

The language has a strikingly rhythmic pattern, with alternating unstressed and stressed syllables, but sequences of, at least, up to four instances of unstressed syllable have been observed. The inventory of phonemic consonants comprises plosives and nasals of four points of articulation. Voicing contrast for stops is only found in onsets of stressed syllables. Further, for at least three stops and two nasals a phonemic contrast between single and geminate consonants has been established. Thus, Hatam can be said to have 22 consonants, possibly more if geminates for other consonants are proven: p, pp, b, t, d, tt, c, j, k, g, kk, m, mm, n, nn, ny, ng, s, h, r, w, and y. Hatam has five phonemic vowels, i, e, a, o, u.

The morphology is not very complicated. Verbs and inalienably possessed nouns are prefixed to indicate person-number of subject and possessor. Third person singular on verbs is zero, while on inalienable nouns it is *ni-*, homophonous with the subject prefix for first person plural exclusive. Third person is therefore unmarked in the text.

ISSN 0126 – 2874

NUSA

LINGUISTIC STUDIES OF INDONESIAN
AND OTHER LANGUAGES IN INDONESIA
VOLUME 47, 2000

STUDIES IN IRIAN LANGUAGES
PART II

Edited by
GER P. REESINK