

REVIEWS

Karl Franklin (ed.), The Linguistic Situation in the Gulf District and Adjacent Areas, Papua New Guinea. Australian National University, Canberra, 1973. Pp. x + 597, 8 maps and numerous tables.

This book is indispensable for anyone interested in the classification of Pacific languages. Franklin states that the aim of the book is to classify all of the languages in the Gulf District of Papua New Guinea, and certainly, with only a few loose ends, Franklin and his co-authors proceed, chapter by chapter, to classify seventy-five languages into their respective families and stocks. In fact they do more than this, for the book contains an appendix which classifies all the languages of Papua, thus bringing together all the classificatory information done in the country to date.

There are eight co-authors involved in the compilation of the book, and with two exceptions they are scholars of the Australian National University, or the Summer Institute of Linguistics. The exceptions are Dr. H.A. Brown of the United Church, Papua New Guinea, and R.D. Shaw, Research Student at the University of Papua New Guinea. Professors S.A. Wurm and T.E. Dutton, and Dr. C.L. Voorhoeve are from A.N.U., and Drs. K. Franklin, K. McElhanon and Messrs R.G. Lloyd and G.E. MacDonald are from S.I.L.

The book contains ten chapters; four of them contain detailed accounts of particular language families (Lloyd, MacDonald, Wurm and Brown), and three others are surveys of

geographical areas containing several families (Franklin, Voorhoeve and Shaw). Of the remaining chapters, one is an introduction (Franklin), one relates the findings of the book with those of Greenberg (Franklin), and the third traces the word distribution of seven basic cultural items over different parts of Papua (Dutton). At the end of each chapter a comprehensive bibliography of relevant material is included.

The book commences with a survey of work previously done on languages in the Gulf District and then proceeds with the examination of the languages, either in the form of a regional survey, or as a detailed study of particular language families. For each language studied a Swadesh 100 word list is included and a lexico-statistical study is made from the information for most of the languages. For the Mt. Bosavi region there is no further information, but for the remainder of the studies there are varying amounts of phonological and grammatical information, the most extensive being for the Angan family. There is also a fair amount of information for the Teberan, Kiwalian, Eleman families, and the Kutubuan stock. The chapter on the Eleman family is of a discursive nature which will make it more difficult for some readers to extract comparative information.

The last two chapters of the book are attempts to relate the information gained in the Gulf District to wider linguistic studies. In Chapter Nine Franklin is able to criticize some aspects of Greenberg's classification of Papua New Guinea languages. Dutton, in Chapter Ten, makes observation on linguistic borrowing in Papua on the basis of examining cognates for seven cultural items.

Overall, it can be said that the book has a wealth of information for any student who is interested in the relationship of Pacific languages.

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