

Literacy Teaching in Tongan

1. Introduction

This series of video teaching programmes was primarily designed to educate those who are interested in learning and studying to speak and write the Tongan language. Our target audience includes people who are interested in the Tongan language, but who have not had the opportunity to obtain any formal teaching of the Tongan language. We also target Tongan parents in New Zealand and other foreign countries who have no teaching background, but who want to be provided with materials to help them teach their children to speak Tongan. This is also aimed at people who have no language educational background or foreigners but are interested in the Tongan language.

While we have made several changes to how our language should be taught that might raise some eyebrows, especially our Tongan alphabet, this programme is not intended to dispute the creations of the traditional alphabet. I believed there were good reasons behind the original alphabet. We will deal with the changes we made in more details in some of our videos which follow. This is not an attempt to initiate an academic review of the Tongan alphabet and grammar. We leave those tasks to our Tongan grammarians and linguists, and we will welcome any feedback from them.

These digital lessons were also designed to provide an internet community forum for the Tongan language which will allow Tongan and other ethnicities' experts and scholars to share with us their experiences in the Tongan language. These are proficient people who have abundant know-how in the Tongan language, but have not had the opportunity to share their experiences with others who needed them. We have created that place for you and here it is. You are invited you to share with us by leaving comments on the comment sections of these videos and posts. If you have any questions or queries about the Tongan language or our lessons you are invited to leave your concerns or even compliments in the comment sections as well. We will undertake to read and take all comments and feedback seriously and will response in due course.

The skills of teaching provided in these online classes rely on classroom and technical experiences and knowledge gathered by Mr Kalino Lātū, the founder of this programme, who taught in Tonga for more than a decade. Mr Lātū, the founder of Ta'angafonua Trust and Kaniva Tonga News and Entertainment, graduated in 1992 with a Diploma in Education from the Tonga Teachers' Training College, now known as Tonga Institute of Educations (TIHE) to teach at secondary schools level. He taught at colleges as well as primary schools in Tonga.

This teaching programme will feature about 72 separates three-minute video clips. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the New Zealand Ministry for Pacific Peoples for funding this programme under its The Provider Languages Fund. For our viewers, we invite you to go and watch our video two or video number VT-Two after this.

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Tongan translation:

Ko e ngaahi vitio ko eni na'e tisaini ia ke ako'i'aki ha kakai 'oku nau manako he ako ki he lea mo tohi faka-Tonga'. Ko e kakai 'oku tāketi ki ai 'a e ako ni 'oku kau ai 'a e kakai kuo 'ikai ha toe faingamalie mo'o kinautolu ken au foki ki lokiako pe 'i ai ha ako'anga te nau lava hu ki ai ke ako'i ai 'a e lea faka-tonga'. 'Oku taumu'a foki 'eni ki he ngaahi mātu'a 'i Nu'u Sila mo e kakau Tonga 'i he ngaahi fonua muli ne 'ikai ha'anau fa'ahinga ako puipuitu'a ako ki he lea faka-Tonga ka ten au lava lelei 'o fako'i kinautolu mo 'enau fānau 'o ka tokoni'i'aki kinautolu ha naunau mo ha polokalama fakahinohino peheni.

Neongo kuo mau fai ha ngaahi liliu heni ki he 'alafapeti mo e pu'aki 'o e vauale angamaheni 'oku mole ke mama'o ko ha polokalama 'eni ke fakafekiki'i pe ke ne pole'i 'a e founa mo e fokotu'utu'u tukufakaholo 'etau 'alafalapati mo e vauale faka-Tonga';. 'Oku ou tui na'e 'i ai pe 'a e 'uhinga lelei ne fa'u'aki 'a hono fokotu'utu'u mo sipela 'etau vauale mo 'alafapeti faka-Tonga'. 'Oku 'ikai ko ha feinga 'eni ke toe vakai'i fakaako 'a 'etau 'alafapeti mo kalama faka-Tonga'. 'Oku tuku pe 'a e ngāue ko ia' ki he'etau kau lingikuisitisi'mo e kalamalie'i', pea te mau talitali leleu ha poupiu meia kinautolu. Ko e liliu ko eni ko ha founa fakafaiako pe ia 'oku taumu'a ke ako'i 'aki ha kakai 'i muli 'i ha founa faingofua, vav emo nounou ka e lava ke mātu'aki mahino kia kinautolu 'a e ako lea 'oku fai' 'ikai ha toe fu'u fakamatala 'e fakafihi kia kinautolu. 'E fakaiiki atu 'i he ngaahi vitiō 'amui heni' 'a e liliu fo'ou 'oku mau fai ko eni'. Fakatokanga'i ange ko e liliu pe 'eni ke fakafaingamālie'i 'a e polokalama ako 'eni' pe 'oku 'ikai ha tumu'a ia heni ke liliu ai 'a hono liliu mo lau 'a e 'alafapeti tukufakaholo'.

Ko e ngaahi lēsono faka'initaneti ko 'eni 'oku taumu'a foki ke ne fokotu'u ha paenga ope fakakomiuniti ma'a e Tonga kotoa pe ke tau tālānga, feako'aki, vahevahe mo e fehufehu'i ai 'etau ngaahi fie'ilo mo e fiema'u ki he'etau lea faka-Tonga' Kuo 'i ai hotau kakai lavame'a, 'ilo mo taukei 'i he lea faka-Tonga kuo nau mofele atu 'i feitu'u kehekehe 'o māmāni ka 'oku 'ikai ke nau ma'u ha faingamālie ken au ako'i mo vahevahe mai 'enau 'ilo 'i he lea fakaTonga' mo kitautolu. Ko e faingamālie 'eni ke kuo teu'i ke mou kau mai ai hono matua'i 'etau lea faka-Tonga'. 'Oku fakaafe'i at uke mou 'omai ha'amou vahevahe, me'a 'oku mou tokanga ki ai, poupu ki he'etau ngāue' pe ko ha'o fehu'i 'o tuku mai pe 'i he sekisoni fai'anga komeni 'i lalo 'i he ngaahi vitioo' pe ko e uepeisaiti ko 'eni 'a e Kaniva'.

Ko e ngaahi pōto'i mo taukei kuo fa'u'aki 'a e kalasi 'onilaini ko 'eni ne fakafalala pe ia 'i he taukei fakalokiako mo fakatekinikale 'a Kalini Lātū ne ne faiako 'i Tonga laka hake 'i ha ta'u 'e 10 tupu. Ne 'osi ma'u hano tipiloma he 1992 ke faiako 'i he kolisi' pea na'a' ne faiako ai 'i he ngaahi kolisi mo e lautohi pule'anga' 'i Tonga'. 'Oku fakafuofua ki ha ngahai vitiō kehekehe 'e 72 taki miniti nai 'e tolu kuo teuteu'i ke fakalele'aki 'a e ako' ni pea ko e fakapa'anga ia 'e he Potungāue 'a Nu'u Sila' ki he Kakai Pasifiki'. Ko 'ema vitiō fika 'uluaki' 'eni pe VT-One kataki atu 'o mamata 'i he'ema vitiō fikai ua oe VT-Two

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