

A Study of Participant Reference in Central Bontok

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In Central Bontok narrative discourse, new participants are introduced as background information, new information, and through their own or someone else's dialogue. New participants are usually referred to by proper names or NPs. However, if there is little ambiguity, new participants can be referred to by pronouns. Major participants and minor participants are treated differently in the discourse plot structure. Usually, major participants have a speaking role, while minor participants do not, as Walrod (1979) points out. Overspecifications of participant reference (full names or proper names plus description) show special functions. A certain order of mentioning is observed between the protagonist and the antagonist of the story. In addition to illustrating the types of phenomena, the present study examines the use of pronouns and NPs when the participants are re-introduced, or have been mentioned over a series of sentences in the immediately preceding discourse.

REFERENCES

Walrod, M. R. 1979. *Discourse grammar in Ga'dang*. Dallas: SIL.