

Simpson, Jane, David Nash, Mary Laughren, Peter Austin, Barry Alpher, eds, 2001. *Forty years on: Ken Hale and Australian languages*. Pacific Linguistics, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University, Canberra, pp xviii+528. ISBN 0 85883 524X.

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Ken Hale, an American linguist and pioneer in the study of Aboriginal languages, began his work in Central Australia in 1959. Over four decades he has worked on scores of languages, has written grammatical, phonological, lexical, semantic and other analyses. He collected a large number of tape recordings, transcriptions, acted as advisor of the Federal government on bilingual education programs, which led to such schools in the Northern Territory, etc. This book is devoted to the impact of his work and contains 36 papers written by linguists from Australia, the USA, Canada and Denmark. There is a bibliography of Hale's work and an index of the languages covered. As the book is dedicated to Hale, the articles are mainly about the languages that he worked on, i.e. the Arrernte, Warlpiri and Arandic families, which are spoken in the NT, Qld, SA and WA.

Many papers deal with specific features of the phonology, lexis, syntax and semantics of the languages in question. Others are autobiographical and deal with Hale's impact on changing attitudes to Aboriginal Australians. To mention the reminiscences of his wife on their arrival in Alice Springs in 1959 and Hale's notes on his strained relations with T.G.H. Strehlow, the German linguist-missionary in Hermannsburg, which have been edited by J. Green. S. Wurm, another leader in the field, recalls his first meeting with Hale; M. Sharpe writes about his impact on the rise of the field of Australian Linguistics and his association with Capell, a Church of England bishop-anthropologist-linguist in Sydney. Other papers deal with songs (Alpher/Keeffe) and literature (Cataldi). A few papers focus on educational issues, such as bilingual education (Hoogenraad), the School of Australian Linguistics with its campuses in Batchelor (south of Darwin) and Alice Springs (Shapre; Black/Breen). That institution has done much to train Aboriginal teacher-linguists and to make languages accessible. Inspired by Hale, amongst others, it has helped to promote Aboriginal Language and Culture centres that span the country and assist in language and culture maintenance. Other papers focus on lexico-cultural matters of interest to those concerned with the language-culture dimension. Laughren discusses the *avoidance style* that is used in kin relations. Many papers embed their problems in comparative-typological linguistics (e.g. Koch, Pensalfini).

It is impossible to do justice to the welter of information that this book contains. With its coverage, detail and approaches, it is mainly for theoretical and applied linguists with an interest in Australian languages and for those in the field of the history of language studies, esp. the rise of Australian Linguistics as a discipline and today's Aboriginal networks that promote language studies and language teaching at school. The book contains information that benefits ethnologists, anthropologists and educational theorists. As for Australian Studies, it will benefit those who include a linguistic component. (Related collections of papers are M. Walsh, C. Yallop, eds, 1993. *Language and culture in Aboriginal Australia* and Wurm/Mühlhäusler/Tryon, eds, 1996, *Atlas of languages of intercultural communication in the Pacific* [etc.]. Both have been reviewed here.)