

S.A. Wurm and Lois Carrington, editors, *Second International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics: Proceedings. Pacific Linguistics*, C-61, 1978. Canberra: The Australian National University. xxii + 1497 pp. in two fascicles.

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This publication is another of the Pacific Linguistics "giants", both in size and price. The contents table lists over four dozen papers presented by the cream of Austronesian linguists at the Second International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (SICAL), held at the Australian National University in Canberra in January 1978. The sheer size of the volume makes it a reviewer's nightmare, though the desire to avoid paying the \$51.50 (Australian) that it would otherwise have cost (as I was not a contributor) was strong motivation to complete the task. I cannot honestly say that I have read all 1,497 pages, though I have read what I hope is a fairly good sample. A review of such a volume is necessarily selective.

The first International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics was held in Honolulu in 1974, and the proceedings appeared in a massive two-volumed sequence of *Oceanic Linguistics*, my copies of which are now decidedly grubby and worn through constant reference. The Third International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (TICAL) was held in Bali in 1981, and the proceedings are currently appearing in *Pacific Linguistics*, as a four-fascicled opus. One almost shudders to think about the size of the proceedings to FOCAL, which is to be held in Suva in 1984!

My copy of the SICAL proceedings is actually almost as grubby and worn as the proceedings of the first conference, despite the fact that it is several years younger. No Austronesianist worth his (or her) salt would want to be without this work, as there is a wide range of papers, catering for all Austronesian sub-specialities.

In organisation, the volume is divided up into two separately bound, and need I say it, large, fascicles, of about seven hundred

pages each, following the division of the proceedings of the first conference into a "western" and an "eastern" part. Within each fascicle, there is an unstated division of the papers, with papers relating to historical/comparative linguistics coming first, followed by more general synchronic descriptive papers, and lastly, papers dealing more with sociolinguistics.

The most interesting papers in the "western" fascicle deal mainly with problems of syntactic reconstruction, and the related problem of determining the higher level subgroups of western Austronesian languages. While it is clear that few enduring problems have been solved with the appearance of these papers, we can at least point more clearly to the problems and say what they are. Reid (pp.33-66) for instance, points out the typological diversity of case marking in the determiner systems and the problems of proposing an original system which would account for the present diversity. Ferrell (pp.19-32) offers an interesting partial solution to the problem of doublets in Austronesian: that doublets may have been deliberately created on the basis of analogy. There are other papers in this fascicle dealing with important topics. These include Blust's discussion of the subgrouping of the languages of northeastern Indonesia (pp.181-234), Naylor's attempt to characterise the essentials of Austronesian grammar (pp.395-442) and Li's presentation of syntactic data from some little known (but important) Formosan languages (pp.569-615).

Not all of the papers in this section are what one might call intellectually heavyweight however. Laycock's "A Little Mor" (pp.285-316) is little indeed - nothing more than a sketch grammar and word-list, which might have more appropriately appeared in the appropriate *Papers in ...* series in *Pacific Linguistics*. Anceaux' Samalan word-list (pp. 659-663) is just that - a list of words with little else. Hardjadibrata's discussion of Indonesian consonant clusters (pp.165-180) is similarly lightweight - it does not really say much about Indonesian consonant clusters except that they occur, and that they are becoming more widespread as the language

incorporates a greater number of non-Indonesian vocabulary items. A second-year Indonesian major could probably have said the same.

Turning my attention now to the second fascicle, which deals with more Oceanic matters, my feeling is that we are dealing with a set of papers that seems to be of a slightly more enduring value than those of the first fascicle, though this perhaps is simply a reflection of my own eastern rather than western predilections. However, comparing Schütz' discussion of loanwords into Fijian and their effects on the phonology of the language (pp.867-876) with Hardjadibrata's discussion of the same with respect to Indonesian, I feel that we are dealing with a more inspired level of analysis. Questions are asked that go more to the heart of the phonological system. Also, while sketch grammars probably should not have a place in a conference proceedings, Todd's sketch of Nissan (pp.1181-1239) is certainly far more substantial than Laycock's sketch of Mor.

The historical/comparative section of this fascicle provides a record of the now infamous, and still unsolved, Reef-Santa Cruz debate: are these languages Austronesian or non-Austronesian? Work is progressing in this area, so we may see further contributions from others before too long. The sociolinguistic section presents a number of papers, dealing especially with the rich field of pidgin-creole studies. Dutton's presentation of the issues and problems relating to the study of the origins of Hiri Motu (pp.1351-1375) is clearly presented and well researched.

As I mentioned earlier, it is very difficult to review such a massive publication, without the review itself becoming forbiddingly massive. I have chosen to give a thumb-nail rush-through of the more interesting and less interesting contributions. Perhaps future editors of ICAL proceedings, trying to cope with the size problem (which is likely to become more severe as the conferences grow) would be better off toying with the idea of not calling the volume of full *Proceedings of ...* but a *Best of* Alternative avenues could have been suggested for a number of papers, not because they

were of no merit in themselves, but because they did not raise sufficiently substantial issues to warrant a place in a conference proceedings, especially where space is short. However, this volume, simply because of its volume, will certainly contain something of interest to every Austronesianist, and while it will strain your shelves, it is certainly worth putting there.