INTRODUCTION

The work in the Department of Linguistics is primarily concerned with the comprehensive study of the linguistic situation in the New Guinea area which involves linguistic survey work, descriptive and comparative studies of individual languages and language groups, with a strong focus of attention on interdisciplinary approaches utilising results arrived at by other disciplines, in particular prehistory, in the interpretation of linguistics findings. Also of great importance are comparable studies in the Australian linguistic field, and the interest of the Department has also been directed to the Austronesian languages of New Guinea and the South-western Pacific, and to languages in South East Asia, especially Burmese type languages.
The work in the New Guinea area has been carried out systematically as a long term research project extending over many years, and significant results have been achieved during 1969. Only very few of the non-Austronesian (Papuan) languages of Australian New Guinea remain now unsurveyed, and preparations have been made during this year to arrive at a complete survey of Australian New Guinea during the next two years. At the same time, the first steps have been taken to start a comparable long term project involving the study of the many very poorly known Austronesian languages of the Western Pacific, beginning with those of parts of the New Hebrides early in 1970.

All these efforts are based on well-organised teamwork and co-operation amongst the members of the Department, and this work which has produced excellent results during previous years, has continued in full during 1969.

The publication activity of the Department has also continued successfully, and nine numbers of its linguistic publication series appeared in 1969.

Seven students submitted theses for the degree of Ph.D. during 1969, and to date, six of them have either been awarded the degree, or have received the Council's approval for the award of the degree. The seventh student is at present undergoing examination.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Both Professor Wurm and Dr Laycock attended a conference on the role of Pidgin, organised by the Council of New Guinea Affairs in Port Moresby in early March, and delivered papers.

In conjunction with his attendance at the conference, Professor Wurm undertook a short fieldtrip into the southeastern part of the Eastern Highlands District to supplement some of his materials in languages of that area in which he had worked previously. In June and September, Professor Wurm undertook two short fieldtrips to northwestern New South Wales and north-eastern Queensland respectively to collect materials in some of the dying languages of those areas.

Professor Wurm served as a member of the Council and of the Executive of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

Dr Laycock attended the AULLA Congress in Perth in February and delivered a paper on the typology of types of play language.

From early March until the middle of May, Dr Voorhoeve was in the field in the Western District of Papua where he concentrated on the languages spoken in the Lake Murray area, and he also re-visited the country between Lake Murray and the Southern Highlands where he had worked before. The purpose of this trip was to arrive at a better and more comprehensive understanding of the language situation in those areas.
Dr Dutton was in the field in the south-eastern section of Australian New Guinea carrying out a comprehensive survey of the Papuan languages of that area, many of which were completely unknown before this survey. He has succeeded in completely clarifying the complex linguistic situation in that area of New Guinea.

Dr Dutton was awarded a post-graduate travelling fellowship by the A.N.U., and left at the end of November to spend a year in the U.S.A., planning to work most of this time in the Department of Linguistics at M.I.T., Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dr Tryon was in the field in Northern Australia from March until July, to complete his study of the languages of the Daly River area which he had begun in 1967. In September he went on a short fieldtrip to the central border between New South Wales and Queensland to collect materials in some of the dying languages in that area. This fieldtrip was fully sponsored by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

Some of Dr Tryon's time was spent on preparatory work for the long-term New Hebrides language survey and linguistic situation study project which is scheduled to start early in 1970. He spent some time on examining archival materials extant on some of the languages and went for a few weeks to the New Hebrides to survey the field situation and to make the necessary contacts and arrangements with the various authorities and missions to make a smooth start and development of the project possible. This activity has been very successful and everything is ready for the start of the project in 1970.

STAFF AND STUDENTS RESEARCH PROGRAMME

STAFF

Professor Wurm's research interests were divided between problems of Pidgin and Lingue Franche in Australian New Guinea, questions of the general language situation in the New Guinea area, problems in Australian linguistics, and the complex problem of the interaction between Austronesian and non-Austronesian languages in the Santa Cruz Archipelago, east of the Solomon Islands. He prepared a number of manuscripts dealing with these various areas of study. All of these have been accepted for publication, and a few have already appeared in print. The most important of the manuscripts are that of a book constituting an introduction to the study of Australian and Tasmanian linguistics, which is to be published in the Netherlands, and detailed maps of the linguistic situation and the distribution and use of Lingue Franche in Australian New Guinea which, together with an accompanying text, will be published in an atlas of New Guinea to be issued by the University of Papua and New Guinea. As a side-line, he has also prepared a paper, with comprehensive bibliography, dealing with the history of linguistic research in Australia, New Guinea and parts of Oceania.
Dr Laycock's research interests were divided between problems of Pidgin in New Guinea, a detailed analysis and assessment of his very extensive materials in the Buin language of Bougainville, and the preparation of a grammar and dictionary of this language, for which computer techniques were used extensively, the study of socio-linguistic aspects of the Buin language, and a descriptive and comparative study of languages of the Lamalamic group in eastern Cape York Peninsula. He prepared a number of manuscripts on these subjects. All of these have been accepted for publication, and some have already appeared in print.

Dr Voorhoeve's work was primarily concerned with further detailed clarification of the language situation in the southern third of the New Guinea mainland, which comprises the Western District of Papua in addition to adjacent parts in West Irian. The linguistic situation in these parts which he succeeded in tentatively establishing during the last two years, is now much clearer, and the findings resulting from this have a very important bearing upon the problems of the linguistic situation in the New Guinea area as a whole. On the basis of his work in the languages of this area, Dr Voorhoeve undertook an appraisal of the question of the existence and nature of the genetic relationship between very widely separated languages in the New Guinea area, and has arrived at results which are not only of linguistic interest, but are likely to allow additional insights into the question of the peopling of, and past migrations within, the New Guinea mainland.

Dr Voorhoeve prepared two comprehensive papers on these problems. Both have been accepted for publication.

Dr Dutton's interests were focussed primarily on questions of the linguistic situation in the south-eastern part of the New Guinea mainland, which he approached both from the point of view of linguistic description and classification, and from that of an interdisciplinary approach involving questions of prehistory. He produced several manuscripts on these subjects, which have all been accepted for publication, and a few have appeared in print. He also devoted some time to the socio-linguistic problem of language clash between Aboriginal languages and English, and published a paper on this subject.

Dr Tryon's research interests were mainly concentrated on Australian linguistics, and he produced several sizeable manuscripts dealing with descriptive and comparative approaches to northern Australian languages. These manuscripts have been accepted for publication. At the same time, he spent some time on the study of linguistic problems of the New Hebrides prior to embarking on, and directing, the long term study of the linguistic situation in the New Hebrides area, which constitutes a newly initiated study project of the Department of Linguistics.
STUDENTS

Mr. E.R. Hope took up his scholarship on 14 February 1969, and after a few months of preparation, proceeded to the field in northern Thailand in mid-May to carry out an extensive study in the Lisu language, a Burmese type language spoken in the area.

Mr. J. Guy took up his scholarship on 12 December, and on 13 December proceeded to Brisbane to attend a three months intensive training course in field linguistics conducted by the Summer Institute of Linguistics at St Anthony's College of Queensland University.

Mr. R. Lang spent the first two months of the year writing preliminary drafts of thesis chapters, and proceeded for his second fieldtrip to the Western Highlands District of Australian New Guinea in mid-March. He returned in mid-September and has begun writing the final version of his thesis.

Mrs. C.A. Lang spent the first month of the year in preparatory work for her thesis, and in early May, proceeded for her second fieldtrip to the Western Highlands District of Australian New Guinea. She returned at the end of September, and began assessing her extensive new materials. She also prepared a computer programme for the compilation of an extensive dictionary of the Enga language of the Western Highlands District.

Mr. K. McElhanon spent the first two months of the year in the field in the Huon Peninsula area of Australian New Guinea, and upon his return from the field in early March, began writing up his thesis. At the same time, he prepared a number of articles on subjects dealing with languages and the linguistic situation in the Morobe and Madang Districts of Australian New Guinea, and also on subjects of an interdisciplinary nature such as kinship terminology and linguistic aspects of cargo beliefs. All of these have been accepted for publication, and several have already appeared in print. With the help of his wife who was given a short-term research assistantship in the Department of Linguistics, he prepared the manuscript of an extensive Selepet-English dictionary which is now in the press. The Selepet language is one of the hitherto almost unknown languages of the Huon Peninsula area, and the preparation of this dictionary constitutes a very important step in New Guinea linguistics.

Mr. McElhanon also carried out important theoretical work dealing with the question of the application of statistical methods to the study of language relationship. He prepared a paper on the subject which was accepted for publication.

Mr. C.D. Metcalfe took up his scholarship which was made available to him by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, at the beginning of January. After a few months of preparation, he proceeded to the field in the Kimberley area in northern Western Australia to carry out a descriptive and comparative study of languages in that region.
Mr A. Taylor spent the first four months of the year in Canberra working on his thesis and also preparing the manuscript of an article on a grammatical feature of the Motu language of the Port Moresby area in New Guinea. In May, he proceeded to the field in the Central District of Australian New Guinea and, under a grant from the Bible Society, proceeded to the United States for eight weeks to attend the 1969 Linguistic Institute of the Linguistic Society of America, held at the University of Illinois in order to deepen and further his erudition in questions of modern grammatical theory and the latest developments in linguistics in the United States. At the end of this Institute Course, he returned to the field in New Guinea to continue his fieldwork and returned to Canberra in September to continue working on his thesis. He also put the finishing touches to the manuscript mentioned above, which was then accepted for publication.

PUBLICATIONS

DUTTON, T.


KINSLOW-HARRIS, Joy*


LAYCOCK, D.C.

1969 Pidgin's Progress. New Guinea Quarterly. 4/2. 8-16.

* Former member. Based on work done while a member of the Department.
LAYCOCK, D.C.


McELHANON, K.


PRENTICE, J.*


TRYON, D.T. and DUBOIS, M.J.†


WURM, S.A.


* Former member. Based on work done while a member of the Department

† Not a member of this University.
WURM, S.A.

