

## VERB AND VALENCE IN ALUNE

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### 1. Introduction<sup>1</sup>

This paper provides a preliminary description of the verbal morphology and valence of Alune, an Austronesian language of eastern Indonesia. In Section 2, the setting in which the language is spoken is described and a brief overview is given of the previous linguistic studies of this language which have been undertaken. Section 3 then examines basic clause structure, describing the marking of core arguments, and categorising and exemplifying both underived and derived predicate types. The applicative is introduced in this section. Section 4 focuses on verbal morphology which affects the valency of a verb, including causative and inchoative constructions and other functions of the applicative. Finally, Section 5 analyses interclausal relations and briefly examines co-ordinate and subordinate constructions.

### 2. Linguistic overview

Alune is spoken in twenty-six villages in western Seram island, in the central Maluku region of eastern Indonesia. Collins (1983) subgroups Alune in the East Central Maluku branch of Central Eastern Malayo-Polynesian. The linguistic vitality of Alune varies between the settings in which it is spoken. Language shift to Malay (Ambonese Malay and Indonesian) is occurring in all sites but at a slower pace in villages which remain in the Alune homeland in the mountainous interior of western Seram. Sociolinguistic issues concerning various aspects of the Alune language have been addressed elsewhere by the writer and are not discussed here<sup>2</sup>.

#### 2.1 Names

In the historical literature, the Alune are referred to by a variety of names. Van Ekris (1864) chose *Alfuren* or *Alifura*, a word used to describe unacculturated mountain peoples<sup>3</sup>. Sierevelt (1920) and Tauern (1928-31) refer to the *Makahala* or *Makabala*, a noun meaning 'one who carries', derived from the verb *hala'e* 'to carry goods tied on one's back'. Van Hoëvell (1896) refers to the *Patasiwa Alfuren*. *Patasiwa* is commonly translated as the 'League of Nine' and refers to one of two groups in Central Maluku which purportedly arose in the sixteenth century and which were based on religious and territorial oppositions. Stresemann (1918) named the language *Sapalewa*, which is the name of the major river which flows through the Alune homeland. The word which the Alune themselves use to refer to their language is *somtoline* 'the true language' - from *sou* 'language' and *toline* 'straight, true'. However, the

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<sup>1</sup>This paper draws on research which has been undertaken in six field seasons between 1988 and 1998. Field research was based initially in the south coastal Alune village of Lohiatala and has been based in the interior village of Lohiasapalewa since 1992. I thank the people of Lohiatala and Lohiasapalewa for their patience, friendship, and generous hospitality. In particular I am grateful to the families of Yusup and Leonorci Lumaupuy (Lohiasapalewa), Niko and Naci Souhaly (Lohiatala), and Herman and Fransina Marwa (Ambon). For their diligent research assistance I thank Mr Wempi Manakane (Lohiasapalewa) and Barbara Kelly and Catherine Travis (La Trobe University). This work has benefited from discussions with Michael Ewing, Kate Burridge, and Barry Blake, none of whom are responsible for any errors of fact or interpretation. I gratefully acknowledge the funding support of the Australian Research Council. Fieldwork has been conducted under the auspices of the *Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia* (Indonesian Institute of Sciences) with the sponsorship of Pattimura University in Ambon, Indonesia.

<sup>2</sup> See, for example, Florey 1991, 1993, 1997, 1998, Florey and Bolton 1997, Florey and Wolff 1998.

<sup>3</sup> This word is considered extremely derogatory by those people.

term 'Alune' is used now by its speakers to refer to themselves as a people who share a common history, language, and cultural traditions.

## 2.2 Dialects

There are now two dialects of Alune - north and central - distinguishable principally by phonetic features and by some lexical differences. The phonetic differences between the Central and North dialects are exemplified in Appendix 1. The North dialect is the most widely spoken, while the Central Alune dialect is spoken in six of the twenty-six contemporary Alune villages - Lohiatala, Lohiasapalewa, Manusamanue, Rumbatu, Rumberu and Watui. Collins (1983:40) noted the remnants of a South dialect spoken in the south coastal town of Kairatu. This dialect was moribund at the time of Collins' field research and is now obsolescent. The data presented in this paper were recorded in Central dialect villages. Throughout this paper I adopt the orthographic convention of using an apostrophe to represent the glottal stop [ʔ] which occurs in the Central dialect.

## 2.3 Previous Studies

Very few modern descriptions of the languages of the Maluku region of eastern Indonesia have been produced. The most detailed to date include grammars of two languages of central Maluku - Nuaulu, spoken on Seram Island (Bolton 1990) and Buru, spoken on Buru Island (Grimes 1991); one language of north Maluku - Taba, spoken on Makian Island (Bowden 1998); and one language of southwest Maluku - Letinese, spoken on Leti Island (van Engelenhoven 1995).

Since the mid-nineteenth century, descriptions of aspects of the physical environment, religion, culture, and language of the Alune people have appeared in articles and monographs produced by missionaries, soldiers, administrators, and researchers working in Maluku. These publications vary greatly in quality and depth. The earliest records comprise Alune word lists and include the work of van Ekris (1864), Ludeking (1868), and Holle (1894, 1904/1911, 1931 - published in Stokhof 1980-1982).

The Protestant missionary A. van Ekris worked in Seram, Ambon and the so-called Lease islands (Saparua, Haruku, and Nusalaut) from 1856-1866. His publication consists of approximately 1500 lexical entries in three languages of the Lease islands - Kariu (Haruku), Hatawano (Saparua), and Nalahia (Nusalaut) - and four languages of Seram - West Littoral<sup>4</sup> (represented by the dialects of Waesamu, Hatusua and Kaibobo), Kamarian (represented by the dialects of Tihulale and Rumahkai), Piru, and 'Alfur'. The 'Alfur' or Alune material was obtained in the north dialect villages of Kawa, Sole, Buria, Murikau, and Murnaten.

E. A. W. Ludeking was a Dutch medical doctor who recorded scientific and cultural information in approximately sixteen languages of Ambon, the Lease islands, Buru, and Seram. Ludeking collected Alune word lists from the north dialect villages of Buria and Murnaten.

The word lists compiled in the late nineteenth century by K. F. Holle were more thorough in scope and were part of an ambitious project to gather lexical information about the languages of the Indonesian archipelago. Lists of approximately 1500 lexical items were distributed to "Dutch civil servants, officers, missionaries and 'intelligent Inlanders' such as village heads, merchants and teachers" (Stokhof 1980:17). The results, printed in Dutch, appeared in three volumes which were published in 1894, 1904/1911, and 1931. Alune data were included in

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<sup>4</sup> See Collins 1983:102.

the 1911 (list no. 154, Upper Sapolewa<sup>5</sup>) and 1931 (list no. 224, Alune, W. Seram<sup>6</sup>) publications. Beginning in 1980 the word lists were reorganized and published in one collection edited by Prof. W. A. L. Stokhof.

Later researchers who began to produce works of greater complexity include Sierevelt (1920), Stresemann (1927), Tauern (1928-31), and Niggemeyer (1951/1952). Sierevelt was a Dutch military officer who produced an Alune wordlist and language-learning lessons for the benefit of Dutch civil servants and members of the Dutch army. The material was compiled in the north dialect village of Riring, and includes notes on dialect differences, stress patterns, phonology, and some brief explanations concerning morphology and the directional system.

Stresemann, who together with K. Deninger and O. D. Tauern was a member of the Second Freiburg Moluccas Expedition conducted in 1911-12, developed a classification of the languages of Central Maluku which is still considered of some value (Collins 1983). In contrast, the work which Tauern produced, though extensive, has been criticized for its poor quality (van Fraassen 1983:48). In part these criticisms result from the fact that he focused on ethnography rather than linguistics, but the major weaknesses are attributable to the breadth of his task, which was to "make an ethnographic, linguistic and geographical study of the whole of Seram within a period of nine months" (*ibid.*:48). This goal resulted in a very superficial linguistic analysis in which major problems arise from the constant confusion between Alune linguistic features and those of the neighbouring Wemale language. Tauern does not list the Alune villages in which fieldwork was conducted; however, the use of [k] in all examples makes it clear that the material is from the north dialect area. His grammatical sketch of Alune consists of short sections on phonetics, word classes (listed under the headings nouns, adjectives, verbs, pronouns, particles, and conjunctions), together with a song and brief text.

The linguistic research undertaken by the German anthropologist H. Niggemeyer during the Frobenius expedition of 1937/38 is of greater value. Niggemeyer and his fellow researcher E. Jensen recorded a large number of Alune myths and folk stories in six Alune-speaking villages - the four north-dialect villages of Buria, Lumoli, Uwit, and Riring and the two central-dialect villages of Manusamanue and Lohiatala. These stories constitute the first written collection of texts in the language. Most of Niggemeyer's field notes were lost during World War Two, however the folk stories, together with a grammatical sketch and wordlist, were published in 1951-52.

Recent interest concerning Alune has centred largely around subgrouping arguments and the classification of Moluccan languages. Included in this category are the works of Esser (1963), Chlenov (1976), and Dyen (1978), who draw extensively on secondary sources as a data base for their hypotheses, and Collins (1983), whose subgrouping arguments are based on extensive fieldwork in Maluku.

In 1984 the first description of Alune undertaken by an Indonesian researcher (Kakerissa et al. 1984) appeared under the auspices of the *Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa* (the National Centre for Language Development and Cultivation). This publication consists largely of a comparison of the similarities and differences between the phonology, morphology, and syntax of Indonesian and Alune and the methodology leads to numerous

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<sup>5</sup> Holle lists the indigenous name of this language as *soow kwele oeloei* (Stokhof 1980:193), which literally means 'language of the head of the river'. No information is provided concerning the informant.

<sup>6</sup> This list was collected in 1937 by a missionary from the Piru region of West Seram. The informant was a forty-year-old male who was the *kepala soa* (head of a village level political division) in the village of Laturake (located north of Lohiasapalewa). He is reported to have been a fluent speaker of Malay (*ibid.*:175).

omissions of information as well as to some glaring errors in analysis, which greatly diminish the value of the work. Linguistic research under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics has been conducted since 1987 in the village of Riring by Yushin and Takako Taguchi (see Taguchi 1989, 1991).

## 2.4 Database

The analysis in this paper draws primarily on eleven texts recorded in the central dialect-speaking Alune village of Lohiasapalewa - a site in which Alune is still spoken by all generations of villagers. The texts recount the experiences of ten women and one man who moved from the village to work in the regional administrative centres of Ambon or Piru for short periods of time<sup>7</sup>. These texts are considered typical of the conversational narrative style of younger fluent speakers. Where necessary, the analysis is supported by a further 41 texts recorded by the writer in the villages of Lohiasapalewa and Lohiatata, and 33 texts recorded by Niggemeyer during the Frobenius expedition of 1937/38. Minimal use is made of elicited data.

As noted above, language shift from Alune to Ambonese Malay is occurring in all Alune villages and code-switching between the two languages is common, even in the speech of fluent speakers. Example sentences containing clauses with Ambonese Malay verbs have been avoided where possible as the use of Alune pronominal clitics and derivational morphology with these verbs is inconsistent. Where code-switching does occur in example sentences, it is marked as (AM)<sup>8</sup>.

## 3. Basic clause structure

This section first describes marking of core arguments within clauses. Basic clause types in Alune are then described according to the number of arguments which a verb may take. The types of predicates and frequency of occurrence in the primary database are given in Table 1 below.

**Table 1** Frequency of occurrence of predicate types in the database

<b>Predicate category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Subjectless	14	1.6%
Existential	11	1.3%
Intransitive: 1-place verbs	427	49.6%
Transitive: 2-place verbs	166	19.2%
Ditransitive: 3-place verbs	13	1.4%
Applicative (derived 2- and 3-place verbs)	132	15.3%
Causative	16	1.8%
Serial verb constructions	85	9.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>7</sup> These narratives are analysed further in Florey and Healey 1999.

<sup>8</sup> Note that a distinction is drawn between code-switching and loanwords which have been incorporated into Alune. In this paper, the former covers lexemes for which there is an Alune term, such as the use of AM *adi* in example (7) below. Examples of loanwords which have been incorporated for new concepts or technologies include *to'o* 'store' in (1) below and *perusahaan* 'factory' in (11) below. The latter are not marked (AM).

### **3.1 Argument marking**

Core arguments, following van Valin and La Polla (1997: 26), are considered to be "those arguments which are part of the semantic representation of the verb". The semantic macroroles of Actor and Undergoer are distinguished in this paper (*ibid.*: 139ff). In Alune, an Actor is an argument which is optionally cross-referenced with a proclitic on the verb. An Undergoer is an argument which is required by the predicator and which may occur as an enclitic on the verb.

#### **3.1.1 Actor arguments**

Actor arguments may occur as a full noun phrase, a pronoun, or a proclitic. A proclitic may also co-occur with either an NP or a pronoun argument to cross-reference these arguments on the verb, thus giving the constructions NP plus cross-referencing proclitic, or pronoun plus cross-referencing proclitic. Each of the five possible Actor argument constructions is illustrated below.

**FULL NOUN PHRASE.** An Actor argument may occur as a full noun phrase.

- (1) *'wete-le mere 'eri-'e mpai<sup>9</sup> to'o-re*  
 child-NM that work-APP DIR store-DET  
 'That young person worked in a store.' (YS: 71<sup>10</sup>)

**PRONOUN.** An Actor argument may occur as a pronoun.

- (2) *Au 'eu tita*  
 1S go visit  
 'I went visiting.' (AK: 40)

The pronoun paradigm for Alune is given in Table 2.

**Table 2** Free pronouns (Actor/Undergoer)

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
1i	au	ite
1e	-	ami
2	ale	imi
3H	ile	sie
3NH	ele	elu

**PROCLITIC.** An Actor argument may occur as a proclitic. A proclitic may cross-reference a NP or pronoun. Examples in which a proclitic is not cross-referencing but is functioning as an Actor argument are found in contexts in which the referent has been clearly established earlier in the text. For example:

- (3) *Po leu-re Uli leu 'ai ami-lua mo ne'a.*  
 but return.home-DET Uli return.home with 1PE-two NEG DM  
 I='ai mpai bei Iriane ho i=leu 'ai ami-lua  
 3S=marry DIR ABL Irian.Jaya therefore 3S=return with 1PE-two  
 mo ne'a. Lua dua=ma leu  
 NEG DM two alone=1P return.home

'But at the return home Uli didn't return with us two. She married someone from Irian Jaya there (in Ambon) therefore she didn't return home with us two. The two of us returned alone.' (MM: 37-39)

While proclitics are most common with 3s subjects, the following examples illustrate the use of proclitics with non-3s subjects.

- (4) *'ena<sup>11</sup> 'u=mpai<sup>12</sup> Ambone au 'eu tita,*

<sup>9</sup> *Mpai* (and its clitic form *-pai*) is a directional which encodes two meanings. Within a zone of local space - the realm of everyday interactions and experiences in which an Alune person dwells - it denotes direction on the transverse plane, parallel to the shoreline and the mountain range. *Mpai* is also used for spatial reference to locations which are beyond Seram yet within Maluku. This zone includes the regional capital of Ambon city, located on Ambon island to the south of Seram (see Florey and Kelly in press).

<sup>10</sup> Sentence examples are coded by the initials of the speaker and the number of the unit in which the example occurs in a text.

<sup>11</sup> *'ena* is a multifunctional case marker which serves the following functions: purposive, benefactive, instrument, temporal, locative (inside a contained space), allative, about/concerning, and dative (marking complement of "to feel like").

OBL 1S=DIR Ambon 1s go visit,  
 'eu selu=si 'lema mpai meit leini  
 go see=3p play dir ocean side  
 'When I was in Ambon I went visiting, went to see them playing on the beach.' (AK: 40-41)

(5) A=due-le=i 'wete-le  
 2s= sit/stay/reside-with=3s child-nm  
 'You look after the child.' (AK: 7)

(6) Da'a nana='u='walai mi-mise  
 guard body=1SPOSS.INAL=CLF RDP-good  
 le'e mi='ena lepat pa-palani ya'e  
 so.that 2P=strike speech RDP-careless NEG.IMP  
 'Guard your honour very carefully so that you(PL) aren't the target of gossip<sup>13</sup>.' (AK: 49-50)

Example (4) above also illustrates the omission of an Actor argument in a context in which it has been clearly established and the reference is recoverable. In (4), the 3p Undergoer in the main clause has controlled deletion of the Actor in the dependent clause.

(4') Au 'eu tita, Ø 'eu selu=si Ø='lema  
 1S go visit, [1S] go see=3P [3P]=play  
 'I went visiting, went to see them playing.' (AK: 40-41)

The Actor proclitics are summarised in Table 3.

**Table 3** Actor proclitics

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
1i	'u-	'i-/ma- <sup>14</sup>
1e	-	'i-/ma-
2	a-	mi-
3H	(e)i-	
3NH	e-	u-

**NOUN PHRASE PLUS CROSS-REFERENCING PROCLITIC.** Actor arguments may occur as a full noun phrase with a cross-referencing proclitic.

<sup>12</sup> Directionals commonly occur in constructions such as (4) in which there is no verb in the clause and the directional takes the Actor proclitic (see Florey and Kelly in press).

<sup>13</sup> This sentence arose as advice to younger women who are planning on going to the city to work. The use of the 1s rather than the expected 2s possessive pronoun in reference to the hearer is common in the small set of lexemes which can be analysed as comprising a noun, possessive pronoun, and noun classifier (such as this example) or noun, possessive pronoun, and verb: for example, *tia-'u-sene* "hunger" - LIT: belly-1sPOSS.INAL-itch. As these words are becoming lexicalised younger speakers do not analyse them as containing a possessive pronoun, hence there is no number agreement.

<sup>14</sup> No examples of 1pi or 1pe Actor cross-referencing proclitics were found in the text database. As explained earlier, Actor cross-referencing is most common with 3s subjects. A full paradigm of alienable possession proclitics has been found, including 1pi/1pe *'i-* (conservative older speakers) and *ma-* (innovative younger speakers). Possessive proclitics are homonymous with the Actor cross-referencing proclitics which do occur and I therefore assume that a larger database may yield 1pi/1pe proclitic *'i-* and/or *ma-*.

- (7) Au 'u=adi'-ru15 esi=tneu behe  
 1s 1SPOSS.AL=younger.sibling(AM)-PL 3P=ask CMP  
 a='eri-'e sarei  
 2s=work-app what  
 'My younger siblings they asked me: 'What did you work at?'. ' (AK: 45)
- (8) Ela' inai-je i=ombe ...  
 elder clf-det 3s=say  
 'My parent s/he said ...' (AK: 21)

**PRONOUN PLUS PROCLITIC.** Actor arguments may occur as a pronoun with a cross-referencing proclitic.

- (9) Au 'eu mpai Laha selu sie si=sa 'apa-le  
 1s go dir Laha see 3p 3p=board plane-nm  
 'I went to Laha (Ambon's airport) to see them boarding planes.' (AK: 42)

### 3.1.2 Undergoer arguments

Undergoer arguments may occur as a full noun phrase, a pronoun, or an enclitic. Each of these constructions is illustrated below. While an NP or pronoun Actor argument may be cross-referenced with a proclitic (as demonstrated in 3.1.1 above), the Undergoer enclitic always represents an argument and does not act as an agreement marker and therefore does not co-occur with either a full pronoun or an NP.

**FULL NOUN PHRASE.** Undergoer arguments may occur as a full noun phrase.

- (10) *Imi ni'wa 'wete ma-'eri-'e pi be mo*  
 2p look.for child nr-work-app or cmp neg  
 'Are you looking for a young worker or not?' (KM: 13)
- (11) Au 'usu-e na-ne mei perusahaan  
 1s enter-app name-nm loc factory/industry  
 'I submitted (my) name (for work) at the factory.' (YS: 62)

**PRONOUN.** Undergoer arguments may occur as a pronoun.

- (12) Au due mei hena noma le mo'wai-a-ru  
 1s sit/stay/reside loc village only because male-pl-pl  
 esi=tneu au pene  
 3p=ask 1s pfv  
 'I've just stayed in the village because men proposed to me.' (AK: 37-38)

**ENCLITIC.** Undergoer arguments may occur as a an enclitic.

- (13) Ela' inai-ju sa'ite le'i esi=lo-pai dana='u  
 elder clf-pl ill(am) then 3p=all-dir take=1s  
 'My parents were ill so they (came) there to fetch me.' (SM: 39)
- (14) Pela mi'u ami 'eu selu=si  
 each week 1pe go see=3p  
 'Each week we'd go to see them.' (AK: 44)

The Undergoer enclitics are summarised in Table 4.

<sup>15</sup> Ambonese Malay *adi* "younger sibling" is used by the speaker instead of Alune *wali* "same sex sibling" or *beta* "opposite sex sibling".

**Table 4** Undergoer enclitics

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
1i	-'u	-ma
1e	-	-ma
2	-mu	-mi
3H	-(n)i	-si
3NH	-(l)e	-(l)u

**3.2 Clause types**

The preferred word order or most frequently occurring order of elements within clauses in Alune is AVO. This word order is illustrated in the following simple sentences.

- (15) *Au sabe ala*  
 1s buy rice  
 'I bought rice.' (KM: 31)
- (16) *Au da'a 'wete-le*  
 1s watch.over child-nm  
 'I looked after children.' (MM: 33)
- (17) *A=due-le=i 'wete-le*  
 2s= sit/stay/reside -with=3s child-nm  
 'You look after the child.' (AK: 7)

**3.2.1 Subjectless predicates**

Subjectless predicates account for 1.6% of the verb count in the database. These clauses denote states or events. For example:

- (18) *'mauni pene'a*  
 late.afternoon pfv  
 'It's already late in the afternoon.' (YL: 41)
- (19) *Meje lau-'we pene; meje lepa saisa mo ne'a po mle-mlene*  
 this far-app pfv; this say what neg dm but rdp-quiet  
 'This is very far away; there's nothing else to say but just remain quiet.' (BS: 56-59)
- (20) *Dedebai ho mise*  
 sometimes therefore good  
 'Sometimes it's okay.' (MM: 86)

Imperatives (such as (6) above, repeated here) also occur as subjectless predicates.

- (6') *Da'a nana-'u-'walai mi-mise*  
 guard body=1sposs.inal-clf rdp-good  
 'Guard your honour.' (lit.: Guard your body.) (AK: 49)

**3.2.2 Equational**

Equational clauses in Alune may take a nominal or adjectival predicate, as illustrated below.

- (21) *Au tamata h'ola bei tahun 1989*  
 1s person school abl year(am) 1989  
 'I was a student from 1989.' (AA: 3)



### 3.2.4 Intransitive

Verbs with a single core argument are the most commonly-occurring clause type in the database, comprising 49.6% of the verbs. The following sentences exemplify one-place verbs with the sole argument in the participant roles of agent, experiencer, and patient.

- (31) *Ami dulu, ami 'ane, 'ane pela, ami sa dame, 'eu dame*  
 1PE descend, 1PE eat, eat RES, 1PE board DUR, go DUR  
 'We disembarked, we ate, after we'd eaten, we embarked again, and kept going.' (BS: 28-33)
- (32) *Au su'a mo*  
 1S like NEG  
 'I didn't like it.' (MM: 81)
- (33) *Masi'e 'epene tetu po dana mo*  
 although money fall but take NEG  
 'Even if money drops don't take it.' (SP: 33)

Intransitive clauses with prepositional phrase complements are exemplified in (34) - (37) below.

- (34) *Au 'ai au 'u='webe lua-ma due mpai*  
 1S and 1S 1SPOSS.AL=friend 2-1P sit/stay/reside DIR  
*ami 'i=tamata*  
 1PE 1POSS.AL=person  
 'Me and my friend, the two of us lived with our fellow villager.' (MA:14)
- (35) *Au lala='u e=nete lo-ri<sup>16</sup> mo ne'a*  
 1S emotion=1SPOSS.INAL 3SNH=remember ALL-DIR NEG DM  
 'My heart no longer thinks of home (lit.: over there).' (BS: 80)
- (36) *Apa-le e=betu bei au*  
 pig-NM 3SNH=get.up ABL 1S  
 'The pig got up from me.' (YM: 37)
- (37) *Au 'eu hole lo'o beta='u 'ai*  
 1SG go visit ALL opp.sex.sibling=1SPOSS.INAL and  
*'wali='u mpai Rumah Tiga*  
 same.sex.sibling=1SPOSS.INAL DIR Rumah Tiga  
 'I went to visit my brother and sister at Rumah Tiga.' (MM: 67)

An intransitive clause with a prepositional phrase adjunct is exemplified in (38) below.

- (38) *I=due-le=i 'ena tanggal 24 Novembere*  
 3S= sit/stay/reside -with=3S OBL date(AM) 24 November  
*musune 1970*  
 year 1970  
 'She gave birth on the 24th November 1970.' (YS: 4)

<sup>16</sup>*Ndi* (and its clitic form *-ri*) is a directional which encodes two meanings. Within a zone of local space it denotes direction on the transverse plane, parallel to the shoreline and the mountain range, in the opposite direction to *mpai*. *Ndi* is also used for spatial reference to locations within Seram which are beyond the daily experience of the speaker.

### 3.2.5 Underived transitive

Underived two-place verbs account for 19.2% of the verbs in the database. The following examples illustrate direct object in the participant roles of location, patient, experiencer, and goal.

- (39) *Ami sa motore*  
 1PE board boat  
 'We boarded the boat.' (MA: 12)
- (40) *Au 'oa pi'an-anai*  
 1S wash.dishes plate-DIM  
 'I washed dishes.' (AK: 14)
- (41) *Mo'ai-a-ru esi=tneu au pene*  
 male-PL-PL 3P=ask 1S PFV  
 'Men proposed to me (lit.: asked me).' (AK: 38)
- (42) *Lua-ma ni'wa ma-'eri-'e*  
 2-1P seek NR-work-APP  
 'The two of us sought work.' (MA: 18)

A transitive clause with a prepositional phrase complement is exemplified in (43) below.

- (43) *Ami ono sulate lo-ri lo'o ina=mu 'ai*  
 1PE do letter ALL-DIR ALL mother=2SPOSS.INAL and  
*ama=mu*  
 father=2SPOSS.INAL  
 'We'll write a letter there to your mother and father.' (BS: 19)

A transitive clause with a prepositional phrase adjunct is exemplified in (44) below.

- (44) *Esi=antar au 'ena oto pribadi*  
 3P=accompany(AM) 1S OBL car personal(AM)  
 'They accompanied me in their private car.' (BS: 189)

### 3.2.6. Derived transitive

In addition to the class of underived transitive verbs described above, transitive verbs can be derived through use of the applicative, which increases the valency of a verb. The applicative can thus introduce a core second argument to derive transitive verbs from intransitives. The morphophonemics of the applicative are dependent on the final vowel of the stem, giving the allomorphs {-e, -'e, -'we} with -'e the most commonly-occurring form.

The following extract from the narrative of one young woman exemplifies this process with her use of the intransitive verb *hanou*, which describes the generic process of doing housework, and the derived transitive *hanou'e*, which adds an argument and thus allows the speaker to describe specific components of housework.

- (45) *Ma-'eri-'e 'ena menai-je batu' hanou-'e pi'ane 'ai*  
 NR-work-APP OBL first-DET only do.housework-APP plate and  
*hanou-'e luma lalei. Pela petu-re batu'*  
 do.housework-APP house inside each day-DET only  
*hanou*  
 do.housework

'At first the work was just washing the dishes and cleaning the house. Every day (I) just did housework.' (SM: 19-23)

Examples (46) and (47) below contrast another speaker's use of the intransitive verb *leu* 'to return home' with his use of the derived transitive verb *leu'we* 'to bring (something or someone) home'.

(46) *I=su'a be au leu mo ne'a*  
 3S=like CMP 1S return.home NEG DM  
 'She didn't want me to return home again.' (YS: 22)

(47) *Au sabe ... tasi-anai 'ena leu-'we=le<sup>17</sup>*  
 1S buy ... salt-DIM OBL take.home-APP=3SNH  
 'I bought a little salt to take home.' (YS: 55-59)

Similarly, the transitive verb *nama'e* 'to await (something or someone)' is derived with the applicative from the intransitive verb *nama* 'to wait'.

(48) *Dulu lo-pe Om Soni nama-'e ami pene'a*  
 descend ALL-DIR uncle(AM) Soni wait-APP 1PE PFV  
 'When we disembarked, Uncle Soni was waiting for us.' (BS: 48)

The applicative suffix *-e* specifies that the verb has two direct core arguments. However, the second core argument need not be overtly expressed. Derived transitive verbs in the text database frequently denote an implied Undergoer. In the database of migration stories, 132 verbs were marked with the applicative. Of these, only 26 (19.7%) had an overtly expressed second direct core argument. Sentences (49) - (57) below illustrate a number of processes with the verb '*eri* 'to work':

- the derived noun *ma'eri'e* 'work' in (49);
- the use of the intransitive verb '*eri* 'to work' in (50);
- the use of the derived transitive verb '*eri'e* with an implied Undergoer: 'to work at doing an implied task' in (51);
- the use of the derived transitive verb '*eri'e* with an overtly expressed Undergoer: 'to work at doing an overtly expressed task' in (52) - (57).

(49) *Au 'aiye Nora lua-ma 'eu ni'wa ma-'eri-'e*  
 1S with Nora two-1P go look.for NR-work-APP  
 'Nora and I went looking for work.' (MA: 29)

(49) above illustrates the use of the prefix *ma('a)-* which may be affixed to verbal roots to derive nominals with a wide range of meanings, including:

- states: e.g. *ma-melene* 'blackness';
- agentive nouns denoting an habitual activity: e.g. *ma'a-daba* 'one who digs holes', *ma'a-bubu* 'one who sows';
- instrument: e.g. *ma'a-'asa* 'grater';
- location - denoting a place where an activity habitually occurs: e.g. *ma'a-'ane la'wai* 'a place to rest and eat'.

<sup>17</sup> =*le* cross-references in a dependent clause a non-human argument in a main clause.

- (50) *Au 'u='epene bula-ne esa dua puluh*  
 1S 1SPOSS.AL=money month-NM one two(AM) ten(AM)  
*lima ribu 'ena 'eri menai*  
 five(AM) thousand(AM) OBL work first  
 'My salary was twenty-five thousand (rupiah) a month when I started to work.' (MA: 58)
- (51) *Ami 'eri-'e beiye olasa lima beleti doma olasa itu*  
 1PE work-APP ABL hour five morning until hour seven  
 'We worked (at the job) from five in the morning until seven o'clock.' (MA: 37)
- (52) *'ena au 'eri-'e mere au sabe sa-saisa mosa*  
 OBL 1S work-APP that 1S buy RDP-what IPF  
 'When I worked at that (job) I didn't buy anything.' (MA:72)
- (53) *Au 'eri-'e due-le=i 'wete-le*  
 1S work-APP sit/stay/reside-with=3S child-NM  
 'I worked at looking after the children.' (AK: 12)
- (54) *Au 'eri-'e 'oa pi'an-anai*  
 1S work-APP wash.dishes plate-DIM  
 'I worked at washing dishes.' (AK: 14)
- (55) *Au 'u=adi-ru (e)si=tneu behe*  
 1S 1SPOSS.AL=younger.sibling(AM)-PL 3P=ask CMP  
*'ena a='eri-'e a='eri-'e sarei*  
 OBL 2S=work=APP 2S=work-APP what  
 'My younger siblings they asked me: 'When you worked (at x), what did you work at?'' (AK: 45)
- (56) *A='eu 'eri-'e saisa*  
 2S=go work-APP what  
 'You (can) go to work at anything at all.' (BS: 146)
- (57) *Ita olasa meije au 'eri-'e tugas telu-ru meiru*  
 until hour this 1S work-APP ask(AM) three-PL that  
 'Until the present time I have worked at those three jobs.' (YS: 40)

### 3.2.7 Transitive verbs with unexpected object

Transitive verbs with an expected object, such as those in (39) - (42) above, take no verbal morphology. In contrast, transitive verbs which occur with an unexpected object are marked with the applicative suffix *-e*. Grimes (1991: 109) describes this phenomenon for Buru as "reorientation in the role structure of the verb to take on an argument that is not normally present". Compare the use of *'usu* 'to enter' in (58) and (59) below. In its expected usage in (58) with object as location - 'to enter a place' - it takes no verbal morphology. In the less common usage in (59) - 'to enter one's name for something' - it takes the applicative *-e*.

- (58) *Au 'usu ibada-re*  
 1S enter church.service-DET  
 'I went to the church service.' (BS: 85)
- (59) *Au 'usu-e na-ne mei perusahaan*

1S enter-APP name-NM LOC factory/industry  
 'I submitted (my) name (for work) at the factory.' (YS: 62)

Similarly, in (60) - (62) below, the applicative denotes the less common usage of the two-place verb *biti* 'to raise something up' with object as beneficiary giving the meaning 'to elevate someone to a role'.

(60) *Sae leu lo-pai mo ne le esi=biti-'e au*  
 EXIST return.home ALL-DIR NEG DM because 3P=lift-APP 1S  
*'ena ela' Latu Pati*  
 OBL elder leader deputy  
 'There was no going back there again because they elevated me to the deputy leadership.' (YS: 32)

(61) *Taun inai mei kaor pela ele'i i=biti-'e au*  
 year(AM) CLF LOC leader.work.group RES then 3P=lift-APP 1S  
*'ena Majelis sui'e*  
 OBL deacon again  
 'After a year as leader of a work group I was elevated once more to a Deaconship.' (YS: 35)

(62) *Le'i lo-mei esi=biti-'e au sui'e 'ena bendahara*  
 then ALL-LOC 3P=lift-APP 1S again OBL treasurer

*IDT*

Inpres.Desu.Tertinggal

'Then I was once again elevated as treasurer for the Presidential funding scheme for impoverished villages.' (YS: 39)

### 3.2.8 Underived ditransitive

Overall, ditransitive verbs are very uncommon, with a total of only thirteen occurrences in the text database (1.4% of all predicates, as shown in Table 1 above). Of these thirteen occurrences, only one is an underived ditransitive verb (taking no verbal morphology) - *dana* 'to take X from Y'.

(63) *Tamata ma'ete lo-mei dana au bei au*  
 person other ALL-LOC take 1S ABL 1S  
*'u=saudara eni=to'o-re*  
 1SPOSS.AL=sibling(AM) 3SH.POSS.AL=store  
 'Another person came and took me from my sister's store.' (PK: 12)

### 3.2.9 Derived ditransitive

The majority (97.7%) of ditransitive verbs are derived with the applicative suffix *-'e*. Due to the very low occurrence of ditransitives in the text database, the corpus of twelve text examples of derived ditransitives has been supplemented with thirty elicited sentence examples for the purpose of this analysis<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>18</sup> Elicitation sessions were undertaken with three younger fluent speakers working in two pairs: WM (male aged 28) with ATK (female aged 33) and WM with PK (male aged 31). Alune sentences were elicited through the medium of Ambonese Malay. Speakers worked together to produce the Alune sentences and all possible responses were recorded. Notes were taken concerning commentary about the process and hesitations or corrections. In some cases extensive discussion in both Alune and Ambonese Malay followed between the linguist and the speakers concerning the elicited sentences and possible alternative constructions.



**Table 5** Ditransitive verbs and core arguments (13 text, 30 elicited)

Verb (+ preposition)	Gloss	Direct core argument	Oblique core argument	Total
alena'e ('ena)	narrate X to Y	0	1	1
biti'e ('ena)	elevate X to Y	0	4	4
dana (bei)	take X from Y	0	1	1
dilu'e (atu)	give X to Y	3	22	25
lue'e (atu)	to give X to Y (iff benefactor has right to X)	0	1	1
natu'e (lo'o, atu)	send X to/for Y	0	8	8
tolae ('ena, mei)	place X on Y	0	3	3
TOTAL		3 (7%)	40 (93%)	43

A verb may take an applicative to derive a three-place verb such as 'give'. The third argument may occur either as a direct core argument or an oblique core argument (see van Valin and La Polla 1997: 29). In example (64) below, the recipient is a direct core argument immediately following the verb, while in (65) - (66) it is an oblique core argument following a preposition.

(64) *Au dilu-'e eni=n=ana-ru iale*  
 1S give-APP 3SH.POSS.AL-child-DET.PL kenari  
 'I gave her children kenari nuts.' (Elicited #2)

(65) *Au dilu-'e iale atu en=ana-ru*  
 1S give-APP kenari BEN 3SH.POSS.AL-child-DET.PL  
 'I gave kenari nuts to her children.' (Elicited #1)

(66) *Ele'i i=lue-'e=ni eni=oi-je atu au*  
 then 3S=give-APP=3S 3SH.POSS.AL=spear-DET ben 1S  
 'Then he gave<sup>19</sup> his spear to me.' (YM: 23)

Table 5 above indicates that speakers strongly prefer prepositionally-marked constructions such as (65) and (66) above, in which the patient immediately follows the verb and the beneficiary, recipient or location is marked by the benefactive *atu*, oblique *'ena*, locative *mei*, or allative *lo'o*.

It is important to note that the three clauses in which the beneficiary is a direct core argument all occurred in the elicited data set in response to the linguist's questioning and attempts to construct and check alternative word orders. While speakers agreed that the word order in sentences such as (64) above was acceptable, this word order did not occur either in the limited naturally-occurring data set of ditransitives or in the elicited data, and thus appears to be highly marked.

The direct object of a three-place verb is frequently omitted in naturally-occurring data, as illustrated in (67) - (70).

(67) *Pa'iane pa'e ne'a au dilu-'e atu ale pene'a*  
 clothes(AM) wear DM 1S give-APP BEN 2S PFV

<sup>19</sup> The full meaning of this verb is 'to give to someone else something to which one has a right'.

'The clothes, just wear (them); I've given (them) to you.' (BS: 69-70)

(68) *Au dilu-'e atu mama 'ai bapa=si*  
 1S give-APP BEN mother(AM) and father(AM)=3P  
 'I gave (it) to mother and father and them.' (MM: 112)

(69) *Ami alena-'e atu-e ami 'i=ebe-ru*  
 1PE narrate-APP BEN-APP 1PE 1POSS.AL=friend-PL  
 'We told (the story) to our friends.' (YS: 70)

(70) *Lima puluh ribu mere, au sabe ... ela'*  
 fifty(AM) ten(AM) thousand(AM) that 1S buy ... elders

*inai si=obat anai*  
 CLF 3P=medicine DIM

*Au leu lo-mei, lo-mei hena, tola-e*  
 1S return.home DIR-LOC DIR-LOC village put/place-APP

*atu ela' inai*  
 BEN elders CLF

'(With that) fifty thousand (rupiah), I bought my parents' medicine. I returned home here, here to the village, (and) gave (it) to my parents.' (YS: 55-61)

The following extracts illustrate:

- the use of the transitive verb *bete* 'to tell someone, to say to someone' in (71);
- the use of the derived ditransitive verb with an implied Undergoer *bete'e* 'to inform someone about something' in (72) and (73).

As with the derived transitive verbs described in 3.2.6 above, the second direct core argument of derived ditransitive verbs may be implied rather than overtly expressed. The oblique core argument is marked with *'ena* or the allative *lo('o)*<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> *'ena* is used by conservative older fluent speakers while younger fluent speakers in Lohiasapalewa alternate between *'ena* and *lo'o*.

- (71) *Lo-mei leu lo-pai Jakarta Barat sui'e Om*  
 ALL-LOC return ALL-DIR Jakarta west again uncle(AM)  
*i=bete au...*  
 3S=say 1S  
 'Then when I returned home to west Jakarta again Uncle said to me ...' (BS: 170)
- (72) *Au 'eu po au bete-'e 'ena ina='u*  
 1S go but 1S say-APP OBL mother=1SPOSS.INAL  
*'ai ama='u mosa*  
 and father=1SPOSS.INAL IPF  
 'I'd go but I haven't told my mother and father (about it).' (BS: 17)
- (73) *I=bete-'e lo au, i=ombe a=leu lo-ri*  
 3S=say-APP ALL 1S 3S=quote 3S=return.home ALL-DIR  
*ya' mina*  
 NEG.IMP first  
 'She told me, she said 'Don't go home there yet.' (BS: 75-76)

#### 4. Major verbal alternations

The major valency-increasing affix is the applicative, which was discussed in Sections 3.2.6 (Derived transitive verbs) and 3.2.9 (Derived ditransitive verbs) above. This section describes other constructions involving verbal morphology which affects the valency of a verb. Constructions which will be discussed include:

- *a-* Causative
- (*p*)*a-* Causative (indicating change of state)
- *ta-* Inchoative
- *-e* (Other functions of the) Applicative

##### 4.1 Causative

The prefix *a-* is a very productive morpheme which derives one- and two-place verbs from nouns and adjectives, and has a causative function. For example:

- (74) *A=a-somi be dana mo*  
 2S=CAU-embarrass<sup>21</sup> CMP take NEG  
 'Don't be embarrassed to take (it).' (BS: 72)
- (75) *I=de'wa a-mlinu mo*  
 3S=know CAU-farm NEG  
 'He doesn't know how to farm<sup>22</sup>.'
- (76) *I=mata pene po i=a-dila au*  
 3S=die PFV but 3S=CAU-fear 1S  
 'She's dead but she frightened me (i.e. haunted me).'

##### 4.2 Causative indicating a change of state

<sup>21</sup> *A-somi* 'to be embarrassed' is derived from *somine* 'genitalia'.

<sup>22</sup> The few unattributed sentence examples all arose during a dictionary workshop held with two older fluent speakers and two younger fluent speakers of Alune at Pattimura University, February 1998.

The prefix *(p)a-* is a causative indicating a change of state: 'to be, become'. It is probably a reflex of PAN causative \*pa but is no longer productive and is analysable in only very few examples. Bolton (1990: 70) notes for the Nuaulu language of south central Seram only one example of *pa-*. This prefix is very rarely used in Alune and the one textual example, below, occurs in a song composed by a young woman to express her sorrow about language shift and code-mixing in her village.

- (77) *Po ami 'i=hena mei-je (e)si=tamata-ru*  
 but 1PE 1PL.POSS=village this-DET 3P=people-PL
- pa-tohane pen(d)e pi*  
 CAU-mix.together PFV or  
 'But this village of ours, its people have already become mixed (in language use).' (ES song:12)

*Patohane* 'to become mixed' derives from *tohae* 'to mix together'. A second example of this prefix is found in *paburue* 'to have collided with something, which derives from *buru* 'to be pushy or forceful'.

### 4.3 Inchoative

The prefix *ta-* derives from nouns and adjectives predicates which denote entering into or becoming a state. It is no longer productive and is analysable in only very few examples.

- (78) *ta-melene*  
 inch-dark  
 'To become cloudy, dark and overcast'
- (79) *ta-tlina*  
 inch-ear  
 'To become audible'
- (80) *ama ta-moli*  
 father inch- forbidden/sacred/taboo  
 'Father-in-law' (i.e. to enter into a relationship which is marked by behavioural constraints)

#### 4.4 applicative as intensive marker

The most productive valency-affecting morpheme is the applicative *-'e*. The primary function of the applicative is to add an argument, which may be realised as a direct core argument or an oblique core argument, as discussed in Sections 3.2.6 and 3.2.9 above. The applicative also acts as an intensive marker. The applicative is illustrated in this function with *lau* 'far' in (81) and (82) below.

- (81) *Au 'usu ibada-re; gereja-re lau-'we,*  
1S enter church.service(AM)-DET church-DET far-APP

*lau bei luma*  
far ABL house

'I went to the church service; the church was very far, far from home.' (BS: 85)

- (82) *Au debai mei au dua='u hole lo-mei lo'o*  
1S occasion LOC 1S alone=1S visit ALL-LOC ALL

*Om Kori mere lau-'we*  
uncle(AM) Kori that far-APP

'I had one time when I went by myself to Uncle Kori's. That was very far away.' (BS: 154-155)

#### 4.5 ombining affixes

The causative *a-* can combine with the *ta-* inchoative and with the applicative *-'e*. These processes are described below.

##### 4.5.1 Causative plus inchoative

In a very few cases, *a-* causative combines with *ta-* inchoative. For example:

- (83) *a-ta-bali*

CAU-inch-ally

'To be(come) an ally; to accompany as an ally' (i.e. to enter into a mutually protective/defensive relationship)

- (84) *atnitu*

a-ta-nitu

CAU-inch-corpse

'To put a curse on someone' (i.e. to apply a curse which will cause someone to become a corpse)

##### 4.5.2 Causative plus applicative

The combination of the causative *a-* and the applicative *-'e* derives two-place verbs from nominal or adjectival roots. For example:

(85) *Tamata ma-'eri beca' a-lesi-e tamata Bugis*  
 person nr-drive pedicab CAU-more-APP person Bugis  
 'Most of the pedicab drivers are Bugis.'

(86) *I=a-tamu-'e eni=bua*  
 3S=CAU-hair.knot-APP 3SH.POSS.INAL=hair  
 'He rolled his hair into a hairknot.'

Further examples of this process include:

(87) *a-mise-'e*  
 CAU-good-APP  
 'To repair something, to make peace with someone'

(88) *a-muti-e*  
 CAU-cold-APP  
 'To chill something/make something cold'

## 5. Interclausal relations

This section will briefly describe co-ordinate and subordinate constructions in Alune.

### 5.1 Co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions

There are eleven conjunctions in Alune which enable two or more independent clauses to be conjoined. These are:

- *'ai* and, with
- *(e)le('i)* then, next
- *ho'o* therefore
- *ita* until: up to a certain point or period of time
- *le* because
- *le'e* so that
- *masi'e* although, even though
- *mina* first action in a sequence: marks action undertaken prior to doing something else
- *p(om)ine* second action in a sequence: marks action only undertaken once something else has been done
- *pi* a) indication of alternative: or  
 b) indication of uncertainty: perhaps, maybe
- *po* but

Although (Ambonese) Malay conjunctions such as *kalau* 'if' increasingly occur in predominantly Alune discourse (for example, in (95) below), these conjunctions are not described here. The use of each of the eleven indigenous Alune conjunctions is exemplified in the following sections.

#### 5.1.1 '*ai* 'and, with'

'*ai* conjoins both clauses and noun phrases. It also functions as the verb 'to marry'. Each of these functions is illustrated here.

(89) *Au moa 'ai hanou-'e luma lalei*  
 1S cook and do.housework-APP house inside

'I cooked and cleaned the house.' (MA: 24-25)

- (90) *Au 'eu bei meije 'ai Nora*  
1S go ABL this with Nora  
'I went from here with Nora.' (MA: 27)

- (91) *I='ai mpai bei Iriane ho i=leu 'ai*  
3S=marry DIR ABL Irian.Jaya therefore 3S=return with  
*ami-lua mo ne'a*  
1PE-two NEG DM  
'She married someone from Irian Jaya there (in Ambon) therefore she didn't return home with us two.' (MM: 37-39)

### 5.1.2 (e)le('i) 'then, next'

- (92) *Tamata ma'ete lo-mei dana au bei au 'u=saudara*  
person other ALL-LOC take 1S ABL 1S 1SPOSS.AL=sibling(AM)  
*eni=to'o-re le'i 'eu 'eri-'e mei eni=luma*  
3SH.POSS.AL=store then go work-APP LOC 3SH.POSS.AL=store  
'Another person came and took me from my sister's store then I went and worked in his/her store.' (PK: 12)

### 5.1.3 ho'o 'therefore'

- (93) *Au sidi bei=ni ho'o mere au supu 'epene bei=ni mo ne'a*  
1S leave ABL=3S therefore that 1S get money ABL=3S NEG DM  
'I left her therefore at that place I didn't get any money from her.' (YS:47-8)

### 5.1.4 ita 'until, up to a certain point (spatial or temporal)'

- (94) *Mi-mina-re i=do'o po doma mei ai-je uwei-je*  
RDP-first-DET 3S=short but arrive LOC tree-DET base-DET  
*i=lihi-(n)i ita i=mlesa 'ai salate bubui-je*  
3S=pull.up=3S until 3S=level with tree peak-DET  
'At first he was short but when on arriving at the base of the tree he pulled himself up until he was level with the top of the *salate* tree.' (JM:26-7)

### 5.1.5 le 'because'

- (95) *Kalau 'wete bina i='eri-'e mula mo*  
if(AM) child female 3S=work-APP why NEG  
*le 'wete bina-re i=leu lo-mei-je*  
because child female-DET 3S=return.home ALL-LOC-DET  
*masi'e i=atnane mo re po babanu petu-lua i='ai*  
although 3S=plant NEG DEI but tomorrow day-two 3S=marry  
'If a young woman goes to work it doesn't matter because if a young woman returns home here even though she hasn't planted (a garden) it doesn't matter because in the future she'll marry.' (YS: 72-74)

### 5.1.6 le'e 'so that, in order to'

- (96) *I=ombe ho'o mama i='eu sabe mu=tiket lale'e*  
3S=say therefore mother 3S=go buy 2SPOSS.AL=ticket INT  
*le'e a=leu mina*

so.that 2s=return.home first

'She said: 'So mother will go and buy your ticket and everything so that you can go home'. (BS: 185-186)

### 5.1.7 masi'e 'although, even though'

The use of masi'e is exemplified in (95) above.

### 5.1.8 mina and p(om)ine: sequential actions

*Mina* marks the first action in a sequence which is undertaken prior to doing something else, while *p(om)ine* marks the second action in a sequence which is only done once the first action has been undertaken.

(97) *Ami 'ane mina, 'inu teh mina pine 'eri-'e sui'e*  
1PE eat first, drink tea(AM) first before work-APP again  
'We'd eat first, have tea first before working again.' (MA: 38-39)

### 5.1.9 pi 'or'

As a co-ordinating conjunction, *pi* indicates an alternative 'or'. *Pi* also serves the discourse function of indicating uncertainty 'perhaps, maybe'. Both of these functions are exemplified below.

- (98) *'eu mpai Pilu pi se mpai Ambone pi se*  
 go DIR Piru or uncertain DIR Ambon or uncertain  
*mula mo maha be da'a 'u=nana-'wala-re*  
 why NEG COND CMP guard 1SPOSS.AL=body-CLF-DET  
 'Whether you go to Piru or to Ambon doesn't matter if you guard your honour.' (MM: 134-136)
- (99) *Doma mei to'o mere tneu behe ma-'eri-'e pi be mo*  
 arrive LOC store that ask CMP NR-work-APP or CMP NEG  
 'When we got to the store we asked if there was work or not.' (MA: 30-31)
- (100) *Esi=nau-'we lo'o au le'i au leu lo-mei hena*  
 3P=send.message ALL 1S then 1S return.home ALL-LOC village  
*Leu lo-mei 'ena mere Pemilu-re pi*  
 return.home ALL-LOC OBL that general.election-DET uncertain  
 'They sent a message to me so I returned home to the village. When I returned home it was around the time of the general election.' (YS: 29-30)

### 5.1.10 *po* 'but'

The use of *po* is exemplified in (94) and (95) above.

## 5.2 Complement clauses

This section discusses the formation of complement clauses in Alune, which are formed with *be(he)*. *Be(he)* is placed between the main clause and its complement clause and serves a number of functions, including;

- complementiser;
- clause linker with *pi* 'or' indicating uncertainty;
- clause linker with the conditional *maha*;
- relative pronoun in relative clause construction.

230 occurrences of *be(he)* were found in the extended text database of 52 texts recorded by the author. Table 6 below shows the relative frequency of the functions of *be(he)*.

**Table 6** Relative frequency of the functions of *be(he)*

Function	Frequency	Percentage
COMP - speech act verbs	171	74.3%
COMP - verbs of mental & physical perception, desire	29	12.6%
Uncertainty	19	8.3%
Conditional	3	1.3%
Relative pronoun	8	3.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 5.2.1 Speech act verbs

As Table 6 indicates, in textual data *be(he)* is used most frequently with speech act verbs, accounting for 74.3% of all occurrences of *be(he)*. The eleven Alune speech act verbs which occur in complement clauses in the extended text database are given in Table 7, below. *Be(he)* was also found in four clauses (2.35% of total) with the (Ambonese) Malay verbs *balas* and *pesan*.

**Table 7** Speech act verbs with *be(he)*

Verb	Gloss	Freq.	%
<i>alena'e</i>	to narrate, tell, recount that	2	1.2
<i>balas(AM)</i>	to answer, respond	3	1.75
<i>bete</i>	to tell, to say	81	47.4
<i>dala'e</i>	to answer, respond	3	1.75
<i>'oti</i>	to call out	17	9.9
<i>'wate</i>	to swear an oath	1	0.6
<i>lepa</i>	to say	10	5.8
<i>pesan(AM)</i>	to order (AM)	1	0.6
<i>sasi'e</i>	to make a pact	6	3.5
<i>sia'e</i>	to admonish, warn, reprimand	1	0.6
<i>tal'u'e</i>	to make an agreement, promise,	3	1.75
<i>tneu</i>	to ask	16	9.35
<i>ula'e</i>	to order, command	2	1.2
verb elided		25	14.6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>171</b>	<b>100</b>

The verb *bete* accounts for 47.4% of the occurrences of speech act verbs with *be(he)*.

(101) *Ami bete-'e lo'o ale behe a='eu 'eri-'e mina*  
 1PE utter-APP ALL 2S CMP 2S=go work-APP first  
 'We told you: 'Go and work'.' (AK: 28)

(102) *Esi=lo-pai bete-'e 'ena au behe*  
 3P=ALL-DIR say-APP OBL 1S CMP  
*leu lo-mei le'e daftar na-ne 'ena*

return.home ALL-LOC so.that enrol(AM) name-NM OBL

*Pemilu-re*

gnrl.election-DET

'They told me: 'Come home here so you can enrol for the election'.' (PK: 30-31)

Examples of other speech act verbs with *be(he)* are given in (103) - (105) below.

- (103) *Au 'u=adi'-ru esi=tneu*  
1S 1SPOSS.AL=younger.sibling(AM)-PL 3P=ask

*behe a='eri-'e sarei*  
CMP 2S=work-APP what

'My younger siblings they asked me: 'What did you work at?'. ' (AK:45)

- (104) *Doma mei to'o mere tneu behe ma-'eri-'e pi be mo*  
arrive LOC store that ask CMP NR-work-APP or CMP NEG  
'When we got to the store we asked if there was work or not.' (MA: 30-31)

- (105) *Au ula-'e=si behe imi 'eu 'eri-'e ne'a*  
1S order-APP=3P CMP 2P go work-APP DM

*le'i lo-pai 'eri-'e mi-mise*  
then ALL-DIR work-APP RDP-good

'I order them: 'If you go and work, then work well there'.' (AK: 46-47)

Table 7 also indicates that, in 14.5% of the clauses which can be analysed as involving a speech act, the verb was elided. This process is exemplified in (106) below.

- (106) *Au susu=i pela le'i au be 'ite leu le*  
1S milk=3S finish then 1S CMP 1PL return.home because

*'petu-re pene'a'*  
dark-DET PFV

'I finished breastfeeding him then I (said): 'We're going home because it's dark'.' (SL: 11-12)

### 5.2.2 Verbs of desire and perception

*Be(he)* was found in 12.6% of complement clauses forming complements with verbs of mental perception (to know, to think), physical perception (to hear), and desire (to want, to like).

- (107) *Au ombe au su'a be leu mosa*  
 1S say 1S want CMP return.home IPF  
*Tante Is le'we i=su'a be leu mosa*  
 aunt(AM) Is too 3S=want CMP return.home IPF  
 'I said I don't want to go home yet. Tante Is also said she didn't want me to go home yet.' (BS: 179-180)

- 108) *Ita olase meije sae de'wa be esi=mpai*  
 until hour this EXIST know CMP 3P=DIR  
*tola 'u=na-ne pi se mo ne pi se*  
 put/place ISPOSS.AL=name-NM or uncertain NEG DM or uncertain  
 'Until this time there's no knowing whether they selected me or not.' (YS: 66)

### 5.2.3 Clause linker indicating uncertainty (or)

*Be(he)* is found with *pi* 'or' in 19 clauses (8.3%) in the extended text database serving the discourse function of indicating uncertainty.

- (109) *Ele'i imi leu bei mpe<sup>23</sup>-re,*  
 then 2P return.home ABL dir-DET  
*imi pusu=mi sui asu-re pi be batu' ale dua=mu-o*  
 2P all=2P follow.afterdog-DET or CMP only 2S alone=3S-Q  
 'Then when you were coming home from down there did you all follow the dogs or just you yourself?' (WM/YM: 12)

### 5.2.4 Clause linker with the conditional *maha*

- (110) *'eu mpai Pilu pi se mpai Ambone pi se*  
 go DIR Piru or uncertain DIR Ambon or uncertain  
*mula mo maha be da'a 'u=nana-'wala-re*  
 why NEG COND CMP guard ISPOSS.AL=body-CLF-DET  
 'Whether you go to Piru or to Ambon doesn't matter if you guard your honour.' (MM: 134-136)

### 5.2.5 Relative pronoun in relative clause construction

*Be(he)* also functions as a relative pronoun in the construction of some relative clauses. The analysis of relative clauses in conversational Alune is the subject of ongoing research because they appear to be extremely rare. Only eight relative clauses containing the relative pronoun *be(he)* were found in the database of texts recorded by the writer and by Niggemeyer (1951, 1952). This analysis is therefore supplemented by forty-eight elicited sentences containing relative clauses with the relative pronoun *be(he)*. Several occurrences of *debe(he)* were also noted in the (elicited and conversational) sentence set. Due to the small database it is not yet possible to analyse the difference between *be(he)* and *debe(he)*. Preliminary analysis indicates that Alune allows relativisation on subject, direct object, indirect object, oblique, and genitive.

<sup>23</sup> The directional *mpe* (and its clitic form *-pe*) denotes downward elevation.

### RELATIVE CLAUSE TYPES

The example sentences below illustrate relativisation of a range of semantic roles. A pronominal trace in the relative clause appears to be optional yet this limited database indicates speaker preference for a trace. Grimes (1991: 436) similarly notes for Buru that a trace pronoun is not obligatory.

(111) and (112) below illustrate relativisation of agent. The Actor argument is cross-referenced with a pronoun within the relative clause.

- (111) *Po bina behe i='usu memane i='usu*  
but [woman REL 3S-enter.church yesterday] 3S-enter.church

*'ai pa'iane belu-'e ma'ete*  
with clothes new-APP different

'But the woman who entered church yesterday, entered with very new and different clothes.' (FT5: 43)

- (112) *Mata bina-ne Ci behe i=dilu-'e Lani atu Hendra-re,*  
old [woman-NM Ci REL 3S=give-APP Lani BEN Hendra-DET]

*i=bei mpe Munatene*  
3S-ABLDIR Murnaten

'Mrs Ci who gave Lani to Hendra, comes from Murnaten.' (Elicited #107)

(113) and (114) below illustrate relativisation of patient. (113) shows cross-referencing within the relative clause of the Undergoer argument, but cross-referencing is absent in (114).

- (113) *Ami selu soklata-re be trektore busure=le ami*  
1PE SEE [cacao.tree-DET REL tractor demolish=3SNH] 1PE

*lalei noae*  
emotion sorry

'We saw the cacao trees which the tractor had pushed over (and) we felt sad.' (YS: 19)

(114) *Lani behe mata bina-ne Ci dilu-'e atue Hendra-re,*  
 [Lani REL old woman-NM Ci give-APP BEN Hendra-DET]

*i=dani*

3S-cry

'Lani who Mrs Ci gave to Hendra, is crying.' (Elicited #108)

(115) - (117) below illustrate relativisation of recipient and beneficiary. In (115), the recipient is cross-referenced with a pronoun within the relative clause. In (116) and (117) the oblique core argument is cross-referenced within the relative clause with the definite article *-je* or *-re* postposed to the preposition *atu* marking beneficiary.

(115) *Hendra behe i=dana Lani beiye mata bina-ne Ci-re*  
 [Hendra REL 3S-take Lani ABL old woman Ci-DET]

*i=ng'wa'wa ti-tinai*

3S=hard.working RDP-true

'Hendra who took Lani from Mrs Ci, is truly hard-working.' (Elicited #109a)

(116) *Hendra behe mata bina-ne Ci i=dilu-'e Lani atu-je*  
 [Hendra REL old woman-NM Ci 3S=give-APP Lani BEN-DET]

*i=ng'wa'wa ti-tinai*

3S=hard.working RDP-true

'Hendra to whom Mrs Ci gave Lani, is very hard working.' (Elicited #109b)

(117) *Mau-re debehe ina='u i=dilu-'e*  
 [cat-DET REL mother=1SPOSS.INAL 3S=give-APP]

*utan se'ite atu-re, e=ng'opa pene'a*

meat portion BEN-DET] 3SNH=fat PFV

'The cat to which my mother gave a portion of meat is fat.' (Elicited #115)

The following example illustrates that Alune appears to allow relativisation on genitive.

(118) *Mata bina-ne Ci be in=ana-re taiyia-re, sae*  
 [old woman Ci REL 3SH.POSS.AL=child-DET ill-DET] EXIST

*mo*

NEG

'Mrs Ci whose child is sick, isn't here.' (Elicited #110)

## APPENDIX 1: Dialect differences

### (i) /k/

Central dialect	North dialect	Gloss
k > /		
ni/wele	nikwele	<i>coconut</i>
/wali	kwali	<i>same sex sibling</i>
/ane	kane	<i>to eat</i>

### (ii) /r/

Central dialect	North dialect	Gloss
r > d/#_, r / elsewhere		
dani	rani	<i>to cry</i>
do/one	rokone	<i>short</i>
porole	porole	<i>yellow</i>
deru	reru	<i>to carry on one's head</i>

### (iii) Initial consonant cluster

Central dialect	North dialect	Gloss
ml	nd	
mlinu	ndinu	<i>garden, farm</i>
mlau	ndau	<i>seawards direction</i>

## Abbreviations

Abbrev.	Gloss	Abbrev.	Gloss
1s	1st person singular	DIR	directional
2s	2nd person singular	DUR	durative
3s	3rd person singular	EXIST	existential
1p	1st person plural	H	human
1pi	1st person plural inclusive	INAL	inalienable
1pe	1st person plural exclusive	INCH	inchoative
2p	2nd person plural	INESS	inessive
3p	3rd person plural	INT	intensifier
ABL	ablative	IPF	imperfective
AL	alienable	LOC	locative
ALL	allative	NEG	negation
AM	Ambonese Malay	NH	non-human
APP	applicative	NM	noun class marker
BEN	benefactive	NR	prefix deriving nouns
CAU	causative	OBL	oblique
CLF	classifier	PFV	perfective
CMP	complementizer	PL	plural
COND	conditional	POSS	possessive
COP	copula	PTCL	particle
DAT	dative	Q	question (particle)
DEI	deictic	RDP	reduplication
DET	determiner	RES	resultative
DIM	diminutive	TEMP	temporal
DM	discourse marker		

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