

# Questionnaire on Tense and Aspect in African Languages

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## Introduction

This questionnaire seeks to establish a number of facts related to the encoding and interpretation of temporal relations in African languages. The specific goals of this exercise are (i) to establish if tense systems have clearly marked temporal boundaries (for example some languages mark hodiernal and hesternal past/future) and thus determine what ‘remote/distant’ and ‘near/recent’ tenses mean; (ii) to establish if (and the extent to which) the present tense is distinguished from habitual and (present) progressive aspect; (iii) to determine the extent to which the tense/aspect system is intertwined with the encoding of the ‘persistence of the effects’ or lack thereof of a past situation (see example 1 below); and (iv) to determine the flexibility in the uses of particular tenses in a language.

As you provide sentences based on the model sentence, please provide, for every example, a latinized version of the pronunciation as it might appear in works written in your language (the ‘original text’ line), and if there are no standard representations that make the pronunciation clear, please indicate to us as much as you can (in some prefatory remarks) how your transcriptions should be pronounced. If you find it best to use the phonetic alphabet, please do so, but it is not necessary as long as your instructions are clear enough.

Present each example with a morpheme breakdown as well indicating, as best you can, the distinctions between the morphemes. All morphemes within the same word should be separated by dashes and any morpheme that codes several features in an undecomposable form should distinguish the relevant elements by separation with periods. The following examples from ciNsenga are illustrative.

### Example 1 (ciNsenga, Bantu N41)

- 1a) Khuzwayo waɛnoɛlaɛ mkoɛndoɛ  
Khuzwayo w-a-nol-a mkondo  
Khuzwayo SM.C1-PST-sharpen-fv 3.spear  
‘Khuzwayo sharpened the spear’
- 1b) Khuzwayo eɛnzeɛ waɛnoɛlaɛ mkoɛndoɛ  
Khuzwayo Ø-e-nze w-a-nol-a mkondo  
SM.C1- PST-be SM.C1-PST-sharpen-fv 3.spear

‘Khuzwayo sharpened the spear’

Both sentences in Example 1 describe an event that occurred on the day of utterance (hodiernal past). The difference is that 1a) implies that the spear in question is still sharp (i.e. the effects of ‘sharpening’ persist) at the time of utterance whereas 1b) implies that the spear is no longer sharp (i.e. the effects of sharpening no longer persist) at utterance time. These interpretive distinctions are exemplary of the sorts of distinctions you will be asked to be sensitive to in answering the questions below. Please be sure to comment whenever you think it will clarify what you take the interpretation to be, and especially if the sentence is acceptable under one interpretation, but not another. If you notice something special, or you want to clarify the morphology or syntax, please comment on that as well (right below the example or set of examples in question. Finally, if a model sentence has more than one translation, be sure to provide both and please indicate, as best you can, whatever differences in meaning or conversational usage might distinguish using one translation or the other.

As the last remarks indicate, in many of the tasks that follow, you will be asked not only for a translation of a model sentence, but for judgments about the scenarios in which the sentence can be appropriately uttered. Please be sure to indicate as clearly as possible which reading for any given sentence is the one you find acceptable and if you find that some examples are more acceptable than others, please use our acceptability scale to give graded judgments, if you feel that such gradations accurately capture your intuitions. The scale is as follows:

\* Unacceptable either at all or at least under the interpretation that you have been asked about.

\*? Very marginally possible, perhaps only by comparison with an example or interpretation that is clearly \*

?? Very odd. You probably would not say this sentence this way or would not say it this way for the interpretation you have been asked about.

? Just a little off. Something not quite right about it.

OK This sounds like a natural sentence and is an appropriate sentence to use for the interpretation that you have been asked about.

**If you have any questions about how to proceed or you would like to check if you are filling in the questionnaire in the way desired, please contact me at [R.Simango@ru.ac.za](mailto:R.Simango@ru.ac.za).**

### **Questionnaire**

Translate all the sentences in this questionnaire into the specified language in accordance with the context given.

Specify the language into which you are translating here: Babanki (ISO 693-3 [bbk]), Grassfield Bantu language of North West Cameroon.

A1. The event or situation occurred today

a) Jack moulded a clay pot

ják	à	yì	bwòmá	ntònè	kàtsò?
ják	à	yì	bwóm	ø-ntòn	à kà-tsó?
Jack	SM	PST	build	c1-pot	AM C7- mud

‘Jack moulded a clay pot’

b) Mavuto went to the market

màvútò	à	yì	djè	á	éwóη
màvútò	à	yì	djè	á	è-wóη
Mavuto	SM	PST	go	PREP	C3- market

‘Mavuto went to the market’

c) Timothy insulted the man

tímótì	à	yì	tèlò	wùlím	yì
timoti	à	yì	té-ló	wù-lím	yì
Timothy	SM	PST	insult-EXT	c1-man	the

‘Timothy insulted the man’

d) Maureen closed the door

mòrín	à	yì	chì?	èchúè	ηgèη
mòrín	à	yì	chí?	è-chè	è ø-ηgèη
Maureen	SM	PST	close	c3-mouth	AM c9-house

‘Maureen closed the door’

e) Jennifer combed her hair

jènífà	à	yì	sàs	kèchú	kó	wén
jènífà	à	yì	sàs	kè-chú	kó	wén
Jennifer	SM	PST	comb	c3-head	AM 3s	

‘Jennifer combed her hair’

*It could be Jennifer’s or someone else’s hair that Jennifer combed.*

A2. The event or situation occurred yesterday (if the sentences are identical those in (A1), say ‘same as above’)

a) Jack moulded a clay pot

ják	à	tè	bwòmá	ntònè	kàtsò?
ják	à	tè	bwóm	ø-ntòn	à kà-tsó?
Jack	SM	PST	build	c1-pot	AM C7- mud

‘Jack moulded a clay pot’

- b) Mavuto went to the market  
màvútò      ə      tə      djù              á              ówónj  
màvútò      ə      tə      djù              á              ə-wónj  
Mavuto      SM      PST      go              PREP              c3- market  
‘Mavuto went to the market’
- c) Timothy insulted the man  
tímótì      ə      tə      tèlɔ́              wùlím yì  
timoti      ə      tə      té-lá              wù-lím yì  
Timothy      SM      PST      insult-EXT      c1-man the  
‘Timothy insulted the man’
- d) Maureen closed the door  
mòrín      ə      tə      chì?      əchúə              ŋgèŋ  
mòrín      ə      tə      chí?      ə-chù              ə      ø-ŋgèŋ  
Maureen      SM      PST      close      c3-mouth      AM      c9-house  
‘Maureen closed the door’
- e) Jennifer combed her hair  
jènífà      ə      tə      sàs      kəchú              kó      wén  
jènífà      ə      tə      sàs      kə-chú              kó      wén  
Jennifer      SM      PST      comb      c3-head AM      3s  
‘Jennifer combed her hair’

*It could be Jennifer’s or someone else’s hair that Jennifer combed.*

A3. The event or situation occurred two days ago (if the sentences are identical to those in (A2), say ‘same as above’) *same as above*

- a) Jack moulded a clay pot  
b) Mavuto went to the market  
c) Timothy insulted the man  
d) Maureen closed the door  
e) Jennifer combed her hair

A new. The event or situation occurred some time ago

- a) Jack moulded a clay pot  
ják      ə      mbwómí              ntònə              kətsò?  
ják      ə      m-bwóm-lí              ø-ntòn      ə      kə-tsó?  
Jack      SM      N-build-PST              c1-pot      AM      c7- mud  
‘Jack moulded a clay pot’

b) Mavuto went to the market  
 màvútò      ò      ndjâlí      á      éwónḡ  
 màvútò      ò      n-djâ-lí      á      è-wónḡ  
 Mavuto      SM      N-go-PST      PREP      c3- market  
 ‘Mavuto went to the market’

c) Timothy insulted the man  
 tímótì      ò      ntéláí      wùlím yì  
 timoti      ò      n-té-lá-lí      wù-lím yì  
 Timothy      SM      N-insult-EXT-PST      c1-man      the  
 ‘Timothy insulted the man’

d) Maureen closed the door  
 mòrín      ò      nchì?lí      èchúè      ḡḡèḡ  
 mòrín      ò      n-chí?-li      è-chè      ò      ø-ḡḡèḡ  
 Maureen      SM      N-close-PST      c3-mouth      AM      c9-house  
 ‘Maureen closed the door’

e) Jennifer combed her hair  
 jènífà      ò      nsásèlí      kèchú      kó      wén  
 jènífà      ò      n-sás-è-lí      kè-chú      kó      wén  
 Jennifer      SM      N-comb-PROG-PST      c3-head AM      3s  
 ‘Jennifer combed her hair’

*It could be Jennifer’s or someone else’s hair that Jennifer combed. The N occurs before verbs in this time frame and we are not able to give it a specific meaning. We have also included PROG in (e) for lack of insight on what the vowel really represents.*

A4. The event or situation occurs on a regular basis

a) Jack washes his own dishes  
 ják      ò      nḡ      nshèè      kánḡ      wén  
 ják      ò      nḡ      n-shè-è      è-kánḡ      á      wén  
 Jack      SM      HAB      N-wash-PROG      c8-dish AM      3s  
 ‘Jack washes his own dishes’

b) Mavuto goes to the market  
 màvútò      ò      nḡ      ndjèè      á      éwónḡ  
 màvútò ò      nḡ      n-djè-è      á      è-wónḡ  
 Mavuto      SM      HAB      N-go-PROG      PREP      c3-market  
 ‘Mavuto goes to the market’

c) Timothy likes the man  
 tímótì            è        nó        kùè            wùlím yì  
 timoti            è        nó        kòŋ-è        wù-lím yì  
 Timothy        SM     HAB     like-PROG    c1-man the  
 ‘Timothy likes the man’

d) Maureen rides a bicycle  
 mòrín            è        nó        nyíá            básókù  
 mòrín            è        nó        nyíŋ-é        ø-básókù  
 Maureen        SM     HAB     run-PROG    c1-bicycle  
 ‘Maureen rides a bicycle’

e) Jennifer writes books  
 jènífà            è        nó        nyò?è        vèŋwà?lè  
 jènífà            è        nó        nyò?-è        vè-ŋwà?lè  
 Jennifer        SM     HAB     write-PROG  c2-book  
 ‘Jennifer writes books’

A5. The event or situation is currently ongoing

a) Jack is washing his own dishes  
 ják        è        shù-è/sè shúé            káné            wén  
 ják        è        shù-è/sè shú-é        è-káné        é        wén  
 Jack     SM     wash-PROG/PROG wash-PROG c8-dish    AM        3s  
 ‘Jack is washing his own dishes’

b) Mavuto is going to the market  
 màvútò        è        djù-è/sè djúé            á        éwónŋ  
 màvútò è        djù-è/sè djú-é        á        è-wónŋ  
 Mavuto        SM     go-PROG/PROG go-PROG    PREP    c3-market  
 ‘Mavuto is going to the market’

c) Timothy is speaking to the man  
 tímótì            è        gà?à-è/sè gà?à-è        à        wùlím yì  
 tímoti            è        gà?à-è/sè gà?à-è        à        wù-lím yì  
 Timothy        SM     like-PROG/PROG speak-PROGPREP c1-man the  
 ‘Timothy is speaking to the man’

d) Maureen is riding a bicycle  
 mòrín            é        nyíá/sè nyíá            básókù

mòrín            é           nyíṅ-é/sè nyíṅ-é           ø-básókù  
 Maureen       SM       run-PROG/PROG run-PROG   c1-bicycle  
 ‘Maureen is riding a bicycle’

e) Jennifer is writing books

jènífà            è           nyò?è /sè nyò?è            vèṅwà?lè  
 jènífà            è           nyò?-è/sè nyò?-è            vè-ṅwà?lè  
 Jennifer        SM       write-PROG/PROG write-PROG   c2-book  
 ‘Jennifer is writing books’

A6. The event or situation will occur later today

a) Jack will wash his own dishes

ják     è     né     shù            ékáṅé            wén  
 ják     è     né     shù            è-káṅ            é            wén  
 Jack   SM   FUT   wash           c8-dish AM    3s  
 ‘Jack will wash his own dishes’

b) Mavuto will go to the market

màvútò           è     né     djù     á     éwóṅ  
 màvútò è     né     djù     á     è-wóṅ  
 Mavuto        SM   FUT   go     PREP   c3-market  
 ‘Mavuto will go to the market’

c) Timothy will insult the man

tímótì            è     né     téló            wùlím yì  
 timoti            è     né     té-ló            wù-lím yì  
 Timothy        SM   FUT   insult-EXT    c1-man the  
 ‘Timothy will insult the man’

d) Maureen will ride a bicycle

mòrín            é     né     nyìṅ     básókù  
 mòrín            é     né     nyíṅ     ø-básókù  
 Maureen        SM   FUT   run     c1-bicycle  
 ‘Maureen will ride a bicycle’

e) Jennifer will write books

jènífà            è     né     nyò?    vèṅwà?lè  
 jènífà            è     né     nyò?    vè-ṅwà?lè  
 Jennifer        SM   FUT   write   c2-book  
 ‘Jennifer will write books’

A7. The event or situation will occur tomorrow (if the sentences are identical to those in (A6), say ‘same as above’).

a) Jack will wash his own dishes

ják	à	lú	shè	ákájó	wén
ják	à	lú	shè	è-káj	é wén
Jack	SM	FUT	wash	c8-dish AM	3s

‘Jack will wash his own dishes’

b) Mavuto will go to the market

màvútò	à	lú	djè	á	éwój
màvútò	è	lú	djè	á	è-wój
Mavuto	SM	FUT	go	PREP	c3-market

‘Mavuto will go to the market’

c) Timothy will insult the man

tímótì	à	lú	télá	wùlím	yì
timoti	è	lú	té-lá	wù-lím	yì
Timothy	SM	FUT	insult-EXT	c1-man	the

‘Timothy will insult the man’

d) Maureen will ride a bicycle

mòrín	é	lú	nyìj	básókù
mòrín	é	lú	nyíj	ø-básókù
Maureen	SM	FUT	run	c1-bicycle

‘Maureen will ride a bicycle’

e) Jennifer will write books

jènífā	à	lú	nyò?	vèŋwà?lè
jènífā	è	lú	nyò?	vè-ŋwà?lè
Jennifer	SM	FUT	write	c2-book

‘Jennifer will write books’

A8. The event or situation will occur the day after tomorrow (if the sentences are identical to those in (A7), say ‘same as above’) **same as above**

- a) Jack will wash his own dishes
- b) Mavuto will go to the market
- c) Timothy will insult the man
- d) Maureen will ride a bicycle
- e) Jennifer will draw pictures



\* If your language has other forms of marking future time over and above those indicated in A6 – A8, please indicate and provide examples following the pattern above.

A9. The event or situation was ongoing at the said time

a) Jack was washing dishes when we arrived

ják	è	yí/tǎ	nshèé	kánj	á	ézhú	á	yès	yì/tè	zá?á
ják	è	yí/tǎ	N-shè-éè-kánj	á	è-zhú	á	yès	yì/tè	zá?á	
Jack	SM	PST	N-wash-PROG	c8-dish	PREP	c3-time	PREP	1p	PST	arrive

‘Jack was washing dishes when we arrived’

b) Mavuto was going to the market when we met him

màvútò	è	yí/tǎ	ndjàè	á	éwónj	á	ézhú	á	yès
màvútò	è	yí/tǎ	N-djà-è	á	è-wónj	á	é-zhú	á	yès
Mavuto	SM	PST	N-go-PROG	PREP	c3-market	PREP	c3-time	PREP	1p

yì/tè	bùmtè	wén
yì/tè	bùm-tè	wén
PST	meet-EXT	3s

‘Mavuto was going to the market when we met him’

c) Timothy was speaking to the man when Sam left

tímótì	è	yí/tǎ	ngà?àè	à	wùlím	yì	á	ézhú	á	sàm
timoti	è	yí/tǎ	N-gà?à-è	à	wùlím	yì	á	ézhú	á	sàm
Timothy	SM	PST	N-speak-PROG	PREP	c1-man	the	PREP	c3-time	PREP	Sam

yì/tè	lù
yì/tè	lù
PST	leave

‘Timothy was speaking to the man when Sam left’

d) Maureen was riding a bicycle when we saw her

mòrín	é	yí/tǎ	nnyíé	básókù	á	ézhú	á	yès
mòrín	é	yí/tǎ	N-nyíj-é	ø-básókù	á	ézhú	á	yès
Maureen	SM	PST	N-run-PROG	c1-bicycle	PREP	c3-time	PREP	1p

yì/tè	yèné	wén
yì/tè	yén-é	wén
PST	see-EXT	3s

‘Maureen was riding a bicycle when we saw her’

e) Jennifer was writing books before we arrived

jènífà	è	yí/tǎ	nnyò?è	vèjwà?lè	mímbú	yès	zá?á
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jènífà	è	yí/tǎ	N-nyò?-è	vè-ηwà?lè	mímbú yès	zá?á	
Jennifer	SM	PST	N-write-PROG	c2-book	before	1p	arrive

‘Jennifer was writing books before we arrived’

A10. The event or situation had just come to pass at the said time

a) Jack had just washed the dishes when we arrived

ják	è	bò	tè	shè	èkáj	è	mè	á	è-zhú	á	yès	tè
ják	è	bò	tè	shè	èkáj	è	mè	á	è-zhú	á	yès	tè
Jack	SM	just	PST	wash	c8-dish	CONJ	finish	PREP	c3-time	PREP	1p	PST

zà?á  
zá?á  
arrive

‘Jack had just washed the dishes when we arrived’

b) Mavuto had gone to the market when we left

màvútò	è	bò	yì/tè	djè	á	ówóη		á	ézhú	á	yès
màvútò	è	bò	yì/tè	djè	á	è-wóη		á	é-zhú	á	yès
Mavuto	SM	just	PST	go	PREP	c3-market		PREP	c3-time	PREP	1p

yì/tè lù  
yì/tè lù  
PST leave

‘Mavuto had gone to the market when we left’

c) Timothy had spoken to the man that morning

tímótì	è	bò	yì/tè	gà?	à	wùlím yì	á	bónghèη	ná	yì
tímoti	è	bò	yì/tè	gà?	à	wùlím yì	á	bónghèη	ná	yì
Timothy	SM	just	PST	speak	PREP	c1-man the	PREP	morning	PREP	that

‘Timothy had spoken to the man that morning’

d) Maureen had ridden a bicycle for three months

mòrín	é	nnyíηli	básókù	á	vèsàη	vótá?
mòrín	é	n-nyíη-li	ø-básókù	á	vè-sàη	vè-tá?
Maureen	SM	N-run-PST	c1-bicycle	PREP	c2-month	c2-three

‘Maureen had ridden a bicycle for three months’

e) Jennifer had written books before we arrived

jènífà	è	bò	yì/tè	nyò?	vèηwà?lè	mè	yès	mè	zá?á
jènífà	è	bò	yì/tè	nyò?	vè-ηwà?lè	mè	yès	mè	zá?á
Jennifer	SM	just	PST	write	c2-book	finish	1p	then	arrive

‘Jennifer had written books before we arrived’

A11. The event or situation will be ongoing at the said time

a) Jack will be washing his dishes when we arrive home

ják è né nshúà káŋ è wén á è-zhú á yèsó né  
 ják è né n-shú-è è-káŋ è wén á è-zhú á yèsó né  
 Jack SM FUT N-wash-PROG c8-dish AM 3s PREP c3-time PREP 1p FUT  
 zà?á á échúŋgèŋ  
 zá?á á é-chúŋgèŋ  
 arrive PREP c3-home

‘Jack will be washing his dishes when we arrive home’

b) Mavuto will be going to the market in the morning

màvútò è né ndjúà á éwóŋ á bóŋgèŋ  
 màvútò è né n-djú-è á éwóŋ á bóŋgèŋ  
 Mavuto SM FUT N-go-PROG PREP c3-market PREP morning

‘Mavuto will be going to the market in the morning’

c) Timothy will be speaking to the man starting tomorrow

tímótì è lú ŋgà?è à wùlím yì zítè fá bóŋgèŋ  
 tímótì è lú ŋ-gà?-è à wùlím yì zítè fá bóŋgèŋ  
 Timothy SM FUT N-speak-PROG PREP c1-man the start PREP morning

‘Timothy will be speaking to the man starting tomorrow’

d) Maureen will be riding a bicycle from next week

mòrín é lú nnyíé básókù zítè fá ŋgàm  
 mòrín é lú n-nyíŋ-é ø-básókù zítè fá ø-ŋgàm  
 Maureen SM FUT N-run-PROG c1-bicycle start PREP c9-week

‘Maureen will be riding a bicycle from next week’

e) Jennifer will be writing books until you return

jènífà è né nnyò?è vèŋwà?lè zá?ú fá è-zhú á wù  
 jènífà è né n-nyò?-è vè-ŋwà?lè zá?ú fá è-zhú á wù  
 Jennifer SM FUT N-write-PROG c2-book arrive PREP c3-time PREP 2s  
 á bwìn  
 PREP return

‘Jennifer will be writing books until you return’

B1. The event or situation occurred today (assume the information in brackets to be true at the time of speaking).

a) Jack moulded a clay pot (*The pot still exists*)

ják	è	yì	bwòmá	ntònè		kàtsó?
ják	è	yì	bwóm	ø-ntòn	è	kà-tsó?
Jack	SM	PST	build	c1-pot	AM	C7- mud

‘Jack moulded a clay pot (*The pot still exists*)’

b) Mavuto went to the market (*Mavuto is at the market*)

màvútò	è	yì	djè	á		éwóη
màvútò	è	yì	djè	á		è-wóη
Mavuto	SM	PST	go	PREP		C3- market

‘Mavuto went to the market (*Mavuto is at the market*)’

c) Timothy insulted the man (*The man is angry*)

tímótì	è	yì	tèlós	wùlím	yì	
timoti	è	yì	té-lós	wù-lím	yì	
Timothy	SM	PST	insult-EXT	c1-man	the	

‘Timothy insulted the man (*The man is angry*)’

d) Maureen closed the door (*The door is closed*)

mòrín	è	yì	chì?	èchúè		ηgèη
mòrín	è	yì	chí?	è-chè	è	ø-ηgèη
Maureen	SM	PST	close	c3-mouth	AM	c9-house

‘Maureen closed the door (*The door is closed*)’

e) Jennifer combed her hair (*The hair looks kempt*)

jènífà	è	yì	sàs	kèchú	kó	wén
jènífà	è	yì	sàs	kè-chú	kó	wén
Jennifer	SM	PST	comb	c3-head	AM	3s

‘Jennifer combed her hair (*The hair looks kempt*)’

B2. The event or situation occurred today (assume the information in brackets to be true at the time of speaking. Note: if the sentences are identical to those in (B1), say ‘same as above’).

a) Jack moulded a clay pot (*The pot is broken*)

ják	è	yí	bwòmá	ntònè		kàtsó?
ják	è	yì	bwóm	ø-ntòn	è	kà-tsó?
Jack	SM	PST	build	c1-pot	AM	C7- mud

‘Jack moulded a clay pot (*The pot is broken*)’

b) Mavuto went to the market (*Mavuto has since returned from the market or gone to another place*)

màvútò	è	yí	djè	á		éwóη
màvútò	è	yì	djè	á		è-wóη

Mavuto SM PST go PREP C3- market  
 ‘Mavuto went to the market (*Mavuto has since returned from the market or gone to another place*)’

c) Timothy insulted the man (*Timothy has since apologized and the man has forgiven him*)

tímótì ò yí tɛ̀lɔ̀ wùlím yì

timoti ò yì tɛ̀-lɔ̀ wù-lím yì

Timothy SM PST insult-EXT c1-man the

‘Timothy insulted the man (*Timothy has since apologized and the man has forgiven him*)’

d) Maureen closed the door (*The door is open*)

mòrín ò yí chí? èchúè ɲgèŋ

mòrín ò yì chí? è-chè è ø-ɲgèŋ

Maureen SM PST close c3-mouth AM c9-house

‘Maureen closed the door (*The door is open*)’

e) Jennifer combed her hair (*The hair looks dishevelled*)

jènífà ò yí sàs kèchú ká wén

jènífà ò yì sàs kè-chú ká wén

Jennifer SM PST comb c3-headAM 3s

‘Jennifer combed her hair (*The hair looks dishevelled*)’

B3. The event or situation occurred yesterday (assume the information in brackets is true at the time of speaking. Note: if the sentences are identical to those in (B1/B2), say ‘same as above’).

a) Jack moulded a clay pot (*The pot still exists*)

ják ò tɛ̀ bwòmá ntònè kètsó?

ják ò tɛ̀ bwóm ø-ntòn è kè-tsó?

Jack SM PST build c1-pot AM C7- mud

‘Jack moulded a clay pot (*The pot still exists*)’

b) Mavuto went to the market (*Mavuto is at the market*)

màvútò ò tɛ̀ djè á éwón

màvútò ò tɛ̀ djè á è-wón

Mavuto SM PST go PREP C3- market

‘Mavuto went to the market (*Mavuto is at the market*)’

c) Timothy insulted the man (*The man is angry*)

tímótì ò tɛ̀ tɛ̀lɔ̀ wùlím yì

timoti ò tɛ̀ tɛ̀lɔ̀ wù-lím yì

Timothy SM PST insult-EXT c1-man the  
 ‘Timothy insulted the man (*The man is angry*)’

d) Maureen closed the door (*The door is closed*)

mòrín à t̃ chĩ? àchúà ηg̃èη  
 mòrín à t̃ chí? à-chù à ø-ηg̃èη  
 Maureen SM PST close c3-mouth AM c9-house  
 ‘Maureen closed the door (*The door is closed*)’

e) Jennifer combed her hair (*The hair looks kempt*)

jènífà à t̃ sàs k̃chú ká wén  
 jènífà à t̃ sàs k̃-chú ká wén  
 Jennifer SM PST comb c3-head AM 3s  
 ‘Jennifer combed her hair (*The hair looks kempt*)’

B4. The event or situation occurred yesterday (assume the information in brackets is true at the time of speaking. Note: if the sentences are same those in (B3), say ‘same as above’)

a) Jack moulded a clay pot (*The pot is broken*)

ják à t̃ bwòmá nt̃ñ k̃tsò?  
 ják à t̃ bwóm ø-nt̃ñ à k̃-tsó?  
 Jack SM PST build c1-pot AM c7- mud  
 ‘Jack moulded a clay pot (*The pot still broken*)’

b) Mavuto went to the market (*Mavuto has returned from the market or gone to another place*).

màvútò à t̃ dj̃ á ówój  
 màvútò à t̃ dj̃ á è-wój  
 Mavuto SM PST go PREP C3- market  
 ‘Mavuto went to the market (*Mavuto has returned from the market or gone to another place*)’

c) Timothy insulted the man (*Timothy has since apologized and the man has forgiven him*)

tímótì à t̃ t̃l̃ wùlím yì  
 timoti à t̃ té-l̃ wù-lím yì  
 Timothy SM PST insult-EXT c1-man the

d) ‘Timothy insulted the man (*Timothy has since apologized and the man has forgiven him*)’

e) Maureen closed the door (*The door is open*)

mòrín à t̃ chí? àchúà ηg̃èη  
 mòrín à t̃ chí? à-chù à ø-ηg̃èη

Maureen SM PST close c3-mouth AM c9-house  
 ‘Maureen closed the door (*The door is open*)’

f) Jennifer combed her hair (*The hair looks dishevelled*)

jènífà            è       tê       sàs       kèchú       kó       wén  
 jènífà            è       tè       sàs       kè-chú       kó       wén  
 Jennifer SM PST comb c3-head AM 3s  
 ‘Jennifer combed her hair (*The hair looks dishevelled*)’

B5. The event or situation occurred the day before yesterday (assume the information in brackets is true at the time of speaking. Note: if the sentences are identical to those in B3/B4, say ‘same as above’). *same as above*

- a) Jack moulded a clay pot (*the pot still exists*)
- b) Mavuto went to the market (*Mavuto is at the market*)
- c) Timothy insulted the man (*The man is angry*)
- d) Maureen closed the door (*The door is closed*)
- e) Jennifer combed her hair (*The hair looks kempt*)

B6. The event or situation occurred the day before yesterday (assume the information in brackets is true at the time of speaking. Note: if the sentences are identical to those in B3/B4, say ‘same as above’). *same as above*

- a) Jack moulded a clay pot (*the pot is broken*)
- b) Mavuto went to the market (*Mavuto has returned from the market or gone to another place*)
- c) Timothy insulted the man (*Timothy has since apologized and the man has forgiven him*)
- d) Maureen closed the door (*The door is open*)
- e) Jennifer combed her hair (*The hair is dishevelled*)

\* If your language has other forms of marking past situations over and above those indicated in B1 – B6, please indicate and provide examples following the pattern above.

**If the event took place some time ago it is the same as in ‘A new’ above.**

C1. Using the same verb forms you chose for A1 state if it is possible to say that the event took place yesterday or the day before yesterday. **No, it is not possible. One has to use tè for past.**

- a) Jack moulded a clay pot yesterday/the day before yesterday
- |      |    |     |       |         |         |      |       |          |                     |
|------|----|-----|-------|---------|---------|------|-------|----------|---------------------|
| ják  | è  | tè  | bwòmá | ntònè   | kètsòʔ  | zón/ | zòn é | tsén     | yì                  |
| ják  | è  | tè  | bwóm  | ø-ntònè | kè-tsóʔ | zón/ | zòn é | tsén     | yì                  |
| Jack | SM | PST | build | c1-pot  | AM      | C7-  | mud   | yestday/ | yesday AM other the |

‘Jack moulded a clay pot yesterday/the day before yesterday’

b) Mavuto went to the market yesterday/the day before yesterday

màvútò	è	tè	djè	á	éwónj	zón/	zòn	é	tsén	yì
màvútò	è	tè	djè	á	è-wónj	zón/	zòn	é	tsén	yì
Mavuto	SM	PST	go	PREP	C3- market	yesday/	yesday	AM	other	the

‘Mavuto went to the market yesterday/the day before yesterday’

c) Timothy insulted the man yesterday/the day before yesterday

tímótì	è	tè	tèlá		wùlím yì	zón/	zòn	é	tsén	yì
tímoti	è	tè	té-lá		wù-lím yì	zón/	zòn	é	tsén	yì
Timothy	SM	PST	insult-EXT		c1-man the	yesday/	yesday	AM	other	the

‘Timothy insulted the man yesterday/the day before yesterday’

d) Maureen closed the door yesterday/the day before yesterday

mòrín	è	tè	chì?	èchúè		ngèŋ	zón/	zòn	é	tsén	yì
mòrín	è	tè	chí?	è-chè	è	ø-ŋgèŋ	zón/	zòn	é	tsén	yì
Maureen	SM	PST	close	c3-mouth	AM	c9-house	yesday/	yesday	AM	other	the

‘Maureen closed the door yesterday/the day before yesterday’

e) Jennifer combed her hair yesterday/the day before yesterday

jènífà	è	tè	sàs	kèchú	ké	wén	zón/	zòn	é	tsén	yì
jènífà	è	tè	sàs	kè-chú	ké	wén	zón/	zòn	é	tsén	yì
Jennifer	SM	PST	comb	c3-head	AM	3s	yesday/	yesday	AM	other	the

a) ‘Jennifer combed her hair yesterday/the day before yesterday’

C2. Using the same verb forms you chose for A2 and A3 state if it is possible to say that the event took place today. **No, it is not possible. One has to use yì for past.**

a) Jack moulded a clay pot today

ják	è	yì	bwòmá		ntònè		kètsò?		lán
ják	è	yì	bwóm		ø-ntòn	è	kè-tsó?		lán
Jack	SM	PST	build		c1-pot	AM	C7- mud		today

‘Jack moulded a clay pot today’

b) Mavuto went to the market today

màvútò	è	yì	djè	á		éwónj		lán
màvútò	è	yì	djè	á		è-wónj		lán
Mavuto	SM	PST	go	PREP		C3- market		today

‘Mavuto went to the market today’



- c) Timothy insulted the man today  
 tímótì            è       yì       tèlḗ                   wùlím yì       lán  
 timoti            è       yì       té-lḗ                   wù-lím yì       lán  
 Timothy         SM     PST   insult-EXT     c1-man         the       today  
 ‘Timothy insulted the man today’
- d) Maureen closed the door today  
 mòrín            è       yì       chì?    èchúè            ngèṅ            lán  
 mòrín            è       yì       chí?    è-chè        è    ø-ṅgèṅ            lán  
 Maureen         SM     PST   close   c3-mouth AM   c9-house         today  
 ‘Maureen closed the door today’
- e) Jennifer combed her hair today  
 jènífā            è       yì       sàs     kèchú            kḗ       wén       lán  
 jènífā            è       yì       sàs     kè-chú            kḗ       wén       lán  
 Jennifer         SM     PST   comb   c3-headAM     3s       today  
 ‘Jennifer combed her hair today’

C3. Using the same verb forms you chose for A6 state if it is possible to say that the event will occur tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week. **No, it is not possible. One has to use lú**

- a) Jack will wash his own dishes tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week  
 ják    è       lú       shè    ékáṅḗ            wén    á       bḗṅgèṅ/ḗ       chò  
 ják    è       lú       shè    è-káṅ ḗ       wén    á       bḗṅgèṅ/       ḗ       chò  
 Jack   SM     FUT   wash   c8-dish AM     3s     PREP   tomorrow/     PREP   pass  
 á       bḗṅgèṅ/á       ṅgàm  
 á       bḗṅgèṅ/       á       ṅgàm  
 PREP   tomorrow/     PREP   week  
 ‘Jack will wash his own dishes tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week’

- b) Mavuto will go to the market tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week  
 màvútò   è       lú       djè    á       ḗwḗṅ            á       bḗṅgèṅ/ḗ       chò  
 màvútò   è       lú       djè    á       è-wḗṅ            á       bḗṅgèṅ/       ḗ       chò  
 Mavuto   SM     FUT   go     PREP   c3-market     PREP   tomorrow/     PREP   pass  
 á       bḗṅgèṅ/á       ṅgàm  
 á       bḗṅgèṅ/       á       ṅgàm  
 PREP   tomorrow/     PREP   week  
 ‘Mavuto will go to the market tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week’

- c) Timothy will insult the man tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week  
 tímótì            è       lú       télḗ                   wùlím yì       á       bḗṅgèṅ/ḗ       chò

timoti	à	lú	té-lá	wù-lím yì	á	bónḡḡḡ/	ó	chò
Timothy	SM	FUT	insult-EXT	c1-man the	PREP	tomorrow/	PREP	pass
á	bónḡḡḡ/á	ḡḡám						
á	bónḡḡḡ/	á	ḡḡám					
PREP	tomorrow/	PREP	week					

‘Timothy will insult the man tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week’

d) Maureen will ride a bicycle tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week

mòrín	ó	lú	nyḡḡ	básókù	á	bónḡḡḡ/ó	chò	
mòrín	ó	lú	nyḡḡ	ø-básókù	á	bónḡḡḡ/	ó	chò
Maureen	SM	FUT	run	c1-bicycle	PREP	tomorrow/	PREP	pass
á	bónḡḡḡ/á	ḡḡám						
á	bónḡḡḡ/	á	ḡḡám					
PREP	tomorrow/	PREP	week					

‘Maureen will ride a bicycle tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week’

e) Jennifer will write books tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week

jènífà	à	lú	nyòʔ	vḡḡwàʔlè	á	bónḡḡḡ/ó	chò	
jènífà	à	lú	nyòʔ	vḡ-ḡwàʔlè	á	bónḡḡḡ/	ó	chò
Jennifer	SM	FUT	write	c2-book	PREP	tomorrow/	PREP	pass
á	bónḡḡḡ/á	ḡḡám						
á	bónḡḡḡ/	á	ḡḡám					
PREP	tomorrow/	PREP	week					

‘Jennifer will write books tomorrow/the day after tomorrow/next week’

C4. Using the same verb forms you chose for A7 state if it is possible to say that the events will take place today and translate each sentence with the intended meaning in mind.

a) Jack will wash his own dishes today

ják	à	né	shḡ	ókáḡ		wén	lán
ják	à	né	shḡ	à-káḡ	ó	wén	lán
Jack	SM	FUT	wash	c8-dish AM	3s	today	

‘Jack will wash his own dishes today’

b) Mavuto will go to the market today

màvútò	à	né	djḡ	á	ówóḡ	lán	
màvútò	à	né	djḡ	á	è-wóḡ	lán	
Mavuto	SM	FUT	go	PREP	c3-market	today	

‘Mavuto will go to the market today’

c) Timothy will insult the man today

tímótì	à	né	téló	wùlím yì	lán
timoti	à	né	té-ló	wù-lím yì	lán
Timothy	SM	FUT	insult-EXT	c1-man the	today

‘Timothy will insult the man today’

d) Maureen will ride a bicycle today

mòrín	é	né	nyìŋ	básókù	lán
mòrín	é	né	nyíŋ	ø-básókù	lán
Maureen	SM	FUT	run	c1-bicycle	today

‘Maureen will ride a bicycle today’

e) Jennifer will write books today

jènífà	à	né	nyòʔ	vèŋwàʔlè	lán
jènífà	à	né	nyòʔ	vè-ŋwàʔlè	lán
Jennifer	SM	FUT	write	c2-book	today

‘Jennifer will write books today’