The study of language reference materials, particularly dictionaries and grammar works, for languages of Guam and Micronesia includes a brief history of their evolution and an annotated bibliography. An introductory section describes the geographic situation of Micronesia and chronicles numerous periods of foreign influence: Spanish Colonization (1668-1898), German Period (1898-191), The Japanese Era (1919-1944), and American Influence (since 1898). Establishment of the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands after World War II, independence, and the ongoing relationship with the United States are outlined. Efforts to preserve the indigenous languages through development of orthographic systems are noted and the Micronesian language groups are detailed. The annotated bibliography that follows includes new sources since the 1970s and only items currently in print. They are presented in these categories: the Chamorro Language; Saipan Carolinian; Kosraean; Pohnpeian; Mokilese; Kapingamarangi; Nukuoro; Trukese; Puluwat; Yapese; Ulithian; Holeian; Kiribati; Marshallese; Nauruan; Palauan; and Pulo Annian. Appended materials include a map of Micronesia and a chart outlining the separate geographic areas and languages, with numbers of speakers, dictionaries and grammars, libraries and collection sizes, and economic bases. (MSE)
Language Dictionaries

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Grammars of Guam

and

Micronesia

by

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August 1989

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The authors would like to thank Dr. Mary L. Spencer of the University of Guam for her comments on this study.
Language Dictionaries and Grammars of Guam and Micronesia

Introduction

Micronesia, a term which means "small islands," refers to a region of Western Pacific islands scattered across an area of the Pacific Ocean larger than the continental United States. This vast area, located in the tropics almost entirely north of the Equator, covers more than 4,500,000 square miles of ocean and includes more than 2,100 palm-tree studded islands, islets and coral atolls with a total land area of fewer than 1,200 square miles -- an area only slightly larger than Rhode Island. Only about 125 of the islands are inhabited on a permanent basis by some 350,000 people.

How the Micronesians even reached these small islands scattered across thousands of miles of ocean some 3,000 years ago has in itself been an alluring question that has enthralled anthropologists for many decades. While of course the richness of the Micronesian cultures precedes the first European contact in 1521 by a long period of time, missionaries and other Europeans in the 1600s and 1700s provide the first written accounts that enable one to create an interpretative understanding of the lives of the Micronesian peoples before the more powerful elements of acculturation began to take hold. Cultures in Micronesia emphasized and for the most part still emphasize a belief in a stable society and culture as well as an extended family system. Today's Micronesians usually impress visitors as strikingly quiet and polite. Behind them lies a rich cultural heritage that has been the subject of innumerable works produced by scholars from around the world.

Considered to include the Marshall Islands, the Caroline Islands from the western Palau Islands to Kosrae in the east, Guam and the Mariana Islands, Kiribati and the phosphate rich island of Nauru, Micronesia is the home of numerous culturally unique groups including the Chamorros of the Mariana Islands (of which Guam is considered a part), the Yapese, the Palauans, the Trukese, the Kosraeans, the Pohnpeians, the Marshallese, the Kiribati, the Nauruans, and several smaller groups. The cultural diversity of the Micronesian region is indicated by the existence of at least fifteen distinct languages as well as several dialectal differences. While this number is well below the hundreds of different languages and dialects spoken in the South Pacific from Papua New Guinea to the Cook Islands, the maintenance, preservation and advancement of the indigenous
languages of Micronesia through educational programs and the establishment of orthographies, grammars and dictionaries are of enormous importance in this Western Pacific region.

The colonization of the western Pacific over the past four hundred years by Spain, Germany, Japan and finally the United States, brought and is still bringing cultural and linguistical problems which have fairly recently triggered indigenous peoples, professional linguists and educators (many of whom are indigenous) to take a very serious look at the prospects for the preservation of indigenous languages in the face of modernization. Over the course of the past century (particularly in Guam) and especially since the end of World War II when the United States obtained political dominion over Micronesia, American influence has had what many deem to be a mix of good and bad factors. Western contact in Micronesia has inevitably pitted loyalty to traditional culture and the indelible connection to its respective languages against a certain desire to meet representatives of governing countries on an equal standing, particularly in situations that impact directly upon the welfare of a village or island. The prospects of a constructive co-existence of indigenous languages with the language of the ruling country, particularly through the medium of education, has floundered to varying degrees throughout these centuries of Western dominance.

**Spanish Colonization (1668-1898)**

Following a period of strong resistance by the Chamorro people against Spanish pacification, Spanish missionaries established a school in Guam which taught, among other things, the Spanish language. The missionaries made efforts to establish a rudimentary spelling system in order to translate the Bible and catechism materials into the Chamorro language with the purpose of converting the Chamorro people to Catholicism.

Although the Spaniards were unable to obliterate the Chamorro culture or spirit, Spanish dominion lasting more than three centuries left an indelible mark on the language spoken by the Chamorro people. More than 75 percent of the contemporary Chamorro vocabulary is derived from the Spanish language.

After the Spanish-American War and pursuant to the Treaty of Paris of 1898, Spain ceded Guam to the United States (along with the Philippines...
and Puerto Rico), but sold the rest of the Mariana Islands to Germany.

**German Period (1898-1919)**

The German occupation of Micronesia found Germany investing very little in education, relying instead upon various missionary groups, particularly Protestant missionaries, who were active in the region. American Protestant missionaries in the 1800s developed early orthographies and reading materials in several Micronesian languages which were of course traditionally oral in nature.

**The Japanese Era (1919-1944)**

When the 1919 Treaty of Versailles gave Japan control over the former German Pacific possessions north of the Equator, the Japanese language was taught in those mission schools allowed to remain open. No attempt was made to use the vernacular language in a written form during the Japanese era. Envisioning the Japanese language as providing a common language for all Micronesians, Japanese language training took up the majority of the brief educational experience of Micronesian children. However, despite this emphasis on Japanese, few children were able to read the Japanese language to any extent and seldom had much opportunity to hear or use Japanese unless they lived near a Japanese settlement. The subordinate role of the Micronesian was emphasized throughout the educational process.

**American Influence (Since 1898)**

Following the defeat of the Japanese in 1945, the United States agreed in 1946 to administer the former Japanese-mandated Caroline Islands, Marshall Islands and the Mariana Islands as a Trusteeship of the United Nations. The United States had already ruled over Guam since the 1898 Treaty of Paris but had lost it to the Japanese from 1941 to 1944.
But until World War II, the United States generally followed a policy of 'Americanizing' Guam, partially through a mandated English only policy in schools and government offices where Chamorros could be penalized for using their own language. The extreme views held during this time period regarded use of the Chamorro language as a threat to the Americanization of Guam and officials continuously emphasized the value of learning English, particularly in terms of potential financial reward via American jobs and undermined the worthiness of the Chamorro language whenever possible. A dictionary of the Chamorro language was compiled in the early 1900s but was destroyed by the Naval Administration. Another was eventually published in 1918 by the Naval Administration with the colonial objective of helping Chamorros learn English.

**Independence for Trust Territory Components**

After World War II, the United Nations established the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which was administered by the United States. Following the international trend for greater political autonomy and self-determination, the several Trust Territory districts likewise sought independence during the 1970s.

Voters in the Northern Mariana Islands (all the Marianas except Guam) approved their proposed constitution in 1975; and in 1978, the Northern Marianas became a self-governing U.S. commonwealth (U.S. Public Law 94-241), with the capital at Saipan.

Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (the former Trust Territory districts of Yap, Truk, Pohnpei and Kosrae) approved their constitution in 1978, and became an independent nation, freely associated with the United States, in 1979, with the capital at Kolonia, Pohnpei.

The Marshall Islanders voted for their constitution in 1979 and gained independence, in free association with the United States, in 1979, with the capital at Majuro. Some Marshall Islanders have experienced a particularly cruel fate from America's military ventures in the Marshalls, particularly former residents of Bikini (an island that remains radioactive and thus uninhabitable after nuclear tests more than 40 years ago) as well as the residents of Rongelap, Utirik and Ebeye.

Winds carried clouds of deadly radioactivity to the islands of Rongelap
and Utrik, 100 miles to the east of Bikini after a hydrogen bomb was exploded at Bikini in 1954. Accusations have been made that the military knew the wind would carry the radioactivity to these two islands, thus providing subjects for studying radiation's long-term effects on humans. The U.S. denies this. Some islanders have died from radiation-related ailments while others continue to have lingering health problems.

Islanders in the Kwajalein Island atoll area were relocated to the nearby island of Ebeye in order for the U.S. to construct and make use of the Department of Defense's Kwajalein Missile Range. Ebeye, which is only a mile in length and 200 yards wide and had a population in 1935 of 13 people, now is crammed with a population of about 9,000 people living in what has become known as the 'Slum of the Pacific.' Infant mortality, suicide, alcoholism and incidents of malnutrition and other health problems are high on Ebeye. In rather stark contrast to these sad conditions, many outer islands of the Marshalls continue to be blessed with a quiet, slow way of life on vividly beautiful islands.

Under the Compact of Free Association now in effect between the U.S. and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and between the U.S. and the Marshall Islands (U.S. Public Law 99-239), citizens of these new nations have complete autonomy and self-determination, internally and externally, except that the U.S. provides defense services. In addition, FSM and Marshallese citizens can move to and work freely in the United States.

The people of the Palau Islands, also known as Belau, approved their constitution in 1980, with the capital at Koror. However, Palau remains the world's last United Nations trusteeship, as the U.S. Congress has not yet ratified the Compact of Free Association with Palau, pending resolution of a dispute over nuclear arms. The U.S. has reserved certain Palauan land for future, possibly military use. The U.S. has claimed that it may need to transfer, store or test nuclear materials in Palau in order to fulfill its security obligations. But in six separate plebiscites between 1983 and 1987, Palauan voters have rejected a proposed amendment to their constitution which would allow nuclear arms within their borders. Differences over this matter have created a stalemate which remains unresolved. Palau's precarious economic condition may eventually force Palauans to accept nuclear materials in order to obtain additional support from Uncle Sam. Despite the serious implications of this controversy, Palau receives very little attention from the U.S. media.
Guam is the largest island in Micronesia and has had a separate political destiny since U.S. acquisition in 1898. It remains an organized, unincorporated American territory of great military significance. Following the war, Guam was off limits to non-native civilians without a naval security clearance until 1962. Under the Guam Organic Act of 1950 (U.S. Public Law 81-630, as amended), the people of Guam, who are U.S. citizens, elect their own governor and legislators. Since 1972, Guam has had a delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives who votes in committee but not on the House floor. Guam residents may not vote in U.S. presidential elections. Guam's people, who now number approximately 127,000, are attempting to improve their political relationship with the U.S. At present a commonwealth bill is before the U.S. Congress.

Kiribati and Nauru

Kiribati and Nauru are located at the convergence of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia, but culturally and linguistically they are considered to be Micronesian.

Kiribati (formerly the Gilbert Islands) was colonized by the British in 1892. The Japanese occupied the Gilberts in 1942, but America took them back in 1943. Kiribati became an independent nation in 1979, with its capital at Tarawa. Also in 1979, Kiribati signed a friendship treaty with the United States in which the U.S. released claim to the Phoenix and Line Islands.

Nauru was annexed by Germany in 1888, but Australia took over shortly after World War I began. The Japanese occupied the island from 1942 to 1945. In 1968, at eight square miles, Nauru became the world's smallest independent country (except for the Vatican City) with eventually one of the world's highest per capita incomes as a result of rich phosphate which evolved from bird droppings deposited over millions of years. Nauru continues to make formidable investments overseas in anticipation of the depletion of phosphate in about ten years. Nauru presently faces an uphill struggle to get the former colonial forces to pay for the land damage caused by them at a time when the Nauruans were not getting the majority of the profits from this industry.
Indigenous Language Preservation

The past forty odd years since the end of World War II have found Micronesians experiencing a considerable amount of acculturation from the American presence in the region and this has subsequently had an impact upon the strength and vitality of the region's indigenous languages. American language policies in education have ranged from the original bilingual outlook of the new Naval administration to an English only policy during the Kennedy administration and a few years beyond to a greater concern for the maintenance and preservation of these languages. During the first five or six years of the American administration, several linguists suggested orthographies for Yapese, Palauan, Trukese, Marshallese and Pohnpeian. An orthography was recommended for Kosrean and Woleaian in 1951 by other scholars interested in the preservation of indigenous languages. A few spelling guides for some of these languages followed shortly thereafter. In 1968, Peace Corps volunteers helped bring back the essence of bilingual education in Micronesia, although their existence continued the tradition of Americanizing Micronesia. A year later, the Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute was established between the Trust Territory Education Department and the University of Hawaii. Its purpose was to help Pacific Islanders develop standard orthographies, dictionaries and grammars of their languages which also led to an expansion of bilingual education in Micronesia. Other projects have also been conducted to help develop vernacular materials for use in the region's bilingual education programs. Efforts to create orthographies in the region have been successful for the most part in some areas of Micronesia while other areas are either dealing with old orthographies created by nonindigenous people which do not accurately reflect the many nuances and pronunciation aspects of the languages or orthographies that are not yet completed. The importance of the orthographies and the related grammars and dictionaries to the people of Micronesia cannot be overstated, particularly in light of the distinctive concern over the future maintenance of these indigenous languages that has evolved over the past few decades and particularly during the 1970s and 1980s. As in other parts of the world, language plays an integral part in the identity of the Micronesian. While modernization and the overall impact of American influence has meant a threat to the preservation of these languages in
several areas of Micronesia, efforts to reverse the impact of this threat have been clearly distinguished by their sincerity and their success. These efforts, particularly through bilingual education programs, have more recently led to a more indigenous based "educational self-determination" approach in which educators in the region justifiably take pride.

Some indigenous individuals involved in revising the orthographical system, or in producing the dictionary or grammar, have gone on to become leading educators or politicians within their jurisdiction. For example, Anthony L. Tawerilmang, a Woleaian dictionary and grammar writer, serves at present as lieutenant governor of Yap state, FSM. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl, a Palauan dictionary editor, now is employed as chief of curriculum development in the Republic of Palau's department of Education. Leo D. Pugram, coauthor of a Yapese dictionary, is a curriculum coordinator in the Yap state department of education. Bernadita C. Dungca, coauthor of a Chamorro dictionary, is a professor of education at the University of Guam. These individuals constitute just some of the success stories which have resulted from the Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute and other similar projects.

**Micronesian Linguistics**

Micronesian languages constitute one branch of the Austronesian or Malayo-Polynesian linguistic family. Linguists know with certainty little about the origins of Micronesian peoples or languages, but language study, description and comparison have resulted in some observations.

The Chamorro and Palauan languages are closely related to certain Philippine (Ilokano and Tagalog) and Indonesian languages. Yapese is an enigma, a language which does not appear to be closely related to other Micronesian languages, though it has some cognates in Palauan and Chamorro.

Linguistically, the Nukuoro and Kapingamarangi languages are not Micronesian at all, but are called Polynesian "outlier" languages. However, both Nukuoro and Kapingamarangi atolls are part of Micronesia politically. Most Micronesian languages belong to the "nuclear Micronesian" or Micronesic branch. These include the Trukic languages: West Trukic languages are Ulithian, Woleaian, Satawalese, Pulo Annian (or
Sonsorolese), and Tanapag Saipan Carolinian. East Trukic languages include Lagoon Trukese, Mortlockese, Puluwatese, Garapan Saipan Carolinian, and Old Mapian (formerly spoken on Mapia Atoll, which is now part of Indonesia's Irian Jaya province). The Ponapeic language branch includes Pohnpeian, Mokilese, Pingelapese, and Sapwuafik (or Ngatikese). Other distinct Micronesic branches are Kosraean, Marshallese, Kiribati and Nauruan.

Recent Language Dictionaries and Grammars

Most pre-World War II Micronesian language dictionaries and grammars have gone out of print or become obsolete due to changes in orthography since the 1970s. New sources have been developed from a variety of publishers but are not easily identified in standard bibliographic verification tools. The following list will fill a need long felt by researchers and reference librarians seeking purchasing information on dictionaries and grammars of these languages.

Only items currently in print are described; the price is given in U.S. dollars (unless Australian dollars or another currency is indicated), and the publisher's name and distributor's address are also given. Some items listed are available in limited quantities and may go out of print soon. Libraries with collections related to the peoples of Micronesia or Oceania, or with interests in acquiring materials about outlying American territories will want to act quickly to order some of the resources described here.

The Chamorro Language of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands


Emphasizing basic grammatical constructions with translations in English and Japanese, this relatively detailed coverage of common phrases
in Chamorro is intended for use by tourists and general non-Chamorro speakers. Conversational episodes throughout this guide are intended to progressively increase the user's understanding of basic grammatical constructions. The guide contains numerous Guam photographs including Chamorro clothing styles as well as songs and favorite recipes. The latter part of this guide contains a fairly extensive list of "useful words and phrases" including translations into English and Japanese as well as help in pronunciation.


Chamorro, a language related to some Filipino and Indonesian tongues, is spoken by approximately 52,000 people in the Mariana Islands (the inhabited Marianas being Guam, Saipan, Rota, Tinian, Agrihan and Alamagan).

In examining clause union as it pertains to the Chamorro language, the author also demonstrates that the universal rule for clause union developed by linguists is incorrect for the Chamorro language. The author provides a detailed description of the rule of clause union in Chamorro and reaches the conclusion that "universal grammar must allow for more than one clause union pattern". She also criticizes the cross-linguistic analysis based on a hierarchy of grammatical relations as being inadequate in describing the Chamorro language. This dissertation also provides a detailed overview of Chamorro grammar. Numerous diagrams of linguistic relations in Chamorro are found throughout this work. Data obtained for this study were obtained from indigenous speakers of Chamorro on the island of Saipan, Mariana Islands.

This grammatical analysis of the Chamorro language emphasizes the dynamic concepts of the language in its various parts including tenses, verbs, nouns and modifiers, pronouns and numbers. Arranged in ten lessons briefly describing these concepts, this grammar also places an emphasis on syllable patterns and stresses. It includes brief exercises, explanations and examples of the Chamorro language's various parts of speech.

Mathiot, M. *Chamorro Phonemics with Morphophonemic Notes*. M.A. thesis, Georgetown University, 1955. 94 p. $29.60 paper or $35.00 microfilm copy (includes shipping). Order No. 1337. Available from: Interlibrary Loans, Georgetown University Library, P.O. Box 37445, Washington, DC 20013.


This work was the first dictionary of the Chamorro language published in English. At the time he compiled it, the author was employed as the chief pay clerk at the U.S. Naval Station on Guam. Preissig intended for his study to facilitate "the work of the public schools of Guam." Following the prefatory correspondence is a brief bibliography of six earlier items in English, Spanish, Japanese and German.

A guide to pronunciation and accentuation outlines how the letters of the alphabet are sounded and the rules for word stress. The 20-page concise grammar describes the parts of speech, numerals, and verb conjugations and tenses.

In the English-Chamorro section, each entry word gives the part of speech, one or more English-language synonyms, and the Chamorro equivalent. In the Chamorro-English section, each main entry word lists the part of speech and English meaning. For some words, especially native plants and animals, the object is described.
The old orthography is used throughout the volume (spelling was reformed in 1971). The 1918 work was reprinted in 1978 without any change, not even an indication of the new publisher or date.


The purpose of this study is to selectively describe the Chamorro language upon which the presentation of English as a second language could be based, particularly in schools - a concept that contrasted with the view of Trust Territory officials during this time who were advocating using English exclusively in the classrooms.

After discussing numerous earlier works done on the Chamorro language, Topping gives a phonological description of Chamorro and examines areas of conflict between the sound systems of Chamorro and English. The description of Chamorro throughout this work focuses on the primary areas of conceptual and grammatical conflicts that exist between Chamorro and English. The material upon which this study is based was obtained from various indigenous speakers of Guam, Saipan and Rota.


This descriptive work aims to provide a complete record of the lexicon of the Chamorro language in use in 1974. The introduction outlines the scope of use and history of the study of the Chamorro language, dialectical differences (the Saipan-Northern Guam and Rota-Southern Guam dialects), compilation methodology, sources, orthographic system, pronunciation guide and other topics. A bibliography of Chamorro dictionaries and related language studies follows the introduction.
In the Chamorro-English dictionary, each main entry word is followed by a number indication of its word class and a definition in English. Some entries list cognates or synonyms in Chamorro and many entries give sample sentences with an English translation to show word usage in context. Cross-references are given to related words. For some flora and fauna, Latin genus and species names are given. The English-Chamorro Finder List refers users to the Chamorro main entry.


This reference grammar describes the Chamorro language spoken in the Mariana Islands. The introduction outlines what is known about the origins of the Chamorro people and language. The phonology details the vowels, diphthongs, consonants, syllables, stress and intonation, morphophonemics, and spelling. The section on morphology covers words, parts of speech, numbers, affixes and prefixes. The syntax section describes modification, nominalization, possession, verbalization, pluralization, voices, tenses and modes.

A glossary of linguistic terms, bibliography and index make the work even more useful.


This textbook is intended to assist students to learn to speak and understand the Chamorro language of the people of the Mariana Islands. Each of the 24 lessons focuses on grammatical points or vocabulary development, with appropriate dialog, repetition and substitution drills. Also included is a brief Chamorro-English glossary.

This dictionary, compiled by a Spanish Capuchin missionary who spent 26 years on Guam, gives the Spanish language equivalent for Chamorro words. A phrase or sentence illustrates the meaning in context for some entries. For some flora and fauna, Latin genus and species names are indicated.

**Saipan Carolinian**

For centuries, there has been regular commerce among the peoples of the various Caroline Islands and the Mariana Islands. In 1815 about 200 Carolinians settled in the Garapan area of Saipan. These refugees were relocated after a typhoon had destroyed their homes on Satawal, Lamotrek, Faraulep, and other outer islands of Yap. Their descendents, who still live on Saipan, speak a language referred to as Saipan Carolinian.

This Saipan Carolinian is a West Trukic language. Later on, other Caroline Islanders from Namonuito, Puluwat, Pulusat and other outer islands of Truk, relocated to Tanapag village on Saipan. Their descendents, who speak an East Trukic language, are also referred to as Saipan Carolinians. Today, approximately one-third the population of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, about 6,500 persons, are of Carolinian descent.

At present there is no dictionary of Saipan Carolinian on the market. A multilingual dictionary, to be called *Languages of Micronesia*, which will include Saipan Carolinian, is being compiled by Jesus Elameto, a Saipan Carolinian now living on Guam.


This thesis represents an attempt to provide information on the
phonology, morphology and syntax of the Carolinian language for the benefit of curriculum writers and teachers in the pilot Carolinian Bilingual Project administered by the Marianas Department of Education. The author considers this information to be essential for the development and use of a standard orthography for Carolinian which can be used not only for developing writing materials but also for determining the readability levels for school children. In discussing the development of a Carolinian orthography, the author also compares this orthography with others in Micronesia. He also provides detailed information on simple and complex sentence formation in Carolinian. Appendixes include examples of variations in the Carolinian's three dialects.

Languages of the Federated States of Micronesia

Kosraean Language of Kosrae, FSM


The purpose of this work is to examine the occurrence of "clause-final determiner particles" in Kosraean and to suggest two possible methods of analysis for them. The sociolinguistic aspects of Kosraean and its relevant grammatical aspects are also examined. Methods for analyzing the determiners are thoroughly tested and compared.


This is the first comprehensive dictionary of the Kosraean language spoken on Kosrae (formerly known as Kusaie), an island of about 5,000
people midway between Pohnpei and the Marshall Islands.

There is a very helpful introduction called "How to use this dictionary." In the Kusaiean-English dictionary section, each entry gives the part of speech, English meaning, and a sample sentence in Kosraean. If the word is an English or Japanese loan-word, it is so noted. The English-Kusaiean finder list refers readers to the Kusaiean main entry.


This volume describes the structure of the Kosrean language spoken by the inhabitants of Kosrae as well as those Kosreans residing on Pohnpei. The work is intended for language teachers. The introduction gives some background information and describes previous studies of the language. The alphabet used since 1973 is listed.

There is also a detailed description of the sound system with examples. Other sections outline the parts of speech, changing parts of speech and sentence structure. The section on linguistic relationships presents a list of some 400 Kosraean-Pohnpeian cognates. There are many sample sentences showing words used in context. An index is included.


Pohnpeian Language of Pohnpei, FSM

This detailed description of the major grammatical features of Ponapean is aimed toward those who have had little or no training in the analysis of language and is therefore arranged in a cumulative style. The introductory material offers an overview of the language including its origin, foreign influences and a discussion of earlier studies on Ponapean grammar. The major portion of the grammar deals with the Ponapean sound system, structure and functions of words, nouns and noun phrases, verbs and verb phrases, structure of Ponapean sentences and its honorific speech. Appendixes include a discussion of Ponapean orthography and a 4 page bibliography. An index is also included.


This textbook, written for Peace Corps volunteers, teaches basic Ponapean grammar and vocabulary in 35 lessons. Each lesson introduces a grammatical concept and new words by way of substitution and other exercises.


The Pohnpeian (formerly Ponapean) language is spoken by more than 15,000 inhabitants of Pohnpei island and other islands in Pohnpei state, Federated States of Micronesia.

This dictionary aims to "present an accurate...account of the major lexical facts" of the language, and to be of use to educators in Pohnpei. The preface chronicles the history of the study of Pohnpeian and details the methodology used to compile the work. The introduction explains how to use the dictionary and how to read an entry.

In the Ponapean-English dictionary, which contains more than 6,700 main entry words, each main entry lists the part of speech and definition
in English. For many entries a usage labels shows if the word is archaic, honorific or slang. If appropriate, an alternate spelling is given, or a sample phrase or sentence using the word in context. Words borrowed from other languages are so indicated. For some plants and animals, scientific Latin names are presented. The English-Ponapean finder list serves as the index to the dictionary.

The Mokilese Language of Pohnpei, FSM


This is a first attempt toward a descriptive grammar of the Mokilese language spoken on the atoll of Mokil which is in the Pohnpei district in the eastern Caroline Islands and has a population of approximately 300 people. About 1,000 more Mokilese reside on Pohnpei itself.

The author tries to "steer a middle course" to provide information to native speakers of Mokilese while providing information on Mokilese for linguists. He acknowledges the need for further research and analysis of the language. The grammar deals with the phonology of the language as well as its morphology, syntax and semantics. The grammar also includes appendixes concentrating on written Mokilese and technical terms.


This dissertation examines the historical development of various elements of Mokilese nominal and verbal morpho-syntax. By analyzing Mokilese nominal and verbal constructions, the author is able to offer a
detailed description of the development of the Mokilese language and arrives at several linguistic conclusions that explain the nature of this development.


This dictionary is intended to provide the "bare beginnings of Mokilese lexicography" and while the authors acknowledge its shortcomings as a first dictionary of the Mokilese language, it nevertheless offers over 80 pages of Mokilese words, their parts of speech and English translations. It also contains an English-Mokilese "Finder List" as well as a brief description of the language's phonology and orthography.

Kapingamarangi Language of Pohnpei, FSM


Kapingamarangi is a Polynesian language spoken by about 850 people, half of whom reside on Kapingamarangi atoll, just one degree north of the Equator. Some Kapingamarangi speakers also live on Nukuoro, Ngatik, Pohnpei, and other nearby islands. While the language is classified linguistically as Polynesian, this source is included here because politically Kapingamarangi is Micronesian, being part of Pohnpei state in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The work is intended for use by Kapinga teachers and students and by linguists. The excellent introduction identifies the Kapingamarangi speech community, chronicles briefly the scholarly study of the people and their language, and explains the organization of the lexicon. The
introduction lists the references cited.

The lexicon is comprised of the Kapingamarangi-English list, the English-Kapingamarangi list, and the root list. Three appendices detail linguistic fine points for scholars.

Nukuoro Language of Pohnpei, FSM


This brief monograph is reprinted from the Journal of the Polynesian Society (vol. 74, 1965). There is a succinct but excellent description of the Nukuoro speech community as well as a proposition regarding the derivation of the Nukuoro language. Carroll’s description of Nukuoro grammar is adopted from Biggs’ description of New Zealand Maori, which Carroll believes is “the most satisfactory description of a Polynesian language in print.”

Carroll utilizes the long-established indigenous orthography, which he says linguists may find “inelegant,” so that his work will be useful to the Nukuoro people. There is a narrative text (“Legend of Nukuoro”) with English intralinear translation and an English-Nukuoro lexico-statistic list.


Nukuoro is a language spoken by more than 300 people who inhabit Nukuoro atoll and nearby islands. The language is classified linguistically as Polynesian but this source is included here because politically Nukuoro
is also Micronesian, being within the Pohnpei state, in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Introductory sections outline the orthography, how to read an entry, and how to interpret the codes and abbreviations used. The dictionary proper consists of Nukuoro-English and English-Nukuoro sections, as well as the root list. There are several appendices including a list of bibliographical references.

**Trukese Language of Truk, FSM**


This brief grammatical study examines the Trukese language spoken by more than 10,000 inhabitants of Truk Lagoon, in the Federated States of Micronesia. The work is the report of a Yale University anthropological expedition in 1947. The preface outlines the circumstances and method of study and hypothesizes regarding the relationship among Trukese and its linguistic neighbors, Puluwat, Ulithian and Yapese.

The grammar sketch is organized into four main sections: phonemes, words, sandhi alterations, syntax, and morphology.

This extensive dictionary of Trukese words translated into English is arranged in accordance with the Trukese alphabet. It includes a discussion of the three closely related languages of Truk State (Trukese, Mortlockese and Puluwatese) but concentrates on the Trukese language. Besides an overview of the Trukese alphabet, a fairly detailed examination is given of the various elements of Trukese words including their morphology, syntax and related dialects. Entries include pronunciation guides, often several translations and examples to clarify meaning. The dictionary also contains numerous names of traditional gods, spirits, legends and clan names.


In this comparative study of Micronesia's Trukic languages, the author attempts to establish linguistic integrity for the Trukic subgroup as well as identify Micronesian languages that are most closely related to the Trukic group. Additionally, the author is concerned with developing a language subgrouping hypothesis for the Micronesian region. The sound systems of the Trukic language as well as its historical sound changes that have led up to these present sound systems are also examined. The dissertation ends with an assertion that languages of the Pohnpeian district may be members of the Trukic subgroup and discusses the impact that population dispersal during the settlement of Micronesia may have had on these linguistic relationships.

The Puluwat Language of Truk, FSM

Puluwat, a Trukic language, is spoken by some 600 people who live on Puluwat atoll in Truk state, Federated States of Micronesia. This dictionary, which the author admits "is very incomplete," contains about 6,000 Puluwat entries. The introduction explains alphabetization, noun and verb declensions, and dictionary symbols and abbreviations. Each main entry in the Puluwat-English dictionary gives the part of speech, meaning in English, and usually a phrase or sentence which illustrates the word used in context. The English-Puluwat finding list refers back to the main entry. There is a brief list of references.

The Yapese Language of Yap, FSM


In examining the phonology and morphology of the Yapese language, the author asserts that although informants from this study often used features from more than one dialect with the resulting variations in phonological, morphophonemic and morphologic levels, the phonemes, morphophonemes and grammatical morphemes remained basically the same. Although dialect differences occurred, the author maintains that these similarities justified adopting a single grammar for all of the dialects of the Yapese language. He also discusses oscillation between two pronunciations of the same word that occurs when speakers are dealing with two or more different social occasions. Attention is also given to the oscillation and dialect variations which frequently occur in the language's morphology as well as its phonology.

This "incomplete" dictionary builds upon several previous word lists and dictionary files produced during the early and middle 1900s and offers a readable explanation of the orthography used for the dictionary. The Yapese-English Dictionary itself is 80 pages in length while the English-Yapese Finder List offers a hundred pages of entries giving Yapese equivalents to English words and phrases. The Yapese-English section designates the part of speech for each word and frequently gives assistance with pronunciation.

The Ulithian Language of Yap, FSM


This dissertation analyzes the phonology and syntax of the Ulithian language, spoken by more than 800 people who live on Ulithi, Fais, Sorol and Ngulu atolls in northwestern Yap state, Federated States of Micronesia.

Following the introduction and study methodology, the author details the phonology (phonemes, orthography, phonotactics and morphophonemics). The other major component of the work is the syntax (sentence types, predication, prepositional phrases, noun phrases, adjectival construction, and verbs). Includes bibliography.

This work is a revision of Sohn's doctoral dissertation. Based on transformational generative theory, the linguistic analysis presents the phonological and syntactic patterns of the Ulithian language. Includes two maps and bibliographical references.

**Woleaian Language of Yap, FSM**


This is the first systematic presentation of the grammar of the Woleaian language spoken by about 650 people in the Woleai Atoll region, northeast of Yap. The author offers a brief discussion of the linguistic relationships that exist among the Micronesian languages as well as a breakdown of the Woleaian dialects. The grammar analysis itself deals extensively with the language's speech sounds, orthography, word classifications, word formations, sentence patterns, noun and verb-phrases, adjuncts and complex sentences. It is followed by a thorough index of linguistic terms.

This first dictionary of the Woleaian language was produced only after the compilers managed the task of designing an orthography for the transcription of Woleaian lexical items. Entries usually contain several parts including the word's base form, part of speech, grammatical notes, definitions and sentence examples along with synonyms, antonyms and cross references where necessary. Preceding the Woleaian-English dictionary is a discussion of pronunciation rules with comparisons made to words in the English language. Following the dictionary itself is a nearly two hundred page English-Woleaian Finder List which provides Woleaian words for objects, concepts and actions found in the English language.

Write for current price. Available from: Interlibrary Loans, Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822.

The Kiribati Language of Kiribati


Father Sabatier, a Sacred Heart missionary who worked among the people of Kiribati for more than 40 years, completed his Gilbertese-French dictionary in 1956. This volume is Sister Mary Oliva's English translation of his work. According to her, it is hoped the dictionary will be of use to English-speaking residents as well as "to many Gilbertese who desire to improve their knowledge of their own language."
For each Kiribati entry word, pronunciation is indicated along with the part of speech and meaning in English. Sometimes a sample phrase or sentence shows meaning and use contextually. Latin nomenclature is given for some flora and fauna; when the scientific name is unknown, the plant or animal is described. There is a three-page list in Kiribati of "Names of Different Species of Pandanus."


Kiribati (formerly Gilbertese) is the language of more than 62,000 Kiribati people.

This communication training manual, written for Peace Corps volunteers in Kiribati, introduces English language speakers to what to say and how to say it in a variety of typical situations. In each of 61 lessons an objective is followed by a dialog (and translation) as well as other activities. Included are English-Kiribati and Kiribati-English glossaries.


This text, written for American Peace Corps volunteers to Kiribati, outlines the grammatical structure of the Kiribati language. Each lesson describes some feature of the language and utilizes oral and written exercises. Answers to the written exercises are included, and there is an index to the grammar.

This work collections a variety of readings in English on the geography, history, government and culture of Kiribati. There are also some bilingual readings in Kiribati and English. In addition, maps of the islands and population information are included, and a helpful list of plant names in Kiribati, English and Latin, as well as a bibliography.

The Marshallese Language of the Marshall Islands


This dictionary, which is the product of ten years' research and collaboration by the four authors named on the title page, contains almost 12,000 entries. The preface succinctly recounts the project history. The introduction explains how to decipher an entry, how to pronounce Marshallese, and how to use the dictionary. A bibliography follows the introduction.

Each entry word lists the phonemic transcription, dialect information, status information (whether a word is archaic or slang, for instance), etymology, and English translation. Latin nomenclature is given for flora and fauna, and the stars and constellations. Most entries give one or more sample sentences which illustrate the word used in context, with English meaning. In addition, there is an English-Marshallese finder list as well as a section listing more than 4,000 place names of the Marshall Islands.


This language course of thirty lessons is designed to give the user a basic fluency in the Marshallese language as well as an understanding of its structure. The book uses drill methods to increase competency in understanding short but practical dialogues, grammatical notes and the retention of at least 1,500 words in the Marshallese language. The morphology of the language is dealt with extensively as is its major syntactic patterns and important idioms.

At the time this book was published, there were an estimated 250 nonindigenous civil employees working out of the Trust Territory District Center at Majuro and about 2,000 "stateside" people working at the Kwajalein missile base of the Pacific Test Range. The strategic location of the Marshall Islands has continued to bring its indigenous population a disproportionate share of the international scene since World War II.


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In this work, which is largely an expansion of the original compilation of the Marshallese language by Samuel Elbert of the U.S. Navy during World War II, the Kwajalein Education Committee offers Marshallese-English and English-Marshallese translations of an extensive Marshallese vocabulary. The entries include pronunciation aids, the respective English or Marshallese translation and often a sentence or phrase to clarify meaning. Preceding the actual dictionary is a detailed discussion on the Marshallese language including its spelling, phonetics, grammatical structure and the relation of Marshallese to other Pacific languages. In its "technical hints to the linguist," the Kwajalein Education Committee examines theories behind problems encountered by Western European speakers when pronouncing Marshallese words; particularly in terms of the process of assimilation and its related phenomenon of glides.


This dissertation examines the syntax of Marshallese verbs and offers an overview of the syntax in Marshallese sentences as well as the structure of its noun phrases. Marshallese verbs are classified on the basis of their morpho-syntactic properties. The dissertation also attempts to formalize various derivational relationships between verbs and lexical items as well as with various subcategories of other verbs.


This scholarly study, which is a revision of the author's Ph.D.
dissertation at the University of Hamburg, provides an in-depth description and analysis of the Marshallese language.

A paper photocopy (for 95 German marks) or microfiche copy (for 76 marks) of the original dissertation can be purchased from: Staats und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg, Carl von Ossietzky, Von-Melle-Park 3, 2000 Hamburg 13, Federal Republic of Germany.

The Nauruan Language of Nauru

Nauruan is spoken by about 8,500 people on the island nation of Nauru. At present, there is no dictionary or grammar of Nauruan in print. A Nauruan Grammar by Aloys Kayser (1937) and Paul Hambruch's Die Sprache von Nauru (1914) have been out of print for decades. The Nauruan Language Bureau is compiling an updated dictionary, but this project is still under way.

The Palauan Language of the Palau Islands


This doctoral dissertation is an investigation of the major phonological processes of the Palauan language. Inflectional morphology of nouns and verbs is treated in depth. In addition, Palauan reduplication (to show plurality, repetition of action, or intensification of action), a phenomenon common in Indonesian languages, is examined. A fine bibliography documents the scholarly study of the Palauan language.

This dictionary, which is based on Fr. Edwin McManus' 1955 Word List and grammar Notes - Palauan-English and English-Palauan, offers a detailed discussion on the structure of Palauan words and phrases as well as their pronunciation. The Palauan-English and English-Palauan sections contain major entries which are designed to provide all of the words derived from or related to a given word or stem in one unified configuration. Information on the part of speech for most main entries is given. A helpful discussion of Palauan sounds and spelling precedes the dictionary.


In this comprehensive description of the Palauan language, the author makes a point of defining difficult concepts of the language at length and provides examples intended to add further clarification. The grammar is written in a progressive manner from simple to a gradual build-up in complexity. The sounds and spelling of Palauan are dealt with as are the Palauan parts of speech, Palauan morphology and the major syntactic constructions and grammatical processes of Palauan. Detailed notes to each chapter follow the text.

The Pulo Annian Language of Palau

This thesis examines the Pulo Annian syntax within the framework of the standard model of generative-transformational grammar. Major areas of the language that are examined include its phonology, sentence structures, noun phrases, verb tenses, oblique constituents and syntactic processes. The thesis also contains a 140 page Pulo Annian-English Dictionary as well as a 100 page English-Pulo Annian vocabulary list.
**LAND, PEOPLES, INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES, LIBRARIES AND ECONOMIES OF "AMERICAN" MICRONESIA**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Political Unit (and Capital)</th>
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<th>Libraries and Dictionaries (and Languages)</th>
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**Notes:**
- "Approx. No. of Speakers" includes estimates of off-island and expatriate speakers, i.e., Palauans on Guam, Marshallese on Pohnpei Island, Chamorros in California, and so on. Therefore, "Approx. No. of Speakers" does not equal "Approx. Total Population(%)".
- "Dictionaries" includes monographic word lists, vocabularies, lexicons, and bilingual dictionaries.
- "Grammars" includes monographic grammar textbooks, conversation and phrase books, grammatical studies and linguistic analyses.
- "OP" means "out of print," items no longer available for sale. "IP" means "in print," items available for sale, including materials reproduced "in demand," such as doctoral dissertations and master's theses.
- "FY" means "futuring," including all works known to be under way regardless of anticipated publication date.
- "E.T." stands for "East Trukic." "W.T." stands for "West Trukic."

Mark C. Goddard April 1990
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Mark C. Goniwiecha and Nicholas J. Goetzfriedt
August 1989
A NOTE TO THE INDEXER OF

"LANGUAGE DICTIONARIES AND GRAMMARS OF GUAM AND MICRONESIA"

Research conducted by Nicholas J. Goetzfridt and Mark C. Goniwiecha.

Paper presented by Mark C. Goniwiecha, August 7, 1989 at the
6th Annual Pacific Educational Conference (Aug. 7-9, 1989)
at Koror, Palau (Belau).

Conference Theme: "The Pacific Child: Quest for Cultural Literacy"

Conference cosponsored by the Palau Bureau of Education, the
Micronesian Occupational College (now Palau Community College),
the Center for the Advancement of Pacific Education (CAPE), and
the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory