LONI | 75 YEARS OLD
LONI | 75 YEARS OLD

Get up, erect someone /thing

-ruida
`Get up,
Erect
someone
/thing’

`Wake
up INTR’

`Wake
up TR’

-ruida

-teina

-minangda

LONI | 75 YEARS OLD
LONI | 75 YEARS OLD

- ruida
- teina
- minangda

`Get up, Erect someone/thing`
`Wake up INTR`
`Wake up TR`

+ change in posture
- change in posture
ELA  |  9 YEARS OLD
ELA | 9 YEARS OLD

- Get up, Erect someone /thing'
- Wake up INTR'
- Wake up TR'

-ruida

-ruida

-ruida
ELA | 9 YEARS OLD

'Get up'

-ruida
WHY?

-ruida
-ruida, -ruida

-teina, -minangda
CONTACT WITH ALOR MALAY

9 year old
Grew up speaking Alor Malay

75 year old
Grew up speaking Abui
9 year old
Grew up speaking Alor Malay

14 year old

17 year old

21 year old

25 year old

27 year old

30 year old

35 year old

75 year old
Grew up speaking Abui
HOW MUCH VARIATION EXISTS IN THE COMMUNITY IN THE USE OF VERBS?
WHAT CAN THIS SYNCHRONIC VARIATION TELL US ABOUT INCIPIENT CHANGE?
COMING UP...

- Speech community

- Use of verbs in Abui and Alor Malay

- Present study & results
SPEECH COMMUNITY
ABUI

- Timor-Alor-Pantar (non-Austronesian) family
- 17,000 speakers
- In contact with Alor Malay (Austronesian; lingua franca)

**SPEECH COMMUNITY**

**Takalelang**

- 50-60 years contact with Alor Malay
- Language shift to Alor Malay

**Highlights:**
- 1965: resettlement to coast
- Abui banned at school
- 1985-onwards: Parents forced to raise children in Malay
- “Children will learn Abui anyway as they grow older”
SPEECH COMMUNITY

Takalelang

Outcome:

- Imperfect learning, language attrition
- *Transitional bilingualism* (Grenoble 2011)
- Age: linked to level of bilingualism, used as a proxy for dominance
AGE AS A SOCIOLOGICAL VARIABLE

“Age and ageing are experienced both individually and as part of a cohort of people who share an experience of history and/or a life stage.”

- History: Children born before ~1975: Abui L1 (age: >40)
  Children born after ~1980: Malay L1 (age: <35)

Eckert (2017:151)
AGE AS A SOCIOLINGUISTIC VARIABLE

“Age and ageing are experienced both individually and as part of a cohort of people who share an experience of history and/or a life stage.”

- **History:** Children born before ~1975 (age 40+): Abui L1
  Children born after ~1980 (age <35): Malay L1

- **Life-stage:** Speakers are not stable in their language use

Eckert (2017:151)
AGE AS A SOCIOLINGUISTIC VARIABLE

“Age and ageing are experienced both individually and as part of a cohort of people who share an experience of history and/or a life stage.”

- **History:**
  - Children born before ~1975 (age 40+): Abui L1
  - Children born after ~1980 (age <35): Malay L1

- **Life-stage:**
  - **Children:** Malay
  - **Adults:** Abui

1985:
Parents forced to raise children in Malay

Life-stage 1:
- Young adulthood (age: ~17)

Life-stage 2:
- Adulthood (age: ~25)

Eckert (2017:151)
(PRE-) ADOLESCENTS
9-16 YEARS OLD
ALOR MALAY L1

YOUNG ADULTS
17-25 YEARS OLD
ALOR MALAY L1

ADULTS
26-34 YEARS OLD
ALOR MALAY L1

ELDERS
40+ YEARS OLD
ABUI L1
RECAP: LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND SOCIALIZATION

Abui Children: Raised in Alor Malay

As adults, they must speak Abui
WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

For years, Malay was spoken as a second language.

Nowadays it is the L1 of many different ethnic groups.

Displacing many local languages as L1: Underdescribed, yet widespread in Indonesia (Bowden 2002, Baird 2017, Williams 2017) and Melanesia (e.g. Schokkin 2017).
AP: “Many adults still use the local languages regularly, but switching to the lingua franca, Malay/Indonesian, is common particularly in addressing children; some but not all children acquire the local language, but often only passively, and prefer to use the lingua franca with their peers.

Kafoa: “a strong preference for parents to speak to children in Malay. Children would just 'pick up' their mother tongue as they grew up.”

Kula “Most children have a passive knowledge of Kula, understanding simple instructions, but regularly responding in Malay. Nearly all young adults know the language well enough to interact with elders and sometimes use Kula among themselves.”
WHAT IMPACT WILL THIS IMPERFECT LEARNING HAVE ON ABUI?
VERB USE IN ABUI & ALOR MALAY
# Verb Use in Abui and Malay

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<tr>
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TWO SYSTEMS IN CONTACT

Russian vs English

English vs Arabic

Yiddish vs. English

Turkish vs Dutch

Jarvis and Pavlenko (2008), Gathercole and Moawad (2008), Weinreich (1953), Backus et al (2011)
GENERALIZATION

Generalization, also referred to as widening, extension, and broadening, is a commonly attested semantic change where the range of meanings of a word expands to a wider array of related contexts.

Simplification

(Blank 1999, Traugott 2001)
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## Generalization

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TO WHAT EXTENT DO AGE GROUPS GENERALIZE ONE VERB?
METHODOLOGY: SURREY STIMULI

(PRE-) ADOLESCENTS
9-16 YEARS OLD
19 PARTICIPANTS

YOUNG ADULTS
17-25 YEARS OLD
19 PARTICIPANTS

ADULTS
26-34 YEARS OLD
19 PARTICIPANTS

ELDERS
40+ YEARS OLD
9 PARTICIPANTS
RESULTS
RESULTS

Proportions of mismatches (%)

-wahai 'look at'> 'see'

- Adults
- Elders

8 0
RESULTS

Proportions of mismatches

- wahai 'look at' > 'see'

(Pre-)adolescents   Young adults   Adults   Elders

73%   82%   8%   0%
RESULTS

Proportions of mismatches (%)

- **Wahai** 'look at' > 'see'
  - (Pre-)adolescents: 73%
  - Young adults: 82%
  - Adults: 87%
  - Elders: 100%

- **Hayeei** 'all from above' > 'fall over'
  - (Pre-)adolescents: 20%
  - Young adults: 48%
  - Adults: 0%
  - Elders: 0%

- **Rui-** 'get up' > 'wake up'
  - (Pre-)adolescents: 81%
  - Young adults: 59%
  - Adults: 29%
  - Elders: 0%
RESULTS

Proportions of mismatches (%)

- 'see': (Pre-adolescents: 73, Young adults: 82, Adults: 8, Elders: 0)
- 'fall over': (Pre-adolescents: 87, Young adults: 100, Adults: 48, Elders: 0)
- 'wake up': (Pre-adolescents: 81, Young adults: 59, Adults: 29, Elders: 0)

P < 0.5 for all categories
Generalize in all 3 domains
Generalize all 3 verbs

Life-stage 1:
Young adulthood (age: ~17)

Did not decrease generalization

SUMMARY

(PRE-) ADOLESCENTS
9-16
ALOR MALAY L1

YOUNG ADULTS
17-25
ALOR MALAY L1
SUMMARY

(PRE-) ADOLESCENTS
9-16
ALOR MALAY L1

YOUNG ADULTS
17-25
ALOR MALAY L1

ADULTS
26-34
ALOR MALAY L1

Generalize
-bayeei  > ‘fall over’
SUMMARY

(PRE-) ADOLESCENTS
9-16
ALOR MALAY L1

YOUNG ADULTS
17-25
ALOR MALAY L1

ADULTS
26-34
ALOR MALAY L1

Life-stage 2:
Adulthood (age: ~25)

Some impact on generalization

Generalize

-hayéei > ‘fall over’
WHAT CAN THIS SYNCHRONIC VARIATION TELL US ABOUT CHANGE?
VARIATION LEAD TO CHANGE?

-hayeei > ‘fall over’

Very likely to change

Apparent time construct (Labov 1961)

-wahai > ‘see’

Likely to change

-rui- > ‘wake up’

Likely to change
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Age: history and life-stage important for study of variation

Socialization process common throughout Indonesia

(Pre-)adolescents and young adults generalize all three verbs, adults generalize the verb *hayeei* to ‘fall over’

Lack of early use of Abui causing simplification
REFERENCES


RUMI KAANG
Age as a sociolinguistic variable: “Age and ageing are experienced both individually and as part of a cohort of people who share an experience of history and/or a life stage.”

**-onwards:**

- **History:**
  - 9 year old: Grew up speaking Alor Malay
  - 1985: Parents forced to raise children in Malay
- **Life-stage**
  - 75 year old: Grew up speaking Abui

Eckert (2017:151)
WHICH LEXICAL SEMANTIC FACTORS PLAY A ROLE IN GENERALIZATION?
60 YEARS OLD | FEMALE

Hayeei
- Fall from above
- Fall over

Daquoili
- Fall from above
WHICH LEXICAL SEMANTIC FACTORS PLAY A ROLE IN GENERALIZATION?