

Inflectional Case Assignment in Cebuano

Paul Llido

University of San Carlos

The paper will explore the application of Falk (1997) to Cebuano case marking. It will explain that the internal argument canonical structure of the verb grammar is controlled by the system of inflectional affixes. It will also prove that the inflectional affixes assign case and not the verb base.

As a parallel to theta roles, the assignment of internal and external case to the Topics/Foci depends on the case compositionality of the affixes which in turn matches their theta role compositionality. The assignment of external case is shown to trigger an ergative interpretation. Grammaticality case requirements will also be covered as well as the confluence of verb base selectional restrictions with the triggering case affixes.

GB/PP and some Minimalism will be used to analyze the case projection of the arguments with some examples using LFG analysis.