

7.9.7. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF LANGUAGE STUDY: IRIAN JAYA

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7.9.7.1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Apart from the research done by linguists from overseas universities, the linguistic research and language study undertaken in Irian Jaya since 1962 have largely been carried out by Christian missions. In recent years Universitas Cenderawasih and the Summer Institute of Linguistics (S.I.L.) have also become involved in language study and linguistic research. Because of the Indonesian Government's policy of unifying a diverse nation through the national language, Bahasa Indonesia, the long-standing policy of vernacular education for the first three years of a child's schooling has not been implemented on a wide scale. The general paucity of linguistic research and orthography development has meant that teachers have not been prepared to teach in the vernacular.

7.9.7.2. LINGUISTIC WORK BY CATHOLIC MISSIONS

Both Roman Catholic and Protestant Missions have been involved in linguistic research and language study over recent decades. Most notable among Roman Catholic linguists who have contributed to linguistic research are Fr P. Drabbe (1959a, 1959b, 1963) and Fr P.A.M. van der Stap (1966) whose work in several languages has been used to help missionaries of other missions as well as their own. Drabbe's biggest contribution was on the Asmat language and van der Stap's on Dani. Other Roman Catholic missionaries have been or are involved in language study but the authors know little of their work. As the policy of the church is to teach Indonesian, vernacular literacy is not engaged in.

However there has been some translation into vernacular languages: for example, the four Gospels have been translated into the Ngalum language.

7.9.7.3. LINGUISTIC WORK BY PROTESTANT MISSIONS

7.9.7.3.1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Protestant missions that are known by the authors to be involved to a greater or lesser extent in language study are the Australian Baptist Missionary Society (ABMS), Asia Pacific Christian Mission (APCM), Christian and Missionary Alliance (CAMA), Gereja Kristen Injili (GKI), Netherlands Reformed Church (NRC), Regions Beyond Missionary Union (RBMU), The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), Unevangelised Fields Mission (UFM), and the Zending Gereformeerde Kerken (ZGK).

7.9.7.3.2. MISSION POLICY

7.9.7.3.2.1. Use of Vernacular and Language Learning

In reply to a questionnaire, field leaders of most of these missions stated that, while primary education is carried out in the national language, it is the policy of their respective missions to use the vernaculars of the areas in which their missionaries work, for the communication of the Gospel. However in some places, GKI and ZGK missionaries use Indonesian and work through local interpreters. Missionaries of the other missions are required to learn the local vernacular, generally from language lessons and any available tape drills set up by fellow missionaries. To aid them in language learning APCM missionaries are also required to work with local people on cultural research programmes. In areas where linguistic research has not been carried out missionaries are encouraged to learn monolingually.

7.9.7.3.2.2. Literacy Programmes

In those areas where missionaries have reduced the languages to writing, vernacular literacy programmes have been initiated with varying degrees of success. In the Western Dani area, where extensive literacy programmes have been carried out by ABMS, APCM, CAMA, RBMU, and UFM, it has been estimated that 20,000 Dani (a quarter of the population) are literate. Literacy programmes have been conducted and supervised by national teachers. About 60 literacy schools are in operation and a training school for literacy teachers was held in 1973 at the ABMS station at Pit River. CAMA reports that there are approximately 2,000 literates as a result of the literacy schools conducted by local preachers in the Nduga language area, and over 20,000 in the Ekari

(Kapauku) area. In the Lower Grand Valley Dani area Myron Bromley reports over 500 literates in 1973 with adult literacy programmes for about 1,500 being conducted by CAMA in Tangma and Hetigima and neighbouring areas and by GKI in Kurima areas. School children studying Indonesian are also becoming literate in their own language. TEAM reports lesser success in its vernacular literacy programmes conducted in the Hatam, Maniklon, Meyah (Meax), Mimika (Kamoro), Nafarapi (northern Asmat dialects), Auju (Awyu), and Asmat languages. Almost all of the approximately 3,000 literates in the Asmat language first learned to read in Bahasa Indonesia. The Asmat orthography was closely aligned with that of Bahasa Indonesia to enable Asmat-speakers to read Asmat with a limited amount of adaptation. Only a small number are currently using Asmat literature. Primers and readers have been prepared in the Korappun language for eight literacy schools taught by Dani teacher-evangelists under RBMU. Literacy programmes are also carried out in the Hupla, Sawi (Sawuy), and Kayagar languages. Vernacular literacy schools for adult Jali (Yaly)-speakers are conducted not only by the RBMU but also by NRC and GKI missionaries. As with RBMU, UFM conducts its vernacular literacy programmes for children as well as for adults. A trial literacy programme has been carried out for the Oktengban (Goliath Family) people. A bilingual education programme is carried out in the vernacular and Bahasa Indonesia.

7.9.7.3.2.3. Linguistic Analysis

Most of the missions require staff members with university or S.I.L. linguistic training to do linguistic research where it has not already been done. CAMA and UFM encourage their staff to publish their linguistic findings, whereas the other missions require them only to prepare language learning lessons as a result of their analysis. In most cases missions reported that help was gained from discussion with linguists from other missions as well as their own. Myron Bromley (CAMA), Gordon Larson (CAMA), John Ellenberger (CAMA), and Murray and Joan Rule (APCM, Papua New Guinea) have been of particular help to missionaries in their linguistic analysis. Almost all the missions form a committee of local Irianese and expatriates to make the final decisions about an orthography. Such a committee takes into consideration the difficulties that a person who is literate in the vernacular will experience in reading Bahasa Indonesia; they sometimes also consider the orthographies used in neighbouring languages.

APCM has been involved in the study of the Dani and Ngalum languages.

Myron Bromley (1961, 1967, 1972), Gordon and Mildred Larson (1958), and Marion Doble (1960, 1962) of CAMA have published their findings on the Lower Grand Valley Dani, Moni, and Kapauku languages respectively. Analysis of the Nduga language remains unpublished as far as the present writers are aware. In all, seven members of CAMA are actively involved in linguistic analysis.

Netherlands Reformed Church linguist, Christian Fahner, has been studying the Pass Valley dialect of the Jali (Yaly) language and was preparing a doctoral dissertation on morphological relations between Jali (Yaly) and Dani in 1974.

Six of the RBMU staff have been involved in language analysis. The analysis of the Ninia dialect of the Jali (Yaly) language is being written up at present. RBMU contributed to the analysis of the Western Dani language in co-operation with linguists of other missions. Some study has been done of the Kayagar, Sawi, Korappun, and Hupla languages.

The Evangelical Alliance Mission has eight staff members actively involved in linguistic analysis of the Hatam, Manikion, Meyah (Meax), Nafarapi, Asmat, Mimika (Kamoro), and Auju (Awyu) languages.

Initial analysis has been carried out on the Duvle, Ururi, Ngalum, Hmonomo, and Oktengban (Goliath Family) languages by the ten linguistically trained members of UFM. An unpublished analysis of the Naltja (Naltya) and Korappun languages has been done. One missionary of ZGK is now studying the Wanggom language.

7.9.7.4. UNIVERSITAS CENDERAWASIH

The Universitas Cenderawasih has offered courses in elementary linguistics since 1974. A language laboratory has been built and equipped at the university to be used initially in the teaching of Indonesian and English; later its use may be extended to the study of Irian Jaya vernacular languages. A Department of Anthropology and Linguistics is scheduled to begin operating in 1977. This new department will offer a five-year B.A. course. One graduate from Irian Jaya is at present completing post-graduate linguistic research at the University of Michigan, U.S.A.

The Institute for Anthropology of the Universitas Cenderawasih produces *Irian, Bulletin of Irian Jaya Development*, which is jointly edited by Dr I. Suharno and a linguist of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. This bulletin, the first volume of which appeared in 1972, is produced 'to provide a vehicle for the dissemination of information concerning completed, on-going, and planned research in Irian Jaya and also a means by which those engaged in various projects might communicate their

successes and the difficulties being encountered'. Linguistic research is included.

The university sponsored a linguistic seminar in early 1977 which included linguists from Indonesia, Australia, and the Netherlands, as well as S.I.L. and mission linguists. The papers presented at this seminar are to be published in 1977. Additional seminars of this nature are planned for the future.

7.9.7.5. SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

The Indonesian branch of the Summer Institute of Linguistics working in Irian Jaya has as its goals the analysis of vernacular languages, the promotion of literacy for the people whose languages are studied, the preparation of general reading material for these people, and translation work.

Up until the end of 1976 research had been started in nine languages. Seven of these languages are located in the north coast area of the Jayapura district: Sobel, Isirawa (Saberl), Berik, Kentuk (Kamtuk), Bauzi (Bauri, Baudi), Sentani, and Air Mati. These languages have been previously surveyed by Grace (1972), Cowan (1957), Voorhoeve (1971, 1975), and by Voorhoeve in chapter (I) 2.6.2. Initial linguistic findings have been published in each of these languages (Briley, D. 1976, Briley, J. 1976, Erickson and Pike 1976, Hartzler 1976, Oguri 1976, Oguri and Erickson 1975, Oguri and Cochran 1976, Silzer, P. 1976, Silzer, S. 1976, Sterner, J. 1974, Sterner, R. 1974, Westrum, P. 1976, Westrum, P. and S. 1976, Westrum, S. 1976, van der Wilden, J. 1976, van der Wilden J. and Jelly 1975, and van der Wilden, Jelly 1976).

Work was begun in late 1976 in two other languages, Ambai and Ketengban, but no articles have yet been published. Ambai, an Austro-nesian language located off the coast of Yapen Island, was previously surveyed by Anceaux (1961). Ketengban (of the Goliath Family) is located in the Jayawijaya district of the central highlands.

Dr Kenneth L. Pike conducted a linguistic workshop in early 1975 which included linguists from several universities in Indonesia as well as S.I.L. linguists. The papers written at this workshop were published in *From Baudi to Indonesian* (Suharno and Pike, eds 1976).

Dr Kenneth Gregerson provided consultant help during a six-week linguistic workshop in early 1976. The papers written in conjunction with this workshop appeared in *Irian*, volume 5, nos.1, 2.

S.I.L. is currently involved in teaching English at the university and in assisting in the editing of the *Irian* journal. S.I.L. will be providing staff for the Anthropology/Linguistics Department that is to be established at the university.

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