ABSTRACT: Present sociolinguistic situation of East Timor can be seen as a form of poliglossia (Thomaz 2002, Batoréo 2007) where different languages, belonging to different linguistic families – Austronesian (e.g. Tetun and other local languages, as well as Indonesian), Papuan (Fataluku, Makasai, Bunak and Makalero) and Indo-European (Portuguese and English) – and staying in permanent language contact play roles of different linguistic varieties.

At the moment, European Portuguese (EP) is estimated to be spoken by no more than five per cent of the total population (cf. Castro 2004), being more common in the over-forty Timorese population (cf. Batoréo 2005 and following studies).

Our present study focuses some specificities of the usage of Portuguese by Timorese multilingual speakers, questions the type of L2 Portuguese education provided in Timor and postulates its adaptation to the Timorese specific sociolinguistic situation.