

## **The factative in Dan-Gwèètaa**

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*"Factative" is William Welmers' term for a TAM category, attested in some African languages whose grammatical semantics depends on the Actionsart of the verb: it is perfective for some verbs, and imperfective for some others. As a rule, the factative usually occupies the central position in the TAM system.*

*In Dan (South Mande, Niger-Congo) there is a category which is similar to Welmers' factitive in what concerns its central position in the TAM system and its strong dependence on the semantics of the verb. The peculiarity of the factative in Dan is that its most current ("unmarked") meaning is habitual. Other meanings are: contrafactive (irrealis), resultative, perdurative ("the action was carried out/took place within the indicated time limits; it is not clear whether it is accomplished or not"), perfect, perfective, relative tense (action is simultaneous with the time localization in question).*

*The aspectual semantics of the "factative" in Dan depends on many factors. Apart from the lexical semantics of the verb, these are: circumstances, inclusion/non-inclusion of the verbal phrase into a complex sentence; lexicalization. Therefore, one and the same verb in factative may have more than one aspectual meaning.*