

[Discussion notes]

Papua New Guinea English

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Abstract: As in other post-colonial languages, English in Papua New Guinea (PNG) serves to promote professional employment and international business. However, exposure to formal, written Standard English, as taught in PNG schools, fails to promote efficient communication among local professionals and numerous foreigners in the international community. As a means of providing a meta-perspective of Papua New Guinea English (PNGE), this article details the distinctive dialect of spoken English in PNG as used by professional, indigenous, PNG speakers. A grounded theory approach provided the organisation of the findings. From recorded transcripts of speeches, language patterns were collected and compared with written Standard English. Verb phrases, noun phrases, lexicon, borrowings and samples of code switching were the areas of focus for this study. Based on the findings, there appears to be a new oral dialect of English that has evolved to suit PNG's multilingual situation. PNGE has been influenced by the syntax and enriched by the local idioms and expressions of Tok Pisin and Hiri Motu, two national languages, along with expressions from approximately 800 other local languages.