

Schütz, Albert J. 1985. *The Fijian Language*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. Pp. xl + 687. US\$35.00.

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Schütz's passions for history, linguistics and Fiji come together in this, his *magnum opus*. Its purpose is to be a reference work on Standard Fijian, attempting to present "a unified picture of the structure of the language" (p. xxiv). But it is also part—and a very significant part—of the ongoing debates on matters of Fijian linguistics, and Schütz is careful to pay full attention to early grammars and the context in which they were written, and to explain differences in points of view—in his own words, "to trace the development of ideas about Fijian grammar" (p. xxv).

The book is divided into five major sections. Section I "Background" (pp. 1-71) deals with "the discovery of the Fijian language by outsiders" (p. 3) and the collection of wordlists. It contains three chapters on the orthography and the sociology of spelling, and concludes with one giving some background to the grammars of Cargill, Hale and Hazlewood and the general question of standardisation.

Section II "Sentences and Verb Phrases" (pp. 73-308) and Section III "Noun Phrases" (pp. 309-382) provide a wealth of detail on sentence types, the classification of verbs and of noun phrases, affixation, derivation, modification, and function markers occurring in VPs and NPs. Both are exhaustive treatments. In both (as well as elsewhere in the book) considerable attention is paid to "the development of ideas": in one sense, this is not just Schütz's grammar of Fijian—it is the latest in a continuing set of statements going back more than a century and a half, and Schütz pays due attention to the views of earlier scholars, and explains why he differs from them when he does.

Section IV (pp. 383-470) is entitled "Operations", which is basically an attempt to explain Fijian syntax "in terms of functional OPERATIONS that combine [noun and verb] phrases or add something to their basic structure" (p. 383). Topics covered here include specification, verb and noun modification, subordination, possession and coordination. Finally comes Section V "Phonology" (pp. 471-561). As might be expected from Schütz's earlier writings, much of this is given over to phonological units (phonological sentences and phrases, measures and syllables), and to their relationship with intonation and accent; in comparison, not a great deal of attention is paid to vowels and consonants—but perhaps that is how it should be.

The book concludes with two sections which are representative of Schütz's historical interest: a 54-page appendix containing wordlists from pre-missionary times, and a massive 50-page bibliography.

As with all of Schütz's work, *The Fijian Language* is clearly and lucidly written: Schütz concentrates on clarifying, explaining and elucidating—something often lacking in these days of jargon and mystification.

This is a monumental contribution to scholarship. While there will certainly be areas in which Fijianists and other Austronesianists may disagree with his interpretations, this very disagreement Schütz would see as part of the unfolding tapestry of Fijian linguistic studies: in dedicating this volume to Charles Hockett and George Milner, he says "may we continue discussing, (perhaps) disagreeing, and—above all—learning about Fijian" (p. v). Certainly, Schütz's contribution to the discussion will assist very many linguists, and others, in learning about Fijian.

And to top all this off, at US\$35 this is one of the few seminal works published these days which anyone can afford!