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TA in Mozambican Ngoni – inflections beyond time

Ngoni TA-chart

kutola
kujaula

'to take'
'to go'

	-a	-ite, -i', imbrication	-itaye, -ita', imbrication
∅	atola ajaula	atolite ajawile	atolitaye ajawilaye
(a)ka-	akatola akajaula		

Ngoni TA-chart

kutola
kujaula

'to take'
'to go'

	-a	-ite, -i', imbrication	-itaye, -ita', imbrication
∅	present atola ajaula	perfective atolite ajawile	imperfective atolitaye ajawilaye
-ka-	pluperfect akatola akajaula		

event-line vs. background

- event-line or foreground
= reflects the temporal succession of the narrative
- background or supportive material
= introduction, preexisting situations, flashbacks, simultaneous events, author's comment, moral, backgrounded material, explanatory material ...

V-a:

Xipexa kwa kuyovalela **ahika** kulyela ngônde,

Hare as usual came to eat beans,

akopoleka mungônda wa Abede,

appeared on Abede's field,

alihimana lixinamu...

encountered the scarecrow...

H1.14-16

V-a: event-line in narratives

Xipexa kwa kuyovalela **ahika** kulyela ngônde,
Hare as usual came to eat beans,

akopoleka mungônda wa Abede,
appeared on Abede's field,

alihimana lixinamu...
encountered the scarecrow... H1.14-16

V-a: event-line in narratives

Akwela,
She climbed up,

ajemba yêlayela,
she sang the same way,

... ahuja, ... akita: ...
... she came back, ... she said: ... H10.94f

V-a:

»Aikêgy-ava atama ni nenga.«

»The woman stays with me.«

H2.62

V-a: dialog, present tense

»Aikêgy-ava atama ni nenga.«

»The woman stays with me.«

H2.62

V-a: dialog, present tense

»Ulamu ujenda mômo' môno'.«
»The brother-in-law-hood goes just like that.«

Port: »O cunhadismo anda aí mesmo.«

H5.83

V-a:

- 'now-point'
represents the present moment in the real world.

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V-a: now-point tense (NPT)

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represents the present moment in the real world.
- 'narrative now-point' (Almeida 1995: 170)
represents the present moment in the story.

Ngoni:

'now-point' and 'narrative now-point' encoded by the same verbform.

V-a: as present in narratives

narrator's comment = background

Hêno, ma-xôva ganga' tijingi' kulaga
Well, these days we start to suffer

ni mwankoko...
from rheumatism

H6.54

V-a as present in narratives

moral = background, general statement

Kwa kila mundu **jwataluka**, **aleka** hindu yoha
Anybody who regrets, desists everything

yapagine kunyuma.

that he did before.

H2.82

Summary

- V-a: 'now-point' tense

narrative: - event-line

- background:

= moral, general statement

= author's comment in reference
to speech time

dialog: - present tense

-ka-:

Akave' munalôme, nnupataji
There was a man, a hunter,

ni ntegaji mitegu ya nyama.
and trapper.

Jôno' akave' nahanamundu va wiwo.
He was with a yealous wife.

H2.1+2

-ka-: introduction, background

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There was a man, a hunter,

ni ntegaji mitegu ya nyama.
and trapper.

Jôno' akave' nahanamundu va wiwo.
He was with a yealous wife.

H2.1+2

-ka-: introduction, background

Hêno, akakoma nyama,
Now, they had killed animals,

kama itatu yoha.

like a total of three. H4.4

-ka-: copula kuvela, background

...agwêlela mulilambu

he fell into the swamp,

- konda **lyakave'** lilambu ni maxi gaku -

because there was a swamp with water,

agwêlela mônómola, atitimila.

he fell into there, he drowned. H9.70

-ka-:

...ahujahuja mpaka ukaya,
... they returned until home,

ajogo' nyumba,
opened the house,

kulola pakahinikila, ...
looked where they had covered it,...

-ka-: flashback, background

...ahujahuja mpaka ukaya,
... they returned until home,

ajogo' nyumba,
opened the house,

kulola pakahinikila, ...
looked where they had covered it,...

-ka-:

KalikalANJI jô' akagega ngimbwa yaku,...

KalikalANJI had brought his dogs,...

H3.69

-ka-: background, stative past

KalikalANJI jô' akagega ngimbwa yaku,...

KalikalANJI had brought his dogs,...

H3.69

Summary

- -ka-V = stative past

narrative:

- background
- in introduction
- with copula verbs kuvela 'to be' and kuvenaku 'to have'
- flashback
- translated as pluperfect with dynamic verbs

-itaye:

Wapehike kumitegu,
When she arrived at the traps,

alihimana lihimba
she met the lion

lililêndalilaye mitegu.
who was guarding the traps.

H2.34

-itaye: IPFV – background, durative

Wapehike kumitegu,
When she arrived at the traps,

alihimana lihimba
she met the lion

lililêndalilaye mitegu.
who was guarding the traps. H2.34

-itaye:

Mangoni kalakala
The Ngoni people a long time ago

avinakwa' ngimbwa...
had dogs

avinakwa' mahota.
they had bamboo traps. H6.1f

-itaye:

Mangoni kalakala
The Ngoni people a long time ago

avinakwa' ngimbwa...
had/used to have dogs

avinakwa' mahota.
they had/used to have bamboo traps. H6.1f

-itaye: habitual

Mangoni kalakala
The Ngoni people a long time ago

avinakwa' ngimbwa...
had/used to have dogs

avinakwa' mahota.
they had/used to have bamboo traps. H6.1f

-itaye:

Ahikita' kônokola,
They arrived there,

ajingila'
they entered [the island]

kuxoko' kuhaka hikungui.
to start to hunt cane rats.

H6.7-8

-itaye: procedural text

Ahikita' kônokola,
They arrived there,

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to start to hunt cane rats.

H6.7-8

-itaye: procedural text, main line

Ahikita' kônokola,
They arrived there,

ajingila'
they entered [the island]

kuxoko' kuhaka hikungui.
to start to hunt cane rats.

H6.7-8

Summary

- V-itaye = imperfective

narrative: background

- durative
- parallel to but independent of event-line
- past habitual

procedural text: main-line

(together with past progressive and infinitives)

-ite:

Wapehike kumitegu,
When she arrived at the traps,

alihimana lihimba
she met the lion

lililêndalilaye mitegu.
who was guarding the traps. H2.34

-ite: PFV – background, punctual

Wapehike kumitegu,
When she arrived at the traps,

alihimana lihimba
she met the lion

lililêndalilaye mitegu.
who was guarding the traps. H2.34

-ite:

Munalôme ajendeleha kwapalaha
The man continued to search

ahanamundu ni vahimana.
for his wife and found her.

Avi' lihimba naikêge vala,
There was the lion with the wife,

ngati vakamwile.
like he had her grabbed.

Munalôme anjôpa xonde lihimba.
The man asked favor [of the] lion. H2.55ff

-ite: PFV

Kilu Nantimwi ahikite.

At night the ogre came.

Hunters arrived and went to bed.

Mwene Nantimwe ahika, atenda: ...

Himself the ogre came, he said: ...

H4.23-25

-ite: PFV

~~Kilu~~ — ~~Nantimwi~~ **ahikite**.

~~At night the ogre~~ — ~~came~~.

Hunters arrived and went to bed.

Mwene Nantimwe ahika, atenda: ...

Himself the ogre came, he said: ...

H4.23-25

-ite: PFV

»Amma **atoile** mbomba winu, **ahwalite**, ...

»Mama took your shorts, put them on,

ni **agegite** nkoa ni upanga winu,

and took your spear and machete

ajawi' upandi wa mitegu inu.«

went in direction of your traps.«

H2.41-43

-ite: event-line of reported event

»Amma **atoile** mbomba winu, **ahwalite**, ...

»Mama took your shorts, put them on,

ni **agegite** nkoa ni upanga winu,
and took your spear and machete

ajawi' upandi wa mitegu inu.«
went in direction of your traps.«

H2.41-43

-ite: event-line of reported event

Ahanavangu **avinite** pamahena.
My wife became sick very.

Tiwokite pêna' kujau' kuxipitali.
We left there [and] went to the hospital

Tihikite kuxipital kôla,
We came to the hospital there,

valekeli' myahi.
they gave her blood.

Summary

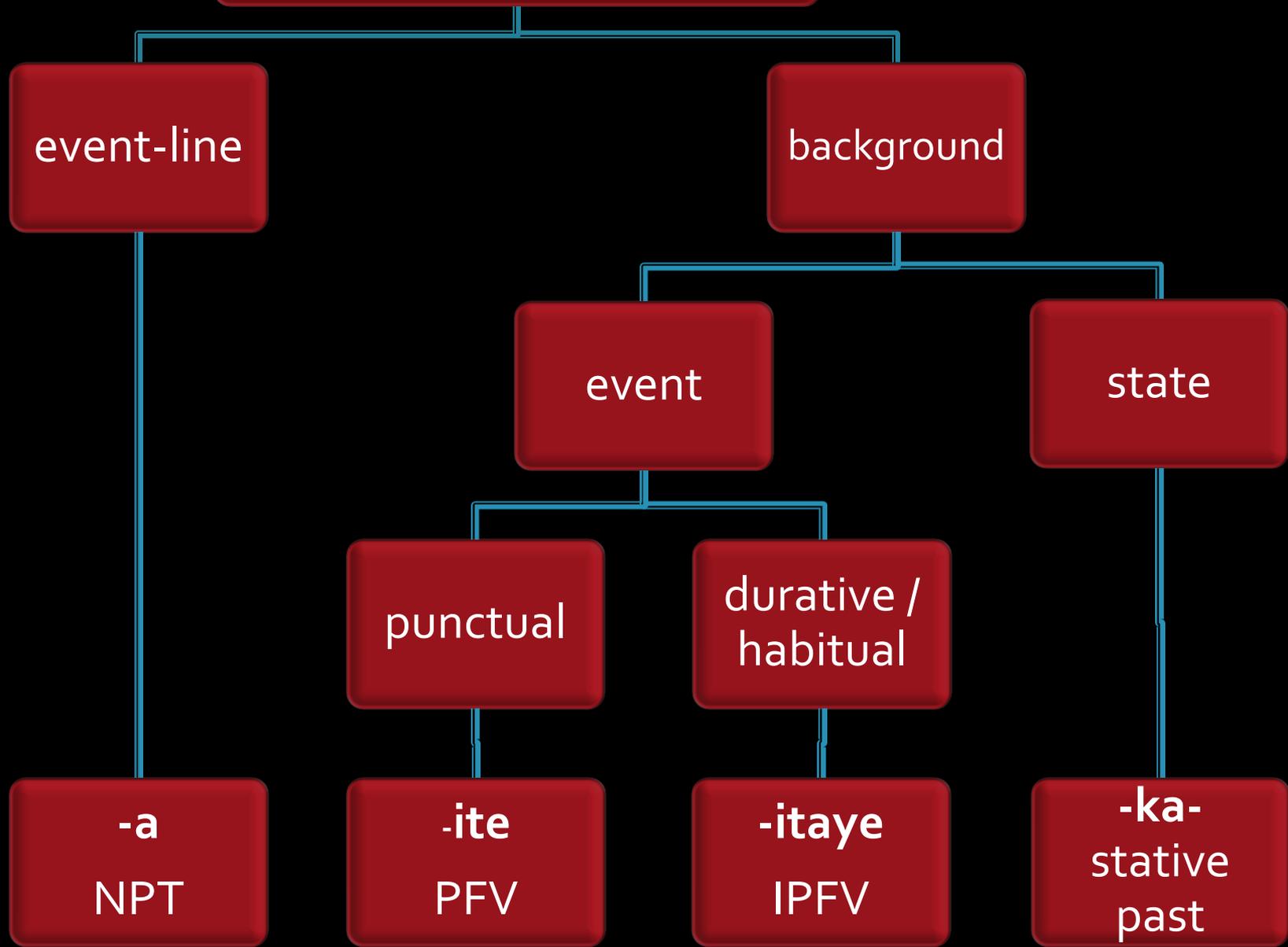
- V-ite = perfective

narrative: background

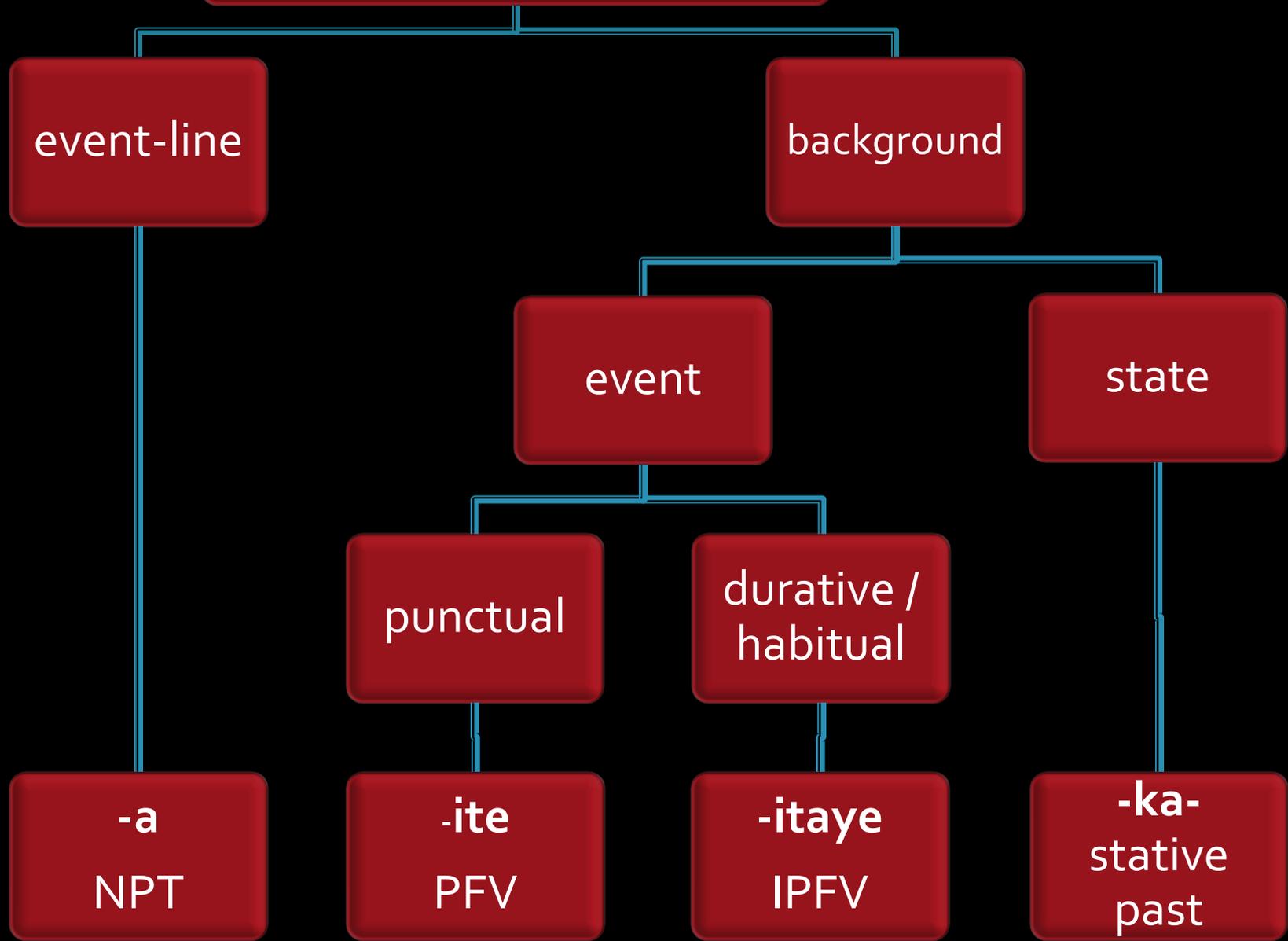
- event as punctual completed whole
- “snapshot”

dialog/reported event: event-line

PAST IN NARRATIVES



PAST IN DIALOG, REPORT



PAST IN DIALOG, REPORT

event-line

background

event

state

punctual

durative /
habitual

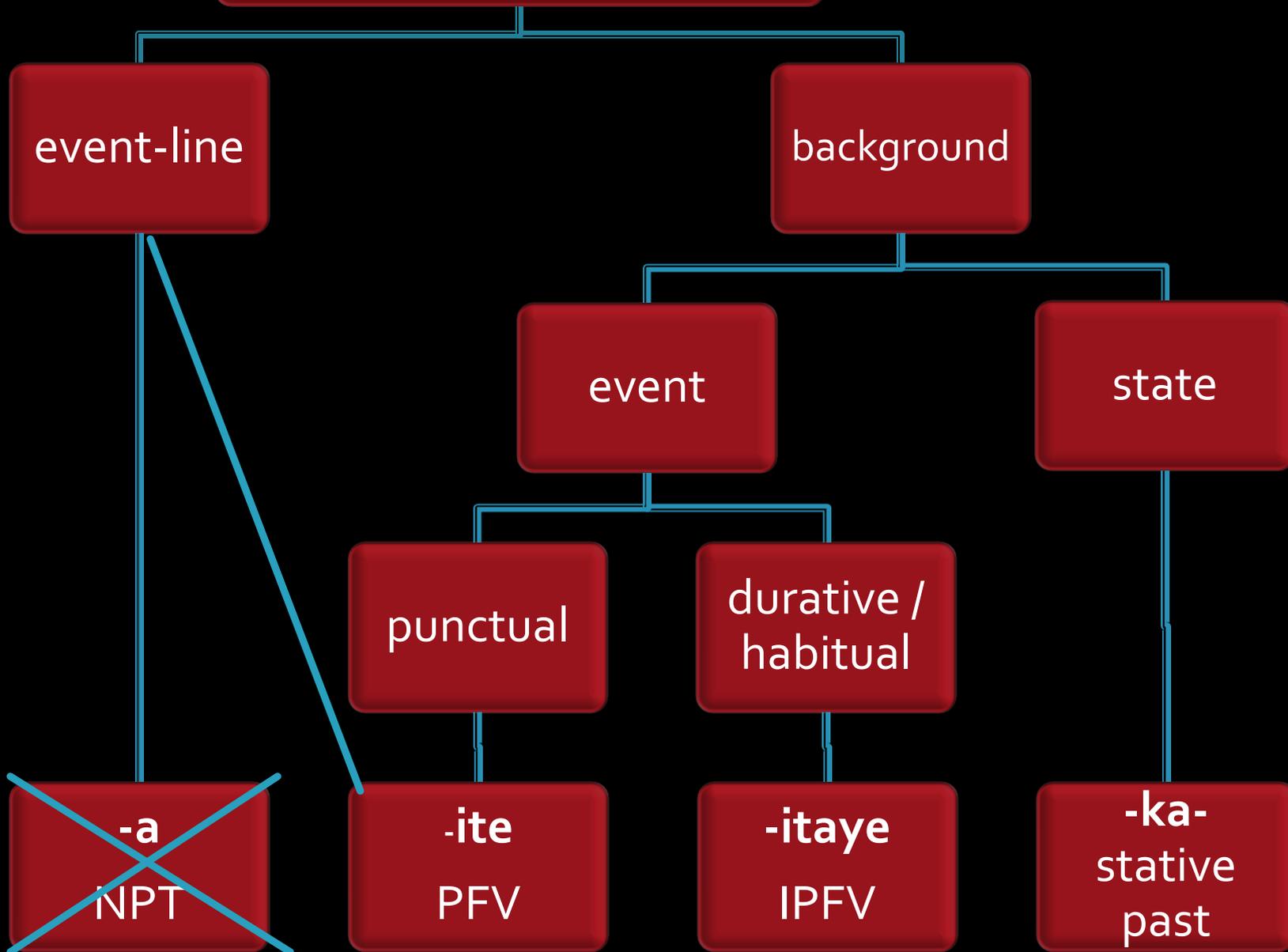
~~-a
NPT~~

-ite
PFV

-itaye
IPFV

-ka-
stative
past

PAST IN DIALOG, REPORT



Questions:

- Q What other languages have a 'now-point' tense?
- Q If so, what is the form of that 'now-point' tense?
- Q How do other languages encode the difference between narrated and reported event?

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