

A survey of the 'wish'- and 'forget'-constructions in Gela (Oceanic)

In Gela transitive verbs bear an object suffix indexing person and number (also distinguishing inclusive/exclusive in the first person plural and in/animate in the third person plural). Inalienable possession is expressed directly by possessor indexing suffixes on the possessum. Like in most Northwest Solomonian languages the possessive morphology can serve participant marking (cf. Palmer 2011). In Gela however, which is South-East Solomonian, these suffixes are not subject indexing and can appear suffixed to a closed class of verbs only. In her dissertation *Gela Syntax* Ingrid Miller describes six experiencer verbs bearing suffixes from the paradigm of possessive suffixes (Miller 1974). Analysing a corpus of naturalistic data I study the two most frequent verbs *lio*: 'wish' and *ponolio*: 'forget', which display regional and semantic variation with regard to the encoding of experiencer and theme as well as to how non-clausal themes describing actions are lexically realised.

References

Miller, Ingrid (1974). *Gela Syntax*, PhD thesis: University of London.

Palmer, Bill (2011). „Subject indexing and possessive morphology in Northwest Solomonian“, In: *Linguistics* 49 (4), pp. 685-747.