

# the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald

The Manambu Language of East Sepik Papua New Guinea Alexandra Y Aikhenvald

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald** has been a focal point of linguistic study for many years, especially due to its unique structure and rich cultural background. This language, spoken by the Manambu people in the East Sepik region of Papua New Guinea, offers fascinating insights into the diversity of human language and communication. Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, a renowned linguist, has extensively researched this language, shedding light on its grammatical complexities, social context, and the intricate ways the Manambu language shapes and reflects the lives of its speakers.

## Understanding the Manambu Language: A Linguistic Treasure in Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is famously one of the most linguistically diverse places on Earth, home to over 800 languages. Among these, the Manambu language stands out due to its distinctive features and the way it connects the community to their environment and traditions. Spoken primarily along the Sepik River, the Manambu language belongs to the Sepik-Ramu language family, a group known for its complex verb systems and rich morphological structures.

## The Role of Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald in Documenting Manambu

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald is a prominent figure in the field of linguistic anthropology and typology. Her work with the Manambu language has been pivotal in preserving and analyzing this lesser-known language. Aikhenvald's approach is not merely descriptive; she delves into the nuances of how the Manambu language operates socially and culturally, providing a holistic view of the language in use.

Her research has highlighted the intricate verb serialization in Manambu, a feature where multiple verbs combine to express a sequence of actions or complex events. This aspect of the language illustrates how Manambu speakers perceive time and action, differing significantly from many Indo-European languages.

## The Structure and Grammar of the Manambu Language

One of the most intriguing aspects of the Manambu language is its grammar. It is characterized by a rich system of verb morphology and a flexible word order that allows speakers to emphasize different parts of a sentence. Understanding these grammatical features can open a window into the cognitive patterns of the Manambu people.

## Verb Serialization and Morphology

Verb serialization is a hallmark of the Manambu language. This linguistic phenomenon involves stringing together two or more verbs without conjunctions to describe a single event or related actions. For example, a Manambu speaker might use a series of verbs to describe going to a river, catching fish, and returning home — all in one continuous phrase.

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald's analysis shows that this feature is not just syntactic but deeply tied to how the Manambu conceptualize processes and actions. The verbs often carry markers indicating tense, aspect, and mood, which contribute to the rich tapestry of meaning in everyday communication.

## Pronouns and Person Marking

In Manambu, personal pronouns and verb agreement markers play a crucial role. The language distinguishes between inclusive and exclusive “we,” a common trait among many Papuan languages, which reflects the social relationships and group dynamics in conversations.

This distinction can be very insightful for linguists studying how languages encode social information. It also showcases the subtle ways language can mirror cultural priorities, such as community inclusion or exclusion.

## The Cultural Significance of the Manambu Language

Language is more than just a communication tool; it embodies culture, identity, and history. The Manambu language is deeply intertwined with the traditions and worldview of the Manambu people.

## Oral Traditions and Storytelling

The Manambu community relies heavily on oral traditions, with story-telling serving as a means of passing down history, moral lessons, and cultural knowledge. Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald's fieldwork includes documenting these oral narratives, which provide valuable context for understanding how language functions within this society.

These stories are often marked by unique linguistic features, such as specific verb forms or narrative structures, that are unique to Manambu. Such features enrich the language and help preserve the community's heritage.

## Language Preservation and Challenges

Like many indigenous languages, Manambu faces challenges in the modern world. Globalization, urban migration, and the dominance of languages like Tok Pisin and English in Papua New Guinea put pressure on smaller languages. Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald's work not only documents the language but

also raises awareness about the importance of preserving linguistic diversity.

Efforts to maintain Manambu involve encouraging younger generations to learn and use the language in daily life, as well as incorporating it into educational and cultural programs. Understanding the linguistic structure and cultural significance of Manambu is essential in designing effective preservation strategies.

## **Insights from Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald's Research**

Aikhenvald's comprehensive studies offer valuable insights into how the Manambu language fits into the broader picture of human language diversity. Her work highlights the adaptability and creativity of human language and how linguistic systems can vary dramatically across different societies.

## **The Importance of Field Linguistics**

Aikhenvald's approach emphasizes the importance of immersive fieldwork, engaging directly with native speakers to capture the full richness of the Manambu language. This method allows linguists to appreciate not just the structural elements of a language but also the social and cultural contexts that shape its use.

## **Contributions to Linguistic Typology**

The study of Manambu has contributed to linguistic typology by providing evidence of rare or complex grammatical phenomena. For example, verb serialization in Manambu challenges some assumptions about how verbs can function within a sentence, offering new perspectives on language universals and diversity.

Her work encourages linguists to reconsider how languages can differ in encoding events and actions, broadening our understanding of human cognition and communication.

## **Why the Manambu Language Matters Today**

In a world where many languages are disappearing, the Manambu language stands as a testament to human linguistic ingenuity and cultural richness. Its study is not only academically valuable but also crucial for cultural preservation.

By understanding the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald has brought to light, scholars and language enthusiasts gain a deeper appreciation for the intricate ways language shapes human experience. The ongoing documentation and revitalization efforts inspired by her research ensure that the Manambu language remains a living, vibrant part of Papua New Guinea's cultural mosaic.

Whether you are a linguist, anthropologist, or simply someone fascinated by language, exploring the

Manambu language opens a fascinating window into the diversity and complexity of human communication. It reminds us that every language carries unique stories, perspectives, and wisdom worth cherishing.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Manambu language and where is it spoken?**

Manambu is a Papuan language spoken in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea, primarily along the Sepik River.

### **Who is Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and what is her contribution to the study of Manambu?**

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald is a renowned linguist who has extensively researched and documented the Manambu language, contributing significantly to the understanding of its grammar, structure, and linguistic features.

### **What are some unique linguistic features of the Manambu language documented by Aikhenvald?**

Manambu is noted for its complex verbal morphology, evidentiality markers, and noun classification system, features that Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald has described in detail in her linguistic studies.

### **How does Manambu fit within the linguistic landscape of East Sepik Province?**

Manambu is part of the Ndu language family, which is a dominant language group along the Sepik River, illustrating the rich linguistic diversity of East Sepik Province.

### **What resources has Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald produced on the Manambu language?**

Aikhenvald has produced comprehensive descriptive grammars, academic papers, and fieldwork data on Manambu, making it one of the best-documented languages in the Sepik region.

### **Why is studying the Manambu language important for linguistics?**

Studying Manambu offers insights into Papuan language typology, language contact phenomena, and the mechanisms of language change in small-scale societies, which are crucial for understanding human language diversity.

# Additional Resources

The Manambu Language of East Sepik Papua New Guinea: Insights from Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald** represents a crucial area of linguistic research, especially within the context of the diverse and richly textured languages of Papua New Guinea. Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, a distinguished linguist, has extensively studied this language, contributing significantly to our understanding of its structure, usage, and cultural significance. The Manambu language, spoken by an indigenous community in the East Sepik region, offers a fascinating window into the complex interplay between language, culture, and cognition in one of the world's most linguistically diverse areas.

## Background and Linguistic Context of Manambu

The Manambu language belongs to the Ndu language family, which is part of the larger Sepik linguistic area. This region is renowned for its linguistic heterogeneity, with over 800 languages spoken across Papua New Guinea. Manambu itself is spoken by approximately 2,000 to 3,000 people, primarily residing in the East Sepik Province along the Sepik River. The language is considered vital for maintaining the cultural identity and oral traditions of the Manambu people.

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald's work on Manambu has been instrumental in documenting its phonological, morphological, and syntactic features. Her research offers not only descriptive grammar but also explores the sociolinguistic dimensions of the language, such as language vitality, transmission, and the effects of external influences.

## Phonology and Morphological Features

One of the standout characteristics of the Manambu language is its rich phonemic inventory, including a range of consonantal and vocalic sounds that are typical of the Sepik languages but rare globally. Aikhenvald's detailed phonological analysis reveals the presence of distinctive nasal consonants, prenasalized stops, and a complex system of vowel length contrasts.

Morphologically, Manambu is agglutinative, employing a series of affixes to indicate tense, mood, aspect, and evidentiality. This morphological complexity allows speakers to encode subtle nuances of meaning and speaker attitude within verb forms. Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald's studies highlight how evidential markers in Manambu provide insights into the epistemological frameworks of its speakers—how they perceive and convey the source of information.

## Syntactic Structures and Sentence Formation

In terms of syntax, Manambu features relatively free word order compared to many Indo-European languages, although a typical Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order is dominant. Aikhenvald's syntactic descriptions emphasize the role of pragmatic factors in determining word order, such as topicalization and focus.

The language also employs a variety of clause-chaining mechanisms and switch-reference markers, which allow speakers to link multiple clauses cohesively. These syntactic devices serve important narrative functions, enabling the conveyance of complex event sequences and temporal relations.

## Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald's Contributions and Methodology

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald's approach to studying the Manambu language is notable for its combination of fieldwork, descriptive linguistics, and typological comparison. Her immersion in the community facilitated the collection of naturalistic speech data, which underpins her comprehensive grammars and linguistic analyses.

Her publications on Manambu provide valuable resources for both linguists and anthropologists, shedding light on the intricate relationships between language structure and cultural practices. Aikhenvald's emphasis on evidentiality and information structure in Manambu has influenced broader linguistic theories, especially concerning how languages encode knowledge and belief.

## Language Vitality and Sociolinguistic Challenges

Despite its cultural significance, the Manambu language faces challenges common to many indigenous languages worldwide. Language shift toward Tok Pisin and English, driven by education and economic factors, poses a threat to the intergenerational transmission of Manambu.

Aikhenvald's work touches upon these sociolinguistic dynamics, raising awareness about the need for language documentation and revitalization programs. The community's efforts to maintain their linguistic heritage underscore the importance of supporting minority languages in Papua New Guinea's rapidly changing linguistic landscape.

## Comparative Perspectives: Manambu Among East Sepik Languages

Comparing Manambu with neighboring languages in the East Sepik area reveals both shared features and unique distinctions. The Ndu family languages, including Iatmul and Abelam, show similar phonological inventories and morphological systems, yet each maintains distinct lexical and syntactic traits.

Aikhenvald's comparative analyses help linguists understand the historical relationships and language contact phenomena within this region. For instance, patterns of lexical borrowing and convergence hint at cultural exchanges and inter-group relations along the Sepik River.

- **Shared Phonological Traits:** Prenasalized stops and complex vowel systems common among Ndu languages

- **Morphological Similarities:** Use of agglutinative affixes to mark grammatical categories
- **Unique Features:** Manambu's distinct evidential markers and clause-chaining strategies

## Implications for Linguistic Theory and Typology

The detailed description of Manambu enriches global linguistic typologies by providing data from a less-studied language family. Aikhenvald's focus on evidentiality contributes to understanding how languages encode source of information, a feature that varies widely across the world's languages.

Moreover, Manambu's complex morphological system challenges assumptions about simplicity in small languages, demonstrating that linguistic complexity is not necessarily linked to the number of speakers. This insight is crucial for linguists working on language universals and diversity.

The manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald research thus occupies a significant place in the broader study of Papuan languages. It highlights the importance of field-based linguistic research in uncovering the richness of human language and cognition.

As languages like Manambu face pressures from globalization and language shift, the work of linguists such as Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald remains vital. Her research not only preserves linguistic knowledge but also supports cultural resilience, offering a model for future studies in Papua New Guinea and beyond.

## [The Manambu Language Of East Sepik Papua New Guinea Alexandra Y Aikhenvald](#)

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald:** *The Manambu Language of East Sepik, Papua New Guinea* Aleksandra IꞑUꞑr'evna Aikhenval'd, Jacklyn Yuamali Ala, Pauline Agnes Luma Laki, 2008-09-04 This book presents the first comprehensive description of the Manambu language of Papua New Guinea. Manambu belongs to the Ndu language family, and is spoken by about 2,500 people in five villages in East Sepik Province, Ambunti district. The book is based entirely on the author's fieldwork.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: A grammar of Ulwa (Papua New Guinea)** Russell Barlow, 2023-08-14 This book is a grammatical description of Ulwa, a Papuan language spoken by about 600 people living in four villages in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea. Ulwa belongs to the Keram language family. This grammatical description is based on a corpus of recorded texts and elicited sentences that were collected during a total of about twelve months of research carried out between 2015 and 2018. The book aims to detail as many aspects of Ulwa grammar as possible, including matters of phonology, morphology, and syntax. It also contains a lexicon with over 1,400 entries and three fully glossed and translated texts. The book was written with a typologically oriented audience in mind, and should be of interest to Papuan specialists as well as to general linguists. It may be useful to those working on the history or classification of Papuan languages as well as those conducting typological research on any number of grammatical features.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: New Perspectives on Endangered Languages** José Antonio Flores Farfán, Fernando F. Ramallo, 2010 Understanding sociolinguistics as a theoretical and methodological framework hopefully could attempt to promote change and social development in human communities. Yet it still presents important political, epistemological, methodological and theoretical challenges. A sociolinguistics of development, in which the revitalization of linguistic communities is the priority, opens new perspectives for the emerging field of linguistic documentation, in which the societal aspects of research, stressed by sociolinguistics, have frequently been marginal. The need to focus on the documentation of linguistic communities to contribute to the revitalization of these communities requires an in-depth revision of a number of different perspectives. Especially regarding the links between commonly separated fields of enquiry such as sociolinguistics, documentation and revitalization. Instead of creating mere museum pieces of academic contemplation for the future, as has been the major trend up to now in language documentation and even sociolinguistics, there is a growing concern to join forces to revitalize the actual use of endangered languages in order to place languages as a main focus of a community's development which constitutes a major challenge for both scholars, civil society and speakers alike.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: Language in Strange and Familiar Places** Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, Anne Storch, Viveka Velupillai, 2025-06-02 Language and place are intimately connected: depending on where we are, what the context is and what our aims are, we will adjust our language accordingly. Yet linguistics defines itself by a framework that determines which kind of language is worth investigating. Within that framework, linguistics constructs both language and place in multiple ways: language as a sequestered thing belongs to the field site or the classroom; language as fluid practice is associated with the street; language as reconstruction belongs to migration corridors. What about the places that tend to fall between the cracks? This volume explores language in strange and familiar places, from Europe to Africa, Amazonia, Australia and the Pacific, in order to shed light on them.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: The Linguistics of Eating and Drinking** John Newman, 2009 This volume reviews a range of fascinating linguistic facts about ingestive predicates in the world's languages. The highly multifaceted nature of 'eat' and 'drink' events gives rise to interesting clausal properties of these predicates, such as the atypicality of transitive constructions involving 'eat' and 'drink' in some languages. The two verbs are also sources for a large number of figurative uses across languages with meanings such as 'destroy', and 'savour', as well as participating in a great variety of idioms which can be quite opaque semantically. Grammaticalized extensions of these predicates also occur, such as the quantificational use of Hausa shaa 'drink' meaning (roughly) 'do X frequently, regularly'. Specialists discuss details of the use of these verbs in a variety of languages and language families: Australian languages, Papuan languages, Athapaskan languages, Japanese, Korean, Hausa, Amharic, Hindi-Urdu, and Marathi.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: How Languages Work** Carol Genetti, Allison Silver Adelman, 2019 A fully revised introduction to language in use, containing in-depth language profiles, case studies, and online multimedia resources.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: The Integration of Language and Society** Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, R. M. W. Dixon, Nerida Jarkey, 2021 The volume explores the integration of language and society as reflected in the grammar of a language. It draws on data from a range of diverse languages to examine how aspects of grammar such as honorifics and possessives relate to societal practices. It will be a valuable resource for typologists, anthropologists, and sociolinguists.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: Clause Chaining in the Languages of the World** Hannah S. Sarvasy, Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, 2025-02-25 The languages of the world make use of a variety of techniques for describing events and putting sentences together. This volume takes a typological approach to clause chaining, a

fascinating feature of the grammar of hundreds of languages outside Europe, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, East Africa, across Central Asia, and the Americas. Clause chains consist of several dependent clauses and one main clause, and are used to organize discourse and to foreground or background events and participants; they often go together with switch-reference marking, an indication of whether upcoming subjects will be co-referential with preceding subjects or not. The introductory chapter features a discussion of the typological properties of clause chaining, with a brief overview of previous approaches to and investigations of clause chains followed by an overview of their recurrent grammatical features; it ends with an appendix featuring notes for fieldworkers. The first part of the book explores general issues in clause chaining, including prosody, acquisition, and language contact and history; later parts then examine clause chaining and related phenomena in a wide range of languages from around the world.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: A Grammar of Nungon** Hannah Sarvasy, 2017-03-13 A Grammar of Nungon is the most comprehensive modern reference grammar of a language of northeast Papua New Guinea. Nungon is a previously-undescribed Finisterre-Huon Papuan language spoken by about 1,000 people in the Saruwaged Mountains, Morobe Province. Hannah Sarvasy provides a rich description of the language in its cultural context, based on original immersion fieldwork. The exposition is extraordinarily thorough, covering phonetics, phonology, word classes, morphology, grammatical relations, switch-reference, valency, complex predicates, clause combining, possession, information structure, and the pragmatics of communication. Four complete interlinearized Nungon monologues and dialogues supplement the copious textual examples. A Grammar of Nungon sets a new standard of thoroughness for reference works on languages of this region.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: A Grammar of Atong** Seino van Breugel, 2014-01-30 Atong is a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in Northeast India and Bangladesh. Seino van Breugel provides a deep and thorough coverage and analysis of all major areas of the grammar, which makes this book of great interest and value to general linguists and typologists as well as area specialists. Alongside an Atong-English dictionary and five fully-glossed Atong texts recorded during extensive fieldwork, this work also provides a sizable ethnolinguistic introduction to the speakers and their culture. Of particular interest is the pragmatic approach taken for the grammatical analysis. Whereas the form of an utterance provides some clue as to its possible meaning, inference is always needed to arrive at the most relevant interpretation within the context in which the utterance occurs. This is a very important book for South Asian and Sino-Tibetan linguistic scholarship. Of the 200 languages of Northeast India, only a handful have been documented; the present work brings the number of full-scale modern grammars for these languages to six. Thus it represents a unique and extremely valuable contribution. Professor Scott DeLancey University of Oregon This is a solid academic work which makes a huge contribution to the field. There is no other detailed account of this particular language, and it is highly doubtful that anyone will write something more comprehensive in the future. Dr Willem de Reuse University of North Texas

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: Periphrasis and Inflexion in Diachrony** Adam Ledgeway, John Charles Smith, Nigel Vincent, 2022 This volume brings together contributions from leading specialists in syntax and morphology to explore the complex relation between periphrasis and inflexion from both a synchronic and diachronic perspective. The chapters draw on data from across the Romance language family, including standard and regional varieties and dialects. The relation between periphrasis and inflexion raises questions for both syntax and morphology, and understanding the phenomena involved requires cooperation across these sub-domains. For example, the components that express many periphrases can be interrupted by other words in a way that is common in syntax but not in morphology, and in some contexts, a periphrastic form may be semantically equivalent to a single-word inflected form, with which it arguably forms part of a paradigmatic set. Patterns of this kind are found across Romance, albeit with significant local differences. Moreover, diachrony is

essential in understanding these phenomena, and the rich historical documentation available for Romance allows an in-depth exploration of the changes and variation involved, as different members of the family may instantiate different stages of development. Studying these changes also raises important questions about the relation between attested and reconstructed patterns. Although the empirical focus of the volume is on the Romance languages, the analyses and conclusions presented shed light on the development and nature of similar structures in other language families and provide valuable insights relevant to linguistic theory more broadly.

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**Understanding and Measuring Morphological Complexity** Matthew Baerman, Dunstan Brown, Greville G. Corbett, 2015 This book aims to assess the nature of morphological complexity, and the properties that distinguish it from the complexity manifested in other components of language. Chapters highlight novel perspectives on conceptualizing morphological complexity, and offer concrete means for measuring, quantifying and analysing it.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald:** *The*

*^ALanguage Hoax* John H. McWhorter, 2014-04-01 A provocative argument against the idea that we view the world through the lens of the language we speak.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald:** *Shared*

*Grammaticalization* Martine Irma Robbeets, Hubert Cuyckens, 2013 This book offers fresh perspectives on [shared grammaticalization], a state whereby two or more languages have the source and the target of a grammaticalization process in common. While contact-induced grammaticalization has generated great interest in recent years, far less attention has been paid to other factors that may give rise to shared grammaticalization. This book intends to put this situation right by approaching shared grammaticalization from an integrated perspective, including areal as well as genealogical and universal motivations and by searching for ways to distinguish between these factors. The volume offers a wealth of empirical facts, presented by internationally renowned specialists, on the Transeurasian languages (i.e. Japonic, Koreanic, Tungusic, Mongolic, and Turkic) [the languages in focus] as well as on various other languages. *Shared Grammaticalization* will appeal to scholars and advanced students concerned with linguistic reconstruction, language contact and linguistic typology, and to anyone interested in grammaticalization theory.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald:** *The Art*

*of Grammar* Aleksandr Aikhenval'd, 2015 This book introduces the principles and practice of writing a comprehensive reference grammar. Several thousand distinct languages are currently spoken across the globe, each with its own grammatical system and its own selection of diverse grammatical structures. Comprehensive reference grammars offer a basis for understanding linguistic diversity and can provide a unique perspective into the structure and social and cognitive underpinnings of different languages. Alexandra Aikhenvald describes the means of collecting, analysing, and organizing data for use in this type of grammar, and discusses the typological parameters that can be used to explore relationships with other languages. She considers how a grammar can be made to reflect and bring to life the society of its speakers through background explanation and the judicious choice of examples, as well as by showing how its language, history, and culture are intertwined. She ends with a full glossary of terms and guidance for those wanting to explore a particular linguistic phenomenon or language family. *The Art of Grammar* is the ideal resource for students and teachers of linguistics, language studies, and inductively-oriented linguistic, cultural, and social anthropology.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald:** *The*

*Cambridge Handbook of Endangered Languages* Peter K. Austin, Julia Sallabank, 2011-03-24 It is generally agreed that about 7,000 languages are spoken across the world today and at least half may no longer be spoken by the end of this century. This state-of-the-art Handbook examines the reasons behind this dramatic loss of linguistic diversity, why it matters, and what can be done to document and support endangered languages. The volume is relevant not only to researchers in language endangerment, language shift and language death, but to anyone interested in the languages and

cultures of the world. It is accessible both to specialists and non-specialists: researchers will find cutting-edge contributions from acknowledged experts in their fields, while students, activists and other interested readers will find a wealth of readable yet thorough and up-to-date information.

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**Locative and Existential Predication** Chris Lasse Däbritz, Josefina Budzisch, Rodolfo Basile, 2025-09-10 Locative and existential predications are fundamental linguistic constructions that exhibit significant formal overlap while serving distinct communicative functions. Locative clauses typically anchor a definite referent to a spatial context, whereas existential clauses introduce new, often indefinite, referents into discourse. Despite their central role in syntactic and typological research, the cross-linguistic diversity of these predications remains largely underexplored. This collective volume originates from workshops held in 2023 at the Annual SLE Meeting in Athens and the International Conference on Historical Linguistics in Heidelberg. It brings together in-depth analyses of locative and existential predications across a wide range of languages, drawing on diverse methodological and theoretical approaches. Rather than imposing a single framework, the volume deliberately allows for variation in how these constructions are defined and analyzed, reflecting the complexity and diversity of linguistic structures. A key theme of the book is the relationship between locative, existential, and possessive predication. Many of the included studies highlight the formal and functional connections between these domains, illustrating how different languages encode possession through structures that overlap with locative and existential constructions. The volume also challenges conventional assumptions about structural distinctions between these predications, showing that in many languages, such boundaries are blurred or even nonexistent. The introductory chapter reviews key findings from prior research and offers a refined typology of locative and existential predications. It also highlights the major insights from the remaining chapters, each of which provides a detailed empirical analysis of these constructions in one or several underdescribed languages. The contributions address (i) the structural and functional properties of locative and existential clauses, (ii) crite

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**Diminutives across Languages, Theoretical Frameworks and Linguistic Domains** Stela Manova, Laura Grestenberger, Katharina Korecky-Kröll, 2023-12-18 This volume addresses a number of issues in current morphological theory from the point of view of diminutive formation, such as the role of phonology in diminutives and hypocoristics and consequently its place in the overall architecture of grammar, i.e. phonology-first versus syntax/morphology-first theoretical analyses, diminutives in the L1 acquisition of typologically diverse languages, and the borrowing of non-diminutive morphology for the expression of diminutive meanings, among others. Among the peculiarities of diminutive morphology discussed are the relation between diminutives and mass nouns, the avoidance of diminutives in plural contexts in some languages, and the relatively frequent semantic bleaching and reanalysis of diminutive forms cross-linguistically. Special attention is paid to the debate on the head versus modifier status of diminutive affixes (corresponding to high versus low diminutives in alternative analyses), with data from spoken and sign languages. Overall, the volume addresses a number of topics that will be of interest to scholars of almost all linguistic subfields and persuasions.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: The Art of Language**, 2022-05-02 This book contributes to opening up disciplinary knowledge and offering connections between different approaches to language in contemporary linguistics. Rather than focusing on a particular single methodology or theoretical assumption, the volume presents part of the wealth of linguistic knowledge as an intertwined project, which combines numerous practices, positionalities and perspectives. The editors believe, together with the contributors to this volume, that it is a crucial and timely task to emphasize the relevance of linguistic knowledge on power, hospitality, social class, marginalization, mobility, history, secrecy, the structures of discourse, and the construction of meaning, as knowledge that needs to be brought together – as it is brought together in personal discussions, conversations and encounters. To work along traces of linguistic

connectivity, marginalized narratives, in and on lesser studied (often stigmatized) language practices and to shed light on the tasks of linguistics in making diverse knowledges transparent—this offers spaces for critical discussion on the ethics of linguistics, its challenges, contributions and tasks. These are the approaches that are characteristic for the work of Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, to whom this book is dedicated.

**the manambu language of east sepik papua new guinea alexandra y aikhenvald: Fillers** Brigitte Pakendorf, Françoise Rose, 2025-07-04 Fillers are non-silent linguistic devices used in disfluencies to gain time while searching for words. In addition, they are frequently used intentionally to avoid words for reasons of politeness, 'conspirational' motivations, or rhetorical purposes. Two syntactically distinct types of conventionalized fillers can be distinguished: placeholders and hesitatives (also called hesitators). Placeholders are referential and morphosyntactically integrated, while hesitatives are neither. Strikingly, even though fillers are cross-linguistically widespread, dedicated studies of such items in particular languages are still largely lacking. This collective volume comprises in-depth descriptions of conventionalized fillers in a substantial variety of languages from Eurasia, Papunesia, Australia, and the Americas, hoping to stimulate typological research on fillers, both hesitatives and placeholders. The book aims to contribute to a better visibility of the topic among general linguists, to make data and analyses accessible that will be useful for further typological studies on the topic, and to provide models for descriptive linguists. The introductory chapter discusses issues emerging from the previous literature and offers a new typology of fillers. It also highlights the major findings of the eleven remaining chapters. Each of these contains a detailed and typologically informed analysis of fillers in one or several underdescribed languages, based on corpora of natural speech and focusing on lexical fillers rather than on phenomena below the word-level (phonetic lengthening, truncation) or above the word-level (such as idioms and discourse markers like 'you know', or rhetorical questions like 'what's the word for that?'). The chapters cover a large amount of diversity, both in terms of languages and with respect to the type of filler. They focus on (i) the criteria for identification of the various types of fillers and the terminology used, keeping in mind that the domain is still largely under construction, (ii) a detailed analysis in terms of morphosyntactic distribution and, if possible, (iii) frequency in speech, and (iv) some reflection on the diachronic development of these disfluency markers.

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