

# ACADEMIA SINICA

## Institute of Linguistics, Preparatory Office

### Introduction to Malagasy Syntax Simple Clauses in Malagasy/March 9, 2001

by

Charles Randriamasimanana

#### Point # 1: Previous works

##### A. Books/theses

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- Manoro, R. 1983. *Description morpho-syntaxique du tsimihety (Madagascar)*. Thèse de Doctorat du Troisième Cycle en Linguistique, Université Paris-7, Paris, France. 1983. Volume I. *Texte*. IV-366 pages. Volume II. *Corpus*. II-242 pages.
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**b. On-line bibliography available at:**

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At the beginning of this website, there is a link to a Swedish list of Malagasy grammars, methods and dictionaries written in other languages, i.e. Norwegian, German, Italian, and so forth.

**Point # 2: Quality/source of Malagasy Data**

**1- Native speaker/linguist:**

- Domenichini-Ramiaramanana. 1977. *Le malgache. Essai de description sommaire*. Collection "Asie du sud-est et Océan Indien." SELAF 5, rue de Marseille, Paris, France. 120 pages.

-Rabenilaina, Roger-Bruno. 1985. *Lexique-grammaire du malgache*. Thèse pour le Doctorat d'Etat en Linguistique, Département de Recherche Linguistique, Laboratoire d'Automatique Documentaire et Linguistique, Université de Paris VII. Paris, France.

-Rajaona, Siméon. 1972. *Structure du Malgache. Etudes des formes prédicatives*. Fianarantsoa: Librairie Ambozontany.

-Rajemisa-Raolison, Régis. 1995. *Rakibolana Malagasy*. Fianarantsoa, Madagasikara: Ambozontany.

- Randriamasimanana, Ch. 1986. *The Causatives of Malagasy*. University of Hawaii Press. Honolulu, Hawaii. 693 pages.

## **2- Native-level linguistic competence:**

-Cousins, W.E. 1907. *Gramera lehibe*. 7ème édition. Tananarive, London Missionary Society. 110 pages.

-Dahl, Otto Christian. 1974. Ny 50 taona nitaran'ny asa (1924-1974). In *Atopazo ny masonao*, Antananarivo: Trano Printy Loterana. pp 30-43.

-Dahl, Otto Christian. 1951b. *Malgache et Maanjan*. Egede Instituttet, Oslo, Norway. Pp 408.

- Malzac, R.P. A. 1950. *Grammaire malgache*. Paris, Société d'Editions Géogra-phi-ques, maritimes et Coloniales. Ancienne Maison Challamel, fondée en 1839, 17 rue Rajob (VIème).

## **c. Written Malagasy sources of data with specific references provided:**

-Fugier, Huguette. 1999. *Syntaxe du malgache*. Editions Peeters, Belgique.

## **d. Informant source(s) of data not recorded & not described:**

-Bennett, Michael Eric. 1986. *Aspects of the simple clause in Malagasy. A stratificational approach*. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Linguistics, and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages, Michigan State University, Michigan, USA. 157 pages.

(26)a. Mijery ny vehivavy ny lehilahy.

see the woman the man  
"The man sees the woman."

[ Bennett 1986:25, example 1 ]

b. Hita-n' ny lehilahy ny vehivavy.

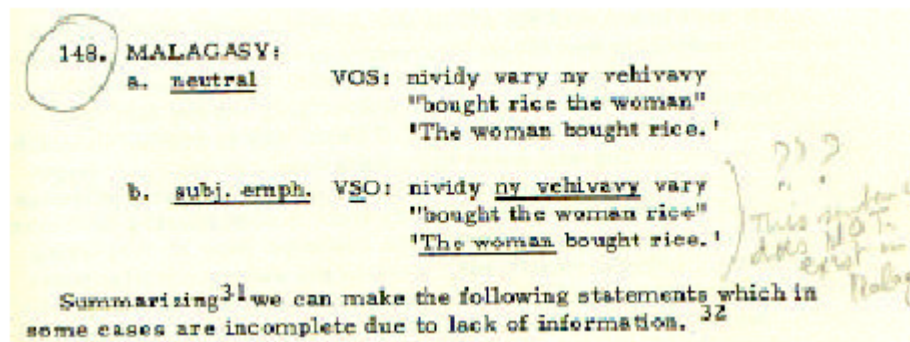
be-seen-by the man the woman  
"The woman is seen by the man." or  
"The man sees the woman."

[Randriamasimanana 1997: 483-495.]

-Garvey, Catherine. 1964b. *A Sketch of Malagasy Grammar*. Washington, D.C.:Center for Applied Linguistics.

**e. Unknown source(s) of data:**

Harries-Delisle, Helga. 1978. Contrastive Emphasis and Cleft Sentences. In *Universals of Human Language, Volume 4, Syntax*. Edited by Joseph H. Greenberg, Associate Editors: Charles Ferguson and Edith A. Moravcsik. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, USA 1978. Reference to Malagasy on page 463.



**f. Use of attributions like 'personal communication':**

Travis, Lisa. 1984. *Parameters and Effects of Word Order Variation*. Unpublished PhD dissertation. MIT, Cambridge, Mass. 284 pages. One reference on page 32 to Malagasy and reference to Charles Randriamasimanana.

**g. One-off piece of research:**

-Pensalfini, Robert. 1995. Malagasy Phrase Structure and the LCA. *MIT Working Papers in Linguistics* 27, 209-221, MITWPL, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, MIT, Cambridge, Mass.

-Pullum, Geoffrey K. 1980. Languages in which movement does not parallel bound anaphors" in *Linguistic Inquiry*, vol. 11, N 3, Summer 1980, pp 613-624. MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. Reference to Malagasy on pages 618-619.

**Point # 3: Simple Malagasy Clauses**

**Point # 3.1: Simple basic clauses**

**1- Contrast verbal vs nonverbal predicate:**

From Randriamasimanana (1999b:510-511)

- (1) N-andidy mofo i Paoly.  
Past-cut bread art Paul  
'Paul cut bread.'

- (2) N-andeha i Paoly.  
 Past-go art Paul  
 ‘Paul went to Antsirabe.’
- (3)a. ø-any Antsirabe i Paoly.  
 Nonperf-at Antsirabe art Paul  
 ‘Paul is at Antsirabe.’
- b. T-any Antsirabe i Paoly.  
 Perf-at Antsirabe art Paul  
 Either ‘Paul was at Antsirabe’ or ‘P. went to A.’
- (4) N-andeha t-any Antsirabe i Paoly.  
 Past-go perf-at/to Antsirabe art Paul  
 ‘Paul went to Antsirabe.’

### c. Importance of verbal feature [ + /– CONTROL ]

- (5)a. Amin’ity savony ity no m-anasa lamba Raso  
 with this soap this part. wash clothes Raso  
 ‘It is with this soap that Raso is washing  
 clothes.’(Intended reading)
- b. M-anasa lamba Raso // ø-amin’ity savony ity!  
 pres-wash clothes Raso // with this soap this  
 [ - CONTROL ] Adjunct  
 ‘Raso, (go) wash clothes// with this soap. (But  
 NOT that other soap!’)
- (6) Ity savony ity no ø-anasan-dRaso lamba.  
 this soap this part. pres-wash-passive-by R clothes  
 Argument part [ + CONTROL ]  
 Passive  
 ‘It is with this soap that Raso is washing clothes.’  
 (Corrected Malagasy sentence –Randriamasimanana 2000b)

### d. Di-transitive verbs and Small Clauses

- (7) N-anome an’ i Koto ilay vola i Jaona  
 ‘pst-give ?DO art. K. art. money art. John’  
 ‘John gave (little) Koto the money.’
- (8) An’ i Koto ilay vola. = Small Clause (SC)  
 Predicate article Koto art. money  
 ‘The money belongs to (little) Koto.’

### D. A typical Malagasy Small Clause under verbs like ‘mihevitra’:

M-ihevitra azy ho mahay i Paoly.  
 Pres-believe him<sub>i</sub> comp intelligent art. Paul<sub>i</sub>  
 ‘Paul considers himself intelligent.’ See Randriamasimanana (1986: 562-563) for details.

### 3- Other Small Clause types (equative)

from Randriamasimanana (in preparation –please do not quote)

#### Subtype NP NP

- (10)a. Lehilahy lehibe i Paoly.  
Man big art Paul  
'Paul is a big boy.'
- b. Efa lehilahy lehibe i Paoly.  
Perf man big art Paul  
'Paul is already a big boy.'
- c. Mbola zazakely i Paoly.  
Nonperf. child art Paul  
'Paul is still a child.'

#### Subtype Adj NP

- (11)a. M-aty i Paoly.  
Prf-dead art Paul  
'Paul is dead.'
- b. \*N-aty i Paoly.  
Past-dead art Paul  
'Paul was dead.'
- c. \*H-aty i Paoly.  
Fut-dead art Paul  
'Paul will be dead.'
- (12)a. Ma-tavy i Paoly.  
Fat art Paul  
'Paul is fat.'
- b. N-atavy i Paoly.  
Past-dead art Paul  
'Paul was fat.'
- c. H-atavy i Paoly.  
Fut-fat art Paul  
'Paul will be fat.'

### Point # 3.2: Simple but non-basic clauses.

#### 1-Incorporated adjunct:

1- N-andeha *t-any Antsirabe* i Paoly. Randriamasimanana (1999)a.  
Past-go perf-to Antsirabe art Paul  
**Argument** of Higher V  
**Higher V** Lower V  
[ **V, + Control** ]  
'Paul went to Antsirabe.'

(14) *T-any Antsirabe* no n-a-leh-an'i Paoly.  
Part. Circumstantial passive  
'It was to Antsirabe that Paul went.'

### 2-Unincorporated adjunct:

(15) N-ipetraka *t-any Antsirabe* i Paoly. Randriamasimanana (1999)a.  
Past-go past-to Antsirabe art. Paul  
**Adjunct** of Higher V  
**Higher V** Lower V  
[ **V, - Control** ]  
'Paul stayed at Antsirabe.'

(16) *T-any Antsirabe* no n-ipetraka i Paoly.  
Active voice  
'It was at Antsirabe that Paul stayed.'

### 3- Contrast between [ + CONTROL ] verb & [ - CONTROL ] verb:

(17) N-i-petraka **t-any** Antsirabe i Paoly.  
past-prf-stay **perf-at** Antsirabe art Paul  
[ +/- **CONTROL** ] **Argument/Adjunct**  
'Paul stayed at Antsirabe.'

(18) **T-any** Antsirabe no n-i-petraka i Paoly.  
**Past-at** Antsirabe part past-**prf**-stay art Paul  
**Adjunct [ - CONTROL ]**  
'It was at Antsirabe that Paul was living.'  
Randriamasimanana (1999)b.

(19) **T-any** Antsirabe no n-ipetrah-an' i Paoly.  
**Perf-at** Antsirabe part pst-i-root-**circ**-by art Paul  
**Argument [ + CONTROL ]**  
'It was at Antsirabe that Paul made his home.'

### Point # 4: Extrapolations to other Austronesian languages?

**Question = What can we possibly infer from the following sets of data from Atayal & Mayrinax taken from Huang (1993 & 1995)?**

(20)a. wan-nya? lah-**an** turi hupaw-nya?  
asp-3S.G leave-AN car purse-3S.G  
**Argument**  
'He left his purse in the car.' (on purpose)

b. wan-nya? s-?alah turi hupaw-nya?  
asp-3S.G S-leave car purse-3S.G

**Adjunct**

‘He left his purse in the car.’ (by accident)

Huang 1993: 24

(21)a. si-culuh=mi’ cu’ siyam ku’ batah  
IF-roast=1S.BG Acc.Nrf pork Nom.Rf charcoal  
‘I am using the charcoal to roast pork.’

b. **si-cabu’** cu’ qulih nku’ nabakis **ku’ abag**  
IF-wrap Acc.Nrf fish Gen.Rf old:man Nom.Rf leaf  
‘The old man wrapped a fish **with the leaf.**’

(22)a. *m-in-aiq cu’ pila’ ‘i’ yumin cku’ ‘ulaqi’*  
AF-past-give Acc.Nrf money Nom Yumin Dat.Rf child  
‘Yumin gave money to the child.’

b. *m-in-aiq ‘i’ yumin cu’ pila’ cku’ ‘ulaqi’*  
AF-past-give Nom Yumin Acc.Nrf money Dat.Rf child.  
‘Yumin gave money to the child.’

(23)a. *m-in-aiq=ci’ cu’ pila’ ‘i’ yumin*  
AF-past-give+1S.BN Acc.Nrf money Acc **Yumin**  
‘I gave money to Yumin.’

b. *m-in-aiq=ci’ yumin cu’ pila’*  
AF-past-give=1S.BN **Yumin** Acc.Nrf money  
‘I gave money to Yumin.’

(24)a. *m-in-aiq=ci’ cu’ pila’ ‘ i’ yumin*  
AF-past-give+1S.BN Acc.Nrf money Acc **Yumin** ?DO

b. *m-in-aiq=ci’ yumin cu’ pila’*  
AF-past-give=1S.BN **Yumin** Acc.Nrf money  
**Verb + suffix Huang (1995)**