

The Syntax and Semantics of Complementizers in Teiwa

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The content of the reported speech or attitude with verbs such as “dream”, “tell”, and “lie” in English can be expressed by a finite complement clause. In Teiwa, the attitude verb and the reported speech or attitude are connected by a subject pronoun and the verb “say” as shown in (i):

- (i) Natan a na walas a wa bas a Qalambas ma gi.
Natan 3S 1S tell 3S say tomorrow to Kalabahi come go
'Natan told me that he will go to Kalabahi tomorrow.'

Klamer (2010) suggests a bisentential analysis for such structures similar. But, Sauerland, Hollebrandse and Kratochvil (in progress) argue that instead a monosentential analysis should be preferred. This creates a semantic problem though since “a wa” seems to remain just uninterpreted. To address this problem, I an account that treats “a wa” as ambiguous between an evidential (i.e. presuppositional) meaning and a non-presuppositional one.