

Morphosyntactic micro-variation in Malagasy

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In this talk, I discuss initial results from a four-year project investigating morphosyntactic variation among the dialects of Malagasy spoken in Madagascar. The data were gathered in six locations in northern and central Madagascar from 2011-2014. In this talk, I focus on two topics that emerged as common across many of these dialects: unmarked SVO word order (vs. VOS in Official Malagasy) and the overlap in form of focus markers and determiners. The implications of these data for the analysis of Malagasy and more broadly for syntactic theory will be explored. I will also touch on some other points of variation that deserve further study.