

Pros and Cons of Texts and Elicitation

Edith Aldridge
UW Linguistics

Seediq (Austronesian, Atayalic)

Nantou Prefecture, Central Taiwan

- Case marking: Ergative-Absolutive
- Basic word order: VOS
- $\Rightarrow [V \dots] \text{Abs}$
- $\Rightarrow (\text{NP}_{\text{Top}}) [V \dots] \text{NP}_{\text{Abs}} (\text{NP}_{\text{Top}})$
- Syntax: Split-ergative
- \Rightarrow Transitive antipassive construction
- \Rightarrow Low transitive ergative construction

Communication Limitations

Unreliable explanations

Genitive pronoun

(Explained as 'politeness' 禮貌)

- kobusuran-ni: wada beebu
- older.sibling-Def Past hit
- suwai=**na**
- younger.sibling=3.Gen
- 'Older brother hit his younger brother.'

Ergative pronoun

(Explained as aspect marker 好了)

- wada(=na) burig-un (na Pawan)
- Past(=3s.Erg) buy-Tr Erg Pawan
- ka patis
- Abs book

Problems with Elicitation

1. Calques

Japanese adverbial clause subordinator *tokoro* 'place'

- Pawan=ga sake=o nonde-iru
- Pawan=Nom wine=Acc drink-be
- tokoro=o mikaketa.
- place=Acc saw
- 'I saw Pawan drinking wine.'

Translation of *tokoro* as noun

- wada=mu sterun numah-**an**
- Past=1s.Erg meet drink-App
- sino hiya ka Pawan
- wine there Abs Pawan
- ‘I met Pawan there at the place where one drinks wine.’

Re-elicitation with *toki* 'time, when'

- Pawan=ni [sake=o nonde-iru
- Pawan=Dat wine=Acc drink-be
- toki-ni] deatta.
- place=Acc met
- 'I when Pawan when he was drinking wine.'

Targeted response

- wada=mu sterun munimah
- Past=1s.Erg meet drink
- sino hiya ka Pawan
- wine there Abs Pawan
- 'I saw met Pawan drinking wine there.'

Problems with Elicitation

2. Missed surprises

Transitivity Marking

- kika ha-**un** **m**-ari so
- then go-Tr Intr-sell ??
- pulumukan
- Chinese
- ‘Then (we) go sell (them) to the Chinese.’

Something new

- tmekan **kes-un** tukanan qushia
- pound say-Tr grinder water
- chiida=na pae
- time=3s.Gen rice
- ‘In those days, (we) milled rice with was is called a “water grinder”.’

Lexical Item (Text)

- mehedu pututing kandalax bubu=na
- finish drop from mother=3.Gen
- Ka hei=na de
- Abs fruit=3.Gen Asp
- 'having finished knocking the fruit from the tree'

Something unexpected

- rima *bale* kubekui
- 5 really 100
- ‘as much as 500’

Problems with Texts

1. Controlling for word order

Ergative Clitic (Text)

- Gaga=ku=**daha** ngal-un
- Pres=1s.Abs=3.Pl take-Tr
- ka yaku duri.
- Abs 1s also
- ‘The have accepted me also.’

Full Ergative NP (Elicited)

- wada burig-un **na** **Ape** ka patis
- Past buy-Tr Erg Ape Abs book
- ‘Ape bought the book.’

- wada s-bege *hulama* **na** **Ape**
- Past App-give treat Erg Ape
- ka laqi
- Abs child
- ‘Ape gave the child a treat.’

Relative Clause (Text)

- [mah-un=daha so] **wisupi**
- drink-Tr=3.Pl ?? *wisupi*
- ‘*wisupi* that they were drinking’

IHRC (Elicited)

- [s<n>malu **sapah** na Pawan]
- <Perf>make house Erg Pawan
- ‘house that Pawan built’

Problems with texts

2. Translation effects in texts

Mixture of lexical and functional items from Japanese

- Ashika *shigatsu kara*
- must.be April from
- betaq *gogatsu made*
- until May until
- 'It has to be from April to May.'

Loan verb

- uxe=miyan *dekiru* p-puyas laqi
- not=1p.Excl can Caus-studychild
- ‘We would not have been able to send our kids to school.’

Both nouns and verbs

- *daisamban* dahaka *daiyomban*=na
- #3 and #4=3s.Gen
- supu-un=mu *kekkon* muntena ali
- Together-Tr=1s.Erg marry same day
- ‘(Sons) number three and number four, I married them (off) on the same day.’

Language influence on speaker's attention

- gisu meyah lumjeku hini
- Pres come mountain here
- ka **seito** *tanax* *tunux*
- Abs student red head
- 'A Japanese student has come here to the mountains.'