Spatial terms inǂHoan
EuroBABEL

Better Analyses Based on Endangered Languages (EuroBABEL)

- EUROCORES program of the European Science Foundation (ESF)
- main purpose: promote empirical research on underdescribed endangered languages
- aims at refining ideas about linguistic structure and about language in relation to cognition, social and cultural organization and related issues
- trans- and multi-disciplinary perspective
Content

• lexical sources and grammatical constructions of spatial concepts

• some examples of spatial constructions in the related language Ju & the neighboring languages Taa and Gǀui

• talk is mainly based on Heine, Claudi & Hünnemeyer (1991)
Hoan language & language area

- moribund language: approx. 50 speakers most of them between 60 and 70 years old
- spoken in southern Botswana at the fringe of the Kalahari desert
- in the area better known as n!aqriaxe or aqriaxe meaning ‘what is it?’; not sure if endonym or exonym
Introduction

Classification

• first reported by Traill (1973), was associated to either Southern or Northern Khoisan (Traill 1973, 1974 and Westphal 1974)

•ǂHoan was assumed to be an isolate or at least genealogically not yet assigned language (Güldemann & Vossen 2000)

•Heine and Honken (2010) affiliated it to Ju; established the ‘Kx’a language family’ covering Ju (called !Xun L-complex by Heine & König, e.g. 2004) and ǂHoan; kx’a(a) is a shared lexeme meaning ‘earth, ground, soil’
Sources of spatial terms

- according to Heine, Claudi & Hünnefelder (1991), there are three different lexical sources for spatial terms:
  - body parts
  - landmarks
  - “relational concepts”

if sufficient historical information is available, “relational concepts” can be shown to derive from body parts or landmarks (Heine, Claudi & Hünnefelder 1991: 125)
Sources of spatial terms in ǂHoan

- in ǂHoan, we have spatial terms derived from all three sources:
  - body parts 8
  - landmarks 2
  - relational concepts 6
Lexical sources

Examples

(1) kì nǂūùn nā
   OBL middle inside > nǂūùn ‘breast, milk’
   ‘in the middle’
   (narrative)

(2) ārīzààn n/áá ā kì !òà sì !"áé nā
   man sit PRF OBL house POSS ground inside
   ‘The man is sitting on the ground of the house (meaning “outside”).’
   (elicited)

(3) dyāq’āqmsì ts’aān ā kì àm sì //"àm
   child sleep PRF OBL 1SG.POSS POSS top
   ‘The child is lying on top of me.’
   (elicited)
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**Lexical sources**

- body parts
- landmarks
- relational concepts
Lexical sources

Competing sources 1

- not infrequently, competing sources for one and the same spatial concept (H, C & H 1991:129), e.g. ‘on’ derived from body part and relational concept

(4) #híbí /hàà n/áá ā kì /"óón ts'ūnē
dove ? sit PRF OBL tree body
‘The dove is sitting on the tree.’

(5) #híbí /hàà n/áá ā kì /"óón sì /"àm
dove ? sit PRF OBL tree POSS top
‘The dove is sitting on the tree.’
(elicited)
Lexical sources

Competing sources 2

• ‘in front of’ derived from $m\Theta d\check{a}$ ‘face (n)’ and $n\equiv h\check{h}a\check{a}$ ‘face (v)’

(6) $dy\check{a}q'\check{a}qm \ /\check{a} \ n/\check{a}\check{\check{a}} \ \check{\check{a}} \ k\check{\check{a}} \ l\check{\check{a}} \ m\Theta d\check{a} \ n\check{a}$
child DIM.PL sit PRF OBL house front inside
‘The children are sitting in front of the house.’
(elicited)

(7) $g\check{\check{o}}m\check{e} \ y\check{a} \ ty\check{\check{a}}q\check{\check{a}} \ k\check{\check{a}} \ \check{a}r\check{\check{\check{r}}}z\check{\check{z}}\check{\check{\check{a}}}n \ s\check{\check{\check{\check{s}}}} \ n\equiv h\check{\check{h}}\check{\check{a}}\check{\check{a}}$
cow PROG walk OBL man POSS front
‘The cow is walking in front of the man.’
(elicited)
Example body parts inǂHoan

• some typical grammaticalizations (Heine & Kuteva 2002):
  – buttocks > bottom, down
  – back > behind, at the back
  – face > in front of

• some more ‘unusual’ ones:
  – breast > middle (usually ‘body’)
  – cheek > next to
  – face (v) > in front of (usually ‘face (n)’)
  – body > on

(Heine & Kuteva 2002)
Heine, Claudi & Hünnemeyer (1991) suggest that derivation of spatial terms from body parts follows an implicational scale:

\[
\text{UNDER} \rightarrow \text{ON, IN} \rightarrow \text{FRONT} \rightarrow \text{BACK}
\]

In Hoan:

\[
\breve{a}a \rightarrow n\breve{a}(\breve{a}) \rightarrow n\breve{h}\breve{h}\breve{a}\breve{a} \rightarrow g\breve{e}\breve{i} m\breve{\Theta}\breve{\breve{a}}
\]
Spatial constructions 1

- spatial concepts are expressed using a possessive construction; the spatial term is the head of the construction (possessive constructions inǂHoa are head-final!)
- they are introduced by the oblique marker $kì$

\[ (8) \ ʘóán \ ǃūī \ ā \ kì \ kààtàbòksì \ ǃqhānē \]
tortoise stand PRF OBL box next_to

‘The tortoise was standing next to the box.’
(frog story)
Spatial constructions 2

• some spatial concepts are expressed using a possessive construction in which the head is nā ‘inside’

(9) kà g‡èì nā
OBL:3SG back inside
‘behind him’
(frog story)

(10) tyàm̄à /"ānā nā
dog top inside
‘on the top of the dog’
(frog story)
### Source and construction - overview

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*Source and construction - overview*
Verb-based spatial terms 1

• further source for spatial terms: verb
• according to Heine, Claudi & Hünnefelder (1991: 140ff.):
  – verb-based spatial terms ("V-adpositions") can co-occur with noun-based spatial terms ("N-adpositions"); occur in mutually exclusive environments
  – noun-based spatial terms tend to express "static" locations (under, on, etc.) while the verb-based ones express direction (source, goal, path)
  – class of verb-based spatial terms is highly limited (often only one)
  – verb-based spatial terms appear to have different lexical sources than noun-base ones
Verb-based spatial terms 2

- in ǂHoan, one example of a verb-based spatial term: *nǂhhaáá* ‘in front of’ < ‘to face’
- used in a benefactive SVC

(11) *yà nǂhhaáá súú ā tsiì*  
3SG face(v) BEN PRF 3PL  
‘He is (i.e. walking) in front of them.’ (frog story)  
*súú = ‘give’*

- implies motion although no motion verb is used
Construction types

Verb-based spatial terms 3

• benefactives are introduced by the verb *súú* ‘give’ as $V_2$ in SVC

(12)  
\[
\begin{array}{l}
\text{tsì} \quad \text{dyéé} \quad \text{qà} \quad \text{tsà} \quad /\ddot{\text{a}}\ddot{\text{á}} \quad \text{súú} \quad \text{èbè} \quad \text{qà} \\
3\text{PL} \quad \text{mother} \quad \text{PL} \quad \text{PST} \quad \text{grind} \quad \text{BEN} \quad \text{kgal.person} \quad \text{PL}
\end{array}
\]

‘[...] their mothers were grinding for the Kgalagadi people’
(narrative)

(13)  
\[
\begin{array}{l}
\text{ỳà} \quad \text{nỳháá} \quad \text{súú} \quad \ddot{\text{á}} \quad \text{tsì} \\
3\text{SG} \quad \text{face(v)} \quad \text{BEN} \quad \text{PRF} \quad 3\text{PL}
\end{array}
\]

‘He is (i.e. walking) in front of them.’
(frog story)
Construction types

Competing constructions: ‘in front of’

– verb-based spatial term in benefactive SVC

(14) gōmè  nǂhháá  súú  ā  ārīzààn
    cow  face(v)  BEN  PRF  man

‘The cow is walking in front of the man.’
(elicited)

– as a ‘noun’ in possessive construction

(15) gōmè  yà  tyāqò  kì  ārīzààn  sì  nǂhháá
    cow  PROG  walk  OBL  man  POSS  front

‘The cow is walking in front of the man.’
(lit.: ‘The cow is walking in the facing of the man.’)
(elicited)
Further example SVC

• SVC ‘climb sit’ lexicalized as spatial term ‘sit on’

(16) hànsínāsì kím_kì Ḭābō n/áá ā sètūlò
boy DEM climb sit PRF chair
‘[...] this boy is sitting on a chair.’
(frog story)

(17) ṭônù Ḭābō ām mOuíūn
fly climb 1SG.POSS head
‘The fly is sitting on my head.’
(elicited)
Spatial terminology Ju

Construction types & sources Ju 1

- Ju ‘postpositions’ seem to be possessive constructions (like in ǂHoan)
- generally two construction types:
  - spatial term is the head of a putative possessive construction
  - spatial term in a putative possessive construction headed by ŋ!ŋ̄/ń!ń̄ ‘inside’
- in Ju, like in ǂHoan, some spatial terms are derived from body parts

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<td>‘behind’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!x’ā</td>
<td>‘in (the midst of)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘back (n)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘heart’</td>
</tr>
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(Heine & König ms: 223)
Construction types & sources Ju 2

- possessive construction headed by body part term

(18) /’ú -ā ∥xōē g∥ú !x’ā
put_somewhere -relation.2SG tail water heart
‘Put your tail in the water.’
(König & Heine 2001: 172)

- possessive construction consisting of body part term, headed by ŋ!ŋ!/ń!ń ‘inside’

(19) g/à’à ŋ!ŋ!/ń!ń (20) ∥hà ŋ!ŋ!/ń!ń (21) !’ó n!ń
eye inside scalp inside back inside
‘in front’ ‘on top of, on, above’ ‘in the back’
(N1, W2, E1) (N1, W2, (C1, E1)) (E1)
Construction types & sources Ju 3

- Ju also employs relational concepts

<table>
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<td><em>dan</em> ‘behind, under’</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!aan ‘in front’</td>
<td>*</td>
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- some relational concepts occur in constructions headed by *n!ŋ/ń!ŋ* ‘inside’

(22) *n!dâqlâ-câ* *ń!ŋ* inside ‘under’ (W2)
(23) *ñàbâ(tá)* *n!ŋ* inside ‘under’ (E1)

(Heine & König ms: 223)
Construction types & sources ǂHoan

- ǂHoan has spatial terms derived from all three sources (body parts, landmarks and “relational concepts”) with body parts constituting the biggest group.
- Spatial concepts are most frequently expressed by possessive constructions of which they are the head; some spatial terms always occur in a construction headed by the spatial $nā$ ‘inside’.
- There are frequently two terms for the same concept originating from different sources or differing in the construction it is used in (e.g. with or without $nā$).
Verb-based spatial terms in ǂHoan

• ǂHoan has one spatial term which is verb-based (nǂhháá ‘in front of’ < ‘to face’)

• it conforms to a great extent with the characteristics described by Heine, Claudi & Hünnemeyer (1991), e.g. implying motion, limited class

• it was observed that the verb-based spatial term can also be used like a noun in a possessive construction
Construction types & sources Ju

- Ju constructions expressing spatial concepts are generally similar toǂHoan
  - lexical sources: body parts, landmarks and relational concepts
  - construction types: possessive constructions either headed by the spatial term or headed by ŋ!ŋ/ń!ń ‘inside’

- no example for a verb-based spatial term could be found
Hoan and Ju

• although structurally similar, the ‘unusual’ grammaticalization paths for the spatial terms differ in Hoan and Ju,

• e.g. Hoan: middle < breast
  Ju: in (the midst of) < heart

while both languages follow cross-linguistically typical grammaticalization paths for other spatial terms, e.g.

Hoan/Ju: behind < back
  front < face
Conclusion – Areal remarks

Lexical Sources Taa and Gǀui

• both languages seem to follow the cross-linguistically typical grammaticalization paths for spatial terms like ‘behind’ and ‘front’; no data available for the unusual grammaticalization paths

• it has to be investigated whether the construction types as well as some cross-linguistically unusual grammaticalization paths are widely spread in the area
Constructions Taa and Gǀui

- no sufficient data available on the construction types in the neighboring languages Taa and Gǀui

(24) Example Taa (Lone tree !Xõo variety)

ké 'Onà.je /nà.n
MPO:3 tree.32 head.22
‘on top of the tree’
(Güldemann ms: 6)

(25) Example †ǀXam, related to Taa

!uirí //ai'e
riverbed inside
‘in the riverbed’
(Güldemann ms: 18)

→ construction types of Tuu and Ju-ǂHoan seem to be similar
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