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STUDIES IN TOKELAUAN SYNTAX

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is composed of separate studies of aspects of Tokelauan syntax. They are united by an emphasis on the relation between linguistic forms and communicative functions, and in particular on the semantics and pragmatics of grammatical categories.

Chapter 1, 'Outline of the main structures of Tokelauan' forms a background for the more intensive studies of later chapters. After short sections on phonology, morphology and word classes, I describe the composition of noun phrases and verb phrases, the pronoun system, and the internal structure and semantics of nominalisations. The final two sections cover a number of aspects of the structure of the simple sentence, including predicate types, verb classes, and clause types, and review the main types of complex sentence.

Chapter 2, 'Tense and aspect', presents a discourse-based analysis of this area of syntax. Section 1 outlines the theoretical basis of the analysis of Tokelauan tense-aspect categories which is presented in the following two sections. I then extend the analysis to a particular discourse type, oral Tokelauan narrative. The final section takes a typological approach, considering whether the particle *kua* can be regarded as a member of a cross-linguistic category of Perfect.

Chapter 3, 'The discourse functions of focus constructions', looks at a number of Tokelauan constructions involving clause-initial noun phrases which clearly have the pragmatic force of focussing, but in some of which the distribution of given and new information is not of the expected kind. Since clause-initial noun phrases are used for other discourse functions which can be grouped under the heading of topicalisation, the chapter concludes with some comments on this matter in section 2.

Chapter 4, 'The syntax of complementation', attempts in the first three sections a comprehensive description of Tokelauan complement types and of the semantic classes of complement-taking predicates. Section 4 is concerned with the syntax and semantics of complementizers, and section 5 with reduced complements of the kind which have been associated with the terms *equi-deletion* and *raising*. The final section assesses the overall nature of the Tokelauan complementation system.

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ABBREVIATIONS

1	first-person pronoun
2	second-person pronoun
3	third-person pronoun
A	agent argument of agentive verbs
ANA, APH	anaphoric particle, used for <i>ai</i> and <i>ei</i>
APP	apposition, used for <i>ko</i> when it marks an appositive NP
ART	article, used for the forms <i>ia</i> , <i>a</i> , <i>ia te</i> and <i>a te</i>
CAUS	causative prefix <i>faka-</i>
C/F	counterfactual conditional marker
Cia	verbal suffixes of the form <i>-a</i> , <i>-agia</i> , or <i>-Cia</i>
COMP	complementizer
CONJ	conjunction
CPR	comparative morpheme
DEF	definite
DEM	demonstrative
DET	determiner
DIM	diminutive, used of the pronoun <i>kita</i> and associated possessive forms
DIR	directional particle
DIS	discourse particle
dl	dual
ERG	ergative preposition
EXC	exclamative
excl., EXCL	exclusive (of possession)
EXIST	the existential predicate <i>i ei</i>
HUM	human numeral prefix <i>toka-</i>
HYP	hypothetical, used for <i>kafai</i>
IJ	interjection, used for clause-initial <i>ia</i> or clause-final <i>a</i>
incl., INCL	inclusive (of possession)
INDEF	indefinite
INT	intensifier
LOC	locative, used for the preposition <i>i</i>
MAN	manner particle, e.g. <i>pea</i>
MOD	modal particle
NEG	negative marker
NEG.IMP	negative imperative marker
NOM	nominalising suffix <i>-ga</i>

NP	noun phrase
NSP	non-specific
O	unmarked patient argument of agentive verbs
pl., PL	plural
POL	politeness particle
POSS	possessive
PRED	predicate marker, used for <i>ko</i> when it introduces a nominal predicate
RED, REDUP	reduplication
REL	relational marker <i>ma</i>
S	unmarked primary argument of intransitive verbs
SEQ	sequential, used of the conjunction <i>oi</i>
sg.	singular
SP	specific
T/A	tense-aspect particle
'TO'	used for the preposition <i>ki</i>
TOP	topic, used for <i>ko</i> when it introduces a topicalized NP
VOC	vocative
VP	verb phrase

Note: Where two or more English words or grammatical symbols are needed to gloss a single Tokelauan word, the use of hyphens indicates corresponding morpheme divisions in the Tokelauan word; the use of full stops indicates that there is no corresponding linear division in the Tokelauan word.