

Motu

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

September 28, 2018

1 Language Information

- Source: Lister-Turner and Clark (1930)
- Glottlog: <http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/motu1246>
- ISO-identifier: meu
- Speakers:
- Location: Papua New Guinea
- Geneology: Austronesian > Malayo-Polynesian > Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian > Eastern Malayo-Polynesian > Oceanic > Western Oceanic linkage >

2 Nominal Morphology

The number of the noun is usually indicated by the context or by some other word. Number can be expressed by accent or reduplication of the first syllable.

3 Verbal Morphology

The verb has singular and plural forms. There is an inclusive/exclusive distinction in 1PL.

4 Conjunction

The conjunctions in Motu are *bona* 'and', it conjoins clauses; *mai* 'and', it conjoins words and phrases; *ma* 'and, and in addition'; *bena* 'and, then'; *ida* 'and' (= the post-position 'with'); *a* 'but'; *to* 'but'.

- (1) Mokona na mase, to ia ese e hamaurigu.
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'I nearly died, but he saved me.' [Lister-Turner and Clark, 1930, p. 43]

5 Disjunction

eiava 'or' is the marker of disjunction.

6 Postpositions

ai is the basic postposition in Motu. The compound postpositions are in third person singular.

1. *ai* 'in, on, at, from'
2. *a* 'from, by, with'
3. *amo/ ena amo* 'from'
4. *ida* 'with' (accompaniment)
5. *lalonai* 'inside'
6. *murimurinaï* 'outside'
7. *murinaï* 'behind'
8. *vairanaï* 'in front'
9. *latanai* 'on'
10. *enai/ dekenai/ badi badinaï* 'beside'
11. *enekahanaï* 'on your side of'

References

Lister-Turner, R. and J.B. Clark (1930). *A Grammar of the Motu language of Papua*.
Sindey: A. H. Pettifer, Government Printer.