

Fataluku as a tone language

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The Loré dialect of Fataluku, a Papuan language spoken in the easternmost part of East Timor, was analyzed by Campagnolo (1973) as an accentual language. In order to overcome a number of problems in this analysis, I will argue that the Loré dialect can best be reanalyzed as a tone language, in which only high tones are active in the grammar.

First, the same lexical word may have an accent on different syllables, depending on the context. This is unusual for accent languages, whereas mobility is a characteristic of tones in many languages.

Secondly, words may have more than one accent. I analyze this as a combination of different kinds of tones that are associated with the same word. Each word has a lexical tone, associated with the first or second syllable. A floating tone, used to indicate subject, imperative mood, or possessor, may be added on the final syllable of the word.

Campagnolo distinguishes between regular accents and accents accompanied by length. I will show that this distinction is predictable given the metrical structure of a word, which also accounts for the form of the reduplication template.

Finally, Campagnolo needs a number of complex ad hoc rules to account for the position of the accents in a phrase consisting of more than one word. I will present a more motivated account, based on the interaction between the metrical structure and a number of general phonological principles.

I will illustrate my analysis with new data from my own fieldwork.

References

Campagnolo, Henri (1973). *La langue des Fataluku de Lórehe (Timor Portugais)*. Paris: Université René Descartes.

