

## **Revisiting Somali system of focalisation**

Abdirachid M. Ismail

University of Djibouti - Djibouti

*In this presentation an attempt is made to analyse the function of the so-called focus morphemes of somali standard language. The traditional approach of somali focalisation system states two focus morphemes, one for nominal focalisation, and the other for verbal focalisation. The thesis developed in this presentation will show that somali standard language disposes of only one non-verbal focus morpheme, as most of the somali dialects. Moreover, this morpheme, although obligatory in very declarative sentence, does not always play this pragmatic function, contrary to what is asserted by the authors following the traditional approach. Besides, the so-called verbal focus morpheme of the traditional approach does not have this function, but rather testifies the topicalisation of a argument in the clause. This thesis is grounded on a comparison of the focus structure of the somali dialects and is reinforced by taking to account a diachronic perspective in the focalisation analysis.*