

correct. The many mentions of “structural change” and “adjustment” give no indication of what is to be changed or adjusted.

As the policy reports prepared for the IMF are confidential to its executive directors, only national governments know their content. The institutional effects of IMF advice are, however, clear. The IMF has assisted the Pacific Island countries to establish central banks with all the drain on trained personnel or expatriates that this implies, despite the fact that economists are increasingly agreed that countries as small as Singapore or Hong Kong, let alone the Pacific Island countries, cannot have independent monetary policies.

Browne and Scott’s book does not have footnotes or a bibliography. To some extent this is to be commended. Far too many pedants make their work unreadable by minutiae of footnotes, references, and bibliographic material. But an absence of references can also indicate that the authors are not keeping up with the work on their subject.

HELEN HUGHES

Australian National University

* * *

Melanesian Pidgin and the Oceanic Substrate, by Roger M. Keesing. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1988. ISBN 0-8047-1450-9, xii + 265 pp, appendix, references, index. US\$37.50.

Keesing has written a fascinating, provocative, valuable, rambling book about the nature of Melanesian Pidgin (MNP). His thesis that MNP is modi-

fied English words on an Oceanic grammar is hardly new, but his documentation and clarification of it are. Neither the preface nor the introduction specifies the intended audience. The book is not for the linguistically faint of heart, but one needs little technical training in linguistics, just a love of language.

The book consists of fourteen chapters and an appendix. The first chapter is an introduction. The second chapter reviews accounts, including some speech samples, of the nineteenth-century contact between Pacific Islanders and English speakers. The third chapter continues into the “Sandalwood Period.” The fourth brings us into the “Labor Trade” era when the focus changed from collecting fragrant wood to collecting strong field hands. The plantation era led to a richer corpus of recorded speech. Keesing analyzes some forty-five citations indicating that MNP was surprisingly modern by 1885. The fifth chapter casts Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea as the misfit. Keesing claims that it changed away from English and that it was more like Pijin in the Solomon Islands and Bislama in Vanuatu, Mühlhäusler’s characterization of Tok Pisin notwithstanding.

In chapter 6, Keesing turns to the grammatical structures of Oceanic languages, getting us used to pronoun paradigms. In chapter 7, he discusses three possible influences on MNP: Oceanic languages (substrata), English (superstratum), and language universals (based in the human faculty for language). These influences can converge to support the same grammatical structure, a very stable structure. In chapter 9, we get pronoun paradigms for

MNP. In chapter 10, Keesing gives an interesting and challenging analysis of these pronouns and the so-called predicate marker. In chapters 11, 12, and 13, he presents evidence for what has been happening to Solomons Pijin in this century, trying to document the influence of Malaita languages, particularly Kwaio, which he knows well. Chapter 14 is a brief statement of conclusions. The appendix presents parts of three texts, in both Kwaio and Pijin, with word by word glosses that could serve as the basis for further analysis by interested linguists. Following the bibliography is a brief but useful index.

To keep this review from getting too technical, I will focus on a few general points: the nature of the plantation speech community, the inappropriateness of the term *nautical pidgin*, support for the claim of pronouns versus predicate markers, and a complaint at the editorial level.

Let me begin by adding a modern metaphor to Keesing's characterization of where MNP was spoken. Late in the nineteenth century, speakers of MNP made up what I would call a distributed speech community similar to a computer network. The major nodes were plantations in Queensland, Samoa, Fiji, and a few other places. At each, tens or even hundreds of speakers of MNP were in close contact. The minor nodes were villages through much of Melanesia. At each, one to ten speakers of MNP might be found. Each minor node was connected to at least one major node. Each major node hired several ships to visit minor nodes with the express purpose of moving what were actual or potential speakers of MNP. This far-flung speech commu-

nity seems to have been connected, if not cohesive. The community was not nautical, but consisted rather of groups of farmers connected by sea lanes.

The earliest stage of MNP needs a better name than nautical pidgin. The name is misleading because it bears so little resemblance to actual sailors' jargon. "Bulkhead" for "wall," "overhead" for "ceiling," "deck" for "floor," and the like do not show up in MNP. Beach pidgin might be a more appropriate name.

The central issue in pidgin and creole studies is the elaboration a pidgin language undergoes in becoming a creole. I have long been bothered by the conventional assumption that children speaking the language are crucial. MNP seems to have been a fully functional language for some one hundred years without significant instances of children speaking it as a first language. Keesing cites Jourdan (1985) that community cohesion is the crucial factor. This interesting issue awaits further research.

Much of Keesing's linguistic analysis involves what has been called the "predicate marker." In the MNP *em i go* 'he goes', the second element seems to mark the predicate. The nineteenth-century rendering *him he go* suggests that two pronouns are being used. Keesing shows that this double pronoun usage fits the grammars of many Oceanic languages, where a focal pronoun is used in the subject phrase and a shorter referential pronoun is used in the verb phrase. In support of this analysis, Keesing finds examples like *mi mi go* and *yu yu go*. Even better, he finds examples like *yumitu yumitu stap kakae* 'we're in the process of eating'.

Taken all together, Keesing makes a strong case for Oceanic substrate influence.

At the proofreading level, this book is very well copyedited. There are occasional slips; for example, a couple of Pohnpeian examples are cited without acknowledging the obvious source, Rehg 1981; Simons 1986 is cited as Simons 1985; Kwaio *foubolo* is repeated where the English gloss, "black," should be. With minimal effort, lapses like these are easily overcome.

More serious are chatty asides that are an embarrassment. I cite here a few examples: On page 131, one scholar is chided "Perhaps significantly, this passage is missing in the version . . . published two years later. . . . The comments of his colleague . . . might have intervened here, although this is pure speculation on my part." The earlier version was labeled a working paper. To me *working paper* means that just such changes can be made without prejudice. On page 104, another scholar is chided "he might be surprised at the complexity of sentences given by Pionnier." As a clue to the inappropriateness of the comment, the author attaches a footnote, "He assures me (personal communication, July 1986) that he is not." How did both author and editor miss the chance to prune all of that? In two places, page 177 and page 212, Keesing comments on the policies of Solomon Islands toward research visas. One emotional reaction to the situation should suffice.

One finds the same data with similar comments in more than one place, indicating that the overall organization of the material could be improved. But

as it stands, the book succeeds as a provocative challenge and as a showcase for important data to please substratophiles everywhere.

PETER C. LINCOLN
Chaminade University

* * *

The Evolution of Highland Papua New Guinea Societies, by D. K. Feil. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987. ISBN 0-521-33423-3, xii + 313 pp, maps, plates, tables, bibliography, index. US\$49.50.

For Feil, the Papua New Guinea Highlands stretch roughly from Kainantu to Wabag and include about fifty ethnolinguistic groups, which he sorts into five distinct "configurations." The geographically eastern and western ends are said also to represent contrasting poles on a continuum of social complexity, such that with regard to political leadership (91), but also more generally, in the eastern highlands "the 'developed' flourishing western highlands configuration can be seen only in embryonic form." The continuum is also "evolutionary" in the sense that these precolonial "configurations" are interpreted as endpoints of "divergent agricultural and subsistence histories" (90), triggered by differential adoption and intensification of agriculture, said to be thousands of years old in the west but only hundreds in the east. For Feil, the Highlands as portrayed by anthropologists become an ethnographic Grand Canyon, but one in which the "oldest layers" are the most "evolved."

Feil is certainly correct in stressing the diversity of precolonial societies in