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The Newsletter of the
Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea
and the
Society of Pidgins and Creoles in Melanesia
P.O. Box 418, Ukarumpa LHP 444 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

March 1996

1996 LSPNG & SPCM AGM AND CONFERENCE

Our 1996 conference will be held in Madang on June 13-15 at the Coastwatchers Hotel. It will not have a Papuan or Pidgin and Creoles focus, but will be a general conference. See the enclosed call for papers and pre-registration form.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW GUINEA LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

For 1997 LSPNG and SPCM will join the *Second International Conference on New Guinea Languages and Linguistics*. It will be held in Goroka at the Bird of Paradise Hotel on 28-30 August. For more information contact:

Second Int. Conf. on N.G. Languages
Dicks Thomas
UPNG, P.O. Box 320
University Post Office
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Phone 26-7174 FAX 26-7187

Abstracts of papers need to be sent to the above address no later than February 1997.

DISTRIBUTION OF LLM

Volume 26:1 and 2 were mailed in early February 1996. Hopefully we will be able to publish volume 27 on time. If there are any previous copies of LLM that you have not received please write to us at the address on the heading of this newsletter and we will see if we can solve the problem.

1997 LSPNG & SPCM AGM AND CONFERENCE

We will not have a separate conference for 1997. The date and location for our AGM has not been set as of now. It may be during the Second International Conference on New Guinea Languages and Linguistics.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We have received a donation for scholarships from Mr. C. Volker. The main goals of our scholarships are to encourage research in Melanesian languages and to develop interest and linguistic research skills of native Melanesians. Donations for scholarships can be mailed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the Ukarumpa address.

We have a limited amount of funds for scholarships to help with linguistic research and literacy development in Melanesian languages. If interested write for an application.

BOOK REVIEWS

We are interested in having books reviewed for LLM. You can do this by writing to Ana Kila, the review editor, at the address below and ask her to send you a book to be reviewed. If you do not request a specific book or topic she will send a copy of whatever is waiting to be reviewed. If you request a book that has not been sent to LLM to be reviewed, she will write the publisher to request the book and then send it to you.

Ana M. Kila
L.S.C. Dept
PMB Unitech
Lae, Morobe
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The conference site is at Coastwatchers Hotel which is within a few blocks walking distance of downtown Madang, the Madang Resort Hotel and the Lutheran Guest House.

There will be a van available to pick up people from the airport (if requested) and to transport people to the conference who are not staying at or near Coastwatchers Hotel. There will be a one-time fee of K4.00 for anyone being transported by the van during the conference. Madang accommodations are:

Coastwatchers Hotel	Single or Double (K103)	Phone 82-2684 FAX 82-2716 Mail P.O. Box 324, Madang
Madang Resort Hotel	Single (K70) Double (K80)	Phone 82-2655 FAX 82-3325 Mail P.O.Box 111, Madang
Smugglers Inn	Single or Double (K100)	Phone 82-2744 FAX 82-2267 Mail P.O. Box 303, Madang
Madang Lodge Motel	Single (K40) Double (K50)	Phone 82-3395 FAX ---- Mail P.O.Box 59, Madang
Lutheran Guest House	3 or 4 per room (K34.70) (breakfast included)	Phone 82-2589 FAX ---- Mail P.O. Box 211, Madang

Note: There are a few budget accommodations available with SIL. If interested please ask on your pre-registration form.

The Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea
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ANNOUNCES

A CALL FOR PAPERS

to be presented at our annual 1996 conference to be held at the Coastwatchers Hotel in Madang. We are accepting papers on any topic in language and linguistics. Papers should discuss Melanesian languages or language use in the Melanesian setting. Papers on Pidgins and Creoles in Melanesia or the relationships between other Pidgins and Creoles to those in Melanesia are also encouraged.

An abstract of 250 words or less must be sent to the address below before 31 May 1996:

1996 LSPNG & SPCM Conference Papers
Elias Kawas
UPNG, P.O. Box 320
University Post Office, NCD
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Pre-registration Form for the 1996 Annual Conference

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

LSPNG member(K25) Student(K10) Other(K30) _____

I am pre-paying my registration fee with an enclosed cheque

I will pay my registration fee at registration

I would like to be picked up at the airport _____ flight _____ time _____ date

I plan to attend the banquet. I will bring _____ guests to the banquet

You are expected to arrange your own accommodations.

Please see the reverse side for accommodation choices.

Mail this form to the following address before 31 May 1996:

1996 LSPNG Conference Coordinator
P.O. Box 493
Ukarumpa EHP 444
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
FAX 77-4111 (Attn: Elyce Bruijnes)

NEW PIDGIN SIGN LANGUAGE

In the Central American nation of Nicaragua more than 500 deaf children have created a new sign language over the past 16 years according to a report in *Scientific American* magazine (December 1995, Vol. 273 Number 6, pages 10-11).

The article states:

[in] ...1979, ...the newly victorious Sandinista party instituted an education program that extended to deaf children, who had been neglected by the educational system.

[these] children...had had no contact with other deaf persons [and]...communicated...through "home signs" which usually consisted of a few dozen gestures for common objects and functions.

When they began...school in Managua ...[they] were ...supervised by hearing teachers who knew no sign language. ...they quickly constructed a "pidgin" sign language...called *Lenguaje de Signos Nicaraguense* (LSN).

But as younger children entered the schools, they rapidly molded LSN into...a truly rich language with a complex and consistent grammar, now called the *Idioma de Signos Nicaraguense* (ISN). Users of ISN have techniques for indicating whether nouns are subjects or objects.

These sign languages are being studied by Judy Kegl, a linguist at Rutgers University who recently published in *Signpost*, a journal of sign-language research. They have also been researched by Ann Senghas of the University of Rochester's Sign Language Research School, and others.

The spontaneous development of this sign language has theoretical implications for many areas of linguistics. For example, it makes one wonder if the chimpanzees and gorillas who have learned other sign languages would be able to learn ISN successfully.

CARRIER PIDGIN IN SEARCH OF NEW ROOST

The Carrier Pidgin is a newsletter for those interested in Pidgin and Creole languages. It is edited by Derek Bickerton and Michael L. Forman at the University of Hawai'i. The current editors are stepping down because Mike Forman has been appointed Chairman of the Linguistics Department and Derek Bickerton is retiring from the University. As there is no one else to take the editor position at the University of Hawai'i a new editor and location needs to be found for the newsletter. If you have any suggestions that may be helpful write or E-mail:

Editor, The Carrier Pidgin
Dept of Linguistics
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
1890 East-West Rd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 USA
E-mail: derek@hawaii.ed

A NEW BOOK

It is titled *Critical and Developmental Literacy* and is edited by Otto Ignatius M.S. Nekitel.

Published by the University of Papua New Guinea Press and the Language and Literature Department, The University of Papua New Guinea - November 1995. ISBN .9980-94-062-5. ix + 195pp. illustrated

This volume presents the proceedings of an International Critical or Developmental Literacy Conference held at the University of Papua New Guinea on 27-28 August, 1993. The topics treated reflect the pertinent issues concerned with the historical development and spread of literacy and numeracy in Papua New Guinea in the 1990s. This book is designed with a view to the needs of students and researchers with the aim of providing an abundance of locally produced and relevant articles. Price is K20 (post free in PNG) and US\$25 elsewhere (inclusive of surface postage & bank charges). It can be obtained from:

UPNG Press
C/- Unisearch Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 320
University Post Office
PAPUA NEW GUINEA