

Reciprocal strategies in Daakaka

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In contrast to many Oceanic languages, Daakaka (Vanuatu) does not have a dedicated, fully grammaticalized marker to express reciprocity and/or reflexivity. Instead, speakers use a range of options to express specific aspects of the the complex semantics of reciprocity. These include:

- 1) Reduplication, which generally expresses pluractionality, or plurality of events;
- 2) Serial verb constructions with predicates such as "kyu" (cover) and "sukuo" (be together); the first of these transitivizes otherwise intransitive predicates and appears to be specific to reciprocal readings;
- 3) A distributive pronoun "syan" (the other), which generally expresses distributivity; this is a case of what Moyse-Faurie (2008) has referred to as "the quantificational strategy".

In my talk, I will offer a descriptive account of each strategy, based on corpus data, and sketch possible semantic analyses and theoretical implications.