

5.5.2. A HISTORY OF LEXICOGRAPHY IN THE NEW GUINEA AREA

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5.5.2.1. INTRODUCTION

In the history of the linguistics of a given area, wordlists (including sporadic vocabulary items and phrases) precede grammars, and grammars precede dictionaries. In the New Guinea area, where few grammars that could be regarded as adequate have yet been produced, it is not surprising that there are virtually no dictionaries that can be considered as adequate (in the terms set out by A. Lang in 5.5.1.1.). The study of the languages of the New Guinea area is probably too recent for a detailed knowledge of them to coexist with a detailed knowledge of lexicographic theory, at least before the 1970s.

Nevertheless, many works called 'dictionaries', and others of comparable extent called 'vocabularies', have been produced for languages of our defined region (lying between Santa Cruz and Halmahera). Most have been the work of missionaries, who, for their own language-learning purposes, and for the convenience of those who followed them in the mission, usually compiled extensive lexical materials. Such materials often began as a card-file, and only later were gathered together in a handwritten, typed, or mimeographed form, for easier reference.

Many more of these 'dictionaries' were produced than were ever published, and some of those published were produced on mission presses, with very limited distribution. The reasons for this were economic; the languages were - and are - esoteric, and books on them could appeal only to a limited audience; the only printing available was letterpress, which was costly and slow, especially when the orthography of the language required unusual symbols or diacritics; and proof-reading was a difficult process, with virtually the only non-native speaker of the language located on a remote Pacific mission station, thousands of miles, many ships, and erratic mails away from the printing press.

This situation does not make the task of the bibliographer any easier. Books in small and limited editions are hard to find, and may go through several editions without any overt notification of the fact. But the reproduction of manuscripts and typescripts gives most trouble; multiple copies may exist in various locations, as carbons, mimeographed copies, photocopies, and microfilm; collation may differ from one copy to the next, and some copies may have handwritten emendations by the author or any of the later possessors. Indications of date and place, even when given on the manuscript or typescript, also cause difficulties; the copy may have been made far from its original location, and bear a substantially later date. In this way, extant copies, or even publications, may reflect the state of linguistic and lexicographic knowledge of several decades earlier.

For these reasons, the bibliography provided with this chapter cannot be regarded as exhaustive, or even completely accurate. Items which I have not personally seen are preceded by an asterisk; many of these which were not published, or not produced in multiple copies, may not even exist any longer, and for others the details may be incorrect. Even the manuscripts (including microfilms and photocopies) and mimeographs that I have examined are not given full collation details (which would have taken more time than it appeared to be worth); I have contented myself with quoting the number on the final text page (so that introductory matter and unnumbered pages are often excluded). Many of the earlier manuscripts that have not been consulted are taken from references given by Capell (1954, 1962); some were once in his possession, but have since been sold. Other references are taken from Lang (1973) and Lanyon-Orgill (1960). The chapters in volumes I and II, and also in the present volume, on the history of research in various parts of the New Guinea area may throw further light on some of the unexamined items.

It is inevitable also that many unpublished items have been missed, though a high proportion of the extant early ones are probably represented; however, no real coverage can be expected of unpublished material produced later than about 1950, as with the increasing interest in languages of the New Guinea area the tendency has been for most missions with language interest to compile lexical material - if only in the form of a card-file - for the major mission languages.

5.5.2.2. DICTIONARIES OF AUSTRONESIAN LANGUAGES

So much by way of introduction. We can now take the dictionaries in roughly chronological order, over the last hundred years, for the main

subregions of our geographical area. The earliest dictionaries were of Austronesian languages, mainly because the earliest European settlements (mission and administration) tended to be near the coast, in predominantly AN-speaking areas. Although a clear distinction between Austronesian and non-Austronesian languages came relatively late (see (I) 2.1.1.3.), the relationship between 'Melanesian' languages and those of Indonesia and Polynesia was perceived by many of the early dictionary makers, and this meant that they were able to draw on the lexicographic experience of both the Eastern and Western Austronesian areas, and to include, in some cases, cognates from other Austronesian languages. This is not the case with the earliest such dictionary known to me, that of van Hasselt (1876) for Numfoor; but this two-way dictionary of some 1,700 Numfoor words nevertheless contains some advanced features, such as the marking of nouns, adjectives, and verbs, and the labelling of borrowings in the Dutch-Numfoor section as Malay, 'bastard Malay' (*Verbasterd Maleisch*) and 'bastard Dutch' (*Verbasterd Hollandsch*). (These words are omitted in the revision by J.L. and F.J.F. van Hasselt (1947), perhaps because the Dutch-Numfoor section has been reduced to a mere index; but the dictionary is improved in a number of other ways, principally in the providing of more accurate, and often encyclopaedic glosses, as well as in the listing of dialect forms and forms in other Austronesian languages of the area, and in Malay.)¹

In the eastern half of New Guinea, the earliest dictionaries were of the well-known languages Kuanua (Tolai) in the north, and Motu in the south. The Kuanua dictionaries of the nineteenth century include Brown and Danks (1882), Rickard (1889), and Abel (1899), though these remained unpublished. The first published Kuanua dictionary appears to have been that of Bley (1900), but that of Costantini (1907) was not far behind. Lanyon-Orgill, who drew on all previous sources for his Kuanua dictionary (1960) mentions Costantini's original manuscript as having been prepared in 1905, and cites also a number of other early manuscripts, mostly completed prior to World War II: Anon 1895-1900, Rickard n.d. (Nodup dialect), Humboldt 1914, Koltenko 1912-15 and 1914, and Meyer 1921 (microfilmed 1961). The first of these last-cited manuscripts may well be the H. Fellmann version of Rickard (1889), for which however Wright in his later revision (1964) gives the date 1918. An intermediate version of the same work is that by Linggood, of which Lanyon-Orgill (1960) notes (giving the author/editor's name as Lingwood): 'only 100 copies printed, most of which were destroyed during the war; a copy is preserved at the Mission's headquarters at 139, Castlereagh Street, Sydney; photostat in the Mitchell Library'. The same fate seems to have overtaken Lanyon-Orgill's first attempt (1942); these works,

together with the manuscripts, have not been sighted. Two other Kuanua dictionaries from the prolific Methodist Mission in Rabaul are those of Poole (1953), and the same author's revision after remarriage (Mannering 1967); this last is essentially the English-Kuanua counterpart of Wright (1964), and, as in most such reversals, sense-discrimination of the Kuanua glosses is not offered - the reader has to check the Kuanua-English section. Lanyon-Orgill's dictionary (1960) remains the most usable Kuanua dictionary; sense-discriminations and usages are lacking, but the entries are extensive (12,000 'basic Raluana words', according to the introduction, but only 6,000, according to A. Lang (5.5.1.2.)), and include much information on dialect forms. The extensive introduction is an important contribution to Pacific linguistic history.

The extant works on Motu, which is a language in many ways parallel to Kuanua, are much less extensive. Lawes' grammar and vocabulary (1885, with two further editions before 1900) was extensively revised by Lister-Turner and Clark (1930), and this work was further revised by Percy Chatterton (Lister-Turner and Clark 1954a, 1954b); but all versions consist only of single-word or short-phrase Motu glosses of English words, with no examples of usage. Many archaic forms are included, but these play no part in Chatterton's own 'Basic Motu Dictionary', incorporated into Lister-Turner and Clark 1954b. The dictionary of Brett and others (1962) fills some of the need for a dictionary of the modern spoken language, though in this case the language is the pidginised form of Motu known as Hiri Motu (formerly 'Police Motu'). There remains a great need, not completely met by the 1976 Hiri Motu dictionary (Office of Information).

The Austronesian languages of the British Solomon Islands can boast of a large number of dictionaries, almost all of which have been published, and which are of a fairly high standard - though again usually lacking any information on usage. The majority of the dictionaries have been produced by only two authors, of whom the more prolific is W.G. Ivens, with considerable lexical materials in the languages of Sa'a, Ulawa, Lau, Longgu, Bugotu, and Marau Sound (bibliography, various dates 1919-40). The second author is C.E. Fox, with three dictionaries to his credit (Lau, Nggela, Arosi - see bibliography 1954-74). (The 1974 Lau dictionary is apparently a revision of the 1954 microfilmed manuscript.) Roviana is fairly well documented in the three editions of a dictionary by Waterhouse (1923, 1928, 1949); however, the reviser of the 1949 edition (L.M. Jones) decided - mistakenly, in my opinion - to omit words from the earlier editions which are no longer in current use, instead of retaining them with an indication of their obsolete or obsolescent

status. Other Solomon dictionaries are those by Geerts (1970: 'Āre'āre) and Keesing (1975: Kwaio); the latter is a very extensive and generally adequate dictionary.

The remaining Austronesian languages of the New Guinea area proper are far less well served. Published dictionaries, of limited extent, including only King's very early (and very rare) grammar and dictionary of Wedau (1901a), Jennings' recent (but still rare) dictionary of the same language (1956), Mager's dictionary of Gedaged (1952) - notable for its extensive comparative material, which unfortunately is not always accurate - and Koschade's Jabêm dictionary (1955); this last probably draws heavily on the dictionary of 13,000 entries by Zahn (1917), and perhaps other Jabêm manuscripts which also have not been sighted by me. Manuscripts with lexical material exist for a number of languages of the Bismarck Archipelago, and include Peekel (n.d.) and Neuhaus (1966) for Papa, Schumm (n.d.) for Bola, and Jones and Zepczyk (1964) for Lavongai; an announced dictionary of Tanga by Bell (197-?) swells the list somewhat, and may well complement the large dictionary by Maurer (1972). In Papua, the only unpublished dictionaries of Austronesian languages that have come to my attention are an anonymous (undated and unplaced) mimeographed brief wordlist for Ubir, Green's fairly extensive manuscript grammar and dictionary (1917) of Bwaidoga (Goodenough I.), which passed from the possession of A. Capell into the hands of an antiquarian bookseller in Sydney, and a recently-prepared vocabulary of the Balawaia dialect of Sinagoro (Koloa and Collier 1972). The revised version of this last (including the grammatical material) has been published as Kolia 1975. All these manuscripts are however eclipsed in extent by the massive typescript French-Roro dictionary of Coluccia (1941), which on my count contains some 17,000 French entries with Roro glosses, and extensive information on usage; the number of Roro entries is impossible to determine.

The Austronesian languages of north-eastern New Guinea are barely documented lexically; Klaffl and Vormann (1905) give about 700 lexemes for Ali, and Schultze (1911) includes only about 700 items in his study of Tumleo. Hubers' typescript (n.d.) for Takia ('Taikia') is also fairly limited (1,500 entries). Capell (1962) mentions a Manam dictionary by Böhm (n.d.), apparently the same as that now published in Böhm 1975. Further west we can cite only the Waropen dictionary of Held (1942).

5.5.2.3. DICTIONARIES OF NON-AUSTRONESIAN LANGUAGES

In recent years the focus has been on the non-Austronesian languages of the Papua New Guinea area. It is true that the earliest dictionaries

of non-Austronesian languages bear dates not much later than those of the earliest Austronesian languages (van Baarda 1895: Galela (on Halmahera); King 1901b (and revision 1927): Binandere; Hanke 1909: Bongu; Vormann and Scharfenberger 1914: Monumbo), but one does not find the same degree of continuity as with the Austronesian languages. In the interbellum period we can name, as published material, only Keysser's (1925) extensive - and still widely-used - dictionary of Kâte (important as a missionary lingua franca) (a revised version of it is Flierl and Strauss 1976) and dictionaries of Marind in Irian Jaya by van de Kolk and Vertenten (1922) and Geurtjens (1933). Unpublished items include a Baining dictionary prepared by Theil (1939), and an undated manuscript of the same language by Volmer, but I have not seen these. The unpublished manuscripts of W.J.V. Saville (n.d.a, n.d.b, but attributable to some time in the 1930s) should also be mentioned here; these were published with omission of the appendices, and a minimum of editing, by Lanyon-Orgill (1944), who, however, here as with his Kuanua dictionary (1960), must be given credit for scrupulous acknowledgement of his sources.

Schneider's grammar of Sulka is cited as a 1942 'Grammatik und Wörterbuch' by Capell (1954), but only the grammar appears on microfilm (1962); perhaps the dictionary has become lost. Similar dictionary materials that were produced long before they were microfilmed are those by Aufenanger (1952, 1953) for Gende and Wahgi (Nondugl dialect), Schäfer (1953) for Chimbu (an earlier version apparently exists in mimeographed form), and Schmidt (1953) for Murik. Undated manuscripts of approximately the same period are those of Bergmann (Chimbu), Tropper (Chimbu), Neuhaus (Butam), M. and J. Rule (Huli) and Schorr (Mikarew). Slightly later works, of the 1950s and early 1960s, include a number of mission publications on Enga: Budke 1964, Bus n.d., Crotty 1951, Draper 1953, 1958, and Finney 1964. These are cited by Lang in her dictionary (1973), which sets a high standard for future dictionaries to attempt to achieve; apart from a useful sketch grammar of Enga, an introduction in Enga for indigenous speakers, a locality map, and an appendix of Biblical names, the dictionary includes (maximally) the following information for the approximately 5,000 entries:

1. The Enga entry (word or phrase)
2. The existential verb
3. The dialect
4. The grammatical classification of the entry
5. The English definition(s)
6. Cross-references to other Enga entries of the same or similar semantic domain (Lang 1973:xiii)

Loanwords and levels of usage such as baby talk and 'bush language' are identified as such.

Other Highlands languages having reasonably available lexical material are Duna (Cochrane n.d.), Chimbu (Hannemann 1958, Tropper 1962, Nilles 1969), Siane (Salisbury 1956), but these continue to suffer from the deficiencies of all the older dictionaries, in not including essential information on usage, taxa, levels, and so on. A number of dictionaries recently published, or in preparation, will, hopefully, be regarded as having attained a higher level of descriptive adequacy; these include K. and N. McElhanon's Selepet dictionary (1970), R. and A. Loving's Awa dictionary (1975), the extensive 'taxonomic' dictionary of Karam (Kalam) by Bulmer, Pawley, and Biggs (1969, 1974), Middle Wahgi dictionary by Ramsey (1975), the Telefol dictionary by Healey (1977), the Yagaria dictionary by Renck (1977) and Laycock's Buin dictionary (1977). This last will draw on extensive lexical material collected in Buin (Bougainville) by R. Thurnwald, but the inaccuracies in his work, and the complete failure to understand Buin morphology, has meant that the work has had to be created anew.

Mention must also be made of Brown's Toaripi dictionary (1968), which makes use of line-illustrations in the text, where appropriate; this principle will also be followed in Laycock's Buin dictionary, cited above, but in a somewhat different format.

In Irian Jaya, post-war dictionaries exist in only three non-Austronesian languages: Drabbe (1959: Asmat), Doble (1960: Kapauku), and Steltenpool (1969: Ekagi); the materials and style in each case are somewhat older than the publication date. Doble's Kapauku dictionary is worthy of remark in that it attempts a quadrilingual lexicon - with of course, a necessary limitation on the number of Kapauku entries (about 2,000) that can be accommodated.

5.5.2.4. DICTIONARIES OF NEW GUINEA PIDGIN

Dictionaries of New Guinea Pidgin (Neo-Melanesian) are in a somewhat different category from those of any other languages of the New Guinea area. The beginnings of a distinct variety of New Guinea Pidgin, differing from Beach-la-mar and other Pacific pidgins (for which see some lexical material by Churchill (1911)), cannot be put any further back than the 1880s, and the stage of the language in which there were sufficient identifiable lexical items was hardly reached until about the time of World War I. Accordingly, there are no very early dictionaries of New Guinea Pidgin; the earliest I have found is a brief lexical key (Brenninkmeyer 1925) appended to an equally brief Pidgin grammar (Brenninkmeyer 1924); the total number of Pidgin entries is less than 500. Somewhat more extensive, but still containing no more than 1,000

Pidgin entries, is a typescript by Borchardt (1926); an anonymous dictionary (Anon n.d.b) of perhaps the same period (or anything up to 20 years later) contains some 4,000 German entries, with Pidgin glosses, but the number of Pidgin entries is not likely to exceed a third of this number (since, for example, the German entries *Heidenbekehrer* and *Missionar* are both glossed as Pidgin *misinare*). Other undated Pidgin typescripts, which appear to date from the interbellum period, are those by Anon (n.d.c), van Baar (n.d.) and Kutscher (1940); they are no more adequate as dictionaries, and are mentioned only for completeness, and for the data they provide on the historical development of New Guinea Pidgin.

The Second World War saw an upsurge in the production of Pidgin dictionaries, many of them explicitly intended for the use of troops in the south-west Pacific area; some are laughable and lexically inadequate (e.g. Helton 1943, which contains only about 500 Pidgin words, in anglicised orthography), but others, such as Murphy 1943, filled a definite need - and this last work, which contains a good deal of practical (if now somewhat dated) advice on Pidgin and a vocabulary of some 1,500 items, continues to be reprinted and sold to the present day. The war was also responsible for the first work on Pidgin by a linguist (of the then new 'structuralist' school); this is the grammar, texts, and vocabulary of Hall (1943). The emphasis is on the grammar and texts rather than on the lexicon, but a vocabulary of about 1,000 items is given; O'Reilly (1946) claims that these are closely based on ('une traduction anglaise maquillée') a Pijin-Lexikon of 'German Catholic missionaries in the Sepik region' (presumably the dictionary by Schebesta (n.d.b), though the source is Alexishafen, not Sepik). I have not been able to check this claim, not having access to the Pijin-Lexikon, but certainly the revised version (Schebesta and Meiser 1945) differs greatly from Hall's vocabulary, in being much more extensive (almost 1,800 entries), and in providing many more examples of usage. In fairness to Hall, it should also be said that any 2,000-word vocabularies of the Pidgin of the 1930s and 1940s must inevitably contain the same entries and usages; and Hall in any case acknowledges his use of the Pijin-Lexikon.

The first relatively 'modern' dictionary of New Guinea Pidgin was that of Mihalic (1957) containing about 2,000 entries; the revised form (1971) is almost 50 percent larger. Both versions contain a grammatical introduction, and useful appended material, in the form of arrangements of words by semantic domains; but both suffer from a somewhat disordered arrangement of sub-entries, the failure to distinguish polysemy and homonymy, inaccurate etymologies, and lack of marking of obsolete or

regional words. Even with these shortcomings, however, Mihalic's dictionary (which one assumes will be further revised in future editions) is not likely to be surpassed for some time as the major Pidgin dictionary, although a 'dictionary of urban Pidgin' - still in the planning stages - will provide much needed data on slang and urban idioms.²

On a slightly smaller scale (2,000 entries, and lacking the supplementary material) is Steinbauer's (1969) Pidgin dictionary, which uses German as well as English as a glossing language, and which contains a large number of useful illustrative sentences. Altogether different is the 'dictionary of sports' included with Balint's phrase-book in 1969; this contains so much wrong Pidgin, largely invented by the author, as to make it laughable - the classic example is the glossing of the archery term '*quiver*' by the Pidgin words *sek* and *guria*, both of which mean '*quiver*' in the sense of '*shake, tremble*'. The same author proposes a monolingual 'encyclopedic' dictionary, which, on the basis of the sample given in his paper (Balint 1973), promises to display a host of idiosyncratic neologisms and a high degree of ignorance of existing Pidgin lexemes, to such an extent that the dictionary, if published, is likely to serve more as a source of Pidgin amusement than as a workable dictionary for Niuginians.

On monolingual Pidgin dictionaries, it is worth mentioning that the Tok Boi Wörterbuch of Borchardt (1926) has, in addition to English and German glosses, monolingual definitions of Pidgin words - for example:

gas (gauze, Gaze). gas: i olosem tavunam, bolong putim
long hai bolong suva...

kola (collar, Kragen). vanelap hap laplap ol i vokim
bolong nek. Sopus ol i putim siot, ol i save putim tu.³

The monolingual principle is also followed in definitions in the extensive (1,800 item) two-way dictionary, existing in typescript, of Father Dahmen (1949a, 1949b); the entry for *anis ant* is worth quoting:

anis, n. *ant.*
Anis: em liklik samting i stap long graun, em i gat lek
bolong em, han tu, em i save kaikai divai tu, tit bolong
em i strong tumas; sopus i kaikai man, i pen; i save go
antap long ol hap kaikai, ol i putim. I no vanelap tasol,
planti; sopus longpela divai tumas, ol i save goap tu long
em. I gat planti kain anis; sampela i ret, sampela i vet,
sampela i blak; sampela i smolpela, sampela i bikpela.⁴

This dictionary would be well worth publishing, even in unedited form, for the valuable material which it contains.

This survey of lexicography would not be complete without a brief mention of articles on dictionary-making relevant to the New Guinea area. There are very few of these; Balint's paper (1973) on the desirability of a monolingual Pidgin dictionary has already been cited; to this we can add Kilham's (1971) article on preparation of bilingual dictionaries

for indigenous peoples, Laycock's (1976) observations on general lexicographic problems of the Pacific area, Pawley's (1970) discussion of the possibility of 'emic' dictionaries (conforming to indigenous taxonomical systems), and of course Lang's chapter on the ideals of the lexicographer, in 5.5.1. Some other works of more marginal relevance will be found listed in the section on semantics ((I) 2.3.4.2.) and research on Papuan languages ((I) 2.1.1.5.3., Applied Linguistics).

5.5.2.5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Overall, then, the lexicographic records of the New Guinea area is not good. Even on the most generous estimate, extensive lexical materials exist in no more than about 52 of the more than a thousand languages of the region, and the selection is not made on any rational linguistic basis. The greater ease with which dictionaries can be produced today - with offset printing rather than letterpress - makes the task of the lexicographer easier, and if this can be matched with a deeper understanding of the indigenous languages themselves, and of the ideals of both monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, then we may yet see the situation remedied somewhat in the next few decades. It would, however, be optimistic to expect anything like adequate dictionary coverage of the languages of the New Guinea area before about the end of this century.

5.5.2. A HISTORY OF LEXICOGRAPHY IN THE NEW GUINEA AREA

N O T E S

1. The proofs of this dictionary were ready by 1940, but were hidden away during the war, lest they fall into the hands of the Germans, and ultimately of the Japanese, who were then pursuing 'een uiterst aggressieve politiek tegenover Nederlandsch-Indië.' New Guinean languages have long since ceased to play such an important role in global politics.

2. The original researchers were B. Hull, H. Littlewood, and L. Sunderlin. However, the project has been indefinitely postponed. The materials are kept in the Department of Linguistics, Research School of Pacific Studies.

3. The orthography is not the modern standard, but is intelligible. The definitions read:

gauze: something like a mosquito net (tavunam = taunam), for putting on the centre of sores... collar: a piece of cloth made for the neck. When one puts a shirt on, one puts this on too.

4. An ant is a small thing found on the ground, with feet and arms; in addition, it eats wood, and its teeth are strong; if it bites a man, he feels pain; it goes on to any food that has been set down. Ants are very numerous; they are able to climb even very tall trees. There are many kinds of ant; some are red, some are white, some are black; some are small, some are large.

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