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A grammar of Dhao: An endangered Austronesian language in Eastern Indonesia

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Stellingen bij het proefschrift

A Grammar of Dhao:
An Endangered Austronesian Language in Eastern Indonesia

Jermy Balukh

1. Notwithstanding its genetic relation to the Sumba-Hawu subgroup, Dhao grammar more and more moves into the areal typology of Timor.
2. The mismatch between the amount of participants in an event and the amount of arguments in a construction in Dhao requires semantic valency to be distinguished from constructional transitivity.
3. Dhao is unique in that it distinguishes subject indexing from object agreement.
4. Dhao has only one prefix; that is *pa-* which bears a variety of meanings and generates either intransitive, transitive, or even ditransitive constructions.
5. A language description is best appreciated when it is connected to its cultural context.
6. Language maintenance and revitalization ultimately depend on the community's resources.
7. Whereas linguists consider native speakers to be good language teachers, native speakers not always consider linguists to be good language learners.
8. In the context of Indonesia, each minority language is implicitly an endangered language, but an endangered language is not automatically a minority language.
9. It is the land with poor resources, and not the land with many resources, that teaches you how to survive.
10. When you eat in restaurants around Kupang and Rote, and you find fish without eyeballs, then they must come from Ndao.