



MAP: SELEPET DIALECTS

0. INTRODUCTION

0.1 GENERAL

This present paper represents a slight revision of chapters 4-7 of the writer's unpublished thesis *The Selepet Language within the Finisterre-Huon Phylum, New Guinea*. (Ph.D. thesis, A.N.U.) Canberra. 1970. The model applied to the analysis of the root, stem, word and phrase levels of the Selepet grammatical hierarchy is the tagmemic model as espoused by K.L. Pike (1967) and R.E. Longacre (1964). It is planned to publish a description of the higher grammatical levels of Selepet at a later date. Previous published studies of Selepet by the writer include vocoid clusters (McElhanon, 1967), kinship (1968), morphophonemics (1970d), phonology (1970a), pronominal elements (1970b), verb morphology (1970c) and a dictionary (McElhanon and McElhanon, 1970). For the relationship of Selepet to other non-Austronesian languages of New Guinea see McElhanon and Voorhoeve (1970), McElhanon (forthcoming), Wurm (forthcoming-a) and Wurm (forthcoming-b).

The Selepet people live on the northern slopes of the Saruwaged Mountains in the Morobe District, Papua New Guinea. There are two dialects of the language, 88% lexicostatistically related. The northern dialect is spoken by about 3,000 people living in ten villages (Domut, Hongo, Kabum, Kondolo, Konimdo, Nimbako, Pendeng, Satop, Sorong and Wap) located in the lower Pumune River valley and on the seaward side of the coastal ridge (see map). The southern dialect is spoken by about 2,500 people living in three villages (Indum, Wekai and Selepet) in the upper Pumune valley and three villages (Belombibi, Karangan and Kulawi) located near the coast. These latter three villages represent a migration from the upper Pumune valley about a century ago. Also as a result of this migration the speech of the people living in Domut, Satop, Pendeng and Hongo shows influence from the southern dialect. The southern dialect is also spoken by an undetermined number

of bilingual Komba people living in four villages (Erendengan, Gilang, Upat and Tipsit) with a total population of over 2,000. The data upon which this description is based were collected primarily in Indum village during 1964-69 while the writer was under the auspices of the Australian National University and the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

Analysis of the data was facilitated by use of a concordance of 25,000 words of text in the southern dialect of Selepet. This concordance was made on the IBM 1410 computer at the University of Oklahoma by the Linguistic Information Retrieval Project of the Summer Institute of Linguistics and the University of Oklahoma Research Institute, and sponsored by Grant GS-934 of the National Science Foundation.

McElhanon, K. A. 1972. Selepet Grammar: From Root to Phrase. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics B-21.