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THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF PACIFIC STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

ANNUAL REPORT 1968

STAFF

Professor	S.A. Wurm, Ph.D. (Vienna)
Fellows	D.C. Laycock B.A. (New England), Ph.D. (A.N.U.) C.L. Voorhoeve, Ph.D. (Leiden)
Research Fellow	D.T. Tryon, M.A. (Canterbury) Ph.D. (A.N.U.)
Research Assistant	H. Leach
Linguistics Assistant	S. Sinisoff
Typists and Varitypists	N. Mason (until July) S. Prince M. Stuart (until July) C. Cowey (from July)
Junior Clerks	J. Gilman M. Philip

INTRODUCTION

On 8th March, the plans approved by the Standing Committee of Council at its meeting in October 1967 to detach the former Linguistic Section of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology and to make it an independent department within the Research School, was put into effect with the filling of the newly established Chair of Linguistics at that date. S.A. Wurm, formerly Professorial Fellow in Linguistics in the Department of Anthropology, was appointed to the Chair of Linguistics. The establishment of this new Department of Linguistics has greatly facilitated the carrying out of research programmes in Linguistics and has also materially contributed to the simplification of administrative matters relating to Linguistics.

Professor Wurm spent five months overseas on study leave, visiting universities and research centres in Europe and on the U.S.A. mainland, and devoting some time to studies of aspects of the Eskimo language in Greenland, which is of great interest to work in general language typology to which Oceanic and in particular Papuan Linguistics has materially contributed over recent years. He spent three months as a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii where he was attached to the Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute. During Professor Wurm's absence, Dr. Laycock was acting as head of the Department.

Both Professor Wurm and Dr. Laycock served as members of the council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

In October, Dr. Laycock attended a meeting of the Linguistics Society of Papua and New Guinea (Kivung), at which he presented a paper on the reasons for the study of New Guinea languages.

Both Dr. Laycock and Dr. Tryon attended the ANZAAS Congress in Christchurch in January where they presented papers.

Dr. Tryon spent two periods of fieldwork in Tahiti in February-March and November in conjunction with his preparing a handbook of conversational Tahitian which has been accepted by the Australian National University Press for publication and will go to the press early 1969.

Professor Wurm, Dr. Laycock and Dr. Voorhoeve wrote several extensive contributions to volume eight, Oceanic Linguistics, of the encyclopedic American linguistic series Current Trends in Linguistics. Professor Wurm is one of the associate editors of this volume which will appear in print during 1969.

The general work of the Department of Linguistics continued along the lines followed by the previous Linguistics Section of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, with the main interest focussed on the continuation of the long term New Guinea research project, which has, during this year, shown especially spectacular progress in developing to a point where it was possible to establish the fact that the majority of the Papuan languages of New Guinea, most of which had been believed to be unrelated to each other, were in fact genetically interrelated and constituted a vast group of related languages occupying more than three quarters of the New Guinea area. A number of important linguistic discoveries throwing light upon past migrations within New Guinea have been made, and linguistic connections between widely separated areas of New Guinea established. Considerable progress has been made in Australian Linguistics studies as well, with focus of attention on interdisciplinary approaches utilising results arrived at by other disciplines, in particular prehistory, in the interpretation of linguistic findings. Enquiries continued also in Austronesian languages of New Guinea and the Western Pacific as well as in languages of Borneo and South East Asia.

Seven numbers of the linguistic publication series appeared in 1968 and further issues are in the press.

STAFF AND STUDENTS RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Professor Wurm worked on problems of the classification of Papuan and Australian languages and of the application of interdisciplinary approaches in New Guinea and Australian linguistics. He was also concerned with the study of pidgin languages in the Pacific and with matters of language policy in the Pacific and Australia. He prepared seven papers on the subjects, four of them of monograph length, which have all been accepted for publication and will appear in 1969. He has also worked extensively on a handbook of New Guinea Pidgin which is scheduled to appear during 1969.

Dr. Laycock's research interests were predominantly directed towards the assessment and writing up of his extensive materials in the Buin language of Bougainville Island,

and towards work on the classification of languages of the Sepik Districts. He was also engaged in studies of the history of work in Papuan Linguistics, and has co-authored a manuscript with Dr. C. Voorhoeve on this subject. This manuscript has been accepted for publication and will appear during 1969 in the U.S.A.

Dr. C. Voorhoeve was chiefly working on questions of wider relationships of Papuan languages and language groups within the New Guinea area, and his work has contributed very materially to our understanding of the cohesion between the Papuan languages. Some of his results were published in an article appearing in 1968 in Pacific Linguistics, and he has just completed a second manuscript to be published in Bijdragen, tot de Taal-land-en Volkenkunde, the Netherlands. He also co-authored an article with Dr. Laycock on the history of study in Papuan linguistics.

Dr. D. Tryon's research interests were divided between Australian linguistics and Tahitian. In Australian linguistics he was concerned with the study of the Daly Language Family established by him during 1967 as a result of fieldwork carried out in northwestern Australia, and with questions of linguistic evidence and aboriginal origins, following an interdisciplinary approach. This work resulted in two papers which will be published in collected volumes by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies and the Australian National University Press respectively.

He also completed the manuscript of a book entitled Conversational Tahitian which has been accepted by The Australian National University Press for publication and will appear in 1969.

He also co-authored with M.J. Dubois, C.N.R.S., Paris, the first volume of a dictionary of Nengone, a language of the Loyalty Islands.

Mr. T. Dutton made a return visit to New Guinea to check his Koiari language materials which he collected during his earlier fieldwork, and spent most of his time writing up his Koiarian language materials for his Ph.D. dissertation, due for submission early in 1969. He also prepared papers on linguistic questions of his area in the Central District of Papua, utilising an interdisciplinary approach. These papers have been accepted by the Journal of the Papua and New Guinea Society, and Pacific Linguistics, for publication in 1969. He also wrote a paper entitled The Informal English Speech of Palm Island Aboriginal Children, North Queensland, which has been accepted by the Journal of English Linguistics for publication.

Mr K. Franklin returned from the field in the Southern Highlands of New Guinea in January and spent most of the year writing up the results of his work in the Kewa language of the area. He compiled an extensive paper on Kewa dialectology which was published in the series Pacific Linguistics as a monograph. He also made plans and arrangements for a linguistic survey of the unknown parts of the Gulf District by helicopter which is to be carried out early in 1969. He left for the field again in December.

Mr D.W. Dellinger returned from the field in Northern Thailand in March and has been writing up his materials on the Akha language. While in Thailand, he prepared a paper on the structure of Akha which is now being published under the auspices of the Hill Tribes Research Centre. He also prepared a paper on ambivalent features of Akha phonology now published in Anthropological Linguistics.

Mrs J. Harris continued the analysis of a number of languages of Arnhem Land and prepared an extensive paper

entitled Preliminary Grammar of Gunbalang which will appear in Pacific Linguistics in 1969. She also prepared a paper on a mother-in-law language for publication in Pacific Linguistics.

Some of her work was concerned with questions of linguistics and aboriginal education and she completed a paper on the subject which was published in Australian Territories.

Mr J. Prentice returned from the field in North Borneo in April and began assessing and writing up his extensive materials in languages of the Murut Group. He prepared several articles for publication on that language area.

Father J. Z'graggen returned from the field late in March and began writing up his materials on languages of the western part of the Madang District many of which he had been the first linguist to discover during his field-work. His work has resulted in a complete reclassification of the languages of the Madang District and the establishment of three hitherto completely unknown groups of inter-related languages, two of which showed links very far afield in a westerly direction, with the connection stretching as far as West Irian in the case of one of the groups. He prepared several articles for publication which will appear in 1969. He also prepared a paper entitled Selepet Verb Morphology, for publication in Pacific Linguistics.

Mr K. McElhanon spent all of 1968 in the field in the Huon Peninsula area of New Guinea. His work there which included an extensive survey of the area comprised by the Peninsula and the Finisterre Ranges and the adjacent parts of the Madang District, resulted in the discovery of a hitherto unknown group of inter-related languages which show distinct relationship to other recently established groups. He co-authored a paper on his results with Mr B. Hooley¹ of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, New Guinea Branch, which has been accepted for publication by Pacific Linguistics and will appear in 1969.

Mr A. Taylor returned from the field in the Central District of Papua in August and has been working on the materials gathered by him in the field. His study was directed towards problems of Motu and the other Austronesian languages of the Central District, and also towards sociolinguistic problems. He prepared a paper for publication on the latter which has appeared in print.

Mr R. Lang returned from the field in the Western District of New Guinea in September and has begun assessing his materials on the Enga language.

Mrs A. Lang returned from the field in the Western District of New Guinea in September and has begun assessing her materials with a view to studying problems of monolingual dictionary production in the Enga Language.

During 1968, large numbers of materials have been prepared by linguists for data processing, and increasing use has been made of the A.N.U. computer facilities for linguistic studies, in particular by Dr. Laycock, Mr Dutton, Father Z'graggen, Mrs Lang and Mr Taylor.

PUBLICATIONS

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¹ † Not a member of this university.

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- 1968 Dehu Grammar. Pacific Linguistics,
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