
analytical methods in morphology and syntax

practice problems #7

Due Friday, August 8th, 2003

(10% of the grade on assignment #7 depends on timely completion of these problems)

exercise 7.4: Dyirbal

From Dixon, 1972 and 1994

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|---|------------------------------|
| 1. η uma banagan ^y u yabugu | 'Father returned to mother.' |
| 2. yabu banagan ^y u | 'Mother returned.' |
| 3. η ana banagan ^y u η umangu | 'We all returned to father.' |
| 4. n ^y urra banagan ^y u | 'You all returned.' |
| 5. n ^y urra η anana buran | 'You all saw us.' |
| 6. η ana n ^y urrana buran | 'We all saw you all.' |
| 7. yabu η umangu buran | 'Father saw mother.' |
| 8. η uma yabu η gu buran | 'Mother saw father.' |
| 9. n ^y urrana yabu η gu buran | 'Mother saw you all.' |
| 10. η anana η umangu buran | 'Father saw us.' |
| 11. η ana bural η an ^y u η umangu | . . . 'we all saw father.' |
| 12. n ^y urra bural η an ^y u yabugu | . . . 'you all saw mother.' |
| 13. yabu bural η an ^y u η umangu | . . . 'mother saw father.' |
| 14. η uma bural η an ^y u yabugu | . . . 'father saw mother.' |

Note: Examples like 11 through 14 are usually only used in conjunction with other clauses, as reflected by the three dots. However, they are fully grammatical on their own.

- A. On a separate page, describe the system for organizing grammatical relations employed in Dyirbal.

B. What valence-decreasing device or devices do you see operating in these data? Give evidence for any claims you make.

Ebembe

by Myra Adamson

1. Atondo asalanga. Atondo writes.
2. Atondo abamona bana. Atondo sees the children.
3. Bana bammona Atondo. The children see Atondo.
4. Atondo ammona. Atondo sees him/her
5. Atondo asalanga lusalingo. Atondo writes a letter.
6. Atondo asalangile lusalingo. Atondo wrote a letter.
7. Atondo asalangile lusalingo na bana. Atondo wrote a letter for the children.
8. Lusalingo lusalingwa na Atondo. The letter is written by Atondo.
9. Lusalingo lusalingwile na Atondo.
10. Atondo abasalangilile bana lusalingo. Atondo wrote the children a letter.
11. Bana basalangwila lusalingo na Atondo. The children are written a letter for by Atondo.
12. Bana basalangwilile lusalingo na Atondo. The children were written a letter for by Atondo.
13. Lusalingo lusalingwa na Atondo na bana. The letter is written by Atondo for the children.
14. Atondo abasalangisha bana lusalingo. Atondo makes/lets the children write a letter.
15. Bana basalangishwa lusalingo na Atondo.
16. Bana basalangisha kalamu lusalingo. The children write a letter with a pencil.

A. Translate numbers 9 and 15 into English.

B. What are the grammatical properties of Subjects in Ebembe? Of Objects? (i.e., how can you identify what the subject and the object are?)

C. Write rules to describe any morphophonemic variation you see in the verb prefixes and suffixes.

D. There are four verb suffixes in these data. Identify each suffix, and describe its function. Give the evidence for your claims.