The Enggano Project

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Introduction

- Background on Enggano

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- Conclusion

Background on Enggano

- Enggano is spoken by approx. 1,500 speakers on Enggano Island, Sumatra, Indonesia

- Indonesia is hugely linguistically diverse – there are over 700 languages (Austronesian & Papuan)

- Most people now agree that Enggano is Austronesian (Nothofer 1992, Edwards 2015, Smith 2020) but sub-grouping remains debated.

Background on Enggano

- Today there are 6 main villages on Enggano

- The highest concentration of Enggano speakers is in central villages (e.g. Meok, Apoho, Malakoni)

- There has been increased migration in recent years, settling predominantly in Northern and Southern villages (e.g. Banjarsari, Kaana & Kaayapo).
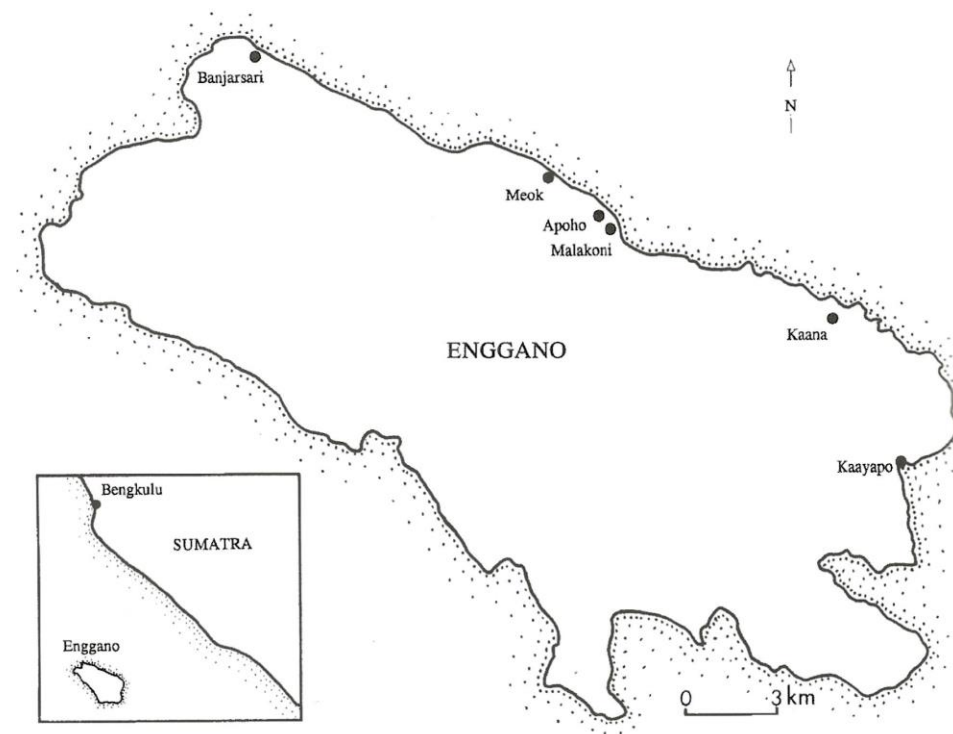

Fig. 15: Map of Enggano Island (Indonesia). (Drawn by Frans Stelling)

map from ter Keurs (2006: 134)

Background on Enggano

- The language can be considered endangered or level 3 ("Definitely Endangered") on UNESCO's scale

5.	SAFE
4.	UNSAFE
3.	DEFINITELY ENDANGERED
2.	SEVERELY ENDANGERED
1.	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
0.	EXTINCT

- There are significant differences in reported fluency between older speakers and younger speakers (break in intergenerational transmission)

- Younger speakers increasingly shift to Indonesian and tend to learn Enggano from their grandparents rather than their parents.

- Enggano is also restricted to informal domains (e.g. home), whilst Indonesian is used in formal contexts (e.g. in school).

Previous Research

1850-1900	Early Wordlists	Von Rosenberg 1855, Van der Straaten & Severijn 1855, Walland 1864, Oudemans 1879 Helfrich & Pieters 1891, Helfrich 1893, 1916 Holle List 1895
1930s	Hans Kähler	Grammar Sketch (Kähler 1940) Text Collection (Kähler 1955, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1975) Dictionary (published posthumously, Schmidt 1987)
1980s	Bernd Nothofer	Wordlist & Historical Work
1980s-2020s	Kantor Bahasa	Nikelas et al (1994), Wijaya (2018), ongoing projects
2011	Brendan Yoder	Masters Thesis on Phonology

The Enggano Project

- Our project (2018-now) is a collaboration between researchers in the UK, Germany, Australia and Indonesia and the Enggano community.

- The aims are:
  - To produce a documentary corpus
  - To write a grammar of Enggano
  - To create teaching materials
 - To establish Enggano's position within the Austronesian family.

The Enggano Project

- We have now collected over 200 audio/video recordings

- These include wordlists, structural elicitation, stories, songs, descriptions of cultural practices & texts for the teaching materials

The Enggano Project

- We use software tools like ELAN to annotate the recordings with transcription and translation into Indonesian and English

- We are working with the Enggano community to develop an orthography

- Some challenges include the nasal vowel phonemes (ẽ) and the presence of two centralised vowels (ė and ü̇)
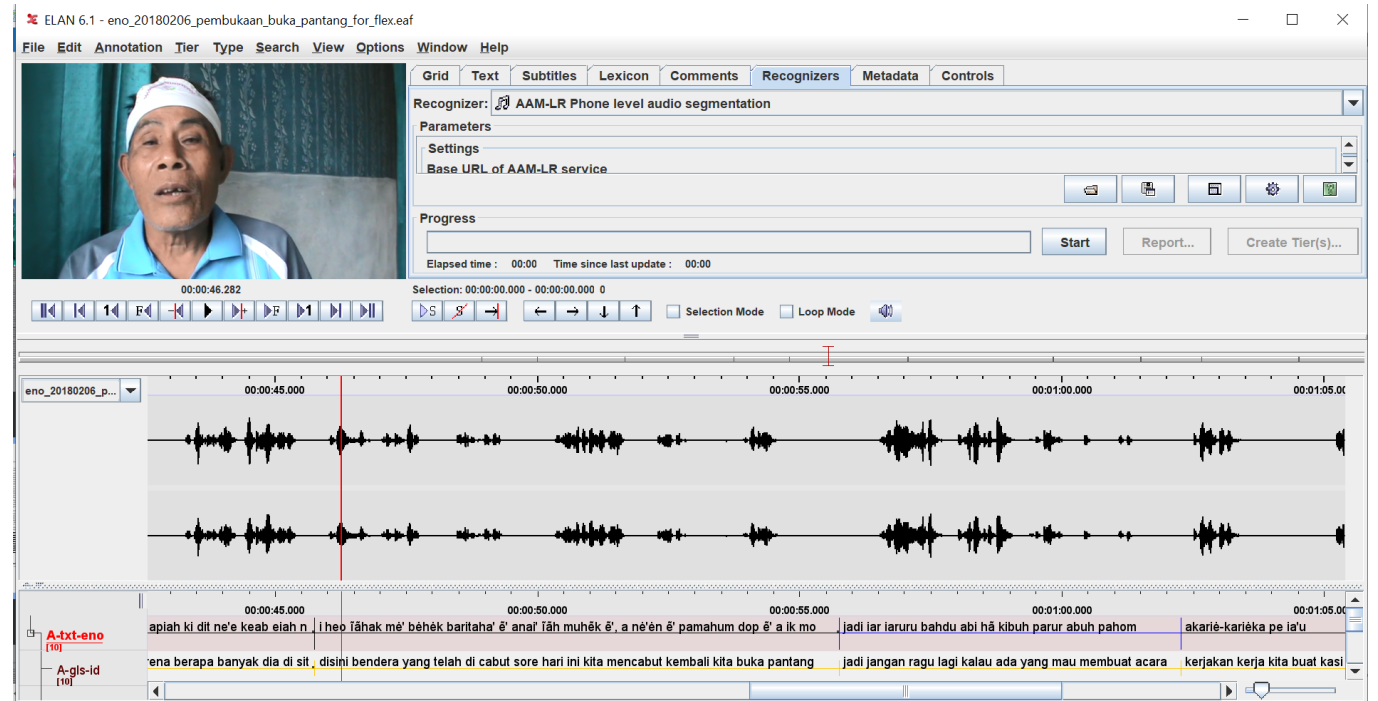
The Enggano Project

- We also use FLEX to store a lexicon provide an interlinear gloss for texts

- We store information from Kahler's corpus to analyse syntactic changes.

- The outputs are available on our project website (https://enggano.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk/) and will be archived for long term preservation

Enggano - Contemporary - FieldWorks Language Explorer

Lexeme Form	Glosses	Grammatical Int...	Glosses (Ind)	Etym. Gloss
Show All	Show All	Show All	Show All	Show All
ahar	call	Verb	panggil	ahadi
ahau	custom	Noun	adat	ahaoa
ahenap	only	Adverb	hanya	
ahit	spit	Verb	meludah	ahito
ahõk	dry over fire	Verb	mengeringkan dengan api	ahaõkõ
ahũ'	clan leader / clan	Noun / Noun	kepala suku / suku	(a)hã'ũnã (?)
ã'ĩ	fast	Verb	cepat	a'aiñã

108		u	kihĕk	i	apãũ	kurti
Word		u	kihĕk	i	apãũ	kurti
Morphemes		u	ki- hĕk	i	apãũ	kurti
Lex. Gloss		1SG	KI sit	LOC	on.top	chair
Word Gloss Eng		I	sit	at	on.top	chair
Word Gloss Ind		saya	duduk	di	atas	kursi
Word Cat.		pro	v	prep	adv	n

Experiences During the Pandemic

- Before the pandemic, the team had already begun to collect a corpus

- Since the pandemic, we have been having regular meetings via Zoom.
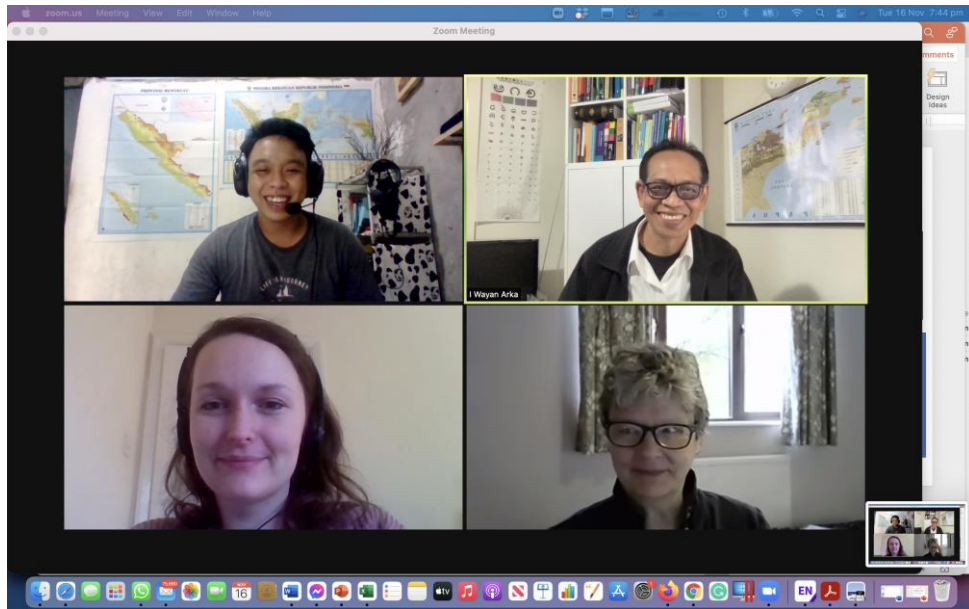
- During the meetings we work with the recordings.

- We try to refine our orthographic practices and understand more about the structure of Enggano.

Experiences During the Pandemic

- During these meetings we also provide training and guidance for our main language consultant, Engga Zakaria, who has played a central role in developing the orthography, teaching materials and discussing analyses for the grammar.

- He is part of the local research team that travels to Enggano to **gather feedback**

Experiences During the Pandemic

- Overall, the COVID pandemic has had disadvantages but also advantages

- It forced much of the linguistic analysis to take place online with the potential disadvantage that the linguists do not observing the language in its natural environment

- However, it has allowed for regular meetings that connect people in different time zones/locations

- Most importantly, we have had no choice but to invest time in capacity building/training of our local team – leading to a more collaborative approach and greater **community engagement**.

Conclusion

- Enggano is an endangered Austronesian language spoken in Indonesia.

- It was previously documented by Hans Kähler in 1930s

- However, today the language is spoken in a very different sociolinguistic context and has undergone many linguistic changes

- Consequently, we have begun a project to document and describe contemporary Enggano in the hope of creating a lasting record

- The project was conceived before the pandemic but has operated during the pandemic and undergone several changes in project design as a result

- Overall, we feel these changes are positive since they have promoted direct community engagement and empowerment.

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