

## Grammatical Functions in Malagasy Syntax and the "Complements Only" Restriction

In English-type languages, the syntactic relation corresponding to the grammatical function syntactic subject is very restricted and usually instantiated by the external argument, whereas in languages such as Malagasy the syntactic subject can be borne out by a wide range of arguments. This difference correlates with distinctive properties of subjects and objects in these language-types, for example, with respect to topicalization, *wh*-question formation, relativization, *wh*-quantifier interactions, and other phenomena. For example, extraction patterns show a subject/object asymmetry in English-type languages and a subjects-only restriction in Malagasy-type languages. With respect to argument extraction, objects are more easily extractable than subjects in English (although both can be extracted) - whereas in the Western Austronesian languages, the syntactic subject, but not the syntactic object may be extracted. In this talk, I will investigate several phenomena concerning argument extraction asymmetries in Malagasy. On the basis of several (known as well as so far unnoticed facts) I will argue that the Malagasy data provide evidence for the following conclusions: i) In contrast to English, the respective derived syntactic subject in Malagasy is base-generated in the complement position of V. ii) With respect to argument extraction, only (base-generated) complements can be extracted in Malagasy (in contrast to English). iii) With respect to extraction environments, extraction is possible only from base-generated constituents (as in English).