

Abstract

Topic: The Influence of Tok Pisin on the Tabare language in Simbu Province – A Good or Bad Influence?

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Tabare is one of the many languages in Simbu Province, Papua New Guinea. Although many are proud of their mother tongue and claim to have a high proficiency, a lot of codeswitching is done when Tabare speakers speak Tok Pisin. Some basic words that often get switched into Tok Pisin are the following: *tea, school, coffee, university, computer*.

The purpose of this paper is to discuss how and why Tok Pisin has influenced Tabare. The author continues to discover how Tok Pisin has influenced Tabare in the areas of grammar and vocabulary. In addition, she is asking, "Why do Tok Pisin speakers use more Tok Pisin than Tabare?" "What does this mean?" In the process of doing her research, the author has so far discovered that the influence of Tok Pisin on Tabare is not so good due to the following reasons:

- * When the Tabare speakers codeswitch, they use more Tok Pisin because they don't have the vocabulary or grammar in Tabare to complete their thoughts; so they switch to Tok Pisin.
- * Tabare speakers are not formally taught Tabare. If many were formally taught Tabare, perhaps Tok Pisin would not tend to "intervene" as much and the speakers would not switch so much from Tabare to Tok Pisin.
- * Tabare speakers are not using Tabare consistently and thus forget many words. They can communicate to a certain level but cannot progress further to a more advanced level.

Tabare is being less and less spoken by the younger generations. Why don't Tabare people want to learn or teach their mother tongue? The reasons relate to how well they know Tabare and have been taught by their parents. If they haven't been taught the language by their parents, they cannot teach it to their children. More and more children are learning Tok Pisin as their first language and risk losing the knowledge of one or both of their mother tongues.

The participants are twenty Tabare speakers between the ages of 30 and 70. The research instruments are interviews and questionnaires. Among the hundreds of languages in PNG, Tabare has been chosen because it is the mother tongue of the author's husband and a language that she would like to learn more about.

In this paper, reasons concerning why and how Tok Pisin has influenced Tabare will be discussed. In addition, thoughts as to whether Tabare is an endangered language will be presented as well as ways to preserve it.