

Information Structure in Ilocano

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Abstract

As has long been established, information units have to follow an obligatory arrangement to highlight a desired element considered important by the speaker. This paper outlines the two ways of structuring information in Ilocano: fronting and the use of lexical markers. 'Fronting' includes nominative noun phrase dislocation and the two types of inversions: pseudocleft construction and adverbial inversion. Several examples drawn from a 250,000-word corpus will be presented to illustrate these processes. The other common strategy of information structure in Ilocano is the use of lexical markers. The focus of the discourse can be highlighted by signals referred to as 'lexical markers'. Using Dik et al.'s (1981) framework, the various functions of focus are identified: completive, selective, replacing, expanding, restricting, and parallel.