

On articles and reference management in western Austronesian examples

Nikolaus P. Himmelmann
Universität zu Köln

Many western Austronesian languages have article-like elements which may be of two types. One type are proclitics, which typically derive from demonstratives. The other type are suffixes or enclitics, which probably derive from third person possessive markers. In line with their different sources, these two article-types differ in their uses and functions. However, they also share a number of important features:

First, these markers always mark something like specificity or referentiality, never definiteness *sensu strictu*. Second, their use is always also grammatically constrained in that their use is prohibited in certain types of constructions, regardless of function and meaning. A major aspect of this second feature is the fact that there are usually specific rules for their (non-)use in adpositional phrases.

This paper looks at the peculiarities of these articles from a cross-linguistic perspective and with a view to their role in reference management. Languages discussed include Balinese, Indonesian, Tagalog and Tajo.