

Complex adverbial phrases and adverbial clauses in Ethiosemitic

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The paper aims to present a comparative overview of adverbial phrases and adverbial clauses in Ethiosemitic (ES) languages which express spatial and temporal relations.

Until now adverbial phrases and clauses in ES languages haven't been the object of an deliberate general and comparative analysis. While general works on ES languages usually don't go beyond the comparison of phonological and morphological features (cf. Hetzron 1972, 1977), detailed information about adverbial constructions can be found in some monographic works on individual languages (cf. Meyer 2005, 2006, Garad and Wagner 1998).

This paper tries to look at possible similarities and differences of underlying constructions of adverbials in ES languages in general. The idea behind approach is the assumption a) that complex adverbial phrases are constructed in a similar way in different ES languages and b) that adverbial clauses are morphosyntactically based on complex adverbial phrases.

In many ES languages complex adverbial phrases are in many cases the result of a grammaticalization process and comprise a combination of a relational prefix, a nominal form which represents the target referent and a following lexeme which can be a relational noun, an adverb or a postposition. The analysis of adverbial clauses in languages in some ES languages indicate that adverbial clauses are based on the same kind of construction where the position of the nominal form is occupied by a relative verb form which in the same time represents the verbal head of the subordinated adverbial clause.