Reported Speech in Viemon: unique pronoun usage

Susan Locklin

Logophoric pronouns are common across languages of West Africa and are used to differentiate the reported speaker from other participants in reported speech (Hagège 1974, Nikitina 2012, *inter alia*). They are often used in a form of reported speech commonly called *indirect* and in many languages focus pronouns are re-employed logophorically.

This common African paradigm is inadequate to describe Viemon [vig], an understudied peripheral Gur language of Burkina Faso (Williamson & Blench 2000). New data that I gathered, based on a corpus of sixteen narrative texts, shows that Viemon has three types of reported speech. Based on the pronouns, two of these types can be called *direct* and *indirect;* both use the normal set of pronouns of the language (see examples 1 and 2, respectively). However, the most common type of reported speech uses focus pronouns for all pronouns within the reported speech utterance (see example 3). Thus, the pronouns are not used to differentiate the reported speaker from other participants, but they are instead used to differentiate reported speech from non-reported speech in an overall discourse. As such, the term *logophoric pronoun* is inadequate to refer to these pronouns, though I have not yet discovered a term that better describes them; I have also not yet found a helpful term for this third type of reported speech, which I am currently calling the *ya type*, after the third person singular focus pronoun which appears extensively in this type of reported speech in Viemon.

This presentation looks at the use of pronouns within these three types of reported speech in Viemon. Time permitting, it will also touch on other aspects of its reported speech, including negation.

The data presented in this presentation is of interest to those studying Gur languages or reported speech, as such data on Viemon has never before been presented and this particular kind of tripartite distinction in Viemon reported speech is rare cross-linguistically.

(1) *Mĩ* *wù* *'bifɛyo* *vãrã* *[aa!* *vɛɛ* ***yi*** *beye*
  1s go.for.intention ask.INCPL-3s also INTERJ $rain_i$ $3s_i$ come.CPL

  lɔ *lɛ̃ɛ̃ki* *fɛ̃ɛ̃ki* *ki* *cere* ***ãvi*** *baarɛ* *wa?]*
  SUBORD crack new 3s.NEG come_out.CPL **2s.POSS** maison-LOC Q
  'I went to ask them also, "Ah! Since the rain came, did a new crack appear in your house?'
                                                                                                 Asuwurɔ:10

(2) *Yi* *'pee* *[yi* *'bɛɛ.]*
  $3s_i$ say.INCPL $3s_i$ come.INCPL
  'He$_i$ says he$_i$ comes.'   Asidã:22

(3) *Yi* *pee* *['watiwuyɛ* *'mũɔ̃mbuɔbi* ***ba***
  $3s_i$ say.CPL moment-certain.IND $sickness\text{-}certain.IND_j$ **3s.FOC(cl. bi)$_j$**

  ya *viri,* *mũɔ̃mbi* ***ba*** *damĩnĩ* *gbõmbe.]*
  3s.FOC$_i$ catch.CPL sickness.DEF **3s.FOC(cl. bi)$_j$** become_difficult.CPL a_little
  'She said that a certain sickness caught her at a certain time, and it was a bit difficult.'
                                                                                 Wi ŋũɛ̃rɔ̃hueyɔ ɲããgbɛ:2

References:

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Williamson, Kay, and Roger Blench. 2000. Niger-Congo. In: *African languages: an introduction*, ed. B. Heine and D. Nurse, Chapter 2, 11-42. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.