

## Episode structure, Contrast and the use of left dislocated NPs in Roper River Kriol

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In a previous study I have shown that left and right dislocated NPs in Kriol have specific functions related to the activation state of those NPs (Nicholls 2008). That is, right dislocated NPs are typically highly accessible (i.e. under current discussion) as in (1). Left dislocated NPs are usually considerably less accessible, and often more attenuated, as in (2) and (3).

1. *Ai nomo tokin la im, det boi.*  
1sg NEG tok GOAL 3sg, DET boy  
I am not talking to him, that boy
2. *Det Rik<sub>i</sub> en Julij, yu sabi dubala<sub>ij</sub>?*  
DET [name] CONJ [name] 2sg know 3du  
Rick and Julie, do you know them?
3. *Wal dijan im stat garrim det stori blanga God...*  
PART DEM 3sg start with DET story about God...  
Well this starts with the story about God...

However, in my data there was one distinct anomaly. Activated NPs could also, in some circumstances, occur in the left dislocated position. In this paper I clarify the three discourse pragmatic circumstances where this is possible. The first circumstance is when the speaker wishes to attain contrast to another presupposed referent, as in (4).

4. i. *Munanga wanim jinggabat bla alabat du, bobaga,*  
White.people want think BEN 3PL too, poor thing  
White people want to think about them too, poor things
- ii. *Alabat, **ola blekwan**<sub>i</sub> dei<sub>i</sub> aut la wanim, komyuniti... yuno?*  
3pl PL black.one 3pl out LOC what's-it, community TAG  
Them, the black [people] they're out in the what's-it, community, you know?

Secondly activated NPs occur in LD position where a speaker is trying to clarify the identity of the referent by adding further information: an 'identification (ID) scenario'.

5. i. *Det dubala drunkenmanbala bin kambek*  
DET 2du drunk.man PST return  
The two drunk men came back  
[6 intonation units (IUs)]
- ii. *Yu femli dubala jeya drunkenwan, dubala bin kamat*  
your family 2du there drunk 2du PST arrive  
Your family, the two drunks there, they arrived

And finally, activated NPs occur in the left dislocated position when there is an episode boundary in the discourse. In example (6) *mami* has been referred to using a pronoun 9 IUs earlier. In those 9 IUs the interlocutors discuss the possible location of a lost bag. As a result, ‘mami’ is reintroduced in a left dislocated NP.

6.    *En mami, det B.B. bin gibit-im mani,*  
      CONJ mum DET [NAME] PST give-3sg money  
      (As for) ‘mami,’ B.B. gave her some money

These three factors each have the same effect on Kriol sentence structure and NP choice, but are differently motivated. Fronting to create contrast has been described in other Australian and European languages (e.g. Mushin 2005; Vallduvi & Vikuna 1998; Downing & Noonan 1995). Also, the use of a lexical NP after an episode boundary has been found in other languages, including English (Van Dijk 1997: 80-83; Fox 1987; Givon 1983). However the ‘ID’ scenario structure is an unusual one, perhaps specific to Australian languages. In conclusion, cultural, pragmatic and interactional demands on the speakers appear to influence not only the choice of NP form, but also the sentence structure in Kriol.

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