

Austronesian Linguistics

[Alexander Adelaar](#)

- LAST REVIEWED: 09 AUGUST 2017
- LAST MODIFIED: 29 NOVEMBER 2017
- DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780199772810-0055

Introduction

Austronesian linguistics is the linguistic study of languages belonging to the Austronesian language family. The more than 1,200 Austronesian languages occupy a vast area. Traditionally, they are spoken in the Pacific in the area bounded by Hawaii in the northeast, Taiwan in the northwest, Easter Island in the southeast, New Zealand in the southwest, and Wallis Island in the south. In Southeast Asia they are spoken in the Philippines, in Brunei Darussalam, and in most parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, and East Timor. Minorities speaking Austronesian languages are also found in some regions in Vietnam, Kampuchea, southern Thailand, and coastal South Burma. Much farther to the west, speakers of Austronesian languages are found in Madagascar and the island of Mayotte (Comoros), along the East African coast. Australian languages, the Austro-Asiatic (Orang Asli) languages in the Malay Peninsula, and the Papuan languages in and around New Guinea do not belong to the Austronesian language family. Genetically, the Austronesian language family has several primary branches. Most of these consist of only one or several of the twenty or so Austronesian languages of Taiwan (the so-called Formosan languages). Only one branch, Malayo-Polynesian, includes all other Austronesian languages. Historically, the Austronesian language family is commonly believed to have originated in Taiwan, whence its members spread to other parts of Southeast Asia, to the Pacific, and to Madagascar (see [Blust 2013](#), cited under [Textbooks](#)).

Textbooks

The study of Austronesian linguistics has been greatly facilitated in the early 21st century by the appearance of some fairly comprehensive textbooks. One of the more recent of these, [Blust 2013](#), gives a solid overview of most fields of interest regarding Austronesian languages in general, with a slight bias toward historical linguistics. [Adelaar and Himmelmann 2011](#) and [Lynch, et al. 2002](#) also have historical information but are more typologically oriented and cover complementary parts of the Austronesian-speaking region. [Lynch 1998](#) is also limited in geographical scope, aiming at a wide readership and including Papuan languages.

- **Adelaar, Alexander, and Nikolaus P. Himmelmann, eds. 2011. *The Austronesian languages of Asia and Madagascar*. 2d ed. Routledge Language Family. London: Routledge.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A basic reference work and introduction to Austronesian languages outside the Pacific, emphasizing typological diversity.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 2013. *The Austronesian languages*. Rev. ed. A-PL 008. Open Access Monographs. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A basic reference work and introduction, treating the main aspects of synchronic linguistics (sound systems, lexicon, morphology, syntax) and historical linguistics (classification, sound change, reconstruction, culture history). It also gives information on the geography, demography, ecology, and sociolinguistics of Austronesian languages.

Find this resource:

- **Lynch, John. 1998. *Pacific languages: An introduction*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An elementary introduction for a wide readership to the Austronesian and non-Austronesian languages in the Pacific.

Find this resource:

- **Lynch, John, Malcolm Ross, and Terry Crowley. 2002. *The Oceanic languages*. Richmond, UK: Curzon.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A basic reference work and introduction to Austronesian languages in the Pacific, emphasizing typological diversity.

Find this resource:

Reference Works

The publications in this section are not limited to Austronesian languages but contain a wealth of easily accessible information concerning them. They are in fact indispensable for general orientation and as points of reference. [Simons and Fennig 2017](#) has the world's languages in its scope. [Wurm and Hattori 1981](#) and [Wurm and Hattori 1983](#) constitute a two-volume atlas of Pacific languages. [Wurm, et al. 1996](#) is an atlas with a wider geographic scope, focusing on contact languages. Both works contain extensive background information and useful references.

- **Charpentier, Jean-Michel, and Alexandre François. 2015. *Atlas linguistique de la Polynésie française / Linguistic atlas of French Polynesia*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.**

DOI: [10.1515/9783110260359](#)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A rich source of information regarding the languages of French Polynesia, including language history, sociolinguistic history, multilingualism, reference works, and publications dealing with flora and fauna. Maps are organized according to semantic taxonomy. Bilingual text.

Find this resource:

- **Simons, Gary F., and Charles D. Fennig, eds. 2017. *Ethnologue: Languages of the world*. 20th ed. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics International.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A general source of demographic, sociolinguistic, and classificatory information on all recorded languages.

Available [online](#) for purchase.

Find this resource:

- **Wurm, Stephen A., and Shiro Hattori, eds. 1981. *Language atlas of the Pacific area. Part 1, New Guinea area, Oceania, Australia*. Canberra: Australian Academy of the Humanities / Japan Academy.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A rich source of information about the location, demography, and classification of Austronesian languages in New Guinea and Oceania.

Find this resource:

- **Wurm, Stephen A., and Shiro Hattori, eds. 1983. *Language atlas of the Pacific area. Part 2, Japan area, Taiwan (Formosa), Philippines, mainland and insular South-East Asia*. Canberra: Australian Academy of the Humanities / Japan Academy.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A rich source of information about the location, demography, and classification of Austronesian languages in Asia and Madagascar.

Find this resource:

- **Wurm, Stephen A., Peter Mühlhäusler, and Darrell T. Tryon, eds. 1996. *Atlas of languages of intercultural communication in the Pacific, Asia and the Americas*. Berlin and New York: Mouton de Gruyter.**

DOI: [10.1515/9783110819724](#)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

Gives extensive information on the history, sociolinguistic role, and spread of Austronesian languages that have played a key role in language contact.

Find this resource:

Bibliographies

Many Austronesian-speaking regions lack adequate and up-to-date bibliographies. [Blust 2013](#) (cited under [Textbooks](#)) discusses various bibliographies dedicated to Austronesian languages. That information will not be repeated here but should be consulted in conjunction with the sources in this section, which complement it. Some of these sources are literature reviews rather than bibliographies, but their inclusion is motivated by the dearth of bibliographical information, especially for a region such as East Timor. Readers are also referred to [Lynch, et al. 2002](#) (cited under [Textbooks](#)) and to individual chapters in [Adelaar and Himmelmann 2011](#) (also cited under [Textbooks](#)) for up-to-date bibliographic information about various individual Austronesian languages.

Formosan Languages

[Li 1992](#) is reasonably complete up to the early 1990s; it is complemented by [Li 1995](#) and [Li 2001](#) up to 2001. [Tsuchida 2001](#) focuses on Japanese publications and a few references not mentioned elsewhere.

- **Li, Paul Jen-kuei. 1992. *The internal and external relationships of the Formosan languages*. Taipei: National Museum of Prehistory Planning Bureau.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The bibliographic information in this source is reasonably complete up to the early 1990s.

Find this resource:

- **Li, Paul Jen-kuei. 1995. The present state and prospects for research on Formosan aboriginal languages. In *Papers from the first Symposium on Taiwan Native Cultures*. 229–246. Taipei: National Taiwan Normal Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A literature survey complementing [Li 1992](#), with references until 1995. In Chinese, but the reference list can still be consulted for European titles by readers who do not know Chinese.

Find this resource:

- **Li, Paul Jen-kuei. 2001. Formosan languages: The state of the art. In *Austronesian Taiwan: Linguistics, history, ethnology, and prehistory*. Edited by David Blundell, 45–67. Berkeley, CA: Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A literature survey complementing [Li 1992](#) and [Li 1995](#), with references until 2001.

Find this resource:

- **Tsuchida, Shigeru. 2001. Japanese contribution to the linguistic studies of the Formosan indigenous languages. In *Austronesian Taiwan: Linguistics, history, ethnology, and prehistory*. Edited by David Blundell, 68–94. Berkeley, CA: Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Basically a survey of Japanese contributions until 2001. Overlaps with [Li 1992](#), [Li 1995](#), and [Li 2001](#), but not entirely.

Find this resource:

Other

[Blust and Smith 2014](#), [Edridge 1985](#), [Hull 1998](#), and [Johnson 1996](#) cover specific areas. [Polynesian Literature List](#) is somewhat unstructured and can best be used in conjunction with the bibliographical data provided in [Lynch, et al. 2002](#) (cited under [Textbooks](#)). The [Linguistic Bibliography / Bibliographie linguistique Online](#) and the [Summer Institute of Linguistics \(SIL\) Bibliography](#) are ongoing publications and include a wealth of information on Austronesian languages as part of a more general coverage. [References on Malagasy Language and Linguistics](#) is an extensive source without annotations.

- **Aarssen, Anne, Femmy Admiraal, René Genis, and Eline van der Veken, comps. and eds. [Linguistic Bibliography / Bibliographie linguistique Online](#). Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The section “The Languages of Southeast Asia, Oceania and Australia” covers Austronesian languages. It is part of a comprehensive linguistic bibliography that has been appearing annually since 1949 in book form. Not annotated. Available [online](#) by subscription.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A., and Alexander D. Smith. 2014. *A bibliography of the languages of Borneo (and Madagascar)*. Borneo Research Council Reference 2. Phillips, ME: Borneo Research Council.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Systematically presented and thoroughly annotated, especially regarding the languages of Borneo. With much general information on typology and history of the languages involved. The volume also includes literature on Sama-Bajau languages wherever they occur. Annotated.

Find this resource:

- **Edridge, Sally. 1985. *Solomon Islands bibliography to 1980*. Suva, Fiji: Institute of Pacific Studies.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Contains all publications regarding Solomon Islands languages until 1980. Annotated.

Find this resource:

- **Hull, Geoffrey. 1998. The languages of East Timor, 1772–1997: A literature review. In *Studies in languages and cultures of East Timor*. Vol. 1. Edited by Geoffrey Hull and Lance Eccles, 1–38. Campbelltown, Australia: Univ. of Western Sydney–Macarthur.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A detailed review of publications on East Timorese languages until 1997.

Find this resource:

- **Johnson, Rex E., comp. 1996. *A bibliography of Philippine linguistics*. Manila: Linguistic Society of the Philippines.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A substantial work incorporating eight preceding linguistic bibliographies and brought up to date to 1996. Primarily organized by author name, but with an alphabetic list of language names to retrieve specific publications with the help of codes referring to subject matter. Not annotated.

Find this resource:

- **Jonsson, Niklas, comp. [Polynesian Literature List](#). Stockholm: Univ. of Stockholm.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An unedited list of references up to 2001. Not annotated.

Find this resource:

- **Randriamasimanana, Charles. [References on Malagasy Language and Linguistics](#).**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An extensive but incomplete bibliography of Malagasy up to 2007. Not annotated.

Find this resource:

- **[Summer Institute of Linguistics \(SIL\) Bibliography](#).**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An online bibliography of publications and unpublished material from the Summer Institute of Linguistics since 1935. It is indexed according to country, subject, and author.

Find this resource:

Journals and Publication Series

The following journal and publication series are primary sources of Austronesian linguistics, although they also include other languages spoken in areas adjacent to the Austronesian region. [Oceanic Linguistics](#), [Oceanic Linguistics Special Publications](#), and [Pacific Linguistics](#) have the languages of insular Southeast Asia, the Pacific, and Australia in their scope. [Pusat Bahasa](#) publishes only on the languages of Indonesia. [NUSA](#) is mainly concerned with Indonesian languages; the series [PALI Language Texts](#) with Micronesian languages. There are various other sources for publications on Austronesian linguistics, but these do not focus in particular on Austronesian languages or on linguistics (see [Blust 2013](#), cited under [Textbooks](#), for an overview).

- **[NUSA](#).**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Publication series based on a joint cooperation between Atma Jaya University (Jakarta) and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Composed of collections of papers mainly dealing with Indonesian languages and organized around specific linguistic themes.

Find this resource:

- **[Oceanic Linguistics](#).**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The main journal for Austronesian, Papuan, and Australian linguistics, published by the University of Hawai'i Press.

Find this resource:

- **[Oceanic Linguistics Special Publications](#). Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A publication series with books on Austronesian, Papuan, and Australian linguistics, published by the University of Hawai'i Press.

Find this resource:

- **[Pacific Linguistics](#).**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The main publisher of linguistic books dealing with Southeast Asian, Oceanic, and Australian linguistics, located at the Australian National University, Canberra.

Find this resource:

- **[PALI Language Texts](#). Honolulu: Social Science Research Institute, Univ. of Hawai'i Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Linguistic series of the erstwhile Pacific and Asian Languages Institute at the University of Hawai'i. It issues mainly Austronesian language materials, with a bias toward Micronesian grammars and dictionaries.

Find this resource:

- [Pusat Bahasa.](#)

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The official Indonesian-language planning bureau, under the Jakarta Kementerian Pendidikan (Ministry of Education), and a publisher of books in Indonesian on Indonesian and the regional languages and literatures of Indonesia.

Find this resource:

Mailing Lists

[An-lang](#) serves those interested in the entire Austronesian linguistic field, and [SEALANG-L](#) serves those interested in languages of Southeast Asia. Many other lists are limited to individual languages or particular thematic areas of interest and are not cited here.

- [An-lang.](#)

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A list for the discussion of all matters related to Austronesian languages and linguistics, run by the Australian National University. Includes an archive.

Find this resource:

- [SEALANG-L.](#)

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A mailing list, archives, and library dedicated to Southeast Asian languages.

Find this resource:

Sourcebooks and Databases

The [Austronesian Basic Vocabulary Database](#) contains word lists for 1,479 languages in the Pacific region, most of which are Austronesian (databases involving etymological reconstructions are listed under [Etymological Sources](#)). It was created to facilitate a study of the Austronesian past, combining lexical data with biological phylogenetic methodology. [Greenhill, et al. 2008](#) is an explanation of this methodology and the purpose of this database. [Ogawa and Asai 1935](#) is a sourcebook for Formosan languages; this monumental work has had a great impact on the development of Formosan linguistics. [Tryon 1995](#) is a general sourcebook for Austronesian linguistics. Although somewhat uneven in its language descriptions, it provides easy access to many Austronesian languages and especially their basic vocabularies.

- [Austronesian Basic Vocabulary Database.](#)

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A database with 285,463 lexical items from 1,479 (mostly Austronesian) languages spoken throughout the Pacific region. Users are requested to refer to [Greenhill, et al. 2008](#).

Find this resource:

- **Greenhill, Simon J., Robert Blust, and Russell D. Gray. 2008. The Austronesian Basic Vocabulary Database: From bioinformatics to lexomics. *Evolutionary Bioinformatics* 4:271–283.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The authors try to study Austronesian linguistic history with the use of a Bayesian method developed in biological phylogenetics. To that effect, they have created an Austronesian Basic Vocabulary Database by collating word lists from more than five hundred Austronesian languages. In this article they explain the benefits of their approach.

Find this resource:

- **Ogawa, Naoyoshi, and Erin Asai. 1935. *The myths and traditions of the Formosan native tribes*. Taihoku, Japan: Taihoku Teikoku Daigaku Gengo-gaku Kenkyu-shitsu.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A classic in Formosan studies and still a rich data source for Formosan languages. In Japanese.

Find this resource:

- **Tryon, Darrell T., ed. 1995. *Comparative Austronesian dictionary: An introduction to Austronesian studies*. 5 vols. Trends in Linguistics Documentation 10. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.**

DOI: [10.1515/9783110884012](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A general introduction to Austronesian linguistics, with short descriptive chapters and substantial comparative word lists for eighty languages.

Find this resource:

Synchronic Linguistics

Scholarly publications about Austronesian linguistics can generally be divided into synchronic and diachronic studies, although there are admittedly some publications that do not fit that division.

General Typology

The following publications are typological surveys of various areas within the Austronesian-speaking region. [Lynch, et al. 2002](#) and [Ross 2004](#) cover the Oceanic subgroup, whereas [Himmelmann 2005](#) discusses the typological diversity in Austronesian languages outside the Pacific. [Reid and Liao 2004](#) deals with languages in the Philippines, and [Starosta 1988](#) and [Ross and Teng 2005](#).

- **Himmelmann, Nikolaus P. 2005. The Austronesian languages of Asia and Madagascar: Typological considerations. In *The Austronesian languages of Asia and Madagascar*. Edited by Alexander Adelaar and Nikolaus P. Himmelmann, 110–181. London and New York: Routledge.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An excellent introduction to the typological diversity of Austronesian languages outside the Pacific. Applying a basic division into symmetrical voice languages and preposed possessor languages, the author gives a compact overview of features typifying Austronesian languages in general and of features diverging from the general pattern.

Find this resource:

- **Lynch, John, Malcolm Ross, and Terry Crowley. 2002. *The Oceanic languages*. Richmond, UK: Curzon.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Chapter 3 in this reference work provides a good typological overview of Oceanic languages.

Find this resource:

- **Reid, Lawrence A., and Hsiu-chuan Liao. 2004. A brief syntactic typology of Philippine languages. *Language and Linguistics* 5.2: 433–490.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A concise and lucid overview of the similarities and differences between Philippine languages in their morphosyntactic makeup, proving the author's point that the typological unity of these languages is a fallacy.

Find this resource:

- **Ross, Malcolm D. 2004. The morphosyntactic typology of Oceanic languages. *Language and Linguistics* 5.2: 491–541.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A typological overview of the morphosyntax of Oceanic languages.

Find this resource:

- **Ross, Malcolm David, and Stacy Fang-Ching Teng. 2005. Formosan languages and linguistic typology. *Language and Linguistics* 6.4: 739–781.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Many studies tend to cast a Philippine analytical framework on the morphosyntax of Formosan languages. Ross and Teng describe this morphosyntax in its own right, enabling a more differentiated view of the structures of these languages.

Find this resource:

- **Starosta, Stanley. 1988. A grammatical typology of Formosan languages. *Bulletin of the Institute of History and Philology* 59.2: 541–576.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An early but still very useful first introduction to Formosan typology. Reprinted in *Formosan Linguistics: Stanley Starosta's Contributions*, edited by Elizabeth Zeitoun (Taipei: Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, 2009).

Find this resource:

Grammars

Reading grammars is an excellent way to get to know the languages of a certain genetic or typological group. The works in the first two subsections herein are some exemplary grammars representing languages spoken in the Oceanic and Non-Oceanic parts of the Austronesian region. They are selected on the basis of quality, thoroughness, and readability. Some [Classic Works](#) are listed separately.

Oceanic

The selection of grammars in this section also tries to reflect the regional diversity of Oceanic languages. This diversity is especially pronounced in Vanuatu, where 104 of the 506 Oceanic languages are spoken. [Bauer 1997](#) and [Mosel and Hovdhaugen 1992](#) are descriptions of Polynesian languages, and [Sohn 1975](#) describes a Micronesian language. [Bril 2002](#) is concerned with a language from New Caledonia; [Lichtenberk 2008](#), with a language from the Solomon Islands. [Malau 2016](#) and [François 2003](#) describe languages from Vanuatu.

- **Bauer, Winifred. 1997. *The Reed reference grammar of Māori*. Auckland, New Zealand: Reed.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A very complete and up-to-date grammar of a Polynesian language, written for a general audience. Concentrates on syntactic structures and makes clear that words can belong to various word classes. With useful references commenting on previous research.

Find this resource:

- **Bril, Isabelle. 2002. *Le nêlêmwa (Nouvelle-Calédonie): Analyse syntaxique et sémantique*. Collection Langues et Cultures du Pacifique 16. Dudley, MA: Peeters.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Excellent description of a New Caledonian language. Nêlêmwa is an ergative language with a complex deictic system and many possessive and numeral classifiers.

Find this resource:

- **François, Alexandre. 2003. *La sémantique du prédicat en mwotlap (Vanuatu)*. Collection Linguistique de la Société de Linguistique de Paris. Louvain, Belgium: Peeters.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A thorough description of Mwotlap (Motlav), a language from Motolava in the Banks Islands, Vanuatu, and part of the North Vanuatu linkage. Gives particular attention to tense, aspect, and mood markers.

Find this resource:

- **Lichtenberk, Frantisek. 2008. *A grammar of Toqabaqita*. 2 vols. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.**

DOI: [10.1515/9783110199062](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

With its 1,356 pages, this grammar of Toqabaqita (Malaita, Solomon Islands) is probably the most complete description of any Oceanic language. It also deals with discourse patterns and contact phenomena involving Solomon Islands Pijin.

Find this resource:

- **Malau, Catriona L. 2016. *A grammar of Vurës, Vanuatu*. Pacific Linguistics 651. Boston and Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.**

DOI: [10.1515/9781501503641](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The most comprehensive and accessible modern description of a language of North Vanuatu. It covers in great detail all structural areas of the language system and is written with a profound understanding of the language's cultural context. Vurës is morphologically very different from other languages in the area.

Find this resource:

- **Mosel, Ulrike, and Even Hovdhaugen. 1992. *Samoan reference grammar*. Oslo, Norway: Scandinavian Univ. Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A standard work dealing with the Tautala lelei (literary) variety of Samoan. Raises interesting questions about syntactic change. With information on the history and variety of Samoan.

Find this resource:

- **Sohn, Ho-min. 1975. *Woleaian reference grammar*. PALI Language Texts: Micronesia. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Probably the best description of a Micronesian language; Woleaian is a Trukese (Nuclear Micronesian) language. Written with a readership both of linguists and native speakers in mind. Focuses on the clause and its parts rather than on complex sentences.

Find this resource:

Non-Oceanic

As in the previous section, the choice of grammars that follow tries to reflect regional diversity. [Durie 1985](#), [Klamer 1998](#), [van den Berg and Busenitz 2012](#), and [van den Heuvel 2006](#) describe languages from different parts of Indonesia, each

with its own distinct typological features. [Ruffolo 2004](#) describes a northern Philippine language; [Zeitoun 2007](#), a Formosan language.

- **Durie, Mark. 1985. *A grammar of Acehnese on the basis of a dialect of North Aceh*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands, and Cinnaminson, NJ: Foris.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An influential first description of a split intransitive syntax (where S is marked in different ways depending on whether it controls the action, and these ways are analogous to A and O marking).

Find this resource:

- **Klamer, Marian. 1998. *A grammar of Kambera*. Mouton Grammar Library 18. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.**

DOI: [10.1515/9783110805536](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A thorough and clearly written description of a polysynthetic Central Malayo-Polynesian language (Sumba Island, Lesser Sundas, Indonesia). Kambera has a nominative/accusative argument structure with some interesting deviations. It makes use of ideophones in verbal morphology.

Find this resource:

- **Ruffolo, Roberta. 2004. *Topics in the morpho-syntax of Ibaloy, northern Philippines*. PhD diss., Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An excellent grammar in a modern typological framework, focusing on morphosyntax. Ibaloy is a southern Cordilleran language using ergative marking for its core complements.

Find this resource:

- **van den Berg, René, and Robert L. Busenitz. 2012. *A grammar of Balantak: A language of Eastern Sulawesi*. SIL E-book 40. Dallas: Digital Resources, SIL International.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A model grammar for its depth of analysis, didactic qualities, and transparency of style. Balantak is remarkable for its allomorphy in prefixes and suffixes, its spatial deixis, its unique benefactive-possessive construction, and its realis, irrealis, and gerund modes.

Find this resource:

- **van den Heuvel, Wilco. 2006. *Biak: Description of an Austronesian language of Papua*. PhD diss., Univ. of Amsterdam.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A comprehensive description of a Bird's Head language (Papua, Indonesia; belonging to the South Halmahera–West New Guinea subgroup). Also interesting because of its role as a trade language and because of the many changes it has undergone through contact with Papuan languages.

Find this resource:

- **Zeitoun, Elizabeth. 2007. *A grammar of Mantauran (Rukai)*. Taipei: Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The most thorough modern description of a Formosan language, using basic linguistic theory and a morpheme-based approach.

Find this resource:

Classic Works

These grammars are not new but are generally considered to be unsurpassed in their quality and abundance of information. [Esser 2011](#) and [van der Tuuk 1971](#) deal with Indonesian languages; [Vanoverbergh 1955](#) and [Schachter and Otnes 1972](#), with Philippine ones; and [Lichtenberk 1983](#), with an Oceanic language from Papua New Guinea. [Van der Tuuk 1971](#), [Esser 2011](#), and [Vanoverbergh 1955](#) are typical for their time (that is, the time they first appeared) in that they are weak in syntactic analysis.

- **Esser, Samuel J. 2011. *Phonology and morphology of Mori*. Translated by David Mead. Dallas: SIL International.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Basic structure of an eastern central Sulawesi language. Emphasis is on phonology, morphology, and parts of speech (less on syntax). The explanations and many illustrations in the original Dutch (1927–1933) were brought up to date with modern terminology, interlinearization, morpheme breaks, and detailed glossing.

Find this resource:

- **Lichtenberk, Frantisek. 1983. *A grammar of Manam*. Oceanic Linguistics Special Publications 18. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Very thorough grammar of a subject-object-verb (SOV) language spoken on Manam and Boesa Islands, off New Guinea's northern coast.

Find this resource:

- **Schachter, Paul, and Fe T. Otones. 1972. *Tagalog reference grammar*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Still the best grammar of Tagalog, a language that has had a great impact on Austronesian typological and historical linguistics.

Find this resource:

- **van der Tuuk, Herman N. 1971. *A grammar of Toba Batak*. Koninklijk Instituut van Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde Translation 13. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A rich data source, also for other Batak varieties (Sumatra, Indonesia). These varieties have attracted much interest because of their rich morphology and conservative structure. The original Dutch version (1864–1867) was the first systematic description of an Indonesian language on the basis of fieldwork and trying to avoid a European structural bias.

Find this resource:

- **Vanoverbergh, Morice. 1955. *Iloko grammar*. Baguio, Philippines: Catholic School Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A thorough description of a northern Philippine language. Its Eurocentric approach to grammar is vastly compensated by its descriptive precision and copious examples.

Find this resource:

Morphosyntax

Studies about morphosyntax in Austronesian languages are often preoccupied with voice and tend to concentrate on voice in Philippine languages (particularly Tagalog).

Voice

The questions that are discussed in relation to Austronesian voice include the following: What pragmatic rules are governing the use of voice in the various Austronesian languages? Is Austronesian voice part of an ergative system or a nominative-accusative system, or neither? Have West Indonesian voice systems evolved from Philippine-type ones, and, if so, how did that happen? Is the term “voice” even appropriate as a label for the kind of syntactic variation found in many western Austronesian languages? [Keenan 1976](#) and [Schachter 1976](#) are influential early papers in a volume edited by Charles Li that initiated a fundamental discussion in typological linguistics on the nature of subject, topic, and actor. [Foley 1998](#) and [Himmelmann 2008](#) discuss the connection between lexical categories and voice in Philippine languages. [Wouk and Ross 2002](#), [Arka and Ross 2005](#), and [Austin and Musgrave 2008](#) are collections of papers seeking to create a more variegated picture of Austronesian voice by investigating its applications in various individual languages. [Riesberg 2014](#) concentrates on symmetrical voice systems.

- **Arka, I Wayan, and Malcolm D. Ross, eds. 2005. *The many faces of Austronesian voice systems: Some new empirical studies*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Central in this volume are the questions as to how Austronesian voice differs from nominative-accusative and ergative voice systems, whether its differences entail differences in transitivity, and whether Austronesian languages have a subject comparable to the subject in English.

Find this resource:

- **Austin, Peter K., and Simon Musgrave, eds. 2008. *Voice and grammatical relations in Austronesian languages: Studies in constraint-based lexicalism*. Stanford, CA: CSLI.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The contributors to this volume use a constraint-based syntactic approach in their analysis of voice systems in various Austronesian languages. Each analysis is presented within the frameworks of lexical-functional grammar (LFG) and head-driven phrase structure grammar.

Find this resource:

- **Foley, William A. 1998. Symmetrical voice systems and precategoriality in Philippine languages. Paper presented at the workshop on Voice and Grammatical Functions in Austronesian Languages, LFG98, Brisbane, Australia.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Foley claims that Tagalog roots are precategorial (nouns and verbs are not distinguished) and that Philippine voice systems are symmetric (all verb forms are marked for voice, the agent is not demoted in nonagent voice, and various arguments—not just the undergoer—can become subject). He argues that both circumstances are related.

Find this resource:

- **Himmelmann, Nikolaus P. 2008. Lexical categories and voice in Tagalog. In *Voice and grammatical functions in Austronesian languages: Studies in constraint-based lexicalism*. Edited by Peter K. Austin and Simon Musgrave, 247–293. Stanford, CA: CSLI.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The author discusses the nature of lexical and syntactic categories (which he argues are distinct) and the meaning and lexical category of verbal roots (showing that they are not precategorial). “Precategorial” means not belonging to a particular word category.

Find this resource:

- **Keenan, Edward L. 1976. Remarkable subjects in Malagasy. In *Subject and topic*. Edited by Charles N. Li, 247–302. New York: Academic Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

On the nature of the subject in Malagasy. Malagasy is shown to be highly subject prominent, in contrast to Philippine languages. However, although it is not a typical topic-prominent language, it does have certain characteristic topic properties.

Find this resource:

- **Riesberg, Sonja. 2014. *Symmetrical voice and linking in western Austronesian Languages*. Pacific Linguistics 646. Boston and Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The author shows that Tagalog, Balinese, Totoli, and Indonesian represent various gradations of symmetrical voice, which she considers to be an alignment pattern in its own, along with ergativity and accusativity. She also attempts to modify LFG and role and reference grammar (RRG) to make them compatible with symmetrical alignment systems.

Find this resource:

- **Schachter, Paul. 1976. The subject in Philippine languages: Topic, actor, actor-topic, or none of the above? In *Subject and topic*. Edited by Charles N. Li, 491–518. New York: Academic Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A classic work that has had a great influence on the discussion of the nature of subjecthood in Philippine languages.

Find this resource:

- **Wouk, Fay, and Malcolm D. Ross, eds. 2002. *The history and typology of western Austronesian voice systems*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A collection of papers on voice presented at the Eighth International Conference of Austronesian Linguistics (Taipei, 1997) and the first in a series of collections attempting to study the phenomenon in all its variety. With typological and historical overviews and case studies of languages in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

Find this resource:

Other

Publications in this section concern other issues in Austronesian morphosyntax prominent in the early 21st century. [Bril and Ozanne-Rivierre 2004](#) and [Bril 2005](#) deal with Oceanic languages; the former discusses complex predicates, and the latter investigates developments in reciprocal and middle verbs. The papers in [Ewing and Klamer 2010](#) discuss argument structure and serial verbs in East Indonesia and East Timor. [Gil 1994](#) deals with the apparent lack of morphosyntactic marking in Riau Indonesian. [Himmelmann 2006](#) is about Tagalog verbal morphology, [Kaufman 2010](#) investigates the word class status of Tagalog nouns and verbs, and [Kroeger 1993](#) discusses Tagalog phrase structure and grammatical relations.

- **Bril, Isabelle. 2005. Semantic and functional diversification of reciprocal and middle prefixes in New Caledonian and other Austronesian languages. *Linguistic Typology* 9.1: 25–76.**

[DOI: 10.1515/lity.2005.9.1.25](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Follows the evolution of Oceanic *paRi- from its Proto-Austronesian ancestral form *paR-, which marked only reciprocity, to the many functions its reflexes have in the Oceanic languages. Their polysemy (particularly in New Caledonian languages) is a clear challenge to typological observations made in the past.

Find this resource:

- **Bril, Isabelle, and Françoise Ozanne-Rivierre, eds. 2004. *Complex predicates in Oceanic languages: Studies in the dynamics of binding and boundness*. Empirical Approaches to Language Typology 29. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An important source for the typology of serial verbs and complex predicates in Oceanic languages, not only regarding core serial constructions—which have noncontiguous sV(o)sV(o) nuclei—but also nuclear types of complex predicates (with sVV(o) nuclei).

Find this resource:

- **Ewing, Michael C., and Marian Klamer, eds. 2010. *East Nusantara: Typological and areal analyses*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Papers in this volume focus on argument structure and serial verbs in the Central Malayo-Polynesian languages of East Indonesia and East Timor.

Find this resource:

- **Gil, David. 1994. The structure of Riau Indonesian. *Nordic Journal of Linguistics* 17.2: 179–200.**

DOI: [10.1017/S0332586500003000](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

According to the author, in Riau Indonesian (Riau Islands, Indonesia), syntactic constructions and semantic categories lack overt morphosyntactic expression. In his analysis he argues for a single open syntactic category and unconstrained rules of semantic interpretation.

Find this resource:

- **Himmelman, Nikolaus P. 2006. How to miss a paradigm or two: Multifunctional *ma-* in Tagalog. In *Catching language*. Edited by Felix Ameka, Alan Dench, and Nicholas Evans, 487–527. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.**

DOI: [10.1515/9783110197693](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Many Tagalog affixes have several functions, which sometimes creates problems for their description. The author shows that *ma-* belongs to two different paradigms and marks stative as well as potentive verbs.

Find this resource:

- **Kaufman, Daniel. 2010. Austronesian nominalism and its consequences: A Tagalog case study. *Theoretical Linguistics* 35.1: 1–49.**

DOI: [10.1515/THLI.2009.001](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A very old question in Tagalog linguistics is whether there is a categorial difference between verbs and nouns. Kaufman gives a new take on the nominal nature of Tagalog verbs, and of Austronesian verbs in general, and receives responses from eight other linguists.

Find this resource:

- **Kroeger, Paul. 1993. *Phrase structure and grammatical relations in Tagalog*. Stanford, CA: CSLI.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

In various Tagalog syntactic constructions, information about grammatical relations interacts with information about phrase structure, semantic structure, and discourse structure. Kroeger emphasizes that the analysis of Tagalog is greatly helped by recognizing these various kinds of information as independent subsystems in the grammar.

Find this resource:

Phonology

There is no specific publication addressing the phonological variety of Austronesian languages. In an attempt to solve an issue that has been puzzling historical phonologists for more than a century, [Blust 1996](#) discusses irregular oral and prenasalized obstruent reflexes in Malayo-Polynesian languages, and [Ross 1988](#) does the same for Oceanic languages. [Blust 1997](#) treats some phonological phenomena involving nasality that are recurrent in Borneo (and regions to the west of Borneo). Robert Blust also deals with various other phonological phenomena in Austronesian languages; for an overview, see chapter 4 of [Blust 2013](#), cited under [Textbooks](#). [French 1988](#) is a compact analysis of various features in Tagalog phonology; this analysis is also relevant to Philippine languages more generally. [Hajek 2010](#) is a first step in the direction of a phonological overview of Austronesian languages in East Indonesia.

- **Blust, Robert A. 1996. The neogrammarian hypothesis and pandemic irregularity. In *The comparative method reviewed: Regularity and irregularity in language change*. Edited by Mark Durie and Malcolm Ross, 135–156. New York: Oxford Univ. Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Blust discusses irregular correspondences between simple and prenasalized intervocalic consonants in Malayo-Polynesian languages.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1997. Nasals and nasalization in Borneo. *Oceanic Linguistics* 36.1: 149–179.**

DOI: [10.2307/3623074](https://doi.org/10.2307/3623074)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

Discusses nasal harmony, nasal prelosion, and nasal postplosion in several languages spoken in Borneo and elsewhere.

Find this resource:

- **French, Koleen Matsuda. 1988. *Insights into Tagalog: Reduplication, infixation, and stress from nonlinear phonology*. Arlington: Univ. of Texas.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A short study of Tagalog phonology, using autosegmental theory to analyze reduplication and infixation and metrical grid theory to analyze stress. Addresses various issues also applying to Philippine languages in general, such as the phonemicity of initial glottal stops.

Find this resource:

- **Hajek, John T. 2010. Towards a phonological overview of the vowel and consonant systems of East Nusantara. In *East Nusantara: Typological and areal analyses*. Edited by Michael C. Ewing and Marian Klamer, 25–46. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

An overview of phoneme systems in East Indonesian languages.

Find this resource:

- **Ross, Malcolm D. 1988. *Proto Oceanic and the Austronesian languages of western Melanesia*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

Ross tackles the problem of irregular obstruent reflexes in the history of Oceanic languages. He rejects the split into oral and nasal grade reflexes (reflecting oral and prenasalized obstruents in Proto-Oceanic) and proposes instead a three-way obstruent split into oral lenis grade, oral fortis grade, and nasal grade.

Find this resource:

Prosody

Prosody in Austronesian languages remains a largely unexplored area of research. The following publications try to fill the gap, but they deal with only a very limited number of languages or are exploratory in nature. [Edmondson and Gregerson 1993](#) discusses tone and other forms of prosody in a wide variety of Austronesian languages. [Himmelmann 2010](#) discusses intonation in an East Timorese language; [van Heuven and van Zanten 2007](#), stress and intonation in various Indonesian languages; and [Howe 2017](#), tonogenesis in Central Malagasy. [Van Zanten, et al. 2010](#) gives a survey of stress patterns in Austronesian languages.

- **Edmondson, Jerold A., and Kenneth J. Gregerson, eds. 1993. *Tonality in Austronesian languages: Symposium on tonality; 6th International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics; Papers*. Papers presented at the sixth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics, held in May 1991 in Honolulu, HI. *Oceanic Linguistics Special Publication 24*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

About prosody in general. Topics include stress and accent in Philippine languages; tone, tonogenesis, and register in Chamic languages, North Huon Gulf languages, and New Caledonian languages; Madurese voicing and vowel height; Javanese phonation types; Proto-Micronesian prosody; and the possible relation between Austronesian final consonants and Old Chinese tonogenesis.

Find this resource:

- **Himmelmann, Nikolaus P. 2010. Notes on Waima'a intonational structure. In *East Nusantara: Typological and areal analyses*. Edited by Michael C. Ewing and Marian Klamer, 47–69. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

On intonation in Waima'a, an Austronesian language of East Timor.

Find this resource:

- **Howe, Penelope J. 2017. *Tonogenesis in Central dialects of Malagasy: Acoustic and perceptual evidence with implications for synchronic mechanisms of sound change*. PhD diss., Rice Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A phonetic study of Central Malagasy dialects, showing a phonological tone contrast in the process of replacing an earlier consonant-voicing contrast.

Find this resource:

- **van Heuven, Vincent J., and Ellen van Zanten. 2007. *Prosody in Indonesian languages*. LOT Occasional Series 9. Utrecht, The Netherlands: Landelijke Onderzoekschool Taalwetenschap.**
[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »
 Stress and intonation in Toba Batak, Court Javanese, Magey Matbat (a Raja Ampat language, West New Guinea), Manado Malay, Betawi Malay, and Kutai Malay.
Find this resource:
- **van Zanten, Ellen, Ruben Stoel, and Bert Remijsen. 2010. Stress patterns in Austronesian languages. In *A survey of word accentual patterns in the languages of the world*. Edited by Harry van der Hulst, Rob Goedemans, and Ellen van Zanten, 87–111. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.**
[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »
 A survey of stress patterns in Austronesian languages.
Find this resource:

Documentary Linguistics, Language Endangerment, and Revitalization

This is a fast-developing new area of linguistics, and language endangerment is as much a reality among Austronesian-speaking languages as it is elsewhere. [Adelaar 2011](#) is a reconstitution of the grammar and lexicon of a dormant Formosan language. [Florey 2010](#) and [Miyaoaka, et al. 2007](#) discuss the state of language vitality in the western and eastern parts of this region, respectively. Margaret Florey also includes a survey of the current documentation projects and activities. [Senft 2010](#) deals with the documentation, archiving, and revitalization of (mostly) Oceanic languages.

- **Adelaar, Alexander. 2011. *Siraya: Retrieving the phonology, grammar and lexicon of a dormant Formosan language*. Trends in Linguistics: Documentation 30. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.**
[DOI: 10.1515/9783110252965](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »
 A reconstitution of the grammar and lexicon of Siraya (West Taiwan) on the basis of a Siraya version of the Gospel of St. Matthew translated from the Dutch in 1662.
Find this resource:
- **Florey, Margaret, ed. 2010. *Endangered languages of Austronesia*. Oxford and New York: Oxford Univ. Press.**
[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »
 Language documentation and revitalization activities in western Austronesian regions and Vanuatu.
Find this resource:
- **Miyaoaka, Osahito, Osamu Sakiyama, and Michael E. Krauss. 2007. *The vanishing languages of the Pacific Rim*. Oxford and New York: Oxford Univ. Press.**
[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »
 On the state of languages around the Pacific Rim and possibilities to revitalize them.
Find this resource:
- **Senft, Gunter, ed. 2010. *Endangered Austronesian languages and Australian Aboriginal languages: Essays on language documentation, archiving and revitalization*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**
[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »
 Papers in this volume focus on documentation, archiving, and revitalization of mainly Oceanic languages.
Find this resource:

Comparative-Historical Linguistics

The diachronic study of Austronesian languages is well advanced in comparison with that of most other language families. Extensive work has been done on phonology, phonotactics, lexicon, morphosyntax, lexicosemantics, and culture history, not only for Proto-Austronesian, but also for lower-level protolanguages, especially in the Pacific.

General Textbooks

[Blust 2013](#) is a general introduction to Austronesian linguistics, covers a wide array of topics pertaining to Austronesian comparative-historical linguistics, and is particularly suited as an introduction. For those who read Russian, [Sirk 2008](#) gives an interestingly different perspective on various issues.

- **Blust, Robert A. 2013.** *The Austronesian languages*. Rev. ed. A-PL 008. Open Access Monographs. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A comprehensive presentation of all matters of importance in Austronesian comparative-historical linguistics, written by the most prominent scholar in the field.

Find this resource:

- **Sirk, Ülo H. 2008.** *Avstronezijskie jazyki: Vvedenie v sravnitel'no-istoricheskoe izuchenie*. Moscow: Izdatel'skaya Firma "Vostochnaya Literatura."

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Discusses the positions held by other scholars on various topical issues. In Russian.

Find this resource:

Foundational Works

Although there were various historical studies before Otto Dempwolff's ([Dempwolff 1934](#), [Dempwolff 1937](#), [Dempwolff 1938](#)), his systematic and comprehensive reconstruction of Proto-Malayo-Polynesian phonology became the basis of modern Austronesian linguistics soon after it was published. Note that although Dempwolff called his work a comparative phonology of Austronesian, it is in fact a comparative phonology of Malayo-Polynesian languages, since he did not make use of Formosan data. For earlier Austronesian historical linguistic studies as well as for the history of the discipline in general, see [Dahl 1976](#) (cited under [Sound Change](#)) and [Blust 2013](#) (cited under [Textbooks](#)).

- **Dempwolff, Otto. 1934.** *Vergleichende Lautlehre des Austronesischen Wortschatzes. Vol. 1, Induktiver Aufbau einer indonesischen Ursprache*. Beiheft zur Zeitschrift für Eingeborenen-Sprachen 15. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer.

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

First systematic reconstruction of Proto-Malayo-Polynesian phonology, on the basis of Tagalog, Toba Batak, and Javanese.

Find this resource:

- **Dempwolff, Otto. 1937.** *Vergleichende Lautlehre des Austronesischen Wortschatze. Vol. 2, Deduktive Anwendung des Urindonesischen auf austronesische Einzelsprachen*. Beiheft zur Zeitschrift für Eingeborenen-Sprachen 17. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer.

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The reconstruction in [Dempwolff 1934](#) is reinforced with evidence from eight more languages.

Find this resource:

- **Dempwolff, Otto. 1938.** *Vergleichende Lautlehre des Austronesischen Wortschatzes. Vol. 3, Austronesisches Wörterverzeichnis*. Beiheft Zeitschrift für Eingeborenen-Sprachen 19. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer.

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Proto-Malayo-Polynesian lexicon, which is the spinoff of Dempwolff's phonological study. Of historical interest only.

Find this resource:

Subgrouping and Reconstruction

The genetic classification of Austronesian languages has been an ongoing activity. Blust has been most involved in it, and again, his textbook ([Blust 2013](#), cited under [Textbooks](#)) is recommended as a good introduction to the matter. As discussed in the [Introduction](#) of this article, it appears that at the top of the genetic tree the twenty-odd Formosan languages belong to several primary branches of Austronesian, whereas all non-Formosan languages are descended from a single other primary branch, Malayo-Polynesian. It is also clear that further down the tree, the East Malayo-Polynesian languages form a single subgroup with two branches (Oceanic and the North Halmahera–West New Guinea group), the inner articulations of which are well sorted out. Other subgroups have a less solid basis. West Malayo-Polynesian is particularly ill defined and needs much further empirical support, since it basically includes all Malayo-Polynesian languages that do not belong to Central-East Malayo-Polynesian. As well, the Central-East Malayo-Polynesian and Central Malayo-Polynesian subgroups remain controversial and have not met general acceptance among Austronesianists.

Proto-Austronesian

The publications in this subsection deal with Proto-Austronesian phonology and morphosyntax. For lexical reconstructions, see Blust's [Austronesian Comparative Dictionary](#) (cited under [Etymological Sources](#)). [Lemaréchal 2010](#) points to structural incongruities between Proto-Austronesian and Formosan languages. [Wolff 1973](#) was the first study to reconstruct the Proto-

Austronesian verb system, which had four voices and looked much like the verb system of a Philippine language, such as Tagalog. [Ross 2009](#) is basically a further refinement of this system. [Starosta, et al. 2009](#), on the other hand, reconstructs a system in which the verbal affixes that in early-21st-century languages are considered voice affixes (or in some analyses applicative affixes) were originally noun-deriving affixes and are still maintained as such in languages across the family.

- **Lemaréchal, Alain. 2010. *Comparative grammar and typology: Essays on historical grammar of the Austronesian languages*. Orbis Supplementa 35. Louvain, Belgium: Peeters.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The author revisits certain aspects of Proto-Austronesian grammar (person markers, the voice system, sentence structure). He concludes that from the perspective of grammaticalization theory, these are hard to reconcile with the grammars of present-day Formosan languages.

Find this resource:

- **Ross, Malcolm D. 2009. Proto-Austronesian verbal morphology: A reappraisal. In *Austronesian historical linguistics and culture history: A Festschrift for Robert Blust*. Edited by Alexander Adelaar and Andrew K. Pawley, 295–326. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A detailed reconstruction of Proto-Austronesian and Proto-Nuclear Austronesian verbal morphology. The author distinguishes four primary branches of Austronesian: Puyuma, Rukai, Tsou, and Nuclear Austronesian (the last is considered ancestral to all other Austronesian languages).

Find this resource:

- **Starosta, Stanley, Andrew K. Pawley, and Lawrence A. Reid. 2009. The evolution of focus in Austronesian. In *Formosan linguistics: Stanley Starosta's contributions*. Edited by Elizabeth Zeitoun, 329–481. Taipei: Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The authors argue that the so-called focus or voice systems of many western Austronesian languages were not present in Proto-Austronesian but developed after the noun-deriving affixes of Proto-Austronesian were reinterpreted as verbal affixes. An abridged version of this influential paper had already appeared in 1982.

Find this resource:

- **Wolff, John U. 1973. Verbal inflection in Proto-Austronesian. In *Parangal Kay Cecilio Lopez: Essays in honor of Cecilio Lopez on his seventy-fifth birthday*. Edited by Andrew B. Gonzalez, 71–91. Quezon City: Linguistic Society of the Philippines.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The first systematic attempt to reconstruct Proto-Austronesian verbal morphology.

Find this resource:

Formosan

Because Formosan languages are derived from several first-order branches of Proto-Austronesian, they have an added value for the reconstruction of Proto-Austronesian—in contrast to other Austronesian languages, which supposedly all derive from one single branch. Their special position in the classification of Austronesian languages is largely uncontested. However, questions remained as to the number of first-order branches they represent (a single branch or several ones) and whether they subgroup with Philippine languages at a very high genetic node. Blust ([Blust 1995](#), [Blust 1999](#)) goes a long way to show that there are many Formosan branches and that they are genetically distinct from the Malayo-Polynesian languages (and that all Philippine languages belong to the latter). On the basis of strictly phonological evidence, he arrives at ten first-order Austronesian branches, nine of which are Formosan, and one is the Malayo-Polynesian branch. [Sagart 2004](#) considers the Tai-Kadai languages as a branch of Austronesian. [Zeitoun and Huang 2000](#) concentrates on a particular aspect of Formosan verb derivation.

- **Blust, Robert A. 1995. The position of the Formosan languages: Methods and theory in Austronesian comparative linguistics. In *Austronesian studies relating to Taiwan*. Edited by Paul Jen-kuei Li, et al., 585–650. Taipei: Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The author shows inherent flaws in the lexical evidence that has been presented for a Formosan-Philippine subgroup as well as for a single Formosan primary branch within Austronesian. He argues that lexical evidence inherently lacks directionality, in contrast to phonological evidence.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1999. Subgrouping, circularity and extinction: Some issues in Austronesian comparative linguistics. Paper presented at the eighth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics, held 28–30 December 1997 at the Academia Sinica, Taipei. In *Selected papers from the eighth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics*.**

Edited by Elizabeth Zeitoun and Paul Jen-kuei Li, 31–94. Symposium Series of the Institute of Linguistics. Taipei: Academia Sinica.

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The author discusses some of the problems inherent in lexical and typological subgrouping criteria. He classifies Austronesian languages in ten primary branches (nine Formosan branches and Malayo-Polynesian), using phonological evidence only.

Find this resource:

- **Sagart, Laurent. 2004. The higher phylogeny of Austronesian and the position of Tai-Kadai. *Oceanic Linguistics* 43.2: 411–444.**

DOI: [10.1353/ol.2005.0012](https://doi.org/10.1353/ol.2005.0012) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A main reference to Sagart's numeral-based classification of Formosan languages and to the proposal that the Tai-Kadai languages are a branch of Austronesian coordinate with Malayo-Polynesian branch.

Find this resource:

- **Zeitoun, Elizabeth, and Lillian M. Huang. 2000. Concerning *ka-*, an overlooked marker of verbal derivation in Formosan languages. *Oceanic Linguistics* 39.2: 391–414.**

DOI: [10.1353/ol.2000.0023](https://doi.org/10.1353/ol.2000.0023) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The author demonstrates that the Austronesian causative prefix *paka- actually consists of the causative prefix *pa- followed by the stative prefix *ka-. Available [online](#) through purchase.

Find this resource:

Oceanic

The classification of Oceanic languages is generally worked out in greater detail than that of other Austronesian subgroups, especially since the appearance of [Ross 1988](#), which is also a good starting point for further reading. [Chung 1978](#) is a historical and typological approach to Polynesian syntax. [Evans 2003](#) investigates Proto-Oceanic verb classes and how they could change their valency. [Geraghty 1983](#) is probably the best dialect geography of an Austronesian region, showing how the internal subgrouping of these languages changed because of dialect realignments. [Kikusawa 2002](#) offers a historical explanation for the occurrence of ergative and accusative pronoun systems in central Pacific languages. [Pawley 1973](#) and [Clark 1976](#) provide the first reconstructions of Proto-Oceanic and Proto-Polynesian morphosyntax, respectively.

- **Chung, Sandra. 1978. *Case marking and grammatical relations in Polynesian languages*. Austin: Univ. of Texas Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Deals with syntax both from a typological and historical perspective.

Find this resource:

- **Clark, Ross. 1976. *Aspects of Proto-Polynesian syntax*. Te Reo Monographs. Auckland: Linguistic Society of New Zealand.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The first extensive reconstruction of Proto-Polynesian morphosyntax.

Find this resource:

- **Evans, Bethwyn. 2003. *A study of valency-changing devices in Proto Oceanic*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Discusses the system of verb classes in Proto-Oceanic and some of the valency-changing devices it possessed.

Find this resource:

- **Geraghty, Paul. 1983. *The history of the Fijian languages*. Oceanic Linguistics Monograph 19. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A dialect geography of Fiji. Although it was previously believed that Fijian languages form a subgroup with Polynesian languages and possibly Rotuman (called Central Oceanic), Geraghty shows that only eastern Fijian varieties subgroup with Polynesian and that after their split a partial resynthesis of all Fijian dialects has taken place.

Find this resource:

- **Kikusawa, Ritsuko. 2002. *Proto Central Pacific ergativity: Its reconstruction and development in the Fijian, Rotuman and Polynesian languages*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Some central Pacific languages have an ergative pronoun system; others have an accusative one. The author argues that the ergative system is a Proto Central Pacific retention, and shows how it must have developed into an accusative system.

Find this resource:

- **Pawley, Andrew. 1973. Some problems in Proto Oceanic grammar. In *Special issue: Papers of the first International Conference on Comparative Austronesian Linguistics, 1974: Oceanic*. *Oceanic Linguistics* 12.1–2: 103–188.**

DOI: [10.2307/3622854](https://doi.org/10.2307/3622854)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The first reconstruction of Proto-Oceanic morphosyntax.

Find this resource:

- **Ross, Malcolm D. 1988. *Proto Oceanic and the Austronesian languages of western Melanesia*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A landmark study improving the classification of Oceanic languages and the reconstruction of Proto-Oceanic phonology and grammar. It also establishes Western Oceanic as a “linkage” (a collection of languages united by overlapping innovations).

Find this resource:

Central and Eastern Malayo-Polynesian

Blust ([Blust 1978](#), [Blust 1993](#)) proposed the Central and East Malayo-Polynesian subgroups as branches of a higher-order subgroup called Central-East Malayo-Polynesian. East Malayo-Polynesian in turn splits into the Oceanic languages and the South Halmahera–West New Guinea subgroup (including the Austronesian languages of South Halmahera and West New Guinea). East Malayo-Polynesian has generally found acceptance, but Central Malayo-Polynesian and Central-East Malayo-Polynesian are controversial. This is clearly demonstrated by the rejection of the latter two in [Donohue and Grimes 2008](#), and the reply in [Blust 2009](#). At a much-lower classificatory level, [Collins 1983](#) investigates the internal relationships between some (Central Malayo-Polynesian) languages in the Central-East Maluku area. It demonstrates the benefits of combining historical linguistic data with sociohistorical evidence.

- **Blust, Robert A. 1978. Eastern Malayo-Polynesian: A subgrouping argument. In *Second International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics: Proceedings, fascicle I, western Austronesian*. Edited by Stephen A. Wurm and Lois Carrington, 181–234. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

An argument is made for Eastern Malayo-Polynesian as a genetic subgroup including the Oceanic languages and the languages of South Halmahera and West New Guinea.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1993. Central and Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian. *Oceanic Linguistics* 32.2: 241–293.**

DOI: [10.2307/3623195](https://doi.org/10.2307/3623195)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

New evidence is presented for two earlier proposed subgroups, Central Malayo-Polynesian (consisting of languages in the Lesser Sundas and Moluccas) and Central-East Malayo-Polynesian (a higher-order group having the Central and East Malayo-Polynesian subgroups as its main branches).

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 2009. The position of the languages of eastern Indonesia: A reply to Donohue and Grimes. *Oceanic Linguistics* 48.1: 36–77.**

DOI: [10.1353/ol.0.0034](https://doi.org/10.1353/ol.0.0034)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The author refutes the arguments in [Donohue and Grimes 2008](#) against the Central Malayo-Polynesian and Central-East Malayo-Polynesian subgroups.

Find this resource:

- **Collins, James T. 1983. *The historical relationships of the languages of Central Maluku, Indonesia*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The author investigates the classification of some language groups in the Nunusaku branch of Central-East Maluku (Moluccan), using the comparative method in conjunction with morphosyntactic data and sociohistorical evidence.

Find this resource:

- **Donohue, Mark, and Charles E. Grimes. 2008. Yet more on the position of the languages of eastern Indonesia and East Timor. *Oceanic Linguistics* 47.1: 114–158.**

DOI: [10.1353/ol.0.0008](https://doi.org/10.1353/ol.0.0008)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The authors argue that there is no compelling phonological, morphosyntactic, or lexical basis for the Central Malayo-Polynesian and Central-East Malayo-Polynesian subgroups. They point out the dangers of ignoring factors such as geography, contact, and borrowing in language classification.

Find this resource:

Philippine Languages

Philippine languages are classified as West Malayo-Polynesian. However, as indicated in Central and Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, the latter is not a sufficiently tested subgroup but basically a remainder category of unclassified Malayo-Polynesian languages. [Blust 1991](#) contends that Philippine languages form a subgroup together with some of the languages of North Sulawesi. [Reid 1992](#) is about the history of aspect in two Philippine languages. [Reid 2016](#) is a pronominal reconstruction and a refutation of [Blust 1991](#). [Sneddon 1978](#) is the reconstruction of a protolanguage on the basis of the Minahasa languages, which are considered to be Philippine languages.

- **Blust, Robert A. 1991. The Greater Central Philippines hypothesis. *Oceanic Linguistics* 30.2: 73–129.**

[DOI: 10.2307/3623084](#)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

It is argued that many Philippine languages are descended from Proto Greater Central Philippines, an ancestral language primarily characterized by the merger of *R and *g to g. This language underwent much territorial expansion, wiping out an older linguistic diversity and causing neighboring languages to change *R to g.

Find this resource:

- **Reid, Lawrence A. 1992. On the development of the aspect system in some Philippine languages. *Oceanic Linguistics* 31.1: 65–91.**

[DOI: 10.2307/3622966](#)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

An account of the development of aspect and voice systems in Tagalog and Ilocano, showing that whereas Ilocano has maintained the Proto-Austronesian tense-aspect system, with relatively few changes, Tagalog has undergone considerable restructuring, ultimately as the result of the loss of geminate consonants.

Find this resource:

- **Reid, Lawrence A. 2016. Accounting for variability in Malayo-Polynesian pronouns: Paradigmatic instability or drift? *Journal of Historical Linguistics* 6.2: 130–164.**

[DOI: 10.1075/jhl.6.2.01rei](#)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

Using evidence from Philippine languages in relic areas, the author reconstructs distinct Proto-Malayo-Polynesian pronouns for the first-person inclusive plural and the first-person inclusive dual. He challenges the hypothesis in [Blust 1991](#) that this distinction is the result of drift.

Find this resource:

- **Sneddon, James N. 1978. *Proto-Minahasan: Phonology, morphology and wordlist*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The reconstruction of the phonology and morphology of Proto-Minahasan (North Sulawesi, Indonesia).

Find this resource:

Other

Together with the Philippine languages, all the languages in this section belong to the West Malayo-Polynesian category. Several chapters in [Wouk and Ross 2002](#) discuss the histories of West Indonesian voice systems. [Mahdi 1988](#) gives (among others) a detailed overview of the phonological history of Malagasy. [Blust 2007](#), [Blust 2010](#), [Edwards 2015](#), and [Mead 2017](#) are subgrouping proposals. [Adelaar 1992](#), [Nothofer 1975](#), and [Thurgood 1999](#) are primarily reconstructions of protolanguages.

- **Adelaar, K. Alexander. 1992. *Proto-Malayic: A reconstruction of its phonology and part of its morphology and lexicon*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

Reconstruction of the language ancestral to Malay and other Malayic varieties, such as Minangkabau and Iban. As the hegemonic language in insular Southeast Asia for at least a millennium and a half, Malay has had an inordinately large influence on other languages in the region.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 2007. The linguistic position of Sama-Bajaw. *Studies in Philippine Languages and Cultures* 15:73–114.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

On the basis of phonological and lexical evidence, Blust classifies the Sama-Bajaw languages as a branch of the East Barito subgroup in South Borneo.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 2010. The Greater North Borneo hypothesis. *Oceanic Linguistics* 49.1: 44–118.**

DOI: [10.1353/ol.0.0060](https://doi.org/10.1353/ol.0.0060)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The author argues that the languages of Borneo (minus the Barito and Tamanic languages) form a large genetic subgroup also including Malayo-Chamic, Moken, Rejang, and Sundanese within West Malayo-Polynesian.

Find this resource:

- **Edwards, Owen. 2015. The position of Enggano within Austronesian. *Oceanic Linguistics* 54.1: 54–109.**

DOI: [10.1353/ol.2015.0001](https://doi.org/10.1353/ol.2015.0001)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The author uses sound correspondences, morphology, and lexicon to show that Enggano (spoken on Enggano Island off Sumatra's west coast) should be classified as a separate branch of Malayo-Polynesian. Previous attempts at subgrouping this classificatory highly problematic language were often based on lexical evidence only.

Find this resource:

- **Mahdi, Waruno. 1988. *Morphophonologische Besonderheiten und historische Phonologie des Malagasy*. Veröffentlichungen des Seminars für Indonesische und Südseesprachen der Universität Hamburg 20. Berlin and Hamburg, Germany: Dietrich Reimer.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The history of Malagasy against an alternative interpretation of Austronesian history and classification. Includes a historical phonology of Malagasy and a discussion of some interesting aspects of Malagasy morphology.

Find this resource:

- **Mead, David. 2017. *Classification of Sulawesi Languages*. Sulawesi Language Alliance.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

There are ten linguistic subgroups in Sulawesi. Critical phonological evidence is presented for an encompassing Sulawesi language group including six of these, while excluding the Gorontalic, Sangiric, and Minahasan languages in the north, and the South Sulawesi languages in the south.

Find this resource:

- **Nothofer, Bernd. 1975. *The reconstruction of Proto-Malayo-Javanic*. Verhandelingen van het KITLV 73. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A phonological reconstruction of the putative stock language common to Malay, Javanese, Sundanese, and Madurese.

Find this resource:

- **Thurgood, Graham. 1999. *From ancient Cham to modern dialects: Two thousand years of language contact and change*. Oceanic Linguistics Special Publications 28. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A classification of Chamic languages (including Acehnese) and a reconstruction of Proto-Chamic. With due attention to historical setting, the tendency toward monosyllabism, and the origins of registers and tones.

Find this resource:

- **Wouk, Fay, and Malcolm D. Ross, eds. 2002. *The history and typology of western Austronesian voice systems*. Pacific Linguistics 518. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

Includes several chapters dealing with the historical development of Austronesian voice.

Find this resource:

External Classifications

There are various subgrouping theories involving Austronesian as a constituent branch, many of which are discussed in [Blust 2013](#). Updated versions of the most-current theories are presented in some detail in [Sagart, et al. 2005](#). [Ostapirat 2005](#) and [Peiros 1998](#) propose various theories involving phylogenetic relationships between Austronesian and other language families. [Reid 2005](#) is a critique of some evidence published in support of a genetic link between Austronesian and Austro-Asiatic; note that Lawrence Reid is concerned with the nature of the evidence, not with the link as such, which he generally supports.

- **Blust, Robert A. 2013. *The Austronesian languages*. Rev. ed. A-PL 008. Open Access Monographs. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

Chapter 10 includes a critical overview of various external classifications that have been proposed.

Find this resource:

- **Ostapirat, Weera. 2005. Krai-Dai and Austronesian: Notes on phonological correspondences and vocabulary distribution.** In *The peopling of East Asia: Putting together archaeology, linguistics and genetics*. Edited by Laurent Sagart, Roger Blench, and Alice Sanchez-Mazas, 107–131. London: RoutledgeCurzon.

DOI: [10.4324/9780203343685](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203343685)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

Adduces solid phonological evidence for a historical link between Austronesian and Krai-Dai (Tai-Kadai) languages.

Find this resource:
- **Peiros, Iliá. 1998. *Comparative linguistics in Southeast Asia*.** Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

Peiros proposes an Austric language family with two primary branches, one combining Austronesian with Tai, and the other combining Austro-Asiatic with Miao-Yao. His method is based on an advanced application of lexicostatistics, combining it with qualitative research and avoiding the distorting effects of loanwords.

Find this resource:
- **Reid, Lawrence A. 2005. The current status of Austric: A review and evaluation of the lexical and morphosyntactic evidence.** In *The peopling of East Asia: Putting together archaeology, linguistics and genetics*. Edited by Laurent Sagart, Roger Blench, and Alice Sanchez-Mazas, 134–162. London: RoutledgeCurzon.

DOI: [10.4324/9780203343685](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203343685)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A critical evaluation of some evidence for the hypothesis that Austronesian and Austro-Asiatic are related.

Find this resource:
- **Sagart, Laurent, Roger Blench, and Alice Sanchez-Mazas, eds. 2005. *The peopling of East Asia: Putting together archaeology, linguistics and genetics*.** London and New York: RoutledgeCurzon.

DOI: [10.4324/9780203343685](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203343685)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

An update of linguistic, genetic, and archaeological research on the origins of East Asian peoples and their mutual affiliations.

Find this resource:

Language Contact

Contact between languages is a main motivation for linguistic change. Toward the end of the 20th century, the insight became established that contact phenomena should be integrated systematically in historical linguistics. [Adelaar 2009](#) offers an example of phonological and lexical changes in an Austronesian language owing to contact with many other languages at several discernible stages of its history. The papers in [Dutton and Tryon 1994](#) deal with these phenomena in various Austronesian regions. [Ross 2007](#) discusses particular contact phenomena. See also [Geraghty 1983](#) (cited under [Subgrouping and Reconstruction: Oceanic](#)), which deals with language convergence on the Fiji Islands.

- **Adelaar, Alexander. 2009. Loanwords in Malagasy.** In *Loanwords in the world's languages: A comparative handbook*. Edited by Martin Haspelmath and Uri Tadmor, 717–746. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.

DOI: [10.1515/9783110218442](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110218442)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

On loanwords in Malagasy and the phonological effects of contact with other Austronesian languages, Bantu languages, and European languages.

Find this resource:
- **Dutton, Tom, and Darrell T. Tryon, eds. 1994. *Language contact and change in the Austronesian world*.** Trends in Linguistics: Studies and Monographs 77. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

DOI: [10.1515/9783110883091](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110883091)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A collection of papers investigating language contact in Austronesian areas.

Find this resource:
- **Ross, Malcolm D. 2007. Calquing and metatypy.** *Journal of Language Contact* 1.1: 116–143.

DOI: [10.1163/000000007792548341](https://doi.org/10.1163/000000007792548341)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

On calquing and metatypy (syntactic restructuring) as a contact-induced process.

Find this resource:

Lexical Studies

The papers in this section deal with Proto-Austronesian lexicon in different ways. [Dyen 1965](#) is an exercise in lexicostatistics, and [Marck 2000](#) is important for its discussion of lexicon pertaining to cosmogony and kinship terminology. The papers in [Pawley and Ross 1994](#) are mainly historical accounts of taxonomic systems in various languages. [Ross, et al.](#)

[1998](#); [Ross, et al. 2003](#); [Ross, et al. 2008](#), [Ross, et al. 2011](#); and [Ross, et al. 2016](#) are encyclopedic accounts of the Proto-Oceanic lexicon pertaining to material culture, the physical environment, plants, animals, and humans (body and mind).

- **Dyen, Isidore. 1965. *A lexicostatistical classification of the Austronesian languages*. Indiana Univ. Publications in Anthropology and Linguistics. Baltimore: Waverly.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A thorough application of the lexicostatistical method on a large number of Austronesian languages. Its weaknesses became apparent soon after it was published because some of the ensuing homeland and subgrouping theories were untenable. Of historical interest only.

Find this resource:

- **Marck, Jeffrey. 2000. *Topics in Polynesian language and culture history*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A reassessment of the phonological history and classification of Polynesian languages and an analysis of Polynesian lexicon pertaining to cosmogony and kinship.

Find this resource:

- **Pawley, Andrew K., and Malcolm D. Ross, eds. 1994. *Austronesian terminologies: Continuity and change*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A collection of twenty-one papers on terminologies and taxonomical systems in Austronesian languages and protolanguages. Discussed are terms pertaining to botany, zoology, kinship, rice agriculture, terrace building, food preparation, the physical environment, and cultural history in general.

Find this resource:

- **Ross, Malcolm D., Andrew K. Pawley, and Meredith Osmond. 1998. *The lexicon of Proto Oceanic: The culture and environment of ancestral Oceanic society*. Vol. 1, *Material culture*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A rich account of Proto-Oceanic material cultural items and their names, provided with explanations, background information, and illustrations.

Find this resource:

- **Ross, Malcolm D., Andrew K. Pawley, and Meredith Osmond. 2003. *The lexicon of Proto Oceanic: The culture and environment of ancestral Oceanic society*. Vol. 2, *The physical environment*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A rich account of the Proto-Oceanic physical environment, provided with explanations, background information, and maps.

Find this resource:

- **Ross, Malcolm D., Andrew K. Pawley, and Meredith Osmond. 2008. *The lexicon of Proto Oceanic: The culture and environment of ancestral Oceanic society*. Vol. 3, *Plants*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A rich account of Proto-Oceanic plant names, provided with explanations, background information, and illustrations.

Find this resource:

- **Ross, Malcolm D., Andrew K. Pawley, and Meredith Osmond. 2011. *The lexicon of Proto Oceanic: The culture and environment of ancestral Oceanic society*. Vol. 4, *Animals*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A rich account of Proto-Oceanic animal names, provided with explanations, background information, and illustrations.

Find this resource:

- **Ross, Malcolm D., Andrew K. Pawley, and Meredith Osmond. 2016. *The lexicon of Proto Oceanic: The culture and environment of ancestral Oceanic society*. Vol. 5, *People, body and mind*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A rich account of Proto-Oceanic vocabulary pertaining to humans (their body and mind), provided with explanations, background information, and illustrations.

Find this resource:

Sound Change

Otto Dahl ([Dahl 1976](#), [Dahl 1981](#)), Blust ([Blust 2013](#)), and Wolff ([Wolff 2010](#)) take the foremost positions in the study of sound change in Austronesian languages. [Sneddon 1993](#) discusses the tendency in Sulawesi languages to develop open final syllables.

- **Blust, Robert A. 1990. Patterns of sound change in the Austronesian languages. In *Linguistic change and reconstruction methodology*. Edited by Philip Baldi, 231–267. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.**
[DOI: 10.1515/9783110886092](#)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)
The author points out salient types of sound changes in the daughter languages of Proto-Austronesian and Proto-Malayo-Polynesian. He also discusses the correlation between sound change and geography and the meaning of the regularity hypothesis in Austronesian historical phonology.
Find this resource:
- **Blust, Robert A. 2013. *The Austronesian languages*. Rev. ed. A-PL 008. Open Access Monographs. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics, Australian National Univ.**
[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)
Chapter 9 is a substantial account of sound change in Austronesian languages.
Find this resource:
- **Dahl, Otto Christian. 1976. *Proto-Austronesian*. 2d ed. Scandinavian Institute of Asian Studies Monograph 15. London: Curzon.**
[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)
A thorough evaluation of the Proto-Austronesian phoneme reconstructions made by Dyen (basically written in defense of [Dempwolff 1934](#), [Dempwolff 1937](#), and [Dempwolff 1938](#), all cited under [Foundational Works](#)). Although rather technical and a bit outdated, this text also gives much insight into the history of Austronesian historical studies and issues debated in the 1970s.
Find this resource:
- **Dahl, Otto Christian. 1981. *Early phonetic and phonemic changes in Austronesian*. Oslo, Norway: Universitetsforlaget.**
[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)
A further evaluation of Proto-Austronesian phonemes, more advanced than [Dahl 1976](#). Focusing on phonology only.
Find this resource:
- **Sneddon, James N. 1993. The drift towards open final syllables in Sulawesi languages. *Oceanic Linguistics* 32.1: 1–44.**
[DOI: 10.2307/3623095](#)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)
A survey of the tendency in Sulawesi languages to lose final consonants or to add final vowels, demonstrating that open final syllables have developed relatively recently and are not critical for subgrouping.
Find this resource:
- **Wolff, John U. 2010. *Proto-Austronesian phonology with glossary*. 2 vols. Ithaca, NY: Southeast Asia Program Publications, Cornell Univ.**
[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)
A reconstruction of Proto-Austronesian phonology on the basis of a thorough investigation of the historical phonologies of many daughter languages. The author tries to reach a more authentic phoneme system by discarding false protophonemes on the basis of evidence from loanwords.
Find this resource:

Root Theory

In Austronesian languages (individually as well as cross-linguistically), the final syllables of roots sometimes have a meaning associated with them. This phenomenon was already investigated approximately a century ago, but [Blust 1988](#) is able to demonstrate the phenomenon more clearly with a much-larger database.

- **Blust, Robert A. 1988. *Austronesian root theory: An essay on the limits of morphology*. Studies in Language Companion Series 19. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins.**
[DOI: 10.1075/slcs.19](#)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)
From a historical perspective, Austronesian basic roots are disyllabic. However, often the final syllables in these roots also have a semantic association, which is the topic of this book.
Find this resource:

Etymological Sources

Blust has worked systematically on the reconstruction of Proto-Austronesian etyma (lexical protoforms) and etyma from lower-level Austronesian protolanguages, which he has been accumulating from the 1970s onward. He is now working on an [Austronesian Comparative Dictionary](#), which is accessible online but has not yet integrated his older published reconstructions. Those interested in his etymological data are therefore advised to use the online dictionary in conjunction with [Blust 1980](#), [Blust 1983–1984](#), [Blust 1986](#), and [Blust 1989](#). [Clark and Biggs 2011](#) is a standard source for Proto-Polynesian; [Bender, et al. 2003a](#), for Proto-Micronesian. (Those interested in Proto-Oceanic etymologies are referred to [Ross, et al. 1998](#); [Ross, et al. 2003](#); and [Ross, et al. 2008](#), all cited under [Lexical Studies](#).)

- **Bender, Byron W., Ward H. Goodenough, Frederick H. Jackson, et al. 2003a. Proto-Micronesian reconstructions—1. *Oceanic Linguistics* 42.1: 1–110.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Contains close to a thousand reconstructions for Proto-Micronesian, Proto Central Micronesian, and Proto Western Micronesian.

Find this resource:

- **Bender, Byron W., Ward H. Goodenough, Frederick H. Jackson et al. 2003b. Proto-Micronesian reconstructions—2. *Oceanic Linguistics* 42.2: 271–358.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

With additional reconstructions (for Proto-Pohnpeic, Proto-Chuukic, and Proto-Pohnpeic-Chuukic) and an English finder list.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1980. Austronesian etymologies. *Oceanic Linguistics* 19.1–2: 1–181, 183–189.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The first installment of Proto-Austronesian (and lower-order) etymologies in what is meant to become the *Austronesian Comparative Dictionary*.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1983–1984. Austronesian etymologies—II. *Oceanic Linguistics* 22–23.1–2: 29–149.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Proto-Austronesian (and lower-order) etymologies in addition to [Blust 1980](#).

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1986. Austronesian etymologies—III. *Oceanic Linguistics* 25.1–2: 1–123.**

DOI: [10.2307/3623209](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Further additions to the etymologies in [Blust 1980](#) and [Blust 1983–1984](#).

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1989. Austronesian etymologies—IV. *Oceanic Linguistics* 28.2: 111–180.**

DOI: [10.2307/3623057](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A last installment of Proto-Austronesian (and lower-order) etymologies before the author started to work on the online *Austronesian Comparative Dictionary*.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A., and Stephen Trussel. [Austronesian Comparative Dictionary](#).**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An online dictionary in progress by Blust and Trussel and expected to provide much more information upon completion. However, it already contains a great deal of information and is reasonably complete for entries with initial *a, *b, *e, *h, *i, *q, *S, *u, and *w. To be used in conjunction with the four publications by Blust cited in this section.

Find this resource:

- **Clark, Ross, and Bruce Biggs. 2011. Polynesian Lexicon Project (POLLEX) Online.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A Proto-Polynesian lexical database with 4,746 reconstructions based on data from sixty-eight languages.

Find this resource:

An English Finder List for Proto-Austronesian and Proto-Malayo-Polynesian Etyma

[Zorc 1995](#), a glossary with English finder list, is convenient for the quick retrieval of etyma, although it will probably lose some of its usefulness with the completion of Blust's [Austronesian Comparative Dictionary](#) (cited under [Etymological Sources](#)), which can be used interactively.

- **Zorc, R. David Paul. 1995.** A glossary of Austronesian reconstructions. In *Comparative Austronesian dictionary: An introduction to Austronesian studies*. Vol. 1, Fascicle 2. Edited by Darrell T. Tryon, 1105–1197. Trends in Linguistics: Documentation 10.1.2. Berlin and New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A list of 1,650 Proto-Austronesian and Proto-Malayo-Polynesian etyma with English translation, followed by an English finder list.

Find this resource:

Austronesian Culture History

This section includes publications tracing the Austronesian past with the use of linguistic data.

Multidisciplinary Studies of the Past

Multidisciplinary research (combining historical linguistics with archaeology, paleontology, anthropology, or human genetics, or a combination of these) has proven to be highly beneficial in searching the Austronesian past. [Bellwood 1997](#) is a standard introduction to Indonesian and Malaysian prehistory. [Bellwood, et al. 1995](#) is a collection of papers resulting from a conference in 1990 as part of the Comparative Austronesian Project, a multidisciplinary venture carried out at the Australian National University at the end of the 1980s and beginning of the 1990s. [Kirch and Green 2001](#) is a reconstruction of the Polynesian past on the basis of multidisciplinary data. [Sagart, et al. 2005](#) is a collection of archaeological, linguistic, and genetic papers focusing on the homelands other East Asian language families (including Austronesian) and on subsequent migrations of the speakers of the languages involved.

- **Bellwood, Peter. 1997.** *Prehistory of the Indo-Malaysian archipelago*. Rev. ed. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A standard work on the prehistory of Indonesia and Malaysia, combining archaeological research with data from linguistics, anthropology, and paleontology. It is also pertinent to the prehistory of other parts of Southeast Asia.

Find this resource:

- **Bellwood, Peter, James J. Fox, and Darrell Tryon, eds. 1995.** *The Austronesians: History and comparative perspectives*. Canberra: Department of Anthropology, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National Univ.

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

A collection of papers from anthropologists, linguists, geneticists, and archaeologists approaching the Austronesian past from their respective viewpoints.

Find this resource:

- **Kirch, Patrick Vinton, and Roger C. Green. 2001.** *Hawaiki, ancestral Polynesia: An essay in historical anthropology*. Cambridge, UK, and New York: Cambridge Univ. Press.

DOI: [10.1017/CBO9780511613678](https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511613678) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An integrated approach to Polynesian prehistory through using data from archaeology, anthropology, and linguistics.

Find this resource:

- **Sagart, Laurent, Roger Blench, and Alicia Sanchez-Mazas, eds. 2005.** *The peopling of East Asia: Putting together archaeology, linguistics and genetics*. London and New York: RoutledgeCurzon.

DOI: [10.4324/9780203343685](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203343685) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

An update of linguistic, genetic, and archaeological research on the origins of East Asian peoples.

Find this resource:

Society

[Blust 1980](#) and [Blust 1993](#) address the nature of early Austronesian and Malayo-Polynesian social organization. [Blust 1980](#) is particularly thought provoking, since it opposes the views developed in G. P. Murdock's seminal work of 1949 on social organizations. [Blust 1993](#) adduces further arguments for the theory that Proto-Malayo-Polynesian society had descent groups and a preference for cross-cousin marriages. [Blust 1995](#) demonstrates to nonlinguists how historical linguistics can be applied to the study of early Austronesian environment and society.

- **Blust, Robert A. 1980.** Early Austronesian social organization: The evidence of language. *Current Anthropology* 21.2: 205–247.

DOI: [10.1086/202430](https://doi.org/10.1086/202430)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The author uses comparative linguistic evidence to reconstruct Austronesian social organization and the terminology pertaining to it. The article is followed by comments from several other experts on kinship systems.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1993. Austronesian sibling terms and culture history. *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* 149.1: 22–76.**

DOI: [10.1163/22134379-90003136](https://doi.org/10.1163/22134379-90003136)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

A comparison of Austronesian sibling terms, introducing the linguistic notion of drift to the analysis of kinship systems. It is concluded that Proto-Malayo-Polynesian society favored cross-cousin marriage and must have had descent groups.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1995. The prehistory of Austronesian-speaking peoples: A view from language. *Journal of World Prehistory* 9.4: 453–510.**

DOI: [10.1007/BF02221119](https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02221119)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The author shows to an archaeologist readership how historical linguistics can be used to shed light on the Austronesian homeland, material culture, social and political organization, pathology, and the spirit world.

Find this resource:

Physical Environment, Homeland, and Migrations

[Blust 1982](#) shows how information about the physical environment can be used in support of language classification. [Blust 1984–1985](#) combines migration theory and linguistic paleontology (or the “words and things technique”; i.e., the use of reconstructed vocabulary to make inferences about the objects that were known to speakers of an ancestral stock language). [Blust 1994](#) traces the homeland and migration history of two closely related Austronesian subgroups. [Gray, et al. 2009](#) combines linguistic data with a phylogenetic method used in biology in order to find out about the Austronesian homeland and subsequent migrations.

- **Blust, Robert A. 1982. The linguistic value of the Wallace Line. *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* 138.2–3: 231–250.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

The Wallace Line in Indonesia has marsupials to the east and placental mammals to the west. It is argued that this division provides indirect support for the establishment of the Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian subgroup.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1984–1985. The Austronesian homeland: A linguistic perspective. *Asian Perspectives* 26.1: 45–67.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

This paper uses linguistic migration theory and paleontology to establish the Austronesian homeland.

Find this resource:

- **Blust, Robert A. 1994. The Austronesian settlement of mainland Southeast Asia. In *Papers from the second annual meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society*. Edited by Karen L. Adams and Thomas John Hudak, 25–83. Tempe: Program for Southeast Asian Studies, Arizona State Univ.**

[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

About the migration of Malayo-Chamic speakers from Borneo to the western shores of the South China Sea. The author argues that their language(s) formed a dialect chain from eastern Sumatra to central Vietnam that was broken into distinct Malayic and Chamic language communities by later Khmer and Thai incursions.

Find this resource:

- **Gray, R. D., A. J. Drummond, and S. J. Greenhill. 2009. Language phylogenies reveal expansion pulses and pauses in Pacific settlement. *Science* 323.5913: 479–483.**

DOI: [10.1126/science.1166858](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1166858)[Save Citation »Export Citation »E-mail Citation »](#)

Combining lexical data of four hundred languages with a new Bayesian method developed in biological phylogenetics, the authors find confirmation for an Austronesian homeland in Taiwan some 5,230 years ago, and subsequent Austronesian migrations in southern and southeastern directions.

Find this resource:

Cultural Exchange and Trade

[Mahdi 1994](#) identifies erroneous etyma based on loanwords to obtain insight into the diffusion of material culture. [Mahdi 1999](#) combines multidisciplinary evidence to throw light on contacts with the Indian subcontinent, a particularly ill-studied

aspect of the Austronesian past. These contacts were usually explained in terms of a one-way cultural borrowing in which Indians were the active transmitters, and Austronesian peoples in Southeast Asia were passive receivers. However, it has become increasingly clear that the latter were much more actively involved and that the cultural transmission was bilateral. [Hoogervorst 2013](#) is about early contacts between different parts of the Indian Ocean on the basis of archaeology and historical linguistics.

- **Hoogervorst, Tom. 2013. *Southeast Asia in the ancient Indian Ocean world*. BAR International 2580. Oxford: Archaeopress.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Archaeology and historical linguistics (words for plants, spices, and maritime technology) are used to examine precolonial cultural and language contact between Southeast Asia and South Asia, East Africa, and the Middle East. Malays played a major role in this contact.

Find this resource:

- **Mahdi, Waruno. 1994. Some Austronesian maverick protoforms with culture-historical implications: I. *Oceanic Linguistics* 33.1: 167–229.**

DOI: [10.2307/3623005](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Continued as “Some Austronesian Maverick Protoforms with Culture-Historical Implications: II” in *Oceanic Linguistics* 33.2 (1994): 431–490. Some Austronesian etyma are erroneous and based on loanwords. Spotting these gives insight into the dispersal of material culture items, such as metals, coins, spices, trade, stone fortifications, and the double canoe. It also throws new light on grain cultivation and long-distance navigation as well as on the identity of Malayo-Polynesians.

Find this resource:

- **Mahdi, Waruno. 1999. Linguistic and philological data towards a chronology of Austronesian activity in India and Sri Lanka. In *Archaeology and language IV: Language change and cultural transformation*. Edited by Roger Blench and Matthew Spriggs, 160–242. London and New York: Routledge.**

DOI: [10.4324/9780203208793](#) [Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

The author gives evidence from historical linguistics and old texts to show that in early history, Austronesians spread to the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka. He also summarizes supporting evidence already adduced by him in earlier publications and based on boat technology and the spread of plants and spices.

Find this resource:

Acculturation of Hunter-Gatherers

Lawrence Reid ([Reid 2010](#), [Reid 2013](#)) tries to unravel the linguistic past of the various Negrito ethnic groups in the Philippines. These groups are phenotypically and culturally different from mainstream Filipinos. They descend from an early hunter-gatherer population who inhabited the country before the arrival of Austronesian speakers, who were farmers. Their separate identity and history seemingly contradict that their current languages not only are Austronesian but also are affiliated with several distinct Philippine linguistic subgroups.

- **Reid, Lawrence A. 2010. Historical linguistics and Philippine hunter-gatherers. In *Piakandatu ami Dr. Howard P. McKaughan*. Edited by Loren Billings and Nelleke Goudswaard, 6–32. Manila: Linguistic Society of the Philippines.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

After evaluating several views on the relationship during prehistory between Negritos and in-migrating Neolithic Austronesians, the author uses linguistic evidence to uncover the historical patterns of contact between Negritos and Austronesian farmers. He also discusses evidence for a non-Austronesian substratum in Negrito languages.

Find this resource:

- **Reid, Lawrence A. 2013. Who are the Philippine Negritos? Evidence from language. In *Special issue on revisiting the “Negrito” hypothesis*. *Human Biology* 85.1–3: 329–358.**

[Save Citation](#) » [Export Citation](#) » [E-mail Citation](#) »

Reid uses linguistic evidence to retrieve details about the Philippine “Negrito” past. It includes naming practices, reference locations, the position of Negrito languages in the classification of Philippine languages, the geospatial distribution of the northern Philippine languages (reflecting a displacement of Negritos), and the word for headhunting. Available [online](#).