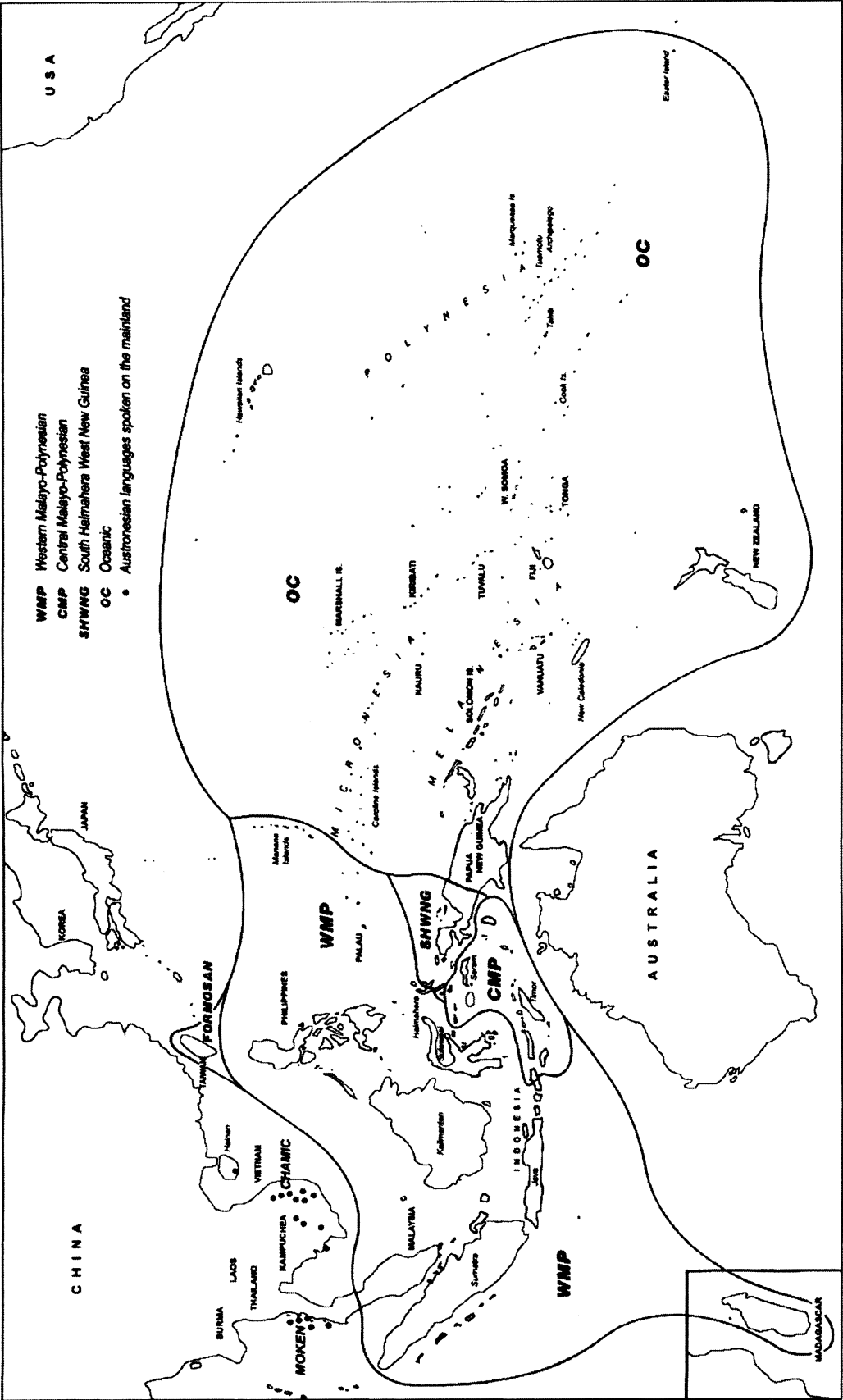# *Preface*

This work is the study of the history of words in the Austronesian (An) languages—their origin in Proto-Austronesian (PAn) or at later stages and how they developed into the forms that are attested in the current An languages. A study of their history entails the reconstruction of the sound system (phonology) of PAn and an exposition of the sound laws (rules) whereby the original sounds changed into those attested in the current An languages. The primary aim of this work is to examine exhaustively the forms that can be reconstructed for PAn and also for the earliest stage after the An languages began to spread southward from Taiwan. For the later stages—that is, forms that can be traced no further back than to the proto-languages of late subgroups, we do not attempt to be exhaustive but confine ourselves to only some of the forms that are traceable to those times, treating those that figure prominently in the literature on historical An linguistics or those that have special characteristics important for understanding in general how forms arose and the processes that led to change. In short, the aim of this study is not just to reconstruct protomorphemes and order the reflexes according to the entries[1] they fit under, but rather to account for the history of each form that is attested and explain what happened historically to yield the attestations.

Part A, the introduction, is composed of three chapters: Chapter One is a description of the geographical spread of the An languages and a summary of what is known about how these languages came to be located where they are now found; Chapter Two is a discussion of the assumptions and methodologies followed in this study; and finally, Chapter Three is a summary of PAn phonology, followed by a discussion of principles specific to a reconstruction of PAn phonology and of problems that affect phonological reconstruction of the whole family. Parts B–G deal with the history of each of the thirty-seven languages treated in detail in this study. Part H is the glossary, which gives the reconstructed protomorphemes and cites the attested reflexes in our thirty-seven languages and in other languages listed according to principles enunciated in §A1.2. Part I provides finder lists from the English translation and also from the reconstructions made by Blust ACD (1995b) and Dempwolff (1934–1938). These are followed by the finder lists for the 37 languages treated in detail. Part J gives the bibliography, and finally Part K provides an index of all topics discussed in Parts A–G.

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[1] The term ENTRY refers to the entry under which the attestations are listed. The term PROTOMORPHEME refers to the reconstruction itself. Some of the entries refer to sequences that cannot be reconstructed. We require the concept of 'protomorphemes' as well as 'roots' because some of the entries refer not to roots, but to affixes. A few of the entries refer to stems consisting of an affix plus a root (which may or may not have occurred as words in PAn).

Map 1. The Austronesian languages.