

Language: Palauan

Language Expert: Ikelau Misech

Others present: Jillian Breithaupt, Margaret Asperheim, Olivia Waring, Armando Molina Gomez, Justin Hong, Kianu Schwerdtfeger, Yihan Li, Nathan Adamson, Rui Yamawaki, Nicki Butler, Cole Flottman

Date: Friday, October 20, 2023

Consent: Obtained

Recording: FM8-033.mp4

Description: We elicited times of day, greetings, and farewells in Palauan.

Equipment

Zoom H4n Pro

iPhone 15

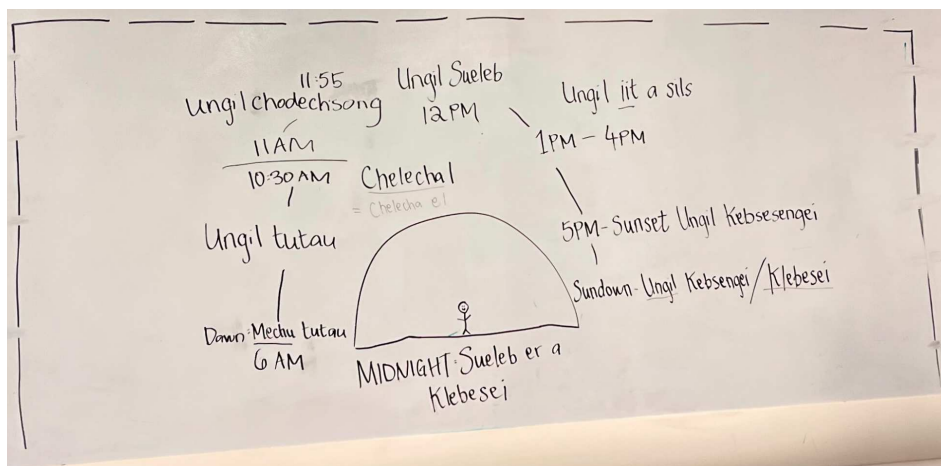
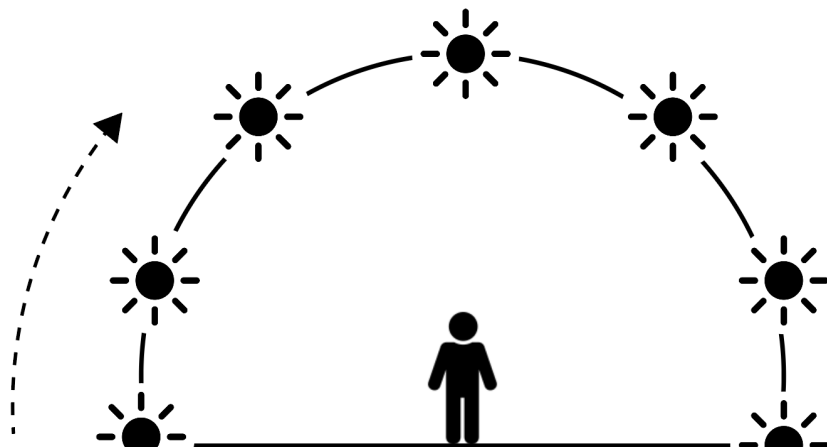


Figure 1. Ikelau notes down on the whiteboard the times of day and their corresponding labels in Palauan. The illustration on the whiteboard is based on the top image, which illustrates time of day according to the position of the sun.

Times of Day

English	IPA	Palauan Orth.	Notes
dawn (~6:00AM)	mə.ʔu tu.tau	mechu tutau	<i>mechu</i> means 'about to' <i>tutau</i> means 'morning'
morning (6AM–10:30am)	tu.tau	tutau	
morning (11AM–11:55AM)	ʔo.ðə.ʔo.son	chodechsong	not still morning, but not yet afternoon
noon (12PM–1PM)	s ^w ɛɫb suɛɫb	sueleb	
early afternoon (1PM–4PM)	i:.tə sil.sə	iit a sils	Lit. 'missed the sun'
late afternoon (5PM–sunset)	qəb.sə.sə.ŋeɪ	kebsesengei	
evening	qəb.sə.ŋeɪ	kebsengei	
to have lunch	o suɛɫ.bə		Don't have this for <i>tutau</i> , <i>iit a sils</i> , <i>kebsesengei</i> , <i>kebsengei</i>
talk story	o stori		
today's (<u>morning</u>)	ʔɛl.ʔal	chelechal	comes from <i>chelecha el</i> (‘now that ____’)
now	ʔɛl.ɛ.ʔaŋ	chelechang	
right now	ʔɛ.le.ʔal taim		
this afternoon	ʔɛl.ʔal a sil.sə	Chelechal a sils	
tomorrow	klu.χuk		
tomorrow morning	klu.χuk ɛra tu.tau		lit. ‘tomorrow at morning’
at	ɛra		
nighttime	kləb.seɪ klə.bə.seɪ	klebesei	
midnight	suɛɫ.bə ɛ.ra klə.bə.seɪ suɛɫ.bə ɛ.ra klə.bə.seɪ	Sueleb er a klebesei	<i>Sueleb</i> means ‘mid’ and <i>klebesei</i> means ‘night’ (lit. mid-night)

Greetings

English	IPA	Palauan Orth.	Notes
Good morning	u.ɲil tu.tau	Ungil tutau	From 6AM to 10:30AM <i>Ungil</i> means 'good' (lit. 'good morning')
Good morning (pre-noon)	u.ɲil ʔo.ðə.ʔo.son	Ungil chodechsong	From 11AM to 11:55AM
Good noon	u.ɲil s ^w ɛfb u.ɲil suɛlb	Ungil sueleb	From 12PM to 1PM In a first birth ceremony, the mother emerges at noontime.
Good afternoon!	u.ɲil i:.tə sil.sə	Ungil iit a sils	From 1PM to 4PM <i>iit</i> means 'missed'; refers to the sun being 'past you/missed you, no longer overhead';
Good (almost) evening!	uŋgil qəb.sə.sə.ɲeɪ	Ungil kebsesengei	From 5PM to sunset
Good evening!	uŋgil qəb.sə.ɲeɪ	Ungil kebsengei	Used more commonly than <i>ungil klebesei</i> as a greeting Can be used any time after the sun is down
Good night	uŋkil klu.bə.ser	Ungil klebesei	Lit. 'good night' This is only used in the context of parties, festivities, celebrations, and special occasions to mean, "The night is good! Let's celebrate!"
Good night!			There is no "good night;" "see you in the morning" is used instead
Have you eaten? (could be taken as "How was your day?" or "How are you?")	qə mla:məŋju	Ke mla omengur?	<i>Mla</i> = already <i>Omengur</i> = eat

English	IPA	Palauan Orth.	Notes
Did you sleep well?	qə mʔɔ.ŋil mɛ.ʔi.wa.i.wə qə mʔɔ.ŋil mɛ.ʔi.ua.i.wə	Ke mlo ungil mechiuaiu?	<i>Mlo</i> (comes from <i>mo</i>) indicates past tense <i>Ke</i> = you <i>Mlo</i> = did <i>Ungil</i> = good <i>Mechiuaiu</i> = sleep Younger speakers educated mostly in English would say "Mlo ke mechiuaiu ungil?" (syntax calqued from "Did you sleep well?")
Have you eaten? (could be taken as "How was your day?" or "How are you?")	qə mʔa:.məŋ.u	Ke mla omengur?	<i>Mla</i> = already <i>Omengur</i> = eat Can be used at any time of the day
Yes	ɔ.ʔɔɪ	Ochoi	Possible response to "Have you eaten?"
Not yet Not yet eaten	ðir.yaq ðir.yaq kumŋu	Dirkak Dirkak kumngur	Possible response to "Have you eaten?" <i>Kumngur</i> means 'eating' You wouldn't use <i>diak</i> (‘no’), which could come off rude

Farewells

English	IPA	Palauan Orth.	Notes
Farewell (host)	mɛ.ʔi.qun mɛ.ʔi.qan	mechikung mechikang	The one that the host says (not the visitor) Ikelau mentioned that she used to think <i>mechikang</i> was reserved only for a group of women, but both can be used and do not distinguish gender

English	IPA	Palauan Orth.	Notes
Farewell (visitor) I'm leaving We're leaving	aq mə.ɾɔ.luŋ a.gi mə.ɾɔ.luŋ	Ak merolung Aki merolung	<i>Ak merolung</i> means 'I am leaving.' <i>Aki merolung</i> means "we are leaving.'
Farewell (visitor) I'm about to head out We're about to head out	ma.ɣu ra.ɛ.lə ma.ɣi mə.ra.ɛ.lə	Maku rael maki morael	<i>Rael</i> means 'road' and <i>moraël</i> means 'to walk'; sounds like 'I'm gonna go' <i>Maku rael</i> means 'I'm going to go,' whereas <i>maki morael</i> means 'we're going to go.'
Farewell (visitor) See you later!	ma u.ri.u.lə	Ma uriul	This is most commonly used as farewell. <i>Uriul</i> means 'later'
I'm going to sleep	ak mə baθ	Ak mo bad Ak mechu bad	Both <i>ak mo bad</i> and <i>ak mechu bad</i> can be used interchangeably and mean the same thing. <i>Mechu</i> means 'about to'; this may have prospective aspect. <i>Bad</i> means 'rock, stone' (to sleep like a rock) Response would be <i>ma tutau</i> or <i>ma klukuk</i>
See you in the morning	ma tu.tau	Ma tutau	You say this one at night.
Go (ahead)	bɔ	Bo	<i>Bo ma tutau</i> = 'go until the morning'
See you tomorrow	ma klu.ɣuq	Ma klukuk	You can say this one at any time.
Shouldn't we go?	ŋdjak bai dɔ.raɛl ŋdjak bai mə.rə.kɔ dɔ.raɛl	Ng diak bai doraël? Ng diak bai merko doraël?	<i>Bai</i> = suggestive <i>merko</i> comes from <i>merkong</i> ('enough'); could be more direct <i>Doraël</i> = leave

Notes

- Ikelau drew and wrote on the board during the session to better illustrate the concepts covered in this session.

Reflections

How to improve the session

- It would have helped to clearly ask for times of day first (without greetings/salutations).
- We could have then moved into greetings/farewells as pairs.

What went well/bad

- There was some confusion in the beginning of the session about whether we were covering times of day or greetings.
- We ran out of time to cover some sentences involving times of day and other forms of greetings/farewells.

What to do next time

- Go over times of day and other ways to talk about time
- Ask about greetings/farewells together