

Historical Changes in the Casemarking of Pronouns in Extra-Formosan Languages

Ritsuko Kikusawa

National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka

Although a morphologically casemarked clitic-pronoun system is reconstructible for Proto-Extra Formosan (Proto-Malayo-Polynesian) (e.g., Blust 1977, Harvey 1982), pronominal systems casemarked by word order (in various patterns) are also commonly found in its daughter languages. I will first provide a typological description of various casemarking types observed in pronominal systems in Extra-Formosan languages, and illustrate how each must have developed from the reconstructed system. I will then argue that these changes must have taken place relatively recently, and discuss possible preconditions and motivations for the developments. It will be shown that pronominal sets in the earlier system were reorganized in each language through either merger or split or both, according to their shared semantic roles.

REFERENCES

- Blust, Robert. 1977. The Proto-Austronesian pronouns and Austronesian subgrouping: A preliminary report. *Working Papers in Linguistics, University of Hawai'i* 9(2):1-15.
- Harvey, Mark. 1982. Subgroups in Austronesian. In *Papers from the Third International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics, Vol 2: Tracking the travellers*, ed. by Amran Halim, Lois Carrington, and S. A. Wurm, 47-99. Pacific Linguistics C-75. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.