

## Remarks on the syntax of reported speech in Baule

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### Abstract

In this talk, I provide some elementary notes on reported speech in Baule, a Kwa language from Côte d'Ivoire, which allows a form of indirect speech together with more usual direct style. This language also have two main class of introducing elements: “embedding verbs” + verb of saying/intention: *wà*.

This talk aims at focussing on the two aspects of the syntax of reported speech in Baule. On the one hand, I will discuss the relation between the matrix clause and the reported segment, which, besides of being similar to other so-called embedded clauses, have some differences in position which is more important than we can expect. On the other hand, I will discuss the syntax of *wà*, a polysemic verb that can be used as a verb of saying or intention, which exhibits a peculiar syntax with respect to the other verbs in that it takes as subject the 3<sup>rd</sup> person object pronoun instead of the subject pronoun.

The analyses presented in this communication is based on data from original fieldwork (transcription of about 15 storyboards) and transcription of two oral texts (drawn from Creissels & Kouadio 1977).