

The Behavior of clitics in Portuguese of the Tongas as a result of linguistics contact

Raimundo Enedino dos Santos

University of Macau - China

This paper aims to show how the last frontier of inflectional forms (of nouns, pronouns and adjectives) of Latin casus survived in Portuguese, namely the clitic pronouns, and how they are behaving in a variant of the language in a isolated community in São Tomé, which the Tongas speak. It intends also to discuss whether the changes are due to the fact that the clitics were always in variation in Portuguese, and constituted an open field for change – thus, they should be just concluding their ancient process, after the disturbance of linguistic contact that originated the Romance languages, as if it was supposed to be – or not. On the other hand, the contact of African languages with Portuguese could promote new restructuration of the clitics, which play the role of compliment of verbs. It heads to know if this modern contact of language amongst Portuguese and African languages brought a reconstruction for the clitics behavior, as a whole, including the flexional ones and consequently pushed the clitics into change. To spark some enthusiasm on this issue, this paper compares two texts written during the time of Portuguese overseas expansion, 16 and 17 Centuries, with the intention of demonstrating the status of the language during its expansion. In addition, to contemplate the corpus, it adds 10 interviews of Tongas' people. Thereby to pursue the nature of this phenomenon it approaches the theoretical point of view of Sociolinguistics and Contact Linguistics.