

Austronesian and Papuan Languages  
and Linguistics Conference (APLL 11)

**‘Give’ constructions  
in Austronesian and  
Papuan languages of eastern  
Indonesia: a case of structural  
convergence**

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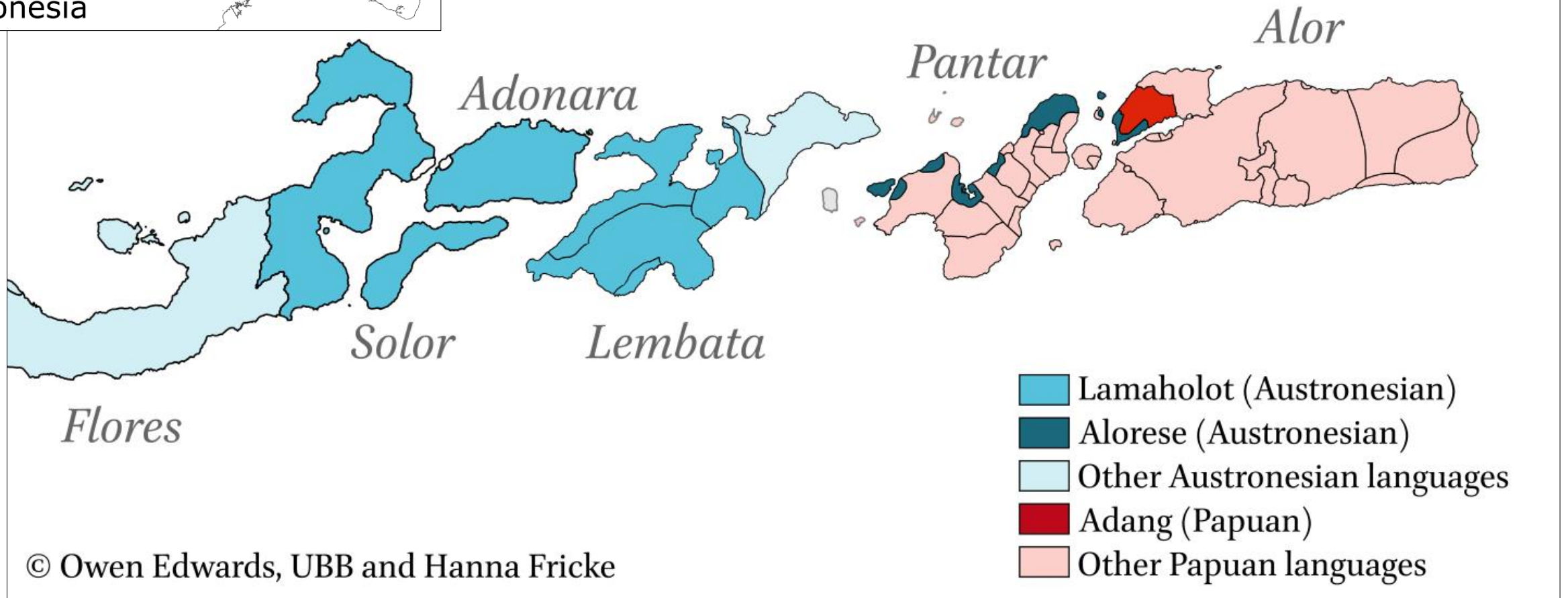
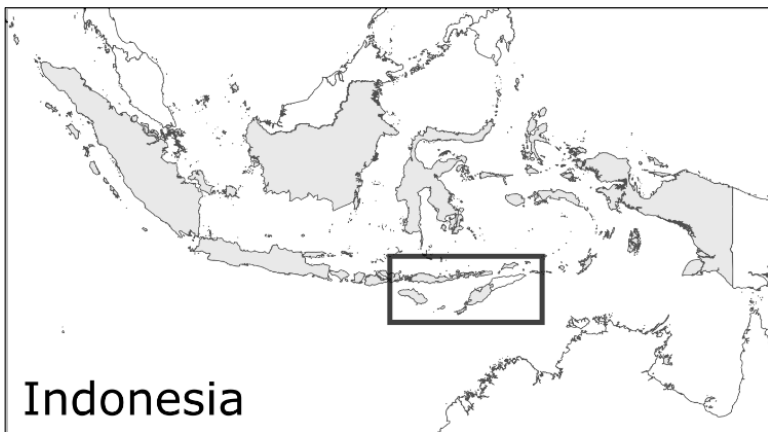
# General aims

1. Describe and compare *give*-constructions in 3 languages of eastern Indonesia:
  - Lamaholot (Austronesian)
  - Alorese (Austronesian)
  - Adang (Papuan)
2. Show structural change in Alorese *give*-constructions (due to contact with Papuan languages)

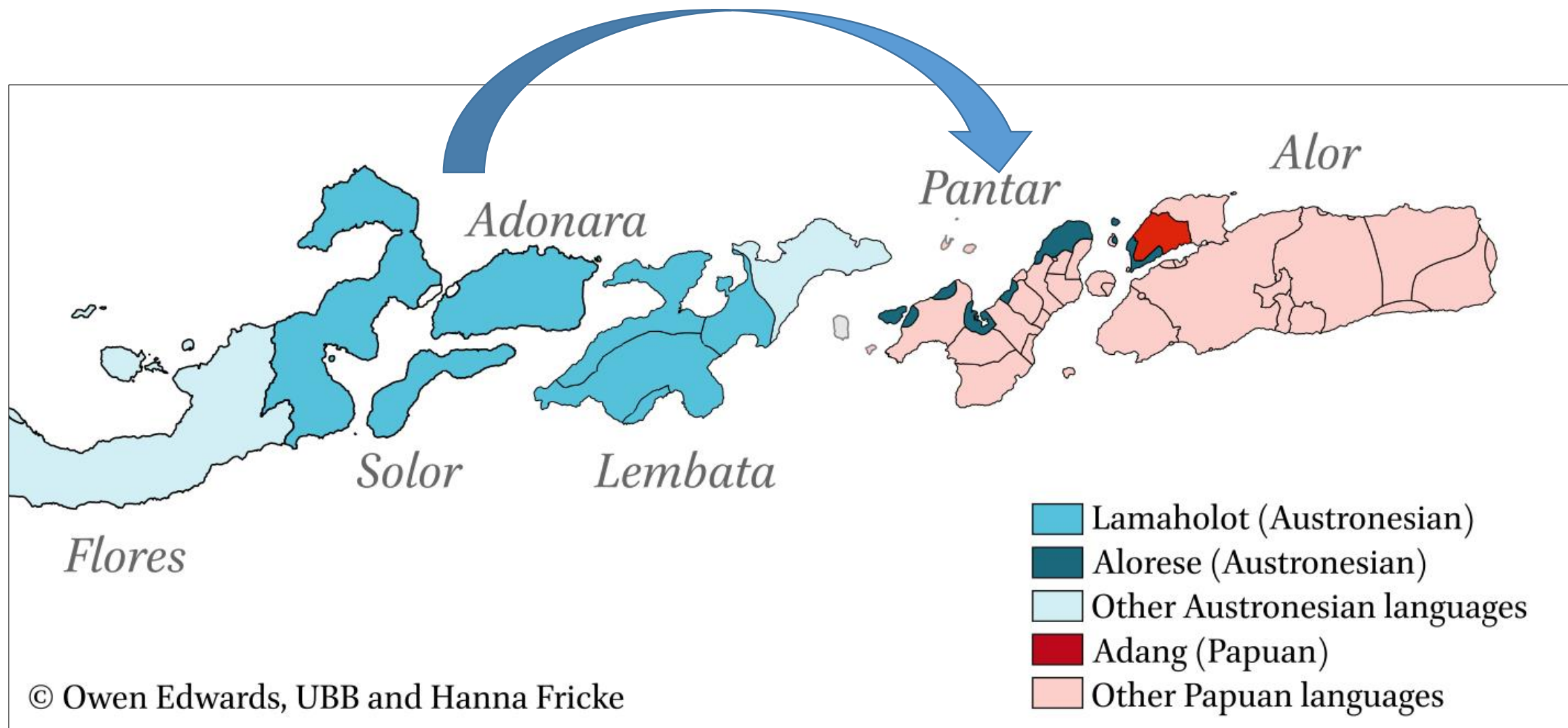
# Outline

1. Introduction to the languages
2. Research questions
3. Methodology
4. Background on *give*-constructions
5. Give-Constructions in...
  - a) Lamaholot
  - b) Alorese
  - c) Adang
6. Discussion and Conclusions

# The languages in our study



# The origin of the Alorese speakers



# Research questions

- Which constructions are used to express *give*-events?
  - 1) Lamaholot (Austronesian)
  - 2) Alorese (Austronesian)
  - 3) Adang (Papuan)
- Alorese: Is there evidence of structural convergence with local Papuan languages after Alorese split from Lamaholot?

# Methodology: Participants

Language	Speakers
Lamaholot	6
Alorese	13
Adang	5



# Methodology: Stimuli

8 video clips showing give events

Feature combinations	Title of video clip
IN HAND - NO DISTANCE	(1a) book_inhand
	(1b) flowers_inhand <a href="#">36_2a_flowers_inhand.mp4</a>
AT HAND - NO DISTANCE	(2a) pen_athand
	(2b) banana_athand <a href="#">27_1b_banana_take_athand.mp4</a>
IN HAND - DISTANCE	(3a) cup_inhand_distance <a href="#">02_4b_cup_inhand_distance.mp4</a>
	(3b) flowers_inhand_distance
AT HAND - DISTANCE	(4a) book_athand_distance
	(4b) cup_athand_distance

# Background: *Give*-constructions

Agent (A), Theme (T), Recipient (R)

(1) DOUBLE OBJECT:                      *John gave Mary a book*                      (give - R - T)

(2) PREPOSITIONAL OBJECT: *John gave a book to Mary*                      (give - T - prep - R)

(3) SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTION (SVC): *John takes book gives Mary*  
(take - T - give - R)

# Give constructions in Lamholot

## Prepositional object construction

(1)	A		GIVE	T		PREP	R		
	...	na=	béé	bunga	réne	né	teman.		
	3SG		give	flower	PROX	3SG.POSS	friend		

‘... she gives flowers to her friend.

(FH3:15)

## Multi-verbal construction

(2)	A			TAKE	T		A	GIVE	R
	... kopo	binén	na=	guté-na	muku	tasak	na=	béé	Ibu.
	child	female	3sg	take-3sg	banana	ripe	3sg	give	mother

‘... a girl takes a ripe banana and gives it to the mother.

(FH1:27)

# Give constructions in Lamaholot

## Prepositional Object

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	10	1
DISTANCE	7	1

## MULTI-VERBAL

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	1	6
DISTANCE	3	6

# Give constructions in ALORESE

SVC is the preferred strategy (73 out of 88)

## (3) SVC with two verbs

A		TAKE	T	GIVE	R		
<i>tou</i>	<i>ha</i>	<i>gute</i>	<i>muko</i>	<i>neng</i>	<i>gina</i>	<i>ha</i>	<i>pake</i>
one	DEM.PROX	take	banana	give	mother	DEM.PROX	peel

‘One takes a banana and gives (it) to that woman, who peels (it).’

## (4) SVC with three verbs

A				TAKE	T	COME	GIVE	R		
<i>bai</i>	<i>kwae</i>	<i>tou</i>	<i>kəlli</i>	<i>gute</i>	<i>wai</i>	<i>mene</i>	<i>ning</i>	<i>wabeing</i>	<i>tou</i>	<i>kəlli</i>
child	girl	one	DEM.LOW	take	water	come	give	woman	one	DEM.LOW

‘That girl takes some water and gives (it) to that woman.’

# Give constructions in Alorese

## SVC with two verbs

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	15	15
DISTANCE	5	2

## SVC with three verbs

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	-	1
DISTANCE	18	17

# Give constructions in ADANG

SVC is the preferred strategy (20 out of 31)

## (6) SVC with two verbs

A	T			TAKE	R		GIVE		
<i>nu</i>	<i>bunga</i>	<i>nɔʔ- nɔʔ</i>	<i>ho</i>	<i>med</i>	<i>nu</i>	<i>ho</i>	<i>ʔ-ɛn</i>	<i>pun</i>	<i>mid</i>
one	flower	RDP~good	DEF	take	one	DEF	3.OBJ-give	hold	go.up

‘One (girl) takes the nice flowers (and) gives (them) to this one, who holds them.’

## (7) SVC with three verbs

A		T	CARRY	COME	R		GIVE
<i>ʔɔb</i>	<i>nu</i>	<i>bunga</i>	<i>tɛfaŋ</i>	<i>ma</i>	<i>ʔɔb</i>	<i>nu</i>	<i>ʔ-ɛn</i>
woman	one	flower	carry	come	woman	one	3.OBJ -give

‘A woman carries some flowers (and) gives (them) to another woman.’

# Give constructions in Adang

## SVC with two verbs

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	2	1
DISTANCE	4	-

## SVC with three verbs

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	2	1
DISTANCE	6	4

# Summary

- LAMAHOLOT

- PO construction: IN HAND video
- Multi-verbal (*take-give*): AT HAND video

- ALORESE

- SVC two verb (*take-give*): NO DISTANCE video
- SVC three verbs (*take-come-give*): DISTANCE video
- Only 1 token of PO construction

- ADANG

- SVC two verb (*take-give*)
- SVC three verbs (*take-come-give*): DISTANCE video
- no token of PO construction

## Prepositional Object (PO)

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	10	1
DISTANCE	7	1

## MULTI-VERBAL

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	1	6
DISTANCE	3	6

## SVC with two verbs

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	15	15
DISTANCE	5	2

## SVC with three verbs

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	-	1
DISTANCE	18	17

## SVC with two verbs

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	2	1
DISTANCE	4	-

## SVC with three verbs

	IN HAND	AT HAND
NO DISTANCE	2	1
DISTANCE	6	4

# Discussion: requisites for contact-induced change

## **(1) Prove the existence of contact between Alorese and Papuan languages**

Alorese and AP languages in contact since 14<sup>th</sup> century

## **(2) Identify shared feature(s) in Alorese and Papuan languages**

SVC with two/three verbs in Alorese and in AP languages: same verbs, same distribution

## **(3) Prove that the shared feature(s) was present in Papuan languages before contact with Alorese**

Proto-AP had a *give*-SVC (Klamer & Schapper 2012)

## **(4) Prove that the shared feature(s) was NOT present in Alorese before contact with Papuan languages**

SVC and the use of 'come' absent in Lamaholot *give*-constructions

# Conclusions

- Structural convergence in Alorese in the domain of *give*-constructions
- Alorese *give*-constructions are more similar to the AP languages (neighbors) than to Lamaholot (sister)
  - Loss of PO construction
  - Innovation of SVC with two and three verbs

# Thank you



# Thank you

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