

Reviews

A Dictionary of Paamese. By Terry Crowley. Pacific Linguistics C-121. Canberra: Australian National University, 1992. xxi + 256pp. AUS\$35.00.

A First Dictionary of Koiari. By Tom Dutton. Pacific Linguistics C-122. Canberra: Australian National University, 1992. vii + 178pp. AUS\$29.30.

A Baruya-Tok Pisin-English Dictionary. By J.A. Lloyd. Pacific Linguistics C-82 Canberra: Australian National University, 1992. x + 685pp. AUS\$49.50.

*Reviewed by Kevin Ford
University of Papua New Guinea*

Dictionaries are important language resources. They are painstaking and time-consuming to produce. A worthwhile dictionary implies an expert analysis of the structure of the language concerned. The dictionaries under review are excellent examples of their type, and each represents 10-20 years of careful research. Koiari and Baruya are Papuan languages from Papua New Guinea; Paamese is an Austronesian language spoken in Vanuatu. The dictionaries result from collaboration between linguists, the primary authors, and native speakers of the languages. The following are summary facts about the volumes.

Crowley's Paamese (over 10,000 entries) achieves compactness by using a two-column format on each page, and contains a broad range of detail, thereby aiming at different kinds of users, including Paamese-speakers who know English, and others

interested in technical aspects of the language. Headwords are kept recognisable to language speakers, but underlying base forms are also provided. The dictionary relies for detail on Crowley's substantial technical publications on the language (including his 1982 grammar: Pacific Linguistics B-87), though twenty-one different types of grammatical specification are included in the entries. Major dialect variations are noted, and the Introduction summarises the dialect situation. English glosses aim at technical accuracy wherever possible; and entries include synonyms, cross-references, contextual exemplifications, important loans and, where known, etymological data from Ross Clark's Proto-North-Central Vanuatu reconstructions. There is a bibliography, an English-Paamese finderlist and a map. This amounts to a very impressive and useful dictionary.

Dutton's Koiari (about 2000 entries) is aimed at younger speakers, many of whom are literate in English but have a passive knowledge of Koiari. Koiari's approximately 1,800 speakers live along the ridge behind the coastal plain which includes Port Moresby, and Dutton wrote an analysis of Koiari grammar in 1969. In line with its aim, the dictionary avoids technical English vocabulary and grammatical detail (which is available in Dutton's grammatical works). It has an English-Koiari finderlist and some attractive illustrations (provided by SIL's PNG Branch). It seeks to present maximum information with minimum com-

plexity and fuss, and it succeeds. Headwords comprise actually-occurring forms rather than grammatical abstractions. Derivations are included under headwords, and all headwords, where appropriate, are exemplified as plain text with English translations.

Lloyd's Baruya (6,000 entries) belongs to the Papuan Angan family, spoken by about 6,000 people in the south-east of Eastern Highlands Province. The dictionary is supported by thirteen references dealing with grammar and semantics, written by Richard and Joy Lloyd. The dictionary is authored by the latter, while the former is acknowledged for 34 grammar charts which form an appendix to the dictionary proper. This work is comprehensive and impressive for its detail; it makes a serious attempt to appeal to speakers of the language by including Tok Pisin translations (which follow Mihalic's spelling conventions), as the following examples show.

mayadave(dave)

- *wanpela kain retpela asbin i gat retpela pikinini*

- kind of red winged bean with red seeds (shrub-bean)

mihwai/mihwalo

- *kandere bilong mi man, taim mi tokim em*

- cousin, male of male, title (father's sister's son or mother's brother's son)

pwaka

- *insait long kaikai i bruk na pundaun/wara i kam long kon o kaukau*

- scraps from cooked food/juice from raw corn or sweet potato/crumbs

wapepwaka - wara i kam long kaukau
- juice from raw sweet potato

Purimo.

- *Mi laik skrapim het bilong purpur.*

- I will fray the end of the reed./I will scrape the end of the reed.

Kannya siminya pu'mwano. - *Mi skrapim het bilong purpur.* - I frayed the end of the reed. (reed frayed.end.I scraped)

Where appropriate, literal English glosses are provided of the Baruya forms. Care has been taken to identify plants and animals scientifically, and hyponyms as well as synonyms are provided. Actually-occurring forms are used in headwords, and any grammatical complexity is referred to the appendix or external grammatical references. Where appropriate, words are exemplified in context, and symbols are kept to a minimum, making the format uncluttered and easy to use. Thus tone, though significant, is not marked as speakers do not require it. There are Tok Pisin/Baruya and English/Baruya finderlists.

The number of people with the inclination, application and technical knowledge to produce a dictionary is small (on the basis of publications, I guess about ten in a million people). While I praise the detail of these dictionaries and admire their implied technical knowledge, the works reviewed remain first dictionaries. Because of language shift, they may well remain the last word on the languages concerned, as it will take an extraordinary effort to extend them. Future generations will owe a debt to those who collaborated in their making, and to Wurm's Pacific Linguistics series, the Aus-

tralian National University and their sponsors, who had the energy and wisdom to publish these and hundreds of other important works on the languages of the western Pacific.

As I write, I am conferring with colleagues involved in dictionary-making who are speakers of the languages concerned. In due time, this research will lead to the latest developments in this field in Papua New Guinea - a monolingual Tok Pisin dictionary, and a trilingual Abu' dictionary after the pattern of Lloyd's Baruya. We can expect that this preference for dictionaries tailored to native speakers through Tok Pisin will continue.

Received 22 July 1993