

H E B O U

Newsletter of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea

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EDITORIAL

This issue of Hebou announces particulars of our next conference to be held in Port Moresby in September. It also contains news of events, people and research. This is by no means a complete directory of linguists and research in Papua New Guinea. We had hoped to include a listing of research work being done in each Province but were not able to get enough information in time. If you have news of work in linguistics, literacy or language teaching which you feel may be of interest to other people, please write to:

The Secretary,  
Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea  
c/- Department of Language,  
University of Technology,  
P.O. Box 793,  
LAE

1979 CONGRESS

The Thirteenth Annual Congress will be held in Port Moresby, September 7-9. We expect Professor M.A.K. Halliday from the University of Sydney to attend.

It has been suggested that the conference be divided into three sections:

(1) Papua New Guinea Linguistics, (2) Language Teaching and (3) Tok Pisin and Hiri Motu. Within the first two sections we would like topics to be centered round a limited number of themes, to give some cohesion to the papers read at conference. The themes suggested for 1979 are as follows: (1) PNG linguistics (a) Lower level grammar (below sentence level) (b) Phonology (2) Language teaching (a) The use of modern technology in teaching language (b) Varieties of English.

If you intend to write a paper, or have comments to make on the proposed themes, please contact

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EVENTS

A non-credit course in Hiri Motu begins this year at Unitech, Lae, complementing the established course in Tok Pisin.

Diploma of Language Studies, a new course for students who have already taken Lahara courses, is due to start at Ukarumpa in February.

Research Circle of Ukarumpa began meeting again for 1979 on February 7 and will continue at regular intervals. All visitors to Ukarumpa are welcome to attend, or even better, to lead a seminar!

SEAMO Seminar on Aquisition of Bilingual Ability and Patterns of Bilingualism takes place in Singapore April 16-21. Mr. Robert Litteral and Mr. Stan Abbott (SIL) plan to attend. Address for information:

Fifth Triennial ACLALS Conference takes place January 3-8, 1980. The theme of this conference of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies is language and literature in multi-cultural contexts. Information on ACLALS or on the conference can be obtained from:

Dr. Helen Tiffin,  
Department of English,  
University of Queensland,  
St. Lucia, Q 4067, Australia

Australian Linguistic Society meets at the University of Newcastle May 16-19, 1979.

Linguistic Society of America meets in Boston December 28-30, 1979.

#### PEOPLE

Mr. Leslie Bruce (SIL) is at the ANU completing his PhD dissertation on the Alambak language of Angoram District, East Sepik Province. The completion date for his work on the grammar of Alambak and a brief comparison of Middle Sepik languages is July 1979.

Miss Anne Cochran (SIL) spent December and January teaching at the Lahara course and will depart Papua New Guinea in March for leave in Australia and New Zealand. In July she plans to teach at the SIL course in England and plans to attend the Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences in Copenhagen, August 6-11.

Prof. Bernard Comrie (USC, formerly Cambridge) will be visiting Department of Linguistics, ANU for the second semester 1979.

Mr. Brian Cheethan (UPNG) is studying the Huli language, S.H.P. His main efforts in 1979 will be towards the organisation of a Huli literary workshop in December. The aim is to encourage Huli people to become involved in the production of their own literature. Preliminary work was done during the Christmas vacation of 1978 with a group of students from Aiyura National High School.

Mr. Martin Combs (SIL) is working on an M.A. in Linguistics at the University of Hawaii.

Mr Terry Crowley (UPNG) arrived in January to lecture in linguistics at UPNG. Terry is due to complete his PhD dissertation for ANU this year, on a New

Hebrides language. He has an interest in learning Motu and another PNG AN language.

Mr. John Davies (SIL) is engaged in field research for his PhD programme at Cambridge University. He is working on:

1. the syntax of Kobon (for thesis)
2. relative clause formation in PNG languages
3. tu-vous relations in PNG languages.

Dr. Thomas Dutton (ANU) is continuing his investigation of Hiri trading languages.

Dr. William Foley (ANU) is studying the language and ethnology of the Yimas people of the Angoram District, East Sepik Province.

Dr. Angela Gilliam (UPNG) attended the Tenth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in New Delhi where she gave a paper entitled "Language, Literacy and Communication Controls in the Third World: An Exploratory Overview" for the symposium. She gave that paper again at the post-plenary session (Language Planning and Multilingualism) at the Central Institute of Indian Languages in Mysore.

Drs. Alan and Phyllis Healey (SIL) have returned from a four year assignment with SIL International (on Greek discourse structure) and will shortly take up again field work in Telefol, Telefomin District, Sandaun Province.

Dr. Volker Heeschen (Research Institute for Human Ethology) intends to promote a team research project in Hewa. His linguistic interest is in the origin of medial verbs.

Mr. Sakarepe Kamene (UPNG) has been doing fieldwork research in his own language, Zia.

Dr. Donald Laycock (ANU) is working on a Buin dictionary and grammar and has researched at Barilo (Paariro) village, Buin District, North Solomons Province. The completion date for this project is 1980.

Dr. Frans Lieftrink (UPNG) has accepted the position of Tertiary Education Research Officer with the Educational Research Unit at UPNG, on secondment from the Language Department during 1979. While on leave in Europe over Christmas he attended the Third International Congress of the European Association for Research and Development in Higher Education held at Klagenfurt, Austria in the first week of January, where he presented a paper on the contribution the ELT profession is making to the training of students as students.

Prof. John Lynch (UPNG) has recently returned from a six-week research trip to Tanna,

New Hebrides. He is now in the process of writing up a monograph on Proto-South Hebridean phonology, grammar and vocabulary.

Dr. Kenneth McElhanon (SIL) returned to PNG in February. He is continuing research on the Selepet language of Kabwum District, Morobe Province. He is working on:

1. a semantic based grammar
2. cross-cultural idiom study
3. comparative studies in Huon Penninsula languages.

Mr. Michael Olson (SIL) is at the ANU working on a dissertation on inter-clausal relations in Barai and its implications for universal grammar. Submission date is September 1979.

Dr. Raden S. Roosman (UPNG) is returning from study leave.

Mr. Malcolm Ross (UPNG Goroka) continues lecturing this year at Goroka Teachers College. His research interests are the dispersal of Oceanic AN languages in NG area and applied linguistics.

Mr. Geoffrey Smith (Unitech) is continuing his investigation of the Susuami language and traditional counting systems in the languages of the Morobe Province.

Mr. Mark Solon (UPNG Goroka) will be studying education administration for three semesters at University of New England at Armidale.

Dr. Andrew Taylor (Unitech) will attend ANZAAS in New Zealand early this year to give a paper on vernaculars in education in PNG.

Mr. Thomas Tumun (UPNG) is off to Queensland University to do a Master's Degree in Linguistics.

Dr. C. L. Voorhoeve (ANU) is continuing work on the language situation in the Nomad River area.

In addition to Terry Crowley there are the following new arrivals to the Language Department UPNG:

Mr. Naihuwo Ahai	:	Tutor
Mr. Kevin D'Arcy	:	Lecturer
Ms. Ann Lacey	:	Tutor

DISCOURSE RESEARCH BY S.I.L.

The following is a list of the participants and languages represented at the workshop held at Ukarumpa, September - November, 1978. All participants were SIL members with the exception of Fay Christensen and Diane Catts of Churches of Christ. The workshop staff included Robert Litteral and Raymond Johnston. Litteral is Working in the Angkor language, Sandaun Province and his interests include stylistics and bilingualism. Johnston works in Nakanai, West New Britain and is studying the development of Proto-Kimbe and Proto-Nakanai. He is also interested in the problems of language simplification with migratory contact.

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Paper Produced</u>
Mr. Neil Anderson	Podopa, Gulf	Discourse Level Conjunctions in Podopa
Mr. Soren Årsjö	Ama, E. Sepik	Narrative Discourse in Ama Logical Rhetorical Predicates in Ama Discourse
Mrs. Britten Årsjö	"	Non-Narrative Discourse in Ama Set Rhetorical Predicates in Ama Discourse
Mr. John Beaumont	Iamalele, Milne Bay	Cohesion Prominence in Iamalele
Mr. Maurice Boxwell	Weri, Morobe	papers on Sentence and Discourse in preparation
Dr. Robert Brown	Waris, Sandaun	Event Chains in Waris Organization of Argumentative Discourse
Miss Fay Christensen	Rao, Madang	Identification of Participants in Rao Discourse
Miss Diane Catts	"	Verbs in Rao Discourse
Mr. Bryan Ezard	Tawala, Milne Bay	Cohesion in Tawala How to Tell a Good Story in Tawala
Miss Lillian Fleischmann	Bine, Western	Grammatical Focus in Bine Temporal Considerations in Bine Narrative Discourse
Mr. Glenn and Mrs. Dorothy Graham	Amanab, Sandaun	papers on Subject change and redundancy in discourse in preparation
Mr. Ronald Huisman	Angaatiha, Morobe	The Angaatiha Definitive Relative Clause with Verbs of Motion Angaatiha Narrative Sentence Types
Mr. Conrad Hurd	Nasioi, N. Solomons	Oral and Written Styles in Nasioi Reference Identification in Nasioi
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Marlys Larsen	Orokaiva, Northern	Orokaiva Discourse some work was done on oral and written styles
Miss Linda Lauck	Patep, Morobe	General Features of Cohesion in Patep Discourse Semantic Relationships and Prominence in Patep Discourse

Mr. Robert Lee	Madak, N. Ireland	Sentence Structure and Inter-clausal Relations in Madak Prominence in Madak
Miss Dorothy Price	Karkar, Sandaun	Characteristics of Discourse Types in Karkar Set Rhetorical Predicates in Karkar
Miss Veda Rigden	"	Cohesion in Karkar Discourse Logical Rhetorical Predicates in Karkar
Mr. Ger Reesink	Usan, Madang	Grammatical Features of Cohesion in Usan: Towards a Test Differential Conjunction in Usan
Mr. John Tonson	Yupna, Madang	papers on Cohesion and Participant Identification and Cohesion of Events in preparation
Mr. Tom Webb	Uri, Morobe	Two Features of Rhetorical Predicates in Uri Result Relationships in Uri
Mr. Lance Woodward	Maring, W. Highlands and Madang	Maring Discourse and Paragraph

A QUESTIONNAIRE ON LANGUAGE UNIVERSALS FOR PNG

Ger Reesink

Since the publication of Greenberg's Universals of Language in 1963 the interest in what languages have in common has been steadily growing. With so many PNG languages now under study, an inventory of the features these languages share may increase our understanding of language in general. This announcement is intended to start PNG linguistics in that direction.

There is no clear agreement as to what exactly constitute language universals. Some linguists would hold that it is only worthwhile to look for the formal properties of language systems. Others are discussing universals more in terms of the actual surface forms or contents of languages. One could distinguish between strictly universal statements, covering literally all natural languages and probabilistic statements with implicated universals as a subclass. Probabilistic statements could be used to define a typology of languages. A preliminary questionnaire has been drawn up to investigate general syntactic structures of PNG languages.

Some years ago the languages of PNG were characterized as Austronesian and Non-Austronesian. The latter group was defined by a negative, implying that they are too diversified to be labelled by a common denominator. Lately we have seen more and more publications in which linguists tried to group the Papuan languages (as they are now called) into subgroups. Most of these publications have dealt with genetic classifications, often based on rather scant phonological data. The PNG questionnaire

on language universals is focussing upon the syntactic structures of Papuan languages, in particular it relates to the role these structures play in the formation of text or discourse. Quite a number of the questions though, are relevant to Austronesian languages as well.

So far about 15 questionnaires have been returned and are now under study. We would hope to get the same data from a number of other languages to be able to make some definite typological statements regarding the languages of this country. If anyone would like to contribute to this project, here are a few questions to whet his/her appetite.

Examples:

1. What is the basic word order in declarative sentences with both nominal subject and object? (i.e. The man shot the pig: SVO SOV OR VSO)
  
12. A person's voluntary intention is expressed by quoting his imputed thoughts with the verb 'to say', (in Non-Austronesian languages this will be a medial form indicating same referent as subject following) true or false?  
If false, how is intention expressed?
  
- 21b. What is the order of the relative construction and the Head noun?

Requests for copies of the questionnaire should be sent to:

Technical Studies Office,  
Box 418, Ukarumpa,  
via Lae  
(phone 77 1059 ext. 479)

#### VERBAL SIGNALS OF SOCIAL DISTANCE

Most readers will be familiar with the phenomenon of showing respect to a relative through marriage by not using his or her personal name when talking to or about him or her. A number of studies, mainly in European languages but also in a few African and Asian languages, appear to suggest some probable sociolinguistic universals:-

1. If in addressing an individual there is a choice between the use of a singular pronoun (e.g. French tu) and plural pronoun (e.g. French vous), then the use of the plural pronoun will indicate respect for the addressee.
  
2. The mutual use of the singular pronoun by two speakers will indicate familiarity between them.
  
3. The mutual use of the plural pronoun will indicate a social distance between the speakers.



4. The use of the singular pronoun by one party and the plural by the other party will indicate an asymmetrical relationship in which the person receiving the plural pronoun has a higher status than the person receiving the singular pronoun.

It would be valuable to provide some input from the languages of Papua New Guinea, both AN and NAN. Of course we will need to consider dual as well as plural. As an example, in Kobon a man must address his wife's father with second person dual pronoun (and use a second person dual verbal suffix), but he must address his wife's mother with second person plural pronoun (and use a second person plural verbal suffix).

If you can supply any such information on any language of Papua New Guinea please write to:

John Davies,  
SIL, Box 230,  
Ukarumpa via Lae,

Your contribution will be appreciated and acknowledged in any resulting paper.

#### RELATIVE CLAUSE FORMATION IN LANGUAGES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In their paper "Noun Phrase Accessibility and Universal Grammar" (Linguistic Inquiry, Volume 8, Number 1, 63-99), Keenan and Comrie attempt to determine the universal properties of relative clauses by comparing their syntactic form in a large number of languages. Their definition of relative clause is essentially semantic. 'We consider any syntactic object to be a relative clause if it specifies a set of objects (perhaps a one-number set) in two steps: a larger set is specified, called the domain of relativization, and then restricted to some subset of which a certain sentence, the restricting sentence is true.' A language may have more than one strategy for forming relative clauses. On the basis of data from about fifty languages it is argued that the relativizability of certain Noun Phrase positions is dependent on that of others and that these dependencies are universal. The Accessibility Hierarchy below expresses the relative accessibility to relativization of NP positions in simplex main clauses.

#### Accessibility Hierarchy

Subject > Direct Object > Indirect Object > Oblique > Genitive > Object of Comparison.  
Here > means 'is more accessible than'.

The authors postulate the following 'Primary Relativization Constraint':

1. A language must have a primary relative clause forming strategy.
2. If a primary strategy in a given language can apply to a low position on the Accessibility Hierarchy, then it can apply to all higher positions.
3. A primary strategy may cut off at any point on the Accessibility Hierarchy.

It would be valuable to see to what extent these constraints on relative clause formation apply to the languages of Papua New Guinea. Your help to this end by answering the following questions would be very much appreciated and acknowledged in any resulting paper.

Please give language for and morpheme by morpheme translation of the following and if there is more than one way of saying it please give all possibilities.

1. The man hit the boy who killed the hen.

2. I saw the stick with which the man hit the boy.

3. The man who killed the hen hit the boy.

4. I saw the boy to whom the man gave the hen.

5. I saw the house to which the man took the hen.

6. I saw the boy from whom the man took the hen.

7. The son of the man who gave me the hen has died.

8. I left my bilum at the place where we stopped for a rest.

9. He died on the day that I arrived at Port Moresby.

10. James is taller than the boy who stole the hen.

11. The man hit the boy who stole the dog which the kiap had given him and then he hit the dog.

Please send to John Davies, SIL Box 230, P.O. Ukarumpa, via Lae, Papua New Guinea