

**MORPHOLOGICAL VERB CONFIGURATION IN MIDDLE YALI:
FORMS, FUNCTIONS AND MEANING**
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Abstract

This study argues that morphological verb forms play a very significant role in Middle Yali, a Papuan language of Trans-New Guinea phylum. Much of what has been described in the New Guinea linguistic studies that morphological verb configuration is a core of Papuan grammar (Wurm, 1975, Bromley, 1981, Foley, 1986). It is well-tested that Middle Yali exhibits two sets of verb forms morphologically, which are productive and non-productive verbs (active and stative verbs). Productive verbs are verbs that take a complex agreement between verb-TAM and person/number. Non-productive verbs, however, are those that are considered stative and take an identical form of just personal pronouns as that of noun and adjective structures. When taking a time reference, non-productive verbs exhibits a morphological chaining to link such verbs and time reference component, which are productive as the component takes the agreement with TAM and person/number. This configuration leads to a presence of structural-based and functional-based analysis of the Middle Yali verbs.