Language and Culture Research Group

The Cairns Institute — James Cook University

PO Box 6811, Cairns, North Queensland, 4870, Australia

Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au **Robert.Dixon@jcu.edu.au**

Bulletin — March 2011

The **Language and Culture Research Group** (LCRG) is a unit within the newly-established **Cairns Institute**

Hannah Sarvasy, from Harvard University, will start her PhD course in May 2011. She plans to work on a comprehensive grammatical description of a previously undescribed language from Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea.

Juliane Böttger, from the University of Leipzig, starts her PhD course in July 2011. She will be working on a comprehensive grammatical description of a previously undescribed language from Papua New Guinea.

Mikko Salminen, from Leiden University, plans to commence his PhD course in August 2011. He will be working on a comprehensive grammatical description of Huave, an isolate from Mexico.

Publication Assistant

Brigitta Flick continues her careful and invaluable work in this position.

Associate Members of LCRG

• **Professor Ton Otto,** Research Leader, People and Societies of the Tropics within the Cairns Institute, is working on social change and notions of temporality and agency, with reference to Papua New Guinea and particularly the peoples of Manus Island. He also works on the question of the (in)compatibility of value systems and is involved in developing the new interdisciplinary field of design anthropology.

• **Associate Professor Rosita Henry**, from the Department of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology, and a Fellow of the Cairns Institute, is researching issues of gender politics in the Western Highlands of PNG, focusing on contradictions between customary land tenure and concepts of private property.

• **Dr Mike Wood,** Senior Lecturer in Department of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology, is a Fellow of the Cairns Institute. He is currently working on how the Kamula people from the Western Province of PNG translate the new carbon economy into their language and culture. He is also working on HIV/AIDS related issues in a logging concession in the Western Province and has just begun a project, with Rosita Henry and others, on the history of artefact collecting in the Wet Tropics region of North Queensland.

• **Professor Borut Telban**, anthropologist from the Academy of Sciences of Slovenia, is working on the language and culture of the Karawarri (Lower Sepik, PNG), He contributed to the LCRG Roundtable on Perception and Cognition, before departing for the field.

Also associated with LCRG are **Daniela Vavrová,** a PhD student in anthropology working on visual anthropology of the Karawarri, and **Emma Scott,** a PhD student in anthropology working on the ethnography and shamanism among the Piapoco (Arawak, Venezuela).

PhD student **Yankee Modi** was also awarded a fieldwork grant from the ELDP for 'Documentation of Milang, an endangered Tibeto-Burman language of North East India'.

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

• Was recipient of International Collaborative Award (The Australian Academy of the Humanities) for conducting International Workshop 'Possession and

Forthcoming Activities

Professor Claudia Maria Riehl of the University of Cologne will present a lecture at the Cairns Institute on 22 March 2001, on

Language contact and language change in German-speaking enclaves

Abstract: In contrast to other minority language speakers, members of language enclaves describe themselves as belonging to the ethnos of a linguistic motherland where the language is spoken as a majority language. This has an impact not only on language attitudes but also on the linguistic development in these particular groups. The paper will address the concept of language enclaves by comparing historical, linguistic and sociolinguistic developments and language attitudes across different constellations.

Workshop 'The roots of linguistic diversity'

This will be held on Room 113, Building E2 of the Cairns Campus, JCU.

Afternoon of Thursday 9th and all day Friday 10 June 2011

Speakers will include:

- **René van den Berg** (SIL, PNG) Pronominal systems in Austronesian languages of Papua New Guinea
- **Tianqiao (Mike) Lu:** The Tai-Kadai peoples — their languages, cultures and histories,
- **Mark Post**: Isolate substrates, realization and the internal diversity of Tibeto-Burman
- **Anne Schwarz**: The West Africa hot-spot.
- **Alexandra Aikhenvald**. Along the river and deep in the bush: linguistic diversity in the Middle Sepik area.
- **R M. W. Dixon.** The wonderful linguistic diversity there was in north-east Queensland.
- **Carol Genetti** (University of California) will summarise the results of the Workshop.

Undergraduate Course in Linguistics at JCU

A new course *AN2009, Anthropological Linguistics,* is being taught at the Cairns Campus during First Semester 2011. Lectures 11.00-12.50, tutorials 2.00-2.50 each Wednesday.

Alexandra Aikhenvald is Course Co-ordinator, with lectures also given by R. M. W. Dixon, Mark Post and Anne Schwarz.

Recent and forthcoming books

AUTHORED

Imperatives and commands, by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xx, 500 pages. 2010.

> This is the first cross-linguistic study of imperatives and commands of other kinds, across the world's languages. It makes a significant and original contribution to the understanding of their morphological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic characteristics.

The book was launched by Professor Sandra Harding, Vice-Chancellor and President of James Cook University, on Friday 1st October 2010 (within the International Workshop 'Possession a

Language at large. Essays in semantics and syntax, by A. Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon. Leiden: Brill. Forthcoming in mid 2011.

A collection of 18 papers — seven by Aikhenvald (one with Diana Green), eight by Dixon and three jointly written. Five are published for the first time, with the remainder being variously revised and enlarged from their original journal publication.

Topics include: 'versatile cases', 'causatives which do not cause', 'non-ergative associations between S and O', 'dependencies between grammatical systems', 'word-class changing derivations, 'speech reports', 'semi-direct speech', 'naive linguistic explanation', 'multiple marking of syntactic function and polysynthetic nouns in Tariana', 'Palikur and the typology of classifiers', 'zero and nothing in Jarawara', and a number of essays on English grammar and lexicology.

EDITED

The Expression of Information Structure: A Documentation of its Diversity Across Africa (Typological Studies in Language 91), edited by Ines Fiedler and Anne Schwarz. Amsterdam: J

PAPERBACK REISSUES and TRANSLATION

Changing valency, Case studies in transitivity, edited by R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. xvi, 413 pp. 2010. Paperback reissue of 2000 hardback.

A grammar of Yidiñ

What happened in LCRG during 2010

Honorary Doctorate for Ernie Grant

At the JCU Degree Ceremony in the Convention Centre, Cairns, on Saturday 17 April 2010, the Honorary Doctor of Letters degree was bestowed on Ernie Grant, Jirrbal Elder and founder of the Echo Creek Cultural Centre.

Since 1991 Ernie Grant has been Cultural Research Officer within the State Department of Education, based in Cairns. He has worked tirelessly to educate the people of North Queensland concerning Aboriginal cultural traditions and values. He has run Workshops right across the State (and indeed in every other State) on a Holistic Planning and Teaching Framework, which relates together Land, Language and Culture, conceptualised in terms of Time, Place and Relationships. He has worked on curriculum development, designed a Teaching and Learning Framework for teachers working with indigenous pupils, and given extensive support to School Support Centres.

Ernie Grant has also worked with the National Library in Canberra, with the Museum of South Australia and with the Tasmanian Education Department on matters of access and establishing cross-cultural perspectives.

All in all, he has made an immense contribution to the North Queensland — and indeed, the entire Australian — community.

Dr Grant's 'Occasional Address' on receiving this award is included towards the end of the Bulletin.

Workshop: History in the Making

Workshop was held on Friday 21 May 2010, as part of celebrations for the fortieth anniversary of James Cook University's foundation.

Papers presented were:

- Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. The white man cometh: Indigenous image of the invader
- R. M. W. (Bob) Dixon. Origin legends: Reality and re-interpretation
- Ton Otto. History for the Future: Indigenous history and social change in Manus, PNG
- Ernie Grant. The history of survival
- John Molony (Australian National University). James Cook: In search of the discoverer

International Workshop: Possession and Ownership

The Tenth International Workshop organised by Aikhenvald and Dixon was held at the Cairns Camus of JCU, 27 September - 2 October 2010.
The following papers were presented

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (CI, JCU) 'Possession and ownership: a cross-linguistic perspective'

Anne Storch (University of Cologne) 'Possession in Jukun (Benue-Congo family)'

Felix Ameka (University of Leiden) 'Possession in Likpe (Kwa family)'

Mark Post (CI, JCU) 'Possession in Galo (Tibeto-Burman)'

Isabelle Bril (CNRS, Paris) 'Possession and ownership in Nêlêmwa (Oceanic branch of Austronesian)'

Gloria Gravelle (Free University, Amsterdam) 'Possession in Moskona (Papuan region)'

Yongxian Luo (University of Melbourne) 'Possession in Chinese, with notes on Zhuang (Tai family)'

Tianqiao (Mike) Lu (CI, JCU) 'Possession in Maonan (Tai-Kadai)'

Lev Michael (University of California, Berkeley) 'Possession in Nanti (Arawak family)'

Anne Schwarz (CI, JCU) 'Possession in Buli (Gur family)'

Rosita Henry (JCU) 'Being and belonging: exchange relations and land ownership in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea'

Michael Wood (JCU) 'Possessing the wind: Kamula property interests in the new carbon economy'

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (CI, JCU) 'Possession and ownership in Manambu (Ndu family, Sepik region, Papua New Guinea).

Inaugural lecture

Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald

presented her inaugural public lecture

To be a linguist: a polyglot and a language scholar

Public lectures by Visiting Academics

Nicholas Evans. Australian National University

23 June 2010.

The Languages of Southern New Guinea: an unexplored hotspot

A video of the lecture is available at
http://www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/info/resources/JCUPRD1_061074.html

Catherine E. Travis, University of New Mexico, and LCRG, CI, JCU

6 August 6, 2010

The patterning of "I", Prosody in discourse

[Jointly with Rena Torres Cacoullos, Pennsylvania State University]

Lourens de Vries, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, and LCRG, CI, JCU

27 August 2010

After-death demons, cannibalistic witches and normal persons. Social personhood and person-reference practices among Awyu-Ndumut speaking clans of Indonesian West-Papua

A video of the lecture is available at
http://www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/info/resources/JCUPRD1_063821.html

Henry Y. Chang, Academia Sinica, Taiwan and LCRG, CI, JCU

3 September 2010

Argument realization and marking in Tsou

Anvita Abbi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and LCRG, CI, JCU

8 November 2010.

The Endangered languages of the Andaman Islands: Reconstructing the knowledge-base of the Pre-Neolithic tribes of India

A video of the lecture is available at

http://www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/info/resources/JCUPRD1_068446.html

.

Activities of LCRG members during 2010

These are additional to items mentioned on previous pages.

Professor Anvita Abbi

grammar, sketch ethnography and analysis of the cultural and environmental shaping of the Milang language.

Chia-jung Pan is continuing his PhD dissertation on Lha'alua (Saaroa), a severely endangered Formosan language from Taiwan. He presented a number of talks at the LCRG Roundtable meetings, covering reduplication, lexical number words and counting

Dineke Schokkin started her PhD course in May 2010, and undertook a preliminary fieldtrip to the Baluan island, to work on the Paluai language (Oceanic). She worked intensively on mastering basic linguistic theory and successfully presented her confirmation seminar (judged as 'outstanding') discussing the classification, sociolinguistic situation and preliminary information on Paluai. She is now on a lengthy span of fieldwork on Baluan.

Dr Anne Schwarz undertook five months fieldwork (commencing in February) on the Secoya language in Ecuador. Since returning from the field, she has been working on the documentation and preparation of a grammar of Secoya. She gave a number of presentations within LCRG and the following outside talks:

• 'Translating between languages and disciplines', at the Fest of the Faculty of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, JCU, Townsville, 5 November.

• 'The Reference-Modification Interface in Adjectives', at the Amazonicas III Conference in Bogota, Colombia, 19-24 April 2010).

• 'Specificity and number in the noun-class systems of Buli and Konni' at the. Syntax of the World's Languages 4 Conference, Lyon, 23-26 September.

• 'On Non-prosodic Predicate-centered Focus Strategies' at the Workshop on Predicate-centered Focus Types, bold

a(be 79.0vari(ArtAnHnre Faculty o007 Tc --00070 Tw -16.7

used English. While with us, she made a study of patterns of pitch accent (sentence-level stress / prominence) on *I*, as a first-step in tackling the question of just what is equivalent between Spanish and English first person singular expression, and how that might affect patterns of convergence. Besides her talks at JCU she also gave the following presentations.

• 'The interaction of general and local patterns in discourse: Pitch accented I' (jointly with Rena Torres Cacoullos), at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Australian Linguistic Society, University of Queensland, Brisbane, July 8.

• 'Convergence via code-switching? Spanish *Yo* and English *I* in New Mexico', at the Australian National University in August.

Professor Lourens de Vries of the Free University, Amsterdam, was a Cairns Institute Distinguished Visiting Fellow, June-August 2010. he is a leading expert on the languages and cultures of New Guinea. While with us, he worked on three research topics that are crucial to his forthcoming book *The Awyu-Ndumut languages of West Papua in their linguistic and cultural contexts.* These are: diachronic linguistics of Awyu-Ndumut languages; areal and typological contexts of the languages, especially in relation to the expression of perception and cognition; and anthropological linguistics of Awyu-Ndumut languages, especially (a) in relation to the linguistic construction of personhood; (b) the linguistic consequences of clan-dominated social structures.

Emanating from his work at JCU, de Vries gave a talk on 'Bound morphology and language relations in New Guinea; reconstructing trajectories towards switch reference and clause chaining' to the International Conference of the European Linguistic Society in Vilnius, Lithuania, 2-5 September 2010.

He also presented two lectures at the ANU, 20 August 2010:

• 'From clause conjoining to clause chaining in the Ndumut languages of Indonesian West-Papua'.

• 'Speaking of clans. Language in Awyu-Ndumut communities of Indonesian West Papua'.

Dr Defen Yu from the University of Melbourne was at LCRG as a Visiting Fellow, 21 December- 20 January 2011, working on kinship terminology in a number of Tibeto-Burman languages, and a variety of grammatical topics in Lisu. She spoke at LCRG on 'Grammatical encoding of kinship relations and kin ranking in some Tibeto-Burman languages'.

Sihong Zhang commenced his PhD course, to work on a grammar of Ersu, a previously undescribed Tibeto-Burman language from south-west China. He worked intensively on mastering basic linguistic theory and successfully presented his confirmation seminar (judged as 'outstanding'), discussing the classification, sociolinguistic situation and preliminary information on Ersu. He is currently undertaking a lengthy span of fieldwork.

Publications by members of LCRG — 2010 and forthcoming

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

2010 *Imperatives and commands.* xx, 500 pp. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2010 *Language contact in Amazonia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xv, 363 pp. Paperback edition, with revisions, of 2002 hardback.

2010 *The Manambu language of East Sepik, Papua New Guinea*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xxvi, 702 pp. plus 8 black-and-white plates. Paperback edition, with revisions, of 2008 hardback.

2010 'Gender and noun class in Paumarí in a typological perspective'. *Linguistics and archeology in the Americas*, edited by E. B. Carlin and Simon van de Kerke. Leiden: Brill, pp. 236-52.

2010 'Language contact and pragmatic notions: Tariana in the light of language contact', pp. 17-38 of *Information structure in languages of the Americas*, edited by Liliana Sanchez and José Camacho. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

2010 'The social life of a language: will Manambu survive?'. pp. 13-28 of *New Perspectives on Endangered Languages. Bridging gaps between sociolinguistics, documentation and language revitalization*, by Flores Farfán, José Antonio and Fernando Ramallo (eds.) [CLU 1], Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

2010 'Mood', in *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language Sciences*, edited by Patrick Hogan. Cambridge: Cambridge viA:s0-6(04 Tc -0.000e Sciences,)]TJ/TT0 1 Tf0r1ices, anguage .082 0 T

morphosyntactic studies, edited by Claudine Chamoreau and Isabelle Bril. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
forthcoming. 'The grammaticalization of evidentiality', to appear in *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*, edited by Bernd Heine and Heiko Narrog. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
forthcoming. 'Migrations of the Amazonian peoples', *Encyclopedia of migrations*, edited by Peter Bellwood, Routledge-Wiley (commissioned June 2010).
forthcoming. 'Sentence types', to appear in *Oxford Handbook of mood and modality*, edited by I. Nuyts et al. Oxford: Oxford University Press (contract signed June 2010).
forthcoming. '"Double talk": parallel structures in the songs of the Middle Sepik area of Papua New Guinea', International Workshop 'Strategies of Translation: language contact and poetic language', 17 – 18 December 2010, Institut für Linguistik – Abt. Historisch-Vergl. Sprachwissenschaft, University of Cologne.

Alexandra Y Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon
2011 *Language at large. Essays in semantics and syntax.* Leiden: Brill.

R. M. W. Dixon
2010 *Basic linguistic theory*, Volume 1 — *Methodology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xvi, 382 pp.
2010 *Basic linguistic theory*, Volume 2 — *Grammatical topics*. Oxford: Oxford University. xviii, 489 pp.
2010 *I am a linguist.* Leiden: Brill. xvi, 391 pp. plus 24 colour plates.
2010 *A grammar of Yidiñ.* Paperback reissue of 1977 hardback. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2010 'Gradual loss of a gender contrast', pp. 302-7 of *Studies in linguistics and semiotics*, edited by Tatiana M. Nikolaeva. Moscow: Jazyki slavjanskikh kultur.
2010 Chinese translation by Zhu Xiaonong, Yan Zhincheng, Jiao Lei, Zhang Caicai and Hong Ying of *The rise and fall of languages*. Beijing: Beijing University Press. Original from Cambridge University Press, 1997.
2011 *A grammar of Jarawara, from southern Amazonia.* Oxford: Oxford University Press. xxiii, 636 pp. plus 8 black-and-white plates. (Paperback edition with revisions of 2004 hardback).
2011 *The languages of Australia*, by R. M. W Dixon. (Cambridge Library Collection.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. xxii, 547 pp. Paperback reissue of 1980 hardback.
2011 *Searching for Aboriginal languages, memoirs of a field worker* (Cambridge Library Collection.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ix, 333 pp. Paperback edition of book originally published (in hard and paper editions) by University of Queensland Press in 1984, and then reprinted (in paperback) by Chicago University Press in 1989.
2012 *Basic linguistic theory*, Volume 3 —*Further grammatical topics.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
2011 Editors of *The semantics of clause linking, a cross-linguistic typology* (*Explorations in linguistic typology* vol 5). Oxford: Oxford University Press. xviii, 410 pp. (Paperback edition with revisions of 2009 hardback).

In 1957 the last rainforest Aboriginal camp at Guba was burnt down, and the people sent to Palm Island. At that time Palm Island was used as a prison for Aboriginal people. Their only crime was that they lived in a rainforest.

These days things are thankfully, quite different. I'm more likely to be asked permission for development on our country than being removed from it. There is a lot more respect for Aboriginal people and a lot more interest and respect for our culture.

My work today centres on the preservation of our language, history and culture. As part of the preservation of our culture I had to undergo a shift from my oral traditions for transferring knowledge to the western written methods. The first time I was involved in seeing our stories in print was when Mrs. Gladys Henry asked for information to help write her book 'Girru Gurril'. I was very reluctant to help her as I found it strange that a white woman would be writing about Aboriginal stories. This was the first time that anyone had documented them. I didn't realise at the time how crucial it was to preserve the local cu

Speech made on 1st October 2010 by

Professor Sandra Harding

Vice-Chancellor and President of James Cook Universe

to launch *Imperatives and commands* by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

First, thank you, Sasha, for asking me to launch your book today. I consider it a great honour and a pleasure.

Indeed, one of the great pleasures of being a Vice Chancellor is that, from time to time and now and then, I have the opportunity to gain some small insight into the academic work undertaken at the University.

This may surprise you. Of course, one of the wonders of working at a University is that there are so many people who are absolutely dedicated, committed to their discipline, to advancing and sharing new knowledge and preparing the next generation of professionals and academics to take their particular area of expertise to the next level, to the next place in the development of thought, understanding and practice.

Across James Cook University, everyday, people are simply getting on with their work doing just that. We see it in the classrooms, in the labs and offices, through the various scholarly publications and reports in the popular press, in the seminars that are run across the University where JCU academics and visitors present their ideas and findings. I don't get to enough of those seminars, mindful though that I can put people off a bit sometimes.

But it isn't too often that academics from vastly different fields read each other's work. It is hard enough keeping on top of developments in one's own discipline or even sub-discipline. I was thinking about this just this week as I organized some of my favorite 'classic' books in my own field into a new bookcase in my office.

So it is a rarer pleasure than you might think to have the opportunity to read at some level of detail, and attempt to understand and fully appreciate, the work of a colleague from a different field. This is true for Vice-chancellors and for academics more generally.

But in preparation for today, I have had the pleasure of being challenged to read and understand a work in a field about which I know nothing, though it turns out I could draw connections with my own discipline of sociology.

It was a very special pleasure to read Sasha Aikhenvald's recent book.

Now, as I say, I know nothing about linguistics, let alone imperatives, their grammar and their meanings, apart from those I've delivered or have been subject to from time to time.

Sasha's book opened up a whole new world to me. It is a world of great clarity about how this particular aspect of language works. In the first chapter, Sasha lays the groundwork for her analysis.

She raises the example of the 'bossy woman' using a quick imperative tone (not me) and identifies differences between an imperative and a command, noting later that those who overuse imperatives in English are liable to be seen as bossy or unpleasant (p.303).

I learned that imperatives can be requests and entreaties, delivered as advice, warnings or instructions, ultimatums or good wishes (p.199). They can be ironic too (p.252).

She points out that 'imperative' is a category in language and 'command' is a parameter in the real world, in much the same way that 'time' in the real world translates into 'tense' when expressed in a language. But imperative structures are commands par excellence.

Hers is "a study of cross-linguistic patterns of imperatives, and of non-imperative ways of phrasing commands, that is, of directives in general."

The key questions in this study are identified as follows (p.9):

x

- And what happens to them under tragic circumstances known as language dissolution, in aphasia and such like?
- Where do imperatives come from?
- How do they fare in language contact situations?

Noting previous work, and particularly the absence of any cross-linguistic account, these are the questions Sasha seeks to answer. She is systematic in her approach. Hers is a very logical, a very tidy, approach. Knowing her, I'm not surprised about that.

Sasha shows how imperatives are used and how they appear or are delivered in language, including sign language.

She examines canonical (second person) and non-canonical (first or third person) imperatives.

The chapter (5) on negative imperatives was very interesting - Sasha notes that every language of the world has a way of telling someone not to do something, (p.165), but goes on to explore the vast differences in this.

In addition to analyses of the spoken language, she provides examples of pictorial command strategies (Sydney hotel room notice "I'm sleeping" rather than the usual "do not disturb"). My personal favorite of this type was at the HardRock hotel in San Diego where the sign to put on your door, designed to have the same effect, read 'Not now. My ego needs a rest'.

Other imperatives we live by are covered in chapter 9. The red circle with a diagonal line over almost anything means don't or no.

Personally I loved to read that the actual effect of an imperative may depend on the tone of voice, the context and the content.

Indeed in some languages the only way you can distinguish between a command and a statement is the intonation (p.89).

In my own professional life I've always said you can say anything, deliver any hard message, have it heard and understood, as long as you are using the right tone of voice. In Sasha's more precise language, a “face-threatening act” can be disarmed by tone and the use of particular imperative strategies. (p.256).

The study examines imperatives in contact, in particular how imperatives have changed over time and place and in interaction between language groups.

There is sociology here and also in the interesting observation that "Changing gender roles may in future affect the linguistic system." (p.392)

Towards the end of this work, Sasha makes plain, even to me, that there is much more work to be done. She writes that there is a treasure-trove of possibilities here as that which is known covers a "smattering" of languages and there are many, many questions not even approaching resolution.

Indeed, early on I learned that only one tenth of all human languages have been documented so far (p.12) and I imagine that it is only a fraction of those that have been subject to the analysis that Sasha undertook in this fine work.

It was in this last, excellent chapter that, as a lay person, I could begin to understand the richness of this work and the field of possibilities that Sasha's work leads to.

The breadth of examples in this cross-linguistic study is impressive. Sasha is clear that this study isn't the last word, but as the first study of its particular type, it must represent a gigantic contribution to the field.

I was particularly taken with the Appendix, providing assistance to fieldworkers by means of a checklist, so that others could labour productively in better analysing and understanding imperatives and commands.

Congratulations, Sasha on your important work that is evidenced in this fine publication. I enjoyed reading it and thank you again from honoring me by asking me to officially launch your latest book.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, it is with great pleasure that I officially launch "Imperatives and Commands" by Alexandra Aikhenvald.

I have just one more thing to say to you all: Read this book!

Thank you.