

Problem of grammatical categorization in bamanankan: the case of fε

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The categorization of words poses a serious problem in Mandé generally and in bamanankan particularly. In the grammatical descriptions of the bamanankan the morpheme fε was always considered as a postposition in the same way as lá and kàn. But in practice it is easy to observe that fε has syntactical and morphological characteristics which bring it nearer to verbs. My intention is not to prove that fε is a verb, but simply to demonstrate the problem of categorization in bamanankan. Might it be possible that we deal with two fε? In this contribution we shall try to propose answers.