

The ubiquitous *-(a)pa*: interaction between host type, word order and intonation in the use of a Mawng discourse particle

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Mawng (non-Pama Nyungan) has a discourse marker that takes the form *-pa* on vowel-final words and *-apa* on consonant-final words. Many languages spoken near to Mawng have monosyllabic affixes that like *-(a)pa* that function as some type of discourse marker. In this section I give a description of the use of the Mawng discourse marker *-(a)pa* on the initial constituent of a clause and how its use interacts with the part of speech of its host and the intonation of the clause. I propose a number of fairly separate functions and argue that it only occurs on those elements of an utterance which the speaker is able to strongly assert.