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Anaphoric use of the demonstrative article in Saotomense

(Reserveliste)

Saotomense (ST) is one of the Portuguese Creole languages of the Gulf of Guinea. It is spoken in São Tomé Island, alongside with Angolar (another Portuguese Creole) and Portuguese, the official language of the República Democrática de São Tomé é Príncipe. ST has no definite article and only one demonstrative article (Ferraz 1979, Lucchesi 1993, Schang 2000) while Portuguese (its lexifier) has a complex system of definite articles and demonstratives.

In this paper I present a corpus study regarding the use of demonstrative in ST. I compare it to the results found in Vieira & al. (2002) for Portuguese and French. As ST and Portuguese are closely related and as most Saotomense speakers are also Portuguese speakers, it is interesting to investigate how, with basically the same material (i.e. Portuguese words), the two languages diverge or converge on this point. I compare the results of this study to Vieira & al.'s results and conclude that despite the vast difference between ST and Portuguese's grammatical systems, the same patterns can be found in both languages. It clearly shows that the demonstrative NPs mostly corefer with a NP previously mentioned in the text and corroborates the results of Vieira & al. (2002).

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