

**DIFFERENT LANGUAGE, DIFFERENT GREETING:  
A STUDY OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOUR ETHNIC GROUPS IN ALOR,  
EAST NUSA TENGGARA**

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Greeting is a universal phenomenon but has culture-specific properties. When several ethnic groups live in the same small area, greeting is affected by that. This paper presents a study of this phenomenon in Alor Island, Eastern Indonesia. In the Moru area four different ethnic groups interact in a relatively small area. These groups are Klon, Abui, Kui and Hamap, Non-Austronesian (Papuan). The study is based on primary data, collected in 2004-2005.

The studies of greeting have abstracted the phenomenon of greeting from its possible multi-lingual context. The greeting has been analyzed without taking in account of the wider social forces; its study has been narrowed to the power of cultural contact in interaction.

In this study the interaction of among the ethnic groups is analysed as the base for the structure of greeting. Each ethnic group contributes its optional elaborations and inovations to the system. This paper further addresses the typology of the greetings depending on the situational context and the relation between the intrelocutors, especially in the interethnic communication. Different layers of the greeting will be explored allong the scale: ethnic - interethnic - national.