‘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

[Map showing the distribution of languages in Indonesia, with labels for Adonara, Pantar, Solor, Lembata, Flores, Alor, Lamaholot (Austronesian), Alorese (Austronesian), Other Austronesian languages, Adang (Papuan), Other Papuan languages.]

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The origin of the Alorese speakers

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lamaholot</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alorese</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adang</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Methodology: Stimuli

8 video clips showing give events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature combinations</th>
<th>Title of video clip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IN HAND - NO DISTANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1a) book_inhand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1b) flowers_inhand</td>
<td>36_2a_flowers_inhand.mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AT HAND - NO DISTANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2a) pen_athand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2b) banana_athand</td>
<td>27_1b_banana_take_athand.mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IN HAND - DISTANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3a) cup_inhand_distance</td>
<td>02_4b_cup_inhand_distance.mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3b) flowers_inhand_distance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AT HAND - DISTANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4a) book_athand_distance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4b) cup_athand_distance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background: *Give*-constructions

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

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

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

(3) SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTION (SVC):  
*John takes* book *gives* Mary  
\(\text{(take - T - give - R)}\)
Give constructions in Lamholot

Prepositional object construction

(1) A GIVE T PREP R
    ... na= béé bunga réné 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prepositional Object</th>
<th>MULTI-VERBAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IN HAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO DISTANCE</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTANCE</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Give constructions in ALORESE

SVC is the preferred strategy (73 out of 88)

(3)  SVC with two verbs

A   TAKE   T   GIVE   R

tou   ha   gute   muko   neng   gina   ha   pake
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

bai   kwae   tou   kəlli   goede   wai   mene   ning   wabeing   tou   kəlli
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SVC with two verbs</th>
<th>SVC with three verbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IN HAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO DISTANCE</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTANCE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO DISTANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Give constructions in ADANG

SVC is the preferred strategy (20 out of 31)

(6) SVC with two verbs

\[
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
A & T & \text{TAKE} & R & \text{GIVE} \\
\text{nu} & \text{bunga} & \text{na}^-\text{na}^- & \text{ho} & \text{med} & \text{nu} & \text{ho} & ?^-\text{en} & \text{pun} & \text{mid}
\end{array}
\]

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

\[
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
A & T & \text{CARRY} & \text{COME} & R & \text{GIVE} \\
?^-\text{ob} & \text{nu} & \text{bunga} & \text{tεfañ} & \text{ma} & ?^-\text{ob} & \text{nu} & ?^-\text{en}
\end{array}
\]

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>SVC with three verbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IN HAND</td>
<td>AT HAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO DISTANCE</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTANCE</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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\textsuperscript{th} 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 \textit{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 \textit{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


