

INDEX OF TUVALUAN WORDS

The following list provides glosses and index references for the more important Tuvaluan words discussed in this book. Only translations that are relevant to the discussion are provided here. In many cases, verbs (including adjectives) can function as nouns without undergoing any internal morphological change (e.g., *salamoo* “[to feel] remorseful” or “remorse”). In the following, only the verbal or adjectival translation is provided if the nominal translation can be easily derived from it.

- aakai* “to request,” 94, 95, 99
aakoga “school, schooling,” 58
aaogaa pese “choir” (also *kau fai pese*), 122
aasiga “inspection, inspection patrol,” 35
aavaga ki tai “to marry exogamously” (lit., “to marry seaward”), 28, 46
akoakoga “lesson (of a sermon),” 131, 132
aliiisili “chief (in early colonial days),” 48, 167
aliki “chief” (also *ulu fenua, ulu aliki*), 34, 191n3
alofa “to love, to have empathy, compassionate,” 82, 90, 92, 98–100, 104, 106, 109, 110, 111, 114, 183
ao “expert knowledge relating to coconut-tree tending, written record thereof,” 69
api “written record of expert knowledge, sermon notebook,” 69, 128–39, 186
aso taumua “days bygone,” 34
ee “proposed vocative particle,” 89
faamasino “magistrate,” 48
faanoanoa “sad, to disapprove,” 88, 92, 104, 110, 147
faatele “traditional song and dance performance,” 152–3
fai “to say” (also *pai*), 149
fai laauga “lay preacher,” 118
failautusi “native scribe (in early colonial days), secretary,” 48
fakaalofa “stranger” (lit., “object of empathy”), 99, 197n9
fakamaui “to commit (to paper)” (lit., “to make steadfast”), 165
fakamoemoe “to hope,” 106
fakasao “to correct,” 90
fakaso “(of island communities) to be paired up” (lit., “to make friends”), 29
fakasologa “sequence,” 120
fakavalevale “crazy, unsocialized, lacking in social skills,” 112, 200n7
fala “pandanus, pandanus nut” (*Pandanus pulposus*), 26
fale “house, household,” 32
faalofani “to feel mutual empathy, interpersonally harmonious,” 62, 112
feituu ala “village side,” 32, 33
fekau “message,” 82
fenua “island community,” 35, 167
fesoasoani “to help,” 77
fetaui “to meet,” 88, 91
ffuli ssee “twisted around, inside out,” 163
fiafia “happy (mirthful),” 88, 92, 99
fiileemuu “peaceful, quiet,” 34, 62, 112, 148
folafola “to unroll, to announce,” 120
gali “beautiful,” 34, 119
ia “topic-transition particle,” 89
ita “displeased, angry,” 104
kaatoatoa “complete, whole,” 143, 185
kaitaua “angry, furious,” 104, 147

- kau fai pese*, see *aaogaa pese*
- kau pule* “council (in early colonial days),” 48, 54
- kaugataa* “disobedient of societal directives,” 147
- laauga* “sermon, speech,” 123–5, 129, 134
- logo* “traditional expert knowledge,” 69
- maa* “shameful, shy, embarrassed,” 91, 99, 109, 111, 114, 147, 196n7
- maafuta* “to commune, to come together,” 112
- maalamalama* “Christianized, civilized” (lit., “enlightened”), 62
- maalosi* “strong, healthy, able-bodied,” 183
- maasani* “familiar with, adept at,” 78, 119, 128, 167
- magaapu* “expansion (of a sermon),” 131
- makeke* “hard,” 183
- malae* “village green,” 32
- malaga* “travelling party,” 29
- malie* “to agree with, satisfied,” 99
- manatu maaluga* “main theme (of a sermon)” (also *manatu silisili*), 131
- maneapa* “community house, the seat of political and performative events,” 32
- manino* “clear,” 196n6
- manuia* “prosperous, fortunate,” 34, 68
- mata mua* “assertive” (lit., “forward-faced”), 186
- matagi* “to experience intense excitement” (lit., “wind, windy”), 152–3
- matua* “core (of a sermon),” 120, 131
- mmae* “to hurt, painful,” 92
- muli vaka* “expert knowledge relating to fishing, written record thereof,” 69
- muna* “word,” 149
- nafa* “competition partner,” 146
- niu* “coconut tree, coconut” (*Cocos nucifera*), 26
- oge manafa* “land crunch” (lit., “to crave land”), 28
- oo* “postposed vocative particle,” 89
- pausi* “trunk, box, suitcase,” 74
- pepa* “paper, sheet of paper, written invitation to a feast,” 68
- pinapinaaine* “person who adopts attributes of the opposite gender,” 183
- polokalame* “program, agenda,” 120
- polopolooki* “to admonish, to advise,” 106–7, 112
- pona* “stigma,” 197n9
- pouliuli* “heathen, uncivilized” (lit., “dark,” also *poouliga*), 62, 159
- ppelo* “to lie,” 165
- pui kaaiga* “extended family,” 32
- pulaka* “swamp taro” (*Cyrtosperma chamissonis*), 25
- saina* “to sign, to agree on a contract, to adopt (someone) formally,” 71, 172
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- sauttala* “to converse,” 88, 91
- solopuu* “to cling to one’s parent or spouse,” 147
- ssee* “wrong, incorrect,” 90, 143
- taalofa* “hello,” 86
- taapuaki* “to be a ratified witness (of a social event),” 146
- taina* “classificatory sibling of same gender as ego,” 132
- tamaafine* “unmarried woman,” 81
- tamataene* “unmarried man,” 81
- taugaasoa* “friend,” 132
- taulaaitu*, see *vaka atua*
- taupulega* “Council of Elders,” 34
- tiaakono* “deacon,” 118
- toka* “ready, prepared,” 134
- tonu* “true,” 141–4, 197n9
- toofaa* “goodbye,” 90
- toto maalosi* “patrilineal kinship tie” (lit., “strong blood”), 28
- toto vaaivai* “matrilineal kinship tie” (lit., “weak blood”), 28
- ttala* “to decipher,” 77, 79
- tuagaene* “classificatory sibling of opposite gender from ego,” 132–3
- tupu* “king,” 191n3
- tusi* “to write; book, notebook, letter, written material,” 74, 82
- tusi gafa* “genealogy notebook,” 44
- ulu aliki, ulu fenua*, see *aliki*
- umaga* “swamp taro pit” (also *vai pulaka*), 26
- vaaivai* “weak, vulnerable,” 183
- vai pulaka*, see *umaga*
- vaka atua* “priest in pre-Christian society” (also *taulaaitu*), 38

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Niko Besnier

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