

Two types of 'topic markers' in Wolof

Abstract: Wolof (Atlantic, Niger-Congo) has been noted to have a handful of particles (*de*, *kay*, (or *kañ*), *kat*, *gaa*, *moos*, *moom*, *nag*, *daal* and *sax*) which have been referred to as 'emphatic markers' (Munro & Gaye 1997), 'topic markers' (Torrence 2013) and 'contrast markers' (Diouf 2009). Syntactically, they are characterized by the fact that they can occur either in second position or in sentence-final position, as exemplified with *gaa* in (1) from (Torrence 2013:85).

1a. Jigéén j-i **gaa**, gis naa ko.

woman NC.SG-DEF GAA see 1SG.PFV 3SG.O

'The woman indeed, I saw her.'

b.. Gis naa xaj b-i **gaa**.

see 1SG.PFV dog NC.SG-DEF GAA

'See the dog I did indeed.'

In this talk I will first give an overview of their meaning and the contexts in which they are used as a sentence-final particle. These include verum, concession and mirativity. Secondly, when looking at their properties in second position, I argue that these particles in fact do not constitute of a homogenous group, but can be divided into 'true topic markers' and 'second position sentence-final particles', similar to Finnish 'particle clitics' (Nevis 1986, Palomäki 2016).