

## **Serial Verb Constructions and information structure in Ɖgieməkɔʔkə**

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This article seeks to investigate the behavior of serial verbs in connection with information structural (focus, topic, relative, interrogation) as expressed in Ɖgieməkɔʔkə [ŋgiě<sup>+</sup>mó,kòʔkǎ], the autonym for the language more commonly known as Bamunka. The objective is to find out how arguments and predicates in of Serial Verbs Constructions (SVCs) undergo information structure processing (Aboh 2009), and the resulting effects on arguments. Ɖgieməkɔʔkə is a South Ring Grassfields Bantu language spoken in Ndop Central Sub-Division, Ngoketunjia Division, North-West Region of Cameroon. Data for this paper were collected through spontaneous conversations and interviews which included careful observation and direct participation in the discourse with the language consultants with an added advantage of the author being a native speaker. The study is carried out based on the structuralist theory and the Minimalist Program of Noam Chomsky (1995 and subsequent works). Findings revealed that in Ɖgieməkɔʔkə, VP focalization is effective through complete verb doubling or reduplication. Co-ordinate SVCs are used for contrastive focus. Object sharing SVCs bring focus in-situ as constructions share a single argument. Modifying SVCs use contrastive focus or in-situ focus by the help of a rising intonation. Infinitive nominals can be fronted or moved from their constituent positions to clause-initial position to give prominence through the help of nominalization. In certain cases, it can be relativized and the relativized constituent takes the subject position.