



Pidgin

PHRASEBOOK

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about the authors

Trevor Balzer wrote the Bislama chapter. He lives on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. Among the things he enjoys are spending times with friends, the solitude and beauty of the wilderness and the infrequent opportunities to get his mountain bike dirty. Trevor first visited the Islands of Vanuatu in 1980. The people and the place were to have a profound and lasting impact on his life. Vanuatu is now a second home. Over the years Trevor has travelled to the archipelago on numerous occasions. Trevor has studied Bislama for his doctorate in Applied Linguistics, with an emphasis on the differences between urban and rural dialects of the language.

He would like to thank John Rutherford for his help proofreading the early draft of this document; Roly Sussex for his help with stylistics and presentation, and in particular for their marathon long distance phone call which proved crucial to the finished product; Ralph, Joel and Fiona for their assistance with local history and some of the finer points of Bislama grammar; Gary Williams and Brendon Teefy for letting him use their computers while his was 'at the doctors'. Finally, he would like to thank his many friends for their encouragement and support throughout the project.

When he first accepted the task of writing this chapter he had no idea how difficult and time consuming it would prove to be. It's not easy to formalise one's knowledge of a language. He trusts, however, that what he has provided will provide a sound foundation to build upon. Sometimes 'getting your feet wet' is the only way to really learn.

Dr Ernie Lee wrote the chapter on Solomon Islands Pijin. He and his wife Lois, both from the USA, have been living and working in the Solomon Islands since 1979 under the auspices of the Solomon Islands Christian Association. His PhD is in linguistics from Indiana University completed in 1966.

Ernie enjoys travelling and has been to many of the islands of the Solomon archipelago as part of his work. A favourite activity is walking and running in the Easter Fun Run in Honiara each year. He is recognised widely in the Solomons as the man with the white beard.

During the past 20 years, Ernie's work has included a program for developing Pijin as a written language, teaching Solomon Islanders to read and write Solomon Islands Pijin and advising on the translation of the New Testament of the Bible into Pijin. Currently he is teaching the principles of translation to the students at Bishop Patteson Theological College on Guadalcanal and helping them apply those principles by translating materials from English into Solomon Islands Pijin. One of the things that motivates him most is seeing students become excited about the potential of Pijin as a written language as well as an oral means of communication.

He would like to thank Hilda Kwanae and Conrad Manfort of the Pijin Old Testament Project for their contribution in writing the first drafts of the parts of this chapter related to food and culture. Thanks go also to the many different Solomon Islanders, especially his students, who have helped him learn Pijin during the 20 years he has lived in the Solomons. As his students well know he's still learning. Finally he would like to thank his wife Lois for her love, support, and encouragement.

Peter Mühlhäusler, one of the authors of the Tok Pisin chapter, lives in Aldgate, in the Adelaide Hills, South Australia. He is the Foundation Professor of Linguistics at the University of Adelaide and has spent many months doing fieldwork on the languages of the Pacific and Australia. He completed his PhD thesis on Tok Pisin in 1976 but has published on this language ever since and occasionally offers language classes. In his spare time he enjoys working on his seven acre paradise, spending time modelling trains, interacting with his ferrets and bees and being with family and friends.

Paul Monaghan is the other author of the Tok Pisin Chapter. He is a postgraduate student at the University of Adelaide, where he has studied pidgin languages of the Australia-Pacific region. His interests are AFL (Australian Rules Football), reading and oysters.

Denise Angelo wrote the section on Kriol. She is the Senior Linguist for Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation (the Katherine Regional Aboriginal Language Centre), which services over 30 traditional Aboriginal languages and the new Aboriginal language of the region, Kriol.

Denise Angelo would like to thank Maureen Hodgson who told the *Hunting with Billycans* story reproduced in this book; Annemarie Huddleston, provided many ideas and language idioms that assisted with the phrases section; Barbara Raymond who was of great assistance with providing insights into how the Kriol language works as a system; the great many Kriol speakers, especially sanrais-wei (to the east) at Ngukurr, Urapunga, Minyerri, Jilkminggan, Barunga, Beswick,

Bulman and Katherine and also *san-gu-dan-wei* (to the west) over in Kununurra, who taught Denise about Kriol and talked to her in Kriol.

Dana Ober wrote the section on Yumpla Tok. Thanks to Anima Ghee, Bakoi Pilot and Puitam Wees for contributions on languages.

make the most of this phrasebook ...

Anyone can speak another language! It's all about confidence. Don't worry if you can't remember your school language lessons or if you've never learnt a language before. Even if you learn the very basics (on the inside covers of this book), your travel experience will be the better for it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort.

finding things in this book

For easy navigation, the sections in this book are structured in a similar way. Pronunciation and Grammar are the parts you'll thumb through time and again. Getting Around and Accommodation cover basic travel situations like catching transport and finding a bed. Meeting People gives you conversational phrases – so you can get to know people. With the Food chapters you can hit the markets and try traditional foods with confidence. Health and Emergencies equip you with useful phrases, just in case. Use the comprehensive Index to find everything easily.

being understood

Throughout this book you'll see the translations written in colour on each page. The languages are phonetic, so they can generally be pronounced as they are written. The Pronunciation chapter will explain more, but you can be confident that if you read the coloured phrase, you'll be understood.

communication tips

Body language, ways of doing things, sense of humour – all have a role to play in every culture. The boxes included throughout this phrasebook give you useful cultural and linguistic information that will help you communicate with the locals and enrich your travel experience.