

Towards a typology of spatial deictic systems in Papuan languages

This paper reports the preliminary findings of a survey of the spatial deictic systems of 28 Papuan languages, representing all of the major phyla and most of the sub-phyla. The study compares the semantic distinctions lexicalized within the spatial deictics of each language and compares the results to the findings and proposals presented in Denny 1978. It also looks at the degree to which the forms have been extended to encode other areas of deictic and even non-deictic information beyond the gestural/physical function that is considered to be their basic meaning. These features include whether they can refer to entities in the speech act environment as well as to its location, whether they can be used pronominally, whether indefinites, interrogatives, numerals, temporals and any adverbials are related, and whether they are used as conjunctions.

Denny, J Peter. 1978. Locating the universals in lexical systems for spatial deixis. In Donka Farcas, Wesley M Jacobsen & Karol W Todrys eds., *Papers from the parasession on the lexicon*, 71-84. Chicago:CLS.