

## Coding coordination relations in Medumba

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Languages contrast typologically in the different strategies they use to code relations of coordination. Clause coordination relations are usually discussed under the labels conjunction, adversativity and disjunction. This article analyses how these different coordination relations are coded in the Mèdumbà language. The discussion focuses on the various types of coordination relations attested in the language, the morphosyntactic parameters used to examine these relations as well as how semantics and morphosyntax interact to express various coordination relations.

The analysis reveals that the language exhibits both syndetic and cases of asyndetic coordination. The Mèdumbà language uses overt connectives to code adversativity coordination relation (1) but does not use any marker to signal simple combination of two clauses (2).

1. Nǎná kò í ndà'djà mó kè kò í  
Nana like him but 1PS NEG like him  
'Nana like him but I don't like him'
2. Nǎná fə né tʃàŋ mó sòg ŋká  
Nana PST cook food 1PS wash dishes  
'Nana cooked the food and I washed the dishes'

Furthermore, there are strong connections between the morphosyntactic properties of a given construction and the specific type of coordinator used. This implies that the context in which coordinators are used is restricted such that while one links noun phrases only, another may link only clauses.

Moreover, from a semantic point of view, it is revealed that coordination relations in the Mèdumbà language are coded based on three parameters namely temporality, conflict and aim. Temporality pertains to the way in which the linked coordinands relate to each other.

3. Nǎná fə né tʃàŋ nʒá  
Nana PST cook food eat  
'Nana cooked food and ate'

The conflict parameter reflects the way in which the relations are perceived by the speaker.

4. Nǎmi kè tʃwéd né tʃàŋ ndà'djà kú ntàm sá  
Nami NEG PRS cook food but PROG play game  
'Nami is not cooking but (he is) playing'
5. Nǎná gýǎ yàŋbà' ndà'djà kè bú sòŋ  
Nana have car but NEG HAB drive  
'Nana has a car but is not driving'

The aim parameter has to do with the intention of the speaker in establishing the given relation.

6. bè nèn á ntán kè bè nèn á tʃwéd á  
we go FOC market or we go FOC farm QM  
'Do we go to the market or do we go to the farm?'

### References

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