

K.A. McElhanon, **A Linguistic Field Guide to the Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea**. Canberra: The Department of Linguistics, A.N.U., 1984. [Pacific Linguistics, D-57] pp.66, 1 map. \$15.00.

Reviewed by Susanne Holzknacht, The Australian National University.

This publication by Ken McElhanon is aimed mainly at "field researchers" contemplating working in Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea. While it is primarily meant to assist linguists, anthropologists or other social scientists in planning their fieldwork, it will be very useful to researchers in other disciplines as well, for basic background information.

The book consists of a brief Introduction, followed by a section on local conditions covering climate, travel, post and telecommunications services, supplies and christian missions. The third section presents a linguistic classification of the languages of Morobe Province, both Austronesian and Papuan, with "family trees" of sub-groupings for each family represented. The fourth section is a village list, organized according to linguistic groups. This list is presented hierarchically, giving the family name, then villages within sub-family groupings. The fifth and longest section is a village index with linguistic affiliations of villages. Village names are based on the 1973 edition of the Village Directory. Each entry is identified by the number of the Census Division to which the village belongs, alternative spellings of the village name or alternative names are given. The population, the language spoken and the major family to which the language belongs are also given.

This publication was a major undertaking for the author because, as he says himself, much of the data on which he had to

draw, particularly the names, positions and populations of villages, is inaccurate and unreliable. He has tried to overcome some of these problems in order to present as accurate a picture as possible.

One problem with any such undertaking is that some of the information is out of date as soon as it is written down. For example, information in Section 2 on airstrips, aircraft and shipping lines and fares is certainly out of date now, but can be taken as a guide. Some of the information is misleading; for example, Table 3 on Page 4 gives "Mean monthly extreme maximum and minimum temperatures". It actually gives absolute extreme maximum and minimum temperatures. If a field worker were to expect between 33.3°C maximum and 5.6° minimum at Kaiapit in June, s/he would be sadly misled! But on the whole, the advice in this section is sound, accurate and practical.

Some information is unfortunately not included, for example, about the very strict but usually fair procedures required by the National and Provincial governments in order to obtain permission to do any research in Morobe Province. These procedures are also subject to change, but must be carefully adhered to before a researcher can even set foot in the province. The latest information on these procedures can be obtained by writing to:

The Chairman,
Morobe Provincial Research Committee,
Research Section,
Division of Policy, Planning and Co-ordination
Morobe Provincial Government,
P.O. Box 1834,
Lae, Morobe Province,
Papua New Guinea.

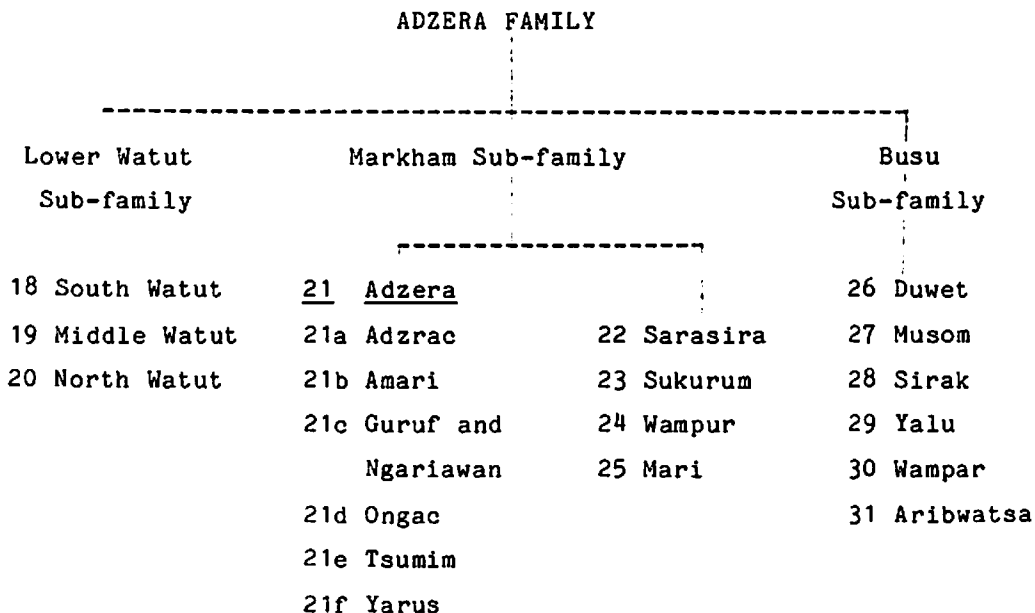
Also, the availability of up-to-date, highly professional local assistance in many fields is not mentioned. For example, the latest census data, maps and information on local conditions is available from the Research Section of the Morobe Provincial Government. Maps, surveying advice and information on such topics as roads, rivers, communications, walking tracks, forestry, agriculture, architecture, nutrition, mining and many other fields can be obtained from the various professional departments of the PNG University of Technology in Lae. Botanical advice is available from personnel at the Lae Herbarium which is part of the government Division of Botany. Conditions of roads, tracks, bridges, airstrips, etc. is available through contacting the Provincial Works Coordinator, Department of Works and Supply, Lae.

Section 3, Linguistic Classification, is a summary and an up-date of work previously done mainly by S.I.L. personnel, and published by McElhanon and B. Hooley elsewhere. Some of the mistakes made in these earlier publications have been remedied in this publication. However, there are still some errors in the present classification. The languages with which I am familiar are those of the Adzera Family. Since completing an in-depth survey of all the languages of this family in 1985, I am now in a position to add more information (as indicated by the author in this present publication). I would also like to correct some mistakes I made in data which I gave to him at the time of publication (with apologies!) Thus the classification of sub-groups of the Adzera Family, as shown on Page 13, should be modified. Under the Watut sub-family, Dangal (18) and Maralango (19) have been found to be the same language, which I am calling 'South Watut', after Fischer (1963). A third Watut language, which I call 'North Watut', which is spoken in the villages of Dunungtung (now called Wampan), Morum, Pesen and Wuruf, should be included. North Watut is a descendant of the former Unank (25) language. This village no longer exists, and the people from there are now all living in the

villages of the North Watut group. Silisili (20) I call 'Middle Watut', again after Fischer (1963).

Under the Markham Sub-Family, Adzera (21) should include as a dialect Ngariawan (22), which is not a separate language but a closely related dialect of Guruf (21c). Siarsira (23) is a typographical error and should read Sarasira (the way the people call their village). At this stage of my analysis, I am uncertain where to place Wampar (26) in the sub-groupings. At present I am including it in the Busu Sub-family, but this may be changed later. The Mari language of the Madang Province should be included to complete the Markham Sub-family.

Therefore, the family tree diagram for the Adzera Family should be amended to the following:



A language not previously described, Aribwatsa (which I have now numbered 31, above), has been added to the Busu Sub-family. This was the language of the Lahe or Ahi people, a formerly large group whose descendants now mostly live in Hengali village, Lae,

although only one of these is able to speak the language; the remainder now speak the Bukawa language.

The Village Lists (Section 4) and the Village Index (Section 5) of McElhanon's publication are very useful, one being the reverse of the other. However, there is one serious problem with the assigning of the villages to census divisions. For the 1980 National Population Census many of the census divisions for Morobe Province were re-numbered. Consequently many of the census division numbers given in this publication are no longer correct. For example, Waritsian village, listed by McElhanon as being in CD 32, is now in CD 37. Patep, listed as being in CD 18, is now in CD 23, and so on. The CDs 1 to 10 as listed by McElhanon remain the same, but CDs 11 to 50 of McElhanon's list have been broken up and are renumbered from 11 to 55, with no CD 12 or CD 18 in existence. An up-to-date classification of the villages, their census divisions and populations are given in the 1980 National Population Census publication (1982). This is available from:

National Statistical Office,
P.O. Wards Strip,
Port Moresby, NCD
Papua New Guinea.

Unfortunately this information was not available to the author at the time this publication went to press.

Section 5, Maps, gives good, sound advice which can be supplemented by local advice in Lae from some of the sources mentioned above. The separate map, in a pocket inside the back cover, is excellent, showing the positions of the individual villages, airstrips, the Highlands Highway route and language boundaries. One helpful addition to this map would have been an indication of a few more of the major rivers, e.g., the Leron River, the Busu River and the upper part of the Watut River. It is

important for anyone contemplating field research in the Province to be aware of the major river systems as the linguistic groups are, generally, clustered around them.

In spite of some relatively minor inaccuracies, most of which were no fault of the author, this book, of manageable size and weight and with its valuable map, is an essential piece of "field equipment" for anyone contemplating fieldwork in Morobe Province. It is also essential for linguists or anthropologists with an interest in Pacific languages and cultures.

REFERENCES

- Fischer, Hans 1963. Watut. Braunschweig: Albert Limbach Verlag.
- National Statistical Office. 1982. 1980 National Population Census. Final Figures: Census Unit Populations. Morobe Province. Port Moresby: National Statistical Office.