

Kantoor Bevolkingszaken,
Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea,
November 4, 1955.

To: TRIPP Committee.

Third Report on Linguistic Field Project.

My last report was written in Sydney on August 1. I left there on August 4, and arrived in Hollandia the following day. I spent one week here, during which time some plans were made for my research in this territory. This administration is very interested in getting research done and is most cooperative. From August 12 to November 3 I was in Australian New Guinea and the British Solomons. With my return here my field work on the Eastern MP sub-group is concluded. This report, then, deals with the research in Australian New Guinea and the Solomons.

When I left New York, the material I most wanted to get from the Solomons and New Guinea included the following:

1. More data on any and all Santa Cruz Islands languages. We had very little data, and the languages appeared to be aberrant.
2. More data from the western Solomons - from the middle of Santa Isabel to Bougainville. This was needed to confirm and fix the boundaries of my groups 7, 8, 9, and 10, and to determine whether any larger groupings could be discerned.
3. Some more data on the languages known as Mengen and Tumuip in New Britain. We had only short vocabularies, and the languages seemed aberrant.
4. Some material from the Schouten Islands languages. We had almost nothing on them - not enough to attempt a classification. They constitute no. 14 of my published tentative classification, but I did not intend for them to be taken as a grouping.

Since I left New York some further needs have come to my attention:

1. Goodenough's research indicated that the New Britain situation was more complicated than I had realized.
2. From Capell, I learned that they were a number of MP languages in the Morobe District, in the Markham Valley and in the Huon Gulf coastal area - I later learned that they even get up pretty high into the mountains. Furthermore, the relationship among these languages is not very close. The question was whether or not they all fell into my sub-group 12.
3. Also from Capell I learned that there were more MP languages in the Madang district than I had realized. The question arose as to whether they all fell into my group 13.

I have made some progress towards solving every one of these problems. I will treat them in the above order.

Santa Cruz (and Reef Islands). In Honiara I was able to get the full vocabulary for the following: 2 languages (said to be the most different of some 13 languages on the island) for the island of Santa Cruz, one language (of 3) for Utupua, and the one Melanesian language of the Reef Islands (except the culture vocabulary). Unless the other languages of Utupua are more divergent than is likely for an island of that size, all that really seems still to be needed is some data on Vanikoro. Sturtevant and I have been in correspondence with Rev. Rawcliffe of the Pawa school, and I expect to be able to

get a questionnaire for Vanikoro from him. However, I do not know for certain that they have Vanikoro boys there - the population of the island seems to be very small now.

Western Solomons. In Honiara I was able to complete the vocabulary for the Zabana language (Kia and surrounding area) of Isabel, which I had started in Suva. This constitutes the material I wanted from Isabel. From Honiara, I went to the Methodist Mission school on Banga Island, just off New Georgia. I had been in communication with Rev. Allen Hall, who runs the school, and had sent him some questionnaires. When I got there, I was amazed to find that he had translated the entire questionnaire into Roviana, mimeographed copies and had his school boys fill them out for every language represented at the school. 39 complete questionnaires, I believe. They include two languages from Guadalcanal, 9 from Bougainville and Buka, and all but a very few of the languages of the New Georgia group and Choiseul. The only thing I still wanted from this area was something on the Banoni language of southwest Bougainville. I had the good luck to find it in Rabaul, and got the full word-list.

New Britain. This was tougher. People from some areas just do not seem to come out. I got the full vocabulary for Mengen and Tumuip, and for Uvol, which seems to be rather close to Goodenough's Metelen. I got some vocabulary for 8 other languages, but there may turn out to be problems still unsolved.

Schouten Islands. I spent 3 days in Wewak, and collected a total of about 900 words in 4 languages (one of them non-MP). I regretted not having more time, but I think this will be enough material, as the languages do not seem to be at all exceptional.

Morobe District. I spent about 2 weeks in Lae but only got about 1200 words in 9 languages. I did not have nearly enough time, but Rev. Heist, of the Lutheran school, has promised to translate the TRIPP vocabulary into Yabem, and get the boys to fill it out for as many of the languages as possible. This should be ample material. (The Atsera language of the Markham valley appears to have only 3 vowels - the only 3-vowel system I have ever encountered).

Madang District. I only had a short time in Madang and only got about 400 words in 5 languages. However, I think this will be enough, because all of them, except possibly one, will classify easily. (In group 13).

I estimate that on this trip so far, I have written about 22,000 words, and have heard a few words, at least, of about 90 languages. (This sounds less prodigious when you realize that the territory of Papua-New Guinea has probably well over 500 languages). I think the vocabularies I have collected from informants, plus what I got from Capell, plus the questionnaires that have been completed will already have given us at the very least as many words as we had in all our notebooks when I left the States. I will have a lot of material to go through when I get back.

There are a few incidental comments on this trip which seem in order here. I was able to get some vocabulary for San Elbert for Rennell, Nukumanu, Taku, and Nuguria (The last 3 closely related). These with Mae (in the New Hebrides) are the least known FN Outliers. There is a Mae vocabulary in the material I got microfilmed in Sydney. Thus, the Outlier picture should become clearer now.

My success in finding Pn Outlier informants as well as those for most of the other languages I wanted has been a very pleasant surprise to me. I think this is worthy of consideration by TRIPP. In centers such as Honiara, Rabaul, Port Moresby, and others to some extent, informants from a very large number of groups are available. It might be profitable for the ethnologists to prepare a list of information which they need, of the sort which can be obtained readily from informants (e.g. kinship data, distributional data for certain culture traits), which would be taken into the field by future workers in Melanesia. I suspect that there would be some key questions which could be answered very quickly by a field worker who made a stop in one of the readily accessible centers for the purpose of collecting such information. I had intended to write Bill Davenport before I started the New Guinea-Solomons trip asking what areas he most wanted kinship data from. I did not get it done, and I regret it because I must have had some key information of the sort at my fingertips at times and failed to get it because I did not know it was important.

I wrote to Dr. Spoehr some weeks ago that Don Richter, who is working for Gospel Recordings, and I have made a set of linguistic maps for the British Solomons. I think they are by far the best available so far, and I expect to submit them for publication eventually. At present they are being mimeographed and circulated to the missions, etc. for comments and corrections. I gave Tom Dietz, the linguistic officer in the Department of Education, Port Moresby, a copy of Goodenough's map for New Britain, along with my rather inconclusive additions thereto. They have written Goodenough for permission to use his information, and when they receive it, they plan to circulate that map to missions and patrol officers for correction.

I have also proposed to Dietz that I send him a 100 word vocabulary, which they can undertake to get filled in by missionaries, patrol officers, etc. for all possible languages of New Guinea. I have no idea how much return we will get on it, but I intend to try to make it an easy list to collect, and if we get enough response, it might go a good way towards clearing up the Papuan language situation. I believe the 100 words will be enough to make most relationships apparent, and in any case it will serve to give enough information to permit us to formulate problems. This is all providing we get a reasonable return on the questionnaires circulated. If I can arouse the interest, I hope to try the same thing for Dutch New Guinea.

I will probably be in Hollandia through December. In January I expect to go to Sorong, Fakfak, and possibly Kaimana. My guess now is that I will leave Dutch New Guinea for Europe towards the end of February.

My money is holding out embarrassingly well. It seems pretty certain that I will have a good bit left over.

George W. Grace.