

Information structure in Takivatan Bunun, with special attention to the role of ellipsis

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Takivatan is one of five dialects of Bunun, an Austronesian language spoken in Taiwan. This talk will give an overview of the various grammatical mechanisms in this language that are involved in the realization of various aspects of information structure, and explain the grammatical contrast between clause-internal and clause-external topics and the mechanisms for expressing topic continuity.

Takivatan is typologically uncommon in that it allows for the deletion of almost all elements in a clause, both free and bound, that can be recovered from the discourse context, with the exception of the verbal root and some associated bound morphemes. The second part of this talk will discuss the role that the non-expression of information plays in the realization of topical and non-topical information.