RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

M.Ed. In TESL Program
Language Group Specific Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

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Mandar Informational Report

By
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Map of Indonesia

Mandar is one of many languages spoken in Indonesia.

(www.hello-indonesia.com)

Facts

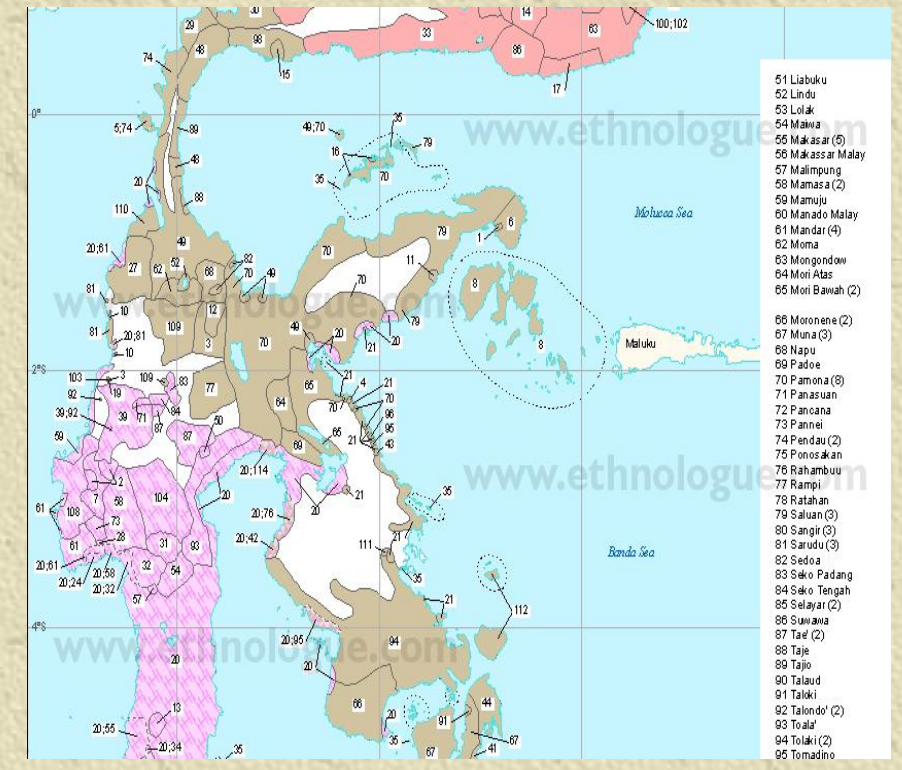
- It is spoken by over 200,000 people.
- Alternate names for Mandar include:
  - Mandharsche
  - Manjar
  - Andian
- Main dialects
  - Balanipa
  - Majene
  - Malunda
  - Pamboang
  - Sendana
- Balanipa is the high dialect.

(www.ethnologue.com)

Where Mandar is Spoken

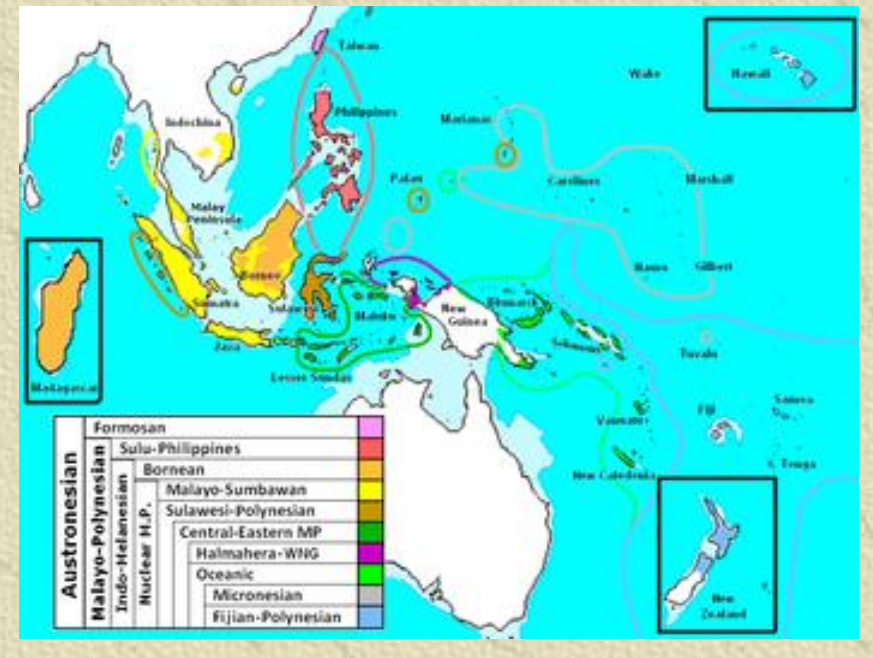
Mandar is spoken in …

- West Sulawesi
- Majine and Polewali-Mamasa districts
- Mamuju district
- Pangkep district islands
- Ujung Lero



(www.ethonologue.com)

Linguistic Lineage



(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Austronesia

↓

Malayo Polynesian

↓

South Sulawesi

↓

Northern

↓

Mandar

Language Distinctions in Mandar

- Tendency to use repetition in all or part of a word.
- Lack of consonant clusters. (i.e. “str”)
- Small set of vowels.
- Most common syllable structure is CVC
- Nineteen “native” consonants.
- No use of grammatical gender.
- Age distinction in language (younger or older).

(Swan, 2001)
(www.absoluteastronomy.com)

Common Errors in Phonology

- tt (as in butter) is a “distinct phoneme” and may be used inappropriately
- /p,t,k/ may sound like /b,d,g/ (i.e. pin-bin)
- /v/ is not a common consonant and new English speakers will replace it with /f/ or /p/
- /f/ is replaced by /p/ in any position (i.e. preper-prefer)
- /b,d,g/ are often dropped at the end of a word
- Dipthongs may be thought as pure vowels and pronounced as long or short.

(Swan, 2001)

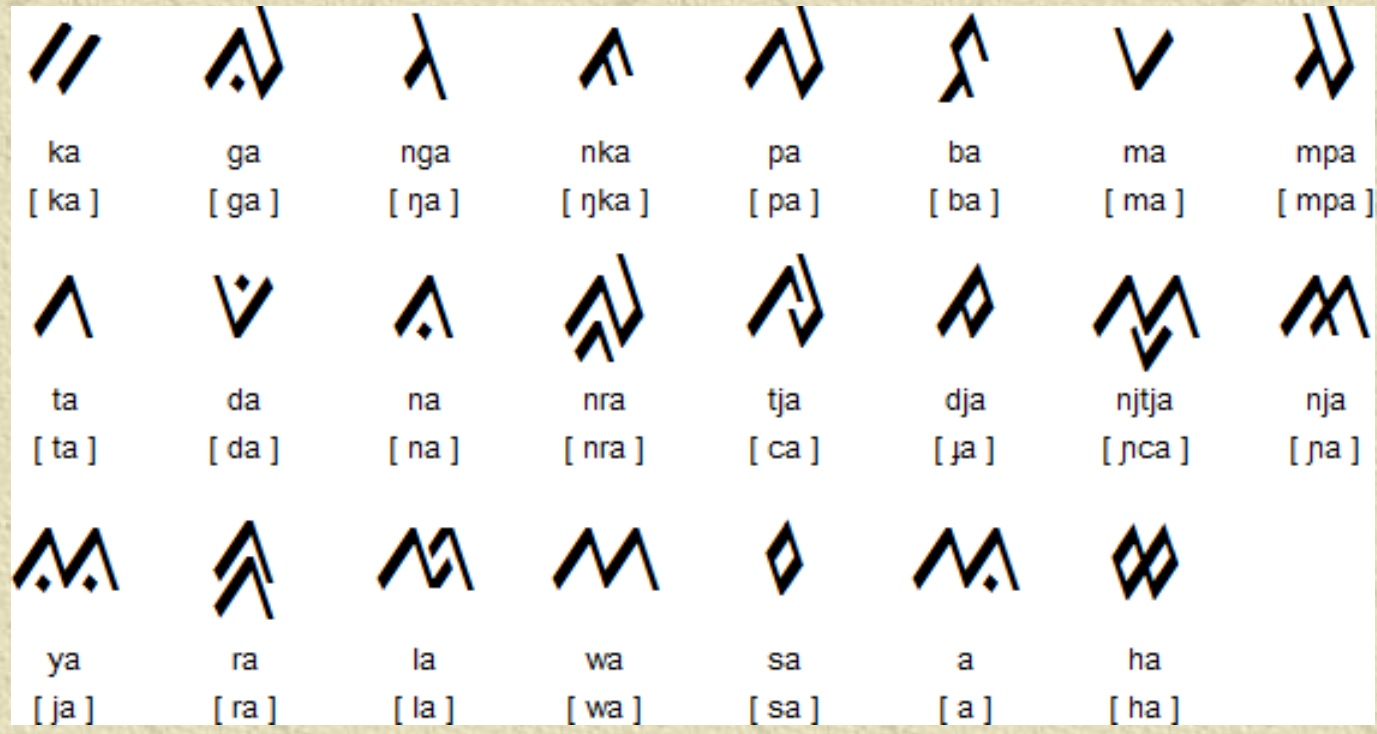
Common Errors in Grammar

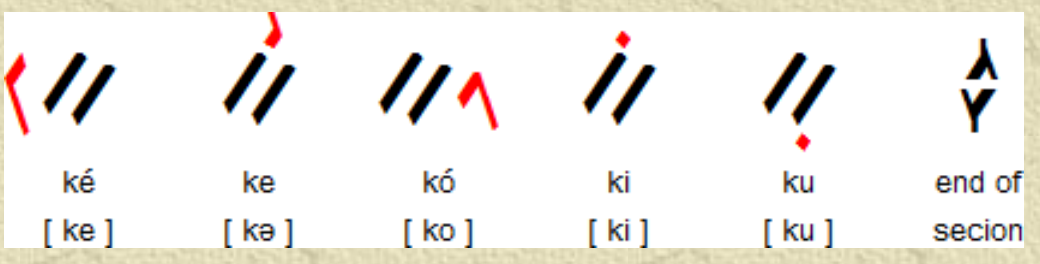
- The use of “it” or “there” as the subject is problematic.
- Verb tenses are not used in L1.
- Some difficulty with pairs of English words that have a single Indonesian equivalent (i.e. live/stay).
- Repetition of noun phrases are common.
- Some have difficulty with “self” translation.
- There is pronoun copying (i.e. My father, he like to work here).
- Articles are dropped in sentences.

(Swan, 2001)

Written Language

consonants





vowels

(www.omniglot.com)

Buginese Script

- The Mandar use the Buginese script. It is a syllabic alphabet.
- The phonetic signs are syllabograms. They stand for syllables rather than individual sounds.
- It is written left to right.
- Each letter of the script carries a consonant and the inherent vowel of /a/. The only exception is the letter that represents only /a/, which is used only at the beginning of a word/

(www.omniglot.com)

Cultural Etiquette

- Use only the right hand to shake hands.
- There is very little touching between a man and woman in public.
- Dress conservatively in public.
- Do not touch someone on his/her head. The head is the most sacred body part.
- Never say anything negative in front of others. These things need to be said in private to save "face".
- Direct eye contact is rude.

(www.culturecrossing.net)

Etiquette continued

- Public displays of affection are not acceptable.
- Do not point. It is considered rude.
- Stand an arms length away (friends can be closer).
- Refrain from standing with hands on hips (suspicious or threatening).
- It is offensive to show the soles of the shoes while seated.
- Smiling is common regardless of whether it is in agreement or not.

(www.culturecrossing.net)

Resources

Books

- Swan, M., & Smith, B. (2001). *Learner English: A teacher's guide to interference and other problems. Second edition.* New York: Cambridge University Press.

Internet Sites & Images

- Ager, S. (2008). Mandar. *Omniglot: Writing systems & languages of the world.* Retrieved September 11, 2011, from: http://www.omniglot.com
- Hello Indonesia. (2003). *Hello Indonesia: An educational celebration of language, culture, & travel.* Retrieved September 11, 2011, from: http://hello-indonesia.com
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Resources

Internet Sites

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- Lewis, M. P. (2009). *Ethnologue: Languages of the world*. Retrieved September 11, 2011, from: http://www.ethnologue.com/

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