Reading Dictionaries in the Dark: The significance of evolving language materials

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Yuninda, Saima, and Martina reading the Kala dictionary in the dark
Kamiali Village, PNG - May 2013
Map of Kala villages drawn by: Claude Elisha
Manindala Village, June 2013
“Our long-term goal is to strengthen the use of the Kala Language in our communities so that Kala can be sustained for our future generations” (Kala Language Committee, 2008).

1) Written form of our Kala language
2) Training for elementary teachers
3) Curriculum materials in Kala for elementary schools
Kala Kaŋa Bi Ña Kapia - Dictionary Bilong Tok Ples Kala (Kala Dictionary)

Language Elicitation: 2010

Community Edits: 2011

Published: 2012
Reading the Dictionary in Kui Village - May 2013
“How to fight procrastination in academic writing through crowdsourcing” (with credit to Raul Pacheco-Vega)

http://www.raulpacheco.org/2014/07/getyourmanuscriptout-or-how-to-fight-procrastination-in-academic-writing-through-crowdsourcing/
OR

“How to encourage developing evolving language materials through crowdsourcing”

AND

“Why it’s significant for prestige planning and empowerment”
Prestige Planning

The Prestige of Production

vs

The Prestige of Reception

(Haarmann, 1990)
Locally controlled language programs are notoriously difficult to sustain: they lose momentum, become embroiled in conflict, or simply fail to achieve their stated goals” (Dobrin, 2008: 303).

“[In Melanesia] A person’s ability to elicit exchange thus constitutes a highly valued form of empowerment, as it provides a basis for establishing self-worth” (Dobrin, 2008: 308)
Documenting Language Change


**Bembe (butterfly) – MA maŋ lulup, LA: pomboyā, AP: bomboyā, KA: pomboyā, AL: pomboyā, KU: pomboyā**

**Namba seven pikinini man bilong mi (#7 son) – KA/AL/KU: samba, LA: ŋsemba, AP: asemba MA i nogat dispela namba (seven), ol i givim nem streť tasol**
Orthography workshop in Apoze village 2013
Is that An [l] or An [ᵢ]? Neither!
The Non-Permanence of Paper

Reviewing Storybooks from 2010
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Continuing Challenges:
- communication
- funding
- time

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#GetYourLangDocOut
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