The features of proper determiners in Malagasy dialects

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2.2 Sihanaka
Ranjivason (1984): 3 proper name determiners

- \( i \): familar
- \( ra \): more respectful
- \( rie \): most respectful

\( i \) also occurs as a common noun determiner, but undergoes phonologically conditioned allomorphy when a common noun determiner and not when a proper name determiner.

Same features as proposed for Official Malagasy.

2.3 Tandroy
Rajaona (2005): 3 proper name determiners, but form is determined by Case (cf. Niuean, Tagalog, etc.)

- Clause final subjects take \( ty \)
- Genitive or accusative proper names take \( \hat{\eta} \)
- In other positions: \( i \)

(4) a. marare \( ty \) Koto
\( \hat{\eta} \) sick \( DET \)
Koto

'bKoto is sick.'

b. mahatrea \( \hat{\eta} \) Koto raho
see \( DET \)
Koto \( ISG \)

'I see Koto.'

(5) a. \( ty \) [proper, nom] b. \( \hat{\eta} \) [proper, acc/gen] c. \( i \) [proper]

2.4 Northern dialects
Botouhely (2007): a single proper name determiner \( i \)
The only feature is [proper]

3. Plural

Official Malagasy: proper name can be preceded by \( ry \) (plural marker for proper names) (6a)

Sihanaka: plural demonstrative \( iery \) precedes proper name (6b)

Tandroy: \( ry \) follows other proper determiners (6c)

(6) a. \( ry \) Ratsimba
b. \( iery \) I Bie
‘the Ratsimba family’ ‘Bie and his consorts’

c. \( ty \) \( ry \) Koto
‘Koto and his friends’

Interpretation: family (like English ‘the Kennedys’) or the person and friends

4. DP structure

Proper determiners in Official Malagasy and Sihanaka are low in the DP structure: can be preceded by number/demonstrative head

Proper determiners in Tandroy encode case (are in K˚): higher in the structure than number

Official Malagasy/Sihanaka

Tandroy

5. Further issues and conclusions

More data are required, in particular from the Northern dialects

Data from proper names can shed light on feature inventory and DP structure

References

