

# H E B O U

Newsletter of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea

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## EDITORIAL

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform people whose work or interests include the fields of linguistics and language teaching about some, at least, of the activities in these fields in Papua New Guinea. If you have suggestions as to how to improve the newsletter, or if you can supply us with information to put in it, we would really like to hear from you. Please write to:

The Secretary,  
LSPNG,  
C/- Dept. of Language,  
P.O. Box 4820,  
University.

The main event of the year for the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea is its congress. This year it is to be held for the first time at the University of Technology in Lae, September 2-3. There will be papers on PNG linguistics and English teaching. The subject of language policy and planning has been raised regularly by linguists in PNG for some years, but with little positive response from the government or the community. Nevertheless, linguists are still concerned and there will be a special session for papers on this topic. (See the following news item for more information on the congress.)

1977 CONGRESS

As announced previously, the Eleventh Annual Congress will be held at the University of Technology, Lae, September 2-3. The programme will begin at 3 p.m. on the Friday afternoon and go through to the Saturday evening, when the annual dinner will be held.

Papers: There will be papers on PNG linguistics, and on language teaching. In addition, a special session for papers on language policy and planning will be held on the Friday evening. It is hoped that following the congress as many papers as possible will be made available for publication in the society's journal, Kivung.

Accommodation: Some accommodation is available with staff on the university campus, and some at the SIL Guest House. There are also hotels and hostels in the city area, ranging in price from moderate to expensive. If you wish us to arrange accommodation for you, please state your preference.

Travel: Participants should make their own arrangements. If you will be arriving in Lae by air, we will meet you at the airport if you let us know on which flight you are coming.

Registration: There will be a registration fee of K10.00 (or K5.00 for full-time students at tertiary institutions in PNG). This fee includes the cost of the annual dinner. It may be paid in advance or on arrival at the congress.

If you are planning to attend the congress and have not yet informed us, please complete and return the form which is included with this newsletter to:

Dr. A. Taylor,  
Dept. of Language & Social Science,  
University of Technology,  
P.O. Box 793,  
LAE.

KIVUNG

Vol.8, No.2 is now out. Vol.9, No.1 will be sent to the printers in the next few weeks. It contains the following articles and review articles:

- John T. Platt: 'Some Aspects of Language Planning in Malaysia'  
John Lynch : 'A Note on the Proto-Oceanic Vowels'  
Ranier Lang : 'A Note on Georg von der Gabelentz's Ideas on the Possibility of "Mischsprachen"'  
Graham Mallinson: Rodney Huddleston's 'An Introduction to English Transformational Syntax'  
T.E. Dutton : PNG Office of Information's 'The Dictionary and Grammar of Hiri Motu'

Subscribers to Kivung should note that the whole of volume 10 will be issued between Vol.9, No.1 and Vol.9, No.2. Volume 10 will be issued as a single publication. The publication will be

Tolai Texts, by Ulrike Mosel

Those members who may not wish to purchase Volume 10 because it is so specialized are advised that their subscriptions will be carried over to Vol.11. Could you please inform the Treasurer (Stephen Denny, Language Department, UPNG) if you do not wish to receive Volume 10.

It is now time to prepare Vol.9, No.2. If you have an article which you would like to submit for publication, please send it to the editor, Dr J Lynch, Language Department, UPNG.

SIL NEWS

Lahara Courses

Several SIL PNG members will be serving on staff at the UPNG Lahara Session, November 21 to January 13. They will be teaching the following courses:

Alphabet Design	04.131	Vernacular Grammar	04.136
Literacy	04.132	Vernacular Dictionary	04.137
Translation	04.133	Literacy II	04.138

Workshops

Workshops scheduled at Ukarumpa for the last part of 1977 include:

Language Learning	Oct 17-27
Anthropology Production	Oct 17-Nov 4
Dictionary Production	Oct 17-Nov 11
Editing	Nov 14-Dec 2
Linguistic Consultant Upgrading Seminar	Early December

Language Team Allocations

The three latest allocations are all in the Sepik area. They are:

Fas Language	- Mr & Mrs W. Baron
Marienberg Language	- Mr & Mrs Arden Sanders
Nor-pondo Language	- Mr & Mrs Stan Abbott

Overseas Conferences

Bob and Shirley Litteral are attending the Linguistic Society of America's course on Language Planning at the University of Hawaii. (Otto Nekitel of UPNG is also attending this course.) Miss Joan Healey will be attending an SIL Asia Area Linguistic Consultants Seminar in Manila in August.

## NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, UPNG

### Talks

Four talks have been organized so far this year, though unfortunately two could not be widely publicized due to short notice. The first talk, entitled "Dreaming about a Picture Dictionary of Tok Pisin", was given by Dr Pete Lincoln of the University of Hawaii. Professor S.A. Wurm of the Australian National University gave a talk on his investigation of the languages of the Santa Cruz Islands in the Solomon Islands; Ms Bambi Schiefflin, a PhD student from Columbia University (New York), gave a preliminary report on her work on language acquisition by Kaluli (S. Highlands) children; and Ms Sue Holzknacht, an MA student at UPNG, gave a preliminary report on her study of a dialect of Adzera (Morobe Province).

### Visiting Scholars

By the time this newsletter is out, it is expected that Dr John Haiman of the University of Manitoba will have resumed work on the Hua language in the Eastern Highlands. Dr William Foley of the Australian National University will have begun work on the Yamas language of the Pondo Family in the East Sepik, and Dr Bert Voorhoeve, also of the ANU, will have visited the Nomad River area for further language study. Dr. Foley is expected to visit Ukarumpa for several days in the second half of July and give two seminars.

### RESEARCH INTO ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC STUDY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Recently the Linguistics Section of the Department of Language has begun to evolve a series of research projects on the English required for Academic Study at UPNG, carried out as part of their training by students working for the Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language offered by the University. The broad aim of the program is to provide information primarily on the developmental needs of students about to matriculate for entrance to UPNG, which can be used as input to the design of new Preliminary Year Language course components.

The first project, an analysis of errors made in the written work of a representative sample of Preliminary Year students, confirmed our initial hypothesis that errors made at the clause level are highly idiosyncratic and do not fall into significant generalised linguistic categories. Remedial work on such errors is best done on an individual basis, and, as a practical offshoot of this project, a series of seminars is planned for English Language teachers in the Department on how to identify and deal with specific language problems of individual students.

The second project, in progress at the time of writing, is a comparison of the written English produced by Arts/Education stream Preliminary Year students and the written English produced by native English speaking High School students of similar age and educational level, doing an identical task, with respect to, in particular, the use of cohesive linguistic devices both within and across sentence boundaries.

The Educational Research Unit (E.R.U.)

The following E.R.U. Research Reports relate to aspects of applied linguistics:

- No.4 J. Jones, Comprehension of Some Commonly Used Words: A Study with Tertiary Students in Papua New Guinea.
- No.12 J. Jones, Quantitative Concepts, Vernacular, and Education in Papua New Guinea.
- No.13 J. Jones & F. Lieftrink, A Survey of the Languages Spoken by Students at UPNG.
- No.19 J. Jones, Classification Systems, Vernacular and Education in Papua New Guinea.

Forthcoming G. Kemelfield, National Language and Literacy Survey.

English in Papua New Guinea (previously English in New Guinea)

This is a journal for secondary school teachers of English in Papua New Guinea. It was published originally by Goroka Teachers College, edited first by Ronald Forest, and later by Ralph Wingfield. Nos 13 and 14 were edited by R.K. Johnson from the T.M.M.C. Any inquiries regarding back issues should be addressed to him there. The journal has not been published for the past 18 months, partly because the role of the journal has been taken over to some extent by newsletters published by the Curriculum Unit of the Department of Education, Konedobu. The future of these newsletters is now uncertain, and it is hoped that publication of the journal will be resumed.

PAUSING AND TEACHING

I would like to raise a question that will require further research, but one which it may be helpful for teachers to think about before the research results are in. The question is: How quickly should one reply?

A few weeks back I was sharing transport with some pleasant young high school teachers. I had just spent about two months pretty well cut off from the urban English speaking community of Papua New Guinea. I was very tired and not used to speaking English. In the course of my conversation with these teachers I found myself at times hesitating, searching for words. My pauses seemed to provoke impatience. I began to feel that I was being talked down to.

Maybe I was --still am-- paranoid about the situation, but the point I would like to make is that perhaps I was responding on a Melanesian conversational rhythm which may be quite a bit slower than Urban English speaking rhythm. I recalled the comment of Dr. Agnes Niekawa-Howard when talking about some implicit racism at the East-West Center in Hawaii to the effect that many people asked: How can we get the Asians to speak up more? but no one asked the question: How can we get the Haole (persons of European ancestry) to shut up?

The thrust of these remarks is twofold: First, teachers, be sure to give your students time to respond at their own speed. Hesitancy may be conditioned by politeness rather than ignorance. Second, researchers, could you verify that Papua New Guineans converse at a slower pace than Urban English speakers or at least, that Papua New Guineans tolerate much longer pauses in conversations?

Pete Lincoln,  
Department of Linguistics,  
University of Hawaii.

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