

## The phonological history of the non-Austronesian languages of southern Indonesia

Lexical data on the non-Austronesian languages of southern Indonesia, by which I refer to the area west of New Guinea and not including North Halmahera, have been available for two centuries, with significant materials appearing with the publication of Stokhof (1975). Despite this, and despite various studies in the ‘mass-comparativist’ tradition addressing lexical similarities (Stokhof 1975) or apparent similarities in pronominal paradigms (Cowan 1957 etc., Ross 2005), no attempt has been made to study the sound changes using the proven metric of the comparative method. With the publication of recent work by Hull and the availability of increased lexical data from East Timor, a comparison of the languages of Alor and Pantar with those of Timor and beyond is possible.

This paper presents the basic phonological correspondences and the data that supports them, and then analyses the linguistic macro-history of the area, integrating the classical comparative method of the Neogrammarians with the ‘wave theory’ analysis that led to Ross’ notion of linkages and degrees of participation in sound change.

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