

LAWRENCE A. REID	
Seidenadel's grammar of Bontoc Igorot: one hundred years on.....	141
KLAUS ZIMMERMANN	
The <i>Diccionario español-chamorro</i> (1865) by Padre Fray Aniceto Ibáñez del Cármen: a historiographical characterization of a pedagogic-lexicographic discourse type in late colonial Austronesia.....	163
THOMAS STOLZ	
The <i>Gramática chamorra</i>	183
THOMAS STOLZ	
German and Dutch contributions to Chamorro studies (1800–1920).....	201
THOMAS STOLZ, CHRISTINA SCHNEEMANN, BARBARA DEWEIN & SANDRA CHUNG	
The mysterious H. Who was the author of <i>Die Chamoro Sprache?</i>	227
List of contributors	243

LAWRENCE A. REID (HONOLULU/OSAKA), EMILIO RIDRUEJO
(VALLADOLID) & THOMAS STOLZ (BREMEN)

Preface

Only a small segment of the world's languages boast of a long documented history. To the overwhelming majority however, this privilege does not apply. Thus, in many cases, it is illusory to write a philologically informed diachronic grammar. Historical linguistics in terms of reconstruction is often feasible if genetically related languages exist. However, reconstructing proto-stages does not exhaust the agenda of the historical linguist. One wants to know more about relatively recent developments. For many languages spoken in former colonies of western powers, this includes the dynamics of contact-induced change wherever the language of the colonisers has exerted influence on the lexicon and grammar of the languages of the colonised. Moreover, early documents are helpful when it comes to language planning, revitalisation or standardisation. Speech-communities need access to earlier stages of their language to recover lost territory in the realms of lexicon, idioms, constructions, etc. in order to prepare their languages for *Ausbau* without relying too much on the languages of their colonisers.

Among the languages which are underprivileged in terms of historical documentation, there are the countless autochthonous languages of the Pacific and their distant relatives in Southeast Asia. On closer inspection, one realises that this is too sweeping a statement as some languages of this region stand out from the vast majority of their neighbours. They stand out because there are bits of text in and/or about these languages which predate the turn of the 19th century. Apart from the occasional case of autonomous pre-colonial indigenous literacy, we find examples of a noteworthy tradition of Missionary descriptive linguistics during Spanish colonial dominance in the Philippines and in the Marianas ranging from the mid-16th century to the late 19th century. Owing to the withdrawal of Spain in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War of 1898, other foreigners entered the scene and thus US-American, German, Dutch and other scholars began to write extensively on and sometimes also in the languages of the newly acquired territories. When the 2nd World War settled the question of political dominance in this region in favour of the United States, those traditions based on languages other than English soon became obsolete and have fallen into oblivion. Since the knowledge of the languages of former (and sometimes only ephemeral) colonisers (including clerical Latin) among the native speakers of Philippine and Micronesian lan-

guages is negligible nowadays, the older descriptive sources dealing with their native languages are not easy to consult. To the language problem, we must add the problem that some of the texts have never appeared in print while those that have are hidden in publications which are hard to come by in university libraries and elsewhere. This lack of accessibility of the older sources may create the image of languages without a written history of their own. This image in turn might have a negative effect on the speakers whose loyalty towards their native language largely depends on the cultural value associated with the language. If it does not have a history of written records (rather than the history constructed in modern accounts by outsiders), it may not be able to compete with the more prestigious English (or other first world language).

With a view to remedying this situation, specialists of the history of the languages of the Philippines and Micronesia agreed to get together to exchange ideas and make plans for a future joint project. The meeting took the shape of a two-day workshop on *Philippine and Micronesian Linguistics before the advent of structuralism* (28–29 August, 2008). The workshop was part of the programme of the *11th International Conference on the History of the Language Sciences* hosted by the University of Potsdam/Germany. Scholars from Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and the US gave talks on the early (non-English) sources of the indigenous languages of the Philippines and the Marianas. The presentations and the ensuing discussion proved to be so stimulating that it was decided not only to publish the papers based on the earlier talks but also to establish a network among the participants and other interested scholars in order to pursue the common interests further. Doing research in this sector of the history of linguistics is fascinating. Furthermore, from this endeavour, Austronesian linguistics and the modern speech-communities of the languages under scrutiny may gain considerably as long lost sources of linguistic and cultural value have come back into focus such that in the not too distant future, they will be accessible to everybody again (or for the first time ever).

Consistent with the programme of the above workshop, the papers in this edited volume are organised geographically and chronologically. Older sources of Philippine languages are discussed first. In the second part, the focus is on Chamorro, the indigenous Austronesian language of the Marianas. Emilio Ridruejo (Valladolid/Spain) sets the scene with his presentation of the anonymous first grammar of a Philippine language published in Spanish perhaps as early as 1601. Further early Spanish contributions to the descriptive linguistics of the languages of the Philippines are discussed in the papers by John U. Wolff (New York/USA) on the first Tagalog dictionary, Rebeca Fernández (Valladolid/Spain) on Pedro Vivar's treatment of Ilocano, Otto Zwartjes (Amsterdam/Netherlands) on the early comparative approach adopted by Oyanguren de Santa Inés, Pierre Winkler (Haarlem/Netherlands) on the affinities of the Philippine Missionary grammarians with modern Functional Grammar, Iwar Werlen (Berne/Switzerland) provides an appraisal of Wilhelm von Humboldt's treatment of the verb in Tagalog and Lawrence A. Reid (Honolulu/USA) concludes the Philippine section with a discussion of the achievements of Seidenadel in the realm of Bontoc Igorot grammar.

In the Chamorro section the work of the Spanish cleric Fray Aniceto Ibáñez del Carmen is the topic of two papers: Klaus Zimmermann (Bremen/Germany) scrutinises his Spanish-Chamorro dictionary from the point of view of a constructivist theory of language (contact) whereas Thomas Stolz (Bremen/Germany) highlights some linguistically striking aspects of the Spanish grammar written in Chamorro by Ibáñez del Carmen in the mid-19th century. In his second paper, Thomas Stolz surveys German and Dutch contributions to the study and description of Chamorro from the early 19th century until the end of the 1st World War. In the final paper, Thomas Stolz, Christina Schneemann, Barbara Dewein (Bremen/Germany) and Sandra Chung (Santa Cruz/USA) jointly solve the problem of the identity of H. Costenoble, the author of the most sizable grammar of Chamorro.

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Honolulu/Osaka
Valladolid
Bremen

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