

## Alternating Pronominal Indexing in Kamang

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Kamang (Alor-Pantar) has several verbal prefix series that index P and patientive S. A third of verbs obligatorily take a fixed series, while the rest alternate between different series and zero (Fedden et al. 2014). Choice of prefix series, while partly determined by lexical class, has been shown to correlate with semantic properties of the verb and its arguments: telicity, volitionality of A or S, and animacy of S or P (Fedden et al. 2013; 2014). These are statistical preferences at the level of the prefix series: for instance, 79% of series I prefixes index animate Ps, while series II favours inanimate Ps (Fedden et al. 2013: 58). Yet, at the level of the verb, the picture is incomplete: animacy-based alternations, shown in (1) for *faafa* ‘search for’, are unproductive (Fedden et al. 2014: 67), and most alternations remain unexplained, e.g., *fal* ‘bind’ in (2), which alternates between zero and a series II prefix despite having the same (inanimate) P.

- (1) a. *ge-dum=a*      *ga-faafa*      b. *taweng*      *te-bini*      *Ø-faafa*  
3.III-child=SPEC 3.I-search.for<sup>1</sup>      in.turns      CMN.III-lice      Ø-search.for  
‘[she] kept looking for the child’      ‘[they] search for each other’s lice’
- (2) *ye-wa*      *ga-tang*      *Ø-fal*      *lai=a*      *wo-fal=ak...*  
3.AL-leg      3.INAL-arm      Ø-bind      finish=SPEC      3.II-bind=DEF  
‘[we] had tied its hind and front legs together, [we] tied them, ...’

This paper is a quantitative corpus study of the prefix/zero alternation in Kamang natural discourse, building on previous research that drew on video stimulus elicitation data and corpus searches (Fedden et al. 2013; 2014). The current corpus has been enlarged with new narrative data and annotated with the GRAID schema (Grammatical Relations and Animacy in Discourse, Haig & Schnell 2014). The main difference with previous studies that comes to light is the higher rate of zero-marking: 38% of all Ps, compared with 22% reported in prior research (Fedden et al. 2013: 57). In fact, 28% of verb types in the corpus are exclusively zero-marked.

Using the GRAID schema, the present study also considers discourse factors for the first time. The results show that the P index is more likely to be zero when the clause contains an overt independent P argument (pronoun/NP). This would account for the alternation in (2). The effect is not found for S arguments, where the proportion of zero S indexes remains around two thirds with or without an independent S argument (excluding the case of agent pronouns). This indicates a functional difference between S and P prefix alternation: a reference-tracking function may be a competing factor in prefix or zero selection for P, but not for S, which is more strongly conditioned by the semantic factor of patientivity. In this talk, then, we will summarise the insights from the corpus study, showing that prefix/zero alternation of S and P indexes in Kamang involves the complex interplay of semantic, pragmatic and lexical factors.

## References

- Fedden, S., Brown, D., Corbett, G., Holton, G., Klamer, M., Robinson, L.C., & Schapper, A. 2013. Conditions on pronominal marking in Alor-Pantar languages. *Linguistics*; 51(1): 33–74.
- Fedden, S., Brown, D., Kratochvíl, F., Robinson, L. C., & Schapper, A. 2014. Variation in pronominal indexing: Lexical stipulation vs. referential properties in Alor-Pantar languages. *Studies in Language* 38:1, 44–79.

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<sup>1</sup> 3.I: prefix series I, third person; SPEC: specific; DEF: definite; CMN: common person

Haig, G., & Schnell, S. 2014. *Annotations using GRAID (Grammatical Relations and Animacy in Discourse)*. Version 7.0. ([multicast.aspra.uni-bamberg.de/](http://multicast.aspra.uni-bamberg.de/)).