LANGUAGE AND CULTURE RESEARCH CENTRE

Faculty of Arts, Education and Social Sciences — James Cook University

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The **Language and Culture Research Centre** (LCRC) is nested within the **Faculty of Arts, Education and Social Sciences** (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean, Professor Nola Alloway) and works in association with the Cairns Institute (Acting Director Professor Sue McGinty), within James Cook University.

Overview

It was again a year of considerable success. A resounding plaudit greeted the Australian Research Council's award of an Australian Laureate Fellowship to Distinguished Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald for the project 'How language shapes the world: a linguistic perspective'. The ARC's citation reads:

Alexandra's Australian Laureate Fellowship will help her further and expand her work in the area of correlations between languages and cultures, and analysing endangered languages in tropical areas (especially Papua New Guinea). It will also be instrumental in strengthening real linguistics within JCU, Australia and worldwide, and creating a multidisciplinary team of researchers working on gender, with a focus on previously undescribed languages.

Other members of the Language and Culture Research Centre:

• **Dr Chia-jung Pan** has successfully completed his PhD on the grammar of Lha'alua (or Saaroa), a critically endangered Austronesian language of Taiwan. He is currently a Research Fellow within the Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, working under the leadership of Professor Elizabeth Zeitoun.

• **Dr William Steed** is a lecturer in linguistics within JCU's Speech Pathology program. 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 and the sociophonetic perception of sexuality.

• **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

• **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

The volume from our July 2012 International Workshop has now been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press and is due out in late 2013:

THE GRAMMAR OF KNOWLEDGE: A CROSS-LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY

IMPERATIVES AND COMMANDS

WORDS OF OUR COUNTRY: STORIES, PLACE NAMES AND VOCABULARY IN YIDINY, THE ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF THE CAIRNS-YARRABAH REGION

What happened at LCRC during 2012

Visiting Fellows

• Professor Andrew Butcher, of Flinders University, Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellow, February-May 2012

• Prof. Dr. Gerrit J. Dimmendaal, University of Cologne (16-30 July), an expert on Nilo-Saharan, Tima-Katla and numerous other African languages, and Partner Investigator on the ARC DP 'The grammar of knowledge'

• Dr Carola Emkow, MPI Leipzig (29 July-5 August), an expert on Araona (Tacana) starting her work on Benabena, a Papuan language, financed by DoBeS

• Dr Regina Knapp, MPI Leipzig (29 July-5 August), an expert on Benabena culture and language, financed by DoBeS

Seminars

Professor Andrew Butcher (Flinders University), CI Distinguished Visiting Fellow, presented the 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

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.

Professor Craig Volker, Professor of Languages, Gifu Shotoku Gakuen University, Gifu, Japan, presented a seminar on 4 April 2012, on

Unserdeutsch / Rabaul Creole German: Genesis and Diaspora

Although 19th century Germany colonised colonies scattered through Africa, China, and the Pacific, and Germans have settled in many other areas over the past three centuries, the only attested example of a German-based creole language is Rabaul Creole German or 'Unserdeutsch'. Created by mixed-race children taken by the Vunapope Catholic Mission, it became a badge of identity for the small Vunapope mixed-race community and a tool for survival under Japanese occupation. Today it is spoken by only a few older persons, most of whom live in Queensland.

Professor Keren Rice of the University of Toronto, presented a seminar on 10 December

On the domain of Middle Voice

Many Athabaskan languages exhibit a construction that I call the activity incorporate construction, meaning ‘do X while Y-ing’ (e.g., walk around singing [‘sing’ incorporated], sit laughing [‘laugh’ incorporated]). This construction is interesting in its morphological marking for valence and voice in some of the

distribution of middle voice morphology and proposing that middle voice marking occurs when two (or more) items are non-distinct in some way, be they arguments, event particulars, or events.

In the second part I extend the investigation to other Athabaskan languages with activity incorporates but, instead of using transitivizing and middle morphology, they mark the activity incorporate as subordinate or leave it unmarked. I propose that this change is related to other shifts. In the first set languages, the transitivizer can occur with unaccusative, unergative, and transitive verbs, while in the second set, it is largely restricted to unaccusatives; in the first set middle marking occurs productively with intransitives, but not in the second set. With these shifts, the conditions for the occurrence of the middle are no longer met, and thus the loss of use of middle marking in the activity incorporate construction is not unexpected.

communication development', and 'Narrative language in Indigenous Australian children') and one is still in progress ('A description of the phonology of six, 8

From August to November, she went on a second fieldtrip to Baluan Island, which was completed successfully. Currently, she is working on the final draft of her thesis.

Dr Anne Schwarz completed her three-year Post-doctoral Fellowship within LCRC. Her field research spanned a total of nine months in the SIdo0ian loniecoya, ap eleciFro2.3

2013. 'Possession and ownership in a typological perspective', pp. 1-64 of A. Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon. eds. *(p)-2.8 (i)84.9 ( )-779.(i)-907 ( )-4195.2.8 (i)42.7 (.).*

Forthcoming. 'Basics of a language', Chapter 1 of *The Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology*, edited by Nick Enfield, Paul Kockelman, and Jack Sidnell. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Carol Genetti

Forthcoming. 'The Tibeto-Burman languages of South Asia: the languages, histories, and genetic classification', to appear in *South Asia*, edited by Hans Henrich Hock, K. V. Subbarao, and Elena Bashir. Berlin: Mouton De Gruyter.

Rosita Henry

2012. *Performing Place, Practising Memories: Aboriginal Australians, Hippies and the State*. Oxford and New York: Berhhahn Books.

2013. 'Being and Belonging: Exchange, Value and Land Ownership in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea', pp. 274-90 of *Possession and ownership,* edited by A. Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2012. 'Gifts of grief: performative ethnography and the revelatory potential of emotion. *Qualitative Research* 12(5): 528-39.

2012. Pam, C. and Henry, R. 'Risky places: climate change discourse and the transformation of place on Moch (Federated States of Micronesia)'. *Shima*, 6 (1): 30-47.

2012. Henry, R, Chang, N. Greer, S, Hannan, R. and McIntyre-Tamwoy, S. *Mona Mona Historical Cemetery: An Archaeological and Anthropological Investigation. Report prepared for the Mona Mona Elders Group, the Mona Mona Bulmba Aboriginal Corporation and Ngoonbi Co-operative Society Ltd.* Townsville: James Cook University.

Tian-Qiao Lu

2012. *Classifiers in Kam-Tai languages. A cognitive and cultural perspective*. Boca-Raton: Universal publishers.

2012. *The Realization of Grammatical Aspect in Zhuang. <Yuyan Kexue> (Linguistic Sciences)* (CSSCI journal). 2012 (6): 526-535.

2012. *Analysis on the cultural functions of the Maonan Teknonymy. <Guangxi Minzu Yanjiu> (Study of Ethnics in Guangxi)* (CSSCI journal). 2012 (3): 106-111.

2013. Luó Zìqún (Translated by Lù Tianqiao). 2013. *Status quo of the Jinuo language. Language Situation in China: 2006-2007*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. 2013. 193-202.

2013 (in press). *Tonal Inflection and Syntactic Properties in Kam-Tai Languages: A Zhuang Perspective.* <Minzu Yuwen> (Minority Languages of China) (CSSCI journal). 2013 (3): in press.

2013. 'The Siyom River Valley: An essay T ( )]. (n3.1 (i)-1.4)6.8t(i)-1.4r(i).3 (a)-2.4-a0v0

Catherine Travis

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. -n md4.9PcIseliudaht (p)-4. (z)-4.b(n)-4.9u (u)-4.k (g)-4.,8 (o)-4.And

Associate members of the Centre

Dr Tian-Qiao Lu (formerly Postdoc at SASS/CI), Xuzhou Normal University

Dr Knut Olawsky, Mirima Language Centre, Kunnunura, Western Australia

A selection of reviews of our books

The Manambu Language Of East Sepik, Papua New Guinea,
by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

Review by John Newman in *Anthropological Linguistics*:

> To call it merely a 'grammar' does not do justice to the extraordinary accomplishment and intellectual richness represented by this book. In so many ways, Aikhenvald's book qualifies as a model of what linguists