

ASPECT AND DIRECTIONALITY IN KUPANG MALAY SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTIONS

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Abstract

In this paper, we describe aspects of serial verb construction in Kupang Malay (Bahasa Kupang), a Malay-based creole spoken around the western end of Timor Island in eastern Indonesia. We observe how the use of /ame/ and /buang/ are used not only as main verbs, but also as modifying verbs in serial verb construction to indicate motion toward or away from Actor, and to change activity verbs into accomplishment verbs by marking them as perfective. We also point out that the use of these two verbs has discourse pragmatic and modal functions. We present parallel examples from the nearby languages of Helong, Amarasi, Dhao, and Lole, to demonstrate that the grammar of Kupang has calqued on the grammars of vernacular languages with which it has been in contact. We note that standard Malay (Indonesian) has no parallel structures of functions. We present this as further evidence of the Kupang Language being a Malay-based creole.

Keywords: Kupang Malay, creole, serial verb construction