

Verb extensions in the Nubian languages

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This talk deals with verb extensions in the Nubian languages, particularly with derivational suffixes. Verb extensions modify the basic meaning of the verb. Thus the causative and applicative extensions raise the valence of the verb, the intransitive and reciprocal extensions decrease the valence of the verb. There are also derivational suffixes modifying the manner or direction of action expressed by the verb, such as the pluralactional, intensive or directional.

*The talk will provide evidence of derivational suffixes that are attested in all Nubian languages. Several of these suffixes, therefore, are reconstructable as Proto-Nubian morphemes such as the causative *-Vr and *-kVr, the applicative extensions *-tir and *-deen, the pluralactional *-j, the intensive *-k, and the inchoative *-Vŋ. Other extensions are restricted to one language or one branch of the Nubian language family. They comprise for example the Kordofan Nubian reciprocal -in and the Nile Nubian passive morpheme -tak/-dakk-/katti, the stative -fii/-buu, and the deictic or even completive suffixes -os and -ed. Because of their limited occurrence these extensions are considered to be innovations in the Nubian language history.*

*Derivational morphemes are often derived from verbs. The applicative suffixes *-tir and *-deen, for instance, derive from the full verbs *tir- 'give to 2nd or 3rd person', *deen- 'give to 1st person', the Nile Nubian stative extensions -fii and -buu, in turn, are derived from the existential verbs fii- or buu- 'be there'. The Nile Nubian directional extensions -os and -ed are based on the motion verbs oos- 'bring out, get out' and ed- 'take'. That is, they function both as full verbs and as grammatical morphemes.*