

Possessive Structures in Ende: A Language of Eastern Indonesia

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Ende, an Austronesian language of eastern Indonesia, is classified as a Bima-Sumba language by Esser (1938) in the Central Malayo-Polynesian (CMP) subgroup (Blust 1993). With very little linguistic research in the CMP languages and almost no linguistic research on Ende, I have taken a preliminary look at the possessive system of Ende, specifically focusing on one of the possessive structures; namely, the structure of the *ghi* '3sg.poss' and *ghu* '2sg.poss', which appear to have many adnominal and clausal properties.

1. Ende

a. Fu ja'o werna ghi mite
Hair 1sg.poss color 3sg.poss black

'My hair is black.'

b. Kau seka rhima ghu ne piso
2sg stab hand 2sg.poss with knife

'You (sg) stabbed your (sg) hand with a knife.'

Besides the *ghi* and *ghu* constructions, Ende has one predicative and two adnominal constructions. According to Heine (1997) predicative possession (also referred to as verbal or clausal possession in Taylor (1999)) can be distinguished by a number of schemas, in which Ende uses an existential schema. Ende with the predicate *rhatu* uses what Heine (1997) calls NUCLEAR EXISTENCE for existential constructions as in (2a), but EXTENDED EXISTENCE for predicative possession as in (2b). Baird (2001) makes the same distinction with Keo, a related language of eastern Indonesia, where existential constructions are intransitive, while predicative possessive clauses are transitive where the Possessor precedes the Possessed (Possessor *rhatu* Possessed).

2. Ende

a. Nggá'e rhatu
God exist

'God exists.'

b. Kai rhatu rako
3sg have dog

'She has a dog.'

In regards to adnominal possession, Keo (Baird 2001) appears to share many similarities to Ende, where both have a *ko'o* construction as in (3a) and a *juxtaposed* construction as in (3b). Unlike predicative possession, adnominal possession always has the Possessed followed by the Possessor: Possessed *ko'o* Possessor in the prior and Possessed Possessor in the later construction. The DP is relevant here because

