

TOKELAU DICTIONARY

OFFICE OF TOKELAU AFFAIRS
1986

*First published 1986 by the Office of Tokelau Affairs
Printed in New Zealand
at University Printing Services
The University of Auckland*

© 1986 Office of Tokelau Affairs, Apia, Western Samoa

Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced by any process without written permission.

This volume has been published with assistance of funds from the United Nations Development Programme.

KUPU TOMUA MAI NA FAIPULE O TOKELAU

Ko nā tupulaga tuai o Tokelau nae tautatala ma gagana i te gagana Tokelau ma te gagana Samoa i to lātou ola mai. Ko te gagana nae fakaaogā i ō lātou kāiga ma ā lātou tafaoga ko te gagana Tokelau. Kae nae fakaaogā te gagana Samoa i nā haunigā lotu, nae fehokotaki ma feiloaki ai ma tagata mai fafo ma tuhituhi ai i ā lātou tuhituhiga. Ko te gagana Tokelau nae fakaaogā lava i te tautala i ā lātou talanoaga. Kua hē vērā i nā tupulaga fou i nā aho nei. Kua tau hē fakaaogāgia te gagana Samoa. Ko ta lātou gagana muamua ko te gagana Tokelau; kae ko te Igilihi (English) kua ako e fai ma gagana e lua. E ako e ki lātou te gagana Tokelau ma te Igilihi i nā āoga. I Niu Hila ma iētahi fenua i fafo o Tokelau ko te Igilihi lava te fakaaogā i nā kāiga ma nā māfutaga faka-fakapotopotoga. Kua fai te mea tēnā ma ala e lelei ai te Igilihi a nā tupulaga fou i lō ta lātou tautala i te gagana Tokelau. E tuha ko te hefulu tauhaga taluai, na iloa ai i Tokelau e tatau lava ke i ei he Dictionary o ta lātou gagana mō te tuhituhiga i te gagana Tokelau.

E ia te ki mātou he mitamitaga ma te agaga fakafetai ona ko te lahiga o te gāluega o te hauniga o tēnei Dictionary na fai lava e tagata Tokelau. Na fakamāonia e ki mātou te tōfia o Ropati Simona ke ia faia te Dictionary. Nae hākilikili e ia ni fehoahoani mai ia te ki mātou i nā mātou fautuaga ma ni mea nae fia fakamāonia te fakataunukuga. Ko te Dictionary lā, he fua e ō he taumafaiga lava a tagata Tokelau. Ko te fua o he gāluega fitā i nā tauhaga e lahi a ki lātou uma na mafai ke fehoahoani ki te fitā o Ropati. E momoli ai ta mātou fakafetai kia te ia. Ko ia foki he fānau lava e ā Tokelau. Tēnei lā kua tau te galuega ki tona ikuga. E momoli atu foki ta mātou fakafetai lahi lele ki te Matāgāluega a te Anthropology i te Iunivehite o Aukilani ona ko nā fautuaga e lahi na maua ai e tuha ma nā taualumaga uma o tēnei gāluega.

Ko ta mātou fakafetai mulimuli lā tēnei, e momoli atu ki te Polokalame Atiake a Mālō-Kau-Fakatahi (UNDP) mō to fehoahoani tau tupe na ki lātou tuku-maia mō te gāluega tēnei.

*Amusia Patea—Faipule o Atafu
Fafoi Sakalia—Faipule o Fakaofo
Tauanau Kele—Faipule o Nukunonu*

FOREWORD

By the Faipule of Tokelau

The older generation of Tokelau was brought up to speak two languages, Tokelauan and Samoan. Their first language was Tokelauan, acquired at home and playing in the village. Samoan they heard in church and learned at school. Samoan was the language of religion, of education; it was the language spoken to outsiders and used in writing. Tokelauan was the language that was just spoken among themselves. For the younger generation things are different. All of them in Tokelau, and many who are overseas, still acquire Tokelauan as their first language, but their second language is usually English. In Tokelau, Tokelauan and English are taught in the schools; children are now taught to write Tokelauan. Overseas, in New Zealand and elsewhere, English is the language learned and used outside the family and community, and many of the younger generation have become more fluent in English than in Tokelauan.

A decade or so ago, the Tokelau people recognised the need for a dictionary of their language, both as a practical resource for Tokelauans whether in Tokelau, in New Zealand or elsewhere, and as a record of their language.

We are proud that this dictionary has been largely produced by Tokelauans. We approved the appointment of Mr Ropati Simona, retired Tokelau headmaster resident in New Zealand, as lexicographer. Throughout his task, Mr Simona has sought our approval and advice, and our help. While the Tokelau dictionary is in a very real sense an achievement of the Tokelau people, it is also the product of a decade of demanding work by Mr Simona assisted by many others. We are most grateful to our compatriot for his willingness to undertake this task and for carrying it through to completion. We also wish to thank members of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Auckland for the advice and counsel they have provided.

Finally, we should like to express our gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the funds it has provided for the project.

*Amusia Patea—Faipule of Atafu
Faafoi Sakaria—Faipule of Fakaofu
Tauanau Kele—Faipule of Nukunonu*

FAKATOMUAGA

Ko te faiga o te Dictionary tēnei, e vā lava ko te faiga o te lahiga o iētahi Dictionary. E i loto ai ni talatalanoaga ma tagata e tokalahi ma na fakapotopotoga o tagata e tokalahi. Kua kâtoa nei te hefulu o tauhaga talu te fai; ma, nae aofia ai te gālulue fakatahi o tagata Tokelau i luga o Tokelau ma tagata Tokelau i Niu Hila, ko te Matāgāluega-tau-fafo o Niu Hila ma te Iunivehite o Aukilani.

E tolu lava ona tala tāua mai tona tala fakaholopito. Muamua, he lihi o ni kupu Tokelau e 214 ma ō lātou uiga, fakaleoga ma te kalama na lōmia e Horatio Hale i te tauhaga e 1846. Na hāunia e ia te lihi tēnei i tona fanoga ki Tokelau i te malaga hakili fenua fou a Amelika i te 1841. E hako lelei lele nā fakamaumauga o nā kupu iēnei a Hale ma ō lātou fakaaogā. Mai te 214 o nā kupu iēnā na tuhituhi e Hale i te 1841, nā ko te valu oioti o nā kupu kua hē fakaaogā i nā aho nei. Na hilia te 120 tauhaga na teka, kae fātoā lōmia ni kupu Tokelau ma te Igilihi e 1200 na hāunia e D. N. Boardman kae na lōmia e te Matāgāluega o Akoakoga a Niu Hila i te tauhaga e 1969. E mulimuli atu ki tēnā te Dictionary o nā kupu Tokelau ma nā kupu Igilihi e 3000 na hāunia e J. H. Webster ma Hosea Kirifi ma lōmia i Tokelau i te 1975.

Na iloa e Kirifi ma Webster te manakomia o he Dictionary i nā āoga i Tokelau ma na fakaalila o lā fakamoemoega i ta lā Dictionary na fai ke gālulue ai ni tino i te faiga o he Dictionary e hili atu tona lelei. E hako lava, auā na ki lā iloa lava kua tau kāmatamata te tūlaga tēnā. E heki leva te uma o ta lā Dictionary kae kavea ia Kirifi ma Fakatonu o nā Akoakoga o Tokelau, te tūlaga na mafai ai e ia oi fehoahoani ma fakamālohia te faiga o te gāluega na tau kāmata e ia.

I te 120 tauhaga, i te vā o nā lōmiga a Hale ma Boardman, na matuā āfāina lele ai te gagana Tokelau mai nā kupu Samoa kua fakaaogā. I te vā o te 1860–1870, na mautūlaga ai nā Fehoahoani a te Lotu Pope ma nā Faifeau a te L.M.S. i luga o Tokelau. Na kavatu e ki lātou te Tusi Paia Samoa ma kua kavea ai te gagana Samoa ma gagana o nā haunigā lotu ma nā āoga faka-te-lotu. Kua kavea ai foki te gagana Samoa ma gagana e fehokotaki ai ma tagata mai fafo. E vāia kua tau fōliga mai ai, ko te gagana Tokelau he gagana kāmata. Kae hōvē lava nae hē vēnā. Na pau lava, ko tagata Tokelau, e lua ā lātou gagana e tautatala ai. E fakaaogā tā lātou lava gagana i ā lātou mea e fai o te olaga faka-Tokelau ma fakaaogā te gagana Samoa i nā lotu, āoga faka-te-lotu ma nā fehokotakiga ma tagata mai fafo o Tokelau.

Ko te akoga o te gagana Tokelau i nā āoga na kāmata e Alexander McDonald (Patele Aleki) i nā tauhaga tau fakaiaku o te 1940s i Nukunonu; kae na fātoā fakamautū te akoga o tona faitauga ma tona tuhituhiga i nā tauhaga fakaiaku o te 1960s. E ui lava i te faitatā kae na kavea to fōligā o nā faiaoga ma ala na feoloolo ai te mativa o nā āoga i ni tuhi kua hāunia i te gagana Tokelau, e vā ko te faiga o te Dictionary, na fakahofia ai tona faiga mai luga o te Dictionary a Kirifi ma Webster. E lahi ni talanoaga i tona faiga; pe ko fea foki e fai ai. Na fātoā maua te tonu i te 1976 i te vāitaimi o Ken Piddington i te Matāgāluega o Matākupu-tau-fafo a Niu Hila kā i ei te tupe e totogi ai ia Ropati Simona ke ia faia te Dictionary. Na talia ai e te Iunivehite o Aukilani ke tōfia ia Ropati ma tino hukehuke fehoahoani i te Department of Anthropology, ma, na kāmata ai loa te gāluega o te Dictionary.

Na fānau ia Ropati Simona i Papua Niu Kini i ni mātua mihionale. Nae āoga i Samoa i Sisifo ma kavea ai ia ma he tahi o faiaoga muamua o nā āoga a te mālō i Tokelau. E hefulu ma ona tupu tauhaga nae ulu-āoga ai ia i Tokelau oi fakamāvae ai kae fano ki Niu Hila ma nonofo ai ma tona kāiga i Aukilani. Ko iētahi vāitaimi nae fakafaigaluega ai e te Department of Anthro-

pology o te Iunivehite o Aukilani i nā mea tau gagana ma ni fakaliliuga mai te 1967 ki te 1975. Na kavea tona tōfia e fai ma tino e ia faia te Dictionary ona kua i ei he tūlaga mālohi talu tona agaga fehoahoani ki a te ki mātou e feagai tonu ma nā mea tau gagana ma nā mea tau te olaga o tagata o Tokelau.

Ka koi fakaholoholo atu te gāluega, kua fakatahi mai iētahi tino. E tokalua ia tama āoga Tokelau, ko Maselino Patelesio ma Loimata Iupati o te Iunivehite, nae gālulue i te faiga o te lihi o nā kupu Igilihi ma ō lātou fakaliliuga faka-Tokelau. Nae fehiligia iētahi tino Tokelau i nā kupu Tokelau e fakapitoa ō lātou uiga ma faigatā. Ko te tūlaga mulimuli, na tufa atu nā kopi o nā ata fakatakitaki mulimuli ki nā motu e tolu o Tokelau ma nā fakalāpotopotoga a tagata Tokelau i Niu Hila. Mai luga i nā faiga iēnei, e iloa ai, na hiki fakatahi tēnei gāluega lahi e tagata uma o Tokelau. E kehe mai ai te i ei o Lopina Hooper i te faiga o te Dictionary. I ni tauhaga kua teka atu nae gālulue fakatahi ai ia ma Ropati Simona ma kikila fakapitoa lava ia ki nā vaegā-kupu faka-kalama, lihi o nā kupu Igilihi ma ō lātou uiga i te gagana Tokelau ma te hiakiga o nā kupu uma o te Dictionary. Kae maua ai e ia he fehoahoani lahi mai ia Ropati Simona i ni mea e tuha ma tana hukehukega o nā mea tau gagana i te kalama o te gagana Tokelau kua lōmia i loto i te Dictionary tēnei.

*Toni Hooper
Iutita Huntsman*

* * * *

Ko te gagana Tokelau, he mea tāua e fakapitoa tahi lava ki tagata Tokelau. E hēai he tino e ia iloa pe na vēhea tona kāmata pe ko tēfea foki te henetuli na kāmata ai; kae e ki tātou iloa tona aogā auā kua fai te gagana ma auala e mafai ke fehokotaki ai ia tagata. Ko te gagana lā, kua fai i nā kupu; ko nā kupu iēnā kua fakaaogā i nā talanoaga ma nā tuhituhiga. Fakafetai ki ō tātou tupuna auā e ola ake ki tātou kua i ei ta tātou gagana. E tatau lā ia te ki tātou ke tauhi ki ei ma fakaolaola ke tūmau pea tona gali, tona mālīe ma tona aogā.

E fia fakamau i kinei toku fiafia ma te fakafetai lahi (holovē ko tagata Tokelau uma foki ia) ki a Toni Hooper ma Iutita Huntsman o te Iunivehite o Aukilani, auā na ki lā lagona te tāua lahi lele o te gagana Tokelau mō tagata Tokelau ma fakagāoioi ai e ki lāua he faiga kua mafai ai ke lōmia he Dictionary Tokelau mō tūpulaga o Tokelau e fakaholo mai, ke ia te ki lātou pea tēnei tamāokāiga ma te mea tōtino fakapitoa a Tokelau, ko te gagana Tokelau.

Kafai ia au e taumafai ke fai atu haku fakafetai i kinei ma takua ai nā igoa o ki lātou uma na maua ai e au nā fehoahoani e lahi i te taufaiga o te gāluega tēnei, e hē kō mafaia; nā ia au foki e hehē pe puli ai foki ni igoa pe ni fakalāpotopotoga. Ka fakapukupuku vēnei atu ai: Fakafetai lahi, lahi lele!

Tigā ia au e taumafai ke fakapukupuku atu taku fakafetai, e vēia ona takua i luga, kae e kō lagona e tatau lava ke tuhia te igoa tēnei e fokotahi oiote. Ko ia lava tēnei e kehe mai auā nae pito tigāina i toku fakahoehā pea ki ei; ko ia foki he hoa ma he uō i te gāluega. Ko taku fakafetai lahi fakapitoa ki a te koe Lopina Hooper.

E ui lava i te mataloa o te faiga o ta tātou gāluega, pe kua fifiu foki ni tino ona ko te tafetafea mataloa o ta tātou Dictionary, kae hē afāina, manunā “Kua ake te penu”.

R. Simona

INTRODUCTION

Like most dictionaries, this one has been a long drawn out undertaking, involving collaboration between many people and diverse institutions. It has been 10 years in the making, and has involved close co-operation between Tokelauans (both in Tokelau and in New Zealand), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the University of Auckland.

Historically its roots are even more diverse, involving three main precursors. The first was a vocabulary of 214 items, together with a brief description of the sound system and grammar, published in 1846 by Horatio Hale on the basis of his brief visit to the atolls as a member of the United States Exploring Expedition in 1841. This is more than a historical curiosity. Hale described the distinctive features of spoken Tokelauan very accurately and his vocabulary shows the very considerable degree of historical continuity which has been maintained; of the 214 items which he recorded in 1841, only 8 are no longer in common Tokelau use. Over 120 years passed before the next publication — a *Tokelau-English Vocabulary* of some 1200 items compiled by D. W. Boardman during his sociological research with Tokelau migrants, and published by the N.Z. Department of Education in 1969. This was followed by an avowedly preliminary *Tokelau-English Dictionary* of about 3000 items, by Hosea Kirifi and J. H. Webster which was produced on a school duplicating machine in Tokelau in 1975.

In the introduction to their dictionary, Kirifi and Webster noted the need for such a resource in the Tokelau schools and expressed the hope that others would "soon accept the task of producing an even better . . . dictionary". Indeed, as they knew at the time, moves were already afoot to do just this. Shortly after their dictionary appeared, Kirifi became the first Tokelau Director of Education, a position which enabled him to give very substantial help and encouragement to the project which he had done so much to get started.

Over the 120 years between the Hale and Boardman publications, Tokelauan was extensively influenced by borrowings from Samoan. During the 1860s both Marist and London Missionary Society teachers were established in Tokelau. They introduced the Samoan Bible and made Samoan the language of both church and school. Samoan also became the language through which Tokelauans communicated with outsiders, unwittingly giving rise to an impression that Tokelauan was either dying or defunct. In fact there was probably never at any time a likelihood of that happening. Tokelauans simply became bilingual, maintaining their own language for the business of everyday life, borrowing freely from the formal vocabulary of Samoan, while using Samoan in church, in the Mission schools and in their contacts with the outside world.

The introduction of Tokelauan into schools was an initiative of Alexander McDonald in the late 1940s. However, its position as the language of instruction and of primary-level reading and writing was not fully established until the late 1960s. The paucity of teaching materials in Tokelauan was a major problem. Although that was largely overcome by the dedicated efforts of Tokelau teachers, the production of a comprehensive Tokelau-English dictionary, building on the initiatives of Kirifi and Webster, was an enterprise of a different order. There was much discussion as to how and where it might be done, and the issues were not resolved until 1976 when Ken Piddington, then head of the Pacific Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, took the decision to recommend the use of government funds for the appointment of Ropati Simona as lexicographer. The University of Auckland then agreed to Simona's appointment as a

Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology, and the Tokelau Dictionary Project was formally under way.

Ropati Simona was born in Papua New Guinea of Tokelauan missionary parents. He was educated in Western Samoa, and became one of the first teachers in the government schools in Tokelau. After over a decade as a headmaster there he moved to New Zealand and established his family in Auckland. As a teacher of Tokelauan, linguistic informant and translator, he was occasionally employed by the Department of Anthropology from 1967 through until 1975. His appointment as a Research Associate strengthened what was already an active and congenial co-operation with those of us concerned with anthropological and linguistic studies of Tokelau.

As the work progressed others were drawn in as well. Two Tokelauan university students, Maselino Patelesio and Loimata Iupati worked on the project during vacations, compiling the preliminary draft of the English-Tokelau wordlist. Other Tokelauans were extensively consulted on the vocabulary of specialised domains. Finally, as the work drew towards completion, preliminary drafts of all the Tokelau-English entries were circulated to special "Dictionary Committees" in each of the three atolls and in the various migrant Tokelau communities in New Zealand. In these ways the Dictionary took on aspects of a national co-operative enterprise. Robin Hooper's involvement has been of a somewhat different sort. Over the past several years she has worked very closely with Ropati Simona, paying special attention to the entries for grammatical particles, the final form of the English-Tokelau wordlist and the editorial checking of all entries. In return, Simona has acted as the main informant in her linguistic research, including her outline study of Tokelau grammar which is printed here.

*Judith Huntsman
Antony Hooper*

* * * *

The Tokelau language is a most valuable thing, and one which is held in the very highest regard by all Tokelauans. Nobody knows exactly how it originated or in which country it began, but we are all aware of how it serves to bind us together as a people. A language, however, is made up of words, and is made manifest in them. It is thanks to our forbears who gave us life that we also have our language. It is fitting, then, that we should take care of it and nurture it, so that its beauty, elegance and usefulness remain unimpaired.

I should like to record here my gratitude and thanks (and also that of all Tokelau people) to Antony Hooper and Judith Huntsman of the University of Auckland, because it was they who saw the great value of the language for the Tokelau people; it was they who first sought the means by which this dictionary could be made, in order to preserve the language as a unique treasure and resource for the generations of Tokelau still to come.

If I were to try and thank, individually and by name, all the people from whom I have received help in doing this work, I could not do it, for fear that I might make mistakes and omit names of some people and organisations. So I shall simply say, "Thank you all, very, very much!" But try as I might to abbreviate my thanks in this way, I feel I must mention one single name — that of the person who bore the brunt of all my doubts and constant questionings, and who was a true partner and friend in the work. My greatest thanks go to you, Robin Hooper.

Although our task has been a long one, and some have grown weary and impatient with its drifting course, that all matters no longer: "the floating seed has reached shore".

Ropati Simona