

Two non-prototypical uses of the Bantu connective construction

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This paper analyses two non-prototypical uses of Bantu connective constructions, viz. qualification with dependency reversal and identification of the type ‘X called Y’.

The prototypical Bantu connective construction expresses ownership (or related “genitive” relations) and has the shape “possessed” - connective relator – “possessor”.

In connectives with dependency reversal the first nominal qualifies the second nominal. Semantically the second nominal is the head of this construction, but from a morphosyntactic point of view the first nominal is the head.

The identificational connective construction meaning ‘the X called Y’ (e.g. the tool machete) is comparable to close appositions such as the city of London in English, with the apparent exception that the second nominal need not be a proper name. It will be shown, however, that the second nominal is construed as a proper name in such constructions, as are all words used autonymically.

I will attempt to explain how dependency reversal connectives and identificational connectives evolved from the more prototypical uses of the connective construction.