



The Narrative Past Inflection in Sesotho Child and Child-Directed Speech

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This study investigates a low-frequency verbal inflection called the “narrative past” in child and child-directed speech in the Bantu language Sesotho. Since the function of the Sesotho narrative past is not well-described, this study aimed to illuminate both function and acquisition trends in the Demuth Sesotho Corpus (Demuth, 1992). The narrative past form has been assumed to be under-specified for tense, comparable in function to the better-known Swahili *-ka-* inflection. The Swahili form, in turn, has been said to function in “clause chains” that are functionally and structurally similar to such chains in Papuan and other languages. We expected that, if the Sesotho narrative past is indeed functionally similar to Swahili *-ka-*, its distribution in child-directed speech and acquisition by children may pattern similarly to tense-less verb forms in non-Bantu clause chaining languages such as the Papuan language Ngunon, where such verb forms can comprise over 20% of all verb tokens in child-directed and child speech at age 3;3. This study thus examined the conversational interactions of four children acquiring Sesotho in a village setting, aged 2;1–4;7. All 492 tokens of the narrative past form were coded for syntactic and discourse categories. Results show that the Sesotho narrative past generally occurs in much “looser” discourse chains than the clause chains of languages like Ngunon; for Sesotho, other turns or elements can intervene between narrative past-framed mentions of previously-introduced topics. Further, the Sesotho narrative past has very low frequency in both child and child-directed speech, representing <3% of all verb tokens for both registers. There is possible evidence that one of the target children uses the Sesotho narrative past in increasing proportions as his linguistic sophistication increases, but there is no significant corresponding proportional increase in child-directed speech. Thus, in function and distribution, in both child-directed and child speech, the Sesotho narrative past form differs greatly from tense-less forms in more canonical clause chaining languages.

Keywords: clause chaining, acquisition, narrative tenses, Sesotho, Bantu

INTRODUCTION

Bantu languages are famous for their many verbal inflections. In particular, many Bantu languages boast multiple nuanced distinctions within the past and future tenses (Nurse, 2003, 2008; Botne and Kerkhove, 2008; Nurse and Devos, 2019), with, in some cases, a “Near Future,” “Middle Future,” and “Remote Future” tense with (presumed) application to different sections of a timeline. But the actual functions of these different tenses are often under-described, in both pedagogical

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Prepared Speech In Sesotho

Peter D. Quella



Prepared Speech In Sesotho:

Aspects of Sesotho Language Acquisition Katherine Demuth,1983 Afrikaans +: Everything you need to obtain top marks Marieta Nel,2019-02-01 Afrikaans is a learner friendly guidebook which caters for additional language learners who want to achieve better marks in Afrikaans This practical guide contains explanations in English and is filled to the brim with examples It explains tests and exams used for both the DBE and IEB and was written by a panel of educational experts who understand the needs of additional language learners This book is completely up to date The Afrikaanse Woordelys en Spelreels AWS has just been re issued blindsiding many a teacher with the changes in Afrikaans grammar rules While the AWS is seen as the touchstone for Afrikaans language practitioners it could be a daunting book to use in the classroom Afrikaans was written with the most recent changes to the AWS in mind and presents these grammar rules in a clear practical manner Every chapter in the book also offers free online support exercises answers and examples which will be kept up to date by the panel The book contains six sections 1 Comprehension Begrip This explains how you should approach a comprehension test how to look for the answers and provides tips on how to understand the questions It also explains how to make summaries Visual texts such as cartoons graphs and maps are also explained 2 Grammar Taal This is a step by step guide to understanding the how and the why of Afrikaans grammar You will be guided with English explanations and Afrikaans examples on things like word order tenses adjectives adverbs time numbers plural and diminutive forms the negative active and passive voice pronouns participles and abbreviations There are sections offering basic knowledge to help the struggling learner through the exam But there are also more advanced sections for the learner who wants to get an A and for the teacher who wants to become familiar with all the changes in the AWS 3 Literature Literatuur Everything you need to know about prose drama short stories and poetry What is the difference between a metaphor and a simile Who is the protagonist and who the antagonist We use simple explanations and good examples of all these and other literature terms 4 Oral Mondeling The book contains practical pointers on how to prepare for different kinds of oral such as interviews prepared speeches introducing and thanking a speaker roleplay how to make a vlog and how to discuss the booklist you have to read for grade 12 Examples of all these are given and more are provided online 5 Vocabulary Woordeskat You will always need vocabulary for essays and orals With the most recent vocabulary on food technology life after school sport and lots more you will be well prepared 6 Written work Skryfwerk This section starts with a step by step approach to writing how to choose a topic how to do your planning what not to use in an essay and how to end your story The examples of all the different types of written work essays long and short transactional writing and tips on each will help you to master each one Online you will be able to read through more examples **Sesotho Language** David Ambrose,2006 *Patrick Duncan* C. J. Driver,2000 With a Foreword by Anthony Sampson Born son of a Governor General of South Africa Patrick Duncan rejected the attitudes of his privileged background to follow the Gandhian way of passive resistance even to jail This biography traces the life and times of

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Decoding **Preapered Speech In Sesotho**: Revealing the Captivating Potential of Verbal Expression

In a period characterized by interconnectedness and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, the captivating potential of verbal expression has emerged as a formidable force. Its capability to evoke sentiments, stimulate introspection, and incite profound transformations is genuinely awe-inspiring. Within the pages of "**Preapered Speech In Sesotho**," a mesmerizing literary creation penned by way of a celebrated wordsmith, readers set about an enlightening odyssey, unraveling the intricate significance of language and its enduring effect on our lives. In this appraisal, we shall explore the book's central themes, evaluate its distinctive writing style, and gauge its pervasive influence on the hearts and minds of its readership.

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