Vocabulary of Words not to be found in Bingham's Dictionary

Compiled by Arthur Grimble

Vol. I

Original deposited with Rev. Father Ernest Sabatier, Mission of the Sacred Heart, Tarawa, Gilbert Islands.

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Amona — (cf. Brigham for primary sense)

By navigators the word is used in an idiomatic sense amounting to "favorable" i.e. *Amona Kama* — The S. Cross gives good indications for travelling; *Amona namakanaka* — the moon is favorable (for fishing)

perhaps "Seasonable" is the best general translation.

He — tangled mass of driftwood, etc.
Bukoroa — to make a present to one's love.
Baretama — the platform on a canoe's out-rigger for provisions, etc.
Buaka — the garboard streak of a canoe.
Bora — land or canoes acquired by a niece or nephew at law for lying with uncles or aunts at last; the price of Buaka.
Baimaine — land seized or acquired from a seducer of one's wife or daughter.
Banuri — land acquired as payment for one's adoption of an infant.
Biria — to conquer, overrun, take possession of land in war.
Bo — the darkness of Chaos (found in the name To Bo-ma-te-Make, The darkness and the clearing together, applied to the mixture of sea and sky at Creation era).
Bo — to arrive (in the sense of time), e.g.
E bo le rasi — peace arrives (is declared)
E bo le maluni — work (time) comes.
E bo le Buaka — war comes (is declared)
E bo le maluni — spring time comes.
Bo — (in idiomatic phrases) 1. E bo angi-u
lit.; "my breath beats," i.e. "I have a
strong desire." E bo angi-na ni Kane
make Jarana — he greatly wishes to go
to Jarana. 2. E bo ati-ni te makeu;
"Work is continuous."

Boratza — a minute beetle found chiefly
in the uri blossom.

Bounaba — central roof tree or centre post
for ridge pole of mantaba (S. G.)

Boitaba — dito (N. G.)

Bia — a gland

Bora — the temple (anatomic).

Bokahano — (S. Gilbert) to have a violent
argument, to dispute, to be angry.

Bungitarai — an exclamation used in
the dance to draw the attention of
the onlookers. (Possibly Bon tarai —
"look well at me").

Bungibungira — to repeat; to do a second
time as an incantation.
Bakabakani Korora — to be unduly eager for the lion's share; to desire to monopolize; thus secondarily (as Brigham translates) to be the first to meet a celebrity or a new arrival (in the officious sense).

Bukini'benebene — the tip of a coconut leaf, picked off for a fan or for magic.

Bekibekai — the seat of the affections, the inward source of love.

Bao — a vehicle or conveyance, such as a ship or bicycle. E ria te bao mai Banaba, the ship from Banaba to Bao has come. 1 toka ni bao-u te wa, I embark on my craft the canoe.

Bukini'koreini — same as Bukini'benebene.

Bai — a brace to the outrigger of a canoe.

Bana — the cornerboards of a canoe sail.

Bingibing — hollow (as wood gnawed by rats).

Buka — (bot.) Hernandia Peltata.

Barieti — (bot.) Barringtonia Butomia.
Bers — (bot.) Ficus aspersa
Bwerenat — game of tip-cat.
Boi — game of heel-ball, in which the ball is kept in air by blows of the heel.
B'ab'a — rotary or pump-drill.
Bara — the castor-oil fish (more commonly called k'ika-ni-kelka)
Biriaitna — (edition) Biriaitna itena a te kelka: lit. to run hither & thither beside the subject; hence, "to evade the question," "to beat about the bush."
Banta — the name of a tree, the ?
Boroboro — (botanic) ?
Bnaron-ni-Karawa —
Ban — another name for the Karawa tree: probably imported from Ellice, where name is Tau.
Be — illusion of the conjunction be and pronoun e (Brigham's note is misleading).
Bótoa — floating light as the float of a canoe: (idiom) • bótoa raman

Barea — This man's outrigger floats light, i.e. he has a model wife.

Beti — can also be used in above idiom in place of bótoa.

Baitongo — a large red seed found drifted after W. Sales.

Bweria ni marana — a part where there are no currents in the ocean.

Bineria — to think over, to make preparations for.

Babange — sullen, or disappointed, or hurt at not getting a fair share of food. (Synonym — noka).
Ermaso - Ceremony of blessing a woman in her 6th month of pregnancy.

Em - (Arawaman dialect) sea-urchin called Kātuia on other islands.

Ei - Progeny (Nui word).
Itibabang — rapidly appearing and dis-appearing; ubiquitous.

Benenas — unlucky, frustrated in hope, unanswered in prayer (especially the last), unblest. Ti’ a bon iben-nas nikai ko aki noroko irona: we are unlucky now that you do not come to us.

Hanguke — strife, altercation, quarrelling.
(N. Gill)

Kākaiwé — ditto (N. Gill)

Itai — (bot) Calophyllum inophyllum

Karokatoka — hand ball with tek and.

Kabaebae — game of hiding and finding an object.

Kātāba — game of hide and seek.

Koa — the skin of a stingray (The meaning given by Brigham are derivatives of this)

A stomacher of the stingray’s skin, used as armoms in war.
Kaniburununga — to make presents to gain the favour of prospective parents-in-law, or old men in authority.

Kanoani barana — to make a secret present to an illicit love.

Katiitiron — gratified by a sense of power or wealth, as a new king or a lucky heir.

Kastinrikai — to appear and disappear.

Kaukau — S. Gilbert (Bern) for Kainta.

Kuia — The third division of a canoe's (Kuia) side measured from keel to gunwale.

Kaukekauke — (not only in one tradition) a ray of the sun (e.g. Maori — a contestant).

Kekorina — rattle (as stones in a bag or a coconut shell); resound as artillery or the crackling (not rolling) of thunder.

Kiriongong — to repeat parrot-wise, to recite the letter but not the spirit (N.G.).
Kawinakoa — Kaotinakoa; disclose, reveal, tell the tale of.
Kunnimata — over lid of eye (c.f. rebenimata)
Karimhivim — the second finger
Kivire — the little finger
Kere — the female pudendum
Kabanga — the penis.
Kainibaini — bridge of nose
Ko konirotoa — having a fat, fleshy neck; bull-necked.
Kiré — c.f. iowawa; insolent. c.f. also angangi (ko angangi-va, ko tetan iowawa); also kiremere
Kawakawai — a shovel pointed spear.
Kekernatai — rattle together like stones in a bag.
Karakina — to desire, to yearn for as one's home; to approach a subject in conversatin, to work up to...
Kainiman — rocks and solitary stones out at sea where fish are abundant.
Kataemaka — hasti.

Kai — 1) a tree; 2) a piece or a sort of wood;
3) A weapon, missile; 4) a handle
5) A science, or art, a particular method
or school; e.g., in speaking of writing one
would refer to ana Kai Nahara, the
Nahara style, etc.; 6) A school of thought:
e.g., te Kai ni Kiritsuki, the Christian
doctrine; 7) the gestures used in a dance
as distinct from the words; 8) a stroke
or stripe; 20 te Kai, 20 lashes; 9) a
punishment (never used so with def.
article, only in ition; NONA KAREKA
Kai-no; I will procure your punishment,
i.e. I will be avenged). 10) An effect, a
consequence (used particularly in
relation to magic) of Ka-Kai, mirac-
ulous, literally, producing an effect;
Ki-Kai ana Tafunea — my magic
is effective (miraculous). 11) In song Kai
may be used to avoid undue repetition of
almost any substantive (common noun).
Kabikoi — a little painful, slightly sore, uneasy but not unbearably tender.

Kōtō — a squid (comb: Nui).

Kainimarama — the outmost bamboo lashed across a canoe's outrigger poles.

Katanakkow — to isolate, (as a girl in the beaching house or a patient being prepared for war).

(Toorki — delivered of a child, confined, accompanied, brought to bed.)

Karo (Karokaro) — a shoal or school of fish. Te Karo ni Kua — a school of porpoise.

Karaca — to leave alone, to isolate, a solitary in far peace. 1 Karaca zo

Karaka — to leave alone, to isolate, a solitary in far peace. 1 Karaca zo — lek my young manhood in the far land of Manu.

Kuai — (Brian: a whole) 1. a porpoise

2. (in song and in magic) Any fish that is dangerous to life and cannot be
called a shark (i.e. Bakoa, which is a generic term including most of the other dangerous species); 3 (in song and idiom) A difficult task, a long labour. Kama te Kua te Atonimarawa: the task is done, or equally well, “the enemy is defeated.”

Kiri'mere — coward and insolent, unimportant.

in wanta (cf. Kini) Cordia Subcordata

Kamawa — bot.) Cordia Subcordata

Kisono — (bot.) Trinumfera procumbens

Kawa — (bot.) Wedelia Strigulosa

Kianga-ni-makin — (bot.) Polypodium

Katebe — bow and arrows (game only).

Karekureke — a Jew’s harp (nativestyle.

a piece of coconut riket between teke).

Katiko — game of pitch and toss.

Kabukawai — game of top spinning.

Kaininwaiwai — a pointed stick used for


(prob. a corruption of Kainewacan)

Kaihakai — a ladle made of 1/2 coconut shell

bound to a handle.
Kiraika — to receive, make welcome (as a friend) and give food and lodging.

Katerere — to give quarters to a fugitive.

Karerere — to push off a canoe from land.

Kastera — to single out, to make for.

Kibui — (Lornita) Masked gunman; Stela cyanops.

Kerue (or Kiwi) — (Lornita) Curlew; Numenius tahitiensis.

Kitīaka — (Lornita) Sandpiper; Calidris arenaria.

Kaka — (Lornita) Rover; Chadrinus dominicus fulvus.

Kun — (Lornita) Sandpiper; totanus incanus.

Kiakia — (Lornita) White tern; Grygis alba.
Kāi – crane: Antigone australasiana.
Kabai – Mother Hawk: Astur Rufifacies.
Kunai – Noddy: Anous stolidus.
Kerekeke – Charadrius Exotic Bird: Phantom

Koroboros – Dusky Shearwater; Puffinus Nocturnus.

Kororekea – to unstick as two sheets of paper by inserting a knife;
synonym tirirekea (used in Creation myths to describe the separation of heaven and earth).

Korora – (idiom) korora karikina te taekia: lit. “to cut atwart the edge of a word”, hence, “to use a word in a strange or far-fetched sense”, also “to speak by insinuation.”

Korora – synonym of Korora – in use at Tubaitua.
Kōria – (local: Nui) to wring.
Kirim uma - chronic diarrhoea (severe complaint).

Kiaro - a sickness;

Kakana - a small crab with round scarlet spots on carapace.

Katanaka - to cut off, to shear as hair (used only in magic and poetry).

Kielu - a plant resembling a lily; Crinum asiaticum.

Kaitita - to make clean, to remove obstructions.

Kabiba - (S. Gilbert) go and look at. Kabi

Kabina an tasi ale a tiku i mana. I will go and have a look at the things that remained behind.

Kawina - to wait for the wind.

1. Kaminako ka a t采用keke = ake a tokini atongam.

1. Kaminako ka a t采用nananga = ake a tokini atongam i tina mako.
Katamina — to collect in a separate place
Kam'aa — to float to the surface (un
purposely).

Koimrem (Banaban) — doll.
Knanga — shelving rock
Kwiongo — stingray, jellyfish.
Mangio — 1. land acquired from a wife, because her family was on the conquered side in a war; 2. land acquired from parents of one’s son’s wife as an aid to her upkeep.

Manimairā — praying to death of a pregnant woman or her child.

Matene — restless, subject to evil dreams.

Mire (meremere) — insolent in speech, angry, loud of voice.

Mata — a roko matan an bong: my time has come, my hour has struck.

Maikai — I am about to, I am ready to.

Moria — to yearn after, to remember (applied to the land of one’s birth).

Marewe — (idiom) Riria marewe n te ang — to sail on a beam wind or a fair wind.

Mao — (Bot.) Scaevola Koenigii

Manrei — (Bot.) Azolla rubra (freshwater weed).
Mangkiri — White capped noddy.
Mirounga leonina.
Monakena — Pomatoine Skua; Wedge —
— various parasiticus.
Matavanara —

Manemba — @ a word (especially a word
considered as part of a song: in this
sense it means "to not just")
(2) diotion. exalthe language.
Chakamato au manemba, my diction
is furious.

Miro — another name for Benigning site:
probably borrowed from Iheia, Miro.
Me — Reid form of conjunction ma
and pronoun ? (c.f. be).
Madonna — fixed, decided upon: "madonna
be tongi ni bozani. The day for our voyage
is fixed. I madonna te mota: judgment
is decided."
Matabaiwana - to assist a fitting day for venturing to sea.

2 A place where a canoe is housed and launched.
Nimatetewe – giddiness caused by too frequent sexual pleasures, love-sickness (used of women).

Nangor – the planks of a Canoe’s side immediately above the garboard streak (braka) and below the keel.

Nang – a host, an army, a multitude (nowadays only in poetic diction)

Nangi ni Koriana – the people of Koriana (but in idiom: The)

Nikawene – a king’s or chief’s enclosed sitting place, at home or in the masiona.

Namatamire – the fore-arm.

NanoniKi – rectum

Ningonings – the cricket, cicada.

Nino – a word used in ruioia chants to represent the speaker or composer. It corresponds with “the author” or “we” in English and is used to avoid the first person singular.
Namao — to adorn; garnish; beautify; set about with beautiful things, as a house with trees. I namoati muangana n te avoka — this house is beautified with plants.

Nāno — the Depths of Ocean.

Nāniman — the battens lashed ladder-wise across the outrigger poles of a canoe.

Nimouma-nako — to search for knowledge, to be greedy of information, to live to learn.

Non (nouns) — (bot.) Morinda citrifolia, the Malay custard-apple.

Nei — a quantity; c.f. idioms e tana nei n te amarahe, there is plenty of food.

Namaote — a place under the res— inhabited by any deity.

Nou — (Ichthy.) Monacanthus fish, covered with poisonous spines causing acute agony, blast them.
Oko - hair or patience.
Ounga - to be unanimous, to have a single desire. A unga nanoa - aomatia ni han takakaro. The people wish with one accord to play.
Reبهنا = meddlesome.
Reبهکه = meddlesome in a more offensive sense than the above.
Reبهارا = a skin disease of suppurring ulcers (said to be caused by the spirit Titubakoe, who was often called N'k Reبهارا).

Riben
Rinichi = the coccyx.
Rakakina = to compose, to sing (a song)
Rabentarina = love of the ear
Rabonimata = under lid of the eye (cf. Kunnimata, over lid).

Riakosa = hare lip.
Rosonamkai = having a thin neck.
Ri-n-nanomanga = pelvis.

Ritika = (secondary sense) full of desire, always thinking of, yearning for.
Rae = distant in time; in space.
I Rae tangina = the love is far away: The man of her heart is far away.
Rabaraba - almost out of sight, far away.
Roh - i rabaraba - orphan, Ho no
Rohi - i rabaraba tornai; under the sea.
Rak - swordfish
Rak - taburimai - blunt nosed swordfish.
Rokea - Wolf toothed shark
Ren - (bot.) Tiurneportia argentea
Riku - (bot.) Dioclea violacea
Rairaki - ni - man - To preen oneself as a bride (especially used of dancers who show off their skill of gesture).
Reikaba - a shark hook of ironwood made in a single piece.
Ririaki - (as given by Bringham) to tack; also, in a more general sense, "to sail or walk over in every direction.
Reke - a short top mast of a canoe, on which the halliard blocks are generally lashed.
Renga - a red, sweet scented food eaten in western land. The food of the ancestral spirits.
Riboieta: a doll made of carved wood, usually pimphor (K'inga).
Tokakevwevwe — gratified, highly pleased.
Jumwe (shown as tumor in Brijham): steady and constant as a wind.
Taka-Bwe — a fierce warrior, a desperate fighter.
Bwisa — to conquer, to overrun, to take possession of; in war, used especially in regard to land.
Tete — wrath, violent anger, violence.
Taenanginang — quickly finished (as work), expeditions.
Tae — (in the sense of completion as above) 
'ete nangion tse makwe; lit. "The host of the work is soon defeated," in. The work is completely done.

Jansekunikimo — the king's council house, the royal maneaba.
Tabotabo — the index finger.
Tongabiri — the ring-finger; a pilot (the latter also Tongabili).
Tabonikilo - membrane virile, clitoris.
Taemaka - in haste.
Taoraki - brought to bed, delivered of a child.
Taobai-nikaki - check in flight, taints.

bridle kit to pass down the wings down & back.

Tokataka (tokataka-raoi) - to be excellent, to be without faults (used only of abstract matters such as the law, wisdom, etc., not of persons)

Tokataka raoi te wanaawana ironmi.

Taibennao - a charm to bring good luck.
(Taibennagaikami - charm yourselves to bring good luck)
Tabaka - shovel nosed shark.
Tape - the roach of a canoe sail.
Tariamikubeka - selfish.
Toklōki - resound, reverberate (to a blow).
Tongo - (Bot.) Rhizophora mucronata, mangrove.
Taninganika — Polyergus

Tang — (prob. original sense) love, desire.

E ra e tangi- na; his love is far away.

Tangi na — (secondary sense) to chant the praises of living or dead (generally the dead).

Kiebewere — game of skipping

Tubuvitokia — a large edze for felling trees.

Tēmata — a sandal of plaited fibre.

Taomata — a swimming float used also as a reel to the fishing line in deep water.

Taomona — (secondary sense) excessive, out of reason. E rangi n taumona te iowawa n te aha ari. The insolence of this land is extreme.

Ten-tarāwana — an ironwood fish-hook of which the barb is so turned back as nearly to touch the shaft. (used for Bamu as a mile)
Take — Red-tailed Tropic Bird;  
Pachydrorn rubricauda.

Tiririka — c.f. Kororoka.
Tabaribana — a variety of sea-slug found on lagoon seacoals.
Take — moving about as a child in the mother's womb.

Taine — cut off, shorn away.
Tanaakou — to strike, with the arm in a particular position (i.e. elbow bent, hand thrown outward from chest).
Tamaania — the fillip, the strike lightly (hence secondarily only Bumijan's interpretation, "to finish a level").

Tutun — a small sea animal used as a weather prophet by fishermen. Often found in the mouths of flying fish. Sea-lion.

Tiea — an arrangement of wreaths across the chest in the dance. Right shoulder under left armpit; left shoulder to right armpit — thus the wreaths
form a cross and hence the word "tiria" is often used in connection with the stars in the S. Cross.

Ixtango — coconut leaf, from which the under surface has been stripped, used for making niris.

Jania — an inhabitant of (used of fishes and animals).

Itere — to set forth (a multitude)

Jakua — Fraser shark
Nāki — taken into possession (used in phrases connected with land customs)
Nāki te mangkō (see Mangkō).
Nāki — at close quarters, body to body.
Nāki te nua — they fought body to body.

Urī — (botanical) Quettara speciosa
Unikārāra — game of juggling; keeping three or four non-fruit in the air at a time.

Una — an ornament of flowers on hāri or in ears. 1 hakēka una-nā, I put in (lit. “stick in”) an embellishment of flowers.

Urīa — to perform an incantation by which a man is drawn towards one either spiritually or physically.
Urīabati — incantation by which a child was “hardened.” (When rain turned come child was taken to beach & struck on chest with stick with fitting prayers)
uehangananga — famous far and wide, glorious, renowned
heke — to go to a place with the purpose of doing something there.
una — the cloud hanging over land, recognized by navigator. A boat
una ake terme as e na tera
uekantonga — to plant in close ranks, to crowd together.
Wai — the gunwale stroke of a canoe.
Wa-ri-kinoura — to walk delicately, on tip-toe, to approach stealthily.
Wai — to balance a spear, poise before throwing.
Waiakarere — a stabbing gesture of the hand in the moa (index finger extended as if to "proa").
Wenci — the wake of a fleeing canoe.
Etiriaki wensinga; the pursuit is not on the wake of the defeated.
Wa — (smith) generic name for the three local species of Fern.
Wangnga (wāwangga) — to push along as one pushes a log in the sea by swimming behind it.
Winiman — to appear as a point of cloud above the horizon.
Ngutu - beak of a bird [Reserved only in the proper names Koroa-ngutu-ngutu and Fe Ngutu]

Ngwi (S. Gild) - a tooth, mouth, edge (cf. N. Gild. wi)

Ng - in the S. Gilberts is prefixed to all words which in N. Gilberts begin wi.

Ngea - (tot) Pemphis acidula, ironwood

Ngongo - (lornita) Bridled Tern: sterna anacosteta

Ngutu - yellow Billed Tropic Bird; Phaeton lepturus.
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Vol. II

Original deposited with Rev. Father Ernest Sabatier, Mission of the Sacred Heart, Tarawa, Gilbert Islands.

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Rigel - Teitihuaara, Tuman Nati.
Procyon, Cami Nui; B2 - Nakalibi
S Monoceros
Cancer - Nai Tumanaki Naloba.
Sirius - Babanamana
Vulpecula - Monoroka Nonoela (B Arae)
Cirrus Boc - Te O ni Kitika.
The Heart - Baikara
Ursa Major - Kameang
Gemini - Antiochiana
AR Aurigae, O Tami and central Them. Nei.
Anti le Waelna.
Vrigo - Te Matalona

Nakalibi
Nakamotu
Nombweve
Tokakwebrewe: gratified, highly content.

Katitiro: monarch of all I survey.

maere: to appear and disappear in quick alternation.

māi: bitter.

m'lai: cooked soft.

mānā: branch.

E batī mānā te aomata.

Katabibia: to go round in a circle (= Katabanina).

Katoko: to dump a bad odor into the fingers on another person's face (an insult).

maewa: to see from the corner of the eye, entremoir.

toto: about to die, moribund.

tumi: knot.

tom: stick dance.

no: look on at a moia.

mala: a moia.
tebe: off the track, détraqué, snapped, pricked open as a gathering or boil.

cubra: the bony part of a joint such as knee or elbow.

añá: shoulder.

The standard of Gilbert measure is te añá, a fathom, which is the length between finger tips when arms are spread. This span is divided into three: Tip to shoulder (te añá' na): Shoulder to shoulder: Shoulder to tip. Two thirds of a fathom is "te añá na aonata nonea."

Karañaina: the small hours before dawn.

Kabuñinamakaina: to wait for the moon set before fishing (implies sleep).
Jorobin : to stroke.
Jorobâna : to squat around in a company. (Also used for toddy shells deposited in a mass upon the ground, awaiting use. N.B. Filled shells, not empty.)

mi : dream (also mia)
makin'a : dream about

wirara : rainbow.

Kanakâka : to shrivel with heat. also used to express "shrinking" or "wilting" from fear.

nâ Kâkâ : curled up with heat or cold.

nakâka : burdened with many cares, children, or packages. Hampered.

Kuioâni : one who learns like a parrot.
kawaru = to strain at a stool
être = to be
kasiono = to make tired
kamane = to plot, to be underhand
Je otokoro
Kam bon tan ūKami, ba
bon ūKami
maini = left
atai = right
tentanwa = pace
winibaeaki
kakioa
īira = to strain at a stool
to be backward in coming forward
manashka = intercourse
maniku = offended
tarota – to perform incantations on a weapon.
Bakatati – in straight lines.
Tarika – fruit, fruits of food, laid apart.

Buakhoroa – make a present to one's love.
Kanoanibarana – make a secret present to an illicit love.
Kaniburuina – to make presents to enlist favour from parents in law or others.

Kimáánu – shiftless, poor, by reason of sloth, improvident.
Toka ni maneana – well, established, safely set.
tirā — emanate from.
ē tirā mai Avemama te aro
aēi — this custom eman-
ates from Avemama.

tumuri — steady (as wind).