

Spatial relations in Bierebo

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In this seminar I plan to discuss findings of current work on spatial relations in Bierebo, a North-Central Vanuatu language of the Oceanic subgroup. Examples from field data will be presented to demonstrate how the language uses a variety of spatial dimensions within which an entity's location is identified: proximity to speech act participants, vertical axis, and landward/seaward dimension. Intrinsic reference is also employed whereby inherent characteristics of the relatum serve to identify the referent's location.

I will discuss the findings in the Oceanic context and look forward to feedback from others who may be working on similar topics in different language families.