

H) STATIVES

There are some words in Maori that must be considered as verbs but never have any passive form. This is because their meanings in Maori are basically passive – they aren't used as active verbs.

They all convey the idea that the person or thing spoken of has entered or will enter a certain state or condition. Hence the convenient term “stative.”

Let's take the Maori word “mau”. It means: ‘to be caught’, ‘to hold fast’, ‘to be grasped’. It does not mean “to catch”, not literally.

Kua mau te kōura.

The crayfish has been caught.

With these statives the cause of the state or condition is indicated by the particle “i”. This has to be translated into English as “by”, “with”, “through”, “because of”.

Hei taurira:

Kua mau te kōura i te tamaiti.

The crayfish has been caught by the child.

The emphasis in Maori is on the unfortunate state of the crayfish, not on the action of the child, who is mentioned secondly as the cause of this sad state.

In English we usually speak of people doing the following things:

- catching someone or something
- missing something (eg. a bus)
- forgetting
- dying
- completing something
- breaking something etc. etc.

But in Maori it is idiomatic to speak of people or things –

- being caught
- being missed (left behind)
- being forgotten
- becoming dead
- becoming finished
- becoming broken etc. etc.

Following is a selection of statives in very common use. (You will notice that many of them concern misfortune of some sort.) Then follows examples of their use, with a literal translation to illustrate the Maori thinking,* then the normal equivalent English expression.

*Do not be discouraged, but speaking a new language fluently only comes when you have learnt to think in it. Anyone can achieve this – just practice.

ea	to be or become	avenged, paid for
hinga	“	fallen down (from standing)
kī	“	full
mahue	“	abandoned, left behind
mākona	“	replete, satisfied
marara	“	scattered
maringi	“	spilt
marū	“	bruised, crushed
mau	“	caught, held fast
mate	“	dead, overcome
motu	“	severed (as a rope)
mutu	“	ended, stopped
ngaro	“	absent, lost
oti	“	completed
pā	“	affected, struck
pakaru	“	broken to bits, smashed
pau	“	all used up, spent
piti	“	beaten, defeated
poke	“	soiled, stained
poto	“	exhausted
riro	“	carried off, seized
tahuri	“	overturned
toremi	“	drowned
tū	“	wounded
ū	“	firm, fixed
wareware	“	forgotten
whara	“	hurt, injured
whati	“	broken into parts
wini	“	winner

Note: Kua mutu te mahi. *The work has stopped (but may or may not be completed).*
 Kua oti te mahi. *The work has been completed.*

Etahi tauira:

Kī tonu tāku puku

(My stomach has become full right up). (tonu) I'm full.

Kua mahue ahau i ōku hoa.

(I have become left behind by my mates). My mates have left me behind.

