

Tahitian

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

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1 Language Information

- Source: Tryon (1970)
- Glottlog: <https://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tahi1242>
- ISO-identifier: tah
- Speakers:
- Location: French Polynesia
- Geneology: Austronesian > Malayo-Polynesian > Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian > Eastern Malayo-Polynesian > Oceanic > Central Pacific linkage > Tokelau-Fijian > Polynesian > Nuclear Polynesian > Northern Outlier Polynesian-East Polynesian > Solomons Northern Outlier Polynesian-East Polynesian > Central Northern Outlier Polynesian-East Polynesian > East Polynesian > Central Eastern Polynesian > Tahitian-Austral > Tahitian

2 Nominal Morphology

There are three numbers in Tahitian - singular, dual, and plural.

3 Verbal Morphology

The verb does not inflect. The subject pronoun is part of the verbal phrase and comes after the verb form.

4 Conjunction

The coordinating conjunction in Tahitian is *e* 'and' (= the preposition 'with'), and the adversative one is *tēra ra* 'but, however'.

- (1) 'Ua mana'o vau 'e haere 'e tanu 'i te taro, tēra ra 'ua mo'e tā'u ōpe.
?
'I thought I would go and plant taros, but I have lost my shovel.' [Tryon, 1970, p. 106]
- (2) te tāūpo'o e te piripou
?
'the hat and the trousers' [Tryon, 1970, p. 107]

5 Disjunction

Disjunction is marked by 'aore ra 'or'.

- (3) 'i te mahāna mā'a' 'aore ra 'i te tapati
?
'on Saturday or on Sunday' [Tryon, 1970, p. 106]
- (4) te pua'atoro 'aore ra te pua'ahorofenua
?
'the bull or the horse' [Tryon, 1970, p. 106]

6 Prepositions

Here is a list with some of the prepositions found in Tahitian.

1. 'i raro ā'e 'under'
2. 'i ni'a ā'e/ nā ni'a ā'e 'above'
3. 'i roto 'in, into, inside'
4. nā roto 'from in, from inside'
5. nā ropu 'between'
6. mai/ nō 'from'
7. 'i/ei/tei 'in, at, to'
8. e 'with'
9. nā muri iho 'with'

References

Tryon, Darrell T. (1970). *Conversational Tahitian. An Introduction to the Tahitian Language of French Polynesia*. Canberra: Australian National University Press.