

Linguistic Training in Papua New Guinea

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The question of Linguistic Training in Papua New Guinea borders on a number of other burning questions. One such question is the importance of language itself to the speakers and what language is good for?

The other issue that also relates to linguist training is the understanding of the fact that the language used by the community reflects:

- The environment in which they live in,
- Their system of social organisation and
- The way in which they view the world.

While Papua New Guinea boasts over 800 languages as different as English and German, linguistic training does not reflect this richness. Over the past thirty years, University of Papua New Guinea has trained far fewer linguists, with only two Doctorate degrees, about seven Masters and a handful of Honours graduates.

In this paper I wish to highlight the challenges surrounding linguistic training in Papua New Guinea and make suggestions on the way forward on how we can improve on the current efforts.