Papua New Guinea (PNG) shows very great linguistic diversity, and a number of languages in the country are endangered. There are 47 languages spoken on New Britain Island, and most of them are both undocumented and at risk of loss. Bebeli is the most severely endangered language spoken in the West New Britain region of PNG. The language has been replaced in nearly every domain by Tok Pisin, and younger generations are not learning the language anymore. While I estimate the number of speakers at about 780, including those who may use the language very little, there are only four remaining fluent speakers with solid knowledge of the language and traditional concepts. This talk is a preliminary report on the process of language loss and the assessment of the language vitality of Bebeli, based on interviews and experimental methods that include comprehension and production tasks. In this talk, I first describe the causes of Bebeli’s loss, and discuss the current situation of language proficiency and use. I then demonstrate how the language is being lost, based on the results of assessment tests of language vitality. Finally, I examine speakers’ perceptions of their own language proficiency.

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