

## **Benefactive constructions in Western Austronesian Languages**

Masayoshi Shibatani

Rice University

Like many other languages, the Austronesian languages of eastern Indonesia have grammaticalized the verb GIVE in forming benefactive constructions of the serial-verb and compound types, as below:

Sikka (Flores Island)

(1) Nimu boter payung beli ina nimun

he buy umbrella GIVE mother his

‘He bought an umbrella for his mother.’

(2) Nimu boter-beli ina nimun payung.

he buy-GIVE mother his umbrella

‘He bought his mother an umbrella.’

This presentation examines the rise and the expansion of benefactive constructions of these types across the Austronesian languages of the Nusa Tenggara region in eastern Indonesia, between Bali and Flores, in the light of a wider context of Western Austronesian languages including Malagasy, Tsou (Taiwan), Tagalog, and Western Malayo-Polynesian as well as Central Malayo-Polynesian languages of Indonesia. These languages form three groups in terms of the following morphosyntactic characteristics; (a) those which retain the reflexes of the four-way focus system of Proto-Austronesian with rich morphology (Malagasy, Tsou, and Tagalog), (b) those that have reduced the focus system into a two-way contrast with moderate morphology (Bahasa Indonesia, Balinese, Sasak), and (c) those that have pretty much lost the focus system and are largely isolating (most languages of Nusa Tenggara, but especially those toward the east). The distribution of different types of benefactive constructions is shown to correlate with these morphosyntactic properties ranging from benefactive-focus constructions for (a), to suffixal benefactive applicatives for (b), and to GIVE-based constructions for (c).