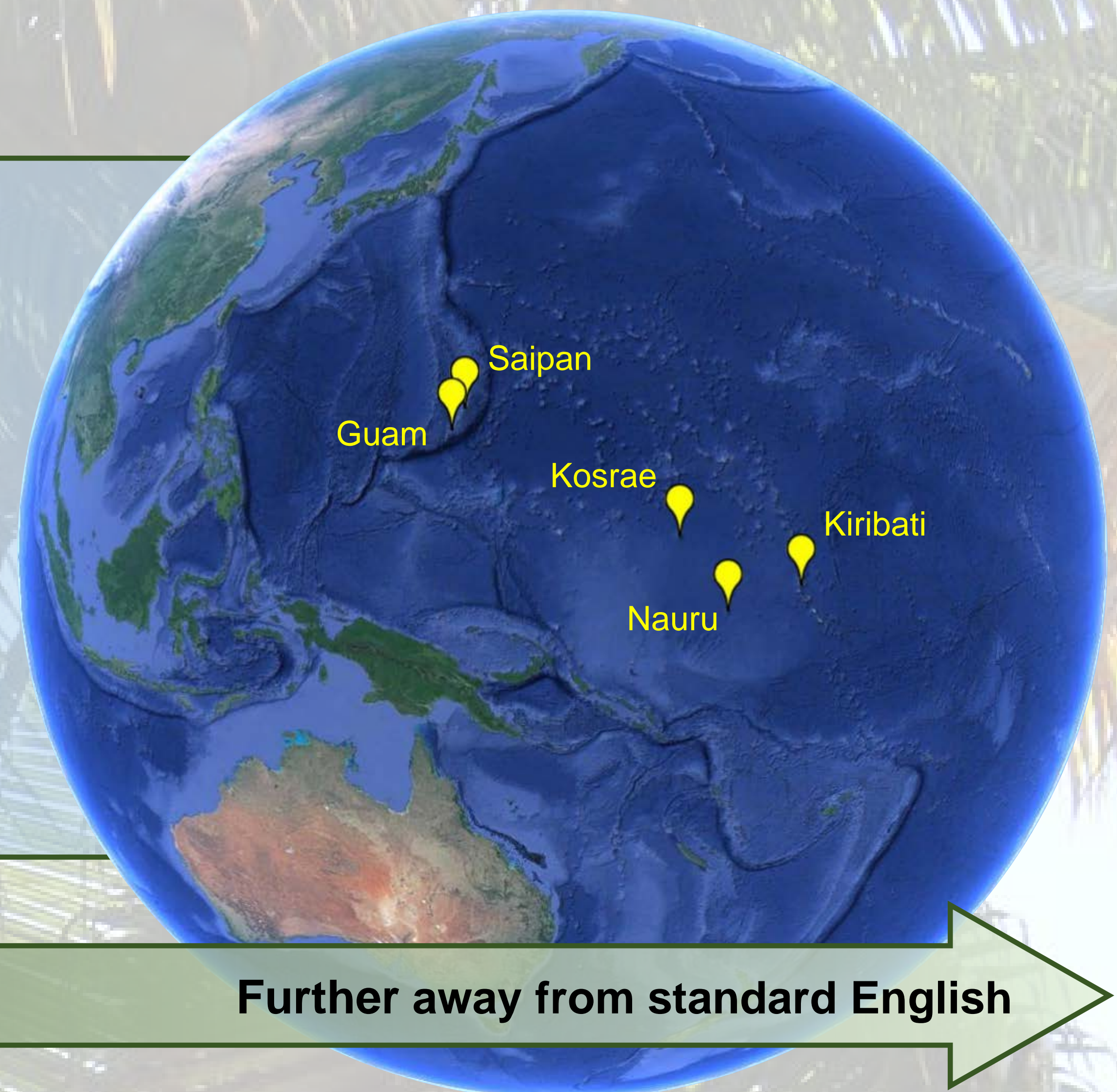


English in Paradise? Emergent Varieties in Micronesia

Dominique Bürki, Eva Kuske, Tobias Leonhardt,
Sara Lynch, Laura Mettler



Introduction

Micronesia and its colonial background:

- Diverse colonizers (Spain, Germany, Japan, Britain, Australia, US)
- Colonized at different points in time (16th Century – mid 19th Century)
- Different types of colonialization (trade vs exploitation vs settlement) and intensities of contact

Micronesia today:

- Different political statuses (territory vs commonwealth vs independence)
- Different degrees of global integration (high rates of tourism, immigration, mobility vs isolation)

English in Micronesia:

- Official language
- Prominent as a language of administration, education, etc.
- Previously unresearched varieties (exception: Palauan English)

► This project investigates five English varieties in Micronesia (Guam, Saipan, Nauru, Kosrae, Kiribati) and examines their structure, usage, status, and historical and current influences.

← Closer to standard English

→ Further away from standard English

Guam	Saipan	Nauru	Kosrae	Kiribati
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unincorporated and organized territory of the United States • 544 km² • 161'785 inhabitants <p>Ethnicities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 37.3% Chamorro - 26.3% Filipino 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (14 islands, 3 inhabited) • 115.4 km², 48'220 inhabitants • Indigenous ethnicities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chamorro (22%) - Saipan Carolinians (5%) • Multicultural community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent republic (since 1968) • 21.1 km² • 9'945 inhabitants • 632 foreign residents • Approx. 700 asylum seekers • Virtually no tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Federated States of Micronesia (607 Islands, 4 states: Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap) • 111.3 km² • 6'616 Kosraean inhabitants • Free movement to US and back (currently) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent republic • Under British administration until 1979 • 33 islands, 21 inhabited • 103'058 inhabitants, 892 foreign residents • Virtually no tourism
<p>Linguistic Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official languages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English - Chamorro • English as the language of government, education, business and media • Efforts to revitalize the indigenous language (Chamorro) 	<p>Linguistic Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English used more or as equally as often as other languages: 59% • Philippine languages and Chinese (40%) • English as the language of media, politics, education • Fear of loss of indigenous languages 	<p>Linguistic Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nauruan used primarily in spoken, informal contexts • No standard Nauruan • English predominant in formal contexts (politics, education, media) and writing • Code-switching and English borrowings in Nauruan 	<p>Linguistic Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kosraean with lexical English borrowings used almost exclusively in private domains and workplace • English and Kosraean official languages • English as lingua franca with other FSM islands 	<p>Linguistic Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English prominent in policies (administration, education) • But very little presence: locals always communicate in Kiribati (including radio and newspapers, with a few exceptions)
<p>Socio-linguistic Influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational and political language policies • Language attitudes • Close political, educational and social connection to the United States 	<p>Socio-linguistic Influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of Asian immigration (Filipino and Chinese immigrant workers) • Tourism from China, Japan and Russia • High degree of mobility (going to the US mainland for education and work) • Traditional vs western culture 	<p>Socio-linguistic Influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility (travelling and education, especially to Australia and Fiji) • Immigration (from other Pacific Islands and China) • Religious affiliation • Asylum processing centres • Language attitudes • TV and film in English 	<p>Socio-linguistic Influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility • Military veterans • World Teach and Peace Corps presence • TV and film in English • Economy ← US grants • Traditional/religious vs Westernization 	<p>Socio-linguistic Influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No foreigners or tourism, hardly any internet and TV • Rising sea levels due to climate change → Emigration • Cultural and linguistic orientation towards Australia and New Zealand
<p>Salient features</p> <p>(Data collection in June/July 2016)</p>	<p>Salient features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent use of /h/ • Monophthongization of GOAT diphthong • Use of to follow: <i>I follow you</i> (= I come along) • Use of nothing: <i>nothing power</i> (nothing used as adjectival quantifier) 	<p>Salient features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /t,d/-affrication: <tune> → [tsun], • /t/-flapping • lettER as [ʌ] • <water> → [wɔrʌ] • Discourse marker <i>eh</i> (yes, affirmative back-channelling) • <i>Before</i> as past tense marker 	<p>Salient features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /h/ insertion, /h/ deletion • Deletion of noun phrase • Merging of TRAP and DRESS • Voiceless retroflex fricatives and plosives: <shop> → [ʂɒp], <time> → [tʂaim] • Kissteeth • Discourse marker insertion from local language: <i>meh</i> 	<p>Salient features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /t,d/-affrication: <time> → [tʂaim] • FACE: /ei/ → [e] • use of double conjunction <i>and then</i>: <i>When you come and then we eat</i> • Utterance-final <i>eang</i> (yes), <i>ke</i> (or)

Shared features

Phonology:

- Shifts and monophthongization of vowels
- TH-stopping: /θ,ð/ → [t,d]
- /k/ → uvular: /back/ → [bæq]
- Non-standard voice onset times (VOT): /p,t,k/ sound unaspirated

Prosody:

- Questions are non-inverted, intonated: *You are tired?*
- Syllable-timing (vowels are non-reduced)

Morphosyntax:

- 3rd person –s omission / lack of third person singular concord: *to me it don't feel that long, he hit*
- Variable use of plural forms: *maybe in uh two week I'm done; five weeks*
- Negative concord: *I think my separation just made me not care about anything no more*
- Double comparison: *which would be more easier*
- Irregular use of articles: *on the island marriage is like death certificate*
- Historical present: *And I go to the beach* (in a narrative = And I went to the beach)
- Interchangeable use of 3rd person gender pronouns: *his house* (= her house)