

The plural word *hire* in Alorese (Austronesian): Grammatical borrowing from neighboring Papuan languages

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Outline

- Plural words
- Background about Alorese (Austronesian)
- Plural word *hire* in Alorese
- Plurality among its sister languages
- Plural word(s) in neighboring Papuan (non-Austronesian) languages
- Contact-induced change (contact-induced grammaticalization)
- Scenario

Plural word

Plural word: a morpheme whose meaning and function is similar to that of affixes in other languages, but which is a separate word. (Dryer 1997: 865)

Lenakel (Austronesian, Vanuatu)

(1) *Kuri miin aan*

dog PL that

‘those dogs’ (Dryer 2007: 151)

- Plural words differ from ‘many’ (they do not imply more than two)
- Plural words differ from ‘many’ and ‘some’ (they do not also encode indefiniteness)
- Plural words are the sole indicators of plurality in the NP

Plural word(s) in Austronesian languages

-Dryer (1997): 66% (76/115)

-Wu (2017): 42% (54/128)

Proto Malayo-Polynesian :

**maŋa* (Blust & Trussel 2010)

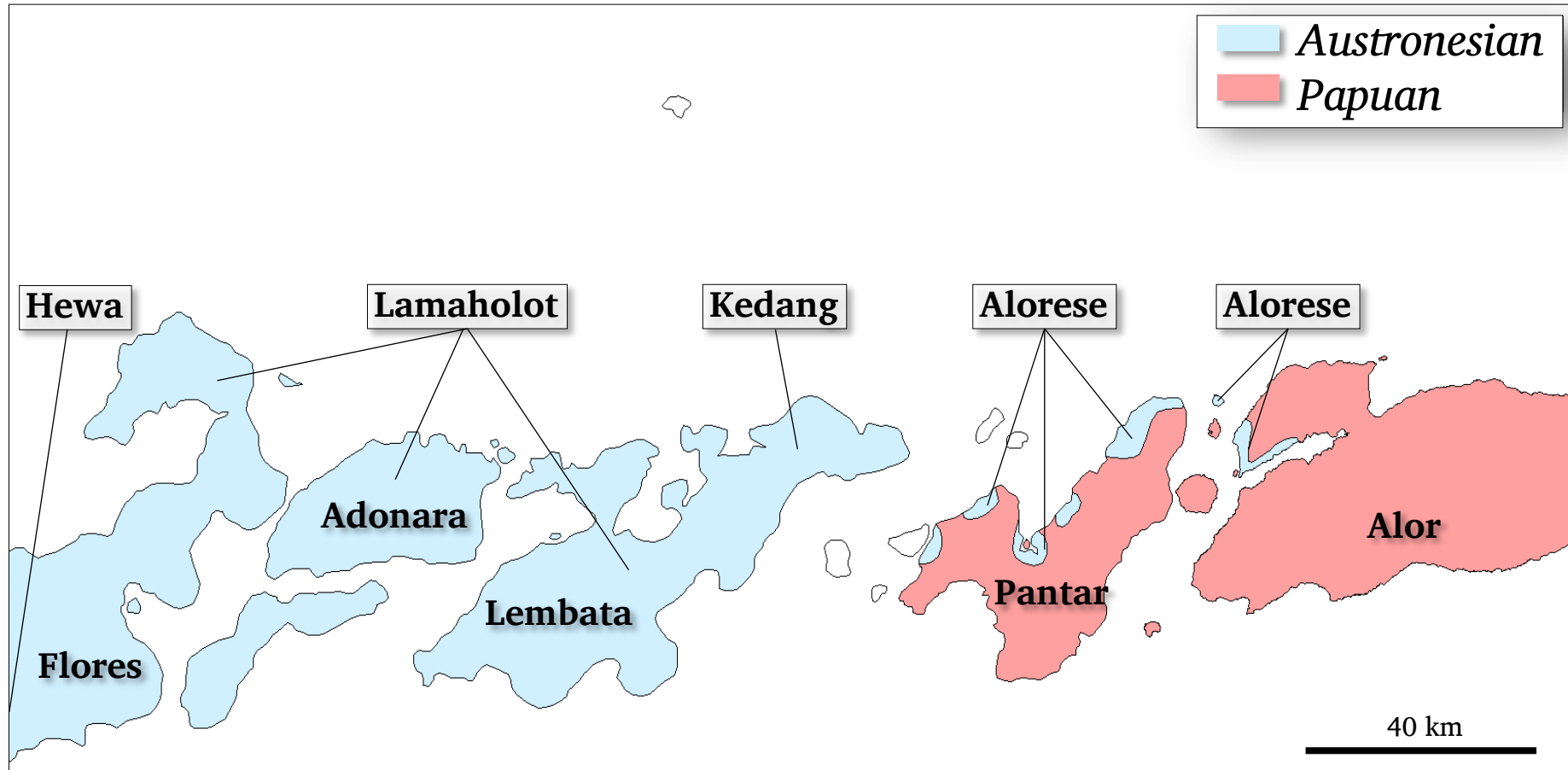


(Wu 2017: 59, Map 13)

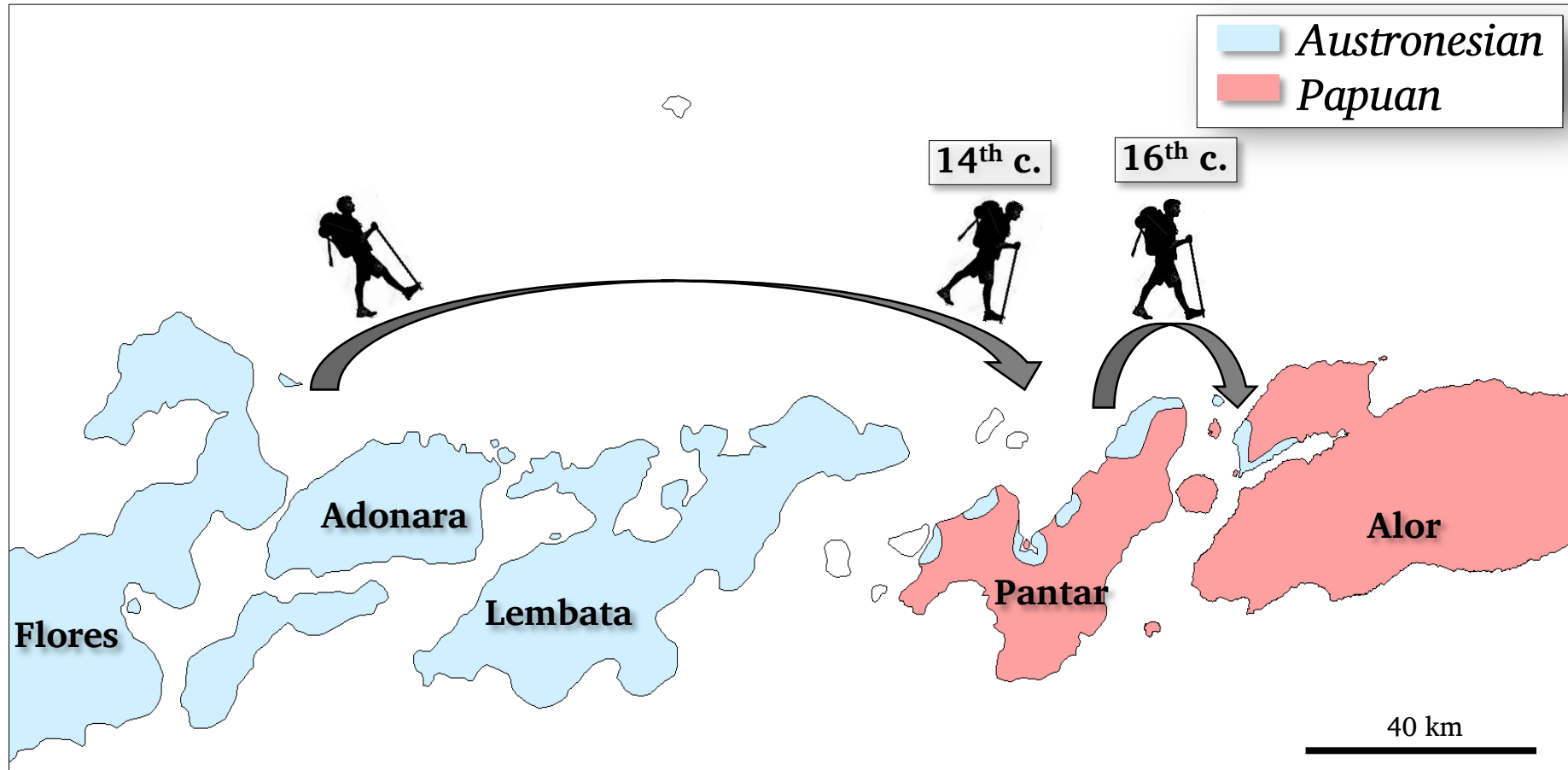
Alorese (Austronesian, Indonesia)



Flores-Lembata languages

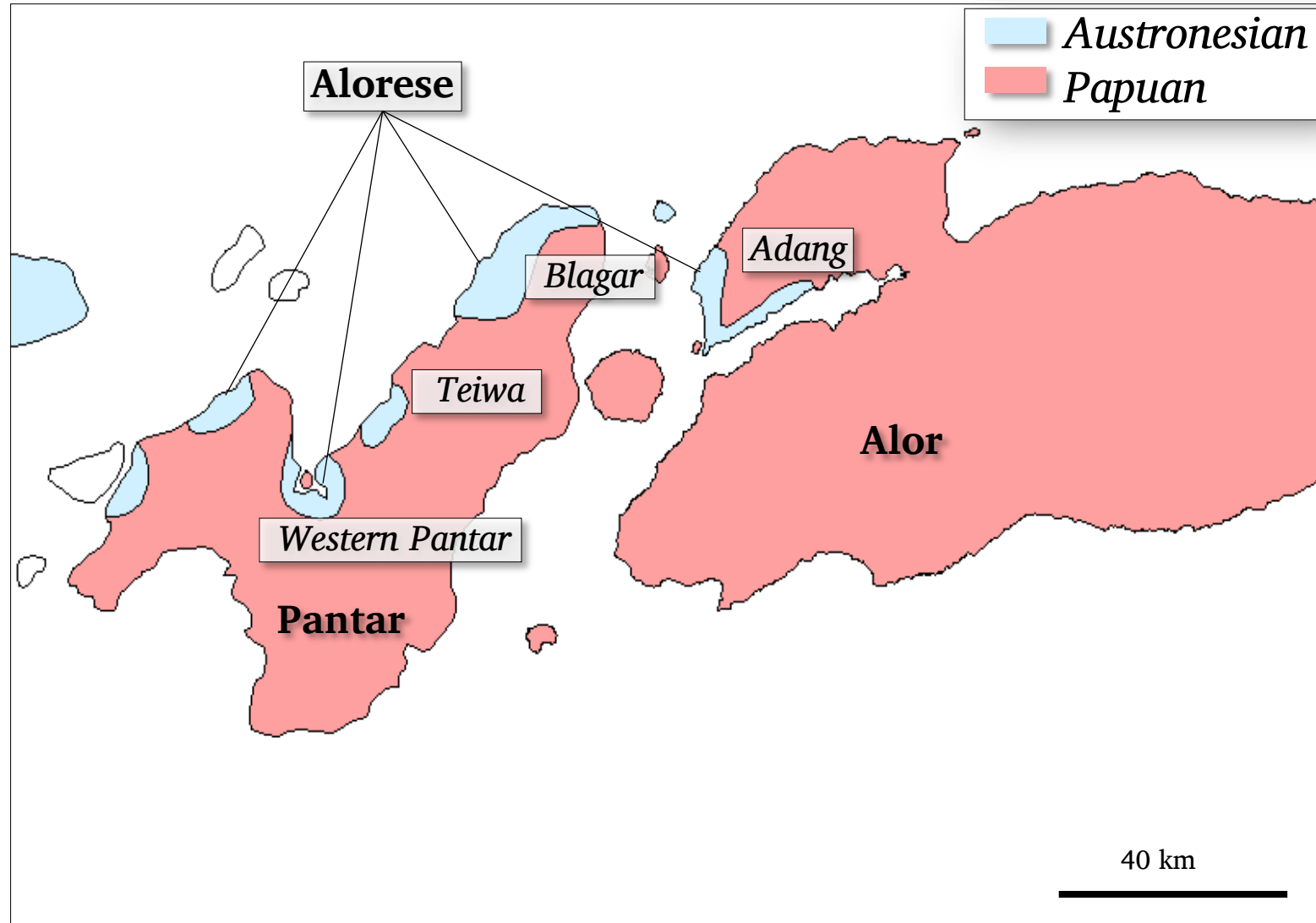


Alorese: origin



(Klamer 2011, 2012; Wellfelt 2016)

Alorese: contact with Papuan languages



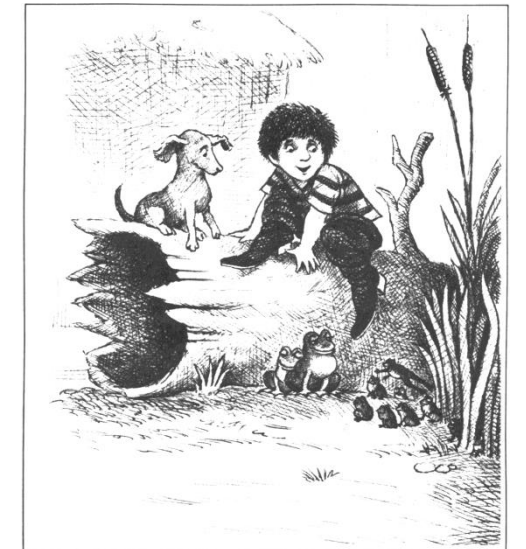
The plural word *hire* in Alorese:

ALORESE:

(1) *Botol* *hire* *gopak* *kalli* *meja* *lolong*
bottle.MLY PL put DEM.LOW table.MLY top
'(The/Some) bottles lie on the table.'



(2) *Mato* *anang* *hire* *kado* *kaluar*
frog small PL jump go.out.MLY
'The small frogs jump out.'



[N ATTR NUM/PL Q DEM]_{NP}

The plural word *hire* in Alorese:

- Plural word *hire* cannot co-occur with numerals:

(3) **mato anang (hire) namung hire*
frog small PL six PL

Intended: ‘six small frogs’

- Plural word *hire* can combine with a non-numeral quantifier

(4) *Kame m-ei joget m-ong kabei kafe hire mafa*
1PL.EXCL 1PL.EXCL-go dance 1PL.EXCL-with children girl PL many

‘We go dancing with many girls.’



The plural word *hire* in Alorese:

- Plural word *hire* can convey completeness, entirety:

(5) *Go bote mo tide lalu aleng hire bəlara neka*
1SG hold 2SG stand then.MLY waist PL sick already
'I held you while standing and then my whole back hurt.'



- Plural word *hire* can convey place, geographical origin:

(6) *Fe Austria hire*
3PL Austria PL
'They were Austrian.'

Research question

- Where does the plural word *hire* come from?
 - Cognate of plural word *hire* absent in sister language(s)
 - Neighboring Papuan languages all have plural words
- Case of contact-induced change?

Contact-induced change: 4 requisites

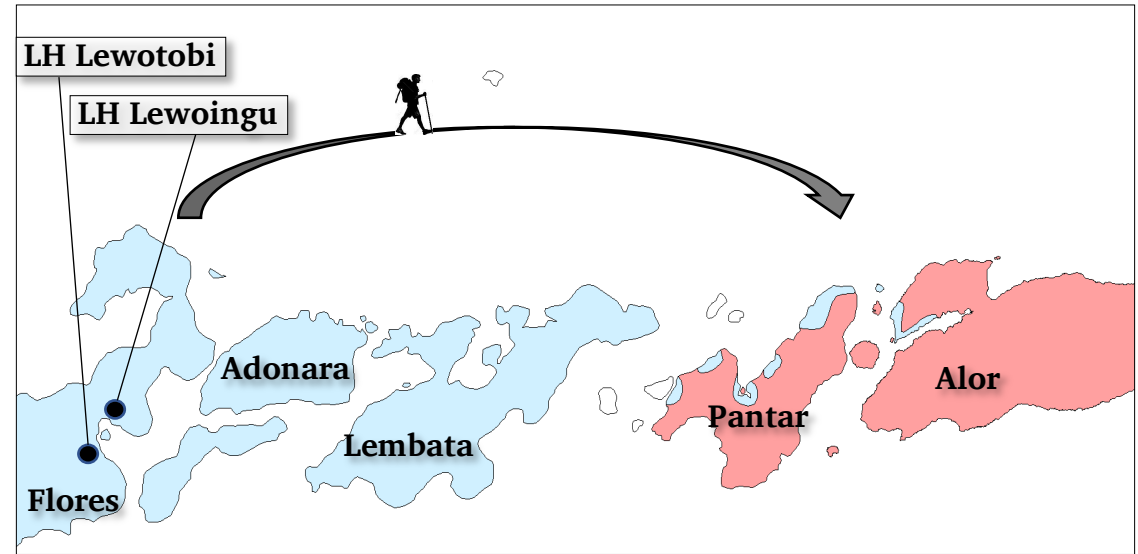
(Thomason
2009: 322)

- (1) Prove the existence of contact between A and B
- (2) Identify shared feature(s) in A and B
- (3) Prove that the shared feature(s) was present in A before it came into contact with B (present in Proto-A)
- (4) Prove that the shared feature(s) was NOT present in B before it came into contact with A

Plural in the sister languages

- Lamaholot Lewotobi

no plural (Nagaya 2011)



- Lamaholot Lewoingu

PL marker –we (very rare)

guru-we ‘teachers/the teacher and his family’ (Nishiyama & Kelen 2007: 43)

Plural in the other related language

- Hewa

'*ahan* 'PL marker' (?) (Fricke 2014:63)

Dedi' anak 'ahan sementara lêbe

child small PL PROG play

'The small children are playing...'

- Central Lembata

-*a* suffix 'PL' (Fricke, p.c.)

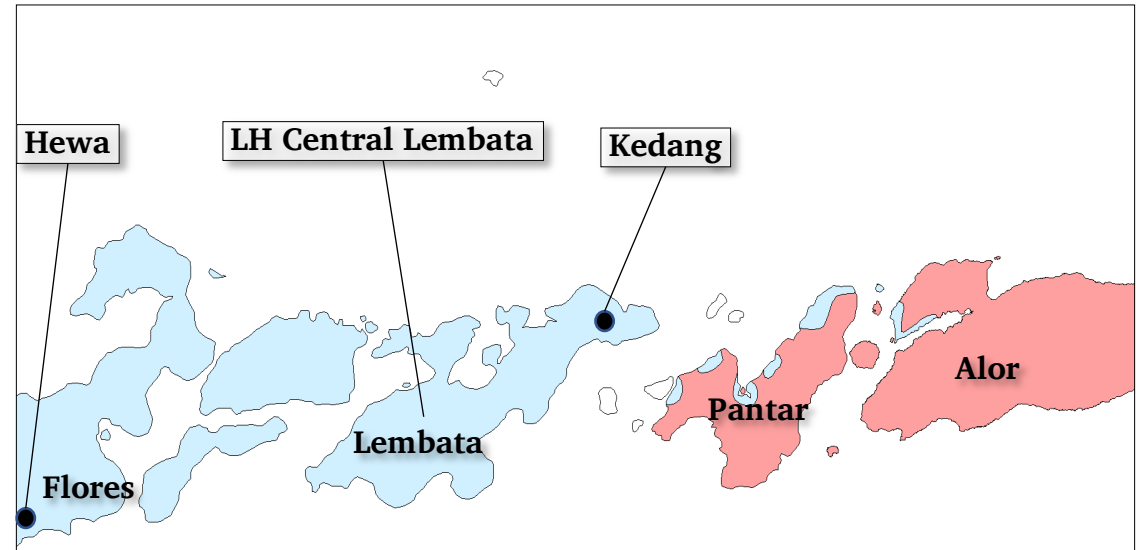
kopoŋ-a

child-PL

'children'

- Kedang

no plural (Samley 1990)

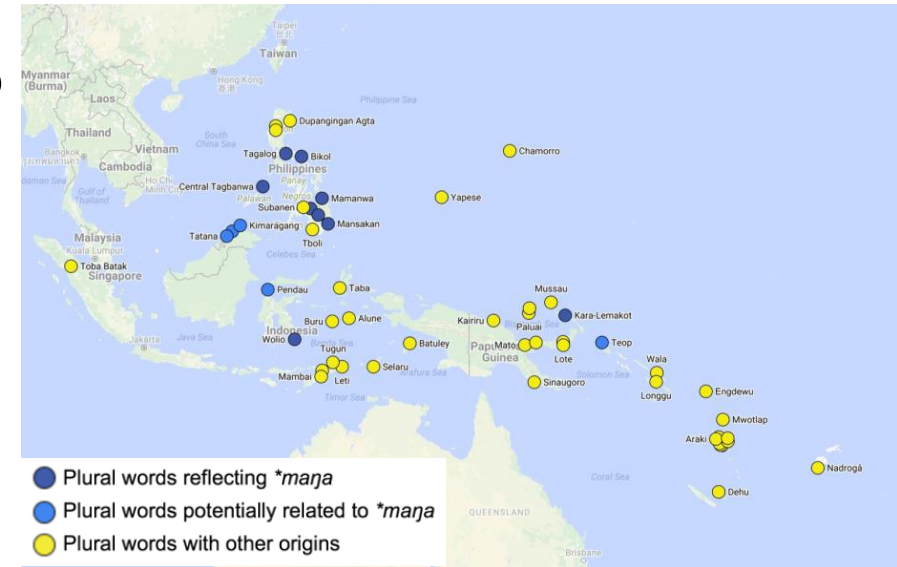


Interim summary

- Plural word **maŋa* reconstructed for PMP but not found in Flores-Lembata languages

- In Flores-Lembata languages, we see scattered pattern

- *Hire* 'PL' word in Alorese, no plural in LH Lewotobi, suffix *-we* in LH Lewoingu (rare), suffix *-a* in LH Central Lembata, no plural in Kedang, *'ahan* (PL ?) in Hewa



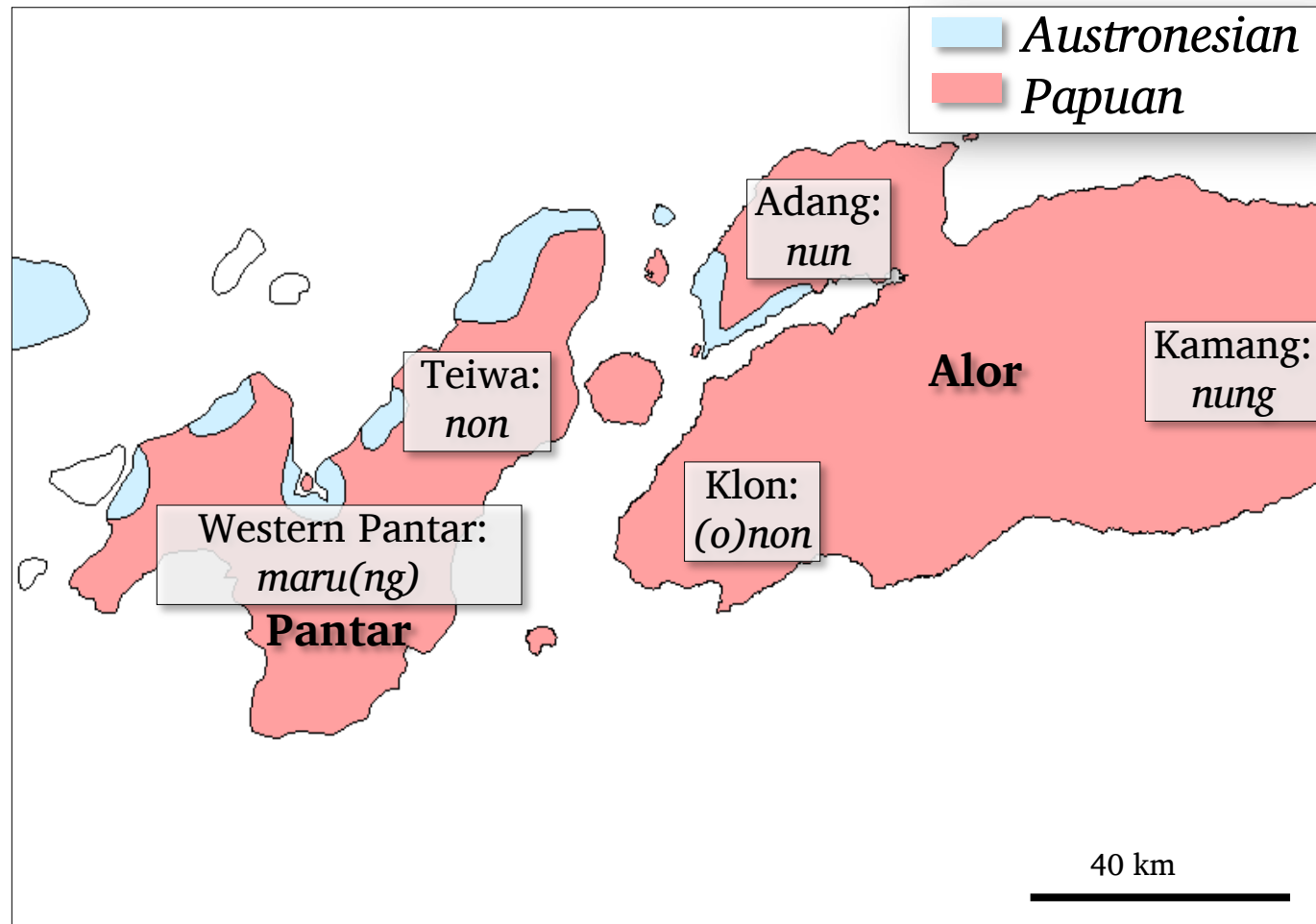
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Plural word in Proto-Alor-Pantar

- Proto-Alor-Pantar had plural word **non* (Klamer et al. 2014:409)



Plural words in Papuan AP languages

- **Western Pantar**

(7) *Bal marung mea tang pering*
ball PL table on pour

‘A bunch of balls are spread out on the table.’ (Klamer et al. 2014: 379)

- **Teiwa**

(8) *G-oqai non u min-an tau*
3SG-child PL DIST die-REAL PFV

‘Her children have died.’ (Klamer et al. 2014: 385)

[N ATTR {(CLF) NUM/PL } DEM ART]_{NP}

Plural words in Papuan AP languages

- Plural word cannot co-occur with numerals:

Western Pantar

(9) **Keʔe* (*maru*) *kealaku maru*
fish PL twenty PL

Intended: ‘twenty fish’ (Klamer et al. 2014: 382)

- Plural word can combine with a non-numeral quantifier:

Teiwa

(10) *Wat non dum usan ma!*
coconut PL many pick.up come

‘Pick up the many coconuts.’ (Klamer et al. 2014: 384)

Plural words in Papuan AP languages

- Plural word can convey completeness, entirety:

Western Pantar

(11) ...gai *keʔe* *maru* *si* *aname* *ging* *haggi* *kanna*
3.POSS fish PL ART person 3PL.ACT take already

‘(We placed our fish traps), and then the people took all the fish.’ (Klamer et al. 2014: 398)

- Plural word can indicate membership to a clan (or origin from a place):

Teiwa

(12) *Teiwa* *non* *gaʔan* *itaʔa* *ma* *giʔ*
clan.name PL that.KNWN where OBL go

‘Where did that group of Teiwa [people] go to.’ (Klamer et al. 2014: 404)

Research question

➤ Case of contact-induced change?

Contact-induced change: 4 requisites

(Thomason
2009: 322)

- (1) Prove the existence of contact between A and B

Alorese and Papuan languages on Alor and Pantar in contact since 14th c.

- (2) Identify shared feature(s) in A and B

Plural word(s) in Alorese and in Papuan languages of Alor and Pantar have similar syntactic/semantic properties

- (3) Prove that the shared feature(s) was present in A before it came into contact with B (present in Proto-A)

*Proto-Alor-Pantar had plural word *non*

- (4) Prove that the shared feature(s) was NOT present in B before it came into contact with A

*Plural word hire not present in Proto Malayo-Polynesian/Proto Flores-Lembata
-Innovation in Alorese*

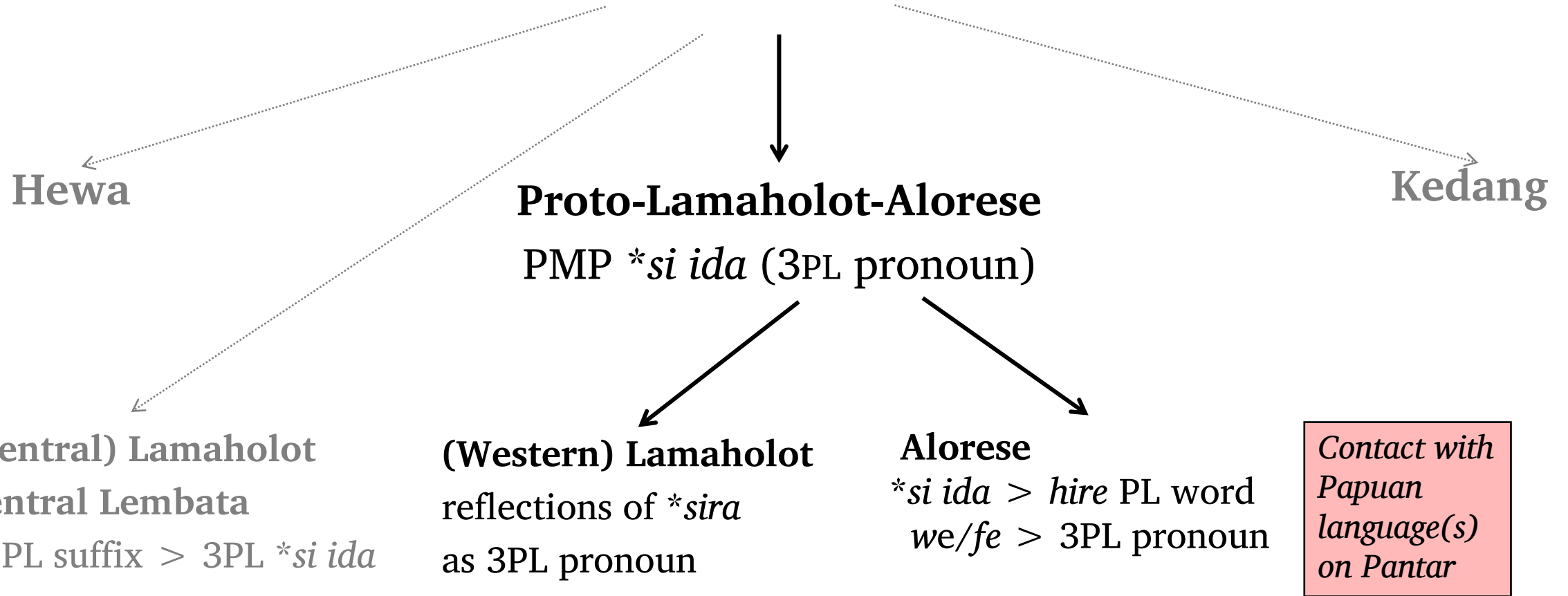
Contact-induced grammaticalization (Heine &

Kuteva 2005, p. 81)

- a. Bilingual speakers notice that in a Papuan language there is a grammatical category *plural*.
- b. They create an equivalent category *plural* in Alorese on the basis of the use patterns available in Alorese.
- c. To this end, they draw on universal strategies of grammaticalization, using the *3PL pronoun* in order to develop the category *plural*.
- d. They grammaticalize the *3PL pronoun* (PMP **si ida*) to a *plural* marker (*hire*)
- e. They innovate the 3PL pronoun form *we/fe*.

Scenario:

Proto-Flores-Lembata



Conclusions

- Lack of correspondences and scattered distribution of plural morphemes in the Flores-Lembata languages (Lamaholot, Alorese, Kedang and Hewa) suggest independent development.
- Proto-Lamaholot-Alorese had a reflection of the 3PL pronoun PMP **si ida*.
- After Alorese split from Lamaholot in the 14th c., the form **si ida* was reinterpreted as a plural word in Alorese (due to contact with Papuan lgs.), while it maintained its pronominal function in Western Lamaholot.
- Alorese inherited the **form** *hire* (> **si ida*) from its mother language, but borrowed the **function** of a plural word from neighboring Papuan languages

Thank you!

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