

It is understandable as we were not working in optimum environment. Nor did we have support of the morpho-syntactic information to infer meaning in the songs.

**4.1 Results.** It is to be noted that the first trip was good enough to familiarize us with the community and to be aware of the fact that the language is a 'mixed language' consisting of variant sound systems, pronominal systems and also offering a variety of lexical items for the same head word. Great Andamanese and their language which has many alternate forms in lexical items, varying phonetic shapes of the same word, and perhaps distinct morphosyntax which is yet to be unearthed. The sociological situation in this case, unlike in the case of the creation of pidgins and creoles or mixed languages, is very different. The domination factor of one linguistic group over the other is entirely missing, and intermarriages are the result of demographic need and the urge to save identity. Contact with the other variety group has been voluntary; the only force that one can conceive of is that of nature.

As Great Andamanese is characterized by a mixture of features of several, perhaps ten varieties, it may be considered a type of Koine. However, as our data on various grammatical subsystems is not exhaustive, it is very difficult to say how far the language is mixed and what elements are mixed. Contrary to the belief of Siegel (1985:363) that Koineization results in reduction and simplification of grammar, the verb morphology that we encountered is rather complex and elaborate.

To achieve our goals specified above in 1.1, we need to elicit a large corpus of data at different realms of grammar as soon as possible so that we could document the language and prepare the dictionary and grammar of Great Andamanese.

Only after a thorough study of phonological variations, morpho-syntactic structures, semantic domains, and other grammatical features, we shall be able to present Great Andamanese in the perspective of Areal typology of the Indian languages. The preliminary results show unique structure of the language [e.g. verb morphology which offers rigid verb specific class distinction] which seems to be very different from other Indian languages including other Andamanese languages such as Jarawa and Onge. As the speakers are forgetting their language at a fast speed, urgency in linguistic elicitation is warranted.

The undergoing study, when completed, will answer many questions relating to the history of human civilization and population migration in the world in general, and