

Animacy Hierarchy in Double Object Construction in Lunyole

Kumiko Miyazaki

Global Center for Kiswahili Studies and Advancement, State University of Zanzibar

Introduction

- Lunyole is spoken in Butaleja District, Tororo Prefecture, in the eastern part of Uganda.
- Applicative construction licenses the introduction of a new object, an applied object(AO).
- The newly added AO normally precedes the base object (BO).
- However, the word order in applicative construction appears with a different word order under the restriction of animacy of the objects.
- There is a different restriction on co-occurrence of the object and the object markers between in the single object construction and in the double object construction (Miyazaki 2016).

Animacy hierarchy in Double Object Construction in Lunyole

When AO and BO occupy the same level in the animacy hierarchy, AO comes immediately after the verb and precedes BO as shown in example (1) and (2).

⇒There is a syntactic restriction that licenses AO as the primary object.

(1) AO : [+animate] BO : [+animate]

a. Bába	a-láng-íl-á	jája	ába-aná
1.father	1SM-call-APPL-FV	1.grandmother	2-children
'Father called the children for grandmother'			
b. *Bába	a-láng-íl-á	ába-aná	jája
1.father	1SM-call-APPL-FV	2-children	1.grandmother
'(Father called the children for grandmother)'			

(2) AO : [-animate] BO : [-animate]

a. Mába	a-lim-íl-á	é-simbó	ólw-igá.
1.mother	1SM-dig-APPL-FV	9-stick	5-hole
'Mother digs the hole with the stick'			
b. *Mába	a-lim-íl-á	ólw-igá	é-simbó.
1.mother	1SM-dig-APPL-FV	5-hole	9-stick

However, when AO is [-animate] and BO is [+animate], BO precedes to AO as shown in example (3) and (4).

⇒In Lunyole the animacy hierarchy of objects has a greater priority than the syntactic hierarchy between AO and BO.

(3) AO : [-animate] BO : [+animate]

a. n-á-lang-il-a	ába-aná	ésh-ohúlya
SM1SG-PAST-call-APPL-FV	2-child	7-meal
'I called the children for the meal'		
b.* n-á-lang-il-a	ésh-ohúlya	ába-aná
SM1SG-PAST-call-APPL-FV	7-meal	2-child
'(I called the children for the meal)'		

(4) AO : [+animate] BO : [+animate]

a. n-á-lang-il-a	ómu-soméša	ába-aná
SM1SG-PAST-call-APPL-FV	1-teacher	2-child
'I called the teacher for a child'		
b. *n-á-lang-il-a	ába-aná	ómu-soméša
SM1SG-PAST-call-APPL-FV	2-child	1-teacher
'(I called the teacher for a child)'		

In Lunyole, newly introduced AO are given various semantic roles, such as beneficiary, reason/motive, location, direction, instrument and idiomatic use. The phenomenon which is illustrated with examples above has no restriction depending on the semantic role of the AO. Examples (5) and (6) are the examples in instrumental applicative.

(5) AO : [-animate] BO : [+animate]

a. Mába	a-hub-íl-á	ómw-íbi	é-simbó.
1.mother	1SM-hit-APPL-FV	1-thief	9-stick
'Mother hits a thief with the stick.'			
b. *Mába	a-hub-íl-á	é-simbó	ómw-íbi.
1.mother	1SM-hit-APPL-FV	9-stick	1-thief

(6) AO : [-animate] BO : [+animate]

a. Mába	a-hub-íl-á	ómu-sóta	é-simbó.
1.mother	1SM-hit-APPL-FV	3-snake	9-stick
'Mother hits a snake with the stick.'			
b. *Mába	a-hub-íl-á	é-simbó	ómu-sóta.
1.mother	1SM-hit-APPL-FV	9-stick	3-snake

In Lunyole verbs can have more than one object marker. As example (7a) and (7b) show, in Lunyole applicative construction, the object marker which agrees with BO precedes the one which agrees with AO.

(7) a. hu-ní-íl-á	John	ebí-jánjáo.
SM1PL-cook-APPL-FV	1.John	8-beans
'We cook beans for John.'		
b. hu-bí-mu-ní-íl-á		
SM1PL-8OM-1OM-cook-APPL-FV		
'(We cook beans for John.)'		

The object marker and the object can co-occur but only the AO can be expressed by an object marker as it is shown in example (7c) and (7d). AO and the object marker which agrees with AO cannot co-occur as it is shown in (7e).

c. hu-mu-ní-íl-á	ebí-jánjáo.	
SM1PL-1OM-cook-APPL-FV	8-beans	
'We cook beans for John.'		
d.*hu-bí-ní-íl-á	John.	
SM1PL-8OM-cook-APPL-FV	1.John	
'(We cook beans for John.)'		
e.* hu-mu-ní-íl-á	John	ebí-jánjáo.
SM1PL-1OM-cook-APPL-FV	1.John	7-beans
'(We cook beans for John.)'		

Conclusion

- In most of the Lunyole applicative construction, the word order is fixed and AO precedes BO. However, these objects appear with a different word order when animacy of BO is higher than AO.
- There is a [+animate] > [-animate] hierarchy in Lunyole, and animacy hierarchy of objects has a greater priority than the syntactic hierarchy between AO and BO.
- It is clear that there is a hierarchy between [+animate] and [-animate], but there is a possibility of a hierarchy between [human] > [animal] > [things] or [human] > [non-human]. There is insufficient data to examine this case and further research is required.
- In the single object construction, the object noun cannot occur together with the object markers and this restriction does not relate to animacy of objects (Miyazaki 2016). In applicative construction, the object marker and the object can co-occur but only the AO can be expressed by an object marker. Available data is not strong enough to show if the restriction relates to the animacy of objects.

Abbreviations

1, 2, 3 ...: noun class number, although the number before SG/PL stands for person (1st, 2nd and 3rd), 1SG/1PL: 1st person singular/1st person plural, APPL: Applicative, FV: Final Vowel, OM: Object marker, PAST: Past tense marker, SG: Singular, SM: Subject marker

Reference

Miyazaki Kumiko 2016. Objects and Object Markers in Lunyole. *Journal of Swahili and African Studies* 27 : 121-130

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E-mail : kumi_10@hotmail.com