

Classification of serial verb constructions in Baoule

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Serial verb constructions (SVC) can be formally defined as a sequence of verbs acting in the same predicate, without no explicit marks of coordination and subordination. In many examples, they share the same subject and have the same verbal marks, such as aspectual or temporal marks, even though these marks are not overtly expressed by each verb of the construction. In Baoule, a kwa language spoken in Côte d'Ivoire by about 2 million people, serial verb constructions are extensively used and have been studied by many scholars, such as Kouadio & Creissels (1977) and Larson (2002, 2003, 2004).

The syntactic properties of serial verb constructions are largely diversified and the languages are not necessarily expected to have all of these properties. One example of these syntactic properties consists in a construction that have the object of the initial verb not expressed in the construction, once it was already given before and/or it can be understood by the context; other examples show that in some cases the same subject is shared by each verb of the construction, and that the verbs may also share the object. Nevertheless, as we have already exposed, other syntactic structures can be found in the serial type languages. Based in our own corpus and in some examples given by the scholars, we are going to present some syntactic structures consisting of a sequence of verbs, which carry several of the features listed above, as well as a preliminary analysis of these constructions as a sort of serial verb constructions in Baoule.