

“Does he have sharp eyes or sharp lungs?”

Expressions of emotion and character in Makasae

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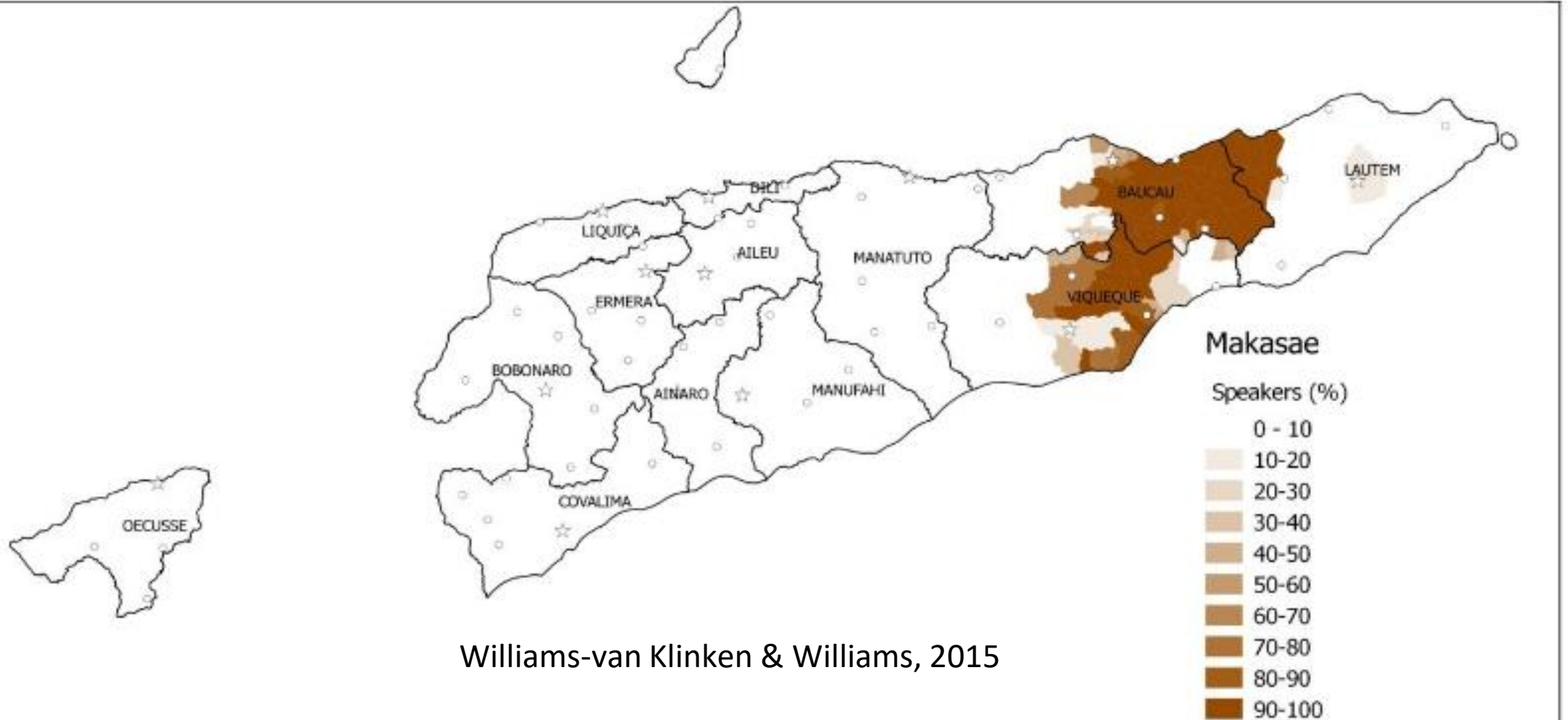
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Makasae

- Papuan
- 124,000 speakers, 10% of East Timor's population (2015 census)
- SOV

Location of Makasae speakers



Williams-van Klinken & Williams, 2015

Emotion and character

Mostly collocations of a **body part noun** and an **adjective, verb, noun or number**

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>sada mera</i>	lungs sharp	furious
<i>da'e ria</i>	head run	1. unfaithful to spouse; 2. creative thinker
<i>da'e afakai</i>	head flintstone	stubborn, refuse to listen
<i>ari u</i>	liver one	unity

Structure: 2 constructions

1. Subject = person + body part, predicate = characteristic

<i>Tino</i>	<i>gi</i>	<u><i>da'e</i></u>		<u><i>geelee</i></u> ,	<i>estuda</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>tama.</i>
Tino	POS	head		hard	study	not	enter

'Tino is a slow learner, even when he studies he doesn't learn.'

2. Subject = person, predicate = body part + characteristic.

<i>Tino</i>	<i>ere</i>		<u><i>da'e</i></u>	<u><i>geelee.</i></u>
Tino	this		head	hard

'Tino is a slow learner.'

Negation

Negative can precede just the second part of the expression, or the whole expression.

Bete gi da'e to geele.

Bete POS head not hard

‘Bete is not a slow learner.’

Bete ere to da'e geele.

Bete this head not hard

‘Bete is not a slow learner.’

Intensification and comparatives

lita 'very/more' precedes just the second part of the expression when it means 'very'. In comparatives it precedes the whole expression.

Bete gi da'e lita geele.

Bete POS head very hard

'Bete is a very slow learner.'

Bete gi lita da'e geele.

Bete 3s very head hard

'Bete is a slower learner than her.'

da'e “head”: intelligent, faithful

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>da'e losa</i>	head empty	1. bald; 2. stupid
<i>da'e geele</i>	head hard	slow learner
<i>da'e momala</i>	head soft	fast learner
<i>da'e wee</i>	head have	smart
<i>da'e koulu</i>	head hot	1. fever; 2. speak nonsense
<i>da'e afakai</i>	head flintstone	stubborn, refuse to listen
<i>da'e ga</i>	head tight	naughty
<i>da'e gira gira</i>	head crazy	having many love affairs
<i>da'e ria</i>	head run	1. unfaithful to spouse; 2. creative thinker

mutu “inside”: feel, know, character

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>mutu sisiiri</i>	inside pain	1. angry; 2. jealous, envious
<i>mutu sege</i>	inside difficult	angry
<i>mutu taba</i>	inside hole	able to manage things
<i>mutu meta</i>	inside black	know nothing
<i>mutu molu</i>	inside lose	innocent
<i>mutu loloro</i>	inside straight	aware
<i>mutu nogo nogo</i>	inside fool	foolish
<i>mutu rau</i>	inside good	kind
<i>mutu saree</i>	inside clean	honest
<i>mutu u</i>	inside one	united

fanu “face”: angry, crazy, absent, dead

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>fanu koulu</i>	face hot	angry
<i>fanu teulu</i>	face smog	scowl
<i>fanu gira-gira</i>	face crazy	Crazy
<i>fanu kuili</i>	face curve	crazy
<i>fanu saree</i>	face clean	sober (not drunk), normal (not crazy)
<i>fanu molu</i>	face lose	absent from ceremony, dead
<i>fanu meta</i>	face black	dizzy, unconscious
<i>fanu kamera</i>	face camera	loves to be in photos (slang, calque on Tetun)

tana “hand”: contribute, diligent; throw straight

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>tana asana</i>	hand long	1.habitual thief; 2. able to contribute much in a traditional ceremony
<i>tana digaara</i>	hand short	unable to contribute much in traditional ceremony
<i>tana molu</i>	hand lose	don't contribute anything in traditional ceremony
<i>tana lafu</i>	hand life	diligent, fast worker
<i>tana lawa</i>	hand money	do nothing when others are working
<i>tana uruwatu</i>	hand God	do nothing when others are working
<i>tana biiki</i>	hand bitter	plants die when this person picks its leaves
<i>tana lolooro</i>	hand straight	always throw straight to the target

nana “eye”: able to see, awake; untrustworthy

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>nana deta</i>	eye ripe	blind (can't see anything), don't notice something
<i>nana ifi</i>	eye worm	can't see something that you should be able to see
<i>nana taba</i>	eye hole	have the ability to see supernatural beings
<i>nana afa</i>	eye stone	able to stay up for two days and nights or more
<i>nana fani</i>	eye sweet	feel wide awake after a sleep
<i>nana sare'e</i>	eye clean	feel wide awake after a sleep
<i>nana ifibere</i>	eye star	not sleepy
<i>nana mera</i>	eye sharp	love touching people's stuff without asking
<i>nana ria ria</i>	eye run	have a girl in every town

wali “ear”: able to hear; naughty

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>wali deta</i>	ear ripe	deaf, can't hear at the time of speaking
<i>wali lolooro</i>	ear straight	able to hear something that others can't hear
<i>wali ifi</i>	ear worm	naughty
<i>wali noo</i>	ear pocket	naughty

muni “nose”: smell; able to find things

<i>muni gi</i>	nose grimace	cry
<i>muni kula</i>	nose mushroom	animal) can't smell something
<i>muni looro</i>	nose straight	1. able to find things that the owner denies having 2.able to smell something that others can't smell"

a'a “mouth”: talkative

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>a'a bere</i>	mouth big	Talkative, talk a lot
<i>a'a sege</i>	mouth difficult	putting down

gula “body”: energetic

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>gula ae'e</i>	body light	feel fresh, energetic, ready to do things
<i>gula tiiri</i>	body heavy	lazy, feel bored, unmotivated
<i>gula dafuuru</i>	body cooked	feel tired
<i>gula koulu</i>	body hot	say, buy, or do something that is not necessary (e.g. overact)

sada “lungs”, *waboku* ‘heart’: feel

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>sada taur</i>	lungs break	skinny
<i>sada mera</i>	lungs sharp	furious
<i>sada fatu</i>	lungs swollen	broken-hearted (slang)
<i>waboku sisiiri</i>	heart pain	1. physical pain in heart; 2. feel heart-broken

ari “liver”: firm

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>ari tidiini</i>	liver firm	stand firm, brave
<i>ari u</i>	liver one	united

atu “stomach”: greedy, worried

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>atu geele</i>	stomach hard	greedy
<i>atu sisiiri</i>	stomach sore	worried, preoccupied

Other

Makasae	Literal	Meaning
<i>atugu'u ifi</i>	buttock worm	1.rarely at home, always out hanging around with friends; 2. restless, always moving about when sitting on a seat
<i>atugu'u ti'iri</i>	buttock heavy	lazy
<i>namu lesa</i>	body.hair not.have	having nothing (properties)
<i>para бага</i>	hip wound	wear sarong, skirt, pants not properly

Conclusion

- Lexicalised, but the two parts of the expression can be separated.
- Productive:
 - 16 body parts
 - Can create new expressions, or create literal translations from Tetun.
- Metaphorical:
 - One expression can have a physical and a metaphorical meaning, or two different metaphorical meanings.