Causative in Bende (Bantu, F.12) and its functional developments Yuko Abe

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Bende is a Bantu language, spoken in Rukwa Region, Western Tanzania. The presentation tries to explain the extended meanings of originally Causative suffix of Bende. Some of the example can be explained as phenomena derived from the grammaticalization, however, there are examples that should be explained by both historically and morphosyntactically motivated reasons. And finally general interactions between Causative and Applicative of Bende will be discussed.

Similar to other Bantu languages, Bende has causative suffixes, both short (-i-) and long (-isi) forms. In principle, the short form follows a consonant final verb base, while the long form follows a vowel. However, the long form may be observed also after a consonant. The cases can be divided into two subgroups; one is a complex of Applicative and Causative suffixes, and the other is fossilized in meanings. Most verb bases can productively take a long form as a modal marker whose meaning is Intensive. The latter case can be explained as a developed function by the grammaticalization.

The deviant case is the Causative suffix which carries the typical Applicative meanings, such as -sombésyá (to dye for sb.) and tamísyá (to put into one's mouth). These examples do not allow Applicative suffix for derivation, but only Causative suffix can be followed. However, its meanings are not those of Causative but rather typical Applicative. The verb bases of this case might be reconstructed as <Root-Applicative>, although synchronically the Root form does not exist any more. The Applicative suffix has been lexicalized and the original <Root-Applicative> become the verb base, while the formal Applicative suffix still blocks to put one more Applicative. Then, the Applicative derivation has resulted in using the Causative suffix secondarily.

The data above explain how Causative and Applicative complement each other beyond the meanings.