

Workshop on *Language contact in Indonesia*

Date: Tuesday 2 May 2017, Leiden University

Location: *Heinsiuszaal*, University Library (main entrance hall, second floor)

Organised by the NWO-VICI research project *Reconstructing the past through languages of the present: The Lesser Sunda Islands*

9.15-10.00 - George Saad: How to make sense of on-going language contact: The case of Abui-Malay bilinguals

In this talk, I dissect the bilingual speech community of Takalelang to understand on-going language contact amongst Abui/Malay speakers. I focus on one linguistic variable, namely the marking of the third person reflexive possessive, to illustrate the variation found in a sample of 60 speakers split into 4 age cohorts. The results drawn from this study suggest that children and young adults undergo several degrees of attrition, as a result of contact with Malay while married adults retain core elements of Abui grammar.

10.00-10.45 - Francesca Moro: The plural word *hire* in Alorese (Austronesian): grammatical borrowing from neighboring Papuan languages

Alorese is the only Austronesian language spoken on the islands of Alor and Pantar (in eastern Indonesia), which are otherwise predominantly Papuan-speaking. From comparative evidence, it is clear that Alorese has borrowed the function of a plural word from neighboring Papuan languages. To copy the plural function, Alorese has grammaticalized an original third person plural pronoun (> Proto Malayo-Polynesian **si ida*) into the plural word *hire*.

10.45-11.15 - Coffee/tea

11.15-12.00 - Hanna Fricke: Complexity in Central Lembata Lamaholot - Contact or no contact?

The Lamaholot variety of Central Lembata shows higher complexity in the nominal and pronominal domain than other varieties described so far. The comparative analysis of the more complex features in Central Lembata shows that these features are partly retentions from an earlier stage of the language and partly innovations. This talk addresses the origin of the innovations. Are they internally caused or due to contact with another more complex language?

12.00-12.45 - Owen Edwards: Austronesian and non Austronesian Strata in Rote-Uab Meto

On the basis of different sound correspondences a number of different strata of vocabulary can be identified within the Rote-Uab Meto language family (spoken in West Timor). Including (at least) two different Austronesian strata and one non-Austronesian stratum, I propose histories of these different strata and examine to reveal the likely nature of pre-historic Austronesian non-Austronesian contact.

(programme continues on next page)

12.45-14.00 - Lunch (Faculty Club)

14-14.45 - Marian Klamer: Lexical traces of contacts between Austronesian and Alor-Pantar speakers

The Alor-Pantar (AP) languages have at least three different types of borrowings from Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian, MP): (i) reflexes of forms that were borrowed into the proto-language in ancient times, (ii) recent loans from Indonesian/Malay and (iii) words that were borrowed after the proto-language split up, but before Indonesian/Malay became dominant. In my talk I focus on the third type. Investigating the lexicons of some 30 AP/MP languages in the region, I trace which MP loans occur in which AP languages, focussing on concepts that are salient for Austronesian cultures (e.g. *house, king/ruler, to weave, fishing hook*) and words that may have been used in regional trade (e.g. *slave, needle, seed, corn, to help*) or marriage exchanges (e.g. *father, to speak, bride price*). The attested patterns show various types of (sub-)regional connections between AP and MP speakers.

14.45-15.30 - Gereon Kaiping: Causal Inference of Borrowing between Austronesian and Timor-Alor-Pantar Languages

Dellert (2017) has presented a computational model which can infer the directionality of borrowing between recent and reconstructed languages, given rough genetic trees of the languages and cognate-coded word lists. The model is based on the observation that if three random variables (representing the languages) are statistically dependent (due to language contact), we can infer the directionality of the dependency. I will give a conceptual description of the model and present some initial observations from trying to apply it to our project's lexical database *LexiRumah*.

15.30-16.00 - Coffee/tea

16.00-16.45 - Tom Hoogervorst: Chinese Malay: Researching a language that doesn't exist.

Southeast Asia is home to several Malay varieties used natively by people of Chinese ancestry. Most commenters have either assumed or dismissed that 'Chinese Malay' forms a meaningful linguistic entity, often without providing a systematic analysis. The present paper argues that the Chinese in late-colonial Java deliberately switched on and off several Sinitic features in their Malay.

16.45-17.30 - Lourens de Vries: Multipolar Multilingualism and Language Contact: Issues in the study of Awyu Dumut

17.30 onwards - Drinks; dinner