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This volume contains seven papers covering various linguistic topics in four non-Austronesian languages spoken in Irian Jaya, one in the Moluccan Islands, and one in the Papua New Guinean highlands.

The first two papers are straightforward, traditional descriptions of the phonology and dialects of Yawa, spoken on Yapen Island in Irian Jaya. Of special interest in the first paper, 'Yawa Phonology' by Linda Jones, is a quite detailed discussion of syllable structure. In the second paper, 'The Dialects of Yawa,' Larry Jones presents native speaker intuitions, cognate percentages, sound correspondence isoglosses, lexical isoglosses, and intelligibility testing in support of the proposed dialect boundaries.

In 'A Marriage Dispute in the Nebilyer Valley (Western Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea)' F. Merlan and A. Rumsey analyze a court case regarding bride wealth payments in a marriage dispute. Much of the analysis is devoted to showing how basic beliefs (especially concerning conception) determine what is not, as well as what is, debated. As Merlan and Rumsey note

*...it is at least as important to observe what is not debated as what is, since unquestioned understandings are as much a part of a dispute's 'outcome' as are decisions about acknowledged 'issues.'* (p. 70)

The next three papers deal with discourse phenomena. In 'The Notion of Topic in Momuma Narrative Discourse,' M. Reimer argues the affix *-ne* marks topics (both nominal and propositional) which are recoverable from preceding linguistic context. It contrasts with *-bo* which marks topics not recoverable from the linguistic context.

D. Martin, in 'Dominance and Non-dominance in Sikaritai Discourse,' argues the deictics *bf* and *bá* differentiate dominant and dominated participants. Martin argues this is not the same as a contrast between major and minor participants since while major participants are generally dominant, they can sometimes be dominated. Martin also discusses combinations of these deictics including *babf* and *bfba*.

The final paper exploring discourse phenomena deals with a language from the Moluccan Islands. In 'Topical and Non-topical Participants in Galela Narrative Discourse,' D. Sheldon discusses pronominal prefixes found on verbs. Different sets of prefixes are used to mark topical participants in subject and object position. In some cases, both subject and object are marked on a verb.

Finally, in 'Adversative Relations in Isirawa Narrative Discourse' H. Oguri attempts to unite various uses of the 'adversative' prefix. Oguri argues the two basic uses are contrast and contraexpectation. In addition to the usual ranges covered by these concepts, contrast includes many instances of repetition, while instances of contraexpectation can be determined in relation to the topical participant, the narrator, the addressee, or the culture.

There are problematic spots in some of the papers. For example, although syllable structure is highlighted in 'Yawa Phonology,' neither syllabification nor stress are indicated in phonetic forms, although it is claimed that both are nonpredictable. A common problem in the discourse papers represented here (as well as elsewhere) is that the concept 'topic' is never defined independently of the markers that allegedly mark it.

In spite of these problems, these papers offer insights into largely undocumented languages. In addition, the procedure described for intelligibility testing in 'The Dialects of Yawa' would serve as a good model for others interested in dialect studies. And the paper by Merlan and Rumsey is a welcome addition to our understanding of language in its social setting. Overall, the range of papers in this volume should give it a wide usefulness.