

ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the predicate argument structure (PAS) of a sub-class of verbs in Xitsonga - verbs of change of possession: give, contribute, future having, providing, obtaining and verbs of exchange. It is shown that these verbs select various theta roles to form their PAS in the different alternations allowed in this language. The effects of the applicative {-el-} and causative {-is-} verbal affixes on the PAS of such verbs are also considered. The study confirms the fact that the ordering of objects in ditransitive verbs is determined by an interplay of syntactic and semantic factors. Ambiguity arises in the case of two animate objects. In this case the object with a definite reading will appear adjacent to the verb.

KEY TERMS DESCRIBING THE TOPIC OF THE DISSERTATION

African language
Xitsonga
Issues on Xitsonga verbs
Verbs of change of possession
Alternations
Government and Binding
Predicate Argument Structure
Theta roles
External argument
Internal argument
Primary argument
Secondary argument
Applicative
Causative