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Newsletter of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea

Contents

	Page
Linguistic Society Annual Prize	1
1984 Congress	1
1983 Congress Reports Linguistic Conference TESL Workshop	1
International Conference of Austronesian Linguistics	4
RELC Regional Ceminar	5
Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting of the LSPNG	6

Linguistic Society Annual Prize

Please note the following announcement and inform institute and individuals who may be interested in writing a paper for the prize.

"The Linguistic Society of PNG is offering an annual prize of K50 for the best written contribution to language studies within PNG. The paper must be an original paper, at least 2,000 words long and written by a PNG citizen. The paper may be written in English, Pidgin or Motu.

The closing date for 1984 entries is March 24, 1984. Send entries to:

Secretary of the Linguistic Society of PNG P.O. Box 418 Ukarumpa via Lae"

1984 Congress

The 18th Annual Congress of The Linguistic Society will be held in Lae, aiming for a time during the inter-semester break. The specific time will be decided after the Provincial High Schools set their schedules for 1984 to fit in with them in the best way.

1983 Congress Reports

a) Linguistic Conference (by Eileen Gasaway, SIL)

The 17th Annual Congress of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea was held this year at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby, July 4-8. The Linguistic Conference part was held July 4-6. Fewer papers were given this year than usual but the atmosphere was also more relaxed with two papers presented each session. Twelve papers were presented altogether. We were happy to have Bill Foley from the Australian National University who presented a paper "Towards a typology of Papuan Case marking systems" in which he traced the change of case markers especially as a language moves toward marking of ergativity. Another thought-provoking paper was presented by John Lynch entitled "Pigs and Dogs in Island Melanesia". He traced the reflexes of the Proto-Austronesian, Proto-Oceanic and Proto-Polynesian reconstructions for 'dog' and 'pig' through Island Melanesia (Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia) and then began to show some patterns of migration.

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Gunter Senft presented "The System of Classificatory Particles in Kilivila Reconsidered". Kilivila, the language of the Trobriand Islands, has a large number of CPs (42-147, depending on the researcher). Senft presented the particles he had found by systematically studying different age groups and sexes. He gained insight into how a complex morphological system is acquired by children.

Other interesting studies included: "Separate Entries: A Matter of Principle or Convenience—A Question for Dictionary Compilers and Users" by Andrew Taylor; "Viewpoint in Oksapmin" by Marshall Lawrence and "The Search for the Function of the Ergative Marker in Ono" by Penny Phinnemore.

Holding the Congress in July represents a change from September, which seemed to fit better into the school holiday schedule of the participants. Also the Conference was held during the week rather than a weekend as in the past. Overall, the conference was stimulating in thought and relaxed in atmosphere.

b) TESL Workshop (by Graeme Cane, Language Department, UPNG)

The Linguistic Society Conference at Goroka last year was unique in that it gave the newly formed TESL branch of the Society its first opportunity to hold, simultaneously with the Conference but separately from it, a Workshop on English language teaching. The Goroka experiment was without doubt a success, and it was decided to combine the Linguistic Conference/TESL Workshop again in 1983; this time at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby.

The combined Congress was officially opened on the morning of 6th July by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. Elton Brash, who spoke of some of the complicated language - switching activities which go on in his own multi-lingual family. After the opening, the first TESL paper was given by Bill Schreck of UPNG, who suggested a number of strategies teachers might adopt when marking written work. Bill, who is a firm believer that "pupil performance is equal to teacher expectation", explained why it is important to set clear criteria, standards and expectations. Our students ought to know exactly what they are being asked to do in any piece of written work, and how they will be assessed for it. Bill emphasized positive reinforcement, warning against the teacher's negative criticism of a student's piece of writing. He will be putting his ideas on marking into article form for the forthcoming issue of TESLA.

The second speaker, Kerry Barr from the Administrative College in Port Moresby, gave a clearly presented, practical talk on the teaching of report writing. Kerry stressed the importance of showing students how to organize their thoughts logically and effectively. She advised teachers working at this level to concentrate not on specific language difficulties but on teaching clear thinking and logical presentation because "once they have reached the age of 15 or 16, Papua New Guinean students make almost no improvement in their handling of the grammatical structures of English." The comment was certainly one of the most controversial statements of the whole Workshop; it is a great pity it was not followed up in later discussions.

After morning coffee, Sue Holzknecht from the University of Technology spoke about the benefits of filming students in role - playing situations for later play - back on video. Sue's experience at Unitech showed that, in role - playing situations, students soon became more motivated in their approach to language work, and more confident in speaking English. It was clear from the video excerpts shown that the students involved in the role - plays were actually enjoying themselves despite (or, perhaps, because of) the presence of cameras and microphones. Many of our students seem to have problems with oral communication in the classroom because they are reluctant to project their voices. Sue's role - play suggestions (with or without the use of video) may well help alleviate the problem.

John Gough from UPNG then discussed ways in which spelling can be taught more imaginatively and more effectively. Using recent research from New Zealand, John demonstrated that the mis-spelling of a mere 25 words accounts for about 20% of all the spelling mistakes made by primary school children in their writing. "Simply by making sure that the children learn how to spell these 25 words correctly, we can elimiate a large proportion of spelling mistakes from our pupils' written work." John then discussed ways of teaching spelling, constantly emphasizing the importance of careful word study rather than rote learning.

The afternoon session was opened by Tony Bex of UPNG who looked at ways of teaching the passive voice. Tony demonstrated that the passive has a variety of different functions in English and that course designers/textbook writers often seem blind to this fact. Tony said it is necessary to show students why the passive is appropriate in one context but not in another. He discussed an exercise he had devised to explain this point to students in Saudi Arabia. Workshop participants came to realise that using the passive voice in English involves much more than simply making the right grammatical transformations.

The final speaker on the first day was Mike Grenfell of Goroka Teachers' College. With energy and humour, Mike took the participants through more than two hours of interviews, taping and transcribing, with the aim of showing teachers in a very practical way how to go about designing and preparing their own material for giving students listening and speaking practice.

Thursday began with a paper by John Gough on the value of devoting regular class time to <u>USSR</u> (Uninterrupted Sustained Silent Reading) and <u>USA</u> (Uninterrupted Sustained Authoring). Only through regular and concentrated periods of silent reading and creative writing, John said, can the student gain competence and confidence in his use of English.

The next speaker, Graeme Cane of UPNG, suggested that many teachers and text-book writers were not fully aware of the basic linguistic differences between spoken English and written English, especially regarding features of coherence and cohesion. He believes that many errors in writing are produced through our students' inability to transfer from the spoken form to the written form, and recommended that the linguistic features of both speaking and writing should be specifically identified and practised in the classroom.

After morning coffee, Naihuwo Ahai of UPNG raised the controversial issue of whether or not a Papua New Guinean dialect of English exists in the country. Naihuwo pointed out that it is first necessary to identify the speakers of the so - called dialect. (Would we wish to include all Primary School drop-outs, High School leavers, University graduates, or only those people with near-native speaker ability in English?) He also discussed the differences between "dialect" and "interlanguage", and the degree of consistency of PNG non-standard language features. The question was posed clearly and pertinently: "If there is a speech community speaking PNG English, Where, When, To Whom and By Whom is PNG English used?" The topic created a great deal of discussion amongst Workshop participants.

The final speaker, Geoff Smith of the University of Technology, discussed the value of using films and film scripts in language teaching. In his highly entertaining presentation, Geoff showed extracts from the Ascent of Man television series and explained how reading comprehension, note-taking, scanning for information and other skills can be greatly improved through the use of films and their accompanying scripts. Geoff's paper was extremely practical in that he presented specific exercises which teachers with access to films could adapt to their own teaching purposes.

It was hoped to discuss some of the issues that had been raised over the two days in an Open Forum after lunch on Thursday. As it turned out, however, the afternoon was taken up entirely with the less interesting (but necessary) business of discussing the future of the TESL branch of the Linguistic Society. After considerable discussion, it was decided to set up a separate TESL Association of PNG (TESLA) which would be independent of the Linguistic Society. It was agreed to set an annual subscription of K5 which would entitle members to 3 copies of the TESLA journal per year plus any additional newsletters produced. An interim committee was elected to draft a constitution and to take care of administrative affairs until next year's Workshop. The committee consists of John Swan (Chairman), Jill Tennison (Secretary), Kerry Barr (Treasurer), Naihuwo Ahai, Ned Smith and John Rafterry. Anyone interested in joining the Association should contact Kerry Barr, c/o Adcol., P.O. Box 1216, BOROKO.

The 1983 Workshop attracted over sixty participants including students, High School teachers, College lecturers and Ministry of Education specialists as well as teachers from the Tertiary Institutions. The lively discussion that went on during coffee and lunch breaks showed that people were anxious and delighted to share their problems and ideas about English teaching at all levels and in all types of situation. It was unfortunate that few High School teachers from the Port Moresby area were able to attend, and that there was no time for discussion of language issues at the Thursday afternoon session. On the whole, however, participants generally seemed pleased with what had taken place during the two days. Rather than setting a particular theme, the organisers had tried to offer something to suit the needs and tastes of everyone. The amount of genuine interest and good will shown by all participants was a sign of hope and encouragement for the future.

Next year the TESL Workshop will be held at Unitech, Lae at the same time as the Linguistic Society Congress. If you have any enquiries, suggestions or ideas for the 1984 Workshop, please contact John Swan, c/o Department of Language, PNG University of Technology, P.O. Box 793, Lae. Copies of the latest (May 1983) issue of the TESLA Journal are also obtainable from John if anyone would like a copy.

International Conference of Austronesian Linguistics

The next International Conference of Austronesian Linguistics will be held in Suva, Fiji, in August 1984. In a slight deviation from tradition, this conference, the fourth, will be referred to as FOCAL (Fourth International Conference of Austronesian Linguistics), so that FICAL will be free for the fifth, and also because the word FOCAL is particularly apt for a linguistic conference!

Although many detals have yet to be finalised, we send you this preliminary notice in the belief that many of you will wish to make plans well in advance.

FOCAL will be held the week before Hibiscus week (Suva annual carnival), which you may like to include in your trip. The probable dates are therefore 13th to 18th August 1984.

Airlines serving Fiji are: Air Nauru, Air New Zealand, Air Pacific, CPAir, Continental, JAL, Polynesian Airlines, and UTA. Current fares from Nadi International Airport to Suva are:

Air Pacific standby
(certain flights only)

Air (25 mins) (to Nausori, 12 miles from Suva)

Standard Economy \$32.00

Fiji Air 7-day advance
purchase, return within
7 days. \$20.00

Air Pacific standby
(certain flights only) \$18.00

Road (4-5 hrs) (to Suva)
Air-conditioned coach
Naturally-ventilated coach \$15.00

The Fiji dollar is currently equal to the US dollar.

We hope to offer three types of accommodation (all rates estimated):

1. Hotel (per night, meals extra):
Single \$23-29
Sharing double \$17-21

- 2. Student hostel (includes morning and evening meals) whole week \$80.00
- 3. Fijian village (non-tourist, Fijian village food and living conditions, only the hardy need apply, includes morning and evening meals) whole week \$60.00

As in Bali, there will be three concurrent sessions:

1. comparative, 2. descriptive, 3. socio-linguistics You will be advised presently of the date for return of abstracts and the registration fee.

Paul Geraghty

RELC Regional Seminar

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Regional Language Centre (RELC) will hold its 19th Regional Seminar, 23-27 April 1984 in Singapore. The theme of the Seminar is "Communicative Language Teaching".

The objectives of the Seminar are:

- * To consider the applicability of the communicative approach to language teaching in the various countries of Southeast Asia;
- * To review the theoretical concepts that are relevant to communicative language teaching;
- * To discuss how these concepts relate to syllabus design, materials development, teaching methodology and evaluation;
- * To explore specific applications of the communicative approach in the classroom, including the appropriate use of eduactional technology;
- To examine the factors involved in planning and implementing communicative language programmes in Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

Further information and invitations to participate in the Seminar can be obtained from the following address:

Director (attention: Chairman Seminar Planning Committee)
Seameo Regional Language Centre
RELC Building
30 Orange Grove Road
Singapore 1025
Republic of Singapore

Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea

Meeting was held at UPNG July 6, 1983.

Meeting opened at 3:20 p.m.

1. Attendance

Terry Crowley
Julie Piau
Metene Wamma
Anne-Marie Smith
Naihuwo Ahai
Wietze Baron
Tom Phinnemore
Penny Phinnemore
Andrew Taylor

John Lynch
Eileen Gasaway
Perry Schlie
Marshall Lawrence
Jean Goddard
Ginny Schlie
John Swan
Jeff D'Jernes
Sue Holzknecht

Apologies were received from Mike Fullingim and Les Bruce.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Moved by John Lynch and seconded by Andrew Taylor that the minutes of last meeting be accepted. Carried.

Matters arising out of last year's minutes:

a) The Linguistic Society Prize

Terry reported that two papers had been received and judged by the judging committee and it had unanimously been decided to give the prize to Naihuwo Ahai for his paper on "A Motuna-English Bilingual Education Model". Terry then presented the prize to Naihuwo.

b) Membership of LSPNG in CIPL

This item was deferred until after the treasurer's report.

3. President's report

The president, Terry Crowley, gave a verbal report. He noted that this year had been a short one because the conference was earlier than usual.

One executive committee meeting was held during the year on June 7 at Ukarumpa, when Terry happened to be passing through anyway. No other meetings were held in order to keep travel expenses down. At the meeting on June 7 matters related to the 1983 converence were discussed. Those present were Terry Crowley, Heather Patrick, Ray Johnston, and Wendy Nicholls (in Marshall Lawrence's stead).

Terry noted the successful carrying on of the TESL conference, which had begun in 1982 to provide an alternative to the specialized linguistic conference that year in Goroka.

Although the linguistic conference this year was somewhat smaller due to the TESL conference being held concurrently, this has allowed a more leisurely pace and has resulted in a more relaxed conference.

Terry expressed his thanks to Graeme Cane for all the help he had given toward organizing the conference, to Anne-Marie Smith for looking after coffee and biscuits, to Litha Pataki for arranging dinner, and to Wendy Lee for helping with registration. He also expressed his appreciation to NBC for free radio and press advertising.

Moved by John Lynch, seconded by John Swan, to accept the president's report. Carried.

4. Treasurer's report

Copies of the treasurer's report were distributed to each member present and read. A copy of the report is attached.

In relation to the balance of K2636.29 it was noted that the printing of Kivung 12 (2) and LLM 14 still needed to be paid out of that. The cheque of K20.94 issued Nov. 30, 1982 was lost. It has now turned up but has expired and will need to be rewritten.

It was asked why Kivung 12 (1) had cost so much less than LLM 13. The reasons are that LLM 13 combined two issues and was thus longer than Kivung 12 (1) and that fewer copies of Kivung 12 (1) were printed than LLM 13.

Moved by Andrew Taylor, seconded by Sue Holzknecht that the treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

5. Membership in CIPL (The Permanent International Committee of Linguists)

It seemed that we had enough money to join. No objection was raised to implement last year's relolution to join. It will be up to the new executive committee, then, to apply for membership and appoint a representative.

Moved by Andrew Taylor, seconded by Eileen Gasaway that membership in CIPL be reviewed at the 1984 AGM of the LSPNG.

6. Editor's report

Copies of the editor's report were distributed. A copy of that report is attached.

It was noted that Ray intended to finish LLM 14.

Moved by John Lynch and seconded by Anne-Marie Smith to accept the editor's report. Carried.

Andrew Taylor said he expected Kivung 12 (2) to be with the publisher by the end of July and Special Publication Number 2 by the end of August.

7. 1984 Congress

Although the mid term break time seemed to be a good time to have the congress, it might be better to have it during the first week of break. At that time some teachers could attend the TESL part as their in-service training.

It was decided to hold the 1984 congress in Lae aiming for a time during the inter-semester break. The specific time will be decided after the Provincial high schools set their schedules for 1984 to fit in with them in the best way.

8. The future of TESL

John Swan reported on the present status of TESL.

It is presently a subsidiary branch of LSPNG with 6 executive members. Membership fee is K5 for Papua New Guinea citizens and K10 for non-citizens. This fee includes membership of the LSPNG and 3 issues of TESLA magazine. TESL has K271 in the bank plus money from sale of TESLA and conference fees.

Three issues of TESLA have been published.

A majority of potential members of TESL branch are not interested in joining the LSPNG. It appears that the TESL branch can and should stand on its own. With this in mind the following proposal will be presented to the TESL conference meeting July 7:

- 1. That the TESL organization cease to be a branch of the LSPNG
- 2. That in future it should be known as the PNG TESLA (Teachers of English as a Second Language Association).
- 3. That a straight membership fee of K5 should be charged to cover production and postage of the journal 3 times yearly.
- 4. That an interim committee be set up to draft a constitution and run the association meantime.
- 5. That in view of our common interest in language development in PNG the association should be nominally affiliated to the LSPNG but that this should not entail any financial commitment on either part.

Thanks was given to the LSPNG for providing a launching platform for TESLA.

Moved by John Lynch and seconded by Andrew Taylor to reaffirm the contingency motion of 1982 that if the TESL group decides to form its own society, that there be reciprocal membership on the Executive Committees and that conferences of both organizations be held conjointly whenever possible. Carried.

It was suggested that the executive committees of both organizations (if a second organization is formed) meet and tidy up financial relationships.

9. Reprinting rights

Because of a request for permission to reprint an article published by the LSPNG a discussion of policy regarding reprinting rights followed. It was agreed that the executive committee should find out what the standard practice is regarding reprinting permission and set the policy accordingly.

10. Election of office bearers

Nominations for the various offices were:

President: John Swan. Nom. by John Lynch sec. by Andrew Taylor.

Treasurer: Heather Patrick. Nom. by John Lynch sec. by Sue Holzknecht. Secretary: Wendy Nicholls. Nom. by Terry Crowley sec. by Eileen Gasaway.

Editor : Ken McElhanon. Nom. by John Lynch sec. by Wietze Baron.

Ger Reesink. Nom. by M. Lawrence sec. by Perry Schlie.

Committee: Graeme Cane. Nom. by Andrew Taylor sec. by John Swan.

Sue Holzknecht. Nom. by John Lynch sec. by Julie Piau. Janet Holst. Nom. by Sue Holzknecht sec. by John Swan.

As there was only one nominee for offices of president, treasurer, secretary and committee members, those nominated were declared elected.

Voting for editor was done by a show of hands. Ger Reesink was declared elected. Editing responsibilities are to start with LLM no.15.

Because Heather Patrick will be leaving, the new executive committee should begin looking for a suitable replacement and put him/her into the treasurer's office as soon as possible. (Linda Lauck, SIL, has since been appointed to this position.)

11. Other business

Marshall Lawrence encouraged members of the LSPNG to interact with TESL people with a view to writing papers either for the LSPNG conference or the TESLA conference which would provide help to TESL people on problems they face of a linguistic nature.

It was agreed that the prize committee should remain as appointed last year. These are:

Secretary of LSPNG (Wendy Nicholls), Norm Mundhenk, Don Laycock, and Otto Nekitel.

Andrew Taylor on behalf of the members expressed thanks to the outgoing president, treasurer, and secretary, and best wishes to Terry as he takes up a new position.

Meeting ended at 4:45 p.m.

Treasurer's Statement

3:9:82 to 1:7:83

Balance brought forward			K1730.98
CREDITS		: ,	
Papuan Conference receipts less expenses	814.62 121.00		
		693.62	
TESL workshop receipts	385.00		
less typing TESLA Jun82 5 printing TESLA Nov82	55 (paid last yea 135.50	ar)	
distribution of TESLA	133.30		
Nov82 2	0.94 (ch <u>eque ou</u>	tstanding)	
		249.50	
Conference dinner receipts	440.00		
<u>less</u> expenses	440.00		
Special publication 1 (Tok Pisi	n i go we?)	12.50	
Special publication 2 (Language		0.00	
Oceania)		236.67	
Back issues of Kivung		12.00	
Subscription fees less duty stamps	2125.51 9.30		
2000 datey ocumpo		2116,21	
		3320.50	5051.48
DEBITS			
LLM 13 + insert		1167.36	
typing LLM 13		133.37	
typing paper for Special Public	ation 2	6.00	
Niugini News advertisement for	Prize	30.00	
Kivung 12 (1)	·	614.22	
Hebou Nov 82		41.58	
Hebou March 83		30.05	
Postage	4.05		
	98.55		
	236.75		
		339.35	
Sundries (telephone, stationery	, etc.) 32.45		
	20.81	5 5 04	
		53.26	
		2415.19	
Balance in bank a/c 1:7:83		- · - ·	K2636.29

Cheques outstanding (not yet debited from bank a/c)

30 Nov 82	distribution of TESLA Nov82 (airfreight PM-GK)	K20.94
1 Jul 83	Sundries (telephone, photocopies)	20.81
1 Jul 83	Postage	49.85

Prize Fund

As mentioned last year, the Society was given an anonymous donation of K100 to be put in a savings account for the Linguistic Society Prize Fund. This prize was not awarded last year, but this year entries were submitted and so the winner will presumably be announced at Conference and given K50 prize money. The savings account balance stood at K111.52. At an executive committee meeting in June it was decided to close this savings account to simplify matters for the new treasurer, who could open a new savings account close to their place of residence if the society feels it is worth while doing so. The Prize Fund therefore stands at K61.52.

TESL

Last year at the inaugural meeting of the society for Teachers of English in Papua New Guinea, it was decided that this society should be part of the Linguistic Society of PNG, at least for 1983. As shown above, fees taken for the 1982 TESL workshop came to K385.00. So far the following cheques have been written for TESL related activities:

28 Jun 82	typing TESLA Jun82	K55.00
	printing TESLA Nov 82	135.50
	distribution of TESLA Nov 82	20.94
		K211.44

Hence the LSPNG bank account is holding K173.56 for TESL.

S.P.2

The LSPNG bank account is also holding funds given pre-publication for Special Publication 2 - Language Planning in Oceania. So far K236.67 has been received. It was expected that this publication would be ready early 1983. Since printing costs are so high, careful consideration must be given to the quantity printed (over 29 already paid for), since the Society cannot afford to carry a large stock of unsold material.

Our relatively high balance is due to Kivung 12(2) not yet having been printed or distributed, and we also owe the membership the next volume of Language and Linguistics in Melanesia (14). Printing costs continue to increase and maybe postal charges will rise, and we will be paying 1983/4 rates having received 1980/2 subscription fees. This should be of great concern to all of us, and every assistance must be given to ensure that the editors are able to process our publications according to schedule. As long as our membership continue to send their subscription fees despite failure to receive the goods owing, hopefully we will still be able to pay our debts as they incur.

Respectfully submitted.

Heather Patrick Treasurer 1 July 1983

Editor's Report

Volume 13 (<u>LLM</u>) was released at last year's congress, and was followed in 1983 by Volume 12 numbers 1 and 2 (Kivung). Volume 14 (<u>LLM</u>) is to consist of a selection of papers from the 1982 Congress on Papuan Linguistics. Fifteen papers were submitted. They were dealt with as follows:

Redirected by editor 2
Rejected by referees 1

Returned to author for rewrite 4 + 1 completed and ret. to ed.

Still with referees
Withdrawn by author

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There seems to be a tendency on the part of authors to withdraw, or let the paper go into limbo, rather than submit to a rewrite. This suggests the refereeing policy brought in with the inception of <u>LIM</u> was overdue in Melanesian Linguistics.

As can be seen, the slowness of referees is a real problem for the editor. However, I feel I can still promise volume 14 for this year.

Members should continue to promote the journal, and to seek good quality articles for publication.

Since I will be returning to Australia for an indefinite number of years, in January 1984, I cannot continue as editor. My experience as an absentee editor during 1982 showed that it is necessary for the editor to be in PNG. I request the Society to elect a new editor for volumes 15 and 16 of Language and Linguistics in Melanesia. It has been a privilege to serve the Society as founding editor of the renewed journal for the previous two years.

For the information of members.

Ray Johnston

Editor, LSPNG. 30 June 1983

Cileor's Report

Volume 13 (LLM) was released at last year's congress, and was solitowed in 1883 by Volume 12 numbers 1 and 2 (Kivang). Volume 11 (LLM) as me consist of a relection of percention of percention they were consisted. They were a cold with as follows:

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Ray Jókaston

Rdicor, ESPNG. 30 June 1983