

Tributes

In Memory of the Life of

Professor Emerita Mary Esther
KROPP DAKUBU



(1938 - 2016)

Institute of African Studies (IAS), University of Ghana, Legon

**In Memory of Professor Emerita Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu,
1938-2016**

Tribute by the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana

The Institute of African Studies is honoured to share our reflections on Professor Emerita Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu, a dedicated scholar and mentor, and friend to many of us, who passed away in November 2016.

During her long career as a scholar, Professor Kropp Dakubu made outstanding contributions to teaching, research and community service both within the University of Ghana, her professional home, and outside. She was member of faculty of the University of Ghana for forty-four years counting 10 years of post-retirement contract and five years of non-stipendiary service as a professor emerita of the University. Commencing her career as a Research Fellow in language and linguistics at the Institute of African Studies in 1964, she was promoted to the rank of Senior Research Fellow in 1972, Associate Professor in 1982, and Full Professor in 1987.

Professor Kropp Dakubu took up the position of Deputy Director of the Institute of African Studies in 1988 and later moved to the Language Centre as its Director, a position she held until she attained age 60, the retiring age in Ghana. She returned to the Institute of African Studies soon after where she continued on post-retirement contract to supervise graduate work and teach graduate classes. She also led and managed the Institute's Publications Unit, serving as the Editor-in-Chief of our publications. She continued to supervise and teach gratis graduate and undergraduate courses at the Linguistics Department of the University of Ghana as well as at the University of Education, Winneba (UEW). The credit for introducing the study of the Gurene language at the UEW is rightfully hers; she not only researched that language, but taught it and mentored the first tutors of Gurene at the Gur-Gonja Department of the UEW.

Professor Kropp Dakubu had a very fruitful scholarly career, especially in the area of language studies (linguistics and literature). She was keenly interested in issues and questions around historical linguistics, and language use and policy in Ghana. While Kropp Dakubu's research and writing have covered an impressive range of languages including English, Akan, Dagbani, and Dagaare, and some of endangered northern Guang languages, she is especially recognized internationally for her ground-breaking research into Ga and Dangme, and later on Gurene. It would be recalled that in appreciation of her work on the latter, the Frafra District assemblies bestowed a special award on her for the development of Gurene.

Altogether, Professor Kropp Dakubu wrote numerous books and monographs, countless journal articles and book chapters. She edited or co-edited more than forty scholarly journals and reports. When in 2012 the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana set up a programme for units of the University to produce readers it was to Professor Kropp Dakubu that he turned; he placed her in charge of the entire University readers' programme. The project was by all indicators a resounding success.

Professor Kropp Dakubu made rich contributions to the University and global Africanist scholarship. She served the academic community in Ghana and West Africa through her active membership of the West African Linguistics Society, the Linguistics Association of Ghana, and the Ghana English Studies Association. Her work was recognized variously, including her appointment as Visiting Professor at a number of respected institutions in the United States, Germany, and Norway, among others. In recognition of her outstanding scholarship she was elected to the Fellowship of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Professor Kropp Dakubu has been a mentor to numerous students, and generously continued to share her time, extensive knowledge and considerable skill and priceless insight with both faculty and staff long after her retirement. While receiving treatment in Boston she continued

to receive email messages from her doctoral students requesting for assistance. Below are reflections from some of her colleagues.

Professor Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu was deeply committed to the work of the Institute. She was a stickler for proper writing: grammar, syntax, construction and so forth, and long after she had retired she assisted in the teaching of Academic writing to our graduate students. These quickly learned that they could not string together sentences in a cavalier manner and submit them as academic essays. She attended Fellows meetings and often brought her keen institutional memory to bear in guiding our decision making, something I particularly appreciated during my tenure as Director. In an environment when some do not speak out when something is wrong, for fear of incurring displeasure, Professor Kropp Dakubu was forthright, honest and firm. I recollect an occasion when pressure had been brought to bear on one Director by a past Director to hire someone to a position he was unqualified for, and indeed showed no competence for either; Professor Kropp Dakubu calmly spoke up to insist that he could not and should not be hired to that position. And he was not.

Professor Kropp Dakubu was down to earth and did not stand by ceremony, thus she did not demand any of the privileges that are sometimes associated with people of her status and distinction. This made her very approachable, and someone in whose presence one could be very comfortable.

I worked with her on one special issue of the then *Research Review* (now *Contemporary Journal of African Studies*) and found this to be one of the most smooth-sailing collaborative projects I have ever engaged in — Akosua Adomako Ampofo, and Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu (Eds.). 2009. *Knowledge Transmission in Ghana: Research Review Supplement 19*. Legon, Institute of African Studies. She was readily available, consistent, thorough, as well as generous with the authors, spending much time and effort working with them to shape their papers. I myself learned a lot in the process, not only on the technical skills of editing a journal, but also on being both firm and kind with authors.

As the Akans say, ɔ ye ɔnipa, Professor Emerita Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu was truly a human being!

-Professor Akosua Adomako Ampofo (Director, IAS: 2010-2015)

For us, as a research institute, we could not have had a better role model than Professor Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu. She loved fieldwork and whether she ventured into communities in rural areas in northern Ghana or into small migrant groups in the city of Accra, she applied the same rigour and dedication. This resulted in prolific analyses and publications. The range of her interests has ensured that studies in a number of dying languages as well as languages like Ga and Gurune have been deepened considerably. She also studied and wrote about broad themes such as the national language and multi-lingualism. Professor Kropp Dakubu is associated with the revival and survival of our publications unit and publication programmes and was a long-term editor of the Institute of African Studies Research Review. She also served on numerous statutory and adhoc committees thus assisting actively in the running of the Institute.

-Professor Esi Sutherland-Addy

The news of Professor Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu's demise was hard to believe and for days I still hoped that it was a mistake. The last time I received a message from her (about a month or two before she left us), she sounded upbeat and said she was living with her sister and receiving treatment.

The news of her passing has been hard to take for those of us who knew her for a long time — nearly 40 years: since the 1970s. In my own case: she was responsible for teaching me the Structure of African Languages, a course on offer at the Institute in my graduate student days. Professor Mary Esther Dakubu also supervised my MA (now the equivalent of the MPhil) thesis on 'Kasem Nominal Classes and Nominal Concord'. It was not a bad job, to put it euphemistically. The examiners had no difficulty

with the thesis (even in those days when only a few Legon graduate theses made the mark). I recall that the external examiner's comments were flattering. She remained my mentor thereafter – ever willing to spare time to comment on my draft articles and publications. She was always frank and sympathetic: if she said a paper was not good, I did not doubt it.

As a former publications officer and Editor-in-chief at the Institute, she continued to be on standby long after she had stepped down from the position. As editors, Dr Stephen Acheampong and myself sought her advice whenever we were confronted by editorial challenges.

Mary Esther's departure is a great loss not only for the Institute; Ghanaian linguistics has lost a true champion. She was an authority not only on the Ga and Dangme languages, but also on Gurene (Frafra). She was interested also in Dagbanli (Dagbani) and Dagaare.

We will continue to mourn her for a long time.

May she find a peaceful repose in the arms of Our Lord.

Condolences to her daughter, Memuna.

-Professor Albert Kanlisi Awedoba

Tribute By Professor Gordon S.K. Adika **Director, Language Centre**

One morning, almost exactly twenty-five years ago, I went to the office of Emerita Professor Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu (who was then the Director of the Language Centre) to inquire whether there was a possible opening for me at the Centre. She received me very warmly, and after a brief interaction she asked me to submit my application. That was the starting point of my professional engagement with this outstanding scholar. Today, it is with a very heavy heart that I give this tribute, the writing of which sent me on memory pathways intertwined with palpable pain (for the loss) and subdued pleasure (for her accomplishments). Indeed, all of us in the Language Centre are deeply saddened by the passing away of our director, leader, mentor, and friend Professor Emerita Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu.

Professor Kropp Dakubu was the Director of the Language Centre from 1989 to 1998 – a period of remarkable transformations in Ghana with concomitant effects on the educational system of the country. It would be recalled that from the late 1960s through the 1970s to the 1980s, Ghana's declining fortunes characterised by falling agricultural production and manufacturing output along with huge trade deficits and a not-too-stable political environment led to a massive exodus of professionals including lecturers to foreign lands in search of greener pastures. This exodus affected the manpower capacity of Ghanaian universities, including, of course, the University of Ghana. Professor Kropp Dakubu was one of the few who stayed behind to help develop the university or to ensure that the university carried out its mandate. The commencement of her appointment as director coincided with the start of a new decade of change in Ghana. Relative political stability leading to the promulgation of the 1992 Constitution created a conducive environment for academic work to flourish through a comprehensive expansion of the University's human capacity. Having endured the tough years of excessive teaching loads and yet emerging as an accomplished scholar and researcher, Professor Kropp Dakubu was in a position to

respond appropriately to the needs of the Language Centre. The rebuilding process had started, and she brought her intellectual capacity and her experience to bear on helping the Centre to expand its human capacity in order to deliver on its mandate. This she did remarkably well.

Between 1992 and 1996, she was able to shore up the staff strength with six new appointees in addition to a few who were given sabbatical or visiting lecturer appointments. She paid close attention to each one of us, and tried to get us back on track any time we appeared to have strayed. I recount here an incident which remains etched in my memory. A year or two after my appointment as a Junior Research Fellow in the Language Centre, I boldly went to see my director, Professor Kropp Dakubu, in her office and told her that I had some ideas for income generation to the Centre. She looked at me with concern and said quietly but firmly, "Gordon, I think you should focus on your PhD." The conversation was over. I slipped out of the office, not with the expected heaviness of embarrassment but rather with a heightened sense of my responsibilities towards myself and the community I had chosen to be a part of. She provided a model of solid academic leadership which created a stimulating and supportive intellectual environment for academic staff, especially the neophytes.

During her tenure, the Centre witnessed significant modifications with regard to the structure and focus of its core teaching programme – Language and Study Skills – to enable it to reflect the changing needs of incoming students (partly because of the introduction of the Junior & Senior Secondary School system in 1987) and in response to the emergence of academic writing as a major requirement in most universities globally. Additionally, undergraduate programmes in universities in the country had been restructured into four-year degree programmes under a two-semester system. In the light of published evidence that students were coming to the university with weak writing skills, she led the Centre to restructure the Language and Study Skills courses to reflect the growing need for our students to develop their writing competencies. She invited experts from the United States to help in

this regard, and I recall especially Professor LaRene Despain from Hawaii who led workshops for academic staff on the teaching of academic writing in second language contexts.

Many in the community of linguists can attest to the plethora of research projects Professor Kropp Dakubu was involved in, but I would like to highlight the Ga-English Dictionary Project. The research that goes into this lexicographical project demonstrates exquisite linguistic scholarship because it demands the researcher's knowledge of many aspects of linguistics – phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, etymology, register and style. Equally exacting are the demands for the researcher's interactions with the target language community. Professor Kropp Dakubu went to the field on several occasions and met with chiefs in Central Accra (Ga Mashi) and Ga rural communities. This was to enable the research team she was leading to gather information needed to build up the dictionary and also to test the reliability and quality of the data. The final product, published in 1999, is the most comprehensive Ga-English dictionary on the market today.

Professor Kropp Dakubu produced numerous local and international publications. These publications have not only extended the frontiers of scholarship in Linguistics but have also firmly established her credibility as a reputable expert in the discipline. What has impressed me the most is the persuasive strength of her academic discourse. In her publications, she speaks with a clarity of voice imbued with energy and vibrancy – a quality that would resonate across generations. I would like to share with you an extract from her article entitled "Dealing with the 'Multilingualism Problem': Language Policy and 2000 Population and Housing Census of Ghana' (page 2):

"First of all, let me state that I did not formulate the original title, and was slightly taken aback when I saw it, because the really fundamental problem is, why do we think multilingualism is a problem? If we have an abundance of different minerals, or of vegetation types, or forms of dressing, or kinds of music, is that a problem? Many of us would say variety in these things is an asset, either economically or in terms of

human achievement or both Why don't we think of languages that way? Before you object that language is somehow different, let me suggest that one real problem is that attitudes to language on the part of governments and public servants seem to be decidedly ambiguous (if that is not an oxymoron). Or perhaps they try to avoid having an attitude altogether, which is itself an interesting attitude. For example, in December 2001, I explored official websites of the Ministry of Education to see how the language in education policy was stated there – but it was not mentioned at all! To get any information I had to go to privately run sites. Another example: the protocols for the census conducted in 2000 included no questions at all about Ghanaian languages, except to ask whether respondents could read in any Ghanaian language – apparently nobody was interested in finding out whether any particular Ghanaian language was more widely read than others. These silences would seem to imply that there is no problem, or at least that those who run the country do not think there is a problem, but we know very well that there is a problem, and these silences are part of it.”

That is the voice of Professor Kropp Dakubu. However, her style was not to celebrate the status of her professorial knowledge but rather to share this knowledge and also to acknowledge her indebtedness to the academic community – her colleagues, her collaborators, her research assistants and the diverse range of intellectuals who in one way or the other shaped her thinking and the direction of her research.

With regard to her administrative leadership, her humility inspired humility in many of us. One day as I worked in my office, the squeaking and reverberating sounds of furniture being moved drifted to me. I popped my head out to check what was happening and lo and behold there was Professor Kropp Dakubu helping the messenger/cleaner to move a massive bookshelf. I quickly shut my door and went to help, and for the next thirty minutes the three of us moved bookshelves to an adjoining office. And she thanked me! Indeed, she appreciated the value of little things, and showed respect to all members of staff regardless of hierarchy.

All in all, she reflected a goodness of heart, strength of purpose, and deep perceptiveness. The Language Centre, the University of Ghana and the worldwide community of linguists have lost a fine intellectual and a good person. At this time of sorrow, we derive strength from the scripture:

Isaiah 41:10 *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

May her soul rest in perfect peace.

Tribute to Emerita Professor Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu By Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Dean, School of Languages

Emerita Professor Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu served the Linguistics Department in particular and the School of Languages for all the period that she was here in Ghana. As a linguist, her affiliation with the Department of Linguistics came naturally. For many years she taught the Linguistics of Ga at the Department and supervised and mentored many students.

In 2009, when we thought about reviving the Linguistics Association of Ghana, she was extremely supportive. She was with us at our conferences and workshops. She readily accepted to be the founding editor-in-chief of the Association's journal, Ghana Journal of Linguistics. She enthusiastically executed her duties; got the journal hosted online at Africa Journals Online, while ensuring that the two issues per year came out on time. We had an interesting working relationship. As a member of the editorial board, I worked under her leadership and learnt a lot from her, while she accounted to me as President of the Linguistics Association of Ghana, owners of the journal. It was simply a joy working with her, as she demonstrated a wealth of knowledge, and was willing to give others the opportunity to learn. I had the privilege of co-editing one of the Studies in the Languages of the Volta Basin editions (produced by the Department of Linguistics) with her, and also worked with her on the University of Ghana Reader Series Editorial (Coordinating) Committee.

We will miss Prof. She served our nation and the linguistics fraternity well. Through her effort, a number of Ghanaian languages were brought to the limelight and many Ghanaians got interested in their own languages.

She will be sorely missed.

May she rest in the bosom of our Lord Almighty.

**Linguistics Department:
Tribute to Emerita Professor Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu
By Professor Florence Dolphyne**

I read this tribute on behalf of the Linguistics Department and on my own behalf. (Florence Dolphyne)

I first met Prof. Mary Esther Dakubu in September, 1962, when I went to the University of London, to start a postgraduate programme in Linguistics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). She already had a Master's degree, and was a young lecturer working on her Ph.D. thesis in the Department of Linguistics at SOAS. At the end of the 1963/64 academic year, I learnt that she was going to the University of Ghana in October, 1964 as a Research Fellow in the Institute of African studies.

In September 1965, I returned to Ghana to take up an appointment in the Linguistics Department. Although the linguists in African Studies were full-time researchers, it was clear that Mary Esther was interested in teaching and interacting with students. She offered to teach a course in Historical Linguistics, which became an elective course for 3rd year students. Mary Esther's primary research interest was in the linguistics of Ga, and it didn't take long for her to develop a course in the phonology and syntax of Ga. In time Ga became the third Ghanaian language after Akan and Ewe whose Linguistic structures were already taught in the Department. Prof Dakubu produced a Ga –English Dictionary in 1999 which she later revised and expanded in 2009. The Dictionary has been a major contribution to the study of the Ga language. Indeed her contribution to Ga studies is not limited to the Department of Linguistics but extends also to Ga scholars in, especially the Presbyterian Church, and in the Bureau of Ghana Languages.

Prof. Dakubu's contribution to the study of Ghanaian Languages went beyond her interest in Ga. She spent a great deal of her time collecting data on Gurene, and together with Drs. Atintono and Avea, native speakers of Gurene, who had been her students, they were able to

produce a Gurene-English Dictionary. Thanks to her, Gurene is now one of the Ghanaian languages that are studied at the University of Education Winneba, Ajumako campus.

Prof. Dakubu also worked on Dagaare, and published a few papers on the grammar of Dagaare. Indeed her contribution to the Linguistics of Ghanaian languages puts us, the Ghanaian linguists, to shame since we have mostly concentrated our research efforts on our own mother tongues.

In addition to the academic contribution that Prof. Dakubu has made to the study of the linguistic structure of some Ghanaian languages, she must be commended for her devotion and commitment to the Linguistics Department and University of Ghana as a whole.

In the early 1980's, when the economic situation in the country forced many professionals to seek greener pastures in Nigeria and other African countries, the teaching staff of the Linguistics Department dwindled to two -- Prof. Duthie and myself. In 1983 we decided not to admit first year students that year so that we could concentrate our energies on 2 sets of students over the following three years. Even with that strategy, the two of us could not have handled all the required core and elective courses, if Prof. Dakubu had not graciously agreed to teach Historical Linguistics in addition to the normal Linguistics of Ga. For her offer to take on that extra burden without any extra financial benefit, the Linguistics Department has been forever grateful to her.

On a personal note, my friendship with Mary Esther went beyond our similar academic interests. I first met Mary Esther in 1964 and by the end of that year, she had taken up an appointment at Legon. We did not keep in touch with each other till I joined Legon staff in October 1965. Many of the 1961 and 1962 Legon graduates who had been sent to Britain for post graduate studies were back home in 1965, and we decided to welcome ourselves back home, as it were; so my husband and I hosted them in our South Legon home on 31st December 1965.

I invited Mary Esther to that party. Later I learnt that that was the first time Mumuni and Mary Esther set eyes on each other.

After they got married, they decided to commemorate the first day they met, and so from time to time they had a get-together in their home for a few close friends on 31st December. Our daughters Maimuna and Akuba grew up on campus and became close friends, and it was Maimuna who called Akuba and told her in July, last year, that her mother had been taken ill in America. Akuba was aware that I was going to be in the U.S in August, so she asked Maimuna to send me the relevant information so I could visit her mother in August. I am glad I had that opportunity to spend about 2 hours with her in hospital.

Mary Esther, thank you for your support for, and contribution to Linguistic Studies in Ghana, and thank you for your friendship.

You deserve a Very Peaceful rest.

**To the Memory of Emerita Professor Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu
By E. Kweku Osam, PhD, Professor of Linguistics, University of
Ghana - Legon.**

I got to know Prof. Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu when I was a graduate student in the Department of Linguistics, University of Ghana, in the 1980s. She amazed me with her depth of knowledge of the complex structures of African languages. Mary Esther could talk about the structures of different African languages with such confidence and conviction. As far as I can remember, she was about the only linguist in Ghana during her time who worked on languages well beyond the borders of Ghana.

In my professional career she was my senior colleague. Her dedication to scholarship was excellent; her commitment to mentorship unalloyed. Mary Esther devoted all of her life to the people of Ghana through studying our languages; and she did this to the very end. Without a doubt, she wrote more papers and monographs on the Ga/Dangme languages than any researcher. After years of writing on Ga and Dangme, she turned her attention to Gurene. Even in retirement Mary Esther continued with her prolific output as a researcher.

It was, therefore, with great personal satisfaction that, as Dean of the erstwhile Faculty of Arts, together with the then Director of the Institute of African Studies, I championed her appointment as Emerita Professor in 2010, the first woman to be so appointed by the University of Ghana. With her death we have lost an awesome scholar and been denied a dedicated mentor. May she rest in peace.

Tribute from the Coordinating Editors, UG Readers Series by Professor Kwadwo Koram, Coordinating Editor.

In 2012, our former VC, Professor Ernest Aryeetey, announced a publication drive for the University, charging each department to produce a departmental reader. I found myself named as Coordinating Editor for the Physical and Life Sciences working under Professor Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu as the Coordinating Editor. My other colleagues in this were Professor Charles Mate-Kole, editor of the Clinical Sciences Series and Professor Ama de-Graft Aikins, editor of the Social Sciences Series. Later this group was expanded to include Professors Joshua Abor, Nana Aba Amfo and Eric Sampene-Donkor.

This was the beginning of one of our most fulfilling academic partnerships on campus and I can say that despite the volume of work involved in getting the readers published, it was a real labour of love and we all enjoyed getting the readers produced and published.

Initially, I was not exactly sure what we were to do but after a couple of meetings with Mary Esther, we were all clear about what was required. This was essentially due to her ability to distil the requirements into a very simple but useful 1 page set of guidelines for our interactions with the various departments. The initial reactions to the request for producing the departmental readers were very varied. Some departments felt they knew what they had to and no one was going to tell them how to do it. Some editors would deliver their drafts either to the VC's office or directly to Mary Esther. But, in her quiet way, she would always ensure that the coordinating editor for that series was the one to receive the copy and bring his /her report to our regular meetings. Because we were all working from the standard guidelines she produced, it was very easy to speak with one editorial voice. What we all found interesting and impressive working with her was her quiet determination to get the work done. Being the Coordinating Editor, we left the contract issues with publishers in her domain and we were amazed at how she kept track of all the various contracts we had to sign for getting the volumes published.

During the first couple of years of the Readers project, we had meetings every month, mostly in Mary Esther's office at IAS, and sometimes over lunch. The work blossomed to a large extent because we became friends and enjoyed our interactions. But she was the glue that kept us close knit and pushed us to make progress on the project. Through her guidance, we were able to keep track of production and gradually got the series published, more than 40 volumes at the last count, and one of the largest publishing effort from an African University.

We had our last lunch with Mary Esther in March, before she left for the US. She was going to see her family and return in June, in time for the launch of Professor Kwapong's memoir, which she edited for the University at the request of Prof Aryeetey. She had left the usual 1-page guideline for us to wrap up the few Readers in the pipeline and to begin a marketing drive to stock readers at local bookstores. A few weeks later we were informed that she had taken ill and that her return would be delayed. We still hoped to see her before the year was out. However, her condition deteriorated. We did manage to speak to Mary Esther via phone, as a group and individually in September and October, with her sister's permission. In November last year, while attending a meeting in the US, I was informed of her passing and I managed to take an overnight flight to Boston to attend the funeral service. It was a very simple service and I was glad that I could represent the Coordinating Editors and the University Community, the Editorship being her last major assignment for the University.

We mourn a great academic, a mentor, a mother, a sister and above all a friend. We will treasure and miss, your spirit, drive, dry sense of humour, sense of duty and selfless leadership. It was a great privilege having known and worked with you.

May the Lord grant you eternal rest.

Tribute to Emerita Professor Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu (1938 - 2016) by University of Ghana Alumni Council

The Council of the UNIVERSITY OF GHANA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, in recognition of your invaluable service to the Institution, on November 10, 2016, made you an Honorary Member of our ASSOCIATION.

Your service, which spanned a period of almost 50 years, underlined your commitment to education in Ghana, with specific reference to the study of Ghanaian languages, an exemplary feat for an expatriate lecturer. We also note, with great appreciation, your role as the coordinator of the Readers' Series which has become a lasting legacy in the enhancement of academic publication at the University.

We appreciate your committed service to the University and country as a whole. Your contribution to delivery of quality education will always be remembered, not least by the role you played in the lives of countless alumni who currently hold prominent positions in our country.

Our hearts and prayers go to your family, following your passing and trust in the good lord to give you eternal rest.

REST WELL EMERITA PROF.

Tribute by Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences to Professor Emerita Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu

For if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's (Romans 14:8 NKJV).

The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences received the news of the passing on to glory of Professor Emerita Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu with great shock and sadness.

Prof. Emerita Kropp Dakubu, an esteemed Fellow of the Academy, was elected into the Fellowship of the Ghana Academy on December 20, 1990.

Before her election into the Fellowship of the Academy, she contributed immensely to knowledge internationally and had done tremendous service in Ghana.

In January 22, 1993, she delivered her Inaugural Lecture at the Conference Room of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to Fellows of the Academy, friends and loved ones.

She was elected a member of the Council of the Academy in the years 1997-1998, 2001-2002 and 2003-2004. She was a member of the Publications Committee in 2001-2002 and later elected the Chairperson. She was elected a member of the Editorial Board of the Academy in 2002 and was the Editor of the Academy's Newsletter.

Prof. Emerita Kropp Dakubu contributed greatly to the growth and development of the Academy. She was a Fellow who always had something thoughtful, interesting and useful to say at meetings. She was regular and punctual at General Meetings of Fellows, Arts Sectional Meetings, Publications Committee and Academy Public Lectures.

Prof. Emerita Kropp Dakubu will be remembered as someone with a pleasant disposition, firm and principled. She was easily approachable by Fellows and Staff and has left a big void in the Academy.

Her admirable commitment to the development of the Linguistic culture, the excellent diligence demonstrated in her work, and amiable personality will be greatly missed by Fellows of the Academy. She will also be remembered in the Academy for her willingness to review papers submitted by candidates proposed to Fellowship, Public Lectures manuscript and papers for Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards.

We are grateful to God for her life and the impact she made on the Academy and in Ghana as a whole. Her legacy lives on and there is no doubt she paid dues.

Prof. Emerita Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu, FARE THEE WELL, REST IN PEACE

Tribute by Professor Avea Nsoh, Principal of the College of Languages Education, Ajumako, of the University of Education, Winneba.

Professor Mary Esther Dakubu, I first met you in 1990. I never in my wildest imagination think that you were going to have such a huge impact on my carrier as a linguist and my family. I wanted to take a course in Farefari linguistics. You promised to give me the opportunity to do it. That was the beginning of a long relationship that went beyond the lecture hall. We visited my house in the village together at least twice. As for me, your house was mine and I never stopped visiting you and your husband and, I did so until you left for the USA and never returned. When it was difficult to feed, you were the first that came to mind. However, the pressure of work and the distance between Accra and Vea in the Upper East made it difficult.

In 1992, you employed me as a senior research assistant at the Language Centre where you were the director. I worked with you for one year before returning to the Linguistics Department for a master's degree. Knowing my poor financial status you facilitated my recruitment as a graduate assistant. It was during my stay at the Language Centre that we started collecting material for the Gurenɛ Dictionary which was eventually published in 2007.

Ayamga Awuntige and I started the Gurenɛ Unit at the Department at the University of Education. Soon after Mr Awuntige passed on. It was almost impossible to teach all the courses alone. Then, I thought of Prof Dakubu. You accepted to come and teach with me to my surprise when I suggested it to you. You came every week. When it became difficult for you to come to the campus, you accepted my proposal that the students come to Legon. You continued until we were able to train some of our students to join me as lecturers. The success of the Farefari language development especially with the training of human resource, material development including the Gurenɛ orthography and dictionary and the teaching and learning of Farefari in at the University of Education and the Colleges of

Language are attributed almost entirely to you.

You mentored me in the complete sense of the word. You did not change me, you changed a whole people. You taught me to believe in myself, never to be selfish and to work for mind kind.

When I informed you that I had applied to become Minister of state, you were not happy and asked whether I could do Ghanaian politics. I said 'yes' but true to word, I returned to the University two years into my four year tenure. You definitely, know your boy very well!!

The last but most significant thing you did for me whiles you were in the USA was to provide me with a reference letter which has made me the Principal of the College of Language Education. You achieved your wish for me before you left. You are telling me to ensure that what you could not do at the Language Centre, Institute of African studies and the Linguistics Department, I must continue at the College. I promise to keep the flame burning.

Prof, you were one of four women in my life: my grand mom, my mom and my wife. But your role was different because you were different! Thank you for everything.

Prof pae yire! Prof Dakubu pae suna! Prof Mary Esther Dakubu, bona neɲa dee gura mam! Mam miɲa ma wa Profesor Amary A-Esther Adakubu, bona neɲa dee dabesere ɲwana ma'a ti ma me boi sore!

Tribute to the late Professor Emerita Mary-Esther Kropp Dakubu by Dr. Akua Campbell, Rice University, USA

As a budding linguist at the University of Ghana in the mid 2000's, and particularly one who was interested in Ga language, history and culture, I viewed Prof. Dakubu as a legend in the field of Ga-Dangme studies. There were few topics relating to these languages, especially Ga, that she had not meticulously researched and published on. I was lucky enough to work closely with her in 2008/2009 when, after receiving a bachelor's degree in linguistics, I served as an editorial assistant on the production of the second edition of the Ga-English dictionary, of which she was editor. Prof. Dakubu was a patient and methodical teacher. She taught me aspects of Ga linguistics and lexicography in general that I had not previously been exposed to, and that have remained crucial skills and resources in the advancement of my education in Ga linguistics.

We shared a love of the history of the Ga language and people, and bemoaned the fact that we could not dedicate more time to researching that subject, as there was so much work to be done on the language proper. Prof. Dakubu was always helpful and generous in lending me books and articles that she felt might be helpful to me in my research, even ones that she was still working on. Her guidance and mentorship will be sorely missed. It had always been a dream of mine to someday author an article or book with her. Sadly, that will not happen. May she rest in peace, and may her students and colleagues continue to build on the solid foundation that she has laid in linguistic research, especially Ga-Dangme research.

Tribute to the late Prof. Emerita Mary-Esther Kropp Dakubu by Professor Emerita Odette Blum, Ohio University, USA

It is with much sadness that I write these thoughts on the sudden and untimely death of an old friend.

Mary Esther and I have known each other since my arrival in Ghana in 1966. We have shared our thoughts and joys and sorrows over the years.

As the end neared I was fortunate to spend a little time sitting with her, talking of old times. She was so ill she could barely move or communicate.

I will, rather, treasure the memory of a delightful week we spent being tourists in Baton Rouge where she had been staying with Maimuna.

For Maimuna this must be an especially heart breaking time, losing both parents in a short time. I hope in time the love and memories they shared will give her comfort.

To Mary Esther I bid a fond farewell, and to all her family my thoughts and condolences.

May she rest in peace.



**Professor Emerita Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu with
her late husband Professor Mumuni Dakubu**