

Chapter 10

Summary

As stated in the introduction, the findings presented in this thesis are an overview or sketch of the grammar structure of this language. It does not present an exhaustive or in-depth analysis of many parts of this language and such an undertaking would require a different format.

Chapter 1 presented an introduction to the Eastern Lawa people, their linguistic family affiliation, historical background, demographics, ethnography, culture, and linguistic vitality. The methodology for this thesis was presented along with a list of the fieldwork, informants, corpus size and type and theoretical framework, followed by a short literature review and the limitations and scope.

Chapter 2 presented the phonology and morphology of Eastern Lawa borrowing heavily from previous work by Mitani and Lipsius. An orthography for Eastern Lawa is being tested which will help to clarify where work is needed with the phonology. The morphology was presented including examples of reduplication, compounding, elaborate expressions and productive prefixes.

Chapter 3 presented the basic clause structure of Eastern Lawa with an investigation into word order. Various methods were used to test word order but finally statistics proved that the predominant word order in natural conversation is VSO. Next the core arguments of subject and verb and the non core arguments of recipient, beneficiary, accompaniment, instrument, and source were investigated. These non core arguments are usually obliques in Eastern Lawa. Further investigation might help to explain the reasons why there is a change from VSO to SVO in certain circumstances.

Chapter 4 presented the different Eastern Lawa word classes, including nouns, interrogatives, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, demonstratives, numerals, classifiers, quantifiers, auxiliaries, and prepositions. These were listed with some examples to show typical usage and some tests for identifying verbs and adjectives.

Chapter 5 presented the internal structure of Eastern Lawa noun phrases. Different types of noun phrases such as pronouns, possessive noun phrases, coordinate noun

phrases and nominal compounds were discussed. The head noun precedes any modifiers in Eastern Lawa noun phrases. Demonstratives appear to be much more moveable than other constituents. Relative clauses come after adjectives if they are together in a noun phrase.

Chapter 6 presented verb phrases and looked firstly at single verb heads versus multiple verbs in serial verb constructions. Various types of serial verb constructions were presented, including simultaneous motion, sequential motion, motion with goal and motion with reached goal. Next, various Eastern Lawa verb phrase constituents were investigated including; negation, directionals, tense/aspect/mood and adverbs. Negation was presented with both pre-verbal and post-verbal negators. There are three different negative operators: *tew* and *ʔu:* for declarative clauses and *pu:* for imperative clauses. Eastern Lawa expresses future by using *sam*, and expresses past with *ʔi*. The particles *ham* and *hɔʔ*, are used to express politeness.

Chapter 7 presented various valence alternations in Eastern Lawa. It discussed how argument structures change through passive, causative, reflexive and reciprocal constructions.

Chapter 8 discussed different sentence types including declarative sentences, interrogative sentences and imperative sentences. The interrogative formations, including 'Yes-No' questions, Tag questions, 'Or-Not' questions and content questions were discussed. Positive and negative imperatives were presented and constructions for softening and strengthening commands.

Chapter 9 presented complex clause constructions in Eastern Lawa. It discussed coordinate clauses and subordinate clauses. In coordinate clauses, *miah* 'and' is used to connect two independent clauses. The constituent order in complement clauses can be both VS and SV but further data would be helpful to confirm this. In adverbial subordinate clauses the order of the two clauses is mostly VS and depending on the type of clause the adverbial subordinate clause can be flexible appearing before or after main clauses.

Relative clauses are postnominal and optionally use *pi* to introduce the relative clause. The relativized position can be either the subject or the object. The word order within a relative clause is always VS.

Negation is another area that needs further research to clarify why *tew* is used in certain situations and *ʔu:* in others.

More research would help to clarify what pragmatic or contextual factors influence the word order choices between VSO and SVO in any given situation.

Tense and aspect markers also need further research to clarify understanding and the interreaction between them. More mood or modality markers need to be found and investigated.

Any mistakes or errors in this thesis are completely the fault of the author and not of any advisors or Eastern Lawa language helpers.

It has been my privilege to work on the Eastern Lawa language and I hope that further research by myself or others will clarify these and other matters that are still to be fully understood. The next big step is with orthography development for Eastern Lawa and will no doubt shed light on the limitations of the current understanding of the phonology.

PAYAP UNIVERSITY