

Language and Culture Research Group

The Cairns Institute — James Cook University

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The **Language and Culture Research Group** (LCRG) is a unit within the newly-established **Cairns Institute** (Director, Professor Hurriyet Babacan), an international research centre for multidisciplinary studies in the social sciences and the humanities. Members of LCRG belong to the **Faculty of Arts, Education and Social Sciences** (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean, Professor Nola Alloway) within James Cook University.

Overview

In its second year at JCU, the Language and Culture Research Group has built on previous successes, in terms of grants obtained, the fine quality of Post-doctoral Research Fellows and of the growing roster of PhD students, the exciting presence of top-quality International Visiting Fellows, the triumph of our tenth International Workshop, and many, much-cited publications of members.

Who'll be at LCRG in 2011

Professor Alexandra (Sasha) Aikhenvald is Research Leader, People and Societies of the Tropics within the Cairns Institute, Coordinator of LCRG, and also Deputy Dean of Graduate Research Studies, Cairns Campus. In December 2010 she was awarded the high honour of a Distinguished Professorship. Early in the year she will complete *Languages of the Amazon* (for Oxford University Press) and plans then to commence work on a further monograph *The Art of Grammar*. A field trip is planned for mid-year, to the Sepik region of Papua New Guinea, for further work on languages from the Ndu family. In September-October, Aikhenvald will have a second sojourn in the Institut für Afrikanistik at the University of Cologne, as a part of her Alexander von Humboldt Research Award. And work is continuing on languages from the Arawak family in Brazil, plus further topics in linguistic typology, including perception and cognition, possession, noun classes and classifiers.

Professor R. M. W. (Bob) Dixon, Senior Fellow of the Cairns Institute, is Associate Coordinator of LCRG. He is currently finalising the third volume of his magnum opus *Basic Linguistic Theory* (the first two volumes have been most well received) for Oxford University Press. He will then turn his attention to a volume on morphological derivation in English, provisionally titled *Making new words*. An on-going project is to complete work on the collection of 75 texts in Dyirbal (recorded between 1963 and 2022) and finalise a comprehensive dictionary/thesaurus across ten dialects of the language. Collaboration is continuing with several tribal communities in North Queensland on language revitalisation. Dixon also keeps a-working on long-term projects on Boumaa Fijian, Jarawara (from Brazil) and the grammar of English prepositions.

Postdoctoral Research Fellows

[Employed on ARC Discovery Projects: Aikhenvald/Dixon 'The world through the prism of language: a cross-linguistic view of genders, noun classes and classifiers', and Dixon/Aikhenvald 'Are some languages better than others?']

Dr Anne Schwarz is preparing materials, and writing the first draft of her grammar of Secoya. She will be completing an article on reference-modification intersection in adjectives, and a monograph about specificity and number in the noun class system of some African languages. She will present a paper on 'Specificity Efforts in Discourse and the Typology of Nominal Classification' at the 9th International Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology (July 22-24, 2011, University of Hong Kong). And she is planning a second field trip on Secoya towards the end of the year.

Dr Tianqiao (Mike) Lu is working to complete his monograph 'Classifiers in Kam-Tai languages: A Cognitive and Cultural Perspective' (an integral component of the ARC Discovery Project 'The world through the prism of language: a cross-linguistic view of genders, noun classes and classifiers'). He also plans to write a paper on 'The diffusion of the emphatic marker **ko* in Southeast Asia and China'. And he is devoting attention to improvement of the orthographic system for Maonan (the availability of the system will greatly facilitate the language data exchange between him and the native speakers).

Dr Mark Post will be completing a digital corpus of Upper Belt Minyong (Tani, Tibeto-Burman), and drafting an etymological dictionary and descriptive grammar of the language. He will also be continuing comparative/typological work on nominalization and stance marking in Tibeto-Burman, and is scheduled to give invited papers on each of these topics at the Association for Linguistic Typology meeting in Hong Kong in July. In addition, he will be continuing his work on the reconstruction of isolate substrates in Tibeto-Burman, and preparing two papers on this topic for publication. And he will be co-editing the fifth volume in the conference series *North East Indian Linguistics*.

Mission statement of LCRG

The Linguistics and Culture Research Group promotes interdisciplinary research involving immersion fieldwork, leading to comprehensive documentation of indigenous languages and cultures. This feeds into inductive generalisations concerning human language capacity, and the interaction between parameters of linguistic and cultural behaviour. Our core members are anthropologically-orientated linguists and we maintain a dialogue with anthropologists, sociologists, archeologists, educationalists and other scholars in the humanities, social sciences and relevant natural sciences. LCRG's primary focus is on the autochthonous peoples of New Guinea, Australia, Amazonia, East Asia and South Asia.

We work in terms of basic linguistic theory, the cumulative framework which is employed in most linguistic description, providing anthropologically informed grammars and analyses of languages and language areas. Our work has a sound empirical basis but also shows a firm theoretical orientation, seeking for explanation hand-in-hand with description.

Building on reliable descriptive studies, the LCRG also puts forward inductive generalizations about human languages, cultural practices and cognition. We enquire how a language reflects the environment in which people live, their system of social organization, food production techniques, and the ways in which a community views the world. For instance, groups living in mountainous terrain often have to specify, for any object, whether it is uphill, downhill or at the same level as the speaker. And if there is a chiefly system, a special term of address may be required for speaking to a high chief, and a different term for a minor chief. Why are languages the way they are? We seek scientific explanation and motivation, combining the expertise of linguists, anthropologists and social scientists from other domains.

Another focus of study concerns the ways in which languages influence each other. What kind of words, and meanings, are likely to be borrowed between two languages spoken next to each other, and under what social circumstances? Are some kinds of systems particularly open to diffusion, so that they are likely to spread over all the languages in a geographical area, and are other kinds of systems less likely to be diffused?

LCRG organises International Workshops, regular roundtable meetings, and various events through the year. We reach out to the community, through advising and assisting concerning language renewal and revitalisation.

A further Research Fellowship has been advertised, within the framework of the ARC Discovery Project 'The grammar of knowledge' (Chief Investigators Aikhenvald and Dixon)

Cairns Institute Visiting Fellows

Professor Carol Genetti (University of California at Santa Barbara), an internationally recognised expert on the Tibeto-Burman family and general linguistics, has been awarded a Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellowship for May-August 2011. She will be working on the history and classification of Tibeto-Burman languages, designing a dictionary for Dolokha Newar and investigating models of language conservation.

Dr Knut Olawsky (Senior Linguist, Kununurra Language Centre, Western Australia) will be a Special Visiting Fellow at LCRG in March-May, working on the grammar of Miriwoong, from Western Australia, and interacting with members of LCRG and others in JCU on issues of language documentation and revitalization.

Adjunct Professor of the Cairns Institute

Professor Kenneth Memson Sumbuk, Professor of Linguistics and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea, is an expert on the indigenous languages and cultures of the Sepik region, an area of extreme diversity. He is currently revising for publication his PhD thesis (from Waikato University) 'The Sare language of East Sepik, Papua New Guinea' (a language for which he is a native speaker).

PhD students

Chia-jung Pan relocated from La Trobe University to JCU in September 2009. His PhD is a grammatical study of Lha'alua (or Saaroa), a critically endangered Formosan language of Taiwan. Pan's MA thesis, *The grammatical realization of temporal expressions in Tsou*, was published by Lincom Europa in late 2010.

Yankee Modi (from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) is undertaking intensive fieldwork for her PhD thesis 'The cultural and environmental shaping of Milang language'.

Gerda (Dineke) Schokkin (from the University of Amsterdam) is undertaking fieldwork for a grammar of Paluai, a previously undocumented Oceanic language of the Manus province of Papua New Guinea.

Sihong Zhang (from Anhui University of Traditional Chinese Medicine) is working on Ersu, a previously undocumented Tibeto-Burman language of south-west China.

Hannah Sarvasy, from Harvard University, will start her PhD course in May 2011. She plans to work on a comprehensive grammatical description of a previously undescribed language from Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea.

Juliane Böttger, from the University of Leipzig, starts her PhD course in July 2011. She will be working on a comprehensive grammatical description of a previously undescribed language from Papua New Guinea.

Mikko Salminen, from Leiden University, plans to commence his PhD course in August 2011. He will be working on a comprehensive grammatical description of Huave, an isolate from Mexico.

Publication Assistant

Brigitta Flick continues her careful and invaluable work in this position.

Associate Members of LCRG

- **Professor Ton Otto**, Research Leader, People and Societies of the Tropics within the Cairns Institute, is working on social change and notions of temporality and agency, with reference to Papua New Guinea and particularly the peoples of Manus Island. He also works on the question of the (in)compatibility of value systems and is involved in developing the new interdisciplinary field of design anthropology.
- **Associate Professor Rosita Henry**, from the Department of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology, and a Fellow of the Cairns Institute, is researching issues of gender politics in the Western Highlands of PNG, focusing on contradictions between customary land tenure and concepts of private property.
- **Dr Mike Wood**, Senior Lecturer in Department of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology, is a Fellow of the Cairns Institute. He is currently working on how the Kamula people from the Western Province of PNG translate the new carbon economy into their language and culture. He is also working on HIV/AIDS related issues in a logging concession in the Western Province and has just begun a project, with Rosita Henry and others, on the history of artefact collecting in the Wet Tropics region of North Queensland.
- **Professor Borut Telban**, anthropologist from the Academy of Sciences of Slovenia, is working on the language and culture of the Karawarri (Lower Sepik, PNG). He contributed to the LCRG Roundtable on Perception and Cognition, before departing for the field.

Also associated with LCRG are **Daniela Vavrová**, a PhD student in anthropology working on visual anthropology of the Karawarri, and **Emma Scott**, a PhD student in anthropology working on the ethnography and shamanism among the Piapoco (Arawak, Venezuela).

Grants and Awards

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon were successful in obtaining an ARC Discovery Grant, 'The grammar of knowledge: a cross linguistic view of evidentials and epistemological expressions' (2011-13). This project involves Prof Anne Storch and Prof Gerrit J. Dimmendaal, of the University of Cologne, as Partner Investigators.

Summary of the project: 'Languages differ as to how one conveys the 'evidence' on which a statement is based. Some have an obligatory category of 'evidentiality' in their grammar, whereby a speaker **MUST** specify whether something was seen, inferred, reported etc. Others use other grammatical devices, or just lexical means ('the alleged killer is reported to have. . .') We investigate varying means for coding information source and other epistemological issues, looking at how these correlate with socio-cultural parameters. Attention will focus on languages of New Guinea, Amazonia, Aboriginal Australia and Africa. This work will provide a unique 'window' as to how humans construct representations of the world through linguistic expression of knowledge.' A PostDoctoral Fellowship, to work within the project, has been advertised.

Dixon and Aikhenvald obtained an ARC Linkage Grant, 'Land, language and heritage', with the Echo Creek Cultural Centre as a Partner Organization (under the leadership of Dr Ernie Grant) (2011-2014).

Summary of the project: Building on academic work by R. M. W. Dixon and educational initiatives by Ernie Grant, this large-scale cooperative initiative will produce comprehensive documentation of the Jirrbal Aboriginal tribe from North Queensland, in written, audiovisual and web-based form. It embraces traditional culture, recent history and language adaptation, enhancing the work of Partner Organisation, Echo Creek Cultural Centre, in the cross-cultural training it provides. The project is cast within the framework of the Holistic Approach (linking land, language and heritage), integrating and promoting indigenous knowledge. We work towards the empowerment of Indigenous Australians, reaffirmation of their identity and sustainable use of traditional environment.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow **Mark Post** was awarded a fieldwork grant from the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP) for 'A documentation of the Upper Belt variety of Minyong (Adi), Arunachal Pradesh, North East India'.

PhD student **Yankee Modi** was also awarded a fieldwork grant from the ELDP for 'Documentation of Milang, an endangered Tibeto-Burman language of North East India'.

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

- Was recipient of International Collaborative Award (The Australian Academy of the Humanities) for conducting International Workshop 'Possession and Ownership', JCU, 27 September- 2 October.
- Received a Research Award by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany), to be taken up at the Institut für Afrikanistik, University of Cologne (2010-12).
- Was appointed to a JCU Distinguished Professorship, for her 'exceptional scholarly contribution and international recognition as an authority on linguistic typology and general linguistics'. This is an honour conferred upon Professors who have made a truly outstanding scholarly contribution to their discipline. There are seven such Distinguished Professors, and Aikhenvald is the only one in humanities/social sciences.

Two members of the LCRG were awarded **prizes** at the Bright Ideas Competition 2010, Faculty of Arts, Education and Social Sciences:

- PhD student **Sihong Zhang** for his entry 'All of Us Know Who We Are, But The Namuy is... To identify an unrecognized ethnic group beginning from linguistic fieldwork'.
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow **Mike Tianqiao Lu** for his entry 'Must Soul be lost when Meat is attained?'

Announcement

Most members of the Language and Culture Research Group have written (or are writing) a grammar of a language, and many of us are working on typological universals, by inductive generalisations from a well-chosen sample of grammars. We welcome enquiries from similarly oriented scholars (from Australia or from overseas) who would like to consider spending a sabbatical with us. We can provide basic facilities, plus an intellectual ambience of the highest order.

Forthcoming Activities

Professor Claudia Maria Riehl of the University of Cologne will present a lecture at the Cairns Institute on 22 March 2001, on

Language contact and language change in German-speaking enclaves

Abstract: In contrast to other minority language speakers, members of language enclaves describe themselves as belonging to the ethnos of a linguistic motherland where the language is spoken as a majority language. This has an impact not only on language attitudes but also on the linguistic development in these particular groups. The paper will address the concept of language enclaves by comparing historical, linguistic and sociolinguistic developments and language attitudes across different constellations.

Workshop 'The roots of linguistic diversity'

This will be held on Room 113, Building E2 of the Cairns Campus, JCU.

Afternoon of Thursday 9th and all day Friday 10 June 2011

Speakers will include:

- **René van den Berg** (SIL, PNG) Pronominal systems in Austronesian languages of Papua New Guinea
 - **Tianqiao (Mike) Lu:** The Tai-Kadai peoples — their languages, cultures and histories,
 - **Mark Post:** Isolate substrates, realization and the internal diversity of Tibeto-Burman
 - **Anne Schwarz:** The West Africa hot-spot.
 - **Alexandra Aikhenvald.** Along the river and deep in the bush: linguistic diversity in the Middle Sepik area.
 - **R M. W. Dixon.** The wonderful linguistic diversity there was in north-east Queensland.
 - **Carol Genetti** (University of California) will summarise the results of the Workshop.
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Undergraduate Course in Linguistics at JCU

A new course *AN2009, Anthropological Linguistics*, is being taught at the Cairns Campus during First Semester 2011. Lectures 11.00-12.50, tutorials 2.00-2.50 each Wednesday.

Alexandra Aikhenvald is Course Co-ordinator, with lectures also given by R. M. W. Dixon, Mark Post and Anne Schwarz.

Recent and forthcoming books

AUTHORED

Imperatives and commands, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xx, 500 pages. 2010.

This is the first cross-linguistic study of imperatives and commands of other kinds, across the world's languages. It makes a significant and original contribution to the understanding of their morphological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic characteristics.

The book was launched by Professor Sandra Harding, Vice-Chancellor and President of James Cook University, on Friday 1st October 2010 (within the International Workshop 'Possession and Ownership'). Professor Harding's address is included at the end of this Bulletin.

The grammatical realization of temporal expressions in Tsou, by Chia-Jung Pan. Munich: Lincom Europa. xv, 234 pp. 2010.

This study provides an in-depth investigation of the grammatical realisation (including semantic functions, temporal markers, grammatical roles, grammatical categories, and syntactic relationships) of temporal expressions in Tsou, an Austronesian language of Taiwan.

Basic linguistic theory, Volume 1 — *Methodology*, by R. M. W. Dixon. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xvi, 382 pp. 2010.

Basic linguistic theory, Volume 2 — *Grammatical topics*, by R. M. W. Dixon. Oxford: Oxford University. xviii, 489 pages. 2010.

A review of these two volumes, by René van den Berg in the journal *Studies in Language* included: "Two wonderful books, a treasure trove of ideas and information, a reference work for many decades to come. Extremely informative, exceedingly useful, and profoundly inspiring. These are books I can recommend to every graduate student, to every linguistic field worker."

Galo-English dictionary, with English-Galo glosses, by Mark W. Post. Galo Welfare Society. 2010

The first large-scale dictionary of the Galo language, with approximately 5,000 entries, plus a 5,000 word index, and explanation of the Galo script that is used.

I am a linguist, by R. M. W. Dixon. Leiden: Brill, 2011. xvii, 391 pp. plus 24 colour plates. 2011.

From the introduction by Peter Matthews, Emeritus Professor of Linguistics at the University of Cambridge: 'As a student of language, I cannot commend his stance too highly. I urge younger linguists, in particular, to mark all he says about their subject, to empathise with his triumphs of analysis, and find inspiration in his example.'

Language at large. Essays in semantics and syntax, by A. Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon. Leiden: Brill. Forthcoming in mid 2011.

A collection of 18 papers — seven by Aikhenvald (one with Diana Green), eight by Dixon and three jointly written. Five are published for the first time, with the remainder being variously revised and enlarged from their original journal publication.

Topics include: 'versatile cases', 'causatives which do not cause', 'non-ergative associations between S and O', 'dependencies between grammatical systems', 'word-class changing derivations', 'speech reports', 'semi-direct speech', 'naive linguistic explanation', 'multiple marking of syntactic function and polysynthetic nouns in Tariana', 'Palikur and the typology of classifiers', 'zero and nothing in Jarawara', and a number of essays on English grammar and lexicology.

EDITED

The Expression of Information Structure: A Documentation of its Diversity Across Africa (Typological Studies in Language 91), edited by Ines Fiedler and Anne Schwarz. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. xii, 383 pp. 2010.

This book analyses the different patterns found across sub-Saharan Africa to express information structure. It documents the great diversity of linguistic means used to encode information-structural phenomena and is therefore highly relevant for some of the most pertinent questions in modern linguistic theory.

North East Indian Linguistics Vol. 2, edited by Stephen Morey and Mark Post. New Delhi, Cambridge University Press India. xii, 256 + xii pp. 2010.

The book essentially addresses tonology and phonology of the Assam floodplain, including tone in Bodo and Dimasa, studies of Tai Phake songs, the Ahom Bar Amra manuscript and the Barpelua dialect of Assamese. There is also a special section on numerals.

North East Indian Linguistics Vol. 3, edited by Gwendolyn Hyslop. Stephen Morey and Mark W. Post. New Delhi, Cambridge University Press India, xii, 253 pp. 2011.

Includes description and analysis of a wide variety of phonological, syntactic, morphological, sociolinguistic and historical topics. There is a special section on nominalization in Tibeto-Burman languages Karbi and Marma.

Multi-verb constructions: A view from the Americas, edited by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and Pieter C. Muysken. Leiden: Brill, xv, 313 pp. 2011.

In many languages, several verbs can co-occur in a sentence, forming a single predicate. This book contains a first survey of such constructions in nine languages from North, Middle and South America.

PAPERBACK REISSUES and TRANSLATION

Changing valency, Case studies in transitivity, edited by R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. xvi, 413 pp. 2010. Paperback reissue of 2000 hardback.

A grammar of Yidiñ, by R. M. W. Dixon. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. xxiii, 363 pp. 2010. Paperback reissue of 1977 hardback.

Language contact in Amazonia, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xv, 363 pp. 2010. Paperback with revisions of 2002 hardback.

Chinese translation by Zhu Xiaonong, Yan Zhincheng, Jiao Lei, Zhang Caicai and Hong Ying of *The rise and fall of languages*, by R. M. W. Dixon. Beijing: Beijing University Press. 2010. Original from Cambridge University Press, 1997.

The Manambu language of East Sepik, Papua New Guinea, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. Oxford: Oxford University Press, xxvi, 702 pp. 2010. Paperback edition with revisions of 2008 hardback.

The semantics of clause linking: A cross-linguistic typology, edited by R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, Oxford: Oxford University Press. xvii, 410 pp. 2011. Paperback edition with revisions of 2009 hardback.

A grammar of Jarawara, from southern Amazonia, by R. M. W. Dixon. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xxiii, 636 pp, plus 8 black and white plates. 2011. Paperback edition with revisions of 2004 hardback.

The languages of Australia, by R. M. W Dixon. (Cambridge Library Collection.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. xxii, 547 pp. 2011. Paperback reissue of 1980 hardback.

Searching for Aboriginal languages: Memoirs of a field worker, by R. M. W. (Bob) Dixon (Cambridge Library Collection.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ix, 333 pp. 2011. Paperback edition of book originally published (in hard and paper editions) by University of Queensland Press in 1984, and then reprinted (in paperback) by Chicago University Press in 1989.

What happened in LCRG during 2010

Honorary Doctorate for Ernie Grant

At the JCU Degree Ceremony in the Convention Centre, Cairns, on Saturday 17 April 2010, the Honorary Doctor of Letters degree was bestowed on Ernie Grant, Jirrbal Elder and founder of the Echo Creek Cultural Centre.

Since 1991 Ernie Grant has been Cultural Research Officer within the State Department of Education, based in Cairns. He has worked tirelessly to educate the people of North Queensland concerning Aboriginal cultural traditions and values. He has run Workshops right across the State (and indeed in every other State) on a Holistic Planning and Teaching Framework, which relates together Land, Language and Culture, conceptualised in terms of Time, Place and Relationships. He has worked on curriculum development, designed a Teaching and Learning Framework for teachers working with indigenous pupils, and given extensive support to School Support Centres.

Ernie Grant has also worked with the National Library in Canberra, with the Museum of South Australia and with the Tasmanian Education Department on matters of access and establishing cross-cultural perspectives.

All in all, he has made an immense contribution to the North Queensland — and indeed, the entire Australian — community.

Dr Grant's 'Occasional Address' on receiving this award is included towards the end of the Bulletin.

Workshop: History in the Making

Workshop was held on Friday 21 May 2010, as part of celebrations for the fortieth anniversary of James Cook University's foundation.

Papers presented were:

- Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. The white man cometh: Indigenous image of the invader
- R. M. W. (Bob) Dixon. Origin legends: Reality and re-interpretation
- Ton Otto. History for the Future: Indigenous history and social change in Manus, PNG
- Ernie Grant. The history of survival
- John Molony (Australian National University). James Cook: In search of the discoverer

International Workshop: Possession and Ownership

The Tenth International Workshop organised by Aikhenvald and Dixon was held at the Cairns Campus of JCU, 27 September - 2 October 2010.

The following papers were presented

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (CI, JCU) 'Possession and ownership: a cross-linguistic perspective'

Anne Storch (University of Cologne) 'Possession in Jukun (Benue-Congo family)'

Felix Ameka (University of Leiden) 'Possession in Likpe (Kwa family)'

Mark Post (CI, JCU) 'Possession in Galo (Tibeto-Burman)'

Isabelle Bril (CNRS, Paris) 'Possession and ownership in Nêlêmwa (Oceanic branch of Austronesian)'

Gloria Gravelle (Free University, Amsterdam) 'Possession in Moskona (Papuan region)'

Yongxian Luo (University of Melbourne) 'Possession in Chinese, with notes on Zhuang (Tai family)'

Tianqiao (Mike) Lu (CI, JCU) 'Possession in Maonan (Tai-Kadai)'

Lev Michael (University of California, Berkeley) 'Possession in Nanti (Arawak family)'

Anne Schwarz (CI, JCU) 'Possession in Buli (Gur family)'

Rosita Henry (JCU) 'Being and belonging: exchange relations and land ownership in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea'

Michael Wood (JCU) 'Possessing the wind: Kamula property interests in the new carbon economy'

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (CI, JCU) 'Possession and ownership in Manambu (Ndu family, Sepik region, Papua New Guinea).

Zygmunt Frajzyngier (University of Colorado at Boulder) 'Possession in Wandala (Chadic subgroup of Afro-asiatic)'

Alan Dench (University of Western Australia) 'Possession and ownership in Martuthunira (Australian)'

R. M. W. Dixon (CI, JCU) 'What can we conclude?'

Revised versions of presentations from the International Workshop have been submitted to a leading international publisher.

Inaugural lecture

Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald

presented her inaugural public lecture

To be a linguist: a polyglot and a language scholar

On 6 May in the Joseph Banks Ballroom at Rydges Esplanade Resort Cairns. It was attended by over a hundred members of the university and members of the public.

Abstract: What is a 'linguist'? For many people a linguist is a polyglot, who knows many languages. There is another sense of 'linguist' — someone who studies how languages are structured, where they come from, and how they work. Alexandra Aikhenvald is a linguist in both senses.

She learnt Estonian because her family used to spend their vacations there, Hebrew and Yiddish because they are the languages of her heritage, Latin and Greek to study the classics, French, German and Spanish to read modern literature.

And she is fluent in the endangered languages of the small tribal societies where she has pursued her scholarly activities — Tariana, in the Amazonian jungle of Brazil, and Manambu, in the Sepik area of Papua New Guinea. These are languages with intricate grammars, which encompass a world view different from ours.

Professor Aikhenvald addressed the following questions:

- What can small tribal languages teach us?
- Can knowledge of different languages enrich our lives? And what do we lose when a language is lost?
- Do we see the world through the language we speak?
- Is there room for just one language in our heads? Or can the human brain cope with more?
- Languages and the challenge of progress.

Roundtable meetings at LCRG

Regular meetings of LCRG members are open to anyone interested in linguistic topics. We jointly pick a topic of general appeal, with a number of people making presentations with respect to a language of which they have first-hand knowledge. Topics during 2010 were:

Reduplication

Person marking and evidentiality

Lexical number words and counting systems

Person and person marking systems

Perception and cognition

Public lectures by Visiting Academics

Nicholas Evans, Australian National University

23 June 2010.

The Languages of Southern New Guinea: an unexplored hotspot

A video of the lecture is available at

http://www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/info/resources/JCUPRD1_061074.html

Catherine E. Travis, University of New Mexico, and LCRG, CI, JCU

6 August 6, 2010

The patterning of “I”, Prosody in discourse

[Jointly with Rena Torres Cacoullos, Pennsylvania State University]

Lourens de Vries, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, and LCRG, CI, JCU

27 August 2010

After-death demons, cannibalistic witches and normal persons. Social personhood and person-reference practices among Awyu-Ndumut speaking clans of Indonesian West-Papua

A video of the lecture is available at

http://www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/info/resources/JCUPRD1_063821.html

Henry Y. Chang, Academia Sinica, Taiwan and LCRG, CI, JCU

3 September 2010

Argument realization and marking in Tsou

Anvita Abbi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and LCRG, CI, JCU

8 November 2010.

The Endangered languages of the Andaman Islands: Reconstructing the knowledge-base of the Pre-Neolithic tribes of India

A video of the lecture is available at

http://www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/info/resources/JCUPRD1_068446.html

Activities of LCRG members during 2010

These are additional to items mentioned on previous pages.

Professor Anvita Abbi was a Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellow, November 2010 – January 2011). She is Professor of Linguistics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and is a leading expert on anthropological linguistics of South Asia, having worked on languages from five families. She was working on a full account of the Great Andamanese language (and its cultural milieu), based on the copious (but uneven) early materials and her own fieldwork with the last eight semi-speakers.

Professor Abbi addressed the Roundtable Meeting on 'The Semantics of inalienability and grammaticalization of body part terms in Great Andamanese'.

Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald's major achievement this year was the publication of her monograph *Imperatives and commands*. She also wrote most of *The languages of the Amazon* (contracted to Oxford UP), an accessible survey of salient features of languages spoken in the Amazon basin (expanding on the course taught as part of her First Professorship at the University of Colorado in 2009).

She has continued her work on Tariana dialects and language contact in Amazonia, maintaining the Tariana language website, continuously liaising with members of the Tariana group Wamiarikune and providing consultative support for the Tariana school in Iauaretê, Amazonas. She has also continued liaising with Manambu speaking communities in the East Sepik province, PNG, and working on a volume of stories in Manambu.

During the year, she also published and prepared for publication papers on areal diffusion, language endangerment, multilingualism, grammaticalization of evidentials, and multiverb constructions.

She is Associate Editor of the *Journal of Language Contact*, consulting editor for *Studies in Language*, a leading journal in typology, and a member of the editorial boards for journals *Studia Linguistica*, *Journal of Linguistic Diversity*, *Language Documentation and Conservation*, and *Language Compass*, and for monograph series *Explorations in Linguistic Typology* (Oxford University Press). She has been appointed a member of the Advisory Board for the Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

As a result of joint efforts by Professor Kenneth M. Sumbuk (PVC, UPNG) and Aikhenvald, a conjoint research degree program between JCU and UPNG is now in operation.

She co-organized a Research Forum 'PNG/Pacific connections' (6-8 September, JCU), as part of JCU's celebrations of the 35th Anniversary of PNG's Independence. And she organized a panel 'How to choose a research topic for a higher degree student', May 2010, within the framework of lunchtime panels established by Graduate Research School at JCU, with participation of

Associate Professor Rosita Henry, Dr Mark Post and Professor R. M. W. Dixon. The presentations received a highly positive feedback.

As part of the Colloquium 'Ethnography: Interactive Research and Reciprocity', 24-25 July 2010 in Cairns (organized by Associate Professor Rosita Henry and Professor Ton Otto), Aikhenvald spoke on 'A story of love and debt: The give and the take of linguistic fieldwork'.

Together with Professor Anne Storch, she organized an International Workshop on 'Perception and Cognition', at the University of Cologne (Germany), 25-27 November.

She presented a talk 'The social life of a language: will Manambu survive?' at the International Conference on Sociolinguistics, Moscow, 20-26 June. Aikhenvald gave the following talks and lectures during the first period of her research stay in Cologne in October-December 2010 (as part of her Alexander von Humboldt Research Award, 2010-12):

- 25 Oct 'The why and the how of gain and loss', at the International Conference 'Loss and gain in grammar of Jukunoid and related languages', Institut für Afrikanistik, University of Cologne;
- 27 Oct 'Round women and long men: on the semantics of genders in Papua New Guinea and beyond'. Seminar at the University of Cologne;
- 29 October 'Evidentiality: an African perspective'. Seminar at the Institut für Afrikanistik, University of Frankfurt;
- 4 Nov 'Reflections on language contact', Arts Faculty, University of Cologne;
- 5 Nov 'Imperatives and commands', KANT III Conference, University of Cologne;
- 26 Nov 'The Linguistic expression of perception and cognition in Manambu', International Workshop on the Linguistic Expression of Perception and Cognition, Institut für Afrikanistik, University of Cologne;
- 17 Dec "'Double talk": parallel structures in the songs of the Middle Sepik area of Papua New Guinea', International Workshop 'Strategies of Translation: language contact and poetic language', Institut für Linguistik – Abt. Historisch-Vergl. Sprachwissenschaft, University of Cologne.

Aikhenvald and Dixon presented a joint seminar 'Areal features and regional traits' at the LUCL, University of Leiden (12 Nov) and at Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen (19 Nov).

Dr Henry Y. Chang of Academia Sinica, Taiwan, was a Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellow. July-October 2010. He is an expert on indigenous languages and cultures of Taiwan, with a particular focus on Tsou. During his research stay at the LCRG, he worked on the argument realization in Tsou, elaborating on a distinction between two types of transitive “object” O across languages, namely, English-type vs. Tsou-type, and made a typology of theme-marking in a triadic construction, namely, Instrument-type vs. Patient-type. He also presented a paper at the LCRG Roundtable on perception and cognition in Tsou, a topic which he is planning to elaborate further.

Professor R. M. W. Dixon's major project at the present time is completing his comprehensive monograph, *Basic linguistic theory*. He has in draft eight of the ten chapters for Volume 3, and these are now being read by colleagues who will provide critical comments which will assist with the final revision. In association with this, work continued on the project 'Are some languages better than others?', financed by an ARC Discovery Grant (2007-2010), involving the development of a matrix of metrics for comparative evaluation of the worth of languages for a number of defined purposes. He also devoted increasing attention to preparing for publication his collection of texts in Dyirbal, and a comprehensive thesaurus/dictionary of that language. And he continued on editorial boards for *Anthropological Linguistics* and *Italian Journal of Linguistics*, and the monograph series *Explorations in Linguistic Typology*.

In March, he presented a School Seminar on 'Australian Aboriginal Words in English'. As part of the Colloquium 'Ethnography: Interactive Research and Reciprocity', 24-25 July 2010 in Cairns (organized by Associate Professor Rosita Henry and Professor Ton Otto), Dixon spoke on 'In the nick of time: Recording languages and then returning them'.

During November–December, Dixon was a Visiting Scholar the University of Cologne. While there, he presented a talk on 'Perception and cognition in Dyirbal' at the International Workshop on the Linguistic Expression of Perception and Cognition, University of Cologne.

As mentioned above, Dixon and Aikhenvald presented a joint seminar 'Areal features and regional traits' at the LUCL, University of Leiden (12 Nov) and at Max Plank Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen (19 Nov).

Dr Tianqiao (Mike) Lu continued with his Post-doctoral Research Fellowship project on 'Classifiers of Kam-Tai languages: a cognitive and cultural prospective', which involves the comparative study of about thirty languages in southern China and Southeast Asia. He also made presentations at LCRG on reduplication, lexical number words, emphatic constructions, expressions of perception and cognition, possession, areal word diffusion, and on possession in Maonan. He is writing papers on the emphatic marker in Southeast Asia, and on perception with a focus on Maonan body part terms.

Yankee Modi commenced her PhD course in March. She worked intensively on mastering basic linguistic theory, and presented her confirmation seminar (judged as 'outstanding'). She made presentations within LCRG on 'Lexical numbers and counting in Milang' and (with Mark Post) 'Talking about looking, listening, thinking and feeling in the Tani languages: A framework.' She also presented a paper 'Cut verbs in Milang (Tibeto-Burman, North East India)' at the annual meeting of the Australian Linguistic Society in Brisbane, 7-9 July. In mid-October, she began fieldwork on Milang, in Arunachal Pradesh, India, which is expected to result in a large-scale annotated text corpus, lexicon, sketch

grammar, sketch ethnography and analysis of the cultural and environmental shaping of the Milang language.

Chia-jung Pan is continuing his PhD dissertation on Lha'alua (Saaroa), a severely endangered Formosan language from Taiwan. He presented a number of talks at the LCRG Roundtable meetings, covering reduplication, lexical number words and counting system, perception and cognition, and grammatical relations in Lha'alhua. He also presented a talk on the linguistic expression of perception and cognition in Tsou (the language of his Masters Thesis). He is currently undertaking a final period of fieldwork.

Dr Mark Post took up his Post-doctoral Research Fellowship in March. He worked on a wide variety of topics, leading to a considerable number of presentations and subsequent publications. He spoke at LCRG Roundtable meetings on 'Lexical numbers, counting and their cultural uses in Galo', 'The frontiers of person-marking and evidentiality: Egophoric and alterphoric marking in Tibeto-Burman; and (with Modi) 'Talking about looking, listening, thinking and feeling in the Tani languages: A framework', in addition to:

- (With Roger Blench). 'North East Indian languages and the origin of Sino-Tibetan.' Paper presented at the 16th Himalayan Languages Symposium, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK, September 2-5.
- 'The environmental shaping of language: Topographical deixis from the Himalayas to Far North Queensland.' Paper presented at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Australian Linguistic Society, University of Queensland, Brisbane, July 8.
- 'The war is (almost) over: An emerging consensus in the study of language, culture and mind.' School of Arts and Social Sciences Research Seminar, James Cook University, Cairns, April 16.

He successfully applied for continuation of his Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research Grant for project *Galo Poetic Language and Oral Literature*.

Post ran a series of six Workshops 'Language documentation: From recording, to transcription, to analysis, to archiving' at the Cairns Institute (July-September 2010).

He was co-convener of 'A workshop on tone: Theory, typology, technology and the languages of North East India', a student workshop convened at the 5th International Conference of the North East Indian Linguistics Society, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam, India. And he organized 6th International Conference of the North East Indian Linguistics Society, with support from Cairns Institute and SASS. In October, he began six months fieldwork on Upper Minyong language in Arunachal Pradesh, North East India, which is expected to result in an annotated text corpus, lexicon, and descriptive grammar.

Dineke Schokkin started her PhD course in May 2010, and undertook a preliminary fieldtrip to the Baluan island, to work on the Paluai language (Oceanic). She worked intensively on mastering basic linguistic theory and successfully presented her confirmation seminar (judged as 'outstanding') discussing the classification, sociolinguistic situation and preliminary information on Paluai. She is now on a lengthy span of fieldwork on Baluan.

Dr Anne Schwarz undertook five months fieldwork (commencing in February) on the Secoya language in Ecuador. Since returning from the field, she has been working on the documentation and preparation of a grammar of Secoya. She gave a number of presentations within LCRG and the following outside talks:

- 'Translating between languages and disciplines', at the Fest of the Faculty of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, JCU, Townsville, 5 November.
- 'The Reference-Modification Interface in Adjectives', at the Amazonicas III Conference in Bogota, Colombia, 19-24 April 2010).
- 'Specificity and number in the noun-class systems of Buli and Konni' at the Syntax of the World's Languages 4 Conference, Lyon, 23-26 September.
- 'On Non-prosodic Predicate-centered Focus Strategies' at the Workshop on Predicate-centered Focus Types, Humboldt University, Berlin, 20–21 November.
- "'Possession" in the language of the Secoya (West Tucanoan)' at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 6-9 January 2011.

Professor Ken Sumbuk, Professor of Linguistics and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea, was a Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellow, January – March. He is an expert on the indigenous languages and cultures of the Sepik region, an area of extreme diversity. During his stay at LCRG, he continued revising for publication his PhD thesis (from Waikato University) 'The Sare language of East Sepik, Papua New Guinea' (a language for which he is a native speaker). He also presented talks at LCRG Roundtable meetings on reduplication and on lexical numbers and counting systems in Sare (also known as Kapriman).

Associate Professor Catherine Travis, of the University of New Mexico, was a Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellow, May – August. She is an expert in discourse analysis, with emphasis on corpus development and variation. Her major activities during her research stay at LCRG included securing NSF funding for three years for project entitled "Evaluating Convergence via Code-Switching: Cross-linguistic Priming, Rates and the Structure of Subject Expression", to collect a corpus of bilingual New Mexican Spanish and English speech in which she will test the hypothesis that code-switching promotes grammatical convergence through a study of patterns of first-person singular subject (*yo*) expression in contexts where speakers have, and have not, recently

used English. While with us, she made a study of patterns of pitch accent (sentence-level stress / prominence) on *I*, as a first-step in tackling the question of just what is equivalent between Spanish and English first person singular expression, and how that might affect patterns of convergence. Besides her talks at JCU she also gave the following presentations.

- 'The interaction of general and local patterns in discourse: Pitch accented I' (jointly with Rena Torres Cacoullas), at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Australian Linguistic Society, University of Queensland, Brisbane, July 8.
- 'Convergence via code-switching? Spanish *Yo* and English *I* in New Mexico', at the Australian National University in August.

Professor Lourens de Vries of the Free University, Amsterdam, was a Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellow, June-August 2010. He is a leading expert on the languages and cultures of New Guinea. While with us, he worked on three research topics that are crucial to his forthcoming book *The Awyu-Ndumut languages of West Papua in their linguistic and cultural contexts*. These are: diachronic linguistics of Awyu-Ndumut languages; areal and typological contexts of the languages, especially in relation to the expression of perception and cognition; and anthropological linguistics of Awyu-Ndumut languages, especially (a) in relation to the linguistic construction of personhood; (b) the linguistic consequences of clan-dominated social structures.

Emanating from his work at JCU, de Vries gave a talk on 'Bound morphology and language relations in New Guinea; reconstructing trajectories towards switch reference and clause chaining' to the International Conference of the European Linguistic Society in Vilnius, Lithuania, 2-5 September 2010.

He also presented two lectures at the ANU, 20 August 2010:

- 'From clause conjoining to clause chaining in the Ndumut languages of Indonesian West-Papua'.
- 'Speaking of clans. Language in Awyu-Ndumut communities of Indonesian West Papua'.

Dr Defen Yu from the University of Melbourne was at LCRG as a Visiting Fellow, 21 December- 20 January 2011, working on kinship terminology in a number of Tibeto-Burman languages, and a variety of grammatical topics in Lisu. She spoke at LCRG on 'Grammatical encoding of kinship relations and kin ranking in some Tibeto-Burman languages'.

Sihong Zhang commenced his PhD course, to work on a grammar of Ersu, a previously undescribed Tibeto-Burman language from south-west China. He worked intensively on mastering basic linguistic theory and successfully presented his confirmation seminar (judged as 'outstanding'), discussing the classification, sociolinguistic situation and preliminary information on Ersu. He is currently undertaking a lengthy span of fieldwork.

Publications by members of LCRG — 2010 and forthcoming

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

- 2010 *Imperatives and commands*. xx, 500 pp. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2010 *Language contact in Amazonia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xv, 363 pp.
Paperback edition, with revisions, of 2002 hardback.
- 2010 *The Manambu language of East Sepik, Papua New Guinea*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xxvi, 702 pp. plus 8 black-and-white plates. Paperback edition, with revisions, of 2008 hardback.
- 2010 'Gender and noun class in Paumarí in a typological perspective'. *Linguistics and archeology in the Americas*, edited by E. B. Carlin and Simon van de Kerke. Leiden: Brill, pp. 236-52.
- 2010 'Language contact and pragmatic notions: Tariana in the light of language contact', pp. 17-38 of *Information structure in languages of the Americas*, edited by Liliana Sanchez and José Camacho. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- 2010 'The social life of a language: will Manambu survive?'. pp. 13-28 of *New Perspectives on Endangered Languages. Bridging gaps between sociolinguistics, documentation and language revitalization*, by Flores Farfán, José Antonio and Fernando Ramallo (eds.) [CLU 1], Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- 2010 'Mood', in *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language Sciences*, edited by Patrick Hogan. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2010 'Evidentiality', in *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language Sciences*, edited by Patrick Hogan. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2010 'Typological plausibility and historical reconstruction: a puzzle from New Guinea', pp. 308-17 of *Studies in linguistics and semiotics*, edited by T. M. Nikolaeva. Moscow: Jazyki slavjanskikh kultur.
- 2011 'Multiverb constructions: setting the scene', pp. 1-26 of *Multiverb constructions: a view from the Americas*, edited by A. Y. Aikhenvald and Pieter Muysken. Leiden: Brill.
- 2011 'Le tariana', pp. 1483-88 of *Dictionnaire des langues*, sous la direction de Emilio Bonvini, Joëlle Busutil et Alain Peyraube. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.
- 2011 'Areal features and linguistic areas: contact-induced change and geographical typology', pp. 13-39 of *Geographical typology and linguistic areas, with special focus on Africa*, edited by Osamu Hieda, Christa König and Hiroshi Nakagawa. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- 2011 A. Y. Aikhenvald and Pieter Muysken. eds. *Multiverb constructions: a view from the Americas*. Leiden: Brill.
- 2012 *Languages of the Amazon*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- forthcoming. 'Multilingual fieldwork, and emergent grammars', to appear in *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Meeting of Berkeley Linguistics Society*. Berkeley: University of California at Berkeley
- forthcoming. 'Language contact', to appear in *How languages work*, edited by Carol Genetti. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (commissioned in January 2007).
- forthcoming. 'Manambu', to appear in *How languages work*, edited by Carol Genetti. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (commissioned in January 2007).
- forthcoming. 'Language contact in language obsolescence', to appear in *Cross-linguistic tendencies in Contact-induced change. A typological approach based on*

- morphosyntactic studies*, edited by Claudine Chamoreau and Isabelle Bril. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- forthcoming. 'The grammaticalization of evidentiality', to appear in *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*, edited by Bernd Heine and Heiko Narrog. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- forthcoming. 'Migrations of the Amazonian peoples', *Encyclopedia of migrations*, edited by Peter Bellwood, Routledge-Wiley (commissioned June 2010).
- forthcoming. 'Sentence types', to appear in *Oxford Handbook of mood and modality*, edited by I. Nuyts et al. Oxford: Oxford University Press (contract signed June 2010).
- forthcoming. "'Double talk": parallel structures in the songs of the Middle Sepik area of Papua New Guinea', International Workshop 'Strategies of Translation: language contact and poetic language', 17 – 18 December 2010, Institut für Linguistik – Abt. Historisch-Vergl. Sprachwissenschaft, University of Cologne.

Alexandra Y Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon

2011 *Language at large. Essays in semantics and syntax*. Leiden: Brill.

R. M. W. Dixon

- 2010 *Basic linguistic theory*, Volume 1 — *Methodology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xvi, 382 pp.
- 2010 *Basic linguistic theory*, Volume 2 — *Grammatical topics*. Oxford: Oxford University. xviii, 489 pp.
- 2010 *I am a linguist*. Leiden: Brill. xvi, 391 pp. plus 24 colour plates.
- 2010 *A grammar of Yidiñ*. Paperback reissue of 1977 hardback. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2010 'Gradual loss of a gender contrast', pp. 302-7 of *Studies in linguistics and semiotics*, edited by Tatiana M. Nikolaeva. Moscow: Jazyki slavjanskikh kultur.
- 2010 Chinese translation by Zhu Xiaonong, Yan Zhincheng, Jiao Lei, Zhang Caicai and Hong Ying of *The rise and fall of languages*. Beijing: Beijing University Press. Original from Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- 2011 *A grammar of Jarawara, from southern Amazonia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xxiii, 636 pp. plus 8 black-and-white plates. (Paperback edition with revisions of 2004 hardback).
- 2011 *The languages of Australia*, by R. M. W Dixon. (Cambridge Library Collection.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. xxii, 547 pp. Paperback reissue of 1980 hardback.
- 2011 *Searching for Aboriginal languages, memoirs of a field worker* (Cambridge Library Collection.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ix, 333 pp. Paperback edition of book originally published (in hard and paper editions) by University of Queensland Press in 1984, and then reprinted (in paperback) by Chicago University Press in 1989.
- 2012 *Basic linguistic theory*, Volume 3 — *Further grammatical topics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

- 2011 Editors of *The semantics of clause linking, a cross-linguistic typology* (*Explorations in linguistic typology* vol 5). Oxford: Oxford University Press. xviii, 410 pp. (Paperback edition with revisions of 2009 hardback).

Yankee Modi

Under review. Post, M. W. and Y. Modi 'Language contact and the genetic position of Milang in Tibeto-Burman.' *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*.

Chia-jung Pan

2010 *The grammatical realization of temporal expressions in Tsou*. (LINCOM Studies in Austronesian Linguistics 07) Munich: Lincom Europa. xv, 234 pp.

Mark Post

2010 *Galo-English dictionary, with English-Galo glosses*. Galo Welfare society.

2010 'Predicate derivations in the Tani languages: Root, suffix, both or neither?' In S. Morey and M. W. Post, Eds. *North East Indian Linguistics Volume 2*. New Delhi, Cambridge University Press India: 175-197.

2010 'Review of Iwasaki, S. and P. Ingkaphirom (2009 [2005]) *A Reference Grammar of Thai*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.' *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 33 (1): 99-108.

2010 Post, M. W., I. Rwbaa and I. Rwbaa. 'The Galo language at the beginning of the 21st century'. In *The Galo Welfare Society Yearbook*. Itanagar, India, Galo Welfare Society: 14-17.

2010 C-editor of *North East Indian Linguistics Vol. 2*. New Delhi, Cambridge University Press India. Hardcover. xii, 256 pp.

2011 'Topographical deixis and the Tani languages of North East India'. In G. Hyslop, S. Morey and M. W. Post, Eds. *North East Indian Linguistics Vol. 3*. New Delhi, Cambridge University Press India: 137-154.

2011 Co-editor of *North East Indian Linguistics Vol. 3*. New Delhi, Cambridge University Press India. Hardcover. xxii, 253 pp.

In press. 'Galo negation and the reconstruction of Proto-Tani predicate syntax.' *South Asian Language Review* 20 (1) [Special Issue on Negation in Tibeto-Burman Languages].

In press. 'The language, culture, environment and origins of Proto-Tani speakers: What is knowable, and what is not (yet)'. In S. Blackburn and T. Huber, Eds. *Origins and Migrations in the Tibeto-Burman Region*. [Tribal Cultures in the Eastern Himalaya Series]. Leiden, Brill.

In press. 'Nominalization and nominalization-based constructions in Galo.' In F.-H. Yap, K. Grunow-Hårsta and J. Wrona, Eds. *Nominalization in Asian Languages: Diachronic and Typological Perspectives*. Vol. 1: *Sino-Tibetan and Iranian Languages* Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

In press. Co-editor of *North East Indian Linguistics Vol. 4*. New Delhi, Cambridge University Press India.

In press. Doley, S. K. and M. W. Post. 'Classifiers in Mising.' In G. Hyslop, S. Morey and M. W. Post, Eds. *North East Indian Linguistics Vol. 4*. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press India.

Anne Schwarz

2010 Verb-and-Predication Focus Markers in Gur', pp. 287-314 of *The Expression of Information Structure: A Documentation of its Diversity Across Africa* (Typological Studies in Language), edited by Ines Fiedler and Anne Schwarz. Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

2010 "'Long Ears": Adjectives in Buli', pp. 133-48 of *Studies in the languages of the Volta Basin, Vol 6(1)*. *Proceedings of the Annual Colloquium of the Legon-Tronheim*

- Linguistics Project, 12-16 January, 2009, University of Ghana, Legon*, edited by Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu, Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, E. Kweku Osam, K. K. Saah and George Akanlig-Pare. Legon: Department of Linguistics.
- 2010 'Discourse principles in grammar: the thetic/categorical dichotomy'. E-tropics: Proceedings of the 'Tropics of the Imagination Conference', 2 November 2009, JCU, Cairns.
- 2010 Schwarz, Anne and Fiedler, Ines. *Informationsstruktur – Oder: Was es in der Grammatik zu entdecken gibt*. Multimedia DVD. SFB 632, Potsdam: University of Potsdam.
- 2010 Fiedler, Ines and Schwarz, Anne (eds.). *The Expression of Information Structure: A Documentation of its Diversity Across Africa* (Typological Studies in Language 91). Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins. xxii, 382 pp.
- 2010 Fiedler, Ines and Schwarz, Anne. 2009. Focal Aspects in the Lelemi Verb System. *Journal of West African Languages* XXXVI: 57-73.
- Forthcoming. 'The Semantics/Pragmatics of Lelemi Predicates'. *Afrika und Übersee* 90 (2008/9).
- Forthcoming. 'To be or not to be? About the Copula System in Buli (Gur)'. *Proceedings of the Special WOCAL 6*, eds. Margarida Tadonni Petter and Ronald Beline Mendes. São Paulo.
- Forthcoming. 'What is it about?' The TOPIC in Buli. *Proceedings of the 26th West African Linguistics Congress (WALC)*, July 28 - August 3, 2008, Winneba, Ghana.
- Forthcoming. 'Buli'. In *Noun Class Systems in Gur Languages, Vol. 2: Oti-Volta languages*, eds. Brigitte Reineke and Manfred von Roncador. Köln: Rüdiger Köppe.
- Forthcoming. 'Konni'. In *Noun Class Systems in Gur Languages, Vol. 2: Oti-Volta languages*, eds. Brigitte Reineke and Manfred von Roncador. Köln: Rüdiger Köppe.
- Forthcoming. 'Buli-Konni': Comparative Notes and Revision of the "Indefinite/Definite" Distinction. In *Noun Class Systems in Gur Languages, Vol. 2: Oti-Volta languages*, eds. Brigitte Reineke and Manfred von Roncador. Köln: Rüdiger Köppe.
- Forthcoming. Schwarz, Anne and Fiedler, Ines. *Informationsstruktur – oder: Was es in der Grammatik zu entdecken gibt*. Multimedia DVD. SFB 632, Universität Potsdam.
- Forthcoming. Fiedler, Ines and Schwarz, Anne. Focal Aspects in the Lelemi Verb System. *Journal of West African Languages*.

Catherine Travis

- Forthcoming. "Testing convergence via code-switching: Priming and the structure of variable subject expression", to appear in *International Journal of Bilingualism*.
- Forthcoming. "Discourse Syntax" to appear in the *Handbook of Hispanic Linguistics*, edited by Hualde, Olarrea, O'Rourke)
- Forthcoming. "Locational adverbs in Colombian Spanish conversation" to appear in *Linguistic Studies in Colombian Varieties of Spanish* (eds. File-Muriel and Orozco; Iberamericana).

Lourens De Vries

- Forthcoming. 'Speaking of clans: Language in Awyu-Ndumut communities of Indonesian West Papua'. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*.

Ernie Grant's speech

The 'occasional address' (address of the occasion) given by Ernie Grant, on 17 April 2010, to the James Cook University Degree Ceremony on being awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters

When Captain Arthur Phillip first landed in Sydney Cove in 1788 he declared, “It may be that this country will become the most valuable acquisition that Britain has ever made”. In many ways Captain Phillip was right. Australia has become a nation that rivals any in the world for living standards. It has unsurpassed natural beauty and we are fortunate as Australians to be citizens of such a peaceful and democratic nation.

Although officially Aboriginal people have only been citizens of this country for 40 years, our ties to this land are so old that they appear timeless to us, and we have never regarded ourselves as anything but fully fledged citizens.

The people that came to our country didn't always understand this. In many instances they didn't try at all to understand us or our land at all. They came with dreams of wealth and power. These materialistic dreams were a strange and alien concept for Aboriginal people. For us, our life is complete by our knowledge of social and environmental understanding. Just being on our land, with our story places we are completed. We have already had our dream, and our stories and story places unite us with the past and with the land.

Many events show this lack of understanding. The massacre, dispossession and removal of our people have caused disconnections in our ability to relate to the land, to our past and to our own selves as Aboriginal people.

My own father was flogged and left for dead in the main street of Ravenshoe as a young man. But that didn't stop him from living a meaningful life.

My mother fled the Hull River mission in 1918 having seen the Mission Superintendent and his daughter killed by flying debris from a cyclone, escaping being sent to Palm island. None of this stopped her from becoming an important and respected teacher of Jirrbal language and stories of our past. She became the chief source of information for research into the Jirrbal language, and was crucial in the survival of Jirrbal language.

As a young man I also experienced the differences between Aboriginal and white society. I was threatened on one occasion with being sent to Palm Island. On another occasion I was mistakenly blamed for shooting telegraph insulators, and but for the intervention of my employer and his wife would have been made the scapegoat for the entertainment of young local hooligans.

In 1957 the last rainforest Aboriginal camp at Guba was burnt down, and the people sent to Palm Island. At that time Palm Island was used as a prison for Aboriginal people. Their only crime was that they lived in a rainforest.

These days things are thankfully, quite different. I'm more likely to be asked permission for development on our country than being removed from it. There is a lot more respect for Aboriginal people and a lot more interest and respect for our culture.

My work today centres on the preservation of our language, history and culture. As part of the preservation of our culture I had to undergo a shift from my oral traditions for transferring knowledge to the western written methods. The first time I was involved in seeing our stories in print was when Mrs. Gladys Henry asked for information to help write her book 'Girru Gurril'. I was very reluctant to help her as I found it strange that a white woman would be writing about Aboriginal stories. This was the first time that anyone had documented them. I didn't realise at the time how crucial it was to preserve the local culture; there were still many speakers of Jirrbal and Girramay and the knowledge was still strong enough to survive through oral traditions. Some 30 years later, I apologised to her for my reluctance to help her more.

At the time, no-one was aware how quickly the culture would reach its current tenuous position. The arrival of King Ranch in 1963 took away much of the land that our culture and language was based in. Around the same time Television made its first appearances in the homes of our people, and brought with it the multitude of different and competing ideas and lifestyles. Storytelling disappeared almost overnight with the acquisition of a television set; now the storyteller was the TV.

As all this was happening, another of my character traits shone through; to follow through on what you believe and to constantly improve your knowledge and skills. I wanted to start a career in aviation, but after my first flight I was told that I couldn't ever learn to fly because I was an Aboriginal. I was always going to succeed in learning to fly; that was never in doubt. 2 years later I had my private pilots licence, possibly the first Aboriginal in Australia to do so, but the comment stayed with me.

Throughout my life these types of disparaging people have been more than balanced by others who encouraged and supported me. Around this time I first met linguist Bob Dixon, whose role in future events was critical. He knocked on our door, having been told that my mother Chloe was a fluent Jirrbal and Girramay speaker and could assist in his language research. Bob's presence in our community brought an academic focus to the Jirrbal people. We could now read and hear about our people and their culture, rather than just hear.

The recordings Bob did are still being used in Universities teaching students about Aboriginal languages. I have a full set of these recordings, without which the language would have already been lost. Bob has been a major factor in my professional development and is present here today.

In the 1990s my career moved into the Education sphere, and here I can acknowledge the support of all the staff of the former READ, Regional Equity and Development School Support Centre, and ISSU, Indigenous Schooling Support Unit.

One of the officers at READ, who later became the Manager of ISSU is a certain Leigh Schelks, who gave me the freedom and support I needed to do extensive research into Aboriginal culture and history, which allowed me to start to construct alternative strategies for teaching Aboriginal students.

These strategies led me to the development of the Holistic Planning and Teaching Framework, which has been used across Australia in education institutions as an aid for educators teaching Aboriginal students. At this point I'd like to acknowledge Claire Repple not only for her assistance in developing this framework, but also for the countless hours of thought, preparation and development that made it possible to reclaim our language. The resources that were developed by Claire and Bob make it possible for future generations to learn and understand the original language of my country. Having their language and culture is critical to student's performance and identity.

When Aboriginal students educational outcomes become equal to mainstream students; when we can give all Australians an equal opportunity, Australia will, by definition, be the greatest country in the world to live in.

When Captain Arthur Phillip declared Australia to be the most valuable country he was correct; but it was not so much for the wealth of resources and vast, diverse landscape, but the fact that it alone is privileged to have the oldest continuous surviving culture. I feel privileged to be part of that continuity and fortunate to have my mother to pass the knowledge on, Bob to record it and Claire to modernise it.

That is my story. Yours is just beginning. Ahead of you now you have a unique and precious time in history. Nothing should stand between you and what you want to achieve. The opportunities you have today far exceed the opportunities myself and my family had. We always sought to overcome problems that confronted us. I have every confidence that you can do the same.

Speech made on 1st October 2010 by

Professor Sandra Harding

Vice-Chancellor and President of James Cook University

to launch *Imperatives and commands* by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

First, thank you, Sasha, for asking me to launch your book today. I consider it a great honour and a pleasure.

Indeed, one of the great pleasures of being a Vice Chancellor is that, from time to time and now and then, I have the opportunity to gain some small insight into the academic work undertaken at the University.

This may surprise you. Of course, one of the wonders of working at a University is that there are so many people who are absolutely dedicated, committed to their discipline, to advancing and sharing new knowledge and preparing the next generation of professionals and academics to take their particular area of expertise to the next level, to the next place in the development of thought, understanding and practice.

Across James Cook University, everyday, people are simply getting on with their work doing just that. We see it in the classrooms, in the labs and offices, through the various scholarly publications and reports in the popular press, in the seminars that are run across the University where JCU academics and visitors present their ideas and findings. I don't get to enough of those seminars, mindful though that I can put people off a bit sometimes.

But it isn't too often that academics from vastly different fields read each other's work. It is hard enough keeping on top of developments in one's own discipline or even sub-discipline. I was thinking about this just this week as I organized some of my favorite 'classic' books in my own field into a new bookcase in my office.

So it is a rarer pleasure than you might think to have the opportunity to read at some level of detail, and attempt to understand and fully appreciate, the work of a colleague from a different field. This is true for Vice-chancellors and for academics more generally.

But in preparation for today, I have had the pleasure of being challenged to read and understand a work in a field about which I know nothing, though it turns out I could draw connections with my own discipline of sociology.

It was a very special pleasure to read Sasha Aikhenvald's recent book.

Now, as I say, I know nothing about linguistics, let alone imperatives, their grammar and their meanings, apart from those I've delivered or have been subject to from time to time.

Sasha's book opened up a whole new world to me. It is a world of great clarity about how this particular aspect of language works. In the first chapter, Sasha lays the groundwork for her analysis.

She raises the example of the 'bossy woman' using a quick imperative tone (not me) and identifies differences between an imperative and a command, noting later that those who overuse imperatives in English are liable to be seen as bossy or unpleasant (p.303).

I learned that imperatives can be requests and entreaties, delivered as advice, warnings or instructions, ultimatums or good wishes (p.199). They can be ironic too (p.252).

She points out that 'imperative' is a category in language and 'command' is a parameter in the real world, in much the same way that 'time' in the real world translates into 'tense' when expressed in a language. But imperative structures are commands par excellence.

Hers is "a study of cross-linguistic patterns of imperatives, and of non-imperative ways of phrasing commands, that is, of directives in general."

The key questions in this study are identified as follows (p.9):

- What is the nature of imperatives, their semantics and usage?
- How do they relate to other forms and categories in the languages of the world?
- What are the parameters of their formal and semantic variation, within a cross-linguistic perspective?
- And what is the place that imperatives occupy among an array of directive speech acts?
- Do imperatives always command?
- And what alternatives to imperatives do languages offer?
- How are imperatives used in the different linguistic communities around us?
- How are imperatives acquired by children?

- And what happens to them under tragic circumstances known as language dissolution, in aphasia and such like?
- Where do imperatives come from?
- How do they fare in language contact situations?

Noting previous work, and particularly the absence of any cross-linguistic account, these are the questions Sasha seeks to answer. She is systematic in her approach. Hers is a very logical, a very tidy, approach. Knowing her, I'm not surprised about that.

Sasha shows how imperatives are used and how they appear or are delivered in language, including sign language.

She examines canonical (second person) and non-canonical (first or third person) imperatives.

The chapter (5) on negative imperatives was very interesting - Sasha notes that every language of the world has a way of telling someone not to do something, (p.165), but goes on to explore the vast differences in this.

In addition to analyses of the spoken language, she provides examples of pictorial command strategies (Sydney hotel room notice "I'm sleeping" rather than the usual "do not disturb"). My personal favorite of this type was at the HardRock hotel in San Diego where the sign to put on your door, designed to have the same effect, read 'Not now. My ego needs a rest'.

Other imperatives we live by are covered in chapter 9. The red circle with a diagonal line over almost anything means don't or no.

Personally I loved to read that the actual effect of an imperative may depend on the tone of voice, the context and the content.

Indeed in some languages the only way you can distinguish between a command and a statement is the intonation (p.89).

In my own professional life I've always said you can say anything, deliver any hard message, have it heard and understood, as long as you are using the right tone of voice. In Sasha's more precise language, a "face-threatening act" can be disarmed by tone and the use of particular imperative strategies. (p.256).

The study examines imperatives in contact, in particular how imperatives have changed over time and place and in interaction between language groups.

There is sociology here and also in the interesting observation that "Changing gender roles may in future affect the linguistic system." (p.392)

Towards the end of this work, Sasha makes plain, even to me, that there is much more work to be done. She writes that there is a treasure-trove of possibilities here as that which is known covers a "smattering" of languages and there are many, many questions not even approaching resolution.

Indeed, early on I learned that only one tenth of all human languages have been documented so far (p.12) and I imagine that it is only a fraction of those that have been subject to the analysis that Sasha undertook in this fine work.

It was in this last, excellent chapter that, as a lay person, I could begin to understand the richness of this work and the field of possibilities that Sasha's work leads to.

The breadth of examples in this cross-linguistic study is impressive. Sasha is clear that this study isn't the last word, but as the first study of its particular type, it must represent a gigantic contribution to the field.

I was particularly taken with the Appendix, providing assistance to fieldworkers by means of a checklist, so that others could labour productively in better analysing and understanding imperatives and commands.

Congratulations, Sasha on your important work that is evidenced in this fine publication. I enjoyed reading it and thank you again from honoring me by asking me to officially launch your latest book.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, it is with great pleasure that I officially launch "Imperatives and Commands" by Alexandra Aikhenvald.

I have just one more thing to say to you all: Read this book!

Thank you.