

Local languages in Maluku: the historical context and current situation

Simon Musgrave
(Monash University)

The Maluku region is an area of high linguistic diversity but also an area where many languages are endangered. In this paper, I will discuss the history since European contact in order to help explain the current situation of the local languages. This will lead to a survey of the prospects of the languages of the region in the twenty first century, which, in conjunction with a review of existing research will also lead to suggestions as to priorities for future research.