

H E B O U

Newsletter of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea

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Editorial

This issue is a little late in appearing, for which we apologize.

The 1979 annual congress of the society was held at UPNG, September 21-22 and there were over 30 registered participants. We were delighted that Professor M.A.K. Halliday of the Department of Linguistics, University of Sydney, was able to accept our invitation to deliver a paper. It was entitled 'The Rhetoric of Conversation: interpersonal aspects of the linguistic system'. Another very interesting session was the seminar on John Lynch's inaugural lecture 'Church, State and Language in Melanesia'.

Matters of language were in the news in PNG in 1979. As a reminder that questions of communication, language policy and language use were and still are, of public concern, some items from last year's newspapers are reprinted on pages 2 and 3.

Finally, we want Hebou to be as useful and interesting as possible. So, if you have some language news or wish to comment on some aspects of language in PNG, please write to:

Mr. T. Crowley
Secretary, LSPNG,
Language Dept.,
Box 4820,
P.O. University, N.C.D.

DEPT HITS AT EARLY MOVES ON TV

From Page 1.

"PNG's lack of capacity to effectively control the content of broadcasts continues to be well illustrated by the steady growth of commercial advertising through NBC programs."

"It was clear that most visitors (at the demonstration) were dazzled by the technical possibilities of broadcast television now available to PNG and gave virtually no consideration to the social issues as the major factor in deciding whether or not to proceed."

"The political pressures will be immeasurably strengthened by the fact that this is now technically and financially feasible."

"Unless positive action is taken to develop an awareness of the social problems and risks it is unlikely that the political pressures will be counter-balanced by a consideration of the more fundamental issues."

"There is, therefore, every prospect that an impetuous political decision to proceed with broadcast television will lead to the exacerbation of PNG's problems in the 1980s and beyond."

"The purpose of this is to make you aware of the new political context within which we

must now press for a balanced consideration of the potential for serious damage through introducing broadcast television into PNG."

"There is clearly a need to mobilise the forces of those concerned with education and long-term social issues, to provide an effective counter-balance to the triumph of the technologists — a triumph which they will now use to place what they see as irresistible pressures on the political decision-makers," the paper said.

Common language

The social problems are headed under culture conflict, production capacity, lack of control and unrealistic and harmful lay expectations.

The paper said that the main problem is that the nature of PNG does not lend itself to the prime merit of broadcast television — that is the production of appropriate quality programs at a per-program cost, which is only made economical through reception by a mass audience and

the associated economies of scale.

"The fact is that television is not well suited to the production diversity that the cultural and language heterogeneity of PNG demands."

"Even if we had a common language and culture in PNG, the audience would only be about three million, which is relatively small scale by television standards."

"There is a much more fundamental problem and that is the design of programs that take account of the traditional and uniquely developing culture of a particular PNG language and make a meaningful contribution to harmonious development — that is the production of 20 different television programs on the same subject, each adapted to a particular target culture within PNG," the paper said.

It said that even if a common television program was intended for PNG, the country lacks the production expertise to maintain an adequate flow of genuinely PNG programs that would fit well into the perceptions of Papua New Guineans in such a way as to provide for growth and progress.

TOK PLES SCHOOLS NEEDED - HEBOUME

The Education Minister for the Morobe Province Mr Linonge Heboume, has called on the Provincial Government not to abolish vernacular-based community schools in the province.

Mr Linonge said he fully supported an earlier statement released in the press by the member for Finschhafen in the National Parliament, Mr Zibang Sifiyu Zurenuoc.

Mr Zurenuoc has criticised the Morobe Interim Provincial Government's proposal made earlier this week to abolish vernacular-based community schools in the province.

Mr Linonge said that the Provincial Government must not overlook the "tok ples" education which brought Papua New Guinea into the modern world.

Mr Linonge said that vernacular-based community schools were geared towards producing students who were

well-equipped for rural life and community activities.

He said that the Provincial Government should not create a system where all children in rural areas sought secondary and tertiary education with the idea of getting more money and luxurious lives in urban areas.

Mr Linonge claimed that children such as these would create many unemployment problems in all urban centres throughout the Morobe Province if vernacular schools were abolished.

Easy Pidgin sought

The National Census Office is having problems finding a form of Pidgin that can be readily understood in all areas of Papua New Guinea.

The office has tested translations in different places, and found the Pidgin used varies greatly from place to place.

In its monthly newsletter, the office said

there were also problems getting good translators.

Greater flexibility

The census questions were written in English at present, but the wording was still being studied, the newsletter said.

Different wording was being tried for comprehension and

ease of translation from English, and answers were being evaluated to see if the wording was getting the right sort of answers.

"This is a major concern," the newsletter said.

The census office still had to decide whether the questions should be translated into large language groups.

'Co-ordinate Govt communications'

The Information Review Committee has recommended the co-ordination of the Government's communication activities under a single department.

The department would be known as the Department of Communication.

The review committee recommended the Office of Information, the Government Printing Service, the Post Liaison Branch and the censorship function of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Department be transferred to the new department.

The recommendations are in the review committee's report pre-

sented to the Government last week by the chairman, Mr Leo Morgan.

The new department's function would include policy formulation, research co-ordination and rationalisation, support for national and provincial governments projects, training, censorship co-ordination, commercial advertising, translation services publicity and media development.

USING THE LANGUAGES OF MELANESIA

Tok Pidgin's a vital development tool

MOGE LEADER'S CALL FOR PIDGIN

A Moge leader in the Western Highlands Province has called on the National Government to set up a "tok pisin" national daily newspaper.

The leader, Councillor Andrew Dokta, said this after hearing that a second national daily newspaper was to be published.

Cr Dokta said that the Pisin language was read and spoken by more than half the population of the country and that this should not be ignored.

He claimed that papers in English were read by only a small number of people, and that the bulk of the nation's population was being ignored.

"There are many things that the government want to get across to the people, and of course to as many people as possible, but this cannot be done if the government doesn't act right away and put out a "tok pisin" newspaper", Cr Dokta said.

"The government is for the people and by the people, and every-

DAILY NEWS PAPER

one is entitled to know what the government is doing. To meet this demand a national daily paper in pisin would bridge the gap because the news time allowed on provincial and national radio stations is not sufficient to broadcast all the daily happenings", Cr Dokta asserted.

He added that if the government did not have sufficient funds to publish such a paper, the necessary assistance should be given to any private firm that would undertake the venture.

Post-Courier, Wednesday, September 19, 1979—33

POSITIONS VACANT

NORTH SOLOMONS PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

CO-ORDINATOR OF VILLAGE TOKPLES SCHOOLS

Applications are invited for the post of Co-ordinator of Village Tokples Schools, from tertiary graduates who have majored in language studies. The Co-ordinator will be expected to co-ordinate and supervise all activities to the functioning of trial schools, which will teach vernacular literacy, community custom and culture, and pre-school skills.

Duties will include the organisation of teacher training and materials production workshops, and liaison with Community Governments, Churches, SIL UPNG. The successful applicant will be offered further training opportunities.

Salary will be in the range K4060 to K4820.

Applications including Curriculum Vitae to the:-

Provincial Secretary,

P.O. Box 120,

ARAWA N.S.P.,

by October 31st, 1979.

Letters to the Editor

EXPATS DIDN'T CHOOSE ENGLISH: WE DID

While I agree with most of what the Archbishop of Port Moresby had to say on the churches' aims in Melanesia (Post-Courier, June 27) I must point out that the final paragraph of his letter is quite incorrect.

Archbishop ToPalvu complains that the Go-

vernment is still following the old colonial curriculum (in schools) because there are still many expatriate advisors in the Department of Education.

Since self-government there has been enormous curriculum change, much of it designed to develop pride in our cultures and foster our independent national identity.

It was the National Executive Council which took the initiative on language and decided that English was to be the medium of instruction in schools.

It took the view that English would enable our people to communicate with each other, thus fostering national unity, communicate in-

ternationally and have access to the vast amount of educational material written in the English language.

Archbishop ToPalvu might be interested to know that vernacular languages may be taught as a subject in schools provided this is the wish of schools' governing bodies and provided suitably qualified teachers of the

vernacular and vernacular materials are available.

Although I would like to see schools' governing bodies take this initiative I regret to say that since the adoption of the 1976-80 Education Plan none have done so.

A. TOLOLO
Secretary for Education

1979 Congress Papers

(a) Invited Paper

M.A.K. Halliday (USydney) The Rhetoric of Conversation: inter-
personal aspects of the linguistic
system

(b) Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu and Bahasa Indonesia

John Lynch (UPNG) Changes in Tok Pisin Morphology
Tom Dutton (ANU) On the Origin of the Term hiri
Slamet Roosman (UPNG) Speech Problems of English-Speaking
Students in Learning Bahasa
Indonesia
Michael Smithies (UOT) Journalese Indonesian

(c) Phonology

Malcolm Ross (UPNG) Vanimo Phonology: Sketch and Speculation
Ken McElhanon (SIL) A Fresh Look at Nabak Morphophonemics
Wietze Baron (SIL) Light from the Dark Ages of Chomsky and
Halle's 'Abstract Phonology'

(d) PNG Linguistics

Ger Reesink (SIL) Some Typological Features of Papuan
Languages
Jim Farr & R. Larsen (SIL) A Selective Wordlist in Ten Different
Binandere Languages
Bob Litteral (SIL) Anggor Referential Prominence
John Davies (SIL) 'Tu' and 'Vous' Relations in Kobon
Ray Johnston (SIL) Field Application of a Grammar
Elicitation List for Oceanic
Austronesian Languages

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Meeting opened at 1.35 p.m.

1. ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| J. Lynch (Chairman) | I. Firchow | N. Mundhenk |
| J. Anderson | S. Holzknecht | J. Parlier |
| W. Baron | R. Johnston | G. Reesink |
| P. Brennan | S. Kamene | S. Roosman |
| B. Cheetham | F. Liefrink | M. Ross |
| J. Davies | R. Litteral | A-M. Smith |
| G. Doyle | R. Lomax | M. Smithies |
| T. Dutton | K. McElhanon | A. Taylor |
| J. Farr | N. McElhanon | B. Voorhoeve |

2. Minutes of the last meeting were circulated in HEBOU 6. Minutes accepted. Moved: M. Ross, Second: A-M. Smith.

3. President's Report

Visitors in 1979 who addressed meetings of LSPNG were W. Foley (A.N.U.), K. Pike (S.I.L., U.S.A.), B. Comrie (U.S.C.), M.A.K. Halliday (University of Sydney). We hope to have more such visits. We also hope to have other distinguished linguists to speak to Congresses in future, as Professor Halliday has done this year. The chairman noted the lack of E.S.L. papers at this Congress. He suggested for next year that there should be a workshop on E.S.L. topics, to be held just before the Congress. He hopes that more people will become involved in the Congress in future.

4. Treasurer's Report

Statement of finances circulated. The printing of the next three issues of KIVUNG will take up most of the balance in hand.

Questions: T. Dutton: Was the I.B.D. suggested at last meeting deposited? No, because of financial commitments for printing KIVUNG.

P. Brennan: Was a cheque sent to Anne Lacey, as suggested last meeting? No, but the Society gave her a "thank you" gift.

Treasurer's Report received and accepted.

5. Report from Editor of KIVUNG

Report circulated on progress of Volume 9/2, and Volume 11/1 and 2. Suggested that Tok Pisin I Go We?, Special Publication No 1, should be offered at a special price K2.50, to clear back stocks. Also back stocks of KIVUNG could also be sold at a reduced price

KIVUNG

After a long delay volume 9 no 2 has at last gone to press. The main contents are:

'Standardization and Modernization of Hiri Motu: Issues and Problems' by Tom Dutton

'I don't know whether I'm coming or going; a study of some usages of "Come and Go" in Korafe' by Cynthia Farr

Review article: S.A. Wurm (ed) Austronesian Languages (New Guinea Area Languages and Language Study Volume 2) by John Lynch

Articles and reviews for volume 11 nos 1 and 2 are in hand and publication should be in the first half of this year. Articles for 11:1 include:

'On the Origin of Body Image Idioms in Tok Pisin' by K.A. McElhanon

'Multilingualism and Language Mixture among the Numbami' by J. Bradshaw

'On Surface and Underlying Structure in Tagmemics' by P.H. Fries

'Number and Time in Central Buang' by B.A. Hooley

Complete sets of back issues of KIVUNG, i.e. volumes 1-10 are now available for K70. If you wish to purchase a set, write to the secretary, whose address is on p.1 of this newsletter.

Tok Pisin i Go We is now available for K2.50, instead of the regular price K5.00. For this too please write to the secretary. This volume contains papers on Tok Pisin by Margaret Mead, F. Mihalic, Peter Mühlhäusler, Sam Piniau, Gillian Sankoff, S.A. Wurm, Robert A. Hall, Jr., and many others.

1980 Congress

The 1980 Congress will be held at the University of Technology in Lae from Thursday September 25 to Saturday September 27. Papers are invited from any field of linguistics. However, it should perhaps be pointed out that papers on Tok Pisin and Hiri Motu, on applied linguistics and on English teaching are welcome.

The next issue of HEBOU will include a form for those people planning to give papers.

SIL News

The following is a list of the more recent team allocations:

| <u>Team</u> | <u>Language</u> | <u>Province</u> | <u>Population</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 131. Colburn | Erima | Madang | 480 |
| 132. Roberts | Amele | Madang | 4,600 |
| 133. Loeweke/May | Kaukombaran | Madang | 5,600 |
| 134. Callister | Misima | Milne Bav | 7,200 |
| 135. Schlie | Kara | New Ireland | 1,500 |
| 136. Bowling/Bowling | Yagwoia | Morobe | 8,000 |
| 137. Jarvinen/Kwan | Mauwake | Madang | 2,000 |
| 138. Turner | Manam | Madang | 6,000 |
| 139. Vollrath | Hewa | S.H.P. | 2,000 |
| 140. Lawecki | Anjam | Madang | 1,000 |
| 141. Speece | Ankave | Gulf | 1,500 |
| 142. Manabe | Kwanga | E. Sepik | 13,000 |
| 143. Baker, N. | Urat | E. Sepik | 5,000 |
| 144. Linderud | Kola | E.N.B. | 3,600 |
| 145. Rath | Mengen | E.N.B. | 5,000 |
| 146. Hemmila/Luoma | Urim | E. Sepik | 3,000 |
| 147. Moore | Duke of York | E.N.B. | 8,600 |
| 148. Throop | Kaulong | W.N.B. | 4,000 |

Literacy teams allocated with other teams

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Willison | Orokaiva (with team no. 93 - Larson) |
| Williams | Tawala (with team no. 110 - Ezard) |

Recent volumes in the SIL Workpapers in Papua New Guinea Languages series are:

VOLUME 18 - Student Research Papers in Literacy and Education

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Methods of Teaching Reading | Yvonne Genat |
| Bilingual Education and Literacy | Bruce A Hooley |
| Remedial Reading | Gay Brown |
| Teaching Aids | Chester S Street |

VOLUME 19 - Phonologies of Five PNG languages

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Orokaiva Phonology and Orthography | Robert and Marlys Larsen |
| A Tentative Phonemic Statement in Yil in West Sepik District | Mary Martens and Salme Tuominen |
| A Tentative Phonemic Analysis of Ningil | Margaret Manning and Naomi Siggers |
| Dobu Phonemics | Daphne Lithgow |
| Samo Phonemes | R Daniel and Karen A Shaw |

VOLUME 20 - Proceedings of the SIL Consultants Seminary, Ukarumpa 1976

VOLUME 21 - Language Variation and Survey Techniques

VOLUME 22 - Miscellaneous Papers in PNG Linguistics

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Mianmin Sentence Structure | Jean Smith |
| Mianmin Interrogatives | Pam Weston |
| Selepet Avifauna | K A McElhanon |
| Quotations in Oksapmin | Marshall Lawrence |

VOLUME 22 - Miscellaneous Papers in PNG Linguistics (con't)

| | |
|--|--|
| Bine Phonemes | Lillian Fleischmann and Sinikka Turpeinen |
| A Simple Separator of the Nasal Component of Speech | James Henderson |
| Annual Supplement to Bibliography 1976 | Elizabeth Murane |

VOLUME 23 - Grammatical Studies in Kunimaipa: Morphophonemics to Discourse
Elaine Geary

VOLUME 24 - Language Planning and Grammatical Typologies

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Language Planning Activity in Papua New Guinea | Robert Litteral |
| Language and Education in Papua New Guinea | Robert Litteral |
| Changes in the Bibriari Communicative System | Robert Litteral |
| Some Notes on Attitudes Toward Language and Language Choice in May River Iwam | R I Conrad |
| Grammatical Typologies of Languages of PNG | Elizabeth Murane |

VOLUME 25 - Miscellaneous Papers on Dobu and Arapesh

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Annual Supplement to Bibliography 1977 | Elizabeth Murane |
| How Should I Spell It? | David Lithgow |
| First Things First in Dobu | David Lithgow |
| A Survey of the Arapesh Language Family of Papua New Guinea | Robert J Conrad |
| A Muhiang Text: Wewak Trip | Joshua Lukas |
| Some Muhiang Grammatical Notes | Robert J Conrad |

They can be obtained from The Bookshop, SIL, P.O. Ukarumpa, E.H.P.

UPNG News

Brian Cheetham has left the Language Department at Waigani, but will be continuing research in the Huli area.

At Goroka, Malcolm Ross is still researching the dispersion of Austronesian languages in the PNG area. Mark Solon is studying for a master's degree in educational administration at the University of New England and is expected back at Goroka in the middle of the year.

Unitech News

John Swan joined the Department of Language and Social Science in September, after gaining an M.A. in applied linguistics at the University of Leeds. He is in charge of the language laboratory.

Jeff Siegel plans to continue his study of the Labu language while Geoff Smith is still working on the counting systems of Morobe Province languages as well as a preliminary study of the Susuami language.

The study of errors made by Unitech students in their written English on which Michael Smithies and Sue Holzknecht are working should be completed in the next couple of months.

Andrew Taylor is continuing his study of Motu.

Overseas Conferences

1. Applied Linguistics Association of Australia. The Fifth National Congress will be held in Melbourne, August 29-30, 1980, on the theme 'Language Policies for Australian Society'.
2. Australian Linguistics Society. The next conference will be in Melbourne, August 25-27, 1980.

I M P O R T A N T N O T I C E

T O

H I G H S C H O O L S

Up until now, issues of Hebou have been sent to high schools through PNG to inform teachers and students about language studies being carried out in this country.

The newsletter is free and we want to keep it free. For this reason we do not want to waste any copies.

Therefore, if you wish to continue receiving Hebou, and we hope you will want to, please complete the enclosed form and return it to:

The Secretary,
Linguistic Society of PNG,
Language Dept.,
Box 4820,
P.O. University, N.C.D.