Building Resultative Serial Verb Constructions in Benue-Kwa Languages

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As well known, resultative SVCs in Benue-Kwa languages consist of some agentive, typically transitive verb V_1 and unaccusative V_2. As regards their aktionsart, potential realisations of V_1 involve sometimes telic accomplishments or achievements but occasionally also atelic activities. In contrast, V_2 is typically realised as a stative predicate or an achievement, such as Yorùbá *fà X ṣí* 'pull X be.open=pull open' or Èdó *hòó X huán* 'wash X be.clean', which surface as SVC, and Igbo, which surface as root serialisations, such as *rí-ju X* 'eat be.full X'. The main interest of this talk is how the combination of two atelic predicates can yield a complex predicate which expresses a single event with change of state semantics (shared TAM and polarity values). As shown by Ogie (2009:235–238, 445) resultative SVCs in Èdó may express both: complex events that are degree states such as *hòó X huán* 'wash X be.clean' and complex events that express punctual achievements such as *suá X dé* 'push X down'.

It will be shown here how the semantic composition can be achieved in the Situation Semantics framework of *Type Theory with Records*, as suggested by Cooper (2005) and Ginzburg (2012), by means of merger of situation types in TTR, in which two situation types are fused into a single complex one and in which these two sub-situation types are ordered temporally. Furthermore it will be argued that the aspectual characteristics (*achievement* vs. *degree state*) is determined by the event expressed by V_2. The shared TAM and polarity values will be modelled with a feature for the macro-event property as introduced by Bohnemeyer et. al. (2007). Unlike derivational approaches for SVCs such as Zimmermann/Amaechi (2020), the analysis presented here is computation-friendly.

References: • Bohnemeyer, J. et al. (2007): Principles of event segmentation in language. *Language* 83.3, 31–36. • Cooper, R. (2005): Austinian Truth, Attitude and Type Theory. *Research on Language and Computation* 3, 333–362. • Ginzburg, J (2012): The interactive stance. Oxford: OUP. • Ogie, O. (2009): Multi-verb constructions in Èdó. PhD-thesis Trondheim. • Zimmermann, M. and Amaechi, C.M. (2020): One but not the same. Ms. Potsdam.