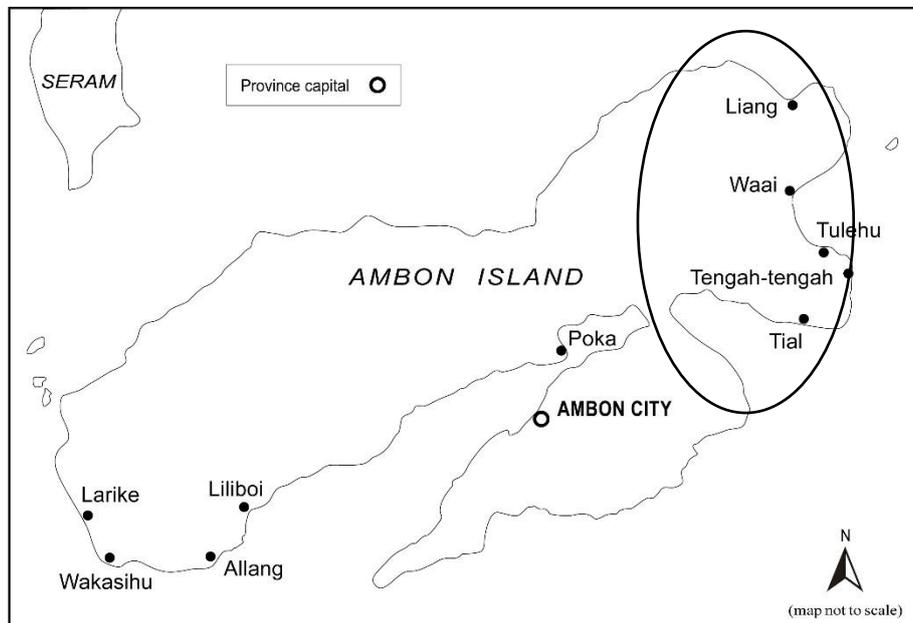


# Placename narratives and identity in north east Ambon Island

Simon Musgrave, Monash University [Simon.Musgrave@monash.edu]

## 1. The language and its setting



**Sub-grouping:** Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian > Central Malayo-Polynesian then in Maluku (following Collins 1983):

Central Maluku > East Central Maluku > Seram > Nunusaku > Piru Bay > East Piru Bay > Seram Straits > Ambon (3 languages)

### Typology:

Small phonemic inventory:

- 5 vowels [ i, e, a, o, u ]
- Historically only unvoiced obstruents: [ p, t, k, ʔ, s ]
- Voiced counterparts now common in loans
- Sonorants [ m, n, (ŋ), r, l, w, j ]

SVO word order

Quasi-obligatory subject indexing in main and subordinate clauses

No voice system

Alienability distinction in possessive constructions:

Alienable: PossessorNP Possesum

Inalienable: PossessorNP<sub>i</sub> Possesum-Index<sub>i</sub>

## 2. Western histories

Portuguese ships reached Maluku in 1511

Controlled region for about a century

In early C17 Dutch took control

Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie (VOC – United East India Company, Established 1602)

Key source for Ambon in C17 is Rumphius 1678 (2002)

## 3. Traditional accounts

### Text 1 - Place Name Narrative from Tulehu (version 1)

*As told by Drs Hasan Umarella, recorded December 2003.*

(Malay loan words are shown in **boldface**. Apostrophe represents glottal stop.)

1. *He'emana-e aman-re taha nalar sala*  
from.past-SV village-this NEG name yet  
Long ago, this village did not yet have a name.
2. *Apei upu matua-na he'e aman tawari mana'e yisi*  
then grandfather old-PL from village time past-SV 3PL  
*туру lo'o hehe meitetui ena yisi lohi loi*  
descend to shorewards sea for 3PL look.for place  
*a'-upa-te*  
NOM-stay-NOM  
Then, elders from the old village came down to the shore to look for a place to live.
3. ***Kutika*** *yisi nau aman-re makahina kuat-e uma isi*  
moment 3PL see village-this good strong-SV then 3PL  
*haitutu yiruisimatai'i ena yisi tana-re ena yisi*  
feel.good all.of.them for 3PL take-3SG.O for 3PL  
*aman a'-upa-te*  
village NOM-stay-NOM  
When they saw that this village was very fine, then all their hearts were moved to take it as their village to live.
4. *Wa'a kutika mane upu matua-na rua-ma*  
LOC moment that-EMPH grandfather old-PL two-that  
*yisi lohi nalar ha'ere wa'a aman herui'ei*  
3PL look.for name what LOC village new  
At that time, those two old men looked for a name for the new village.

5. *Taha tawari wa'a kutika mane wa'a haha-isi-ma*  
 NEG time LOC moment that-EMPH LOC above-3PL-that  
*manu tui-e lala tui-tui-tui-tui*  
 bird tui-SV sing tui-tui-tui-tui  
 Not long after that, above them a *tui*-bird sang: tui-tui-tui-tui-tui
6. *Uma upu matua-n rua mane yisi hose*  
 then grandfather old-PL two that-EMPH 3PL say  
*ahanau-ma aman-re mai paha-nalar Tuirehui*  
 like-that village-this let.us CAUS-name Tuirehui  
 Then the two old men said: If this village is like that, let us call it Tuirehui.
7. *Tui lala wa'a haha-ka ike upa*  
*tui-bird sing LOC above-1PL.INCL 1PL.INCL stay*  
*wa'a rehu-rehu*  
 LOC below-RDP  
*Tui*-bird singing above us and us sitting below.

Glossing:

1/3 – 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> person, SG – singular, PL – plural, INCL – inclusive, O – object, CAUS – causative, EMPH – emphasis, NOM – nominalizer.

## Text 2 - Place Name Narrative from Tulehu (version 2)

*As told by Bapak Abu Bakar Nahumarury, recorded December 2003.*

***Mau cerita tentang ama Tuirehui.***

I want to tell about the village Tulehu.

*Amanre pertamama tahinana matuana isi turu isi lohi tanpa a'upate.*

The first old people from this village, they came down and looked for a place to live.

***Jadi waktu si turuma lai lo'o rete iser rehui.***

So at the time when they came down they arrived under an ironwood tree.

*Ha'angma isi turu he'e rete haha rehu-rehu mane wa'a iser rehui mane.*

That is, they came down from above down below here to under the ironwood tree.

*Uma isi pamausi wa'a nunu rehui.*

Then they sheltered under a banyan tree.

*Wa'a isermane laha nunu rehui.*

Under that ironwood and that banyan.

***Uma pada waktu ha'anga tui inaima o'e.***

Then at that time a *tui*-bird was crying.

*Waktu tuima o'e ma matuana kalengmane isi wa'a ai rehuimane.*

At the time the tui-bird was crying, the group of old people was under that tree.

*Uma isi turu **terus** lai wa'a e isi turu lai wa'a meitetui isi nau **keadaan daerah** ha'andena.*

Then they went down to the shore, they saw the situation of this region.

*Uma isi hose: Ka amanre wa'a wara eia.*

Then they said: Our village will be here.

*Tapi eng nalarma ing nalar ha'er?*

But what was its name?

*Uma isi pahanalarma aman tui rehui.*

Then they gave the name Tulehu village.

*Tapi karena waktu jaman penjajahan belandamane si **catat** ena amang ma eing nalare menurut walandama **karena** meisi taha laire uma isi apa'ar Tulehu **padahal yang sebenarnya** Tuirehui.*

But because at the time of the Dutch colonization, they wrote the name of the village according to the Dutch, because their tongues couldn't cope, so they called it 'Tulehu' although it is really 'Tuirehui'.

### Text 3 - Place Name Narrative from Tengah-tengah

*As told by Bapak Usman Tuharea, recorded June 2004.*

(Malay loan words are shown in **boldface**. Apostrophe represents glottal stop.)

*Jadi amamanre eng nalarmane Morewaer.*

So the name of this village is Morewaer.

*Morewaer rena ne tahinana matuana rena urui sane si hose eng **asal** he'e **cerita** ha'in sane*

This Morewaer, the old people, some of them, they say that its origin comes from a little story.

*Sedangkan matuana wa'a rumai'i si hose amanre **asal** iapo he'e **cerita** sauma*

While some of the old people they say that the origin of the village comes from another story.

*Jadi matuana wa'a rumai'i isi hose amanre engne nala rena engne ua mena'ar mane he'e ne waere more'iyi*

So some of the old people say that the name of this village was at first from water that sank.

*Sehingga isi hose amanre nalar Morewaer*

Until they say that the name of this village is Morewaer.

*Sedangkan matuana wa'a rumai'i isi hose he'emanae upu ela he'ere e oi lo'o lau e tana eing ne...*

While the other old people they say that long ago the head man from here, he went to sea taking his....

*Eing ai hua parentama he'e lau Haruku*  
His parenta wood from Haruku.

*Ei sai lai lo'o lau ume ei more*  
He paddled right to sea and then he sank.

*Terus tula ei wai-'aiyi*  
Straightaway he came back.

*E more karena e wai'aiyi*  
He sank therefore he came back.

*Jadi nalarma Morewaer: e more terus e wai'aiyi*  
Thus the name Morewaer: he sank then he came back.

*Sedangkan nalar tula Tengah-tengah mane*  
While it also has that name Tengah-tengah.

*Karena waktu ei sai he'emana lo'o lau manae e nanau murini*  
Because at the time he was paddling before to sea he looked behind.

*Artinya tengok-tengok*  
Meaning 'tengok-tengok'.

*Tengok maksudnya tengok ke belakang jadi ha'ande nalar tula malaia mane nalar tengok-tengok*  
'Tengok', meaning 'look behind', so this is its name in Malay, Tengah-tengah.

*Sedangkan tula bahasama amamane souwa he'e rena si hose Morewaer*  
While in the language of the village, language from here, they say 'Morewaer'.

*Sedangkan cerita tahina matuana menyangkutne he'e ua mena'ar isi lai wa'e aman rena*  
While the story of the old people relates to the first time when they came to this village.

*Waktu matuana ua menae mane tahami tea nalai*  
At the time the first old man came, we didn't know its name.

*Tapi eng ana mane sira teru*  
But he had three children.

*Ira sa nalai Risahondua ena tia wa'e amane*  
One called Risahondua for this village.

*Ira sa eng ana e nane Tuarita ena Tial*  
One of his children was Tuarita for Tial.

*Laha eng ana sane e nanalai Tuasalomony ena Tuirehui*  
And one of his children was named Tuasalomony for Tulehu.

*Jadi tahina matuanama si cerita si hose*  
So the old people, they tell stories, they talk.

*Haitihisirena si asal he'e rete Iran*  
All of them here come from Iran.

*Jadi se'e lai wa'ama ni'a eng cerita selanjutnya kurang ena manea mi mengarti*  
So even now, we don't understand these stories clearly.

**Tulehu v. Tuirehui – relevant cognate sets**

	<b>Tulehu</b>	<b>Nusalaut</b>	<b>Haruku</b>	<b>Hitu</b>	<b>Alune</b>
<b>2SG</b>	yare	ale	ale	ale	ale
<b>water</b>	waer(e)	wael	waele	wail	'wele
<b>delicious</b>	matere	mu'ele	matele	matele	ntele
<b>house</b>	ruma	ruma	ruma	luma	luma
<b>two</b>	rua	rua	rua	lua	lua
<b>five/arm</b>	rima	rima	rima	lima	lima
<b>eight</b>	waru	walo	waru	walu	'walu

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