

Lexical pitch accent and/or stress in Eastern Indonesia? Prosody (and information structure) in Wooi

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[Abstract]

This paper presents a first and very preliminary exploration of the prosodic system of Wooi, an Austronesian language belonging to the SHWNG branch spoken on Yapen in Indonesian Papua. Like Raja Ampat languages described by Remijsen, the prosodic system of Wooi appears to involve lexically anchored metrical prominences (lexical pitch accents and/or stress) which interact in a very complex way with the post-lexical prosodic (intonational) system. The presentation focuses on the problems posed by these interactions for the analysis of the prosodic system of Wooi and the role it may possibly play in conveying information structural distinctions.

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