
75. Dodge/miss	wendi-	wandua	
76. Dog	ia	iya	call dog
77. Don't know	mataelaeme	marea	
78. Down there	oni	no	
79. Draw	laa	ta	
80. Draw	wape laa-	wape ta	
81. Dream	upa	upaa	
82. Drip	tondaepaelo polo pi	kindipa	

83. *Drop	tenke siki	lopena la	
84. *Drum	tape-ke	ralia (EK)	SK=riali
85. Dry wood	ti hapuete	repena kaapu	
86. *Duck	kesia	kaluga	
87. *Earth worm	napele	kolawi	kind of?
88. East	nare ipulae nane	nare rekaya-nane	
89. Egg white	yah ape-ke	yaa apaa	
90. Eight	ketepo hate	ki laapo	
91. Emit/burn	ta	raa	
92. Esophagus	pendo-ko pu	pendo-pu	
93. Explain	mokala	magea	
94. Eye	le-ke	le (EK)	
95. Fall	lop-	lojaa	
96. Fat (pig)	ime-ke	ami	
97. Father (his)	are-ke	aaraa	
98. Father's sister	asae	aaya	HFZ
99. Fence	pape	pape (EK)	
100. Fight	aendae pi	yanda pa	
101. Fill up	tumbaa	pamba	SK= 'overflow'
102. Fine weather	peni witae	pane pia	
103. Firefly	leke iki-ki	remona le (EK)	
104. First	ambala	ambala	Before
105. *Fish	taepeli	ena	
106. *Fish trap	bisale	agona	
107. Flame	ti ule-ke	sulaa	
108. Flea	ete	ete	fronted /t/
109. Flood	ta halaeme	ipa rea	
110. Fly	pukini	puna	
111. *Flying fox	dumini	kaima	
112. *Food	ne	eta	Sau=Nasal vowel
113. Forearm	noi	noae	S=Nasal /o/
114. Forget	hone yonkae	kone rugula	
115. Foul/bad	kokolae	koikoi (EK)	Crooked/bad
116. Friend/brother	kame	ame	
117. Friend/brother	some	ame	
118. Frightened	palae homo	paala	
119. Frog	wa	wapi ruru (kind)	S=Nasal vowel
120. Full	tumbiaeme	rumbita	
121. Get	mi-	mea	
122. *Give (me)	keo	gi	
123. Give (me/you)	ki-	kala	
124. Grandfather	mei	mai (uncle)	S=Nasal vowels
125. Grandmother	aiyae	aya	
126. Grass	ambu	kambe	sword grass

127.	Grass	nomae	noma (kind)	
128.	Grasshopper	we sambuta	wamba	tree kind
129.	Grey haired	hamo iti-ki	kama iri	
130.	Ground/earth	you	su	
131.	Hair decoration	yomo	yoyo kama	Pandanus Lg.
132.	Happy	taemaenae hom-	rana-me omea	
133.	Hawk	ida	itya	EK
134.	He/she/it	ipi-ki	ipu	
135.	Heavy	kaenda	kenda pia	
136.	*Heel	ande kinu-ku	kama ini	
137.	Hide	pankae ha	pagaa sa	
138.	Hit/kill	li-	ta	
139.	*Hold	mini-	ripina	
140.	Hold up	miniliaa	minasaa	
141.	*Hole	kakaena	naaku (EK)	S=Nasal /a/
142.	Hole	naku	negaa	
143.	Hungry	tea	rea pia	
144.	Husband	hali-ki	aali (EK)	
145.	*If (hypothetical)	yolotae	palo	
146.	In/into/for	paetae	para	
147.	Jew's harp	soke	soge	kind
148.	Join	tuna	runa	
149.	Jump	ponkaa	pogala	
150.	Kidney	kili-ki	kili	
151.	Kiss	nunu pi	nunu la	
152.	Kunai	yenki	yagi	
153.	Later on	wetepenae	wirepe	
154.	*Leave alone	wine la-	minarepaa	
155.	Leech	tindi	lindi (EK)	ete (WK)
156.	Left hand	hoyenane kiki	koya ki	
157.	Let's go	panae epoe	panepa	
158.	Light	pa	paa	S-Nasal V
159.	Like this	ndupa	kupa	
160.	Like this	tupae	go rupa	
161.	Lip	hambili-ki	kambulu	
162.	*Little finger	kae le-ke	ekata	S=Nasal /ae/
163.	Liver	pu-ki	pu	
164.	Loin cloth	homapu	konapu	
165.	Look for	wei-	asa pu	
166.	Lungs	hose	kosa	
167.	*Maggots	kimi	eto eto piri yae	moving things
168.	Make good/forgive	wamo pi-	wamo pa	straighten
169.	Mat	busu	lusu	straighten mat
170.	Measles	kele kele	kele	pimples

171.	Meet	malande pi	mandaa	
172.	Middle	tukiki paerae	rikaa nane	
173.	Moon	sumbae	sumba (SK)	
174.	Mother (his)	inki-ki	agi	
175.	Mother's sister	papae	papa	
176.	Muscle	mindiki	mindiki	
177.	My	yakae	nana	
178.	Nail	iko-ko	ekoko	
179.	*Necklace (pearl)	makipu	kapiaga	children's?
180.	*Nephew/Niece	bopa	ai	
181.	Night	timba alaeme	rimbaa	
182.	Nine	noi harae	noae	
183.	Nipple	andu li-ki	andu ini	
184.	Nothing	pa	pa	
185.	Now	ame tae	ambi	
186.	Offspring	iki-ki	si	
187.	One	home-ke	komea	
188.	Our	nikae	niaa-na	
189.	Outside	hamae	kamaa	
190.	*Paddle	deli	ekepai	ceremonial
191.	Painful	tanda paelaeme	randa pia	
192.	Palm/sole	wata-ke	waraa	
193.	Pandanus	ankae	aga	
194.	Pay fine	yoke-ke	yoke roge	store kina
195.	Pearl shell	sekete	sekere (EK)	
196.	People	wandaehali	winyali (EK)	
197.	Pig	maenae	mena	
198.	Pitpit	hambe	kambe	
199.	Play	telepo la	relepo rapo	
200.	*Pluck off	*date pi	rako pea	
201.	*Possum	*hote-ke	aape ta	kind of?
202.	Possum	yapae	yapa	
203.	*Potato	tia	?	
204.	Potato	yaelipu	yalipu	
205.	Pour out	hola-	koya rumba	
206.	Pregnant (animal)	kembo-ko	kembo	swelling
207.	Prune/stip	yand-	yanda	
208.	Pull	yol-	yola	
209.	Pull out	yokae	yoka	
210.	Pus	hami	kaima	
211.	Push down	mininiaa	minanaa	
212.	Push down	yolae niaa	yolanaa	
213.	Push out	yolae liaa	yolo lopaa	push down
214.	Put	wi-	wia	

215.	Put into	pamb-	pamba	
216.	Quarrel	ape la	apela	
217.	*Rain	lako	yai	
218.	Rain stops	tola-	rola	
219.	Raincape/mat	yapaetae	yapara	
220.	Raise/grow	opo-	opa	moon
221.	Release/send	tapaa	repata	
222.	Remove clothing	*londael-	kola	
223.	Right hand	popaekae-nane	popoke	
224.	Ripe	pote-ke	porea	
225.	Road	potae	pora	
226.	*Roof of house	da yo-ko	anda pira	S=house leaf
227.	Root	pi-ki	pitaa	
228.	*Sago scraps	ulu	?	S=Nasal Vs
229.	*Sandfly	inini	punasi	
230.	Sandpaper tree	niae	naga	file
231.	Sap/blood	panke-ke	paage	
232.	Satan	temo-ko	remo	
233.	Scoop out	apaelae me	apea	
234.	*Scoop out	yupi	apea	
235.	Seed	wae	wai	
236.	Seed/fruit	kili-ki	ini	
237.	Sew	tombili	rambula	
238.	Shade	tu	ru	
239.	*Shadow/reflection	sua sua	wasaa	S=Nasal Vs
240.	*Shake	laeme laeme pa	eto pa	
241.	Shame	yalae pi-	yala pia	
242.	Sharpen	ne hae	naga pa	
243.	*Shin bone	kilo holi-ki	kimbu uni	
244.	Shiver	inkiki taelaelaeme	kupa tete	
245.	Shoot	pili-	piya	
246.	Shoulder bag	mandaeli	mandi	carry in bag
247.	Show/teach	wal-	wala	
248.	Sibling (opp. sex)	anae	ania	
249.	Sibling (opp. sex)	beli-ki	mbali	
250.	Sick, be	yeni ha-	yaina pia	
251.	Side, to the	taenana	riri nane	front
252.	Sister	asi	aki	
253.	Sit	piti-	pira	
254.	Sky	ya	yaa	
255.	Sleep	u	uu	S=Nasal V
256.	Sleeping place	da pandae	uu panda	
257.	Sleepy	u ipulaeme	uu ipula	S=nasal /u/
258.	Smell	punku mi-	pugu pia	

259.	*Snail	bulukau	kolawi	
260.	Snake	keto	kero	
261.	*Snore	u hou	uu goro	S=nasal /u/
262.	Sorcery	lembu pankae	neambu pa	wasp
263.	Sore	tete	rere	
264.	Speak	la-	la	
265.	Spear	dolo	ndolo	
266.	Spiked arrow	semo-ko	semongo (SK)	
267.	Spit	dopi ta	sope raa	
268.	Splinter (bamboo)	lomae	loma	
269.	Split	tekele pi	rekepa	
270.	*Stake	mape	rundu	K=pig stake
271.	Stand	tiaa	aa	
272.	Steal	pake mi-	paake na	
273.	Step over	anku laa	agula	jump
274.	Stick	tolo	roto	digging
275.	Stomach	palo	paalo	
276.	Subject marker	-mae	-me	
277.	Sugar cane	weli	waa	
278.	Swollen	pambae	pamba	
279.	*Tadpole	sapustu	repali (?)	
280.	*Tail	nde-ke	aapu	
281.	*Talk/language	pi	agaa	SK=pi/angale
282.	Thing	aliae	oyae	
283.	Things	aletae	ole mole	EK
284.	Think	hone wi-	kone wi	
285.	*Thorn	teke-ke	?	
286.	Throw down	lopa	lopa	
287.	Thumb	yu-nki	su	
288.	Tie knot	pokae pili-	poga ta	
289.	Today	ame	ambi	
290.	*Tomorrow	belia	ekeraa	
291.	Tongs	taemaeni	raminaa	
292.	Top of	manda	madaa	
293.	Touch	wataa	oraa	
294.	Tread on	tambuua	rambuua	
295.	Tree	napu	naapu	K=casurina
296.	Tree base	ti te-ke	re	
297.	Tree fern	kaenkae	kega	
298.	Tree kind	pawae	pawa	
299.	*Tree/wood	ti	repena	
300.	True	otae	ora	
301.	Tuck under arm	pank-	panga	
302.	Two days hence	motune-ke	rundane	

303.	*Understand	momataa	makuaa (EK)	
304.	Underneath	oto-nane	rolo-nane	
305.	Unripe/green	kanka-ke	kagaa	
306.	*Up there	oli	sone	
307.	Uprights (house)	da pinki	anda pigi	
308.	Vagina	kaete-ke	kere (EK)	
309.	Vein	konkapu	kogapu	
310.	Wait	handoha	andoaa	
311.	Wart	kele	kelea	S=Nasal /e/
312.	Water	ikali/ ipi	ipa	
313.	We (dual)	ni-ki	ni-pa	
314.	*We/they all	i-ki	niaa	possible
315.	*Weave	yole	isa	
316.	Wedge	hambu	kambu	
317.	*Week	pula	oro	
318.	West	nare pabaelae	naare pabala	
319.	What	ale-ke	ali-ya	
320.	White ant	momo	lolo	kind
321.	Wild pig	sayale	sayale	S=Nasal Vs
322.	Wind	po	po	
323.	Windpipe	pomo pu	pomo pu	breathe
324.	Wing	popaa-ke	popaa	
325.	Women's house	tandae	onanda	
326.	Write	wape pi-	wape ta	
327.	*Yam	minti	biro	K-tapioca
328.	*Yam	ndoma	bira	K=tapioca
329.	Yesterday	ambane-ke	ambala	
330.	You	ne-ke	ne	
331.	*You all	di-ki	nimi/imi	
332.	You/they two	ipili-ki	nipi/ipi	
333.	Young	si-ki	si	offspring

OLD ENDINGS IN SAU

In 1997 I published an article dealing with old endings in the Engan family of languages. I pointed out how crucial it was to examine those endings because they provide evidence to show historical developments. I now list the common ones in Samberigi. The following examples (incomplete) show the use of what was an inalienable Sau suffix, mostly indicating 'possession,' with several allomorphs that occur, dependent upon the final V of the stem:

Anus: ite-ke

Ashes; do-ke

Arrow: semo-ko

Back: ho-ki

Belly: wale-ke	Muscle: mindi-ki
Body: lo-ke	Nail: iko-ko
Brother: hame-ke	Name: mbi-ki
Cheek: pa-ke	Navel: honede-ke
Chest: haeko-ko	Neck: ma-ke
Chin: yanka-ke	Nose: mine-ke
Daughter (3 rd per.): wane-ke	Offspring: iki-ki
Daughter: wandi-ki	One; home-ke
Dust: doko-lo	Palm: wata-ke
Ear: hale-ke	Pregnant: kembo-ko
Elbow: tondoli-ki	Shin: kiloli-ki
Eye: le-ke	Shoulder: peyo-ko
Father (3 rd per.): ate-ke	Sibling (opp. Sex): beli-ki
Forehead: weno-ko	Skin: yonkele-ke
Hair: iri-ki	Spirit: temo-ko
Hand: ki-ki	Stone: kana-ke
Head: ambe-ke	Tail: nde-ke
Horn: alee-ke	Teeth: ka-ke
Husband: hali-ki	This dupi-ki
Kidney: kili-ki	Thumb: you-nki
Knew: tumi-ki	Tongue: keke-ke
Liver: pu-ki	Young: si-ki
Mother (3 rd per.): inki-ki	

Comments:

Words ending in /a/ or /e/ take the -ke suffix

Words ending in /i/ take the -ki suffix

Words ending in /u/ take the -nki suffix

Words ending in /o/ usually take the -ko suffix. Exceptions are: do-ke 'ashes,' and ho-ki 'body,' which, if following the rule for the suffix after a back vowel in the stem would be do-ko and ho-ko.'

CORRESPONDENCES: SAU: KEW

p:p 6, 8, 15, 23, 25, 35, 38,45, 48, 50, 60, 64, 74, 87, 90, 95, 99, etc.

p:r 2

p:mb 35

mb:mb 73, 104, 262, 278, 294, 316, 329

m:mb 185, 215

b:b 21, 23

b:mb 249

t:r 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17, 22, 24, 31, 32, 120, 143, 148, 181, 191, 199, 218, etc.

t:l 155

nd:r 6

nd:d 292

nd:nd 183, 246, 310, 325

d:ty 133

d:nd 265, 307; At the beginning of words /d/ is prenasalized, but not recorded so in Sau.

d:s 267

s:r 13

l:t 7, 26, 79

l:n 262

s:s 147, 173, 195, 321, 333

s:y	98
s:∅	117
s:k	252
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b:l	169
m:m	19, 33, 77, 93, 121, 124, 140, 171, 176, 197, 211, etc.
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y:y	46, 52, 152, 194, 202, 204, 207, 208, 209, 212, 241, etc.
y:s	130, 287
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k:∅	116
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∅:y	29, 76, 100
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ei:ai	14
oi:oe	113
i:e	178
ae:a	230, 268

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