

Conditions and variation in pronominal indexing: The Alor-Pantar languages

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Introduction

- Our approach: Examining the varying role of conditions on pronominal indexing in different languages of one family
- Using both specially prepared video stimuli and existing descriptions
- For this we need a family with considerable within-group variation of the semantic parameters which govern indexation patterns

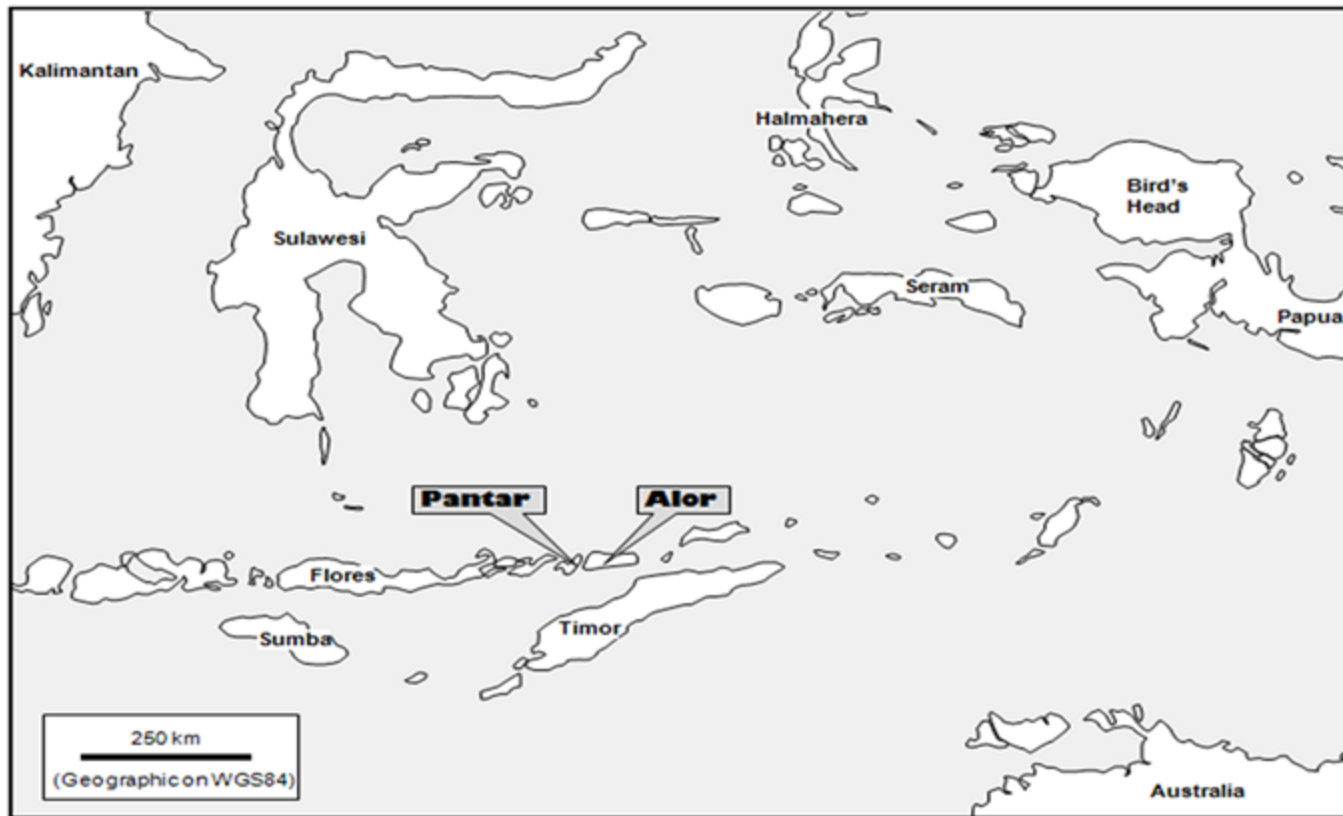


The Alor-Pantar (AP) languages

- are a family of about 20 endangered Papuan (non-Austronesian) languages
- spoken on the islands of Alor and Pantar in eastern Indonesia



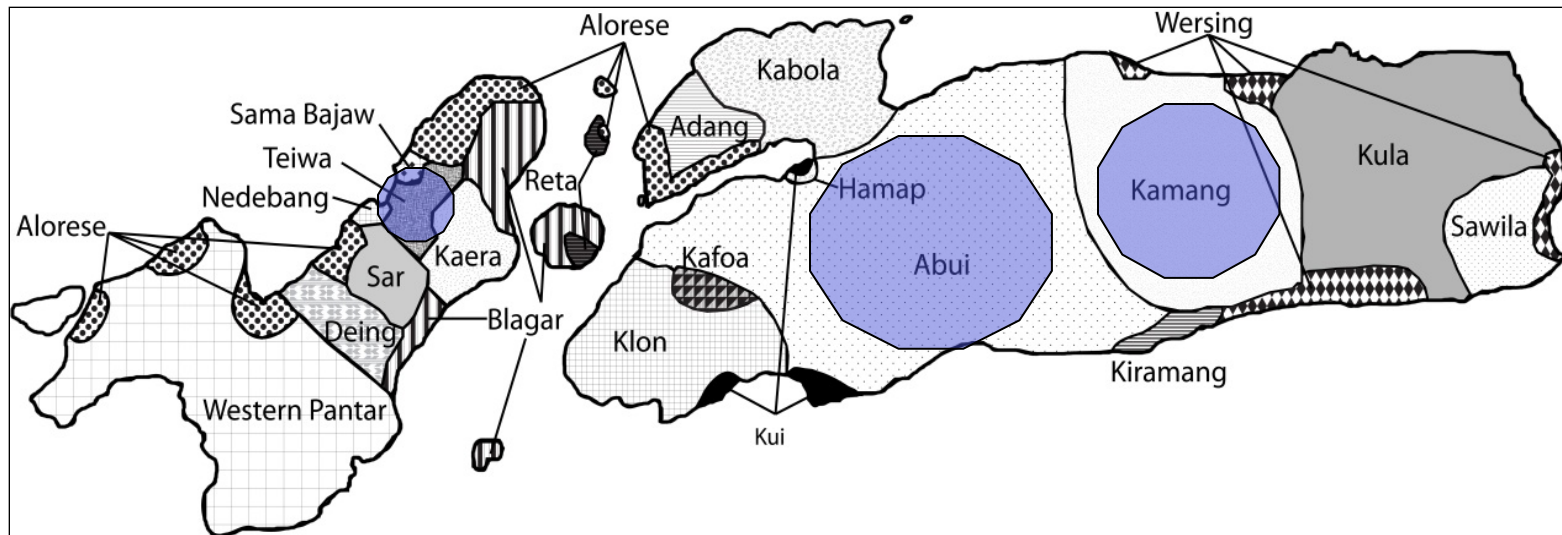
The Alor-Pantar languages



Map 1. The islands Alor and Pantar in eastern Indonesia



Sample



Map 2. The Alor-Pantar languages



Outline

- Pronominal indexing in the AP languages
- Affectedness and volitionality in Abui
- Affectedness in Kamang
- Animacy in Teiwa
- Conclusions



PRONOMINAL INDEXING IN AP



Example of pronominal indexing

- Indexing
(noun phrase_k / free pronoun_k) prefix_k-verb
- No indexing
(noun phrase / free pronoun) verb
- No morphological case marking
- AP languages have APV / SV order



Pronominal indexing in the AP languages

- Alor languages Abui and Kamang have more than one set of verb prefixes
- The degree of “lexical stipulation” is lower in Abui than in Kamang
 - Abui has fewer verb for which the prefix is fixed
- Pantar languages, like Teiwa, have a single set of prefixes



Conditions on pronominal indexing

- Pronominal indexing on verbs is subject to a variety of constraints which differ between the languages



Conditions on pronominal indexing

- E.g. Teiwa (Pantar)
- Syntactic alignment (of the ‘accusative’ type)
 - S and A are expressed with a free pronoun
 - Indexing of P’s is associated with animacy (Klamer 2010: 171)
- Marking of only the object on the verb is rare, occurring in only 7% of the languages from the WALS sample (Siewierska 2013)



Teiwa indexing: intransitives

(1) Teiwa (Klamer 2010: 169)

A her
3SG climb
'He climbs up.'

(2) Teiwa (Klamer 2010: 388)

[...] bui una' esan ta taxaa.
[...] betelnut also place TOP fall_down
'... as well as the betelnut fell down.'

(3) Teiwa (Klamer 2010: 98)

Pi *p-o'on*.
1PL.INCL 1PL.INCL-hide
'We hide.'

**Small class: Only -o'on
'hide', -ewar 'return', -ufan
'forget'**



Teiwa indexing: transitives

(4) Teiwa (Klamer 2010: 159)

Name ha'an n-oqai g-unba.

Sir 2SG 1SG-child 3SG-meet

'Sir, did you see (lit. meet) my child?'

(5) Teiwa (Response to video clip C18_pull_log_29, SP3)

Bif eqar kopang nuk tei baq kiri.

child female small one tree log pull

'A little girl is pulling a log.'



Conditions on pronominal indexing

- E.g. Abui (Alor)
- Semantic alignment system (Mithun 1991; Donohue and Wichmann 2008)
 - More agent-like arguments (actor) are coded with a free pronoun or NP and *no* prefix
 - More patient-like arguments (undergoer) are coded with a prefix



Conditions on pronominal indexing

- Volitionality (together with animacy) is an important determinant of pronominal marking on verbs with one argument



Abui indexing: volitionality

(6) Abui (Kratochvíl 2007: 15)

Na laak.

1SG leave

'I go away.'

(7) Abui (Kratochvíl 2007: 15)

No-laak.

1SG.REC-leave

'I (am forced to) retreat.'

(8) Abui (Kratochvíl 2007: 14)

Simon de-wiil ho-dik.

PN 3.AL.POSS-child 3.REC-tickle

'Simon is tickling his child.'



Conditions on pronominal indexing

- Non-volitional participant is indexed
- Natural connection with the situation in Teiwa, where prefixation is restricted to (animate) objects
- Objects are typically non-volitional (Givón 1985: 90; Malchukov 2005: 79; von Heusinger and Kaiser 2010: 4)



Further conditions on pronominal indexing

- Affectedness in:
 - Abui (Kratochvíl 2007: 190-191)
 - Kamang (Schapper, fieldnotes; Fedden et al. 2014)
 - Western Pantar (Lamma, Tubbe, Mauta) (Holton 2010: 106)
 - Klon (Baird 2008: 52)



Further conditions on pronominal indexing

- Specificity in Abui (interacting with affectedness) (Kratochvíl 2014: 586-587)
- Focus in Teiwa (Klamer 2010: 409)
- Irrealis modality in Western Pantar (Holton 2010: 106)



Cf. conditions on DOM and DSM

- Similar factors have been reported for DOM, e.g.
 - Animacy and definiteness (Bossong 1991; Aissen 2003)
 - Specificity (von Heusinger and Kaiser 2005),
 - Affectedness (von Heusinger and Kaiser 2010)
- Volitionality argued to play a role in DSM (e.g. Mohanan 1990 on Hindi)



VOLITIONABILITY AND AFFECTEDNESS

ABUI



Pronominals in Abui

Table 1. Abui free pronouns and prefixes (Kratochvíl 2014: 555)

	Free pron.	Prefixes				
		PAT	REC	LOC	GOAL	BEN
1SG	<i>na</i>	<i>n(a)-</i>	<i>no-</i>	<i>ne-</i>	<i>noo-</i>	<i>nee-</i>
2SG	<i>ha</i>	<i>a</i> ¹	<i>o-</i>	<i>e-</i>	<i>oo-</i>	<i>ee-</i>
3I	-	<i>h(a)-</i>	<i>ho-</i>	<i>he-</i>	<i>hoo-</i>	<i>hee-</i>
3I	<i>di</i>	<i>d(a)-</i>	<i>do-</i>	<i>de-</i>	<i>doo-</i>	<i>dee-</i>
1PL.EXCL	<i>ni</i>	<i>ni-</i>	<i>nu-</i>	<i>ni-</i>	<i>nuu-</i>	<i>nii-</i>
1PL.INCL	<i>pi</i>	<i>pi-</i>	<i>po-/pu-</i>	<i>pi-</i>	<i>puu-/poo-</i>	<i>pii-</i>
2PL	<i>ri</i>	<i>ri-</i>	<i>ro-/ru-</i>	<i>ri-</i>	<i>ruu-/roo-</i>	<i>rii-</i>

¹ Ø before vowel



Degree of lexical stipulation: Abui

Table 2. Distribution of the Abui PAT prefixes

	PAT obligatory	PAT optional	
	Prefix required	Prefix required	Prefix not required
	29 verbs	4 verbs	68 verbs
Total (of 210 verbs)	14% (29/210)	2% (4/210)	32% (68/210)

Data: Fedden et al. (2013)

- Based on 210 verb roots, stipulation is limited to a subset of 29 verbs (14%)
- This restriction is limited to the PAT series, the oldest in the family (Holton et al. 2012: 115)



The concept of *volitionality*

- “[D]egree of planned involvement of an A[gent] in the activity of the verb” (Hopper and Thompson 1980: 286)
- Conscious control over the activity of the verb (DeLancey 1985: 52)
- Sometimes finer distinctions, e.g. instigation, i.e. the responsibility for the onset of an event, and control, i.e. the responsibility for its execution (Mithun 1991; Kratochvíl 2011)



The concept of *volitionality*

- Contrary to [+/-] animacy, [+/-] volitionality typically not a property of the lexical semantics
- Nouns such as *person* or *man* can be used in contexts in which they may be subject to volitional acts (e.g. walk) or non-volitional ones (e.g. stumble)
- Volitionality is a property of a participant which is observed in the context of an event (Fedden et al. 2014)



Volitionality in Abui

(9) Abui (Response to video clip P09_person_fall_14, SP9)

Neng nuku laak-laak-i ba
man one walk-walk-PFV and

me la da-kaai yo eya!
come just 3.PAT-stumble DEM ?

‘A man walks along and stumbles.’



Volitionality in Abui

- Effect of volitionality does not give a clear picture

Table 4. Indexation of non-volitional and volitional S's in Abui

	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	All
Non-volitional S's	11	6	4	6	27
Prefixed	5	3	2	2	12
Proportion	45%	50%	50%	33%	44%
Volitional S's	6	6	6	6	24
Prefixed	3	3	2	3	11
Proportion	50%	50%	33%	50%	46%



Volitionality in Abui

- The impact of non-volitionality becomes more obvious when one looks at non-volitional animate S's

Table 5. Indexation of non-volitional animate S's in Abui

	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	All
Non-volitional					
AND animate S	6	4	3	3	16
Prefixed	4	3	2	2	11
Proportion	66%	75%	66%	66%	69%

- This pattern might have the functional explanation since non-volitional animate S's are atypical and therefore get more marking



The concept of *affectedness*

- Persistent change in an event participant
- Change: “an inherently *relational* concept involving both a theme participant that undergoes the change and a scale participant defining the progress of the change over time” (Beavers 2011: 1; emphasis in the original)



The concept of *affectedness*

- Affected participant is typically an argument of the predicate
- Predicate spells out scale and progress of the participant undergoing the change on this scale, i.e. it specifies the degree of affectedness:

He breaks the wooden board. [HIGH]

He hits the wooden board. [LESS HIGH]



The concept of *affectedness*

- Entailment of change with *break*
- No entailment of change with *hit*
 - The fact that the agent makes contact with the wooden board means that it is impinged upon but this does not entail a change of state



Affectedness in Abui

- Abui allows the expression of different degrees of affectedness by choosing between the PAT and the LOC prefix for P

(10) Abui (Kratochvíl 2011: 596)

he-dik

3.LOC-pierce

'stab at it'

(11) Abui (Kratochvíl 2011: 596)

ha-dik

3.PAT-pierce

'pierce it (through)'



Affectedness in Abui

Lower degree of affectedness: LOC prefix	Higher degree of affectedness: PAT prefix
<i>he-dik</i> 'stab at it'	<i>ha-dik</i> 'pierce it through'
<i>he-akung</i> 'cover it'	<i>h-akung</i> 'extinguish it'
<i>he-pung</i> 'hold it'	<i>ha-pung</i> 'catch it'
<i>he-komangdi</i> 'make it less sharp'	<i>ha-komangdi</i> 'make it completely blunt'
<i>he-lilri</i> 'warm it up (water)'	<i>ha-lilri</i> 'boil it (water)'
<i>he-lak</i> 'take it apart'	<i>ha-lak</i> 'demolish it'

(Kratochvíl 2011: 596, p.c.)



AFFECTEDNESS

KAMANG



Pronominals in Kamang

Table 6. Kamang person prefixes (Schapper, to appear)

	Free pron.	Prefixes					
		PAT	LOC	GEN	AST	DAT	DIR
1SG	<i>na</i>	<i>na-</i>	<i>no-</i>	<i>ne-</i>	<i>noo-</i>	<i>nee-</i>	<i>nao-</i>
2SG	<i>a</i>	<i>a-</i>	<i>o-</i>	<i>e-</i>	<i>oo-</i>	<i>ee-</i>	<i>ao-</i>
3	<i>ga</i>	<i>ga-</i>	<i>wo-</i>	<i>ge-</i>	<i>woo-</i>	<i>gee-</i>	<i>gao-</i>
1PL.EXCL	<i>ni</i>	<i>ni-</i>	<i>nio-</i>	<i>ni-</i>	<i>nioo-</i>	<i>nii-</i>	<i>nio-</i>
1PL.INCL	<i>si</i>	<i>si-</i>	<i>sio-</i>	<i>si-</i>	<i>sioo-</i>	<i>sii-</i>	<i>sio-</i>
2PL	<i>i</i>	<i>i-</i>	<i>io-</i>	<i>i-</i>	<i>ioo-</i>	<i>ii-</i>	<i>io-</i>



Degree of lexical stipulation: Kamang

Table 7. Kamang verbs (obligatorily and non-obligatorily prefixed)

	Obligatorily prefixed	Non-obligatorily prefixed
Transitive	45% (113/250 verbs)	55% (137/250 verbs)
Intransitive	20% (53/260 verbs)	80% (207/260 verbs)
Total (of 510 verbs)	33% (166/510 verbs)	67% (344/510 verbs)

Fedden et al. (2013)

- Based on 510 verb roots, stipulation is greater than in Abui
- In contrast with Abui a verb can be restricted to (almost) any of the prefix series
 - 45% of transitives are restricted to a single series
 - 20% of intransitives are restricted to a single series



Degree of lexical stipulation: Kamang

Table 8. Proportion of obligatorily prefixed intransitive verbs by prefix class

PAT	LOC	GEN	AST
65% (33 verbs)	15% (8 verbs)	18% (11 verbs)	<2% (1 verb)

Fedden et al. (2013)

Table 9. Proportion of obligatorily prefixed transitive verbs by prefix class

PAT	LOC	Other
35% (46 verbs)	60% (82 verbs)	<5% (9 verbs)

Fedden et al. (2013)



Affectedness in Kamang

- Kamang allows the expression of different degrees of affectedness by choosing between the LOC prefix and no prefix for S of stative verbs

(12) Kamang (Schapper, to appear)
Kik nok wo-saara.
palm_rib one 3.LOC-burn
'A palm rib burns down/on (i.e. is consumed over time).'

(13) Kamang (Schapper, to appear)
Kik nok saara.
palm_rib one burn
'A palm rib burns.'



ANIMACY
TEIWA



Pronominals in Teiwa

Table 10. Teiwa free pronouns and prefixes (Klamer 2010: 77-78)

	Subject		Object	
	Long form	Short form	Free form	Prefix series
1SG	<i>na'an</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na'an</i>	<i>n(a)-</i>
2SG	<i>ha'an</i>	<i>ha</i>	<i>ha'an</i>	<i>h(a)-</i>
3SG	<i>a'an</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>ga'an</i>	<i>g(a)-, gə-</i>
1PL.EXCL	<i>ni'in</i>	<i>ni</i>	<i>ni'in</i>	<i>n(i)-</i>
1PL.INCL	<i>pi'in</i>	<i>pi</i>	<i>pi'in</i>	<i>p(i)-</i>
2PL	<i>yi'in</i>	<i>yi</i>	<i>yi'in</i>	<i>y(i)-</i>
3PL	<i>iman</i>	<i>i, a</i>	<i>iman</i>	<i>g(i)-, ga-</i>
3PL.ELSEWH.	<i>i'in</i>	<i>i, a</i>	<i>gi'in</i>	<i>g(i)-</i>



Animacy in Teiwa

- Highly consistent results
- All three Teiwa participants used prefixes exclusively with the same verbs
 - *-tan (tup)* [lit. call get_up] ‘wake up’
 - *-u’an* ‘hold in one’s arms’
 - *-arar* ‘be afraid of’



Animacy in Teiwa

- It is typical for the P of a transitive verb to be indexed with a prefix that it has an animate referent



Animacy in Teiwa

(16) Teiwa (Response to video clip P07_wake_up_person_19, SP4)

Kri nuk ma bif goqai ga-tan-an tup.
old_man one come child 3SG-call-REAL wake_up
'An old man comes and wakes up a child.'



Animacy in Teiwa

- Having an animate P is not a sufficient criterion for prefixation
- Prefixation of an animate P is at chance level

Table 11. Prefixation with animate P's in Teiwa

	SP2	SP3	SP4	All
Animate P's	5	6	7	18
With prefix	3	3	3	9
Proportion	60%	50%	43%	50%



Animacy in Teiwa

- The results suggest that the animacy of P cannot be the whole story
- Only 22% (49/224 types) of transitive verbs allow prefixation (Fedden et al. 2014)
- Indexing animacy restrictions seems to be related to the typical use of a verb



Animacy in Teiwa

- If prefixation was purely a matter of sensitivity to the animacy property of the argument, rather than a manifestation of the class to which a verb belongs, ...



Animacy in Teiwa

- ... we would expect one and the same verb to alternate between prefixation and non-prefixation, depending on the animacy of the object it happened to be taking



Animacy in Teiwa

- However, this is often not the case
- Typically, the same verb does (or doesn't) have a prefix regardless of the animacy of the object



Animacy in Teiwa

(17) Teiwa (Klamer 2010: 88)

A qavif ga-uyan gi si [...]

3SG goat 3SG-search go SIM [...]

'He went searching for [a] goat ...'

(18) Teiwa (Klamer 2010: 340)

Ha gi ya' siis nuk ga-uyan pin aria'.

2SG go small_bamboo_sp.dry one 3SG-search hold arrive

'You go look for dry bamboo to bring here.'



Animacy in Teiwa

(19) Teiwa (Response to video clip C13_bump_into_person_38, SP4)

Uy masar nuk wa kri tumah.

person male one go old_man bump

‘A man is going and bumps (into) an old man.’

(20) Teiwa (Response to video clip C16_bump_into_tree_42, SP4)

Kri nuk tewar wa tei tumah.

old_man one walk go tree bump

‘A old man walks and bumps (into) a tree.’



Teiwa verb class 1

- Class 1 of transitive verbs
 - index their P with a prefix
 - separate NP constituent may optionally be present
 - typically occur with animates: *-tan tup* ‘wake sb. up’, *-bun* ‘answer sb.’, *-lal* ‘show to sb.’, *liin* ‘invite sb.’, *-pak* ‘call sb.’, *-sas* ‘feed sb.’, *-’uam* ‘teach sb.’, *-wei* ‘bathe sb.’



Teiwa verb class 2

- Class 2 of transitive verbs
 - have no prefix
 - can be accompanied by a separate noun phrase for the inanimate object
 - typically occur with inanimates: *miman* ‘smell’, *na* ‘eat’, *bangan* ‘ask for’, *boqai* ‘cut up’, *dumar* ‘push away’, *hela* ‘pull’, *mat* ‘take’, *ol* ‘buy’, *pin* ‘hold’, *qas* ‘split’, *taxar* ‘cut in two’



Teiwa verb classes: alternation

- Prefix alternation:
 - (a) Class 3: a verb has a prefix and an animate object or no prefix and an inanimate object
 - (b) Class 4: a verb selects one prefix set with animate objects and another prefix set with inanimate objects



Teiwa verb class 3

- Class 3, presence vs. absence of prefix determined by animacy of P:
 - sii* ‘bite s.o.’ and *sii* ‘bite (into) sth’
 - dee* ‘burn s.o.’ and *dee* ‘burn sth’
 - mian* ‘give s.o.’ and *mian* ‘put at sth’
 - mai* ‘keep for s.o.’ and *mai* ‘save sth’
 - mar* ‘follow s.o.’ and *mar* ‘take/get sth’(very small class)



Teiwa verb class 4

- Alternation between two different prefixes in the 3rd person. Inanimate objects are indexed with the canonical prefix, animate objects take an augmented form (with a glottal stop):
 - wulul* ‘tell s.o., tell sth.’
 - wultag* ‘talk to s.o., talk about sth.’
 - kiid* ‘cry for s.o., cry about sth.’
 - tad* ‘strike s.o., strike at sth.’



Teiwa verb class 4

(21) Teiwa (Klamer 2010: 91)

Ha gi ga'-wulul.

2SG go 3SG.AN-talk

'You go tell him. / You go talk with him.'

(22) Teiwa (Klamer 2010: 91)

Ha gi ga-wulul.

2SG go 3SG-talk

'You go tell it (i.e. some proposition).'



Teiwa verb class 4

- For class 4 there is a small inflectional paradigm for verbs in which the animate-inanimate distinction constitutes an (agreement) feature realized by different prefix types



CONCLUSIONS



Conclusion

- Substantial variation between the sample languages in terms of degree of lexical stipulation as opposed to semantically determined factors
- Abui:
 - Semantically aligned
 - With sensitivity to volitionality and affectedness
 - Low degree of lexical stipulation



Conclusion

- Kamang:
 - Semantically aligned
 - With sensitivity to affectedness
 - Higher degree of lexical stipulation than in Abui



Conclusion

- Teiwa:
 - Constraints on verbs rather than semantic factors in events
 - Animacy is important
 - Verb classes are associated with the animacy of their typical objects
 - Highest degree of lexical stipulation



Conclusion: Video elicitation

- There is a semantic motivation underlying the prefixation pattern in the AP languages under investigation
- Animacy and volitionality have an impact on whether an argument is indexed with a prefix



Conclusion: Video elicitation

- Abui: Volitionality is important in that non-volitional animate S's tend to be indexed on the verb
- Teiwa: It is typical for an argument to be indexed to be an animate P



Conclusion: Video elicitation

- The experiment shows that none of these systems of argument indexation is semantically fully transparent
- Teiwa: Many animate P's are in fact not indexed and the number of verbs which 'alternate' is quite small



Conclusion: Video elicitation

- Abui: No consistent indexation of non-volitional animate S's
- There are verbs which are used without a prefix, even though the animate participant does not have volition with respect to the event, e.g. *taa* 'sleep', *yatul* 'fall asleep'
- Clearly other factor(s) involved



Conclusion: Video elicitation

- The experiment confirms that the patterns of argument indexing in the AP languages are semantically motivated but not semantically determined



thank you

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APPENDIX

ON VERB SEMANTICS



Prefixation not based on verb semantics

- An explanation of the behaviour of the verb (prefix or no prefix) based on the semantics of the verb is likely to fail
- Verbs can have similar semantics and have, or not have, a prefix
- Some verbs which typically occur with inanimates, e.g. *pin* 'hold' could occur with animates



Prefixation not based on verb semantics

(X) Teiwa

kri nuk g-oqai g-u'an-an tas-an
old_man one 3-child 3-carry-REAL stand-REAL
'An old man is standing carrying his child.'
(Response to video clip P15_hold_person_24, SP3)

(Y) Teiwa

qau ba iman ta mauqubar g-oqai pin
good SEQ 3PL TOP frog 3-child hold

bir-an gi
run-REAL go

'So they hold the baby frog and go [...].' (Klamer 2010: 425)



Prefixation not based on verb semantics

- Approximate characterization of transitive verb semantic classes in corpus:
 - Handling and object manipulation
 - Physical contact
 - Communication
 - Social interaction
 - Perception



Prefixation not based on verb semantics

Handling and object manipulation

Prefixed

-an 'give to s.o.'
-ayas 'throw at s.o.'
-fin 'catch s.o.'
-fur 'turn s.o.'
-panaat 'send to s.o.'
-u'an 'carry s.o.'

No prefix

mat 'take s.o./sth'
moxod 'drop s.o./sth.'
pin 'hold s.o./sth.'



Prefixation not based on verb semantics

Physical contact

Prefixed

-far 'kill s.o.'
-sii 'bite s.o.'
-tad 'strike s.o., strike at sth.'
-ua 'hit s.o.'

No prefix

kikar 'scratch s.o., sth.'



Prefixation not based on verb semantics

Communication

Prefixed

-bun 'answer s.o.'
-pak 'call s.o.'
-regan 'ask s.o.'
-wulul 'tell s.o.'

No prefix

wan we 'call out to s.o.'
taxaqar 'address s.o.'



Prefixation not based on verb semantics

Social interaction	
Prefixed	No prefix
<p><i>-fai</i> 'swear at s.o.'</p> <p><i>-unpaxai</i> 'share with s.o., divide sth.',</p> <p><i>-rian</i> 'look after s.o.'</p>	<p><i>daar bub</i> 'curse s.o.'</p> <p><i>puan yaqai</i> 'cheat s.o.'</p>



APPENDIX

TEIWA - PREFIX PRODUCTIVITY



Animacy in Teiwa

- Is the rule of object indexation at all productive in Teiwa?
- If so, can the effects we have observed in relation to a property of the argument be more readily associated with the verb itself?



Animacy in Teiwa

- Corpus search of transitive verb hapax legomena, inspired by the quantitative method in Baayen (1992) (Fedden et al. 2013: xx)
- Corpus size: ~ 16,900 words of which roughly one third is elicited material



Animacy in Teiwa

- Assumption: If a morphological process is productive in a language hapax legomena in the corpus will exhibit it
- Lower frequency items will need to rely on the creativity associated with rules, whereas memory will have a greater role in relation to high frequency items



Animacy in Teiwa

- *Table 4.* Hapax legomena of transitive verbs in Teiwa (Fedden et al. 2013: xx)

	Total number of hapaxes	With prefix	Proportion
With animate P	9 / 7	8 / 6	88.8% / 85.7%
With inanimate P	13 / 12	1 / 1	7.7% / 8.3%

(Number before the slash includes hapaxes in elicited material, number after the slash excludes them)



Animacy in Teiwa

- These results strongly indicate that prefixation of animate objects is productive in Teiwa
- 88.8% (85.7%) of transitive verb hapaxes with an animate object actually also have a prefix
- Caveat: The Teiwa corpus is nowhere nearly as massive as the corpus Baayen used