

Clause Constituent Order and Information Structure in Blanga (Oceanic, Northwest Solomonian): Preliminary Considerations

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Like other Northwest Solomonian languages, Blanga can be described as a non-verb-final language but, nevertheless, shows important variation with respect to the position of arguments relative to the verb. VSO, SVO, OVS, and even VOS patterns are possible and the main (if not the only) function of clause-level constituent order seems to be that of encoding information structure (often in conjunction with morphological and prosodic means). After some terminological and methodological clarifications, this talk attempts a preliminary description of how different constituent orders are used as strategies for backgrounding or foregrounding information in Blanga discourse, laying the foundations for further analysis.