

Janet W. D. Dougherty, *West Futuna-Aniwa: An Introduction to a Polynesian Outlier Language*. University of California Publication in Linguistics Series, No. 102. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983. Pp. xviii, 687, map, photos, figures, appendixes. Paper \$40.00.

Reviewed by Niko Besnier, University of Southern California

West: Futuna and Aniwa are spoken on two islands of the same name, situated near Tanna in Southern Vanuatu. Both are dialects of the same language, one of fifteen-odd Polynesian "outlier" languages spoken by Polynesian enclave communities in the Melanesian and Micronesian cultural areas. These communities are generally believed to be the result of throwback migrations postdating the early settlement of Triangle Polynesia. Until recently little was known about the Polynesian outlier languages. In the last decade or two, however, descriptive analyses of the grammar and lexicon of a number of these languages have been published. Janet Dougherty's "introduction" to West Futuna-Aniwa, which complements, reanalyzes, and expands Reverend Arthur Capell's earlier work on the same language, is a welcome addition to the still-limited but fast-growing body of documentation on these languages.

The by-product of a year of field research (which was primarily focused on lexical semantics and cognition), Dougherty's monograph consists of a grammatical sketch of the two dialects (pp. 1-147), a West Futuna-Aniwa and English lexicon (pp. 149-621), and a set of six topi-

cal vocabulary lists in an appendix (pp. 622-681). While both dialects are described in the book, the West Futuna dialect is far more thoroughly treated than the Aniwa dialect, as the author's acquaintance with the Aniwa dialect was through secondhand sources and non-Aniwan informants.

The book begins with a chapter on phonology, in which the phonemes and the major phonological features of the language are described and illustrated. This is followed by a chapter entitled "Grammar," which is divided into fifteen sections, each dealing with particular morphological or syntactic feature ("The Noun Phrase," "Interrogative Pronouns," "Relativization," etc.). The approach adopted in the grammatical description is atheoretical, and the aim is to provide a general overview of the major sentence structures of the language. The discussion is supported by many examples and several tables. Comparative data from other Polynesian languages are occasionally provided. The last section of the chapter consists of the three-page transcript of a traditional folktale.

The longest section of the volume is devoted to a West Futuna-Aniwa and English lexicon, followed by an English finder-list. Each entry is carefully translated, illustrated, and cross-referenced. Substantial explanations are provided for grammatical morphemes, kinship terms, children's games, and other lexical items whose translation into English is less than straightforward. The lexicon follows a strict alphabetical arrangement (as opposed to being arranged by roots), which makes the lexicon more accessible to nonspecialists. The six appendixes, which follow the English to West Futuna-Aniwa finder-list, list place names and personal names, kinship terms, body-part names, plant names, animal names, and numerals. These lists will prove to be a useful source of data for comparative research on ethnotaxonomic systems.

West Futuna-Aniwa presents a number of unusual structural features. Some of these, like the presence of an archaic trial number (in addition to singular, dual, and plural) in the pronoun paradigm, are already known to students of Polynesian linguistics. Other unusual features, particularly in syntax, are documented here for the first time both for West Futuna-Aniwa and for a Polynesian language. For example, West Futuna-Aniwa exhibits a wide array of basic sentence patterns that are not reported to co-occur within the same language elsewhere in the Polynesian family; similarly, "serial constructions" (structures in which several verbs are concatenated together) are attested widely in non-Polynesian Vanuatu languages, but not in Polynesian languages.

To know that these structures exist in West Futuna-Aniwa is valuable

in itself. However, linguists will wish to find a more detailed treatment of them than Dougherty provides. For example, a more thorough analysis of the pragmatic and stylistic distribution of the various basic sentence patterns would have made the monograph more appealing to the comparativist and typologist alike. Moreover, little information is given about the sociolinguistic aspects of the data presented, despite the fact that the author mentions in the introduction that linguistic data were collected from a wide range of sociolinguistic contexts. A more sociolinguistic and discourse-oriented approach would have been most appropriate to an analysis of West Futuna-Aniwa syntax, given that the structure of the language appears to mark many subtle variational distinctions.

Nevertheless, Dougherty is to be commended for having made available an important and timely document. Its inclusion in the University of California's well-established Linguistics Series is well deserved. It is hoped that the publication of such ground-breaking materials will be followed by more detailed linguistic and sociolinguistic analyses of the data presented.