Taip Revisited - Proceedings in Nankina Ethnography

Taip, a small village on the slopes of the Nankina River (Madang Province, PNG) was the object of fieldwork, done in 1997. Ten years after the first contact between the villagers and an anthropologist (Verena Keck), two students from Germany tried to find answers to open questions concerning the people living in this remote area. But, in the field things turned out to be not that easy, because the categories to distinguish the different groups living in this linguistically highly fragmented area are not as sure as a student thinks at home. This paper should show from a purely ethnographic point of view how complex the situation is - even in a small village like Taip problems arise with concepts of group formation which are anchored in equations of people, language and inhabited space - and it would be a call for more fieldwork in the remote areas of PNG like the Finisterre Range, where a lot of things remained to be studied by anthropologists.

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