

Emotion and Cognition Predicates in Abui

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This paper offers a comprehensive overview of the emotion and cognition predicates in Abui, with particular attention to body part-based predicates. We will outline the Abui data, discussing which body parts are used and which emotions and cognitive processes involve them. We will briefly address the connection to the Abui argument realization (Kratochvíl 2011).

In the second part of the paper, we will address a larger question, involving the status of body part-based emotion and cognition predicates in the area of Eastern Indonesia. Musgrave (2006) argued that complex emotion predicates involving body parts found commonly in the languages of Eastern Indonesia can be considered as an additional areal feature to those formulated in Klamer (2004) and Klamer and Ewing (2010). The argument is based on the data from the non-Austronesian languages of the Bird's head but we will show that it can be extended to Abui (and perhaps the entire Alor-Pantar family as well).

Musgrave (2006) suggested that this feature diffused during the extended period of language contact between the Austronesian and Papuan populations of Eastern Indonesia, in a contact scenario similar to the well-established cases of Mainland Southeast Asia (Enfield 2003, 2008) or metatypy, commonly found in New Guinea (Ross 1996, 2007; Foley 2010). The longstanding contact is a necessary prerequisite for the semantic pattern replication in the area (cf. Matras 2009). Recently, genetic and historical arguments have been made of the nature of the language contact in the Eastern Indonesian area (Fortunato and Jordan 2010; Jordan et al. 2009; Lansing et al. 2009; Marck 2008; Sather 2006). We will conclude by discussing how these arguments combine with the linguistic evidence.

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