

Seven Ways to Be “Angry”

In most languages spoken in Papua New Guinea, it is common to express emotions with idioms involving body parts. The languages of the Aitape West translation program are no exception. Here’s how ‘angry’ is conveyed in some of them to describe how Jonah got mad because God did not destroy Nineveh (Jonah 4:1).

Arop: Jonah’s spicy stomach* climbed on top of him.

Malol: Jonah’s heart climbed on top of him.

Serra: Jonah’s heart was broken.

Sissano: Jonah’s heart was broken-broken. (i.e. broken in pieces)

Barupu & Pou: Jonah’s stomach was hot.

Sumo: Jonah’s teeth were sharp at God.

Romei-Barer a: Jonah’s stomach was very sharp.