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# CUT - HIT - BREAK IN KALO

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## 0. Introduction

The Kalo language is spoken in the Figo district of the Central Province. It is an Austronesian language, with a basic grammatical structure of SOV. The village of Kalo is situated at the mouth of the Kemp Welch River whose source is from the Sogeri plateau. Kalo is about 100 km looking southeast of the National capital, Port Moresby along the coast by road.

On the basis of legends, folk-stories and cultural features it is probable that the Kalo people migrated from the inland area. However, research on migration, culture and linguistic relationships to inland areas is needed to discover whether this is so.

Dutton (1970, 1976) includes the Kalo language as a dialect of the Keapara language. Presumably, this classification is purely linguistic, and as such it may be satisfactory and acceptable to the linguists. However, when cultural and sociolinguistics aspects are taken into account, I doubt that the people concerned would be satisfied to accept the classification given to their language.

## 1. Outline of the Verbs

The following investigation outlines the semantic components of 'cut', 'hit' and 'break' in Kalo. The study attempts to discover and describe the semantic relationships these terms have, in particular their diagnostic features. To do so we examine the contexts and situations in which these various lexical forms are used. What are the derivational features; how do these various lexical forms deviate from their semantic domains?

The following are the terms in three different semantic domains:

- 'cut': *pat, giro, kare, rava, tori, rele, mari, woro, lama, loto, pakoti, pole*
- 'hit': *vale, vatu, apa, kwari, doe, rara, lawu*
- 'break': *koe, kolu, kavaluga, pere, koru, tovi, ruki, rapu, kopa, paka*

## 2. Diagnostic features

The following charts display the diagnostic features:

**Chart 1 - 'Cut' terms**

	Implement	Object	Direction (motion)	Intensity	Resultant (object)	Substitutibility	Spacial
<i>rele</i>	bush knife, grass knife	grass	as in cutting grass	rough and forceful	shorten grass	No	object away from person
<i>mari</i>	knife; anything used as cutting tool	mustard, rope or string, fingernail and toenail, finger, toe	forward only; forward and backward, downward, vertical	careful; usually implement is placed on obj. & forward & backward or downward motion applied	object is cut into parts cut off part of whole	<i>loto</i>	object is held in one hand. Implement is placed on object

	Implement	Object	Direction (motion)	Intensity	Resultant (object)	Substitutability	Spacial
<i>woro</i>	knife, saw, anything used as cutting tool/saw	animal, human body, wood, vegetable, bread	forward and backward, horizontal and vertical	carefully	a) object is cut apart, open (in cutting up a pig) b) cut off (in sawing wood)	No	object is held in one hand
<i>lama</i>	light thin sharp cutting implement (sharp knife, razor blade)	animal ears (human ears?)	either forward only backward only or downward if vertical	carefully: implement is placed on object and directional motion is applied until act complete.	a) object has a piece of its ear cut off b) cut up open animal	<i>woro</i>	object is held by more than one person, ear of pig is held by one hand, piece of ear is cut off
<i>loto</i>	knife	mustard string/rope	circular cutting around circumference, sudden downward cut or downward circular cut	carefully	object is cut off (break off)	No	object is held in one hand, implement placed onto object to cut it
<i>pati</i>	axe, bush knife, knife (general)	tree-all parts, bamboo, rope or string	downward, vertical inclined horizontal	rough, forcefully	cutting bigger heavier objects, cutting bigger areas & deeper into parts objects	<i>giro kare rava rele</i>	object away from person, object either vertical or horizontal
<i>giro</i>	axe	wood	downward, vertical	rough, forcefully	cut into many parts & pieces (fire-wood)	<i>pati</i>	object away from person, obj. horizontal on ground

	Implement	Object	Direction (motion)	Intensity	Resultant (object)	Substitutability	Spacial
<i>kare</i>	axe, adze, knife	wood, coconut, tree, log, stick	downward toward person (axe & adze) object on ground	rough, forcefully and carefully	split wood, cut out rough part & dress (for house building)	<i>rava</i>	obj. on ground person stand over, bending over obj. between feet
<i>rava</i>	axe, saw, broken bottle	wood, log, coconut tree, human body	as in <i>kare</i> and vertical, down & upwards	forcefully & carefully (by accident)	splitting up log in even parts by sawing (for flooring) as well as with axe.	<i>woro</i> if cut by piece of broken bottle	as in <i>kare</i> but also can stand on log on platform or under log
<i>tovi</i>	axe, knife	bamboo, wood, palm branch & leaf	downward (big obj.) away from person (small obj.)	rough	splitting object	No	big obj. away from person, small obj. can hold in one hand
<i>pakoti</i>	scissors	hair, cloth, fabric, paper	forward, downward, upward, across	carefully	cut into many small pieces	No	object close to person can be held in one hand.
<i>pole</i>	small knife, sharpened spoon, blade shell	vegetable	forward, downward, away from person	carefully	peel off skin of vegetable	No	object close to person, held in one hand

Chart 2 - 'Hit' terms

	Object Hit	Instrument	Distance	Directional (motion)
<i>vale</i>	human body, fruit in tree, child, animal, building	hand, stick, stone, coconut husk, shell	distance away, close (child)	horizontal & vertical
<i>vatu</i>	persons, animal, fruit in tree, building	stone	distance away	horizontal & vertical

	Object Hit	Instrument	Distance	Directional (motion)
<i>apa</i>	fruits in tree, animal, person, building	stick	distance away	horizontal & vertical
<i>kwari</i>	child, cricket ball, animal	hand stick, cricket bat	close	vertical & horizontal
<i>koe</i>	bell, nail	iron bar, hammer	close	usually vertical but can be horizontal too
<i>rara</i>	coconut kulau, vegetable, fruit, bamboo, person's body	object itself, hand	close	same as in <i>koe</i>
<i>lavu</i>	bell, kundu	iron bar, hand	close	as in ring the bell and beating the kundu

Chart 3 - 'Break' terms

	Objects Used	State of Object	Shape of Object	Instrument that can be used to break object	Can it be combined with the other lexical forms?
<i>koe</i>	coconut	open up in two parts	circular, round	big knife, hard strong stick, iron bar, coconut, against something hard, strong	<i>kolu</i> <i>kavaluga</i> <i>pere</i> <i>koru</i> <i>(ruki)</i> <i>paka</i>
<i>kolu</i>	clay pot, coconut	in pieces (brittle)	circular, round, flat	same as <i>koe</i>	<i>koe</i> <i>pere</i>
<i>kavaluga</i>	all objects in other groups except long thin objects like stick, string, rope	open, in parts, in bits & pieces, loosen	all shapes in general	knife, stick, stone, metal, hands, axe, teeth	<i>koe</i> <i>pere</i> <i>tovi</i>
<i>pere</i>	wood, clay pot, stone	cracked	circular, round, flat, irregular	stone, stick, metal	<i>kolu</i> <i>kavaluga</i> <i>paka</i>
<i>koru</i>	wood, stick, sugarcane, pole, branch	in two parts	long	knife, hands, legs, against knee, axe	<i>koe</i>
<i>tovi</i>	bamboo, palm branch, bark	split apart	long	knife, hands, teeth	<i>kavaluga</i> <i>ruki</i> <i>paka</i>

	Objects Used	State of Object	Shape of Object	Instrument that can be used to break object	Can it be combined with the other lexical forms?
<i>ruki</i>	rope, string, vine, fishing-line	come apart in separate parts	thin, long	any cutting instrument, teeth, stone (hit), fish (fishing line)	<i>rapu</i>
<i>rapu</i>	rope, string, vine, fishing-line	as in <i>ruki</i>	thin, long	same as in <i>ruki</i>	<i>ruki</i>
<i>kopa</i>	human and animal skin, bark, any kind of skin	skin is taken off	skin, thin, flat, thick	hands, fingers	—
<i>paka</i>	bamboo, palm branch, wood plank, bark	come apart in two separate parts, breaking apart very forcefully with 2 hands	thin, thick, long, circular	hands	—

### 3. Verbal suffixes *-a*, *-at*, *-na* (= *ana*), *-na*

The suffixes *-a* and *-ana* are tense-aspect markers:

- (1a) *woro* 'cut'
- (1b) *woro-a* 'cut it'
- (1c) *a woro-ana* 'I'm cutting it'
- (2a) *vale* 'hit'
- (2b) *vale-a* 'hit it'
- (2c) *a vale-ana* 'I'm hitting it'
- (3a) *pere* 'break'
- (3b) *pere-a* 'break it'
- (3c) *a pere-ana* 'I'm breaking it'
- (3d) *ema pere-na* 'this/it is broken'

In other verbs the suffix **-na** is the present continuous tense:

(4a) *inagulu* 'work'

(4b) *a inagulu-na* 'I am working'

Although there are other suffixes, they are not relevant here. In fact, in most of the examples given only the *-a* and *-ana* and *-na* suffixes occur. However, there are exceptions where some verbs must have another verb preceding them as well.

Where a verb ends with an *a*, the suffix *-a* is lost.

Example:

(5a) *apa* 'hit'

(5b) *apao* 'hit it'

(6a) *rara* 'hit'

(6b) *rarao* 'hit it'

## 4. Usage of Terms

The following are examples of how and where the various terms are used in different contexts.

### 4.1. Cut terms

#### a) *pati*

(7a) *lako ono pati*  
'(you) cut firewood'

(7b) *ira gati ia pati pege laka*  
'they went to cut (the) canoe(s)' (cultural scene)

(7c) *lako egiro wona aonai gagen pe patia*  
'he cut his foot/leg while chopping firewood'

(7d) *kativana gimana pepatia*  
'he cut his hand with the knife'

- (7e) *taima pekana ono pativagia*  
 'cut off the dead branch of the palm tree'
- (7f) *walopapati rukia*  
 'I cut the rope/string (off/apart)'
- (7g) *raupara ono pati paka*  
 'clear the path/road (by cutting the grass)'
- (7h) *pono pati namanama no vepatina nea*  
 'cut it properly or else you might cut yourself'

**b) giro**

- (8a) *lako ono giroa*  
 'cut/chop the wood'
- (8b) *pono pati namanama no vegirona nea*  
 'cut it properly (be careful) you might cut yourself'

**c) kare**

- (9a) *mara kwatina ono karevagia*  
 'cut off the lump on the stick (with knife, axe)'
- (9b) *wuata pono kare namanama*  
 'cut the wood/timber properly (with axe, adze)'

**d) rava**

- (10a) *pakumu ana rava*  
 'I will cut your forehead (with a sharp thing)'
- (10b) *ira taima ia rava pege laka*  
 'they went to cut coconut palms (for timber for house building)'
- (10c) *au gageku matana perava*  
 'I cut my foot with a piece of broken bottle'

**e) tovi**

- (11a) *lapia pekana ono tovia*  
 'cut (split) the sago palm up (with knife)'



- (11b) *topo kativana ana tovia pa ragaina?*  
 ‘will I cut (split) with the knife or no?’

**f) rele**

- (12) *ira gawa gerelena*  
 ‘they’re cutting grass’

**g) mari**

- (13a) *alaala ono mari rukia*  
 ‘cut the mustard’
- (13b) *gimamu no mariana nea*  
 ‘you might cut your hand’
- (13c) *walo poro mari rukia*  
 ‘cut the string/rope (please)’
- (13d) *ea, au ririku kovana poro maria*  
 ‘here, cut my finger nail (please)’

*mari* has two derivational meanings, ‘sing’ and ‘song’:

- (14) *goi o marina genai pono mari gitakau, ragai pono gagata*  
 ‘when you’re singing the song sing properly, don’t shout’

**h) woro**

- (15a) *pae io woroa*  
 ‘(you pl.) cut the pig up’
- (15b) *poi pae woro ati ripamu*  
 ‘you sg. don’t know how to cut (butcher) pigs’
- (15c) *pono woro gitagita, gimamu no woroana nea*  
 ‘cut it properly (be careful) you might cut yourself’
- (15d) *ia wuata woro kapunai woa*  
 ‘he is at the place where they’re cutting timber’
- (15e) *ira wuata ge worona*  
 ‘they’re cutting timber’

- (15f) *paraoa ono woroa*  
 'cut the bread'

**i) *lama***

- (16a) *pae tegana ono lama*  
 'cut (piece of) the pig's ear off (brand mark)'

- (16b) *melo gagenā lokuna perava*  
 'the child got his foot cut by the shell'

**j) *loto***

- (17a) *alaala poro lotoa*  
 'cut the mustard (off/into half) please'

- (17b) *walo pe loto rukia*  
 'he cut (broke) the sting/rope'

**k) *pakoti***

- (18a) *ia guina ono pakotia*  
 'cut his hair'

- (18b) *rapuga poro pakotia*  
 'cut the material/fabric (please)'

**l) *pole***

- (19a) *mote ono polea*  
 'peel the sweet potato'

- (19b) *gau a pole wona aonai ririku papolea*  
 'I peeled my finger while I was peeling the vegetables'

## 4.2. 'Hit' terms

**a) *vale***

- (20a) *kwaeva ma iana pevālea*  
 'he was the one who hit the dog'

(20b) *waiwai ragai pio valera na mara pio korira*  
 'don't hit the mangoes but poke them with a stick'

(20c) *garawana kitikitina pevalea*  
 'his wife hit him on the chest'

(20d) *goi rakau ma auna numa povalea*  
 'why did hit my house'

**b) *vatu***

(21) *goina waiwai girigirina gevaturana*  
 'the small children are stoning your mangoes'

**c) *apa***

(22) *girigiri waiwai geapana*  
 '(the) children are hitting mangoes(in the mango tree)'

*vale*, *vatu* and *apa* are generally interchangeable. However, they are differentiated by the type of instrument used in hitting. *vale* is more general so that the instruments used with it include hand, stick, stone, coconut, etc., in fact the instruments are unlimited. *vatu* and *apa* are basically the same, differentiated only by the instrument.

For example, in the English phrase:

'he hit me',

the reader may wish to know what he hit me with, so the particular instrument which was used to hit can be supplied.

In Kalo, however, the phrase:

(23) *iana pe apaku*

means, 'he hit me with the stick', while

(24) *iana pe vatuku*

means, 'he stoned me'.

If the term *vale* is used then the instrument used to hit must be specified as in the English example above.

**d) kwari**

- (25a) *melo ragai pono kwaria*  
'don't hit the child'
- (25b) *poro pekware lekwalekwa*  
'he hit the ball (very far away) and it got lost'
- (25c) *kwaeva ono kwaria*  
'hit the dog'
- (26) *kapu pono kwaria talukou enai*  
'sweep the place (ground) the meeting will be held here'
- (27) *kwari ono nanura*  
'cook the kwari'
- (28) *rapuga ono valoagira agina pene kwari lakira ularana*  
'hang the clothes out, the wind will blow them dry'
- (29) *melo ati gekwarirana melova gekaroveravena kila ati gekamonagina*  
'those children who are not disciplined are disobedient, they don't listen'

**e) koe**

- (30a) *kapa ono koea*  
'hit (ring) the bell'
- (30b) *naero ono koea*  
'hit (hammer) the nail'

**f) rara**

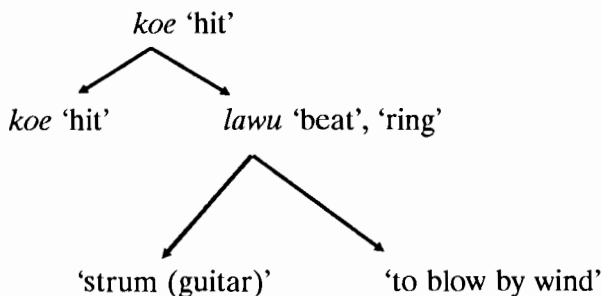
- (31) *gegalama wona aonai kitikitina perara*  
'he hit him on the chest when they were fighting'

**g) lawu**

- (32) *kapa ono lawua*  
'ring the bell'  
'beat the drum (kundu)'

*koe* and *lawu* are interchangeable, when the object is either a bell or drum. When hitting a nail only *koe* may be used.

*lawu* has several derivational meanings, which in turn seem to be related to 'hit':



*koe* also is within the semantic domain of 'break', which will be covered in the following section.

### 4.3. 'Break' terms

The 'break' terms combine quite nicely with both 'hit' and 'cut' terms to also mean 'break'. They can of course be used individually and have the meaning 'break'.

The possible combinations of these different terms are shown in chart 2. In the chart, a plus (+) means that the verbs may be used in combinations to mean 'break', or 'broken'. In cases where I am unsure about the normal use of the terms, the column is noted by a zero (0). A dash (-) means that the terms cannot be used together. Therefore occurrences such as the following occur:

'cut' + 'break' = 'break', 'to break', 'broken'

'hit' + 'break' = 'break', 'to break', 'broken'

'break' + 'break' = 'break', 'to break', 'broken'

### 4.4. Comments on 'break' terms

#### a) *koe*

Usually, *koe* is used when breaking coconuts.

### Chart 4: Co-occurrences of 'Break' Terms

'break'	kavaluga	kolu	pere	koru	koe	tovi	ruki	rapu	kopa	paka
'cut'										
<i>pati</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>mari</i>	+	0	0	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>woro</i>	+	0	0	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>lama</i>	+	0	0	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>tovi</i>	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>rava</i>	+	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	+
<i>rele</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>loto</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	?
<i>kare</i>	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>pakoti</i>	0	0	0	0	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>pole</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	0	-	-	+

'hit'										
<i>koe</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>vatu</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>kwari</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>vale</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>apa</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>rara</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+

[illegible]

Perhaps this meaning is expanded in the cultural scene where we talk about *riga koe*, 'making oil'.

- (33) *its pogipogi riga pita koe*  
 'we will prepare and make oil tomorrow'  
 literally, we will break oil tomorrow

In this process women break coconuts (at least 10 or more), scrape them, and then squeeze the milk out from the grated meat into a big container (pot). The pot of coconut milk is then boiled over the fire. By boiling the milk, two things are produced - oil and sediment from the milk, which settles into a cream and is used as a delicacy with other food. The oil is used both for food and hair oil.

#### b) *kolu*

This is also a word for a palm tree which is used as a building material, usually for flooring. It is also the word for the stem part of the branch of the same palm tree.

It can also mean 'to wrap' with the stem part of the same palm tree, or a wrapping of (betelnut/mustards) with above.

*kolu*    name of a palm tree  
           name of stem of branch of above  
           'to wrap' with above stem of branch  
           a wrapping above stem of branch

#### c) *koru*

This term is used when folding cloths

- (34) *rapuga ono korura pe mauai pono urara*  
 'fold the clothes and put them in the suitcase'

#### d) *rapu*

It can mean 'lady'. It is usually used when one's name is not known or the actual name of the person is not required to be mentioned. It is also used as a substitute for actual names of women whose brother or sister has died. This is the feminine term. The masculine term is *koa*. We have different

terms like this according to the kind of kin one is in the family. Really, this is a title name.

e) *kopa*

*kopa* is another word for chest. the other word for chest is *kitikiti*, therefore *kopa* = *kitikiti*.

f) *paka*

This also means 'space'. Perhaps *paka* as 'break' has this idea of breaking apart (to create a certain amount of space in a piece of wood, etc.)

The basic meaning seems to be 'to open up' (to create space).

For example:

(35a) *maua ono kalapaka*  
'open the suitcase'

(35b) *numa ono kalapaka*  
'open the suitcase'

(35c) *raupara pono kwari paka*  
'clear the path/road'



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## APPENDIX

### Kalo Phonemes

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Kalo has 18 phonemes, 13 consonants and 5 vowels.

Phonemes	Symbol	Description
p	p	vl. bilabial stop
t	t	vl. alveolar stop
k	k	vl. velar stop
k	q	vl. back velar stop
kw	kw	vl. labialized velar stop
kw	qw	vl. labialized back velar stop
v	v	vd. labiodental fricative
g	g	vd. velar fricative
m	m	vd. bilabial nasal
n	n	vd. alveolar nasal
l	l	vd. alveolar lateral
r	r	vd. flapped alveolar vibrant
w	w	vd. bilabial semiconsonant
i	i	high front unrounded vocoid
u	u	high back rounded vocoid
e	e	mid front unrounded vocoid
o	o	mid back rounded vocoid
a	a	low central unrounded vocoid