

## **Information structure and discourse markers in Tok Pisin: differences in genres**

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This study describes the information structure of Tok Pisin, an English-based creole language, spoken in Papua New Guinea. Tok Pisin has a rigid word order SVO, and does not have a grammatical voice. The previous studies of creole languages showed that creole languages generally have a simple grammar and they do not have a complex grammatical means in terms of phonology, morphology and syntax. These tendencies are applied to information structure as well and Tok Pisin has a quite limited formal means of managing topic and comment. Managing information is realized by using intonation and pitch, by fronting, and by using several discourse markers, such as “na” (then), “tasol” (but), and olsem (like).

This study illustrates several grammatical behaviors related to the information structure. This study will clarify how Tok Pisin uses the grammatical means to deal with information flow. This study utilizes the written texts of the New Testament and the translated folk tales and the spoken data of the radio news and chat in the field.

The topic and comment in Tok Pisin are affected by emphasizing, object topicalization (or fronting), and by using several discourse markers and finally, I claim that Tok Pisin has an extremely limited means of dealing information in the grammar, although there are slight differences between the spoken and written data in the field.