

Tairora

The following data are from Tairora, a language spoken in Papua New Guinea. Based on the data, answer the following questions. (a) Are [l] and [r] distinct phonemes or allophones of a single phoneme? Why? (b) Describe the distribution of [b] and [β]. The following data are from Tairora, a language spoken in Papua New Guinea. Based on the data, answer the following questions. (a) Are [l] and [r] distinct phonemes or allophones of a single phoneme? Why? (b) Describe the distribution of [b] and [β]. How can you account for the alternation? (' marks stress.)

	Word	Gloss
a.	bu'rauka	I went
b.	bi'βa	he went
c.	'te'i'rima	I understand
d.	'bulo	I'm going
e.	'iria	Listen!
f.	aluke'loma	he killed it
g.	bi'lo	he goes
h.	bi'cera	I will go
i.	bu'araβa	you went
j.	bi'reβe	will you go?
k.	'binaβu	we went
l.	aluke'loma	he killed it
m.	'biri 'timilo	he brought it down and gave it to me

(Katamba 1989 p115)