

Notes

PREFACE

¹Dr. Capell's grammatical sketch of Palauan (mimeographed 1948?) resulted from research he carried out as a member of a CIMA (Coordinated Investigation of Micronesian Anthropology) group that visited the islands between November 1947 and February 1948. At the time, Dr. Capell held the position of reader in Oceanic Linguistics at the University of Sydney, Australia. His grammatical sketch included separate sections on spelling and sounds, morphology, and syntax, as well as a phrase-book supplement containing 366 Palauan sentences.

²See "Palauan Orthography—A Final Report on the Decisions of the Palau Orthography Committee" (xeroxed, Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute, University of Hawaii, Oct. 1972). The members of the committee included Alfonso Oiterong (district director of Education, Koror, Palau) and Fr. Felix Yaoch, Francisco Morei, Huan Polloi, Timarong Sisor, Rengulbai Ngeburch, Santos Ngodrii, Hermana Remarui, Hubert Elechuus, Masaaki Emesiochel, Masaharu Tmodrang, and Sadang Ngiraecherang. The current editor and Dr. Helen Wilson, then a graduate student at the Department of Linguistics, University of Hawaii, served as consultants. A follow-up workshop was conducted in 1972/73—see Lewis S. Josephs: "Report on the Palau Bilingual Program Spelling and Grammar Workshop, Dec. 20, 1972 to Jan. 3, 1973" (xeroxed, Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute, University of Hawaii, Jan. 1973).

³See Lewis S. Josephs, *Palauan Reference Grammar* (Honolulu: The University Press of Hawaii, 1975).

INTRODUCTION

¹Those named specifically were Robert Owen, staff entomologist of the Trust Territory; Hera Owen, executive secretary of the Palau Museum; and Clayton Carlson, researcher with the Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute at the University of Hawaii.

²Fr. McManus made extensive use of Bishop von P. Salvador Walleser's 1911 *Grammatik der Palausprache* (in *Ostasiatische Studien*, edited by Prof. Dr. R. Lange and Prof. Dr. A. Forke [Berlin: Kommissionsverlag von Georg Reimer], pp. 121-231) and his 1913 *Palau—Wörterbuch: I. Palau—Deutsch, II. Deutsch—Palau* (Hong Kong). He also consulted Dr. Capell's CIMA report (cf. preface, n. 1).

³Fr. McManus' alphabet includes the glides *w* and *y*, which are not used in the new standard orthography of Palauan. In addition, as we will see below, his rules for spelling the word-initial *ch* have been superseded: "Most words that begin with *cho*

drop the initial *ch* at times; all these words are spelled with an initial *o* in this work. But suffixed (transitive) verbs that begin with *cho* [e.g., *chochisii* 'chase it'] never drop the initial *ch*. All these verbs are spelled *cho* in this work."

⁴Fr. McManus describes *er* in his section on particles as well as in his section on prepositions.

⁵Not being a specialist in botany or zoology, I have had to rely solely on the original entries in Fr. McManus' word list and on various lists available from the Office of the Chief Conservationist, Biology Laboratory, Koror. The following have been of invaluable assistance: Demei O. Otobed, "Guide List of Plants of the Palau Islands" (mimeographed, 1971) and Robert P. Owen, "The Birds of the Palau Islands including Helen Reef" (mimeographed, 1971) (updated 1974 as *Birds of the Palau Islands Including Helen, Sonsorol, Tobi, Pulo Anna, and Merir Islands*). The current editor has no way of vouching for the correctness of the identifications or scientific terms borrowed from the aforementioned works.

⁶Readers who wish to go more deeply into the grammatical concepts introduced in this section should consult the appropriate chapters of Josephs' *Palauan Reference Grammar*.

⁷An imperfective verb is a transitive verb form which consists of the verb marker (usually *me-* or *o-*), the imperfective marker (*-l-*, *-ng-*, or *-m-*), and a verb stem, and which designates an action which is in progress and has not been brought to completion or perfection.

⁸An unpossessible noun is one which cannot take possessor suffixes—e.g., *hong* 'book' and *sensei* 'teacher'. With such nouns, possession is indicated by a phrase rather than a suffix—i.e., *hong er ngak* 'my book', *sensei er tir* 'their teacher'.

⁹An optionally possessed noun is one which may (but does not have to) occur in a possessed form—i.e., a noun which can appear independently as well as with possessor suffixes. On the other hand, an obligatorily possessed noun is one which has no independent form and must therefore always occur with a possessor suffix.

¹⁰Much of the material in this section is taken from Josephs' 1972 "Palauan Orthography—A Final Report on the Decisions of the Palau Orthography Committee" and Josephs' 1975 *Palauan Reference Grammar*, chap. 1.

¹¹The dot under the phonetic symbol [ŋ] or [n] means that this sound is pronounced as a separate syllable. Further explanation is given in the text below.

¹²For greater detail and a more complex analysis, see Josephs' *Palauan Reference Grammar*, p. 25.