

RICHARD ANTHONY BENTON

Dr Richard Benton completed a teacher training course at Ardmore Teachers College (1956-7), studied History at the University of Auckland (BA 1960) and aspects of Northern Māori tradition and political history under the guidance of some senior traditional experts while teaching for three years at primary and secondary schools (1959-61), researching Māori children's language use under a Fellowship with the Māori Education Foundation (1963-4), and preparing guidelines for teaching English to speakers of Polynesian languages for the Department of Education (1964-5), before completing an MA (1968) and PhD (1972) in Linguistics at the University of Hawaii, under an East West Center scholarship. He is married to Silvia Alzona, and has two adult sons from his previous marriage to Nena Eslao Benton (dec. 2007).

After finishing his doctoral fieldwork he spent a year in Sulu, Philippines (1970-1) as a consultant on social science education and Acting-Dean of the Graduate School at Notre Dame of Jolo College. He then spent 25 years as Tumuaiki (head) of the Māori issues section of the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (1971-1996), directed a major sociolinguistic survey of Māori language use in households and communities (1973-9), and wrote and lectured extensively in New Zealand and internationally on language policy, bilingual education and related matters, with a focus the status of local and international languages in education and government. He has also been involved in a number of projects producing resources for the learning and teaching of the Māori language, as well as advocacy for increased government support for revitalization efforts and public recognition of the centrality of the Māori language in NZ society. Dr Benton was President of the NZ Association for Research in Education from 1992-1994, and was recipient of the Society's McKenzie Award for significant contributions to educational research in 1989.

He has had consultancies with the New Zealand Ministry of Education, Waitangi Tribunal, Māori Language Commission, Te Mātāwai, and other bodies in New Zealand, the Philippines, the USA and Fiji, acted as an external examiner for MA and PhD theses and supervised graduate students at several New Zealand and Philippine Universities, had a Visiting Professorship in Bilingual Education for a consortium of Philippine Universities (1979-80) and several periods at the SEAMEO Regional Language Institute in Singapore under the NZ Aid programme. He has served as a member of the NZ National Commission for UNESCO's Social Science Sub-Commission (1996-2003) and The Royal Society of NZ's Standing Committees on the Social Sciences (1994-97) and Biodiversity (2002-9).

He was one of the official New Zealand representatives to the initial sessions of the Polynesian Languages Forum in NZ, Tahiti and Hawaii; in 1991 he was awarded the Sumi Mackey Alumni Fellowship at the East West Center. More recently he has been Deputy Director of the Centre for Māori Studies and Research of the University of Waikato (1996-1999), Director of the James Henare Māori Research Centre at the University of Auckland (1999-2003), and Adjunct Professor with Te Mātāhauariki Institute at the University of Waikato (2004-7). In 2015 he was Chair of the Review Panel for the Centre for Samoan Studies at the National University of Samoa, and a member of the interim Advisory Board for He Puna Whakarauora Reo, the research arm of the Māori Language Commission. He has also reviewed submissions to overseas academic journals for the publishers, including most recently *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, *Ampersand*, *Settler Colonial Studies*, *The International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism* and *Language, Culture and Curriculum*.

In 1998 he became a member of Te Mātāhauariki Institute at the University of Waikato, as one of the programme leaders in a major FRST-funded project on Laws and Institutions for Aotearoa, with a focus on the development of a modern legal system incorporating Māori tradition and customary law as key elements in New Zealand jurisprudence. He remained associated with this programme until the Institute was dissolved in 2007, and worked with his colleagues Professor Alex Frame and Paul Meredith to bring the Institute's key project, *Te Mātāpunenga – A Compendium of Māori Customary Law*, to completion in 2013. He has continued to take an active interest in this field, with formal and informal advisory roles in projects at the Universities of Waikato and Otago, and elsewhere.

He is currently (2021-2) one of three "Pou" advising a project ("Pārekareka te Pānui") implementing and researching the modernization of a set of integrated programmes designed to facilitate the development of listening and speaking and reading skills in te reo Māori of young learners within whānau and in school settings. In 2019-20 he reviewed several commissioned research reports for Te Mātāwai (the independent statutory entity charged with revitalising New Zealand's indigenous language) and in 2016 completed three scoping reports on the evaluation of

community-based language programmes and research into language policy for the Māori Language Commission, and several reports and submissions concerning the Māori language for the claimants in the Waitangi Tribunal's Te Paparahi o te Raki (WAI 1040) hearings (2016). In 2013 he spoke at meetings in Greymouth and Westport organized by the West Coast School Principals Association on Māori Language Revitalization and possible local initiatives to support the community-wide use of te reo Māori, and in 2016 spoke on "The Future of Te Reo: Building on the Lessons from the Past 50 Years," at the *Whāngaihia te Reo Kia Tipu te Reo Summit*, held at E.I.T., Taradale.

Dr Benton was first elected a council member of the Polynesian Society in 1975, and served as President from 2009-2021, is a member of the International Advisory Panel of Terralingua, an Honorary Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Waikato, and (June – Dec 2020, June 2021) was also a Research Fellow with the Faculty of Law, University of Otago.

Richard Benton has had a life-long interest in horticulture, the environment and in growing, conserving and studying New Zealand native plants. From 2002 until its disestablishment in 2009 he was a member of the Royal Society of New Zealand's Committee on Biodiversity. He is a member of the NZ Plant Conservation Network and the New Zealand Tree Crops Association. He was an advisor to the NZ Tree Crops Association (Waikato) research project on the cultivation and commercial possibilities of karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*), funded by the NZ Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries 2006-9, and was a co-author of the project's final report (2010). For several years he has been working on documenting the Austronesian and Oceanic origins of the names of many New Zealand native plants and the cognate terms in other modern languages, with a particular interest in the Hawaiian and Samoan cognates of contemporary Māori plant names. He has visited and studied the design and management of native plant restoration projects and botanical gardens in Hawaii, the Philippines and Samoa, and has established a private botanical garden where many of the plants bearing the inherited names are grown. He has set up a website which provides information about the plants, the names, and the garden (<http://www.temarareo.org>).

PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS and DOCUMENTED PRESENTATIONS

- 1962a "He kōrero mō ngā waka", *Te Wharekura* 4
- 1962b "He tangi mō Pako Heka", *Te Ao Hou* 40
- 1965a *Teaching English to Polynesian Children*. Auckland, Department of Education (Reprinted 1966, Wellington 1972)
- 1965b Review of M. Singh et al., A study of Land Reforms in Uttar Pradesh. *East West Center Review* 2.2
- 1966a Review of B. Brake & M. Shadbolt, New Zealand: Gift of the Sea. *East West Center Review* 2.3
- 1966b Review of The Challenge of Industrial Relations in the Pacific-Asian Countries, ed. Roberts & Brissenden. *East West Center Review* 3.2
- 1966c Lessons in Lagoon Trukese. Hoolehua, Molokai: Peace Corps Training Center
- 1966d *Report on Language Difficulties of Maori School Children*. Wellington, Maori Education Foundation.
- 1967 *Trukese: An Introduction to the Trukese Language for Speakers of English*. Honolulu, PALI, University of Hawaii
- 1968a Substitutes and Classifiers in Trukese. M.A. Thesis, University of Hawaii, Manoa.
- 1968b "Numeral and attributive classifiers in Trukese", *Oceanic Linguistics* VII.2
- 1970. What is to be done? In *Introduction to Māori Education* ed. J. Ewing & J. Shallcrass, Wellington: New Zealand University Press.
- 1971a *Spoken Pangasinan*. Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press.
- 1971b *Pangasinan Reference Grammar*. Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press.
- 1971c *Pangasinan Dictionary*. Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press.
- 1972a He Waka Pakaru Kino? (Maori Language Day Address, University of Waikato). Wellington, NZCER
- 1972b Phonotactics of Pangasinan [Ph. D. Thesis]. *Working Papers in Linguistics*, Vol. 3, No. 9, Honolulu: Linguistics Department, University of Hawaii

- 1973a *Should Bilingual Education be Fostered in New Zealand?* Wellington, NZCER
- 1973b "Bilingual education for New Zealand children", *Education* 22.3
- 1973c "Bilingual Preschool?" *Play Centre Journal* 28.
- 1973d "Comments on the Christie Report" (Review of Education in Niue, prepared at the request of the Minister of Education, Government of Niue), Wellington, NZCER.
- 1974 "Language, literature and language teaching", in *Current Trends in Language Teaching*, ed. K. Kooznetzoff. Wellington: NZ Association of Language Teachers.
- 1975a "Initial literacy teaching: A cautionary tale", *RELC Journal*, 6.1
- 1975b "Language and the Maori child", in *Children and Language*, ed. Geraldine McDonald, Wellington, Association for the Study of Childhood
- 1975c "Pluralization in Ilocano", *Te Reo* 17/18.
- 1975d "Sociolinguistic survey of Maori Language use", *Language Planning Newsletter* 1.2
- 1976 "The role of ethnic languages in the education of New Zealanders". *Delta* 19 (reprinted in *Change in Education in CHANGE in Education*, ed. Roy Sanders, Auckland: NZEI, 1976, & in *Theory and Practice in New Zealand Education*, ed. J. Bates & J. Codd, Palmerston North: The Dunmore Press, 1980)
- 1977a "The Maori language: Patterns of use in contemporary Maori society". *NZ Speech Therapists Journal* 32.1
- 1977b "Is bilingualism a handicap?" *set* 77, No. 1 (Reprinted by NZCER, Wellington, 1979)
- 1977c *An English-Māori Bilingual Education in Four Hawkes Bay Schools: Suggestions for a Research and Development Project*. Wellington, NZCER.
- 1977d "Terong Pipit goes to school: Some Thoughts on the Educational and Political implications of Multilingualism in the School System" (A paper prepared for the RELC Regional Seminar on 'Language Education in Multilingual Societies: Its challenges and Potentials', Singapore, April 1977)
- 1978a *Can the Maori Language Survive?* (Te Wāhanga Māori Occasional Paper No. 2). Wellington, NZCER
- 1978b "Problems and prospects for indigenous languages and bilingual education in New Zealand and Oceania", in *Case Studies in Bilingual Education*, ed. Bernard Spolsky and Robert Cooper, Rowley, Mass., Newbury House
- 1978c *An English-Māori Bilingual Education Programme in Selected Hawkes Bay Schools: Second Report*. Wellington, NZCER.
- 1979a "Who Speaks Maori in New Zealand?" *set* 1979.1
- 1979b *The Maori Language in the Nineteen-Seventies* (Paper presented at the Symposium on the Future of Vernacular Languages in the Pacific, 49th ANZAAS Congress, Auckland; TWM OP No. 6). Wellington: NZCER.
- 1979c *The Legal Status of the Maori Language, Current Reality and Future Prospects* (report to Minister of Maori Affairs; TWM Working Paper No. 4). Wellington, NZCER
- 1979d *A Catholic Education in Māori and English* (Comments on a possible bilingual education project at St Michaels School, Waverley). Wellington, NZCER
- 1980a "Language factors in Maori and Polynesian education", in *Schools in New Zealand*, ed. B. O'Rourke and G. Robinson. Auckland, Longman Paul
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- 1980d "Changes in language use in a rural Maori community", *Journal of the Polynesian Society*: 89.4 [Revised and expanded version of *Polyglot* article]
- 1981a *The Flight of the Amokura: Oceanic Languages and Formal Education in the South Pacific*, Wellington, NZCER (Finalist in New Zealand Book Awards 1982)

- 1981b *Maori and English at Pukekarakā: Community Resources and Parental Attitudes* (Te Wāhanga Māori Community Research Report No. 3). Wellington: NZCER
- 1982a *Ko Nga Kupu Pu Noa o te Reo Maori: The First Basic Maori Word List* (with the assistance of H. Tumoana and A. Robb), Wellington, NZCER (Reprinted 1983; third impression, 1985)
- 1982b "The Anatomy of a Word List". *set* No. 2, Item 3 (NZ).
- 1982c The Maori Picture Vocabulary Test (with G. Hanna) (Research instrument for measuring receptive knowledge of Maori vocabulary)
- 1982-88 Survey of Language Use in Maori Households and Communities: Reports to participants in the initial investigation, 1973-78 (ISSN 0113-3063): Series editor. Author of the following individual reports: (*The Maori Language in ...*) 1. *Waverley* (1988); 2. *Otaki, Manakau, Kuku & Poroutawhao* (1982); 7. (with Lee Smith) *New Plymouth & Okato* (1982); 84. *Rural Whangaroa* (1983); 87. *Central Waiapu* (1984); 88. *A Hundred Communities* (Summary) (1984); 100. *Russell, Ngaiotonga & Punaruku* (1986); 124. *From Herekino to Pawarenga* (1988); 125. *Eastern Hokianga* (1988); 129. *Southwest Bay of Islands* (1988); 130. *Northwestern Bay of Islands* (1988); 137. *Manurewa* (1988); 138. *Waiohiki, Moteo, Runanga & Te Haroto* (1988); 139. *Central Auckland Urban Area* (1988); 140. *Mangakino, Whakamaru & Atiamuri* (1988); 141. *Rangitikei County* (1988); 142. *Napier & Bay View* (1988); 143. *From Bombay to Mercer* (1988). Wellington: NZCER
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- 1984d "Examining the failure system" (an explanation of the NZ School Certificate scaling system), distributed by the NZ Post Primary Teachers Association to all branches and published as "Pitting the child against the system", *New Zealand Times*, 11 November 1984, and (first part only) as "Many students are doomed to fail even if they are successful", *Right to Work*, July 1984 and *Northerner: NZ Farming News*, 15 September 1984
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- 1984 f "The NZCER Māori Language Survey: Ten Years of Research", *PPTA Journal*, Term 2.
- 1985a "The evaluation of bilingual schooling in New Zealand". Paper presented at the Symposium on Language in a Multicultural Society, 26th IEA General Assembly, Auckland, 21 August.
- 1985b "Language and ethnic pluralism", in *Political Issues in New Zealand Education*, ed. J. Codd, R. Harker & R. Nash, Palmerston North, The Dunmore Press
- 1985c *Bilingual Education Programmes Evaluation Project 1984-1985: Final Report*, Wellington, Maori Unit, NZCER
- 1985d *The place of the Maori Language in the Education System* (Statement to the Waitangi Tribunal, Waiwhetu Marae, 28 June; TWKM OP No. 17). Wellington, NZCER
- 1985e *The Maori Language 1985 and Beyond* (Statement to the Waitangi Tribunal, Waiwhetu Marae, 25 June; TWKM OP No.16). Wellington, NZCER
- 1985f *Maori as an Official Language: What this Might Mean and Why it is Desirable* (Statement to the Waitangi Tribunal, Waiwhetu Marae, 26 June; TWKM OP No. 13). Wellington, NZCER

- 1985 *The Role of Television in the Survival of the Maori Language* (Statement to the Waitangi Tribunal, Waiwhetu Marae, 8 October) (TWM OP No. 18). Wellington, NZCER
- 1986a (with Hiria Tumoana and Ian Maxwell) *Nga Kupu Maori: A Maori - English Dictionary for Children* (First Trial Edition) (TWM Working Paper No. 6), NZCER
- 1986b *Administrative and Organizational Implications of Maori-English Bilingual Education for the School System* (Paper prepared for the Third International Conference on Minority Languages, Galway, 21-26 June; TWM OP No. 21). Wellington, NZCER
- 1986c "Schools as agents for language revival in Ireland and New Zealand", in *Language and Education in Multilingual Settings*, ed. B. Spolsky. Clevedon, England: Multilingual Matters Ltd
- 1986d *Here Today and Gone Tomorrow: Talking and Learning in New Zealand Classrooms* (Paper given at the 21st Regional Seminar, SEAMEO Regional Language Centre, Singapore) (TWM OP No. 20), NZCER
- 1986e "Now Fades the Glimmering ... Research in Classrooms in New Zealand" set no. 2 (revised and condensed version of *Here today ...*)
- 1987a "Language and politics in New Zealand" (Address to the Linguistic Society of the Philippines, February 1986). *Philippine Journal of Linguistics*, 18.1
- 1987b *Nga Kupu Pakeha: An English-Maori Dictionary for Children* (Trial Version for Project Schools) (TWM WP No. 7), NZCER
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- 1987d *Fairness in Maori Education: A Review of Research and Information*, (How Fair is New Zealand Education, Vol. 2), Wellington, Royal Commission on Social Policy, 1987; also published in Part 2, Vol. 3 of The Royal Commission's *April Report*, Wellington: Government Printer, 1988)
- 1988a "Issues in Maori Education", (a lecture in the "Issues in Education" series, July 1988) in *Winter Lectures 1988*. Lower Hutt: Taita College.
- 1988b "The Maori language in New Zealand education", *Language, Culture and Curriculum*, 1.2
- 1988c "Language rights in a Philippine setting". (Background paper originally prepared for Media Communicators, Manila, 1987), *Philippine Journal of Linguistics* 19.1.
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- 1988e "Education: Will the Reforms Work?", *Accent* 3.8.
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- 1989d "Will it hurt? Teaching in Maori, or Pitjantjatjara?" set No. 1, Item 3.
- 1990a "Mirror of Language: The Debate on Bilingualism by Kenji Hakuta" (review), *Language and Social Psychology* 8.2.
- 1990b "Maori Language Today", *New Zealand Geographic* 5, Jan.-Mar. (reprinted in Maori and English in *Nga Kauae* No. 3)
- 1990c "Biculturalism in Education: Policy and Practice under the Fourth Labour Government", in *The Fourth Labour Government* (second edition) ed. Martin Holland & Jonathan Boston, Oxford University Press
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- 1991b "Maori English: A New Zealand Myth?", in *English around the World*, ed. Jenny Cheshire, Cambridge University Press (reprinted in New Zealand English Newsletter, 6, 1992)
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- 1991f *The Maori Language: Dying or Reviving?* Honolulu, East West Center Association (reprinted, Wellington, NZ Council for Educational Research, 1997)
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- 1993c "Presidential Address to AARE / NZARE Second Joint Conference, Deakin University, November 1992". *Input* 15.2, 24-28.
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- 1994b "The Polynesian Languages Forum terminology database", in Bonifacio Sibayan & Leonard Newell (eds) *Papers from the First Asia International Lexicography Conference*. Manila, Linguistic Society of the Philippines
- 1994c with I.T. Maxwell. *Te Kura ki Uta: Opotiki College Bilingual Education Programme Assessment and Evaluation Project, Final Report*. Opotiki, Opotiki College Board of Trustees. (Accompanied by four volumes of resources: 1. *Word Frequencies in Classroom Reading Materials*; 2. *Text Analysis Program and Guidelines*. 3. *Word Index to Some Commonly Used Maori-Language Reading Materials*; 4. *Guidelines for Monitoring and Facilitating Vocabulary Growth*.)
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- 1995d "Polynesian languages on the information highway", in Mark Warschauer (ed) *Virtual Connections*. Honolulu: Second Language Teaching and Curriculum Center, University of Hawaii at Manoa.
- 1995e with Hineihaea Murphy, Mere Berryman, Cath Rau, Ted Glynn & others, Nga Kete Kōrero Policy Project: A Report to Te Puni Kōkiri. Wellington.
- 1995f Data systems to facilitate New Zealand social research. Background paper prepared for the Interim Social Sciences Committee of the Royal Society of NZ.
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- 1996g "The Māori Language in New Zealand Education and Society", in F. Mugler and J. Lynch (eds), *Pacific Languages in Education*, pp. 209-228. Suva: Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific. Reprinted in Paul Lassetre (Compiler), *Language in Hawai'i and the Pacific*, pp. 335-354. Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing.
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- 1997b "First Nations, Globalization and Administrative Convenience", in Nena Benton, *Transforming Higher Education through the Recognition of Prior Learning*, pp. 54-59. Wellington: Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.
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Te Māra Reo Website

<http://www.temarareo.org>

Profiles of NZ plants with names inherited from earlier stages of the Māori language, with information about the plants, their cultural and social significance, and the plants with cognate names in other Polynesian languages. Added to and updated since the launch of the site on May 15, 2008.

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