

Verbal Derivation in Kisi (kiz)

Accounting for the order of affixes is one of the central questions in morphological research. Many accounts have been advanced in response to this question. They range from theories that find principles responsible from structurally motivated accounts to unmotivated accounts such as templates (Manova & Aronoff, 2010).

The rich verbal morphology of Bantu languages provides a remarkably rich empirical domain for exploring word structure and affix order in particular. The morphology of the verb includes derivations that are implemented by several suffixes known as verb extensions. The derivations are found Kikisi (iso code 639-3 kiz), a largely undocumented Bantu language Guthrie (1967-71) G67) spoken on the northeastern shores of Lake Nyasa (also known as Lake Malawi). The derivations include applicative, causative, passive, reciprocal, reversive, stative, and impositive. This paper addresses two questions: (a) In what order are the extensions found? (b) How can the order be accounted for?

The researcher elicited pairwise combinations to find possible combinations. Earlier studies on the order of Bantu extensions have focused on causative, applicative, reciprocal, and passive. This led to the discovery of the preferred order or template, namely, CARP or causative-applicative-reciprocal-passive (Hyman, 2003). One contribution of the present study is to extend the domain of the description to include reversive and stative derivations.

The data from the corpus reveal three patterns of combinations of the extensions. The first pattern is the alternative pairwise affix order *ab-ba* with different meanings. Such alternative order is observed between causative and applicative, causative and reciprocal, reciprocal and applicative, and stative and applicative. The second pattern is fixed positions of some of the extensions, namely, reversive and passive. The reversive appears before all extensions, while the passive appears as the very last derivation. The third pattern is the non-cooccurrence of the stative and reciprocal.

The alternative *ab-ba* order with different meanings implies syntactic behavior, while the fixed positions of the reversive and passive suggest a combination of semantic scope and syntactic operations.

References

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