distribution being 'generally restricted to medial position'. The term 'compound' is used for juxtaposed nouns or verbs regardless whether they form a single word or two; some of the phonemic rules apply across a compound boundary but it is not clear whether this includes both types.

Regardless of the shortcomings I have referred to, the volume retains the quality of being a valuable addition to the library of anyone seeking real data of 'exotic' languages, especially those of Papua New Guinea. It contains an abundance of data, is well laid out and, for the most part, is clearly presented.

Currents in Pacific linguistics. Ed. by Robert Blust. Pacific Linguistics C-117. Canberra, Australian National University, 1991. xi + 560pp. AUS$48.50.

Reviewed by Kevin Ford and Sakarepe Kamene
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This volume honours Dr George Grace, professor at the University of Hawaii since 1964 and 70 years old when the book was published last year. The 34 authors share Grace's interests in Austronesian linguistics and ethnolinguistics, the themes (and subtitle) of the book. For over thirty years Grace has been closely involved with the mapping of the relationships between the 1000 or so languages of the Austronesian family, allowing Pacific peoples to understand important aspects of their history over the past 3500 years, including their migrations.

Most of the papers are too specialised for non-linguists, which will give the book only a narrow market. For the linguist, the range of papers is stimulating–phonology, syntax/ semantics, sociolinguistics, and different aspects of language change and historical Pacific linguistics. Papers are short (10 or so pages) and relatively dense. The following descriptors provide a few whiffs of the contents.

Harlow on 'Consonant dissimilation in Maori' provides interesting data and draws attention to Maori phonology as an under-researched area. Building on a series of consonant alternations, Li shows in Sediq (an Austronesian language of Taiwan) that vowels delete in the syllable immediately before the accented penultimate syllable, provided they are word-initial and a true consonant intervenes (i.e. not [h] or [ʔ]). In the latter case, the preceding vowel assimilates completely with that of the accented syllable. Vowels preceded by a consonant with the same following context become [u] or [ə] according to dialect.

Mosel's 'Semantics and syntax in Samoan' is a clear exposition of the differences between the person-oriented syntax of English as opposed to the anti-person oriented syntax of Samoan. Also writing on Samoan, Cook argues strongly for the definition of 'subject' as a conflation of S and A. Lichtenberk ('Reciprocals and depatientives in To'aba'ita') suggests that the latter forms are derived (as intransitive verbs, for example 'the enemy *is very frightening*'), and on the basis of distribution, argues for this development as post proto-Oceanic.

Moyse-Faurie on Xârâcùù (an explanation of the pronunciation would have assisted the uninitiated) illustrates verb serialisation and explains two morphological developments–a tendency for some verbs to contract with the main verb, and a tendency for others to separate from the verb phrase. The paper illustrates that neighbouring (New Caledonia) languages (Ajië and Tîrî) have corresponding developments but in the main use non-cognate morphs. Also on New Caledonian languages is Hollyman's 'Personalised and non-personalised possession: final consonants in Kumak and other languages of Far Northern New Caledonia', which charts the likely historical development of a system of personal possessive suffixing.

Good's study of determiners in Hote (an Austronesian language of Morobe Province, PNG) may eventually show that they are 'discourse' markers of some kind. Tchekhoff examines aspect in Tongan and two South Australian languages (Diyari and Yandruwandha) and

shows that the real function of the antipassive construction is to express imperfective aspect. Starosta demonstrates the power of lexicase across a range of languages, including Austronesian (in 'Grammar, perception and reality').

Chowning ('Proto-Oceanic culture: evidence from Melanesia') adopts a conservative approach to assigning status to reconstructions. Thus, items are called proto-Melanesian only if attested from geographically distant parts of Melanesia. This paper synthesises evidence from both Polynesia and Melanesia.

McGinn ('Pronouns, politeness and hierarchy in Malay') makes interesting observations on how pronominal forms reflect subtle socio-cultural reality and on how power is shared among Malay speakers. He raises the issue of foreign scholars' interpretations of Malay pronominal forms and of the method (in this case Brown and Gilman's rule) used in analysing societies other than their own.

Verhaar ('Questions and answers in Tok Pisin') discusses dialect variations in the forms for asking questions, and shows that Tok Pisin grammar is developing and becoming more sophisticated than was originally thought.

The range of topics in this volume is wide, and readers will find much new information and discussion. The standard of production is high.

Language, education and development: Urban and rural Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea. By Suzanne Romaine. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992. xvii + 392 pp. A$130.00

Reviewed by Karl Franklin
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Suzanne Romaine is Merton Professor of English Language at the University of Oxford and has written widely on pidgins and creoles, including Tok Pisin. The book under review (hereafter referred to as LED) is

dedicated "long ol pikinini bilong Papua Niugini" [to all the children of PNG].

Romaine first visited PNG in 1982 and again in 1986 (remaining until May 1987), so it is surprising that some of her comments on educational policy and practice are not current. In addition, and as I shall mention in more detail later, she engages in "missionary bashing", despite the long history of their contribution to education and development using both Tok Pisin (TP) and the vernaculars.

LED consists of 9 chapters, a number of figures, extensive tables, and a detailed bibliography and index.

Chapter 1, the introduction, outlines a brief overview of the colonial past, couched in terms like "the playground of Europeans", the "exploitation of resources", "lifestyle that was...superior" (p.3), "cultural and racial superiority", "educate indigenous people in order to convert them" (p.21) and so on. Statements like these throughout LED on the government and missions reveal that Romaine is not as objective nor impartial in her views as one would have expected.

Chapter 2 deals with the historical development of TP in which the labour trade and plantations, as well as the establishment of missions, contributed to its use as a lingua franca. Romaine claims (p.23) that, "The very concept of discrete languages is probably a European cultural artefact fostered by processes such as literacy and standardization." If I understand this claim, it is that the people of Papua New Guinea had no personal language or dialect recognition and that Europeans worked all of this out for their own classification purposes. This would be akin to suggesting that there were no recognized native categories like "fish" and "eel", but that the colonial naturalists worked out such a taxinomical division for their own scientific purposes.

Organizations like SIL ("a religious organization", p.49; "United-States-based fundamentalist mission group", p.340) are mentioned, but usually only negatively. For example, Romaine maintains that it and missions are biased towards producing religious materials and cites Lynch (1979) to support this view. What LED does not furnish is any evidence that the University or scholars like Romaine have provided any kind of vernacular (or TP) materials for the village (or urban) people. Romaine admits later (p.86) that adult literacy