

## **Relative clauses in Makassarese**

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This paper will look at relative clauses and related nominalizations in Makassarese, a language of South Sulawesi. Makassarese does not have a dedicated relative clause marker - instead most RCs in Makassarese are marked by a distinctive use of the definite suffix-a, which attaches to the verb inside the relative clause rather than its default position on the right edge of the NP, as shown below in sentences 1 and 2.

1. tau-a battu ri Jepang 'the person came from Japan'
2. tau battu-a ri Jepang ... 'the person who came from Japan ...'

The combination of relative clauses with pronominal clitics and verb prefixes results in considerable complexity and this will be the focus of the paper. Similar constructions involving the possessive suffixes will also be examined.