The Alor-Pantar languages

History and typology

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Preface and acknowledgements

Marian Klamer

This volume presents some of the results of the research project 'Alor-Pantar languages: Origin and theoretical impact'. This project was one of the five collaborative research projects in the EuroCORES programme entitled 'Better Analyses Based on Endangered Languages' (BABEL) which was funded by the European Science Foundation from 2009-2012. The 'Alor-Pantar' project involved researchers from the University of Surrey (Dunstan Brown, Greville Corbett, Sebastian Fedden), the University of Alaska Fairbanks (Gary Holton, Laura Robinson), and Leiden University (Marian Klamer, Antoinette Schapper). František Kratochvíl (Nanyang Technological University) was an affiliated researcher. Brown, Corbett and Fedden (Surrey) were funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK) under grant AH/H500251/1; since April 2013, Corbett, Brown and Fedden were funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK) under grant AH/K003194/1. Robinson was funded by the National Science Foundation (US), under BCS Grant No. 0936887. Schapper was funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) from 2009-2012. The project website is: www.alor-pantar.org.

This volume represents the "state-of-art" of linguistic research in Alor-Pantar languages. Several chapters relate to work that has been published earlier, as explained in what follows.

Chapter 2 builds on methodology described previously in Holton et al. (2012) and Robinson & Holton (2012a), but the current chapter draws on new lexical data. In particular, the number of reconstructed proto-Alor-Pantar forms has been increased by 20% over that reported in Holton et al. (2012), and many additional cognate sets have been identified. It also differs from Robinson and Holton (2012a) in that the latter work focuses on computational methodology, arguing for the superiority of using phylogenetic models with lexical characters over traditional approaches to subgrouping, whereas chapter 2 of this volume simply