

stracts in English or the language being discussed, this is not usually possible.

The volume is typeset, but readable. The binding, however, is very poor, at least for use in the tropics. At the conclusion of the volume is a list of addresses of contributors, which is particularly useful for continuing dialogue.

This volume work provides a useful insight into a number of areas and issues. The editors set out to promote pidgin-creole studies and overcome 'the certain deficit' which they note in the number of contemporary German-speaking creolists. The existence of further, and much longer, volumes in succeeding years testifies to their success.

Received 9 March 1992

The Melanesian content in Tok Pisin. By Rick J. Goulden. Pacific Linguistics B-104. Canberra: Australian National University, 1990. xii + 194 pp. AUSS\$27.30.

*Reviewed by Ger P. Reesink
Leiden University*

This work is a revision of Goulden's 1987 doctoral dissertation (University of Toronto), incorporating many references to - especially - Keesing (1988) and other publications that had not been made available before.

Goulden justifies the name Tok Pisin (as opposed to Neo-Melanesian, Tok Boi, etc.) in chapter 2. He summarises what is known or hypothesised about the history of TP and follows Keesing in assuming a close link between TP, Bislama and Pijin as developed from Melanesian Pidgin English,

originating on plantations of Queensland, Samoa, New Hebrides, before 1880.

The TP material of Goulden is basically the variety spoken in West New Britain, where he did his fieldwork on both TP and Lusi.

In chapter 1 he introduces his topic and accounts for his fieldwork. His topic is to show how TP (and by extension Bislama and Pijin) is influenced by Melanesian Austronesian (MNAN) languages. The substratum hypothesis is contrasted with other models in chapter 3. Other models that are discussed briefly are: 1) partial learning, subsuming simplification and reduction, 2) internally generated innovation, with a separate section on universals. Substratum influence is effected mainly by calquing of superstrate vocabulary on vernacular grammar. G actually allows for an interaction of these different factors. Rather than looking at just one substrate language, G maintains that a number of MNAN languages should be considered. Comparison between one variety of TP (or broader: Bislamic languages) with just one substrate language (as e.g. Mosel (1980) did with regard to Tolai and TP) would naturally fail to find an identical match between TP and that language. The appendices provide materials from selections out of a total of 27 Austronesian languages, spoken in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea (mainly New Britain).

Based upon these data the chapters 4-7 give evidence for Melanesian Austronesian substratum of Tok Pisin in Phonology (ch.4), Morphology of Noun

Phrase (ch.5), of Verb Phrase (ch.6) and Clause Syntax (ch.7). Chapter 8 contains the conclusions.

Phonological influences are discussed with reference to absence of aspiration in voiceless stops, variable prenasalization of voiced stops, absence of fricatives and affricates, and reduction of English vowels to a five vowel system à la Melanesian Austronesian.

Chapter 5, morphology of NP, discusses TP plural marking by means of the free morpheme *ol* which is semantically transparent, and *bilong* as possessive marker, with other functions as well: purpose, origin, habitual agent—rather similar to possessive markers in MNAN.

Chapter 6, morphology of VP, deals with the absence of tense marking (although *bin* is occasionally used as anterior marker in West New Britain TP); aspect: post-verbal free morpheme in MNAN leads to *pinis*; mood: *bai* in WNB TP can be seen as irrealis, a common feature of MNAN.

Chapter 7, Grammatical roles in the sentence, relates *i* and instances of double *mi* or *yu* to subject referencing in MNAN; and transitive *-im* is traced to transitive suffixes or object indexing in MNAN.

In the conclusions, chapter 8, G states that a number of TP morphemes, although lexically derived from English, have taken on MNAN functions and meanings. He suggests that MPE was already reasonably stabilized by the time it reached New Britain. Since it remained a lingua franca it could not develop too many complications (in morphology, for example) without im-

peding communication between representatives of different speech communities. Even some internal productivity was based upon a common MNAN core. Although G refers to Mühlhäusler's independent development approach, he does not give any examples of innovations as opposed to the wealth of substratum models that was (and is) available for Tok Pisin.

The book nicely compiles data from a number of MNAN languages that have parallels in TP. A more concrete demonstration of differences between what G calls the Bislamic languages and other Pidgins (p.121) or among these languages themselves would have been helpful. Likewise, in the light of the evidence presented, a mere statement that "all these processes (simplification, substratum influence, innovation or universals) are intricately bound at all stages of development" (p.120) only leaves the reader wondering which features of TP can be ascribed to which of these processes.

References

- Keesing, R.M. 1988. *Melanesian Pidgin and the Oceanic substrate*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Mosel, U. 1980. *Tolai and Tok Pisin: the influence of the substratum on the development of New Guinea Pidgin*. Pacific Linguistics B-73. Canberra: Australian National University.

Received 9 March 1992