

Papers in Papuan Linguistics No. 1. Ed. by Tom Dutton. Pacific Linguistics A-73. Canberra: Australian National University, 1991. vi+311 pp. (includes 2 maps). AUSS\$32.00.

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This well-produced volume contains 11 papers on Papuan (or non-Austronesian) languages. Seven papers describe aspects of languages from Irian Jaya and the Indonesian islands as far as Timor, while four relate to languages in Papua New Guinea. The material is significant in that it extends our knowledge of one of the largest and least known groups of languages. We emphasise that the Papuan languages are by no means a single genetic entity, but comprise up to 60 different language families.

From Papua New Guinea, Roberts' detailed and readable study of reduplication in Amele (Gum family) complements his longer treatment of this language. Jarvinen's 'Pronoun system of Mauwake' (Madang-Adelbert Ranges Stock) is based on her University of Helsinki MA dissertation and is a careful description of a complex system involving Nominal (basic and focal), Demonstrative, Interrogative and Indefinite pronouns in up to six cases.

Laycock's 'Three vowels, semivowels, and neutralisation: orthographic and other problems of Sepik languages' is a neat summary of the difficulties involved in choosing suitable symbols in order to represent adequately the phonological distinc-

tions which are realised in widely different phonetic forms. The phonologically distinct high, mid and low vowel phonemes will be realised as lax front unrounded vowels after palatals, and their back rounded equivalents after labials. The same phonemes are realised as tense front unrounded vowels before palatals, and their back rounded equivalents before labials. The problems are similar to those found in the Australian Arandic languages.

Whitehead's 'Tense, aspect, mood and modality: verbal morphology in Menya' (Angan family) is the longest contribution at 66 pages and a revision of his University of Manitoba MA dissertation. There is a general introduction, a detailed exposition of the forms and their many possible combinations, including a few areas of difficulty where further work on pragmatic structure may explain apparent anomalies, and a useful set of appendices covering the phonological analysis, sample paradigms and a text. Menya has five points of articulation for obstruents (bilabial, dental, alveopalatal, velar, and uvular), and some interesting morphophonemic processes, but the importance of this work is the interesting relationship between the semantic structure and a complex morphology.

The papers from the more westerly Papuan languages contain much information that is new, and they extend our knowledge of languages of which little beyond wordlists or brief sketches has previously been available. Galela (West Papuan phylum, spoken in the Moluccas) is the subject of two papers. Deidre Sheldon describes

the directional system which involves ten locative words and six directional postclitics, corresponding to six directional (motion) verb roots. Thus, there are sixty possible combinations of locative word plus postclitic.

Howard Sheldon explains the Galela pronominal verb prefixes (which include a 4th person and a hierarchy of animacy) and their clause-level conditioning factors. Intransitive verbs display the same prefixes as those which agree with the subject of transitive verbs; while stative verbs take those prefixes which agree with the object of transitive verbs.

The Blagar language of Dolop (islands close to the north coast of Timor) is the subject of Steinhauer's excellent summary, which concentrates on the 44 demonstrative forms in 9 functionally distinct series, but provides much additional information on the language. The exposition is a model of clarity-with-detail, and includes a good representative text with detailed annotations.

F S Watuseke, an Indonesian linguist, has contributed a neat sketch of the Ternate language (spoken in the North Moluccas), translated with a brief introduction and some supplementary data by CL Voorhoeve. As with all the papers in this volume, the descriptive generalisations are richly illustrated.

Linda Jones' 'Question words in Yawa' (stock level isolate in the Geelvink Bay phylum and spoken on Yapen Island north of Irian Jaya) concentrates on the particular variations that are possible in information

(as opposed to polarity and alternative) questions. Factors affecting these questions include gender and number, syntactic position/topicalisation, time reference (unmarked/past/future), and number and person agreement.

Two papers are devoted to phonological analysis. Brown's 'Quantitative phonology of Mai Brat' (Central Bird's Head family of the West Papuan phylum) is based on a survey of 24,000 words of text. It analyses a language with 8 surface syllable types (including CCV, CCVC, CCCV, and CCCVC) as having just 4 underlying syllables (V, CV, VC, CVC) within the Clements/Keyser 'CV framework'. There are also interesting counts and percentages based on the large text base. Fields describes the phonology of Orya (Tor-Lake Plain stock, and spoken in Irian Jaya), including word-stress and sentence intonations.

The book contains much valuable material and is a credit to the editor, contributors, and the series; it is highly recommended.

Received 6 February 1992