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**SENTENCE FINAL PARTICLES: TYPOLOGY AND AREAL
DISTRIBUTION**

Synonymic terms:

final particles, sentence-final particles, sentence-end particles, sentence enders, utterance particles, utterance particles, utterance-final particles, utterance tags. FP

FP in European languages

Eng. That's not true, **evidently**.

Well you didn't miss much **anyway**. [Gómez-Moreno 2015]

Germ. Das wissen wir gar nicht **ja**. [Haselow 2015]

Er hat recht **aber**.

Dutch Wat ga je buiten doen dan? [van der Wouden 2015]

What go you outside do **then**

What are you going to do outside **then**?

Finn. Väähä niinku lämmennü toi ilma **mutta**

little PRT get.warmer.PST DEM weather **but**

The weather got a bit warmer [Koivisto 2015]

N.Rus. Ona davno ne rabotat, bol'na **dak**. (Post 2015)

she long notwork.3SG ill **FP**

She hasn't been working for a long time, she is ill.

FINAL POSITION / RIGHT PERIPHERY

“Part of the sentence following all obligatory elements” (FP, 51)

“Final Position allows the speaker to include **last-minute information** to discourse, usually short sentences or phrases containing either content-related assessments or personal comments as to the style or truth of the proposition” (FP, 51)

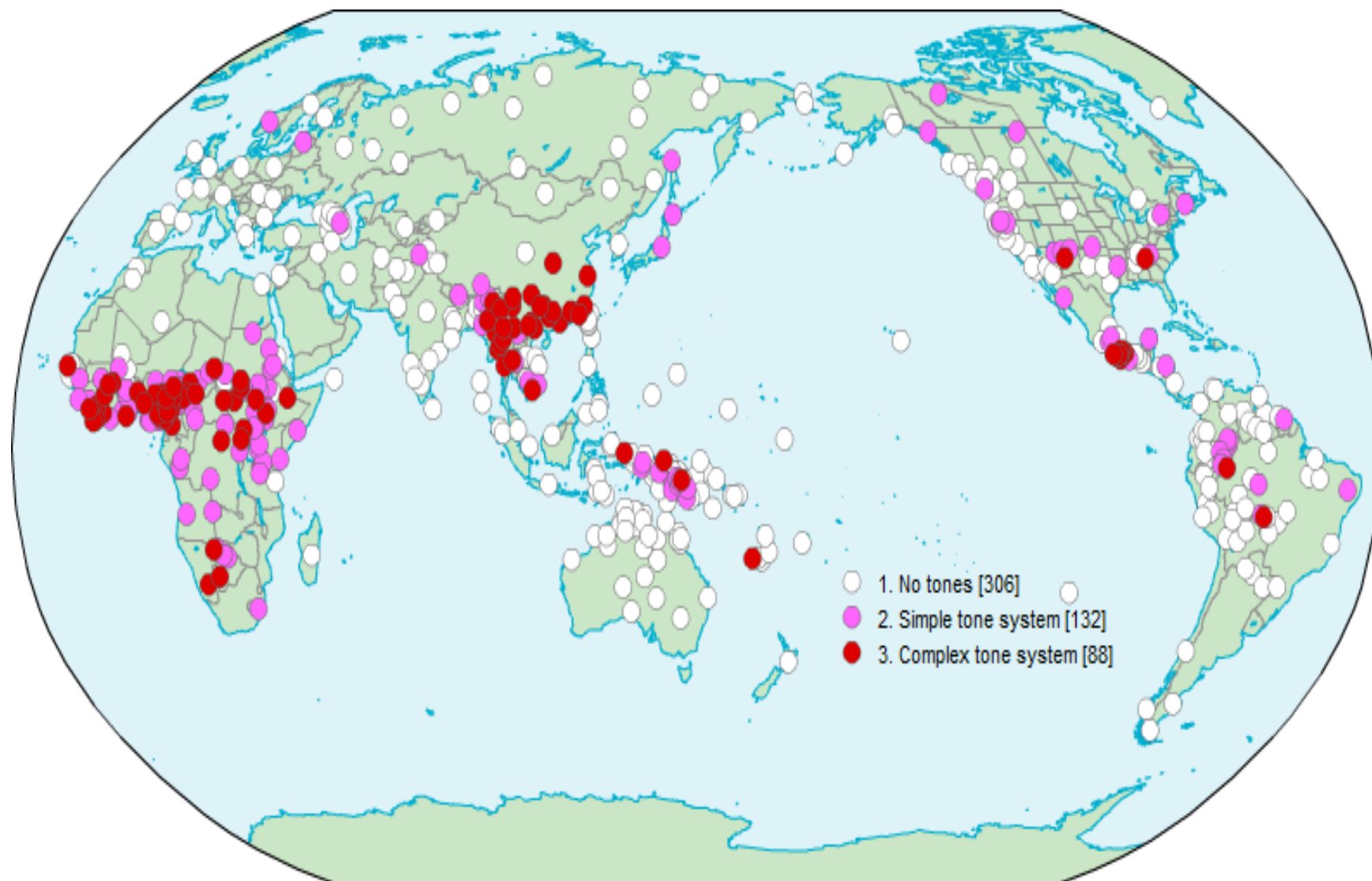
SOME GENERAL QUESTIONS

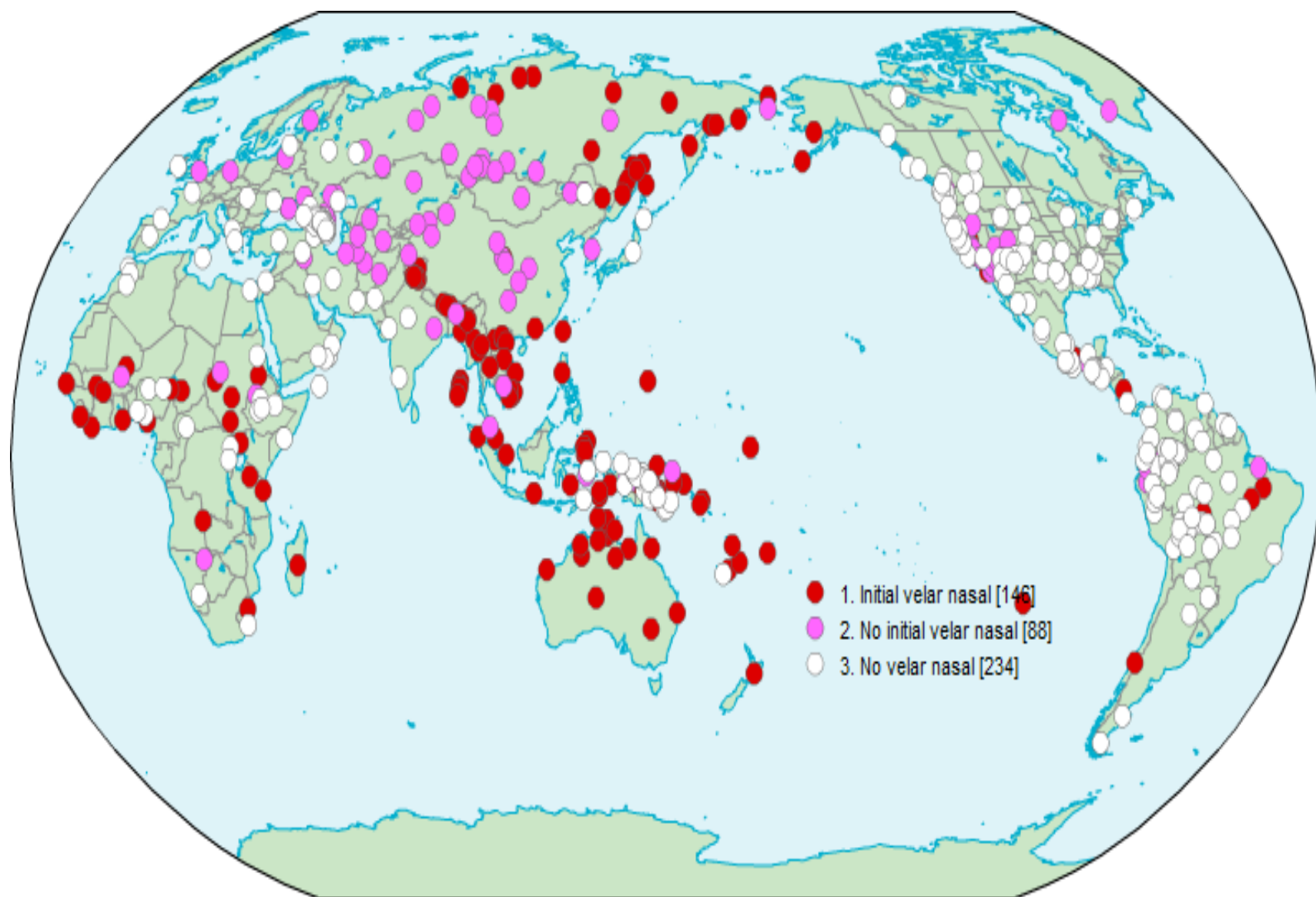
- Are final particles and discourse markers the same thing?
- Do final particles have their own meaning or is their meaning completely procedural (defined by the context)?
- Are final particles a linguistic universal (found in all languages)?
- Are FP met predominantly in verb-final languages?
- What are FP morphologically?

*Hancil Sylvie, Haselow Alexander, Post Margje (eds.) Final
Particles – De Gruyter, Berlin/Boston, 2015*

LANGUAGES OF MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA (COMRIE)

1. VO word order
2. Postpositions
3. Noun - Genitive
4. Noun - Adjective
5. Noun - Demonstrative
6. Noun - Numeral
7. Relative clause – Noun
8. Adjective – Degree word
9. Complex tone system
10. Implosive consonants
11. Velar nasal in the word's beginning
12. No front rounded vowels
13. Little affixation
14. No grammatical plural marking
15. Distributive numerals marked by reduplication
16. “Finish / already” perfect
17. Obligatory numeral classifiers
18. Topical possession construction
19. Verbal encoding of predicative adjectives
20. Different nominal and locational predication
21. Pronouns avoided for politeness





- 1. Initial velar nasal [146]
- 2. No initial velar nasal [88]
- 3. No velar nasal [234]

“ASIAN” TYPE OF FINAL PARTICLES

- Very widespread
- Obligatory or almost obligatory
- Serve to modify the modality / illocutory force of the sentence
- Do not serve as a means for discourse cohesion (as in case of European languages)
- Are related to the tone > poor intonation?

“In general, in many Asian languages FPs express (meta-)pragmatic meanings, either **changing illocutory force** (e.g. from assertion to an information seeking request), indicating an **implicature or speaker-expectation** (e.g. seeking agreement), modifying the **tone of the utterance**, ... indicating **epistemic modality** or **affective stance** (e.g. doubt, hesitation, impatience). ... the function of FPs in Asian languages seem to embed a proposition in a particular communicative context and to indicate the speaker's knowledge state or stance” (Hancil et al. 2015: 15)

(About FP in Thai): “Mood particles represent **a major obstacle for the serious learner**. Their function is often **conveyed in English purely by intonation**, so they cannot easily be translated; to complicate matters, one particle may have several variant forms, involving a change in tone or vowel length, with each form reflecting a subtle difference. Many basic language courses deliberately omit mood particles for the sake of simplicity and it is possible to avoid using them and get by quite adequately. But **without mood particles, statements often sound incomplete**, abrupt or even impolite. They are best learnt by imitation; everyday conversation, television, dialogue in novels and interviews in newspapers and magazines all provide a ready supply of examples, although the written form of a particle does not always reflect its normal pronunciation” (Smyth 2002,129-130)

LANGUAGES WHERE FP ARE FOUND

- Mainland southeast Asia: Thai, Vietnamese, Khmer, Cantonese
- Japanese
- Korean
- Mandarin
- Tibetan
- Mongolic
- Tungusic
- Asian-European creoles

LANGUAGES WHERE FP ARE NOT (WIDELY) FOUND

- Turkic
- Iranian
- Indo-Aryan
- Austronesian

FUNCTIONS

1. Epistemic modality: certainty (confirmatives).

Buryat (Mong.):

Хахад	hүнийн	үеэр	гансал	Арьяшка	хүрэжэ
half	night-GEN	time-INS	only-FOC	Aryashka	reach-P2
ерээ	ЮМ				(CBL)
come-PT	FP				

It was only Aryashka who arrived in the midnight.

Japanese:

O-furo	ga	aru	yo
HON-bath	NOM	be.3SG	PF

There is a bathroom.

(Alpatov et al. 464)

Korean:

nay chinkwu ka pyeng ey kelly-ess-e
my friend NOM illness DAT suffer-PT-INT
My friend got sick. (Sohn 2001: 285)

Cantonese:

lei tiu kwan jat baak man wo3
this CLdress one hundred dollar FP
This dress costs one hundred dollars. (Kwok 2006: 3)

2. Adressive function (attracting attention).

Buryat:

Ши юу бэшэжэ байнабши даа?
you what write.PRG be.PR.Q2.2SG FP

What are you doing?

Ном бэшэжэ байнаб даа.
book write.PRG be.PR.1SG FP

I am writing a book.

Japanese:

Sore dake ka ne?
only this Q FP?

Only this?

[Alpatov et al.: 464]

Mandarin:

nǐ qù nǎr a?

you go where FP?

Where are you going?

NOT ONLY EAST ASIA:

Turkish:

Hocam bilgisayarım bozuldu **ya!**
teacher.POSS.1SG computer.POSS.1SG brake.PT.3SG **FP**
Teacher, my computer broke down! [Corcu 2005]

Modern Greek:

Ο Γιάννης θα έρθει σήμερα **ρε!**
DEF Yannis FT come.PFV.1SG today **VOC**
Yannis will come today!

Calderash Romani:

So kerdjan **bre?**

What do.PT.2SG **FP**

lit. What did you do? (How are you doing?)

3. Politeness strategies

Korean:

(A)ce kulim i maum ey tul-e.yo
this picture NOM soul DAT suite-DEC.POL
I like this picture

(B)nay chinkwu ka pyeng ey kelly-ess-e
my friend NOM disease DAT suffer-PT-INT
My friend got sick. (Sohn 2001: 285)

4. Gender strategies

Thai:

pay nây **kháp?** [Smyth 2002: 126]

go where FP

Where are you going (a male asking)

klàp bân **khâ.**

go home FP

I am going home (a female responding)

Japanese:

Sor-ya mimi-yori na hanashi da **ze**

This.TOP pleasant ATR story COP **FP**

It is a good news (a male saying)

5. Evidential marking (second-hand information)

Buryat:

Тэрэ басаган холын харгыһаа ерэбэ ха
this girl far.GEN way.ABL come.PT FP
This girl **must** have come from far away.

Tatar (outside the main FP area): (Greed 2014: 75-81)

Алсу язган **ИКӘН.**

Alsu write.PT.NWIT **FP**

Apparently it was Alsu who wrote it.

6. Copular features

“Affirmative” FP can substitute copulas.

Japanese:

- (A) Soo da yo [Alpatov et al.: 2008]
so COP.PR FP
So it is. (male speech)
- (B) Soo yo [ibid.]
tak YO
So it is. (female speech)

Buryat:

(A) Тэнгэри сэнхир юм
sky blue FP
The sky is blue.

(B) Тэнгэри сэнхир байна
sky blue COP.PR
The sky is blue.

(A) Тэрэ минии нүхэр гээшэ
he my friend FP
This is my friend.

(B) Тэрэ минии нүхэр байна
he my friend COP.PR
This is my friend.

Copula in the function of confirmative FP

Thai (existential copula):

Sonya tamngaan **yuu**

Sonya work **there.be**

Sonya is working

7. Counter to the expectations / Sudden change of the situation:

Mandarin:

tā shēng le yī ge haízi le
she give.birth PT one NC child FP
She had a baby

Buryat:

hургуулидaтнaй олон залуу багшaнaр хүдэлдэг юм хa
school.DL.POSS.2PL many young teacher.PL work.HAB FP FP
So many young teachers are working in your school! (I did not expect that)

Borrowing of FP:

Mongolian (Inner Mongolia):

eor xun dood-ex xereggwai laa

other man call-FUT need.NEG FP

One needs not to call others. [Janhunen: 259]

(**< Mandarin *le***)

Yakut (Turkic):

кел даа!

come.IMP FP

come!

(**< Mongolic *ɔaa***)

Chains of FP:

Buryat:

ҮҮГЫ ЮМ ААБ ДАА!

No FP FP FP

Of course not!

Japanese:

ato wa miboojin ga iru wake yo ne

then TOP widow NOM be.PR but FP FP

(She) became a widow then. [Alpatov et al.: 464]

The order of FP is fixed. The cross-linguistic rule is that the addressive FP concludes the sentence.

Conclusions:

1. FP may be cross-linguistically defined as a particular class of words/morpheme, probably even a part of speech for some languages.
2. FP are especially widespread in the languages of East and Southeast Asia. Area where they are met is larger than Comrie's "Mainland Southeast Asia" but smaller than the "big" Asia.
3. Asian FP are a very clear-cut word class with functions common to the whole area. The affinity of different Asian FP systems is clearly revealed in case of language contact, which affords borrowing of FP.
4. The FP area has its center and its periphery. The periphery includes the most part of Asia and the Mediterranean.

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