

Microparametric variation in proper determiners

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Malagasy is a language where proper names in argument position are obligatorily headed by a dedicated determiner. Different dialects, however, have distinct sets of determiners for proper names. The goal of this talk is to present an analysis of the features of these determiners in four dialects. Official Malagasy and Sihanaka, both spoken in the Central Plateau region, have three proper name determiners that differ in terms of honorific marking. Tandroy, spoken in the south, has what appears to be a very different system, where the determiners for proper names vary depending on Case. The fourth dialect under discussion is the “Parler du nord”, a group of dialects spoken in northern Madagascar, which have a single proper name determiner. I also discuss apparent plural marking on proper names. Finally I motivate the specific features and the proposed DP structures within the determiner system of each dialect.