

## The DP structure in Isbukun Bunun

Full presentation

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### Abstract:

This paper examines the syntactic structure of DP in Isbukun Bunun, a dialect of an Austronesian language spoken in Taiwan. Several issues will be discussed: the syntactic function of the linker 'tu', the hierarchical order of elements in nominal phrases corresponding to Greenberg's universal #20 (Greenberg 1963) as well as its derivations, and the construction of relative clauses in this language. The major arguments of this paper are: (1) the linker 'tu' can be considered as three homophones due to the distinct functions and the restricted word orders: a complementizer, a head of modifier phrase, and a head of possessive phrase; (2) the three 'tus' are identical in the way that they must be phonologically supported by the adjacent elements on both sides; (3) only should the bound demonstrative suffixed on the noun head be regarded as true demonstratives since the free forms are in fact from personal pronouns undergoing functional extensions, which explains the complementary distribution of possessive phrase and free demonstratives; (4) the proper order of elements in DP domain is as follows: Case-(Num)-Poss-(Num)-Relative clause-(Num)-N-Dem, and this order also shows that only numeral phrase can be freely adjoined whereas others are restricted in certain places; (5) this particular order can be correctly derived from Cinque's view of successive movement (2005); (6) and finally, I will demonstrate how the parameter-approach to DP, assumed in C-C Tang (2006), complicates the analysis of relative clause as well as the elliptical structure in this language, whereas the relative clause can be better explained in R. Kayne's view of antisymmetry (1994).

### Keywords:

Isbukun Bunun, Austronesian languages, DP structure, Greenberg's Universal #20, antisymmetry approach.

### Reference:

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