

Deictic agreement in Mamuju and beyond

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While all languages of the world offer a means of specifying location and direction with deictic elements, some languages have fully grammaticalized deictic adverbs. In these languages, certain details of direction and location are obligatorily expressed in the presence of movement predicates or certain prepositional phrases. The resulting phenomenon is best thought of as deictic agreement, on par with other, more familiar, types of agreement, such as that of number and person. Interestingly, in Mamuju and neighboring languages of the South Sulawesi subgroup, the deictic elements precede the preposition instead of following it, as might be expected on the basis of Malay. The reason for this is diachronic. While directional and locational elements in Malay developed from nouns, the deictic agreement markers in Mamuju appear to have developed from verbs. We conclude with a comparative look at deictic agreement phenomena in East Indonesia, to the extent that it has been described.