

## **The functions of the locative case in Pama-Nyungan languages**

*Mitchell Browne & Tom Ennever*

Most Pama-Nyungan languages have a case which can mark the static location of an event or a participant in space—typically referred to as the ‘locative’ case. Nearly all of these languages variously extend the locative case to a range of additional functions. To-date however, these extensions have remained drastically underexplored from a typological perspective. In this paper, we present findings from a comprehensive survey of 57 Pama-Nyungan languages.

Our first research question is: what are the commonly recurring functions of the locative case in Pama-Nyungan languages? We demonstrate that the cross-linguistically recurring functions of the locative case can be categorised as spatial, socio-spatial (e.g. addressee of locution), stative, logical, and grammatical.

A number of these specific functions overlap with that of other case forms in the languages, which leads to our second research question: how do the functions of the locative interact with other case forms in Pama-Nyungan languages? Here, we demonstrate that usage of the locative case in place of an ‘expected’ case can be predicted on the basis of properties of the referent and/or the predicate.