

Mood prominent or aspect prominent?

A comparative study of the TAM systems across the Puyuma dialects

This study deals with the TAM systems in three Puyuma dialects, including the dialects spoken in Nanwang, Katripul and Tamalakaw. The verbal morphology of Proto Puyuma has been reconstructed in Ross (2009) based mainly on the dialect spoken in Nanwang. Under a closer scrutiny, Teng (2016) finds that (i) the UV verbal forms in the imperfective category in Katripul (and Tamalakaw) distributed to that of progressive and irrealis in Nanwang, and (ii) the AV forms show no such discrepancy across different dialects, as shown by the following sentences and summarized by the two tables below.

(1) Nanwang Puyuma

- a. ku=lra-lriputr-aw na kuraw.
1S.GEN=RED-wrap-PV DF.NOM fish
'I am wrapping the fish./*I will wrap the fish.'
- b. ku=lra-lriputr-i na kuraw.
1S.GEN=RED-wrap-PV DF.NOM fish
'I will wrap the fish.'
- c. me-lra-lriputr=ku dra kuraw.
AV-RED-wrap=1S.NOM ID.OBL fish
'I am wrapping fish.'
- d. lra-lriputr=ku dra kuraw.
RED-wrap=1S.NOM ID.OBL fish
'I will wrap fish.'

(2) Katripul Puyuma

- a. ku=ra-rames-ay na kavang.
1S.GEN-RED-wash-LV DF.NOM clothes
'I am washing the clothes./I will wash the clothes.'
- b. 'azi ku=ra-rames-i na kavang.
NEG 1S.GEM=RED-wash-LV DF.NOM clothes
'I am not washing the clothes./I will not wash the clothes.'
- c. ra-rames=ku za kavang.
<AV>RED-wash=1S.NOM ID.OBL clothes
'I am washing clothes.'
- d. ra-rames=ku za kavang.
RED-wash=1S.NOM ID.OBL clothes
'I will wash clothes.'

Nanwang

Progressive	affirmative	M-Ca-V	Ca-V-aw	Ca-V-ay	Ca-V-anay
	negative	M-Ca-V	---	---	---
Imperfective	affirmative	---	---	---	---
	negative	---	---	---	---
Irrealis	affirmative	Ca-V			
	negative	Ca-V	Ca-V-i		Ca-V-an

Katripul

Progressive	affirmative	M-Ca-V	---	---	---
	negative	M-Ca-V	---	---	---
Imperfective	affirmative	---	Ca-V-aw	Ca-V-ay	Ca-V-anay
	negative	---	Ca-V-i		Ca-V-an
Irrealis	affirmative	Ca-V	---		---
	negative	Ca-V	---		---

According to Teng (2008), Nanwang Puyuma is a mood prominent language in Bhat's (1999) terminology. On the other hand, the data collected from the Katripul and Tamalakaw dialects indicate that the basic opposition in the verbal paradigm is between perfective/imperfective, not between realis/irrealis. In addition to the indicative mood, this study will touch upon those categories that appear in the non-indicative mood, where some variations are also found across different dialects. The ultimate goals of the study are: (i) to re-examine Ross's (2009) reconstruction, (ii) to determine whether Proto Puyuma was a mood prominent language (like Nanwang), or an aspectual prominent language (like Katripul), and (iii) to explain why and how the variations among the dialects had occurred.

References:

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