

# **What an Austronesian Native Sees in His Language: Lexical Structures of Amis in Eastern Taiwan**

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The purpose of the research is to analyze the lexical structure of ʔAmis, an Austronesian language spoken in Taiwan, specifying the properties of the three categories--content words, function words and derivational words. The focus of the research lies on: 1) the basic structure, syllabic arrangement, and lexical categories of the root; and 2) the formative rules, basic elements, categories, meaning and usage of the derivatives. The verbs are further categorized in one chapter in order to illustrate their formations, categories and meanings.

There are three unique features to this research. First, it is a native ʔAmis' view on the lexical structures of the ʔAmis language. Second, by way of positivism, the basic approach to the research is not by theoretical explanation but by ordinary explanation, through practical daily phrases of words as examples, to verify the theoretical assumption and speech rules. Third, the author has provided some valuable first-hand sources gathered in his research, including a collocation table in the appendices that shows how commonly used words differ among its five dialects--northerners, southerners, easterners, the middle groups and the Heng-Tsun communities.