

Linguistics & Modern Languages, SHSS, UPNG

GENESUTRA



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A COURSE IN DIALECTICAL LINGUISTICS

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By Way of Introduction:

I am a graduate of the Philology Faculty of the Moscow State University (USSR). My teaching experience spans many academic areas and several continents; having taught a variety of philology and linguistics courses in my native Latvia, as well as in Russia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria (West Africa), I was fortunate to land in the most linguistically diverse country in the entire world – Papua New Guinea.

Here in Port Moresby, my intense interest in Human Language and its role in human cognitive development and in society generally grew and matured in the fertile soil of linguistic and cultural diversity of Papua New Guinea. Since March 2000, I have taught numerous linguistics courses at the UPNG, among them

- Introduction to Linguistics,
- Language, Power & Development,
- Language, Culture & History,
- Linguistic Analysis,
- Applied Linguistics,
- Introduction to Sociolinguistics,
- Readings in Linguistics,
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- Survey of Linguistic Theories,
- Comparative Linguistics,
- Semantics & Pragmatics,

as well as communication courses, such as Business Communication A & B and Executive Communication.

This exciting opportunity to teach a wide variety of linguistic courses stimulated my thinking and enriched my understanding of Language. Snapshots of detail provided by specialized linguistic analyses gradually coalesced into a holistic, dialectical view of language which I want to share with you in *Genesutra*.

The shift in perspective from close-up detail to a comprehensive, wide-angle view of Language resulted in a fundamental overhaul of the Introduction to Linguistics course at UPNG. *Genesutra* presents the gist of the course which has stirred up a lot of interest amongst the students of the University of Papua New Guinea.

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