

Information structure and information status of Sumbawa, Indonesia

Asako Shiohara

ILCAA, TUFS

This paper provides preliminary observations about the coding of information structure in Sumbawa.

The discussion offers a two-part overview. The first part presents a brief survey of the linguistic devices of pragmatic status coding (e.g. a free/ bound pronoun, a demonstrative, phonological noun incorporation) and those to code pragmatic relations such as topic and focus (e.g., word order, a cleft sentence, and a focus indicating clitic). The second part deals with how information status impacts on the formal realization of discourse referents via different types of referential expression (lexical NP, (free/bound) pronoun or zero anaphora). Observation from three short folktales suggests that Sumbawa prefers to use of lexical noun (with or without the demonstrative) or zero anaphora rather than free/ bound pronoun in the reference of the definite NP.