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**ON THE AUSTRONESIAN  
DISPERSAL TO  
THE PHILIPPINES**

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# Introduction

- ⦿ Questions re the Proto-Austronesian homeland and the dispersal of Austronesian languages.
- ⦿ Nearly all linguists claim Taiwan as the homeland.
- ⦿ Primarily based on evidence adduced by Blust.
- ⦿ Austronesian languages in other parts of the world are the end result of a progressive series of colonizing migrations.
- ⦿ The progressively more recent dates of Neolithic assemblages as one moves south from Taiwan are supportive of the linguistic evidence.
- ⦿ Linguistic evidence is the decisive factor in claims about the homeland of Austronesian languages and the direction of movement of Austronesian peoples.

# Definitions

## ⦿ **Austronesian**

- What is meant by the term “Austronesian”? Who are the Austronesians?
- There is no single “Austronesian culture”.
- There is no single “Austronesian genotype”.
- The term **AUSTRONESIAN** was originally proposed as a label for people who speak one of the languages that can be shown to be part of the family that is labeled Austronesian.
- Austronesians are people who speak Austronesian languages.

# Definitions

## ◎ **Proto-Austronesian**

- Refers to the hypothetical parent language reconstructed on the basis of evidence from its daughter languages, using the procedures of the historical-comparative method.
- Austronesian languages are the daughters of Proto-Austronesian.

# Definitions

## ◎ **Austronesian homeland**

- The place where Proto-Austronesian developed and where speakers of the language lived.
- Could it have been in Southern China, or in the Pescadores Islands?
- The ancestors of the earliest Austronesian populations in may have come from these areas, but unless there are remnant languages that can be shown to be related to Proto-Austronesian, they cannot be said to speak or to have spoken Austronesian languages.
- The ancestors of the earliest Austronesian populations spoke **PRE-AUSTRONESIAN**, a language that became PAN after their descendants moved to Taiwan.

# Definitions

## ◎ **Malayo-Polynesian**

- Or **EXTRA-FORMOSAN** (Otto Christian Dahl) labels the family of languages that developed following the movement of peoples out of Taiwan and into the Philippines.
- These languages share certain features that are not found in the Austronesian languages spoken in Taiwan.

## ◎ **Proto-Malayo-Polynesian**

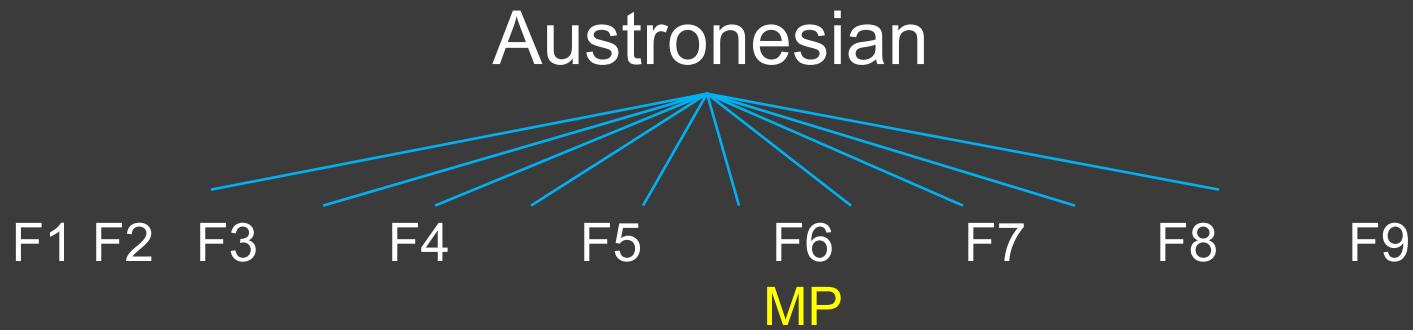
- The name given to the hypothetical, reconstructed parent of the Malayo-Polynesian family of languages that supposedly underwent the changes that are shared among its daughters.

# Definitions

## ◎ **Malayo-Polynesian homeland**

- Where was PMP spoken?
- A family tree diagram which represents Blust's views of the first-order subgrouping of Austronesian languages has ten branches, nine of which consist of single languages or subgroups of languages, all of which are currently spoken on the mainland of Taiwan.
- The tenth branch is labeled Malayo-Polynesian and, as noted above, consists of all the Austronesian languages spoken outside of mainland Taiwan (and thus includes Yami, spoken on Lanyü).

# Blust's First-Order Subgrouping of Austronesian (based on shared phonological innovations)



F1 Atayalic	F6	Tsouic
F2 East Formosan	F7	Bunun
F3 Puyuma	F8	Western Plains
F4 Paiwan	F9	Northwest Formosan
F5 Rukai	<b>MP</b>	<b>Malayo-Polynesian</b>

# Definitions

## ◎ **Malayo-Polynesian homeland (1)**

- Ross (2005) Proto Austronesian, “must have diversified into a dialect chain and/or undergone a recursive process of language splitting before Proto Malayo-Polynesian came into being.”
- But can we say that PMP was spoken in Taiwan?
- Ross (2005:18-19) “*The emigration from Taiwan of the Proto Malayo-Polynesian speaking community...*”
- “If, then, *the Proto Malayo-Polynesian speech community left Taiwan* after a period of Austronesian diversification within Taiwan, can we say where it came from?”

# Definitions

## ◎ **Malayo-Polynesian homeland (2)**

- Where PMP was spoken must be based on the location of the languages that show the linguistic evidence that has been used to distinguish this set of languages from others.
- Ross (2005:17-19) “The more or less immediate *ancestors of Proto Malayo-Polynesian* speakers migrated out of Taiwan ... to one or more of the islands where the Batanic languages are now spoken. *Their speech underwent certain innovations and became Proto Malayo-Polynesian.*”
- “*Proto Malayo-Polynesian came into being on one or more of the islands where the Batanic languages are now spoken.*”
- “*Just as a group ... migrating out of Taiwan became the Proto Malayo-Polynesian speech community, so we might expect the speech of one or more groups migrating to Borneo and/or Sulawesi to have become reconstructable interstages ancestral to the extra-Philippine Malayo-Polynesian languages.*”

# Definitions

- ◎ **Malayo-Polynesian homeland (3)**
  - How should one then refer to the language that was spoken by the “more or less immediate ancestors of Proto Malayo-Polynesian speakers”?
  - Just as the ancestors of Proto-Austronesian speakers should be named Pre-Austronesian, so the ancestors of Proto Malayo-Polynesian speakers should be named **PRE-MALAYO-POLYNESIAN**.
  - Sagart (2004:430) suggests an alternative, FAMP, the **Formosan Ancestor of Malayo-Polynesian**.

# Pre-Malayo-Polynesian Origins

## ◎ **Major questions**

- Where did the ancestors of the Malayo-Polynesians (the Pre-MP people) come from?
- What was the direction of their movement?
- If they came from the north, from Taiwan, what group (if any) could be considered their closest relatives in Taiwan?

# Linguistic Evidence for PMP and Directionality

## ◎ **The phonological evidence**

- Ross (2005:6) “If a set of innovations is shared by the languages of a group, it is inferred that they are shared because they have been inherited from a single interstage language. This is far more probable than the alternative assumption—that the innovations have occurred independently in each language which reflects them.”
- **The mergers**
  - a. PAN \*t and \*C merged as PMP \*t
  - b. PAN \*L and \*n merged as PMP \*n
- **The shift of PAN \*S to PMP \*h**
  - This is prime evidence for directionality, because the change from /s/ to /h/ is an instance of a natural sound change widely represented in languages around the world, whereas the opposite is not.

# Linguistic Evidence for PMP and Directionality

## ◎ **The lexical and pronominal evidence (1)**

- Lexical evidence, that is the presence or absence of a particular word, is not considered to be strong evidence for subgrouping.
- Sporadic or irregular phonological or semantic change within a lexical item is good evidence for subgrouping, since the likelihood that the same changes would develop independently in several languages is unlikely.
- A number of lexical items of this type which provide potential evidence for PMP are discussed in Blust (1995, 2001).

# Linguistic Evidence for PMP and Directionality

## ◎ The lexical and pronominal evidence (2)

- Blust's "second politeness shift" in PMP pronouns
- PAN\*=mu 'GEN.2PL' became PMP\*=mu 'GEN.2SG'
  - In Formosan languages, it is always a genitive second person *plural* pronoun.
  - In the Austronesian languages outside of Taiwan, it is always a second person *singular* pronoun.
- Blust explained the change as a "politeness shift", similar to the way French *vous* replaces *tu*, or English *you* replaced *thou*.
- While a shift from second person plural to second person singular is not unusual in other languages, the reverse is rare, and therefore is **strongly directional**.

# Linguistic Evidence for PMP and Directionality

## ◎ The lexical and pronominal evidence (3)

- Reconstruction of a dual pronoun to PMP is also **strongly directional**.
- Many Western Malayo-Polynesian languages such as those in the Philippines distinguish a **first person dual** pronoun (i.e., ‘we two’), from a **first person inclusive** pronouns (i.e., ‘we all’).

### Ilokano

*Mapan=**ta** idiay bantay.*

go=**1DU** LOC mountain

‘Let’s you (SG) and I go to the mountain.’

*Mapan=**tayo** idiay bantay.*

go=**1PL.IN** LOC mountain

‘Let’s all go to the mountain.’

# The Development of a PMP Dual Pronoun

## ◎ Source of the dual pronoun PMP \*=ta

- In Formosan languages, =ta is '1<sup>st</sup> person inclusive plural pronoun ('we all')'.
- In Malayo-Polynesian languages that have the distinction, the pronoun is restricted to refer to only two people: =ta '1<sup>st</sup> person dual' ('you SG and I').
- The first person inclusive form was reconstituted by the addition of an additional element, an **EXPANDER**.

# The Development of a PMP Dual Pronoun

## ◎ **Source of the inclusive pronoun expander (1)**

The shape of the expander, depending on the language, appears to be cognate with either:

a 1 <sup>st</sup> singular pronoun (=ku)	>	ta-ku
a 2 <sup>nd</sup> singular pronoun (=mu)	>	ta-mu
a 2 <sup>nd</sup> plural pronoun (=yu) >		ta-yu
a 3 <sup>rd</sup> plural pronoun (=da).>		ta-da

# The Development of a PMP Dual Pronoun

## ◎ **Source of the inclusive pronoun expander (2)**

The addition of a plural pronoun, such as =*yu* '2PL' or =*da* '3PL', is semantically expected as a way to extend the reference from a single addressee to a multiple addressee:

we (2) + you (PL) = we (all)

we (2) + them = we (all)

# The Development of a PMP Dual Pronoun

## ◎ **Source of the inclusive pronoun expander (3)**

Why would a language choose a singular form such as *=ku* 'I' or *=mu* 'you (SG)' to extend the function of a dual pronoun to an inclusive one? The semantics of an inclusive first person plural pronoun ('we all') is not achieved by adding 'I' or 'you (SG)' to 'we (two)'.

we (2) + me  $\neq$  we (all)

we (2) + you (SG)  $\neq$  we (all)

# The Development of a PMP Dual Pronoun

## ◎ **Source of the inclusive pronoun expander (4)**

- ◎ Why would a language choose a singular form such as **=ku** ‘I’ or **=mu** ‘you (SG)’ to extend the function of a dual pronoun to an inclusive one?
- ◎ It didn’t! **=ku** and **=mu** were not arbitrary choices made from among available singular pronouns but have other sources.
  - ◎ **=ku** developed from a second person plural pronoun, **=kayu**.
  - ◎ **=mu** must have been attached as an expander before the “politeness shift”, when it was still a **second person plural** pronoun.

# The Development of a PMP Dual Pronoun

The reconstruction of a dual/inclusive pronoun distinction for PMP, is **strongly directional**, in that the use of **\*=mu** as an expander could only have taken place before the second politeness shift occurred and therefore before the development of the other innovations which characterize Proto-Malayo-Polynesian.

# On the Relationship of PMP to the Formosan Languages

## ◎ **The Amis-Extra-Formosan Hypothesis**

- Strongly criticized. Archaeological evidence suggests that the earliest Neolithic settlements in the Philippines occurred around 4000-4500 BP (Spriggs 2007), and in order for the hypothesis to be valid it would be necessary to assume that there was an Amis linguistic entity 4000 years ago with the same set of linguistic features that are present today. Clearly this is false.

# On the Relationship of PMP to the Formosan Languages

## ◎ **The East Formosan Connection (1)**

- 4000 years ago the East Formosan language group was probably only a dialect chain, extending from the Eastern Plains, which developed into Amis, with scattered enclaves reaching down to the southern tip of the island and northward into the alluvial plains on the western edge of the southern peninsula, and further north into the alluvial plains where the Makatao and Siraya languages eventually developed, and from which the dialects that developed into Basay-Trobiawan and Kavalan were formerly spoken before their move to the northern parts of the island.

# On the Relationship of PMP to the Formosan Languages

## ◎ **The East Formosan Connection (2)**

- That all these languages share the merger of \*t and \*C suggests that this change developed and spread across the dialect chain.
- This merger pre-dated the split of the chain into its present-day language components.
- Other changes, such as the merger of \*L and \*n which is not found in Amis or Siraya, post-dated the primary split of the dialect chain into three parts, all of which presumably maintained contact with one another, with spread of lexical items, and other forms of mutual influence.

# On the Relationship of PMP to the Formosan Languages

## ◎ **The East Formosan Connection (3)**

- If one assumes that the ancestors of the group that first settled the Batanes Islands originated from that section of the dialect chain that had already merged \*t and \*C, and \*L and \*n, then we can state that Pre-Malayo-Polynesian was a dialect of the language that (later) developed into the parent of the Northern branch of Proto-East Formosan, and probably long before their migration to the northern parts of the island.
- The other changes that characterize Basay-Trobiawan and Kavalan, would have developed some time in the thousands of years since the departure of the Pre-Malayo-Polynesian people.

# On the Relationship of PMP to the Formosan Languages

## ◎ **The East Formosan Connection (4)**

- There is one change that is found in each of the languages that constitute Eastern Formosan that is not found in PMP, that is the merger of PAN \*n and \*j. Since PMP reflected these sounds as different phonemes, it is necessary to assume that this was a change that took place in one section of the Eastern Formosan chain and spread throughout the chain, after the departure of the speakers of Pre-Malayo-Polynesian.
- Diffusion of phonetic features between not only adjacent sections of a dialect chain, but across adjacent language boundaries is not an uncommon phenomenon.

# On the Relationship of PMP to the Formosan Languages

## ◎ **The East Formosan Connection (5)**

- Lexical forms having to do with the ocean that are found only in East Formosan and MP languages provide further evidence that Pre-MP speakers probably originally left from part of the East Formosan dialect chain before it split into its separate languages.
- Blust (1999:46-47) “One other inference about East Formosan can be justified: members of this group have been in continuous contact with the sea since the break-up of PAn...”
- He lists terms for ‘jellyfish’, ‘sea turtle’, ‘a kind of hermit crab’, ‘whale’, ‘shark’, ‘stingray’ and ‘sail’.

# On the Relationship of PMP to the Formosan Languages

## ◎ **The East Formosan Connection (6)**

- Ross (2005:20) “If East Formosan were the closest relative of Proto Malayo-Polynesian, then their unique common ancestor would have undergone only the merger of \*t and \*C before the departure of the Malayo-Polynesians, since Proto Malayo-Polynesian does not share in the \*j/n merger which characterizes East Formosan, and the \*L/n merger has not occurred in Amis or Siraya”.
- The fault with this claim is that it assumes that their “unique common ancestor” must have been a dialect free, homogenous speech community.

# On the Relationship of PMP to the Formosan Languages

## ◎ **The East Formosan Connection (7)**

- My claim: East Formosan is the probable source, because at the time when the Pre-MP people left, East Formosan did not consist of the set of languages that are recognized today, but was a dialect chain, through which the \*t/C and \*L/n mergers (which PMP shares) had only partially progressed.
- Other changes which today define the group must have spread across parts of the chain, after the departure of the PMP ancestors.
- One of the changes that spread across the entire East Formosan chain after the departure of the PMP ancestors was the loss of the distinction between first person dual and inclusive plural pronouns, a distinction that must have been present prior to their departure, and was maintained in PMP.

# Into the Philippines and Beyond

## ◎ **What happened after PMP began to spread through the Philippines? (1)**

- Was there a Proto-Philippines?
- Blust, recognizing that PMP must have moved rapidly through the Philippines and into Sulawesi and Borneo to the south, proposed that after maybe a thousand years of diversification of PMP in the Philippines, one of the languages expanded across the entire archipelago, from Batanes to Sulu, wiping out all other languages.
- He labeled this proposal “The First Philippines Extinction”.
- The conquering language is labeled “Proto-Philippines”.

# Blust's Movement of AN to the Philippines

## Austronesian

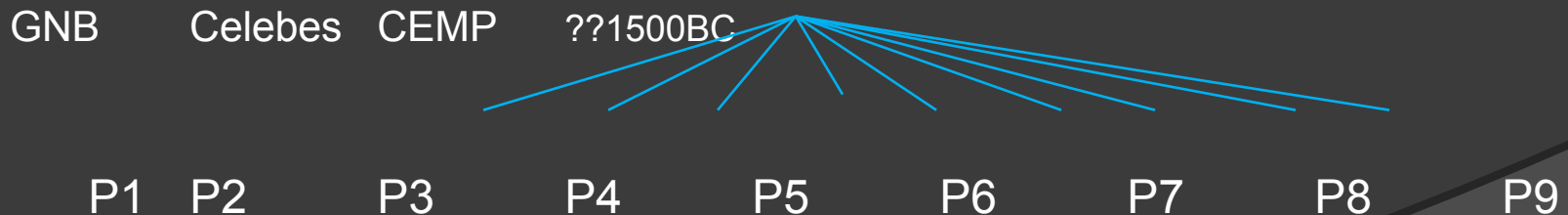


?? 3000BC

Chamorro

"1st Philippine Extinction"

## Proto-Philippines



P1	Bashiic	P4	Inati	P7	Bilic
P2	Northern Luzon	P5	Kalamian	P8	Sangiric
P3	Central Luzon	P6	Greater Central Phil.	P9	Minahasan

# Into the Philippines and Beyond

- ◎ **What happened after PMP began to spread through the Philippines? (2)**
  - Both Ross and Pawley are skeptical of the Blust proposal.
  - “Just as there was no ‘Proto Formosan’, there would also have been no ‘Proto Philippine’”
  - “... in the absence of phonological and grammatical innovations, I remain skeptical that a Proto Philippine ever existed” (Ross 2005:11,13).
  - “Reconstructions of PPh [Proto-Philippine] phonology and morphology yield systems virtually identical to those reconstructed for PMP.” (Pawley 2006:18-19).

# Into the Philippines and Beyond

## ◎ **What happened after PMP began to spread through the Philippines? (3)**

- The early Neolithic spread through the Philippines and into Sulawesi and Eastern Indonesia very rapidly following the first movement south into the Batanes, probably in the space of a few hundred years. Two lines of evidence:
  - 1. The range of C14 dates from archaeological sites (Spriggs 2007).
  - 2. A count of the relative number of cognates in the reconstructed Swadesh lists for PMP and for its daughter languages, Proto Central-Malayo-Polynesian (PCMP), Proto-Central-Eastern-Malayo-Polynesian and Proto-Oceanic (POC).

- PMP and PCMP 94%
- PMP and PoC 88%

# Reid's Movement of AN to the Philippines

## Austronesian

F2



## MALAYO-POLYNESIAN



Chamorro



# Beyond the Philippines

- ◎ **A three-way split as speakers of Austronesian languages moved south from the Philippines (Blust 2009)**
  - 1. One group moved into northern Borneo, and becoming a language he refers to as Greater Northern Borneo.
    - This language was ancestral to the languages of North Borneo (Sabah and Sarawak), and also to the languages of western Indonesia, including Sundanese, Rejang, the Malayo-Chamic family, and the North Borneo.
    - Blust assumes that this language group spread along the western side of Borneo, while another group that became ancestral to the Barito language family spread down the eastern side of the island.

# Beyond the Philippines

- ◎ **A three-way split as speakers of Austronesian languages moved south from the Philippines (Blust 2009).**
  - 2. A second group moved into northern Sulawesi.
    - This became the ancestor of the large Celebic cluster.
  - 3. A third group entered the northern Moluccas.
    - This became the ancestor of the Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian languages

# Movement of AN groups from the Philippines (Blust 2009)

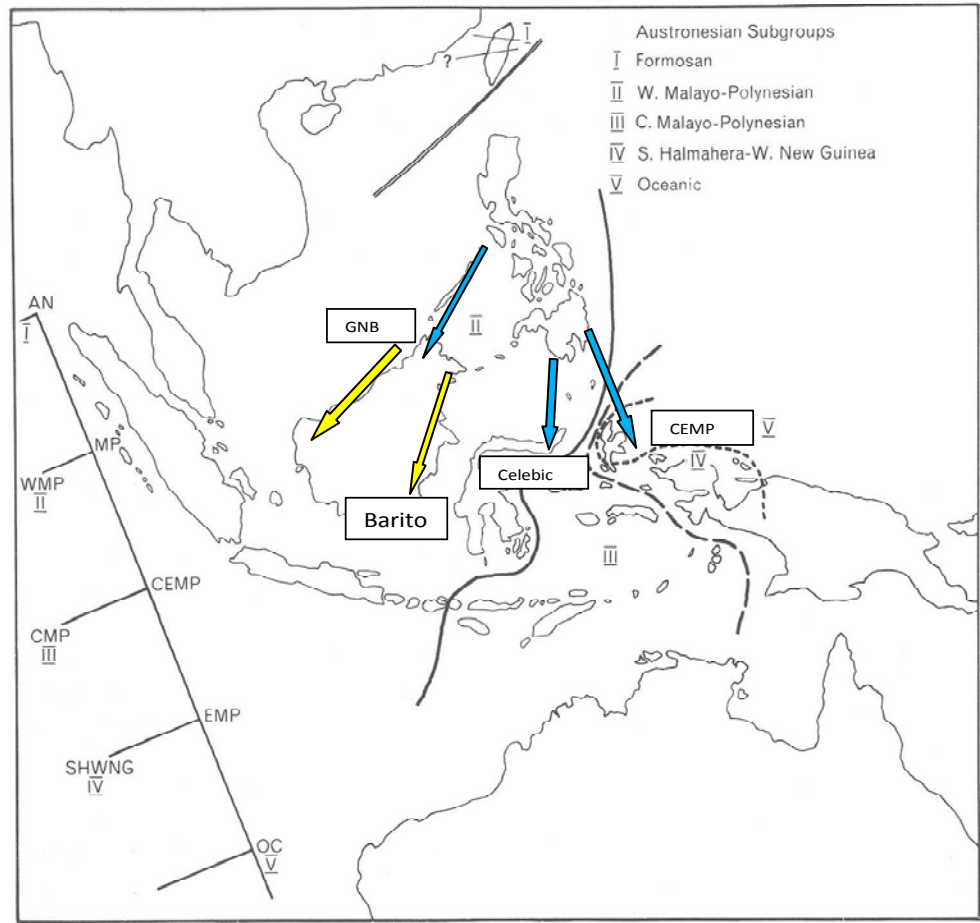
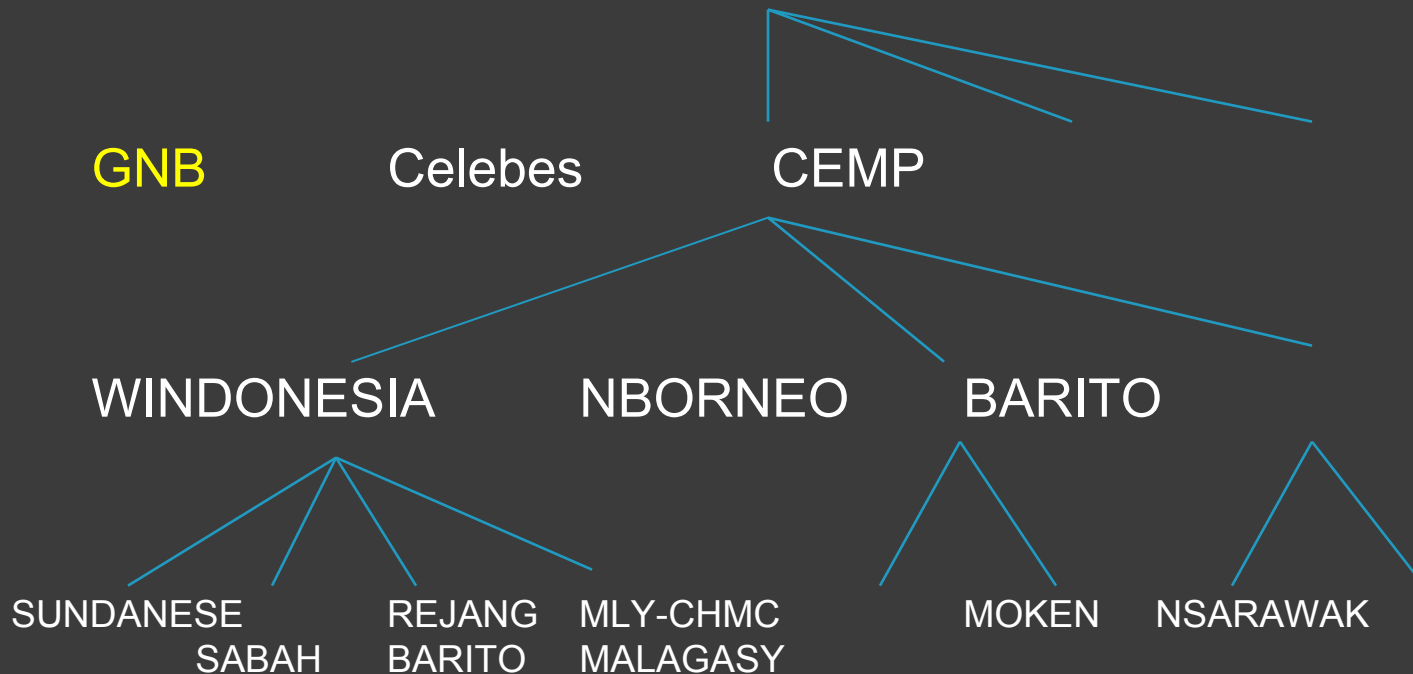


Fig. 1. Blust's (1978) tentative subgrouping of Austronesian (drawn by V. M. Lyon).

# The Subgrouping of Extra-Philippine Languages (Blust 2009)

## Malayo-Polynesian (Extra-Philippine)



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**THE END**