

7.9.5. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF LANGUAGE STUDY: UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

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7.9.5.1. INTRODUCTION

Departments engaged in language study at the University of Auckland include Anthropology, Asian Languages and Literatures, Classics, English, Germanic Languages, Philosophy and Romance Languages. An undergraduate major, and graduate degrees, are offered in linguistics. Most of the general courses in linguistics are taught in the Department of Anthropology, but several of the other departments offer specific language-related or theoretical courses in linguistics.

A concentration on Pacific languages exists in the Department of Anthropology (where some ten faculty members have major interests in certain indigenous languages of Polynesia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea), and in the Department of Romance Languages (where several faculty members have research interests in French- and Spanish-based creoles and varieties of French spoken in the Pacific, and in the indigenous languages of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands).

7.9.5.2. THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

The Department of Anthropology has been increasingly concerned with the New Guinea area since Ralph Bulmer joined the faculty in 1958. The presence in the same department of social anthropologists, linguists and archaeologists has led to several interdisciplinary research projects dealing with Papua New Guinea cultures. In terms of linguistic work, the most fruitful has been the study: 'Language and Perception of the Natural Environment', among the Kalam (formerly spelt Karam) and Kopon peoples of the Bismarck-Schrader Ranges, Madang Province. Initiated

in 1959-60 by R.N.H. Bulmer and B.G. Biggs, this project has involved extended research by two linguists and two social anthropologists from Auckland, in collaboration with one social anthropologist and four natural scientists from institutions in Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand, and with substantial additional assistance in identification of biological specimens from over 20 specialists in 11 institutions in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the U.K., the U.S.A., and the Netherlands.

7.9.5.2.1. R.N.H. BULMER

R.N.H. Bulmer has spent some three years among the Kyaka Enga of the Baiyer Valley, and the Kalam of the Kaironk Valley, between 1955 and the present, studying social organisation and folk-biology. His publications on Kalam folk taxonomy (Bulmer 1967, 1968a, 1968b, 1970, 1974, Bulmer and Tyler 1968, Bulmer and Menzies 1972-73, Bulmer, Menzies and Parker 1975) are among the most detailed studies of lexical domains in any New Guinea language. An important innovation in Bulmer's ethno-zoological work is the notion of 'specieme' or taxonomic category denoting a minimal natural unit recognised to contrast with all other units by multiple characters of appearance and behaviour. Bulmer is co-author, with A.K. Pawley and B.G. Biggs, of *A First Dictionary of Kalam*, now in the final stages of preparation for publication in *Pacific Linguistics*.

7.9.5.2.2. B.G. BIGGS

Bruce Biggs carried out linguistic research among the Kyaka Enga and Kalam in 1959-60 and among the Kalam in 1963-64. His phonological analysis of Kalam (1963) established that a large proportion of Kalam words are best interpreted as containing no vowel phonemes. He went on to suggest that the very short central vowels reported as occurring between consonants in several other New Guinea languages might turn out to be non-phonemic, as in Kalam. Subsequent studies have tended to support this suggestion; it may be an areal feature of New Guinea languages that there is 'loose' execution of certain types of consonant clusters, with a non-contrastive weak vowel or vowel-like transition generally appearing between successive points of contoid articulation, in contrast to the 'tight' or 'close-knit' execution of consonant clusters usually found in West European languages. Biggs is co-author, with Bulmer and Pawley, of *A First Dictionary of Kalam*.

7.9.5.2.3. A.K. PAWLEY

Andrew Pawley spent 11 months among the Kalam in the period 1963-75. His doctoral dissertation (1966) was a structural analysis of Kalam phonology and grammar. More recent studies have dealt with Kalam lexicon (Pawley 1970, Bulmer, Pawley and Biggs forthcoming) and with aspects of Kalam syntax and semantics (Pawley 1969, forthcoming a), particularly the fact that Kalam morpheme strings denoting events correspond closely in structure to the abstract structures posited as underlying single morpheme verbs in English. Kalam makes very frequent use of a dozen or so verb stems with very broad meanings; typically, a term for an action, process or state is composed of one or a series of these verb stems together with other morphemes denoting semantic components of the 'event concept', e.g. mnm ag ñ- (speech utter transfer) 'to tell'.

With W.E. Tomasetti, formerly of the University of Papua New Guinea, Pawley has collected wordlists from more than 200 Austronesian languages of Papua New Guinea (those from languages of Papua appear in Pawley and Dutton, eds, forthcoming (a-c), as well as for some Papuan languages (Dutton and Pawley, eds, forthcoming (a-c)). Two recent papers (Pawley 1975a, forthcoming c) investigate the relationships of the Austronesian languages of New Guinea, and another (Pawley and Green 1973) tries to correlate linguistic and archaeological evidence for dating the spread of Austronesian-speaking communities in and east of the New Guinea area. An interest in the nature and evolution of the sound systems of varieties of New Guinea Pidgin (Pawley 1975b, forthcoming b) has stemmed from the hypotheses that loose execution of consonant clusters is a New Guinea areal feature, and that a pidgin may show a pattern of sound correspondences with the superstrate language that is less regular than that obtaining between 'normally' related languages.

7.9.5.2.4. G. JACKSON

Graham Jackson has spent some three years between 1966 and 1974 among the Kopon-speaking people of Yhal Ridge in the Lower Kaironk. He has prepared unpublished analyses of Yhal Kopon phonology and morphology and a substantial manuscript dictionary. His doctoral dissertation (Jackson 1975) focuses on Kopon concepts of medicine and disease, social structure, and, especially, taboo, and contains detailed analyses of lexical domains related to these areas of the culture.

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