

## **The quotative marker kó in Manding: etymology and patterns of use**

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*Quotative markers are linguistic signs conventionally signaling the presence of an adjacent representation of reported discourse, i.e. the quote (cf. Güldemann 2008:10-15). Semantically, they are largely similar to generic speech verbs, such as say and tell in English, with which they share the feature of reference to an utterance. Functionally, however, they differ from the latter in being conventionalized in relation to reported discourse. A detailed classification of quotative markers is provided by Güldemann (2008). Predicative quotative markers that morphosyntactically behave as regular verbs are classified as quotative verbs. Those predicative quotative markers that do not fully qualify for the status of verb in a given language are referred to as quotative predicators. Nonpredicative quotative markers are often referred to as quotative complementizers, especially when they are also used for purposes of clause combining.*

*In my talk I will examine the quotative marker kó found throughout the Manding languages (Western Mande). This marker is extensively used to signal the presence of both direct and indirect reported discourse. Furthermore, it is also regularly employed for purposes of clause combining, in naming constructions and in constructions expressing intention. Morphosyntactically, it can function as a quotative predicator (accompanied by an indication of the addressee and/or the speaker, as well as on its own) and as a complementizer (in some varieties, agreeing in person with a participant in the main clause). As far as the etymology of the quotative marker kó is concerned, I argue that it goes back to the Proto Mande stem \*gǔʋ 'sound, voice, speech; say', whose reflexes, both nominal and verbal, are found throughout Mande, contra Güldemann (2008:344-345, 421-422) who argues for Mandinka kó (a Western Manding language) that the quotative function of kó is historically derived from the similative preposition 'like [N]'.*