

## Workshop proposal: Associated motion in African languages

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The grammatical category of associated motion (AM) is constituted by markers related to the verb that encode translational motion (e.g. Koch 1984; Guillaume 2016). (1–3) illustrate AM markers in African languages.

(1) Kaonde (Bantu, Zambia; Wright 2007: 32)

*W-a-ká-leta buta.*

SUBJ<sub>3SG</sub>-PST-**go\_and**-bring gun

'He went and brought the gun.'

(2) Wolof (Atlantic, Senegal and Gambia; Diouf 2003, cited by Voisin, in print)

*Dafa jàq moo tax mu seet-si la*

FOC.SUBJ<sub>3SG</sub> be\_worried FOC.SUBJ<sub>3SG</sub> cause SUBJ<sub>3SG</sub> visit-**come\_and** OBJ<sub>2SG</sub>

'He's worried, that's why he came to see you.'

(3) Datooga (Nilotic, Tanzania; Kießling, field notes)

*hàbíyóojiga gwá-jòon-èen féeróodá bàñêega*

hyenas SUBJ<sub>3SG</sub>-sniff-**while\_coming** smell.ASS meat

'The hyenas come sniffing (after us) because of the meat's smell.'

Associated motion markers are a common device in African languages, as evidenced in Belkadi's (2016) ground-laying work, in Ross's (in press) global sample as well as by the available surveys of Atlantic (Voisin, in press), Bantu (Guérois et al., in press), and Nilotic (Payne, in press). In descriptive works, AM markers are often referred to by other labels, such as *movement grams*, *distal aspects*, *directional markers*, or *itive/ventive markers*.

Typologically, AM systems may vary with respect to the following parameters (e.g. Guillaume 2016):

- Complexity: How many dedicated AM markers do actually contrast?
- Moving argument:: Which is the moving entity (S/A vs. P argument)?
- Conflation with path parameters: Is the motion directed and if so, in which direction (e.g. 'go' vs. 'come')?
- Temporal relation between the core event and the motion co-event: Does the motion co-event occur prior to the core event ('do then move'), is it subsequent ('move then do') or do both events occur concurrently ('do while moving')?
- Conflation with additional parameters such as aspect or transitivity.

African languages are of particular importance for understanding the typology of the category of associated motion because they differ from other AM hotspots such as Australia and South America in several of these parameters: their systems tend to be paradigmatically less complex, yet there is a higher frequency of subsequent markers, including non-subject motion (Belkadi 2016, Ross, in press). Furthermore, AM markers in African languages are frequently multi-functional, overlapping with categories such as direction (Belkadi 2016) or static locational deixis (Creissels and Bassène, in press; Guerois et al., in press; Voisin, in press). In some Nilotic languages, AM markers have secondary functions that relate to argument structure configurations. For instance, in Datooga, there is a tendency for transitive verbs such as *duul-d* 'take away in entirety' to be reduced to intransitives by

deletion of an external patient role in the course of AM derivation, resulting in *duul-εed* ‘move thither in a group’.

Despite recent advances in the study of AM systems in individual languages on the one hand as well as in fleshing out typological generalisations on AM as a grammatical category on the other hand, detailed descriptions of individual AM systems in African languages remain rare. And while for many Bantu languages AM markers have been traced back to motion verbs (Guérois et al, in press), the etymology of such forms in many other African languages remains obscure. Another relevant comparison is to multi-verb constructions: for example, serial verb constructions (SVCs) often have similar semantic functions (Lovestrland and Ross, in press) and are one diachronic source for AM markers. Consider (4) from Akan, where motion verbs ‘go’ and ‘come’ have developed into AM prefixes, originally from SVCs, but may now also co-occur within SVCs with lexical motion verbs.

- (4) Akan (Kwa, Ghana; Osam 2002: 119)
- |                               |                 |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| <i>Ye-ko-e</i>                | <i>ko-to-to</i> | <i>bi</i> |
| SUBJ <sub>1PL</sub> -go-COMPL | go-buy-COMPL    | some      |
- ‘We went and bought some.’

We therefore invite contributions on all aspects of AM in African languages, especially (but not limited to):

- Synchronic descriptions of AM systems in individual languages or (areal or genetic) groups
- Historical reconstructions of individual AM markers and systems
- The relationship between multi-verb or other syntactic constructions and AM morphology
- Studies addressing the overlap with other functional categories
- Discourse functions of AM systems, e.g. in spatial organisation of plot development in narratives

## References

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