

# himalayan linguistics

A free refereed web journal and archive devoted to the study of the  
languages of the Himalayas

## Himalayan Linguistics

---

*In Memoriam: Robbins Burling, 1926 - 2021*

**Mark W. Post**

University of Sydney

**Steve Burling**

University of Michigan

## KEYWORDS

Garó language, northeast India, obituaries

This is a contribution from *Himalayan Linguistics*, Vol. 19(3): 46-56.

ISSN 1544-7502

© 2020. All rights reserved.

This Portable Document Format (PDF) file may not be altered in any way.

Tables of contents, abstracts, and submission guidelines are available at  
[escholarship.org/uc/himalayanlinguistics](http://escholarship.org/uc/himalayanlinguistics)

# *In Memoriam* *Robbins Burling, 1926 – 2021*

**Mark W. Post**  
University of Sydney

**Steve Burling**  
University of Michigan

Robbins Burling, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Linguistics at the University of Michigan, passed away peacefully on January 2, 2021, at the age of 94 after a full, rich life. A giant in the fields of anthropological linguistics, language evolution and language pedagogy, Burling was particularly known for his pioneering work in ethnography and linguistics of northeastern India, where he conducted his doctoral fieldwork and to where he returned for research visits until the latter years of his life. Burling's work has played a seminal role in the development of Trans-Himalayan (Tibeto-Burman) linguistics, inspiring generations of scholars and producing some of the field's most formative works.

Robbins Burling (Rob; he disliked being called "Dr." or "Professor") was born on April 18, 1926 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the oldest of three children born to Dr. F. Temple and Katherine White Burling. He grew up in Illinois, New Jersey and Rhode Island, but considered himself a Midwesterner at heart. After graduating high school in 1944 he entered the Navy and served two years as a Radar Technician. He earned a bachelor's degree from Yale (1950) on the G.I. bill, then spent a year working and traveling around the world, an experience he treasured for the rest of his life.

After returning to the US in 1951, Rob married his college sweetheart, Sibyl Straub, and began work on his Ph.D. (Harvard 1958). In 1954, he received a Ford Foundation Scholarship that took him and his young family to northeast India for two years to study and work with the Garo of Rengsanggri, leading to many life-long friendships and the beginning of his prolific writing career. After completing his doctorate, he worked at the University of Pennsylvania as an instructor before receiving a Fulbright Scholarship in 1959, which took the family to Burma for a year at the University of Rangoon. He returned to Penn as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Assistant Curator of General Ethnology at the University Museum at Penn.

These early years of Rob's career saw the publication of several groundbreaking works in linguistics and anthropology, including *A Garo Grammar* (1961) – the first modern grammar of a northeast Indian language; a reconstruction of Proto-Bodo (in *Language*, 1959) – the first reconstruction of a Trans-Himalayan language at the subgroup level; a pioneering study of early child language acquisition in a minority language setting (in *Word*, 1959); a monograph *Rengsanggri: Family and Kinship in a Garo Village* (1963); a popular textbook *Hill Farms and Padi Fields: Life in Mainland Southeast Asia* (1965, re-issued in 1992); and an influential reconstruction of Proto-Lolo-Burmese in 1967.

In 1963, Rob received a one-year Fellowship to the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. In 1964 he joined the University of Michigan as an associate professor of anthropology. In 1966 he became professor of linguistics and anthropology, and associate of the Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies. In 1971, Rob received a Guggenheim Fellowship which took the family to Toulouse, France for a year. In 1979-80 he was a visiting professor at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. After returning to Michigan, Rob served as interim director of the (then new) Program in Linguistics from 1985-86. He retired from Michigan as Emeritus Professor in 1995.

Throughout his career, Rob Burling's work has been marked by an uncompromising scholarly excellence, a product of its solid empirical grounding in first-hand field data, as well as Rob's trademark methodological rigor. Rob published more than 130 articles, chapters and reviews across the fields of social and cultural anthropology, descriptive and historical linguistics, language pedagogy and linguistic theory. In many of these works, he engaged in some of the major debates of his era, especially regarding the nature and origin of human language.

Yet all who knew Rob could not fail to also be impressed by the palpable love he felt for the northeast Indian region, its people, and their languages, and this sense of love and joyful intimacy pervaded his work. His lifelong fascination with the Garo language culminated with a 2004 three-volume study *The Language of the Modhupur Mandi (Garo)*, which uniquely presented a modern, comprehensive analysis of Garo grammar and lexicon in a highly accessible prose style. His fascination with language evolution culminated around the same time in a popular volume *The Talking Ape: How Language Evolved* (2005). And Rob's skill as a teacher is nowhere better epitomized than by his 1992 introductory linguistics textbook *Patterns of Language* – which many linguists feel remains one of the best, and most accessible, linguistics textbooks ever written.

After retirement Rob continued to travel (he made it to all seven continents) and write. In 2016, Rob was honored with a Festschrift just before his 90th birthday at the 8th International conference of the North East Indian Linguistics Society (NEILS) – a conference Rob had attended faithfully since its inception in 2005. That same year he also published a treatise on spelling, *Spellbound*, written from his lifetime perspective of being a self-professed “terrible speller”. Rob was renowned for his concise, unpretentious, and accessible writing, but it was not until his happy discovery in college that a bad speller could still be a good writer that he began to write in earnest.

Rob loved his work and enjoyed the travel that it entailed, but he also loved working with his hands and was very proud of the fact that he not only designed his own house and two cabins, but that he built them himself, with the help of his son, occasionally roping in other family and unsuspecting friends. The family gatherings and activities every summer at a lake in Northern Ontario were also a source of deep pleasure. It was there that Rob grew to love canoeing and he remained an avid canoeist until nearly the end of his life, winning two gold medals at the age of 79 in the Michigan Senior Olympics. He was proud of his family, pleased that he had known seven generations, and that after the birth of his great granddaughter, was able to appear in his fourth four-generation photo.

Rob was predeceased by his wife Sibyl, his partner Anne Hvenekilde of Oslo, Norway, his brother James and his sister Helen. He is survived by his partner Sheila Procter and her family in England, his children, Stephen (Deborah), Helen “Nono” (Charles Pitz) and Adele (Fritz Yunck), four grandsons and a great granddaughter, several beloved nieces and nephews and daughter-in-spirit Beth Genne (Allan Gibbard) in the US. In Norway he is survived by Anne's children, Karin and Audun Hvenekilde and their families.

In Rob's passing, we have lost one of the finest friends, colleagues, mentors, and family members that it seems possible to have. Yet we are grateful for the many memories, and the many great works that he has left us. Rob will be deeply missed by his family and friends around the world and across all walks of life, by the many students that he mentored and by the colleagues with whom he worked.

Further reading: *Language and Culture in Northeast India and Beyond: In Honor of Robbins Burling* (available for free download at <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/38458>) contains an Introduction which provides more information about Rob Burling's life and work, as well as a chapter by James A. Matisoff which offers a detailed critical assessment of several of Rob's contributions to Trans-Himalayan linguistics from a specialist's perspective. It also contains several photographs, and a (hopefully) comprehensive bibliography of Burling's publications, updated and reprinted below. Another useful source which looks back on Burling's career as an anthropologist is Brereton, Derek P. (2006). "A fair reflection: The 'dirt anthropology' of Robbins Burling". In D. P. Brereton, Ed. *Retrospectives: Works and Lives of Michigan Anthropologists* 16(1): 248–276.

## REFERENCES

### TRANS-HIMALAYAN ANTHROPOLOGY

1956. "Garo kinship terminology." *Man in India* 36: 203–218.
1958. *Garo marriage and matrilineal descent*. PhD Thesis, Harvard University.
1958. "Garo avuncular authority and matrilineal cross-cousin marriage". *American Anthropologist* 60(4): 743–749. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1958.60.4.02a00130>
1959. "Review of *Secret lands where women reign* by Gabrielle Bertand". *American Anthropologist* 61(1): 143. DOI: <https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1525/aa.1959.61.1.02a00420>
1960. "An incipient caste system in the Garo Hills". *Man in India* 40: 51–60.
1961. "Boys of the yellow robe". *Expedition: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology* 3(3): 2013. <https://www.penn.museum/documents/publications/expedition/PDFs/3-3/Boys.pdf>
1961. "Review of *Social Structure in Southeast Asia* ed. by George Peter Murdock". *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 335: 210.
1962. "Review of *Social research in East Pakistan* ed. by Pierre Bessaignet". *American Anthropologist* 64(2): 419–420. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1962.64.2.02a00420>
1963. "Garo kinship terms and the analysis of meaning". *Ethnology* 2(1): 70–85. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/3772969>
1963. *Rengsanggri: Family and kinship in a Garo village*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.9783/9781512814972>
1963. "Review of *The Apa Tanis and their neighbours: A primitive civilization of the eastern Himalayas* by Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf". *American Anthropologist* 65(4): 957–958. DOI: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/668976>
1964. "Garos". In: Frank M. Labar, Gerald C. Hickey, and John K. Musgrave (Eds.), *Ethnic groups of mainland Southeast Asia*, 55–57. New Haven: Human Relations Area Files Press.

1964. "Review of *The Akas* by Raghuvir Sinha; *The Gallongs* by L. R. N. Srivastava". *American Anthropologist* 66(3): 696–697. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/668900>
1964. "Review of *Hindus of the Himalayas* by Gerald Berreman". *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 350: 164.
1965. "Burmese kinship terminology". *American Anthropologist* 67(5): 106–117. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1965.67.5.02a00740>
1965. *Hill farms and padi fields: Life in mainland Southeast Asia*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall Inc.
1967. "Tribesmen and lowlanders of Assam". In: Peter Kundstadter (Ed.), *Southeast Asian tribes, minorities, and nations* [Volume I.], 215–229. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
1980. "Foreword". In Dharendra Narayan Majumdar, *A study in culture change in two Garo villages in Meghalaya*. Gauhati: Gauhati University Press.
1980. "Return to Rengsanggri". In T.C. Sharma and D.N. Majumdar (Eds.), *Eastern Himalayas: Felicitations volume for Professor M.C. Goswami*, 4–10. New Delhi: Cosmo Publications.
1984. "Review of *The Kammu Year: Its lore and music* by Kristina Lindell, Håkan Lundström, Jan-Olof Svantesson, and Damrong Tayanin". *Ethnos* 49(1–2): 135–137.
1985. "Garo marriage to the wife's daughter: Further support for the Westermarck Hypothesis for the origin of the incest taboo". *American Anthropologist* 87(1): 130–133. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/677671>
1986. "Where did the Mandi come from?" (in Bengali).
1986. "Understanding a Mandi story". *Cultural Anthropology* 1(2): 188–202. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/656266>
1988. "Garo beliefs in the afterlife". In: Sven Cederroth, C. Corlin, J. Lindstrom, and Maurice Bloch, (Eds.), *On the meaning of death: Essays on mortuary rituals and eschatological beliefs*, 31–62. Uppsala: Coronet Books Inc. [Uppsala Studies in Cultural Anthropology No. 8].
1990. "My hopes for the Mandi" (in Bengali).
1992. *Hill farms and padi Fields: Life in mainland Southeast Asia*. [2nd edition.] Phoenix: Program for Southeast Asian Studies, Arizona State University. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/2051086>
1997. *The strong women of Modhupur*. Dhaka: University Press Ltd.
1998. "Assimilation and separatism: Acceptance and rejection of Bengali influence by the Mandi of Bangladesh". In: Enayet Rahim (Ed.), *Contributions to Bengal studies: An interdisciplinary and international approach*, 397–406. Dhaka: Pustaka.
1998. "The border that divides the Garos". In: Manis Kumar Raha and Alope Kumar Ghosh (Eds.), *North-East India: The human interface*, 345–363. New Delhi: Gyan Books.
1998. *Rengsanggri: Family and kinship in a Garo village*. [2nd edition.] Tura: Tura Book Room.
1998. "Return to Rengsanggri". *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* 1(2): 21– 45.
1998. "Mandi men and Mandi women" (in Bengali). In: Willem van Schendel and Ellen Bal (Eds.), *Banglar bobujati: Bangali chhara banglar onnanyo jatir proshongo*, 207–221. Calcutta: International Centre for Bengal Studies.
2003. "Where did the Garos come from?" In: Minionette Momin (Ed.), *Readings in history and culture of the Garos: Essays in honour of Milton S. Sangma*, 57–76. New Delhi: Regency Publications.
2007. "Language, ethnicity and migration in North-Eastern India". *Journal of South Asian Studies* 30(3): 391–404. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856400701714039>
2011. "Review of *Kinship in Southeastern Asia* by Paul Benedict. [STEDT Monograph 6.]" *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 34(1): 135–138. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15144/ltba-34.1.135>

2011. "Review of *Unruly Hills: Nature and nation in India's northeast* by Bengt G. Karlsson". *Millennial Asia* 2(1): 136–139. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/097639961100200111>
2012. "Where did the question 'Where did my tribe come from?' come from?" In: Toni Huber and Stuart Blackburn (Eds.), *Origins and migrations in the extended eastern Himalaya*, 49–62. Leiden: Brill. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004228368\\_005](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004228368_005)

#### GENERAL ANTHROPOLOGY

1961. "Review of *Culture in history: Essays in honor of Paul Radin* edited by Stanley Diamond". *American Anthropologist* 63(4): 838–841.
1962. "Maximization theories and the study of economic anthropology". *American Anthropologist* 64(4): 802–821. (Reprinted in Bobs-Merrill Reprint Series; Raymond Firth (Ed.), *Themes in economic anthropology*; Jesse D. Jennings (Ed.), *Readings in anthropology*; Leclair and Harold Schneider (Eds.), *Economic anthropology* and in Italian Translation; J. B. Kernan (Ed.), *Comparative marketing systems: A cultural approach*; Peter B. Hammond (Ed.), *Anthropology: Readings on man and culture*; French Translation: Maurice Godelier (Ed.), *Un domaine contesté: l'anthropologie économique*; Swedish translation: Norstedt and Soners Forlag.) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1962.64.4.02a00090>
1962. "Review of *Biennial Review of Anthropology*, 1961. ed. by Bernard J. Siegel". *American Anthropologist* 64(6): 1318–1320. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1962.64.6.02a00210>
1962. "Review of *Matrilineal kinship* ed. by David M. Schneider and Kathleen Gough". *Science* 135(3501): 363. DOI: [10.1126/science.135.3501.363](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.135.3501.363)
1962. "A structural restatement of Njamal kinship terminology". *Man* 62(201): 122–124. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/2797628>
1964. "Cognition and componential analysis: God's truth or hocus-pocus?" *American Anthropologist* 66(1): 20–28. (Reprinted in Bobs-Merrill Reprint Series; D. Kaplan and R. Manners (Eds.), *Culture theory* and in Spanish and Portuguese translations; Morton H. Fried (Ed.), *Readings in anthropology*; S. A. Tyler (Ed.), *Cognitive anthropology*; K. Yano Literary Agency, Japan, *Anthropology and language*; Nelson H. H. Graburn (Ed.), *Readings in kinship and social structure*.) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1964.66.1.02a00020>
1964. "Review of *Kinship and marriage in a New Guinea village* by H. I. Hogbin". *Journal of Asian Studies* 23(2): 318. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/2050165>
1965. "Review of *Language in culture and society: A reader in linguistics and anthropology* by Dell Hymes". *American Anthropologist* 67(4): 1004–1011. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/2795964>
1965. "Review of *The rise of the West: A history of the human community* by William McNiel". *American Anthropologist* 67(6): 1603–1604. DOI: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/669219>
1966. "Review of *The golden road to modernity: Village life in contemporary Burma* by Manning Nash". *American Anthropologist* 68(4): 1036–1037. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1966.68.4.02a00310>
1970. "Some remarks on the relation between social structure and ethnographic description". *Bidragen Tot de Tall-, Landen Volkenkunde* 126: 151–158. DOI: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27861091>
1970. "American kinship terms once more". *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 26: 15–24. (Reprinted in Frederick C. Gamst and Edward Norbeck (Eds.), *Ideas of culture: Sources and uses*;

- J. Jorgenson and Marcello Truzzi (Eds.), *Anthropology of American life.* DOI: [10.1086/soutjanth.26.1.3629266](https://doi.org/10.1086/soutjanth.26.1.3629266)
1971. "Review of *Positively black* by Roger D. Abrahams". *American Anthropologist* 73(6): 1370–1371. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1971.73.6.02a00630>
1973. "Impeachment – or else: The future of the presidency". *The Nation* 216(20): 617–619.
1974. *The Passage of power: Studies in political succession*. New York: Academic Press.

#### TRANS-HIMALAYAN LINGUISTICS

1956. "Lexico-statistic dating of Boro-Garo linguistic separation". *Journal of the University of Gauhati* 7: 67–73. (with P. C. Bhattacharya)
1957. "Lushai phonemics". *Indian Linguistics* 17: 148–155.
1959. "Language development of a Garo and English speaking child". *Word* 15: 45–68. (Reprinted in Aron Bar-Adon and Werner F. Leopold (Eds.), *Child language*; Evelyn Hatch (Ed.), *Second language acquisition*; Charles A. Ferguson (Ed.), *Readings in child language acquisition*.) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00437956.1959.11659683>
1959. "Proto-Bodo". *Language* 35(3): 433–453. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/411231>
1960. "Angami Naga phonemics and word list". *Indian Linguistics* 22: 51–60.
1961. *A Garo grammar*. Poona: Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute [Deccan College Monograph Series 25].
1962. "Review of *Outline of Khmu? structure* by William A. Smalley". *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 82(2): 246–249.
1963. *A generative sketch of Burmese*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania.
1965. "How to Choose a Burmese Numeral Classifier". In Melford Spiro (Ed.), *Context and meaning in cultural anthropology*, 243–264. New York: The Free Press.
1966. "The addition of final stops in the history of Maru (Tibeto-Burman)". *Language* 42(3): 581–586. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/411409>
1966. "The metrics of children's verse: A cross linguistic study". *American Anthropologist* 68(6): 1418–1441. (Reprinted at Deakin University, Victoria, Australia: *Children's literature*.) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1966.68.6.02a00040>
1966. "A problem in the phonology of Lahu". In: Ba Shin, Jean Boisselier, and A. B. Griswold (Eds.), *Essays offered to Gordon H. Luce*, 97–101. Ascona: Artibus Asiae. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1522638>
1966. "Review of *Tiddim Chin: A descriptive analysis of two texts* by Eugenie J. A. Henderson". *Journal of Asian Studies* 25(3): 547. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/2052050>
1966. "The role of meaning in the study of language: A deference of reference". *Word* 22: 138–162. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00437956.1966.11435448>
1967. *Proto Lolo-Burmese*. Bloomington: Indiana University Research Center in Anthropology, Folklore, and Linguistics, Indiana University [Publication 43].
1969. "Proto-Karen: A reanalysis". In: A. L. Becker (Ed.), *Occasional papers of the Wolfenden Society on Tibeto-Burman linguistics*. [Vol. I.], 1–116. Ann Arbor: Publications of the Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.
1971. "The historical place of Jingphaw in Tibeto-Burman". In F. K. Lehman (Ed.), *Papers on Tibeto-Burman historical and comparative linguistics from the Second Annual Meeting on Sino-Tibetan*

- Reconstruction*, 1969, 1–54. Urbana: University of Illinois [Occasional Papers of the Wolfenden Society on Tibeto-Burman Linguistics 2].
1977. “Review of *Naga Pidgin: A sociolinguistic study of inter-lingual communication pattern in Nagaland* by M. V. Sreedhar”. *Language* 53(1): 243–245. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/413075>
1980. “Review of *Variational semantics in Tibeto-Burman: The “organic” approach to linguistic comparison* by James A. Matisoff”. *Language* 56(4): 888– 891. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/413505>
1981. “Garó spelling and Garó phonology”. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 6(1): 61–81. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15144/ltba-6.1.61>
1983. “The Sal languages”. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 7(2): 1–32. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15144/ltba-6.1.61>
1985. “Noun compounding in Garó”. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 8(1): 14–42.
1992. “Garó as a minimal tone language”. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 15(2): 33–51.
1999. “A note on ‘Kamarupan’”. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 22(2): 169– 170.
1999. “Phom phonology and word list”. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 21(2): 13–42. (with L. Amon Phom). [www-personal.umich.edu/~rburling/Phom.10.pdf](http://www-personal.umich.edu/~rburling/Phom.10.pdf)
1999. “Wancho phonology and word list”. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 21(2): 43–71. (with Mankai Wanchu) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15144/ltba-21.2.43>
2000. “Personal names in a Mande (Garó) village”. *Names: A Journal of Onomastics* 48(2): 83–104. (with Anne Hvenekilde and Caroline R. Marak) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1179/nam.2000.48.2.83>
2001. “Tone correspondences among the Bodo languages”. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 24(2): 41–53. (with U. V. Joseph) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15144/ltba-24.2.41>
2003. “Garó”. In: Graham Thurgood and Randy J. LaPolla (Eds.), *The Sino-Tibetan languages*, 387–400. London: Curzon Press.
2003. “The Tibeto-Burman languages of Northeast India”. In: Graham Thurgood and Randy J. LaPolla (Eds.), *The Sino-Tibetan languages*, 169–191. London: Curzon Press.
2003. “Review of *Medieval Tibeto-Burman languages* by Christopher I. Beckwith”. *Diachronica* 20(2): 379–380.
2004. *The language of the Modhupur Mandi (Garó)*. Three Volumes: Volume I: Grammar. New Delhi: Bibliophile South Asia; Morganville: Promilla and Co. Publishers. Volume II: The Lexicon and Volume III: Glossary are available at: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~rburling> and in searchable form at: <http://name.umcl.umich.edu/bbv9808>. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3998/spobooks.bbv9808.0001.001>
2006. *Comparative phonology of the Boro-Garó languages*. Mysore: Central Institute of Indian Linguistics.
2007. “The lingua franca cycle: Implications for language shift, language change, and language classification”. *Anthropological Linguistics* 49(3–4): 207–236.
2010. “Foreword – North East India: 1954”. In: Stephen Morey and Mark W. Post (Eds.), *North East Indian linguistics* Volume 2, v–vii. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press India.
2010. “Bodo tones”. In: Stephen Morey and Mark W. Post (Eds.), *North East Indian linguistics* Volume 2, 45–58. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press India. (with U. V. Joseph)
2011. “Three meanings of ‘language’ and ‘dialect’ in North East India”. In: Gwendolyn Hyslop, Stephen Morey, and Mark W. Post (Eds.), *North East Indian linguistics* Volume 3, 35–45. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press India. (with U. V. Joseph)

2012. "The stammbaum of Boro-Garo". In: Gwendolyn Hyslop, Stephen Morey, and Mark W. Post (Eds.), *North East Indian linguistics* Volume 4, 21-35. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press India. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/UPO9789382264521.004>
2013. "The 'sixth' vowel in the Boro-Garo languages". In: Gwendolyn Hyslop, Stephen Morey, and Mark W. Post (Eds.), *North East Indian linguistics* Volume 5, 271-280. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press India. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/9789382993285.014>
2013. "Discussion note: More on 'Kamarupan'". *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 36(1): 127-129.
2017. "The Tibeto-Burman languages of Northeast India". In: Graham Thurgood and Randy J. LaPolla (Eds.), *The Sino-Tibetan languages* [2nd Edition], 213-242. London: Curzon Press. (with Mark W. Post)

#### LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, REPRESENTATION AND PEDAGOGY

1960. "Language and education in Burma". *The Educational Review, May Issue*. (Rangoon).
1968. "Review of *Language in education: The Problem in commonwealth Africa and the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent* by Julian Dakin, Brian Tiffen, and H. G. Widdowson". *Journal of South Asian Studies* 28: 415-416. DOI: [10.1163/156852176X00450](https://doi.org/10.1163/156852176X00450)
1968. "Some outlandish proposals for the teaching of foreign languages". *Language Learning* 18(1-2): 61-75. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-1770.1987.tb00390.x>
1970. "Standard colloquial and standard written English: Some implications for teaching literacy to non-standard speakers". *Florida FL Reporter, Spring/Fall Issue*.
1971. "Talking to teachers about social dialects". *Language Learning* 21(2): 221- 234. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-1770.1971.tb00061.x>
1974. "An anthropologist among the English teachers". *College Composition and Communication* 25(4): 234-242. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/356413>
1976. "Poor spellers of the world unite". *Learning* 4(7): 76-78.
1977. "An anthropological glimpse of the English teacher's world". *College English* 39(1): 18-24. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/375812>
1977. "Reply to 42nd street ware, by Edward Proffitt". *College English* 40(1): 111- 112.
1977. *Reading Français*. 446-page manuscript, University of Michigan.
1978. "An introductory course in reading French". *Language Learning* 28(1): 105- 128. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-1770.1978.tb00308.x>
1980. "Black English och halvsvåspråkighet (Black English and semilingualism)". *Flerkulturell Kompetens. Papers in Anthropological Linguistics* 7: 101-114.
1980. "Minimal kommunikationnivå i Svenska (Minimal level of communication in Swedish)". *Hemspråk och Svenska* 4: 26-31.
1981. "Machine-aided instruction in Bahasa Indonesia". In: Harris Winitz (Ed.), *The comprehension approach to foreign language instruction*, 154-160. Rowley: Newbury House Publishers. (with A. L. Becker, Patricia B. Henry, and Joyce Tomasowa)
1981. "Black English, blandsvåspråk and halvsvåspråkighet". In: Eva Ejerhed and Inger Henrusson (Eds.), *Tvåsvåspråkighet: Foredrag fran Tredje Norska Tvådspråkighet Konferens*, 39-48.
1981. *On the Way to Swedish*. 182-page manuscript, University of Michigan.

1981. "Social constraints on adult language learning". *Annals of the New York Academy of Science* 379(1: *Native Language and Foreign Language Acquisition*): 279–290. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-6632.1981.tb42015.x>
1982. *Sounding right: Comprehension based language instruction*. Rowley: Newbury House.
1982. "An upper-division writing course". *Regional Spotlight. Southern Regional Educational Board* 14(1): 4–5.
1983. "A proposal for computer-assisted instruction in vocabulary". *System* 11(2): 181–190. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/0346-251X\(83\)90029-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/0346-251X(83)90029-5)
1984. *Learning a field language*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Reprinted by Waveland Press, 2000.
1985. "Review of *Oljespråk: Språklige lovbrudd og lovlige språkbrudd pååsokkelen* (Oil language: Linguistic law breaking and lawful language breaking on the continental shelf) by Einer Flydal". *Language in Society* 14(1): 117–121. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4167612> Last accessed Feb 18, 2021.
1988. "Review of *Blessings of Babel: Bilingualism and language planning* by Einar Haugen". *American Anthropologist* 91(3): 738–739. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/414596>
1990. "Norwegian spelling and Norwegian pronunciation". *Norsk Som Andrespraak* 12: 14–25. (Oslo).
2015. *Spellbound: Untangling English spelling*. Sheffield/Bristol: Equinox.

#### LINGUISTIC THEORY AND SOCIOLINGUISTICS

1959. "Review of *Syntactic structures* by Noam Chomsky". *American Anthropologist* 61(1): 160–162. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1959.61.1.02a00600>
1964. *The cross-cultural study of semantic structure*. Final Report. Philadelphia, PA, University of Pennsylvania.
1967. "Review of *Current trends in linguistics, Vol. III, Theoretical Foundations* ed. by Thomas A. Sebeok". *American Anthropologist* 69(3-4): 406–408.
1968. "Review of *Conversations in a negro dialect*, ed. and transcribed by Bengt Loman". *American Anthropologist* 70(4): 830–831. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1968.70.4.02a00800>
1969. "Linguistics and ethnographic description". *American Anthropologist* 71(5): 817–827. Reprinted in *The Human experience: Readings in sociocultural anthropology* ed. by David H. Spain; in *Introduction to anthropology* by Warren T. Morrill. DOI: [10.1525/aa.1969.71.5.02a00030](https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1969.71.5.02a00030)
1970. *Man's many voices: Language in its cultural context*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. (Japanese translation 1974 by Osamu Takahara and Nobuyuki Honna; Ch. 9 "Black english" reprinted in Harold B. Allen and Michael Linn (Eds.), *Readings in applied linguistics III*; in Poggie, Pelto, and Pelto (Eds.), *The evolution of human adaptation*; In Margaret A. Lourie and Nancy F. Conklin (Eds.), *A Pluralistic nation*; In Jonetta Cole (Ed.), *Anthropology for the 80s.*) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1971.73.6.02a00710>
1972. "Review of *Language and mind* by Noam Chomsky". *American Anthropologist* 72(3): 681–682. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1970.72.3.02a00640>
1972. "Review of *Sociolinguistics: A brief introduction* by Joshua A. Fishman". *Language* 48(1): 233–236. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/412510>
1973. *English in black and white*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. (Ch. 8 "What Should We Do About It" reprinted in *the Florida FL Reporter*.)
1975. "Review of *Language in the inner city: Studies in the black English vernacular* by William Labov". *Language* 51(2): 505–509. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/412879>

1977. "Review of *Political language and oratory in traditional society* by Maurice Block". *American Anthropologist* 79(3): 698–700. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1977.79.3.02a00660>
1979. "Review of *Sociocultural dimensions of language change* by Ben G. Blount and Mary Sanches". *Language* 55(2): 457–460. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1979.81.4.02a00750>
1985. "Review of *Black street speech: Its history, structure, and survival* by John Baugh". *Language* 61(1): 204–206. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/413433>
1987. "Rules in linguistics and ethnography". In: James P. Spradley (Ed.), *Culture and cognition: Rules, maps, plans*, 84–99. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press.
1992. *Patterns of language: Structure, variation, change*. San Diego: Academic Press. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44487643> Last accessed Feb 18, 2021.
1993. "Review of *Lunatic lovers of language: Imaginary languages and their inventors* by Marina Yaguello and Catherine Slater". *Language* 69(1): 168–170. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/416426>
1994. "Review of *Language, culture and society: An introduction to linguistic anthropology* by Zdenek Salzman". *Language* 70(2): 354–356. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/415835>
1997. "The Norwegian disputas". *Antropognytt* 2: 8–21.
2003. "Review of *Foundations of language: Brain, meaning, grammar, evolution* by Ray Jackendoff". *Language in Society* 32(3): 415–418. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4169270> Last accessed Feb 18, 2021.
2003. "Review of *From Hand to mouth: The origins of language* by Michael W. Corballis". *Evolution of Communication* 4(2): 297–300.

#### LANGUAGE ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION

1986. "The selective advantages of complex language". *Ethology and Sociobiology*, January: 1–16. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/0162-3095\(86\)90011-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/0162-3095(86)90011-7)
1992. "Review of *The Crucial mutation for language*. Review of *Language and Species* by Derek Bickerton". *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 2(1): 81–91. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/43102153> Last accessed Feb 18, 2021.
1993. "Primate calls, human language, and nonverbal communication". *Current Anthropology* 34(1): 25–37. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1086/204132>
1993. "Reply to comments on *Primate calls, human language, and nonverbal communication*". *Current Anthropology* 34(1): 48–53.
1994. "Review of *Human universals* by Donald E. Brown". *Man* 29(3): 732–733.
1995. "Review of *On the origin of language: Studies in linguistic taxonomy* by Ruhlen Merrit". *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 1(1): 857–858.
1997. "Review of *Language and human behavior* by Derek Bickerton". *Anthropological Linguistics* 38(2): 363–366. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/30028935> Last accessed Feb 18, 2021.
1999. "The cognitive prerequisites for language: Target article on language prerequisites". *PSYCOLOQUY* 10(032). Electronic document, American Psychology Association 1. <http://www.cogsci.soton.ac.uk/psyc-bin/newspyt?10/032>
1999. "Motivation, conventionalization and arbitrariness in the origin of language". In Barbara J. King (Ed.), *The origins of language: What nonhuman primates can tell us*, 307–350. Santa Fe, CA: School of American Research Press.

1999. "Review of Apes, Language and the Human Mind. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, Stuart G. Shanker, and Talbot J. Taylor". *Language* 75(3): 591–593. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/417067>
2000. "Comprehension, production, and conventionalization in the origins of language". In Chris Knight, Michael Studdert–Kennedy, and James Hurford (Eds.), *The emergence of language: Social function and the origins of linguistic form*, 27–39. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2002. "The Slow Growth of Language in Children". In Alison Wray, (Ed.), *The Transition to Language*, 297–311. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2004. "Prosody does not equal language: Commentary on Dean Falk 'Prelinguistic evolution in early hominins: Whence motherese?'" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 27(4): 491–541". DOI: [10.1017/S0140525X04280116](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X04280116)
2005. *The Talking Ape: How Language Evolved*. Oxford, Oxford University Press. (Swedish translation 2007 by Fredrik Heinat, Greek translation 2009 by Nikos Vergēs) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1542-734X.2006.00366.x>
2010. "Review of *The simian tongue: The long debate about animal language* by Gregory Radick". *Language* 86 (1): 244–247. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40666313> Last accessed Feb 18, 2021. DOI: [10.1353/lan.0.0184](https://doi.org/10.1353/lan.0.0184)
2011. "Words came first: Adaptations for word-learning". In Kathleen R. Gibson and Maggie Tallerman (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of language evolution*, 406–416. Oxford: Oxford University Press. DOI: [10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199541119.013.0044](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199541119.013.0044)

Mark W. Post  
mark.post@sydney.edu.au