

Editorial Comment

KIVUNG is barely one year old but can be confidently pronounced a healthy and vigorously growing baby. Overseas subscriptions show a steady growth and the number of local subscribers has doubled, thanks to the Melanesian Pidgin classes conducted by the Society for its members. As secretary of KIVUNG, I want to thank our volunteer teachers, John Baker, Brian Hull, Singut Katamini, Martin Kugane, Mark Lynch, Joseph Nami, Thomas Ritako, and William Tomasetti for their generous assistance.

Not only are SIL members among our busiest contributors but the SIL printing press in Ukarumpa has done exemplary work in producing KIVUNG for which I am most thankful.

Special thanks are due to Francis C. Johnson, the outgoing president of the Society whose guidance has been invaluable in this crucial first year.

The use of a smaller type has enabled us to increase the size of the journal. In this issue R.N.H. Bulmer describes Karam colour categories; another striking example of man's widely diverging view of the universe.

Anne Cochran's pilot study of Yoliapi grammar is simultaneously a pilot project of KIVUNG. Should sufficient interest be shown in this kind of report on research in progress, KIVUNG intends to initiate a separate series of monographs (available at cost price to members of the Society) on current research in New Guinean languages.

Sarah Gudschinsky, international authority on literacy, emphasises in her article the relevance of the tagmemic approach to the teaching of reading. Ellis W. Deibler Jr. could perhaps be called a rebel among tagmemicists: his fourth (sememic) level seems an unintentional (?) blow to the traditional trimodal structure of tagmemics.

The blow administered to generative transformational grammar by a representative of the Prague School, Rudolph Zimek, currently lecturing at Monash University, is intentional indeed but was acknowledged as a well-supported attack, even by adherents of GG at the 1968 Workshop of the Linguistic Society of Australia.

Geoffrey Smith describes the perils of employing a lingua franca, however vigorous, in Tanzania with obvious implications on the fate of Melanesian Pidgin in Papua and New Guinea.

Speaking of Melanesian Pidgin, I wish to apologise for not bringing articles on Pidgin, as promised, in this issue. There will be a conference on Pidgin in Port Moresby next February, and KIVUNG hopes to devote a full issue to Pidgin after the conference.

The Editor.