

# The Polynesian Influence on English in the World Wide Web of Pacific Island Nations

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## **Abstract**

This study analyses the effect of indigenous Polynesian languages upon the balance of a core of function (non-lexical) words in sample English web corpora taken from Polynesian island nation domains. Sample corpora are captured from a selection of New Zealand, Cook Islands and French Polynesian websites. These corpora are compared to those recovered from .uk and .us domains and significant grammatical differences are identified. Noted differences are compared with those found between a French corpus from France and one captured from French Polynesian websites using an identical technique. The findings are used to assess the theory that identified influences stem from a Polynesian influence upon European languages use, as opposed to being manifestations of some arbitrary large-scale geographic variation in English usage.

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