

C3: Sentence types and modality in African languages

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To this day, the number of syntax- and discourse-oriented studies of African languages is very limited. It therefore seems to be useful to gain a new insight into sentence types and the typology of clause types by linking descriptive and theory oriented approaches. Information about the construction of certain sentence types can be obtained through the analysis and interpretation of glossed language data and recourse to a comprehensive data bank (on a small group of Khoisan languages). Documentary deficits, however, need to be made up by research initiatives in the field.

The following topics are envisaged:

- A descriptive-typological study of subjunctives in the context of mood and modality.
- The interaction of focus and sentence type in African languages.
- A systematic-typological treatment of interrogative sentences and clauses.