

## Current Status of Language Documentation in the Alor-Pantar Archipelago

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The last decade saw a surge in linguistic research in the Alor-Pantar Archipelago, a hitherto little explored area. We will first briefly sketch the research that preceded it. In the first half of the 20th century, the most notable research was carried out by Cora Du Bois, an American anthropologist who studies extensively the Abui community of Central Alor. Du Bois was accompanied by Martha M. Nicolspeyer, a Dutch sociologist, who focused on the social structure of the Abui. Both researchers concluded that culture and society of the Alorese were distinct from the neighboring island (Nicolspeyer 1940, Du Bois 1944).

In addition to the Holle lists, collected by the Dutch colonial administration, and published by W. A. L. Stokhof in 1975, it was established already before WWII that the languages and cultures found in the Alor-Pantar Archipelago are Papuan (non-Austronesian).

With exception of the comprehensive *memorie van overgave* reports by Van Galen in 1946 (Hägerdal 2010, 2011) and a few travel reports (Anonymous 1914; Vatter 1932), virtually no other work was done until 1970's when the Dutch linguists Willem A. L. Stokhof and Hein Steinhauer arrived in the Archipelago. While Steinhauer focussed on Blagar, spoken in Pura and Pantar, Stokhof worked on Woisika (nowadays known as Kamang), Abui, and Kabola (Steinhauer 1991, 1995; Stokhof 1975, 1977, 1979, 1982, 1984).

In the late 1990's, Mark Donohue has studied the languages of East Alor, most notably Kula (referred to as Tanglapui) (Donohue 1997, 2008). Similarly, Doug Marmion and Asako Shiohara surveyed the coastal Kui (Shiohara p.c.). In 2001, the so far only professional linguist native to the Archipelago, John Haan, completed his dissertation - a descriptive grammar of Adang and opened a productive decade for the Alor-Pantar research (Haan 2001).

Since early 2003, a team from Leiden University, consisting of Marian Klamer, Louise Baird, and František Kratochvíl, has been active in Alor (Baird 2005, 2008, 2010; Baird et al. 2004; Klamer 2008, 2010a, 2010b, 2010c, 2011, 2012, Klamer and Kratochvíl 2006, 2010; Kratochvíl 2007, 2011a, 2011b). The team frequently collaborated with Gary Holton from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (Holton 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2010). Since 2009, this research was supported by a joint National Science Foundation (NSF, USA) and European Science Foundation (ECF, EU). Dunstan Brown, Greville Corbett, Sebastian Fedden, Laura Robinson, and Antoinette Schapper joined the team (Fedden and Brown 2010; Fedden et al. 2011; Holton et al. 2012; Kratochvíl et al. 2011; Robinson 2011; Schapper 2011a, 2011b, Schapper and San Roque 2011; Schapper and Klamer 2011).

The joint effort resulted in grammatical descriptions, typological and historical papers, and a number of dictionaries and story books (Holton and Koly 2008; Klamer forthcoming-a; Kratochvíl and Delpada 2008a, 2008b).

The paper will present the main findings made in the last decade, covering the diachronic perspective, typology, morphosyntax, pragmatics, language vitality, endangerment and maintenance. Some attention will be also given to the ongoing research of indigenous oral tradition of history, law, agricultural cycle, and resource management.

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