

research results and (ii) should represent unpublished work. In the case of empirical studies, abstracts (iii) should contain a clear statement of the hypothesis or research questions, a brief account of the study performed or the data collected, and a summary of the conclusions.

- In the case of proposals for data sessions, the abstract should specify (i) the precise nature of the data to be discussed, (ii) the analytical approach to be used, and (iii) the (types of) research questions in view of which the presentation/discussion is deemed important.
- 3. Both the shortened and the full-size abstracts should be in the language in which the presentation will be made.
- 4. Only hard copies of both the paper submission form and the full-size abstracts are acceptable. Submissions by fax or e-mail will be considered only if they are followed by hard copies mailed before the November 1st 1997 deadline.

SPECIFICS ON OUR PANEL

When I was invited by Jeff Verschueren in November to organize a panel, I was preparing one or two consecutive trips and just proposed the vague title of **THE PRAGMATIC DIMENSION OF CREOLES**. Relative to my own research, what seemed interesting to me then was pragmatic factors that affect creole genesis. It will of course be interesting to discuss *pragmatic dimensions in the use of creoles at the macro and micro levels of analysis*. Feel free to contact me directly to discuss any topics that may interest you.

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SHORT NOTES

RABAU CREOLE GERMAN

by Craig Volker

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[Craig Volker sent copies of his tape recordings of Rabaul Creole German to the Pacific Collection at the University of Hawai'i Hamilton Library and the Michael Somare Collection at the University of Papua New Guinea Library. Rabaul Creole German is becoming extinct and these are the only tapes made of speakers of this language. Scholars are permitted to make copies of the tapes for research or educational purposes.]

These tapes were made during my fieldwork in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea in December, 1979 and January, 1980, as well as in Gold Coast City, Australia several months before and after. The results of this research were reported in my Master of Literary Studies thesis at the University of Queensland.

The tapes are identified with the name of the person(s) who were recorded. One person, the late ToUrapal, was a Tolai who had learned German as a youth during the German colonial administration. The others were speakers of Rabaul Creole German (or "Unserdeutsch"). Most of the tapes were made under rather formal interview conditions, but there are some recordings of spontaneous conversation. The tapes differ greatly in their clarity and preservation.

Rabaul Creole German is the only known instance of a creolised German. It came into being in the "mixed-race" children's orphanage started by Catholic missionaries at the Vunapope Mission near Kokopo, East New Britain. By the turn of the century the first generation of children were marrying and having children; in their homes Rabaul

Creole German was the primary language of conversation. With the coming of Papua New Guinea Independence in 1975, the community became dispersed, and many speakers of the language moved to Australia. Even in 1980 there were less than one hundred speakers, and it's doubtful that the language will survive more than a decade into the next century.

There is great variation in the type of Rabaul Creole German recorded by different speakers. In some cases this is due to generational differences, since older speakers had education in German medium schools, while younger speakers were taught in English. In many cases variation is also due to speakers' comfort or discomfort at speaking an in group language with someone from the outside, especially when being recorded. Similar variation is found in recordings of speakers of other creole languages as well as in those of speakers of German regional dialects.

Copies of these tapes were deposited in the University of Queensland and Rabaul Public libraries in 1975. Unfortunately, the University of Queensland copies were lost by library staff while the Rabaul Library and most of its contents were destroyed in a volcanic eruption. My own originals were kept in a locked garage in Arizona for safekeeping and it was only until this year that I was able to get access to them.

I am now sending copies of the tapes to the Pacific Collection at the University of Hawai'i Hamilton Library and the Michael Somare Collection at the University of Papua New Guinea Library. These collections have my permission to allow researchers to study them and to make copies of them.

