

Functional and descriptive analysis of complement and adverbial clauses in Nda'nda'

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This paper provides a functional and descriptive study of subordinate clauses in Nda'nda', an endangered Grassfields Bantu language spoken in the western part of Cameroon. Subordinate clauses in the language are marked by specific subordinating morphemes and can be divided into complement subordinate clauses and adverbial subordinate clauses. A complement subordinate clause serves as a complement to regular subordinating verbs such as *ɔ́op* 'say', *kpáksá* 'think', *fják* 'consider', *kàpsè* 'remember', *jú?* 'understand' with no tense restrictions with *ngá*, the subordinating morpheme, generally appearing after the main verb. As for adverbial clauses, the syntactic distribution of subordinators and their impact on the subject marker lead us to classify them under "strong complementizers" and "weak complementizers". The former have a fixed position in the sentence and triggers some phonological changes whereas the latter can either be in the middle of the sentence or at the beginning. Six types of subordinate clauses have been identified, namely, complement, time, purpose, reason, concession and manner clauses.