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THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF PACIFIC STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS  
ANNUAL REPORT 1974

ACADEMIC STAFF

|                          |                                                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Professor                | S.A. Wurm, Dr.Phil. (Vienna)                        |
| Senior Fellows           | D.C. Laycock, B.A. (New England),<br>Ph.D. (A.N.U.) |
|                          | C.L. Voorhoeve, Ph.D. (Leiden)                      |
| Fellows                  | D.T. Tryon, M.A. (Cantab.), Ph.D.<br>(A.N.U.)       |
|                          | T.E. Dutton, M.A. (Qld.), Ph.D.<br>(A.N.U.)         |
| Post Doctoral<br>Fellows | J.B.M. Guy, Ph.D. (A.N.U.) (until<br>November 1974) |
|                          | R.A. Blust, Ph.D. (Hawaii) (from<br>August 1974)    |
| Research Officer         | J.B.M. Guy, Ph.D. (A.N.U.) (from<br>December 1974)  |
| Research Assistant       | T.B. Wilson, M.A. (Belfast)                         |

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Linguistics is predominantly concerned with the full study of the linguistic situation in the New Guinea area, the Southwestern Pacific, and Australia. This field of study entails extensive linguistic survey work, descriptive, comparative and classificatory studies of individual languages and language groups, and increasing attention is being paid to the results of sister-disciplines, in particular pre-history, in the interpretation of the results of linguistic activities with a view to establishing the nature of linguistic prehistory of these parts of the world, and the prehistory of language migrations into and within these areas. In the New Guinea area, the main concern has been with the so-called Papuan languages which are spoken by the original inhabitants of the New Guinea area, but more and more attention has been paid to the immigrant Austronesian languages as well. In addition to these activities, studies have been carried out in linguistic problems of Southeast Asian languages, especially those of Burmese type which are scattered over a wide area in Southeast Asia. A field of study which in the past activities of the Department has played only a comparatively minor role, i.e. the field of the study of pidgin and creole languages of the New Guinea area and the Pacific, has received a very strong impetus during 1973 and even more so during 1974, and now constitutes one of the major long-term research projects of the Department.

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The linguistic study of the New Guinea area which has been carried out by the Department of Linguistics as a long-term project extending over many years, produced very significant results in previous years, especially during 1973. However, in 1974 very significant additional results have been achieved, and on the basis of these results it is now clear that the Papuan languages of the New Guinea area which number around 700, belong to five major and six minor unrelated groups of languages plus a very small number of isolated languages whose possible relationship to one of these eleven groups, or to each other, has not yet been clearly established. The five large groups are of very uneven size, and one of them which constitutes the major Papuan language group, occupies most of the New Guinea mainland and a part of the island world to the west of it and contains about 480 languages. The four other major groups account for most of the remaining Papuan languages, except for about twenty five which belong to the six minor groups and half a dozen or so isolated languages. The possible number of Papuan languages as yet undiscovered is not likely to exceed twenty at this stage, and most of these are likely to be areal extensions of languages already known, or dialects of such languages, or languages belonging to one of the established groups.

Further work has been carried out in the study of possible prehistoric linguistic migrations into and within the New Guinea area and in the matter of possible interrelationships between Papuan languages and languages spoken further west on the Andaman Islands.

A similar long-term project concerned with the surveying and study of the language situation and individual languages of the Southwestern Pacific Austronesian areas has received a very strong impetus during 1974 through further intensive work in this field being done in the New Hebrides. Also, the completion of a major work concerned with compiling a finder list of Austronesian reconstructions has been brought to completion during the year.

Several members of the Department have been very actively engaged in the study of pidgin and creole languages of the New Guinea area and the Pacific, and several important results have been achieved in this field.

The research work in the Department is based on well organised and close-knit teamwork and close cooperation amongst all members of the Department of Linguistics most of whom have been working as project teams for a number of years. This trend, it is hoped, will continue in the future.

The publication activity of the Department has continued strongly as before and twelve numbers of its linguistic publications series appeared in 1974.

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Four students submitted theses during 1974, and all of them were awarded the degree of Ph.D. during the year.

### GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Professor Wurm attended the 1st International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics in Honolulu in January, and undertook a brief stretch of fieldwork in the Pacific area after it. In May, he attended the linguistic section of the biennial conference of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in Canberra and presented a paper on grammatical problems in Australian Aboriginal languages of Southeast Queensland. From early June until late October, Professor Wurm went on study leave visiting East Africa, Central Europe, Scandinavian countries, Canada, Alaska and Japan, being concerned with acquainting himself with the most recent findings in studies relating to surveying techniques and description of hitherto undescribed or little known languages and with the study of the application of the results of such work to sociolinguistic fields in the world, especially in matters of native language education.

Professor Wurm served as a member of the Linguistic Advisory Committee and the Research and Publications Committee of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

Much of Professor Wurm's time during the first half of the year was devoted to preparing a very major volume on the New Guinea area languages for publication and he also worked as co-editor of four volumes on Language in Anthropology to be published in connection with the publication of the results of the Ninth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences held in Chicago in August-September 1973.

Towards the end of the year, Professor Wurm served as Chairman of a committee concerned with the question of printing and publishing through the Schools of Pacific Studies and Social Sciences.

Dr Laycock attended the Conference on Austronesian Linguistics in Honolulu in January and presented a paper. In May, he took part in the linguistic section of the biennial conference of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

From August until the end of October, Dr Laycock was Acting Head of Department during Professor Wurm's absence from Canberra.

During most of the year, Dr Laycock was occupied with working in connection with the preparation of the big volume on New Guinea area languages edited by Professor S.A. Wurm.

Dr Voorhoeve spent most of the year working on assisting with the preparation of the big volume on New Guinea area

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languages edited by Professor S.A. Wurm. In November--December he undertook a field trip to the western district of Papua New Guinea in connection with his research on large groups within the major Papuan language group mentioned above.

In cooperation with Dr Dutton, Dr Voorhoeve produced a teaching course of Hiri Motu, one of the two major lingue franche of Papua New Guinea.

Dr Tryon attended the Conference on Austronesian Linguistics in Honolulu in January. From early March until the end of November, he carried out extensive fieldwork in the New Hebrides during which he was predominantly concerned with the collection of comparative morphological material.

During his stay in the New Hebrides, he was appointed a member of the Geographic Names Committee of the New Hebrides Condominium Government.

Dr Tryon also served as a member of the Consultative Committee on Bilingual Education in the Northern Territory.

Dr Dutton spent much of the year cooperating in the preparation of the large volume on New Guinea area languages edited by Professor S.A. Wurm and also edited a major volume entitled STUDIES IN LANGUAGES OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST PAPUA. In cooperation with Dr Voorhoeve, he prepared a course of Hiri Motu, one of the two major lingue franche of Papua New Guinea.

In May he attended the meeting of the Linguistic Society of Australia at Monash University and delivered a paper.

Towards the middle of the year, Dr Dutton undertook a short field trip to Papua New Guinea with the purpose of collecting additional materials on Hiri Motu and New Guinea Pidgin for teaching purposes. During this work, video-tape equipment was used, and several tapes of useful sociolinguistic materials were collected with the help of it.

From June to August, Dr Dutton was Acting Head of Department during Professor Wurm's absence overseas.

Dr Dutton acted as outside consultant to the Education Corps, Department of the Army, in the design and testing of New Guinea Pidgin courses for Army personnel posted to Papua New Guinea.

Dr Dutton was appointed to the Chair in the Department of Language, UPNG, for a period of three years on secondment from the A.N.U.

Dr Guy was working predominantly on the application of computer techniques to linguistic research procedures especially with regard to assessing the rate and extent of language change in Austronesian languages. He also cooperated

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in the editing of a valuable manuscript, by a now deceased author, on an Austronesian language of the New Guinea area, for publication purposes.

In January, Dr Guy attended the Conference on Austronesian Linguistics in Hawaii. In November, he proceeded to the New Hebrides for an extensive stretch of fieldwork in connection with his study of language change in Austronesian languages.

In late November, Dr Guy was appointed Research Officer in the Department of Linguistics when his appointment as Post-Doctoral Fellow expired.

Dr Blust joined the Department as Post-Doctoral Fellow in August. His work has been concerned with the problems of reconstructions in Austronesian languages in various areas.

In November he took on the co-editorship of a major dictionary of the Kayan language of Borneo by C.H. Southwell with a view to preparing it for publication.

Mr Wilson completed the work on the dictionary of Austronesian reconstructions of which he is a co-author, and the manuscript is now in the press.

Two Visiting Fellows were attached to the Department of Linguistics during parts of 1974, as well as three Honorary Fellows.

One of the visitors was Professor J. Neustupny of the Department of Japanese, Monash University, who had joined the Department in late November 1973, and was associated with the Department until late February 1974. His work was concerned with sociolinguistic questions which had a bearing on problems of language standardization.

The other visitor is Dr Nguyen Dang Liem, Associate Professor of Southeast Asian Linguistics in the University of Hawaii whose official association with the Department began in December 1974. The first two months of Dr Liem's work for the Department are spent in the field in Southeast Asia.

One of the Honorary Fellows was Dr A. Capell, retired from the University of Sydney - one of the foremost authorities in Pacific linguistics and the pioneer of the discipline in Australia. He was associated with the Department until October 1974, and in his work was predominantly concerned with cooperating in the preparation of the large volume on New Guinea area languages edited by Professor S.A. Wurm.

The second Honorary Fellow was Mrs L. Hercus, Reader in the Department of Southeast Asian and Buddhist Studies, School of General Studies, A.N.U. who was associated with the Department from March to August, 1974, working on problems in Australian Aboriginal languages.

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The third Honorary Fellow was Rev. G. Renck, who was linked with the Department from February until August 1974 to work on the preparation of a grammar and dictionary of a Papuan language spoken in the New Guinea Highlands.

Another visitor to the Department was Dr A. Lang, who was attached to the Department in November 1973 for a period of three months in the capacity of a Temporary Research Assistant with a view to her completing a study in New Guinea lexicology and preparing her major study on an important aspect of Papuan linguistic typology for publication. Both manuscripts resulting from this work have been received and are ready for publication.

In the course of the year a number of specialised seminars were held in the Department of Linguistics, both by members of the Department and invited guests as well as short-term visitors such as Professor A. Hall of Cornell University who paid a short visit to Canberra during his stay in Australia.

#### STAFF AND STUDENTS RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Professor Wurm's research interests were divided between a number of topics. His main concern was the continuation of his long-term study of the overall linguistic picture in the New Guinea area, and the classification of the Papuan languages. He completed his work on eighteen chapters in a large volume on New Guinea area languages to be published by Mouton in the Netherlands, most of which have a bearing on this particular subject from a variety of points of view. He also continued his studies in Pidgin languages in the Pacific, in particular New Guinea Pidgin, and several of the chapters in the book mentioned above are devoted to that subject. He also completed the manuscript of a paper on the history of the standardisation of alphabets in New Guinea Pidgin which was accepted for publication. He prepared discussion summaries for the four volumes of the set entitled Language in Anthropology which emanated from the Ninth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences held in Chicago in August-September 1973, in his capacity as co-editor of these four volumes. He was concerned with questions of a sociolinguistic nature, in particular the application of linguistic findings to education in native languages, and in conjunction with his pidgin interests, prepared a paper to be presented at the January 1975 conference on Pidgins and Creoles in Honolulu, on the questions of descriptive and prescriptive grammar in Pidgin. He also continued working on the project of the compilation of the dictionary in one of the languages of the Santa Cruz area of the British Solomon Islands, and devoted some time to work on an Aboriginal language in northern New South Wales.

Dr Laycock's main research interests were concerned with his contributions to the large volume on New Guinea area languages edited by Professor S.A. Wurm, and he finished his

work on seventeen chapters in the book. He continued working on a major dictionary of the Buin language of Bougainville Island and on writing a book entitled "Languages Outside Earth" which is concerned with language-like phenomena which do not represent actual languages, such as magical and mediumistic languages and glossolalia.

Dr Voorhoeve's research interests were predominantly devoted to finishing his work on ten chapters in the large book on New Guinea area languages edited by Professor S.A. Wurm, and he also continued his work on the assessment of the language problems and the study of language interrelationships in the western part of the New Guinea area. In the course of this, he extended his work to the hitherto very little known languages of islands to the west of Timor and succeeded in linking them with Papuan languages spoken further east. His work has contributed to another major simplification of the Papuan linguistic picture in the western part of the New Guinea area. Some of his research work was devoted to Hiri Motu, one of the two major lingue franche of Papua New Guinea, and to the compilation of a major course in it in collaboration with Dr Dutton. He also continued with his work on the editing and annotation of a number of important myths of the Asmat people of southern Irian Jaya.

Dr Tryon's research interests were, apart from a brief period of work in languages of the Daly River area in Northwestern Australia during the first two months of the year, concerned with the languages and the language situation of the New Hebrides where he spent most of the year on fieldwork. During his fieldwork he was mainly working on the collection of comparative morphological materials with a view to the production of a comprehensive morphologically based classification of the languages of the New Hebrides. He also prepared a depth study of a language of the Epi subgroup in the New Hebrides while obtaining also detailed materials for comparative purposes from the other languages of that subgroup.

Dr Dutton divided his research interests between completing his work on eight chapters for the large volume on New Guinea languages edited by Professor S.A. Wurm, and the completion of a major volume concerned with the languages of Central and Southeast Papua of which he is the editor. He also collaborated with Dr Voorhoeve in the completion of the course of Hiri Motu which constituted a thorough revision of the preliminary manuscript prepared by him and Dr Voorhoeve on the subject during 1973. He also carried out sociolinguistic studies involving Hiri Motu and New Guinea Pidgin, using videotape equipment in this work, and prepared a paper on the teaching for communicative competence in New Guinea Pidgin which has been accepted for publication.

Dr J. Guy was concerned in his research activities with the question of language change in southwestern Austronesian languages and devoted much of his time to the study of the

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applicability of computer techniques to linguistic analysis. He also finished a major manuscript on Bichelamar, the lingua franca of the New Hebrides, in French and English, and the manuscript has now been published. He also prepared a grammar of a New Hebrides language for publication, and it has now appeared in print. In addition, he was concerned with the problems of an Austronesian language in the Admiralty Islands, Papua New Guinea.

Dr Blust who joined the Department in August, was concerned in his research activities with the continuation of his earlier extensive work on the question of proto-Austronesian reconstructions and compiled several manuscripts on this subject. He also carried out studies to prepare himself for his intended fieldwork in the Admiralty Islands of Papua New Guinea aimed at assessing the Austronesian language situation in the area.

Mr Wilson completed his work on a major English dictionary of reconstructions in Austronesian languages in collaboration with Professor Wurm, and the manuscript is now in press.

#### VISITING FELLOWS

Professor Neustupny's work was connected with the assessment of deviation-from-norm speech performance in standard languages by speakers of languages of the general Pacific area, with a view to contributing to a study on some aspects of language standardisation, a matter of great importance at present for Papua New Guinea.

Dr Liem is concerned in his work with a contrastive study of several Southeast Asian languages and problems of areal linguistics in that region for which purpose he is at present collecting materials in the field.

#### HONORARY FELLOWS

Dr Capell was mainly concerned with completing his work on five major chapters in the extensive volume on New Guinea area languages edited by Professor S.A. Wurm. He also finished a major manuscript in northwestern Australian languages for publication.

Mrs Hercus was working on problems of several Aboriginal languages of the western New South Wales region and adjacent areas.

Rev. Renck completed the writing up of a major manuscript of the grammar of a New Guinea Highlands language, and also carried out much of the work on the compilation of a dictionary of that language. After returning to New Guinea where he is stationed, he continued the work on the dictionary with the help of additional materials collected in the field, and the manuscript of it is nearing completion.

Dr Lang's research interests were divided between her completing of a study in New Guinea lexicology and the finishing of her major study on classificatory and existential verbs in Papuan languages for publication.

#### STUDENTS

Mr P. Mühlhäusler spent the first few months of the year in the field in Papua New Guinea surveying the distribution of the various forms of pidgin both from the dialectal and sociolectal points of view. Upon his return to Canberra, he completed his work on five chapters in the large volume on New Guinea area languages edited by Professor S.A. Wurm, and compiled several manuscripts relating to various aspects of the study of Pidgin, amongst them a paper on the functional possibilities of lexical bases in New Guinea Pidgin for presentation at the Conference on Pidgins and Creoles in January 1975. In December, Mr Mühlhäusler again proceeded to the field to study remnants of old Pidgin languages, especially old German Pidgin in Samoa.

Mr G. Scott joined the Department in March. Apart from his thesis work, he was concerned with the preparation of a Fore-English dictionary for computerisation with a view to its expansion through fieldwork and publication in a couple of years.

#### PUBLICATIONS

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DUTTON, T.E. with VOORHOEVE, C.L.

1974 Beginning Hiri Motu. Pacific Linguistics, Series D.24.

GUY, J.

1974 Handbook of Bichelamar - Manuel de Bichelamar. Pacific Linguistics, Series C.34.

1974 A Grammar of the Northern Dialect of Sakao. Pacific Linguistics, Series B.33.

LAYCOCK, D.C., with WURM, S.A.

1974 'Languages (Text and Map)'. In: E. Ford (ed.), Papua New Guinea Resource Atlas, Jacaranda Press. Pp.52-53.

MÜHLHÄUSLER, P.

1974 Pidginisation and Simplification of Languages. Pacific Linguistics, Series B. 26.

TRYON, D.

1974 Daly Family of Languages, Australia. Pacific Linguistics, Series C.32.

VOORHOEVE, C.L., with DUTTON, T.E.

1974 Beginning Hiri Motu. Pacific Linguistics, Series D.24.

WURM, S.A.

1974 Papuan Languages. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 15th Edition, pp.977-978.

1974 Development of Linguistics and the Linguistic Picture in the Southwestern Pacific. Proceedings of the 11th International Congress of Linguists (August 28-September 2, 1972), Volume I, Il Mulino, Bologna, pp.861-66.

WURM, S.A., with LAYCOCK, D.C.

1974 'Languages (Text and Map)'. In: E. Ford (ed.), Papua New Guinea Resource Atlas, Jacaranda Press. Pp.52-53.