

## Samoan in *Finnegans Wake*

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There is not much Samoan in *Finnegans Wake*! At a relatively early stage of composition (1926) Joyce used ‘*faititili*’ (thunder) at *FW* 023.07, from notebook VI.B.15, page 169(i), in the revisions for draft I.1§1.\*2/2.\*2. Also noted was ‘*uila*’ (lightning), not crossed out in the notebook, but see usage below, probably from another list. ‘Death’ words: *oti*, *maliu* and *maliuga* appear under the heading ‘Sam.’ in notebook VI.B.4 page 108(b)-(c) and included as ‘Malawinga! Malawunga!’ at *FW* 499.10.

In addition, a small cluster of Samoan words can be found in the closing pages of Book III Chapter 1. All these were added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Galley Proofs, pages 140-142 (MS 47487-152v and MS 47487-154v, *JJA* 62:274 and 278) and none are found in the extant Notebooks, so they may have been recorded in one that is missing, possibly N55 (VI.X.5) that Joyce compiled between March and August 1938. Most have not, to my knowledge, been identified before. Only one is found in *Annotations*<sup>1</sup>. I have set out the material in the form of an index, following the order in *Finnegans Wake* for ease of use. The dictionary consulted is referenced below.<sup>2</sup> It lists all the translations given.

Included also is some of the context into which these entries were added, to show their relevance.

Unfortunately, like for most of Joyce’s languages, no definitive source has been identified. It may have been a short publication like a travelogue or a tourist brochure. Alternatively, Neffgen<sup>2</sup> (pages 146-155) provides a list of “Words in general use systematically arranged”. Some such may have been Joyce’s source.

There may well be a few more Samoan words lurking in the additions to the Galley pages mentioned above, but without either a Notebook list or Joyce’s source it is idle to speculate.

### References

- 1). Roland McHugh. *Annotations to Finnegans Wake*. 4th Ed. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2016, p. 428
- 2). H. Neffgen. *Grammar and Vocabulary of the Samoan Language*. Transl. A. B. Stock. London: Keegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd. Broadway House, 1918 at: <https://archive.org/details/grammarvocabulary00neffrich/page/n4/mode/2up>.

### Notebook X

#### (a) upu (word)

MS 47487-152v, ScrPrLPA: could use worse of yourself, ingenious Shaun, we still so fancied, if only you would take your time so and the trouble of so doing it. ^+Upu now!+^ | *JJA* 62:274 | 1938 | III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 425.08

**(b) sole (friend)**

MS 47487-152v, ScrPrLPA: I could not <sup>^</sup>, sole,<sup>^</sup> so you can keep your space | *JJA* 62:274 | 1938 | III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 425.11

**(c) gaoi (a thief; to steal)**

*Note:* In text with AngI. *Feck*. Steal.

MS 47487-153v, ScrPrLPA: (I hold a most incredible faith about it) far exceed what that bogus bolshey of a shame, my soamheis brother <sup>^</sup>, Gaoy Fecks,<sup>^</sup> | *JJA* 62:276 | 1938 | III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 425.23

**(d) moe (to sleep)**

MS 47487-153v, ScrPrLPA: Mind you, now, that he was in the dumpest of earnest orthough him jawr war hoo hleepy hor halk urthing hurther. <sup>^</sup>Moe.<sup>^</sup> like that | *JJA* 62:276 | 1938 | III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 426.19

**(e) gasetoto (eclipse)**

MS 47487-153v, ScrPrLPA: <sup>^</sup>Moe.<sup>^</sup> like that only he stopped short in looking up up ~~up from~~ <sup>^</sup>upfrom<sup>^</sup> his tide shackled wrists through the ghost of an ~~ocean~~ <sup>^</sup>ocean's<sup>^</sup>, the wields of pansiful heathvens of ~~joepeter~~ <sup>^</sup>joepeter's<sup>^</sup> <sup>^</sup>gaseytotum<sup>^</sup> | *JJA* 62:276 | 1938 | III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 426.21

**(f) uila (lightning)**

MS 47487-154v, ScrPrLPA: ere in a dip of the downs <sup>^</sup>(uila!)+<sup>^</sup> he spoorlessly disappaled and vanessed <sup>^</sup>, like a popo down a papa,<sup>^</sup> from circular circulatio. | *JJA* 62:278 | 1938 | III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 427.06

**(g) popo (a coconut)**

*Note:* See genetic transcription at (h) below.

**(h) papa (a rock; to crash, burst)**

*Note:* Both meanings seem possible: perhaps an image of a coconut crashing and bursting on a rock!

MS 47487-154v, ScrPrLPA: ere in a dip of the downs <sup>^</sup>(uila!)+<sup>^</sup> he spoorlessly disappaled and vanessed <sup>^</sup>, like a popo down a papa,<sup>^</sup> from circular circulatio. | *JJA* 62:278 | 1938 | III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 427.07

**(i) ao (day; cloud)**

*Note:* See genetic transcription at (j) below.

**(j) tapa'a (tobacco)**

*Note:* Both meanings of 'ao' seem relevant. As day wanes, Shaun departs for Samoa in a cloud of tobacco smoke!

MS 47487-154v, ScrPrLPA: <sup>^</sup>// Gaogaogaone! Tapaa!<sup>^</sup> And the stellas were shinings; <sup>^</sup>.<sup>^</sup> And the earthnight strewed aromatose. His pibrook creppt mong the donkness. A reek was waft on the luftstream. He was ours, all fragrance. And we were his for a lifetime. O dulcid dreamings languidous! Taboccoo! | *JJA* 62:278 | 1938 | III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 427.09

**(k) so'o (often)**

MS 47487-154v, ScrPrLPA: for all your deeds of goodness you were <sup>^</sup>soo ooft and<sup>^</sup> for ever doing <sup>^</sup>, manomano and myriamilia even to mulimuli,<sup>^</sup> | *JJA* 62:278 | 1938 | III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 427.24

**(l) mano (a thousand)**

*Note:* See genetic transcription at (m) below.

**(m) muli (the end) / mulimuli (last)**

MS 47487-154v, ScrPrLPA: for all your deeds of goodness you were <sup>^</sup>soo ooft and<sup>^</sup> for ever doing <sup>^</sup>, manomano and myriamilia even to mulimuli,<sup>^</sup> | *JJA* 62:278 | 1938 | III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 427.25

**(n) suäsusu (milk)**

*Note:* See *Annotations*.

See genetic transcription at *(o)* below.

**(o) supo (soup)**

MS 47487-154v, ScrPrLPA: we miss your smile. ^+Palmwine breadfruit sweetmeat milksoup!  
Suasusupo!+^ Our people ^^+here+^ in Samoanesia+^^ | *JJA* 62:278 | 1938 |  
III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 428.01

**(p) Samoan**

*Note:* This may have formed the heading for an original notebook list.

MS 47487-154v, ScrPrLPA: Our people ^^+here+^ in Samoanesia+^^ | *JJA* 62:278 | 1938 |  
III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 428.02

**(q) ?po (night)**

MS 47487-154v, ScrPrLPA: pulse of our slumber ^+, 'dreambookpoge,+^ | *JJA* 62:278 | 1938 |  
III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 428.16

**(r) timu (rain; to rain)**

?*Note:* F. *Tenant*. Maintaining, keeping.

MS 47487-154v, ScrPrLPA: with your picture pockets turned knockside out in the rake of the rain for  
fresh remittances and from that till this in any case ^+, timus tenant,+^ | *JJA* 62:278 | 1938 |  
III§1A.13+/1B.4+/1C.10/1D.13+//2A.14+/2B.12+/2C.14+//3A.11+/3B.18+//4.8+ | *FW* 428.25