

R. and A. Loving. 1975. Awa Dictionary
Pacific Linguistics, C30. Canberra:
Australian National University. xliiv +203.

This is a valuable record of one of Papua New Guinea's highland languages. Once again the authors have produced a thorough and reliable work from their many years of research among speakers of Awa.

Included in the preface is a grammatical sketch, a necessary adjunct to the lexicon of any exotic language. The sketch follows tagmemic theory, and is particularly suited for its intended audience, that of English-speaking field workers. It was previously published in modified form in H. McKaughan (ed.), The Languages of the Eastern Family of the East New Guinea Highland Stock, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1973). Most of the authors' prior works on the Awa language were also either published or reprinted in that volume.

Dictionary entries are clear and concise, with full words rather than stems given. Such an approach is not only suited to field workers, but future Awa speakers of English will also benefit from the consequent ease of reference. The basic distinction between verb and non-verb forms has been indicated throughout, as has the three-way distinction among non-verbs according to morphophonemic processes. Awa entries include the digraphs ah and eh alphabetized as units following a and e respectively. This causes some differences between Awa entries and the English index, with sequences such as ay falling ahead of ah in Awa, but with the reverse in English. This aberration, however, does not appear to be particularly disconcerting.

Two additions could profitably have been made to the prefaced pages. Firstly, examples at each point in the discussion of non-verbs, verbs and

general format (sections 4-6 respectively) would have facilitated the reader's comprehension. Secondly, a short sample of narrative or dialogue following the grammar sketch would have illustrated the relationship of lexical items to actual speech.

However, these points do not detract from the value of this work. The Lovings are to be congratulated for the accuracy and thoroughness of their research.

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