INTRODUCTION

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GENERAL

In 1973, two language checklists saw the light in the series B of Pacific Linguistics: T.R. Dutton's checklist of languages and present-day villages of central and south-east mainland Papua (Pl, B.24), and D.C. Laycock's checklist and preliminary classification of Sepik languages (Pl, B.25). Both aim at giving in concise form such practical information about languages as names, dialects, numbers of speakers, location, the villages they are spoken in, sources, and whatever other information the compiler found relevant.

The present checklist aims at doing the same for the languages of Irian Jaya with the addition that for the benefit of those interested short comparative wordlists have been included. But, while the two earlier checklists can lay claim to a fair degree of accuracy, the same is unfortunately not true for the present one. Although the writer based it on the most up-to-date information available to him, it still means that more often than not he had to rely on sources fifteen or more years old. It goes without saying that such information, no matter how accurate it may have been at the time of publishing, now has lost much
of its reliability. The reader is therefore advised to consult the following paragraphs which contain an evaluation of the data presented whenever using the checklist.

LANGUAGE NAMES

The languages have been entered in the checklist under the names used in the most recent sources. However, the Dutch spelling of names has been changed to conform to current practice: j has been changed to y, and œ to u. Alternative names used in earlier publications or known to be used by the local population have also been included. Names of language groups have all been coined on the basis of one of the following principles: a) the name of one representative language is used for the whole group or the group name is composed of the names of two or more representative languages (e.g. Marind Stock, Asmat-Kamoro Family); b) the name is geographical, indicating the location of the group (e.g. Central Lake Plain Family).

NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

All the figures given in the checklist are rough estimates. A number of linguistic and anthropological sources give figures which were fairly accurate at the time they were published but these have now lost much of their reliability. Often the figures given in older publications are already rough estimates, and for many languages no figures at all are available. The latest census figures for Irian Jaya on hand date from 1960 (Netherlands Government 1960); the break-down of these figures does not go further than the population per district (comparable to sub-districts in Papua New Guinea) and it is difficult and often impossible to extract from these any estimates of the population for a given language area. Nevertheless, taken together with Van de Kaa's map of the distribution of indigenous population (Van de Kaa 1971, p.33) the census figures sometimes proved helpful in arriving at a rough estimate of the numbers of speakers of languages covering wide areas.

In two recent publications the writers arrived at their estimates by multiplying the number of villages in the language area by the assumed number of inhabitants of the villages (i.e. Healey 1970 for Airo-Sumaghaghe, Fisa, Aghu, Siagha-Yenimu, Kaeti, Wambon, Wanggom and Kotogüt; Voorhoeve 1971 for Sawuy).

VILLAGES

The villages listed have been taken from several sources. An important earlier publication which systematically lists languages together
with the villages in which they are spoken is Galis' survey 'Talen en
dialecten van Nederlands Nieuw Guinea' (1955). However his lists, apart
from being incomplete, contain many errors and often include names of
settlements which since have disappeared, perhaps because they have been
joined into larger villages.

For the southern lowlands from the Papua New Guinean border to the
Asmat area, a fairly accurate list and village map compiled by
D.C. Gajdusek can be found in Simmons et al. (1967). A revision of
this list for the languages of the Kayagar Family is given in Voorhoeve
(1971). The Kamoro area to the west of the Asmat is adequately covered
by Drabbe (1953), but very little information is available on the vil-
lages of the Mairasi languages between Etna Bay and Ramuau Bay. Anceaux' 
survey of the languages of the Bomberai Peninsula (1958) gives the vil-
lage names for most of the languages in the area, but mentions only a
few in the Iha and Baham areas and lists no names for Sekar, Karas,
Uruangmiring and Kaiwal.

For all but one of the languages in the Bird's Head the writer had
only at his disposal the lists given by Galis (1955) and a few wartime
army maps of dubious value. The exception is Brat in the central Bird's
Head for which Elmberg (1955) gives a list of villages. However, the
area has undergone considerable social change since then and his list is
no longer reliable.

Galis and the old army maps were again the sources for the languages
along the Geelvink Bay coast, with the exception of Waropen: a list of
Waropen villages can be found in Held's Waropen grammar (1942). The
villages on Yapen Island and their linguistic affiliation have been
exhaustively listed by Anceaux (1961). This information may still be
reliable. Reliable information on villages exists also for the following
languages in north Irian Jaya: Mawes, Tanah Merah, Nimboran, Sentani,
Sko, Awyi, Taikut, Manem, and Morwap. Less reliable and probably incom-
plete lists are available for the languages of the Waris Family, the
Fauwasi stock, the Tor Family and the coastal languages of the Kwerba
Family; for the remainder of the languages in north Irian Jaya inform-
ation is still scarcer or even non-existent. Only recently a few
village names connected with languages in the Lake Plain became known
through the expansion of the Missions in that area.

Although several of the languages in the densely populated central
highlands belong to the best studied in Irian Jaya, village lists do
not appear in any of the sources consulted by the writer. In this
respect the central highlands remain a great blank.
DIALECTS

Information on dialect divisions within languages is scarce and greatly varying in detail. Any available information has been included in the checklist.

LANGUAGE TERRITORIES

Language territories have been delineated as accurately as possible on the basis of the descriptions on hand. Nevertheless the island of New Guinea has enough empty space to often make the drawing of language boundaries a matter of the cartographer’s preference. Only in a few densely populated areas, and where rivers or mountain ranges form natural barriers could language boundaries be established with some degree of accuracy. The language boundaries in Maps II-IX have therefore to be taken as approximate and somewhat schematized; where the location of boundaries is very much in doubt this has been indicated (see the legend, p.62).

LANGUAGE CLASSIFICATION

The checklist covers two large overall groups of languages: Austronesian and non-Austronesian. As regards the Austronesian languages, no attempt at sub-grouping these has been made here: this falls outside the competence of the present writer. The non-Austronesian languages have been sub-grouped according to strictly lexiostatistical criteria into phyla, stocks, families, and sub-families. Such a classification as is well known has to be regarded as a preliminary step towards the ultimate goal: a classification based on thorough comparative research - a goal which for the time being seems beyond the horizon of Papuan linguistics. Thus, as presented here the classification gives only a preliminary and simplified picture of the linguistic situation in Irian Jaya. It lacks the refinements introduced by S.A. Wurm who carries the classification one step further by taking structural and typological features into account. For instance, he gives several of the stocks within the Trans-New Guinea Phylum sub-phylic status because of their structural idiosynchracies (e.g. the Trans-Fly, Yelmek-Maklew (or Bulaka River), Kolopom (or Frederik Hendrik Island), South Bird's Head, Tor-Lake Plain, and Border stocks). Those interested in further details are referred to one recent and two forthcoming publications by S.A. Wurm: 'The Classification of Papuan Languages and its Problems' (1972), 'Introduction to Papuan Linguistics' (to be published in Pacific Linguistics), and 'Papuan Language Classification Problems' (with K.A. McElhanon, in: New Guinea Area Languages and Language Study, Vol.I,
SOURCE

For each language references are given to publications which contain language data or general notes on the language. Most of the 19th and 20th century sources mentioned have lost their importance, as they have been superseded by more recent work; a few still retain some value, e.g. Kern (1885), Ray (1912), Van Balen (1951a, b), and some of the publications of J.H. van Hasselt. An evaluation of many of the older sources can be found in Anceaux (1953). Unpublished sources are referred to only when mentioned in existing bibliographies or when they were accessible to the present writer.

WORDLISTS

The wordlists presented in the Appendix come from a variety of sources. Many of them have been taken from publications, but an even larger number has been taken from unpublished wordlists. A small number of these was collected by the present writer; the majority comes from the collections of Dr J.C. Anceaux (those of all the languages west of Etna Bay, and quite a few languages in north Irian Jaya), or were collected by missionaries (those of the languages in the Lake Plain, the languages of the Goliath Family, and Somahai). With the exception of the lists of the few better known languages for which dictionaries are available, all the wordlists have to be counted as survey lists, i.e. they are liable to contain errors although on the whole their reliability seems to be fair.

PRESENTATION

The checklist is preceded by a finder list and an overview of the language classification. Following it are maps, a bibliography and an appendix with short wordlists of most of the languages listed in this volume.

The finder list consists of an alphabetized list of all the language names occurring in the checklist. The preferred names under which the languages have been entered in the checklist are followed by their reference number, their classification code as set out in the overview and the number(s) of the map(s) on which they can be found. Alternative names are followed by a reference to the preferred name.

The overview contains a straightforward break-down of the non-Austronesian languages into phyla, stocks, families, and sub-families and their code numbers. It is preceded by a list of the critical percentages used, and an explanation of some of the classificatory labels.

The same classification is used as the frame for listing the languages
in the checklist. The main groups and sub-groups appear in the same
order as in the overview and the languages have been listed under their
respective families or sub-families. They have been numbered consec-
utively from 1 to 199.

For each language the following data are given:
1. the reference number;
2. the language name, followed between brackets by the alternative
   name or names, if any;
3. the number(s) of the map(s) on which it can be found;
4. the estimated number of speakers (if known);
5. dialects (if known);
6. a list of villages (as far as known);
7. a list of sources. For each published source the following is
   indicated: a) the language in which the publication is written;
   b) the kind of data to be found in the source;
   c) its field of study;
8. such additional information as is relevant.
The checklist is preceded by a list of the abbreviations and symbols used.

Following the checklist are nine maps preceded by a legend. Map I,
filling one page, gives a survey of the areas covered by the other maps.
It shows only the phyllic boundaries and the boundary between Austronesian
and non-Austronesian languages. Maps II-IX all consist of two halves
filling opposite pages. The halves, identified by the letters a and
b behind the map number (IIc, IIb, etc.) cover adjoining areas. They
also show the stock, family, sub-family, and language boundaries, as
well as dialect boundaries if they are known. The individual languages
are identified by their names, followed by the classification code as
set out in the overview. Villages and townships have been included in
Maps II-IX but as already mentioned above the coverage is far from
complete. The scale of the maps did not allow the identification of all
the villages; only the names of towns and some government and mission
stations have been given.

In the bibliography, first the published and then the unpublished
sources are listed.

Finally, the appendix contains 177 comparative wordlists of 40 items.
The spelling of the words has been unified. The lists are preceded by
a key to the symbols used and a specification of the sources.