

AN OVERVIEW OF DELA-OENALE VERB MORPHOLOGY: a language spoken in western Rote

Thersia Tamelan

Dept. of English, Artha Wacana Christian University, Kupang *and*
Language and Culture Unit, GMIT

This paper describes verb morphology in Dela-Oenale (D-O), a language spoken in western Rote Island. D-O has both free and bound verb roots which can occur with combinations of subject prefixes, other verbal prefixes and suffixes. The subject prefixes are used to indicate person and number. They are also used with combinations of other verbal prefixes to indicate process, state, causative and progressive meaning. These verbal prefixes copy the vowel of the subject prefixes. There are also other verbal prefixes which occur without subject proclitics. These verbal prefixes occur with suffixes such as **-t**, **-'**, and **-s** to indicate the resulting state of the action of the verb root or to derive nouns. The suffix **-k** is only found in initial-syllable reduplication indicating durative aspect. D-O has productive reduplication. It has reduplication of root or stem (full reduplication), reduplication of first vowel and reduplication of first consonant and vowel. These types of reduplication indicate progressive, repetitive, causative meaning or indicate the instrument used to perform the action. The analysis of D-O verb morphology shows that D-O works quite differently from Indonesian and raises issues about differences among Rote speech varieties.