The syntax of information structures in Lamaholot

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This paper describes syntactic properties of several constructions where information structures are marked in Lamaholot, an Austronesian language spoken in Flores, eastern Indonesia. Such constructions include focus sentences, obtained by fronting, or by clefting, or by a particle. Clefts and Wh-questions have similarities, and this is also investigated. It will be shown that they involve pronoun resumption, and that its distribution is in conformity with cross-linguistic characteristic – there cannot be a resumptive pronoun in the matrix subject position but there can be one in the object and the embedded subject positions.