Mapping Metalinguistic Knowledge in Dili, Timor-Leste

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Overview

• Introduction
• Research Question
  – Where is Dili, ethnoling makeup
  – History and effect on Dili’s Demographics
• Lit Review
  – Map tasks, perceptual dialectology
  – The importance of speaker intuitions
  – Sociolinguistics in Dili, what specifically
• Methods
• Participants
  – language issues
• Results
  – Unique Lgs, Total Lgs, Word Counts
  – Maps
• Conclusions
  – Future Research (ask for mother tongues!!) rankings?
Dili Introduction

• 1400’s – Portuguese Colony
• 1975 – Power shifts to Indonesia
• 1999 – Power shifts to UN
• 2002 – Independence
• 2006 – Crisis
• 2013 – UN ends mission
Dili Introduction

• Dili Demographics
  – large youth population
  – highest dropout rates in the country
    • highest literacy rates
  – wealthiest citizens
  – 74% of all migrants in the country settle in Dili
    • 51% of this group is under the age of 30

• Linguistically Diverse
Introduction

Languages of East Timor
Lit Review

– John Hajek, University of Melbourne
  • 2000; Sociolinguistic Environment in East Timor: Colonial Practice and Changing Language Ecologies

– Aone van Engelenhoven, Leiden University
  • 2006; Ita-nia Nasaun Oin-Ida, Ita-nia Dalen Sira Oin-Seluk: Our Nation is One, Our Languages are Different

– Kerry Taylor-Leech, Griffith University
  • 2008; Language and identity in East Timor
Lit Review

• Dennis Preston, 1982
  – From performance-based dialectology to perceptual dialectology
  – Performance-based rely on professional elicitation and analysis of observed behavior
  – Perceptual rely on opinions and experiences of non-professionals
  – Why is this important?
Lit Review

- Currently, studies tend to focus on macro-areas in the West
  - Bucholtz, Mary, et al. (2007) “Hella Nor Cal or Totally So Cal?: The Perceptual Dialectology of California”
  - Fought, Carmen. (2002) “California Students’ Perceptions of, You Know, Regions and Dialects?”
  - Purschke, Christoph. (2011) “Regional linguistic knowledge and perception: on the conceptualization of Hessian”
Research Questions

• Anecdotes suggesting that certain people tend to settle in certain places:
  – What are Dili resident’s perceptions of language use in Dili?
    • What factors influence perceptions of language use in Dili?
Methods
Methods

• Distribution
  – Student Training
  – Problems
    • map culture, labels
    • group mentality
    • infrastructure

• Metadata entered in Excel for qualitative analysis in R
  – total word counts, total language labels, unique language labels, demographic groups, etc.

• Quadrat analysis
Participants

Participant's Age
Mean of both groups = 26 Years

Participant's Years Lived in Dili
Mean of both groups = 13 Years
Participants
40yo; F; Baucau; 17 years in Dili

These people are came from Los-palos, Baucau, Bobonaro, Aimaro, Oecusse, Manufahi, Covilha, Liquisa districts.
24yo; F; Baucau; 2 years in Dili
Mother tongues become like district identities for each person in East Timor and one feels proud to bring and preserve those languages there into the international world.
24yo; F; Baucau; 20 years in Dili
Unique Languages (20)

Total Language Labels

- Baikero: 31
- Bekais: 1
- Burak: 113
- Chinese: 91
- English: 30
- Fataluku: 4
- Galolen: 6
- Idate: 13
- Indonesian: 69
- Kairui: 182
- Kemak: 198
- Makalero: 5
- Makasae: 35
- Mambae: 82
- Midiki: 32
- Naueti: 54
- Portuguese: 25
- Raheksu: 1
- Tetun: 1
- Tetun Terik: 0
- Tokodede: 1
- Waimala: 0
Population ($p=0.9$)

Actual Speaker Populations and Perceived Populations in Dili

2010 Census Language Population

Map Language Frequency
Languages of One’s Own District

Own-District and Non-District Languages by District

- Own-District Language
- Non-District Language

Districts include: Ataro, Aileu, Baucau, Bobonaro, Covilha, Dili, Ermera, Lautem, Liquica, Manatuto, Manufahi, Oecusse, Viqueque.
Results - Mambae

Central Timor-Leste, 130,000 speakers
Results - Bunak

Mountain-Central Timor-Leste, 75,000 speakers
Results - Kemak

West Timor-Leste, 72,000 speakers
Results - Makasae

Eastern Timor-Leste, 70,000 speakers
Results - Fataluku

Far Eastern Timor-Leste,
30,000 speakers
Conclusions

• Maps show that respondents don’t believe certain languages to be in certain areas.
• Different groups (male, female, young, old, etc.) did not show significant differences of opinion.
• Maps show high linguistic and social awareness.
• Labels show that respondents’ awareness of languages roughly corresponds to their speaker populations ($p=.9$).
• Speakers are more likely to identify languages from outside their districts that their ‘own’ languages.
References