

Split Inalienable Coding in the East Bird's Head family

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13th Austronesian and Papuan Languages and Linguistics Conference

10 June 2021

# Split Inalienable Coding in East Bird's Head

## 1. Introduction

Split Inalienable Coding (SIC)  
The East Bird's Head family

## 2. Reconstructing inalienable possession in EBH

## 3. Discussion

Historical implications  
Theoretical implications

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## Split Inalienable Coding (SIC)

A language is considered to have **Split Inalienable Coding** if there are three or more distinct possessive coding strategies...

- ▶ at least two of which are used to code inalienable possession
- ▶ where the choice of inalienable coding is conditioned by semantic factors.

# Split Inalienable Coding (SIC)

## (1) Hatam (Hatam-Mansim; Reesink 1999)

- |    |              |        |    |             |    |             |
|----|--------------|--------|----|-------------|----|-------------|
| a. | a-de         | singau | b. | a-ndab      | c. | at-nem      |
|    | 2SG-POSS     | knife  |    | 2SG-hand    |    | 2SG-wife    |
|    | 'your knife' |        |    | 'your hand' |    | 'your wife' |

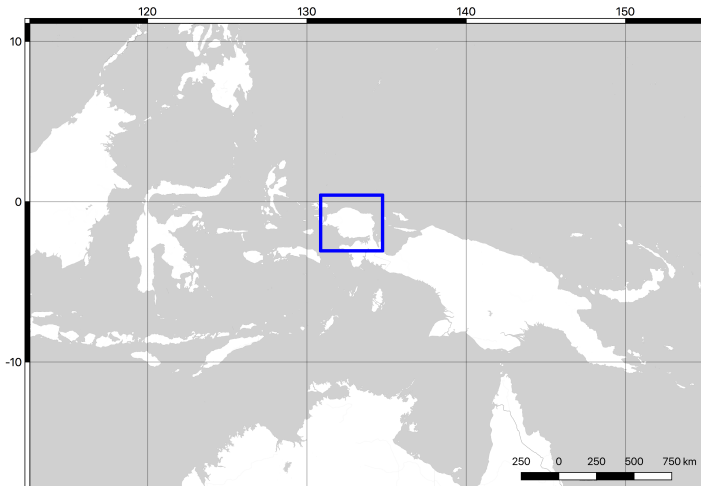
## Split Inalienable Coding (SIC)

Table: Hatam inalienable paradigms (Reesink 1999)

	<b>Inalienable 1</b>	<b>Inalienable 2</b>
	<i>Body parts</i>	<i>Kin terms</i>
1SG	di-	diT-
2SG	a-	aT-
3SG	ni-	niT-
1PL.EXCL	ni-	niT-
1PL.INCL	i-	iT-
2PL	ji-	jiT-
3PL	i-	iT-

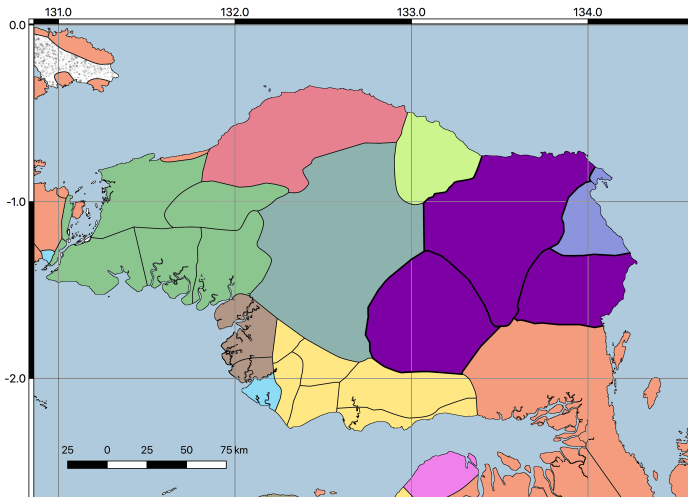


# East Bird's Head





# East Bird's Head





# East Bird's Head

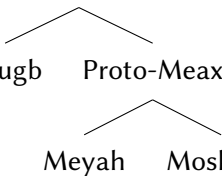
Proto-East Bird's Head

Sougb

Proto-Meax

Meyah

Moskona



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## Alienability distinctions in EBH

	Alienable	Inalienable
Sougb	Inflected prenominal particle	Prefixation
Meyah	Inflected prenominal particle	Prefixation
Moskona	Inflected prenominal particle	Prefixation

### (2) Sougb (Reesink 2002)

a. dan ind-an tu  
1SG 1SG-POSS house

‘my house’

b. dan ind-ums  
1SG 1SG-ear

‘my ear’

# Inalienable possession: Sougb (Reesink 2002)

1SG	ind-
2SG	ab-
3SG	m(e)-
1PL.EXCL	em-
1PL.INCL	mam-
2PL	mej-
3PL	mer-

# Inalienable possession: Meyah (Gravelle 2004)

	<b>Inalienable 1</b> <i>Body parts</i>	<b>Inalienable 2</b> <i>Kin terms</i>
1SG	di-	ind-, ed-
2SG	bi-	ab-, eb-, me-...-ib, ob-
3SG	∅-	me-, ef-
1PL.EXCL	me-	me-
1PL.INCL	mi-	mi-
2PL	i-	i-
3PL	ri-	ri-

# Inalienable possession: Moskona (Gravelle 2010)

	<b>Inalienable 1</b> <i>Body parts</i>	<b>Inalienable 2</b> <i>Kin terms</i>
1SG	di-	ed-, Ø
2SG	bi-	eb-, ey- + [AL]
3SG	Ø-	mi- + [AL]
1PL.EXCL	mi-	mi- + [AL], ([AL]) + mi-
1PL.INCL		
2PL	yi-	ey- + [AL], ([AL]) + yi-
3PL	i-	mi- + [AL], ([AL]) + i-

## Proto-Meax body parts

	<b>Meyah</b> POSS, VERB	<b>Moskona</b> POSS, VERB	<b>Proto-Meax</b> POSS, VERB	<b>Sougb</b> VERB
1SG	di-	di-	*di-	d-
2SG	bi-	bi-	*bi-	b-
3SG	∅-	∅-	*∅-	∅-
1PL.EXCL	me-			em-
1PL.INCL	mi-	mi-	*mi-	m(a)-
2PL	i-	yi-	*yi-	y-
3PL	ri-	i-	*ri-	l-

## Pre-Meyah kin terms

	1SG	2SG	3SG
<i>awa</i> ‘grandmother’	<b>ind</b> -awa	<b>ab</b> -owa	<b>me</b> -awa
<i>imowa</i> ‘grandfather’	<b>ind</b> -imowa	<b>eb</b> -imowa	<b>me</b> -imowa
<i>osu</i> ‘mother’, <i>eka</i> ‘father’	<b>ameina</b>	<b>me-osu-ib</b>	<b>me</b> -osu
<i>oko</i> ‘same-sex sibling’, <i>oco</i> ‘same-sex sibling-in-law’, <i>ui</i> ‘opposite-sex sibling-in-law’	<b>ed</b> -oko	<b>ob</b> -oko	<b>me</b> -oko
<i>ohona</i> ‘wife’, <i>ahina</i> ‘husband’	<b>ed</b> -ohona	<b>ab</b> -ohona	<b>me</b> -ohona
<i>esa</i> ‘child’	<b>ed</b> -esa	<b>eb</b> -esa	<b>ef</b> -esa
<i>ogona</i> ‘son-in-law’, <i>diba</i> ‘daughter-in-law’, <i>esa</i> ‘grandchild’, <i>ie</i> ‘opposite-sex sibling’, <i>ogona</i> ‘wife’s parent’, <i>diba</i> ‘husband’s parent’, <i>debesa</i> ‘grandchild’	<b>ed</b> -ogona	<b>eb</b> -ogona	<b>me</b> -ogona
Pre-Meyah	*ed-	*eb-	*me-



## Pre-Moskona kin terms

	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
<i>edina</i> 'grand-parent/child'	[AL]	<b>eb-</b>	[AL]	[AL]	[AL]	[AL]
<i>otk</i> 'SS sibling'	∅	[AL]	[AL]	([AL]) + <b>mi-</b>	([AL]) + <b>yi-</b>	([AL]) + <b>i-</b>
<i>ew</i> 'OS sibling'	<b>ed-</b>	<b>ey-</b> + [AL]	<b>mi-</b> + [AL]	<b>mi-</b> + [AL]	<b>ey-</b> + [AL]	<b>mi-</b> + [AL]
<i>ohena</i> 'wife', <i>ahina</i> 'husband'	<b>ed-</b> (VOC)	[AL]	[AL]	[AL]	[AL]	[AL]
<i>efina</i> 'SS SIL', <i>ewisa</i> 'OS SIL'	<b>ed-</b>	[AL]	[AL]	[AL]	[AL]	[AL]
Pre-Moskona	*ed-	*eb-/*ey-	?	*mi-	*yi-/*ey-	*i-

## Proto-Meax kin terms

	<b>Pre-Meyah</b>	<b>Pre-Moskona</b>	<b>Proto-Meax</b>
1SG	*ed-	*ed-	*ed-
2SG	*eb-	*eb-/*ey-	*eb-?
3SG	*me-	?	*me-
1PL.EXCL	*me-		
1PL.INCL	*mi-	*mi-	*mi-
2PL	*i-	*yi-/*ey-	*yi-/*ey-?
3PL	*ri-	*i-	*ri-

## Split Inalienable Coding in Proto-Meax

	<b>Inalienable 1</b>	<b>Inalienable 2</b>
	<i>Body parts</i>	<i>Kin terms</i>
1SG	*di-	*ed-
2SG	*bi-	*eb-?
3SG	*Ø-	*me-
1PL	*mi-	*mi-
2PL	*yi-	*yi-/*ey-?
3PL	*ri-	*ri-

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# East Bird's Head

Proto-East Bird's Head

Sougb    Proto-Meax

Meyah    Moskona

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graph TD; A[Proto-East Bird's Head] --- B[Sougb]; A --- C[Proto-Meax]; C --- D[Meyah]; C --- E[Moskona]
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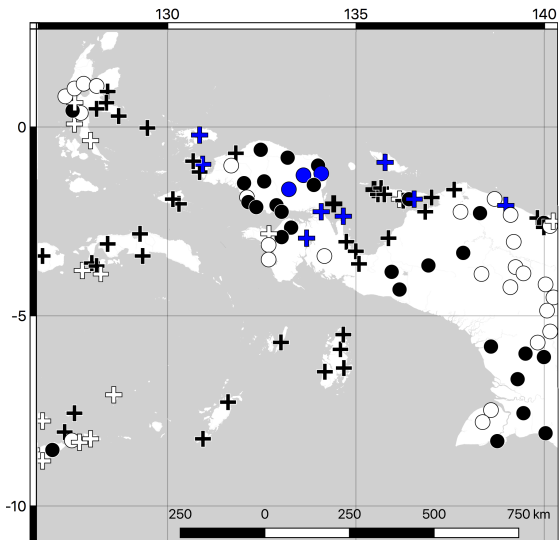
Introduction



Inalienable possession in EBH



Discussion



## Body parts vs. kin terms

- ▶ Synchronic distinctions:

- ▶ Body parts inalienable (not kin terms):

- Abun (isolate; Berry and Berry 1999), Burmeso (isolate; Donohue 2001)

- ▶ Kin terms inalienable (not body parts):

- Ekagi (TNG > Paniai Lakes; Doble 1962), Moni (TNG > Paniai Lakes; Boelaars 1950), Kamoro (TNG > Asmat-Kamoro; Boelaars 1950), Nimboran (Nimboranic; May 1997)

## Body parts vs. kin terms

- ▶ Synchronic distinctions:
  - ▶ Distinctions elsewhere in the grammar:  
Proto-Austronesian: kin term-specific morphology (Blust 1979)
- ▶ Diachronic distinctions:
  - ▶ Soahuku (AN > CMP): Kin terms INAL > AL (Florey 2005)
  - ▶ Alune (AN > CMP): Body parts INAL > AL (Florey 2005)
  - ▶ Icelandic (IE > Germanic): Contact-induced changes in alienability splits affected kinship terms more slowly (Schuster 2019)



## Body parts vs. kin terms

- ▶ Dahl and Koptjevskaja-Tamm (2001):
  - ▶ Both classes entail a PossR; PossR is often predictable
  - ▶ But body part less animate than kin terms – lower discourse status; more likely to be objects, adverbials; less likely to occur as vocatives

So why don't we see Split Inalienable Coding attested more frequently?

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Thanks for listening!

