

## Resensi Buku

Title : *The Papuan Languages of Timor, Alor and Pantar (Volume 2)*  
ISBN : 978-1-61451-906-5, Hard cover  
Editor : Antoinette Schapper  
Publisher : De Gruyter, 2017, 358 pp.

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The non-Austronesian (Papuan) languages in the eastern part of Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia are considered minority languages that are in danger of extinction due to the use of the more dominant national language, Indonesian, and/or a local Malay variety. The use of Malay/Indonesian is proven increasing due to prestige and is obliged in formal situation by the local government. The use of local languages by younger generations have started to get more influence from the local Malay, which results in serious modification in terms of language production and perception. Hence, grammatical descriptions of these languages are urgently needed.

The present volume is the second book that compiles grammatical sketches of five Papuan languages, namely Kafoa, Kui, Kula, Makalero, and Makasae. In this book, these five languages are described in four chapters in which the descriptions on Makalero and Makasae are combined. Compared to the first volume, which contains the descriptions of six languages, this volume has less number of descriptions. In the first chapter of the book, the editor gives a comprehensive overview of the Timor-Alor-Pantar (TAP) languages, that includes recent studies on the historical linguistics of the TAP family, the external relationship, and the interactions with Austronesian languages. The typological overview of the TAP languages provides a brief comparison on the phonology, morphology, word order, serial verb constructions, and complex predications. Each chapter of the book contains at least 50 pages of grammatical descriptions that cover important topics such as language scene, phonology, clause structure, noun phrases, verbal morphology, independent pronouns, serial verb constructions, and aspect marking.

Kafoa is the first language described in this volume by Baird. In the language map of the Alor-Pantar region, Kafoa is spoken in a small circle in south-west Alor, between a larger area of Klön and Abui, which makes it no surprise that the language shares some grammatical and lexical similarities with both Klön and Abui. In this chapter, Kafoa is described as a language that has unique features.

In Chapter three of the book, Kui is described by Glenn Windschuttel and Asako Shiohara. This description is said to be a preliminary one, due to small corpus. Kui is spoken in several pocket areas in the coastal west of Alor. The center for its traditional community is located in Lerabaing village, south-western Alor. There are two other separate groups in the nearby village of Buraga and a further north Moru, close to Kalabahi. The language is closely related to Kiramang, another coastal language in south Alor. It is interesting to see the spread of coastal languages in this area. Among TAP, languages on Alor, Wersing is also spoken in a number of

pocket areas in east Alor. On Pantar, similar case is seen in Blagar and the only Austronesian language in the area, Alorese.

Chapter four in this book describes Kula, which is spoken in the eastern part of Alor. This description by Nicholas J. Williams is the first linguistic description of the language. The language is closely related to Sawila and Wersing, two other languages in east Alor. Kula has become an endangered language because adult speakers have already used a mixture of Kula and Malay while the children use mostly Malay.

Two languages spoken in the eastern part of Timor Island, Makalero and Makasae, are described by Juliette Huber in Chapter 5. The two languages are described together in one chapter probably because the two languages are very closely related and that the locals treated Makalero as a dialect of Makasae. Nevertheless, the chapter provides a comprehensive comparison of the two languages. Even though it would be fair to have two separate descriptions for both languages, the 82 pages of descriptions provide sufficient insights of the differences and similarities between Makalero and Makasae.

The book comprehensively describes the five languages which is very useful for further study on the non-Austronesian languages in the Timor-Alor-Pantar region. The introduction part gives a fair overview of the description with brief analyses on the grammatical comparison of the five languages. In addition, each description consistently provides details in a relatively similar way that readers of this book will be able to understand the unique features of each language. The third volume of the book will surely be awaited for in order to add descriptive collections of languages in the area.