
Morphosyntactic and semantic aspects of clausal complementation in Jula

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Jula is a West-African Mande language of the Manding dialect group (Niger-Congo). In this preliminary study, we explore relations between semantic properties of two types of clause-embedding predicates (*factive* and *believe-type*) and the form and function of their clausal complements. We show that meanings associated with those predicates are determined by the finiteness status of the complement clause, and therefore are not easily predictable on the basis of the embedding predicate alone.

Crucially, there appears to be a parallel between syntacticosemantic complement types and restrictions on *topicalization* and *extraposition* (leaving open the question whether these structures come about by movement or base-generation), along with the occurrence of *sentential proforms* (cf. Frey, Meinunger & Schwabe 2016, Schwabe 2015). Topicalized complement clauses must co-occur with a *referential proform* (*o*-form) and only non-finite clauses undergo topicalization, the finite ones never do. Extraposed clauses often co-occur with correlates of the *a*-form.

We propose that those facts indicate a morphosyntactic relationship between the left edge of clausal complements and their embedding structures. To take this idea one step further, we postulate syntactic heads at the right edge of the embedding structures that interact with, but are syntactically distinct from the embedding lexical predicates themselves.

References: • Schwabe, K. (2015): On the licensing of argument conditionals. In: Aber, Jerabek, Hole & Kunke (eds): *Logic, Language and Computation*. 10th International Tbilisi Symposium Tbilisi 2013, Berlin/Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag: 290-309. • Schwabe, K., Frey, W. & Meinunger, A. (2016): Sentential proforms: An overview. In: Schwabe, Frey & Meinunger (eds): *Inner-sentential Propositional Proforms: Syntactic properties and interpretative effects*. Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins: 1-22.