PACIFIC LINGUISTICS
D – 30

A COMPARATIVE WORD LIST OF THE RAI COAST LANGUAGES, MADANG PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

J. A. Z'graggen

Out of print book
Electronic copy or book copied by Pacific Linguistics
RSPAS, Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200 Australia

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First published 1980.

The editors are indebted to the Australian National University for help in the production of this series.

This publication was made possible by an initial grant from the Hunter Douglas Fund.

National Library of Australia Card Number and ISBN 0 85883 232 1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to express his gratitude to A.A. Noser, S.V.D., Roman Catholic Archbishop of Madang, Father Dr W. Saake, S.V.D., Director of the Anthropos Institute, and Professor S.A. Wurm, Australian National University, for their continued interest in this study. My special thanks go to Dr E. Deibler, Summer Institute of Linguistics, New Guinea Branch, and Dr A. Pawley, University of Hawaii, for reading through the manuscript and commenting on it. My thanks extend to the Swiss National Fund for making available a financial grant for the field work period of January 1971 to December 1973.

This work would have been impossible without the selfless help of Nora Angst-Umbricht, who helped collect and file the data from January 1971 to December 1972, and of Huberta Bulel and Cathy Anas, both of Kananam village, who filed the data and typed the manuscript. And last but not least my deeply felt thanks to the numerous informants who patiently worked with me.

My thanks also go to Jeanette Coombes for typesetting and to the editors of *Pacific Linguistics* for publishing this volume.

J.A. Z'GRAGGEN

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Rai Coast languages are located in the central part of the Madang Province, Papua New Guinea, extending from the Astrolabe Bay area south towards the Ramu River and east towards Saidor town (see language map). The Rai Coast[1] Stock was first proposed by Claassen and McElhanon (1970)[2] and the western boundary was established by Z'graggen (1975a,b) in his field work period from January 1971 to November 1973.

2. The Rai Coast language Stock consists now of twenty-nine languages and six families, i.e. Evapia (B1-B5), Kabenau[3] (B6-B10), Yaganon (B11-B13), Peka[4] (B14-B17), Nuru (B18-B24) and Mindjim (B25-B28). The Rai Coast Stock forms with the Mabuso Stock (see language map, letter C) the Madang Super-Stock, which forms with the Adelbert Range Super-Stock the Madang-Adelbert Range Sub-Phylum (Wurm: personal communication). The Madang-Adelbert Range languages link with the Trans-New Guinea Phylum as a sub-phylum, because only part of the presently known Trans-New Guinea vocabulary is found to be present. The Rai Coast Stock is of a very heterogeneous nature, both lexically as well as structurally (see Appendix B-E). The families of the Rai Coast languages are related to each other in chain relationships, i.e. the farther apart from each other, the more diverse they become. But the Yaganon and the Mindjim families are more divergent from each other and the remainder of the stock. The present classification needs to be systematically restudied with the data now available in this volume. Whatever the final outcome will be, the present classification has helped to arrange the data according to their apparent relationship to each other, and the comparativist will profit from this. Of Bx Dumun[5] only a short word list was available to the present writer, but this

list was sufficient to list Dumun as a member of the Yaganon family. Because of lack of data, Bx Dumun will be discarded in the remainder of this volume.

The division into language and dialect is based on informant opinion. The dialect boundaries for each individual language have yet to be discovered, and mutual intelligibility among languages as given in this study has yet to be tested and studied.

3. Various authors contributed to the study of these languages under consideration. Hanke (1909) provides an extensive grammar and dictionary for the Bongu language. M. Mathieson and M. Wells, both of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, worked on the Suroi language, but their linguistic data have only recently become available. Words and occasional notes on the grammar are to be found in Aufinger (1942-45), Bíró (1901), Loukotka (1958), Claassen and McElhanon (1970), Hoffmann (1899, 1906), Krieger (1899), Miklukho-Maklaj (1951), Gabelentz and Meyer (1882), Ray (1902, 1919), Schmidt (1900), etc. The area was in more recent times also included in larger areal studies by Loukotka (1957), Salzner (1960), Schmitz (1960), Capell (1962, 1969), Voegelin and Voegelin (1965), Greenberg (1971) and Wurm (1971). For identification of their language names see Z'graggen 1975b.

4. This present volume presents comparative tables of a list of around 300 words and some structural elements for further research and evaluation. At the bottom of each column forms for the reconstructed Austronesian language known as Proto-Oceanic (PO)[5] are provided, wherever the reconstructions are known. Although genetically unrelated, Oceanic Austronesian and Papuan languages have been in contact for several thousand years in the New Guinea area, and some borrowing has taken place. The Proto-Oceanic forms are included as an aid in tracing such borrowings. In close vicinity to the Rai Coast languages are the Austronesian languages X9 Ham, X5 Bilbil, X10 Mindiri and X11 Biliau. Cultural words are marked with an asterisk, but they are not to be taken into account for studying genetic relationships between languages. For other studies such as sound correspondences and cultural studies, such words should prove to be very interesting.

No marking of cognation is given, since this would require extensive research in a number of cases. Despite that, it is hoped that the comparative word list will be useful for further research into New Guinea languages.

5. The elicitation of words is based on an elicitation list of some 300 meanings (see Z'graggen 1971b), which the author prepared for his own field work and area of interest. Some of the words are omitted because the terms they represent could not reliably be collected or because of considerable difficulties in eliciting the item. Special care was taken to establish the base form. Kinship and body part terms were systematically studied for affixed genitive pronouns, and were found in a number of cases suffixed or prefixed to the noun root. Transitive verbs were studied for their relationship to the object of the sentence, and in most cases they were found to be suffixed by a verbal object, or in a few cases prefixed. Verbs are also suffixed by tense, subject, etc., markers. Time did not permit the establishing of all of the morphemes suffixed to the verb root. In the process of elicitation, however, the third person singular was kept unchanged, but the verb form was changed by varying tenses related to the past, present and future and also as to negation. This provided a substitution frame for an approximate morpheme division. The stem-final vowel remained in some cases uncertain or arbitrary. A subsequent check with Hanke's (1909) Bongu dictionary confirmed this method. Hanke's verbs end in an **-ar** element which recurs in all verbs and does not belong to the verb root.

6. The words in the elicitation list are grouped into semantic groups based partly on English. This arrangement is beneficial both for the informant and the analyst. But it must be pointed out that such grouping is not always valid in New Guinea languages. For example, English adjectives such as *heavy, full, ripe,* etc. are frequently a verb in New Guinea languages. In addition, semantic divisions are not always as in English, e.g. the following words may be the same: *man/male, blood/red, sit/be.* The word categories of each language have ultimately to be worked out from the language itself, and independently from English or Melanesian Pidgin.

7. The transcription of the word list is rendered in a semiphonemic form, i.e. apparently non-contrastive phonetic details are omitted, and fluctuating sounds were transcribed consistently only when discovered early enough to make the transcription uniform.

In a number of cases voiceless and voiced stops were found in fluctuation. In addition, the following sounds were found to be in fluctuation in a particular language, at least in some instances; the present data do not permit determination of the precise conditioning and governing factors of fluctuation.

Sinsauru
f ∿ h
r ∿ l

Asas
f ∿ ƥ
ƥ ∿ h
r ∿ l

Sausi
ʔ ∿ g/k
l ∿ r

Kesawai
h ∿ ƥ

Dumpu
ƥ ∿ f
l ∿ r

Arawum
f ∿ p
j ∿ c
z ∿ ž ∿ dž
l ∿ r
ɛ ∿ a

Kolom
z ∿ ž ∿ dž

Suroi

Lemio
f ∿ ƥ
g ∿ ɠ

Pulabu

Yabong
f ∿ p
ʔ ∿ k
r ∿ l

Ganglau

Saep

Usino
p ∿ f
d ∿ r
r ∿ l
i ∿ ə

Sumau
j ∿ ǯ
ʔ- ∿ ø
ƥ ∿ p

Urigina
d ∿ r
r ∿ l

Danaru
p ∿ f
w ∿ ƀ
ɛ ∿ ə

Usu
dz ∿ z ∿ ž
z ∿ y
l ∿ r

Erima
j ∿ z
f ∿ ƥ

Duduela
ƥ ∿ f
k- ∿ h-
j ∿ t
z ∿ ž

Kwato
d ∿ r
z ∿ ž

Rerau

Jilim

Yangulam

Bom
g ∿ ɠ
ǰ ∿ ǰ

Male
ɠ ∿ g/k
j ∿ ǰ
y ∿ j

Bongu
k- ∿ ɠ-

8. The personal pronouns in their free, possessive, genitive and verbal object forms are given on pages 7-12 wherever they were found. They are given again in Appendix A to allow their study in each individual language. The possessive pronoun is given along with the possessive marked in Appendix A.

The free pronoun forms are also used as subject and object of the sentence, but a change of the vowel was occasionally observed. The dual form is derived from the plural pronouns (but in Male from the singular form) either by adding the numeral two to by suffixing a dual number formative to the plural form. The plural and dual forms are given in Appendix E. A plural number suffix is isolatable only in some instances.

The possessive pronoun is that pronoun which is obligatorily suffixed by a possessive enclitic, which is presented in Appendix D. In Kwato, Male, Songum the possessive pronoun is a partial reduplication of the pronoun root. The possessive pronoun and possessive marker usually precede the noun indicating the possessed, but they may also follow.

In some of the languages of the Rai Coast Stock a genitive pronoun is affixed to nouns of kinship and body parts, but not to nouns denoting an alienable object. Thus a two-possessive class system is employed. In other cases we have a one-possessive class system. The distribution of the possessive class systems is displayed in Appendix B. The two-possessive class system is not always applied to all nouns of the semantic groups of kinship and body part terms. Exceptions belong to the class of alienable objects. In Appendix B R/P indicates that the system is applied at least to some noun of both groups. R indicates that it is applied only to the terms of relatives, and P only to the terms of the body parts sub-class. In the cases of Sausi, Arawum, Lemio, Danaru and Jilim affixed genitive pronouns were given only for the singular pronoun, and in the case of Asat and Suroi, only for the third person singular. The genitive pronoun is usually suffixed, but in a few cases prefixed, to the noun root. In the case of Danaru the first and second person singular genitive pronouns are prefixed, whereas the third person singular is suffixed, while the plural genitive pronouns are unmarked.

The verbal object is usually suffixed to the root of transitive verbs, or in some cases prefixed. The distribution pattern is given in Appendix C. Not all of the transitive verbs are affixed by a verbal object. The verb *to hear* is a frequent exception. In the case of Pulabu the verbal objects were given only for the verb *to give*.

For the indirect object of the verb *to give* an allomorphic set was given in some cases; see for instance Kolom and Yabong.

Most of the free pronoun forms of the Rai Coast languages belong to Set II, but the second person plural pronoun and some of the Yaganon and Mindjim pronouns belong to Set I of the Trans-New Guinea Phylum languages (see Wurm 1975a).

9. The negation marker is an enclitic which precedes and/or follows the verb. The tentative forms are given in Appendix C.

ABBREVIATIONS

C	consonant
dl	dual
f	female
intr	intransitive
m	male
Nb	noun base
Numb	number
O	object class
P	body part class
pl	plural
PM	possessive marker
PO	Proto-Oceanic
R	terms of relative class
sg	singular
tr	transitive
v	verb
V	vowel
Vb	verb base
-	morpheme division
( )	element doubtful or optional
1	first person singular
2	second person singular
3	third person singular
4	first person plural
5	second person plural
6	third person plural
7	first person dual
8	second person dual
9	third person dual

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF VOCABULARY ITEMS

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