

## Demonstrative pronouns in the Dabida language

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*Dabida (an undescribed language, E 74a, Kenya, ~ 300 000 speakers) is rather rare Bantu language as its pronominal system displays two types (A and B) of demonstrative pronouns having three demonstrative stems each.*

*Type (A) is common in Bantu. It is represented by demonstratives with the meanings:*

*(1a) 'this': a-βa (cl.2), u-ghu (cl.3), i-chi (cl.7); the root V (a/u/i) echoes the vowel of the concord marker;*

*(2a) 'this/that just mentioned': a-β-o, u-gh-o, i-ch-o; It is derived from (1) by means of the morpheme -o, which replaces the vowel in the concord marker:*

*The pronoun (3a) 'that: βa-ja, gh-u-ja, chi-ja.*

*All these demonstratives function mostly as attributes to nouns.*

*The demonstratives of type B are obviously related but behave differently and are not typical for Bantu. They are structurally quite clear: (1b): root hV plus concord marker: ha-βa, ho-ghu, he-chi; the root vowel (in hV) is assimilated to that of the concord marker; the assimilation is complete when the marker is Ca: haβa (cl.2), hagma (cl.6); when the marker is of Ci or Cu type the assimilation concerns the vocalic zone: e ← i; o ← u: hevi (cl.8), holu (cl.11).*

*The (2b) is derived from the (1b) by adding the morpheme -o: ha-β-o, ho-gh-o, he-ch-o.*

*The (3b) is derived from the (1b) by adding the morpheme -ja: ha-βa-ja, ho-ghu-ja, he-chi-ja. So it has two root stems in its structure.*

*The syntactic and semantic properties of the demonstratives are not so clear. But they can be understood if the pronouns are being described in terms of focus and topicality.*