THE LEXEME ‘FACE’ IN LANGUAGES OF NORTHWESTERN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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INTRODUCTION

- Study of body part terms
- Methodology and data
- Results
- ‘Face’ in Srenge
- ‘Face’ in Walman
- Conclusions
- Further steps

STUDY OF BODY PART TERMS (I)

- Focus of studies:
  - Human anatomical partonomy (Brown, 1976)
  - Colexification of terms (Brown, 2005)
  - Body part metonymies and metaphors (Yu, 2001)
  - Referential delimitation of terms (Levinson, 2006)
  - Human-to-animal body transposition (MacLaury, 1989)
  - Grammaticalization of terms (Gerdts and Hinkson, 2004; Svorou, 1994)

STUDY OF BODY PART TERMS (II)

- Some languages have ‘face’ lexemes that are not monomorphemic

- ‘Eye-mouth-nose’ compounds (EMN)

- Three reasons for the use of ‘eye’, ‘mouth’, and ‘nose’:
  - Perceptual
  - Bodily
  - Interpersonal and interactional

METHODOLOGY AND DATA (I)

- Definition of ‘face’:

> Body part between the top of the head and the neck of a person that includes the eyes, the nose, and the mouth, and for some people, the ears, chin, cheeks and forehead.

- Excel file with information on language name, ISO code, senses, type of lexeme, reference, etc.

- Monomorphemic (one root) or analyzable (more than one root) lexemes

- Colexification as two senses linked to one lexeme (François, 2008)

METHODOLOGY AND DATA (II)

- Languages of the Sepik, Ramu, and Torricelli areas as per Foley (2018)
- 61 out of 200 or
  30.5% languages analyzed
- Sample of availability

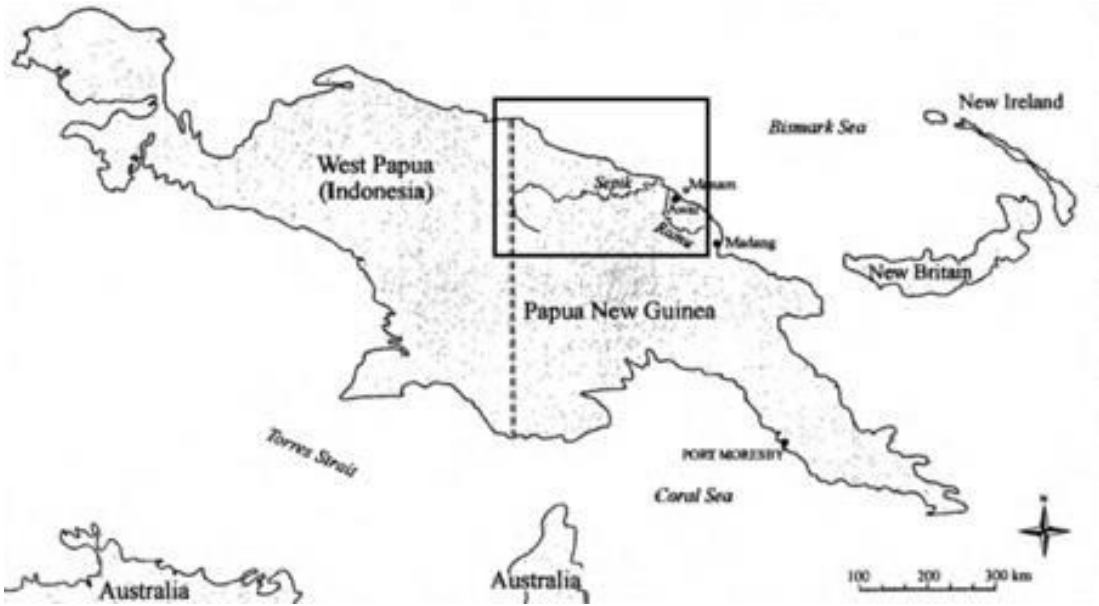


Figure 1. Map of northwestern Papua New Guinea

METHODOLOGY AND DATA (III)

- Obstacles in my study:
    - Languages of this area are underdocumented or undocumented.
    - ‘Face’ lexeme not collected in fieldwork lists.
    - Little detail on the use of ‘face’ lexemes

RESULTS (I)

	All languages	Torricelli languages
Languages with monomorphemic ‘face’ lexemes	38 / 62%	7 / 41%
Languages with analyzable ‘face’ lexemes	23 / 38%	10 /59%
Total	61 / 100%	17 / 100%

Table 1. Summary of languages with monomorphemic and analyzable ‘face’ lexemes

RESULTS (II)

language

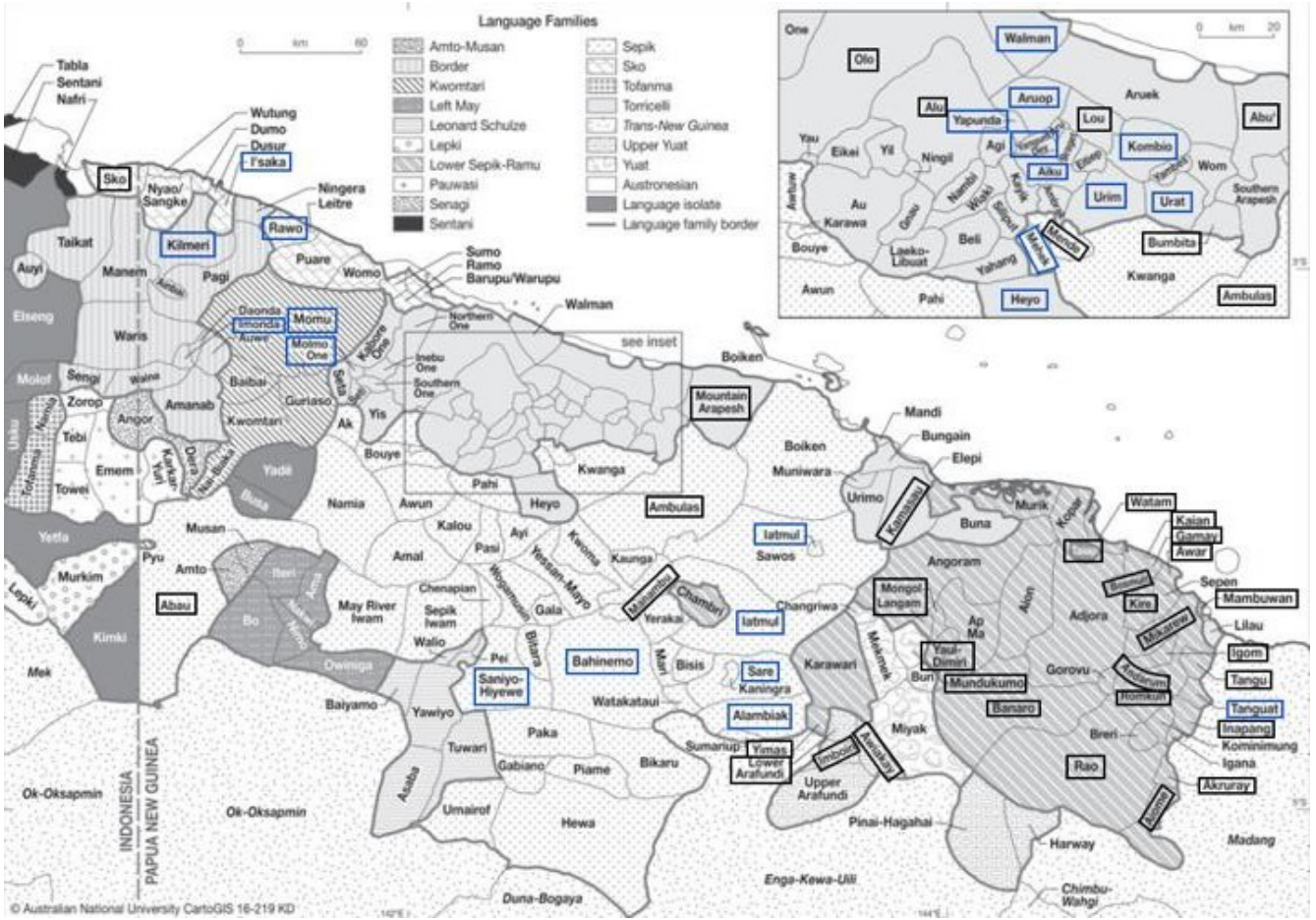
=

analyzable

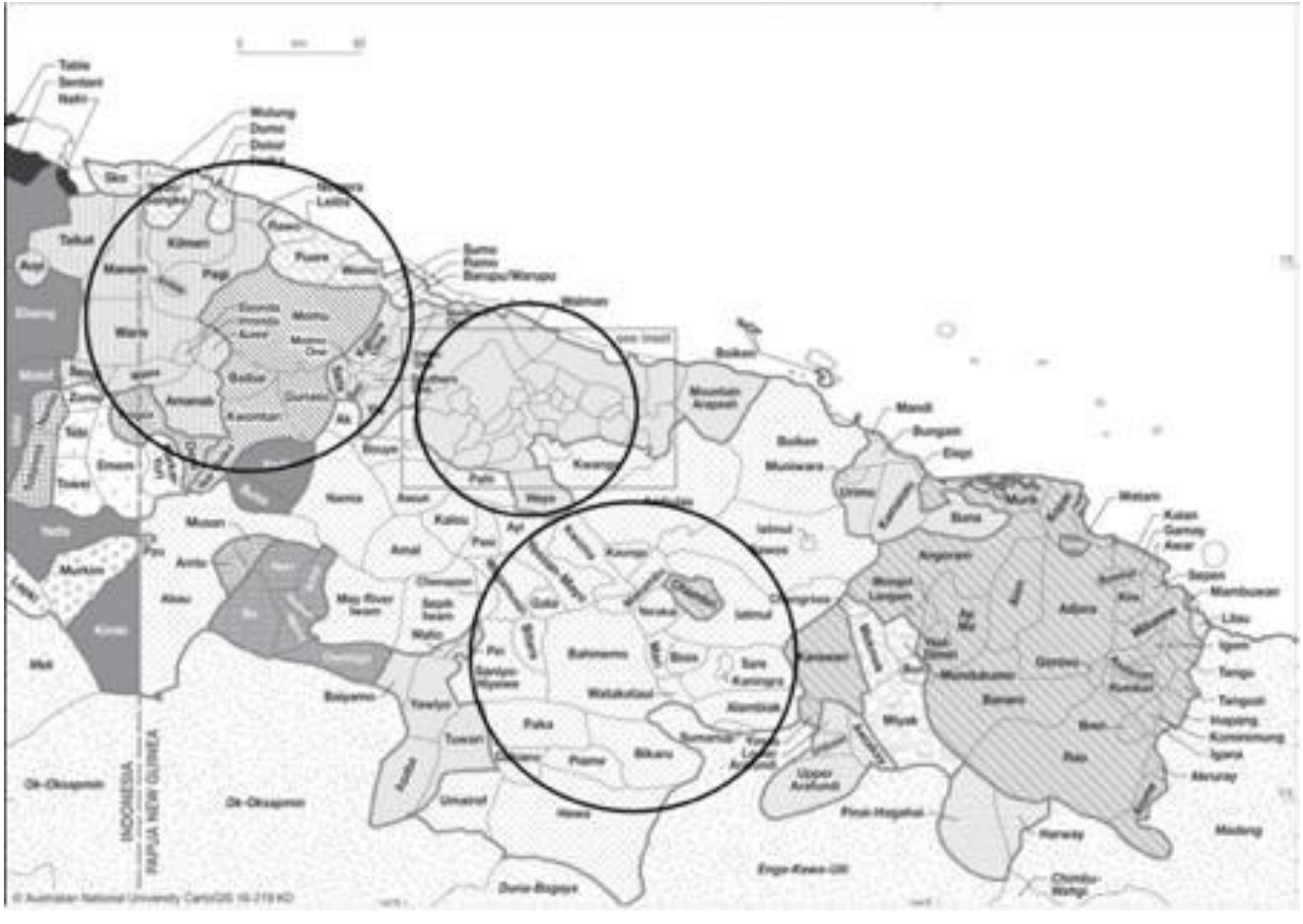
language

=

monomorphemic



RESULTS (III)


INDONESIA
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
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RESULTS (IV)

- Monomorphemic ‘face’ lexemes are found in the Arafundi, Border, Keram, Lower Sepik-Ramu, Ndu, Sepik, Torricelli, and Yuat families, and in the isolate Taiap.

- Analyzable ‘face’ lexemes are found in the the Baibai-Fas, Border, Lower Sepik-Ramu, Ndu, Sepik, Sko, and Torricelli families.

- Geographical rather than genealogical pattern.

RESULTS (V)

- Genealogical pattern among Torricelli languages:
    - The languages in the Kombio-Arapesh, Marienberg, Monumbo, and Wapei subfamilies have monomorphemic lexemes.
    - The languages in the Kombio-Arapesh, Maimai, Palei, Urim, West Palei, and West Wapei subfamilies have analyzable lexemes.

RESULTS (VI)

	‘forehead’	**‘nose’**	**‘appearance’**	**‘front’**	**‘middle’**	**‘shadow’**
‘face’	[10]	[7]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[1]

Table 2. Colexifications of ‘face’ lexemes per number of languages

- Almost all ‘face’ lexemes that colexify two senses are monomorphemic.

- CLICS database supports the above except for the colexification of ‘face’ and ‘nose’.

RESULTS (VII): ANALYZABLE LEXEMES

- Phonological variation, e.g. *ruwet* ‘nose’ in Heyo loses *-t* in *ruwe nabelg* ‘face (lit. nose eye)’.

- Morphological variation, e.g.:
  - Head can’t be determined
  - Terms for upper part of face usually occur first
  - Analyzable ‘face’ lexemes without ‘eye’, ‘mouth’ or ‘nose’ are rare

- Extremely rare three-root analyzable ‘face’ lexemes, e.g. Kombio *mpominiampepm*‘face (lit. forehead-nose-eye)’.

‘FACE’ IN SRENGE (I)

- Two ‘face’ lexemes:
  - *Mupə na* ‘face (lit. nose tooth)’ for physical impact and violence

(1) Dim y-kparə **mupə** **na** nendi-n.
3PL 3PL-beat nose tooth POSS-3SG.M
‘They broke his face’

(2) Dim y-akə ala y-ap y-ala am l-a **mupə** **na** nendi am.
3PL 3PL-use foot 3PL-hit 3PL-hit 1SG 3SG.N-be.at nose tooth poss 1SG
'They kicked me in the face.

‘FACE’ IN SRENGE (II)

- *Yoltə nambə* ‘face (lit. eye hip joint)’ for facial expression and looks

(3)	**Yoltə**	**nambə**	ymbreti	galə	mnal?
	eye	hip.joint	unhappy	for	what

‘Why do you (i.e. your face) look sad/unhappy?

(4)	Di	w-ngalsə	**yoltə**	**nambə**.
	3SG.F	3SG.F-wash	eye	hip.joint

‘She is washing her hair and her face’

‘FACE’ IN WALMAN

- Only the lexeme *chkuel nyamayki* ‘face (lit. eye nose)’, as in:

(5) Ru **chkuel** **nyamayki** y-ama chi.
3SG.F eye nose 3PL-be.like 2SG
‘Her face is like yours.’

(6) Runon n-olo-y **chkuel** **nyamayki**.
3SG.M 3SG.M-wash-3PL eye nose
‘He washed his face.’

CONCLUSIONS

- Analyzable ‘face’ lexemes are not rare in Northwestern Papua New Guinea
- Overall, the distribution pattern of ‘face’ lexemes is geographical
- For Torricelli languages, the pattern could be genealogical
- ‘Face’ lexemes often colexify the senses ‘forehead’ and ‘nose’

FURTHER STEPS

- Collect data for other languages in Papua New Guinea
- Check if analyzable ‘face’ lexemes are rare in Austronesian languages
- Use elicitation materials to collect parallel data
- Relate findings to cultural and interactional dynamics

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