

## **Tense and Aspect in Longuda – A Comparative Approach**

Longuda is a language cluster spoken in Northeastern Nigeria. It belongs to the so-called Adamawa language group which is described by Güldemann (2018: 200) as “a highly diverse genealogical pool of Niger-Congo [languages]”. Its tense and aspect system has only been described partly for single varieties of the cluster – with differing results. For example, thus far, Longuda has been described as having two or even three sets of subject pronouns with different meanings and shapes that somehow interact with the tenses and aspects (e. g. Newman 1978: 41, Sabe 1995: 405ff., Sabe 2014: 45f.).

In the presentation, I will briefly outline the general tense and aspect system in Longuda before I address this seemingly strange behaviour in the different varieties. In my research on the language, I use a comparative approach analysing three varieties and I will argue that only by comparing them it is possible to explain that all subject pronouns are based on one set of subject pronouns that occurs in combination with auxiliaries and verbs in different ways (e. g. to express future tense). In the course of time the combinations of subject pronouns and auxiliaries have merged and currently show various stages of grammaticalization in the different varieties.

### References

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