

## Deictics and the morphological expression of location and direction in Siraya

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Siraya is an extinct Formosan language once spoken in the southwestern plains of Taiwan in and around present-day Tainan City. The present paper is based on a 17<sup>th</sup> century Siraya translation of the Gospel of St Matthew.

Siraya has several ways to express location and direction. Demonstratives and locative adverbs are straightforward and rather uneventful. However, verbs make use of so-called orientation prefixes to express notions of comitancy (*a-*), place (*i-*) and direction (*u-*). These derivational prefixes form new verbal bases to which the usual verbal affixation applies. Certain verbal roots never occur without them and have rather generalized meanings, like *-kua* 'to be at / to move'. Verbs with orientation prefixes are also used in prepositional phrases.

In the context of Formosan comparative linguistics in general, it has been suggested that directional *u-* in combination with the actor-oriented prefix *m-* (that is, *m-u-*) is historically related to the Proto Austronesian *\*mu-/\*<um>* affix. Evidence from Siraya clearly shows that such a relationship is extremely unlikely.