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Preface

This volume is a descriptive ethnography of the Galela people of Northeastern Halmahera, Indonesia. It presents the results of fieldwork conducted by members of the research staff of the National Museum of Ethnology (NME) from September 14 to December 14, 1976.

Nowadays it is fashionable to write a refined ethnographic monograph based on a specific methodological approach to a particular problem. Compared with this trend parts of our study may be considered somewhat anachronistic, but because so little is known about the Galela it was decided that a straightforward preliminary presentation of the information obtained, rather than a sophisticated monograph, should have first priority. Hence the purpose of this study is simply to organize and disseminate in an orderly fashion all the data obtained during the course of our survey. At some later date the authors of the papers included here will publish more analytical monographs on the data collected, in which the problem of philology will probably receive special emphasis. Because the length of this field survey was limited to three months, some topics require further field research. However, we have chosen to include even those data about which we have some reservations, rather than to discard them.

Publication of the results of this survey was unavoidably delayed for almost four years since the NME was not yet open to the public when we did our fieldwork. And on returning to Osaka all the members of the Halmahera research team were deeply engrossed in the planning of exhibition halls and the multitude of other, miscellaneous tasks related to the public opening of the Museum, which took place in November, 1977. Thus little or no time was available for preparing the field materials for publication.

Overview of the Survey

The survey reported here was a joint research endeavor between Pattimura University, in Ambon, and the NME. The members of the research team, six Japanese and one Indonesian, were:

Naomichi Ishige (Project Leader)
Associate Professor, 5th Research Department, NME.

Komei Sasaki, Dr.
Professor, 2nd Research Department, NME.

Yuiti Wada
Professor, 3rd Research Department, NME.

1) Apart from the studies by M. J. van Baarda, a missionary who lived and worked in Halmahera at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, there is no reference datum available either for use as an index on the Galela or to make inter-cultural comparisons.
Kazuko MATSUZAWA
Associate Professor, 2nd Research Department, NME.
Shoji YOSHIDA
Research Fellow, 2nd Research Department, NME.
Osamu OGO
Research Fellow, 1st Research Department, NME.
Zakarias A. F. SOUKOTTA
Research Fellow, Department of Agriculture, Pattimura University.

Fig. 1. Survey route and locations visited.
After a preliminary visit to villages located on the east coast of North Halmahera, Limau Village, administratively part of Galela Sub-district, Maluku Utara, was chosen for intensive fieldwork. To supplement the Limau data and to make a comparative study with other areas a brief study was made of the villages of Duma (Galela Sub-district), Loce (Sahu Sub-district), Kusuri (Tobelo Sub-district), Lolobata (Wasile Sub-district), together with Ternate Island (Fig. 1).

Limau Village is situated on the east coast of the peninsula of northern Halmahera. With a population of 246, grouped into 41 households, this village is inhabited by speakers of the Galelan language, which belongs to the North Halmaheran Language group. The household subsistence economy of Limau is based on the shifting cultivation of bananas, cassava, sweet potato and upland rice together with crops of lesser importance, complemented by palm sago production and fishing.

Responsibility for various aspects of the fieldwork was divided as follows:

1. Village Community and Village Life .......... MATSUZAWA, ISHIGE, SOUKOTTA
2. Agriculture and Other Subsistence Pursuits ... SASAKI, ISHIGE, OGO, SOUKOTTA
3. Linguistic Survey ............................................ WADA
4. Ethnobotanical Survey ........................................ YOSHIDA
5. Folk Taxonomy ............................................ YOSHIDA
6. Religion and Folk-Beliefs ............................... ISHIGE

Where possible, interviewing was conducted in Indonesian, Mr. Soukotta acted as interpreter for those researchers without a good command of the spoken language. Although Galelan is the everyday language of Limau, Indonesian is the medium of formal education, and most adult villagers, except women above middle age, have a good command of it.

We rented a vacant house in Limau Village to serve as our field headquarters, but each researcher lived in a separate village household, to observe directly the daily life of the community. The group met daily at our headquarters to exchange information and opinions. As needed, we assisted in each others' work. Because of such close teamwork we found it possible to collect a comparatively large amount of data within the short time available for the survey.

Osaka, April 1980

N. ISHIGE