A Tok Pisin sample text taken from: Gramley, Stephan. *The History of English: An Introduction.* Abingdon: Routledge, 2012. pp. 239–40

"Masalai Wokim Tripela Ailan" (*Wantok* 418, May 22, 1982, 19)

TOK PISIN	ENGLISH
Stori *i* go olsem.	The story goes like this.
Bipo bipo tru *i gat* wan*pela* masalai man.	Really long, long ago, there was a demon.
Em *i* drai*pela* bun tru.	He had really huge bones.
Nem bilong em Koran Rainge.	His name was Koran Rainge.
Em *i* lus*im* bus na kamdaun long ples ol *i* kol*im* Ais. . . .	He left the forest and came down to the place everyone calls Ais. . . .
Salwara *i save* pulimapim dis*pela* riva.	The sea could fill up this river.
Tasol long taim bilong ren, bik*pela* tait bilong bus *i* kamdaun na wara i kol, i olsem ais. . . .	But when it rained, a big flood [tide] from the forest came down and the water was cold like ice.
Orait. Masalai Koran Rainge *i laik* pilai liklik na em *i* kis*im* tamiok ston bilong em na *i* kat*im* wan*pela* ailan *i* go tri*pela* hap. . . .	Well, Masalai Koran Rainge wanted to play a little, so he took [catch] his stone ax [tomahawk] and cut a long island into three parts [half].
Masalai i subim ol i go ausait longwe liklik long nambis, na i luk olsem wan*pela* riva i kamap.	The *masalai* shoved them outside a long way a little into the sea, and they looked like a river starts.
Tasol i no riva, i solwara tasol.	But it was not a river, it was just the sea [saltwater].
Na tude ol bik*pela* sip i save kam insait long dis*pela* rot tasol.	And today, the big ships can come inside this way [road].

Bihain long Masalai Koran Rainge i kat*im* Ailan Aviglo *pinis*, . . .

After *Masalai* Koran Rainge had cut Aviglo Island, . . .

Selseme Martina (i *bin* raitim)

Selseme Martina (wrote this)

Grammatical Markers

i	before predicates (except 1st and 2nd person singular; passim)
-im	marker of transitive verbs (*Em i lusim bus* "he left the bush")
em	3rd person pronoun "he, his, him" (see preceding; also *nem bilong em* "his name"; also feminine)
i gat	existential "there is/are" (*i gat wanpela masalai man* "there was a man-demon")
pinis	completive marker (after the predicate; *i katim Ailan pinis* "had cut the island")
bin	past marker (pre-verbal: *i bin raitim* "wrote (this)")
save	modal of ability (*i save pulimapim* "could fill (it) up")
laik	"want to" (*i laik pilai liklik* "wanted to play a little")
-pela	marker of monosyllabic attributive adjectives (*bikpela* "big")
wanpela	singular article (*wanpela masalai man* "a demon")
no marker	adverb (*tru* "really")
ol	plural marker (*ol bikpela sip* "the big ships")