

Inclusory pronominals and agreement marking in Wooi

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Abstract

Many Austronesian and other languages have types of constructions as those of Wooi in the following examples:

- (1) *Kirihio ne hia o: henda tuva*
Kirihio ne hia o he-t-ra tuva
Kirihio PRX[NSG] 3PL FILL 3PL-PL-go go.after
- rema o: te hena kuyra*
rea=ma o interi he-t-na kuyra
again=hither FILL then 3PL-PL-live together
'...The Kirihio people left and came after and lived together...' [MARGAs_exp_JEW]

- (2) *Jon tasaw Andi hia ra nei ma*
Jon ta-t-haw Andi hia ra ne-i ma
John 1PL.INC-PL-call Andi 3PL go this-SG hither
'John, I and associates called Andi and associates to come here.'

This construction is known as inclusory pronominals (Lichtenberk 2000, Singer 2001, Reid 2009). There are two types of inclusory pronominals in Wooi, in terms of their constructions. Type 1 is phrasal-construction in which the head noun and the inclusory pronominal form a nominal phrase, as in (1). In this case, inclusory pronominal functions as a nominal modifier. Type 2 is agreement marking on verbs. This type requires a head noun (mainly singular) to form an inclusory agreement with the subject marker (basically non-singular) on verbs, as in (2). Syntactically, the distribution of the two types is different in which Type 1 can fill all slots of core-arguments in Wooi – subject, object and oblique. Whereas Type 2 can only fill the subject argument, as only the subject argument form an agreement with verbs. The two types of construction are not exclusive to Wooi. They are common among languages of South Halmahera-West New Guinea group (Silzer 1983, Bowden 2000, Heuvel 2006, Sawaki and Karubaba, 2012, Gasser 2014).

References:

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