

(15 points)

(O) Possessed in Vanuatu (1/3)

Vanuatu is a South Pacific country with 74 populated islands and more than 100 languages belonging to the Oceanic language family made up of languages spoken from Papua New Guinea to Hawaii to Easter Island. In Vanuatu, speakers of these languages have developed interesting ways of saying that something belongs to someone. You are invited to examine some examples from the language spoken on the island of Tanna.

Take a look at the examples of how possession is expressed in this language (given on the next page) and then answer the questions which follow.

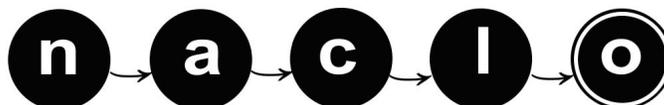
NOTE:

[ə] represents a sound like the last sound of 'the' in 'the book'.

[ŋ] represents a sound like the last sound of 'hang'.

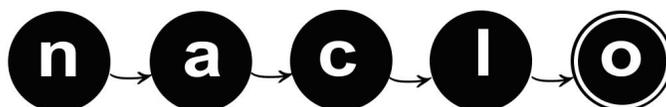


Map courtesy of Cindy Schneider, U. of New England (Australia)



(O) Possessed in Vanuatu (2/3)

	TANNA	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
1	<i>ralah neŋow</i>	their canoe
2	<i>rahan nasumien</i>	his garden
3	<i>raham nima</i>	your house
4	<i>nepikə kahaw</i>	rat's tail
5	<i>nəməm nəkawə</i>	your (=one person's) kava to drink
6	<i>netetamlaw</i>	your child (speaking to mother and father of child)
7	<i>niŋlaw nahwel</i>	their laplap pudding (a food) (for both of them)
8	<i>nenien raha enteni</i>	Tanna's speech (<i>enteni</i> 'earth' = Tanna)
9	<i>ratah nanhatien</i>	our language (=yours (one person) and mine)
10	<i>narmen</i>	his image
11	<i>rahak nien</i>	my coconut (that I'm selling)
12	<i>rahak sot</i>	my shirt
13	<i>narfu tem</i>	man's belly
14	<i>neiwok mil</i>	my two female cousins
15	<i>pukah asoli</i>	big pig
16	<i>niŋək nien</i>	my coconut (for eating)
17	<i>nelkak</i>	my leg
18	<i>piam</i>	your (=one person) same sex sibling [<i>sibling</i> is a brother or sister]
19	<i>nisiməteliŋəm</i>	your (=one person) ear-wax
20	<i>narunien raha Tjotam</i>	Jotham's knowledge
21	<i>niŋlah kuri</i>	their dog (for eating)
22	<i>niŋən nawanien</i>	his food
23	<i>nepiken</i>	his tail
24	<i>ratalaw jow</i>	their turtle (belonging to both of them)
25	<i>rahak jerehi</i>	my lobster
26	<i>nisin</i>	his excrement
27	<i>nentowi jow</i>	turtle's neck
28	<i>nerow raha jow</i>	the turtle's spear
29	<i>nelka pukah</i>	pig's leg
30	<i>nakale naw mil</i>	The two edges of the knife OR The two knives' edges
31	<i>nisi kunget</i>	louse excrement
32	<i>nəmtalaw nəkawə, ian mɔwamnəm</i>	As for the kava (drink) belonging to you two, go and drink it!
33	<i>ratamlaw kuri ije?</i>	Where is your dog (belonging to the two of you)?
34	<i>niŋək kuri u, ojakawan</i>	My dog here, I'm going to eat (it).
35	<i>rahak nima takaku</i>	My house is small



(O) Possessed in Vanuatu (3/3)

O1 (6 points). Using the examples above as your model, translate each of these five expressions into the Tanna language.

1. rat's ear	
2. my two dogs (that I own)	
3. their bellies	
4. a brother of those two (men)	
5. our child (= yours (1 person) and mine)	

O2 (6 points). Now see if you can translate these five expressions into the Tanna language.

1. Jawkelpi's house	
2. the pig's canoe	
3. My picture of you (=the one that I own that is an image of you)	
4. The house belonging to you two is big	
5. Where is my lobster (that I am going to eat)?	

O3 (3 points). There are several ways of saying 'their' in Tanna. List those found in the Tanna examples and explain the differences in meaning they express.

'Their' in Tanna	Used when....

