

---

## **Tetun Language Resources**

**By Dr. Mark Raines**

---

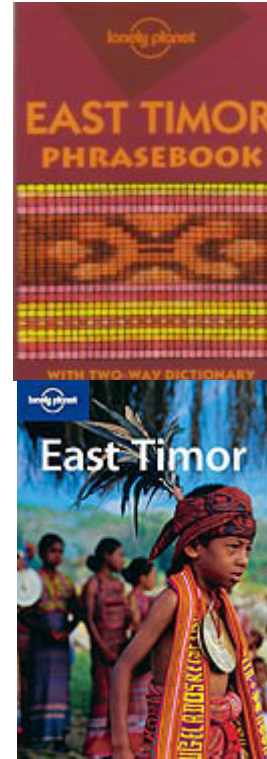
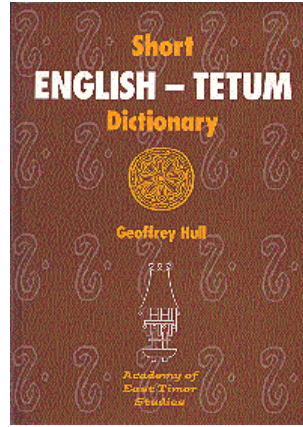
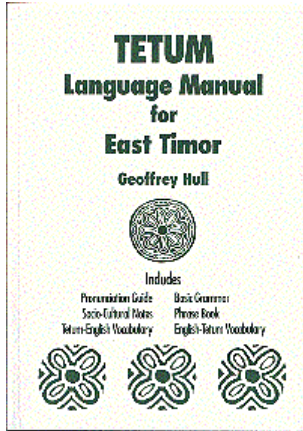
Tetun (or Tetum) is spoken by most people in Dili and the surrounding region. Around 30 different languages are spoken throughout Timor Loro-sa'e. These are detailed in the map below. Portuguese is the official language but more people speak Indonesian, which can be very useful in areas where Tetun is not spoken.



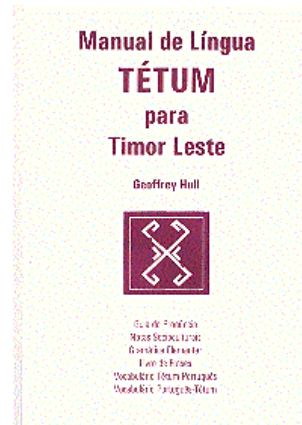
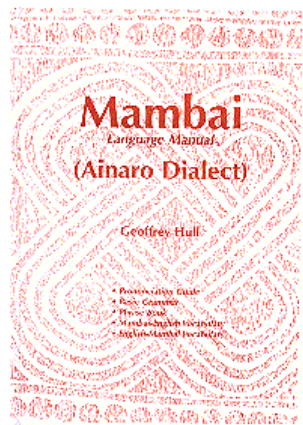
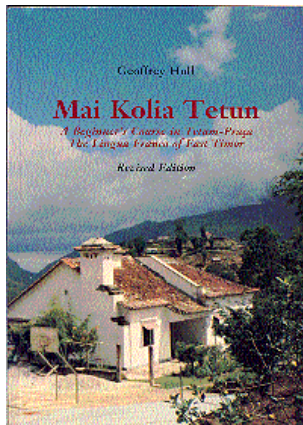
A couple of books that you will find useful to help you learn Tetum are;

**Tetun Language Course** by Catherina Williams-van Klinken published by Peace Corp East Timor 2003. Enquire at [peacecorpa@tl.peacecorps.gov](mailto:peacecorpa@tl.peacecorps.gov) or PO Box 310 Dili East Timor (332 1948) USD\$15 bought in Timor Leste

**Tetun Language Manual for East Timor** by Geoffrey Hull published by the Academy of East Timor studies. University of Western Sydney. December 2000. ISBN: 186341875X Costs about AUD \$20. Email details are: [s.lester@uws.edu.au](mailto:s.lester@uws.edu.au)



**Mai Kolia Tetun** (A beginner's course in Tetum-Praca; the Lingua Franca of East Timor) also by Geoffrey Hull. Published by Caritas and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, North Sydney. Third edition, 1999. ISBN: 0646150715. Costs about AUD \$30. This book is also available with three audio cassettes that cost around AUD \$70. These are useful as it gives you the correct pronunciations for many of the words.



**Lonely Planet's East Timor Phrase Book** by John Hajeh and Alexandre Tilman. ISBN is 1740 590201. Cost is about AUD \$11. This pocket size phrasebook comes highly recommended and best bought and studied before leaving. Now a travel guide to East Timor is also available.

**East Timor Tetun Guide to Daily Conversation.** Jose Aparicio Aug 2001. ISBN 0957 931506 Approx \$25.00. This is a new Tetum dictionary and phrase book.

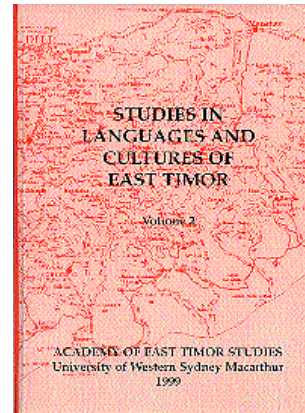
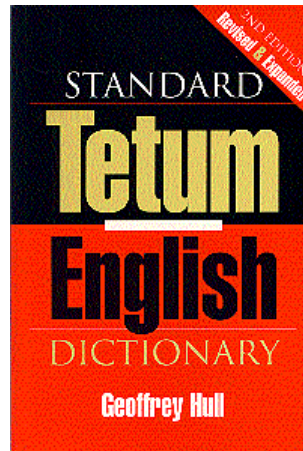
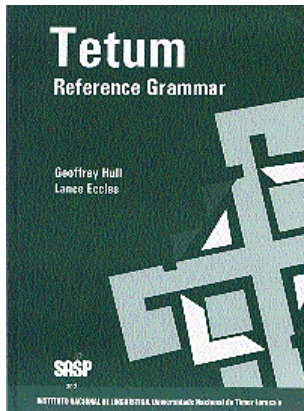
**Standard Tetum-English Dictionary** by Dr Geoffrey Hull. Published by Allen & Unwin and the University of Western Sydney MacArthur. ISBN: 1 86508 206 6. Email details are: [frontdesk@allen-unwin.com.au](mailto:frontdesk@allen-unwin.com.au).

**Short English-Tetum Dictionary** by Dr Geoffrey Hull. Published by the Academy of East Timor Studies.

**A Travellers Dictionary** by Cliff Morris. Published by Baba Dook Books. ISBN: 959 1922 2 0. Also available from this [site](#).

These can purchased from Bookworld [(08) 89815277] in Darwin Mall or Angus & Robertson in the Galleria [(08) 8941 3489] or Casuarina [(08) 8927 2539].

Also consider an Indonesian - English and English - Portuguese Dictionary.



---

## ***Links to other Tetum Language pages***

**Interpeace** word list

**Massey University Site** Has some sound files available.

**John Hajek on Lonely Planet's East Timor Phrasebook**

**Sebastião Aparício da Silva Project** for the Protection and Promotion of East Timorese Languages

**Languages of Timor Loro'sae**

**Some basic tetum words and sentences**

**A Short English-Tetum Classified Vocabulary** Compiled by Lance Eccles. The home page from the Instituto Nacional de Linguística Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e also contains bilingual vocabulary pages in French, Italian, Norwegian, Chinese and several other languages.

**A Traveller's Dictionary in Tetun-English and English-Tetun from the Land of the Sleeping Crocodile East Timor** by Cliff Morris

A very popular 15 hour intensive course is offered at least once a year by Alex Tilman, co-author of the Lonely Planet East Timor Phrasebook. For more information and to be put on the mailing list for future courses contact Alex Tilman via e-mail: **[alextilman@yahoo.com](mailto:alextilman@yahoo.com)**