

## **Focus marking in Fali**

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*Fali spoken in northern Cameroon is rather isolated comparing to other languages within the Adamawa language group. It can be divided into a northern and a southern dialect continuum. This paper deals with one of its southern dialects which shows a complex focus marking system.*

*Dislocation, changing of suprasegmental patterns, inversive constructions and special focus marking particles are some strategies of outlining pragmatic states. Left dislocation is one possibility for focusing a nominal complement. This correlates with a change in tonal patterns. Inversive constructions are further strategies of marking pragmatic change in sentences as in questions and answers to information questions. An unmarked utterance shows SVO constituent order. In pragmatic marked utterances pronouns are no longer preposed but suffixed to the verbal base. Beyond, several particles can appear in marked constructions. The particle *gi*, for example, as a nominal phrase complement can function as a nominal modifier pointing to items close to the speaker. Following a verbal base, however, it highlights a nominal participant appearing in subject position.*

*Aim of this paper is the description of these focus marking strategies' distributions as well as their reciprocal dependences.*