

## **Abstract**

### **Second Language Acquisition theory and Pasifika language loss and maintenance in New Zealand**

By Melenaite Taumoefolau, PhD (University of Auckland)

Young Pasifika people in New Zealand are losing their Pasifika language because they are engaged in successful acquisition of English. As they acquire more English, they become more and more steeped in it to the extent that they progressively lose touch with their Pasifika language. My paper will attempt to explain their Pasifika language loss and their English language acquisition using principles of Second Language Acquisition theory and practice, and findings from the Languages of Manukau Research Project. I will also attempt to show how principles of second language acquisition will help inform Pasifika language maintenance in New Zealand.