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SOLOMON ISLANDS LANGUAGES: AN INTERNAL CLASSIFICATION is the result of many years of research. It consists of a classification of all of the Austronesian languages of the Solomons, based on phonological innovation. A morphologically based classification is in preparation. The phonologically based classification presented in this volume is followed by a lengthy appendix which contains word lists of more than 300 items for all Solomons languages. The book represents a first attempt to classify all of the languages of the Solomons in a systematic way. It provides not only a detailed subgrouping of the languages, but also a considerable body of lexical and phonological source material. SOLOMON ISLANDS LANGUAGES: AN INTERNAL CLASSIFICATION will be of considerable interest to Austronesianists in particular, but also to a wide cross-section of people concerned with the South Pacific.

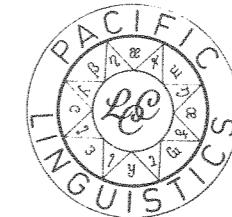
DARRELL TRYON has been engaged in the study of Austronesian languages for nearly twenty years. His major study in Melanesia to date was his HEW HEBRIDES LANGUAGES: AN INTERNAL CLASSIFICATION. Also in the Island Melanesia area his major contributions include studies in the languages of the Loyalty Islands, IAI GRAMMAR, DEHU GRAMMAR and NENGONE GRAMMAR. In the Polynesian field his CONVERSATIONAL TAHITIAN has been translated into French. For the past seven years his attention has been focussed on the languages of the Solomon Islands. Dr Tryon is a Senior Fellow in Linguistics at the Australian National University.

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SOLOMON ISLANDS LANGUAGES:
AN INTERNAL CLASSIFICATION

by

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4.2 LANGUAGE AND DIALECT IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

In 4.1 it will have been observed that a few unfamiliar language names were listed. These were:

1. Central-East Choiseul
2. West Guadalcanal
3. Talise
4. North Malaita
5. South Malaita

The reason for this change in nomenclature is simply that in a number of cases what have traditionally been considered separate languages have been found to constitute dialects within a single language or languages. Thus, for example, the following rearrangements have been made:

- i) Central-East Choiseul is a term coined to cover Mbambatana, Katazi, Sengga, Lömaumbi and Avasö, as all of these can be shown to belong to a single language.
- ii) West Guadalcanal is the term used here to cover the major dialects of this language, which include Tandai, Nggae, Ndi, Nggeri and Ghari.
- iii) Talise is a cover term for the closely related dialects of the weather coast of Guadalcanal, including Poleo, Koo, Malagheti, Tolo and Moli.
- iv) North Malaitan¹ is used to cover To'ambaita, Mbaengguu, Mbaelelea, and Fataleka.
- v) South Malaitan covers the dialects of Sa'a, Ulawa and Uki Ni Masi.

The above dialects may be termed *major dialects* or *sublanguages*. The criteria on which they are so classified are twofold. First, they are acknowledged by the local communities as being mutually intelligible. Few would disagree that this criterion is met in the case of the dialects of the newly defined languages just listed above. Secondly, it has become an accepted and established practice in Oceania to consider that if two speech communities share more than 80% cognates, based on a basic wordlist of some 200 items (usually some form of the Swadesh wordlist), then they may be regarded as dialects of a single language (see Wurm 1971, Tryon 1976). The dialects listed above also meet this criterion.

As described in 3.0 above, wordlists containing some 450 items were

¹Lau could strictly have been included in North Malaitan on the same criteria. Tradition, however, has dictated that it is best considered as a separate entity.

collected for all of the languages and major dialects of the Solomons. For purposes of language/dialect differentiation, a basic 200-item list was extracted, as listed below, and percentages of shared cognates computed. The list used for this purpose was as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. *one | 2. *two | 3. **three |
| 4. **four | 5. **five | 6. **ten |
| 7. *hand/arm | 8. **back | 9. *belly |
| 10. *blood | 11. *bone | 12. *breast |
| 13. *ear | 14. *eggs | 15. *eye |
| 16. *fat/grease | 17. *hair (body) | 18. *head |
| 19. *heart | 20. *knee | 21. *leg |
| 22. *liver | 23. *meat/flesh | 24. *mouth |
| 25. navel | 26. *neck | 27. *nose |
| 28. *skin | 29. *tail | 30. *tongue |
| 31. *tooth | 32. **wing | 33. *louse |
| 34. louse egg | 35. fly (n) | 36. mosquito |
| 37. butterfly | 38. spider | 39. *fish |
| 40. shark | 41. crocodile | 42. turtle |
| 43. **snake | 44. *bird | 45. chicken |
| 46. rat | 47. flying fox | 48. whale |
| 49. porpoise | 50. possum | 51. *dog |
| 52. pig | 53. **flower | 54. **fruit |
| 55. *leaf | 56. *root | 57. *seed |
| 58. *tree | 59. **grass | 60. banana |
| 61. betel nut | 62. breadfruit | 63. coconut |
| 64. cut nut | 65. sago palm | 66. sugar cane |
| 67. taro | 68. yam | 69. *man |
| 70. *woman | 71. **father | 72. **child |
| 73. *name | 74. canoe | 75. fishhook |
| 76. house | 77. paddle | 78. **rope |
| 79. **spear | 80. *earth | 81. earthquake |
| 82. island | 83. *mountain | 84. *road |
| 85. *sand | 86. **sea | 87. *stone |
| 88. **bush/forest | 89. **day | 90. *night |
| 91. **year | 92. yesterday | 93. tomorrow |
| 94. **dust | 95. *ashes | 96. *fire |
| 97. *smoke | 98. *cloud | 99. **fog |
| 100. lightning | 101. *rain | 102. rainbow |
| 103. thunder | 104. **wind | 105. *sun |
| 106. *moon | 107. *star | 108. *water |
| 109. *I | 110. *you (sg) | 111. **he |
| 112. *we pl.incl. | 113. we pl.excl. | 114. **you (pl) |

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 115. **they | 116. **here | 117. **left |
| 118. **right | 119. *many | 120. *what? |
| 121. **when? | 122. **where? | 123. *who? |
| 124. how many? | 125. **in | 126. **fear |
| 127. *life (live) | 128. *black | 129. *green |
| 130. *red | 131. *white | 132. *yellow |
| 133. **bad | 134. *good | 135. *big |
| 136. *small | 137. *cold | 138. *warm |
| 139. *dry | 140. **wet | 141. *blunt (dull) |
| 142. **sharp | 143. *long | 144. **short |
| 145. *new | 146. **thick | 147. **thin |
| 148. **heavy | 149. sick | 150. **smooth |
| 151. **straight | 152. **cut (wood) | 153. **dig |
| 154. *give | 155. **hit (stick) | 156. **hold |
| 157. **pull | 158. **push | 159. **play |
| 160. **rub | 161. **sew | 162. **split |
| 163. **squeeze | 164. **stab | 165. **throw |
| 166. **tie | 167. **wash (hands) | 168. *come |
| 169. *fall | 170. go | 171. *swim |
| 172. **turn | 173. *walk | 174. **count |
| 175. *know | 176. *say | 177. **sing |
| 178. **think | 179. *burn | 180. **float |
| 181. **flow | 182. *fly (vb) | 183. **swell |
| 184. *bite | 185. **blow | 186. cry |
| 187. *die | 188. *drink | 189. *eat |
| 189. *hear | 191. **laugh | 192. **scratch |
| 193. *see | 194. *sit | 195. *sleep |
| 196. **smell | 197. **spit | 198. *stand |
| 199. **suck | 200. **vomit | |

In the above list, * indicates that the item occurs in the Samarin-modified Swadesh 100-word list (Samarin 1967:220-3), while ** indicates that it occurs in the same 200-word list. Of the original 200 items, 40 were found unsuitable or ambiguous in a Melanesian context and replaced by more appropriate items, the unstarred items on the list. The reasons for rejecting the items from the original Samarin-modified Swadesh wordlist were discussed in full in Tryon 1976:69-71, and will not be repeated here.

The demarcation line between language and dialect as used in this study, then, takes into account the two basic criteria discussed above. The tables of percentages of shared cognates, the recognitions of which were made after sound correspondences were worked out, are

set out in Appendix B, after the wordlists themselves. The sole purpose of the lexicostatistical evidence presented there is to provide evidence of language/dialect differentiation. Subgrouping at higher levels is based entirely on phonological innovation in the present work, substantial evidence being presented for most subgroups so distinguished. It might be noted in passing, however, that the subgrouping picture which emerges from a study of the phonological evidence is strongly supported by the quantitative evidence.

Lexicostatistics, however, has been shown to be an unreliable tool for accurate classification of languages at the higher levels (McElhanon 1970, Guy 1982), as results are often skewed by the non-recognition of loanwords, and especially by the fact that lexicostatistics operates on the basis that all languages change at the same rate, which tenet is demonstrably false. For this reason, the lexicostatistical evidence is used here as a subgrouping device only at the lowest level of the classification. This is not to deny, of course, that lexicostatistics is an extremely useful tool to give a first approximate picture of language relationships upon which other avenues of investigation can be profitably based.

Partial surveys of the languages of the Solomons have been mentioned above, Chapter 2.0, the only one based on lexicostatistics being that of Dyen (1965). That study, basically concerned with the Austronesian family as a whole, will be discussed along with other wider classificatory attempts in 8.0, below.

Within the Solomons themselves, groupings of languages within individual islands, based on lexicostatistical counts, have been made in New Georgia (Early 1982), Santa Isabel (White 1977, Whiteman and Simons 1978), Malaita (Simons 1980), Santa Cruz (Simons 1977) and the Eastern Outer Islands (Lincoln 1978). The percentages of shared cognates recognised by these scholars for individual areas correlate very well with those recognised by the present writer. One exception concerns the wordlists for Mbareke and Vangunu in the New Georgia area, where Early records a percentage slightly below the language/dialect cutoff for these two speech communities, while the present writer, using a wordlist which contained a number of different items, recorded a figure which was slightly above. In both cases, however, the communities felt that Mbareke and Vangunu were not mutually intelligible, and indeed that Mbareke is no longer used in a pure form by younger speakers. For these reasons the two speech varieties have been considered to be distinct languages for purposes of the classification presented in this study.

4.3 CHECKLIST OF SOLOMON ISLANDS LANGUAGES

Language	Variant Names	Location
Aara	see A'ara (MARINGE)	Santa Isabel
A'ara	see MARINGE	Santa Isabel
Aba	see NEMBAO	Utupua
Aghufi	see FAGHANI	San Cristobal
Aiaisi	see 'ARE'ARE	Malaita
Aiwo	see REEFS	Reef Is.
Alu	see MONO-ALU	Shortland Is.
Amба	see NEMBAO	Utupua
Anganinwai	see KAHUA	San Cristobal
Anudha	see NGGELA	Florida
Anuta	see TIKOPIAN	Anuta Is. (Cherry Is.)
Aola	see LENGO	Guadalcanal
Apae'aa	see Sa'a (SOUTH MALAITAN)	Malaita
Apakhö	see ASUMBOA	Utupua
Are	see 'ARE'ARE	Malaita
Areare	see 'ARE'ARE	Malaita
'ARE'ARE	Aiaisi, Are, Areare, I'iaa, Marau, Mareho, Tarapaina, Woo Wango	Malaita
AROSI	see ASUMBOA	San Cristobal
ASUMBOA	Aujivigno	Utupua
Aujivigno	see ASUMBOA	Utupua
Avasö	see CENTRAL-EAST CHOISEUL	Choiseul
Avuavu	see Tolo (TALISE)	Guadalcanal
Awa	see MONO-ALU	Shortland Is.
Babatana	see Mbambatana (C-E. CHOISEUL)	Choiseul
Baegu	see Mbaenggu (N. MALAITAN)	Malaita
Baela	see Mbaelelea (N. MALAITAN)	Malaita
Baelelea	see Mbaelelea (N. MALAITAN)	Malaita
Baenggu	see Mbaenggu (N. MALAITAN)	Malaita
Bali	see N. MALAITAN	Malaita
Bambatana	see Mbambatana (C-E. CHOISEUL)	Choiseul
Bañata	see MBANIATA	Rendova
Baniata	see MBANIATA	Rendova
Baranago	see (WEST GUADALCANAL)	Guadalcanal

Note: a) Names in capital letters are preferred names.

b) Starred names refer to extinct or untraceable languages/dialects.

based on phonological and lexical evidence, and representing all of the languages in the area, is in full agreement with other recently proposed groupings for the South-east Solomons.

As far as other areas are concerned, especially in the western islands, the present study presents strong evidence for the existence of a Western Subgroup, something which has not been possible until the present because of the very limited materials available for these languages.

The present study represents, however, only a preliminary and broad statement of the internal relationships of the languages of the Solomons. Once detailed morphological studies have been completed a more definite statement will be attempted.

APPENDIX A

9.0 SOLOMON ISLANDS WORDLISTS

The wordlists which formed the basis for the classification of Solomons languages presented above are set out below. The transcription is a broad phonetic one. The wordlists, of three hundred and twenty four items, are arranged in fields as follows:

A. Numerals

1. one	2. two	3. three	4. four
5. five	6. six	7. seven	8. eight
9. nine	10. ten	11. hundred	12. thousand

B. Body Parts

13. arm	14. back	15. beard	16. belly
17. blood	18. body	19. bone	20. brain
21. breast	22. ear	23. egg	24. eye
25. fat	26. feather	27. guts	28. hair
29. head	30. heart	31. knee	32. leg
33. liver	34. meat	35. mouth	36. navel
37. neck	38. nose	39. penis	40. skin
41. tail	42. tongue	43. tooth	44. vulva
45. wing			

C. Fauna

46. bird	47. butterfly	48. centipede	49. chicken
50. crocodile	51. dog	52. eagle	53. eel
54. fish	55. fly	56. flying fox	57. hornbill
58. lobster	59. louse	60. louse egg	61. mosquito
62. midge	63. pig	64. porpoise	65. possum
66. rat	67. scorpion	68. shark	69. snake
70. spider	71. turtle	72. whale	

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D. Flora	74. branch	75. flower	76. fruit
73. bark	78. root	79. seed	80. tree
77. leaf	82. bamboo	83. banana	84. betel nut
81. grass	86. coconut	87. cut nut	88. hibiscus til.
85. breadfruit	90. pandanus	91. sago palm	92. sugarcane
89. mango	94. turmeric	95. yam	96. alstonia sp.
93. taro			
97. vitex cofassus			
E. Family & Relationships			
98. person	99. man	100. woman	101. father
102. mother	103. grandparent	104. child	105. elder brother
106. sister	107. line/kin	108. chieftain	109. name
F. Domestic			
110. board	111. bow	112. canoe	113. calico
114. club	115. fishhook	116. house	117. oven
118. paddle	119. rope	120. spear	121. thatch
122. tobacco			
G. Geographical			
123. bay	124. cave	125. earth	126. earthquake
127. garden	128. headland	129. island	130. mountain
131. reef	132. river	133. road	134. sand
135. sea	136. stone	137. village	138. bush
H. Physical Astronomy Meteorology			
139. day	140. night	141. morning	142. year
143. yesterday	144. today	145. tomorrow	146. dust
147. ashes	148. fire	149. flame	150. smoke
151. cloud	152. fog	153. lightning	154. rain
155. rainbow	156. sky	157. thunder	158. wind
159. sun	160. moon	161. star	162. water
I. Personal Pronouns			
163. I	164. you sg.	165. he	166. we pl.incl.
167. we pl.excl.	168. you pl.	169. they	170. we dl.incl.
171. we dl.excl.	172. you dl.	173. they dl.	
J. Possessives			
174. my	175. your sg.	176. his	177. our pl.incl.
178. our pl.excl.	179. your pl.	180. their	
K. Correlatives			
181. because	182. many	183. this	184. time
185. how?	186. what?	187. when?	188. where?
189. who?	190. how many?		

L. Conjunctions, Prepositions, Psychology, etc.

191. yes 192. no 193. here 194. there
 195. left 196. right 197. and 198. at
 199. if 200. in 201. after 202. below
 203. fear 204. life 205. love 206. mistake
 207. spirit (dead) 208. spirit (live)

M. Adjectives

209. black 210. blue 211. green 212. red
 213. white 214. yellow 215. bad 216. good
 217. big 218. small 219. cold 220. warm
 221. dry 222. wet 223. blunt 224. sharp
 225. empty 226. full 227. far 228. near
 229. fast 230. slow 231. long 232. short
 233. new 234. old (thing) 235. old (person) 236. strong
 237. weak 238. thick 239. thin 240. hungry
 241. thirsty 242. bald 243. dirty 244. heavy
 245. lazy 246. alive 247. correct 248. rotten
 249. sick 250. smooth 251. sore (adj.) 252. straight
 253. tired 254. wild

N. Verbs of Action

255. break 256. cut (string) 257. cut (wood) 258. dig
 259. fight 260. give 261. hit 262. hold
 263. hunt 264. kill 265. pull 266. push
 267. play 268. rub 269. sew 270. split
 271. squeeze 272. stab 273. start 274. steal
 275. tie 276. wash (hands) 277. wipe 278. work

O. Verbs of Movement

279. come 280. dance 281. fall 282. go
 283. go down 284. go up 285. meet 286. swim
 287. bathe 288. turn 289. walk

P. Verbs, Mental Processes

290. ask 291. count 292. know 293. say
 294. sing 295. think

Q. Verbs, Natural Processes

296. burn 297. float 298. flow 299. fly
 300. swell

R. Verbs, Body Action			
301. bite	302. blow	303. breathe	304. cry
305. die	306. drink	307. eat	308. hear
309. laugh	310. lie down	311. scratch	312. see
313. sit	314. sleep	315. smell	316. spit
317. stand	318. suck	319. vomit	320. urinate
321. defaecate	322. wait	323. copulate	324. faeces

9.1 INDEX TO WORDLISTS

An index of items presented in the wordlists, together with the corresponding item number is as follows:

after (201)	breadfruit (85)	drink (306)	fruit (76)
alive (246)	break (255)	dry (221)	full (226)
alstonia sp. (96)	breast (21)	dust (146)	garden (127)
and (197)	breathe (303)	eagle (52)	give (260)
arm (13)	brother (105)	ear (22)	go (282)
ashes (147)	burn (296)	earth (125)	go down (283)
ask (290)	bush (138)	earthquake (126)	go up (284)
at (198)	butterfly (47)	eat (307)	good (216)
back (14)	calico (113)	eel (53)	grandparent (103)
bad (215)	canoe (112)	egg (23)	grass (81)
bald (242)	cave (124)	eight (8)	green (211)
bamboo (82)	centipede (48)	empty (225)	guts (27)
banana (83)	chicken (49)	eye (24)	hair (28)
bark (73)	chieftain (108)	faeces (324)	he (165)
bathe (287)	child (104)	fall (281)	head (29)
bay (123)	cloud (151)	far (227)	headland (128)
beard (15)	club (114)	fast (229)	hear (308)
because (181)	coconut (86)	fat (25)	heart (30)
belly (16)	cold (219)	father (101)	heavy (244)
below (202)	come (279)	fear (203)	here (193)
betel nut (84)	copulate (323)	feather (26)	hibiscus tili. (188)
big (217)	correct (247)	fight (259)	his (176)
bird (46)	count (291)	fire (148)	hit (261)
bite (301)	crocodile (50)	fish (54)	hold (262)
black (209)	cry (304)	fishhook (115)	hornbill (57)
blood (17)	cut string (256)	five (5)	house (116)
blow (302)	cut wood (257)	flame (149)	how (185)
blue (210)	cut nut (87)	float (297)	how many (190)
blunt (223)	dance (280)	flow (298)	hundred (11)
board (110)	day (139)	flower (75)	hungry (240)
body (18)	defaecate (321)	fly n. (55)	hunt (263)
bone (19)	die (305)	fly vb. (299)	I (163)
bow (111)	dig (258)	flying fox (56)	if (199)
brain (20)	dirty (243)	fog (152)	in (200)
branch (74)	dog (51)	four (4)	island (129)

Index to Wordlists (Cont.)

kill (264) new (233)
 knee (31) night (140)
 know (292) nine (9)
 laugh (309) no (192)
 lazy (245) nose (38)
 leaf (77) old/person (235)
 left (195) old/thing (234)
 leg (32) one (1)
 lie down (310) our pl.excl.(178)
 life (204) our pl.incl.(177)
 lightning (153) oven (117)
 line/kin (107) paddle (118)
 liver (33) pandanus (90)
 lobster (58) penis (39)
 long (231) person (98)
 louse (59) pig (63)
 louse egg (60) play (267)
 love (205) porpoise (64)
 man (99) possum (65)
 mango (89) pull (265)
 many (182) push (266)
 meat (34) rain (154)
 meet (285) rainbow (155)
 midge (62) rat (66)
 mistake (206) red (212)
 moon (160) reef (131)
 morning (141) right (196)
 mosquito (61) river (132)
 mother (102) road (133)
 mountain (130) root (78)
 mouth (35) rope (119)
 my (174) rotten (248)
 name (109) rub (268)
 navel (36) sago palm (91)
 near (228) sand (134)
 neck (37) say (293)

scorpion (67) steal (274)
 scratch (311) stone (136)
 sea (135) straight (252)
 see (312) strong (236)
 seed (79) suck (318)
 seven (7) sugarcane (92)
 sew (269) sun (159)
 shark (68) swell (300)
 sharp (224) swim (286)
 short (232) tail (41)
 sick (249) taro (93)
 sing (294) ten (10)
 sister (106) thatch (121)
 sit (313) their (180)
 six (6) there (194)
 skin (40) they (169)
 sky (156) they dl. (173)
 sleep (314) thick (238)
 slow (230) thin (239)
 small (218) think (295)
 smell (315) thirsty (241)
 smoke (150) this (183)
 smooth (250) thousand (12)
 snake (69) three (3)
 sore (251) thunder (157)
 spear (120) tie (275)
 spider (70) time (184)
 spirit/dead (207) tired (253)
 spirit/live (208) tobacco (122)
 spit (316) today (144)
 split (270) tomorrow (145)
 squeeze (271) tongue (42)
 stab (272) tooth (43)
 stand (317) tree (80)
 star (161) turmeric (94)
 start (273) turn (288)

Index to Wordlists (Cont.)

turtle (71) wash/hands (276) when (187) yam (95)
 two (2) water (162) where (188) year (142)
 urinate (320) weak (237) white (213) yellow (214)
 village (137) we dl.excl. (171) who (189) yes (191)
 vitex sp. (97) we dl.incl. (170) wild (254) yesterday (143)
 vomit (319) we pl.excl. (167) wind (158) you dl. (172)
 vulva (44) we pl.incl. (166) wing (45) you pl. (168)
 wait (322) wet (222) wipe (277) you sg. (164)
 walk (289) whale (72) woman (100) your pl. (179)
 warm (220) what (186) work (278) your sg. (175)

Each page of the wordlists contains four glosses, the Solomons language forms for which occupy four pages, as follows:

- Page (a): Lists 1-31 (Shortlands, Choiseul, New Georgia)
- Page (b): Lists 32-62 (Santa Ysabel, Florida, Guadalcanal)
- Page (c): Lists 63-94 (Malaita, San Cristobal)
- Page (d): Lists 95-111 (Eastern Outer Islands, Polynesian Outliers)

The languages to which the wordlists correspond are fairly self-evident; a checklist is, however, set out in full in 7.0, above.