

## **Place roles and verbal directionality in Dinka**

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*This paper presents some aspects of the grammar of space in Dinka, a Western Nilotic language. The focus is on the interaction between the semantic roles of place expressions and the derivational status of the verb.*

*Dinka has two major types of adverbial phrases for performing the semantic roles of location, source and goal: (i) phrases with locative case marking, (ii) phrases with relational nouns. For many non-human nouns and some complex noun phrases there exist one or two locative cases. If there are two different locative forms, one is used for a goal (allative), while the other is used for a location or a source (inessive-ablative). If there is only one locative form, it covers all three semantic roles.*

*The other major type of place adverbial is a prepositional phrase in which a multipurpose preposition governs a complex noun phrase. The latter is a possessive construction with a body part noun as possessee. Unlike case marked adverbials, the prepositional phrases denote specific spatial relations, corresponding to the choice of body part noun as relational noun. Conversely, such adverbials are neutral with respect to semantic role.*

*For many verbal roots in Dinka, there is a derivational distinction between a simple (i.e., non-derived) stem and two stems which express direction away from and towards the deictic centre, centrifugal and centripetal, respectively. There is also a benefactive (or applicative) stem, which increases the valency by promoting a beneficiary or a goal to the status of (an additional) object, and which is deictically neutral.*

*There are restrictions on the combinability of verb stems and locative semantic roles. With a non-directional verb a place adverbial indicates a location or, if the verb denotes motion, a source. With a centrifugal verb the adverbial indicates a goal, and with a centripetal verb stem the adverbial indicates either a goal or a source.*