

Brief explanation for you, the people of Tobi, of how this Dictionary came to be

We call it **Toward a Tobian-English Dictionary** because only you, the Tobian community, can create a definitive Tobian-English Dictionary.

This dictionary is an outgrowth of Peter's relationship with you since 1967 and Barbara's since 1990. It is a gift to the Tobian community from us.

Peter started collecting words back in 1967 and never stopped. When we started the Friends of Tobi Island website <<http://www.friendsoftobi.org>>, we began to list the words letter by letter in Tobian and in English and category by category. We worked with many of you over the years and the contributors list grew and grew.

Voices of Tobi Island <<http://www.friendsoftobi.org/wordweek/voti/voicesoftobiisland.htm>> now includes many members of the community.

Some of you began asking us for a dictionary and we began to talk with you and research what was the best way to proceed. We settled on Lexique Pro, software that would let us do much (not all) of what you wanted in a dictionary. And, most important, would be flexible so that you all could make it your own.

In March 2015, we gave a presentation of the Dictionary at a community meeting and left you with printed copies so that you could send any comments or changes to us.

Now our work on **Toward a Tobian-English Dictionary** is over and we are turning it over to the Tobian community as our gift to you. We view this as a fulfillment of our promise to you to produce such a start to a dictionary. And we hope that it remains alive and active and that corrections/changes/additions continue to be made in the future. We are sure there are lots of mistakes--even though we tried our best to make sure this is accurate. We had a great time doing this and we hope you find it useful.

At the same time we would like to let you know that all the material we collected from you in 2013--2015 is now available in the Endangered Languages Archive at SOAS University of London. The deposit is called: "Documenting Ramari Hatohobei, the Tobian language, a severely endangered Micronesian language."

Direct link: <https://elar.soas.ac.uk/Collection/MPI191291>

These videos, photographs, and documents are all available to everyone.

This deposit in the ELAR Archive can be added to over the years. We hope to add to it in the near future, drawing from Peter's work with you since 1967.

Justin Andrew has agreed to take over the Tobian deposit in the Archive and to maintain this dictionary when we are finished. Anyone who has additions or questions should feel free to contact him in the future.