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Areally, **Language and Linguistics in Melanesia** covers the linguistic situation in Melanesia, where one fourth of the world's languages are spoken, as symbolised by the cover design.

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# **Language and Linguistics in Melanesia**

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## Editor's Page

As I was travelling through the western United States with my family in 1990 we visited most (my kids would say all) of the National Parks we could get to. At one of the parks we purchased a copy of *Lakota Children's Dictionary & Coloring Book*. With cultural pictures drawn by a Sioux artist, the book struck us as a much more effective way of helping to preserve the Lakota language than most of the dictionaries produced by the linguistic community—at least in the US context where kids from all backgrounds are into colouring pictures, this looks to be a great way to get the kids interested in the language and culture. This book might actually be used!

Two of the articles in this issue of *LLM* deal with the issue of lexicography: Crowley's observations on some of the issues involved in compiling a dictionary of Bislama, and Ford's review of three recent dictionaries. Both deal explicitly with issues of usability for speakers of the language as opposed to usability for linguists. Both also discuss the need for monolingual dictionaries.

I am excited that work has begun in various places in Melanesia on monolingual dictionaries and grammars; I am even more excited to see growing numbers of Melanesians involved in these projects. I trust these two papers will contribute to a growing discussion of the issues involved in these types of ventures. I would also invite more contributions to *LLM* discussing the problems involved and reporting on progress in these areas. Contributions could easily take the form of a one to four-page squib, possibly simply raising a problem for which the author has no answer! Whether in the form of a squib, review, or full article, however, all such contributions are welcome.

I also welcome further contributions like that by John Lynch suggesting solutions to puzzles posed by articles in *LLM*. Obviously, John's discussion is somewhat speculative itself. As one of the reviewers pointed out, "Surely, if there is a link with Bislama then it would be desirable to have data from the 1880s or the 90s, latest, that demonstrate that Tok Pisin had such a construction [as *Yu stap we na yu kam?*] then... My recommendation is to publish the script in such a form that it invites further comments from people who have looked at past stages of Tok Pisin." I agree that it should be published—now I'll wait for someone to take up the challenge to verify or question the solution on the basis of the early texts.

In summary, I would like to see *LLM* become a forum in which questions like these can be raised and discussed.



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As a result, **Language and Linguistics in Melanesia** covers the linguistic situation in Melanesia, where one fourth of the world's languages are spoken, as symbolised by the cover design.

The journal focuses on data-oriented articles with theoretical implications. In addition, it is open for reactions or replies to recent papers, squibs (brief notes or observations regarding natural language phenomena), letters to the editors, and book reviews.

All correspondence for the reviews section should be addressed to John Roberts; all other editorial correspondence should be addressed to John Clifton. All manuscripts should be submitted in **three copies**, and should be typed **fully double-spaced** in a font not small than 12 point (10 characters per inch), **single-sided**. The title, but not the author's name, should appear on the first page. The author's name should not appear on any following pages in any way that might identify the author as such. The title, author's name, author's affiliation, and full mailing address(es) should appear on a separate sheet of paper. In case there is more than one author, an indication should be made as to the author responsible for proofreading.

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