

Owen Edwards: „The structure of metathesis in Amarasi“

Amarasi (Austronesian, West Timor) has a synchronic process of consonant vowel metathesis. In this presentation I describe the structure of metathesis in the noun phrase.

Words have two morphological forms which I label the "U-form" and the "M-form". Which form a noun takes is determined by the syntactic status of any following modifier, as well as the phonological shapes of the noun and modifier. CV metathesis is one of several phonological processes used to derive the U-form and M-form. Depending on the phonological shapes of the noun and modifier, other phonological processes include: vowel assimilation, vowel dissimilation, consonant deletion, apocope and affixation.

I provide a detailed phonetic and phonological account of each of these processes and draw out some important implications of the Amarasi data for our understanding of phonological and morphological theory.