

## THE USE OF CURRENT ENGLISH LOANWORDS IN THE TOK PISIN NEWSPAPER *WANTOK*

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### Introduction

There are many languages related to world ethnic culture and society, but they might not be pure. In modern situations under more advance and developed countries' circumstances, any language connected to an ethnic identity exists alongside other languages with new concepts. Loanwords enrich our expressions and vocabulary. The ways of lexical interference are many, for example, transferring phonemes, morphemes and semantemes to a target language from lexifier language.

Weinreich states that "the need to designate new things, persons, places, and concepts is, obviously, a universe cause of lexical innovation (1979: 56)." Many languages lexically influence each other and increase vocabulary. However, Weinreich notes that "the designative inadequacy of a vocabulary in naming new things is not the only cause of lexical innovation. Internal linguistic factors also contribute to the innovating process" (1979: 57).

He gives three reasons for internal linguistic factors to use loanwords in other languages. He gives some analysis of some languages mentioned below (1979: 57-58):

1. low frequency
2. homonymy
3. the well-known tendency of affective words to lose their expressive force

As far as 1 is concerned, if other things are equal, the words of high frequency are very useful and stable. In other words those of low frequency are unstable and forgettable.

As far as 2 is concerned, this action stemming from the collision between homonymy sometimes occasions dissolution in a target language.

As far as 3 is concerned, the habit of words is to attract a multitude of designations.

Tok Pisin is used as an English-based language in Melanesia and it is very important for Papua New Guinea (hereafter PNG) inhabitants to communicate in their societies.

The purpose of this study is to discuss a register of the current loanwords in PNG and to examine differences between current English loanwords in Tok Pisin and former

Tok Pisin through the context of newspaper *Wantok*.

### **Distribution of Population and the Linguistic Background of PNG**

The mainland of Papua New Guinea and six hundred other islands have a population of approximately 5.3 million. Most of the people are Melanesian, but some are Micronesian or Polynesian. Over 700 native languages are spoken by Tok Ples (indigenous language) speakers. Tok Inglis (English), Tok Pisin, and Motu (the lingua franca of the Papuan region which is on the southwest coast and exists in two forms, Polis-Motu and Hiri-Motu) are the official languages. Modern urban life, which involves the full range of present PNG society, depends on subsistence and small cash crop agriculture in the main cities. Those are Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Wewak, Goroka, Mt. Hagen, and Rabaul.

Some 85 percent of the population constitutes farmers while the other 15 percent is urban. The population is growing at a rate of approximately 2.5 percent per annum.

The NCD (the National Capital District, which is Port Moresby) has variety of settlements, ranging from rural areas to foreign residential areas. The Waigani area has many foreign embassies. That is where most individuals who are employed at the embassies live. In other areas one finds different tribal settlements and occasional differences.

Those people who live in urban areas like Port Moresby think it necessary to use Tok Pisin as a lingua franca. In the case of English, they think English is *tok masta* (a European language), not *tok ples* (a PNG language).

Suzanne Romaine of Oxford University discussed the component ratio of Tok Pisin in her presentation at the Conference of Aspect of Foreign Words/Loanwords in the World's Languages in Japan in 2004. Her statistics were these: English 79 percent, Indigenous languages of PNG 17 percent, German 3 percent, Malay and other European languages 1 percent.

Mühlhäusler (1997: 176) found the component of Tok Pisin similar to Romaine; English: 77 percent, indigenous language: 16 percent, German and other: 7 percent.

The use of English is mostly demanded by Australia. Australia took over administration directly from Germany after World War I, and now PNG is independent from Australia but dependant on her for a large amount of its government budget. It is impossible to break this relation with Australia.

### **Definition of Current Loanwords in Tok Pisin**

Although there are Tok Pisin words available, English terms are used in the newspapers. New concepts of the words puzzle PNG readers at first, not ever having been related to PNG conventional attitudes or ways like brushing teeth and a new life style like that of the West.

### **Methodology, Research Questions and Data Resource**

Tok Pisin, itself, constructs all loanwords showing the section of linguistic background, so that it is difficult to analyze current loanwords and former loanwords. I will identify current loanwords used in advertisements in newspaper *Wantok* and

observe the possibility of using other former Tok Pisin words, because the role of advertisements in newspapers generally transmits much information about new things to the readers. In many cases we find use of new concepts of things. I pose a dual question: why new loanwords are used in Wantok newspapers and recognized as a standard pidgin among PNG people?

Wantok newspapers are those written in Tok Pisin, recognized now as an official language. This study consulted weekly Wantok newspapers from 2004 to 2007 (excluding 2005). Unfortunately Wantok newspapers could not be obtained for that year but the useful concepts of loanwords have low limited effect in this study.

This article will seek to answer three research questions posed below:

1. What type of current loanwords is used?
2. What is function of current loanwords in advertisements in Wantok newspapers?
3. How do these loanwords affect readers?

### **Components of Tok Pisin**

Word-formation of Tok Pisin is classified in four categories: simple words, compound words, reduplication and derived words. A definition and an example of the four categories are as follows:

#### ■ Simple words

A simple word (primary word) is made up by the autonomy of a component. The case of Tok Pisin is the directly used English word.

Examples: *ailan* (island), *manki* (monkey→boy)

#### ■ Compound words

Compound words are widely divided dual structures, which are of syntactical composition and juxtapositional composition. The components of syntactical composition feature noun, verb, adjective.

Examples: *belhat* (angry), *solwara* (sea), *wantok* (same language)

#### ■ Reduplication

Languages have a way of creating a different meaning from the original meaning with duplication of whole words.

Examples: *wilwil* (bicycle), *kalapkalap* (bounce)

- Derived words

A derived word is created by the way of derivation such as a derivational suffix placed or attached to a base word such as “-im” and “-pela”.

Examples: *tokim* (talk), *longpela* (long), *yumipela* (we)

### Metaphor and Idiomatic Expressions

Mühlhäusler (1997:183) also refers to Tok Pisin metaphorical expressions as follows:

In Tok Pisin there are metaphorical expressions from the point of view of target language speakers, but not for the indigenous. Distinct from such phenomena is the deliberate creation of metaphors to achieve certain poetic effects.

Most of early Tok Pisin communication was generally circumlocution combined with English words.

- *wanbel* (agreement), *tupela bel* (in doubt, disagreement)

*Wanbel* means ‘one belly’, which is derived from two English words. However, belly is an invisible thing, so that it is used to mean ‘mind or thought’. Therefore, two thoughts are integrated into one term. The opposite meaning is *tupela bel*.

- *Bikpela bokis stap haus, sapos yu paitim em, em krai.* (piano)

Big box is in house; if you fight it, it cries.

The piano appears in a variety of expressions in Melanesia and Polynesia areas. This expression is one of them.

- *Bel bilong en i kirap.* (excited)

Its belly gets up.

- *Bel bilong mi i singaut long kaikai.* (hungry)

My belly is singing out for food.

### Case Study of Wantok Newspaper Advertisement

An advertisement of Wantok newspapers reveals four types of the ways of language use. One is all English and the others mix Tok Pisin in English contents and English in Tok Pisin contents, and the use of all Tok Pisin.

This case study selected below shows the sentences and analyzes a mix of English and Tok Pisin and an all Tok Pisin type.

1. *Gutpela **gardens tools** oli **strong** na stap long liklik prais tasol didiman stoa na dealer klostu long yu. **Holsel** na **retail** spesol prais long bikpela oda.* (p. 31, No. 1549, March 25–31, 2004.)

All good garden tools are strong and low priced, but farmer's store and dealer are close to you. Wholesale and retail have special price for large orders.

Bolded words have a greater impact on the imagination of PNG readers. PNG farmers have used normal garden tools in PNG, but English words occasion in PNG inhabitants stronger impressions in their imagination.

2. *Strongpela tru. **Toothpaste** bilong PNG stret* (p 1, No.1567, July 29–August 4, 2004.)

It is very strong. Toothpaste of PNG is honest.

The PNG people do not have the habit of brushing their teeth with toothpaste. Using it is a rich experience and imagined to be closer to western culture. White teeth of PNG people, especially men, are not recognized as something to be admired in their cultural setting.

3. *Planti moa ol **fenisa** igat ol... prais igo daun!* (p. 5, No.1675, August 31-September 6, 2006.)

There is a lot of furniture... the price goes down.

Most PNG houses are not furnished. Dwellers in Port Moresby may use more furniture. Therefore using furniture is recognized as more prestigious and of higher status in PNG.

4. *Mix wantaim **tomato sos**.* (p. 25, No.1675, August 31-September 6, 2006 )

Mix with tomato sauce.

PNG conventional cuisine does not include tomato sauce. Hence food containing tomato sauce is perceived as western food, and supposedly more delicious.

5. *Ol gutpela prais **fenisa** bilong **stailim** gut haus.* (p. 5, No.1725, August 16–22, 2007)

It is a good price that furniture makes [your] house stylish.

The word *stailim* is not used in Tok Pisin usually. Style may be translated *kastom*. However if they use *kastom*, it gives a different impression, so that it remains an English semanteme.

6. *Ol gutpela sevis, off peak, **sevim** 50% lon[long] ol **fon** bills inap 14hrs lon[long] wan wan dei na **ful** dei lon[long] Sandei lon[long] ol **mobile** na **telefon** lain! **Band** 1 kantri na **domestic kols** tasol. Kisim moa toksave lon[long] ol telikom bisnis opis stap klostu lon[long] yu.* (p. 8, No.1726, August 23–29, 2007)

All good service, off peak, save 50% for all phones bills up to 14 hours per day and full day for Sunday for mobile and telephone lines. Band is one country and domestic calls only. Get more details in all Telikom business offices near you.

7. *Likilik prais tru long **kol**. **Sevim** inap long 40% long olgeta **mobail kol** wantain[wantaim] Digicel. Nambawan Velii!* (p. 9, No.1726, August 23–29, 2007)

Calling price is very low. Save up to 40% for all mobile calls with Digicel. It is the best value.

As far as 6 and 7, most words in this case are contemporary in PNG, and of an imported nature. Recently PNG people have used mobile phone more than land-line telephones in the home. New concepts thus affect PNG people ever more in advertizing.

8. *Mipela bai stretim olgeta **insurens** wari bilong yu.* (p. 32, No.1726, August 23–29, 2007)

I will be honest for all insurance to calm your worries.

The notion of *insurens* (insurance) did not basically exist in PNG until recently. The idea of financial markets have developed lately. The concept intends to provide stability in PNG.

## Discussion

Each advertisement in Wantok newspapers uses the words to promote the image of Western culture or economic things to supersede traditional PNG situations. One possibility for understanding the case is PNG's social and economic evolution in recent years. PNG people have now increased income, and needed and desired Western technology and advancement are in demand.

As the case study reveals the first are English words directly. In fact, a phrase “garden tools” can be depicted as *samting bilong mekim gaden*. The problems in advertisement are limited space for type and need to create a more prestigious image by simple words.

■ Civilized materials

Basically things not to related to native PNG materials or found in the islands.

Current loanwords in Tok Pisin are creating new concepts and new status with the same value as in the West, and linked with numerous conventional concepts, especially making a positive image. Most readers of the newspaper live in urban areas, so that the range of Tok Pisin use is gradually expanded. Urban Tok Pisin has greater access to the English language, while village Tok Pisin still features limited use of foreign words.

### Conclusion

Observation of trends in the Wantok newspapers does not show the full range of PNG people’s thoughts about using loanwords in Tok Pisin. However, the research suggests that it is possible to postulate tentative answers to each of the following questions.

1. What types of loanwords are used currently?

Current loanwords used are words related to economic and technological areas.

2. What is the function of current loanwords used in advertisements in Wantok newspapers in PNG?

Current usage is direct use of English words or of Tok Pisin depicted as similar phonemes as English.

2. How can they possibly affect readers linguistically?

Readers of Wantok newspapers subsequently use English language loanwords in Tok Pisin with spelling adjustments.

Therefore the three questions and answers show that current loanwords are not revealed to change all conventional concepts of PNG people, but seem to convey new concepts even if the same existed previously, and the accelerated diffusion of current loanwords transplant new concepts in PNG, but not as a dramatic social change, rather by reducing and eliminating gaps between communities and individuals.

Many cultural anthropologists have mentioned that the integration of PNG has not been possible with the current circumstances as yet. However, the promotion of loanwords may constitute a possibility of creating a new language of communities or an integration of races, in the end a path of social and cultural change.

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