

Alaska Native Language Center News

The Alaska Native Language Center, together with the Yup'ik Language Workshop in Bethel, is proud to announce the publication of a new book entitled "Yup'ik Eskimo Grammar." It deals with the language spoken by approximately 15,000 Central Yup'ik Eskimos who have traditionally inhabited the area from the southern shores of Norton Sound to and including Bristol Bay. This major work, consisting of 330 pages, is the result of several years of effort

by several people involved in the research of this largest, in terms of number of speakers, of Alaska's Native languages. The authors are Irene Reed, now of ANLC, Osahito Miyaoka of Kuskokwim Community College, Steven Jacobson of ANLC, Paschal Afcan of KCC's Yup'ik Language Workshop, and Michael Krauss, chief linguist at ANLC. Other important contributors to the work include Martha Teeluk, Anna Nicolai Jacobson, Sophie Manutoli Shield, Joseph Coolidge, Marie Nick Blanchett, and Jeffrey Leer.

Since 1970, the book has undergone much testing and several preliminary versions as it has served as the basis for the Yup'ik language programs on college campuses at Fairbanks and Bethel. It has been an important part of the training of hundreds of Yup'iks involved in work with their native language. Many are now bilingual teachers in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools in the state, or work as language specialists and writers, or use their skills in other professions. Literacy in this Native language is becoming increasingly important in this area of Alaska where in many villages the first language of the home is still Yup'ik.

The book is arranged as a textbook into 28 chapters which include vocabulary sections, grammatical explanations with translated examples, and exercises which touch upon all the major structural features of this language. The material is presented in the writing system which is now used throughout southwestern Alaska wherever the Native language figures in education programs, and is gaining wide acceptance in churches, information media, and businesses.

Published in 8½-by-11 blue paperback, the book is available from the Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Ak. 99701, for \$7.50, and will be available at various bookstores in the state.