

Affixless in Indonesia: The Abnormality of Flores

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In the Austronesian language family, there are three locuses where languages have been become radically isolating in their typology. In the case of Riau Indonesian and similar Indonesian varieties, I have argued that extensive second-language usage was the reason. This paper addresses why languages are so strangely isolating in two other localities, Central Malayo-Polynesian languages of Flores and East Timor (as well as Papuan languages spoken in the latter). The tradition idea that some languages simply "lose affixes" for no particular reason does not follow from the tenets of language change, and I will show evidence that the nature of languages like Keo, Ngada, Rongga (Flores) and Tokodede and Papuan languages like Fatuluku (Timor) is due to population movements after the initial Austronesian migration. These movements are identifiable most vividly in linguistic evidence, which submits to such analysis under comparison with other language contact results worldwide.