

Field Methods and Linguistic Analysis

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A Grammar Sketch of Ambai

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1. Introduction: the Ambai language

Ambai is an Austronesian language which pertains to the West New Guinea subgroup. It is spoken by approximately 10 000 people on and around Yapen island, situated in Cenderawasih Bay, Indonesia. Its survival is not guaranteed since children nowadays use mostly Indonesian. This grammar sketch will briefly introduce some of the features of Ambai which were discovered during a few hours of elicitation with Sara Karubaba in the course of our class on Field Methods and Linguistic Analysis. Section 2 introduces the phonology and section 3 the morphosyntax of the language. Then, section 4 will treat the special topic of Complex Emotion Predicates and section 5 will conclude this sketch. Finally, Appendix A and B will feature a short text and some vocabulary respectively.

2. Phonology

2.1 Segment inventory

The segment inventory of Ambai is fairly typical of Austronesian languages. It has a set of five cardinal vowel evenly distributed through the vowel space:

Table 1: Ambai vowel segments (with illustration)

	Front	Central	Back
High	i <i>nini</i> 'this'		u <i>boru</i> 'two'
Mid	e <i>nemang</i> 'husband'		o <i>romu</i> 'bird'
Low		a <i>tawai</i> 'snake'	

The two mid vowels have a high-mid and a low-mid variant. However, it does not seem to be a phonemic distinction in the language since no minimal pair was found to this regard, and thus for ease of orthography only the high-mid ones are represented here.

The inventory of the consonants of the language is represented below. Next to the more peculiar symbols, I have included the symbols that I will be using from now on in my practical orthography. Since eventually the goal is to help Ambai speakers get more knowledge of their language, the decision has been taken to use the same orthography as Bahasa Indonesia. Most Ambai speakers being literate in this language, this should facilitate their reading of Ambai.

Table 2: Ambai consonant segments (with illustration)

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Voiced Stop	b <i>botoru</i> 'three'	d <i>dai</i> 'father'	J (j) <i>jau</i> 'I'	g <i>inggombararei</i> 'dolphin'	
Veless Stop	p <i>piro</i> 'rotten'	t <i>tawai</i> 'fall'	c <i>coru</i> 'they (TR)'	k <i>kiri</i> 'bite'	
Nasal	m <i>mang</i> 'person'	n <i>nuhu</i> 'my head'		ŋ (ng) <i>diang</i> 'fish'	
Voiced Fric	β (v) <i>fiavera</i> 'dog'				
Vcless Fric	Φ (f) <i>fiavera</i> 'dog'	s <i>sura</i> 'ten'			h <i>mereha</i> 'water'
Liquid		r <i>roma</i> 'come'			
Glide			j (y) <i>waya</i> 'river'	w <i>waya</i> 'river'	

Ambai vowel sequences seem to be found in a many of the possible combinations, however, due to the very little data available, the non-attested case might be found out to happen later in our investigation. For the time being we do not know if they are systematic or accidental gaps.

Table 3: Ambai vowel sequences attested in our data (with illustration)

V1/V2	a	e	i	o	u
a	--	Not attested	ai <i>nanai</i> 'that'	Not attested	au <i>faung</i> 'hold'
e	ea <i>kameahifa</i> 'morning'	--	ei <i>jeitawani</i> 'hear'	Not attested	Not attested
i	ia <i>indiatoru</i> 'eight'	Not attested	--	Not attested	iu <i>niumetang</i> 'black'
o	oa <i>boa</i> 'four'	Not attested	oi <i>boiri</i> 'one'	--	Not attested
u	ua <i>numbuai</i> 'sand'	Not attested	ui <i>fuina</i> 'year'	uo <i>taramuoai</i> 'hear'	--

By far the most common sequences are [ai] and [ia]. Note, however, that very often [ai] is actually a diphthong, as in *aibong* 'fruit'. We know this because of the stress, which falls on the penultimate syllable (see section 2.2).

2.2 Stress and syllable structure

Stress in Ambai falls on the penultimate syllable of a word. Most stressed syllables bear a long vowel, and in Ambai these are clearly very long, such that one distinctively hears two vowels. However, these long vowels are not distinct phonemes, since their occurrence is totally predictable in a stressed syllable. However, this might be due to the

fact that the words are elicited in a list. But since there is no minimal pair in which the initial vowel contrasts in a short/long manner, we can be pretty sure that these long vowels are, indeed, not phonemic.

The majority of words in Ambai are either bisyllabic or trisyllabic, however words with one syllable occur frequently and a few with four syllables are attested. In Table 4 I show the possible syllable structures of Ambai words with 1 to 3 syllables:

Table 4: The syllable structure of Ambai words (with illustration)

1 syllable	2 syllables	3 syllables
CVV <i>boa</i> 'four'	CV.CV <i>nini</i> 'this'	(C)V.CV.CV(C) <i>botoru</i> 'three'
CVC <i>ring</i> 'five'	CV.CVV <i>nanai</i> 'that'	CV.CVV.CV <i>indiata</i> 'nine'
VV <i>ai</i> 'mother'	(C)VV.CV <i>boiri</i> 'one'	CVV.CV.CV(C) <i>ramfuba</i> 'main street'
CVVC <i>diang</i> 'fish'	CV.CVC <i>wonang</i> 'six'	(C)V.CV.CVV <i>kasina</i> 'goggles'
CV <i>ro</i> 'walk'	V.CV <i>itu</i> 'seven'	VC.CV.CV <i>embahi</i> 'moon'

Codas in word-middle position assimilate to the following onset to form, for example, a homorganic nasal+stop cluster. Hence in this position nasals can vary, as well as word-initially. Word-finally, however, only the velar nasal is realized.

2.3 Summary

The phonology of Ambai is typical of Austronesian languages. It has a fairly regular segment inventory (however, interestingly, it has bilabial fricatives instead of the more regular labio-dental ones), regular word stress and a large set of possible syllable

configurations. On the other hand, more complexity might arise (especially concerning the syllable structure) in the future when even more data is collected than simply the restricted set available at the moment.

3. Morphosyntax

3.1 Morphological classification

Ambai is a dominantly isolating language. As far as the few morphological processes of the language are concerned, it is rather agglutinative since affixes can be decomposed into their features. For example, the verbal prefix *anto(r)-* can be decomposed into [aN-] which encodes 1st person inclusive, and [-to(r)-] which encodes the trial number. The most common morphological processes in Ambai are prefixation (mostly on verbs) and suffixation (mostly on nouns), with prefixation being the dominant process. Also, we can add that Ambai is a head-marking language; for example, in possessive structure, it is the possessed that is marked, not the possessor.

3.2 Grammatical categories

3.2.1 Nouns

Proper names in Ambai require a suffix *-i* when uttered. Hence, our informant, Sara, would utter her name as *Sara-i* in a sentence, as in (1) below:

- (1) *wonohu fino sara-i*
 name.poss1SG 3SG.be sara-ART(PROPER)¹
 ‘My name is Sara.’

Common nouns, on the other hand, usually appear without any suffix, to the exception of inalienable nouns, which require a possessive suffix and cannot appear as a root only. Inalienable nouns in Ambai, as in most languages that have this distinction, comprise body parts and kinship terms. For example, the root for ‘nose’ is *ubo-*, but it cannot appear in isolation; it needs the first person possessive suffix *-hu*, as in *ubohu* ‘my head’ or simply ‘head’.

3.2.2 Verbs

Verbs in Ambai are inflected for person and number only. Tense, Aspect and Mood are marked by other lexical items in the sentence. A verbal root cannot appear in isolation; it must always be inflected for person and number by means of a subject pronominal prefix, even when the subject is overtly expressed in the sentence. For example, the verb ‘to wash’ has the root form *fafi*, but it cannot occur as such; hence the form *efafi* ‘they (plural) washed’.

3.2.3 Modifiers

Adjectives and numerals are not inflected and follow the noun they modify. Thus, we have *nehi fuba* ‘black cat’ and *nehi boru* ‘two cats’. However, it is not clear that adjectives actually do form a class of their own in Ambai, and they seem to be acting like

¹ Abbreviations used in this paper are: n (noun), v (verb), adj (adjective), DP (determiner phrase), NP (noun phrase), 1 (1st person), 2 (2nd person), 3 (3rd person), SG (singular), DU (dual), TR (trial), PL (plural), ART (article), REF (referring expression), POSS (possessive), NEG (negation), ADV (adverb), OBJ (object), PERF (perfect/perfective), S (subject of an intransitive sentence), A (subject of a transitive sentence).

the class of verbs although they are not themselves verbs. Hence, *nehi njumetang dine* can mean ‘that black cat’ as much as ‘that cat is black’. It could be interpreted as something like ‘the cat is ‘being black’’.

3.2.4 Pronouns

By lack of data concerning other kinds of pronouns, we will concentrate in this section on personal pronouns. There are basically two forms of personal pronouns: independent (optional) ones and bound (obligatory) ones. Two distinctions are worth mentioning: first, Ambai, like many other languages, distinguishes between the first person inclusive and the first person exclusive in the non-singular. Second, in addition to singular and plural, Ambai not only distinguishes a dual number, but also a trial number in the personal pronouns. Table 1 and 2 show the independent and bound pronouns of Ambai respectively.

Table 5: Free pronouns in Ambai

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1st exclusive	jau	auru	antoru	amea
1st inclusive		turu	totoru	tata
2nd	wau	muru	muntoru	mea
3rd	i	uru (suru)	coru	ea (sa)

Table 6: Bound pronouns in Ambai

	Singular	Dual	Trial	Plural
1st exclusive	i-/dj-	au(r)-	anto(r)-	ame(t)-
1st inclusive		tu(r)-	to(r)-	ta(t)-
2nd	b-/ [+ROUND]	mu(r)-	munto(r)-	me(t)-
3rd	d-/ [+PALATAL]	u(r)-	co(r)-	e(t)-

The distribution of free pronouns in Ambai is more restricted than that of bound pronouns. They can be used as a complement of a predicate or a preposition, but they ‘are not used as free forms in subject position. Person and number information is already marked on the verb by subject prefixes.’ (Silzer 1983:122, qtd in Van den Heuvel 2006:67).

3.3 Constituent order

3.3.1 Verbal clause level

Ambai is an SVO language. A typical transitive sentence in Ambai thus consists of an optional topicalized element, the subject, the verb, the direct object, and optionally an oblique argument, in this order, as exemplified in (2):

- (2) *mandohai nei detio diang manei*
shark this 3SG.see fish a
‘The shark sees a fish.’

Similarly, an intransitive sentence follows the order SV. Thus, on the basis of the present data, S and A are encoded in the same way in Ambai. (3) illustrates the SV order of an intransitive sentence:

- (3) *mandohai nei vevisi*
shark this 3SG.be.hungry
‘The shark is hungry.’

3.3.2 *The DP*

The canonical constituent order in a DP is noun-modifier-determiner. The DP is thus right-headed in Ambai. However, the NP inside the DP is, for its part, left-headed. Take as an example, our cat from section 3.2.3 above:

- (4) *nehi njumetan dine*
cat black that
'That black cat.'

This order of the elements of the DP is consistent throughout our Ambai data.

3.4 Noun and NP operations

3.4.1 *Number*

Number is not expressed morphologically in Ambai, but rather by the addition of a word meaning 'many', 'a lot', 'some'. It can also be simply unmarked and deduced from context, especially for mass nouns. This is exemplified in (5) and (6):

- (5) *mandohai nei detio diang bitoja (paria)*
shark this see.3SG fish many very
'The shark sees (very) many fishes.'
- (6) *i viorio fa, viorio mangukei bei, kontajo viorio mangukei aibong manea*
she bought.3SG rice bought.3SG chicken a and bought.3SG chicken fruit some
'She bought rice, a chicken and some eggs.'

3.4.2 Determiners and demonstratives

Ambai does not have articles of the form ‘the fish’. Rather, reference to a noun is either indefinite (‘a’) or through a deictic expression like ‘this’ or ‘that’:

- (7) *diang foi mireha ampa*
fish that dead already
‘This fish is dead.’

3.4.3 Possessives

Possession is expressed by a possessive pronoun appearing before the noun for alienable nouns, as in *nehu nehi* ‘my cat’, and by a possessive suffix attached to the possessed noun for inalienable nouns, as in (*nehu*) *tarahu* ‘my ear’.

3.5 Voice

There is something similar to a passive construction in Ambai. Indeed, in this construction, the verb, in addition to its regular form, gets added a suffix meaning ‘by’. The word order is also changed, with the patient moving into a topical position. Lastly, a pronominal referring expression is added to refer to the actor. This is illustrated in (8):

- (8) **diang nei** antanafao mandohai nei **andi** dan-i **ne**
fish this ADV(PAST) shark this REF 3SG.eat-3SG.OBJ by?
‘This fish was eaten by the shark.’

Our informant has mentioned that the suffix *-ne* is also the marker of the progressive. Whether or not those two contexts are related is hard to say for now, though. But we must observe that, in this construction, the object is not in subject position; it is actually in a

topical position, ‘higher’ up the syntactic tree than the adverb of time. Hence, we cannot say that the object is promoted to a subject position and thus we cannot call this construction a passive. How this should be analyzed is not clear yet, and a lot more data will be necessary in order to get a clear picture.

3.6 Negation and clause chaining

The main negative element in Ambai is *kaha* ‘not’. From the data available, the placement of this element in a sentence seems to be consistently after the complex [verb + direct object]. We can thus say that Ambai has a typical non-Austronesian feature of predicate-final negation. If there is an adjunct in the predicate, it will either appear after the negative element (examples 9 and 11), or before it (example 10):

(9) *[joati tawai fuba niu metang bei] kaha [na kaofa]*
 see.3TR snake big black a NEG in ground
 ‘They (3) did not see a big black snake on the ground.’

(10) *aha i-ra kaha to katai aunaung poi*
 tomorrow 1SG-go NEG to place learning that
 ‘Tomorrow I won’t go to school.’ (Van den Elsen 2007:9)

(11) *aha mani i-ra-to katai aunaung poi kaha*
 tomorrow this 1SG-go-to place learning that NEG
 ‘Tomorrow I won’t go to school.’ (Van den Elsen 2007:9)

When we have an enumeration in Ambai, it takes the form of a chain of clauses, in which the verb is repeated each time. However, if the whole sentence is negated, the negative element appears only on the first clause, as does the conjugated verb. This is illustrated in (12) and (13) below:

- (12) *i viorio fa, viorio manggukei bei, kontajo viorio mangukei aibong manea*
 she buy.3SG rice buy.3SG chicken a and buy.3SG chicken fruit some
 ‘She bought rice, a chicken and some eggs.’
- (13) *i viorio fa kaha kontajo manggukei tutiyo mangukei aibong*
 she buy.3SG rice NEG and chicken with chicken fruit
 ‘She did not buy rice, a chicken and some eggs.’

There is another negative element in Ambai, namely *bereri*. It is what is called a ‘negative of existence’ (Payne 1997:286). It is the appropriate response to a question of the type ‘Are there some chairs?’ (*kadera bereri* ‘There are no chairs.’). *Kaha*, on the other hand, is the appropriate response for a standard non-existential question of the type ‘Is this a chair?’ (*kaderai nei kaha* ‘It’s not a chair.’) This is not uncommon in the world’s languages, and is found, for example, in Tagalog.

3.7 A look at verbal paradigms

As we have seen before, verbs in Ambai are always realized through the addition of a subject prefix. In the singular number, however, things are a bit more complicated since some phonological changes operate on the root of the verb.

In the first person singular, some sort of palatalization is happening, since either *i-* or *j-* appears on the verb. On the second person singular, the following inventory of first consonant is observed: \emptyset -, *b-*, *r-*, *w-*. On the third person singular, the inventory observed is: *C-i-*, *d-*, *j-*, \emptyset -. On the basis of the verbs collected so far, it is not yet possible to draw

an analysis about what is going on in the second and third person singular. However, we can hypothesize a kind of rounding and palatalization respectively.

For the rest of the paradigm, that is all the duals, trials and plurals, the pattern is very regular, and the pronoun prefixes of Table 2 are simply added to the verb stem. An example (among many) is given of a verbal paradigm for the verb *rang* ‘to cook’ in (14) below:

(14)	1sg	<i>i-rang</i>
	2sg	<i>rang</i>
	3sg	<i>j-ang</i>
	1excl-dual	<i>au-rang</i>
	1incl-dual	<i>tu-rang</i>
	2 dual	<i>mu-rang</i>
	3 dual	<i>u-rang</i>
	1 excl-trial	<i>anto-rang</i>
	1 incl-trial	<i>to-rang</i>
	2 trial	<i>munto-rang</i>
	3 trial	<i>co-rang</i>
	1 excl plural	<i>ame-rang</i>
	1 incl plural	<i>ta-rang</i>
	2 plural	<i>me-rang</i>
	3 plural	<i>e-rang</i>

3.8 Conclusion

In conclusion, Ambai is a very typical Austronesian language, with a reasonably easy morphosyntax. Complications arise, though, when phonological processes get involved in the morphology, and the apparent mess in, for example, the verbal paradigms for the singular persons can surely be resolved through further elicitation.

4. Complex Emotion Predicates

It has been possible to collect a few instances of Complex Emotion Predicate in elicitation sessions with our informant. However, what I call Complex Emotion Predicates here also involve expressions referring to states of mind and character. However, since they all have the same form they will be viewed as one uniform category. The concepts expressed include: anger, naughtiness, happiness, sadness, love, forgetfulness, stubbornness and loudness. They will be illustrated in turn in examples (16-23).

- (16) *nehu roronei damir(ai) we i*
my liver sick for him
'I am angry at him.'
- (17) *nung-kamiai foi mituhubaru bejari*
3SG.POSS-stone that strong very
'He/she is very naughty.' ('stone' refers to the head)
- (18) *nehu roronei merising paria*
my liver happy very
'I am very happy.'
- (19) *ene-hu wawuti we i*
stomach-1SG.POSS sad for him
'I am sad for/about him.'

- (20) *ene-hu* *o-i*
 stomach-1SG.POSS likes-him
 ‘I love him.’
- (21) *aro-hu* *poro-i*
 chest-1SG.POSS forget-3SG.OBJ
 ‘I forget him/her/it.’
- (22) *tara-mu-dau* *wai kehubang bejari*
 ears-2SG.POSS-two that thick very
 ‘You are very stubborn.’
- (23) *boromu* *wai fiabai bejari*
 mouth-2SG.POSS that big very
 ‘Your voice is very loud.’

Klamer (2001) states two possible configurations for Complex Emotion Predicates: one in which the body part (theme) and the person (location) form a constituent ($_{VP}[V NP]$), and one in which it is the verb (state/event) and the body part (theme) which form a constituent ($_{V}[VN]$). On the basis of the Ambai data available, the conclusion is that Ambai employs the $_{VP}[V NP]$ strategy, since the theme and location cannot possibly be separated, since they consist of a body part and a possessive suffix. However, note that the expressions using the liver have a separate possessive word, which might relate to the different structure of expressions using the liver in Kambara, exposed in Klamer (2001). But it is too early for such a conclusion, and we are crucially in need of data in which it is nouns, and not possessive pronouns, that stand for the location of the predicate. Future research on the topic will have to include such sentences to get a better picture of the phenomenon.

5. Conclusion

After having worked with our consultant for about three months only, in a class setting, we can definitely say that we have learned quite a lot about the Ambai language. However, a lot more investigation has to be done in order to describe the language thoroughly. There are some interesting morphophonological processes, for example in verbal paradigms, which need more research. Also, we did not have much time to touch on syntax a lot, and future research might lead to some pleasant surprises on this matter!

Appendix A: Short text ‘We plant corn’

Note that the English translation is a free translation and only an approximation; it does not render the exact meaning of the Ambai sentences very well!

(1) *Eferang romi woworu.*
e-ferang romi woworu
3PL-cut field new
‘They cut a new field.’

(2) *Ai eferang tuti afui efating foi etoni viatai ao imbai bei*
ai e-ferang tuti afui e-fating foi e-toni v-i-atai ao imbai bei
tree 3PL-cut with grass 3PL-yank.out that 3PL-give stay-3SG-stay until month one
‘They cut the trees and yank out the grass and let it stay like that for a month’.

(3) *Ai tuti afui foi mamasana ainanaya enunungo ai tuti afui foi.*
ai tuti afui foi mamasana ainanaya e-nunungo ai tuti afui foi
tree with grass that dry then 3PL-burn tree with grass that
‘When the tree and the grass are dry they burn them.’

(4) *Romi foi kasaua mano ne romi foi kia kasamberei sirai na kaofa foi.*
 romi foi kasaua mano ne romi foi k-i-a kasamberei s-i-rai na kaofa foi
 field that clean which 3SG.POSS field that take-3SG-take corn dig-3SG-dig in ground that
 ‘In that field of theirs which is now clean, they take corn and dig in the ground.’

(5) *Ngari wavu boa saya kasamberei nai.*
 ngari wavu boa saya kasamberei nai
 3SG.make plantation.square for buried corn with
 ‘They make plantation squares to bury the corn.’

(6) *Kasamberei foi viatayao ari bei.*
 kasamberei foi v-i-atajao ari bei
 corn that stay-3SG-stay week one
 ‘That corn will stay one week.’

(7) *Kasamberei foi sifua, ainanaya sahuo nerorovin kontai*
 kasamberei foi s-i-fua ainanaya sahuo ne-rorovin kontai
 corn that grow-3SG-grow then 3SG.call 3SG.POSS-sister and

neroromang era to neromifo we etanang kasamberei.
 ne-roromang e-ra to ne-romi-fo we e-tanang kasamberei
 3SG.POSS-brother 3PL-walk to 3SG.POSS-field-that for 3PL-plant corn

‘When that corn grows they will call sisters and brothers to walk to the field and plant corn.’

(8) *Viving foi dato wavu kasamberei foi sirai kasamberei foi*
 viving foi da-to wavu kasamberei foi s-i-rai kasamberei foi
 woman that 3SG.walk-to plantation.square corn that dig-3SG-dig corn that

dohoni we mano etanampo.
 dohoni we mano e-tanam-po
 3SG.put for which 3PL-plant-that

‘The woman walks to the corn plantation square and digs the corn to later plant it.’

- (9) *Ne roromangsa eru aisiang esirai kamirei ambori*
ne roromang-sa e-ru aisiang e-sirai kamirei ambori
3SG.POSS brother-? 3PL-hold.tight stick 3PL-dig hole so.that
- ne tatuy roroving nesa etohongo kasamberei to kamirei foi.*
ne tatuy roroving nesa e-tohongo kasamberei to kamirei foi
3SG.POSS sibling sister these 3PL-put corn to hole that

‘Her brother digs a hole holding a stick so that his sisters put the corn in the hole.’

- (10) *Etanang kiai, viving mano ne romi foi*
e-tanang kiai viving mano ne romi foi
3PL-plant PERF woman which 3SG.POSS field that

sahu ea kiai weo etampi.
sahu ea kiai weo e-tampi
3SG.call 3PL all for 3PL-eat

‘Once the woman has finished planting the corn in her field she calls everyone to eat.’

- (11) *Etampia ainanaya era to enemunofu.*
e-tampi-a ainanaya e-ra to e-ne-muno-fo
3PL-eat-PERF then 3PL-walk to ?-3PL.POSS-house-that

‘After they have eaten they walk to their house.’

- (12) *Kasamberei foi sifu embai borua, viving foi kia angung tawa kontai*
kasamberei foi sifu embai boru-a viving foi kia angung tawa kontai
corn that 3SG.grow month two-PERF woman that 3SG.take cloth old and

ansung aburung feai dohonai sawai weo padiramo.
ansung aburung feai dohonai sawai weo padiramo
cloth sheet also 3SG.put 3SG.fall for flag

‘The corn grows for two complete months then the woman takes an old cloth hangs it down like a flag.’

- (13) *Ansung kamara andio dohonai tawai ambori*
ansung kamara andio dohonai tawai ambori
cloth colour it 3SG.put 3SG.fall so.that

romu foi esifo ewati ansung foi mani eteiterao inongtarai
romu foi e-sifo e-wati ansung foi mani e-teiterao inongtarai
birds that 3PL-fly 3PL-see cloth that this 3PL-think person

ampefe ematai esifo wairoi weru romi kasamberei fo.
ampefe e-matai e-sifo wairoi weru romi kasamberei fo
so.that 3PL-be.scared 3PL-fly far from field corn that

‘The coloured cloth falls down so that flying birds see it and think it’s a person and they are scared and fly away from the field corn.’

- (14) *Ansung foi tawai wori romu foi dango kasamberei foi kaha.*
ansung foi tawai wori romu foi dango kasamberei foi kaha
cloth that 3SG.fall 3SG.mean bird that 3SG.eat corn that not
‘The falling cloth means that birds so not eat the corn’

- (15) *Embai borute, embai boate kasamberei foi sirari.*
embai boru-te embai boa-te kasamberei foi s-i-rari
month two-or month four-or corn that appear-3SG-appear
‘After two or four months the corn appears.’

- (16) *Embai bo ring nei kasamberei foi we taraia.*
embai bo ring nei kasamberei foi we taraia
month which five this corn that for 3SG.be.ripe
‘After five months the corn is ripe.’

- (17) *Mano viving foi, kia kasamberei we dewajan,*
 mano viving foi kia kasamberei we dewajan
 which woman that 3SG.take corn for 3SG.sell

dohonai we ne roromang, ne roroving.
 dohonai we ne roromang ne roroving
 3SG.give for 3SG.POSS brother 3SG.POSS sister

‘The woman takes the corn to sell it and to give to her brothers and sisters.’

- (18) *Mae manei dohonai viatai we sanangea.*
 mae manei dohonai v-i-atai we sanang-ea
 but some 3SG.put stay-3SG-stay for 3SG.plant-again
 ‘But she puts some on the side to plant them again.’

- (19) *Dohonai wiatajao mamasa na romifo ainanaya*
 dohonai wiataj-ao mamasa na romi-fo ainanaya
 3SG.put 3SG.stay-until dry in field-that then

kirahi kasamberei foi kia to munu weo sanamiea.
 k-i-rahi kasamberei foi kia to munu weo sanami-ea
 break-3SG-break corn that 3SG.take to house for 3SG.plant-again

‘She puts in the field until they are dry and then breaks the corn to her house to plant it again.’

Appendix B: Additions to Ambai word list

Below are some additions to the word list compiled in Van den Elsen (2007).

Table 7: Some more (marine) Ambai vocabulary

<u>Ambai</u>	<u>English</u>
<i>ferang</i>	cut (v)
<i>mandohai</i>	shark (n)
<i>saro</i>	whale (n)
<i>inggombararei</i>	dolphin(n)
<i>kaweini</i>	shrimp (n)
<i>kafo</i>	coral (n)
<i>ansansinai</i>	sea urchin (n)
<i>mandong</i>	green algae (n)
<i>fafuta</i>	sponge (n)
<i>karatari</i>	jellyfish (n)
<i>fitataving</i>	worm (n)
<i>urewang</i>	sea snake (n)
<i>anggarariti</i>	crab (n)
<i>kaweini</i>	lobster (n)
<i>wa</i>	boat (n)
<i>jareng</i>	reef (n)
<i>kasinai</i>	goggles (n)
<i>embai</i>	month (n); same as moon (n)
<i>mamasa</i>	dry (adj)
<i>kamara</i>	colour (n)
<i>padiramo</i>	flag (n)

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