

HEBOU 17

Newsletter of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea

January, 1985

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In Hebou 15, Sep 1983, it was noted that Ray Johnston intended to finish LLM 14. There have been a number of problems with typing and correction, but I hope that the SIL printshop will be able to get it out quickly.

Lest LLM 15 suffers the same fate as many of its predecessors, I would urgently call for papers. I particularly would like to see contributions from PNG-authors. Papers delivered at the annual meeting last July may be included.

Please help me to produce a good volume, and respond by submitting a paper to: LLN editor, Box 418, P.O. Ukarumpa via Lae.

Ger Reesink

NOTICE FROM THE LINGUISTIC SOCIETY SECRETARY

Many have written to me asking where their issue of "Language and Linguistics in Melanesia" has gotten to. Due to delays in the printing of LLM 14, and LLM 13 being mailed months before LLM 12, many people think their latest LLM hasn't been sent. This probably is not the case. LLM was not issued last year (i.e., 1984). Please note the following information:

LLM Vol 12(1) was mailed mid-February 1983.

LLM Vol 12(2) was mailed October 1983

LLM Vol 13 was mailed October 1982- note that this was before Vol 12 came out!

LLM Vol 14 should be out early this year (1985).

Special Publication 2 is delayed for an indefinite period.

Mike Colburn
Box 418, Ukarumpa via Lae

DATE OF NEXT LINGUISTIC SOCIETY CONFERENCE
AND TESL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The next annual conference of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea and the TESL Association will be held in Goroka probably early July of this year. The exact date and details will be announced later.

Also of interest is an International Symposium on Verb Serialization to be held at Ukarumpa in September. This event is being sponsored jointly by the PNG Linguistic Society and the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

TESL CONFERENCE 4-6 JULY 1984

Some 60 representatives of all sectors of the PNG education system, with the exception of Community Schools, gathered at the University of Technology in Lae (Unitech) for the Third Annual TESL Association conference and Workshop. There was no set theme but in his opening remarks the chairman (John Swan) suggested "Getting to Know Your Neighbour" as a desirable aim. Judging by the many very positive comments about the opportunities the conference provided, both formal and informal, for exchange of views and information it does seem that delegates left with a better appreciation of where their own work fits into the total pattern. A second particularly gratifying feature of this year's Conference was the contribution made by young Papua New Guinean teachers. This bodes well for the future.

Andrew Kavana of Unitech Language and Social Science Department gave the opening presentation based on his studies of motivation among High School students to learn and use English. His talk attempted to explain "Why Papua New Guineans do not use English outside of Class". The essence of his argument (to be published in full like the other presentations in the next edition of TESLA) was that Papua New Guineans are more sensitive to the views of fellow Papua New Guineans than to native speakers of English in regard to the use of English. They will try to avoid embarrassment or showing off in front of fellow-Papua New Guineans who do not speak much English; and they may have an inferiority complex about their own English in the presence of speakers of a higher status. They may therefore aim at an in-group norm and not try to improve their English beyond that norm. Andrew suggested two remedies. At school, steps should be taken to deal with students who ridicule other's use of English. At University, professional rather than provincial associations should be encouraged, thus cutting across vernacular linguistic boundaries.

Dennis Moore of the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG)

Education Department presented the results of an inquiry into Concepts About Print among pupils at 3 rural community schools. His conclusion was that whereas the average child in the American, Danish and New Zealand school systems had learned practically all the key concepts by the end of the second school year, PNG community school children continue to develop them throughout their enrolment at school, and by the beginning of Grade 6 a sizeable proportion of these pupils still have major deficits in their understanding of letter-word concepts and in the more advanced skills of attending to print detail and punctuation.

The theme of the importance of reading well and widely was taken up by several other speakers at the Conference: Tony Bex (UPNG) who gave a paper on "Reading to Understand", Nigel Stanley (Lae High School) "The Place of Literature in Education", and Craig Volker (Aiyura National High School) "Teaching Literature in a National High School."

Robynne Walsh (Unitech) gave a talk on "Oral Communicative Competence"; Bill Robinson (Unitech) on "Problems with Computers in Language Teaching"; Nick Parker (P & T College, Lae) on "Preparing a Tailormade Glossary for Technical Training Institutions"; while Colin Barron (Unitech) examined Unitech examinations and came up with some interesting conclusions about the relative proportions of different types of questions.

A good deal of attention was given during the Conference to developments in High School and National High School. Teresa Dingu (Aiyura National High School) one of the only two Papua New Guinean teachers of English in a National High School spoke very personally of the stresses and strains of pioneering at this level. This talk was considered one of the highlights of the Conference.

Nancy Kunert (Aiyura National High School) outlined how she set up and runs a Resource room at Aiyura. John Swan (Unitech) gave a workshop on the National High School English Resource Book project. So far Volume I ("Study Skills") is in the schools, with Volume II ("Reading Skills") to follow in the near future. The overall project involves five volumes each focussing on a particular skill.

Day 3 was given over to three members of the High School English Curriculum Development Unit - Jill Tennison, Linden Salter-Duke, and John Berry - who covered a wide range of topics:

- (1) how Education III would effect High Schools
- (2) progress in the adaptation of JB Heaton's Singapore textbook 'Create and Communicate' to the PNG situation
- (3) the need for teaching speech to Papua New Guinean learners of English
- and (4) the supply of Graded Readers to Provincial High Schools under Education III.

Relevant to (2) (above) Mike Smith (UPNG) who had used "Create and Communicate" while working in Singapore offered a fairly critical view of this text book even for use 'in its native land'!

There were two innovations at this year's Conference: (1) an overseas speaker and (2) a panel discussion. Dr. Lawrence Johnson of RELC in Singapore was at Unitech on other business and was invited to give a paper. He chose as his topic the teaching of Composition. This talk was unfortunately cut short when during it the air conditioning broke down and the speaker became overheated.

Members of the panel - Colin Barron (Unitech), Janet Holst (GTC), Mike Smith (UPNG) and Jill Tennison (CDU) - fortunately did not become too heated during their discussion of questions submitted by the audience. A lot of good sense was talked during this session and it is considered this should become a regular part of future Conference proceedings.

Another regular part of Conference proceedings, the AGM, was held late on Friday afternoon and as a result was poorly attended. In future it is suggested that the AGM should be held earlier in the Conference.

Some steps were taken towards setting up a proper constitution for the Association. In particular, the composition of the Executive Committee was agreed upon. In view of the fact that many delegates had had to leave before the AGM it was decided NOT to elect representatives from some sectors, e.g., NHSS, UPNG, the tertiary colleges, without arranging sectoral votes. Three members of the outgoing committee, viz. John Swan (Chairman), Jill Tennison (Secretary) and Kerry Barr (Treasurer) would continue in office until such time as ballots had been held to select representatives from the various sectors, from amongst whom the new committee would choose its chief officers. In the interests of continuity it was agreed that the outgoing chairman should be an ex-officio member of the new committee on each occasion.

Despite the attempts by the notorious Lae climate to dampen the proceedings by pouring down vast volumes of rainwater, the conference was judged highly successful. Not the least memorable parts were the soiree chez Swan and the Dinner (shared with the Papua New Guinea Linguistic Society) which this time took the form of a Tongan feast with accompanying entertainment by Tongan dancers and members of the Kas Theatre Group.

JOHN SWAN

TESL ASSOCIATION

LINGUISTIC CONFERENCE

The 18th Annual Congress of the Linguistic Society was held at the University of Technology in Lae from July 3-5. The Linguistic part of the conference was very much low-key, emphasized by the absence of a guest speaker. This, in turn, provided for an ideal atmosphere for those who presented a paper for the first time. In the remainder of this report I will mention the papers, 'presenters' and give a short (necessarily inadequate) summary.

It was unfortunate that Naihuwo Ahai (UPNG) did not make it to Lae to present a Discussion on Issues Raised at the Recent Education Department Forum.

Andrew Kavana (Unitech) presented a paper called "Attitudes of English learners Towards English Speakers". The paper represented the results of a questionnaire showed correlates between fluency and use and the attitude of the learners to English speakers as such.

Should a model of education "prepare a few for high level achievement" or should it stress "development from the grassroots up"? Opting for the second model, Mike Olsson suggested a cautious course towards this end in his paper "Merging formal with nonformal through vernacular education."

"There is no sign that spending four years at an English-medium university, possibly in the wake of 6 years in High School and NHS, leads students to ditch T(ok) P(isin) in the way many appear to have dropped their use of vernacular. They do not appear to be shifting to English as a language of preference." This is John Swan (Unitech)'s conclusion in "Use of Tok Pisin by Students at Unitech: First Impressions". The conclusion is based on the responses to a questionnaire.

Graham Cane(UPNG) had us in stitches with his examples of various types of English (?) humor in his presentation of the linguistic basis of humour in English.

An interesting feature of this Conference was the Panel Discussion on the Topic of language and society. The panel answered questions ranging from the the interest in vernacular pre-schools to the recognition of PNG English as an English dialect in its own right.

Geoff Smith (Unitech) enlivened his presentation with some fascinating slides of Morobe spots. Why would Austronesian languages in Morobe have a less developed counting system than Proto-Oceanic and Proto-Austronesian, for which a complete decimal series of numerals has been reconstructed? Geoff suggests that may be after the Austronesian-speaking migrants had arrived "their complete decimal numeral set became redundant in the social and economic context in which they found themselves." and that this would account for "the regression of numeral series."

"Qui ne dit mot consent". This may have been true in the case of English (speaking) puritan(?) missionaries who in Vanuatu may have refrained from using vocabulary denoting underclothing, cognac (brandy) etc. thus allowing the French terms for these items to enter into Bislama (Vanuatu Tok

Pisin). John Lynch (UPNG) presented some of his "finds", as such contributing to the social history of Bislama. Though certain "French loans" can be explained from typically French dominated social fields, the relative infrequency of such loans against a superficially "equal" status of French and English appears to indicate that English and not French is the prestige lexical source language for Bislama.

Anne-Marie (UPNG) treated us to an interesting study of the effect of phonological structural constraints on PNG English. If, generally in PNG, vernaculars tend to avoid wordfinal consonant clusters, what effect would this then have on the use of e.g. the past tense which frequently results in double consonants? Anne Marie tabulated the various phonological and grammatical "solutions".

If vastly different languages in the same geographic area employ phonologically similar addressive (kinship) terms, accidental similarity becomes rather unlikely and a "borrowing hypothesis" may have to be evoked. Social, historical and lexical parameters, may well indicate Malay influence in this respect on a number of West Sepik languages, according to Wietze Baron (SIL).

Ger Reesink (SIL) talked about reversals in modal and affected meaning, illustrating this phenomena from Usan and English. He focussed on the use of lexical items with a negative connotation to express affection, the elocutionary force of using statements for questions and the other way round.

That Tense not necessarily only correlates with Time was once again demonstrated by Lillian Fleischmann (SIL) when she showed how the Bine utilize tense forms for stylistic effects.

Linda Jones (SIL) represented a contributor from outside Papua New Guinea, presenting a paper on a Papuan language from Irian Jaya (Indonesia). "Is Yawa an Ergative Language?". Not easy to decide when certain features suggest so and others don't.

When "long vowels" have a limited distribution, the question of their underlying value arises. Could they be "explained" as the result of Phonological rules applying to forms which lack the length distinction? Would this be a diachronic or synchronic derivation? How abstract could synchronic underlying forms be? these are some of the questions which Bob Bugenhagen (SIL) raised in his paper "Madap-Mbula Vowel Length and the Question of Abstractness".

Perry Schlie (SIL) sought to apply the theory of 'lexicase' to Kara. Very interesting data crucially involving the function of Patient.

Finally, Steve Blewett (SIL) presented a paper in which he traced the realis/irrealis distinction in Manam Discourse. This distinction which has rough parallels in many PNG languages clearly deserves closer attention.

The best presentations, however, were by the organisers of the Tongan Feast and one called "Cocktail 'Do' chez Swan", a very enjoyable "wash-out" indeed.

MINUTES OF THE 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The meeting was held at the University of Technology, Lae, 5 July, 1984.

The meeting opened at 4:30 PM.

1. Present:

Wietze Baron
Colin Barron
Les Bruce
Robert Bugenhagen
Graeme Cane
Mike Colburn
Lillian Fleischman
Andrew Kavana
John Lynch
Wendy Nicholls
Ger Reesink
Anne-Marie Smith
John Swan
John Z'Graggen

Apologies: Norm Mundhenk, Sue Holzknacht

2. Minutes of the last meeting were distributed and accepted unanimously.

Matters arising from last year's minutes:

Membership of CIPL -

It was noted that the LSPNG was now officially a member. John Lynch suggested maintaining the membership, saying that it may take several years to reap any benefit from it. It was generally agreed to do this.

3. President's report

John Swan, the president, reported verbally. He commented on the significant gap left by Terry Crowley (previous president). He extended the Society's best wishes to Andrew Taylor on his departure from PNG.

Three executive committee meetings were held at Ukarumpa during the year. Linda Lauch was appointed as treasurer and Ger Reedink agreed to take on the position of editor when he returned to PNG.

John noted that arrangements for this year's conference had begun at the end of 1983. He felt that it was valuable to have a wider theme from time to time and was very pleased with the way the conference had gone.

We are still awaiting the results of correspondence regarding reprinting rights.

John commented that the TESL Association had successfully established its own identity without severing contact with the Linguistic Society.

4. Treasurer's report.

Copies of the treasurer's report were distributed at the meeting. (The report is included at the end of Hebou.)

It was noted that the balance of K4228 also includes a small amount for the prize fund which was transferred to the general fund from a bank account. The prize was not given this year.

Volume 14 is still in process and the printing and postage costs estimated at about K800 will also be taken out of this balance.

K236 had been received for Special Publication No. 2.

Moved by John Lynch and seconded by Ger Reesink that the treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

5. Editor's report.

Ger gave a verbal report and commented on the problems caused by the extended period he spent in an isolated area, and the previous editor leaving the country. Volume 14 is still being corrected but was expected before the end of the year. (Note from the Secretary- Vol. 14 will not be out until early this year.) Ger is responsible for Vol. 15 but warned that this too might be late as only three articles had been submitted, one of which was rejected. The other two are currently being reviewed. Ger wished that his report would also serve as a request for READABLE articles. PNG-authored articles are desired.

The president suggested the inclusion of some papers from the present congress.

The question of the correlation of years and journals was raised. Vol. 14 is the 1983, Volume 15 is the 1984 issue.

The president thanked the editor for his effort.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Nominations were as follows:

President: John Swan (Nom. Ger Reesink, sec. John Lynch)
 Secretary: Mike Colburn (Nom. Les Bruce, sec. Wendy Nicholls)
 Treasurer: Linda Lauch (Nom. John Swan, sec. Ger Reesink)
 Editor: Ger Reesink (Nom. John Swan, sec. Anne-Marie Smith)
 Committee: John Lynch (Nom. Anne-Marie Smith, sec. Les Bruce)
 Andrew Kavana (Nom. John Lynch, sec. Graeme Cane)
 Mike Fullingham (Nom. Linda Lauch, sec. Lillian Fleischman)

The committee members were to be elected with the proviso that at least one member should also be on the TESL committee. John Swan will again fulfill this.

John, Linda, and Ger were willing to continue in their respective positions so were declared elected. As there was only one nominee for the offices of secretary and committee members, those nominated were declared elected.

7. Proposal re International Conference on Verb Serialization in 1985

Ger Reesink reported on the suggested International Verb Serialization Symposium to be co-sponsored by SIL and the LSPNG.

Coordinators are as follows:

North America: Talmy Givon
 Australia: Ray Johnston
 PNG: Ger Reesink

Steering Committee: Ger, John Lynch, John Swan

He said there were to be 12 invited guests from N. America, several linguists from outside America, such as Andrew Pawley and Bill Foley, and a few SIL participants. The first week in September was the proposed date for the symposium.

Ger put three questions to the meeting:

- 1) Is it agreed to co-sponsor the symposium?
- 2) Is the composition of the committee agreed to?
- 3) Could financial aid be offered?

There was general agreement to the first two and it was decided that a limited amount of financial help could be offered.

There was some discussion as to whether the symposium would take the place of the annual congress for the LSPNG. The executive committee was against this as it would not then coincide with the TESL workshop. (The only suitable time for the TESL Assoc. is the first week in July). John Lynch gave several reasons why he felt the congress and the symposium

should be separate:

- 1) the TESL workshop as mentioned
- 2) The fact that because participation in the symposium was by invitation only, very few members of the Society would be able to give papers.
- 3) The 2nd International Papuan Conference is planned as the LSPNG annual congress for 1986. He felt that, although this had a wider scope and more people would be able to be involved, some could be prevented from giving papers for two consecutive years.

Moved by John Lynch and seconded by Ger Reesink that the Verb Serialization Symposium should be separate from the LSPNG annual conference.

Carried.

8. Proposal from Unitech Librarian

John Swan presented a proposal from PNGUT's librarian regarding a current awareness tool for English Teachers/Lecturers in PNG. The librarian was offering a PNG-wide current contents of English Language journals service through liason with UPNG, Goroka, and SIL libraries.

Moved by John Swan and seconded by Graeme Cane that the Society accept the offer.

Amendment moved by John Lynch, seconded by Colin Barron, that LSPNG favours the establishment of such a service as proposed in the memorandum from the PNGUT librarian with the addition of "journals of linguistics". Carried.

9. Other business

1985 Congress

Graeme Cane raised the question of the venue for next year's congress. Ger suggested that the location of the linguistic Society Congress be where TESL Association desires it to be as it is desirable to have both meetings at the same place and time. John Swan pointed out that SIL should be the next host if the usual pattern of rotation was to be followed. Anne-Marie Smith suggested that Goroka would be a favourable place as there had been a good response from TESL members there in 1982. It was felt that there may not be sufficient facilities at Ukarumpa to host both conferences. SIL members stated they were willing to travel to Goroka for the congress.

The meeting was in favour of holding the 1985 conference in Goroka.

The meeting closed at 5:20 PM.

2597.05

Special Publication 1

3.93

TOTAL INCOME

+ 2925.48

Expenses:

TESL - 1982-83 profit	173.56
TESL - 1983 conference profit	166.35
Hebou Oct. 1983	46.64
Kivung 12(2)	614.46
Hebou April 1984	21.76
1984 CIPL membership	85.70
Bank charges	12.50
Postage:	
Kivung 12(2)	118.30
other	<u>77.90</u>
	196.20
Sundries (photocopying, stationery, etc.)	<u>36.43</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES

- 1353.60

Balance as of 30 June, 1984

K4228.09

Bank balance	4217.42
Petty cash	<u>10.67</u>
Total on hand	K4228.09

TESL

Since TESL is now a separate organization, funds of theirs which we had been holding were transferred to them in July 1983. This included their 1982-83 profit (K173.56) and the 1983 conference proceeds (K166.35).

Prize Fund

In June 1983 the savings account holding the prize money was closed and the balance of K111.52 was transferred to the Ling. Soc. bank account. K50 was given at the 1983 conference (included as part of the conference expenses in the treasurer's statement). That leaves a balance of K61.52 in the Prize Fund.

Our healthy balance is due to the fact that we have been receiving subscription fees each year and the publications have been at a much slower rate. Also the US\$ - Kina exchange rate is better than it was a couple of years ago, so the subscriptions from institutions in the US are worth more in Kina. At present the bank account is holding K236.67 for Special Publication 2 - Language Planning in Oceania which is still in the works. When Volume 14 of Language and Linguistics in Melanesia is ready, we will need to pay its printing and mailing costs (probably about K800?).

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lauck, Treasurer

30 June, 1984