Lexicon and word formation in Indonesian Bajo

CHANDRA NURAINI

ABSTRACT
This paper deals with the phonology and the lexicology of the Indonesian Bajo language and more specifically with the dialect or variant that can be heard all around the Flores Sea in Kangean, South-East Sulawesi, Sumbawa, and Flores. The phonological survey focuses on vowel lengthening, gemination, pre-nasalized phonemes, and sandhi. The second part of this paper proposes an insight into Bajo lexicology, restricted to nominal and verbal derivation.

KEYWORDS
Sama-Bajau, Bajo, Indonesian Bajo, baun Same, phonology, pre-nasalization, gemination, vowel length, epenthesis, aphaeresis, demarcative glottal stop, sandhi, derivation, causative prefix, locative suffix.

The Sama-Bajau languages are part of the Western Malayo-Polynesian language group, and their speakers may be found in many fishermen villages over an immense area, including the eastern part of Indonesia, the southern Philippines, and North Kalimantan (Sabah). After a short introduction on the Indonesian Bajo in general this paper presents information on aspects of the phonology of their language, especially with regard to the dialect or variant that can be heard around the Flores Sea: Kangean, South-East Sulawesi, Sumbawa, and Flores. In the second part of this paper, I will propose an insight into Bajo lexicology.

In various languages of the Sama-Bajau branch, the lengthening of some vowels and the gemination of certain consonants is perceptible, but their phonological relevance in the variety discussed below is problematic. I will

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