

Definiteness and specificity in Kove

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Definiteness, specificity and referentiality are universal semantic properties. However, not all languages have morphological overt markers for them. Kove, an Oceanic language spoken in the West New Britain province of Papua New Guinea, has overt grammatical marking in definiteness and specificity, while referentiality is not morphologically marked. Definiteness and specificity are marked by three articles, *to*, *tona*, and *eta*. The distinction among them is in the combination of definiteness and specificity. *To* is an article that encodes definiteness and specificity, and *tona* refers to an indefinite specific expression. While *eta* is the indefinite and non-specific article, there is another condition of its usage: in a discourse with *eta*, there are several candidates from which to choose. The purpose of this paper is a detailed investigation of the semantic, syntactic and pragmatic properties of the three articles.