

## **An initial look at Manirem, also known as Betaf (bfe) and Vitou (vto)**

This is an initial look at the language called Manirem by its speakers in the villages of Betaf and Takar in Sarmi Regency, Papua, Indonesia. Based on data from an initial trip to Sarmi Regency in 2016 I will discuss preliminary evidence for the language's status, phonemic inventory, and morphological structure. Betaf (bfe) is an original language in the ISO 639-3 series and Vitou (vto) was added in 2007, with an alternate name Takar. Betaf and Vitou are grouped as a sub-family under Coastal Tor in the Tor-Orya family by Glottolog (Hammarström, 2016). Residents of both districts refer to their language by the name Manirem and say they understand each other. To date, insufficient data has been published to determine the status of these two varieties relative to each other. I will report on initial differences observed. Additionally, I will present initial findings for the phonemic inventory and morphology in comparison to Berik, the most-researched language in the Tor sub-family (Westrum, 1988).

Hammarström, Harald & Forkel, Robert & Haspelmath, Martin & Bank, Sebastian (2016). Glottolog 2.7. Jena: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History. (Available online at <http://glottolog.org>, Accessed on 2016-09-27.)

ISO 639-3 Registration Authority. 2007. Change Request Number 2007-234. Dallas: SIL International.

Westrum, P. N. (1988). *A GRAMMATICAL SKETCH OF BERIKI* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Cenderawasih).