

## Reflexive constructions in Ngomba

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In an edited a volume on a comparative study of reflexivity in some world languages, Janic et al (2023) have remarked that the expression of reflexivity varies across languages. Beside other world languages, few studies in the volume (Hantgan, 2023; Abdoulaye, 2023; Creissels, 2023; Treis, Witzlack-Makarevich et al, 2023; Khachaturyan, 2023) focus on African languages, with one on a Bantu language. However, there is no study on a semi-bantu language. This study analyses reflexive constructions in Ngomba (central Bamileke, Williamson & Blench 2000). The data show that reflexivity is constructed in Ngomba by the use of one of the three types of reflexivizers (Haspelmath, 2023), reflexive nominals.

Jân sé é suk mbuu yε  
Jean ASP.PROG wash body his  
'Jean is washing his body'

In all cases reported in this study, it is the syntactic argument (a noun phrase as direct object) that is used in the construction of reflexivity as Ngomba offers very little room for “unmarked autopathic verbs”.

Beside that, reflexive nominals may sometimes associate a personal pronoun to some reinforcing elements:

Maliya kɔŋ túmbuu yé  
Mary (pres.) love head-body Poss.F  
Mary loves her own self (body)

N júɔ kwa' mbuu yaa  
Pron (1<sup>st</sup>. sing) see (Pres.perf.) really body(self) poss.1<sup>st</sup> sing  
I have seen my very own self

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