Abstract

This grammar is the first comprehensive description of Moskona, a Papuan language of West Papua, Indonesia, spoken by approximately 6,000 speakers in the interior of the Bird’s Head on the island of New Guinea. Although data is primarily taken from the northern dialect, spoken in Moyeba, data from the southern dialect is also included. The study is based on data gathered by the author during fieldwork from 1995 -2001. The framework employed in the grammar is basic linguistic theory, which utilizes theory-neutral terms in an attempt to describe Moskona in terms of itself, rather than by means of any specific formal or theoretical model. The Moskona language is one of three languages in the East Bird’s Head Family, which cannot be regarded as related to any other of the linguistic groups in the Bird’s Head. Nevertheless, Moskona displays areal features which are typical of many Bird’s Head languages, but not commonly found in many other Papuan languages. Thus, this book provides valuable data for a clearer understanding of these languages, providing a means for comparison to other Bird’s Head languages and Papuan languages in general. This grammar will be of interest to Bird’s Head scholars, scholars of Papuan languages and those interested in typology.