

Some structural aspects of the Vidunda language (G38)

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The paper accounts for some linguistic features of the Bantu language Vidunda (G38, autonym /Chividunda/ 'mountain language') which are interesting from a typological perspective. Among these features is a rather unique singular-plural pairing of class 5 (and 5a) nouns which combine mainly with class 4 (otherwise only reported for Giryama [E 72a] for the augmentative 5a). The verb system is characterized by the lack of final perfective markers, a peculiar way of negating the imperative/subjunctive by using the verb stem -/leka/ 'stop' (Swahili -/acha/), and some complex verb forms that display grammaticalization in progress. Some relative constructions will be looked at too. In addition, the specific use of /kumbele/ (meaning 'behind, back' contrary to e.g. Swahili /mbele/ 'in front') will be summarized.