

Papers in New Guinea Linguistics No. 24. Canberra: Department of Linguistics, Research School of Pacific Studies, The Australian National University, 1986 [Pacific Linguistics, A-70]. Pp. iv + 312 (including 4 maps). AUS \$32.70.

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This volume contains eleven papers. Of these, ten are concerned with languages of Papua New Guinea. The other paper, from the Molucca islands, is one of six in the volume that were presented at the 15th Pacific Science Congress, Dunedin, in February 1983. As befitting congress papers, these six are relatively short and focussed in topic.

In the first of the congress papers, 'Papuan Languages and the Possibility of Semantic Classification,' D. Laycock presents sets of related concepts (e.g., 'hand, branch, wing, handle') some of which may be referred to with a single lexical item in a given language. Laycock proposes that the semantic groupings could be used to plot isoglosses.

The next two papers, also from the congress, deal with serialization. First, W. Sciler outlines the development of verb serialization into noun classification in Imonda and Waris. In the following paper, L. Bruce shows that serial verb constructions in Alamblak occur along a continuum from productive syntactic constructions to fully lexicalized forms.

These are followed by two papers dealing with language classifications. The contribution by M. Chlenov is a brief (4 1/2 page) discussion of the classification of the North Halmahera languages from the Molucca islands.

In the first paper of the volume not from the congress, 'The Bosavi Language Family,' D. Shaw presents the findings of a survey of the languages surrounding Mt Bosavi. The fourteen languages of the region are shown to form one family divided into three subfamilies. In addition, the relationship of the Bosavi languages to surrounding languages is discussed.

The next three papers return to grammatical descriptions. S. Holzknecht's contribution is 'A Morphology and Grammar of Adzera (Amari Dialect).' After a discussion of the setting of the language, this outline grammar proceeds through phonology and mor-

phophonemics, the noun phrase, and the verb phrase before finishing with a discussion of questions, conditionals, and coordination.

In another congress paper, G. Scott discusses an apparent ergative marker in Fore. Scott demonstrates that this marker is not a syntactic marker, but that instead it plays a semantic role in allowing low animacy noun phrases to be used as agents.

The following paper, 'A sketch of nominal concord in Abu,' is a revised version of O. Nekitel's B.A. Honours thesis. After outlining the types of concord found in Abu', Nekitel argues for the existence of nineteen noun classes.

The last three papers of the volume deal with sociolinguistic issues. In the final congress paper, S. Wurm proposes that the simplification of verbal morphology found in Coastal Kiwai is due to a combination of Western influence and rejection of traditional culture.

In 'The Presentational Style of Women in Huli Disputes,' L. Goldman analyzes the linguistic characteristics of women's speech in village court cases.

Finally, in 'Tolai Kinship Concepts: Correspondence between Kuanua and Tok Pisin Terminology,' J. Fingleton proposes that Tolai use of Tok Pisin kinship terminology is consistently shaped on the basis of the distinctions used in Kuanua (Tolai).

Wurm's paper would have benefitted from evidence that the simplification of verbal morphology in Coastal Kiwai was actually due to Western influence in light of the fact that the other Kiwaian languages actually show even greater simplification in spite of less Western influence (Wurm 1973). Nekitel's paper, on the other hand, included a lengthy section on phonology which was not related to the topic of concord. In general, however, a wealth of data along with solid analysis is presented in this volume. It represents a worthwhile contribution to our understanding of Papuan languages.

References

- Wurm, S. A. 1973. 'The Kiwaian language family'. In K. Franklin (ed.), *The Linguistic Situation in the Gulf District and Adjacent Areas, Papua New Guinea*. Pacific Linguistics C-26:219-60.