

Spatial Relationships in Natügu: Micro-level Directionals

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This paper examines three pair of directionals in Natügu and their functions at the micro-level. Natügu is in the Reefs-Santa Cruz subgroup of Temotu, spoken on Santa Cruz, Solomon Islands. Its directionals bear a striking resemblance to directionals in Mwotlap (François 2003: 412-414), even though the two languages are from different branches of Oceanic. Diachronically, scholars derive Oceanic directionals from serial verb constructions. We show that synchronically Natügu directionals are bound verbal directional suffixes, and no longer verbs. Our findings help describe a little known language and have implications for both conceptions of space in language and Oceanic historical processes.