

Verb Types and Semantic Roles of Person Markers of Kui, Alor

Kui is one of the non-Austronesian languages in Alor, Indonesia. This study based on the research for a total of three weeks in 2001 and 2005 in Kalabahi.

Transitive verbs of Kui are divided into the two, based on the indication of P, that is, Type 1, those with which a pronominal clitic indicating P obligatorily occurs (e.g., *ga=domi* (3-push) ‘push it/ him’), and Type 2, those with which an independent pronoun indicating P optionally occurs (e.g., *gai balesi* (3 hit) ‘hit him’). In both types, A is indicated by a clitic, and precedes P. (e.g., *na=ga=domi* (1sg=3-push) ‘I push it/ him.’), *na=gai balesi* (1sg=3 hit) ‘I hit him’). The distinction of the verb types does not appear to be based on any semantic ground, such as the degree of ‘transitivity’. S for an intransitive verb is optionally indicated by a clitic (e.g., *ga=taki* ‘He runs’).

The situation in Kui is similar to Klon (Baird 2008), in that there exists lexical types of transitive verbs, but seems simpler in that personal clitics/ pronouns do not exhibit a distinction between semantic roles; in Klon, A and P are formally distinguished, and, moreover, there are four classes of pronominal prefixes indicating P.