Discourse connectivity: The case of Lubukusu

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Discourse connectivity, according to those who propose discourse and text grammars and leaning towards the code model (Harris 1952, Longacre 1983, Dooley and Levinsohn 2000), argue that it occurs purely as a linguistic matter without any non linguistic issues. However, Blass 2006:7 argues that, intuitive judgements of well formedness and ill formedness of discourse depend upon the connectivity occurring between and within sentences of a language. The argument by Blass is that to create discourse harmony, it is inevitable to integrate both linguistic and non linguistic features to achieve discourse connectivity which enables utterance comprehension. The argument by Blass is premised within the inferential model of communication (Sperber and Wilson: 1986) which, suggest that sentence structure alone determines only a fraction of what is communicated and context plays a crucial role in the determination of meaning. Hence, to link individual sentences in creating a discourse whole requires linkages beyond a language code. It is these linkages over and above the code that combine with context thereby allowing for utterance comprehension. This paper intends to examine such linkages manifested by sequence markers, deictic markers and class markers in Lubukusu, a Bantu language spoken in western Kenya. Specifically, the paper will attempt an identification and explanation of the above named aspects of discourse connectivity and a consequent explication of how they are mapped within the framework of relevance theory.