

Locative and predicative constructions in Ibibio

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This paper is aimed at discussing locative and predicative constructions in Ibibio and it has established that both types of constructions are sub-parts of copulative constructions in Ibibio with copular verbs which are either inherently locative or predicative.

*The locative verbs are dynamic verbs and have semantic contents, and are indeterminate except when they occur with a particular noun phrase (NP), which plays the complement role. Such inherently locative copular verbs include *dídó*, 'be on' *sinè* 'be in' *bâ* 'be at' *dàk* 'be under'. In Ibibio, location is doubly marked since each of the locative copular verbs obligatorily co-occurs with a prepositional particle *kè* which semantically is interpreted as either on, in, at or under depending on the particular locative verb that it co-occurs with.*

*Unlike in the locative constructions where there can be different inherent locative verbs, a predicative construction in Ibibio always manifests a particular type of predicative copular verb *dò* 'be' This predicative copular can remain covert if the subject of the predication construction is [+ HUMAN] and must however, be overt if the subject is [- HUMAN]*

Ibibio is one of the Lower Cross languages spoken mainly in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states of South-South Nigeria.