THE MORPHOSYNTACTIC FEATURES AND TENSE ASPECT MARKING IN SAMOR OF BARINGO COUNTY, KENYA. A MORPHO- PHONOSYNTACTIC STUDY

THE MORPHOSYNTACTIC FEATURES AND TENSE ASPECT MARKING IN SAMOR OF BARINGO COUNTY, KENYA. A MORPHO- PHONOSYNTACTIC STUDY

[1]Daniel Kandagor Chepyegon,

Post Graduate student, Egerton University Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, Egerton University Kenya.

Email: kangon2004@gmail.com

[2]Dr. Josephine Khaemba

Lecturer Egerton University, Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics

Email: jkhaemba76@gmail.com

[3]Dr. Phyllis Bartoo

Lecturer Egerton University, Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics

Email: phylis.bartoo@egerton.ac.ke

Abstract

Purpose: The present study focuses on the role of morphosyntactic features in tense marking among the *Samor* people residing in Baringo County. The desire to study *Samor* is because this sub- dialect of Tugen has not been studied before. Dialects vary in the way in which TA is marked. This assertion is based on previous research which classified languages and dialects as follows: agglutinating, polysynthetic, fusional and isolating. Since human languages display distinct differences in tense marking, the current study sought to investigate how *Samor* speakers mark tense. The objective of the study is to examine the various morphosyntactic that mark tense. To achieve the objective of this study, one hundred *Samor* utterances were used to analyze tense marking. The research targeted *Samor* speakers from Baringo County.

Methodology: Data in form of speeches during diverse ceremonies were collected using tape recordings, interviews and natural observation. The researcher sourced 50% of speeches from tape recordings, 30% from the interviews and 20% from naturalistic observations. The study is anticipated to be a reference point in tense marking in *Samor* a sub- dialect that has not been studied. The research focused on tense which falls under the verb phrase, this means the other parts of speech were not investigated. The design in this study was cross- sectional case study of a target phenomena i.e. Samor. To investigate how tense is marked, Chomsky's Feature Checking Theory (FCT) and Hardley's Grounded Theory (GT) were used as conceptual frameworks. FCT identifies grammatical features in an utterance and checks each feature to ensure grammaticality. On the other hand, GT a theory in qualitative research was responsible for assigning chaotic data labels and categories. The data in this research was analyzed using GT. GT is a methodological framework in analyzing text.

Findings: The theory proposes three steps used to analyze data. These steps are open, axial and selective coding. The findings in this research show the unique tense marking strategies used in *Samor*. The paper found out that *Samor* is a verb initial sub- dialect and morpho- syntactic features such as tense and aspect are marked in the verbal stem by attaching affixes.

Unique contribution to theory, practice and policy: The sub- dialect is agglutinating in nature since affixes expressing various features affix to the root verb. These affixes as seen in figure 1 are /*ka-, ko-, ki-*/ that express immediate past, recent past and distant past accordingly.

Keywords: *Samor, Morphosyntax, Features and polymorphemic.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Studies on morpho- phonosyntax have tended to focus on major world languages leaving out minor sub- dialects such as Samor. Morpho- phonosyntax is the field in descriptive linguistics that analyzes how human language is governed by grammatical rules. Dialects and languages differ, this then means that every human language has unique grammar rules that govern construction of grammatical sentences.

To be in a position to adequately describe any human language, a person must be able to describe the existing linguistic phenomena in an appropriate way and which according to Don (2004), "give the existing linguistic intuition of the native speaker" (p. 110). This implies that a speaker or hearer of a language is competent in his/her language although s/he may have challenges in performance. In addition, a person may be in a position to perform even in languages that are not native to him or her. Therefore, for one to perform well in any language (first or second), s/he must know the rules governing language usage. Knowing the rules that are responsible for grammaticality in any language is a concern for any language teacher and linguist. The present study aims at investigating the way *Samor* a sub- dialect of Tugen marks TA. The tense of a verb is the time when the action takes place e.g. present, past and future (Coon, 2013). She adds that aspect refers to the way the grammar marks duration or type of temporal activity e.g. perfective, imperfective, progressive and non- progressive. The English language contrasts time horizontally and aspect vertically see Table 1 below.

Table. 1 Time and Aspect Distinctions in English

	PRESENT (Time)	PAST (Time)	FUTURE (Time)
Simple (Aspect) Progressive (Aspect) Perfect (Aspect)	She works She is working She has worked	She worked She was working She had worked	She will work She will be working She will have worked

Note. A Table Showing Time and Aspectual Contrasts in the English Language. Adapted from Coon (2013 p. 7)

Languages use strategies that differ from the way the English language marks TA. These strategies include; using auxiliary verbs in combination with main verbs, use of affixes and tonal variations (Booij, 2005). This observation makes researchers wonder whether all human languages mark TA in a similar manner or whether there are other ways of expressing TA. A study by Tomić (2006) found out that most Balkan languages use morpho- syntactic features to express tenses. For example, tense may be expressed intrinsically by the base form of the verb or by use of function words 'will' and 'shall' to express future time. Another research by Gordon (2005) asserts that the Nilo- Saharan family of languages for instance, Luo, Nandi and Maasai are predominantly tonal. However, Kamuren (2012) found out that most Nilo- Saharan

languages have various ways of marking TA, these strategies include the use of affixations and tone. However, the strategies vary from one language to another. According to Hacker and Baker (2009), the rules that govern sentential constructions include the following: tense and aspect (TA), derivational and inflectional properties of content words, concord and word order government. Since grammar rules differ, extensive research needs to be carried out so as to find out how different languages and dialects formulate the rules that govern grammatical utterances. The research sought to find out how the *Samor* sub- dialect marks tense and aspect.

Objectives of the Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate morphosyntactic features that mark tense in Samor a sub- dialect of Tugen of Baringo County; Kenya. The objectives of the study are to:

1. Identify the morphosyntactic features marking tense in Samor.
2. Show the various tense categories in Samor.
3. Demonstrate how Feature Checking Theory is used to check ungrammatical utterances.

2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL UNDERPINNINGS

The study reviewed aspects of verbal morphology and morpho-phonosyntactic features that are relevant in TA marking. The aim was to aid in collecting and analysing the data aptly. The review gave impetus to the findings of this paper. These scholarly works, in one way or another, gave specific insights into to the understanding of Tense marking in Samor. TA marking is a property of the verb, as such, many languages frequently display this information in their verbal morphology (Aronoff and Fudeman, 2005). These authors further define morphology as "the mental system involved in word formation and the internal structure of words." A verb is essentially a morpheme, and any exercise that is aimed at studying those meaningful elements within a word is termed morphology. Words can be grouped into word classes traditionally called parts of speech (Huddleston and Pullum, 2005). These authors identify eight classes of words: nouns, verbs, adjectives, determinatives, adverbs, prepositions, coordinators and subordinators. Words can be broken down into parts which Booij (2005) calls morphological analysis. According to him, words can be chopped into smaller pieces. He says at the phonological level, words can be divided into syllables or segments, and segments into their constituent phonological features. He further adds that at the morphological level, words may consist of more than one unit as well, which we may call the morphological atoms of a word i.e. pieces that are further divisible into morphological sub- parts. A word may have a paradigm of features, such a word is called a grammatical word. This is because it may contain case, number, tense and aspect features. This notion of a word having two or more grammatical forms is called syncretism (Booij, 2005). He also says that a word form consists of a stem and inflectional endings. The stem can be added bound morphemes (affixes). He posits that if an affix appears before the root it is called a prefix, if it appears after it, it is referred to as a suffix.

In a classification done by Carstairs- McCarthy (2010), he found out that morphemes can be subdivided into the following types or categories:

i. *Free morphemes*- Those morphemes that stand on their own.
ii. *Bound morphemes*- Those morphemes that cannot stand on their own; also called affixes. They are further broken down into types:

iii.   *Derivational morphemes-* Those morphemes form new words e.g. foolish – foolishness.

iv.   *Inflectional morphemes-* These are morphemes that have the function of marking tense. Inflection of a verb enables it to also mark number, possession and the comparative form. Table. 2 demonstrates the different inflectional characteristics of words.

Since the formation of utterances goes beyond the word, there is need to understand the aspect of morphosyntax. Hanks (1994) says morphosyntax is the interaction between morphology and syntax. The way we analyze the features that apply to word level and sentence level. These features are called morphosyntactic since they apply to word level and sentence level. In a research entitled 'Essential Concepts for a Typology of Grammatical Features' by Kibort and Corbett (2010), they enumerate that a research that is interested in word structure and extends to sentence structure is called morphosyntax. They further state that morphosyntactic features play a role in agreement and government in sentential constructions. In addition, they argue that without agreement features, sentences would be ungrammatical. Their study identified the following morphosyntactic features: gender, person, number, case, tense and aspect.

Huddleston and Pullum (2005) moreover argue that nouns typically inflect for number i.e. singular and plural. According to them, some nouns are purely plural e.g. 'trousers' or others are represented in the collective form e.g. 'luggage'. They further argue that number plays a role in subject verb agreement. They note that the feature number can be sub- divided into three forms: first person, second and third person. According to O'Grady *et al.* (1996) first person usually indicates reference to the speaker while second person refers to the hearers and person(s) addressed. The other category i.e. third person, implies the speaker is not included or absent. As such, all NP's are usually headed by a common or proper noun except the pronouns 'we' and 'you' (Carstairs- McCarthy, 2002). The other two morphosyntactic features are gender and case. O'Grady *et al.* (1996) state that, third person (3P) singular pronouns contrast in gender. According to them, English identifies the following genders:

-Masculine gender pronoun (He)- used for males, human or animal with salient sexual

characteristics.

-Feminine gender pronoun (She)- used for females, and things treated in a similar way

e.g. political entities

-Neuter gender (It)- used for inanimates or male or female animals and human infants.

O'Grady *et al*. (1996) opine that case is a system of inflectional forms whose primary use is to mark various syntactic functions such as subject or object. They argue further that when the pronoun is the subject of a finite clause, it appears in nominative form and when it is object of the verb, or of preposition, it appears in accusative form. Further, they state that English has three distinct cases: nominative, accusative and genitive. The nominative case stands for subject while the accusative describes object. The last case; genitive represents possession. According to Bejar (2003), uninterpretable phi- features activates a probe, making a cyclic operation. In addition, Chomsky (1993) adds that cyclicity is the basic notion of subjacency which states that movement is bounded. He further opines that NPs are traditionally bounding nodes. In Samor, an object and a subject can interchange positions. The other morphosyntactic feature is tense and aspect. Tense is the feature that the current study that sought to investigate. The author Coon (2013) elaborates that the tense of a verb refers to the time when the action takes place, when

that time is presented grammatically. On the other hand, aspect refers to the temporal structure of an event. He further says that aspect is the time flow when we are describing an event. In English, Huddleston (2008) observes that the base form of the verb marks present tense. However, the third person singular verb forms add the suffix '-s' to the base form to mark present tense. According to him, tense is a category of grammatical form whereas time is a category of meaning. TA hitherto referred to as morphosyntactic features formed the basis of the current study. Morphosyntactic features are essential in any study whose focus is TA. The current study sought to find out how TA is marked in *Samor* a sub- dialect of Tugen. The other morphosyntactic features e.g. gender, case, person and number were not part of the present research.

The current study on the contrary, isn't interested in the SVO languages or verb second languages. The Tugen is a verb initial language with a VSO/VOS word order (Jerono, 2012). This word order is common among agglutinating languages such as the Nilo- Saharan a family of languages in which *Samor* falls under. Creider (1976) in a study of Okiek a sub tribe of the Kalenjin community observed that the language is verb initial. This is also true of *Samor* the sub- dialect that is under investigation. Anderson (1997) describes Nandi (Creider and Tapsubei Creider, 1989) a dialect of Kalenjin, as a VSO language. As such, they say that verbs are clause-initial, with nominal arguments and adjuncts generally following. The current study falls under the verb initial family of languages. The argument above concerning SVO and VSO languages indicates that there are variations in the ways in which these languages mark their TA. This is because the ordering of items varies. This present study attempted to show that *Samor* has a unique ways of marking its TA since it has distinct characteristics from a global language e.g. English. Below is a comparison of English TA marking and some Nilo- Saharan languages.

Manner of Marking Tense in English

Huddleston (2008) discusses various ways of marking tense. According to him, tense is concerned with the time of the action. He identifies the following types of tenses in English: present simple, past simple, present in the future, past in the future. English has varied ways of marking its tenses. For example, the present is marked intrinsically by the base form of the verb. The past is marked by adding the suffixes –ed/ -en to the base of the verb. The present indicates that an action is taking place right now whereas the past shows that an action took place a while ago (Hewings, 2005). For example, 'He goes now' and 'He went yesterday' the present simple is denoted by the root verb "goes" and the simple past is marked by the morphological process called morpheme internal change (Zapata, 2000). According to Eastwood (2002), the English verb has differing forms with varying uses. Study table. 4.

Table. 4 English Verb Forms and Uses

ENGLISH VERB FORMS AND USES			
VERB FORM	REGULAR	IRREGULAR	USE
1. Base	play	steal	Imperative; present tense; infinitive
2. '-s' form	plays	steals	Present tense; third person singular
3. '-ed' form	played	stole	Past tense
4. '-ing' form	playing	stealing	Gerund; present participle
5. '-ed/-en' form	played	stolen	Past participle; passive participle

Note. Examples of English Verb Forms and Uses. Adapted from the Oxford Guide to English Grammar (p. 382) by J. Eastwood, 2002.

In table 4 we can see how tense in English is marked. The first method is by the base form of the verb. In English, the base form marks simple present tense. The other method is by suffixing a tense marker on the verb base. The perfect tense involves the combination of a past participle plus "HAVE" see example in table 4, 'They have stolen'. The present study analyzed these ways of marking tense and see how the current language of study behaves in TA marking. Tense in English can also be marked by modifying the base form of the verb. Zapata (2000) says the modification of the verb to mark past tense is called symbolism or morpheme internal change. According to her, most irregular verbs undergo symbolism e.g. 'steal' – 'stole' see table 4. Moreover, sometimes the irregular forms may sometimes admit suffixation especially in the past participle form e.g. 'steal'- 'stole'- 'stolen' see table 4. The English language marks tense when the stem undergoes a complete change (Zapata, 2000), she says that this process is referred to as suppletion.

Stirtz (2011) in a research on Gaahmg a Nilo- Saharan language of Sudan states that Aspect is marked segmentally in the verb root by a completive and continuous suffix [-sa]. The perfect/ Aorist is marked by tone on the verb stem. The perfect forms are distinguished from non- past by tonal marking. Among the Datooga of Southern Sudan, the Aorist is marked by the prefixes e.g. [gwa-] and [gi-]. For example, *gwa- noos* 'She is stuck'. The Endo a Nilo- Saharan language uses the [-iitu] suffix to mark the Inceptive Aspect (Zwart, 2003). This is in a study of the Endo Tone System. Another research by Lodge (1995) opines that the long prefix [ka:-] marks perfective in Kalenjin and the shorter prefix [ko-] identifies the adaptive Aspect. The same research found out that the [-e] suffixed to the base verb marks the progressive Aspect. These studies affirm that TA is marked either by use of morphosyntactic features and tonal variations. The assertion is essential in the current study that was interested to find out how *Samor* marks TA.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Participants

The study focused on the Samor speakers who live in Baringo County, Kenya. The target population were Samor speakers living in Baringo County. The population was made up of male and female Samor speakers. The researcher targeted thirty Samor speakers. The thirty were picked evenly from the five electoral wards of Baringo Central Sub- County. The researcher ensured they were either male or female. This group was then subjected to an interview by the researcher. The sampling procedure in this study was the non- probability sampling using the convenience or opportunity sampling (Dornyei, 2007, p. 95). The current research is qualitative in nature. This is because according to Neuman (2014) empirical observations or data is expressed as words. A total of five ceremonies were sampled the five select ceremonies took place in the following electoral wards of Baringo Central a Sub- County of Baringo Central. The localities are: Kabarnet, Sacho, Tenges, Ewalel (Chapchap) and Kapropita.

Measures and Procedures and Theory

The research used two theories for data analysis. The two theories are: Feature Checking Theory (FCT) and Grounded Theory (GT). FCT was used to check utterances for features marking tense. Chomsky's (1995b) FCT was used in this study to avail morphosyntactic features that mark grammatical function in Samor. Morphosyntactic features fall in the realm of FCT. FCT was used as a filter to group tense categories using GT. FCT is the theory that governs

grammaticality. In linguistic research, utterances of any nature must be governed by rules of grammar. The authors Hacker & Baker (2009) emphasize that the rules of grammar e.g. TA marking, derivational and inflectional properties of content words, concord and word order define any human language. They further state that grammar is always governed by rules that ensure grammatically. FCT as a theory identified the following morphosyntactic features: tense, aspect, number, person and gender. GT was used to breakdown the data into manageable categories for ease of formulating an emerging theory. Dornyei (2007, p. 242) borrows Charmaz's (2005) idea of GT. It states thus: "the analytic approach and common methodological framework for qualitative research". He argues that the theory provides a template for doing qualitative research since it proposes three key steps in analyzing data. The steps are as follows:

a) *Open- coding- giving the data codes for easy identity.*
b) *Axial coding- Explaining the categories.*
c) *Selective coding- arriving at the main theme describing the data.*

4.0 FINDINGS IN THE CURRENT STUDY

The *Samor* dialect identifies the following tenses; present, past and future. Based on the objectives of this study, the study sought to find out how this dialect marks Tense. From the data that was collected in this research i.e. the taped responses, interview schedule and self- generated data. This researcher found out that *Samor* is a verb initial and agglutinating. This means that this dialect glues together the affixes and stems to form utterances. The researcher also found out that this dialect differs from verb two languages since this dialect marks its tense by using either prefixation, suffixation or infixation or without any change on the base. According to Booij (2005), verbal morphemes can be broken down in a particular order. The sub- divisions of a word into verbal morphemes in *Samor* can be seen in the examples below. It should be noted that each morpheme has been allocated a number to distinguish one from the other. See the dialogue coded MCE1 below. The codes in this excerpts assist in distinguishing one speaker from the other. The researcher has also provided a translation of the original data. This will assist a reader to understand the concepts being discussed in this research. The specific words or sentences that express TA have been underlined.

Extract 1.

MCE2: *Ochamegei okwek tugul bik che kobwa keyai boisiet nebo ra?*

How are you all the people who have come so that we can do today's business?

> AUDIENCE: (in chorus) *kichamegei*.

> We are fine.

MCE3: *Amache asomok ale amu kiribe sait, ko amache amwa ale, amache ketoun tuyee nebo betut nebo ra eng saet. Asome Pastor Kipsomet kotowech tuyoni eng saet. Karibu pastor.*

I want to request that since we want to keep time, I want to say that we need to begin the today's meeting with prayer. I request pastor *Kipsomet* to begin for us the meeting in prayer. Welcome pastor.

S4AP: *Kongoi MC, ongetononyien ak kinemu kobiyesiek si kobiit kesaa. Ongesaa anyun (as they close their eyes). Kongoi Jehovah ne toror, Jehova nebo Calvary amu betut ne kechamweech keitun yuu si kobiit yeyai boisiet ne bo kweanutik. Kongoi Jehova amu ichameech, gongoi amu lagochu kegochi koyai komwie eng sugul ak college. Ara eng betuni bo ra kisome kele igoneech mugulelwek the tangus asi kobiit kegonun tugukchyo eng ayebindo. Asochini chi age tugul asi*

kobiit igochi chametapgei. Ara Jehova, <u>indoiweech</u> kongeete kakitou, agoi kikesu boisioni kemwa kongoi, Amen.

Translation

Thank you MCE1, let's stand and remove our caps s that we can pray. Let's pray. Thank you the most high God, the God of Calvary for this day that you have allowed us to congregate here, with the objective of fundraising. Thank you God since you love us, thank you because of these children who have performed well in school and also in colleges. Now on this particular day, we request that you give us soft hearts so that we can give our belongings in abundance. I pray that you may give each person good health. I pray God that you will lead us from the start of this function until we accomplish we will give thanks, amen.

In excerpt 1, we can see how *Samor* verbs glue together the various morphemes. The verbs that have been underlined demonstrate agglutination in *Samor*. This researcher uses the tree diagram figure 1 to show how each sub- category of morpheme is slotted a number showing the grammatical function of each morpheme. These functions are: person, number and tense aspect marking. *Samor* has six possible morpheme slots unless a word reduplicates. However, the slots given in figure 1 only focus on monosyllabic verbs. These types of verbs are the majority in *Samor*. In figure 1, position 2, 4, 5 and 6 are tense markers. The final vowel position 6 is also an object marker, it recovers the null object that is missing in third person in *Samor*. The tree diagram figure 1 exemplifies the morpheme sub- divisions of the following *Samor* verbs: *ochamegei, kobwa, keyai, kichamegei, kiribe, amache, ichameech, igoneech and indoiweech.* Each verb has the base form also called the root. The diagram indicates how an agglutinating verbal structure behaves in *Samor*. See the diagram figure 1.

```
                                    VERB
                     /                              \
             Inflectional                        Macrostem
               prefixes                          /        \
             /          \              SUBJ                  Stem
       SUBJ              Tense         Person/            /    |     \
    Person and          Aspect        Number          Root  Extension  Final Vowel
    Number
       |                  |              |              |       |          |
       1                  2              3              4       5          6
```

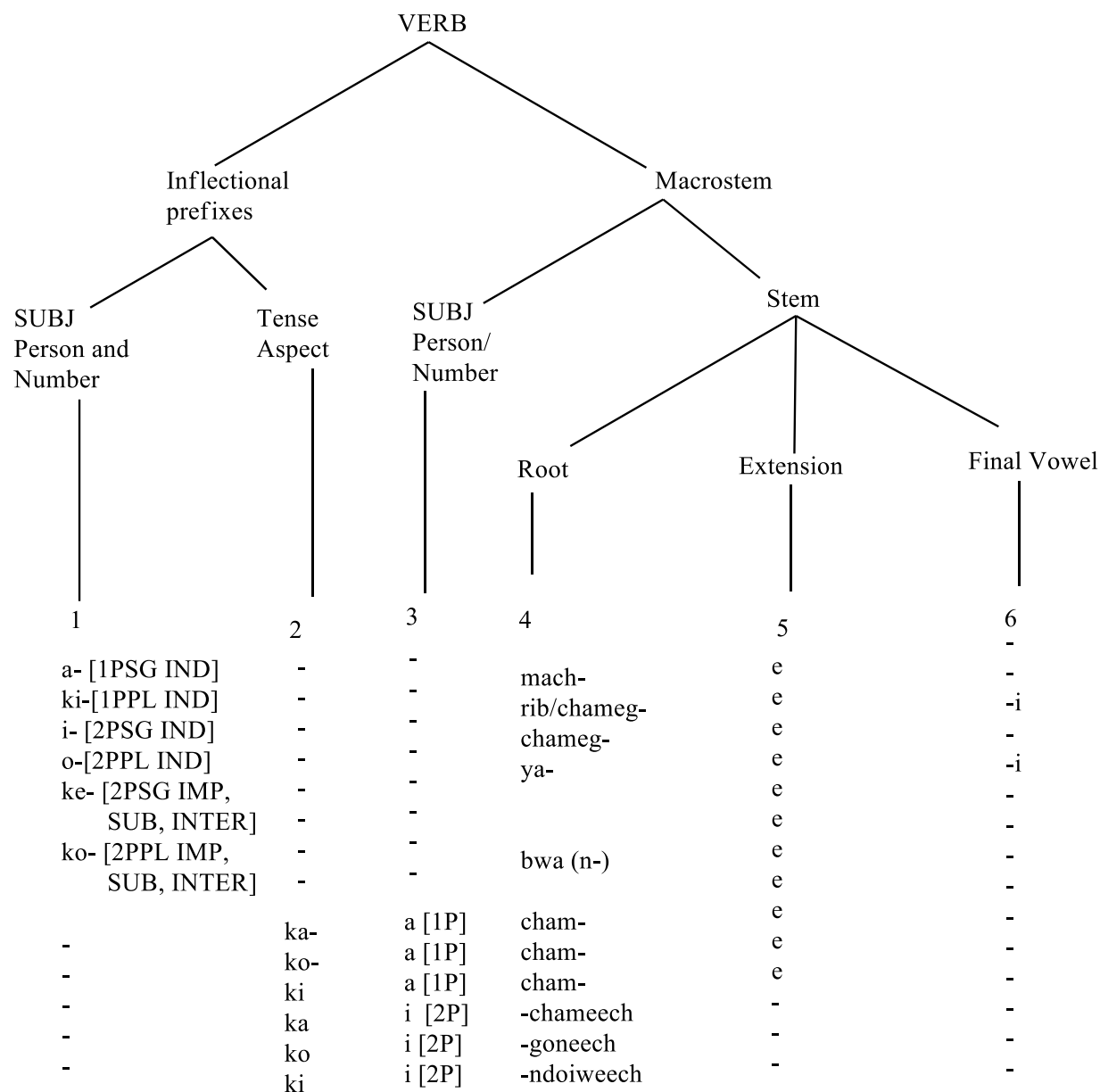| 1 (SUBJ Person and Number)	2 (Tense Aspect)	3 (SUBJ Person/Number)	4 (Root)	5 (Extension)	6 (Final Vowel)
a- [1PSG IND]	-	-	mach-	e	-
ki-[1PPL IND]	-	-	rib/chameg-	e	-
i- [2PSG IND]	-	-	chameg-	e	-i
o-[2PPL IND]	-	-	ya-	e	-
ke- [2PSG IMP, SUB, INTER]	-	-		e	-i
ko- [2PPL IMP, SUB, INTER]	-	-	bwa (n-)	e	-
				e	-
	ka-	a [1P]	cham-	e	-
-	ko-	a [1P]	cham-	e	-
-	ki	a [1P]	cham-	e	-
-	ka	i [2P]	-chameech	-	-
-	ko	i [2P]	-goneech	-	-
-	ki	i [2P]	-ndoiweech	-	-

Figure. 1 Agglutination in the *Samor* Root Verb, Adopted from Booij (2005)

In figure 1 above, we can see how a *Samor* base verb agglutinates preprefixes, prefixes and suffixes. Each prefix or suffix plays a grammatical role in this dialect. The process of allowing a particular affix is checked by FCT. The theory states that uF features check their counterparts the F (features.) In Samor, the grammatical features (affixations) marking number, person, tense and aspect are attached to the verb. The verb dictates number and person in Samor. This means that a singular verb attracts a singular subject and singular object. The same applies to a plural verb, it also attracts plural subjects and objects. See extract two below.

Extract 2.

S2PS (A): *Kongoi amu kasarta ne kogona <u>anee, okweek</u>. Kakibwa asi <u>kekwei</u> kweanutik che <u>kimuchi</u> ketoreten lagokab nganasani asi kobiit komuuch koba sugul. Asome ale nketoret key leiye. <u>Awendi</u> amwae ng'alek che ngering amu mii biik eng <u>acheek</u> che <u>bendi</u> ole loo. Atinye boiboiyet amu arawet ne leel, kenyini ko kasarta nebo boisiet kityo. Oin ko Kiasirwak baruet ale si <u>obwa</u> boisioni si kobit keng'alal tugul ak kemwachi Jehova kongoi amu ripsenyi nebo atkai kotugul ak berurto ne bo siretab lagok choo. Ageny, <u>aa baibai</u> amu <u>ye ager</u> ko uu kele koo kila ko <u>kocham arame anee beek eng aineet</u> ako akere ale mui karon ko kirame acheek beek che bo berechii kobunuu inyee. Ara anyon <u>amache</u> amwa ale ache bik che <u>kimenye</u> mengotee nebo nganasani ko kii bich che kitoretigei. Amwae ale mii alak che baorinik che <u>ma</u> bo iman ak bich che <u>mamakchin</u> alak tuguk che miach.*

Translation

> Thank you for the opportunity you have given me. We have come so that we can participate in this funds drive so that we can assist the children from this locality so that they can go to school. I request that we assist one another. I will say a few words since there are people among us who will travel far. I am happy for the new month. This year will only be a work oriented year. Recently, I wrote a letter to invite all of you to attend this function and so that we could chat among ourselves and to thank God because of his care that is never ending. Also, to thank God for the good performance of our children. Also, I am happy since when I see, it is as if on a daily basis, I have been fetching water from the river stream. However I am seeing that it is possible that tomorrow we will get piped water from you. Therefore, I want to say that the people living in this community are a people who assist one another.

In extract 2 coded S2PS (A), the verbs numbered (a)- (g) express actions in the present time. See the examples listed below.

(a) S2PS (A)- *Á-rùm- è anee beek.*

SG á- RV rùm- PERF è- SG IO anee- DO beek.

I am fetching (me) water.

(b) S2PS (A)- *Kí- rùm- è acheek beek.*

PL kí- RV rùm- PERF è- PL IO acheek- DO beek.

We are fetching (us) water.

In the example (a) S2PS (A) above, we can see that the present singular verb *"á-rùm- è"* requires a singular object marker "*anee*". The plural is marked by the plural prefix marker {ki-} as can be seen in the word *"kí- rùm- è* in example (b) S2PS (A) above. Apart from the addition of a plural prefix, the object changes from the singular form "*anee*" to an irregular form "*acheek*" to express plural entities see (a) S2PS (A) and (b) S2PS (A) above. This means that in Samor, objects behave like irregular verbs. We can see that FCT ensures that features are cross checked to allow only those that fit. Checking in *Samor* is a form of filter that allows us to construct only grammatical sentences. Checking also plays a role in ensuring that the various tense classes are identified. FCT theory is used in this study to discern grammaticality. There are a number of

grammatical features such as number, tense, person and aspect. In the discussion below, we can see how TA is marked in *Samor*.

The Feature Tense

The *Samor* sub- dialect uses a number of strategies to express the tense feature. Some of the strategies used by the sub- dialect to mark tense include morphological features that the agglutinating verb contains, phonological features and the nature of the verb. The first objective of this research is to analyze how morphosyntactic features mark TA in *Samor*. *Samor* falls under the family of agglutinating languages. Such languages argues Bybee et al (2010) have a morphological system in which words are polymorphemic. This means that there is more than one morpheme in the same word with a different morphological function(s).

Present Tense

The present tense in *Samor* is the tense category which is deictic since it locates an action to the present time. This tense category expresses actions and events happening now. The indicative base verb shows any form of activity taking place at the time of speaking. In the example (c) S2PS (A) below, the speaker expresses a present action as a single entitiy. See example (c) below.

> (c) S2PS (A) *amache*
>
> SG 1PSG a- RV mach- PROG MRK e
>
> I want.

In (c) S2PS (A) above, the speaker states s/he is doing at the present time. The suffix '-e' expresses actions in the present moment. The base form of the verb '*mach-*' highlights the present. The next example (d) S2PS (A) below illustrates an assertion in the present time.

> (d) S2PS (A) *Ye ager.*
>
> CONJ ye- 1PSG a- RV ger
>
> When I see.

In Samor, the present interrogative is marked by adding an interrogative marker "*tos*" whereas negation has a negative prefix marker 'ma'. See example (e) S2PS (A) below.

> (e) S2PS (A) *Nda tos ma uu noto?*
>
> CONJ nda- QM tos- NEG ma- NP uu noto?
>
> Or is it not like that?

The present imperative is an utterance is either a polite request or sharp reprimand to someone or a group of people. In example (e) S2PS (A), the first parent of the student makes appeals to the audience. The parent's speech is in the present time.

> (f) S2PS (A) *Ara leiye!*
>
> ADV ara- ADV leiye!
>
> So please!

The example (f) exhibits a present action. The speaker is appealing to the emotions of the audience at the time of speaking. The present tense can be marked in two ways, by using the base of the verb which doesn't require a prefix or by adding a prefix to the root. This dialect

identifies activities that are at the present moment. These are activities that can be observed and cannot be attributed a past time. In such type of words, the root morpheme intrinsically carries the present time feature. The imperative in its base form intrinsically marks the present. See example (g) S2PS (A) below.

> (g) S2PS (A)
>
> > Sus- bite
> >
> > Til- cut

The two words express commands in *Samor*, a majority of *Samor* verb stems are monosyllabic as seen in the example (g) S2PS (A). When someone wants to indicate a polite request in the present, s/he uses the base form of the verb. This form of the verb is devoid of any affixations. The present imperative form in *Samor* can be expressed in form of a polite request or advice to the listener that there is need for them to do something. This is achieved by adding the prefix "ke-" to the base of the verb. The "ke-" prefix may also indicate a to- infinitive. See the examples below.

> EXI28- *Kétúr*- hh
>
> > IMP ke- RV eat
> >
> > Let us eat- Polite request

The example EXI28 above is a polite request to someone to do something. In this present situation, the request is for someone to join another in a meal at the present. In addition, the "ke" prefix shown in the example below coded EXI27 highlights an infinitive in *Samor*.

> EXI27- *Kèsús*- lh
>
> > INF ke- RV sus

The to- infinitive "*ke-*" can be prefixed to any root verb in *Samor* to express the action of the verb. In the example EXI27 above, the verb expresses the action of eating. Sometimes, if the speaker wants to make the request more polite, a speaker in *Samor* uses an alveolar nasal /n/ before the imperative prefix marker "*ke-*". See the example below coded EXI19 in table 24 picked from the personal field notes.

> EXI19- *Nkesus*
>
> REQ MRK SG n- ke RV sus.
>
> Let us eat!

The polite request above coded EXI19 implies a request to someone to participate in doing something. The prefix '*ke-*' demonstrates that the request has been made to plural entities. If the request was meant for a single entity, the expression change to '*nkasus'*. See the example below coded EXI12 picked from the filed notes table 24.

> EXI12- *nkasus*
>
> > REQ MRK nka- RV sus
> >
> > Let me bite.

However, sometimes someone may want to make an emphatic command in the present. This is in case he/she wants someone to do something or he/faces some form of punishment. In such a

case, the imperative changes in *Samor* into the verb form '*amishen*!' which is a verb form used to highlight emphasis. See the example in excerpt 3 coded S3PS (B).

Extract 3

> S3PS (B): *Ochamegie okwek bikap nganaset? Pwat!* <u>*Iluu asista*</u> *am anee. Abaibai amu kaa* <u>*kere kila*</u> *chi age tugul kole kakoturon fees. Kilen alak ma anee ne* <u>*atoreti*</u> *ago kongoi eng okweek che kobwa.* <u>*Amache*</u> *amwa kongoi* <u>*raani*</u> *amu kasarta ne kagigonan asi amwa ak nee ng'alekchu. Kongoi am okwek che kocham obwa si ogonech achek ropisiek che kimuchii kemuten lagok sugul anan college. Amwawok ale ma bik tugul che tinyei kimnatet kumuut lagok sugul. Kiyam bich kelat ako mayam bich tugun. Mi biich* <u>*ng'uuni*</u> *che chang you che matinyei kii age tugul. Mii bich yu che matinyei nguroik anan amwitkwokik che yamei. Ako bichoto tugul ko tinyei lagok ak ichek. Asomok ale omat ongetye oyae che miach asi kobiit koberurok Jehova. Kakigurchi lakwee nyo anee Moi University. Okeer leyee ole kiatar aoldai tuga ako* <u>*ng'uuni*</u> *makomi kimnatet agot akenge. Toretee ake tugul ne mui anyoru ko* <u>*Jehova inegei ne imuuch kuwekwok berurto.*</u> *Ara kou ye kamwa mzee, asome ak nee ale, kotom kowa chi age tugul si itiem* <u>*iam*</u> *kiy eng kai. Ara kaigai* *amishen* *chi age tugul mewe gaa buch.* <u>*Nda tos makamwaa iman bichu?*</u>

Translation

> How are you all the people of this vicinity? *Pwat*! The sun will shine on me. I am happy since people see everyday that I can't pay fee. Some said that I am not the one to help but thank you to you who came. I want to say thank you today for the opportunity which you have given me so that even myself I can say something. Thank you to all of you who have accepted to come so that you can give us the fee which will enable us to take our children to school. it is not everyone who has the ability to take his child to school. Everyone has teeth, but not everyone has financial resources. There are so many people who don't have anything. There are people without enough clothes, food. However, the same people, have children and they also have basic needs. I pray that we shouldn't get tired in doing good so that God will bless us. My child was admitted in Moi University. You all can see that I have finished selling my livestock and now I don't have any ability at all to raise any money. Any form of help which I will get I pray that God alone blesses you. So, as my husband had said, I am requesting that before anyone leaves, everyone to try and eat something in this home. So please! Everyone eat! Don't go home without a bite. Or didn't I speak the truth my people?

The emphatic verb phrase '*amishen*' in example (a) below has been used by the host to impress upon everyone to eat.

> (a) S3PS (B)- *Amishen! Chi age tugul*
>
> SG RV am- IMP SUFF –ishen N chi- PRON age tugul
>
> [Ø] eat!- imperative
>
> Everyone [You] eat!

The imperative suffix *–ishen* is formed by inserting an alveolar fricative "ʃ" between the progressive markers "-i" and the applicative "-en" to express a request or a command in the present time. The present tense in *Samor* can also be indicated using and adverb of time. This research found out that tense is not necessarily marked intrinsically or by us of prefixations. This

research discovered that adverbs of time play a role in identifying the particular time that an action took place. The adverbs of time can determine at what time an activity was taking place. In example (b) S3PS (B), the speaker uses the words *ng'uuni* now which is an adverb of time in *Samor*. The adverb *ng'uuni* – now when used shows that the activity is taking place now or at the specific time of speaking. In this sub- dialect, the adverb of time helps to express that an action is taking place at the present moment. See example (b) S3PS below from the original data excerpt 3.

> (b) S3PS (B)- *Mi biich ng'uuni che chang you.*
>
> ADV mi N biich ADV ng'uuni RV che ADV chang ADV here.
>
> There are many people now here.

In the example (b) S3PS above, the adverb of time 'ng'uuni' implies that an activity is taking place in the current moment. The same can be seen in example (c) S3PS below which uses an adverb of time implying on that particular day.

> (c) S3PS (B)- *Amache amwa kongoi raani.*
>
> 1PSG a- RV mach- FV e- 1PSG a- RV mwa- RV kongoi- ADV *raani*.
>
> I want to say thank you today.

In the example (c) S3PS above, the speaker states that s/he wants to say thank the people in attendance on that specific day by using the adverb of time '*raani*'. This shows that adverbs of time in this sub- dialect can specify a current activity.

Functions of the present

The present in *Samor* has the following functions:

i) Express Habits- The present denotes something that someone does on a daily basis. The example (d) S3PS below from excerpt 3 coded S3PS (B) indicates an activity that occurs on a daily basis.

> (d) S3PS (B)- *Kere kila*
>
> SG RV ker- HAB SUFF e- ADV kila
>
> He sees every day.

This type of present can also be used to describe the characteristic of someone, for instance, we can say he sees every day.

ii) The present may also be used to declare a person's stand on something. These are the same as declaratives in 'Speech Act Theory' by Austin. The theory enumerates how people can make declarations using words (Austin, 1962). See example (e) S3PS below.

> (e) S3PS (B)- *Atoreti*
>
> SG PRES TNS MRK a- RV toret- PROG MRK -i
>
> I (will) help.

iii) The present is also used to express that what we have said is true or a universal truth. See example (f) S3PS below.

(f) S3PS (B)- *Iluu asista*

> PRES TNS i –RV luu- SUB asista

> [Ø DET- the] sun shines

Samor marks determiners or specifiers using words such as 'ne' – which is, that is, what we' who is' The word 'ne' in *Samor* functions as an identifier or a specifier in linguistics. The assertion in example (f) above describes a universal truth that is, the sun always shines.

Past Tense

The other category of tense marking in *Samor* is the past tense. The past tense locates the situation in the past, this is according to Hewings (2005). This tense category is also called the aorist or perfective (Comrie, 2001). He defines the perfective as a single event seen as analyzed whole with an end result, located in the past. The past is common in narration or when we explain historical events. As the definition suggest, the perfective demonstrates a complete situation with a beginning and an end. In *Samor*, all base forms of the verb attach prefixes that highlight an accomplished activity. See extract 4 below coded S4AP which clearly highlights the past tense marking allomorphs in *Samor*.

Extract 4

> S4AP: *Asome ale ye kitar tumi bo ra, kemwaa kongoi. Kongoi amu kegonech ketiar mbire betuni bar a ak kiyanii kele koi kitegen kenyoru turisiet. Ara kisome kele ikoonech turisiet ak tun kateech lagochu sobenywa, tun koteech korich ak tun kosal korichoto inanweech kemwa kongoi. Asome ale tun kaalchi lagochu sikig garisiek ak komuuch koborchi ichek malik kemwaa kongoi. Asome choto tugul eng Kainet nebo Jeso Christo; Amen.*

Translation

> I pray that when we accomplish, we will give thanks. Thank you because you have given us the opportunity to kick this ball today (metaphor for function). And I believe that later on, we shall be victorious. I pray that you give us victory and that when these children build their lives, when they build their houses, and when they will paint them colourfully, remind us oh! Jehovah to give thanks. I pray that when they will have the ability to buy their parents new cars, and be able to access material belongings, we won't forget to give thanks. I pray all these in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Amen.

The past tense denotes actions completed at a definite time. The past in *Samor* is formed using affixations. The sub- dialect has three forms of past tense that is immediate, recent and distant. The dialect uses the following allomorphs *ka-, ko- and ki-* to mark these various forms of past tense. Each of these affixes are variants of the same morpheme. They are all tasked with expressing the various forms of the past tense i.e. immediate, recent and remote past. The morphemes recur in all the past tense classifications such as indicative, imperative, progressive, perfect and interrogative. In the discussion below, the researcher's aim is to show the constant recurrence of "*ka-*" in marking all forms of immediate past, "ko-" as a marker of all forms of the recent past tense and finally "*ki-*" a morpheme that precedes all forms of distant past. These allomorphs are in bold to show their central roles of marking the various forms of past tense.

The *Samor* dialect always uses the morpheme "*ka-*" before the base verb to indicate that an action occurred most recently. The prefix "*ka-*" is the first variant of the past tense morpheme which identifies an activity that has taken place not so long ago. In this dialect, all the forms of

immediate past are preceded by the "*ka-*" morpheme. See the expression (a) S4AP below picked from extract 4 coded S4AP.

> (a) S4AP- *Tun kaalchi lagochu sikig garisiek.*
>
> ADV tun- IMM PST ka- RV al- APP chi- IO lagochu IO sigik DO garisiek
>
> When these children will buy the parents cars.

In the example (a) S4AP above, the prefix 'ka-' in the verb phrase '*kaalchi'* demonstrates the immediate past. It means the action occured in the immediate past. This can be contrasted with the ko- prefix which implies the action happened in the recent past. *Samor* dialect uses the prefix "*ko-*" to mark the recent past tense. This is an action that ended some time back. Such an action may have taken place much earlier than a recent activity. This could be the equivalent of a day before or some days ago. In *Samor*, to be able to describe such an event, the speaker will use the morpheme "*ko-*". In the example (b) S4AP below, the recent past tense is marked by using "*ko-*" prefix before the root verb. See the *Samor* verbs "*Komuuch*" and "*koborchi*".

> (b) S4AP - *Komuuch koborchi ichek malik*
>
> REC PST Ko- MOD much- REC PST ko- RV bor- APPL chi- IO PRON them DO malik.
>
> They will be able to avail to them wealth.

In example (b) S4AP above, the prefix 'ko-' expresses an activity of a more recent past compared to the last category of past tense in *Samor* which is classified as the distant past. The *Samor* dialect uses the prefix "*ki-*" to mark distant past actions. These are actions that took place a long time ago or actions which the speaker may not be in a position to quantify the specific time of accomplishment. See the example (c) S4AP below.

> (c) S4AP- *Ye kitar tumi bo ra.*
>
> ADV ye- DIS PST ki- RV tar- DO tumi- ADV bo ra.
>
> When we finish today's ceremony.

In the example (c) S4AP above, the activity is assumed will end at a later time in the past. The speaker doesn't specify time. It is therefore assumed that it can end in a month's time or whatever time. In *Samor*, the past interrogative is formed by adding a question marker "*tos*" which in *Samor* changes an indicative sentence into a question. See example (d) S4AP below. An utterance demonstrating a past negative is marked by using a negative marker "ma". See example (d) S4AP below.

> (d) S4AP- *Tos makamwaa iman bichu?*
>
> QP tos- NEG ma- SG IMM PST TNS ka- RV mwaa- DO iman IO bichu?
>
> Haven't I spoken the truth people?

In *Samor*, since a tense phrase begins an utterance, the question phrase projects from the complementizer phrase so as to allow formation of questions. The tree diagram below highlights how interrogatives in *Samor* are formed. FCT dictates that features agree in a construction for the sentence to be meaningful. In Samor, the question phrase doesn't move the way it does in English. It precedes the tense phrase which begins an utterance in VSO/VOS languages. In the examples above, the speaker asks the audience a question. See example (d) S4AP above. The

sub- dialect introduces questions by using 'tos' a question marker whereas negation is marked by prefixing 'ma' a negative marker before the root verb. The tree diagram figure 2 highlights the projection of interrogatives.
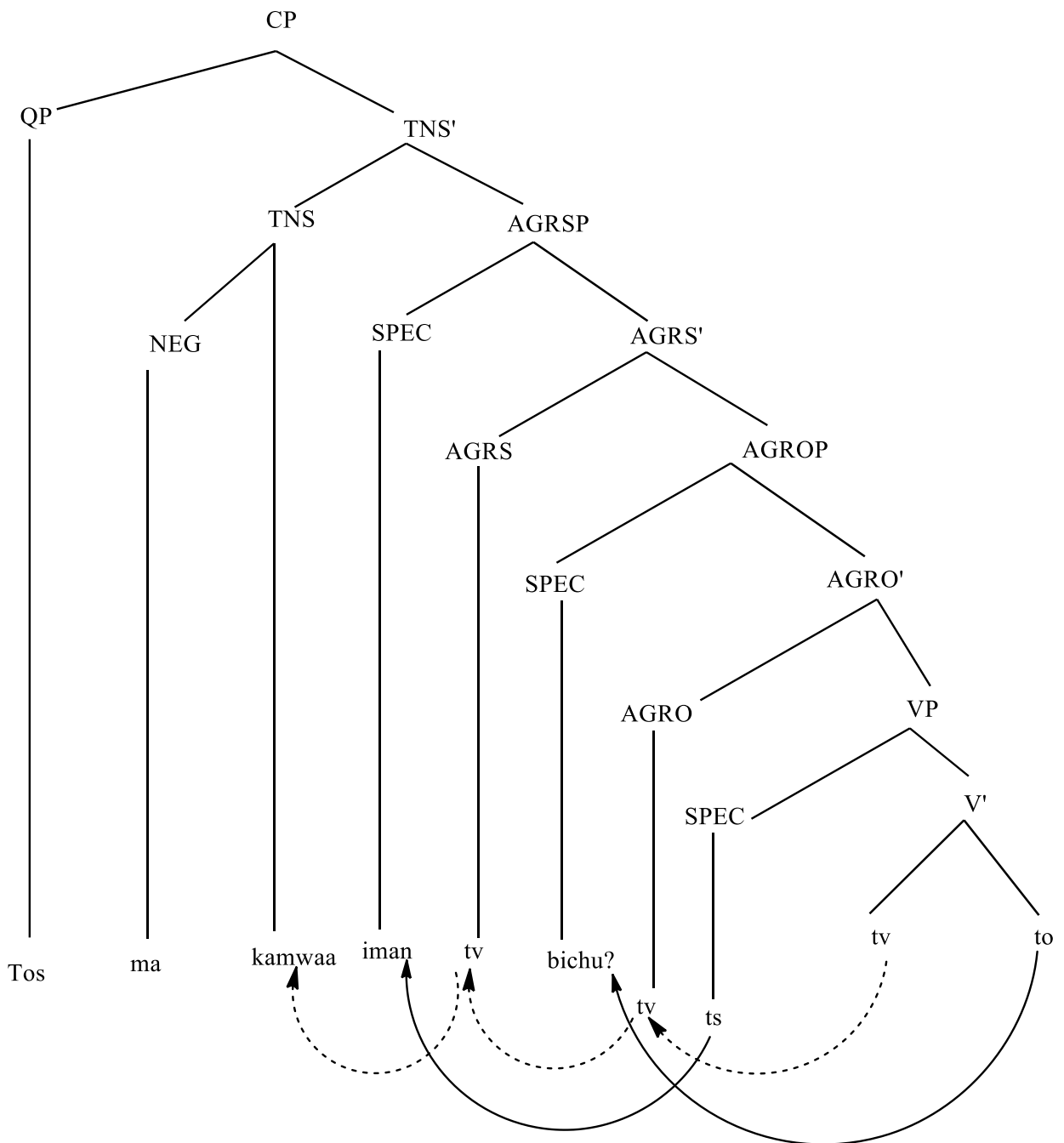

Figure 2. Syntactic Tree Diagram Showing the Projection of Interrogatives. Note. Borrowed from Ouhalla (1991).

Past tense marked using adverb of time

The past can be marked in *Samor* using words that express time. These adverbs of time can be broken down into three categories: adverbs expressing the immediate past, those that express the recent past and the distant past. In *Samor*, the immediate past is expressed using adverbs that identify an activity which is located in a short span of time. In the original data extract 5 below provides examples of the adverbs of time that mark actions in the past.

Extract 5

> *QFS- Ileni nee yo imache imwaa ile kayae kiy eng sait ne negit?*
>
> QFE- How do you state that you were doing something in the recent past?
>
> *RF3S- Aboishen ngolyon ne uu <u>kasember/ Kaburuch nguuni, atgai anan abach</u>.*
>
> RF3T- I will use the word "now" and "a while ago"
>
> *QGS- Ileni nee yo imache ile keyai kiy eng betusiek che kakosirto?*
>
> QGE- How do you state that you did something in a few days ago?
>
> *RG4S- Aboishen ng'alek che uu chu: <u>Koee chaik; oin, amut, wiki konye, kenyi konye, arawee konye, lagat</u>.*
>
> RG4T- I will use words such as: recently, yesterday, last week, last year, last month.
>
> *QHS- Ang ngimache imwaa ile kiiyai kiy kenyit ne kikosirto?*
>
> QHE- Suppose you want to state that you did something a year ago?
>
> *RH5S- Aleni, kikipendii yoe.*
>
> *RH6S- Aleni, <u>kiaburuch</u> bosyeek kenyi konye.*
>
> *RH1S- Aleni, kiapwaat kiy betuu noto.*
>
> RH5T- I will say we were going then.
>
> RH6T- I will say I was mixing the flour the previous year.
>
> RH1T- I will say I thought of something that day.

In the data above, we can see the use of adverbs of time to mark actions that occurred in the past. See the example below coded RF3S below.

> (a) RF3S - *Kasember abach.*
>
> IMM PST ka- RV sember- ADV abach
>
> [He/she Ø] –RV dig- ADV morning

The example (a) RF3S above exemplifies an activity that took place in the morning hours. In the next example (b) RF3S below, the action took place almost immediately most probably in the evening hours. However, in example (c) RF3S, the action took place a week ago. See the illustrations below.

> (b) RF3S - *Kasember atgai*
>
> IMM PST ka- RV sember- ADV atgai
>
> [He/she Ø] –RV weeded- ADV awhile

(c) RF3S -*Kaburuch wiki konye*

IMM PST ka- RV buruch- ADV last week

[He/she Ø] –RV mixed- ADV last week

More examples of adverbs of time in *Samor* are shown in the example coded RG4S (a)- (c) below. In example (a) RG4S below, the action took place most recently; most likely a day ago. However, in example (b) RG4S below, the action took place the previous day, in example (c) RG4S below, the action took place a few days ago.

(a) RG4S- *Koee chaik lagat*

REC PST ko- RV ee- DO chaik- ADV lagat

[He/she Ø] –RV ee- DO chaik –ADV previous day

(b) RG4S - *Koee chaik amut.*

REC PST ko- RV ee- DO chaik –ADV amut

[He/she Ø] –RV ee- ADV previous day

(c) RG4S - *Koee chaik oin*

REC PST ko- RV ee- DO chaik –ADV oin

[He/she Ø] –RV ee- ADV recently

In this sub- dialect some actions may have taken place in the distant past. The sub- dialect uses adverbs of time as well. The distant past is marked using the adverbs of time that express activities that took place a long time ago. The examples below coded RH6S, RH1S and RH5S from extract 5 above, exemplify actions that took place a month ago, a year ago and a time that isn't specified.

RH6S - *Kiaburuch bosyeek kenyi konye.*

DIS PST ki- 1PSG a- RV buruch- DO bosyeek- ADV kenyi konye

I mixed the floor last year.

RH1S -*Kiapwaat kiy betuu noto*

DIS PST ki- 1PSG a- RV pwaat- DO kiy- ADV betuu noto

I thought (about) something that day.

RH5S- *Kikibendii yoee*

DIS PST ki- 2PPL ki- RV pend-FV i- ADV yoee

We were going then.

www.iprjb.org

The adverbs of time in *Samor* always appear after verbs. However, they may be used after a verb if someone wants to emphasize the time and not the action. In the examples below, we can see an example of an utterance whereby the speaker wants to focus on the time and not the actual activity.

> Extract 6
>
> > QBS- *Ileni nee ngimache ile amache ayai kiy em sait ne kile?*
> >
> > QBE- How do you say you want to do something in a more specific time frame?
> >
> > *RB1S- Amache awo ng'uni*
> >
> > *RB2S- Amache aam ra*
> >
> > *RB3S- Kosgoleny, ne amache kimyeet.*
>
> Translation
>
> > RB1T- I want to go now.
> >
> > RB2T- I want to eat today.
> >
> > RB3T- In the evening, is the time I want ugali.

In RB1S and RB2S extract 6 above, the adverbs of time '*nguni'* and 'ra' appear at the end of the utterance. This is contrasted with example RB3S where the adverb of time '*kosgoleny'* appears at initial position in the utterance. See example RB3S below.

> RB3S - *Kosgoleny, ne kamache kimyeet*
>
> ADV kosgoleny- AUX ne- IMM PST ka- RV mach FV e- DO kimyeet.
>
> Evening, is the time I wanted ugali.

The past in *Samor* is used to denote completed actions. In the utterances RB1S and RB2S, the adverbs express present time. They can be contrasted with example RB3S which marks the immediate past. The *Samor* sub- dialect uses the prefixations {Ka-, Ko- and Ki-} to distinguish the present from the past tense. As such, the adverbs of time only act to specify the time of the utterance.

Future Time in *Samor*

The future indicates actions that have not the started. The future in *Samor* is denoted in a number of ways. First of all, the present indicative may express future time or the sub- dialect may use some words that express the future time plus an adverb of time. See the extract 7 below.

Extract 7

> *S5CG Amache ale age tugul itou ing'wal sobeng'ung anan itou icheng che chekuk. Kakoek kasarta ne koi olue chego, amache ale otoun onyiy bento agot okwek. Mamache leiyee karon kole age nda kiangen, nda kiakase iit. Amache age tugul komwa kole, atiari mbire nyuu. Makimache ngalek chebo mara atar somanet, moi tun aam malik kab boiyot. Age tugul ne mii you ko inen ne karon kosiar yu ak yun asi konyoru kii nekiamei. Onai ole momi ngalek cho kilen ma tun agilgei ye kaegu chi ne o. Onai chi age tugul ile mami kiy ne moi kunyo inegei. Ara asome ale onkegilgei lakwa ake tugul. Asome ale mosas sigichu ako age tugul ne kakitoretin ra, kaigai ocham sigichu eng atkai ko tugul.*

Translation

I want each on of you to start to knead your life and to look for your own. It has been long as you drink only milk, I want you to chew meat. I don't want tomorrow one starts to say I wish I knew, I wish I listened. I want everyone among you to say, I will kick my ball. I don't want wishful thinking such as: I may finish my studies, I will enjoy the wealth of my father. Everyone who is here, it is him/her who tomorrow will scratch here and there so as to get food. I want you to know that there is nothing like wishful thinking like saying: I will work hard in future, I request every youth to work hard. I pray that you don't hate your parents, and anyone who has been assisted you appreciate/ love your parents at all times.

The future time expresses wishful thinking or a person's desires to do something. See example (a) S5CG below.

> (a) S5CG- *Itou ing'wal sobengung.*
>
> 3PSG i- RV tou- 3PSG i- RV g'wal- DO sobengung
>
> You start to knead your life.

In the expression (a) S5CG, the speaker was advising the prospective university student to begin to knead his own life. The expression uses an imperative verb '*itou*' and '*ing'wal*' which are base form verbs in *Samor* that are used to extort someone to prepare to do something in the future. These imperative verbs are used with third person in *Samor*. In example (b) S5CG, the speaker implores on the youth to be resilient. The present imperative example (b) S5CG below urges youthful people to be hard in life.

> (b) S5CG -*Otoun onyiy bento.*
>
> 3PPL o- RV toun- 3PPL o- RV nyiy- DO bento
>
> You need to start to chew meat.

The example (b) S5CG above, show the imperative verbs '*toun*' and '*nyiy*' that have been used to advice the young people to stop drinking milk and to start to chew meat. A metaphor to be resilient. The example (b) S5CG highlight actions that have not yet taken place. As such, they express the future. In Samor, 'i' is a singular person marker while 'o' a plural marker. The next example (c) S5CG was used by the speaker; a counselor to impress upon the young people to predict a future that each one of them will be kicking his/her own ball. A metaphor for self-reliance. See the example below.

> (c) S5CG- *Amache age tugul komwa kole, atiari mbire nyuu.*
>
> 1PSG a- RV mach- FV e- PRON age tugul- PST ko- RV mwa- RV kole, 1PSG a- RV tiar- FV i- DO mbire- PRON nyuu.
>
> I want each one of you to say, I will kick my ball.

In the example (c) S5CG, the young are being advised to focus on doing things on their own and to avoid relying on their parents. The action hasn't taken place yet. The same utterance shows how an indicative verb can be used to express an action that is yet to occur. In *Samor*, the future may also be expressed by using an adverb of time. This can be seen in the example (d) S5CG below.

> (d) S5CG - *Karon kosiar yu ak yun.*
>
> ADV karon- PST ko- RV siar- ADV yu- CON ak- ADV yun

Tomorrow, you scratch here and there.

In Samor, 'karon' is an adverb of time which means the next day. In example (d) S5CG above, the action will take place at a future time. It is evident that the future in the present is only indicated as a form of promise plus the addition of adverbs of time. However, future time is also marked in the present using modal auxiliaries such as 'mara' [may] and 'moi' [will]. See example (e) S5CG below.

(e) S5CG- *Mara atar somanet*

MOD mara- SG a-PRES RV tar- DO somanet

I may finish (my) studies.

Example (e) S5CG above illustrates a singular entity predicting that s/he may finish her/his studies in the unknown time in the future. However, in *Samor* when a speaker wants to predict that something will affect more than one person, the sub- dialect uses {ki- and ke-} prefixes that are affixed to the stem of the verb. See data in extract 8 coded S4AP below.

Extract 8

S4AP: ...Asome ale ye kitar tumi bo ra, kemwaa kongoi. Kongoi amu kegonech ketiar mbire

Translation

I pray that when we accomplish we will give thanks. Thank you because you have given us the opportunity to kick this ball.

The example (a) S4AP below shows plural entities.

(a) S4AP- *Ye kitar*

CON ye- 1PPL ki- RV tar

When we finish.

On the contrary, singular person is marked as by the prefix {a-}. In example (b) S4AP below, the speaker makes a polite request as follows:

(b) S4AP- *Asome ale ye kitar*

1PSG a- RV som- FV e- CON ale- CON ye- 2PPL ki- RV tar

I request that when we finish.

As stated earlier, the sub- dialect also uses the prefix {ke-} to specify plural entities. See example (c) S4AP below.

(c) S4AP- *Kemwaa kongoi*

1PPL ke- RV mwa- FV a- DO kongoi

We say thank you.

The examples coded (a) S4AP, (b) S4AP and (c) S4AP above express future actions in *Samor*.

Another strategy of marking a future prediction is by using the future marker "***moi***" [*will*]. This is the equivalent of a modal auxiliary. The aim of using this word is to express an activity that is yet to take place. Study example (f) S5CG in extract 7 page 76.

(f) S5CG- *Moi tun aam malik.*

MOD moi- ADV tun- 1PSG a- RV am- DO malik

I will eat (from) my inheritance.

The word '*moi*' in *Samor* is an equivalent of "will". In the example (f) S5CG, it means someone is predicting that he/she will enjoy his/ her inheritance. The future can also be expressed in *Samor* by using another expression '*moi ku*' this is used to state what someone/something will happen later. '*Moi*' is a kind of modal auxiliary which has the same meaning as 'it will'. On the other hand, '*ku-*' the default future time prefix marker which is normally precedes the base of all verbs. In this way, the speaker is in a position to express an activity that is about to take place. This can be seen in the example (g) S5CG extract 7 page 76.

(g) S5CG- *Moi kunyo inegei.*

MOD moi- FUT PREX ku- RV nyo- PRON inegei

It will come alone.

The example (g) S5CG implies that nothing good will happen on its own. In *Samor*, the future can also be expressed by using the three past tense allomorphs {ka-/ ko-/ and ki-} in *Samor* see table 21 future in the immediate, recent and distant future. The future appears to express some form of condition. This means that the speaker implies that there will be a possibility someone will have done something. See the example below.

Extract 9

QRS- *Ileni nee ye imache imwa ile moi tun kaam chi amitwokik?*

QRE- What do you say when you want to say someone will have eaten his/her food?

RR1S- *Ye aam kimyeet.*

RR2S- *Alen moi tun kaam kimyeet.*

Translation

RR1T- When he eats his/her ugali.

RR2T- Maybe s/he will eat his/her ugali.

The examples in extract 9 have been picked from the interview questions that were subjected to the respondents. In the example below coded RR1S, the speaker expresses a conditional action that is yet to take place.

RR1S - *Ye aam kimyeet.*

CON ye- 1PSGa- RV am- DO kimyeet.

When I eat ugali.

The speaker is a singular entity who is stating that when he eats his/her food. Perhaps he/she can add and say s/he will be satisfied or happy. In example RR2S below, the speaker implies that s/he will have eaten his/ her food. The assertion is conditional. The time will be more immediate since the speaker uses [ka-]. In the next two examples, the actions are anticipated to take place in the distant and remote future see the examples above coded RR3S and RR4S in extract 9.

RR2S - *Alen mo tun kaam kimyeet.*

RV alen- MOD mot tun- IMM PST ka- RV am- DO kimyeet.

Maybe s/he will eat his/her ugali.

4.0 CONCLUSION

This research focused on tense marking in *Samor* a field that falls descriptive linguistics. In conclusion, the chapter provides a description of the various morphosyntactic features in *Samor* that play a role in TA marking. These features are the prefixes {ka-, ko- and ki}. These affixes may be prefixed or suffixed to the base verb to mark the different types of tenses. The researcher in this chapter further established that these affixes mark the three types of aspect in *Samor*. These aspectual contrasts are the imperfect habits and states, imperfect progressive and aspect marking using adverbs of time. The chapter also discussed some other morphosyntactic features that play a role in TA marking in *Samor*. These other features are as follows: feature number, person and gender. Number is marked by the pronouns *anee*, *inyee* and *achek*. "I, you and me" see example S2PS (A). These pronouns are universal gender markers. This means that they do not distinguish between male or female. However, gender can be marked by using gender sensitive names such as *Jeptoo*, girl *Kiptoo*, boy.

This present research focused on tense marking in Samor. Tense marking is a feature that is marked on the verb. However, further studies can be carried out in the following areas:

1. The role of derivation and deverbatives in marking of tense in Samor.

2. Another study can be done to analyze tense marking in the other sub- dialects of Tugen such as Arror, Lembus and Endorois.

3. There is also another area that plays an important role in tense marking such as mood and modality that needs to be investigated.

4. To be able to understand how a dialect such as Samor behaves, it is also important to carry out some research on the Semantic operations of words in this dialect. This is important because Samor doesn't have a clear distinction between a word and a sentence. As such, a researcher may be interested in analyzing what really constitutes a word in Samor and what does that particular word means.

REFERENCES

Anderson, G. (1997). *Discourse Salience in Kalenjin: Inter- Clausal Syntax.* Berkeley Linguistics Society; Proceedings of the Twenty- Third Annual meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society: Special Session on Syntax and Semantics in Africa pp. 14- 25.

Aronoff, M., & Fudeman, K. (2005). *What is Morphology?* United Kingdom: Blackwell Publishing.

Bejar, S (2003). *Phi- Syntax: A Theory of Agreement.* PhD Dissertation, University of Toronto.

Booij, G. (2005). *The Grammar of Words: An Introduction to Linguistic Morphology.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Bybee, J., Revere, L., Perkins, D., & Paglinca, W. (2010). *The Evolution of Grammar: Tense, Aspect, and Modality in the Languages of the World.* USA: University of Chicago Press.

Carstairs- McCarthy, A. (2002). *An Introduction to English Morphology.* Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Chomsky, N. (1993). *"A Minimalist Program for Linguistic Theory"*. In K. Hale & S. Keyser (Eds.) The View from Building 20: Essays in Honor of Sylvain Bromberger. Cambridge: MIT Press. (1995). *The Minimalist Program.* Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Coon, J. (2003). *Predication, Tenselessness, and what it Takes to be a Verb*. Cambridge: Oxford University Press.

Creider, J. & Creider, C. (1989). *A Grammar of Nandi*. Hamburg: Buske.

Crystal, D. (2008). *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics.* (Sixth Edition). Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.

Dons, U. (2004). *Descriptive Adequacy of Early Modern English Grammars.* New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

Dornyei, Z. (2007). *Research Methods in Applied Linguistics: Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Methodologies.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Eastwood, J. (2002). *Oxford Guide to English Grammar.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gordon, G. (2005). *Ethnologue. Languages of the World.* Dallas: SIL International.

Hacker, M. & Baker, G. (2009). *Rules, Grammar and Necessity.* (Second Edition). United Kingdom: Wiley- Blackwell.

Hanks, P. (1994). (Ed.). *Collins English Dictionary.* (Fifteen Edition). Glasgow: HarperCollins Publishers.

Hewings, M. (2005). *Advanced Grammar in Use.*(Second Edition). United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.

Huddleston, R. & Pullum, G. K. (2005). *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Huddleston, R. (2008). *English Grammar; An Outline.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Jerono, P. (2012). *Word Order: A Minimalist Perspective.* European Scientific Institute. http://www.nubsk.edu.mk/.

Kamuren, F. (2012). *Morphosyntactic Differences among Kalenjin Dialects: An Analysis of Kipsigis, Tugen and Pokot.* Research on Humanities and Social Sciences. Vol. 2, No. 7.

Kibort, A., & Corbett, G. (Eds.). (2010). *Features Perspectives on a Key Notion in Linguistics.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Neuman, W. L. (2014). *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. (Seventh Edition) United Kingdom: Pearson Education Limited.

O'Grady, W., Dobrovolsky, M. & Katamba, F. (1996). *Contemporary Linguistics; An Introduction.* Harlow: Longman Pearson Education.

Stirtz, T. (2011). *A Grammar of Gaahmg: A Nilo- Saharan Language of Sudan.* Netherlands: Utrecht Institute of Linguistics.

Zapata, B. (2000). *Handbook of General and Applied Linguistics.* Trabajo de Ascenso sin Publicar. Venezuela: Universidad de Los Andes.

Zwarts, J. (2003). *The Phonology of Endo: A Southern Nilotic Language of Kenya.* Netherlands: Utrecht Institute of Linguistics.