



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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SLE 2020 BOOK OF ABSTRACTS EDITOR Olga Spevak

Editor's note: Abstracts that had not been updated in due time (especially, abstracts in pdf) have not been included as well as abstracts that would damage the whole document.

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Neglected functions of the Bantu applicative in relation to Locations: new insights from Fwe (K402)

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Keywords: applicative, Bantu, information structure, new information focus, contrastive focus

This paper deals with two seldom described discourse functions of the reflexes of Proto-Bantu applicative *-*id* in the Bantu language Fwe (K402), spoken in Namibia and Zambia (Gunnink 2018): its use to signal narrow completive focus on a Location applied phrase (Trithart 1983), and its use to widen the “orientation” of a locative phrase from involving the object of a transitive verb root to involving also the subject of that transitive verb root (e.g. *John saw Mary on the boat* implies only Mary is for sure on the boat; *John saw Mary-APPL on the boat* implies both John and Mary are on the boat) (Trithart 1977, 1983, Hyman et al. 1980, Kimenyi 1995, Rugemalira 2004, Cann & Mabugu 2007, Pacchiarotti 2020). The Fwe data are special in that they reveal so-far unattested variations and interpretations in these two uses. With respect to the focus function, in Fwe the applicative can combine with a cleft construction to express new information focus, as in (1).

kwàkàtìmà ndíβèrèk(ér)à

ø-kwa-Katima

ndí-βerek-(er)-á

COP-CL17-Katima

S1SG-work-(APPL)-FV <REL>

‘It is in Katima that I work.’ (as an answer to: ‘Where do you work?’)

While the cleft construction alone can be used to express new information focus, contrastive focus can only be expressed by combining the cleft construction with the applicative.

With respect to the orientation function, the applicative can modify the scope of the Location applied phrase not only to include the subject of a transitive verb (as observed elsewhere) but also the speaker who utters a sentence, cf. (2) and (3).

βàkwèsì βàzánà 'hándzè

βa-kwesi

βa-zán-a

(ha-N-dzé)

S3:2-PROG S3:2-play-FV CL16-CL9-outside

‘They are playing outside (said by someone who is inside).’

βàkwèsì βàzàniná 'hándzè

βa-kwesi

βa-zan-in-á

ha-N-dzé

S3:2-PROG

S3:2-play-APPL-FV

CL16-CL9-outside

‘They are playing outside (said by someone who is outside).’

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The Diachrony of Central Kurdish Applicative Markers

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Keywords: Kurdish, Applicative, Diachronic, Morphology, Historical

Prevailing theories of the development of applicatives postulate their development from adpositions or serial verb constructions (Pacchiarotti, 2016). Mithun (2002) shows convincing examples of each. Reconstructing either scenario is more difficult in Bantu, because the applicative morphology may date back as far as Proto-Niger Congo (Voeltz (1977) and Trithart (1983)).