

*NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY*

*GRAMMATICALIZATION AND DISCOURSE USE
OF TENSE, ASPECT, & MODE IN LUGWERE*

*BY
RICHARD KIJALI NZOGI*

*A Linguistic Project Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts
in Translation Studies*

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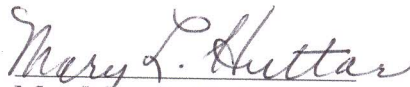
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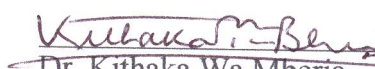
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Student's Declaration

GRAMMATICALIZATION AND DISCOURSE USE OF
TENSE, ASPECT, AND MODE IN LUGWERE

I declare that this is my original work and has not been
submitted to any other College or University
for academic credit

The views presented herein are not necessarily those of
Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology
or the Examiners

(Signed)


Richard Kijjali Nzogi

June, 2004

ABSTRACT

The object of this paper is to introduce the nature of tense, aspect, and mode (TAM) in Lugwere, a Bantu language spoken in Eastern Uganda. Basic emphasis is on the morphosyntax relevant to the encoding of TAM notions and their basic meanings. As a way of verifying the findings herein, the paper sources its illustrative material from four discourse genres (texts), the examples of which are given verbatim as in the texts except for the numbering. Where the feature under description is nonexistent in the texts, the paper uses individual grammatical strings formulated with native-speaker intuition, and given in a systematic numerical progression at times alongside the discourse examples.

I am also aware that it is one thing to describe the internal structure of the grammar of a language and another thing to know when, and where in a discourse should one use a given form, and not another. Thus, I also review the distribution and role of TAM in discourse as a tool in establishing the motivation for the use of the TAM categories.

In conclusion, observations of immediate linguistic value are made and further research proposed.

To

My dear wife Agnes at whose support I always studied with such joy and determination, whose charisma was to me a comfort and happiness; to our lovely son Blessed; and to all who view development of a language as the way to develop its people.

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May our Lord reward you! Amen

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ABBREVIATIONS

A	Agent	N	Noun
Adj	Adjective	Nc	Noun class
Adv	Adverb	NearFut	Near future tense
Ag	Noun agreement marker	Neg	Negative
Alc	Alethic mode	Nom	Nominalizer
AM	Associative marker	Num	Numeral
Appl	Applicative	Obj	Object
Art	Article	Obl	Obligative mode
Asp	Aspect	OPT	Optative mode
Aux	Auxiliary	P	Plural
Ben	Benefactive	PERF	Perfect aspect
Caus	Causative	Pers	Persistive aspect
Cess	Cessative aspect	PN	Proper name/noun
Comp	Completive aspect	Prep	Preposition
Cond	Conditional mode	PROG	Progressive aspect
Conj	Conjunction	Pron	Pronoun
Cop	Copula	Pst	Past tense
Decl	Declarative mode	Psv	Passive
Del	Delimited aspect	PT	Patient
Ded	Deductive mode	Ptv	Precative mode
DEL	Deliberative mode	Qf	Qualifier
Dem	Demonstrative	Qty	Quality
Dtv	Deontic vowel	Quant	Quantifier
Ext	Existential	Quot	Quotative mode
FarFut	Far future tense	Recip	Reciprocal
FarPst	Far Past tense	Redup	Reduplication
Foc	Focus	Refl	Reflexive
Fut	Future tense	Rel	Relativizer
Fv	Final vowel	S	Singular
Hab	Habitual	Sens	Sensory evidential mode
Hest	Hesternal past tense	Sjv	Subjunctive mode
Hod	Hodiernal	Stat	Stative
Hyp	Hypothetical mode	Sub	Subject
Imp	Imperative mode	TAM	Tense, Aspect, and Mode
ImPst	Immediate past	Tm	tense marker
Imptv	Imprecative mode	V	verb
Inch	Inchoative aspect	Vst	Verb stem
Inf	Infinitive	1P	First person plural
INT	Interrogative mode	1S	First person singular
IObj	Indirect Object	2P	Second person plural
Iter	Iterative aspect	2S	Second person singular
JUS	Jussive mode	3P	Third person plural
Loc	Locative	3S	Third person singular
Md	Mode	∅	Zero morpheme

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Problem statement

Lugwere is an unwritten language spoken by over 300,000 people, the Bagwere, found in eastern Uganda. The Bagwere thus barely have any written literature in their language. However, in the wake of the present efforts to promote local literacy and Bible translation into Lugwere, a good understanding of the structural basis of the Lugwere grammar and discourse structures would be essential. T. Givón stresses the importance of understanding tense, aspect, and mode (TAM) by observing that,

Of all grammatical sub-systems, tense-aspect-modality is probably the most complex and frustrating to the linguist. For one thing, it is an obligatory category without which simple sentences cannot be produced, (Givón 1984, 269).

It is by this pertinent observation that I chose to do some investigative study tense, aspect, and mode and how they operate in the Lugwere grammatical and discourse systems with the hope that I make some useful contribution to the task of describing the language and maybe that any other issues of broader linguistic interest may be discovered.

In this study of the system of tense, aspect, and mode (TAM) in Lugwere. First, I investigate TAM mainly with reference to the basic meanings implied by the TAM inflections, auxiliaries, and particles. To ascertain the findings as factual in natural discourse, and to establish how they function in the various discourse genres, I analyze narrative, expository, hortatory, and procedural texts.

