

The diachronic phonology of Palu'e, an Austronesian language of southern Indonesia

Palu'e is an Austronesian language spoken in various dialects on the island of the same name off the north coast of central Flores, in southern Indonesia. It is the last language in what appears to be a language chain stretching from Bajawa through Kéo, Ende and Lio to Palu'e in the northeast. The phonological history of the language is complex, resulting in a set of oppositions that are rarely attested in Austronesian languages, including aspirated stops, laryngealised stops, and prenasalisation all contrasting. In this talk I discuss the segmental oppositions in the modern language, and some of the historical processes that have resulted in these contrasts.

References

Donohue, Mark. 2005. Syntactic and lexical factors conditioning the diffusion of sound change. *Oceanic Linguistics* 44 (2): 427-442.