

# **Contact-induced morphological change in Dedua**

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Dedua is a member of the Pindiu subfamily of the Huon Peninsula family. The language has been influenced on all levels—phonology, grammar, lexicon—by the languages of the adjacent Huon Tip family, another subfamily of the Huon Peninsula family. In my talk I focus on morphological change. The verb morphology of Dedua is compared with the verb morphology of both the other Pindiu languages and the more distantly related Huon Tip languages with the aim of discovering contact-induced change.

I present and discuss six cases of contact-induced morphological change in Dedua. None of these changes led to a simplification of the morphology. To the contrary, in four cases an additional morphological category was introduced, in one case a reduction of morphological contrasts was thwarted, and one case is neutral between simplification and complication. The verb morphology of the Huon Tip languages is more copious than that of the Pindiu languages. As a result of language contact, Dedua has assimilated to the Huon Tip languages and its verb morphology has been enriched.