Dissertation prospectus

Brendon Yoder  
UCSB, May 2017

# Abstract

This document outlines my proposal for a dissertation examining grammatical and discourse properties of the Abawiri language, provisionally titled “Grammar and discourse in Abawiri, a Papuan language of Indonesia”.

The document is organized as follows. Section 1 gives background information on the language. Section 2 presents the significance of the project, first for the Abawiri-speaking community and second for the academic community. Section 3 discusses the for the project, including theoretical approach, the creation of a documentary corpus, elicitation, and writing the grammar. Section 4 is an annotated outline of the proposed dissertation itself. Finally, a timeline for completion of the project is presented in section 5.



# Background on the language

Abawiri (ISO 639-3 flh) is a language in the Lakes Plain family spoken by about 350 people in the Mamberamo River Basin of Papua, Indonesia (Lewis, Simons & Fennig 2017). It is spoken in the village of Foau. The language was previously almost completely undocumented, the only extant documentation consisting of a 39-word list (Voorhoeve 1975).

## Name of the language, the village, and the people

In the previous literature the language was known as Foau (Voorhoeve 1975; Lewis, Simons & Fennig 2017). Speakers report that the name Foau (/ ̀fʷáu/ [fʷa᷆u] ‘evening’) is used for the village and, by extension, for the people who inhabit the village. Spelling is not standardized, and current ad-hoc spellings include Foau, Fuau, and Foao, with Foau being perhaps the most common. Orthography workshop participants decided in 2016 to write the labialized consonants as <Cw> (Yoder 2017a). This means that the name should be spelled Fwau. However, this spelling is not one of those commonly used for this particular name, and it remains to be seen whether the spelling for this word will be consistent with other orthographic decisions. I will use the most common spelling Foau here. According to a popular etymology, the name was formerly Fwou (/fʷou/ [fʷòu] ‘stinging bee’) because the people were known to be fierce in battle. Traditional interclan warfare has now ceased, and speakers correlate the cessation of warfare with the change of the village name from Fwou to Foau.



While Foau refers to the village and the people, speakers prefer the name Abawiri for the language. This name is related to the name Abaruda, one of the four clans that came together to form Foau village. (The precise etymological or morphological relationship between these two words is currently unclear.) The village is located on land belonging to the Abaruda clan and, according to tradition, this clan spoke the Abawiri language while the other three clans spoke other now-lost varieties before settling together in Foau.

## Speakers and social setting

The location of the language community is shown below in Figure 1.

Figure . Map of the Abawiri language area in New Guinea



Foau village is in a remote location on the Dijai River, which is a tributary to the Mamberamo River. Although the village is only about 150 kilometers southwest of the provincial capital Jayapura, it is inaccessible by road. Transportation is by river boat. The nearest neighboring village, where the related language Taburta (ISO 639-3 tbp) is spoken, is at least a full day's motorboat ride downriver from Foau. Dabra, the village where the kecamatan (county) seat is located, is about the same distance from Foau. Abawiri speakers are largely monolingual, with most adults having a very rudimentary knowledge of Indonesian. A few exogamous marriages have taken place, with the result that there are several native speakers of other languages in the community including Taburta (Lakes Plain) and Ures (probably Kwerbic). These people have all learned Abawiri. Foau village has a grass airstrip and somewhat regular connection with the outside world via small aircraft operated by an SIL-affiliated organization.

The majority of the languages with which Abawiri is in contact are also Lakes Plain languages. The Lakes Plain languages are spoken primarily along the tributaries of the upper Mamberamo River. Boat travel through this region is undertaken with some regularity, and Abawiri speakers have connections with various other Lakes Plains languages, including Taburta, Sikaritai, Obokuitai, and Doutai. The fact that contact among related varieties has likely taken place for a long period of time creates difficulties with applying the Comparative Method in determining genetic relationships; this problem is acute throughout New Guinea in general (Ross 1996).

To the south in the central mountain ranges, the Dani languages are spoken; to the north near the coast, languages belonging to various small families are spoken. Contact between the Lakes Plain languages and languages belonging to other genetic groupings has almost certainly taken place; however, to date there is no evidence as to whether contact-induced language changes have taken place, or even whether it is possible to separate contact-induced change from changes due to genetic inheritance. A vast amount of additional work is needed if this problem is to be addressed in a principled way.

## Genetic classification

The genetic relationships of Papuan languages are the world’s most poorly understood (Wichmann 2012). The paucity of documentation of these languages means that our understanding of the linguistic situation necessarily has many gaps. The current state of the art in New Guinea historical linguistics is large-scale surveys of all or most non-Austronesian languages in the region, taking a small number of purportedly stable linguistic features as a starting point in determining genetic groupings. The classic works in this vein are by Wurm (1975; 1982); an update is Ross (Ross 2005), which is based on pronouns. I discuss these two proposals below, focusing on their grouping of the Lakes Plain family of which Abawiri is a part. Following this, I discuss a bottom-up reconstruction of the Lakes Plain family (Clouse 1997).

The contributors to Wurm (1975) give a classification of Papuan languages based on lexicostatistical analysis of wordlists 60-200 words in length; a follow-up is Wurm (1982). Most Mamberamo languages are included in the Trans New Guinea phylum, which has 25 primary branches. One of the primary branches is Border-Lakes Plain-Tor, which includes the Lakes Plain languages, the Tor languages on the north coast, the Kaure languages to the east of the Lakes Plain, and a few languages farther east near the Papua New Guinea border. The relevant portion of Wurm’s Trans New Guinea family tree is shown in Figure 2.

Figure . Wurm's (1975) classification of Papuan languages in the Mamberamo River Basin

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Trans New Guinea | | | | | |
| … | Border-Lakes Plain-Tor | | | | … |
|  | Lakes Plain | Tor | Kaure | Border |  |

Since the classification is based on lexicostatistics, the results are necessarily tentative (Ross 2005; Heggarty 2010).

Ross (2005) is a revision of Wurm’s classification of Papuan languages, based on evidence from pronoun paradigms. While still necessarily preliminary, Ross proposes that comparing pronoun paradigms can yield more reliable results than lexicostatistics since pronoun paradigms are likely to be relatively stable over time. Overall, Ross is more conservative than Wurm. He finds no evidence from pronoun paradigms for a relationship between the Lakes Plain family and other language families. This is the current state of our knowledge about wider genetic relationships of Lakes Plain languages; until further evidence is obtained, the Lakes Plain family is assumed not to be genetically related to the Tor, Kaure, Border, or other surrounding languages.

Among Papuan languages in general, there is a dearth of bottom-up reconstructions of individual language families that could inform large-scale classifications such as the two just discussed. This kind of detailed work is finally starting to appear for various Papuan language families and includes bottom-up reconstructions of Proto Lakes Plain (Clouse 1993; 1997), Proto Koiarian (Dutton 2010), Proto Timor-Alor-Pantar (Holton et al. 2012), and Proto Sogeram (Daniels 2015), among others.



The two papers by Clouse (1993; 1997) present a bottom-up reconstruction of the Lakes Plain family based on wordlists of about 200 items. The classification is based on 18 of the languages. Using the Comparative Method, Clouse reconstructs Proto Lakes Plain segmental phonology and about 70 lexical items. Tone is not reconstructed, although he states that Proto Lakes Plain was almost certainly tonal since all modern languages with documentation are tonal. The primary branches of Clouse’s Lakes Plain family tree are shown below in Figure 3.



Figure . Clouse’s (1997) Lakes Plain family tree

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Proto Lakes Plain | | | | | |
| Far West | Tariku | | | | (East Lakes Plain?) |
|  | West Tariku | Central Tariku | Duvle | East Tariku |  |
| 3 languages | 7 languages | 2 languages | 1 lang. | 7 languages | 2 languages |

The two languages forming the possible East Lakes Plain branch are Abawiri and Taburta, the easternmost of the Lakes Plain languages. Since the only data on these two languages available at the time were Voorhoeve’s (1975) 39-word list for Abawiri and a 48-word list for Taburta, this branch is just a guess. These two languages are assumed to constitute the East Lakes Plain subgroup, pending further work (Voorhoeve 1975; Clouse 1997:134). The grouping of the two languages within a clade, as well as the wider inclusion of them in the Lakes Plain family, represents a best guess based on very limited evidence rather than analysis based on thorough investigation. Impressionistic evidence from my own work strongly suggests that the two languages do indeed belong to the Lakes Plain family, although it is not yet clear where they fit in the family. More documentation and detailed historical work are needed to determine how these languages fit into the Lakes Plain family.

Clouse (1997) goes on to use lexicostatistical methods to postulate a relationship between Lakes Plain languages and surrounding East Geelvink Bay and Trans New Guinea languages. With the dubious results of lexicostatistics and the scant evidence presented for an external connection for Lakes Plain languages, it must be maintained that a connection with other language families has not been demonstrated; this view is supported in Ross (2005), as discussed above.

## Sketch of prominent features

This section gives a brief typological overview of Abawiri, focusing on features that are pervasive in the language or are typologically unusual. The presentation is necessarily selective, based on my current understanding of the language. I discuss phonology, morphology, syntax, and discourse.

Consonant inventories of Lakes Plain languages are generally very small; in fact, Clouse (1997) reconstructs the Proto Lakes Plain consonant inventory with only five consonants: \*p \*t, \*k, \*b, and \*d; this is smaller than any attested modern language in the world (Maddieson 2013a). The smallest consonant inventory in a modern Lakes Plain language is Obokuitai with six consonants (Jenison & Jenison 1991), the same number as in the more widely known inventory of Rotokas (Firchow & Firchow 1969). Abawiri appears to be the only language in the Lakes Plain family that has developed a full series of labialized obstruents; it has eight plain and eight labialized obstruents as well as a single sonorant /ɾ/.

Abawiri, along with most other Lakes Plain languages, lacks nasals. This is extremely rare cross-linguistically (Maddieson 2013b). There are no nasals at all in the language, even in phonetic form. Complete lack of nasals has also been noted for several other Lakes Plain languages, including Obokuitai (Jenison & Jenison 1991), Sikaritai (Martin 1991) and Doutai (McAllister & McAllister 1991). Other Lakes Plain languages have phonetic nasals that are allophones of voiced stops, including Iau (Bateman 1990a), Fayu, Kirikiri, Tause and Edopi (Clouse & Clouse 1993). No language in the family is known to have contrastive nasal consonants.

There are seven qualitatively distinct vowel phonemes in Abawiri, more than the typical five-vowel system in many Papuan languages (Foley 2000). The two “extra” phonemes are both high front vowels; the language has the high front vowels /i/, /y/, and /i̝/ the latter of which is an extra-high vowel developed from the loss of a final consonant.

Tone is a prominent feature of all Lakes Plain languages for which data is available; in fact, the tone system of Iau (Bateman 1986; Bateman 1990a; Bateman 1990b) is likely the most complex in New Guinea. Abawiri has three pitch levels [H], [M], [L], which I analyze as phonologically /H/, /L/, and toneless (Yoder 2016; submitted). Various processes of tone sandhi obscure the mapping of phonological tones onto phonetic pitches. These processes include anticipatory tonal polarity for /L/ tone, downstepping of /H/ tone after a floating /L/ tone, and a prosodic final boundary %L tone.

Verbs show a basic aspectual distinction between perfective and imperfective by means of (mostly) obligatory suffixes next to the root. An additional suffix slot includes suffixes indicating various as-yet poorly understood TAM distinctions. Nominal morphology is minimal.

In the syntax, clauses are strongly verb-final. The only element sometimes occurring after the verb is an antitopic (Lambrecht 1994; Mithun 2014a). In terms of argument structure, the syntax is zero-marking (Nichols 1986) as there is no morphology on either the nominal or the verb that indicates a syntactic relationship between them. Word order of nominals within the clause is driven by pragmatic and semantic constraints rather than syntactic ones, with a general tendency for nominals with referents higher on the animacy hierarchy (Silverstein 1976) to occur before ones lower on the hierarchy (Siewierska 1995). When an entity with higher animacy is acted upon by an entity lower in animacy, the higher-animacy entity still usually (but not always) occurs first. It is possible that pragmatic topicality rather than semantic animacy is the main feature determining word order; further work is needed here.

Speakers of the language make frequent use of serial verb constructions (Aikhenvald & Dixon 2006; Bisang 2009; Haspelmath 2016) within the clause. There are at least three distinct serial verb constructions that can be identified; it remains to be seen what functions each of these constructions serves. There is a frequently occurring clause chaining construction in the language, although it is not as elaborated as in many Papuan languages (Haiman 1987). Tail-head linkage (Thurman 1975; de Vries 2005) is, however, quite common.

Zero anaphora (Li 1997; Givón 2017) is pervasive in discourse. Arguments of the verb are frequently omitted when understood from context. This is especially interesting in light of the fact that no other reference-tracking devices (e.g. bound pronominal forms on verbs, switch-reference) have been found that serve the function of managing reference in discourse in the absence of independent referential forms. An analysis that has not yet been ruled out is that there is no reference actually involved when an overt argument is not present. Under this analysis the term “pragmatically determined omission of arguments” would be more fitting than “zero anaphora”. This would have implications for argument structure of verbs. While this is one potential analysis, it is possible that further research will uncover grammatical properties the language that show argument structure of verbs, along with reference via zero forms. How reference is managed in discourse will be a point for further investigation and will be examined in detail in the dissertation.

# Significance of the project

This section outlines the significance of the dissertation project, both for the language community and for the field of linguistics.

## Value to the community

As is frequently discussed in the literature on language documentation, it is critical that the field linguist develop and maintain a strong working relationship with the language community (Dobrin 2008; Dobrin & Schwartz 2016; Dwyer 2006, *inter alia*). I have worked hard to develop good community relations. Especially beneficial has been implementation of various methodologies in the tradition of Participatory Methods (Kumar 2002; Kaner 2007), particularly those methodologies designed to allow useful dialogue between an outside linguist and community members concerning issues related to language documentation and development. Participatory Methods have been successfully applied to such diverse activities as planning language development-related activities (Truong & Garcez 2012; Hanawalt et al. 2016), orthography development (Kutsch Lojenga 1996; Easton & Wroge 2012), dictionary development (Shore & van den Berg 2006), and even grammatical analysis (Stirtz 2015).

My work with the community in Foau has already provided substantial benefits to the community. I began working with three community members in 2014. At that time three community leaders (Yulianus Waw, Bastian Guani and Elus Waw) were working on translating religious materials from Indonesian into Abawiri and asked for my help in devising an orthography for the community to use. We produced a preliminary analysis of the segmental phonology in 2014. In 2015 we produced an analysis of the tone system (Yoder, submitted) and a preliminary documentary corpus of texts. In the summer of 2016 we held a participatory orthography design workshop in Foau, involving the community in designing and practicing a preliminary orthography (Yoder 2017a). We are planning follow-up participatory workshops for the whole community, with the twofold purpose of refining the orthography and developing participants’ reading and writing skills.

The dissertation project will continue to provide benefits to the community, based on their input and desires. After the orthography workshop in 2016, the community expressed a desire to follow up with more workshops to further refine the orthography, to practice reading and writing skills, and to produce written stories. The documentary corpus produced during dissertation fieldwork will provide an excellent source for story booklets for community use, and the linguistic analysis in the dissertation will provide a foundation for any language development the community decides to pursue.

During fieldwork I will also pass on as much technical expertise as possible, empowering community members to carry out documentation activities more independently. I have already begun training two community members to use WeSay, a collaborative tool for dictionary development. We plan to continue these training activities, with the goal that they will soon be able to begin producing documentation materials on their own.

## Academic significance

This project is important not only to the language community, but also to the field of linguistics. First, in the field of language documentation, the language is severely underdocumented, being in the part of New Guinea (and the world) that is still least known to linguistic science (Hammarström 2010). The only previous documentation of Abawiri is a list of 39 words collected on a survey (Voorhoeve 1975). In fact, very little documentation exists for any Lakes Plain language. Among the approximately twenty Lakes Plain languages, a basic grammatical description is available for only one (Iau). An additional five languages have brief phonology sketches, and the remaining languages, including Abawiri, are known only from short wordlists. The fact that the language is not yet documented, in an era when the forces of globalization are increasingly felt even in remote New Guinea, highlights the urgency of this documentation project.

The second reason why this project is important for linguistics relates to typology: preliminary research has already uncovered typologically unique features in the language. Absence of nasal consonants is one of these features, with nasal consonants being completely absent from the language, even phonetically. The language also has a tone system of more complexity than those often found among Papuan languages (Yoder, submitted). In terms of grammatical structure, Abawiri has no evidence for grammatical relations. The pragmatic nature of argument structure is reminiscent of Southeast Asian languages such as Lahu (Matisoff 1973), Lisu (Li & Thompson 1976), Burmese (Johnson 1992), and Mongsen Ao (Coupe 2007). I am not aware of other Papuan languages like this, although it is not clear whether this is a fact about Papuan languages or a fact about the (lack of) descriptive material available. These, and probably other features of the language, underscore the importance of a linguistic description of Abawiri for the field of linguistic typology.

# Methodology

In this section I outline the methodology for the dissertation project. After a discussion of the theoretical orientation of the project (section 3.1), I present my plan for building a corpus (section 3.2) and carrying out elicitation tasks (section 3.3). Finally, I discuss how I will go about writing the grammar (section 3.4).

## Theoretical approach

I take a generally functional view of language that sees language as an emergent system (MacWhinney 1999; O’Grady 2008; Hopper 2014) shaped by the interactional needs of speakers (Garrod & Pickering 2004; Goodwin & Goodwin 2004) and constrained by human cognition (Chafe 1979; 1987; 1994). To understand language, it is thus necessary to anchor explanations in the language-external facts of interaction and cognition. Additionally, a grasp of cross-linguistic variation is important since it shows what types of systems tend to arise and what types do not; thus, linguistic typology (Comrie 1989; Croft 2002; Trudgill 2011; Gordon 2016) is important in a functional approach. Further, studying how languages change through time gives insight into both the cognitive pressures and the social mechanisms through which languages become as they are. For this reason, study of change-related phenomena such as grammaticalization (Hopper & Traugott 2003; DeLancey 2011) and lexical diffusion (Pierrehumbert 2001; Bybee 2007; 2010) is central in a functional approach. In sum, explanations in a functional approach to language are rooted in an understanding of interaction, cognition, linguistic typology, and language change.

This dissertation will attempt to frame the linguistic facts of Abawiri in terms of the above factors. For example, studying reference in discourse will rely both on interaction (how speakers and listeners manage information in talk) and cognition (e.g. how much referential information listeners can remember over long stretches of discourse). Typological variation will inform the dissertation throughout as I compare Abawiri linguistic features with the typological literature, especially that on Papuan languages. Special note will be made of typologically unusual features since this has potential to further our understanding of what is and what is not possible in human language. Finally, understanding a language in diachronic context can inform synchronic description; for example, the intersection of diachronic gradualness and synchronic gradience (Traugott & Trousdale 2010) can often provide helpful insights into the distribution of features and variants within a language.

The best linguistic descriptions come from linguists who themselves speak the language they write about (Everett 2001). For this reason, I plan to learn to speak Abawiri during the course of fieldwork. I aim to transition from bilingual fieldwork in Indonesian and Abawiri to primarily monolingual fieldwork, hopefully by the fifth or sixth month. This will largely eliminate the need for mediation through (and possible interference from) Indonesian at two levels. At one level, discussions between my language consultants and me will be less influenced by the categories and structures of Indonesian; at another level, my own analysis of the data can proceed more directly from the data without reliance on Indonesian translations provided by consultants. Further, I will be able to understand conversations around me. Even with my current limited proficiency in Abawiri, hearing bits of conversation around me has already sparked interesting ideas that spur further investigation.

## Building a corpus

Because of the emphasis on linguistic typology within a generally functional approach to language, it is necessary to document and describe a wide variety of languages. There is thus significant overlap between the goals of language documentation (Woodbury 2003; Gippert, Himmelmann & Mosel 2006) and functional linguistics. Because I will attempt to provide a description of the Abawiri language as it is actually used, I will follow best practices in language documentation in order to build a “lasting, multipurpose record of a language” (Himmelmann 2006:2). In this section I outline how I will go about building the corpus, including both the social and technical dimensions of documentation.

The heart of this documentation project will involve making high-quality video and audio recordings of naturally occurring speech events in the Abawiri community. My collaborators and I will then produce time-aligned transcriptions and translations of a selection of the recordings, along with a morpheme-by-morpheme interlinear gloss. We will record 50 hours of speech events and will transcribe and translate 20 hours of those.

Representativeness of a wide variety of speech events is critical, both for an adequate documentary corpus and as a source for an informed description of grammatical structure. We will document informal conversations, narratives of personal experience, oral histories, folktales, hortatory and expository talks, and any other speech event that the community would like to have recorded. We will focus especially on the community’s interests, always recording the things they want to have recorded while at the same time keeping an eye toward recording as many types of events as possible. It is not yet known whether there are specialized speech genres in addition to the ones listed above. If such genres become known, and if it is permissible to record speech events in these genres, we will include these in the corpus.

I will continue to collaborate with the community leaders Yulianus Waw, Bastian Guani and Elus Waw, as well as with several younger people. These include Rudi Waw, who recently became the first Foau villager to earn a college degree, and Sem and Herodian Guani, who both have a high school diploma. All these men and women have shown interest in developing their language and aptitude in documentation activities so far. At various levels they have all participated in planning and organizing, in setting up and recording speech events, in transcription and translation activities, and in the community orthography workshop. The community leaders are especially keen to collaborate in planning and organizing various aspects of the project, while the younger members are often the ones to do the more mundane work such as transcribing and translating.

I will follow best practices in language documentation for creating, annotating, organizing, and archiving recordings of speech events (see, for example, Nathan (2010) on audio and Bird & Simons (2003) on digital formats for archiving). I will record high-quality audio and video using new portable recording equipment, which I hope to purchase with funds from an Endangered Language Fund grant (application currently under review). Most recording will be done with a Zoom Q8 video recorder, which can simultaneously record high definition video and high quality audio via XLR input. A set of headworn and standard microphones will be used with the recorder. 50 hours of recordings will be created and the files systematically backed up to avoid loss of data.

When a few hours of recordings have been made, my collaborators and I will select the best recordings for annotation. We will use the standard software tool ELAN to produce time-aligned transcriptions and translations of the selected recordings. Transcriptions will be done using the tentative community orthography, with the addition of diacritics indicating tone. (Tone is not marked in the community orthography.) Translation will be in Indonesian; I will add an additional tier with English translation later in the process. Transcribed/translated texts will be exported to SIL FieldWorks for interlinearization and integration with the growing lexical database, following a workflow similar to that outlined in Pennington (2014).

A simple tool for organizing a documentary corpus is SayMore (Hatton 2013). I will use this tool to manage audio and video files, speech events, transcription and translation files, speaker metadata, and informed consent files. Keeping the documentary corpus organized in this way will simplify the process of submitting the corpus to an archive since materials are managed in a systematic way and metadata can easily be kept up-to-date.

The final step of creating a corpus is archiving for long-term preservation and access. I will submit the Abawiri corpus to an appropriate archive, likely the SIL International Language & Culture Archives (<https://www.sil.org/resources/language-culture-archives>) or perhaps PARADISEC (<http://www.paradisec.org.au/>).

## Elicitation to supplement corpus materials

While the best source for a language description is naturally occurring connected speech, it is at times necessary to supplement this corpus data with elicitation and experimental data in order to research specific issues or clarify aspects of the language that are difficult to analyze from a corpus of connected speech (Mithun 2014b). This type of data is likely to be useful in Abawiri in at least two areas: the tone system and serial verb constructions.

While a basic analysis of the tone system has been completed using elicited data (Yoder, submitted), additional work is needed to fill in the gaps. In particular, the behavior of tone on affixes and clitics is still not well understood. I will elicit phrases in paradigms to find tonal patterns in these environments, building on the elicitation data that has already been collected.

Secondly, I am interested in how events are conceptualized in Abawiri, and how this conceptualization relates to serial verb constructions (SVCs). While SVCs are often defined in terms of eventhood (Aikhenvald & Dixon 2006; Bisang 2009), it remains unclear how this formal category relates to the conceptual notion of eventhood. There is the danger of circularity in defining the terms, since SVCs are defined in terms of eventhood, and eventhood is determined by looking at the linguistic form (Givón 1991; Senft 2008; Foley 2010). As an attempt to more reliably capture how events are conceptualized, a video stimulus set was developed at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (van Staden et al. 2001). Each video in the set shows a series of related events that could (at least in theory) be conceptualized either as a single macro-event, or as smaller sub-events. The fieldworker shows the series of videos to speakers, who then describe the events in the video to an uninitiated party. Verb forms used in this description are then analyzed. I plan to use data gathered using this video stimulus set to complement discourse data in the corpus as I analyze how events are encoded in Abawiri.

## Writing the grammar

There is now a wealth of literature on how to go about writing a good grammar, including in particular the chapters in Ameka, Dench & Evans (2006), Payne & Weber (2007), and Nakayama & Rice (2014). I will follow these best practice guidelines in writing the grammar. A comprehensive description of a language is impossible within the scope of a dissertation, of course. This dissertation will seek to provide an adequate basic description of all the major facts of Abawiri, while years of follow-up work will inform an ongoing process of “growing a grammar” (Weber 2006).

While the bulk of the dissertation will simply present a description of structural facts concerning the language, explanations for those facts will be offered when possible. As stated in section 3.1 above, explanations in a functionally oriented grammar appeal to factors related to interaction, cognition, typology, and language change. Here I briefly discuss two examples of the types of explanations I will offer in the dissertation. The first appeals to the roles of interaction and cognition in shaping linguistic structure, while the second refers to typology and language change.

There are two frequently occurring perfective constructions in the language. The two constructions appear to be roughly identical at the level of clausal syntax, and speakers say that there is no difference between the two. Examination of the two constructions in narrative discourse, however, shows that each serves specific functions. One is used for discourse-prominent or foregrounded information, while the other is used in other contexts. The difference between the two is thus interactionally motivated and has a cognitive basis: the organization of information sharing between interlocutors.

The second example concerns the vowel inventory in the language. There are seven vowels, three of which are the high front vowels /i/, /y/, and /i̝/. Explanation for this skewed inventory comes from the process of sound change, where it can be demonstrated that the loss of a final obstruent on certain words created extra-high vowels; thus, \*iC → i̝ What is not yet clear is why the previous \*uC sequence became /y/ in Abawiri rather than extra-high /u̝/. Comparing this inventory with other Lakes Plain and Papuan languages, it becomes clear that extra-high vowels are a unique feature of the Lakes Plain family as opposed to surrounding families, while the front rounded vowel /y/ is an innovation in Abawiri not found in other Lakes Plain languages. This vowel is very rare in New Guinea in general; the only other Papuan language I am aware of that has this vowel is Kombai (de Vries 1993). Examining areal typology and language change helps explain why the Abawiri vowel inventory is as it is.

# Outline of the proposed dissertation

Below is an outline of the dissertation itself. Each major heading corresponds to a proposed dissertation chapter. I provide a brief annotation under each chapter heading describing what is to be included in the chapter, including explanations for subheadings where necessary for clarification. This outline is subject to change as analysis progresses.

1. Introduction

This chapter will provide background information on the dissertation and on the language. Section 1.5 “Interaction in Abawiri” will give an overview of how people use the Abawiri language in interaction; that is, what genres exist in the language. This section will point forward to chapter 9, which will present a more detailed discussion of genres and the organization of talk within each genre.

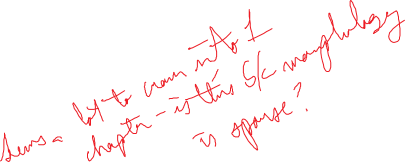
* 1. How the grammar is organized
  2. Names of the language, the people, and the language area
  3. Location, social situation, language vitality
  4. Classification and previous research
  5. Interaction in Abawiri
  6. Language consultants
  7. Typological overview

1. Phonology

This chapter will discuss segmental and tonal phonology. A paper on the tone system has been submitted for publication, while a draft of the segmental phonology has been completed but has not been submitted. This chapter will be updated as additional findings are made, but overall relatively little work will be required.

Section 2.7 “Prosody and intonation units” will include a basic description of the prosodic characteristics of intonation units in Abawiri: pause, lag-rush, intensity, pauses, etc.

* 1. Phoneme inventory
  2. Consonants
  3. Vowels
  4. Phonotactics
     1. Syllables
     2. Consonant sequences
     3. Vowel sequences
  5. Tone
  6. The phonological word
  7. Prosody and intonation units
  8. Orthography

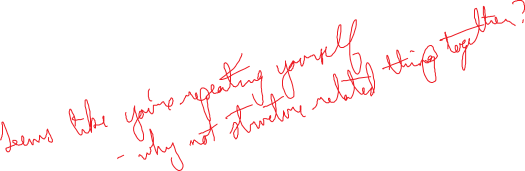


* + 1. Community orthography
    2. Technical orthography

1. Word classes

This chapter will discuss the major word classes of nouns and verbs (and adjectives?), as well as the various minor word classes. These are likely to change as analysis progresses. The discussions of the formal properties of verbs and conjunctions will point forward to chapter 10 on events in discourse, while the discussions of the formal properties of nouns, pronouns, and demonstratives will point forward to chapter 11 on reference in discourse.

* 1. Verbs
     1. Inflected verbs: three inflection classes
     2. Stative verbs
     3. Auxiliary verbs
     4. Preverbs and other verby words
  2. Nouns
  3. Pronouns
  4. Adjectives
  5. Quantifiers and numerals
  6. Demonstratives
  7. Postpositions
  8. Adverbs
  9. Conjunctions



* 1. Interjections

1. Noun phrases

This chapter will discuss the formal properties of noun phrases, including possession, attribution, quantifiers, and demonstratives. The outline of this chapter in particular will undergo revision and expansion as more is learned about the noun phrase in Abawiri.

* 1. Possession
  2. Attributive adjectives
  3. Quantifiers and numerals
  4. Demonstratives and NP definiteness

1. Verb morphology

This chapter will introduce the morphology of verbs. Of primary interest here is the system of tense-aspect-mood suffixes, which at present is poorly understood. I will also discuss the causative/pluractional prefixes tore- and to-, which have grammaticalized from the verb ‘come’ in a serial verb construction, as well as the directional prefixes indicating ‘up’ and ‘down’. Finally, I will discuss serial verb constructions, which are closely related to the notion of eventhood expanded upon in chapter 10.

* 1. Tense-aspect-mood inflection
     1. The perfective/imperfective distinction
     2. Perfective inflections
     3. Imperfective inflections
     4. Verbs with no aspectual marking
  2. Causative/pluractional prefixes tore- and to-
  3. Directional prefixes yu- and bu-
  4. Serial verb constructions

1. The clause

This chapter’s two sections will discuss types of predication and the structural correlates of illocutionary force. Since grammatical relations and argument structure are of special interest in Abawiri, I discuss these at length in a separate chapter.

* 1. Predicate types
     1. Verbal predication
     2. Adjectival predication
     3. Nominal predication
     4. Locative predication
     5. Existential predication
  2. Illocutionary force
     1. Declaratives
     2. Imperatives
     3. Interrogatives

1. Grammatical relations

The goal of this chapter is to demonstrate how the relationship between arguments and the clause they are in is pragmatic and semantic in nature rather than syntactic. Many authors have argued against the universality of grammatical relations (Bhat 1991; Foley & Van Valin 1997; Dryer 1997; Kibrik 1997; Siewierska & Bakker 2012). This chapter will discuss the lack of grammatical relations in Abawiri and its theoretical implications (cf. Yoder (2017b)). I first attempt to show that all major possible correlates of grammatical relations actually correlate with something else; for example, word order correlates with animacy and topicality, while the postposition gi is a marker of information focus that can occur with a noun phrase of any semantic role. I then show how argument structure in the language is pragmatic rather than syntactic in nature, referring forward to chapter 11 on how reference tracking is accomplished in discourse.

* 1. Word order
  2. Zero anaphora
  3. Flagging
  4. Reflexives and reciprocals
  5. Absence of syntactic pivot
  6. Other clausal elements
     1. Location
     2. Time
     3. Manner
  7. Discussion
  8. Summary

1. Clause combining

This chapter will present strategies for combining clauses in Abawiri. A common clause combining strategy is a relatively rudimentary clause chaining construction in which a single medial clause and a final clause are conjoined. This construction frequently appears as tail-head linkage, with a previous final clause being repeated in the medial clause. Other clause combining constructions to be discussed include relative clauses, complement clauses (if they are shown to be distinct structurally from relative clauses), purpose clauses, and direct speech. It is likely (but not yet certain) that Abawiri relative clauses correspond more closely to what has been called the Generalized Noun Modifying Clause Construction (Matsumoto 2011; Matsumoto, Comrie & Sells 2017) rather than the traditional notion of relative clause.

* 1. Clause chaining and tail-head linkage
  2. Relative clauses
  3. Complement clauses
  4. Purpose clauses
  5. Direct speech

1. Ways of speaking

This will be the first of three chapters on discourse. They will be organized from function to form rather than form-to-function as the preceding chapters. This chapter will discuss discourse genres: the types of talk people engage in, and how they organize talk within each type of talk. The next two chapters will focus more narrowly on events in discourse and entities in discourse, respectively.



The current chapter will discuss how speakers structure talk; that is, how coherence is established in discourse. The structure of talk in interactional genres will be analyzed primarily in terms of turns and sequences, as in Conversation Analysis and related methods (Sacks, Schegloff & Jefferson 1974; Schegloff 2007, *inter alia*). In monologic genres I will examine coherence devices in texts such as temporal sequencing of events, which is a primary coherence device for narratives, and other types of relational propositions (Mann & Thompson 1986) which are relevant for non-narrative genres. Rhetorical Structure Theory (Mann & Thompson 1988; Mann, Matthiessen & Thompson 1992) will provide useful background for thinking about the structure of monologic discourse, as will the approach advocated by Robert Longacre (Longacre 1996; Longacre & Hwang 2012). Full treatment of the issues here is not possible in a single chapter. This chapter seeks instead to present a brief overview of each major genre, opening up possibilities for future investigation.



* 1. Informal conversation
  2. Personal narratives
  3. Historical narratives
  4. Legends and folktales
  5. Advice
  6. Procedures
  7. Others?

1. Events in discourse



This chapter will discuss how events are conceptualized in discourse and the connection between event conceptualization and linguistic form. The main linguistic form is the serial verb construction (SVC). As discussed in section 3.3 of the prospectus, SVCs are often defined in terms of single eventhood in a way that creates the danger of circularity. Here I will discuss how tightly speakers integrate two verbs to achieve various pragmatic goals. There are at least four structural options that speakers have for indicating two related events: a tightly integrated SVC, a somewhat more loosely integrated SVC, temporally sequential SVC, and separate clauses. I will examine whether speakers use these structures to construe events in different ways. If other formal strategies for indicating unity vs. separateness of events are uncovered during research, they will be included in the presentation here. Crucial to the discussion will be a comparison of corpus data with elicitation data, as discussed in section 3.3. above.

Especially with more tightly integrated SVCs, the process of lexicalization or grammaticalization may have resulted in certain constructions being relatively fixed. In these cases, one or both elements of the SVC are not freely combinable with other verbs and are not available for use in different types of constructions for pragmatic purposes. It is thus necessary to examine the productivity of various combinations as a preliminary to analysis of how the various freely combinable forms are used in discourse.

* 1. The problem
  2. The continuum from fixed expressions to freely combinable SVCs
  3. Four constructions from tightly integrated SVCs to conjoined clauses
  4. Experimental results



* 1. Comparison with corpus data
  2. Conclusion

1. Reference in discourse

This chapter will discuss the ways in which speakers keep track of referents in discourse (Kibrik 2011). Of particular interest is the fact of zero anaphora. How do speakers and listeners keep track of participants when they are often left unspecified? Does the fact of zero anaphora have implications for the activation status of referents – that is, do they become less cognitively activated (Chafe 1976; 1994) as time goes on? What role does shared contextual information play in reference, particularly in light of the fact of a large amount of shared knowledge in a small community (Trudgill 2011)?

* 1. Forms of reference: Noun phrases, pronouns, zero anaphora
  2. Information structure: topic and focus
  3. Shared knowledge and omission of arguments
  4. The role of prosody



* 1. Summary: How reference is managed in discourse

# Timeline

I plan to conduct the documentation portion of the project over a twelve-month period. The twelve months after this will be dedicated to grammar writing. The proposed timeline is as follows.

* **August-September 2017**: Make arrangements for family move to Indonesia
* **October 2017**: Move to Indonesia
* **November 2017-October 2018**: Conduct documentation project
  + Home base in Jayapura
  + Six weeklong trips to Foau
  + Transcription and translation in Jayapura
* **November 2018-October 2019**: Write dissertation (in Jayapura)
* **Late 2019 or early 2020**: Defend the dissertation

For the documentation project, I propose to be based in Jayapura rather than Foau for three reasons. First, transcription and translation is much easier in town, where there is reliable electricity. Second, my primary consultant Yulianus Waw lives in Jayapura, and others frequently come from Foau to stay at his family’s home when they have business in Jayapura. Foau teenagers who attend high school do so in Jayapura. Finding Foau people to work with in Jayapura has proved to be quite straightforward. Finally, I have three small children. The convenience and stability of the town will be important for my family’s wellbeing.

I plan to write the dissertation in Jayapura rather than in Santa Barbara (or elsewhere) primarily to provide continuity of living situation for my family. After the completion of the dissertation I plan to resume full-time work with SIL International, based in Jayapura. If I write the dissertation in Jayapura, my family will only need to move once in the fall of 2017, when we relocate from Santa Barbara to Jayapura. Conversely, writing in Santa Barbara would entail three moves for my family: to Jayapura in 2017, back to Santa Barbara in 2018, and back to Jayapura again in 2019. In Jayapura I will have access to a small linguistics library on the SIL campus, as well as online access to journals through the UCSB library. I will communicate with the committee via email, as well as via Skype as appropriate.

As each chapter of the dissertation is written, it will be sent to the committee for review and comment. A tentative timeline is shown in Table 1 below. This proposal is, of course, subject to change as analysis progresses since chapters might need to be reorganized to better reflect relevant discoveries in the language.

Tentative timeline for submission of dissertation chapters to the committee

Table . Tentative timeline for submission of dissertation chapters to the committee

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CHAPTER | | DATE |
| 2 | Phonology | December 2018 |
| 3 | Word classes | January 2019 |
| 4 | Noun phrases | February 2019 |
| 5 | Verb morphology | March 2019 |
| 6 | The clause | April 2019 |
| 7 | Grammatical relations | May 2019 |
| 8 | Clause combining | June 2019 |
| 9 | Ways of speaking | July 2019 |
| 10 | Events in discourse | August 2019 |
| 11 | Reference in discourse | September 2019 |
| 1 | Introduction | October 2019 |

# References

Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y. & R.M.W. Dixon (eds.). 2006. *Serial verb constructions: A cross-linguistic typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Ameka, Felix K., Alan Dench & Nicholas Evans (eds.). 2006. *Catching language: The standing challenge of grammar writing*. (Trends in Linguistics Studies and Monographs 167). Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Bateman, Janet. 1986. Iau verb morphology. *NUSA: Linguistic Studies of Indonesian and Other Languages in Indonesia* 26. Jakarta: Universitas Katolik Atma Jaya. 1–76.

Bateman, Janet. 1990a. Iau segmental and tone phonology. *NUSA: Linguistic Studies of Indonesian and Other Languages in Indonesia* 32. 29–42.

Bateman, Janet. 1990b. Pragmatic functions of the tone morphemes on illocutionary force particles in Iau. *NUSA: Linguistic Studies of Indonesian and Other Languages in Indonesia* 32. 1–28.

Bhat, D. N. S. 1991. *Grammatical relations: the evidence against their necessity and universality*. London: Routledge.

Bird, Steven & Gary Simons. 2003. Seven dimensions of portability for language documentation and description. *Language* 79(3). 557–582.

Bisang, Walter. 2009. Serial verb constructions. *Linguistics and Language Compass* 3(3). 792–814.

Bybee, Joan. 2007. *Frequency of use and the organization of language*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Bybee, Joan. 2010. *Language, usage and cognition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Chafe, Wallace. 1976. Givenness, contrastiveness, definiteness, subjects, topics, and point of view. In Charles N. Li (ed.), *Subject and topic*, 25–55. Academic Press.

Chafe, Wallace. 1979. The flow of thought and the flow of language. *Discourse and syntax*, 159–181. (Syntax and Semantics). New York: Academic Press.

Chafe, Wallace. 1987. Cognitive constraints on information flow. In Russell Tomlin (ed.), *Coherence and Grounding in Discourse*, 1–28. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Chafe, Wallace. 1994. *Discourse, consciousness, and time: The flow and displacement of conscious experience in speaking and writing*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Clouse, Duane. 1993. Languages of the western Lakes Plains. *IRIAN: Bulletin of Irian Jaya Development* 21. 1–32.

Clouse, Duane. 1997. Toward a reconstruction and reclassification of the Lakes Plain languages of Irian Jaya. *Papers in Papuan Linguistics* 2. 133–236.

Clouse, Heljä & Duane Clouse. 1993. Kirikiri and the Western Lakes Plains languages: Selected phonological phenomena. *Languages and Linguistics in Melanesia* 24. 1–18.

Comrie, Bernard. 1989. *Language universals and linguistic typology*. 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Coupe, Alexander R. 2007. *A grammar of Mongsen Ao*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Croft, William. 2002. *Typology and universals*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Daniels, Don. 2015. A reconstruction of Proto-Sogeram phonology, lexicon, and morphosyntax. University of California Santa Barbara PhD dissertation.

DeLancey, Scott. 2011. Grammaticalization and syntax: a functional view. In Bernd Heine & Heiko Narrog (eds.), *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*. (Oxford Handbooks Online). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dobrin, Lise M. 2008. From linguistic elicitation to eliciting the linguist: Lessons in community empowerment from Melanesia. *Language* 84(2). 300–324.

Dobrin, Lise M. & Saul Schwartz. 2016. Collaboration or participant observation? Rethinking models of “linguistic social work.” *Language Documentation & Conservation* 10. 253–277. http://hdl.handle.net/10125/24694.

Dryer, Matthew. 1997. Are grammatical relations universal? In Joan Bybee, John Haiman & Sandra A. Thompson (eds.), *Essays on language function and language type*, 115–143. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Dutton, Tom. 2010. *Reconstructing proto Koiarian: the history of a Papuan language family*. (Studies in Language Change 7). Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.

Dwyer, Arienne M. 2006. Ethics and practicalities of cooperative fieldwork and analysis. In Jost Gippert, Ulrike Mosel & Nikolaus P. Himmelman (eds.), *Essentials of language documentation*, 31–66. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Easton, Catherine & Diane Wroge. 2012. *Manual for alphabet design through community interaction for Papua New Guinea elementary teacher trainers*. 2nd ed. Papua New Guinea: SIL PNG. http://www.sil.org/resources/archives/51482.

Everett, Daniel L. 2001. Monolingual field research. In Paul Newman & Martha Ratliff (eds.), *Linguistic fieldwork*, 166–188. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Firchow, Irwin & Jacqueline Firchow. 1969. An abbreviated phoneme inventory. *Anthropological Linguistics* 11(9). 271–276.

Foley, William A. 2000. The languages of New Guinea. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 29. 357–404.

Foley, William A. 2010. Events and serial verb constructions. In Mengistu Amberber, Brett Baker & Mark Harvey (eds.), *Complex predicates: cross-linguistic perspectives on event structure*, 79–109. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Foley, William A. & Robert D. Van Valin. 1997. *Syntax: structure, meaning and function*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Garrod, Simon & Martin J. Pickering. 2004. Why is conversation so easy? *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 8(1). 8–11. doi:10.1016/j.tics.2003.10.016.

Gippert, Jost, NP Himmelmann & Ulrike Mosel (eds.). 2006. *Essentials of language documentation*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. http://titus.uni-frankfurt.de/ld/.

Givón, T. 1991. Serial verbs and the mental reality of “event”: grammatical vs. cognitive packaging. In Elizabeth Closs Traugott & Bernd Heine (eds.), *Approaches to Grammaticalization, Vol. I*, 81–127. (Typological Studies in Language 19:1). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Givón, T. 2017. *The Story of Zero*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. doi:10.1075/z.204.

Goodwin, Charles & Marjorie Harness Goodwin. 2004. Participation. In Alessandro Duranti (ed.), *A companion to linguistic anthropology*, 222–244. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell.

Gordon, Matthew. 2016. *Phonological typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Haiman, John. 1987. On some origins of medial verb morphology in Papuan languages. *Studies in Language* 11(2). 347–364.

Hammarström, Harald. 2010. The status of the least documented language families in the world. *Language Documentation & Conservation* 4. 177–212. http://hdl.handle.net/10125/4478.

Hanawalt, Charlie, Bryan Varenkamp, Carletta Lahn & Dave Eberhard. 2016. *A guide to planning the future of our language*. Dallas, TX: SIL International. http://www.sil.org/guide-planning-future-our-language-0.

Haspelmath, Martin. 2016. The serial verb construction: Comparative concept and cross-linguistic generalizations. *Language and Linguistics* 17(3). 291–319.

Hatton, John. 2013. SayMore: language documentation productivity. *Paper presented at the 3rd International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC3)*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai’i at Manoa.

Heggarty, Paul. 2010. Beyond lexicostatistics: How to get more out of “word list” comparisons. *Diachronica* 27(2). 301–324. doi:10.1075/dia.27.2.07heg.

Himmelmann, Nikolaus P. 2006. Language documentation: What is it and what is it good for? In Jost Gippert, Nikolaus P. Himmelmann & Ulrike Mosel (eds.), *Essentials of language documentation*, 1–30. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

Holton, Gary, Marian Klamer, František Kratochvíl, Laura C Robinson & Antoinette Schapper. 2012. The historical relations of the Papuan languages of Alor and Pantar. *Oceanic Linguistics* 51(1). 86–122.

Hopper, Paul J. 2014. Emergent grammar. In Michael Tomasello (ed.), *The new psychology of language*, 143–161. New York: Psychology Press.

Hopper, Paul J. & Elizabeth Closs Traugott. 2003. *Grammaticalization*. 2nd ed. (Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Jenison, D. Scott & Priscilla B. Jenison. 1991. Obokuitai phonology. *Workpapers in Indonesian languages and cultures* 9. 69–90.

Johnson, Rodney. 1992. The limits of grammar: syntax and lexicon in spoken Burmese. University of Michigan.

Kaner, Sam. 2007. *Facilitator’s guide to participatory decision-making*. 2nd ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Kibrik, Aleksandr E. 1997. Beyond subject and object: Toward a comprehensive relational typology. *Linguistic Typology* 1. 279–346. doi:10.1515/lity.1997.1.3.279.

Kibrik, Andrej. 2011. *Reference in Discourse*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199215805.001.0001.

Kumar, Somesh. 2002. *Methods for community participation: A complete guide for practitioners*. New Dehli: Vistaar Publications.

Kutsch Lojenga, Constance. 1996. Participatory research in linguistics. *Notes on Linguistics* 73. 13–27.

Lambrecht, Knud. 1994. *Information structure and sentence form: Topic, focus, and the mental representation of discourse referents*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons & Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2017. *Ethnologue: Languages of the world*. 20th ed. Dallas, TX: SIL International. http://www.ethnologue.com.

Li, Charles N. 1997. On zero anaphora. In Joan Bybee, John Haiman & Sandra A. Thompson (eds.), *Essays on language function and language type*, 275–300. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Li, Charles N. & Sandra A. Thompson. 1976. Subject and topic: A new typology of language. In Charles N. Li (ed.), *Subject and topic*, 458–489. New York: Academic Press.

Longacre, Robert E. 1996. *The grammar of discourse*. New York: Plenum Press.

Longacre, Robert E. & Shing Ja J. Hwang. 2012. *Holistic discourse analysis*. 2nd ed. Dallas, TX: SIL International.

MacWhinney, Brian (ed.). 1999. *The emergence of language*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Maddieson, Ian. 2013a. Consonant Inventories. In Matthew S. Dryer & Martin Haspelmath (eds.), *The World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. http://wals.info/chapter/1.

Maddieson, Ian. 2013b. Absence of Common Consonants. In Matthew S. Dryer & Martin Haspelmath (eds.), *The World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. http://wals.info/chapter/18.

Mann, William, Christian Matthiessen & Sandra A. Thompson. 1992. Rhetorical Structure Theory and text analysis. In William Mann & Sandra A. Thompson (eds.), *Discourse description: Diverse linguistic analyses of a fundraising text*, 39–78. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Mann, William & Sandra A. Thompson. 1986. Relational propositions in discourse. *Discourse Processes* 9(1). 57–90.

Mann, William & Sandra A. Thompson. 1988. Rhetorical Structure Theory: Toward a functional theory of text organization. *Text* 8(3). 243–281.

Martin, David L. 1991. Sikaritai phonology. *Workpapers in Indonesian Languages and Cultures* 9. 91–120.

Matisoff, James A. 1973. *The grammar of Lahu*. (University of California Publications in Linguistics 75). Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Matsumoto, Yoshiko. 2011. Partnership between grammatical construction and interactional frame: The stand-alone noun-modifying construction in invocatory discourse. *Constructions and Frames* 7(2). 289–314. doi:10.1075/cf.7.2.05mat.

Matsumoto, Yoshiko, Bernard Comrie & Peter Sells. 2017. Introduction: Noun-modifying clause constructions in the languages of Eurasia. In Yoshiko Matsumoto, Bernard Comrie & Peter Sells (eds.), *Noun-modifying clause constructions in the languages of Eurasia: Rethinking theoretical and geographical boundaries*, 3–21. (Typological Studies in Language 116). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

McAllister, Lawrence & Kay McAllister. 1991. The process of phonological change in Doutai. *Workpapers in Indonesian languages and cultures* 9. 121–141.

Mithun, Marianne. 2014a. Syntactic and prosodic structures: Segmentation, integration, and in between. In Tommaso Raso & Heliana Mello (eds.), *Spoken corpora and linguistic studies*, 297–330. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Mithun, Marianne. 2014b. The data and the examples: Comprehensiveness, accuracy, and sensitivity. In Toshihide Nakayama & Keren Rice (eds.), *The art and practice of grammar writing*, 25–52. (Language Documentation & Conservation Special Publication No. 8). Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press.

Nakayama, Toshihide & Keren Rice (eds.). 2014. *The art and practice of grammar writing*. (Language Documentation & Conservation Special Publication No. 8). Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai’i Press. http://hdl.handle.net/10125/4580.

Nathan, David. 2010. Sound and unsound practices in documentary linguistics: towards an epistemology for audio. In Peter K. Austin (ed.), *Language Documentation and Description, volume 7*, 262–84. London: SOAS. http://www.elpublishing.org/PID/088.

Nichols, Johanna. 1986. Head-marking and dependent-marking grammar. *Language* 62(1). 56–119.

O’Grady, William. 2008. The emergentist program. *Lingua* 118(4). 447–464. doi:10.1016/j.lingua.2006.12.001.

Payne, Thomas E. & David J. Weber (eds.). 2007. *Perspectives on grammar writing*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Pennington, Ryan. 2014. Producing time-aligned interlinear texts: Towards a SayMore–FLEx–ELAN workflow. Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea.

Pierrehumbert, Janet B. 2001. Exemplar dynamics: Word frequency, lenition and contrast. In Joan Bybee & Paul J Hopper (eds.), *Frequency effects and the emergence of lexical structure*, 137–157. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Ross, Malcolm D. 1996. Contact-induced change and the comparative method: cases from Papua New Guinea. In Mark Durie & Malcom D. Ross (eds.), *The comparative method reviewed: regularity and irregularity in language change*, 180–217. New York: Oxford University Press.

Ross, Malcolm D. 2005. Pronouns as a preliminary diagnostic for grouping Papuan languages. In Andrew Pawley, Robert Attenborough, Robin Hide & Jack Golson (eds.), *Papuan pasts: cultural, linguistic and biological histories of Papuan-speaking peoples*, 15–65. (Pacific Linguistics). Canberra.

Sacks, Harvey, Emanuel Schegloff & Gail Jefferson. 1974. A simplest systematics for the organization of turn-taking for conversation. *Language* 50(4). 696–735.

Schegloff, Emanuel A. 2007. *Sequence organization in interaction: A primer in conversation analysis*. . Vol. 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Senft, Gunter. 2008. Event conceptualisation and event report in serial verb constructions in Kilivila: towards a new approach to research an old phenomenon. In Gunter Senft (ed.), *Serial verb constructions in Austronesian and Papuan languages*, 203–230. (Pacific Linguistics PL594). Canberra: Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University.

Shore, Susan & René van den Berg. 2006. A new mass elicitation technique: The dictionary development program. *Tenth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics*. Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines: Linguistic Society of the Philippines and SIL International. http://www.silinternational.org/asia/philippines/ical/papers/vandenberg-mass\_elicitation\_dictionary.pdf.

Siewierska, Anna. 1995. On the interplay of factors in the determination of word order. In Joachim Jacobs, Arnim von Stechow, Wolfgang Sternefeld & Theo Vennemann (eds.), *Syntax: An international handbook of contemporary research*, 826–846. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Siewierska, Anna & Dik Bakker. 2012. Three takes on grammatical relations: a view from the languages of Europe and North and Central Asia. In Pirkko Suihkonen, Bernard Comrie & Valery Solovyev (eds.), *Argument Structure and Grammatical Relations: A Crosslinguistic Typology*, 295–323. (Studies in Language Companion Series 126). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Silverstein, Michael. 1976. Shifters, linguistic categories, and cultural description. *Meaning in anthropology*. 11–55.

Staden, Miriam van, Gunter Senft, N. J. Enfield & Jürgen Bohnemeyer. 2001. Staged events. In Stephen Levinson & N. J. Enfield (eds.), *Manual for the field season 2001*, 115–125. Nijmegen: Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics. http://fieldmanuals.mpi.nl/volumes/2001/staged-events/.

Stirtz, Timothy M. 2015. Rapid grammar collection as an approach to language development. *SIL Electronic Working Papers* 4. Dallas, TX. https://www.sil.org/resources/publications/entry/62483.

Thurman, Robert C. 1975. Chuave Medial Verbs. *Anthropological Linguistics* 17(7). 342–352.

Traugott, Elizabeth Closs & Graeme Trousdale. 2010. Gradience, gradualness and grammaticalization: How do they intersect? *Gradience, gradualness, and grammaticalization*, 19–44. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Trudgill, Peter. 2011. *Sociolinguistic typology: Social determinants of linguistic complexity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Truong, Christina Lai & Lilian Garcez. 2012. Participatory methods for language documentation and conservation: Building community awareness and engagement. *Language Documentation & Conservation* 6. 22–37. http://hdl.handle.net/10125/4505.

Voorhoeve, Clemens L. 1975. *Languages of Irian Jaya: checklist, preliminary classification, language maps, wordlists*. (Series B-31). Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.

Vries, Lourens de. 1993. *Forms and functions in Kombai, an Awyu language of Irian Jaya*. (Pacific Linguistics Series B-108). Canberra, Australia: Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University.

Vries, Lourens de. 2005. Towards a typology of tail–head linkage in Papuan languages. *Studies in Language* 29(2). 363–384.

Weber, David J. 2006. Thoughts on growing a grammar. *Studies in Language* 30(2). 417–444. doi:10.1075/sl.30.2.11web.

Wichmann, Søren. 2012. A classification of Papuan languages. *Language and Linguistics in Melanesia*(Special Issue). 313–386.

Woodbury, Anthony C. 2003. Defining documentary linguistics. In Peter K. Austin (ed.), *Language Documentation and Description, volume 1*, 35–51. London: SOAS. http://www.elpublishing.org/PID/006.

Wurm, Stephen A. (ed.). 1975. *New Guinea area languages and language study, 1: Papuan languages and the New Guinea linguistic scene*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics. http://papuaweb.org/dlib/bk/pl/C38/\_toc.html.

Wurm, Stephen A. 1982. *Papuan languages of Oceania*. (Ars Linguistica 7). Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag Tübingen.

Yoder, Brendon. 2017a. Participatory orthography development in Abawiri. *Paper presented at the 5th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (ICLDC5)*. Honolulu, HI.

Yoder, Brendon. 2017b. Grammatical relations: how Abawiri works without them. *Paper presented at the 26th Annual Linguistics Symposium at California State University, Fullerton*. Fullerton, CA.

Yoder, Brendon. The Abawiri tone system in typological perspective. Paper submitted to *Phonological Analysis*.