

On the syntax of Tagalog evidentials

Evidentials are linguistic items that state the speaker's information source for her claim. This study focuses on Tagalog evidential markers (i.e., the reportative *daw*, the inferential *yata*, and the speculative *kayâ*), which, interestingly, may cooccur within a single clause. As second position clitics, the phonological and syntactic factors restricting cluster-internal ordering have been scrutinized in the literature (Schachter & Otones 1972; Schachter 1973; Kroeger 1998; Anderson 2008; Kaufman 2010; a.o.), yet much remains to be described on the ground of empirical data that enable counterexamples to the claims so far. Specifically, in what concerns discourse-related items of such, we urge for a closer look into their semantic and pragmatic features, as a means to account for the seemingly erratic behaviour of Tagalog clitics in general. Based on their compatibility and syntactic behaviour, we provide new insight into the syntax of cooccurring evidentials in general, begging the question of where exactly they should be posited in the structure. While it might be tempting to assume that they each occur in multiple syntactic domains (as Blain & Déchaine 2006 propose for languages where multiple evidentials appear in a single sentence), to allow for their cooccurrence, our claim is that an analysis à la Cinque (1999, et seq.; Speas 2004, 2010) may easily account for the Tagalog data, as long as we bring into light, necessarily, the semantics of each of these clitics.