

# Capacity building and community language activism in Central Maluku

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## Background

Research project, research sites and training philosophy

## Indonesia and Maluku Province



42 Austronesian languages are spoken on 14 islands in the geopolitical region of central Maluku in Maluku Province

## Four research sites

Primary (funded) project goal is the documentation of four languages in ethnolinguistic communities in central Maluku which vary across a range of features:

- > geography
  - urban, coastal, mountainous interior
- > demography
  - populations range from 200 - 19,000
- > religion
  - both Muslim and Christian villages
- > linguistic vitality
  - ranges from threatened to moribund

In Maluku there is often no composite name which embraces the territory or all of the villages in which a language is spoken. Speakers commonly refer to their own language either with the village name, or the indigenous word meaning 'language'.

## Four research languages

### SERAM ISLAND

**Alune [ALP] (Lohiasapalewa)**

- Researcher: Margaret Florey
- Threatened language indigenous to — 26 Alune villages (all Christian)
- Total population ~15,000
- Lohiasapalewa population 298

**Rutah [AMQ]**

- Researcher: Margaret Florey
- Moribund language indigenous to — Rutah (Muslim), Amahei, Soahuku, Makariki, Haruru (?) (Christian)
- Rutah population 2,286

## Four research languages

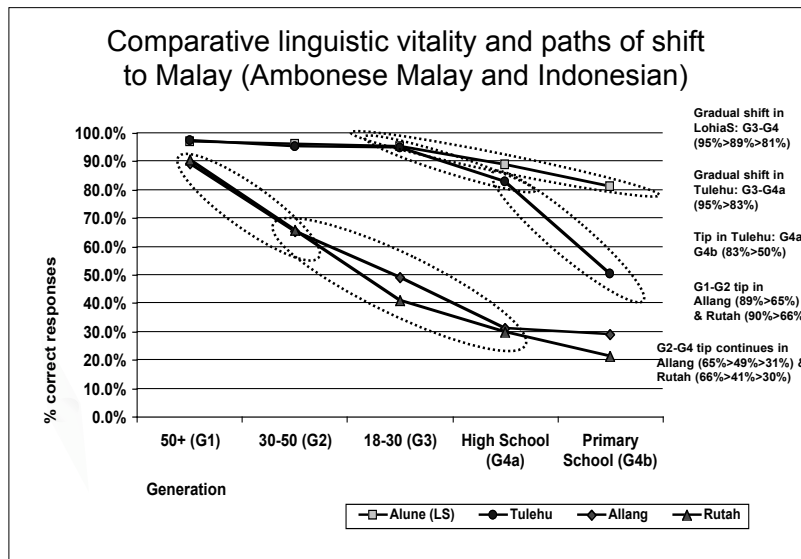
### AMBON ISLAND

**Sou Amana Teru [TLU]**

- Researcher: Simon Musgrave
- Endangered language indigenous to — Tulehu, Tial, Tengah-tengah (Muslim), Waai (Christian)
- Population 18,790 in Tulehu, Tial, Tengah-tengah

**Allang [ALO]**

- Researcher: Michael Ewing
- Moribund language indigenous to — Wakasihu and Larike (Muslim), Allang and Liliboi (Christian)
- Allang population 4,113



## Challenges

- Social and political changes which are triggering shifts in knowledge and use of language, culture, environment, etc. have also precipitated shifts in modes of intergenerational transmission of knowledge
- The shift from informal, experiential learning through observation, apprenticeship and participation to formal education
  - removes young people from the village
  - decreases opportunities for language use and interaction with the physical environment
  - disrupts social relationships — particularly the role of elders and knowledge holders in the learning process

## Challenges

- We face the challenge of supporting the revitalisation and maintenance of Indigenous languages and Indigenous knowledge in a resource poor region:
  - small, remote communities
  - subsistence economies
  - recovering from civil war (1998-2002)
  - little access to upper- and post-secondary education

## Critical issues and needs

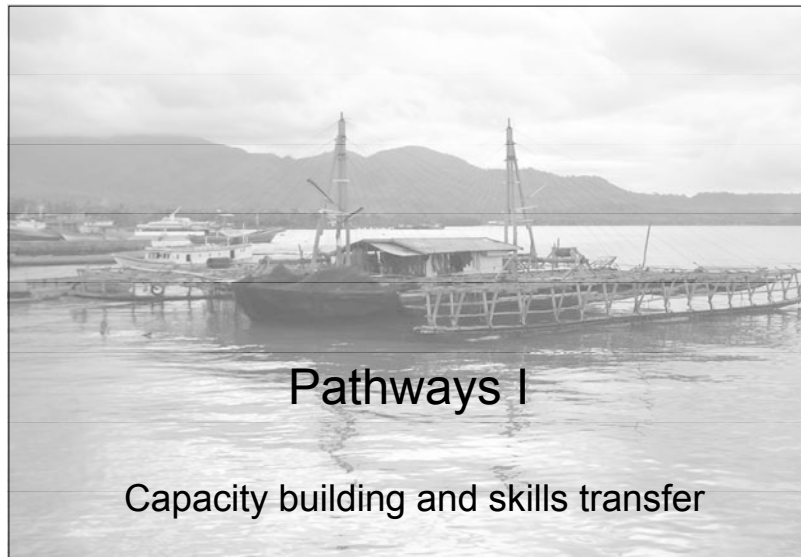
- In Indonesia, language maintenance activities, funding opportunities, and training are out of reach to those who most need it
- Issues:
  - English language focus: how can we respond to the needs of non-English speaking communities?
  - wider access to training at various levels
  - funded support for training activities
  - advocacy in grant application process
  - publication outlets for training materials

## Training philosophy

- The research team has incorporated capacity building into all phases of the project
- Training philosophy
  - integrates modern and traditional modes of learning
  - works towards the restoration of intergenerational transmission of language
  - focuses community members on their own resources, at a local level and more widely
  - builds a grassroots resource pool to support language maintenance activities

## 3-step pathway to community language activism

1. Bringing people together
  - capacity building
  - skills transfer
  - developing resource networks
2. Reinforcing skills in the community: inclusion of
  - all age groups
  - key institutions (such as the school)
3. Community initiated activities



### Developing resource networks — bringing community members and regional institutions together



Museum Siwalima, Ambon



Moluks Historisch Museum, the Netherlands



Pattimura University



Ambon State Library

Darussalam University

### Training workshop 1 2005

- One week residential workshop
- 28 participants included
  - Masters — language speakers
  - Apprentices — language learners (included 5 teachers)
  - Professionals from Pattimura University and Ambon State Library
  - Linguists
- Participants were placed in four language groups
  - Alune (Lohiasapalewa village)
  - *Kouro* (Rutah village)
  - Allang
  - *Sou Amana Teru* (Tulehu, Tengah-tengah villages)

### Four workshop teams



Alune language (Lohiasapalewa)



*Kouro* language (Rutah)



Allang language (Allang)



*Sou Amana Teru* language (Tulehu, Tengah-tengah)

## Workshop activities

- Setting goals
- Recording and documenting languages: training in
  - use of equipment
  - elicitation techniques
  - working with speakers
  - archiving data
- Language learning
  - becoming a language teacher
  - becoming a language learner
  - drawing on outside expertise
  - forming teams
- Learning about
  - linguistic analysis
  - language variation
  - dialects
  - historical relationships between languages
  - similarities and differences in grammars and vocabularies
- Producing materials
  - genres
  - orthographies
  - audience
  - multilingual texts
  - publishing
- Developing cooperative projects

## Training workshop 2 — Museum Siwalima 2006



Language workers trained in earlier workshop act as facilitators, training museum staff



## Training workshop 3 — Bali 2006

- Ten-day language documentation workshop funded by the Volkswagen Stiftung
- Held in Ubud, Bali in July 2006
- 25 Indonesian linguists and community language activists
- 4 participants from Maluku (representing the Siwalima Museum, Ambon State Library, Pattimura University and Lohiasapalewa village) all of whom had taken part in the two earlier training workshops

## 11 tutors and 25 participants



4 Maluku participants

## Lectures and tutorials

- Introduction: language documentation
- Speakers and speech communities
- Recording technologies and techniques
- Recording with metadata
- Organizing metadata
  - IMDI
  - Excel
- Capture: Audio and Video
  - Audacity
  - Adobe Premiere Pro
  - iMovie
- Using software for transcription
  - Toolbox
  - ELAN
- Orthography: Basic issues
- Some principles for segmenting discourse
- Notes on dealing with conversation
- Notes on dealing with oral literature
- Commenting on meaning
- Commenting on grammar
- Dictionary exercise from narrative
- Preparing grant applications

## Recording audio and capturing with Audacity



## Recording metadata



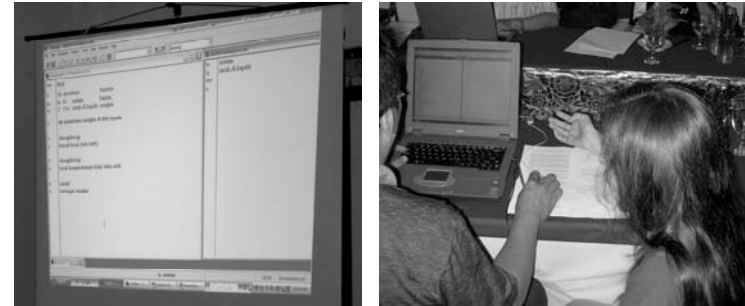
## Intonation units and ELAN



### Transcription on paper



### Toolbox/Shoebox



### Lectures and group sessions



### Graduation



## Follow-up workshop 2007

- In order to qualify for participation in a follow-up Volkswagen workshop planned for July 2007, the 2006 participants were required to fulfil two criteria :
  1. preparation of a research proposal
  2. the recording and transcription of linguistic data
- A total of fifteen of the 25 participants fulfilled the criteria, including 3 Maluku participants
- 2 of the Maluku participants are now collaborating on an Alune project in Lohiasapalewa village
- 1 is working on a Haruku language project

## Pathways 2

Reinforcing skills in the community

## Community language work 2005-06

1. Community language workers (CLWs) in each site:
  - selected in consultation with the community
  - work in apprenticeship with the linguist and with language speakers
  - trained in documentation methodologies — data collection, transcription, materials production
2. Follow-up activities with community teams

## CLW testing linguistic vitality in Rutah





CLW in training and testing linguistic vitality in Lohiasapalewa



Community story book project — Rutah



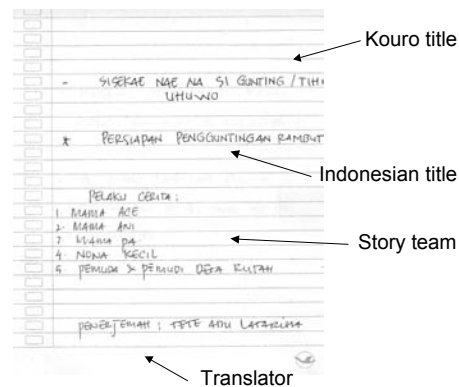
Tete Abu: speaker and translator      Pak Moh: eliciting story from photo prompts



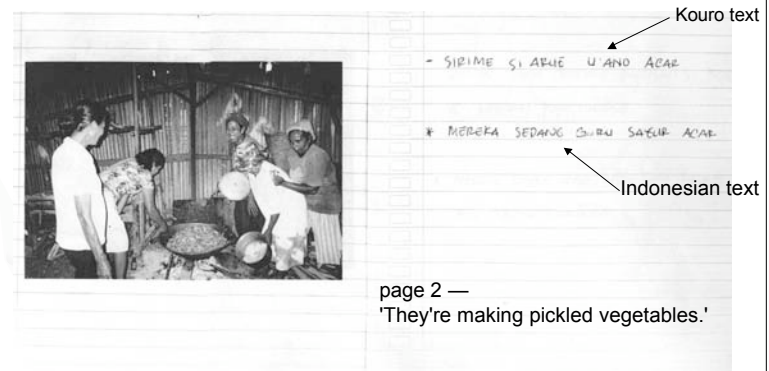
Ibu Guru Ati: compiling a book      Story book team leaders with the linguists

Book 1 — *hair-cutting ceremony*

cover —  
*Preparations for the hair-cutting ceremony*



Book 1 — *hair-cutting ceremony*



### Book 2 — building a school



cover —  
Building a new primary school in Rutah

Indonesian title  
 PAPAN NAMA KEGIATAN  
 PEMBANGUNAN SEKOLAH  
 DASA NEGERI RUTAH

Kouro title  
 PAPAN NAMA SI KARURU NAE  
 SI POKO SEKOLAH HURD.

### Book 2 — building a school



page 2 —  
'That man is digging a hole.'

Indonesian text  
 SATU ORANG LAKI-LAKI ADA  
 GALI KOLAM.

Kouro text  
 MANAWALOMA E YARI HURLO

### Book 3 — harvesting clove

cover —  
Clove harvesting season

Indonesian title  
 MUSIM / MAMEN CENGKHE

Kouro title  
 KA'A PE'ELANO

Story team  
 PELAKU CERITA :  
 1. NIPU AMAT LETARISCA  
 2. SER LAMASANO  
 3. SER LA BUNANG  
 4. SER HUISAN  
 5. SER BAKET  
 6. SER ZUNDA  
 7. MAMA : ACE

Translator  
 PENJEREMAH : FETE ABU LATAUSIA

### Book 3 — harvesting clove

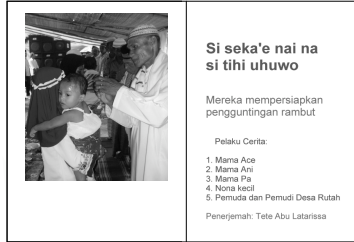


page 5 —  
'That boy is harvesting clove.'

Kouro text  
 - ANAI MANAWALOME I PEKE PE'ELANO

Indonesian text  
 \* ANAK LAKI-LAKI PETIK BUAH CENGKHE

## Book 1 — edited by researcher



cover — *They're preparing for the hair-cutting ceremony*



page 1 — *'Those four men are holding the goat and Haji Ali is slaughtering it.'*

Kouro text

Indonesian text

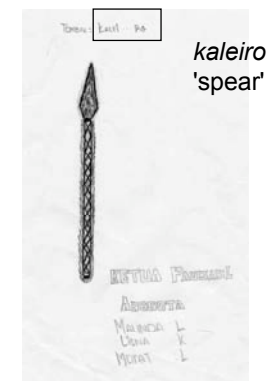
## Reading the story books



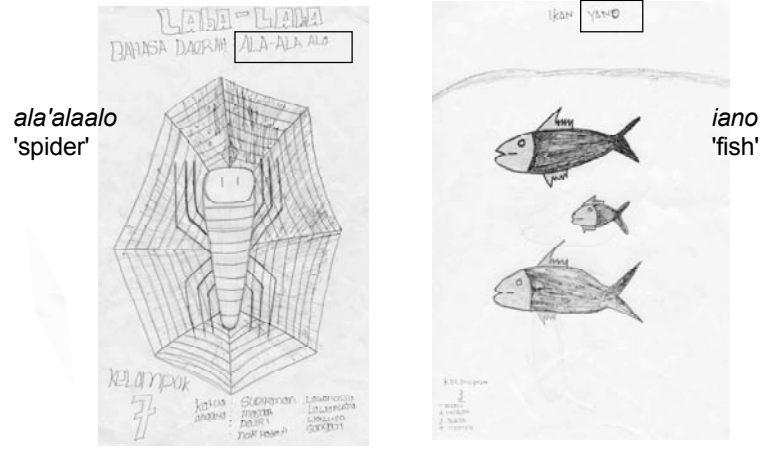
## Drawings for the Kouro dictionary



## Drawings for the Kouro dictionary



### Drawings for the Kouro dictionary



### Drawings for the Alune dictionary



### Community documentation — Alune



## Community documentation

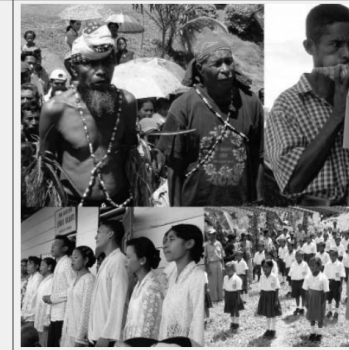


## CD of *pela* ritual and songs

*Panas pela 2005*



*Laturake, Lohiasapalewa, Uweth  
dan Seakasale*



## Where to from here?

1. Continue on-site training of language activists
2. Continue and expand partnership with Siwalima Anthropological Museum in Ambon
3. Work towards establishing a Centre for Endangered Languages, Cultures and Musics in Ambon based at the Siwalima Museum to
  - a) act as a training institute for local researchers and academics, and community language activists, as well as foreign students (postgraduates and upper-level undergraduates)
  - b) provide a documentation centre to house equipment in a resource-poor region and to process audio and video recordings
  - c) develop a regional digital archive of recordings of languages and musics, making data accessible to local communities

## Endangered Maluku Languages Project

The concepts and materials in this presentation have been produced by members of the research team "Endangered Moluccan languages: eastern Indonesia and the Dutch diaspora". This project is funded by the *Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project* and the *Australian Research Council*.

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