

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE RESEARCH CENTRE

Cairns Institute — James Cook University

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The **Language and Culture Research Centre (LCRC)** is a unit within the multidisciplinary **Cairns Institute** (Director, Professor Hurriyet Babacan), devoted to studies in the social sciences and humanities with especial reference to the tropics. LCRC is also nested within the **Faculty of Arts, Education and Social Sciences** (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean, Professor Nola Alloway) within James Cook University.

Overview

The existing Language and Culture Research Group has recently been transmogrified into a new and exciting official University Centre. Alongside Distinguished Professor Aikhenvald as Director, and Adjunct Professor Dixon as Deputy Director, we have a dozen discerning scholars from related disciplines. The make-up of LCRC is set out on pages 2 and 3.

Last year was notable for the quality and quantity of book publications from both faculty and students. Including those currently in press, these comprise seven monographs, six edited volumes, and four paperback reissues of previous hardback titles. Our publications continue to rate highly on citation indices (which are now held to be the nirvana of academic enterprise).

Who'll be at LCRC in 2012

Distinguished Professor Alexandra (Sasha) Aikhenvald is Research Leader, People and Societies of the Tropics, within the Cairns Institute, and Director of LCRC. She is currently seeing through the press a 499-page monograph *Languages of the Amazon*, to be published by Oxford University Press in June. A fieldtrip is planned for April and May, to the Upper Rio Negro region of Brazil for further work with the Tariana people, promoting the maintenance of their language and reestablishment of their language school. She will also respond to an appeal from Warekena people to revitalize their language, through

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE RESEARCH CENTRE

The Language and Culture Research Centre (LCRC) brings together linguists, anthropologists, other social scientists, and those working in the humanities. The primary intent of the Centre is to investigate the relationship between language and the cultural behaviour of those who speak it. It also studies the relations between archaeology, prehistory, human biology, cognition studies, and linguistics, based on in-depth empirical investigations of languages and cultures in tropical areas, including those of the Pacific (especially the Papuan languages of New Guinea), the languages of Amazonia, and of Indigenous Australia.

Membership (cross-faculty and international)

Distinguished Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, School of Arts and Social Sciences & Cairns Institute — Director

Adjunct Professor R. M. W. Dixon SASS/CI — Deputy Director

Professor Ton Otto SASS/CI

Associate Professor Rosita Henry SASS/CI

Dr Anne Schwarz SASS/CI

Dr Elena Mihas SASS/CI (commencing June 2012)

Dr Michael Wood SASS

Dr Sean Ulm SASS

Dr Reesa Sorin School of Education

Dr Robin Rodd SASS

Dr Pauline Taylor School of Education/Teaching and Learning Development

Professor Kenneth M. Sumbuk, Adjunct Professor of CI, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea

Dr Wendy Pearce, Speech Pathology, Tropical Medicine

Dr William Steed, Speech Pathology, Tropical Medicine

Ms Brigitta Flick, SASS/CI

Ms Sonya Jeffrey, CI

Associate members of the Centre

Dr Tianqiao Lu (formerly Postdoc at SASS/CI), Xuzhou Normal University

Dr Knut Olawsky, Mirima Language Centre, Western Australia

Mr Cácio Silva, Yuhupde Education Program, Amazonas, Brazil

Ms Elisângela Silva, Yuhupde Education Program, Amazonas, Brazil

Mr Rafael da Silva Brito, Association of the Tariana of the Upper Rio Negro and the Tariana Indigenous School, Amazonas, Brazil

Mr José Luis Brito, Association of the Tariana of the Upper Rio Negro and the Tariana Indigenous School, Amazonas, Brazil

PhD students within the Centre

Chia-jung Pan (due to submit his thesis in early 2012)

Dineke Schokkin

Sihong Zhang

Mikko Salminen

Hannah Sarvasy

Juliane Boettger

Grant Aiton (commencing June 2012)

John Kerby (commencing May 2012)

International Consultative Board

Professor Carol Genetti, University of California at Santa Barbara

Professor Lourens De Vries, Free University of Amsterdam

Professor Dr Anne Storch, University of Cologne

Dr René van den Berg, Summer Institute of Linguistics, Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea

the production of a dictionary and reading materials. Work is continuing on Ndu languages from the Sepik region of Papua New Guinea. She is currently working on mirativity, and on planning two further monographs *The Art of Grammar* and *The Art of Typology*.

Professor R. M. W. (Bob) Dixon is Deputy Director of LCRC. He is currently checking proofs for the third volume of his magnum opus *Basic Linguistic Theory* (the first two volumes have been most well received). It will be published by Oxford University Press in June. The next project, on which he is well advanced, is a monograph *Making new words: morphological derivation in English*. An on-going project is to complete work on the collection of 75 texts in Dyirbal (recorded between 1963 and 2002) 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, and Jarawara (from the Arawá family in Brazil).

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 'The grammar of knowledge: a cross-linguistic view of evidentials and epistemics'; and Dixon/Aikhenvald 'Are some languages better than others?']

Dr Anne Schwarz has a PhD from the Humboldt University, Berlin, on 'Aspects of morphosyntax and tonology in Buli', based on extensive fieldwork on this Gur language from northern Ghana. She is undertaking a comprehensive fieldwork-based study of Siona/Secoya, a West Tucanoan language.

Dr Elena Mihás has a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2010), 'Essentials of Ashéninka Perené grammar'. She will start a two-year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship within the framework of the ARC Discovery Project 'The grammar of knowledge' working on a comprehensive grammar of Ashéninka Perené and the expression of knowledge.

Dr Mark Post (left at the end of February 2012) worked on compiling a digital corpus of Upper Belt Minyong (Tani, Tibeto-Burman), and drafting an etymological dictionary and descriptive grammar of the language. He also continued comparative/typological work on nominalization and stance marking in Tibeto-Burman, and co-edited the fifth volume in the conference series *North East Indian Linguistics*.

Cairns Institute Visiting Fellow

Professor Andrew Butcher (Flinders University), an internationally recognised expert on phonetics, was awarded a Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellowship (January – April 2012). He is working on various issues in the phonetics of Australian languages and finalising for publication (by Oxford University Press) his monograph, *The sounds of Australian languages*. On 5 March 2012, he will be presenting the inaugural seminar of the LCRC, on 'Australian phonologies and Aboriginal hearing'.

Adjunct Professor of the Cairns Institute

Professor Kenneth Memson Sumbuk, Professor of Linguistics and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of UPNG, 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 'The Sare language of East Sepik, PNG'.

PhD students

Chia-jung Pan is completing a PhD on a grammatical study of Lha'alua (or Saaroa), a critically endangered Austronesian language of Taiwan.

Gerda (Dineke) Schokkin (from the University of Amsterdam) is working on 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 language of south-west China.

Hannah Sarvasy, from Harvard University, commenced her PhD in June 2011. She is writing a grammar of Nungon, a Papuan language spoken by about 500 people in a remote river valley in the Saruwaged Mountains of PNG.

Mikko Salminen, from Leiden University, started his PhD course in June 2011. He is working on a comprehensive grammatical description of Huave, an isolate from Mexico.

Juliane Böttger, from the University of Leipzig, started her PhD course in July 2011. She will be working on a comprehensive grammatical description of Lele, a previously undescribed language of Manus Province, PNG.

Grant Aiton, from the University of Alberta, is starting his PhD course in June 2012. He is planning to work on Aimili, a previously undescribed Papuan language from Western Province, Papua New Guinea.

John Kerby, from Oxford University, is starting his PhD course in May 2012. He is working on Sedeq, a Formosan language from Taiwan.

Also associated with LCRC 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).

Other members of the Language and Culture Research Centre:

- **Brigitta Flick** continues her invaluable work as a Publication Assistant for the LCRC while working on completing her PhD in psychology.
- We are delighted to welcome a new linguist to JCU (in the Townsville campus). **Dr William Steed** graduated with a Doctorate from ANU linguistics in 2011, and has recently commenced a teaching and research position within JCU's Speech Pathology program. His thesis (*Lishui Wu Tone and Tone Sandhi: An Acoustically-Based Description*) described not only the tones and tone sandhi of the Lishui variety of Wu Chinese, but described the difficulties of approaching the phonology of tone sandhi. In addition to continuing his research on tone sandhi, now focusing on change in tone and tone sandhi, he is working on other projects, including Spanish pronunciation pedagogy (with Manuel Delicado Cantero at ANU) and the sociophonetic perception of sexuality.
- We also welcome a new Applied Linguist, **Dr Peter Grainger**, Lecturer at the School of Education at Townsville. His major expertise and research interests lie in language learning strategies for foreign language learners of Japanese, assessment and the dimensions of learning and L2 learning proficiency rating, and second language teacher education as a research expertise.
- **Professor Ton Otto**, Research Leader, People and Societies of the Tropics, within the Cairns Institute, is working on design anthropology, social change, notions of temporality, and agency, with reference to Papua New Guinea and particularly the peoples of Manus Island.
- **Associate Professor Rosita Henry**, anthropologist at the Townsville Campus, is also Research Fellow of the CI. She is currently President of the Australian Anthropological Society. Her research concerns the poetic politics of relationships between people, places and the nation-state in Australia and the Pacific. She is author of numerous articles on the political anthropology of place and performance.
- **Dr Mike Wood** is a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at the Cairns Campus of James Cook University. For a long time he has worked with Kamula speakers in PNG. He is currently working on three PNG-based projects that concern HIV/AIDS-related issues. He also works with Rosita Henry on a project concerning the history of artefacts collected in the 'Wet Tropics' that surround Cairns. And he is interested in issues to do with climate change and the recent development of carbon credit schemes in PNG.
- **Dr Robin Rodd** is Lecturer in Anthropology at Townsville, and an expert on the ethnography of the Piaroa, a linguistic isolate of Venezuela. His further research interests include ethnopharmacology of psychoactive plants, psychological anthropology, shamanism, systems theory and philosophy of health, and the history and ethnography of Venezuela and Latin America in general. He is currently examining notions of health and healing among Australian ayahuasca drinkers.

MISSION STATEMENT OF LCRC

The Linguistics and Culture Research Centre 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. LCRC'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 LCRC 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?

LCRC 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.

• **Dr Pauline Taylor** is Senior Lecturer at the School of Education, currently seconded to [Teaching and Learning Development](#) as Academic Developer, First Year Experience Project. Her background is in applied linguistics. Research interests include Education Policy (equity; language and literacy; Indigenous; performativity; evaluation), Leadership; Teaching and learning, Teacher education, Widening participation in Higher Education, Transitions and First Year Experience and Comparative Education.

• **Dr Reesa Sorin** is Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education at JCU Cairns. Her areas of teaching are Early Childhood Education and Arts Education. Her areas of research include: fear and emotional literacy in early childhood; conceptualisations of childhood; art-based methods / multiliteracies for learning, teaching and research in early childhood; scenario-based learning; student mobility and pre-service teacher education. She has researched in Australia and Canada and is currently working on a project where preschoolers in Australia, Singapore, Scotland and Canada share their understandings of their local environments and environmental sustainability through the Arts.

• **Dr Wendy Pearce** is a Senior Lecturer in the Speech Pathology program at Townsville, and was its Head from 2005 until 2009. She has over 20 years experience providing speech pathology services in school and early childhood services in South Australia. She completed her PhD at Flinders University in 2007, titled 'The role of morphosyntax and oral narrative in the differential diagnosis of specific language impairment'. Research interests include the study of language impairments in children, language sampling approaches to assessment and diagnosis, the language skills of Indigenous children and service delivery approaches in early childhood and school contexts. She is currently analyzing language samples collected from a small sample of school-aged Indigenous children in Townsville with the aim of comparing those rated by teachers as having above average, average or below average oral language skills.

Dr Sean Ulm is lecturer in Anthropology at the Cairns campus. His research focuses on cultural and environmental change in coastal regions of the Pacific Basin over the last 10,000 years. Sean has conducted research in Australia, Honduras, Chile, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. He has made major contributions to our understanding of coastal life ways and to improving radiocarbon chronologies based on marine materials throughout the Australasian region. His publications include more than 50 articles on the archaeology of Australia and 5 books.

Sonya Jeffrey continues as Research Worker on the 'Land, language and heritage' project, studying place names and residual cultural knowledge for her Jirrbal tribe, from the Tully region.

Forthcoming Activities

Professor Andrew Butcher (Flinders University), CI Distinguished Visiting Fellowship will be presenting an inaugural seminar of the LCRC, on:

Australian Phonologies and Aboriginal Hearing

Chronic *otitis media* with effusion (OME) causes hearing loss which affects both the low frequency end of the scale (under 500 Hz) and the upper end of the scale (above 4000 Hz). Among the specific consequences of this are difficulties in perceiving fricatives and hearing voicing distinctions among stops. OME develops in the majority of Australian Aboriginal infants within a few weeks of birth. Acoustically the sound systems of Australian Aboriginal languages are strikingly different from the majority of the world's languages. They are lacking both in contrasts which depend on low frequency acoustic cues (high vowels, voiced obstruents) and in contrasts which depend on cues at the high frequency end of the spectrum (fricatives, aspirated stops).

Thus it appears that Aboriginal languages favour sounds whose characteristics exploit precisely that area of hearing ability which is most likely to remain intact in OME. Is this simply a coincidence or is it possible that the phonetics and phonology of Australian languages have evolved to match the auditory input experienced by the speakers?

Professor Dany Adone, Anglistik, Univ of Cologne, and **Elaine Lawurrpa**, Charles Darwin University will present a seminar on 19 March 2012:

Bimodal Bilingualism At The Top End Of Australia

Most studies on language mixing, code switching and bilingualism concentrate on spoken languages. Studies on language contact between spoken and signed languages are rare.

We examine a case of bimodal bilingualism (speech-sign) with Yolngu people at the Top End of Arnhem Land, Australia. It is well known that Aboriginal people are multilinguals. The Yolngu people involved in this study speak several Yolngu languages as well as Kriol and Aboriginal English. They also use a signing system referred to here as Yolngu Sign Language (YSL). For the hearing community YSL functions as an alternate language used in daily interaction, as well as for cultural purposes. It is also the first language of the Deaf members of the community. We discuss the sociolinguistics of YSL taking into account factors such as the ecology of communication in remote Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal culture and conversational style. Then we analyse instances of code-blending that involve the simultaneous production of speech and signs. This study aims at providing a unique window of opportunity onto the nature of bimodal bilingualism in a speech/sign community.

The Grammar of Knowledge

The **Eleventh International Workshop**

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

to be held at The Language and Culture Research Centre

Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Cairns

16 – 21 July 2012

Auditors are welcome, at no fee (but note that we are unable to arrange accommodation for auditors). A hard copy of the Position Paper can be supplied on request.

Monday 16 July 2012 in Building A4, Room 202

- 9.00 Opening
- 9.10 Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (LCRC, JCU) — The grammar of knowledge: A cross-linguistic view of evidentials and the expression of information source
- 10.40 Coffee
- 11.10 Diana Forker (University of Bamberg) — Hinuq (Northeast Caucasian)
- 12.40 Lunch
- 2.00 Elena Skribnik (Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich) — Kalmyk (Mongolic)
- 3.30 Coffee
- 4.00 Teija Greed (University of Helsinki and SIL) — Tatar (Turkic)
- 5.30 Finish

Tuesday 17 July 2012 in Building A4, Room 202

- 9.00 Anne Storch and Jules Jacques Coly (University of Cologne) — Maaka (Chadic branch of Afroasiatic)
- 10.30 Coffee
- 11.00 Gerrit Dimmendaal (University of Cologne) — Tima (Katla group, Sudan)
- 12.30 Lunch
- 2.00 Borut Telban (Academy of Sciences of Slovenia) — Karawari (Lower Sepik family, Papua New Guinea)
- 3.30 Coffee
- 4.00 Mike Wood (LCRC, JCU) — Kamula (Papuan area)
- 5.30 Finish

Wednesday 18 July 2012 — Free day

Thursday 19 July 2012 in Building A4, Room 222a Note: different room

- 9.00 R. M. W. Dixon (LCRC, JCU) — Dyirbal (Australian region)
 10.30 Coffee
 11.00 Elena Mihas (LCRC, JCU) — Ashéninka Perené (Arawak, Peru)
 12.30 Lunch
 2.00 Simon Overall (La Trobe University) — Aguaruna (Jivaroan, Peru)
 3.30 Coffee
 4.00 Yongxian Luo (University of Melbourne) — Zhuang (Tai-Kadai, China)
 5.30 Finish

Friday 20 July 2012 in Building A4, Room 202 Note: revert to original room

- 9.00 Gwen Hyslop (ANU) — Kurtöp (Tibeto-Burman, Bhutan)
 10.30 Coffee
 11.00 Sihong Zhang (LCRC, JCU) — Ersu (Tibeto-Burman, China)
 12.30 Lunch
 2.00 Chia-Jung Pan (LCRC, JCU) — Lha'alua (Austronesian, Taiwan)
 3.30 Coffee
 4.00 Group discussion
 5.00 Finish

Saturday 21 July 2012 in Building A4, Room 202 Note: 9.30 start

- 9.30 Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (LCRC, JCU) — What can we conclude?
 11.00 Coffee
 11.30 Group discussion and publication plans
 1.00 Lunch

Announcement

Most members of the Language and Culture Research Centre 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.

New Books — Monographs

with publishers' descriptions

THE LANGUAGES OF THE AMAZON

by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

Oxford University Press, June 2012. xxxiii, 466 pages.

This is the first guide and introduction to the languages of Amazonia. These include some of the most fascinating languages in the world, many of them on the verge of extinction. Alexandra Aikhenvald, one of the world's leading experts on the region, provides an account of the more than 300 languages. She sets out their main characteristics, compares their common and unique features, and describes the histories and cultures of the people who speak them. The languages abound in rare features. Most have been in contact with each other for many generations, giving rise to complex patterns of linguistic influence. The author draws on her own extensive field research to tease out and analyse the patterns of their genetic and structural diversity. She shows how these patterns reveal the interrelatedness of language and culture: different kinship systems, for example, have different linguistic correlates. Professor Aikhenvald explains the many unusual features of Amazonian languages, which include evidentials, tones, classifiers, and elaborate positional verbs. She ends the book with a glossary of terms, and a full guide for those readers interested in following up a particular language or linguistic phenomenon. The book is free of esoteric terminology, written in its author's characteristically clear style, and brought vividly to life with numerous accounts of her experience in the region. It may be used as a resource in courses in Latin American studies, Amazonian studies, linguistic typology, and general linguistics, and as reference for linguistic and anthropological research.

PERFORMING PLACE, PRACTISING MEMORIES: ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS, HIPPIES AND THE STATE

by Rosita Henry

Oxford: Berhahn Books, Due mid 2012.

During the 1970s a wave of "counter-culture" people moved into rural communities in many parts of Australia. This study focuses in particular on the town of Kuranda in North Queensland and the relationship between the settlers and the local Aboriginal population, concentrating on a number of linked social dramas that portrayed the use of both public and private space. Through their public performances and in their everyday spatial encounters, these people resisted the bureaucratic state but, in the process, they also contributed to the cultivation and propagation of state effects.

BASIC LINGUISTIC THEORY, VOL 3: FURTHER GRAMMATICAL TOPICS

by R. M. W. Dixon.

Oxford University Press, June 2012. xx, 547 pages

Basic Linguistic Theory is the triumphant outcome of a lifetime's thinking about every aspect and manifestation of language. Its three volumes comprise a one stop introduction for undergraduate and graduate students of linguistics, as well as an accessible guide for those in fields such as literature, classics, psychology, and anthropology who want to know more about the nature of language. The books provide a fundamental characterization of the nature of human languages and a comprehensive guide to their description and analysis. In crystal-clear prose, R. M. W. Dixon describes how to go about doing linguistics.

In **Volume 3** Professor Dixon examines key grammatical topics, each from a cross-linguistic perspective. These are: non-spatial setting (including modalities, perfectives and imperfectives, and the status of the future); number systems; negation; reflexive and reciprocal constructions; pivots, passives, and antipassives; causatives; applicatives; comparative constructions; and questions. He ends with a discussion of language and the world where he argues that the description of any language must include the role it plays for its community of users.

INDIGENOUS LITERACY POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN QUEENSLAND SCHOOLS: AN EVALUATION

by Pauline Taylor

Saarbrücken, Germany: LAP Lambert. x, 286 pages.

The persistence of poor literacy outcomes for indigenous students in Australia has been an educational policy focus for successive federal and state governments for decades. This book charts the implementation over three years, through the perspective of teachers, principals and administrators. It provides both a social archive and unique insight into policy implementation dynamics as they play out in systems and schools and gives understanding of the relationship between social contexts and educational outcomes for indigenous students who do not speak English as their home language. Further, it gives voice to marginalized voices in policy implementation processes and describes how, even with the best of intentions, policy can institutionalize dominant cultural paradigms which permeate the social relations of knowledge production. This book will be of interest to researchers and practitioners in indigenous education, particularly (English) literacy education and those interested in policy development and evaluation.

LANGUAGE AT LARGE: ESSAYS ON SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS

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

Leiden: Brill 2011. xviii, 606 pages

The volume brings together important essays on syntax and semantics by Aikhenvald and Dixon, highlighting their expertise in various fields of linguistics. The first part focusses on linguistic typology, covering case markers used on verbs, argument determined constructions, unusual meanings of causatives, the semantic basis for a typology, word-class-changing derivations, speech reports and semi-direct speech. The second part concentrates on documentation and analysis of previously undescribed languages, from South America and Indigenous Australia. The third part addresses a variety of issues in grammar and lexicography of English. This includes pronouns with transferred reference, comparative constructions, features of the noun phrase, and a discussion of 'twice'. The treatment of Australian Aboriginal words in dictionaries is discussed in the final chapter.

'JA TOCH?' LINGUISTIC STYLE, DISCOURSE MARKERS AND CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITY BY ADOLESCENTS IN AMSTERDAM

by Gerda H. Schokkin

Munich: Lincom Europa. 2011. 81, xiii pages.

Recently, across Europe a large amount of attention has been paid to new language varieties used by adolescents from immigrant backgrounds, often dubbed 'ethnolects'. This study focuses on a number of conversations involving adolescents of a Turkish, Moroccan and Dutch background from Amsterdam. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used to find out whether the use of discourse particles *maar* and *toch*, and linguistic style in a more general sense, could be related to identity construction.

There are a number of interesting differences between the ethnic groups, especially in the use of the phrases *je weet toch* and *ja toch*; the first one is used to a much larger degree by speakers of Turkish and Moroccan background, whereas the second is completely absent from the Dutch participants' speech. However, detailed conversation analysis shows that what speakers do is not determined by their ethnicity, and speaker agency plays an important role in identity construction. They use linguistic styles as tools in order to align or disalign with their interlocutor and/or particular groups in society. Sometimes they turn to 'performative' language use and it remains unclear whether they voice themselves or others, allowing them to speak out about socially controversial subjects.

I AM A LINGUIST

by R M W Dixon

Brill 2011. xvi, 391 pages, plus 24 colour plates

I am a Linguist provides a fascinating account of the academic adventures of multifaceted linguist, R. M. W. (Bob) Dixon. There is fieldwork (and lengthy grammars) on Dyirbal, Yidiñ and other Aboriginal languages of Australia, the Boumaa dialect of Fijian, and Jarawara from the dense jungles of Amazonia. Theoretical studies include adjective classes, ergativity and complement clauses. There are also detective novels, science fiction stories, and pioneering work on blues and gospel discography. Interspersed with the autobiographical narrative are explanations of how linguistics is a scientific discipline, of the development of universities, of diminishing academic standards, and of the treatment of Aboriginal people in Australia. The book is written in an easy, accessible style with numerous illustrative anecdotes. It will be an inspiration to young linguists and of interest to the general reader curious about what a scientific linguist does.

Edited Volumes

MULTIVERB CONSTRUCTIONS: A VIEW FROM THE AMERICAS

edited by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and Pieter Muysken

Leiden: Brill. 2011. xx, 313 pages.

One of the most complex topics in the study of the indigenous languages of the Americas, and indeed in the study of any language set, is the complex behaviour of multi-verb constructions. 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 languages of North, Middle, and South America. Though it is not a systematic typological survey, the combined insights from the various chapters give a very rich perspective on this phenomenon, involving a host of typologically diverse constructions, including serial verb constructions, auxiliaries, co-verbs, phasal verbs, incorporated verbs, etc. Aikhenvald's long introduction puts the chapters into a single perspective

THE CHALLENGE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Edited by Barbara Glowczewski and Rosita Henry

The Bardwell Press, 2011. 296 pages.

This book is concerned with the ways in which Indigenous peoples express their cultural and social identities in art and politics. Based on field research and practical initiatives with Indigenous peoples in Australia, Oceania, Asia and Siberia, it provides chapters on contemporary creative and political practices.

The volume from our 2010 International Workshop has now been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press and is due out in late 2012:

POSSESSION AND OWNERSHIP: A CROSS-LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY

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

Contents

- 1 Possession and ownership: a cross-linguistic perspective
Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
- 2 Ownership, part-whole and other possessive-associative relations in
Nêlêmwa (New Caledonia)
Isabelle Bril
- 3 Possession in Moskona, an East Bird's Head language
Gloria J. Gravelle
- 4 Possession and ownership in Manambu, a Ndu language from the Sepik
area, Papua New Guinea
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- 5 Possession in Martuthunira
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- 11 Possession in Wandala
Zygmunt Frajzyngier
- 12 Spirits of the forest, the wind and new wealth: defining some of the
possibilities, and limits, of Kamula possession
Michael Wood
- 13 Being and Belonging: Exchange, Value and Land Ownership in the
Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea
Rosita Henry
- 14 Possession and also ownership — vignettes
R. M. W. Dixon

NORTH EAST INDIAN LINGUISTICS

edited by Gwendolyn Hyslop, Stephen Morey and Mark W. Post
New Delhi: Foundation Books (Cambridge University Press, India)

Vol 3. 2011. xxii, 253 pages

Vol 4. 2012. xiv, 403 pages.

Vol 5. In press.

Paperback reissues of previous hardbacks

THE JARAWARA LANGUAGE OF SOUTHERN AMAZONIA

by R. M. W. Dixon.

Oxford: Oxford University Press. xxi, 636 pp. Plus eight black-and-white plates.

Hardback edition in 2004. Paperback reissue, with corrections, in 2011.

[Received the Leonard Bloomfield Award from the Linguistic Society of America for being judged the best book published world-wide across all areas of linguistics during a two-year period.]

THE SEMANTICS OF CLAUSE LINKING, A CROSS-LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY

(Explorations in linguistic typology, volume 5)

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

Oxford: Oxford University Press. xviii, 410 pp.

Hardback edition in 2009. Paperback reissue, with corrections, in 2011.

THE LANGUAGES OF AUSTRALIA

by R. M. W. Dixon

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. xxii, 547 pp.

Hardback and paperback editions published in 1980.

Reissued in 2011 in paperback in the Cambridge Library Collection.

SEARCHING FOR ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES,

MEMOIRS OF A FIELD WORKER.

by R. M. W. Dixon Cambridge:

Cambridge University Press. ix, 333 pp. Plus 21 black and white illustrations.

First published (in hb and pb) by the University of Queensland Press in 1984.

American edition (paperback) from University of Chicago Press in 1989.

Reprinted in 2011 in paperback in the Cambridge Library Collection.

New Monograph Series

OUTSTANDING GRAMMARS FROM AUSTRALIA

R. M. W. Dixon is editor for this new series, published by LINCOM EUROPA in Munich. His foreword for the series reads as follows:

Beginning from the early 1970s, the Linguistics Department in the Faculty of Arts at the Australian National University was a hot-bed of high-quality linguistic activity. Of the several dozen successful PhD students, more than three-quarters wrote — for their thesis — a comprehensive, theoretically-informed grammar of a language that had not previously been described (or had not been well described). Quite a number of these grammars have been published, but a number of first-class studies have until now remained unpublished.

For this LINCOM EUROPA series we have chosen eleven outstanding grammars. They cover seven Aboriginal languages of Australia, a Papuan language from New Guinea, and an Austronesian language from the Solomon Islands. In addition, we include Felix Ameka's masterly study of topics in the grammar of Ewe, a Kwa language from Ghana, and Kristina Sands' perceptive account of topics in the grammar of Finnish. Ten of the theses were presented at the ANU, that by Komei Hosokawa in the Research School of Pacific Studies and the other nine in the Faculty of Arts. Melanie Wilkinson had received her undergraduate training in the ANU Faculty of Arts Department, but completed her PhD at the University of Sydney. The 9 volumes currently in production are:

- Komei Hosokawa. 1991. The Yawuru language of West Kimberley: a meaning-based description. PhD thesis, ANU. xxxi, 524 pp.
- Nicholas J. Reid. 1990. Ngan'gityemerri: a language of the Daly River region, Northern Territory of Australia. PhD thesis, ANU. xxii, 456 pp.
- Kristina Sands. 2000. Complement clause and grammatical relations in Finnish. PhD thesis, ANU. xiii, 352 pp.
- Deborah Hill. 1992. Longgu grammar. PhD thesis, ANU. xii, 340 pp.
- Graham R. McKay. 1975. Rembarnga, a language of central Arnhem Land. PhD thesis, ANU. xvii, 406 pp.
- Bronwyn Eather. 1990. A grammar of Nakkara (Central Arnhem Land coast). PhD thesis, ANU. xvi, 498 pp.
- Lysbeth J. Ford, 1998. A description of the Emmi language of the Northern Territory of Australia. PhD thesis, ANU. xiii, 446 pp.
- Masayuki Onishi. 1994. A grammar of Motuna (Bougainville, Papua New Guinea). PhD thesis, ANU. xxiii, 565 pp.
- Michael Walsh. 1976. The Murinypata language of north-west Australia. PhD thesis, ANU. xiv, 442 pp.

A selection of reviews of our books

IMPERATIVES AND COMMANDS, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald Oxford University Press, 2010

Reviewing this volume, in *Linguistic Typology*, Vol 15, pages 670-80 (2011), Daniël van Olmen first mentions that other authored and edited books on the topic lack 'among other things, the empirical depth and the consistency of *Imperatives and commands*'. In conclusion, he states that 'it covers almost every relevant topic imaginable. Unlike any article or book before, it describes the cross-linguistic variation in imperatives and alternative directive strategies in a clear and thorough way . . . Aikhenvald's monograph constitutes a reference work for field workers, who will welcome the appended check-list of 'what kind of features need to be described, analysed and illustrated.'

BASIC LINGUISTIC THEORY by R. M. W. Dixon Volume 1, **METHODOLOGY**, and Volume 2, **GRAMMATICAL TOPICS**. Oxford University Press, 2010

[Volume 3, **FURTHER GRAMMATICAL TOPICS**, will be published in June 2012]

Carol Genetti reviewed the first two volumes in the journal *Language*:

'These books are monumental and destined to become classics, equatable to the two volumes entitled *Language* by Sapir (1921) and Bloomfield (1933), and to Givón's *Syntax*, volumes 1 (1984) and 2 (1990), but in each case surpassing them in scope, detail, rigor, and coherence. Dixon presents a complete, fully articulated, and cohesive explication of grammar, with extensive elaboration on every major grammatical structure found in the world's languages, as well as many minor ones. . . . This is a masterwork . . . a lasting reference for grammar writers, typologists, grammatical theorists, and all those fascinated by the complexities of linguistic systems and grammatical analysis.'

And in *Studies in Language*, René van den Berg wrote:

'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.'

Current Grants and Awards

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon have ARC Discovery Projects

- *The grammar of knowledge: a cross linguistic view of evidentials and epistemological expressions* (2011-13). This project involves Profs Anne Storch and Gerrit J. Dimmendaal, of the Univ. of Cologne, as Partner Investigators.
- *The World Through the Prism of Language: a cross-linguistic study of genders, noun classes and classifiers*. (2009-12).

Dixon and **Aikhenvald** have an ARC Linkage Grant, *Land, language and heritage* (2011-14), with the Echo Creek Cultural Centre as Partner Organization (under the leadership of Dr Ernie Grant).

Aikhenvald took up the second portion of her Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany) at the Institut für Afrikanistik, University of Cologne, September – November 2011.

Dr Mark Post was awarded a Taiwan National Science Foundation Book-Writing Grant to prepare book on Tani languages to begin Nov. 2011 (\$35,000 awarded, PI Jackson Sun, Academia Sinica).

No less than four members of LCRC have has been awarded a fieldwork grant from the Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research:

- **Dr Anne Schwarz** to undertake further work on the language and culture of the Siona/Secoya (West Tucanoan, Ecuador).
- **Dineke Schokkin** to undertake further work on the oral literature of the Paluai of the Manus Province, Papua New Guinea.
- **Hannah Sarvasy** to work on Nungon oral literature.
- **Sihong Zhang**, to work on Shaba Ersu oral literature.

Associate Professor Rosita J Henry, Associate Professor Russell E McGregor, Dr Michael A Wood, Dr Shelley M Greer, and Professor Dr Ton Otto have an ARC Discovery Project *Objects of possession: artefact transactions in the wet tropics of North Queensland, 1870 -2013*

The project's research into artefact collecting will provide Indigenous peoples, museum curators and other community members with important insights into the history of Indigenous cultures in the Wet Tropics region. The project will contribute to the development of innovative ways of presenting Indigenous peoples' connections with their cultural heritage.

In September 2011, **Hannah Savasy**'s graphic short story "The Building Permit," based on her Sierra Leone fieldwork and detailing some of the pitfalls of linguistic fieldwork, was published in *Narrative Magazine*'s Fall 2010 issue.

“The Building Permit” received a Finalist prize in *Narrative Magazine*’s international contest for writers under 30 years old.

Dr Mark Post was equal winner of the 'Panini award', from the Association for Linguistic Typology for the best PhD thesis (2007-2010), 'A Grammar of Galo' (supervised by Dixon and Aikhenvald).

Unity Through Culture, a film directed and produced by Christian Suhr and **Ton Otto** won the ‘Intangible Culture Film Prize’ and the newly established ‘Richard Werbner Award for Visual Ethnography’ at the 12th Royal Anthropological Institute International Festival of Ethnographic Film (2011). It has so far been screened at 9 international film festivals.

'ANTHROPOLOGICAL LINGUISTICS' COURSE

For the first time in around twenty years, an undergraduate course in linguistics was taught at JCU. Professor Aikhenvald was Course Coordinator for AN2009, *Anthropological Linguistics*, taught at the Cairns Campus during First Semester 2011. Lectures were also given by Professor R. M. W. Dixon, Dr Mark Post and Dr Anne Schwarz. The program was, week by week:

- 1 Introduction. What is language? — Aikhenvald
- 2 The nature of meaning — Aikhenvald
- 3 Vocabulary and grammar — Dixon
- 4 Language, space, and time — Aikhenvald
- 5 The sounds we make — Dixon
- 6 Word structure and word combinations — Dixon
- 7 Possession — Aikhenvald
- 8 Genders and classifiers — Dixon
- 9 The grammar of knowledge — Aikhenvald
- 10 Language variation and language contact — Aikhenvald
- 11 Language change — Schwarz
- 12 Social varieties of language — Dixon
- 13 Language and culture — Post

The course attracted a lively group of students, some of very high calibre. Feedback was most positive, with requests for a full major (six semester courses) in linguistics to be taught at JCU.

What happened at LCRC during 2011

WORKSHOP – THE ROOTS OF LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

Thursday 9 June

- 14.00 - 15.00 René van den Berg (SIL, PNG) Pronominal systems in Austronesian languages of Papua New Guinea
- 15.00 – 15.50 Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (CI, JCU) Along the river and deep in the bush: linguistic diversity in the Middle Sepik area
- 16.20 - 17.10 Mark Post: Isolate substrates, realization and the internal diversity of Tibeto-Burman

Friday 10 June

- 9.30 – 10.10 R M. W. Dixon. The wonderful linguistic diversity there was in north-east Queensland
- 10.20 – 11.10 Sean Ulm, Nicholas Evans, Daniel Rosendahl, Helene Tomkins and Fiona Petchey. Radiocarbon and linguistic dates for occupation of the South Wellesley Islands, Northern Australia
- 11.40 - 12.30 Anne Schwarz: The West Africa hot-spot
- 14.00 - 14.50 Tianqiao (Mike) Lu: The Tai-Kadai peoples — their languages, cultures and histories
- 14.50 – 15.40 Carol Genetti (University of California): What can we conclude

Seminars

Professor Claudia Maria Riehl of the University of Cologne spoke on 22 March on 'Language contact and language change in German-speaking enclaves'

Dr Knut Olawsky, Senior Linguist, Kununurra Language Centre, Western Australia spoke on 19 April on 'A race against time in the Kimberley: Language maintenance and revitalisation at Mirima Language Centre, Kununurra'

Professor Carol Genetti of the University of California at Santa Barbara spoke on 3 August on, 'Responses to language endangerment: From documentation to capacity development'

Don Daniels, PhD scholar from the University of California at Santa Barbara spoke on 12 December on 'Complex coordination in diachrony: Clause coalescence in Papuan clause chains'

Round-table meetings of LCRC

Meetings of LCRC members, held throughout the year, 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. Recent presentations were:

- 28 May Anne Schwarz 'Possession in Siona/Secoya'
- 16 June Mark Post 'Some fundamental aspects of Galo grammar: Or, why once is not enough'
- 23 June Yankee Modi 'Language contact in the Tani area'
- 30 June Carol Genetti 'The Tapestry of Dolakha Newar: chaining, embedding and the complexity of sentences'
- 7 July Mikko Salminen 'San Agustín Lohicha Zapotec language at a glance' (with Mariano Antonio, who is a native speaker of this variety of Zapotec)
- 13 July Tianqiao (Mike) Lu 'The peoples who live by classifying things - the importance and cultural implications of Kam-Tai classifiers' (joint session of LCRG, CI and School of Arts and Social Sciences)
- 20 July Michael Wood (JCU) 'Sagalu, Sex and Disease among the Bamu of the Western Province, PNG'
- 28 July R. M. W. Dixon 'Language and the world: explanation now and needed' (slightly truncated version of *Basic Linguistic Theory*, Vol 3, Chapter 28)
- 12 Aug Hannah Sarvasy 'A grammar of Nungon, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea'
- 12 Aug Mikko Salminen 'Grammar of Huave as spoken in San Dionisio del Mar, Oaxaca, Mexico'
- 18 Aug Hannah Sarvasy 'Two dying languages of Sierra Leone: Kim and Bom'
- 25 Aug Alexandra Aikhenvald 'Areal diffusion and parallelism in drift: what we can learn from Amazonia, and from New Guinea'

The year concluded with a Local Workshop on

Body Parts in Lexicon and Grammar

This ran from 21 Sept until 30 Nov and included the following presentations:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anne Schwarz — Secoya | Chia-jung Pan — Taiwanese |
| Dineke Schokkin — Paluai | Mark Post — Tani languages |
| Bob Dixon — Dyirbal | Sihong Zhang — Ersu |
| Sasha Aikhenvald — Manambu | Juliane Böttger — German |

A **Local Workshop** is planned for 2012 on **Language and Culture in Kinship**

Activities of LCRG members in 2011

Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald's major achievement in 2011 was the completion of *The languages of the Amazon*, 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). Her next monographs will be *The Art of Grammar* (a cumulation of her experience in grammar writing and grammatical analysis) accompanied by *The Art of Linguistic Typology* (an accessible guide to linguistic typology and what linguists can learn from typological generalizations).

She has continued her work on Tariana dialects and language contact in Amazonia, maintaining the Tariana language site, continuously liaising with members of the Tariana group Wamiarikune and providing consultative support for the Tariana school in Iauaretê, Amazonas. She has completed a preliminary dictionary of Warekena of Xié and is working on a collection of stories in the language. She has also continued liaising with the Manambu and Gala (or Ngala)-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 language contact, the semantics of genders, evidentials, value in language, linguistic diversity in the Sepik area, and perception and cognition. She has co-edited a volume *Possession and ownership: a cross-linguistic typology* (with R. M. W. Dixon) and authored the Position paper for the International Workshop 'The grammar of knowledge' (16-21 July 2012) and the Position paper for the local workshop 'Body parts in grammar'. She is also co-editor for a volume 'Perception and cognition in grammar and culture', jointly with Anne Storch. She is currently working on mirativity as a cross-linguistic category. She continues as a consulting editor, *Studies in Language*, a leading journal in typology, as Associate Editor for the *Journal of language contact*, and as a member of the editorial boards for journals *Studia Linguistica*, *Journal of Linguistic Diversity*, and *Language Compass*, and for monograph series *Explorations in Linguistic Typology* (Oxford University Press) and book series *Structural and Functional Linguistics* (John Benjamins). She has been appointed member of the Advisory Board of the Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

She gave the following key-note addresses during the second period of her research stay in Cologne in September-November 2011 (as part of her Alexander von Humboldt Research Award, 2010-13):

- 'Areal diffusion and parallelism in drift: shared grammaticalization patterns', Symposium 'Shared grammaticalization in the Transeurasian languages', Koeniglike Universiteit Leuven (jointly with the government of Belgium), 21-23 September

- 'Number, animacy and classifiers: Tariana and its neighbours in north-west Amazonia', 'Number in Africa and beyond: Grammar, semantics and social deixis', Institute of African Studies, University of Cologne, 27-30 September
- 'Mind, body, and spirit: on meanings and functions of body part terms in the languages of the Sepik area, Papua New Guinea', Conference 'The body in language: metaphor, grammar and culture', University of Warsaw, 21-22 October

Juliane Böttger, from the University of Leipzig, started her PhD course in July 2011. She plans to work on a comprehensive grammatical description of Lele, a previously undescribed language of Manus Province, Papua New Guinea

Professor R. M. W. Dixon completed Volume 3, *Further grammatical topics*, of his comprehensive three-volume monograph, *Basic linguistic theory*. This has ten chapters: Non-spatial setting; Number systems; Negation; Reflexive and reciprocal constructions; Pivots, passives and antipassives; Causatives; Applicatives; Comparative constructions; Questions; and, finally, Language and the world — explanation now and needed. He also made good progress with a study of derivational processes in English word formation, working towards a monograph to be called *Making new words*. He also continued work on languages from his three field sites — Dyirbal, Yidiñ, Fijian and Jarawara. Work is well advanced on a volume of texts in Dyirbal, plus a comprehensive dictionary/thesaurus of that language. Dixon's academic autobiography *I am a linguist* (published by Brill in the Netherlands) describes his field experiences and also the joys and woes of working in a university. It has attracted a number of spontaneous paeans of praise (and, of course, a number of curmudgeonly ripostes).

Professor Carol Genetti (University of California at Santa Barbara), an internationally recognised expert on the Tibeto-Burman family and general linguistics, was a Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellow, May - August 2011. The majority of her time with us was been spent on two projects: the production of an article assessing the state of Tibeto-Burman comparative linguistics, and the framing of a new research area related to training in language documentation and revitalization. She estimates the former project to be 90% completed. On the latter project, she was then ready to present her work in a plenary address at a conference on endangered languages in Milwaukee in October. In addition, she spent time on the substantial editing and production work leading to the publication of *Himalayan Linguistics 10.1*, a special issue of fourteen papers in memory of Mickey Noonan and David Watters, and the editing of six chapters for *How Languages Work*, which have now been sent to Cambridge University Press for review. She also delivered two lectures at a conference on strengthening language maintenance at the University of Melbourne.

Sonya Jeffrey commenced employment in May as Research Worker on the 'Land, language and heritage' project, studying place names and residual cultural knowledge for her Jirrbal tribe, from the Tully region.

Dr Tian Qiao (Mike) Lu completed his two-year Post-doctoral Research fellowship in October, and returned to his position in Xuzhou Normal University. Mike completed his designated project, producing *Classifiers in Kam-Tai languages: A Cognitive and Cultural Perspective*, which has now been submitted for publication. This 160-page monograph has six chapters: Introduction; A general overview; Semantic properties and cultural implications; Syntactic properties of classifiers in noun phrases; The Kam-Tai as classifier-prominent languages; and Mensural Classifiers.

Dr Knut Olawsky (Senior Linguist, Mirima Language Centre, Kununurra) undertook research at LCRG in March-May, as a Special Visiting Fellow, on documentation of the grammar of Miriwoong (East Kimberley, Western Australia). The first task was to revise existing materials to provide a comprehensive account of the phonology of Miriwoong; this includes: the phoneme inventory, phonological alternations and variations, and phonotactics including syllable structure, word length and stress. The second area of research focussed on word formation in Miriwoong, including the various kinds of derivation with respect to different word classes and an analysis of the phonological, morphological and semantic patterns of reduplication. Thirdly, he completed editing the Miriwoong community dictionary with the goal of creating a resource to be made available to the wider community, as part of the language revitalisation program. He also gave a guest lecture on the "Miriwoong Seasonal Calendar" at the JCU School of Earth and Environmental Science.

Chia-jung Pan is moving towards finalising his PhD dissertation on Lha'alhua (Saarua), a severely endangered Formosan language from Taiwan. he had a final period of fieldwork with the last, very old speakers. His pre-completion seminar was judged to be 'outstanding'.

Dr Mark Post spent the first five months of 2011 on fieldwork in Arunachal Pradesh, North East India (vernacular Minyong and Galo poetic language). He also co-organized the 6th International Conference of the North East Indian Linguistics Society at Tezpur University in February, where he also convened a two-day student workshop and inaugurated the NILDA (NEILS Indigenous Languages Documentation Award) with support from JCU CI/SASS. Dr Post acted as a PhD supervisor for Sihong Zhang. And he made the following presentations in 2011:

- 'Diachrony is indispensable: Making sense of the core grammar of Galo.' Plenary address, 9th Biennial Meeting of the Association for Linguistic Typology, City University of Hong Kong, July 22.

- ‘Nominalization-based constructions in Tibeto-Burman languages: Typology and evolution.’ Paper presented at the same meeting.
- ‘Stance marking in “small” Asian languages: Toward a framework for analysis.’ Keynote address, Workshop on Stance Marking in Asian Languages, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, July 17.
- ‘Siangic: A new language phylum in North East India’ (second author Roger Blench). Paper presented at the 6th International Conference of the North East Indian Linguistics Society, Tezpur University, Assam, India, Jan 29-Feb 2.
- ‘Agency-and-intention vs. knowledge-and-experience: The functional bases of person-sensitive TAME marking in Tibeto-Burman.’ Invited paper at the Workshop on Conjunct/Disjunct Alignment, Linguistic Society of America Summer Linguistics Institute, University of Colorado at Boulder, July 15.

Mikko Salminen, from Leiden University, started his PhD course in June 2011; his confirmation seminar was judged as 'outstanding'. He is working on a comprehensive grammatical description of Huave, an isolate from Mexico and is currently in the middle of a lengthy fieldtrip.

Hannah Sarvasy began her PhD in June 2011; her confirmation seminar was also judged as 'outstanding'. She is writing a grammar of Nungon, a Papuan language spoken by about 500 people in a remote river valley in the Saruwaged Mountains of Papua New Guinea. In June 2011, Hannah traveled to Towet village, at about 1700m, to evaluate local interest in the Nungon project. In September 2011, she returned to the area to begin seven months of fieldwork.

Dineke Schokkin successfully completed a lengthy fieldtrip on Baluan Island in PNG, working on Paluai, a language from the Oceanic subgroup of Austronesian. She is currently working through the chapters of a draft grammar.

Dr Anne Schwarz has continued to work on a reference grammar on Ecuadorian Secoya and undertook a second field trip in Ecuador. She presented a paper, 'Specificity of efforts in discourse and the typology of nominal classification', at the Association for Linguistic Typology 9th Biennial Conference, University of Hong Kong, July 2011.

Daniela Vavrová returned from a year's fieldwork among the Karawari-speaking Ambonwari people of East Sepik Province in Papua New Guinea, with primary focus on people's perceptions and senses, employing audio-visual methods.

Sihong Zhang had an excellent long field-trip to a remote and barely accessible region in south-east China, working on Ersu, a previously undescribed Tibeto-Burman language. He is now busily engaged in drafting his grammar.

James Cook University Open Day

As part of the Cairns Institute's participation in the JCU Open Day in Cairns (21 August 2011), the Language and Culture Research Group held a stall, under the title 'The joy of language', with a book exhibition. We talked about linguistics and linguistic fieldwork with many interested visitors.

There was considerable interest in our 'language quiz' (for which small prizes were offered). Some questions were easy to answer — such as 'Which foreign language does Kevin Rudd speak?' (Mandarin Chinese).

Others were more difficult: a typical answer to the question 'Which foreign language does Vladimir Putin speak?' was 'Russian'. (Russian is of course a foreign language to us. We should have phrased the question better, asking about a foreign language for him. The answer is 'German'; in his younger days, Putin spent some time as a KGB operative in the old East Germany.)

Answers to the question 'How many languages are there in Papua New Guinea?' ranged from 'two' to 'nine hundred' (the last figure is about right).

When confronted with the question 'What Aboriginal languages were spoken around Cairns? A few people knew, but most put on an ashamed look and admitted: 'I really did ought to know that'. A brief answer is:

- To the south, Yidiñ (spoken by the Yidiñji tribe)
- To the north: Yirrgay (spoken by the Yirrgañji tribe).
- To the north-west: Jabugay (spoken by the Jabugañji tribe); it is alternatively spelt Djabugay or Tjapukai.

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Chair at the ANU for Catherine Travis

We are delighted to report that Catherine Travis, a Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellow with us in 2010, has accepted appointment to be Professor of Modern European Languages at the Australian National University.

Catherine gained her first-class honours BA from the ANU (taking one course from R. M. W. Dixon), at that time specialising in Japanese. She then became enthralled by the Spanish language (especially as it is spoken in Columbia), and completed her PhD at La Trobe University on 'A semantic analysis of discourse markers in Columbian Spanish'.

Catherine was happily ensconced in tenured position as Associate Professor in Linguistics and Spanish at the University of New Mexico. She said that her three months with us in the Cairns Institute made her yearn for a position back here. So she landed the job at the ANU, for the great benefit of Australian linguistics.

Publications by past and present members of LCRG/LCRC

2011 and forthcoming

Anvita Abbi

- 2011 *Ethno-ornithology. Birds of Great Andamanese - Names, Classification and Culture*. (co-authored with Satish Pande). Oxford University Press, Bombay. (Book was launched at JNU in February 2010 and at SOAS in July 2011).
- 2012 *Great Andamanese Dictionary. An interactive English-Great Andamanese-Hindi dictionary of the endangered language of the Andaman Islands with pictures and sounds*. Ratna Sagar. Delhi. (Dictionary was launched at SOAS in November 2011).
- Forthcoming. 'In search of language contact between Jarawa and Aka-Bea: The languages of South Andaman' by Anvita Abbi and Pramod Kumar. *Acta Orientalia*.
- Forthcoming 'Declining Adivasi knowledge-systems and killing of linguistic diversity'. Volume on *Social exclusion, adverse inclusion ... and beyond: From deprivation to development of adivasis in india*. Edited by Dev Nathan and Virginius Xaxa. Oxford University Press.
- Forthcoming. *A Grammar of Great Andamanese. An ethnolinguistic study*. Brill's Studies in South and Southwest Asian Languages. Leiden: Brill.

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

- 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 Busuttil et Alain Peyraube. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.
- 2011 'Areal features and linguistic areas: contact-induced change and geographical typology', pp. 13-41 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.
- 2011 'The grammaticalization of evidentiality', pp. 602-10 of *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*, edited by Bernd Heine and Heiko Narrog. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2011 'The wonders of the Chacos: setting the scene'. *Revista Indiana* 28: 171-81.
- 2012 *Languages of the Amazon*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- 2012 *Imperatives and commands*. Paperback reissue with minor revisions of 2010 edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Forthcoming. 'Multilingual fieldwork, and emergent grammars', to appear in *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Meeting of Berkeley Linguistics Society*. Berkeley: UCB.
- Forthcoming. 'Language contact', to appear in *How languages work*, edited by Carol Genetti. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Forthcoming. 'Manambu', to appear in *How languages work*, edited by Carol Genetti. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 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. 'Negation in Tariana'.
- Forthcoming 'Invisible loans', to appear in *Morphology between copies and cognates*, edited by Martine Robeets. Leiden: Brill.
- Forthcoming. 'Migrations of the Amazonian peoples', in *Encyclopedia of migrations*, edited by Peter Bellwood, Routledge-Wiley.
- Forthcoming. 'Sentence types', to appear in *Oxford handbook of mood and modality*, edited by I. Nuyts et al. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Forthcoming. 'Evidentiality and information source'. Forthcoming in *Evidentials and modals*, ed. by Chungmin Lee. CRiSPI (Current Research in the Semantics/Pragmatics Interface). Seoul: Korea University Press.
- Forthcoming. 'Possession and ownership in a typological perspective', to appear in Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon. editors. *Possession and ownership: a cross-linguistic typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Forthcoming. 'Possession and ownership in Manambu, a Papuan language from New Guinea', to appear in A. Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon. eds. *Possession and ownership: a cross-linguistic typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Forthcoming 'A story of love and debt: the give and the take of linguistic fieldwork'. To appear in *The Asia-Pacific Journal of Anthropology*.

Alexandra Y Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon

- 2011 *Language at large. Essays in semantics and syntax*. Leiden: Brill.
- In press. Editors of *Possession and ownership: a cross-linguistic typology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Henry Y. Chang

- 2011 'Transitivity, ergativity, and the status of O i Tsou'. *Language and Cognition: Festschrift in Honor of James H-Y. Tai on his 70th Birthday*, edited by Jung-hsing Chang, pp. 277-308. Taipei: The Crane Publishing.
- 2011 'Triadic encoding in Tsou'. *Language and Linguistics* 12: 799-843.

Lourens De Vries

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

R. M. W. Dixon

2011 *I am a linguist*. Leiden: Brill

2011 Paperback reissue of *The Jarawara language of southern Amazonia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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