Tense/aspect and verbal negation in Kendem

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Languages all over the world vary in how they mark tense/aspect and negation. In some languages such as Swahili and Akɔɔse, these notions are gramaticalised (i.e. marked by bound morphemes which constitute an integral part of the verb). Yet in others, the notions are lexicalized (i.e. marked by independent free morphemes) Mutaka & Tamanji (2000). Kendem appears to be among the many Cameroonian languages where the said notions are lexicalized. The goal of this paper is to do a descriptive analysis of tense/aspect as well as verbal negation of Kendem, a minor southern Bantiod language of the Mamfe family (Grimes 2015). The paper will prove among others that in Kendem, tense/aspect and verbal negation are marked by independent free morphemes. The write up is divided into three sections. The first deals with mainly the tense marking, the second mainly with aspect marking and the third mainly with the verbal negation. The marking system is done as a way of getting at the overt grammatical categories concerned with tense/aspect and negation employed by the language, while at the same time it will show that there is a good deal of interaction between these three marking systems thereby affirming the view of previous researchers, e.g., Bybee et al (1994) and Akumbu & Chibaka (2012), who claim that these grammatical categories are intricately linked.

References

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