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Bajau is spoken as the primary language from the Philippines to Borneo to eastern Indonesia, by both nomadic and settled communities. It is also known as Badjaw, Badjo, Bajao, Bajo, Bayo, Gaj, Indonesian Bajaw, Orang Laut, Sama, and Terijene; see Simons & Fennig 2017. Glottolog.org lists ‘Indonesian Bajau’ as a language spoken on the south-eastern coast of Sulawesi, glottocode indo1317 and ISO 639-3 bdl. Clifton (2010) claims the population of Bajau speakers is 700,000–900,000, with around 150,000–230,000 in eastern Indonesia (Sather 1997) and 92,000 in Sulawesi (Mead & Lee 2007). There are also Bajau-speaking populations in the Philippines and Borneo (Jun 2005); see Figure 1. Bajau is classified as a threatened Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian language (Simons & Fennig 2017). It has been proposed that the language originated in the Zamboanga-Basilan area in southern Philippines (Jun 2005 citing Pallesen 1985).



**Figure 1** (Colour online) Geographic location of Bajau-speaking regions of insular Southeast Asia, according to Jun (2005; dark blue/dark grey) and Nuraini (2010; pink/light grey) (overview map) and the location of Tanjung Luar (our speaker's hometown) on Lombok (inset map). Purple/medium grey (intersectional) areas indicate geographical regions where assessments by Jun and Nuraini coincide.

Jun (2005) follows Grimes (1999) in dividing Bajau speakers into nine general dialects; Aboknon Sama, Balangingi Sama, Central Sama, Pangutaran Sama, Southern Sama, Yakan, Mapun, West Coast Bajau, and Indonesian Bajau. Our paper focuses on Indonesian Bajau.

## Method

Audio and ultrasound data were recorded from a native Indonesian Bajau speaker, Hamdiyati (full name). Hamdiyati comes from Tanjung Luar, a small community of Bajau speakers in East Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, at the western edge of the Bajau diaspora; as such, Hamdiyati is from the ‘Indonesian Bajau’ dialect. (See Hapip 1979, Verheijen 1986, Donohue 1996, Candrawati 1997 for discussion of different aspects of Indonesian Bajau; see Jun 2005 for sources on the other dialects; Nuraini 2010 includes a text description of the sounds of Sabah Bajau, Philippines.) At the time of recording, Hamdiyati was 22 years old, a third-year university student. Both parents are Bajau speakers; she (and they) also speak Sasak and Bahasa Indonesia. (See Soderberg & Olson 2008 on Bahasa Indonesia and Archangeli, Tanashur & Yip (published online 28 March 2018) on Sasak.)

Hamdiyati translated ‘The North Wind and the Sun’ into Bajau. She practiced the story, and read it three times. Hamdiyati also provided the individual words illustrating the sounds, practiced them, then read them for both acoustic and ultrasound recording. In our study, we recorded audio and ultrasound video of a total of 76 unique words in a randomized order with three iterations. Each word was presented on a laptop screen to the speaker. All words were elicited one after the other in isolation during a single audio-video recording. Eighteen words were identified for describing the consonant inventory and six words were used to illustrate the vowel inventory of Indonesian Bajau. In addition, the stimuli also included 26 words for comparing the duration of consonantal singletons and geminates, 12 words for comparing the vowel quality in open and closed syllable types, and 14 words for comparing the vowel duration of short and long vowels.

Recordings were made in a classroom at the Mataram Lingua Franca Institute. To reduce the level of echo within the classroom, we erected a makeshift, sound-attenuated cubicle using tall, fabric-covered partition panels and a heavy desk. An omnidirectional, earset condenser microphone was used, attached to a laptop via an analog-to-digital audio interface. The sampling rate for audio was 44,100 Hz in all recordings.

The ultrasound transducer was visually aligned along the centerline of Hamdiyati’s head and was immobilized with respect to her head using a non-metallic ultrasound transducer holder (Derrick, Best & Fiasson 2015), which held the transducer at a fixed position relative to the jaw by two elastic, adjustable straps. The straps were tightened relatively snugly to ensure that the entire brace would not slip during the recording procedure. The elasticity of the brace straps allowed for relatively free downward and upward movements of the jaw during speech. Hamdiyati was free to move her head in any direction, as the brace did not immobilize her head in any way. Before recording, we asked Hamdiyati to produce [t] and [k] sounds during scanning. At this time, the live scan was checked by the authors to ensure that full dorsal and coronal constrictions were being captured in the ultrasonic video recording.

Ultrasound images were collected with a Teledyne ClarUs-EXT portable, ultrasonic beam-former and a 2–4 MHz convex ultrasound sensor (Teledyne MC4-2R20N), with an ultrasonic beam frequency of 4 MHz and an image sampling frequency of approximately 60 frames per second.

A high-performance gaming laptop located outside of the recording cubicle functioned as the machine dedicated to simultaneous audio- and video-data collection, while a separate laptop within the cubicle presented target materials to our speaker. Ultrasonic image frames were constructed using EchoWave II software (Teledyne 2015), and single audio-video files were recorded using screen-capture software (Beepa 2015, SplitmediaLabs 2015). Post-collection, audio recordings were processed and analyzed with Praat (Boersma & Weenink 2015); Praat was also used to identify acoustic landmarks in order to achieve video-to-audio synchronization and locate points in the audio stream corresponding to relevant ultrasound

frames. Traces were extracted as a set of 100 x- and y-coordinate values in EdgeTrak (Li, Kambhamettu & Stone 2005): EdgeTrak fit a smoothed graphical spline curve on the boundary edge corresponding to the tongue surface for each tongue image, and converted the curves into Cartesian-coordinate points for analysis. Splines were analyzed and plotted using R statistical software (R Core Team 2016).

Palate images were procured using the sip-of-water method: Throughout the recording procedure, palate images were collected by having Hamdiyati sip water through a straw and swallow the water bolus. In the swallow frames, a contour of the palate was traced along the top boundary of the bolus in the anterior and posterior regions of the palate.

## Consonants

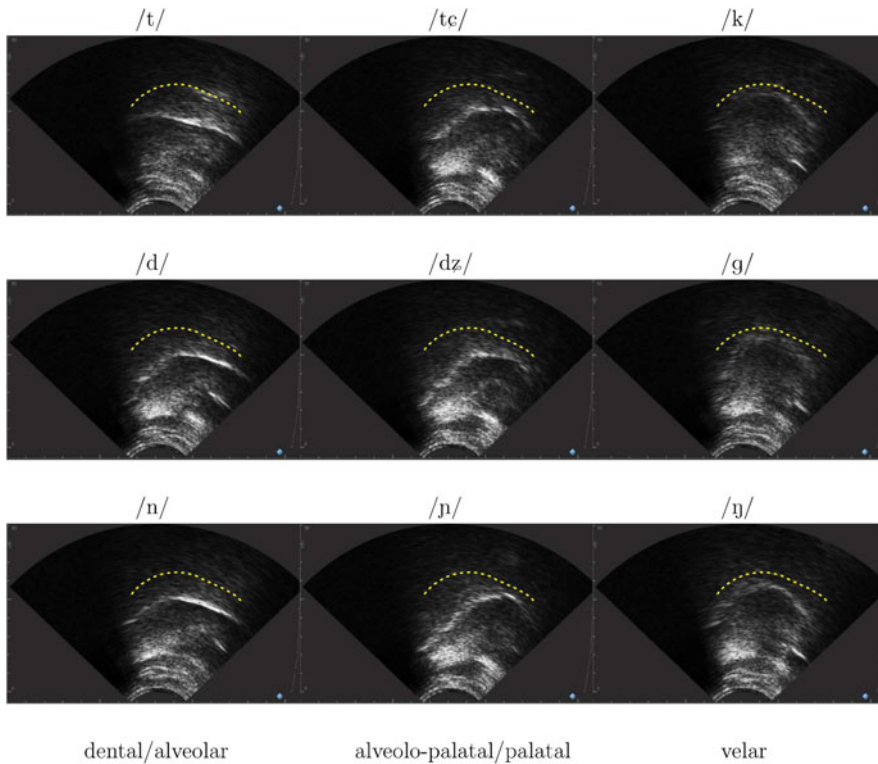
The Bajau sound inventory has 18 consonantal phonemes.

	Bilabial	Dental/ alveolar	Post- alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b	t d			k g	ʔ
Affricate			tʃ dʒ			
Nasal	m	n		ɲ	ŋ	
Tap		r				
Fricative		s				h
Approximant				j		
Lateral approximant		l				

p	pasaʔ	<i>pasaq</i>	‘to come, enter’	tʃ	tʃabi:ʔ	<i>cabiiq</i>	‘chili’
b	baseʔ	<i>baseq</i>	‘wet’	dʒ	dʒambaŋ	<i>jambang</i>	‘to poop’
m	maseʔ	<i>maseq</i>	‘care’	ɲ	ɲapah	<i>nyapah</i>	‘to have breakfast’
t	tapɔʔ	<i>tapoq</i>	‘to hide (INTRANS)’	j	jakin	<i>yakin</i>	‘sure’
d	dapuʔ	<i>dapuq</i>	‘to have’	k	kampɔh	<i>kampoh</i>	‘village’
n	napɔʔ	<i>napoq</i>	‘to hide (TRANS)’	g	gampɔh	<i>gampoh</i>	‘pull-up, chin up’
r	rap:ɔ	<i>rappo</i>	‘key’	ŋ	ŋampuʔ	<i>ngampuq</i>	‘to have sex’
s	sapu	<i>sapu</i>	‘broom’	ʔ	tahaʔ	<i>tahaq</i>	‘long’
l	lap:ɔh	<i>lappoh</i>	‘to lie’	h	hadzi	<i>haji</i>	‘to make the haji’

### Oral plosives and affricates, and nasal stops

Bajau oral plosives show a three-way place of articulation distinction while nasal stops show a four-way contrast: bilabial /p b m/, dental/alveolar /t d n/, palatal /ɲ/, and velar /k g ŋ/. Additionally, there are voiced and voiceless postalveolar affricates /tʃ dʒ/, which pattern with the plosives in terms of phonation effects. The individual articulatory tongue configurations for lingual sounds (dental/alveolar, postalveolar/palatal, velar) are shown in single ultrasound images in Figure 2. For plosives (oral stops; the top two rows in Figure 2), the selected ultrasound frames were the last frame before the acoustic release of the stop. For nasal stops

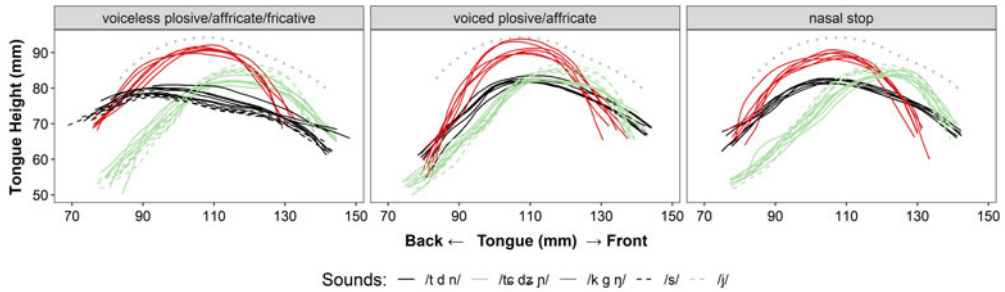


**Figure 2** (Colour online) Ultrasound images, midsagittal view; tongue tip to right; palate trace at top (dashed line). Lefthand column shows initial dental/alveolar consonants /t d n/ from /tapɔʔ/ *tapoq* 'to hide (INTRANS)', /dapuʔ/ *dapug* 'to have', /napɔʔ/ *napoq* 'to hide (TRANS)'; central column shows postalveolar /tɕ dz/ and palatal /ɲ/ from /tɕabi:ʔ/ *cabiig* 'chili', /dzamban/ *jambang* 'to poop', /ɲapah/ *nyapah* 'to have breakfast'; righthand column shows velar /k g ŋ/ from /kampoh/ *kampoh* 'village', /gampoh/ *gampoh* 'pull-up, chin up', /ŋampuʔ/ *ngampug* 'to have sex'. Top row shows initial voiceless consonants; second row shows initial voiced consonants; third row shows initial nasal consonants.

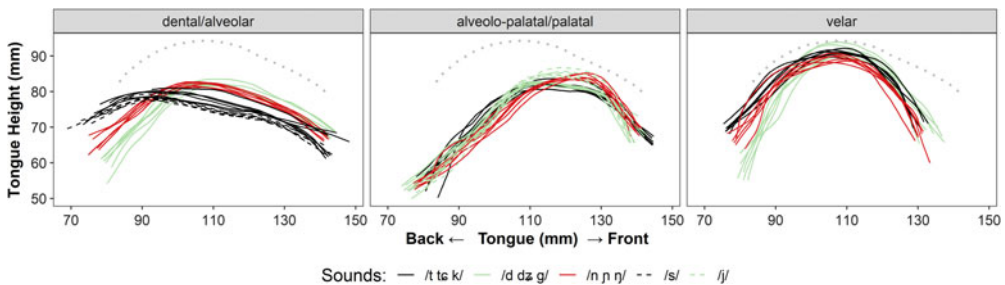
(the third row in Figure 2), frames were taken at the temporal midpoint of the relevant voiced nasal stop interval identified within the acoustic signal.

Figures 3 and 4 show compilations of traces from multiple ultrasound images in order to better compare articulations of different sound categories. The traces in Figure 3 show that regardless of phonation type, the velars are high and back, the postalveolars and the palatal are high and front, and dental/alveolars have a lower tongue position.

The traces in Figure 4 show the position of the tongue in three general places of articulation, comparing oral voiceless, oral voiced, and nasal articulations. The leftmost panel shows that dental/alveolar sounds generally have a relatively retracted tongue root and lowered dorsum, with /t/ and /s/ (black solid and dashed lines, respectively) having more retraction and a lower tongue dorsum than /d/ and /n/ (pale green/pale grey and red/dark grey solid lines). The tongue tip is missing in these images, so it is not possible to determine whether these are alveolar or dental sounds. The middle pane shows that the postalveolars have the tongue body raised towards the front of the mouth, with /tɕ/ and /dz/ (black and pale green/pale grey solid lines) having a slightly lower dorsum position and slightly higher tongue tip than the palatal /ɲ/ and /j/ (solid red/dark grey and dashed pale green/pale grey lines), hence the two designations, palatal and postalveolar. The rightmost pane shows that velars /k g ŋ/ are high and back, with voiced plosive /g/ (pale green/pale grey) having more advanced tongue root position than /k/ and /ŋ/ (black and red/dark grey).



**Figure 3** (Colour online) Tongue contour traces (from ultrasound images) of the midpoint of five productions each of the items in Figure 2, tongue tip to the right; palate trace near top (dotted light grey line); traces for palatal /j/ (dashed pale green/pale grey lines) are shown in each panel for comparison. Panels show phonation (left: voiceless /t s tʃ k/; center: voiced plosives/affricate /d dʒ g/; right: nasals /n ɲ ŋ/). Place is shown in each panel by color: dental/alveolar (black), postalveolar (pale green/pale grey lines) and velar (red/dark grey).



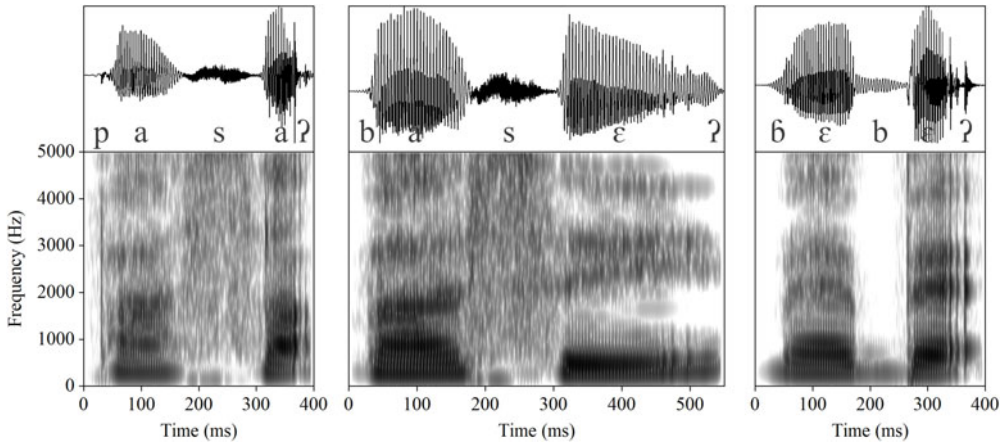
**Figure 4** (Colour online) Tongue contour traces (from ultrasound images) of the midpoint of five productions each of the items in Figure 2, tongue tip to the right; palate trace near top (dotted light grey line). Panels show place (left: dental/alveolar /t d n/; center: postalveolars /tʃ dʒ/ and palatal /ɲ j/; right: velar /k g ŋ/). Phonation is shown in each panel by color: Voiceless (black, with /s/ shown by a black dashed line), voiced (pale green/pale grey, with /j/ shown by a pale green/pale grey dashed line), and nasal (red/dark grey).

The glottal stop /ʔ/ occurs contrastively in final position, where it may be realized as creak, as a glottal stop, or deleted. Sporadically, vowel-initial words are pronounced with an initial [ʔ]: /a:ha:ʔ/ [ʔa:ha:ʔ] *aahaq* ‘people, someone’ vs. /a:haʔ/ [a:haʔ] *aahaq* ‘Sunday’.

### Voice onset time

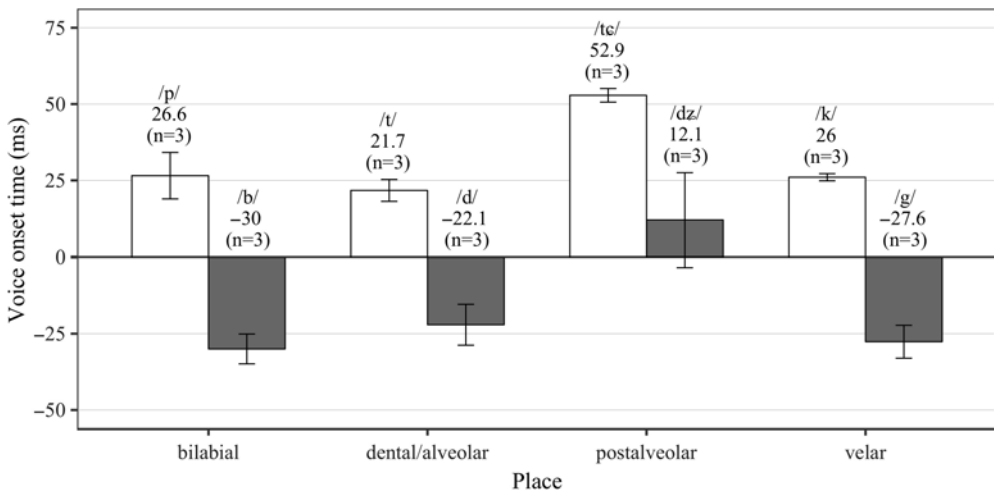
Voice onset time (VOT) was measured as the temporal interval beginning at the release of an oral stop and ending at the onset of voicing associated with that stop. (Recall that words were produced in isolation, so there is no issue of voicing from a preceding segment ‘bleeding’ into the target sound. All stops were immediately preceded by a long interval of silence.) VOT for voiceless plosives /p t k/ are consistently positive, whereas those for voiced plosives /b d g/ are near zero or slightly negative. ‘Voiced’ affricate /dʒ/ is phonetically voiceless (so, [tʃ]), with positive VOT, although its VOTs are substantially shorter than those for /tʃ/. Voiced plosives /b d/ tend to be articulated as implosives with very short intervals of pre-voicing. These productions are illustrated with oral labial consonants in Figure 5.

Bajau VOT (around 25 ms, with the exception of affricates) is short for aspirated voiceless stops and long for unaspirated voiceless stops, based on values reported in Lisker & Abramson (1964) for 11 languages. For our speaker of Bajau, as shown in Figure 6, voiced stops have shorter intervals of prevoicing by 20–30 ms when compared to the voiced stops



**Figure 5** Waveforms and spectrograms for productions of bilabial /p/ and /b/: Positive VOT in /pasaʔ/ *pasaq* 'come, enter' (left), near-zero negative VOT during [b] in /baseʔ/ *baseq* 'wet' (center), and an implosive [ɓ] followed by a fully voiced, intervocalic [b] in /bebeʔ/ *bebeq* 'duck' (right).

reported in the Lisker & Abramson (1964) study, whether aspirated or not. Thus, a relatively short difference in VOT distinguishes the two series of oral plosives and the affricates, of approximately 50 ms, which is shorter than in any language reported in Lisker & Abramson (1964).



**Figure 6** Voice onset time of plosives arranged by place, from the word-initial plosive items listed in the table illustrating consonants. VOT values for voiceless plosives (white bars) are moderately long positive, whereas VOTs for voiced plosives (dark grey bars) are short and generally negative. VOTs for postalveolar affricates /tʃ dz/ are longer but exhibit the same voiceless-voiced pattern as in plosives.

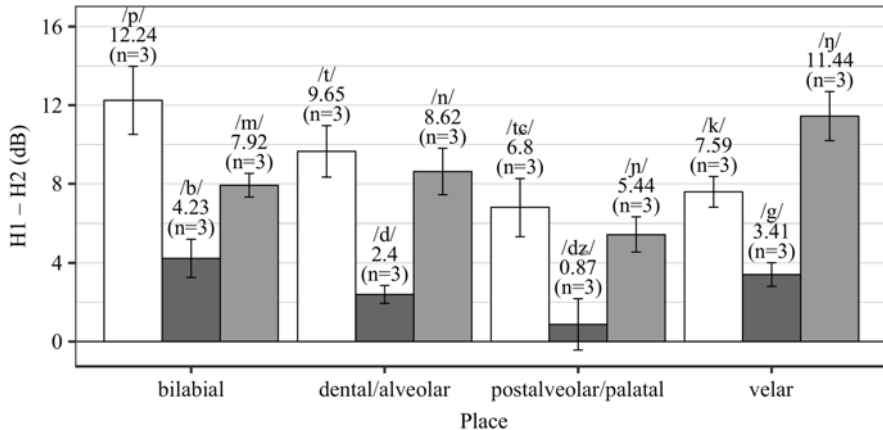
### Effect of consonant phonation on adjacent vowels

Consonant phonation affects the quality of the following vowel. Following Blankenship (2002), Keating & Esposito (2007), Garellek & Keating (2011), we measure these effects using the first two harmonics of the following vowel. Measured H1 and H2 amplitudes were



not corrected for vowel formants or bandwidths, but this was not expected to cause an issue given that the stops were always followed by the vowel /a/ and as such, H1 and H2 were always far below the much higher frequency of F1 during /a/.

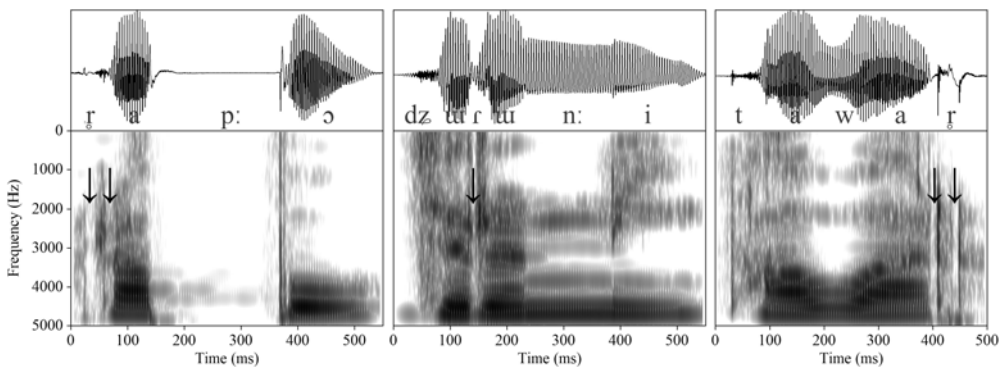
A large difference between the first and second harmonics (H1–H2 values in dB) correlates to breathiness, seen following voiceless plosives in Bajau as shown in Figure 7. A small difference correlates to laryngealized phonation (creak), occurring in Bajau following voiced plosives. This finding provides additional evidence that our speaker sometimes produced voiced plosives as implosives (Ladefoged & Maddieson 1996: 82–90). The H1–H2 values after nasal stops are in-between, indicating modal voicing.



**Figure 7** Differences between the intensity (dB) of the first and second harmonics (H1–H2) during the vocalic interval for [a] immediately following onsets from items found in the list following the consonant chart, according to place: voiceless plosives /p t ʃ k/ (white), voiced plosives /b d ʒ g/ (dark grey), and nasal stops /m n ŋ/ (medium grey).

## Tap

The Bajau rhotic has both tap and trill variants, with tap occurring in intervocalic position and trill occurring both at the beginning and the end of words; it may be devoiced in either position. These are illustrated in Figure 8.



**Figure 8** Waveforms and spectrograms for different articulations of /r/: word-initial voiceless trill [ɾ] in /rap:ɔ/ *rappo* 'key' (left), intervocalic tap [r] in /dzurun:i/ *jerenni* 'cold' (center), and word-final voiceless trill [ɾ] in /tawar/ *tawar* 'bargain' (right). Moments of constriction during [r] and [ɾ] are indicated with downward arrows.

A syllable ending with /tʰr/ may be realized as a voiceless syllabic trill [ɾ̥]: /pʰurtʰumʰ/ [pʰ.ɾ̥.tʰu.mu] *perteme* ‘first’.

**Fricatives and approximants**

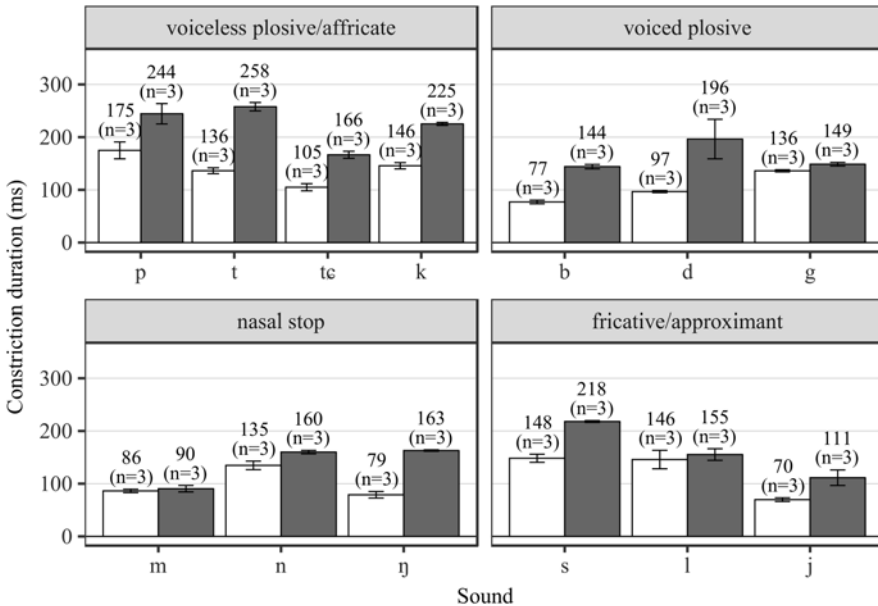
The dental/alveolar fricative /s/ has a lingual position similar to that of /t/; see Figures 2 and 4 above, with retracted tongue root, depressed dorsum, and raised tongue tip/blade.

The laryngeal fricative/approximant /h/ is typically found between vowels, as in /tahaʔ/ *tahaq* ‘long’, and at the end of words, as in /lap:ɔh/ *lappoh* ‘to lie’. It is rare in word-initial position: our example /hadzi/ *haji* ‘to make the hajj’ is a borrowing.

There are two approximants, /l j/. The lateral /l/ is light in all contexts. Occasionally, initial /l/ is slightly devoiced. See Figure 3 above for the lingual articulation of /j/, which shows a high articulation towards the front part of the hard palate.

**Consonant duration**

The language contrasts short (singleton) and long (geminate) obstruents, three of the nasals, /l/ and /j/. Mean durations between three productions of each sound are shown in Figure 9.



**Figure 9** Duration (in ms) of singleton (white bars) and geminate (dark grey bars) consonants.

Durational differences appear to be largest for plosives. We did not find any acoustic evidence of gemination with /r ɲ w ʔ h/.

(1) Indonesian Bajau short and long consonants illustrated

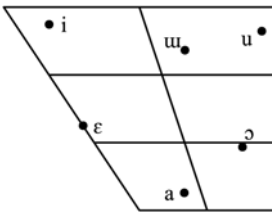
SINGLETON	GEMINATE
p papaʔ <i>papaq</i> ‘to chew food to feed a baby’	pap:aʔ <i>pappaq</i> ‘constant’
b tubeaʔ <i>tebeaq</i> ‘join’	tub:al <i>tebbal</i> ‘thick’



m	lumεah	<i>lumεah</i>	‘flying’	lum:uŋaʔ	<i>lummengaq</i>	‘mosquito’
t	dataʔ	<i>dataq</i>	‘on’	tat:aʔ	<i>tattaq</i>	‘to put water on head to lower a fever’
d	badu	<i>badu</i>	‘cloth’	ad:u	<i>addu</i>	‘against’
n	bunaŋ	<i>benang</i>	‘pay’	dʒu:ru:ni	<i>jerenni</i>	‘cold’
s	basɔ	<i>baso</i>	‘meatball’	las:ɔ	<i>lasso</i>	‘good’
l	wluŋ	<i>elung</i>	‘alive’	nuul:uŋ	<i>nellung</i>	‘to commemorate the third day of a death’
tɕ	mutɕu	<i>mece</i>	‘read’	putɕ:ul	<i>peccel</i>	‘pecel (food dish)’
j	ijɔʔ	<i>iyɔq</i>	‘yes’	ij:aʔ	<i>iyyaq</i>	‘shy’
k	buuku	<i>beke</i>	‘and’	tuuk:u	<i>tekke</i>	‘arrive’
g	lugu	<i>lege</i>	‘free’	suug:εʔ	<i>seggeq</i>	‘rubbish’
ŋ	ŋuŋu	<i>ngenge</i>	‘hot’	muŋ:u	<i>mengnge</i>	‘stupid’

We are somewhat vague in our discussion of consonant duration contrasts because finding minimal pairs or near-minimal pairs to illustrate the duration differences proved to be difficult. Example words (from the list in (1) above) sometimes have a different number of syllables (/tu.be.aʔ/ *tebeaq* ‘join’ vs. /tuub:al/ *tebbal* ‘thick’), different flanking vowels (/bunaŋ/ *benang* ‘pay’ vs. /dʒu:ru:ni/ *jerenni* ‘cold’), or flanking vowels of different lengths (/ijɔʔ/ *iyɔq* ‘yes’ vs. /ij:aʔ/ *iyyaq* ‘shy’). We were unable to determine whether these differences affected consonant length in Bajau.

## Vowels



i	ipar	<i>ipar</i>	‘marriage license’	a	abajaʔ	<i>abayaq</i>	‘blouse’
ε	εba	<i>εba</i>	‘against’	ɔ	ɔpaʔ	<i>ɔpaq</i>	‘to gossip’
u	buuku	<i>beke</i>	‘and’	u	upa:ʔ	<i>upaaq</i>	‘salary’

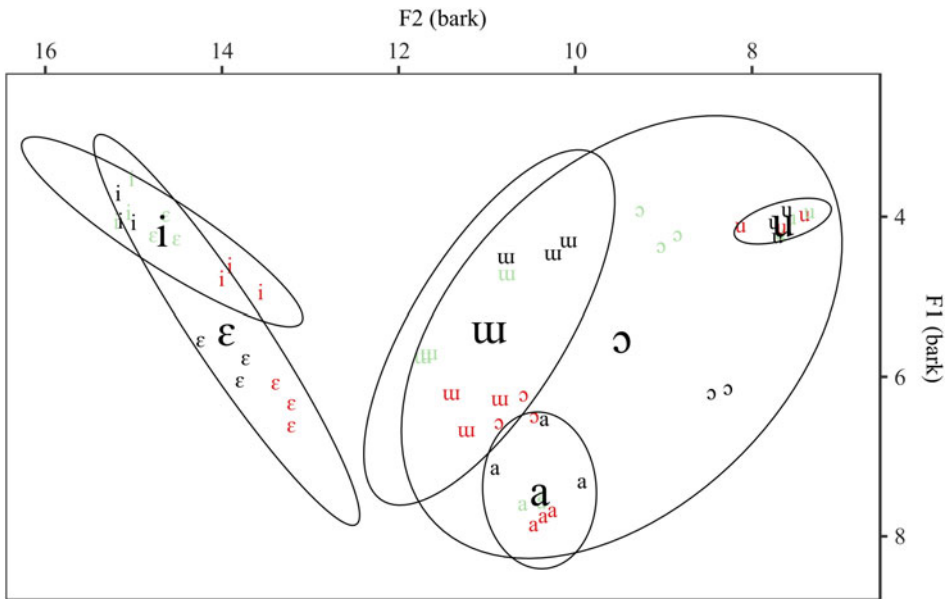
Bajau has six vowel phonemes, two front, two central, and two back. Spatial locations in the vowel diagram above are determined by the F1 and F2 values (in bark) measured in the vowels in the first syllable of the items listed below the diagram. (In our near-minimal set above, [ɔpaʔ] *ɔpaq* ‘to gossip’ and [upa:ʔ] *upaaq* ‘salary’ contrast both in the initial vowel (our focus here) and in the length of the second vowel. See the sections below on allophonic vowel length and contrastive vowel length; [upa:ʔ] is a case of contrastive vowel length). Back vowels are articulated with lip-rounding. The high rounded /u/ shows little variation regardless of context. Other vowels vary depending on duration and syllable type.

In utterance-initial position, word-initial vowels are sometimes devoiced at acoustic onset, sounding similar to a low intensity [h] as in /eba/ [ɛ̥ba] *eba* ‘against’. This appears to be less common with high vowels. Alternatively, vowels in this position may instead begin with a glottal release: [ʔeba].

The mid central vowel /u/ shows variation in both duration and quality. In word-initial position, /u/ is deleted or extremely short, especially in word-initial position: /uma/ [m:a] *ema* ‘mother’, /uluŋ/ [l:uŋ] *elung* ‘alive’. In initial syllables, /u/ can be very short: /tũbeaʔ/ [tũbeaʔ] *tebeaq* ‘join’, /tubbal/ [tũb:al] *tebbal* ‘thick’.

**Vowel quality in open and closed syllables**

While /u/ and /a/ show little variation, high vowels /i u/ and mid vowels /ε ɔ/ tend to have higher F1 in closed syllables, indicating a lower tongue position, and lower F1 in open syllables, indicating a higher tongue position. This effect appears to be strongest in word-final open syllables, where the mid-low vowels /ε ɔ/ may raise to the height of /i u/, respectively. Final /u/ is generally quite centralized, as in /luŋu/ [luŋü] *leŋe* ‘free’. Open and closed vowel quality is illustrated in Figure 10 and the examples in (2).



**Figure 10** (Colour online) Vowel formants according to syllable type and position. Measures are taken from word-initial open syllables (smaller black vowel symbols), word-final open syllables (pale green/pale grey symbols), and word-final closed syllables (red/dark grey symbols). Measures from word-initial open syllables are from the list below the Vowel Diagram; those for word-final open and closed syllables were taken from items in example (2).

(2) Indonesian Bajau open and closed syllable allophony illustrated

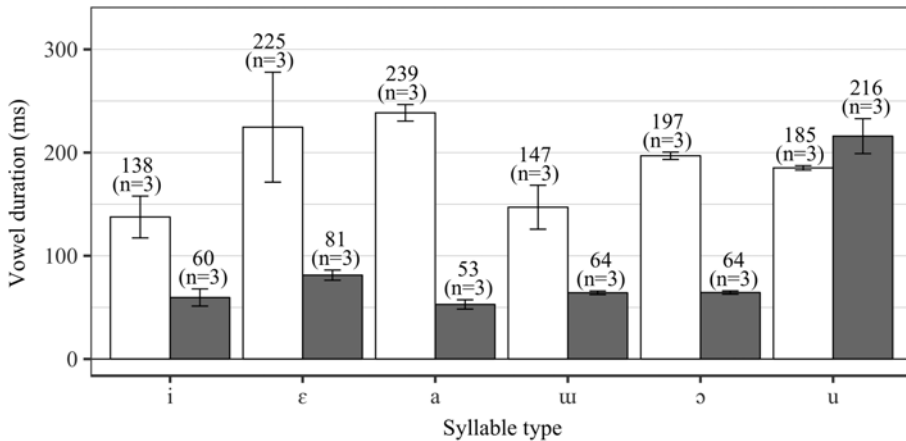
	WORD-FINAL OPEN SYLLABLE	WORD-FINAL CLOSED SYLLABLE
/i/	ŋup:[i] <i>nguppi</i> ‘dream’	dzup:[i]ʔ <i>jeppiŋ</i> ‘clip’
/ε/	tab[ε] <i>tabe</i> ‘ask permission to leave’	beb[ε]ʔ <i>bebeŋ</i> ‘duck’

/u/	sump[u]	<i>sumpe</i>	‘oath’	pʉtɕ:[ɔ]	<i>peccel</i>	‘pecel (food dish)’
/a/	matap:[a]	<i>matappa</i>	‘to believe’	lʉp:[a]ʔ	<i>leppaq</i>	‘a slap (with hand)’
/ɔ/	mɔnd[o]	<i>mondo</i>	‘monkey’	tɔnd[ɔ]ʔ	<i>tondoq</i>	‘to bow’
/u/	wump[u]	<i>empu</i>	‘grandchildren’	timp[u]ʔ	<i>timpuq</i>	‘to start, to begin’

That syllable type affects vowel quality may be an influence of Sasak, the majority language in Lombok. See Clynes (1995), Chahal (1998), Archangeli et al. (published online 28 March 2018) on Sasak vowel length and quality. Vowel quality dependent on syllable type occurs in several Austronesian languages, typically with a lower or more lax vowel in closed syllables; see Blust (2013: 263–265) for a survey and Dudas (1976) for details on Javanese vowel quality in open and closed syllables.

**Allophonic vowel length in open and closed syllables**

Vowels are around twice as long in open syllables as they are in closed syllables, as seen in Figure 11, although there is a fair amount of variation.



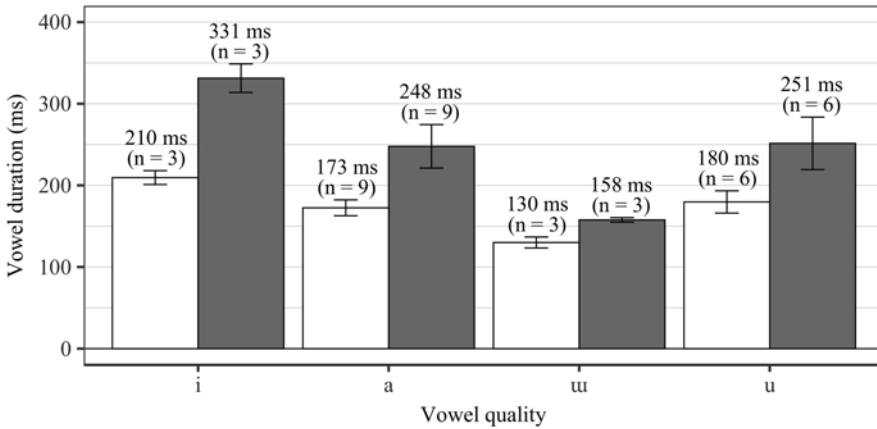
**Figure 11** Vowel duration (ms) in word-final open (white bars) and closed (dark grey bars) syllables, by vowel quality. With the exception of /u/ vowels have very short duration in closed syllables relative to those in open syllables. Measures from word-final open and closed syllables were taken from items in example (2).

**Contrastive vowel length**

Length contrasts were found with high vowels and central vowels, /i a u u/ (illustrated in the examples in (3) and in Figure 12), despite the report in Nuraini (2010), that vowel length was not mentioned in the description of East Lombok Bajau found in Candrawati (1997). (Nuraini 2010 notes that vowel length is observed in Philippine Sabah Bajau but that she did not hear vowel length contrasts in Bajau communities around the Flores Sea or in Central Sulawesi.)

(3) Indonesian Bajau long and short vowels illustrated

	LONG VOWELS		SHORT VOWELS			
i	buli:ʔ	<i>buliiq</i>	‘backside’	bu:liʔ	<i>buuliq</i>	‘buttock’
a	na:mbar	<i>naambaar</i>	‘eating’	na:mbar	<i>naambar</i>	‘treating someone’



**Figure 12** Vowel duration for short (white bars) and long (dark grey bars) vowels, by vowel quality. The duration difference is greatest with /i i:/ and least with /u u:/.

ta:war	<i>taawar</i>	‘testless’	tawar	<i>tawar</i>	‘bargain’
a:ha:ʔ	<i>aahaq</i>	‘people; someone’	a:haʔ	<i>aahaq</i>	‘Sunday’
u muu:tu	<i>meete</i>	‘eye’	muutɕu	<i>mece</i>	‘read’
u bu:liʔ	<i>buuliq</i>	‘buttock’	buli:ʔ	<i>buliiq</i>	‘backside’
tu:nu:ʔ	<i>tuunuq</i>	‘aflake’	nu:nuʔ	<i>nuunuq</i>	‘burn something’

### Syllables

The typical Bajau syllable consists of an optional onset, an obligatory vowel (long or short) and an optional coda. Intervocalic codas are typically part of a geminate or the nasal of a homorganic nasal–oral sequence. Word-final codas include /ʔ h r l n ŋ s k t/.

Whether a syllable is open or closed has an effect on both the length and the quality of the vowel of that syllable. See discussion of the relation between syllable type and vowel quality in the section ‘Vowel quality in open and closed syllables’.

Words with an initial vowel are sometimes pronounced with a /ʔ/ onset, especially after vowel-final words.

### Prenasalized plosives or nasal–consonant sequences

Nasal–plosive sequences occur between vowels, but not word-initially (see Table 7). Word-initial nasal–plosive sequences are found in some Bajau dialects and so we assume these sequences are heterosyllabic. When in the field, we noticed nothing striking about the ‘NC’ sequences and did not intentionally record them, so our list of examples is incomplete. While Nuraini (2010: 327) proposes these are a single phoneme in Sabah Bajau (Philippines) ‘[s]ince the audible syllable boundary in such words precedes the consonant sequence rather than separates its constituents’, we have no reason to think these are single phonemes; in word-initial position, we found a singleton plosive /gai/ *gai* ‘not’ vs. *nggai* (presumably /ŋgai/) ‘no, not’ in Sabah Bajau, Nuraini (2010). (The item *tentang* is from the story, not the word lists; the initial vowel is [ə], not the expected [ɛ]. This may be due to the running speech situation; a reviewer suggested it may be from Bahasa Indonesia, which has [ə] in this syllable.)

## (4) Indonesian Bajau 'NC' clusters illustrated

	VOICELESS		VOICED			
bilabial	/gampoh/	<i>gampoh</i>	'pull up, chin up'	/dzambaŋ/	<i>jambang</i>	'to poop'
dental/alveolar	/təŋtaŋ/	<i>tentang</i>	'about'	/mɔndɔ/	<i>mondo</i>	'monkey'

**Stress**

Our study did not include sufficient data to determine the distribution of stress in Bajau.

**Transcription of recorded passage**

The orthography used for Bajau is similar to that used for Bahasa Indonesia, with the following orthographic/phonemic correspondences:

## (5) Indonesian Bajau sound–orthographic symbol correspondences

<i>a</i>	a	<i>ng</i>	ŋ	<i>c</i>	tɕ
<i>e</i>	ɛ or u (idiosyncratic)	<i>ny</i>	ɲ	<i>j</i>	dʒ
<i>n</i>	ɲ before tɕ, dʒ	<i>q</i>	ʔ	<i>y</i>	j

Austronesian is known for a nasal prefixation that may result in substitution (see Blust 2004 for a survey). The Bajau version of Austronesian nasal substitution adds an argument to the verb; we gloss it as ACTIVE. Phonologically, /p b t k/ are replaced with a homorganic nasal /m m n ŋ/, respectively; /s tɕ/ are replaced with /ɲ/; /h/ is replaced with /ŋ/ and vowel-initial words begin with /ŋ/; /l r/ are preceded by /ra/; and the plosives /d g/ are preceded by /ra(n)/ where the '(n)' is optional and is homorganic with the following consonant. (See Nuraini 2010 for nasal substitution description for Sabah Bajau, Philippines.) In the phonemic transcription, we indicate nasal substitution by placing the corresponding oral segment in parentheses, for example /m-(p)akai/ [makai] *makai* 'ACTIVE-use'.

Some words appear to be borrowed or code-switched from Bahasa Indonesia: *sebuah*, *bergoyang*, *terlalu*. Other words have Bahasa Indonesia cognates, but have Bajau sounds, e.g. *perteme* (Bajau), *pertama* (Bahasa Indonesia).

**Orthographic transcription**

*Matahari beke Sangai Utere. Cerite itu dimulai ma sebuah kampoh dikkiq. Niaq ahaq lelle makai jaket tebbal. Ma atas langiq, niaq matahari beke sangai utere. Matahari beke sangai utere itu mugai lombe, lombe sai saq paling bagal kekuatang ne. Lombe ne iru tentang sai-sai saq koleq mugai ahaq lelle iru lebanang ne jaket ne. Sangai utere nyobanang perteme, ai-ai saq koleq mugai ahaq lelle iru lebanang ne jaket ne. Nyobanang ye peluaq ne kekuatang ne. Sangai saq agaq bagal peluaq ne. Pere pohong-pohong iru bergoyang ke utere. Baunglah ye, koleq ku mugai ahaq lelle iru lebanang ne jaket ne. Tapi ahaq lelle iru numalang beke masi ye makai jaket ne. Merese ye jerenni badang ne leq sangai iru. Ye mene tettaq ye makai jaket ne. Nyobanang ye lagi, peluaq ne sangai ne saq paling bagal. Memong pohong beke syal ahaq lelle iru bergoyang. Tapi tettaq ahaq lelle iru makai jaket ne. Akhirne, menyerahlah si sangai utere iru. Terus, matahari nyobanang kekuatang ne. Perteme, peluaq ne panas saq gai terlalu panas. Ahaq lelle iru mulai ngerese panas. Tapi, masi ye makai jaket ne. Nyobanang ye lagi untuk kedue kali ne. Matahari iru peluaq ne panas saq lebih bagal dari saq perteme ne iru. Ahaq lelle iru kepanasang, yemene lebanang ne jaket ne. Dadi, matahari saq dadi pemenang ne.*

**Phonetic transcription**

In each set of four lines, the first line gives the orthographic transcription from above. The second line gives a phonemic transcription with morpheme boundaries shown, while the third line gives a phonetic transcription. The fourth line presents a morpheme-by-morpheme gloss of the narrative.

*Matahari beke sangai utere. Cerite itu dimulai ma sebuah kampoh*  
matahari buku saŋai uturu || t̚uritu itu di-mulai ma su-buah kampoh  
matahari buku saŋai uturu || t̚uritu itu dimulai ma s̚əbuə kampə  
sun and wind north story that PASS-start at one-CLASS village

*dikkiq. Niaq ahaq lelle makai jaket tebbal. Ma atas langiq niaq*  
dik:i? || nia? aha lu:l:u m-(p)akai dzaket tu:b:al || ma atas laŋi? | nia?  
dik:i? || nia ?afia lu:l:u makai dzaket t̚əb:al || ma atas laŋi? | nia  
small there person male ACT-use jacket thick at on sky there

*matahari beke sangai utere. Matahari beke sangai utere itu mugai*  
matahari buku saŋai uturu || matahari buku saŋai uturu itu m-(p)ugai  
matahari buku saŋai uturu || matahari buku saŋai uturu itu muɣai  
sun and wind north sun and wind north that ACT-make

*lombe, lombe sai saq paling bagal kekuatang ne.*  
ləmbu | ləmbu sai sa? paliŋ bagal ku-kuat-aŋ nu ||  
ləmbu | ləmbu sai sa? paliŋ bagal kəkuataŋ nu ||  
competition competition who EMPH most big NOM<sub>i</sub>-power-NOM<sub>i</sub> 3.SG

*Lombe ne iru tentang sai-sai saq koleq mugai ahaq lelle*  
ləmbu nu iru təntaŋ sai-sai sa? k̚ələ? m(p)-ugai aha lu:l:u  
ləmbu nu iru təntaŋ sai sai sa? kole mugai ?afia lu:l:u  
competition 3.SG that about who-who EMPH can ACT-make person male



*iru lebanang ne jaket ne. Sangai utere nyobanang perteme*  
*iru luba-naŋ nu dzaket nu || saŋai uturu ɲ-(tɕ)ɔba-naŋ puurtumu*  
*iru ləbananɲ nu dzakɛ̄t̄ nu || saŋai uturu ɲɔbananɲ puurtamu*  
 that take.off-NOM 3.SG jacket 3.SG wind north ACT-try-NOM first

*ai-ai saq koleq mugai ahaq lelle iru lebanang ne jaket*  
*ai-ai saʔ kɔlɛ m(p)-ugai aha lu:l:u iru luba-naŋ nu dzaket*  
*ʔai ʔi saʔ kole mugai ʔaɦa lu:l:u iru ləbananɲ nu dzakɛ̄t̄*  
 what-what EMPH can ACT-make person male that take.off-NOM 3.SG jacket

*ne. Nyobanang ye peluaq ne kekuatang ne. Sangai saq*  
*nu || ɲ-(tɕ)ɔba-naŋ ju puɭua nu ku-kuat-aŋ nu || saŋai saʔ*  
*nu || ɲɔbananɲ ju pɔlua nu kəkuat-aŋ nu || saŋai saʔ*  
 3.SG ACT-try-NOM 3.SG expel 3SG NOM<sub>i</sub>-power-NOM<sub>i</sub> 3.SG wind EMPH

*agaq bagal peluaq ne. Pere pohong-pohong iru bergoyang ke*  
*agaʔ bagal puɭuaʔ nu || puɭu pɔɦɔŋ-pɔɦɔŋ iru buɾgɔjaŋ ku*  
*agaʔ bagal pluɑ nu || puɭu pɔɦɔŋ pɔɦɔŋ iru bərgɔjaŋ ku*  
 somewhat big expel 3.SG many tree-tree that shake to

*utere. Baunglah ye, koleq ku mugai ahaq lelle iru*  
*uturu || baun-lah ju | kole ku m-(p)ugai ʔaɦa lu:l:u iru*  
*uturu || baunlɑɦi ju | kole ku muɣai ʔaɦa lu:l:u iru*  
 north say-COMPL 3.SG can 1SG ACT-make person male that

*lebanang ne jaket ne. Tapi ahaq lelle iru numalang*  
*luɔba-naŋ nu dzaket nu || tapi aha lu:l:u iru n-(t)umalaŋ*  
*ləbananɲ nu dzakɛ̄t̄ nu || tapi ʔaɦa lu:l:u iru numalaŋ*  
 take.off-NOM 3.SG jacket 3.SG but person male that ACT-walk

*beke masi ye makai jaket ne. Merese ye jerenni*

buuku masi ju m-(p)akai dʒaket nu || mu-rusu ju dʒurəni

buuku masi ju makai dʒakɛ̄ nu || mərusu ju dʒərən:i

and still 3.SG ACT-use jacket 3.SG STAT-feel 3.SG cold

*badang ne leq sangai iru. Yemene tettaq ye makai*

badan nu le sanjai iru || jumunu tut:a? ju m-(p)akai

badan nu le sanjai iru || jumunu tət:aʔa ju makai

body 3.SG at wind that that's.why consistent 3.SG ACT-use

*jaket ne. Nyobanang ye lagi, peluaq ne sangai ne saq*

dʒaket nu || n-(tɕ)ɔba-naŋ ju lagi | pułua nu sanjai nu saʔ

dʒakɛ̄ nu || nɔbanan ju lagi | pəluə nu sanjai nu saʔ

jacket 3.SG ACT-try-NOM 3.SG again expel 3.SG wind 3.SG EMPH

*paling bagal. Memong pohong beke syal ahaq lelle iru bergoyang.*

paliŋ bagal || meməŋ pɔhəŋ buku sal aha lu:l:u iru buɾgɔjaŋ ||

paliŋ bagal || meməŋ pɔhəŋ buku sal ʔha lu:l:u iru bəɾgɔjaŋ ||

most big all tree and scarf person male that shake

*Tapi tettaq ahaq lelle iru makai jaket ne. Akhirne,*

tapi tut:a? ahaq lu:l:u iru m-(p)akai dʒaket nu || ahirnu

tapi tət:a ʔha lu:l:u iru makai dʒakɛ̄ nu || ahirnu

but constant person male that ACT-use jacket 3.SG finally

*menyerahlah si sangai utere iru. Terus, matahari nyobanang*

mu-nurrah-lah si sanjai uturu iru || turus matahari n-(tɕ)ɔba-naŋ

məɳəɾaɦla si sanjai uturu iru || tərus matahari nɔbanan

ACT-give.up-COMPL 3.SG wind north that next sun ACT-try-NOM

*kekuatang*      *ne.*      *Perteme,*      *peluaq*   *ne*   *panas*   *saq*   *gai*  
*ku-kuat-aŋ*      *nu*   ||   *puurtamu*   |   *pulua*   *nu*   *panas*   *sa?*   *gai*  
*kəkuatəŋ*      *nu*   ||   *pʁtumu*   |   *pəlua*   *nu*   *panas*   *sa?*   *gai*  
NOM<sub>i</sub>-power-NOM<sub>i</sub>   3.SG   first   expel   3.SG   hot   EMPH   no

*terlalu*   *panas.*   *Ahaq*   *lelle*   *iru*   *mulai*   *ngerese*   *panas.*   *Tapi*   *masi*  
*tuɾlalu*   *panas*   ||   *aha*   *lu:l:u*   *iru*   *mulai*   *ŋu-rusʉ*   *panas*   ||   *tapi*   *masi*  
*tərlalu*   *panas*   ||   *aɦa*   *lu:l:u*   *iru*   *mulai*   *ŋərusʉ*   *panas*   ||   *tapi*   *masi*  
too.much   hot   person   male   that   begin   ACT-feel   hot   but   still

*ye*   *makai*   *jaket*   *ne.*   *Nyobanang*   *ye*   *lagi*   *untuk*   *kedue*   *kali*  
*ju*   *m-(p)akai*   *ɬaket*   *nu*   ||   *ɲ-(tɕ)ɔba-naŋ*   *ju*   *lagi*   *untuk*   *kuudu*   *kali*  
*ju*   *makai*   *ɬakeŋ̄*   *nu*   ||   *ɲɔbaŋ*   *ju*   *lagi*   *untuk*   *kədua*   *kali*  
3.SG   ACT-use   jacket   3.SG   ACT-try-NOM   3.SG   again   for   second   time

*ne.*   *Matahari*   *iru*   *peluaq*   *ne*   *panas*   *saq*   *lebih*   *bagal*   *dari*   *saq*  
*nu*   ||   *matahari*   *iru*   *pulua*   *nu*   *panas*   *sa?*   *lubih*   *bagal*   *dari*   *sa?*  
*nu*   ||   *mataɦari*   *iru*   *pəlua*   *nu*   *panas*   *sa?*   *ləbɨ*   *bagal*   *dari*   *sa?*  
3.SG   sun   that   expel   3.SG   hot   EMPH   more   big   from   EMPH

*perteme*   *ne*   *iru.*   *Ahaq*   *lelle*   *iru*   *kepanasang,*   *yemene*  
*puurtumu*   *nu*   *iru*   ||   *aha*   *lu:l:u*   *irɲ*   *ku-panas-aŋ*   *juumu*  
*pərtəmə*   *nə*   *iru*   ||   *aɦa*   *lu:l:u*   *irɲ*   *kəpanasaŋ*   *juumu*  
first   3.SG   that   person   male   that   NOM<sub>i</sub>-hot-NOM<sub>i</sub>   that's.why

*lebanang*   *ne*   *jaket*   *ne.*   *Dadi,*   *matahari*   *saq*   *dadi*  
*lmba-naŋ*   *nu*   *ɬaket*   *nu*   ||   *dadi*   *matahari*   *sa?*   *dadi*  
*ləbaŋ*   *nu*   *ɬakeŋ̄*   *nu*   ||   *dadi*   *mataɦari*   *saq*   *dadi*  
take.off-NOM   3.SG   jacket   3.SG   therefore   sun   EMPH   become

pemenang ne.  
 puu-muunaŋ nu  
 puumuunaŋ nu  
 AGENT-win 3.SG

#### ABBREVIATIONS

We have followed Leipzig Glossing Rules (Lehmann 1982, Croft 2003, xix–xxv), with the following correspondences:

1.SG	first person singular	COMPL	completive
3.SG	third person singular	EMPH	emphasis
ACT	active voice	NOM	nominalizer
AGENT	agentive	NOM <sub>i</sub> ...NOM <sub>i</sub>	nominalizer (circumfix)
CAUS	causative	PASS	passive voice
CLASS	classifier	STAT	stative

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#### Supplementary material

To view supplementary material for this article, please visit <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0025100319000239>.

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