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## V

LINGUISTICS<sup>1</sup>

## V.1. Introduction

The present chapter has been devised as a practical guide to serve the needs of both the non-linguist field researcher in Irian and the linguist who is new to this area. Consequently, information that is too outdated or unimportant, or which lies buried in journals which are very difficult to find, has not been taken into consideration. Nevertheless, if the list of relevant works presented here looks to be short, this is not the result of this selective approach. It is simply a reflection of the deplorable fact that, in spite of considerable progress in recent years, only the first steps have been taken towards the description and classification of the multitudinous languages spoken in this vast area.

## V.2. General

A preliminary linguistic map of the area is found in Galis (1955). Better maps - though certainly not complete or without errors - are those in Salzner (1960). The best so far are those in Wurm and Shirô Hattori (1981). For a general survey of the languages of Irian mention may be made of Capell (1969). Check-lists of languages in this area are found in Voorhoeve (1975b) and Barr and Barr (1978). The history of linguistic research in the area is dealt with by Anceaux (1953b), Laycock and Voorhoeve (1971) and Laycock (1972). General introductions are found in a variety of works, such as Anceaux (1953a, 1965b, 1971), Boelaars (1953), Wurm (1971, 1975a, 1975b, 1982) and Hay (1980). A useful manual for beginning field workers is Cohen (1976). A variety of problems is discussed in Cowan (1953a, 1954-55a, 1954-55b, 1959a) and Drabbe (1955-56a, 1955-56b). A set of specific problems is that of the classification of the Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian) languages of the area, of the boundary to be demarcated between these and the non-Austronesian languages, and the classification of the non-Austronesian languages. A prolific author on these three subjects is Cowan. On the classification of the non-Austronesian languages see more specifically Voorhoeve. Of interest in this context are Cowan (1949-50, 1951-52, 1953b, 1957a, 1957b, 1957-58, 1959b), Voorhoeve (1968, 1969, 1971, 1975a), McElhanon and Voorhoeve (1970), Wurm, Voorhoeve and McElhanon (1975), and Heesch (1977). For other works on Irian comparative linguistics see also Larson (1972 and 1977), Kafior and Suharno (1977), and Stokhof et al. (forthcoming).

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### V.3. Bahasa Indonesia in Irian

A subject of great practical interest is the use of the Indonesian language in Irian. This is dealt with by Roosman (1977), Silzer (1978), Suharno (1979), and Suharno and Pike (1976).

### V.4. Languages of the Eastern Part of the Jayapura Division

A review of the languages of this area, later republished in Cowan (1953b), is presented in Cowan (1952-53). The Austronesian languages spoken in the immediate surroundings of Jayapura are discussed in Galis (1954-55) and Kern (1900). On the Sko language, recognized by Cowan as a tonal language, see Cowan (1952a). Cowan also studied the Sentani language, of which he published a complete grammar (Cowan 1950, 1950-52, 1952b, 1953c, 1965). Other studies on the Sentani language are D. Hartzler (1976), M. Hartzler (1976), Moolenburgh (1906) and Sterner (1972). For the Kemtuk language (West of Lake Sentani) there are descriptive articles by Mr. and Mrs. Van der Wilden (1975, 1976). Further to the west still is the area of the Nimboran language, described in Anceaux (1965a), and May and May (1981). Masinambow (1968) is a review of Anceaux (1965a).

### V.5. Languages of the Western Part of the Jayapura Division

From this area (the Sarmi and Mamberamo subdivisions) three languages have been described, namely the Berik, the Isirawa or Saberi, and the Bauzi language. Besides, a comparative study of the Austronesian languages spoken on the Sarmi coast has been published by Grace (1971). In this connection Sterner (1976) should also be mentioned. Berik is a language of the upper Tor River, where it is in use as a lingua franca among the nomadic groups in the region. The Berik language and the languages of some related groups are analysed by P.N. Westrum and S. Westrum (1975, 1976), P. Silzer (1976), S. Silzer (1976) and J. Sterner (1973). On the Isirawa or Saberi language the reader may consult Oguri and Erickson (1975), Erickson and Pike (1976), Oguri (1976), and Oguri and Cochran (1976). The Bauzi language has been studied by D. Briley (1976) and J. Briley (1976).

### V.6. The Languages of the Geelvink Bay (T. Cenderawasih) Region

The languages spoken in this region are mostly Austronesian. An overview of a number of these is found in Anceaux (1961). The most important language of the region is Biak/Numfor. For our knowledge of this language we are indebted to the Van Hasselts (father and son), who wrote a dictionary and a very brief grammar, as well as editing a good collection of texts (1902a, 1902b, 1905, 1908, 1936-37, 1947). In recent years this information has been extended and significantly updated by Soeparno (1975, 1976, 1977). Information on the Windesi-Wondama language is confined to a number of texts with a translation and wordlist by Van Balen (1915) and a grammatical sketch by Cowan (1955-56). Of all the languages of the region, only the Waropen language has

been fully described. One and the same author has produced a grammar, a dictionary and a rich collection of texts, namely Held (1942a, 1942b, 1956). Finally, mention should be made of two of the less widely spoken languages of the region, that of Mo(o)r Island, and that of Ambai (Yapen), which have been described by Laycock (1978) and S. Silzer (1979) respectively.

### V.7. The Languages of the Bird's Head and the Radja Ampat Islands

A summary review of the languages of the Bird's Head and those of the Radja Ampat has been presented by Cowan (1953b, chapters III and V). He also wrote on the relations between the Bird's Head languages and those of Halmahera, and devoted a brief comment to the geologist Van Peski's forgotten communications on the language of Misol (Cowan 1954 and 1960, Van Peski 1914). The westernmost part of the peninsula is dealt with by Stokhof and Flassy (1982) and by Stokhof (forthcoming). There are many other languages spoken in the Bird's Head peninsula, but there are only two on which we have any record at all, namely Tehit and Kebar, which are described by Flassy and Stokhof (1979) and Miedema and Welling (1982).

### V.8. The Languages of the Fakfak Peninsula

Our knowledge of the languages of the Bird's Head may be scant, that of the linguistic situation in the Fakfak region is even worse. All we have is a brief survey by Anceaux (1958) and a few earlier publications by Le Cocq d'Armandville (1903) and Tismeer (1913).

### V.9. The Languages of Mimika and the Southern Division

More information is available on the languages of the southeastern lowlands from Mimika to the international border. A broad overview of these languages is presented in Boelaars (1950) and Drabbe (1950a). A comparative study had been made by Healey (1970). Going from west to east quite a number of descriptive studies can be recorded. These are, on the Mimika coast, Drabbe (1947-50, 1953). The Asmat language has been broadly described by Voorhoeve (1965, 1969), who has also compared the Asmat with the Sentani language. Earlier publications on the Asmat language are those written by Drabbe (1959b, 1959c, 1963). Drabbe did far more than all this. He was not a professional linguist. But if he should be described as an amateur, he was an amateur with style and an untiring devotion to duty. He started his career as a Roman Catholic missionary, and it was in the service of his mission that he described one language after another. We are indebted to him for a wealth of very useful information, not only linguistic but in his younger years also ethnographic. Justifiably famous is his ethnography of Tanimbar (Het leven van de Tanémbarees, 1940), which he wrote in addition to his studies of Tanimbarese languages. When in 1936 the Sacred Heart Mission called him to the Irian field (Mimika), he specialized exclusively in linguistics. One of the areas in which he was active was that of the Auyu languages, quite an extensive field which covers a

large region to either side of the middle Digul River, the Wildeman River region, and the upper Asuwé. His studies on these languages have been published in Drabbe 1950b, 1957, 1958 and 1959a. Drabbe also wrote three relatively short studies on the languages of Kolepom (Drabbe 1949a). Equally short or shorter still are his sketches of the languages spoken between the Digul and the international border south of the Fly River (Drabbe 1950a, 1954). In the latter category he also included the language of the Yaqai on the Mappi, North of the lower Digul. The other languages discussed here are those of the Moraori, Yéi, Kanum, Yelmek, Makléw, and Mombun, of the Marind of the upper Bian, of the Gawir area, and of the Boadzi. Most of these studies are to be found in the microfilm collection Drabbe 1954, commented on by Wurm. A more voluminous work is Drabbe's grammar of the Marind language (1955). It replaced the earlier but highly confusing grammar of that language written by Geurtjens (1927), the author of a very useful dictionary of this language (1933). In this context mention should be made also of the work which laid the foundations for Geurtjens' dictionary, namely Vertenten and Van de Kolk (1922). Finally, a study of the Boadzi language is to be found in Voorhoeve (1970).

#### V.10. *The Languages of the Central Mountains*

Research into the languages of the Central Mountains began with the compilation of simple wordlists, such as those by Van Nouhuys (1912), Le Roux (1926, 1948-51) and Feuilletau de Bruyn (1952-53). Comparative studies were made by G.F. Larson and M.O. Larson (1972), G.F. Larson (1977) and Fahner (1979). Larson's publication of 1977 contains a lexicostatistical comparison of the following languages: Ekagi, Wodani, Moni, Damal Atowa, Damal Ilaga, Dem, Wano, Wano Turumo, Western Dani, Pit River dialect of North Balim, Western Dani of Grand Valley, Wodo, Mid Grand Valley, Hitigima, Tangma, Kiniageima, Yalimo and Nduga.

The Ekagi and Moni languages have been described by Doble (1950, 1960), Drabbe (1949b, 1952) and Steltenpool (1969). Linguistic studies of the Dani languages have been made by Bromley (1961, 1966-67, 1972, 1973, 1981), Van der Stap (1966) and Simanjuntak (1980). Various other languages have been described by Heeschen (1975, 1978, n.d.) and Heeschen et al. (n.d.), Louwerse (1978a, 1978b), Bromley (1978) and Louwerse and Van der Wilden (1978).

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## VI

## HISTORY

New Guinea is one of those remote regions whose history begins with its discovery by other nations. Irian took its first wavering step into recorded history with Prapañca's mention of Wwanin as one of the dependencies of Majapahit (Nagarakrtagama 14-5-3). The name Wwanin has since been identified with Onin, the northwestern part of the Fakfak peninsula (Rouffaer, *Encyclopaedie van Nederlandsch-Indië* IV:385). Later, more substantial information was provided by the Portuguese and, after them, the Dutch and the British. Their respective discoveries cover a period of almost four and a half centuries. For our knowledge of the early history of Irian we are wholly dependent on the results of researches conducted by prehistorians, which are summarized in the first section of this chapter. A summary survey of the history of Irian as a whole is to be found in:

- Galis, K.W.  
1953 'Geschiedenis', in: Klein's Nieuw Guinea I, pp. 1-65.

## VI.1. Prehistory

Professional archaeological and prehistorical research has been restricted to the investigations of J. Röder (1938, 1938-39, 1939a, 1939b, 1939-40, 1940a, 1940b, 1955-56 and 1959), and W.G. Solheim (Solheim 1958, Solheim and Ap 1977, Solheim and Mansoben 1977). Most of the discoveries made are by students engaged in anthropological research generally, especially those taking a personal interest in archaeology and prehistory such as K.W. Galis (1950, 1954, 1956, 1957a, b, c and d, 1960, 1961, 1964) and Galis and Kamma (1958-60). All other finds were mostly a matter of sheer luck.

So far, the objects of study have been confined to rock-paintings (Röder and Galis), potsherds and kitchen-middens (Solheim), and occasional bronze objects and stone artefacts no longer in use among the local population. A case apart is that of the Jembekaki fortress on Bantanta (Radja Ampat Islands). All these matters have been discussed in the publications listed below.

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