Possessive Structures in Ende: A Language of Eastern Indonesia

Bradley J. McDonnell Arizona State University

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 piso2sg 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. Ngga'e rhatu God exist

'God exists.'

b. Kai rhatu rako3sg 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

the specifier position is final, matching the possessor position in (3).

- 3. Ende

As in Keo (Baird 2001), Ende seems to use the ko'o construction in complex possessive clauses as seen in (3a) connecting more than one possessor and more than one possessed. However, this in not always the case.

With further implications of predicative and adnominal possession in Ende, the focus of this paper will be centered on the ghi '3sg.poss' and ghu '2sg.poss' possessive constructions as in (1). After an analysis of further data from multiple native speakers of Ende, I will answer the following questions:

- Where do ghi and ghu occur in Ende speech?
- How do *ghi* and *ghu* fit into the DP structure according to Abney (1987) and how might *ghi* and *ghu* fit into a sentential structure?
- What is the possible role of calquing *ghi* in Ende with the adnominal ligature -nya in Indonesian?