

The purpose of this paper is to provide a description of tense-aspect marking in Babanki, a Grassfields Bantu language of the Ring subgroup spoken in Western Cameroon (Akumbu and Chibaka 2012, Hyman 1980). Similar to related Grassfields Bantu languages, Babanki distinguishes numerous past (three) and future (three) tenses as well as a progressive/non-progressive aspect distinction. The various tense aspect markers are expressed through an extensive system of multiple exponence, which may involve pre- and/or post-verbal particles, prefixes and suffixes, and tone. Particularly striking is the discovery of a thorough-going conjoint-disjoint contrast similar, but more pervasive than the CJ/DJ distinctions which have been extensively documented in Narrow Bantu (van der Wal & Hyman 2017). The study is based on existing data in the Babanki Anaphora project although more data have been collected directly from native speakers.

References

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