

Phyllis and Alan Healey, Telefol Dictionary, Pacific Linguistics C46, 1977. Pp xvii + 358.

G.L. Renck, Yagaria Dictionary, Pacific Linguistics C37, 1977. Pp xxvii + 327.

These are two more in the growing number of dictionaries of Papuan (and Papua New Guinean) languages, both of the Trans-New Guinea Phylum. Both are reasonably large with just over 200 pages of vernacular-English entries and over 100 pages for the English-vernacular section. Both have been compiled by people who have worked in the languages for some time. The Healeys, members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, have based their dictionary on field work done between 1959 and 1969. Renck, a Lutheran missionary, began work in the Yagaria area in 1958; data collection for the dictionary started in 1961 and continued, with some interruptions, until 1976.

Telefol is spoken by about 4500 people in the Telefolmin area of the West Sepik Province and is a member of the Ok Family in the Central and South New Guinea Stock. Yagaria is spoken by approximately 23,000 people (1976 figures) in the Eastern Highlands Province and belongs to the East-Central Family of the East New Guinea Highlands Stock.

Each language has more than one dialect; each dictionary is based on one particular dialect, with very few words restricted to other dialects being included. In the case of Yagaria it is worth noting here that some linguistic study has been carried out in at least three dialects. Renck's linguistic, literacy and literature work has been in the Move dialect, while Haiman has studied Hua (see e.g. J. Haiman, Hua: a Papuan Language of the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea, Benjamins: Studies in Language Companion Series, 1980) and members of the New Tribes Mission have studied the Ologuti dialect, producing literacy materials and literature, including a translation of the whole New Testament.

The Telefol dictionary is aimed at readers who are educated specialists interested in Telefol language and culture such as linguists, anthropologists and expatriate church workers. It grew out of what was originally an aid in the Healeys' own study of the language and contains as much relevant grammatical and semantic information in the entries as possible. The Healeys realize that in its present form it is too complex for most Telefolmin speakers of English and not suited to their needs and they express regret that time prevented modifications which may have helped to make it easier to use (v).

Renck does not make his intended audience explicit. His dictionary is not greatly different in size and style from that of the Healeys, but it is probably easier for the non-specialist to use as the entries appear less dominated by abbreviations and symbols and often contain sentence examples. There is, however, one important

aspect of the Yagaria dictionary which he does specify. Up to the mid 1970s the Yagaria area had experienced much more culture change than the Telefol area and this had an influence on the language which Renck tried to record by including what he calls "a cross-section through all layers of the language" (ix) - the layers being (a) that mainly understood by only the older generation, (b) that in the middle understood by all and (c) that of the younger generation. This last layer has meant the inclusion of newly created phrases, new meanings for existing expressions and loanwords. Quite a few loanwords are included, for example the words for canoe, car, (playing) cards, carpenter, cartridge, case (for carrying) and cat. Unfortunately, although there is a general statement about the origin of loanwords on page xv, the source of individual words is not provided. In contrast, in the Telefol dictionary there are very few loanwords listed but their origins are stated. In neither case, however, are criteria for deciding whether or not to include a loanword discussed. This is a pity as it is an interesting and real problem for the dictionary compiler in Papua New Guinea today.

The authors of both dictionaries point out that they do not provide an exhaustive coverage of these languages' lexical wealth (Healeys, iv; Renck, ix). Practical considerations, especially time, prevent it. Nevertheless they do present an impressive number of entries and for this reason it would have been of interest to the linguist reader at least if the authors had said something of their experience of data collecting and the methods used.

Both introductions are helpful, explaining how to use the dictionary, and including lists of abbreviations and symbols, and information on the orthography, alphabetical order and the arrangement of entries. There is some material on grammatical classification, but for grammatical details readers are referred to other publications by the same authors. The Healeys, however, do explain the verb stem system as it is complex and verbs are the most important word class in Telefol. Renck's introduction also has a brief outline of post-contact historical and cultural development, a useful map which includes dialect boundaries, and a long set of acknowledgements which reminds the reader that dictionary compilation normally involves the time, effort and patience of many people.

The problem of alphabetical order arises in both dictionaries. All readers will, of course, know English alphabetical order but there are problems in both these languages which lead to variations from the English order. Renck uses the apostrophe for the glottal stop in Yagaria but does not assign it a position in the alphabet. The glottal stop does not occur in word initial position and when it occurs in medial and final position it is ignored in the ordering of entries, except that where two entries differ only by one having a glottal stop, the one with the glottal stop is listed second. E.g., a 'female' is placed after a 'lid' (1) and va'e 'men's domain' after vae 'wine' (198); while nou<sup>a</sup> 'husband' precedes nouva 'toilet, for men only' (170). This seems like a concession to English tradition where the apostrophe is not part of the alphabet, rather than a

decision on linguistic principle, and incidentally helps to reinforce the idea that some English speakers have that because the glottal stop is represented only by an apostrophe, as it often is in orthographies in Papua New Guinea, it is not a real sound and need not be taken seriously. A different decision would probably have been made if the symbol for the glottal stop in the Yagaria orthography was, say, c or x.

The Yagaria glides, written as ae, ao, ei, and ou, are treated as two separate letters, which is common practice. Stress is not indicated in the practical orthography but is marked in the dictionary as it is felt to be useful, particularly for non-native speakers. The word with stress on the first syllable is listed first in the case of otherwise identical words.

Alphabetical order is a more complex matter in Telefol. The orthography has five digraphs: kw representing /kʷ/, ng representing /ŋ/, and aa, ii and uu representing long vowels. It is pointed out on page xvi that kw and ng are listed after k and n respectively, while the long vowels immediately follow the corresponding short vowels. None of the digraphs has a separate section in the dictionary. kw occurs word-initially but is simply included at the end of the k section, while ng does not occur in word-initial position. The ordering of the vowel digraphs means, e.g., that iibaán 'a big uninhabited forest' is listed between ibaán 'he is sick' and ibánan 'it is bad weather' (76) and in 'nasal mucus', phlegm' is between in 'liver' and inábók 'centipede' (87).

There are also cases where two separate symbols are used for a single phoneme. b and p represent allophones of /b/ and k and g represent allophones of /k/, while in addition intervocalic k represents /kk/ and g after a velar consonant represents /d/. The Healeys note (xvi) that this results in some closely related entries being widely separated in the dictionary.

Tone is marked in the dictionary although it is not marked in the practical orthography. An unmarked vowel indicates a down toneme and the symbol ' over a vowel indicates an up toneme. Vowels with down tonemes, i.e. the unmarked ones, are listed before those with up tonemes.

Entries in both dictionaries are quite similar and orthodox in format, with meanings expressed in enough detail to be useful. The Telefol dictionary is stronger on grammatical and collocational information while the Yagaria has a good number of sentence examples, which the Telefol lacks. Both make good use of cross-referencing.

The English-vernacular section in both is only a bare listing of words and vernacular glosses and cannot be used without reference to the vernacular-English side. This is made quite clear by the authors and in fact Renck calls his an index. (The Telefol one does contain a little more information.)

The Telefol dictionary has a ten-page appendix listing words for types of natural species such as animals, lizards, fungi and yams and a couple of other items.

Both of these dictionaries are produced in the usual attractive manner of Pacific Linguistics, clearly set out with effective use of various type faces, good printing, a sturdy hard cover and a reasonable price. There appear to be very few errors. Two were noted in the Yagarla dictionary, viz., '23' should be '24' phonemes on page ix and 'in' should be 'is' about ten lines from the foot of page xi.

To conclude, these two volumes are valuable contributions to the recording of the lexical wealth of the languages of the island of New Guinea.

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H.G. Widdowson Explorations in Applied Linguistics.  
Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1979. pp x + 273.

This book is a collection of twenty previously published papers by H.G. Widdowson. Since these papers first appeared, many language teachers have jumped on the 'communicative approach' bandwagon advocated by the author. But the purpose of this book is not to keep the bandwagon going or to pick up any new riders, but to bring it in for a good check-up and possible servicing. Widdowson explains in the introduction (p.2): "I am particularly anxious to stress the exploratory and illustrative character of these papers because there is a danger at the present time that the approach which they deal with is being accepted without sufficient examination."

The major explorations in the book are in three main areas: theoretical linguistic description, the role of applied linguistics, and the job of the language teacher. Widdowson objects to the narrow definition of linguistic enquiry as proposed by Chomsky. Instead, along with Firth and others, he believes language must be studied in its social context. Linguists should move from the study of the sentence to the study of discourse where meanings are negotiated through interaction. The work of applied linguistics, he says, is to mediate between theory and practice, but there is no reason why the linguists' model of language should serve as the underlying model for language teaching. He believes, therefore, that applied linguists should develop their own model of linguistic description relevant to language teaching. Language teachers should also go beyond the