

# Metathesis in Amarasi

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I provide an analysis of metathesis in Amarasi (Austronesian, Timor). Formally, metathesis is associated with a large number of additional phonological processes. All these processes can be accounted for by positing a single rule of CV metathesis and an obligatory CVCVC foot in which C-slots can be empty.

Functionally, we can distinguish three kinds of metathesis in Amarasi. Before vowel initial enclitics metathesis is a phonologically conditioned process which occurs to keep morphemes phonologically distinct from one another.

Within the syntax, metathesis is a morphological marker of the construct form, signalling the presence of a dependent modifier within the same phrase. Within the discourse, metathesis morphologically marks that an event or state is unresolved and is dependent on another clause for resolution.

I conclude with a unified analysis of metathesis in Amarasi. Metathesis canonically involves a parallel relationship between two complementary forms. Similar structures are found in Amarasi poetry, social relationships and political organisation.