

1. The Work of the Summer Institute of Linguistics in the Far East

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The Summer Institute of Linguistics began doing field work on the minority languages of the Philippines in 1953. Linguistic investigation has been undertaken in 31 of those lesser-known languages: Agta, Atta, Batak, Bilaan, Binokid, Bontoc, Chabacano, Dibabaon-Mandaya, Gaddang, Ifugao, Ilongot, Inibaloi, Isneg, Ivatan, Kalagan, Kalinga, Maguindanao, Mamanwa, Agusan Manobo, Cotabato Manobo, Ilianen Manobo, Sarangani Manobo, Western Bukidnon Manobo, Mansaka, Maranao, Subanun, Tagabili, Tagbanwa, Kalamian Tagbanua, Yogad, and Zambales Negrito. Studies have also been undertaken on the better-known languages of Tagalog, Cebuano, and Ilocano.

Most of the work done so far has been of a descriptive rather than comparative nature. Some notable exceptions are: Elkins, 'Partial Neutralization of PMP Reflexes in Western Bukidnon Manobo'; Lindquist, Forsberg, and Healey, 'The Phonemes of Tagabili'; Newell, 'Some Sound Correspondences in Six Philippine Languages'; Pittman and Associates, 'Notes on the Dialect Geography of the Philippines'; and Thomas and Healey, 'Some Philippine Glottochronologies'. Institute technicians and other linguists will be in a better position to do more comparative studies when more data has been gathered.

Many of the SIL linguists are collecting and studying ethnological materials such as legends and songs, which will be in publishable form sometime in the future.

Linguistic investigation was begun by members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Australian New Guinea in 1956. Work has been begun on fifteen of the native languages of that territory: Agarabi, Bena, Buang, Fore, Gadsup, Kamano, Kanite, Kewa, Kosena, Mid-Waria, Minaa, Oxhapmin, Tairora, Usarufa, and Wiru. A survey has also been made of the Aborigines of Cape York Peninsula, Australia.

In 1958, members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics began to work in South Vietnam. Most efforts so far have been spent on learning Vietnamese. One paper dealing with a minority language of Vietnam (Pittman, 'Jarai as a Member of the Malayo-Polynesian Family') has been submitted for publication, and several others have been prepared in manuscript form, viz. David Thomas, 'Preliminary Proto-Kha Morpheme List'; Dorothy Thomas, 'Some Languages of Vietnam in their Relationship to the Philippine-Indonesian-Formosan Language Family'.

A brief survey has been made of some of the areas where minority languages are spoken; and it is hoped that in the coming year, members will be able to devote more time and effort to the study of these languages.

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