

September, 2005

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Robbins Burling

Date of Birth: April 18, 1926, Minneapolis, Minnesota. U.S. Citizen

B.A.: Yale, 1950

Ph.D: Anthropology, Harvard, 1958

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Teaching Positions:

Teaching Fellow in Anthropology, Harvard; Fall 1953, Spring 1954 and Spring 1957.

University of Pennsylvania, Department of Anthropology. Instructor 1957-1959. Assistant Professor of Anthropology 1959-1963. Assistant Curator of General Ethnology, University Museum 1959-1963. On leave of absence, 1959-1960.

Visiting Lecturer, Fulbright Program, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Rangoon, Burma, July, 1959 to June, 1960.

University of Michigan. Associate Professor of Anthropology and Associate of the Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies 1963-1966. Professor of Anthropology and Linguistics and Associate of the Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies 1966-1995. Emeritus Professor 1995-

Visiting Professor, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden. 1979-1980.

Visiting Professor, Fulbright Program, North-East Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, India. November 1996-May 1997.

Research and Fellowship Support:

Fellow of the Ford Foundation; July 1954 to January 1957. Linguistic and social anthropological study of the Garo tribe of Assam, India.

Grantee under N.D.E.A.: "Cross-cultural Study of Semantic Structure"
1962-1963. (Jointly with Paul Friedrich.)

Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford,
California 1963-1964.

Guggenheim Foundation Fellow, 1971-1972.

Grantee, U.S. Office of Education, "Machine Aided Instruction in Bahasa
Indonesia" 1977-79. (Jointly with A. L. Becker.)

N.S.F. Grantee. Collection of Garo Texts in Bangladesh. Fall, 1984.

Fulbright Research Fellow, Dhaka, Bangladesh, March-August, 1987

Administration and Service:

Treasurer, American Ethnological Society. 1963-1965.

Member, Advisory Panel for Anthropology, National Science Foundation,
1966-1968.

Fellowship Review Committee, National Institute of Mental Health, 1968-
1970.

Committee of Examiners in Anthropology, Educational Testing Service,
1969-70.

Assembly of Behavioral and Social Sciences of the National Research
Council, 1973-1978.

Executive Committee, Linguistic Society of America, 1976-1978.

Editorial Committee, Annual Review of Anthropology, 1974-1978.

Senior Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows, 1979-1983.

Chairman, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, 1980-83.

Interim Director, Program in Linguistics, University of Michigan, 1985-86.

Publications:

Books and Monographs:

1961. *A Garo Grammar*. Deccan College Monograph Series 25. Poona
(India): Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute.

1963. *Rengsanggri: Family and Kinship in a Garo Village*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Second Edition. 1998. Tura, Meghalaya, India: Tura Book Room
1965. *Hill Farms and Padi Fields: Life in Mainland Southeast Asia*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall. Second Edition, 1992. Program for Southeast Asian Studies, Arizona State University.
1967. *Proto Lolo-Burmese*. Publication 43, Indiana University Research Center in Anthropology, Folklore, and Linguistics.
1970. *Man's Many Voices: Language in its Cultural Context*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. (Japanese Translation,.. Chapter 9 "Black English", reprinted in Harold B. Allen and Michael Linn, eds. *Readings in Applied Linguistics III*; Poggie, Pelto, and Pelto, eds. *The Evolution of Human Adaptation*; Margaret A. Lourie and Nancy F. Conklin eds. *A Pluralistic Nation*; Jonetta Cole, ed. *Anthropology for the 80's*)
1973. *English in Black and White*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. (Chapter 8, "What Should We do About it" reprinted in the Florida FL Reporter).
1974. *The Passage of Power: Studies in Political Succession*. New York: Academic Press.
1977. *Reading Français*. 446 pages. Xerox.
1981. *On the Way to Swedish*. 182 pages. Xerox.
1982. *Sounding Right: Comprehension Based Language Instruction*. Rowley, Mass.: Newbury House.
1984. *Learning a Field Language*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Preprinted by Waveland Press, 2000.
1992. *Patterms of Language: Structure, Variation, Change*. San Diego: Academic Press.
1997. *The Strong Women of Modhupur*. Dhaka: University Press Ltd.
2004. The Language of the Modhupur Mandi (Garo). Three Volumes: Volume I: *Grammar*. New Delhi: Bibliophile South Asia. USA: Morganville, N.J. Promilla & Co. Publishers. Volume II: *The Lexicon* and Volume II: *Glossary* are available at:
www-personal.umich.edu/~rburling
- 2005 *The Talking Ape: How Language Evolved*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. UK: August 2005. USA: November 2005.

In Press. (with U. V. Joseph) *Comparative Phonology of the Boro-Garo Languages*. Central Institute of Indian Linguistics. Autumn 2005

Articles:

1956. "Garo Kinship Terminology," *Man in India*, 36:203-218.
- "Lexico-Statistic Dating of Boro-Garo Linguistic Separation," *Journal of the University of Gauhati*, VII: 67-73. (With P. C. Bhattacharya).
1957. "Lushai Phonemics," *Indian Linguistics*, XVII: 148-155.
1958. "Garo Avuncular Authority and Matrilateral Cross- Cousin Marriage," *American Anthropologist*, 60: 743-749.
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*.)
- "Proto-Bodo," *Language*, 35:433-453.
- Review of Gabrielle Bertrand, *Secret Lands where Women Reign*. In *American Anthropologist* 61:143
- Review of Noam Chomsky, *Syntactic Structures*. In *American Anthropologist* 61:160-162.
1960. "Language and Education in Burma," *The Educational Review*, (Rangoon) May.
- "An Incipient Caste System in the Garo Hills," *Man in India*, 40: 51-60.
- "Angami Naga Phonemics and Word List" *Indian Linguistics*, Vol XXII:51-60
1961. "Boys of the Yellow Robe," *Expedition*, Bulletin of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, 3 (SPRING):2-13.
- Review of Stanley Diamond, ed. *Culture in History: Essays in Honor of Paul Radin*. In *American Anthropologist* 63:838-841.
- Review of George Peter Murdock, *Social Structure in Southeast Asia*.
1962. "Maximization Theories and the Study of Economic Anthropology," *American Anthropologist*, 64:802-821. (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 the 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 & Soners Forlag).
- "A Structural Restatement of Njamal Kinship Terminology". *Man*, 62:122-124 (No. 201).
- Review of Pierre Bessaignet ed. *Social Research in East Pakistan*. In *American Anthropologist* 64:419-420.
- Review of David M. Schneider and Kathleen Gough eds. *Matrilineal Kinship*. In *Science* 135:363.
- Review of William A. Smalley, *Outline of Khmu? Structure*. In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 82:246-249.
- Review of Bernard J. Siegel ed. *Biennial Review of Anthropology, 1961*. In *American Anthropologist* 64:1318-1320.
1963. "Garo Kinship Terms and the Analysis of Meaning," *Ethnology*, 2:70-85.
- Review of Christoph von Furer-Haimendorf *The Apa Tanis and Their Neighbors*. In *American Anthropologist* 65:957-958.
1964. "Cognition and Componential Analysis: God's Truth or Hocus-Pocus?" *American Anthropologist*, 66:20-28. (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*).
- "Garos," in *Ethnic Groups of Mainland Southeast Asia*. Frank M. Labar, Gerald C. Hickey and John K. Musgrave, eds. pp. 55-57. New Haven: H.R.A.F. Press.
- Review of Gerald Berriman, *Hindus of the Himmalias*. In *Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Sciences*.
- Review of H. I. Hogbin *Kinship and Marriage in a New Guinea Village*. In *Journal of Asian Studies* 23:318.
- Review of Raghuvir Sinha *The Akas* and L. R. N. Srivastava *The Gallongs*. In *American Anthropologist* 66:696-697.
1965. "How to Choose a Burmese Numeral Classifier," in *Context and Meaning in Cultural Anthropology*. Melford Spiro, ed. pp. 243-264. New York: The Free Press.

- "Burmese Kinship Terminology," *American Anthropologist*, 67: No. 5, Part 2, pp. 106-117.
- Review of Dell Hymes, *Language in Culture and Society*. In *American Anthropologist* 67:1004-1011.
- Review of William McNiel *The Rise of the West*. In *American Anthropologist* 67:1603-4.
1966. "A Problem in Lahu Phonology," In *Essays offered to Gordon H. Luce*. Ba Shin, Jean Boisselier, and A.B. Griswold, eds., I:97-101. Ascona, Switzerland: Artibus Asiae.
- "The Addition of Final Stops in the History of Maru (Tibeto-Burman)," *Language*, 42(3): 581-586.
- "The Metrics of Children's Verse: A Cross Linguistic Study," *American Anthropologist*, 68: 1418-1441. (Reprinted at Deakin University, Victoria, Australia: *Children's Literature*).
- "The Role of Meaning in the Study of Language: A Defence of Reference". *Word* 22:138-162.
- Review of E. Henderson, *Tiddim Chin*. In *Journal of Asian Studies* 25:547.
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1967. "Tribesmen and Lowlanders of Assam," in *Southeast Asian Tribes, Minorities, and Nations*, edited by Peter Kunstadter, Vol. 1, pp. 215-229.
- Review of Thomas A. Sebeok (ed.), *Current Trends in Linguistics, Vol. III, Theoretical Foundations*. In *American Anthropologist* 69:406.
1968. "Some Outlandish Proposals for the Teaching of Foreign Languages," *Language Learning*, 18: 61-75.
- Review of Bengt Loman, (ed. and transcriber), *Conversations in a Negro Dialect*. In *American Anthropologist* 70:830-831.
- Review of Julian Dakin, Brian Tiffen, and H. G. Widdowson, *Language in Education: The Problem in Commonwealth Africa and the Indo-Pakistan SubContinent*. In *Journal of Asian Studies* 28:415-416.
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- "Some Remarks on the Relation Between Social Structure and Ethnographic Description," *Bidragen Tot de Tall-, Land- en Volkenkunde*. 126: 151-158.
- "Standard Colloquial and Standard Written English: Some Implications for Teaching Literacy to Non- Standard Speakers," *Florida FL Reporter*, Spring/ Fall, 1970.
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- "The Historical Place of Jinghpaw in Tibeto-Burman," *Occasional Papers of the Wolfenden Society*, II: 1-54.
- Review of Roger Abrahams, *Positively Black*. In *American Anthropologist* 73:1370-1371.
1972. Review of Noam Chomsky, *Language and Mind*. In *American Anthropologist* 72:681-682.
- Review of Joshua Fishman, *Sociolinguistics*. In *Language* 48:233-236.
1973. "Impeachment--or Else: The Future of the Presidency," *The Nation* 216(20): 617-619.
1974. "An Anthropologist Among the English Teachers," *College Composition and Communication* XXV:234-242.
1975. Review of William Labov, *Language in the Inner City*. In *Language* 51:505-509.
1976. "Poor Spellers of the World Unite," *Learning*, March, 4(7): 76-78.
1977. "An Anthropological Glimpse at the World of the English Teacher." *ADE Bulletin*, 54:19-23 (September). (Reprinted in *College English*, 39:18-24, 1977).
- Review of M. V. Sreedhar *Naga Pidgin*. In *Language* 53:243-5.

- Review of Maurice Bloch *Political Language and Oratory in Traditional Society*. In *American Anthropologist* 79:698-700.
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1979. Review of Ben G. Blount and Mary Sanches *Sociocultural Dimensions of Language Change*. In *Language* 55:457-460.
1980. "Return to Rengsangri" in *Eastern Himalayas*. (Felicitation Volume for Professor M. C. Goswami) T.C. Sharma and D. N. Majumdar, eds. New Delhi: Cosmo Publications, pp. 4-10.
- "Black English och Halvsprakighet," [Black English and Semilingualism] *Flerkulturell kompetens*. Papers in Anthropological Linguistics 7. Goteborg, Sweden, pp. 101-114.
- "Minimal Kommunikationnivå i Svenska" [Minimal level of communication in Swedish]. *Hemsprak och Svenska*, 4:26-31.
- "Foreword" to D. N. Majumdar, *A Study in Culture Change in Two Garo Villages of Meghalaya*. Gauhati (India): Gauhati University.
- Review of James Matisoff, *Variational Semantics in Tibeto-Burman*. In *Language* 56:488-91.
1981. "Garo Spelling and Garo Phonology" *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area*. Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 61-81.
- "Black English, blandspråk and halvspråkighet," Eva Ejerhed and Inger Henrysson, eds. *Tvaspråkighet: Foredrag fran Tredje Norska Tvaspråkighet Konferens*. 39-48.
- "Social Constraints on Adult Language Learning." *Native Language and Foreign Language Acquisition*, Harris Winitz ed. *Annals of the New York Academy of Science*, Vol. 379, pp. 279-290.
- "Machine-Aided Instruction in Bahasa Indonesia." Harris Winitz, ed. *The Comprehension Approach to Foreign Language Instruction*. Rowley Mass.: Newbury House Publishers, pp. 154-160 (with A.L. Becker, Patricia B. Henry, and Joyce Tomasowa).
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1983. "The Sal Languages" *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 7-2:1-32.
- "A Proposal for Computer-Assisted Instruction in Vocabulary." *System* 11-2:181-190.

1984. Review of Kristina Lindell, Håkan Lundström, Jan-Olof Svantesson, and Damrong Tayanin, *The Kammu Year: Its Lore and Music*. *Ethnos* 49:I-II pp. 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* 89:130-133
- Review of Einer Flydal *Oljespråk: Språklige lovbrudd og lovlige språkbrudd påsøkkelen*. (Oil language: Linguistic law breaking and lawful language breaking on the continental shelf). In *Language in Society* 12:117-121.
- Review of John Baugh, *Black Street Speech: Its history structure, and survival*. In *Language* 61:204-206.
- "Noun Compounding in Garo." *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 8-1:14-42.
1986. "The Selective Advantages of Complex Language." *Ethology and Sociobiology*. January 1-16.
- "Where did the Mandi come from?" *Janala*. (In Bengali.)
1987. "Understanding a Mandi Story" *Cultural Anthropology*.
1988. "Garo Beliefs in the Afterlife." *On the Meaning of Death: Essays on Mortuary Rituals and Eschatological Beliefs*. S. Cederroth, C. Corlin, and J. Lindström, eds. Uppsala Studies in Cultural Anthropology 8.
- Review of Einar Haugen *Blessings of Babel: Bilingualism and Language Planning*. In *American Anthropologist* 91(3):738-739.
1990. "Norwegian Spelling and Norwegian Pronunciation." *Norsk som andrespraak* (Oslo). 12:14-25.
- "My Hopes for the Mandi" *Dhaka*. (In Bengali).
1992. "The Crucial Mutation for Language." Review of Derek Bickerton *Language and Species*. In *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 2(1):81-91..
- "Garo as a Minimal Tone Language." *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 15(2):33-51.
1993. "Primate Calls, Human Language, and Nonverbal Communication." *Current Anthropology*. 34:25-37.
- Review of Marina Yaguello *Lunatic Lovers of Language*. In *Language* 69(1):168-170.

1994. Review of Zdenek Salzman, *An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. In *Language*. 70:354-356.
1995. Review of Donald E. Brown, *Human Universals* in *Man* pp.732-733.
- Review of Ruhlen Merritt, *On the Origin of Language: Studies in Linguistic Taxonomy*. In *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. 1.1:857-858
1997. Review of Derek Bickerton, *Language and Human Behavior*. In *Anthropological Linguistics* 38.2: 363-366.
- "The Norwegian Disputas." *Antropognytt* 2:8-21.
1998. "The Border that Divides the Garos". in Manis. Kumar. Raha and Alope. Kumar. Gosh, eds. *North-East India: The Human Interface*. New Delhi: Gyan Books. 345-363.
- "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*. Dhaka: Pustaka. 397-406
- "Return to Rengsangri" *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*. (Shillong, India). Vol 1. No. 2. 21-45.
1999. "Mandi Men and Mandi Women" in Willem van Schendel and Ellen Ball (eds.). *Bangali Chara Anyanya Jatir Prasanga (The many People of Bengal: Studies on Non-Bengali Groups)*. 207-221. (In Bengali).
- "Phom Phonology and Word List". *Linguistics of the Tibeto Burman Area* (with L. Amon Phom). 21.2: 13-42.
- "Wancho Phonology and Word List". *Language of the Tibeto Burman Area*. (with Mankai Wanchu). 21: 43-71.
- "Motivation, Conventionalization and Arbitrariness in the Origin of Language". In Barbara J. King (ed.) *The Origins of Language: What Nonhuman Primates Can Tell Us*. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press. 307-350.
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- "A Note on 'Kamarupan'". *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area*. 22.2: 169-170

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- 2003 "Garo". In Graham Thurgood and Randy LaPolla (eds.) *The Sino-Tibetan Languages*. London: Curzon Press. 387-400.
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- Review of Ray Jackendoff. *Foundations of Language*. In *Language in Society*. 32: 415-418.
- "Where did the Garos come from?" In Momin, Minionette (ed.) Felicitation volume for Prof. Milton Sangma. Shillong
- Review of Michael W. Corballis. *From Hand to Mouth: The Origins of Language*: In *Evolution of Communication 4*:2.297-300.
- 2003 Review of Chistopher I. Beckwith. 2002. *Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages*. Leiden: Boston & Köln. *Diachronica*. 20:2 379-380
- 2004 "Prosody is not Language". *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 27:509
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